

# Simultaneous Removal of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> Mixture in Air by 172-nm Xe<sub>2</sub> Excimer Lamp at Atmospheric Pressure

Masaharu TSUJI\*<sup>1,2†</sup> Takashi KAWAHARA\*<sup>3</sup> Keiko UTO\*<sup>1</sup>

Jun-Ichiro HAYASHI\*<sup>1,2</sup> and Takeshi TSUJI\*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>†</sup>E-mail of corresponding author: tsuji@cm.kyushu-u.ac.jp

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NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in an NO<sub>2</sub>(200 ppm)/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>(200 ppm) mixture were simultaneously removed in air at atmospheric pressure using a 172-nm vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) Xe<sub>2</sub> excimer lamp. Reactants and products before and after photoirradiation were analyzed using an FTIR spectrometer. Results show that NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> were finally converted to HNO<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively, by 172-nm photolysis of the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture. Although the removal rate of NO<sub>2</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture was nearly the same as that of pure NO<sub>2</sub> in air, the C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> removal delayed until a sufficient reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> (NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, and NO<sub>3</sub>) concentrations. In order to obtain information on these results, computer simulation of decomposition processes was carried out. The delay of the C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> removal in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture was explained by 42–82 times larger reaction rate constants of the O(<sup>3</sup>P) + NO<sub>x</sub> reactions than that of the O(<sup>3</sup>P) + C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> reaction.

**Key words:** NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, Excimer lamp, VUV photolysis, Air pollution

## 1. Introduction

Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub> = NO + NO<sub>2</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are major pollutants in the atmosphere, being a precursor to photochemical smog, acid rain, and ozone accumulation. The most general removal methods of NO<sub>x</sub> are based on catalytic reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> to elemental nitrogen by gaseous reducing agents, which are either selective (ammonia or ammonium compounds) or nonselective (NO<sub>x</sub>, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons).<sup>1-3)</sup> In the selective catalytic reduction process, NO<sub>x</sub> is reduced by ammonia over a catalyst to form harmless N<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O vapor without creating any secondary pollutants. Non-selective catalytic reduction requires injection of expensive NH<sub>3</sub> or other reducing agents without catalysts.

VOCs are recognized as major contributors to air pollution, either through their toxic nature

or as participants in atmospheric photochemical reactions. They are emitted from different outdoor sources (motor vehicles, incomplete combustion in industrial processes) and from indoor sources.<sup>4,5)</sup> Current methods to remove VOC from indoor air include plasma oxidation, photocatalytic oxidation, and adsorption by activated carbons.<sup>6-12)</sup>

The plasma discharge method is also used in domestic air cleaners for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC removal. Radicals formed by plasma discharge act as major active species for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC removal.<sup>13)</sup> However, these radicals also oxidize nitrogen and oxygen simultaneously, respectively generating NO<sub>x</sub> and ozone.<sup>14)</sup> Therefore, the development of a new effective removal method of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC is highly anticipated.

Vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) photolysis of air pollutants is a new promising method for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC removal. Advantages of the VUV photolysis method are that it involves low-temperature operation in air at atmospheric pressure using a simple apparatus and no expensive catalysts. In general, when NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs are decomposed using electric discharge in air, toxic NO<sub>x</sub> are formed because collisions of fast electrons generated in discharges with

\*1 Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, and Research and Education Center of Green Technology

\*2 Department of Applied Science for Electronics and Materials

\*3 Department of Applied Science for Electronics and Materials, Graduate Student

\*4 Department of Materials Science, Shimane University

N<sub>2</sub> give active N atoms, which provide NO<sub>x</sub> by collisions with O<sub>2</sub>. In this respect, an additional advantage of 172-nm photochemical method is that no NO<sub>x</sub> are emitted because active nitrogen is not generated under 172-nm photoirradiation of N<sub>2</sub>.

We have studied removal of such typical NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC as NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in air using a side-on type of 172-nm excimer lamp.<sup>15,16)</sup> NO<sub>2</sub> was dominantly converted to HNO<sub>3</sub> after photolysis, whereas C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> was converted to CO<sub>2</sub> via HCOOH and CO intermediates. Photochemical oxidants are the product of chemical reactions that occur between NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs. Typical photochemical oxidants are ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), and peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN). These photochemical oxidants are cause for concern, as they can have negative effects on human, plant, and animal health. Therefore, simultaneous removal techniques of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs in air at atmospheric conditions are required.

