



## Ultrahigh current density niobium disulfide catalysts for hydrogen evolution

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**Materials Science & Metallurgy**

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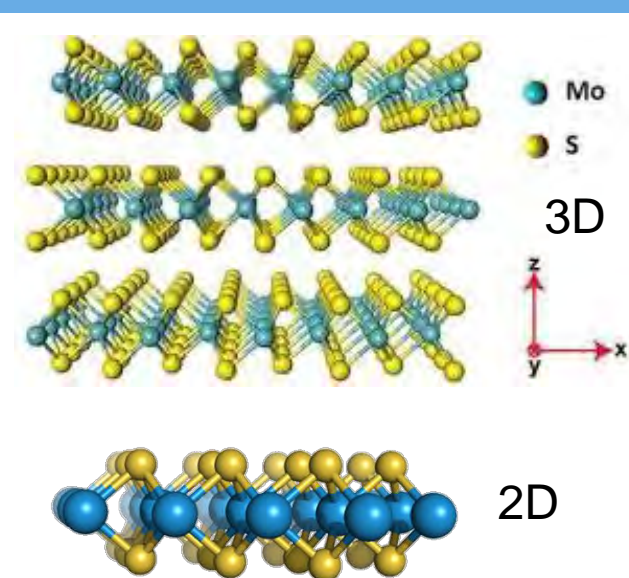
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# Transition metal dichalcogenide 2D semiconductors



$MX_2$   
M = Transition metal  
X = Chalcogen

H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	La-Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac-Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Uut	Fl	Uup	Lv	Uus	Uuo

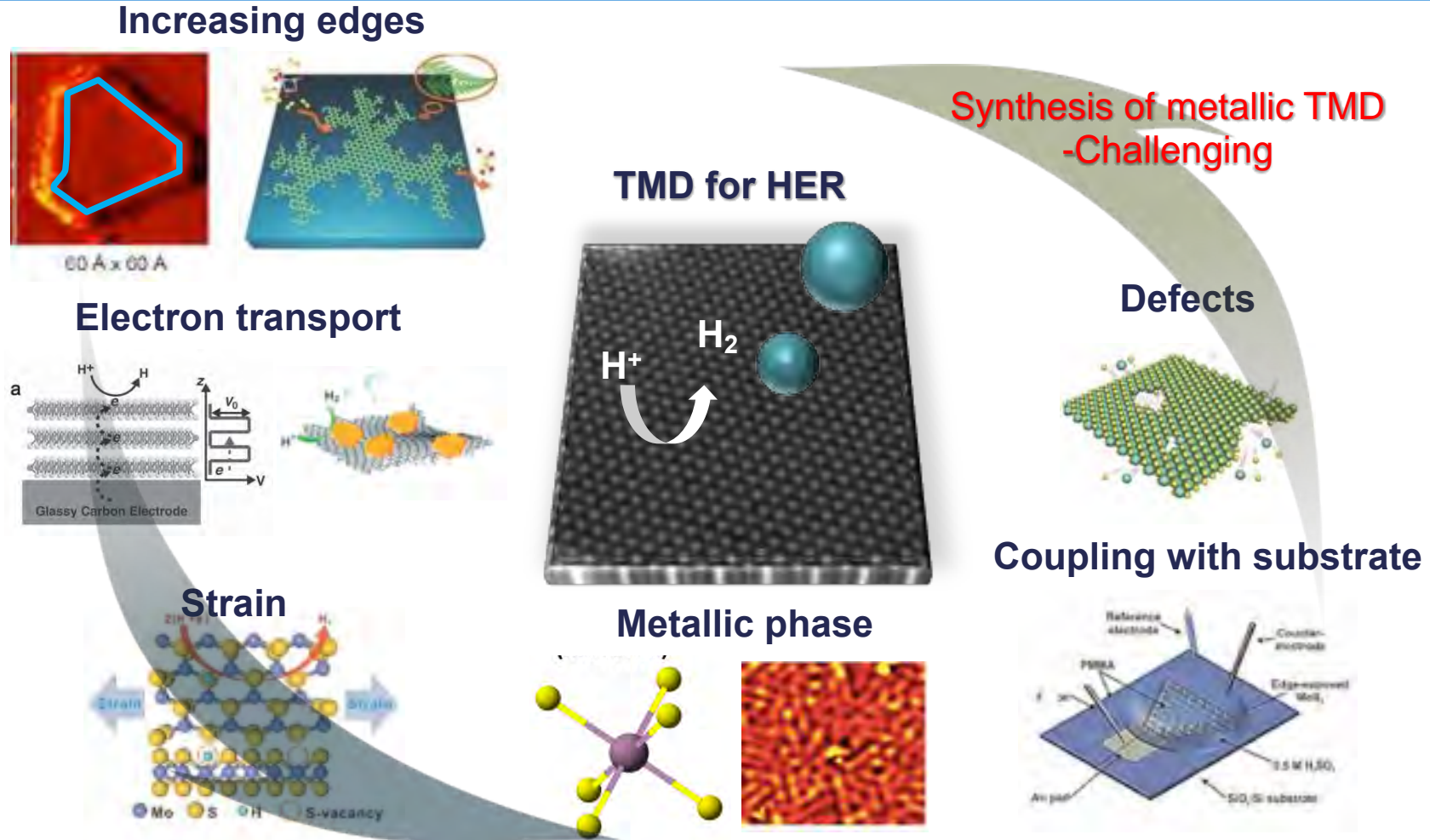
**1T**  $d^0$  Ti, Zr, Hf S<sub>2</sub>, Se<sub>2</sub>, Te<sub>2</sub> Semiconducting ( $E_g = 0.2\sim 2$  eV), diamagnetic

**2H or 1T**  $d^1$  V, Nb, Ta S<sub>2</sub>, Se<sub>2</sub>, Te<sub>2</sub> Narrow band metals ( $10^{-4}$   $\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ ) or semimetals, superconducting

**Mostly 2H**  $d^2$  Cr, Mo, W S<sub>2</sub>, Se<sub>2</sub>, Te<sub>2</sub> Semiconducting ( $E_g = 1.5$  eV), diamagnetic

