Photocatalysis on TiO₂ Surfaces

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Introduction

Electronic Excitation









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TiO₂ Properties





Generation of electron-hole pairs in semiconductor particles



Excitation of electron from VB to CB by

an electron acceptor

Linsebigler, Lu & Yates. Chem. Rev. Vol 95, No 3, 735–58 (1995).

Quantum Yield has ideal value of 1 for the photocatalytic process

- Idealization
- Recombination does occur
- Concentration of electrons (n_s) and holes (p_s) at the surface is not equal
- Charge carrier traps used to promote trapping of electrons and holes at surface
- For TiO₂, n_s>p_s because electron transfer to O₂ is slow



Linsebigler, Lu & Yates. Chem. Rev. Vol 95, No 3, 735–58 (1995).

Increase in Band Gap for Decreasing Particle Size

- Quantum size effects occur for semiconductor particles on order of 10-100 A
- Arise when size of particle is comparable to de Broglie wavelength
- Confinement produces quantization of discrete electronic states
- Increases effective band gap



Outline

Electronic Excitation









TiO₂ Anatase shows higher photocatalytic activity

- Chains of TiO₆ octahedra
- Each Ti⁴⁺ is surrounded by six O²⁻ ions
- Octahedron distorted to lower symmetry than orthorhombic
- Each octahedron in contact with eight neighbors
- Lattice structure causes different electronic band structure



DOS shows large band gap



Outline

Electronic Excitation









Application: environmental cleanup



Degradation of organic molecules :

- Depollution of smoke
- Kill bacteria
- Decontaminate water

Many different novel commercial applications

Self cleaning windows



Clothing



Wenxi Guo, et al. Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Research towards a catalyst sensitive to visible light

 TiO₂ does not absorb light in the visible region



- GaN and ZnO
- Rh-Cr mixed oxide co-catalyst
- Can absorb in visible light
- Water splitting to form hydrogen and water using solar energy

Maeda & Domen. J. Phys. Chem. C. Vol 111, No 22, 2007. Linsebigler, Lu & Yates. Chem. Rev. Vol 95, No 3, 735-58 (1995).



Extra

Anatase [TiO₂] Structure Tetragonal Space Group : / 4₁/a m d (No. 141) a=3.7845 Å, c=9.5143 Å a=b=g=90.00 Z=4 Atomic Positional Parameters Ti 4a 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 O 8e 0.0000 0.0000 0.2081



