

[Review Paper]

Development of Visible Light Sensitive TiO₂ Photocatalysts and Their Sensitization Using Fe³⁺ Ions

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Titanium dioxide photocatalysts are promising substrates for photodegradation of pollutants in water and air, but show photocatalytic activities only under UV light. To utilize a wider range of incident wavelengths such as solar light, development of photocatalysts active under visible light is very important. Chemically modified titanium dioxide photocatalysts were prepared containing anatase phase with S (S⁴⁺) substituted for some lattice Ti atoms or N substituted for some lattice O atoms. These catalysts showed strong absorption of visible light and high activities for degradation of 2-propanol in aqueous solution and partial oxidation of adamantane under irradiation at wavelengths longer than 440 nm. The oxidation states of the S and N atoms incorporated into the TiO₂ particles were determined to be mainly S⁴⁺ and N³⁻ from XPS spectra, respectively. The photocatalytic activities of S- or N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions were markedly improved for oxidation of 2-propanol compared to those of S- or N-doped TiO₂ without Fe³⁺ ions under a wide range of incident wavelengths, including UV light and visible light. The photocatalytic activity reached maximum with 0.90 wt% Fe³⁺ ions adsorbed on S-doped TiO₂, and 0.36 wt% Fe³⁺ ions on N-doped TiO₂. Furthermore, redox treatment of S- or N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions by reduction with NaBH₄ followed by air oxidation resulted in further improvements in photocatalytic activities. In this case, the optimum amounts of Fe³⁺ were 2.81 and 0.88 wt% on the surfaces of S- and N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts, respectively.

KeywordsPhotocatalyst, Titanium dioxide, Visible light, Sulfur-doped titanium dioxide,
Nitrogen-doped titanium dioxide, Iron (III) cation**1. Introduction**

The discovery of photoelectrochemical splitting of water on titanium dioxide (TiO₂) electrodes¹⁾ has led to many investigations of semiconductor-based photocatalysis^{2)~15)}. TiO₂ is one of the most promising photocatalysts, and is now used in various practical applications^{2),10)}, but converts only a small UV band of solar light, about 2-3%, because of its large band gap of 3.2 eV. Therefore, the development of a more efficient TiO₂ photocatalyst with a higher photoelectric conversion of visible light is needed. Doping of TiO₂ with transition metals^{14)~17)} reduced forms of TiO_x photocatalysts^{18),19)}, and treatment of TiO₂ powder with hydrogen peroxide²⁰⁾ or chelating agents²¹⁾ have all been investigated, but most of these catalysts do not have long-term stability or sufficiently high activities for a wide range of applications.

N, S, or C anion-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts with an anatase structure show a relatively high level of activity

when irradiated by visible light^{22)~27)}. Recently, we prepared S or C cation-doped TiO₂ with an anatase phase and S and C cation-codoped TiO₂ with a rutile phase^{28)~31)}. However, the photocatalytic activities under visible light irradiation were not sufficient for practical applications. Therefore, we modified these S- and N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts to improve the photocatalytic activities, and developed S-cation doped TiO₂^{28)~31)}.

Here, we report the development of S- and N-doped TiO₂ powders and S- and N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions.

2. Experimental**2.1. Materials and Instruments**

Various titanium dioxide (TiO₂) powders with anatase and rutile crystal structures were obtained from Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd. (ST-01, ST-41), Nippon Aerosil Co., Ltd. (P-25) and Toho Titanium Co., Ltd. (NS-51). The anatase contents and the surface areas of these powders were as follows: ST-01: 100%,

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320.5 m²/g; ST-41: 100%, 8.2 m²/g; P-25: 70.0%, 42.5 m²/g; NS-51: 1.0%, 6.5 m²/g. Other chemicals were obtained from commercial sources as guaranteed reagents and were used without further purification. The crystal structures of the TiO₂ powders were determined from X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns. The relative surface areas of the powders were determined with a surface area analyzer. The absorption and diffuse reflection spectra were measured using a spectrophotometer. X-Ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) of the TiO₂ powders were measured using a photoelectron spectrometer. Electron spin resonance (ESR) spectra were obtained on a X-band spectrometer.

2. 2. Preparation of S- or N-doped TiO₂ Powders with Adsorbed Fe³⁺ Ions

S- or N-doped TiO₂ powders were synthesized by previously reported methods^{(28)~(31),37)}. To synthesize the S-doped TiO₂ powder, titanium dioxide fine powder with anatase phase was mixed with thiourea at a molar ratio of 1 to 1. This mixed powder was calcined at various temperatures under aerated conditions. After calcination, the powder was washed with distilled water and NH₃ aqueous solution several times until the pH of the filtrate had become neutral. Urea was used as a doping compound instead of thiourea for preparation of N-doped TiO₂. The other experimental conditions were exactly the same as for S-doped TiO₂. An appropriate amount of FeCl₃ was dissolved in deionized water. The doped TiO₂ powder was suspended in an FeCl₃ aqueous solution, and the solution was stirred for 2 h. After filtration of the solution, the residue was washed with deionized water several times until the pH of the filtrate became neutral. The powders were dried under reduced pressure at 60°C for 12 h.

