

Supplementary Material

Fabrication of a novel separation-free heterostructured photocatalyst with enhanced visible light activity in photocatalytic degradation of antibiotics

Xingkui Guo^a, Fan Yang^{a,*}, Xiaolu Sun^a, Chuang Han^a, Yujiao Bai^a, Guanjun Liu^a,
Wenbo Liu^a, Rongguo Wang^{a,b,*}

^a National Key Laboratory of Science and Technology on Advanced Composites in Special Environments

Harbin Institute of Technology

Harbin 150080, P. R. China

^b Shenzhen STRONG Advanced Materials Research Institute Co., Ltd

Shenzhen, P. R. China

E-mail: wrg@hit.edu.cn; yngfan@163.com

Supplementary material:

Figure captions

Fig. S1. SEM image (a), EDS (c), TEM image (c) and HRTEM image (d) of PDMAA-TiO₂ hydrogel; SEM image (e), EDS (f), TEM image (g) and HRTEM image (h) of PDMAA-CuS hydrogel.

Fig. S2. a) UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra of TiO₂ particles, CuS particles, PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel. b) The band gap evaluation for linear dependence of $(Ah\nu)^2$ versus $h\nu$ for TiO₂ and CuS.

Fig. S3. a) Photoluminescence spectra of PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel. b) The transient photocurrent response of PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS photocatalyst electrodes with light on-off cycles under visible light irradiation.

Fig. S4. TGA curves of PDMAA, PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS, and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogels.

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CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel.

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Fig. S10. High-resolution XPS spectra (a) N 1s, (b) O 1s, (c) S 2p, (d) Ti 2p of PDMAA-TiO₂ hydrogel before and after the adsorption of sulfaclozine.

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Fig. S13. The photodegradation rate of sulfaclozine using PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS, PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel, and mix (PDMAA-CuS hydrogel and TiO₂ nanoparticles) with 300W visible light.

Fig. 14. The MS data and proposed structures of the intermediates of sulfaclozine photodegradation in the composite hydrogel catalysis system.

Fig. S15. The TOC removal ratio of sulfaclozine in the composite hydrogel catalysis system.

Fig. S16. The curves of the removal rate for sulfaclozine using PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogels at various circumstances including adsorption before degradation, adsorption

again after degradation, and repeating adsorption without degradation.

Fig. S17. XRD spectra of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel before and after the cycling test.

Fig. S18. XPS spectra of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel before and after the cycling test.

Fig. S19. The SEM images of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel (a) before and (b) after the cycling test.

Fig. S20. The TEM images of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel (a,b,c) before and (d, e, f) after the cycling test.

Table S1. The photodegradation intermediates of sulfaclozine.

Table S2. Property comparison of photocatalysts reported in recent three years for degradation of antibiotics under visible light irradiation.

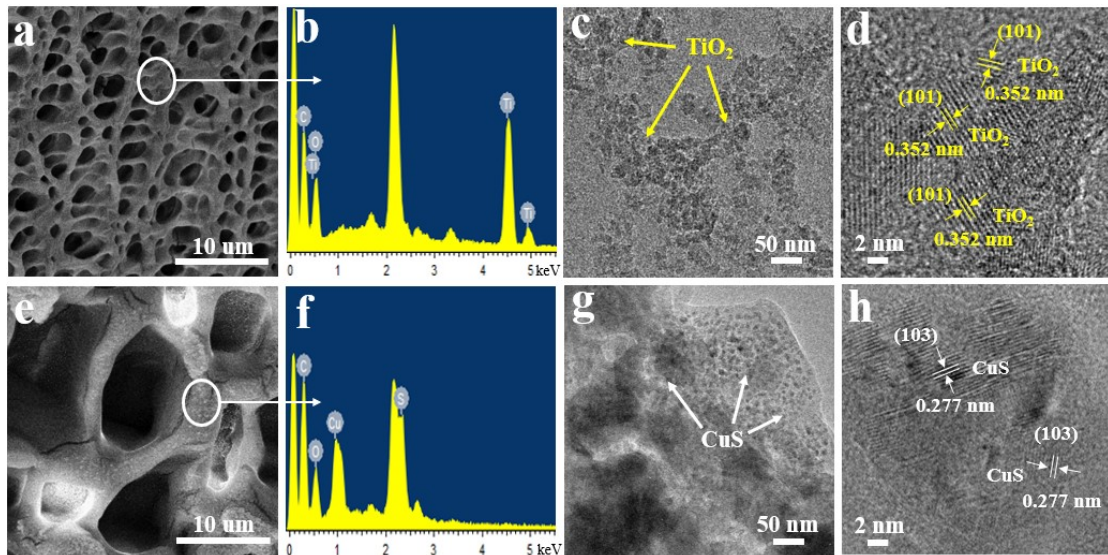


Fig. S1. SEM image (a), EDS (c), TEM image (c) and HRTEM image (d) of PDMAA-TiO₂ hydrogel; SEM image (e), EDS (f), TEM image (g) and HRTEM image (h) of PDMAA-CuS hydrogel.

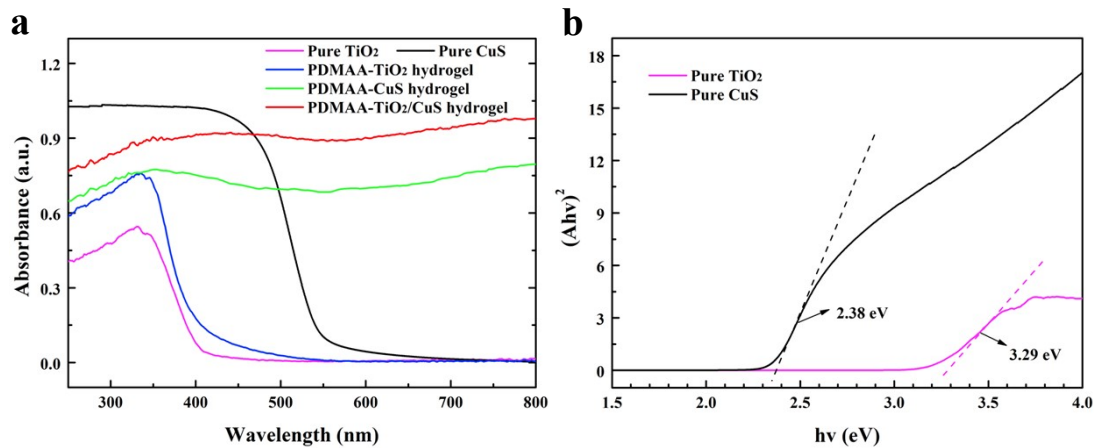


Fig. S2. a) UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra of TiO₂ particles, CuS particles, PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel. b) The band gap evaluation for linear dependence of (Ahv)² versus hv for TiO₂ and CuS.

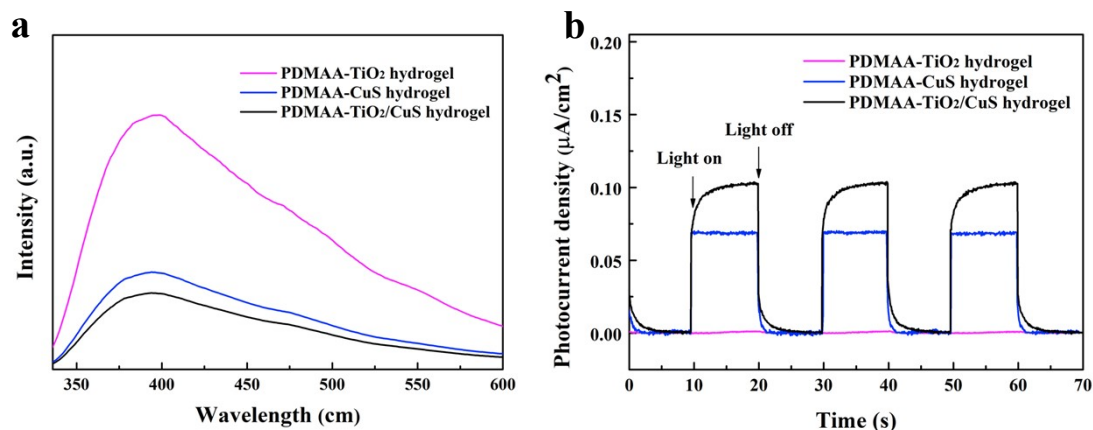


Fig. S3. a) Photoluminescence spectra of PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel. b) The transient photocurrent response of PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS photocatalyst electrodes with light on-off cycles under visible light irradiation.

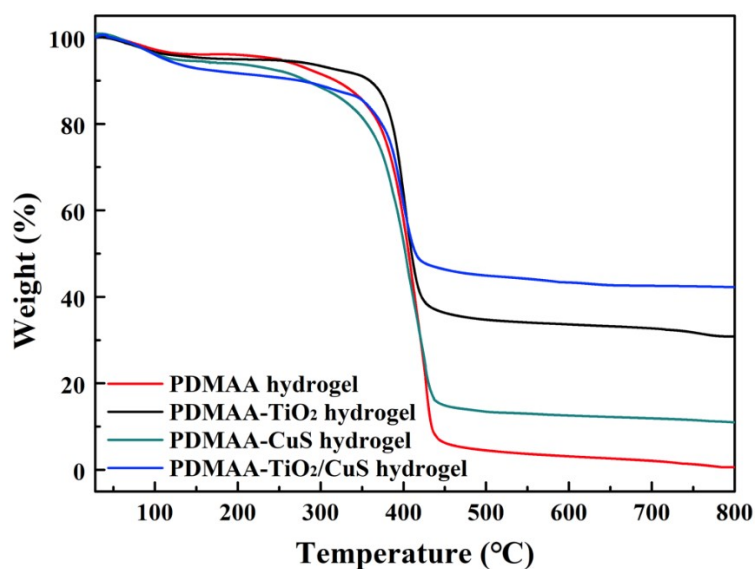


Fig. S4. TGA curves of PDMAA, PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS, and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogels.

