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# Photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> by halide perovskites: recent advances and future perspectives

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Photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to generate energy-rich fuels through solar energy provides an attractive route to alleviate the global energy crisis and environmental concerns. Searching for various photocatalysts with high catalytic activity and selectivity for the transformation of CO<sub>2</sub> is the key strategy to accomplish this goal. Halide perovskite nanomaterials, with the advancements of facile synthesis, excellent light-harvesting, efficient exciton generation, long carrier diffusion length, and abundant surface sites, have great potential in solar energy conversion. In this review, the fundamental photocatalytic mechanism for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction is firstly highlighted and the impact of the structural properties of halide perovskites is presented. Then, recent advancements of the reaction medium, halide perovskites (e.g., ABX<sub>3</sub> structure and A<sub>2</sub>B'B''X<sub>6</sub> structure), and their composites (e.g., oxide, sulfide, carbide, metal–organic framework, noble metal, and carbon derivative) as photocatalysts are described and analyzed. Finally, potential research approaches and future perspectives for the improvement of halide perovskite-based photocatalysts toward efficient CO<sub>2</sub> reduction are briefly discussed. This review sheds light on the upcoming innovative photocatalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction into high value-added products.

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## 1. Introduction

Tremendous natural environmental changes have made people around the world increase crisis awareness when we are facing unprecedented nature. Great attention has been paid to the depletion of natural resources and the impact of the emission of greenhouse gases on the environment due to the burning of fossil fuels.<sup>1–4</sup> Solar-driven carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) conversion is an encouraging strategy to alleviate the negative effect of greenhouse gases,<sup>5,6</sup> which uses artificial photosynthesis and

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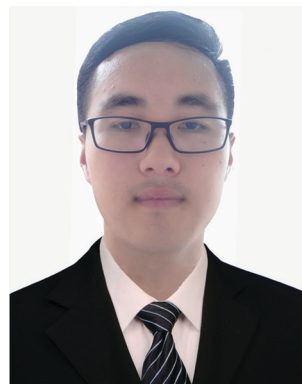
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photocatalysis of solar energy for carbon feedbacks and is also a straightforward and flexible pathway of CO<sub>2</sub> valorization.<sup>7,8</sup>

Since the landmark breakthrough in 1972, the pioneering work on ultraviolet (UV) driven photocatalytic production of hydrogen by TiO<sub>2</sub><sup>9</sup> has spurred enormous interest and motivated decades of scientific research and progress, which are of particular importance for energy transformation (e.g., reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and water splitting), chemical transformations, and the decontamination of organic pollutants.<sup>10</sup> During recent years, the rapid increase in the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the environment has caused widespread concern.<sup>11</sup> Extensive efforts have been devoted to stabilizing and controlling the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the environment, leading to CO<sub>2</sub> capture and renewable energy production. In particular, the state-of-the-art photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> has been considered as one of the most promising ways.<sup>12</sup>

From the perspective of long-term development, it is essential to explore cost-efficient photocatalysts with outstanding properties and performances. An ideal photocatalytic material should possess wide-range and superior light absorption, effective charge separation, excellent stability and proper redox ability.<sup>13</sup>

Upon illumination, the photogenerated charge carriers are produced in the conduction band (CB) and valence band (VB) in semiconductors, respectively. When the energy structure of these semiconductors straddles the redox potentials, their photogenerated charge carriers would involve the surface redox reaction. However, most pure semiconductors (g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>,<sup>14</sup> TiO<sub>2</sub>,<sup>15</sup> and Cu<sub>2</sub>O<sup>16</sup>) as photocatalysts are far from the ideal state yet, because of various limitations, e.g., quick recombination of photo-generated charge carriers, large bandgap, and poor photoreduction potential. Hence, there is still a huge demand to explore low-cost, stable, and effective artificial photocatalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> fixation.

Recently, halide perovskites have drawn enormous attention by virtue of their excellent photoelectric properties, for example, long charge carrier diffusion length, adjustable bandgap, high absorption coefficient, and excellent external quantum efficiency.<sup>17–21</sup> Due to these impressive characteristics and attractive properties, halide perovskites have been extensively employed in the fields of photoelectric conversion,<sup>22</sup> reduction reaction of CO<sub>2</sub>, and hydrogen evolution reaction.<sup>23–27</sup> These successful applications also encourage more applications in other traditional fields.<sup>28</sup> Recent developments in the synthesis methods (e.g., hot-injection, ligand-assisted reprecipitation scheme, ultrasonic method, solvothermal method, microwave assisted method, and ball milling)<sup>29–35</sup> have promoted halide perovskites marching to practical usage.<sup>36</sup> Through controlling the production method, reaction temperature, capping ligand, and additional reaction conditions, halide perovskites with variable chemical components (e.g., inorganic, organic, and inorganic hybrid), dimensions, sizes, and morphologies can be obtained.<sup>37–41</sup> These efforts are expected to bring new opportunities for halide perovskites in the application of photocatalysis.

Halide perovskites have recently attracted great attention towards the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> into high value-added products, from basic and theoretical research to applied science.<sup>42–52</sup> Shown in Fig. 1 is a timeline of the development of halide perovskites as photocatalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

Up to now, there have been some review works of halide perovskites as photocatalysts focusing on the stability issues, or



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Fig. 1 The development of halide perovskites as photocatalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

modification strategies through structural engineering and interfacial modulations.<sup>53–57</sup> However, a timely and comprehensive review is still in demand concerning the photoreduction mechanism, reductants and products, the structure and photocatalytic performances, and the exploration efforts on halide perovskites and their composites for further improvements. In this review, we start with the basic mechanism of the photo-reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, and the reductants and products. After that, the fundamental photoelectrical properties of halide perovskites are described collectively, including their crystal structure, defect tolerance, toxicity, luminescence properties, and photostability issues. Insights into the molecular calculations of halide based perovskites concerning their unique electronic structure and physio-chemical properties are also included. Then, we summarize the existing exploration efforts on halide perovskites and their composites in tuning the selectivity of photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> as well as increasing the active sites. Finally, we present the outlook for upcoming directions and the great potential of halide perovskites toward photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

## 2. Photocatalytic mechanism for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

In the process of photocatalysis, the abundantly available solar energy is transformed into electrical/chemical/thermal energies through semiconductor materials.<sup>13,58–61</sup> In general, the photocatalysis process for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction mainly consists of three critical synergistic steps, as illustrated in Fig. 2. In the first step, photon absorption occurs to create electron-hole pairs. During this catalytic reaction, incident light induces the transition of electrons from the valence band (VB) to the conduction band (CB), leaving an equal number of holes in the VB. A suitable

band structure of the photocatalyst is required to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> or oxidize water. However, in the second step, a large number of fractions of photogenerated electron-hole pairs may be consumed by recombination. The recombination is dominant over charge separation or *vice versa*, depending on the relative time scale among the rate of recombination and photogenerated carriers. This issue can be resolved *via* a very complex interaction among dimension, surface properties, material crystallinity, and several other structural factors. The design of balanced active sites was utilized to facilitate charge separation. The final step is the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption. This redox reaction involves the transfer of electrons from the photocatalyst to CO<sub>2</sub> molecule. In general, larger surface area of the photocatalyst can lead to higher rate of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption thanks to more active sites.<sup>62–64</sup> The photocatalytic activity is generally associated with two main conditions: (i) the

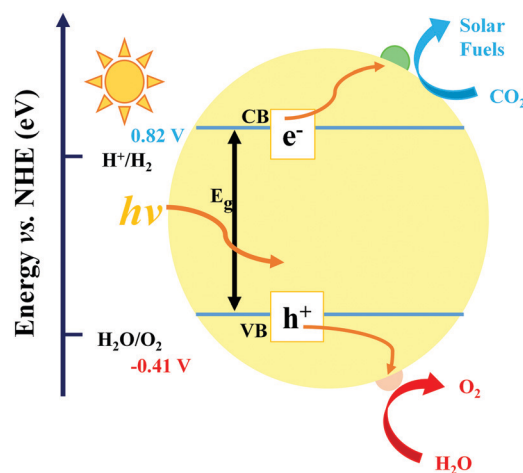


Fig. 2 Schematic diagram of the photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction mechanism.



bandgap energy ( $E_g$ ) of the photocatalyst should be lower than the energy of the incident light ( $h\nu$ ; the absorption energy). (ii) The reduction potential of the reacting species should be positioned between the CB and VB values of the photocatalyst material. The former condition specifies a narrower bandgap that can help the effective utilization of incident photons. Conversely, the latter condition reveals that a higher value of CB potential and a lower value of VB potential are thermodynamically advantageous toward the reduction as well as oxidation reactions of the reacting species, respectively. Therefore, it is inevitable to seek the balance point owing to the existence of the noticeable inconsistency as discussed in the above conditions. However, this is quite a challenging task to obtain both broad light absorption and robust redox capability simultaneously for pure component semiconductor materials. Moreover, the photogenerated electrons in the CB can easily recombine with holes, or be trapped in the defect state, or easily come back to the VB for a pure-component material, which would decrease the efficiency of solar energy utilization.<sup>65</sup> Hence, designing a suitable heterogeneous photocatalyst is an effective approach to overcome the above-mentioned issues. Generally, there are four vital rules played by cocatalysts: (i) enhancing the separation and transfer of charges, (ii) boosting the performance, and the selectivity of photoreduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ , (iii) improving the durability of photocatalysts in a peculiar environment (e.g. high humidity and high temperature), and (iv) suppressing the side reactions (e.g.,  $\text{H}_2$  reduction).

Photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  with a semiconductor-based cocatalyst is affected by many aspects, for example, photocatalyst loading, particle size, structure, composition, dispersion, crystal facets, alloy phase, morphology, and valence states. In a photocatalyst system, the maximum photocatalytic performance is accomplished at an optimum loading of cocatalysts. An additional loading of the cocatalyst may lead to deterioration of catalytic activity owing to the following factors. (i) Too much cocatalyst can hinder the incident light and reduce the light absorption ability, hence decreasing the photogenerated electron-hole pairs. (ii) Excessive cocatalyst percentage could in turn shield the active sites on the surface of the photocatalyst, therefore lessening the

contact with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  molecules. (iii) Excessive loading may cause the irregular dispersion and formation of bigger particles, consequently reducing the catalytic performance.

