# MATERIALS CHEMISTRY



# RESEARCH ARTICLE



Cite this: *Mater. Chem. Front.*, 2022, 6, 2826

# MOF-derived bimetallic core–shell catalyst HZSM-5 $aZrO<sub>2</sub>$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: high CO<sub>2</sub> conversion in reverse water gas shift reaction†

conversion with 96.3% CO selectivity at 400 °C for the reverse water gas shift reaction.

Huimin Fang,<sup>a</sup> Guofeng Zhao, D<sup>\*c</sup> Denghui Cheng,<sup>a</sup> Jichang Liu, D<sup>\*ab</sup> Dengpeng Lan,<sup>c</sup> Qi Jiang,<sup>a</sup> Xugiang Liu,<sup>a</sup> Jianping Ge,  $\mathbf{D}^c$  Zhenliang Xu  $\mathbf{D}^a$  and Haitao Xu D<sup>\*a</sup>

The bicomponent core–shell catalyst HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>–In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was synthesized via the decomposition of In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/ HZSM-5@UIO-66, which was obtained by impregnating HZSM-5@UIO-66 with In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> solution. The bimetallic oxide particles of  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were formed through the simultaneous decomposition of UIO-66 and In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, and were anchored to the surface of the HZSM-5 core. The HZSM-5 $@ZrO_2$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst exhibited 31.1% CO<sub>2</sub>

Received 6th April 2022, Accepted 5th August 2022

DOI: 10.1039/d2qm00307d

[rsc.li/frontiers-materials](https://rsc.li/frontiers-materials)

## Introduction

With the rapid development of industry and increasing  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ emissions, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration in the atmosphere has increased by 25% over the past 200 years, leading to severe environmental and ecological problems, such as the melting of glaciers, rising sea levels and climate change.<sup>1</sup> Thus, it is vital to utilize  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to produce high-value-added fuels and chemicals for environmental improvement and industrial development. In recent years, green hydrogen has gradually become an economically and environmentally benign renewable energy,<sup>2</sup> and using it to reduce  $CO_2$  is of great industrial value.<sup>3</sup> CO, CH<sub>4</sub> and CH3OH are three major products from the direct utilization of CO2. Among them, CO is widely used as a raw material for the further synthesis of alcohols, $4$  olefins, $5$  aromatics, $6$  and other value-added chemicals. Therefore, the hydrogenation of CO<sub>2</sub> to CO is a promising way to reduce  $CO_2$ .<sup>7</sup>

Catalysts for the reverse water gas shift (RWGS) reaction are roughly divided into two categories, which are described as follows. Noble metal catalysts (such as  $Au$ ,  $B$  Pt,  $9$  Pd,  $10$  etc.) have a high catalytic activity and stability, but they are very expensive

and generate  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  as a non-negligible by-product; and non-noble metal catalysts (such as Fe,<sup>11</sup> Zn,<sup>12</sup> Ce,<sup>13</sup> etc.) are inexpensive but have a poor low-temperature activity. Hence many studies have focused on designing new catalysts to improve the catalytic performance of metals and oxides.<sup>14</sup> Indium oxide  $(In_2O_3)$  has attracted extensive attention due to its surface redox properties and excellent activity for  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  hydrogenation.<sup>15–19</sup> Abundant oxygen vacancies on the surface of  $In_2O_3$  play an essential role in the activation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ <sup>20,21</sup> Since In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is easily loaded and modified, other precious metals<sup>22,23</sup> or metal oxides<sup>24,25</sup> have often been introduced to form more oxygen vacancies and active sites, promoting the activation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and H<sub>2</sub>. However, most studies involving In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> have focused on the hydrogenation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to methanol, and few studies have included the RWGS reaction.<sup>26</sup> **PUBLICATE STANCH ARTICLE**<br> **MOF-derived bimetallic core-shell catalyst**<br>
Cate this New State University of the time contents of the Apple 2022. Cate this New York (2022)<br>
22. Cate this New York (2022)<br>
22. Cate this New

> Metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) have wide applications in the field of catalysis $27-31$  owing to their tunable composition and structure. Furthermore, MOF derivatives not only avoid the disadvantage of weak coordination bonds between metal clusters and organic linkers but also effectively inhibit metal oxide agglomeration in the pyrolysis process. $32$  These factors are beneficial for fabricating stable catalysts with high dispersion, high specific surface area and high activity. $28$

> Fig. 1 shows the typical assembly methods for catalysts. This work assembled the Zr-based MOF (UIO-66) and HZSM-5 via a solvothermal method to form a new composite HZSM-5@ UIO-66. The HZSM-5@UIO-66 was impregnated with indium nitrate  $(In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>)$ , followed by decomposition of the UIO-66 membrane and the adsorbed  $In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>$  during calcination, resulting in the formation of the bicomponent core–shell catalyst HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Due to the highly synergistic effect of the bimetal  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$  and the special core–shell structure of HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, the catalyst exhibited high



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> School of Chemical Engineering, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai, 200237, China. E-mail: xuhaitao@ecust.edu.cn

 $b$  Key Laboratory for Green Processing of Chemical Engineering of Xinjiang Bingtuan, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shihezi University, Shihezi 832003, China. E-mail: liujc@ecust.edu.cn

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Shanghai Key Laboratory of Green Chemistry and Chemical Processes,

School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, East China Normal University, Shanghai 200062, China. E-mail: gfzhao@chem.ecnu.edu.cn

<sup>†</sup> Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Chemicals, general methods, characterization, procedures and additional figures. See DOI: [https://](https://doi.org/10.1039/d2qm00307d) [doi.org/10.1039/d2qm00307d](https://doi.org/10.1039/d2qm00307d)



Fig. 1 Assembly diagram of composites (from top to bottom)  $In_2O_3/HZSM-5, HZSM-5@ZrO_2$ , HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>–In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>–In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + HZSM-5, ZrO<sub>2</sub> + HZSM-5,  $In_2O_3$  + HZSM-5 and their effects on  $CO_2$  hydrogenation.

