

## Supplementary Data

Enhancement of advanced Fenton process by weak magnetic field for the degradation of 4-nitrophenol

Xinmei Xiong,<sup>a,b</sup> Yuankui Sun,<sup>a</sup> Bo Sun,<sup>a</sup> Weihua Song,<sup>c</sup> Jingyi Sun,<sup>a</sup> Naiyun Gao,<sup>a</sup> Junlian Qiao,<sup>a</sup> Xiaohong Guan<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Pollution Control and Resources Reuse, College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Tongji University, Shanghai 200092, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup>Department of Civil Engineering, Jiujiang University, Jiujiang 332005, Jiangxi, China

<sup>c</sup>Department of Environmental Science & Engineering, Fudan University, Shanghai, P. R. China

\*Corresponding author contact information:

Xiaohong Guan, Email: [guanxh@tongji.edu.cn](mailto:guanxh@tongji.edu.cn), Phone: +86-21-65980956

Number of pages (including this page): 18

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**Text S1**

To identify the existence of hydroxyl radicals, the electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) signals of radicals trapped by 5,5-dimethyl-1-pyrroline-1-oxide (DMPO) were obtained using an EPR spectrometer (Bruker A200 ESP 300E) equipped with a Quanta-ray Nd/YAG laser system and an irradiation light source ( $\lambda = 355$  nm) at ambient temperature. The experimental condition was: the center field of 338.2 mT, sweep width of 5 mT, a sweep time of 110 s, microwave frequency of 9.80 GHz, and microwave power of 5.65 mW.

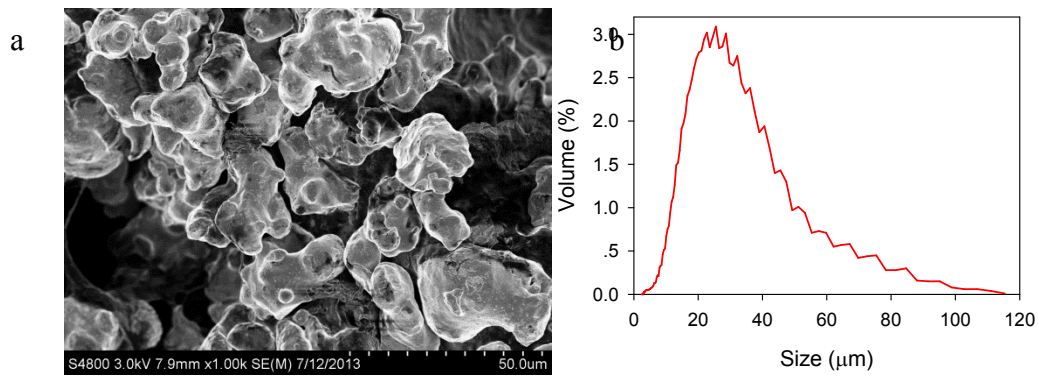


Fig. S1. (a) SEM image and (b) Particle size distribution of  $\text{Fe}^0$  employed in this study.

