

Supporting Information for

## 2D CoOOH Sheet Encapsulated Ni<sub>2</sub>P into Tubular-Arrays Realizing 1000 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>-Level-Current-Density Hydrogen Evolution over 100 Hours in Neutral Water

Shucong Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Wenbin Wang<sup>2</sup>, Feilong Hu<sup>1</sup>, Yan Mi<sup>1,\*</sup>, Shuzhe Wang<sup>2</sup>, Youwen Liu<sup>2,\*</sup>, Xiaomeng Ai<sup>3</sup>, Jiakun Fang<sup>3</sup>, Huiqiao Li<sup>2</sup>, and Tianyou Zhai<sup>2,\*</sup>

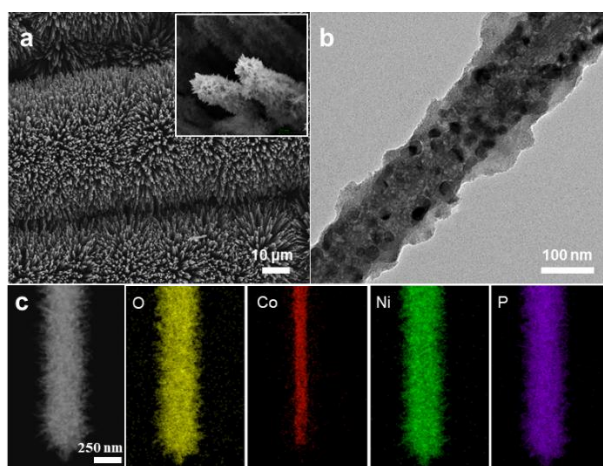
<sup>1</sup>Guangxi Key Laboratory of Chemistry and Engineering of Forest Products, and School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Guangxi University for Nationalities, Nanning, Guangxi 530008, People's Republic of China

<sup>2</sup>State Key Laboratory of Material Processing and Die & Mould Technology, and School of Materials Science and Engineering, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, Hubei, 430074, People's Republic of China

<sup>3</sup>State Key Lab of Advanced Electromagnetic Engineering and Technology, and School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, Hubei, 430074, People's Republic of China

\*Corresponding authors. E-mail: zhai@hust.edu.cn (Tianyou Zhai); ywliu@hust.edu.cn (Youwen Liu); miyan@gxun.edu.cn (Yan Mi)

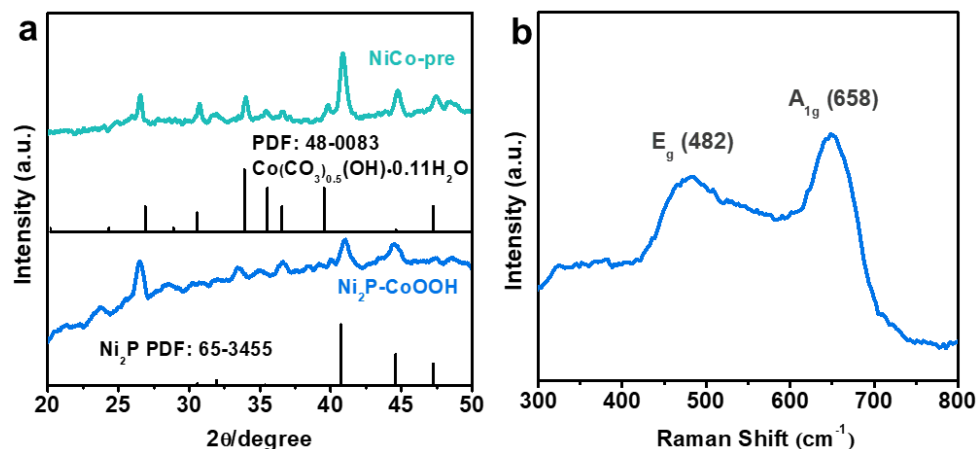
### S1 Characterization of NiCo-pre



**Fig. S1 Characterization of the NiCo-pre.** (a) The SEM and high-magnified SEM images of NiCo-pre. (b) TEM of the NiCo-pre. (c) The elemental mapping of NiCo-pre shows distribution of elements. SEM shows nanowires with rough surface are highly oriented and vertically rooted on the carbon fibers with distinctive gaps between nanowires. TEM image shows many nanoparticles on the surface of

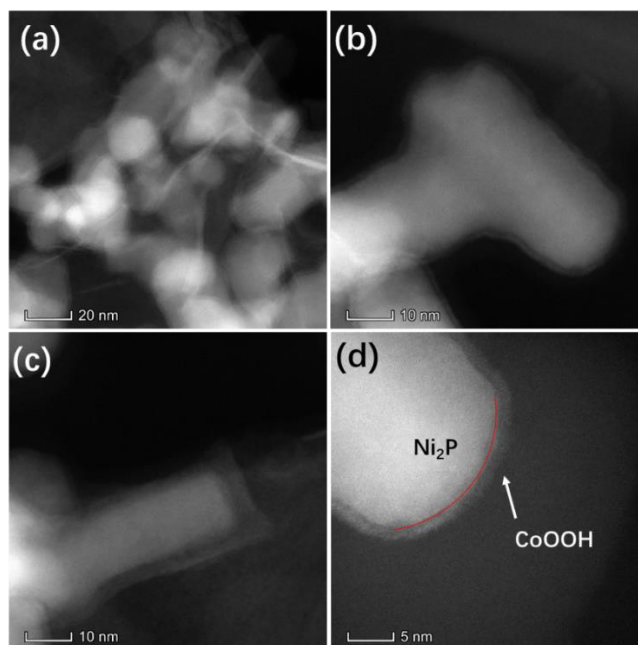
nanowires. Interestingly, the core-shell structure can be observed clearly from elemental mapping.

