

Supplementary materials for

**Self-assembly of heterogeneous microreactor with carbon dots
embedded in Ti-MOF derived $\text{ZnIn}_2\text{S}_4/\text{TiO}_2$ microcapsule for
efficient CO_2 photoreduction**

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Supplementary Text

1. Experimental section

1.1 Material

All reagents were commercial materials of reagent grade and used without further purification. Zinc chloride (ZnCl_2), thioacetamide (TAA), methanol, ethanol, indium chloride tetrahydrate ($\text{InCl}_3 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$), N, N-dimethylformamide (DMF), tetrabutyl titanate $\text{Ti}(\text{OC}_4\text{H}_9)_4$ and 2-Aminoterephthalic acid ($\text{NH}_2\text{-BDC}$) were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China).

1.2 Synthesis.

1.2.1 Synthesis of CDs.

The CDs were prepared by a typical electrochemical method [1]. In general, two graphite rods after ultrasonic cleaning were inserted into deionized (DI) water as anode and cathode respectively, and then a 30 V bias was applied between the two electrodes using a direct current power supply. Continue stirring until the stone grinding rod was gradually corroded and the colorless electrolyte turned into a dark solution. The obtained dark solution was filtered and collected by centrifugation, and then freeze-dried to obtain CDs powder. Finally, the CDs powder was dispersed in DI water (0.7 mg mL^{-1}).

1.2.2 Synthesis of $\text{NH}_2\text{-MIL-125(Ti)}$

$\text{NH}_2\text{-MIL-125(Ti)}$ was prepared according to the previous literature [2]. In a typical synthesis, $\text{Ti}(\text{OC}_4\text{H}_9)_4$ (0.52 mL, 1.5 mmol) and $\text{NH}_2\text{-H}_2\text{BDC}$ (1.087 g, 6.0 mmol) were added into a mixed solution containing DMF and MeOH (24.3 mL: 2.7 mL). And the mixture solution was further stirred for 30 min at room temperature to form a uniform and stable solution. Subsequently, the solution was sealed in a 100 mL Teflon-lined autoclave and maintained at 150°C for 24 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and a yellow powder was obtained by centrifugation, and washed using DMF and methanol for several times to remove unreacted organic linkers, Finally, the product was dried at 60°C under vacuum for 12 h.

1.3 The experimental method of transient photovoltage (TPV).

The TPV measurements were conducted on films samples ($1.5\text{ cm} \times 4\text{ cm}$) deposited on indium-tin oxide (ITO) glass substrates at room temperature. A 10 mg mL^{-1} sample aqueous solution was dripped on the ITO substrate, and then dried in air to obtain the films samples. The working electrode (ITO glass modified with samples) and the counter electrode (Pt wire) were wetted with N_2 or O_2 -saturated acetonitrile and N_2 -saturated acetonitrile/water aqueous (0.5 vol%). Meanwhile, we also measured the powder samples, which were covered on the Pt network ($1\text{ cm} \times 1\text{ cm}$). The samples were excited by a third-harmonic Nd: YAG laser (Polaris II, New Wave Research, Inc.) with a laser radiation pulse (wavelength 355 nm, pulse width 5 ns).

1.4 Characterizations

The crystal structures and crystallinity of microreactors were analyzed by powder X-ray diffractometer (Bruker D8 Advance) with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. The morphologies and microstructures of microreactors were measured on field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM, Hitachi) as well as transmission electron microscopy (TEM, JEOL 2100). Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) spectra were performed on the EQUI-NOX55 (Germany Bruker). N_2 adsorption-desorption curves were obtained on Micromeritics ASAP 2000 to analyze porous structure. The optical properties of microreactors were performed on UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS) with a Shimadzu UV-3600 UV-vis spectrophotometer. The steady-state photoluminescence (PL) spectra were recorded on a Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer. Time-resolved photoluminescence (TR-PL) decay spectra were measured on an FLS1000 at an excitation wavelength of 365 nm. The chemical composition and state were investigated by X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) applied on a Thermo ESCALAB 250 spectrometer with an Al $K\alpha$ X ray source. *In-situ* FT-IR spectra were acquired by the Bruker INVENIO R FT-IR spectrometer equipped with an *in situ* diffuse reflectance cell (Harrick) to study the CO_2 photoreduction process.

1.5 Photocatalytic CO_2 reduction

The photocatalytic CO_2 reduction was tested in a 200 mL Pyrex glass reactor, and 10 mg photocatalysts were dispersed in H_2O /ethyl acetate (EA). After complete evacuation of the reaction system, high-purity CO_2 gas was injected into the airtight system. The

reaction system was cooled by circulating water to weaken the heating effect and decrease the solvent evaporation. A 300 W xenon lamp was assembled with the AM 1.5G filter simulated solar illumination (Beijing China Education Aulight Co., Ltd.). The illumination distance was settled on 6 cm from the sample. The gaseous products were analyzed by gas chromatography (GC-7860 Plus) equipped with FID. The cycling experiments of as-prepared samples were conducted as follows: after the reaction, the photocatalyst was separated from the solution, rinsed with deionized water, and dried at 60°C for the next run.

1.6 Photoelectrochemical measurement

Photoelectrochemical properties of catalysts were measured on a CHI660D electrochemical analyzer with the conventional three-electrode cell, including platinum wire as the counter electrode, Ag/AgCl as the reference electrode, and working electrode. 0.5 M Na₂SO₄ solution was used as the electrolyte. The working electrode was prepared as follows: 2 mg of as-prepared sample was dispersed in 2 mL of ethanol with 75 μ L of Nafion. Then, the above suspension (100 μ L) was dropped onto the FTO glass and then dried at 60°C. Under a 300 W xenon lamp with AM 1.5G filter, the electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) and transient photocurrent response were obtained. The Mott-Schottky curves of samples were obtained by varying the frequencies.

