

**Colorimetric assay for ultrasensitive detection of phosphate  
in water bodies based on metal-organic framework  
nanospheres possessing catalytic activity**

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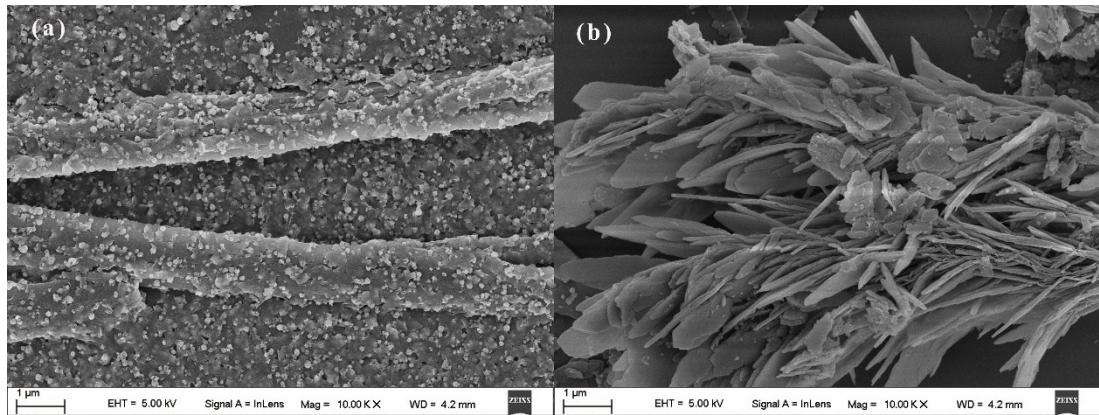


Figure S1. SEM image of other two Cu-MOFs (a) The ligand is 2-Aminoterephthalic acid. (b) The ligand is nitrotetraphthalic acid.

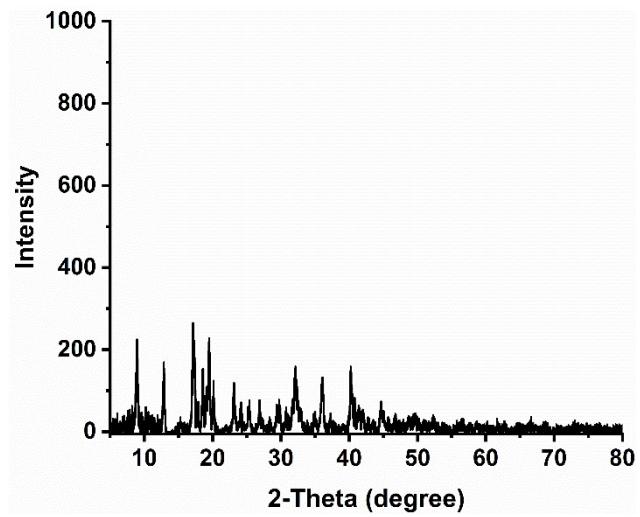


Figure S2 Powder X-ray pattern of Cu-MOF(3).

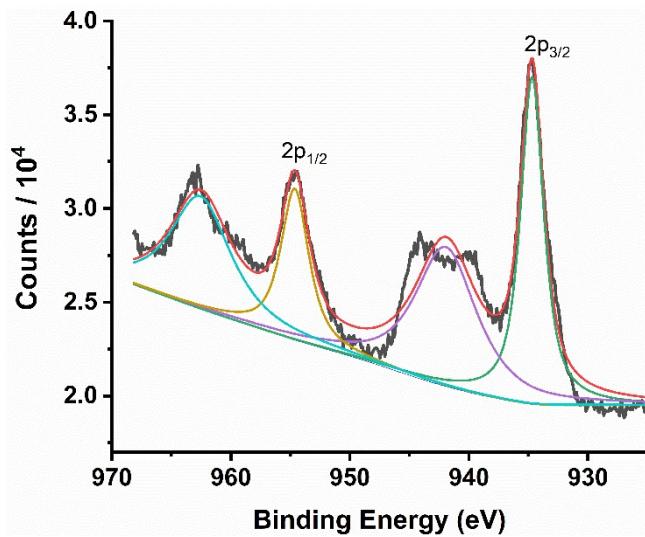


Figure S3. High resolution XPS pattern of Cu elements in Cu-MOF(3).

