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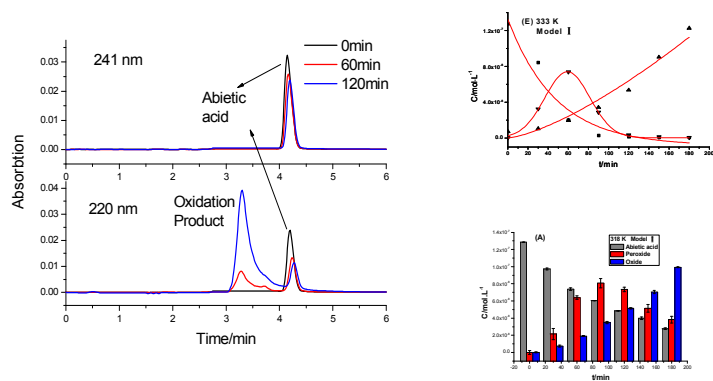


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A kinetic study on the oxidation of abietic acid, providing new basic data.

1           **Thermal Oxidation Reaction Process and**  
2           **Oxidation Kinetics of Abietic Acid**

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16 **Abstract**

17 Thermal oxidation reaction process and oxidation kinetics of abietic acid was  
18 investigated by using a self designed gas-solid reaction equipment. Oxidation product and  
19 intermediates of oxidation reaction of abietic acid were tracked by LC-MS. The results  
20 revealed a two-step oxidation reaction of abietic acid: Abietic acid formed the peroxide  
21 first, followed by cracking which formed hydroxyl contained oxidized abietic acid. Both  
22 of them followed pseudo-first order reaction, in which the kinetic equation of the first  
23 step is  $r_1=c_A \times 3.51 \times 10^3 \times \exp(-58.96 \times 10^3/RT)$ , active energy is 58.96 kJ/mol. The kinetic  
24 equation of the second step is  $r_2=c_O \times 6.09 \times 10^5 \times \exp(-48.06 \times 10^3/RT)$ , active energy is  
25 48.06 kJ/mol. The kinetic equation of the total reaction is  
26  $r_a=c_a \times 1.12 \times 10^6 \times \exp(49.51 \times 10^3/RT)$ , apparent active energy is 49.51 kJ/mol.

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## 36 Introduction

37 Rosin is a renewable resource obtained by the distillation of the exudates of pines trees.  
38 It is composed mostly of abietic acid and other rosin acids which plays an important role  
39 in the application of everyday life, e.g., in painting<sup>1</sup>, adhesive<sup>2</sup> and biochemical  
40 synthesis<sup>3</sup>. China has the world's biggest pine forest cover, it is necessary for us to take  
41 full advantage of the resource and create economic benefit. However, due to the active  
42 structure of conjugated double bonds, resin acids and its products, such as colophony are  
43 instable against air, heat, and light, as well as their sensitivity to mineral acids. These  
44 oxidation behavior lead to the color fastness and limit the application of rosin  
45 immediately, which are the main reason for its reduced cost similarly. In order to  
46 improve the antioxidant abilities and wetherability of rosin products, a series of studies  
47 have focused on the oxidation mechanism, oxidation products and oxidation kinetics.

48 In aspect of oxidation products and oxidation process, Harris<sup>4</sup> assumed that auto-  
49 oxidation of abietic acid has two paths. One starts from addition of O<sub>2</sub> and C13 C14  
50 double bond. As formed peroxide will cleavage into two hydroxyl. The second is a  
51 substitute reaction between active methylene C12 and O<sub>2</sub>, which forms peroxide. After  
52 cleavage, stable hydroxyl is formed. Enoki<sup>5</sup> studied several oxidation products of resin  
53 acids in  $\alpha$ -pinene solution. Prinz<sup>6</sup> identified 6 known oxidation products of abietic acid  
54 and methyl ester in different storage conditions. He also pointed out that sensitive  
55 positions of the reaction are C7 and C13.

56 Several investigations have studied the kinetics of resin acids, but there are few reports  
57 on kinetics of thermal oxidation reaction. Ritchie<sup>7</sup> reported the isomerization kinetic of L-  
58 pimaric acid and neoabietic acid under absolute ethyl alcohol catalyzed by strong acid.

59 Lawrence<sup>8</sup> studied kinetic of thermal catalyzed isomerization of abietic acid, L-pimaric  
60 acid, neoabietic acid and palustric acid at 150-200 °C. Pastorova<sup>9</sup> proposed that  
61 isomerization of abietic acid type resin acid forms stable dehydroabietic acid. In addition,  
62 they discussed four oxidation paths. Ladero<sup>10, 11</sup> investigated the kinetic of the  
63 esterification of rosin and polyols. Rongxiu Qin<sup>12, 13</sup> performed kinetic study on room  
64 temperature oxidation of abietic acid, colophony and rosin and pointed out that oxidation  
65 of abietic acid was pseudo-first order reaction with an active energy of 50.29 kJ/mol. Jialing  
66 Liu<sup>14</sup> explored kinetic study on UV-induced oxidation of colophony and obtained kinetic  
67 data under 365 nm irradiation. When applying UV spectroscopy to kinetic study, iteration  
68 is required to eliminate the influence of product. The main problem is that an UV  
69 absorptive intermediate will disturb iteration. It must be mentioned that oxidation of  
70 abietic acid contains multiple steps which is not able to be identified by UV spectroscopy,  
71 and the researchers investigated the global kinetic of oxidation reaction is a preliminary  
72 state. Therefore, it is necessary to obtain more precise and detailed data for the reaction  
73 kinetics in order to seek a more suitable method for anti-oxidation.

