

## **Achieving highly efficient electrocatalytic hydrogen evolution with Co-doped MoS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets**

Fengrui Sun,<sup>a</sup> Kebin Yang,<sup>a</sup> Xinbo Qin,<sup>a</sup> Weibing Wu,<sup>\*a</sup> and Yizhong Lu<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Jinan, Jinan, 250022, Shandong, China.

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: mse\_wuwb@ujn.edu.cn (W.B. Wu)

## Supplementary Figures

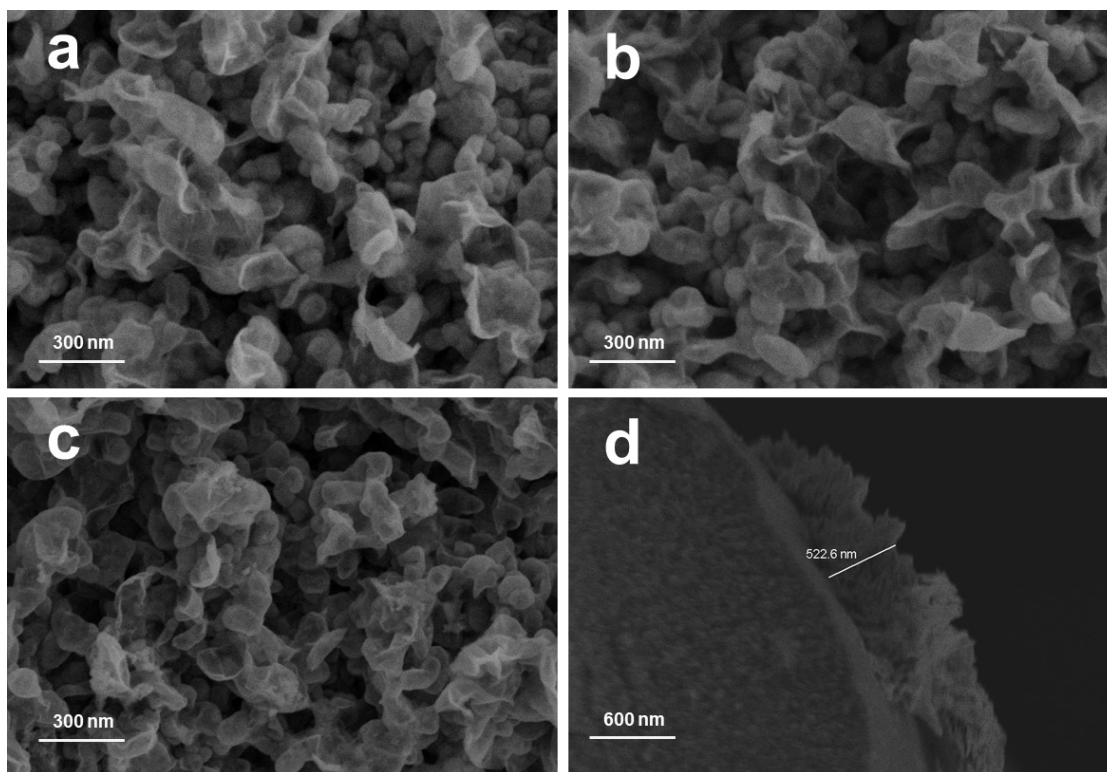


Figure S1. SEM images of samples (a) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-2, (c) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-3, and (d) Cross-sectional view of the Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-3.

