

Supporting Information

Bioinspired spiky-like double yolk-shell structured $\text{TiO}_2@\text{ZnIn}_2\text{S}_4$ for efficient photocatalytic CO_2 reduction

Ping She^{a,b}, Buyuan Guan^{a,b}, Jiayao Sheng^{a,b}, Yuanyuan Qi^a, Guanyu Qiao^a, Hongbang Rui^a, Geyu Lu^c, Jun-sheng Qin^{*a,b}, Heng Rao^{*a,b}

*Corresponding author email: qin@jlu.edu.cn, rao@jlu.edu.cn.

^a State Key Laboratory of Inorganic Synthesis and Preparative Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Jilin University, 2699 Qianjin Street, Changchun 130012, P. R. China.

^b International Center of Future Science, Jilin University, 2699 Qianjin Street, Changchun 130012, P. R. China.

^c State Key Laboratory on Integrated Optoelectronics, Key Laboratory of Gas Sensors, Jilin Province, College of Electronic Science and Engineering, Jilin University, 2699 Qianjin Street, Changchun 130012, P. R. China.

Keywords: bioinspired; double yolk-shell; photocatalytic CO_2 reduction; titanium dioxide; ZnIn_2S_4

The flat band potential of semiconductor film in a liquid junction can be estimated from the Mott–Schottky equation 1:

$$\frac{1}{C_{SC}^2} = (2/e\epsilon\epsilon_0 N_D)(E - E_{fb} - kT/e)$$

equation 1

where C_{SC} is the space charge capacitance in F cm^{-2} ; e is the electronic charge in C ; ϵ is the dielectric constant of the semiconductor; ϵ_0 is the permittivity of free space; N_D is the carrier density in cm^{-3} ; E is the applied potential in V ; E_{fb} is the flat band potential in V ; k is the Boltzmann constant; and T represents the temperature in K . The temperature related term (kT/e) in eq 1 is negligible, 0.0257, at room temperature. The flat band potential is obtained from the x-intercept of the tangent line of the Mott–Schottky curve on potential axis (vs. Ag/AgCl). According to the equation that $E(\text{NHE}) = E(\text{Ag/AgCl}) + 0.197 \text{ V}$, the flat band potentials (VS. NHE) of the obtained materials were calculated to be $E(\text{Ag/AgCl})$ plus 0.197 V. In this way, the flat band potential of the prepared materials was determined.

