

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

# Rationally Tuning the Active Sites of Copper-Based Catalysts towards Formaldehyde Reforming into Hydrogen

Shuang Chen,<sup>a</sup> Xueyan Pan,<sup>a</sup> Leilei Du,<sup>a,b</sup> Xiaoqing Yan,<sup>c</sup> Sha Li,<sup>d</sup> and Renhong Li<sup>a,b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> National Engineering Lab for Textile Fiber Materials and Processing Technology, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, Hangzhou, 310018, China.

<sup>b</sup> State Key Laboratory of Photocatalysis on Energy and Environment, Fuzhou University, Fuzhou, 350116, P. R. China.

<sup>c</sup> Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, Hangzhou 310018, China.

<sup>d</sup> Key Laboratory of Chemical Utilization of Forestry Biomass of Zhejiang Province, Zhejiang A & F University, Hangzhou, 311300, PR China.

**Corresponding Author**

\* E-mail: [lirenhong@zstu.edu.cn](mailto:lirenhong@zstu.edu.cn)

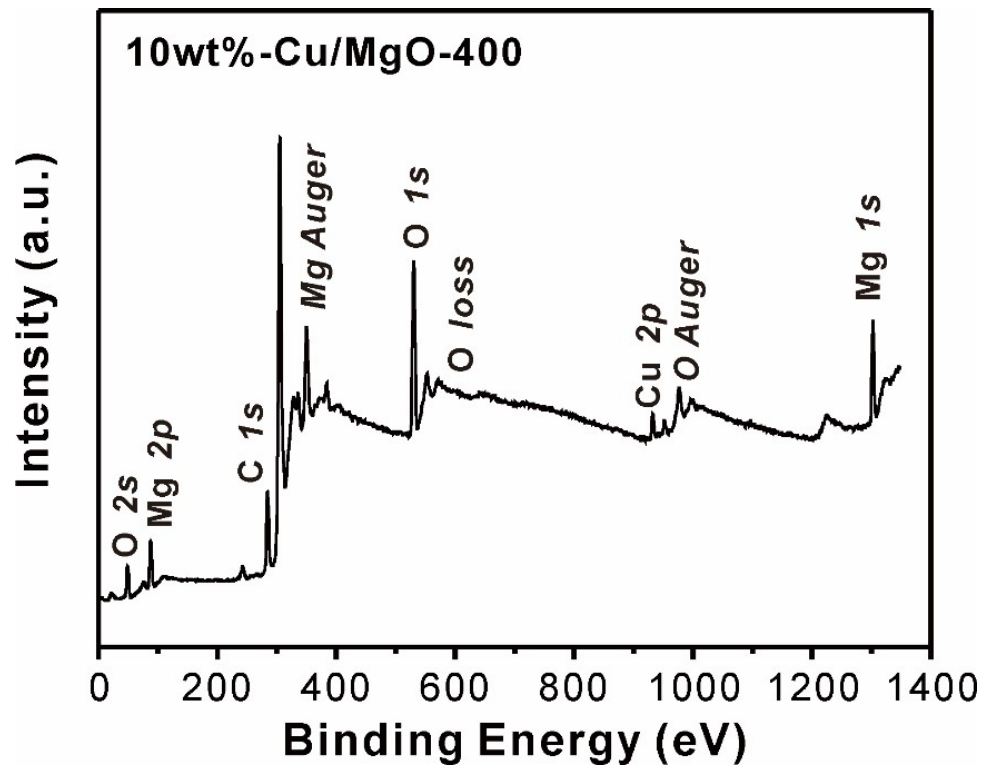
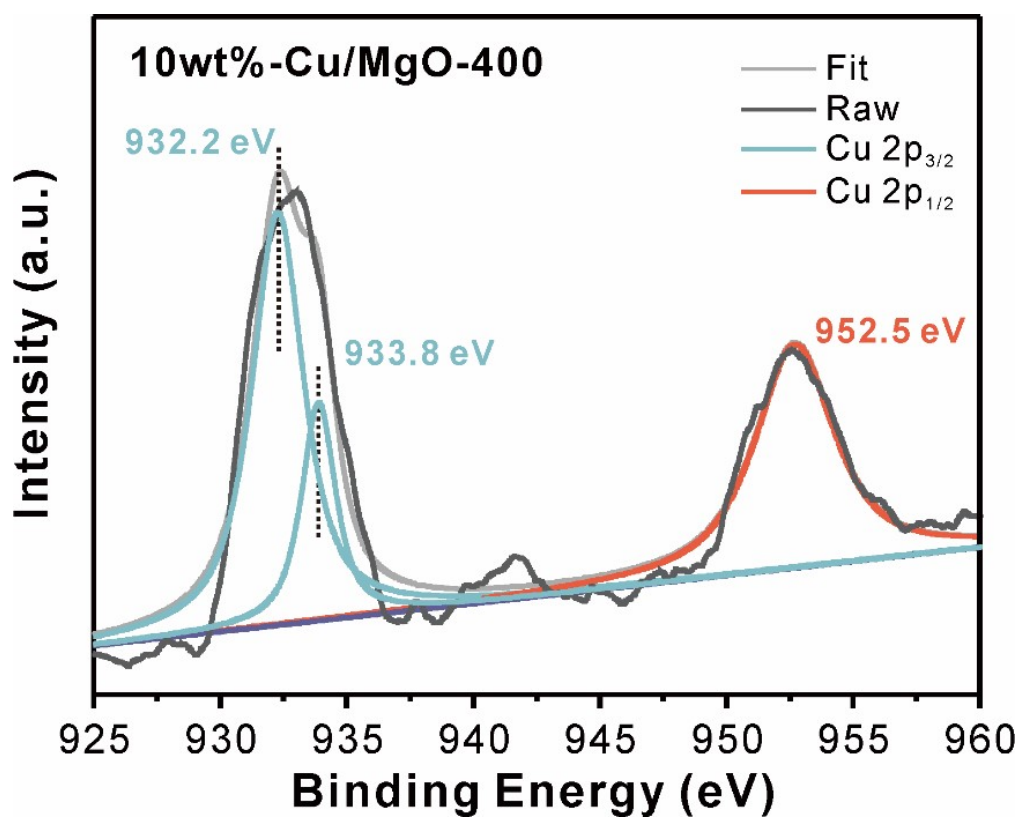
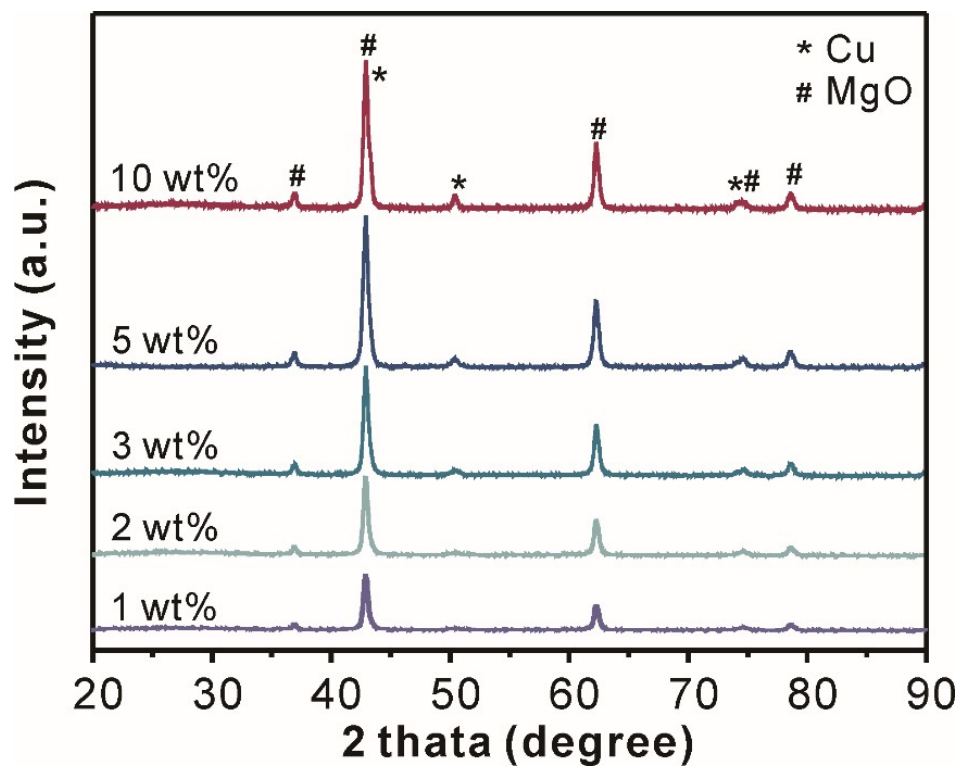


