

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Synthesis of Ag<sub>2</sub>S quantum dots by a single-source precursor: an efficient electrode material for rapid detection of phenol

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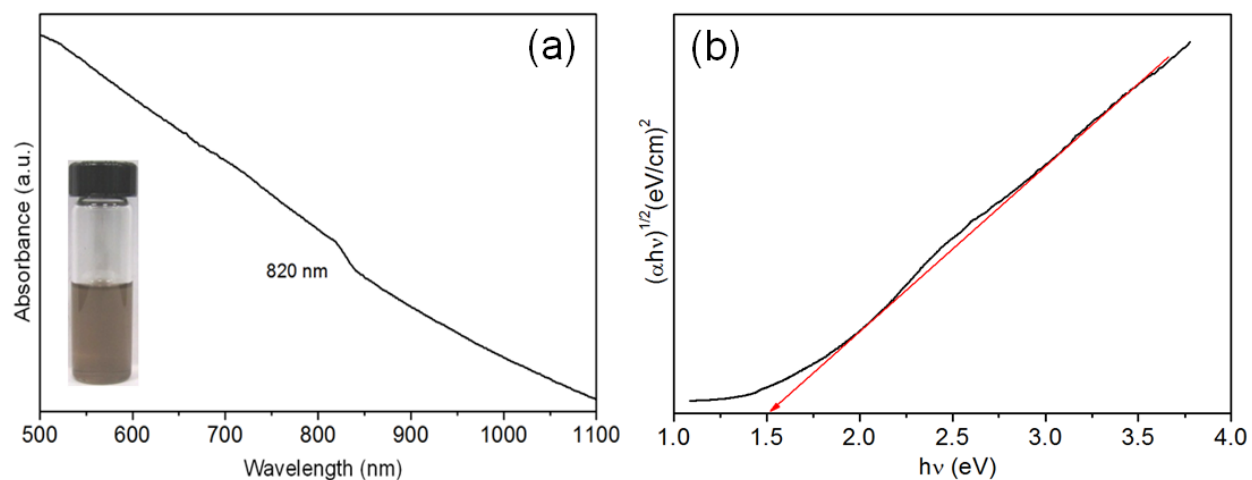
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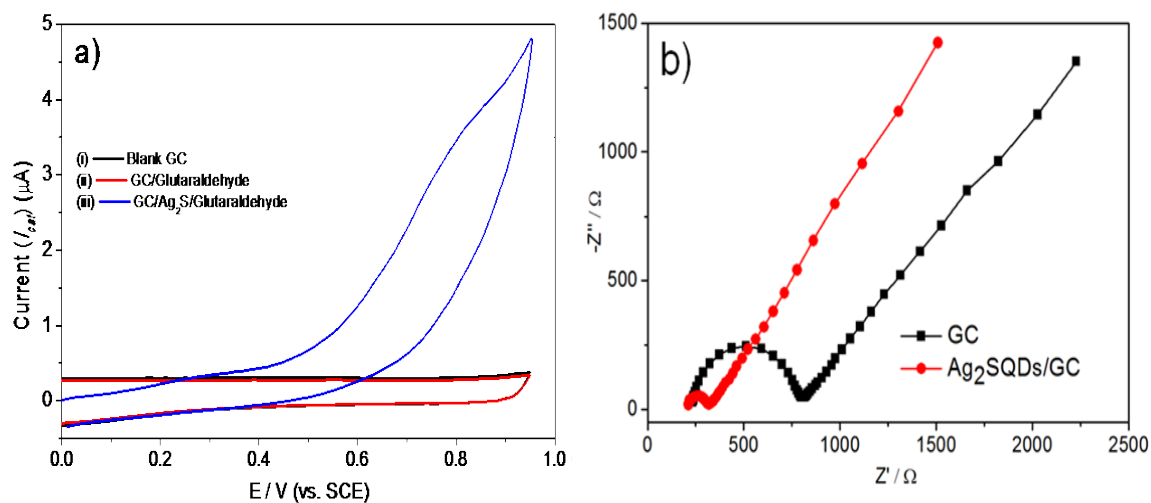
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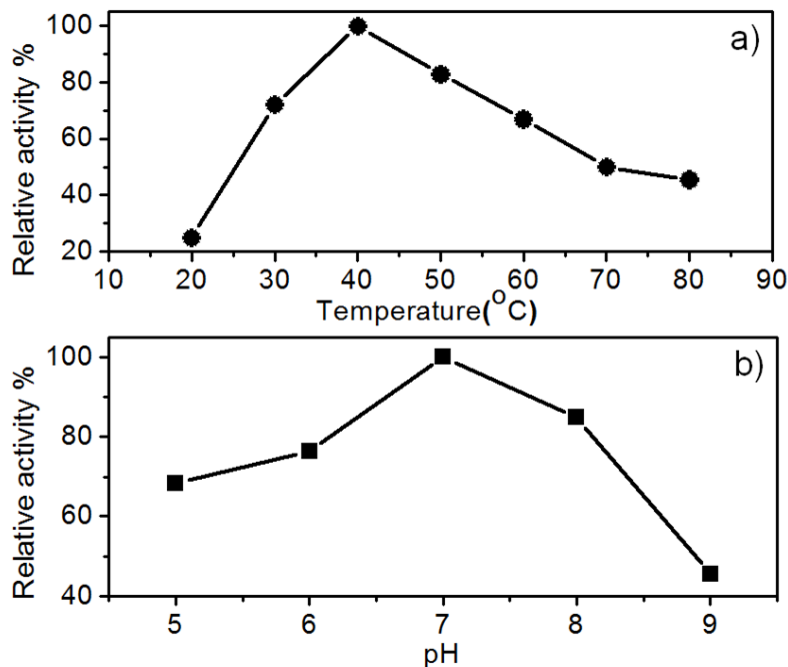
<sup>‡</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work.



