

# Effects of $H^+$ , $Cl^-$ and $CH_3COOH$ on the photocatalytic conversion of $PtCl_6^{2-}$ in aqueous $TiO_2$ dispersion

Chanjuan Xi, Zhengshi Chen, Qinglin Li, Zhensheng Jin \*

Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, People's Republic of China

Received 20 September 1994; accepted 18 October 1994

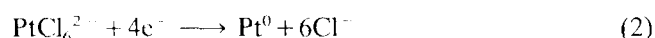
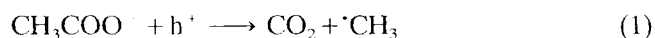
## Abstract

In this work, the effects of  $H^+$ ,  $Cl^-$  and  $CH_3COOH$  on the photocatalytic conversion of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  in an aqueous  $TiO_2$  dispersion were studied by means of X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), UV-visible diffuse reflectance spectroscopy and UV-visible absorption spectroscopy. The results obtained show that  $PtCl_6^{2-}$ , in the form of its hydrolysis product, is photocatalytically converted into a solid deposit on the  $TiO_2$  surface; the quantity and composition of the solid deposit vary with the degree of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  hydrolysis. When both  $H^+$  and  $Cl^-$  concentrations are sufficiently high to depress the hydrolysis of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$ , no deposit is observed on the  $TiO_2$  surface. The effect of  $CH_3COOH$  on the composition of the photocatalytic product of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  on the  $TiO_2$  surface is closely related to the degree of ionization of  $CH_3COOH$ .

**Keywords:** Photocatalytic conversion;  $TiO_2$  dispersion;  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  hydrolysis

## 1. Introduction

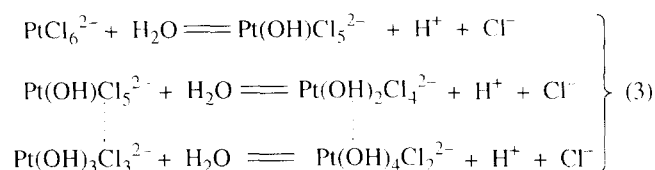
Bard and coworkers [1,2] were the first to report the preparation of a  $Pt^0/TiO_2$  catalyst by photocatalytic reduction of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  in the presence of  $CH_3COOH$ . They suggested that  $CH_3COOH$  (a hole scavenger) was beneficial to the reduction of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  to  $Pt^0$



This method for the preparation of  $Pt^0/TiO_2$  catalyst was widely adopted [3–6]. Curran et al. [7] studied the kinetics of the photocatalytic conversion of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  on  $TiO_2$ .  $CH_3COOH$  was not added to the dispersion, and the residual  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  after illumination was analysed by atomic absorption spectroscopy. They reported the product to be  $Pt^0$  under various conditions. However, the deposit on the  $TiO_2$  surface was not identified. Koudelka et al. [8] used similar conditions to those in Ref. [1] to process the photoreaction of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  on the  $TiO_2$  surface film of a Ti rod and obtained a deposit containing  $Pt^{4+}$  and  $Pt^{2+}$  compounds. It was suggested that they

were produced by hydrolysis of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$ , and were converted to  $Pt^0$  on cyclic voltammetric scanning.

A very important point was ignored in all of the abovementioned studies, namely the relationship between the hydrolysis of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  and the photocatalytic reaction. As early as the 1960s and 1970s, Blasius et al. [9] and Cox et al. [10] observed the hydrolysis of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  in aqueous solution



Hydrolysis can take place in HCl (3–0.1 N). In 0.05 N HCl, 20% of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  is converted to  $Pt(OH)Cl_5^{2-}$ , and in 0.01 N HCl to neutral solution,  $Pt(OH)_2Cl_4^{2-}$  is formed in addition to  $Pt(OH)Cl_5^{2-}$ . In neutral and basic solution (up to 0.1 N NaOH), the final hydrolysis product contains both  $Pt(OH)_5Cl^{2-}$  and  $Pt(OH)_6^{2-}$ . The hydrolysis equilibrium is accelerated by UV illumination. Our study on the absorption spectrum of aqueous  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  solution at different pH values also confirms the abovementioned experimental results [11].

\* Corresponding author.

In this paper, the effects of  $H^+$ ,  $Cl^-$  and  $CH_3COOH$  on the photocatalytic conversion of  $PtCl_6^{2-}$  in a  $TiO_2$  dispersion are reported. The results obtained indicate that the explanations given in the literature for the photocatalytic reaction mechanism are not appropriate.

## 2. Experimental details

### 2.1. Reagents

$TiO_2$  powder (anatase, 99%) was the product of Fluka AG (packed in Switzerland).  $H_2PtCl_6 \cdot H_2O$ , NaCl and  $CH_3COOH$  were analytical grade reagents (China).