In this study we attempted simultaneous removal of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture in air by 172-nm photolysis. Air dominantly consists of N<sub>2</sub>(80%) and O<sub>2</sub>(20%). Although 172-nm photons are not absorbed by N<sub>2</sub>, they are absorbed by O<sub>2</sub> through Schumann–Runge continuum.<sup>17)</sup> After photoabsorption, O<sub>2</sub> is selectively dissociated into the ground-state O(<sup>3</sup>P) atom and the metastable-state O(<sup>1</sup>D) atom: O<sub>2</sub> + hν (172 nm) → O(<sup>3</sup>P) + (<sup>1</sup>D).<sup>19)</sup> O<sub>3</sub> molecules are generated by the subsequent three-body reactions: O(<sup>3</sup>P) + O<sub>2</sub> + N<sub>2</sub> (or O<sub>2</sub>) → O<sub>3</sub> + N<sub>2</sub> (or O<sub>2</sub>). Therefore, in addition to direct VUV photodegradation, reactions of O(<sup>3</sup>P,<sup>1</sup>D) and O<sub>3</sub> can participate in removal of an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture. On the basis of our precious studies,<sup>15,16)</sup> most important active species in the 172-nm photolysis of pure

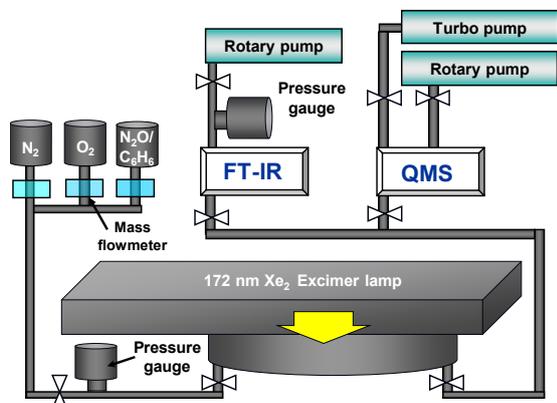
NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> were found to be OH + NO<sub>2</sub> and O(<sup>3</sup>P) + C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> are major pathways for the formation of HNO<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> in the initial step. In the present study, removal mechanisms are discussed on the basis of computer simulation of reaction processes.

## 2. Experimental

Fig. 1 portrays a schematic diagram of side-on type of 172-nm excimer lamp used for this study. Table 1 presents the major performance of the side-on lamp (SL). The input power of the SL was 20 W. Experiments were conducted using the SL at a chamber volume of 235.5 cm<sup>3</sup> or 39.3 cm<sup>3</sup> where the chamber thicknesses was 3 cm or 0.5 cm, respectively.

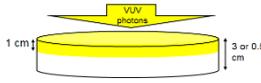
Light from an unfocused 172-nm Xe<sub>2</sub> lamp (155–200 nm range, UER20H172; Ushio Inc.) was irradiated into the photolysis chamber through a quartz window. Experiments were conducted using a closed batch chamber at atmospheric pressure. The concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> diluted in an N<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> mixture (20% O<sub>2</sub>) was both 200 ppm (v/v). Outlet gases from the photolysis chamber were analyzed using a gas analysis system (FG122-LS; Horiba Ltd.) equipped with an FTIR spectrometer. The spectra in the 700–4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> region were monitored. The concentrations of CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, HCOOH, and NO<sub>2</sub> were calibrated using standard gases. On the other hand, the HNO<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were evaluated by reference to standard spectral data supplied from Horiba Ltd. Thereby, the residual amounts of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, C<sub>t</sub>/C<sub>0</sub>, were inferred from absorbance of FTIR peaks. Here, C<sub>0</sub> is the initial concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> or C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>.

