

Electronic supplementary information (ESI)

A highly selective conversion of toxic nitrobenzene to nontoxic aminobenzene by



Yuhang Wu, Meiting Song, Qijun Wang, Ting Wang and Xiaojing

Wang*

Inner Mongolia Key Laboratory of Chemistry and Physics of Rare Earth Materials, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Inner Mongolia University, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, 010021, P. R. China

Corresponding Author. Tel: 0471-4994406; 86-13948315232;

E-mail: wang_xiao_jing@hotmail.com

ESI: Fig. S1

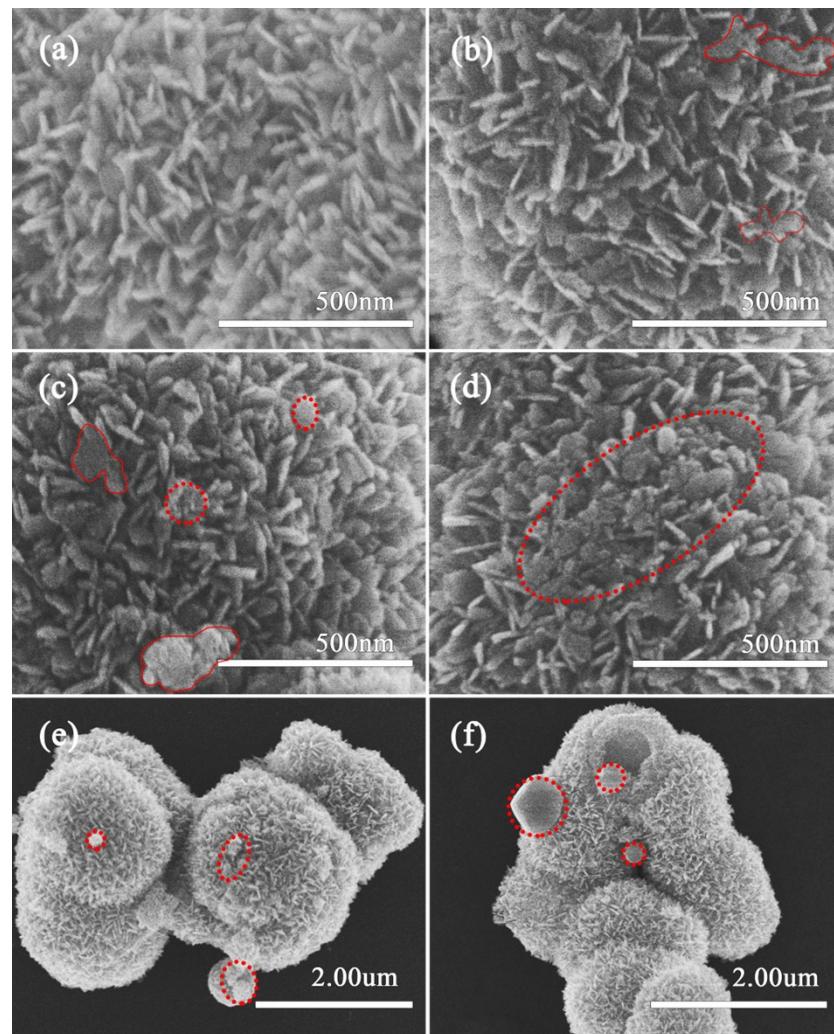


Fig.S1 SEM images of (a) pure Bi_2MoO_6 (BM), (b) CB-1, (c) CB-2, (d) CB-3, (e) CB-4 and (f) CB-5. And the red selected area represents Cu_2O .

