



Development of CdS/TNTA nanocomposite to improve performance of simultaneous electrocoagulation-photocatalysis process for hydrogen production and ciprofloxacin elimination[☆]

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Electrocoagulation

Photocatalysis

CdS/TNTA

Ciprofloxacin

Hydrogen

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to enhance the effectiveness of the simultaneous combination of electrocoagulation and photocatalysis processes by modifying the configuration of the photocatalyst. A heterojunction mechanism was developed by integrating CdS with a photocatalyst using a TiO₂ nanotube array (TNTA) [1]. This mechanism is designed to enhance photocatalytic efficiency by reducing electron-hole recombination. The successful synthesis of CdS/TNTA nanocomposite was confirmed using various characterization methods, including XRD, HRTEM, FESEM, UV-Vis DRS, PL, transient photocurrent, and XPS. The results showed that CdS/TNTA worked better than TNTA in a single photocatalysis process, achieving improved Ciprofloxacin (CIP) removal (7.9 % to 13.8 %) and hydrogen gas production (0.006 to 0.156 mmol/m²plate). Simultaneously operating electrocoagulation and photocatalysis systems in the respective optimized settings resulted in significant enhancements. Hydrogen gas yield increased by 44 % (from 443 to 636 mmol/m² plate) compared to using only TNTA, while CIP removal improved from 79 % to 83 %. This study demonstrates that the synthesis of CdS/TNTA photocatalysts may be a promising approach to achieving high performance of hydrogen recovery while simultaneously removing CIP from wastewater.

1. Introduction

Pharmaceutical commodities are considered necessary due to the continuous growth of the human population, which intensifies health concerns. This demand significantly contributes to the generation of pharmaceutical waste. As a result, effective removal methods that can degrade the toxic properties of contaminants in the waste are required [2–5]. Several studies have been conducted on the treatment of liquid residue derived from pharmaceutical products, using chemical, physical, and biological methods [6,7]. An approach under investigation is electrocoagulation, which uses an electrochemical technique to produce adsorptive coagulants capable of removing dissolved

contaminants from liquid waste.

The effectiveness of electrocoagulation is impeded by constraints, including the finite capacity of coagulants to adsorb and the inability to degrade these contaminants during the adsorption process [8,9]. Photocatalysis presents another viable option, using photon energy to initiate concurrent oxidation-reduction reactions on a substrate. The process is attractive due to its simplicity, cost-effectiveness, and simultaneous redox reactions. However, the limitations include photo-recombination and the narrow spectrum of light required to activate photocatalysts [10,11].

Photocatalysis and electrocoagulation can remove dissolved pollutants from liquid waste and induce H⁺ ion reduction reactions in water,

[☆] Peer review under responsibility of Editorial Board of Materials Science for Energy Technologies.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mset.2025.01.001>

Received 29 September 2024; Received in revised form 9 December 2024; Accepted 5 January 2025

Available online 8 January 2025

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KeAi – Material Science for Energy Technology

KeAi

e-ISSN: 2589-2991

Volume 8 • 2025

Materials Science for Energy Technologies

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Shahd Sefelinas, Maryam Nooman AlMallahi, Mahmoud Elgendy

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N. Rajkumar, K. Sambathkumar, K. Parasuraman, K. Bhuvaneshwari, ... K. Kaviyarasu

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Abstract

3. Nearly identical elemental weight/atomic percentages across different samples are presented in the MSET article. Tables 2a (pure CdO), 2b (CdO/Co) and 2c (CdO/ZnO) show extremely similar Cd and O values (same Cd=66-67 wt% and At%81-83), which is inconsistent with claims of doping and with the EDAX spectra claimed to be different. This indicates data reuse or fabrication from the old data.
4. There is extremely similar/duplicated methodology text and figure captions between the 2023 JKUS paper and the MSET paper: the methods/SEM/EDX descriptions and figure captions are nearly identical in phrasing and structure, which suggests self-plagiarism and possibly that figures/text were recycled or re fabricated in the new article.

