

# Treatment Of Polyvinyl Chloride (Pvc), Polypropylene (Pp) Microplastics, Using Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> / Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Nanocomposite

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## Abstract

Microplastics are ubiquitous in our daily life because of their low cost, portability, durability, and processability. However, since their chemical inert character and their accumulation problems exhibited a great threat to the sustainable development and ecosystem. Photo degradation of microplastic is a clean removal green technology. Therefore, in this study polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polypropylene (PP) microplastics was photodegraded with a novel heterogenous nanocomposite namely Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> / Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite. The effects of increasing Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> / Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite concentrations, PP and PVC concentrations, photodegradation time, pH, temperature on the photodegradation yields of PP and PVC yields were examined. For maximum PVC and PP yields (99% and 98%) the optimized conditions were as follows: Ph=5, 1.5 mg/l Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> / Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite concentration, 800 mg/l PVC and PP concentrations, 15 min photodegradation time, 40 W/m<sup>2</sup> sun light power, 30 °C temperature and 0,9 mg/l Cl<sup>-</sup>1, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>2, BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>1, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>3 and CO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>2 ion concentrations. The XRD analysis showed that the crystal structure of **Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite** originated from the Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> not from Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The XPS disturbances of **Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite** showed the presence of Fe, W, O, and Bi elements. TEM and SEM images showed that the **Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite** exhibited a palm shape with **uniform structure of Bi and Fe**. HR-TEM analyses showed that the nanocomposite exhibited a 2D (dimensional)-2D heterostructure...

**Keywords:** bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> / fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; nanocomposite; polyvinyl chloride (pvc); polypropylene (pp); photooxidation; microplastic

## Introduction

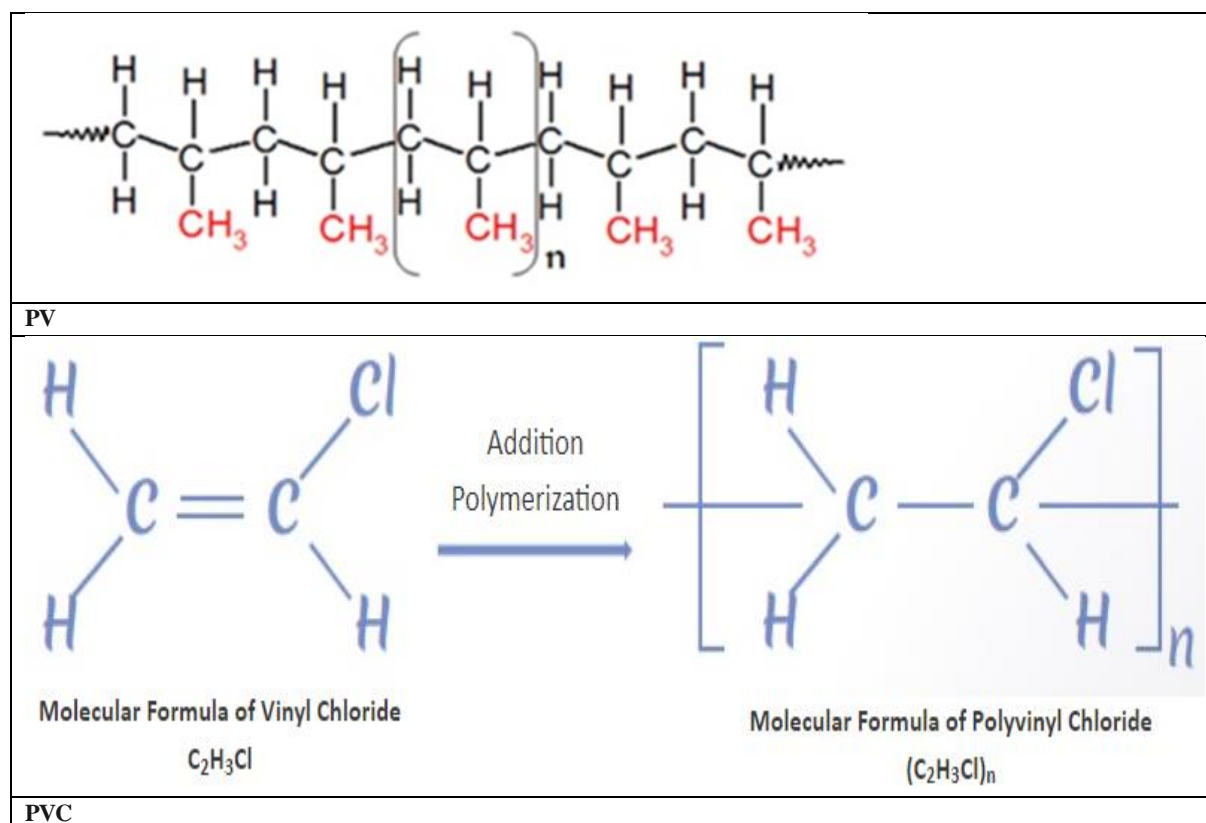
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polypropylene (PP), as engineering plastics, are extensively used in life and industry. They are found as microplastic in aquatic, marine, and soil environments. PVC and related plastic products are non-biodegradable in natural environment because of their chemical inertness(1). The PVC plastics become one of the main sources of "white pollution". Traditional processing methods, such as garbage deposit or incineration, cause a serious secondary pollution. Therefore, the development of degradable PVC plastics becomes an important issue. There are some disadvantages in these PVC plastics, mainly the long degradation cycle and the incompleteness of the degradation, which limit their practical applications(2). Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC or Vinyl) is an economical and versatile thermoplastic polymer. It is widely used in the building and construction industry to produce door and window profiles. It also finds use in: drinking and wastewater pipes, wire and cable insulation, medical devices, etc. It is the world's third-largest thermoplastic by volume after polyethylene and polypropylene(3-6). It is a white, brittle solid material available in powder form or granules. PVC is now replacing traditional building materials in several applications. These materials include wood, metal, concrete, rubber, ceramics, etc. in