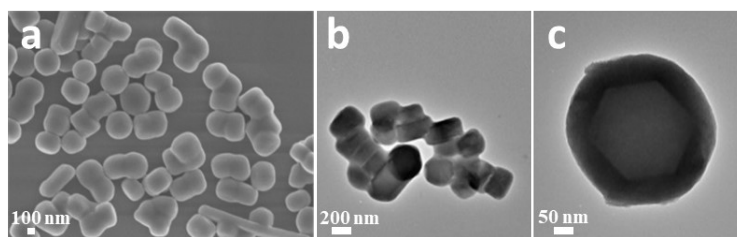


Figure S1. SEM (a) and TEM images (b, c) of S1@TiO₂

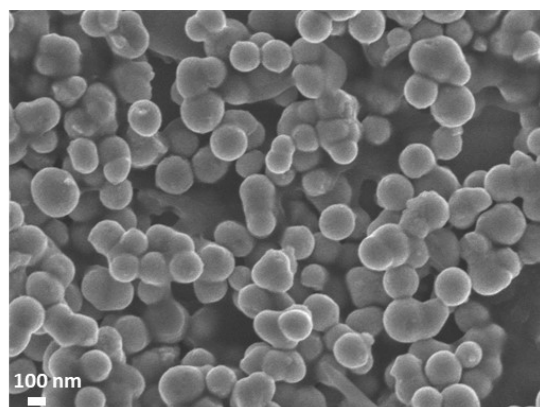


Figure S2. SEM of TiO₂ NPs

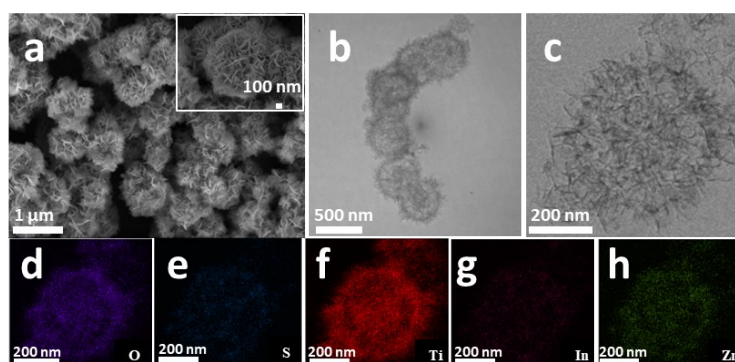


Figure S3. SEM (a), TEM (b, c) and EDS mapping images (d-h) of D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄-1

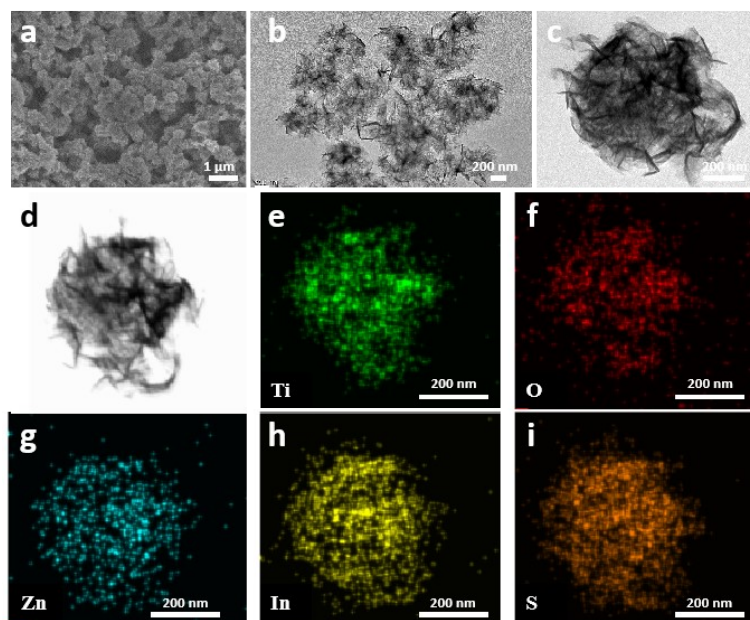


Figure S4. SEM (a), TEM (b, c) and EDS mapping images (d-i) of D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄-2

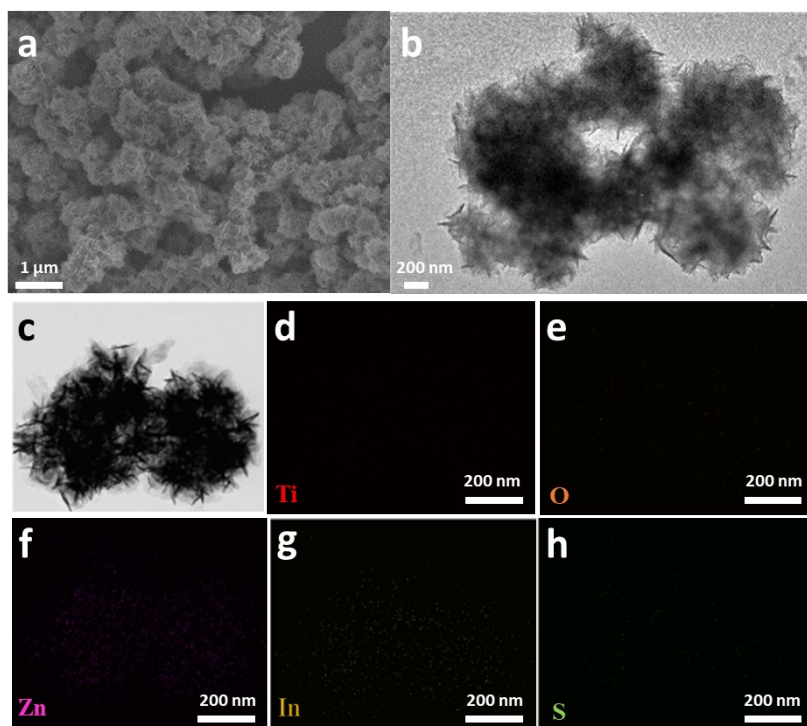


Figure S5. SEM (a), TEM (b, c) and EDS mapping images (d-h) of D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄-4