The following gases were used: N<sub>2</sub> (purity >99.9998%; Taiyo Nippon Sanso (TNS) Corp.) O<sub>2</sub> (purity >99.99995%; TNS Corp.), NO<sub>2</sub> (2000 ppm in high-purity N<sub>2</sub>; TNS Corp., and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> (TNS: 2000 ppm in high purity N<sub>2</sub>). FTIR data indicated a small amount of H<sub>2</sub>O (300 ppm) is



**Fig. 1.** Side-on type of 172-nm photolysis apparatus.

**Table 1.** Performance of photolysis chamber using a side-on lamp

VUV irradiation	
Input power	20 W
Irradiance	10 mW/cm <sup>2</sup>
Window area	78.5 cm <sup>2</sup>
Photon numbers/s	6.83 × 10 <sup>17</sup> photons/s
Chamber volume	235.5 or 39.3 cm <sup>3</sup>

involved in the photolysis chamber as an impurity.

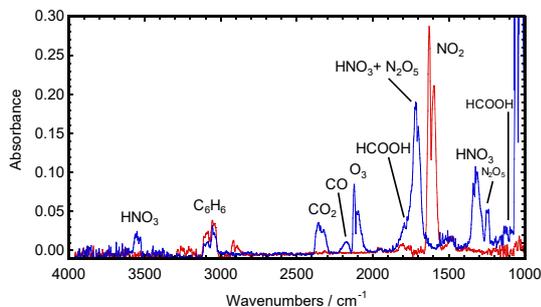
### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Removal of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture by 172-nm photolysis in air

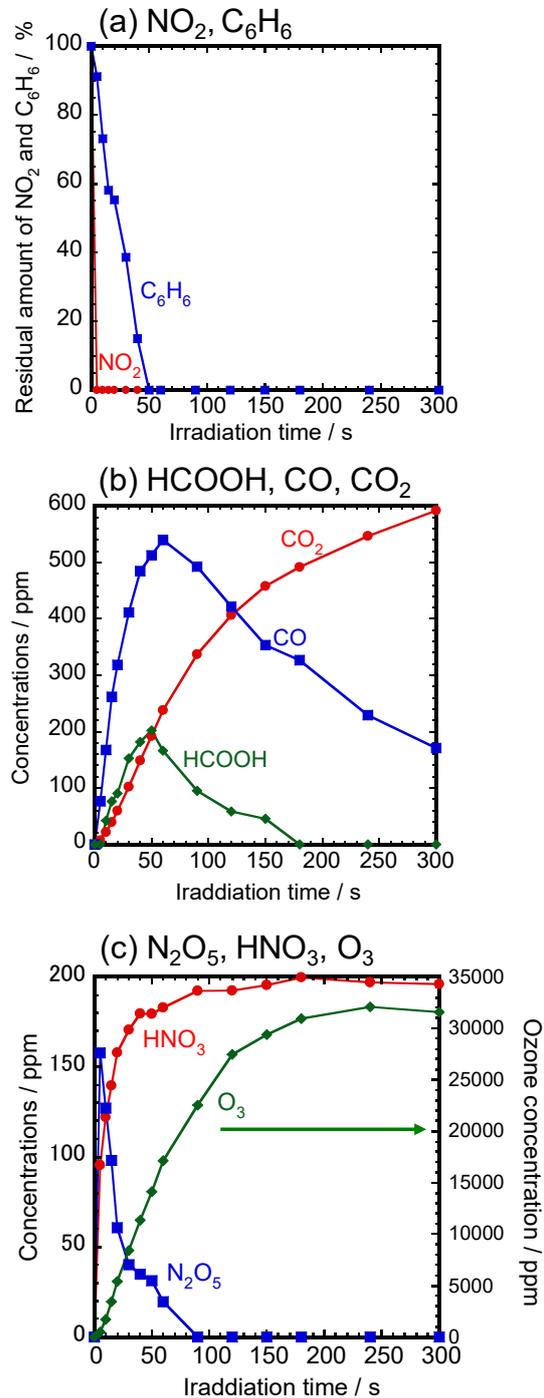
Fig. 2 shows FTIR spectra observed before and after 172-nm photolysis of an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture in air (20% O<sub>2</sub>) for 15 s at a chamber depth of 3 cm. Before photolysis, a strong NO<sub>2</sub> peak at about 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup> and a weaker C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> peak at about 3200 cm<sup>-1</sup> are observed. After 15 s photoirradiation, although the NO<sub>2</sub> peak disappears, the C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> peak becomes slightly weak. In addition, N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, HCOOH, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> peaks appear. All of these product peaks have been observed by photolysis of either pure NO<sub>2</sub> or C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub><sup>15,16)</sup> so that no new product peaks, arising from the reactions between NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, were observed.