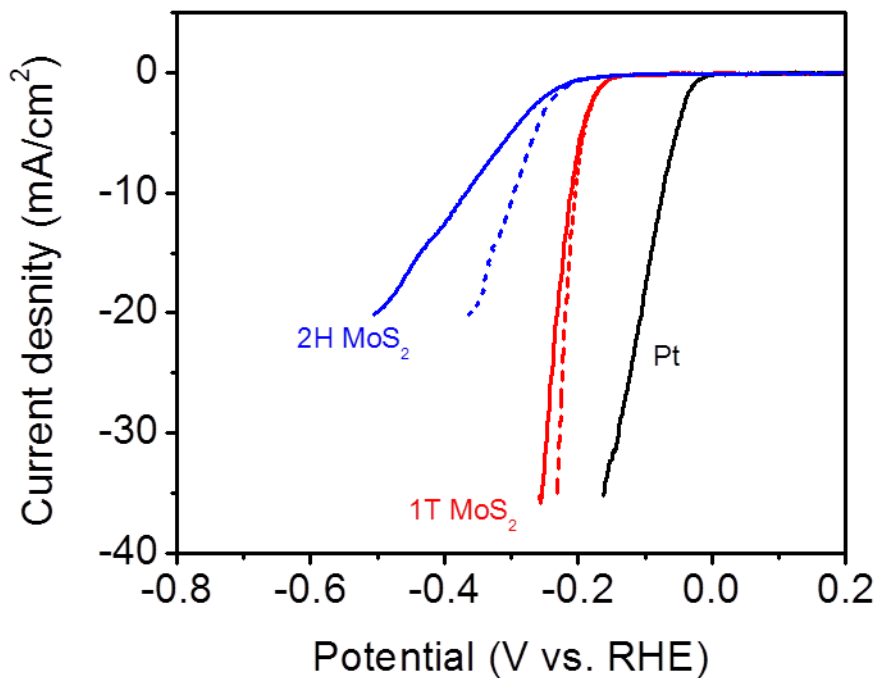
**Distorted 1T**  $d^3$  Mn, Tc, Re S<sub>2</sub>, Se<sub>2</sub>, Te<sub>2</sub> Antiferromagnetic or diamagnetic, small gap semiconductors