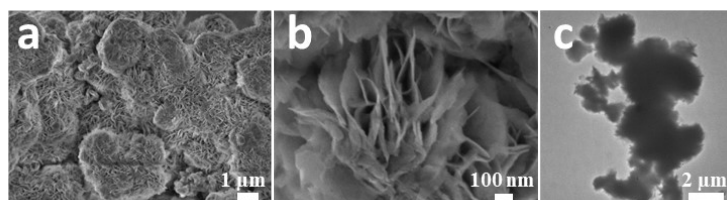


Figure S6. SEM (a, b) and TEM images (c) of ZnIn₂S₄ only

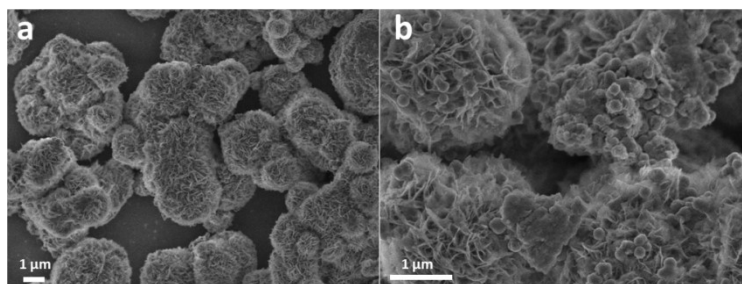


Figure S7. SEM images of TiO₂ NPs@ZnIn₂S₄-3, (b) is the enlarged image of (a).

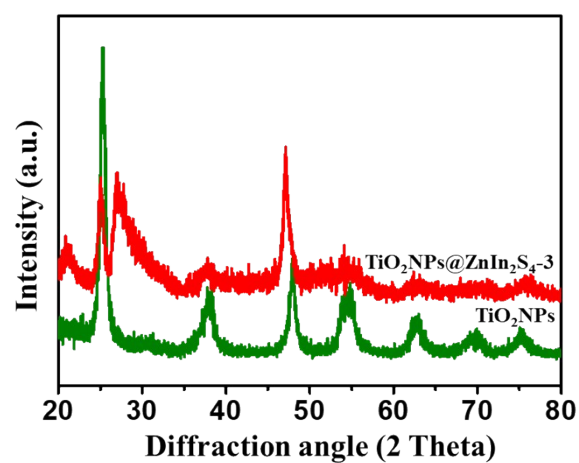


Figure S8. XRD of TiO₂ NPs and TiO₂ NPs@ZnIn₂S₄-3.

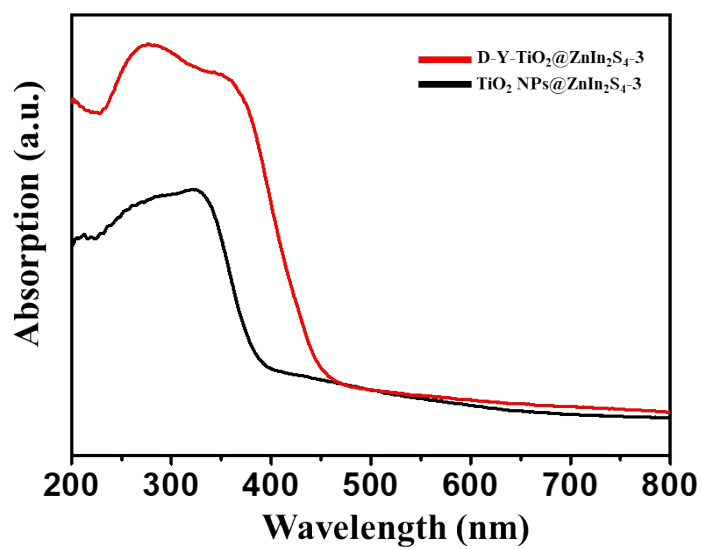


Figure S9. UV-Vis spectra of D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄-3 and TiO₂ NPs@ZnIn₂S₄-3.

