

Supplementary material for

Orders of magnitude higher photoelectricity-ROS conversion efficiency of ubiquitous nanoscale natural ferralsol iron oxides than the synthetic ones: implication for their unexpected strong blocking-up of dissemination of antibiotic resistance in aquatic environment

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This supplementary material contains 4 texts, 6 tables, and 3 figures.

Text S1 Preparation of α -Fe₂O₃ nanoparticles and α -FeOOH nanorods

The α -Fe₂O₃ nanoparticles were purchased from Aladdin Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China) and used without further purification.

The α -FeOOH powders were synthesized via a facile hydrothermal method.¹ All the raw materials used were analytically pure chemical reagents without further treatment. First, the solution of 1 mmol ferric sulfate was titrated by the solution of 9 mmol NaOH. Second, the obtained precipitates and aqueous solution were moved into a 25 ml Teflon liner with the addition of 0.2 g Cetyl trimethyl ammonium Bromide (CTAB) as surfactant. Then, the mixture was hydrothermally reacted at the temperature of 180 °C for 2 h to synthesize single-phase α -FeOOH powders, and the specimens obtained were washed by deionized water and absolute ethyl alcohol for several times. After the specimens were cleaned and dried, grind them in an agate mortar to obtain the fine powder.

Text S2 Soil particles classification

According to the soil particle classification method,² the sediment particles were classified as follows.

(i) Gravel (>250 μ m). Sediment of 50.0 g was passed through a 60-mesh sieve. The residue on the sieve was gravel (>250 μ m), and the sieved fraction (< 250 μ m) was used for further classification.

(ii) Fine sand (50–250 μm). The sieved fraction was loaded into a beaker with 1.0 L of deionized water and dispersed for 10 min under ultrasonic treatment. Then, the suspension was passed through a 300-mesh sieve and washed with 400 mL of deionized water. The residue on the sieve was fine sand. The sieved fraction ($< 50 \mu\text{m}$) was collected for further classification.

(iii) Silt (5–50 μm). The suspension obtained in the step³ was transferred into a 2.0-L beaker with 1.6 L of deionized water (approximately 13 cm in depth). The suspension was completely mixed with a glass stirring rod for 5.0 min and then began to settle without any disturbance. According to the Stokes' law, settling time of 74 min was required for particles of $> 5 \mu\text{m}$. After 74 min, 1.3 L of overlying water was drained by siphon. Then, 1.3 L of deionized water was replenished for another 74 min of settlement. The above steps were repeated 3–5 times until the supernatant was free of turbidity. The settled solids in the beaker bottom were silt (5–50 μm). All the drained overlying water (containing particles of $< 5 \mu\text{m}$) was combined for further classification.

(iv) Fine silt (1–5 μm). Five milliliters of the above overlying water was centrifuged (TGL-15B, Shanghai Anting, China) at 2000 rpm (relative centrifugal force, RCF = 430 g) for 7.0 min. After centrifugation, the pellet was fine silt with a diameter of 1 to 5 μm , and the supernatant containing particles of $< 1 \mu\text{m}$ was collected and freeze-dried for further treatment (see Text S3).

The centrifugation time was calculated by the following formula:

$$Ts = \frac{27.4 \times \ln \frac{R_{\max}}{R_{\min}} \mu}{n^2 r^2 (\sigma - \rho)} \text{ (min)} \quad (1),$$

where Ts is the centrifugation time; “ $\sigma - \rho$ ” represents the density difference between sediment particles and water (g/cm^3), and $1.65 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$ is adopted; μ represents the water viscosity coefficient ($0.01005 \text{ g}/\text{cm/s}$ at 20°C); n represents revolution speed (rpm); r represents the radius of particle (cm); and R_{\max} and R_{\min} represent the horizontal distance from the axis of the centrifuger to the liquid bottom and surface, respectively (cm).