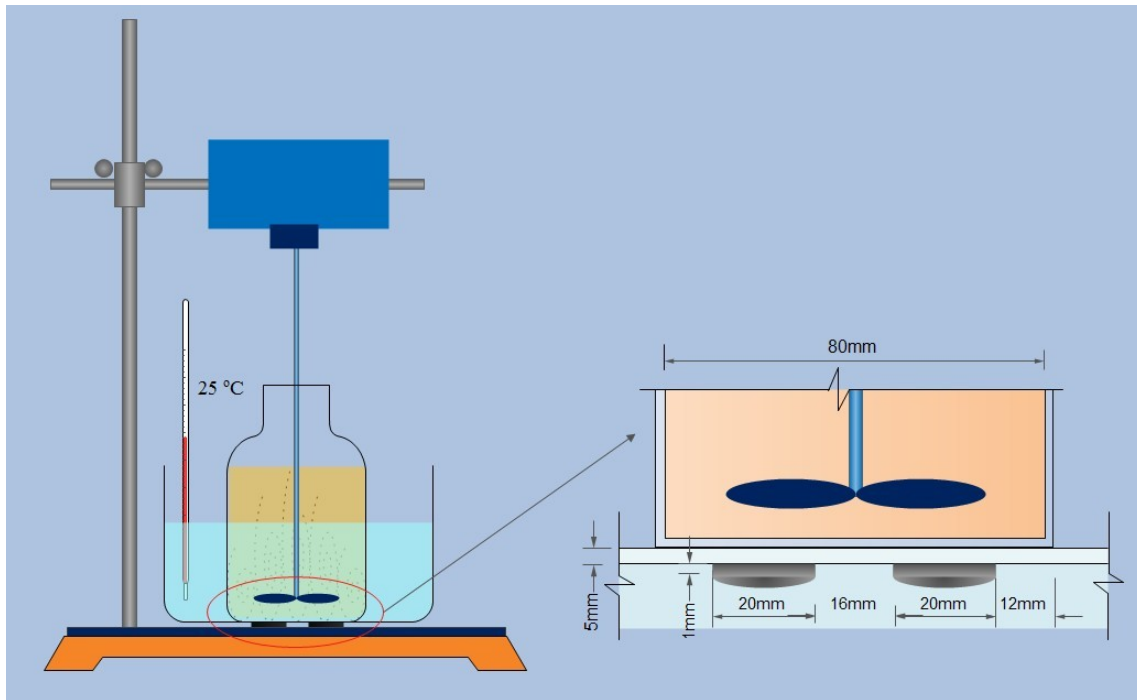


Fig. S2. The experimental setup of nonuniform MF.

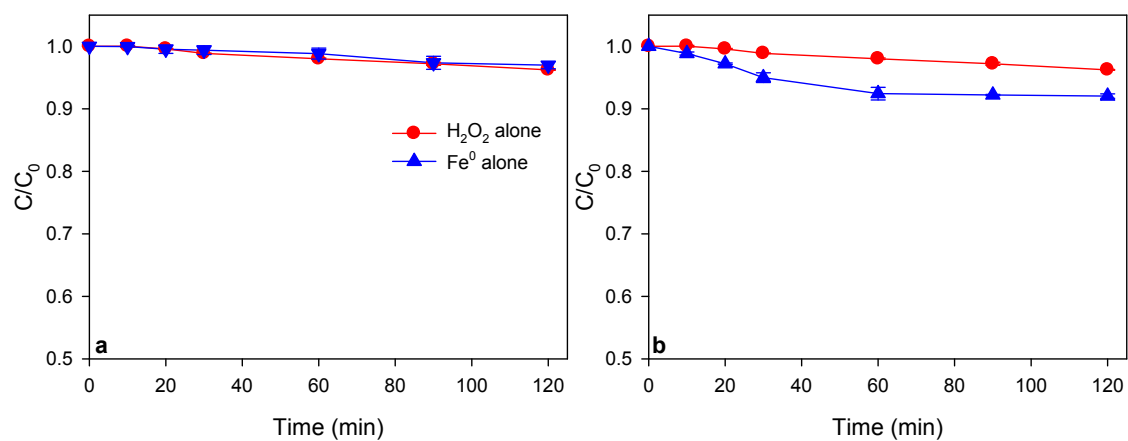


Fig. S3. Removal of 4-NP by  $H_2O_2$  alone or  $Fe^0$  alone (a, without WMF; b, with WMF). Reaction conditions:  $[4-NP]_0 = 0.02$  mM,  $[H_2O_2]_0 = 0.5$  mM,  $[Fe^0]_0 = 0.5$  mM,  $pH_{ini} = 4.0$ ,  $T = 25$  °C.