A closed gas circulation reactor is usually used for photo-reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ , where the responded  $\text{CO}_2$  decreased in the existence of semiconductors under continuous illumination.<sup>66–71</sup> Since the Gibbs free-energy ( $\Delta G$ ) value for the reduction reaction of  $\text{CO}_2$  to produce carbon monoxide ( $\text{CO}$ ) is  $\sim 258.95 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , the bandgap of no less than 1.35 eV is needed. Then rapid separation and transfer of the photogenerated charge carriers to the particular catalytic active sites of the photocatalysts triggers the electrochemical reaction, resulting in chemical fuel. For photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the existence of water, the CB must be negatively paralleled to the reduction potential of  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $-1.07 \text{ V}$  vs. normal hydrogen electrode (NHE)) for  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction to  $\text{CO}$  at  $\text{pH} = 0$ . Simultaneously, the VB should be larger than the oxidation potential of water ( $1.23 \text{ V}$  vs. NHE at  $\text{pH} 0$ ) to procedure  $\text{O}_2$ . Fig. 3 displays the schematic representation of the bandgap and band position of reported typical halide perovskite materials and  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction potential.

Photocatalytic  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction reaction is a high energy-driven process, because of the carbon-based compound that has a thermodynamically stable and high bond energy of  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  ( $750 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ).<sup>72,73</sup> Therefore, the photocatalytic reduction reaction of  $\text{CO}_2$  also needs prior activation. The process of mass transfer of reactants,  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption and creation of active sites for  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction can be improved by increasing the surface area of a photocatalyst. A large number of nano-structured materials for the photocatalyst were developed to achieve larger surface areas, including zero dimensional (0D) nanoparticles,<sup>74</sup> one dimensional (1D) nanowires/nanotubes,<sup>75</sup> two dimensional (2D) nanosheets,<sup>76,77</sup> and three dimensional (3D) hierarchical nanostructures.<sup>78</sup> Furthermore, various porous and hollow materials were extensively studied for  $\text{CO}_2$  conversion because of their increased surface area and porosity. The adsorption and activation of  $\text{CO}_2$  can also be facilitated by tuning the surface defects of photocatalysts, which can be quite helpful in improving the reactivity and photochemical properties of the photocatalytic processes.<sup>79,80</sup> Strongly negative reduction

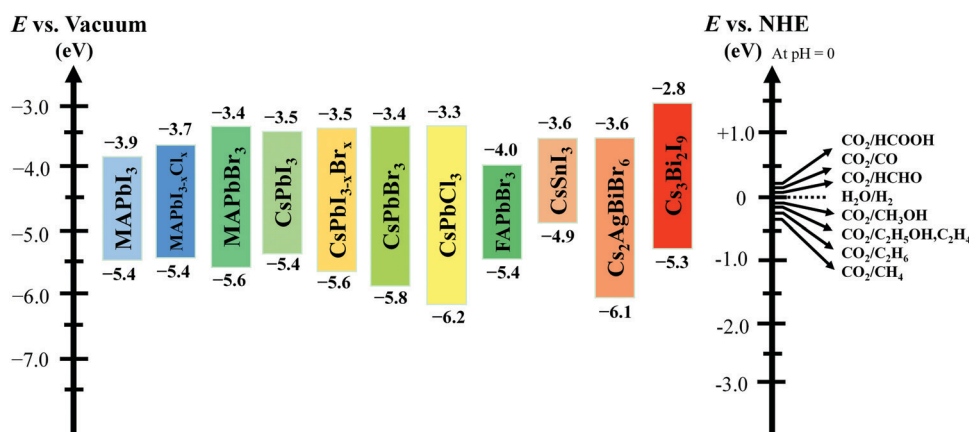


Fig. 3 Conduction and valence band position of halide-based perovskite materials with relative  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction potential.









Fig. 4 Structures and physical properties of halide perovskites. (a) Crystal structure of 3D-cubic, 3D-orthorhombic, 1D-hexagonal, and 1D-orthorhombic phases. From ref. 92, reprinted with permission from AAAS. (b) Schematic structural diagrams of the change network of octahedra. Reproduced with permission from ref. 107 at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsenerylett.6b00705>; further permissions are directed to the ACS. (c) Tolerance factor of ABX<sub>3</sub> halide perovskites. Republished with permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry, from ref. 111; permission conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.

positions are tunable through modifying the composition (Fig. 5b), size, and shape.<sup>92</sup> Higher photoluminescence quantum yield with tunable emission, low costs, and simple synthesis of halide perovskite NCs make them appealing in practical applications. However, the toxicity of lead, sensitivity to the atmosphere condition (humidity, oxygen, daylight, and temperature), and limited yield still hamper further photocatalysis application of lead-based halide perovskite NCs. Halide perovskites have great photophysical properties, including high absorption coefficients,

low trap densities, long charge diffusion lengths, and broadly tunable bandgaps. These properties allow for light-harvesting from ultra-visible to the near infrared spectral range.<sup>46,112</sup> Besides, the band positions of halide perovskites mostly fulfill the thermodynamic requirements for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>113</sup>

### 3.3. Other structures

The lead halide perovskite-based NCs with a 3D APbX<sub>3</sub> crystal structure and composition have become the focus of much

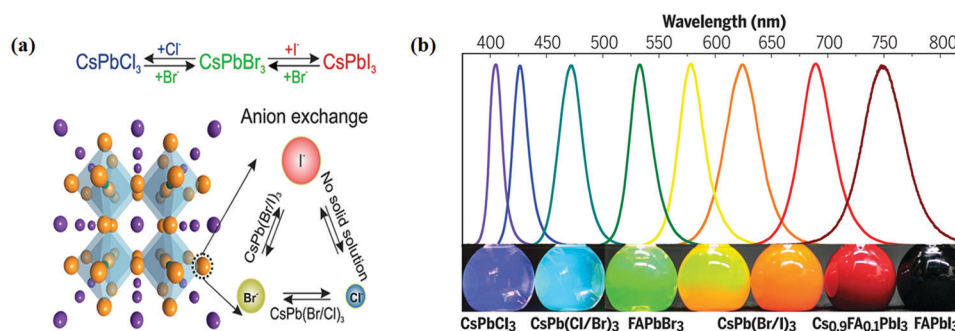
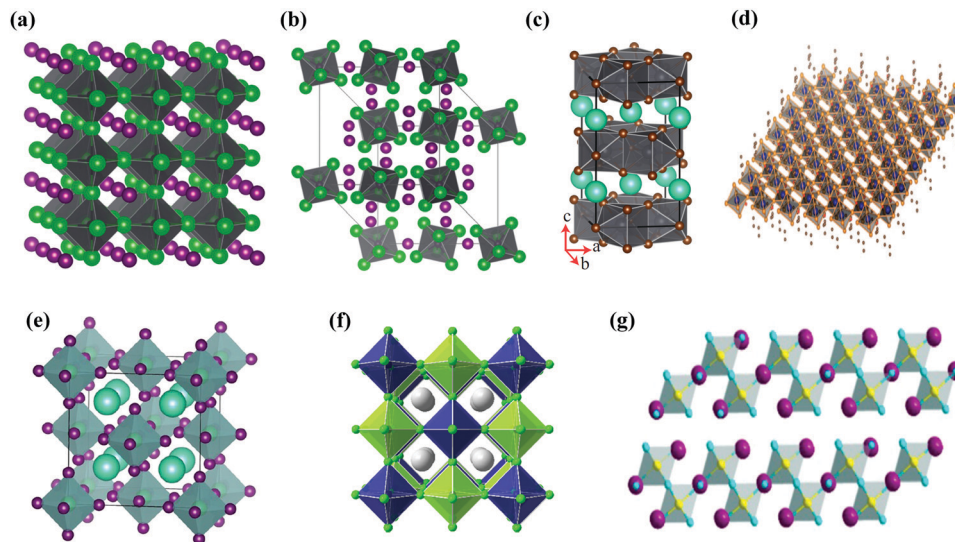


Fig. 5 (a) Schematic of the halide anion-exchange process. Reproduced with permission from ref. 38 at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acsnanolett.5b02404>; further permissions are directed to the ACS. (b) Photoluminescence spectra and the corresponding photographs (under varied daylight and UV excitation) of colloidal composition-tuned APbX<sub>3</sub> NCs. From ref. 92, reprinted with permission from AAAS.



research interest up to now. However, the inherent toxicity and overall reactivity of these halide perovskites have also motivated the scientists to investigate them in various research directions. Firstly, the structural instability and higher ionicity of LHP NCs could usually be taken as a positive aspect, as the  $\text{APbX}_3$  lattice could be easily rationalized into other phases. This has motivated the researchers to investigate NCs more extensively by exploring their composition and structural characteristics that are defined as “perovskite-related structures”, for example  $\text{Cs}_4\text{PbX}_6$  and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{X}_5$  (often called zero-dimensional (0D) and two dimensional (2D) structures, respectively), whereas the characterization of the 3D  $\text{APbX}_3$  structure was observed to have corner-sharing  $[\text{PbX}_6]^{4-}$  octahedra with the  $\text{A}^+$  cations filling the holes formed by four neighboring  $\text{PbX}_6^{4-}$  octahedra ensuing in a cubic or pseudo-cubic structure (Fig. 6a). The  $\text{PbX}_6^{4-}$  octahedra in  $\text{A}_4\text{PbX}_6$  structures are dissociated in all extents and the halide ions are no longer shared between them (Fig. 6b).<sup>114,115</sup> Layered perovskites have recently been under a lot of scrutinization process. Similar to that of layered double hydroxides containing alternating  $\text{Cs}^+$  and  $[\text{Pb}_2\text{X}_5]^-$  polyhedron layers, the  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{X}_5$  has emerged as a 2D version of lead halide perovskite materials with a tetragonal phase (Fig. 6c).<sup>116,117</sup> Another type that contains an alternating layer of corner-sharing  $[\text{PbX}_6]^{4-}$  octahedra and bulky cations is known as the 2D perovskite  $\text{A}_2\text{PbX}_4$  phase (Fig. 6d).<sup>118</sup>