### 2.2. Photodeposition

2 g  $TiO_2$ , 1.32 ml of  $H_2PtCl_6$  (0.077 M) and an appropriate amount of distilled water (or 0.1 M  $CH_3COOH$ ) were added to a 60 ml round-bottomed flask to give a total dispersion volume of 20 ml. The pH of the dispersion (pH  $\approx$  2.4) can be adjusted with NaOH solution to the desired value. Air dissolved in the dispersion was expelled by purging with pure  $N_2$ . After 15 min, the system was closed and illuminated. During illumination, gas samples were taken for analysis after fixed times. A 250 W high pressure Hg lamp was used as light source (see Fig. 1). After illumination,

the solid sample was rinsed by decanting until no  $Cl^-$  was detected in the supernatant liquid. The sample was dried in a vacuum oven at about 100 °C for 2 h and then stored in a desiccator.

### 2.3. Analysis of deposit

X-Ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) of the deposit was performed using a PHI-550 multitechnique spectrometer (P-E Co.). The composition of the deposit and the valencies of Pt were ascertained according to Ref. [11]. The relative atomic concentration on the  $TiO_2$  surface was calculated using a computer program supplied by P-E Co. The error in the binding energy measurements was approximately 0.3 eV. Ti  $2p_{3/2}$  ( $E_b = 459$  eV) and C 1s contamination were taken as reference standards.

A P-E DSC-2C (USA) instrument was used for differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and a P-E TGS-2 (USA) instrument for thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). UV-visible diffuse reflectance spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-365 (Japan).

### 2.4. Analysis of solution

A PHS-10A digital acidimeter (China) was used for pH measurements, with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.02$  pH units. UV-visible absorption spectra were taken with a Shimadzu UV-240 (Japan).

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Effect of pH

With an initial concentration of  $H_2PtCl_6$  of  $5.1 \times 10^{-3}$  M, corresponding to  $Pt:TiO_2 = 1:100$  w/w, different deposits on the  $TiO_2$  surface were obtained by changing the pH of the dispersion (Table 1, Fig. 2). The deconvolution results of Fig. 2(a) indicate that the deposit from test 1 is composed of two Pt compounds. With reference to the binding energies of Pt  $4f_{7/2}$  given in the literature (Table 2), Pt  $4f_{7/2} = 75.0$  eV can be attributed to  $PtO_2$  and Pt  $4f_{7/2} = 72.9$  eV to  $Pt(OH)_2$ . Pt  $4f_{7/2} = 72.8$  eV in both Figs. 2(b) and 2(c) can be attributed to  $Pt(OH)_2$ . The different photodeposits on the  $TiO_2$  surface as a function of the pH value are also displayed by DSC and UV-visible diffuse reflectance spectroscopy. The DSC measurement was carried out in an atmosphere of high purity  $N_2$ . Raw  $TiO_2$  began to absorb heat above 500 °C (Fig. 3(a)) (desorption of chemically bound water on the  $TiO_2$  surface), whereas the test 1 sample gave an exothermic peak at 226 °C and then slowly absorbed heat above 300 °C (Fig. 3(b)). The test 2 sample gave no exothermic peak (Fig. 3(c)), but showed the same heat absorption as that in Fig.

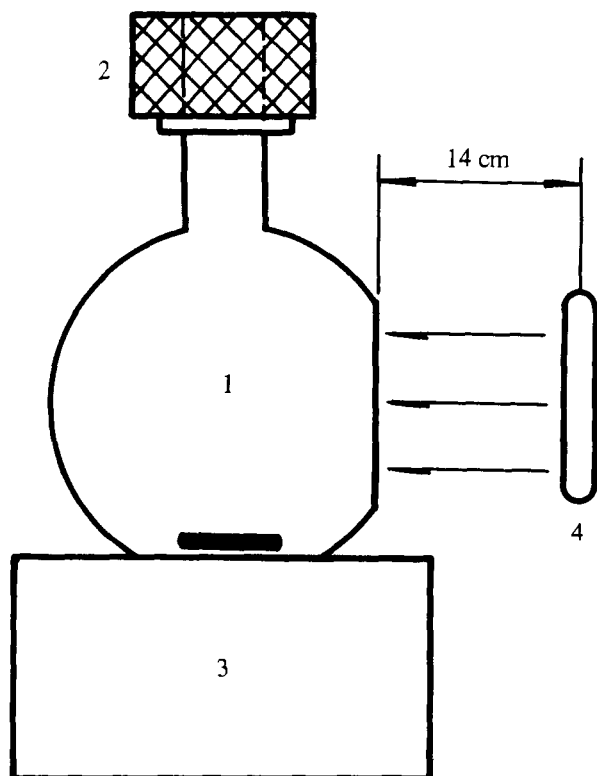


Fig. 1. Device for photoillumination: 1, reaction bottle; 2, sealing; 3, magnetic stirrer; 4, high pressure Hg lamp (250 W).