ESI: Fig. S2

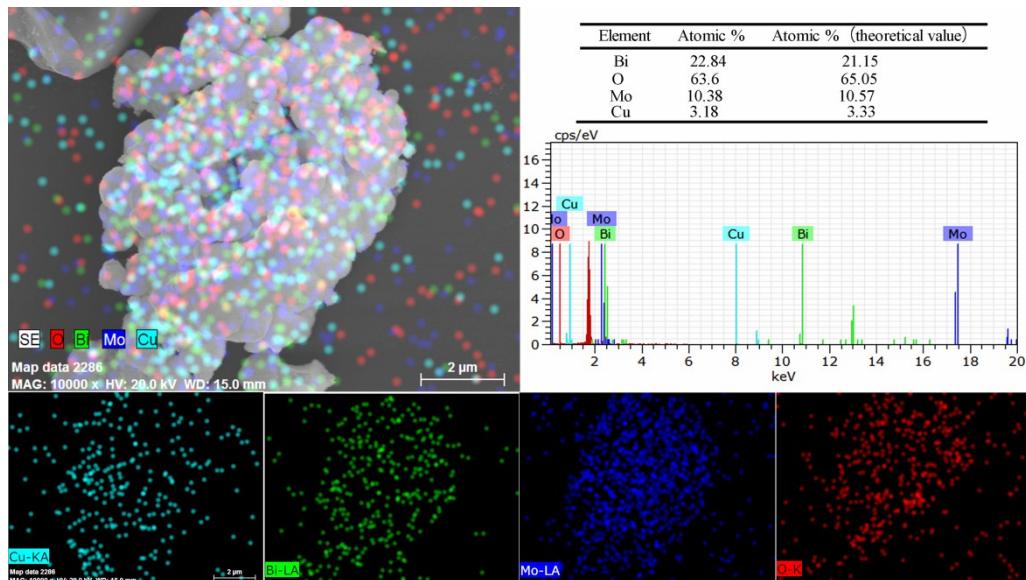


Fig. S2 The energy-dispersive X-ray spectrum and map scanning of CB-2 nanocomposite from SEM.

ESI: Fig. S3

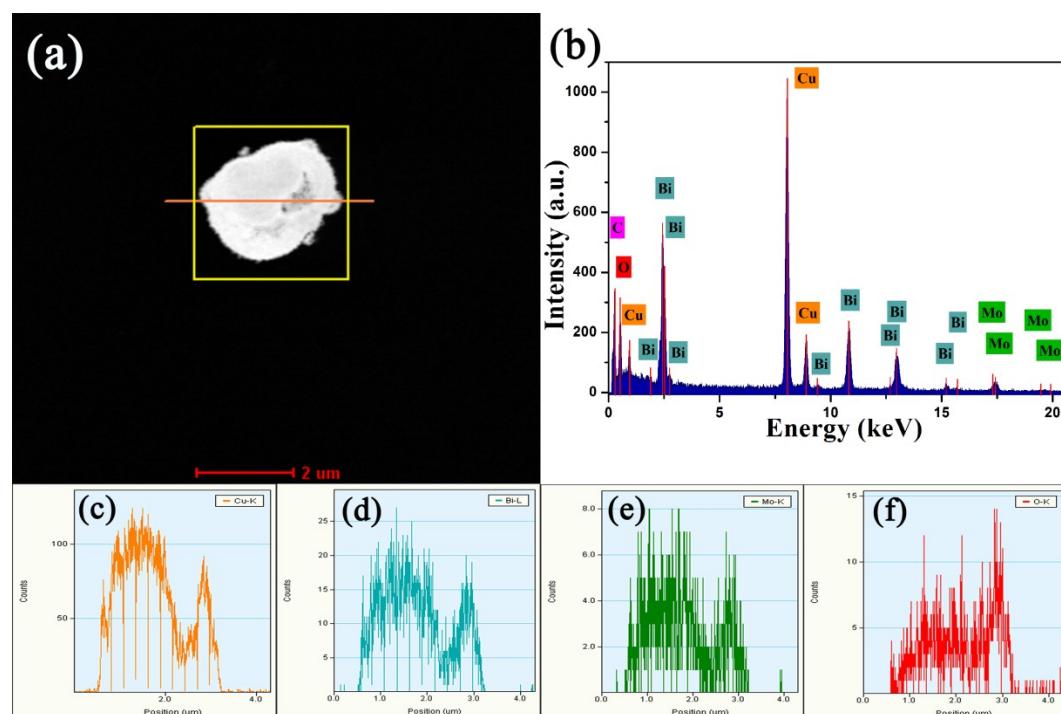


Fig. S3 The scanning transmission electron microscope (STEM) (a), Energy-dispersive X-ray microanalysis (EDX) (b), and line scanning (c-f) along the red arrow direction in Figure 3a for the

separated elements.

