

A Membrane Reactor with Microchannels for Carbon Dioxide Reduction in Extraterrestrial Space

Deqiang Feng, Wenjun Jiang *, Ce Zhang, Long Li, Botao Hu, Jian Song, and Wei Yao *

1. Evaluation of FE

The FE for gas products was calculated as follows:

$$FE = \frac{Q_{gas}}{Q} = \frac{v \times y \times \alpha \times F \times P_0}{I \times R \times T_0} \quad (1)$$

where FE is the Faradaic efficiency of the gas product; Q is the total number of the charge consumed during the reaction; Q_{gas} is the charge corresponding to gas products; v represents the flow rate of CO_2 ; y is the measured concentration of the gas product; α is the number of electrons required to form a molecule of the gas product; F is the Faraday constant (96485 C mol^{-1}); P_0 is the standard atmosphere; R is the universal gas constant ($8.314 \text{ J Mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$); T_0 is the absolute temperature; I is the total current.

2. Evaluation of SPCE

The single-pass carbon efficiency (SPCE) of CO_2 in each product was calculated as follows:

$$SPCE = \frac{\frac{j_x \times 60 \text{ (second)}}{\alpha \times F}}{\frac{v(L/min) \times 1(min)}{22.4(L/mol)}} \quad (2)$$

where j_x is the partial current density of specific products from CO_2 reduction, α is the electron transfer for every product molecule, and F is the Faradaic constant.

3. Evaluation of EE

The energy efficiency (EE) for C_2H_4 was calculated as follows:

$$EE_{C_2H_4} = \frac{(1.23 - E_{C_2H_4}) \times FE_{C_2H_4}}{E_{app}} \quad (3)$$

where $E_{C_2H_4}$ is the thermodynamic potential (vs RHE) for CO_2 RR to C_2H_4 species, which is 0.08 V for C_2H_4 . E_{app} is the cell voltage in a two-electrode setup.

Citation: Feng, D.; Jiang, W.; Zhang, C.; Li, L.; Hu, B.; Song, J.; Yao, W. A Membrane Reactor with Microchannels for Carbon Dioxide Reduction in Extraterrestrial Space. *Catalysts* **2022**, *12*, 3. <https://doi.org/10.3390/catal12010003>