In Fig 3 is shown the dependence of concentrations of (a) NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, (b) HCOOH, CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>, and (c) N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> on the irradiation time. NO<sub>2</sub> is decomposed completely within 5 s, whereas the decomposition of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> occurs more slowly and it takes about 50 s until its complete decomposition. The HCOOH and CO concentrations have peaks at 50–60 s, whereas the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration increases with increasing the irradiation time. These results indicate that HCOOH and CO intermediates are finally converted to CO<sub>2</sub>. The N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentration has a peak at 5 s and decreases rapidly above that. On the other hand, the HNO<sub>3</sub> concentration increases until about 100 s and then levels off above thereafter. It is therefore reasonable to assume that N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is efficiently converted to HNO<sub>3</sub> under our condition. The O<sub>3</sub> concentration increases from

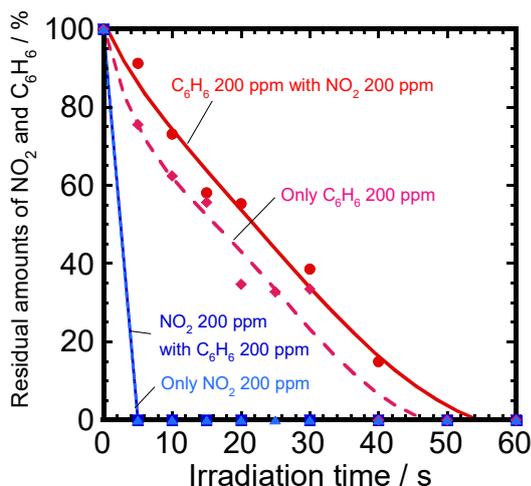
zero to 31,000 ppm with increasing the irradiation time from zero to 300 s.



**Fig. 2.** FTIR spectra observed before (red line) and after 172-nm photolysis (blue line) of an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture in air (20% O<sub>2</sub>) for 15 s.



**Fig. 3.** Dependence of (a) residual amounts of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, (b) concentrations of HCOOH, CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>, and (c) concentrations of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> on the irradiation time in removal of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture by 172-nm excimer lamp in air (20% O<sub>2</sub>). The chamber depth was 3 cm.



**Fig. 4.** Dependence of residual amounts of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> on the irradiation time in pure NO<sub>2</sub> or C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture under 172-nm photolysis in air (20% O<sub>2</sub>). The chamber depth was 3.0 cm.

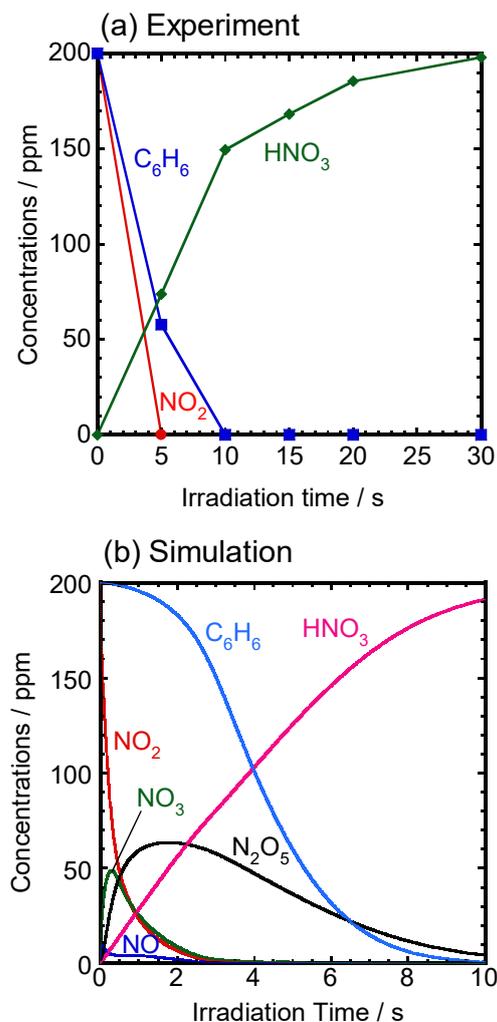
In order to examine effects of mixing NO<sub>2</sub> with C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, dependence of residual amounts of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> on the irradiation time in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture was compared with that in pure NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> (Fig. 4). It should be noted that the removal rate of NO<sub>2</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture is nearly identical to that of pure NO<sub>2</sub>. On the other hand, the removal rate of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture is slower than that of pure C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, so that the removal curve of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture shifts to longer irradiation time in comparison with that of pure C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> by about 10 s.

