

Model Evaluation of the Microbial Metabolic Processes in a Hydrogen-Based Membrane Biofilm Reactor for Simultaneous Bromate and Nitrate Reduction

Minmin Jiang ^{1,2}, Yuanyuan Zhang ², Jie Zhang ^{2,3,4}, Xingru Dai ², Haixiang Li ^{1,*}, Xuehong Zhang ^{1,2}, Zhichao Wu ⁴ and Junjian Zheng ^{2,4,*}

¹ Guangxi Key Laboratory of Environmental Pollution Control Theory and Technology, Guilin University of Technology, 319 Yanshan Street, Guilin 541006, China; jiangminmin1015@163.com (M.J.); zhangxuehong@x263.net (X.Z.)

² College of Life and Environmental Science, Guilin University of Electronic Technology, 1 Jinji Road, Guilin 541004, China; zhangyuanyuan0226@hotmail.com (Y.Z.); jieemma2016@foxmail.com (J.Z.); xingrudai@163.com (X.D.)

³ School of Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Huizhou University, 46 Yanda Road, Huizhou 516007, China

⁴ State Key Laboratory of Pollution Control and Resource Reuse, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Tongji University, 1239 Siping Road, Shanghai 200092, China; wuzhichao@tongji.edu.cn

* Correspondence: 2011042@glut.edu.cn (H.L.); zhengjunjianglut@163.com (J.Z.)

Table S1. Short-term operational conditions of influencing factor experiment of the H₂-MBfR.

Short-term series	H ₂ pressure (MPa)	Influent NO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L)	CO ₂ pressure (MPa)	Other conditions
H ₂ series	0.01-0.08	10	0.012	Influent flowrate=2.0mL/min
NO ₃ ⁻ series	0.04	1-20	0.012	HRT=4.7
CO ₂ series	0.04	10	0.004-0.036	Influent BrO ₃ ⁻ =1.0mg/L Influent NO ₃ ⁻ =10mgN/L

Table S2. Start-up and long-term operational conditions of the H₂-MBfR.

Stages	Periods (days)	H ₂ pressure (MPa)	CO ₂ pressure (MPa)	Influent NO ₃ ⁻ (mgN/L)	Influent BrO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L)	Influent flowrate (mL/min)	HRT (h)
Stage1	0~40	0.04	0.012	10	0	1.6/2.0	5.8/4.7
Stage2	41~60	0.04	0.012	10	0	2.0	4.7
Stage3	61~80	0.04	0.012	10	0.1	2.0	4.7
Stage4	81~100	0.04	0.012	10	0.5	2.0	4.7
Stage5	101~140	0.04	0.012	10	1.0	2.0	4.7

Table S3. Stoichiometric and kinetic parameters of BRB related metabolic process for the developed model.

Parameter	Definition	Value	Unit	Source
$f_{s,BRB}^0$	Fraction of electrons for cell synthesis reaction on BRB	0.591	-	Theoretically calculated*
$f_{e,BRB}^0$	Fraction of electrons for energy providing reaction on BRB	0.409	-	Theoretically calculated*
μ_{BRB}	Maximum specific growth rate of BRB	0.85	1/d	Recalibrated
K_{BrO_3}	Half maximum rate concentration of BrO ₃ ⁻ for BRB	0.014	mg/L	Recalibrated

Table S4. Experiments operational parameters for the model development.

Parameters	Symbol	Value	Unit
Total reactor volume	V	$5.6 \cdot 10^{-4}$	m ³
Membrane area	A	$6.33 \cdot 10^{-2}$	m ²
Influent velocity	Q_{in}	2	mL/min
Influent BrO ₃ ⁻ concentration	S_{BrO_3}	0.1-1.0	mg/L

H ₂ pressure	P_{H_2}	0.01-0.08	MPa
Influent NO ₃ ⁻ concentration	S_{NO_3}	1-20	mgN/L
CO ₂ pressure	P_{CO_2}	0.004-0.036	MPa

Table S5. Other pertinent input parameters for model development.

