



# Carbon dots derived from Maillard reaction for pH sensors and Cr (VI) Detection

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**Figure S1:** The general scheme of the Maillard reaction adapted from Hodge[1].

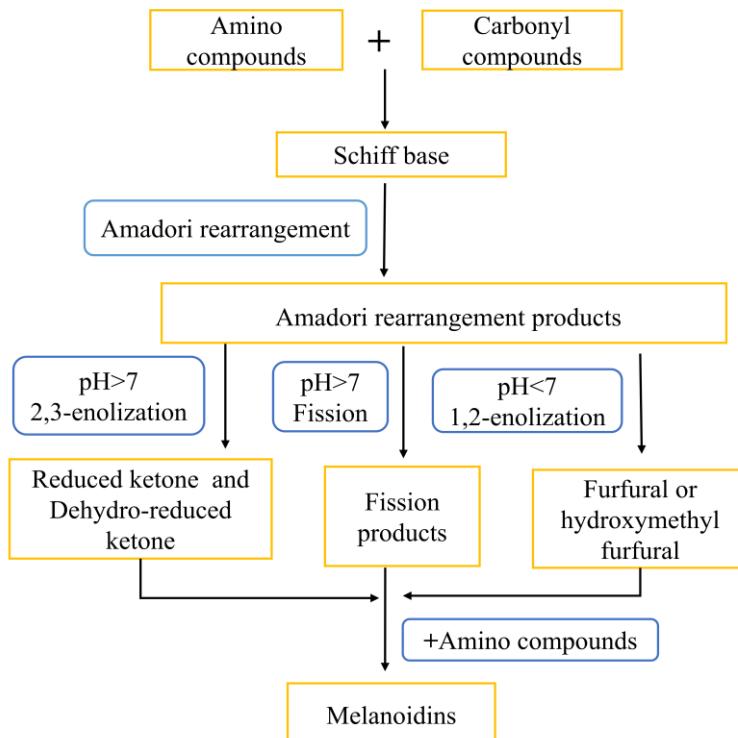
**Figure S2:** The three-dimensional spectrum of MR-CDs.

**Figure S3:** (a) The high-resolution spectrum of C1s. (b) The high-resolution spectrum of O1s.

**Figure S4:** Fitting curve of the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation ( $R^2 = 0.99$ ).

**Figure S5:** Zeta potentials of MR-CDs in buffer solutions of different pH value.

**Figure S6:** (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of MR-CDs with  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Cr}^{6+}$  and  $\text{F}^-$  ions (the concentration of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Cr}^{6+}$  and  $\text{F}^-$  were 100  $\mu\text{M}$ , 100  $\mu\text{M}$  and 1  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively). (b) Fluorescence quenching efficiency of various ions. (0: MR-CDs, 1: MR-CDs+ $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , 2: MR-CDs+ $\text{Cr}^{6+}$ , 3: MR-CDs+ $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ + $\text{Cr}^{6+}$ , 4: MR-CDs+ $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ + $\text{F}^-$ , 5: MR-CDs+ $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ + $\text{Cr}^{6+}$ + $\text{F}^-$ )



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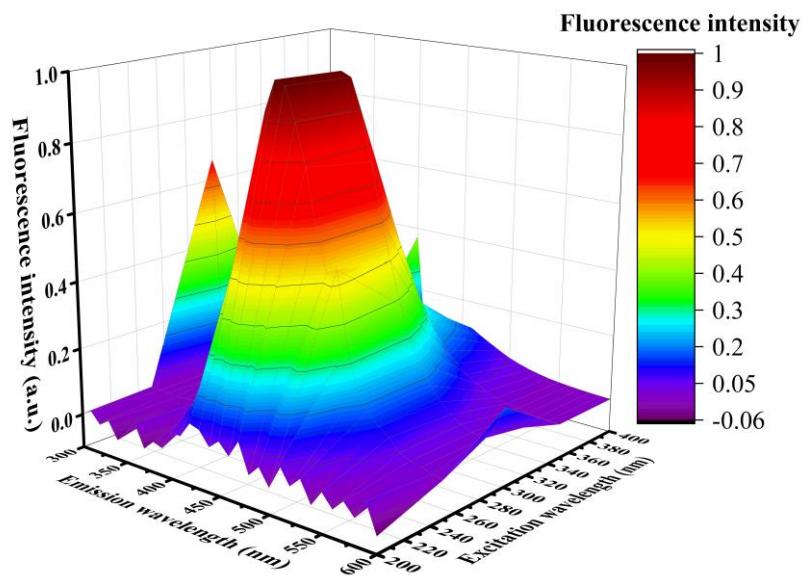


Figure S2. The three-dimensional spectrum of MR-CDs.