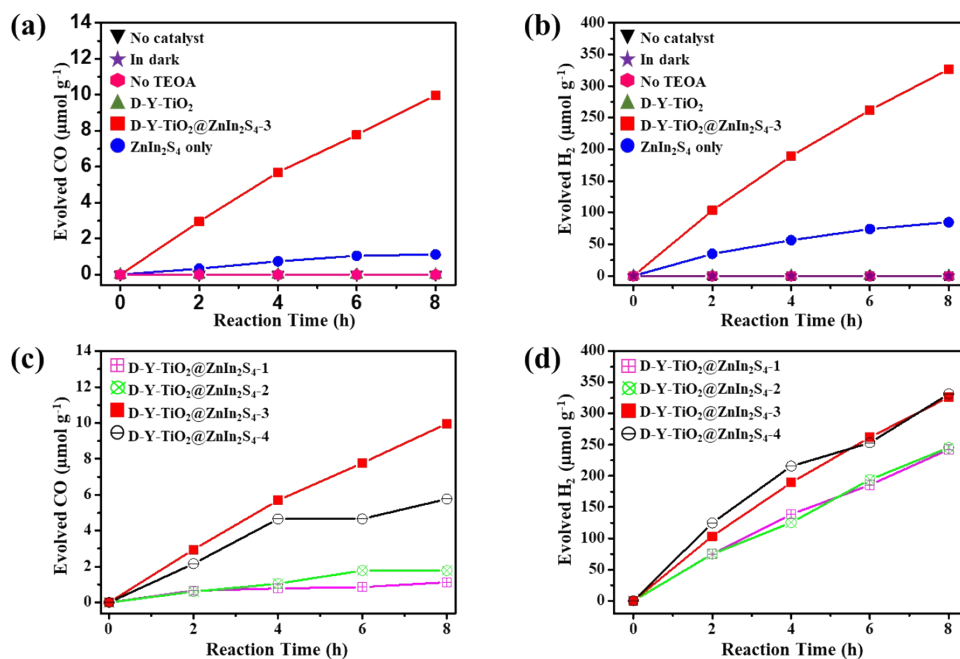


Figure S10. PCR of different samples under LED irradiation ($\lambda=420$ nm). Amounts of CO (a, c) and H₂ (b, d) generation of D-Y-TiO₂, ZnIn₂S₄ only, and D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄ with different loading amount of ZnIn₂S₄.

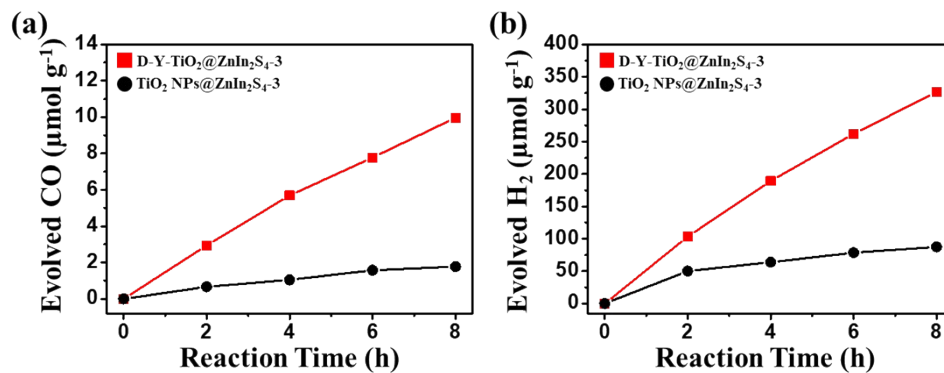


Figure S11. CO₂ photocatalytic reduction of D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄-3 and TiO₂ NPs@ZnIn₂S₄-3 under LED irradiation ($\lambda=420$ nm). (a) Amounts of CO generation; (b) Amounts of H₂ generation.