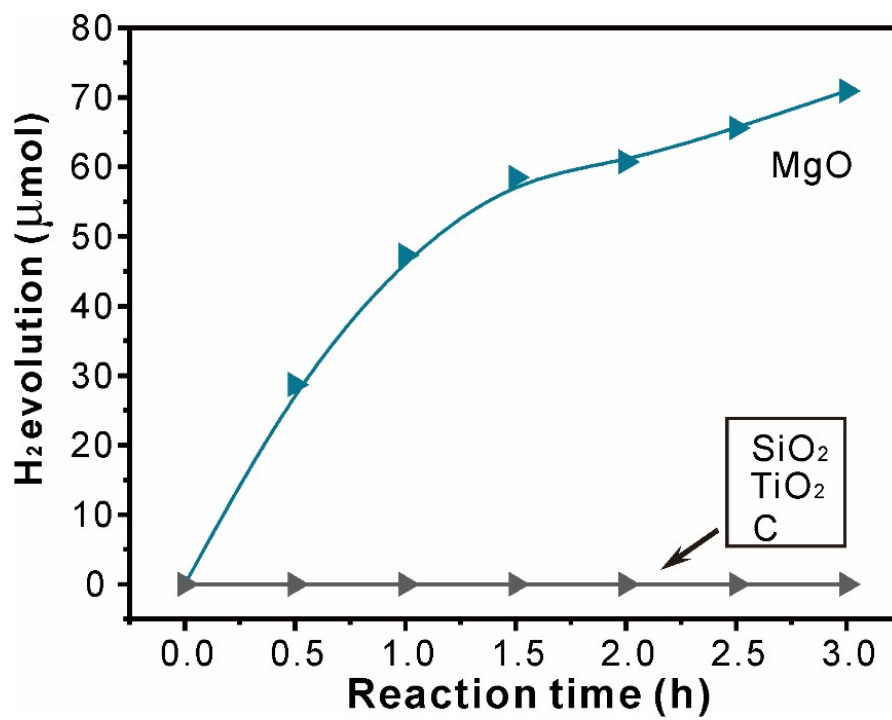
Figure S1 XPS spectra of 10 wt%-Cu/MgO-400.



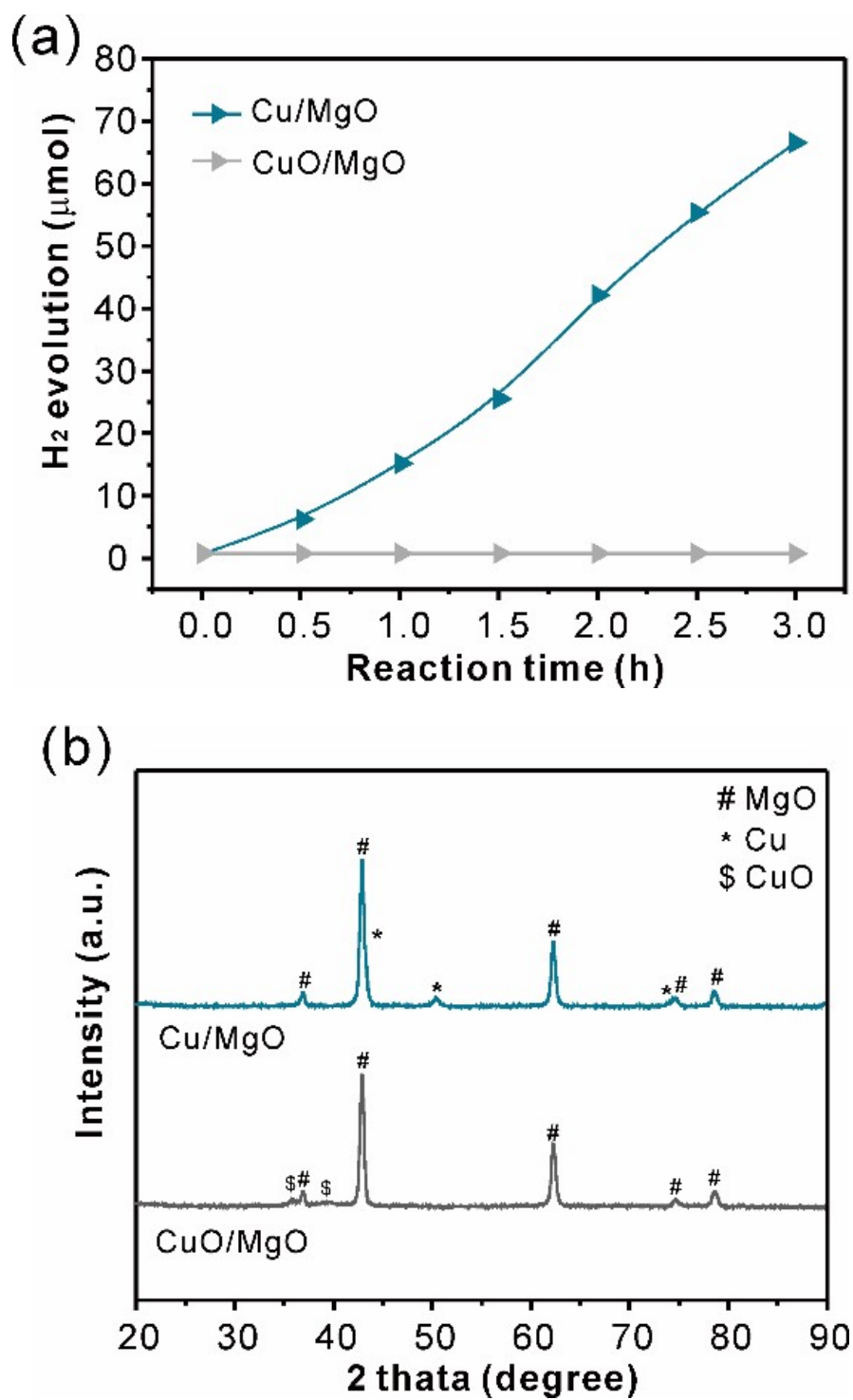
**Figure S2** Cu 2p XPS spectra of 10 wt%-Cu/MgO-400.



