



# Novel photocatalytic $\text{NH}_3$ synthesis by $\text{NO}_3^-$ reduction over $\text{CuAg/TiO}_2$

Ryota Kato <sup>1,\*</sup>, Mai Furukawa <sup>1</sup>, Ikki Tateishi <sup>2</sup>, Hideyuki Katsumata <sup>1</sup> and Satoshi Kaneco <sup>1,2</sup>

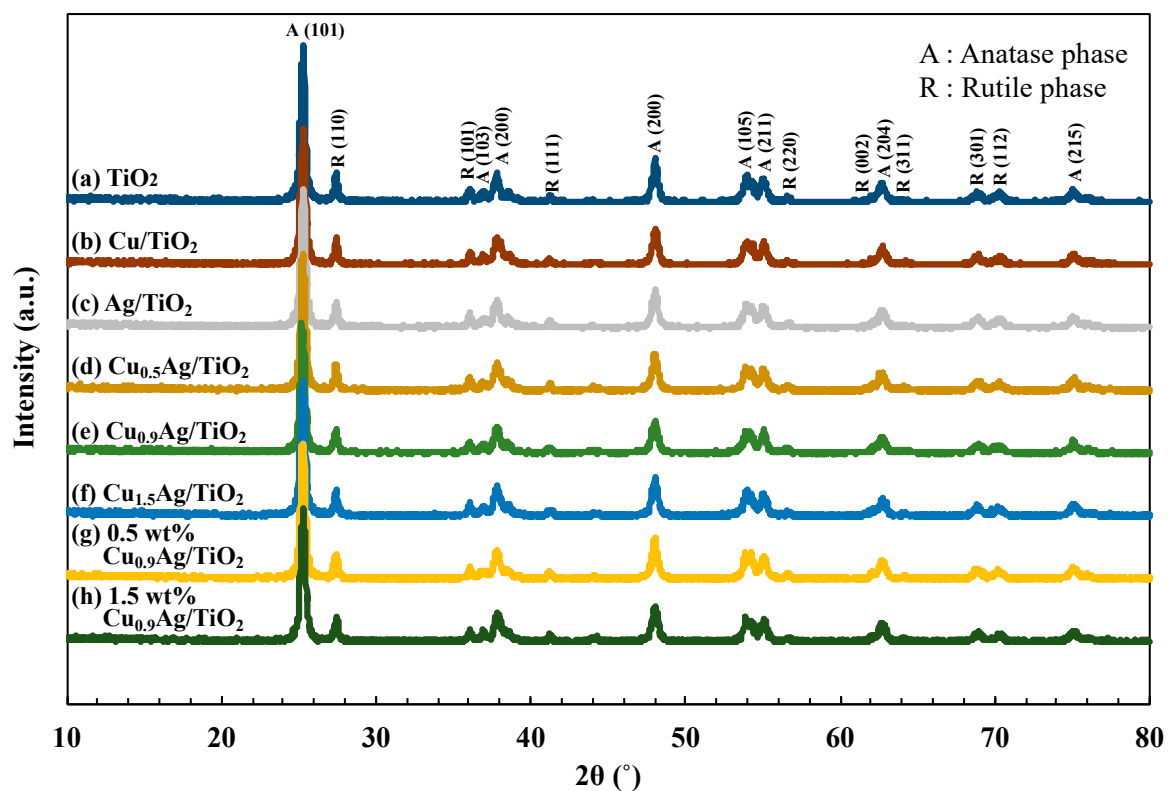
<sup>1</sup> Department of Chemistry for Materials, Graduate School of Engineering, Mie University; maif@chem.mie-u.ac.jp (M.F.); hidek@chem.mie-u.ac.jp (H.K.)

<sup>2</sup> Global Environment Center for Education & Research, Mie University; tateishi@gecer.mie-u.ac.jp (I.T.); kaneco@chem.mie-u.ac.jp (S.K.)