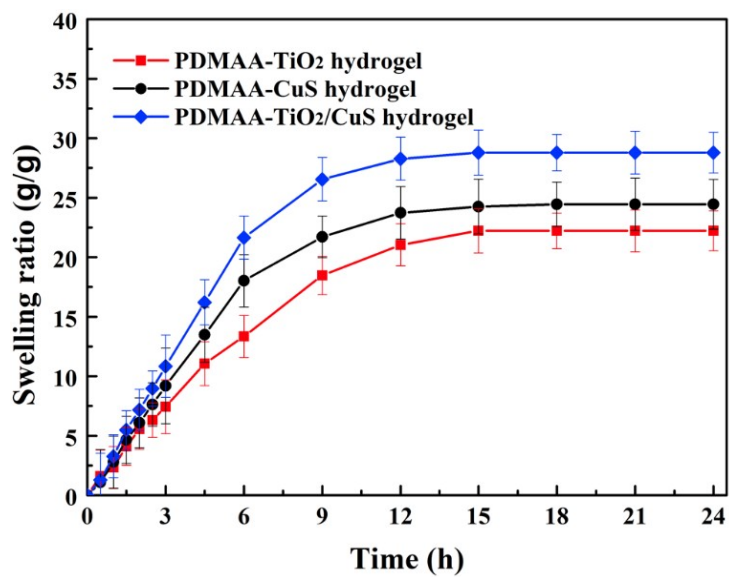


Fig. S5. The swelling ratio of PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel.

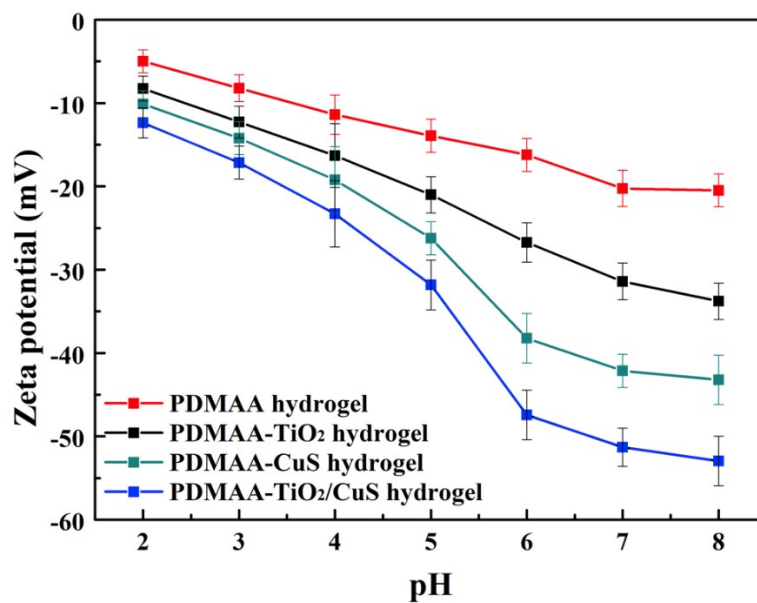


Fig. S6. Zeta potentials of PDMAA, PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel.

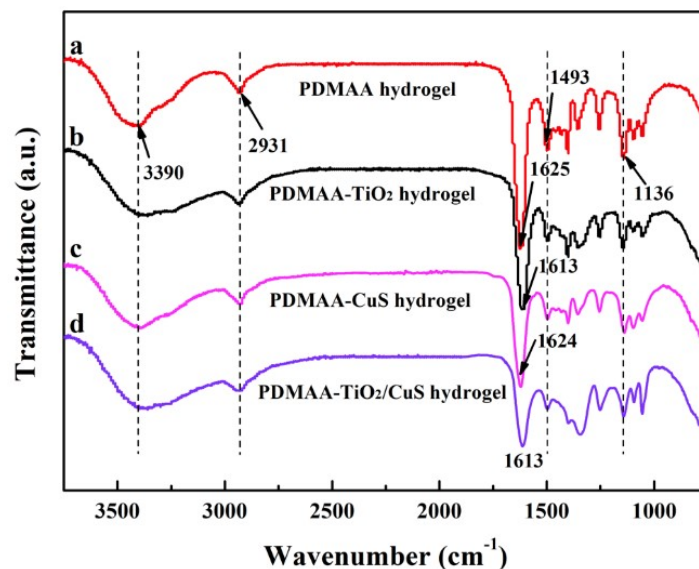


Fig. S7. FTIR spectra (a) PDMAA, (b) PDMAA-TiO₂, (c) PDMAA-CuS, and (d) PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel.

The FT-IR spectrum of PDMAA, PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS, and PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS were displayed in Fig. S7. A broad peak around 3390 cm⁻¹ was attributed to O-H stretching vibration. The peak at 2931 cm⁻¹ was the result of the C-H stretching vibration. The absorption peaks at 1493 cm⁻¹ and 1136 cm⁻¹ were assigned to C-N stretching and bending vibrations, respectively. The stretch vibration peak of the carbonyl groups of PDMAA shifted from 1625 cm⁻¹ to lower wavenumber field at 1613 cm⁻¹ in the FTIR spectra, which was the evidence of hydrogen bonding interaction between the polymer chains and TiO₂ nanoparticles during curing process [1]. After loaded CuS, the FTIR spectra peak at 1613 cm⁻¹ weakened dramatically compared with PDMAA-TiO₂, which could be explained by the fact that carbonyl groups were the major function groups that interacted with CuS [2].

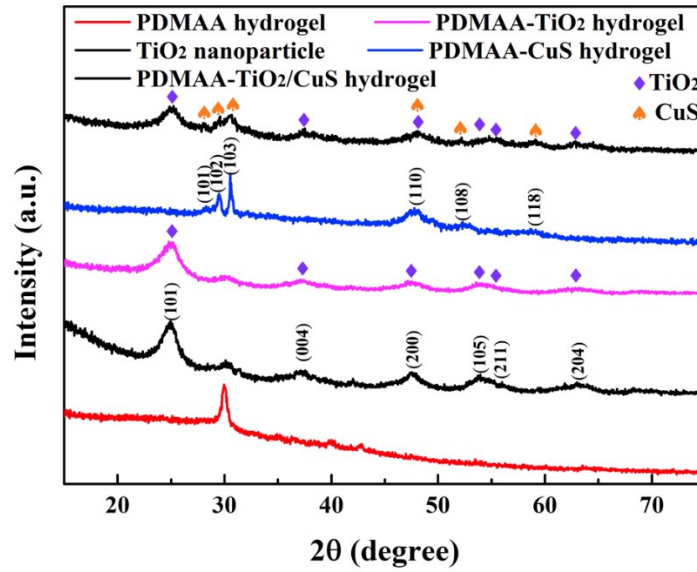


Fig. S8. XRD spectra of TiO_2 nanoparticle, and PDMAA, PDMAA- TiO_2 , PDMAA-CuS and PDMAA- TiO_2/CuS hydrogel.

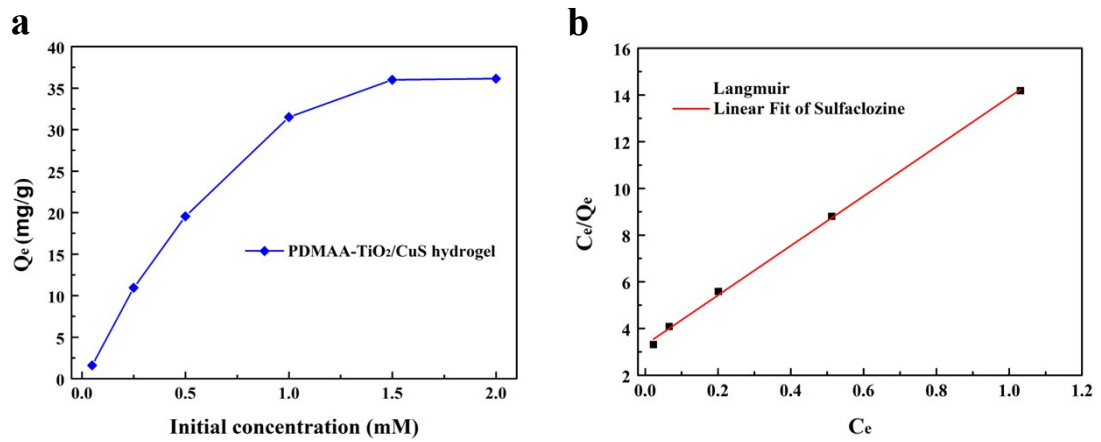


Fig. S9. a) Adsorption isotherm analyses of sulfaclozine on PDMAA- TiO_2/CuS hydrogel. b) Adsorption isotherm analyses with Langmuir model of sulfaclozine on PDMAA- TiO_2/CuS hydrogel.

