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Degradation Effect and Mechanism of Dinitrotoluene Wastewater by Magnetic Nano-Fe₃O₄/H₂O₂ Fenton-like

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ABSTRACT

The characteristics and influencing factors for dinitrotoluene degradation by nano-Fe₃O₄-H₂O₂ were studied, and the nano-scale Fe₃O₄ catalyst was prepared by the coprecipitation method, with dinitrotoluene wastewater as the degradation object. The results showed that the catalytic reaction system within the pH value range of 1 to 9 could effectively degrade dinitrotoluene, and the optimal pH value was 3; with the increase of catalyst dosage, the degradation efficiency and the catalytic reaction rate of dinitrotoluene grew as well. The optimal catalyst dosage was 1.0 g/L when the H₂O₂ dosage was within the range of 0 to 0.8 mL/L; the degradation efficiency and reaction rate grew with the increase of H₂O₂ dosage. With further increase of H₂O₂ dosage, degradation efficiency and reaction rate decreased; under the best conditions with the H₂O₂ dosage of 0.8 mL/L, the catalyst concentration of 1 g/L and the pH value of 3 at room temperature (25 °C), the degradation rate of the 100-mg/L dinitrotoluene in 120 min reached 97.6%. Through the use of the probe compounds n-butyl alcohol and benzoquinone, it was proved that the oxidation activity species in the nano-Fe₃O₄-H₂O₂ catalytic system were mainly hydroxyl radical (•OH) and superoxide radicals (HO₂•), based on which, the reaction mechanism was hypothesized.

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Dinitrotoluene; Fenton-like;
Hydroxyl Radical; Nano-Fe₃O₄



Introduction

Dinitrotoluene is a typical organic pollutant in wastewater, which is highly toxic and difficult to degrade. In recent years, with the development of science and technology, the treatment of dinitrotoluene wastewater has become a hot spot in the field of environmental science. At present, the treatment methods of dinitrotoluene wastewater are mainly physical and chemical methods, such as adsorption, precipitation, and oxidation. However, these methods have some disadvantages, such as high cost and secondary pollution. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a new and efficient treatment method for dinitrotoluene wastewater.

Advanced oxidation processes (AOPs) are a class of wastewater treatment technologies that can effectively degrade organic pollutants. Among them, the Fenton-like process is a typical AOP. It is characterized by simple operation, low cost, and high efficiency. In the Fenton-like process, the Fe²⁺ catalyst is oxidized to Fe³⁺ by H₂O₂, and the Fe²⁺ is regenerated by the reaction of Fe³⁺ with the organic matter. The reaction mechanism of the Fenton-like process is as follows: Fe²⁺ + H₂O₂ → Fe³⁺ + •OH + OH⁻. The •OH is a strong oxidant, which can effectively degrade organic pollutants. In this study, the nano-Fe₃O₄ catalyst was used in the Fenton-like process to degrade dinitrotoluene wastewater. The results showed that the nano-Fe₃O₄ catalyst had a higher catalytic activity than the Fe²⁺ catalyst. The degradation rate of dinitrotoluene wastewater by the nano-Fe₃O₄ catalyst was 97.6% in 120 min under the best conditions.

The nano-Fe₃O₄ catalyst was prepared by the coprecipitation method. The results showed that the nano-Fe₃O₄ catalyst had a higher catalytic activity than the Fe²⁺ catalyst. The degradation rate of dinitrotoluene wastewater by the nano-Fe₃O₄ catalyst was 97.6% in 120 min under the best conditions.

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the H₂O₂ (Hata et al., 2014). Zhan et al. (2009) reported that catalytic activity of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method was higher than that of Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method. In this study, the catalytic activity of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method was compared with that of Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method. The results showed that the catalytic activity of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method was higher than that of Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method.

Materials and methods

Test reagents and instruments

Reagents: 2,4-dinitrophenol (2,4-DNP), FeCl₃·6H₂O, H₂O₂, NaOH, HCl, and H₂SO₄ were of analytical grade. Instruments: UV-7504 (A) UV/VIS spectrophotometer, DELTA-320 H₂O₂ analyzer, TOC S imadec TOC analyzer, Hitachi S-4800 scanning electron microscope, and D8 Advance X-ray diffractometer.