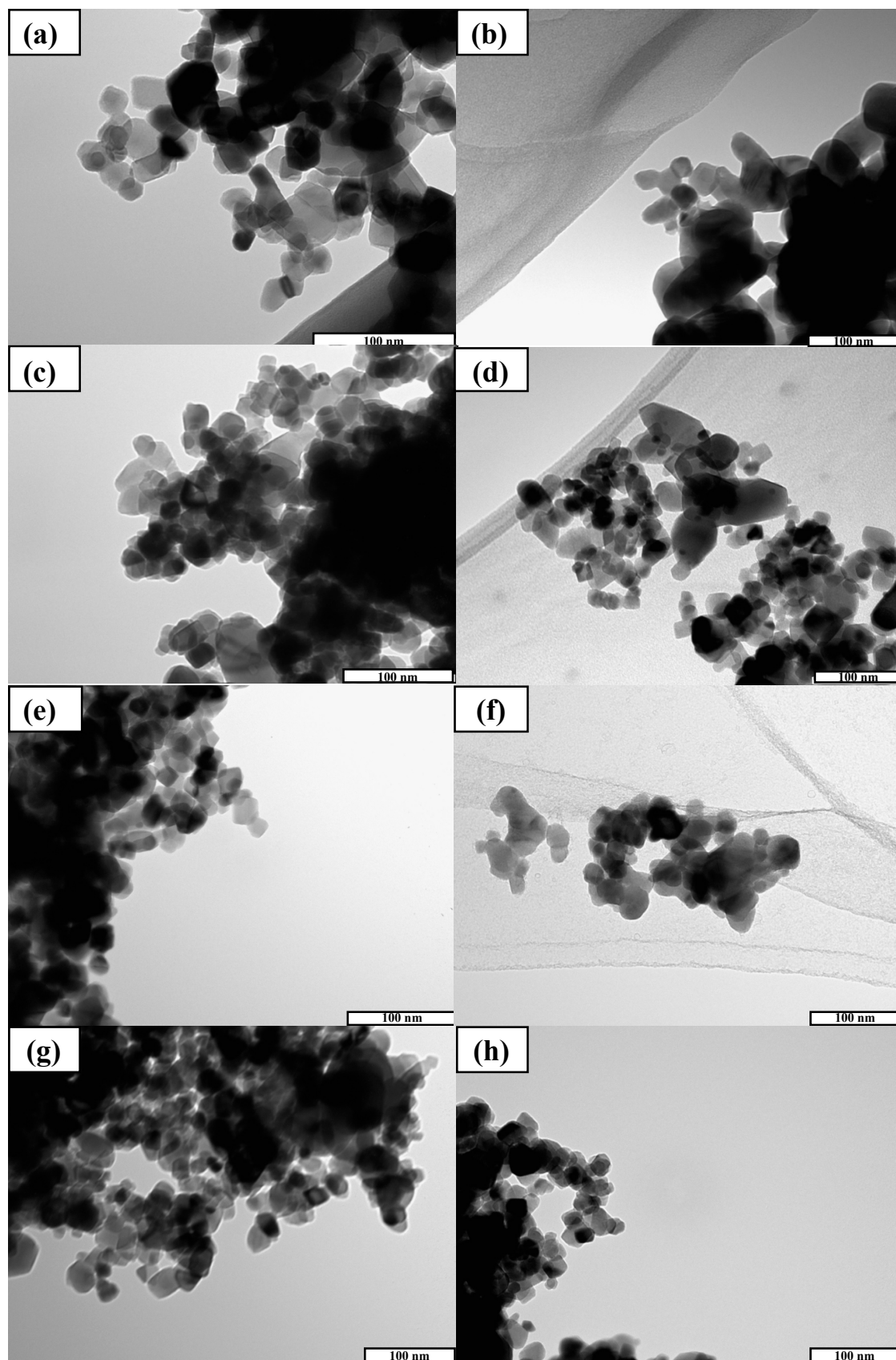
\* Correspondence: rkato2@gmail.com; Tel.: +81-59-231-9427

Table S1. Summary of  $\text{TiO}_2$  samples.