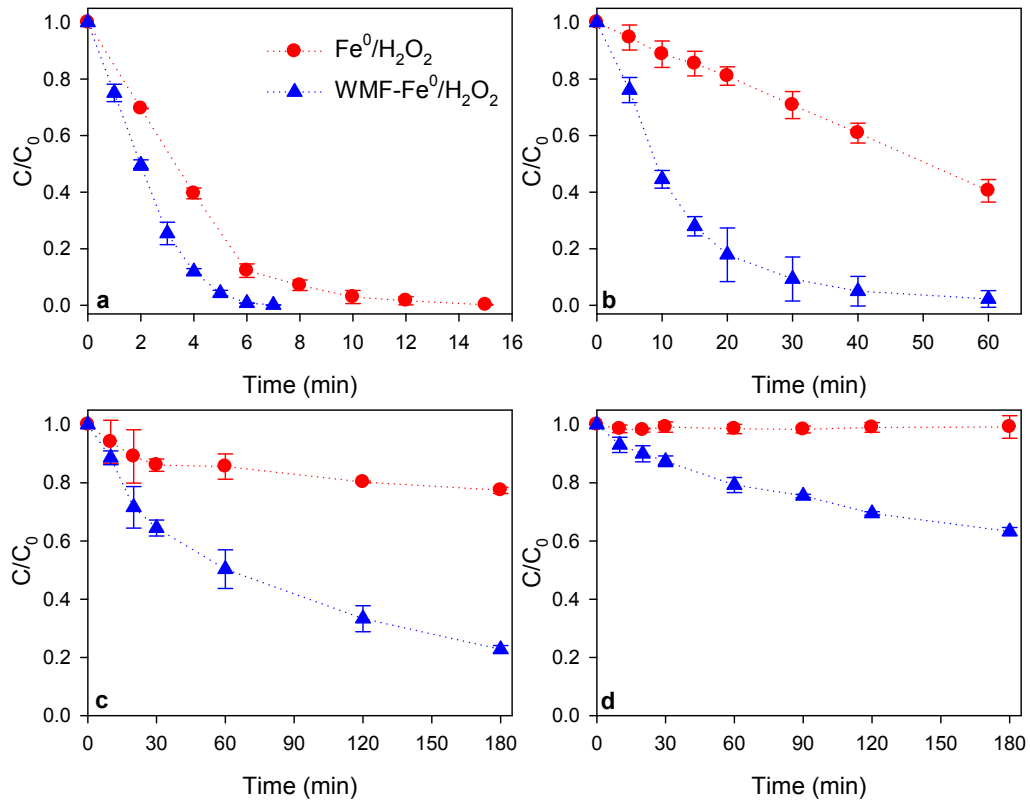


Fig. S4. Influence of WMF on 4-NP removal by  $\text{Fe}^0/\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  system at different  $\text{pH}_{\text{ini}}$  levels (a,  $\text{pH}_{\text{ini}} = 3.0$ ; b,  $\text{pH}_{\text{ini}} = 4.0$ ; c,  $\text{pH}_{\text{ini}} = 5.0$ ; d,  $\text{pH}_{\text{ini}} = 6.0$ ). Reaction conditions:  $[\text{4-NP}]_0 = 0.02 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2]_0 = 0.5 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[\text{Fe}^0]_0 = 0.5 \text{ mM}$ ,  $T = 25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

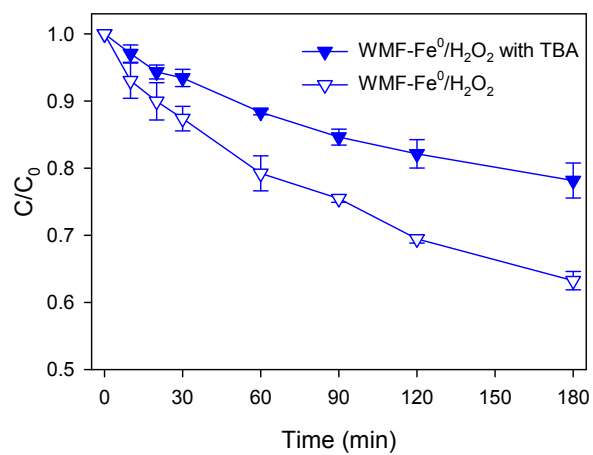


Fig. S5. Effect of radical quenching agent on 4-NP removal in WMF-Fe<sup>0</sup>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system at pH<sub>ini</sub> 6.0. Reaction conditions: [TBA]<sub>0</sub> = 0.1 M, [4-NP]<sub>0</sub> = 0.02 mM, [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0</sub> = 0.5 mM, [Fe<sup>0</sup>]<sub>0</sub> = 0.5 mM, T = 25 °C.