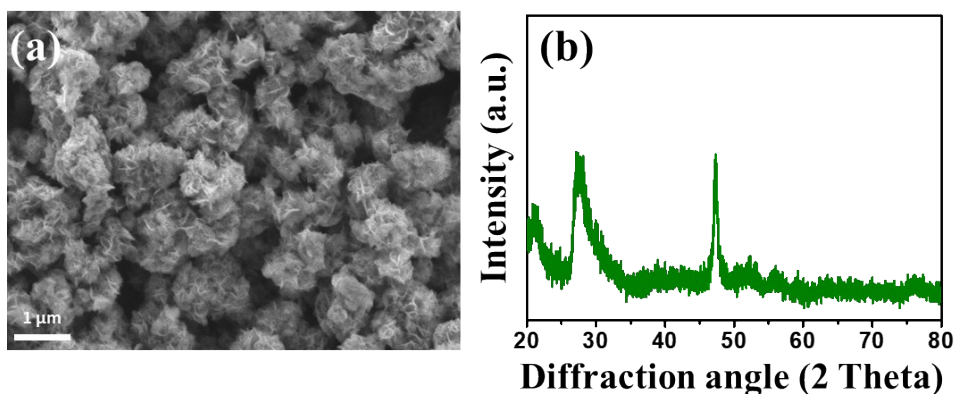


Figure S12. SEM (a) and XRD (b) of D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄-3 after the photocatalytic reaction.

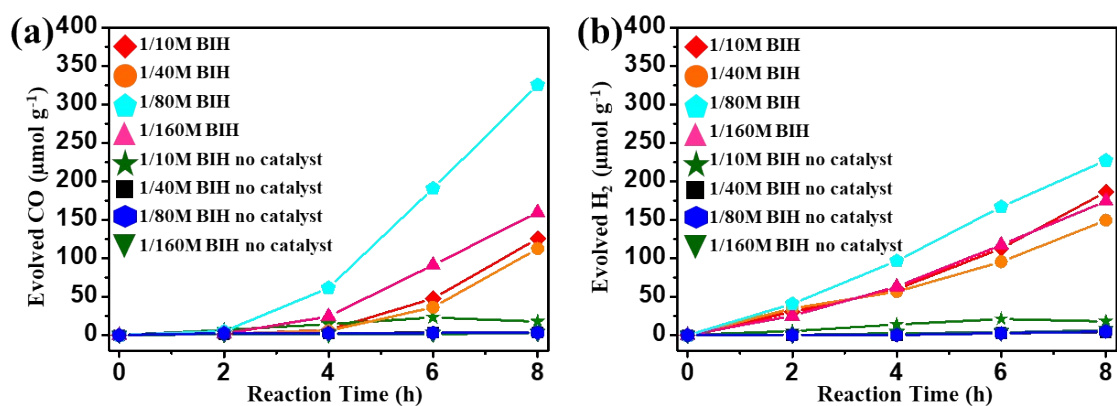


Figure S13. Time courses of CO (a) and H₂ (b) generation of D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄ with various sacrificial reagents.

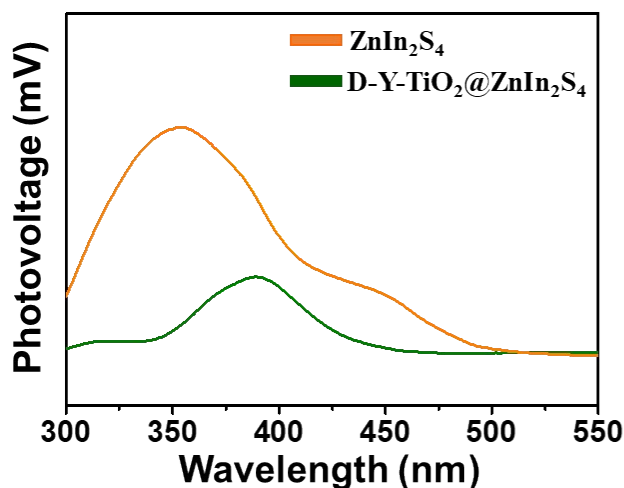


Figure S14. The surface photovoltage of ZnIn₂S₄ and D-Y-TiO₂@ZnIn₂S₄.