 $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion (31.1%) and excellent CO selectivity (96.3%) at 400 °C, 3 MPa, and 4500 mL  $\rm g^{-1}$   $\rm h^{-1}.$ 

## Results and discussion

#### Syntheses and characterizations of fresh catalysts

HZSM-5 has been used widely in various catalytic reactions due to its regular pore channels, large surface area and thermal stability.<sup>33,34</sup> In Fig. 2, monodispersed HZSM- $5^{35}$  appears as smooth regular hexagonal prisms with a uniform size, while UIO-66<sup>36</sup> appears as octahedra. The HZSM-5 was placed in the UIO-66 precursor solution as a shape-directed carrier, and the UIO-66 was epitaxially grown onto the HZSM-5 core to obtain HZSM-5@UIO-66 via a solvothermal method. The morphology of the HZSM-5 core was well retained, while the UIO-66 was neither a regular octahedra nor small crystalline grains; $^{37}$  it was completely coated on HZSM-5 as a dense membrane layer (Fig. 2). The formation of the UIO-66 membrane can be attributed to the following factors. It has been confirmed that the solvent dipole moment can change the interfacial tension between the host nanoparticle and guest solvent, affecting the particle growth rate and ultimately changing the material

morphology. $^{38}$  Thus, ethanol (EtOH,  $\mu$  = 1.68 D) with a different dipole moment than N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF,  $\mu$  = 3.86 D) was added to the preparation solution of the UIO-66 membrane. The optimal volume ratio of the two above-mentioned solvents was confirmed to be  $1:1.^{9,39}$  At this ratio, UIO-66 can grow uniformly along the epitaxial direction of the HZSM-5 core. In addition, the molar amounts of the metal sources (zirconium chloride  $(ZrCl<sub>4</sub>)$ ) and organic linkers (terephthalic acid  $(H<sub>2</sub>BDC)$  that constitute the UIO-66 had the most significant influence on the formation of the core–shell structure. The effect of  $n(\text{ZrCl}_4)$  and  $n(\text{H}_2\text{BDC})$  on the growth of UIO-66 onto HZSM-5, under  $V_{\text{EtoH}}/V_{\text{DMF}} = 1$  was investigated in this study. Fig. S2 (ESI†) shows the morphology of the UIO-66 grown on the HZSM-5 surface at different molar amounts. When  $n(ZrCl<sub>4</sub>) = n(H<sub>2</sub>BDC) = 0.035$  mM, the UIO-66 membrane had a thickness of  $\sim$  10 nm, and there were many standalone spherical UIO-66 crystals of about 40 nm in diameter. This result was ascribed to the high concentrations of the precursors in the solution, which promoted the growth of UIO-66 on the HZSM-5 surface, and led to the independent nucleation of UIO-66 crystals. To obtain a homogeneous material,  $n(\text{ZrCl}_4)$ and  $n(H<sub>2</sub>BDC)$  were further reduced, from 0.035 mM to



Fig. 2 TEM images of different materials: (A) HZSM-5, (B and C) HZSM-5@UIO-66, (D) UIO-66, (E and F) HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>–In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, (G) In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/HZSM-5, and (H and I)  $HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ .

0.025 mM, upon which both the UIO-66 membrane thickness and the standalone UIO-66 crystal size gradually decreased. Finally, when  $n(\text{ZrCl}_4)$  and  $n(\text{H}_2BDC)$  were reduced to 0.020 mM, there were almost no standalone UIO-66 particles, and the HZSM-5 surface was evenly covered by a 4 nm membrane. The enlarged view of HZSM-5@UIO-66 (Fig. 2C and Fig. S3D, ESI†) showed a continuous UIO-66 membrane around the periphery of HZSM-5. Therefore, 0.020 mM could be regarded as the optimal molar amount for the UIO-66 precursor. Furthermore, these results demonstrated that the UIO-66 membrane thickness in HZSM-5@UIO-66 could be effectively controlled by adjusting the precursor molar amounts.

HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub> and HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Fig. 2) originated from the calcination of HZSM-5@UIO-66 and  $In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/$ HZSM-5@UIO-66, respectively. During calcination, the organic linkers (H<sub>2</sub>BDC) in the UIO-66 membrane underwent oxidative decomposition with oxygen and, simultaneously, the UIO-66 membrane was converted to  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ .<sup>40</sup> The disappearance of the organic linkers resulted in a certain volume contraction;<sup>41,42</sup> therefore, HZSM-5@  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  and HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were slightly smaller in size than HZSM-5@UIO-66. The presence of organic linkers constructed a temporary physical barrier for the  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  nanoparticles, hindering their aggregation during calcination.<sup>40</sup> The metal oxides  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $ZrO_2$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> that were obtained after calcination were anchored on the HZSM-5 surface in the form of particles (Fig. 2F and I) about 5 nm in diameter. In the enlarged view (Fig. 2F and I and Fig. S3F, ESI†), the oxide shell on the surface of HZSM-5 can clearly be seen. Furthermore, compared with HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, only a small amount of  $In_2O_3$  was loaded on the HZSM-5 (Fig. 2G) at the same In2O3 loading due to its worse adsorption than UIO-66. Clearly, coating UIO-66 on HZSM-5 could obtain  $ZrO_2$ -In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with a small size and the catalyst with a higher  $In_2O_3$  loading. Hollow cubes of pure In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, granular ZrO<sub>2</sub> and ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were also prepared (Fig. S4, ESI†).