Text S3 Natural iron mineral purification

Add the submicron-colloidal soil particles ($< 1 \mu\text{m}$) of $0.1\text{-}0.5 \text{ g}$ into several 50-ml Teflon crucibles, add hydrogen peroxide to remove organic matter, heat to remove excess hydrogen peroxide. 40 ml of 5 M NaOH was added in each crucibles,⁴⁻⁶ the mixture was boiled at the temperature of 120°C for two hours to remove silicate, silicoaluminate, silica, etc. After filtering to obtain solid nanoparticles, wash the sample twice with 0.5 M HCl (20 min of contact) to remove sodalite, once with 0.1 M hydroxylamine hydrochloride to clean manganese oxide and heavy metals,⁷ and twice with deionized water. Subsequently, use a strong magnet (1.4 T) to absorb weakly magnetic iron oxides⁸ and freeze-dry them for experiments.

Instructions for filtration: use suction filtration device, $0.1 \mu\text{M}$ PTFE filter membrane, intercepting nanoparticles. After the filtration, place the filter membrane into a centrifuge tube and add the solvent required in the above steps. Ultrasound for 10 minutes (with appropriate

scraping) to separate the nanoparticles from the filter membrane and thoroughly mix with the solvent, ensure that there are no large particles. When carrying out the next cleaning step, change the required solvent and perform a similar suction filtration step.

Instructions for magnetic attraction: utilize the weak magnetism of iron oxides to further purify nanoparticles through magnetic attraction. Use a long, strong magnetic magnet, make a slight height difference between the two ends of the magnet, Start pouring the nanoparticle solution from a high position and make the solution flow across the cross-section of the magnet. Repeat several times, and collect the particles adsorbed on the magnetic cross-section.

Text S4 Iron oxide characterization

Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) analysis was performed by a Rigaku Smartlab-9KW diffractometer with Cu-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.15406$ nm) at a current of 40 mA and a voltage of 40 kV. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) and valence band-X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (VB-XPS) were obtained on a Thermo Scientific K-Alpha instrument with a monochromatic Al K α source. The electrochemical measurements were performed following the procedure described in a previous publication⁹ but change “1 mg MOFs was dispersed in 2 mL ethanol containing 33 μ L Nafion” to “3 mg of nanoparticle was dispersed in 550 μ L of ethanol containing 50 μ L Nafion”. Photocurrent measurements were conducted in a three-

electrode system (0 V vs. Ag/AgCl reference, Pt counter electrode) with 0.1 M Na_2SO_4 electrolyte under AM 1.5G illumination (1000 W/m²).

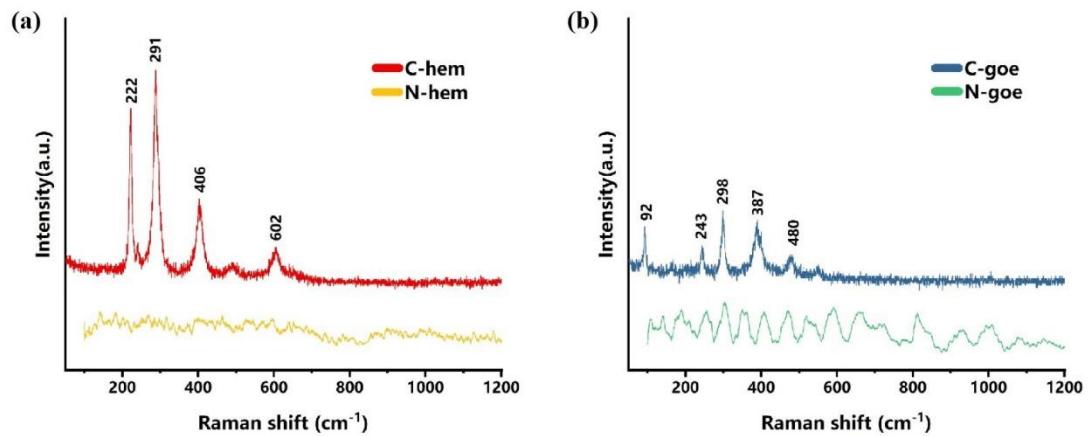


Fig. S1. Raman spectra of (a) N-hem and C-hem, (b) N-goe and C-goe. Due to long-term weathering and aging, NNIOs did not exhibit good peak while the synthetic materials exhibit good peak.

