

# **Journal of Water and Wastewater Engineering Association – HNU**



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## Letter from the Editor

*Welcome to the first issue of Journal of Water and Wastewater Engineering Association at Hunan University. We have made this journal to better introduce visitors to our exceptional student research, education, and outreach programs.*

*There has never been a more exciting time to pursue water and wastewater engineering as a career path. Our engineers imagine, design, construct, manage, maintain, and renew the physical infrastructure of water and wastewater systems. These critical activities touch many areas of our daily lives, including buildings and structures, transportation systems, water distribution, environmental protection, and energy production. With growing populations, increasingly scarce resources, and the effects of water quality deterioration, society is demanding more from water and wastewater engineers every day, and in many respects our future quality of life depends on the ability of our engineers to meet these challenges.*

*This publication is the official journal of the Water and Wastewater Engineering Association at Hunan University. It contains our student articles on all aspects of the science and technology of water and wastewater. A broad outline of the journal's scope includes but is not limited to: treatment processes for water and wastewaters; municipal, agricultural and industrial, including residuals management; water quality monitoring and assessment, based on chemical, physical and biological methods; Studies on inland, tidal or coastal waters and urban waters, including surface and ground waters, and point and non-point sources of pollution; the limnology of lakes, impoundments and rivers; solid and hazardous waste management, including source characterization and the effects and control of leachates and gaseous emissions; environmental restoration, including soil and groundwater remediation. New developments in engineering design and construction are also featured.*

*In this fall semester of 2015, I taught an 8-week long introductory course of Water & Wastewater Engineering in English at Hunan University. Each student group in my course contributed an article to this first issue. Your comments and feedback to help the students improve their English writing skills are welcomed and appreciated. You may also contact us if you would like additional information or consider submitting a manuscript for publication in our journal.*

*Sincerely,*



*Hao L. Tang, Ph.D., P.E.*

*Editor*

*Journal of Water and Wastewater Engineering Association – HNU*

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*Article*

## Sludge Treatment and Management

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**Abstract:** With the rising of the quantity of urban waste water effluent, sludge generated from sewage treatment plants is increasing. We list several common methods of sludge treatment abroad and domestic to discuss problems generated when treating sludge. There are pros and cons in every way and technology is developing. To choose a better way for China, we should consider different trends in different cities.

**Keywords:** sludge treatment; complex components; landfill; land using

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As the by-product in sewage treatment process, sludge is a kind of complicated heterogeneous thing consisted of organic fragments, bacterium, inorganic particles, gel and so on. It has high moisture content(up to 99%) and much organic matter, which makes it easy to decay and stink. It is aggregation of colloidal particles which is something between liquid and solid, but belongs to solid waste. With the equal importance as sewage, sludge was once unnoticed for a long period. However, as pollution caused by raw sludge is increasingly serious, problems about sludge treatment and management attracted wide attention and are waiting for better settlement.

Except decaying, sludge generated from sewage treatment plants also contains a mass of pathogenic bacteria, parasite eggs, heavy metals like chromium, mercury and poisonous carcinogens like dioxin and PCBs which are hard-degraded<sup>[1]</sup>. If amassed sludge discharged without being treated,

once eroded by rainwater, it will cause the second pollution to soil and groundwater and do harm to public health. So as a by-product in waste water treatment process, whether it can be treated timely and properly has become a crucial factor of affecting the normal running of sludge treatment plants and producing environmental effects. Scientists domestic and abroad are actively finding more scientific and economical ways of sludge management.

Sewage sludge, which mainly include sewage from centralized sewage treatment facilities, riverways, sewer and trench. Among them, centralized sewage sludge is the most difficult to be treated. In recent years, the quantity of waste water effluent rising by 5% annually, accompanied by increasing amount of sludge waiting to be treated. Sludge management is highly important part in developed countries and investment in this section account for 50%~70% of all investment in sewage treatment, whereas it is only occupied 20%~50% domestic<sup>[2]</sup>. This obviously hinders the progress of sludge treatment and management.

It is worth mentioning that sludge has abundant organic matter, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and trace elements. It can be used as slow acting fertilizer which can lower density and add porosity of soil. It also can improve soil's capacity of water and nutrient preserving and can promote growth and enhance permeability of plant roots. Besides, it has great effect on improving destroyed land. Hence some sewage treatment plants use sludge in gardening, farming and reclamation of abandoned mines<sup>[2]</sup>. But these sludges are always untreated, with their owners ignoring the complex components in it. Once harmful things like virus, heavy metal and radioactivity element slip into food-chain system of human being, disease would start spreading.

In summary, it matters so much on how to treat sludge better all around the world. At present, ways to management sludge mainly include land application, heat utilization, sanitary landfill and so on. Countries choose and set their own technical standard and main treatment method according to different national conditions, resource, technology and economic development<sup>[3,4]</sup>. For instance, sludge is treated as hazardous waste in Europe, America and Japan.

How to take all factors into account and improve sludge management efficiency scientifically and rationally? We will elaborate on some treatment methods and discuss this question in the following parts.

## **1. Methods of Sludge Treatment and Management**

### **1.1 The traditional way of sludge treatment**

#### **1.1.1 landfill**

The sanitary landfill of sludge treatment began in the 1960s which is a relatively mature sludge treatment technology. The advantage of this technology is that it has a large handling capacity and can solve the problem quickly. The disadvantage of landfill is it occupies a large amount of land resources which lead it difficult for us to find a right place to set up new landfill. And in the infiltration of rain and erosion role, the sludge under the land may contaminate groundwater. On the other hand, organic matter in sludge is easy to fermentation and

produce poisonous gas of atmospheric pollution. So the subsequent processing of the landfill sludge need to cost a large sum of money<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **1.1.2 land use**

The processed sludge can be used as inorganic or organic fertilizer and it can also be used to restoration the destroyed land<sup>[6]</sup>. Due to the sludge contains a lot of organic matter and trace elements, it can enhance soil fertility, increase crop yield and improve the bad situation of soil. However, pathogenic microorganisms, heavy metals and harmful ingredients in the sludge will pollution soil and water. So harmful substance in the sludge have to be reduced to a certain standard.

### **1.1.3 burning<sup>[7]</sup>**

Burning can solve the subsequent processing problem of sludge treatment which is a method to solve the sludge once and for all. Sludge incineration can reduce the sludge volume effectively and can also reduce the harm of sludge to the environment. But in order to prevent harmful gases pollute the atmosphere, the incineration temperature need higher than 850 degrees. At the same time, the flue gas emission in the process of burning is also a problem that need to control.

## **1.2 sludge disposal technologies**

### **1.2.1 building materials using<sup>[6~8]</sup>**

We can burn urban sludge in cement kiln that can reduce energy consumption. At the same time, this way can consume burning ash which reduces the economic cost greatly. But the excessive sludge added will cause the loss of cement quality, and can also cause the pollutant in building materials over the level.

### **1.2.2 other sludge treatment technologies**

Now there are a lot of sludge treatment method being successfully researched, such as manufacturing fibreboard, production ceramsite<sup>[9,10]</sup>, and dry distillation method. But due to various reasons, these technologies don't have widely commercial application.

## **2. Thinking and Improvement**

After the treatment of sludge and abandoned under the natural environment (ground, underground, water) or reuse to achieve long-term stability and to the ecological environment without the final disposal way of the adverse effects. According to the above definition, the main sludge disposal methods are landfill, casting into the sea, land using and production of building materials. China accepted the 3 international agreements in 1994, and promised to stop the disposal of industrial waste and sewage sludge on sea in February 20, 1994.<sup>[1,11]</sup> The burning is the most thorough treatment of reduction, the sludge weight reduced to the original 10%, the ash after burning easy to landfill or comprehensive utilization, so in normal circumstances will also burn as a way of disposal. So the feasible methods of sludge disposal are sanitary landfill, land using, landscaping, production of building materials, burning. In the sludge disposal, the countries in the world are different according to the specific circumstances.

### **2.1 World's situation**



According to the relevant information, the world's countries of sludge production and processing methods, statistics, see Table 1

Table1  
Sludge production and processing methods in the other countries<sup>[12]</sup>

Country	Total amount of sludge (Dry sludge t/a)	Percentage of each treatment method (%)			
		Agricultural	Burning	Landfill	Marine dumping
Switzerland	250000	50	20	30	
Germany	2750000	25	10	65	
Denmark	150000	43	28	29	
Sweden	180000	60		40	
Holland	280000	53	10	29	8
Austria	250000	28	37	35	
Italy	800000	34	11	55	
Ireland	23000	23		34	43
Spain	300000	61		10	29
Portugal	200000	80		12	8
Britain	1500000	51	5	16	28
France	900000	27	20	53	
U.S.A	7690000	45	3	21	30
Japan		9	55	35	

(Material source Oslo Commission Water Research Center. Water Services Association EWPCA  
。)

Thus it can be seen that different countries and regions according to local conditions, take the suited to their national conditions of sludge treatment and disposal technology route, considering the main factors for the industrial structure, land resources, degree of urbanization and other. According to the specific conditions of China, sanitary landfill, landscaping, burning and production of building materials is feasible means of disposal.

In view of the disadvantages of various methods, our country should adjust accordingly.

## 2.2 Methods and Improvement

### 2.2.1 Sanitary Landfill

Sludge landfill has Direct landfill and Sanitary landfill two disposal methods. Direct landfill is that after simple sterilizing sludge is dumped directly into the lowlands and valleys. Sanitary landfill is that sludge is transported to landfill and mixed with garbage to harmless landfill.<sup>[13]</sup>

### **2.2.2 Sludge incineration**

Sludge incineration is not only a kind of treatment technology but also a kind of disposal method. At present, there are two kinds of sludge incineration methods which are Directly mixed incineration and Incineration after dry.

Directly mixed incineration is that sludge after dewatered contents of about 80% of the wet using high-pressure pump directly invest and add into the Thermal power plant, Refuse incineration plant's boiler to burn. The proportion of sludge in fuel is generally not higher than 20%.

The commonly used method of sludge drying is to send the sludge to special thermal drying equipment to dry directly or indirectly, so that the moisture content of the sludge can be reduced to 30%. So a large amount of water is evaporated at low temperature, and does not enter the combustion furnace, which can not only reduce the energy consumption, but also avoid the impact of a large amount of water into the boiler.

### **2.2.3 Land using**

The advantages of sludge land using is not to need to landfill volume. The resources of the sludge can be effectively utilized, but the disadvantage is that there is a certain environmental risks, the harmful substances in the sludge may have adverse effects on groundwater, surrounding water and crops.

In the United States, 30 years ago, the pre treatment plan to ensure that the sewage sludge in the sewage sludge of the standard, to pave the way for sludge land use; 10 years ago, the 503 Sludge Rules to further ensure the safety of the sludge land use, exempt from the worries.

Referring to the successful experience of foreign sludge land use, we must carry out strict pretreatment of industrial wastewater, so that the sludge utilization must comply with the requirements of relevant national standards, and resolutely put an end to heavy metals and other toxic substances into the sewage sludge. At the same time, it is necessary to monitor the contents of heavy metals and other toxic substances in soil. <sup>[3]</sup>

## **3. Conclusion**

Treatment and disposal of sludge has become a difficult problem in environmental comprehensive management, and it is very important to determine the appropriate disposal method for the implementation of the sludge project. For China, the development trend of sludge disposal method is also consistent with foreign countries. The disposal method of sludge has advantages and disadvantages. For China, it is not possible to be confined to one kind of disposal method, which should be based on the nature and quantity of local sludge, investment situation and operation management cost, environmental protection requirements and relevant laws and regulations, the dynamic of urban development and the utilization of sludge, After the comprehensive consideration, and also need to adapt to the overall development trend of the city.

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## **Author Contributions**

1. Abstract & Paragraph 1~6



2. Part 1

3. Part 2 & 3

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Article

## SBR Activated Sludge

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Li Lu : **Introduction**

Luyao Hu: **Work principle and operation**

Cuiting Chen : **Improvements and strengthening of SBR process function**

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**Abstract:** SBR process and its new technology, also attract our experts' attention and has been applied. SBR is applied in municipal wastewater treatment, besides industrial waste from the treatment of beer, leather, food production, meat processing and pharmaceutical, and get good effect. Now, some ancillary equipment include several forms decanter is developed.

**Keywords:** SBR activated sludge improvement

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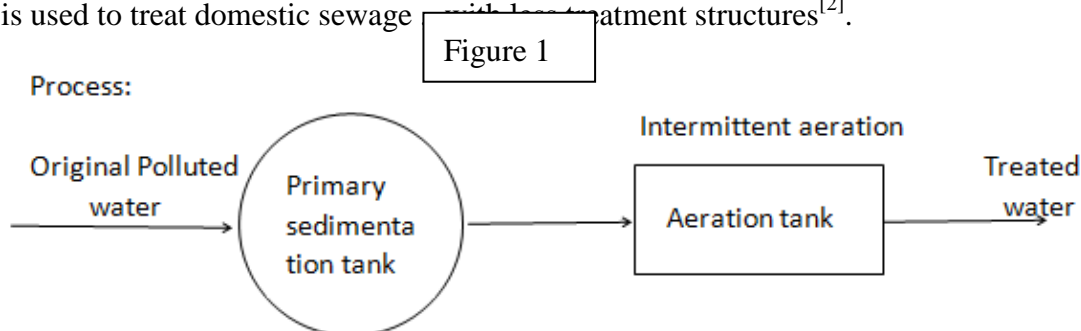
### 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

With the strengthening of environmental awareness , bearing the brunt of sewage treatment , the construction of urban sewage treatment plant will be the focus of future environmental projects , then selecting the appropriate construction of the sewage treatment process will become subject . SBR wastewater treatment process develops rapidly in recent years , so it becomes the primary consideration . SBR process belongs to the batch activated sludge process for treatment of municipal sewage , setting anoxic / aerobic , water quality and quantity adjustment, precipitation as a whole . The process is short , with strong shock load capacity and operational flexibility large as needed by adjusting the process . In addition , you can change the water quality , and accordingly reduce operating costs , and meet changing water quality requirements and have savings , small footprint , and easy management<sup>[3]</sup> . This process requires high operating characteristics of automated , easy operation and management and water quality stability . Based on the above advantages , the sewage treatment plant has been widely adopted<sup>[4]</sup> .

### 1.2 Process and characteristics :

Sequencing Batch Reactor Activated Sludge Process (abbreviated to SBR Activated Sludge) is also known as sequencing batch activated sludge process which is a treatment method based on traditional activated sludge wastewater treatment improved on<sup>[1]</sup> . The sewage treatment mechanism is the same with activated sludge treatment mechanism . SBR activated sludge process is in a single reactor , according to the time sequence of inlet water , reaction (aeration) , precipitation , water , standby (idle) and other basic operations from sewage inflow to the standby time ending for a cycle operation , so the cycle goes round and begin again , so as to achieve the purpose of sewage treatment . SBR process is an ideal plug-flow process in terms of time , but on the reactor itself is mixed state is still completely mixed , and therefore resistant to shock loads and reaction driving force big advantage . It is used to treat domestic sewage with treatment structures<sup>[2]</sup> .



As the picture shows , the main characteristics of the process system is the use of a mixture of degradation and precipitation in one reactor set of organic pollutants---Intermittent aeration aeration tank<sup>[8]</sup> .

And we also can know from the picture , compared with continuous activated sludge system , the system consists of simple processes , so it need not set the sludge return device and secondary sedimentation tank , and the volume of aeration tank is also smaller than continuous activated sludge system , both construction costs and Operating costs are relatively low . Moreover , SBR activated sludge treatment system also has the following features .

- 1) In most instances (Including industrial wastewater treatment) , there is no necessary to set a regulation pool ;
- 2) The value of SVI is relatively low , and the sludge is much easier to precipitate . Under normal circumstances , it does not produce sludge bulking phenomenon ;
- 3) By adjusting the operating mode , in a single aeration tank Nitrogen and phosphorus removal reaction can be performed ;
- 4) The automation instrumentation like the electric valve of application , Level Meter, Automatic timer , Programmable Logic Controller and so on , may make this process to achieve full automation , and it can controlled by the central control room ;
- 5) If it is going to be managed properly , the quality of the treated water will be better than continuous activated sludge system ;
- 6) The sludge settling performance of SBR is good , and the water content of the residual sludge can be designed according to the 99.2% .

## **2.work principle and operation**

In principle,we can see SBR as a political reform of activated sludge process,a new operating mode.The continuous plug flow aeration tank is a plug flow in space,although the batch activated sludge aeration tank is completed mixed in the flow regime,in terms of the organic matter degradation, it's a plug flow in time.In a continuous plug flow aeration tank, the degradation of organic pollutants is along with the space, and in batch activated sludge treatment systems, it's along with the passage of time.

The realization of the SBR's Intermittent running is by operating its main reactor-aeration.The operation of aeration concludes five processes such as 1)inflow 2)reaction 3)Precipitation 4)discharge 5)idle.

### **2.1 inflow process**

Before wastewater injected, the reactor was in the last idle process, treated wastewater has been discharged,and the reactor remained a high concentration of activated sludge mixture.

Water injects into the reactor till fill with it,then reacts with other things, in this sense, the reactor play a regulatory pool role, therefore,the reactor have some adaptability to the changes of water quality and quantity.

Water injects,and the water level rises.We can add other operations according to the requirements of the other processes,such as aeration which not only get the effect of pre-aeration,but also the sludge can resume its active.

The spent time depends on the actual drainage situation and equipment conditions.According to the process performance requirements, short injection time is appropriate,it's really difficult.

### **2.2 reaction process**

This is a major step in this technology.After water injection reaching the proper height, the reactor responses and operates.According to the purpose of wastewater treatment,we should take the appropriate technical measures,such as aeration can achieve BOD removal, nitrification and phosphorus absorption,and slow agitation can achieve denitrification.

According to demand,BOD removal-nitrification-denitrification was happened continuously in the reactor. BOD removal -nitrification require long time aeration,but during the denitrification, aeration

should be stopped which make the reactor into the anoxic or anaerobic conditions, and stirring slowly. At the same time, for adding electron acceptor to the reactor, formaldehyde or a small amount of organic wastewater was required.

In the latter part of this process, short trace aeration is also needed, for blowing off the vicinal bubbles or nitrogen, in order to ensure the normal precipitation process.

### 2.3 precipitation process

This process corresponds to the secondary sedimentation tank of activated sludge. Stopping aeration and stirring which make the mixture is in a quiescent state and activated sludge separates with water. As the process is still precipitation, sedimentation effect is usually good.

The time precipitation processes takes is substantially equal to secondary sedimentation tank, usually 1.5-2.0h.

### 2.4 discharge process

The supernatant after precipitation discharged as treated water. Until the lowest level, a portion of the residual active sludge in the reactor can be used as seed.

### 2.5 idle process

This is a period after the treated water discharged, the processor is standstill and waits for the beginning of the next stage. This process time should be based on site-specific circumstances.

## 3 Improvements and strengthening of SBR process function

SBR treatment process is not only a simple system, but also a biological wastewater treatment technology of good treatment effects. And, it is a new type of sewage treatment process, so in the terms of theory, design and operation, there are still the problems to be studied and discussed.

### 3.1 Aerobic sludge granulation

Aerobic granular sludge form anoxic and anaerobic microenvironments inside and therefore it leads to the simultaneous nitrification and denitrification<sup>[5-7]</sup>. Besides the good activity, aerobic granular sludge settling and natural bio-distribution are conducive to the realization of high efficiency biological nitrogen removal. It is the aerobic granular sludge process associated with nitrogen occurred in different parts. (As described in the following table 1<sup>[6]</sup>)

Table 1 nitrogen-related processes that may occur in different parts of the aerobic granular sludge

Table 3 Aerobic granular sludge process associated with nitrogen

location	$\rho$ ( DO ) mg.L/L	process
surface layer of granular sludge	>2	autotrophic nitrification
intermediate layer of granular sludge	1	heterotrophic nitrification aerobic denitrification anaerobic denitrification
bottom layer of granular sludge	<0.5	Anaerobic Deammonification

### **3.2 Standby and water process and a combination of various functions**

1) SBR technology has certain regulatory functions, playing a role in balancing quality, quantity, and these take effects by the standby and water processes<sup>[8]</sup>.

2) Combination with hydrolysis-acidogenesis reaction. Improving the biodegradability of wastewater by hydrolysis-acidogenesis reaction, it helps the next process "aeration reaction" effect. Duration of hydrolytic acidification should be determined by considering the time required of water conditions and hydrolysis-acidogenesis reaction.

3) if the time of standby operation is too long, in order to prevent the mixed liquor as Sewage seed left in the reactor from passivated, continuous aeration should be taken. Also before the start of the new cycle of work, aeration for a while was an available way to renew, improve and strengthen the Sewage seed.

### **3.3 The efficiency of nitrogen and phosphorus**

Professor Zeng Wei used a two-stage SBR process to treat organic industrial wastewater with high content of nitrogen and ammonia<sup>[9-11]</sup>. The experiment result indicated that, compared with the SBR method for single, two-stage SBR method reduce further water COD, while also avoid high organic loading on nitrification of shock, and the way not only improve efficiency, can also save the budget of energy and Carbon Source.

### **3.4 oxygen and aerobic**

SBR process is sense of the flow of time. Conditions of organic matter, rate of bacteria growth and the rate of oxygen consumption is gradually reduced over time<sup>[8]</sup>. So, it is appropriate for the SBR reactor to using the technology of decreasing with time of aeration.

## **4. Conclusion**

SBR process and its new technology, also attract our experts' attention and has been applied. SBR is applied in municipal wastewater treatment, besides industrial waste from the treatment of beer, leather, food production, meat processing and pharmaceutical, and get good effect. Now, some ancillary equipment include several forms decanter is developed.

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Article

## A review on disinfection by-products

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**Abstract:** Disinfection by-products (DBPs), a series of unintended health hazards generated during drinking water disinfection process, have been explored for more than 30 years. Since chloroform was firstly indentified as a halogenated-DBP in chlorinated drinking water in 1970s, many efforts have been devoted to balancing the risk between pathogenic microbes and health effects related to DBPs. In this paper, we make a comprehensive review on DBP analytical methods, regulations and guidelines, emerging DBPs, and control strategies.

**Keywords:** Disinfection by-products; Analytical methods; Regulations and guidelines; Emerging DBPs; Control strategies

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## 1. Introduction

Disinfection of Drinking water have been successfully used to kill or inactivate pathogens. Before its widespread application, millions of people have died from waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid[1, 2]. However, during the disinfection process, some unintended hazardous compounds produced by the reaction between disinfectants and natural organic matters (NOM)[3, 4]. Currently, more than 600 DBPs have been reported in the literatures. Some of these DBPs including trihalomethanes (THMs), haloacetic acids (HAAs), and bromate, have been regulated in a number of countries[5]. For example, USEPA regulated THM and HAA in drink water at the limit of 80ug/L and 60ug/L, respectively[6, 7]. Researches now are conducted worldwide to understand DBP formation, occurrence, health effects, and control methods.

Common chemical disinfectants include chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide, ozone[8]. Because of their powerful oxidation capacity, they can react with organic matters in raw water to form different kinds of DBPs. Chlorinated water would result in high level THM formation[9]. N-DBPs may produced when chloramines are used. Some inorganic DBPs such as bromate and chlorite, would occur when ozone and chlorine dioxide are used, respectively[8]. Many of these DBPs show adverse health effects like resulting cancer[2].

The objective of this paper is to review on analytical methods for DBPs, regulations and guidelines in the world, and control strategies. We also provide an overview of emerging DBPs.

## 2. Analytical methods

There are a large amount of methods, which including SPE-derivatization-GC-ECD, LLE-derivatization-GC-ECD, P&T-GC-PID-ELCD, etc. These methods are used to detect DBPs (Disinfection byproducts) in drinking water, as to DBPs, which involving THMs and some volatile DBPs. Though different DBPs need different methods, For example, methods IC-CD and IC-PCR-UV for bromate, methods LLE-GC-ECD for HAAs, etc.. Generally speaking, these methods can be separated two categories, one kind of method is gas chromatography with electron capture detector to detect organic DBPs; the other methods are ion chromatograph with conductivity detector to detect inorganic DBPs. In addition to two principals, other methods sometimes are used to detect it, which including GC-mass spectrometry, IC-inductively coupled plasma-MS and colorimetric. On sample pretreatment, which including liquid-liquid extraction or purge and trap for organic DBP preconcentration; with regard to polar DBPs like carbonyl compounds, we need to use chemical derivatization. The above mentioned methods, which are issued and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Our country also had issued and mentioned some methods about DBPs measurement, which were included in GB/T 5750.10-2006[10]. When those methods were used to detect DBPs, a concept was mentioned in the column, which named the detection limit. The scope of detection limit would directly influence suitable capacity for detecting substances; Generally speaking, different substances have embraced different scope. For example, Head space can be used for the determination of THMs in the samples, which has embraced high detection limit that can be suitable for measurement of BDCM (bromodichloromethane) and DACM and cannot be suitable for measurement of bromoform in drinking water. Besides, the titration method can be used to measure chlorite and chlorate with the precondition of reacting with potassium iodide, at the same time, choosing a suitable method to reduce

the influence of other oxidizing agents is crucial to ensure measurable accuracy. Conventionally, GC-MS method and LC-MS method are widely used for the detection of DBPs in drinking water[9]. But the GC-MS method is major used for the determination of unknown DBPs, such as HAAs, haloaldehydes and haloketones in the literature[13]. The LC-MS method is used for the determination of polar DBPs. For example, when we have used it to measure HAAs, the method has apparently advantage that LC-based method can directly inject in water samples, moreover, the method has low enough detecting limit, which can increase the suitable scope of this method. So, LC-MS methods are increasing used for this aspect.

Above all mentioned, LC-MS method is similarity with GC-MS method, which is especially used for the identification of high polarity or molecular weight[11,12], which embraced a crucial instrument--LC-electrospray ionization (ESI). The instrument has the fast selective detection of chlorinated, which widely using precursor ion scan mode[14]. Other detecting methods are rarely used for the identification of DBPs in drinking water.

### 3. Regulations and guidelines

Nowadays, the standards for drinking water enforced in China is GB5749-2006[15]. That regulates TTHM and 13 individual DBPs. In one respect, TTHM is ruled at  $1^a$ . The method to calculate TTHM is based on a ratio. On the other hand, the standards regulate chloroform, BDCM, DCAA and formaldehyde at  $60\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $60\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $50\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  and  $900\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  severally. In the US, TTHM, HAA5, bromate and chlorite are under the Stage 2 D-DBP Rule that was promulgated in 2006 by the U.S.EPA[16]. The Stage 2 D-DBP Rule stipulates TTHM, HAA5, bromate and chlorite at  $80\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $60\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $10\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  and  $1000\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  respectively.

Canadian guidelines for drinking water[17] is similar to that in the US. But the former include nitrosamines and the latter is contrary. Especially, TTHM and HAA5 are calculated on the locational running annual average (LRAA). The two DBPs are regulated at  $100\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  and  $80\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  severally. Another four DBPs, bromate, chlorite, chlorate and NDMA regulatory limits are  $10\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $1000\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $1000\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  and  $40\text{ng.L}^{-1}$  severally.

As regards the European Union, the EU directive for drinking water only rules two DBPs, TTHM and bromate, at the value of  $100\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  and  $10\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  severally[18]. But the countries of the EU may regulate not only TTHM and bromate but also other DBPs. And the limits of regulated DBPs can be more rigid than the EU directive. For instance, the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the THM4 is  $50\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  in Germany. And the value in Austria is  $30\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  [19]. Current WHO guidelines [20] for drinking water was promulgated in 2011. The international standards list TTHM which is calculated on a ration. Rather, another 14 individual DBPs are regulated at value of concentrations. For example, the standard value for chloroform, BDCM, DBCM and bromoform is  $300\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $60\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ,  $100\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  and  $100\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  severally. The WHO guidelines for drinking water has a significant reference value for many countries.

In the aspect of DBP species, the standards for drinking water in Japan[21] is similar to GB5749-2006. However, chlorite, chlorate, and 2,4,6-trichlorophenol are not ruled but MCAA is regulated. Another difference between GB5749-2006 and Japanese is that the latter are more stringent for BDCM

and CNCI. As for Australia, the guidelines for drinking water list a total of 24 DBP parameters[22]. Australian guidelines are similar to WHO guidelines in the aspect of DBP species but the former include.

In mainland China, 5% method is adopted as the assessment method for DBPs. When more than 5% of the tested water samples are over the regulated value, a water system is out of compliance. The study says most of out of compliance water samples are gathered in summer or fall. In order to decrease the influence of season, the running annual average method may be a ideal selection. The method was adopted by the Stage 1 D-DBP Rule in the US.

#### **4. Emerging DBPs**

Emerging disinfection byproducts are detected gradually in drinking water with advancement of analytical technology and measuring device. Drinking water disinfection is an important and necessary water treatment program, that is to say the occurrence of emerging DBPs is inevitable. Some emerging DBPs have higher risk than some of the regulated ones generally[24].

The DBPs of emerging concerns commonly include iodo-THMs and acids, halonitromethanes, haloacetaldehydes, haloamides, MX, BMX and analogs, and NDMA and so on[8,23]. The vast number of emerging DBPs are determined existing or potential toxicity by the expert toxicological review[25]. Some countries have a focus on emerging DBPs which hadn't been regulated and set regulations and guidelines to control them in recent years. And a recently conducted US Nationwide DBP Occurrence Study has helped to provide focus with quantitative occurrence data for emerging DBPs that had little or no previous occurrence information[23].

A recent discovery of halogenated emerging DBPs which are volatile (including iodo-THMs and acids, halonitromethanes, haloacetaldehydes, haloamides) reveal them to be more cytotoxic and genotoxic than the DBPs are regulated in drinking water[23,8]. These volatile halogenated emerging DBPs all can be measured by methods currently[8]. Iodo-THMs can be determined by LLE-GC-ECD, and the detection limits are in the range of 0.01 µg-0.03 µg[26]. Iodoacids can be determined by the methods which can be used to determine HAAs[26]. Trihalonitromethanes should be analysed under the particular analytical conditions and they are determined by GC method which should be used injection-port temperatures during the analysis[23,8,27].

Recent methods for measuring MX, BMX and the analogs have included liquid-liquid extraction (LLE), derivatization with BF<sub>3</sub>/methanol or acidic methanol, and analysis using GC-electron capture detection (ECD)[8]. NDMA and other nitrosamines in drinking water commonly are low concentrations. MS detector can meet the requirement which requires low detection limits when measuring[8]. LC-MS-MS methods can be also used to determine nitrosamines after preconcentration by using solid phase extraction (SPE) or LLE[28].

Enhanced coagulation is the suggested treatment by U.S.EPA for the removal of DBP precursors. But enhanced coagulation has little effect on emerging DBPs because of its removal principle. Some research suggests ozonation may be a good method for removal of emerging DBPs. Ozonation destroys the precursors of a number of emerging DBPs. Ozone can reduce some emerging DBPs formation such as NDMA. But, preozonation can increase the formation of trihalonitromethanes according to some research consequences. UV radiation can also reduce some emerging DBPs

formation, however, similar to ozonation, medium pressure UV radiation would increase the formation of trihalonitromethanes[8].

## **5. Methods for DBPs control**

Because of the high health risk potentials and strict regulations, efforts have been made to control DBPs before, during or after disinfection. Currently, common strategies for controlling DBPs include precursors removal, alternative disinfectants and directly removal[3].

### **5.1 Precursor removal**

To date, the major technologies for DBPs precursor removal include enhanced coagulation, membrane filtration, advanced oxidation processes and activated carbon adsorption. Different from conventional coagulation where removal of turbidity is the main objective, enhanced coagulation aims at NOM removal involves excess addition of chemical coagulant, strict control of coagulation pH and other optimized coagulation conditions, thus leading to more efficient NOM removal as DBP precursors[29,30]. However, an increased amount of coagulant will result in a increased sludge production and may alter the sludge characteristics which would increase the cost and difficulty of sludge handling[8]. Moreover, enhanced coagulation will lower the chlorine dose resulting in a reduction of chlorinated DBPs and a higher concentration of brominated DBPs. Granular activated carbon(GAC) adsorption can both effectively remove DBP precursors and DBPs. Under the Stage 1 D-DBP Rule, GAC was suggested as one of best available technologies for DBP control[8]. Membrane filtration is another technology for DBP mitigation. Compared to enhanced coagulation, membrane technologies such as reverse osmosis and nanofiltration are effective in bromide removal, thus can reduce the brominated DBPs formation[1]. In most cases, pretreatment and frequent membrane clean are required for membrane filtration. Due to the relatively high cost and some problems like membrane fouling, membrane technologies have not been in large scale application.

### **5.2 Alternative disinfectants**

During disinfection, it is effective to change the type of disinfectants for DBP control. Alternative disinfectants include chloramines, chlorine dioxide, ozone and UV. Chloramine is a weak disinfectant with low reactivity. This makes chloramine produce a long lasting and stable disinfectants residual in the distribution systems[8]. Although chloramination can reduce the formation of THMs and HAAs, it will generate unexpected higher level of N-DBPs such as cyanogen chloride and NDMA[5, 9]. In comparison with chloramines, chlorine dioxide is a much stronger disinfectant also with long lasting time in the distribution system. Chlorine dioxide is also efficient in taste and odors control. Also, Chlorine dioxide disinfection produce much low level common halogenated DBPs[8]. However, some inorganic byproducts involve chlorite and chlorate are generated when chlorine dioxide is used[31]. As investigated by Ye[32], the presence of iodide during chlorine dioxide oxidation process results in iodinated DBPs formation. Ozone is also a very effective and strong disinfectant with high reactivity. Because of this, it does not provide a persistent ozone residual. Ozonation of bromide containing water will lead to the formation bromate and brominated DBPs[33].

### **5.3 Directly removal of DBPs**

As mentioned earlier, GAC can be used to remove DBPs directly. By combining GAC with biological degradation, BAC shows many advantages in minimizing biodegradable DBPs, including HAA, aldehydes, CH and ketoacids[34]. As indicated by Xie, for monochloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid, the effluent concentrations were less than 1ug/L while the influent concentration was 50ug/L each[8]. Recently, some researches focused on zero-valent iron. As investigated by Tang, zero-valent irons were effective in TCAA reduction to MCAA and DCAA, which can be easily biodegraded by subsequent BAC[35]. Beyond that, air stripping is regarded as a cost-effective way for directly removing volatile DBPs like THMs. This process does not produce additional DBPs[9].

## 6. Conclusions

There are a large amount of methods including SPE-derivatization-GC-ECD, LLE-derivatization-GC-ECD, P&T-GC-PID-ELCD, etc.. GC-MS method and LC-MS method are widely used for the detection of DBPs in drinking water.

In the West, The standards in the US is similar to that in Canada. And the EU only list two DBPs when Australia rules a total of 24. In Asia, Chinese and Japanese standards for drinking water is similar to the WHO guidelines. The assessment method for DBPs is 5% method but it can be affected by season.

More types of DBPs are gradually found by research of drinking water treatments. Emerging DBPs should be regulated because of their potential risk for people's life. And the available removal methods of them cannot meet our needs. In other words, the best method of removal emerging DBPs is what we are exploring.

DBP control can be implemented before, during, and after its formation. Enhanced coagulation and GAC were listed as a best available technologies by USEPA under stage 1 D-DBP rule. Alternative disinfectants is an effective way to reduce DBPs formation during disinfection process. However, some emerging DBPs may occur. BAC for directly remove DBPs after its formation has attracted a lot of interests. Physical process like air stripping is also efficient in volatile DBPs minimization.

## Author Contributions

Abstract, introduction, and Part 5 methods for DBP control were finished by Danyang Liu.

Part 2 Analytical methods was finished by Peng chen

Part 3 Regulations and guidelines was finished by Baoquan Zhu

Part 4 Emerging DBPs finished by Bingwei Fan.

All of the authors contributed to the conclusion.

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*Article*

## **Industrial wastewater**

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**Abstract:** According to the characteristics of industrial wastewater, building a scientific and rational mode of wastewater treatment, continuous improvement and development of wastewater treatment and water safety evaluation and management of water pollution prevention and control technology is an important topic in the field. On the basis of analyzing the characteristics of wastewater and elaborating basic strategies and approaches of industrial wastewater pollution control, It focuses on the research progress of industrial wastewater characteristics evaluation, process optimization method and security management of water quality, and discusses the development direction of wastewater pollution control ideas and technologies.[1]

**Keywords:** Industrial wastewater; Pollution Characteristics; Evaluation of characteristics of wastewater treatment; Biological processing features; Chemical oxidation processing features; Process Optimization.

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### **1. Definition and characteristics of industrial wastewater**

Industrial wastewater refers to wastewater and waste liquid generated during the production, containing pollutant materials, intermediate products and production process of industrial production with water loss. With the rapid development of China's industry in recent years, coupled with a low level of technology and management, water pollution increasingly widespread and severe, exacerbated tensions of water resources, at the same time, threats to human health and safety. For the protection of the environment, the industrial wastewater treatment is more important than the urban sewage treatment.[2,3]

According to the characteristics of industrial wastewater, building a scientific and rational mode of wastewater treatment, continuous improvement and development of wastewater treatment and water safety evaluation and management technology of water pollution prevention and treatment become an important issue.

pollutants in industrial wastewater composition properties compared to urban sewage is significant differences, and has the following salient features:[1]

1.1. Pollutants are complicated, big difference;

1.2. Concentrations of pollutants has a wide range and is volatile;

1.3. A variety of species of Biodegradable and toxic pollutants and large concentrations;

1.4. Processing target diverse, large differences in water quality standards.

More prominent feature of industrial wastewater, the decision can not simply imitate urban sewage the processing mode and treatment process, but also can not simply copy the wastewater treatment process and operational management of similar enterprises or similar facility. Therefore, based on the treatment process to establish the preferred method and design features of industrial wastewater, the problem is scientific research industrial wastewater pollution control needs to focus on resolving.