### 3.2 Simulation of removal processes of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture by 172-nm photolysis in air

In our previous studies on 172-nm photolysis of pure NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, we succeeded in reproducing dependence of their removal amounts on the irradiation time by model calculations.<sup>15,16</sup> In this study, removal of an NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture is kinetically simulated by solving simultaneous differential equations using Runge–Kutta methods. Table A1 (Appendix) gives experimental parameters used for the simulation. For the simulation, we assumed that such active species as 172-nm photons, O(<sup>3</sup>P), and O<sub>3</sub> were distributed uniformly within the reaction chamber. At a short chamber length of 0.5 cm, incident light is attenuated by only 7.23% at 20% O<sub>2</sub>.<sup>15,16</sup> Therefore, we conducted removal experiments

of the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture at 0.5 cm with a small reaction volume (39.3 mL), where the above assumption is expected to be well established. The obtained experimental data for NO<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, and HNO<sub>3</sub> are presented in Fig. 5(a). The concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> decreases to zero below 5 s, whereas that of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> decreases to zero at 10 s. The HNO<sub>3</sub> concentration increases from zero to about 200 ppm after about 30 s.

Table 2 shows elementary reactions used for the simulation. They consist of 172-nm photolysis of O<sub>2</sub> leading to O(<sup>1</sup>D) + O(<sup>3</sup>P) atoms (1),<sup>18</sup> relaxation of O(<sup>1</sup>D) to O(<sup>3</sup>P) (2a)–(2b), three-body reactions leading to O<sub>3</sub> (3a)–(3b), VUV photolysis of O<sub>3</sub> (4a)–(4b), dissociation of O<sub>3</sub> (5)–(7), three-body recombination of O(<sup>3</sup>P) (8a)–(8b), VUV photolysis of NO<sub>2</sub>, (9), NO<sub>x</sub> + O<sub>3</sub> reactions (10)–(12), NO<sub>x</sub> + O(<sup>3</sup>P) reactions (13)–(17), other NO<sub>x</sub> reactions (18)–(21), and



**Fig. 5.** Dependence of reagents and products on the irradiation time obtained by (a) experiment and (b) simulation. The chamber depth was 0.5 cm.

**Table 2**

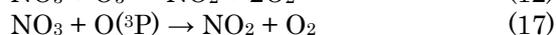
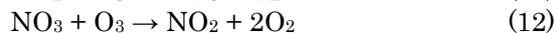
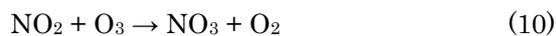
Reactions considered for the simulation of simultaneous removal of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture by 172-nm photolysis in air.