# 2D materials as catalysts for hydrogen evolution reaction (HER)

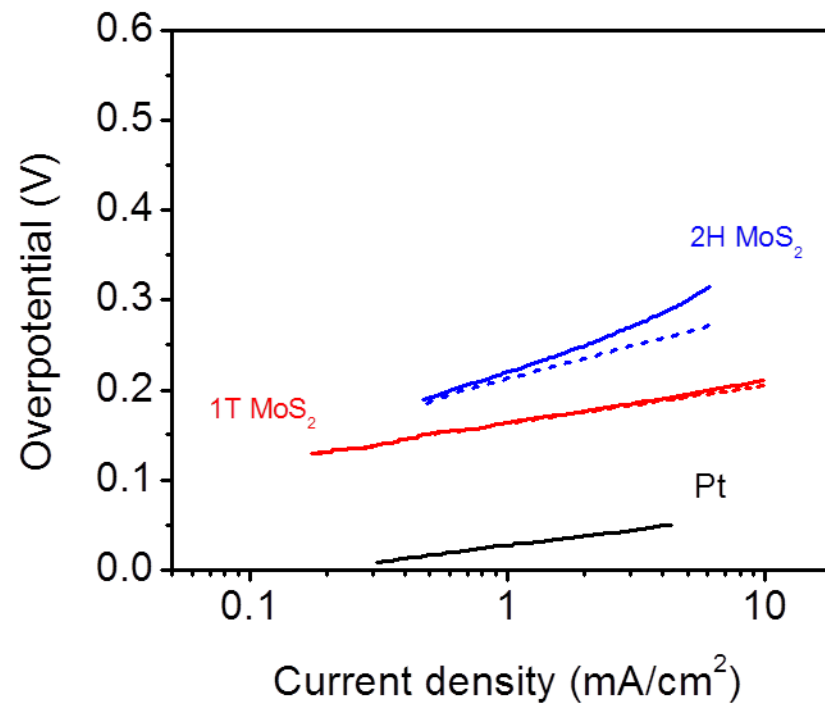


# HER with Metallic 1T Phase MoS<sub>2</sub>

Polarization curves:  $2\text{H}^+ + 2\text{e}^- = \text{H}_2$



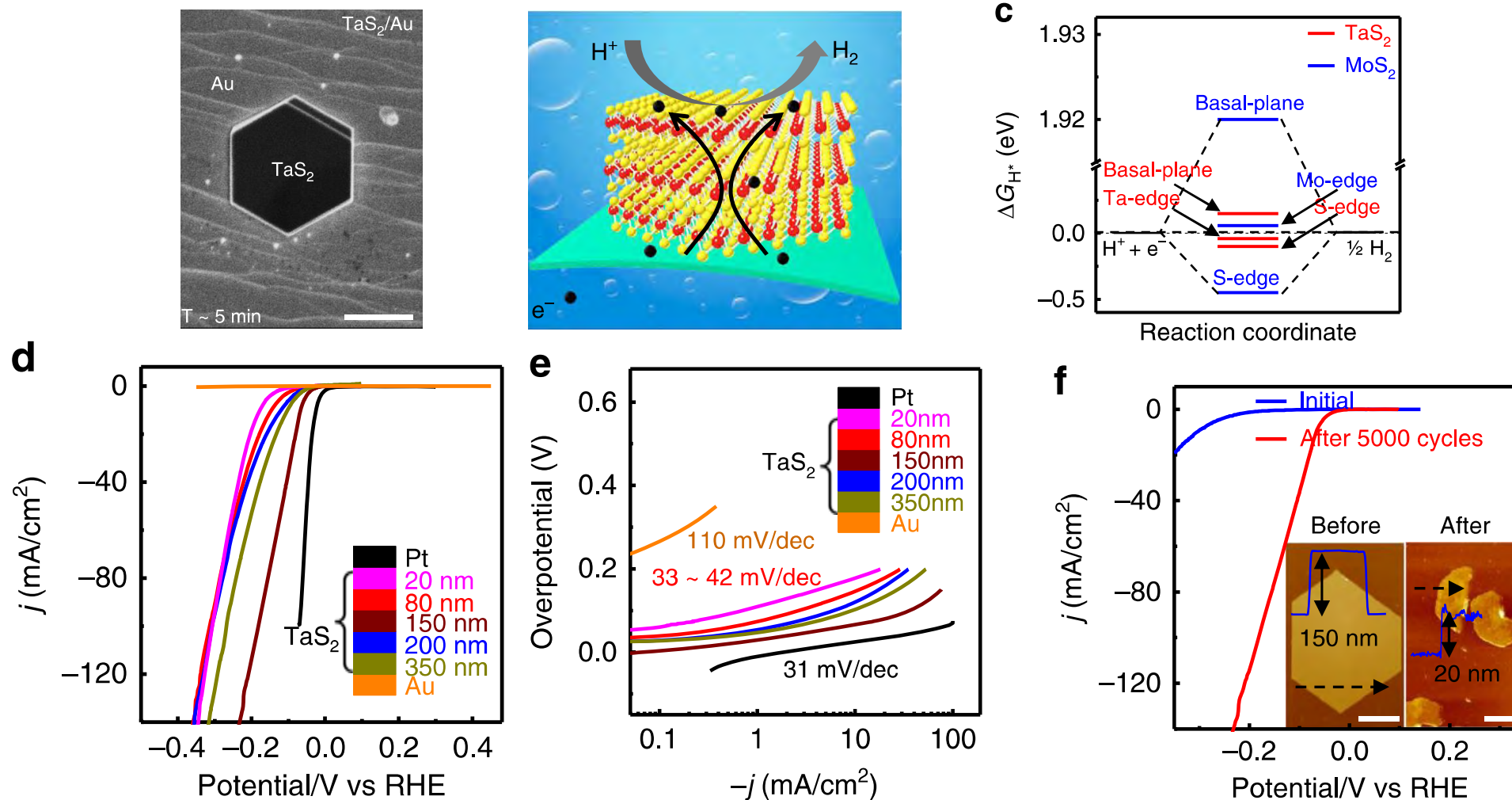
Tafel slope



	1T-WS <sub>2</sub>	<b>1T-MoS<sub>2</sub></b>
Overpot.	80 mV	<b>150 mV</b>
