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# Tungsten doped manganese dioxide for efficient removal of gaseous formaldehyde at ambient temperatures



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## HIGHLIGHTS

# GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

- Tungsten doped MnO<sub>2</sub> was first investigated for HCHO decomposition at ambient temperatures.
- Tungsten modification decreased crystallinity of MnO<sub>2</sub> and increased specific surface area.
- Substitution of W<sup>6+</sup> reduced the chemical valence of Mn and made adsorbed surface oxygen species more active.
- W-MnO<sub>2</sub> catalyst with the W/Mn ratio 0.2 achieved efficient and stable activity for real-level indoor HCHO.

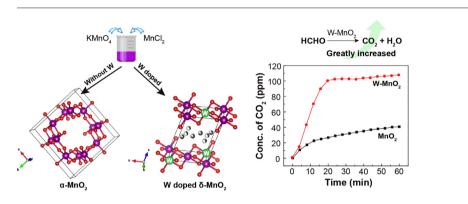
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### 1. Introduction

Formaldehyde (HCHO) is a ubiquitous indoor pollutant, which is mainly released from wood-based building materials, furnishing, and various decorative materials [1–3]. Long-term exposure to even low concentration HCHO would increase the risk of human health, such as



### ABSTRACT

Room-temperature active catalysts are very important to combat against ubiquitous indoor HCHO pollution. Here, tungsten doped  $MnO_2$  (W-MnO<sub>2</sub>) was first synthesized and investigated for HCHO decomposition at ambient temperature. With addition of WCl<sub>6</sub> as precursor into the mixture of permanganate and manganese chloride, tungsten-doped  $\delta$ -MnO<sub>2</sub> with weak crystallinity and large specific surface area (>230 m<sup>2</sup>/g) was synthesized. Substitution of W<sup>6+</sup> for Mn in MnO<sub>6</sub> groups reduced the chemical valence of Mn and made adsorbed surface oxygen species more active. As a result, the W-MnO<sub>2</sub> catalyst with the nominal W/Mn ratio achieved efficient and stable activity for real-level indoor HCHO (0.3 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) under the GHSV as high as 600 L/g<sub>cat</sub>·h, the removal efficiency reaching 90% at 30 °C and 60% at 5 °C, respectively.

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irritation of skin, eyes, nose and throat and some types of cancers [4,5]. Thus, removal of HCHO from the indoor environment is very important for public health. Numerous efforts have been devoted to combat HCHO pollution, and catalytic oxidation is one of the most promising and cost-effective technologies due to its lower reaction temperature required and no extra energy demand [6–9]. Noble metal-based catalysts, such as Pt and Au supported on various metal oxides, show high activity for HCHO removal at room temperature [6,10]. However, their application is largely restricted by their high cost and scarce source. In addition, noble metal-catalysts would be easily deactivated by some

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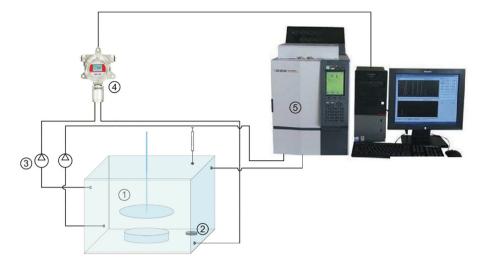


Fig. 1. The static reaction device for evaluating HCHO decomposition. (① organic glass reactor, ② fan, ③ air pump, ④ PN-2000 sensor, ⑤ gas chromatography).

gases such as sulfur containing compounds in the practical application. Thus, it is of great necessary to develop more stable and cost-effective catalysts for indoor HCHO elimination. Among numerous metal oxides, manganese dioxides (MnO<sub>2</sub>) show much better activity for HCHO removal [11–13]. Researchers made many efforts to improve their performance to meet the increasing requirement, such as increasing the specific surface area, doping with transition metal, and optimizing crystal structures and morphologies [14–16].