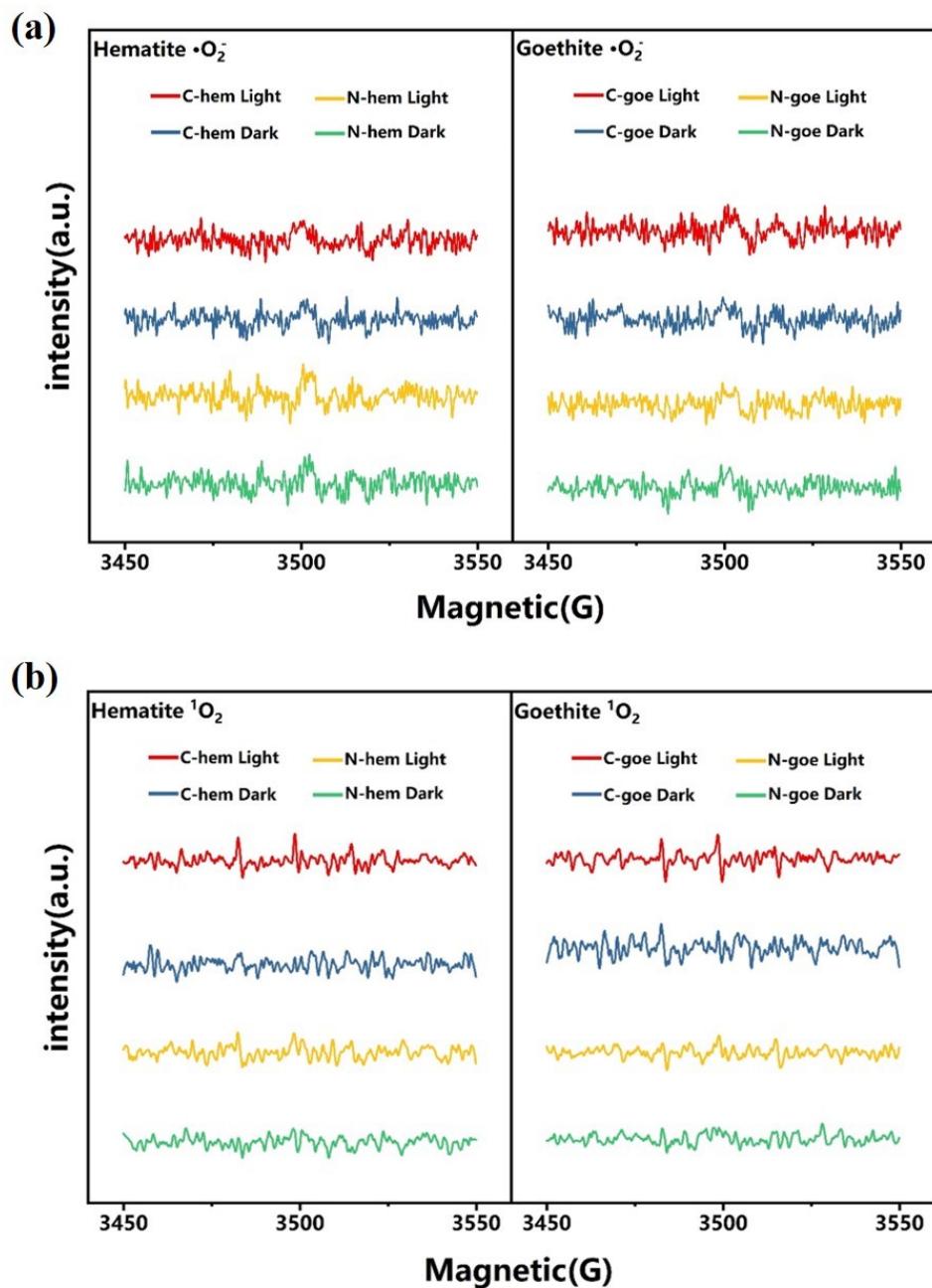


Fig. S2. EPR spectra of (a) DMPO/ $\text{O}_2\bullet\text{-}$ adduct, (b) TEMP/ $^1\text{O}_2$ adduct in four kinds of iron

