

## ACTIVATED CARBON SLURRY SUPPLY METHOD

### TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates to an activated carbon slurry supply  
5 method, and especially relates to an activated carbon slurry supply method  
that can favorably suppress scale precipitation from activated carbon slurry.

### BACKGROUND

[0002] In water treatment for improving the water quality of water to be  
10 treated by adsorption of activated carbon, techniques of grinding activated  
carbon to enhance the adsorption performance of the activated carbon are  
known. For example, according to PTL 1, dry powder activated carbon in the  
dry state is subjected to dry grinding, and the pulverized activated carbon in  
the dry state is mixed with dissolution water to obtain activated carbon slurry.  
15 According to PTL 1, by pulverizing the activated carbon using a dry grinder to  
stably obtain a sharp particle size distribution for the activated carbon, the  
adsorption performance of the activated carbon is enhanced favorably.  
According to PTL 2, activated carbon is subjected to wet grinding to a  
predetermined particle size, and suspension water containing the wet ground  
20 activated carbon is added to water to be treated. In this way, the adsorption  
performance of the activated carbon is sufficiently utilized while suppressing  
secondary flocculation of activated carbon particulates.

### CITATION LIST

25 Patent Literatures

[0003] PTL 1: JP 5910973 B2

PTL 2: JP 4468895 B2

### SUMMARY

30 (Technical Problem)

[0004] As a result of research on the above-described conventional water  
treatment techniques using ground activated carbon, we found out that, when  
ground activated carbon is conveyed in a state of activated carbon slurry in  
the presence of water, a calcium compound contained in the activated carbon

dissolves in the water in a large amount, and scale of a calcium compound such as calcium carbonate tends to form.

[0005] It could therefore be helpful to provide an activated carbon slurry supply method that can favorably suppress scale precipitation from activated carbon slurry even when the activated carbon slurry contains ground activated carbon and water.

(Solution to Problem)

[0006] We conducted extensive studies. We hypothesized that scale precipitation from activated carbon slurry is caused by the following reason:  
10 Activated carbon ground and reduced in particle size and water are in contact with each other in a larger area, which facilitates dissolution of a larger amount of calcium compound in the water. We then discovered that, by adding an acid at predetermined timing in an activated carbon slurry supply method of conveying activated carbon slurry containing ground raw material  
15 activated carbon (ground activated carbon) and raw material water to a predetermined point, scale precipitation can be suppressed favorably even when the activated carbon slurry contains pulverized activated carbon.

[0007] An activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure comprises: a step A of obtaining activated carbon slurry containing  
20 ground activated carbon and raw material water, the step A including, in any order, a step A1 of grinding raw material activated carbon in a grinder to prepare the ground activated carbon having a smaller particle size than a particle size of the raw material activated carbon, and a step A2 of mixing either the raw material water and the raw material activated carbon or the raw  
25 material water and the ground activated carbon in a mixer; a step B of conveying the activated carbon slurry to a point of mixing with dilution water or a point of mixing with water to be treated; and a step C of adding an acid at least before end of the step A. As a result of adding the acid before the end of the step A, i.e. before the obtainment of the activated carbon slurry such as  
30 during the preparation of the activated carbon slurry, the activated carbon slurry can be supplied to a predetermined point (the point of mixing with the dilution water, or the point of mixing with the water to be treated in the case of mixing the activated carbon slurry with the water to be treated without mixing it with the dilution water) while favorably suppressing scale

precipitation even when the activated carbon slurry contains ground activated carbon obtained by grinding raw material activated carbon and raw material water.

Herein, in a wet grinding method in which the step A2 is followed by the step A1, “before the end of the step A” can be regarded as “before the end of the step A1” (e.g. before obtaining the activated slurry while grinding the raw material activated carbon in the below-described activated carbon suspension water to prepare the ground activated carbon). In a dry grinding method in which the step A1 is followed by the step A2, “before the end of the step A” can be regarded as “before the end of the step A2” (e.g. before obtaining the activated slurry by mixing the below-described ground activated carbon water containing the raw material water and the ground activated carbon).

Herein, the “particle size” of each of the raw material activated carbon and the ground activated carbon represents a volume average particle size (D50) at which, in a particle size distribution (volume basis) measured by laser diffraction scattering, the cumulative volume calculated from a small diameter end of the distribution reaches 50 %.

**[0008]** Preferably, the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure further comprises a step D of determining an additive amount of the acid in the step C, and the step D includes a step D1 of determining a time required from start of a later step out of the step A1 and the step A2 to end of the step B, and a step D2 of determining, based on a relationship between an amount of the acid contained in the activated carbon slurry and a latency time until precipitation of a calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts, an amount of the acid that causes the latency time to be more than the time determined in the step D1, as the additive amount of the acid in the step C. As a result of adding, in the step C, the amount of the acid determined in the steps D1 and D2, the activated carbon slurry can be supplied more favorably while reliably suppressing scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry using the latency time until the precipitation of the calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts.

Herein, the “time required to the end of the step B” refers to the time required to convey the activated carbon slurry to the point of mixing with the

water to be treated in the case of mixing the activated carbon slurry with the water to be treated without diluting it with the dilution water, and the time required to convey the activated carbon slurry to the point of mixing with the dilution water in the case of mixing the activated carbon slurry with the water to be treated after mixing it with the dilution water.

[0009] Preferably, in the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure, the additive amount of the acid determined in the step D2 is not more than an amount of the acid necessary for causing a Langelier's index of the activated carbon slurry to be 0. When setting the additive amount of the acid to such an amount that causes the latency time to be more than the time determined in the step D1 to reliably suppress scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry, by limiting the amount of the acid to not more than the foregoing upper limit, scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can be efficiently suppressed using a smaller amount of the acid, and the activated carbon slurry can be supplied further favorably.

Herein, "Langelier's index" is, for example, an index indicating the degree of saturation of calcium carbonate in water as described in Langelier, W. F., "The Analytical Control of Anticorrosion Water Treatment", J. American Water Works, vol. 28, 1936, p. 1500.

Herein, the Langelier's index can be calculated according to a method notified by Water Supply Division, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (water quality management target setting item inspection method – October 10, 2003, Kensui-hatsu No. 101001 - appendix 4).

[0010] Preferably, in the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure, in the step A, the step A1 is followed by the step A2, in the step A2, ground activated carbon water containing the ground activated carbon prepared in the step A1 and the raw material water is mixed in the mixer to obtain the activated carbon slurry, and in the step C, the acid is added to at least one of the raw material water before flowing into the mixer and the ground activated carbon water in the mixer. In the case where the dry grinding method in which the step A1 is followed by the step A2 is used in the activated carbon slurry supply method, the ground activated carbon reduced in particle size and the raw material water are in contact with each other in a large area in the ground activated carbon water as a result of mixing, which

facilitates dissolution of a large amount of the calcium compound in the water. By adding the acid to at least one of the raw material water before flowing into the mixer and the ground activated carbon water in the mixer, the acid addition can be performed before the calcium compound dissolves in the water in a large amount due to the contact between the ground activated carbon and the raw material water. Scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can thus be suppressed more favorably.

