

## Supporting information

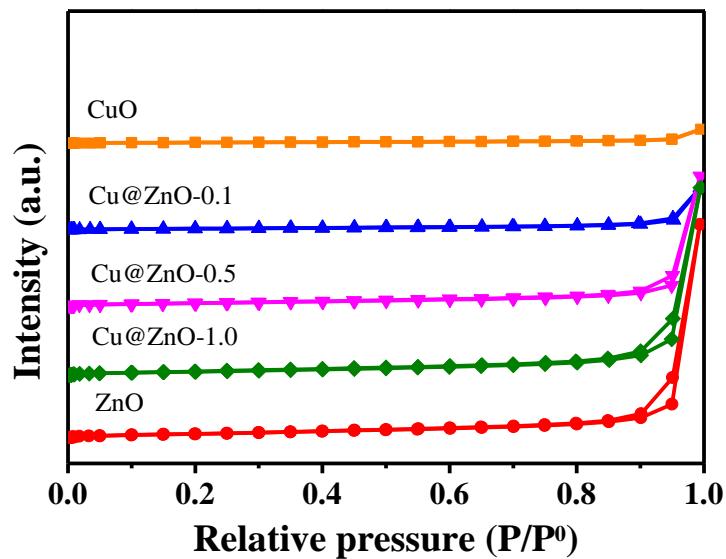
### Dependence of copper particles size and interface on the methanol and CO formation in CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation over Cu@ZnO catalysts

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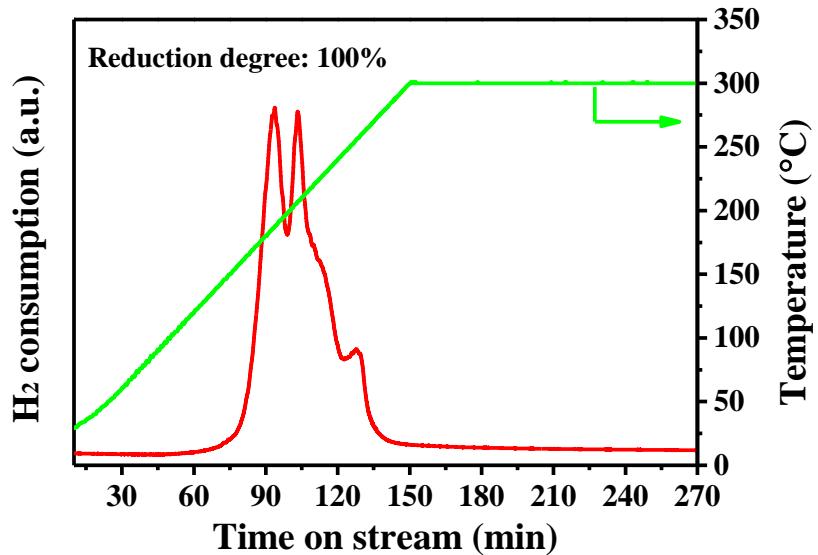
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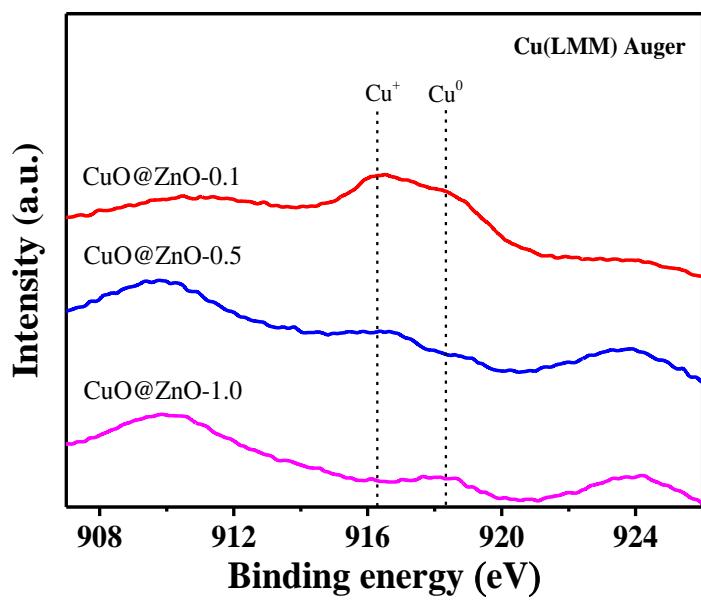
## 1. Supplementary figures:



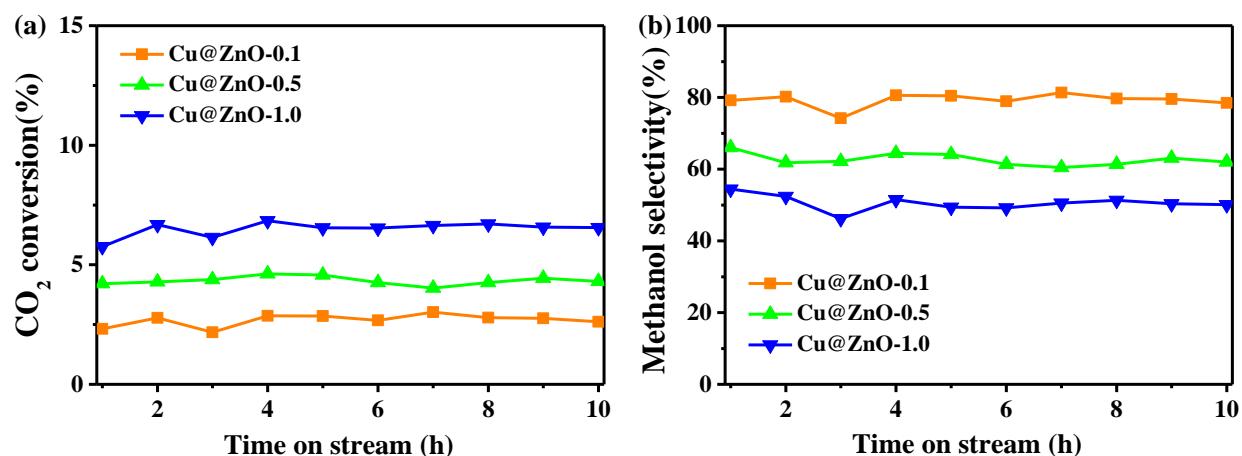
**Fig. S1** The  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms of CuO@ZnO catalysts.



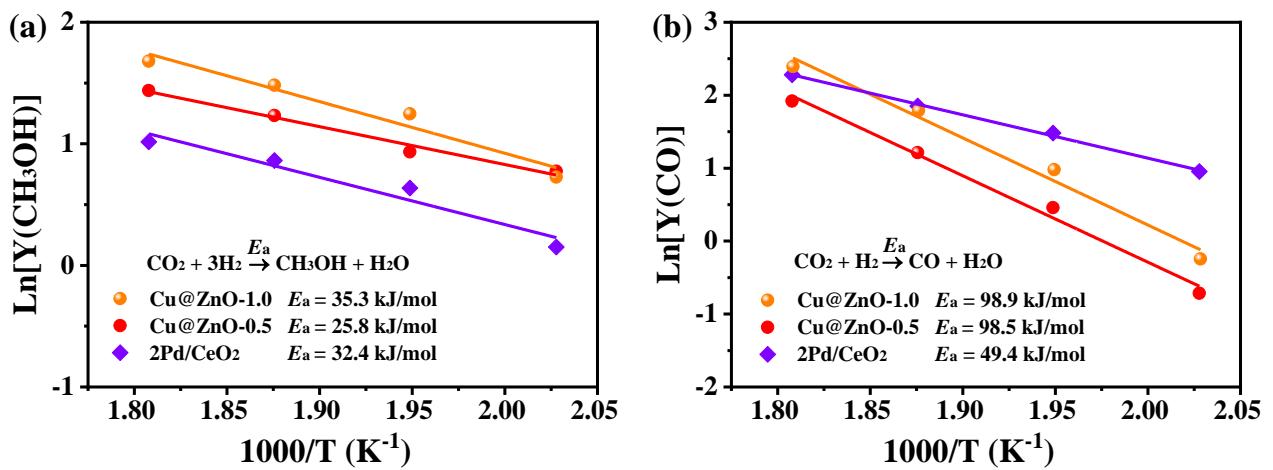
**Fig. S2**  $H_2$ -TPR profiles of pure CuO under the real reduction conditions of 300  $^{\circ}C$ , 2 h and a rate of 2  $^{\circ}C \text{ min}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S3** Cu LMM Auger spectra of the reduced CuO@ZnO catalysts