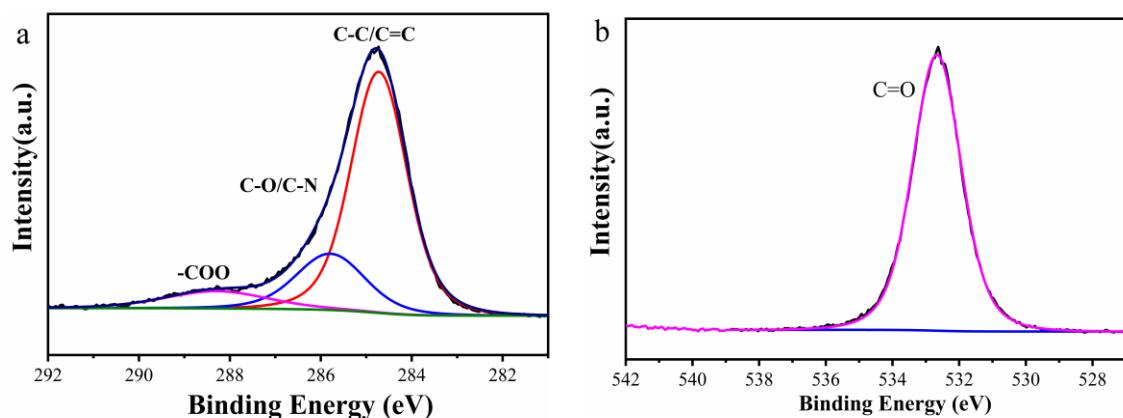
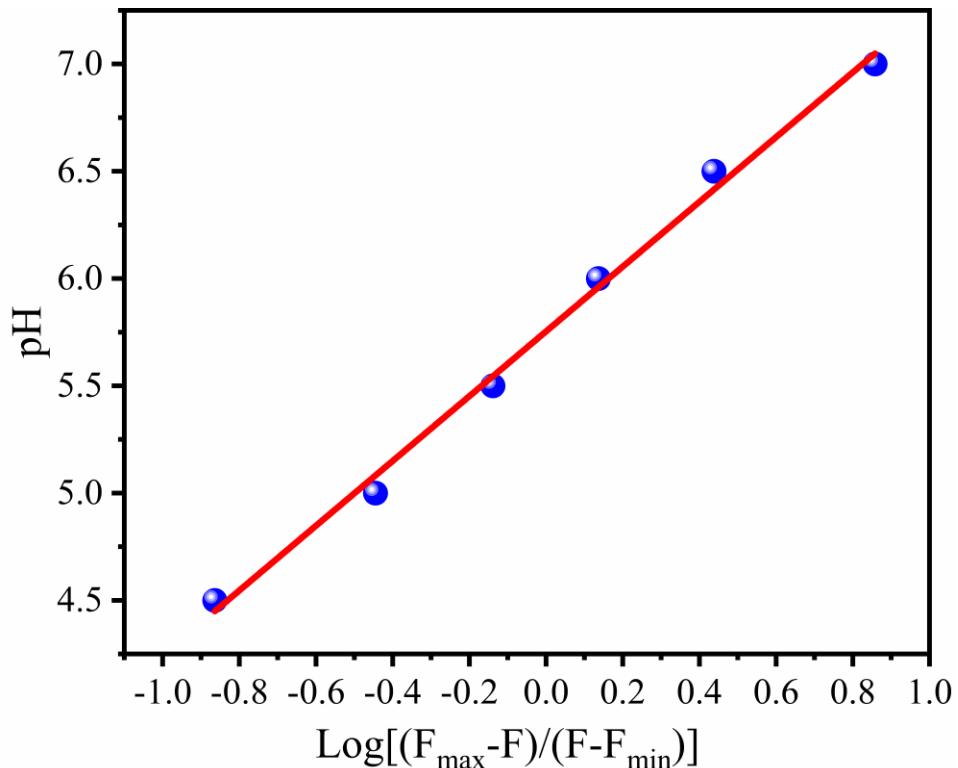
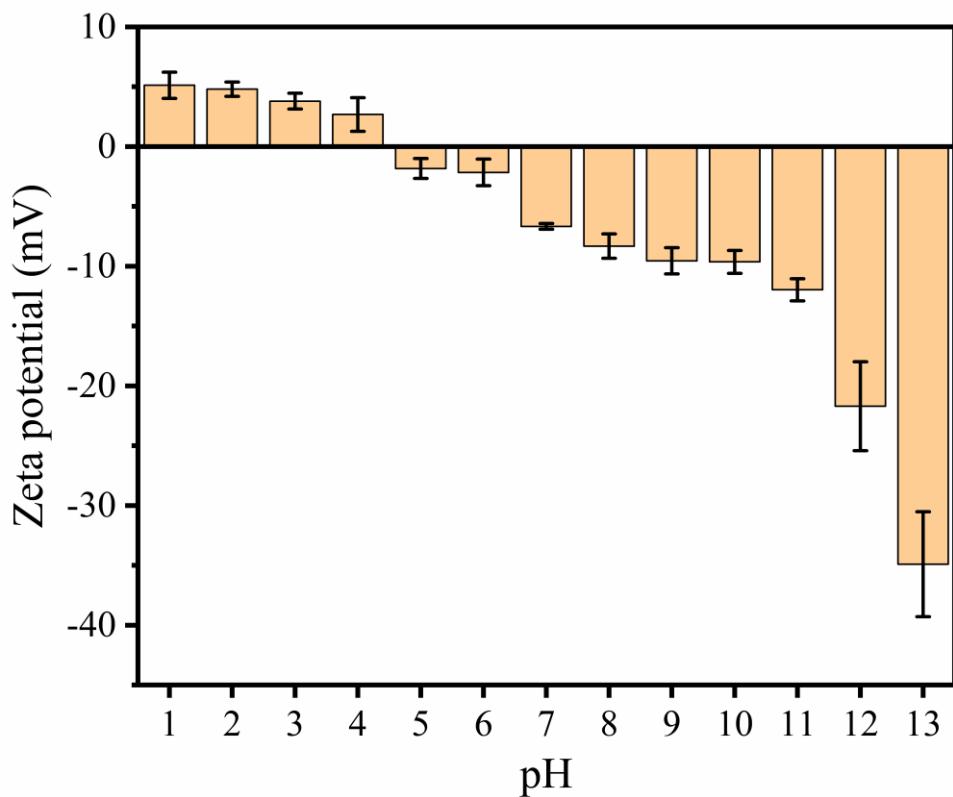


