

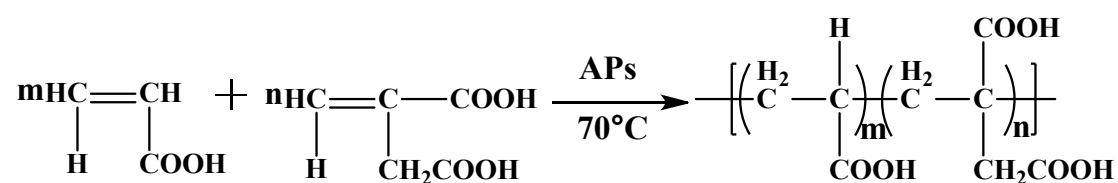
Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Synthesis of highly stable fluorescent poly(methacrylic acid-co-itaconic)-protected silver nanoclusters and sensitive detection for Cu²⁺

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Scheme 1S The synthesis route of P(MAA-co-IA)

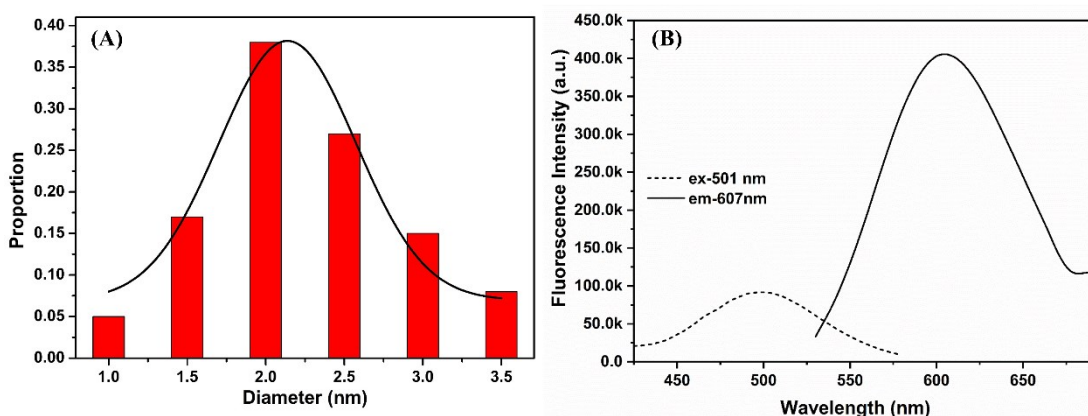


Fig. S1 P(MAA-co-IA)-protected AgNCs: (A) The size profile from SEM. (B) Fluorescence emission and excitation spectra (λ_{ex} =501 nm). The synthesis conditions: the irradiation time 220 s; the molar ratio of precursor, 3/1; the pH value of the solution, 5.02.

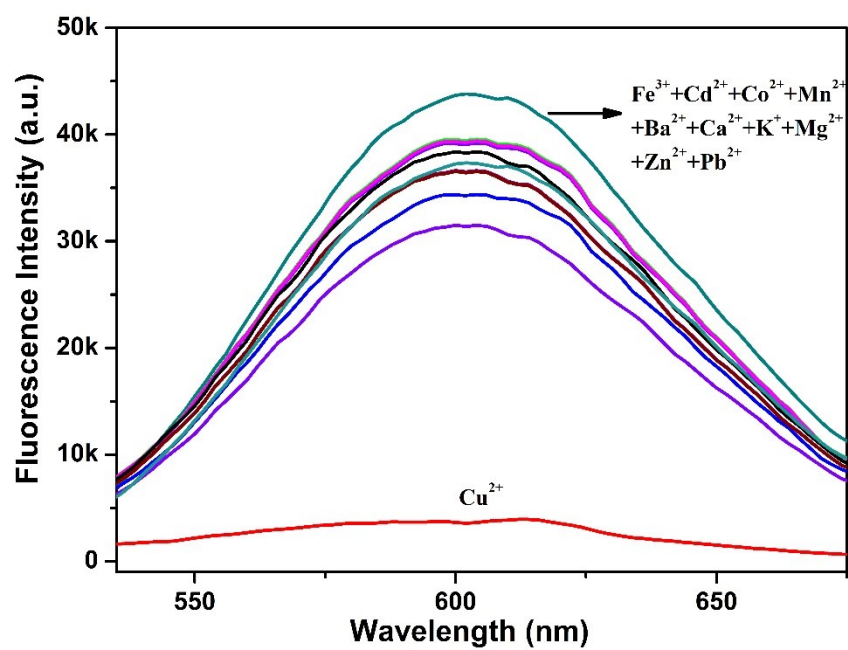


Fig. S2 Fluorescence spectra of P(MAA-co-IA)-protected AgNCs in the presence of different metal ions in aqueous solution.

