## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

## Unsaturated metal sites-promoted approach to construct strongly coupled noble metal/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> nanosheets for efficiently thermo/photo-catalytic reduction

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**Fig. S1** Digital photograph of the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> nanosheets dispersion under UV light irradiation. The obvious color change of the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> nanosheets dispersion indicates the generation of Nb<sup>4+</sup> metal sites on the surface of the nanosheets.



Fig. S2 XPS spectra for O 1s of the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS before and after light illumination.



Fig. S3 XRD pattern of bulk KNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.



Fig. S4 Additional SEM images of bulk HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.



Fig. S5 SEM images of bulk KNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.



**Fig. S6** Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX) analysis of HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS and hybrid Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS composite.



Fig. S7 XPS survey spectra of the as-synthesized Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS hybrid composite.



**Fig. S8** High-resolution XPS spectra for Pd 3d of the Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS and Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>-Bulk samples.



Fig. S9 Control experiments for catalytic hydrogenation of 4-nitroaniline (4-NA) over the Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS composite under room temperature: without the addition of HCOONH<sub>4</sub> (A); reaction without Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS (B); reaction with the HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS (C), and the reaction with the addition of Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS and HCOONH<sub>4</sub> in inert atmosphere (D).

![](_page_5_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S10 High-resolution XPS spectra for Nb 3d (a) and O1s (b) of the blank  $HNb_3O_8$  NS and Pd/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS samples.

![](_page_5_Figure_2.jpeg)

Fig. S11 Typical TEM (a) and HRTEM image (b) of Pt/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS.

![](_page_5_Picture_4.jpeg)

Fig. S12 Typical TEM (a) and HRTEM image (b) of Au/HNb<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> NS.