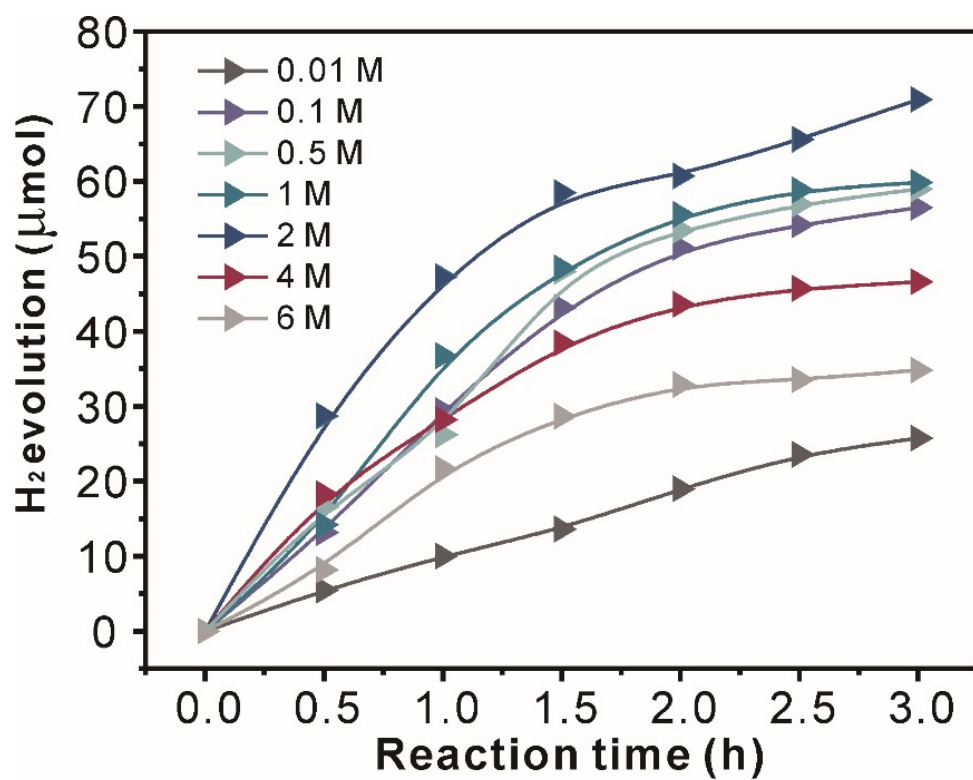
**Figure S3** XRD diffraction patterns of Cu/MgO-400 catalysts with different Cu contents calcined at 400 °C in H<sub>2</sub>/Ar for 3 h.



