

# Novel Photocatalytic and Antibacterial Activities of Three-Dimensional (3D) Polycrystalline Anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> Structures

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We report three-dimensional polycrystalline anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> structures (3D a-TiO<sub>2</sub>) for environmental and bio-medical applications. The 3D a-TiO<sub>2</sub> was synthesized without thermal treatment by the growth of rod-like polycrystals on Degussa P25 (P25) via low temperature (<85 °C) modified alkali hydrothermal processing. X-ray diffraction and high-resolution transmission electron microscopic results showed that the rod-like polycrystals of 3D a-TiO<sub>2</sub> possessed the highly anatase nanostructures. The photocatalytic activity of 3D a-TiO<sub>2</sub> was found to be 2.2 times higher than that of P25. The recyclability of the 3D a-TiO<sub>2</sub> was found to be high: the decolorization rate was 94.8% of the initial value after fifteen cycles. In addition, 3D a-TiO<sub>2</sub> exhibited excellent antibacterial activities for the sterilization of gram-negative *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and gram-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*). Even at the 10th recycled use, more than 98.4% of *E. coli* and *S. aureus* can be killed. These results indicated that 3D a-TiO<sub>2</sub> might have utility in several promising applications such as photocatalytic water/air purification and bactericidal agents.

**Keywords:** Titanium dioxide, Photocatalyst, Hydrothermal treatment, Photocatalytic activity