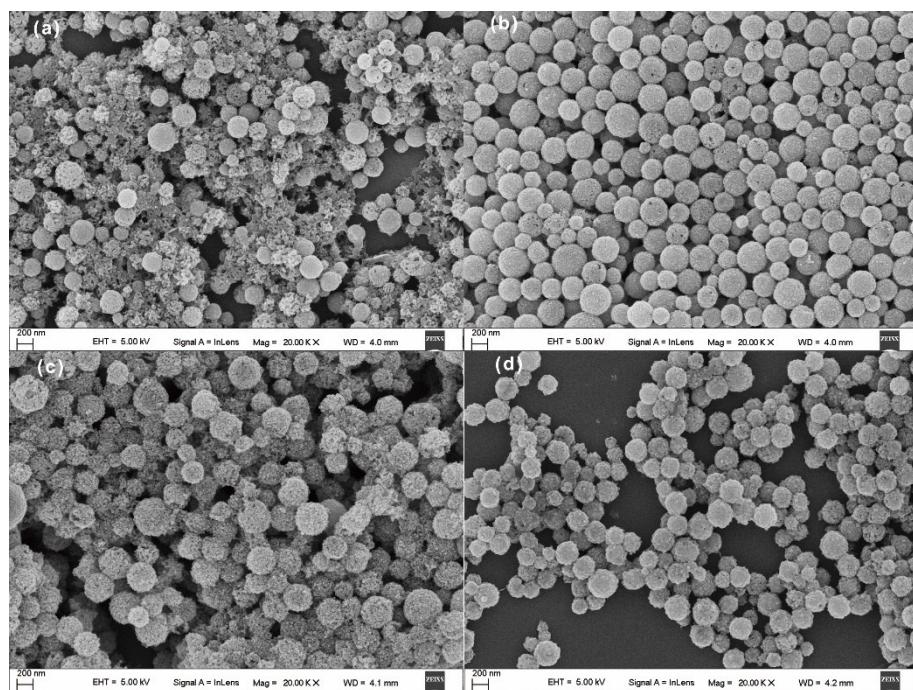


Figure S4. SEM images of Cu-MOF nanospheres obtained after different reaction time (a) 4 h, (b) 8 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 16 h.

