

Supplementary Materials

Evaluation of Efficient and Noble-Metal-Free NiTiO₃ Nanofibers Sensitized with Porous gC₃N₄ Sheets for Photocatalytic Applications

Haritham Khan, Suhee Kang and Caroline Sunyong Lee *

Department of Materials and Chemical Engineering, Hanyang University, Ansan, Gyeonggi-do 15588, Korea; kxan@hanyang.ac.kr (H.K.); cjkang@hanyang.ac.kr (S.K.)

* Correspondence: sunyonglee@hanyang.ac.kr; Tel.: +82-314-005-221

Citation: Khan, H.; Kang, S.; Lee, C.S. Evaluation of Efficient and Noble-metal-free NiTiO₃ Nanofibers Sensitized with Porous gC₃N₄ Sheets for Photocatalytic Applications. *Catalysts* **2021**, *11*, 385. <https://doi.org/10.3390/catal11030385>

Academic Editors: Pedro B. Tavares, Marco S. Lucas, Joaquim L. Faria and Ewa Kowalska

Received: 4 February 2021

Accepted: 15 March 2021

Published: 17 March 2021

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

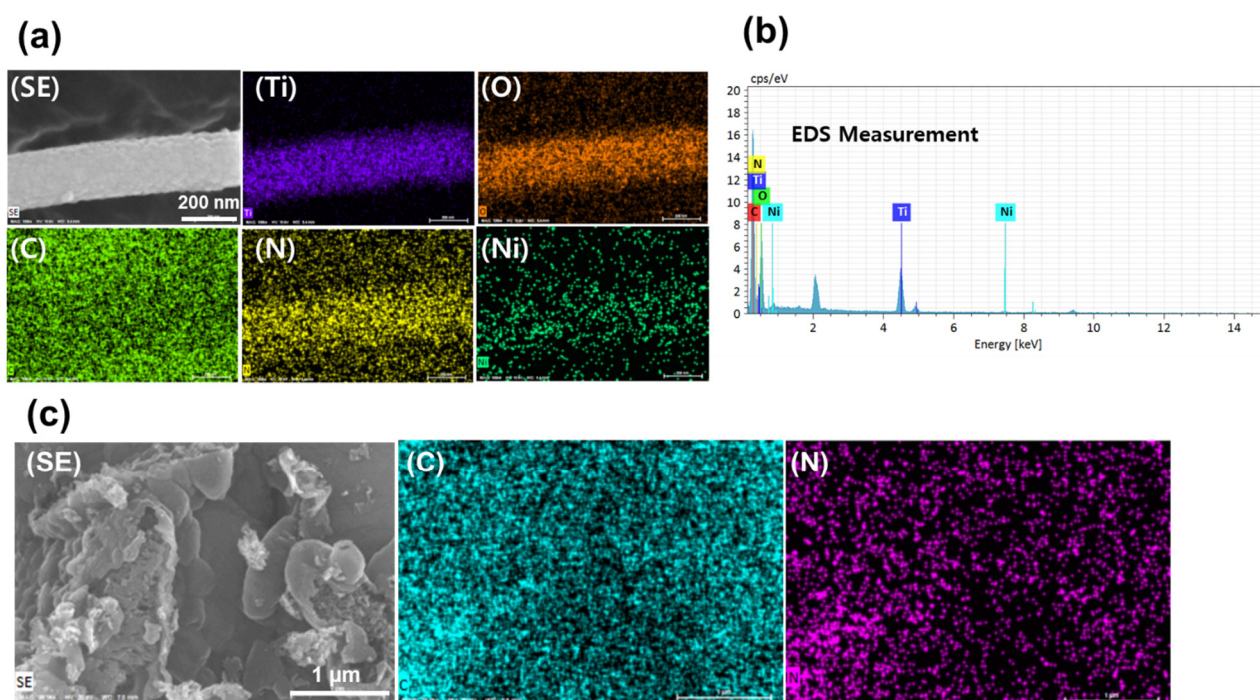


Figure S1. Elemental analysis of gnT6040 by scanning electron microscopy. (a) Mapping and (b) energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) measurement. The nitrogen map confirms the coating of AAs-gC₃N₄ on the nanofibers. (c) SEM mapping of pristine AAs-gC₃N₄.