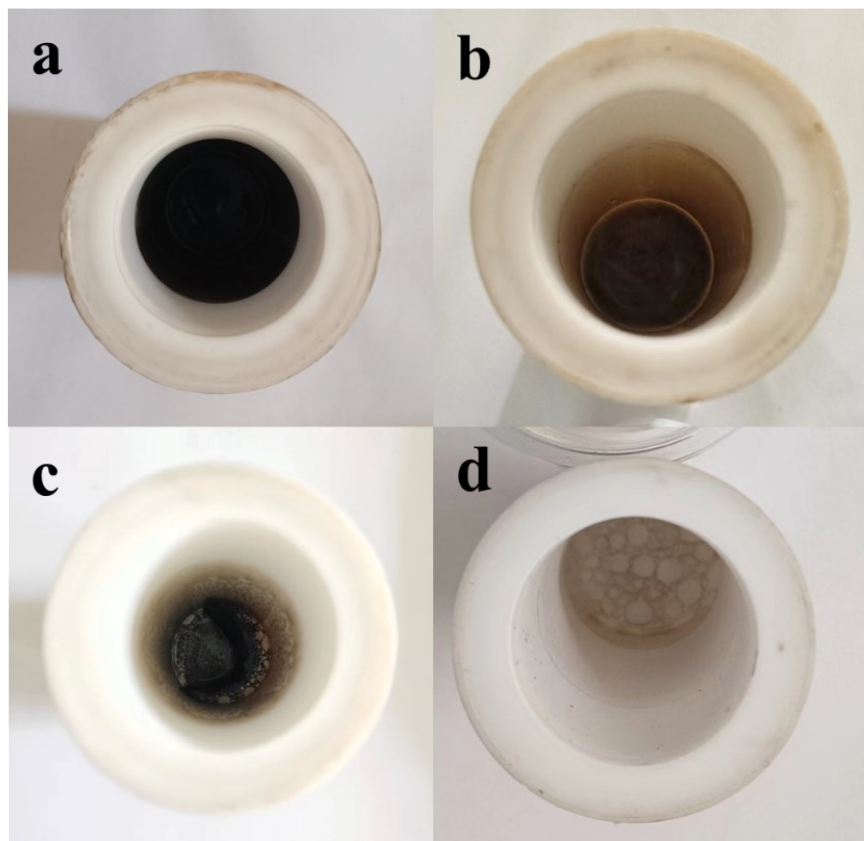


Figure S2. Internal state of the reaction autoclave of (a) Co-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (c) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-2, and (d) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-3.