[0011] Preferably, in the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure, in the step C, the acid is added to at least the raw material water before flowing into the mixer. By adding the acid to at least the raw material water before flowing into the mixer in the case where the dry grinding method is used in the activated carbon slurry supply method, the acid addition can be reliably performed before the calcium compound dissolves in the water in a large amount due to the contact between the ground activated carbon and the raw material water. Scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can thus be suppressed further favorably.

[0012] Preferably, in the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure, in the step A, the step A2 is followed by the step A1, in the step A1, the raw material activated carbon in activated carbon suspension water obtained by mixing the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water is ground in the grinder to obtain the activated carbon slurry, and in the step C, the acid is added to at least one of the raw material water, the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder, and the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder. In the case where the wet grinding method in which the step A2 is followed by the step A1 is used in the activated carbon slurry supply method, the ground activated carbon reduced in particle size as a result of grinding the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water in the activated carbon suspension water are in contact with each other in a large area, which facilitates dissolution of a large amount of the calcium compound in the water. By adding the acid to at least one of the raw material water, the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder, and the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder, the acid addition can be performed before the calcium compound dissolves in the water in a large amount due to the grinding of the raw material activated

carbon in the activated carbon suspension water. Scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can thus be suppressed more favorably.

[0013] Preferably, in the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure, in the step C, the acid is added to at least one of the  
5 raw material water and the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder. In the case where the wet grinding method is used in the activated carbon slurry supply method, by adding the acid to at least one of the raw material water and the activated carbon suspension water before  
10 flowing into the grinder, the acid addition can be reliably performed before the calcium compound dissolves in the water in a large amount from the raw material activated carbon ground in the activated carbon suspension water (i.e. ground activated carbon), and scale precipitation from the activated carbon suspension water before being supplied to the grinder can also be suppressed. Scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can thus be suppressed  
15 further favorably.

[0014] Preferably, in the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure, the acid is carbon dioxide or sulfuric acid. As a result of using carbon dioxide or sulfuric acid as the acid, for example, metallic pipes used for the supply of the activated carbon slurry can be prevented from  
20 corrosion, and also the activated carbon slurry can be suitably used for water purification treatment of drinking water and the like.

(Advantageous Effect)

[0015] It is thus possible to provide an activated carbon slurry supply method that can favorably suppress scale precipitation from activated carbon slurry  
25 even when the activated carbon slurry contains ground activated carbon and water.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] In the accompanying drawings:  
30 FIG. 1A is a block diagram illustrating a typical activated carbon slurry supply flow using a dry grinding method according to the present disclosure;

FIG. 1B is a block diagram illustrating a typical activated carbon slurry supply flow using a wet grinding method according to the present

disclosure;

FIG. 2A is an explanatory diagram illustrating acid addition positions when adding an acid to raw material water in the case of the dry grinding method in the step C in the activated carbon slurry supply flow illustrated in  
5 FIG. 1A;

FIG. 2B is an explanatory diagram illustrating acid addition positions when adding an acid to raw material water in the case of the wet grinding method in the step C in the activated carbon slurry supply flow illustrated in FIG. 1B;

10 FIG. 3A is an explanatory diagram illustrating acid addition positions when adding an acid to ground activated carbon water in the case of the dry grinding method in the step C in the activated carbon slurry supply flow illustrated in FIG. 1A;

FIG. 3B is an explanatory diagram illustrating acid addition positions  
15 when adding an acid to activated carbon suspension water before flowing into a grinder in the case of the wet grinding method in the step C in the activated carbon slurry supply flow illustrated in FIG. 1B; and

FIG. 4 is an explanatory diagram illustrating acid addition positions when adding an acid to activated carbon suspension water in the grinder in the  
20 case of the wet grinding method in the step C in the activated carbon slurry supply flow illustrated in FIG. 1B.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] One of the disclosed embodiments will be described in detail below,  
25 with reference to drawings. In the drawings, the same structural elements are given the same reference signs. The present disclosure is not limited to the embodiment described below.

#### [0018] (Activated carbon slurry supply method)

An activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present  
30 disclosure is usable, for example, as a method of supplying activated carbon when subjecting water to be treated to activated carbon treatment in various types of water treatment such as potable water treatment, service water treatment, sewage treatment, and effluent treatment. Activated carbon slurry supplied by the method according to the present disclosure contains ground

activated carbon and raw material water, and can efficiently reduce unpleasant smell, unpleasant taste, etc. of the water to be treated because the activated carbon contained in the activated carbon slurry has a large specific surface area. Therefore, the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure is particularly suitable for use in a water purification process such as activated carbon treatment in waterworks.

[0019] The activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure needs to include: a step A of obtaining activated carbon slurry containing ground activated carbon and raw material water, the step A including, in any order, a step A1 of preparing the ground activated carbon and a step A2 of mixing the raw material water; a step B of conveying the activated carbon slurry to a predetermined point; and a step C of adding an acid at least before the end of the step A. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure preferably further includes a step D of determining an additive amount of the acid in the step C.

[0020] FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrate a typical activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 according to the present disclosure. FIG. 1A illustrates the activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 using a dry grinding method. FIG. 1B illustrates the activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 using a wet grinding method.

In the activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 using the dry grinding method illustrated in FIG. 1A, first, raw material activated carbon flows into a grinder 3 through a pipe 11. The flown raw material activated carbon is ground in the grinder 3, and ground activated carbon having a smaller particle size than the particle size of the raw material activated carbon flows out of the grinder 3 (step A1). The ground activated carbon flown out of the grinder 3 then flows into a mixer 2 through a pipe 31, and also raw material water flows into the mixer 2 through a pipe 12. Ground activated carbon water containing the ground activated carbon and the raw material water is thus obtained in the mixer 2. Further, the ground activated carbon water is favorably mixed in the mixer 2 by stirring or the like, and activated carbon slurry containing the ground activated carbon and the raw material water flows out of the mixer 2 (step A2).

In the activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 using the dry grinding method illustrated in FIG. 1A, typically the end of the step A2 (i.e. the mixing

of the ground activated carbon water containing the ground activated carbon and the raw material water ends and the activated carbon slurry is obtained) corresponds to the "end of the step A". The obtained ground activated carbon may be temporarily stored in a storage tank (not illustrated) provided at any location between the grinder 3 and the mixer 2. The activated carbon slurry flown out of the mixer 2 may be conveyed to a mixer 5 for mixing with water to be treated through a pipe 21 without being mixed with dilution water, and then mixed with the water to be treated, as indicated by the solid line in FIG. 1A. Alternatively, the activated carbon slurry flown out of the mixer 2 may be conveyed to a mixer 4 for mixing with dilution water through a pipe 21 and mixed with the dilution water, and then conveyed to a mixer 5 for mixing with water to be treated through a pipe 41 and mixed with the water to be treated, as indicated by the dashed line in FIG. 1A.

