

## Photocatalytic Degradation and Dimerization of *t*-Butyl Alcohol by Aqueous Suspension of Platinized Titanium Dioxide

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Photoirradiation ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} > 300$  nm) of argon-purged aqueous suspension of platinized  $\text{TiO}_2$  containing *t*-butyl alcohol at  $27 \pm 3$  °C led to the formation of hydrogen, methane, and ethane in the gas phase, and acetone, *t*-pentyl alcohol ( $\text{Pn}^t\text{OH}$ ), and 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-diol (2,5-DH) in the solution phase. While  $\text{TiO}_2$  without Pt showed little activity, the product yields increased linearly upon increasing the amount of Pt loading up to 10 wt%. The increasing concentrations of  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  up to 0.2M enhanced the product yields, owing to the increase in the amount of adsorbed  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface. The acetone formation predominated in the presence of either oxygen or silver salt. Product distributions obtained by the  $\gamma$ -irradiation under  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ -saturated conditions and by treatment with Fenton's reagent were similar to that of the photocatalytic reaction by platinized  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

Among semiconductor materials titanium dioxide ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ) has been an important photocatalyst for both oxidation and reduction of organic or inorganic substrates, which are caused by holes and electrons formed upon near-u.v.-irradiation.<sup>1-3</sup> Modification of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface by partial coverage with platinum is effective for the reduction of protons to  $\text{H}_2$  by photoexcited electrons.<sup>4</sup> Primary and secondary alcohols such as methanol,<sup>5</sup> ethanol,<sup>6</sup> propan-2-ol,<sup>7-10</sup> and poly(vinyl alcohol)<sup>11,12</sup> undergo photocatalytic dehydrogenation by platinized  $\text{TiO}_2$  suspended in the aqueous solution. However, the photocatalytic reaction of tertiary alcohols remains the subject of further characterization.

Arimitsu and his co-workers reported<sup>13</sup> the photocatalytic formation of a dimeric product, 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-diol (2,5-DH), together with  $\text{H}_2$  from *t*-butyl alcohol in a deaerated aqueous suspension of platinized  $\text{TiO}_2$ . This paper reports a detailed study on the photocatalytic reaction of  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  under deaerated and aerated conditions. The photocatalytic reaction mechanism is discussed by comparing the product distribution with those of oxidation processes induced by  $\gamma$ -radiolysis and Fenton's reagent.

### Experimental

**Materials.**—Titanium dioxide powder [ $>99\%$  anatase,  $\text{TiO}_2$ (A)] was obtained from Merck and used without further activation. Rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  powder [ $\text{TiO}_2$ (R)] was prepared by calcination of  $\text{TiO}_2$ (A) at 1 200 °C for 10 h in an electric furnace. This treatment transformed anatase almost quantitatively into rutile, as determined by X-ray diffraction analysis.<sup>14</sup> Platinized  $\text{TiO}_2$  catalyst was prepared by powdering a mixture of anatase or rutile with 5 wt% platinum black (Nakarai Chemicals).<sup>9,10</sup> Palladium and ruthenium dioxide loadings were performed in a similar way. Water was passed through an ion exchange resin and distilled immediately before use. The other chemicals including  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  were of analytical grade and used as received.

**Apparatus.**—A 400 W high-pressure mercury arc (Eiko-sha 400) set to a merry-go-round apparatus was used as the light source. Gaseous products liberated during irradiation ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} > 300$  nm) were measured by g.c., using a Shimadzu GC 4A [for  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$ , equipped with a thermal conductivity detector, column 60–80 mesh molecular sieve 5A (3 mm $\phi$   $\times$  3 m), Ar carrier at 130 °C] and a GC 6A [for  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ , equipped with an

f.i.d., column 50–80 mesh Porapak R (3 mm $\phi$   $\times$  2 m),  $\text{N}_2$  carrier at 90 °C]. The distribution of deuterium-labelled products ( $\text{D}_2$ , HD, and  $\text{CH}_3\text{D}$ ) obtained from the photoirradiated  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solution was determined by mass spectrometry on an Ulvac MSQ 400 instrument. Non-volatile products in the reaction mixture were analysed by a Shimadzu GC 6A [for acetone,  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$ , and *t*-pentyl alcohol ( $\text{Pn}^t\text{OH}$ ), equipped with an f.i.d., column 20% poly(ethylene glycol) 20 M on 60–80 mesh Celite 545 (3 mm $\phi$   $\times$  2 m),  $\text{N}_2$  carrier at 90 °C] and GC 7A [for 2,5-DH, equipped with an f.i.d., column 60–80 mesh Tenax GC (3 mm $\phi$   $\times$  1 m),  $\text{N}_2$  carrier at 200 °C]. Atomic absorption spectrometry of  $\text{Ag}^+$  ions was carried out on a Jarrel-Ash AA 8200 spectrometer.