The HAADF-STEM image of HZSM-5@UIO-66 (Fig. 3A) showed a large difference in brightness between the middle and edge regions of the material, indicating a typical core–shell structure. Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX) elemental mapping and line-scan EDX (Fig. 3B–I) demonstrated the structural composition and elemental distribution of HZSM-5@UIO-66. Si and Al were the main components of the HZSM-5 core, and O existed in the whole material. Zr and C, which formed UIO-66, appeared as a shell, indicating that UIO-66 was successfully coated on the surface of the HZSM-5 core. Moreover, EDX



Fig. 3 (A) HAADF-STEM image of HZSM-5@UIO-66, (B–G) EDX elemental mapping of the selected region, and (H and I) line-scan EDX of HZSM-5@UIO-66.

elemental mapping (Fig. S5, ESI†) of HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> verified that  $In_2O_3$  was successfully loaded on the surface of the material after impregnation.

The  $N_2$  adsorption–desorption isotherms of UIO-66, HZSM-5, HZSM-5@UIO-66, and HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were obtained (Fig. S6A, ESI†). All isotherms were the typical type-I, meaning that all the samples were microporous. However, the pore size distribution image (Fig. S6B, ESI†) of HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> showed the formation of mesopores. The disappearance of organic linkers in the UIO-66 membrane during calcination generated some extra spaces in the material, leading to mesopores.40,43 The Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) surface area of HZSM-5@UIO-66 was 296  $m^2$   $g^{-1}$ , which is lower than that of HZSM-5 (456  $\mathrm{m^2\,g^{-1}}$ ), and significantly lower than that of UIO-66  $(1307 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1})$  (Table S1, ESI†). This is because HZSM-5 dominated the HZSM-5@UIO-66 composite, while the UIO-66 content was low. Furthermore, the UIO-66 membrane blocked part of the pores of HZSM-5 due to the mismatching aperture during preparation, which caused the BET surface area of HZSM-5@UIO-66 to be smaller than HZSM-5. HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> still maintained a high BET specific surface area (309  $\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{\ g}^{-1}$ ).

Both UIO-66 and HZSM-5 showed diffraction peaks that matched their corresponding simulated powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns (Fig. S7, ESI†). However, for HZSM-5@UIO-66, only the characteristic peaks of HZSM-5 were observed. The absence of the characteristic peaks of UIO-66 might be attributed to its indistinguishability from HZSM-5 in the PXRD pattern and its low content in the composite. Although no UIO-66 diffraction peaks were observed in the PXRD pattern, Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy (Fig. S9, ESI†) showed that both UIO-66 and HZSM-5@UIO-66 had the characteristic bands of UIO-66 at 1591, 1395 and 747  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , confirming the existence of the UIO-66 membrane in HZSM-5@UIO-66. HZSM-5@UIO-66 was calcined in air to obtain HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>, and its XRD pattern clearly showed the characteristic peaks of HZSM-5 and the highly crystalline tetragonal ZrO<sub>2</sub> (t-ZrO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>44</sup> derived from the UIO-66 membrane. The peaks of HZSM-5 and pure cubic  $In_2O_3$  (c-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, formed via the pyrolysis of  $In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>)<sup>45</sup>$  were observed in  $In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/HZSM-5.$  By comparison with the precursors UIO-66 and HZSM-5@UIO-66, four new characteristic peaks ( $2\theta = 25-70^{\circ}$ ) appeared in  $ZrO_2$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. For ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, the characteristic peaks of

UIO-66 disappeared completely due to the phase transition. The local spectra were magnified at  $25-70^\circ$  to verify the phase of the new peaks. For HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (with an In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> loading of 20 wt%), only the diffraction peaks of  $t$ -ZrO<sub>2</sub> were observed because of impregnation loss and uniform distribution. When the  $In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ loading was increased to 70 wt%, the  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  peaks grew accordingly and shifted towards a higher diffraction angle (the characteristic peaks of  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (70 wt%) were the same as this), indicating that the loading was increased and some of the  $In_2O_3$  was doped into  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ .<sup>46</sup>

The peaks of In and Zr in HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> appeared at the corresponding positions of In<sup>3+</sup> and  $Zr^{4+}$  (Fig. S10, ESI†), indicating the existence of oxides.<sup>47</sup> Compared with pure  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ and pure  $In_2O_3$ , new peaks appeared at higher binding energies. This phenomenon was ascribed to the change in the coordination states of In and Zr, which was caused by In doping in the  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  lattice to form the In-O-Zr structure (solid solution). This result was consistent with the XRD, and the In doping could force O ions away to balance the charge, forming more oxygen vacancies.<sup>48</sup> The O1s spectrum of HZSM-5@  $ZrO_2$ -In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> also exhibited a higher concentration of oxygen vacancies than HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. S10, ESI<sup>†</sup>).

