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Authors: Dimple P. Dutta, Parth Raval

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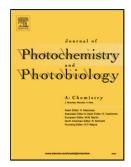
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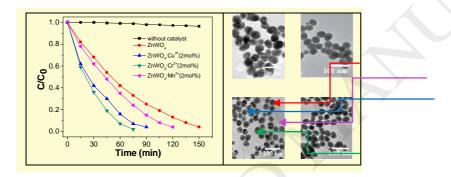
Effect of transition metal ion (Cr³⁺, Mn²⁺ and Cu²⁺) doping on the photocatalytic properties of ZnWO₄ nanoparticles

Dimple P. Dutta^a,* and Parth Raval^b

^aChemistry Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai 400 085, India ^bIndian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, Punjab 140 306, India Graphical Abstract

Graphical Abstract

 Cr^{3+} , Mn^{2+} and Cu^{2+} doping in nano $ZnWO_4$ leads to decreased band gap, improved separation of photogenerated charge carriers and enhanced photocatalytic activity under simulated solar irradiation for degradation of dye effluents.



Highlights

- Undoped and transition metal (Cr³⁺, Mn²⁺ and Cu²⁺) doped ZnWO₄ nanoparticles have been synthesized sonochemically.
- The size and band gap of ZnWO₄ nanoparticles decreased on transition metal ion doping.
- ZnWO₄:Cr³⁺(2mol%) shows the best photocatalytic efficiency under simulated solar irradiation.
- The critical role played by effective e⁻/h⁺ separation for the ultimate photodegradation of the pollutants has been elucidated by PL spectra of the samples.
- The nanoparticles could be readily separated from the reaction system by low-speed centrifugation after photocatalytic use, which is favorable for separation and reuse.
- After five recycles, the nanoparticles did not exhibit an obvious loss in activity, confirming its stability upon recycling.
- The reasons for this improvement in photocatalytic activity of the doped samples under visible light irradiation have been discussed.

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