In APbX<sub>3</sub> NC systems, the lead toxicity and its bioaccumulation in the ecosystem are known as key drawbacks, which in turn motivate the researchers to find alternative materials with similar optoelectronic characteristics, such as Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> NCs.<sup>119–121</sup> To date, there has been very little success. Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> crystallizes in the face-centered cubic structure. Four [SnI<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> octahedra at the corners and face centers and eight Cs<sup>+</sup> cations at the tetragonal interstitials make up the unit cell (Fig. 6e). A Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> structure is a perovskite derivative that is made by removing half of the Sn

atoms at regular intervals from each center of the  $[\text{SnI}_6]$  octahedron.<sup>120</sup> Because of this, the structure is also known as a “vacancy ordered double perovskite.” Two primary techniques are now being explored in the search for lead-free metal halide compounds: a “simple” substitution of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  cations with other less toxic divalent metal ions from the same group IV, such as Sn or Ge, and a “complex” substitution of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  cations with other less toxic divalent metal ions from the same group IV,<sup>122</sup> such as Sn or Ge or a substitution of one monovalent  $\text{M}^+$  and one trivalent  $\text{M}^{3+}$  cation for every two divalent  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  ions (*i.e.*,  $2\text{Pb}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{B}^+ + \text{B}^{3+}$ ), resulting in quaternary  $\text{A}_2\text{B}^+\text{B}^{3+}\text{X}_6$  systems also known as “double perovskites” as shown in Fig. 6f.<sup>123</sup> Other transition or post-transition metals, like  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ , were used to examine the diversity of halide compounds associated with LHPs.<sup>124–127</sup>  $\text{Cs}_3\text{M}_2\text{X}_9$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ ) crystallizes in the hexagonal space group  $P6_3/mmc$ . This is made up of isolated clusters, each of which is made up of two face-sharing octahedra and has the  $\text{M}_2\text{Br}_9^{3-}$  formula, with  $\text{Cs}^+$  acting as a bridging ion between the clusters. Antimony-based halide compounds, on the other hand, form in a layered shape with each  $\text{Sb}_2\text{Br}_9^{3-}$  cluster sharing corners with three octahedra (Fig. 6g).<sup>121</sup>

#### 4. Performance of photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

#### 4.1. Reaction medium

The solvent plays a critical role in photocatalytic reactions. Halide perovskites are unstable in a polar solvent; therefore, extensive research studies have been accomplished to find a suitable medium for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>. Low-polar ethyl acetate was utilized as the solvent due to the higher solubility of CO<sub>2</sub>, which guarantees durable stability for





CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs.<sup>42</sup> Thereafter, various groups reported the boost in the selectivity of CO<sub>2</sub> conversion (99%) with the suppression of production of H<sub>2</sub>, with the addition of a small amount of water (< 50 μl) in ethyl acetate medium.<sup>45,100,101,113</sup> However, employing acetonitrile/water (0.3 vol%) mixture showed photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> with a high conversion rate (149 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) of CO<sub>2</sub> to CO, compared to the ethyl acetate/water (0.3 vol%) mixture upon light irradiation using CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs combined with porous g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>. Moreover, enhanced selectivity as well as productivity of the photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> was obtained with a high content of diluted water (1.2 vol%).<sup>128</sup>

Owing to several polarities, dielectric constant, and CO<sub>2</sub> solubility, the selection of solvents can exert a higher effect on the reaction rate and selectivity. The pairing of a robust co-catalyst is the key factor for enhancing the performance of photocatalysis. Meanwhile, it can not only separate the photogenerated electrons by the creation of a Schottky junction within the co-catalyst and photocatalyst to hinder the charge recombination, but also lower the kinetic bottlenecks in the activation of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>129,130</sup> In the present case, the best nonaqueous solvent was ethyl acetate, which resulted in the reduction reaction of CO<sub>2</sub> with an electron yield rate of 2.74 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> along with 95.2% selectivity. Furthermore, a photo-deposition of Pt co-catalyst boosts the electron yield rate to 5.66 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>131</sup> Numerous additional solvents such as toluene, benzene, *etc.* were also explored for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> as a photocatalysis medium in halide perovskite NCs.<sup>101</sup> Besides, owing to reducing the formation of less active CO<sub>2</sub>, higher hydration products and selectivity, solid-

vapor CO<sub>2</sub> reduction systems also remain very attractive. Mu *et al.* utilized hexafluorobutyl methacrylate to protect cobalt-doped CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Cs<sub>4</sub>PbBr<sub>6</sub> NCs for the photoreduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in the aqueous medium. They adopted pure water as a solvent, where water was used as a sacrificial reductant and electron source. The content of 2% Co on the surface of the NCs (2%Co@CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Cs<sub>4</sub>PbBr<sub>6</sub>) was employed to enhance the activity for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>93</sup> They proposed that Co<sup>2+</sup> acted as an active center to promote CO<sub>2</sub> absorption and accrued two electrons from CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Cs<sub>4</sub>PbBr<sub>6</sub>; on account of that, the Co<sup>2+</sup> center formed a Co-CO<sub>2</sub> complex and reacted with H<sup>+</sup> to facilitate the formation of CO.

## 4.2. Halide perovskites

**4.2.1. ABX<sub>3</sub> structure.** The conventional ABX<sub>3</sub> structure halide perovskites have various phases such as cubic,<sup>132</sup> monoclinic,<sup>42</sup> orthorhombic,<sup>45</sup> hexagonal,<sup>98</sup> *etc.* Recently, Xu *et al.* theoretically proved that CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> with a cubic phase is an active catalyst for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of benzene.<sup>100</sup> The usage of organic solvents makes it challenging to find out the product source. Meanwhile, organic solvents may have smaller molecules that support the final product. Research should be focused on the synthesis of water-stable CsPbX<sub>3</sub> NCs that can be utilized for catalytic reactions in water or other polar solvents. The water-resistance of CsPbX<sub>3</sub> will also encourage their application in various fields. Most of the reported photocatalytic reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> into CO and CH<sub>4</sub> were performed in the non-aqueous system employing orthorhombic-CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs as photocatalysts. Guo *et al.* reported



**Fig. 7** (a) Crystal structure of the cubic FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> perovskite and (b) schematic band diagram of photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction into chemical fuels for FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs. Reprinted from ref. 51, Copyright 2021, with permission from Elsevier. (c) CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction by FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs in DI, DI/EA, and EA systems (data from ref. 51). (d) TEM and HRTEM images of non-cubes, hexapods, and cube-shaped nanostructures. (e) Schematic representation of the conduction and valence band position of the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> catalyst with the relative potential of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (d and e) Reprinted with permission from ref. 136, Copyright 2020 American Chemical Society. (f) Formation of CO and CH<sub>4</sub> from CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reactions using noncube, polyhedron, or hexapod photocatalysts (data from ref. 136).

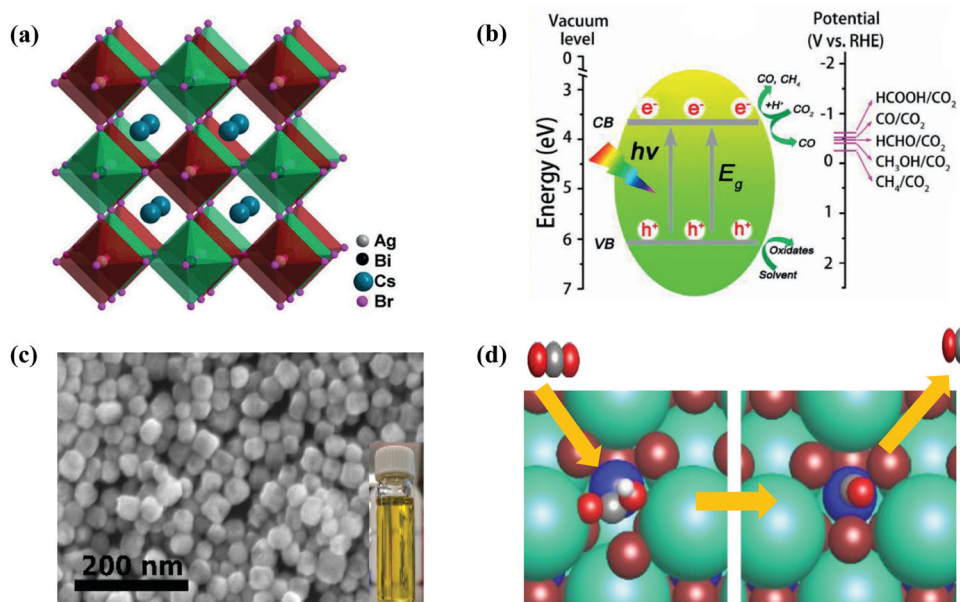


that CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> with a cubic phase was more active than that with the orthorhombic ones because the phase transformation affects the efficiency of photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>97</sup> Recently, some perovskite materials with a uniform cubic shape, such as FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs, have received much consideration owing to their long carrier recombination, along with the remarkable thermal, moisture, and illumination stabilities.<sup>133,134</sup> Que *et al.* developed FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs with higher crystallinity as well as cubic shape by a hot injection method, which demonstrated high stability and the optimal yield of CO in the mixed solvent of ethyl acetate/deionized water. The results showed that FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QD, as an alternative to halide perovskites, was a better reduction and capturing agent for CO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 7a–c).<sup>51</sup> Bandgap and band position are the major parameters for efficient photocatalysts. Therefore, tuning the bandgap energy of halide perovskites could also improve the catalytic activity. Hou *et al.* reported that, from the view of the different quantum sizes of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>, 8.5 nm CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs (~8.5 nm) achieved the optimal yields of CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub> after 8 h of daylight illumination in an ethyl acetate/water medium.<sup>135</sup> For catalysis application, active facets for reacting species or products as well as the reduction of electron–hole recombination were facilitated for the efficient adsorption/desorption process. The highest production rate of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO was 7.6 and 16.4 μmol g<sup>−1</sup>, respectively, for the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> cubic shaped NCs, which matched well with the previously reported literature.<sup>43,99,135</sup> Conversely, the maximum activity was found to be higher for the hexapod nanostructures. The optimum yields of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO attained for hexapod NCs were 38.4 and 79.5 μmol g<sup>−1</sup>, respectively, as compared to the 58.8 and 130.7 μmol g<sup>−1</sup> for non-cubic NCs. The above-mentioned performance further demonstrated that poorly emitting non-cubic NCs that keep new facets showed a

better photocatalytic activity as compared to the usual six-faceted cube nanostructures, as shown in Fig. 7d–f.<sup>136</sup>

**4.2.2. Other structures.** Lead-based halide perovskites are developing as the best encouraging type of materials for new-generation solar conversion energy.<sup>137–139</sup> The metal-based halide perovskite (MHP) NCs are proposed to solve the problem *via* the usage of organic photosensitizers, and to form highly effective photocatalytic systems. Despite the considerable success, the key problems of stability and toxicity are yet to be fixed. The photostability of metal-based halide perovskites is usually low in the presence of molecular oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>).<sup>140,141</sup> The soft nature of MHP crystal lattices renders their surfaces prone to structural modification and degradation. Previous research has indicated that a partial or complete replacement of A site organic cations with Cs<sup>+</sup> can result in many new MHP compositions (all-inorganic chemical structure), which significantly promotes the photo- and humidity-stability.<sup>142</sup> Some studies have shown that the ionization energy can be used to predict the stability of perovskites. The ionization energy difference between cesium and methylammonium provides stability to all-inorganic HPs. For example, CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> nanocrystals are more stable in polar solvents, which is promising for a wide range of photo-redox catalysis reactions.<sup>143</sup>