#### Catalytic performance

For the prepared catalysts, three main products  $(CO, CH<sub>4</sub>$  and  $CH<sub>3</sub>OH$ ) were generated *via* the following three reactions. Since the appropriate reaction temperature for converting  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to methanol was below 300 $^{\circ}$ C, only trace amounts of methanol were detected at 400 $\degree$ C.

$$
CO_2 + H_2 \rightleftharpoons CO + H_2O \quad \Delta H = 41.2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} \tag{1}
$$

 $CO_2 + 4H_2 \rightleftharpoons CH_4 + H_2O \quad \Delta H = -164.9$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>  $(2)$ 

$$
CO2 + 3H2 \rightleftharpoons CH3OH + H2O \quad \Delta H = -49.4 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} \tag{3}
$$

In Fig. 4A,  $In_2O_3/HZSM-5$  (where HZSM-5 was directly impregnated without coating with UIO-66) showed an inferior catalytic performance with  $12.7\%$  CO<sub>2</sub> conversion, and HZSM-5@ZrO2 (where HZSM-5 was coated with UIO-66 but not impregnated) showed the lowest activity with  $7.1\%$  CO<sub>2</sub> conversion. However, HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> exhibited a superior  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion (27.8%). On the one hand, the excellent adsorption and special pore structure of UIO-66 enabled HZSM- $5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>–In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  to have more active sites (Table S2, ESI†). On the other hand, the synergy of the  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$  bimetal played a crucial role in activating  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . To verify the improved catalytic performance of the bimetallic  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$  shell compared with the monometallic oxide,  $In_2O_3$  + HZSM-5 and ZrO<sub>2</sub> + HZSM-5 were prepared (monometallic  $In_2O_3$  and monometallic  $ZrO_2$ were mixed with HZSM-5, respectively). The  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion of HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was about 2.5 and 3.4 times that of In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + HZSM-5 and  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  + HZSM-5, respectively, suggesting a strong synergy between  $ZrO_2$  and  $In_2O_3$ . The introduction of  $ZrO_2$  can form the Zr-In interface and more oxygen vacancies, $49$  significantly improving the adsorption and hydrogenation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ ,  $^{50,51}$ In addition, materials with a core–shell structure have been shown to be superior catalysts in many reactions.<sup>52</sup> Hence for comparison, a mixed  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3 + HZSM-5$  catalyst containing the same active oxide content as HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was also prepared according to the ICP results (Table S2, ESI†). However,  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + HZSM-5 afforded a lower CO<sub>2</sub> conversion (22.6%) and CO yield  $(22.2\%)$  than HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  $(27.8\%$ , 26.9%), suggesting that besides the same active sites, the core–shell structure of the HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>–In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst also plays an important role in this reaction. The physical mixing of  $ZrO_2$ -In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and HZSM-5 was disordered, and the core-shell Materials Chemistry Frontiers<br>
Western empletely dux to the phase transition. The<br>
Local spectra external and Externa



Fig. 4 Catalytic performance of (A) the various catalysts, (B) In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> loadings, (C) reaction pressures, (D) GHSV, and (E) reaction temperatures.

2830 | *Mater. Chem. Front.*, 2022, 6, 2826–2834 This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry and the Chinese Chemical Society 2022

Research Article Materials Chemistry Frontiers (No. 2012) 2014 12:30 Materials Chemistry Frontiers

structure of  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$  and HZSM-5 improved the distribution of the  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$  components on the HZSM-5 surface. Although  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3 + HZSM-5$  was not as active as HZSM- $5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>–In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ , it still exhibited a higher  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion and CO yield compared with the monometallic oxides  $(In_2O_3$  + HZSM-5 and  $ZrO<sub>2</sub> + HZSM-5$ , which further proved the excellent catalytic performance of the MOF-derived bimetallic oxide in the RWGS reaction.

As shown in Fig. 4B, with the increase in  $In_2O_3$  loading from 20 wt% to 70 wt%, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion increased from 11.9% to 27.8%. The higher the  $In_2O_3$  amount, the more the number of  $ZrO_2$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> active sites. In addition, the operation conditions also have a significant influence on this reaction. Fig. 4C–E shows the influence of the pressure, space velocity (GHSV), and reaction temperature on the catalyst performance. When the pressure was 0.1 MPa, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion was 14.5% with 99.9% CO selectivity. When the pressure was increased from 2 to 3 MPa, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion increased from 17.5% to 21.4%. When the pressure was raised to 4 MPa, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion hardly changed, but the CO selectivity decreased to 94.7%. The increase in pressure typically leads to increased collisions between the reactant gas molecules, activating more molecules, and promoting the adsorption of activated molecules on the catalyst surface, thereby increasing the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion. Moreover, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  methanation side-reaction has a reduced amount of gas molecules, and the high pressure tends to promote the side-reaction, thus decreasing the CO selectivity. With the GHSV increasing from 4500 to 18 000 mL  $h^{-1}$   $g_{cat}^{-1}$ , the  $CO_2$ conversion decreased from 31.1% to 17.8%, and the CO/CH<sub>4</sub> selectivity remained at around 97%/3%. The reduction in GHSV increased the residence time of the reactant gas in the catalyst bed, thus enhancing the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion. When the temperature was gradually increased from 280 to 400  $\degree$ C, the CO<sub>2</sub> conversion increased from 6.1% to 31.1%. This is because  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  is inert and a high temperature is beneficial for activating  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . The CH<sub>3</sub>OH selectivity decreased from 72% to 0.2% within this temperature range, while the CO selectivity increased from 24.5% to 96.3%. The RWGS reaction is a typical endothermic reaction, whereas the conversion of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to methanol is typically exothermic; hence increasing the temperature transforms the product from CH3OH to CO. Based on the above discussions, the optimal reaction conditions for the HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst (In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> loading of 70 wt%) were as follows: 400 °C, 3 MPa, and 4500 mL  $h^{-1}$   $g_{cat}^{-1}$ . Under these conditions, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion and CO selectivity were 31.1% and 96.3%, respectively. Furthermore, only a small amount of methanol intermediate was generated due to the high reaction temperature, and the UIO-66 membrane might occupy the acidic sites of HZSM-5. Therefore, despite the presence of HZSM-5 in the catalysts, only very small amounts of hydrocarbons were detected in the product, while the main product was CO. Table S3 (ESI†) compares HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with other catalysts, including metal oxides and noble metal catalysts, in the RWGS reaction. Both the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion and CO selectivity of HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are outstanding. The special core-shell structure and the full synergistic effect of bimetallic  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$ **Peacearch Article** Materials Chemesion and E125M5 simproved the distribution play a critical cole in relations of the Materials Chemesion of the 202-10.0, compared on 16 E125M5 surface compared with noble metal catalogie