several applications. This is due to its versatile properties such as: lightweight, durable, low cost, and easy processability. Polypropylene (PP) is a type of polyolefin that is slightly harder than polyethylene. It is a commodity plastic with low density and high heat resistance. It finds application in packaging, automotive, consumer goods, medical, cast films, etc(7-9). A lot of studies showed that MP pollution in the surface water consisted of polypropylene (PP), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The pollution of these MPs cause to different interactions affecting their migration and transformations(10-12). The photodegradation of MPs in the environment during solar irradiation and the photolysis of PP and PVC and OH radical production via ultraviolet light is an phenomenon. As a result, that the photolysis PP and PVC were feasible process during their photodegradation. The photodegradable PVC and PP by some photocatalysts exhibited their ability to decomposability properties. It is important to note that during the photocatalytic degradation of PVC and PP dioxins were not produced and the decomposition intermediates were not toxic to the environmental ecosystems(13-20). It has been reported that reactive oxygen species produced from the photodegradation of irradiated PP and PVC MPs increases the absorption of UV energy(21-25). During irradiation of MP the release of volatile and dissolved organic

matters can be performed. Although  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{SiO}_2/\text{TiO}_2$  nanocomposites with enhanced photocatalytic activity and fast magnetic separability can be used in the photodegradation of PP and PVC low removal yields were detected.  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /metal hybrid nanostructures with polymers as such as  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{C}@\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  nanostructure can be used in the microplastics degradation. However, the synthesis of these magnetic nanocomposites requires some linker organics like silica, polymers, carbon making the synthesis more favorable and decrease the saturation magnetization ( $M_s$ ) of the generated nanocomposites. Some magnetic nanocomposites like  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{WO}_3$  can be used in the photodegradation of some organics(26-30).  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  exhibited rapid recombination of photogenerated carriers. The Z-scheme heterojunction exhibited ultimate light absorption capacity and good separation yield of charge carriers has magnetic properties and can cause easy to recover the nanocomposite. The  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  can adhere to the semiconductor material and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  can directly contact with  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  to form heterojunctions. This increase the photodegradation yields by elevated increases the contact area between the two substances ending with high electron transfer to the pollutants(18-22).  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  has a hydrophilic surface, can be dispersed in water is simple, cheap and high stable. Previous studies have already demonstrated that  $\text{Bi}_6\text{WO}_{12}$  exhibited higher optical absorption at a wavelength above 440 nm than  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$  or  $\text{WO}_3$ , by enhancing the photocatalytic activity under solar illumination. The structure of  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  exhibited crystalline properties and is generated by  $(\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2)_n^{2n+}$  layers and perovskite-like  $(\text{WO}_4)_n^{2n-}$  layers. However, However some times exhibited low photocatalytic activity in visible light

region and the separation and recovery of this nano metal oxide was not possible(32-34). Magnetic separation provides an effective way for recycling the magnetic composites by providing appropriate external magnet areas. Supermagnetic  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  was associated with the photocatalyst to obtain a recoverable composite. The magnetic  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  was used in  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin ( $\beta$ -CD) removal with high-efficiency as carrier separation and semiconductor stabilization(35-38). The photodegradation yields of pollutants can be attributed to the its hydrophilic external surface, hydrophobic interior, and specific cavity diameter.  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite was used in the photocatalytic degradation of sunset yellow dye, of sulfamethoxazole, phenol, and rhodamine B dyes. However  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite was not used yet for the photodegradation of micropollutants(39-40). Therefore, in this study it was aimed to detect the photocatalytic capacities of PVC and PP microplastics under sunlight by using  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite. The photodegradation yields were investigated and the impacts of different reaction factors on the photodegradation, such as the amount of photocatalyst, the initial concentration of PP and PVC, photodegradation time, temperature, sunlight water, initial pH and the presence of some ions were examined. The structure, morphology of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite were characterized by powder X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), field emission transmission electron microscopy (FESEM), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) and Fourier transformation infrared spectra (FT-IR) spectroscopy analysis.

The molecular formula of PVC and PP were illustrated in Picture 1.