ESI: Fig. S4

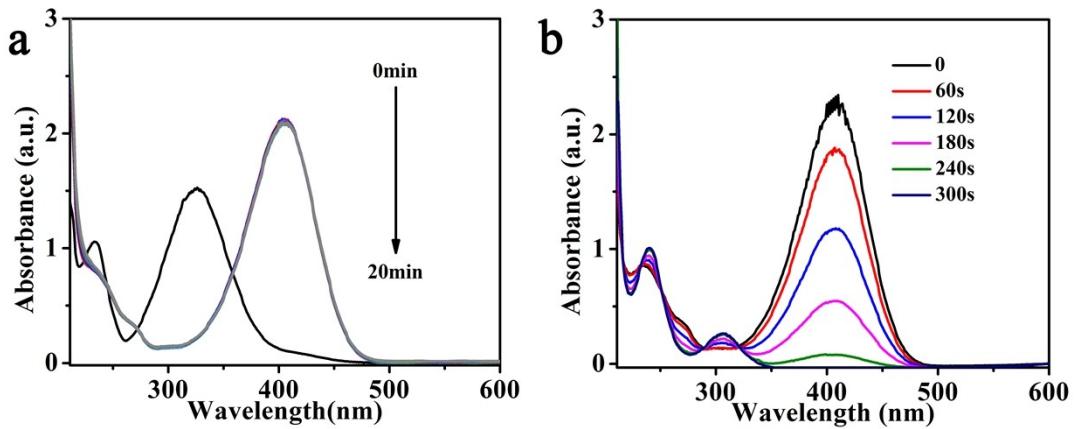


Fig. S4 UV-vis absorption spectra for the catalytic reduction of 4-NP over (a) NaBH₄ and 4-NP alone , (b) pure Cu₂O.