| Entry | Catalyst                         | Loading (mg) |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|
|       |                                  | Cu           | Ag    |
| 1     | $\text{TiO}_2$                   | 0            | 0     |
| 2     | $\text{Cu/TiO}_2$                | 3            | 0     |
| 3     | $\text{Ag/TiO}_2$                | 0            | 3     |
| 4     | $\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{Ag/TiO}_2$ | 0.167        | 2.833 |
| 5     | $\text{Cu}_{0.3}\text{Ag/TiO}_2$ | 0.451        | 2.549 |
| 6     | $\text{Cu}_{0.5}\text{Ag/TiO}_2$ | 0.683        | 2.317 |
| 7     | $\text{Cu}_{0.7}\text{Ag/TiO}_2$ | 0.876        | 2.124 |
| 8     | $\text{Cu}_{0.9}\text{Ag/TiO}_2$ | 1.039        | 1.961 |
| 9     | $\text{CuAg/TiO}_2$              | 1.112        | 1.888 |
| 10    | $\text{Cu}_{1.5}\text{Ag/TiO}_2$ | 1.407        | 1.593 |



**Figure S1.** XRD spectra of (a) TiO<sub>2</sub>, (b) Cu/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (c) Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (d) Cu<sub>0.5</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (e) Cu<sub>0.9</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (f) Cu<sub>1.5</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (g) 0.5 wt% Cu<sub>0.9</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, and (h) 1.5 wt% Cu<sub>0.9</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S2.** TEM images of (a) TiO<sub>2</sub>, (b) Cu/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (c) Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (d) Cu<sub>0.5</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (e) Cu<sub>0.9</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (f) Cu<sub>1.5</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, (g) 0.5 wt% Cu<sub>0.9</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>, and (h) 1.5 wt% Cu<sub>0.9</sub>Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub>.