2. 3. Reduction and Air Oxidation of S- or N-doped TiO₂ Powders with Adsorbed Fe³⁺ Ions

S- or N-doped TiO₂ powder with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions was suspended in deionized water. NaBH₄ was added to the solution. The solution was stirred for 2 h under aerated conditions. After filtration, the residue was washed with deionized water several times until the pH of the filtrate became neutral. The powders were dried under reduced pressure at 60°C for 12 h.

2. 4. Oxidation States of Fe Ions during Photoirradiation under Anaerobic or Aerobic Conditions

ESR spectra of the Fe³⁺ ions adsorbed on the surfaces of the doped TiO₂ particles were obtained under reduced pressure at 77 K. A 350-W high-pressure mercury lamp was used as the irradiation light source. The changes in the oxidation condition of Fe ions on doped TiO₂ was followed during photoirradiation under reduced pressure.

2. 5. Photocatalytic oxidation of 2-propanol on TiO₂ powder

Photocatalytic reactions were carried out in a Pyrex

tube containing doped TiO₂ particles and acetonitrile solution of 2-propanol under aerated condition. S- or N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts with or without adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions or pure TiO₂ powder (ST-01) were used as photocatalysts. The suspension was photoirradiated using a 500-W Xe lamp, which emits both UV and visible light over a wide wavelength with an integrated photon flux of 1.1×10^{-2} einsteins (E) s⁻¹·cm⁻² between 350 and 540 nm. To limit the irradiation wavelengths, the light beam was passed through a UV-34, L-42, Y-44, Y-50 or Y-54 filter (Kenko Co.) to cut off wavelengths shorter than 340, 420, 440, 500 or 540 nm, respectively. The amounts of acetone produced by the photocatalytic reactions were determined with a capillary gas chromatograph.

2. 6. Photocatalytic Oxidation of Adamantane on TiO₂ Powder

A mixture of butyronitrile and acetonitrile was used as the solvent for the reaction because of the low solubility of adamantane in acetonitrile. Photocatalytic reactions were typically carried out in Pyrex glass tubes, to which a mixture of acetonitrile, butyronitrile, adamantane, and TiO₂ powder was added under aerated condition. During the reaction, the solution was magnetically stirred and externally photoirradiated. The light source and the method of choosing the incident light wavelength were the same as those used for the photocatalytic degradation of 2-propanol. After photoirradiation for certain time periods, the solution was analyzed with a capillary gas chromatograph.

2. 7. Band Calculation

The electronic structures of the S-doped TiO₂ were examined using first-principle band calculations to clarify the S-doping effect. The band calculations were carried out by the F-LAPW method⁽³²⁾ based on the density functional theory⁽³³⁾ within the generalized gradient approximation⁽³⁴⁾. The calculation methods have been described in detail in previous reports^(35),36).

3. Results and Discussion

3. 1. Physical Properties of S- and N-doped TiO₂ Powders

Figure 1 shows absorption spectra of S- and N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts, with examples of diffuse reflectance spectra of these powders, together with those of pure rutile and anatase powders. The photoabsorption in the visible region was stronger for S-doped TiO₂ powders than for N-doped TiO₂ powders⁽¹⁴⁾. The relative surface areas of S- and N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts calcined at 500°C were 88.8 m²/g and 62.2 m²/g, respectively.

3. 2. Identification of Chemical States of S Atoms in TiO₂ Particles

The chemical states of S and N atoms incorporated into TiO₂ were studied by measuring the XPS spectra

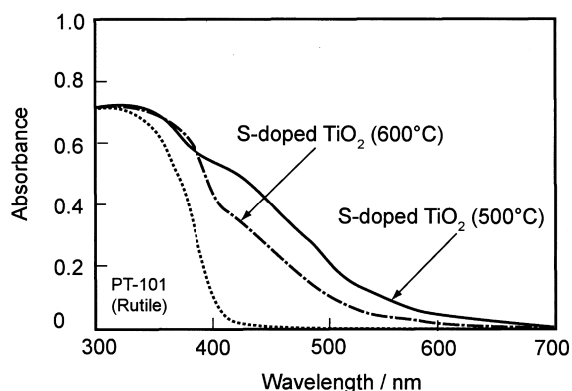
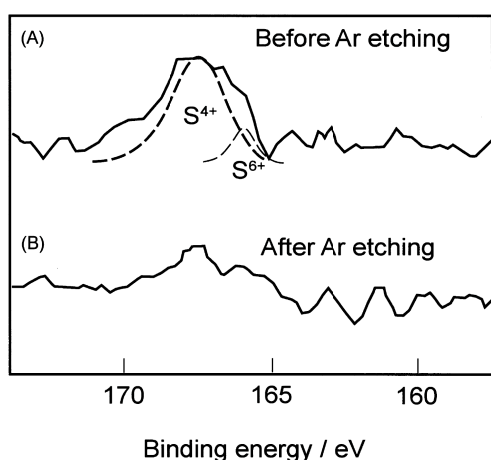


Fig. 1 Diffuse Reflectance Spectra of S-doped and Pure TiO₂ Powders (PT-101: rutile)



A: After calcination at 500°C and washing with distilled water for 1 h, B: After Ar⁺ etching.