Preparation of magnetic nano-Fe₃O₄

The nano-sized Fe₃O₄ was prepared by a sol-gel method. The FeCl₃·6H₂O (5.4 g) and H₂O (2.0 g) were dissolved in 200 mL deionized water, and then, 0.85 mL concentrated hydrochloric acid was added to adjust the pH to 1. The solution was stirred at 358 K in a water bath for 20 min. Then, 20 mL ammonia solution (25%) was added to the solution, and the solution was stirred for 30 min. Finally, the solution was stirred for 30 min. The nano-sized Fe₃O₄ was prepared by a hydrothermal method. The nano-sized Fe₃O₄ was prepared by a hydrothermal method. The results showed that the catalytic activity of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method was higher than that of Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method (Zhan et al., 2011; Kim et al., 2001).

Characteristic of catalyst

The X-ray diffractometer (XRD) (Bruker AXS D8 Advance, Germany) was used to measure the XRD patterns of Fe₃O₄. The scanning rate was 2°/min. The scanning range was 20° to 80°.

The scanning rate was 0.01976°/min. The scanning range was 20° to 80°. The scanning rate was 0.01976°/min. The scanning range was 20° to 80°.

Test methods

The catalytic activity of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ was evaluated by the degradation of 2,4-dinitrophenol (2,4-DNP) in a batch reactor. The reaction conditions were: 2,4-DNP (10 mg/L), Fe₃O₄ (0.1 g/L), H₂O₂ (10 mg/L), pH (7.0), and temperature (30°C). The reaction time was 0 to 120 min. The concentration of 2,4-DNP was measured by a UV-7504 (A) UV/VIS spectrophotometer at 410 nm.

Dinitrotoluene degradation test: A certain amount of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ was added to a certain amount of H₂O₂ solution. The reaction conditions were: Fe₃O₄ (0.1 g/L), H₂O₂ (10 mg/L), pH (7.0), and temperature (30°C). The reaction time was 0 to 120 min. The concentration of 2,4-DNP was measured by a UV-7504 (A) UV/VIS spectrophotometer at 410 nm. The degradation rate was calculated as follows: $\eta = (C_0 - C_t)/C_0 \times 100\%$, where C_0 is the initial concentration of 2,4-DNP, and C_t is the concentration of 2,4-DNP at time t .

Kinetic study: The reaction kinetic study was carried out in a batch reactor. The reaction conditions were: 2,4-DNP (10 mg/L), Fe₃O₄ (0.1 g/L), H₂O₂ (10 mg/L), pH (7.0), and temperature (30°C). The reaction time was 0 to 120 min. The concentration of 2,4-DNP was measured by a UV-7504 (A) UV/VIS spectrophotometer at 410 nm. The reaction kinetic study was carried out in a batch reactor.

Results and discussion

Characteristic of catalyst

Figure 1 shows the SEM images of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method and nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method. The images show that the nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method has a smaller particle size than that of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method. The particle size of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method is about 20 nm, while that of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method is about 30 nm. The results show that the catalytic activity of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a sol-gel method is higher than that of nano-sized Fe₃O₄ prepared by a hydrothermal method.

crystallographic diffraction pattern
 2θ is 18.40°, 30.17°, 35.56°, 43.15°, 53.64°,
57.04° and 62.61°, corresponding to the
standard F_3O_4 diffraction card (JCPDS 19-629), the
a corresponding diffraction pattern
(111), (220), (311), (400), (422), (511) and (440)
corresponds to F_3O_4 , which indicates that the
cubic structure.