Chemical equations		
$O_2 + h\nu \rightarrow O(^3P) + O(^1D)$	$\sigma_1$	(1)
$O(^1D) + O_2 \rightarrow O(^3P) + O_2$	$k_{2a}$	(2a)
$O(^1D) + N_2 \rightarrow O(^3P) + N_2$	$k_{2b}$	(2b)
$O(^3P) + O_2 + O_2 \rightarrow O_3 + O_2$	$k_{3a}$	(3a)
$O(^3P) + O_2 + N_2 \rightarrow O_3 + N_2$	$k_{3b}$	(3b)
$O_3 + h\nu \rightarrow O(^3P) + O_2$	$\sigma_{4a}$	(4a)
$O_3 + h\nu \rightarrow 3O(^3P)$	$\sigma_{4b}$	(4b)
$O_3 \rightarrow O_2 + O(^3P)$	$k_5$	(5)
$O_3 + O_3 \rightarrow 3O_2$	$k_6$	(6)
$O(^3P) + O_3 \rightarrow 2O_2$	$k_7$	(7)
$2O(^3P) + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$k_{8a}$	(8a)
$2O(^3P) + N_2 \rightarrow O_2 + N_2$	$k_{8b}$	(8b)
$NO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow NO + O(^3P)$	$\sigma_9$	(9)
$NO_2 + O_3 \rightarrow NO_3 + O_2$	$k_{10}$	(10)
$NO + O_3 \rightarrow NO_2 + O_2$	$k_{11}$	(11)
$NO_3 + O_3 \rightarrow NO_2 + 2O_2$	$k_{12}$	(12)
$NO_2 + O(^3P) \rightarrow NO_3$	$k_{13}$	(13)
$NO_2 + O(^3P) + N_2 \rightarrow NO_3 + N_2$	$k_{14a}$	(14a)
$NO_2 + O(^3P) + O_2 \rightarrow NO_3 + O_2$	$k_{14b}$	(14b)
$NO_2 + O(^3P) \rightarrow NO + O_2$	$k_{15}$	(15)
$NO + O(^3P) \rightarrow NO_2$	$k_{16}$	(16)
$NO_3 + O(^3P) \rightarrow NO_2 + O_2$	$k_{17}$	(17)
$NO_2 + NO_3 \rightarrow N_2O_5$	$k_{18}$	(18)
$NO_2 + NO_3 \rightarrow NO + NO_2 + O_2$	$k_{19}$	(19)
$NO + NO_3 \rightarrow 2NO_2$	$k_{20}$	(20)
$N_2O_5 + H_2O \rightarrow 2HNO_3$	$k_{21}$	(21)
$H_2O + h\nu \rightarrow OH + O(^3P)$	$\sigma_{22}$	(22)
$NO_2 + OH \rightarrow HNO_3$	$k_{23}$	(23)
$2N_2O_5 \rightarrow 4NO_2 + O_2$	$k_{24}$	(24)
$N_2O_5 + O(^3P) \rightarrow 2NO_2 + O_2$	$k_{25}$	(25)
$C_6H_6 + h\nu \rightarrow \text{products}$	$\sigma_{26}$	(26)
$O(^3P) + C_6H_6 \rightarrow \text{Products}$	$k_{27}$	(27)
$O_3 + C_6H_6 \rightarrow \text{Products}$	$k_{28}$	(28)

VUV photolysis of H<sub>2</sub>O (22), and other NO<sub>x</sub> reactions (23)–(25). 172-nm photolysis of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> (26) and reactions of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> (27)–(28) were also considered.

In the simulation, we used the same reaction rate constants and spectroscopic data as those used in our previous studies.<sup>15,16</sup> Most of kinetic and spectroscopic data were obtained from Refs. 17–19. The temperature rise of 0.026 K/s in the photolysis chamber after photoirradiation was assumed for the simulation of simultaneous removal of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture because the temperature of the reaction chamber increases concomitantly with increasing photoirradiation time. The validity of this assumption was confirmed from the time evolution of O<sub>3</sub> in air in our photolysis chamber.<sup>15</sup> Fig. 5(b) shows simulation data for NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture.

In our removal model of NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> molecules are oxidized to NO<sub>3</sub> by collisions with O<sub>3</sub>, whereas NO<sub>3</sub> molecules are reduced to NO<sub>2</sub> by collisions with O<sub>3</sub> and O(^3P).



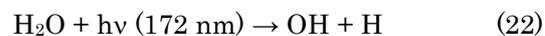
N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> molecules are formed by the NO<sub>2</sub> + NO<sub>3</sub> reaction.



It was further converted to HNO<sub>3</sub> by the N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O reaction.



In addition, reactions of OH radicals, formed by 172-nm photolysis of H<sub>2</sub>O, are considered.



