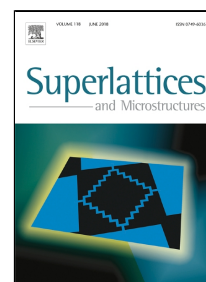


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# A facile and efficient method to directly synthesize TiO<sub>2</sub>/rGO with enhanced photocatalytic performance

Ni Sun <sup>a, b</sup>, Jing Ma <sup>a, \*</sup>, Chao Wang <sup>b</sup>, Juanqin Xue <sup>a</sup>, Liangsheng Qiang <sup>c</sup>, Jieli Tang <sup>a, \*\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemical Engineering, Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, Xi'an 710055, PR China

<sup>b</sup> School of Metallurgical Engineering, Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, Xi'an, 710055, PR China

<sup>c</sup> Department of Chemistry, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin 150001, PR China

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: majing@xauat.edu.cn (J. Ma)

\*\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: jielitang@163.com (J. Tang)

**Abstract:** A facile and efficient one-step hydrothermal method was performed to prepare the TiO<sub>2</sub>/reduced graphene oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>/rGO). The obtained materials were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD), Raman spectra, transmission electron microscopy (TEM), X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) and UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra. The results showed that the well dispersed TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles with anatase were found uniformly distributed throughout the surface of rGO sheets. The as-prepared composite was used to photocatalytic degradation of Methylene blue (MB), and the experiment results show that TiO<sub>2</sub>/rGO exhibited an enhanced photocatalytic activity for MB degradation under visible-light irradiation compared to Degussa P25, which was attributed to extended light absorption and increased charge separation efficiency due to excellent electrical properties of GO and the chemical bond between rGO and TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. The composite maintained a higher level of activity after five recycles without any significant loss of photocatalytic activity. The results manifested that the facile synthesis via a one-pot hydrothermal treatment can provide an effective approach to enhance the performance of TiO<sub>2</sub>/rGO, which is a promising candidate in wastewater treatment application.

**Keywords:** Graphene oxide; TiO<sub>2</sub>/rGO; Hydrothermal synthesis; Interfacial interaction

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