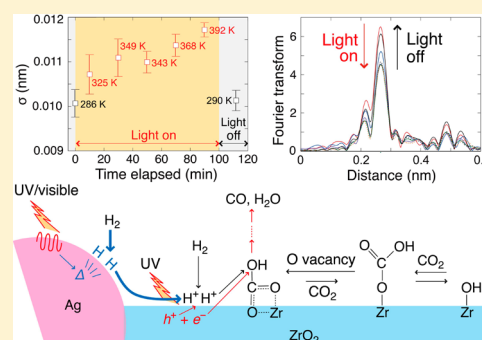


Dual Photocatalytic Roles of Light: Charge Separation at the Band Gap and Heat via Localized Surface Plasmon Resonance To Convert CO<sub>2</sub> into CO over Silver–Zirconium OxideHongwei Zhang,<sup>†</sup> Takaomi Itoi,<sup>‡</sup> Takehisa Konishi,<sup>†</sup> and Yasuo Izumi<sup>\*,†,‡</sup><sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Chiba University, Yayoi 1-33, Inage-ku, Chiba 263-8522, Japan<sup>‡</sup>Department of Mechanical Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Chiba University, Yayoi 1-33, Inage-ku, Chiba 263-8522, Japan

## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Confirmation of <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> photoconversion into a <sup>13</sup>C-product is crucial to produce solar fuel. However, the total reactant and charge flow during the reaction is complex; therefore, the role of light during this reaction needs clarification. Here, we chose Ag–ZrO<sub>2</sub> photocatalysts because beginning from adventitious C, negligible products are formed using them. The reactants, products, and intermediates at the surface were monitored via gas chromatography–mass spectrometry and FTIR, whereas the temperature of Ag was monitored via Debye–Waller factor obtained by in situ extended X-ray absorption fine structure. With exposure to <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, and UV–visible light, <sup>13</sup>CO selectively formed, while 8.6% of the <sup>12</sup>CO mixed in the product due to the formation of <sup>12</sup>C-bicarbonate species from air that exchanged with the <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> gas-phase during a 2 h reaction. By choosing the light activation wavelength, the CO<sub>2</sub> photoconversion contribution ratio was charge separated at the ZrO<sub>2</sub> band gap ( $\lambda < 248$  nm): 70%, localized at the Ag surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) ( $330 < \lambda < 580$  nm): 28%, and characterized by a thermal energy of 295 K: 2%. LSPR at the Ag surface was converted to heat at temperatures of up to 392 K, which provided an efficient supply of activated H species to the bicarbonate species, combined with separated electrons and holes above the ZrO<sub>2</sub>, which generated CO at a rate of 0.66  $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$  with approximately zero order kinetics. Photoconversion of <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> using moisture was also possible. Water photo-oxidation step above ZrO<sub>2</sub> was rate-limited, and the side reactions that formed H<sub>2</sub> above the Ag were successfully suppressed instead to produce CO via the Mg<sup>2+</sup> addition to trap CO<sub>2</sub> at the surface.



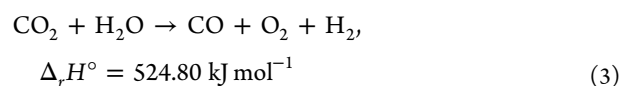
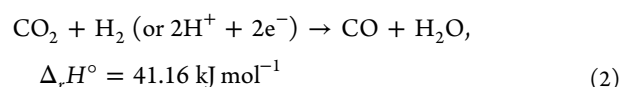
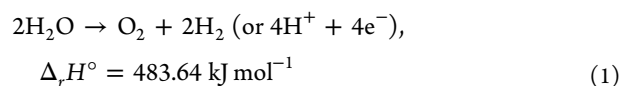
## 1. INTRODUCTION

Numerous studies have investigated photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> fuel conversion to initiate a carbon-neutral cycle, which includes the use of solar fuel in contrast to the irreversible consumption of fossil fuels.<sup>1,2</sup> However, pitfalls exist in these previous investigations that mistake methane and/or C-containing products converted from catalyst impurities as products converted from CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>1,3–6</sup> Therefore, finding an effective photocatalyst to convert CO<sub>2</sub> (standard formation enthalpy =  $-393.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) using only sustainable energy while confirming labeled <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> conversion, not adventitious C, is essential.<sup>1,3,6–12</sup>

Previous studies have rarely used time course monitoring for isotope labeled-<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> to confirm CO<sub>2</sub> conversion. This study monitors the <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> photoreduction time course and investigates the <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>12</sup>C product origins. On the basis of this mechanistic investigation, we observe and clarify the dual roles that UV–visible light has for the first time using ZrO<sub>2</sub>-based photocatalysts:<sup>13–15</sup> (i) charge separation at the band gap (BG) and (ii) heat transformed via localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) via extended X-ray absorption fine

structure (EXAFS). Temperature monitoring of the Ag via Debye–Waller factor, which was obtained with in situ EXAFS, was direct in comparison with surface-enhanced Raman techniques that use adsorbed probe molecules.

First, this study evaluates the rates of step 2 that follows water photo-oxidation in step 1 below.<sup>16–18</sup>



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We analyzed the photocatalytic mechanism in step 2, and we also attempted the photoconversion of  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  using moisture (step 3).

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

An aqueous Ag nitrate (>99.8%, Wako Pure Chemical, Japan) solution was reduced in a liquid phase using  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (>95%, Wako Pure Chemical) in the presence of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (JRC-ZRO-3, Catalysis Society of Japan; tetragonal phase, specific surface area =  $94.4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ).<sup>17</sup> We varied the sample Ag content between 0.50 and 10 weights (wt) %. The sample is denoted as Ag– $\text{ZrO}_2$ . Mg nitrate (>99.5%, Wako Pure Chemical) was impregnated into the Ag– $\text{ZrO}_2$  aqueous suspension. The molar ratio of Mg:Ag was 1:1. The water was distilled at 358 K, and the powder product was dried at 373 K for 40 h.

The photocatalyst (0.100 g) was placed in a quartz photoreactor and evacuated at 295 K for 2 h while connected to a Pyrex glass circulation system (206.1 mL) and both rotary and diffusion pumps ( $10^{-6}$  Pa).<sup>16</sup> We then introduced 2.3 kPa of  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  ( $^{13}\text{C}$  99.0%,  $^{17}\text{O}$  0.1%,  $^{18}\text{O}$  0.7%, chemical purity >99.9%, Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc., Tewksbury, MA, USA) and 21.7 kPa of  $\text{H}_2$  (>99.99%). For comparisons, the pressure of  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  was varied in the ranges 1.1–6.7 kPa and 21.7–66.7 kPa, respectively. The reactor catalyst was irradiated with UV–visible light from a 500 W xenon arc lamp (Model OPM2–502, Ushio, Japan). The distance between the UV–visible light exit and the photocatalyst was 20 mm. The light intensity was  $90.2 \text{ mW cm}^{-2}$  at the center of the photocatalyst. The intensity distribution of the Xe arc lamp was measured using a spectroradiometer (Model USR45DA, Ushio, Japan) at a position 20 mm apart from the UV–visible light exit (Figure S1, Supporting Information). A small portion of distribution lower than  $\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$  exists enabling the BG excitation of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ . In-profile kinetic data were collected as a function of the light's excitation wavelength by inserting a sharp-cut filter (2.5 mm thick) at the lighthouse exit. We used the UV32 and O58 (Hoya, Japan) types to pass light with  $\lambda > 320 \text{ nm}$  and  $\lambda > 580 \text{ nm}$ , respectively.<sup>19,20</sup> Control tests with exposure to  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2$ , and no light were performed by completely wrapping the reactor with Al foil. We also performed control tests with exposure  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  gas only and UV–visible light. The exchange reaction with 0.67 kPa of  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  was also performed using a similar procedure.