Nowadays, substitutional doping of various transition metal cations into the framework of MnO<sub>2</sub> has been extensively studied [15,17]. Due to the impact of doping transition metal atom, the morphology and crystal structure are often influenced [18]. Generally, doped metal cations may occur in [MnO<sub>6</sub>] octahedral framework and/or in the tunnel, which is largely dependent on the crystal size and the coordination geometry of the cation dopant. Cations with similar size to Mn<sup>4+</sup> can easily introduced into the octahedral framework, while relatively larger cations tend to be introduced into the tunnel of manganese oxides [15,19]. It has been reported that, doping of transition metal cations, such as Cr<sup>3+</sup>, V<sup>5+</sup>, Mo<sup>6+</sup>, and W<sup>6+</sup>, into the framework or tunnel of manganese oxides, which may modify the crystal structure, resulting in the increase of the specific surface areas and the number of catalytic active sites. Mizuno et al. [15] prepared Mo<sup>6+</sup>-doped  $\alpha$ -MnO<sub>2</sub> and examined their structure-activity relationships for aerobic oxygenation of thioanisole. They found that manganese vacancies were likely formed by doping of  $Mo^{6+}$ , which would prevent the growth of  $\alpha$ -MnO<sub>2</sub> crystals along the *c*-axis direction. As a result, Mo-modified  $\alpha$ -MnO<sub>2</sub> possessed larger surface area and more catalytically active sites. Reddy groups [20] introduced Zr, Hf, La, Pr, Fe and Mn into the CeO<sub>2</sub> for CO and soot oxidation. They found that doped ceria exhibited more loosely bound lattice oxygen and higher concentration of surface adsorbed oxygen species than the unmodified CeO<sub>2</sub>, accordingly, the activity for CO oxidation was significantly promoted.

Other element such as  $N_i^{2+}$  (0.69 Å),  $Ce^{3+}$  (1.02 Å),  $Cu^{2+}$  (0.73 Å),  $V^{5+}$  (0.54 Å)  $Cr^{3+}$  (0.615 Å) and  $W^{6+}$  (0.60 Å) may be as a candidate for MnO<sub>2</sub> modification [21–24]. Among them, tungsten ion has comparable ionic radius in six-coordinated [MnO<sub>6</sub>] structure (Mn<sup>3+</sup> 0.645 Å, Mn<sup>4+</sup>: 0.53 Å), which provides the high probability to be doped into the MnO<sub>2</sub> structure. Moreover, tungsten has been proven to be a promoter to raise the catalytic activity and stabilize the active phase. Hong's group [25] investigated the influence of tungsten incorporation in Mn/ Ce/W/Ti. The activity increased upon addition of an appropriate amount of tungsten. Liu et al. [26] also found the addition of WO<sub>3</sub> significantly enhanced the catalytic performance of Mn-Zr mixed oxide catalyst. The highly dispersed WO<sub>3</sub> enhanced the acidity and redox property of

the catalyst, both of which would promote the adsorption and activation of NH<sub>3</sub>.

Aiming to obtain more efficient MnO<sub>2</sub>-based catalyst, herein, the tungsten doped MnO<sub>2</sub> (W-MnO<sub>2</sub>) catalysts with different doping ratio were synthesized for HCHO oxidation. As far as we know, the present investigation first reports the effects of tungsten modification on the activity of MnO<sub>2</sub> for HCHO removal, revealing that the addition of tungsten significantly enhanced the activity of adsorbed surface oxygen species on MnO<sub>2</sub>. Accordingly, W-MnO<sub>2</sub> showed excellent performance for HCHO removal at ambient temperatures.

#### 2. Experimental section

#### 2.1. Materials and catalyst preparation

All the chemical reagents were analytical grade and used without further purification.  $KMnO_4$ , and  $MnCl_2 \cdot H_2O$  were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.  $WCl_6$  was purchased from Shanghai Aladdin Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. Aqueous solution of formaldehyde (37% v/v) was provided by Beijing Chemical Reagent Factory.

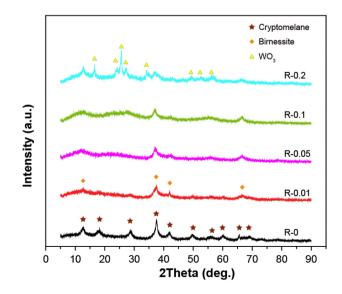


Fig. 2. Powder XRD patterns of MnO<sub>2</sub> doped with different content of tungsten.

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