### S2 XRD Patterns and Raman Spectrum of the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH and NiCo-pre



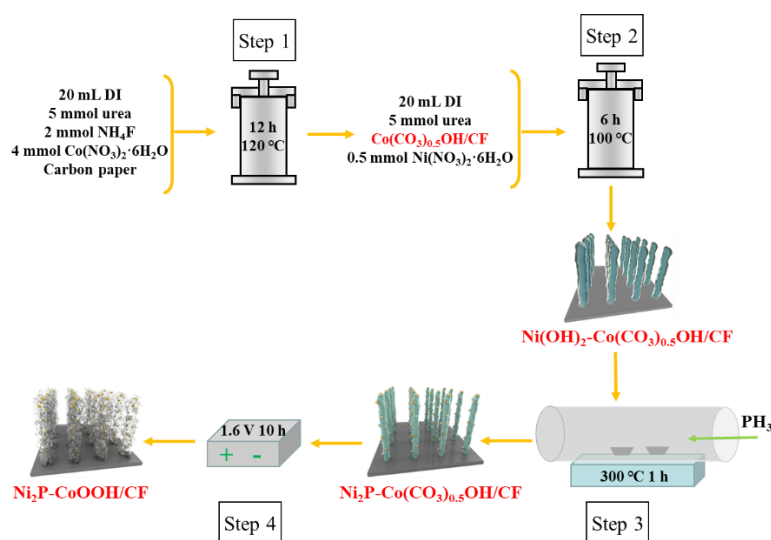
**Fig. S2 XRD patterns and Raman spectrum of the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH and NiCo-pre.** (a) XRD patterns of the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH and NiCo-pre. (b) Raman spectrum of the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH. Obviously, the XRD patterns of the NiCo-pre can be indexed to PDF#65-3544 (Ni<sub>2</sub>P) and PDF#48-0083 (Co(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>0.5</sub>(OH)·0.11H<sub>2</sub>O), the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH can be indexed to PDF#65-3544 (Ni<sub>2</sub>P). Meanwhile, Raman spectrum suggesting existence of CoOOH in Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH.

### S3 STEM of the Interface Structure



**Fig. S3 STEM of the interface structure.** (a) White particles are tightly wrapped by a translucent sheet, which indicates the formation of heterogeneous heterojunction. In the detailed STEM images in (b, c) the interfaces between particles and nanosheets can be observe. (d) Interface position was marked.

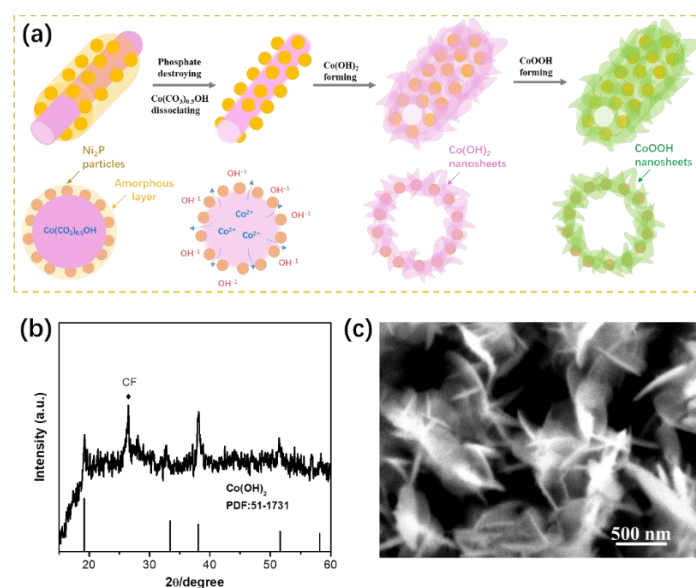
## S4 Schematic of Synthetic Process



**Fig. S4** Schematic of synthetic process

In the first step,  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  nanowires are grown on the surface of carbon fiber paper by hydrothermal reaction (Step 1). In the second hydrothermal reaction, a layer of nickel hydroxide is grown on the surface of  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  nanowires, forming the core-shell structure (Step 2). The layer of nickel hydroxide is further transformed into  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}$  by a rapid low-temperature phosphating reaction. Meanwhile, the interior  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  nanowires remain unchanged, forming the  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}-\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  core-shell precursor (Step 3). Subsequently, the target sample  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}-\text{CoOOH}$  is obtained by electrochemical transformation (Step 4).

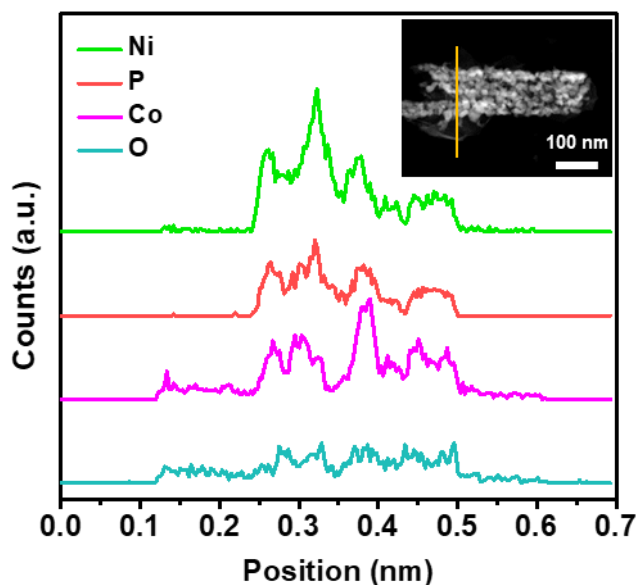
## S5 Schematic Diagram of Nanotubes Formation by Electrochemical Process



