

Supporting information

Ag incorporation in atomically precise Au₃Ag₃Cu₆ nanoclusters promotes electrocatalytic nitrate-to-ammonia conversion

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Materials and Reagents

Copper tetrafluoroborate tetracyanide ([Cu(CH₃CN)₄]BF₄, 98%), HAuCl₄·3H₂O (99% metal basis), silver nitrate (AgNO₃, 99%), 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzenethiol (SR, 98%), sodium borohydride (NaBH₄, 99%), and 2,6-bis(diphenylphosphino)pyridine (dpppy, 98%), dichloromethane (DCM, HPLC grade), methanol (MeOH, HPLC grade), ethyl alcohol (EtOH HPLC grade), acetone (ACE, HPLC grade), and *n*-hexane (*n*-Hex, HPLC grade).

Synthesis of the Au₃Cu₉(SR)₆(dpppy)₃Cl₅ nanocluster

In a 50 mL round-bottom flask, dissolve 60 mg of [Cu(CH₃CN)₄]BF₄ and 40 mg of HAuCl₄·3H₂O in 10 mL of ACE and 10 mL of DCM. Stir the solution vigorously at room temperature for 10 minutes; the solution immediately turns green. Next, add 100 mg of 2,6-bis(diphenylphosphine)pyridine to the flask. After reacting for 5 minutes, add 50 μL of 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzenethiol under vigorous stirring, and the solution turns orange. Then, 1 mL of sodium borohydride methanol solution (10 mg mL⁻¹) is rapidly added to the reaction mixture under vigorous stirring, and the solution color immediately changes from orange to brown. The reaction is then carried out at room temperature for 5 hours until the solution turns yellow, indicating the formation of the cluster. The mixture is then washed three times with DCM and *n*-hex. The crystal was crystallized in DCM/*n*-hex (1:3) under dark conditions at room temperature, and orange needle-like single crystal were obtained after 3 days. Based on the Au element used for synthesizing the Au₃Cu₉ nanocluster (calculated from HAuCl₄·3H₂O), the yield is 29%.

Synthesis of the Au₃Ag₃Cu₆(SR)₆(dpppy)₃Cl₅ nanocluster

The method for synthesizing Au₃Ag₃Cu₆ is essentially the same as that for Au₃Cu₉, except that after adding 1 mL of sodium borohydride methanol solution (10 mg mL⁻¹), 60 mg of AgNO₃ is added, causing the solution color to change from brown to black. The washing method remains the same, and after 5 days, orange-yellow rod-shaped single crystals are obtained. Based on the Au element used for

synthesizing Au₃Ag₃Cu₆ nanoclusters (calculated from HAuCl₄·3H₂O), the yield is 36%.

Experimental method

Characterizations

Electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) was conducted on a Waters XEVO G2-XS QT mass spectrometer. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed using a Shimadzu DTG-60H instrument. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) data were collected on a Rigaku Smartlab 9 kW diffractometer equipped with a Cu K α radiation source operating at 40 kV and 200 mA, with a scanning range of $2\theta = 10 - 80^\circ$ and a step size of 0.01° . X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) measurements were carried out on a Thermo ESCALAB 250 spectrometer using a monochromated Al K α X-ray source (1486.8 eV) at 150 W with a spot size of 0.5 mm. The analysis chamber was maintained at a base pressure better than 1×10^{-9} mbar, and spectra were recorded with a pass energy of 20 eV. Ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectra of all nanoclusters were obtained using an Agilent 8453 spectrophotometer. Photoluminescence (PL) spectra were measured with a HORIBA Fluoro Max⁺ spectrofluorometer, and fluorescence lifetimes were determined on a HORIBA FluoroMax-4P instrument using diluted solutions. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD) data were acquired on a Stoe Stadivari diffractometer under a nitrogen stream at 120 K, employing graphite-monochromated Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54186 \text{ \AA}$). Data reduction was performed using the SAINT software, and structural refinement was conducted with Olex 2.

Electrochemical measurements

The electrocatalytic reduction of nitrate was conducted using a CHI 660E electrochemical workstation. A three-electrode configuration was employed, with nickel foam-supported cluster catalysts serving as the working electrode, platinum sheets functioning as the counter electrode, and Ag/AgCl electrodes acting as the reference electrode. The reaction took place in an H-shaped electrolytic cell at room temperature, with the anode and cathode chambers physically separated by Nafion 117 membranes. The specific preparation process of the working electrode is as follows: Firstly, 5 mg of cluster solid is weighed and mixed with 480 μL of deionized water, 480 μL of anhydrous ethanol and 40 μL of Nafion solution with a mass fraction of 5%. After ultrasonic dispersion treatment, a uniform and orange-yellow ink is obtained. Subsequently, 40 μL of ink was taken with a pipette and evenly coated on the surface of a pre-cut 1 cm \times 1 cm nickel foam in five equal portions, and let it dry naturally at ambient temperature to form the final catalytic electrode. In the electrochemical test, 40 mL of 0.5 M K₂SO₄ electrolyte containing 0.5 M KNO₃ was injected into the cathode chamber, while 40 mL of 0.5 M K₂SO₄ solution was used in the anode chamber. The electrochemical behavior of the electrode was investigated by linear scanning voltammetry. The scanning speed was fixed at 50 mV/s. All recorded current data were standardized based on the geometric area of the working electrode to be converted into current density. Before implementing potentiostatic electrolysis, linear scanning should be continuously carried out at this scanning rate until the obtained volt-ampere curve tends to be stable and has good repeatability. The final potentiostatic electrolysis experiment was carried out at different selected potentials respectively. The continuous reaction time at each potential point was 1 hour. During the experiment, the cathode electrolyte was continuously disturbed at a speed of 800 rpm by a magnetic stirrer to ensure effective mass transfer between the reactants and the electrode interface.

Determination of products

The concentration of ammonium ions (NH₄⁺) in the reaction solution was quantitatively analyzed using the indolephenol blue method. The specific steps are as follows: First, accurately measure 2 mL

of the reaction solution to be tested. Next, add 2 mL of a 1 M sodium hydroxide mixed solution containing 2 wt.% salicylic acid and 1 wt% sodium citrate. This addition facilitates the complexation reaction between salicylic acid and ammonium ions under alkaline conditions. Subsequently, 0.2 mL of the diluted 0.05 mol L⁻¹ sodium hypochlorite solution and 0.2 mL of the 1 wt.% sodium nitroprusside solution were combined. The resulting mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 2 hours to facilitate complete color development. Subsequently, the absorbance value of the absorption peak at 655 nm was measured using an ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer. For quantitative analysis, standard curves were generated concurrently using ammonium chloride standard solutions at concentrations of 1 mg L⁻¹, 2 mg L⁻¹, 3 mg L⁻¹, 4 mg L⁻¹, and 5 mg L⁻¹. The concentration of NH₄⁺ in the samples was determined by comparison with these standard curves.

The quantitative analysis of NO₃⁻ concentration was conducted using ultraviolet spectrophotometry. Initially, the liquid sample obtained from the cathode chamber was diluted and pre-treated. It was then mixed with 100 µL of 1 M HCl and 10 µL of a 0.8 wt.% sulfamic acid solution, followed by dilution to a final volume of 5 mL with water. The solution was allowed to stand at room temperature for 20 minutes to ensure stability, after which its ultraviolet absorption spectrum was measured. The absorbance was corrected using the dual-wavelength calculation method of $A_{220\text{nm}} - 2A_{275\text{nm}}$ to effectively eliminate the background signal. This approach was calibrated with standard solutions of sodium nitrate at varying concentrations, facilitating accurate determination of the sample concentration.

The Gress test method was employed to quantitatively analyze NO₂⁻ in the cathode electrolyte. Initially, the chromogenic reagent was prepared by dissolving 0.2 grams of N-(1-naphthyl) ethylenediamine dihydrochloride, 4 grams of sulfonamide, and 10 mL of phosphoric acid in 50 mL of deionized water. This mixture was thoroughly mixed and stored in the dark. For the measurement, an appropriate volume of the sample was reacted with 100 µL of the chromogenic reagent, followed by the addition of water to achieve a final volume of 5 mL. After a color development period of 20 minutes, a characteristic absorption peak was observed at 540 nm, with absorbance intensity being directly proportional to the NO₂⁻ concentration. Accurate quantification was accomplished by comparison with the standard curve.

Isotope labeling and NH₄⁺ quantification by ¹H NMR analysis

For the detection of ammonium ions via ¹H NMR spectroscopy, the target solution (125 µL), maleic acid (15 mM, 125 µL), and sulfuric acid (50 µL) were mixed with deuterated dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO-d₆, 750 µL). The mixed solution was analyzed using a ¹H NMR spectrometer (600 MHz), revealing two peaks corresponding to ¹⁵NH₄⁺ and/or three peaks for ¹⁴NH₄⁺, along with the peak of the internal standard maleic acid. For isotopic labeling, the electrolyte from the K¹⁵NO₃ reaction after 1 hour of electrolysis was subjected to ¹H NMR analysis. The detection of two characteristic peaks for ¹⁵NH₄⁺ confirmed that the nitrogen source of the synthesized ammonium ions originated entirely from the nitrate reactant³.

