

## Supporting Information

# Strong interfacial coupling for NiS thin layer covered CdS nanorods with highly efficient photocatalytic hydrogen production

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## Figures

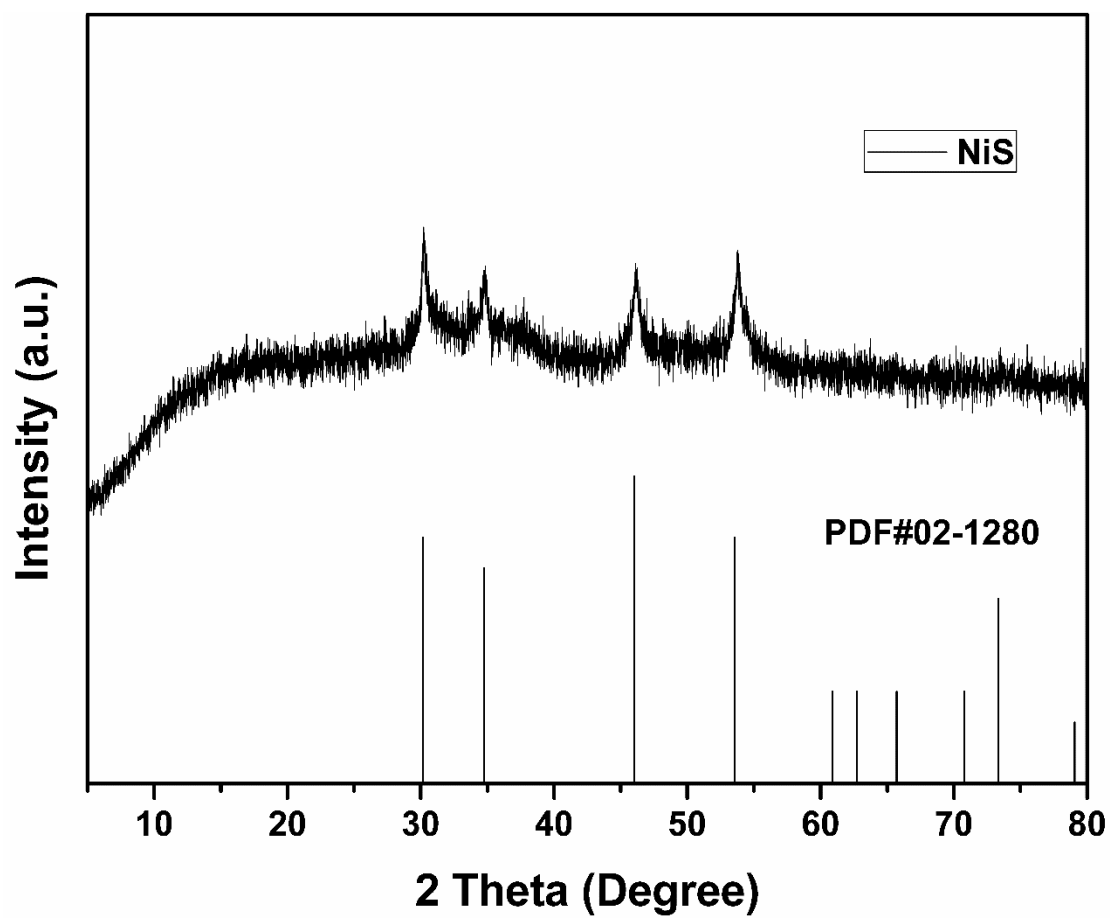


Fig. S1. XRD pattern of pure NiS.