Supplementary Figures

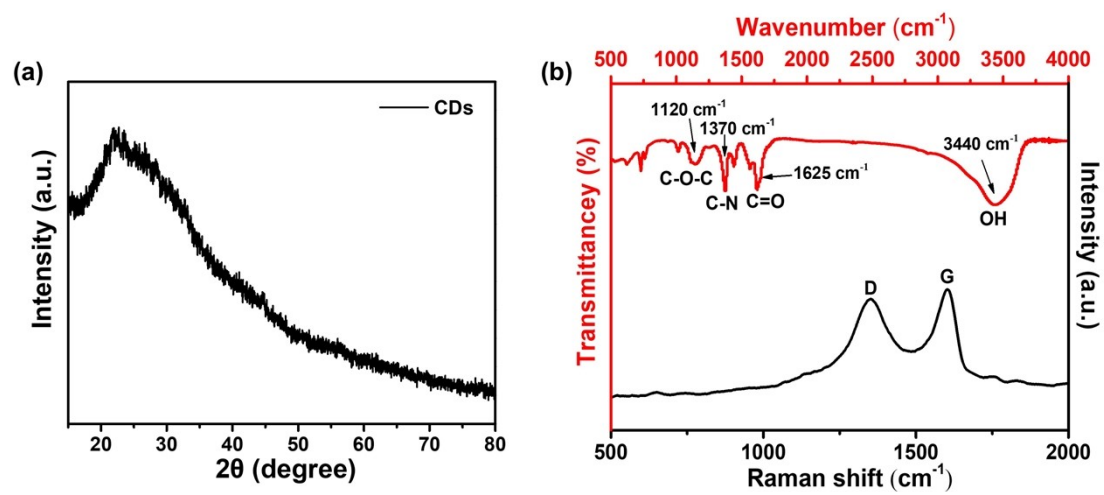


Fig. S1 (a) XRD pattern, (b) Raman and FT-IR spectra of CDs.

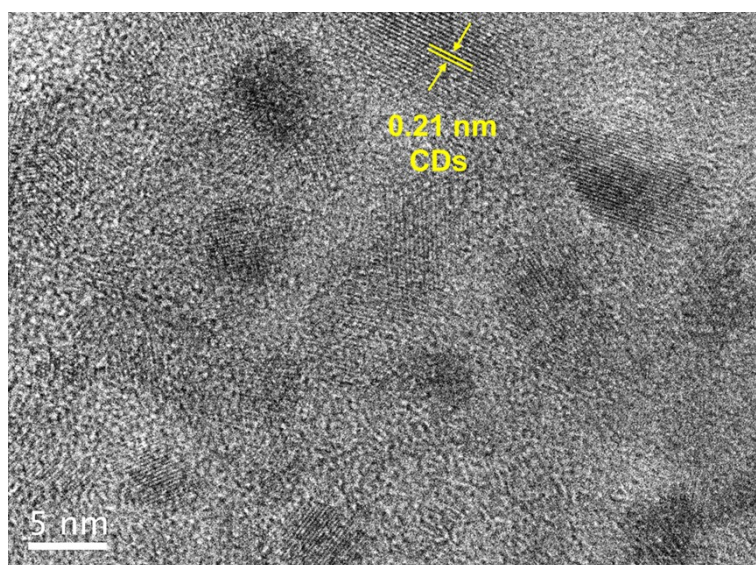


Fig. S2 HRTEM image of CDs.

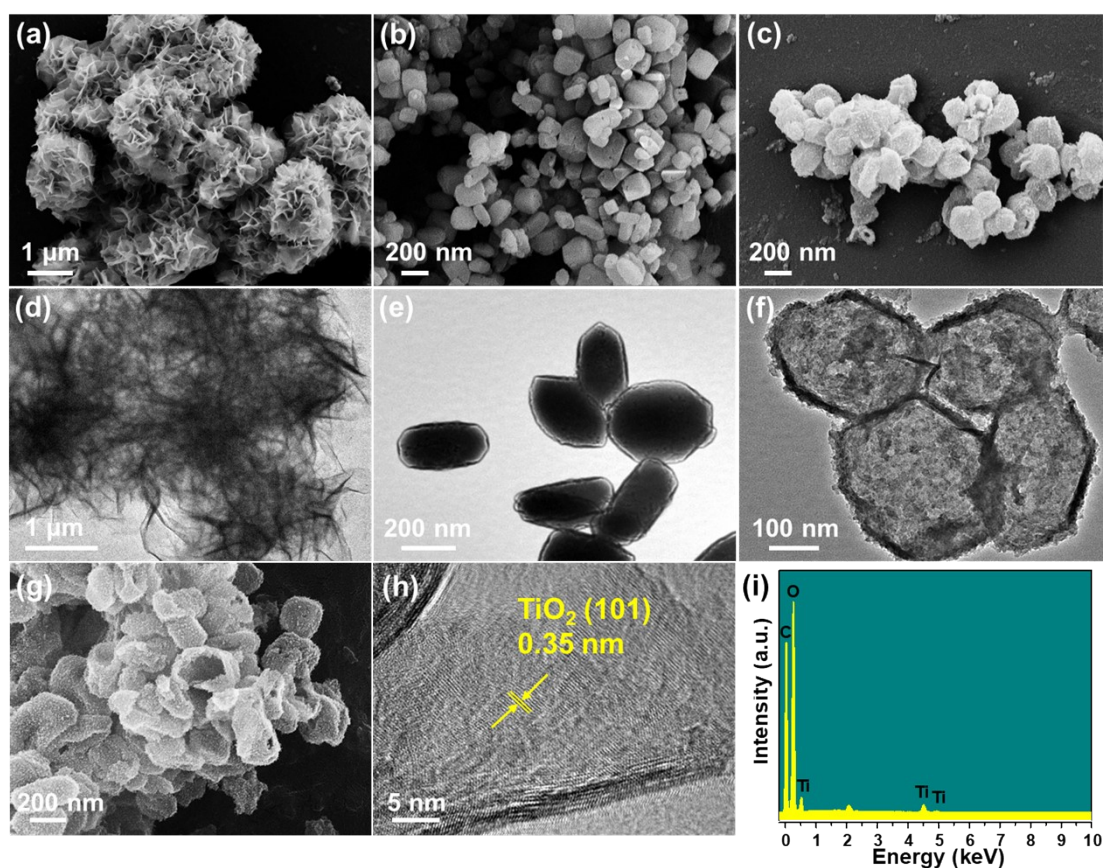


Fig. S3 SEM images of (a) ZnIn₂S₄, (b) NH₂-MIL-125 and (c) ZIS(60)/TiO₂. TEM images of (d) ZnIn₂S₄, (e) NH₂-MIL-125 and (f) ZIS(60)/TiO₂. (g) SEM image, (h) HRTEM image and (i) EDS pattern of m-TiO₂.