[0021] In the activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 using the wet grinding method illustrated in FIG. 1B, first, raw material activated carbon flows into a mixer 2 through a pipe 11, and raw material water flows into the mixer 2 through a pipe 12. The flown raw material activated carbon and raw material water are mixed in the mixer 2, and flow out of the mixer 2 as activated carbon suspension water (step A2). The activated carbon suspension water flown out of the mixer 2 then flows into a grinder 3 through a pipe 21. The raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water flown into the grinder 3 is ground, and activated carbon slurry containing ground activated carbon having a smaller particle size than the particle size of the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water flows out of the grinder 3 (step A1).

In the activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 using the wet grinding method illustrated in FIG. 1B, typically the end of the step A1 (i.e. the grinding of the raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water ends and the activated carbon slurry is obtained) corresponds to the "end of the step A". The obtained activated carbon suspension water may be temporarily stored in a storage tank 20 (see FIG. 3B) provided at any location between the mixer 2 and the grinder 3. The activated carbon slurry flown out of the grinder 3 may be conveyed to a mixer 5 for mixing with water to be treated through a pipe 31 without being mixed

with dilution water, and then mixed with the water to be treated, as indicated by the solid line in FIG. 1B. Alternatively, the activated carbon slurry flown out of the grinder 3 may be conveyed to a mixer 4 for mixing with dilution water through a pipe 31 and mixed with the dilution water, and then conveyed to a mixer 5 for mixing with water to be treated through a pipe 41 and mixed with the water to be treated, as indicated by the dashed line in FIG. 1B.

[0022] Each of the steps will be described in more detail below.

<Step A>

FIGS. 1A and 1B each illustrate the range of the step A in the activated carbon slurry supply flow. In the step A, the activated carbon slurry containing the ground activated carbon and the raw material water is obtained. To obtain the activated carbon slurry, the step A includes the step A1 of preparing the ground activated carbon and the step A2 of mixing the raw material activated carbon or the ground activated carbon with the raw material water, in any order. For example, in the case of obtaining the activated carbon slurry using the dry grinding method, the step A1 may be performed by a dry process before the step A2, as illustrated in FIG. 1A. In the case of obtaining the activated carbon slurry using the wet grinding method, the step A1 may be performed by a wet process after the step A2, as illustrated in FIG. 1B.

Since the ground activated carbon yielded by pulverizing the raw material activated carbon can be in contact with the water to be treated in a large specific surface area, high adsorption effect can be achieved. Moreover, as a result of grinding the raw material activated carbon, sufficient adsorption effect can be achieved even in the case of using a small amount of commercially available raw material activated carbon that has a relatively large particle size and is inexpensive. Cost reduction is thus possible. For example, in the case of obtaining the activated carbon slurry using the dry grinding method, the particle size distribution of the ground activated carbon, the concentration of the activated carbon slurry, and the like can be controlled easily. For example, in the case of obtaining the activated carbon slurry using the wet grinding method, the work environment can be improved by suppressing dust, and favorably dispersed activated carbon slurry can be easily obtained while suppressing secondary flocculation of the ground

activated carbon.

**[0023] <<Step A1>>**

In the step A1, the raw material activated carbon is ground in the grinder to prepare the ground activated carbon having a smaller particle size than the particle size of the raw material activated carbon. In the case of preparing the ground activated carbon by the dry grinding method as illustrated in FIG. 1A, in the step A1, the raw material activated carbon in the dry state can be independently ground in the grinder 3. In the case of preparing the ground activated carbon by the wet grinding method as illustrated in FIG. 1B, in the step A1, the raw material activated carbon contained in the activated carbon suspension water in which the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water are mixed can be ground in the grinder 3 in a wet environment.

**[0024] [Raw material activated carbon]**

The raw material activated carbon may be, for example, common activated carbon produced by subjecting, as a starting material, a carbon substance such as coconut shell carbon, coal, saw dust, or wood chips to chemical activation treatment using zinc chloride, phosphoric acid, or the like or physical activation treatment using water vapors, carbon dioxide, air, combustion gas, or the like, without being limited thereto.

The common activated carbon is typically a kind of amorphous carbon having a porous structure, and has any shape such as fibrous, honeycomb, cylindrical, granular, particulate (particle size: 150  $\mu\text{m}$  or more), or powdery (particle size: less than 150  $\mu\text{m}$ ). The pores of the common activated carbon are classified as micropores, mesopores, or macropores depending on pore size. For example, micropores are 20  $\text{\AA}$  or less in pore size, mesopores are more than 20  $\text{\AA}$  and less than 500  $\text{\AA}$  in pore size, and macropores are 500  $\text{\AA}$  or more in pore size. The specific surface area of the common activated carbon is 500  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  or more and 2500  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  or less.

As the raw material activated carbon, commercially available activated carbon may be used. In particular, powdery activated carbon is preferable in terms of favorably grinding the raw material activated carbon in the step A.

**[0025] [Grinding method]**

The grinder 3 is not limited as long as it is capable of grinding the raw material activated carbon. Preferable examples include pulverizing equipment such as a bead mill, a tumbling ball mill, a vibratory ball mill, an attritor mill, or a jet mill using beads, balls, or rods as a grinding medium.

5        The grinding conditions such as the grinding medium diameter, the grinding medium filling rate, the grinding speed, the grinding time, and the grinding temperature may be selected as appropriate depending on the desired properties of the activated carbon slurry.

[0026] <<Step A2>>

10        In the step A2, either the raw material water and the raw material activated carbon or the raw material water and the ground activated carbon are mixed in the mixer. In the case of preparing the ground activated carbon by the dry grinding method as illustrated in FIG. 1A, in the step A2, the ground activated carbon water containing the ground activated carbon prepared in the  
15        step A1 and the raw material water can be mixed in the mixer 2. In the case of preparing the ground activated carbon by the wet grinding method as illustrated in FIG. 1B, in the step A2, the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water can be mixed in the mixer 2 to obtain the activated carbon suspension water.

20        The raw material activated carbon usable in the step A2 is the same as the raw material activated carbon described above in the paragraphs of the step A1.

[0027] [Raw material water]

25        The raw material water is not limited as long as it does not hinder modification of the water to be treated to the intended water quality. Examples of the raw material water that can be used include purification treated water purified by a purification method including the supply method according to the present disclosure, and treated water, tap water, industrial water, purified water, and the water to be treated itself during the process of  
30        purification by the purification method including the supply method according to the present disclosure.

[0028] The blending proportion of the raw material water and the raw material activated carbon or the raw material water and the ground activated carbon may be set as appropriate depending on, for example, the suitable

activated carbon concentration of the activated carbon slurry described later.