## **2. The basic strategy and approach of industrial wastewater pollution control:**

Production process emissions, waste water recycling and waste water treatment system optimization is the basic way of industrial wastewater pollution control.[1]

### **2.1. Production Process emissions**

Many concrete measures to reduce emissions of the production process, there are many research and information here emphasized that the production of raw materials and production should pay attention to the choice of accessories, from the production process of "source", namely raw material selection stage to take a scientific and reasonable measures, reduce pollutants generated risks in meeting the production requirements of the premise, as far as possible producing less pollution, handling and good raw materials.

### **2.2. Waste water recycling and waste water treatment system optimization**

Waste water recycling and waste water treatment systems optimize the operation and management are inseparable, which is the prerequisite and guarantee the implementation of the former. Different ways to reuse, process water quality and to optimize the operation of the wastewater treatment system

put forward different demands. About Wastewater mode, factory mixing different types of wastewater collection, centralized processing mode, to operation and management a great deal of difficulty. Between different enterprises centralized wastewater treatment, industrial wastewater and domestic sewage treatment problems caused by mixing would be greater in practice do encounter a lot of operational management issues. Therefore, changes in industrial wastewater treatment model, the implementation of wastewater "collection and were treated" can greatly reduce the technical difficulty and the difficulty of the operation and management of wastewater treatment, but also conducive to the realization of the use of wastewater cycle characteristics of industrial wastewater treatment evaluation and the optimum choice biological treatment characteristics, chemical oxidation properties, coagulation and sedimentation properties and activated carbon adsorption process is to evaluate the characteristics of wastewater treatment characteristics important indicator.

Now we focuses on biological treatment and chemical oxidation characteristics evaluation methods progress.

### 2.2.1. Evaluation of characteristics of biological treatment

Evaluation of the characteristics of biological wastewater treatment in wastewater treatment process selection, often simply use biodegradable wastewater indicators That  $\rho$  (BOD5) and the ratio of other organic pollutant indicators to judge, as  $\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (CODCr),  $\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (TOD),  $\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (DOC), etc. However, this judgment mode in many cases are not characteristic of the biological treatment of wastewater for scientific and objective evaluation, not a good guide to determine the wastewater treatment process and operation optimization.

Because of a variety of organic pollutants in wastewater,  $\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (DOC) in the overall index  $\{[\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (DOC)] $\}$  is the total of each pollutant  $[\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (DOC)] i's and, even if  $[\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (DO)] of the total is greater than 1.2, pollutants  $[\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (DOC)] i is less than 1.2 will exist. Which means there is not suitable for biological treatment of contaminants. Contaminants these difficult biological treatment, is often an important cause of treatment effect is not ideal and substandard quality.

Given the above, it has made more systematic study of biological wastewater treatment characteristic evaluation method (The "DOC removal efficiency figure" used for biological treatability evaluation of industrial wastewater).[1] It can be a more comprehensive evaluation of the biological properties of wastewater treatment, including biological treatment can achieve the effect of treatment, the need for pre- or post-processing, how to optimize the operation of biological treatment processes.

### 2.2.2. Chemical Oxidation properties

Chemical oxidation (including ozone oxidation, Fenton oxidation and wet oxidation, etc.) is the pre-treatment of industrial waste water and the depth of the commonly used techniques, play an important role especially in the biodegradation of wastewater treatment. Chemical oxidation treatment for different purposes, the evaluation indicators are not the same. As pre-conditions for biological treatment, evaluation of wastewater treatment chemical oxidation characteristics, not only to focus on improving indicators of biological wastewater treatment, improve value as  $\rho$  (BOD5) /  $\rho$  (DOC), also

we need to focus on evaluation of biodegradability organic carbon (Biodegradable Organic Carbon, BOC) conversion rate ( $R_b$ ). [4]  $R_b$  higher the value, the technical feasibility of chemical oxidation pretreatment greater. Biodegradability potential to improve (Biodegradability Improvement Potential, BIP) is to optimize the chemical oxidation pretreatment unit process design and evaluation important indicator of its economy. Fenton oxidation pretreatment of BIP can be calculated according to the following formula:

$$BIP = \Delta\rho(BOD_5) / (W_0 - \Delta\rho(DOC) \times ThOD / \rho(DOC))$$

Where:  $W_0$  of  $H_2O_2$  dosage, mg / L

In the case of a deep treatment, in addition to focus on the removal of organic matter, it should also pay attention to changes in biological wastewater after toxic chemical oxidation treatment, because in some cases, after chemical oxidation treatment, although somewhat lower organic content, but often appear biological increased toxicity and, therefore, we need to focus on the evaluation process and changes in aquatic toxicity.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The national control and implement of wastewater science project carried out, bring unprecedented chance to the country's research of wastewater treatment technology, and at the same time, it has put forward higher requests to the wastewater treatment research. Such as recognizing the key science matters and the bottleneck of technology in the industrial wastewater government, keeping assure of the idea in dealing with it and holding on to the emphasis direction of the skills. These lead to the significance of breaking through the essential skills of dealing with the wastewater and besides, can keep the industrial wastewater in control effectively.

According to the successful experience and advanced thoughts of the treatment in industrial wastewater of the developed countries, and considering our realistic needs in the treatment and the existing problems during the process of exploring technology, combining with the latest research process of industrial wastewater treatment, it is thought that we should achieve the conversion and development in the following five aspects in the dealing mode of industrial wastewater, studying the developing objectives, evaluating the water qualities, control indexes and the designing idea of the treatment process: [1]

The dealing mode transforms from collecting and dealing the water which is mixed of different kinds of wastewater to that of collecting separately and dealing separately first. And the research exploration transforms from sole technology exploration to valuing both wastewater treatment technology and the methods of treatment crafts optimization. The appraisal of Water quality organic pollution transforms from valuing Comprehensive concentration index to concerning Organic characteristic index. The Wastewater discharge control targets transforms from valuing the Conventional Index from concerning the safety of water and Comprehensive toxicity index. The ideal of the technological design transforms from "dealing crafts" to "producing crafts".

### Author Contributions

<sup>1</sup> Gather materials and write the first part.

<sup>2</sup> Gather materials and write the second part.

<sup>3</sup> Gather materials and write the third part.

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Article

## Effect of heat treatment on adsorption performance and photocatalytic activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted activated carbon cloths

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**Abstract:** The TiO<sub>2</sub> was mounted on ACC( Activated Carbon Cloth) through the process of dip-coating and subsequent annealing in nitrogen atmosphere. The crystallinity of TiO<sub>2</sub> and its pore structure were measured by XRD and N<sub>2</sub> adsorption. The result of adsorption and photocatalytic activity for TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted ACC towards methylene blue (MB) solution showed that compared with pristine ACC, the specific surface area and pore volume of TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted ACC decreased dramatically. The crystallinity of TiO<sub>2</sub> can be modified by heat treatment. Both crystallinity and pore structure as well as carbon residue have effects on adsorptive and photocatalytic performances of TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted ACCs.

**Keywords:** Porous carbon ,Catalyst support, Reactivity

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## 1. Introduction



Adsorption of porous carbon plays an important role in purification of indoor air and water because of large specific area and high adsorption capacity[1], however, its poor saturation limit development of application[2]. Recently, some researcher study the combination of TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalytic activity and adsorption ability of porous carbons.[3]-[14]. Although activated carbon cloth was used to support photo-catalyst, little attention has been paid to fibrous carbon adsorbent. In this study, we focused on TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted ACC which can be easily exposed to UV irradiation to improve photocatalytic ability. The effect of heat treatment and adsorption performance for methylene blue (MB) were also investigated.

## 2. Experimental Section

The experimental materials were prepared as followed: tetrabutylorthotitanate (reagent grade) and diethanolamine (reagent grade) were dissolved in the solution where ethanol and water were mixed together. Polyethylene glycol (PEG, average molecular weights of 400) was add into the solution and subsequently a light yellow solution was obtained. TiO<sub>2</sub> was mounted on ACC by a dip-coating method then dried at 100 degree and heat-treated in nitrogen at different temperature as CTX2-Ny00c. ('x = 1, 2, 3' denotes different amount of PEG, '2' denotes coating times, 'N' denotes heat treatment in nitrogen, 'y00' denotes heat treat temperature from 400 to 900 8C).

**Table 1**  
The preparation details of samples and their pore structure parameters

Sample no.	PEG amount (g/100 mL)	HTT (°C)	$S_{BET}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	$S_T$ (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	$S_{Ex}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	$V_{Mi}$ (cm <sup>3</sup> /g)	$D_{Av}$ (nm)	TiO <sub>2</sub> (%)
P-ACF			1131	1190	35	0.49	0.86	
CT12-N400	0	400	543	557	12	0.24	0.88	23
CT12-N500		500	590	602	20	0.26	0.89	21
CT12-N600		600	664	691	14	0.29	0.87	26
CT12-N700		700	736	730	21	0.33	0.93	27
CT12-N800		800	696	712	38	0.30	0.89	28
CT22-N400	1.5	400	645	631	23	0.29	0.95	27
CT22-N600		600	714	708	23	0.32	0.93	28
CT22-N800		800	771	775	48	0.33	0.91	25
CT32-N400	2.5	400	598	627	19	0.26	0.87	29
CT32-N600		600	644	656	20	0.29	0.9	28
CT32-N800		800	701	738	45	0.30	0.87	28

[HTT denotes heat-treatment temperature; SBET, ST, SEx denote BET, total and external specific surface area, respectively; yMi denotes micropore volume; DAv denotes average pore size. ST, SEx and yMi were calculated by as plot; SBET was calculated by BET equation; DAv was calculated by 4 V/S.]

The pieces of sample(1.5cm\*1.5cm) were added into methylene blue solution( $2.94 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L, 100ml)and stirred overnight. The sample with MB was transferred into MB solution under UV irradiation (365nm). The decomposition of MB was followed by measuring the absorbance of the solution

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Characterization of TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted ACCs

Homogeneous thin film could be formed at the surface of ACF by a dipcoating method. When heat-treated in nitrogen at high temperature, the TiO<sub>2</sub> will be produced at the surface of the coatings. In the case of CT12 series, calcined TiO<sub>2</sub> was amorphous at 400 °C for an hour. The anatase-type TiO<sub>2</sub> formed and increased with the rising treatment temperature, which was not significant. The formation of rutile-type TiO<sub>2</sub> occurred when the treatment temperature was up to 700 °C. For the sample treated at 800 °C for 1 h, broad diffraction lines indicate the formation of considerable rutile phase. When treatment temperature increased to 900 °C, diffraction lines of rutile phase improved while anatase disappeared completely. There were similar crystallinity changes for CT22 and CT 32 series.

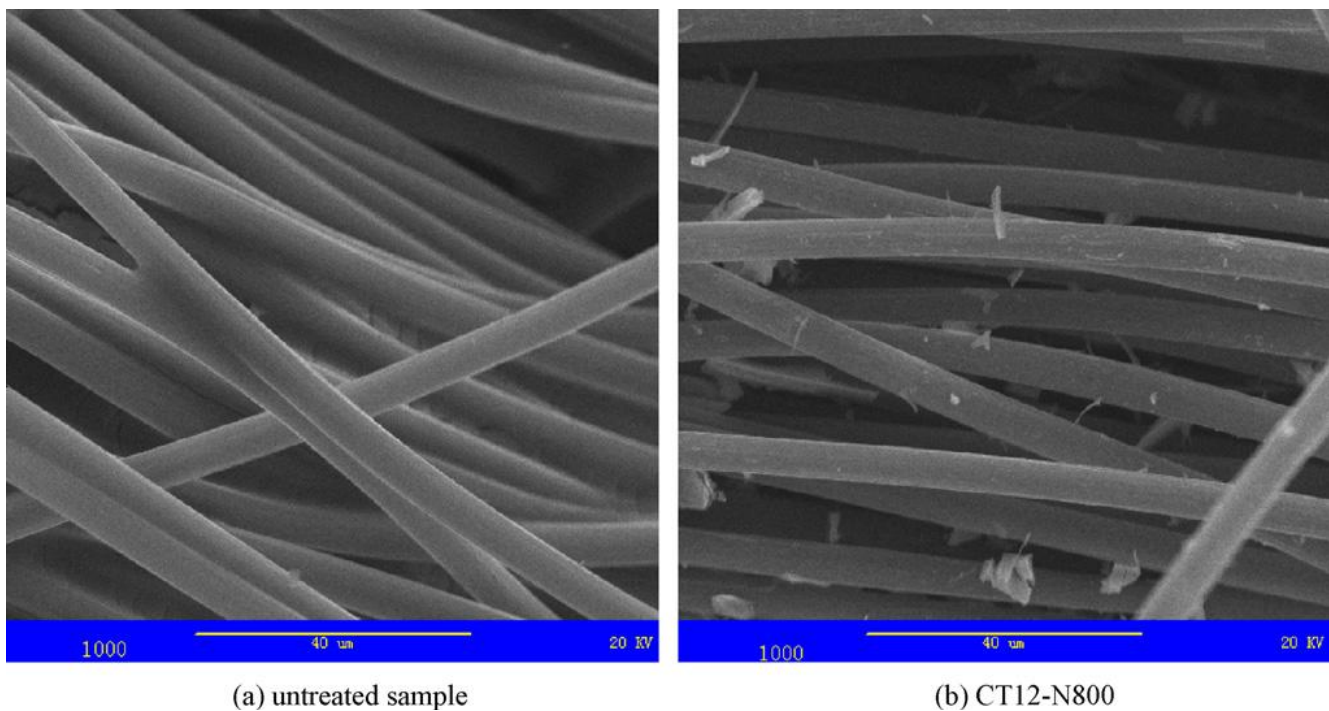


Fig. 1. Scanning electron micrographs of (a) untreated sample and (b) CT12-N800.

The amount was almost constant. Obviously, mounting of TiO<sub>2</sub> resulted in a marked decrease both in specific surface area and pore volume comparing with the pristine ACC, but the decrease was recovered gradually with increasing heat-treatment temperature. There was a similar change as reported previously [7]. Blocking the pore entrances on the surface of activated carbon by fine particles of TiO<sub>2</sub> caused the decrease. The particles of TiO<sub>2</sub> became larger with the increasing heat-treatment temperature, making the blocking of pore entrance less efficient. Table 1 also showed that the BET surface area and pore volume increased for the samples obtained from PEG-added sol at the same treatment temperatures. But if added the amount, the effect of pore former was weakened.

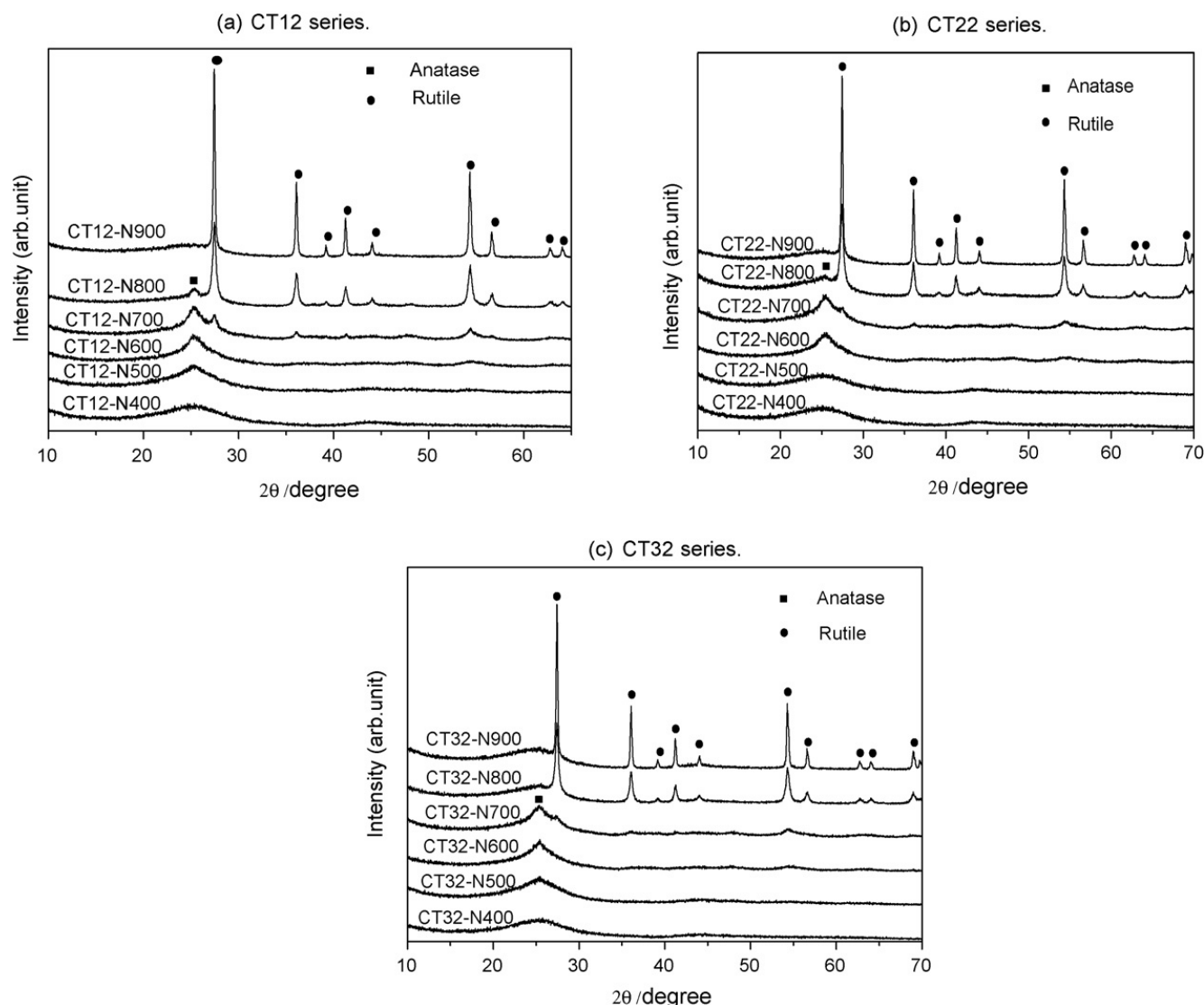


Fig. 2. XRD patterns of (a) CT12 series, (b) CT22 series and (c) CT32 series.

### 3.2. Adsorption and photocatalytic activities of TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted ACCs

TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted ACC samples were dispersed into a higher concentration of MB solution in the dark overnight for adsorption firstly. MB can pass through TiO<sub>2</sub> coating and reach the pores of ACF. Because of the abundant porosities of ACFs, the samples exhibited high adsorption capacities. For three series of samples, different treatment temperatures resulted in different pore structures, leading to different adsorption amounts for MB. The capacities increased with the increasing treatment temperature, corresponding to the changes of pore volume and specific surface area. Different interface characteristics might create different capacities. Comparing CT12 series and CT22 series, the latter series possessed somewhat lower capacities although higher surface areas and pore volumes. PEG by pyrolysis produced pores in the TiO<sub>2</sub>. During the heat process in nitrogen, a little amount of carbon would be remained and thus coat the surface of TiO<sub>2</sub>. Coated carbon can hinder the growth of the anatase crystal and prevent the transformation to rutile-type [5–8]. But these effects were less efficient

in very little amount of carbon and it can be confirmed in XRD patterns. It can be seen from Fig. 3 that it was similar when comparing CT32 series and CT22 series.

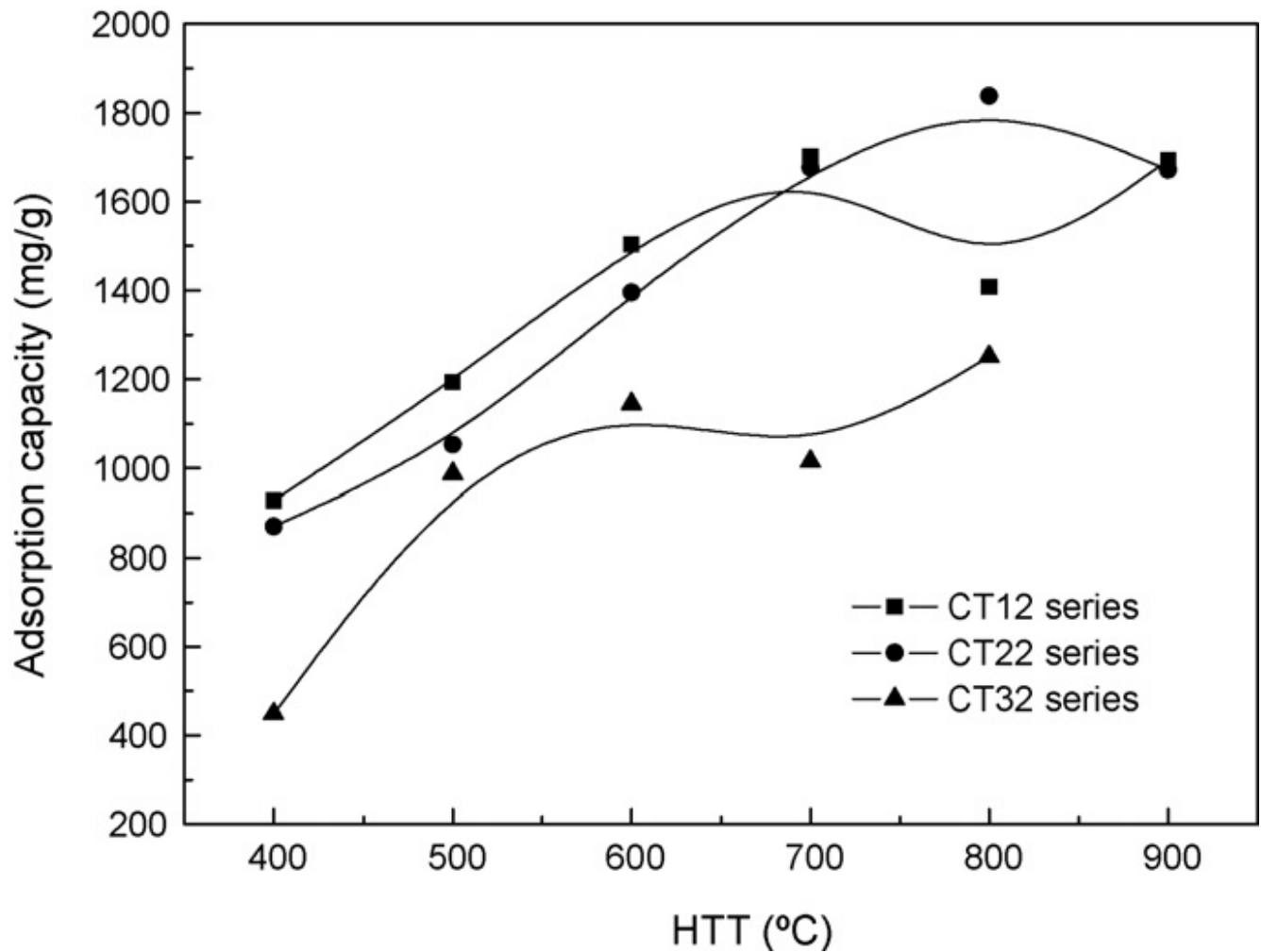


Fig. 3. Adsorption capacity of samples for MB ( $2.94 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L).

After adsorption equilibrium was reached, the treated sample with a low concentration was handled under UV irradiation for photocatalytic reactions. In the beginning process, MB concentrations in the solution changed smoothly, even increased for some samples. Later, MB concentrations leveled off then decreased linearly. It is seen from Fig. 4. It was supposed that TiO<sub>2</sub>-mounted firstly decomposed MB pre-adsorbed in ACF in the beginning. Then, some MB could desorb and enter into solution because of higher adsorption amount and lower decomposition rate. Obviously, the adsorption capacity might influence the beginning stage. The higher the adsorption capacity, the more distinct the convex plot in the beginning was.

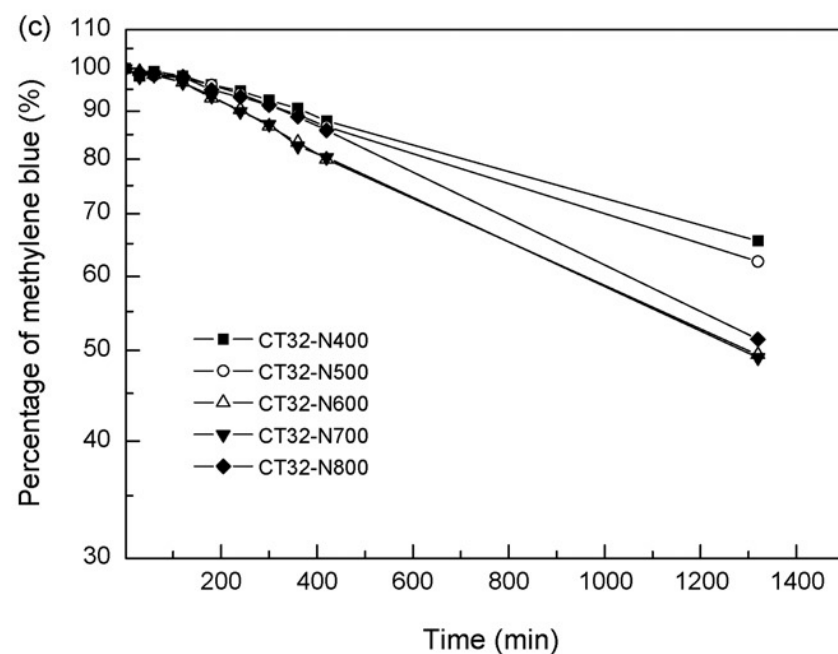
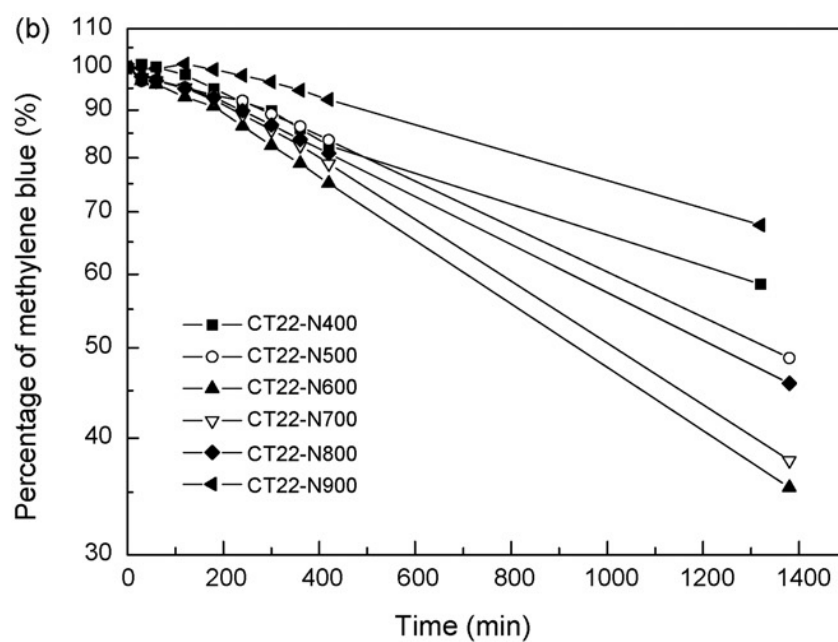
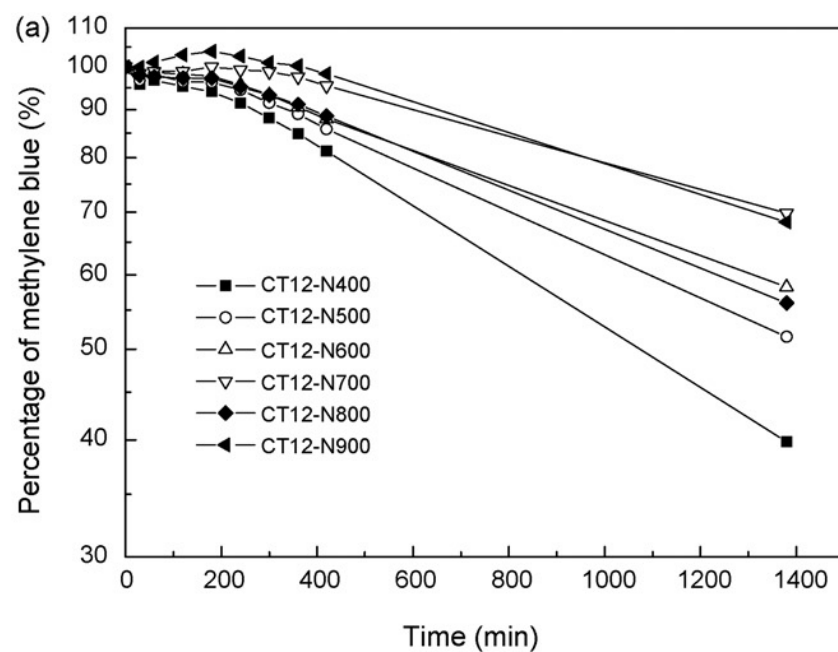


Fig. 4. Changes in MB solution with irradiation time for (a) CT12 series, (b) CT22 series and (c) CT32 series.

The rate constants for MB decomposition reaction were determined from linear relation of logarithm of relative concentration of MB (Fig. 5). Although they had similar crystallinities at the same treatment conditions, the changes of rate constants upon treatment temperature were different. Their pore structure and interface characteristics might be the reason. The rate constants decreased with treatment temperature in CT12 series. This changing trend was opposite to the plot of CT12 series in Fig. 3. However, the changes were consistent with the singular point of CT12-N800 in both plots. The more the adsorptive amount, the more the amount to be decomposed was. And in this moment, the effect of crystallinity was not so significant.

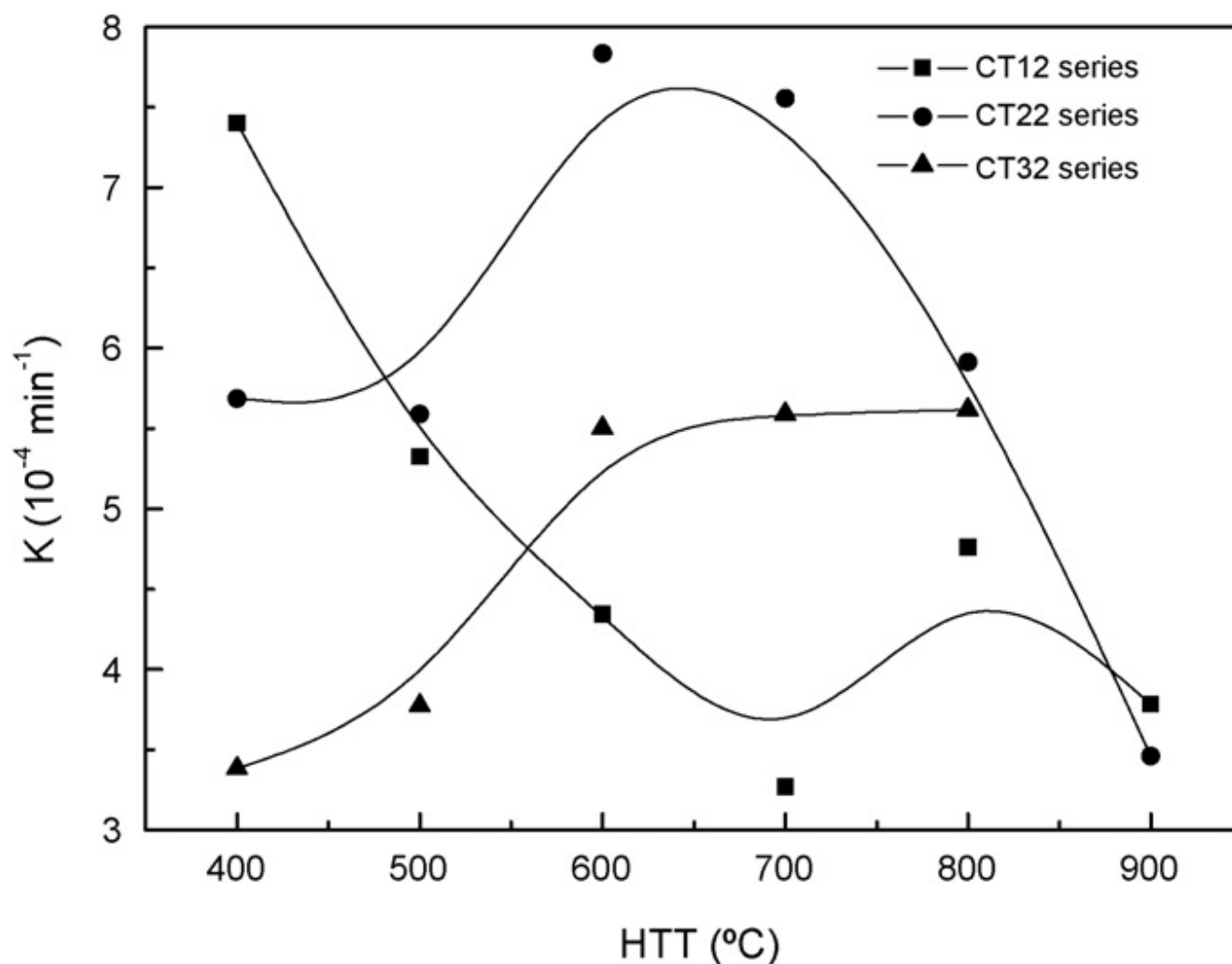


Fig. 5. Rate constants for MB decomposition versus heat-treatment temperatures

As for CT22 and CT32 series, PEG endowed pores and a bit of carbon in TiO<sub>2</sub> through pyrolysis, resulting in different photocatalytic activities. In the case of CT22-N400 and CT32-N400, carbon residues might cover TiO<sub>2</sub> and affect the irradiation, which can lead to lower decomposition rate. Added more PEG can generate more carbon, thus the rate constant of CT32-N400 was lower than that of CT22-N400. For the same reason, the plot of CT32 series was at lower position as shown in Fig. 5. However, pores produced in TiO<sub>2</sub> favored diffusion and mass transfer, making the effect of

crystallinity emerge. It was reported that the rate constant of TiO<sub>2</sub> for MB decomposition increased up to a maximum at around 700 °C and then decreased with increasing temperature, suggesting a strong dependence of rate constant on crystallinity of anatase phase.[15] There was a similar trend for the TiO<sub>2</sub> only as porous structure mounted on ACCs. The present results showed that the photocatalytic activity of TiO<sub>2</sub> mounted on ACCs depended strongly not only on the content and crystallinity of the anatase phase but also on the pore structure. Therefore, both the adsorption capacity and the photocatalytic activity of porous TiO<sub>2</sub> mounted on ACC could be improved by annealing at a high temperature. It can be obtained that an optimal sample for the present condition is CT22-N700.

## **Conclusions**

TiO<sub>2</sub> can be mounted on ACC through dip-coating method and subsequently annealed in nitrogen atmosphere, which result in a remarkable decrease in specific surface area and pore volume comparing with the pristine ACC. With the increase heat-treatment temperature, the pristine ACC can recover eventually. crystallinity of TiO<sub>2</sub> and its pore structure can be modified through treatment condition and adding different amount of PEG respectively. The result showed that both pore structure of hybrids and crystallinity of TiO<sub>2</sub> as well as the carbon residue had effects on their adsorptive and photocatalytic performances. For the present condition, an optimal sample was CT22-N700 which showed almost the highest adsorption capacity and photocatalytic activity. In the dark, the adsorption occurs, while under the UV light both adsorption and photocatalysis processes are expected to occur.

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **Author Contribution**

**Abstract, Key Word, Introduction-Yifan Yang**

**Experimental section-Yue Wang**

**Results and Discussion, Conclusion-Tianpeng Su**

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Article

## Improving Electro-adsorption Ability of Activated Carbon Electrodes through Titanium Modification

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**Abstract:** The capacity deionization of activated carbon electrodes was enhanced by modification of applying metal alkoxides of titanium, silicon, aluminum and zirconium on the surface of activated carbon cloth. The surface property of activated carbon cloth was deduced from surface analysis results using SEM, XRD, XPS. Titanium was effective to decrease physical adsorption of NaCl and to increase electrical adsorption.