Tafel slope	~ 60 mV/dec	<b>~ 40 mV/dec</b>

# Metallic 2D TMDs as catalysts for HER

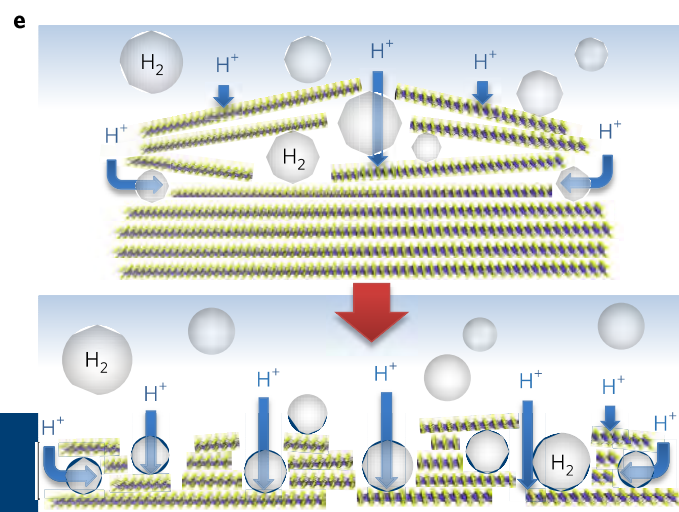
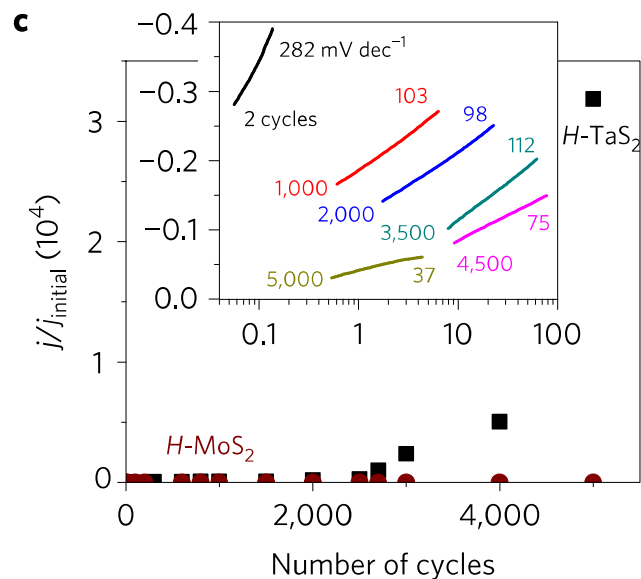
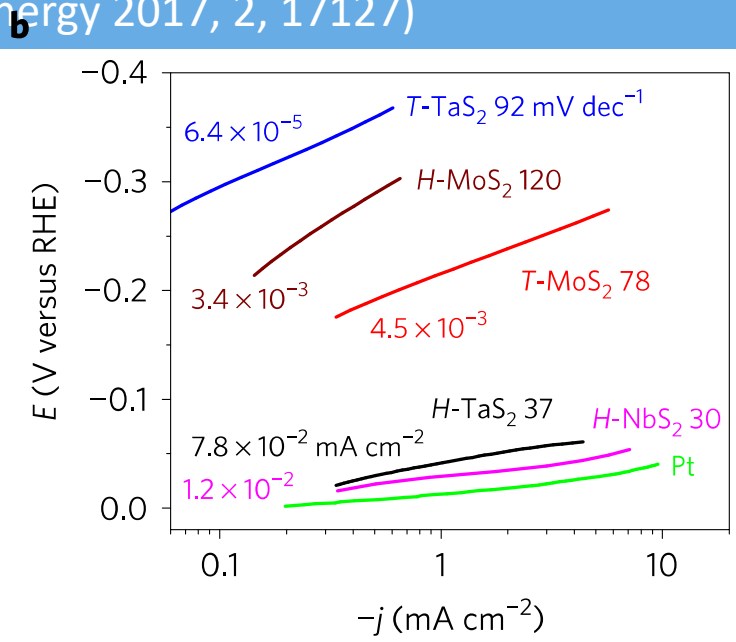
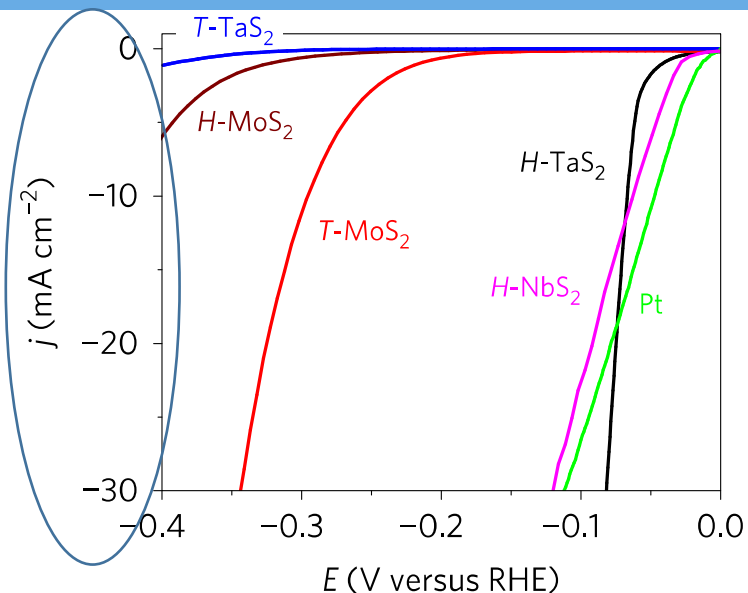
TaS<sub>2</sub> for HER from Yanfeng Zhang Group at Peking U (Nature Comm. 2017, 8, 958)