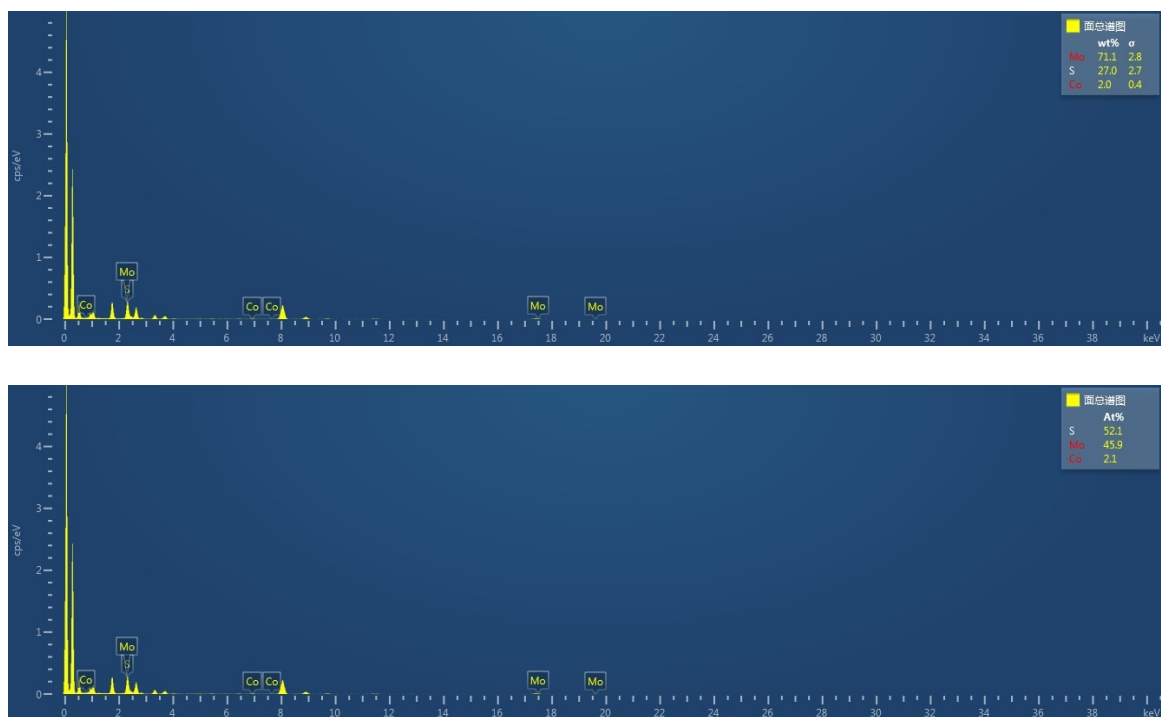


Figure S3.TEM-DES results

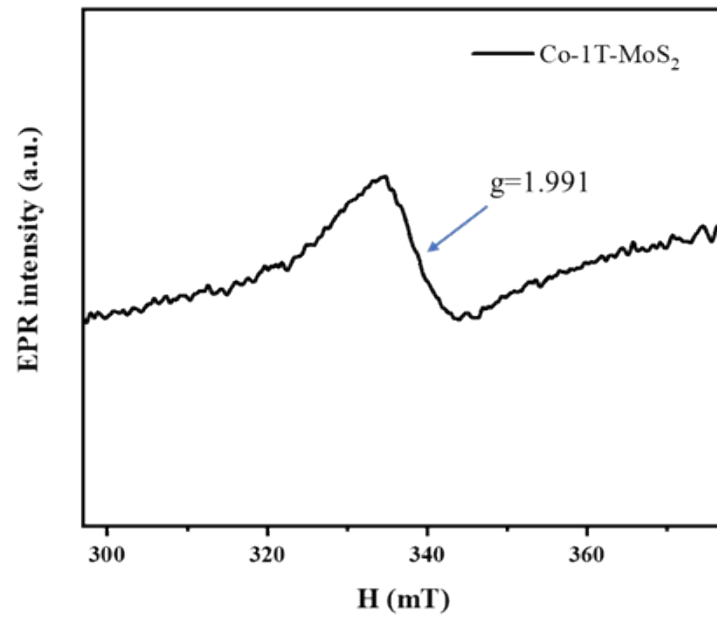


Figure S4. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectra

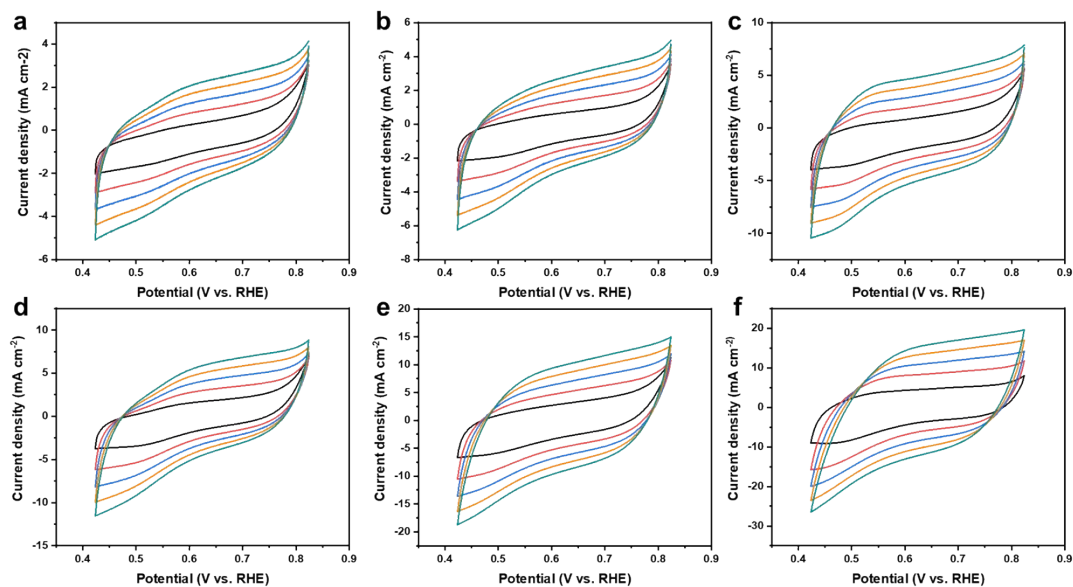


Figure S5. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) plots at different scan rates (20, 40, 60, 80 and 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ ) of (a)  $\text{MoS}_2$ -blank, (b)  $\text{Co-MoS}_2$ , (c)  $1\text{T-MoS}_2$ , (d)  $\text{Co-1T-MoS}_2$ , (e)  $\text{Co-1T-MoS}_2\text{-2}$ , and (f)  $\text{Co-1T-MoS}_2\text{-3}$  used to calculate the double layer capacitance ( $C_{dl}$ ).

