

Supplementary Information

Photocatalytic Glycerol Oxidation on Au_xCu-CuS@TiO₂ Plasmonic Heterostructures

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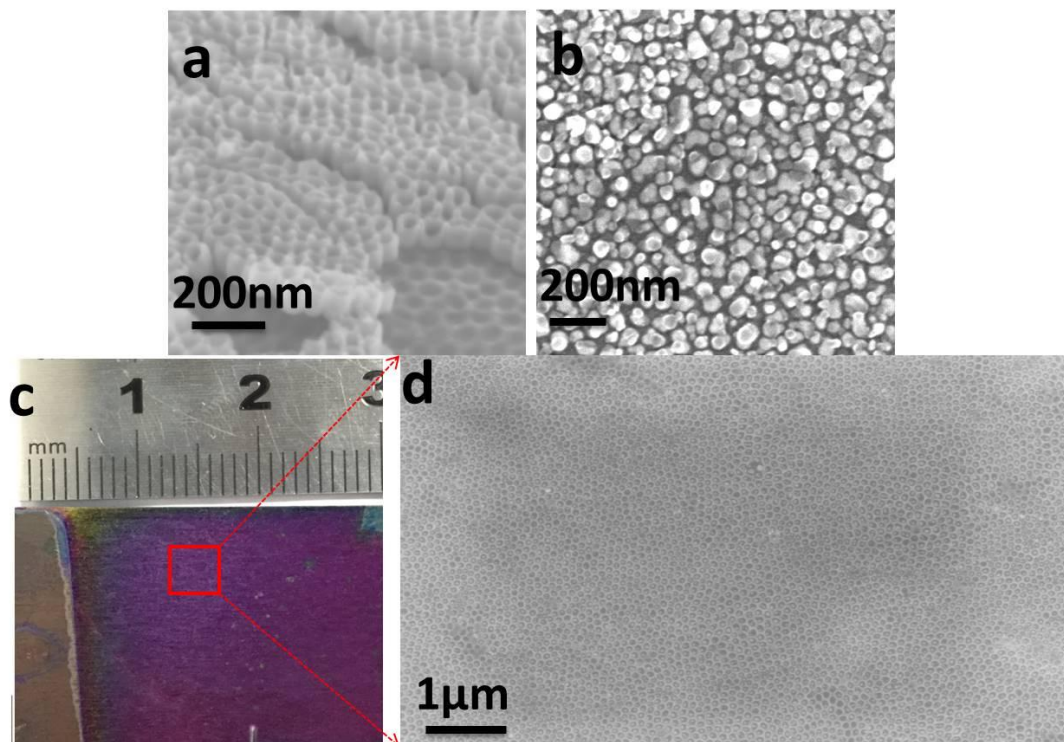


Figure S1. (a) SEM image of TiO_2 nanocavity arrays after e-Beam deposition of 10 nm Au/Cu; (b) 10 nm Au/Cu coating dewetted on a compact TiO_2 foil; (c) photo and (d) SEM image of the $\text{AuCu}_3\text{-CuS@TiO}_2$ film after sulfurization (sample size: 1 ×1 inch).

Table S1. Thermal properties of materials used in the heat transfer model.¹⁻³

Materials	Specific heat capacity ($\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$)	Density (kg m^{-3})	Thermal conductivity ($\text{W m}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$)
gold	129	19300	110 (40 nm)
water	4180	1000	0.6
Cu	390	8900	120 (40 nm)
TiO_2	710	4260	0.7

