

## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

### **Hydrothermal synthesis of porous $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanostructures for highly efficient Cr(VI) removal**

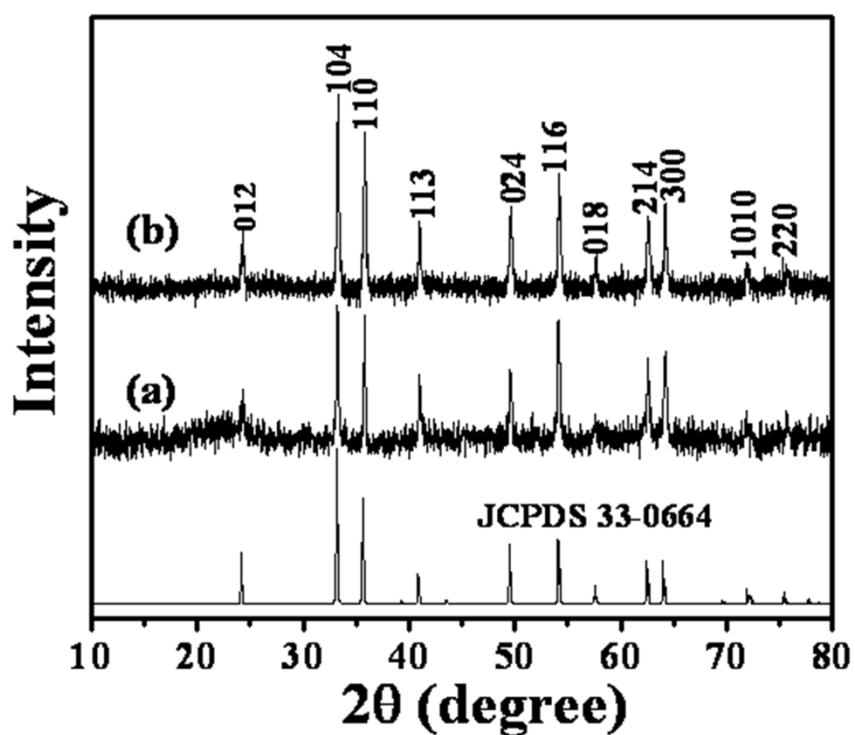
*Er-tao Liu,<sup>a</sup> Huiping Zhao,<sup>a</sup> Hui Li,<sup>a</sup> Guangfang Li,<sup>a</sup> Yunling Liu<sup>b</sup> and Rong Chen<sup>\*a</sup>*

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemistry and Environmental Engineering, Wuhan Institute of Technology, Xiongchu Street, Wuhan, 430073, PR China

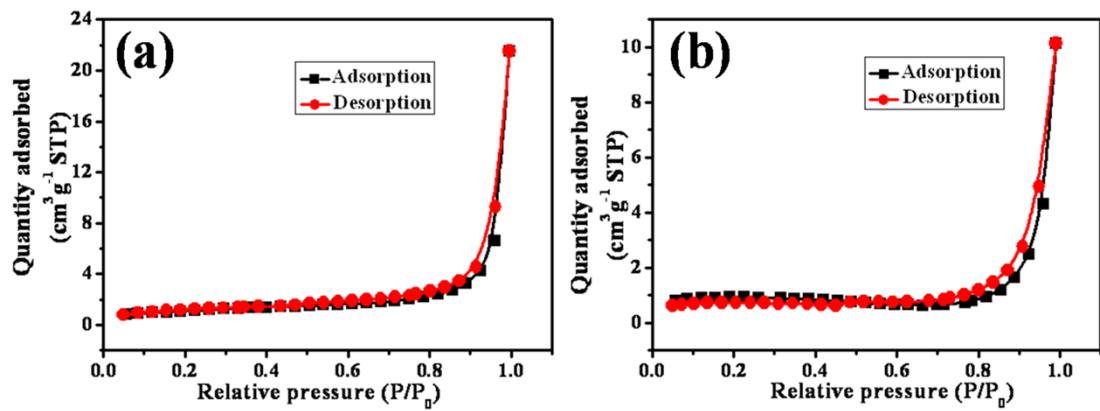
<sup>b</sup> State Key Laboratory of Inorganic Synthesis and Preparative Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Jilin University, Changchun, 130012, PR China

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +86 13659815698; Fax: +86 2787194560.

