## Low dimensional defective copper-based electrocatalysts for energy conversion

Yong Zhang <sup>1,2</sup>, Yan Wang <sup>1,2</sup>, Jianfang Zhang <sup>1,2</sup>, Shuai Xia <sup>1,2</sup>, Jiaqin Liu <sup>2,3</sup>, Yucheng Wu <sup>1,2</sup>\*

\*Email address: <a href="mailto:ycwu@hfut.edu.cn">ycwu@hfut.edu.cn</a>

**Abstract:** This report presents our recent research results in low-dimensional nanostructures synthesized via wet-chemical methods for electrocatalytic and photocatalytic applications, including water splitting, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, NO<sub>x</sub> reduction, and urea synthesis. By exploring quantum dots, nanosheets, and multi-dimensional hierarchical assemblies, we elucidate the unique catalytic properties arising from structural configurations, interfacial engineering, defect modulation, and elemental doping. The results demonstrate that tailored defect states and surface engineering enable improved photocatalytic hydrogen evolution and selective CO<sub>2</sub>-to-fuel conversion. These insights may provide experimental foundations for designing high-efficiency catalytic systems, bridging material innovation with sustainable energy conversion and environmental remediation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> School of Materials Science and Engineering, Hefei University of Technology, Hefei 230009, Anhui, China.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Key Laboratory of Advanced Functional Materials and Devices of Anhui Province, Hefei 230009, China

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> College of Chemistry, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Beijing 100029, China



**Dr.** Yong Zhang is currently a professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering at Hefei University of Technology, China. He received his B.E. in Materials Science and Engineering from Hefei University of Technology in 1994 and Ph.D in Condensed Matter Physics in the Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2004. He is the principal investigator of the projects

supported by National Basic Research Program of China (973Program) and National Natural Science Foundation of China. His research interests are focused on design and synthesis, electrochemical energy materials and devices for energy-efficient application. He has published over 80 papers in peer-reviewed journals and been awarded over 10 patents.