

## Supporting Information

### One-step solvothermal fabrication of Cu@PANI core-shell nanospheres for hydrogen evolution

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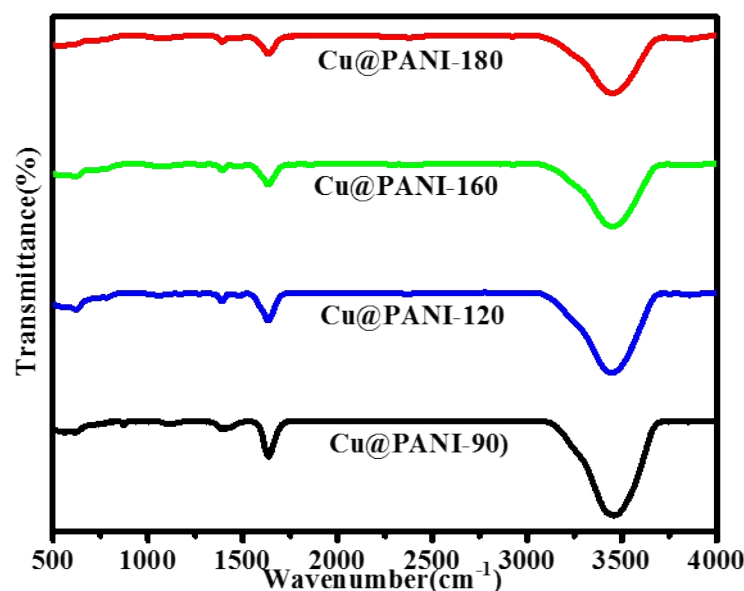
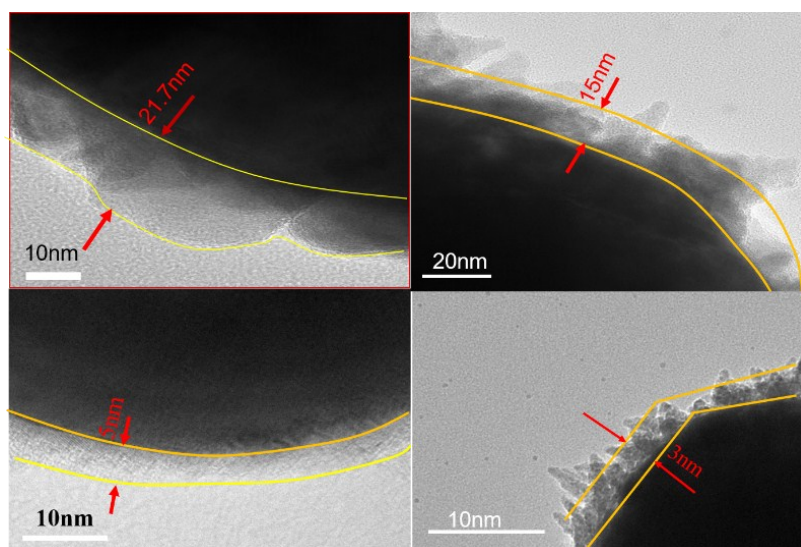


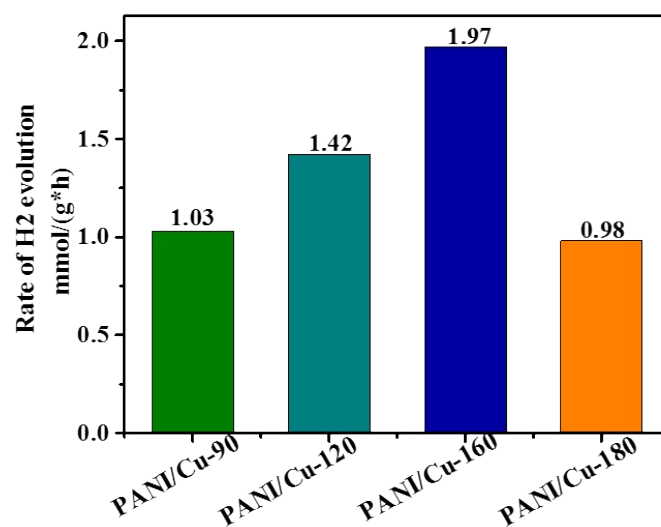
Fig. S1. FTIR spectra of the samples prepared under different temperature



