

## Photocatalysis oxidative desulfurization of dibenzothiophene in extremely deep liquid fuels on the Z-scheme catalyst of ZnO-CuInS<sub>2</sub>-ZnS intelligently integrated with carbon quantum dots: Performance, mechanism, and stability†

Manh B. Nguyen

Institute of Chemistry, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Viet Nam. Email: [nguyenbamanh@ich.vast.vn](mailto:nguyenbamanh@ich.vast.vn)

### Table S1. Characterization

The morphology of both ZnO, CuInS<sub>2</sub>, ZnS, ZCZ and ZCZ-CQD materials was examined by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) with an acceleration voltage of 200 kV (Leica IEO 906E). X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis was conducted using a D8 Advance X-ray diffractometer (Bruker, Germany) equipped with a CuK $\alpha$  radiation source ( $2\theta$  range  $\sim 5\text{--}50^\circ$  and  $\lambda = 0.154\ 06$  nm). Elemental composition was determined by energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) using a JEOL JED-2300 energy-dispersive spectrometer. The specific surface area was measured using a Tristar-3030 system (Micromeritics-USA) with N<sub>2</sub> adsorption at 77 K employing the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was performed using a Thermo VG Multilab 2000 instrument. Photoluminescence (PL) and UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS) were recorded on a Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer (Varian) and a UV-2600 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu), respectively.

Scavenging experiments of reaction radicals involve adding 2 mM of hydroxyl radical scavengers, p-benzoquinone (p-BQ), superoxide radical scavengers, ammonium oxalate monohydrate (AO) into the reaction system before light irradiation.

Table S1. Elemental composition (wt%) of ZnO, CuInS<sub>2</sub>, ZnS and ZCZ-CQD samples

Materials	Zn	O	Cu	In	S	C	N	Total
ZnO	76.52	23.48	-	-	-	-	-	100
CuInS <sub>2</sub>	-	-	25.8	48.69	25.51	-	-	100
ZnS	65.97	-	-	-	34.03	-	-	100
ZCZ-CQD	47.28	6.38	6.29	14.24	22.16	2.7	0.95	100

Table S2. Binding energies of the bonds in the ZnO, CuInS<sub>2</sub>, ZnS and ZCZ-CQD samples

Materials		ZnO	CuInS <sub>2</sub>	ZnS	ZCZ-CQD	ZCZ-CQD after reaction
Zn2p	Zn 2p <sub>3/2</sub>	1021.57	-	1021.64	1021.86	1021.99
	Zn 2p <sub>1/2</sub>	1044.66	-	1044.77	1044.94	1045.07
	C=C/C-O	-	-	-	530.22	530.77
O1s	Zn-O	531.22	-	-	531.57	531.96
	-OH	532.77	-	-	532.36	533.00
S2p	S2p <sub>3/2</sub>	-	161.59	161.50	161.54	161.83
	S2p <sub>1/2</sub>	-	163.26	163.08	163.16	163.40
	Cu <sup>+</sup>	-	932.04	-	931.56	931.75
Cu2p		-	951.81	-	951.50	951.57
	Cu <sup>2+</sup>	-	933.17	-	932.85	933.19
		-	953.19	-	952.93	953.26
	In <sup>2+</sup>	-	444.95	-	444.63	445.44
In3d		-	452.58	-	452.22	453.01
	In <sup>3+</sup>	-	445.74	-	445.37	445.90
		-	453.12	-	452.86	453.47
C1s	C-C/C=C	-	-	-	284.77	284.92
	C-O	-	-	-	286.31	286.44
	C=O	-	-	-	288.40	288.92

Table 3. Comparison of different photocatalysts in the DBT degradation process

Materials	Reaction conditions	Light source	Photocatalytic performance (%)	Time (min)	Ref.
ZCZ-CQD	$m_{\text{catalyst}} = 1.5 \text{ g/L}$ [DBT] = 300 mg/L,	300 W Xe lamp	98.32	120	This work
$\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4/\text{HNTs}$	$m_{\text{catalyst}} = 2.5 \text{ g/L}$ [DBT] = 200 mg/L	300 W Xe lamp	96.01	180	<sup>1</sup>
AgCl/PbMoO <sub>4</sub>	$m_{\text{catalyst}} = 1.5 \text{ g/L}$ [DBT] = 200 mg/L	-	97.0	120	<sup>2</sup>
Ag-AgBr/Al-MCM-41	$m_{\text{catalyst}} = 2.0 \text{ g/L}$ [DBT] = 500 mg/L,	125 W high-pressure Hg	98	360	<sup>3</sup>
Ni-WO <sub>3</sub> @g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	$m_{\text{catalyst}} = 2.0 \text{ g/L}$ [DBT] = 100 mg/L	-	97.0	180	<sup>4</sup>
CeO <sub>2</sub> /ATP/g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	[DBT] = 200 mg/L	300 W Xe lamp	98	180	<sup>5</sup>