Table 1  
Effect of pH on the photoconversion of the  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  in aqueous  $\text{TiO}_2$  dispersion

Test	pH (before illumination)	Initial $[\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6]$ (M)	Time of illumination (h)	Photodeposit	Relative surface Pt concentration (%)	Remarks
1	11.92	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	5	$\text{PtO}_2 + \text{Pt(OH)}_2$ (36:64)	1.4	
2	6.67	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	5	$\text{Pt(OH)}_2$	1.1	
3	2.40	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	5	$\text{Pt(OH)}_2$	0.4	Trace $\text{H}_2$ formed at initial stage

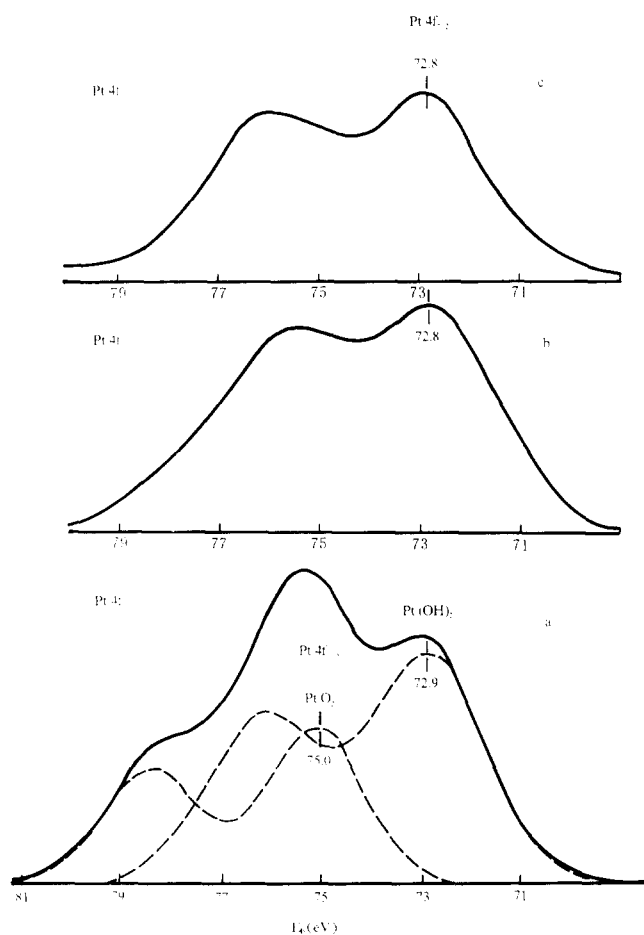


Fig. 2. Effect of pH on photodeposit: (a) pH 11.92; (b) pH 6.67; (c) pH 2.40.

Table 2  
Binding energies of Pt  $4f_{7,2}$  in several platinum compounds

Pt	$\text{Pt(OH)}_2$	PtO	$\text{PtO}_2$	$\text{K}_2\text{PtCl}_6$	Reference
71.0	72.4	72.2	74.4		[12]
71.2		72.5	74.6		[13]
70.9		72.2			[14]
70.7			74.2		[15]
71.1				75.7	[8]
71.2	72.6		74.8	75.5	[11]

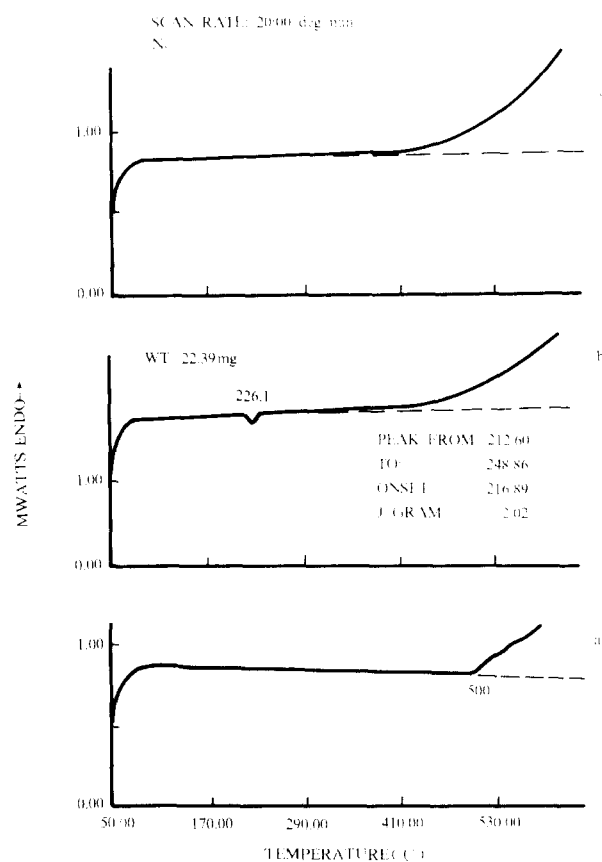


Fig. 3. DSC: (a) raw  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; (b)  $(\text{PtO}_2 + \text{Pt(OH)}_2)/\text{TiO}_2$ ; (c)  $\text{Pt(OH)}_2/\text{TiO}_2$ .