A packed column of 13X-S molecular sieves (3 m length, 3 mm internal diameter; GL Sciences, Inc., Japan) was employed for online gas chromatography–mass spectrometry analyses (GC–MS; Model JMS-Q1050GC, JEOL, Japan).<sup>21–23</sup> Helium (purity >99.9999%) was used as the carrier gas at 0.40 MPa. The sampling loop comprised a Pyrex glass system kept under vacuum using rotary and diffusion pumps ( $10^{-6}$  Pa) connected to the GC–MS via 1.5 m deactivated fused silica tubes (No. 160-2845-10, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA; internal diameter 250  $\mu\text{m}$ ), which were maintained at 393 K during analysis to avoid gas adsorption.

The surface species were monitored with a single-beam Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) instrument (JASCO, Japan; Model FT/IR-4200) equipped with a mercury–cadmium–tellurium-M detector at a constant temperature of 77.4 K.<sup>24</sup> A 20 mm- $\Phi$  self-supporting disk of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  or Ag (5.0 wt %)– $\text{ZrO}_2$  disk (50 mg) was placed in a quartz photoreaction cell equipped with NaCl windows on both sides. The photoreaction cell was connected to the Pyrex glass circulation system as well as the GC–MS to enable simultaneous surface species monitoring via FTIR and isotope distribution in the gas with the GC–MS. The photocatalyst disk was evacuated ( $10^{-6}$  Pa) at 295 K for 2 h prior to FTIR and GC–MS measurements.<sup>16</sup>

In situ FTIR measurements were performed at 295 K in a range from 4000 to 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The sample disk was irradiated with UV–visible light from a 500 W Xe arc lamp using quartz fiber light guide (San-ei Electric Co., Japan; Model 5 $\Phi$ -2B-1000L). The distance between the fiber light exit and sample disk was 50 mm. The light intensity at the center of sample was  $88 \text{ mW cm}^{-2}$ . The spectrometer's energy resolution was  $1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . A 10%-cut filter was

inserted in front of the photoreaction cell. Data accumulation was between 128 and 256 scans (approximately 2 s per scan).

UV–visible spectra were recorded on a double-beam model V-650 spectrophotometer using  $\text{D}_2$  and halogen lamps below and above 340 nm equipped with a photomultiplier tube and an integrated ISV-469 sphere (JASCO) to diffuse reflectance detection within the range from 200 to 800 nm.<sup>16,23</sup> Data was transformed using the Kubelka–Munk function. A formed polytetrafluoroethylene plate was used as a reference. Absorption–fluorescence spectra were recorded on model FP-8600 (JASCO; Chiba Iodine Resource Innovation Center, Chiba University) using 150-W Xe arc lamp equipped with a photomultiplier tube within the excitation range from 200 and 300 nm and fluorescence range from 300 to 800 nm.

Silver K-edge EXAFS spectra were measured at 290 K in transmission mode at the Photon Factory Advanced Ring, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK, Tsukuba, Japan) on the NW10A beamline.<sup>25</sup> A Si(3 1 1) double-crystal monochromator and a Pt-coated focusing cylindrical mirror were inserted into the path of the X-ray beam. A Piezo transducer was used to detune the X-ray to two-thirds of the maximum intensity to suppress higher harmonics. The Ag K-edge absorption energy was calibrated at 25516.5 eV using the X-ray spectrum of a Ag metal foil (40  $\mu\text{m}$  thick).<sup>26</sup> A disk ( $\Phi = 10 \text{ mm}$ ) of a Ag (3.0–5.0 wt %)– $\text{ZrO}_2$  photocatalyst (125 mg) was set in a Pyrex glass reactor equipped with a Kapton film (Dupont, Wilmington, DE, USA; 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick) for X-ray transmission and a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film (Teijin, Japan, G2; 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick) for both UV–visible light and X-ray transmission filled with 2.3 kPa of  $\text{CO}_2$  and 21.7 kPa of  $\text{H}_2$ . The sample was irradiated with UV–visible light from a Xe arc lamp through the PET film at the beamline.<sup>18,24,27,28</sup>

The obtained Ag K-edge EXAFS data were analyzed using the XDAP software package.<sup>29</sup> The pre-edge background was approximated with a modified Victoreen function, i.e.,  $C_2/E^2 + C_1/E + C_0$ , where  $E$  is the photon energy. The background for postedge oscillation,  $\mu x$ , was approximated with a smoothing spline function and was calculated for a particular number of data points:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\text{Data Points}} \frac{(\mu x_i - \text{background}_i)^2}{\exp(-0.075k_i^2)} \leq \text{smoothing factor} \quad (4)$$

where  $k$  is the angular photoelectron wavenumber.

Multiple-shell curve fit analyses were performed on the Fourier-filtered  $k^3$ -weighted EXAFS data in  $k$ - and  $R$ -space ( $R$ : interatomic distance) using the empirical amplitude extracted from the EXAFS data for the Ag metal foil (40  $\mu\text{m}$  thick). The  $R$  and coordination number ( $N$ ) values for the Ag–Ag interatomic pair were set to 0.288 9 nm and 12.<sup>30</sup> We assumed that the many-body reduction factor,  $S_0^2$ , is identical for both the sample and reference.