Symbol	Description	Value	Unit	Source
<i>Stoichiometric parameters</i>				
$f_{e,DNB}^0$	Portion of electrons for energy providing reaction of H ₂ -based denitrification	0.462	-	(Jiang et al., 2020)
$f_{s,DNB}^0$	Portion of electrons for biomass synthesis of DNB	0.538	-	(Jiang et al., 2020)
Y_{HB}	Yield for HB growing on SMP	0.67	mol COD/mol COD	(Henze et al., 2008)
k_1	Fraction of electrons going to biomass production	0.77	-	(Tang et al., 2012)
k_2	Fraction of electrons going to SMP formation	0.05	-	(Tang et al., 2012)
k_3	Fraction of electrons going to EPS formation	0.18	-	(Tang et al., 2012)
f_d	Fraction of biodegradable biomass	0.8	-	(Tang et al., 2012)
<i>Kinetic parameters</i>				
μ_{DNB}	Maximum specific growth rate of DNB	0.57	1/d	Recalibrated
μ_{HB}	Maximum specific growth rate of HB	4	1/d	(Jiang et al., 2020)
$K_{H_2}^{DNB}$	Half maximum rate concentration of H ₂ for DNB	0.001	mol H ₂ /m ³	(Tang et al., 2012)
$K_{NO_3}^{DNB}$	Half maximum rate concentration of NO ₃ ⁻ for DNB	0.0143	mol N/m ³	(Tang et al., 2012)
$K_{CO_2}^{DNB}$	Half maximum rate concentration of CO ₂ for DNB	0.0001	mol CO ₂ /m ³	(Jiang et al., 2020)
$K_{H_2}^{BRB}$	Half maximum rate concentration of H ₂ for BRB	0.001	mol H ₂ /m ³	(Jiang et al., 2020)
$K_{NO_3}^{BRB}$	Half maximum rate concentration of NO ₃ ⁻ for BRB	0.0143	mol N/m ³	(Jiang et al., 2020)
$K_{CO_2}^{BRB}$	Half maximum rate concentration of CO ₂ for BRB	0.0001	mol CO ₂ /m ³	(Jiang et al., 2020)
$K_{NO_3}^{HB}$	Half maximum rate concentration of NO ₃ ⁻ for HB	0.0143	mol N/m ³	(Tang et al., 2012)
K_{SMP}^{HB}	Half maximum rate concentration of SMP for HB	0.156	mol COD/m ³	(Chen et al., 2017)
b_{DNB}	Specific decay rate of DNB	0.05	1/d	(Jiang et al., 2020)
b_{BRB}	Specific decay rate of BRB	0.05	1/d	(Jiang et al., 2020)
b_{HB}	Specific decay rate of HB	0.1	1/d	(Jiang et al., 2020)
k_{hyd}	Hydrolysis rate of EPS	0.22	1/d	(Tang et al., 2012)
<i>Physical parameters</i>				
D_{H_2}	Diffusion coefficient of H ₂ in water	4.415·10 ⁻⁴	m ² /d	(Lide, 2012)
D_{NO_3}	Diffusion coefficient of NO ₃ ⁻ in water	1.643·10 ⁻⁴	m ² /d	(Lide, 2012)
D_{BrO_3}	Diffusion coefficient of BrO ₃ ⁻ in water	1.281·10 ⁻⁴	m ² /d	(Lide, 2012)
D_{CO_2}	Diffusion coefficient of CO ₂ in water	1.650·10 ⁻⁴	m ² /d	(Lide, 2012)
D_{SMP}	Diffusion coefficient of SMP in water	8.64·10 ⁻⁵	m ² /d	(Lide, 2012)

f_{dif}	Diffusion in biofilm/in water	0.75	-	(Jiang et al., 2020)
H_{H_2}	Henry coefficient of H_2	0.019	-	(Jiang et al., 2020)
K_m	H_2 transfer coefficient of HFM	0.189	m/d	Recalibrated

Section S1. Calculation of the stoichiometric coefficients for BRB metabolic process (method (Henze et al., 2008; Jiang et al., 2020)).