oxide solutions measured right after illumination or after illumination, leave in dark for another 30 minutes.

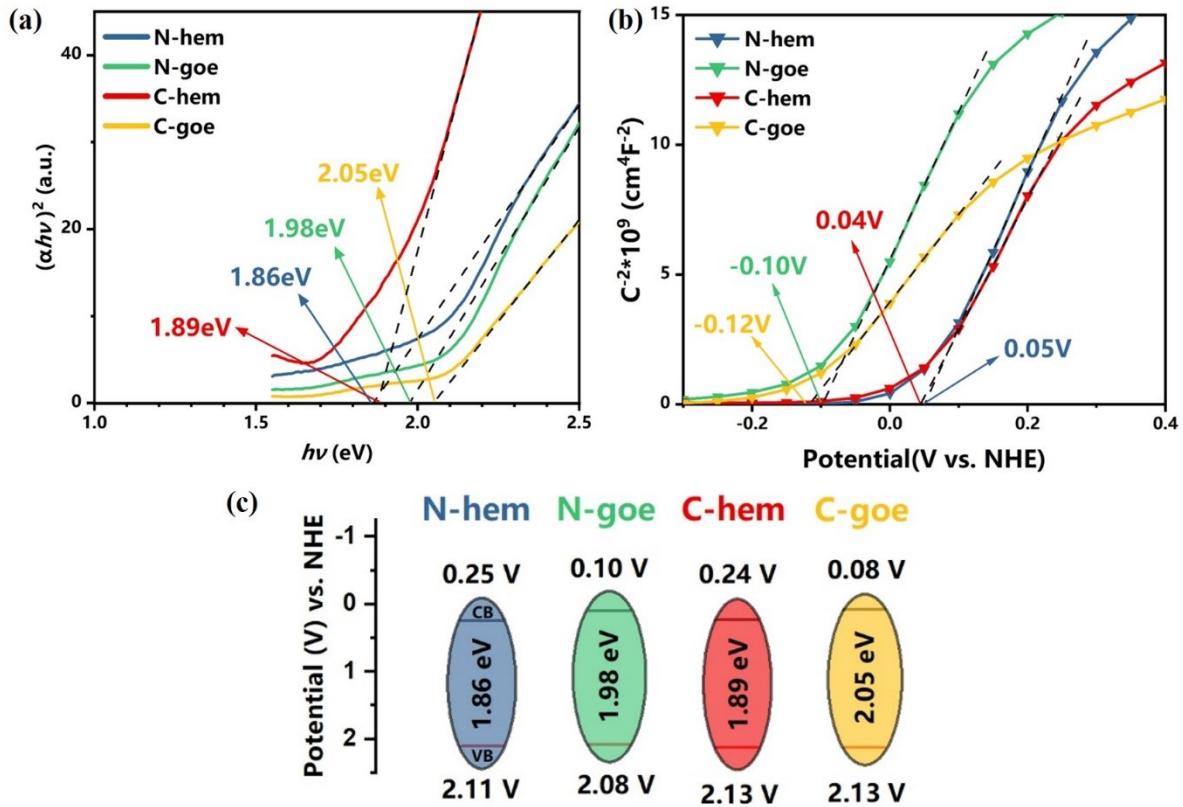


Fig. S3. (a) Tauc plots, (b) Mott–Schottky plots, (c) Band-structure characterization of N-hem, N-goe, C-hem, C-goe.