**Keywords:** Capacitive deionization (CDI); Activated carbon cloth (ACC); Titania modification

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### 1. Introduction

Water is significant for life as well as regarded as fundamental sources for industries and agriculture [1] where various electrolytes are highly dissolved [2,3]. The dissolved amount of ions is crucial for its applications. For instance, the various dissolved electrolytes determined different treatment processes in wastewater and sewage treatment plants as well as in other industries such as nuclear power plants [4,5] and semiconductor manufacturing processes [6,7] which help to improve

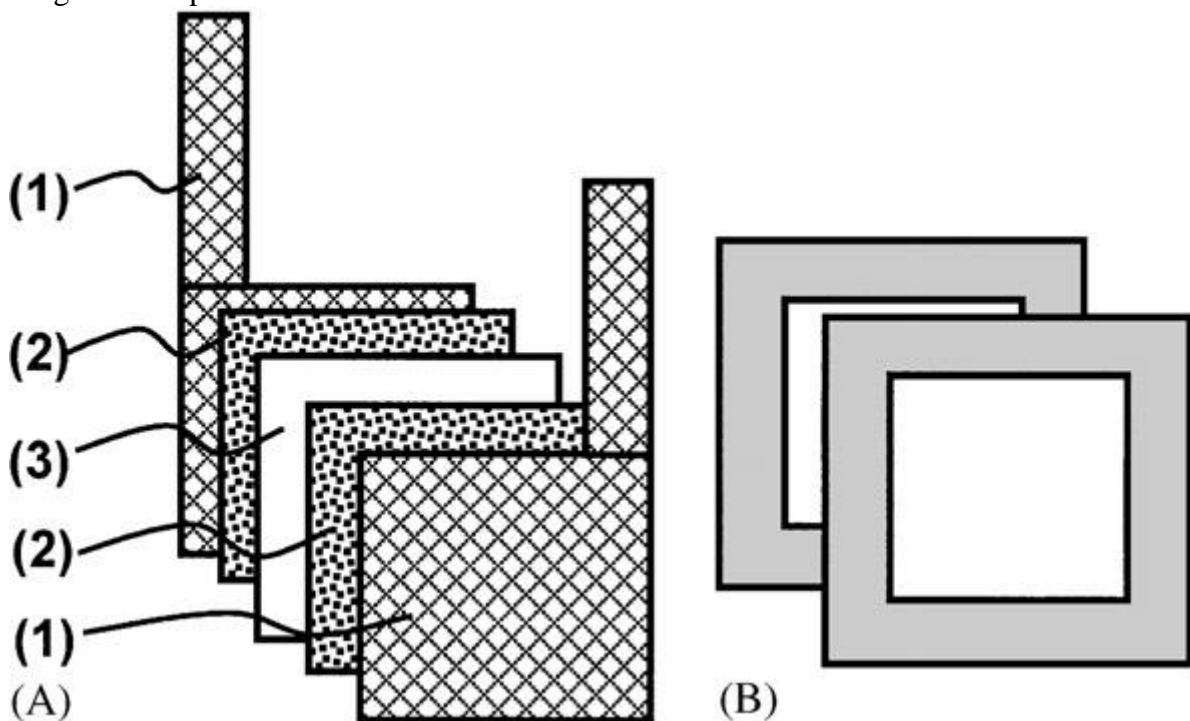
environment and living standard. Therefore, many kinds of deionization processes are operated to produce pure water by removing ions such as EDI(electrodialysis system)[8,9,10]

Capacity deionization (CDI) means using electro-adsorption to remove ions dissolved in the water, producing deionized water. Ions adsorbed on the surface of activated carbon cloth can be removed by eliminating electric field, resulting in regeneration of the electrodes.[11]

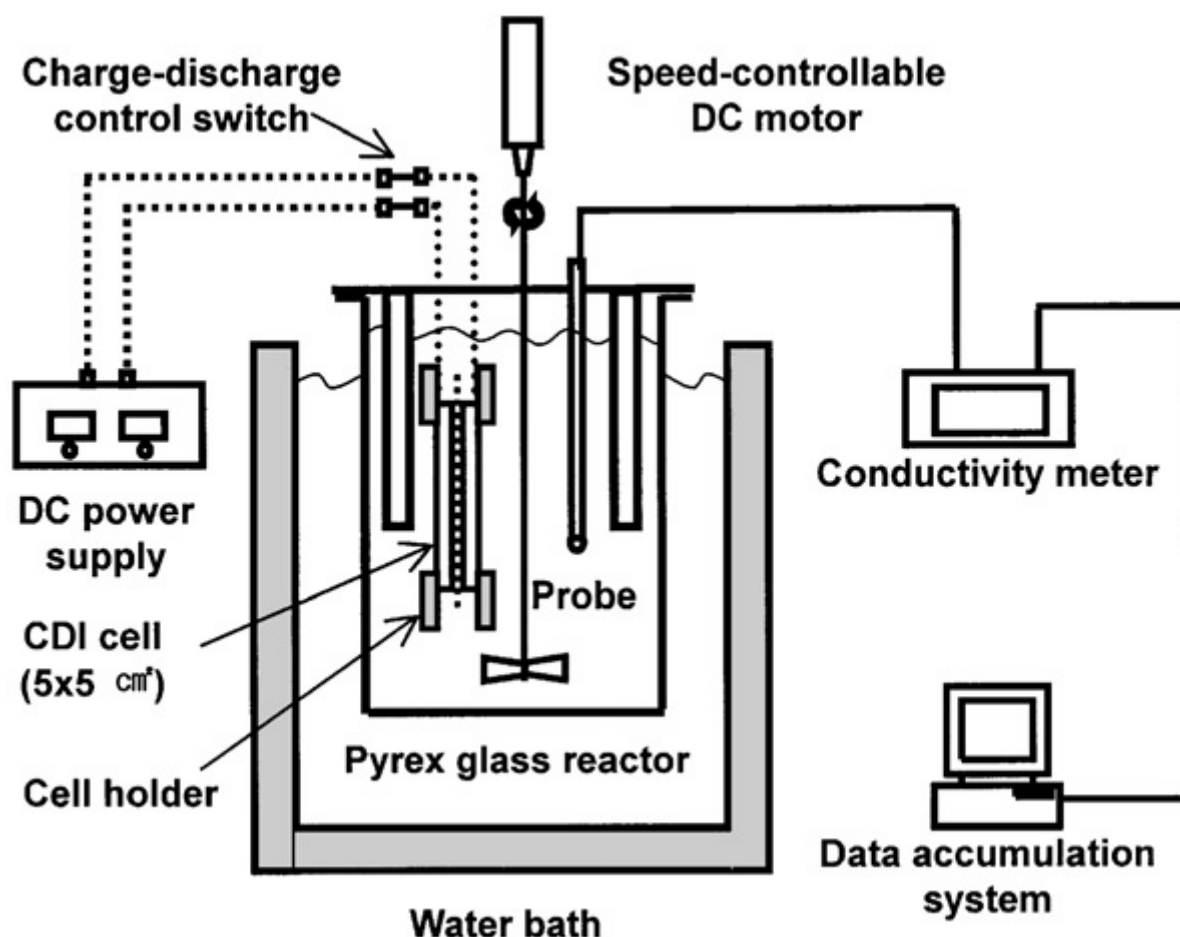
In this study, ACC modified by reacting with alkoxides of metals such as titanium, zirconium, silicon, and aluminum were used as CDI electrodes. The incorporated state of metal atoms on ACC was examined, and the enhancement of CDI performance with the modification was discussed.

## 2. Experimental Section

Dried ACC in an oven at 110°C for 24 h was immersed in anhydrous ethanol(>99.5%) solution containing metal alkoxides: titanium(IV)-butoxide, zirconium(IV)-n-propoxide, 3-trimethoxypropylsilane and aluminum isopropoxide, then stirred for 48 hours at room temperature. Washed ACC three times with anhydrous ethanol to remove non-reacted alkoxide, then dried overnight in an oven. Put the modified ACC in muffle with temperature increasing from ambient temperature to 450 degree with a ramping rate of 51°C/min and roasted for 2 hours. Cooled it overnight in an open air.



[Fig.1 illustrates the combination of activated carbon electrodes:(1); current collector, (2); electrode, (3); insulating film.]



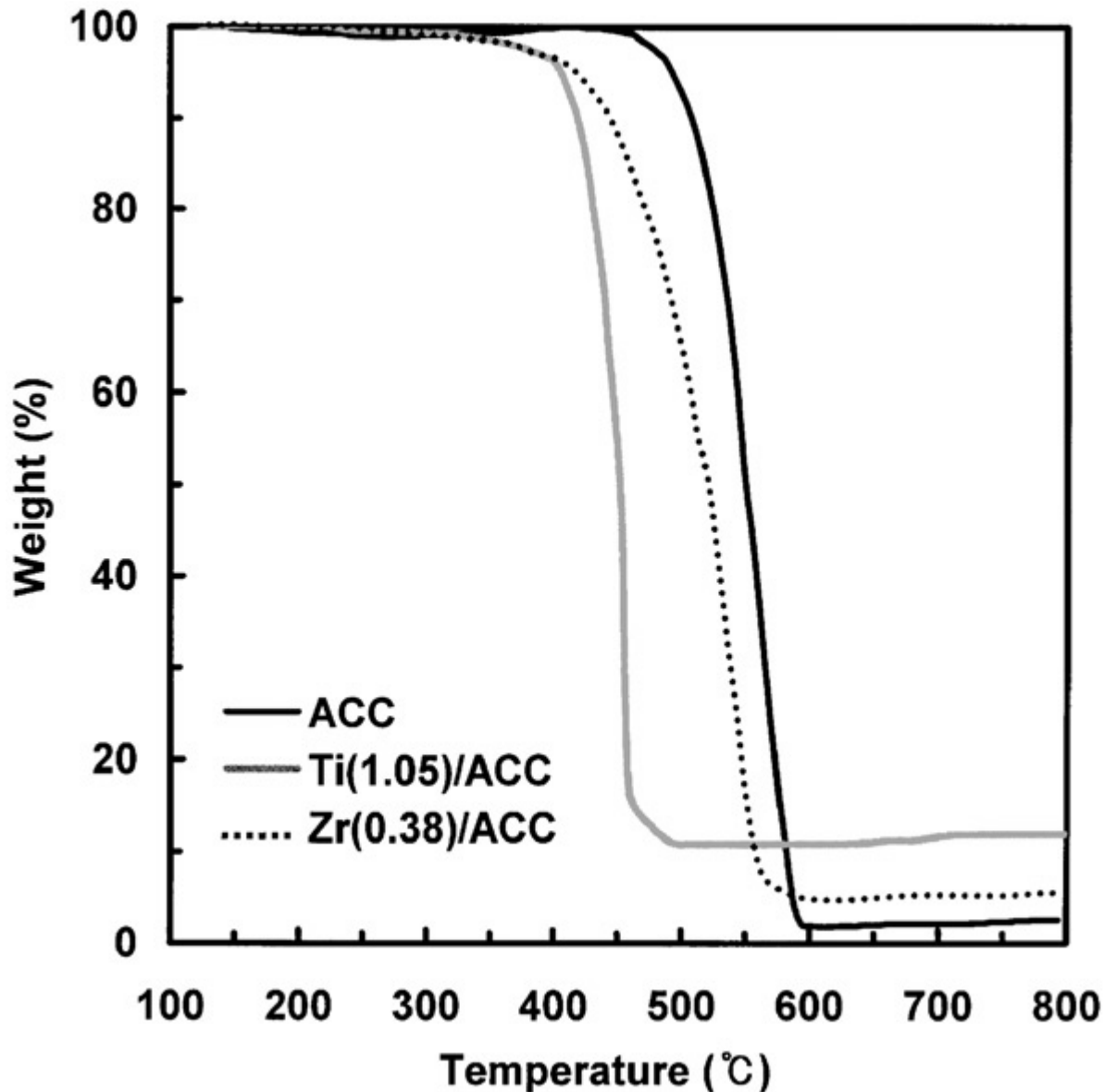
[Fig.2 shows a testing apparatus for CDI performance.]

An assembled CDI cell was put in a Pyrex glass reactor containing 500mL sodium chloride, adjusted the concentration to 0.1mM, The solution in the reactor was stirred by a teflon impeller with 400 rpm to reduce mass transfer limitation. The concentration change of the solution due to ion adsorption was measured using an ion conductivity meter, recorded the variation of concentration at every minute.

### 3. Results and Discussion

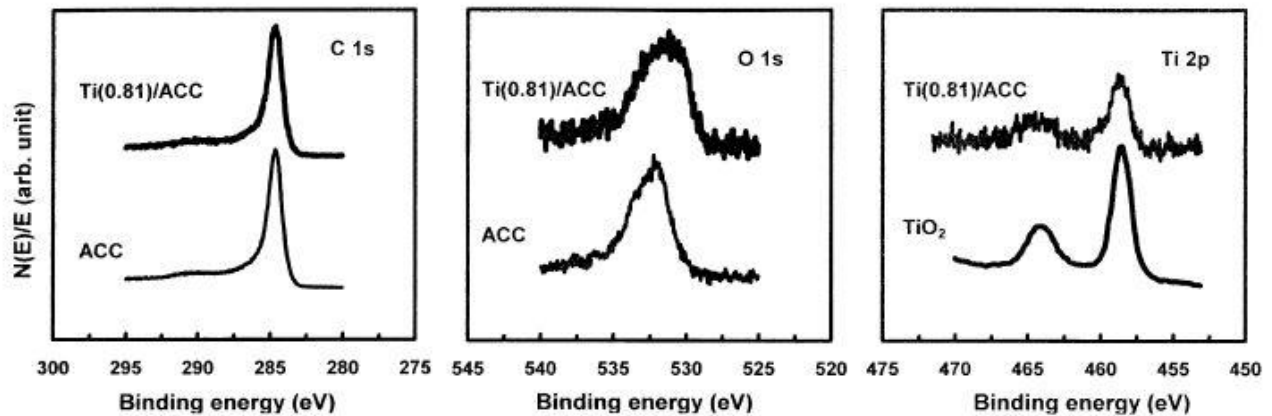
#### 3.1. Characterization of modified ACC

TG results in airflow provide the incorporated amounts of metal as metal oxides. The incorporated amounts of metal on the ACC were varied with the metal elements, although metal alkoxide concentrations of prepared solutions for the Ti(0.81)/ACC, Zr(0.38)/ACC, Si(0.28)/ACC and Al(0.20)/ACC were the same as mole. Since metal atoms were fixed on the ACC surface through the reaction between their alkoxide molecules and surface hydroxyl groups, the difference in the reactivity of alkoxide species brought about the difference in the incorporated amounts. The small decrease in the BET surface area by the modification indicated that most modified atoms reacted with surface functional groups and were located on the surface without blocking pores of the ACC.



[Fig.3 Typical runs of TG analysis of ACC and modified ones]

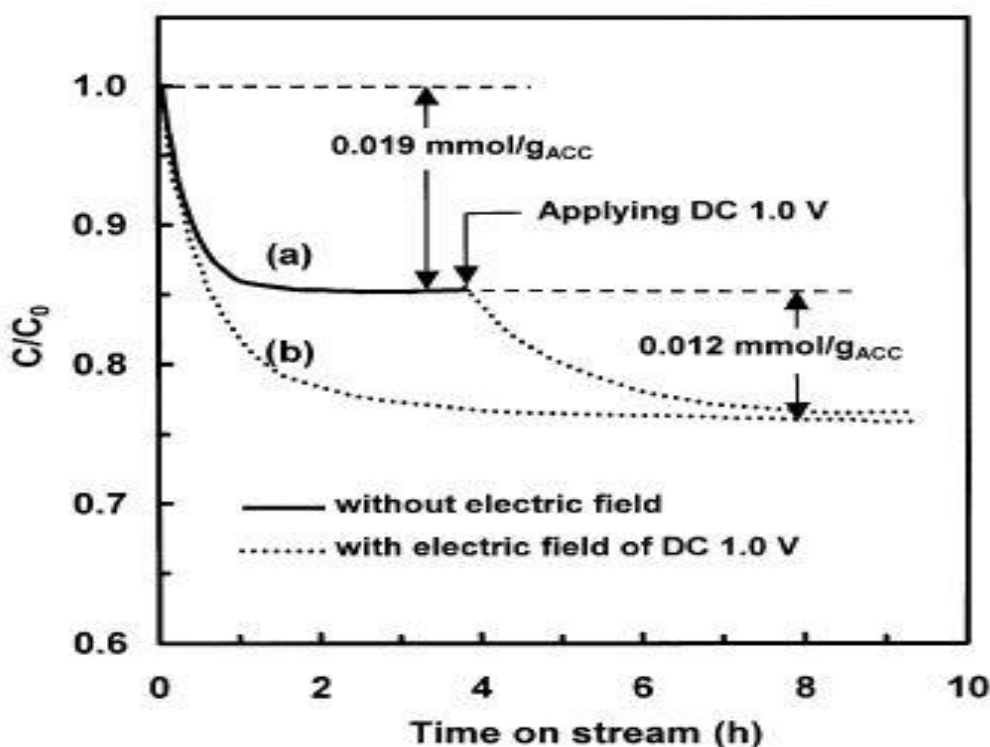
XPS is effective to reveal out the chemical state of modified metal atoms on the ACC. Change in binding energy of carbon or oxygen elements by the modification is helpful to deduce the incorporation scheme of metal atoms. Fig. 4 shows XPS spectra of the ACC and Ti(0.81)/ACC. Binding energy of C 1s peak of the ACC was 284.6 eV and was not altered with the titania modification, while O 1s peak of the ACC became broad. Binding energy of O 1s peak for the oxygen atoms bonded with carbon atoms as carboxylic or hydroxyl groups is 532.0 eV, but that for oxygen atoms bonded with metal atoms is 530.5 eV. The increase in O 1s peak at low energy side by the titania modification suggested that a part of oxygen atoms was bonded with titanium atoms producing Ti–O bonds. Titanium atoms incorporated into the surface of the Ti(0.81)/ACC exhibited their XPS peak at 458.6 and 464.5 eV, being in good accordance with the binding energy of tetrahedral titania. The modification of metal alkoxide on ACC, therefore, can be summarized as below: metal alkoxide molecules react with surface hydroxyl groups of ACC and metal atoms are incorporated with tetrahedral coordination on ACC forming M–O bonds.



[Fig. 4 illustrates XPS spectra of ACC and Ti(0.81)/ACC]

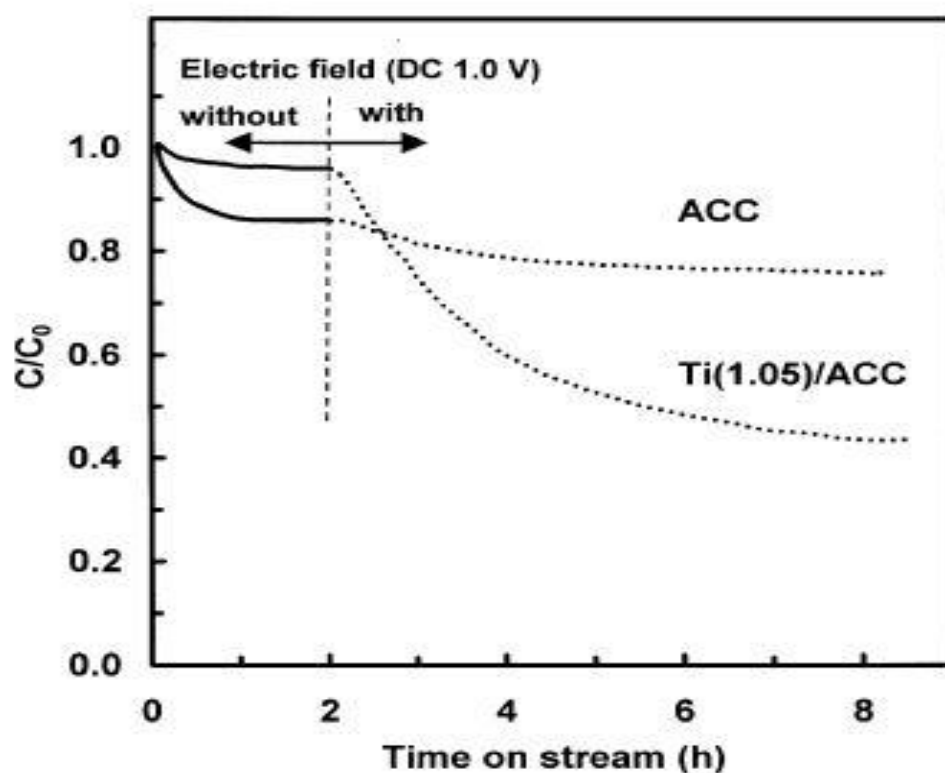
### 3.1.1. Capacitive deionization of modified ACC

If an electric potential is applied to ACC electrodes assembled face to face, more ions can be adsorbed. Adsorption of ions either physically or electrically caused the decrease in the concentration of the electrolyte as shown in Fig. 5 showed (a) physical adsorption of ions without any electric field. A charging electric field of DC 1.0V caused further adsorption, decreasing additionally the concentration of NaCl solution. If a constant electric potential was applied to ACC electrodes at starting time, decrease in the concentration proceeded along profile (b). The adsorbed amount of NaCl without an electric field is defined as physical adsorption, and that under an electric field as electric field adsorption.



[Fig5. Adsorption profiles of NaCl on ACC electrode without (a) and with (b) electric field of DC 1.0V at 251C. [NaCl]0=0.1mM.]

Fig. 6 shows adsorption of NaCl on the Ti(1.05)/ACC comparing with the ACC itself. Titania modification resulted in a considerable decrease in physical adsorption, but a significant increase in electric field adsorption. Reaction of titanium but oxide molecules with polar groups of the ACC reduced the number of polar groups, resulting in a considerable decrease in the physical adsorption. In addition, titanium atoms incorporated on the ACC surface worked as adsorption sites when an electric field was applied, enhancing significantly its electric field adsorption.



[Fig. 6. Adsorption profiles of NaCl on ACC and Ti(1.05)/ACC electrodes at 251C. [NaCl]0=0.1mM.]

## Conclusions

Titania on the surface of ACC can result in considerable reduction of physical adsorption of NaCl, while increase its electrical adsorption due to enormous adsorption sites for ions under electric field. Titanium modification is effective to improve electro-adsorption ability of CDI .

## 4.

## Acknowledgments

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## **Author Contribution**

**Abstract, Key Word, Introduction-Yujia Zhai**

**Experimental section-Lu Zhang**

**Results and Discussion, Conclusion-Yanbing Liu**

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*Article*

## **A Review of electrosorption selectivity of ions using activated carbon electrodes in capacitive deionization**

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**Abstract:** Capacitive deionization (CDI) is known for its cost-effective environmentally friendly advantages in waste water treatment. The activated carbon electrode which consists the core of capacitive deionization was synthesized by powder on low pressure and low temperature thermal chemical vapor deposition. Cyclic voltammetry and electrosorption experiments were two normal ways to systematically study the electrochemical properties of carbon film. Since the performance of activated carbon electrode is often affected by ionic charge and hydrated radius. Several experiments were conducted to study the ion removal capacity and selectivity. Normally cations with higher valence to screen the surface charge were more effectively removed than monovalent cations. And for cations with same charge, the one with smaller hydrated radius would be more effectively removed.

**Keywords:** Capacitive deionization; Electrosorption; Activated carbon; Cyclic voltammetry; Valence; Hydrated radius

## 1. Introduction

Due to population growth and the development of society and economy, the shortage of water resource is the one of the most fatal problems around the world. Over 1 billion people live in the regions without clean drinking water and approximately 2.3 billion people (41% of the world population) are suffering the pressure of water shortages[1]. Moreover, above 70% water covering the surface of the plant is the seawater where different species of ions are dissolved. Hence, water desalination shows its great potential as one of the most useful processes to solve water crises. There are several desalination technologies coming out such as thermal methods, membrane methods, electrochemical methods and other methods[2]. However, these desalination methods present disadvantages which need to be overcome, such as high energy consumption, membrane fouling, secondary pollution and high expense for operation and maintenance[3-5]. Compared to those regards, capacitive deionization (also called electrosorption) has been developed as an advanced technology to avoid most of the critical problems. Unlike membrane methods, there is no high-pressure pump or membrane for capacitive deionization. However, these expensive things are required for reverse osmosis and electrodialysis. Capacitive deionization (CDI) also does not need acids, bases, or salt solutions which are necessary for regeneration system of other electrochemical methods[6]. Moreover, CDI works at a relatively low electrical voltage (generally 0.8–2.0 V) for the removal of ions, which means environmentally friendly[5, 7]. In conclusion, electrosorption or capacitive deionization has the potential advantage on energy-effective, low-pressure and non-membrane.

In CDI technology, when pumped wastewater flows through two opposite high-capacitive electrodes made from conductive porous materials and an electric field was applied between them, the charged ions (cations and anions) were forced to move toward the surface of electrodes with counter charges. As a result, the contaminated solution was purified. After a time of operation, the electrodes were saturated with ions and the effluent salinity rises. Regeneration of the electrodes was then required by applying a reverse potential to release the adsorbed ions into the waste stream[4].

Because of the high electrical conductivity and specific surface area, porous carbon materials, including carbon aerogel, activated carbon, carbon fiber, ordered mesoporous carbon, carbon nanotube, and graphene, are suitable electrodes for the electrosorption process. And it has been reported in a number of studies that the electrosorption process based on nanoporous carbon electrodes can effectively remove unwanted ions or charged contaminants, such as inorganic salts, chromium, uranium, and cupric ions to solve the aqueous problems in the area of desalinating brackish water, softening hardness, or remediating ground water. And in this paper, we have discussed carbon nanotube and nanofiber (CNT-CNF) composite film as electrosorption electrode materials fabricated.

The electrosorption capacity strongly depends on the surface properties of the electrode materials such as their surface area, pore microstructure, and pore size distribution as well as solution properties[3]. Generally, these are different performance for different ions by capacitive electrodes depending on the atomic mass, charge and hydrated ionic radius[8]. Most of the CDI selectivity studies were conducted using single ion solution to infer multi-ion solution. Gabelich *et al.*[9] studied the

electrosorption behavior of carbon aerogel electrodes in different solutions and reported that ion selectivity was based on the hydrated size of the ions and that monovalent ions were preferentially removed from feed solution over multivalent ions. The ion selectivity of CDI electrodes has not been clearly elucidated, especially in complex multi-ionic solutions that reflect the reality conditions such as brackish groundwater purification.

## 2. Experimental Section

### 2.1. Manufacture of activated carbon electrodes

The carbon sheet electrode used in deionization was produced by mixed activated carbon powder (Filtrisorb 400, Chemviron Carbon Inc.) and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF, M.W.=534,000, Sigma-Aldrich) polymer binder in an N, N-Dimethylacetamide (DMAc, 99%, Alfa Aesar) solution[10]. In PVDF polymer was 10 wt.% of the carbon electrode. A titanium plate base was painted with the carbon mud and then dried in a 120 °C oven for 2 h to form a carbon film. The carbon film later would be placed in an 80 °C vacuum oven for 2 h, which would get rid of all organic materials.

### 2.2. Characteristic measurements of Electrodes

The Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method from the nitrogen adsorption/desorption data at a relative pressure of  $p/p_0=0.99$  was mainly used to measure the pore size distribution and specific surface area with the help of porosity analyzer (ASPS 2020, Micromeritics Inc.). And the shape of surface of CNTs–CNFs film was examined by JEOLJSM-LV5610 scanning electron microscopy (SEM), operating at 10 kV[11].

### 2.3. Cyclic voltammetry experiments

In room temperature, Voltammetry measurements were performed by using a three-electrode-cell potentiostat (CHI627D, CH Instruments, Inc.) under 1 mV/s scan rate in the potential range of +0.6 to -0.4 V [10]. A small piece of activated carbon electrode, one big piece of activated carbon electrode, and one Ag/AgCl electrode (BAS model RE-1, Bioanalytical Systems, Inc.) were respectively set to be the working electrode, the counter electrode, and the reference electrode. The capacity is calculated by the following formula:

$$C = \frac{i}{v \cdot m} \quad (1)$$

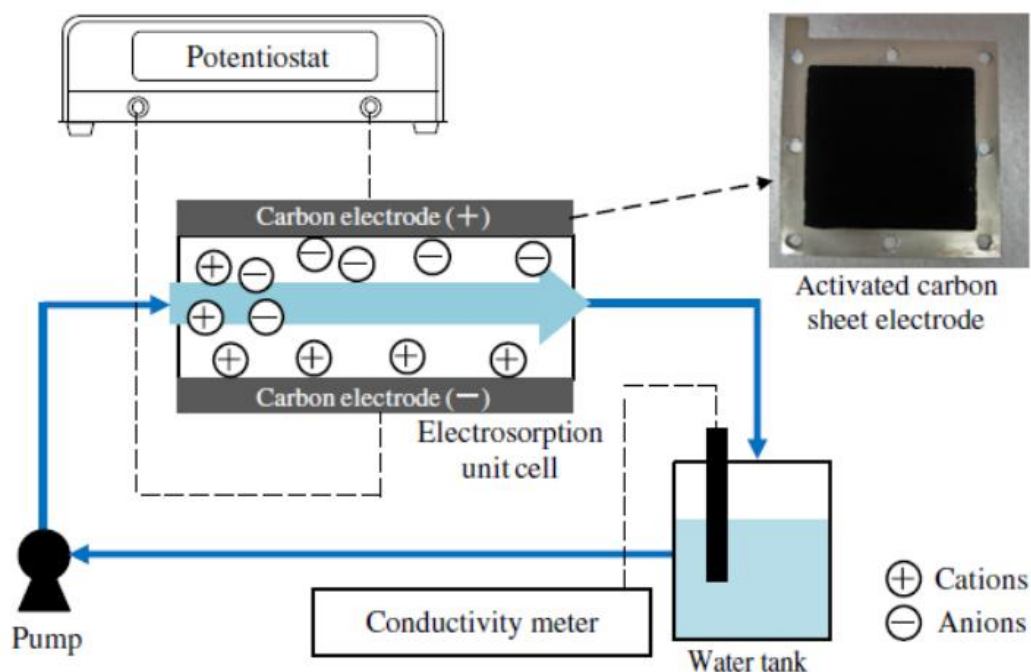
In this formula, C means the specific capacity (F/g). i and v separately mean the current density (A) and scan rate (V/s), m means the mass of the activated carbon electrode (g).

### 2.4. Equilibrium experiments of electrosorption

Electrosorption experiments were carried out in a circulatory system which was shown in Fig. 1. A electrosorption unit cell consisted of a pair of activated carbon film with a 2.0 mm gap, a peristaltic pump (MP-1000, EYELA) with a 10-mL/min Velocity of flow and a 50-mL total solution volume, a conductivity meter (SC-2300, Suntex) put in the end of the cell, a potentiostat (CHI 627D) and a ion chromatography (883-basic IC plus, Metrohm) with a cation separation column (Metrosep C 4-100/4.0) became the main equipment in the equilibrium experiment. The size of carbon film is 70 mm × 70 × 0.38 mm with a weight of about 1.4 g. When the conductivity hardly changes, concentration measured

by ion chromatography will be noted down for the final record. Pure analytic sodium chloride ( $\text{NaCl}$ , Merck), potassium chloride ( $\text{KCl}$ , Merck), magnesium chloride ( $\text{MgCl}_2$ , Merck), and calcium chloride ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ , Merck) were placed in the electrolyte solutions.

Ionic hydrated radius and charge, as already mentioned, are critical to effect of electrosorption on the electrode surface. So the main purpose of experiments is to clarify the electrosorption preference of cations in a competitive multi-ionic solution. Cations of different charges and hydrated radii are assumed to compete with each other to screen the surface charge of carbon electrodes. Since the concentrations can be measured by ion chromatography, the change will be calculated the electrosorption capacity for each cation on a molar basis can be obtained. Experiments will be repeated several times to ensure accuracy.



**Fig. 1.** Schematic diagram of the electrosorption setup of CDI

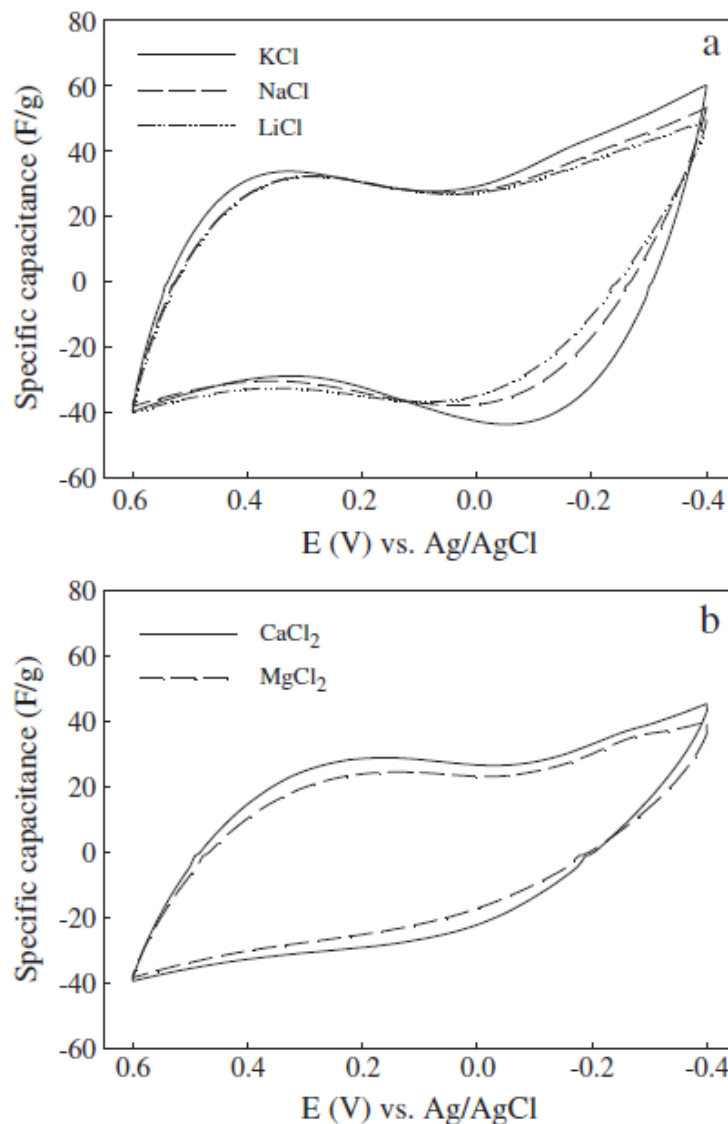
### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Electrochemical characteristics

To investigate the effects of ion properties on the capacitive characteristic, the studied ions were monovalent  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$ , and divalent  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  cations[8]. The order of their hydrated radii is as follows:  $\text{K}^+$  (3.31 Å) <  $\text{Na}^+$  (3.58 Å) <  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (4.12 Å) <  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  (4.28 Å). All electrolyte solutions had a common anion ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ) with a hydrated radii of 3.32 Å.

Cyclic voltammetry is an important method to evaluate the capacitive characteristics of carbon electrodes for electrosorption. Figure. 3 shows the cyclic voltammograms obtained at a scan rate of 1 mV/s for 10 mM 1:1 ( $\text{NaCl}$  and  $\text{KCl}$ ), and 5 mM 2:1 ( $\text{MgCl}_2$  and  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) electrolyte solutions. Obviously, there was no evident oxidation/reduction peak in cyclic voltammetry curves, ensuing that ions electroadsorbed on the electrode surface was caused by purely electrostatic interactions rather than Faradic reaction[12]. The specific capacitance can be considered as a result of EDL formation within the carbon electrode as well as the double-layer capacitance. In addition, the shape of cyclic

voltammograms, associated with a minimum of specific capacitance, indicates the occurrence of EDL overlapping in micropores[8].



**Fig. 2.** Cyclic voltammograms for the activated carbon electrodes at a scan rate of 1 mV/s for (a) 10 mM NaCl and KCl solutions, and (b) 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and CaCl<sub>2</sub> solutions

### 3.2. Selective electrosorption of cations in competitive multi-ionic solutions

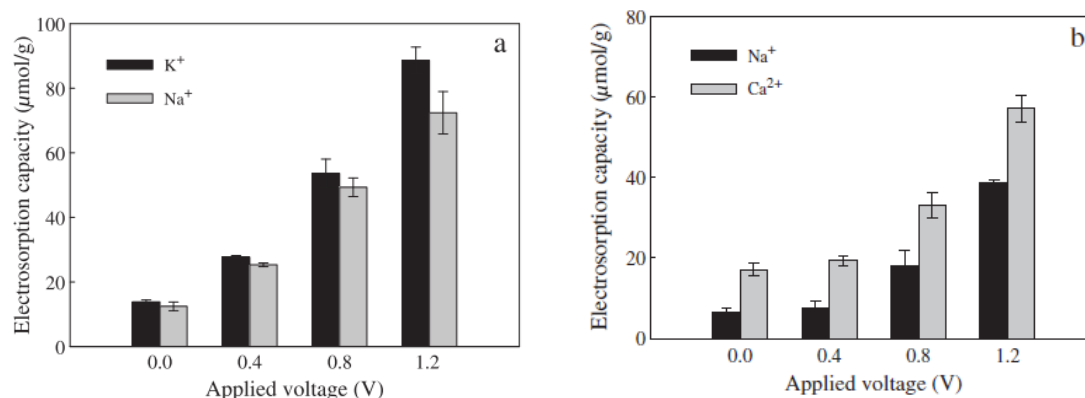
#### 3.2.1 Effect of cation properties

Though the study of Chia-Hung Hou *et al.* [8], figure. 3a presents the electrosorption experiments with a voltage range from 0 to 1.2 V and the test solution contained two monovalent cations (K<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup>) and one anion (Cl<sup>-</sup>). The initial concentration of each type of cations was fixed at 2 mM. As we see, there was no apparent difference between sorption capacities of K<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> at 0V. When the voltage increased to 0.4 V, the electrosorption capacity of K<sup>+</sup> was slightly higher than that of Na<sup>+</sup>. At a voltage of 1.2 V, K<sup>+</sup> had an capacity of 88.64 μmol/g, which was nearly 22% higher than that of Na<sup>+</sup> (72.39 μmol/g). One can see that as the applied voltage increased, the ion selectivity of K<sup>+</sup> over Na<sup>+</sup> increased under the effect of the electric field.

**Table 1.** The parameters of Langmuir isotherm for different cations on the activated carbon electrodes at 1.0 V

Parameter	Ion			
	K <sup>+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>
$q_m$ ( $\mu\text{mol/g}$ )	242.3	223.0	158.8	155.3
$K_L$	758.6	1037.9	457.6	365.8
$r^2$	0.955	0.962	0.930	0.930

Previous studies by Monte Carlo[13] simulations suggested that, for ions with the same charge, the one with larger hydrated radius causes a stronger EDL overlapping, accompanied with restriction for ions moving onto the electrode surface. On the contrary, electrosorption of smaller ions that occupy less space is more energetically favorable, because it is more effective to screen the surface charge of carbon electrode. Therefore, compared to Na<sup>+</sup>, smaller K<sup>+</sup> cation presents a size-affinity to be electroadsorbed by activated carbon electrodes.