The high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM) investigations were performed using a JEM-2100F (JEOL) equipped with a field emission gun at an acceleration voltage of 200 kV.<sup>27</sup> The samples were mounted on a Cu mesh (250 mesh per inch) coated with a copolymer film of poly(vinyl alcohol) and formaldehyde (Formvar, Monsanto, St. Louis, MO, USA) and coated with carbon. Chemical compositions and elemental distributions were analyzed using energy dispersive spectra equipped with a Si(Li) detector in the TEM.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We first compared the reactions exposed to  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  using several  $\text{ZrO}_2$ -based photocatalysts doped with varying amounts of Ag under UV–visible light irradiation (Table 1A–a–e and Figure S2). The major product using these catalysts was always CO. The formation rate using 5.0 wt % Ag– $\text{ZrO}_2$  ( $0.57 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$ ) was higher by a factor of 3.9 than when using  $\text{ZrO}_2$  ( $0.15 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$ ; Table 1A–a, d). When the photocatalyst Ag content varied between 0.50 and 10 wt %, we were able to maximize the total CO formation rate by using Ag (5.0 wt %)–

**Table 1. Kinetic Data on Photoconversion of CO<sub>2</sub> Using the ZrO<sub>2</sub>-Based Photocatalyst under UV–Visible Light**

(A) <sup>13</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> (2.3 kPa) and H <sub>2</sub> (21.7 kPa)				
entry	catalyst	light irradiated	formation rate (μmol h <sup>-1</sup> g <sub>cat</sub> <sup>-1</sup> )	
			<sup>13</sup> CO	<sup>12</sup> CO
a	ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Full light	0.10	0.045
a'		λ > 320 nm	0.018	0.0084
b	Ag (0.50 wt %)-ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Full light	0.20	0.11
c	Ag (3.0 wt %)-ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Full light	0.38	0.079
d	Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Full light	0.52	0.049
d'		λ > 320 nm	0.15	0.017
d''		λ > 580 nm	0.0093	0.0034
e	Ag (10 wt %)-ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Full light	0.46	0.065

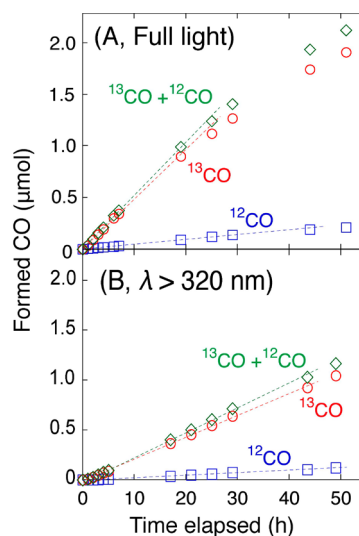
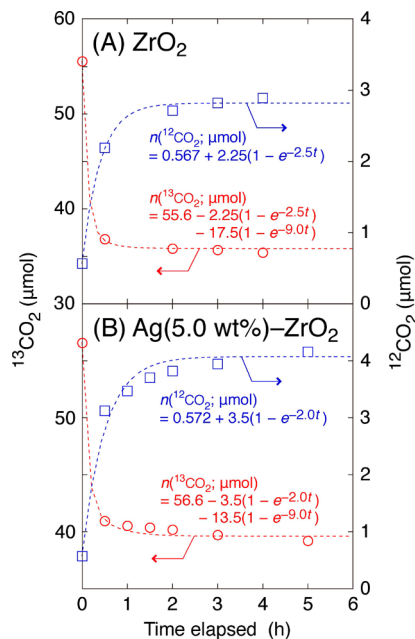
(B) <sup>13</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> (2.3 kPa) and H <sub>2</sub> O (2.7 kPa)				
entry	catalyst		formation rate (μmol h <sup>-1</sup> g <sub>cat</sub> <sup>-1</sup> )	
			<sup>13</sup> CO	<sup>12</sup> CO
a	ZrO <sub>2</sub>		0.018	0.16
b	Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO <sub>2</sub>		0.0031	0.0049
c	Mg <sup>2+</sup> -Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO <sub>2</sub>		0.0010	0.092

(C) Pressure Dependence of CO Formation Rate Using <sup>13</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> , H <sub>2</sub> , and Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO <sub>2</sub>				
<sup>13</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> pressure (kPa)	formation rate of <sup>13</sup> CO (μmol h <sup>-1</sup> g <sub>cat</sub> <sup>-1</sup> )	formation rate of <sup>12</sup> CO (μmol h <sup>-1</sup> g <sub>cat</sub> <sup>-1</sup> )	H <sub>2</sub> pressure (kPa)	
			0	21.7
1.1			0.39	0.045
2.3	<0.0009	0.52	0.59	0.52
4.8	<0.001	0.049	0.049	0.033
			0.61	
			0.034	
6.7			0.50	0.62
			0.035	0.036

ZrO<sub>2</sub> (Table 1A-a-e and Figure S3). We confirmed the predominant photocatalytic formation of <sup>13</sup>CO, which was derived from <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>. However, minor <sup>12</sup>CO also formed continuously (Figures 1A and S2). Caution should be exercised for formation rates of CO that are of the order of μmol h<sup>-1</sup> g<sub>cat</sub><sup>-1</sup>; the rates of tens of mmol h<sup>-1</sup> g<sub>cat</sub><sup>-1</sup> have been reported for methane formation.<sup>2,31</sup> The differences of reaction conditions, products, and their associated free energy change must be carefully considered; however, this study isotopically clarifies the mechanism from CO<sub>2</sub> to CO activated by light in the course of time.

The <sup>13</sup>CO and <sup>12</sup>CO formation rates using Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> were 0.52 μmol h<sup>-1</sup> g<sub>cat</sub><sup>-1</sup> and 0.049 μmol h<sup>-1</sup> g<sub>cat</sub><sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Figure 1A). The <sup>12</sup>C ratio in reactant CO<sub>2</sub> was 1.0%, whereas the <sup>12</sup>C ratio in formed CO was 8.6% (Table 1A-d). To understand this inconsistency, we performed a <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> (0.67 kPa) exchange reaction with Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> under UV–visible light irradiation (Figure 2B). The exchange reaction proceeded with <sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>, which was adsorbed from air and remained after pretreatment under vacuum. The exchange reaction reached equilibrium after 2 h. We assumed that this reaction followed the first-order kinetics and that the rate constants, *k<sub>r</sub>* and *k<sub>r</sub>'*, are the exchange between gas-phase <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> with adsorbed <sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> and gas-phase <sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> with adsorbed <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively.

**Figure 1.** Time course formation of photocatalytic <sup>13</sup>CO and <sup>12</sup>CO during exposure to <sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> (2.3 kPa) and H<sub>2</sub> (21.7 kPa) using Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> (0.100 g) irradiated by (A) full UV–visible light and (B) filtered light at λ > 320 nm.**Figure 2.** Time course exchange reaction of <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> (0.67 kPa) irradiated by UV–visible light using (A) ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (B) Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub>. Photocatalyst used was 0.100 g.

$$\frac{dP_{^{13}\text{CO}_2}}{dt} = -k_r P_{^{13}\text{CO}_2} + k_r' P_{^{12}\text{CO}_2} \quad (5)$$

$$P_{^{13}\text{CO}_2} + P_{^{12}\text{CO}_2} = P_{^{13}\text{CO}_2(\text{initial})} \quad (6)$$

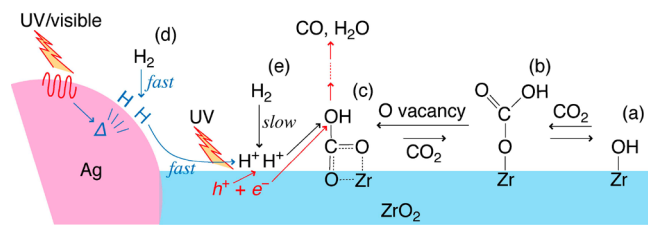
$$\therefore P_{^{12}\text{CO}_2} = P_{^{12}\text{CO}_2(\text{equilibrium})} \{1 - e^{-(k_r + k_r')t}\} \quad (7)$$

