

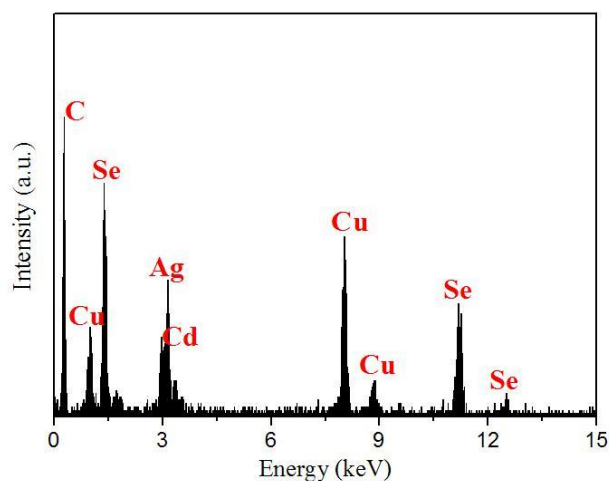
## Supplementary Information

### Controllable Synthesis of Metal Selenide Heterostructures Mediated by $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ Nanocrystals Acting as Catalysts

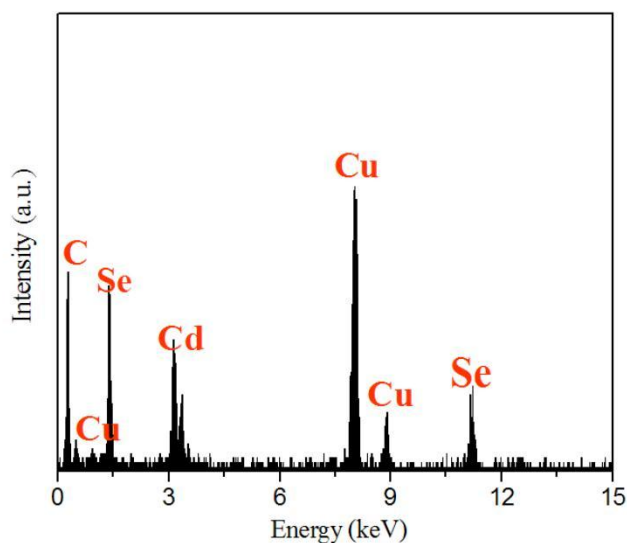
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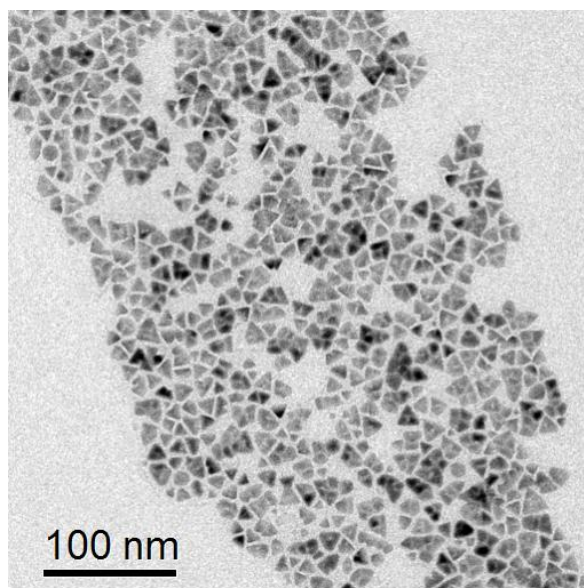
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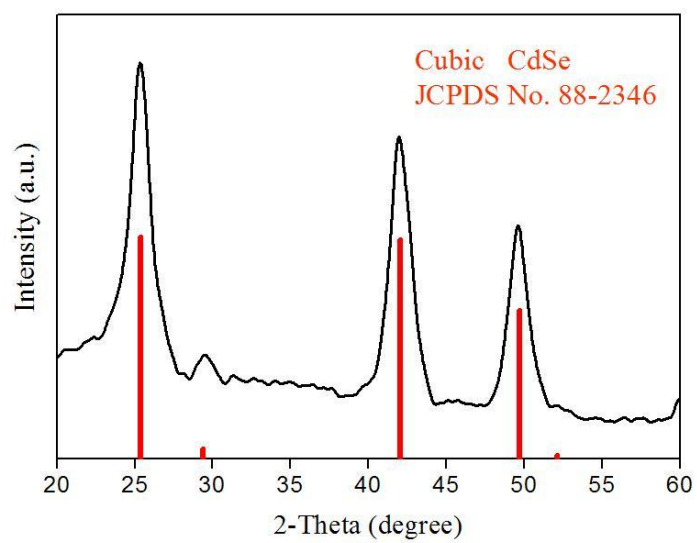
**Figure S1.** EDS spectrum of the  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$  tip area of an individual  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ -CdSe nanoheterostructure, showing the existence of Ag, Cd and Se.