**[0029] [Mixing method]**

The mixer 2 may be, for example, a known mixer, without being limited thereto. The mixing conditions such as the mixing time and the  
5 mixing temperature may be selected as appropriate depending on the desired properties of the activated carbon slurry.

**[0030] <<Activated carbon slurry>>**

The activated carbon concentration of the activated carbon slurry obtained in the step A is preferably 0.1 mass% or more and 10 mass% or less.  
10 If the activated carbon concentration of the activated carbon slurry is more than the foregoing upper limit, the viscosity of the activated carbon slurry increases. This can hinder pumping or cause pipe clogging, for example. Besides, if the activated carbon concentration of the activated carbon slurry is more than the foregoing upper limit, typically the viscosity of the activated  
15 carbon suspension water increases, too. This can hinder the grinding of the raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water, for example. If the activated carbon concentration of the activated carbon slurry is less than the foregoing lower limit, the additive amount of the activated carbon slurry in water treatment increases. This can lead to upsizing of the  
20 activated carbon slurry addition facility, and cause a situation in which the upper limit of the amount feedable in the addition facility is exceeded, for example.

**[0031]** When the ground activated carbon and the raw material water come into contact with each other as a result of mixing or when the raw material  
25 activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water is ground and the ground activated carbon and the raw material water come into contact with each other, a calcium compound contained in the raw material activated carbon dissolves in the water in a large amount, and the calcium concentration in the activated carbon slurry increases. Accordingly, in the activated carbon  
30 slurry immediately after the preparation, typically a calcium compound such as calcium carbonate is dissolved in a concentration corresponding to supersaturation, in the case where the acid addition in the below-described step C is not performed. As a result of our research on a plurality of types of raw material activated carbon commercially available for potable water, the

pH of activated carbon slurry obtained in the step A typically indicated alkalinity of about 9.9 to 12.0 in the case of not performing the acid addition in the below-described step C.

[0032] The particle size of the ground activated carbon contained in the activated carbon slurry is preferably 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and more preferably 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or more, and is preferably 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, in volume average particle size. If the particle size of the ground activated carbon is less than the foregoing lower limit, for example when filtering the water to be treated to which the activated carbon slurry is added to purify the water to be treated, it is difficult to remove the ground activated carbon from the water to be treated to which the activated carbon slurry is added. If the particle size of the ground activated carbon is more than the foregoing upper limit, the surface area in which the ground activated carbon is in contact with the water to be treated in the water treatment is insufficient, so that the activated carbon slurry cannot exhibit sufficient adsorption effect.

[0033] <Step B>

In the step B, the activated carbon slurry obtained in the step A is conveyed to the point of mixing with the dilution water or the point of mixing with the water to be treated. More specifically, in the step B, for example, the activated carbon slurry flown out of the mixer 2 or the grinder 3 may be directly conveyed to the point of mixing with the water to be treated (mixer 5), as indicated by the solid line in FIG. 1A or 1B. Alternatively, the activated carbon slurry flown out of the mixer 2 or the grinder 3 may be conveyed to the point of mixing with the dilution water (mixer 4) and, after diluting the activated carbon slurry with the dilution water, the activated carbon slurry flown out of the mixer 4 may be conveyed to the point of mixing with the water to be treated (mixer 5), as indicated by the dashed line in FIG. 1A or 1B. In the step B, for example, the mixer 4 for mixing the activated carbon slurry and the dilution water may be directly connected to the mixer 2 or the grinder 3 without a pipe being located therebetween, to immediately dilute the obtained activated carbon slurry (not illustrated).

[0034] In the case of mixing the activated carbon slurry with the water to be treated without diluting the activated carbon slurry in the step B (as indicated by the solid line in FIG. 1A or 1B), the conveyed activated carbon slurry is

mixed with the water to be treated in the mixer 5 by any method, thereby purifying the water to be treated. Typically, when activated carbon slurry is mixed with water to be treated, the calcium concentration in the activated carbon slurry decreases significantly. It is thus considered that, after the  
5 activated carbon slurry is mixed with the water to be treated, the possibility of scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry decreases significantly.

[0035] The water to be treated may be, for example, water flowing in a potable water treatment system, water flowing in a service water treatment system, water flowing in an effluent treatment system, or water flowing in a  
10 sewage treatment system, without being limited thereto. In particular, the water to be treated is preferably water used in the production of potable water such as drinking water for which high purification level is required, in terms of sufficiently utilizing high adsorption effect of the activated carbon slurry.

The mixing conditions such as the mixing proportion of the water to  
15 be treated and the activated carbon slurry and the mixing temperature may be set as appropriate depending on the desired water quality and properties intended by the water treatment.

[0036] In the case of mixing the activated carbon slurry with the dilution water in the step B (as indicated by the dashed line in FIG. 1A or 1B), the  
20 calcium concentration in the activated carbon slurry decreases significantly. It is thus considered that, after the activated carbon slurry is mixed with the dilution water, the possibility of scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry decreases significantly.

[0037] The dilution water may be, for example, water equivalent to the raw  
25 material water, without being limited thereto.

[0038] The degree of dilution of the activated carbon slurry using the dilution water is not limited, and may be set freely. For example, the degree of dilution is preferably 1.5 times or more and 10 times or less, and more preferably about 2 times. By adding the dilution water, the calcium  
30 concentration in the activated carbon slurry can be reduced appropriately. Here, if the degree of dilution is not less than the foregoing lower limit, slurry precipitation in the activated carbon slurry can be suppressed more favorably. If the degree of dilution is not more than the foregoing upper limit and is preferably about 2 times, high adsorption effect of the activated carbon slurry

can be ensured without excessively diluting the activated carbon slurry.

In the diluted activated carbon slurry, the calcium compound may be in any of a supersaturated state, a saturated state, and an unsaturated state.

[0039] As the dilution method, the dilution water may be added to and mixed  
5 with the flowing activated carbon slurry or the stored activated carbon slurry, or the activated carbon slurry may be added to and mixed with the dilution water, without being limited thereto.

[0040] <Step C>

In the step C, the acid needs to be added at least before the end of the  
10 step A. In other words, in the step C, the acid needs to be added at least at any stage before the activated carbon slurry is obtained in the step A, in order to supply the activated carbon slurry while suppressing scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry. For example, in the case of obtaining the activated carbon slurry using the dry grinding method as illustrated in FIG. 1A,  
15 the acid can be added at any stage of the preparation of the activated carbon slurry before the end of the step A2, i.e. before the mixing of the ground activated carbon water containing the ground activated carbon and the raw material water ends and the activated carbon slurry is obtained. In the case of obtaining the activated carbon slurry using the wet grinding method as  
20 illustrated in FIG. 1B, the acid can be added at any stage of the preparation of the activated carbon slurry before the end of the step A1, i.e. before the grinding of the raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water into the ground activated carbon ends and the activated carbon slurry is obtained.