Formula for calculating Faraday efficiency, yield and removal rate.

The Faradaic efficiency was defined from the electric charge consumed for synthesizing ammonia and total charge passed through the electrode.

$$FE_{NH_3} = \frac{8 \times F \times c_{NH_3}}{Q} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

The yield was calculated using the following method :

$$Yield_{NH_3} = \frac{c_{NH_3} \times V}{18 \times t \times S} \#(2)$$

The $FE_{NO_2^-}$ was calculated using the following method :

$$FE_{NO_2^-} = \frac{2 \times c_{NO_2^-} \times F \times V}{Q} \times 100\% \#(3)$$

The NO_3^- removal rate was calculated using the following method :

$$NO_3^- \text{ removal rate} = \frac{c_{\Delta N - NO_3^-}}{c_0} \#(4)$$

where c_{NH_3} and $c_{NO_2^-}$ are the concentrations (mol L^{-1}) of NH_3 and NO_2^- , c_0 represents the initial NO_3^- concentration, $c_{\Delta N - NO_3^-}$ represent the amount of NO_3^- consumed before and after the reaction, respectively, as determined by UV-vis spectrophotometry, S is the geometric area of the working electrode (1 cm^2), t is the reaction time (1 h), F is the Faraday constant (96485 C mol^{-1}), V is the volume of electrolyte in the cathode compartment (40 mL), Q is the total charge consumed at the electrode.

Calculation details

The structural optimization and single-point energy of Au_3Cu_9 and $Au_3Ag_3Cu_6$ clusters are implemented using ORCA5.0.4 program system^{1, 2} at the PBE0³(D3BJ)/Def2-SVP⁴ and PBE0³(D3BJ)/Def2-TZVP⁴ theoretical level, respectively. The basis sets of the Def2 series are equipped with relativistic pseudopotentials for elements after the fourth period, which can reflect the scalar relativistic effects. All free energy changes (ΔG) were computed using density functional theory (DFT) incorporating an implicit solvation model to account for aqueous solvent effects. The SMD implicit solution model was employed to simulate the water environment. Zero-point energy (ZPE) corrections and thermodynamic entropy contributions at 298.15 K, derived from vibrational frequency calculations (at the same level of theory as that used for geometry optimization), were included in all reported free energies. It should be noted that, in consideration of the high computational cost associated with vibrational frequency calculations, we simplified the R ligand. The ΔG was evaluated according to the following expression:

$$\Delta G = \Delta E + \Delta ZPE - T\Delta S \#(5)$$

Where ΔE is the change in reaction energy directly obtained from DFT total energies, ΔZPE is the change in zero-point energy, T is the system temperature (298.15 K), and ΔS is the change in entropy. Both zero-point energies and entropies were derived from vibrational frequency calculations. For the Au_3Cu_9 and $Au_3Ag_3Cu_6$ clusters, all adsorbed species relevant to the reaction mechanism were fully optimized. Non-adsorbed species (NH_3 , H_2O , and H_2) were analyzed using the same computational protocols as described for the adsorbed species. The reaction free energies of the electrochemical steps were evaluated using the computational hydrogen electrode (CHE) approach proposed by Nørskov et al., where the chemical potential of a proton-electron pair ($H^+ + e^-$) in solution is equated to half the chemical potential of gaseous H_2 .^{5, 6}

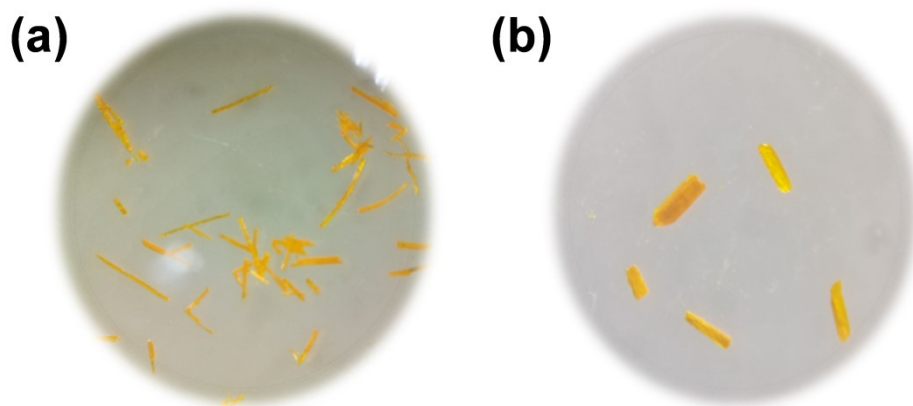


Figure S1. The single crystal photo of (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ under microscope.

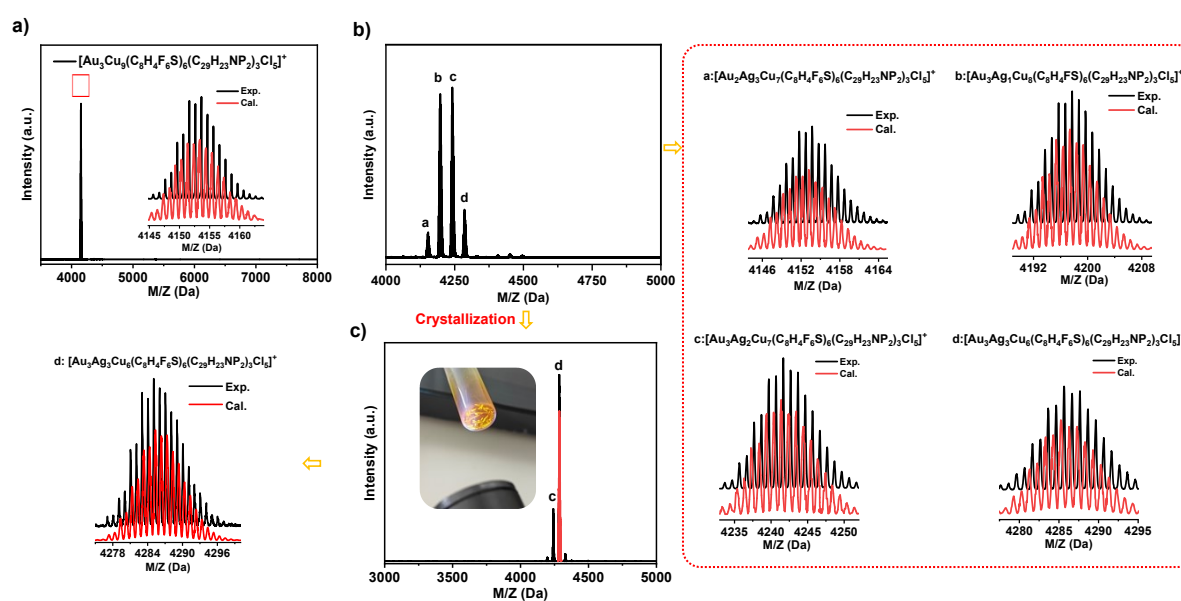
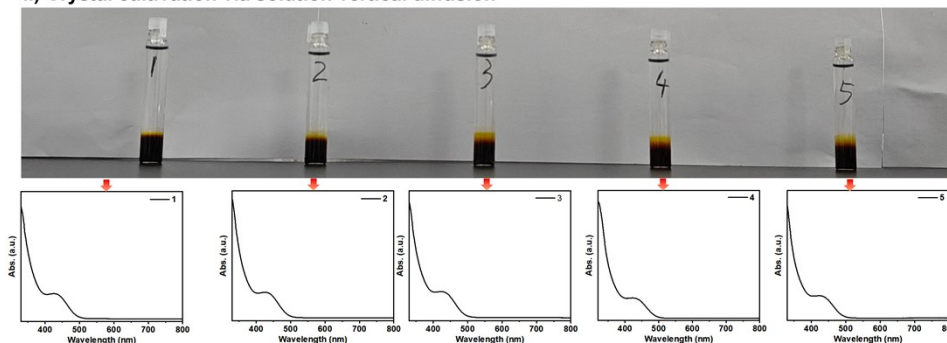


Figure S2. The ESI-MS results of (a) Au_3Cu_9 , (b) crude sample of the trimetallic including $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ NCs and (c) final cluster $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ isolated by crystallization.

i) Repeat the experiment to verify reproducibility



ii) Crystal cultivation via solution vertical diffusion



iii) The consistency of the UV-vis absorption peaks after dissolution of the crystals obtained indicates that the crystal product is relatively homogeneous.

Figure S3. The repeated synthesis preparation, crystal growth, and UV-visible spectral characterization experiments of $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$.

