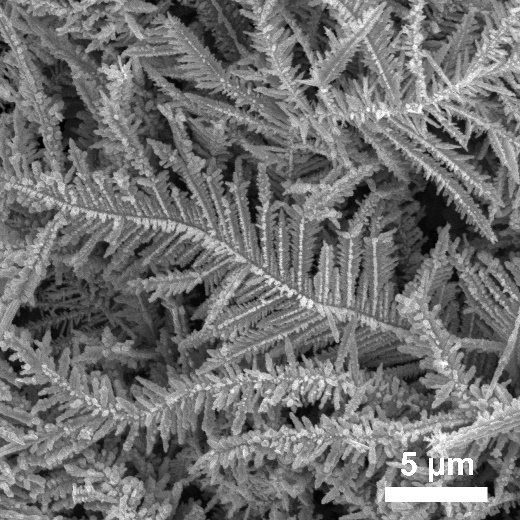
Supporting Information

**Graphene oxide coated popcorn-like Ag nanoparticles for reliable sensitive SERS detection of drug residues**

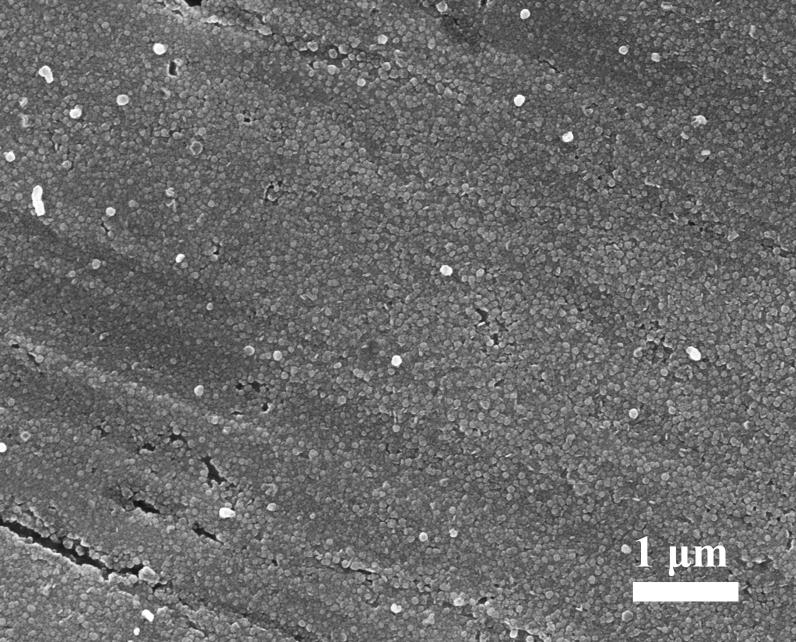
Maofeng Zhang,\*a Zhexue Chen,a Zhuoer Wang,a Zhiyuan Zheng,a Dapeng Wang,\*b

1. School of Materials Science and Engineering, Hefei University of Technology, 193 Tunxi Road, Hefei, 230009, P. R. China
2. Institute of Intelligent Machines, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 350 Shushanhu Road, Hefei, 230031, P. R. China

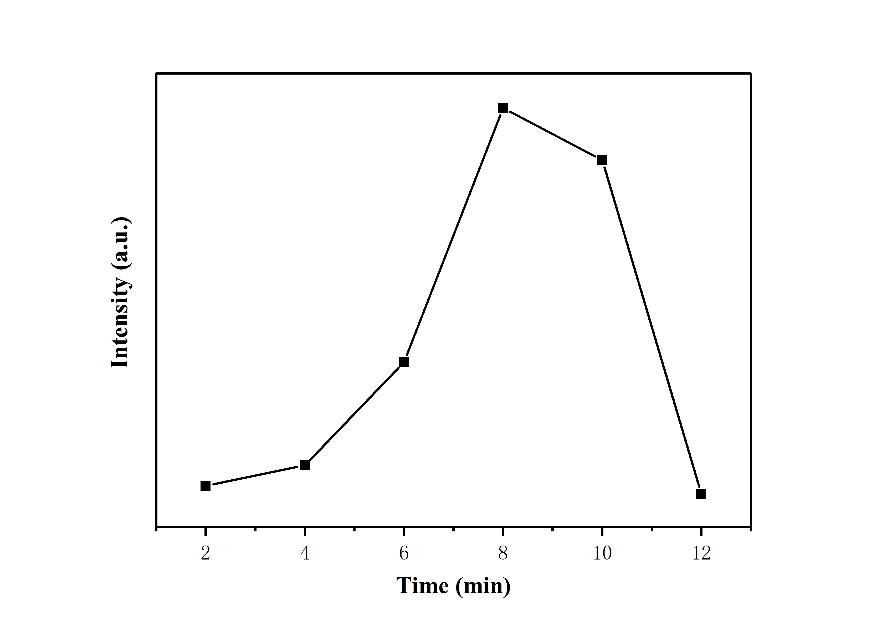
\*E-mail: [mfzhang@hfut.edu.cn](mailto:mfzhang@hfut.edu.cn) (M. F. Zhang), [dpwang@iim.ac.cn](mailto:dpwang@iim.ac.cn) (D. P. Wang)



**Figure S1**. SEM image of Ag/Cu hybrid without using of Sn2+.



**Figure S2**. SEM image of Ag nanoparticles on Cu substrate prepared with 1 min reaction time.



**Figure S3**. Raman intensity of CV at 1174 cm-1 as a function of the reaction times.

**Calculation of SERS enhancement factor (EF)**

To quantify the enhancement contribution from graphene, we calculated the enhancement factor (EF) based on the following formula:

EF = (ISERS /IBULK)×(NBULK /NSERS )

where ISERS and IBULK represent the intensities of SERS and normal Raman scattering, whereas NSERS andNBULK, respectively, denote the numbers of corresponding CV molecules effectively excited by a laser beam. According to the above formula, the EF for the AgNPs/Cu substrate is calculated to be 1.56 × 105. Similarly, the EF is calculated to be 1.20 × 106 for the GO/AgNPs/Cu substrate. As a result, the EF for the GO/AgNPs/Cu substrate shows a 7.69-fold enhancement compared to the AgNPs/Cu substrate.

NBULK = (Laser spot area/Diffusion area) \* (NA \* VolumeBULK \* ConcentrationBULK)

NSERS = (Laser spot area/Substrate area) \* (NA \* VolumeSERS \* ConcentrationSERS)

Diffusion area=π(d/2)2=0.5027cm2

Substrate area=0.09cm2

VolumeBULK =VolumeSERS

ConcentrationBULK = 106 \* ConcentrationSERS

NBULK /NSERS= (0.09/0.5027)×106=1.79×105

I = intensity of the 1174 cm-1 peak

IBULK=599 a.u.

ISERS,Ag =521 a.u.

ISERS,Ag /IBULK=0.87

EFAg = (ISERS /IBULK)×(NBULK /NSERS ) = 1.56×105

ISERS,GO/Ag =4015 a.u.

ISERS,GO/Ag /IBULK=6.70

EFGO/Ag= (ISERS /IBULK)×(NBULK /NSERS ) = 1.20×106

The EF for the GO/AgNPs/Cu substrate shows a 7.7-fold enhancement compared to the AgNPs/Cu substrate