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0.0314 min⁻¹, n t H₂O₂ d a a t
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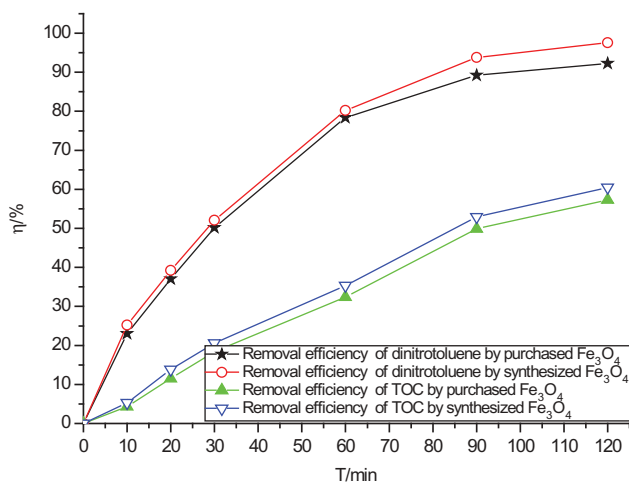


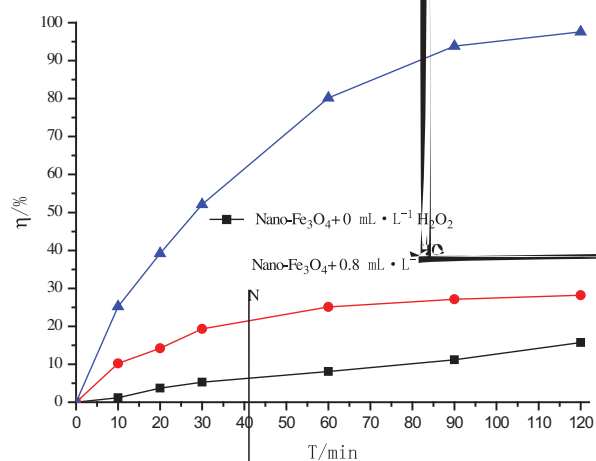
Figure 7. Comparison of the ability of synthesized Fe₃O₄ and purchased Fe₃O₄ to remove dinitrotoluene.

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at TOC, indicati n t at t dinit n n n t
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int t anj c b tanc , c a a c acti c acid
(L i t a 2007).

Study of catalytic mechanism

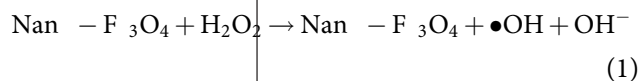
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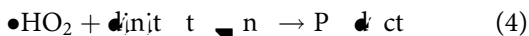
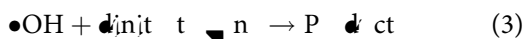
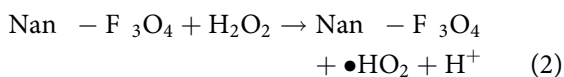
F i 8 t a t t a d d i n x c i s t t j a y
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a d i c a (·OH) x i t d i n t acti n y t m. A t t
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t t j a y b t a n t x i d a t i n d a d a t i n i c i n c y
d c a d i n i j c a n t y H s , i t i a n d t a t
t acti n y t m t i a d a c t a i n m s i c i n c y
s n a t t y d x y a d i c a (·OH) n c a t d and
m s d, i n d i c a t i n t a t t m a y b x i d a t i s
c i i n t n a n - F₃O₄/H₂O₂ c a t a y i c y t m x c t



y d x y a d i c a (·OH), i x i d a d i c a
(HO₂·) (L t a 2010; X t a 2009).

F i j c a t i n, t t a i n a n t y d x y a d i
c a (·OH) and x i d a d i c a (HO₂·), i. ., b n -
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d i n i t t n i s a n t t t m f a a t d i n
a d t i n n a n - F₃O₄, and t i s t
t y t a t t i x i d a d i c a (HO₂·) i n t
acti n y t m. B a d n t c d i n a n a y i,
y t i d t a t t c i j c acti n m c a n i m
n a n - F₃O₄/H₂O₂ y t m i E a t i n (1)-(4):





Conclusions

- The F_3O_4 catalyst was prepared by a sol-gel method, with particle sizes ranging from 20 to 30 nm and a narrow size distribution. It catalyzed the degradation of atrazine in water at a concentration of 10 mg/L. The F_3O_4 catalyst showed a higher activity than the control.
- The degradation of atrazine by F_3O_4 - H_2O_2 system was studied at different concentrations of atrazine (1.0 mg/L) and H_2O_2 (0.8 mL/L). The degradation rate increased with the concentration of H_2O_2 and atrazine. The reaction rate constant was determined to be 0.0314 min^{-1} .
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