ESI: Fig. S5

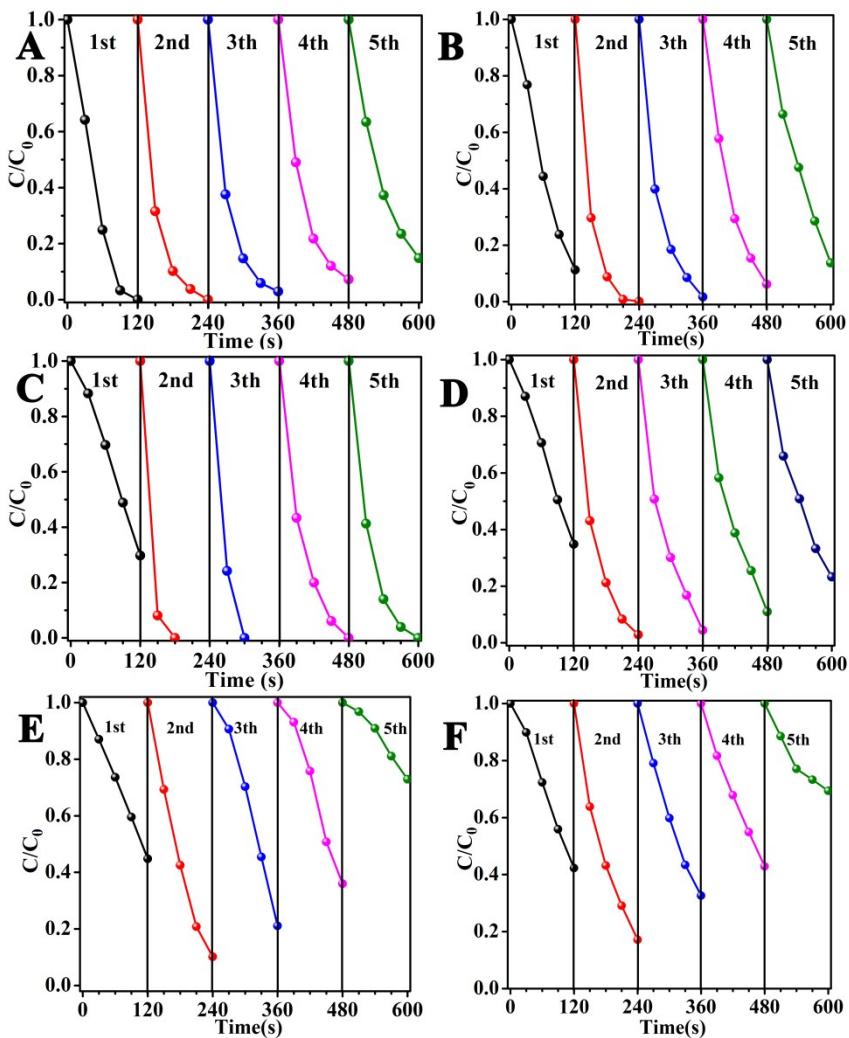


Fig. S5 The conversion efficiency of 4-NP to 4-AP when catalyzed by pure Bi₂MoO₆(A), CB-1(B),

CB-2(C), CB-3(D), CB-4(E) and CB-5(F) for the different runs over a reactive time of 2 min.

ESI: Fig. S6

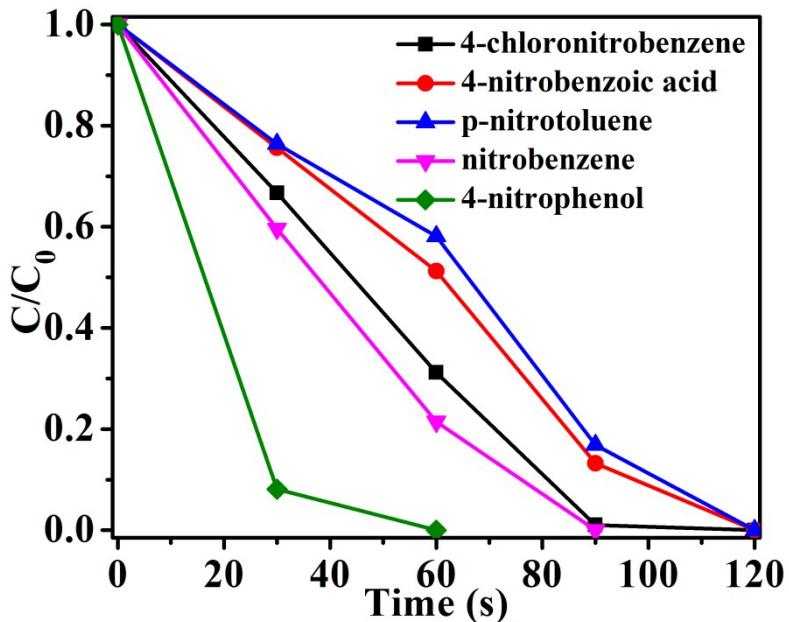


Fig. S6 The profile of the conversion efficiency vs. time during the catalytic reduction of 4-chloronitrobenzene, 4-nitrobenzoic acid, p-nitrotoluene, nitrobenzene and 4-nitrophenol over CB-2.

ESI: Fig. S7

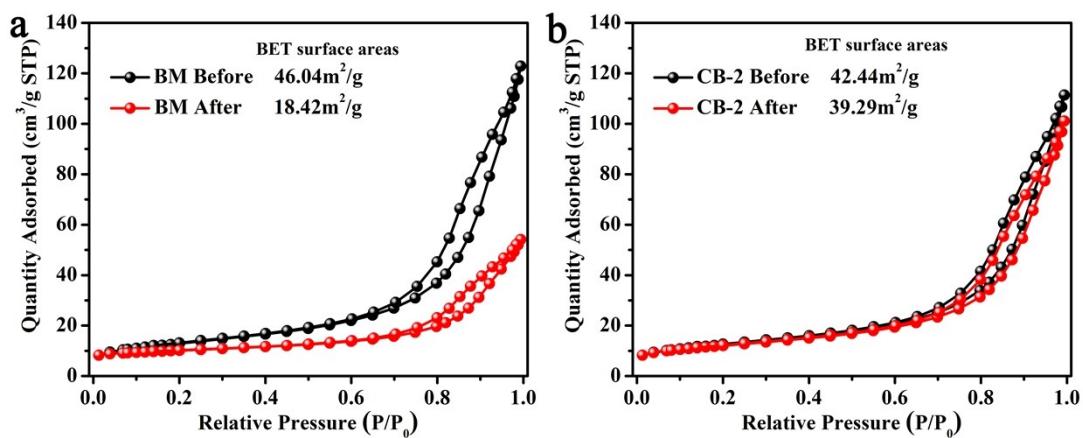


Fig. S7 Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of BM (a) and CB-2 (b).