74 The aim of this work is to continue the investigations regarding the thermal oxidation  
75 reaction process and oxidation kinetics of abietic acid. More precisely, the article presents  
76 a novel micro solid-state reactor to conduct the oxidation reaction of abietic acid, using  
77 the polyethylene film fixed by two aluminum sheets. In this way, abietic acid formed as  
78 a membrane on the PE film, making the experiment condition approach to actual situation.  
79 HPLC was applied to study the oxidation kinetic of abietic acid. In addition, intermediate  
80 and product of oxidation were tracked and detected by LC-MS. The results provide  
81 theoretic support to rosin and its products, wish to solve the problem of easily oxidized

82 during the storage and manufacture process, which lead to the color fastness and  
83 economic losses.

84

## 85 **Experimental section**

### 86 **Reagents and instruments**

87 Rosin, produced in Guangxi, China. abietic acid, self-synthesized<sup>4</sup> (98.1%). dehydrate  
88 ethanol, diamylamine, hydrochloric acid, acetic acid (AR Grade). GC-MS, Shimadzu  
89 GC-MS/QP5050A. HPLC, waters 2487UV/VIS. LC-MS, DionexUltiMate 3000/Thermo  
90 Scientific TSQ Quantum Access MAX.

### 91 **Design of polyethylene film reactor**

92 Polyethylene film was fixed between two aluminum sheets, conducting the micro  
93 oxidation reaction of abietic acid. The reactor is shown in scheme 1.

### 94 **Oxidation of abietic acid**

95 0.1 g of abietic acid was dissolved in 10 mL dehydrate ethanol. 10  $\mu$ L of as prepared  
96 solution was added to PE micro reactor drop by drop<sup>13</sup>, in which the film area was  
97  $3.0 \times 1.7 \text{ cm}^2$ . After ethanol was fully vaporized in vacuum under room temperature,  
98 reactor was placed in an incubator to perform oxidation, and the kinetic runs were  
99 performed between 303 and 333 K. Each sample was taken approximately every 30 min  
100 and HPLC was applied to quantitative analysis of both abietic acid and its oxidation  
101 products by external standard method.

**102 HPLC conditions**

103 Mobile phase: methanol. flow rate: 1 mL/min. column temperature: 40 °C. wavelength of  
104 UV detector: 241 nm/220 nm. chromatograph column: Hypersil ODS2-C18, 5 μm, 250  
105 nm × 4.6 mm. injection amount: 10 μL. external standard method was applied.

**106 LC-MS conditions**

107 HPLC analysis was performed using the Dionex UltiMate 3000 with a binary pump, an  
108 on-line degasser, an auto-sampler and a column temperature controller. Chromatographic  
109 separation were performed on a Hypersil Gold C18 Column (10 mm × 2.1 mm, 5μm) at  
110 40 °C. The mobile phase consisted of methanol-water (95:5, v/v). The flow rate was set  
111 at 0.2 ml/min. Aliquots of 2 μL were injected into HPLC system for analysis.

112 MS analysis was carried out on a Thermo Scientific TSQ Quantum Access MAX triple  
113 stage quadrupole mass spectrometer with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source running  
114 in a negative-ionization mode. The typical ion source parameters were: Spray voltage:  
115 3500V. Sheath gas pressure (N<sub>2</sub>): 5 units. Ion transfer tube temperature: 350 °C. Collision  
116 gas (Ar): 1.5 mTorr. Q1/Q3 Peak resolution: 0.7 Da. Scan width: 0.002 Da. The scan  
117 dwell time was set at 0.1s for every channel. All data collected in centroid mode were  
118 acquired and processed using Xcalibur 2.2 software (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., USA)

**119 Kinetics model I (consecutive reaction)**

120 The chemical reaction rate (r) is known to be a function of temperature (T) and reactant  
121 concentration (c), and the differential equation is,

$$122 \quad r_a = -\frac{dc_a}{dt} = kc_a^n \quad (1)$$



123 Where  $n$  is the reaction order.

124 As the references<sup>4-6, 15</sup> reflected: Abietic acid (A) formed peroxide (O) the first,  
125 followed by cracking which formed hydroxyl contained oxidized abietic acid (P). Thus,  
126 the reaction can be simplified to a consecutive reaction<sup>16</sup>.



128 Thus, the first step and second step of abietic acid oxidation can be kinetically  
129 expressed as formula (2) and formula (3) respectively.

130 
$$r_1 = k_1 c_A \tag{2}$$

131 
$$r_2 = -r_P = -k_2 c_P \tag{3}$$

132 Where  $c_A$  and  $c_P$  represent the concentration of abietic acid and oxidation product of  
133 abietic acid in the reaction system respectively.  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  represent the rate constant of  
134 first step and second step respectively.

135 Kinetic equations were calculated by detecting the curve of concentration variation of  
136 abietic acid and its oxidation product vs. time, as shown in Fig 2. Under the experimental  
137 condition, intermediate of the reaction cannot be quantitative analysis, due to the  
138 absorption-free by UV spectrum. Meanwhile, some other oxidant expect peroxide may be  
139 produced during the first step of oxidation, therefore, the kinetic cannot be calculated by  
140 the variation of abietic acid either. Thus, the kinetic equation of first step was computed  
141 by theoretical calculation (formula (6)). More details will be shown below.