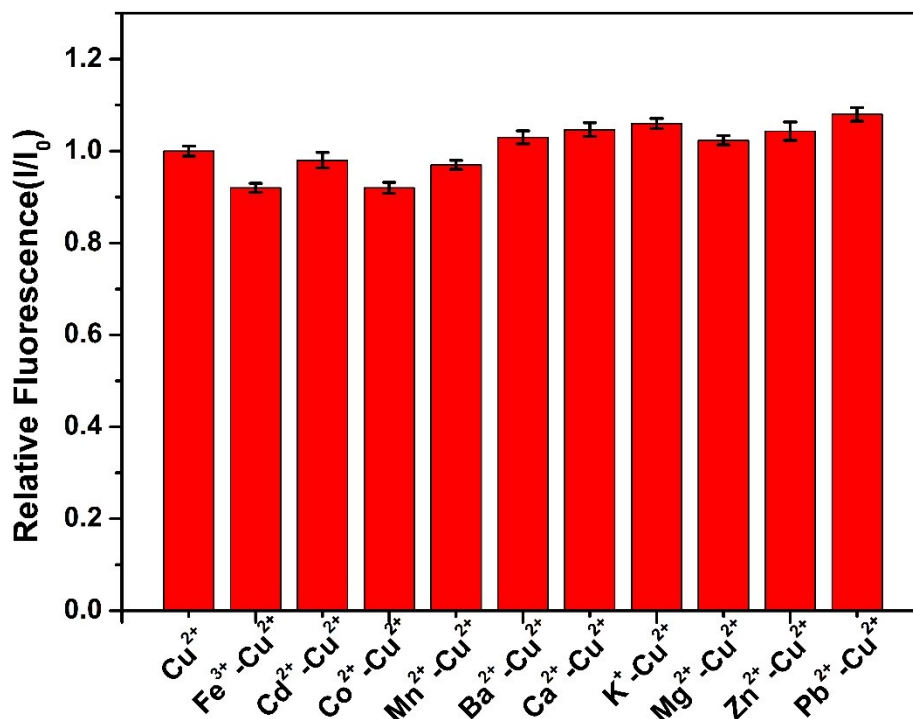


Fig. S3 Fluorescence changes of Ag NCs quenched by Cu²⁺ in the presence of different mental ions. The concentrations of other metallic ions except for Cu²⁺ (10 μ M) are 50 μ M. I₀ and I represent the fluorescence intensity of AgNCs in the absence and in the presence of other metallic ions.

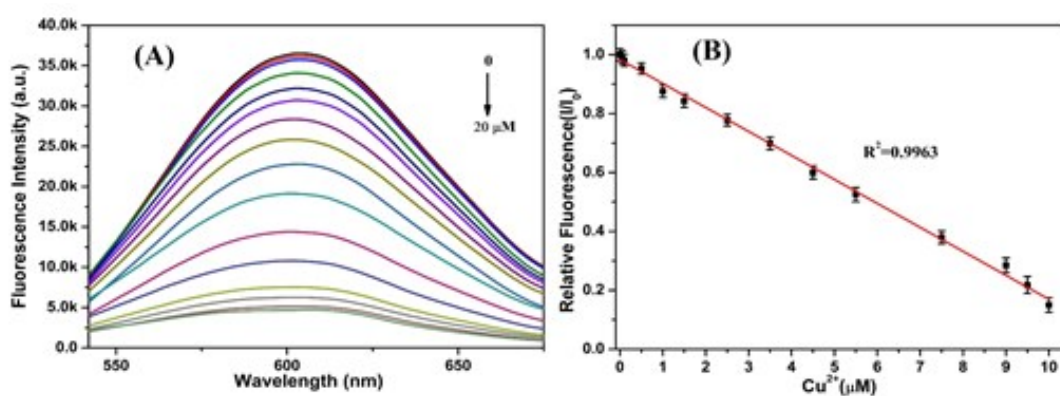


Fig. S4 (A) The fluorescence emission changes of AgNCs incubated with different concentrations of Cu²⁺ prepared through the ultrapure water. (B) The standard calibration curve based on the relative fluorescence intensity of AgNCs versus the concentration of Cu²⁺. I₀ and I respectively represent the fluorescence intensity of AgNCs before and after the addition of Cu²⁺ aqueous

solution.

Table S1 Determination of Cu²⁺ in tap-water samples.

Sample	Added (μmol/L)	Found (μmol/L)	Recovery (%)	RSD (%, n=3)
Tap water 1	1.0	0.97	97.00	3.21
Tap water 2	3.0	3.01	100.33	1.36
Tap water 3	5.0	5.06	101.20	1.57
Tap water 4	7.0	6.99	99.86	2.31

Table S2 Detection performance of Cu²⁺ based on analysis method of different fluorescent nanomaterials

Nanomaterials	Linear range	Detection limit	Reference
PEI-Ag NCs	10nM -7.7 μL	10 nM	1
H ₂ L	110nM -3 μL	474 nM	2
DNA-Cu/Ag NCs	10 nM – 5 μL	5 nM	3
DHLA-Ag NCs	78 nM - 1500nM	34 nM	4
Lys-Au NCs	10 nM -7 μL	3 nM	5
DNA-Ag NCs	10 nM - 200 nM	8 nM	6
P(MAA-co-IA)-Ag NCs	0 - 10 μL	6.36 nM	This paper

References

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