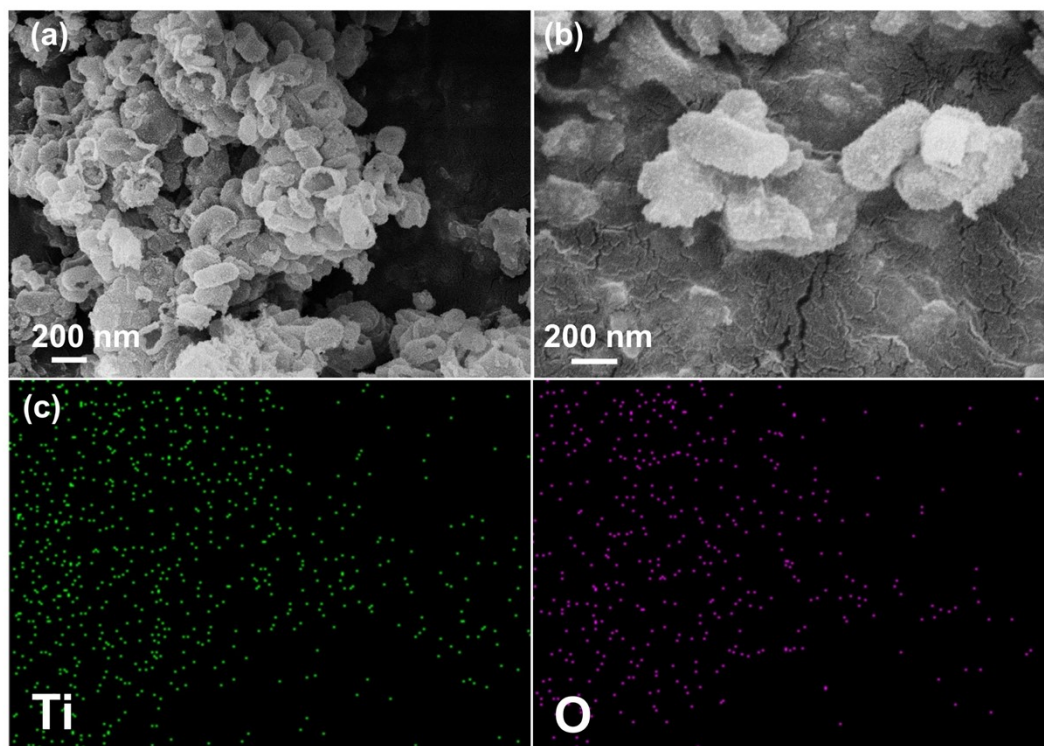


Fig. S4 (a, b) SEM images and (c) EDS mapping images of m-TiO₂.

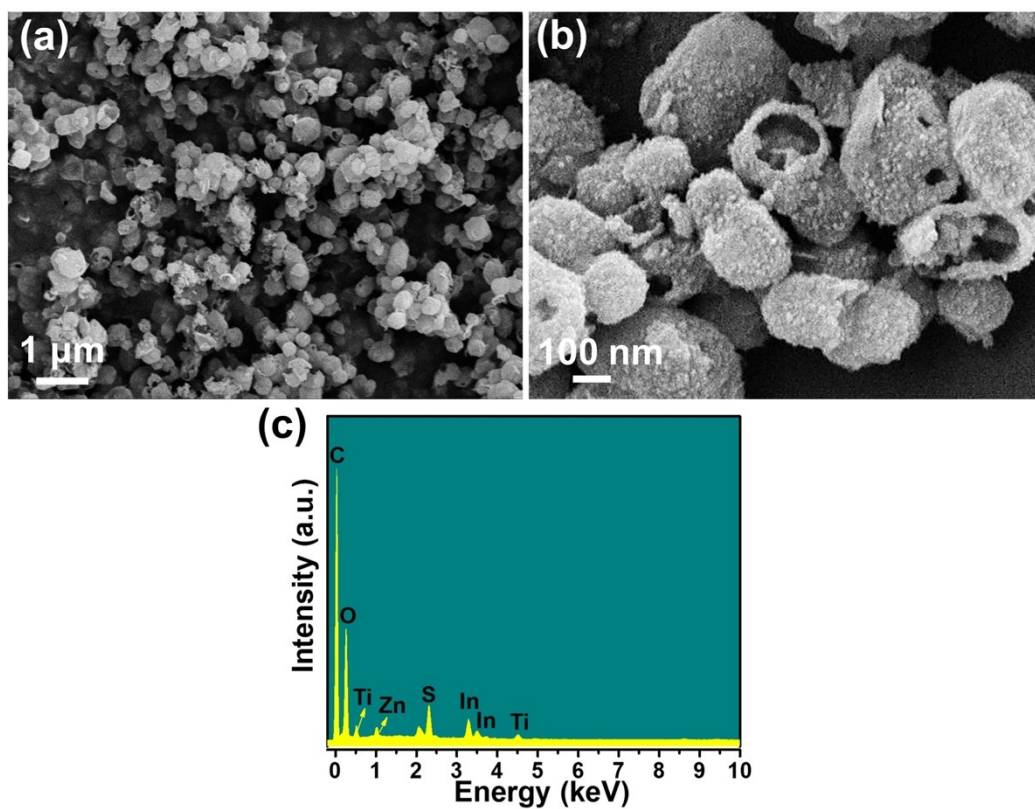


Fig. S5 (a, b) SEM images and (c) EDS pattern of 5-CDs/ZIS/TiO₂.