**Fig. S4** Time on stream of evolution of  $\text{CO}_2$  conversion (a) and product selectivity (b) over various  $\text{Cu}@\text{ZnO}$  catalysts. Reaction conditions: catalyst = 0.3 g,  $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}_2$  = 3, GHSV =  $12000 \text{ mL g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ , 3 MPa, 10 h, 240 °C.



**Fig. S5** Arrhenius plots for (a) methanol synthesis, and (b) RWGS reaction between 220 and 280 °C for the calculations of apparent activation energy ( $E_a$ ) for Cu@ZnO and Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalysts.

## 2. Supplementary tables:

**Table S1** The compositions of Cu@ZnO catalysts measured by ICP.

Catalyst	Cu (wt. %)	Zn (wt. %)	Zn/Cu
Cu@ZnO-0.1	69.7	8.1	0.11
Cu@ZnO-0.5	46.8	26.8	0.56
Cu@ZnO-1.0	35.4	35.9	1.11

**Table S2** Summary of the Cu-ZnO based catalysts for the hydrogenation of CO<sub>2</sub> to methanol

Catalyst	Preparation	H <sub>2</sub> /CO ratio	T <sub>R</sub> (°C)	P <sub>R</sub> (MPa)	Space velocity <sup>a</sup>	Conv. (%)	Sel. (%)	CH <sub>3</sub> OH rate (mg g <sub>cat</sub> <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
Cu@ZnO-1.0	Deposition precipitation	3:1	240	3.0	(W) 36000	3.7	72.6	335.7	This work
Cu-ZnO	Oxalate coprecipitation	3:1	240	3.0	(W) 2400	16.1	36.5	44.3	1
Cu(1)ZnO	Wet impregnation	9:1	180	0.7	(W) 4000	--	--	1.1	2
Cu(8)ZnO	Wet impregnation	9:1	180	0.7	(W) 4000	--	--	2.8	2
Cu(15)ZnO	Wet impregnation	9:1	180	0.7	(W) 4000	--	--	3.4	2
Cu-ZnO	Carbonate coprecipitation	3:1	240	3.0	(W) 12096	10.6	54.1	240	3
Cu-ZnO-rod	Stepwise precipitation	3:1	240	3.0	(W) 12096	8.0	61.8	210	3
Cu-ZnO-filament	Stepwise precipitation	3:1	240	3.0	(W) 12096	16.5	78.2	550	3
5%Cu/plate ZnO	Impregnation	3:1	280	3.0	(W) 3600	9.8	43.4	50.9	4
Cu-ZnO	Coprecipitation	9:1	167	0.1	(W)12000	--	56.6	8.8	5
Cu-ZnO	Coprecipitation	3:1	250	3.0	(G)18000	4.0	--	64.0	6
CuZn@ZnO <sub>x</sub>	Surface modification precipitation	3:1	250	3.0	(G)18000	0.3	--	19.2	7
Cu@ZnO <sub>x</sub>	Surface modification precipitation	3:1	250	3.0	(G)18000	2.3	--	147.2	7
Cu-ZnO	Coprecipitation	3:1	250	3.0	(G)18000	10.7	--	51.2	7

<sup>a</sup> (W) = volume flow rate/catalyst mass, mL g<sub>cat</sub><sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>, (G) = volume flow rate/bed volume, h<sup>-1</sup>

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