

# Ultra-deep catalytic adsorptive desulfurization of diesel fuel using Ti-silica gel adsorbent at low Ti-loading

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## Abstract

In this work, the effective ultra-deep catalytic adsorptive desulfurization (CADS) using Ti-silica gel adsorbent at low Ti loading range (< 1%) was investigated. The superior CADS capacity (37.3 mg-S/g-A) and high TOF value (432 h<sup>-1</sup>) for dibenzothiophene (DBT) were achieved at 0.6% of Ti loading with high dispersion and low Ti coordination. The catalytic oxidation of DBT conformed to the pseudo-first-order kinetic model, and the corresponding rate equation was well described as  $r_{DBT} = \frac{(N^2) \cdot k}{(K \cdot [CHP])} \cdot [DBT]$ , where the TiOOR is determined as the intermediate to enable the DBT oxidation to the corresponding sulfone (DBTO<sub>2</sub>). The effectiveness of CADS using Ti-SG was verified in various real low-sulfur diesels with varied sulfur concentrations and O/S ratios in the dynamic fixed-bed adsorption and multi-cycle regenerations. This work provides insights on using low-cost bifunctional catalytic adsorbents at low Ti loading for effective CADS to realize ultra-deep desulfurization of transportation fuels.

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