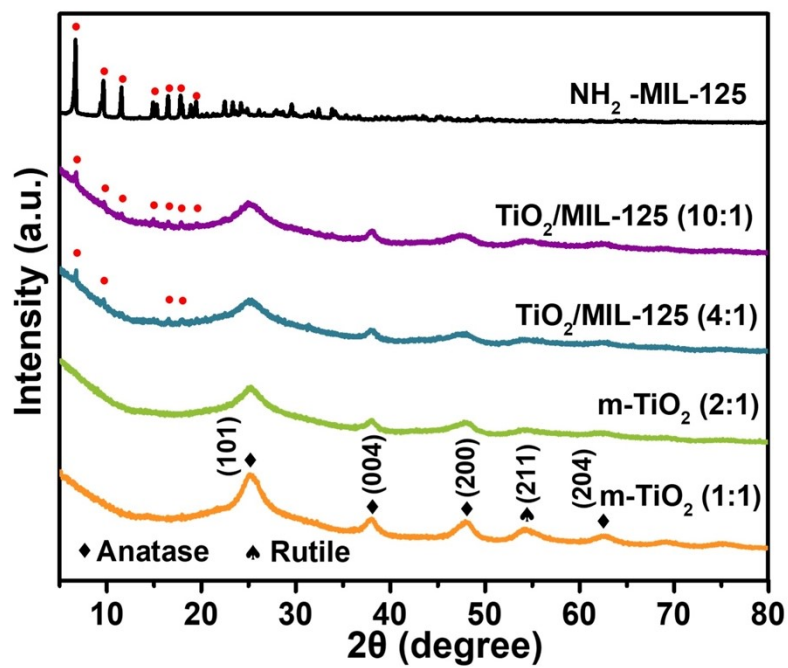


Fig. S6 XRD patterns of pristine NH₂-MIL-125, TiO₂/MIL-125 and m-TiO₂ composites with the weight ratios of NH₂-MIL-125 : TAA.

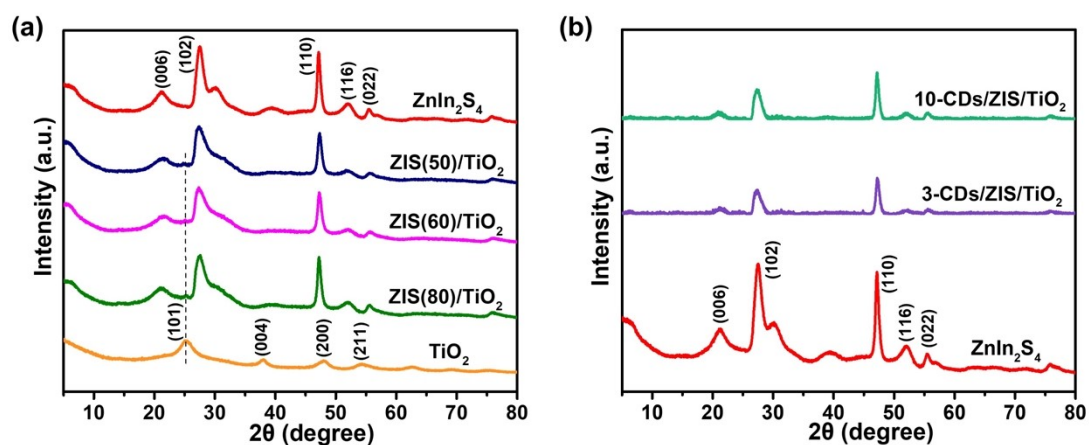


Fig. S7 (a) XRD patterns of ZnIn_2S_4 , m-TiO_2 , ZIS(50)/ TiO_2 , ZIS(60)/ TiO_2 , and ZIS(80)/ TiO_2 . (b) XRD patterns of ZnIn_2S_4 , CDs/ZIS/ TiO_2 composites with different CDs loading.

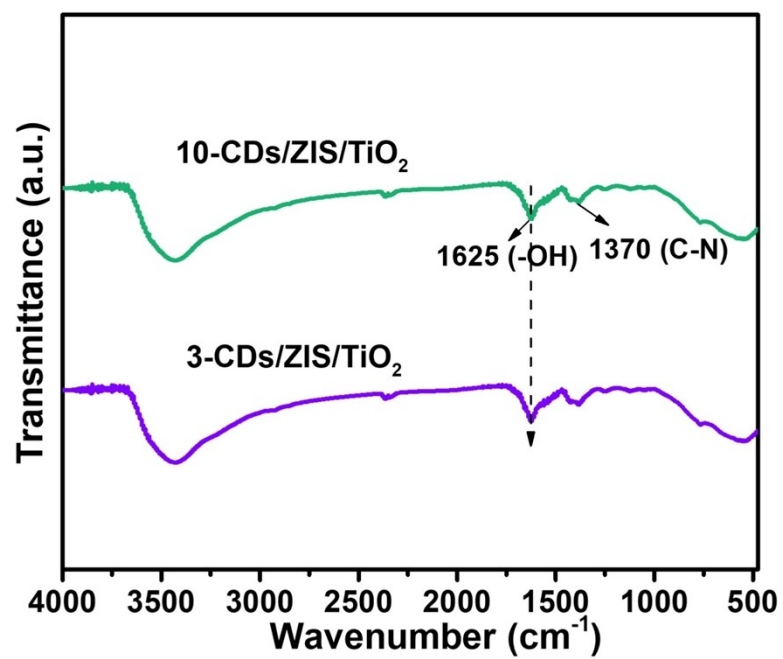


Fig. S8 FT-IR spectra of CDs/ZIS/TiO₂ composites with different CDs loading.

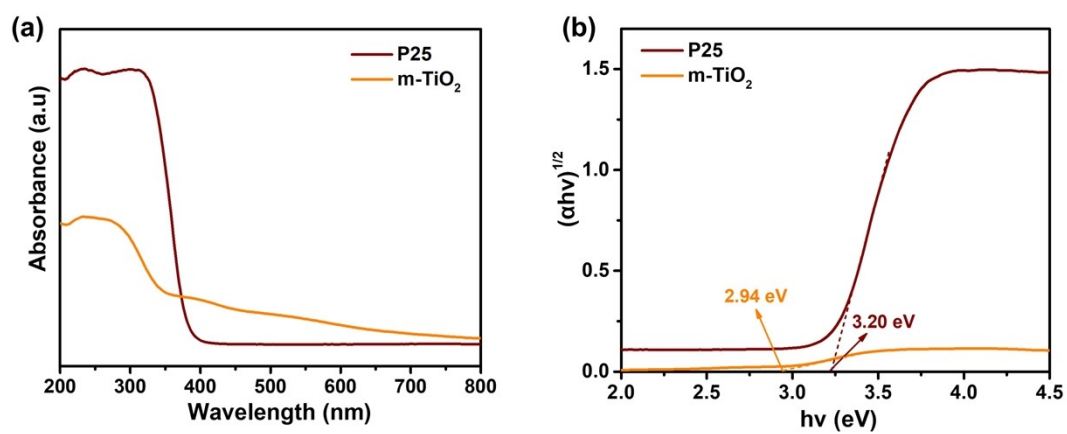


Fig. S9 (a) UV-vis spectra of P25 and m-TiO₂. (b) Tauc plots of P25 and m-TiO₂.