## Materials And Methods

### Synthesis of $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ samples

For  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  production, 0.98 g  $\text{Bi}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was dissolved in 35 mL distilled water to form a homogeneous solution and stirred for 20 min and sonicated during 40 min. Then 0.33 g  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was dissolved in

30 mL and stirred for 40 min. After the pH was adjusted to 6.00. Then, the mixture was maintained at 180 °C for 12 h in an autoclave. The precipitate was rinsed with distilled water and ethanol for four times. The obtained product was dried at 80 °C and denoted as bulk- $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ . Subsequently, the bulk- $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  samples were calcined at a temperature of 450 °C, for four h. The corresponding products were named as  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ .

### Synthesis of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Nanosheets

For generation of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite 69 mmol Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O was dissolved in 35 mL of the deionized water. It was mixed during 15 min. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 7.0. Then the mixture was heated in a water bath at 60 °C for 8 h and at 130 °C for 5 h. During heating with N<sub>2</sub> at 600 °C, it was roasted for 6 min. Then Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite was retained.

### Synthesis of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> Nanocomposite

In the production of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite certain amounts of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (0.1, 3, 9, 12 %) was dissolved in 40 mL of deionized water for 40 min. Then, 0.1 ml of Bi(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O and Na<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O was dissolved into 30 mL 0.1 N HNO<sub>3</sub> and 30 mL of 1 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> NaOH solution, respectively. The Bi(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O solution and Na<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O solution were added to the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> mixture. After mixing the mixture was cleaned in an autoclave at a temperature of 120 °C for 10 h. The settled chemical was washed with the deionized water. The sample was dried at 50 °C for 14 h. As a result Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite was obtained.

### Characterization of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> Nanocomposite

The crystal structure of the nanocomposite was performed by XRD (MerCK, USA) at the angle, range of  $2\theta = 8-100^\circ$  using Cu-K $\alpha$  irradiation ( $\lambda = 0.15418$  nm). The morphologies and structures were examined by SEM (Zeiss Sigma HD, Germany) and FESEM (Tecnai G2 F20 S-TWIN TMP, USA). FT-IR was performed on Nicolet iS50 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) spectrophotometer in the range of 400–4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The chemical status and elemental compositions were analyzed by XPS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) with monochromatic Al-K $\alpha$  source ( $h\nu = 1486.6$  eV, 6 mA  $\times$  12 kV).

### Photocatalytic degradation of PVC and PP

The photocatalytic activities of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite was investigated by the degradation of PVC and PP under sunlight irradiation. In the experiments certain amount of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite, PVC and PP concentrations were suspended into 100 mL distilled water.

After certain photodegradation times 2 mL of samples were withdrawn and centrifuged.

### Measurements of PVC and PP concentrations

For PVC measurements ion chromatography (C-IC) was used.. Hydrogen chloride (HCl) was quantitatively released from PVC during thermal decomposition and trapped in an absorption solution. Selectivity of the marker HCl in complex environmental samples was ensured using cleanup via pressurized liquid extraction (PLE) with methanol at 100 °C (discarded) and tetrahydrofuran at 185 °C (collected).The recoveries was around  $85.5 \pm 11.5\%$ . PP was measured by gas chromatography/ mass spectrometry (Py-GC/MS). Samples was pre-rinsed with analytical grade MilliQ® water (Millipore, Burlington MA, USA) after adding 15 ml of TRIS-HCl buffer (400 mM Tris-HCL, pH 8, 0.5% SDS, Trizbase T6791, HCl H1758, Sigma). The samples were then filtered over a mm GF/F glass fiber filter, diameter 25 mm, mesh size 700 nm (1825–025, Whatman, Maidstone, United Kingdom). To ensure removal of any plastic contamination present, filters were always heated in a 500 °C muffle oven purged with nitrogen prior to filtration.

## Results and Discussions

### Xrd Results Of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> Nanocomposite

XRD analysis were performed to detect the crystallinity of the nanocomposite. The XRD. The diffraction peaks of Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> at  $2\theta = 29.88, 34.99, 48.77, \text{ and } 56.11^\circ$  correspond to the (114), (021), (221), and (315) crystal disturbances of Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> (Figure 1).The XRD spectra of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> indicates four peaks at  $2\theta = 18.88, 31.87, 37.09, \text{ and } 63.18^\circ$  corresponding to the (112), (221), (313), and (442) crystal peaks (Figure 1). The XRD results of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite showed that disturbed Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was not visible in the whole nanocomposite indicating the presence of low ratio of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. Therefore, the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite exhibited low crystallinity. This confirm that the cristal structure of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite originated from the Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> not from Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

