On-line Spectrophotometric Method for Decolourizing Reaction Kinetics of Reactive Black 5 by Fenton Oxidation

HANG XU* and GUOZHI LI

Chemical Engineering and Pharmaceutics School, Henan University of Science and Technology, Luoyang 471023, P.R. China

*Corresponding author: Tel: +86 379 63180121; E-mail: xhinbj@126.com

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Fenton oxidation was employed to treat and decolourize the modeling wastewater of reactive black 5 by online spectrophotometry. The effects of initial FeSO_4 dosage, initial H_2O_2 dosage, pH value, initial reactive black 5 and temperature on the colour removal and decolourizing reaction rate constant were investigated. The results show that Fenton oxidation follows pseudo first order kinetics in the first stage and reaction activation energy is $3.451 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$. The optimum initial H_2O_2 and pH was 2.118 mM and 3 , respectively. Initial FeSO_4 dosage against k_{ap} presents a linear correlation: $k_{\text{ap}} = 0.1354 [\text{Fe}^{2+}]_0$. Intrinsic reaction rate constant of reactive black 5 and $\cdot\text{OH}$ is $7.528 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Key Words: Fenton oxidation, Reactive black 5, Kinetics, Reaction rate constant.

INTRODUCTION

Dyestuff brings our life beautiful. Therefore it is wide-ranging applied in the many industries. In recent report, each year about 12 % of synthetic textile dyes were lost during producing processes¹. A large part of them directly discharged to the environment without any treatment. Wastewater in dye and textile industry had strong colour, high COD and a relatively low BOD/COD ratio². Nowadays, there are many approaches to deal with colouring wastewater, such as biodegradation, chemical coagulation, photocatalytic oxidation and chemical oxidation, etc.

Fenton's reagent is a classical water treatment technology in chemical oxidation. It is a mixture of Fe^{2+} catalyst and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) to form hydroxyl radicals ($\cdot\text{OH}$) to oxidize contaminants in acid aqueous³. The $\cdot\text{OH}$ serves as very powerful, effective and nonspecific oxidizing agent, second only to fluorine in oxidizing powder⁴ to destruct chemical structure of organic. The mechanism of Fenton oxidation process could be described as some complex redox reactions in eqs. (1)-(6) in treatment of dye (D).

In this study, Fenton's reagent was employed to treat modeling compound of textile wastewater of reactive black 5 by online spectrophotometric system⁵. The purpose of this research is to find out the best reaction condition for maximum colour removal and reaction rate in dyeing wastewater and established the kinetic model of dyeing degradation during Fenton oxidation process.

EXPERIMENTAL

Reactive black 5 was obtained from Jiangsu Shenxin Dye Company (China) and used without further purification. Modeling wastewater of reactive black 5 was prepared by dissolving requisite quantity of the dyestuffs in double distilled water. $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, H_2SO_4 and H_2O_2 (30 % in H_2O) were of analytical grade and purchased from Beijing Chemical Reagent Company.

Fig. 1 shows online spectrophotometric system. This system can be integrated by three parts i.e., reaction unit, optical measuring unit and recording unit. Reaction unit contains a magnetic stirrer apparatus (Rongsheng Instrument company, China), thermometer, 250 mL beaker and temperature controller. Magnetic stirrer apparatus has another function of heating solution. Optical measuring unit includes UV-visible spectrometer, peristaltic pump and current colourimetric container (UNICO 2012PC, Shanghai, China). Current velocity of wastewater in system is 18.5 mL L^{-1} . Recording unit is a computer and monitoring frequency is 6 min^{-1} .