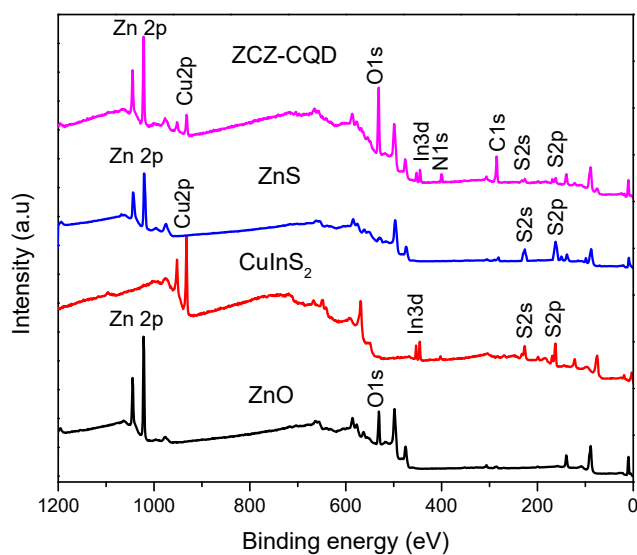


Figure S1. Full scan XPS spectra of ZnO, CuInS<sub>2</sub>, ZnS and ZCZ-CQD samples