ESI: Fig. S8

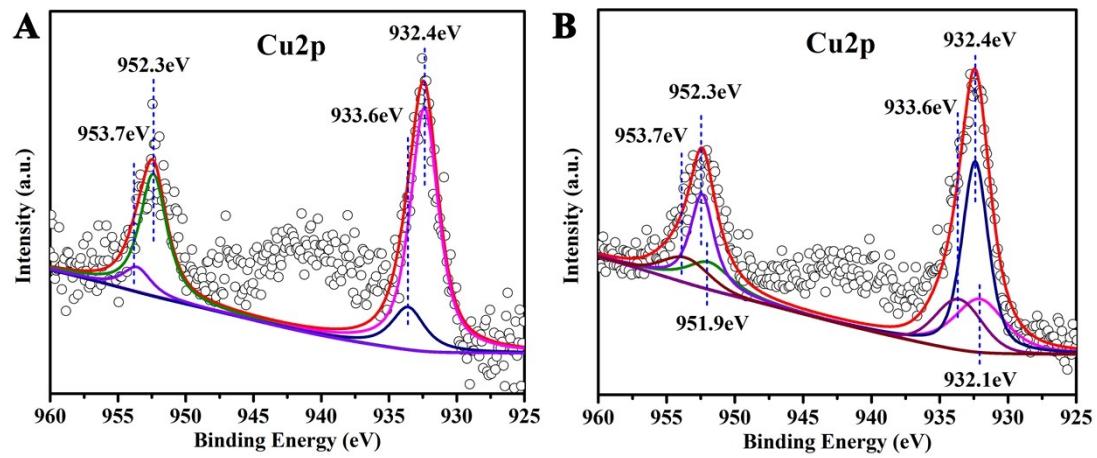


Fig. S8 The XPS spectra of Cu2p for a fresh CB-2 (A) sample; XPS spectra of Cu2p for a used CB-2 (B) sample.

ESI: Table S1 Reaction rate constant of BM, CB-1, CB-2, CB-3, CB-4, CB-5 and Cu₂O.

| catalyst | kapp($\times 10^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$) | kapp (min ⁻¹) | K(g ⁻¹ s ⁻¹) | Activity factor K(g ⁻¹ min ⁻¹) |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| BM | 3.655 | 2.193 | 73.1 | 4386 |
| CB-1 | 5.785 | 3.471 | 115.7 | 6942 |
| CB-2 | 8.378 | 5.0268 | 167.56 | 10053.6 |
| CB-3 | 2.911 | 1.7466 | 58.22 | 3493.2 |
| CB-4 | 1.922 | 1.1532 | 38.44 | 2306.4 |
| CB-5 | 1.437 | 0.8622 | 28.74 | 1724.4 |

ESI: Table S2 Activity factor K of BM, CB-2 together with the catalysts reported in literatures.