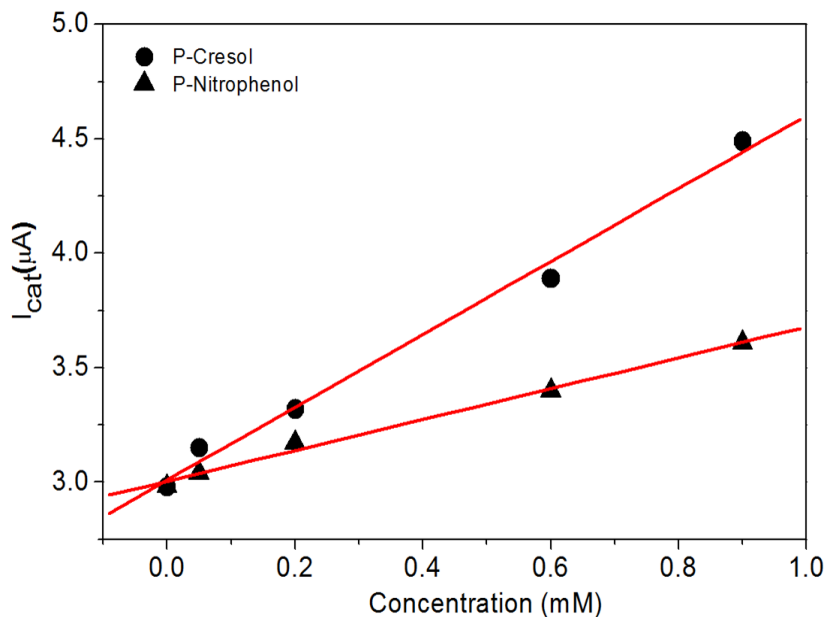
**Figure S1.** (a) UV-vis-NIR absorption spectrum of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QDs. Inset: photograph of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QDs dissolved in cyclohexane under daylight. (b) Corresponding Tauc's plot for the determination of band gap energy of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QDs.