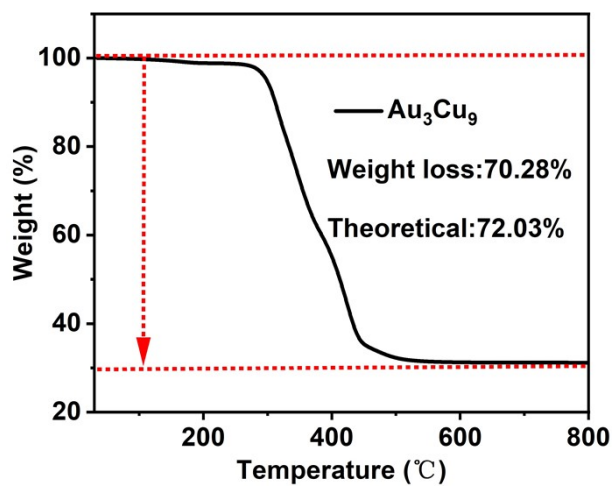


Figure S4. The TGA curves of Au_3Cu_9 in N_2 atmosphere.

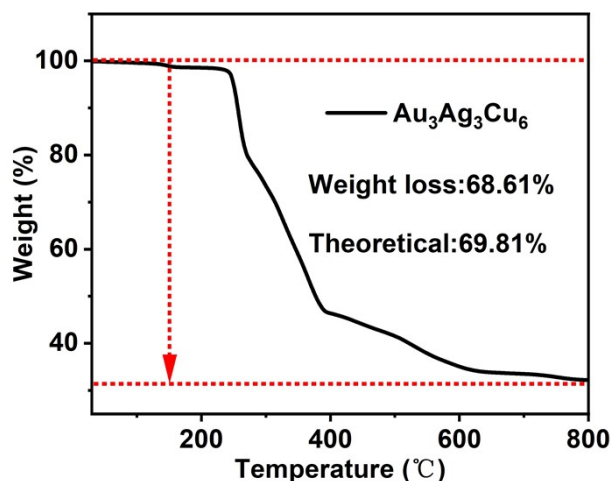


Figure S5. The TGA curves of $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ in N_2 atmosphere.

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed to evaluate the thermal stability and ligand composition of Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ nanoclusters. The theoretical weight loss was calculated based on the precise molecular formula confirmed by single-crystal XRD and ESI-MS. Briefly, the total molecular weight of all surface ligands (including thiolate, dpppy phosphine and chloride ions) was divided by the overall molecular weight of the intact nanocluster to obtain the theoretical ligand loss ratio, and the residual mass at high temperature corresponds to the inorganic metal core.

The Au_3Cu_9 nanocluster exhibits three successive weight-loss stages: the slight mass loss within 30-200 °C is attributed to the removal of adsorbed organic solvents and physical water; the obvious weight loss at 200-380 °C originates from the detachment and decomposition of thiolate ligands and partial chloride ions; the continuous decay at 450-600 °C is assigned to the complete degradation of phosphine ligands and residual chloride, finally forming stable metal alloy residues.

In comparison, $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ displays four distinct thermal decomposition steps, involving solvent desorption at low temperature, early decomposition of partial thiol ligands, intensive degradation of major organic ligands, and thorough removal of residual ligands accompanied by metal core stabilization at high temperature. The different TGA behaviors of the two nanoclusters stem from the introduction of Ag atoms, which modulates the metal-ligand coordination interaction and electronic distribution of the trimetallic core, thereby altering the thermal stability and sequential dissociation behavior of surface ligands. For both samples, the experimental total weight loss matches well with the theoretical calculation result, further demonstrating the high phase purity and compositional uniformity of the synthesized nanoclusters.

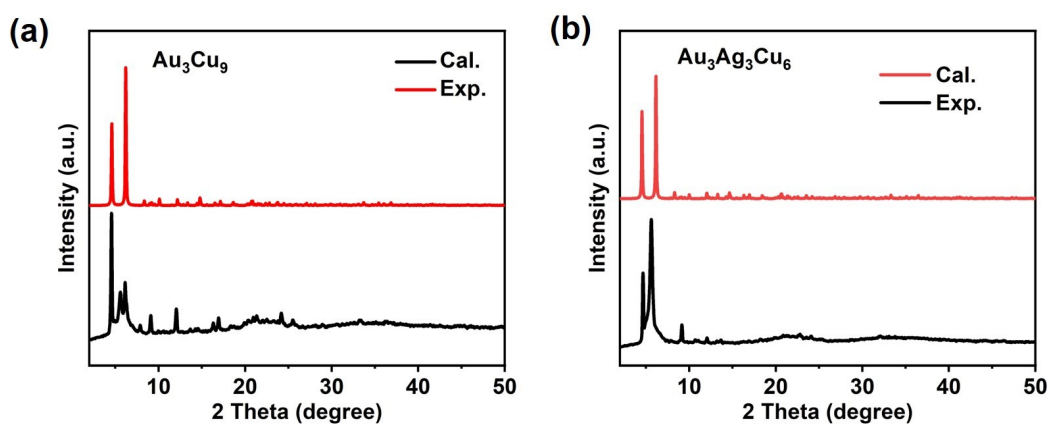


Figure S6. XRD patterns of (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$.

Both Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ display well-defined, sharp diffraction peaks that closely match the simulated patterns derived from single-crystal XRD data. Moreover, the collected diffraction peaks present accurate positions, uniform relative intensities and negligible peak broadening or splitting, strongly demonstrating the single-phase nature and high crystallinity of the two samples. Collectively, the PXRD results verify the high phase purity and structural homogeneity of the as-prepared atomically precise nanoclusters.

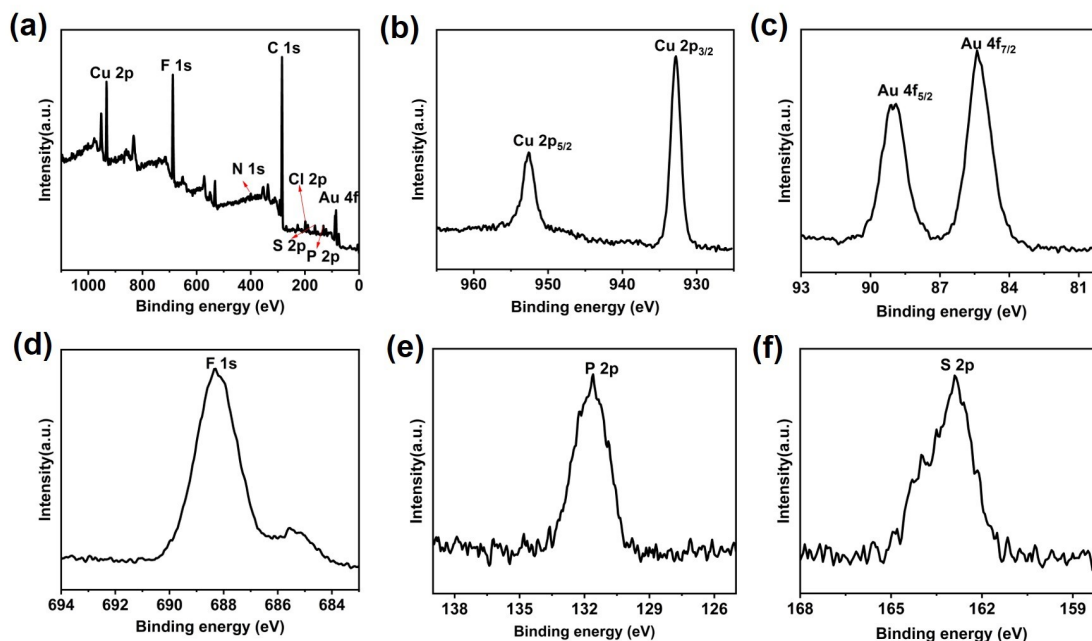


Figure S7. The XPS survey of (a) Au_3Cu_9 . The High-resolution XPS spectra of (b) Cu, (c) Au, (d) F, (e) S, (f) P of Au_3Cu_9 .