Table S1 C_t values and log₁₀(copies) data of 10-fold dilution method

| Sample | Target | | | |
|------------|--------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Name | Name | C _t | Copies | log ₁₀ (copies) |
| M-0 | AMPR | 8.556077 | 2352373290.43 | 9.37150624 |
| M-0 | AMPR | 8.31573296 | 2352373290.43 | 9.37150624 |
| M-1 | AMPR | 11.1768646 | 235237329.04 | 8.37150624 |
| M-1 | AMPR | 11.0923681 | 235237329.04 | 8.37150624 |
| M-2 | AMPR | 14.4460735 | 23523732.90 | 7.37150624 |
| M-2 | AMPR | 14.7593117 | 23523732.90 | 7.37150624 |
| M-3 | AMPR | 18.1401443 | 2352373.29 | 6.37150624 |
| M-3 | AMPR | 18.2365665 | 2352373.29 | 6.37150624 |
| M-4 | AMPR | 21.8466816 | 235237.33 | 5.37150624 |
| M-4 | AMPR | 21.7944031 | 235237.33 | 5.37150624 |
| M-5 | AMPR | 24.9625874 | 23523.73 | 4.37150624 |
| M-5 | AMPR | 24.6737576 | 23523.73 | 4.37150624 |
| M-6 | AMPR | 27.7146854 | 2352.37 | 3.37150624 |
| M-6 | AMPR | 27.983305 | 2352.37 | 3.37150624 |

* Amplification efficiency is 100.28%, $\log_{10}(\text{copies}) = -0.3011 * C_t + 11.828$, $R^2=0.9983$

Table S2 Statistical analysis using t.test functions for photo-sterilization of ARB

| p-value | N-hem & C-hem | N-goe & C-goe |
|---------|---------------|---------------|
| 15 MIN | 0.1715 | 0.03805 |
| 30 MIN | 0.009011 | 0.053 |

* The p-value is calculated based on the comparison of bactericidal rate between natural and synthetic catalysts.

Table S3 Statistical analysis using TukeyHSD functions for photo-sterilization of ARB

| p-value | N-hem | C-hem | N-goe | C-goe |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 15 MIN-0 MIN | 3.63E-06 | 0.05955 | 0.001797 | 0.003346 |
| 30 MIN-0 MIN | 0.0006757 | 0.003135 | 0.004428 | 0.01796 |
| 30 MIN-15 MIN | 0.09946 | 0.9257 | 0.4019 | 0.9702 |

* The p-value is calculated based on the calculation of the bactericidal rate by a single catalyst at 0 min, 15 min, 30 min.

Table S4 Statistical analysis using TukeyHSD functions photodegradation effects on eARGs

| p-value | N-hem | C-hem | N-goe | C-goe |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 15 MIN-0 MIN | 0.0026982 | 0.0630685 | 0.0001467 | 0.0040763 |
| 30 MIN-0 MIN | 0.0004449 | 0.0263038 | 0.0000102 | 0.001172 |
| 30 MIN-15 MIN | 0.3815482 | 0.8433087 | 0.0491178 | 0.533442 |

* The p-value is calculated based on the calculation of the degradation amount of eARGs by a single catalyst at 0 min, 15 min, 30 min.

Table S5 Statistical analysis using t.test functions photodegradation effects on eARGs

| p-value | N-hem & C-hem | N-goe & C-goe |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 15 MIN | 1.02E-10 | 6.72E-06 |
| 30 MIN | 3.36E-07 | 2.771E-11 |

* The p-value is calculated based on the calculation of the degradation amount of eARGs by NNIOs and synthetic ones).

Table S6 The conductive doped elements in NNIOs (mg/kg)

| Sample | Mn | Ti | Co | Ni |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Name | | | | |
| N-hem | 3463.405 | 4572.751 | 82.33895362 | 1088.091412 |
| N-goe | 233.0165 | 3207.155 | 9.543344 | 294.1108 |

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