Fig. 2 XPS Spectra of S-doped TiO₂ Powder

of the S- and N-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts. After the freshly-prepared S-doped TiO₂ powder was washed with deionized water and HCl aqueous solution several times, a weak peak attributable to S⁴⁺ ion^{35,36} was observed. The peak was also observed after Ar⁺ ion etching of the sample as shown in Fig. 2. The atomic content of S atoms on the surfaces of the S-doped particles was about 1.6% after the washing treatment. The concentration of S⁴⁺ decreased gradually with depth from the surface of TiO₂ to about 0.5% in the bulk. After the freshly prepared N-doped TiO₂ powder was washed, a weak peak assigned to N³⁻ (Ti-N) was observed at 396.5 eV. The atomic content of S atoms on the surfaces of the S-doped particles was about 0.9% after the washing treatment³⁷.

3. 3. Electronic Structures of S-doped TiO₂

To determine the effects of doping on the electronic and optical properties of TiO₂, the band structures of S-doped TiO₂ were analyzed by first-principle band calculations using the super-cell approach. Based on the

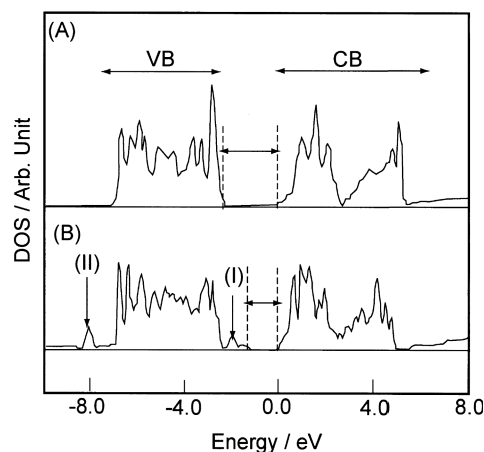


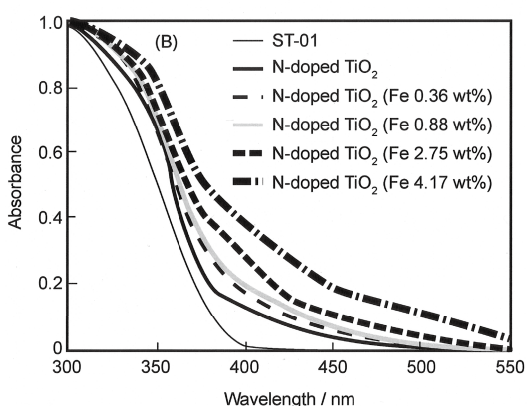
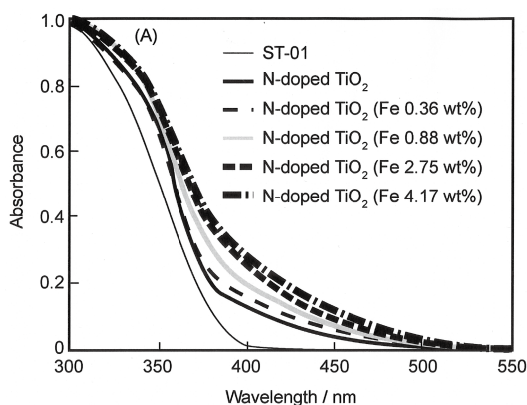
Fig. 3 Total DOS of (A) Undoped and (B) S-doped TiO₂

experimental results, the super cell model, in which one S atom is replaced by one Ti atom, contains eight formula units. The density of states (DOS) of undoped TiO₂ and S-doped TiO₂ are shown in Fig. 3. In the undoped TiO₂ crystal, the valence band (VB) and conduction band (CB) consist of both Ti 3d and O 2p orbitals. Since the Ti 3d orbital is split into the *t*_{2g} and *e*_g states, the CB is divided into lower and upper parts. When TiO₂ is doped with S, an electron-occupied level appears above (I) and below (II) the VB. The S 3p states also contribute to the formation of a CB with O 2p and Ti 3d states. The electron occupied level (I) above the VB, which consists of S 3s states, should be important in the photoresponse of TiO₂. Electron transition between this level and the VB should be induced by visible light irradiation. This process can explain the findings of visible-light absorption in S-doped TiO₂.