On the basis of the fit (Figure 2B), the sum of the rate constants (*k<sub>r</sub>* + *k<sub>r</sub>'*) required to attain an exchange equilibrium was 2.0 h<sup>-1</sup>. A quicker reaction of 13.5 μmol <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> along the free sites of the Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> surface had a rate constant of 9.0 h<sup>-1</sup> in comparison to the <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>/<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> exchange (3.5 μmol). The converged <sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure

in total CO<sub>2</sub> was 9.3%, which is in good agreement with the <sup>12</sup>C ratio that formed in the CO (8.6%). We also performed the exchange test when exposed to dark conditions (Figure S4B). The total <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> uptake changed negligibly. However, the amount of exchangeable <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>/<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> was greater by a factor of 1.46 when exposed to light (Figures S4B and 2B), which suggests that the CO<sub>2</sub>-derived species is light activated. <sup>13</sup>CO began to form after an induction period of 0.5 h due to an exchange delay with the <sup>12</sup>C surface species (Figure S2, Left), as well as the Ag activation via heating by light (see below).

Using ZrO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 2A), the converged partial pressure of <sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> in the total CO<sub>2</sub> was 7.3%, whereas the <sup>12</sup>C ratio in the total CO was as high as 27% (Table 1A-a and Figure S2A), which suggests the existence of an irreversible CO<sub>2</sub>-derived species leading to CO formation associated with O vacancy in ZrO<sub>2</sub> (2.3 μmol, Figure 2A and Scheme 1c).<sup>32,33</sup> The uptake of

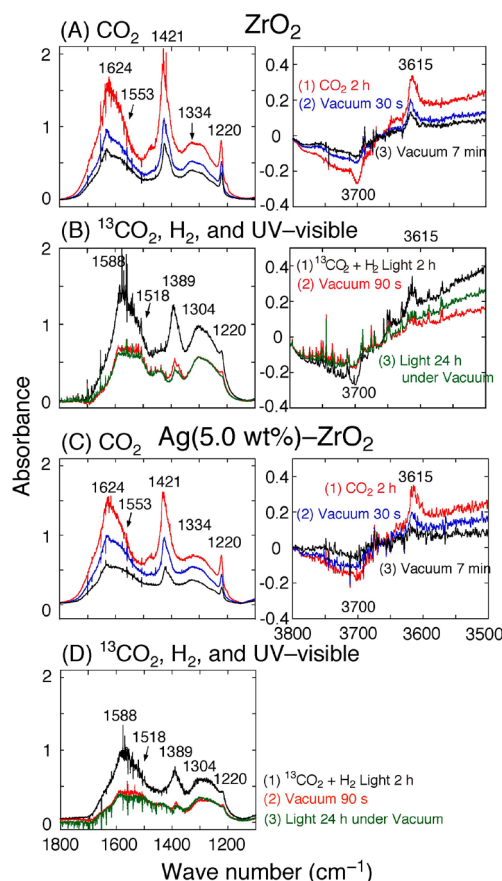
### Scheme 1. Proposed Intermediate Species Starting from CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> to CO during CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange and Photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction



O atoms at the O vacancy site in ZrO<sub>2</sub> correlated well with the intensity ratio between the Zr 3d and O 1s peaks in the X-ray photoelectron spectra.<sup>34,35</sup> The O vacancy was more reactive in Ag–ZrO<sub>2</sub> when exposed to UV–visible light due to H activation by Ag (3.5 μmol, Figure 2B), whereas we observed no Ag effects when exposed to dark conditions (Figure S4A,B). The number of total CO<sub>2</sub>-derived sites on the ZrO<sub>2</sub> (0.100 g) surface was 1.3 CO<sub>2</sub> molecules per nm<sup>2</sup>, which decreased to 1.1 CO<sub>2</sub> molecules per nm<sup>2</sup> of Ag–ZrO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 2). This demonstrates that CO<sub>2</sub>-derived species were above the ZrO<sub>2</sub> surface and not above Ag.

The rate dependence on reactant pressure approaching atmospheric pressure was also studied using Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> catalysts (Table 1C). Extremely weak dependence on both the pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> was found with a maximum CO formation rate of 0.66 μmol h<sup>-1</sup> g<sub>cat</sub><sup>-1</sup> at 6.7 kPa CO<sub>2</sub> and 66.7 kPa H<sub>2</sub>, demonstrating approximately zero order kinetics due to the strong adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and H.

FTIR spectra were measured for the ZrO<sub>2</sub> pretreated under vacuum at 295 K for 2 h. With the adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> at 295 K for 2 h, peaks appeared at 1624, 1421, and 1220 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which were assigned to bicarbonate species (monodentate or bridging; Figure 3A1, Left).<sup>36</sup> Simultaneously, the ZrO<sub>2</sub> hydroxy peak at 3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> decreased due to a reaction with CO<sub>2</sub> while the bicarbonate hydroxy peak increased at 3615 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 3A1, Right). Much weaker shoulder peaks, due to carbonate species, also appeared at 1553 and 1334 cm<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>37</sup> When exposed to vacuum for 30 s and 7 min, the peaks, due to the bicarbonate species, decrease by 1/2–2/3 (Figure 3A2, 3, Left). Since carbonate species were present in the pretreated sample under vacuum (data not shown), the changes under



**Figure 3.** FTIR spectra of ZrO<sub>2</sub> (50 mg; A, B) and Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> (50 mg; C, D). (A, C) Under CO<sub>2</sub> for 2 h (1) and under vacuum for 30 s (2) and 7 min (3). (B, D) Under UV–visible light, <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> (2.3 kPa), and H<sub>2</sub> (21.7 kPa) for 2 h (1) and under vacuum for 90 s (2) and 24 h (3).

both CO<sub>2</sub> and vacuum were minimal and we, therefore, regard carbonate as inert.