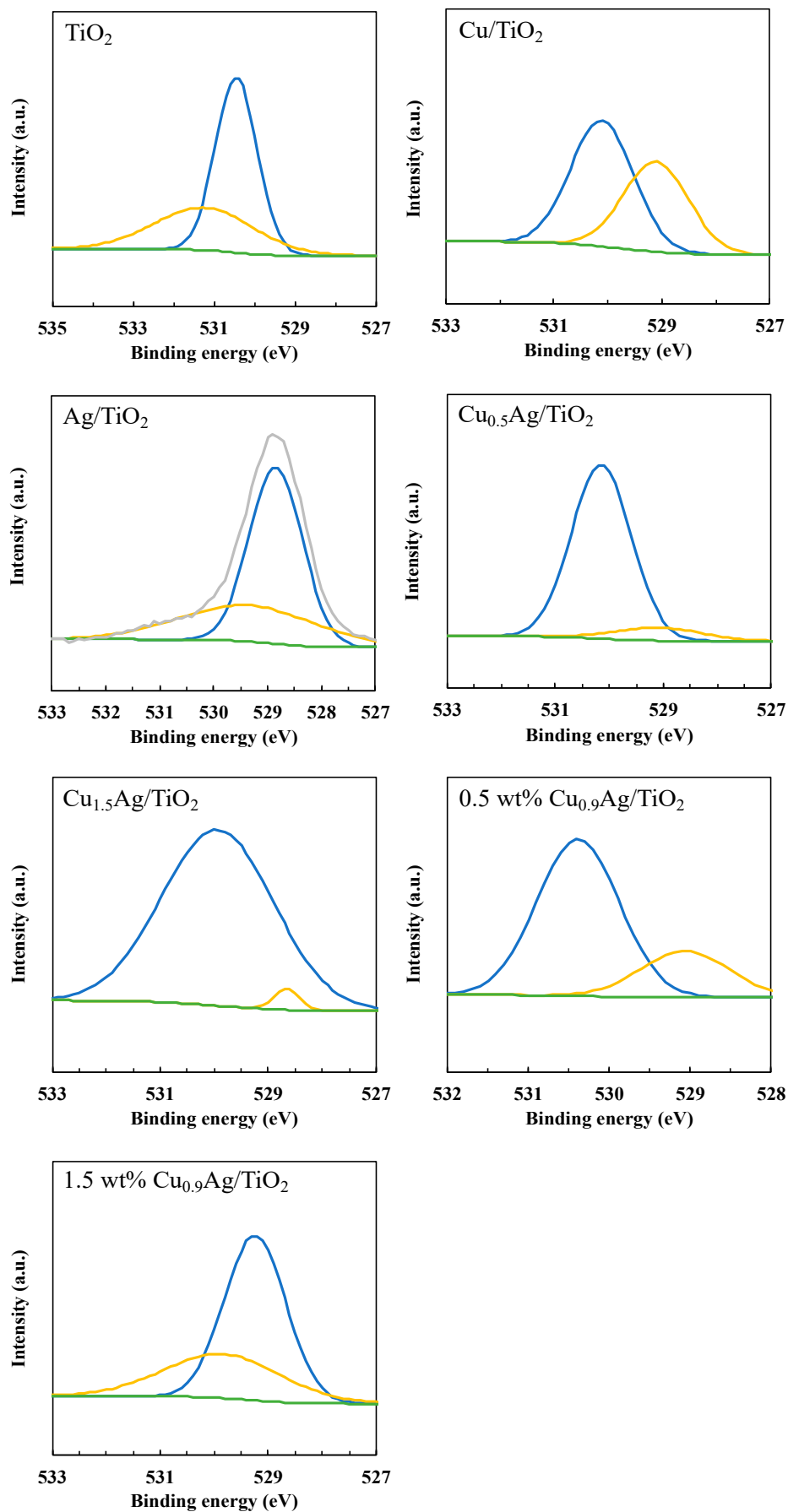
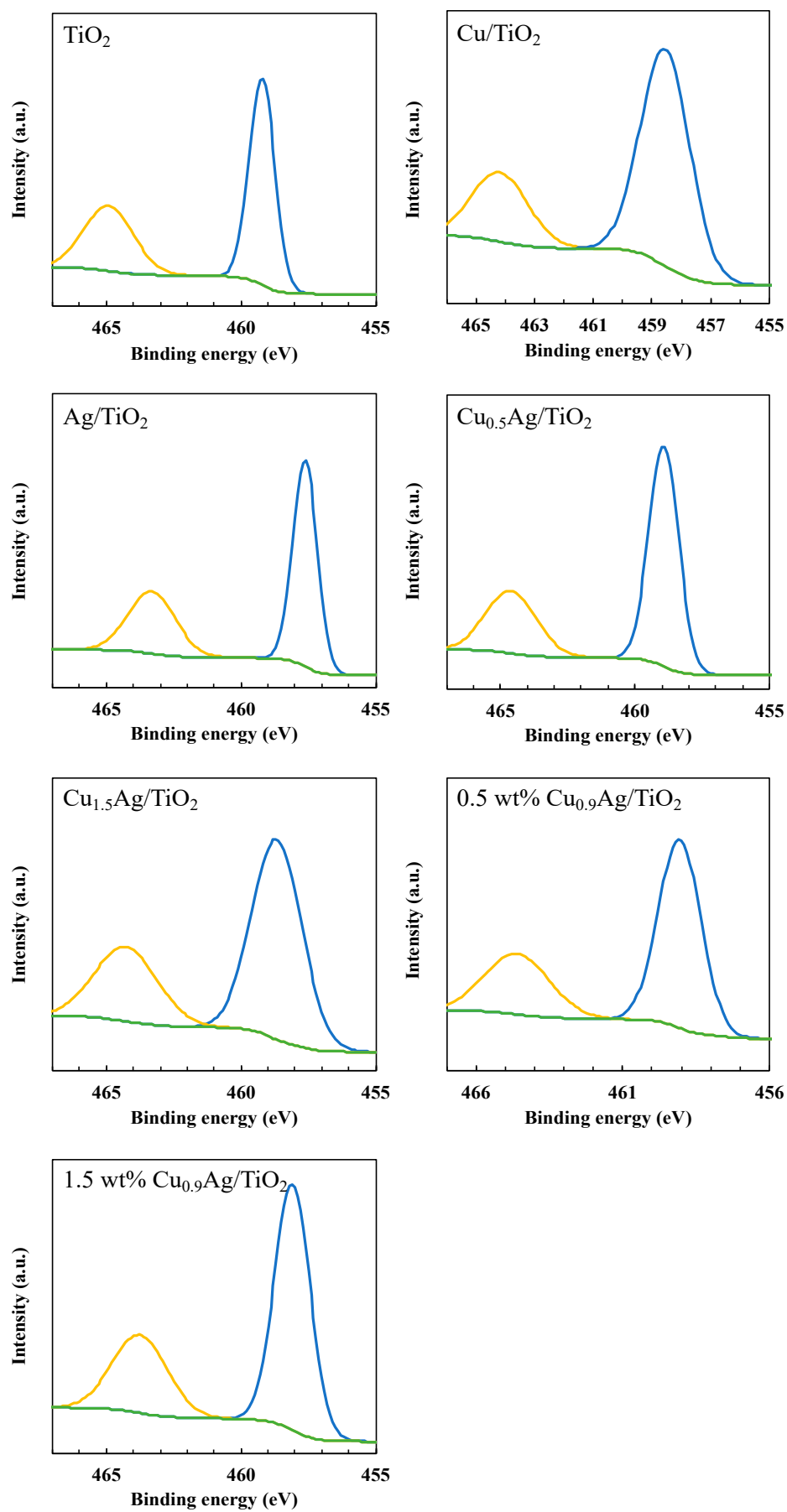