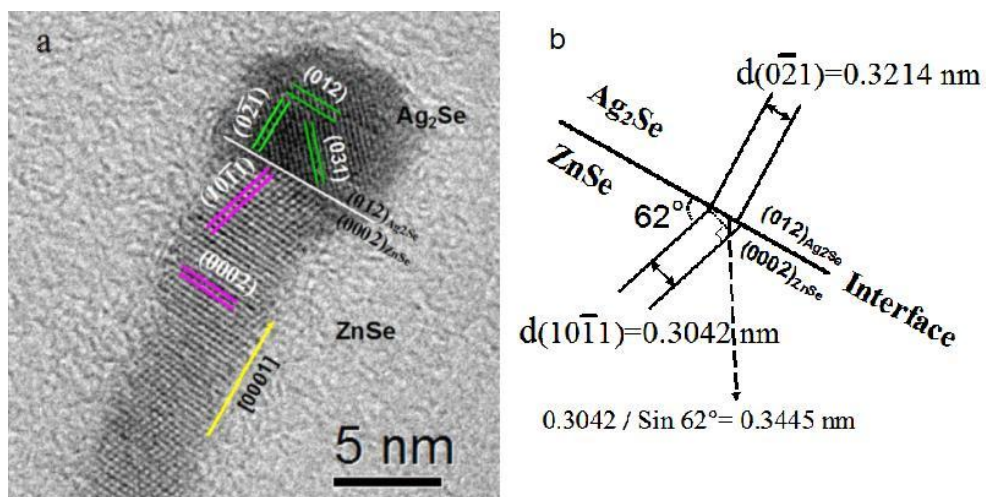
**Figure S2.** EDS spectrum of the CdSe segment of an individual  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ -CdSe nanoheterostructure, showing the existence of Cd and Se.



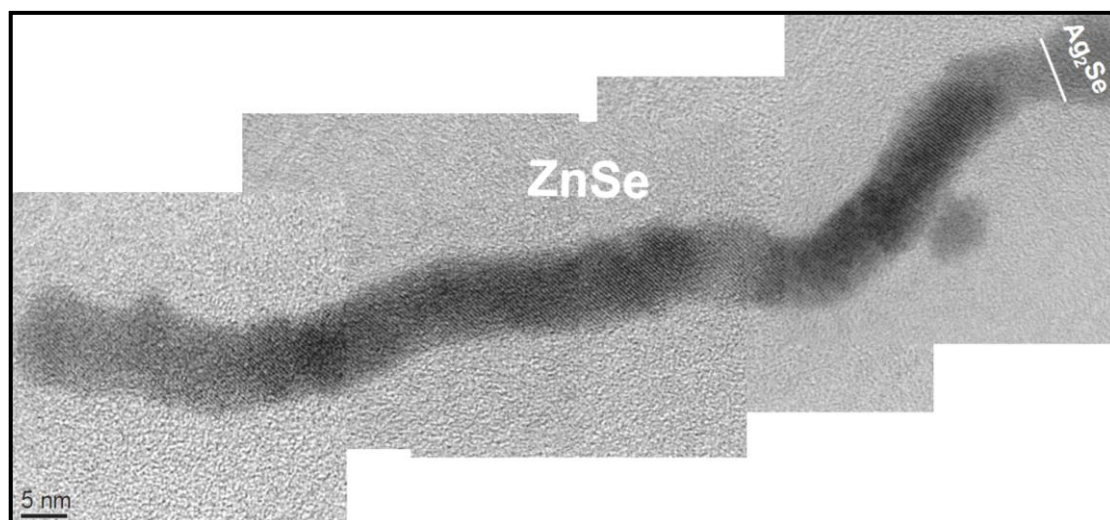
**Figure S3.** TEM micrograph of the cubic phase CdSe nanocrystals.