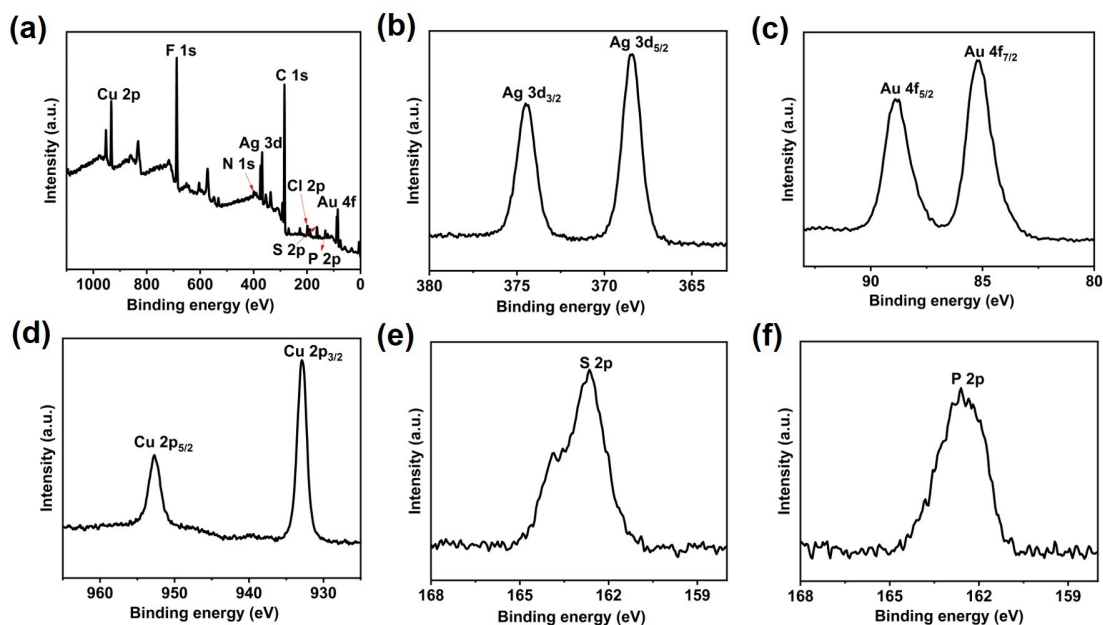


Figure S8. The XPS survey of (a) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$. The High-resolution XPS spectra of (b) Cu, (c) Au, (d) F, (e) S, (f) P of $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$.

For the Au_3Cu_9 sample, the $\text{Au } 4f_{7/2}$ and $\text{Au } 4f_{5/2}$ peaks located at 85.40 eV and 88.90 eV verify the monovalent state of Au, while the $\text{Cu } 2p_{3/2}$ and $\text{Cu } 2p_{1/2}$ signals at 932.80 eV and 952.60 eV confirm

the Cu(I) configuration. In comparison, $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ exhibits nearly identical Au and Cu binding energies, demonstrating the retention of Au(I) and Cu(I) valence states. The characteristic Ag $3d_{5/2}$ and Ag $3d_{3/2}$ peaks at 368.39 eV and 374.50 eV further prove that Ag exists mainly in the form of Ag(I) within the trimetallic nanocluster.

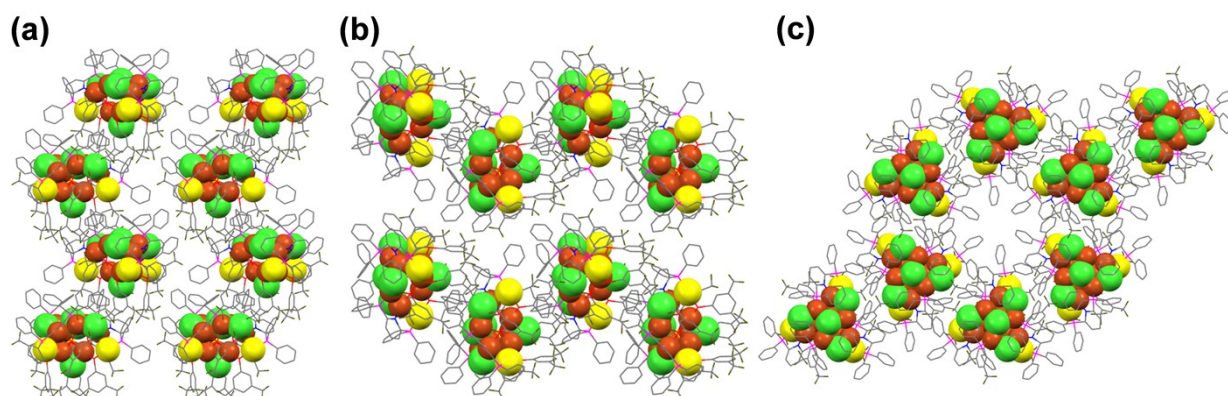


Figure S9. The packing diagram of Au_3Cu_9 . View from (a) a direction, (b) b direction, and (c) c direction. Atom colors: yellow, Au; orange Cu; red, S; magenta, P; or green, F; gray, C. All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

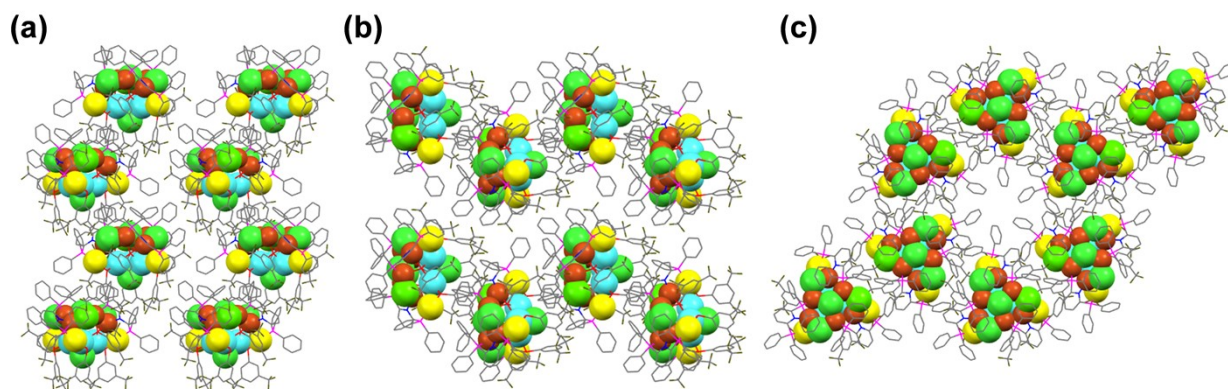


Figure S10. The packing diagram of $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$. View from (a) a direction, (b) b direction, and (c) c direction. Atom colors: yellow, Au; sky blue, Ag; red, S; magenta, P; or green, F; gray, C. All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

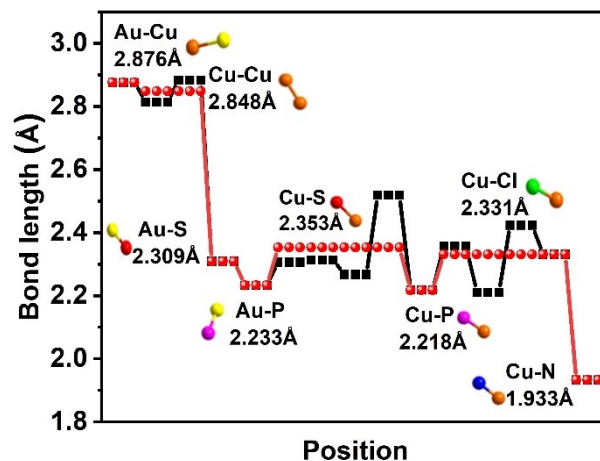


Figure S11. Comparison of lengths of Au-Au, Au-S, Au-P, Cu-S, Cu-P, Cu-N, and Cu-Cl of Au_3Cu_9 . (The red spheres represent the average bond lengths, and the black squares correspond to the individual bond lengths.)

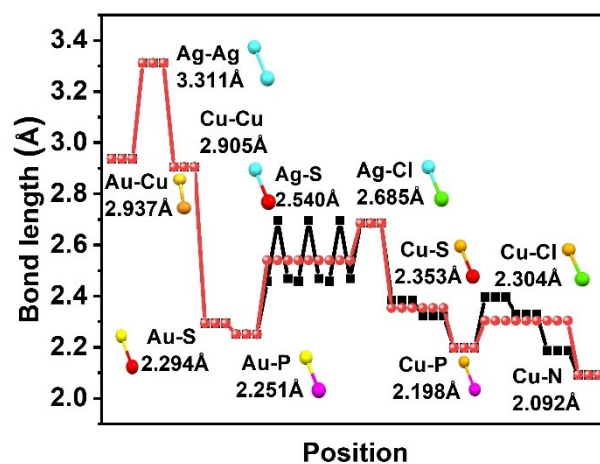


Figure S12. Comparison of lengths of Au-Cu, Ag-Ag, Cu-Cu, Au-S, Au-P, Ag-S, Ag-Cl, Cu-S, Cu-P, Cu-Cl, and Cu-N of $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$. (The red spheres represent the average bond lengths, and the black squares correspond to the individual bond lengths.)

