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Water Remediation via TiO₂ photocatalytic Nanoparticle under Solar Simulated Radiation¹ DIEFF VITAL, ARTHUR MALANGA, ERIC VICKERS, SESHA SRINIVASAN, Florida Polytechnic University — In this research project, we have successfully developed the TiO₂ nanoparticles dispersedprocessed water solutions irradiated with UV-Visible light to create reactive oxygen species (ROS) for the decontamination of azo- dyes. TiO_2 nanocomposite photocatalysts have shown potential promise in disinfection of both bacterial and organic contaminants in water. We have successfully demonstrated the degradation of azodyes such as Methyl Orange, and Methylene Blue by using UV-Vis light source. The process of photo-oxidation of MO and MB in presence of TiO₂ photocatalyst thus produce hydroxyl free radicals and superoxides, for the complete destruction of toxic organics in the processed water. The characterization such as Fourier Infrared Spectroscopy and UV-Vis spectroscopy have been employed to characterize the aqueous water solution before and after photocatalytic treatment to understand the physic-chemical behavior. A bench scale photocatalytic reactor has been fabricated for the water decontamination experiments using our 3D printing and laser cutter technologies.

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