142 **Kinetics model II (parallel reaction)**

143 Prinz<sup>6</sup> reported several oxidation products of abietic acid and its methyl ester under room  
144 storage, indicating that peroxide and oxidant were able to coexist during the oxidation  
145 process, as they have different reaction sites. Therefore, a possible mechanism based on  
146 parallel reaction model was proposed, as shown below:



148 Thus, the kinetic equations can be presented as follows:

$$149 \quad r_3 = k_3 c_A = -k_3 c_o \quad (4)$$

$$150 \quad r_4 = k_4 c_A = -k_4 c_p \quad (5)$$

151 Where  $k_3$  and  $k_4$  represent the rate constant of peroxide and oxidant respectively.

152 Similarly, the kinetic of oxidation product is based on the experimental data, whereas  
153 the other parallel path regards as  $k_3$  can be fitted by theoretical calculation.

## 154 **Results and discussion**

### 155 **Wavelength of HPLC detection**

156 Abietic acid has a significant absorption in ultraviolet spectroscopy because of the  
157 conjugated group. Thus, UV spectra is a suitable detector for HPLC. Moreover, it is  
158 necessary to select an appropriate detection wavenumber to analyze abietic acid along  
159 with its oxidant. The result was shown in Figure 1, in which curve (a) is pure abietic acid,  
160 curve (b) is abietic acid after 3 hours of oxidation, curve (c) is abietic acid after 1 hour of  
161 oxidation and curve (d) is blank PE film. Curve a reveals the maxima absorbance of  
162 abietic acid locates at 241 nm. Curve b suggests that oxide of abietic acid has no obvious  
163 UV absorbance peak. Considering both abietic acid and its oxide have similar absorbance

164 at 220 nm, we chose this wavelength to detect abietic oxide. UV spectre of oxidation  
165 immediate is plotted as curve c. It suggests that in range of 210 – 400 nm, the absorbance  
166 is almost 0. On the other hand, 200 -210 nm is overlapped by solvent absorbance. Thus it  
167 is difficult to set a wavelength to monitor immediate. In conclusion, we use 241 nm to  
168 detect abietic acid and 220 nm to detect oxidation product.

169 **Figure 1. Figure 2.**

170 Here we use 180 min of oxidation at 40 °C as an example. Every 30 min, sample was  
171 loaded to HPLC and scanned at 241 nm (the rest of liquid phase conditions are the same  
172 to 2.4), as shown in figure 2. For clarity, only three samples scanned at 220 nm by HPLC  
173 which oxidation after 0 min, 90 min and 180 min were choose for compare. When the  
174 detecting wavelength is set as 241 nm, only abietic acid shows absorbance peak  
175 (retention time is 4.2 min). When it is 220 nm, both abietic acid and oxidation product  
176 can be detected (retention time is 3.3 min). During oxidation, product is increasing and  
177 abieticis decreasing as reactant. Thus 241 nm can tell the total change of abietic acid in  
178 the system, as well as apparent kinetic of the reaction. The oxidation product is increased  
179 as the decrease of abietic acid. Thus absorbance of 220 nm can be used to study kinetic of  
180 formation of product.

181

### 182 **Apparent kinetic of oxidation of abietic acid**

183 The logarithm of concentrate ( $\ln c_A$ ) was plotted against time (t), in which the concentrate  
184 of abietic acid was calculated from working curves,  $y=1.988*10^5x+5.914*10^4$ .

185 The linear response of  $\ln c_A$  to time suggests that oxidation of abietic acid is pseudo-  
186 first order reaction. The rate constant at different temperature ( $k_a$ ) were calculated.

187 The neperian of the rate constant of the reaction at different temperature in which  
188 abietic acid oxidizes,  $\ln k_a$ , has linear relationship with  $1/T$  ( $T$  represents temperature),  
189 and it is expressed as  $\ln k_a = -5954T^{-1} + 13.93$ ,  $R^2 = 0.99$ . As calculated apparent active  
190 energy,  $E_a$ , is 49.51 kJ/mol, according to Arrhenius equation, which has an error range (<  
191 5%) with literature<sup>12</sup>.

### 192 **Kinetic of formation of oxidation product**

193 When reacted at as stated temperatures, we used LC data collected at 220 nm to plot  $\ln$   
194  $c_p - t$ , according to the working curves of oxidation product  $y = 5.097 \times 10^4 x + 5.723 \times 10^3$ .  
195 Since  $\ln c_p$  has linear relationship with  $t$ , the formation of oxidation product is first order  
196 reaction. We achieved  $k_2/k_4$  at different temperatures, and plotted them against  $T$ . The  
197 relationship between  $\ln k_2$  and  $1/T$  is linear which can be described as  $\ln k_2 = -5780T^{-1}$   
198  $+ 13.32$ ,  $R^2 = 0.99$ . As calculated active energy  $E_2 = 48.06$  kJ/mol, coefficient  $A_2 = \exp$   
199  $(13.32) = 6.09 \times 10^5 \text{ min}^{-1}$ , rate equation is  $r_p = r_2 = r_4 = c_p \times 6.09 \times 10^5 \times \exp(-48.06 \times$   
200  $10^3/RT)$ .

