

Supplementary materials

**Selective hydrogenation of CO₂ to formic acid with higher yield in an aqueous medium
with a nano-nickel-metal catalyst: reaction parameter optimization by response
surface methodology (RSM)**

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References

1. N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherm of nano-nickel catalyst

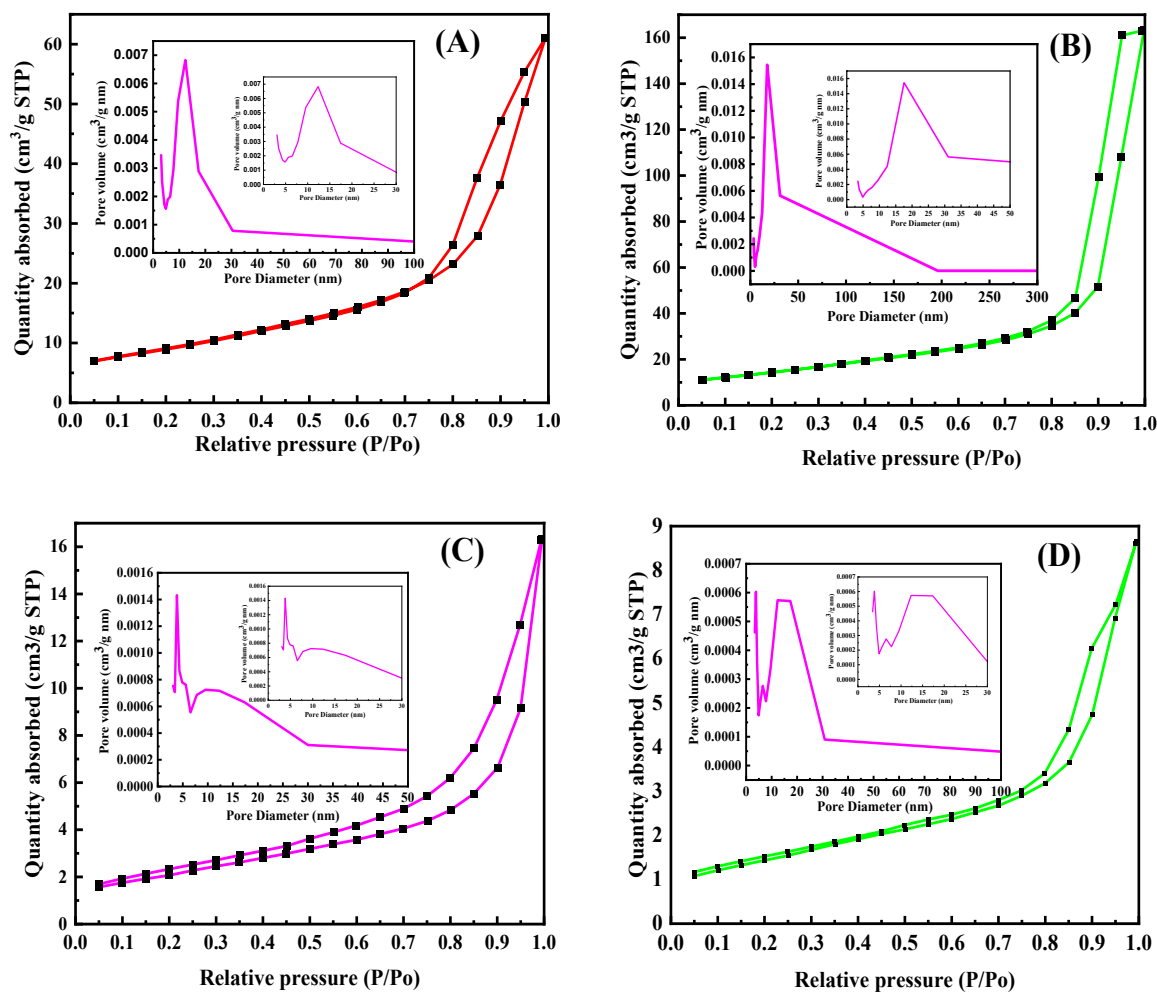


Figure S1. N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherm of nano-nickel catalyst (a) NiO-PM, (b) NiO-HT, (c) NiO-SG, (d) NiO-DC.