**Procedure.**—The powdered catalyst ( $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt, typically 50 mg) and solvent [distilled water, aqueous NaOH (1M) solution, or aqueous  $\text{Ag}_2\text{SO}_4$  (0.025M) solution; 5.0 cm<sup>3</sup>] was placed in a glass tube (18 mm $\phi$   $\times$  180 mm, transparent for exciting-light wavelengths  $>300$  nm), purged for 30 min with Ar, and then sealed off with a rubber stopper. An aerated suspension was prepared in the similar way using an  $\text{O}_2$  stream. The substrate  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  was injected, just before irradiation, through the stopper by microsyringe. The suspension thus prepared was irradiated under magnetic stirring at  $27 \pm 3$  °C.

After irradiation, a portion of the gaseous products was collected by syringe and analysed. The suspension was centrifuged to separate the catalyst and then the aqueous solution was subjected to g.c. analysis. In experiments using silver salt, the separated  $\text{TiO}_2$  powder was washed repeatedly with distilled water, dried overnight at 70 °C, and treated with  $\text{HNO}_3$  (ca. 13M) to dissolve photodeposited silver metal. The resulting suspension of bleached  $\text{TiO}_2$  was diluted with distilled water and centrifuged to measure  $\text{Ag}^+$  concentration.

$\gamma$ -Irradiation of aqueous  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  solution under  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  was carried out in the sealed glass tubes at room temperature with a <sup>60</sup>Co  $\gamma$ -ray source at a dose rate of 380 Gy h<sup>-1</sup>. Oxidation of  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  with Fenton's reagent was performed using aqueous solutions (5.0 ml) of  $\text{FeSO}_4$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (180  $\mu\text{mol}$ ).

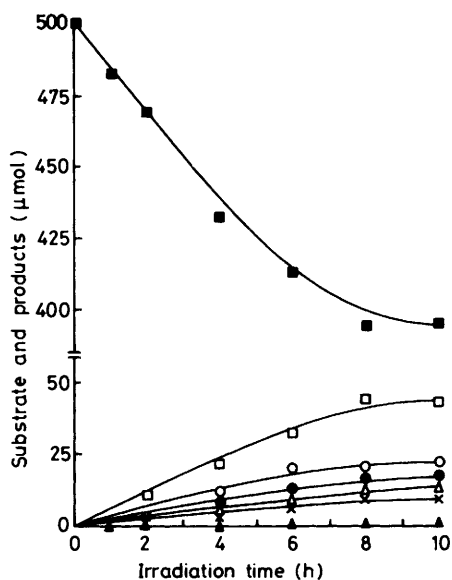
### Results and Discussion

**Photocatalytic Reaction of  $\text{Bu}^t\text{OH}$  by Aqueous Suspension of Platinized  $\text{TiO}_2$ .**—Photoirradiation ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} > 300$  nm) of the argon-purged aqueous suspension of platinized  $\text{TiO}_2$  ( $\text{TiO}_2$ -