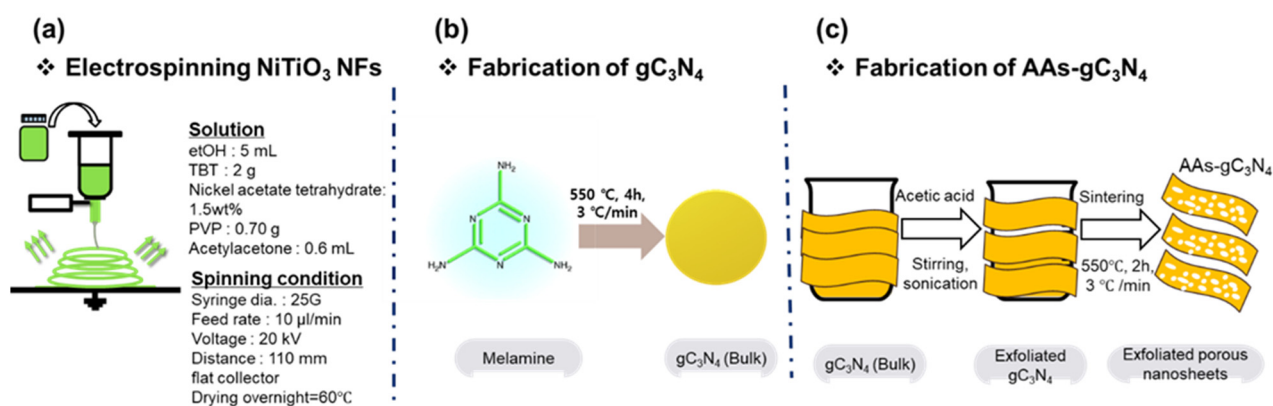


Figure S2. Detailed experimental setups for (a) electrospinning NiTiO₃ nanofibers, (b) synthesizing bulk gC₃N₄, and (c) fabrication of amorphous sheets of gC₃N₄ (AAs-gC₃N₄).

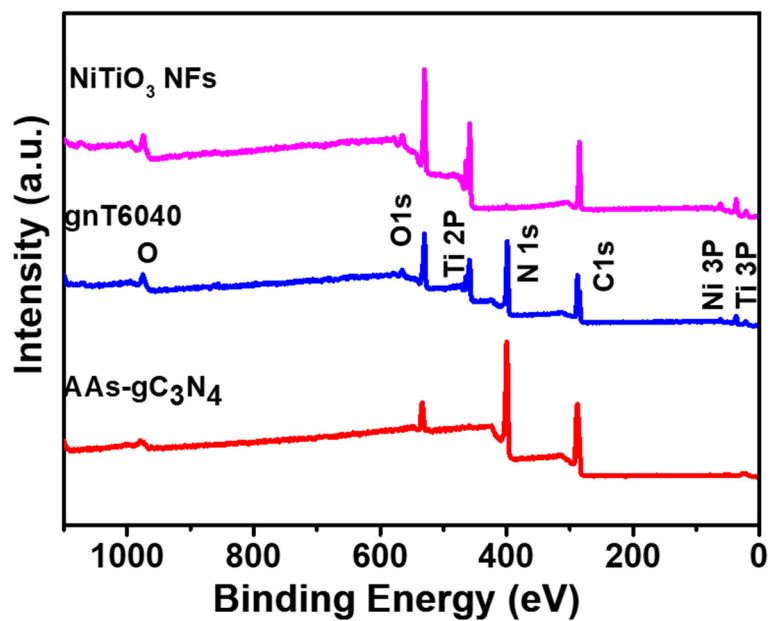


Figure S3. X-ray photoelectron survey spectra showing constituent elements on the surface of Ni-TiO₃, AAs-gC₃N₄, and gnT6040.