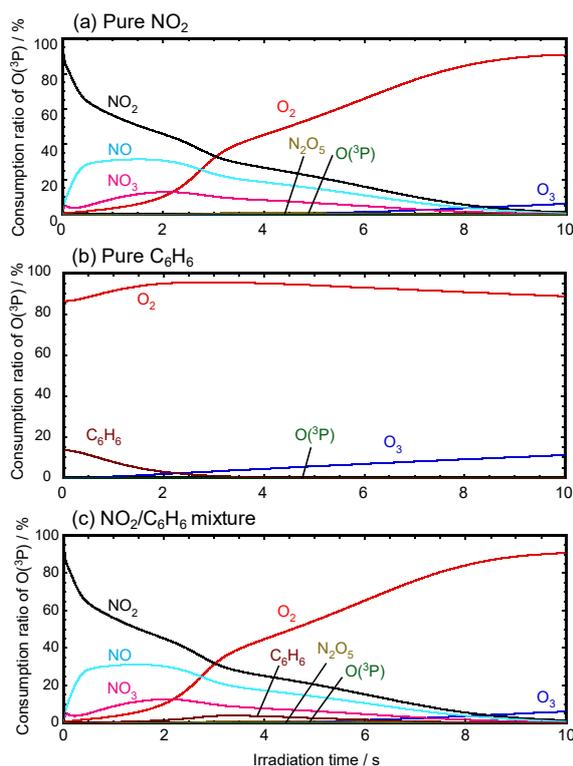
The NO<sub>2</sub> + OH reaction gives HNO<sub>3</sub>.



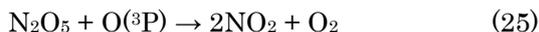
N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> formed by the oxidation of NO<sub>2</sub> is reduced again to NO<sub>2</sub> by the first-order reaction.



N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is also decomposed by the reaction with O(^3P).



**Fig. 6.** Dependence of consumption ratio of O(<sup>3</sup>P) in (a) pure NO<sub>2</sub>, (b) pure C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, and (c) NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture on the irradiation time under 172-nm photolysis. Data were obtained by model calculations. The chamber depth was 0.5 cm.



In our removal model for the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture (Fig. 5(b)), NO<sub>2</sub> is decomposed below about 3 s. NO<sub>3</sub> and NO are formed below 2 s and disappear at about 3 s. The N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentration increases to about 60 ppm at about 2 s and decreases to 4 ppm at 10 s. On the other hand, the concentration of HNO<sub>3</sub>, which is the dominant product in this model, increases gradually from zero to 190 ppm until 10 s. A reasonable agreement is found between the calculated and experimental data for time profiles of the NO<sub>2</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentrations, indicating that NO<sub>2</sub> removal proceeds dominantly through our proposed removal model.

Fig. 5(b) also shows removal profile of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> calculated taking account of all reactions processes given in Table 2. In our removal model of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> molecules are decomposed by the O(<sup>3</sup>P) + C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> reaction. A satisfactory agreement between the experimental and simulation data is obtained for the C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> removal in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture, implying

that our simulation model is applicable to reproduce the removal profile of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture

Fig. 6 shows the dependence of the consumption ratio of O(<sup>3</sup>P) on the irradiation time in pure NO<sub>2</sub> or C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture obtained by simulations. Results show that the time profile of consumption ratio of O(<sup>3</sup>P) obtained from the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture is nearly identical to that obtained from pure NO<sub>2</sub>, except for the time profile of consumption ratio of O(<sup>3</sup>P) by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>. Below about 3 s, O(<sup>3</sup>P) atoms are dominantly consumed by NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, and NO<sub>3</sub>. Although the consumption ratio of O(<sup>3</sup>P) by O<sub>2</sub> is small below 2 s, it gradually increases above 2 s and it becomes larger than those of NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, and NO<sub>3</sub> above about 3 s.

It should be noted that the time profile of consumption ratio of O(<sup>3</sup>P) by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture is different from that in pure C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>. The consumption ratio of the O(<sup>3</sup>P) + C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> reaction rapidly decreases from 14% to 1.1% in the short 0–3 s range in pure C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, whereas it occupies only 1.5–4.0 % in the 2–6 s range in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture. On the basis of above facts, O(<sup>3</sup>P) atoms are initially consumed by NO<sub>x</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture, so that the consumption of O(<sup>3</sup>P) by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> delays by 4±2 s in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture.