### 201 **LC-MS analysis of oxidation of abietic acid**

202 In order to explore chemical structure information of major products in abietic acid  
203 oxidation system, we analyzed the sample that oxidized at 60 °C for 2 hours by LC-MS<sup>17</sup>.  
204 Negative-ionization mode was selected to run Q1 scanning on oxidation product. Range  
205 of  $m/z$  is set as 310 – 400  $m/z$ . Due to complicated composition of oxidation product of  
206 abietic acid, we chose three peaks, which have the largest response in MS spectra, to plot  
207 TIC. MS scanning focused on main ion ( $m/z = 317$ ) (a), fragment ion ( $m/z = 299$ ). main  
208 ion ( $m/z = 333$ ) (c), fragment ion ( $m/z = 301$ ). main ion ( $m/z = 349$ ) (b), fragment ion

209 ( $m/z = 331$ ) to track target ion and exclude the effect of impurity, as shown in Figure 3.  
210 Inspiring by other people's work<sup>18</sup>,  $m/z = 333$  can be considered as major product since it  
211 has a much higher intensity than  $m/z = 317$  and  $m/z = 349$ . Those small peaks around  $m/z$   
212  $= 317$  can be considered as the result of isomerization.

213 Negative-ionization mode was selected to conduct on  $m/z = 317$ ,  $m/z = 333$  and  $m/z =$   
214  $349$ . According to molecular mass,  $m/z = 317$  can be confirmed as abietic acid. Refer to  
215 ion cracking mechanism involved and reference<sup>19, 20</sup>, a difference of 16 between  $m/z =$   
216  $333$  and  $317$  suggests hydroxyl contained abietic acid oxide and a difference of 32  
217 between  $m/z = 349$  and  $m/z = 317$  suggests peroxide of abietic acid<sup>4-6</sup>. Thus we assume  
218 that during the oxidation, abietic acid oxide and abietic acid peroxide are both formed at  
219 same time. It is possible that peroxide will exist in the system as immediate. Comparing  
220 TIC with LC spectra at 220 nm, we confirmed that 3.3 min peak on LC spectra is  
221 hydroxyl contained abietic acid oxide and the peroxide has no apparent absorbance.  
222 As discussed above, oxidation of abietic acid contains two steps, formation of unstable  
223 peroxide and oxidation pyrolysis of it which forms hydroxyl contained oxide.

### 224 **Figure 3.**

#### 225 **Theoretical computation of the formation of immediate**

226 Based on kinetic data of formation of abietic acid oxide, kinetic of formation of  
227 immediate is able to be calculated. By combining theoretical and experimental data using  
228 kinetic model I and II respectively, we proofed our assumption on the mechanism of  
229 oxidation.

230 According to formula (2) and formula (3), Model I can be kinetically represented as:

$$231 \quad r_A = -r_1 = -k_1 c_A \quad (6)$$

$$232 \quad r_O = r_1 - r_2 = k_1 c_A - k_2 c_O \quad (7)$$

$$233 \quad r_P = r_2 = k_2 c_O \quad (8)$$

234 For continuous oxidation, initial parameters will be:  $c_A = c_{A0}$ ,  $c_{O0} = c_{P0} = 0$ . Thus at  
235 ideal condition, formula (6) - formula (8) can be expressed by integration as follows,

$$236 \quad c_1 = c_A = c_{A0} e^{-k_1 t} \quad (9)$$

$$237 \quad c_2 = c_O = \frac{k_1 c_{A0}}{k_2 - k_1} (e^{-k_1 t} - e^{-k_2 t}) \quad (10)$$

$$238 \quad c_3 = c_P = c_{A0} \left( 1 - \frac{k_2}{k_2 - k_1} e^{-k_1 t} + \frac{k_1}{k_2 - k_1} e^{-k_2 t} \right) \quad (11)$$

239 in which,  $k_2 = 6.09 \times 10^5 \times \exp\left(\frac{-48.06 \times 10^3}{RT}\right)$ .  $c_O$  represents the concentration of  
240 peroxide.

241 Considering the parallel reaction, if the reaction is first order with respect to reactant  
242 in every paths, the  $k_a = \sum_j k_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Where  $k_a$  represents the apparent kinetic  
243 rate constant. Thus, based on formula (4) and (5), model II can be expressed as:

$$244 \quad c_1 = c_A = c_{A0} e^{-k_a t} \quad (12)$$

$$245 \quad c_4 = c_O = c_{A0} \left( \frac{k_3}{k_a} \right) (1 - e^{-k_a t}) \quad (13)$$

$$246 \quad c_5 = c_P = c_{A0} \left( \frac{k_4}{k_a} \right) (1 - e^{-k_a t}) = c_{A0} \left( \frac{k_a - k_3}{k_a} \right) (1 - e^{-k_a t}) \quad (14)$$

247 in which,  $k_4 = k_2 = 6.09 \times 10^5 \times \exp\left(\frac{-48.06 \times 10^3}{RT}\right)$ .