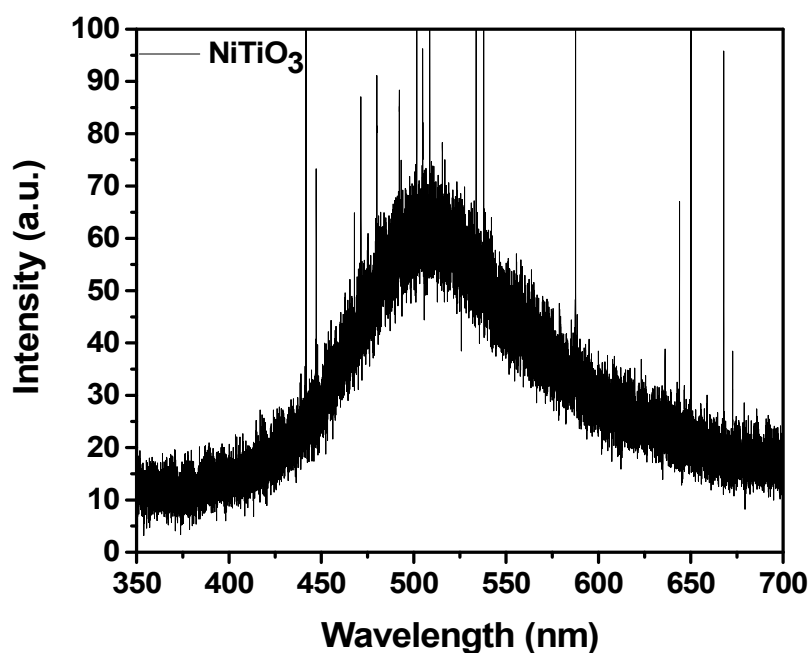


Figure S4. Photoluminescence spectrum of NiTiO₃ NFs showing a smaller number of photogenerated carriers.

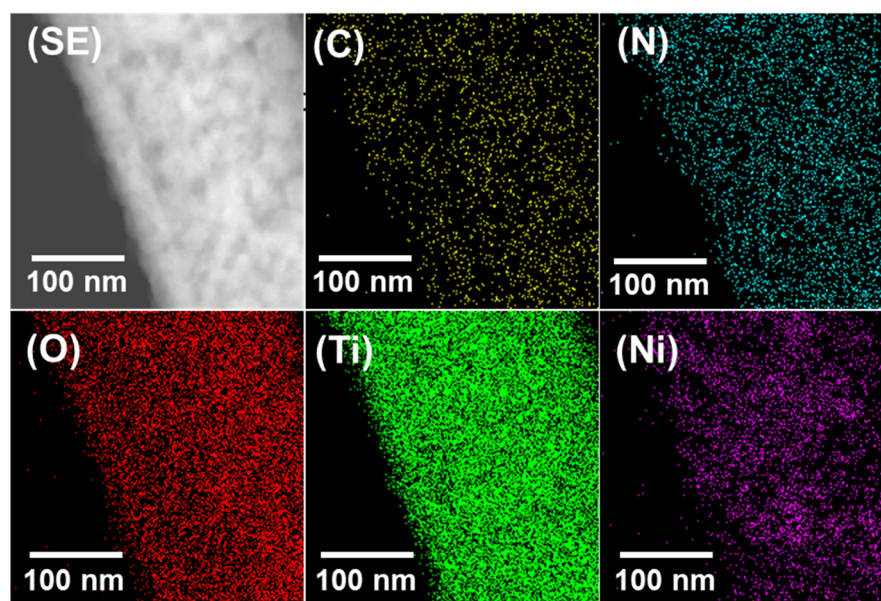


Figure S5. TEM mapping of gnT6040 hybrid structure showing deposition of AAs-gC₃N₄ over NiTiO₃ NFs.

