

## Electronic Supplementary Information:

# Facile Thermal Exfoliation of Cu Sheets towards CuO/Cu<sub>2</sub>O Heterojunction: A Cost-effective Photocatalyst with Visible-light Response for Promising Sustainable Applications

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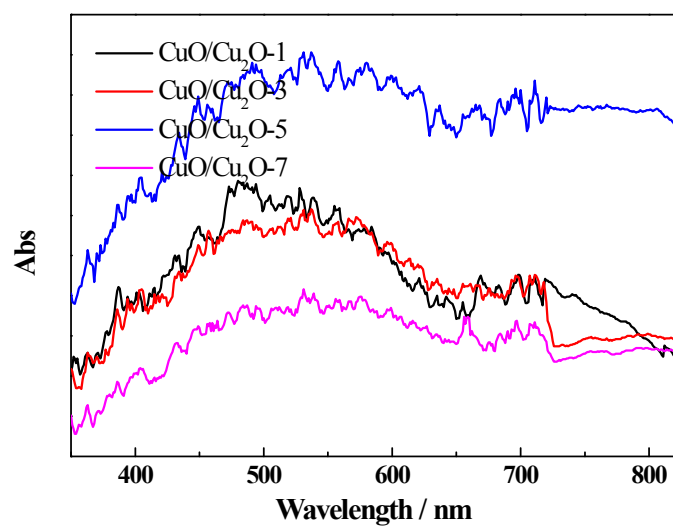
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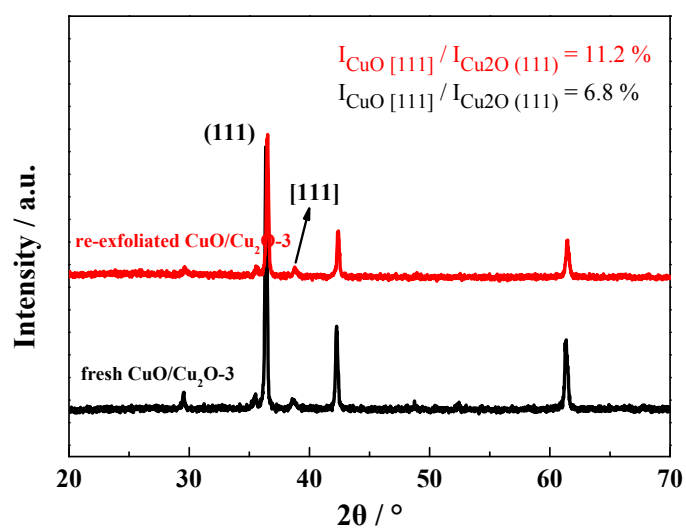
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**Fig. S1** UV-Vis DRS spectrum of different CuO/Cu<sub>2</sub>O composites.



**Fig. S2** XRD patterns of CuO/Cu<sub>2</sub>O-3 before and after photocatalytic removal for cycled thermal exfoliation.

**Tab. S1** Element content analysis of CuO/Cu<sub>2</sub>O-3 composite from XPS spectra (Atomic %)

Sample	C/%	O/%	Cu <sup>+</sup> /%	Cu <sup>2+</sup> /%
CuO/Cu <sub>2</sub> O-3	61.99	28.77	8.28	0.96

**Tab. S2** Comparison of different performances of Cu-based photocatalysts for dye degradation

Catalyst	synthetic method	Light source	Catalyst loading (g)	Dye	Concentration (mg/L)	Time (min)	Efficiency
CuO	Solid phase <sup>1</sup>	UV lamp	0.5	MB	10	210	33%
Cu/CuO	Liquid phase <sup>2</sup>	UV lamp	0.02	MB	10	50	15%
Cu/Cu <sub>2</sub> O	Solid phase <sup>3</sup>	Xe lamp (420 nm cut-off)	0.28	MB	20	120	67%
Cu@Cu <sub>2</sub> O	Liquid phase <sup>4</sup>	UV lamp	0.01	MB	10	50	4.7%
CuO/Cu <sub>2</sub> O	Gas phase <sup>5</sup>	Xe lamp (420 nm cut-off)	Not detectable	MB	10	240	90%
CuO/Cu <sub>2</sub> O	Liquid phase <sup>6</sup>	Xe lamp (420 nm cut-off)	0.015	MO	6.5	120	95%
CuO/Cu <sub>2</sub> O/Cu	Liquid phase <sup>7</sup>	Blue LED	0.015	MB	10	90	92%
<b>CuO/Cu<sub>2</sub>O (This work)</b>	<b>Solid phase</b>	<b>Xe lamp (420 nm cut-off)</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>RhB</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>73%</b>

**Tab. S3** The energy band gaps ( $E_g$ ), conduction band ( $E_{CB}$ ) and valence band potentials ( $E_{VB}$ ) of CuO and Cu<sub>2</sub>O

Sample	$E_g/eV$	$E_{CB}/eV$	$E_{VB}/eV$
CuO	1.7	0.46	2.16
Cu <sub>2</sub> O	2.2	-0.28	1.92

\*These values were obtained from the previous representative reports.<sup>8,9</sup>

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