3(b).  $\text{PtO}_2$  is unstable and begins to decompose around 200 °C [11]



From the thermogram in Fig. 4, a weight-losing peak corresponding to the exothermic peak of Fig. 3(b) is observed and confirms the decomposition of  $\text{PtO}_2$ . No report is available on the decomposition heat of  $\text{PtO}_2$ . Assuming that the platinum loaded on  $\text{TiO}_2$  amounts to 1% of the total weight and 36 at.% takes the form of  $\text{PtO}_2$ , the decomposition heat can be estimated as 18 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. Platinous hydroxide decomposes above 300 °C, leading to an endothermic reaction [16]

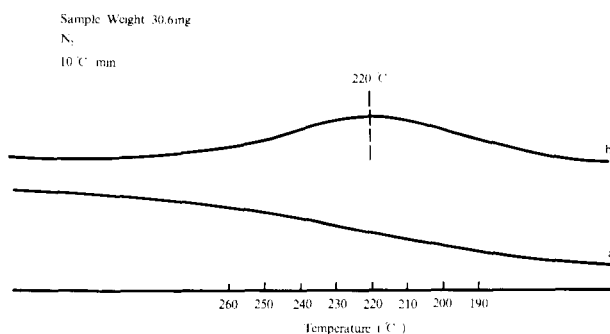


Fig. 4. Thermogram of  $(\text{PtO}_2 + \text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2)/\text{TiO}_2$ : (a) integral; (b) differential.

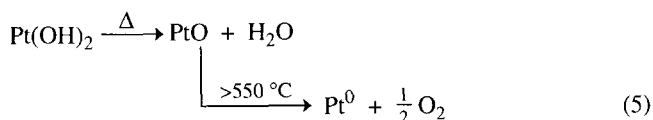
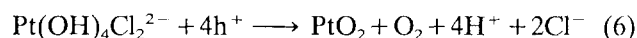


Fig. 5 shows the UV–visible diffuse reflectance spectra of deposited Pt on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface. Fig. 5(b) shows a shoulder at  $\lambda = 425$  nm. This shoulder disappears when the deposit is heated at  $230$  °C for 30 min in a pure  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere (Fig. 5(b')). In XPS (Fig. 6(b)), the  $75.0$  eV peak is replaced by a peak of  $\text{Pt}^0$  ( $\text{Pt } 4f_{7/2} = 71.0$  eV). This indicates that the shoulder in Fig. 5(b) is characteristic of  $\text{PtO}_2$ . After heating the sample

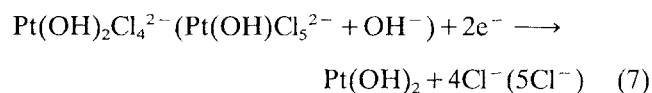
at  $620$  °C for 30 min, the surface deposit is converted to  $\text{Pt}^0$  completely (Fig. 6(c)).

In an investigation of the relationship between  $\text{O}_2$  liberation from an aqueous  $\text{Pt}^0/\text{CdS}$  dispersion and the amount of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  added, we discussed the mechanism of  $\text{PtO}_2$  and  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$  formation. When  $\text{TiO}_2$  was used instead of  $\text{Pt}^0/\text{CdS}$ , the same deposit was obtained under similar experimental conditions (except the light source) [11]. This indicates that a similar mechanism of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  photocatalytic conversion exists for both semiconductor powders.

(1) In basic medium (test 1), the concentration of the hydrolysis product  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_4\text{Cl}_2^{2-}$  in Eq. (3) is high and it can accept four photogenerated  $h^+$  on  $\text{TiO}_2$  to form  $\text{PtO}_2$



while  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$  (and/or  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})\text{Cl}_5^{2-}$ ) accepts two photogenerated  $e^-$  to form  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$



(2) In less basic or acidic medium,  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2\text{Cl}_2^{2-}$  (and/or  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})\text{Cl}_5^{2-}$ ) is the main hydrolysis product of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  and gives only the reduction product  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$  on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface after illumination. Cameron and Bocarsly [17] studied the homogeneous photoinduced