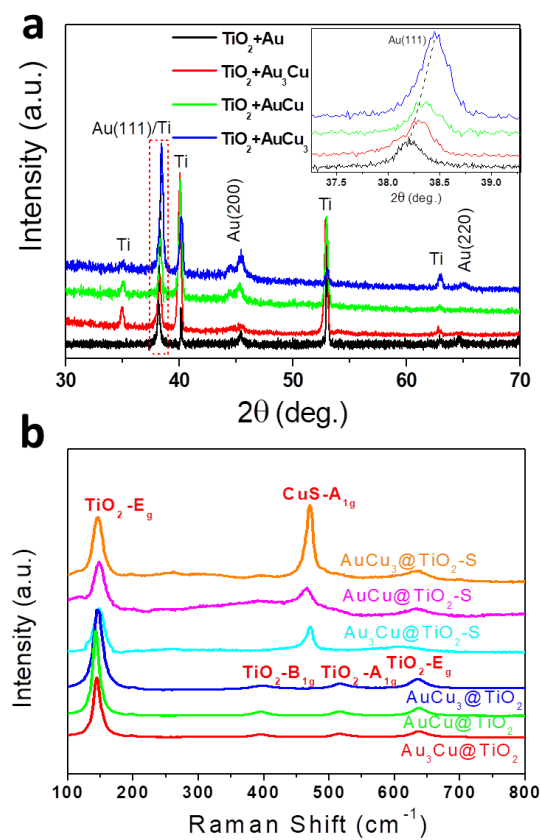


Figure S2. (a) XRD patterns of $\text{Au}@ \text{TiO}_2$, $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu}@ \text{TiO}_2$ NPs arrays after dewetting at 400°C for 1 h, and (b) corresponding Raman shift of the $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu}@ \text{TiO}_2$ NPs before and after sulfurization at 300°C for 10 min.

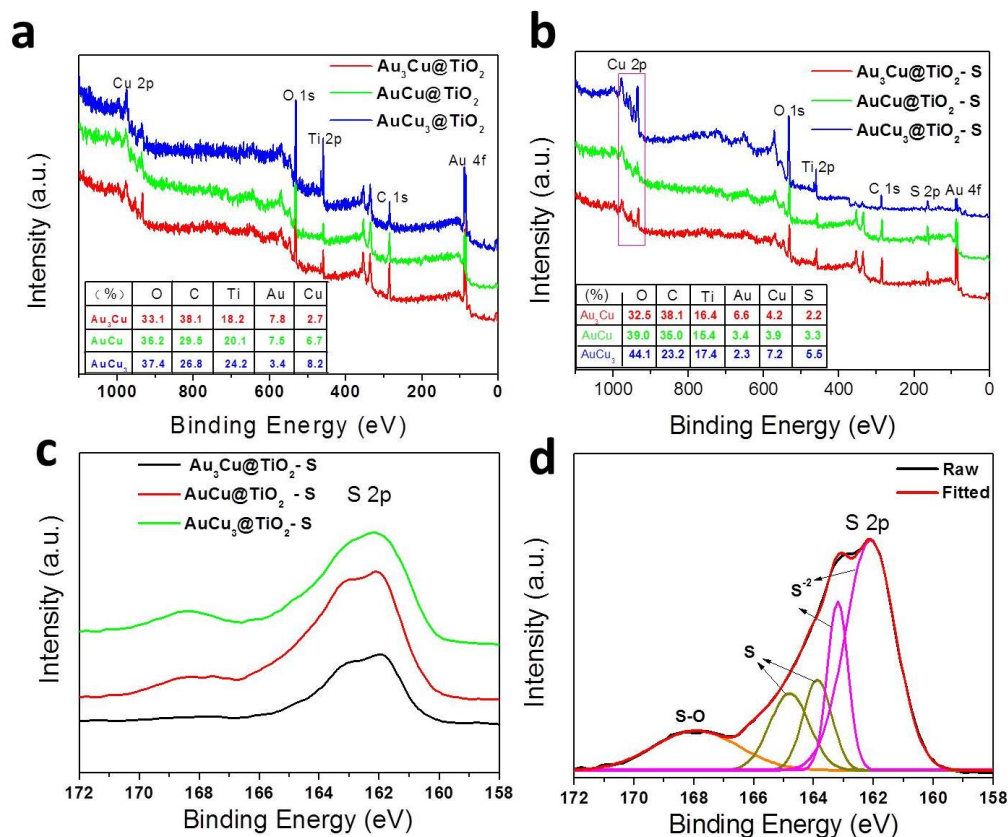


Figure S3. Survey scan of (a) $Au_xCu@TiO_2$ and (b) $Au_xCu-CuS@TiO_2$ heterostructures with elemental mole ratio inserted. (c) High-resolution XPS spectra of S 2p in the hybrids and (d) fitted binding energies from different chemical states of S.⁴