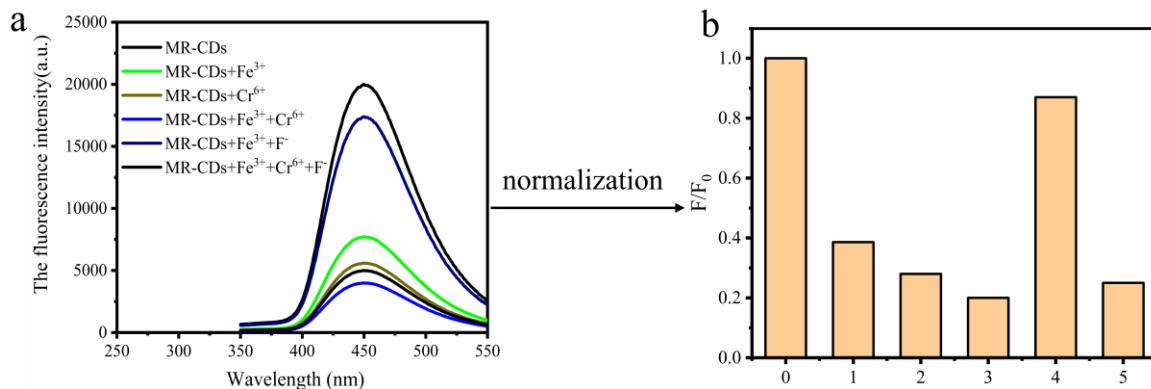
Figure S3. (a) High-resolution spectrum of C1s. (b) High-resolution spectrum of O1s.



**Figure S4.** Fitting curve of the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation ( $R^2 = 0.99$ ).



**Figure S5.** Zeta potentials of MR-CDs in buffer solutions of different pH value.



**Figure S6.** (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of MR-CDs with Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>6+</sup> and F<sup>-</sup> ions (the concentration of Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>6+</sup> and F<sup>-</sup> were 100  $\mu$ M, 100  $\mu$ M and 1  $\mu$ M, respectively). (b) Fluorescence quenching efficiency of various ions. (0: MR-CDs, 1: MR-CDs+Fe<sup>3+</sup>, 2: MR-CDs+Cr<sup>6+</sup>, 3: MR-CDs+Fe<sup>3+</sup>+Cr<sup>6+</sup>, 4: MR-CDs+Fe<sup>3+</sup>+F<sup>-</sup>, 5: MR-CDs+Fe<sup>3+</sup>+Cr<sup>6+</sup>+F<sup>-</sup>)

## References

1. Hodge, J.E. Dehydrated Foods, Chemistry of Browning Reactions in Model Systems. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* **1953**, *1*, 928-943, doi:10.1021/jf60015a004.