# Metallic 2D TMDs as catalysts for HER

NbS<sub>2</sub> for HER from Yakobson Group at Rice U (Nature energy 2017, 2, 17127)

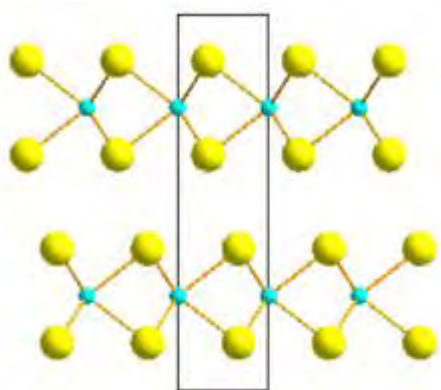
Very low current densities



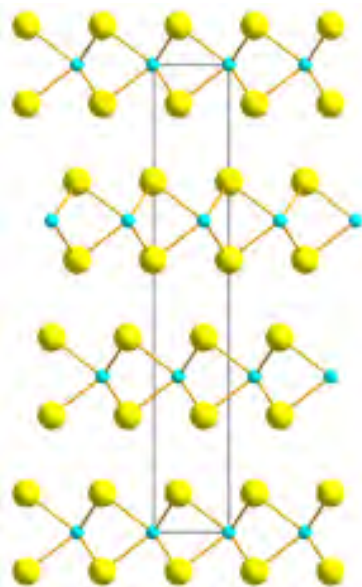
# Nb<sub>1.35</sub>S<sub>2</sub>

Phases of NbS<sub>2</sub>:

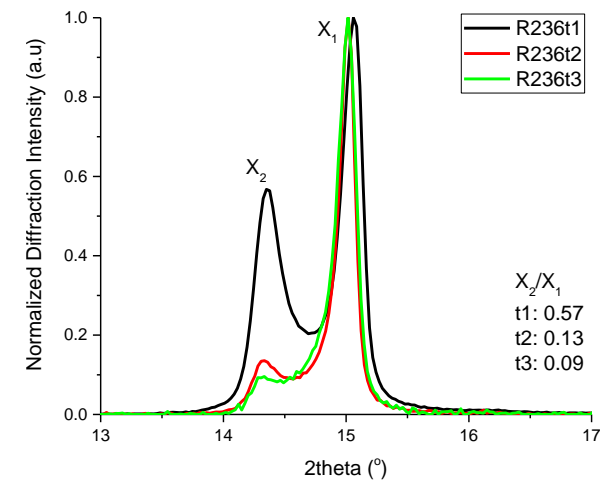
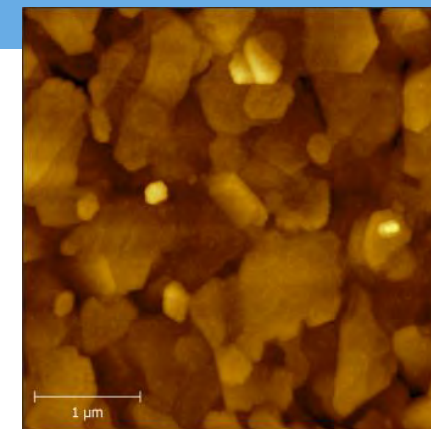
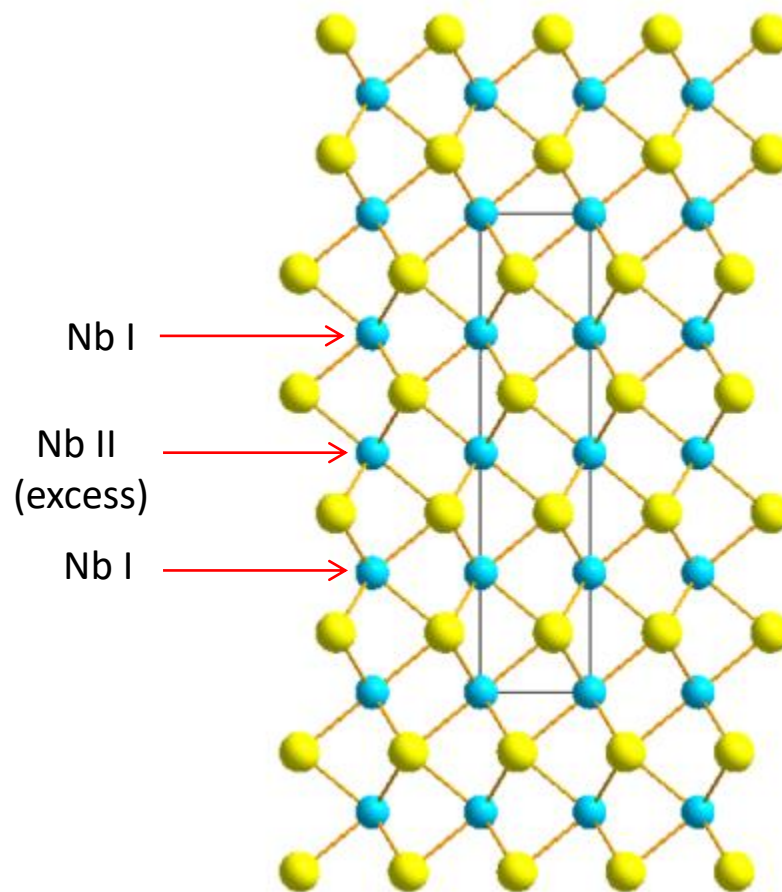
2H