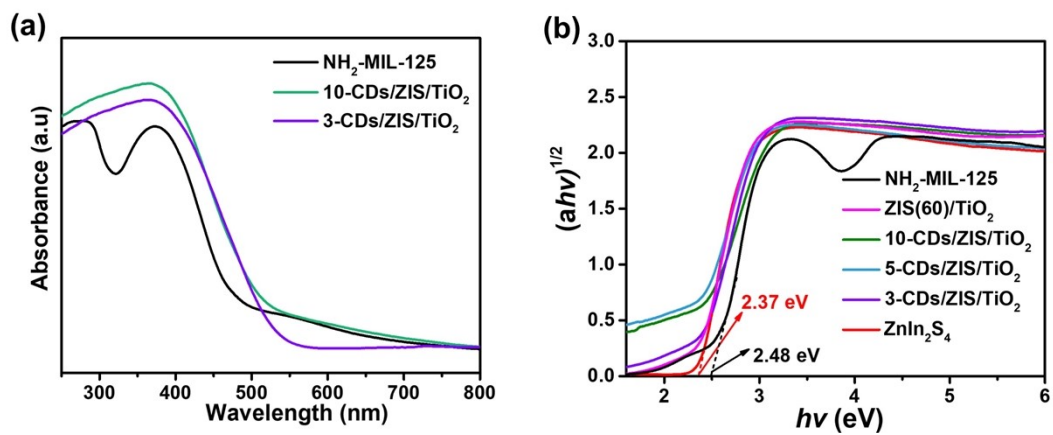


Fig. S10 (a) UV-vis spectra of $\text{NH}_2\text{-MIL-125}$, 3-CDs/ZIS/TiO_2 , 10-CDs/ZIS/TiO_2 and (b) Tauc plots of $\text{NH}_2\text{-MIL-125}$ and ZnIn_2S_4 .

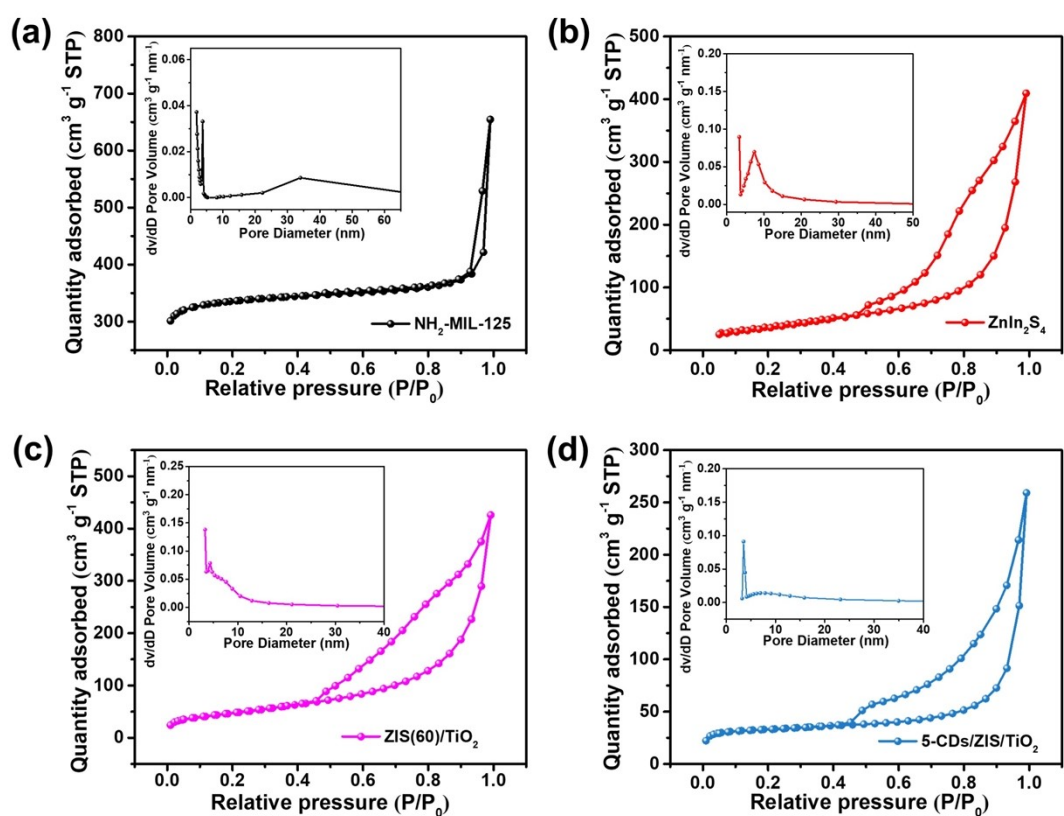


Fig. S11 N_2 adsorption-desorption isotherms of (a) NH_2 -MIL-125, (b) $ZnIn_2S_4$, (c) $ZIS(60)/TiO_2$ and (d) 5-CDs/ ZIS/TiO_2 .