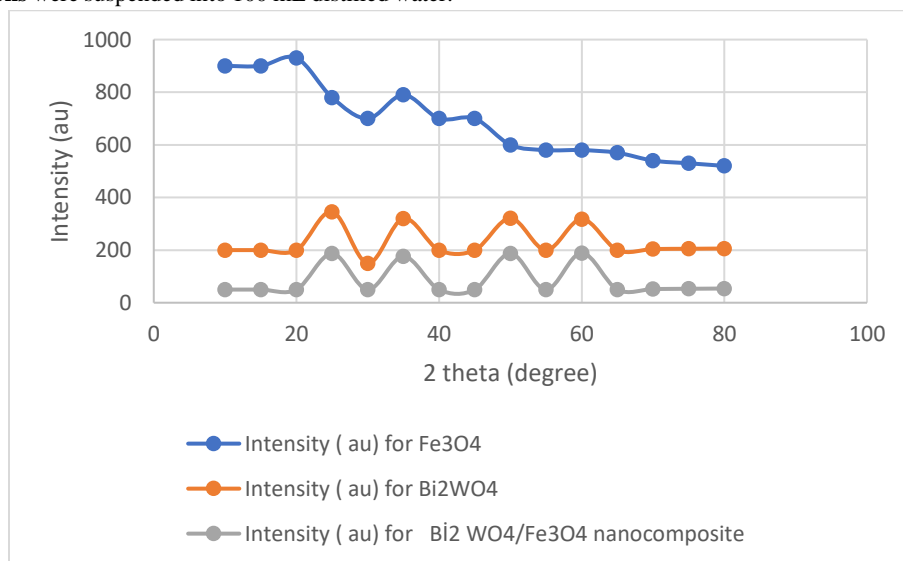


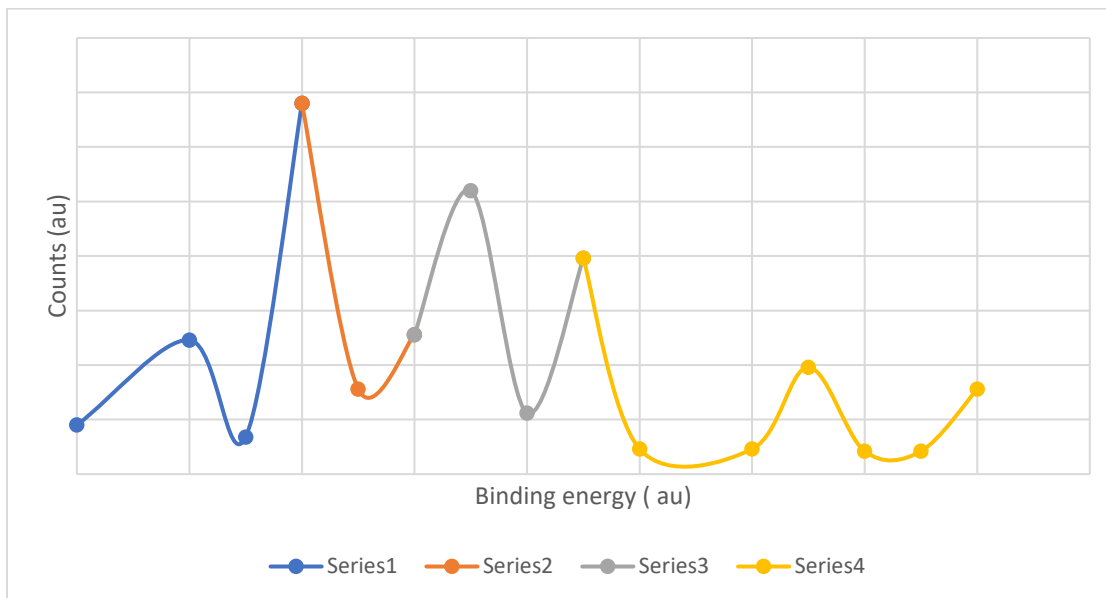
Figure 1: XRD spectra of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>, and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite

### XPS results of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> Nanocomposite

The peaks of XPS spectra of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite showed the presence of Fe, W, O, and Bi elements (Figure 2). The peak disturbances relevant to Bi is doped at 162.8 and 166.9 eV, respectively.

This showed the presence of Fe<sup>3+</sup> in the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> Nanocomposite (Figure 2). The bands at 713.9 and 726.7 eV, can be defined as Fe 2p<sub>3/2</sub> and Fe 2p<sub>1/2</sub>. This shows the presence of Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup>. The existence of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>2+</sup> indicates the presence of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The spectrum diagram at 533.9 and 532.6 eV of O 1s indicates the presence of Bi–O

and W–O as  $[\text{WO}_4]^{2-}$  and  $[\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ , respectively. The peak at 527.8 eV is indexed to Fe–O bonds.  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  was withen  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  and during phphotooxidation the electrons activated in the holes.

