

# Solar photocatalytic degradation of niflumic acid using a TiO<sub>2</sub>/PVDF–TrFE nanocomposite membrane: artificial neural network modeling

L. Aoudjit<sup>1†</sup>, H. Salazar<sup>2, 3†\*</sup>, D. Zioui<sup>3</sup>, A. Sebt<sup>3</sup>, P. M. Martins<sup>4, 5</sup>, and S. Lanceros-

Méndez<sup>6, 7\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Unité de Développement des équipements Solaires, UDES /Centre de Développement des Energies  
Renouvelables, CDER, Bou Ismail, 42415, W. Tipaza, Algérie

<sup>2</sup>Centre/Department of Physics, University of Minho, Campus de Gualtar, 4710-057 Braga, Portugal

<sup>3</sup>Centre/Department of Chemistry, University of Minho, Campus de Gualtar, 4710-057 Braga, Portugal

<sup>4</sup>Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, University of Minho, Campus de Gualtar, 4710-057  
Braga, Portugal

<sup>5</sup>Institute of Science and Innovation on Bio-Sustainability (IB-S), University of  
Minho, 4710-057, Braga, Portugal

<sup>6</sup>BCMaterials, Basque Centre for Materials, Applications and Nanostructures, UPV/EHU Science Park,  
48940 Leioa, Spain

<sup>7</sup>IKERBASQUE, Basque Foundation for Science, 48013 Bilbao, Spain

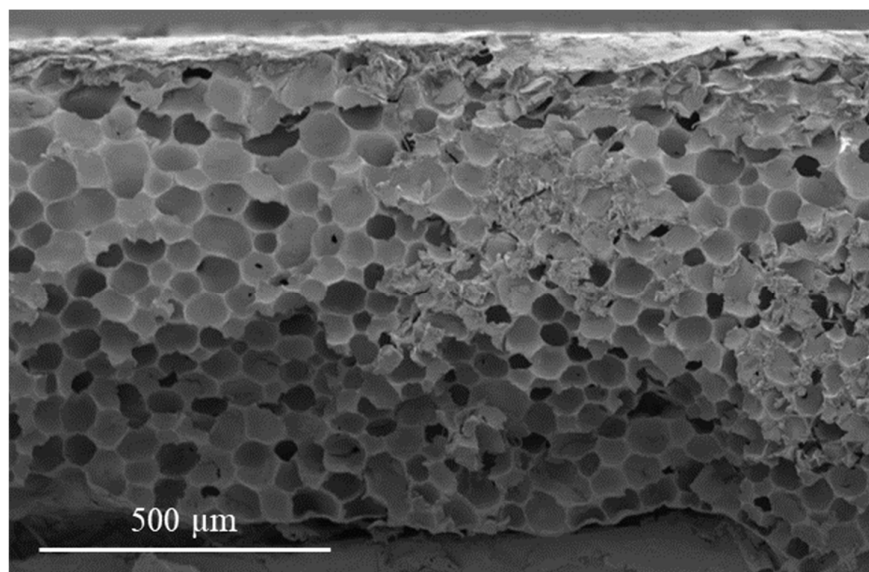
## Supporting Information

### 1. Supporting information for sub-chapter 3.

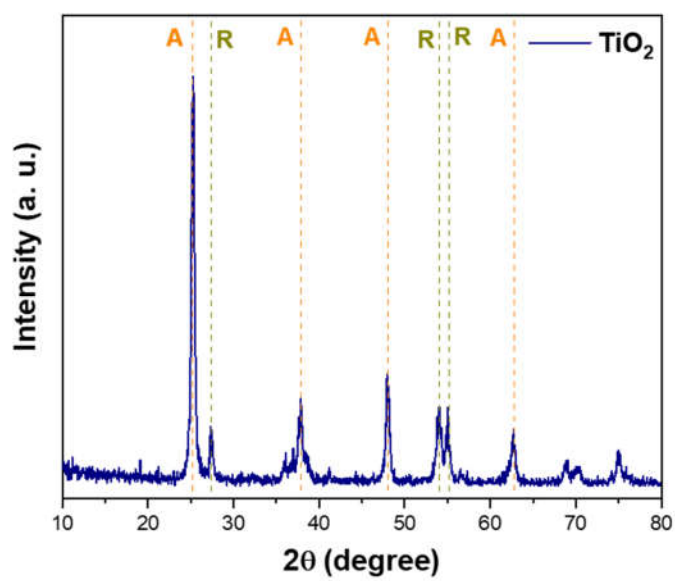
**Table S1.** Process variables and their operating range.

