

Supporting Information

Constructing a built-in electric field by anchoring highly dispersed Zn single atoms on UiO-66-NH₂ for efficient CO₂ photoreduction

Mingna Chu^a, Yang Li^{a,*}, Ximing Chen^a, Guangyao Hou^b, Yan Zhou^a, Hongjun Kang^{a,b}, Wei Qin^b, Xiaohong Wu^{a,*}

^a MIIT Key Laboratory of Critical Materials Technology for New Energy Conversion and Storage, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin 150001, P. R. China.

^b School of Materials Science and Engineering, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001, PR China

*Corresponding author, E-mail address: liyang198517@hit.edu.cn (Y. Li); wuxiaohong@hit.edu.cn (X. Wu).

16	Table of Contents
17	1. Characterization
18	2. Other measurements
19	2.1. XAFS Measurements and Analysis
20	2.2. Photoelectrochemical measurements
21	2.3. The apparent quantum yield (AQY)
22	3. Density functional theory (DFT) calculation
23	4. Supporting Figures
24	5. Supporting Tables
25	

26 **1. Characterization**

27 Characterization techniques: X-ray diffraction (XRD) was used Cu K α radiation and the range of 2 θ
28 is from 5° to 60° to characterize the crystal structure (D/max-2500, Rigaku, Japan). The morphology of
29 the samples was analyzed by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) on Jem-2100F Jeol apparatus with
30 an acceleration voltage of 200 kV. The FEI Tecnai G2 F20 equipped with Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX)
31 detector was employed to access element analyses of the samples. The Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR)
32 spectra with KBr as diluents were carried out using Avatar 360 (Nicolet Instrument Corporation, US).
33 Electronic states were analyzed by X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) on an ESCALAB 250 Xi
34 apparatus. The UV–vis diffuse reflectance spectra (DRS) were gained on a UV–vis spectrophotometer
35 (UV-vis DRS, Shimadzu UV-2450) with BaSO₄ as the white standard.

36 **2. Other measurements**

37 *2.1. XAFS Measurements and Analysis.*

38 The X-ray absorption spectra (XAS) of the samples at Zn K-edge, including X-ray absorption near-
39 edge structure (XANES) and extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS), was collected at the
40 Singapore Synchrotron Light Source (SSLS) center, in which a pair of channel-cut Si (111) crystals was
41 used in the monochromator. The Zn K-edge XANES data were recorded in transmission mode. Zn foil
42 and ZnO were used as references. The operating energy of storage ring was 2.5 GeV and the average
43 electron current was less than 200 mA. The obtained EXAFS data were extracted and processed using the
44 ATHENA module of the IFEFFIT software packages according to standard procedures.

45 *2.2. Photoelectrochemical measurements*

46 The photoelectrochemical measurements were conducted in a traditional three-electrode system with
47 0.2 M Na₂SO₄ solution as the electrolyte. The prepared photocatalyst, a platinum plate and a saturated
48 KCl Ag/AgCl electrode were used as working electrode, counter electrode and reference electrode,

49 respectively, which were collected on an electrochemical station (CHI760E, China) under 300W xenon
50 lamp. All experiments were conducted at room temperature (about 25 °C). Mott–Schottky plots of
51 photocatalysts were obtained with the same three-electrode system in N₂-purged 0.5M Na₂SO₄ electrolyte
52 solution.

53 2.3. The apparent quantum yield (AQY)

54 The apparent quantum yield (AQY) measurement for photocatalytic CO₂ reduction was carried out
55 employing a 300 W Xenon lamp fitted with a different band-pass filter. When a 365 nm band-pass filter
56 was used, the irradiation area and the light intensity were 5 cm² and 21.12 mW cm⁻², respectively. The
57 mass of photocatalysts was 50 mg. The AQY was calculated according to the following equation:

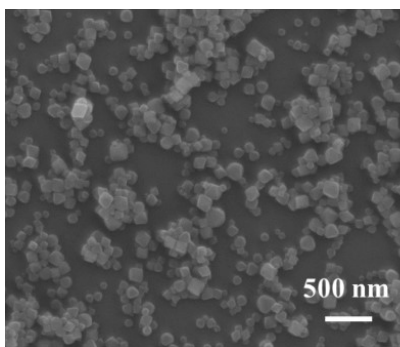
58
$$\text{AQY} = N_e/N_p * 100\% = \left(2M_{CO} + 8M_{CH_4} \right) NAhc / S P t \lambda * 100\%$$
 (M_{CO}: the CO amount, M_{CH₄}: the CH₄
59 amount, NA: Avogadro constant, h: Planck constant, c: light speed, S: irradiation area, P: light intensity,
60 t: reaction time, λ: the wavelength of light).