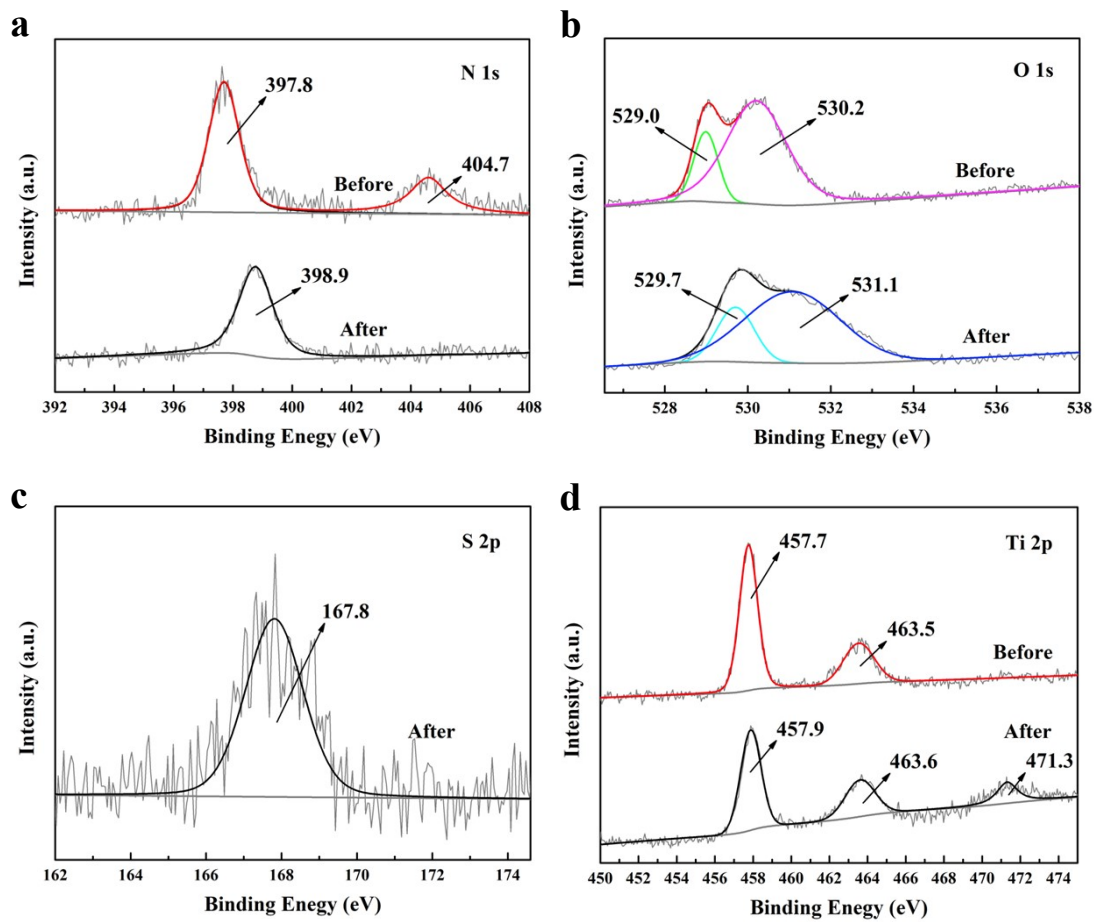


Fig. S10. High-resolution XPS spectra (a) N 1s, (b) O 1s, (c) S 2p, (d) Ti 2p of PDMAA-TiO₂ hydrogel before and after the adsorption of sulfaclozine.

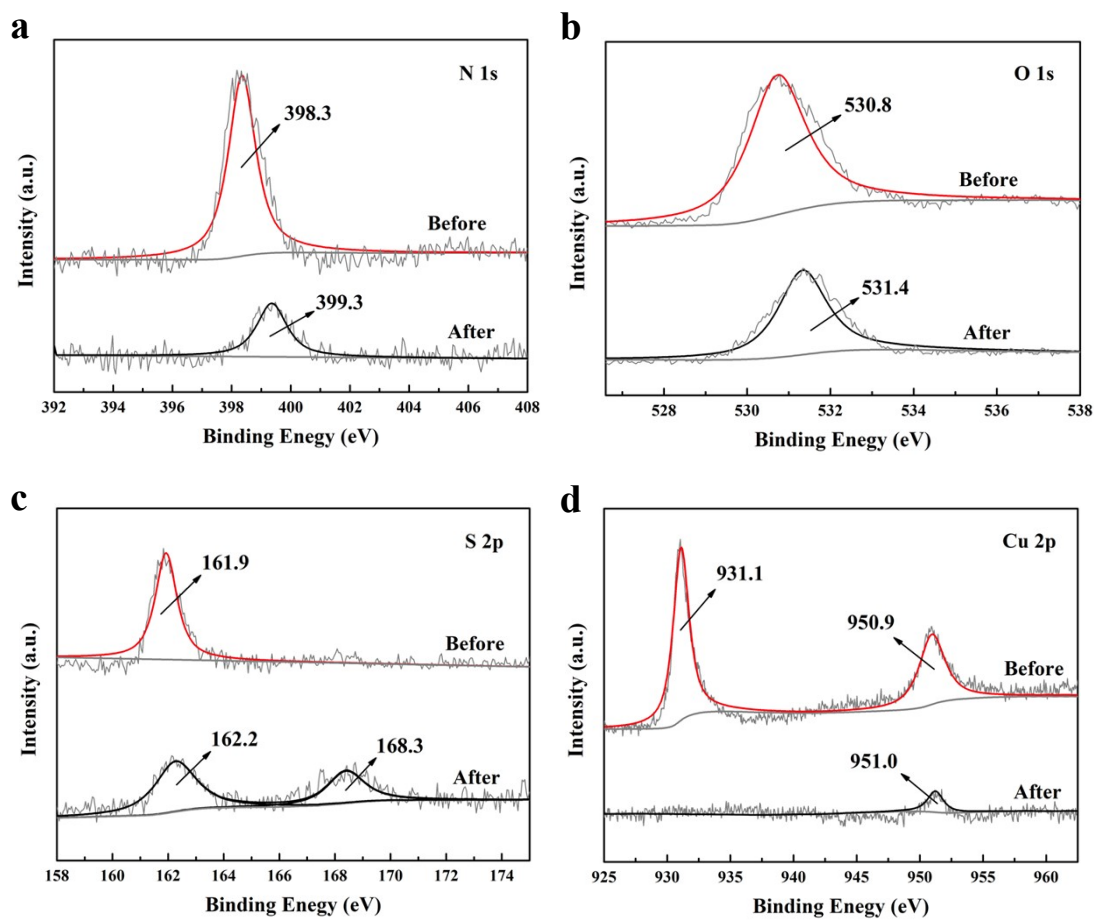


Fig. S11. High-resolution XPS spectra (a) N 1s, (b) O 1s, (c) S 2p, (d) Cu 2p of PDMAA-CuS hydrogel before and after the adsorption of sulfaclozine.

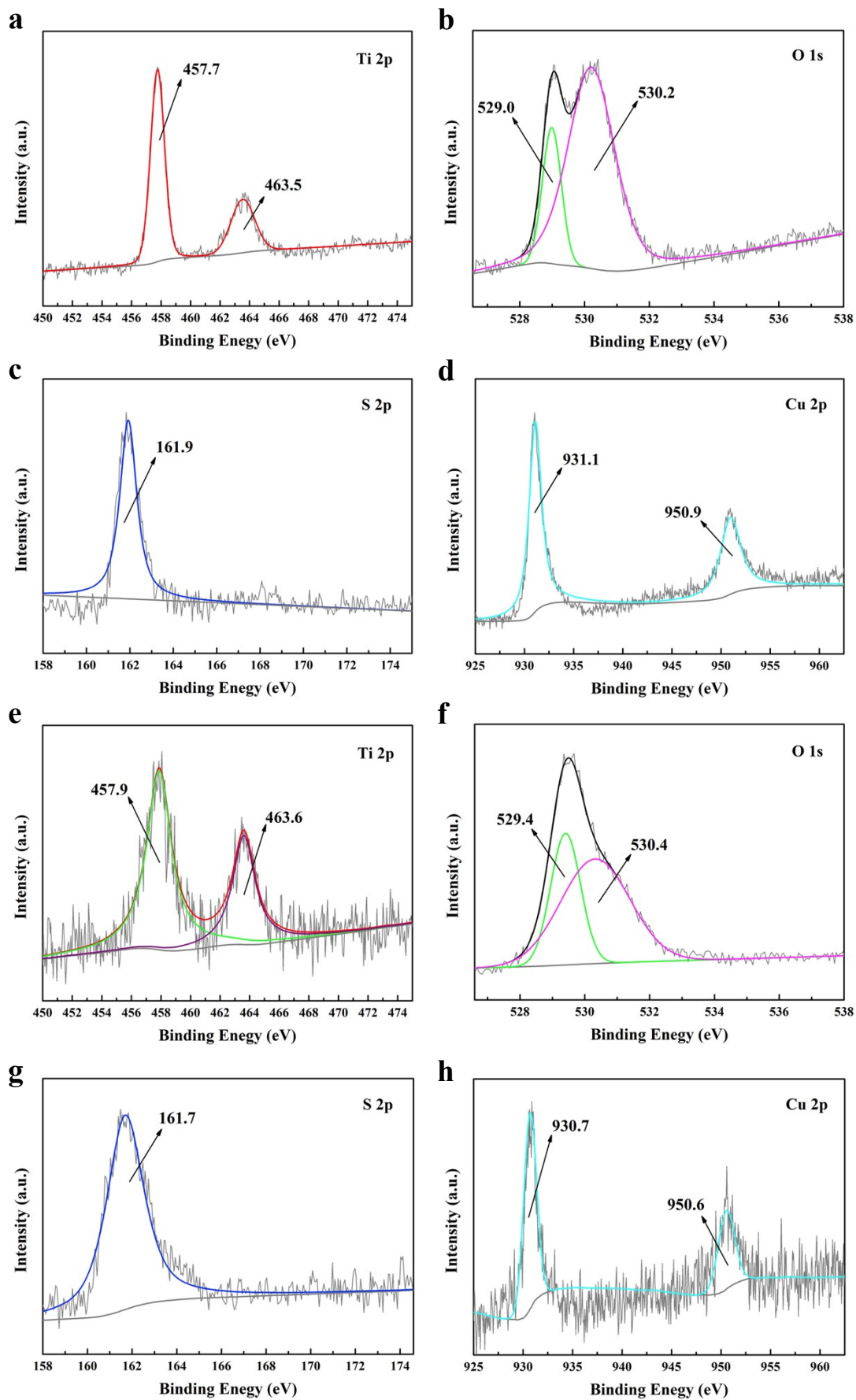


Fig. S12. High-resolution XPS spectra of (a) Ti 2p and (b) O 1s for PDMAA-TiO₂, (c)

S 2p and (d) Cu 2p for PDMAA-CuS, and (e) Ti 2p, (f) O 1s, (g) S 2p, and (h) Cu 2p for PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS composite.