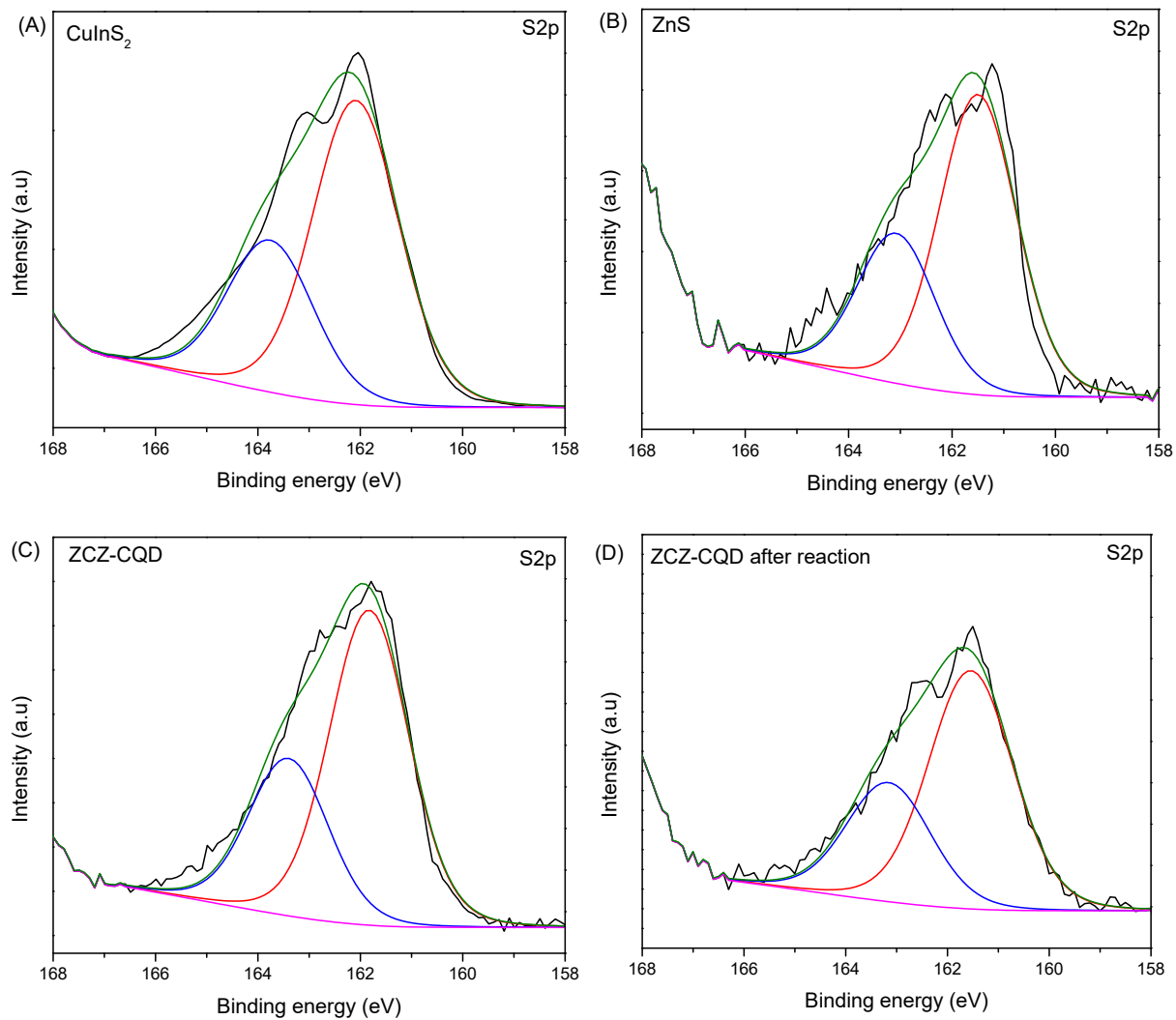


Figure S2. High-resolution S 2p XPS spectra of CuInS<sub>2</sub> (A) ZnS (B) and ZCZ-CQD (C) and CZC-CQD after 10 cycles (D)