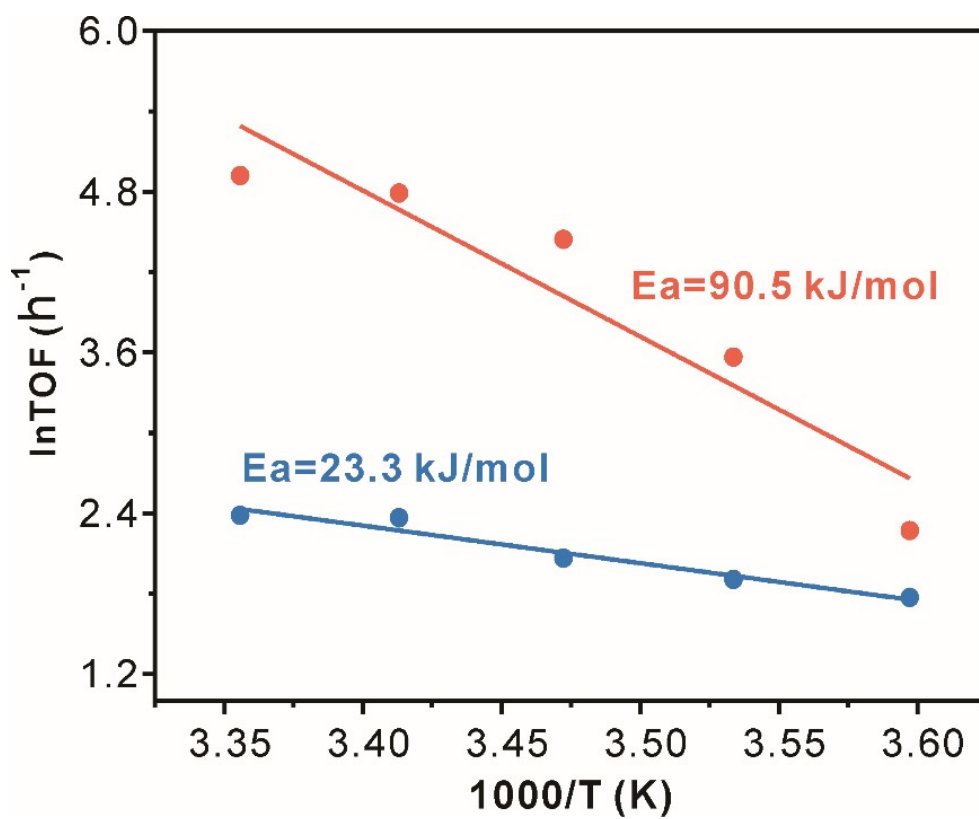
**Figure S4** The catalytic performance of 10 wt%-CuNPs-400 supported on different supports in anaerobic HCHO dehydrogenation reaction at room temperature.



**Figure S5** (a) The catalytic performance and (b) XRD patterns of 10 wt%-Cu/MgO-400 and 10 wt%-CuO/MgO-400 catalyst.

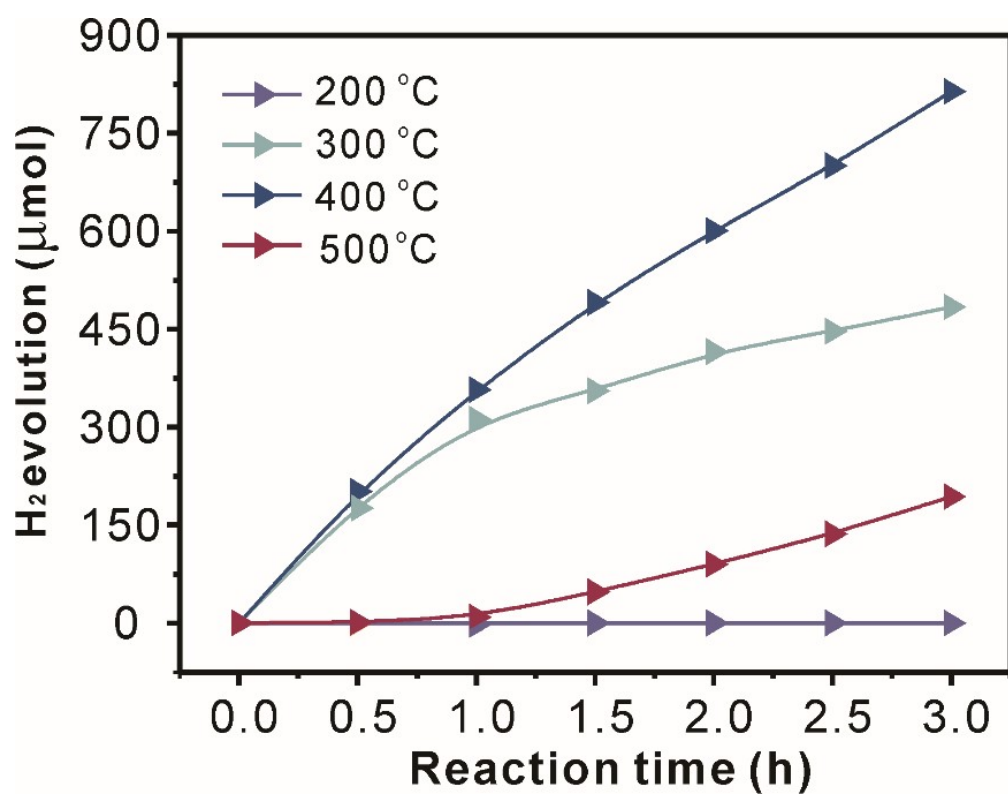


**Figure S6** The effect of HCHO concentration on catalytic hydrogen production over 10wt%-Cu/MgO-400 in N<sub>2</sub> at room temperature.