Several approaches have been reported and applied to deal with the instability issues of MHPs. Examples include (i) replacing organic cations MA or FA with inorganic cations (*e.g.*, Cs<sup>+</sup>);<sup>144,145</sup> (ii) creating heterostructures to spatially separate photogenerated excitons;<sup>99</sup> and (iii) encapsulating halide perovskites to minimize direct contact with highly polar environments.<sup>45,93</sup> In this context, the incident light absorption range for metallic complexes can be extended by coupling with



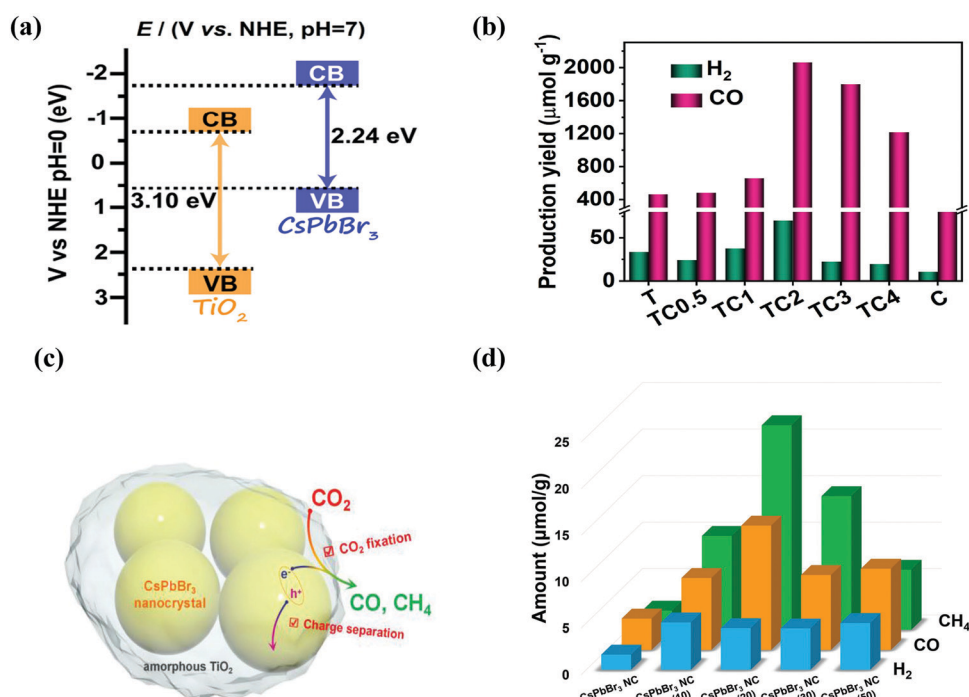
**Fig. 8** (a) Crystal structure of cubic Cs<sub>2</sub>AgBiBr<sub>6</sub>. (b) Schematic diagram of the CO<sub>2</sub> photoreduction on the surface of Cs<sub>2</sub>AgBiBr<sub>6</sub> NCs. (a and b) Reproduced with permission from ref. 44, Copyright 2018 Wiley. (c) SEM image of Cs<sub>3</sub>Sb<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>9</sub> NCs. The inset shows the yellow color and high transparency of the solution. (d) CO<sub>2</sub> reduction mechanism by Cs<sub>3</sub>Sb<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>9</sub> NCs. (c and d) Republished (adapted) with permission from the Royal Society of Chemistry from ref. 48; permission conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.

halide perovskite NCs. Meanwhile, these metallic complexes are expected to be responsible for catalytic sites designed for halide perovskite NCs and capture excited electrons from halide perovskite NCs for selective photoreduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ . Lead-free inorganic halide double perovskites were based on antimony or bismuth and noble metals.<sup>33</sup> Most halide double perovskites have been described to have a cubic face-centered structure, which has the space group  $Fm\bar{3}m$  and a lattice parameter ranging from approximately 10 to 12 Å.<sup>123,146</sup> This new type of perovskite consists of  $\text{B}'\text{Cl}_6$  and  $\text{B}''\text{Cl}_6$  octahedra alternating in a rock-salt face-centered cubic structure. George Volonakis *et al.*<sup>147</sup> used first-principles calculations to observe the patterns in the electronic and optical properties in the whole family of double halide perovskites,  $\text{A}_2\text{B}'\text{B}''\text{X}_6$  with  $\text{A} = \text{Cs}$ ;  $\text{B}' = \text{Bi}$  and  $\text{Sb}$ ;  $\text{B}'' = \text{Cu}$ ,  $\text{Ag}$ , and  $\text{Au}$ ; and  $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$ ,  $\text{Br}$ , and  $\text{I}$ . Their calculations showed highly tunable carrier effective masses as well as optical gaps across the visible-light range of the electromagnetic spectra. Moving away from lead-based metal halide perovskites toward lead-free halide perovskites, Zhou *et al.* proved the photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  over double halide perovskite  $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgBiBr}_6$  NCs in the presence of light in ethyl acetate.<sup>44,148</sup> The crystal structure of cubic  $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgBiBr}_6$  NCs as well as constant advancement of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}$  on double halide perovskite  $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgBiBr}_6$  NCs in the presence of solar light radiation is illustrated in Fig. 8(a and b). Lu *et al.* reported that substitution of unsaturated oleic acid with saturated octanoic acid was hazardous to synthesize pure  $\text{Cs}_3\text{Sb}_2\text{Br}_9$  NCs without the  $\text{CsBr}$  contamination as shown in

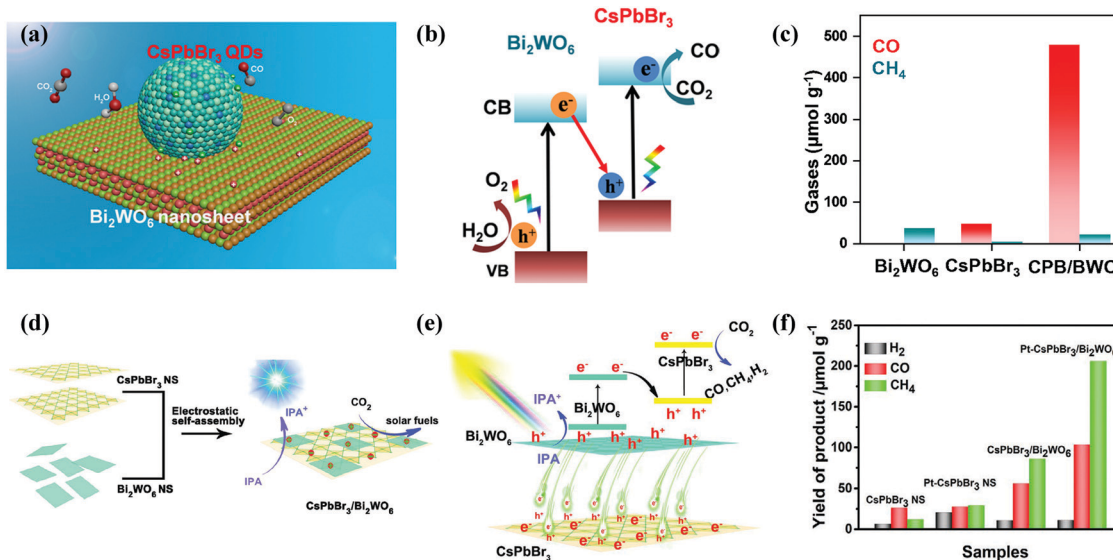
Fig. 8c.<sup>48</sup>  $\text{Cs}_3\text{Sb}_2\text{Br}_9$  NCs showed much higher efficiency of photocatalytic reduction reaction of  $\text{CO}_2$ , compared to Pb-based  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NCs. For photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ , a bound state is observed for  $\text{COOH}^*$  on the surface of  $\text{Cs}_3\text{Sb}_2\text{Br}_9$  NCs in which a Br ion is partially replaced to allow for Sb–C bond formation as shown in Fig. 8d.<sup>48</sup> Dai *et al.* reported that the mesoporous silica-supported  $\text{Cs}_3\text{Bi}_2\text{Br}_9$  NCs were developed. They observed that the  $\text{Cs}_3\text{Bi}_2\text{Br}_9$  revealed outstanding photocatalytic properties in selective aromatic as well as non-aromatic C–H bond activation in the presence of sunlight.<sup>149</sup> Moreover, several environmentally friendly MHPs, such as  $\text{Cs}_2\text{InAgCl}_6$ ,<sup>150</sup>  $\text{CsSnI}_3$ ,<sup>151</sup>  $\text{Cs}_3\text{Sb}_2\text{I}_9$ ,<sup>152</sup> and  $\text{Cs}_3\text{Sb}_2\text{Br}_9$ ,<sup>121</sup> have been successfully produced. These metal-based HPs showed great optoelectronic properties for photocatalytic applications.

### 4.3. Semiconductors with halide perovskites

**4.3.1. Oxide with halide perovskites.** Inspired by the earth-abundant and nontoxic nature,  $\text{TiO}_2$  has potential for application in  $\text{CO}_2$  photoreduction. Hence, it is of significance to design a  $\text{TiO}_2$  and perovskite-based heterojunction to enhance the photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ . Xu *et al.* developed an S-scheme  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{CsPbBr}_3$  heterojunction as a photocatalyst which showed higher activity for photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  into solar energies under UV-light radiation (Fig. 9a and b).<sup>153</sup> Xu *et al.* demonstrated novel amorphous- $\text{TiO}_2$ -encapsulated  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NCs for higher photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ .<sup>43</sup> The amorphous  $\text{TiO}_2$  encapsulation has been witnessed as a critical driving force for excellent photocatalytic performance through increasing the efficiency of



**Fig. 9** (a) Band structure of the  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{CsPbBr}_3$  composite photocatalyst. (b) Photocatalytic activities of  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction for  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  QDs, and  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{CsPbBr}_3$  composite, respectively. (a and b) Reproduced from ref. 153, under the Creative Commons CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). (c) A schematic illustration of  $\text{CO}_2$  fixation and conversion in  $\text{TiO}_2$ -encapsulated  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NCs, and (d) photocatalytic  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction test results. (c and d) Reproduced with permission from ref. 43, Copyright 2018 Wiley.