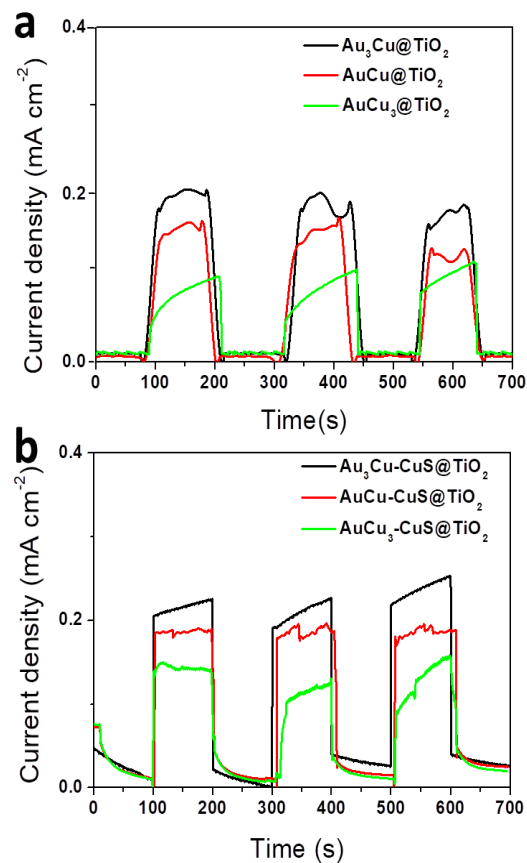


Figure S4. Photocurrent-time curves of (a) $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu}@ \text{TiO}_2$ and (b) $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu-CuS}@ \text{TiO}_2$ hybrid films upon solar light illumination on and off.

Table S2. Photocurrent density of different samples under simulated solar light

Samples	Photocurrent density (mA cm^{-2})
$\text{Au}_3\text{Cu}@ \text{TiO}_2$	0.2
$\text{AuCu}@ \text{TiO}_2$	0.17
$\text{AuCu}_3@ \text{TiO}_2$	0.09
$\text{Au}_3\text{Cu-CuS}@ \text{TiO}_2$	0.22
$\text{AuCu-CuS}@ \text{TiO}_2$	0.19
$\text{AuCu}_3\text{-CuS}@ \text{TiO}_2$	0.11

