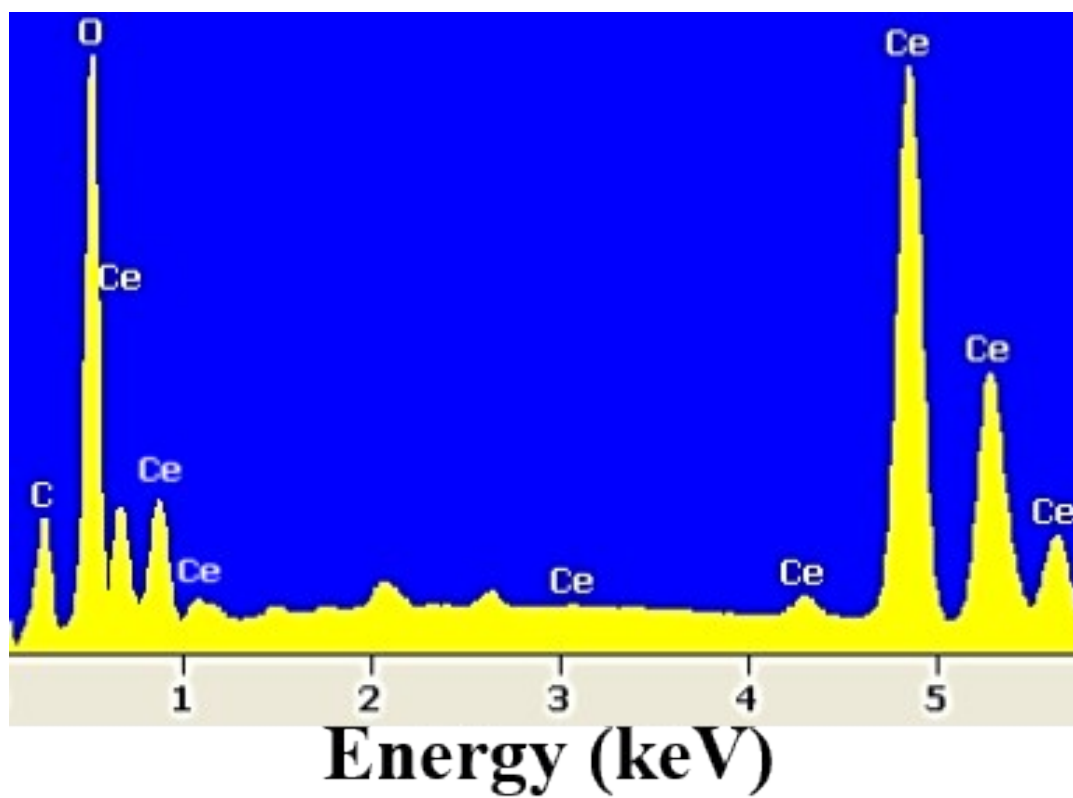


## Supplementary Information

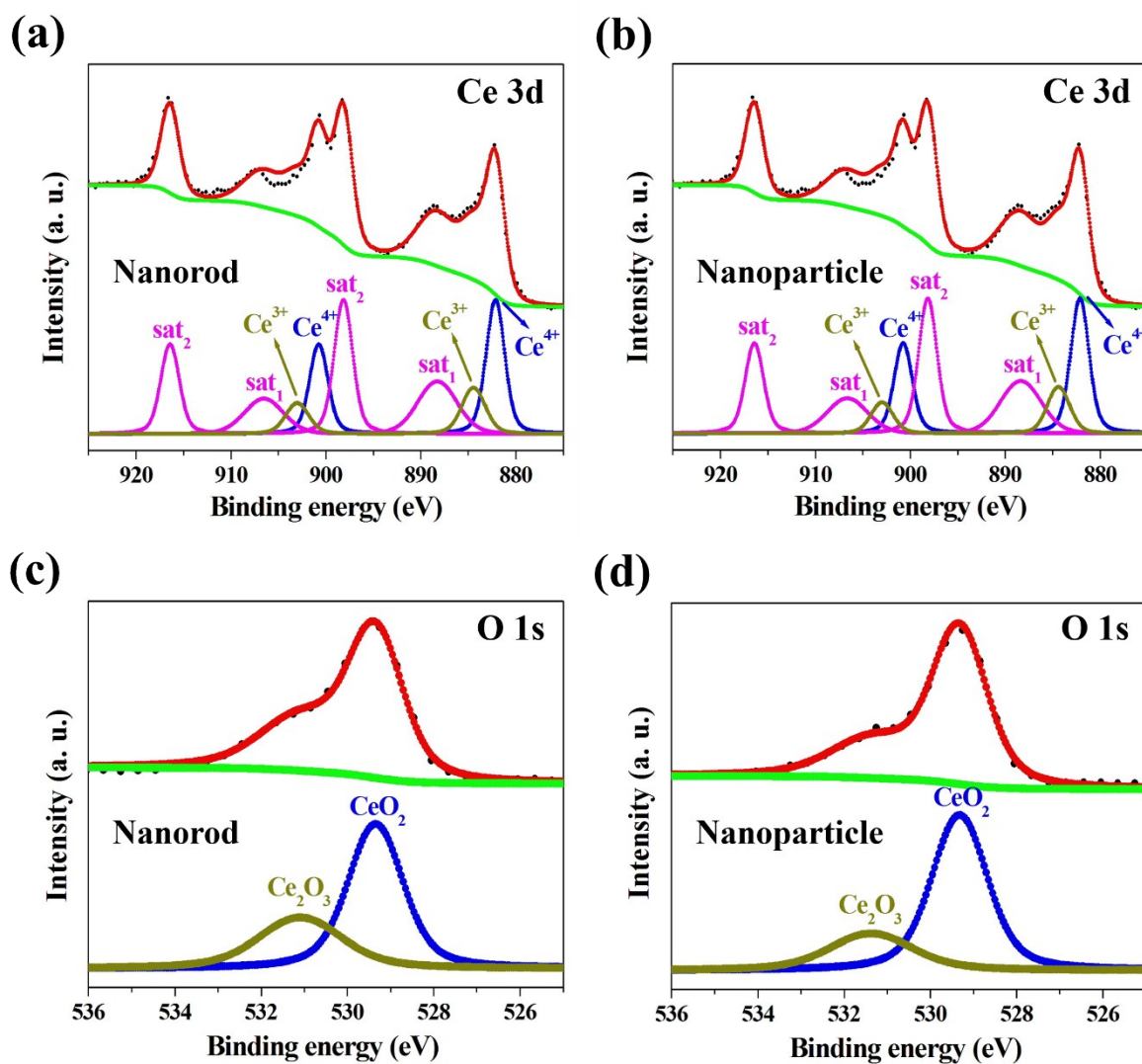
# Selective Shape Control of Cerium Oxide Nanocrystals for Photocatalytic