

Support Information

The Construction of p/n-Cu₂O Heterojunction Catalysts for Efficient CO₂ Photoelectric Reduction

Qianqian Zhou ^{1,2,3}, Yanxin Chen ^{1,2,3,4,5,*}, Haoyan Shi ^{2,3,5}, Rui Chen ^{2,3}, Minghao Ji ^{2,3}, Kexian Li ^{2,3}, Hailong Wang ^{2,3,5}, Xia Jiang ^{2,3} and Canzhong Lu ^{1,2,3,4,5,*}

¹ College of Chemical Engineering, Fuzhou University, Fuzhou 350108, China; xmzhouqianqian@fjirsm.ac.cn

² CAS Key Laboratory of Design and Assembly of Functional Nanostructures, and Fujian Provincial Key Laboratory of Nanomaterials, Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fuzhou 350002, China; xmshihaoan@fjirsm.ac.cn (H.S.); xmchenrui@fjirsm.ac.cn (R.C.); xmjiminghao@fjirsm.ac.cn (M.J.); xmlikexian@fjirsm.ac.cn (K.L.); xmwanghailong@fjirsm.ac.cn (H.W.); xmjiangxia@fjirsm.ac.cn (X.J.)

³ Xiamen Key Laboratory of Rare Earth Photoelectric Functional Materials, Xiamen Institute of Rare-Earth Materials, Haixi Institutes, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xiamen 361021, China

⁴ Fujian Science & Technology Innovation Laboratory for Optoelectronic Information of China, Fuzhou 350108, China

⁵ Fujian College, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fuzhou 350108, China

* Correspondence: yanxinchen@fjirsm.ac.cn (Y.C.); czlu@fjirsm.ac.cn (C.L.)

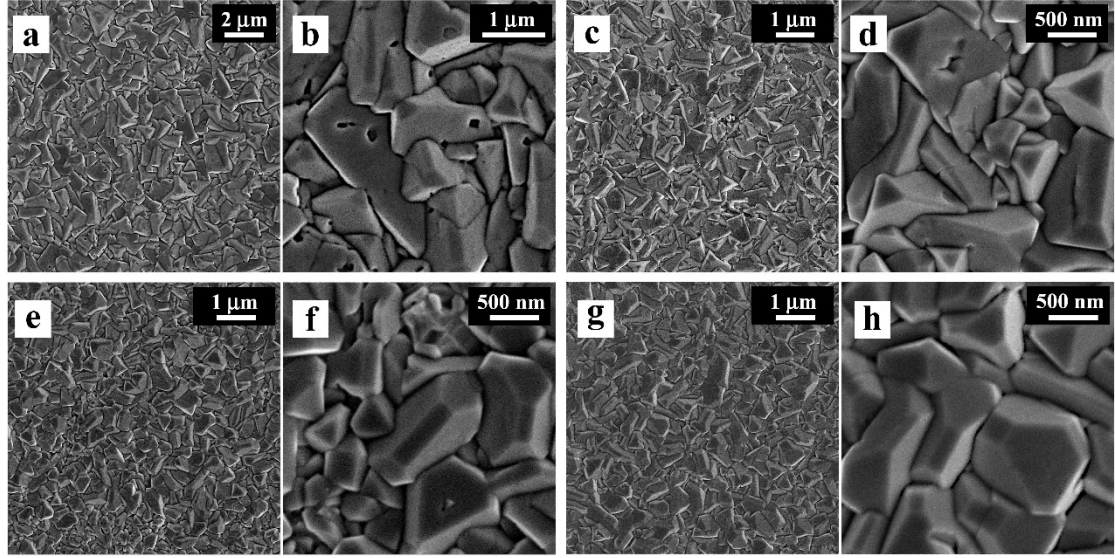


Figure S1. The top view SEM images of (a) p-0.5mAh/n-0.02mAh Cu_2O , (b) p-0.5mAh/n-0.03mAh Cu_2O , (c) p-0.5mAh/n-0.04mAh Cu_2O , (d) p-0.5mAh/n-0.05mAh Cu_2O .