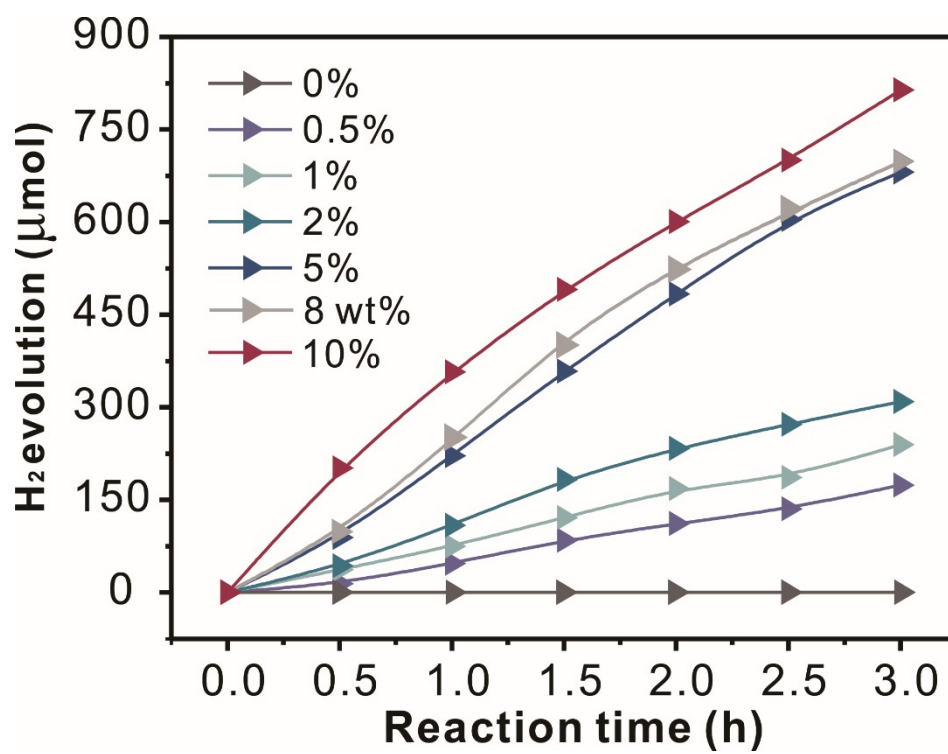


**Figure S7** Arrhenius plots of lnTOF vs (1000/T) over 10 wt%-Cu/MgO in anaerobic (blue line) and aerobic (orange line) systems.

