## Accepted Manuscript

Novel Magnetically Separable Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>@CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Micro-nanocomposite with Highly Enhanced Visible-light-driven Photocatalytic Activity

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PII: S0167-577X(17)31379-4

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2017.09.044

Reference: MLBLUE 23158

To appear in: *Materials Letters* 

Received Date: 1 June 2017

Revised Date: 10 September 2017 Accepted Date: 12 September 2017



Please cite this article as: T. Zhou, G. Zhang, P. Ma, X. Qiu, H. Zhang, H. Yang, G. Liu, Novel Magnetically Separable Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>@CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Micro-nanocomposite with Highly Enhanced Visible-light-driven Photocatalytic Activity, *Materials Letters* (2017), doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2017.09.044

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### **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Novel Magnetically Separable $Ag_3PO_4$ @ $CuFe_2O_4$ Micro-nanocomposite with Highly Enhanced Visible-light-driven Photocatalytic Activity

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Abstract: An effective visible-light-driven Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>@CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Z-scheme magnetic micro-nanocomposite was successfully fabricated by a simple ion-exchange deposition method. The Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>@CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> photocatalyst exhibited remarkably enhanced photocatalytic activity (degradation efficiency was ~99% within 30 min and kinetic constant reached 0.1423 min<sup>-1</sup>) as compared to Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> for the degradation of Rhodamine B (RhB). Comparing the activity results dependence with the characterization results, it was indicated that the dependence of the photocatalytic activity on the efficient separation of photogenerated h<sup>+</sup>-e<sup>-</sup> pairs. This study might provide a promising visible light responsive photocatalyst for the photocatalytic degradation of organic dyes in waste water.

Keywords: Composite materials, Magnetic materials, Z-scheme, Visible photocatalytic, highly effective

#### 1. Introduction

In recent decades, environmental pollution due to the rapid industrial expansion and human population growth is one of the most important challenges facing all leaving beings worldwide[1]. Hence, developing effective, environmental-friendly, and low-cost technology for water treatment is one of the key issues[2]. Among various strategies, photocatalytic degradation has attracted much attention as a

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