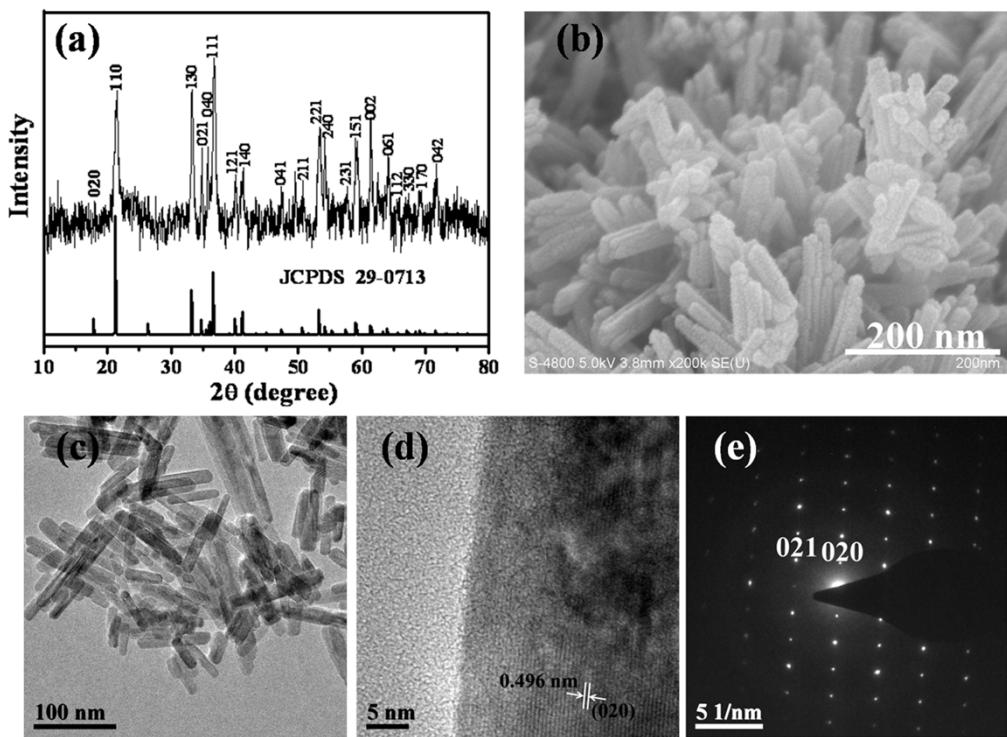
E-mail: rchenhku@hotmail.com



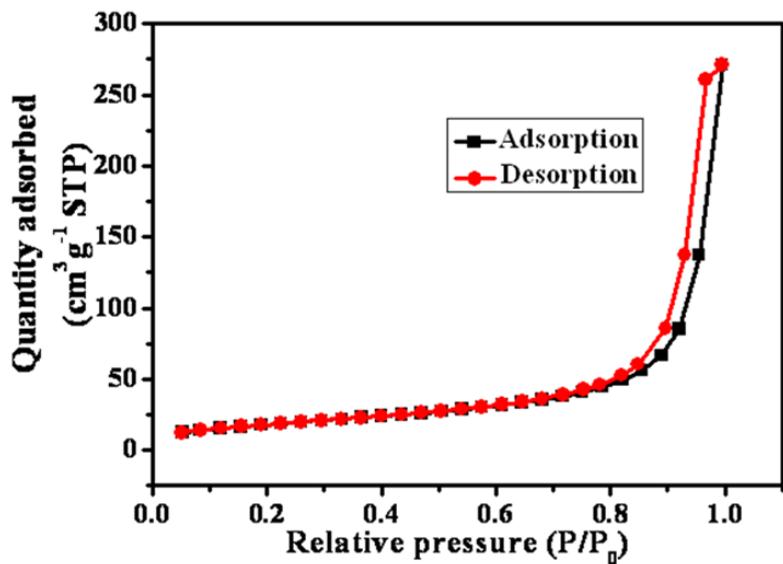
**Fig. S1** XRD patterns of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: (a) **S2**; (b) **S3**.



