

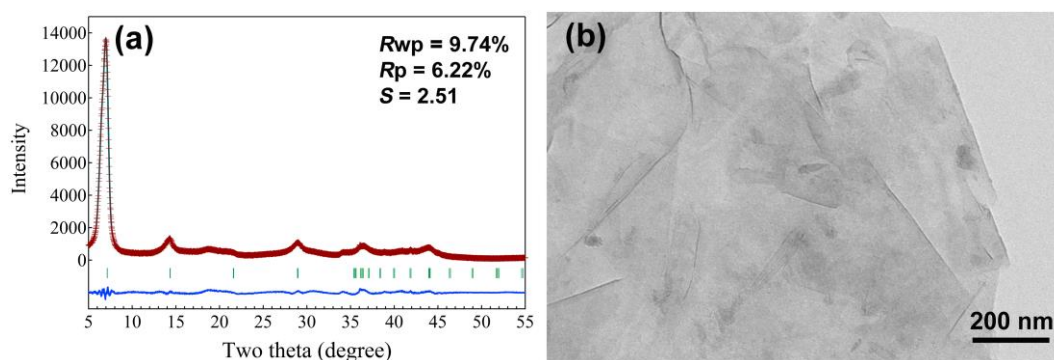
## Supplementary data

### Few-layer MXene $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$ supported Ni@C nanoflakes as catalyst for hydrogen desorption of $\text{MgH}_2$

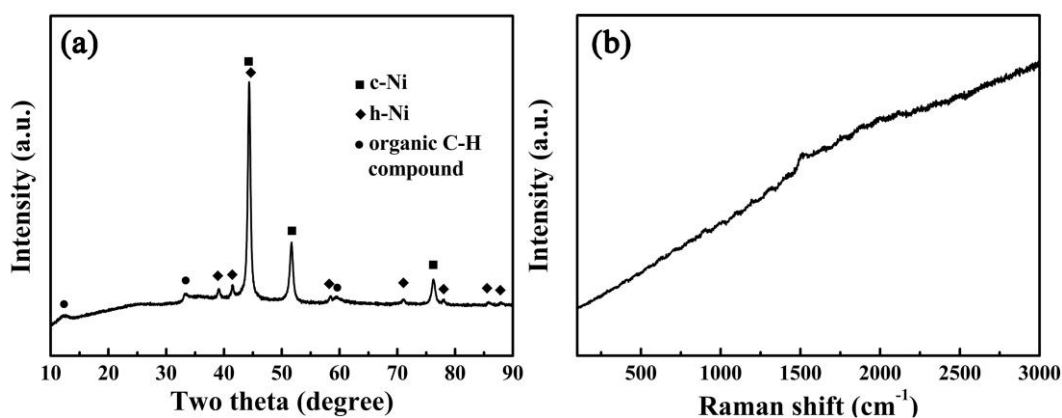
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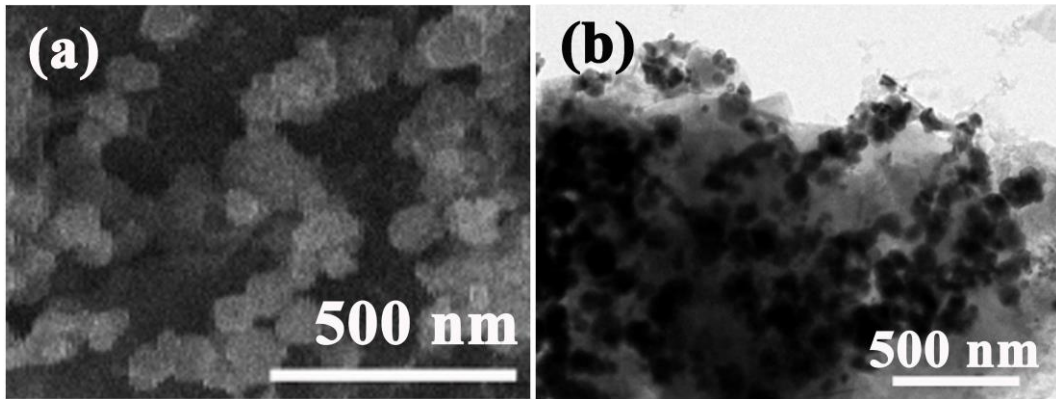
E-mail address: qazhang@ahut.edu.com (Q. Zhang)