Fenton oxidation process was performed using 200 mL solution, which contained specified concentration of selected

Fig. 1. Online spectrophotometric system

dyestuff in beaker. The calculated FeSO_4 concentration and pH adjustment using H_2SO_4 were added to the wastewater. At the same time, stir and pump were applied. Wastewater was pressed into the UV-visible spectrophotometer by peristaltic pump. The maximal absorption peak of reactive black 5 was 599 nm monitored by UV-visible spectrophotometer. When the calculated H_2O_2 concentrations were added into the wastewater and computer which was linked with spectrophotometer began to record instant absorbance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In many early reports, Fenton oxidation process apparently followed first-order kinetics^{6,7}, $\ln(C_0/C) = k_{\text{ap}}t$. The slope k_{ap} is the decolourizing reaction rate constant. In this paper, the k_{ap} is one of the important parameters to evaluate degradation efficiency. Another parameter was the colour removal (R) in 300 s:

$$R = \frac{C_0 - C_{300}}{C_0} \times 100\% \quad (7)$$

Time-dependent degradation of reactive black 5: The change in C/C_0 value of dyes *versus* irradiation time is shown in Fig. 2. C represents the concentration of dye in t sec and C_0 is the initial concentration. Fenton oxidation process can be prepared by two regions to treat reactive black 5 from Fig. 2. At beginning of the reaction ($t \geq 50$ s), decolourization is faster and in the second region ($t \geq 50$ s), decolourizing rate is significantly retarded as the reaction time is extended. These experimental phenomena

Fig. 2. Time-dependent degradation of reactive black 5 ($[\text{RB } 5]_0 = 17 \text{ mg/L}$, $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]_0 = 0.09711 \text{ mM}$, $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2]_0 = 2.118 \text{ mM}$, $\text{pH} = 3$, $T = 15^\circ\text{C}$)

can be explained by two aspects. Decrement of Fe^{2+} and H_2O_2 concentration can decrease the reaction rate during Fenton process. In another way, intermediate products during the Fenton oxidation process engage in the reaction and restrain mainly reaction to proceed. From the Fig. 2, Fenton oxidation process apparently follows first-order kinetics in the early stage.

Effect of initial Fe^{2+} dosage: A series of Fe^{2+} dosage influence on R and k_{ap} has been investigated in Fig. 3. The R increases from 74.1 % to 95.22 % with the addition of Fe^{2+} dosage from 0.03237 to 0.09711 mM. However R was only 96.10 % when Fe^{2+} catalyst is improved 0.1618 mM. This experimental phenomenon suggests that high Fe^{2+} dosage does not effect decolourization of reactive black 5 in the Fenton oxidation process due to Fe^{2+} ion competing $\cdot\text{OH}$ with dye molecules⁸, which can be expressed by the eqn. 3. Therefore, 0.09711 mM of initial Fe^{2+} dosage can be used as an optimum dosage. Initial Fe^{2+} dosage against k_{ap} shows a linear correlation from the Fig. 3, $k_{\text{ap}} = 0.1354[\text{Fe}^{2+}]_0$, $R^2 = 0.9917$. This result expresses that Fe^{2+} as a catalyst can accelerate the decomposition of H_2O_2 obviously and produce $\cdot\text{OH}$.

Fig. 3. Influence of initial Fe^{2+} concentration; ($[\text{RB } 5]_0 = 17 \text{ mg/L}$, $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2]_0 = 2.118 \text{ mM}$, $\text{pH} = 3$, $T = 15^\circ\text{C}$)

Effect of initial H_2O_2 dosage: Another important point considered in Fenton oxidation was the amounts of hydrogen peroxide⁹. Fig. 4 shows the change of R and k_{ap} with various amounts of initial H_2O_2 . The R and k_{ap} increase from 92.01

Fig. 4. Influence of initial H_2O_2 concentrations; ($[\text{RB } 5]_0 = 17 \text{ mg/L}$, $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]_0 = 0.09711 \text{ mM}$, $\text{pH} = 3$, $T = 15^\circ\text{C}$)

to 98.17 % and 0.0241 to 0.0413 s⁻¹ respectively with the dosage of H₂O₂ from 0.7060 mM to 2.118 mM. Further increasing H₂O₂ dosage to 3.529 mM, the R and k_{ap} decrease to 95.22 % and 0.03525 s⁻¹, respectively. Thus, the 2.118 mM of initial H₂O₂ dosage can be used as the optimum dosage. The increase of H₂O₂ dosage accelerated the produce of [•]OH. However, H₂O₂ of higher concentration could adsorb [•]OH (eqn. 4 and eqn. 5), as a result of reducing rate of H₂O₂. The more concentration of H₂O₂, the more power adsorbed function¹⁰.