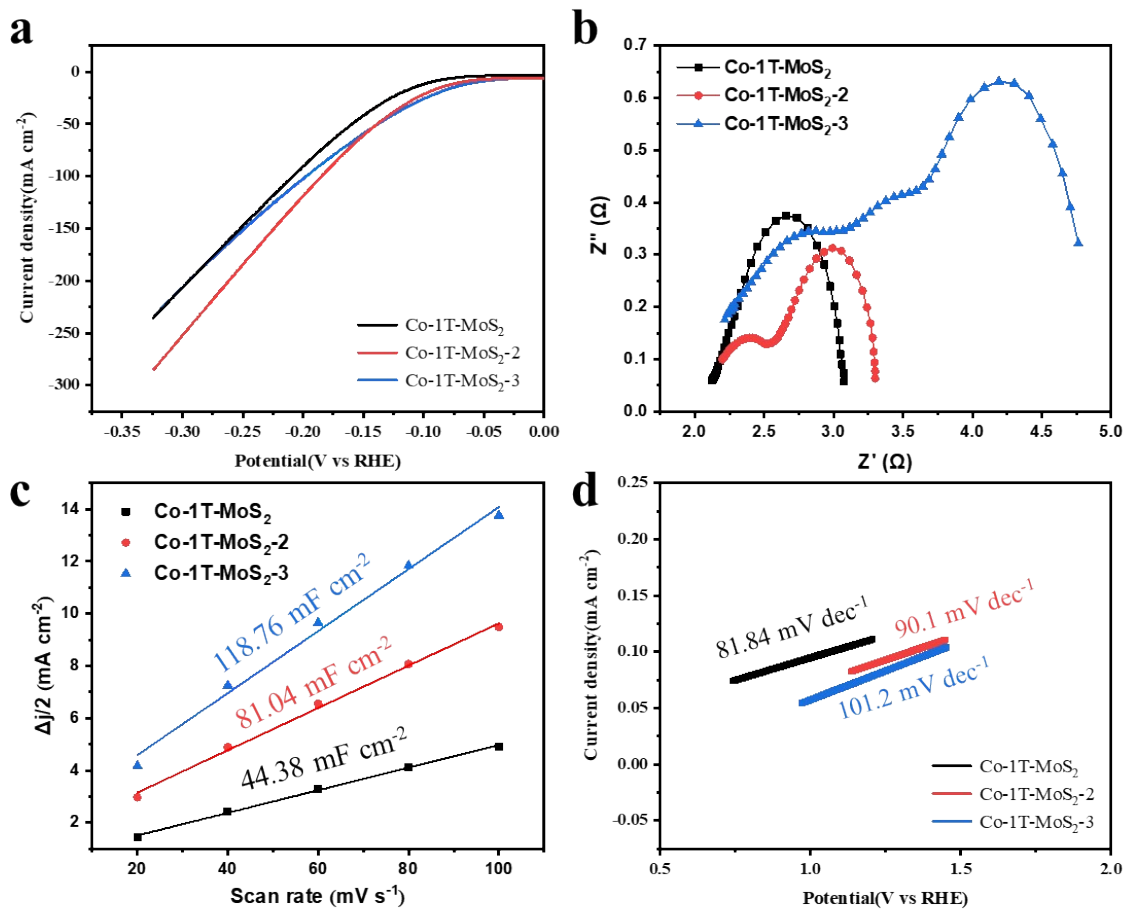


Figure S6. Electrochemical HER performance of Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-2, and Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-3. (a) Polarization curves at the range from -0.9 V to -1.25 V vs Hg/HgO by using a scan rate of 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup> with 90% iR compensation. (b) Nyquist plots of electrochemical impedance spectra. (c) Linear regression of current densities at different scan rates for the calculation of C<sub>dl</sub>. (d) Corresponding Tafel charts.

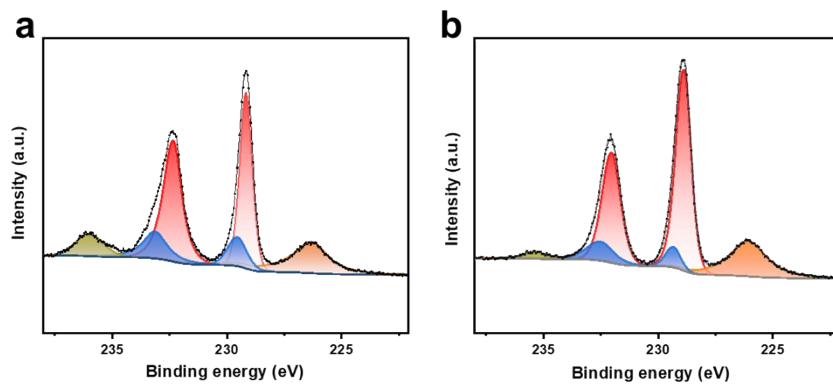


Figure S7. High-resolution XPS Mo 3d spectra after the durability test. (a) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-2, and (b) 1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>.