**Fig. 10** (a) Z-Scheme photocatalytic diagram of the 0D/2D CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> composite for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (b) Schematic illustration of Z-scheme of the energy band structure of the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> composite. (c) Gas yields in the ethyl acetate/water system over various catalysts. (a–c) Reprinted with permission from ref. 159, Copyright 2020 American Chemical Society. (d) Schematic diagram of the 2D/2D CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> heterojunction for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (e) Schematic diagram of the energy band structure of the 2D/2D CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> heterojunction. (f) Photocatalytic activity of different samples. (d–f) Reproduced with permission from ref. 167. Copyright 2020 Wiley.

extraction and separation of the photoinduced charges. Such effects finally enhanced the consumption of photoelectrons from 25.7 to 193.3 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> as shown in Fig. 9c and d. Moreover, the adsorption and activation of CO<sub>2</sub> were also boosted. Based on these synergetic effects, an almost 6.5 times improvement in the consumption of the photoelectrons was attained through the photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reactions.<sup>43</sup>

When developing the stronger reduction potential of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> to produce a Z-scheme heterojunction photocatalyst, it is best to search for a suitable oxidative semiconductor. Moreover, the oxidative semiconductor has the following properties: (i) strong interactions with CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>; (ii) visible-light response; (iii) high catalytic activity for the oxidation reaction; and (iv) compatible band structure with CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>. Bismuth tungsten oxide (Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub>) is a unique oxide with visible-light response,<sup>154</sup> which contains perovskite-type [WO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> layers and alternating [Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>.<sup>155,156</sup> For oxidative reactions, Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> also has an oxygen-deficient surface that provides abundant active sites, and it is preferred as an ideal photocatalyst for O<sub>2</sub> evolution.<sup>157,158</sup> Notably, the band structures among CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> and Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> were well-matched, and in principle, they can also be incorporated into a Z-scheme heterojunction. Wang *et al.* developed a 0D/2D heterojunction of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanosheet (CPB/BWO) photocatalyst for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>159</sup> The larger surface area of 2D Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> effectively decorated 0D CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> on its surface. The close contact between Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> and CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> permitted an excellent interface for the charge transfer and separation.<sup>160,161</sup> The advanced CPB/BWO heterojunction photocatalyst exhibited higher activities for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> as compared to the Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanosheets and pristine CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs (Fig. 10a–c), respectively.<sup>159</sup> The separated holes and electrons in CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs and Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub>

nanosheets can be proficiently used for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>. The yield of CPB/BWO is 503 μmol g<sup>-1</sup>, which is 9.5 fold that of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>.

Besides, a 2D/2D heterojunction is considered as the most promising approach to manipulate the photoreduction efficiency of semiconductor catalysts. Recently, a lot of efforts have been devoted to preparing 2D/2D heterostructures.<sup>162,163</sup> This is because the large surface area of 2D ultrathin nanosheets, rich active sites, special electronic structure, and short charge transport distance are useful for the catalytic reaction.<sup>164–166</sup> Recently, Jiang *et al.* designed a lead halide perovskite-based 2D/2D direct Z scheme heterojunction by assembling ultrathin Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> nanosheets on the surface of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> nanosheets through an electrostatic self-assembly process (Fig. 10d–f).<sup>167</sup> Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> has been identified as one of the best visible-light oxidation photocatalysts, which have higher oxidation ability, low manufacturing costs and controlled synthesis.<sup>168,169</sup> The CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> heterostructure provided higher photocatalytic performance for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction activity. The yield of the 2D/2D CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/Bi<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>6</sub> hybrid was 153.0 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> (10.9 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> for H<sub>2</sub>, 56.4 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> for CO, and 86.0 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> for CH<sub>4</sub>).<sup>167</sup>

**4.3.2. Sulfide with halide perovskites.** A high-quality interface is strongly desired in heterojunctions for effectively separating electron–hole pairs both temporarily and spatially.<sup>170</sup> Co-sharing of atoms by two different materials in a heterojunction system could increase the charge separation and boost the carrier lifetime, facilitating the catalytic reaction. Recently, Wang *et al.* reported that 0D Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> QDs anchored on flower-like 2D SnS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets by co-sharing of Sn atoms can improve the photochemical CO<sub>2</sub> reduction rate.<sup>46</sup> All-inorganic Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> is favorable owing to its outstanding conductivity and strong chemical stability. For example, Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> thinner films have a high hole

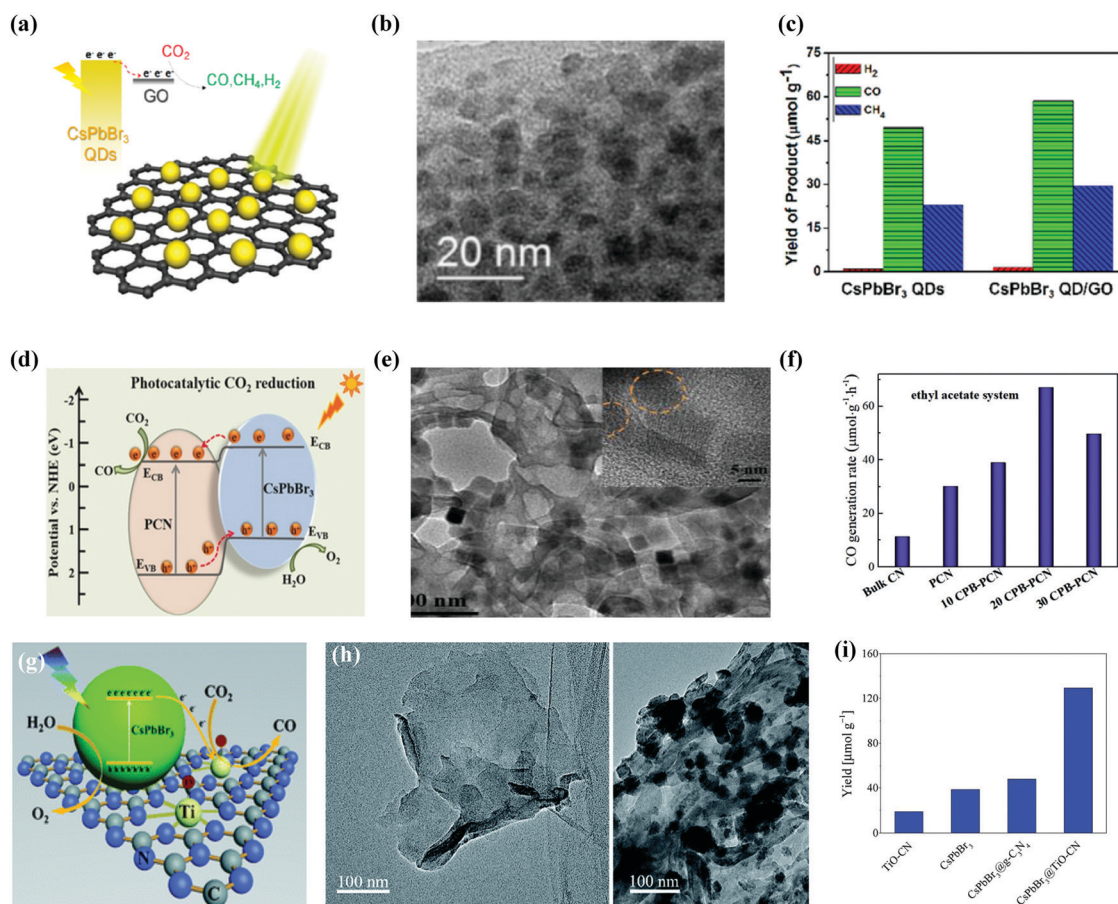




**Fig. 11** (a) Schematic illustration of the synthesis of the Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub>/SnS<sub>2</sub> heterostructure. (b) Diagram of the energy band structure of Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> and SnS<sub>2</sub>. (c) Comparison of photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction activities of SnS<sub>2</sub>, Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub>(0.5)/SnS<sub>2</sub>, Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub>(1.0)/SnS<sub>2</sub>, and Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub>(2.0)/SnS<sub>2</sub>. Reprinted with permission from ref. 46, Copyright 2019 American Chemical Society.

mobility of  $3.82 \times 10^2 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,<sup>171</sup> much larger than that of Si single crystals and MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> as a hole transport material.<sup>172–176</sup> In particular, the incorporation of Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> boosted the catalytic activity of SnS<sub>2</sub> owing to the facilitated charge separation. A flower-like Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub>/SnS<sub>2</sub> heterostructure was synthesized by dispersing the hydrothermally produced SnS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets in

hydroiodic acid and ethanol alcohol (HI/EtOH) solution containing CsI, as shown in Fig. 11.<sup>46</sup> Joint research with DFT calculations, transient absorption, and kelvin probe force microscopy characterization proved a Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub>/SnS<sub>2</sub> hybrid having an intimate contact interface, which indicated that holes transferred from SnS<sub>2</sub> to Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> and electrons transferred from Cs<sub>2</sub>SnI<sub>6</sub> to



**Fig. 12** Heterostructure of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/GO composite photocatalysts for enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (a) Schematic model, (b) TEM image, and (c) histogram of different products in the presence and absence of GO with CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs. (a–c) Reprinted with permission from ref. 42, Copyright 2017 American Chemical Society. (d) Amino-assisted anchoring of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs on porous g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> for photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (e) TEM image of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>-PCN. (f) Generation of CO in acetonitrile/water and ethyl acetate/water systems over various photocatalysts. (d–f) Reproduced with permission from ref. 182, Copyright 2018 Wiley. (g) Photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> nanocrystals with graphitic carbon nitride nanosheets containing titanium-oxide composite. (h) TEM images of TiO<sub>2</sub>-CN without and with CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> nanocrystals. (i) The yield of CO generation from photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reactions with TiO<sub>2</sub>-CN, CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>, CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, and CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub>-CN. (g–i) Republished with permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry, from ref. 98; permission conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.