Fig. S6. (a) The MF strength distributions of the plane parallel to the applied uniform MF (with the applied flux densities of 5 mT, 10 mT and 20 mT, respectively) and through the center of a Fe<sup>0</sup> sphere; (b) The MF gradients around a Fe<sup>0</sup> sphere when the flux densities of applied MF are 5 mT, 10 mT and 20 mT, respectively. The arrow shows the direction of the applied uniform MF.



Fig. S7 Aggregation of Fe<sup>0</sup> particles under a uniform MF of 50 mT.

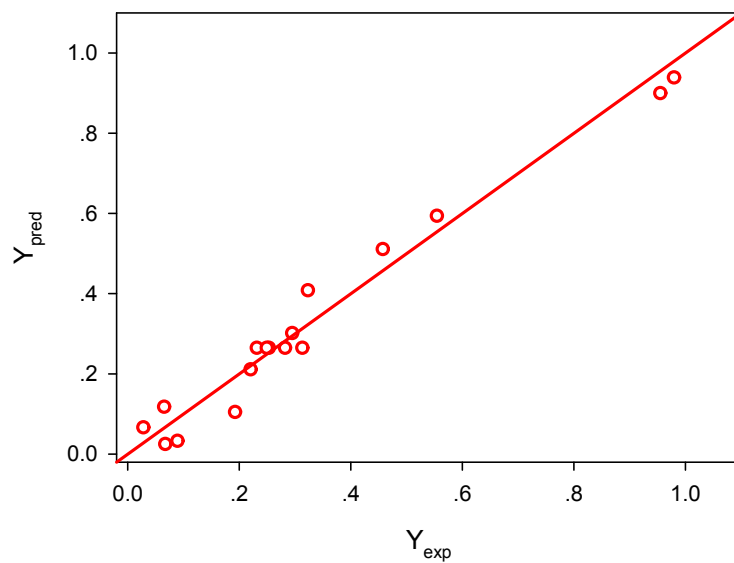


Fig. S8. Comparison between the calculated and experimental values of the output.