We then monitored FTIR changes associated with UV–visible light irradiation (Figure 3B). At 2.3 kPa of <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> and 21.7 kPa of H<sub>2</sub> irradiated by UV–visible light for 2 h, the background level, e.g., the level in the wavenumber region of 3650–3500 cm<sup>-1</sup>, increased as a result of the IR excitation of UV–visible-excited electrons trapped beneath the conduction band of ZrO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 3B2,3),<sup>27,38</sup> while the vibrational peaks of surface species showed negligible change before and after irradiation by UV–visible light. A similar trapping state in CdSe during IR excitation and further hot electron injections from LSPR Au nanoparticles were reported.<sup>39</sup> The antisymmetric and symmetric stretching vibration peaks at 1624 and 1421 cm<sup>-1</sup> for bicarbonate and at 1553 and 1334 cm<sup>-1</sup> for carbonate in natural CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 3A, Left) shifted to 1588 and 1389 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1518 and 1304 cm<sup>-1</sup> in <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> (Figure 3B, Left), respectively, based on the following equation for harmonic oscillation:<sup>24</sup>

$$\tilde{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}} \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\tilde{\nu}_{13\text{CO}}}{\tilde{\nu}_{12\text{CO}}} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{13} + \frac{1}{16}}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{16}}} = 0.97778 \quad (9)$$

where  $\tilde{\nu}$  is the wavenumber,  $c$  is the speed of light,  $k$  is the force constant, and  $\mu$  is the reduced mass. We chose a peak at 1389  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to evaluate the amount of change in the bicarbonate species. Under vacuum for 90 s, the bicarbonate peaks decreased to one-third of their intensity under  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  (Figure 3B1,2), which corresponds to the amount of exchange between  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  and  $^{12}\text{CO}_2$  (2.3  $\mu\text{mol}$  per 0.100  $\text{g}_{\text{cat}}$ ; Figure 2A). The chemisorbed bicarbonate species, which were exchangeable in gaseous  $\text{CO}_2$ , became bridged while the bicarbonate species desorbed under vacuum since  $\text{CO}_2$  monodentately coordinates to the Zr site (Scheme 1b,c).<sup>36</sup> Similarly, isotope labeled bicarbonate exchanged with  $\text{CO}_2$ , which was monitored using attenuated total reflectance IR. Previous studies have suggested these as an intermediate to CO formation above Au.<sup>40</sup>

We also confirmed that the amount of exchange of  $\text{CO}_2$  and rate constants (simple adsorption, exchange) negligibly varied between the powder (Figure 2) and disk samples (Figure 3). When exposed to vacuum and UV–visible light for 24 h, the bicarbonate peaks further decreased to 85% of their intensity under vacuum for 90 s (Figure 3B2,3). The decreased amount was

$$2.3 \mu\text{mol} \times \frac{0.050}{0.100} \times 0.15 = 0.17 \mu\text{mol-}^{13}\text{CO}_3\text{H} \quad (10)$$

versus  $^{13}\text{CO}$  detected by GC–MS (0.001 9  $\mu\text{mol}$ ). Only 1.1% of the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -bicarbonate species along the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  surface photoconverted to  $^{13}\text{CO}$  because of the simultaneous occurrence of a reverse reaction to  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ . Due to the limitations of the 13X-S molecular sieve column, desorbed  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  could not be quantitatively evaluated using GC–MS and the total mass balance starting from bicarbonate was not confirmed. The amount of reduction of  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  to  $^{13}\text{CO}$  should be related to that of surface O vacancies in  $\text{ZrO}_2$ . The effects of apparatus-based IR light on photocatalysis should be negligible because no reduction in  $\text{CO}_2$  was observed, even in the presence of  $\text{H}_2$  (see the following wavelength dependence section, Table 1A-d'' nor was significant amount of heat induced in comparison to LSPR-induced heat as a result of UV–visible irradiation (see the following EXAFS section, Table S2-e).

We also monitored the behavior between  $\text{CO}_2$  and the Ag (5.0 wt %)- $\text{ZrO}_2$  photocatalyst using FTIR. The peak position and change in intensity during  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption at 295 K and subsequent evacuation (Figure 3C) were similar to the changes observed when using  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Figure 3A), which demonstrates that both the bicarbonate and carbonate species were above the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  surface, not the Ag surface. A relatively greater portion of bicarbonate species remained (3/5–1/3) under vacuum for 30 s and 7 min (Figure 3C) in comparison with the ratio using the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Figure 3A) in consistent with the amounts of exchanged (chemisorbed)  $\text{CO}_2$ , i.e., 2.3 and 3.5  $\mu\text{mol}$  using  $\text{ZrO}_2$  and Ag (5.0 wt %)- $\text{ZrO}_2$ , respectively (Figure 2).

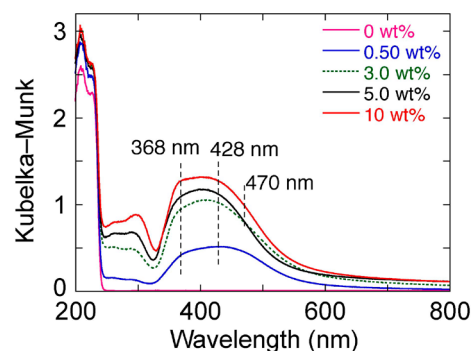
At 2.3 kPa of  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  and 21.7 kPa of  $\text{H}_2$  with irradiation using UV–visible light for 2 h (Figure 3D), we observed a perfect isotope shift similar to the shift observed using  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Figure 3B and eq 9). However, the intensity of the bicarbonate peak decreased by approximately 50% when exposed to  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  in comparison with  $\text{CO}_2$ , which suggests the presence of  $\text{H}_2$  activation on Ag and spillover onto the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  surface (Scheme 1d). When exposed to vacuum and UV–visible light for 24 h, the bicarbonate peaks further

decreased to 89% of their intensity observed under vacuum for 90 s (Figure 3D2,3). The decreased amount was

$$3.5 \mu\text{mol} \times \frac{0.050}{0.100} \times 0.11 = 0.19 \mu\text{mol-}^{13}\text{CO}_3\text{H} \quad (11)$$

versus  $^{13}\text{CO}$  detected by GC–MS (0.029  $\mu\text{mol}$ ). Fifteen percent of the  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  at the Ag– $\text{ZrO}_2$  surface photoconverted to  $^{13}\text{CO}$ . Clearly, Ag promoted intermediate species reduction to CO associated with H supplied from Ag and O vacancy sites in comparison with the ratio (1.1%) using  $\text{ZrO}_2$  associated with only O vacancy sites.

In the UV–visible spectra for the Ag– $\text{ZrO}_2$  samples, a peak centered at 428 nm was dominant between an Ag composition of 0.5 and 3.0 wt %, whereas shoulder features centered at 368 and/or 470 nm increased at elevated Ag contents, i.e., 5.0–10 wt % (Figure 4). These peaks are due to LSPR induced by



**Figure 4.** Diffuse reflectance UV–visible spectra for the Ag– $\text{ZrO}_2$  samples. The Ag contents were 0, 0.50, 3.0, 5.0, and 10 wt %.

UV–visible light where the Ag particle size distribution became wider with increased Ag content. The absorption edge was always at 248 nm (Figures 4 and S1), which indicates that the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  BG is 5.0 eV.

As the response to UV light absorption,  $\text{ZrO}_2$  samples showed broad and sharp fluorescence peaks at 370 and 396 nm, respectively, with excitation at 200 nm (Figure S5A-a), whereas the peaks were almost extinguished with excitation at 240 nm (Figure S5A-b). The excitation spectra for the two peaks (Figure S5B) and the wavelength dependence of the Xe arc lamp (Figure S1) suggested contribution of light at  $200 < \lambda < 248$  nm to charge separation in  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Scheme 1). A fluorescence peak was reported for mean 4 nm- $\text{ZrO}_2$  with excitation at 300 nm and an extension of the excitation wavelength was ascribed to the transition involving extrinsic states.<sup>41</sup> Such an effect involving O vacancy states is also plausible under the conditions using  $\text{H}_2$  and UV–visible light shown in this study (Scheme 1c).