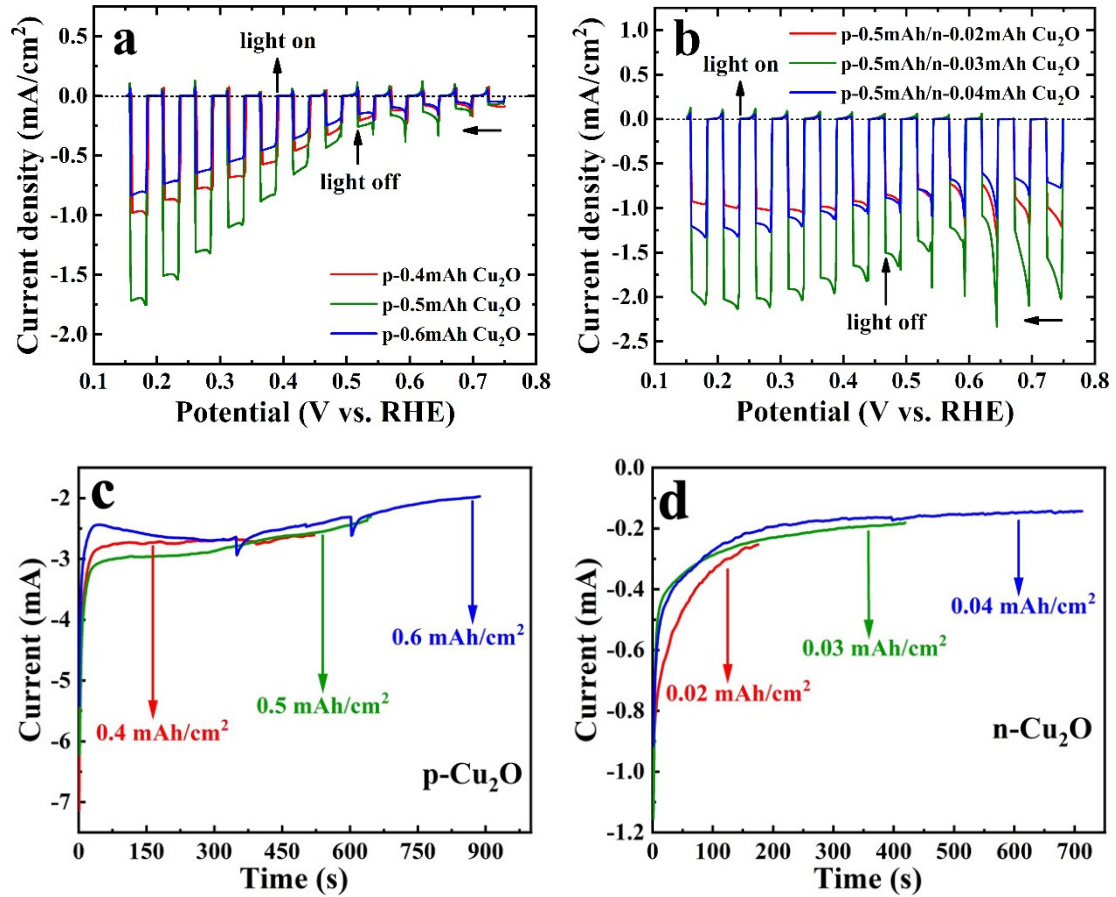


Figure S2. (a) LSV curves of p- Cu_2O with different amounts of deposited charge, the electrolyte: (0.1 mol/L NaHCO_3); (b) LSV curves of n- Cu_2O with different quantities of deposited charge, the electrolyte: (0.1 mol/L NaHCO_3); (c) Time-current curves of p- Cu_2O with different amounts of deposited charge; (d) Time-current curves of n- Cu_2O with varying quantities of deposited charge, substrate: p- Cu_2O (0.5 mAh/cm²).