and Chemical Sensing Effect

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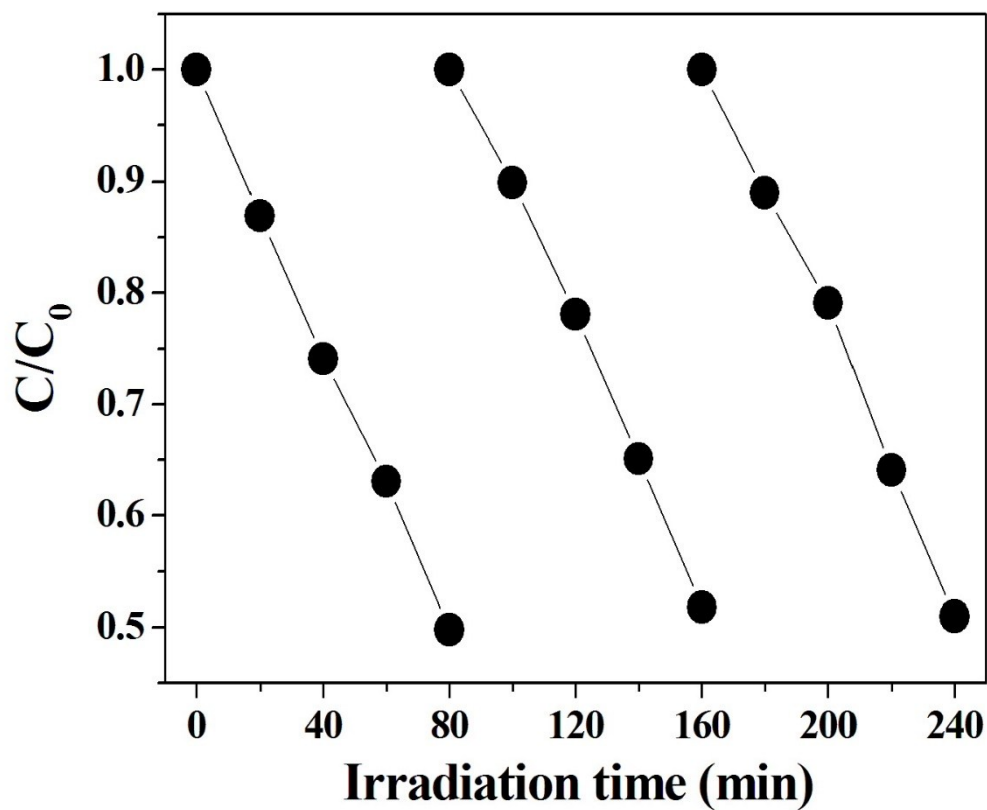
**Fig. S1.** EDS of cerium oxide synthesized at 10 min (nanorod).



