## **Supporting Information for**

## Construction of a multi-interfacial-electron transfer scheme for efficient CO<sub>2</sub> photoreduction: A case study using CdIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> micro flower spheres modified with Au nanoparticles and reduced graphene oxide

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## 1. DFT analysis

The present first principle DFT calculations are performed with the projector augmented wave (PAW) method [1-2]. The exchange-functional is treated using the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) of Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) [3] functional. The cut-off energy of the planewave basis is set at 400 eV for optimize calculations of atoms and cell optimization. The vacuum spacing in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the catalyst is at least 10 Å. The Brillouin zone integration is performed using  $3 \times 3 \times 1$  Monkhorst-Pack k-point sampling for a primitive cell [4]. The self-consistent calculations apply a convergence energy threshold of 10<sup>-5</sup> eV. The equilibrium lattice constants are optimized with maximum stress on each atom within 0.05 eV/Å. The Hubbard U (DFT+U) corrections for 3d transition metal by setting according to the literature [5]. Finally, the adsorption eneries (Eads) can be calculated by:  $Eads=E_{surface+A}$ - $(E_{surface}+E_A)$ , where  $E_{surface+A}$  is the energy of systems with CO<sub>2</sub> molecular adsorbed, Esurface is the energy of surface stcructure, and the EA is the energy of CO<sub>2</sub> molecular.



Fig. S1. The specific photocatalytic  $CO_2$  reduction system.



Fig. S2. XRD patterns of prepared binary and ternary composite photocatalysts.



Fig. S3. SEM images of 1-CAr, 3-CAr, 5-CAr and 10-CAr.



Fig. S4. TEM image of pure Au NPs.



Fig. S5. The yields of CO and  $CH_4$  in the photocatalytic  $CO_2$  reduction process over all binary and ternary composite photocatalysts.



Fig. S6. Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) results of CO and  $CH_4$  produced by 3-CAr.



Fig. S7.  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms of pure  $CdIn_2S_4,$  2-CA and 3-CAr.



Fig. S8.  $CO_2$  adsorption ability of pure  $CdIn_2S_4$ , 2-CA, 3-CAr and 3-Cr.



Fig. S9. The VB of pure  $CdIn_2S_4$ , 2-CA and 3-CAr.

## References

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