Catalytic degradation of 4-chlorophenol with La/TiO² in

dielectric barrier discharge system

Fig. 1 Mass spectrums of 4-chlorophenol before treatment (a) and after treatment (b)

The pathways for the degradation of 4-CP have been suggested based on MS identification of some intermediates of reaction, known intermediates of degradation as reported [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] and possible products of degradation. The mass spectrums of initial 4-CP sample and degradation are shown in the first and second figures. The major intermediates detected in this case were: benzoquinone (m/z 107.99), hydroquinone (m/z 110.03), maleic acid (m/z112.89). Degradation is an oxidative process, and given a facile oxidation of hydroquinone to benzoquinone [6, 7]. Then the rings are broken to generate the corresponding carboxylic acid. Gradually, the carboxylic acids are mineralized to carbon dioxide and water.

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2. Reactive species analysis

Fig. 2 HO^{\cdot} (a) and O₃ concentration of optimum La doping, synthetized TiO₂ and blank (b)

HO[•] was determined through chemical method using salicylic acid as the probe [1]. And ozone was measured by UV absorption at 254 nm using UV-vis

spectrophotometer (TU-1810). In our DBD system, HO[•] can be formed when water is ionized by electric current and irradiated with high energy ultraviolet light. As Fig. 2a shown, catalyst can promote the production of HO^{*}. And catalyst with doping La can strengthen this process. The formation HO[•] as follow [2-6]:

$$
H_2O \to H^{\bullet} + HO^{\bullet} \tag{1}
$$

$$
O_2 \xrightarrow{e^-} O + O^{\bullet} \tag{2}
$$

$$
H^{\bullet} + O^{\bullet} \to HO^{\bullet} \tag{3}
$$

$$
TiO_2 + hv \to TiO_2(h^+ + e^-)
$$
\n⁽⁴⁾

$$
OH^- + h^+ \rightarrow HO^{\bullet} \tag{5}
$$

$$
OH^- + hv \rightarrow HO^{\bullet} + e_{aq}^- \tag{6}
$$

The concentration of ozone with catalyst is always higher than that without catalyst as shown in Fig. 2b. This result might be attributed to highly energized electrons (e^{\cdot}) , holes (h_{vb}^+) in the valence band and electrons (e_{cb}^-) in the conductance band on the surface of catalyst, oxygen in gas or aqueous phase may be converted to more active species (i.e. $O_{(aq.)}$, $O_{2(aq.)}$) [7]. The reaction equation [8, 9]:

$$
O_{2(gas)} \to O_{2(aq.)} \tag{7}
$$

$$
O_{2(aq.)} + e_{cb}^- \rightarrow 2O_{2(aq.)} \tag{8}
$$

$$
O_{2(gas)} + e_{(gas)} \rightarrow 2O_{(gas)} \rightarrow 2O_{(aq)} \tag{9}
$$

$$
O_{2(aq.)} + e_{(aq.)} \rightarrow O_{2(aq.)} \tag{10}
$$

$$
O_{2(aq.)}^{\bullet -} + h_{vb}^+ \rightarrow O_{2(aq.)} \tag{11}
$$

$$
O_{(aq)}^{\bullet -} + h_{vb}^+ \rightarrow O_{(aq)}^{\bullet}
$$
 (12)

$$
O_{(aq.)} \div O_{2(aq.)} \rightarrow O_{3(aq)}
$$
\n
$$
(13)
$$

And direct electron transfer and adsorption reactions are induced on the surface of

 $TiO₂$ under ultraviolet light and visible light [10, 11].

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