**Fig.3.** Effects of cation properties on electrosorption capacity at different applied voltages

The comparison of the electrosorption capacities of Na<sup>+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> cations is shown in Fig. 3b, in which four levels of voltages (0, 0.4, 0.8, and 1.2 V) were conducted to deionize the test solutions. In this case, smaller monovalent Na<sup>+</sup> and larger multivalent Ca<sup>2+</sup> cations were selectively removed by the activated carbon electrode. As a result, the preferential electrosorption of Ca<sup>2+</sup> over Na<sup>+</sup> was found. At 1.2 V, the electrosorption capacity of Ca<sup>2+</sup> improved to 57.22  $\mu\text{mol/g}$  which was nearly 19% higher than that of Na<sup>+</sup> (38.68  $\mu\text{mol/g}$ ). Although multivalent cations of higher valence have more restriction to penetrate the pores, they are associated with stronger Columbic interactions between the charged surface, as well as the energetic advantage for screening the surface charge [14]. The result demonstrates that the ionic charge has a stronger effect on electrosorption than the hydrated radius. With the strong dependence on ionic charge, multivalent Ca<sup>2+</sup> has a considerably higher capacity than that of monovalent Na<sup>+</sup> in a multi-ionic solution.

### 3.3. Selective electrosorption of anions in competitive multi-ionic solutions

### 3.3.1 Effect of cation properties

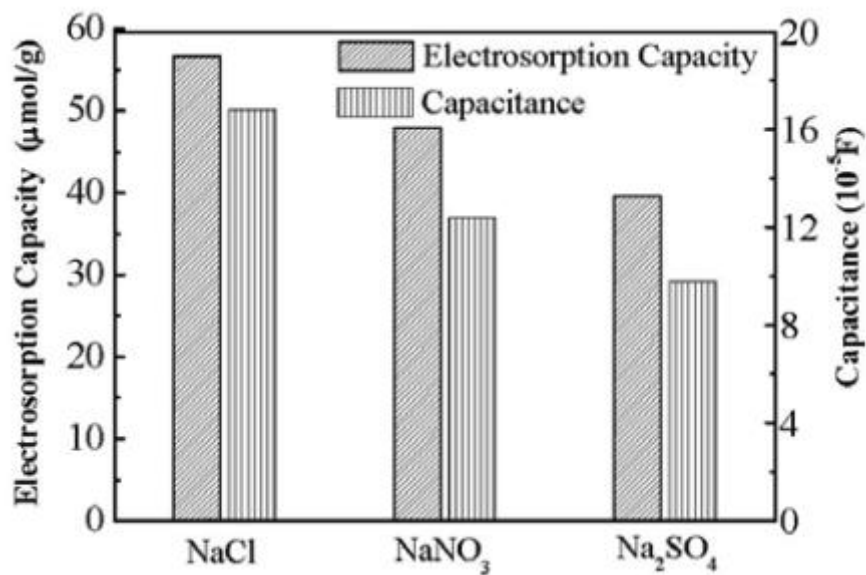
Though the study of Likun Pan *et al.* [9], the effects of ion charge, size and mass on electrosorption capacity were investigated by several electrosorption experiments in  $\text{NaCl}$ ,  $\text{NaNO}_3$ , and  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  solutions, respectively. Table 2 shows the anion properties including charge, ionic radius and hydrated radius of different anions. The initial concentration of all the selective solutions was fixed at 0.001 mmol/l.

**Table 2.** Chemical data of test anions

Ion	Charge	Ionic radius (pm)	Hydrated radius (pm) [12]
$\text{Cl}^-$	-1	167	331
$\text{NO}_3^-$	-1	165	335
$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$	-2	244	379

The applied voltage was 1.2 V and the flow rate was 14 ml/l. The electrosorption capacity (by  $\mu\text{mol/g}$ ) is defined as adsorbed ion amounts per gram of the electrodes.

The capacitances of CNT–CNF composite film electrodes in different solutions were determined by ac impedance spectra. Fig.4 shows the electrosorption capacities and the calculated capacitances of CNT–CNF composite film electrodes in different solutions. The measured electrosorption capacities to different salt solutions are consistent with the calculated capacitances. It can be seen that, when the solutions have different anions and the same cation ( $\text{Na}^+$ ), the CNT–CNF composite film electrodes show better electrosorption capacity for the smaller hydrated anions:  $\text{Cl}^- > \text{NO}_3^- > \text{SO}_4^{2-}$ . It can be explained by the fact that smaller hydrated anions can more easily enter into the porous network in CNT–CNF.



**Fig. 4.** Electrosorption capacities of the CNT–CNF composite film electrodes and electric double-layer capacitance CDL for different solutions

## 4. Conclusions

The results described in this study provide the fundamental effects of ionic charge and hydrated radius of ions in the process of capacitive deionization. As for alkali- and alkaline-earth cations, activated carbon films have a preference to adsorb multivalent cations. If cations have the same charge, the one with smaller hydrated radius would be more likely to be absorbed. As for anions, the conclusion is consistent with the cations that smaller hydrated anions are preferred in electrosorption.

### Author Contributions

Zheng Li wrote section 1. introduction and section 4. conclusion.

Yishuang Wang wrote section 2. Experimental Section and Abstract

Jinyan Peng wrote section 3. Results and Discussion and key words.

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Article

## Advanced Oxidation Process

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**Abstract:** Advanced oxidation processes (technology) can put down the pollution from headstream in the chemical reaction process, so that it can achieve zero pollution, zero waste emissions. Currently, advanced oxidation process are facing with some problems which will hinder the development of its application in engineering research. This paper focuses on the strong ionization discharge method. The  $O_2$ ,  $H_2O$  can be processed into  $OH^*$  and  $eaq^-$  — at the molecular level after ionization. It can decompose Organism and Organic compound into  $CO_2$ 、 $H_2O$  and inorganic salt in 1s; Inorganic pollutant is oxidized into harmless substance and useful renewable resources; Other  $OH^-$  also be broken down into  $H_2O$ 、 $O_2$ .

**Keywords:** advanced oxidation process、strong ionization discharge、hydroxyl radical

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### 1. Introduction

Man is now facing a big environment problem, which even threat to the survival of mankind. So many scholars put forward “Advanced oxidation process”. Advanced oxidation technology is the process of producing  $OH^-$  and this process induce a series of  $OH^-$  chain reactions which attack various pollutants and microorganisms in water until explain it to  $CO_2$ 、 $H_2O$  and inorganic salt [1,2], the problem of environment pollution solved radically, zero pollution to the environment and zero discharge of the Pollutants are realized. Advanced oxidation technology is develops in the increasingly resulting in a higher efficiency and application efficiency of  $OH^-$ .

At present, the main way of advanced oxidation process include Chemical oxidation, Fenton oxidation, Electrochemical oxidation, Photo catalytic oxidation, Photo electric power, Wet air oxidation, Supercritical water oxidation and ultrasonic oxidation. Therefore, advanced oxidation technology is highly efficient, fast and complete. It has a good prospect of development.

Of course, some problems still exist in advanced oxidation process. Such as: ① For the particular performance, it cannot be available in a big range. High cost of running for advanced oxidation technique in utilities. ② Advanced oxidation process need add High efficiency bubble column reactor, Rotating packed bed reactor, Fluidized bed photocatalytic reactor and Impinging stream reactor to maximize treatment efficiency during the application process. ③ When processed hydroxyl radical need add multitudinous medicament and catalyzer:  $H_2O_2$ 、 $O_3$ 、 $TiO_2$  and  $Fe^{2+}$ , most of this is considers the  $H_2O_2$  as the subject.  $H_2O_2$  have problems about security and cost. ④ Many scholars use UV as a catalytic measures. Due to the poor penetrating capability of wastewater containing impurities, it's difficult to solve the application problem in engineering. Those problems are serious impediment to development of advanced oxidation process which need to be solved.

## 2. Experimental Section

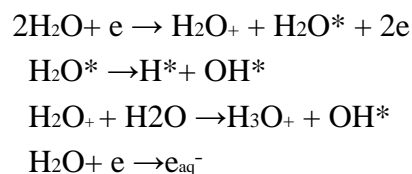
### 2.1 Advanced oxidation characteristics of OH\*

Hydroxyl radical (OH\*) is one of the most active molecules, as well as one of the most aggressive chemical substances, which can have various types of chemical reactions with almost all big molecules, organics and inorganics. What's more, it has a high reaction rate and the negatively charged electron affinity.

### 2.2 Advanced methods to produce OH\*

#### 2.2.1. Electromagnetic radiation method

Using an electron accelerator to radiate the water is a new method[3]. Recent studies have successfully developed a low energy electron accelerator with the energy from 200keV to 800keV. After the high-energy-electrons going through 20 ~ 40um titanium target window, the average energy of the electron radiation to the body of water is about 33eV. After the occurrence of radiation, water molecules begin to have excitation and ionization reaction. Per 100eV will produce 2.7 OH\*. The electron accelerator and its equipment system occupy a large space to exist, what is more, X-ray radiation hazards a lot, therefore a 2-metre- thick layer of cement should be set outside the system; Because of the large internal and external pressure, titanium windows are easily damaged. The equation of generating OH\* plasma reaction is:



#### 2.2.2 Light and catalyst method[5]

There are many N-type semiconductor photocatalysis materials, such as  $TiO_2$ ,  $ZnO$ ,  $Fe_2O_3$ ,  $CdS$ , etc.  $TiO_2$  has well light stability. When  $TiO_2$  is motivated by more than 3. 2eV light energy, its electrons

on the full band are excited to jump over the forbidden band into the conduction band, meanwhile, full band forms a corresponding hole ( $h^+$ ) and a strong electric field will be formed between the conduction band and the full band. So the electrons can gain sufficient energy from the excitation field.

### 2.3 The process of generating Hydroxyl radical ( $OH^*$ )

When using the strong electric field ionization discharge method at normal temperature and pressure[4], in the gap of a plasma reaction chamber, the formation of the streamer generates a discharge field. When its strength  $E/n$  ( $E$  is the electric field strength of discharge,  $n$  is the gas concentration, the unit is Td,  $1Td = 10^{-17} V/cm^2$ ) is stronger than 450Td, the average energy that electrons gain from the electric field is more than 13eV, which can ionize  $O_2$  (ionization energy is 12.5eV),  $H_2O$  (ionization energy is 12.6eV). During strong ionization discharge process, when increasing per 100eV of energy, nearly 2.7 hydrated ions decomposed to  $OH^*$ . Therefore, strong ionization discharge is one of the most effective and feasible way to prepare high concentrations of  $OH$ .

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Forward oxidation technology

The concept and techniques of advanced oxidation have great significance on the study of advanced oxidation. It can be the guidance to determine the way of studying advanced oxidation. Finally the definition and content of advanced oxidation can be worked out after referring to the idea of environmental protection. We take  $H_2O$  and  $O_2$  such substances as the raw material to meet the request of having no pollution in the whole process flow.

As the result of being environmental in chemical reaction, we need to control the direction, velocity, product of chemical reaction by taking the extremely advanced physical instrument to rearrange atom outer shell electron. Only in this way can we realize the goal of no pollution, no waste effluent and no byproducts.

Without using catalytic agent, absorbent, solvent, the process of using and producing can avoid the trouble of pollution and energy waste. The products should be harmless so as well to the process of using it. Chemical reactions should be carried out at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, and energy consumption should be reduced to a minimum. In the following examples, advanced oxidation engineering designs are realized by the guidance of the above principles. Data from a large number of experiments and industrial tests show that these principles can be fully achieved.

### 3.2 Resource Reuse hydroxy desulfurization

China is the only country taking coal as the main source of energy in the whole world which also has the world's largest sulfur dioxide emissions. Annual economic losses of 9.5 billion yuan. Non-pollution development and utilization of coal resources has become a strategic issue for the sustainable development of energy in China. The effective method to control the hazard of acid rain is to carry on the desulfurization of flue gas. Usually after the electric dust collector outside the exhaust gas

temperature in 120 °C, you don't have to low the temperature of the flue gas treatment. Only 70% of the exhaust flue gas to be recycled which is worth more than 10 billion yuan. In addition to saving huge foreign currency, but also to solve the problem of the shortage of sulfur resources in our country. It is the first time to achieve zero effluent of flue gas desulfurization without using the catalyst or other materials. This is the ideal method for the treatment of acid rain, and it is a successful example of the application of advanced oxidation technology.

#### 4. Conclusions

Advanced oxidation process is developed and been renewed to traditional chemistry thought. It's to solve environmental pollution from the source, avoid or don't use material, solvent, reagent or catalyzer which are harmful of the ecological environment; don't producing the poisonous harmful chemicals or by-products, seeks to achieve Zero Pollution and Zero Release of waste disposal. Using  $H_2O$ 、 $O_2$  producing  $OH^-$  which has high concentration and high production, disaster of major marine ecosystems such as Appearance biological invasion and red tide are solved successfully.

Advanced oxidation process will widely used in more areas in the near future, and make a contribution to the sustainable development of our country.

#### Author Contributions

Ting Li: Introduction and Conclusions

YongJia Qian: Experimental Section

ZiYang Wang: Results and Discussion

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*Article*

## **Water distribution**

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**Abstract:** Rainfall is the most important factor for water resource distribution. Moreover, Unbalanced water resource distribution is a huge problem, which has some negative impacts on development of China. Before things get worse, effective measures should be taken.

**Keywords:** water resource distribution; standards of water shortage; water vapor; the windward slope and the leeward slope; air pressure zone; monsoon; water resource conservation; south-to-north water diversion; salt water desalination.

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## **1. Introduction**

### *1.1 Global distribution of water resource*

Currently, global fresh water resource only account for 2.5% of total water resource. What's more, More than 70% of them are frozen in the arctic and Antarctic, which are hard to use by human beings. Nowadays, we can only make use of water resource from river, lake and groundwater, which is just a tiny part of the total fresh water. To conclude, water is not a kind of inexhaustible resource.

Water resource distribution of each continent is unbalanced. The annual runoff in Asia is the largest one, followed by South America, North America, Africa, Europe and Oceania. However, the runoff per person in the world is approximately 10000 cubic meters and that in Oceania is the most, followed by South America, North America, Africa, Europe and Asia. Interestingly, in Asia, we can find that the annual runoff is the most but the runoff per person is the least.

## 1. 2 Water resource distribution of China

The number of total water resource in China is 2.6144 trillion cubic meters, which is in the top 6 in the world. However, water resource per person in China is only 2600 cubic meters, which is only 22% of global average (11700 cubic meters). That is to say, China is a country troubled by water shortage.

<sup>[1]</sup> Average water resource amount of per capita and per mu cultivated land can reflect on the one hand the abundance of water resource and the other hand the development prospect of water resource. Since the annual variation of water resources in our country is obvious, the assurance rate is not high. Water resource Distribution in China is abnormal in different season. In the most regions of China, Rainfall capacity in rainy season accounts for more than 70% of that in a year. As a result, some places occur huge floods in rainy season and burst severe droughts during the dry season, which bring negative effects to agriculture industry and threaten the security of this region.

In China, spatial distribution of water resource is in a mess. Almost 80% of the national water resource distribute in the Yangtze River Basin and south area of this river, belonging to regions which have more people, less land, optimistic economy condition and richer water resource. Only 14.7% of water resource lie in the north area of the Yangtze River, belonging to places which are underdeveloped and lack of water resource, especially in the Huang River Basin and Huai River Basin. Uneven spatial distribution of water resource cause so many problems in China. It destroys the balance between supply and demand of water resource. With worsening water environment, it gradually regarded by experts as the most underlying factor to hinder social and economic development in China.

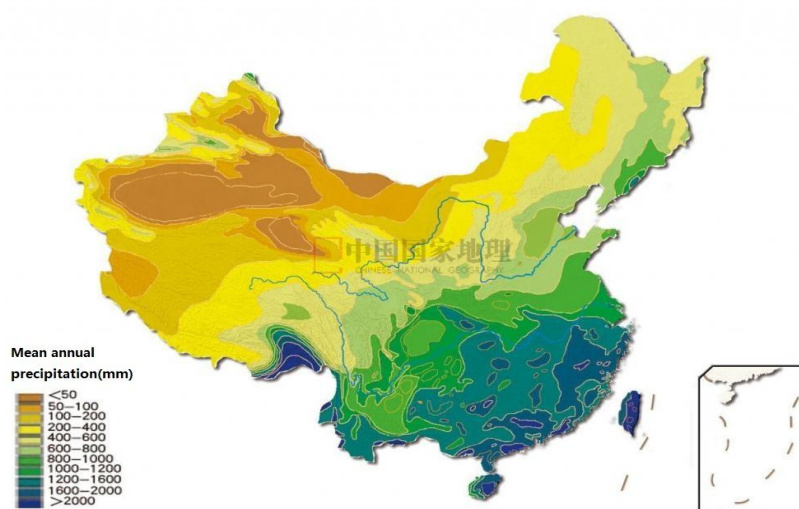
**Table.** Internationally recognized standards of water shortage.

Water shortage degree	Water resource per person (cubic meters)
Mild degree of water shortage	[1000,2000)
Severe degree of water shortage	[500,1000)
Extreme degree of water shortage	(0,500)

<sup>[2]</sup> According to the internationally recognized standards, it would be identified as “mild water shortage” if water resource per person is lower than 2000 cubic meters. Once it is lower than 1000 cubic meters, the region is in severe degree of water shortage. Extreme degree of water shortage would be given in case water resource per person is lower than 500 cubic meters. There are 6 provinces in severe degree of water shortage (Ningxia, Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Shanxi and Jiangsu).

## 2. Factors for water resource distribution

Rainfall is the most important factor for water resource distribution. The following will be discussed by the



influence of various factors on the rainfall to interpret time and space distribution of water resource.

## 2. 1 Distance to sea

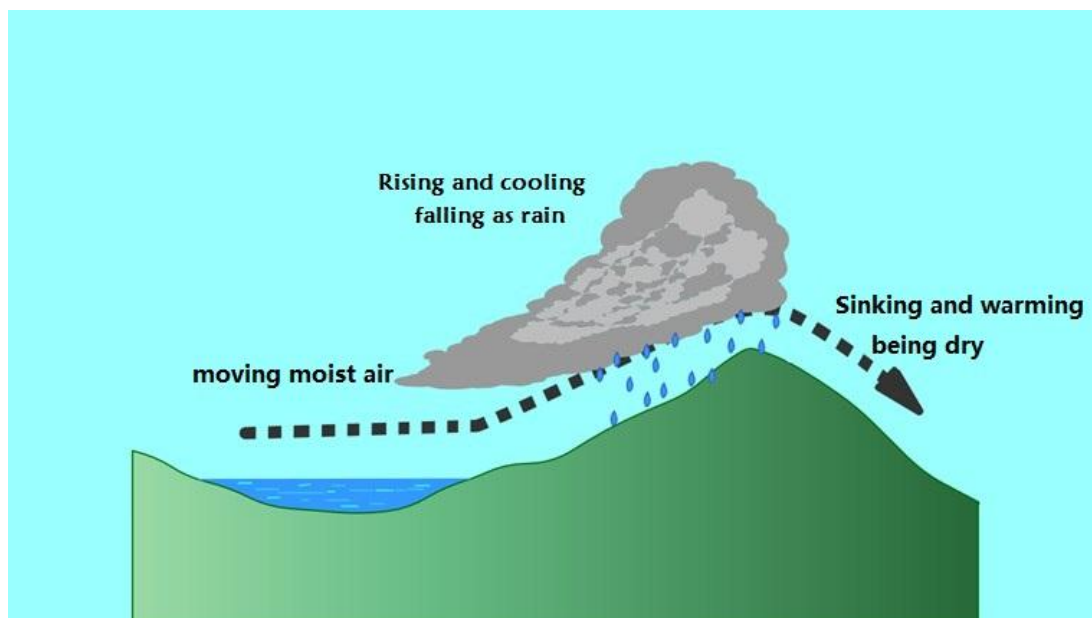
In general, regions which are closer from the sea are greatly influenced by the ocean. Some places are so far from the sea that they are lack of rainfall because water vapor is hard to arrive at there. Obviously, it is a universal law of rainfall distribution that coastal regions have more rainfall and inland ones usually are lack of rainfall. For instance, in China, rainfall occurs a descend trend from the southeast coast to the northwest inland.

## 2. 2 Terrain

### 2. 2. 1 Mountain range

Mountains can block moving water vapor and change its moving route. In other words, if the direction of mountain and water vapor is vertical, mountain will block the entry of water vapor, which makes the rainfall capacity decrease significantly. For example, in the western of North America, there is a mountain range called Cordillera, which is vertical to the humid westerly airflow from the Pacific. It makes most rainfall converge on west coast.

### 2. 2. 2 The windward slope and the leeward slope



Once moving moist air is hindered by mountains, it would raise along the windward slope. After getting enough cooling, it will turn into rain, which is known as orographic rain. When the air flows over the top of the mountain and starts subsiding, with temperature rising, saturated water vapor declines unceasingly. Then, the weather of the leeward slope become drier and hotter. This area is called rain shadow region. Therefore, rainfall capacity of mountainous region is always more than the plain, because mountain can force air currents rising.

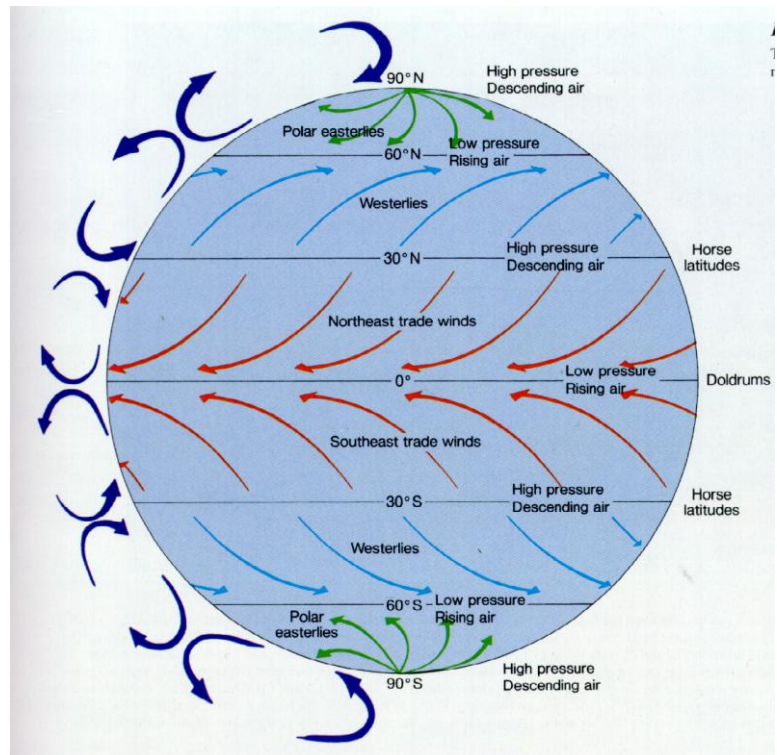


### 2. 2. 3 Terrain types

Different terrain has different effects on air flow, which means that the distribution of rainfall is also different. In plain terrain, water vapor brings rich moisture and makes it easier to rain, like the eastern plain area of China, central Europe, and the Middle East of America. Rainfall capacity in the windward side of mountain is always more than that in the leeward slope. What's more, river valley is hotter and has less rainfall because of its low terrain. Also, in plateau, because of its high terrain, water vapor is difficult to climb up the plateau surface and falls as rain.

### 2. 3 Air pressure zone

The sinking air flow is so common in high-pressure. In the process of subsidence, the temperature is rising and saturated water vapor is decreasing. It means that air is getting drier and it is hard to turn into rainfall. By contrast, in the low-pressure area, updraft is common. The air is easily cooling, reaching saturation state, and becoming rainwater, which makes this place become Rainy Zone. For example, the equatorial regions are always under the control of low pressure, making this area be wet all year round.



### 2. 4 Monsoon

In the monsoon climate zone, different kinds of monsoons have different impacts on precipitation. Summer monsoon flows from the sea to the land, bringing so much sea water vapor to the land, which makes it possible to be rain. Winter monsoon, which is dry and cold, flows from the land to the sea, making no contribution to the rain. Like the East Asia monsoon region, it has high temperature and rainy summer, but lacks of rainfall in the winter.

### 2. 5 Human activities

Human activities influence the precipitation by changing the condition of underlying surface. As we know, some human activities like afforestation, vegetation restoration and returning farmland to lake can make the air be wetter, which makes contributions to precipitation. Conversely, things like deforestation, over grazing, and vegetation destruction will reduce the air humidity, which is not helpful to rainfall. Additionally, artificial rainfall is an effective method to increase precipitation in the dry season. Of course, we need not only try to find the dominant factor of rainfall capacity, but also analyze factors comprehensively.



### **3. Measures for water resource distribution**

Unbalanced water resource distribution is a huge problem, which has some negative impacts on development of China. Before things get worse, effective measures should be taken.

#### *3. 1 Water resource conservation*

<sup>[3]</sup>Over the past 30 years, there are so many nations, like Israel, the United States, Britain, Japan and so on, could keep high GDP continuous growth, with consumption of water resource decreasing. By contrast, In China, industrial structure is extensive. Majority of companies are energy-inefficient and high-waste, causing that the water resource waste is very serious, as well as water pollution. As long as the government pay more attention to water resource conservation and reject to unreasonable methods of economic development, large number of water resource can be saved, which can mitigate the consequences of unbalanced water resourced distribution.

#### *3. 2 South-to-north water diversion*

The South-to-North Water Diversion Project (SNWDP) is an important strategic project. At present, the middle and east line of the water diversion project have been in use. However, the west line of water transfer project is still in the stage of primary research. Once completed, it would be a milestone for the settlement of water shortage problem, especially in the Northwest China, Inner Mongolia and Shanxi. The west line of water transfer project will be in the Qinghai Tibet Plateau. What we have to notice is that the Qinghai Tibet plateau ecological environment is so weak, with serious soil erosion, frequent earthquakes and high engineering difficulty. The government should pay all attention to the security and quality of it.

#### *3. 3 Salt water desalination*

Salt water desalination is an important measure to solve the shortage of water resource. In recent decades, due to the development of science and technology, the cost of desalination has been greatly reduced. Many countries, such as Israel, Saudi Arabia, HK, Maldives and other countries, have already taken salt water desalination as the main measures to solve the shortage of water resource.

China's coastal provinces and cities in 18000 provinces (autonomous regions) have 11 km coastline, 6500 islands, the population of these regions accounted for 40% of the country, the total output value accounted for 60% of the country. Among them, Liaoning, Tianjin, Beijing, Hebei, Shandong and Northern Jiangsu and their lack of fresh water resource. In these areas, the local, the nearest sea water desalination and direct use of seawater, not only can solve the problem of water shortage in the region, but also greatly ease the water shortage in Northwest China, North china. In addition, Hebei, Tianjin coast is the main source of sea salt in china. We should combine the sea water desalination with sea salt production, implement comprehensive development, in order to reduce the cost of desalination and reduce waste.

There are nearly 6500 islands distributing in 11 coastal areas of China. The population of these regions accounts for 40% of the total and the output value of these places occupies 60% of the total. Among them, so many cities such as Liaoning, Tianjin, Beijing, Hebei, Shandong and Northern Jiangsu are lack of fresh water resource. In these areas, if we can desalt the nearest sea water and make use of them, it cannot only solve the problem of water shortage in the region, but also greatly ease the water shortage in Northwest China and North china. We should combine the sea water desalination with sea salt production, in order to reduce the cost of desalination.

#### 4. Conclusion

According to the above content, we can see that the factors of water distribution are various and the most significant one is rainfall capacity distribution in different regions, which is also influenced by so many factors. It is also clear that global water resource distribution is unbalanced, especially in China. It is a huge problem, strongly connecting with the economic development of China.

Although situation is not optimistic, there are still some effective measures to solve the problem, such as strengthening water resource conservation, furtherly developing south-to-north water diversion and investing more finance in salt water desalination.

#### Acknowledgments

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#### Author Contributions

##### **Jing Tang:**

Write the part of **introduce**;

##### **Jiajun Zhang:**

Write the part of **factors for water resource distribution**;

##### **Bowen Xu:**

Write the part of **measures for water resource distribution** and **conclusion**;

Review papers on the details and modify contents very carefully;

Modify article format.

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Article

## Activated carbon adsorption technology in the application of water treatment

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**Abstract:** This is the story of activated carbon as a solid adsorbent properties, influencing factors, and introduces the application and development of activated carbon adsorption technology and combined technology in wastewater treatment

**Keywords:** activated carbon; wastewater treatment; influencing factors; application and development

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### 1. Introduction

Activated carbon is a amorphous carbon having the appearance of a black powder or granular ,which is made by coal, asphalt, petroleum coke, shell and so on containing carbon material. Activated carbon's internal pores have developed structure, big specific surface area and strong adsorbability .The specific surface area of common active carbon is  $500-1500\text{ m}^2 / \text{g}$  .Super activated carbon surface area even reach to  $3500\text{ m}^2 / \text{g}$  .The most common functional groups in the active carbon are carboxyl, phenolic hydroxyl and carboxyl groups, in addition to ether, ester.

The adsorption of activated carbon includes physical adsorption and chemical adsorption. Physical adsorption occurs mainly in the activated carbon's pores, such as adsorption by van Edward , physical adsorption and adsorption heat is very small and reversible. Because there is a uneven on the surface of the activated carbon, the surface of the atoms often have the ability to bond. When the adsorbed masses meeting the activated carbon, the exchange, transfer and sharing of electrons between the

surface atoms on the activated carbon and adsorbed mass are formed. This adsorption of chemical bonds is a chemical adsorption.

Because activated carbon can effectively remove the odor and taste of water, as well as the majority of organic and some inorganic substances, activated carbon adsorption technology has become an effective method for the treatment of polluted water. This thesis will discuss the characteristics and adsorption mechanism of activated carbon, the advantages and disadvantages of activated carbon technology, and the application and development of activated carbon adsorption technology in water treatment.

## 2. Experimental Section

The experiment purpose

- 1 Deepen understanding the basic principle of adsorption;
- 2 Master factors that influence efficiency of adsorption test;
- 3 Grasp the method of ensuring activated carbon adsorption formula's constants

Table 1 activated carbon adsorption experiments - different dye of effluent data table

number	Contact time/min	Waste water discharge L/h	Disperse dye		Active red dye	
			pH	absorbance	pH	absorbance
1	0(original sample)		7.89	0.054	7.07	0.146
2	10	36	9.03	0.051	7.57	0.106
3	20	18	9.14	0.051	7.72	0.102
4	30	12	9.31	0.050	8.50	0.095
5	40	9.0	9.38	0.049	8.63	0.089
6	50	7.2	9.39	0.049	8.78	0.083

The experimental results and analysis

As time goes by, the absorbance of the dye wastewater are gradually becoming smaller, chroma removal rate are increasing. But by contrast, reactive red dye colour change is obvious and even smaller, chroma removal rate increases with the increase of contact time and evenly, the linear relationship is very good. ( $r=0.997$ ), and disperse dye in the contact time for 20 min to begin, the decrease of the chromaticity, the increase of chroma removal rate are not obvious. As the growth of the time, Disperse dye the chroma removal rate has been stable which may have already saturated, (the maximum adsorption amount), but the activity of red dye were showed a trend of increase. It is clear to see that the effect that activated carbon remove reactive red dye chroma is better than disperse dye.

Above all shows that activated carbon of different types has different absorb effect on different structure of the dye adsorption in particular. Activated carbon adsorption is the treatment method that take advantage of the physical adsorption, chemical adsorption, oxidation, catalytic oxidation ,restore performance and so on to removal contaminants in water.

### **3.Results and Discussion**

It seems simple for activated carbon to adsorb , but the action principle and process of activated carbon are

The influencing factor of activated carbon

Activated carbon on adsorption looks simple, but the action principle of adsorption and adsorption process is relatively complex, influence factors are many . It is mainly related with the nature of activated carbon and properties of adsorbate, adsorption principle of activated carbon and the process of selection of operation parameters and operating conditions and other factors.

#### **3.1The properties of activated carbon**

Since the surface of activated carbon's adsorption sites is the adsorption properties of attachment point, so the sorbent specific surface area is one of the important factors that influence the adsorption. Generally speaking, the bigger the specific surface area, the better the adsorption performance. But large specific surface area does not mean that the better adsorption effect, the distribution of holes and surface properties are also the important factors influencing the activated carbon adsorption, specific surface area is just a necessary condition.

#### **3.2 The nature of adsorption properties**

Different pollutants's adsorption on the same kind of activated carbon are various. Some adsorption amount are large, but others have little or no effect. It has much to do with adsorption properties. For example with a negative charge on the surface of activated carbon for positive ion effect is very good, but for arsenic acid radical, chromium acid radical anion adsorption effect is almost zero. So the adsorption's (1) solubility, (2) molecular structure, adsorbate molecule's size and chemical structure have a larger effect on adsorption. (3) Polarity activated carbon can basically be seen as a kind of non-polar adsorbent, adsorption ability of nonpolar substances in water is bigger than to polar material. (4) In a certain range of the concentration of adsorbate (solute), with concentration becomes higher, the adsorption capacity increase. When it comes to a certain extent, the adsorption capacity gradually stabilize.

#### **3.3 The pH of aqueous solution**

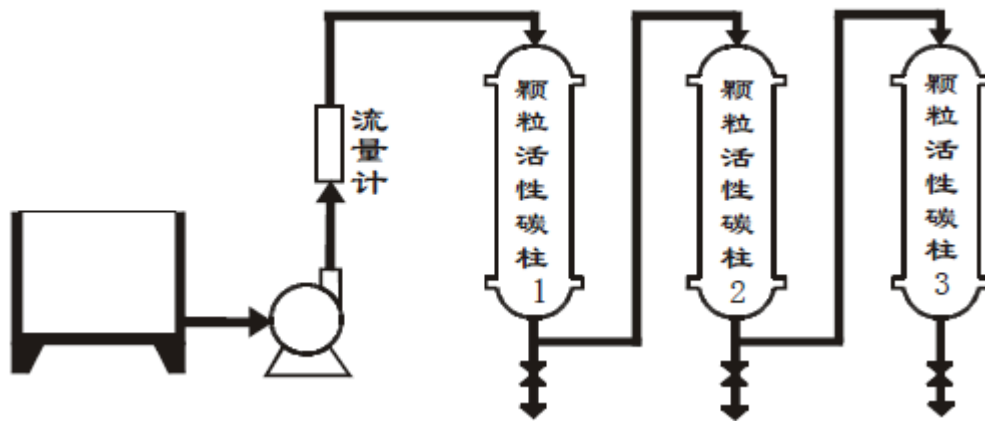
The adsorption of activated carbon has a great relationship with the pH of the solution, mainly because of the different properties of activated carbon and adsorbed mass at different pH. When the pH reaches a certain range, some compounds have to be dissociated, which affect the charged conditions of these compounds, and then affect the adsorption of these compounds. The pH can also affect the

charged conditions of colloidal substances. In addition, the pH of the solution can also affect the surface properties of the adsorbent, which may make the surface of the activated carbon protonic to effect the adsorption.

### 3.4 temperature

Temperature is a factor affecting the adsorption of activated carbon, but it is not as big as the impact of pH. Low temperature is conducive to physical adsorption. And high temperature is conducive to the completion of chemical adsorption.

$$q_e = KC^{1/n}, \text{ 则 } \lg q_e = \lg \frac{C_0 - C}{m} = \lg K + \frac{1}{n} \lg C$$



## 4. Conclusions

Activated carbon adsorption technology can effectively remove pollutants in water. But the water cost is relatively high, and its micro structure is not conducive to the removal of macromolecular organic pollutants, and its wide application has been limited. Therefore, the combination of activated carbon adsorption and other water treatment technology can produce better results. Several common activated carbon adsorption combination process will be introduced following:

### 4.1 Combination process of potassium permanganate and activated carbon

Some water works in our country use the combination process of potassium permanganate and activated carbon in the treatment of micro polluted water. It has a high effect on the degradation of organic matter, improving the ability of removing smell and color. At the same time this combined process have an distinct effect in reduce turbidity and the using of alum.

### 4.2 Biological activated carbon( BAC)

BAC is a kind of water treatment technology which is developed on the basis of activated carbon adsorption technology. BAC is a new method for the removal of pollutants in water by using activated carbon adsorption and biodegradation.

### 4.3 Powdered Activated Carbon - Activated Sludge Process (PACT)

The process adds powdered activated carbon to activated sludge aeration tank, forming biological activated carbon. And then it can remove organic pollutants by using adsorption and degradation. On the one hand, it can remove the organic substance which is difficult to remove by the activated sludge process, and improve the removal efficiency of the activated sludge. On the other hand, the activated sludge has good sealing property, which can overcome the sludge expansion. Powdered activated carbon is suitable for the pollution of water source with low concentration of organic matter and ammonia, especially suitable for the purification which is of seasonal short-term peak load of pollution sources. Because of the advantages in the economic and processing efficiency, it has been widely used in industrial wastewater treatment.