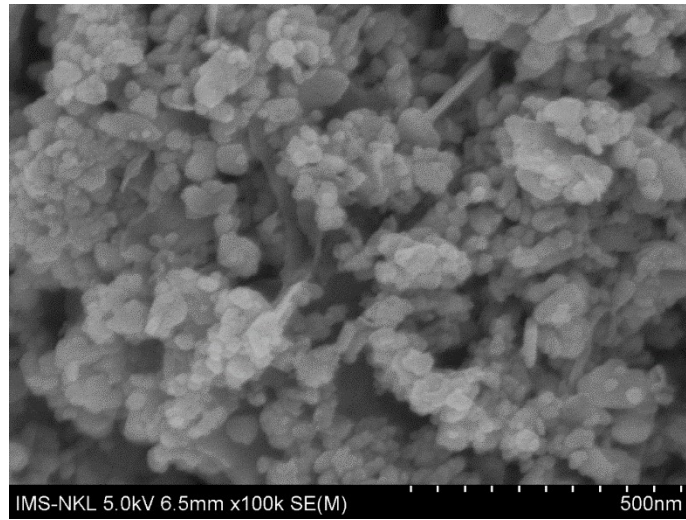


Figure S3. SEM image of ZCZ-CQD sample

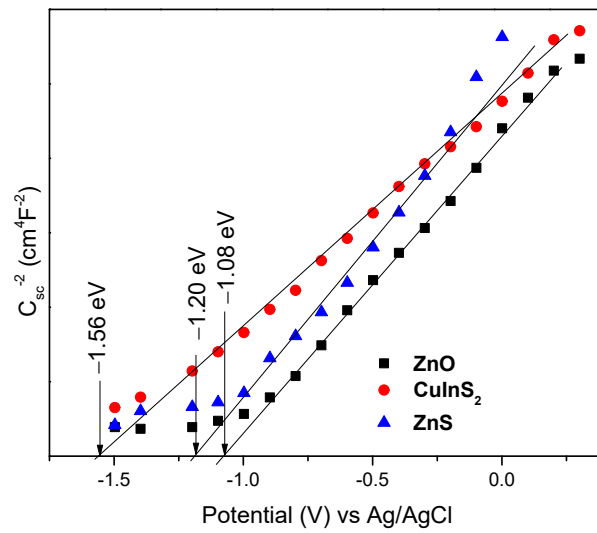
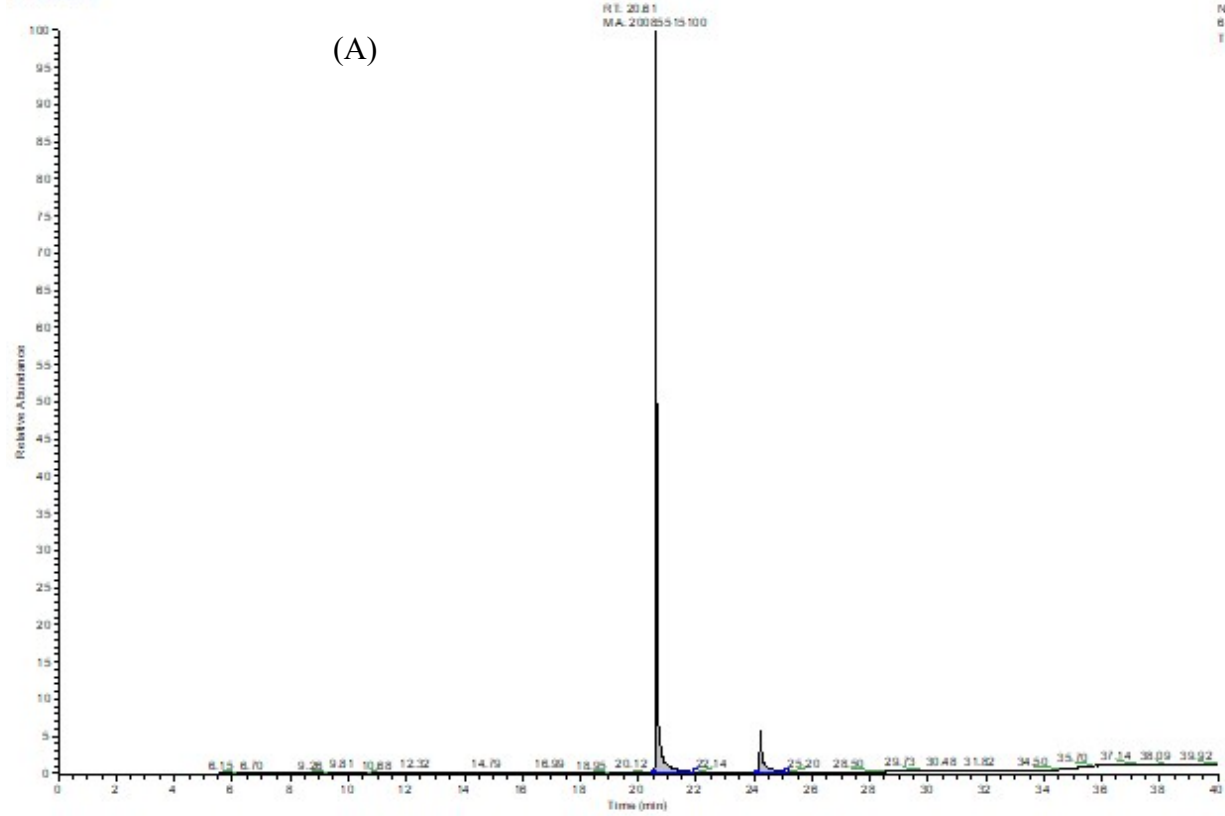