**Table.** Product distribution in the photocatalysis of t-butyl alcohol by aqueous suspension of TiO<sub>2</sub>-Pt

Run	Catalyst <sup>a</sup>	Conditions <sup>b</sup>		Yield (μmol)					
				H <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	acetone	Pn'OH	2,5-DH
1	T	NaOH	Ar <sup>c</sup>	0.1	0.4	≈0	0.6	≈0	0.2
2	T-Pt	H <sub>2</sub> O	Ar <sup>d</sup>	2.5	0.2	≈0	1.0	0.2	6.1
3	T-Pt	NaOH	Ar <sup>d</sup>	35.3	12.1	1.3	15.1	7.4	15.9
4	T-Pt	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Ar <sup>d</sup>	1.3	0.2	≈0	1.3	≈0	0.8
5	T-Pt	H <sub>2</sub> O	O <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	≈0	0.3	≈0	28.2	0.2	5.8
6	T-Pt	NaOH	O <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	17.6	6.8	0.7	28.8	5.3	9.9
7	T-Pt	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	≈0	0.9	≈0	39.6	≈0	1.4
8	T-Pd	H <sub>2</sub> O	Ar <sup>c</sup>	3.6	0.4	≈0	1.3	0.3	7.5
9	T-Pd	NaOH	Ar <sup>c</sup>	16.4	10.1	0.6	14.3	5.4	14.5
10	T-RO	H <sub>2</sub> O	Ar <sup>c</sup>	0.2	≈0	≈0	0.2	≈0	0.3
11	T-RO	NaOH	Ar <sup>c</sup>	1.2	0.6	≈0	1.1	0.2	0.9
12 <sup>g</sup>	T-Pt	Ag <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Ar <sup>c</sup>	≈0	1.5	2.1	41.3	0.1	≈0
13 <sup>g</sup>	T	Ag <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Ar <sup>c</sup>	≈0	1.5	3.0	35.5	0.1	≈0
14 <sup>g</sup>	T(R)	Ag <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Ar <sup>c</sup>	≈0	≈0	≈0	9.1	≈0	≈0
15 <sup>h</sup>		H <sub>2</sub> O	N <sub>2</sub> O <sup>e</sup>	1.7	0.2	≈0	2.2	0.4	4.9
16 <sup>h</sup>		NaOH	N <sub>2</sub> O <sup>e</sup>	1.9	0.7	0.2	4.4	2.0	3.8
17		FeSO <sub>4</sub>	Ar <sup>f</sup>	≈0			4.1	≈0	19.8

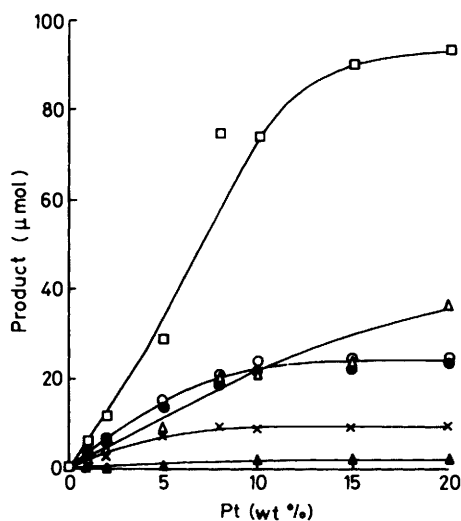
<sup>a</sup> T = anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> (Merck), T-Pt = anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> with 5 wt% of platinum black, T-Pd = anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> with 5 wt% of palladium black, T-RO = anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> with 10 wt% ruthenium dioxide, and T(R) = rutile TiO<sub>2</sub>. <sup>b</sup> NaOH: 1M-NaOH, H<sub>2</sub>O: distilled water, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>: 0.5M-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, Ag<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>: 0.025M-Ag<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and FeSO<sub>4</sub>: 0.04M solution. <sup>c</sup> Irradiation (λ<sub>ex</sub> > 300 nm) for 10 h. <sup>d</sup> Irradiation for 5 h. <sup>e</sup> γ-Irradiation (<sup>60</sup>Co, 72.8 kGy). <sup>f</sup> Fenton's reagent containing 180 μmol of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. <sup>g</sup> Ag metal deposition was also observed; run 12: 212.5, run 13: 169.8, and run 14: 121.2 μmol. <sup>h</sup> N<sub>2</sub> was also determined; run 15: 13.7, and run 16: 15.8 μmol.



**Figure 1.** Time course of the photocatalytic reaction of 0.5 mmol-Bu'OH in 5 ml of 1M-NaOH solution with 50 mg of TiO<sub>2</sub>-Pt under Ar: ■, Bu'OH; □, H<sub>2</sub>; ○, 2,5-DH; ●, acetone; △, CH<sub>4</sub>; X, Pn'OH; and ▲, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>.

