## Enhancement of formic acid formation by nitrogen-doped graphene oxide nanosheets decorated with Sn nanoparticles in electrochemical CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

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Figure S1: FT-IR spectra of HGO and epGO.



Figure S2: Aggregation of Sn on graphene after thermal annealing.



Figure S3: A representative TEM image of Sn on graphene oxide (Sn/rHGO). Hydrothermally prepared  $SnO_2$  was used as the precursor.



Figure S4: A representative TEM image of Sn on graphene oxide (Sn/rHGO). Commercial  $SnO_2$  was used as the precursor.



Figure S5: XRD patterns of GO synthesized by the Hummers' method (HGO), epoxy-controlled GO (epGO), and starting precursor, graphite.



Figure S6: SEM images of (a) Sn/NrHGO and Sn/NrepGO.



Figure S7: HRTEM image of Sn/NrepGO. The high-density bright dots correspond to atomic Sn, which are homogeneously distributed across the entire graphene framework.



Figure S8: Raman spectra of Sn/NrHGO and Sn/NrepGO.

| Entry |                | I <sub>D</sub> /I <sub>G</sub> |
|-------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1     | Graphene oxide | 1.00                           |
| 2     | repGO          | 1.13                           |
| 3     | rHGO           | 1.14                           |
| 4     | Sn/NrepGO      | 1.10                           |
| 5     | Sn/NrHGO       | 1.11                           |

Table S1: Raman spectrum of graphene oxide and composites. The unit of the spectra is cm<sup>-1</sup>



Figure S9: Sn 3d XPS deconvoluted spectra of (a) Sn/NrepGO and (b) Sn/NrHGO.



Figure S10: N 1s XPS deconvoluted spectra of (a) Sn/NrepGO and (b) Sn/NrHGO.



Figure S11. Cycle durability of the (a) Sn/NrepGO, (b) Sn/NrHGO electrodes at -1.6 V vs Ag/AgCl (1M KOH under  $CO_2$  flow).



Figure S12. STEM images of the Sn/NrHGO electrode (a) before and (b) after the electrochemical test. The images obtained after a 1 h CA test showed that the Sn particles almost retained their original shape and sizes.

| Catalyst                          | electrolyte              | Sn quantity<br>(mg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) | Applied voltage<br>(vs. RHE) | FE for<br>formic acid | Ref.         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Sn/NrepGO                         | 1 М КОН                  | 0.34                                 | -0.57                        | 75                    | This<br>work |
| Sn NP/C-<br>GDE                   | 0.5 M KHCO <sub>3</sub>  | 0.75                                 | -1.5                         | 70                    | 1            |
| CuSn                              | 0.5 M KHCO <sub>3</sub>  | N/A                                  | -1.3                         | 57                    | 2            |
| SnO <sub>2</sub> /carbon<br>black | 0.1 M NaHCO <sub>3</sub> | 0.212                                | -1.8                         | 86                    | 3            |
| Sn/rGO_800                        | 0.1 M KHCO <sub>3</sub>  | 0.510                                | -0.82                        | 98                    | 4            |

Table S2. Comparison of the performance of Sn/NrepGO with the reported catalysts.

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