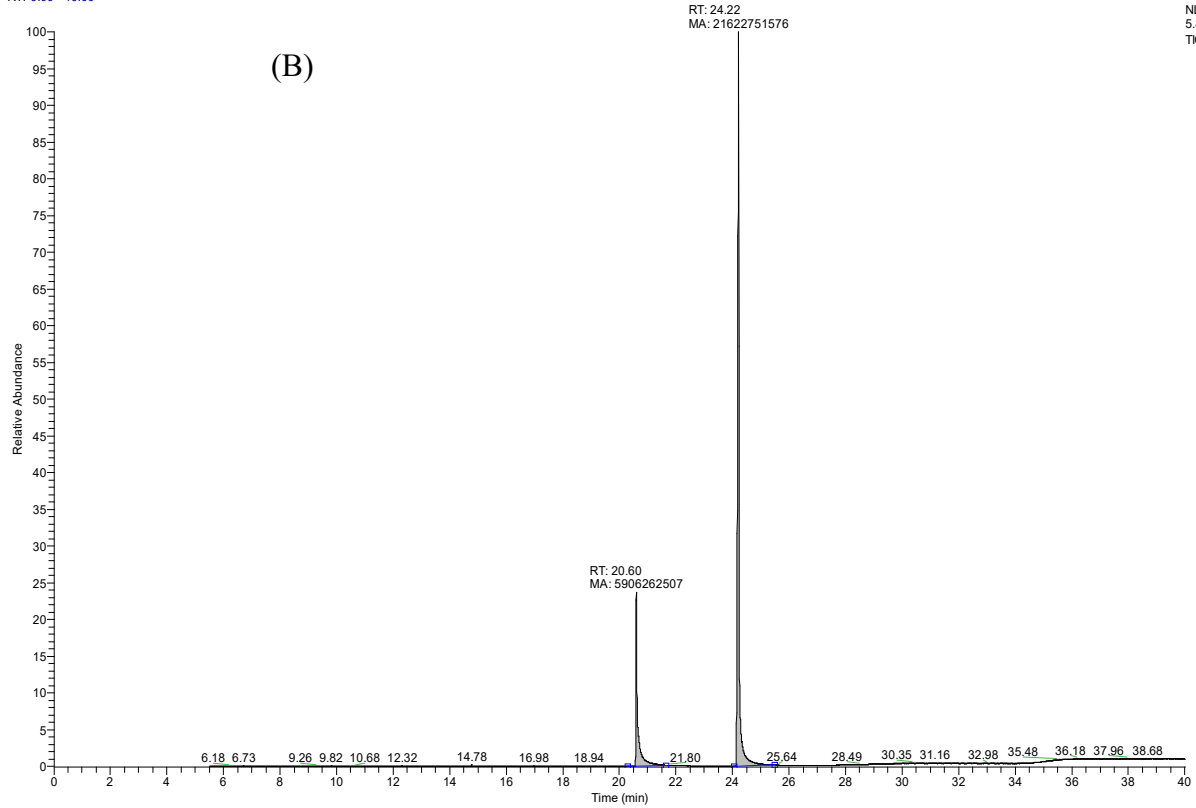
Figure S4. Mott-schotky plot of ZnO, CuInS<sub>2</sub> and ZnS samples

RT: 0.00 -40.00



NL:  
6.75E9  
TIC MS 1

RT: 0.00 -40.00



NL:  
5.88E9  
TIC MS 7

Figure S5. GC-MS of DBT (A) GC-MS spectra of the products in the desulfurization of DBT over ZCZ-CQD photocatalyst after 10 min

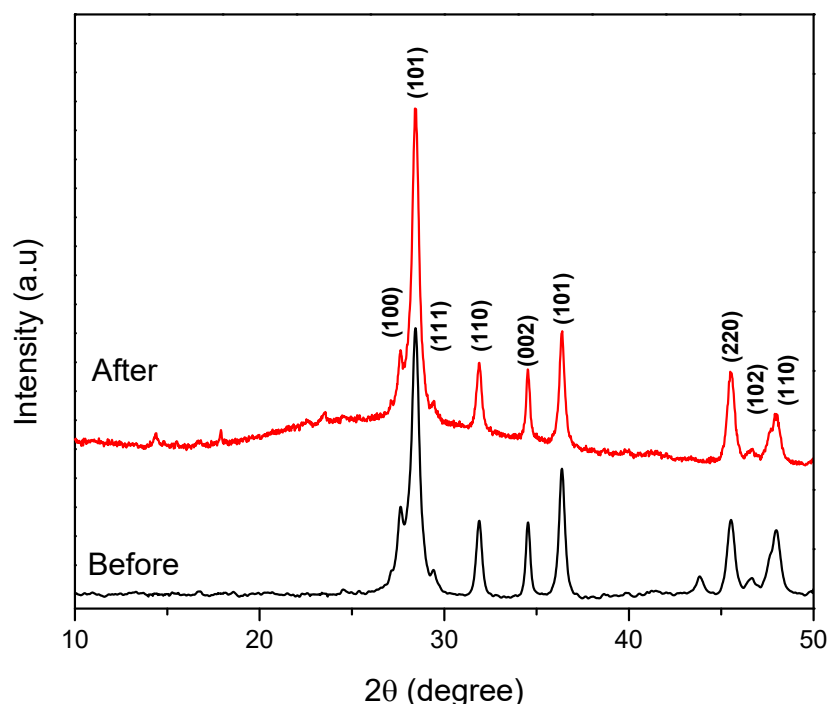


Figure S6. XRD patterns of ZCZ-CQD before and after 10 cycles reaction

## References

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CeO<sub>2</sub>/Attapulgite/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> as Efficient Catalyst for Photocatalytic Desulfurization: Mechanism, Kinetics and Influencing Factors. *Chemical Engineering Journal* **2017**, 326, 87–98. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2017.05.131>.