61 3. Density functional theory (DFT) calculation.

62 Density functional theory (DFT) calculation. DFT calculations were conducted through the Vienna
63 ab-initio Simulation Package (VASP) with the projector augment wave method. Generalized gradient
64 approximation of the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) functional was used as the exchange-correlation
65 functional. The calculations were based on the unit cell with the cutoff energy set to 450 eV and structural
66 relaxation performed until the energy and force convergence criteria reached 1×10⁻⁴ eV and 0.02 eV Å⁻¹,
67 respectively. The Gibbs free energy was calculated as ΔG = ΔE + ΔEZPE – TΔS, where the ΔE, ΔEZPE,
68 and ΔS are electronic energy, zero-point energy, and entropy difference between products and reactants.
69 The zero-point energies of isolated and adsorbed intermediate products were calculated from the frequency
70 analysis.

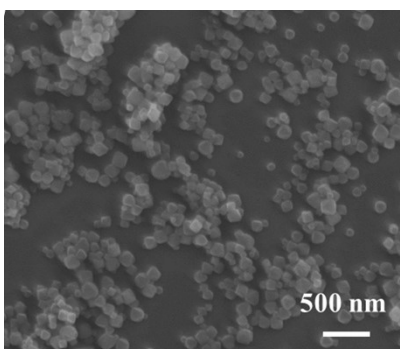
71

72 **4. Supporting Figures**



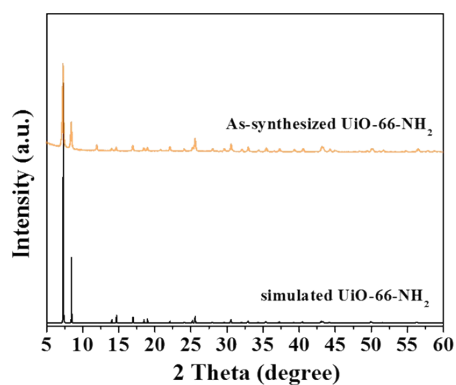
73

74 **Fig. S1.** SEM images of UiO-66-NH₂.



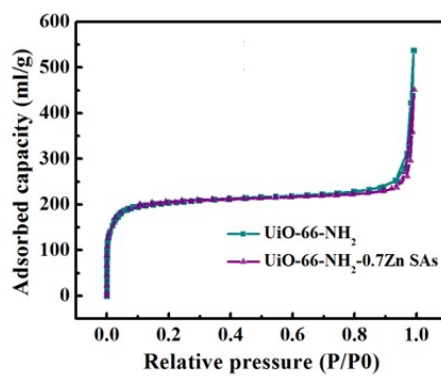
75

76 **Fig. S2.** SEM images of UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs.