3. 4. Absorption Spectra of S- or N-doped TiO₂ with Adsorbed Fe³⁺ Ions

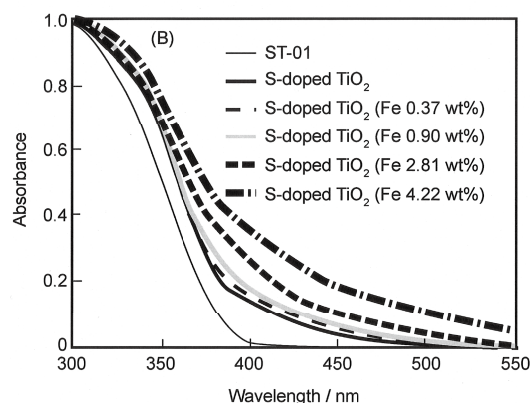
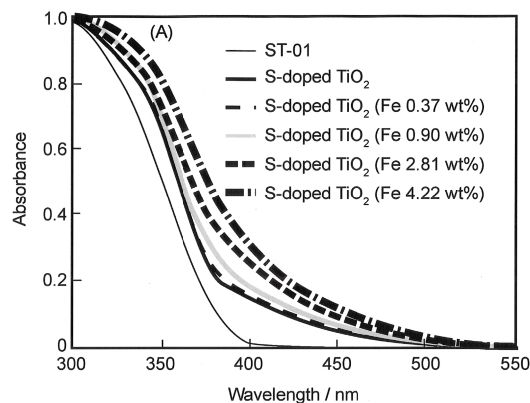
Figure 4 (A) shows absorption spectra of N-doped TiO₂ with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions. The absorption spectra did not change if the amount of Fe³⁺ ions adsorbed on the doped TiO₂ was lower than 0.36 wt%. The absorbance of N-doped TiO₂ with an amount of Fe³⁺ ions greater than 0.88 wt% increased in the visible light region because Fe compounds are thought to show absorbance in the visible light region. After treatment with NaBH₄, the absorbance of N-doped TiO₂ with Fe ions in the visible light region increased slightly as shown in Fig. 4 (B). The main factors accounting for these changes are under investigation.

Figure 5 (A) shows absorption spectra of S-doped TiO₂ with Fe³⁺ ions. The spectra of S-doped TiO₂ with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions in the visible light region depended on the amount of Fe³⁺ ions. No change was observed if the amount of Fe³⁺ ions was less than 0.37 wt%. The absorbance of S-doped TiO₂ increased in the visible light region when the amount of Fe³⁺ ions was greater



A: Before treatment with NaBH_4 , B: After treatment with NaBH_4 and air oxidation.

Fig. 4 Absorption Spectra of N-doped TiO_2 with Adsorbed Fe^{3+} Ions before and after Reduction with NaBH_4 Followed by Air Oxidation



A: Before treatment with NaBH_4 , B: After treatment with NaBH_4 and air oxidation.

Fig. 5 Absorption Spectra of S-doped TiO_2 with Adsorbed Fe^{3+} Ions before and after Reduction with NaBH_4 Followed by Air Oxidation

than 0.90 wt%. After treatment with NaBH_4 , the change in the absorbance of S-doped TiO_2 with Fe ions in the visible light region was similar to that for N-doped TiO_2 with Fe ions (Fig. 5 (B)).

3.5. ESR Spectra of S- or N-doped TiO_2 with Adsorbed Fe^{3+} Ions under Photoirradiation

Figure 6 shows ESR spectra of N-doped TiO_2 with adsorbed Fe^{3+} ions (0.36 wt%) under irradiation at reduced pressure. A broad peak at 4.4 assigned to the Fe^{3+} species was observed. Under photoirradiation using a high-pressure mercury lamp (350 W; 18.5 mW/cm²) for 5 min, the intensity of the peak assigned to Fe^{3+} was reduced by half as shown in Fig. 6. The peak disappeared completely under photoirradiation for more than 20 min. These results suggest that Fe^{3+} ions were efficiently reduced to Fe^{2+} ions that are not detected by ESR measurement, by trapping electrons generated during photoirradiation under reduced pressure. In addition, the peak assigned to Fe^{3+} ions was not changed during photoirradiation under aerated conditions. This result suggests that the rate of generation of Fe^{2+} ions during photoirradiation is much slower than that of the

oxidation of Fe^{2+} ions by oxygen.

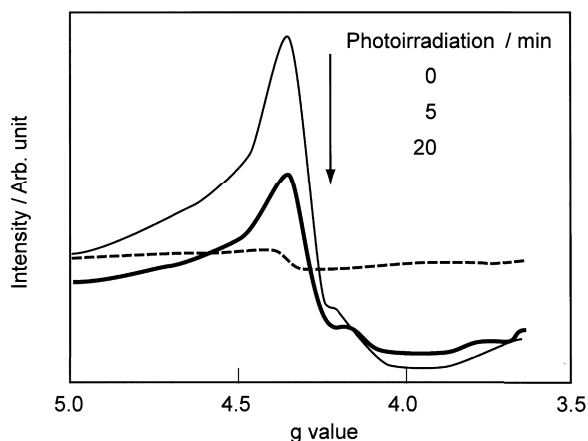
ESR measurements for S-doped TiO_2 with adsorbed Fe^{3+} ions were similar to those for N-doped TiO_2 with Fe^{3+} ions. Under reduced pressure, the peak attributed to Fe^{3+} ions decreased because photogenerated electrons were trapped by Fe^{3+} ions on the surface of S-doped TiO_2 . On the other hand, no change was observed during photoirradiation under aerated conditions.

These results suggest that charge separation between electrons and holes generated photocatalytically was improved because the photoexcited electrons were efficiently trapped by oxygen through Fe^{3+} ions adsorbed on the surface of the doped TiO_2 photocatalysts.