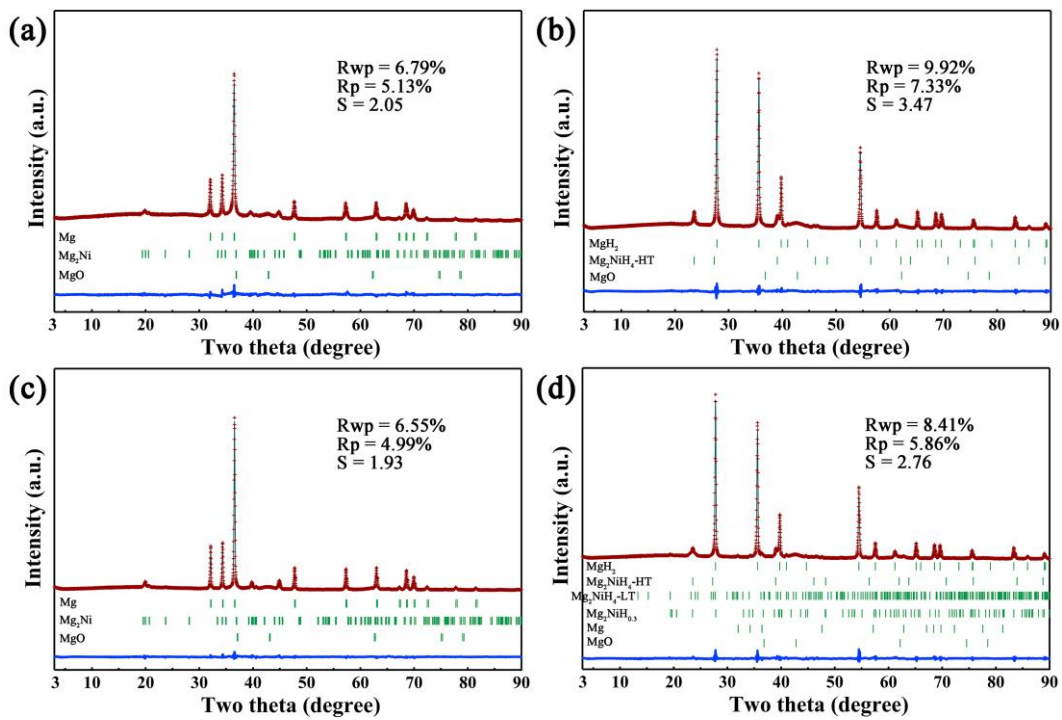
**Fig. S1.** (a) Rietveld refinement of the XRD pattern and (b) TEM image for as-prepared few-layer MXene  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$  sample. For the Rietveld refinement of XRD pattern, the structural model of MXene was taken from reference (C. Shi, M. Beidaghi, M. Naguibo, et al., Structure of nanocrystalline  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2$  MXene using atomic pair distribution function, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 2014, **112**, 125501.).



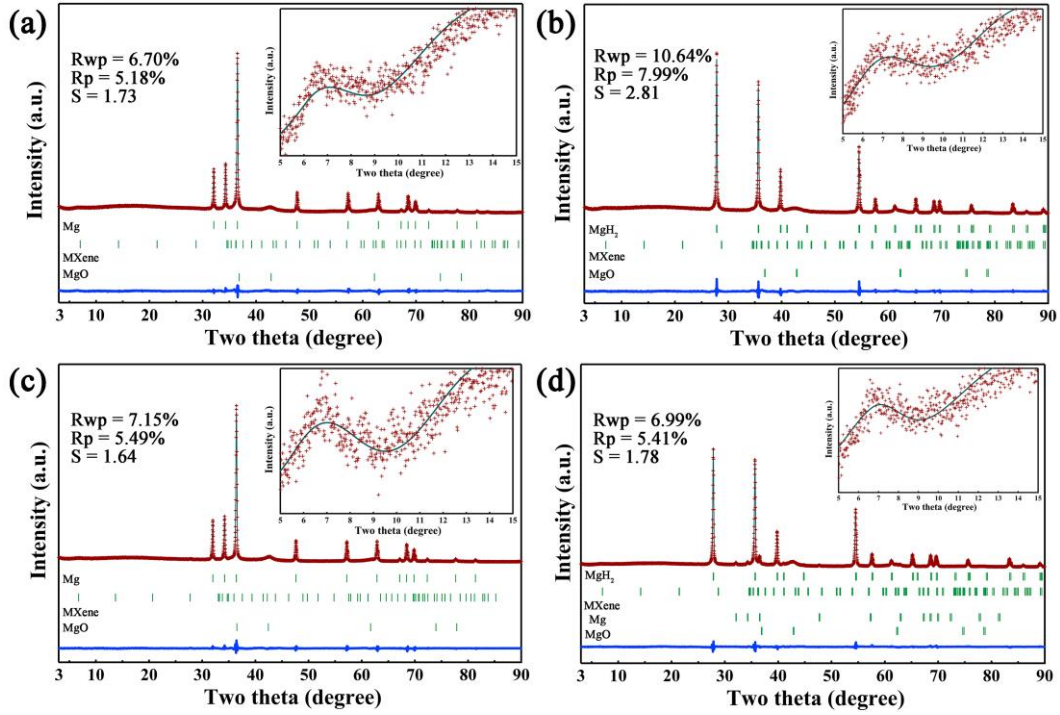
**Fig. S2.** (a) XRD pattern and (b) Raman spectrum of the dried product of solvothermal reaction of  $\text{NiCp}_2$  in 10 ml THF-PO before calcination, showing the formation of cubic and hexagonal Ni without carbon.



