## **Electronic Supplementary Information:**

## Carrier concentration-dependent electron transfer in Cu<sub>2</sub>O/ZnO nanorod arrays and their photocatalytic performance

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Fig. S1 SEM images of Cu<sub>2</sub>O (pH10.0)/ZnO (a) and Cu<sub>2</sub>O (pH9.0)/ZnO nanorod arrays (b).



Fig. S2 The XRD patterns of  $Cu_2O$  films prepared at different pH values. The diffraction peaks of FTO substrate are marked with asterisks.

The XRD patterns of  $Cu_2O$  films prepared at different pH values were measured as shown in Fig. S2. All the diffraction peaks can be identified as the cubic phase  $Cu_2O$  (JCPDS 78-2076). No diffraction peaks of other crystalline phase could be found according to the XRD patterns, which means that the pH values do not affect the crystalline phase of  $Cu_2O$  in our experiment.



Fig. S3 The concentrations of  $MV^{+}$  formation over different Cu<sub>2</sub>O/ZnO nanorod arrays under visible light ( $\lambda > 400 \text{ nm}$ ) irradiation.



Fig. S4 Mott-Schottky plots of the Cu<sub>2</sub>O prepared at different pH values in the dark.



**Fig. S5** (a) Modulation frequency dependent SPV of  $Cu_2O/ZnO$  nanorod arrays at 532 nm. The light intensity is 10 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>. (b) Light intensity denpendent SPV of  $Cu_2O/ZnO$  nanorod arrays at 532 nm. The modulation frequency is 77 Hz.