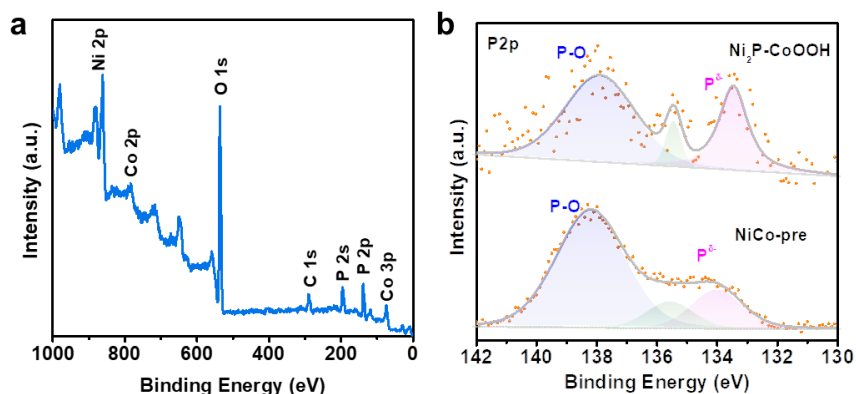
**Fig. S5** (a) XRD and (b) SEM of the sample after electrochemical transformation of pure  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  nanowires for about 2 h. (c) Schematic diagram of a single nanotube formation by electrochemical process

From the TEM image shown in **Fig. S1**, it is obvious that the precursor is a typical core-shell structure that consist of a nanowire core and nanoparticles shell. For the  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  nanowire core, it is well known that it has a metastable-layered arrangement which with edge-sharing double octahedral chains, where M cations are located at their centers and  $\text{OH}^-$  groups are located at their apices, and adjacent layers are connected by triangular  $\text{CO}_3^{2+}$  ions (J. Mater. Chem. A, 2016, 4, 17171-17179). When it was treated by a high current, the exterior amorphous layer was destroyed and the interior  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  was dissolved, resulting in the exudation of the internal cobalt ions through the gap between  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}$  particles, and then formed  $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$  nanosheets coating on the newly exposed surface of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}$  particles by bonding with  $\text{OH}^-$  in the electrolyte (**Fig. S5a**). We further proved this process by a short-time electrolysis of pure  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  nanowires. As shown in **Fig. S5b-c**, XRD and SEM results show that the pure  $\text{Co}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}\text{OH}$  nanowires were transformed into  $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$  nanosheets after two hours of electrolysis. Following, the  $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$  was oxidized to  $\text{CoOOH}$  under a continuous electric current (Energy Environ. Sci., 2019, 12,739-746). Additionally, during the whole electrochemical transformation process, the external  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}$  particles kept perfectly and connected with  $\text{CoOOH}$  nanosheets to form the nanotube structure.

### S6 Line Scanning of the $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}$ - $\text{CoOOH}$

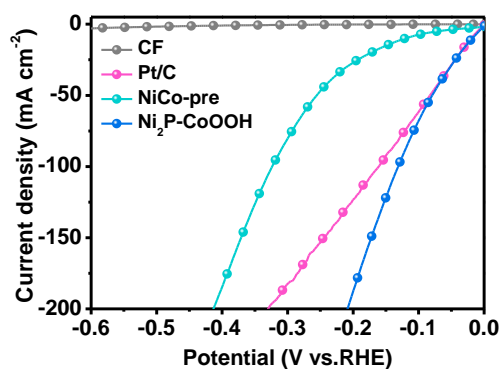


**Fig. S6** Line scanning of the  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}$ - $\text{CoOOH}$ . The line scanning of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P}$ - $\text{CoOOH}$ . The result shows linear distribution of elements.

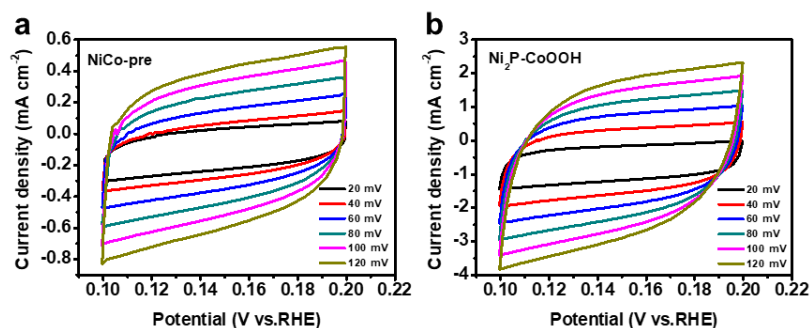
S7 XPS of the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH

**Fig. S7** XPS of the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH. (a) The wide-scanning XPS spectrum of the Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH. (b) The fine scanning P 2p spectrum in Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH

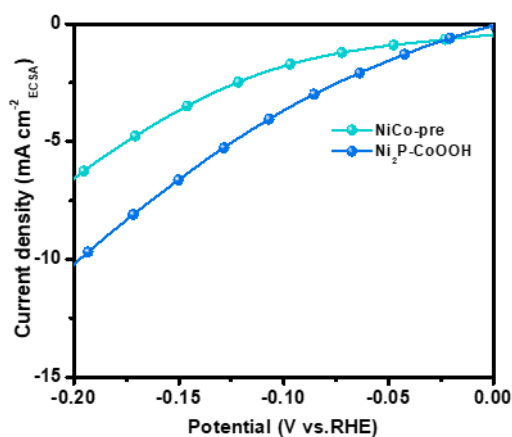
## S8 Polarization Curves of Various Catalysts at Low Current Density in 1.0 M PBS Electrolyte