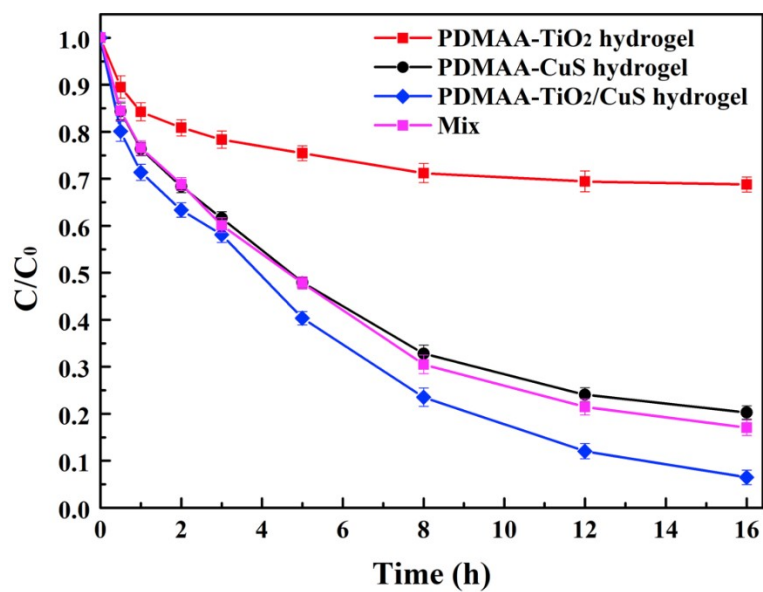
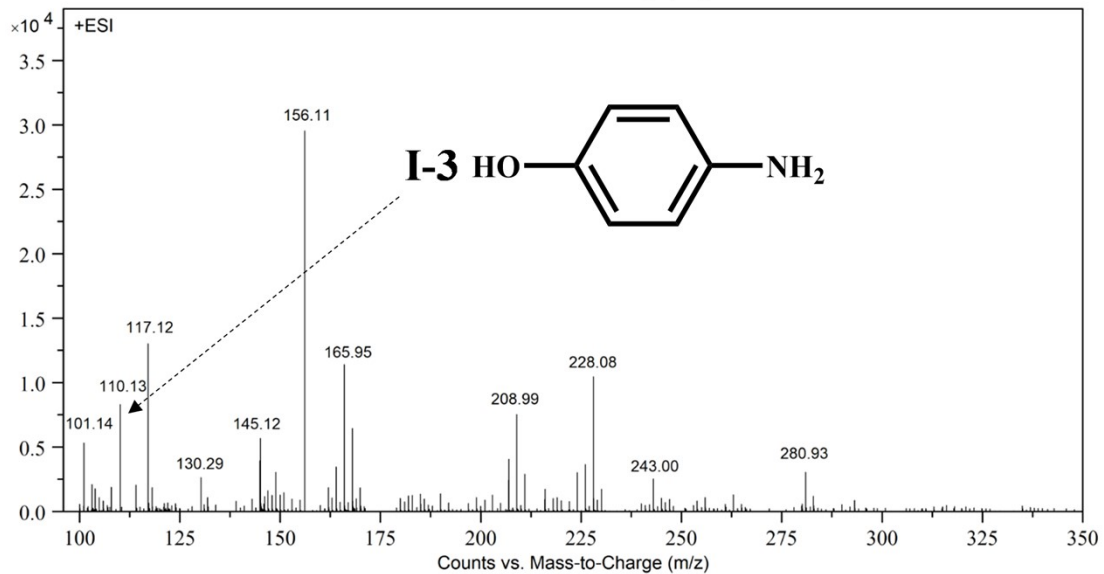
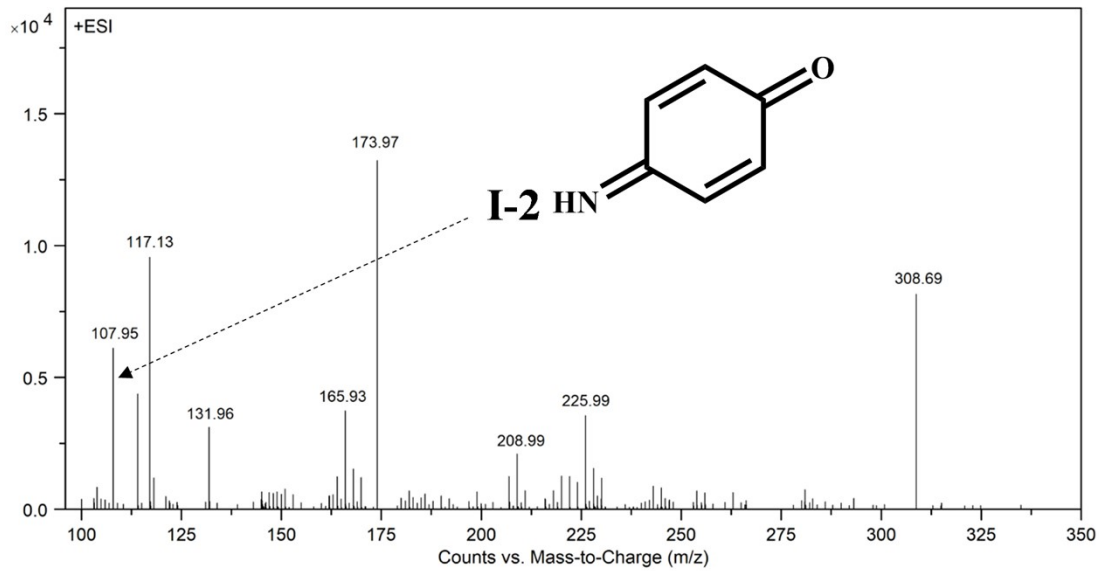
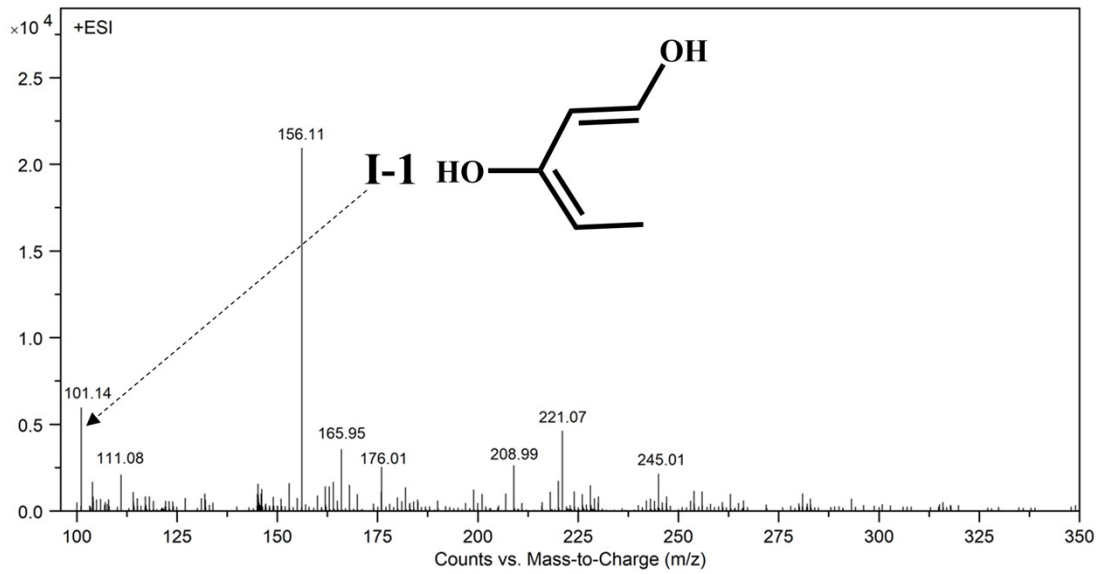
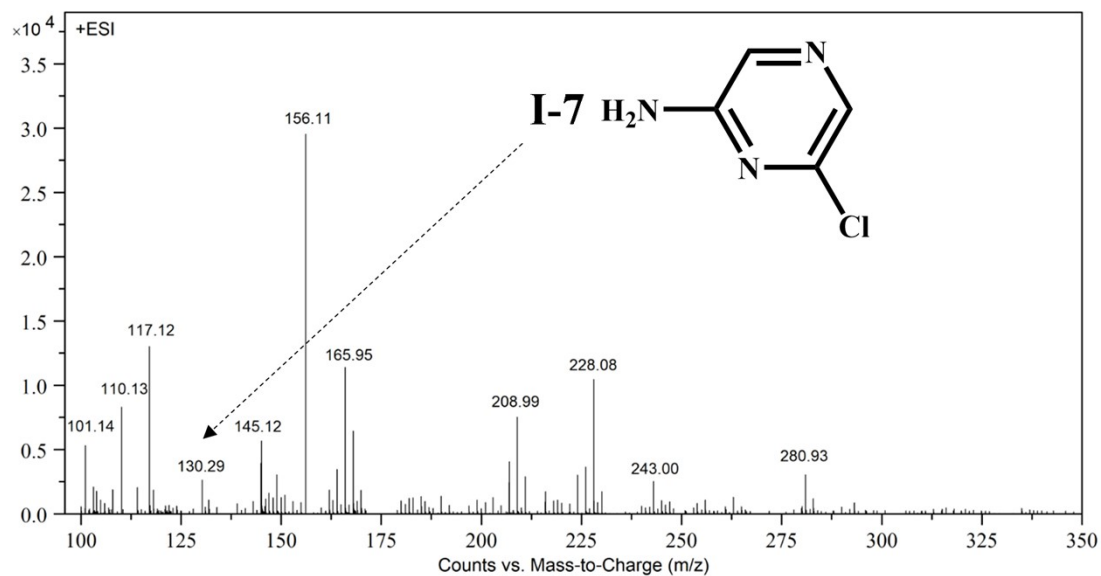
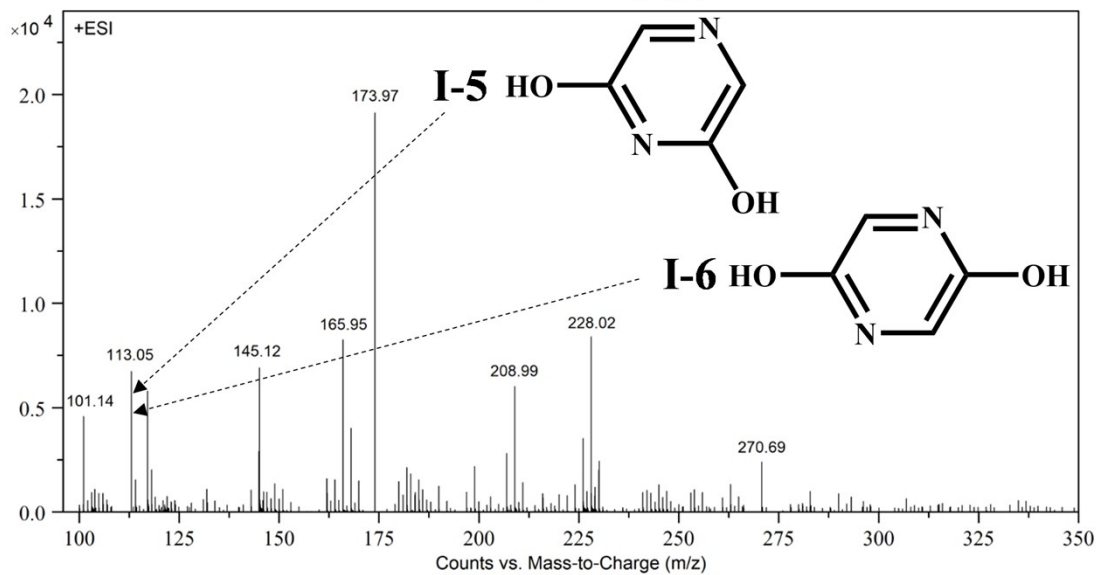
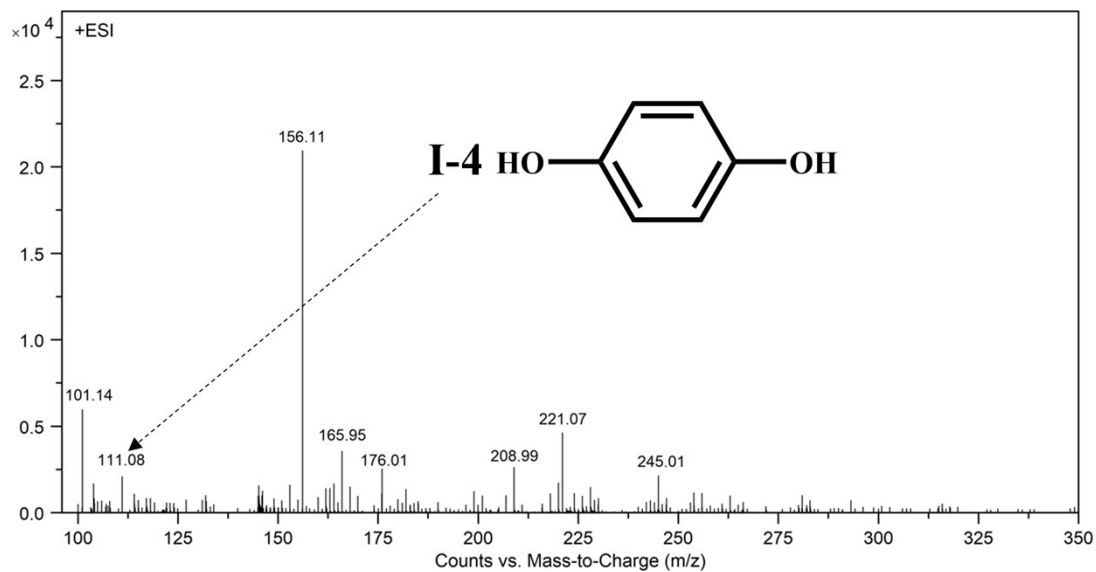
