

## Supporting Information

# Regulating the compactness of Cu nanoclusters with assembly-induced emission properties for highly sensitive optical strain sensing

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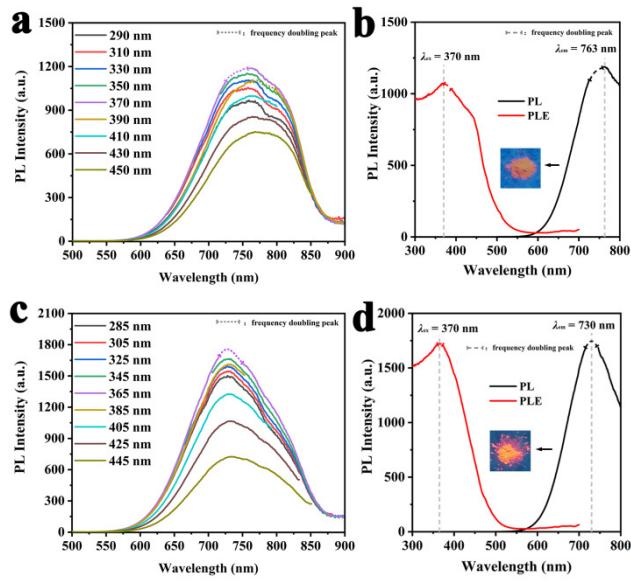
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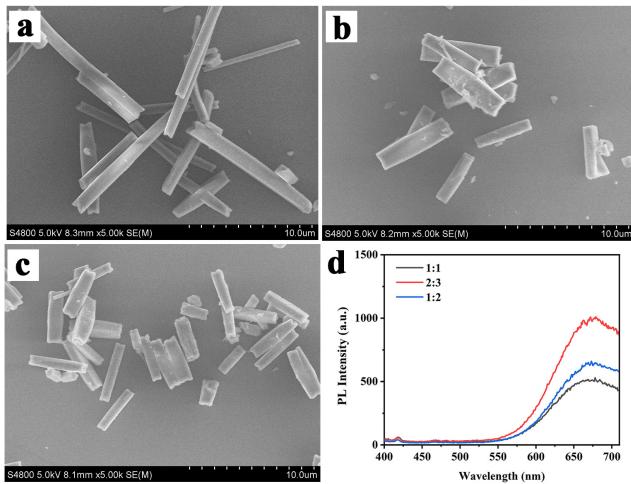
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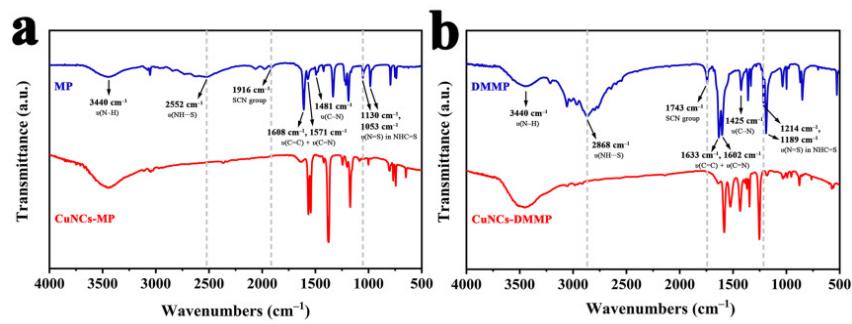
† Xinbin Wang and Shan Chen made equal contribution to this work.



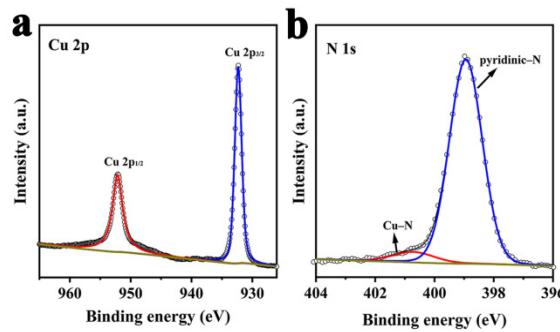
**Fig. S1** PL spectra of (a) CuNCs-MP and (c) CuNCs-DMMP powder under different excitation wavelengths. Photoemission (black line) and photoexcitation (red line) spectra of (b) CuNCs-MP and (d) CuNCs-DMMP powder.



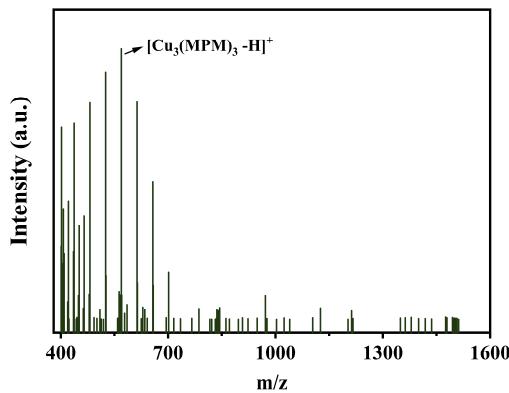
**Fig. S2** SEM images of MMP-capped CuNCs assemblies with different Cu/MMP ratios: (a) 1:1, (b) 2:3, and (c) 1:2. (d) PL spectra of MMP-capped CuNCs assemblies with different Cu/MMP ratios.