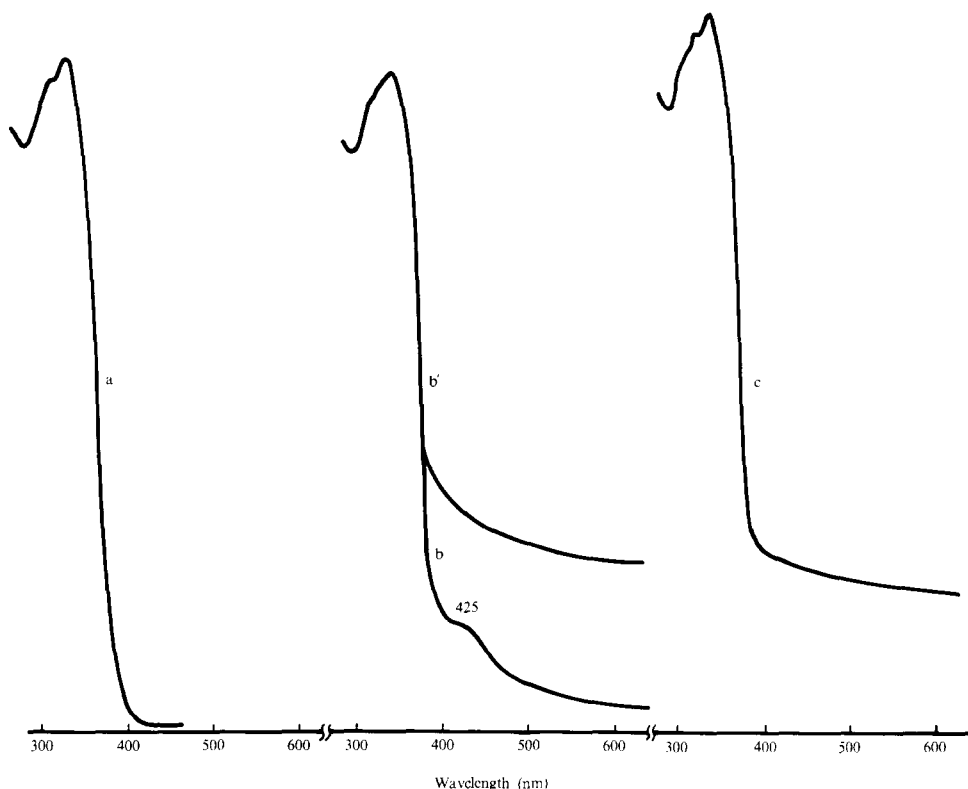


Fig. 5. UV–visible diffuse reflectance spectra: (a) raw  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; (b)  $(\text{PtO}_2 + \text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2)/\text{TiO}_2$ ; (b') (b) treated at  $230$  °C in pure  $\text{N}_2$  for 30 min; (c)  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2/\text{TiO}_2$ .

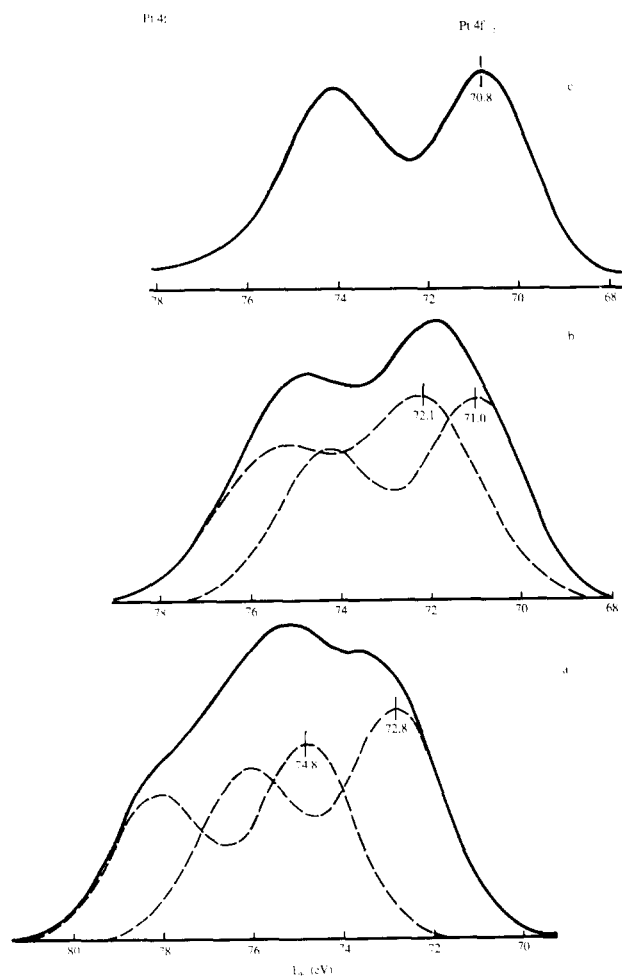


Fig. 6. XPS after heating in ultrahigh vacuum chamber: (a) room temperature; (b)  $220 \pm 10$  °C for 30 min; (c)  $620 \pm 10$  °C for 30 min.

reduction of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  in isopropyl alcohol (90 vol.%) solution. It was found that there was no  $\text{Pt}^0$  formation until 90% of the  $\text{Pt}^{4+}$  species had been converted into  $\text{Pt}^{2+}$ , and it was concluded that  $\text{Pt}^{4+}$  inhibited its own reduction to  $\text{Pt}^0$ . However, in the microheterogeneous system, the hydrolysate of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  was converted to a solid deposit,  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$ , on the surface of the semiconductor after receiving two photogenerated  $e^-$  and the reduction process was thus terminated.

If the pH value of the dispersion is below pH 12, no  $\text{PtO}_2$  is deposited on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface and the amount of Pt deposited decreases (Fig. 7). This results from the fact that  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  hydrolysis decreases with increasing  $\text{H}^+$  concentration. When the curve of Fig. 7 is extrapolated to  $\text{pH} \rightarrow 0$ , the amount of Pt deposited on the surface will be close to zero, indicating that no photocatalytic conversion of the  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  hydrolysate takes place on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface. This deduction is in accord with the result given in the literature [2] (pH 0; deposition rate of Pt,  $0.0 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$ ).