Academic Editors: Shangqian Zhu, Qinglan Zhao and Yao Yao

Received: 19 November 2021

Accepted: 19 December 2021

Published: 21 December 2021

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

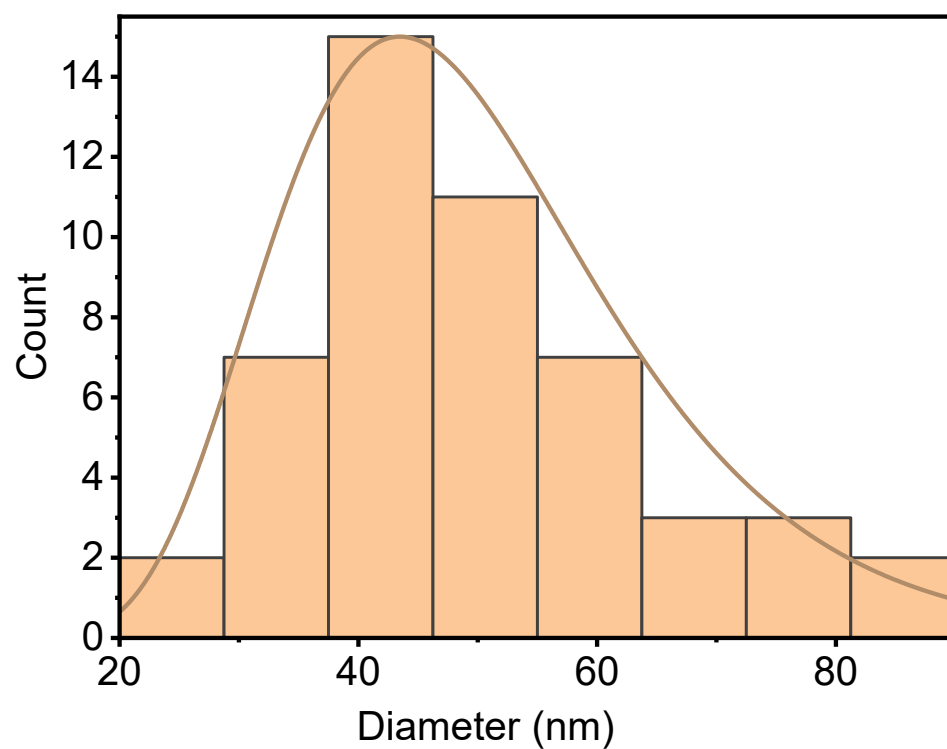


Figure S1. Diameter distributions of CuNWs.

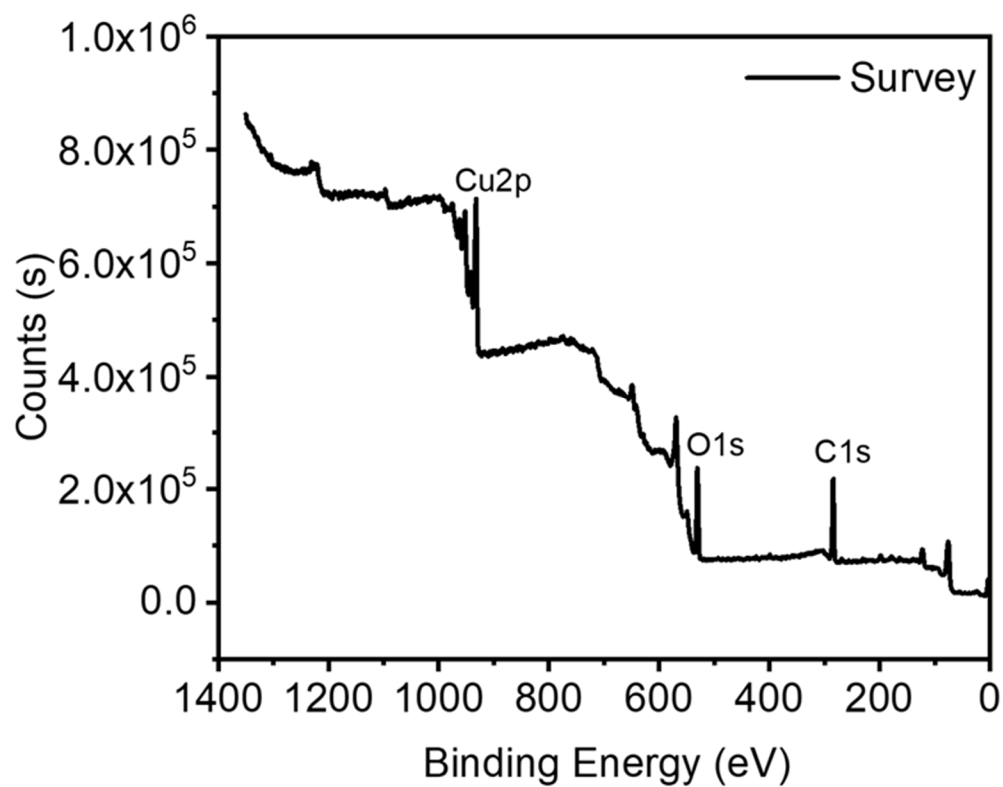


Figure S2. XPS of survey spectra of CuNWs.