3R

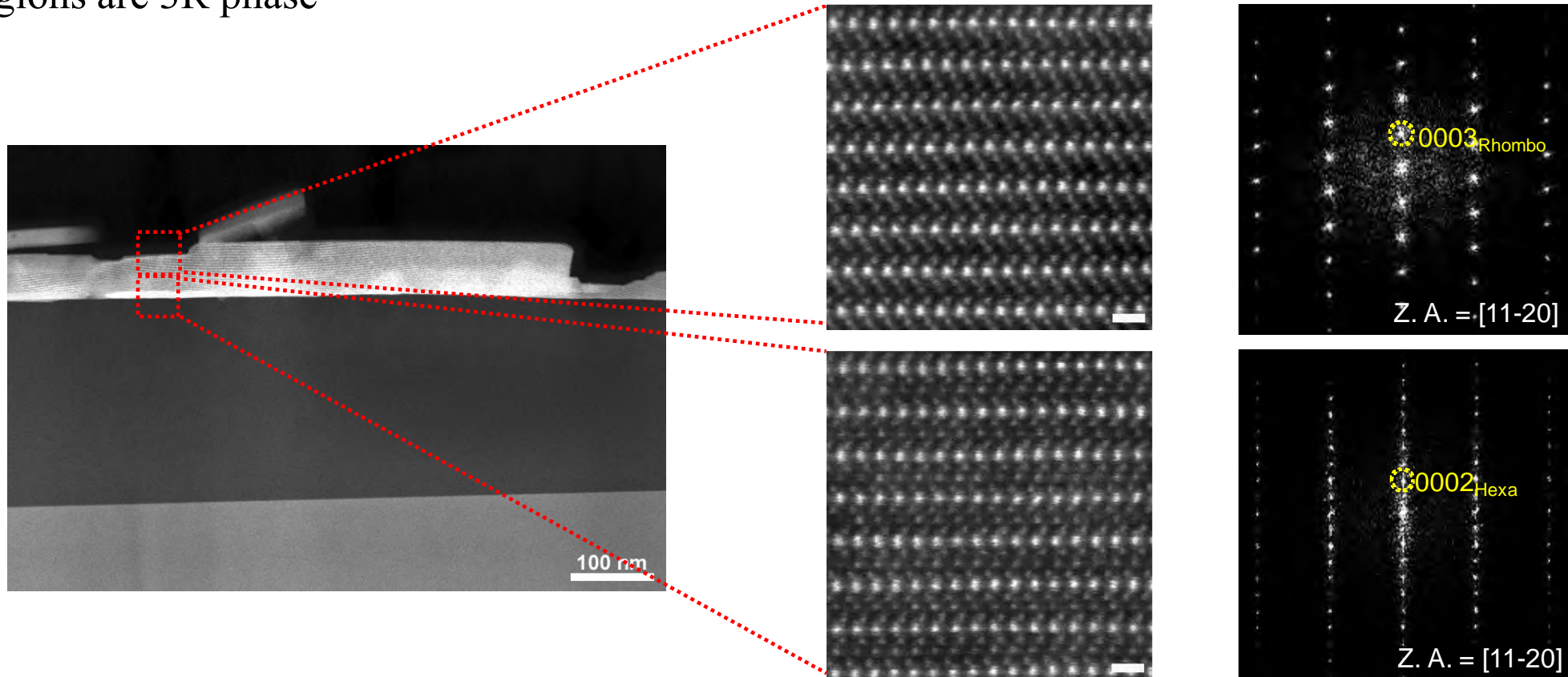


Nb<sub>1.35</sub>S<sub>2</sub>



# Cross – Sectional TEM of Nb<sub>1.35</sub>S<sub>2</sub>

Two different phases of NbS<sub>2</sub> observed – thin regions are 2H phase (metallic) and thick regions are 3R phase