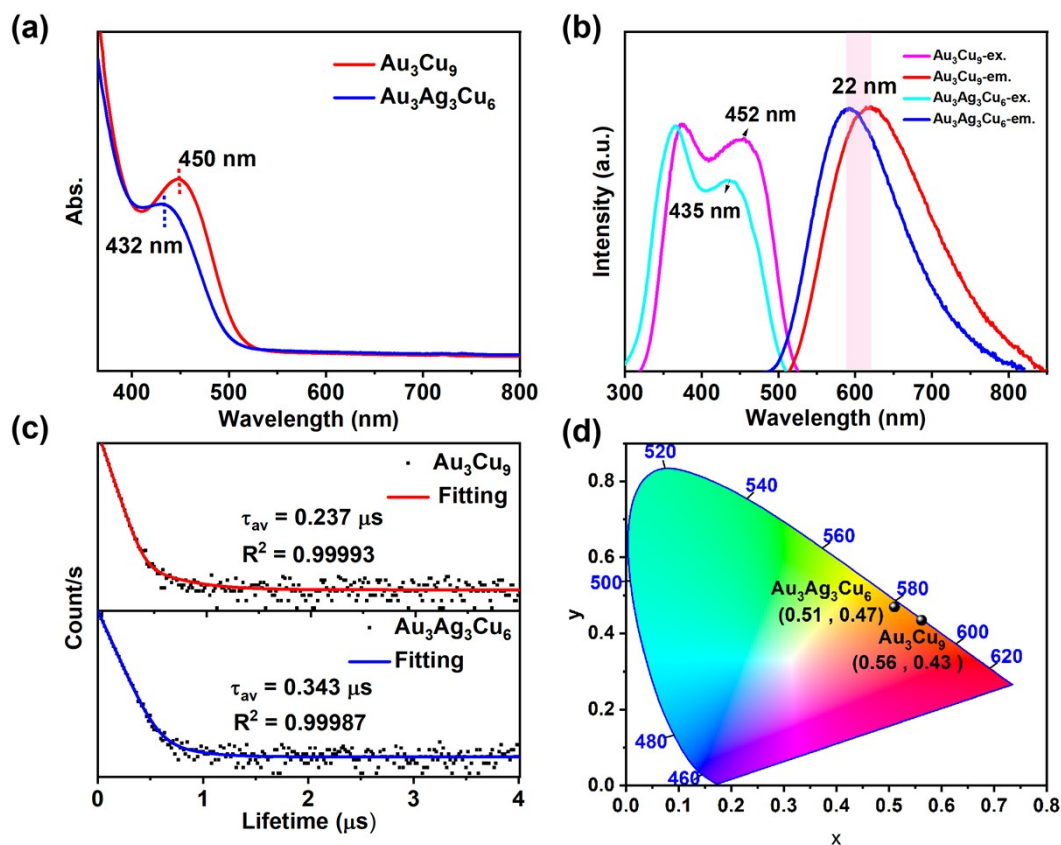


Figure S13. (a) Optical absorptions spectra of Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ NCs in DCM. (b) Excitation and photoluminescence (PL) spectra of Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ the crystal at room temperature. The dominant excitation peaks at 435 nm and 452 nm match well with their UV-vis absorption bands, while the extra peak near 370 nm is an instrumental artifact originating from xenon lamp stray light. This 370 nm signal arises from light scattering during testing and is unrelated to the intrinsic electronic transitions of the two nanoclusters. (c) Fluorescence lifetime of Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ in DCM. Both decay curves were well fitted by a triple-exponential model with χ^2 values close to 1.0, and the average lifetimes were further calculated to guarantee reliable fitting results. (d) CIE chromaticity coordinate diagram of the photoluminescence of the Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$, respectively.

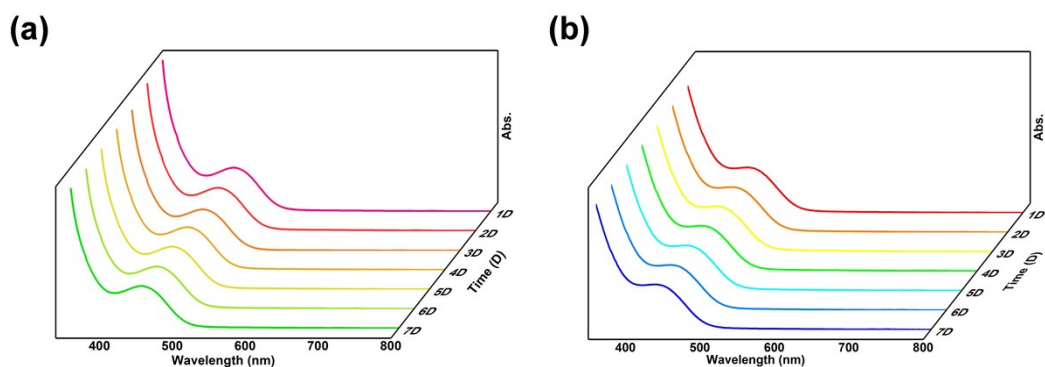


Figure S14. UV-vis spectra of fresh (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ in seven days dispersed in DCM solution.

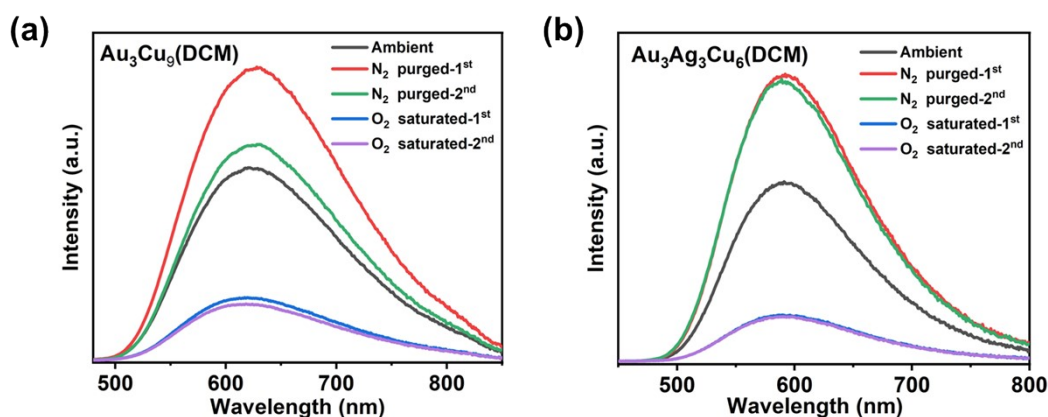


Figure S15. (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ nanoclusters under ambient (black line), N_2 -purged (red and green lines), and O_2 -saturated conditions (blue and purple lines).

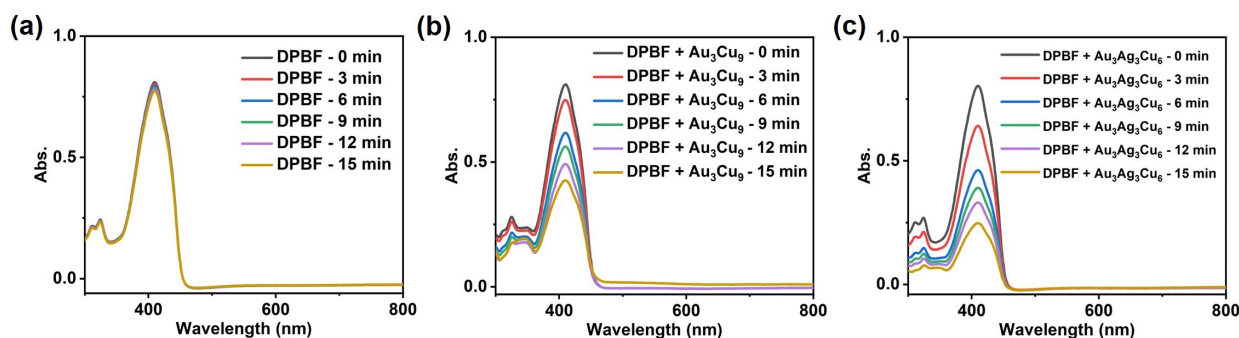


Figure S16. Time-dependent UV-vis absorption spectra. (a) Time-dependent UV-vis absorption spectra of the 1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran (DPBF) in EtOH solution. (b) (c) Time-dependent UV-vis absorption spectra of the DPBF in EtOH solution mixed with Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$.

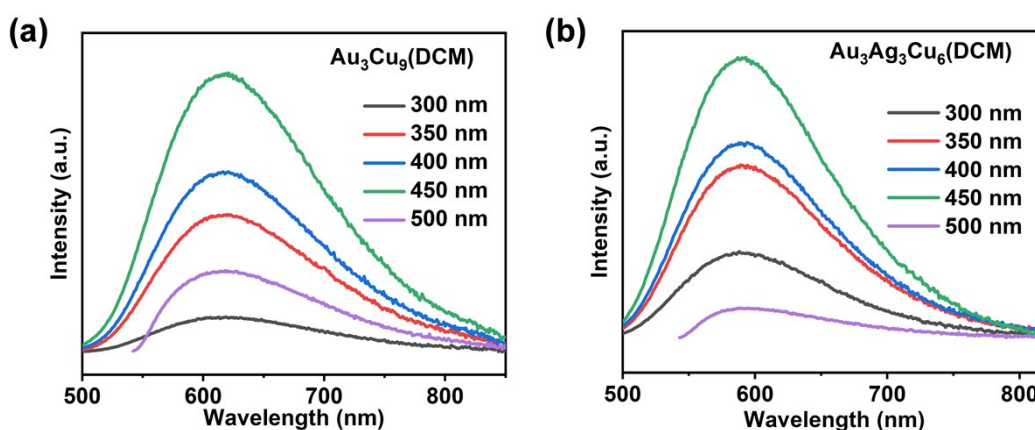


Figure S17. The emission spectra of (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ in DCM solvent under different excitation wavelengths at room temperature.