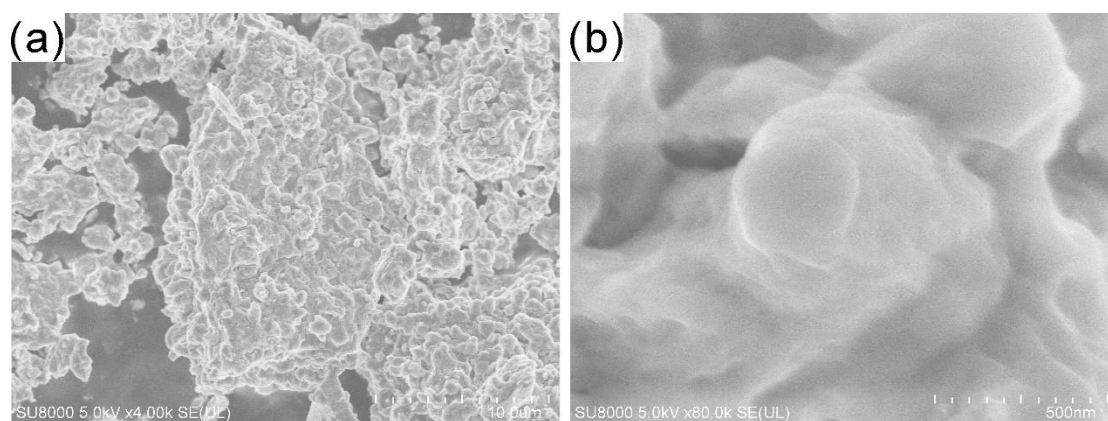
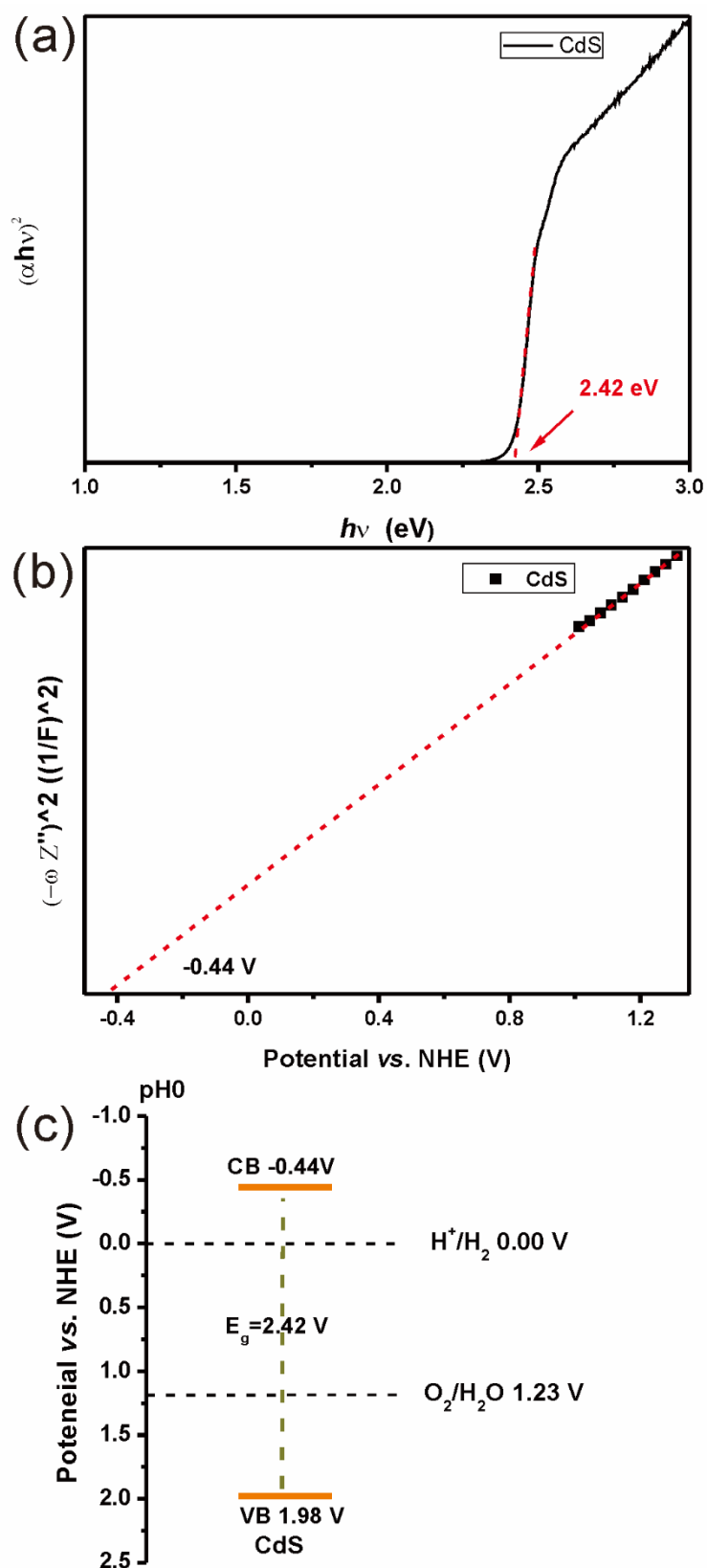
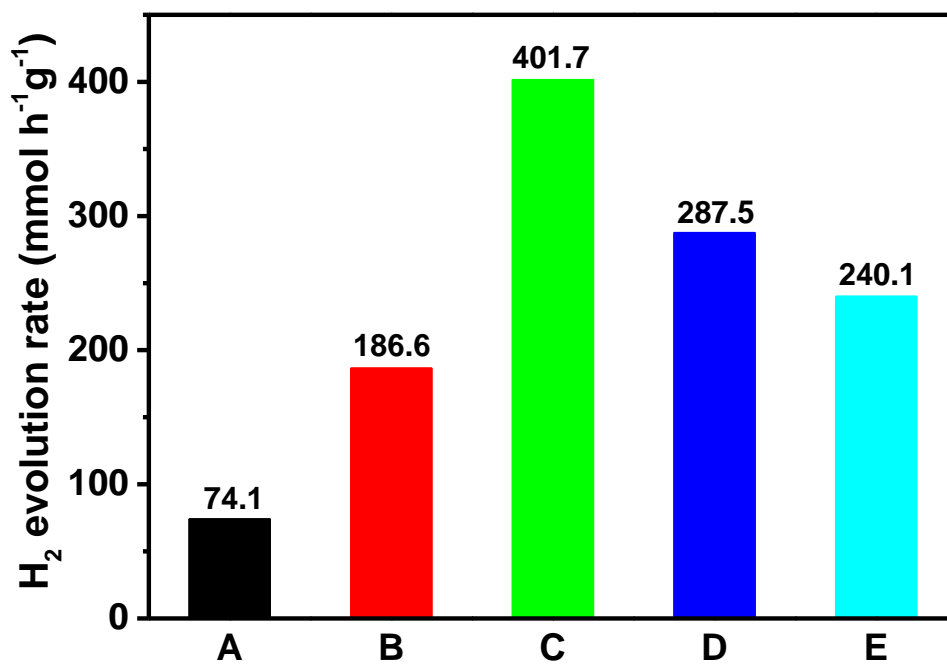