#### 4.4 Ozone activated carbon composite process

As a strong oxidant, ozone can decompose the organic matter into small molecule organic matter, improve the possibility of entering the activated carbon, and make full use of the active carbon adsorption surface, and extend the using cycle of activated carbon. At the same time, ozone also plays a role in the sterilization of activated carbon. Activated carbon can effectively adsorb a large amount of intermediate products produced during the ozonation process, including the three halogen methane which can not be removed. As a result, the combination of ozone and activated carbon has been widely used in the world since the beginning of 1961. The technology is gradually spreading in China, and now it has been applied in Kunming, Beijing, Changzhou, Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Shanghai and other cities[6].

#### 4.5 Activated carbon ultrafiltration combination process

The obvious advantage of the ultrafiltration membrane filtration process is the removal of pathogenic bacteria in water. But the most difficult problem is membrane blocking and membrane fouling. The combination process of activated carbon and ultra filtration membrane overcomes the weakness of single treatment method. In the combination process, activated carbon is used to remove all kinds of organic compounds, the turbidity and the color of water, which can be used to protect the membrane and membrane fouling.

#### 4.6 activated carbon electrolysis method

Activated carbon electrolysis method combine the flocculating reaction and free radical reaction process. Activated carbon electrolysis method use the electrical conductivity of activated carbon and regard it as the electrode. Firstly, making activated carbon adsorbing pollutants. And then oxidating and degradating by using the electrolysis to remove impurities from water. Activated carbon has a strong adsorption, that can greatly improve the utilization efficiency of oxidation products. At the same conditions, compared with ordinary electrolytic cell, the activated carbon fixed bed electrolytic cell can save energy by 30% ~ 40%.

In addition to the activated carbon combination process have been mentioned, there are many new other combined process, such as activated carbon -TiO<sub>2</sub> combined with technology, catalytic oxidation of activated carbon, activated carbon reverse osmosis, activated carbon -MBR. These processes have

been applied in water treatment practice, and proved to be effective. They will be improved and innovative with the development of water treatment technology. It can be predicted that the activated carbon adsorption combined process will gradually replace the pure activated carbon adsorption process, and become a kind of development trend in the water treatment industry.

### **Acknowledgments**

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### **Author Contributions**

Introduction: Dong Lin<sup>1</sup>

Experimental Section and Results and Discussion: Weijing Li<sup>2</sup>

Conclusions: Shifan Deng<sup>3</sup>

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Article

## Water quality management in China: situation, problems and challenges

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**Abstract:** The essential contents of water quality management are discussed in brief .The situation of water environment quality in China and the pollution tendency in the future are analyzed .The current water quality management and policy systems are summarized in detail with emphasis on the analysis of problems and challenges .Lastly , countermeasures and suggestions for improving water quality management and policy systems are proposed .

**Keywords:**water quality management ;China ;watershed

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### 1. China water pollution present situation analysis

#### 1.1. Present water pollution status

According to 2000~2003 China's water environment bulletin<sup>[1]</sup>, And Standard GB3838-2002 were used to evaluate the results in sampling measurement.

In the total length of 121000 km river, I class water makes 5.0% of total, II class water makes 27.6% of total,III class water makes 28.8% of total,IV class water makes 14.2% of total,V class water makes 7.8% of total,Bad V class water makes 16.6% of total.The rivers in south-western China, continental river,the rivers in south-estern China and Chang Jiang,Zhu Jiang has good water quality.The river conformable or higher than III class water occupies a great.Huaihe River,Songhua River,Hai River and Yellow River has bad water quality.The river conformable or higher than III class water occupies less.

In the evaluation of 24 lakes, 10 lakes conformable or higher than III class water, 2 lakes were less pollution, 12 lakes under heavy pollution. There are 16.5% III class water, 75.3% IV class water, 8.2% V class water in Tai Lake. The Dian Lake water quality is worse than V class water. East-half of Chaohu Lake is III class water, west-half of Chaohu Lake is IV class water.

Estuaries and coastal waters is under heavy pollution, more than half city groundwater be polluted, one third of well water overstep national drinking water standard.

## **1.2. Water pollution characteristics**

China water pollution situation base on basin, the main pollution indicators of Hai River, Huaihe River, Yellow River, Songhua River, Zhu Jiang and Chang Jiang are CODMn、BOD、NH<sub>3</sub>-N and DO.

Serious structural pollution, Irrational industrial structure of industry and agriculture, backward in technology and management, energy efficiency is low.

Non-point source are very serious

Water pollution dispute has become increasingly acute

## **1.3. Reasons for the deterioration of water quality**

Pressure of population growth and economic growth<sup>[2]</sup>

Irrational industrial structure and production methods<sup>[3]</sup>

Sewage treatment rate is low, a large number of raw sewage direct emissions<sup>[4]</sup>

Has not been paying enough attention to the management of environment, public environmental consciousness

Low price of water resources

## **2. Watershed water quality management problems and challenges**

For such a developing country which economy is in transition period and has a large population, current water quality management policy of China is far from satisfy the steady economic development and the needs of the water resources sustainable utilization. These challenges have the following several aspects:

To achieve the goal of pollution control is very difficult.

It still has challenges in Large-scale water conservancy development and water resources allocation of the management.<sup>[6,7]</sup>

Under the goal of realizing the comprehensive well-off society and economy, continuation of the present social and economic development mode poses a threat to water environment.<sup>[3]</sup>

There are significant differences between different basin pollution causes and pollution characteristics, which increases difficulty of water pollution control.<sup>[5]</sup>

New variety of the water pollution problems appear constantly.

Although the current policies of water quality management more effectively curb the trend of deterioration of water quality for many years, there are some problems:

National water pollution control laws and regulations has a strong comprehensive and a wide coverage, but its content is not specific enough and has a poor maneuverability.

The existing legal system cannot meet the needs of the river basin integrated management, which cannot provide effective legal basis and safeguard for River basin management.

Without the control and management of non-point source pollution, 85% of lakes in China have serious eutrophication problems. However, our existing water pollution control laws and regulations are almost for point source pollution, which is largely affected the governance effect of basin water pollution.

Although there are many mandatory policy means, we lack of economic policy、encouraging policy and voluntary policy. So the implementation effect of these means is not obvious.

Management institutions are insufficient in law enforcement and supervision, which results in the little success of pollution control though our country invest heavily in pollution control.

Negotiate cooperation and information exchange between the departments and the public on water pollution control lack of guidance and regulation of policies and regulations. There is a lack of communication between management and the public. So voluntary public participation in environmental protection consciousness is weak.

### **3. Some countermeasures to strengthen the management of river basin water quality**

Sound policies and regulations are necessary means of the improvement of water quality and recovery. We need to strengthen uniform legislation and unified planning of the water environment protection.<sup>[6]</sup> At the same time we need to speed up the research and formulation of more detailed local policies and regulations.<sup>[8]</sup>

We should develop more water pollutant total amount control system.<sup>[9]</sup> Water pollutant total amount indicators should be based on the water function regionalization and watershed planning. And we need to determine carrying amount reasonably to stem the point source pollution in the root.

It should be emphasized on river basin water pollution comprehensive treatment for the unit. First, we should grant the legal status of river basin water resources management and the legal status of river basin water resources management agencies. Second, we should give the river basin administrative agencies to water amount, water power, water quality and legal authority to the unified management of surface water and groundwater.

The government should strengthen the role of economic methods in water quality management and adjust the pollution charge standard to make the charge rate higher than the marginal cost of pollution control and arouse the enthusiasm of enterprises and the public participation in water pollution prevention and initiative.

Water quality standards should be improved appropriately according to China's national power. And the government should formulate relevant laws and regulations to ensure the implementation of the water quality standard and regular changes.

Policies and regulations should encourage and guide governments at all levels, departments and the public cooperating on water pollution control to realize the communication and sharing of water environment data information as soon as possible.

## **Author Contribution**

**China water pollution present situation analysis-Haifeng Tang**

**Watershed water quality management problems and challenges-Hao Yang**

**Some countermeasures to strengthen the management of river basin water quality-Du Yu**

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Article

## Study on utilization of surplus sludge

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**Abstract:** With the large-scale construction of urban sewage treatment plant. Sewage has been effectively treated. At the same time, a large amount of excess activated sludge is brought to the wastewater treatment plant. If the excess sludge is not properly handled, it will be a great threat to the environment. This paper mainly describes the new method about treatment of residual activated sludge.

**Keywords:** residual activated sludge, recycling, sludge ceramic, landfill cover material, biochemical fiberboard, CWS.

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 The domestic present situation

With the acceleration of urbanization in China, emissions of urban sewage and processing efficiency increased year by year, the sludge production also increased dramatically. In 2011, the amount of sludge generated by urban sewage treatment plants in China is close to 800t. What's more there will be a lot of growth in the coming years. At present, the level of sludge treatment and disposal

is relatively low in China. After conventional treatment process in sludge, the main way is to go to landfill or burning field.

### 1.2 In foreign countries

Sludge production and processing methods in the world					
Country	Dry sludge quantity(t/a)	Proportion of processing method(%)			
		Agriculture	Burn	Landfill	Pour into the sea
Switzerland	250000	20	30		
Germany	2750000	25	10	65	
Denmark	150000	43	28	29	
Sweden	180000	60		40	
Holland	280000	53	10	29	8
Austria	250000	28	37	35	
Italy	800000	34	11	55	
Ireland	23000	23		34	43
Spain	300000	61		10	29
Portugal	200000	80		12	8
Britain	1500000	51	5	16	28
France	900000	27	20	53	
USA	7690000	45	3	21	30
Japan	95535	9	55	35	

(Data comes from Oslo Commission Water Research Center. Water Services Association EWPCA。)

### 1.3 Analysis of the data

It can be known that a large part of the sludge is landfilled and incinerated. Although the new technology allows activated sludge to be burned and landfilled with little pollution, we can't make full use of the activated sludge. We will introduce several methods about sludge treatment.

## 2. New technology of sludge recycling

### 2.1 As building materials

Because the surplus sludge contains an amount of heat and inorganic part of sludge mainly is  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . The inorganic part of sludge can be adjusted to the same as the clay. Therefore, after disposing in urban sewage treatment plant, sludge can be used to produce a number of building materials and then make full use of sludge. Such as ceramic, cement, brick and so on.

Sludge ceramic first was put forward by Nakouzi S[1]. Sludge is the main material of the ceramic which Mixed with appropriate and auxiliary materials. As a light material, ceramics can replace ordinary sand and stone to configure concrete. The concrete that consists of sludge ceramic has the advantages of small density, high strength, heat preservation, heat insulation, seismic performance. Recently, ceramic materials are being developed rapidly.

## 2.2. As landfill cover material

Because fresh cooked sludge, raw sludge moisture content is too high, it cannot be directly used as directly as landfill cover material. Through modification of the sludge [2], outcome the answer. Using calcium oxide and refuse burning ash as additives shows that the moisture content reduces as additives increases, the permeability coefficient of different mixed samples is improved, the moisture content may meet requirements of landfill, at same time the leachate produced from the mixed sample will not bring pollution. Sludge modified using calcium oxide and refuse burning ash as additives can be used as daily cover materials for the landfill. The integrated effect of refuse burning ash as additives is better than calcium oxide as additive because this way can achieved the disposition of refuse burning ash.

## 2.3 Biochemical fiberboard production:

Sewage sludge contains large amounts of organic component, wherein the use of crude protein (mass fraction of about 30% to 40%) and globulin can be dissolved in water and dilute acid, dilute alkali, an aqueous solution of a neutral salt of this nature, heating under basic conditions, dried, pressurized, deforms role of the protein, a resin made of sludge, so that with bleach, degreasing treatment of waste fibers pressed into plates, namely biological sludge fiberboard, its quality is better than National III standard hardboard.[3]

## 2.4 Sludge CWS:

According to the principle CWS, CWS mixing with sludge instead of water to make slime more efficient combustion. The main process: from the sewage treatment plant sludge shipped into the sludge storage bin, and then transported by the conveyor system to the stirring device, complete mixing slime and sludge in proportion therein, and stir with a plunger stick into the hot fluidized bed, the lower quartz sand and limestone bed material constituting the furnace temperature at 850~950 °C or so, all coal sludge water under the hot bed material is heated rapidly to complete the combustion process (including evaporation, volatilization, ignition and combustion of coke burning ember).

Mixed slime sludge incineration is a multi-benefit approach, both to reduce demand for coal thermal power plant, reducing fuel costs, but also reduce energy reduction in flue gas sulfur dioxide, dioxins, nitrogen oxide emissions quantity, better maximize reduce sludge volume, reduce sludge endanger achieve stability, reduction, harmlessness and resource four goals sludge, with have high economic efficiency.[4]

# 3. Conclusions and Discussion

## 3.1. As landfill cover material

The shortage of this way shows up in two points. The one is the cost of transport. The other one which is also the most important is the risk of secondary pollution and it's the worst result which we don't want to see.

There will be a large amount of cost to transport sludge from sewage treatment plant to refuse landfill if the one far away from sewage treatment plant. This process can't solve the problem, the

pollution of sludge, fundamentally; it's just a way to delay polluting. When geological change, landfill pond might be destroyed and sludge will pollute the area around landfill pond even the underground water, causing immeasurable loss.

### 3.2. Biochemical fiberboard production

The shortage of Biochemical fiberboard production shows up in the immaturity of technology.

It's feasible in technology but there is frowzy in the process of producing and the end products still have some stink. This makes it difficult to sell unless we can find a way to solve the problem. And besides, the strength of the board which makes by sludge still needs improving.

### 3.3. Sludge CWS

The shortage of Sludge CWS shows up in the lack of acceptance of market. It makes the ideal impossible to reality.

It leads to the chaos of market that some companies choose the raw material which is not reach standardization and so is the post processing. Some people think burning Sludge CWS cheaper than heavy oil but more expensive than coal especially the boiler of Sludge CWS much more expensive than the one of coal. In conclusion, they meditate on the market will not accept and it's unnecessary to generalize Sludge CWS.

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## Author Contributions

Abstract, introduction, and 2.1 were finished by Yingtong Chen.

2.2~2.4 was finished by Qiwei Liu

3.1~3.3 was finished by Linhai Wang

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Article

## Study on Micropollutants

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**Abstract:** Micro-pollutants greater impact on water quality. It describes the types of micro-pollutants in water, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and environmental hormones (EDs) two categories, analyzes its nature, characteristics, mechanism of action, as well as the impact on the environment, and propose the associated actions.

**Keywords:** micropollutant; persistent organic pollutants; environmental hormones; control technology

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

These years, with the development of industry, to speed up and increase the types and quantities of agrochemicals urbanization, China's most urban drinking water sources have been polluted to varying degrees. According to reports, China's seven major river systems in class I to III water accounted for 45.1%. IV V class water accounted for 22.9%. V class inferior water accounted for

32.0%. Water pollution has increased the water supply and treatment selection difficult. Drinking water containing organic pollutants lead to a potential threat to the "three-induced substance" (carcinogenic, teratogenic, mutagenic) increase. Source water pollution is becoming increasingly serious security problem of drinking water has been widespread concern and attention.

Micropolluted source water generally refers to water by organic pollution. Its some water quality is indicators than the Surface Water Quality Standards (GB3838-2002) Class III water standard[1]. This kind of water contains more pollutants. The pollutants' nature is more complex. But the concentration is relatively low. Micro-source water pollution is mainly organic pollutants. One part of the organic pollutants belong to the natural organic compounds, such as product water, animal and plant decomposition and the formation of (such as humic acid, etc.). Another part is a synthetic organic compounds, including pesticides, heavy metals, ammonia, nitrite nitrogen and radioactive substances and other harmful pollutants[2].

## **1.2 Water features**

Micropolluted source water quality characteristics performance in four areas:

Micropolluted source water quality is mainly affected by the impact of wastewater and domestic sewage discharged into the industry. The performance of the water in the rivers and ammonia nitrogen, total phosphorus, color, excessive levels of organics. In the water on lakes and reservoirs, the performance of reservoirs and lakes eutrophic water, accompanied by a longer time to breed algae, causing reduction of dissolved oxygen content in water, deterioration of water quality, emitting a foul smell.

The substantial increase in dissolved organic matter in water. In particular tap water factory, pipe network water is often noticeable odor in the early summer and early autumn. The seasonal surge in consumption of chlorine. More negatively charged organic compounds in water, increased coagulation agents and disinfectants dosage, while the pipe wall corrosion and reduce life expectancy.

In 2002, "drinking water health standards" was issued by the Ministry of Health. It proposed a higher quality standard. Some harmful microbes has been found difficult to remove, such as *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Legionella* bacteria, viruses Wait.

Endocrine disruptors (also known as environmental hormones) removal efficiency is not high. These chemicals not only have "three-induced" effect, but also seriously interfere with reproductive function in humans and animals[2].

## **1.3 Problems**

Existing conventional treatment processes (coagulation → sedimentation → filtration → disinfection) can not effectively remove micro-polluted source water organic matter, ammonia and other pollutants. At the same time it is easy to produce liquid chlorine disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in combination with humus raw water directly threats to the health of drinkers. Unable to meet the people's need for drinking water safety. Meanwhile, with drinking water quality standards increasingly stringent, micropolluted water emerging new problems. How about the different raw water quality, water quality requirements vary limitations and technical and economic conditions and other characteristics, seeking to micro - polluted water treatment strategies and appropriate technology is the focus of current research and practice[1].

## **2. Characters of micropollutants and evaluation methodology**

### **2.1 Characters of micropollutants**

#### **2.1.1 Persistence and accumulation**

Some chemical substances are so stable that them need much time even thousands years to finish

the dissociation in the natural environment. These substances can be accumulated by humans and animals, and spread through the food chain, leading to biological tissue of chronic poisoning eventually.

### **2.1.2 Pseudo persistence**

Differing from traditional persistence organic pollutants, pseudo persistence substances can be decomposed by biological or chemical methods. But these will be emitted into water because they can't be eliminated completely. In a condition, these substances always keep in balance between dissociation and emission. So it is called pseudo persistence. Degradation in the environment is not always can get mineralization quickly and completely, the degradation process can form a relatively-stable middle product. In particular, some active substances (such as pesticide, medicine and biological pesticides), and their molecular structure is relatively complex, so they degrade slowly[3]. These transformations are similar to the matrix in structure, most of them are multipolar material, strong solubility, and more easily into the natural water; Products often combine with the matrix compound to improve overall toxicity in aquatic ecological environment.

### **2.1.3 Multiple influence**

The natural environment is a complex system, the influence of pollutant should be considered with other factors. Due to the complex problem, humans are almost impossible to exactly find the interactions between pollutants and the aquatic ecological environment. However, you can identify the material character and its effects in the environment and the distribution of the universal connection, so in that way it can be minimize risk to develop the technology of control strategy.

## **2.2 Evaluation methodology**

### **2.2.1 Overview**

The development of chemical analysis methods makes it possible that humans can quantify the trace materials even the substance in a complex environment. Such levels of chemical analysis involves only known individual drugs, which makes most of the other micropollutants will never be found. By contrast, biological analysis combined with chemistry testing can impact on the overall combination of some chemicals to indicate bio-indicating function. It is possible to identify the quantities of chemicals or certain chemicals effect through chemical analysis and biological analysis.

### **2.2.2 Traditional assessment method**

Traditional methods are mainly through identifying the concentration of the substance to quantify and evaluate. However, the relation between the impact of pollutants on aquatic organisms or lethal concentration and the time is rarely taken into consideration.

## **3. Treatment of micropollutants**

### **3.1 Persistent organic pollutants in water control technology**

#### **3.1.1 Physical methods**

physical methods typically include coagulation and sedimentation, adsorption, extraction, distillation. But it just changed shape and location of pollutants, no reduction in the total amount of

pollutants, can not completely solve the pollution problem.

### **3.1.2 Chemical method**

Chemical method includes a wet chemical method, sound chemistry, photocatalysis and supercritical water oxidation, ultrasonic oxidation method.

Wet oxidation is letting the liquid organic pollutants contact with air or oxygen, temperature and pressure control method of organic matter oxidation.

Ultrasonic oxidation, it is the use of ultrasonic cavitation and the physical and chemical changes arising therefrom. The release of energy in the water bubbles, the bubbles collapse in a short time will produce high temperature and pressure, shock wave and jets, thus opening the organics bond and promote the "water phase combustion." Produced H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and hydroxyl radicals are highly reactive chemical has a strong oxidation, can most oxidation of organic matter. Ultrasonic Oxidation can Degradation 95% of the low concentration of PCBs in 30 min[4], with good prospects for development.

Photocatalytic method is used alone or with other methods of UV (such as ozone method, titanium dioxide, etc.) in combination with the catalytic oxidation of organic matter. The main principle of this process are: certain energy irradiation photosensitive semiconductor titanium dioxide, a dielectric hole pair excitation, they can be with their oxygen and water adsorbed on the surface of the reaction generated hydroxyl radicals, hydroxyl radicals with a very strong oxidizing effect, make the organic matter degradation. Effect of ozone alone instability caused by changes in water quality byproducts also more difficult to deal with.

Supercritical Water Oxidation: supercritical water is between a special state between gas and liquid, when the water temperature and pressure exceeds a certain value to reach the supercritical state. Supercritical water has a high degree of selectivity, strong solvency and a high degree of compressibility. Under supercritical conditions, no external force, organic matter, oxygen, and water began to spontaneously oxidized homogeneously mixed, in a very short period of time, more than 99% of the organic matter can be rapidly oxidized and decomposed into water, carbon dioxide and other small molecules[5].

### **3.1.3 Biological method**

biological method. Biological pollution is a more ideal, environmentally friendly methods. The main use of biological oxidative decomposition of their own to remove contaminants. Simple, easy-situ treatment, but the high selectivity of biological and time-consuming, and many enzymes in vivo degradation than a single[6], can not effectively handle complex mix contaminated water.

## **3.2 Environmental hormones in water control technology[7]**

General water treatment methods are difficult to remove environmental hormone pollutants, although activated carbon adsorption, ozone oxidation treatment method because they have a certain ability to remove, but still far from meeting the requirements. Membrane separation technology is based polymer membrane as the representative of a new type of fluid separation unit operation technology, it is the best choice to replace traditional craft. The main role of the principle of membrane separation technology based on membrane mechanical sieving effect the pressure gradient as the driving force, the use of specific membrane ion permeability separating water molecules and impurities carried out.

Studies have shown that ultrafiltration, microfiltration turbidity, pathogens have a good ability to remove. On this basis, nanofiltration dissolved organic matter in water, trace organic compounds also have a very strong separation. Nanofiltration can molecular weight cutoff substance in hundreds to a thousand or less, and the molecular weight of environmental hormone substances, mostly low molecular weight of hundreds of organic compounds, which can effectively remove environmental

hormone pollutants.

Environmental hormones using nanofiltration to remove material from the theory is entirely feasible, but as for processing, nanofiltration internally generate different levels of pollution, the nature of the membrane surface is constantly changing, together with its pore size and pore structure and ultrafiltration, microfiltration membranes are very different, so the different stages of pollution, changes in the separation characteristics of the environmental hormones also has great specificity.

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Due to our limited academic level, written papers inevitably inadequate, implore teachers and alumni criticism and correction.

## Author Contributions

The term paper consists of three parts:

Li Yuze ( 201201120309 , [410941170@qq.com](mailto:410941170@qq.com) ) : the first part,including the introduction of micropollutants and the polluted water' features.

Li Xupeng ( 201228010207 , [1843715775@qq.com](mailto:1843715775@qq.com) ) : the second part,including micropollutant properties and analysis and evaluation methods features.

Long Hao (201201120312, [record1994@163.com](mailto:record1994@163.com)) : the third part,introducing some treatments of micropollutants.

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*Article*

## Nitrate removal from water by adsorbents

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### Abstract:

Nitrate pollution has become a worldwide environmental problem. High nitrate concentration in water can lead to health problem and worse the quality of environment [1]. In many ways of removing nitrate from water, various kinds of adsorbents which have studied by lots of researchers in recent decades, have become a convince, efficient, economical way to control nitrate pollution. In this review, we explained different kinds of adsorbents in terms to show you another way to remove nitrate rather than traditional way like biological way, chemical process and so on.

### Keywords:

Water treatment, nitrate removal, adsorbents, anions

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## 1. Introduction

Ground water has become a sole water resource in many regions in the world because of its pureness,

easy to purify, convenience to acquire. Nowadays, increasingly developed industry has produced more and more toxic materials, such as inorganic anions, synthetic chemical materials and organic polymers and so on. Those pollutants can lead to severe diseases. Nitrate, because of its high chemical stability, tasteless, colorless, has got most researchers' attention. With little dose can it make one person become sick and even die when it is severe [1–4]. Also, nitrate is the main factor of water eutrophication which is serve environmental problem [5.6]. When nitrate was absorbed by a person, it changed into nitrite which can lead to methemoglobinemia, cancer, and damage to liver. The maximum contaminant of nitrate is 10 mg/L in drinking water set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In the other hand, water can gather nitrate little by little because of its high solubility [7], then delivered to human body finally by food cycle. It is necessary for us to find a convenient, economical, efficient way decrease the concentration of nitrate in the source of water.

## 2. Technologies used to remove the nitrate

There are many ways to remove nitrate from water, such as ion exchange (IX) [8], zero-valent iron ( $Fe^0$ ) [9, 10], zero-valent magnesium ( $Mg^0$ ) [11], reverse osmosis (RO) [12], electrodialysis (ED) [13], catalytic denitrification [14], and biological denitrification [15]. In some places, biological denitrification was a basic way to remove nitrate, while some places choose RO as a basic method. As we all know, there is no perfect technology to make the nitrate removed from water. Every technology has its advantages and its shortcomings. The table below would make a contrast among those technologies.

**Table1.** removal efficiency and condition of several methods.

Technology	Condition required	Effectiveness
Reverse osmosis	high TDS disposal is needed not sensitive to pH and temperature require post-treatment	more than 95% can be removed
Ion exchange	waste brine disposal not sensitive to pH and temperature require post-treatment	up to 90% can be removed
Adsorption	saturate adsorbent disposal sensitive to pH and temperature often no post-treatment	up to kind of adsorbents
Chemical way	no need of waste disposal sensitive to pH and temperature require post-treatment	maximum efficiency >60-70%
Biological way	biomass waste disposal is needed sensitive to pH and temperature require post-treatment	more than 99% can be removed

## 3. Remove nitrate by several kinds of adsorbents

It is said that remove  $\text{NO}_3^-$  by adsorbents [16] is a better way in water disposal because of its convenience, easy to design, user-friendly control. In water and waste water treatment process, this method can remove several kinds of pollutants at the same time. So it has a wide application prospect in water treatment. It has been confirmed that adsorbent can remove fluoride, bromate, nitrate, perchlorate and different kinds of inorganic anions from water by using different materials as adsorbents. Also, we should know that we can achieve minimum removal efficiency only by suitable material and accurate combination. In this review, we just talk about the potential of different adsorbents' removal efficiency.

### 3.1 carbon based adsorbent

Activated carbon is considered as one of the most universal adsorbents especially in remove of organic pollutants. However the efficiency in removing anions such as nitrate is not so well. So it is necessary to modify the surface of carbon. Then comes up several surface-modified activated carbon, such as powered activated carbon(PAC), granular activated carbon(GAC). The maximum time of PAC to remove nitrate is 60min and the adsorption capacity was up to  $10 \text{ mmol NO}_3^-/\text{g}$  adsorbent[17]. GAC was chemical activated by  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  and the maximum removal capacity using activated carbon modified by coconut shells and charcoal modified by bamboo was reported as  $2.66 \times 10^{-1} \text{ mmol/g}$  and  $1.04 \times 10^{-1} \text{ mmol/g}$  which happened at equilibrium pH 2-4[18]. Another way to modify the surface of carbon is using cationic surfactant. The cationic surfactant's hydrophobic one can be added to the surface of carbon by hydrophobization so that activated carbon can absorb anions for it has got eternal anions. Another type is bamboo powder charcoal(BPC) [19]. Researchers prepared BPC by heating the bamboo powder at the temperature of  $900^\circ\text{C}$  for 1h in an electrical furnace. The removal efficiency of BPC can reach to  $1.25 \text{ mg/g}$ . Another type, commercial activate carbon(CAC) was only  $1.09 \text{ mg/g}$  at  $10^\circ\text{C}$ . The experimental result indicated that the adsorption efficiency of BPC is higher than CAC in spite of the influence factor of nitrate concentration and temperature.

### 3.2. clay based adsorbent

Clay based adsorbents is another way to remove nitrate for its rich resource in the nature, low cost and environment-friendly. Clay can absorb and transport anions in the water then decrease concentration of anions like nitrate, phosphate and so on. Xi et al.'s research[20] showed the research in clay based adsorbent that the researchers prepared clay minerals which is surfactant modified. Then they use this to absorb the nitrate in the water samples. They found that untreated clay show poor adsorption capacity for nitrate ions but clays modified show a great capacity. This means that pure clay does little removal ability but need to be modified by some materials that can activate its activity.

### 3.3. Zeolite and furfural residues based adsorbent

Zeolite and furfural residues [21.22] are cheap mineral materials and industrial waste. The nitrate adsorption capacity is greatly enhanced by using Zeolite and furfural residues to make up a nitrate



adsorbent. The adsorption capacity of the adsorbent can easily be influenced by several factors, among which temperature increasing is helpful for desorption, the removal rate is higher in medium pH, interfering ions can reduce the removal rate of modified furfural residues. Those factors influence modified furfural residues more than modified zeolite. Therefore, modified zeolite which has a higher removal rate in the practical application, has a better application prospect. However, none of those two materials' effect should be ignored for they are both a great way to remove nitrate from water.

### 3.4. Agricultural waste based adsorbent

Agricultural waste which mainly include straw, rice husk, wheat straw, wheat bran, corn stalk, peanut shell, bagasse, orange peel, sawdust, bark, and leaves, are abundant, cheap, and contain a large number of wooden prime and cellulose, has broad application prospect in water treatment as well. Its function includes two aspects: on the one hand, it can be used as a carbon source to remove nitrogen, on the other hand, it can be used as a biological adsorbent which can separate from the aqueous solution. It can reduce the cost of wastewater treatment, use the existing green resources, and provide a new way for the comprehensive utilization of agricultural wastes by using agricultural wastes in water treatment. Agricultural wastes contain a large amount of cellulose which is a renewable energy can be used as carbon source and carrier for biological denitrification. One research group [23] has done a experiment by using epichlorohydrin modified raw wheat residue (RWR), and in the presence of pyridine. They investigated the adsorption kinetics in this batch experiment. After chemical treatment modified, the adsorption capacity highly increased. The total exchange capacity of modified wheat residue (MWR) increased from 0.25 mEq/g to 2.57 mEq/g than RWR. From the result, we can see that MWR has higher anion absorbing capacity than RWR. Their adsorption capacity can up to 0.02 mmol/g and 2.08 mmol/g.

### 3.5. Industrial waste based adsorbent

There are a few industrial waste were tested as an adsorbent to remove nitrate. Cengelu er al [24] has done some research in this field. What he used was traditional activated red mud. By doing several experiments, he found that the adsorption capacity of red mud which is modified is higher than traditional form. When the pH is higher than 7, the removal rate began to decrease. The research also found that the adsorption capacity of activated form and traditional form is 5.858 and 1.859 mmol  $\text{NO}_3^-/\text{g}$  red mud. The total needed to remove nitrate is 60 min. It is the interaction between chemical nature of red mud and metal oxides and  $\text{NO}_3^-$ . There are also other researches in industrial waste as an adsorbent to remove nitrate from water and waste water.

### 3.6. Chitosan based adsorbent

Because of low price, high adsorption capacity of amino and hydroxyl, chitosan and chitosan-derivatives has become another high-efficiency adsorbent to remove nitrate from water. Chitosan and

chitosan-derivatives has a great potential to remove kinds of aquatic pollutants, nitrate as well. Chattejee and Woo[25] prepared an adsorbent using chitosan, and do some experiment of removal rate in nitrate from water on this basis. Then they concluded that the most efficient removal rate take place at temperature of 30°C , and the total removal quantity is 9.21 mg/g . Intraparticle diffusion plays an important role in the removal process. With low pH , more proton in chitosan amin group were protonated, then increases the removal rate of nitrate.

#### **4. Conclusions**

Nitrate is anywhere in the nature, the difference is the form and the quantity remained in water. Nitrate is closely linked to human's life and health. It can also result in many environmental problems among which the eutrophication of water. Among several methods, removing by adsorbent is an useful and economical method and has been study for decades. In our review, we explained a list of adsorbents in different types and modified by different materials. However , what we cannot ignore is that what we need is those low-input and high-output, low by-product, user-friendly adsorbents. Carbon based adsorbent show little removal efficiency without surface modified. Agricultural based adsorbent, however, shows an unexpected nitrate removal efficiency in some cases which means we have another way to disposal agricultural waste. Chemical modified adsorbent is always to have a better removal efficiency, but we cost more which might only increase a little removal rate. From the review, there are also some industrial waste was experimented as a alternative way to remove nitrate, and we do have many useful findings.

It is necessary for us to learn more, do more experiments, seek other materials as an adsorbent and find other surface modified technology to enhance the activity of adsorbents. We should keep those things in mind when we try to find a more suitable adsorbent to remove nitrate: (1) dose needed every time, the less the better. (2) minimum nitrate concentration which is equal to the regulation. (3) influence of other competing ions in water. (4) adjustment of pH in water to create a suitable reaction conditions. (5) correct operation method to avoid the mistake and obtain the accurate data. From those rules, we can learn that finding a suitable adsorbent which can remove nitrate with high efficiency is not so easy just like what we have imagined. It will take a long time to investigate lots of materials and do thousands of experiments just for one suitable material and even on finding. The process we try to find a better material must be tedious and full of failure. Nevertheless, by joint work and persistent experiment , we are sure to find more and more suitable adsorbents which can be used to remove nitrate from water.

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#### **Author Contributions**

Yishuai Pan wrote the abstract, introduction and conclusion. Guoliang Zhang wrote the second part: technologies used to remove nitrate. Gemian Liao and Jieping Zhu wrote the part of adsorbents used for remove nitrate.

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Article

## Advanced oxidation processes for water treatment

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### Abstract

Advanced oxidation processes have a common chemical feature: the capability of generating OH· radicals by different methods which can oxidate many pollutants due to its high reactivity. Currently, three main AOPs have widely application including Fenton, ozonation and photocatalysis. These three processes are introduced in terms of mechanism, characteristic and application.

**Keywords:** Advanced oxidation processes; Fenton; Ozonation; Photocatalysis

### 1. Introduction

Organic compounds are widely founded in municipal and industrial wastewater. Since some compounds resist to biodegradation and have toxic effects on microbiological treatment, they cause severe issues in biological processes.

As a result, the key of the problem is to use substitutive treatment technologies that can make refractory molecules further biodegraded by mineralizing or transforming into others.

Among the technologies, advanced oxidation processes (AOPs) already have been used to treat wastewater containing resistant organic compounds like surfactants, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, colouring matters and endocrine disrupting chemicals. What's

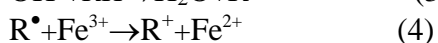
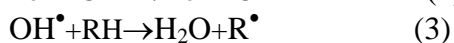
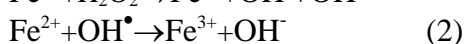
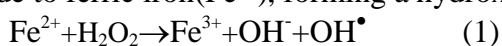
more, AOPs have been used in pretreatment successfully to prevent toxic organic compounds from suppressing biological treatment processes.

The generation of free radicals which are highly reactive is the main mechanism of AOPs. Hydroxyl radicals ( $\text{OH}^\bullet$ ) are reactive electrophiles (electron preferring), so they can react rapidly with all electron-rich organic compounds nearly and also nonselectively. As a consequence, they can destroy organic chemicals effectively.

## 2. Fenton processes

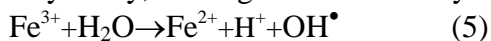
### 2.1 Fenton's reagent

Fenton's reagent was developed by Henry John Horstman Fenton in 1894.[1] It is a solution of hydrogen peroxide (oxidizing agent) and ferrous iron (catalyst) that is used to oxidize organic contaminants powerfully. The mechanism [2][3] is that ferrous iron ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) is oxidized by hydrogen peroxide to ferric iron ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ), forming a hydroxyl radical and a hydroxide ion in the process:



### 2.2 Photoassisted Fenton processes

By the irradiation of UV, the ferric ion formed in Equation 1 is back to ferrous ion photocatalytically, forming an additional hydroxyl radical:[4]



Then the hydroxyl radicals react with organics, which is similar to Equation 3, promoting the oxidation. Compared to simple Fenton process, the rate of photoassisted Fenton process's mineralization is faster, and also the degree is higher, basing on the acceleration of Fenton reaction by light. [5]

Moreover, this reaction can just use solar irradiation for that low energy photons can also drive the reaction.[6] This fact can significantly reduce the operational cost of the treatment. According to the fact above, the operational cost of process can be obviously reduced.

### 2.3 Factors

If the pH is higher than 4, the ferrous ion will be unstable that is easy to be converted to ferric ion, and can also form complexes with the hydroxyl. What's more,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  will decompose to oxygen and water under alkaline conditions, losing its power of oxidation. The pH range from 2 to 4 is optimum for Fenton processes. [3]

Apart from solution's pH, the major factors of Fenton process include ferrous ion's amount,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ 's concentration, the pollutant's initial concentration and other ions' presence.[7]

### 2.4 Applications

Though Fenton processes have some drawbacks such as the demand for acidic conditions and production of iron oxide sludge, the use of Fenton and photoassisted Fenton processes have been applied in some kinds of wastewater treatment so far, including dye manufacture, chemical manufacture, agricultural processing and pulp bleaching. What's more, a pretreatment of Fenton may improve the treatment of biological wastewater.