2. FTIR spectrum of NiO-SG catalyst

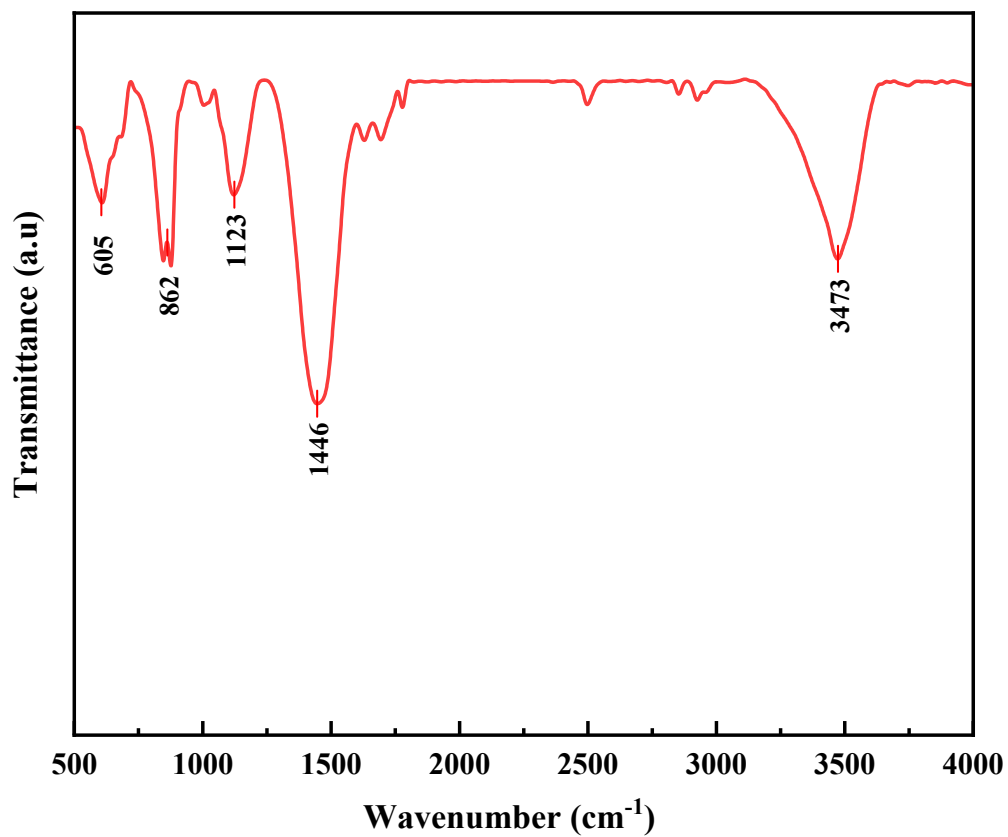


Figure S2. FTIR spectra of NiO-SG catalyst^{1,2}.