Changes in the ESR spectra of S- or N-doped TiO_2 with adsorbed Fe^{3+} ions treated with NaBH_4 and air oxidation were similar to those of S- or N-doped TiO_2 with adsorbed Fe^{3+} ions without treatment.

3.6. XRD Spectra of S- or N-doped TiO_2 with Adsorbed Fe^{3+} Ions under Photoirradiation

Figure 7 shows XRD spectra of N-doped TiO_2 with adsorbed Fe^{3+} (4.17 wt%) ions before and after redox



A: Under reduced pressure, B: Under aerated conditions.

Fig. 6 ESR Spectra of N-doped TiO₂ with Adsorbed Fe³⁺ Ions (0.36 wt%) before and after Photoirradiation

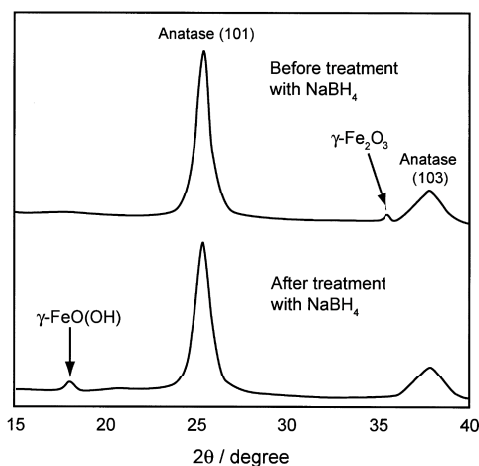


Fig. 7 XRD Spectra of N-doped TiO₂ with Adsorbed Fe³⁺ Ions (4.17 wt%) before and after Reduction by NaBH₄ Followed by Air Oxidation

treatment with NaBH₄ under aerated conditions. Before treatment with NaBH₄, a small peak was observed at 35.8° assigned to γ -Fe₂O₃. After treatment with NaBH₄, a peak appeared at 18.3° assigned to γ -FeO(OH), and the phase of γ -Fe₂O₃ completely disappeared as shown in Fig. 7^{38)~40)}. A change in the crystal structure of the Fe compounds on the surface of the S-doped TiO₂ particles was also observed before and after redox treatment. As discussed later, the photocatalytic activities of the S- or N-doped TiO₂ with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions are related to the crystal structure of the Fe compounds on the doped TiO₂.

3.7. Photocatalytic Activity of S-doped TiO₂ Powder for the Decomposition of 2-Propanol

The photodecomposition of 2-propanol was evaluated over pure TiO₂ (Degussa, P-25) and S-doped TiO₂

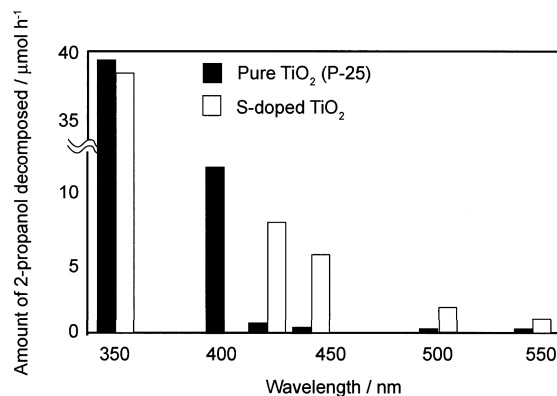


Fig. 8 Photocatalytic Decomposition of 2-Propanol Using S-doped TiO₂ or Pure TiO₂ (P-25) as a Function of the Cutoff Wavelength for Irradiation from a 1000 W Xe Lamp

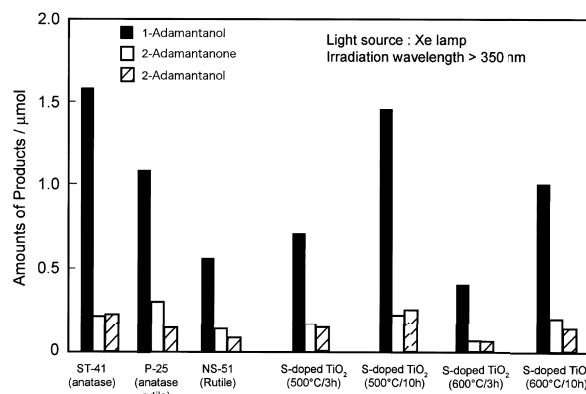


Fig. 9 Amounts of 1-Adamantanol, 2-Adamantanone and 2-Adamantanol Produced from Adamantane after Photoirradiation for 1 h Using Several TiO₂ and S-doped TiO₂ Catalysts under Photoirradiation at Wavelengths Longer than 350 nm

(calcined at 500°C for 3 h) powders. Figure 8 shows the decomposition rate of 2-propanol as a function of the cutoff wavelengths of the glass filters under Xe light. The pure TiO₂ powder had similar photocatalytic activity for the photodecomposition of 2-propanol to S-doped TiO₂ powders under UV light, but S-doped TiO₂ powder showed a much higher level of activity than pure TiO₂ powder under photoirradiation at wavelengths longer than 420 nm.