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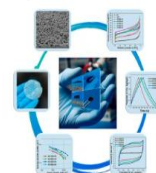
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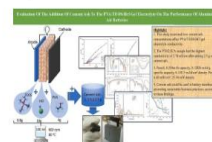
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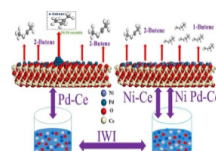
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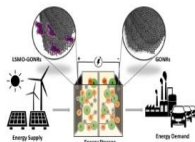
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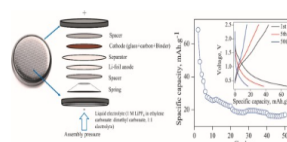
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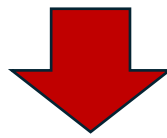
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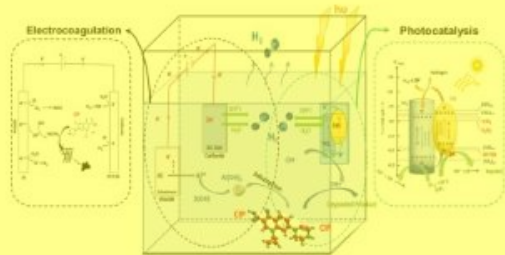
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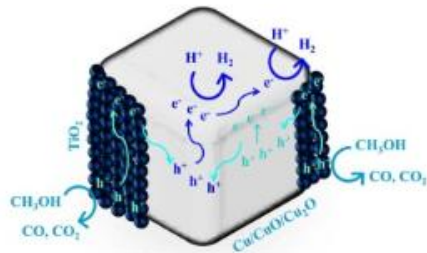
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Publisher