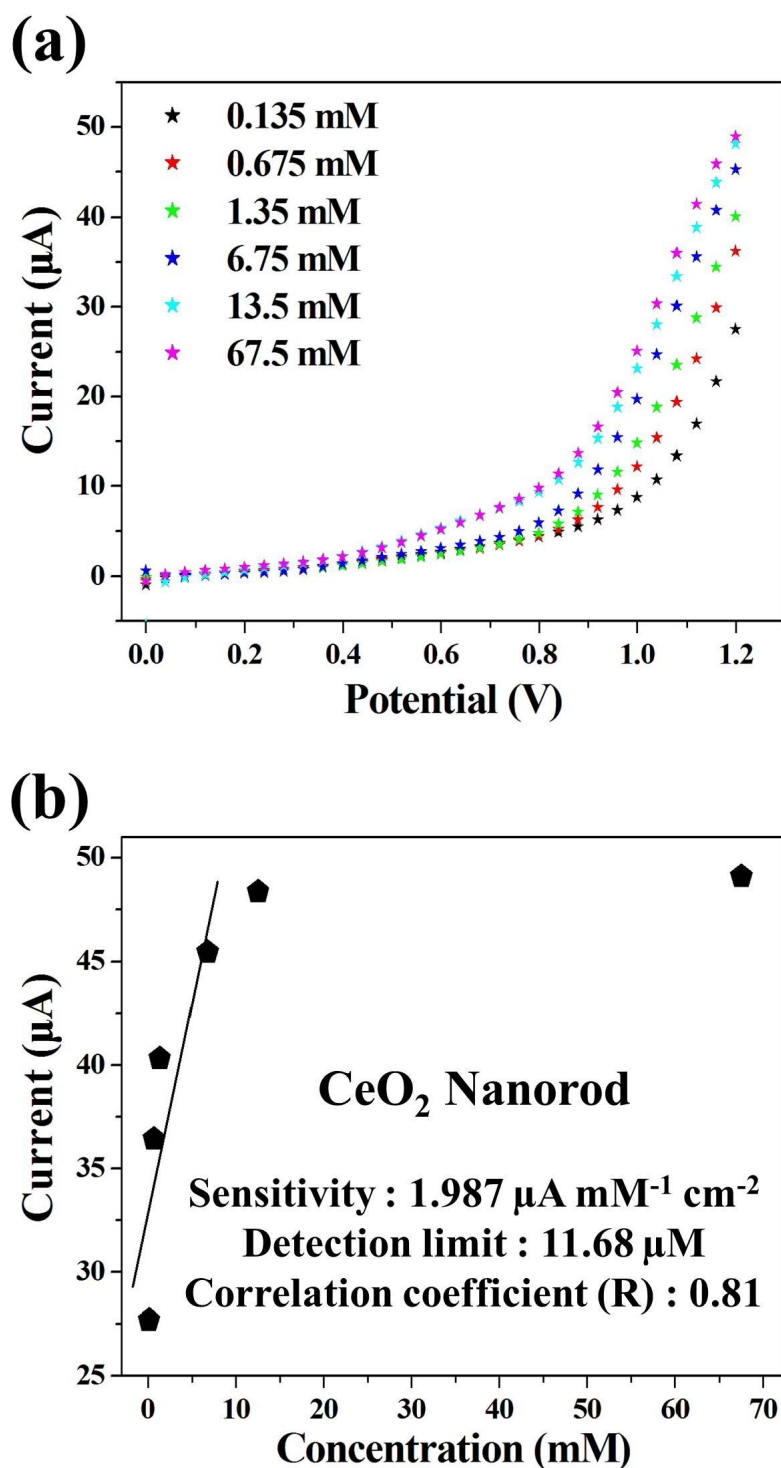
**Fig. S2.** XPS spectra of cerium oxide synthesized at 10 min (nanorod: a, c) and 20 min (nanoparticles: b, d).

Upper; Black dot - Raw data, Red line – Fitting curve with green base line

Lower; Deconvoluted peaks with satellite peaks (violet)



**Fig. S3.** Cycling performance of cerium oxide nanorod during the photodegradation of methyl orange.



**Fig. S4.** I-V characteristics of cerium oxide nanorod: (a) Plot of the sensing behavior by a series of acetone concentration in the cerium oxide nanorod; and (b) Calibration plot to deduce an acetone sensitivity of nanorod.