3. DR-UV-vis spectra of NiO-SG catalyst

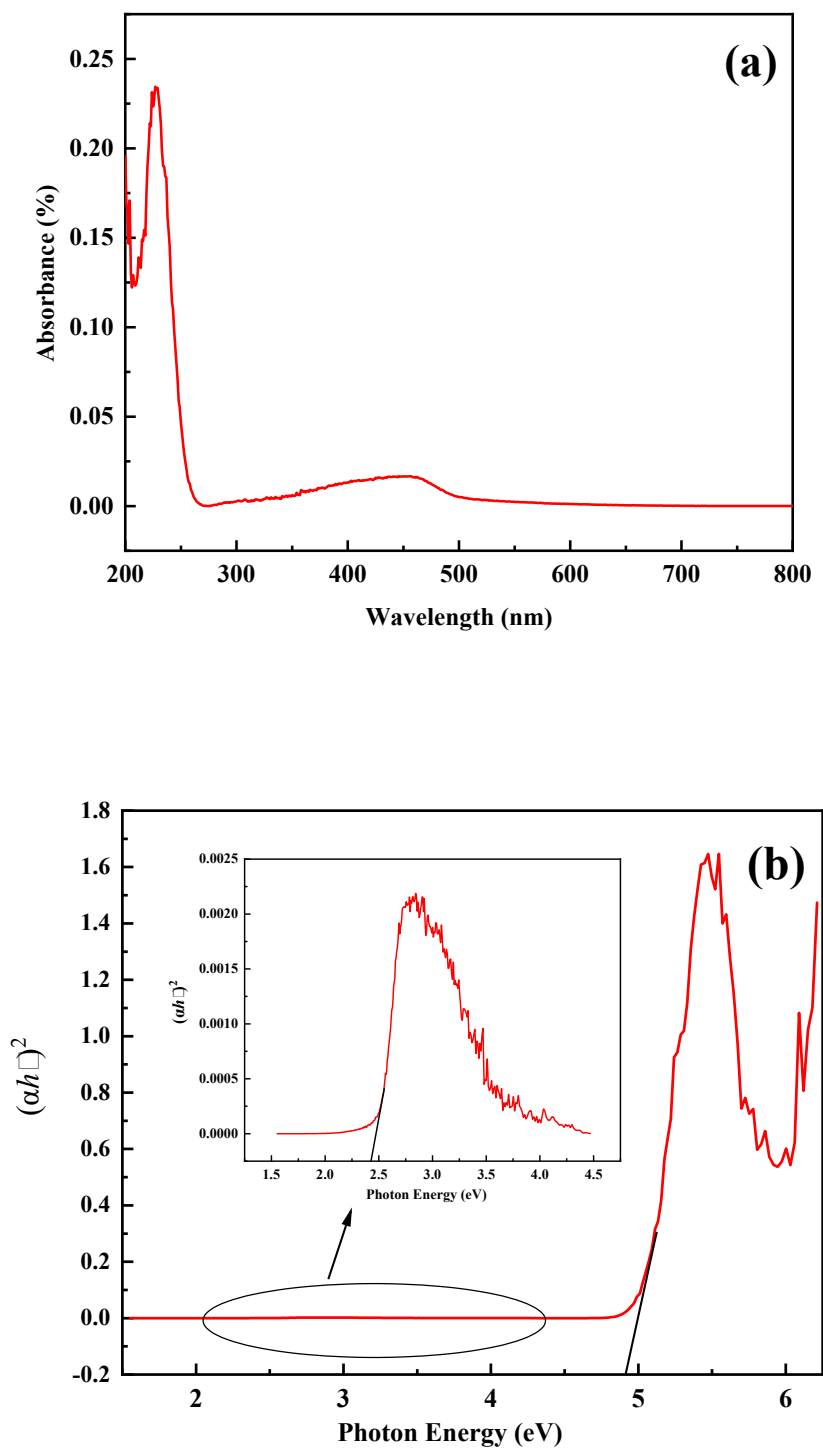


Figure S3. (a) UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra (DRS) of NiO-SG catalyst, (b) Tauc plot of NiO-SG catalyst^{3,4}.

