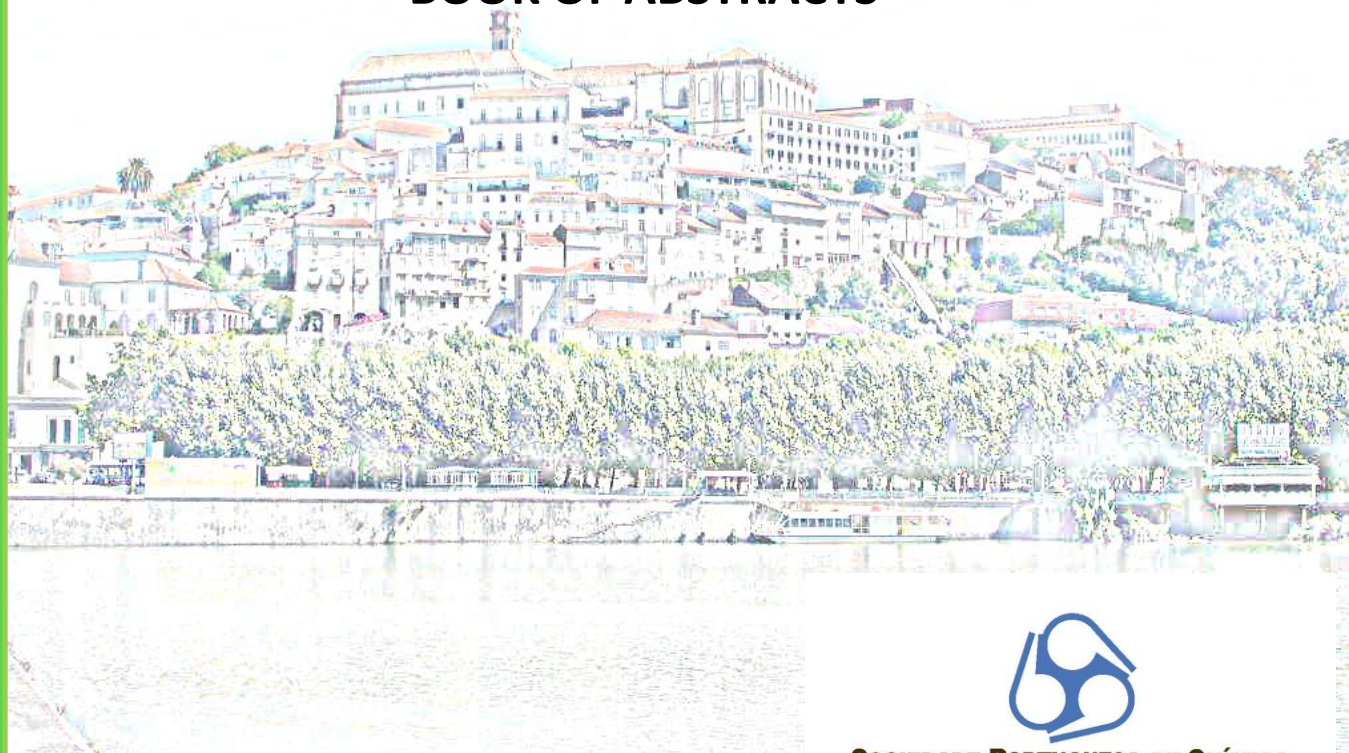


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P-19 MAGNETIC N-DOPED AND UNDOPED CARBON NANOTUBES AS CATALYSTS FOR WET PEROXIDE OXIDATION

Maria Martin-Martinez¹, Rui S. Ribeiro¹, Bruno F. Machado², Philippe Serp², Adrián M.T. Silva³, José L. Figueiredo³, Joaquim L. Faria³, Helder T. Gomes¹

¹LCM – Laboratory of Catalysis and Materials – Associate Laboratory LSRE-LCM, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal.

e-mail: mariamartin@ipb.pt

²Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination UPR CNRS 8241, composant ENSIACET, Université de Toulouse UPS-INP-LCC, Toulouse France

³LCM – Laboratory of Catalysis and Materials – Associate Laboratory LSRE-LCM, Departamento de Engenharia Química, Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Magnetic Fe-containing N-doped and undoped carbon nanotubes (N-CNT and CNT, respectively) have been prepared and tested in the catalytic wet peroxide oxidation (CWPO) of 4-nitrophenol (4-NP; 5 g L⁻¹) at relatively mild operating conditions (atmospheric pressure, T = 50 °C, pH = 3, catalyst/adsorbent load = 2.5 g L⁻¹ and [H₂O₂]₀ = 17.8 g L⁻¹).

The experimental results reveal that CNT have low affinity for H₂O₂, due to their hydrophobic nature, resulting in a controllable and efficient H₂O₂ decomposition to HO• and HOO• radicals, the first step in CWPO reactions, enabling the catalytic removal of 99% of the pollutant in about 12 h (Figure 1). The marked pH decrease observed during the reaction suggests the degradation of 4-NP through the formation of short-chain carboxylic acids. In addition, since Fe is confined inside the CNT structure, it is protected to some extent from leaching into the solution, making this catalyst very attractive for CWPO applications coupled with *in-situ* magnetic separation systems for catalyst recovery.

On the contrary, N-CNT comprise hydrophilic sections in their structure, strongly increasing the affinity of the material towards polar molecules like H₂O₂, which are then quickly decomposed into non-reactive O₂ and H₂O species. This inefficient H₂O₂ decomposition leads to almost no catalytic removal of 4-NP when using N-CNT. In addition, this process may also be assisted by oxidation of the Fe present in the N-CNT structure, as higher Fe leaching was observed.

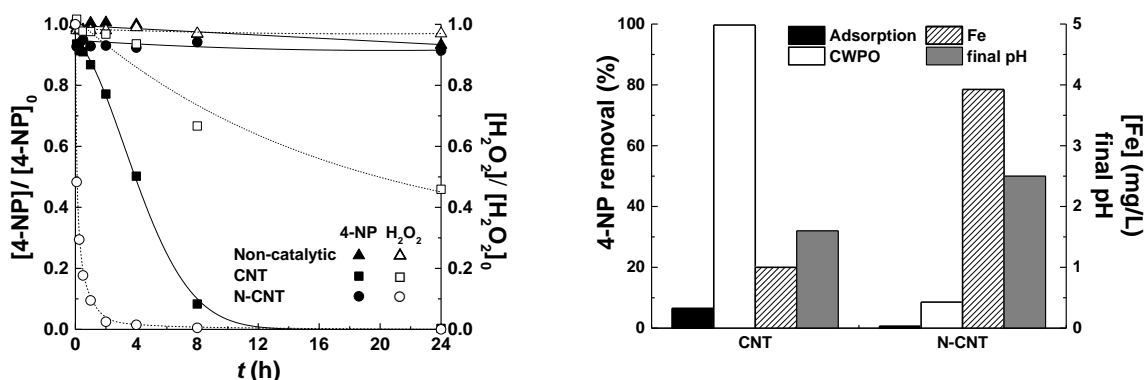


Figure 1: Concentration of 4-NP (solid) and H₂O₂ (open) during the CWPO experiments (left); 4-NP removal in adsorption and CWPO runs, Fe leaching and pH after 24 h (right).

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