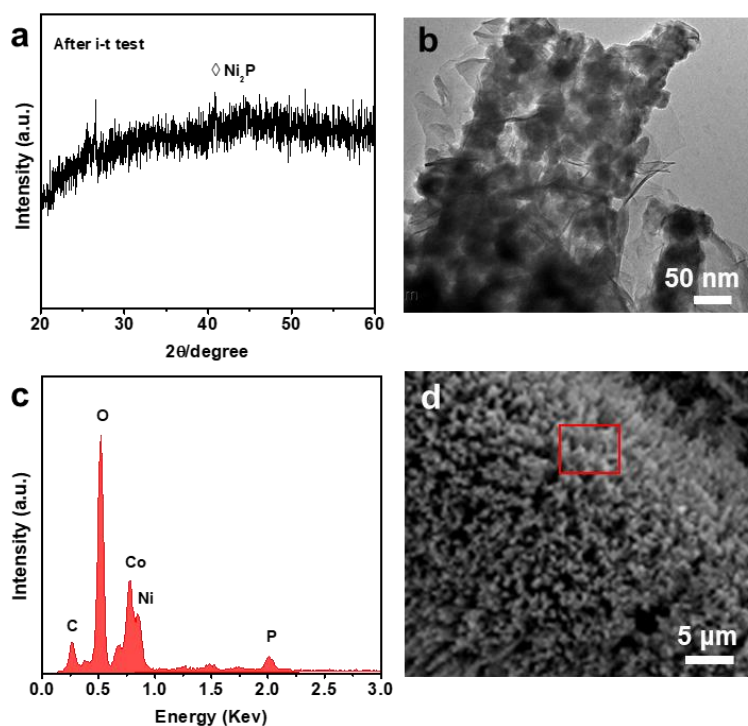
**Fig. S8** Polarization curves of various catalysts at low current density with 85% IR-compensations in 1.0 M PBS electrolyte. Scan rate: 2 mV s<sup>-1</sup>

S9 Voltammetry Curves of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH and NiCo-pre in 1.0 M PBS Electrolyte

**Fig. S9** Voltammetry curves of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH and NiCo-pre in 1.0 M PBS electrolyte. (a) NiCo-pre and (b) Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH catalysts under the potential of 0.1~0.2 V vs. RHE at different scan rates from 20 mV s<sup>-1</sup> to 120 mV s<sup>-1</sup> in 1.0 M PBS electrolyte.

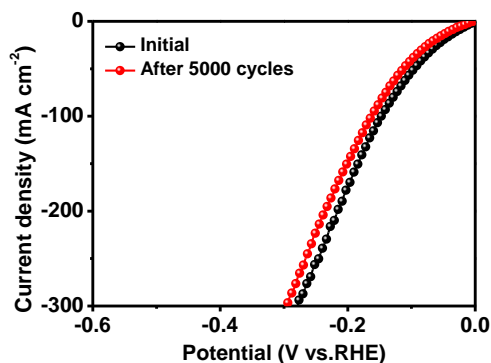
**S10 Specific Activity of NiCo-pre and Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH based on ECSA**

**Fig. S10** Specific activity of NiCo-pre and Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH based on ECSA in 1.0 M PBS electrolyte

**S11 Characterization of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH after the Long-term Electrolysis in 1 M PBS Electrolyte**

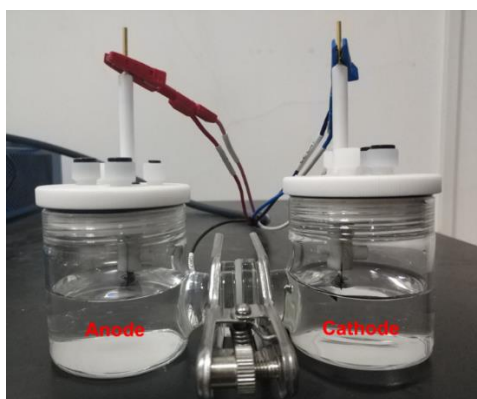
**Fig. S11** Characterization of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH after the long-term electrolysis in 1 M PBS electrolyte. (a-d) XRD, TEM and EDS elemental images of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH after the long-term electrolysis. The XRD show the crystallinity decreased slightly. TEM for Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH catalyst show no obvious changes of the structure. EDS shows the elements on the surface Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH after 100 h i-t test

### S12 Polarization Curves of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH after 5000 Cycles in 1.0 M PBS Electrolyte



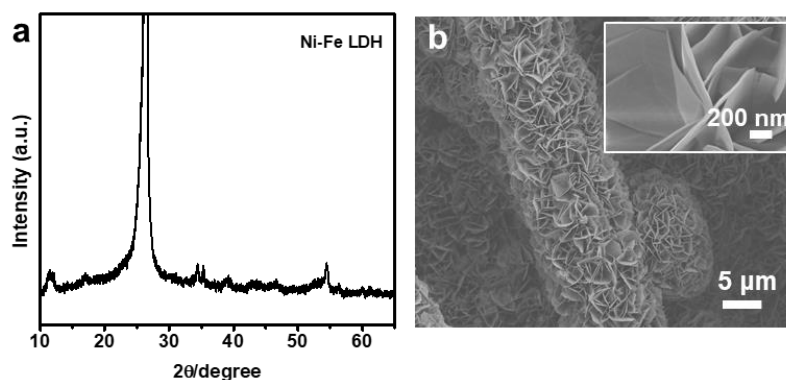
**Fig. S12** Polarization curves of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH initially and after 5000 cycles in 1.0 M PBS electrolyte