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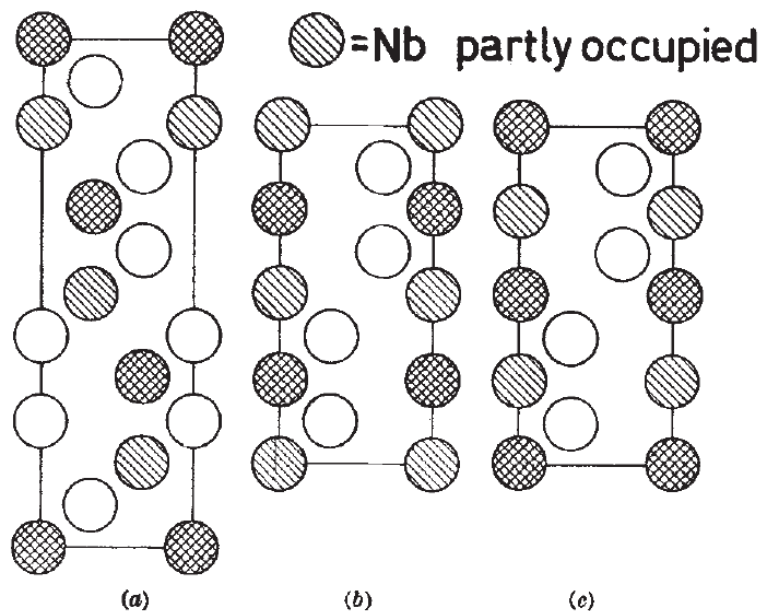
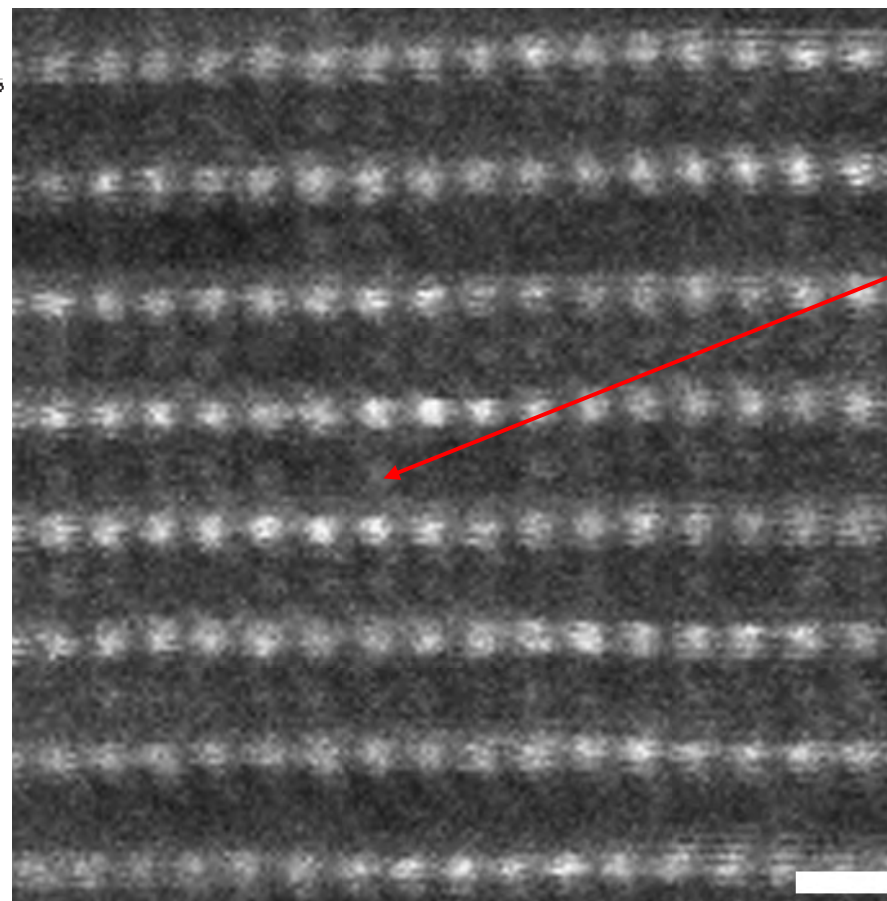
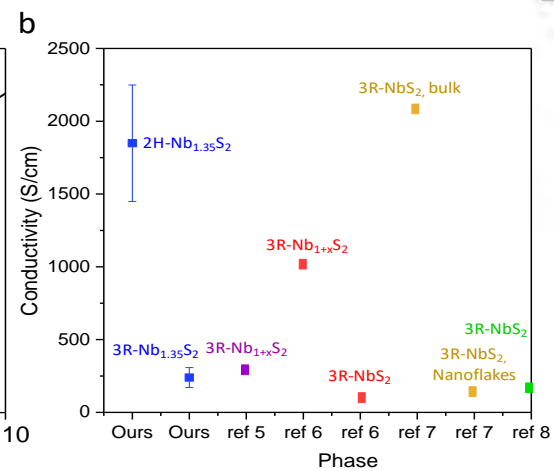
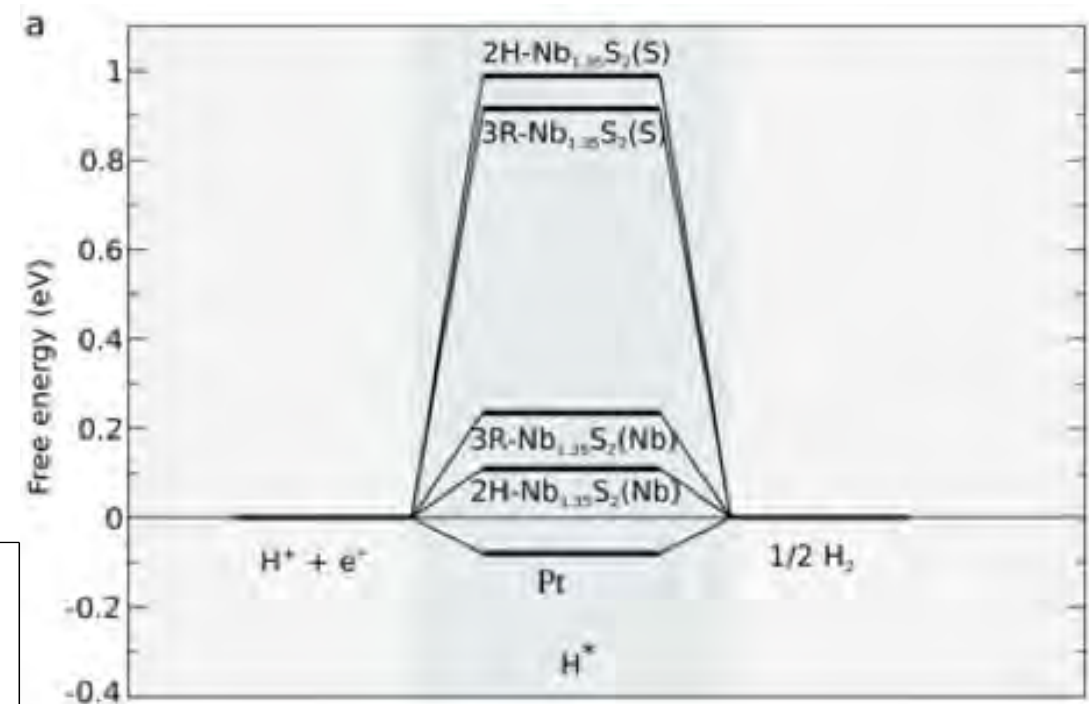
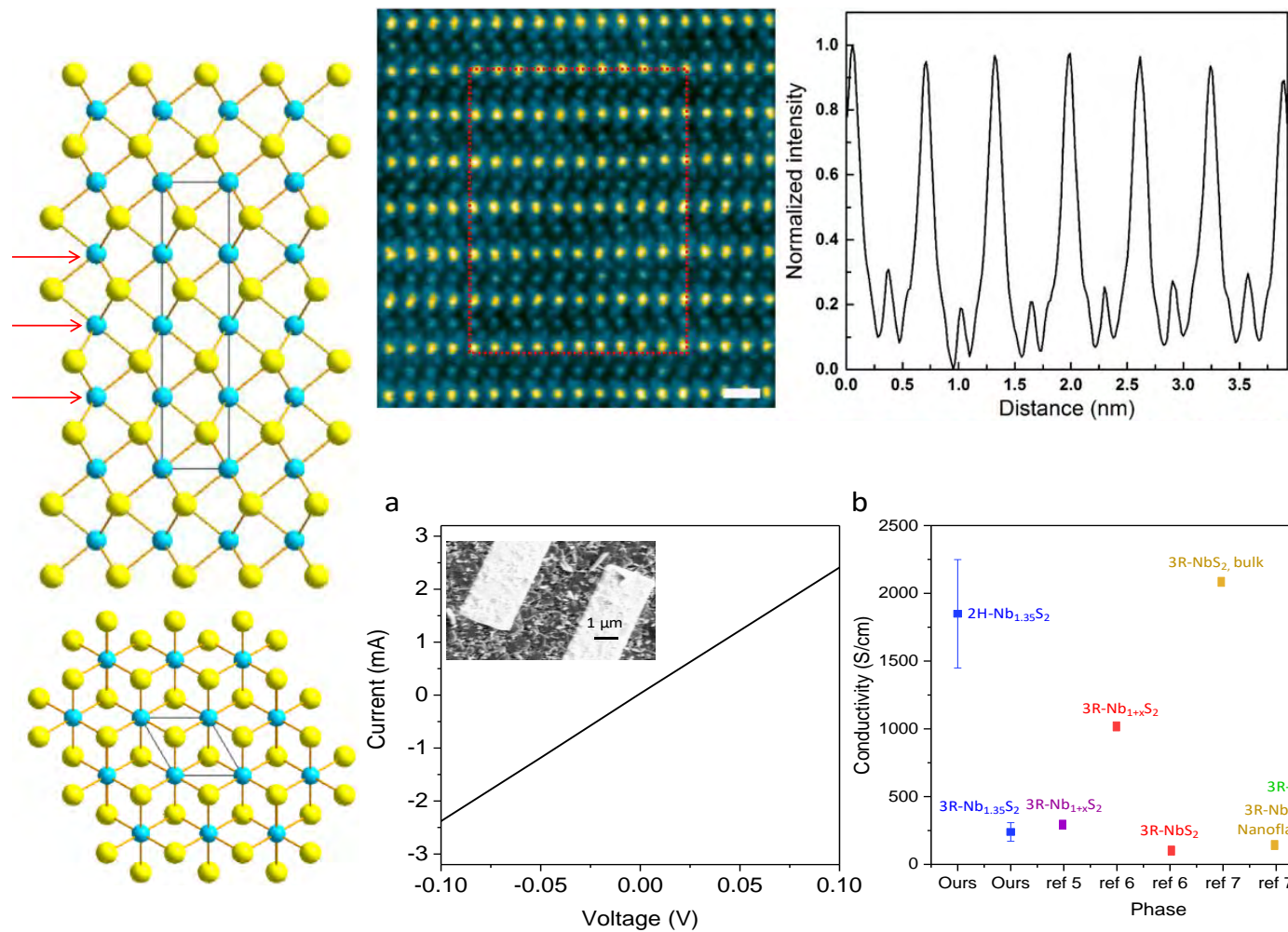