4. FE-SEM images with EDX of catalysts

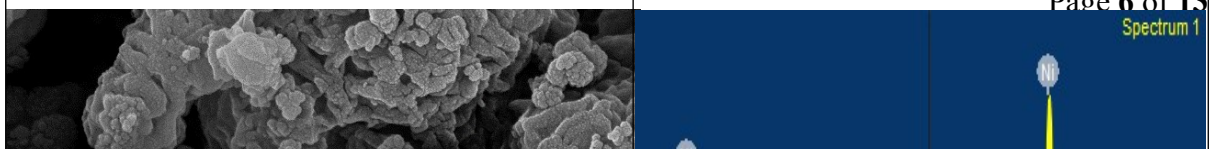
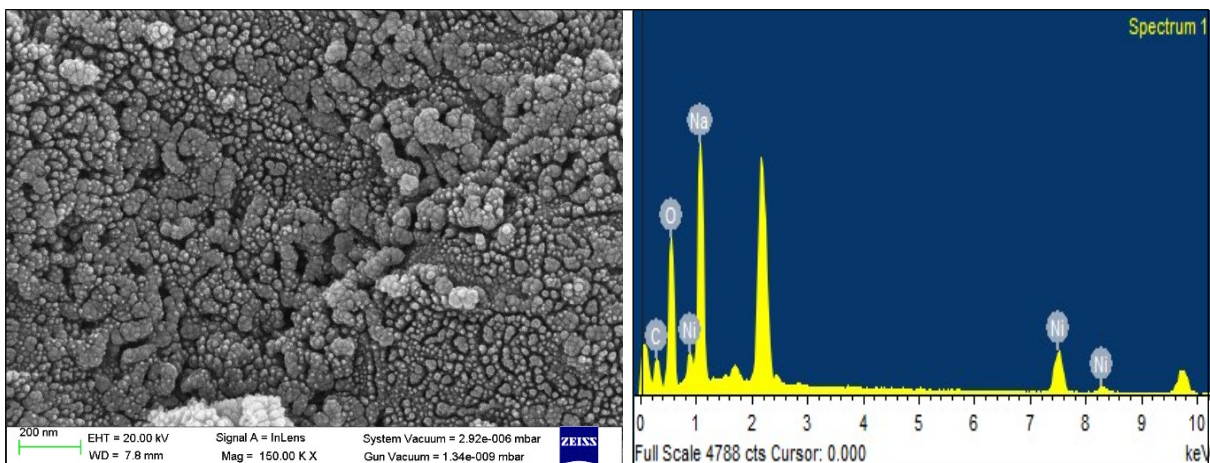
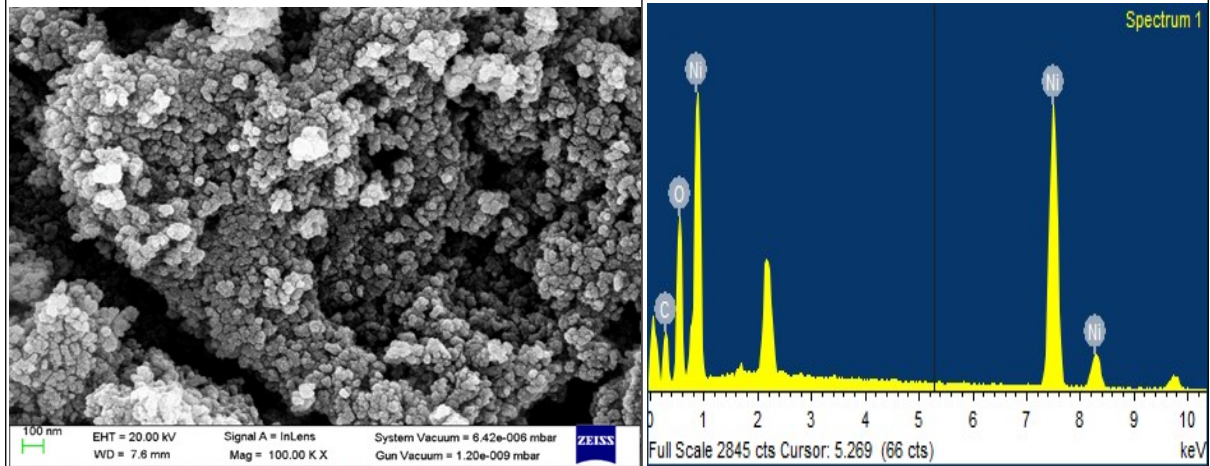
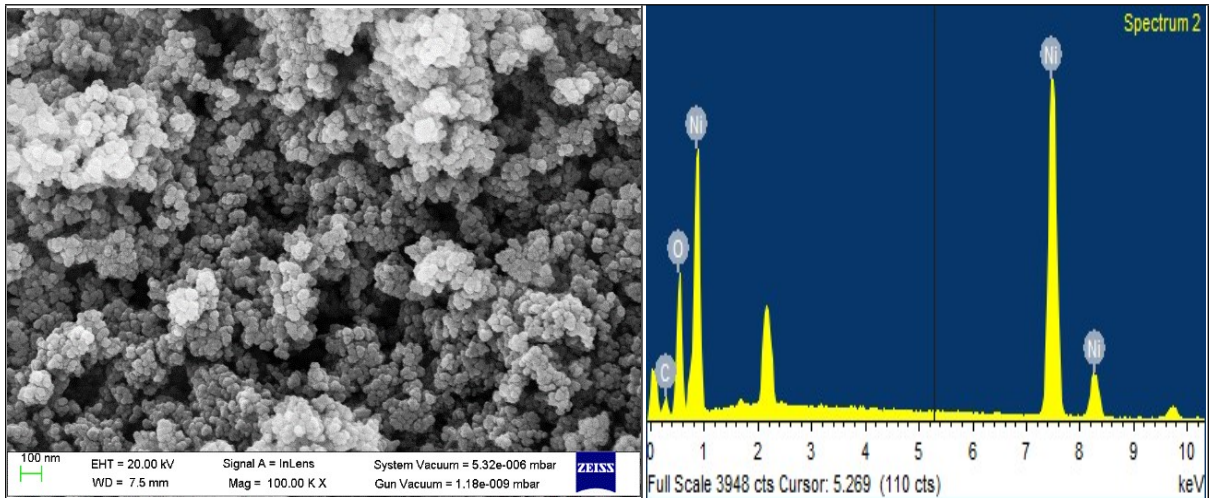


Figure S4. FE-SEM images with EDX of (A) NiO-PM, (B) NiO-PM EDX, (C) NiO-HT, (D) NiO-HT EDX, (E) NiO-SG, (F) NiO-SG EDX, (G) NiO-DC (H) NiO-DC EDX.