### S13 Photo of Two-electrode System



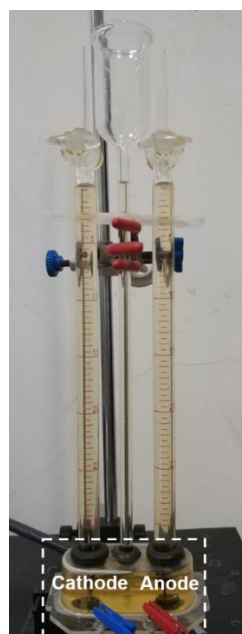
**Fig. S13** The photo of two-electrode system. In this work, the H-type electrolytic cell with proton exchange membrane (PEM) was applied to prevent cathodic deposition of Pt

### S14 Characterization of Ni-Fe LDH



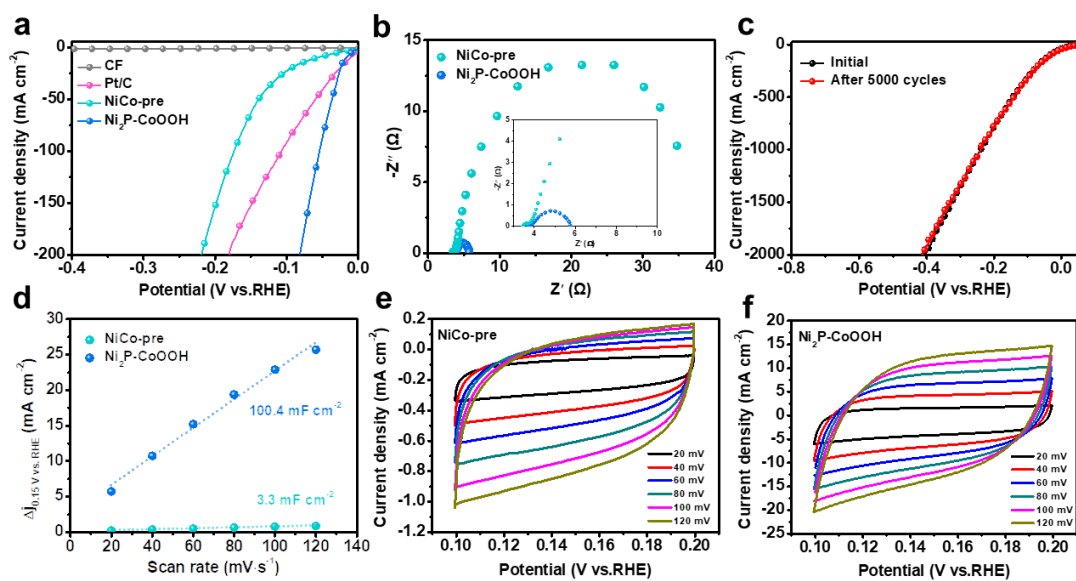
**Fig. S14** (a) XRD pattern (b) SEM images of the Ni-Fe LDH obtained at 120 °C for 6 h via a hydrothermal method

## S15 Digital Photo of Hoffman Apparatus



**Fig. S15** The digital photo of Hoffman apparatus

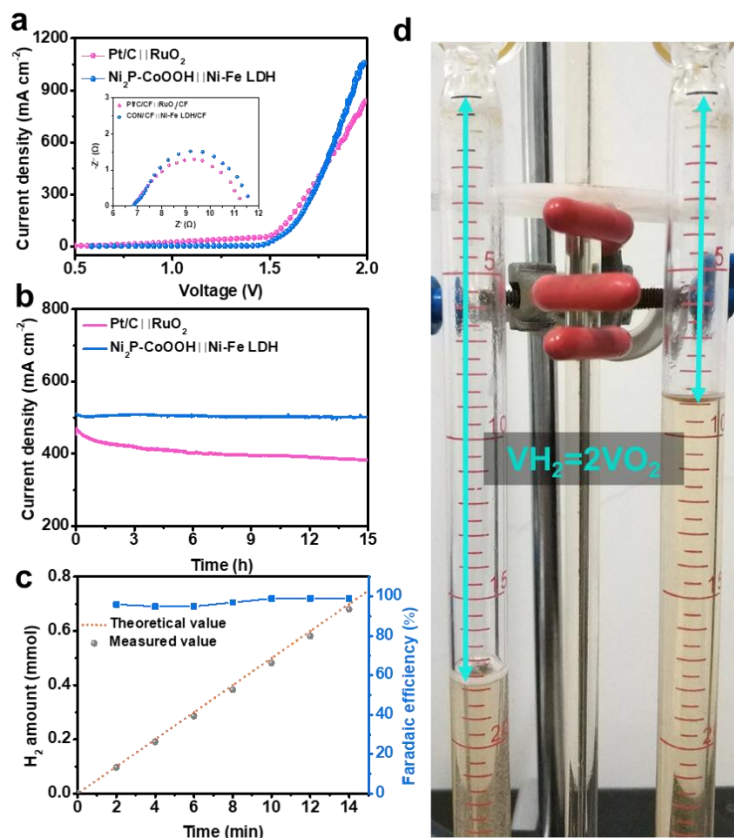
## S16 Electrocatalytic Properties of the Electrodes for HER in 1 M KOH Electrolyte



**Fig. S16** Electrocatalytic properties of the electrodes for HER in 1 M KOH electrolyte. (a) Polarization curves of various catalysts in low current density with 85% iR-compensations. Scan rate:  $2 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . (b) EIS of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P-CoOOH}$  and  $\text{NiCo-pre}$  at  $0.2 \text{ V vs. RHE}$ . (c) Polarization curves of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P-CoOOH}$  initially and after 5000 cycles. (d) The double-layer capacitance ( $C_{dl}$ ) is determined by the slope of the fitting line. Voltammetry curves of (e)  $\text{NiCo-pre}$  and (f)  $\text{Ni}_2\text{P-CoOOH}$  catalysts under the potential of  $0.1 \sim 0.2 \text{ V vs. RHE}$  at different scan rates from  $20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  to  $120 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  in  $1.0 \text{ M KOH}$  electrolyte