Formation rates of CO using  $\text{ZrO}_2$  and Ag (5.0 wt %)- $\text{ZrO}_2$  irradiated under full light (0.15 and 0.57  $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$ ; Table 1A-a,d) decreased to 0.027 and 0.17  $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$ , respectively, under light at  $\lambda > 320$  nm (Table 1A-a',d' and Figure 1B). The rate using Ag (5.0 wt %)- $\text{ZrO}_2$  irradiated by light at  $\lambda > 580$  nm further decreased to 0.013  $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$  (Table 1A-d''). Therefore, for  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , the CO formation rate decreased by 82% with the filtration of the excitation light at  $\lambda > 320$  nm in comparison to a photocatalytic test irradiated under full UV–visible light (Table 1A-a-a'), i.e., UV light at  $\lambda < 248$  nm to separate the charges at the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  BG (Figure 4) played a significant photocatalytic role in the reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$

(82%). For the Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub>, the CO formation rate decreased by 70% and 98% with the filtration of the excitation light at a  $\lambda > 320$  nm and  $\lambda > 580$  nm, respectively, in comparison with tests under full UV–visible light (Table 1A–d,d',d''). UV light at  $\lambda < 248$  nm separated the charges at the ZrO<sub>2</sub> BG and UV–visible light at  $330 < \lambda < 580$  nm induced Ag LSPR (Figures 4 and S1), which also played a significant role in the photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> (i.e., 70% and 28%, respectively).

Total CO formation rates in the blank tests when exposed to <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, and no light were 0.0062 and 0.013  $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$  using ZrO<sub>2</sub> and Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub>, respectively (Table S1A–a,b). These rates proceeded thermally (295 K,  $\frac{1}{2}RT = 1.2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) but were only 4.2% and 2.2%, respectively, of the corresponding rates under UV–visible light (Table 1A–a,d). The other blank test under <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> and UV–visible light using Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> formed no products above GC–MS detection limits (Table S1B–a).

Ag K-edge EXAFS spectra were monitored for Ag (3.0 or 5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> under CO<sub>2</sub> (2.3 kPa) and H<sub>2</sub> (21.7 kPa) irradiated using UV–visible light at beamline. In the Fourier transform (FT; Figure 5C), a peak due to a Ag–Ag interatomic scattering of photoelectrons dominated at 0.28 nm (phase shift uncorrected), which demonstrates that the Ag nanoparticles were exclusively metallic.<sup>25</sup> In fact, in the HR-TEM images, we observed the metallic Ag(1 1 0) lattice fringes (i.e., the interval 0.287 nm versus the theoretical 0.289 nm<sup>30</sup>) to be in contact with the tetragonal ZrO<sub>2</sub>(1 0 0) lattice fringe (i.e., the interval 0.364 nm versus the theoretical 0.364 nm; Figure 6).<sup>42</sup> The EXAFS FT peak intensity was significantly suppressed, i.e., by as much as 31%, during a 100 min period of light irradiation (Figure 5C). On the contrary, peak intensity quickly recovered when the light was turned off.

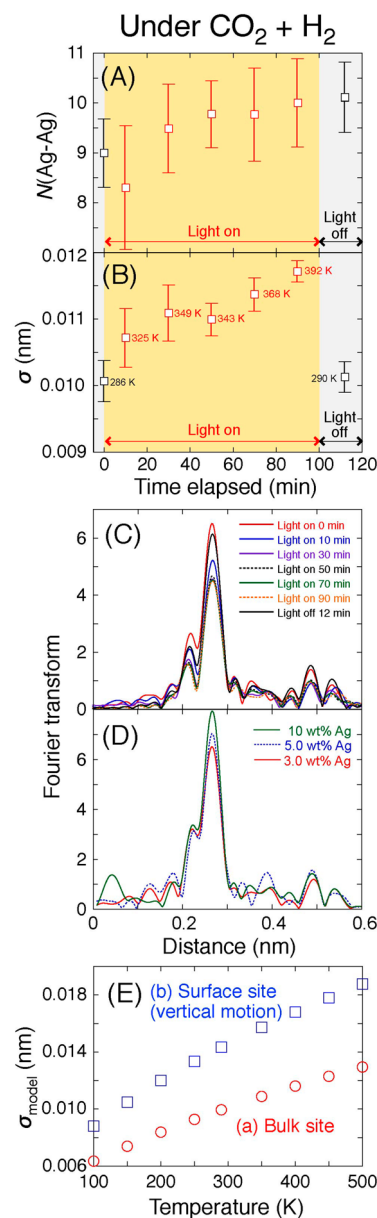
Such light-induced changes in the FT were quantitatively evaluated using a curve fit analysis based on the plane-wave approximation for amplitude  $A_i(k)$ , backscattering amplitude  $f_i$ , Debye–Waller factor  $\sigma_i$ , and mean free photoelectron path  $\lambda$  for shell  $i$ <sup>43</sup> using a XDAP 2.2.7 code:<sup>29</sup>

$$A_i(k) = \frac{N_i}{kR_i^2} |f_i(k)| \exp \left[ -2 \left( \sigma_i^2 k^2 + \frac{R_i}{\lambda} \right) \right], i = \text{Ag} \quad (12)$$

The  $N$  value was  $9.0 \pm 0.7$  before light irradiation and did not change significantly during both light irradiation (8.3–10.0) and after the light was off ( $10.1 \pm 0.7$ ; Figure 5A).  $N$  values of 9–10 correspond to a particle size ( $d$ ) of 2.5–3.7 nm assuming the spherical face-centered cubic (fcc) nanoparticle model and that surface dispersion ( $D$ ) is 0.54–0.36 (mean value = 0.45).<sup>44,45</sup>

The  $\sigma$  value was calculated to be 0.00995 nm for Ag metal at 290 K using the correlated Debye model<sup>46,47</sup> with the ab initio multiple-scattering calculation code, FEFF8<sup>48</sup> and the Debye Ag temperature [ $\theta_{\text{D(Bulk)}}$  225 K].<sup>49</sup> The XDAP code provides an experimental difference for the  $\sigma^2$  value from that of the Ag metal (model) based on eq 12. Initial  $\sigma$  values of 0.0101 nm for Ag (3.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> before light irradiation quickly increased to 0.0107 nm (10 min irradiation) and progressively increased to 0.0117 nm (90 min light irradiation, shown in Figure 5B). Then, the value quickly decreased to 0.0101 nm after the light was turned off at 112 min.