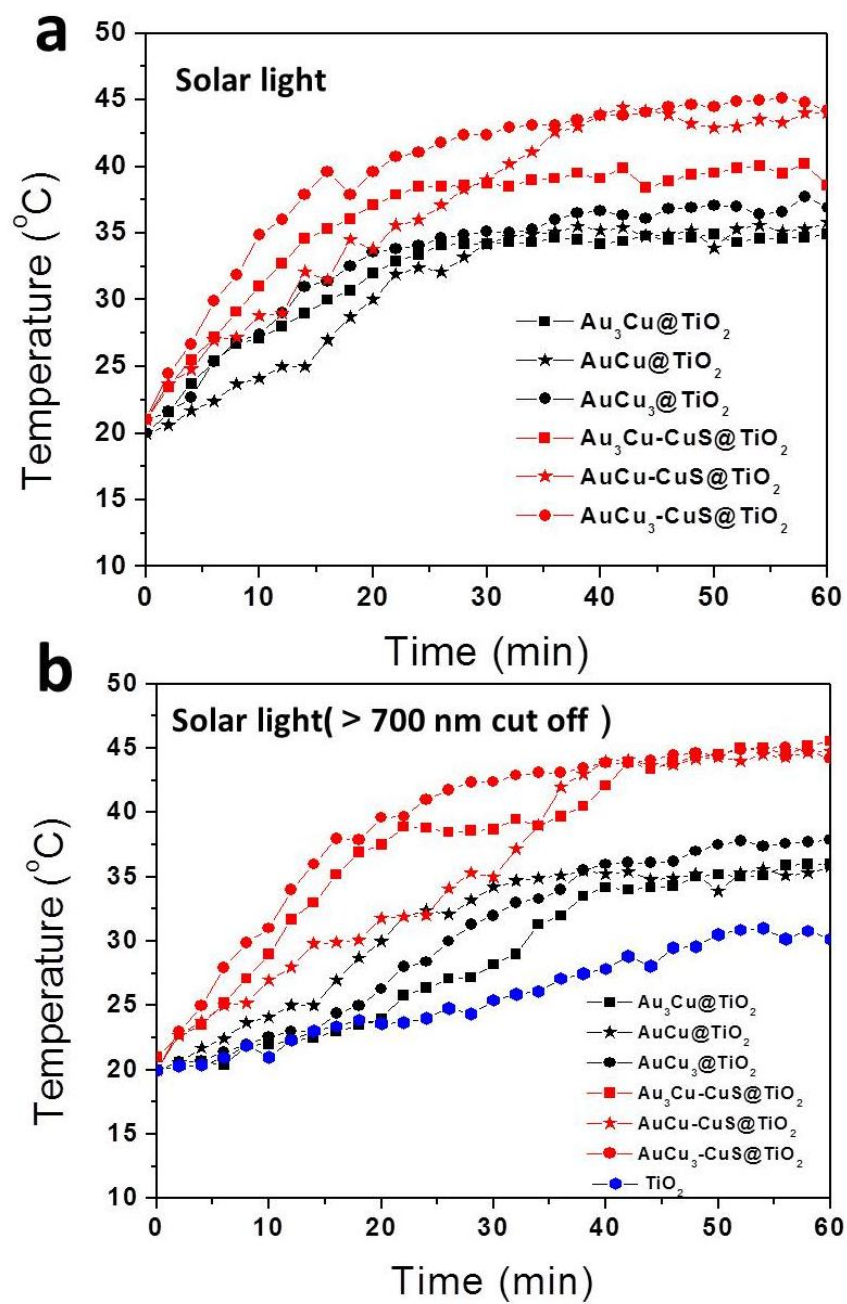
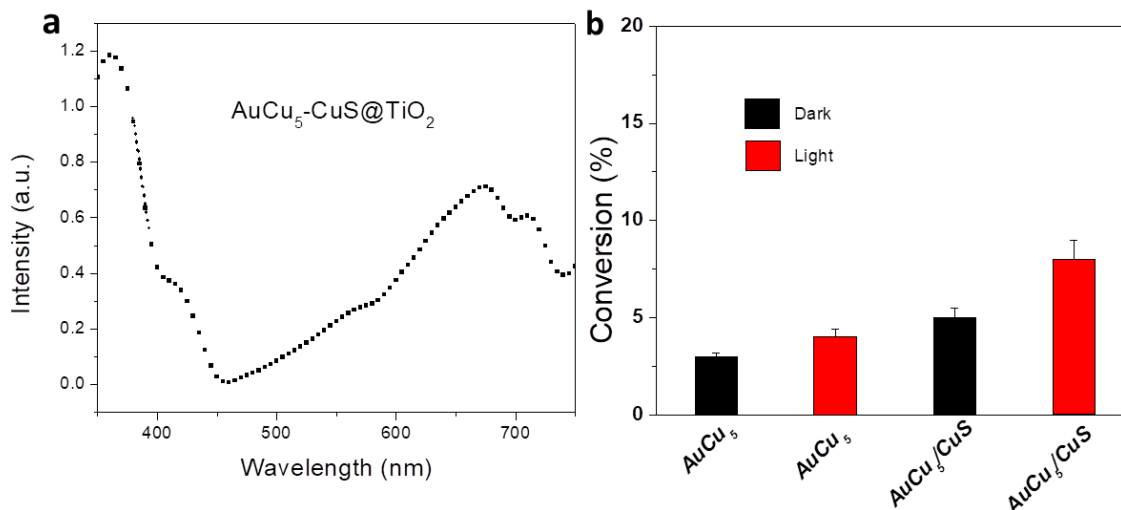


Figure S5. Temperature variation of $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu@TiO}_2$ and $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu-CuS@TiO}_2$ NP arrays in water over a period of 60 min upon exposure to (a) solar light and (b) solar light with NIR cutting-off.

Table S3. Selectivity of glycerol oxidation on the $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu@TiO}_2$ and $\text{Au}_x\text{Cu-CuS@TiO}_2$ NCAs.

Samples	DHA (%)	Glycolic acid (%)	Glyceric acid (%)	Glyceraldehyde (%)	Tartronic acid (%)
$\text{Au}_3\text{Cu@TiO}_2$	72	8	13	5	2
AuCu@TiO_2	69	11	14	3	3
$\text{AuCu}_3\text{@TiO}_2$	69	12	13	4	2
$\text{Au}_3\text{Cu-CuS@TiO}_2$	69	14	13	5	1
AuCu-CuS@TiO_2	66	17	13	4	0
$\text{AuCu}_3\text{-CuS@TiO}_2$	63	18	14	3	2

**Figure S6.** UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectrum of $\text{AuCu}_5\text{-CuS@TiO}_2$ heterostructure and glycerol conversion efficiency under dark and solar light.