248 Figure 4 presents the fitted curves at each temperature for the oxidation product  
249 based on model I and model II, respectively. It is obvious that the model I fitted the  
250 experimental data marginally better the model II. The relative residuals with reaction  
251 time for all compounds and models tested were presented in figure 5, to consider briefly,  
252 only a plot at 318 K for instance. The relative width of error bar based on model II is  
253 more wide then that of model I, indicating that the error of model I is small. The  
254 goodness-of-fit parameters for both models were summarized in table 1, showing that the  
255 Akaike information criterion (AIC) of this two models are close in 303 and 313 K,  
256 whereas the AIC of model I are much smaller than model II in a relatively high  
257 temperature (upon 318 K). It can be inferred from this data that model I fitted the  
258 reaction better than model II, suggesting that the oxidation process of abietic acid is tend  
259 to be a consecutive reaction. The F value of model I is much higher than that of model  
260 II, indicating the model I is the best fit for the number of kinetic constants used in the  
261 model. More precisely, the coefficient of determination,  $R^2$ , for the rate constant of  
262 peroxide based on model I ( $k_1$ ) and model II ( $k_3$ ) ranged from 0.966-0.991 and 0.496-  
263 0.955, as shown in table 1, indicating that model II (the parallel reaction) was  
264 inappropriate in the oxidation process of abietic acid, especially under a relative high  
265 temperature.

266 **Figure 4. Figure 5. Table 1.**

267 For clarity, fitted curves of abietic acid, peroxide and oxidant vs. time based on kinetic  
268 model I and model II at 303, 318 and 333K was shown in figure 6. It is obvious that,  
269 under the temperature of 333 K for model I, as shown in figure 6(E), more amount of

270 oxidant was produced comparing with the theoretical model data. That is due to the side  
271 reaction, e.g., the hydroxyl substitution reaction on C7 and C13 caused by the  
272 temperature raising<sup>6</sup>, which lead to the unsuitable results by using the kinetic model of  
273 two steps continuous reaction. Also, rate constant of the formation of peroxide is  
274 available by fitting calculation, as listed in table 2, along with  $k_a$  and  $k_2$ . Further fitting  
275 shows active energy of reaction,  $E_1$ , is 58.96 kJ/mol. The coefficient,  $A_1$ , is  
276  $\exp(5.86)=3.51\times 10^3\text{min}^{-1}$ . Thus rate equation of the formation of peroxide is:  
277  $r_1=c_A\times 3.51\times 10^3\times \exp(-58.96\times 10^3/RT)$ .

278 Since  $k_2\gg k_1$ , peroxide formed in the reaction is transformed to epoxide immediately<sup>21</sup>.  
279 Thus the first step, which forms peroxide, determines the total reaction rate. Comparing  
280 active energies of two reactions<sup>22</sup>, we found that  $E_1 > E_2$ ,  $A_1 < A_2$  and  $k_2$  is always larger  
281 than  $k_1$ , which matches experimental result. As a conclusion, total reaction rate is  
282 determined by the first step, which is the formation of peroxide, regardless of temperature.

283 **Figure 6. Table 2.**

## 284 **Conclusion**

285 We performed trace amount of oxidation of abietic acid in PE membrane reactor and  
286 provided LC analysis method. LC-MS was used to detect immediate and oxide. Based on  
287 what we get, we propose following conclusions:

288 (1) Thermal oxidation process of abietic acid was investigated by comparing the  
289 goodness of fitting of the two kinetic models in chemical reaction, and the results reveal a  
290 consecutive reaction. In the first step, peroxide is formed, followed by further oxidation  
291 which forms hydroxyl contained abietic acid oxide.



292 (2) kinetic equation of the first step is  $r_1=c_A \times 3.51 \times 10^3 \times \exp(-58.96 \times 10^3/RT)$ , active  
293 energy is 58.96 kJ/mol. the kinetic equation of the second step is  $r_2=c_O \times 6.09 \times 10^5 \times \exp(-$   
294  $48.06 \times 10^3/RT)$ , active energy is 48.06 kJ/mol. the kinetic equation of the total reaction is  
295  $r_a=c_a \times 1.12 \times 10^6 \times \exp(49.51 \times 10^3/RT)$ , apparent active energy is 49.51 kJ/mol.

296 (3)  $E_a$  has an error range (< 5%) with literature and the experimental data has a good  
297 fitting with model data in the second step. It indicate the reliability of kinetic equation in  
298 this paper.

299

300

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306

### 307 ABBREVIATIONS

308 n reaction order

309  $r_a$  apparent chemical reaction rate

310  $c_a$  concentration of total abietic acid

311 T temperature

312 t time

- 313  $k_a$  apparent chemical reaction rate constant
- 314  $E_a$  apparent active energy
- 315  $E_1$  active energy of first step
- 316  $E_2$  active energy of second step
- 317  $r_1$  chemical reaction rate (first step of consecutive reaction)
- 318  $r_2$  chemical reaction rate (second step of consecutive reaction)
- 319  $r_3$  chemical reaction rate (the step of producing peroxide in parallel reaction)
- 320  $r_4$  chemical reaction rate (the step of producing oxide in parallel reaction)
- 321  $k_1$  chemical reaction rate constant (first step of consecutive reaction)
- 322  $k_2$  chemical reaction rate constant (second step of consecutive reaction)
- 323  $k_3$  chemical reaction rate constant (the step of producing peroxide in parallel reaction)
- 324  $k_4$  chemical reaction rate constant (the step of producing oxide in parallel reaction)
- 325  $c_A$  concentration of abietic acid
- 326  $c_O$  concentration of peroxide
- 327  $c_P$  concentration of oxide
- 328
- 329