Since the 0.1 mol/L NaHCO₃ solution is easy to prepare and inexpensive, we used this solution to select our optimal sample for further investigation. The active size of the sample is 1 cm². Comparing the photocurrent density of p-Cu₂O samples when the deposited charge was 0.4 mAh/cm², 0.5 mAh/cm² and 0.6 mAh/cm², we found that when the deposited charge was 0.5 mAh/cm², the photocurrent density of p-Cu₂O samples was the most significant. The performance was optimal, and too much or too little deposition would affect its performance. Using the same method, p-Cu₂O(0.5 mAh/cm²) was selected as the substrate, and we compared the photocurrent density of n-Cu₂O when the deposition charge was 0.02 mAh/cm², 0.03 mAh/cm² and 0.04 mAh/cm². We found that when the deposition charge was 0.03 mAh/cm², the photocurrent density of p/n-Cu₂O samples was the largest, the performance was the best, and too much or too little deposition would affect its performance. Therefore, we believe that p/n-Cu₂O has the best performance when the deposition charge of p-Cu₂O is 0.5 mAh/cm² and the deposition charge of n-Cu₂O is 0.03 mAh/cm². Electrochemical reactions generate the photocurrent, and CO₂ reduction is a crucial electrochemical behavior for generating a photocurrent. Through qualitative analysis, we believe that the sample with the highest photocurrent density has the best CO₂ reduction performance. Therefore, we conducted a series of test studies on the selected samples in this study.

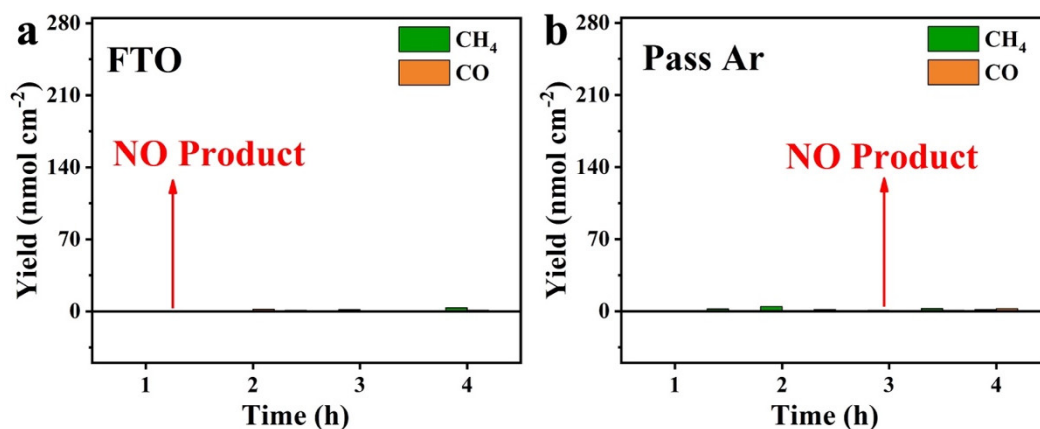


Figure S3. (a) CO₂ reduction yield (0.1 mol/L C₆H₁₅NO₃/CH₃CN + 0.1 mol/L C₁₆H₃₆F₆NP/CH₃CN, pH = 9.3, the sample is FTO); (b) CO₂ reduction yield (0.1 mol/L C₆H₁₅NO₃/CH₃CN + 0.1 mol/L C₁₆H₃₆F₆NP/CH₃CN, pH = 9.3, pass Ar).

We designed two experiments: (1) Take the FTO as the sample for testing, and the rest of the test conditions remain unchanged; (2) Replace the CO₂ gas introduced before the reaction with Ar gas, and the rest of the test conditions remain unchanged. The test

results showed that when replacing p/n-Cu₂O with FTO, only trace impurity gases were present, and no product was produced. Similarly, when replacing CO₂ with Ar, only trace impurity gases are present, and no products are manufactured. Therefore, we believe that CO₂ reduction rather than other pollutants produces CO and CH₄.