25 [0041] As specific timing before the end of the step A (any stage before the activated carbon slurry is obtained) in the case of using the dry grinding method in which the step A1 is followed by the step A2 as illustrated in FIG. 1A, the acid is preferably added to at least one of the raw material water before flowing into the mixer 2 and the raw material water in the mixer 2 (e.g.  
30 the raw material water contained in the ground activated carbon water), and more preferably added to at least the raw material water before flowing into the mixer 2. The acid may be continuously added to the raw material water before and after flowing into the mixer 2. By adding the acid at the foregoing timing, the acid addition can be reliably performed before the

contact between the ground activated carbon and the raw material water causes the calcium compound to dissolve in the water in a large amount.

[0042] As specific timing before the end of the step A (any stage before the activated carbon slurry is obtained) in the case of using the wet grinding method in which the step A2 is followed by the step A1 as illustrated in FIG. 1B, the acid is preferably added to at least one of the raw material water, the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder 3, and the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder 3, and more preferably added to at least one of the raw material water and the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder 3. The acid may be continuously added to at least one of the raw material water and the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder 3 through to the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder 3. By adding the acid at the foregoing timing, the acid addition can be reliably performed before the grinding of the raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water into the ground activated carbon causes the calcium compound to dissolve in the water in a large amount, and also scale precipitation from the activated carbon suspension water before being supplied to the grinder 3 can be suppressed.

[0043] <<Timing of adding acid to raw material water>>

As specific timing of adding the acid to the raw material water before flowing into the mixer 2 in the case of using the dry grinding method, (a) the acid may be added to the raw material water beforehand, and (b) the acid may be added to the raw material water being conveyed to the mixer 2 through the pipe 12, as illustrated in FIG. 2A.

[0044] <<Timing of adding acid to ground activated carbon water>>

As specific timing of adding the acid to the ground activated carbon water containing the ground activated carbon and the raw material water in the case of using the dry grinding method, the acid may be added to the ground activated carbon water before the ground activated carbon and the raw material water are stirred and mixed in the mixer 2 and/or the ground activated carbon water being stirred and mixed, as illustrated in FIG. 3A.

[0045] The acid may be added to any of these timings, and may be added (continuously) at a combination of two or more of these timings.

In particular, in the case of using the dry grinding method, it is

preferable that at least (a) the acid is added to the raw material water beforehand or (b) the acid is added to the raw material water being conveyed to the mixer 2 through the pipe 12 in FIG. 2A, for the reason stated above.

[0046] As specific timing of adding the acid to the raw material water in the case of using the wet grinding method, (a) the acid may be added to the raw material water beforehand, (b) the acid may be added to the raw material water being conveyed to the mixer 2 through the pipe 12, and (c) the acid may be added to the raw material water being mixed with the raw material activated carbon in the mixer 2, as illustrated in FIG. 2B. The acid may be added to any of these timings, and may be added (continuously) at a combination of two or more of these timings.

[0047] <<Timing of adding acid to activated carbon suspension water before flowing into grinder>>

As specific timing of adding the acid to the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder 3 in the case of using the wet grinding method, (a) and (c) the acid may be added to the activated carbon suspension water being conveyed to the grinder 3 through the pipe 21, and (b) the acid may be added to the activated carbon suspension water temporarily stored in the storage tank 20 provided at any location between the mixer 2 and the grinder 3, as illustrated in FIG. 3B. The acid may be added to any of these timings, and may be added (continuously) at a combination of two or more of these timings.

[0048] <<Timing of adding acid to activated carbon suspension water in grinder>>

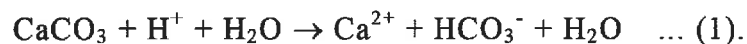
As specific timing of adding the acid to the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder 3 in the case of using the wet grinding method, the acid may be added while the raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water is being ground into the ground activated carbon in the grinder 3, as illustrated in FIG. 4.

[0049] In particular, in the case of using the wet grinding method, it is preferable to add the acid at least to the raw material water in any of (a) to (c) in FIG. 2B or to the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder 3 in any of (a) to (c) in FIG. 3B, for the reason stated above.

[0050] <<Acid>>

The acid is not limited as long as the pH of the raw material water, the ground activated carbon water, and/or the activated carbon suspension water to which the acid is added can be adjusted to acidity as compared with the pH before the addition. In terms of handleability when added to the raw material water, the ground activated carbon water, and/or the activated carbon suspension water, the acid is preferably a gas or a liquid. Examples include carbon dioxide, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, and hydrochloric acid. In particular, for example, in terms of suppressing corrosion of metallic pipes and the like used to supply the activated carbon slurry, the acid is more preferably carbon dioxide or sulfuric acid. For example, in terms of suitably using the activated carbon slurry for water purification treatment of drinking water and the like, the acid is further preferably carbon dioxide.

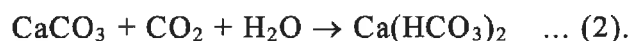
[0051] In general, calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) which is a main component of scale dissolves in water in the presence of an acid and water, according to the following reaction formula (1):



Accordingly, when the acid is contained more in the activated carbon slurry, the solubility of calcium carbonate in the activated carbon slurry is higher, and scale precipitation is suppressed more easily.

Therefore, even in the case where a large amount of the calcium compound from the ground activated carbon dissolves in the water, scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can be suppressed easily by adding the acid at the foregoing predetermined timing in the step C. That is, even in the case where a large amount of the calcium compound from the ground activated carbon dissolves in the raw material water, the ground activated carbon water, and/or the activated carbon suspension water and the calcium compound such as calcium carbonate in the activated carbon slurry is in a supersaturated state, scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can be suppressed.

[0052] In the case of using carbon dioxide as the acid, in general, calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) which is a main component of scale dissolves in water as calcium hydrogen carbonate ( $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$ ), according to the following reaction formula (2):



Accordingly, when carbon dioxide is contained more in the activated carbon slurry, scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry is suppressed more easily.

Hence, even in the case where a large amount of the calcium compound from the ground activated carbon dissolves in the raw material water, the ground activated carbon water, and/or the activated carbon suspension water, scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can be suppressed easily by adding carbon dioxide at the foregoing predetermined timing in the step C. Thus, by adding carbon dioxide at the foregoing predetermined timing in the step C, the, activated carbon slurry can be supplied favorably for a water purification process or the like while favorably suppressing scale precipitation.

[0053] The acid addition method is not limited. For example, an acid introduction port may be provided at a mixer, a storage, a grinder, and/or a pipe that comes into contact with the raw material water, the ground activated carbon water, and/or the activated carbon suspension water, and the acid may be added while automatically controlling the additive amount or manually controlling the additive amount using a flowmeter, a valve, and the like.

In the present disclosure, for example in the case where the additive amount of the acid is set beforehand by the below-described method, typically continuous operation is possible with the fixed set value without adjusting or changing the additive amount of the acid during the activated carbon slurry supply process. Excellent workability can thus be achieved.

