$\label{eq:stability} Photocatalytic reduction of nitrophenol catalyzed by Ag nanoparticles-combined WS_2 \\ nanosheets$

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One of the fascinating two dimensional (2D) materials, tungsten disulfide (WS₂) nanosheets were successfully decorated with various sizes of silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) via facile in-situ reduction of AgNO₃ under mild conditions. The structural and optical properties of these AgNPs-combined WS₂ nanosheets (AgNP@WS₂) were investigated using TEM, XPS, and PL/absorption microscope. Then, AgNP@WS₂ nanohybrids were employed as a photocatalyst for reduction of 4-nitrophenol to 4-aminophenol. The catalytic performance of these novel nanohybrids was far higher under visible light irradiation in comparison with that in the dark. Furthermore, it was found that difference in the size of AgNPs on AgNP@WS₂ hybrids resulted in a size-dependent photocatalytic activity in the reduction reaction of 4-nitrophenol.

Keywords: tungsten disulfide, silver nanoparticles, nitroaromatic compounds, heterogeneous catalysis, photocatalysis