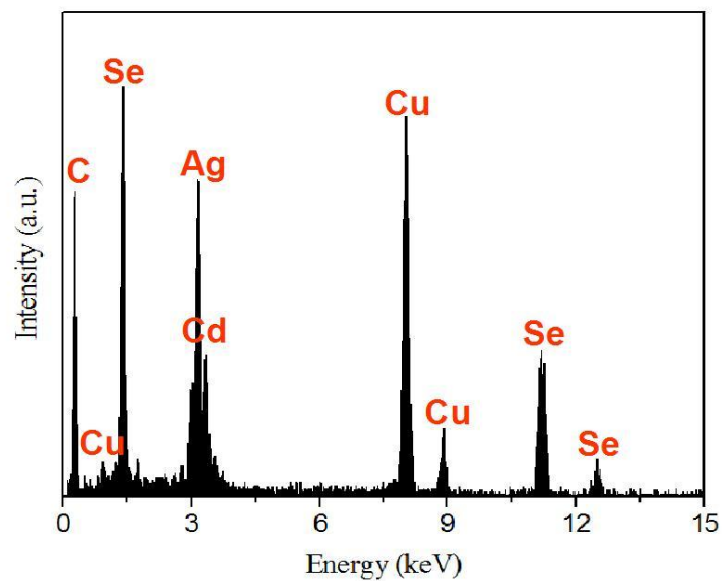
**Figure S4.** XRD pattern of the CdSe nanocrystals and standard data of cubic phase CdSe (JCPDS No. 88-2346).



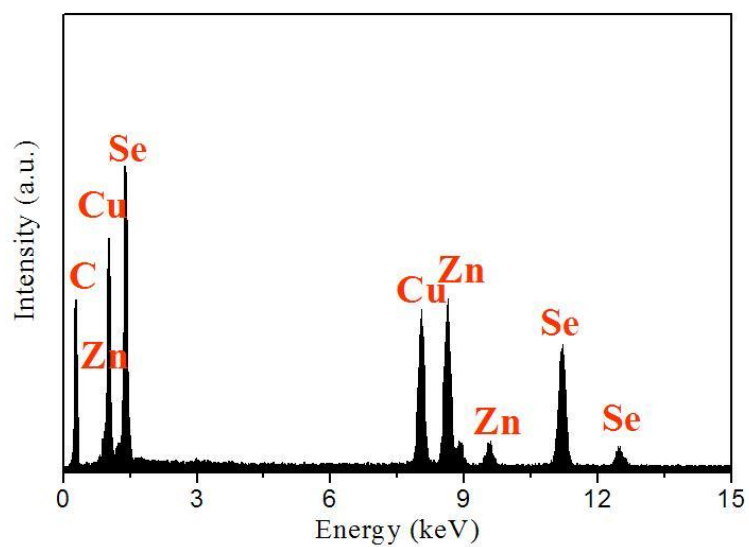
**Figure S5.** (a) HRTEM image of an individual Ag<sub>2</sub>Se-ZnSe nanoheterostructure; (b) schematical illustration of the calculation of the lattice mismatch between (021)<sub>Ag<sub>2</sub>Se</sub> and (1011)<sub>ZnSe</sub> at the interface.



**Figure S6.** HRTEM image of an individual tortuous Ag<sub>2</sub>Se-ZnSe nanoheterostructure (spliced by five HRTEM images taken from different segments of the nanoheterostructure)



**Figure S7.** EDS spectrum from the  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ -CdSe region in an  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ -CdSe-ZnSe nanoheterostructure, showing the existence of Ag, Cd and Se.



**Figure S8.** EDS spectrum from the ZnSe tail in an  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ -CdSe-ZnSe nanoheterostructure, showing the existence of Zn and Se.

**Table S1.** The calculated lattice mismatches of the possible plane-couplings for  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$  and the second phase ( $\text{CdSe}$  or  $\text{ZnSe}$ ) in present work

	$\text{CdSe}$ ( $10\bar{1}0$ )	$\text{CdSe}$ (0002)	$\text{ZnSe}$ ( $10\bar{1}0$ )	$\text{ZnSe}$ (0002)
$\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ (002)	0.8%	40.0%	8.5%	36.2%
$\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$ (012)	34.5%	11.1%	39.5%	6.7%