3.8. Photocatalytic Synthesis of Hydroxylated Adamantane Compounds on TiO₂

Photocatalytic activities of various TiO₂ powders under UV light irradiation were investigated, as shown in Fig. 9. 1-Adamantanol, 2-adamantanol, and 2-adamantanone were the main products using all TiO₂ powders. Among the pure TiO₂ powders, ST-41 powder showed the highest activity. S-doped TiO₂ powder calcined at 500°C for 10 h showed activity similar to that of ST-41. The total quantum efficiencies for the pro-

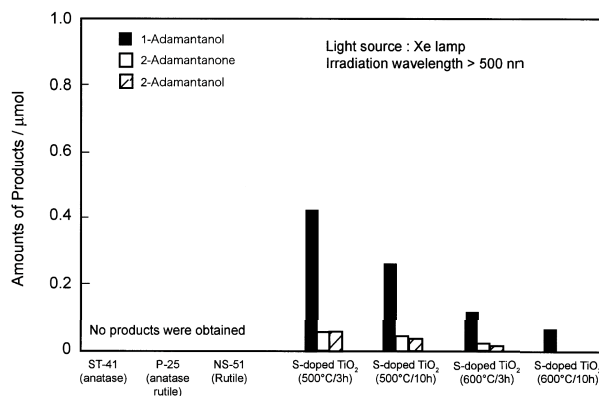


Fig. 10 Amounts of 1-Adamantanol, 2-Adamantanone and 2-Adamantanol Produced from Adamantane after Photoirradiation for 1 h Using Several TiO₂ and S-doped TiO₂ Catalysts under Photoirradiation at Wavelengths Longer than 500 nm

duction of 1-adamantanol, 2-adamantanol and 2-adamantanone using ST-41 and S-doped TiO₂ powder were about 10% and 8.7%, respectively. The activity of S-doped TiO₂ under UV light was relatively high compared to that of pure TiO₂ photocatalysts.

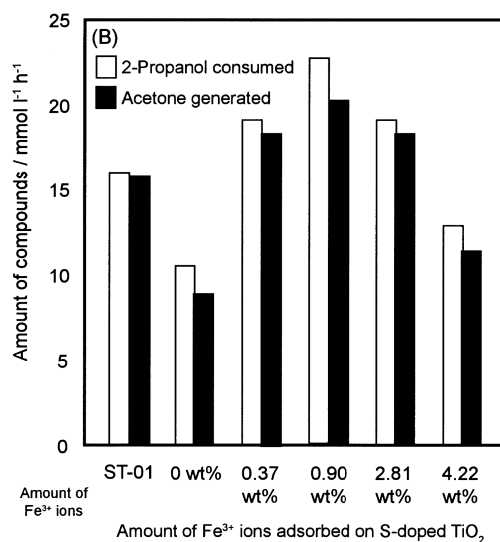
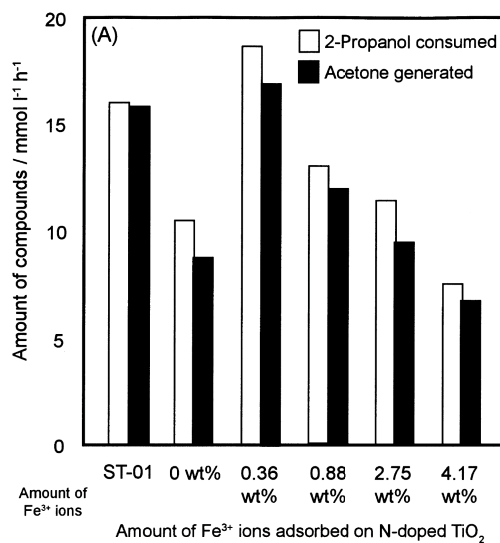
The photocatalytic activities of S-doped TiO₂ powders and pure TiO₂ powders were evaluated under visible light at wavelengths longer than 500 nm as shown in Fig. 10. S-doped TiO₂ calcined at 400°C for 3 h showed the highest activity among the S-doped TiO₂ powders examined. On the other hand, no photocatalytic activity was observed with any of the pure TiO₂ powders.

3. 9. Photocatalytic Oxidation of 2-Propanol

3. 9. 1. Photocatalytic Activities of S- or N-doped TiO₂ with Adsorbed Fe³⁺ Ions

Figure 11 (A) shows the photocatalytic oxidation of 2-propanol using N-doped TiO₂ with various amounts of adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions. ST-01 with anatase fine particles was used as a reference. The photocatalytic activity of N-doped TiO₂ increased with higher amount of Fe ions. N-doped TiO₂ powders with 0.36 wt% adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions showed the highest activity for oxidation of 2-propanol. As described above, Fe³⁺ ions adsorbed on N-doped TiO₂ efficiently trapped the photoexcited electrons, which resulted in improvement of the charge separation between electrons and holes. Above 0.36 wt%, the activity of N-doped TiO₂ with Fe³⁺ ions gradually decreased with increased amount of Fe³⁺ ions because a large excess was thought to occupy the active sites on the surface of N-doped TiO₂ and functioned as recombination centers between electrons and holes⁴¹.