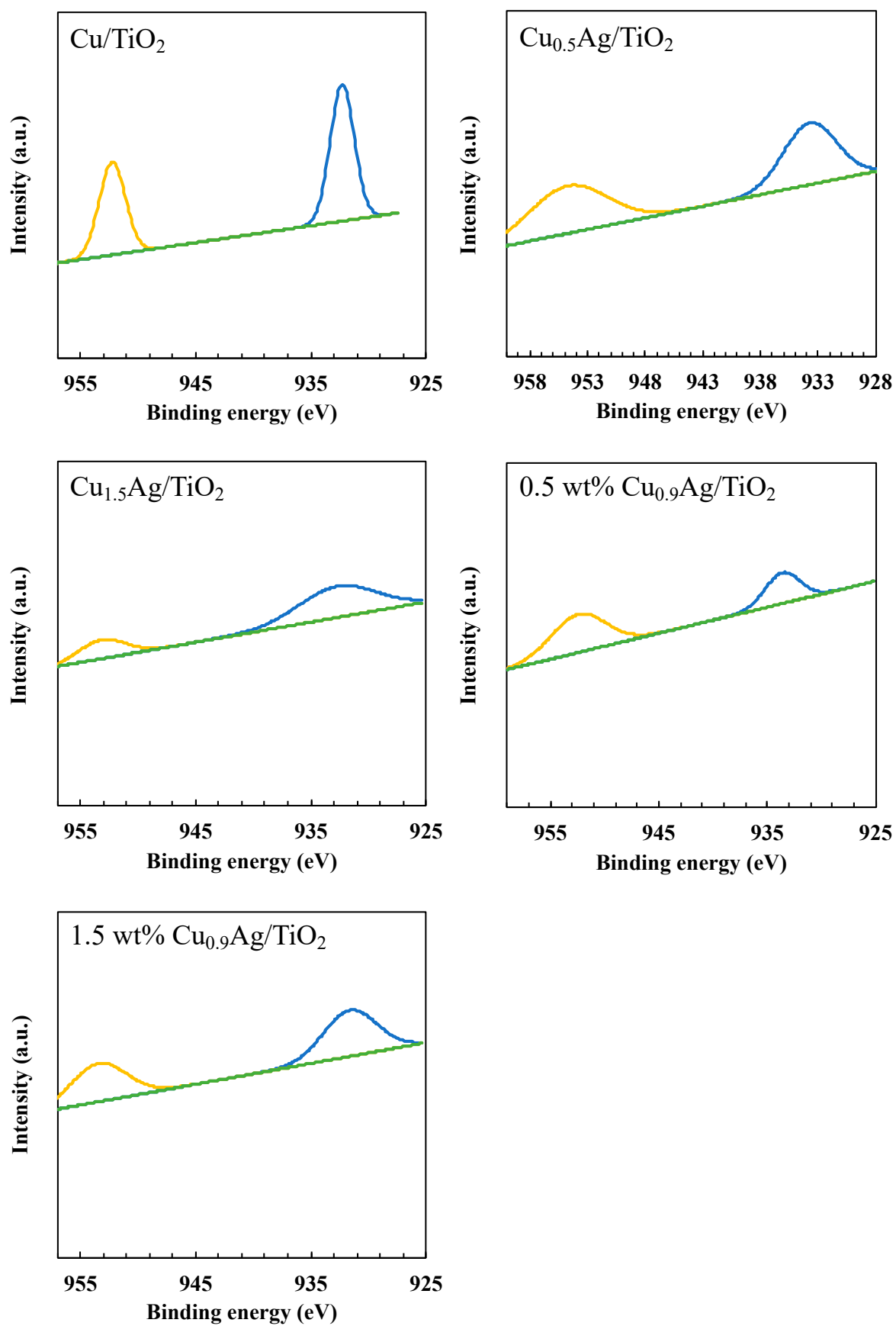