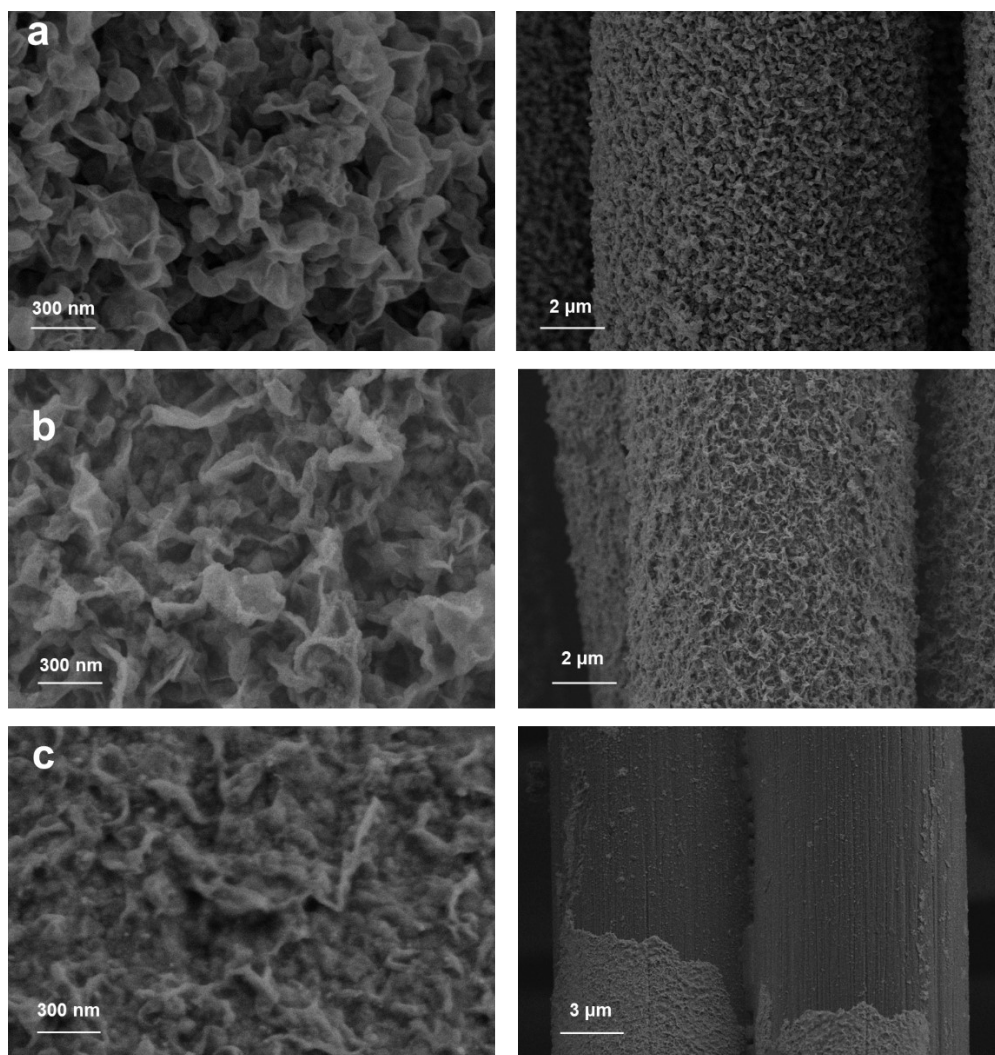


Figure S8. SEM images of samples after the durability test.(a) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-2, (b) 1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-210°C.

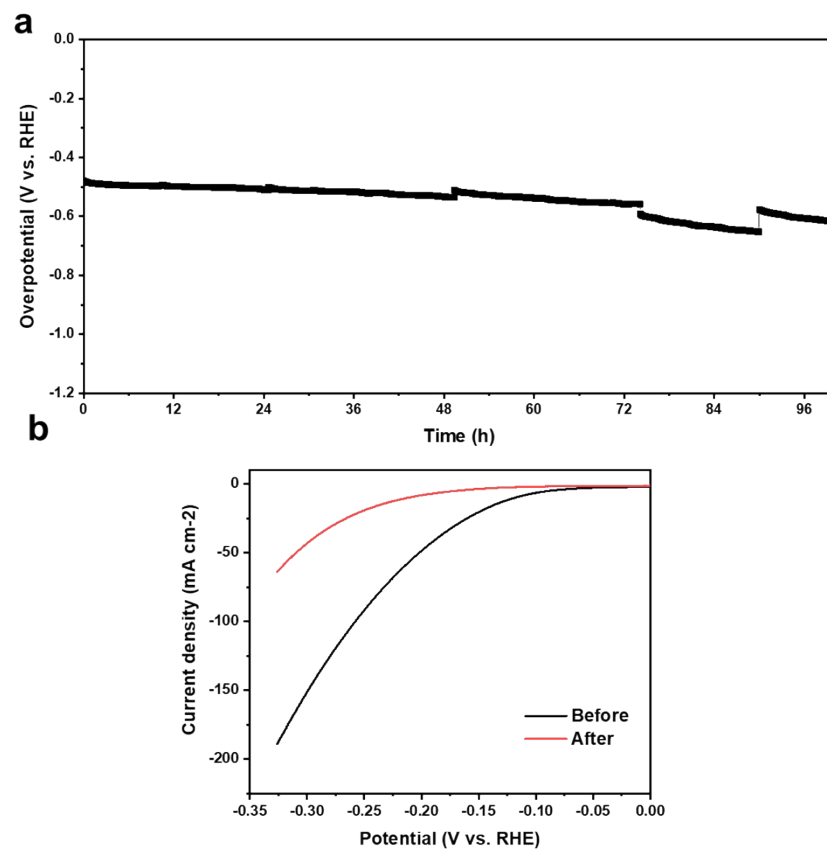


Figure S9. (a) Chronopotentiometry durability curve of Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-210°C at 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for 100 h. (b) Polarization curves of Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>-210°C before and after stability tests.

