## Supporting Information

## **Cuprous Oxide Based Chemiresistive Electronic Nose for Volatile Organic Compounds Discrimination**

Baishu Liu,<sup>†</sup> Xue Wu,<sup>†</sup> Kenneth WL Kam,<sup> $\perp$ </sup> Wai-Fung Cheung,<sup> $\perp$ </sup> Bo Zheng<sup>\*†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong,

China

<sup>1</sup>Qi Diagnostics Limited, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China



Figure S1. (a) Photograph of the Ni-Cr wire and the ceramic tube. (b) Photograph of the gas sensor.



**Figure S2.** (a) Photograph of the gas analysis system CGS-8. (b) Sensor panel of the gas analysis system CGS-8.



**Figure S3.** XRD pattern of Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres (top) and the standard XRD pattern of Cu<sub>2</sub>O (PDF #05-0667, bottom)

Name	Chemical structure	Corresponding abbreviation of the silanized Cu <sub>2</sub> O
PAPTMS	NH OCH3 Si-OCH3 OCH3 OCH3	PA-Cu <sub>2</sub> O
APTMS	H <sub>2</sub> N H <sub>2</sub> N OCH <sub>3</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub>	AP-Cu <sub>2</sub> O
MAPTMS	N H Si OCH <sub>3</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub>	MA-Cu <sub>2</sub> O
CPTMS	CI CI CI CI CI CI CI SI OCH <sub>3</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub>	CP-Cu <sub>2</sub> O
PTES	$\begin{array}{c c} & OC_2H_5 \\ & \\ & \\ Si \\ & OC_2H_5 \\ \\ & \\ OC_2H_5 \end{array}$	P-Cu <sub>2</sub> O

 Table S1. Chemical structures of the organosilanes.

Table S2. Zeta potentials of  $Cu_2O$  and the organosilane functionalized  $Cu_2O$  nanospheres.

The functionalized Cu <sub>2</sub> O	Zeta potential (mV)
Cu <sub>2</sub> O	34.2
PA-Cu <sub>2</sub> O	26.9

AP-Cu <sub>2</sub> O	172.7
MA-Cu <sub>2</sub> O	61.6
CP-Cu <sub>2</sub> O	-23.6
P-Cu <sub>2</sub> O	30.5



Figure S4. XPS Cu 2p spectrum of P-Cu<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S5.** Resistance response of P-Cu<sub>2</sub>O to 25 ppm ethanol at the operating temperature of 130-200 °C.



Figure S6. XRD patterns of Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres before and after calcination at 180 °C for 1 hour.



Figure S7. FT-IR spectra of Cu<sub>2</sub>O and P-Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres after calcination at 180 °C for 1 hour.



Figure S8. Response and recovery curves of the sensor units upon the exposure to 50 ppm ethanol.

(a) Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (b) PA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (c) AP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (d) MA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (e) CP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (f) P-Cu<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S9.** Real-time resistance responses of Cu<sub>2</sub>O and five functionalized Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres upon the exposure to 25-200 ppm model VOCs. (a) Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (b) PA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (c) AP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (d) MA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (e) CP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (f) P-Cu<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S10.** Resistance responses of Cu<sub>2</sub>O and four functionalized Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres upon the exposure to 25-200 ppm model VOCs. (a) Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (b) PA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (c) AP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (d) MA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (e) CP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S11.** Resistance responses from the sensor units upon the exposure to the model VOCs. (a) 50 ppm; (b) 100 ppm; (c) 150 ppm; (d) 200 ppm.



**Figure S12.** Real-time resistance responses of Cu<sub>2</sub>O and four functionalized Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres upon the exposure to 75-600 ppm ternary VOC mixtures. (a) Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (b) PA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (c) AP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (d) MA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (e) CP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S13.** Resistance responses of Cu<sub>2</sub>O and four functionalized Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres upon the exposure to 75-600 ppm ternary VOC mixtures. (a) Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (b) PA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (c) AP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (d) MA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (e) CP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S14.** Resistance responses from the sensor units upon the exposure to ternary VOC mixtures. (a) 150 ppm; (b) 300 ppm; (c) 450 ppm; (d) 600 ppm.



**Figure S15.** Real time resistance responses of Cu<sub>2</sub>O and five functionalized Cu<sub>2</sub>O nanospheres upon the exposure to six types of tea leaves. (a) Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (b) PA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (c) AP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (d) MA-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (e) CP-Cu<sub>2</sub>O; (f) P-Cu<sub>2</sub>O.