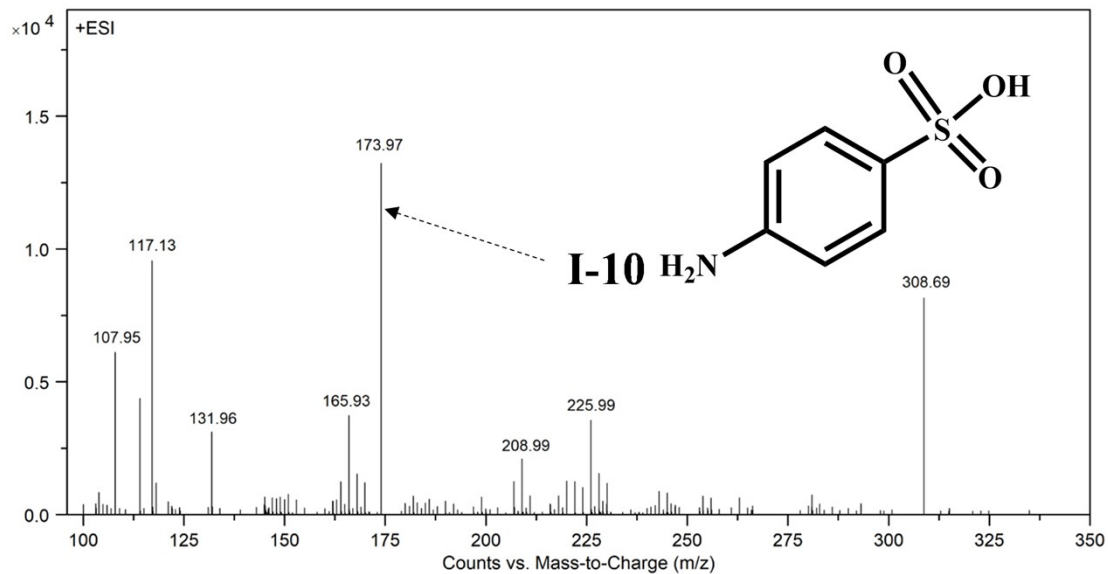
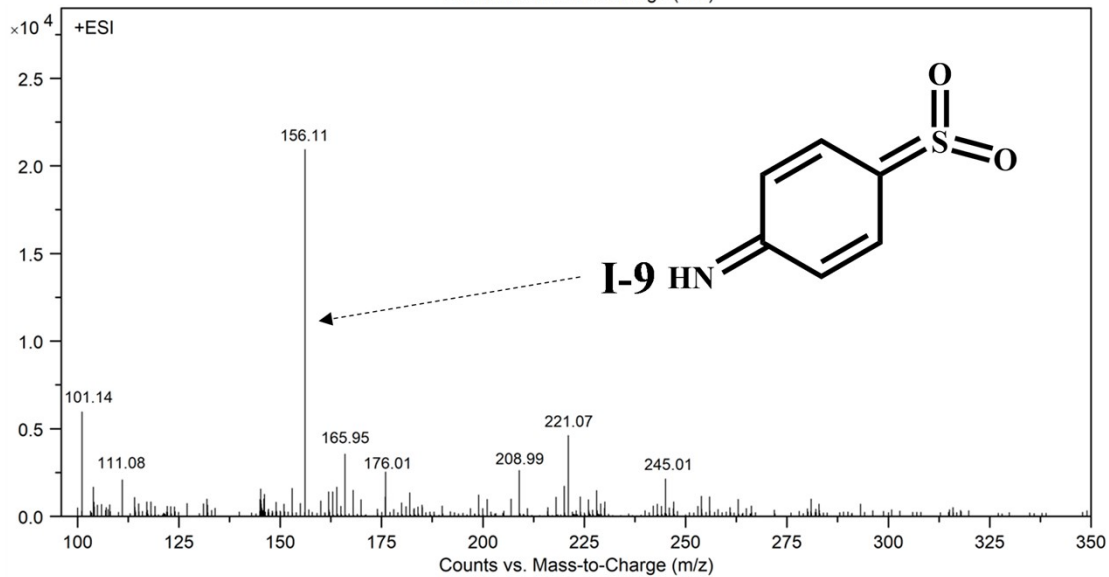
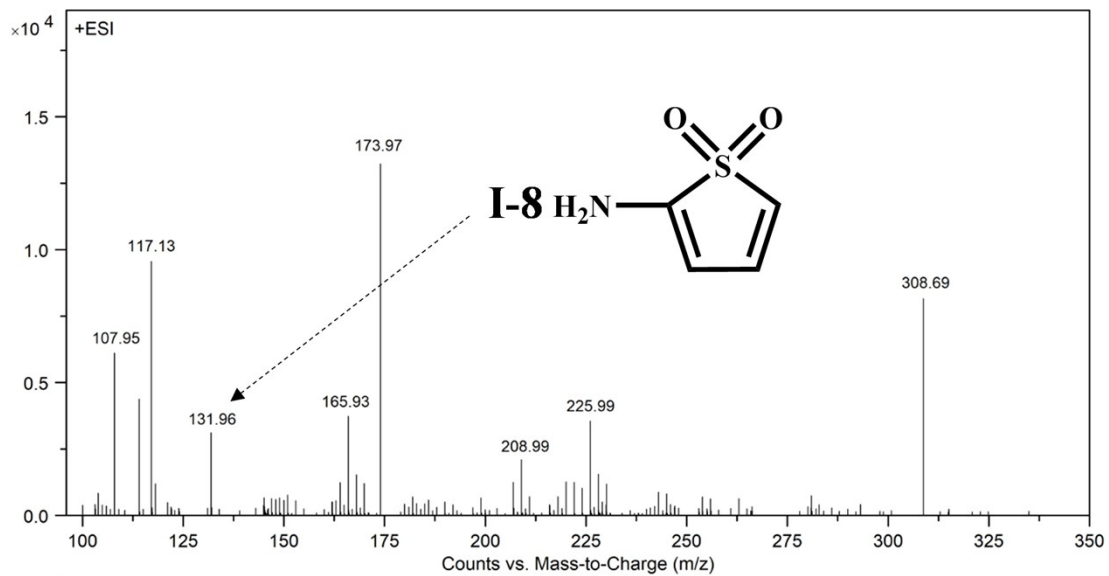
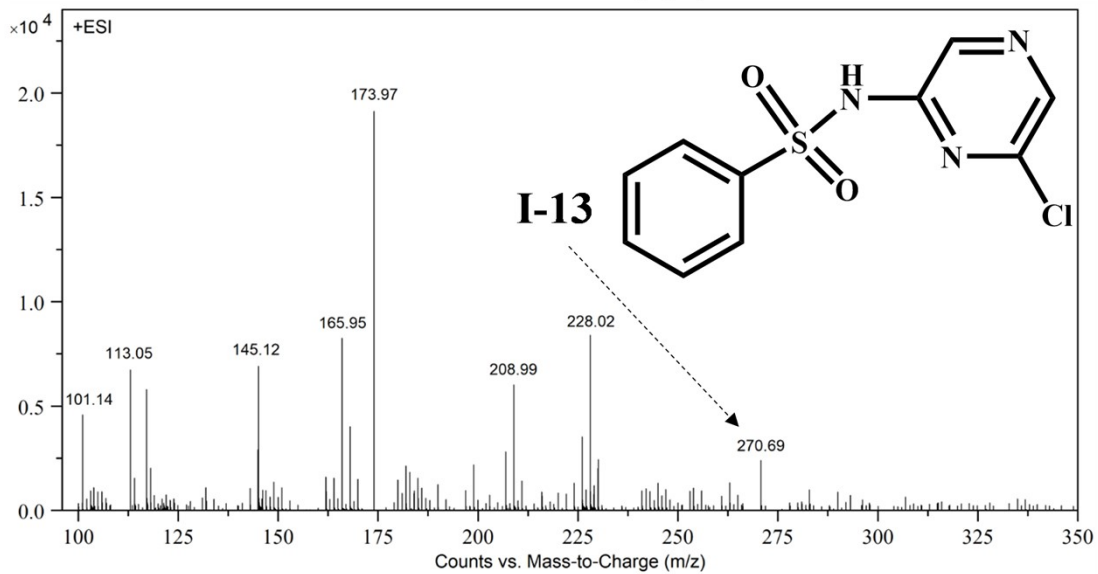
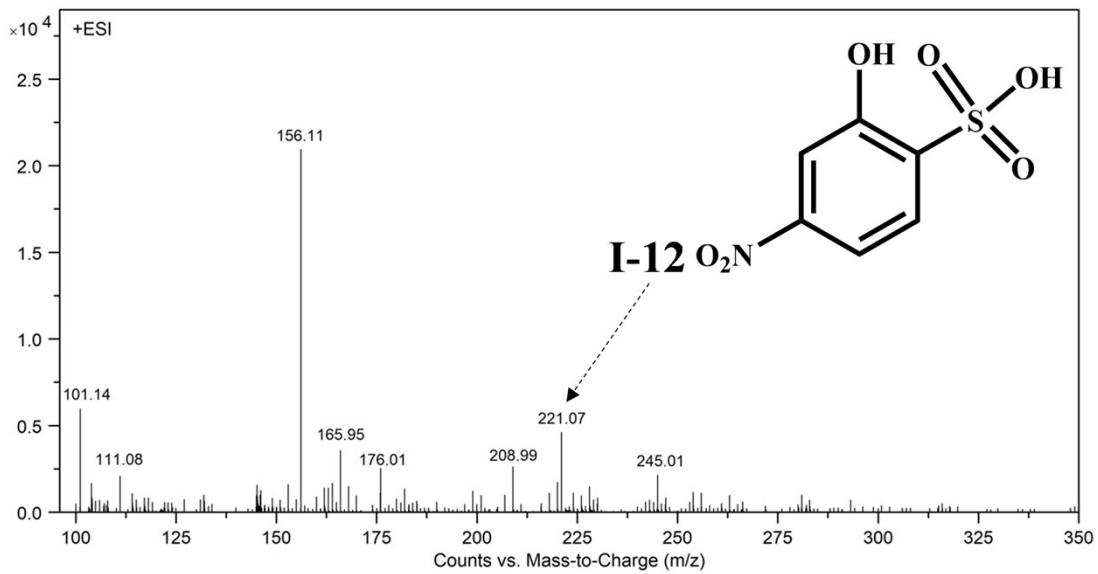
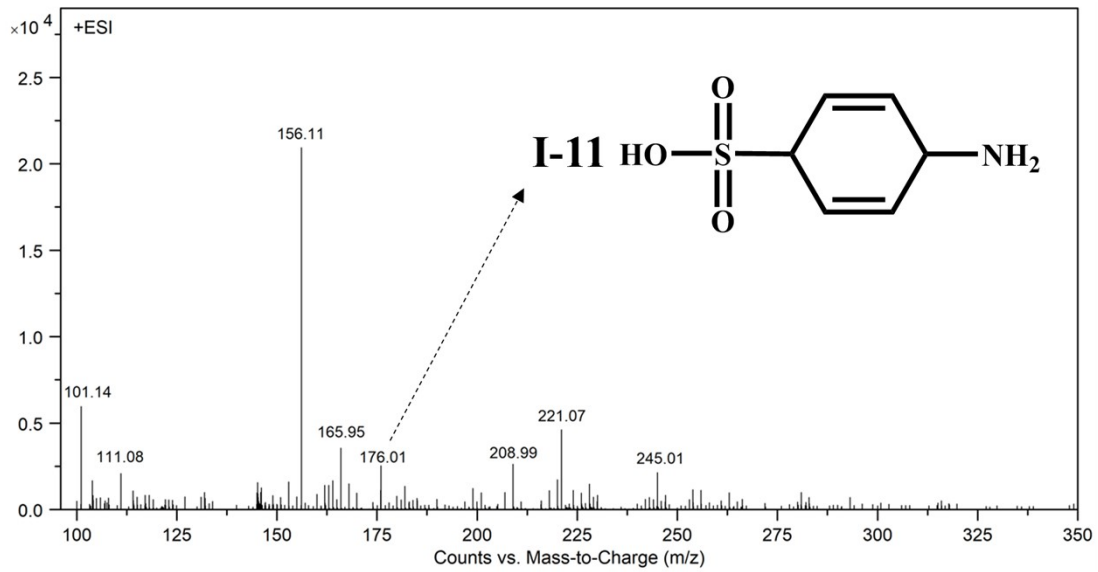