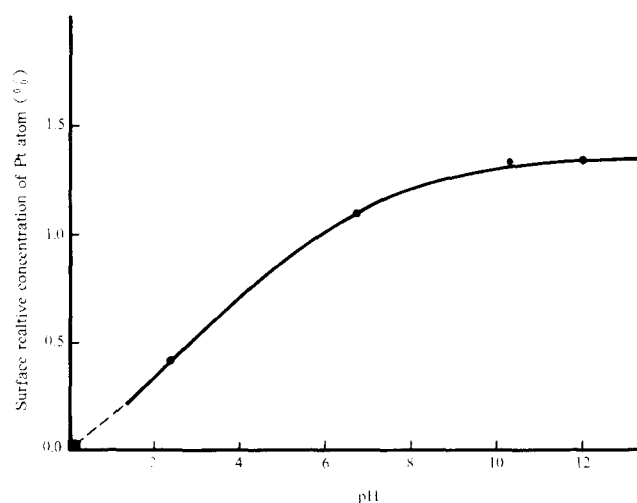


Fig. 7. Dependence of surface relative concentration of Pt atoms on pH value (● pH 2.32,  $[\text{NaCl}] = 0.28$  M, corresponding to the point where this curve is extrapolated to pH 0).

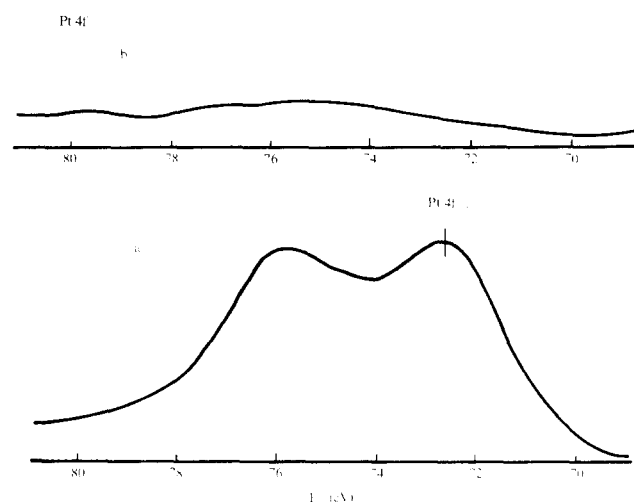


Fig. 8. Effect of  $\text{Cl}^-$  on photodeposit: (a) pH 12,  $[\text{NaCl}] = 0.28$  M; (b) pH 2.3,  $[\text{NaCl}] = 0.28$  M.

### 3.2. Effect of $\text{Cl}^-$

$\text{NaCl}$  (0.32 g) was added to the dispersion used for test 1 (corresponding to  $[\text{NaCl}] = 0.28$  M, about 55 times the initial  $[\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6]$ ). After illumination, only  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$  was obtained on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface (Fig. 8(a), Table 3, test 4). It has been shown that the  $\text{Cl}^-$  ions in an aqueous  $\text{TiO}_2$  dispersion do not consume the photo-generated  $\text{h}^+$  [18]; i.e., the following reaction does not happen:



The function of a large amount of  $\text{Cl}^-$  is the same as that of increasing  $\text{H}^+$  concentration (see Eq. (3)) so that there is no formation of  $\text{PtO}_2$ .

$\text{NaCl}$  (0.32 g) was added to the dispersion used for test 3. After illumination, the amount of Pt deposited

Table 3  
Effect of  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  on the photoconversion of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  in an aqueous  $\text{TiO}_2$  dispersion

Test	pH (before illumination)	Initial [ $\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6$ ] (M)	[ $\text{Cl}^-$ ] or [ $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ ] (M)	Illumination time (h)	Photodeposit	Relative surface Pt concentration (%)
4	12.06	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	0.28( $\text{Cl}^-$ )	5	$\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$	0.5
5	2.32	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	0.28( $\text{Cl}^-$ )	5	None <sup>a</sup>	–
6	12.16	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	0.1( $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ )	5	$\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$	1.5
7	3.93	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	0.1( $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ )	5	$\text{Pt}^0$	0.8

<sup>a</sup>  $\text{TiO}_2$  powder did not change colour after washing and drying.

on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface was close to zero (Fig. 8(b), Table 3, test 5). This result indicates the following: (a) the hydrolysis of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  is inhibited completely by the joint effect of  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{H}^+$ ; (b) as deduced above, no photocatalytic reaction of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  takes place on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface.

The inhibitory effect of  $\text{Cl}^-$  on the hydrolysis of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  can also be ascertained from the absorption spectra shown in Fig. 9. A freshly prepared aqueous solution of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  ( $7.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M, pH 2.56) gave three absorption bands ( $\lambda = 445$  nm of  $^1\text{A}_{1g} \rightarrow ^3\text{T}_{1g}$  transition,  $\lambda = 360$  nm of  $^1\text{A}_{1g} \rightarrow ^1\text{T}_{1g}$  transition and  $\lambda = 260$  nm of  $^1\text{A}_{1g} \rightarrow \text{b}^1\text{T}_{1u}$  transition) [10,11,19,20].  $\lambda = 205\text{--}225$  nm is the absorption of the  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$  hydrolysate (see Fig. 9(a)). After keeping this sample in the dark for 1 month, the three absorption bands disappear, while that of the hydrolysate remains (Fig. 9(b)). When 0.32 g of NaCl was added to the sample used in Fig. 9(a) and the solution was kept in the dark for 2 months,