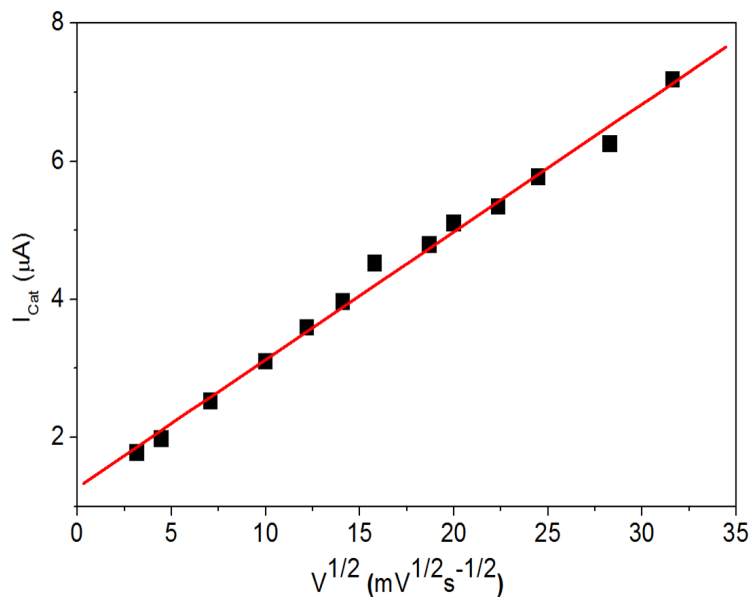
**Figure S2.** a) Cyclic voltammograms of GC, GC coated with glutarealdehyde, and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QD/GC coated with glutarealdehyde in 0.1 M PBS (pH 7, 40 °C) at scan rate of 0.1  $\text{Vs}^{-1}$ . b) Nyquist plots of GC and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QD/GC electrodes in 0.1 M KCl containing 5 mM  $\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{4-/3-}$  solution (40mL, 1:1) from 0.1 Hz to 10.0 kHz.



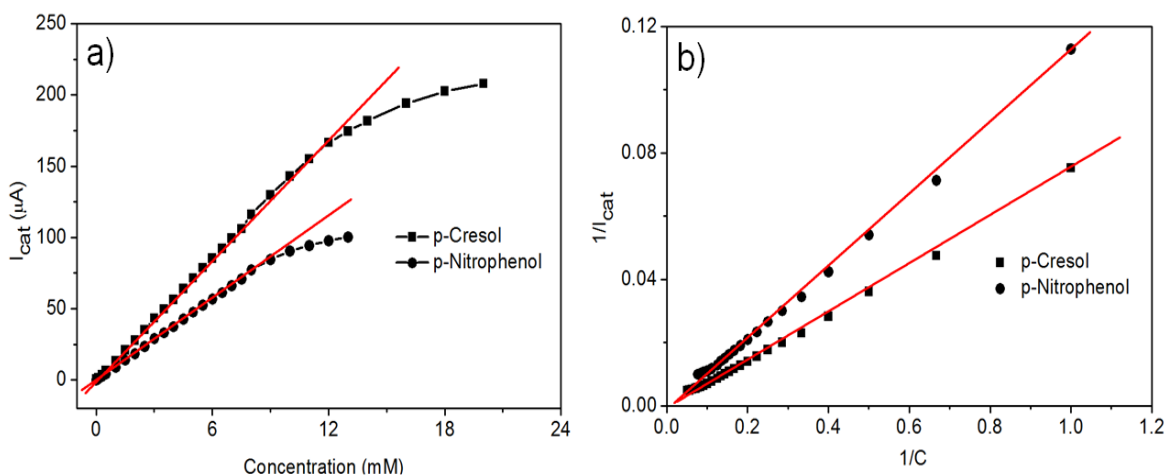
**Figure S3.** Effects of (a) temperature and (b) pH on the electro-catalytic activity of Ag<sub>2</sub>S QD/GC electrode in 0.1 M PBS (vs. Ag/AgCl).