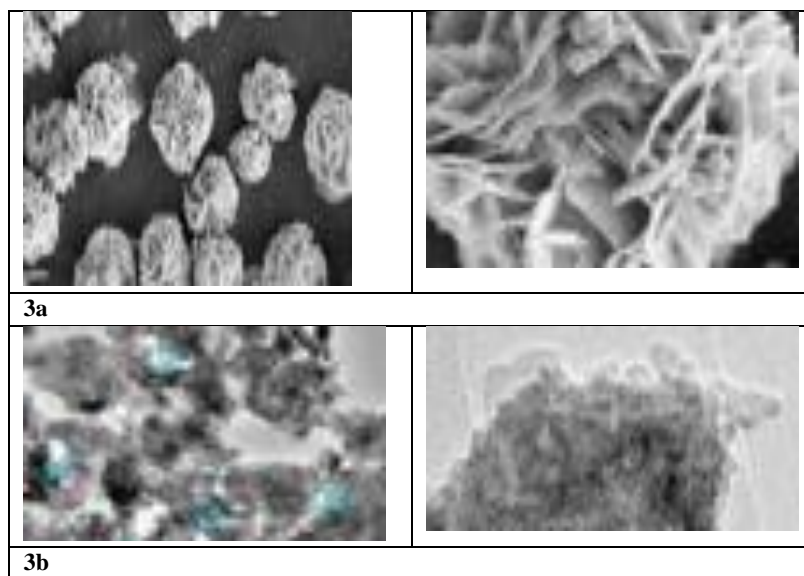


**Figure 2:** XPS analysis for Seri 1(Counts (au ) for W 4f), Seri 2( Counts (au ) for Bi W 4f ej, Seri 3(Counts (au ) for Bi 4d O 1s) and Seri 4(Counts (au ) for Fe 2p

#### SEM and TEM results of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ Nanocomposite

The SEM and TEM images of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  were illustrated in Figure 3a and 3b, respectively. From Figure 3a a palm shape was observed for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  Nanocomposite. It is uniform structure and every

palm is stacked to the main catalyst. The thickness of the nanocomposite was 35 nm. The negativ charge of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  surface leads to the homogen adsorption of  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  on the surface of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  Nanocomposite. In the next steps,  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  d react with  $\text{WO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  was generated.

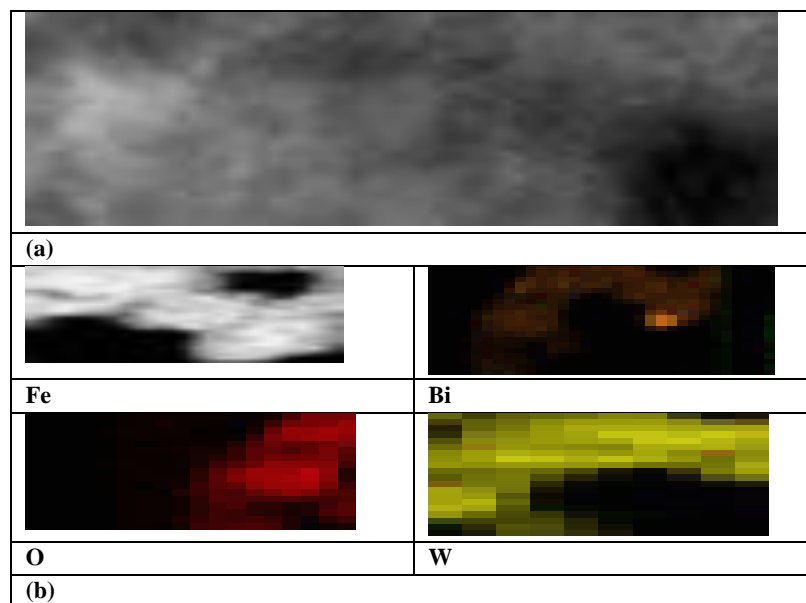


**Figure 3:** SEM (a) and TEM analyses results of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  Nanocomposite

#### HR-TEM results of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ Nanocomposite

HR-TEM analyses ( Figure 4a) showed the flake structure of the nanocomposite. The 2D (dimensional)-2D heterostructure of the nanocomposite has a heterojunction structure cause to grow of

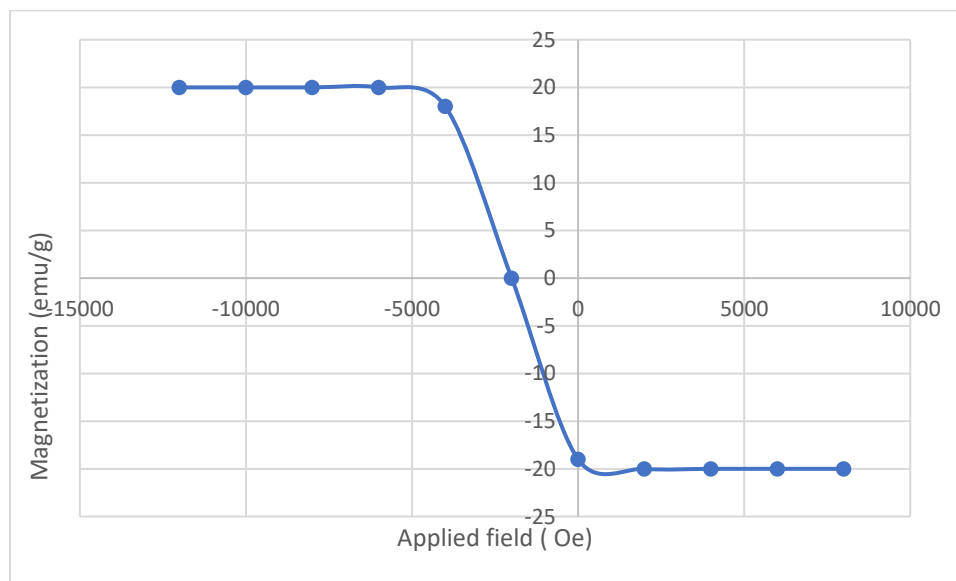
$\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  around of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ . The lattice fringes of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  Nanocomposite corresponded to the (022) plane of  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ . Figure 4b exhibits the Fe, Bi, O and W ingredients. The bonds of the interface between  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  facilitate the transfer of electrons and advice the separation of electron–hole pairs during photocatalysis.