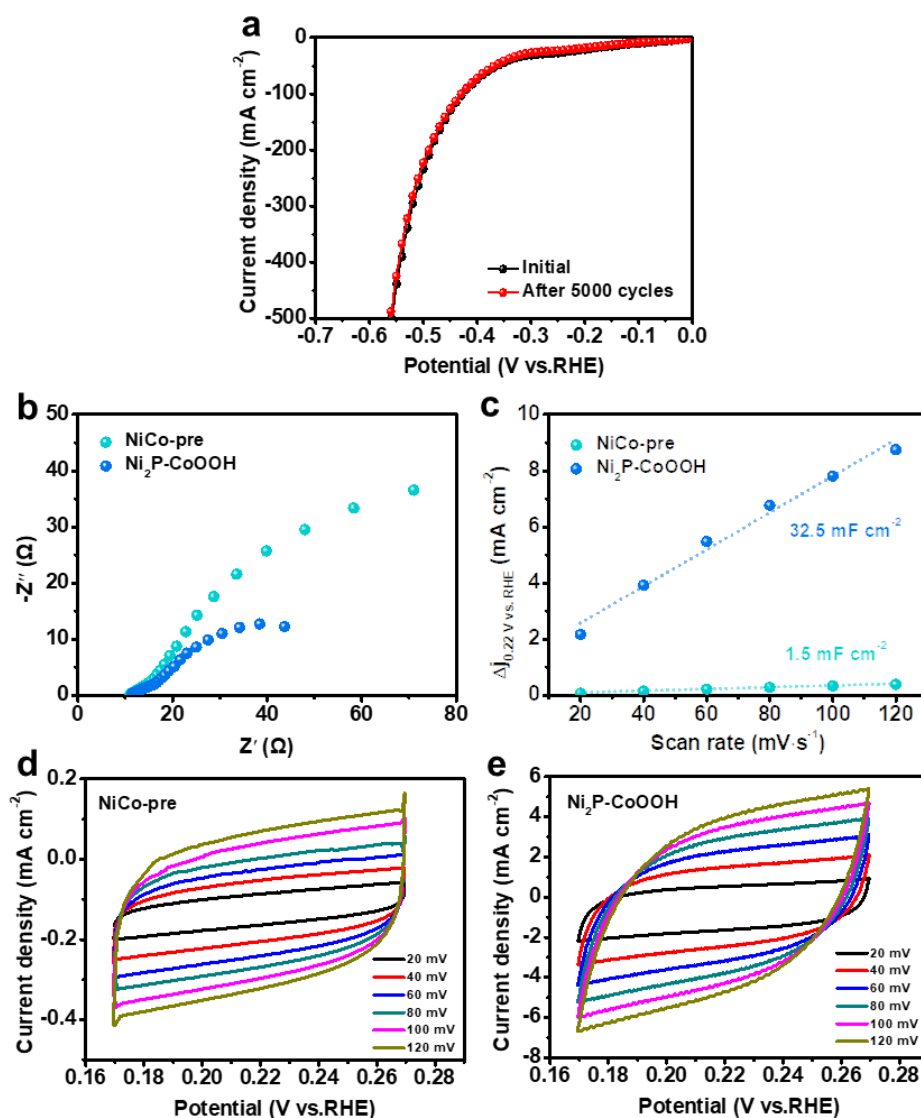


## S17 Overall Water Splitting in 1.0 M KOH Electrolyte

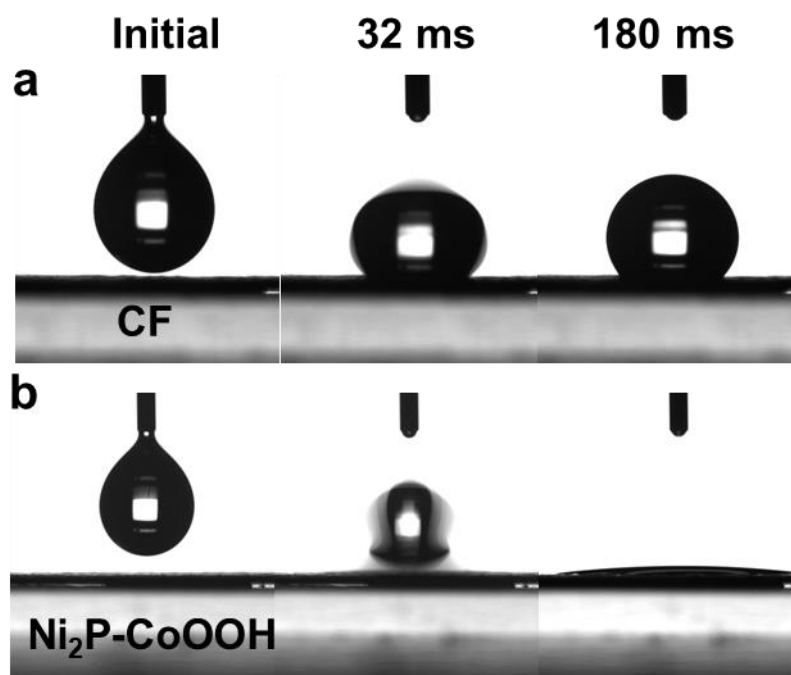


**Fig. S17 Overall water splitting in 1.0 M KOH electrolyte.** (a) Polarization curves for overall water splitting at a scan rate of 2 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The Nyquist plots is shown in the inset. (b) Chronopotentiometric curves at a voltage of 1.8 V. (c) H<sub>2</sub> amount for Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH || Ni-Fe LDH at a fixed current density (d) optical picture of the measured setup of the Hoffman apparatus