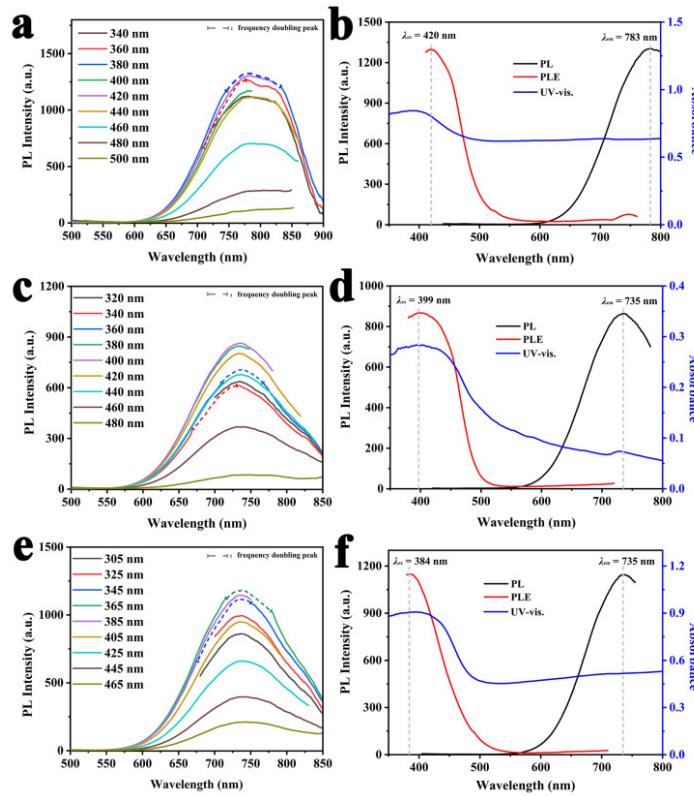
**Fig. S3** FTIR spectra of (a) CuNCs-MP and (b) CuNCs-DMMP.



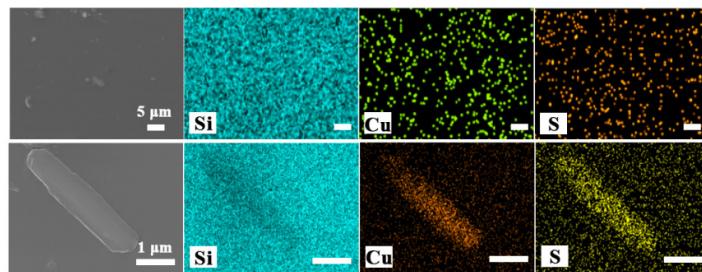
**Fig. S4** XPS spectra of (a) Cu 2p and (b) N 1S of CuNCs-MMP.



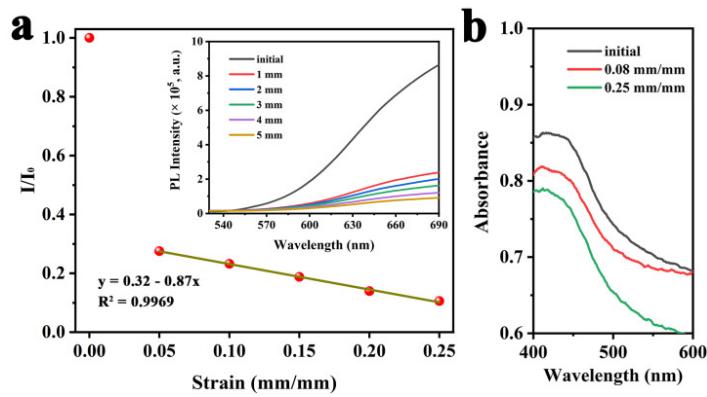
**Fig. S5** ESI-MS spectrum of CuNCs-MMP.



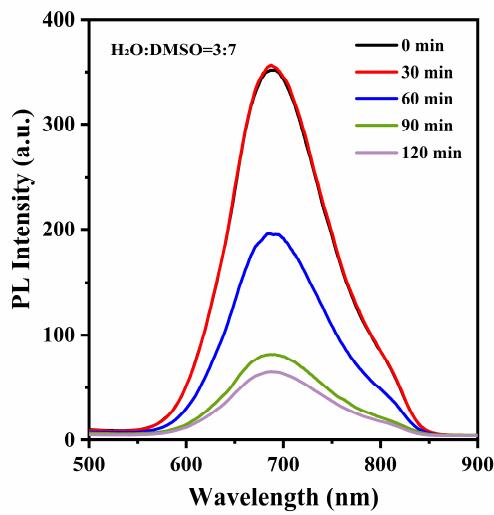
**Fig. S6** PL spectra of (a) CuNCs-MP/PDMS, (c) CuNCs-MMP/PDMS and (e) CuNCs-DMMP/PDMS composite elastomers under different excitation wavelengths. Photoemission (black line), photoexcitation (red line) and UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra (blue line) of (b) CuNCs-MP/PDMS, (d) CuNCs-MMP/PDMS and (f) CuNCs-DMMP/PDMS composite elastomers.



**Fig. S7** SEM images with different magnifications and corresponding EDS mappings of surface of CuNCs-MMP/PDMS.



**Fig. S8** (a) Plot of relative fluorescence intensity  $I/I_0$  of CuNCs-MMP/PDMS composite elastomer as function of high stain, where  $I_0$  is PL intensity at 690 nm of the sample at initial state; inset is collection of PL spectra obtained during high-strain tensile testing. (b) UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra of CuNCs-MMP/PDMS at different strains.



**Fig. S9** Collection of PL spectra of CuNCs-MMP obtained in  $\text{H}_2\text{O:DMSO}$  mixture ( $\text{H}_2\text{O:DMSO} = 3:7$ ) recorded at intervals of 30 min.