**Figure 4:** HR-TEM analysis results (a) , Fe, Bi, O and W in the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 / \text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite Magnetization of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite

The magnetization versus magnetic field (M-H loop) for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite was shown in Figure 5. A saturation magnetization ( $M_s$ ) value of 28 emu/g was obtained, which is higher than

$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ . The magnetic hysteresis loop indicated a coercivity of 90 Oe. This provides a good separation of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite from the liquids with an external magnetic field.



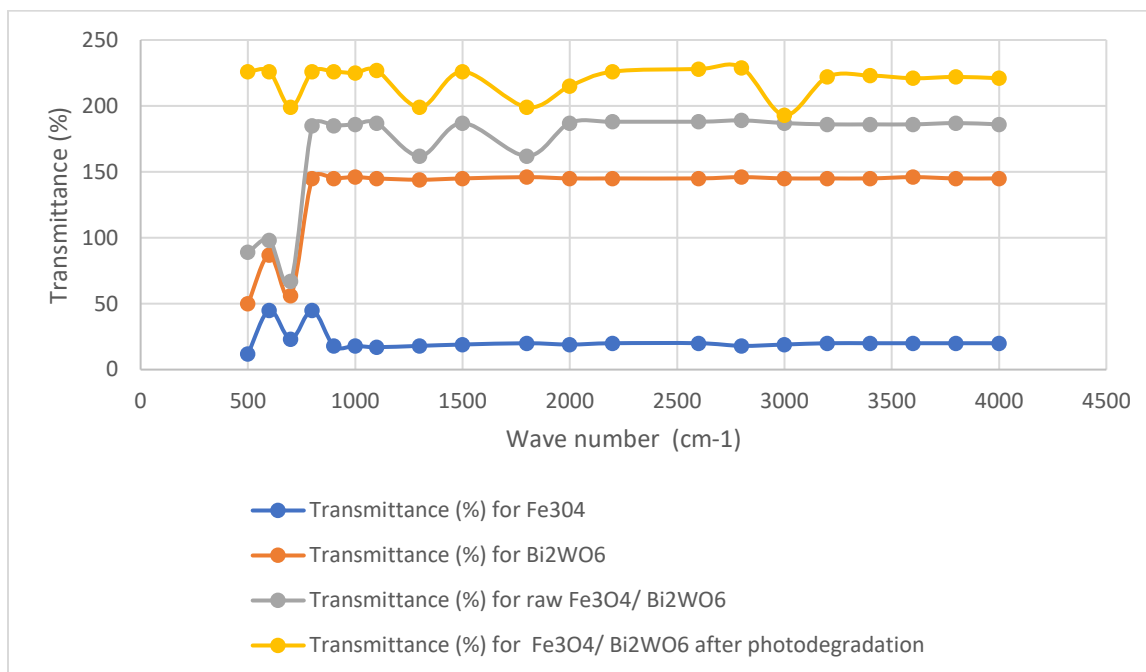
**Figure 5:** Magnetization versus applied magnetic field for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite

#### FTIR spectra of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ , and $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ nanocomposite

The peaks around  $573\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be defined to Fe-O-Fe vibration of magnetite phase. The peak examined near  $565\text{ cm}^{-1}$  show the disturbances after photodegradation (Figure 6). The observed shift can be attributed to the binding of PVC and PP to the surface  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite. The same figure also exhibited the FTIR spectrum relevant to  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ . Observed peaks at  $733\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $578\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are defined by the doping Bi, O and WO, respectively. The

peaks at  $1380\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1628\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were relevant to CH and OH. In Figs. S2c and S2d, the maximum peaks of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite detected near  $3333\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be attributed to OH vibration of bonded water. The  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  bands at  $450\text{--}1790\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were attributed to BiOBi, WO bondings. After photodegradation the FTIR data of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite indicates the presence of small amount of organics doped on the surface of nanocomposite.