## 3. Ozonation

There are more and more uses of ozone as an alternative oxidant or disinfectant for drinking water production because of its many benefits. Compared ozonation with other oxidation methods, it has no harm influence on the organisms and environment and it can be more efficient in pollutants

degradation. Ozonation is divided into two ways -- direct ozonation and indirect ozonation by whether there are in the presence of additional agent or energy.[7]

### 3.1 Direct ozonation

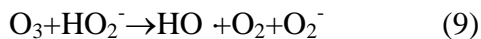
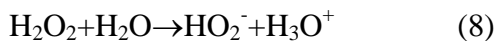
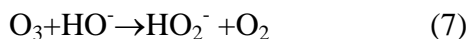
Ozone has powerful oxidation and its oxidization ability is only lower than fluorine. In this case, ozone can oxidize most pollutants but it can only react with most species containing multiple bonds at high rates. This is mainly because its oxidation process needs an appropriate reaction pathway which often does not exist. It is sometimes better to regard ozone as a highly reactive species rather than an agent which gets a strong reduction potential. This is due to the action of ozone oxidation often depending on how to react with pollutants not its oxidation capacity. There are three main limitations about direct ozonation. One is the high cost of generating ozone. One is the slow kinetic constants of reaction. The last one is high selectivity. These are why a lot of researches about indirect ozonation have been addressed.[8]

### 3.2 Indirect ozonation

OH radicals are the active agent during the indirect ozonation process. The participation of additional agent and energy produces OH radicals.

#### 3.2.1 O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

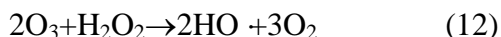
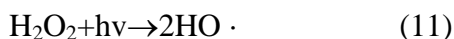
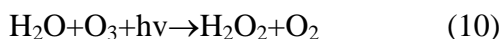
O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process is very simple and doesn't need any reactor. Its only difference between only O<sub>3</sub> system is to add an H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dosing system. Some reactions form the working principle.



The mechanism indicates that ozone reacts with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> when present as anion HO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. Meanwhile the contribution of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to react with ozone is negligible because of its low reaction rate. It is clear that HO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> is the active agent during oxidation process. It is found the concentration of HO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> is strictly dependent upon pH. The increase of pH will obviously enhance the generation of OH· radicals.[8][9]

#### 3.2.2 O<sub>3</sub>/UV

O<sub>3</sub>/UV process bases on the aqueous system which is saturated with ozone. The system will be irradiated in a reactor under UV light of 254nm. Working principle is comprised of some reactions.



It is obvious that O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/UV systems' partial working principles are involved in O<sub>3</sub>/UV process. The extinction coefficient of O<sub>3</sub> at 254nm is much higher than that of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. So the absorption cross section of ozone is much higher than H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. [8][9]

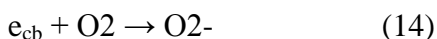
## 4. Use of photocatalysis oxidation

### 4.1 Titanium dioxide/UV light process

This is a process (Ti/UV), in which the Ti absorbs UV light then generates hydroxyl radicals. The specific steps are below:

First, when the Ti is illuminated by UV, this reaction initially conducts band electrons and valence band holes. (Eq 13) Next, superoxide radical anions are yielded through the application that band

electrons to the oxygen surface.(Eq 14) Finally, the band holes are attached to water to generate hydroxyl radical.(Eq15)[10]



Through these series reactions organic compounds have been oxidized and degraded to  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  which don't harm to the environment and people's health. In this process the operation doesn't have much transfer limitations thanks to the usage of nanoparticles and solar irradiation can be used to supply UV which are the advantages. What's more, the main oxidation material---It is easily to get and doesn't cost a lot.[11]

This process has been successfully applied into wastewater treatment. Some olive-oil mills use this technology as pretreatment method to treat product wastewater. The effect was obvious, about 22% COD and 94% phenols was removed with 1g/L Ti used as oxidation.[12][13]

#### 4.2 Hydrogen peroxide/UV light process

In this process  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is injected into a reactor and mixed under the illumination of UV light. During the process, the O-O bond of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is broken by ultraviolet radiation, and generate two hydroxyl radical. (Eq 16)[14]



What should note is the concentration of hydrogen peroxide isn't the more the better. Theoretically higher hydrogen dioxide concentrate can produce more hydroxyl radical, but actually if hydroxyl can't be applied to target compound it will react with hydrogen dioxide to generate useless (Eq 17)



Some factors affecting the process such as target compound's concentration, the amount of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , wastewater pH, reacting time. There is a optimum wastewater dilution level because of the initial target pollution compound concentrate affect the rate of the degradation. Besides this, lower pH level is required which is depended of the pKa of pollution.[15]

$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  light process has great range of application area such as the removal of organic dyes. [16]It is reported from an investigation that if the process lack of UV or has low concentrate, the removal efficiency will decrease sharply to almost 0. So enhance the strength of UV or increase  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  concentrate to the optimal level will improve the effect of dyes removal. [17]According to the experimental results, under the condition of optimal  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  dosage (2.5mmol/L), low pressure UV radiation (55w) no more than 30 minutes, the dye in the water was completely removed.

#### 5. Conclusions

Advanced oxidation processes techniques have great applying perspectives in drinking water (Ozonation) and wastewater (Photocatalytic processes) treatment. Some of these process have been used for the removal of phenolic compounds, dyes, TOC, COD in the municipal and industrial wastewater and get well effects.

However, there are still some burning problems. Some intermediates were unknown and they may be more harmful to the environment. Moreover, attention should be devoted to the research of making full use of solar radiation. In some catalysis process, UV couldn't be used directly from solar radiation because of the lower energy which causing great a cost of energy.



In the future, for the treatment process, how to combine two or more AOP techniques to treat water is the main research direction. For the treatment target, AOP could extend from normal organic compounds to EDCs, disinfection by-products, medicine and other recalcitrant organic chemicals. For the treatment efficiency, it is meaningful to considerate how to degrade the organics faster and more thoroughly.

### **Author Contributions**

Abstract and Part 2 were finished by Xi Zhao.

Part 4 and Part 5 were finished by Jiyong Bian.

Part 1 and Part 3 were finished by Wenjie Jiang.

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Article

## Effect of Drinking Water Quality on Public Health

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**Abstract:** This article reviews the function of water in human body, the relationship between drinking water quality and human health and diseases. It also makes particular introduction about the effects of various contaminants in drinking water on public health.

**Keywords:** water quality; public health; human disease

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### 1. Relationship between water and human body

Water is an integral material for life. The function of it on life is irreplaceable. Workings of human body like digestion, metabolism and thermoregulation can't complete proper functions working without water's help.

The major functions of water in human body can be summarized as follows[1]:

1) As solvent, water can dissolve all sorts of substances in the body and keep them in a certain

concentration, which is convenience to absorption and metabolism of nutrients.

- 2) Water is helpful to the thermoregulation. Large quantities of water in blood can absorb heat newly produced by the body and regulate body temperature with blood circulation.
- 3) Water is a lubricant for organs joints and muscles.
- 4) Water can transport nutrients, including sugar, fat, protein, vitamin, minerals etc. which is necessary to human body.

Because we must have access to fresh water every day to moisturize the body, the quality of drinking water appears particularly important and becomes a social problem attention increasingly by people.

## 2. Relationship between drinking water quality and human health

### 2.1 Water senses and drinking water quality

Sensory evaluations are the first parameters to evaluate the quality of drinking water.

They include color, visible matters, turbidity, odor etc.

Turbidity is an alternative parameter used to reflect the suspended solids (SS) in water.

SS in the water provide a place for many harmful substances including fungus to live.

So the lower the content of suspended solids in water, the more the benefic to human health. Odor produced by some substances in water directly affect drinking of the water. The more important is that the substances which produce the odor could be harmful to human health. The overhigh concentration of some inorganic ions and the total dissolved solids, or some algae and dissolved inorganic gas can all produce odors and then affect drinking of the water.

### 2.2 Contaminants in drinking water and public health

Studies suggest that contaminants in drinking water can be divided into three categories according to their nature. They include physical contaminants, biological contaminants and chemical contaminants.

Physical contaminants mean to various radioactive substances, which will induce gene mutation, cancer or congenital abnormality [2]. Biological contaminants mainly point all kinds of pathogenic microorganisms, which will cause the spread and epidemic of diseases. Chemical contaminants, the main hygienic risks of water quality consist mainly of all kinds of inorganic and organic compounds entering water with contaminants. They can lead to acute poisoning, chronic poisoning, cancer, congenital abnormality or other similar long term adverse effects. Such as minamata disease caused by mercury pollution and itai-itai disease caused by cadmium pollution.

The concentrations of some elements and compounds limited by the Standards for Drinking Water Quality (GB5749-2006), and the relationship between them and human health are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Elements or Compounds	Impacts on Human Health	Maximum Levels (GB5749-2006)
		mg/L
Total Hardness (		
$\text{CaCO}_3$ )	cause temporary disturbances in the gastrointestinal function	450
Iron	bad appearance and smell	0.30

Zinc	low toxicity, irritate gastrointestinal tract	1.00
Sulphate	cause mild diarrhea	250
Chloride	give off and effluvium and cause chronic poisoning	250
Total Dissolved Solids	have laxative reaction	1000
Fluoride	cause fluorosis and acute or chronic poisoning	1.00
Cyanide	high poisonous	0.05
Arsenic	cause skin cancer	0.01
Mercury	high poisonous, cause acute or chronic poisoning	0.00
Chromium(hexavalent)	Carcinogen	0.05
Lead	accumulated in bone, resulting in constipation and abdominal pain	0.01
Carbon Tetrachloride	has various toxicological effects including cancer	0.002
DDT	act on the central and peripheral nervous system	0.001
Benzex	toxic, sugar tolerance	0.005
$\beta \alpha$ 总		
Radioactive substance	cause cancer, baldhead and can be inherited	0.5Bq/L 总
		1.0Bq/L

The impact on human health emerge when the concentrations of the elements or compounds are overhigh.

### 2.3 Water quality and human diseases

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was the first time people have got the idea of associating water quality with human diseases when they realize that the diseases, seriously endangering the life, are transmitted through drinking water. After continuous efforts and research -es, people found that pathogenic microorganism like bacteria, viruses, protozoa and helminth in drinking water can carry and spread various kinds of diseases. They also found that the emergence of many endemic diseases are due to the content of certain element in the drinking water is too high or too low. For instance endemic goiter is caused by the lack of iodine in the drinking water, endemic fluorosis, however, is caused by the content of fluorine in the drinking water is too high.

According to the World Health Organization's statistics, every year, there are 12 billion people in the world develop various diseases due to the drinking water pollution and 15 million children under five years of age die from diseases caused by dirty drinking water. There are more than 5 million people die from diseases like cholera, dysentery, malaria etc. caused by the pollution of drinking water[3].

### 3. Conclusions

In drinking water, too many hazardous or too small substances that are essential to the human body can lead to a decline in the quality of water. And because the quality of drinking water is closely related to public health, it determines the quality of human life and further influences the social stability and economic development [4]. As executive director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) said, "Water is the source of life and the most crucial link in the global ecosystem. If human can not make an effective management of water resources and ensure the quality of drinking water it would have meant serious disaster for man himself". Thus we should study the impacts of drinking water quality on public health whereby relevant departments improve the existing drinking water quality standards to benefit mankind.

#### **Author Contributions**

1. Huiping Lin: section 2.3 and 3
2. Tingfei Mao: section 2
3. Qiyi Wu: section 1 and 2.1

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Article

# The Wastewater Treatment of Photoelectrocatalytic Oxidation Technology

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**Abstract:** Photoelectrocatalysis wastewater treatment is a kind of photocatalytic oxidation technologies assisted with electrochemical method. Photogenerated electrons can be removed from electrodes before they could recombine with the holes by the application of a suitable external bias potential, so the quantum efficiencies can be improved and the organic pollutants mineralized completely. This paper not only made a brief introduction of the Photoelectrocatalysis principle, the influence factors of Photoelectrocatalysis and the experimental section, but also look forward to the tendency of future prospective technology and development direction[7].

**Keywords:** photoelectrocatalysis; photocatalytic oxidation; wastewater treatment; organic pollutants

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## 1. Introduction

Photoelectrocatalysis is a non-selective catalytic degradation of organic water treatment method, which belongs to advanced catalytic oxidation. Loaded crystalline flake graphite as a photoelectrocatalysis ion electrode, it can solve problems that the photocatalysis efficiency is not so high and catalyst is difficult to recycle, and combined photocatalysis with three-dimensional electrode electrocatalytic, can strengthen synergy effects obviously[1]. It can be predicted that three-dimensional

photoelectrocatalysis can achieve nice results in degradation organic or high concentration organic wastewater treatment.

Photocatalysis-oxidation is using photocatalyst to accelerate the oxidation removal rate. It often use ultraviolet light as illuminant,  $\text{TiO}_2$  as photocatalyst. Compare with biodegradation, photocatalysis-oxidation has short time and large handling capacity characteristics. But there are some inescapable contradiction between photocatalyst fixed and photocatalysis efficiently, it blocked this application massively.

Electrochemical catalysis dehalogenation is easy and convenient to design, it also cost-efficient[2]. Thereby, it is focus on lots of researchers all around the world. However, the mainly shortage of this technology is the high potential, usually accompanied by intensive Hydrogen separation after halogenated organic reduced on conventional electrode materials. It not only reduce the potential, but also increase the danger of the experiment.

Photoelectrocatalysis-oxidation combines the advantages of photocatalytic oxidation and electrochemical catalysis to achieve electro-optical synergy. Compared with single photo-catalytic or electrocatalytic, photoelectrocatalysis showed it unique advantages: 1. On the effect of external electric field, photo-electronic start to directed move, it can urge photo-electronic and hole separate effectively, the process of conducting electrons reduction and valence band hole oxidation can detach in spatial location, accreted the production efficiency of  $\text{—OH}$  in  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface. It also can prevent the reduction again with oxidation intermediate product in cathode surface[3]. 2. The side effects of electrolysis of water can product massive high activated oxygen. They can reduce the composite rate between photo-electronic and the hole as the radical trap of photo-electronic. 3. Three-dimensional electrode technology increase the potent area of electrode maximum, grow the electrolysis efficiency. And particle electrode can provide more organic matter resetting point, raise the organic matter concentration around the catalyst, which can help the degradation of organic matter[4]. 4.  $\text{TiO}_2$  fasten on carrier can decrease the loss of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , increase the reuse rate.

## 2. Principle of Photoelectrocatalytic Oxidation Technology

There is a special electronic structure out of semiconductor materials, such as  $\text{TiO}_2$ , which has a deeper valence band level. When they get the light irradiation by greater than the band gap energy, plus a certain bias. At this time, the electronic which in valence band are inspired to conduction band, thus make the high activate electronic on the conduction band, product anode hole on valence band, form a redox system[5]. Dissolved oxygen plays a role in electronic and water acts on hole. Finally, they can produce the  $\text{OH}\bullet$  free radicals with high activate and strong oxidizing. It can oxidizes numerous of recalcitrant organic compounds. However, the capture capability of conduction band of  $\text{TiO}_2$  for high activate electronic is limited, lead to reduction again between high activate electronic and optical-hole[6]. (Fig.1) Photoelectrocatalytic is made use of the anode in electronic. From this way can avoid the reduction between optical-holes and high activate electronic, take the electron to the cathode, holes in the surface of the semiconductor, which can increase sharply optical quantum efficiency.



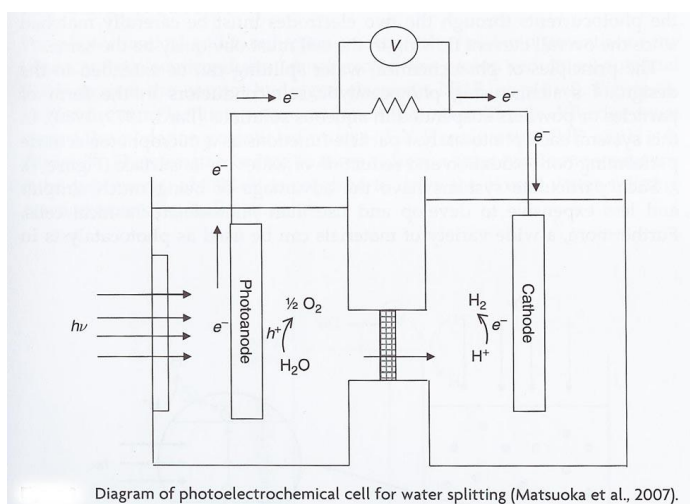


Fig.1. Diagram of photoelectrochemical cell for water splitting

### 3. Experimental Section

Photoelectrocatalysis has significant performance on degradation of organic pollutants, such as formic acid, organic chlorides[7], azo[8], etc. The experimental processes, which are suitable for all organic matters, aim at measuring the removal rate and observation the variation trend as follows.

#### 3.1. Chemicals, materials and apparatus

Anhydrous sodium sulfate( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) is always used as supporting electrolyte.  $\text{TiO}_2$ , the photocatalyst attached to the graphite electrode. All photoelectrochemical experiments were performed at  $23^\circ\text{C}$  in a thin-layer three-electrode photoelectrochemical cell with a quartz window for illumination[9]. The key instruments contain a Xenon lamp(CHF-XM-500W), a UV spectrophotometer(cary 300), a DC regulated power supply(RXN-305D) and a High speed centrifuge(TG16-WS).

#### 3.2. Preparation of $\text{TiO}_2$ electrodes

The details of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  colloid preparation have been published elsewhere [10,11]. Briefly, aqueous  $\text{TiO}_2$  colloid was prepared by the hydrolysis of titanium butoxide [9]. Before the experiments, the graphite electrode with  $\text{TiO}_2$  needs adsorption initially reaching saturation, which can not occur adsorption anymore, while only photoelectrocatalysis.

The two types of electrodes are the three-dimensional electrode and the two-dimensional electrode. Compared with the two-dimensional electrode, the three-dimensional electrode is a kind of new electrode reactor, which just has one more granular conductive material added to the two-dimensional electrode. That is a new electrode and it can also remove the organics. Activated carbon has the best performance of degradation. The three-dimensional electrode is better because it can also apply to reaction systems of low degradation rate and small current density well.

#### 3.3. Methods

With Anhydrous sodium sulfate( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) as supporting electrolyte, a  $\text{TiO}_2$  electrode, and a Xenon lamp(CHF-XM-500W) as fixed light source, the organics from wastewater are removed, and the water are purified. Interval samples are distributed by a High speed centrifuge, followed by measuring absorbance from a UV spectrophotometer to calculate degradation rate of organic matters.

#### 4. Control Factors

In photoelectrocatalytic experiments, main influence factors of reaction efficiency of photoelectrocatalytic (PEC) degradation are conductivity, power supply voltage, initial concentration of organics from wastewater and PH of the solution, etc. To understand the correlation between every factor and removal of organics from wastewater, the authors compare them respectively as the following four paragraphs.

##### 4.1. Influence of conductivity

Conductivity has a significant influence on PEC degradation. If conductivity value is large, strong current electricity can be examined, and on the contrary, the PEC reaction efficiency is low. The reason is that the main transfer electronics are nearly from the electrolyte solution but not photo-electronics.

##### 4.2. Power supply voltage

The influence of power supply voltage on various kinds of organic pollutants is different. In the certain range, the higher power supply voltage value, the higher removal rate of target chemical. Because higher power supply voltage value can suppress the combination of photons and holes. But when this value gets the top point, then if it increases, the reaction rate will decrease.

##### 4.3. Initial concentration

The initial concentration of the target chemical is related to the reaction order[12]. In a certain range, with the increase of initial concentration of chemicals, reaction rates also increase. Because the opposite effects between photocatalysis and electrocatalytic have been suppressed by photoelectrocatalysis. That is electro-optical synergy[14].

##### 4.4. Influence of PH

The pH of the solution has a close relationship with the reaction rate because the surface charge of  $\text{TiO}_2$  and the ionization of chemicals are dependent on this variable[12]. Different PH values result in changes charge characteristics on the surface of electrodes, and then influence the absorption of  $\text{TiO}_2$  electrodes. Higher PH makes higher degradation rate of organics. However, when PH value gets too large, the removal rate will decrease slightly. Different equipotential bonding points correspond different kinds of target chemicals.

#### 5. Perspective

A lot of people are studying the photoelectrocatalytic oxidation technology of nanometer  $\text{TiO}_2$ , but also to study the application of this technology in wastewater treatment. This technology can be used in the wastewater treatment, which can greatly improve the removal rate of the material in the wastewater. This technology has the characteristics of low energy consumption, no secondary pollution, low cost, easy operation and maintenance, can be fully realized automatic control and so on. It is easy to be popularized and applied. After the market analysis, nano photoelectric catalytic wastewater treatment and other new technologies will usher in a good development period in the treatment of electroplating wastewater, printing and dyeing wastewater treatment and so on, especially in the development of the 'zero discharge' treatment of electroplating wastewater and printing and dyeing wastewater [15]. In the course of this technology development in the future, Researchers should focus on the separation of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  catalysts, improving the photocatalytic efficiency of nano titanium

dioxide, expanding the scope of nano titanium dioxide can be used, designing and development of low energy consumption of high photocatalytic reactor[16.17].

At present, domestic and foreign research is based on two dimensional nano  $\text{TiO}_2$  photoelectric catalytic system. However, the system of two dimensional system is limited by the active area of the module, and in technology, it is difficult to improve the time and space greatly. These reasons make this approach limited in practical applications. Three dimensional nano  $\text{TiO}_2$  photoelectric catalytic system which uses the concept of three-dimensional electrode, can enhance the characteristics of organic matter, and give full play to the time and space efficiency of photoelectric catalysis. This technology is researched more in the domestic and will be further research in the future[18]. This technology is very promising in the wastewater treatment, the treatment effect is good, and it may be used widely in the future.

As a new technology, photoelectrocatalytic oxidation technology is very effective in wastewater treatment, but it still has a lot of problems. There are general problems: the conversion efficiency of light energy is low, most of which are one to three percent, and even lower; the catalyst activity is not high enough; the catalyst is not good enough, most of which is a series of product distribution; and the catalyst life is not long enough, its continuous use period is only a few months or a few years. In future research, it should be emphasized to solve these problems. This will enable the technology to have low energy consumption, save resources and reduce costs in the practical application process. This technology will have better development space in sewage treatment.

## **6. Conclusions**

Photoelectrocatalysis is a means of electrochemical assisted photochemical, which is much better than the pure photocatalysis and light degradation. The application prospect of photoelectrocatalytic oxidation technology has been developed. Photoelectrocatalytic oxidation technology is more effective method for the degradation of organic pollutants. It can effectively complete the organic matter completely mineralized to carbon dioxide and inorganic salt or converted into other useful substances, so that the organic matter degradation to no toxicity and can be used by people. Because of using the light energy, the technology saves the resources, it has the potential to become the main technology in the future environmental management[7].

## **Author Contributions**

Xingan Bo: section1&2;

Yuchao Zhang: section3&4;

Di Zhao: section5&6.

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*Article*

## **Progress in study of electrode materials and application on Capacitive Deionization**

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**Abstract:** Capacitive deionization (CDI), as an emerging water treatment technology for desalination, has rapidly developed over the past decade. With two oppositely posed electrodes and an applied voltage, the charged particles in water move directionally under the electric field and are adsorbed onto the electrodes, resulting in water purification. The growth of this technology not only includes research on theories and impact factors, but also includes successful cases of engineering applications, indicating its feasibility. It gives a succinct review of the CDI technology based on research advances from the international CDI community, including electrode materials, electrode surface characteristics, application and commercialization, combination with RED, and an outlook on future research and development.

**Keywords:** Capacitive deionization (CDI); Desalination; Polar functional groups; Electrode; Fresh water resources

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## 1. Introduction

Water is the source of all lives on the earth, and is also one of the most basic element of human's survival, including production and living<sup>1</sup>. However, with the development of industry and agriculture and population explosion, the limited water resources has become increasingly unable to meet the needs of human beings, the world more and more began to fall into the predicament of the shortage of water. To solve this problem, apart from looking for new water resources, reducing waste, controlling water pollution or changing the using preference of water, salt water desalination is a very bright choice; it is a way not only ensuring water quality but also guaranteeing abundant fresh water for people<sup>2</sup>. Recently, a new type of promising desalination method has attracted more and more attention in the world, which is called capacitive deionization, or CDI<sup>3,4</sup>.

CDI is a novel water treatment technology. It is an electrochemical-based desalination process in which the system is composed of a pair of porous electrodes and a DC power supply<sup>5</sup>. CDI is potentially attractive for desalination of low salinity sources, such as brackish and surface waters, and removing trace contaminants from river which is polluted. CDI is a low pressure, low voltage process and so consumes at least 1/3 less energy than other desalination methods<sup>6</sup>.

## 2. Electrode Materials

In CDI technology, the most critical factor equipment efficiency is the electrode materials, huge amounts of carbon materials, porous carbon materials such as carbon nanotubes and graphene, due to high specific surface area and chemical stability as well as features such as friendly to environment and is used as a CDI electrode in-depth study. Among them, the GA for its deliver a unique network structure excellent physical and chemical properties, crosslinked network structure not only gives the aerogel great specific surface area, and evenly distributed among them with microporous carbon particles enhances its electric conductivity, the electric adsorption performance of GA. GA, often referred to as graphene between molecules or in graphene as the main body and other organic or inorganic molecules are connected under the condition of certain form of space porous network structure.

Wang *et al.*'s<sup>7</sup> experiment used PS colloidal templates of the GA prepared and applied to CDI technology to remove the water salinity. Three-dimensional Internet gives it high conductivity and low internal resistance, CV test show that the characteristics of the capacitor under 5 mV/s up to 58.4 F/g, ensure the efficient transmission, electrons and ions at the same time show a perfect output power under low energy consumption, the next batch of model CDI test further demonstrated that GA is efficient CDI electrode materials of excellence.

Yin *et al.*<sup>8</sup> such as the preparation of the GO/TiO<sub>2</sub> and applied to CDI aerogel electrodes, graphene and TiO<sub>2</sub> assemble into three-dimensional structure, not only for the inorganic salt ions in adsorption solution provides a number of big hole site, low toxicity, high stability, high dielectric constant materials can be improved by the addition of TiO<sub>2</sub> further performance of capacitance, all kinds of test results show that the CDI electrode was prepared by three important parameters: electric adsorption capacity, rate and reversibility is superior to other materials. Liu *et al.*<sup>9</sup> by KOH activation was three-dimensional RGO aerogel and applied it in CDI electrode, to obtain the very good ion

removal effect, different from ordinary electrode materials such as acetylene black form of peer-to-peer network of conductive RGO aerogel is a kind of 'dot' across the conductive network, it is good for CDI electrode in the electron transfer. Wimalasiri *et al.*<sup>10</sup> such as preparation of graphene layer water gel CDI electrodes and applied to remove the ammonium ion in the water, at room temperature under the condition of removal rate can reach 99%, and has a good regeneration performance.

GA, with the macroporous structure not only provides a great adherent surface ion adsorption, and reduce the resistance in the process of ion transport, but also shortens the ions to the interior electrode distance, has provided the safeguard for the ion transport, make GA CDI ideal electrode materials.

### 3. Polar Functional Groups on the Electrodes Surface

In the process of embellishing the surface with some Granular dopants to produce composite electrodes, the incorporations usually interact with polar functional groups on the surface. Typically, the stability goes better when affinity between two substance is higher. For example, when decorating the activated carbon with titanium butoxide under oxidation state, the adhesion force is notably strong due to countless reduced polar groups on its surface, and then stability would be excellent<sup>11, 12</sup>. The same principle goes with graphene oxide (GO) and reduced graphene oxide (RGO), with which consist numbers of oxidation of functional groups that can integrate tightly with reduced groups on other electrode materials to develop stable composite<sup>13, 14</sup>. Therefore, GO and RGO have been used greatly as dopants in CDI field, such as being loaded to carbon aerogel<sup>9</sup> and carbon nanofibers<sup>15, 16</sup>, and both shows astonishing characteristics.

The impacts of surface polar groups on adsorption process should cause researchers' enough attention. For example, Duan *et al.*<sup>17</sup> pretreated the ordered mesoporous carbon using H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and heat N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere respectively; the former process created more oxygen groups while the latter reduced them. And the sorption experiment showed that the more the oxygen groups are, the better the adsorption performance is. Besides, in Zafra *et al.*'s research<sup>18</sup>, the process to activate carbon aerogel under high temperature CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere created vast hydroxyl and carboxyl and promoted the hydrophily considerably. As a result, the electrodes demonstrated a much better adsorption performance. While in Yan *et al.*'s experiment<sup>19</sup>, after modifying the activated carbon with polyaniline, the increased weak acidic functional groups on surface can amazingly promote the conductivity of the electrodes, hence improve the desalination performance. Huang *et al.*<sup>20</sup> tried to adsorb Cu<sup>2+</sup> using activated carbon electrodes. For the first experiment, only 69% ions released back to the solution during desorption process, while the rest was not released due to strong adhesive force. This might have something to do with the activated groups on the surface of activated carbon. While with the research going on, they found that 100% desorption can be accomplished on the basement of the first round adsorption and desorption. This kind of phenomenon may suggest that about 31% Cu<sup>2+</sup> was adsorbed on the electrodes permanently, or some specific groups were coved by Cu<sup>2+</sup> and can never be regenerated. Furthermore, the attempts to perfect electrodes not only improved the specific surface area or pore diameter and pore structure, but also improved the surface group, like promoting the hydrophily<sup>18, 21-23</sup>.



However, some researchers point out that the activation of surface groups will change during the adsorption and desorption process. For example, the activation might be firstly strengthened with the round process going on, while after a long-term operation, the activation began to decrease<sup>24</sup>. In consideration of this, when desalinating NaCl solution based on carbide derived carbon electrodes, Porada et al.<sup>25, 26</sup> insisted to recording data after operating new reactors for several round process to achieve a dynamic steady state (DSS) to make sure most parameters of electrodes can remain constant. So the capacity of adsorption and desorption can have a better balance and he can also get more accurate results. In addition, some people believe that there are more or less REDOX change on surface groups during the adsorption and desorption process, and this kind of change can lead to variation of pH of solution<sup>26</sup>. So the result tells us that we should attach importance to maintain the pH to a limited extent to avoid too drastic change.

#### 4. CDI-RED System

Early studies on CDI date to the mid-1960s and the early 1970s. The concept was first introduced by Caudle *et al.*, who used porous carbon electrodes made of activated carbon powder in a flow-through mode for water desalination. Later, Johnson *et al.* studied CDI as a reversible process<sup>27</sup>. Their work combined parametric studies with investigations of the theoretical basis of CDI and of various electrode materials<sup>28</sup>. CDI works by inducing the adsorption of dis-solved ions on a pair of electrodes immersed in a solution, upon applying an electric potential or current across these electrodes<sup>5</sup>. When this process ends, the adsorbed ions are released into a rinse solution. In doing so, the electrodes become ready for a new electrosorption cycle<sup>27</sup>.

Reverse electro dialysis (RED) is a membrane separation equipment which facilitates the selection of membrane permeability for separation of the substances in the water<sup>29</sup>. It can achieve the purpose of the desalination. In the RED process, two different salinity water streams are used in producing energy: a high salinity stream and a low salinity stream. RED has low energy consumption and convenient operation. There is no need to acid and alkali regeneration membrane separation process and does not need to add other chemicals. During a dilute chamber into the salty water, turn on the juice and positively charged cations in the solution. Under the action of an electric field to cathodic direction to Yang membrane, negatively charged groups on membrane opposites attract role through the membrane<sup>29</sup>. They concentrated on the right side of the chamber. Negatively charged anions move in the direction of the anode to anion-exchange membrane. By positively charged groups on membrane opposites attract role through the membrane, the concentration is the left side of the room. Dilute chamber sodium chloride in the salt water has been removed and get fresh water.

CDI-RED hybrid system is used in the production of salt water desalination and energy development. A CDI cell can generate a high salinity in the process of discharge flow and generated in the process of charging and pure water. The brine concentration from the CDI cell can be minimized by inserting a RED cell next to it. Therefore, using this system, desalinated water and energy could be generated at the same time<sup>30</sup>. In the current study, CDI-RED system has both continuous desalination of Reverse electro dialysis (RED) and the advantages of Capacitive deionization(CDI)<sup>30</sup>. Besides, it avoids reverse electro dialysis technology farmers polarization and capacitive deionization technology is negative rearrangement at regular intervals.



This study demonstrates that CDI-RED system offers an alternative method to produce both electricity and desalinated water. The dual advantages of the proposed integrated system enhance the future of desalination technology by creating a desalination method with a lowered brine<sup>30</sup>. More research should be taken in the length of CDI cell, so that we can generate more pure water and more power. In addition, future research can include minimize salt content and increase the number of sustainable energy production.

## **5. Application and Commercialization of CDI**

Carbon aerogel is a lightweight, porous, nanoscale amorphous carbon material, which has large specific surface, good conductivity, excellent mechanical properties, so it is suitable as an electrode material. Farmer and Pekala etc.<sup>31</sup> in the US Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory develop a removal device using stack carbon aerogel electrode to aqueous electrolyte ions. The result shows that the apparatus that remove sodium, chlorine, chromium, ammonium, cadmium, zinc, lead, copper, manganese, calcium, uranium etc. has a good effect.

The first attempts toward to commercialization of CDI began in 2000, when two US companies, Biosource, Inc. and Sabrex of Texas, Inc., were awarded a contract from the Defense Advanced Research Products Agency (DARPA) to develop a prototype portable water treatment unit based on CDI for the US Army. At the same time, the US Far West Group, Inc. received a development contract from Arizona Public Service (APS) to supply a CDI prototype for a water purification system for study by APS<sup>3</sup>.

Based on the above activity, Sabrex launched the electronic water purifier (EWP), declaring it to be capable of removing dissolved ions, including iron, arsenic, chrome, perchlorate and nitrate, and of treating brackish, sea waters and waste waters. According to the developer, the unit is also suitable for use as home water purifier in conjunction with UV<sup>3</sup>.

Recently, CDT Systems, Inc., a Texas based company, announced the launch of a mobile CDI system. Their technology is also presented as a technology suitable for water treatment in disaster areas. However, the commercialization status of the mobile unit was not made clear in the presentation. It should be mentioned that all the technologies mentioned above make use of a carbon aerogel as the electrode material<sup>3</sup>.

In summary, the capacitive deionization is a potential electrolyte - water separation methods. Abroad, especially the United States, is very active for the research and developing applications, industry progress is also quickly, but these researches in our country are very little and scattered, relatively speaking there is a large gap with abroad. In view that the capacitive deionization has some characteristics such as efficient and pollution-free, which is conform to the country's environmental policy, we proposed that related department pay attention to this regard, which can promote the development in terms of capacitive deionization.

## **6. Conclusions**

In the past decade, capacitive deionization technology has gotten unprecedented development in many aspects, including selection and modification of electrode materials, explosion of influential factors, the development of large scale device, and application and commercialization. We can notice

that more and more researchers are putting passion to the study of this field. So we believe that CDI will gradually replace the existing traditional desalination methods in the near future, providing human with water for living and production low-costly and uninterruptedly, and eventually solve the problem of global water crisis.

### Author Contributions

Qiyu Liu contributed to section 1&5.

Jianqing Liu contributed to section 2.

Zijun Wang contributed to section 1&4.

Kuan Z. Huang contributed to section 1&3&6 and Abstract & Keywords & Conclusions.

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Article

## Special treatment of industry sewage

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**Abstract:** Industry wastewater pollution has been a very serious problem in the last few years. Finding the better treatment and combined method process is very necessary. To treat different kinds of wastewater, different professors show us different solutions. In a word, what the professors look for is a simple, effective and economical treatment.

**Keywords:** different wastewater treatment pharmaceutical wastewater High-salt wastewater Petrochemical wastewater

### Introduction

Nowadays, industry develops rapidly, but the industry wastewater is hard to deal with. The industry wastewater treatment has been a serious social problem. So we had better find some effective and economical treatment methods or the better combined method process. There are some typical industry wastewater treatment.

## 1. Treatment of pharmaceutical wastewater by physical adsorption process

Qinghai pharmaceutical group company uses a lot of toxic and harmful materials in the synthesis of pharmaceutical process. The wastewater contains a great deal of complex components, which can seriously pollute water. Worse still, it contributes much pollution to Huangshui river. After the chemical flocculation, sedimentation, flotation methods, the concentration has been reduced a lot. But the wastewater still can not meet the discharge standards. Therefore, based on the original treatment process, company's production technology department turned to the physical adsorption process, basically meeting of the discharge standards.

To deal with large amount of pharmaceutical wastewater and water consumption, some professors keep an eye on slag and activated carbon, which can be not only practical and effective, but also economical. Besides of this, the process is easy to operate. After the treatment, the COD of the wastewater was greatly reduced, and the effect was obvious.

The company has 3 synthetic workshops, which produces 50~70t wastewater in one day. To separate the large amount of cooling water which is discharged from the workshop, the process sewage is directly discharged into the sewage treatment station, and the daily discharge amount is about 4 ~ 6T, and the pH value is about 7.5. COD concentration of the waste water outlet is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 The concentration of different wastewater export Unit: mg/L

Name	The inlet of the sewage treatment station	The outlet of the cooling water	The total discharge outlet of production and life
CODr	5.320~9.930	85.1~152	102~161
BOD5	368~1528	27~85	25~41

The test route is as follows: Raw water - > Primary slag adsorption - > Secondary slag adsorption - > Third-level slag adsorption - > Fourth - level charcoal adsorption - > Five - level activated carbon adsorption (Table 2).