Pt) containing Bu'OH produced H<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the gas phase of the reaction mixture. Simultaneously, formation of 2,5-DH, acetone, and Pn'OH was observed in the solution phase (Table). These products were not produced in the dark, nor with irradiation in the absence of TiO<sub>2</sub>-Pt. It is evident that greater product yields can be obtained under alkaline conditions. Furthermore, the formation of acetone as an oxidation product predominated over the other products in the presence of O<sub>2</sub> or Ag<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

Figure 1 shows the representative time course of the photocatalytic reaction of Bu'OH by TiO<sub>2</sub>-Pt in alkaline



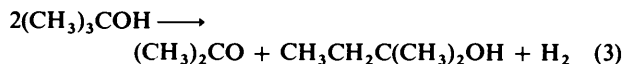
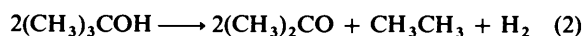
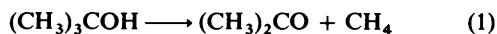
**Figure 2.** Effects of Pt loading on the yields of products: symbols are as in Figure 1

solution under argon. The starting material Bu'OH decreased and the products increased linearly with irradiation time up to 6 h. Further irradiation was less effective for the photocatalytic reaction. A possible reason for such deactivation of the TiO<sub>2</sub>-Pt catalyst is detachment of Pt particles from the TiO<sub>2</sub> surface during photoirradiation, as noted from the increased formation of Pt aggregate. This result shows the importance of contact between Pt particles and the TiO<sub>2</sub> surface in obtaining efficient photocatalytic activity.

Photoirradiation of a 1M-NaOH solution (5 ml) of 0.1M-Bu'OH was also carried out under Ar for 5 h with varying amounts of Pt loading onto TiO<sub>2</sub> (50 mg). Similar products as listed in the Table were obtained by use of TiO<sub>2</sub> without Pt loading, but the yields were negligibly small. The product yields in both gas and solution phases (Figure 2) increased linearly

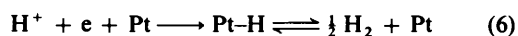
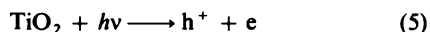
upon increasing Pt up to 10 wt%. Excess of Pt over 10 wt% led to little increase in the apparent activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>. Loading of Pd and RuO<sub>2</sub>, instead of Pt, onto TiO<sub>2</sub> also enhanced the photocatalytic reaction, the effect of which was smaller than that of Pt loading (see Table).

**Stoichiometry of the TiO<sub>2</sub>-Pt-Catalysed Photoreaction of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH.**—The net reactions which account for the observed products are (1)–(4). In accord with reactions (1)–(4), the



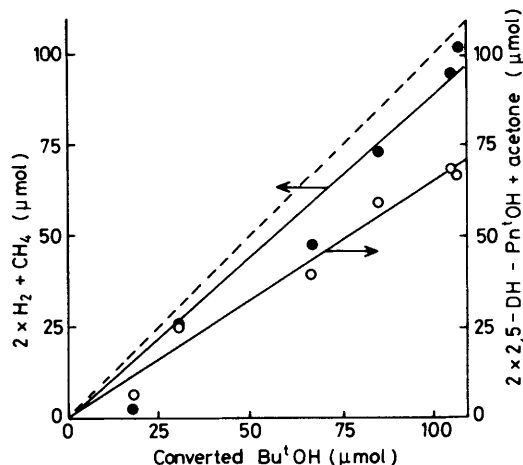
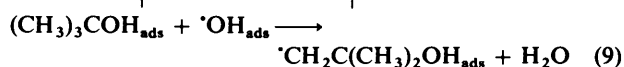
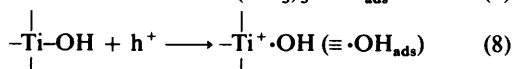
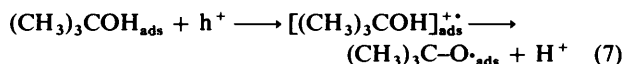
number of moles of CH<sub>4</sub> + 2 × H<sub>2</sub> as gaseous products was approximately equal to that of converted Bu<sup>t</sup>OH; the linear relationship shown in Figure 3 gave a proportionality constant of near unity (0.90). Acetone + Pn<sup>t</sup>OH + 2 × 2,5-DH should be equal to converted Bu<sup>t</sup>OH, and we observed *ca.* 70% recovery of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH as the form of these products (Figure 3). Furthermore, reactions (1)–(3) predict that the photocatalytic conversion of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH into acetone accompanies the formation of CH<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, and Pn<sup>t</sup>OH. Support for this prediction comes from the observation that the number of moles of CH<sub>4</sub> + 2 × C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> + Pn<sup>t</sup>OH is close to that of acetone (Figure 4).