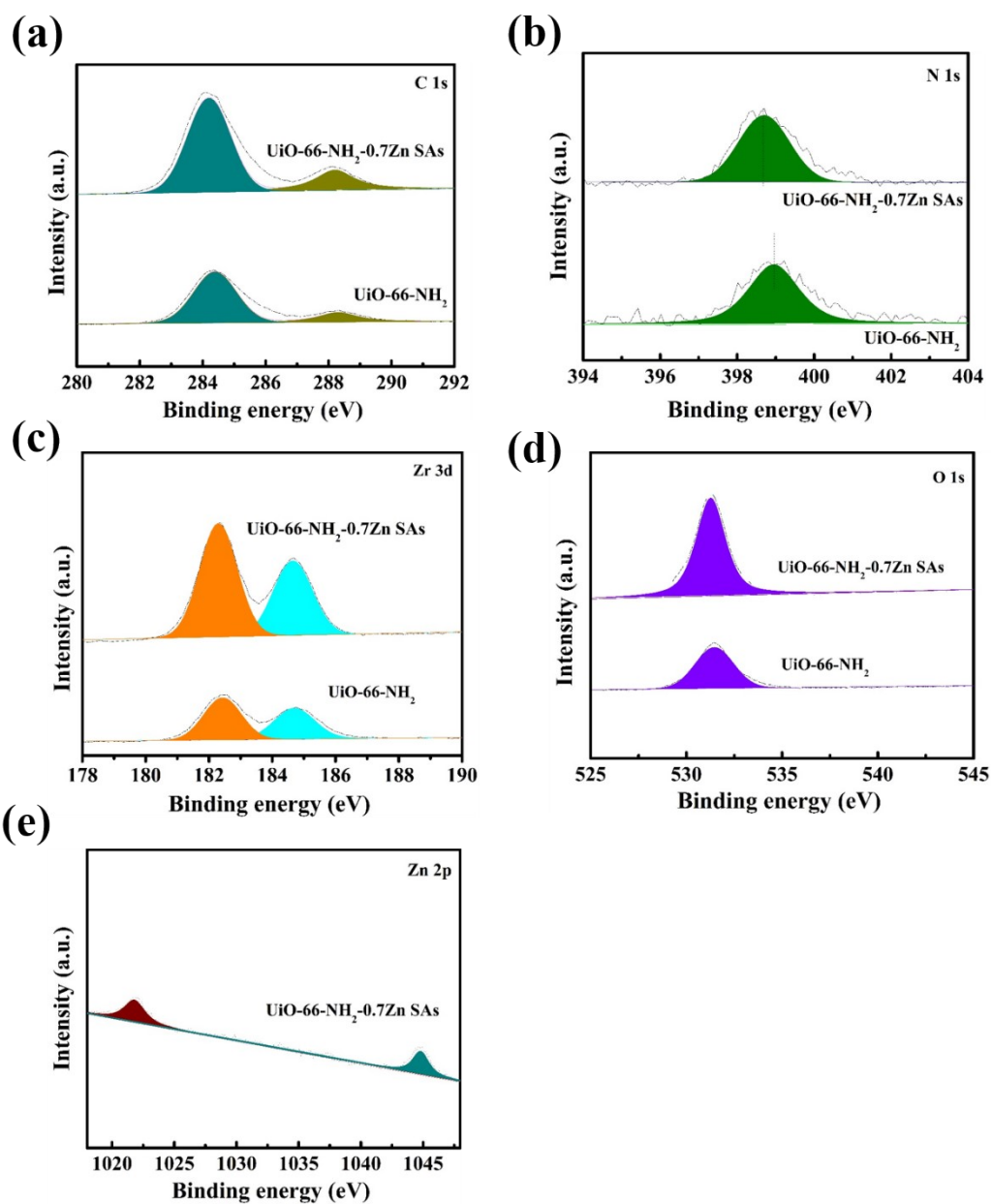
77

78 **Fig. S3.** XRD patterns of simulated UiO-66-NH₂ and as-synthesized UiO-66-NH₂.



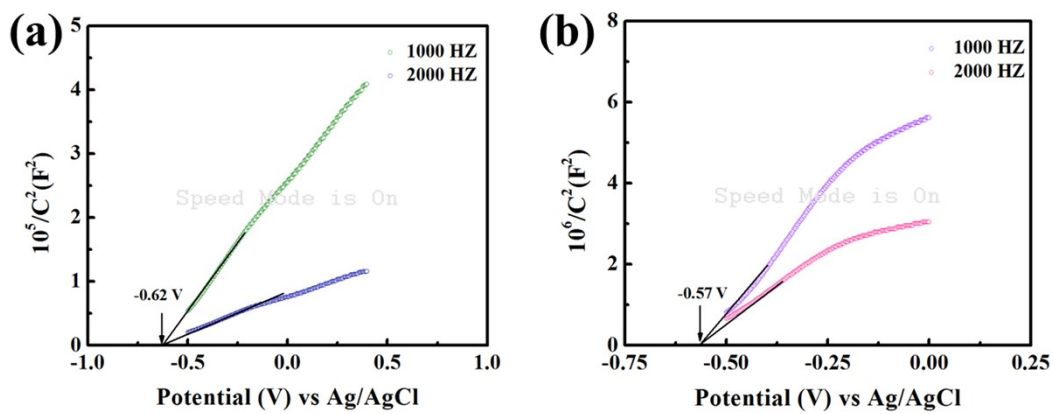
79

80 **Fig. S4.** N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms of UiO-66-NH₂ and (b) UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs.