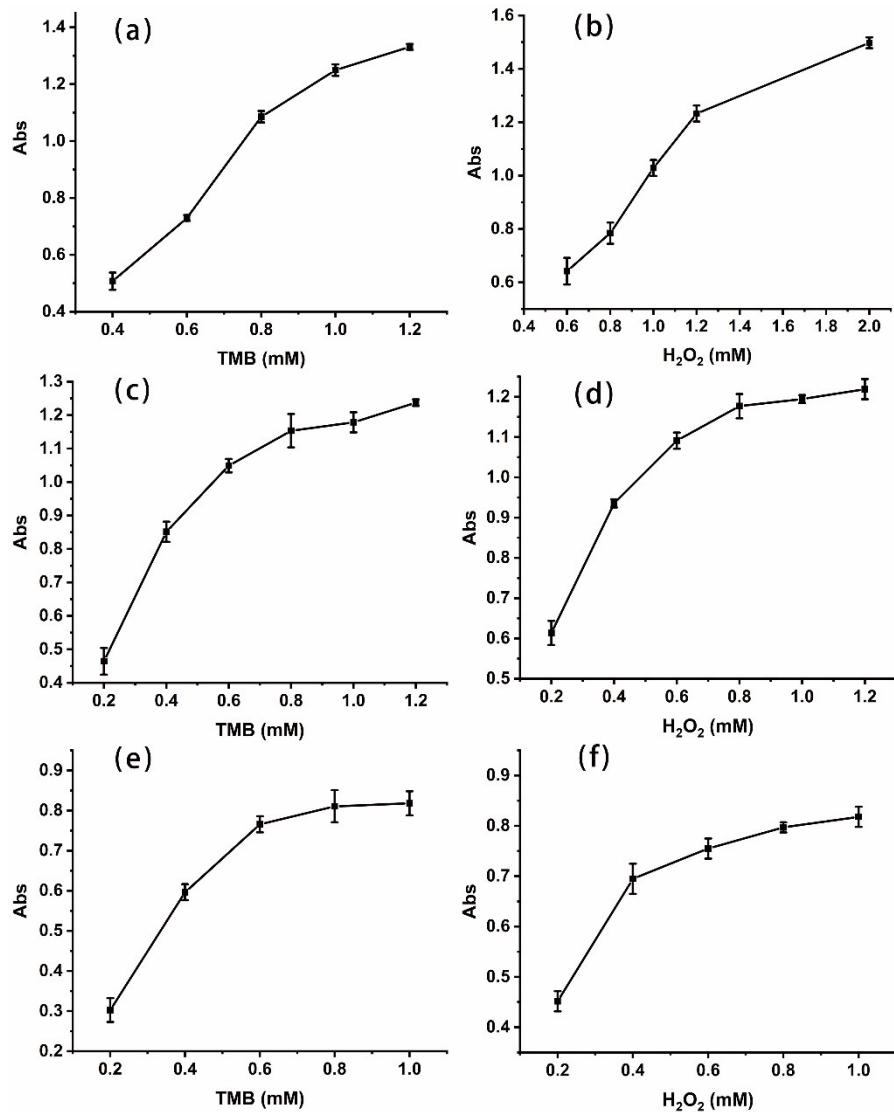


Figure S5. Steady state kinetic assays. Changes of absorbance at 652 nm of TMB-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system in the presence of (a) Cu-MOF(1), (c) Cu-MOF(2) or (e) Cu-MOF(3), and the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration was fixed at 1 mM. Changes of absorbance at 652 nm of TMB-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system in the presence of (b) Cu-MOF(1), (d) Cu-MOF(2) or (f) Cu-MOF(3), and the TMB concentration was fixed at 0.8 mM.

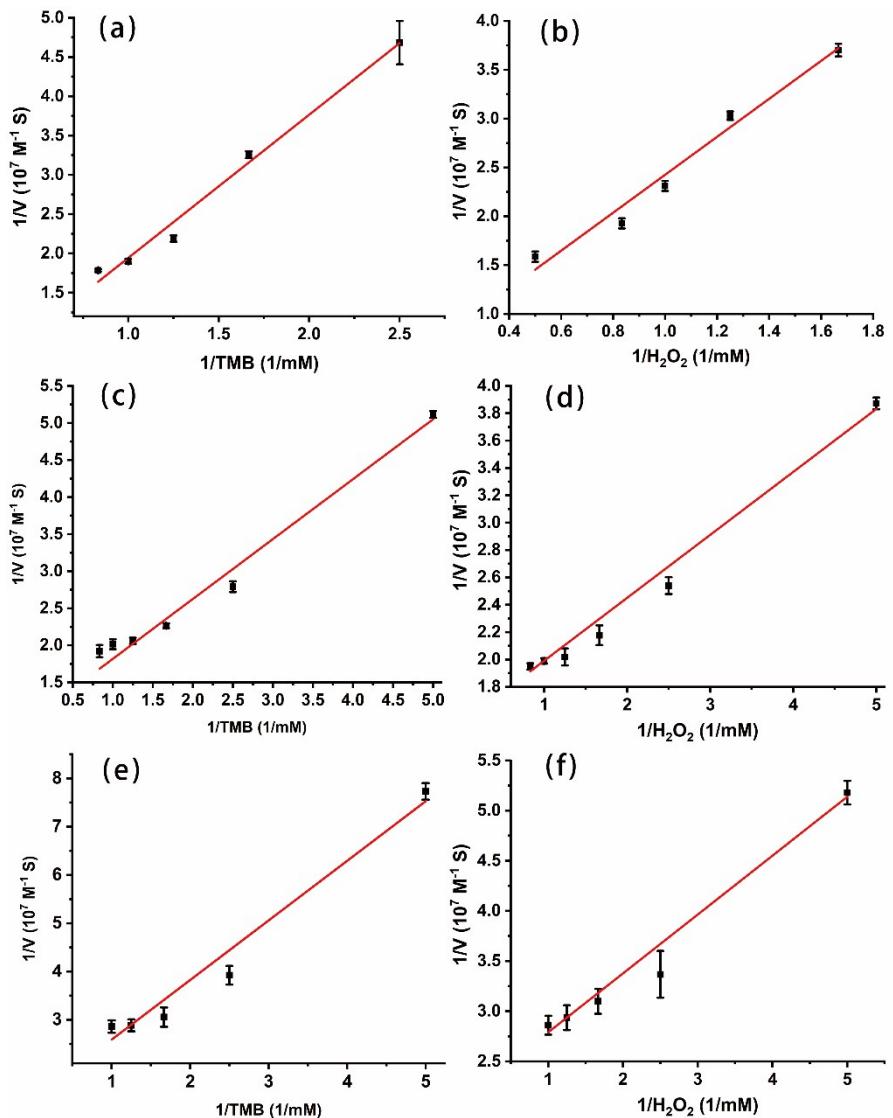


Figure S6. Steady-state kinetic analyses using the Lineweaver-Burk model for Cu-MOF(1) ((a) and (b)), Cu-MOF(2) ((c) and (d)), Cu-MOF(e) ((a) and (f))).