Effect of pH: The pH of the solution plays an important role on decolourizing of dyes using Fenton oxidation¹¹. The influence of pH on decomposition of reactive black 5 by Fenton oxidation is shown in Fig. 5. Three is the optimum pH from the Fig. 3. At low pH (pH < 3) the colour removal and reaction rate was limited because [•]OH is consumed by the excessive H⁺ as eqn. 8. When pH higher than 3, Fenton oxidizing ability is decreased, not only by the decomposition of H₂O₂ but also the deactivation of the ferrous catalyst with the formation of ferric hydroxo complexes¹² and the reduction of [•]OH (eqn. 1) according to the Le Châtelier principle, which should be taken into consideration.

Fig. 5. Influence of pH; ([RB 5]₀ = 17 mg/L, [Fe²⁺]₀ = 0.09711 mM, [H₂O₂]₀ = 2.118 mM, T = 15 °C)

Effect of temperature: Temperature is a key parameter impacting on the reaction rate and the product yield. Fig. 6 shows the k_{ap} increases from 0.0365 to 0.04088 s⁻¹ with the

Fig. 6. Influence of temperature; ([RB 5]₀ = 17 mg/L, [Fe²⁺]₀ = 0.09711 mM, [H₂O₂]₀ = 1.412 mM, pH = 3)

rise of temperature from 15 to 40 °C. However, the R presents only a little increase from 96.27 to 98.41 %. This result demonstrated that higher temperature increases the reaction rate between Fe²⁺ and H₂O₂, therefore increasing the rate of production of oxidizing species such as [•]OH or high-valence iron species. However, the quantity of oxidizing agent (H₂O₂) does not increase and Fe²⁺ is easily hydrolyzed while H₂O₂ is very unstable and decomposed by itself in higher temperature. Therefore the colour removal has not a big change with the rise of temperature. According to Arrhenius formula

($\ln k_{ap} = -\frac{E_a}{RT} + \ln A$), the dependence of $\ln k_{ap}$ on $-1/T^{13}$ can be linear fit to calculate the activation energy (E_a) in the similar temperature range. The E_a is 3.451 kJ mol⁻¹ ($R^2 > 0.99$).

Kinetics study: According to the reference¹⁴, relationship between initial H₂O₂ concentration and initial reactive black 5 concentration is as follow:

$$\frac{[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2]_0}{k_{ap}} = K[\text{D}]_0 + B \quad (9)$$

$$B = \frac{k_3}{k_1 k_2} + \frac{2k_4[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2]_0}{k_1 k_2 [\text{Fe}^{2+}]_0} \quad (10)$$

The result shows in Fig. 7 about the linear relationship

between $\frac{[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2]_0}{k_{ap}}$ and [RB 5]₀ ($R^2 > 0.99$). According to the intercept (B), calculated intrinsic rate constant (k_2) of reactive black 5 and [•]OH is $7.528 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. From the Fig. 7, it is observed that the lower dyes concentration, the higher k_{ap} for degradation process. The rise of dye concentration in aqueous increased the number of dye molecules in the water but [•]OH, so the colour removal and reaction rate (k_{ap}) decreases.

Fig. 7. Relationship between [H₂O₂]₀/k_{ap} and [RB 5]₀; ([Fe²⁺]₀ = 0.09711 mM, [H₂O₂]₀ = 2.118 mM, pH = 3, T = 15 °C)

Conclusion

Fenton oxidation process can rapidly deal with modeling wastewater of reactive black 5 and follows pseudo first order kinetics in the first stage. The optimum initial H₂O₂ and pH was 2.118 mM and 3, respectively. Initial FeSO₄ concentration

against k_{ap} presents a linear correlation: $k_{ap} = 0.1354[Fe^{2+}]_0$. The reaction activation energy of Fenton oxidation is $3.451 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ and intrinsic rate constant of reactive black 5 and $^{\bullet}OH$ is $7.528 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$.

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