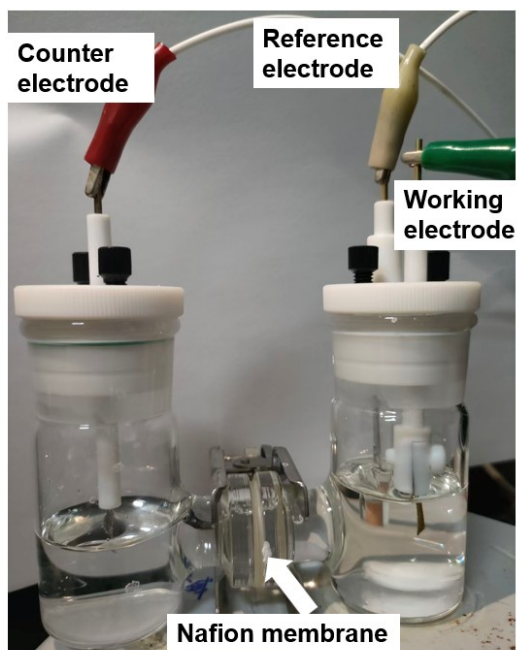


Figure S18. The H-cell device for NO_3RR .

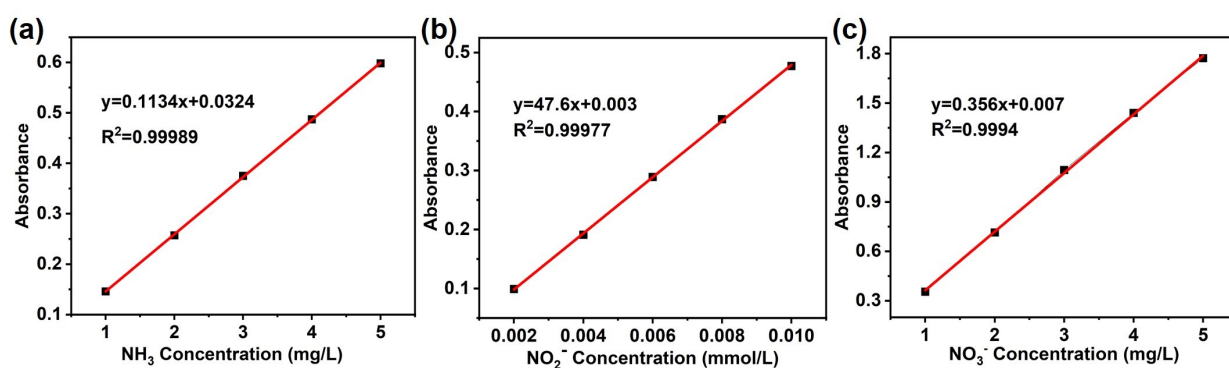


Figure S19. The absorbance standard curve of (a) NH_3 , (b) NO_2^- , and (c) NO_3^- . Specifically, NH_4^+ was quantified via the indophenol blue method at 655 nm, NO_2^- was determined using the Griess method at 540 nm, and NO_3^- was analyzed by ultraviolet spectrophotometry with the dual-wavelength correction method of $A_{220}-2A_{275}$. The three ions adopt distinct color-developing systems and detection principles with significantly different characteristic absorption wavelengths, thereby eliminating spectral cross-interference and signal overlap.

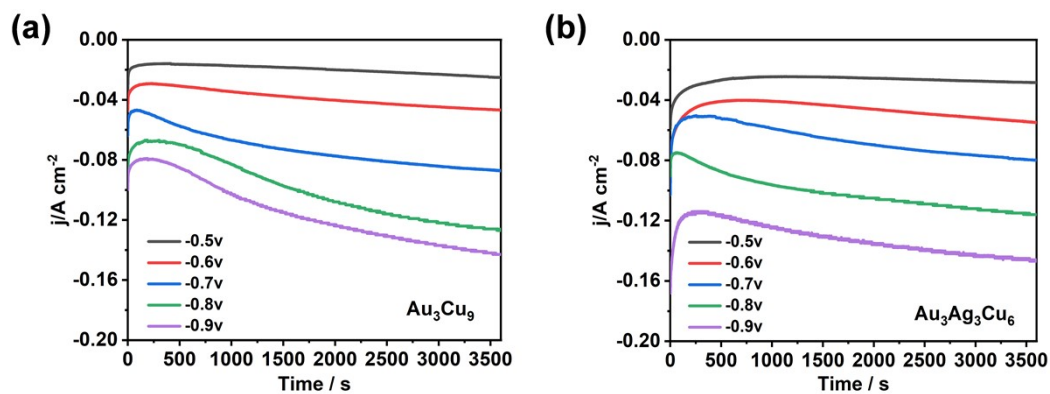


Figure S20 i-t curves of (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$.

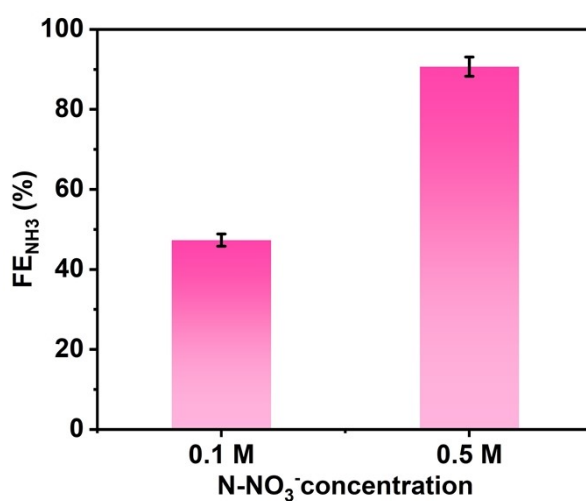


Figure S21. FE_{NH_3} of $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ at different KNO_3 concentrations.

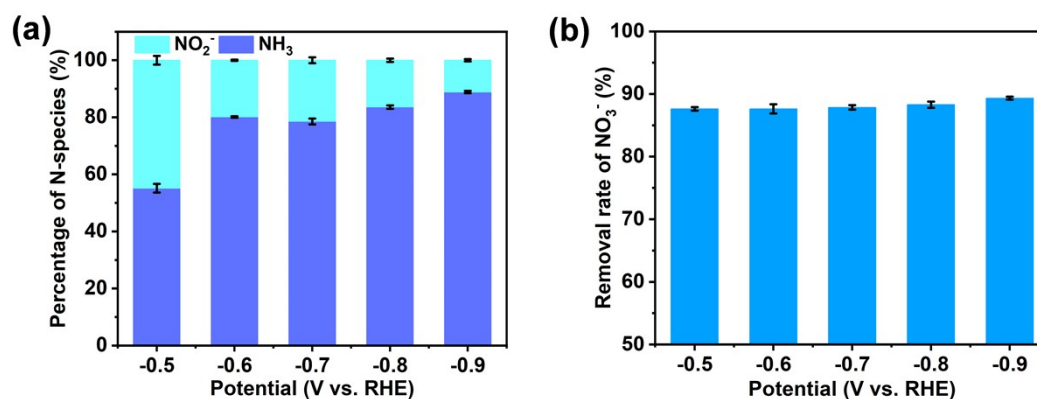


Figure S22. (a) The selectivity of NH_3 and NO_2^- for $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$, and (b) the NO_3^- removal rate, both plotted as a function of applied potential from -0.5 V to -0.9 V.

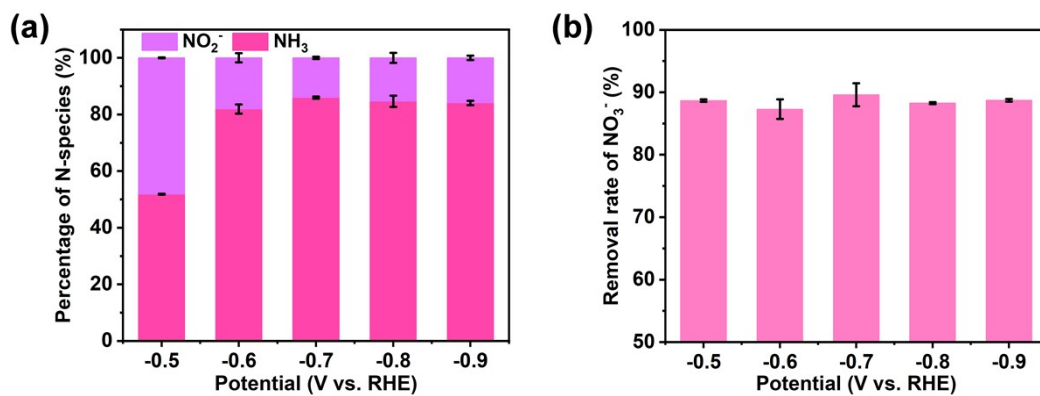


Figure S23. (a) The selectivity of NH₃ and NO₂⁻ for Au₃Cu₉, and (b) the NO₃⁻ removal rate, both plotted as a function of applied potential from -0.5 V to -0.9 V.