The stoichiometric coefficient for BRB metabolic process was theoretically calculated based on bioenergetics. The calculation procedure consists of the following 4 steps.

A. Energy providing reaction (catabolism)

The reaction and energy available from the autotrophic growth with H_2 as electron donor and BrO_3^- as electron acceptor is:



$$\Delta G_{\text{cata}} = K\Delta G_{\text{R}} = 0.60 \times (-138.98) = -83.39 \text{ kJ/eeq} \quad \text{S1.2}$$

where: ΔG_{cata} is the Gibbs energy available for catabolism from 1 eeq of electron donor (kJ/eeq), K is the fraction of energy transfer captured (typically 0.60), ΔG_{R} is the Gibbs energy released from 1 eeq of electron donor (kJ/eeq), $\Delta G_{\text{R}} = -138.98 \text{ kJ/eeq}$ according to S1.1.

B. Energy needed for cell synthesis (anabolism)

Referring to the references (Henze et al., 2008; Jiang et al., 2020), the energy needed to synthesize biomass from H_2 as electron donor and NO_3^- as nitrogen source was that $\Delta G_{\text{ana}} = 57.702 \text{ kJ/eeq}$.

C. Determining f_e^0 (energy fraction) and f_s^0 (cell synthesis fraction)

$$f_s^0 = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{f_e^0}{f_s^0}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\Delta G_{\text{ana}}}{-\Delta G_{\text{cata}}}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{57.702}{83.39}} = 0.591 \quad \text{S1.3}$$

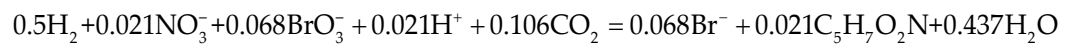
$$f_e^0 = 1 - f_s^0 = 1 - 0.591 = 0.409 \quad \text{S1.4}$$

D. Solve for the stoichiometric coefficients for all the components with BRB autotrophic growth on H_2

$$(\text{ED reaction}) + (\text{EA reaction}) \times f_e^0 + (\text{Synthesis reaction}) \times f_s^0 \quad \text{S1.5}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2 + \frac{f_s^0}{28}\text{NO}_3^- + \frac{f_e^0}{6}\text{BrO}_3^- + \left(f_e^0 + \frac{29f_s^0}{28} - 1\right)\text{H}^+ + \frac{5f_s^0}{28}\text{CO}_2 = \frac{f_e^0}{6}\text{Br}^- + \frac{f_s^0}{28}\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2\text{N} + \left(\frac{f_e^0}{2} + \frac{11f_s^0}{28}\right)\text{H}_2\text{O} \quad \text{S1.6}$$

Substitute the values of f_e^0 and f_s^0 into S1.6:



S1.7

References

- Chen, X., Liu, Y., Peng, L., Ni, B.-J., 2017. Perchlorate, Nitrate, and Sulfate Reduction in Hydrogen-based Membrane Biofilm Reactor: Model-based Evaluation. *Chemical Engineering Journal* 316, 82-90. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2017.01.084>.
- Henze, M., van Loosdrecht, M.C., Ekama, G.A., Brdjanovic, D., 2008. *Biological Wastewater Treatment*, IWA publishing, London, UK.
- Jiang, M., Zheng, J., Perez-Calleja, P., Picioreanu, C., Lin, H., Zhang, X., Zhang, Y., Li, H., Nerenberg, R., 2020. New Insight into CO₂-mediated Denitrification Process in H₂-based Membrane Biofilm Reactor: An Experimental and Modeling Study. *Water Research* 184, 116177. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.watres.2020.116177>.
- Lide, D.R., 2012. *CRC handbook of chemistry and physics*, CRC Boca Raton, Florida, US.
- Tang, Y., Zhao, H., Marcus, A.K., Krajmalnik-Brown, R., Rittmann, B., E, 2012. A steady-state Biofilm Model for Simultaneous Reduction of Nitrate and Perchlorate, Part 1: Model Development and Numerical Solution. *Environmental Science & Technology* 46(3), 1598-1607. <https://doi.org/10.1021/es203129s>.