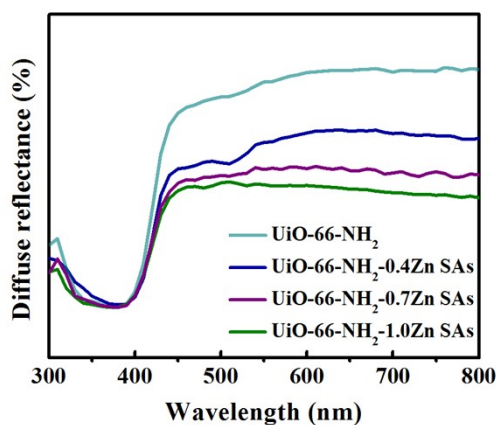
81

82 **Fig. S5.** XPS spectra of (a) C 1s, (b) N 1s, (c) Zr 3d, (d) O 1s and (e) Zn 2p of different samples.



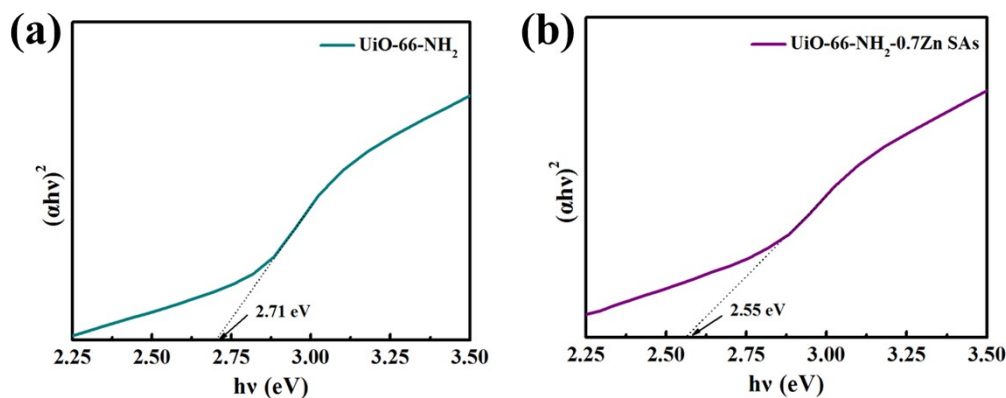
83

84 **Fig. S6.** Mott-Schottky plots for (a) UiO-66-NH₂ and (b) UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs.



85

86 **Fig. S7.** DRS spectra of different samples.



87

88 **Fig. S8.** The plots of $(\alpha hv)^2$ vs (hv) for (a) UiO-66-NH₂ and (b) UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs.

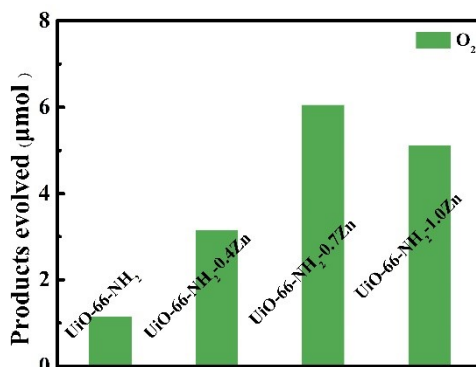
89 The optical band gap energy (E_g) of a semiconductor material could be evaluated by the following formula:

$$90 \quad \alpha hv = A(hv - E_g)^{n/2}$$

91 where α , h , v , A , and E_g represent the absorption coefficient, planck constant, light frequency, proportionality and band

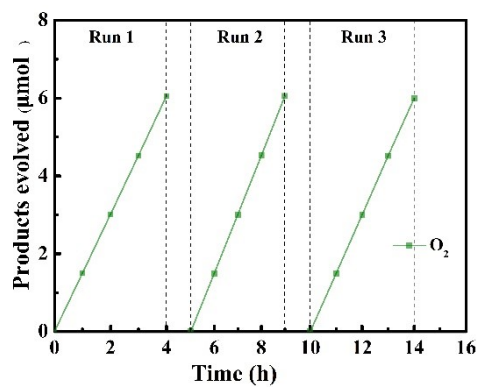
92 gap energy, respectively. As shown in the Fig. S11, the E_g values for UiO-66-NH₂ and UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs are

93 calculated to be 2.71 and 2.55 eV, respectively.