| Number | Catalysts | Activity factor K(g ⁻¹ min ⁻¹) | Literature |
|--------|--|--|---------------|
| 1 | BM | 4386 | This work |
| 2 | CB-2 | 10053.6 | This work |
| 3 | Ag supported halloysite nanotubes | 5.22 | Reference[1] |
| 4 | Bismuth Nanoparticles | 1650.6 | Reference[2] |
| 5 | Bi-Fe ₃ O ₄ @RGO | 1482.6 | Reference[3] |
| 6 | Au-loaded Na ₂ Ta ₂ O ₆ Under solar light irradiation | 2673.7 | Reference[4] |
| 7 | Cu ₂ O–Cu–CuO nanocomposite | 1248 | Reference[5] |
| 8 | Cu NPs | 4384.8 | Reference[6] |
| 9 | 9.6nm Ag | 88.9 | Reference[7] |
| 10 | Ag doped carbon spheres | 101.4 | Reference[1] |
| 11 | Ag/Fe oxide composite | 105.5 | Reference[8] |
| 12 | 11.3nm Ag | 116.7 | Reference[7] |
| 13 | Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ -Au@SiO ₂ microspheres | 116.7 | Reference[9] |
| 14 | Polymer-supported Au nanoparticles | 135.6 | Reference[10] |
| 15 | AuNPs/NiSiO | 975 | Reference[11] |
| 16 | Spongy Au nanoparticles | 21 | Reference[12] |
| 17 | Ag/TiO ₂ nanoparticles | 389.7 | Reference[13] |
| 18 | Au ₁₈₀ (SC ₆ H ₁₃) ₁₀₀ | 3000 | Reference[14] |
| 19 | Porous Cu-Au structures | 1638 | Reference[15] |
| 20 | Au ₂₅ (SC ₈ H ₉) ₁₈ | 5100 | Reference[14] |

ESI: Table S3 The atomic percentages of all elements in BM and CB-2 catalysts (both the fresh and the used samples) from the energy-dispersive X-ray spectra of SEM.

| Element | Atomic % BM | | | Atomic % CB-2 | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|
| | Fresh | Used | Theoretical value | Fresh | Used | Theoretical value |
| Bi | 22.8 | 57.42 | 22.22 | 22.84 | 22.88 | 21.15 |
| O | 70.76 | 6.39 | 66.67 | 65.6 | 65.34 | 65.05 |
| Mo | 6.43 | 36.19 | 11.11 | 8.38 | 8.14 | 10.57 |
| Cu | -- | -- | -- | 3.18 | 3.64 | 3.33 |

References

- [1] P. Liu and M. Zhao, *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, 2009, **255**, 3989.
- [2] X. Fengling, X. Xiaoyang, L. Xichuan, Z. Lei, Z. Li, Q. Haixia, W. Wei, L. Yu and G. Jianping, *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.*, 2014, **53**, 10576–10582.
- [3] W. Xuefang, X. Fengling, L. Xichuan, X. Xiaoyang, W. Huan, Y. Nian and G. Jianping, *J. Nanopart. Res.*, 2015, **17**:436.
- [4] L. Xiaoqing, S. Yiguo, L. Junyu, C. Zhanli, W. Xiaojing, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2017, **695**, 60-69.
- [5] A.K. Sasmal, S. Dutta and T. Pal, *Dalton Trans.*, 2016, **45**, 3139.
- [6] A.D. Verma, R.K. Mandal and I. Sinha, *Catal. Lett.*, 2015, **145**, 1885
- [7] Y. Y. Liu, Y. X. Zhang, H. L. Ding, S. C. Xu, M. Li, F. Y. Kong, Y. Y. Luo and G. H. Li, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2013, **1**, 3362.
- [8] J. R. Chiou, B. H. Lai, K. C. Hsu and D. H. Chen, *J. Hazardous Mater.*, 2013, **394**, 248-249.
- [9] Y. H. Deng, Y. Cai, Z. K. Sun, J. Liu, C. Liu, J. Wei, W. Li, C. Liu, Y. Wang and D. Y. Zhao, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 8466.
- [10] K. Kuroda, T. Ishida and M. Haruta, *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.*, 2009, **298**, 7-11.
- [11] R. Jin, S. Sun, Y. Yang, Y. Xing, D. Yu, X. Yu and S. song, *Dalton Trans.*, 2013, **42**, 7888.
- [12] H. MdRashid, R. R. Bhattacharjee, A. Kotal and T. K. Mandal, *Langmuir*, 2006, **22**, 7141.
- [13] S. P. Deshmukh, R. K. Dhokale, H. M. Yadav, S. N. Achary and S. D. Delekar, *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, 2013, **273**, 676.
- [14] A. Shihhare, S. J. Ambrose, H. Zhang, R. W. Purves and R. W. J. Scott, *Chem. Commun.*, 2013, **49**, 276.
- [15] I. Najdovski, P. R. Selvakannan, S. K. Bhargava and A. P. OMullane, *Nanoscale*, 2012, **4**, 6298.