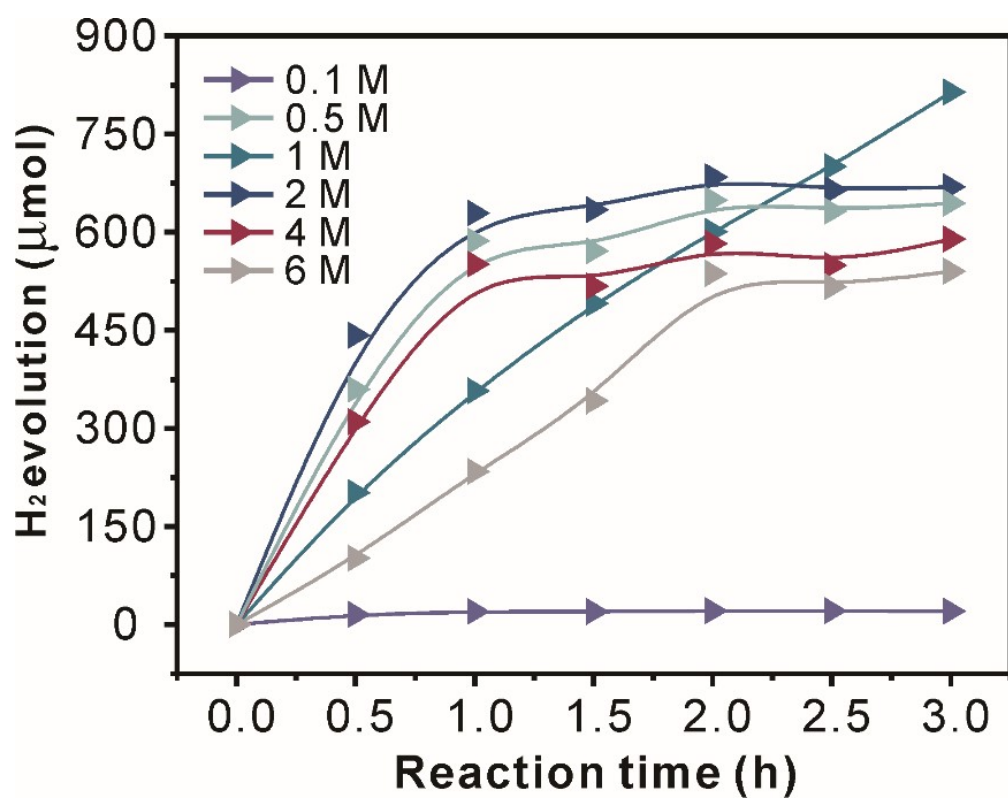




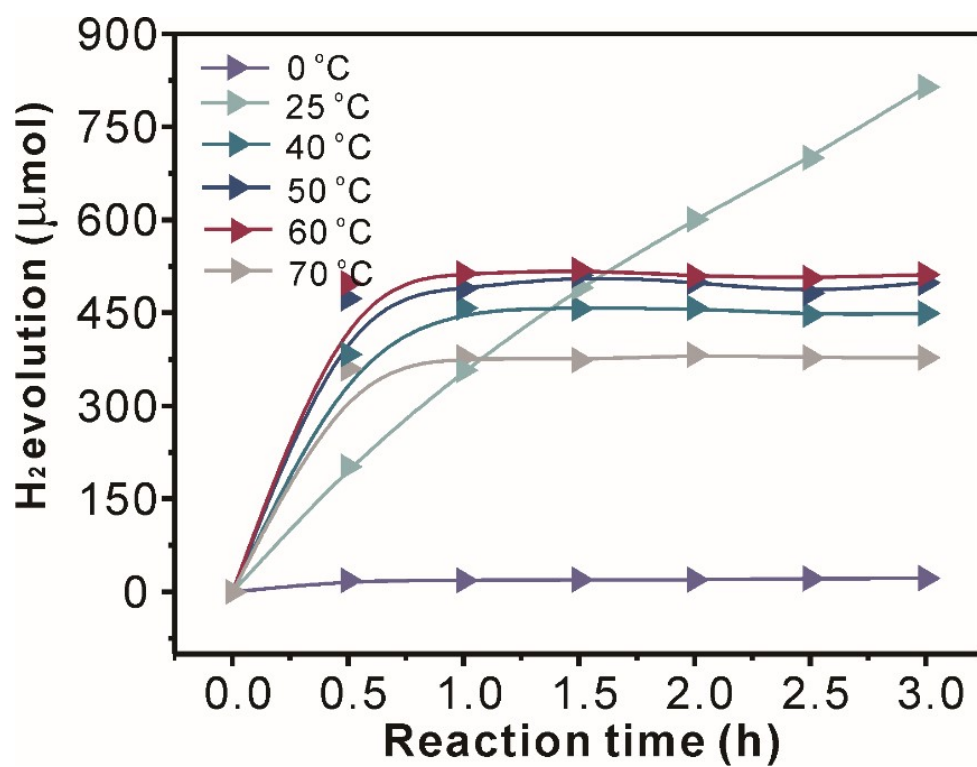
**Figure S8** The catalytic H<sub>2</sub> production performance of 10 wt%-Cu/MgO obtained under 400, 500, 600, and 700 °C.



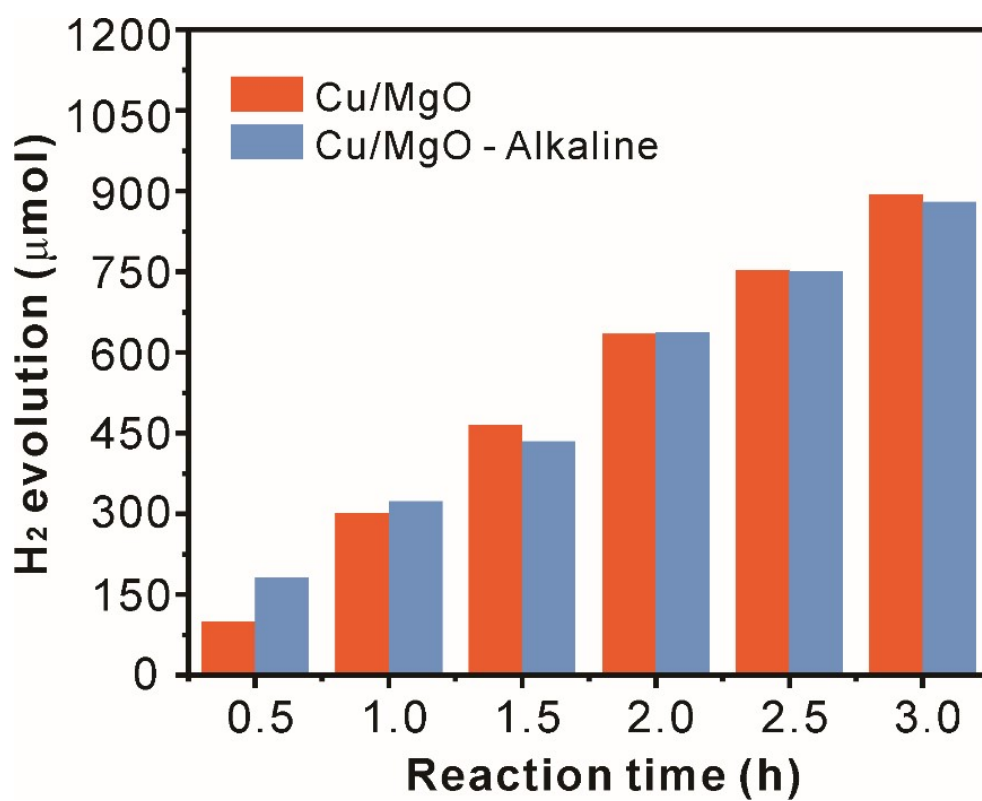
**Figure S9** The effect of Cu loading amount on the hydrogen evolution rate in air at room temperature.