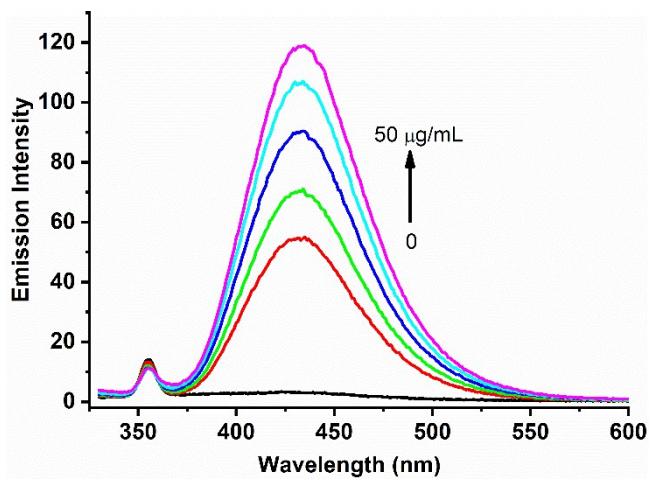


Figure S7. Fluorescence of terephthalic acid after reacted with OH<sup>•</sup> radicals generated by Cu-MOF nanospheres with different concentrations. Bottom to up: the concentrations of Cu-MOF nanospheres was 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 µg/mL.

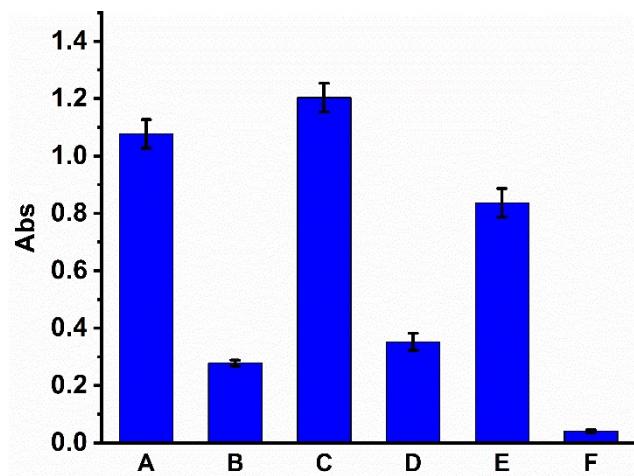


Figure S8. Absorbance at 652 nm of different reaction system. A: Cu-MOF(1), B: Cu-MOF(1)+phosphate, C: Cu-MOF(2), D: Cu-MOF(2)+phosphate, E: Cu-MOF(3), B: Cu-MOF(3)+phosphate.



Figure S9. Digital images of the Cu-MOF/TMB-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system with different concentrations of phosphate: from left to right are 0, 0.05, 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 3 and 5 μM.

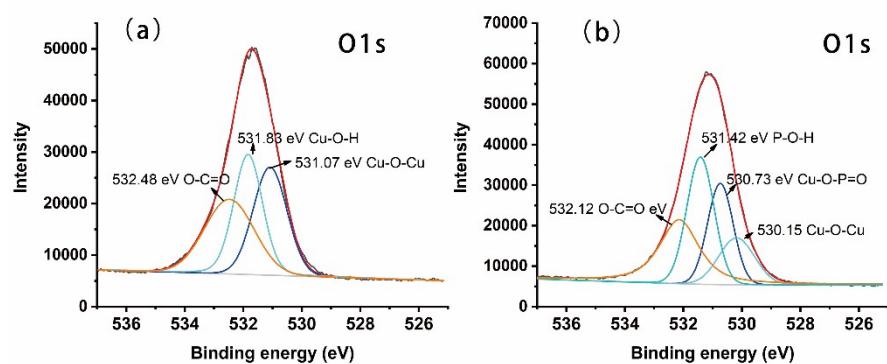


Figure S10 High resolution XPS pattern of O1s in Cu-MOF(3) (a) before and (b) after reaction with phosphate.