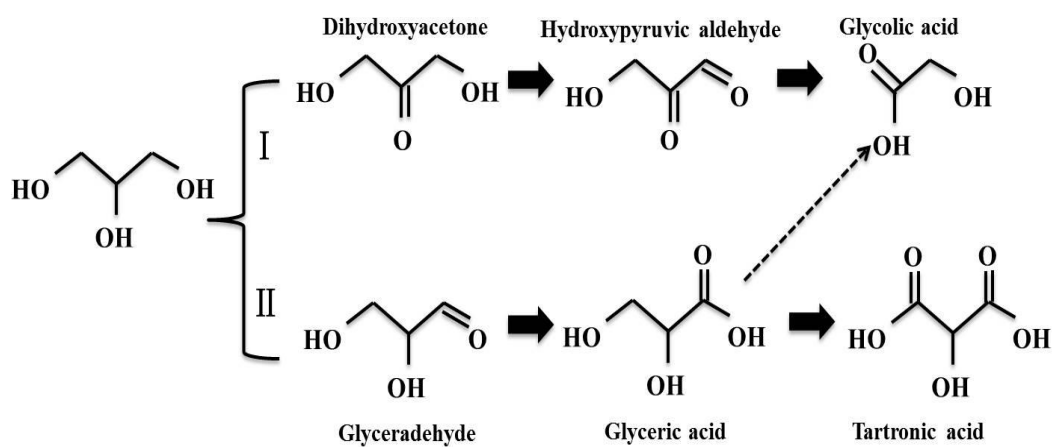


Figure S7. Two possible pathways of glycerol oxidation to different products.⁵

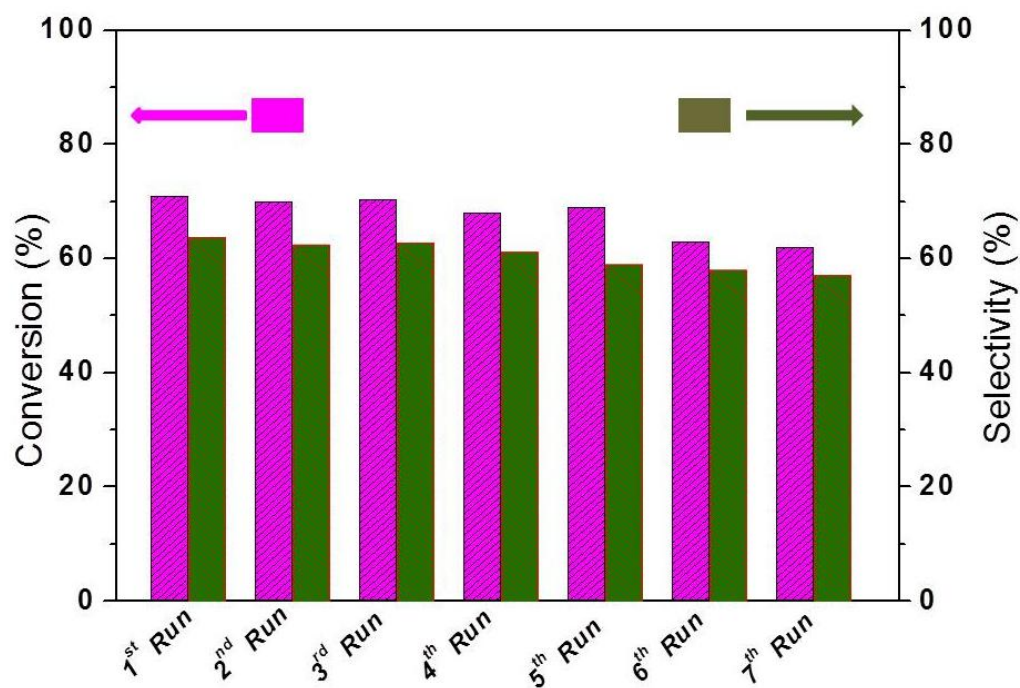


Figure S8. Recycling performance for glycerol oxidation under the simulated solar light on the AuCu-CuS@TiO₂ catalyst with selectivity toward dihydroxyacetone.

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