Fig. S2. (a) Low- and (b) high-magnification SEM images of pure NiS.



**Fig. S3.** (a) The plot of  $(\alpha h\nu)^2$  versus  $h\nu$  of CdS, (b) Mott-Schottky plots of CdS, (c) Energy band diagram of CdS.



**Fig. S4.** The H<sub>2</sub>-production rate over 25NS-C photocatalyst using different concentrations of hole scavenger under visible light irradiation. (A) 0.25 M Na<sub>2</sub>S, 0.35 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>, (B) 0.50 M Na<sub>2</sub>S, 0.70 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>, (C) 0.75 M Na<sub>2</sub>S, 1.05 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>, (D) 0.875 M Na<sub>2</sub>S, 1.225 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>, (E) 1.0 M Na<sub>2</sub>S, 1.4 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>.

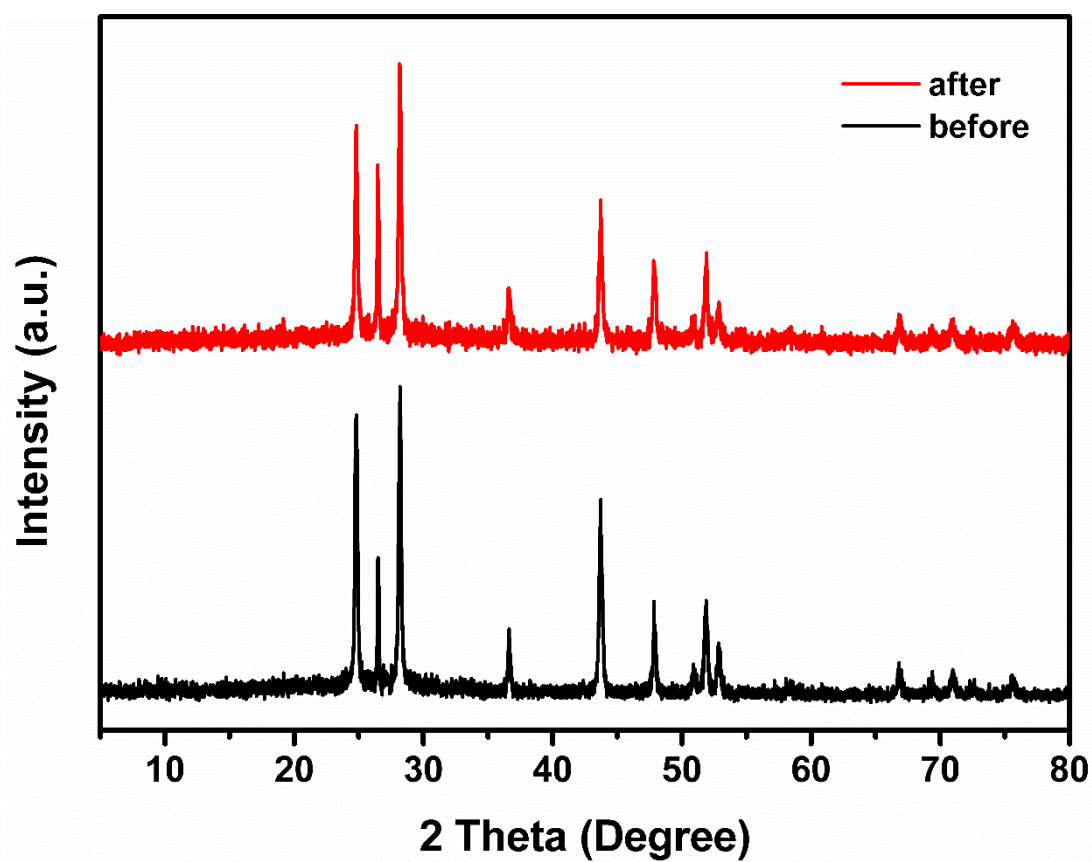
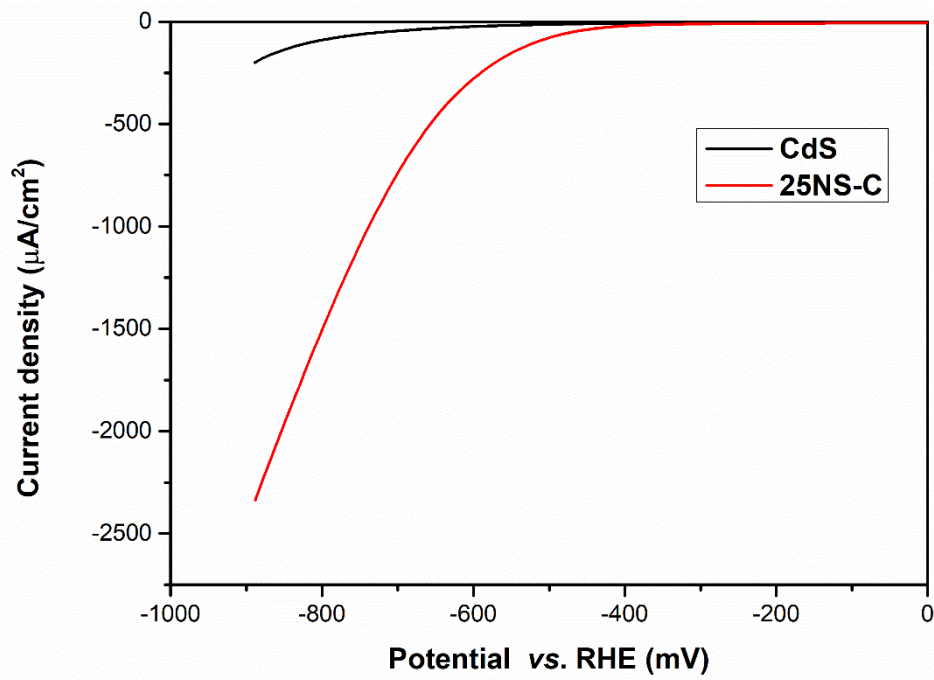
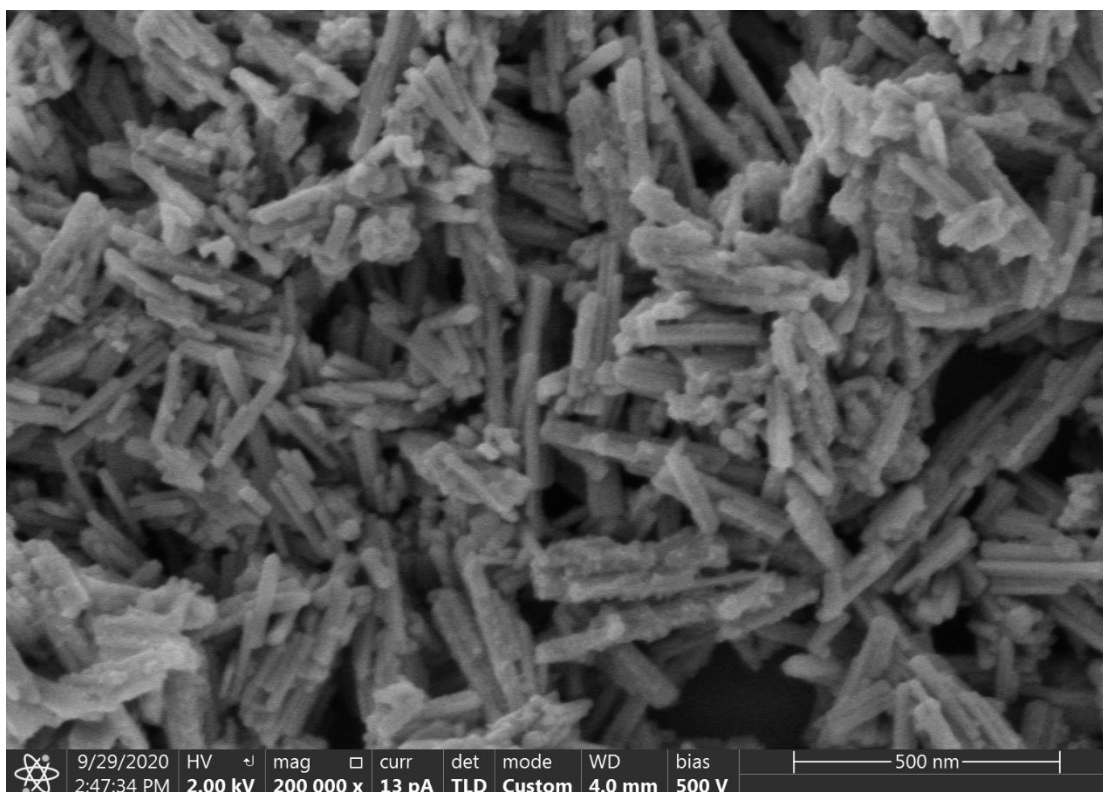


