

with each other until they have been pressurized and heated to the desired reaction conditions.

Each of the wastewater and the oxygen solution is heated in 1/16-in. OD x 4m length of SS 316 tube coiled in a preheater. The both streams were mixed at the reactor inlet. The reactor was made of stainless steel 316 (280mm long x 18mm OD x 9.5mm ID).

Supercritical water oxidation is influenced by a catalytic effect of the reactor wall. The main components of SUS 316 are Fe, Ni, and Cr, which can be formed transition metal oxide compounds during SCWO. Transition metal oxide compounds can be worked for a role of catalysis during SCWO. Therefore we assumed there is a catalytic effect of the reactor wall in addition to the effect of catalyst at this work.

A commercial catalyst, γ -Al₂O₃ (AL-3992 E, -6+7mesh, 99.9wt%, 190m²/g, Engelhard) was packed in the reactor. The active ingredients of the MnO₂/Al₂O₃/CuO catalyst (CARULITE 150, -5+6mesh, Carus Chemical) are 45~60% MnO₂ and 1~3% CuO, which are supported on amorphous Al₂O₃. All experiments except for the deactivation studies were conducted using fresh catalyst.

Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows the conversion as a function of contact time. It is clear that the activity order is MnO₂/Al₂O₃/CuO > γ -Al₂O₃ > Non-catalytic.

The activity of the γ -alumina catalyst did not change significantly during SCWO in 5 hours at a constant process condition (T = 490 °C, P = 240bar, contact time = 30sec, [COD]₀ = 4.3mmol/L, [O₂]₀ = 2.0mmol/L), wastewater conversion was gradually decreased from 0.62 to 0.55. After SCWO of wastewater in 45hours, the structure of γ -alumina pellet was collapsed into powder, only half was remained as its original form. The mechanical strength became deteriorated. The surface area of the catalyst (BET) after SCWO in 45hours was decreased from 190 to 6m²/g.

Supercritical water oxidation system in this work can be applied to TPA manufacturing system. In Figure 2, it is demonstrated that wastewater can be converted to high quality process water and be recycled. One can get almost 100% conversion at longer contact time, higher temperature or higher concentration of oxygen. If treated wastewater is recycled in TPA manufacturing plant, the recycled water should not have an adverse effect on the product specification of TPA such as purity, color so on.

Table 1 displays comparisons of power rate law kinetic model from SCWO over different heterogeneous catalysts. From the table 1 the activation energy for oxidation of TPA are ordered as follows: Non-catalytic > γ -Al₂O₃ > MnO₂/Al₂O₃/CuO. The lowest activation energy was obtained over MnO₂/Al₂O₃/CuO catalyst, which is the evidence of the highly active catalyst for oxidation of TPA.

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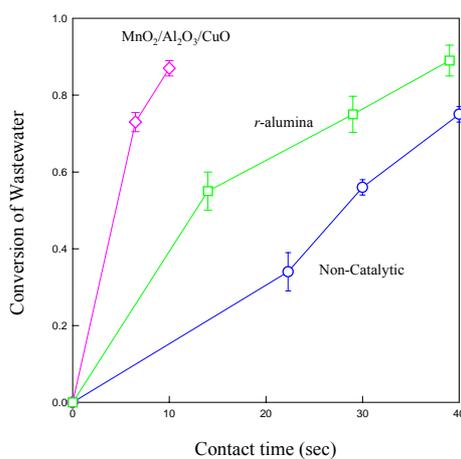


Figure 1. Wastewater conversion from SCWO over different heterogeneous catalysts

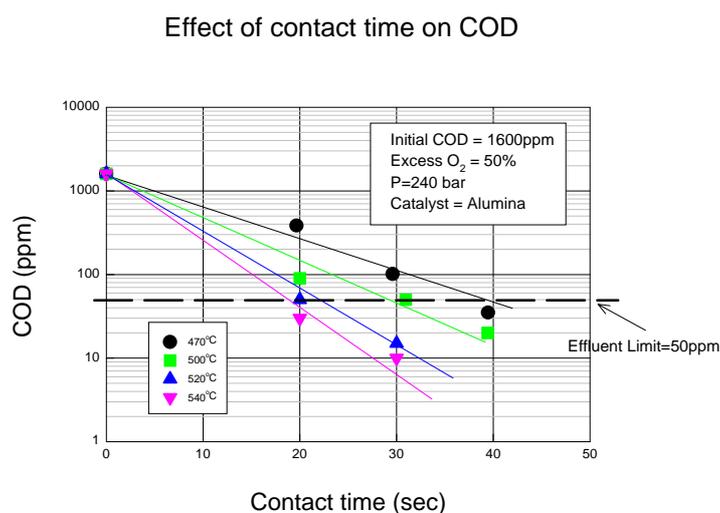


Figure 2. Conditions of high quality process water after SCWO

Table 1. Comparisons of oxidation over different heterogeneous catalysts at supercritical condition

	Non-catalytic	γ - Al ₂ O ₃	MnO ₂ /Al ₂ O ₃ /CuO
Range of Temperature ()	420~500	420~510	380~440
Range of Pressure (bar)	220~280	220~300	240~320
Oxidant	H ₂ O ₂	O ₂	H ₂ O ₂
Rate = -k[COD] ^a [Oxidant] ^b [H ₂ O] ^c	a = 0.65 b = 0.38 c = -0.16	a = 0.81 b = 0.49 c = 0	a = 0.93 b = 0.10 c = -1.00
Activation Energy (kJ/mol)	73.800	55.456	36.587
Method of analysis	Excess method	Least squares and initial rate method	Excess method