

### Supporting Information Available.

Gibbs energy with respect to temperature during reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> can be predicted as follows:

The Gibbs energy for a closed system,

$$dG = VdP - SdT, \text{ at constant pressure } (dP = 0) \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

$$dG = -SdT, \text{ or } \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P = -S \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

where V = volume, P = pressure, G = Gibbs energy, T = Kelvin temperature (K), S = entropy

From the Gibbs energy (G = H-TS) for a closed system, divide by T, and rearrange

$$\frac{G}{T} = \frac{H + T \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P}{T}, \text{ because } \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P = -S \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

where H = enthalpy

From Eq.3, the change of G/T ratio with respect to T found with quotient rule (Eq.4-1),

$$\left[ \partial \left( \frac{G}{T} \right) / \partial T \right]_P = \frac{T \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P - H - T \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P}{T^2} = -\frac{H}{T^2}, \text{ (Gibbs-Helmholtz equation)} \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = f'(x) = \frac{g'(x)h(x) - g(x)h'(x)}{h(x)^2}, \text{ where } f(x) = \frac{g(x)}{h(x)} \quad (\text{Eq. 4-1})$$

Rearrange Eq.4,

$$d \left( \frac{\Delta G}{T} \right)_P = -\frac{\Delta H}{T^2} dT \quad (\text{Eq. 5})$$

then integrate Eq.5 with respect to T,

$$\int_{T_1}^{T_2} d\left(\frac{\Delta_r G}{T}\right) = -\Delta_r H^0 \int_{T_1}^{T_2} \frac{1}{T^2} dT \quad (\text{assume } \Delta_r H^0 \text{ independent of } T) \quad (\text{Eq. 6}) *$$

$\Delta_r H^0$  and  $\Delta_r G^0$  at 298K, 1atm can calculate using Table 1, A-Eq.6-1 and 2

$$\Delta_r H^0 = \sum \gamma \Delta_f \bar{H}^0 (\text{products}) - \sum \gamma \Delta_f \bar{H}^0 (\text{reactants}) \quad (\text{Eq. 6-1})$$

$$\Delta_r G^0 = \sum \gamma \Delta_f \bar{G}^0 (\text{products}) - \sum \gamma \Delta_f \bar{G}^0 (\text{reactants}) \quad (\text{Eq. 6-2})$$

Finally, the change of Gibbs energy with respect to T can calculate from Eq.6.

$$\left(\frac{\Delta_r G^0}{T}\right)_{T_2} - \left(\frac{\Delta_r G^0}{T}\right)_{T_1} = \Delta_r H^0 \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1}\right), \text{ or}$$

$$\left(\frac{\Delta_r G^0}{T}\right)_{T_2} = \left(\frac{\Delta_r G^0}{T}\right)_{T_1} + \Delta_r H^0 \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1}\right) \quad (\text{Eq. 7})$$

Table 1. The standard molar enthalpy ( $\Delta_f \bar{H}^0$ ) and Gibbs energies ( $\Delta_f \bar{G}^0$ ) of formation<sup>20</sup>

	$\Delta_f \bar{H}^0$ (KJ·mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta_f \bar{G}^0$ (KJ·mol <sup>-1</sup> )
H <sub>2(g)</sub>	0	0
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>(g)</sub>	-241.8	-228.6
C <sub>graphite</sub>	0	0
CH <sub>4(g)</sub>	-74.85	-50.79
CO <sub>(g)</sub>	-110.5	-137.3
CO <sub>2(g)</sub>	-393.5	-394.4
Fe <sub>(s)</sub>	0	0
Zn <sub>(s)</sub>	0	0
ZnO <sub>(s)</sub>	-348.3	-318.3