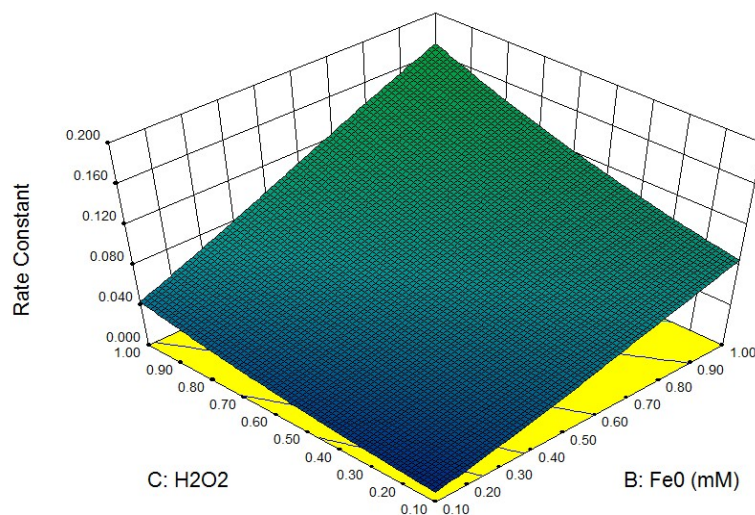
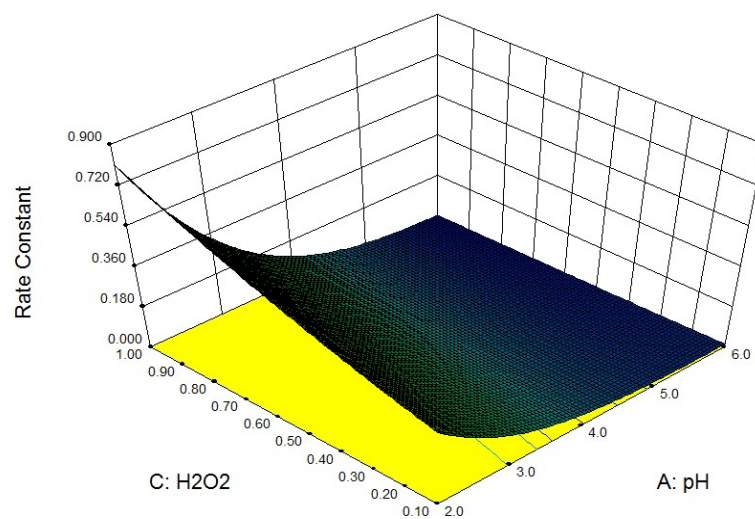
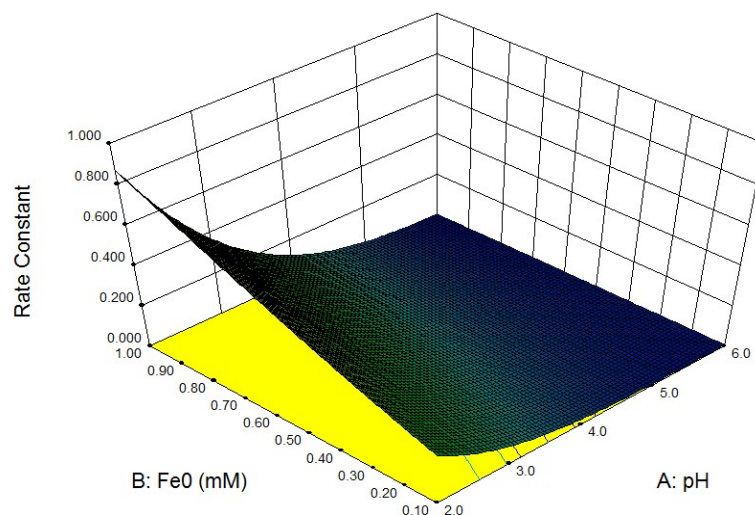


Fig. S9. Response surface plots of the rate constant of 4-NP for the three most important pair of factors.

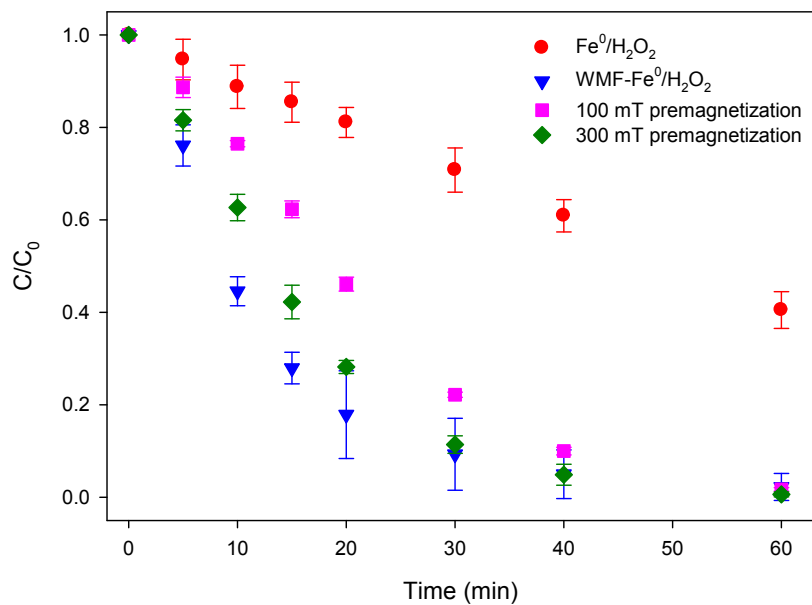


Fig. S10. Influence of premagnetization on 4-NP removal by  $Fe^0/H_2O_2$ . Reaction conditions:  $[4-NP]_0 = 0.02$  mM,  $[H_2O_2]_0 = 0.5$  mM,  $[Fe^0]_0 = 0.5$  mM,  $pH_{ini} = 4.0$ ,  $T = 25$  °C.