[0054] <Step D>

The activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure preferably further includes the step D of determining the additive amount of the acid in the step C by a predetermined method. Specifically, the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure preferably determines the additive amount of the acid in the step C based on a time required for a predetermined step and a predetermined latency time, through the below-described steps D1 and D2. In particular, while the calcium concentration in the activated carbon slurry tends to increase considerably due to the contact between the ground activated carbon obtained by grinding the raw material activated carbon into a smaller particle size and

the raw material water, by adding the amount of the acid in a range determined according to a predetermined method in the activated carbon slurry supply method according to the present disclosure, scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry can be suppressed more favorably through the use of the latency time until the precipitation of the calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts.

**[0055] <<Step D1>>**

First, in the step D1, the time required from the start of the later step out of the steps A1 and A2 to the end of the step B (hereafter also referred to as "time  $T_R$ " or " $T_R$ ") is determined. In the case of using the dry grinding method illustrated in FIG. 1A, the time  $T_R$  is the time required from the start of the step A2 (the mixing of the ground activated carbon and the raw material water such as the mixing of the ground activated carbon water) to the end of the step B. In the case of using the wet grinding method illustrated in FIG. 1B, the time  $T_R$  is the time required from the start of the step A1 (the grinding of the raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water) to the end of the step B. For example, the time  $T_R$  is the time required for a section in which the calcium compound is most likely to precipitate in the activated carbon slurry supply flow 1 illustrated in FIG. 1A or 1B.

**[0056]** The time  $T_R$  can be typically set before performing the activated carbon slurry supply process. Specifically, for example, the time  $T_R$  can be set by determining the grinding time and the conveyance time to the point of mixing with the dilution water or the point of mixing with the water to be treated, based on the particle size of the raw material activated carbon, the desired grinding state of the ground activated carbon in the activated carbon slurry, the desired concentration of the ground activated carbon in the activated carbon slurry, and the like. Typically, without adjusting or changing the preset time  $T_R$  during the activated carbon slurry supply process, continuous operation is possible with the fixed set value.

**[0057] <<Step D2>>**

In the step D2 which follows, based on the relationship between the amount of the acid contained in the activated carbon slurry (i.e. the amount of the acid added in the step C) and the latency time until the precipitation of the calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts (hereafter also

referred to as “latency time  $T_S$ ” or “ $T_S$ ”), the amount of the acid necessary for the latency time  $T_S$  to exceed the time  $T_R$  determined in the step D1 ( $T_S > T_R$ ) is determined as the additive amount of the acid in the step C. By setting  $T_S > T_R$ , the formation of scale up to the point of mixing with the water to be treated or the dilution water when supplying the activated carbon slurry can be suppressed reliably.

Typically, the concentration of calcium that can dissolve in the activated carbon slurry increases as the additive amount of the acid increases, as mentioned above. That is, the latency time  $T_S$  tends to be longer when the additive amount of the acid is greater. Hence, the suitable minimum amount of the acid to be added in the step C can be determined in the step D.

**[0058] [Relationship between amount of acid and  $T_S$ ]**

The relationship between the amount of the acid contained in the activated carbon slurry and the latency time  $T_S$  until the precipitation of the calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts can be determined, for example, in a laboratory scale using the following method before the activated carbon slurry supply process, in terms of work cost and work convenience. The following method is an example, and the present disclosure is not limited to such.

Specifically, first, the calcium concentration in the raw material activated carbon is measured. For example, the calcium concentration in the raw material activated carbon can be measured by analyzing, with an induction coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS), a sample obtained by dissolving ash of the raw material activated carbon ignited at a temperature of 600 °C with an acid such as hydrochloric acid or nitric acid, and calculating the content of the calcium compound in the raw material activated carbon. Following this, based on the measured content of the calcium compound in the raw material activated carbon and the blending proportion of the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water used in an actual activated carbon slurry supply process, the calcium concentration in the activated carbon slurry on an assumption that the calcium compound contained in the charged raw material activated carbon is all dissolved in the raw material water. Calcium salt such as calcium chloride is then dissolved in the raw material water used in the actual supply method so as to be at the calculated calcium concentration.

When dissolving calcium chloride, sodium hydrogen carbonate may be further dissolved to adjust the resultant calcium aqueous solution to have alkalinity equal to the alkalinity of the activated carbon slurry used in the actual supply method.

5           Herein, "alkalinity" is a value (mg/L) calculated by converting the total amount of carbonic acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$ ), carbonate ion ( $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ), hydrogen carbonate ion ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ), and hydroxide ion ( $\text{OH}^-$ ) that can be contained in the activated carbon slurry to the amount of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), and can be determined by titration. The pH of the resultant calcium aqueous solution  
10       can be adjusted by adding sodium hydroxide and/or sulfuric acid according to the desired pH. The temperature when preparing the calcium aqueous solution may be the same as the temperature of the actual activated carbon slurry supply process.

[0059] Next, the relationship between the additive amount of the acid to the  
15       resultant calcium aqueous solution and the time  $T_s'$  from when the preparation of the calcium aqueous solution ends to when the calcium compound starts to precipitate in the calcium aqueous solution is determined. The additive amount of the acid associated with the time  $T_s'$  may be, for example, a parameter directly indicating the additive amount of the acid such as the mass  
20       or volume of the acid added, or a parameter indirectly indicating the additive amount of the acid such as the pH of the calcium aqueous solution. For example, the time  $T_s'$  may be measured as the time until the calcium concentration in the calcium aqueous solution starts to decrease, or the time until a white precipitate in the calcium aqueous solution becomes visually  
25       recognizable.

          The time  $T_s'$  until the calcium compound starts to precipitate in the calcium aqueous solution, which is calculated in a laboratory scale as described above, can be used as the latency time  $T_s$  until the precipitation of the calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts in the actual  
30       supply process.

[0060] By performing the same process a plurality of times while changing the additive amount of the acid, relationship data (table or graph) between the additive amount of the acid (the foregoing direct parameter or indirect parameter) and the time  $T_s'$  can be obtained. More specifically, for example,

a graph representing the acid addition mass on the horizontal axis and  $T_s'$  on the vertical axis, a graph representing the acid addition volume on the horizontal axis and  $T_s'$  on the vertical axis, or a graph representing pH on the horizontal axis and  $T_s'$  on the vertical axis can be obtained.

- 5   **[0061]** The calculation of the calcium concentration in the activated carbon slurry is preferably performed in consideration of the calcium concentration in the raw material water. Water mainly intended for use as the raw material water, such as tap water, purification treated water purified by the purification method including the supply method according to the present disclosure, and  
10 treated water during the process of purification by the purification method including the supply method according to the present disclosure, has a calcium concentration approximately in a range of 10 mg/L to 100 mg/L (water quality standard for drinking water).