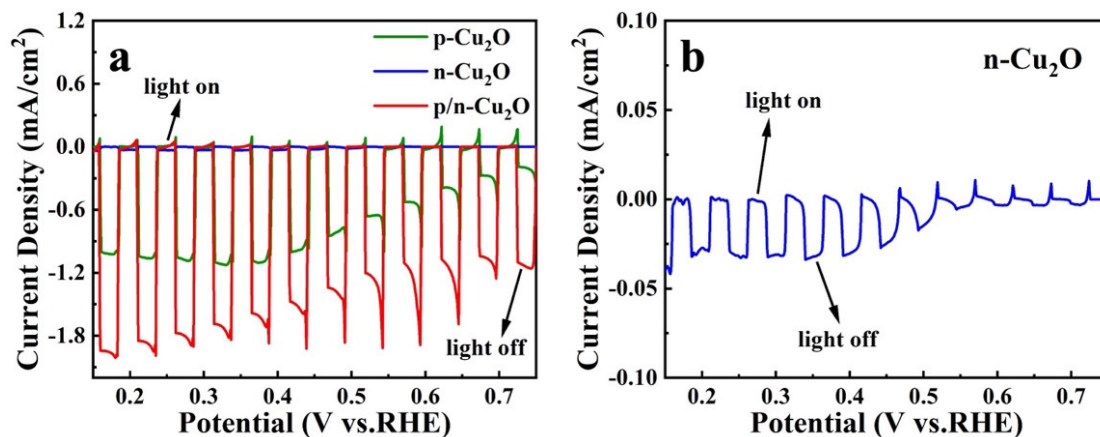


Figure S4. (a) LSV of p-Cu₂O, n-Cu₂O, p/n-Cu₂O; (b) LSV of n-Cu₂O. The electrolyte: (0.1 mol/L NaHCO₃), the deposited charge: (p-Cu₂O: 0.5 mAh/cm², n-Cu₂O: 0.03 mAh/cm²).

As can be seen from Figure S4, the photocurrent density of n-Cu₂O is very low compared to p-Cu₂O and p/n-Cu₂O. The primary function of n-Cu₂O is to promote the separation of photogenerated carriers by constructing a heterojunction with p-Cu₂O, thereby improving the reduction efficiency of CO₂.

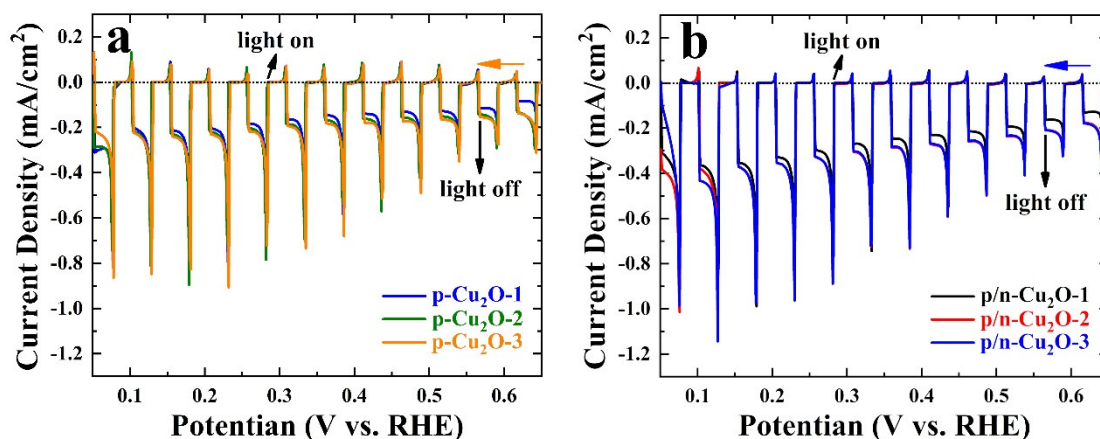


Figure S5. LSV curves of multiple samples of (a) p-Cu₂O (p-0.5mAh Cu₂O). LSV curves of multiple samples of (b) p/n-Cu₂O (p-0.5mAh/n-0.03mAh Cu₂O).

Figure S5 (a) (b) shows the LSV tests of the multiple samples of p-Cu₂O (p-0.5mAh Cu₂O) and p/n-Cu₂O (p-0.5mAh/n-0.03mAh Cu₂O), respectively. The performance of p-Cu₂O and p/n-Cu₂O samples is stable and repeatable.