Fig. S13. The photodegradation rate of sulfaclozine using PDMAA-TiO₂, PDMAA-CuS, PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel, and mix (PDMAA-CuS hydrogel and TiO₂ nanoparticles) with 300W visible light.









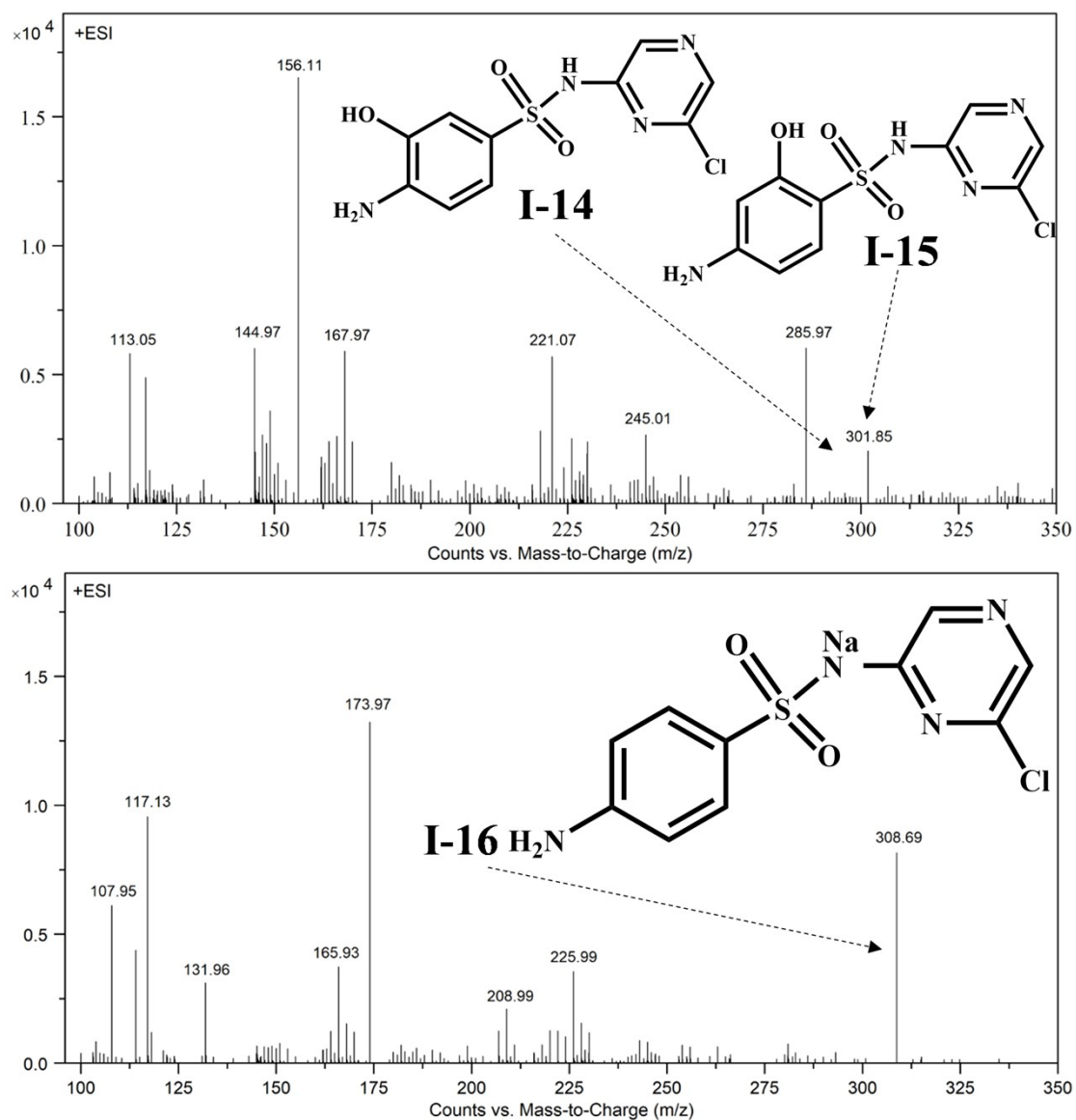


Fig. 14. The MS data and proposed structures of the intermediates of sulfaclozine photodegradation in the composite hydrogel catalysis system.