play a critical role in enhancing the performance. In addition, compared with noble metal catalysts, In-based catalysts have lower costs and, thus, better practical application prospects in industries.

#### Catalytic mechanism

There are roughly two reaction mechanisms for the RWGS reaction, one of which is the redox mechanism.<sup>53</sup> In this process,  $H<sub>2</sub>$  does not directly participate in forming intermediates but acts only as a reducing agent to reduce the catalyst  $(CO_2 + M^0 \rightarrow MO_x + CO$ ;  $H_2 + MO_x \rightarrow M^0 + H_2O$ ). Since the main product with the HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst was CH3OH at low temperature, the redox reaction was first excluded. The second most common mechanism is the degradation mechanism of the formate intermediate ( $CO_2 \rightarrow$  \*HCOO  $\rightarrow$  $CO^* \rightarrow CO$ ).<sup>54,55</sup> In this pathway, H<sub>2</sub> is involved in the formation of the intermediate \*HCOO.  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  is hydrogenated to the intermediate \*HCOO on the catalyst surface, and the intermediate further decomposes to form CO. The combination of  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $In_2O_3$  increases the oxygen vacancies on the oxide surface, and the most significant role of the oxygen vacancies is in the adsorption and activation of  $CO_2$ ,  $^{21,56}$  Adsorbed  $CO_2$  is further hydrogenated to the formate intermediate. This mechanism can explain the product transformation due to the change in temperature: formate is further hydrogenated to methanol at low temperature whereas it is directly pyrolyzed to CO at high temperature.

## **Conclusions**

In conclusion, the bicomponent core–shell catalyst HZSM-5@  $ZrO_2$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was synthesized *via* the decomposition of In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/ HZSM-5@UIO-66, which was obtained by impregnating HZSM-5@UIO-66 with the  $In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>$  solution. Under the synergistic effect of bimetallic  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$  derived from the UIO-66 membrane and In(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, the HZSM-5@ZrO<sub>2</sub>-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst with a special core–shell structure afforded excellent  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  conversion (31.1%) and CO selectivity (96.3%). The traditional concept is that the bimetallic oxide  $ZrO_2-In_2O_3$  is suitable for CO2 hydrogenation to methanol. This work reveals the superior catalytic performance of bimetallic  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$ –In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> derived from MOF towards the RWGS reaction, and provides a novel fabrication strategy for future catalysts for effectively catalysing  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ hydrogenation to CO.

### Author contributions

Under Haitao Xu's guidance, Huimin Fang performed the experiments, collected and analyzed the data, then wrote the draft of the manuscript. Qi Jiang completed the XRD characterization, and the STEM characterization was completed by Dengpeng Lan. Denghui Cheng and Xuqiang Liu assisted in the experimental process. Haitao Xu and Guofeng Zhao revised the article. The manuscript was reviewed by Jichang Liu, Jianping Ge, and Zhenliang Xu. All the authors endorsed the final version of the manuscript.

There are no conflicts to declare.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by financial support from the Joint Fund by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and PetroChina (Project U1862204), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21371058 and No. 22179038) and the Special Project for Peak Carbon Dioxide Emissions-Carbon Neutrality (21DZ1206700) from the Shanghai Municipal Science and Technology Commission. The authors are grateful to the Research Center of Analysis and Testing, East China University of Science and Technology, and Prof. Jianping Ge from the Shanghai Key Laboratory of Green Chemistry of Chemical Processes, East China Normal University, for help in the transmission electron microscopy and high angle annular dark-field scanning transmission electron microscopy analysis. **Materials Chemistry Frontiers**<br> **Processorch Article Conflicts of interest**<br> **Processorch Article Conflicts of the Example of the Conflicts of the Example and The Conflicts of the Example and Solen Conflicts of the Examp** 