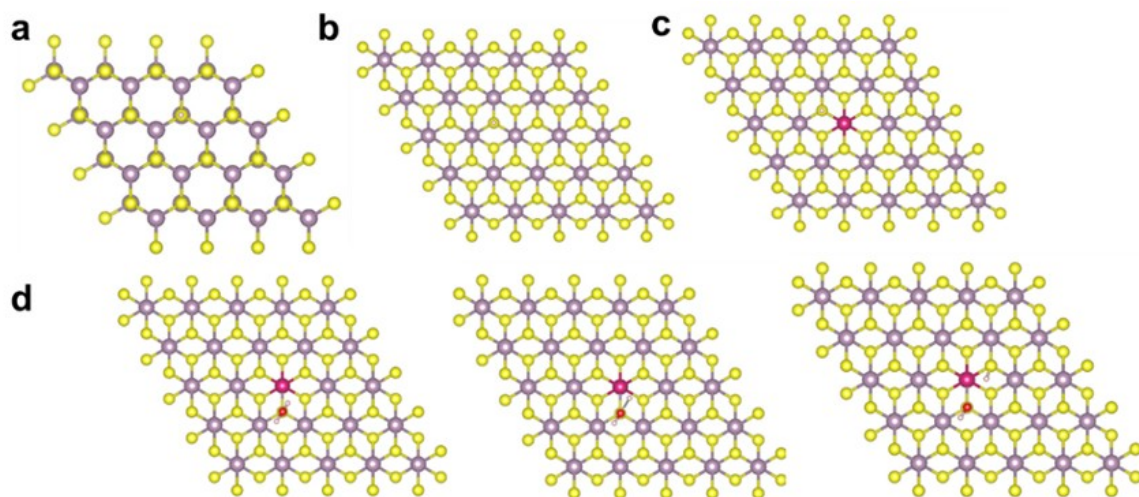


Figure S10. The optimized calculation models of H\* adsorption on (a) 2H-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) 1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub> (d) The optimized calculation models of H<sub>2</sub>O dissociation on Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub> (yellow atom is S atom, purple atom is Mo atom, pink atom is Co, red atom is O, and white atom is H).

## Supplementary Table

Table S1. Comparison of HER performance of Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub> with other MoS<sub>2</sub>-based electrocatalysts.

| Ref No.   | Catalyst                                             | Electrolyte                         | $\eta_{10}$<br>(mV) | 1T-phase<br>content (%) | Tafel<br>slope<br>(mV/dec) | R <sub>ct</sub><br>( $\Omega$ ) | Stability                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| This work | Co-1T-MoS <sub>2</sub> -2                            | 1M KOH                              | 69                  | 83                      | 81.84                      | 0.98                            | 100 h @100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> |
| 1         | 1T/2H-MoS <sub>2</sub> @CC                           | 1M KOH                              | 135                 | 88                      | 84.5                       | -                               | 100 h @100 mA                  |
| 2         | P-1T-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 153                 | 82                      | 43                         | 16                              | 1000 cycles                    |
| 3         | CoMoS-C                                              | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 135                 | -                       | 50                         | 14.3                            | 1000 cycles                    |
| 4         | Co-1T-MoS <sub>2</sub> -bpe                          | 1M KOH                              | 118                 | 80                      | 83                         | -                               | 10 h @100 mA                   |
| 5         | R-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                   | 1M KOH                              | 111                 | 34                      | 105                        | 21.73                           | 5000 cycles                    |
| 6         | Co-MoS <sub>2</sub> -1.4                             | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 59                  | 79.2                    | 32                         | -                               | 1000 cycles                    |
| 7         | 1T-MoS <sub>2</sub> (SBH+DMF)                        | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 248                 | 79.4                    | 56                         | 121                             | 48 h @ 260 mV                  |
| 8         | 1T-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                  | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 136                 | 70                      | 45                         | 3.3                             | 12 h @10 mV                    |
| 9         | Co <sub>x</sub> Mo <sub>1-x</sub> S <sub>2</sub>     | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 357                 | -                       | 120                        | -                               | 10 h @ 3800 mV                 |
| 10        | Co-1T-MoS <sub>2</sub>                               | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 84                  | -                       | 47                         | 53                              | -                              |
| 11        | CTAB/MoS <sub>2</sub>                                | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 182                 | 50                      | 45.9                       | 6.09                            | 3000 cycles                    |
| 12        | MA-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                  | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 270                 | 70                      | 56                         | 386                             | 1000 cycles                    |
| 13        | 1T/2H-MoS <sub>2</sub> /NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 159                 | 61.16                   | 55.5                       | 12.2                            | 1000 cycles                    |
| 14        | Pt:Ru(1:4)-MoS <sub>2</sub>                          | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 84                  | -                       | 68.5                       | 88.3                            | 10h @10mAcm <sup>-2</sup>      |
| 15        | 2Ru-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                 | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 70                  | -                       | 110                        | -                               | 10h @10mA                      |
| 16        | MoS <sub>2</sub> /S(1:1)                             | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 151                 | 55                      | 38                         | 1.39                            | 1000 cycles                    |
| 17        | Cl-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                  | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 158                 | -                       | 60.8                       | 35.1                            | -                              |
| 18        | ZnSAs/1T-MoS <sub>2</sub>                            | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 177                 | -                       | 84.9                       | 18.41                           | 3000 cycles                    |
| 19        | Ce <sub>0.1</sub> -MoS <sub>2</sub>                  | 0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 113                 | -                       | 57.36                      | 9.34                            | 10h @10mA                      |
| 20        | Ni-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                  | 1M KOH                              | 124                 | 69                      | 64                         | -                               | 1000 cycles                    |
| 21        | Ni-MoS <sub>2</sub>                                  | 1M KOH                              | 98                  | -                       | 60                         | -                               | 2000 cycles                    |