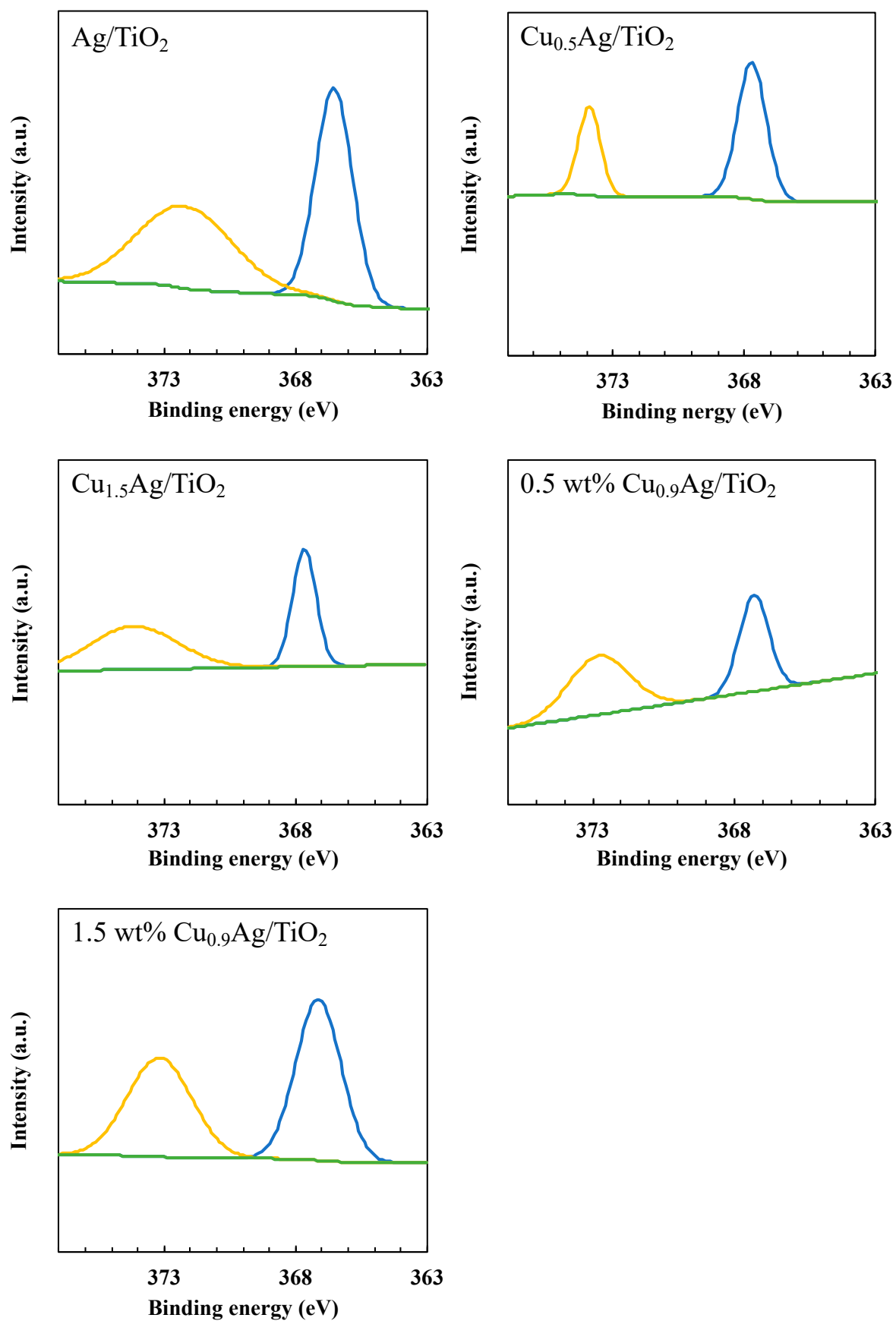
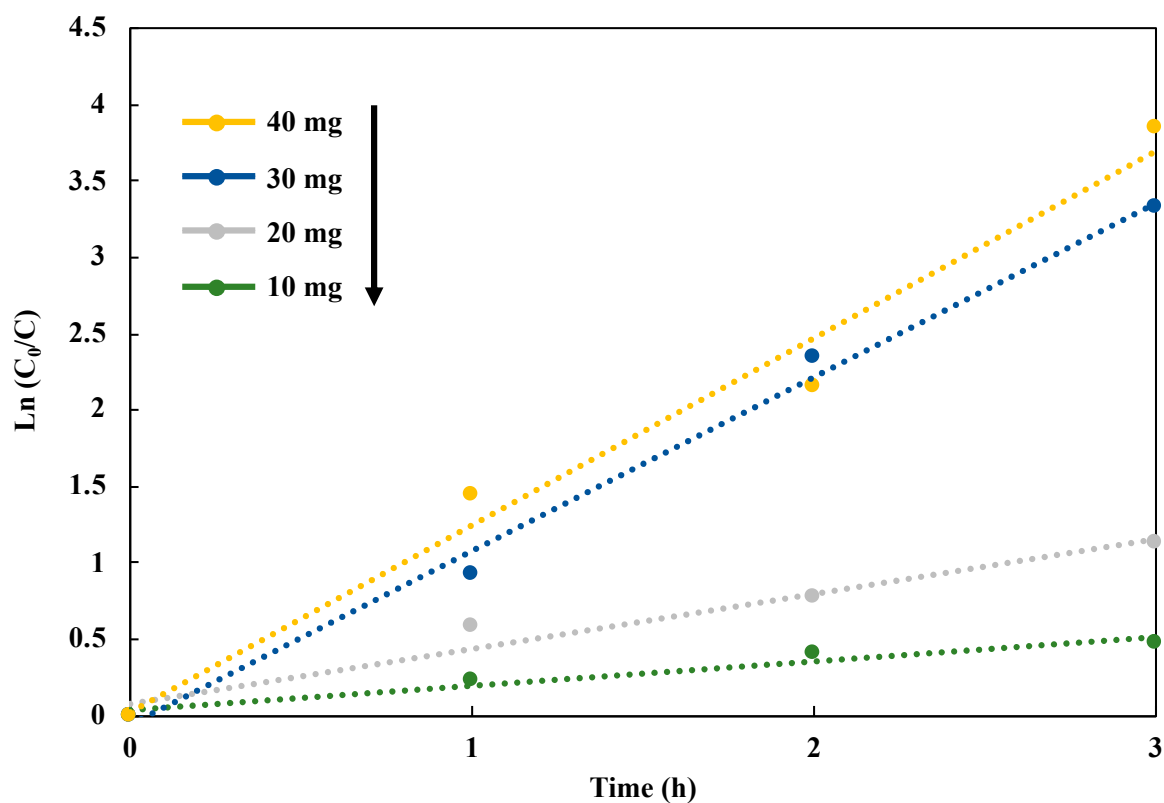