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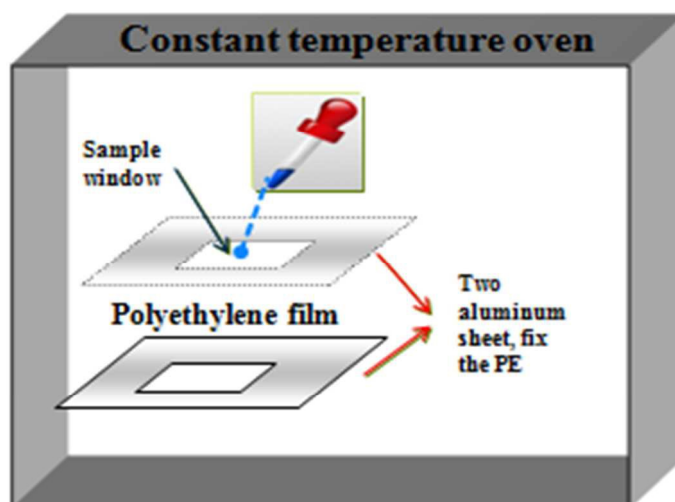
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Scheme 1. The polyethylene film reactor



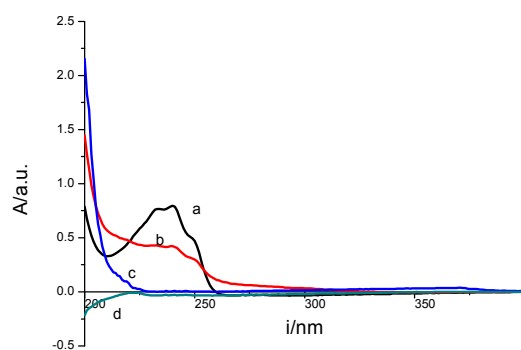
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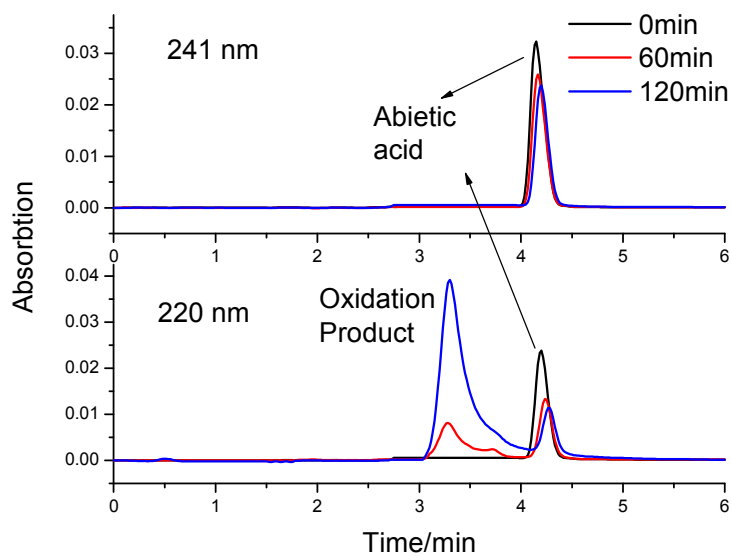
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**Fig.1** UV spectra of the abietic acid oxidation process

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(a) Abietic acid. (b) Oxide of abietic acid. (c) Intermediate of abietic acid. (d) Blank film



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**Fig.2** HPLC spectra under 241nm/220nm of the abietic acid oxidation process

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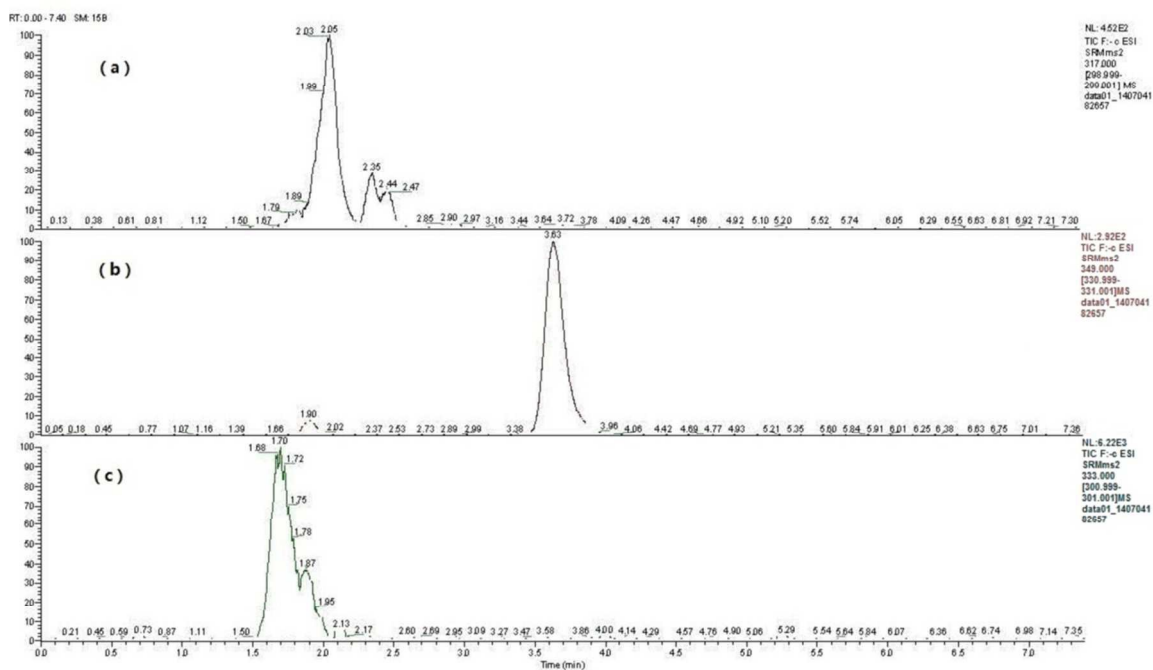
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**Fig.3** Typical TIC of oxidation system of abietic acid