Table S2. Comparison of ICP test results for Co-MoS<sub>2</sub> and Co-1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>

| Sample                 | M <sub>0</sub> (g) | V <sub>0</sub> (mL) | Test elements | C <sub>0</sub> (mg/L) | f | C <sub>1</sub> (mg/L) | C <sub>x</sub> (mg/kg) | W(%)  | n <sub>Co/Mo</sub> (%) |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Co-MoS <sub>2</sub>    | 0.0101             | 25                  | Mo            | 3.819                 | 1 | 3.819                 | 9452.970               | 0.945 | 1.35                   |
|                        | 0.0101             | 25                  | S             | 2.302                 | 1 | 2.302                 | 5698.020               | 0.570 |                        |
|                        | 0.0101             | 25                  | Co            | 31.819 (ug/L)         | 1 | 31.819                | 78759.901 (ug/kg)      | 0.008 |                        |
| Co-1T-MoS <sub>2</sub> | 0.0123             | 25                  | Co            | 1.305                 | 1 | 1.305                 | 2652.439               | 0.265 | 7.8                    |
|                        | 0.0123             | 25                  | S             | 19.124                | 1 | 19.124                | 38869.919              | 3.887 |                        |
|                        | 0.0123             | 25                  | Mo            | 5.392                 | 5 | 26.960                | 54796.748              | 5.480 |                        |

m<sub>0</sub> (g): The quality of the sample taken when the sample is analyzed; V<sub>0</sub> (mL): After the sample is digested, the volume of the fixed volume; C<sub>0</sub> (mg/L): Test the elemental concentration of the solution; f: Dilution factor; C<sub>1</sub> (mg/L): Elemental concentration of the digestion solution/original sample solution; C<sub>x</sub> (mg/kg) & W(%): Elemental content of the sample; C<sub>x</sub>(ug/kg)=C<sub>0</sub>\*f\*V<sub>0</sub>\*10<sup>-3</sup>/m<sub>0</sub>\*10<sup>-3</sup>=C<sub>1</sub>\*V<sub>0</sub>/m<sub>0</sub>; W(%)=C<sub>x</sub>/10<sup>-9</sup>\*100%