Figure S3. O 1s core level spectra in TiO<sub>2</sub> samples.

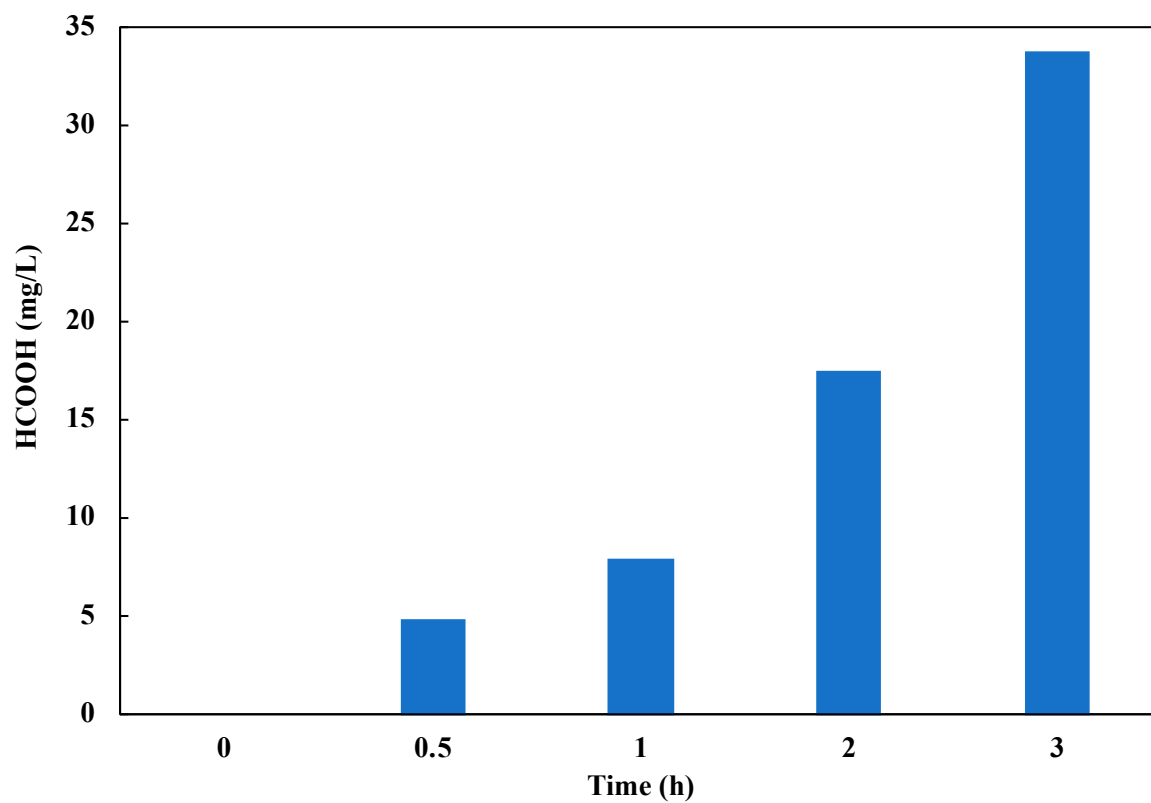
Figure S4. Ti 2p core level spectra in  $\text{TiO}_2$  samples.