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Publication type

Journals

ISSN

25892991

Coverage

2018-2026

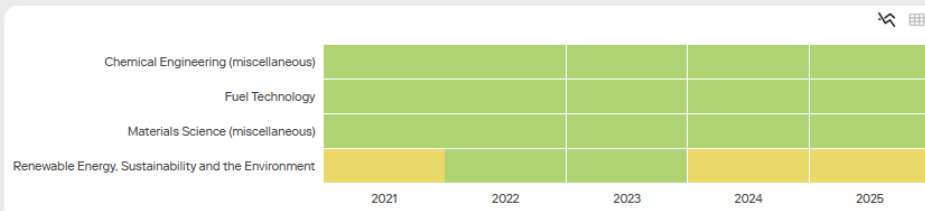
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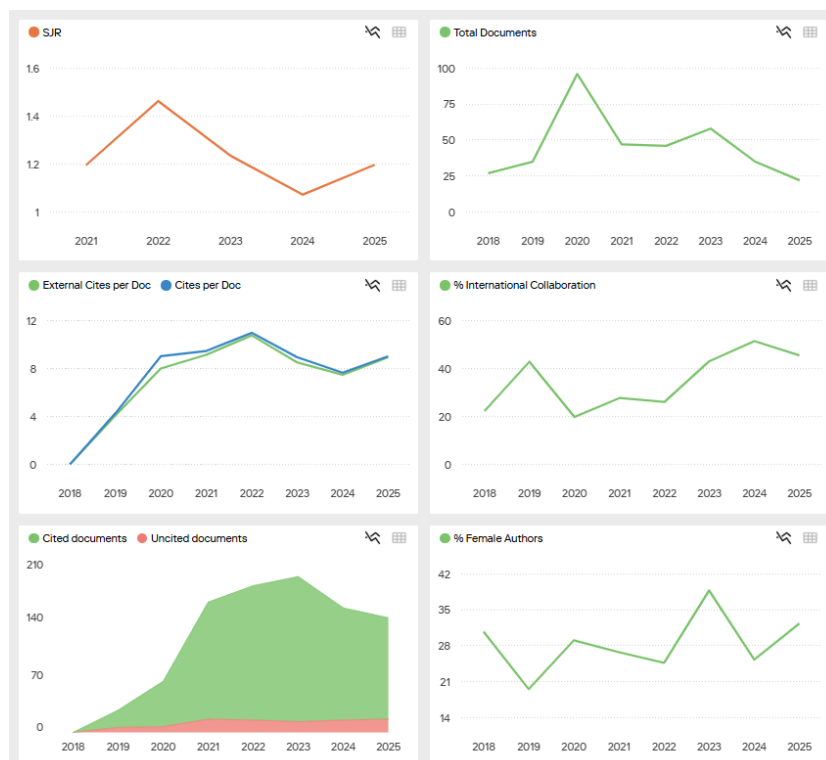
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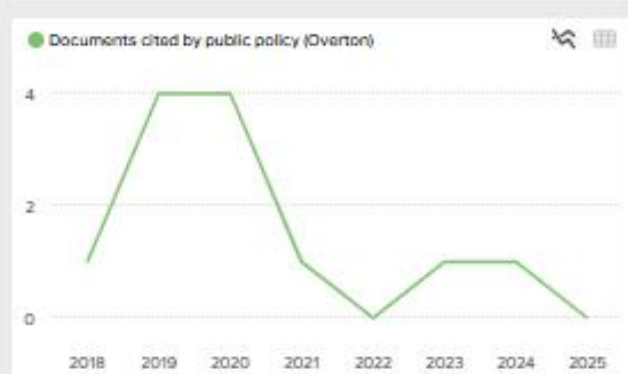
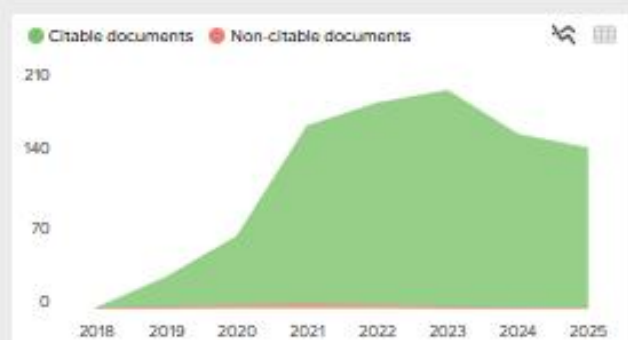
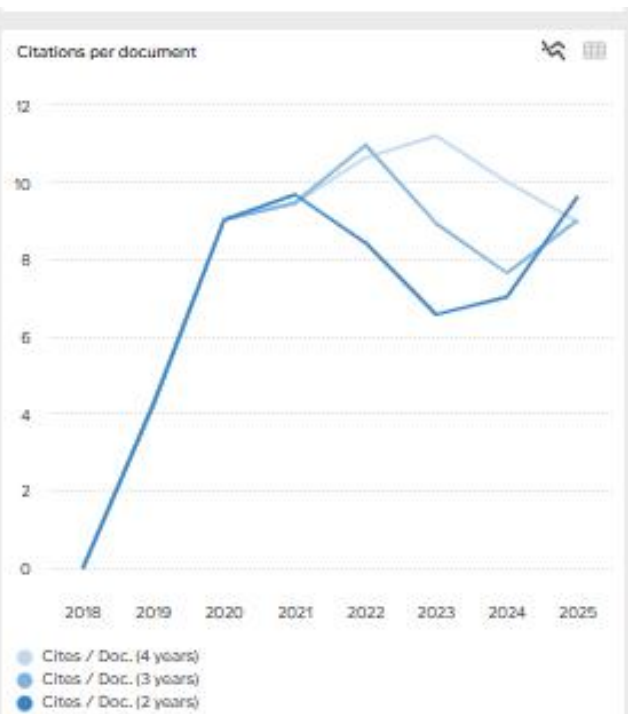
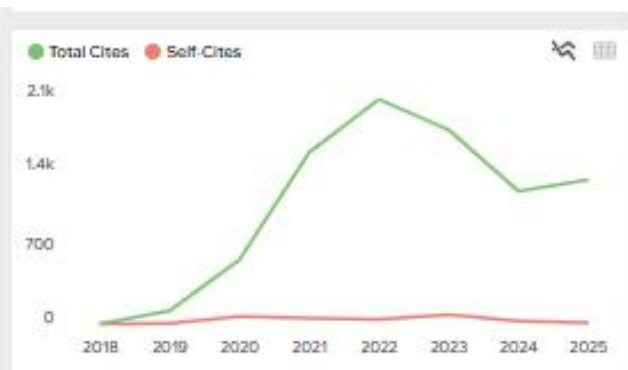
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This study aimed to enhance the effectiveness of the simultaneous combination of electrocoagulation and photocatalysis processes by modifying the configuration of the photocatalyst. A heterojunction mechanism was developed by integrating CdS with a photocatalyst using a TiO₂ nanotube array (TNTA) [1]. This mechanism is designed to enhance photocatalytic efficiency by reducing electron-hole recombination. The successful synthesis of CdS/TNTA nanocomposite was confirmed using various characterization methods, including XRD, HRTEM, FESEM, UV-Vis DRS, PL, transient photocurrent, and XPS. The results showed that CdS/TNTA worked better than TNTA in a single photocatalysis process, achieving improved Ciprofloxacin (CIP) removal (79 % to 13.8 %) and hydrogen gas production (0.006 to 0.156 mmol/m²/plate). Simultaneously operating electrocoagulation and photocatalysis systems in the respective optimized settings resulted in significant enhancements. Hydrogen gas yield increased by 44 % (from 443 to 636 mmol/m² plate) compared to using only TNTA, while CIP removal improved from 79 % to 83 %. This study demonstrates that the synthesis of CdS/TNTA photocatalysts may be a promising approach to achieving high performance of hydrogen recovery while simultaneously removing CIP from wastewater. © 2025

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