5. Catalyst screening for the CO₂ hydrogenation to formic acid

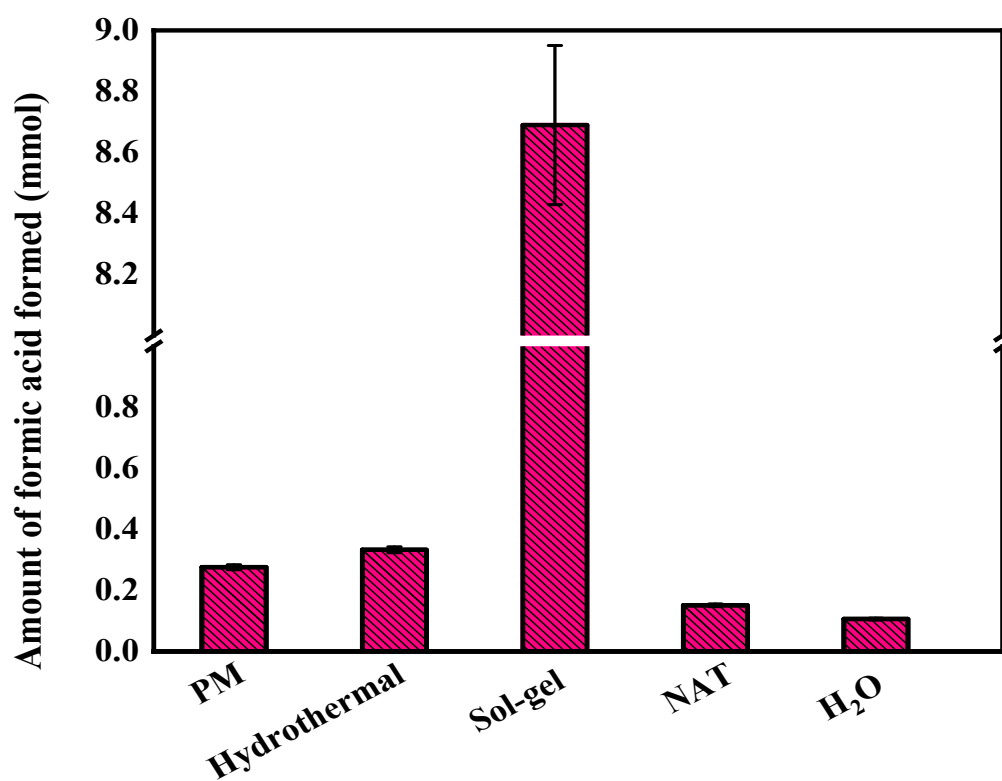


Figure S5. CO₂ hydrogenation to formic acid over various catalysts

Reaction condition: 200 °C, 60 bar pressure, 1 g catalyst, water as solvent.