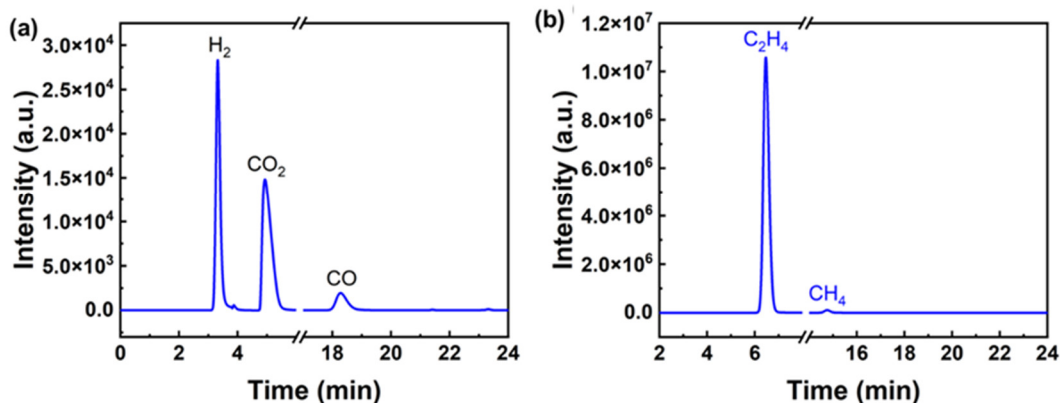


Figure S3. Typical (a) TCD and (b) FID chromatograms of cathodic gas products measured under the condition of CO_2 gas flow rate of 10 sccm, anolyte flow rate of 10 sccm, the voltage of 4.2 V, with the anion exchange membrane using Sustainion X37-50 Grade 60, and the channel type of series microchannel structure.

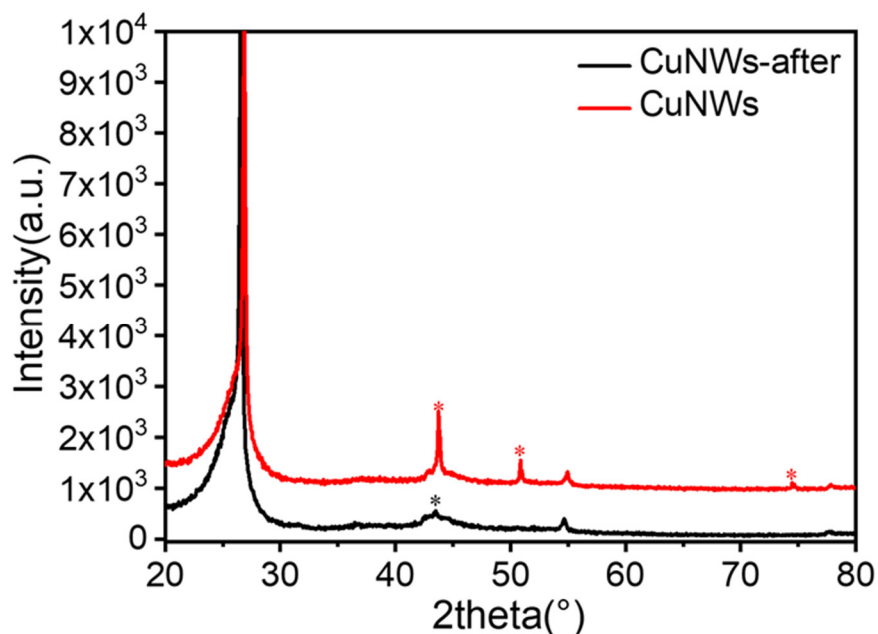


Figure S4. XRD patterns of CuNWs before and after reaction.

Table S1. The single-pass carbon efficiency (SPCE) of CO_2 in each product at 4.2 V.

	SPCE- CO (%)	SPCE- CH_4 (%)	SPCE- C_2H_4 (%)	SPCE-gas (%)
Grade 60	6.78	0.19	4.64	11.61
Grade T	7.20	0.19	4.14	11.54
FAA-3-30	5.34	0.17	3.17	8.68

Table S2. The energy efficiency (EE) of CO_2 in C_2H_4 at 4.2 V.

Membrane	Grade 60	Grade T	FAA-3-30
Energy Efficiency (%)	19.9	17.8	13.4

Table S3. Concentrations of Cu and Ir in the anodic solution before and after the reaction.

Reaction time (min)	Cu (%)	Ir (%)
0	0	0
30	3523.2	1422.7
60	3985.5	3255.5