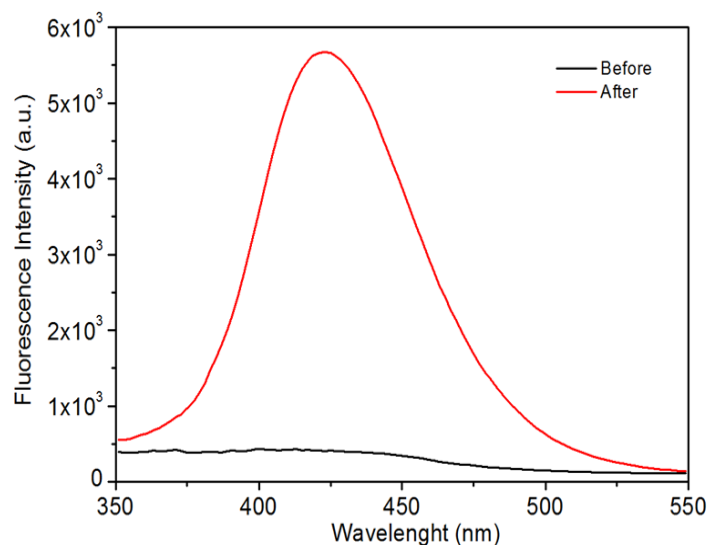
**Figure S4.** Calibration plots (oxidation current vs. concentration) of Ag<sub>2</sub>S QD/GC electrode upon successive addition of *p*-cresol and *p*-nitrophenol to 0.1 M PBS (pH 7, 40 °C).



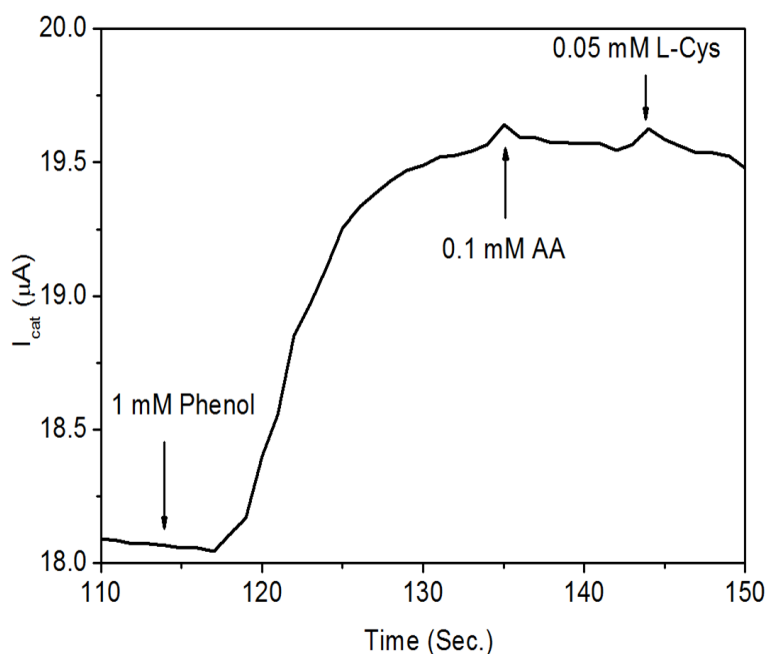
**Figure S5.** Linear relationship between the oxidation peak current (+0.78 V) and the square of scan rates (scan rates: 20, 50, 100, 300, 500, 600  $\text{mVs}^{-1}$ ) for  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QD/GC electrode in 0.1 M PBS (pH 7, 40 °C) with 0.05 mM phenol.



**Figure S6.** (a) Calibration plots derived from amperometric responses and (b) Lineweaver-Burk plot of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QD/GC electrode with successive addition of *p*-cresol and *p*-nitrophenol into 0.1 M PBS (pH 7, 40 °C) at +0.78 V (vs. Ag/AgCl).



**Figure S7.** Proof for hydroxyl radical generation. Photoluminescence spectral changes of terephthalic acid solution analyzed after electro-decomposition of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QD/GC electrode.



**Figure S8.** Amperometric response of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  QD/GC electrode with successive addition of 1 mM phenol, 0.1 mM AA and 0.05 mM *L*-Cys into 0.1 M PBS at +0.78 V (vs. Ag/AgCl) (pH 7, 40 °C).