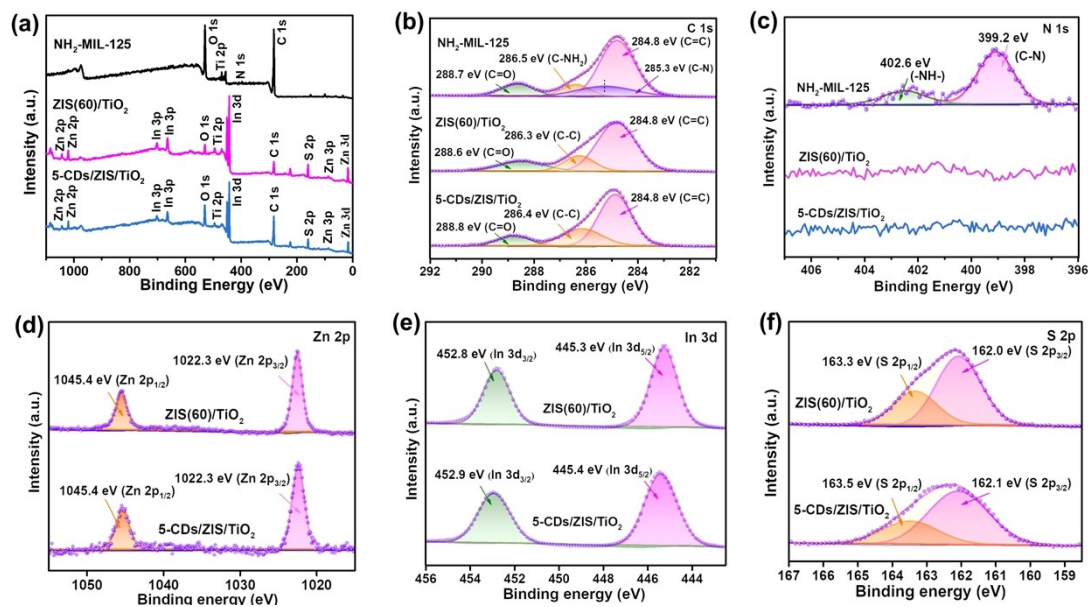


Fig. S12 (a) XPS survey spectra of NH₂-MIL-125, ZIS(60)/TiO₂ and 5-CDs/ZIS/TiO₂. High-resolution XPS spectra of NH₂-MIL-125, ZIS(60)/TiO₂ and 5-CDs/ZIS/TiO₂: (b) C 1s, (c) N 1s, (d) Zn 2p, (e) In 3d and (f) S 2p.

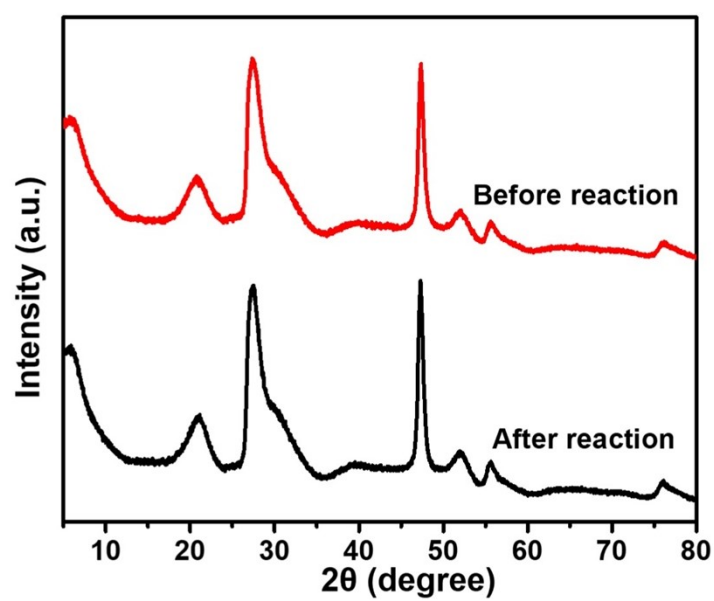


Fig. S13 XRD patterns of 5-CDs/ZIS/TiO₂ composite before and after the photocatalytic reaction.

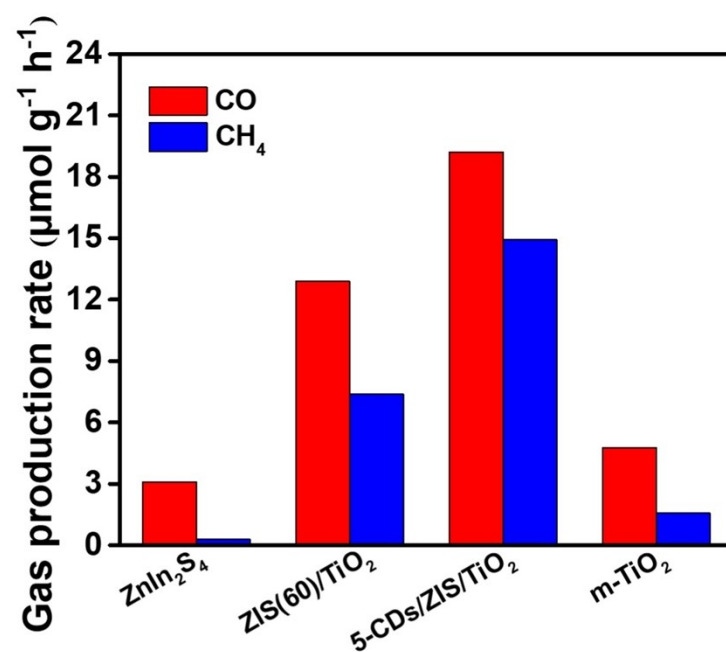


Fig. S14 Photocatalytic CO₂ reduction performances of different catalysts.

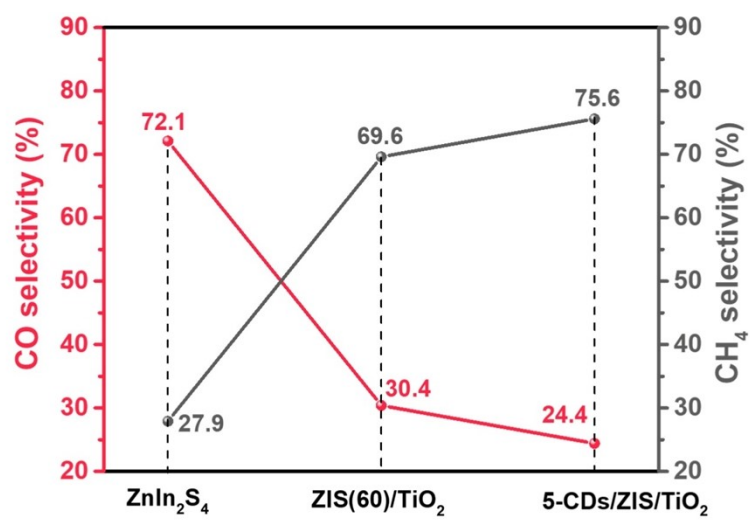


Fig. S15 The carbon products selectivity of ZnIn₂S₄, ZIS(60)/TiO₂ and 5-CDs/ZIS/TiO₂.