**Mechanism of the TiO<sub>2</sub>-Pt-Catalysed Photoreaction of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH.**—The observed reaction characteristics are rationalized by the following mechanism. In the initial step, the dispersed TiO<sub>2</sub> particle absorbs exciting light to generate a hole-electron pair [reaction (5)]. Pt loaded on TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyses reduction of protons to H<sub>2</sub> by the photogenerated electrons (e) [reaction (6)], which can promote charge separation of the h<sup>+</sup>–e pair and thereby increase the overall activity of TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalyst (see Figure 2).

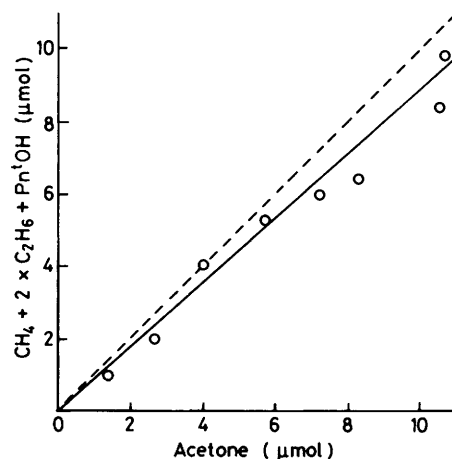


Based on photoirradiation in D<sub>2</sub>O (99%) which produced D<sub>2</sub> (91.6% selectivity) with small amounts of HD (8.0%) and H<sub>2</sub> (0.4%), the direct source of H<sub>2</sub> is presumably H<sub>2</sub>O but not Bu<sup>t</sup>OH.

The conversion of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH to carbon-containing products occurs as a result of hole (h<sup>+</sup>) reaction. There are two possible modes of the h<sup>+</sup> reaction leading to decomposition of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH, *i.e.* direct one-electron oxidation of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH adsorbed on the TiO<sub>2</sub> [reaction (7)] and oxidation of the surface hydroxy group of TiO<sub>2</sub> followed by hydrogen abstraction of the intermediate hydroxyl radical from Bu<sup>t</sup>OH [reactions (8) and (9)]. Clearly,



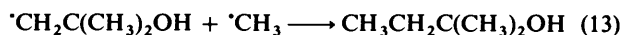
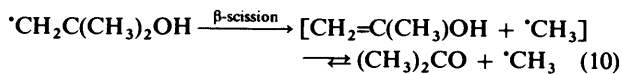
**Figure 3.** Relationships between the amount of products and that of converted Bu<sup>t</sup>OH in the photocatalytic reaction in 1M-NaOH solution under Ar: ●, 2 × H<sub>2</sub> + CH<sub>4</sub> versus converted Bu<sup>t</sup>OH; ○, 2 × 2,5-DH + Pn<sup>t</sup>OH + acetone versus converted Bu<sup>t</sup>OH



**Figure 4.** Relationship between the amount of CH<sub>4</sub> + 2 × C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> + Pn<sup>t</sup>OH and that of acetone as products in the photocatalytic reaction of Bu<sup>t</sup>OH in 1M-NaOH solution under Ar

the products Pn<sup>t</sup>OH and 2,5-DH favour the intermediacy of 2-methyl-2-hydroxypropyl radical rather than *t*-butylalkoxyl radical. The alkyl radical can also be a common intermediate for acetone formation *via* β-scission, although the possibility of an alkoxyl radical intermediate was not ruled out.