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(a) abietic acid. (b) abietic acid peroxide. (c) abietic acid oxidate

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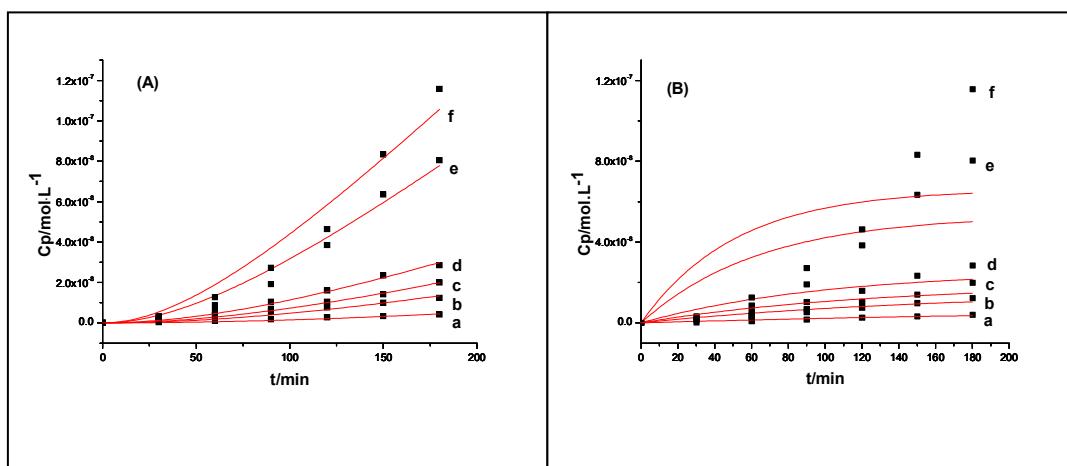
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415 **Fig.4** Experimental and predicted results of concentrate of oxidant vs. time profiles

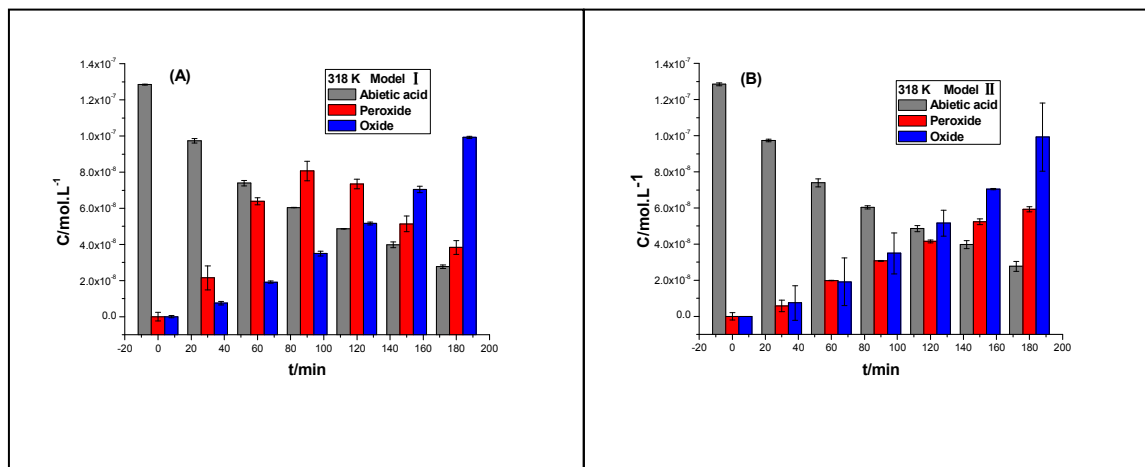
416 based on kinetic model I (A) and model II (B) at different temperatures. (a) 303K. (b)

417 313K. (c) 318K. (d) 323K. (e) 328K. (f) 333K.

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429 **Fig.5** Relative residual concentrations of three compounds (Abietic acid, peroxide, and

430 oxide) that represent the goodness-of-fit of model I (A) and model II (B) at 318 K.