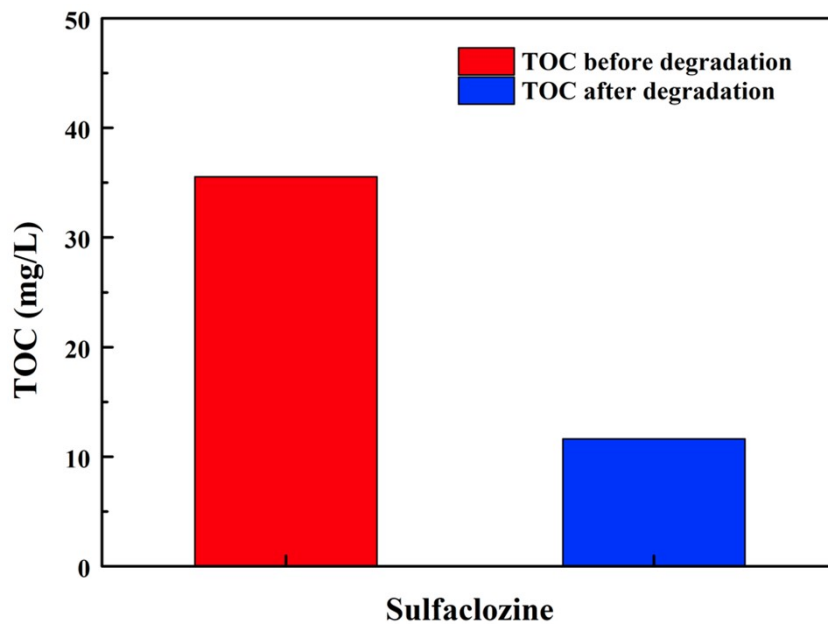


Fig. S15. The TOC removal ratio of sulfaclozine in the composite hydrogel catalysis system.

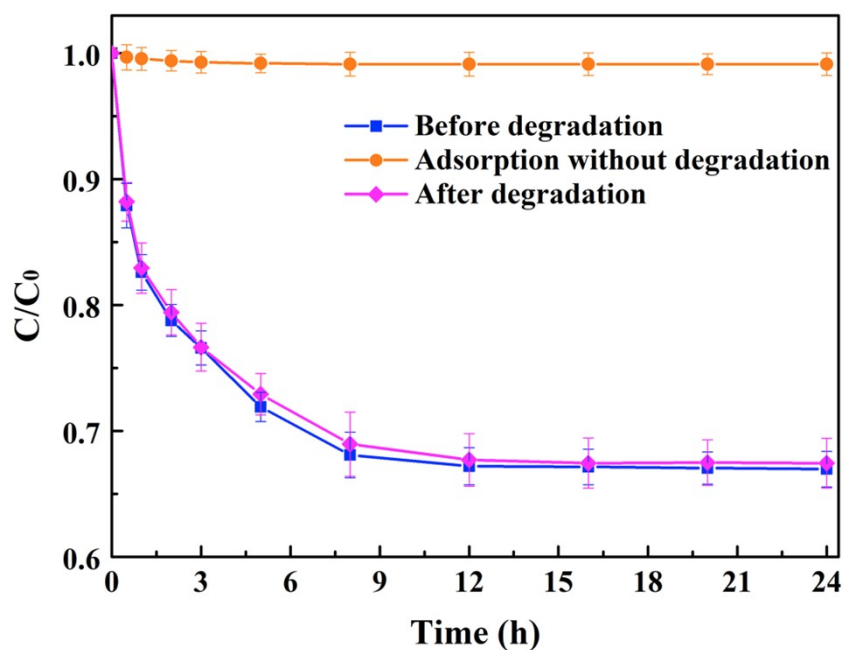
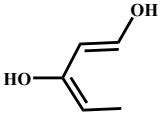
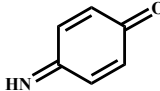


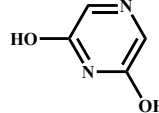
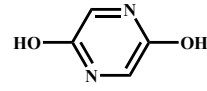
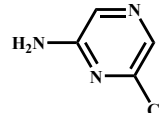
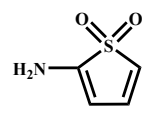
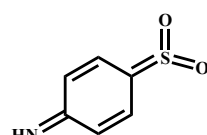
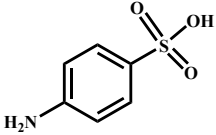
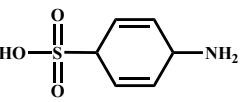
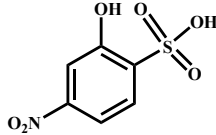
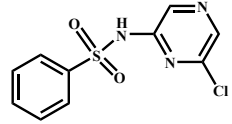
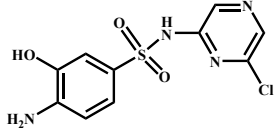
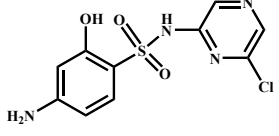
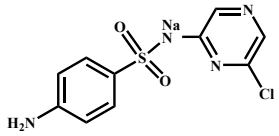


Fig. S16. The curves of the removal rate for sulfaclozine using PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogels at various circumstances including adsorption before degradation, adsorption again after degradation, and repeating adsorption without degradation.

Table S1. The photodegradation intermediates of sulfaclozine

Product ID	Possible intermediates and structure	[M+H] ⁺	Reported by
I-1		101.14	[3]
I-2		107.95	[4]
I-3		110.13	[2]
I-4		111.08	[5]
I-5		113.05	[5]
I-6		113.05	[5]
I-7		130.29	[6]
I-8		131.96	[5]
I-9		156.11	[7]

Product ID	Possible intermediates and structure	[M+H] ⁺	Reported by
I-10		173.97	[8]
I-11		176.01	[9]
I-12		221.07	[3]
I-13		270.69	[2]
I-14		301.85	[10]
I-15		301.85	[11]
I-16		308.69	[12]

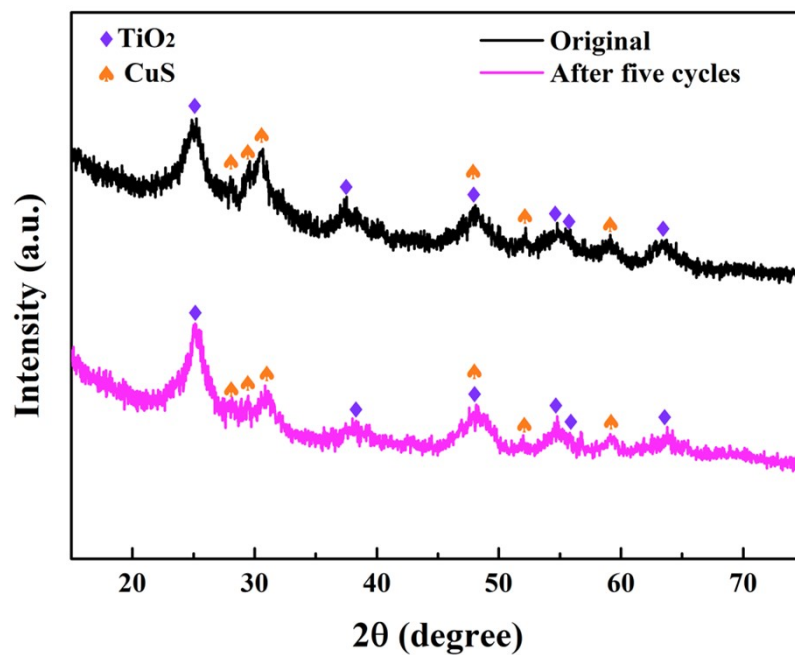


Fig. S17. XRD spectra of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel before and after the cycling test.

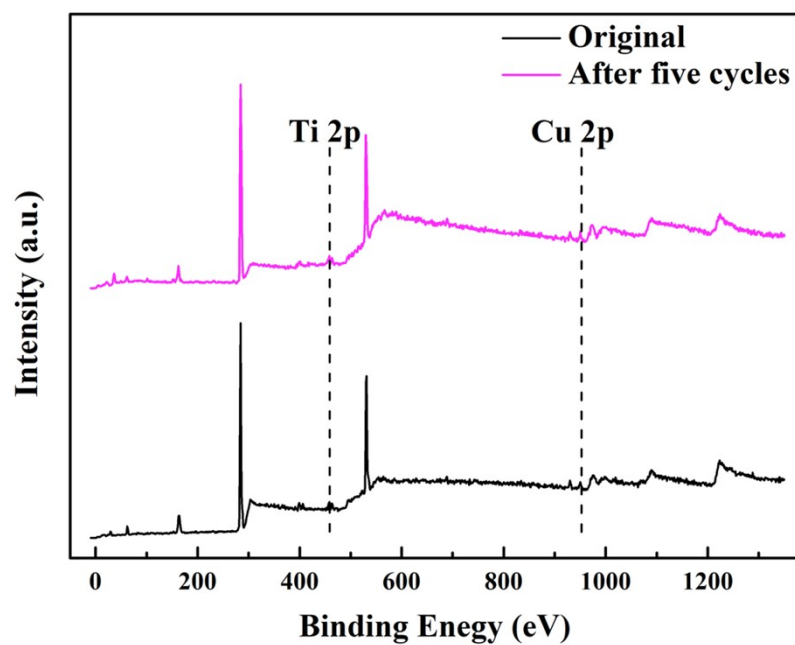


Fig. S18. XPS spectra of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel before and after the cycling test.