**Figure 6: FTIR spectra of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ , raw  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite and after photodegradation process Operational conditions affecting the photodegradation of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polypropylene (PP)**

#### Effect of pH on the photocatalysis of PVC and PP

The surface of the is positively charged in acidic conditions and negatively charged in the basic medium.  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  has higher oxidizing activity in lower acidic pH. The optimum pH for maximum photodegradation of **polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polypropylene (PP) ( 99% and 98%,respectively)** is 5 whilst exhibited lowest photodegradation at pH 8 ( 56% and 50%,respectively)( Table 1). At optimal pH, during PVC and PP photodegradation the negatively charged groups of the microplastics strongly interact with the positively charged surface of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite in an acidic medium The pH of zero-point charge ( $\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}}$ ) for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite is 6.1. Thus, below

$\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite surface acquires a positive charge to attract to the negatively charged PVC and PP. Under these conditions PVC and PP concentrated on the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite surface. The lectrostatic repulsion between the negatively charged PVC and PP and the negative charge of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite surface above  $\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}}$  retards the doping of the PVC and PP resulting in lower photocatalytic activity. In this study higher pH is not suitable for photodegradation of PVC and PP due to competes with the organic pollutants for getting doped on the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite surface. However, lower pH increase the doping PVC and PP, therefore, increase the efficiency of the PVC and PP photodegradations.

pH	polyvinyl chloride (PVC) photodegradation yields (%)	polypropylene (PP) photodegradation yields (%)
2	67	65
4	84	82
5	99	98
7	67	64
8	56	53
10	23	20

**Table 1: Variations of PVC and PP photodegradation yields versus pH**

#### Effect of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ nanocomposite concentrations on PVC and PP photodegradation yields

The efficiency of the PVC and PP photodegradation is relevant with  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite concentrations. As the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite concentration was increased the PVC and PP photodegradations yields increased. As the the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  concentration was increased from 0.5 mg/l up to 1 and 1.5 mg/l the PVC and PP phodegradation yields were increased from 67%, 64% to 82% , 80% and to 99%, 98%,respectively( Table 2). Further increase of nanocomposite concentrations to 2.0 , 2.5 and 3.0 mg/l did not

affect the PVC and PP photodegradation yields. Nanocomposite surface area elevated with the increase in the amount nanocomposite loading. The meaning of the large surface area is the presence of active sites and the presence of high concentrations of  $\text{OH}^\cdot$  radicals. However, as the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$  nanocomposite concentration was increased to 2 and 3 mg/l the linear correlation between nanocomposite and microplastics was not detected. Excess concentration of the catalyst turned the solution turbid and increase light dispersion resulting in the lower light penetration for effective photodegradationof PVC and PP.

<b>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite concentration ( mg/l)</b>	<b>polyvinyl chloride (PVC) photodegradation yields (%)</b>	<b>polypropylene (PP) photodegradation yields (%)</b>
0,5	67	64
1,0	82	80
1,5	99	98
2,0	99	98
2,5	98	97
3,0	98	97

**Table2: Variations of PVC and PP photodegradation yields versus Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite concentrations**

#### Effect of Concentrations of PVC and PP on PVC and PP photodegradation yields

For maximal PVC and PP photodegradation yields the optimal PVC and PP concentrations should be studied. The PVC and PP concentrations were increased from 20 mg/l up to 40, 80, 150, 300, 500, 600, 800, 1000, 1200 and 1500 mg/l. As the PVC and PP concentration were increased the pollutant yields were detected as 99 and 98% up to a PVC and PP concentrations of 1200 mg/l, respectively ( Table 3). Further increase of PVC and PP concentrations the microplastic photodegradation yields slightly decreased to 89% and 88%, respectively. At 20-150 mg/l PVC and PP concentrations the yields of micropollutants were 76% and 75% .Although the photodegradation is lower at a lower initial PVC and PP

concentrations the photodegradation yields elevated to a certain micropollutant concentration and then began to decrease at high micropollutant concentrations. Increasing PVC and PP levels cause to doping of these organics on the surface of the nanocomposite . Then light penetration coming to nanocomposite surface decreased. The relationship between PVC and PP and molecules and the active sites of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite is extremely high at low micropollutant concentrations. The the photons and OH radical concentrations going to the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite surface also elevated when the micropollutants concentrations were elevated. As a result, these conditions cause to decrease of the photon and OH concentrations reaching on the surface of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite ending with low photodegradation yields.

<b>PVC and PP concentrations (mg/l)</b>	<b>polyvinyl chloride (PVC) photodegradation yields (%)</b>	<b>polypropylene (PP) photodegradation yields (%)</b>
20	75	74
40	76	75
80	76	75
150	99	98
300	99	98
500	99	98
600	99	98
800	99	98
1000	89	88
1200	80	79
1500	80	79

**Table 3: Effect PVC and PP Concentrations on PVC and PP photodegradation yields**

#### Effect of some ions namely Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>3-</sup> on PVC and PP photodegradation yields

In industries produced microplastics like PVC and PP some chemicals like KCl, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, Bi<sub>3</sub>BrO, Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, Ca<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and NaHO<sub>3</sub> were used during polymerisation of raw feeding material. However, inorganic ions like Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>3-</sup> and persulphate ions; some times effect negatively the process or can stimulate the photodegradation efficiency and can be decrease the

photodegradation duration. It was found that low concentrations of Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>3-</sup> ions did not affect ( 0.1, 0.3, 0.5 , 0.9 mg/l) the photodegradation yields of PVC and PP ( Table 4). High concentration of these ions ( 2, 4 and 6 mg/l) decrease the PVC and PP photodegradation yields to 87% and 85%, respectively. The reason of this can be attributed to the quenching effects for OH radicals. CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>3-</sup> lowered the microplastic yields by scavenging the OH<sup>•</sup> radical productions .