SnS<sub>2</sub>.<sup>177</sup> As a proof-of-concept application, photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and photo-electrochemical experiments were conducted to demonstrate that the longer lifetime of accumulated electrons in SnS<sub>2</sub> boosted the performance by 5.4 times and 10.6 times compared to pristine SnS<sub>2</sub>.<sup>46</sup>

**4.3.3 Carbide with halide perovskites.** Recently, carbon-based photocatalysts have aroused great concern and became more prevalent in photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> owing to their exceptional physicochemical and photo-/electrochemical properties. Various carbon materials (*e.g.* GO and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>) used as supports for many photocatalysts are greatly promising as carbon can regulate photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction performance in the visible light region and extract photogenerated electrons from the surface of semiconductors because of its admirable electrical conductivity.<sup>178–180</sup>

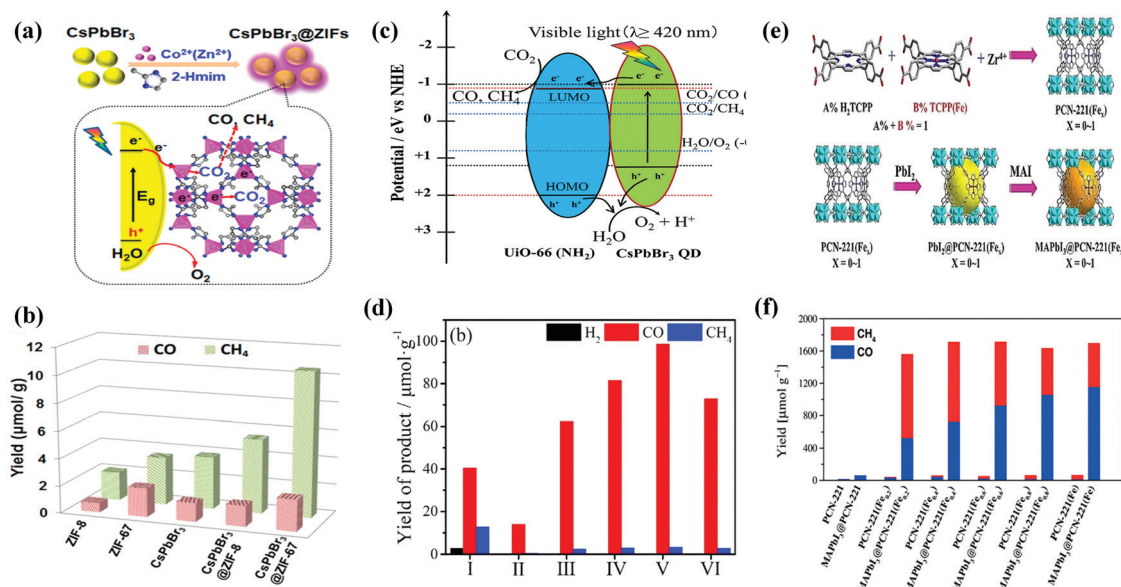
Fig. 12a–c shows the representation of the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QD/GO composite photocatalyst and its corresponding TEM image.<sup>42</sup> It was noted that, in ethyl acetate, the pure CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs catalyzed the photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> with an electron consumption rate of 23.75 μmol g<sup>−1</sup> h<sup>−1</sup> over 99.2% selectivity. Through the combination of highly conducting materials, such as GO, which has charge extraction abilities, the charge recombination was suppressed.<sup>181</sup> The CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs/GO composite enhanced the electron consumption rate from 23.75 to 29.82 μmol g<sup>−1</sup> h<sup>−1</sup> with 99.15% selectivity.

Ou *et al.* described that anchoring of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs over porous g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (PCN) also improved the performance of photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in acetonitrile/water or ethyl acetate/water solution.<sup>182</sup> With 20 wt% CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs (CPB) on NH<sub>x</sub>-rich porous g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanosheets (CPB-PCN), CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs were

linked with PCN by a N-Br bond which boosted the photo-generated charge carrier separation, as shown in Fig. 12d–f.<sup>182</sup> The above-mentioned strategy helped to achieve the maximum rate of CO formation in the acetonitrile/water mixture compared with bare CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs.<sup>183</sup>

Based on the above-mentioned composite structure, Guo *et al.* functionalized CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs with graphitic carbon nitride, which had a titanium-oxide species (TiO-CN) through N-Br and O-Br bonding, and developed an effective catalyst system for photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> utilizing water as the source of electrons.<sup>98</sup> The introduction of TiO-CN could improve the number of catalytic active sites, along with a rapid interfacial charge separation between CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> and TiO-CN owing to their promising energy-offsets as well as chemical bonding performances (Fig. 12g–i). They also reported that the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>@TiO-CN composite increased the separation of photogenerated charges and improved the number of catalytic active sites that led to the formation of CO after 10 hours of irradiation, which was 3 times higher than that of pure CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>.<sup>98</sup>

**4.3.4 Metal-organic framework with halide perovskites.** With unique structural architecture and admirable chemical and physical properties, metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) have recently attracted remarkable consideration regarding encapsulation of halide perovskites owing to their distinctive characteristics, such as tunable structure, higher surface areas, and flexibility.<sup>184</sup> Besides, zeolitic imidazolate framework (ZIF) based MOFs have shown great potential to capture CO<sub>2</sub>, and cobalt possessing ZIFs can be co-catalysts to stimulate CO<sub>2</sub> activation and conversion.<sup>185–187</sup> Kong *et al.* described that the core@shell CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NC@ZIF heterostructure boosted the yield



**Fig. 13** (a) Schematic illustration of the fabrication process and CO<sub>2</sub> photoreduction process of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/ZIFs. (b) The product yield after 3 h of photocatalytic reaction. (a and b) Reprinted with permission from ref. 102, Copyright 2018 American Chemical Society. (c) Schematic illustration of a possible mechanism of photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (d) Photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction performance for CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs and x%-CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs/UiO-66(NH<sub>2</sub>) nanocomposite. (c and d) Reprinted from ref. 113, Copyright (2019), with permission from Elsevier. (e) Schematic representation for the synthesis of PCN-221(Fe<sub>x</sub>) MOF and MAPbI<sub>3</sub>@PCN221(Fe<sub>x</sub>) composite photocatalysts for stable and product selective CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (f) Histogram of product formation using PCN-221(Fe<sub>x</sub>) and MAPbI<sub>3</sub>@PCN-221(Fe<sub>x</sub>). (e and f) Reproduced with permission from ref. 45, Copyright 2019 Wiley.

of photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ .<sup>102</sup> The maximum quantity of  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction yield was attained for the  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NC@ZIF-67 composite with the highest electron consumption rate of  $29.6 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$ , which was a 2.65 times increase compared to bare  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NCs as shown in Fig. 13a and b. It was stated that  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NCs covered by a ZIF shell can enhance the moisture stability and the  $\text{CH}_4$  formation instead of  $\text{CO}$  as the main product.<sup>102</sup> Wan *et al.* developed a  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NC/Uio-66( $\text{NH}_2$ ) composite toward the reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  in water/ethyl acetate with volume ratio (1/300) solution.<sup>113</sup> The highest conversion of  $\text{CO}_2$  was accomplished for the 15%- $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  QD/Uio-66( $\text{NH}_2$ ) heterostructure.<sup>113</sup> The formation of  $\text{CO}$  was up to  $98.5 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$ , which was higher as compared to the individual  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  QDs and Uio-66( $\text{NH}_2$ ) photocatalysts, as shown in Fig. 13c and d. The enhanced catalytic activity toward the reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  for the  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  QD/Uio-66( $\text{NH}_2$ ) composite was mainly ascribed to the creation of an appropriate band alignment of Uio-66( $\text{NH}_2$ ), which favored fast photogenerated electron transfer from the  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  QDs and repressed the charge recombination.<sup>188–190</sup> Lu and co-workers also demonstrated another promising application of MOF encapsulation, where Fe-porphyrin-based MOFs(PCN221( $\text{Fe}_x$ )) secured  $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$  (MAPbI<sub>3</sub>) perovskite NCs in a reaction medium containing the maximum amount of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1.2 vol%) in ethyl acetate.<sup>45</sup> Fig. 13e and f shows that the MAPbI<sub>3</sub>@PCN-221( $\text{Fe}_x$ ) composite photocatalyst shows the close contact of NCs and Fe photocatalytic site in the MOFs, favoring the rapid transfer of photogenerated electrons to the Fe catalytic sites and improving the performance of photoreduction.<sup>42,102</sup> The maximum yield of  $1559 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$  was reported for the MAPbI<sub>3</sub>@PCN-221( $\text{Fe}$  0.2) composite toward the photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  to  $\text{CO}$  (34.5%) and  $\text{CH}_4$  (65.5%), where  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was used as an electron source.<sup>45</sup>

#### 4.4. Conductor with halide perovskites

**4.4.1. Noble Metal with halide perovskites.** Recently the plasmon–exciton exchange dynamic method has been broadly suggested in metal–semiconductor systems. With the help from the famous localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) effect, noble metal Au nanoparticles (NP) were demonstrated by introducing light extinction into the visible and even near-infrared zone.<sup>191,192</sup> The  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ –Au nanocomposite was successfully produced through the *in situ* reduction of  $\text{AuCl}_3$  by the surface-bound oleylamine ligand, while the obtained Au NP size is too small to form the LSPR effect.<sup>193,194</sup>

Xiao and co-workers examined the energy conversion in the Ag- $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  system as well as dynamics of plasmon-induced hot electrons, which showed a significant hot-electron transfer efficiency near 50%.<sup>195</sup> The studies about plasmon–exciton interaction for the hybrid method of plasmonic Au NPs over halide perovskite NCs are still at a nascent development.

The  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ –Au nanocomposite was used as a photocatalyst for artificial photoreduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  by two different types of light sources ( $\lambda > 420 \text{ nm}$  and  $\lambda > 580 \text{ nm}$ ). Based on the Kelvin probe force microscopy (KPFM) results and the spectroscopic characterization, two-dimensional interaction processes



Fig. 14 (a) Band structure of  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  nanocrystals and Au nanoparticles before contact. (b) Fermi level alignment after their close contact in the dark. Schematic diagram of two excitation wavelength-dependent charge separation mechanisms in the  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ –Au nanocomposite under light irradiation with (c)  $\lambda > 420 \text{ nm}$  or (d)  $\lambda > 580 \text{ nm}$ . (a–d) Reprinted from ref. 194, Copyright 2021, with permission from Elsevier.

for the  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ –Au nanocomposite are shown in Fig. 14.<sup>194</sup> Even though there is a significant difference between the Fermi level ( $E_F$ ) of  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  and the work function ( $W_F$ ) of Au, energy level alignment can be obtained with their close contact (Fig. 14a and b). Consequently, photogenerated electrons would mostly accumulate in the CB of  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ , which raises its  $E_F$  negatively, and thermodynamically supports the electrons to transfer into the Au.<sup>196,197</sup> The electrons accumulated in Au consequently contribute to the photoreduction reaction of  $\text{CO}_2$ , as demonstrated in Fig. 14c. Only the Au nanoparticle-based photo-responsive absorption occurred under the light condition of  $\lambda > 580 \text{ nm}$ , while  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  based photo-responsive absorption started at wavelength  $\lambda > 530 \text{ nm}$ . To initiate  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction more efficiently, the LSPR-induced hot electrons encompassing higher energy potential in plasmonic Au nanoparticles could be further transferred rapidly to  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ . Hence, this kind of plasmon–exciton exchange process makes the  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ –Au nanocomposite work well over the longer wavelength in turn as shown in Fig. 14d.

