

### Supporting information

**Fig. S1.** Effect of  $[Ag^+]$  on the SRP absorbance of Ag@Cu bimetallic nanoparticles.

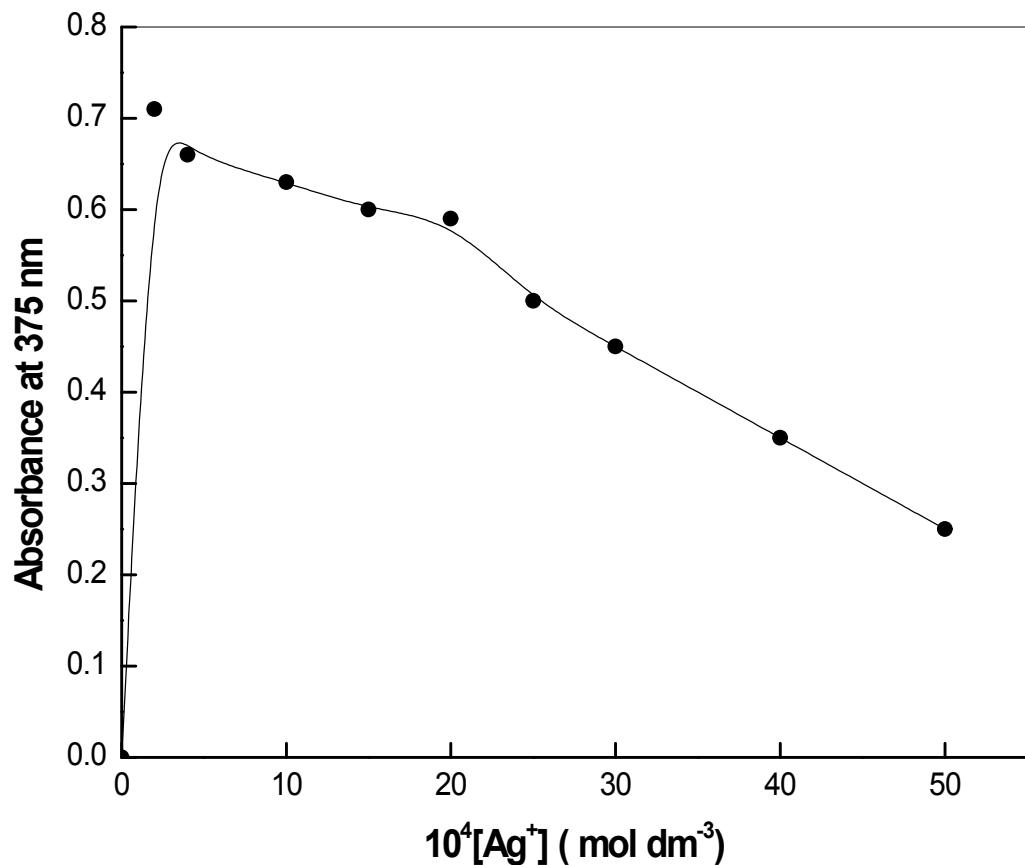
*Reaction conditions:*  $[cysteine] = 10.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $[CTAB] = 10.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $[Cu^{2+}] = 10.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ .

**Fig. S2.** Time resolved UV-visible spectra of Ag/Cu nanocomposites. *Reaction*

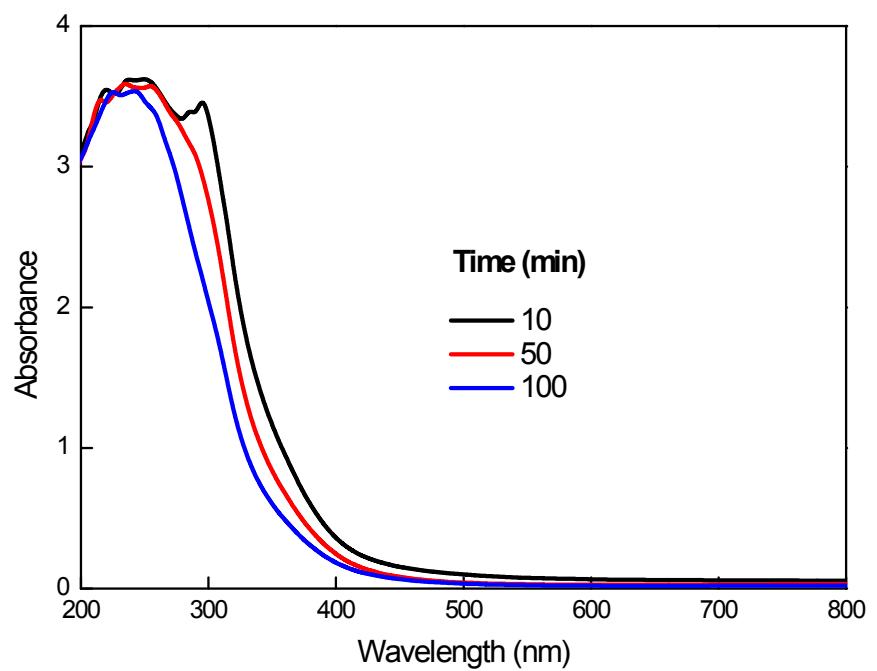
*conditions:*  $[cystine] = 10.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $[Cu^{2+}] = 10.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $[CTAB] = 10.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $[Ag^+] = 20.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ .

**Fig. S3.** Effect of [cysteine] on the SRP absorbance of Ag@Cu (●) and CTAB-capped Ag@Cu (○) bimetallic nanoparticles. *Reaction conditions:*  $[Ag^+] = 20.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $[CTAB] = 10.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ,  $[Cu^{2+}] = 10.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ .

**Fig. S1.**



**Fig. S2.**



**Fig. S3.**

