## Space-confined growth of $Ag_3PO_4$ nano particles within $WS_2$ sheets: $Ag_3PO_4$ / $WS_2$ composite as a visible-light-driven photocatalyst for decomposing dyes

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Fig.S1 FESEM images of AW0.01 a) without ultrasonic treatment (side); b) with high - power ultrasonic treatment; c) without ultrasonic treatment (top).

We detected the morphology of  $Ag_3PO_4$  /WS<sub>2</sub> composite (AW0.01) using FESEM. FESEM image of AW0.01 without ultrasonic treatment is shown in Fig.S1a. The results indicate that the layer- by -layer structure

consisted of nano Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> particles and WS<sub>2</sub> sheets are formed. After high - power ultrasonic treatment (Fig.S1b), Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> nano particles sandwiched between WS<sub>2</sub> sheets are still be observed. Fig.S1c shows the morphology of AW0.01 from the top (without ultrasonic treatment). Though slight amounts of Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> nano particles are assembled together, most of the nano particles are uniformly dispersed on the surface of WS<sub>2</sub> sheets.



Fig. S2 The SEM image of pure Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>.



Fig.S3 The high-resolution XPS spectrum of W4f.



Fig. S4 The high-resolution XPS spectrum of S2p.



Fig.S5 Raman spectra of pure  $WS_2$  and AW0.01.



Fig.S6 FTIR spectra of a)  $WS_2$  sheets, b) pure  $Ag_3PO_4$  and c) AW0.01.



Fig.S7 UV-vis diffusive reflectance spectrum of pure Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>.



Fig.S8 (a) The absorption and degradation curves of  $WS_2$ ; (b) The XRD pattern of AW0.01 after four RhB degradation processes.



Fig. S9 Photocatalytic degradation curves of phenol solution over pure

 $Ag_3PO_4$  and AW0.01.



Fig.S10 XRD pattern of AW0.01 after 6- months storage.