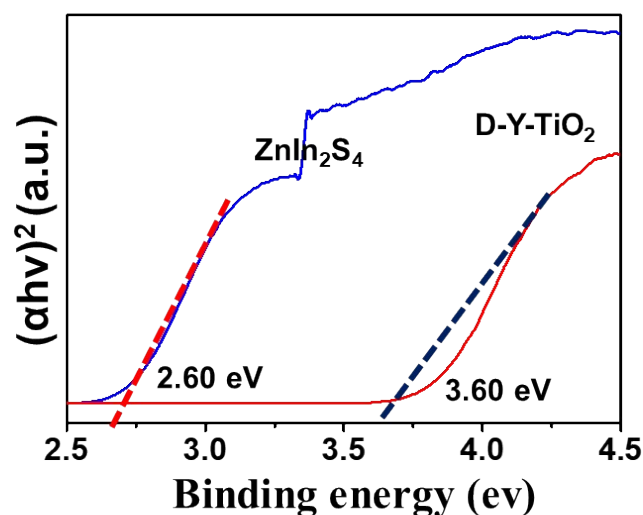


Figure S15. Tauc plots of $(\alpha h\nu)^2$ vs photon energy of ZnIn_2S_4 and D-Y-TiO₂ corresponding to the UV-vis spectra in Figure 4b.

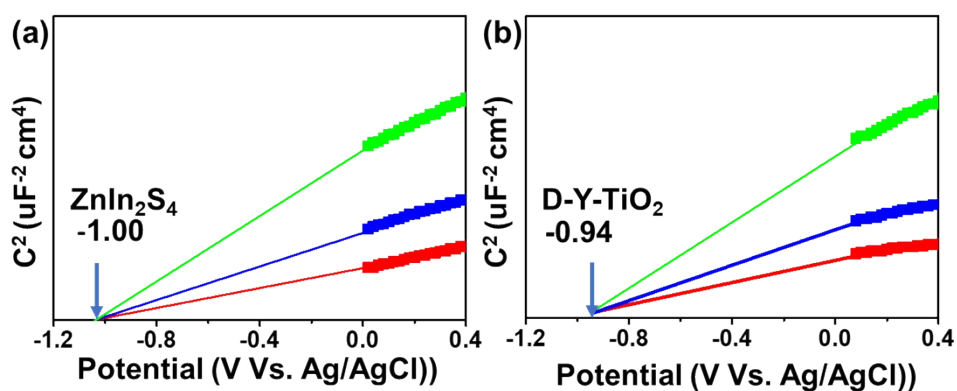


Figure S16. Mott-Schottky plots of ZnIn_2S_4 and D-Y-TiO₂.

Table S1. The detailed parameters for PL decay lifetime.

$T_{\text{total}} = t_1 * R_1 + t_2 * R_2$ (ns)	t_1 (ns)	t_2 (ns)	R 1 (%)	R 2 (%)
D-Y-TiO ₂ @ZnIn ₂ S ₄ -3 (7.9)	0.57	2.15	85.98	14.02
ZnIn ₂ S ₄ (2.0)	0.04	1.99	91.98	8.02

Reference

1. N. Wang, Q.M. Sun, R.S. Bai, X. Li, G.Q. Guo, J.H. Yu, In Situ Confinement of Ultrasmall Pd Clusters within Nanosized Silicalite-1 Zeolite for Highly Efficient Catalysis of Hydrogen Generation, *J Am Chem Soc*, 138 (2016) 7484-7487.