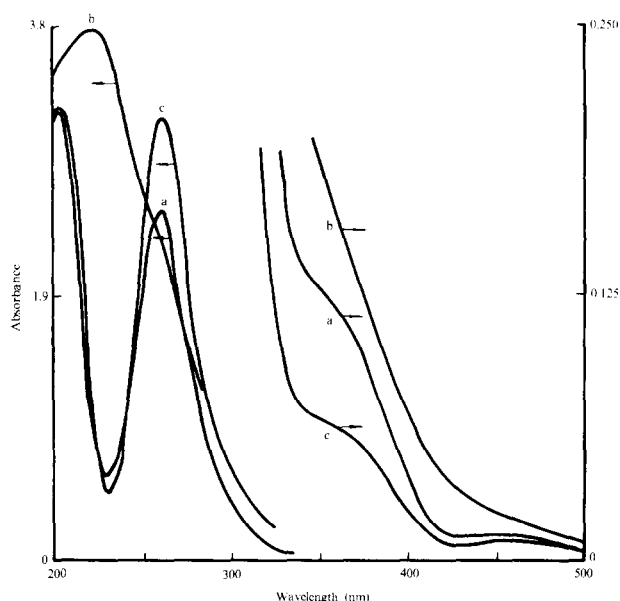


Fig. 9. Absorption spectra of aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6$  (pH 2.56, initial [ $\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6$ ] =  $7.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M): (a) determined immediately; (b) after keeping in the dark for 1 month; (c) added 0.32 g NaCl, after keeping in the dark for 2 months.

the positions of the absorptions did not change (Fig. 9(c)). This is due to the inhibitory effect of  $\text{Cl}^-$  on the hydrolysis of  $\text{PtCl}_6^{2-}$ .

### 3.3. Effect of $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$

$\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6$  (0.077 M) and  $\text{TiO}_2$  were added to 0.1 M  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  solution (pH 2.48) and the pH value was adjusted to pH 3.93 with concentrated NaOH; the dispersion was illuminated. The deposit formed on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface was  $\text{Pt}^0$  (Fig. 10(a), test 7 in Table 3). When the pH value of the dispersion was adjusted to pH 12 and then illuminated, only  $\text{Pt}(\text{OH})_2$  was found on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface (Fig. 10(b)).

Acetic acid is a weak acid with  $K_a = 1.85 \times 10^{-5}$ . The degree of ionization of 0.1 M  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  at different pH values is given in Table 4. At pH 4, 84.7% of  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  is unionized; at pH 12, nearly all the  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  molecules are converted to  $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$  ions. Recently, Kaise et al. [21] observed directly the free radical intermediates  $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$  and  $\cdot\text{CH}_3$  but not

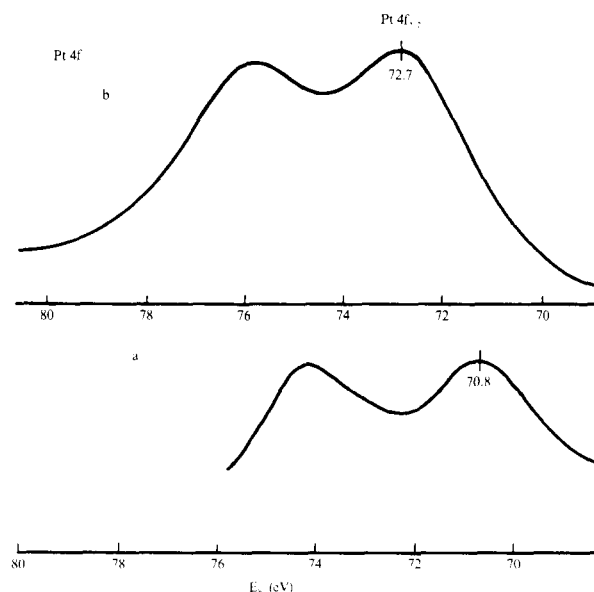
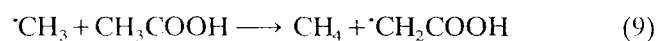


Fig. 10. Effect of  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  on photodeposit: (a) pH 3.9, [ $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ ] = 0.1 M; (b) pH 12.2, [ $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ ] = 0.1 M.