<b>Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>3-</sup> concentrations (mg/l)</b>	<b>polyvinyl chloride (PVC) photodegradation yields (%)</b>	<b>polypropylene (PP) photodegradation yields (%)</b>
0,1	99	98
0,3	99	98
0,5	99	98
0,9	99	98
2	87	85
4	87	85
6	84	83

**Table 4: Effects of Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>3-</sup> concentrations on PVC and PP photodegradation yields**

### Effect of Temperatures on PVC and PP photodegradation yields

In this study, it was found that as the temperature was increased from 15 oC to 22 and to 30oC the photodegradation yields of PVC and PP increased from 56%, 59% to 99% and from 55% and to 57% and 98% (Table 5). Further increase of temperature to 40 and 50 oC affected negatively the microplastic photodegradation yields. 80-76% and 79%- 75% photodegradation yields were detected for PP and PVC under aforementioned temperatures. Although increasing of temperature elevated the photodegradation efficiency, higher temperature did not

provides to generation of enough OH radicals and continuous electron-hole recombinations were not occurred. In heterogeneous photocatalytic systems, temperature was found to have an indirect effect on the photodegradation of microplastics. In particular, low temperatures accelerates the doping of PVS and PP on the surface of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite. At elevated the increasing of the disturbing of the PVC and PP microplastics elevates the kinetic energy. The high kinetic energy in the microplastics can be emitted from photodegradation yields.

Temperature (oC)	polyvinyl chloride (PVC) photodegradation yields (%)	polypropylene (PP) photodegradation yields (%)
15	56	55
22	59	57
30	99	98
40	80	79
50	76	75

**Table 5: Effect of Temperatures on PVC and PP photodegradation yields**

### Effect of Sun Light Intensity on PVC and PP photodegradation yields

In this study as the sun light intensity increased from 10 W/m<sup>2</sup> to 20 W/m<sup>2</sup> the PVC and PP yields increased from 76% and 74% to 89 and 88% At 40 W/ms sun light intensity maximum PVC and PP photodegradation yields was detected as 99% and 98%, respectively (Table 6). Further increase of sun light intensity to 60 and 80 W/m<sup>2</sup> the pollutant yields decreased to

78% and 75%. At 100 W/m<sup>2</sup> the yields decreased to 56% and 54% for PVC and PP, respectively. At high light intensity photons per unit time and unit area decreased ending with low photocatalytic activity. The unwanted electron-hole recombination is high when irradiated at high sun light intensity ending with decreased photodegradation yields. At elevated light intensity electron-hole pairs recombination is high thus results with low PVC and PP yields

Sun light intensity ( W/m <sup>2</sup> )	polyvinyl chloride (PVC) photodegradation yields (%)	polypropylene (PP) photodegradation yields (%)
10	76	74
20	89	88
40	99	98
60	82	80
80	78	75
100	56	54

**Table 6: Variations of PVC and PP photodegradation yields versus Sun Light Intensity**

### Effect of Irradiation Time on PVC and PP photodegradation yields

The photodegradation capacity of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite versus PVC and PP yields were investigated during irradiation time. The PVC and PP photodegradation yields increased from 59%, 56% to 79%, 76% with an increase in the photodegradation time from 5 min to 10 min (Table 7). After 15 min photodegradation time the yields of PVC and PP reached 99% and 98%, respectively. This attributes to an increase in the formation of more OH<sup>•</sup> and O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup> with irradiation time. However, the photodegradation yield decreased after an optimum time. This optimum time depends on the catalysts as well as the types of microplastics. After

20 min photodegradation the PVC and PP photodegradation yields decreased slightly to 90% and 89%. The reduced rate of degradation after a certain time limit is attributed to the difficulty in the photooxidation of the intermediate products. The photodegradation efficiency is a function of irradiation time. At the beginning of the photodegradation, high rate formation of OH<sup>•</sup> process improve the PVC and PP yields. After 20 min OH molecules between surface and bulk phase hindered the filling of remaining active sites in the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposite. After 30 and 40 min the photodegradation yields tends to a constant value of 79% and 76% for PVC and PP.

Photodegradation time (min)	polyvinyl chloride (PVC) photodegradation yields (%)	polypropylene (PP) photodegradation yields (%)
5	59	56
10	79	76
15	99	98
20	90	89
40	85	83

**Table 7: Variation of PVC and PP photodegradation yields versus photodegradation time**



## Conclusions

The results of PVC and PP photodegradation high photocatalytic activity of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanocomposites under sunlight conditions. The high performance and durability of this composite can be attributed to the high photocatalytic capacity due to enhanced visible sun light absorption. The PVC and PP photodegradation behavior, the influencing factors were investigated in this study.

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