## Notes and references

- 1 J. Hansen, M. Sato, R. Ruedy, K. Lo, W. Lea David and M. Medina-Elizade, Global temperature change, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A., 2006, 103, 14288–14293.
- 2 P. Lianos, Review of recent trends in photoelectrocatalytic conversion of solar energy to electricity and hydrogen, Appl. Catal., B, 2017, 210, 235–254.
- 3 G. Centi, E. A. Quadrelli and S. Perathoner, Catalysis for CO<sub>2</sub> conversion: a key technology for rapid introduction of renewable energy in the value chain of chemical industries, Energy Environ. Sci., 2013, 6, 1711–1731.
- 4 B. Liu, Y. Li, Y. Duan, T. Ding, Y. Tang and C. Zheng, Effect of supports on performance of Cu–Fe based catalysts for higher alcohols synthesis from syngas, React. Kinet., Mech. Catal., 2019, 128, 695–706.
- 5 F. Jiao, J. Li, X. Pan, J. Xiao, H. Li, H. Ma, M. Wei, Y. Pan, Z. Zhou, M. Li, S. Miao, J. Li, Y. Zhu, D. Xiao, T. He, J. Yang, F. Qi, Q. Fu and X. Bao, Selective conversion of syngas to light olefins, Science, 2016, 351, 1065–1068.
- 6 K. Cheng, W. Zhou, J. Kang, S. He, S. Shi, Q. Zhang, Y. Pan, W. Wen and Y. Wang, Bifunctional Catalysts for One-Step Conversion of Syngas into Aromatics with Excellent Selectivity and Stability, Chem, 2017, 3, 334–347.
- 7 X. Zhang, X. Zhu, L. Lin, S. Yao, M. Zhang, X. Liu, X. Wang, Y.-W. Li, C. Shi and D. Ma, Highly Dispersed Copper over  $\beta$ -Mo<sub>2</sub>C as an Efficient and Stable Catalyst for the Reverse Water Gas Shift (RWGS) Reaction, ACS Catal., 2017, 7, 912–918.
- 8 L. C. Wang, M. Tahvildar Khazaneh, D. Widmann and R. J. Behm, TAP reactor studies of the oxidizing capability of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  on a Au/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst – A first step toward identifying a redox mechanism in the Reverse Water–Gas Shift reaction, J. Catal., 2013, 302, 20–30.
- 9 Y. Wu, D. Lan, J. Liu, J. Ge, H. Xu, Y. Han, H. Zhang, X. Pan, Z. Xu and J. Liu,  $UIO<sub>66</sub>$ -membranized SAPO-34 Pt catalyst for

enhanced carbon dioxide conversion efficiency, Mater. Today, Energy, 2021, 21, 100781.