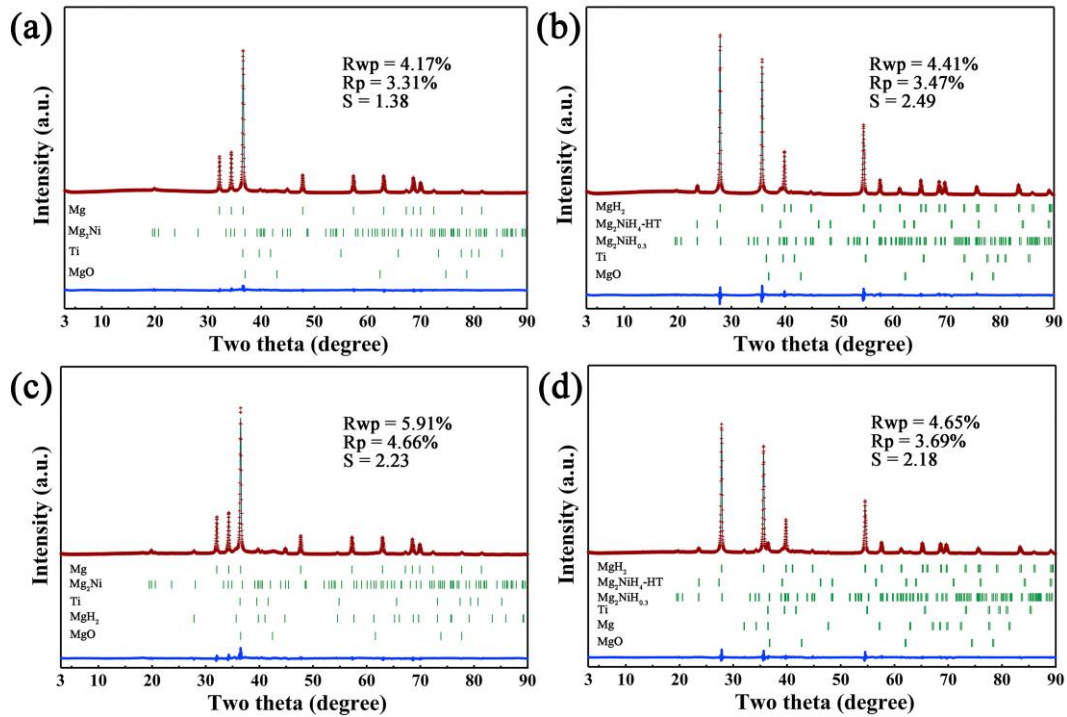
**Fig. S3.** (a) SEM and (b) TEM images of few-layer MXene  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$  supported Ni@C nanoflakes.



**Fig. S4.** Rietveld refinements of observed XRD patterns for the  $\text{MgH}_2$ -10 wt% Ni@C composite after the 1st desorption (a), 1st absorption (b), 50th desorption (c) and 50th absorption (d).



**Fig. S5.** Rietveld refinements of observed XRD patterns for the  $\text{MgH}_2$ -10 wt% FL- $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$  composite after the 1st desorption (a), 1st absorption (b), 50th desorption (c) and 50th absorption (d).



**Fig. S6.** Rietveld refinements of observed XRD patterns for the  $\text{MgH}_2$ -10 wt% Ni@C/FL- $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$  composite prepared by the excessive ball milling with a sample-to-ball weight ratio of 1:80 at 500 rpm for 24 h: after the 1st desorption (a), 1st absorption (b), 50th desorption (c) and 50th absorption (d).