**[0062]** [Determination of additive amount of acid]

- 15         Next, based on the relationship between the amount of the acid contained in the activated carbon slurry and the latency time  $T_s$  until the precipitation of the calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts, the amount of the acid that causes the latency time  $T_s$  to exceed the time  $T_R$  calculated in the step D1 ( $T_s > T_R$ ) is determined as the additive amount of the  
20 acid in the step C. As a specific example, the amount of the acid contained in the activated carbon slurry when  $T_s = T_R$  (acid amount<sub>MIN</sub>) is calculated from the relationship between the amount of the acid and  $T_s$  obtained as described above. The acid amount<sub>MIN</sub> may be calculated as the pH of the activated carbon slurry when  $T_s = T_R$  (pH<sub>MAX</sub>). Any acid amount exceeding  
25 the acid amount<sub>MIN</sub> or necessary for the pH to be less than pH<sub>MAX</sub> can then be determined as the additive amount of the acid in the step C. By setting  $T_s > T_R$  in this way, the formation of scale up to the point of mixing with the water to be treated or the dilution water when supplying the activated carbon slurry can be suppressed reliably.

- 30   **[0063]** The additive amount of the acid determined in the step D2 is preferably not more than the amount of the acid necessary for causing the Langelier's index of the activated carbon slurry to be 0 (acid amount<sub>MAX</sub>). When suppressing scale precipitation, the amount of the acid that causes the Langelier's index to be minus (i.e. a larger amount of the acid than the acid

amount<sub>MAX</sub> is added and the calcium compound is in an unsaturated state) is typically added. In the activated carbon slurry containing the ground activated carbon obtained by grinding the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water, however, there is a possibility that a large amount of the calcium compound from the activated carbon dissolves in the water and the dissolution of the calcium compound is accelerated by the acid addition. Hence, a large amount of the acid is needed in order to add such an amount of the acid that causes the Langelier's index to be minus in scale suppression of the activated carbon slurry containing the ground activated carbon. Meanwhile, there is the latency time  $T_s$  before the precipitation of the calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts, as mentioned above. Accordingly, by setting the additive amount of the acid to not more than the foregoing upper limit in the step D2, the activated carbon slurry can be supplied to a predetermined point without scale precipitation even when the calcium compound in the activated carbon slurry is in a supersaturated state. A smaller amount of the acid can thus be used to suppress scale precipitation from the activated carbon slurry more efficiently and further reduce the activated carbon slurry supply cost.

[0064] With this feature, scale precipitation can be suppressed with a smaller amount of the acid and thus remarkable effects can be achieved in terms of work cost and safety, as compared with the conventional techniques that address the problem of scale precipitation by adding a relatively large amount of acid to cause an unsaturated state of calcium compound. Moreover, suppressing scale precipitation even when the calcium compound is in a supersaturated state is based on specific problems encountered by the techniques using ground activated carbon and water, such as a large amount of calcium compound dissolving as a result of the ground activated carbon reduced in particle size by grinding and the raw material water being in contact with each other, and the dissolution of the calcium compound being facilitated in an unsaturated state of the calcium compound.

[0065] Typically, the acid amount<sub>MAX</sub> necessary for causing the Langelier's index of the activated carbon slurry showing alkalinity to be 0 is the suitable maximum amount of the acid that can be added in the step C, as described above.

[0066] The Langelier's index is an index indicating the degree of saturation of calcium carbonate. Since a main component of a calcium compound causing scale precipitation is normally calcium carbonate, scale precipitation can be suppressed more efficiently by using the Langelier's index in the present disclosure.

[0067] In the foregoing example, the latency time is from the addition of the acid to the start of the precipitation. In the present disclosure, for example, when the amount of the acid determined in the step D is added to the raw material water before flowing into the mixer 2 in the step C in the case of using the dry grinding method or to the raw material water and/or the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder 3 in the step C in the case of using the wet grinding method, the time from the addition of the acid to the end of the step B (the end of  $T_R$ ) may be longer than the calculated latency time  $T_S$  until the precipitation of the calcium compound starts. However, there is hardly any dissolution of the calcium compound from the activated carbon in the section before the step A2 in the case of using the dry grinding method and in the section before the step A1 in the case of using the wet grinding method (i.e. the section before the ground activated carbon and the raw material water come into contact with each other). Thus, in the foregoing section, the concentration calcium which can cause calcium compound precipitation is several orders of magnitude lower than in the section from the start of the step A2 to the end of the step B in the case of using the dry grinding method and in the section from the start of the step A1 to the end of the step B in the case of using the wet grinding method (i.e. the section in which the ground activated carbon and the raw material water are in contact with each other), and therefore scale precipitation is relatively not problematic. Therefore, even in the foregoing case, scale precipitation can be suppressed favorably in the activated carbon slurry supply process as long as the amount of the acid determined in the step D is added at predetermined timing.

[0068] The pH in the raw material water and/or the activated carbon suspension water may tend to increase with the passage of time from the addition of the acid. Hence, particularly when adding the acid at early timing in the step C (e.g. to the raw material water before flowing into the

mixer 2 in the case of using the dry grinding method, and to the raw material water and/or the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder 3 in the case of using the wet grinding method), the amount of the acid determined in the step D may be added little by little in order to maintain the pH adjusted to the desired value during the process. Specifically, the acid may be continuously added little by little up to the start of the step A2 in the case of using the dry grinding method and up to the start of the step A1 in the case of using the wet grinding method. In addition to the amount of the acid determined in the step D, such an amount of the acid that can suppress an increase of pH may be further added. Particularly when adding the acid to the raw material water before flowing into the mixer in the case of using the dry grinding method and to the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder in the case of using the wet grinding method in the step C, the acid may be added immediately before the start of the step A2 or the start of the step A1 in the corresponding case in order to maintain the pH adjusted to the desired value during the process.

#### EXAMPLES

[0069] More detailed description will be given below based on examples, yet the present disclosure is not limited to these examples. In the following, “%” used in expressing quantities are by mass, unless otherwise specified.

##### [0070] (Example 1)

In an activated carbon slurry continuous supply system for conveying activated carbon slurry obtained by grinding, by a grinder (wet bead mill), raw material activated carbon in activated carbon suspension water generated by mixing the raw material activated carbon and raw material water to a point of mixing with water to be treated flowing in a potable water treatment system, carbon dioxide was blown into the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder. Specifically, carbon dioxide was continuously blown at a speed of 2.0 normal L/min up to when the pH of the activated carbon slurry stopped decreasing (the amount of carbon dioxide per 1 kg of the ground activated carbon contained in the activated carbon slurry reached 15 normal L). Following this, sulfuric acid was added to the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder, to adjust the pH to a pH (6.3) at which the Langelier’s

index of the activated carbon slurry was 0.

When visually checking whether scale precipitated in the pipes one month after the operation in the continuous supply system, no scale was observed.