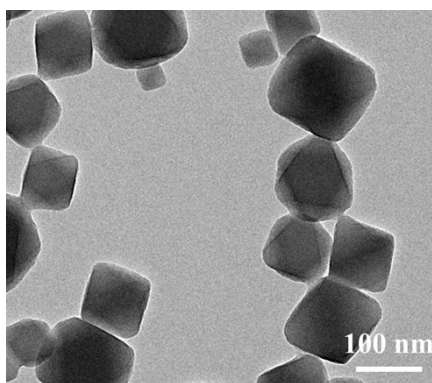
94

95 **Fig. S9.** Oxygen yield for 4 hours in photocatalytic CO₂ reduction process for different samples.



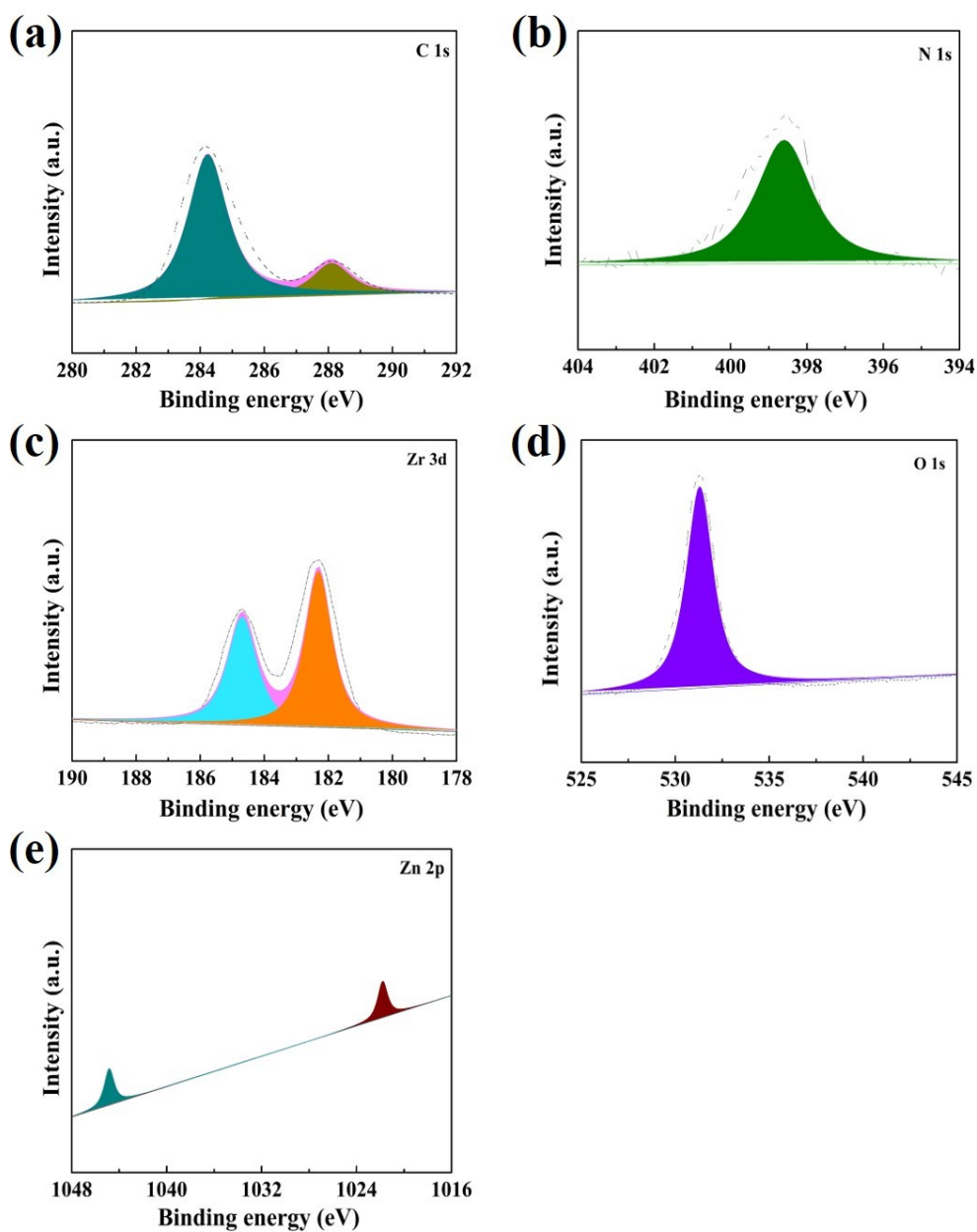
96

97 **Fig. S10.** Photocatalytic cycling test of UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs.



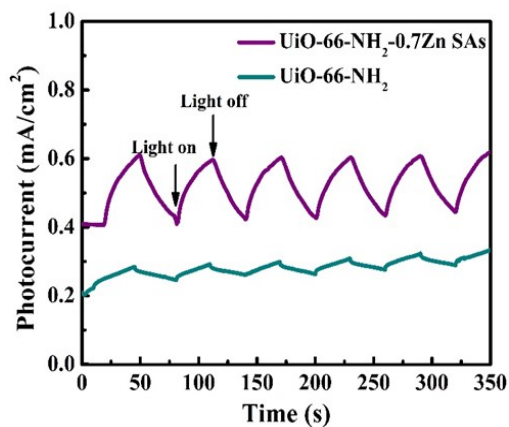
98

99 **Fig. S11.** TEM images of UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs after after the cyclic tests



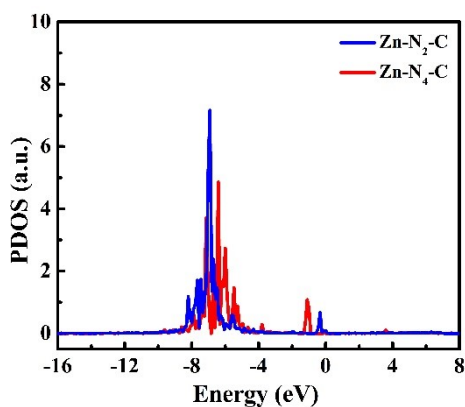
100

101 **Fig. S12.** XPS spectra of UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs after the cyclic tests.



102

103 **Fig. S13.** Photoelectrochemical properties of UiO-66-NH₂ and UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs.



104

105 **Fig. S14.** PDOS plots of 3d of Zn for Zn-N mode.

106 5. Supporting Tables

107 **Table S1.** S_{BET} , pore volume and pore diameter of UiO-66-NH₂ and UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs

Samples	S_{BET} (m ² /g)	Pore volume(cm ³ /g)	Pore diameter (nm)
UiO-66-NH ₂	807.5935	0.8096	4.0099
UiO-66-NH ₂ -0.7Zn SAs	780.3318	0.6233	3.1951

108 **Table S2.** EXAFS fitting parameters at the Zn K-edge ($S_0^2=0.91$)

Sample	Path	C.N.	R (Å)	$\sigma^2 \times 10^3$ (Å ²)	ΔE (eV)	R factor
Zn	Zn-N	2.2±0.2	2.04±0.01	11.0±1.2	2.8±1.0	0.003

109 C.N.: coordination numbers; R: bond distance; σ^2 : Debye-Waller factors; ΔE : the inner potential correction. R factor:

110 goodness of fit. * Fitting with fixed parameter.

111 **Table S3.** Comparison of photocatalytic CO₂ reduction performance of the reported photocatalysts.