Figure 11 (B) shows the photocatalytic activity of S-doped TiO₂ photocatalysts with Fe³⁺ ions. The change in activity of S-doped TiO₂ powders with the amount of Fe³⁺ ions was similar to that of N-doped TiO₂ with Fe³⁺ ions. S-doped TiO₂ with 0.90 wt% Fe³⁺

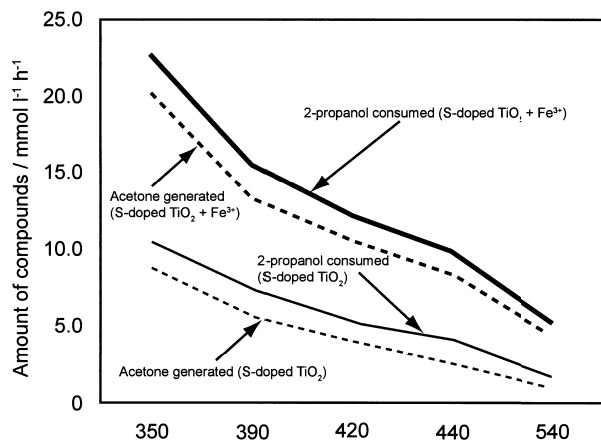


(A) N-doped TiO₂, (B) S-doped TiO₂.

Fig. 11 Photocatalytic Activities of Doped TiO₂ with Adsorbed Fe³⁺ Ions as Well as ST-01 for Oxidation of 2-Propanol under Photoirradiation at Wavelengths Longer than 350 nm

ions showed the highest photocatalytic activity for oxidation of 2-propanol. The quantum efficiency for the reaction was estimated at 2.1%. The optimum amount of Fe³⁺ cations was slightly different. These results indicated that the doping atoms, and the density of defects located on the surface of the doped TiO₂ particles, are important factors to determine the optimum amount of Fe³⁺ ions.

Figure 12 shows the rate of decomposition of 2-propanol on S-doped TiO₂ with and without Fe³⁺ ions as a function of the cutoff wavelengths of the glass filters irradiated with a Xe lamp. Although the absorption spectra of S-doped TiO₂ with and without Fe³⁺ ions were very similar, the photocatalytic activity of S-doped



The amount of Fe^{3+} ion is 0.90 wt%.

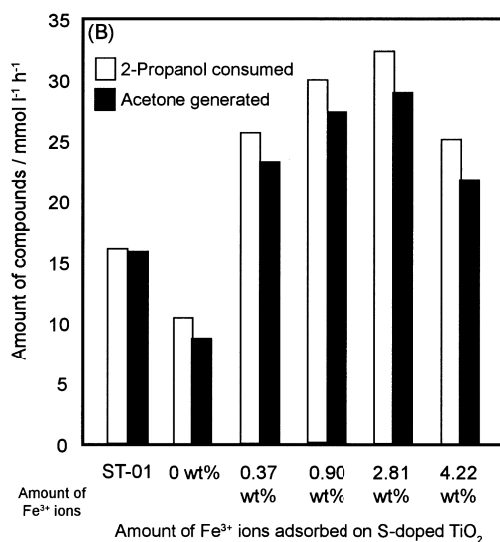
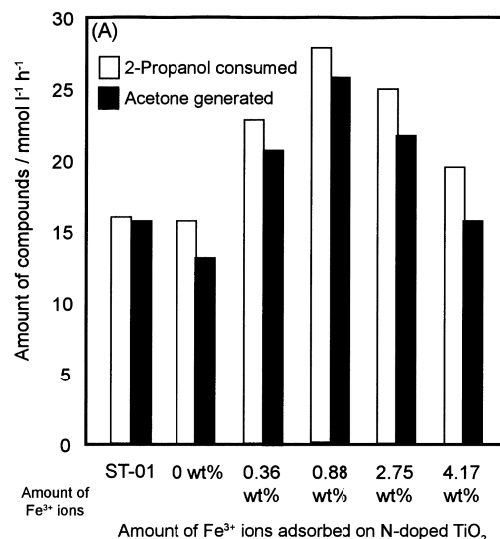
Fig. 12 Photocatalytic Activities of S-doped TiO_2 Powders with and without Adsorbed Fe^{3+} Ions for Oxidation of 2-Propanol as a Function of the Cutoff Wavelength of Incident Light

TiO_2 with Fe^{3+} cations was about 2.5 times higher under a wide range of irradiation wavelengths. Similar improvement in the photocatalytic activity of N-doped TiO_2 with Fe^{3+} cations was also observed (data not shown). These results suggest that the improvement in photocatalytic activities of S- or N-doped TiO_2 with adsorbed Fe^{3+} ions under a wide range of irradiation wavelengths including UV and visible light originates from electron trapping by Fe^{3+} compounds on S- or N-doped TiO_2 particles.