Furthermore, we evaluated the temperature at the Ag site based on the  $\sigma$  values. The  $\sigma$  value temperature dependence



**Figure 5.** Time course changes of (A) coordination number  $N$  values, (B) Debye–Waller factor  $\sigma$  values, and (C) FT obtained from angular photoelectron wavenumber  $k^3$ -weighted Ag K-edge EXAFS  $\chi$ -function for Ag (3.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> under CO<sub>2</sub> (2.3 kPa) and H<sub>2</sub> (21.7 kPa) irradiated by UV–visible light for 100 min followed by dark conditions for 20 min. (D) The change in the FT of the Ag K-edge EXAFS for fresh Ag–ZrO<sub>2</sub>: 3.0, 5.0, and 10 wt % Ag. (E) The correlation between the  $\sigma$  value and temperature for bulk sites (circle, O) and surface sites (vertical motion; square, □) in/on the Ag metal generated by the correlated Debye model using a FEFF8 code.

derives from the FEFF8 combined with the correlated Debye model<sup>46,47</sup> for both bulk and surface Ag sites using the bulk and surface Debye temperature (Figure 5E–a and b, respectively). We assumed that the thermodynamically stable fcc(1 1 1) face had preferable exposure for latter value [ $\theta_{\text{D(Surf,L)}}$  155 K].<sup>50</sup> We also approximated the mean Ag nanoparticle temperature as the arithmetic mean temperature based on the  $\theta_{\text{D(Surf,L)}}$  weighted by  $1/2 \cdot 1/3D$  [ $D$ : dispersion of nanoparticles (0.45), for an effective vertical degree of freedom at a free hemisphere surface] and that based on the  $\theta_{\text{D(Bulk)}}$  weighted by  $(1 - D) + 1/2D + 1/2 \cdot 2/3D$  (bulk site, nonfree

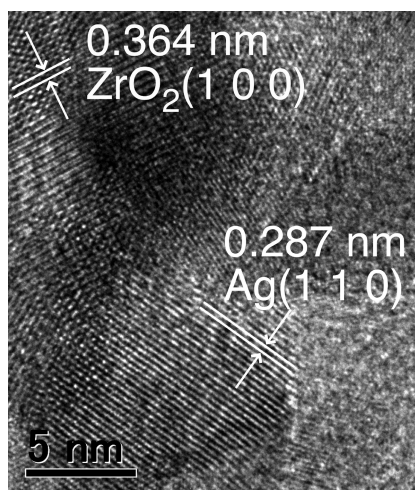


Figure 6. HR-TEM image of Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub>.

hemisphere in contact with ZrO<sub>2</sub>, and two lateral degrees of freedom at a free hemisphere surface) (see [Supporting Information](#) for the detail).

As a result, the initial temperature of 286 K before irradiation rose to 325 K after 10 min of irradiation and progressively increased to 392 K after 90 min of light irradiation (Figure 5B and Table S2a). The temperature quickly dropped to 290 K after the light was turned off. Such rise/drop in temperature is possibly due to LSPR heat transformation.<sup>51</sup> Similarly to the result using Ag (3.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> above, the initial temperature increased to 363 K after a 90 min UV-visible light irradiation and quickly dropped to 297 K once the light was off using the Ag (5.0 wt %)-ZrO<sub>2</sub> sample (Table S2c). Related to the EXAFS method, the nanoparticle temperature was also monitored based on surface-enhanced Raman scattering for the N≡C stretching vibration of adsorbed probe molecules.<sup>52</sup> The method based on the  $\sigma$  value used in this study via EXAFS is common and can directly probe for all nanoparticles to expose LSPR, e.g., Au and Ag. Three-dimensional mapping of Ag nanoparticles was performed via electron energy loss spectroscopy as a function of energy loss.<sup>53</sup>

Furthermore, we also observed increases or decreases in temperature under argon and UV-visible light (367 K at 50 min of light, 302 K 10 min after light had been turned off; Figure S6B and Table S2b), demonstrating that the ambient gas was not a major factor for temperature up/down. The  $\sigma$  value/temperature negligibly changed until 329 K when the incident light wavelength was filtered at more than 580 nm (Table S2e), whereas an essentially identical rise/drop during full light (365 K at 90 min, 298 K when light was off) for the  $\sigma$  value/temperature was observed when  $\lambda$  was more than 320 nm (Table S2d), demonstrating the heating effect by infrared portion of light were marginal in comparison to that by light whose wavelength was in the range  $320 < \lambda < 580$  nm via LSPR of Ag (Figures 4 and S1). Reaction heat was not a factor in this study because the reaction that reduces CO<sub>2</sub> to CO (eq 2) is endothermic. The heating and reaction promotion was reported for the exothermic formation of methane from CO<sub>2</sub> using Ni-based photocatalysts.<sup>31</sup> The temperature dropped to the same level (i.e., 290–302 K) essentially in 10–35 min after UV and/or visible light turned off (Table S2a–e) in comparison to 286 K before UV and/or visible light

irradiation. This fact guarantees that the heat originating from probe synchrotron X-ray was negligible in this study.

Ag nanoparticles were always metallic for the Ag-ZrO<sub>2</sub> samples (Figure 5D), and  $N$  values for the fresh Ag-ZrO<sub>2</sub> samples gradually increased from  $9.0 \pm 0.7$ ,  $9.6 \pm 0.6$ , and  $10.7 \pm 0.8$  for 3.0, 5.0, and 10 wt % Ag, respectively, which corresponds to ( $d$ ,  $D$ ) sets of (2.5 nm, 0.54), (3.1 nm, 0.43), and (4.2 nm, 0.28).<sup>44,45</sup> Thus, Ag surface atoms increase from 0.15 to 0.20 and finally to 0.26 mmol g<sub>cat</sub><sup>-1</sup>, respectively, whereas the CO formation rates reached maximum values at 5.0 wt % Ag (Table 1A and Figure S3), which indicates that the ZrO<sub>2</sub> sites were primarily responsible for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and were assisted by heated neighboring Ag sites via LSPR that activated and supplied H to move forward eq 2 (Scheme 1d). The close correlation between Au LSPR and H<sub>2</sub> activation was reported using the Au-SiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalyst due to the charge excitation to the antibonding H<sub>2</sub> orbital from LSPR.<sup>54</sup> H<sub>2</sub> activation via the Ni-H species above the Ni/SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> photocatalyst<sup>31</sup> relates to the mechanisms discussed in this study, i.e., endothermic CO formation, versus exothermic methane formation.<sup>31</sup>

In the Ag-ZrO<sub>2</sub> UV-visible absorption spectrum, peaks appear centered at 428 and 368 nm (2.90–3.37 eV) due to a LSPR at Ag (Figure 4). The Ag work function is 4.52–4.74 eV,<sup>55</sup> i.e., a Fermi level ( $E_F$ ) of 0.08–0.30 V for a standard hydrogen electrode versus the reduction potential from CO<sub>2</sub> to CO (–0.11 V)<sup>1</sup> or ZrO<sub>2</sub> conduction band minimum (–1.0 V).<sup>13</sup> For nanoparticles to exhibit LSPR behavior, it was previously reported that the following mechanisms need to occur: (i) charge excitation to an unoccupied adsorbate state,<sup>54,56</sup> (ii) hot electron injection that originates from LSPR for support,<sup>19,57–60</sup> (iii) electron trapping from the support to the Schottky barrier,<sup>59</sup> and (iv) plasmonic resonant energy transfer (PRET).<sup>59–61</sup> However, for cases i–iii, it is often difficult to explain how holes remained react after electron activation/reaction because the O moiety that derives from CO<sub>2</sub> must transfer to the LSPR nanoparticles for oxidation. In this study, H<sub>2</sub> oxidizes based on its association with the reduction of bicarbonate species above ZrO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, holes react with H<sub>2</sub> to form H<sup>+</sup> and must further react with O that derives from CO<sub>2</sub> to form water above the Ag surface. Thus, Ag thermally contributes for CO generation when heated to 325 K–392 K (Figure 5B), i.e., converted from LSPR (H<sub>2</sub> easily dissociates on the heated Ag surface and spills over the ZrO<sub>2</sub> surface) (Scheme 1d,e).