- Kong, W.; Li, C.; Wu, W. A supercritical growth strategy for 1T/2H mixed-phase MoS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets of high activity and stability. *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* **2023**, *48* (81), 31582-31589.
- Yin, Y.; Han, J.; Zhang, Y.; Zhang, X.; Xu, P.; Yuan, Q.; Samad, L.; Wang, X.; Wang, Y.; Zhang, Z. J. J. o. t. A. C. S. Contributions of phase, sulfur vacancies, and edges to the hydrogen evolution reaction catalytic activity of porous molybdenum disulfide nanosheets. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2016**, *138* (25), 7965-7972.
- Dai, X.; Du, K.; Li, Z.; Liu, M.; Ma, Y.; Sun, H.; Zhang, X.; Yang, Y. J. A. a. m. Co-doped MoS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets with the dominant CoMoS phase coated on carbon as an excellent electrocatalyst for hydrogen evolution. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2015**, *7* (49), 27242-27253.
- Liu, H. J.; Zhang, S.; Chai, Y. M.; Dong, B. J. A. C. Ligand Modulation of Active Sites to Promote Cobalt-Doped 1T-MoS<sub>2</sub> Electrocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution in Alkaline Media. *Angew. Chem.* **2023**, *135* (48), e202313845.
- Anjum, M. A. R.; Jeong, H. Y.; Lee, M. H.; Shin, H. S.; Lee, J. S. J. A. M. Efficient hydrogen evolution reaction catalysis in alkaline media by all-in-one MoS<sub>2</sub> with multifunctional active sites. *Adv. Mater.* **2018**, *30* (20), 1707105.
- Jin, Q.; Liu, N.; Dai, C.; Xu, R.; Wu, B.; Yu, G.; Chen, B.; Du, Y. J. A. E. M. H<sub>2</sub>-Directing Strategy on In Situ Synthesis of Co-MoS<sub>2</sub> with Highly Expanded Interlayer for Elegant HER Activity and its Mechanism. *Adv. Energy Mater.* **2020**, *10* (20), 2000291.
- Venkateshwaran, S.; Ajith, A.; Duraisamy, V.; Krishnan, A.; Senthil Kumar, S. M. J. I. C. Tailoring of 1T Phase-Domain MoS<sub>2</sub> Active Sites with Bridging S<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>/Apical S<sup>2-</sup> Phase-Selective Precursor Modulation for Enriched HER Kinetics. *Inorg. Chem.* **2023**, *62* (2), 841-852.
- Li, J.; Listwan, A.; Liang, J.; Shi, F.; Li, K.; Jia, J. J. C. E. J. High proportion of 1T phase MoS<sub>2</sub> prepared by a simple solvothermal method for high-efficiency electrocatalytic hydrogen evolution. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2021**, *422*, 130100.
- Pan, J.; Song, C.; Wang, X.; Yuan, X.; Fang, Y.; Guo, C.; Zhao, W.; Huang, F. J. I. C. F. Intermediate bands of MoS<sub>2</sub> enabled by Co doping for enhanced hydrogen evolution. *Inorg. Chem. Front.* **2017**, *4* (11), 1895-1899.
- Qiao, W.; Xu, W.; Xu, X.; Wu, L.; Yan, S.; Wang, D. J. A. A. E. M. Construction of active orbital via single-atom cobalt anchoring on the surface of 1T-MoS<sub>2</sub> basal plane toward efficient hydrogen evolution. *ACS Appl. Energy Mater.* **2020**, *3* (3), 2315-2322.
- Sheng, M.; Bin, X.; Yang, Y.; Tang, Y.; Que, W. J. M. L. Defect engineering-driven phase structure design of 2H@1T MoS<sub>2</sub> for electrochemical hydrogen evolution reaction. *Mater. Lett.* **2022**, *311*, 131624.
- Venkateshwaran, S.; Josline, M. J.; Kumar, S. M. S. J. I. J. o. H. E. Fine-tuning interlayer spacing in MoS<sub>2</sub> for enriching 1T phase via alkylated ammonium ions for electrocatalytic hydrogen evolution reaction. *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* **2021**, *46* (12), 8377-8390.
- Hu, W.; Liu, H.; Dong, W.; Munir, H. A.; Fan, X.; Tian, X.; Pang, L. J. J. o. E. C. Ammonium ions intercalated 1T/2H-MoS<sub>2</sub> with increased interlayer spacing for high-efficient electrocatalytic hydrogen evolution reaction. *J. Electroanal. Chem.* **2023**, *949*, 117882.
- Shao, G.; Xu, J.; Gao, S.; Zhang, Z.; Liu, S.; Zhang, X.; Zhou, Z. J. C. E. Unsaturated bi-heterometal clusters in metal-vacancy sites of 2D MoS<sub>2</sub> for efficient hydrogen evolution. *J. Electroanal. Chem.* **2024**, *6* (3), e417.
- Gong, F.; Liu, Y.; Yu, W.; Peng, Z.; Xu, P.; Gong, L.; Zhang, Y.; Wang, G. J. C.; Communications, I. S. Design of ruthenium-doped MoS<sub>2</sub> microsphere with optimal electronic structure for enhanced hydrogen evolution. *Colloid Interface Sci. Commun.* **2021**, *45*, 100527.
- Wang, R.; Shao, Q.; Yuan, Q.; Sun, P.; Nie, R.; Wang, X. J. A. S. S. Direct growth of high-content 1T phase MoS<sub>2</sub> film by pulsed laser deposition for hydrogen evolution reaction. *Appl. Surf. Sci.* **2020**, *504*, 144320.
- Lim, J.; Kim, T.; Park, H.; Eom, J.; Jung, M.; Byeon, J.; Lim, Y.; Pak, S.; Cha, S. J. A. A. E. M. Surface Wettability-Mediated Enhancement of Hydrogen Evolution Reaction Performance in Electron-Doped MoS<sub>2</sub> Monolayers. *ACS Appl. Energy Mater.* **2024**, *7* (7), 2938-2945.
- Younan, S. M.; Li, Z.; Yan, X.; He, D.; Hu, W.; Demetrashvili, N.; Trulson, G.; Washington, A.; Xiao, X.; Pan, X. J. A. n. Zinc single atom confinement effects on catalysis in 1T-phase molybdenum disulfide. *ACS Nano* **2023**, *17* (2), 1414-1426.
- Kong, L.; Gao, C.; Liu, Z.; Pan, L.; Yin, P.; Lin, J. J. C. E. J. Cerium-doped 1 T phase enriched MoS<sub>2</sub> flower-like nanoflakes for boosting hydrogen evolution reaction. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2024**, *479*, 147725.
- Luo, R.; Luo, M.; Wang, Z.; Liu, P.; Song, S.; Wang, X.; Chen, M. J. N. The atomic origin of nickel-doping-induced catalytic enhancement in MoS<sub>2</sub> for electrochemical hydrogen production. *Nanoscale* **2019**, *11* (15), 7123-7128.
- Zhang, J.; Wang, T.; Liu, P.; Liu, S.; Dong, R.; Zhuang, X.; Chen, M.; Feng, X. J. E.; Science, E. Engineering water dissociation sites in MoS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets for accelerated electrocatalytic hydrogen production. *Energy Environ. Sci.* **2016**, *9* (9), 2789-2793.