

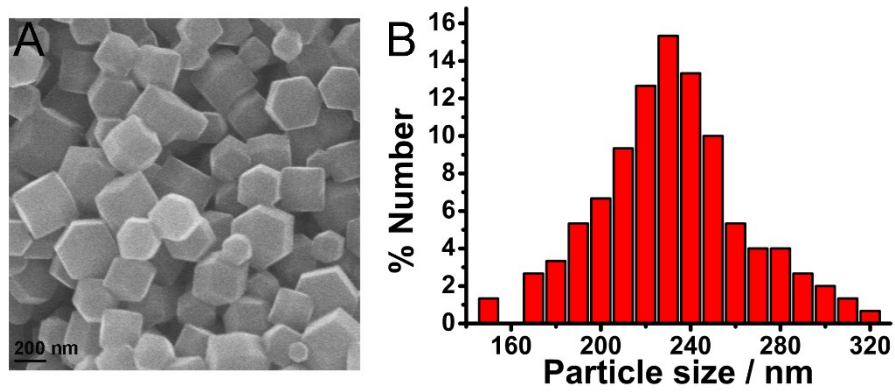
MOF-derived porous ZnO-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanocages as peroxidase  
mimics for colorimetric detection of copper(II) ions in serum

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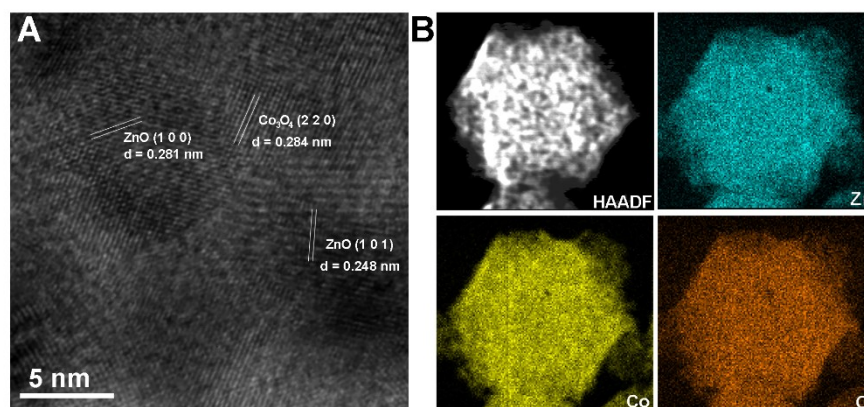
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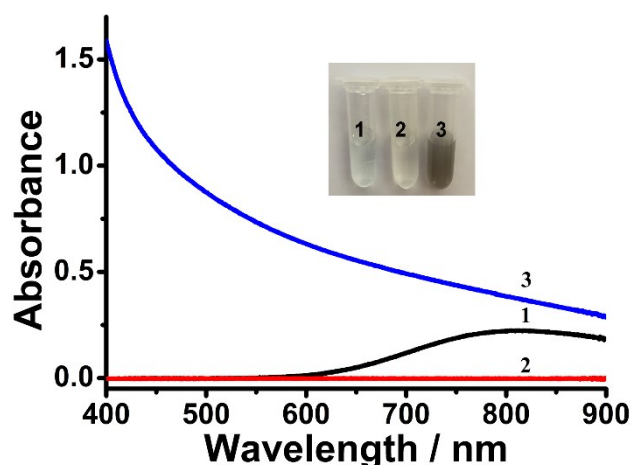
<sup>1</sup> *Jie Lv and Cong Zhang contributed equally to this work.*



**Figure S1** (A) The SEM image of ZnCo-ZIF. (B) Histogram of the size distribution of ZnCo-ZIF.

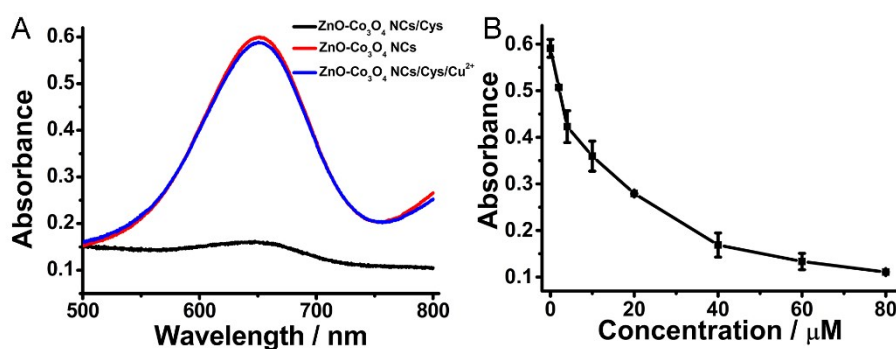


**Figure S2** (A) HRTEM image of ZnO-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NCs. (B) TEM elemental mappings of ZnO-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NCs.