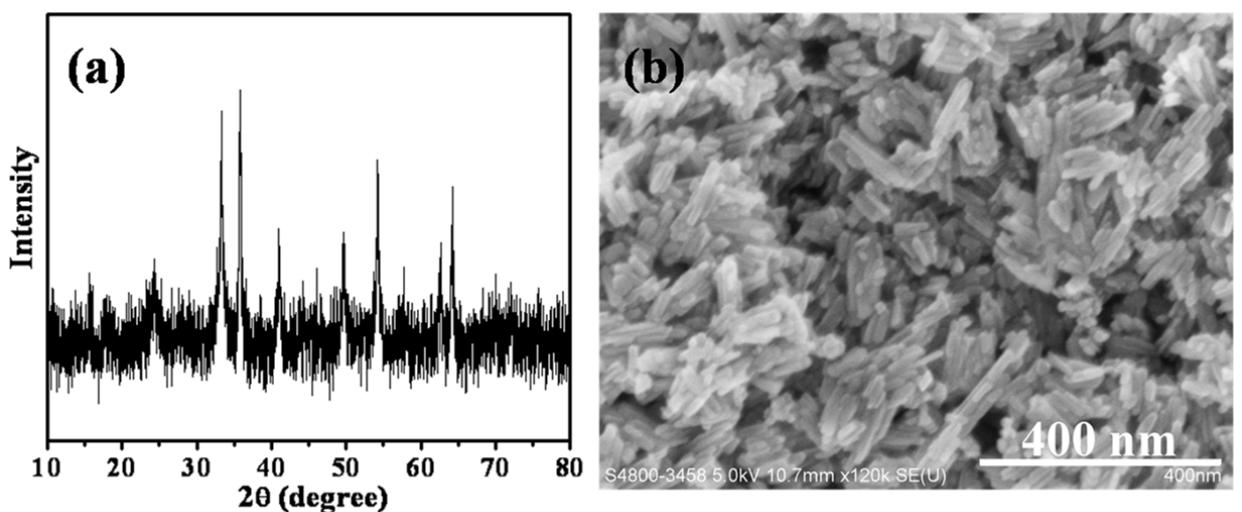
**Fig. S2** Nitrogen adsorption–desorption isotherms of  $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  nanostructures: (a) S2; (b) S3.



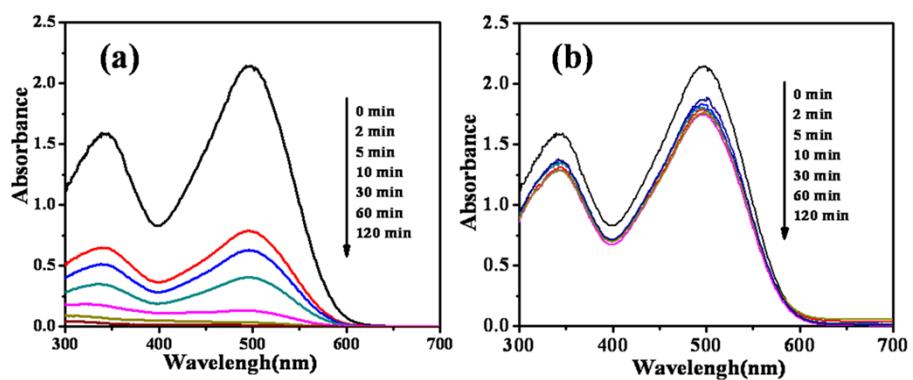
**Fig. S3** (a) XRD pattern, (b) SEM image, (c) TEM image (d) HR-TEM image and (e) SAED pattern of  $\alpha$ -FeOOH sample (**S1** before calcinations).



**Fig. S4** Nitrogen adsorption–desorption isotherm of  $\alpha$ -FeOOH nanorods.



**Fig. S5** XRD pattern (a) and SEM image (b) of porous  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorods after four cycles.



**Fig. S6** Time-dependent optical absorption spectra of Congo red solution with an initial concentration of 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> in the presence of 30 mg of porous  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod (a), and commercial  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (b), respectively.