- 10 N. C. Nelson, L. Chen, D. Meira, L. Kovarik and J. Szanyi, In Situ Dispersion of Palladium on  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  During Reverse Water–Gas Shift Reaction: Formation of Atomically Dispersed Palladium, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2020, 59, 17657–17663.
- 11 D. H. Kim, S. W. Han, H. S. Yoon and Y. D. Kim, Reverse water gas shift reaction catalyzed by Fe nanoparticles with high catalytic activity and stability, *J. Ind. Eng. Chem.*, 2015, 23, 67–71.
- 12 J. Wen, C. Huang, Y. Sun, L. Liang, Y. Zhang, Y. Zhang, M. Fu, J. Wu, L. Chen and D. Ye, The Study of Reverse Water Gas Shift Reaction Activity over Different Interfaces: The Design of Cu-Plate ZnO Model Catalysts, Catalysts, 2020,  $10(5)$ , 533.
- 13 B. Dai, G. Zhou, S. Ge, H. Xie, Z. Jiao, G. Zhang and K. Xiong,  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  reverse water-gas shift reaction on mesoporous M-CeO<sub>2</sub> catalysts, Can. J. Chem. Eng., 2017, 95, 634–642.
- 14 Y. Xu, M. Cao and Q. Zhang, Recent advances and perspective on heterogeneous catalysis using metals and oxide nanocrystals, Mater. Chem. Front., 2021, 5, 151–222.
- 15 K. Sun, Z. Fan, J. Ye, J. Yan, Q. Ge, Y. Li, W. He, W. Yang and C.-J. Liu, Hydrogenation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to methanol over  $In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ catalyst, J. CO2 Util., 2015, 12, 1–6.
- 16 P. Gao, S. Li, X. Bu, S. Dang, Z. Liu, H. Wang, L. Zhong, M. Qiu, C. Yang, J. Cai, W. Wei and Y. Sun, Direct conversion of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  into liquid fuels with high selectivity over a bifunctional catalyst, Nat. Chem., 2017, 9, 1019–1024.
- 17 P. Gao, S. Dang, S. Li, X. Bu, Z. Liu, M. Qiu, C. Yang, H. Wang, L. Zhong, Y. Han, Q. Liu, W. Wei and Y. Sun, Direct Production of Lower Olefins from CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion via Bifunctional Catalysis, ACS Catal., 2018, 8, 571–578.
- 18 S. Wang, P. Wang, Z. Qin, W. Yan, M. Dong, J. Li, J. Wang and W. Fan, Enhancement of light olefin production in  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ hydrogenation over  $In_2O_3$ -based oxide and SAPO-34 composite, J. Catal., 2020, 391, 459–470.
- 19 S. Dang, P. Gao, Z. Liu, X. Chen, C. Yang, H. Wang, L. Zhong, S. Li and Y. Sun, Role of zirconium in direct  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  hydrogenation to lower olefins on oxide/zeolite bifunctional catalysts, J. Catal., 2018, 364, 382–393.
- 20 J. Ye, C. Liu, D. Mei and Q. Ge, Active Oxygen Vacancy Site for Methanol Synthesis from  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  Hydrogenation on In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(110): A DFT Study, ACS Catal., 2013, 3, 1296–1306.
- 21 J. Wang, G. Zhang, J. Zhu, X. Zhang, F. Ding, A. Zhang, X. Guo and C. Song, CO<sub>2</sub> Hydrogenation to Methanol over  $In_2O_3$ -Based Catalysts: From Mechanism to Catalyst Development, ACS Catal., 2021, 11, 1406–1423.
- 22 K. Sun, N. Rui, Z. Zhang, Z. Sun, Q. Ge and C.-J. Liu, A highly active Pt/In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst for  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  hydrogenation to methanol with enhanced stability, Green Chem., 2020, 22, 5059–5066.
- 23 N. H. M. D. Dostagir, C. Thompson, H. Kobayashi, A. M. Karim, A. Fukuoka and A. Shrotri, Rh promoted  $In_2O_3$  as a highly active catalyst for  $CO_2$  hydrogenation to methanol, Catal. Sci. Technol., 2020, 10, 8196–8202.
- 24 C. Y. Regalado Vera, N. Manavi, Z. Zhou, L.-C. Wang, W. Diao, S. Karakalos, B. Liu, K. J. Stowers, M. Zhou, H. Luo and D. Ding, Mechanistic understanding of support effect on the activity and selectivity of indium oxide catalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation, *Chem. Eng. J.*, 2021, 426, 131767.
- 25 W. Wang, Y. Zhang, Z. Wang, J.-M. Yan, Q. Ge and C.-J. Liu, Reverse water gas shift over  $In_2O_3$ -CeO<sub>2</sub> catalysts, *Catal.* Today, 2016, 259, 402–408.
- 26 Q. Sun, J. Ye, C.-J. Liu and Q. Ge,  $In_2O_3$  as a promising catalyst for  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  utilization: A case study with reverse water gas shift over  $In_2O_3$ , Greenhouse Gases: Sci. Technol., 2014, 4, 140–144.
- 27 N. Martín, A. Portillo, A. Ateka, F. G. Cirujano, L. Oar-Arteta, A. T. Aguayo and M. Dusselier, MOF-derived/zeolite hybrid catalyst for the production of light olefins from  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ , ChemCatChem, 2020, 12, 5750–5758.
- 28 A. Pustovarenko, A. Dikhtiarenko, A. Bavykina, L. Gevers, A. Ramı´rez, A. Russkikh, S. Telalovic, A. Aguilar, J.-L. Hazemann, S. Ould-Chikh and J. Gascon, Metal– Organic Framework-Derived Synthesis of Cobalt Indium Catalysts for the Hydrogenation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to Methanol, ACS Catal., 2020, 10, 5064–5076. **Peacearch Article** Materials Chemicary, R. Manasi, Z. Zhou, L.-C. Wang, particles as bifunctional catalysts, *BCC* Adv., 2014, 4 W. Disco, S. Kentholis, A. S. Stevets, M. H. Stevets, M. H. Stevets, M. H. Stevets, M. H. S
	- 29 Z. Cai, J. Dai, W. Li, K. B. Tan, Z. Huang, G. Zhan, J. Huang and Q. Li, Pd Supported on MIL-68(In)-Derived In2O3 Nanotubes as Superior Catalysts to Boost  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  Hydrogenation to Methanol, ACS Catal., 2020, 10, 13275–13289.
	- 30 Y. Wang, W. Zhan, Z. Chen, J. Chen, X. Li and Y. Li, Advanced 3D Hollow-Out ZnZrO@C Combined with Hierarchical Zeolite for Highly Active and Selective CO Hydrogenation to Aromatics, ACS Catal., 2020, 10, 7177–7187.
	- 31 L.-L. Ling, W. Yang, P. Yan, M. Wang and H.-L. Jiang, Light-Assisted CO<sub>2</sub> Hydrogenation over Pd<sub>3</sub>Cu@UiO-66 Promoted by Active Sites in Close Proximity, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2022, 61, e202116396.
	- 32 Y.-Z. Chen, R. Zhang, L. Jiao and H.-L. Jiang, Metal–organic framework-derived porous materials for catalysis, Coord. Chem. Rev., 2018, 362, 1–23.
	- 33 Y. Yu, Z. Xi, B. Zhou, B. Jiang, Z. Liao, Y. Yang, J. Wang, Z. Huang, J. Sun and Y. Yang, Acidity Modification of ZSM-5 for Methane Conversion in Co-feeding Method with MTA Reaction, Chem. Res. Chin. Univ., 2022, 38, 1012–1017.
	- 34 L. Luo, S. Wang, Z. Wu, Z. Qin, M. Dong, J. Wang and W. Fan, Influence of the ZSM-5 Support Acidity on the Catalytic Performance of Pd/ZSM-5 in Lean Methane Oxidation, Chem. Res. Chin. Univ., 2022, 38, 229–236.
	- 35 Z. Wan, W. Wu, G. Li, C. Wang, H. Yang and D. Zhang, Effect of  $SiO<sub>2</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  ratio on the performance of nanocrystal ZSM-5 zeolite catalysts in methanol to gasoline conversion, Appl. Catal., A, 2016, 523, 312–320.
	- 36 H. Xu, X. Luo, J. Wang, Y. Su, X. Zhao and Y. Li, Spherical Sandwich Au@Pd@UIO-67/Pt@UIO-n (n = 66, 67, 69) Core– Shell Catalysts: Zr-Based Metal–Organic Frameworks for Effectively Regulating the Reverse Water–Gas Shift Reaction, ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2019, 11, 20291–20297.
	- 37 G. Zhu, R. Graver, L. Emdadi, B. Liu, K. Y. Choi and D. Liu, Synthesis of zeolite@metal–organic framework core–shell

particles as bifunctional catalysts, RSC Adv., 2014, 4, 30673–30676.

