## Effect of operating variables on the preparation of $NaTaO_3$ by spray pyrolysis and its performance for $H_2$ evolution from water in a slurry reactor

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 $NaTaO_3$  photocatalyst was prepared by spray pyrolysis process for water splitting under UV light. Precursor solution was prepared from  $NaNO_3$  and  $Ta(OC_2H_5)_5$  as precursors in nitric acid solution. Precursor preparation temperature, precursor concentration, Na/Ta ratio and doping concentration of La were controlled to screen photocatalysts with enhanced activity. In spray pyrolysis process, reaction temperature and residence time were controlled to find out optimum operating conditions for photocatalyst with high photocatalytic activity. Characteristics of  $NaTaO_3$  powder and its photocatalytic activity were also examined.