Thus, the secondary reaction processes (10)–(14) may be



proposed. Since photoirradiation in D<sub>2</sub>O gave a 1:0.41 CH<sub>3</sub>D-CH<sub>4</sub> mixture in contrast to almost exclusive formation of D<sub>2</sub>,

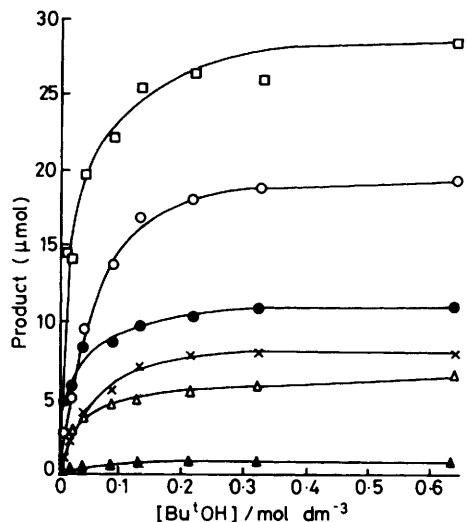


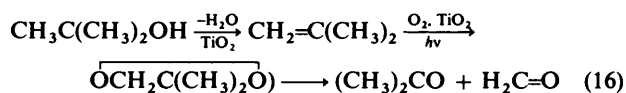
Figure 5. Influence of the concentration of Bu'OH on the product yields. Symbols are same as in Figure 1

hydrogen abstraction of  $\cdot\text{CH}_3$  from Bu'OH [reaction (15)]

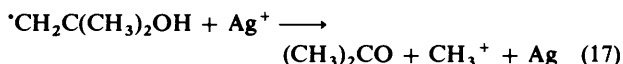


would also occur competitively with reaction (11). This implies that the  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt-catalysed photoreaction of Bu'OH proceeds in part by radical-chain mechanism. The elementary reactions described above are consistent with the net reactions (1)–(4).

Since the photogenerated  $e$  can readily reduce  $\text{O}_2$  to  $\text{O}_2^-$ ,<sup>15–18</sup> the photocatalytic formation of  $\text{H}_2$  [reaction (6)] and hence that of  $\text{CH}_4$  [reaction (11)] will be quenched in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$ . Similarly, the scavenging of  $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{OH}$  intermediate by  $\text{O}_2$  accounts for the decreased yield of 2,5-DH and Pn'OH, although it is less efficient than that of  $e$ . On the other hand, the enhanced formation of acetone in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$  is attributable to the photocatalytic oxygenation of the possible intermediate 2-methylprop-1-ene,<sup>19–21</sup> which was detected by mass spectrometry in the present photoreaction system [equation (16)].



As for  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{Ag}^+$  ion can be a good electron acceptor, producing an Ag metal deposit on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface.<sup>9,10,14,22–24</sup> Thus, the presence of  $\text{Ag}^+$  ions inhibits  $\text{H}_2$  formation almost completely in the  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt-catalysed photoreaction. Instead, the  $\text{Ag}^+$  ions could convert the appreciable amount of Bu'OH even with the use of anatase  $\text{TiO}_2$  without Pt; the activity of rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  was considerably smaller (Table). Concerning the inhibition of the 2,5-DH formation, the redox reaction (17) may operate in contrast to the radical reaction by  $\text{O}_2$ .



**Influence of Bu'OH Concentration on the Photocatalytic Activity of  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt.**—Figure 5 illustrates variations of the product yields as a function of the concentration of Bu'OH upon photoradiation in 1M-NaOH solution with  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt under Ar. The yield of each product increased rapidly in the  $[\text{Bu}'\text{OH}]$  range below 0.1M and then asymptotically approached a characteristic limiting value. As plotted in Figure 6, the

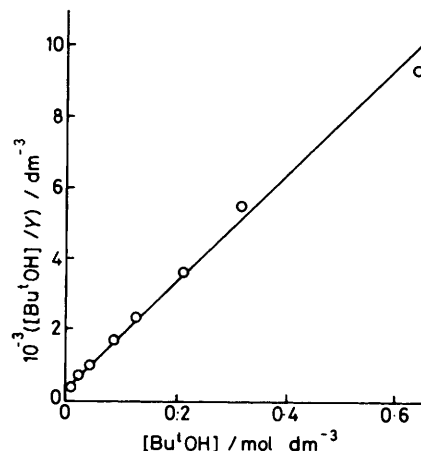


Figure 6. Linear plot of  $[\text{Bu}'\text{OH}]/Y$  versus  $[\text{Bu}'\text{OH}]$