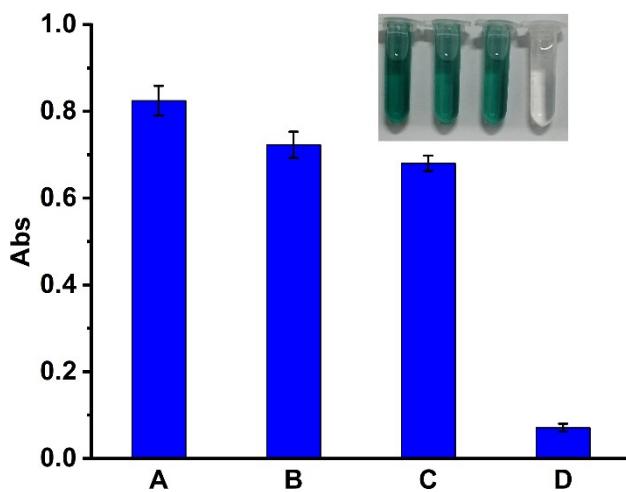


Figure S11 Absorbance at 652 nm of TMB+H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> systems in the presence of Cu-MOF(3) (A), Cu-MOF(3)+arsenate (B), Cu-MOF(3)+arsenite (C) or Cu-MOF(3)+arsenate. Inset was the photo of corresponding systems (from left to right).The concentrations of arsenate, arsenite and phosphate are all 20  $\mu$ M.

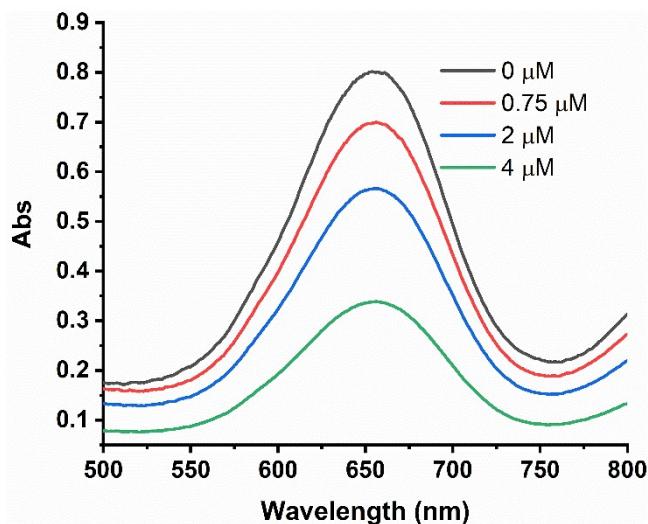


Figure S12. Detection of phosphate in river water samples. 0.75, 2 and 4  $\mu$ M phosphate were spiked to the assay system, respectively.

Table S1 Comparison of Cu-MOF nanospheres with HRP and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

	Substrate	<i>Km</i> (mM)	<i>Vmax</i> (M s <sup>-1</sup> )
HRP	TMB	0.434	3.44×10 <sup>-8</sup>
HRP	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	3.7	9.78×10 <sup>-8</sup>
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	TMB	0.098	3.44×10 <sup>-8</sup>
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	154	9.78×10 <sup>-8</sup>
Cu-MOF(1)	TMB	15.04	8.25×10 <sup>-7</sup>
Cu-MOF(1)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	4.04	2.07×10 <sup>-7</sup>
Cu-MOF(2)	TMB	0.80	1.00×10 <sup>-7</sup>
Cu-MOF(2)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.30	6.53×10 <sup>-8</sup>
Cu-MOF(3)	TMB	1.05	8.31×10 <sup>-8</sup>
Cu-MOF(3)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.273	4.65×10 <sup>-8</sup>

Table S2 Comparison of phosphate detection methods.

Detection technique	Sensor description	Range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Interferences	Reference
Electrochemical	Paper-based screen-printed electrode	~300	4		1
Fluorescence	lanthanide MOF	0.1~15	0.052		2
Fluorescence	morin-hydrotalcite complex	100-10000	32	$\text{CO}_3^{2-}$	3
Fluorescence	Zr-based MOF/rhodamine B	80 to 400	2		4
Colorimetric	$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ nanocubes/ $\text{Zr}^{4+}$	0.066-33.3	0.0498		5
Colorimetric	silver nanoplates/ $\text{Eu}^{3+}$	6-183	2		6
Fluorescence	Disposable wax-printed paper strip	0.001-0.064	0.001	$\text{NaCl}$ , $\text{F}^-$ , $\text{MgCl}_2$ , $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and $\text{KCl}$	7
Fluorescence	CIP- $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ /SDBS	0.02-4	0.004		8
Fluorescence	Zr based metal-organic frameworks	5-150	1.25		9
Fluorescence	lanthanide functionalized coordination polymer phenanthro[9,10-d]imidazole-coumarin	5-150	0.88		10
Fluorescence	phenanthro[9,10-d]imidazole-coumarin	Not mentioned	0.14		11
Colorimetric	$\text{Cu}$ -MOF/TMB- $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ system	0.05-5	0.02		This method

## References

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