Figure S5. Cu 2p core level spectra in TiO<sub>2</sub> samples.

Figure S6. Ag 3d core level spectra in TiO<sub>2</sub> samples.



**Figure S7.** Reduction rate in  $\text{NO}_3^-$  reduction in 45 mL of 50 ppm  $\text{NO}_3^-$  aqueous solution including 10 vol%  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  under UV irradiation.



**Figure S8.** Oxidation of methanol to  $\text{HCOOH}$  during  $\text{NO}_3^-$  reduction under UV irradiation for 3 hours.

**Table S2.** Comparison of photocatalytic activity with other catalysts.

| Catalyst                              | Amount (mg) | Concentration (ppm) | Time (h) | NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> conversion (%) | NH <sub>3</sub> (NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> ) selectivity (%) | Reference |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| CuPd/TiO <sub>2</sub>                 | 100         | 145                 | 3        | 99                                          | 78                                                              | [1]       |
| Aldrich anatase                       | 100         | 62                  | 24       | 95                                          | 20                                                              | [2]       |
| Aldrich rutile                        | 100         | 62                  | 24       | 99                                          | 37                                                              | [2]       |
| TiO <sub>2</sub> P25                  | 100         | 62                  | 24       | 99                                          | 27                                                              | [2]       |
| Cu <sub>0.9</sub> Ag/TiO <sub>2</sub> | 30          | 50                  | 3        | 96                                          | 85                                                              | This work |

## Reference

1. Yamaguchi, M.; Abe, R.; Tsukuda, T.; Kato, K.; Takata, M. Highly Selective Ammonia Synthesis from Nitrate with Photocatalytically Generated Hydrogen on CuPd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2011**, *133*, 1150–1152.
2. Hirakawa, H.; Hashimoto, M.; Shiraishi, Y.; Hirai, T. Selective Nitrate-to-Ammonia Transformation on Surface Defects of Titanium Dioxide Photocatalysts, *ACS Catal.*, **2017**, *7*, 3713–3720.