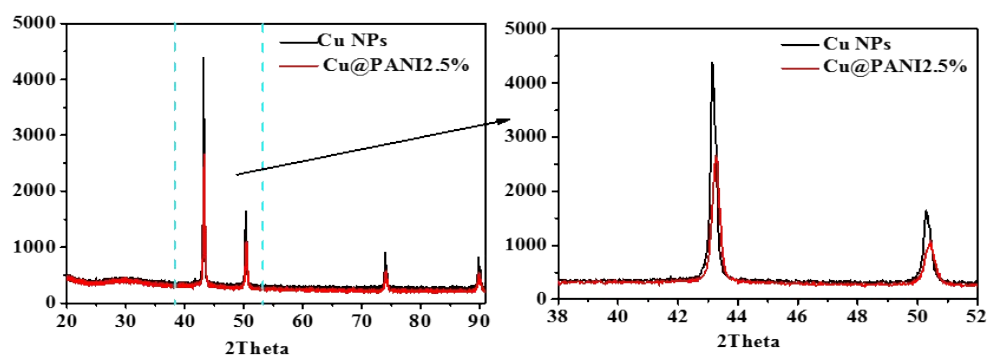
**Fig. S2.** TEM images for: (a)Cu/PANI-90; (b)Cu/PANI-120; (C)Cu/PANI-160; (d)Cu/PANI-180

**Table. S1.** Elemental analysis of Cu/PANI composites

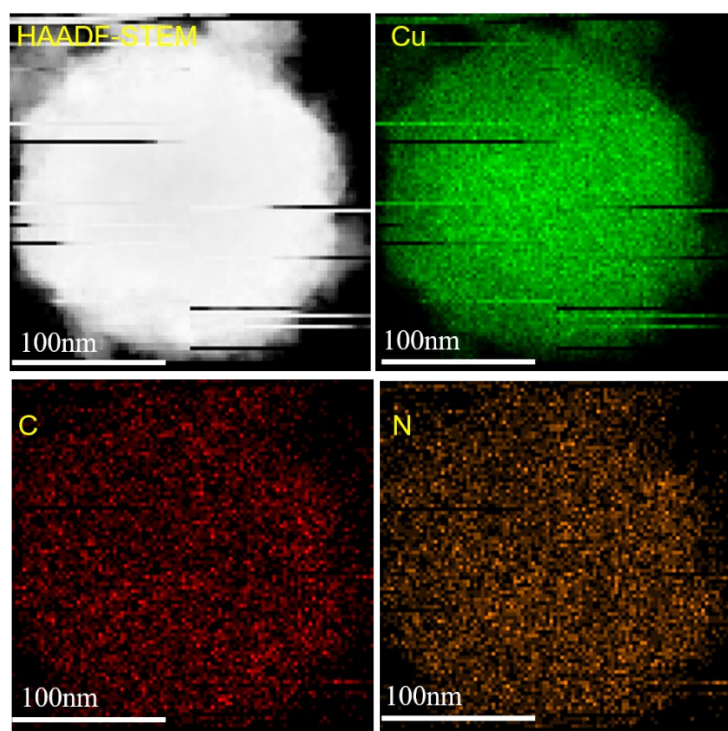
<div> <div>element content</div> <div>( wt%)</div> </div> <div>sample</div>	N	C
<b>Cu/PANI-180</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>1.62</b>
<b>Cu/PANI-160</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>1.66</b>
<b>Cu/PANI-120</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>1.82</b>
<b>Cu/PANI-90</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>1.92</b>



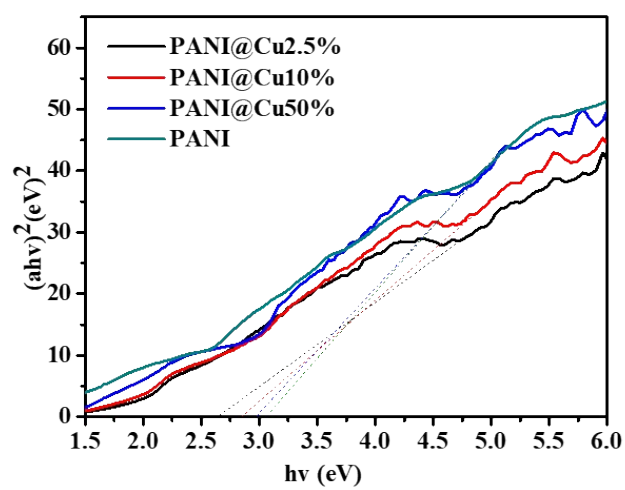
**Fig. S3.** Photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> evolution of Cu/PANI composites prepared at different temperature under solar light irradiation