6. ¹H NMR of the reaction mixture

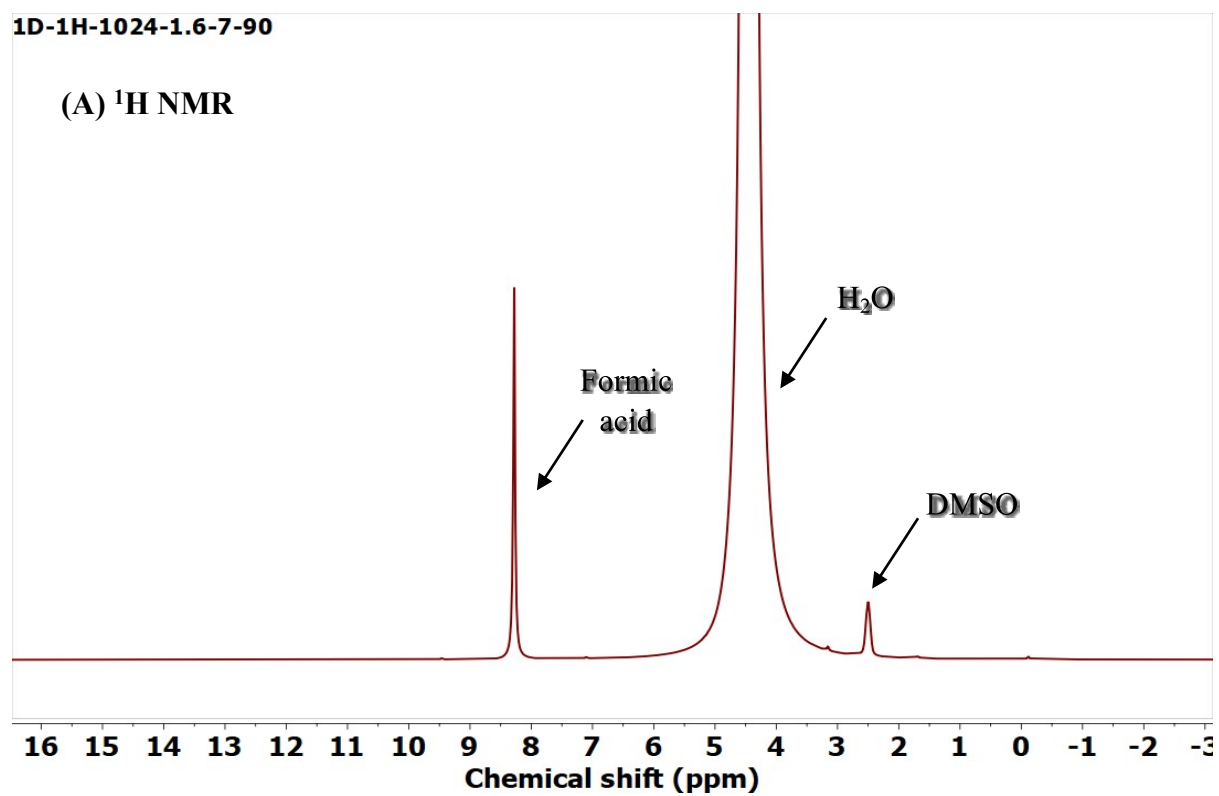


Figure S6. (A) ^1H NMR of the reaction mixture with DMSO- d_6 as a reference⁵⁻⁷.

