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学 位 の 種 類 博士 (理学)

学位記番号 理工博 第276号

学位授与の日付 平成30年9月30日

課程・論文の別 学位規則第4条第1項該当

学位論文題名 Synthesis and characteristics of silica-based composite materials

including nanostructured tin and iron oxides for visible

light-activated photocatalytic degradation

酸化スズまたは酸化鉄ナノ粒子を含むシリカをベースとした複合体

の合成と可視光応答型光触媒としての特性(英文)

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## 【論文の内容の要旨】

Focusing on the organic pollutants and toxic materials in wastewater, the application of photocatalytic materials that mineralize and decompose these elements have drawn a lot of interest. Our main purpose was to investigate the possibilities of preparing tin silicate (SnO<sub>x</sub>•SiO<sub>2</sub>) and iron silicate (FeO<sub>x</sub>•SiO<sub>2</sub>) composite materials that have a visible light-activated photocatalytic property. Using <sup>119</sup>Sn and <sup>57</sup>Fe Mössbauer spectroscopy, the key components within the composite materials that are responsible for the photocatalytic effect were identified. Additional data was acquired by X-ray diffractometry, Scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopy (SEM and TEM). For the dye degradation, we used visible light irradiation with methylene blue (MB) or rhodamine B (RhB) organic dyes.

The first part of the thesis introduced the possibilities of a preparation method for  $SnO_x \bullet SiO_2$  composite material that is capable of MB degradation. The key component, which makes the material photocatalytically active with visible light is the  $Sn^{II}$  content. With this knowledge, we selected the most convenient initial material,  $SnCl_2$ , and the initial ratio of  $SnO:SiO_2$  for the best photocatalytic activity. This sample was the 50Sn50Si (50 mass% of initial SnO) heat treated at  $300\,^{\circ}C$ . We made efforts to further enhance the photocatalytic degradation properties by modifying the structure of the  $SnO_x \bullet SiO_2$  system. By doing so we introduced a novel sol-gel preparation for

 $SnO_x$  nanoparticles (SnNP). We synthesized three types of silica composite samples. For comparison  $SnSiO_x$  a bulk silicate sample, almost identical to 50Sn50Si was made. One of the other two samples incorporating SnNP, namely  $SiO_2 \cdot SnNP$ , and finally, the  $SnSiO_x \cdot SnNP$  where the Sn content came from both SnNP and simple  $SnCl_2$ . The best photocatalytic degradation properties were acquired using the  $SnSiO_x \cdot SnNP$  sample, with the first-order rate of  $(1.8\pm0.2)\cdot 10^{-2}$  min<sup>-1</sup>. The <sup>119</sup>Sn Mössbauer revealed that the major part of the Sn content was oxidized to  $Sn^{IV}$  leaving just a small amount of  $Sn^{II}$  preserved. Regardless of the type of silica composite, the  $Sn^{IV}$  content was in a distorted, amorphous  $SnO_2$  state, and the  $Sn^{II}$  was in the form of oxy-hydroxychloride. This indicates that is no chemical connection between the silica matrix and the Sn content. The reusability of the silica composite samples was examined by using the same sample powder over 4 times repeatedly. We observed a rapid decrease in the efficiency for  $SnSiO_x$ , however, the samples that contained SnNP, namely  $SiO_2 \cdot SnNP$  and  $SnSiO_x \cdot SnNP$ , showed only a slow drop in the degradation rate in each circle. The Mössbauer revealed that after the 4 circles most of the  $Sn^{II}$  content of the samples disappeared, leaving only  $Sn^{IV}$  within the composites.

For the second part of this thesis using a similar synthesis route to  $SnO_x \bullet SiO_2$  preparation, we made  $Fe_2O_3$  nanoparticles (FeNP), a bulk  $Fe_2O_3$  sample (FeGEL) and  $FeO_x \bullet SiO_2$  silicate-based composite samples, namely  $FeSiO_x$ ,  $SiO_2 \bullet FeNP$  and  $FeSiO_x \bullet FeNP$ . The MB dye degradation results showed poor performance compared to  $SnO_x \bullet SiO_2$  where the highest first-order rate constant was  $(1.26\pm0.03)\cdot10^{-3}$  min<sup>-1</sup> with FeGEL heat treated at 1000 °C. This sample also had one of the largest amounts of hematite in its structure according to the Mössbauer spectrum, which is the key component in the photocatalytic activity concerning  $Fe_2O_3$  materials. The silica-based samples are quite different from each other, the  $FeSiO_x$  contained mostly  $Fe^{II}$  in the form of  $Fe_2SiO_4$  which is not photocatalytically active. The  $SiO_2 \bullet FeNP$  composite was made out of hematite, and the  $FeSiO_x \bullet FeNP$  contained both phases. This large amount of  $Fe^{II}$  was caused by the remaining organic component of the initial silica base, which reduced the  $Fe^{III}$  through the synthesis to  $Fe^{II}$  forming  $Fe_2SiO_4$  nanoprecipitations.

We made efforts to utilize this large amount of Fe<sup>II</sup> by applying photo-Fenton reaction. Adding  $H_2O_2$  to the system, the dye degradation ability increased significantly. With the largest amount of Fe<sup>II</sup>, the best performing sample was FeSiO<sub>x</sub>. The first-order rate constants for MB and RhB were  $(1.57\pm0.04)\cdot10^{-2}$  min<sup>-1</sup> and  $(2.09\pm0.05)\cdot10^{-2}$  min<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. With some decrease in the degradation rate, the materials can be reused after the dye degradation at least seven times.

Both main silica systems have their advantages and disadvantages; the best performing silica composite was  $FeSiO_x$ , which showed a slightly better first-order rate constant than the  $SnSiO_x \cdot SnNP$ . The  $Sn^{II}$  content was sensitive to oxidation, which caused a decrease in the photocatalytic effect after a few circles of reusing the material. The  $FeSiO_x$  could be used repeatedly at least seven times, with no sensitivity to oxidation. However, the disadvantage of the photo-Fenton

reaction is that it always needs additional  $H_2\mathrm{O}_2$  to work.