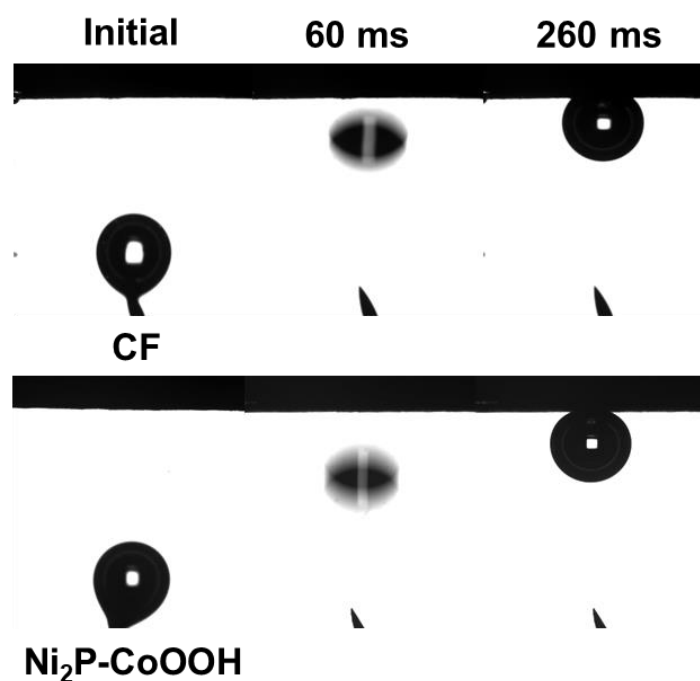
## S18 Electrocatalytic Properties of the Electrodes for HER in Seawater



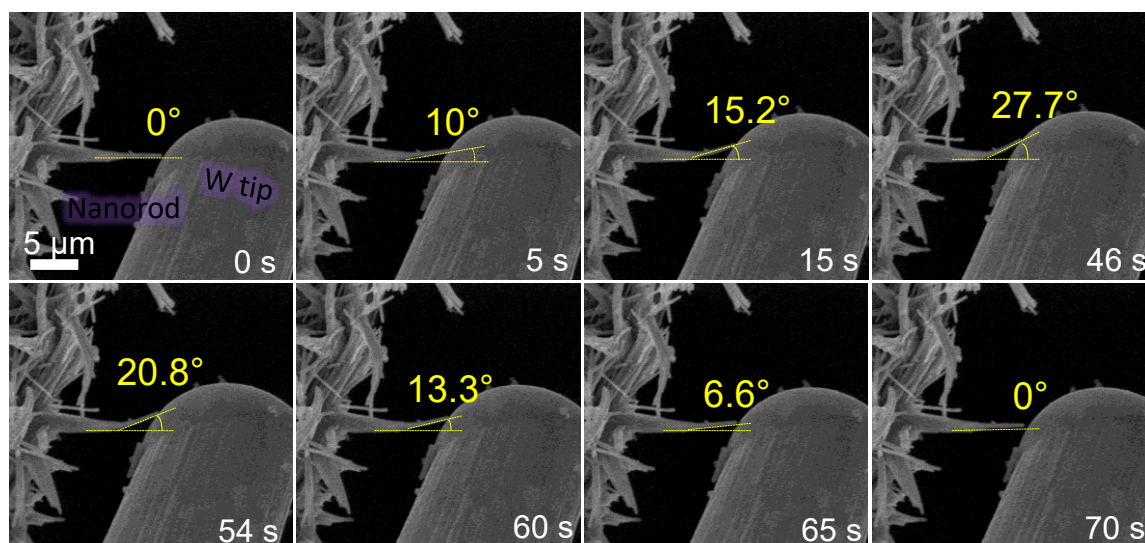
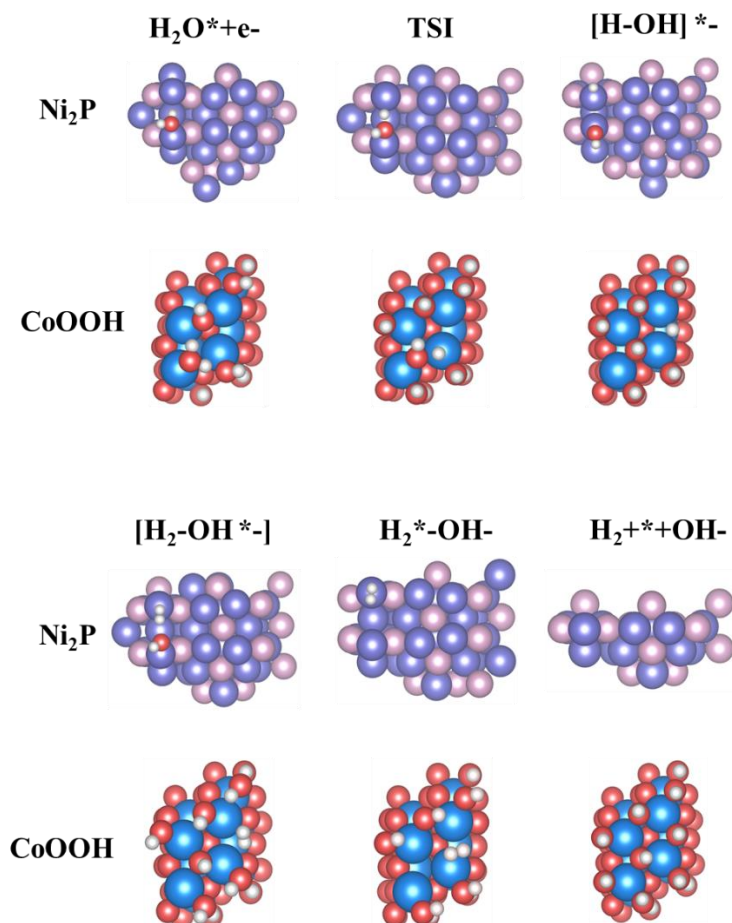
**Fig. S18** Electrocatalytic properties of the electrodes for HER in seawater. (a) Polarization curves of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH initially and after 5000 cycles. (b) EIS of Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH and NiCo-pre at 0.2V vs. RHE. (c) The double-layer capacitance ( $C_{dl}$ ) is determined by the slope of the fitting line. Voltammetry curves of (d) NiCo-pre and (e) Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH catalysts under the potential of 0.17~0.27 V vs. RHE at different scan rates from 20 mV s<sup>-1</sup> to 120 mV s<sup>-1</sup> in seawater