Table 2 Physical adsorption test data

	The average of CODr(mg/L)	pH	The total reduction rate(%)
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Raw water	1145	7.0	
Primary slag adsorption	1117	7.5	2.4
Secondary slag adsorption	1022	7.0	10.7
Third-level slag adsorption	932	6.5	18.6
Fourth - level charcoal adsorption	586	6.0	48.8
Five - level activated carbon adsorption	152	6.0	86.7

According to the table 2, the efficiency of the slag adsorption is low. But in the specific experiment, some professors found that the slag does well in adsorbing the color of the water and some inorganic salts. Also, the slag can greatly reduce the load of the activated carbon and extend the cycle of the activated carbon adsorption. After comparing the flow, filtration speed and effect, the selected process route is as follows:

Raw water - > Slag adsorption - > wood charcoal adsorption - > activated carbon and slag adsorption

The sewage goes into the oil tank through the special line and then goes into the pool, where the water is clear, deep brown, and with a pungent smell. In order to reduce the load of processing facilities, the adjustment should be adjusted.

The COD<sub>Cr</sub> concentration of the pool water is diluted to below 2500mg/L. The water is injected into the water by the bypass cooling water. After the dilution, the water is about 20t/d. Then the water should be pumped to the high flocculation reaction tank at the rate of 4 ~ 4.5t per hour. After precipitation, the water is faced to flocculation again. When air flotation flows into the pool, COD has been cut down about 50% to 60%. Depending on the sewage concentration, the amount of the water flowing into the pool should be adjusted. Generally, it should be controlled at 4t/h. The water penetrates the filler from high to low altitude. Then, it is adsorbed before it flows out. Next, the water is adsorbed by activated carbon and then it confronted with a test. If it can pass the test, it can be discharged into the water pipe. Otherwise, the drain valve would be closed and the water should be

adsorpted again. The cycle of the filling operation is 40 to 50 days. If the water still exceeds the standards after the second adsorption , the packing will be replaced. After saturation,the filler is transported to the coal yard and mixed before being burned.

Table 3 Trial run for 42 days

	The average of COD(mg/L)	Reduction rate(%)
Wastewater conditioning pool	2143	
Flocculation gas surfaced	1084	
Slag adsorption effluent	951	13
Charcoal adsorption effluent	689	37
Activated carbon adsorption effluent	279	75

Table 4 the COD data of 5 days

	The fifth day	The tenth day	The fifteenth day	The twentieth day	The twenty-fifth day	The thirtieth day	The thirty-fifth day	The fortieth day	The forty-second day
COD <sub>Cr</sub> (mg/L)	204	223	256	284	269	276	291	304	413

The company's production is designed by the national plan, raw materials, equipment and other factors. As the production status is not stable, the pH, COD concentration and some others of the wastewater change a lot. The physical adsorption is more suitable for the company's water quality characteristics and production characteristics, as it just needs small investment, simple operation and easy management. The treatment of wastewater is up to 5400t per year, including about 22.5t reduction of COD.

In some ways, this method should be further improved. Firstly, the PH is hard to control, which affects

adsorption. Secondly, such large amount of wastewater cannot be fully contacted in such short time. Thirdly, the water is not very uniform when it goes into the adsorption pool. Fourthly, it's necessary to further improve the adsorption efficiency, reduce the amount of fillers, and extend the time of adsorption.

## 2.High-salt wastewater treatment

High salt wastewater is a kind of wastewater containing the total salt content of at least 1%. It mainly comes from chemical plant and oil and natural gas collection and processing. The wastewater contains many substances (including salt, oil, organic heavy metals and radioactive substances).<sup>[4]</sup>

High salt wastewater is one of the difficult and hot spots in domestic and foreign research. The biological method and physical chemistry method are applied in the treatment of high salinity wastewater. Biological method shows higher organic removal rate when treating high salt wastewater. But when the biological method is used to treat high salt wastewater, it usually needs for long time. In addition, microbe is sensitive to environment, so salinity mutations usually cause serious interference to the processing system. Physical and chemical methods mainly include evaporation method, electrochemical method, ion exchange method, adsorption, membrane separation technology and so on, which can remove salt and organic matter in wastewater in some applications, but they are generally facing higher costs, and easily lead to the second pollution of renewable waste water. So the effective combination of physical, chemical methods and biological methods is one of the important directions of high salt wastewater treatment in the future.<sup>[3]</sup>

Conventional biochemical method is currently the most widely used wastewater treatment technology, but salt in high salt wastewater greatly limits the processing performance of microorganisms. So reducing salt in high salt wastewater is a safeguard measure using conventional biochemical method.

The process of electric dialysis-activated sludge uses electro dialysis device, and the use of low salt content of the absorption liquid makes the salt in the high salt wastewater transfer to the low salt water because of the potential difference and the concentration difference of the liquid. It can study the migration of salt and organic matter in the process of desalination and use biological method to further reduce wastewater's COD after the electro dialysis desalination.

### 2.1 Introduction

In this study, the high salt wastewater treatment process consists of two parts; electro dialysis desalination and activated sludge biochemical treatment, and the process is shown in Figure 1.<sup>[3]</sup>

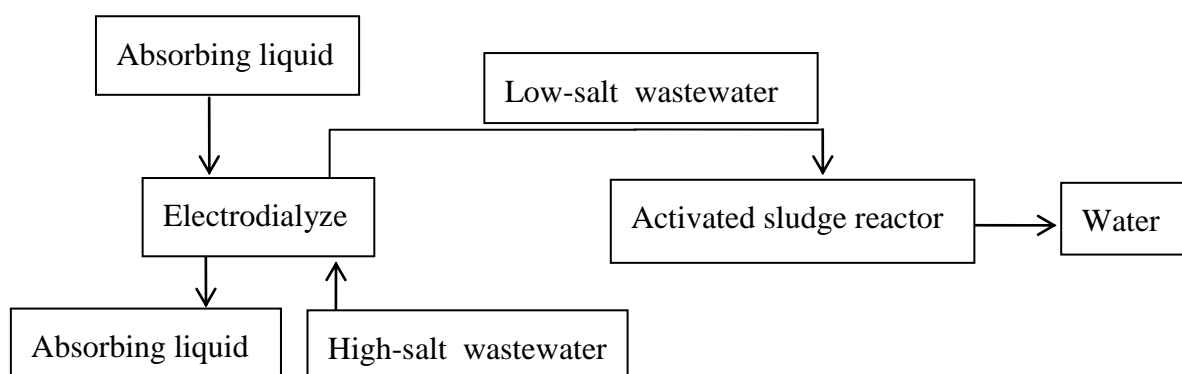




Figure 1

First, through the high salinity wastewater into desalination channel of electrodialysis and the low salt draw fluid into the draw channel, and make wastewater and draw fluid in the electrodialyzer begin reverse circulation and keep salt in wastewater always higher than the draw fluid of salt. After adding the DC electric field, ion of wastewater transfers to the draw fluid because of the potential difference and the concentration difference of the liquid, so salinity in wastewater is reduced to the conditions suitable for the treatment of activated sludge process. Then use biological treatment of wastewater after electrodialysis desalination to reduce COD in wastewater by activated sludge reactor after successful inoculation, domestication and cultivation.<sup>[4]</sup>

## 2.2 Results and analysis

### 2.2.1 Analysis of electrodialysis desalination process

The electrical conductivity of the wastewater and the absorption liquid is measured in the test process. The results are shown in Figure 2.

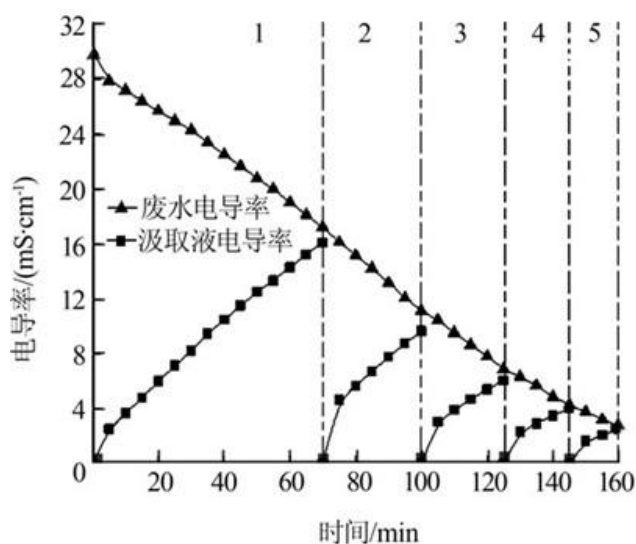


Figure 2

The electrolyte in the wastewater is driven by the concentration difference and the potential difference to the absorption liquid, which reduces the salt content and the electrical conductivity of the wastewater.

### 2.2.2 Removal of inorganic ions

To monitor the change in concentrations of ions in wastewater of electrodialysis desalination process, and the ion removal rate was plotted against time, as shown in Figure 3.

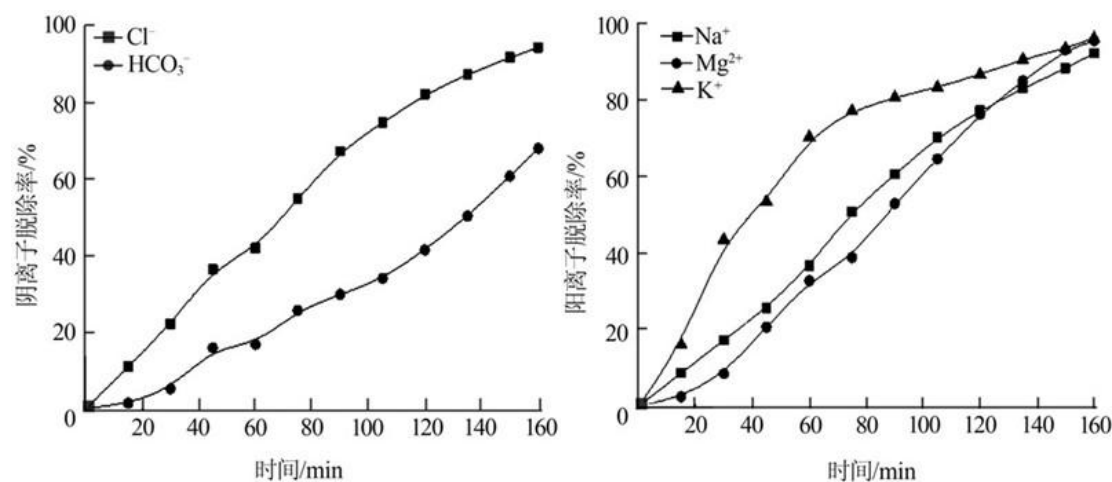


Figure 3

With the desalination process, various ions in wastewater was driven by continuous to draw fluid because of the concentration difference and potential difference, making the ion removal rate increases with time increasing.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 2.2.3 Change of COD in desalination process

Absorbing liquid was replaced by 5 times during electrodialysis desalination process. Measure the COD of the wastewater after every change and the desalting process was completed, and the COD of the wastewater was respectively 3 850, 3 740, 3 680, 3 640, 3 610, 3 590 mg / L. The results showed that COD of wastewater with desalination process were decreased but reduced to a lesser extent. The initial COD of the wastewater was 3 850 mg / L, and at the end of the desalination process it was 3 590 mg/L. By the change of COD, it was known that after the first replacement COD's change in wastewater was the biggest. Then the change was getting smaller and smaller.

### 2.2.4 Electrodialysis desalination wastewater treatment by activated sludge method

Biochemical degradation of electrodialysis desalination wastewater by successfully acclimated activated sludge reactor reacts for 24 h. The effluent COD and removal rate was shown in Figure 4.

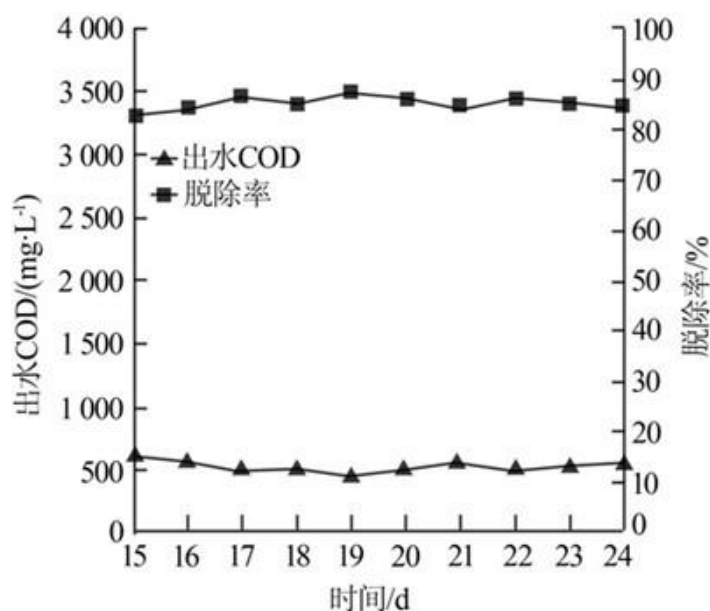


Figure 4

The experimental results showed that after 14 days of acclimation period, activated sludge reaction system had a good result of acclimation and electrodialysis desalination wastewater COD had stable removal capacity.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 2.3 Conclusion

Using electricdialysis-activated sludge process with the absorbing liquid to treat wastewater of high salt can greatly reduce wastewater COD after reducing the amount of salt in the wastewater. So I think the electrodialysis-activity sludge method provides a good new method for the treatment of high salt wastewater.

## 3. Petrochemical industry wastewater treatment

China is a developing country, water pollution problem has been very serious. The petrochemical industry discharge a large number of wastewater. At present, most Chinese oilfield has been the later stage of oil production, the moisture content of crude oil has amounted to 70 ~ 80%, some oilfields' even has reached to 90%. As a result, when we separate oil from the crude oil, more waste water will be discharged. Nowadays, the treatment of the petrochemical wastewater has been a large puzzle for the oil production. It is one of the hottest issues for the environmental protection scientific research workers' research. There are some petrochemical waste water treatment methods<sup>[5]</sup>.

### 3.1 Chemical oxidation treatment

At present, the chemical oxidation treatments which are used in petrochemical waste water treatment are ozone oxidation method, UV/O<sub>3</sub> oxidation method, UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> oxidation method, catalytic oxidation method and so on. Oxidation is generally as a preprocessing technique or in combination with other methods. The COD of Suizhong certain oilfield waste water from 628.1 mg/L fell to 280 ~ 320 mg/L after oxidized by ozone oxidation, and the average removal rate was 31.9%.<sup>[6]</sup>

### 3.2 Gravitational separation process

Gravity separation is a typical primary treatment process. Oil density is difference from water, and oil is insoluble in water. So we can separate the water, oil bead and suspended solids from the wastewater. This method can remove the dispersed oil, heavy oil and the hazardous substance which is insoluble in water. But we can't remove the emulsified oil and soluble oil in the wastewater.<sup>[5]</sup>

### 3.3 Adsorption method

Adsorption method is use the large specific surface area material to adsorbed pollutants of wastewater, it has better effect than the other methods on removing the macromolecular organic pollutants. People use this method widely in the petrochemical wastewater treatment for the last few years. For example, ET Ventues puted the amine polymers into the bentonite, to make the modified organic clay adsorbent. And he used the modified organic clay adsorbent to absorb the petrochemical wastewater of Teapot Dome oilfield. Then the waste water absorbed by GAC (Granular activated carbon). He found that the material content of the total petroleum hydrocarbons, oil and benzene in waste water were all less than 0.5 μg/L. Since the adsorbent adsorption capacity is limited, and the

processing cost is higher than the other methods, adsorption method generally used in the deep treatment of the petrochemical waste water.<sup>[6]</sup>

In order to solve the petrochemical wastewater treatment problem, finding a better treatment or combined method process is very important. While, on the other hand, we also should try our best to reduce the emissions of sewage in the process of production.

### **Author Contributions**

Jing Wang is responsible for the first part--Treatment of pharmaceutical wastewater by physical adsorption process. The second part--High-salt wastewater treatment belongs to Ziju Wang. Jiajian Luo made contribution to the third part--Petrochemical industry wastewater treatment.

### **Best regards**

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*Article*

## **Water pollution investigation for public health**

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**Abstract:** We investigated the drinking water pollutions in China from 1996 to 2006. We expected to provide recommendations for the policy of health and drinking water safety, and make people to pay attention to public health. The distribution of drinking water contamination cases, causes, effects of health were analyzed. From 1996 to 2006, there are 271 cases of sudden drinking water pollution in this project, except for Tibet Province, sudden drinking water pollutions happened in all provinces and autonomous regions of China. 177 cases of 271 cases are pathogenesis. The number of Biological pollution, chemical pollution, mixed pollution cases were 171, 92, 8, accounting for 63.1%, 3%, 33.9% respectively. Drinking water pollutions affected more than 700 million, of which 30798 people showed symptoms of poisoning or infection, nine people have died due to pollutions. The main causes of pollution are industrial pollution, sewage, garbage and excrement. The main reason is the lack of effective protection and management, water purification and disinfection; illegal grafting to sewage pipes caused intrusion of waste water. We should strengthen the residents' security awareness and health management of drinking water.

**Keywords:** public health; water pollution; water quality;

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## **1. Introduction**

Potable water is an essential factor in human survival as well as the important medium of the spreading of the disease. With the rapid development of the economy, the increase of the population and the acceleration of the urbanization process, many rivers, lakes and groundwater in China had been polluted more or less. It made a series of major water pollution on public health emergencies. To grasp potable water pollution of emergent public health events comprehensively, improve the work ability of the potable water health supervision and administration, ensure the safety of potable water effectively and protect the public health, the ministry of health organized a task to collect case of potable water pollution emergency in 2006. Based on the various cases reported from the provinces throughout the land (the reports from the media online are not included), the author analyzed the characteristic, the reason and the damage of the case of potable water pollution emergency and then offered some suggestions about the potable water safety management in our country.

## **1. Materials & Methods**

### **1.1 Data sources**

The emergencies of potable water pollution happened in the neighborhood between 1996 and 2006 which are grasped by health department at all levels. Paper reports published on learned periodical through CNKI database and the retrieval of WANFANG database

; Through GOOGLE and Baidu search engine retrieval in the network media to release water pollution of emergent public health event information; Using Epi - info software was used to compare the input data and calibration, no repeat screening case as a case of statistics.

### **1.2 Case definition**

Chemical contamination index of potable water exceeds national drinking water health standards, cause its not drinking and cause chemical poisoning incidents. Biological contamination index of potable water bacteriology indicators exceed national drinking water health standards, cause infectious disease by water.

Mixed pollution incident refers to the above two kinds of pollution

### **1.3 Statistical analysis**

Use chi-square to analyze the distribution characteristics of the case of tainted potable water pollution emergency. Statistical analysis uses SAS 9.1 software package. Inspection level:  $\alpha = 0.05$

## **2. Results and Discussion**

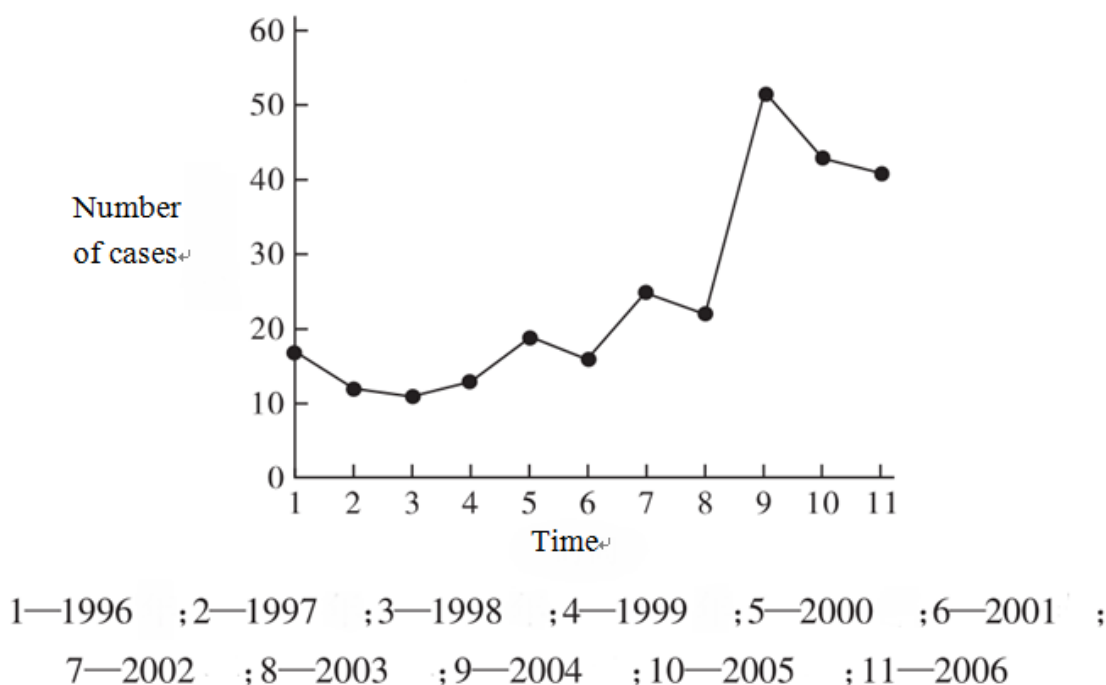
### **2.1 Statistics of Investigation**

We collected 302 cases of drinking water contamination incidents which happened in China from 1996 to 2006, including 126 cases provincial health administrative departments reported, accounting for 41.7% of all the cases, 145 cases from CNKI database and the database searching in academic journals, accounting for 48.0%, 31 cases from news reports, accounting for 10.3% of the total, which is not a part of this investigation. Therefore the total number of water contamination incidents in this investigation is 271. The number of Biological pollution, chemical pollution, mixed pollution cases were 171, 92, 8, accounting for 63.1%, 3%, 33.9% respectively.

## 2.2 The time distribution characteristic of sudden drinking water pollution

### 2.2.1 Dynamic change

The number of cases happened in every year is different. Most of the pollution cases happened between 2004 and 2006. The average annual number of drinking water pollution case is about 17 from 1996 to 2003. From 2004 to 2006, the average number is 45.



**Figure 1. Dynamic change of water pollution**

### 2.2.2 Seasonality

The survey of 271 cases of national drinking water pollution from 1996 to 2006 indicated that time distribution of pollutions has certain seasonal characteristics (Table 1). The biological pollution is obviously seasonal. The number of biological pollutions in winter was significantly lower than that in other seasons. Chemical pollution cases are also obviously seasonal. It tends to outbreak in summer. But there were no significant seasonal differences. The number of mixed pollution cases is too small.

**Table 1. Seasonality of water pollutions**

category	number of cases	spring		summer		autumn		winter	
		number of cases	percentage(%)	number of cases	percentage(%)	number of cases	percentage(%)	number of cases	percentage(%)
biological pollution	171	47	68.1	52	62.7	47	68.1	25	50
chemical pollution	92	18	26.1	30	32.1	21	30.4	23	46
mixed pollution	8	4	5.8	1	1.2	1	1.5	2	4
total	271	69	100	84	100	69	100	50	100

## **2.3 The regional distribution of sudden drinking water pollution**

### **2.3.1 The regional distribution**

From 1996 to 2006, there are 271 cases of sudden drinking water pollution in this project, except for Tibet Province, sudden drinking water pollutions happened in all provinces and autonomous regions of China.

### **2.3.2 The distribution of urban and rural areas**

There are apparent differences between urban and rural areas. The total number of urban cases is less than that of rural areas. The pathogenesis of urban water pollution is also significantly lower than that of the rural areas. 58 urban water pollutions are hazardous to health, accounting for 53.7% of the total number of urban water pollution. 119 rural water pollutions hazarded health, accounting for 73% of the total number of rural water pollution cases. The difference of the proportion of pathogenesis between urban and rural areas was statistically significant.

Constitute of 271 cases nationwide burst water pollution is different between urban and rural areas. Urban water pollution cases based mainly in the case of biological contamination, accounting for 89.7 percent of the total urban pollutions; rural water pollution cases are mainly biological contamination cases and chemical pollution. Biological pollution cases accounted for 74.8 percent of the total rural cases, while chemical pollution cases accounted for 25.2% of the total cases in rural areas. After Mantel Haenszel stratified  $\chi^2$  test, we could inferred that the difference of water pollution in urban and rural areas was statistically significant ( $\chi^2 = 36.288$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

## **2.4 Effects of sudden water pollution cases**

In these 271 cases from 1996 to 2006, the cumulative affected population reached more than 7.0 million. 30,798 people suffered a disease because of these pollutions; nine people were killed (including seven people died of arsenic poisoning, one person died of paratyphoid, one person died of benzene poisoning). The health effects of drinking water contamination including intestinal infectious diseases, infectious diarrhea and chemical poisoning. Infectious diarrhea means diarrhea that caused by *E. coli* and other non-pathogenic pathogens. Intestinal infectious is diarrhea caused by the pathogenic intestinal pathogens. Health effects of urban and rural drinking water contaminated by the  $\chi^2$  test configuration are statistically significant.

### **2.4.1 Intestinal infections**

The project statistics 271 cases of sudden drinking water pollution which resulted in 27,063 people infecting intestinal symptoms. 11,572 people suffer from intestinal infectious diseases among them. There is a big difference in the intestinal diseases caused by drinking water contaminated between the urban and rural areas. The number of people suffering from rural areas is much higher than that in urban areas, number of rural incidence of cholera is eight times the city, number of rural typhoid, paratyphoid incidence of 2.4 times the city. The number of cases of diarrhea in rural areas is 2.4 times the city.

### **2.4.2 Chemical poisoning**



271 cases of sudden drinking water pollution had led to a total of 3195 chemical poisoning. The number of chemical poisoning in cities is only 221; accounting for 1.7% of the total urban incidence, except the 13 nitrite poisoning and other 208 people had no specific poisoning symptoms. The number of chemical poisoning in rural areas of 2974, it is 13.5 times the number of city (accounting for 17.8% of total number of incidences), including pesticide poisoning (419 people), arsenic poisoning (1,023 people), cyanide poisoning (150 people), nitrite poisoning (46 persons) and other chemical poisoning (1336 people).

## **2.5 The causes of sudden water pollution**

According to the nature of pollutants, there are biological contamination (171 cases, 63.1%), chemical pollution (92 cases, 33.9%) and mixed pollution (8 cases, 3.0%).

The main cause of 171 biological pollutions is domestic waste (sewage, garbage and feces) pollution and contamination of inverted siphon because of pipe breakage (accounted for 80.1% of cases biological contamination together). The main aspects of biological pollution are the water pipe network pollution and water supply for itself contamination (biological pollution cases accounted for 64.9% together); 92 chemical pollution cases happened mainly due to illegal operation of industrial and agricultural production, traffic accidents and water using units( accounted for 80.4% of chemical contamination cases together). The main aspects of chemical pollution incident are water resource pollution and water pipe network pollution (accounting for 73.9% of chemical pollution cases together).

## **2.6 The causes of pollution, environmental pollution and health hazards**

177 nationwide sudden drinking water pollutions (65.3%) are pathogenesis in all the 271 cases from 1996 to 2006. Making up all the 177 pathogenesis cases, 16 drinking water pollution cases, caused by industrial pollution, led to 2372 people had health problems. There were 98 cases of water pollutions due to domestic waste, causing 17,790 people showing adverse health effects; Defect of water supply facilities caused 38 water pollution cases, and 7824 people had adverse health effects .There are 17 pathogenesis cases due to pesticide contamination, 419 people showed pesticide poisoning reaction. Water supply pollution in city caused 40 cases, accounting for 22.6% of all the 177 pathogenesis cases. Water recontamination caused 34 cases, accounting for 19.2% of all. Rural water supply pollution caused 76 cases, accounting for 42.9% of the number of all cases.61 cases caused by pollution of water resource for their own. Rural decentralized water supply caused 4 cases, accounting for 2.3% of the total number of cases.

## **3. Conclusions**

When it comes to the information, though there're 271 cases in total, in fact there're more than 271 public cases of water pollution during 1996-2006. In this research, facts and cases are led in as

statistics cases, instead of ones without facts. In addition, cases reported on the Internet only and never reported on the health report or document. Not all emergencies reported and registered, for the imperfect of the rules about the report of public environment pollution events.

As for the distribution of the time, the cases of pollution during 2004-2006 are higher than other years. The reason why is the mistakes people or devices made. On the other hand, the increasing attention of the people can be seemed as the second reason. We cannot predict the tendency of water pollution events during the 11 years by the present cases we have only.

As for the distribution of region, the cases in the research have an obvious affect in the types of the pollution, amount of the cases, construction of the cases and the affect toward the health. What made the differences between the cities and countries may be the high proportion of centralized water supply in cities, the strict standards of water treatment and the nice quality of water. On the other hand, in the countries of our country, the water system reform is uncompleted and industries are usually built in the countries without water system reform, so there're potential safety hazards. What's more, the weak awareness and poor maintain are also the main reason for the high rate of the water pollution in the countries.

Due to the poor record of the age, sex, groups and jobs of the victims suffered from the water pollution, the research haven't analyzed characteristics of population distribution.

The reason of the water pollution can be classed into 3 terms: water production, water providing and water utilization.

Effective protection is lacked in the origin of the water in both cities and countries. As the data from SEPA, all the water in our country are being polluted, no protection there.

Lacking of necessary examine and approve to production of the water, no degassing through the progress. In 271 cases that illness caused by polluted watered during 1996-2006, 79 of them (29.2%) is because of lack of disinfection treatment, 66 of them (37.3%) caused diseases: 12508 people ill for poor instrument disinfection (40.6% out of the total)

The main reason of the water pollution in providing progress is problems of pipe network and reservoir pollution. In 271 cases during 1996-2006, there're 77 water pollution cases caused by problems of pipe network (28.4%), in which 54 are attack ones (30.5%); 5081 ill due to damage of the pipe network, including 803 typhoid fever and 969 dysentery.

The reason caused the second water pollution can be summarized as the design flaw (wrong position of the overflow pipe), wrong site selection (near the sewage pipes, drains, toilets, hospitals, tips or abandoned mining), disqualification of the waterproof paint and a bad management of the protection of the impounding reservoir (No cap, no regular cleaning and disinfection measures), 1996-2006, the 271 drinking water pollution emergency in 40 cases (14.8%) is due to the secondary water supply design unreasonable, facilities caused by poor management, there are 34 for cases (19.2% of cases); Due to the secondary pollution of water supply in 5, 036 people, including 47 cases of cholera.

In addition to the water supply unit outside the system of water and water supply link problems, illegal to connect water pipes in the process of water unit in water is the leading cause of water pollution. Part water units (including individual) will be the industrial circulating water heating, air conditioning circulating water, circulating water and sewage pipe with the water pipe connector, due to lax management at the same time, when the valve is old and water pressure fluctuate in which lead to

the drinking water is mixed with water and cause water pollution.1996-2006 national because of their own to take over the cause of water pollution with up to 17 cases (6.3%), including seven triggered a health hazard, and 1 caused the outbreak of hepatitis .

All in all, there are many reasons for the outbreak of water pollution incidents, the psychological impact on the public and social political influence cannot be ignored. So in order to timely report and deal with water pollution emergencies, and shall report the first public health emergencies, increase of pollution, the disposal and management of the content and procedure specification. Suggest a sound system of water pollution on public health emergency registration report as soon as possible, by relevant laws and regulations or specifications to establish environmental pollution on public health emergency monitoring network; Suggestions to strengthen public security propaganda and education of drinking water, popularization safe drinking water common sense; Suggestions to further strengthen the supervision and regulation of drinking water disinfection treatment, training for the grassroots health and epidemic prevention workers, specification of emergent public health incident report and water pollution handler.

### Author Contributions

We discussed the theme of this paper, Jiajun Mi collected the most of references. After our reading of the references, we decided to complete this term paper by dividing into several parts. Lizhong Lan is responsible for the abstract and part 1.Introduce of this paper. Jiajun Mi wrote the second part of this paper: result end discussion. Daning Jiang drew the conclusion of this paper. After Jiajun Mi's edit, we finally accomplished this term paper.

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Article

## Municipal water supply and drainage pipe network

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**Abstract:** Municipal pipe network is divided into drainage and water supply network. Layout Design of Water Supply Pipeline Project is one of the basic municipal engineering. In recent years, the level of urbanization in our country continues to improve, in order to improve the overall standard of living of urban residents, the municipal water supply network requires a lot of construction, to meet the rising urban demand for water. In this paper, municipal water supply network designed for a simple analysis from municipal water supply network planning, water supply network design, material selection, diameter confirm and pipeline depth.

**Keywords:** Water supply, piping layout, design.

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## 1. Introduction

This page is divide into three parts. There are Layout design of municipal water network, Design of Sewerage System and The type and selection of municipal water supply and drainage pipeline .

## 2. Layout design of municipal water network

### 2.1.1 Design and installation of municipal water supply network

Select pipe、confirm diameter、piping layout、pipeline depth and ancillary structures should be considered when to design of municipal water supply network.

### ***2.1.2 The confirmation of the municipal water supply network's diameter***

Confirm diameter is the focus of the municipal water supply pipeline design. Determine a reasonable diameter can ensure the pipe network water pressure, reduce losses and reduce project costs [1]. Water situation and pipe network adjustment calculation results are used to choose diameter.

### ***2.1.3 Municipal water supply piping layout***

In accordance with the relevant regulations, pipeline should be laid on the outside of the road. But in the actual situation, sometimes When arranged in the slow lane or motor vehicle lanes are arranged in the driveway below can not set well due to the comprehensive consideration of all ground lines.

### ***2.1.4 Municipal water supply network's depth***

Pipeline burial depth is determined by many factors, including external load, freezing conditions, anti-float requirement, pipe properties and cross other pipelines.

### ***2.1.5 Ancillary structures of municipal water supply network***

Different rooms have different wells masonry requirements. The well may be circular or rectangular. Valve well includes exhaust gas wells and sludge wells. Choosing precast or cast covers are according to climate [2]. Cast cover is not recommended in the cold winter.

## ***2.2 Municipal water supply network's shock resistance***

Seismic factors should be taken into account in the design of municipal water supply network. Earthquake may cause pipeline rupture, water in pipes leaked, causing files corrupted or floods. Earthquakes can cause water supply network infrastructure collapse causing human casualties or damage to the equipment. Therefore, There should be two different source when designing the municipal water supply network. And when you try to design the site in geological formations and rock slope relatively stable area, avoiding the earthquake fault segment, and water supply network should be designed as a ring

## ***2.3 Conclusion***

Urban water and industrial process water are inseparable from the municipal water supply network, which is the city's infrastructure[3]. Therefore, when the municipal water supply network are designing various factors should considered. Urban economic development and improve living standards require the support of the municipal water supply network. Therefore, it is necessary to make sure to design a reasonable and perfect municipal water supply network.

### **3. Design of Sewerage System**

#### **3.1. The main factors affecting the layout**

##### **3.1.1 *Urban topography and vertical planning***

When the sewer system layout, topography plays a decisive role in the city. There are rivers running through the town or the undulating terrain of the area as well as low-lying, mountains and so on will affect the highland piping system layout. The impact of the vertical layout of the city drains layout as well. City or plain near the river, city planning may enhance the vertical ground elevation. Situation mountain towns undulating terrain, vertical planning may have a greater adjustment to the status quo topography, the drainage channel system design, not only to find out the plan for the planning of the road, but also a clear plan plots vertical design .

##### **3.1.2 land development design and road construction plan**

To arrange the recent construction of drainage channels, should be considered the city's land development plan the timing, in the planning of city limits, the sewer pipes should be laid along the city[4] .

##### **3.1.3 Status drainage system Old Town**

Since the construction of the Old Town's relatively early, the lack of systematic, lead to too many exhaust port and dispersed. This situation will affect the layout of the sewer line system.

##### **3.1.3 Other Factors**

Sewerage System should be laid along the planned roads, wastewater collection that may arise within the scope of land use planning, therefore, designed to land in urban planning the layout of the sewer system. Centralized treatment of urban sewage into position and dispersion treatment, sewage treatment plant location decisions ultimately drain outlet, so there consider sewage treatment plant .

#### **3.2 *Conclusion***

Municipal water supply and drainage construction is an important part of the urban infrastructure construction. To speed up the city's economic construction and adapt to the rapid development of the city, improve the quality of water in the actual engineering design, should fully consider the various factors on the supply and drainage design.

## **4. The type and selection of municipal water supply and drainage pipeline**

### **4.1 Type**

The type of municipal water supply and drainage pipeline mainly include plastic pipe, reinforced concrete pipe. Plastic pipes are mainly PVC - U pipe, PE pipe.

PVC - U pipe is comprise of rigid polyvinyl chloride. When PVC - U pipe used for drainage pipe, its energy consumption accounts for only 20% of the cast iron pipe with same pipe diameter .So, it widely applied in the municipal drainage because of low cost, ageing resistance, good heat preservation effect and long service life [5] .

PE pipe is polyethylene pipe, this pipe has strong impact resistance, heat resisting abrasion resistance and resistance to acid ,it also has a well performance in permeability .It has a great advantage in the head loss ,high hydraulic pressure and leakage when working in the municipal water supply .

Concrete and reinforced concrete pipe has unique advantages such as cheap, high compressive strength, good durability , long service life, easy manufacturing and low cost of production. With the continuous progress of urbanization, leding to a persistent increase of demand of large diameter drainage and rain pipe, so the concrete pipe will dominate the the future of large diameter pipes.

### **4.2 Trend**

High durability trend. The time using municipal water supply and drain tube is not long in our country, there are deficient data in terms of its design life validation , but in terms of corrosion resistance, plastic pipe is quite better than that of metal pipe, so the plastic pipe used more in municipal water supply and drainage pipeline.