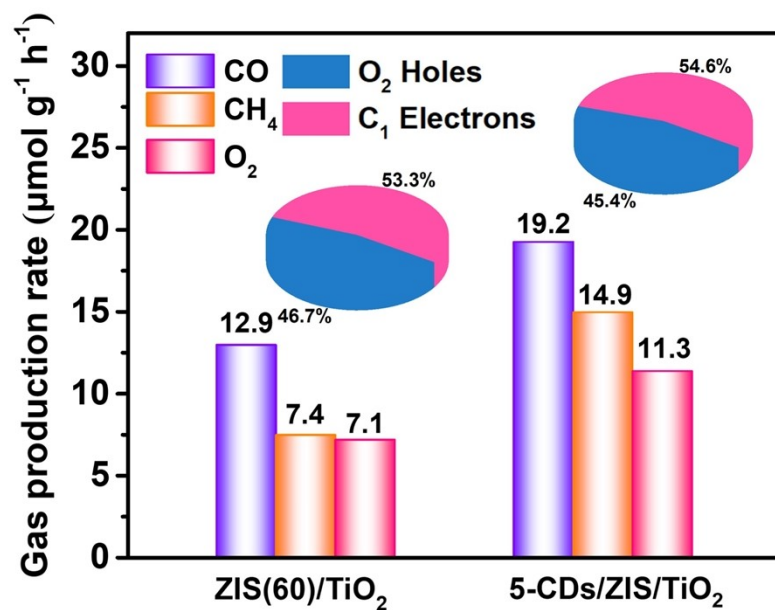


Fig. S16 Average gas evolution of oxygen and C₁ products at ZIS(60)/TiO₂ and 5-CDs/ZIS/TiO₂. The inserted pie charts are the total utilization of electrons by O₂ and C₁ evolution, indicating that the total number of reactive electrons of C₁ and reactive holes of O₂ is roughly the same.

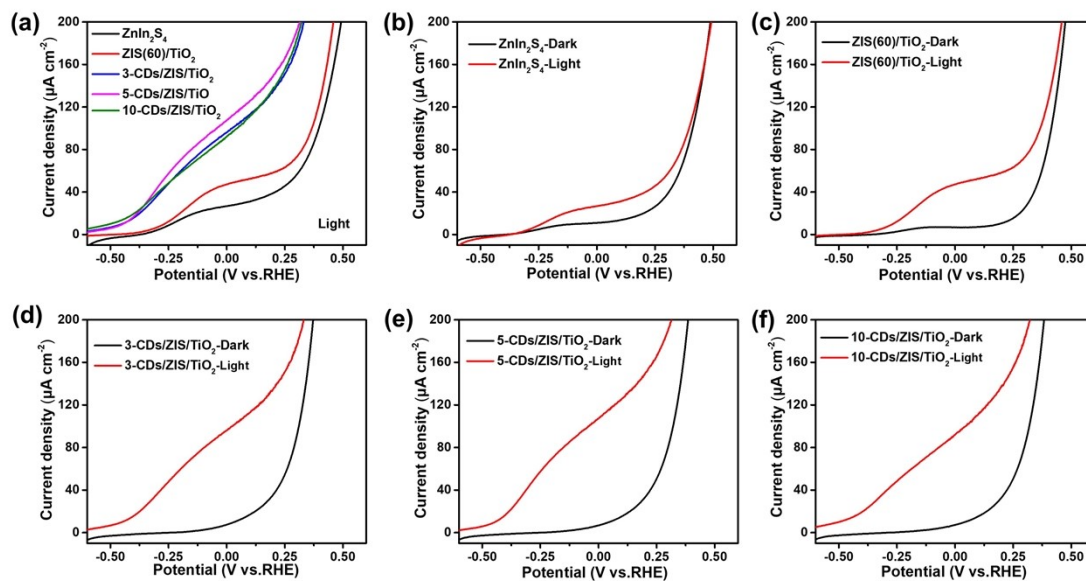


Fig. S17 Polarization curves for ZnIn_2S_4 , ZIS(60)/TiO_2 and CDs/ZIS/TiO_2 composites under AM1.5 G sunlight irradiation in Na_2SO_4 with a scan rate of 5 mV s^{-1} .

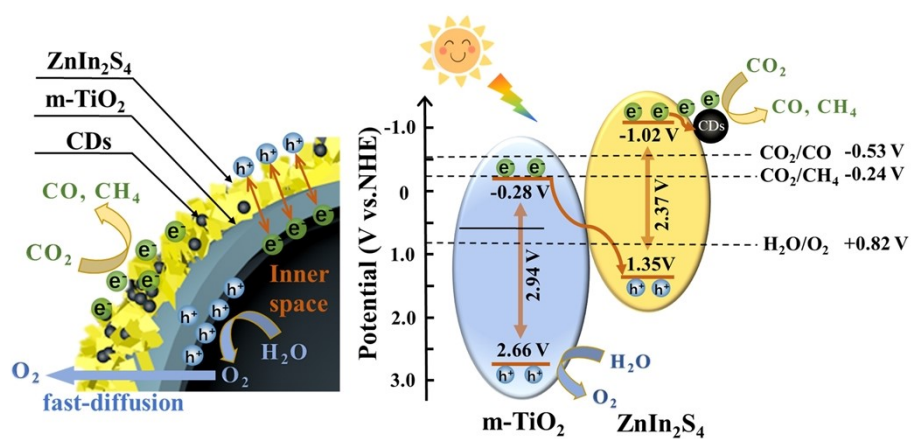


Fig. S18 Mechanism and energy band diagram of the photo-generated charge carrier transfer.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1 Porous characteristics of as-prepared samples.