Experimental variable	Operating range
Initial NFA concentration (mg/L)	10 – 30
pH	3 - 9
Irradiation time (h)	0 -6
Radiation intensity (W/m <sup>2</sup> )	269 - 925

## 2. Supporting information for sub-chapter 4.1.



**Figure S1.** Representative SEM cross-section image of PVDF-TrFE membrane.



**Figure S2.** XRD pattern of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles.

### 3. Supporting information for sub-chapter 4.2.

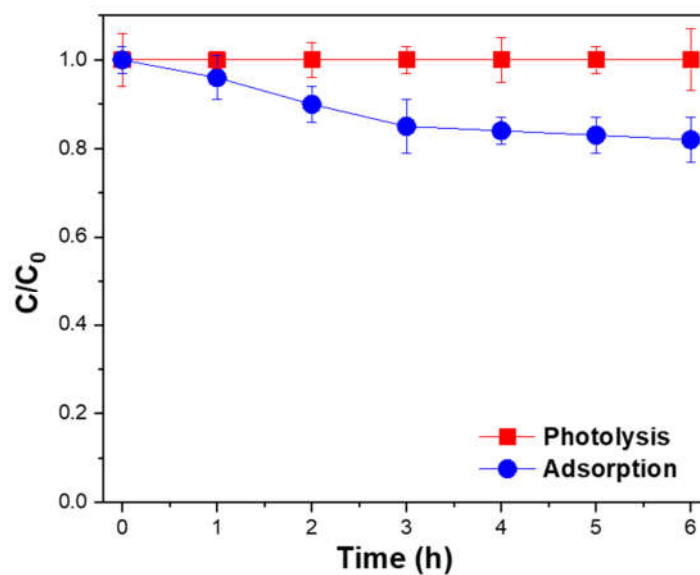


Figure S3. Effect of photolysis and adsorption processes on NFA degradation.

### 4. Supporting information for sub-chapter 4.2.1.

Table S2. Effect of initial NFA concentration on photocatalytic degradation efficiency and rate constant.

$C_0$ (mg/L)	Efficiency (%)	Rate constant ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ )	$R^2$
10	91	0.28	0.93
20	76	0.17	0.95
30	59	0.11	0.94

## 5. Supporting information for sub-chapter 4.5.

**Table S3.** Weight and bias matrix of the ANN model.

Weights and bias: Input layer – Hidden layer						Weights and bias: Hidden layer – Output layer		
Neuron	Inputs				Bias	Neuron	Weights	Bias
	[NFA] (mg/L)	pH	Time (h)	Radiation intensity (W/m <sup>2</sup> )				
<b>1</b>	- 0,5071	- 0,0503	- 3,0541	0,1888	- 2,7232	<b>1</b>	- 0,5788	- 0,3796
<b>2</b>	0,0970	- 1,8525	- 0,9105	- 0,2183	2,1129	<b>2</b>	0,5938	
<b>3</b>	0,7826	1,1945	0,4955	- 2,0058	- 0,6591	<b>3</b>	- 0,1363	
<b>4</b>	- 1,9199	- 0,3599	1,3549	1,1247	0,9924	<b>4</b>	0,1971	
<b>5</b>	- 0,3115	1,0535	- 1,2946	1,2275	- 0,0473	<b>5</b>	- 0,2787	
<b>6</b>	0,0291	2,8858	3,6648	1,1251	- 1,9884	<b>6</b>	0,7312	
<b>7</b>	- 1,6460	0,6069	0,3122	- 1,5249	- 1,8305	<b>7</b>	0,1854	
<b>8</b>	- 1,3610	- 1,8650	1,7781	- 1,0967	- 2,4857	<b>8</b>	0,0376	