**Figure S10** The effect of HCHO concentration on catalytic hydrogen production over 10wt%-Cu/MgO-400 in air at room temperature.



**Figure S11** The effect of reaction temperature on catalytic hydrogen production over 10wt%-Cu/MgO-400 in air at room temperature.



**Figure S12** The catalytic performance of 10wt%- Cu/MgO-400 in neutral and alkaline HCHO/H<sub>2</sub>O solution.

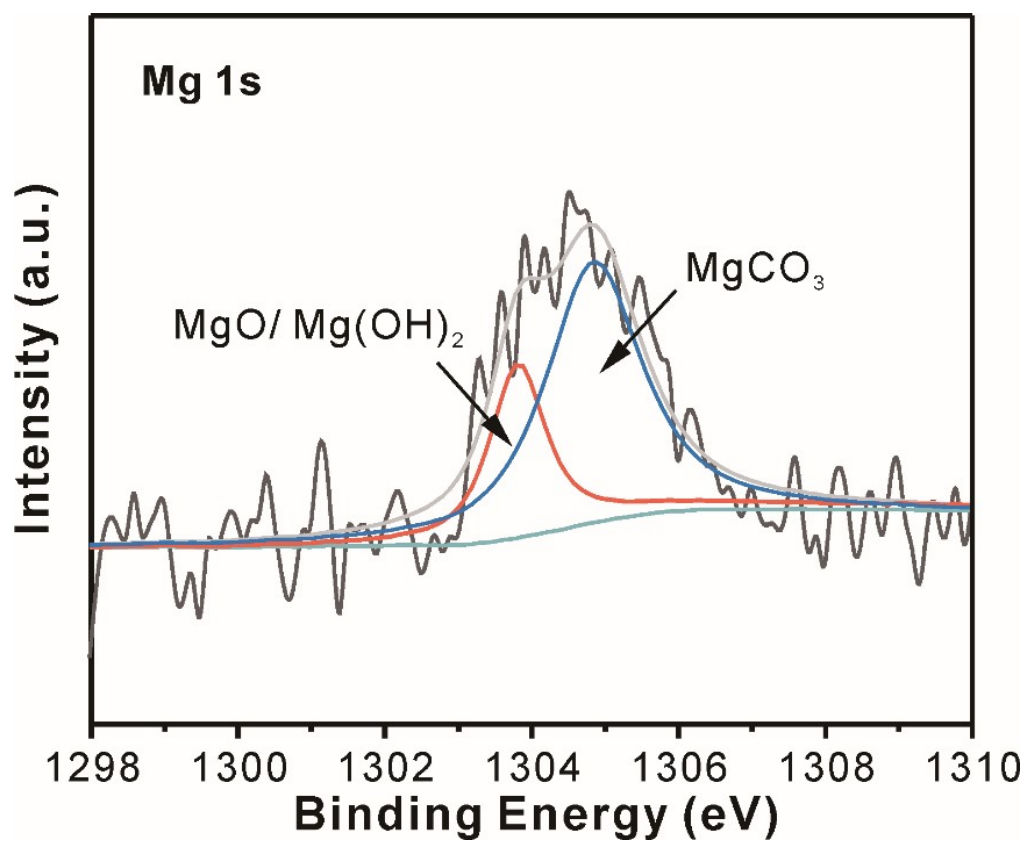


Figure S13 Mg 1s XPS spectra of 10 wt%-Cu/MgO-400 after the catalytic test.