Samples	$S_{\text{BET}} (\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1})$	$S_{\text{Langmuir}} (\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1})$	Pore volume ($\text{cm}^3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$)	Average pore size(nm)
NH ₂ -MIL-125	1006	2279	0.87	19.72
ZnIn ₂ S ₄	138	322	0.32	17.15
ZIS(60)/TiO ₂	206	467	0.40	34.51
5-CDs/ZIS/TiO ₂	272	574	0.45	14.73

Table S2 Summary of the CO and CH₄ selectivity over ZnIn₂S₄, m-TiO₂, ZIS(60)/TiO₂, and 5-CDs/ZIS/TiO₂.

	ZnIn ₂ S ₄	ZIS(60)/TiO ₂	5-CDs/ZIS/TiO ₂	m-TiO ₂
CO selectivity	72.1%	30.4%	24.4%	42.9%
CH ₄ selectivity	27.9%	69.6%	75.6%	57.1%

Table S3 The charge transfer kinetics parameter on the interfaces of the photocatalysts based on TPV analysis.

Parameter	m-TiO ₂	ZnIn ₂ S ₄	ZIS(60)/TiO ₂	5- CDs/ZIS/TiO ₂
Attenuation constants τ (ms)	0.682	0.609	0.544	0.421
Shadow part A	0.192	0.0511	0.0341	0.0934

Table S4 The average recombination lifetime of ZnIn₂S₄ under CO₂-saturated MeCN and 0.5 vol% H₂O/MeCN (v/v)

Sample	C_1	τ_1/ms	C_2	τ_2/ms	τ_{avg}/ms
ZnIn₂S₄/CO₂	0.804	0.055	0.065	0.412	0.190
ZnIn₂S₄/H₂O	0.654	0.410	0.530	0.561	0.490

Calculation process of average recombination lifetime (τ_{avg}) in TPV curves.

Single exponential fit of time decay constant:

$$y = C_1 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{x - x_0}{\tau_1}\right) + y_0 \quad (1)$$

C_1 is the fitting undetermined coefficient, τ_1 is time decay constant in charge recombination process, y_0 is constant term.

The formula for calculating average recombination lifetime:

$$\tau_{avg} = \frac{C_1\tau_1^2 + C_2\tau_2^2}{C_1\tau_1 + C_2\tau_2} \quad (2)$$

According to equation (1) and (2), the calculation results are shown in Table S2:

Table S5 Comparison of similar photocatalytic systems for CO₂ reduction performance presented in recent papers.

Photocatalysts	Photosensitizer/ Sacrificial agent	Solvent	Product	Production rate/ $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	Light source	References
5-CDs/ZIS/TiO ₂	/	EA/H ₂ O	CO	19.18	300 W Xe lamp	This work
			CH₄	13.93	AM 1.5G filter	
ZIS(60)/TiO	/	EA/H ₂ O	CO	14.01	300 W Xe lamp	This work
			CH ₄	9.62	AM 1.5G filter	
ZnIn ₂ S ₄ /TiO ₂ nanobelts	/	H ₂ O	CH ₄	1.135	300 W Xe lamp	[3]
ZnIn ₂ S ₄ /N- graphene	/	H ₂ O	CO	2.45	300 W Xe lamp	[4]
			CH ₃ OH	1.37		
			CH ₄	1.01		
TiO ₂ @ZnIn ₂ S ₄ /T i ₃ C ₂	/	H ₂ O	CO	10.17	300 W Xe lamp	[5]
			CH ₄	11.33		
Co ₉ S ₈ @ZnIn ₂ S ₄ / CdS	NaSO ₃	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO	82.10	300 W Xe lamp	[6]
			H ₂	1419.14		
C ₃ N ₄ /Au/ZnIn ₂ S ₄	TEOA Co(bpy) ₃ ²⁺	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO	242.3	300 W Xe lamp	[7]
			CH ₄	/		
			H ₂	/		
ZnIn ₂ S ₄ /BiVO ₄	/	H ₂ O	CO	4.75	300 W Xe lamp	[8]
			CH ₄	3.02		
CeO _x -S/ZnIn ₂ S ₄	TEA	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO	1800	455 nm LEDs	[9]
			H ₂	/		
Oxygen-doped ZnIn ₂ S ₄	TEOA Co(bpy) ₃ ²⁺	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO	1680	$\lambda \geq 420 \text{ nm}$	[10]
			H ₂	/		
ZnIn ₂ S ₄ /g-C ₃ N ₄	TEOA Co(bpy) ₃ ²⁺	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO	1453	$\lambda \geq 420 \text{ nm}$	[11]
			H ₂	863		

ZnIn ₂ S ₄ nanorods	TEOA	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	1.5 0.22	$\lambda \geq 800$ nm	[12]
ZnIn ₂ S ₄ /TiO ₂ nanosheets	TEOA Co(bpy) ₃ ²⁺	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO H ₂	4410 /	300 W Xe lamp	[13]
Phosphorus- doped ZnIn ₂ S ₄	TEOA Co(bpy) ₃ ²⁺	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO H ₂	476 /	$\lambda \geq 420$ nm	[14]
Yolk-shell TiO ₂ @ZnIn ₂ S ₄	TEOA	MeCN	CO H ₂	325.29 227.18	LED $\lambda = 420$ nm	[15]
Oxygen-doped C ₃ N ₄ /ZnIn ₂ S ₄	TEOA Co(bpy) ₃ ²⁺	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	188.4 1.18	$\lambda \geq 400$ nm	[16]
WO ₃ - TiO ₂ /Cu ₂ ZnSnS ₄	/	H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	15.37 1.69	$\lambda > 420$ nm	[17]
NH ₂ -UiO- 66/CdIn ₂ S ₄	/	H ₂ O	11.24	2.91	300 W Xe lamp	[18]
Cd _{0.5} Zn _{0.5} S/CdIn ₂ S ₄	/	H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	14.07 4.23	300 W Xe lamp	[19]
WQDs/CdIn ₂ S ₄	/	H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	8.20 1.60	300 W Xe lamp	[20]
CuInS ₂ /C/TiO ₂	/	H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	7.73 /	300 W Xe lamp	[21]
TiO ₂ /CsPbBr ₃	/	MeCN/H ₂ O	CO H ₂	9.02 0.66	300 W Xe lamp	[22]
Ag-TiO ₂ /TS-1	/	H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	3.16 0.47	300 W Xe lamp	[23]
COP-P/TiO ₂	/	H ₂ O	CO CH ₄	5.70 0.26	300 W Xe lamp	[24]

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