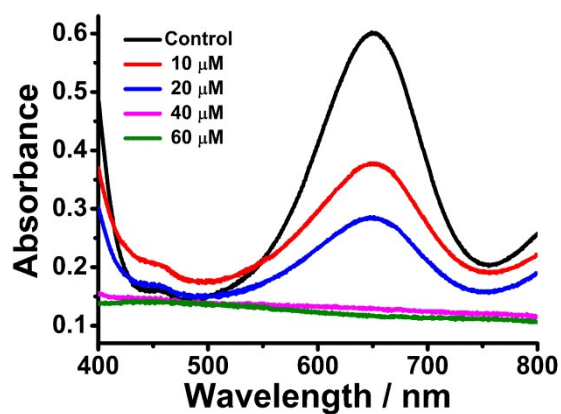


**Figure S3** The UV-Vis spectra of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and Cys at high concentrations. Insert were the corresponding photographs of different samples. 1: 20 mM  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , 2: 20 mM Cys, 3: 20 mM  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  + 20 mM Cys.

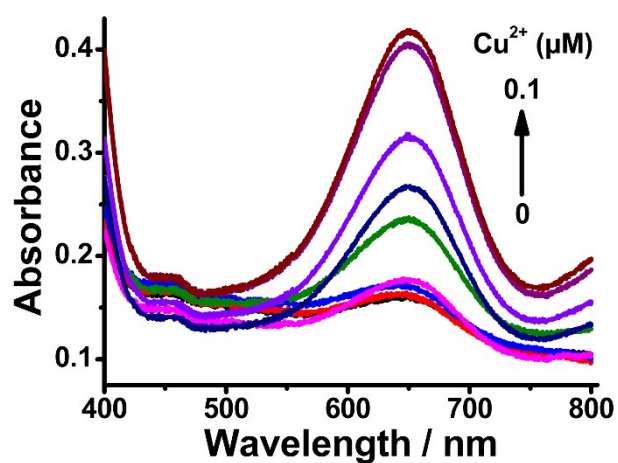
As indicated in Figure S3, after mixing  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and Cys, the insoluble products were generated, demonstrating that Cys can react with  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  to give mercaptide.



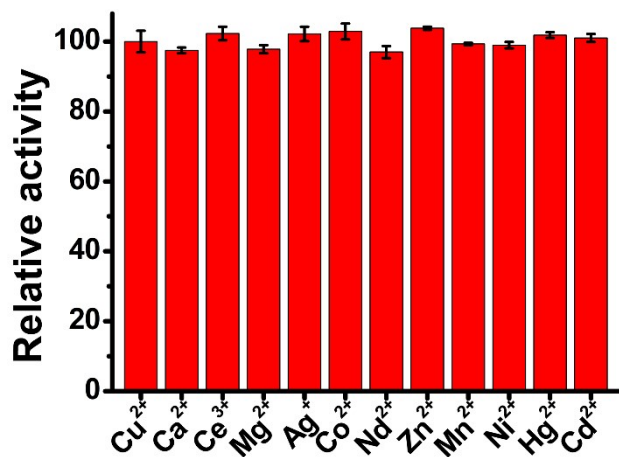
**Figure S4** (A) The absorbance spectra of the different reaction systems containing  $\text{ZnO-Co}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs,  $\text{ZnO-Co}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs/Cys and  $\text{ZnO-Co}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs/Cys/ $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ . (B) The change of peroxidase activity of  $\text{ZnO-Co}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs in the presence of different concentrations of Cys.



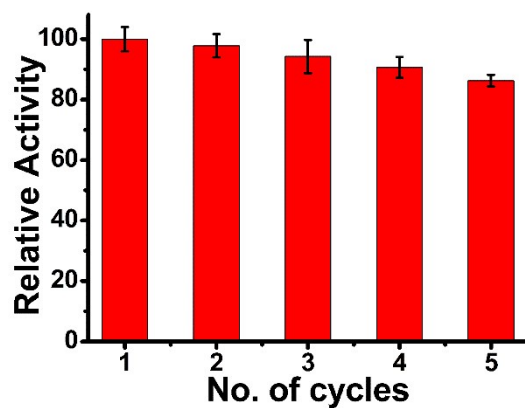
**Figure S5** The reduction of oxidized TMB induced by different concentrations of Cys.



**Figure S6** The absorbance spectra of TMB in the reaction systems of ZnO-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NCs/Cys containing different concentrations of Cu<sup>2+</sup>.



**Figure S7** The responses of ZnO-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NCs/Cys to Cu<sup>2+</sup> in the presence of other metal ions. The concentrations of other metal ions and Cu<sup>2+</sup> were 1 μM and 0.1 μM, respectively.



**Figure S8** The responses of the ZnO-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NCs to Cu<sup>2+</sup> in five successive recycling catalysis.

**Table S1** The comparison of the analytical performance of this method for Cu<sup>2+</sup> detection with previous nanomaterials based colorimetric methods.

Nanomaterials	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	References
Urchin-like Co <sub>9</sub> S <sub>8</sub>	0.09	0.5-10	[45]
4-MBA modified AgNPs	0.025	0.1-100	[46]
GSH-AuNCs	0.011	0.1-1	[47]
rGO@AgNPs	0.0098	0.02-1.5	[48]
N-CDots/AuNCs	0.15	1-60	[49]
DNA modified AuNPs	20	20-100	[50]
ZnO-Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	0.00108	0.002-0.1	This work