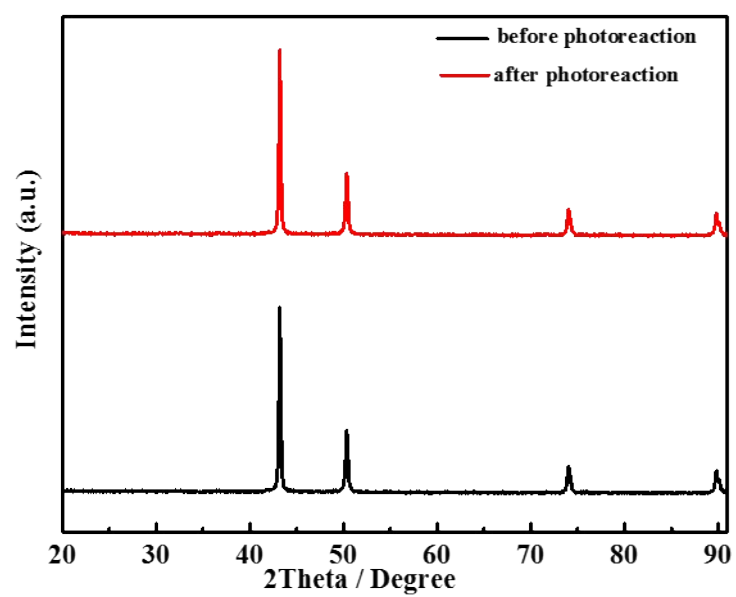
**Fig. S4.** XRD spectra of Cu NPs and Cu@PANI2.5%



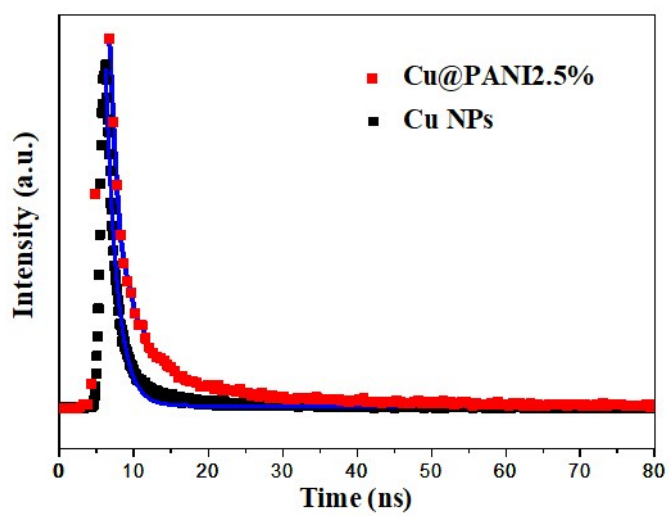
**Fig. S5.** HAADF-STEM and STEM-EDS elemental mapping images of Cu@PANI2.5% core-shell nanospheres



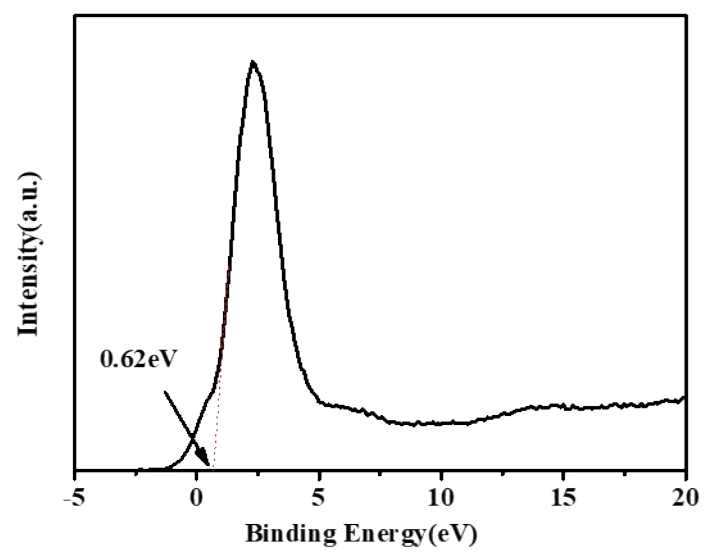
**Fig. S6.** Relationship of  $(ah\nu)^2$  vs.  $E$  (eV) of PANI and Cu@PANI core-shell nanospheres.



**Fig. S7.** XRD spectra of Cu@PANI2.5%



**Fig. S8.** Time-resolved PL decay profiles for Cu NPs and Cu@PANI2.5% core-shell nanospheres



**Fig. S9.** XPS valence band spectra of Cu@PANI2.5%