Xu *et al.* described an innovative 0D  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  nanocrystal ( $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NC)/2D Pd nanosheet (Pd-NS) composite photocatalyst for the effective and stable photocatalytic reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  under sunlight in the existence of water vapor.<sup>100</sup> The Pd-NS not only played an important role as an electron collector to rapidly separate the electron–hole pairs in  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$  NC and controlled the unwanted radiative charge recombination, but also modified





Fig. 15 (a) Diagram of the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NC/Pd-NC composite. (b) The sketch of the composite materials (CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NC)/(Pd-NC) and their band alignments. (c) Photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction performance. (a–c) Reprinted (adapted) with permission from ref. 100, Copyright 2018 American Chemical Society.

the kinetics of catalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> reaction. Therefore, the addition of Pd-NS increased the consumption rate of photoelectrons from 9.85 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> to 33.7 μmol g<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> under visible light (> 420 nm);<sup>100</sup> especially, the incorporation of a 2D metallic semiconductor not only formed a Schottky junction at the interface to increase the electron transfer from the semiconductor to the metal, but also presented photocatalytic reaction sites to promote the transfer of electrons and increased the resulting chemical reactions,<sup>164,198</sup> as presented in Fig. 15a–c.

**4.4.2. Carbon derivative with halide perovskites.** Recently, 2D ultrathin carbon-based materials, such as carbon nanotubes (CNTs), graphene, and graphitic carbon nitride (g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>), have drawn great attention toward photo/electrocatalytic applications. These materials possess the advantages of great metallic conductivity, strong volumetric capacitance, flexible interlayered

regulation, hydrophilic surfaces,<sup>199–203</sup> tunable electronic structure, high surface area, excellent thermal/chemical stability, and environmental friendliness.<sup>204,205</sup> These properties have endorsed these materials to be employed in various applications, such as gas separation, cell imaging, catalysts, energy storage, and conversion.<sup>206–208</sup> Currently, some novel functional heterostructure for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction was prepared *via in situ* development of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> perovskite NCs on 2D MXene nanosheets to further improve the charge transfer, separation, and effective photoexciton. The rapid charge transfer efficiency also encouraged the use of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>/MXene as an active catalyst towards the CO<sub>2</sub> conversion to CO and CH<sub>4</sub>.<sup>209</sup> The low conduction band (1.5 eV) value among the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs and MXene can efficiently help the separation of the exciton in CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs and electron transfer to MXene nanosheets. Photo-excitons will be shifted from a high energy level to a lower



Fig. 16 (a) Schematic illustration and (b) the relative energy diagram of the CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NC/MXene heterostructures suitable for photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. (a and b) Reprinted with permission from ref. 47, Copyright 2019 American Chemical Society. (c) Schematic diagram of the potential mechanism of photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the FAPbBr<sub>3</sub>/MXene composite. (d) Energy diagram of the band structure of FAPbBr<sub>3</sub>/MXene. (c and d) Reprinted with permission from ref. 210, Copyright 2021 American Chemical Society.



one, therefore sustaining the charge at a stable state. In this way, electrons are moved to the surface of the photocatalyst, which offers a comparatively negative position based on the band arrangement.

Pan and co-workers demonstrated that the incorporation of MXene to CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> (CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs/MXene-20) increased the yields of CO and CH<sub>4</sub> linearly. The maximum CH<sub>4</sub> and CO yield rate was 7.25 and 26.32  $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$ , respectively (Fig. 16a and b),<sup>47</sup> which was superior or at least comparable to that of the MXene free CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NCs ( $< 4.42 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$ ) or other state-of-the-art CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> NC-based heterostructure photocatalysts.<sup>42,43,102,112,135,183</sup> Que and co-workers successfully synthesized a FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QD/MXene nanosheet heterostructure *via* a facile process. Under visible-light irradiation, the as-prepared FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QD/MXene composite exhibited a remarkable photocatalytic activity in the presence of water. To stimulate the quick separation of excitons, the nanosheets of MXene played a role as an electron acceptor and facilitated a large number of active sites. Optimized performance with a higher electron consumption rate of 717.18  $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$  was achieved *via* the FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QD/MXene composite (Fig. 16c and d), which showed a 2.08 times better performance as compared to the pure FAPbBr<sub>3</sub> QDs.<sup>210</sup>

## 5. Molecular computation

Halide based perovskites have been extensively studied through theoretical/computational analysis concerning their unique electronic structure and physio-chemical properties. Their photo-conversion efficiency greatly depends on the balance electron, bandgap, absorption coefficient, hole mobility and intrinsic recombination rates.<sup>211–213</sup> Changes (element or

molecular ion) in the structure of halide perovskites could significantly alter the optoelectronic properties. In many cases, replacing cations or anions in HPs may cause different Coulomb interaction which results in the shifting of conduction and valence band positions according to their Fermi level energy.<sup>214</sup> Bandgap is considered as one of the critical properties of a photocatalyst. To extend the light absorption to the visible region, the bandgap required for photocatalytic reaction is  $\sim 2.00 \text{ eV}$ . However, the position of the conduction band minimum (CBM) should be lower than  $-0.52 \text{ eV}$  (*vs.* NHE PH = 0, the energy barriers of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> to CO) for the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction,<sup>215,216</sup> which is thermodynamically more feasible for the reduction reaction.

Liu and co-workers<sup>217</sup> conducted density functional theory (DFT) calculations of lead-free perovskites to investigate the values of band gaps of CsGeI<sub>3</sub>, MAgGeI<sub>3</sub>, and FAgGeI<sub>3</sub> using exchange–correlation functionals. Some commonly used exchange–correlation functionals are Generalized Gradient Approximation (GGA) and Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) which were found to be consistent with experimental values. The same group also performed hybrid functional Heyd–Scuseria–Ernzerhof-06 (HSE06) calculations to obtain more precise values of band gaps, which were very close to experimental values. The optimized structures, calculated band structure, and density of states (DOS) of MAgGeI<sub>3</sub> are shown in Fig. 17a–c. HSE06 and PBE functionals were used to calculate the bandgap of ABX<sub>3</sub> HPs, with and without spin orbit coupling (SOC) calculations.<sup>218</sup> Tang *et al.* elucidated the catalytic ability of pure CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> perovskite and doped CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> perovskites with different metals (Co, Fe, Ni, *etc.*) by density functional theory calculations.<sup>139</sup> It was shown that methane is formed with higher selectivity and the smaller band gap between Co-doped and Fe-doped perovskites improved the

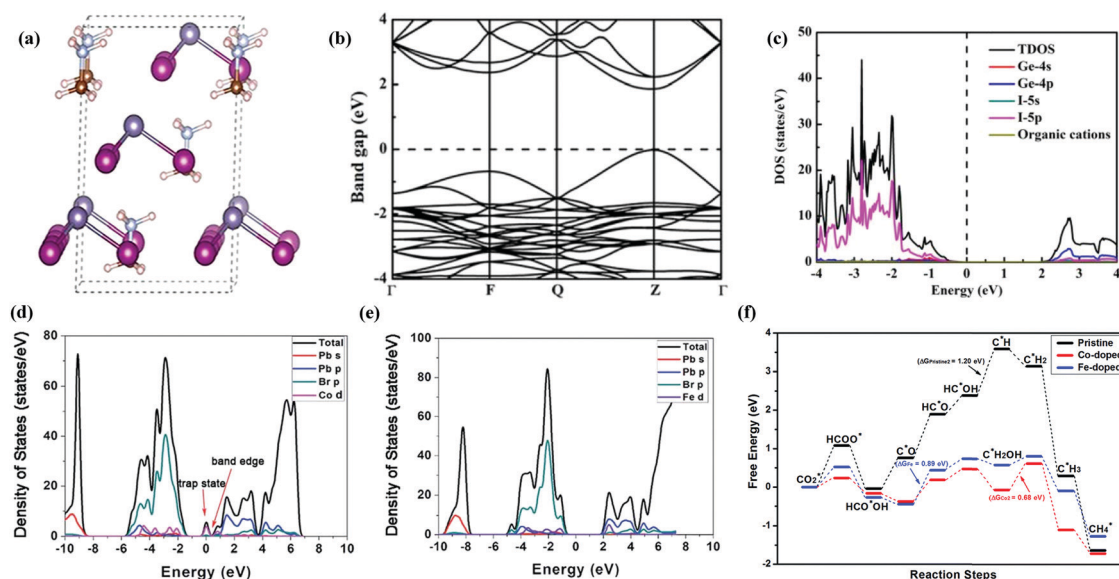


Fig. 17 (a) Optimized structure, (b) calculated band structure, and (c) DOS of MAgGeI<sub>3</sub>. Reprinted with permission from ref. 217, Copyright 2019 American Chemical Society. (d) Calculated density of state diagrams of Co-doped CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>, (e) calculated density of state diagrams of Fe-doped CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>, and (f) free-energy diagrams of the most favored paths of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by pristine, Co-doped and Fe-doped CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>. Republished with permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry, from ref. 139; permission conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.