Langmuir-type equation (18) can reproduce the data for the

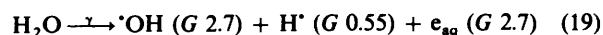
$$Y = \alpha\beta[\text{Bu}'\text{OH}]/(1 + \alpha[\text{Bu}'\text{OH}]) \quad (18)$$

Bu'OH concentration dependence where  $Y$  is the overall reaction yield, which is defined by the total number of moles of  $2 \times \text{H}_2 + \text{CH}_4$  in the light of the relationship in Figure 3,  $\alpha$  is the adsorption equilibrium constant, and  $\beta$  is the limiting reaction yield at  $[\text{Bu}'\text{OH}] \rightarrow \infty$ . The linear relationship in Figure 6 provided  $\alpha$  44  $\text{l mol}^{-1}$  and  $\beta$  65  $\mu\text{mol}$ .

Thus, the amount of  $\text{Bu}'\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  is suggested to increase upon increasing the concentration of Bu'OH, thereby undergoing hydrogen abstraction by  $\cdot\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  more efficiently. It is also likely that the reaction of  $\text{Bu}'\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  interrupts the deactivation of  $\cdot\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  to give a surface hydroxy group ( $\equiv \text{Ti}-\text{OH}$ ) by  $e$ , *i.e.* delayed charge recombination between  $h^+$  and  $e$ .

Concerning product distribution with varying concentrations of Bu'OH, Figure 5 indicates that the yield of 2,5-DH becomes *ca.* 2-fold greater than that of acetone, although the latter exceeds the former in the  $[\text{Bu}'\text{OH}]$  range  $< 20\text{mm}$ . This result may be interpreted in terms of the enhanced bimolecular combination of the intermediate  $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface [reaction (4)];  $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  at lower surface density would undergo  $\beta$ -scission to acetone and  $\cdot\text{CH}_3$  [reaction (10)] in preference to combination.

**Reaction of Bu'OH by Hydroxyl Radical.**—We assume that the  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt-catalysed photoreaction of Bu'OH involves formation of  $\cdot\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  and hydrogen abstraction from  $\text{Bu}'\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$  on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface. In order to characterize the reactivity of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  toward Bu'OH in homogeneous aqueous solution, we also carried out the  $\gamma$ -radiolysis under  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , and the reaction with Fenton's reagent. The primary active species in the dilute aqueous solution system (pH 7.0) are derived from radiolysis of water by reaction (19) where the  $G$  values are the number of



molecules produced per 100 eV of energy absorbed by the solution. The presence of excess of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  converts the hydrated electron ( $e_{\text{aq}}$ ) into  $\cdot\text{OH}$  [reaction (20)]. Thus, the  $\gamma$ -radiolysis of



$\text{N}_2\text{O}$ -saturated solution produces  $\cdot\text{OH}$  ( $G 5.4$ ) along with minor amounts of  $\text{H}^{\cdot}$  ( $G 0.55$ ).<sup>25</sup>

It is evident from the Table that both the homogeneous  $\cdot\text{OH}$  reaction systems give a product distribution similar to the  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt-catalysed photoreaction system. This result provides a strong indication of the generation of  $\cdot\text{OH}$ , probably in the adsorbed form  $\cdot\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$ , by the photoirradiation of  $\text{TiO}_2$ . Also notable is the fact that  $\gamma$ -radiolysis under  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  showed less pH dependence compared with the photocatalytic reaction (Table); the reaction with Fenton's reagent proceeded only under acidic conditions ( $\text{pH} < 2.0$ ). It is likely that modification of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface, protonation and deprotonation of the hydroxy groups as regulated by the pH of aqueous solution phase,<sup>26</sup> is among the major determinants of the photocatalytic activity of  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt.

In summary, this paper has characterized the behaviour of  $\text{Bu}\cdot\text{OH}$  in aqueous systems with the photoirradiated  $\text{TiO}_2$ -Pt catalyst.  $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{OH}$  is the most probable intermediate derived from hydrogen abstraction from  $\text{Bu}\cdot\text{OH}$  by photo-generated  $\cdot\text{OH}_{\text{ads}}$ , undergoing bimolecular combination and  $\beta$ -scission competitively.

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