



# Fabrication of layered $\text{In}_2\text{S}_3/\text{WS}_2$ heterostructure for enhanced and efficient photocatalytic $\text{CO}_2$ reduction and various paraben degradation in water

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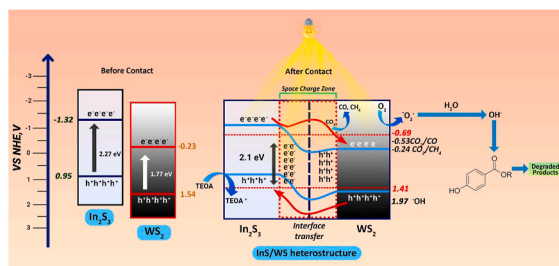
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## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



## ARTICLE INFO

Handling Editor: Elena Niculina Niculina  
Dragoi

### Keywords:

$\text{CO}_2$  reduction  
 $\text{In}_2\text{S}_3/\text{WS}_2$  heterostructure  
Paraben  
Photocatalysis  
Degradation

## ABSTRACT

Because of the excessive use of fossil fuels,  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions into the environment are increasing. An efficient method of converting  $\text{CO}_2$  to useful carbonaceous products in the presence of light is one way to address the issues associated with energy and environmental remediation.  $\text{In}_2\text{S}_3/\text{WS}_2$  heterostructure has been fabricated using the efficient hydrothermal method. The results of structural, morphological, optical, and photo/electrochemical characterization confirm the formation of a hierarchical, layered heterostructure of type-II. Enhanced photocatalytic activity is observed in  $\text{InS}/\text{WS}$  heterostructure compared to pristine  $\text{In}_2\text{S}_3$  and  $\text{WS}_2$ .  $\text{InS}/\text{WS}$  heterostructure exhibit higher photocatalytic activity than pure  $\text{In}_2\text{S}_3$  and  $\text{WS}_2$ . For 12 h, photocatalytic  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction produces 213.4 and 188.6  $\mu\text{mol}$  of  $\text{CO}$  and  $\text{CH}_4$ , respectively. Furthermore, the photocatalytic ability of the synthesized materials to degrade different parabens (Methyl: MPB, Ethyl: EPB, and Benzyl: BPB) under visible radiation was evaluated. Under optimized conditions, the  $\text{InS}/\text{WS}$  heterostructure degraded 88.6, 90.4, and 95.8% of EPB, BPB, and MPB, respectively, in 90 min. The mechanism of photocatalysis was discussed in detail. MCF-7 cell viability was assessed and found to exhibit low mortality in  $\text{InS}/\text{WS}$  treated MPB aqueous solution.

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