7. XRD pattern of nano-nickel catalyst

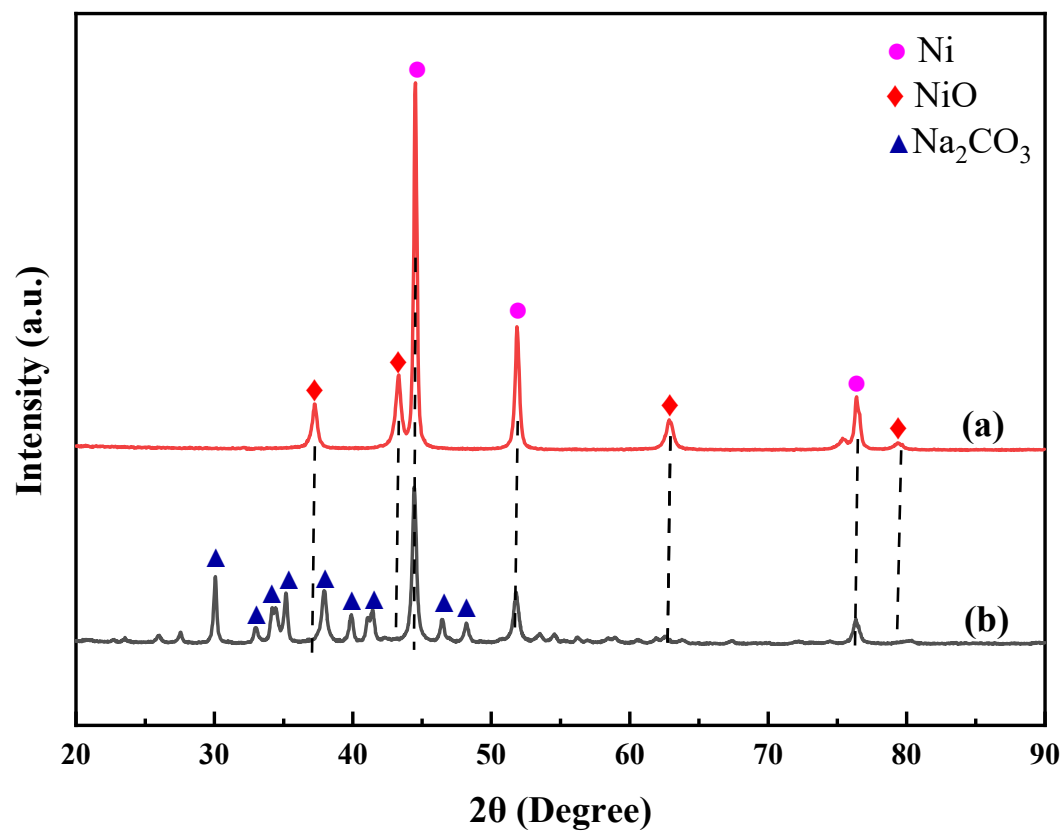


Figure S7. XRD pattern of nano-nickel catalyst (a) NiO-R1, (b) NiO-SG.

8. Formic acid yield for recycles experiments.

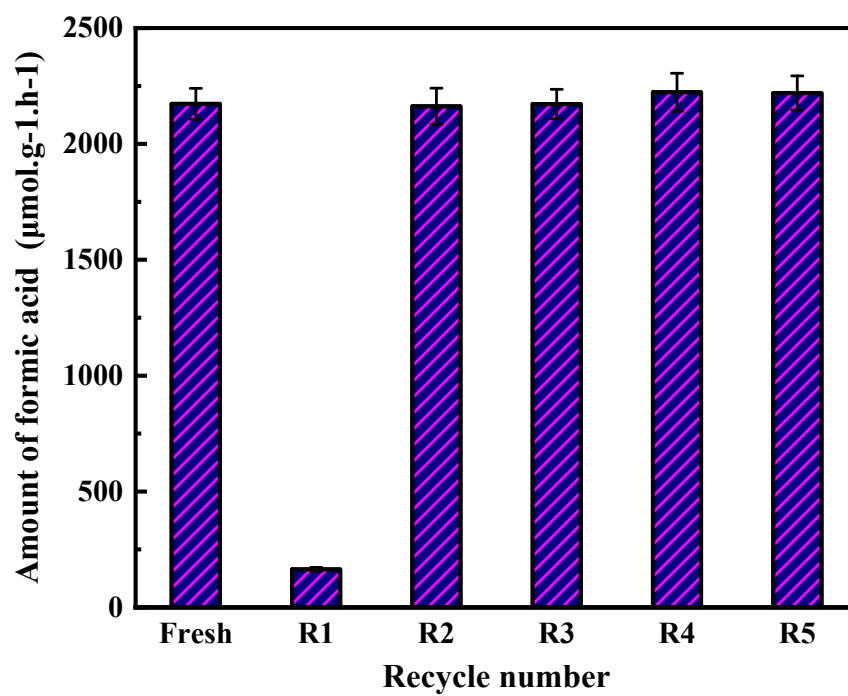


Figure S8. Formic acid yield in the recycles experiments.

Table S1. Results obtained from CO₂-TPD for basic sites

| Catalyst | Weak base (mmol/g-cat) | Moderate base (mmol/g-cat) | Strong base (mmol/g-cat) | Total basic strength (mmol/g-cat) |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| NiO-PM | 0.0012 | 0.0033 | 0.0056 | 0.0101 |
| NiO-HT | 0.0012 | 0.0080 | 0.0133 | 0.0225 |
| NiO-SG | - | - | 0.1079 | 0.1079 |
| NiO-DC | 0.0010 | 0.0006 | 0.0020 | 0.0036 |

10. Selected factors with their corresponding coded values

Table S2. Selected factors with their corresponding coded values

| Factor | Name | (-α) | -1 | 0 | +1 | (+α) |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| A | Temperature (°C) | 20.00 | 50.00 | 125.00 | 200.00 | 230.00 |
| B | Catalyst loading (g) | 0.0400 | 0.20 | 0.60 | 1.00 | 1.16 |
| C | Feed ratio P(CO₂/H₂) | 0.2000 | 0.50 | 1.25 | 2.00 | 2.30 |

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