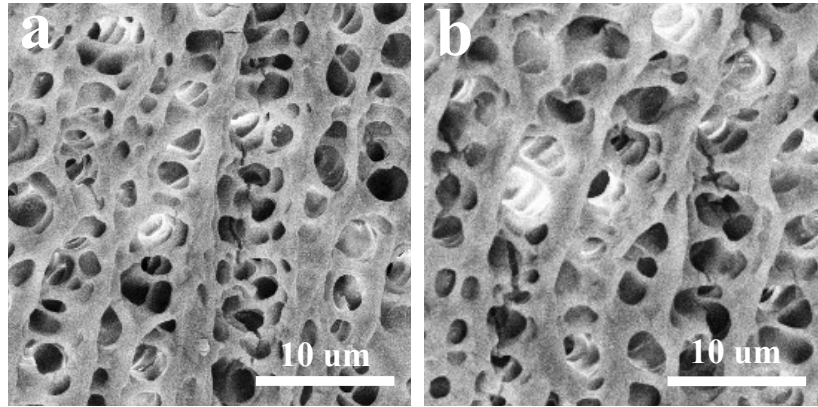


Fig. S19. The SEM images of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel (a) before and (b) after the cycling test.

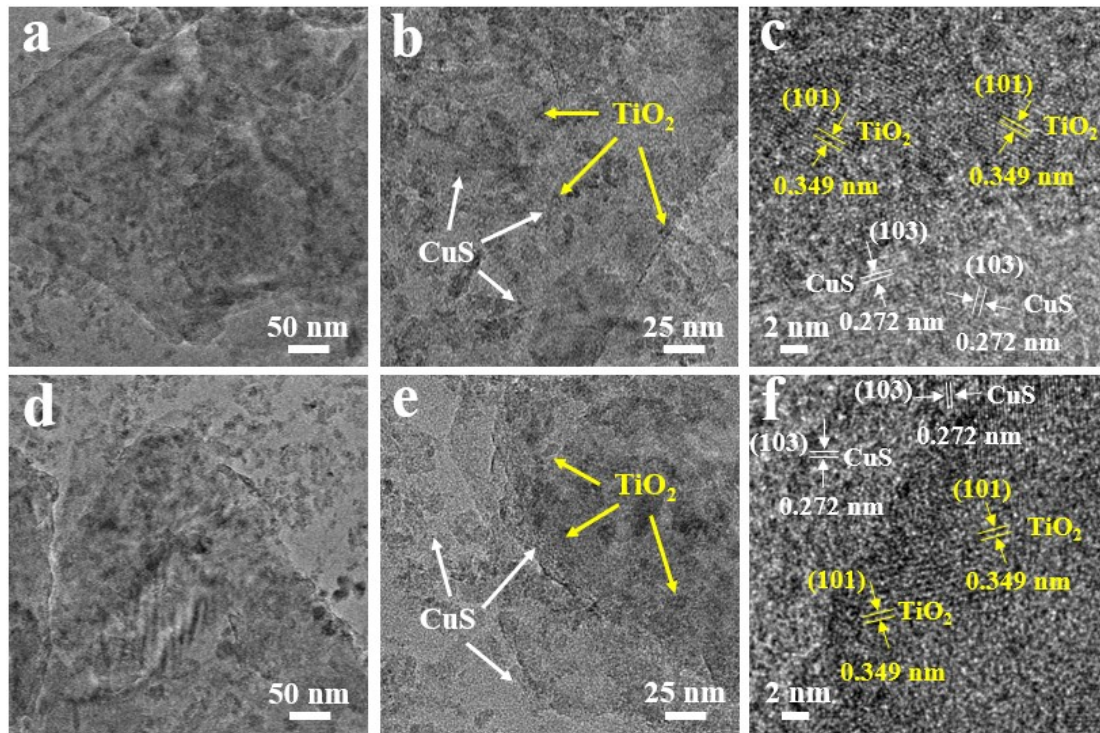


Fig. S20. The TEM images of PDMAA-TiO₂/CuS hydrogel (a,b,c) before and (d, e, f) after the cycling test.

Table S2. Property comparison of photocatalysts reported in recent three years for degradation of antibiotics under visible light irradiation.

	Photocatalyst	Target contaminant	Separation free	Adsorption	Optimum photodegradation	Mineralization	Reusability	Year	Ref.
1	MoS ₂ /graphene aerogel	Tetracycline	Yes	-	10.00%	-	Yes	2019	[13]
2	Bi ₂ O ₃ /Bi ₂ MoO ₆	Tetracycline	N/A	-	70.00%	-	Yes	2019	[14]
3	In ₂ S ₃ /InVO ₄	Tetracycline	N/A	-	71.41%	61.14%	Yes	2019	[15]
4	W-doped BaTiO ₃	Tetracycline	N/A	15.00%	80.00%	-	Yes	2019	[16]
5	TCPP/rGO/Bi ₂ WO ₆	Tetracycline	N/A	-	84.00%	-	Yes	2019	[17]
6	Ce ³⁺ doped Bi ₂ O ₃	Tetracycline	N/A	-	89.10%	-	N/A	2019	[18]
7	Ti ³⁺ /N co-doped TiO ₂ /DG	Tetracycline	N/A	-	92.00%	-	N/A	2019	[19]
8	BiOCl/TiO ₂ composite	Tetracycline	N/A	28.27%	84.04%	-	Yes	2020	[20]
9	MoS ₂ /g-C ₃ N ₄ /Bi ₂₄ O ₃₁ Cl ₁₀	Tetracycline	N/A	-	97.50%	-	Yes	2020	[21]
10	Z-scheme Bi ₂ WO ₆ -P25	Tetracycline	N/A	-	89.00%	51.00%	Yes	2021	[22]
11	CoP/ZnSnO ₃	Tetracycline	N/A	-	96.44%	-	N/A	2021	[23]
12	Pt/BiVO ₄ Nanosheets	Tetracycline	N/A	-	88.50%	-	N/A	2021	[24]
13	Cu ₂ O nanostructures	Trimethoprim	N/A	-	77.29%	-	N/A	2021	[25]
14	Bi (Spheres)/g-C ₃ N ₄	Amoxicillin	N/A	-	5.00%	-	N/A	2019	[26]

Photocatalyst	Target contaminant	Separation free	Adsorption	Optimum photodegradation	Mineralization	Reusability	Year	Ref.
15 Pt-Bi co-doped TiO ₂	Amoxicillin	N/A	-	87.67%	-	N/A	2019	[27]
16 Mesoporous g-C ₃ N ₄	Amoxicillin	N/A	-	90.00%	25.00%	Yes	2020	[28]
17 Cu doped TiO ₂	Amoxicillin	N/A	-	90.00%	-	N/A	2020	[29]
18 CuI/FePO ₄	Amoxicillin	N/A	-	90.00%	-	Yes	2022	[30]
19 TiO ₂ /Bi ₂ MoO ₆	Amoxicillin	N/A	-	94.10%	65.40%	Yes	2022	[31]
20 Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @MIL-53-NH ₂	Ampicillin	N/A	-	70.00%	-	Yes	2020	[32]
21 C ₃ N ₄ -MoS ₂ /3DG	Ampicillin	N/A	-	74.60%	26.87%	N/A	2021	[33]
22 Bi/Bi ₃ NbO ₇ nanosheets	Ciprofloxacin	N/A	-	86.00%	53.00%	N/A	2019	[34]
23 Polyaniline/Bi ₄ O ₅ Br ₂	Ciprofloxacin	N/A	23.03%	99.00%	-	Yes	2019	[35]
24 Fe ₃ O ₄ /CdS/g-C ₃ N ₄	Ciprofloxacin	N/A	-	81.00%	-	N/A	2020	[36]
25 N-doped TiO ₂ nanoparticles	Ciprofloxacin	N/A	-	54.50%	26.00%	N/A	2020	[37]
26 Ag-TiO ₂	Ciprofloxacin	N/A	-	92.00%	-	Yes	2021	[38]
27 Bi ₂ O ₃ -modified La-NaTaO ₃	Ciprofloxacin	N/A	-	83.00%	-	Yes	2021	[39]
28 g-C ₃ N ₄ /Zn doped Fe ₃ O ₄	Cephalexin	N/A	-	91.00%	80.50%	Yes	2019	[40]
29 Urea/TiO ₂ /ZnFe ₂ O ₄ /zeolite	Cephalexin	N/A	-	95.00%	-	Yes	2020	[41]

Photocatalyst	Target contaminant	Separation free	Adsorption	Optimum photodegradation	Mineralization	Reusability	Year	Ref.
30 CuWO ₄ /Bi ₂ S ₃ /ZIF67	Cephalexin	N/A	-	90.10%	74.00%	Yes	2020	[42]
31 z-scheme MoO ₃ /Ag/C ₃ N ₄	Ofloxacin	N/A	33.00%	96.00%	60.00%	Yes	2020	[43]
32 N-TiO ₂ coupled BiVO ₄	Ofloxacin	N/A	-	92.00%	78.00%	Yes	2021	[44]
33 LaFeO ₃ /lignin-biochar	Ofloxacin	N/A	26.71%	95.60%	-	Yes	2022	[45]
34 Biochar-based Zn-TiO ₂ /pBC	Sulfamethoxazole	N/A	-	81.21%	56.13%	Yes	2019	[46]
35 Fe ₃ O ₄ modified BiOCl/BiVO ₄	Sulfamethoxazole	N/A	-	91.00%	-	N/A	2019	[47]
36 MnO ₂ incorporating Fe ₂ O ₃	Sulfamethoxazole	N/A	-	90.00%	-	Yes	2020	[3]
37 α-Fe ₂ O ₃ @graphene	Sulfamethoxazole	N/A	-	92.00%	-	N/A	2020	[48]
38 Silicate glass@Cu ₂ O/Cu ₂ V ₂ O ₇	Sulfamethoxazole	N/A	-	90.10%	83.20%	Yes	2021	[49]
39 Ag ₂ O-KNbO ₃	Sulfamethoxazole	N/A	-	92.00%	-	N/A	2021	[50]
40 PDMAA-TiO ₂ /CuS hydrogel	Sulfaclozine	Yes	32.96%	97.86%	67.53%	Yes	This work	

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