The conversion of LSPR over Ag and Au owing to heat preceded phenol decomposition<sup>62</sup> and thiosulfate oxidation,<sup>63</sup> whereas previous studies considered that short-lived heat converted from LSPR over Ag promotes reactant diffusion in the aqueous solution.<sup>64</sup> This study is the first to report the conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> assisted by heat that was converted via LSPR. Peaks due to formate species were not detected in our FTIR spectra, and we are unable to find evidence that the formate was an intermediate to CO.<sup>14,65</sup> The H and bicarbonate species coupled with the hole and electron, respectively, and combine to form CO and water, which is enhanced by a factor of 3.9 due to Ag (Table 1A–a,d). The rise in the Ag temperature in the ~0.5 h experiment via LSPR (Figure 5B) and H<sub>2</sub> activation effects (Scheme 1) agree with the ~0.5 h induction period for CO formation using Ag-containing photocatalysts (Figure S2, Left).

Finally, we tested the photocatalytic conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> using moisture (eq 3). Using ZrO<sub>2</sub>, <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> (2.3 kPa), moisture

(2.7 kPa), and UV–visible light, the CO generation rate increased by a factor of 1.2 compared with using  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  (Table 1A-a, B-a). However, the molar ratio of the newly formed  $\text{CO}:\text{H}_2$  was 1:0.41 rather than 1:1 based on eq 3. Since 90% of the newly formed CO was  $^{12}\text{CO}$ , the bidentate bicarbonate species c was more stable above  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Scheme 1), forming CO gas and a hydroxy group. Conversely, using the Ag (5.0 wt %)- $\text{ZrO}_2$  photocatalyst, the CO formation rate was suppressed by 96% compared with the formation rate when using  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Table 1B-a,b) and by 99% when using  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  (Table 1A-d). Instead,  $\text{H}_2$  preferably formed at  $0.15 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$ . Based on the effects of Ag,  $\text{H}_2$  selectivity in the reduced products increased from 29% to 95% with eq 1 (water splitting) rather than eq 3 due to the preferential adsorption of water versus  $\text{CO}_2$  on  $\text{ZrO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  desorption above Ag (Scheme S1). Water that blocks the O vacancy site is also plausible. Once reaction intermediates, i.e., H and bicarbonate form under light, CO and  $\text{H}_2$  are slowly formed via thermal energy under dark at 295 K (Table S1C-a'). In contrast that  $^{12}\text{CO}$  was preferably formed among total CO under light (61%; Table 1B-b and Figure S7, Left column),  $^{13}\text{CO}$  became a major product (68%, Table S1C-a' and Figure S7, Right column) under dark due to the gradual consumption of preadsorbed bicarbonate ( $^{12}\text{C}$  98.9%) that is in the equilibrium with gas-phase  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  (Figure 2B). The addition of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  onto the Ag (5.0 wt %)- $\text{ZrO}_2$  to attract  $\text{CO}_2$  to the surface mitigated the water blocking problem. Therefore, the CO formation rate increased from 0.0080 to  $0.093 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$ , i.e., a factor of 11.7, via the addition of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  similar to the  $\text{MgO-Pt-TiO}_2$  photocatalysts (Table 1B-c).<sup>66</sup>

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, the Ag (5.0 wt %)- $\text{ZrO}_2$  photocatalyst was the most active during  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  reduction using  $\text{H}_2$  and UV–visible light at a rate of  $0.66 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$ . The product included 5.5–8.6%  $^{12}\text{CO}$ . However, this CO derives from preadsorbed  $\text{CO}_2$  from the air that exchanged with gas-phase  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  at a rate constant of  $2.0 \text{ h}^{-1}$ . FTIR spectra demonstrated bridging and monodentate bicarbonate species via  $\text{ZrO}_2$  surface hydroxy group consumption under photoreaction  $\text{CO}_2$  and/or  $\text{H}_2$  conditions. The bridging bicarbonate species were exchangeable with the gas-phase  $\text{CO}_2$  and O vacancy on the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  surface should have participated in its formation. Under  $\text{H}_2$  and UV–visible light with the expense of bridging bicarbonate, 15% was directed to  $^{13}\text{CO}$  formation, whereas the remaining proportion reversely desorbed  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ .

The charge separation contribution at the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  BG and the Ag contribution characterized by LSPR were evaluated based on in-profile kinetic data measurements using sharp-cut filters: 70 and 28%, respectively. We further investigated the contribution of the mean 2.5–3.7 nm Ag nanoparticles using in situ EXAFS. A rise in temperature from 286 to 392 K when exposed to UV–visible light irradiation and a rapid drop to 290 K under dark conditions were directly monitored based on the Debye–Waller factor change for a Ag–Ag interatomic pair interference.  $\text{H}_2$  should oxidize based on its association with bicarbonate species reduction above  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , but no evidence for available O on Ag was found in this study. Thus, the heated Ag surface activated  $\text{H}_2$ , and the H atoms spill over to the bicarbonate species above  $\text{ZrO}_2$  rather than hot electron injection or PRET to/with  $\text{ZrO}_2$ .

Such dual roles for light during charge separation at the BG and heat via LSPR were remarkably effective when using  $\text{CO}_2$

and  $\text{H}_2$ . Instead, we found that using  $\text{CO}_2$  and moisture disadvantageously yielded reversely formed  $\text{H}_2$  over Ag. However,  $\text{H}_2$  formation was redirected toward CO formation via the addition of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  as the  $\text{CO}_2$ -anchor sites. The combination of alkaline [earth] metal ion–LSPR metal (Ag, Au)- $\text{ZrO}_2$  is required for artificial photosynthesis free from C-impurity problems and using the dual roles of light: charge separation and heat via LSPR.

#### ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

##### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/jacs.8b13894.

Intensity distribution of Xe arc lamp, detailed data from the photocatalytic tests and data from control experiments, absorption–fluorescence spectra, theoretical details and synchrotron X-ray experiments under Ar, a summary of the Ag temperature evaluation based on the Debye–Waller factor, and time course as well as the proposed reaction mechanisms under  $\text{CO}_2$  and moisture (PDF)

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##### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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