- 38 H. Bunzen, M. Grzywa, M. Hambach, S. Spirkl and D. Volkmer, From Micro to Nano: A Toolbox for Tuning Crystal Size and Morphology of Benzotriazolate-Based Metal–Organic Frameworks, Cryst. Growth Des., 2016, 16, 3190–3197.
- 39 X. Pan, H. Xu, X. Zhao and H. Zhang, Metal–Organic Framework-Membranized Bicomponent Core–Shell Catalyst HZSM-5@UIO-66-NH<sub>2</sub>/Pd for CO<sub>2</sub> Selective Conversion, ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng., 2020, 8, 1087–1094.
- 40 J. Liu, Y. He, L. Yan, K. Li, C. Zhang, H. Xiang, X. Wen and Y. Li, Nano-sized  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  derived from metal–organic frameworks and their catalytic performance for aromatic synthesis from syngas, Catal. Sci. Technol., 2019, 9, 2982–2992.
- 41 G. Huang, F. Zhang, X. Du, J. Wang, D. Yin and L. Wang, Core–Shell NiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanorods: An Anode Material with Enhanced Electrochemical Performance for Lithium-Ion Batteries, Chem. – Eur. J., 2014, 20, 11214–11219.
- 42 L. Zhang, H. B. Wu, S. Madhavi, H. H. Hng and X. W. Lou, Formation of  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  Microboxes with Hierarchical Shell Structures from Metal–Organic Frameworks and Their Lithium Storage Properties, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2012, 134, 17388–17391.
- 43 G. Qu, P. Jia, T. Zhang, Z. Li, C. Chen and Y. Zhao, UiO-66(Zr)-derived t-zirconia with abundant lattice defect for remarkably enhanced arsenic removal, Chemosphere, 2022, 288, 132594.
- 44 T. Numpilai, P. Kidkhunthod, C. K. Cheng, C. Wattanakit, M. Chareonpanich, J. Limtrakul and T. Witoon,  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  hydrogenation to methanol at high reaction temperatures over  $In_2O_3/ZrO_2$  catalysts: Influence of calcination temperatures of ZrO<sub>2</sub> support, Catal. Today, 2021, 375, 298-306.
- 45 J. Wang, C.-Y. Liu, T. P. Senftle, J. Zhu, G. Zhang, X. Guo and C. Song, Variation in the  $In_2O_3$  Crystal Phase Alters Catalytic Performance toward the Reverse Water Gas Shift Reaction, ACS Catal., 2020, 10, 3264–3273.
- 46 C. Yang, C. Pei, R. Luo, S. Liu, Y. Wang, Z. Wang, Z.-J. Zhao and J. Gong, Strong Electronic Oxide–Support Interaction over  $In_2O_3/ZrO_2$  for Highly Selective CO<sub>2</sub> Hydrogenation to Methanol, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2020, 142, 19523–19531.
- 47 M. M. Zain, M. Mohammadi, N. Kamiuchi and A. R. Mohamed, Development of highly selective  $In_2O_3/$  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst for hydrogenation of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to methanol: An insight into the catalyst preparation method, Korean J. Chem. Eng., 2020, 37, 1680–1689.
- 48 Z. Zhang, Y. Huang, H. Ma, W. Qian, H. Zhang and W. Ying, Syngas-to-olefins over MOF-derived ZnZrOx and SAPO-34 bifunctional catalysts, Catal. Commun., 2021, 152, 106292.
- 49 M. Zhang, M. Dou and Y. Yu, Theoretical study of the promotional effect of  $ZrO<sub>2</sub>$  on  $In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  catalyzed methanol synthesis from CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation, Appl. Surf. Sci., 2018, 433, 780–789.
- 50 M. Dou, M. Zhang, Y. Chen and Y. Yu, Mechanistic Insight into the Modification of the Surface Stability of  $In_2O_3$

Catalyst Through Metal Oxide Doping, Catal. Lett., 2018, 148, 3723–3731.

- 51 O. Martin, A. J. Martín, C. Mondelli, S. Mitchell, T. F. Segawa, R. Hauert, C. Drouilly, D. Curulla-Ferré and J. Pérez-Ramírez, Indium Oxide as a Superior Catalyst for Methanol Synthesis by  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  Hydrogenation, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2016, 55, 6261–6265.
- 52 Z. Wang, J. Qi, N. Yang, R. Yu and D. Wang, Core–shell nano/microstructures for heterogeneous tandem catalysis, Mater. Chem. Front., 2021, 5, 1126–1139.
- 53 G.-C. Wang and J. Nakamura, Structure Sensitivity for Forward and Reverse Water-Gas Shift Reactions on Copper Surfaces: A DFT Study, J. Phys. Chem. Lett., 2010, 1, 3053–3057.
- 54 C.-S. Chen, W.-H. Cheng and S.-S. Lin, Mechanism of CO formation in reverse water–gas shift reaction over  $Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ catalyst, Catal. Lett., 2000, 68, 45–48.
- 55 A. M. Bahmanpour, M. Signorile and O. Kröcher, Recent progress in syngas production via catalytic  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ hydrogenation reaction, Appl. Catal., B, 2021, 295, 120319.
- 56 Y. Zhang, L. Liang, Z. Chen, J. Wen, W. Zhong, S. Zou, M. Fu, L. Chen and D. Ye, Highly efficient  $Cu/CeO<sub>2</sub>$ -hollow nanospheres catalyst for the reverse water-gas shift reaction: Investigation on the role of oxygen vacancies through in situ UV-Raman and DRIFTS, Appl. Surf. Sci., 2020, 516, 146035. Materials Chemistry Frontiers<br>
Catalyst Through Metal Odde Doping, Catal. Let, 2018, 54 C.-S. Chen, W.-H. Cheng and S.S. Lin, Mechanism of CO<br>
168, 372. 372. Downloaded on 2022. All the condition is the control on the sect