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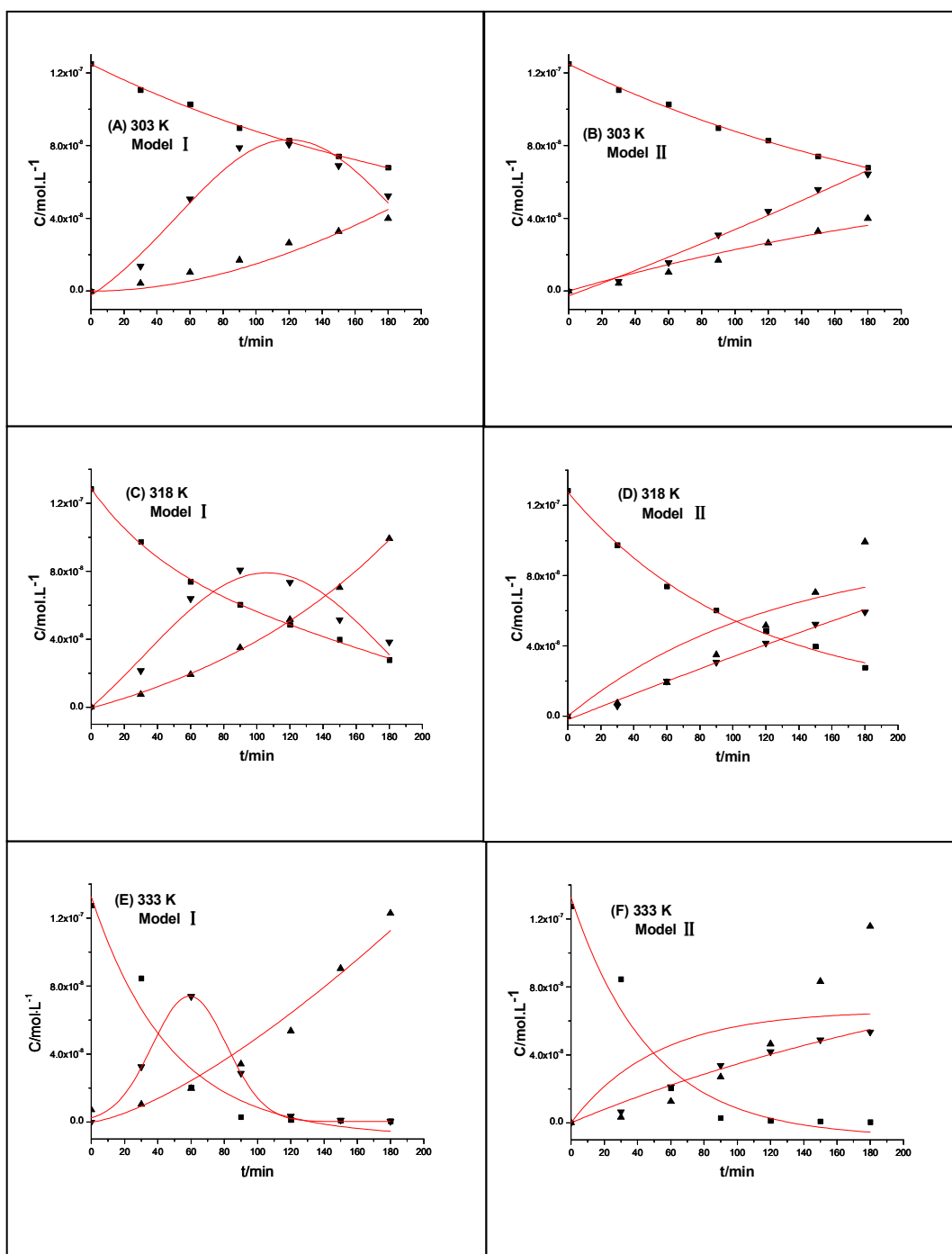
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455 **Fig.6** Fitted curves of concentrate of abietic acid ■, peroxide ▼ and oxidant ▲ vs. time  
 456 based on kinetic model I and model II.

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**Table 1** Goodness-of-fit parameters for model I and model II.

T/K	Model I					Model II				
	RSS	RMSE	F	AIC	R	RSS	RMSE	F	AIC	R
303	$1.06 \times 10^{-16}$	$7.59 \times 10^{-18}$	207.46	-296.32	0.990	$6.00 \times 10^{-19}$	$4.29 \times 10^{-20}$	371.93	-300.32	0.955
313	$6.38 \times 10^{-18}$	$4.56 \times 10^{-19}$	320.84	-283.78	0.987	$1.01 \times 10^{-17}$	$7.21 \times 10^{-19}$	200.76	-280.57	0.920
318	$2.73 \times 10^{-18}$	$1.95 \times 10^{-19}$	1675.68	-289.72	0.991	$5.76 \times 10^{-17}$	$4.11 \times 10^{-18}$	73.69	-268.38	0.812
323	$6.48 \times 10^{-18}$	$4.63 \times 10^{-19}$	1617.07	-283.67	0.990	$1.41 \times 10^{-16}$	$1.01 \times 10^{-17}$	68.32	-262.08	0.801
328	$1.19 \times 10^{-16}$	$8.48 \times 10^{-18}$	621.93	-263.31	0.979	$2.49 \times 10^{-15}$	$1.78 \times 10^{-16}$	23.96	-242.01	0.580
333	$3.96 \times 10^{-16}$	$2.83 \times 10^{-17}$	348.64	-254.88	0.966	$5.80 \times 10^{-15}$	$4.14 \times 10^{-16}$	18.17	-236.08	0.496

461 Note: RSS (sum of squared residuals), RMSE (root-mean-square-deviation), F (Fisher F value), AIC (Akaike parameter)

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**Table 2** Kinetic constant of abietic acid at different reaction temperatures

T/K	$k_a/\text{min}^{-1}$	$10^{-6}k_i/\text{min}^{-1}$	$k_2/\text{min}^{-1}$
303	0.00339	0.0274	0.00305
313	0.00597	0.0481	0.00610
318	0.00811	0.0604	0.00783
323	0.01002	0.0788	0.00988
328	0.01557	0.1682	0.01473
333	0.01958	0.2180	0.01651

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