5        As the raw material activated carbon, commercially available powdered activated carbon for potable water treatment (average particle size: 15  $\mu\text{m}$ ) was used. As the raw material water, tap water was used.  
[0071] (Example 2)

10        By adding nitric acid to raw material activated carbon ignited at a temperature of 600 °C for 2 hr, a sample solution in which the components of the raw material activated carbon had been dissolved was prepared. For the resultant sample solution, the calcium concentration in the raw material activated carbon was measured using an ICP-MS. The measured calcium concentration in the raw material activated carbon was 2.9 g/kg. From the  
15        measured calcium concentration and the blending proportion of the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water used in an actual continuous supply system, the maximum concentration of a calcium compound that can be present in the activated carbon slurry was theoretically calculated. A calcium aqueous solution was then prepared using calcium  
20        chloride as a solute and tap water (raw material water) as a solvent so that the calcium concentration was the foregoing maximum concentration.

After this, sodium hydrogen carbonate was added to the resultant calcium aqueous solution so as to have alkalinity equal to the alkalinity of the activated carbon slurry. Further, a sodium hydroxide aqueous solution or  
25        sulfuric acid was added according to the pH to be adjusted, thus adjusting the pH of the calcium aqueous solution in a range of 6.0 to 9.0 by 0.1. Subsequently, the latency time  $T_s$ ' from the adjustment of the pH to the start of the precipitation of the calcium compound was measured for each calcium aqueous solution. The point of the start of the precipitation of the calcium  
30        compound was determined as follows: The calcium aqueous solution was filtered with filter paper (grade: GF/B), and the point at which the calcium concentration of the filtrate measured by titration decreased by more than 1 % was taken to be the point of the start of the precipitation of the calcium compound.

A graph indicating the relationship between the pH and the latency time  $T_s'$  of the calcium aqueous solution was then obtained by plotting the adjusted pH on the x axis and the latency time  $T_s'$  corresponding to the pH on the y axis. In the obtained graph, the latency time  $T_s'$  increases  
5 exponentially as the pH decreases.

From the obtained graph,  $\text{pH}' = 7.3$  when the time  $T_R = 5$  hr on the y axis was recognized, where the time  $T_R$  is the time from when the grinding of the raw material activated carbon starts (the point at which the activated carbon suspension water flows into the grinder) to when the activated carbon  
10 slurry is conveyed to the point of mixing with the water to be treated in the foregoing continuous supply system. Moreover,  $\text{pH}'' = 6.3$  necessary for causing the Langelier's index of the activated carbon slurry to be 0 was calculated according to the foregoing method notified by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

15 The activated carbon slurry was then continuously supplied in the same way as Example 1, except that carbon dioxide in an amount of 6 normal L per 1 kg of ground activated carbon contained in the activated carbon slurry was blown at a speed of 0.5 normal L/min so that the pH of the activated carbon slurry was  $\text{pH} = 7.0$  which is  $\text{pH}''$  or more and less than  $\text{pH}'$ , i.e. in a  
20 range of 6.3 or more and less than 7.3. Calcium carbonate in the activated carbon slurry at this time was in a supersaturated state.

When visually checking whether scale precipitated in the pipes in the same way as Example 1, no scale was observed. Thus, in Example 2, scale precipitation was prevented more efficiently by adding a smaller amount of  
25 acid than in Example 1.

**[0072] (Comparative Example 1)**

In the foregoing continuous supply system, activated carbon slurry was continuously supplied in the same way as Example 1, except that carbon dioxide was not blown.

30 When visually checking whether scale precipitated in the pipes in the same way as Example 1, scale precipitation was observed.

**[0073] (Comparative Example 2)**

In the foregoing continuous supply system, activated carbon slurry was continuously supplied in the same way as Example 1, except that carbon

dioxide was not blown into any of the raw material water, the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder, and the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder but blown into only the obtained activated carbon slurry.

5           When visually checking whether scale precipitated in the pipes in the same way as Example 1, scale precipitation was observed.

**[0074]** (Reference Example)

10           In the foregoing continuous supply system, activated carbon suspension water containing raw material activated carbon and water was directly supplied, without grinding the raw material activated carbon in the activated carbon suspension water (i.e. without obtaining activated carbon slurry) and without blowing carbon dioxide.

          When visually checking whether scale precipitated in the pipes in the same way as Example 1, no scale was observed.

15

#### INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

20           **[0075]** It is thus possible to provide an activated carbon slurry supply method that can favorably suppress scale precipitation from activated carbon slurry even when the activated carbon slurry contains ground activated carbon and water.

#### REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

25           **[0076]** 1       typical activated carbon slurry supply flow  
              2       mixer  
              3       grinder  
              4       mixer for mixing with dilution water  
              5       mixer for mixing with water to be treated  
              11, 12, 21, 31, 41     pipe  
              20       storage tank

30

## CLAIMS

1. An activated carbon slurry supply method comprising:
  - a step A of obtaining activated carbon slurry containing ground  
5 activated carbon and raw material water, the step A including, in any order, a  
step A1 of grinding raw material activated carbon in a grinder to prepare the  
ground activated carbon having a smaller particle size than a particle size of  
the raw material activated carbon, and a step A2 of mixing either the raw  
material water and the raw material activated carbon or the raw material water  
10 and the ground activated carbon in a mixer;
    - a step B of conveying the activated carbon slurry to a point of mixing  
with dilution water or a point of mixing with water to be treated; and
    - a step C of adding an acid at least before end of the step A.
- 15 2. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to claim 1,  
further comprising
  - a step D of determining an additive amount of the acid in the step C,  
wherein the step D includes a step D1 of determining a time required  
from start of a later step out of the step A1 and the step A2 to end of the step B,  
20 and a step D2 of determining, based on a relationship between an amount of  
the acid contained in the activated carbon slurry and a latency time until  
precipitation of a calcium compound from the activated carbon slurry starts,  
an amount of the acid that causes the latency time to be more than the time  
determined in the step D1, as the additive amount of the acid in the step C.
- 25 3. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to claim 2,  
wherein the additive amount of the acid determined in the step D2 is not more  
than an amount of the acid necessary for causing a Langelier's index of the  
activated carbon slurry to be 0.
- 30 4. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to any one of  
claims 1 to 3, wherein in the step A, the step A1 is followed by the step A2,  
in the step A2, ground activated carbon water containing the ground  
activated carbon prepared in the step A1 and the raw material water is mixed

in the mixer to obtain the activated carbon slurry, and

in the step C, the acid is added to at least one of the raw material water before flowing into the mixer and the ground activated carbon water in the mixer.

5

5. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to claim 4, wherein in the step C, the acid is added to at least the raw material water before flowing into the mixer.

10

6. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein in the step A, the step A2 is followed by the step A1,

in the step A1, the raw material activated carbon in activated carbon suspension water obtained by mixing the raw material activated carbon and the raw material water is ground in the grinder to obtain the activated carbon

15

slurry, and

in the step C, the acid is added to at least one of the raw material water, the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder, and the activated carbon suspension water in the grinder.

20

7. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to claim 6, wherein in the step C, the acid is added to at least one of the raw material water and the activated carbon suspension water before flowing into the grinder.

25

8. The activated carbon slurry supply method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the acid is carbon dioxide or sulfuric acid.