Sample	CO evolution ($\mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$)	Light source (W)	Ref.
TiO ₂ @50 Cu	23.25	300W Xe lamp	Chem. Eng. J.[1]
0.7NiSA-5OB-CN	22.1	300W Xe lamp	Adv. Mater.[2]
Bi ₂ Sn ₂ O ₇ NPs	14.88	300W Xe lamp	Appl. Catal. B: Environ.[3]
5T/15CN/BVNS	14.5	300W Xe lamp	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.[4]
Ni-SA-x/ZrO ₂	11.8	300W Xe lamp	Adv. Energy Mater.[5]
UiO-66-NH ₂ -0.7Zn SAs	40.23	300W Xe lamp	This work

112 **Table S4.** The AQY of 365 nm for photocatalytic CO₂ reduction over UiO-66-NH₂-0.7Zn SAs and UiO-66-NH₂.

Sample	Irradiation time (h)	The number of incident photons	CO evolution (μmol)	CH ₄ evolution (μmol)	AQY (%)
UiO-66-NH ₂ -0.7Zn SAs	3	2.049×10^{21}	1.33	0.14	0.63
UiO-66-NH ₂	3	2.049×10^{21}	7.43	0.88	0.11

113 **The detailed calculation**

114
$$N_p = \frac{S P t \lambda}{h c} = \frac{5 \text{ cm}^2 \times 21.12 \times 10^{-3} \text{ J s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \times 3 \times 3600 \text{ s} \times 365 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s} \times 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}} = 2.094 \times 10^{21}$$

115
$$\begin{aligned} \text{AQY}_{\text{UiO-66-NH}_2} &= \frac{N_e}{N_p} \times 100\% = \frac{(2M_{\text{CO}} + 8M_{\text{CH}_4}) \times N_A}{N_p} = \frac{(2 \times 1.33 + 8 \times 0.14) \times 10^{-6} \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}}{2.094 \times 10^{21}} \\ &= 0.11\% \end{aligned}$$

116
$$\begin{aligned} \text{AQY}_{\text{UiO-66-NH}_2-0.7\text{Zn SAs}} &= \frac{N_e}{N_p} \times 100\% = \frac{(2M_{\text{CO}} + 8M_{\text{CH}_4}) \times N_A}{N_p} = \frac{(2 \times 7.43 + 8 \times 0.88) \times 10^{-6} \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}}{2.094 \times 10^{21}} \\ &= 0.63\% \end{aligned}$$

117

118 **References**

- 119 1 M. Liu, L. Zheng, X. Bao, Z. Wang, P. Wang, Y. Liu, H. Cheng, Y. Dai, B. Huang, Z. Zheng, Substrate-dependent
120 ALD of Cu_x on TiO_2 and its performance in photocatalytic CO_2 reduction, *Chem Eng J*, 405 (2021) 126654.
- 121 2 Y. Wang, Y. Qu, B. Qu, L. Bai, Y. Liu, Z.-D. Yang, W. Zhang, L. Jing, H. Fu, Construction of Six-Oxygen-Coordinated
122 Single Ni Sites on g- C_3N_4 with Boron-Oxo Species for Photocatalytic Water-Activation-Induced CO_2 Reduction,
123 *Advanced Materials*, 33 (2021) 2105482.
- 124 3 S. Guo, J. Di, C. Chen, C. Zhu, M. Duan, C. Lian, M. Ji, W. Zhou, M. Xu, P. Song, R. Long, X. Cao, K. Gu, J. Xia, H.
125 Liu, Y. Zhao, L. Song, Y. Xiong, S. Li, Z. Liu, Oxygen vacancy mediated bismuth stannate ultra-small nanoparticle
126 towards photocatalytic CO_2 -to-CO conversion, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental*, 276 (2020) 119156.
- 127 4 J. Bian, Z. Zhang, J. Feng, M. Thangamuthu, F. Yang, L. Sun, Z. Li, Y. Qu, D. Tang, Z. Lin, F. Bai, J. Tang, L. Jing,
128 Energy Platform for Directed Charge Transfer in the Cascade Z-Scheme Heterojunction: CO_2 Photoreduction
129 without a Cocatalyst, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 60 (2021) 20906-20914.
- 130 5 X. Xiong, C. Mao, Z. Yang, Q. Zhang, G.I.N. Waterhouse, L. Gu, T. Zhang, Photocatalytic CO_2 Reduction to CO over
131 Ni Single Atoms Supported on Defect-Rich Zirconia, *Advanced Energy Materials*, 10 (2020) 2002928.

132

133