3. 9. 2. Photocatalytic Activities of S- or N-doped TiO_2 Photocatalysts with Adsorbed Fe^{3+} Ions Treated with NaBH_4 and Air Oxidation (redox treatment)

The photocatalytic activities of N-doped TiO_2 with Fe^{3+} ions for oxidation of 2-propanol were investigated before and after NaBH_4 and air oxidation. The photocatalytic activity was higher after redox treatment with 0.88 wt% Fe^{3+} ions adsorbed on the surface of N-doped TiO_2 as shown in Fig. 13 (A). The optimum amount of Fe^{3+} on N-doped TiO_2 for oxidation of 2-propanol after treatment with NaBH_4 and air oxidation was slightly higher than that without NaBH_4 treatment. S-doped TiO_2 with Fe^{3+} ions treated with NaBH_4 and air oxidation showed similar tendencies as shown in Fig. 13 (B). The maximum quantum efficiency of S-doped TiO_2 with Fe^{3+} ions (2.81 wt%) after treatment with NaBH_4 was estimated at 3.0%.

As described above, the crystal structure of Fe compounds on S- or N-doped TiO_2 changed from $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ to $\gamma\text{-FeO(OH)}$ after treatment with NaBH_4 and air oxidation. Although the main factor responsible for improving the photocatalytic activity of S- or N-doped TiO_2 with Fe^{3+} ions after treatment with NaBH_4 and air oxidation is not clear yet, the change in crystal structure



(A) N-doped TiO_2 , (B) S-doped TiO_2 .

Fig. 13 Photocatalytic Activities of Doped TiO_2 with Adsorbed Fe^{3+} Ions Treated with NaBH_4 and Air Oxidation as Well as ST-01 for Oxidation of 2-Propanol under Photoirradiation at Wavelengths Longer than 350 nm

of the Fe compounds is thought to be an important factor.

4. Conclusions

S-doped TiO_2 photocatalysts were prepared. The S atoms were mainly tetravalent. The S-doped TiO_2 powder, which has relatively high photocatalytic activity under visible light at wavelengths longer than 500 nm, may have a wide range of applications. In particular, hydroxylation of adamantane is interesting from the viewpoint of organic syntheses in connection with green chemistry, because adamantane can be con-

verted to hydroxylated derivatives using molecular oxygen under a wide range of incident wavelengths including UV and visible light.

In addition, S- or N-doped TiO₂ with adsorbed Fe³⁺ cations were also prepared. The photocatalytic activity for oxidation of 2-propanol was 2-4 times higher than for S- or N-doped TiO₂ without Fe³⁺ ions. Improvement in the photocatalytic activity by Fe³⁺ treatment was observed under a wide range of irradiation wavelengths, including UV light and visible light. Fe³⁺ ions adsorbed on the surface of S- or N-doped TiO₂ particles efficiently trapped the photoexcited electrons generated in the photocatalysts, resulting in improvement in charge separation between electrons and holes. In addition, the photocatalytic activities of S- or N-doped TiO₂ with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions increased markedly after treatment with NaBH₄ and air oxidation. The change in the crystal structure of Fe compounds on the doped TiO₂ photocatalysts is probably important in the improvement of photocatalytic activity.

S- or N-doped TiO₂ powder with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions, which have high photocatalytic activities under a wide range of irradiation wavelengths, may have a wide variety of practical applications. We expect that the catalytic activity will be further improved by optimizing the conditions for preparing the S- or N-doped TiO₂ powders with adsorbed Fe³⁺ ions.

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要 旨

可視光応答性二酸化チタン光触媒の開発と鉄イオンを用いた高感度化

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二酸化チタン光触媒は環境浄化用の重要な触媒と考えられているが、その触媒活性は紫外光照射下でしか発現しない。したがって、我々は、太陽光のような広範囲な光を励起光源に利用するために、可視光化で触媒活性を発現する光触媒の開発は重要と考えている。そこで、我々は硫黄カチオンを二酸化チタンのチタンイオンの一部、あるいは窒素アニオンを二酸化チタンの酸素イオンの一部と置換した可視光応答型二酸化チタン光触媒を開発した。これらは、可視光領域に強い吸収を示し、440 nm の可視光照射下で2-プロパノールやアダマンタンの部分酸化反応を効率よく進行させる。XPS 測定により硫黄と窒素の酸化状態を測定したところ、ドーブされた硫黄の酸化数は主に S^{+} であり、窒素の酸化数は N^{3-} であった。さらに、硫黄

と窒素をドーブした可視光応答型二酸化チタンの粒子表面に鉄イオンを吸着処理することで、触媒活性が大きく向上した。このときの最適な鉄イオン吸着量は、硫黄ドーブ二酸化チタンの場合で0.9 wt%，窒素ドーブに酸化チタンの場合で0.36 wt% であった。これら鉄吸着処理を行った硫黄および窒素ドーブ二酸化チタンは、水素化ホウ素ナトリウムにより吸着処理した鉄イオンの還元、空気再酸化により、さらに活性が向上することが明らかになった。

このときの最適な鉄イオン吸着量は、硫黄ドーブ二酸化チタンの場合で2.81 wt%，窒素ドーブに酸化チタンの場合で0.88 wt% であった。