Table 4  
Degree of ionization of 0.1 M CH<sub>3</sub>COOH

pH	H <sup>+</sup> (M)	CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>	Degree of ionization (%)
3	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.177 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>	1.77
4	10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.53 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>	15.3
7	10 <sup>-7</sup>	9.94 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>	99.4
12	10 <sup>-12</sup>	≈ 0.1	≈ 100

CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>·</sup> using electron spin resonance (ESR) during illumination of a 0.1 M CH<sub>3</sub>COOH dispersion of Pt<sup>0</sup>/TiO<sub>2</sub> (pH ≈ 2.9). They suggested that CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> accepts one h<sup>+</sup> to form directly <sup>·</sup>CH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> (Eq. (1), Kolbe photoreaction), followed by hydrogen abstraction to form <sup>·</sup>CH<sub>2</sub>COOH



This is an interesting discovery which can help us to clarify the mechanism of Pt<sup>0</sup> formation in test 7. Since <sup>·</sup>CH<sub>2</sub>COOH is a reductive free radical [22], it may be possible that Pt<sup>0</sup> is formed through the reduction of Pt(OH)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> by <sup>·</sup>CH<sub>2</sub>COOH rather than the photogenerated e<sup>-</sup> on the TiO<sub>2</sub> surface.

At pH 12, there will be no reaction according to Eq. (9), so that Pt<sup>0</sup> does not exist in the photodeposit of test 6. Although the presence of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> has no effect on PtCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> hydrolysis, it can be a competitor for the consumption of the photogenerated h<sup>+</sup>. If the reaction rate of Eq. (1) is more rapid than that of Eq. (6), the formation of PtO<sub>2</sub> will be inhibited. This is the probable reason why there was no PtO<sub>2</sub> in the deposit on the TiO<sub>2</sub> surface at pH 12.

#### 4. Conclusions

- (1) In an aqueous TiO<sub>2</sub> dispersion, PtCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> is photocatalytically converted into a solid product via its hydrolysate.
- (2) The degree of PtCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> hydrolysis varies with the H<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration in the dispersion. The composition and quantity of the photodeposits obtained on the TiO<sub>2</sub> surface depend on the degree of hydrolysis.
- (3) When the concentration of H<sup>+</sup> and/or Cl<sup>-</sup> is sufficiently high to inhibit the hydrolysis of PtCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup>, no photodeposit is observed on the TiO<sub>2</sub> surface.

- (4) The effect of CH<sub>3</sub>COOH on the photocatalytic process of PtCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> in a TiO<sub>2</sub> dispersion is closely related to the degree of ionization of CH<sub>3</sub>COOH and the mechanism of the photo-Kolbe reaction.

#### Acknowledgements

This research was supported by the Gansu Province Natural Science Foundation. We also express our deep gratitude to Professor Linghui Tong and Zilu Liu for carrying out the UV-visible absorption, DSC and TGA determinations.

#### References

- [1] B. Kraeutler and A.J. Bard, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **100** (1978) 4317.
- [2] W.W. Dunn and A.J. Bard, *Nouv. J. Chim.*, **5** (1981) 651.
- [3] Y. Chen, Z. Wei, H. Liu and Y.X. Chen, *Cuihua Xuebao (J. Catal., in Chinese)*, **2** (1981) 194.
- [4] A. Mill and G. Porter, *J. Chem. Soc., Faraday Trans. I*, **789** (1981) 3659.
- [5] S. Sato, *J. Phys. Chem.*, **87** (1983) 3659.
- [6] K. Yamaguti and S. Sato, *J. Phys. Chem.*, **89** (1985) 5510.
- [7] J.S. Curran, J. Domenech, N. Jaffrezic-Renault and R. Philippe, *J. Phys. Chem.*, **89** (1985) 957.
- [8] M. Koudelka, J. Sanchez and J. Augustynski, *J. Phys. Chem.*, **86** (1982) 4277.
- [9] E. Blasius, W. Preetz and R. Schmitt, *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.*, **19** (1961) 115.
- [10] L. Cox, D.G. Peters and E.L. Wehry, *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.*, **34** (1972) 297.
- [11] Z. Jin, Z. Chen, Q. Li, C. Xi and X. Zheng, *J. Photochem. Photobiol. A: Chem.*, **81** (1994) 177.
- [12] J.S. Hammond and N. Winograd, *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **78** (1977) 55.
- [13] G.C. Allen and P.M. Tucker, *J. Electroanal. Chem. Interfacial Electrochem.*, **50** (1974) 335.
- [14] T. Wang, A. Vazquez, A. Kato and L.D. Schmidt, *J. Catal.*, **78** (1982) 306.
- [15] K.S. Kim, N. Winograd and R.E. Dairs, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **93** (1971) 6296.
- [16] R.C. Weast, *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*. CRC Press, 79th edn., 1989–1990.
- [17] R.E. Cameron and A.B. Bocarsly, *Inorg. Chem.*, **25** (1986) 2910.
- [18] J.-M. Herrmann and P. Pichat, *J. Chem. Soc., Faraday Trans. I*, **76** (1980) 1138.
- [19] D.L. Swihart and W.R. Mason, *Inorg. Chem.*, **9** (1970) 1749.
- [20] C.M. Davidson and R.F. Jameson, *Trans. Faraday Soc.*, **61** (1965) 2462.
- [21] M. Kaise, H. Kondoh, C. Nishihara, H. Nozoye, H. Shindo, S. Nimura and O. Kikuchi, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, **4** (1993) 395.
- [22] V.J. Lillie, G. Beck and A. Henglein, *Ber. Bunsenges. Phys. Chem.*, **75** (1971) 458.