Table 2 Photocatalytic and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction performance using halide perovskites

Photocatalyst	Medium	Light source	Products	Yield (μmol g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	Highest efficiency (%)	Stability (h)	Ref.
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> QDs	Ethyl acetate/water	300 W Xe lamp (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub> + H <sub>2</sub>	4.3 + 1.5 + 0.1	—	> 8	135
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> @g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	Ethyl acetate	450 W Xe lamp AM 1.5G	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	2.1 + 22.8	—	> 12	220
CsPb(Br <sub>0.5</sub> /Cl <sub>0.5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> NCs	Ethyl acetate	300 W Xe lamp (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	85.2 + 12.0	—	> 9	97
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> QD/GO	Ethyl acetate	150 mW cm <sup>-2</sup> (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub> + H <sub>2</sub>	4.9 + 2.5 + 0.1	0.025	> 12	42
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> @TiO-CN	Ethyl acetate/water	300 W Xe lamp (≥ 400 nm)	CO	12.9	—	> 10	98
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> NCs/MXene	Ethyl acetate	300 W Xe lamp (≥ 420 nm)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	26.3 + 7.3	—	> 9	47
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> NCs/BZNV/ MRGO	(CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	150 W Xe lamp (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	0.9 + 6.3	—	> 3	99
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> NCs/Pd NS	(CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	150 W Xe lamp (≥ 420 nm)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub> + H <sub>2</sub>	1.9 + 3.5 + 1.1	0.035	> 3	100
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> -Re(600)	Toluene/isopropanol	150 W Xe lamp (≥ 420 nm)	CO + H <sub>2</sub>	104.4 + 5.6	—	> 3	101
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> NCs/a-TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ethyl acetate/isopropanol	150 W Xe lamp (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub> + H <sub>2</sub>	3.9 + 6.7 + 1.5	—	> 3	43
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> NCs@ZIF-67	(CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	150 mW cm <sup>-2</sup> (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	2.1 + 3.5	0.035	> 3	102
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> NCs@ZIF-8	(CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	100 W Xe lamp (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	0.7 + 2.0	—	> 3	102
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> QDs/ UiO66(NH <sub>2</sub> )	Ethyl acetate/water	300 W Xe lamp (≥ 420 nm)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	8.2 + 0.3	—	> 12	113
MAPbI <sub>3</sub> @PCN221(Fe <sub>x</sub> )	Ethyl acetate/water	300 W Xe lamp (≥ 400 nm)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	4.2 + 13.0	—	25	45
Fe: CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> NCs	Ethyl acetate/water	450 W Xe lamp 150 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	3.2 + 6.1	—	> 3	221
FAPbBr <sub>3</sub> /Bi <sub>2</sub> WO <sub>6</sub>	Benzyl alcohol	150 W Xe lamp AM 1.5G 100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>	CO + Benzaldehyde	170.0 + 250.0	—	—	222
FAPbBr <sub>3</sub> QDs	Ethyl acetate/water	300 W Xe lamp 100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>	CO + CH <sub>4</sub> + H <sub>2</sub>	181.3 + 16.9 + 2.37	—	> 3	51
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> QDs/Bi <sub>2</sub> WO <sub>6</sub>	Ethyl acetate/water	100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup> > 400 nm	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	Totally 50.3	—	> 10	159
Cs <sub>2</sub> SnI <sub>6</sub> /SnS <sub>2</sub> NCs	(CH <sub>3</sub> OH + CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	150 mW cm <sup>-2</sup> (≥ 400 nm)	CH <sub>4</sub>	6.1	—	> 3	46
Cs <sub>3</sub> Sb <sub>2</sub> Br <sub>9</sub>	Octadecene	300 W Xe lamp 100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>	CO	127.2	—	> 6	48
α-Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /Amine-RGO/ CsPbBr <sub>3</sub>	(CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	150 W Xe lamp AM 1.5G, > 420 nm	CO + CH <sub>4</sub> + H <sub>2</sub>	2.4 + 9.5 + 0.3	—	> 15	223
CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> -Ni(tpy)	Ethyl acetate/water	300 W Xe lamp > 400 nm 100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	431.0 + 48.8	0.23	> 4	50
Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> NCs	Ethyl acetate	150 mW cm <sup>-2</sup> (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	2.4 + 1.6	0.028	> 6	44
Cs <sub>3</sub> Bi <sub>2</sub> I <sub>9</sub>	(CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	80.38 μW cm <sup>-2</sup> (AM 1.5G)	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	7.7 + 1.5	—	> 10	224
Co <sub>2</sub> %@CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> /Cs <sub>4</sub> PbBr <sub>6</sub>	Water	300 W Xe lamp 100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>	CO + CH <sub>4</sub>	12.0 + 1.8	—	> 20	225
Mn/CsPb(Br/Cl) <sub>3</sub>	Ethyl acetate	300 W Xe-lamp with AM 1.5 filter	CO, CH <sub>4</sub>	213, 9.1	—	9	226
Co-CsPbBr <sub>3</sub> /Cs <sub>4</sub> PbBr <sub>6</sub>	Acetonitrile/water/ Methanol	300 W Xe lamp 100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>	CO	122	—	15	227
Pt/CsPbBr <sub>3</sub>	Ethyl acetate	150 W Xe-lamp with 380 nm cut o filter	CO	5.6	0.012	30	131
Ni and Mn-doped CsPbCl <sub>3</sub> NCs	(CO <sub>2</sub> + water vapor)	300 W Xe-lamp with AM 1.5 filter	Ni=CO Mn=CO	169.37, 152.49	—	6	228
Cs <sub>4</sub> PbBr <sub>6</sub> /rGO	Ethyl acetate/water	300 W Xe-lamp with 420 nm filter (light intensity, 100 mW cm <sup>-2</sup> )	CO	11.4	—	60	229
Cu-RGO-CsPbBr <sub>3</sub>	(CO <sub>2</sub> /water vapor)	Xe-lamp irradiation with a 400 nm filter	CH <sub>4</sub>	12.7	(1.1 ± 0.15)	12	49
TiO <sub>2</sub> /CsPbBr <sub>3</sub>	Acetonitrile/water	300 W Xe-arc lamp	CO	9.02	—	16	153
Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> @g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	Ethyl acetate/ Methanol	Xe-lamp (80 mW cm <sup>-2</sup> light intensity)	CO, CH <sub>4</sub>	2	—	12	52

efficiency of the photocatalyst as shown in Fig. 17f. The adsorption free energy of intermediates was found to be much lower than that of pure perovskite (Fig. 17f). Besides, the calculations also showed that the Co and Fe doped catalyst can enhance the catalytic activity of CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> towards CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. When dopants (Co or Fe) were introduced into CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>, the band-edge states were created by Co-d and Fe-d orbitals as they contributed more actively to the CB. The formed band-edge states reduced the bandgap from 2.32 eV to 1.79 and 1.71 eV for Co-doped for Fe-doped cases, respectively. The reduced bandgap not only improved light absorption in the visible spectrum but also promoted effective charge separation and transfer efficiency.<sup>139,219</sup> Density of states was calculated as shown in Fig. 17d and e for the Co-doped and the Fe-doped cases respectively. The electron-donating ability of Co and Fe is greater

than that of Pb, leading to improved reduction performance of doped HPS. Besides, calculation results showed that the C=O double bond becomes weaker for the Co-doped and Fe-doped structures and CO<sub>2</sub>\* is activated to produce HCOO\*.<sup>139</sup>

## 6. Conclusion and future outlook

In this review, we summarize the recent progress achieved in exploring perovskite nanomaterials in terms of photocatalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. Improvement methods in this field are discussed systematically including utilizing newly emerging halide perovskite nanomaterials along with their modifications in terms of structural engineering, interfacial modulation through the formation of the heterostructure, metal ion



doping, surface modification, encapsulation with several types of co-catalysts, or using conducting substrates. Table 2 displays the performance of recent perovskite-based photocatalysts. Significant advances have been made to the conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> into useful energy-bearing hydrocarbons by many attractive approaches, while significant research effort is still needed for improvement in the field to accelerate practical implementation. Moreover, some fundamental studies are highly required to resolve the bottleneck problems, including the kinetic problem in multi-electron reduction processes, water oxidation reaction, poor reduction selectivity, and low quantum yield of the photocatalysts. These issues should be extensively examined and studied for future improvements to be employed on an industrial scale.

Promising research directions in halide perovskite-based photocatalysts for future exploration are forecasted including: (i) application of halide perovskites with various modulation strategies,<sup>43,150,230,231</sup> such as employing interface engineering, fabricating 3D hierarchical architectures, exploiting ultrathin 2D nanosheets, using the surface fluorination effects, preparing surfaces over layers, creating surface vacancies, *etc.* and (ii) accomplishing higher light-harvesting ability and enhancing charge separation efficiency *via* rational design of a novel halide perovskite-based heterostructure.<sup>47,232–234</sup> (iii) It's well known that solvent/electrolyte plays a significant role in any catalytic reaction. Since the halide perovskites are unstable in polar solvents, a wide range of research efforts have been devoted towards the exploration of a more suitable medium for efficient photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. Owing to the high solubility of CO<sub>2</sub>, the use of low-polar ethyl acetate was preferred as a better solvent.<sup>42</sup> (iv) The utilization of co-catalysts in the photocatalytic process has been proved to be an environmentally benign method with high performance.<sup>56</sup> Some efforts could be devoted towards the development of an innovative noble-metal-free co-catalyst. (v) Despite attracting enormous research interest in the efficient photoreduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, the use of halide perovskites is still restricted on the industrial scale owing to their low scale ( $\mu\text{mol}$  range). For artificial photosynthesis, the up to date solar-to-fuel efficiency value is  $\sim 1.1\%$ ,<sup>49</sup> which is  $\sim 10$  times that of natural photosynthesis,<sup>235</sup> but is still very low for industrial applications. Given that solar energy conversion efficiency is  $>20\%$  in solar photovoltaics, the value required for the feasible artificial photosynthesis should be 10% or above. The commercialization of CO<sub>2</sub> photoreduction reaction is currently obstructed by the poor stability, low selectivity and high cost. One promising way to address the challenge is combining the halide perovskite with other efficient semiconductors for improving charge separation capacity and optical behaviors, so as to enhance the catalytic efficiency and stability. Therefore, the development of long-lasting, cost-effective, and potentially scalable halide perovskites is highly required for a sustainable future. (vi) Doping with proper metal ions and altering the reaction system for obtaining multiple doped halide perovskites should also be proposed for the possible improvement of the photocatalytic performance and their stability for reduction reaction of CO<sub>2</sub>. (vii) Another issue which should be addressed

is the toxic nature of halide perovskites that hinders their commercial applications. In order to get environmentally friendly halide perovskites, substitution of lead (Pb) with other transition metals such as Sn, Sb and Bi is necessary. However, these transition metal substituted HPs have relatively poor stability as compared to Pb-based halide perovskites. Any further development of Pb-free HPs should address the limitations related to stability. (viii) In recent years, there has been an increasing amount of literature on photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> which focuses mainly on higher conversion rate of CO<sub>2</sub>. The typical products of this photocatalytic reaction are single carbon atom compounds such as methane, carbon monoxide, formic acid, *etc.* However, current research in photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by halide perovskites has emphasized the productivity as well as selectivity of compounds with two or more carbons (C<sub>2</sub>+), for example, ethanol, ethane, acetic acid, *etc.*<sup>87</sup> Further research is required to investigate the productivity and selectivity of these C<sub>2</sub>+ products *via* photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> by halide perovskites to valuable products such as alkenes, aromatic hydrocarbons and alcohols, rather than less valuable products. These challenges we are facing could provide countless opportunities for further improvement in photocatalytic activity. We hope that the readers can get more new insights into the recent advancements and future directions toward the energy conversion applications of halide perovskites in the field of photocatalysis.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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