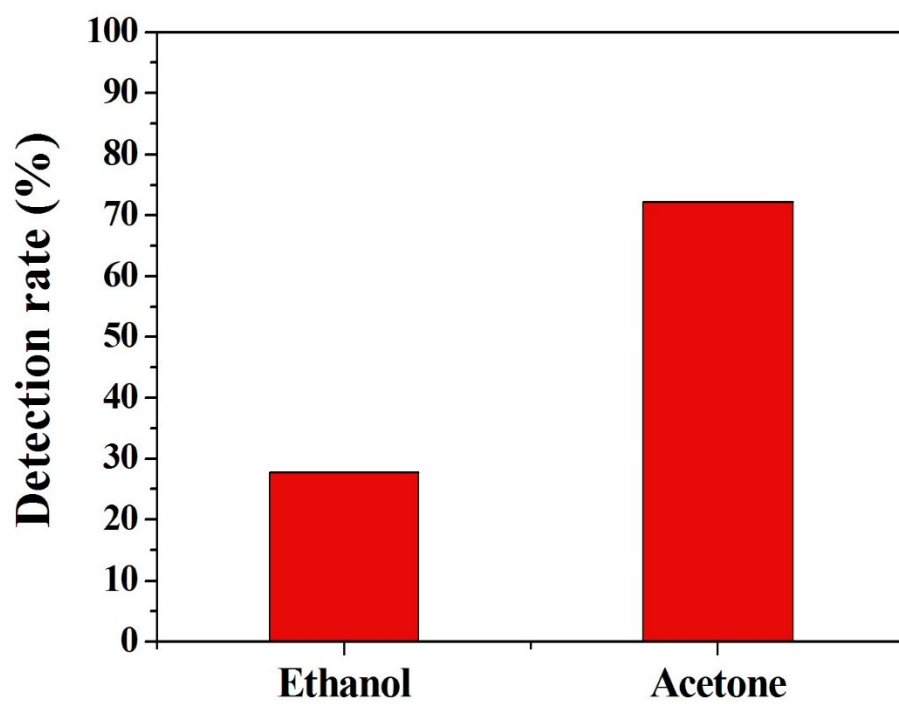


Fig. S5. Percentage of contaminants detected using cerium oxide nanorod sensors.

**Table S1.** The cerium oxide crystallite size calculated based on Scherrer equation and the intensity ratio of (200)/(220) with the reaction time using the XRD patterns. (<sup>a</sup> Full Width at a Half Maximum)

| <b>Reaction time</b> | <b>FWHM<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Crystallite sizes (nm)</b> | <b>(200)/(220)</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 min                | 1.074                   | 79.7                          | 0.44               |
| 10 min               | 1.042                   | 82.3                          | 0.58               |
| 15 min               | 0.937                   | 91.3                          | 0.48               |
| 20 min               | 0.753                   | 113.7                         | 0.42               |

**Table S2.** XPS analysis result of Ce<sup>3+</sup> and Ce<sup>4+</sup> ion concentration.

| <b>Reaction time</b>  | <b>Ce<sup>3+</sup> peak area/Ce<sup>4+</sup> peak area</b> |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10 min (Nanorod)      | 0.43   |
| 20 min (Nanoparticle) | 0.33   |



**Table S3.** Comparison of photo-catalytic and chemical sensor performance of various materials reported in previous literature.

| Material   | Shape         | Dye decomposition for 80 minutes(%) | Chemical sensor sensing material | Sensitivity ( $\mu\text{A mM}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$ ) | Reference    |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| CeO <sub>2</sub>                                   | Nanorod       | 50                                  | Ethanol                          | 1.81   | Present work |
| CeO <sub>2</sub>                                   | Nanoparticle  | 38                                  | Ethanol                          | 0.87   | Present work |
| CeO <sub>2</sub>                                   | Nanorod       | -                                   | Acetone                          | 1.99   | Present work |
| CeO <sub>2</sub>                                   | Nanoparticle  | 26                                  | Ethanol                          | 0.92   | Ref 4        |
| CeO <sub>2</sub>                                   | Nanoparticle  | 28                                  | Ethanol                          | 1.19   | Ref 6        |
| CeO <sub>2</sub>                                   | Nanoflake     | 78                                  | hydroquinone                     | 2.04   | Ref 35       |
| Cobalt-doped CeO <sub>2</sub>                      | Nanorod       | 39                                  | -                                | -  | Ref 33       |
| CuO  | Nanosheet     | -                                   | Ethanol                          | 0.9722   | Ref 1        |
| ZnO–CeO <sub>2</sub>                               | Nanomaterial  | 70                                  | Ethanol                          | 2.1949   | Ref 3        |
| Polyaniline grafted graphene oxide-WO <sub>3</sub> | Nanocomposite | -                                   | Chromium (III)                   | 4.4251   | Ref 62       |