Large caliber and diverse trend. The possibility of using reinforced concrete is high provided the pipe in question has a extremely huge caliber

### **4.3 Conclusion**

Most of the municipal pipeline is buried under the ground, once some of them going wrong will affect the normal production to a large extent, sometimes even cause a string of serious accident such as fire and explosion ,and consuming long time recovering it. So the design and construction of municipal water and wastewater engineering plays a critical role, so choosing pipe reasonably will reduce some unnecessary loss[6] .

## **Conclusions**

Urban economic development and improve living standards require the support of the municipal water supply network. To speed up the city's economic construction and adapt to the rapid development

of the city, improve the quality of water in the actual engineering design, should fully consider the various factors on the supply and drainage design.

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### **Author Contribution**

**Layout design of municipal water network-Lv MaoSheng**

**Design of Sewerage System-Zhang XiaoYu**

**The type and selection of municipal water supply and drainage pipeline-Yaobin**

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*Article*

## **Study on the formation of Fat, Oil, and Grease(FOG) deposits in sewer pipes**

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**Abstract:** Among the world nations, line blockage is always a serious problem that causes a lot of damage like sanitary sewer overflows(SSOs). So long, the blockages have been simplistically portrayed to fat, oil and grease(FOG) accumulation in sewer pipes. However, recent study proved the “chief criminal” to SSOs is actually FOG deposit, one compound of several calcium salts of free fatty acids. The formation mechanism of FOG deposit mainly involves into three processes: 1) the aggregation of excess calcium compressing the double layer of free fatty acid micelles; 2) saponification between free fatty acid and positive metal ions like calcium ion; 3) the previously formed deposit acts as a core attracting un-reacted FFAs and calcium ion, also debris in waste water. This paper attempts to review the formation mechanisms of FOG deposits, the factors that influence the formation process is also discussed. It is expected that this review could provide a holistic view of the recent researches on FOG deposit formation and the removal.

**Keywords:** Fat, Oil and grease(FOG) deposits; sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs); formation mechanism; influence factors.

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## **1. Introduction**

The concept of Fat, Oil, and Grease(FOG) deposits was first proposed by professor Keener in 2008 from Purdue University[1]. FOG deposit is the main reason that causes sanitary sewer overflows(SSOs)[2], which can lead the untreated sewage flow onto to streets and travels to storm drains, creeks, and other surface waters. Of the estimated tens of thousands of SSOs events, 48% are owing to line blockages, of which 47% are related to FOG deposits in sewer pipes, the presence of FOG also results to significant problems in the treatment systems[3].

So long, the blockages in sewer lines have been simplistically portrayed as cooling of fats[4], thus the liquid fats produced during cooking process can pass through grease interceptors and flow into sewer pipes, under the low temperature and hydraulic pressure of sewage, fats and grease solidify gradually and adhere to walls of sewer interior, that may decrease discharge section area and restrict the flow of waste water, then result in blockages. However, recent study suggests that the “solidified oil” is actually “FOG deposit”[4], the metallic salts of free fatty acid, of which the formation involves into the aggregation of excess calcium compressing the double layer of free acid micelle and a saponification reaction between free fatty acid and metal ions such as calcium and magnesium[5]. Once the FOG deposit adhere to pipes walls, conventional methods can be hard to remove it, and cause severe sanitary sewer overflows. Study the formation mechanism of FOG deposit may shed light on the understanding of possible measures to prevent FOG deposit from forming and blocking sewer pipes.

## **2.The study of formation mechanism**

Due to the “excellent contribution” of FOG deposit, more and more researches are been done to get further understanding of the formation and removal methods, trying to overcome sanitary sewer overflow problems.

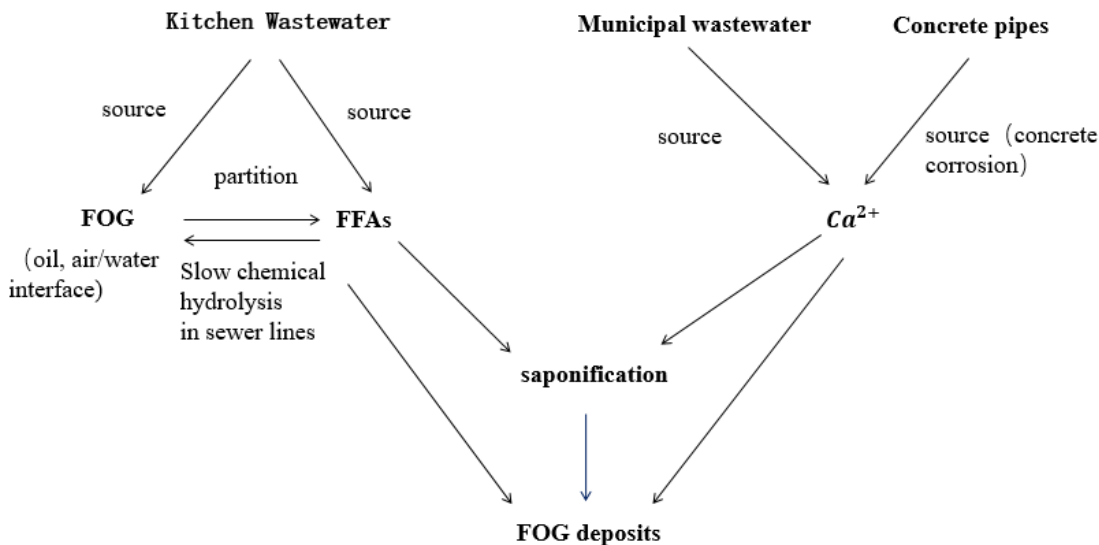
### **2.1. Composition analysis**

In 2008, Keener analyzed FOG deposit samples collected from 23 cities from around the United States, examined the physical properties and chemistry composition and developed a hypothesis on formation mechanism. The study shows that the FOG deposits, contain high concentrations of saturated acid which is primarily palmitic acid and contain calcium as primary metal, display hard, sandstonelike texture, with distinct layering effects.

Keener proposed hypothesis includes three categories of FOG deposits, the first part is that the cooking oil or fat pass through grease interceptors and be decomposed to free fatty acids by microorganisms in sewage, the FFAs could react with calcium under the process of saponification.; The second category is that the high concentration of FOG could accumulate in sewer lines; The third and minor category would be the accumulation of minerals deposits with no FOG present[1].

### **2.2. The proposed mechanisms**

According to He and Williams's research work, the formation of FOG deposits on sewer pipe walls is strongly correlated to four main components: (a) calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ); (b) free fatty acids (FFAs); (c) fat, oil and grease (FOG); (d) water. All of these components are essential.



**Fig 1. The formation process of FOG deposits**

When FFAs produced from the cooking process[6] or generated by the degradation of microorganisms in grease interceptor, they would partition into oil, the oil then acts as a carrier and take FFAs flow up to the surface of waste water. The calcium in FOG deposits also has two sources, one part is naturally present in the waste water or released from highly corrosive environments[7], the other part of calcium is generated by microbiologically induced concrete corrosion(MICC)[8]. At the oil/water or oil/concrete interface, saponification occurs immediately between the FFAs and calcium ion to form the calcium salt of free acid, this saponified deposit would firstly adhere to the wall of sewer pipes and acts as a core, attracting un-reacted free fatty acid in the water, then the FFAs around the core are likely to draw calcium or other metallic cation under the combined action of van der Waals attraction and electrostatic repulsion(DLVO theory), saponification occurs between these un-reacted FFAs and calcium around the core, then adhere to the previously formed calcium salt fatty acids, leading to the accumulation of FOG deposit. Due to its adhesive character, flow restriction and other properties, the ever increasing FOG deposit would block sewer pipes and finally cause SSOs accidents. As time goes by, the adhesive FOG deposit becomes harder, making it more difficult to remove adopting ordinary methods[5].

### 3. Factors that influence the properties

#### 3.1. FFAs

There are a lot of free fatty acids in FOG deposit, and the acids are mainly divided into three types: (1) saturated fatty acid, with palmitic(C16:0) be the primary acid; (2) monounsaturated fatty acid, like oleic(C18:1); (3) polyunsaturated fatty acid, mainly linoleic(C18:2).

### **3.1.1. Source**

The types of fatty acids detected in FOG deposit are due to the types of oil or fat involved in reaction[9]. According to researches, palmitic acid has the highest concentration in FOG deposits, the abundance of palmitic in waste water and accumulation in the deposits are probably relevant to these factors: a) during the cooking process, unsaturated fatty acids are likely to convert to palmitic under high temperature[10]; b) fat and oil that rich in unsaturated fatty acid like oleic and linoleic, could be decomposed to saturated fatty acid by enzymes in grease interceptor[11].

FFAs have conversion process in sewer lines. Williams' experiments analyzed the FFAs' properties in FOG deposit sampled from different sections in one sewer line, found that the unsaturated to saturated fatty acid ratio in FOG deposit near the origin pipe is clearly higher than the ratio in FOG deposit collected from the terminal of sewer pipe. This finding proved the hypothesis that conversion from unsaturated fatty acid((C18:1), (C18:2)) to saturated fatty acid (C16:0) exist, and the conversion may be related to hydrolysis and hydrogenation of anaerobia in waste water[4].

### **3.1.2. Influence**

Different free fatty acid formed FOG deposit has different characters. When saturated fatty acid, like palmitic, react with calcium, less adhesive solids are formed, with less corrosion to the concrete surface. However, unsaturated fatty acid based FOG deposit has quite different characters, the adhesiveness and corrosivity strengthen with the number of double bonds increasing. Thus, the oleic formed FOG deposit is stickier than palmitic formed solids but less than linoleic, more corrosive on the concrete surface but less than linoleic[12].

## **3.2. Calcium**

The changes of physical characters of FOG deposit like the melting point and hardness can be attributed to calcium ion. When the concentration of calcium ion increases, the melting point and hardness of FOG deposit would relatively turn high, as well as its cohesion.

### **3.2.1. Source**

Then concentration of calcium ions is high in waste water, and the calcium ions are mainly from two parts: (1) calcium ions are naturally present in domestic and industry waste water, when dumped into sewers, the concentration in sewers turn high; (2) another possible source of calcium in sewer system is concrete. Hammerton (1944) described corrosion of concrete sewers as early as 1944, and the mechanisms include the dissolution of calcium compounds from concrete by acids generated by H<sub>2</sub>S released from anaerobic bacteria, as well as the microbial induced concrete corrosion(MICC)[8]. In the MICC process, the generation of sulfuric acid is a key point. Besides, the

pH value in waste water is crucially important for which can influence corrosion effects and calcium ions release[12].

There are other factors that influence the corrosion of concrete sewer pipes, like the biofilm formed on the pipes surface, shapes of sewer pipes, composition of waste water, the sewage flow properties and concrete material. These complex factors are difficult to mimic under laboratory conditions.

### **3.2.2. Calcium existence in FOG deposits**

Based on Keener and He's researches, Williams made further investigation about the formation mechanism and factors that influence properties of FOG deposit, then proposed his hypothesis: the molar ratio for saponification should be 2:1 between free fatty acid and calcium ion. However, they analysis showed approximately 0,27mol Ca/g FOG, and 0.000614mol FFA/g FOG, with evident excess of Ca concentration in FOG deposit. The Ca rich may due to the aggregation by "biofilm" which is common in sewage systems[13], on the other hand, the existence of calcium can also help to form "biofilm". This hypothesis is still to be confirmed[4].

Mahbuba synthesized FOG deposits using different calcium salts ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ,  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) and FFAs in laboratory, studied their properties. The result showed that calcium concentration is related to solubility of different calcium salt. Calcium chlorite made deposit appeared to be whitish and soft, granular and extremely white with calcium sulfate, brown and tough with calcium hydroxide. All kinds of FOG deposits left undisturbed for a period of time would be denser and hard probably attributed to the vaporization of moisture in the solids. When the hardened FOG deposits stick to sewer walls, the removal work would be extremely hard to do[9].

### **3.3. Other factors**

There are other factors that can influence properties of FOG deposits, like water hardness, pH and temperature.

The formation of FOG deposit is affected by water hardness, when water hardness is high, the melting point and hardness of FOG deposit turn relatively high. What's more, the oil content would also be high, this may probably lead to increase of deposits[4]. As for the pH factor, it mainly has two aspects of influences: a) different pH conditions change solubility of calcium salts, then influence the properties of FOG deposit; b) on low pH condition, the corrosion velocity on concrete surface turns high and will release excess calcium ions into waste water, this will accelerate the saponification between calcium ion and fatty acids[9].

## **4. Conclusions and implications**

Among the world nations, line blockage is always a serious problem that causes a lot of damage like sanitary sewer overflows(SSOs). So long, the blockages have been simplistically portrayed to fat, oil and grease(FOG) accumulation in sewer pipes. However, recent study proved the "chief criminal" to SSOs is actually FOG deposit, one compound of several calcium salts of free fatty acids. The

formation mechanism of FOG deposit mainly involves into three processes: 1) the aggregation of excess calcium compressing the double layer of free fatty acid micelles; 2) saponification between free fatty acid and positive metal ions like calcium ion; 3) the previously formed deposit acts as a core attracting un-reacted FFAs and calcium ion, also debris in waste water. The formation of FOG deposit can be affected by many factors like calcium salt and FFA types, FOG concentration, water hardness, pH value and temperature. Attention should also be paid to studying the further formation mechanisms and factors the influence the properties of FOG deposits.

### Authors Contributions

1. Zhengyang Gu: Abstract, Part1, Part 2;
2. Wuyi Huang: Part 3.1;
3. Shunyi Wang: Part 3.2;
4. Ansheng Zhou: Part 3.3, Part4

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*Article*

## **The brief introduction of forward osmosis: mechanisms and developments**

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**Abstract:** The forward osmosis (FO) has been a potential and state-of-the-art composition of membrane technology nowadays, which means that the latest FO studies have attracted numerous attentions. The past decades have witnessed our efforts in revealing the mechanisms of FO and promoting its potential applications in our water treatment industry. This article briefly introduces the mechanisms of FO and indicates the inevitable challenges and obstacles preventing FO from a stable and long-term applications, illustrating with figures. Given that forward osmosis has scores of similarities with reverse osmosis (RO), we also make a compare with reverse RO in order to demonstrate the pressing need of FO research in the future. Finally, we review current applications and indicate the prospect of FO.

**Keywords:** Forward osmosis; Reverse osmosis; membrane; Feed solution; Draw solution; Hydraulic pressure; Osmotic pressure

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### **1. Introduction**

The membrane technology has been practically applied to water treatment since 1960s, developing to a considerable scale of industrial application at present. When it comes to the industrial application

of water membrane treatment, RO is a much more universal method than FO, which means FO followed RO as an emerging technology to be further discussed. On the efforts to search for an energy-efficient and economic alternative of seawater desalination, the FO technology is invented and studied as the potential method to solve global water crisis [1-2]. Besides, as an emerging method of membrane-based technology, FO is expected to tremendously contribute to wastewater treatment, and industrial wastes treatment. What's more, the FO water treatment has been put into application in several developed countries like the US.

With the summarized analysis of the mechanisms, advantages, facing challenges and the application of FO, we try to make a brief introduction on the development of FO in the latest period.

## **2. Mechanisms of forward osmosis**

### **2.1. The concept of osmosis**

The concept of osmosis is known by everyone as a process that water was transported across a selectively permeable membrane. The target solute is held back or allowed to cross the porous membrane. As a result, the solute was separated from solvent.

Such transport process, which is from the region of high chemical potential to the region of low chemical potential, is driven by osmotic pressure.

### **2.2. The process of reverse osmosis (RO)**

In RO process, a high hydraulic pressure is used to force water across a semipermeable membrane against the osmotic pressure, which means that the tendency of RO is reverse compared with traditional osmosis.

The key factor of RO is an external driving force applied to the feed solution, accompanied by the pure water through the semipermeable membrane from the region of low chemical potential to the region of high chemical potential. The result of RO is the direct pure water separated from high concentration solution.

### **2.3. The process of forward osmosis (FO)**

In contrast to RO process, FO process is the natural osmosis process that resulting in water transport from the region of high chemical potential to the region of low chemical potential. The differences of the solute concentration of the two region can account for the osmotic pressure, which is the driving force of FO [3].

In order to achieve FO process, solutions with different concentration are placed adjacently separated by the selectively membrane. The solution with high concentration is draw solution with low chemical potential. On the contrary, the solution with low concentration is feed solution with high chemical potential. As a result, the feed solution get concentrated while highly concentrated draw solution get diluted.

### **2.4. The derivative of FO: PRO**



Pressure-retarded osmosis (PRO) is another category of FO. It has an external driving force applied to the draw solution, which seems like the external driving force of RO. What distinguishes PRO from RO is the strength of osmotic pressure differential and the hydraulic pressure.

When it comes to PRO, the strength of hydraulic pressure is lower compared with the osmotic pressure differential across the membrane. Accordingly, pure water pass through the selectively semipermeable membrane, from feed solution (high chemical potential) to draw solution (low chemical potential) [3]. What can be speculated is that the direction of PRO will reverse with the strength of hydraulic pressure becoming higher than osmotic pressure differential, thus RO process beginning.

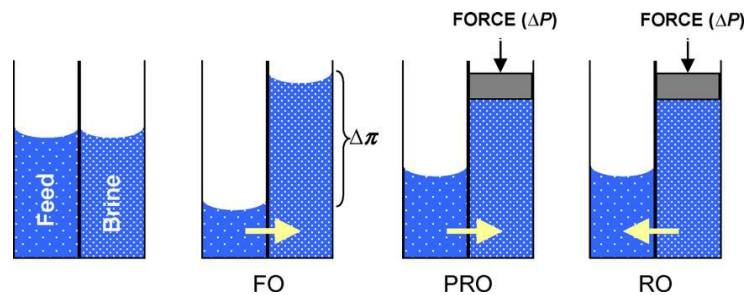


Fig.1 briefly illustration of FO, RO and PRO [4]

## 2.5. The mathematical modeling of FO

There is a common mathematical modeling of FO, RO and PRO. The general equation to describe water flux is as follows:

$$J_w = A \cdot (\sigma \cdot \Delta\pi - \Delta P)$$

$J_w$  is the water flux,  $A$  is the water permeability constant of membrane,  $\sigma$  is the reflection coefficient,  $\Delta\pi$  is the osmotic pressure differential,  $\Delta P$  is the applied hydraulic pressure. The relationship between water flux directions and driving forces were characterized in 1981 [3].

As for FO process, there is no hydraulic pressure applied, which means that the  $\Delta P$  equal to 0. Accordingly, the equation of FO is as follows:

$$J_w = A \cdot \sigma \cdot \Delta\pi = A \cdot \sigma \cdot (\pi_{draw} - \pi_{feed})$$

$\pi_{draw}$  is the osmotic pressure of draw solution,  $\pi_{feed}$  is the osmotic pressure of feed solution.

## 3. The technical features of FO

### 3.1. The membrane

The selectively semipermeable membrane, which should allow water to cross while reject solutes, is the crucial module of FO device. Generally, the FO membrane must maintain high water flux, high

rejection of solutes, low membrane fouling, hydrophobic, long-term chemical and mechanical resistance, and so on.

Many researches have been carried out to test membrane of all kinds of materials to select a appropriate membrane, such as the outer membrane of calf's intestine, pig's bladders, porcelain, and rubber [5].

In 1990s, Hydration Technologies Inc., a company of US, invented a new membrane for FO. This membrane is made of cellulose triacetate (CTA). Compared with standard RO membrane, it has no thick porous support layer but a layer of embedded polyester mesh [4]. This innovative membrane with high solute rejection has been commercially promoted universally.

### **3.2. The draw solution**

Another crucial component of FO device is the draw solution. Draw solution is a applied solution to draw the water through selectively semipermeable membrane. The demand of draw solution can be summarized to two aspects. One aspect is its high osmotic pressure relatively, thus enabling the spontaneous water flow. Another aspect is that the solutes of this draw solution should be easily extracted and then recycled, which means the draw solution can be recycled with the same solutes [4,6]. This is a sustainable process to concentrate the diluted draw solution for another dilution during FO.

Nowadays, the mostly applied draw solution is NaCl solution, due to its high solubility and character of being easily re-concentrated with RO.

### **3.3. The advantages of FO compared with RO**

As mentioned previously, RO is developed based on RO. That means compared with RO, FO has some unique potential advantages. Self-driven process with no or low external hydraulic pressure applied accounts for a series of benefits. The energy consumption of FO is likely to be less than RO. Moreover, studies has presented that the membrane fouling of FO is relatively lower and reversible [7,8,2].

Fallowing the process of draw solution diluted,the recovery of diluted draw solution, where energy must be required, is significant for the reduction of overall energy. Studies have demonstrated that the hybrid system called FO-RO system, can potentially reduce the overall energy compared to standalone RO by driving the seawater salinity down in the FO dilution step [9,10,11]. If the regeneration of draw solution become more economically feasible, this technology has a more promising future.

## **4. Current challenges of FO**

There are some limiting factors of FO such as concentration polarization, membrane fouling and reverse solute flux.

### **4.1. Concentration polarization**

Concentration polarization, resulted by concentration difference across selective semipermeable membrane, is a phenomenon arising in all kinds of membrane separation processes, whether the process is driven by hydraulic pressure or osmotic pressure. Concentration polarization have an important reverse impact on membrane flux in the process both of forward osmosis and reverse osmosis.

#### **4.1.1. External concentration polarization (ECP)**

The phenomenon of external concentration polarization generally occurred in the active surface of the membrane that facing the feed solution directly [11]. Solutes of feed solution concentrated on the active surface, thus developing the concentration difference with around solution. That accounts for decrease of osmotic pressure , and furthermore, decrease of water flux.

#### **4.1.2. Internal concentration polarization (ICP)**

The phenomenon of internal concentration polarization occurs within the porous membrane support layer rather than nearby of the membrane surface. When water and solutes cross the selective semipermeable membrane, solutes hardly achieve penetration and is rejected, thus causes ICP [11]. Similarly, the osmotic pressure is decreased, which impact water flux.

Compared with ECP, where the CP occurs in the out surface of membrane, ICP develops inside the structure of membrane. So, in general, it can hardly rely on increasing cross-flow velocity to remove ICP, which means that ICP is the key factor in the impact of flux falling [11,12].

Furthermore, asymmetry FO membranes makes the CP phenomena more complex.

#### **4.2. Membrane fouling**

Membrane fouling is a process that solutions or particles are deposited on a membrane surface or in membrane pores. Membrane fouling is inevitable to when it comes to membrane separation.

The organic, inorganic, colloidal, and microbial fouling has been studied previously [13]. As what we have introduced above, the membrane fouling of FO is considerably smaller than RO. Moreover, researches have demonstrated that membrane fouling in FO is almost completely reversible while it is irreversible in RO [14].

The characteristics of membrane is also related to membrane fouling. Characteristics of the film itself are not only with factors related to membrane fouling, membrane hydrophilic, charged properties, pore size and distribution width, structure , the membrane porosity and surface roughness, but also with membrane structures, operations conditions,such as temperature, pH, salt concentration, solute characteristics, feed flow rate, pressure, etc [9].

#### **4.3. Reverse solute flux**

Reverse mole solute flux is mainly driven by the impact of the diffusion coefficient. The larger diffusion coefficient is, the larger the mole reverse flux getting. Meanwhile, water can dissociate into ions in the electrolyte solute, and therefore higher than the osmotic pressure of the electrolyte solution neutral solute, so it produces significantly higher water flux.

When the water flux is large, solute transfer drive will be limited. That means, in FO process, in order to reduce the negative impact caused by the reverse transmission of the driving solute, improving the permeability of the membrane is also important [11].

### **5. Current applications of FO**

### 5.1. Desalination

As what we have mentioned above, with the development of RO, FO has also been proposed for removing salts from saline since the 1970s [2]. However, limited by the economic and technical feasibility, FO for desalination has not been popularized commercially in a large scale.

The desalination process involves dilution of draw solution and fresh water extraction from diluted solution (final regeneration of draw solution). The differences between FO methods mainly lie on the final process of a desalination circulation, the method to regenerate draw solution. There are two kinds of categories recommended. One method is to heat the diluted draw solution, which can be decomposed into volatile gases, similar to distillation [2]. Another method utilizes water soluble salt as the solutes of draw solution. Fresh water is produced by other methods such as FO-NF system [17], FO-RO system [18].

### 5.2. Life-support systems

Space station and interplanetary travel need to treat and recycle water. Water, urine and air moisture can be recycled in space mission. NASA and Osmotek company has developed the direct penetration concentration system, namely DOC system for space missions in the water treatment and recycling [15,16]. Including a reverse osmosis treatment system and two DOC pretreatment subsystem, one is the FO process, the other is the combination of FO and membrane distillation process (for separating substances urea and uric acid), using sodium chloride solution and concentrated waste water using reverse osmosis to draw liquid from the diluted isolated pure water [15,16].

The development and optimization of DOC system has gone through three stages [4]. Test design of the first phase (1994-1999) mainly to complete the system, set up and basic functionality. The second phase (2002 to 2004) completed a comprehensive testing and optimization of operating conditions, carried out in the University of Nevada. The third stage (2004-2007) optimized this system, building a new model. In this process, we found HTI's CTA film much better than commercial RO membrane performance, mainly because of the unique film structure CTA membrane significantly reduces the internal concentration polarization.

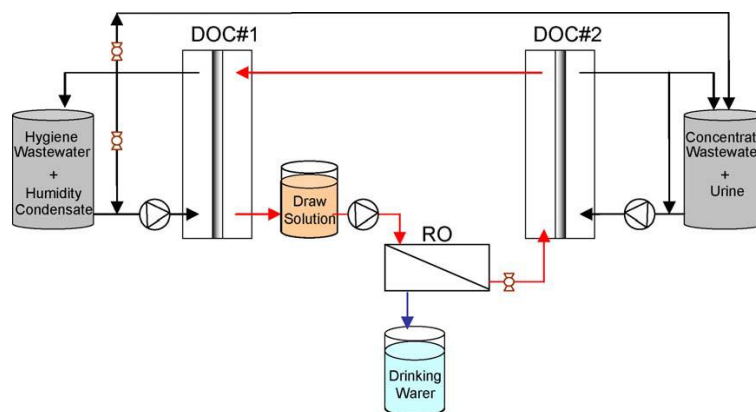


Fig.2 The original DOS test system processing flow [4]

### 5.3. Hydration bag

hydration bag is a currently typical FO technology commercial application. Whenever lack of potable water, it used to obtain drinking water from dirty water. As shown in fig.3, a sealed package,

made of FO membrane, is placed edible draw solution (sugars and beverage powder). When the package is immersed in contaminated water, water pass through the membrane under osmotic pressure. Finally, diluted draw solution is drinkable. Since FO process does not require additional energy, hydration bag is especially for field rescue and military applications [4].

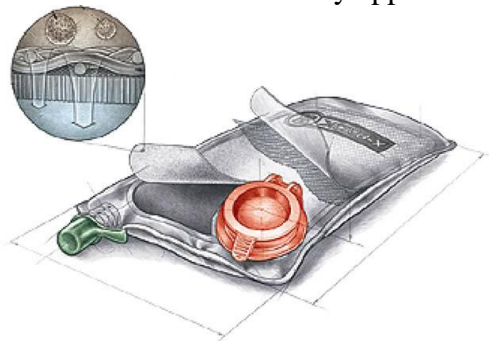


Fig.3 Hydration bag [4]

## 6. Concluding: The prospect of FO future development

As an emerging technology with merely no more than 40 years development history, FO technology is more likely to be studied as an promising idea of researchers compared to RO, which has been applied to a large scale of commercial application such as desalination. Some recent studies have shown that FO seawater desalination, as a standalone process, consumes higher energy compared to RO, as a result of the extraction of fresh water from diluted draw solution [11]. What we must acknowledge is that, even though FO possesses some unique benefits such as low membrane fouling, current FO application lack enough economic feasibility for desalination compared with RO. The commercial factor of FO related directly to its universal popularization and commercialization, according to previous study [14].

In terms of the methods that assess the feasibility of FO process, FO process can be promoted by several ways, such as concentration polarization, reverse solute flux. Nowadays, the most serious demands are the researches of more suitable commercial membranes, ideal draw solutions and economic regeneration of diluted draw solution. These methodologies, to some extent, expose the drawbacks of the current FO technology and indicate the future of FO development.

## Author Contributions

In this article, Baolin Zhang collected the majority of reference articles and wrote the “ Abstract ”, “ Introduction ”, “ Mechanisms of forward osmosis ”. Finally, Baolin Zhang revised and integrated other authors’ contribution into a whole article. Zhilin Tan wrote the contents of “ Current applications of FO ”. Yunqing Liu wrote the contents of “ Current challenges of FO ”. Wen Xiong wrote the contents of “ The technical features of FO ” and the final “ Concluding: The prospect of FO future development ”.

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Article

## Reaction mechanism and factors of UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> advanced oxidation process

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### Abstract:

UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> advanced oxidation process displays a great potential due to its advantages over other Advanced Oxidation Processes(AOPs),such as simple process,strong oxidation,high H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> utilization and no secondary pollution.A review on the reaction mechanism and the several influencing factors(UV intensity,H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> initial concentration,initial pH value and inorganic anions in solution)are carried out.The present problems and the development prospect of this technology are put forward simply.

**Keywords:**Advanced oxidation process; UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>;Reaction mechanism;Influencing factors

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### 1. Introduction

In 1894, Fenton found hydroxyl ( OH ) radicals can be generated via reaction of Fe<sup>2+</sup> with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>,the oxidation–reduction potential of OH radical is 2.85 eV,which means it has high oxidizing power. Hydroxyl( OH) radicals are highly reactive and by means of electron transfer,they can oxidize organic pollutants in the water to inorganic materials, such as water and carbon dioxide,eventually leading to degradation of hazardous substances.Fenton ,as it were,wrote the preface for Advanced Oxidation Processes(AOPs).In the 1970s,researchers represented by Prengie and Cary firstly found photocatalysis can generate OH radicals [1,2],which open the curtain of Senior Photocatalytic Oxidation.In recent 20 years,various AOPs have been found and quickly applied in water treatment .

UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process is a typical advanced oxidation technology. This technology is widely used and have demonstrated great promise for the removal of organic pollutants in water. It has several advantages over other AOPs: (1) The process can be carried out under ambient conditions; (2) H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is easy to handle and excess decomposes to environmentally safe products, additionally the equipment is simple. This review introduces reaction mechanism and several critical influencing factors of UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process, by which giving a comprehensive introduction of UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> technology.

## 2. Reaction mechanism of UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process

The reaction mechanism of UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process is as follows[3-6]:

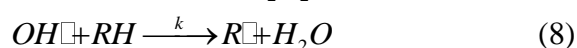
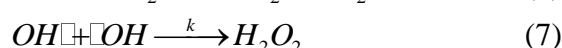
1) UV directly stimulate the organic molecular bond to dissociate and photolyze[Eqs. (1),(2)];



2) H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> itself can directly react with dissolved chemicals[Eq. (3)];



3) In addition to direct oxidation, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> decomposes via a chain reaction mechanism to form ·OH radicals, which in turn can oxidize the pollutant[Eqs. (4)-(8)];



Hydroxyl(·OH) radical plays a leading role in the whole reaction process. Once ·OH radical form, it will induce a series of radical chain reaction, attacking pollutants in the water and degrading them to inorganic materials.

## 3. Influencing factors of UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process

UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process removing pollutants is influenced by many factors, including UV lamp parameters, reaction conditions and so on. Research on the impact and mechanism of different factors is of great significance to guide the scientific research and production practice, which is also one of the important parts of photochemical research.

### 3.1. Effect of UV-light intensity

As is revealed in the law, the degree of photochemical reaction is proportional to the amount of absorbed light energy, which is proportional to the intensity of the absorbed light. Related research also shows when H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is irradiated with UV-light, ·OH radicals are formed[Eq. (9)] [7]. Therefore, it is usually advantageous to improve the intensity of UV irradiation.



Muruganandham carried out experiment about photochemical oxidation of reactive azo dye with



UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process, and the results showed that the degradation efficiency of pollutants increased with the increase of UV light intensity [8]. Chang used UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to study the degradation kinetics of reactive azo dyes, and found the reaction rate was linear with the increase of UV light intensity within the range of 10-100W [9]. Modirshahla also studied photooxidative degradation of Malachite Green (MG) by UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the results reflected that the light intensity increase is conducive to the promotion of light reaction [10].

From the reaction of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [Eq. (4)], it is clear that the increase of the light intensity increases the energy density of the unit solution, which is beneficial to produce more effective photons, and then stimulate H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to generate more OH radicals. But when the UV intensity reaches a certain value, continuous increase of the light intensity will reduce the economy, and requirements for the light source will be greatly increased, therefore it's necessary to maintain an optimal value.

### 3.2 Effects of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dosage

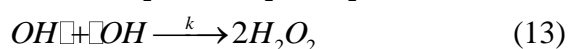
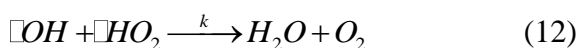
H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> can generate  $\cdot\text{OH}$  which plays an important role in UV-based photolysis processes. Muruganandham et al. (2007) [11] reported that the addition of 5mM to 20mM increased the decolourisation from 83.6 to 98.3% and degradation from 50.12 to 75.6%. However, further increase of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> would decrease the decolourisation and degradation. This is in accordance with other research (Chang et al. 2009) [12] which showed that the degradation rate increased with the increasing oxidant dosage when in a low oxidant concentration but decreased when the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration exceeded a certain value.

Modirshahla et al. (2007) [15] did research work on the UV/ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> decolourisation of Acid Blue 74, which found that at low H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration, degradation efficiency increased with increasing H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dosage but remained unchanged after reaching a certain value. Daneshvara et al. (2008) [13] found that when Rhodamine B was 10mg/L, the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> from 50 to 450mg/L increased the decolourisation from 30 to 72% and degradation percent from 18 to 38%. However, when H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration increased from 450mg/L to 750mg/L, the degradation efficiency decreased from 38 to 28%. The occurrence can be explained by following Eqs.

At a low H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration, UV irradiation in the presence of certain oxidant would be powerful because free hydroxyl radical are produced, as shown in Eqs [16-18].



As the oxidant dose increased and exceeded a maximum H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dose,  $\cdot\text{OH}$  would decrease, as shown below [16,17].

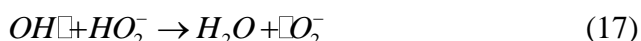
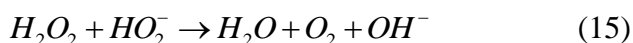


### 3.3 Effects of initial pH

Different pH values had impact on oxidant redox potential. Particularly,  $H_2O_2$  is sensitive to temperature and pH. Hence, pH is important observation content.

Muruganandham et al.(2007)[11] firstly investigated initial pH effects. Increase of pH from 1 to 3 increased the decolourisation from 10.32 to 88.68%. Further increase of pH from 3 to 8 decreased 88.68 to 10.32%. Chang et al.(2009)[12] found that under acidic and neutral conditions, pH had little influence on reaction rate. But the reaction rate would significantly reduce under alkaline condition.

Daneshvara et al.(2007)[13] found that the degradation efficiency was up to 90% at a very low pH value while under alkaline condition, the degradation efficiency reduced less than 10%. Related research showed that the following reaction can easily occurred under alkaline condition[19].

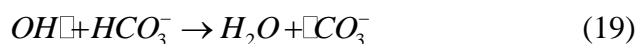
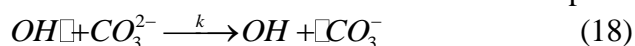


### 3.4 Effects of anions

Anions ( $HCO_3^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ) widely exist in groundwater and organic waster water. Moreover, some organic compounds release a large amount of anions in the degradation process.

Muruganandham et al.(2007)[11] found that  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $Cl^-$  would reduce the degradation rate. Rauf et al.(2008)[21] investigated the effects  $Cl^-$  of anions ( $HCO_3^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ). And they found that anions inhibited degradation efficiency to different degree.  $CO_3^{2-}$  and  $HCO_3^-$  inhibited more obviously than  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $NO_3^-$  and  $Cl^-$ . Daneshvara et al.(2008)[14] did research work on the UV/ $H_2O_2$  decolourisation of Acid Blue 74 and then found  $CO_3^{2-}$  and  $HCO_3^-$  played a significant inhibition in this process while  $Cl^-$  had little effect on the reaction.

In the free radical chain reaction,  $CO_3^{2-}$  and  $HCO_3^-$  is considered to be an effective free hydroxyl radical ( $\cdot OH$ ) aggressive agent because of the high reaction rate between  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HCO_3^-$  and  $\cdot OH$ . The intermediate product ( $\cdot CO_3^-$ ) has low redox potential, which can Significantly reduce the photochemical reaction. The mechanism of can be expressed[20].



$Cl^-$  and  $\cdot OH$  although have higher reaction rate constant, but the intermediates of the reaction are very unstable, and most of them are decomposed into free radicals, so the whole effect is not significant[20].



### 4. Conclusion

(1) To maximize the treatment efficiency, key factors should be carefully optimized, including pH, UV intensity, and co-existing such  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$  and  $SO_4^{2-}$ .

(2) At present, one of the reasons for the low efficiency of UV/  $H_2O_2$  treatment of high concentration of pollutants is that the intensity of ultraviolet light is small, the color of the solution increases with the increase of UV penetration. Therefore, the development of high power, high output intensity of ultraviolet light, as well as the design of the optical principle of the photochemical reactors the key to the industrialization of the technology.

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## Author Contributions

Abstract , introduction and effect of UV intensity were written by Lijuan Cao.

Other factors and conclusion were written by Ying Xia.

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