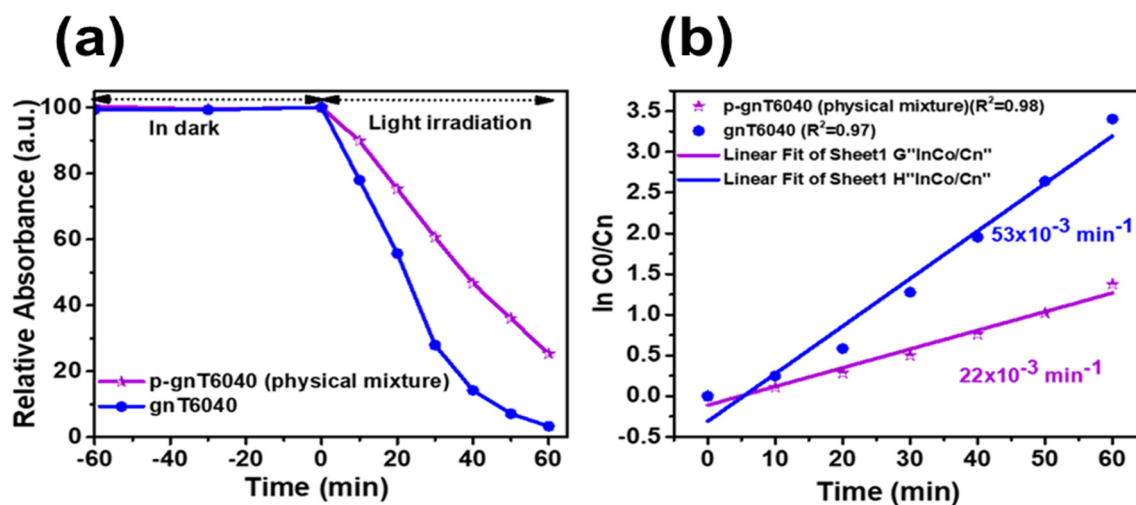


Figure S6. MB removal efficiency of the as-prepared gnT6040 and physically mixed p-gnT6040 sample under light irradiation (Halogen lamp 100 W, 380–800 nm). To prepare p-gnT6040 through physical mixing, 60 wt% NiTiO₃ NFs were homogeneously mixed with 40 wt% of AAs-gC₃N₄ to be used in MB removal test without any further treatment. This test verifies the role of heterostructure and superiority of gnT6040 over the physically mixed sample of p-gnT6040. Figure S6 shows (a) MB removal efficiency as a function of time and (b) reaction rate constants for the gnT6040 and p-gnT6040 photocatalysts.

Table S1. Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) specific surface area of the samples NiTiO₃ NFs, gC₃N₄, AAs-gC₃N₄, and gnT6040.

Samples	BET specific surface area (m ² g ⁻¹)	Pore volume (cm ³ g ⁻¹)	Average pore size (nm)
NiTiO ₃ NFs	11.0468	0.0357	11.3150
gC ₃ N ₄	11.6816	0.0850	23.3068
AAs-gC ₃ N ₄	126.8486	0.5977	20.3439
gnT6040	46.0890	0.2279	19.7086

Table S2. Comparison of the photodegradation performance of photocatalysts containing NiTiO₃ toward methylene blue (MB).

Ref.	Photocatalyst	Cophotocatalyst	Light source	Photodegradation
[1]	NiTiO ₃	TiO ₂	Hg lamp, 125 W	MB (73% in 6 h)
[2]	NiTiO ₃	N-doped	Hg lamp, 240 W	MB (73% in 2.5 h)
[3]	NiTiO ₃	Ag	Blue LED, 0.5 W	MB (95% in 10 h)
[4]	NiTiO ₃	Pt	Xe lamp, 300 W	MB (95% in 2 h)
[5]	NiTiO ₃	SiO ₂	Xe lamp, 200 W	MB (90% in 2.5 h)
[6]	NiTiO ₃	Co-gC ₃ N ₄	GB22100(B) ED-D Eltime, 100 W	MB ($k_{app} = 7.15 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ in 180 min)
[7]	NiTiO ₃ NFs	AAs-gC ₃ N ₄	Halogen, 100 W	MB (97%) and $k_{app} = 58 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$

References

- Shu, X.; He, J.; Chen, D. Visible-Light-Induced Photocatalyst Based on Nickel Titanate Nanoparticles. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* **2008**, *47*, 4750–4753, doi:10.1021/ie071619d.
- Bellam, J.B.; Ruiz-Preciado, M.A.; Edely, M.; Szade, J.; Jouanneaux, A.; Kassiba, A.H. Visible-light photocatalytic activity of nitrogen-doped NiTiO₃ thin films prepared by a co-sputtering process. *RSC Adv.* **2015**, *5*, 10551–10559, doi:10.1039/c4ra12516a.
- Lin, Y.-J.; Chang, Y.-H.; Chen, G.-J.; Chang, Y.-S.; Chang, Y.-C. Effects of Ag-doped NiTiO₃ on photoreduction of methylene blue under UV and visible light irradiation. *J. Alloy. Compd.* **2009**, *479*, 785–790, doi:10.1016/j.jallcom.2009.01.061.
- Li, Q.; Xing, Y.; Zong, L.; Li, R.; Yang, J. Nickel titanates hollow shells: nanosphere, nanorod, and their photocatalytic properties. *J. Nanosci. Nanotechnol.* **2013**, *13*, 504–508, doi:10.1166/jnn.2013.6713.
- Dong, W.; Zhu, Y.; Huang, H.; Jiang, L.; Zhu, H.; Li, C.; Chen, B.; Shi, Z.; Wang, G. A performance study of enhanced visible-light-driven photocatalysis and magnetical protein separation of multifunctional yolk-shell nanostructures. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2013**, *1*, 10030–10036, doi:10.1039/c3ta12272g.
- Dao, D.Q.; Nguyen, T.K.A.; Pham, T.-T.; Shin, E.W. Synergistic Effect on Photocatalytic Activity of Co-Doped NiTiO₃/g-C₃N₄ Composites under Visible Light Irradiation. *Catal.* **2020**, *10*, 1332, doi:10.3390/catal10111332.
- This work