**S19 Contact Angles Measurements**

**Fig. S19 Contact angles measurements.** The contact angles (CAs) of a droplet of 1.0M PBS on the surface of (a) CF and (b) Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH.

**S20 Hydrogen Bubble Contact Angles Measurements**

**Fig. S20 Hydrogen bubble contact angles measurements.** The hydrogen bubble contact angles measurements of (a) CF and (b) Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH under 1M PBS electrolyte

S21 *In situ* Bending Deformation and Restoration Measurement by SEM ProbeFig. S21 *In situ* bending deformation and restoration measurement by SEM probeS22 All Structures for These Two Key Steps for Ni<sub>2</sub>P and CoOOHFig. S22 All structures for these two key steps for Ni<sub>2</sub>P and CoOOH

**Table S1** Electrocatalytic HER properties for other reported products catalysts in 1M PBS electrolyte

Catalysts	Electrolytes	$\eta_{10}$ (mV)	Stability test	References
<b>Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH</b>	<b>1.0 M PBS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1200 mA cm<sup>2</sup> @100 h</b>	<b>This work</b>
Pt/np-Co <sub>0.85</sub> Se	1.0 M PBS	55	10 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @40 h	Nat. Commun. 2019, 10,1743
CoMoNiS-NF-31	1.0 M PBS	107	10 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @20 h	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2019, 141, 10417–10430
CoP/NiCoP/N C	1.0 M PBS	123	10 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @80 h	Adv. Funct. Mater. 2018, 1807976
FLNPC@MoP-NC/MoP-C/CC	1.0 M PBS	103	10 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @50 h	Adv. Funct. Mater. 2018, 28, 1801527
Ni <sub>0.1</sub> Co <sub>0.9</sub> P	1.0 M PBS	125	30 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @20 h	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2018, 130,15671–15675
Ni <sub>0.89</sub> Co <sub>0.11</sub> Se <sub>2</sub> MNSN/NF	1.0 M PBS	82	~40 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @40 h	Adv. Mater. 2017, 29, 1606521
CoP NW/Hb	1.0 M PBS	121	~60 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @100 h	Nano Research 2017, 10, 1010.
NiCo <sub>2</sub> P <sub>x</sub>	1.0 M PBS	63	20 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @30 h	Adv. Mater. 2017, 29, 1605502
SiO <sub>2</sub> /PPy NTs-CFs	1.0 M PBS	70	~55 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @30 h	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56,8120–8124
<b>Co-HNP</b>	<b>1.0 M PBS</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>150 mA cm<sup>2</sup> @20 h</b>	<b>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2016, 55, 6725.</b>

**Table S2** Electrocatalytic HER properties for other reported products catalysts in seawater

Catalysts	Electrolytes	$\eta_{10}$ (mV)	Stability test	References
<b>Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH</b>	<b>Seawater</b>	<b>194 mV</b>	<b>100 mA cm<sup>2</sup> @100 h</b>	<b>This work</b>
NiCoP/NF	Seawater	287 mV	10 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @20 h	ACS Appl. Energy Mater. 2019, 2, 3910–3917
CoMoP@C	Seawater	450 mV	20 mA cm <sup>2</sup> @10 h	Energy Environ. Sci., 2017, 10, 788--798
Cobalt Selenide	Seawater	350 mV	—	Adv. Energy Mater. 2018, 8, 1801926
<b>U-CNT-900</b>	<b>Seawater</b>	<b>670 mV</b>	<b>12 mA cm<sup>2</sup> @7 h</b>	<b>Nanoscale, 2015, 7, 2306–2316</b>

**Table S3** Comparison on the maximum angle of bending of 1D inorganic nano-materials with bending method

Materials	Angle range	Reference
<b>Ni<sub>2</sub>P-CoOOH nanowires</b>	<b>≤27.7°</b>	<b>This work</b>
Au nanowires	≤25.8°	Nat. Mater. 2005, 4, 525-529
Carbon nanotubes	≤26.8°	Adv. Mater. 2000, 12, 1295-1298
ZnO nanowires	≤30.7°	Phys. Rev. Lett. 2008, 101, 175502.
SiC nanorods	≤41.0°	Science 1997, 227, 1971-1975
Carbon nanotubes	≤27.9°	Phys. Rev. Lett. 2000, 85, 622-625
TiO <sub>2</sub> nanowires	≤12.8°	Mat. Sci. Eng. A 2015, 641, 281-289
Si nanowires	≤18°	Nano Lett. 2006, 6, 622-625
ZnO nanowires	≤20°	Mater. Res. Express 2019, 6, 025012