

**PHOTOCATALYTIC DEGRADATION OF METHYL ORANGE IN THE  
PRESENCE OF ALUMINIUM-DOPED ZINC OXIDE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **PHOTOCATALYTIC DEGRADATION OF METHYL ORANGE IN THE PRESENCE OF ALUMINIUM-DOPED ZINC OXIDE**

Al-doped ZnO (AZO) photocatalysts with different Al concentrations (1-10 mol %) were prepared through sol-gel method and followed by drying process at 300 °C for one hour. The obtained samples were characterized by X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM) combined with Energy Dispersive X-Ray (EDX) and UV-Vis Spectroscopy. The XRD patterns of AZO samples were assigned to wurtzite structure of ZnO with the smallest crystallite size range from 78 - 87 nm. The doping of Al in ZnO crystal structure successfully suppressed the growth of ZnO nanoparticles confirmed by XRD patterns. The photocatalytic activities of the samples were evaluated by photocatalytic degradation of methyl orange at characteristic peak of 466 nm under UV light. The results showed that the AZO photocatalyst doped with 1 mol % Al exhibited 89 % of photocatalytic activity compared to pure ZnO which results in 69 %. The enhanced photocatalytic activity could be attributed to extended UV light absorption, inhibition of the electron-hole pair's recombination and enhanced adsorptivity of methyl orange dye molecule on the surface of AZO nanopowder.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	iii
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	iv
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	vi
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	vii
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	viii
<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	ix
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	x
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	xi
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of study	1
1.2 Problem statement	2
1.3 Significance of study	3
1.4 Objectives of study	4
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Properties of Zinc Oxide	5
2.2 Zinc Oxide doping	6
2.3 Synthesis method for ZnO	6
2.4 Sol-gel process and technique	7
2.5 Al-doped ZnO as photocatalyst	8
2.6 Methyl orange dyes as a pollution representatives	8
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Materials	10
3.1.1 Preparation of Al-doped ZnO as photocatalyst by sol-gel method	11
3.2 Characterizations techniques	12
3.2.1 Phase and crystalline structures using X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)	12
3.2.2 High resolution surface image by using Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM)	13
3.2.3 Photodegradation performance analysis by using UV-Visible	13

<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	
4.1 The structural properties of ZnO and Al-doped ZnO and the effect of different concentration of Al-doped ZnO	15
4.1.1 Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM)	15
4.1.2 Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectroscopy (EDX)	17
4.1.3 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)	18
4.2 Photocatalyst effect of ZnO and Al-doped ZnO in photodegradation on methyl orange dye	22
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
5.1 Conclusion	27
5.2 Future work	28
<b>CITED REFERENCES</b>	29
<b><i>CURRICULUM VITAE</i></b>	31

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Caption	Page
2.1	Molecular structure of methyl orange dye	8
3.1	Preparation of catalyst using sol-gel method	11
3.2	Photodegradation of Al-doped ZnO	14
4.1	FESEM micrograph of pure ZnO at magnification (a) 20,000 x, (b) 40,000 x, 1 mol % AZO at magnification (c) 20,000 x, (d) 40,000 x, 10 mol % AZO at magnification (e) 20,000 x and (f) 40,000 x	16
4.2	EDX spectrum of (a) 1 mol % AZO and (b) 10 mol % AZO	17
4.3	XRD pattern of (a) pure ZnO, (b) 1 mol % AZO, (c) 3 mol % AZO, (d) 5 mol % AZO, (e) 7 mol % AZO and (f) 10 mol % AZO in the range 25 - 85°	19
4.4	XRD pattern of (a) pure ZnO, (b) 1 mol % AZO, (c) 3 mol % AZO, (d) 5 mol % AZO, (e) 7 mol % AZO and (f) 10 mol % AZO in the range 30 - 38°	20
4.5	Average crystallite size for pure ZnO and AZO at different mol %	21
4.6	UV Absorption spectra for methyl orange in the presence of (a) pure ZnO, (b) 1 mol % AZO, (c) 3 mol % AZO, (d) 5 mol % AZO, (e) 7 mol % AZO and (f) 10 mol % AZO	23
4.7	Percentage degradation of methyl orange dye in the presence of pure ZnO and AZO at different mol % under UV light irradiation	24
4.8	Plot of $\ln(C_t/C_0)$ versus time for the degradation of MO using pure ZnO and AZO at different mol %	26