We discuss below the reason why the time profile of consumption ratio of O(<sup>3</sup>P) by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture is different from that in pure C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> using known reaction rate constants of related reactions. Removal of NO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> occurs competitively in the NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> mixture. The reaction rate constant of the O(<sup>3</sup>P) + C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> reaction ( $k_{27} = 4.04 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ molecule}^{-1}$ ) is smaller than those of the O(<sup>3</sup>P) + NO<sub>2</sub> reactions ( $k_{13} + k_{15} = 3.33 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ molecule}^{-1}$ ) by a factor of 82.<sup>19)</sup> It is also smaller than those of the O(<sup>3</sup>P) + NO reaction ( $k_{16} = 2.99 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ molecule}^{-1}$ ) and O(<sup>3</sup>P) + NO<sub>3</sub> reaction ( $k_{17} = 1.70 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ molecule}^{-1}$ ) by factors of 74 and 42, respectively.<sup>19)</sup> Therefore, O(<sup>3</sup>P) atoms are initially consumed by reactions with such NO<sub>x</sub> as NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, and NO<sub>3</sub>. The O(<sup>3</sup>P) + C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> reaction occurs after the NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, and NO<sub>3</sub> concentrations become low, where the initial NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is reduced to about half. The consumption of O(<sup>3</sup>P) by NO<sub>x</sub> in the initial stage is attributed to the main reason why the C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> removal delayed until a sufficient reduction of NO<sub>x</sub>.

For the practical use of our removal method, a flow system, by which continuous removal of NO<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> is possible, is required. On the basis of the present results, a long reaction chamber

is necessary for the simultaneous removal of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  in the  $\text{NO}_2/\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  mixture using a flow system, where  $\text{NO}_2$  must be removed to some extent upstream and the  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  is removed downstream at low  $\text{NO}_2$  concentrations.

#### 4. Summary and Conclusion

$\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  in an  $\text{NO}_2/\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  mixture were simultaneously removed in air at atmospheric pressure using a 172-nm  $\text{Xe}_2$  excimer lamp. Reactants and products before and after photoirradiation demonstrated that  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  were finally converted to  $\text{HNO}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ , respectively. Although the removal rate of  $\text{NO}_2$  in the  $\text{NO}_2/\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  mixture was nearly the same as that of pure  $\text{NO}_2$  in air, the  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  removal delayed until the  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration is reduced to about half. In order to obtain information on these results, computer simulation of removal processes of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  in the  $\text{NO}_2/\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  mixture was carried out. The delay of the  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  removal in the  $\text{NO}_2/\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  mixture was explained by much larger reaction rate constants of the  $\text{O}(^3\text{P}) + \text{NO}_x$  reactions than that of the  $\text{O}(^3\text{P}) + \text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  reaction. The present results give fundamental information on the development of photochemical removal apparatus of mixtures of  $\text{NO}_x/\text{VOC}$ .

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#### Appendix

**Table A1.** Parameters used for the simulation of simultaneous removal of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  in the  $\text{NO}_2/\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  mixture by 172-nm photolysis in air.

Absorption cross section of $\text{O}_2$ at 172 nm	$\sigma_1 = 4.63 \times 10^{-19}$ [cm <sup>2</sup> /molecule]
Absorption cross section of $\text{O}_3$ at 172 nm	$\sigma_4 = 8.16 \times 10^{-19}$ [cm <sup>2</sup> /molecule]
Branching fraction of photolysis of $\text{O}_3$ at 172 nm	4a : 4b =
$\text{O}_3 + h\nu$	0.9 : 0.1
$\rightarrow \text{O}(^3\text{P}) + \text{O}_2$ (4a)	
$\rightarrow 3\text{O}(^3\text{P})$ (4b)	
Absorption cross section of $\text{NO}_2$ at 172 nm	$\sigma_9 = 1.45 \times 10^{-17}$ [cm <sup>2</sup> /molecule]
Absorption cross section of $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ at 172 nm	$\sigma_{26} = 6.48 \times 10^{-21}$ [cm <sup>2</sup> /molecule]
Absorption cross section of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at 172 nm	$\sigma_{22} = 8.16 \times 10^{-19}$ [cm <sup>2</sup> /molecule]
Initial reaction temperature	297.6 [K]
Initial concentration of $\text{N}_2$	80 [%]
Initial concentration of $\text{O}_2$	20 [%]
Initial concentration of $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$	200 [ppm]
Initial concentration of $\text{NO}_2$	200 [ppm]
Initial concentration of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	300 [ppm]
The number of repetitions per sec	1000 [times/s]