Fig. S5. XRD patterns of 25NS-C before reaction and after 3h of photocatalytic reaction.



**Fig S6.** The LSV curves of CdS and 25NS-C samples.



**Fig S7.** The SEM image of 25NS-C after photocatalytic reaction.

**Table S1.** Collected data of H<sub>2</sub>-evolution activity over CdS-based photocatalysts.

| Photocatalyst         | Light source          | Reactant solution   | Activity/<br>mmol·h <sup>-1</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup> | References |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|--|------------|
| NiS/CdS               | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)   | 10 vol.%<br>lactic acid   | 49.2   | 1          |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> /CdS | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)   | 10 vol.%<br>lactic acid   | 49.8   | 2          |
| NiS/CdS               | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)   | 20 vol.%<br>lactic acid   | 30.1   | 3          |
| BP-Au-CdS             | UV-vis-NIR            | 0.35M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> S-0.25M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> | 10.1   | 4          |
| NiS/CdS               | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)   | 20 vol.%<br>lactic acid   | 158.7  | 5          |
| Pd@CdS/PdS            | Xe-Vis<br>( > 400 nm) | 0.1M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> S-0.1M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub>   | 144.8  | 6          |
| Ni <sub>2</sub> P/CdS | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)   | 0.35M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> S-0.25M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> | 34.9   | 7          |

|                          |                                 |   |   |           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> /CdS | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)             | 10 vol.%<br>ethanol (pH<br>14.7)                                    | 35  | 8         |
| Co <sub>2</sub> P/CdS    | Metal halide<br>lamp (sunlight) | 10 vol.%<br>lactic acid   | 262.16                                      | 9         |
| Ni/CdS                   | 447 nm laser                    | 10 vol.%<br>ethanol (pH<br>14.7)                                    | 63  | 10        |
| Ni <sub>2</sub> P/CdS    | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)             | 1.25M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> S-1.75M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> | ~1200 μmol·h <sup>-1</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup> | 11        |
| NiS/CdS                  | Xe-Vis<br>(≥420 nm)             | 0.75M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> S-1.25M<br>Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> | 401.7 mmol·h <sup>-1</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup> | This work |



## References

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