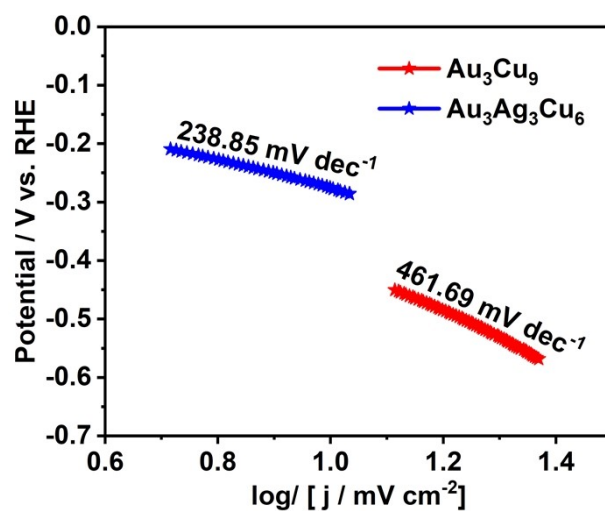


Figure S24. Tafel slope curves of Au₃Cu₉ and Au₃Ag₃Cu₆.

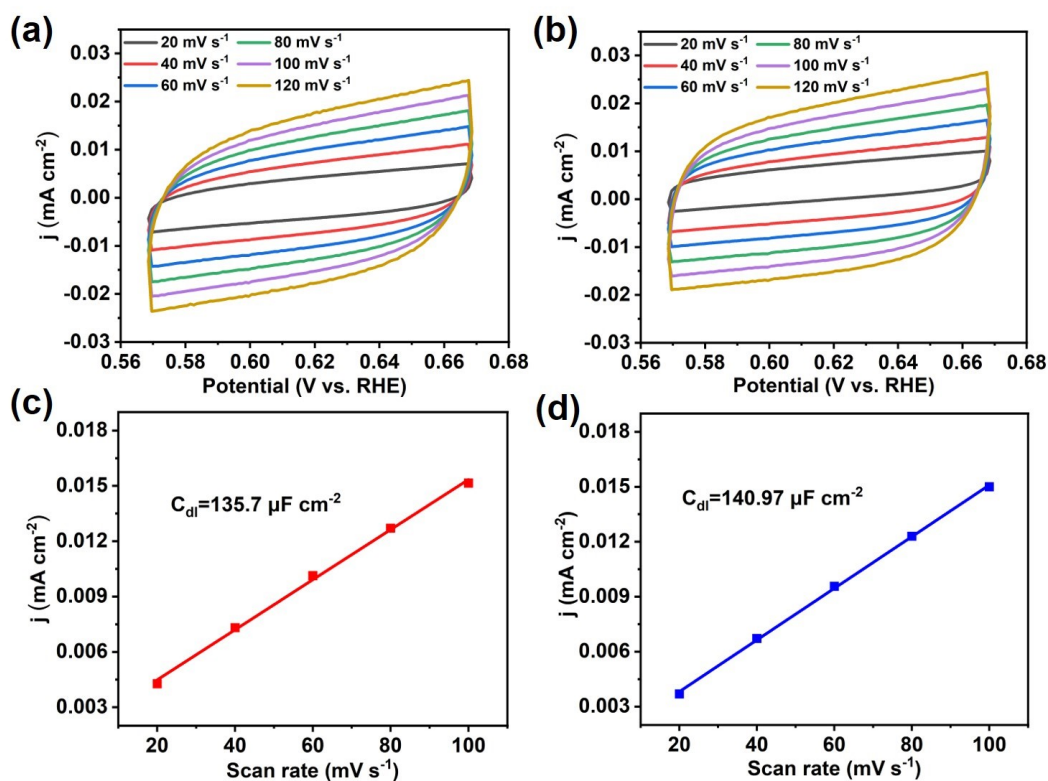


Figure S25. Cyclic voltammograms of (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ in the region of 0.56 V- 0.68 V in 0.5 M K_2SO_4 containing 0.5 M NO_3^- at various scan rates, the plots of current density as a function of scan rate derived from cyclic voltammograms of (c) Au_3Cu_9 and (d) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$.

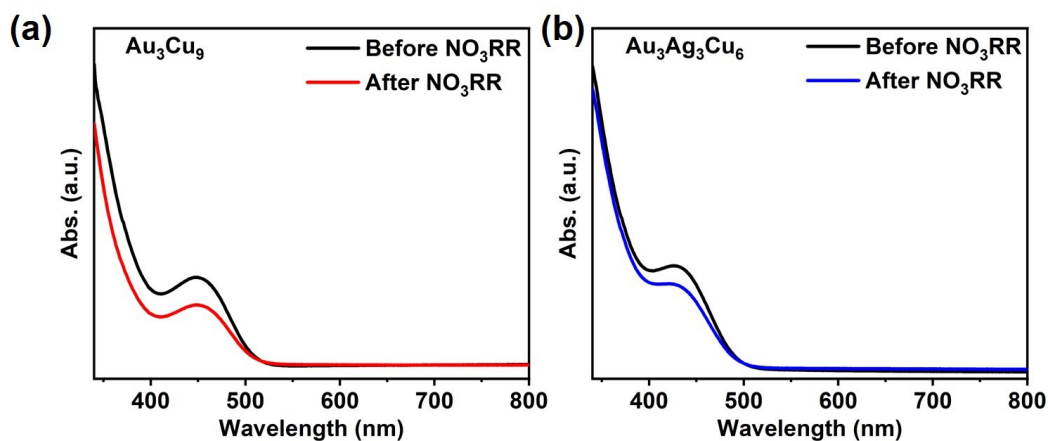


Figure S26. The absorbance spectra of (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ before and after the NO_3RR .

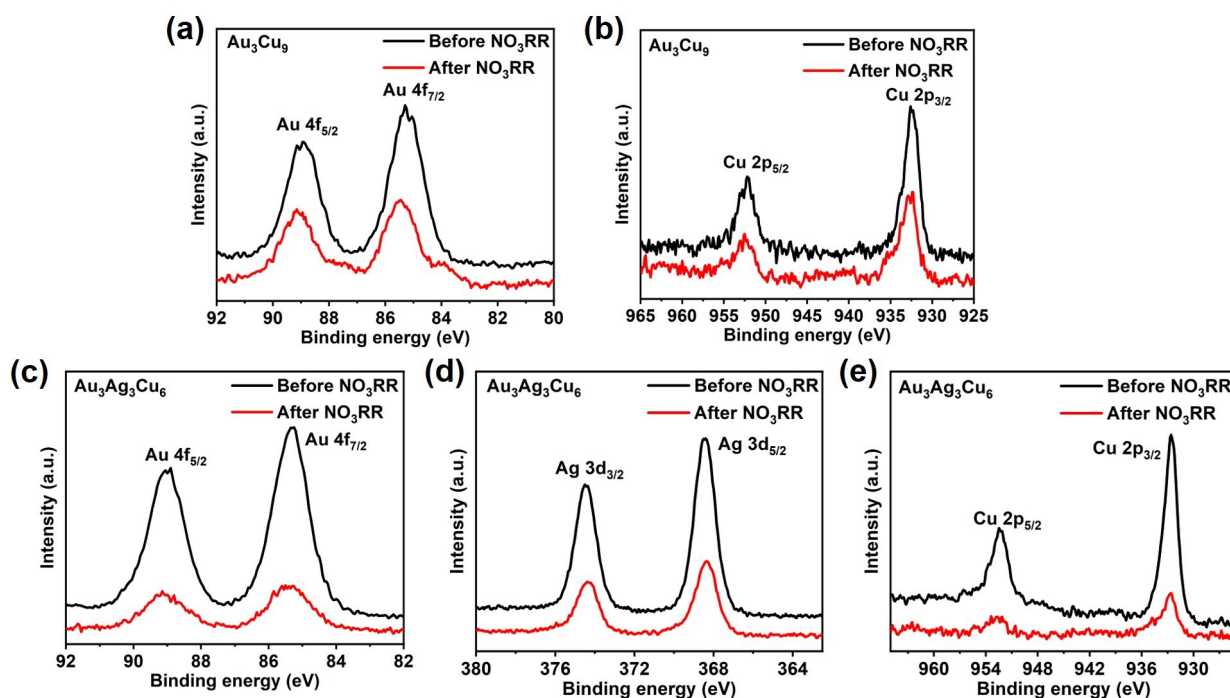


Figure S27. The XPS date of (a,b) Au_3Cu_9 and (c-e) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ before and after the NO_3RR .