**Table S1** Details of the LC-MS/MS gradient program.

Time (min)	0.1% FA-Water (%)	0.1% FA-Acetonitrile (%)	Flow rate (mL min <sup>-1</sup> )
0	95	5	0.4
1	80	20	0.4
3	55	45	0.4
6	0	100	0.4
9	0	100	0.4
9.5	95	5	0.4
11.5	95	5	0.4

**Table S2** Experimental range and levels of the independent variables.

Independent factors	Units	Symbol	Coded levels		
			-1	0	+1
pH	-	A	2.0	4.0	6.0
Fe <sup>0</sup> dosage	mM	B	0.10	0.55	1.00
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> dosage	mM	C	0.10	0.55	1.00

**Table S3** ANOVA test for response function Y.

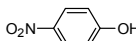

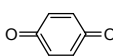

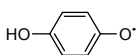
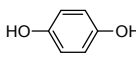

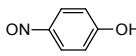
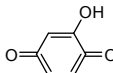
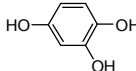
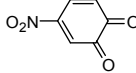
Source	Sum of squares	d.f.	Mean square	F-ratio	P-value
Model	1.1863	9	0.1318	24.6245	0.0002
A-pH	0.9086	1	0.9086	169.7338	< 0.0001
B-Fe <sup>0</sup>	0.0777	1	0.0777	14.5089	0.0066
C-H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.0263	1	0.0263	4.9114	0.0622
AB	0.0532	1	0.0532	9.9293	0.0161
AC	0.0397	1	0.0397	7.4121	0.0297
BC	0.0000	1	0.0000	0.0000	0.9992
A <sup>2</sup>	0.0799	1	0.0799	14.9273	0.0062
B <sup>2</sup>	0.0010	1	0.0010	0.1774	0.6862
C <sup>2</sup>	0.0002	1	0.0002	0.0380	0.8511
Residual	0.0375	7	0.0054		
Lack of Fit	0.0334	3	0.0111	10.7975	0.0218
Pure Error	0.0041	4	0.0010		
Cor Total	1.2238	16			

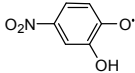
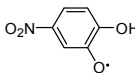
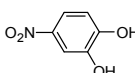
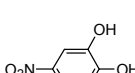
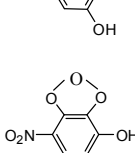
**Table S4** Comparison of the experimental and predicted values of the response for different experimental points.

pH	Fe <sup>0</sup> (mM)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (mM)	Sqrt( <i>k</i> <sub>obs</sub> )	
			Observed	Predicted
3.75	1.00	0.10	0.3028	0.3455
3.75	0.55	0.55	0.2559	0.3064
5.50	0.55	1.00	0.0678	0.0717



**Table S5** Summary of intermediates detected in various processes for 4-NP oxidation (“√” stands for detected and “-” stands for non-detected).

MW (m/z)	Chemical structure	Ultrasonic Irradiatio <sup>33</sup>	Electro-Fenton <sup>31</sup>	Plasma-TiO <sub>2</sub> <sup>34</sup>	UV/H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> <sup>32</sup>	Photo-Fenton <sup>35</sup>	Wet electrocatalytic oxidation <sup>36</sup>	Ozonatio <sup>37</sup>	WMF-Fe <sup>0</sup> /H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (This study)
139					√ Detected	- Undetected			
94		-	-	√	-	-	-	√	-
108		√	√	√	√		√	√	-
108		-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-
109		√	-	√	-	-	-		-
110		√	√	√	√		√	√	-
110		-	-	√	-	-	-	√	-
123		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√
124		-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-
126		-	√	-	√	-	√	-	-
153		-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-

154		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
154		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
155		✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓
171		-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
189		-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

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