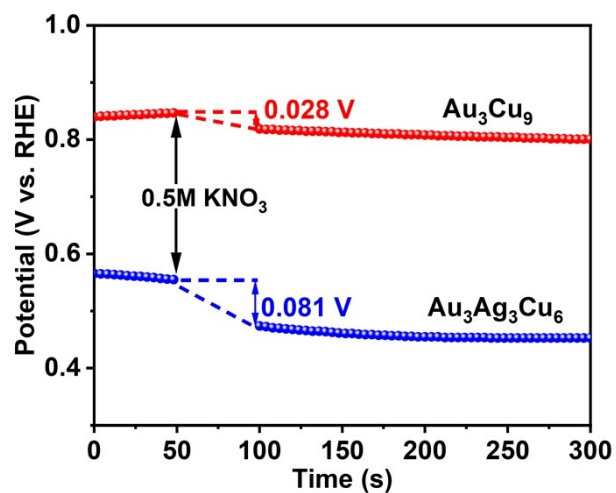


Figure S28. The OCP of Au_3Cu_9 and $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ in 0.5 M K_2SO_4 electrolyte before and after KNO_3 was injected.

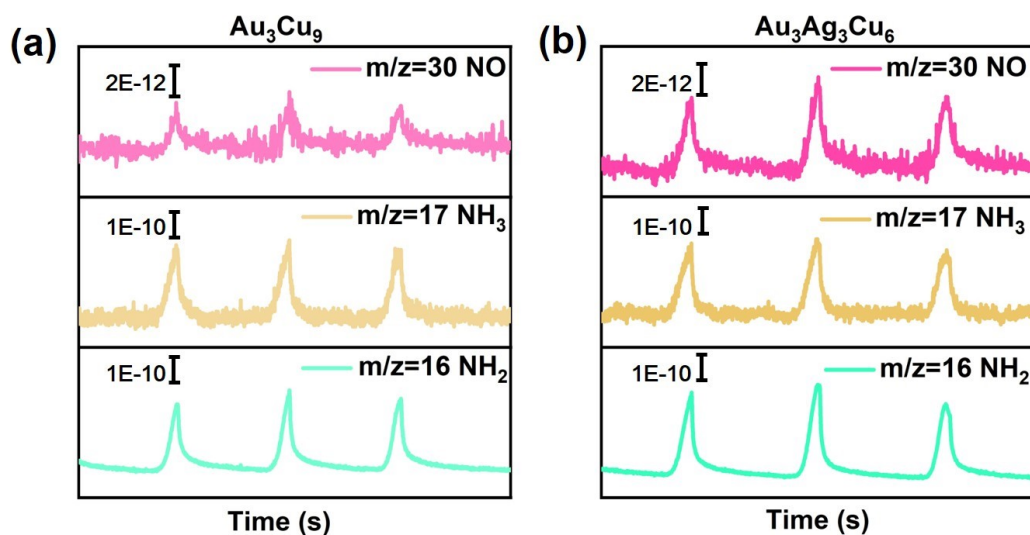


Figure S29. Online DEMS measurement of (a) Au_3Cu_9 and (b) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$.

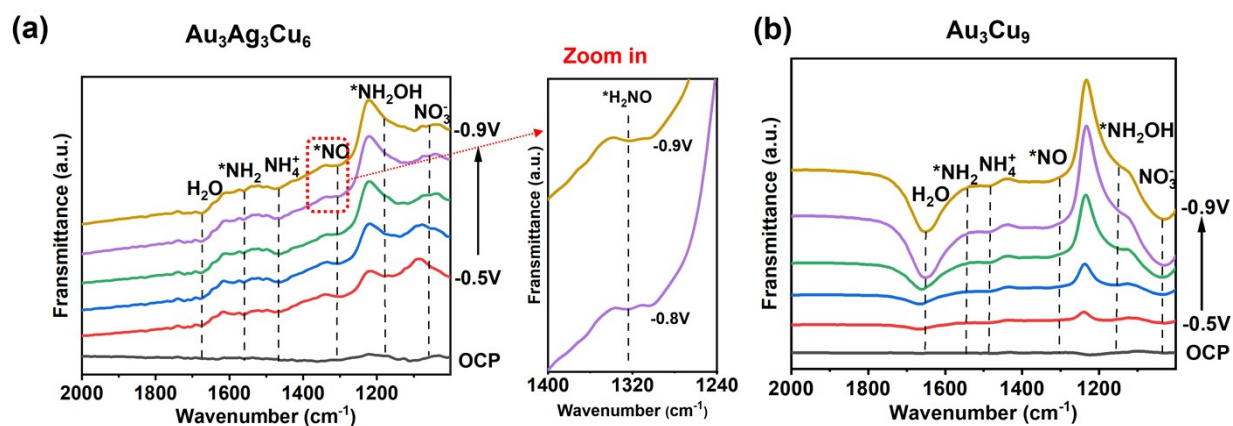


Figure S30. In situ FTIR spectra of (a) $\text{Au}_3\text{Ag}_3\text{Cu}_6$ and (b) Au_3Cu_9 from open-circuit potential to -0.9 V.

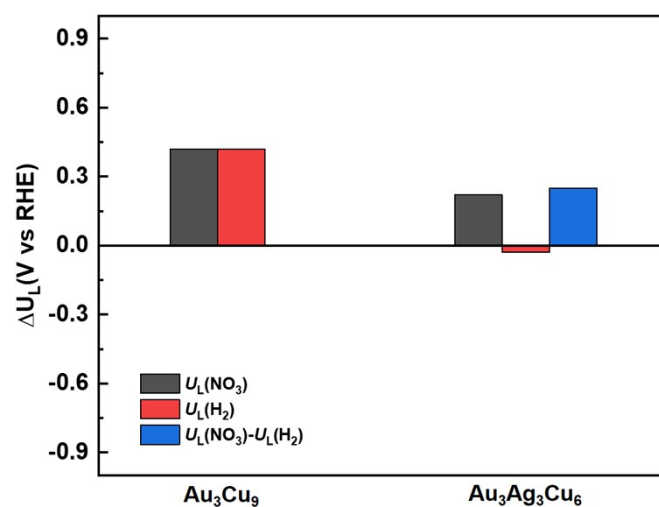


Figure S31. Calculated limiting potentials for NO_3RR , H_2 evolution, and their difference.

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for Au₃Cu₉ nanocluster

Au ₃ Cu ₉ (SR) ₆ (dpppy) ₃ Cl ₅	
Empirical formula	C ₁₃₅ H ₈₇ Au ₃ Cl ₅ Cu ₉ F ₃₆ N ₃ P ₆ S ₆
Formula weight	8301.39
Temperature/K	120
Crystal system	hexagonal
Space group	<i>P</i> 6 ₃
a/Å	22.193(2)
b/Å	22.193(2)
c/Å	21.1562(18)
α/°	90
β/°	90
γ/°	120
Volume/Å ³	9023.8(19)
Z	1
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54186)
2θ range for data collection/°	6.214 to 139.872
Index ranges	-26 ≤ h ≤ 15, -19 ≤ k ≤ 25, -25 ≤ l ≤ 19
Reflections collected	29662
Independent reflections	9692 [R _{int} = 0.0712, R _{sigma} = 0.0625]
Data/restraints/parameters	9692/1745/540
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.047
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.1008, wR ₂ = 0.2715
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.1106, wR ₂ = 0.2796
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.20/-1.94

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for Au₃Ag₃Cu₆ nanocluster

Au ₃ Ag ₃ Cu ₆ (SR) ₆ (dpppy) ₃ Cl ₅	
Empirical formula	C ₁₃₅ H ₈₇ Ag ₃ Au ₃ Cl ₅ Cu ₆ F ₃₆ N ₃ P ₆ S ₆
Formula weight	4286.29
Temperature/K	120
Crystal system	hexagonal
Space group	<i>P</i> 6 ₃
a/Å	22.413(4)
b/Å	22.413(4)
c/Å	21.354(4)
α/°	90
β/°	90
γ/°	120
Volume/Å ³	9290(4)
Z	2
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54186)
2θ range for data collection/°	6.154 to 140.914
Index ranges	-27 ≤ h ≤ 18, -25 ≤ k ≤ 25, -25 ≤ l ≤ 22
Reflections collected	32689
Independent reflections	10694 [R _{int} = 0.0667, R _{sigma} = 0.0523]
Data/restraints/parameters	10694/1686/527
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	0.969
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0735, wR ₂ = 0.1996
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0874, wR ₂ = 0.2097
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.36/-0.96

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