Fig. 2. Sections through the (1120) planes of (a) rhombohedral Nb<sub>1+z</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, (b) hexagonal Nb<sub>1+z</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, (c) one of the possible arrangements of Nb<sub>1-y</sub>S<sub>2</sub>

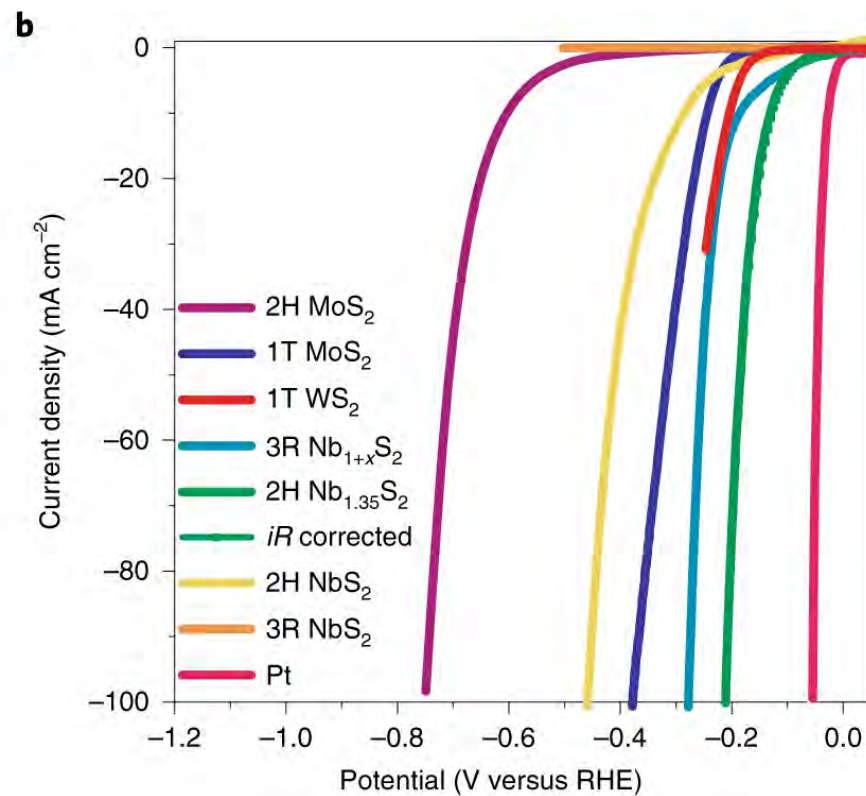
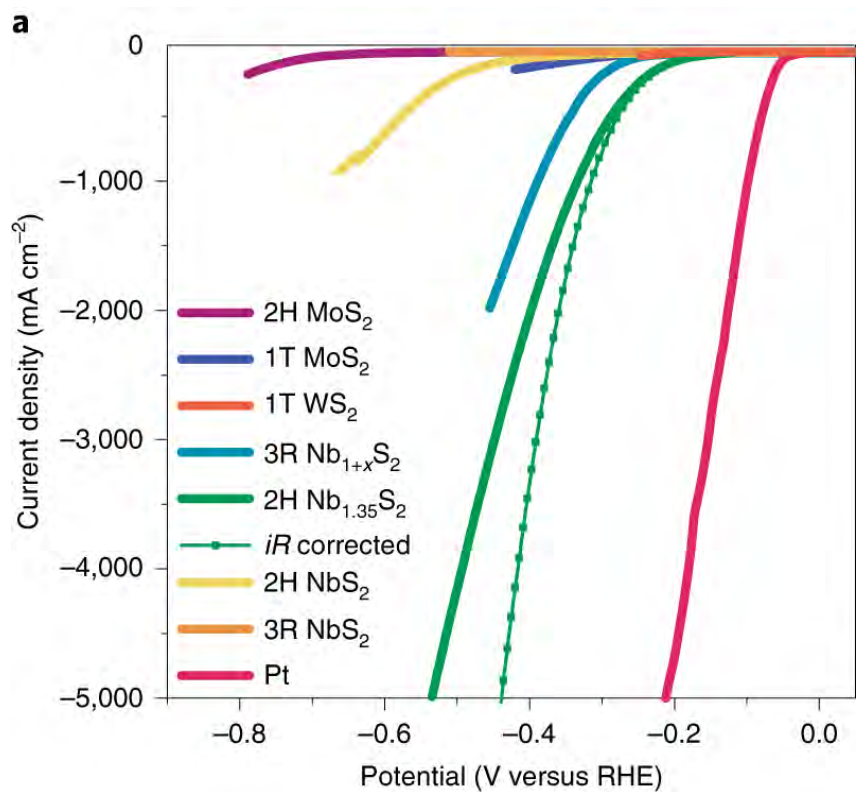


We can observe additional Nb layers in the hexagonal structure.

# Nb<sub>1.35</sub>S<sub>2</sub> for HER

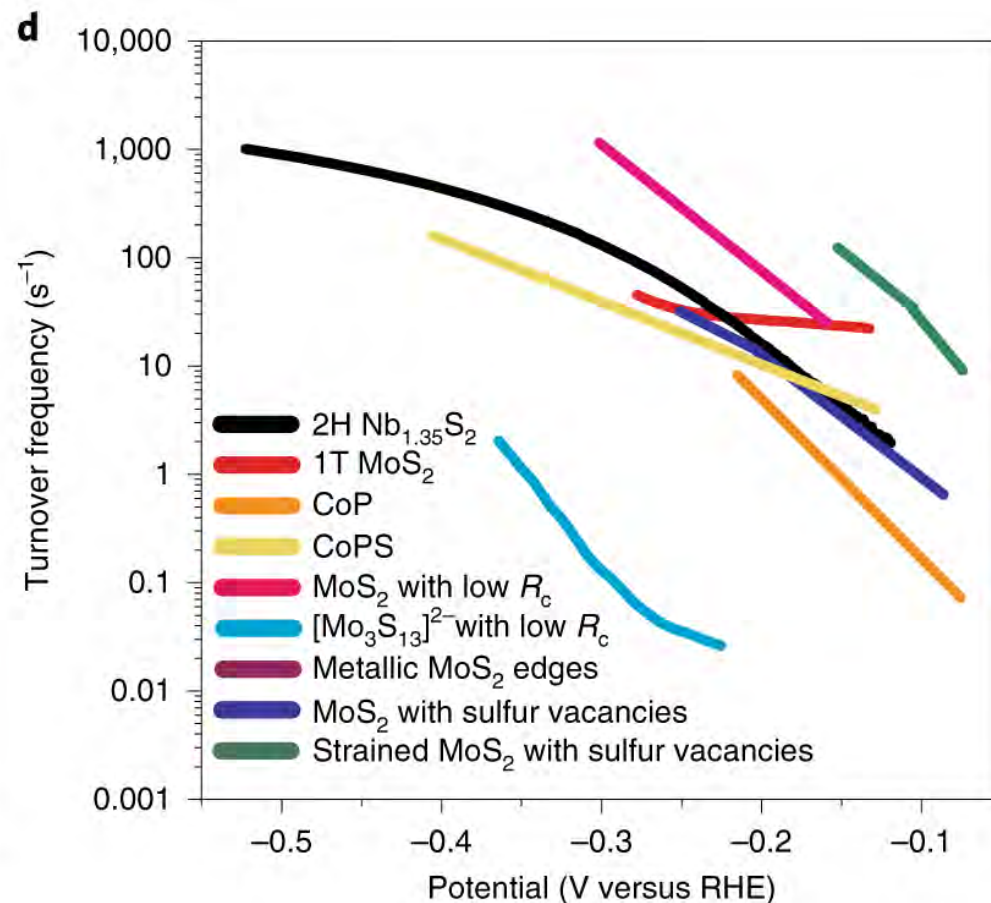
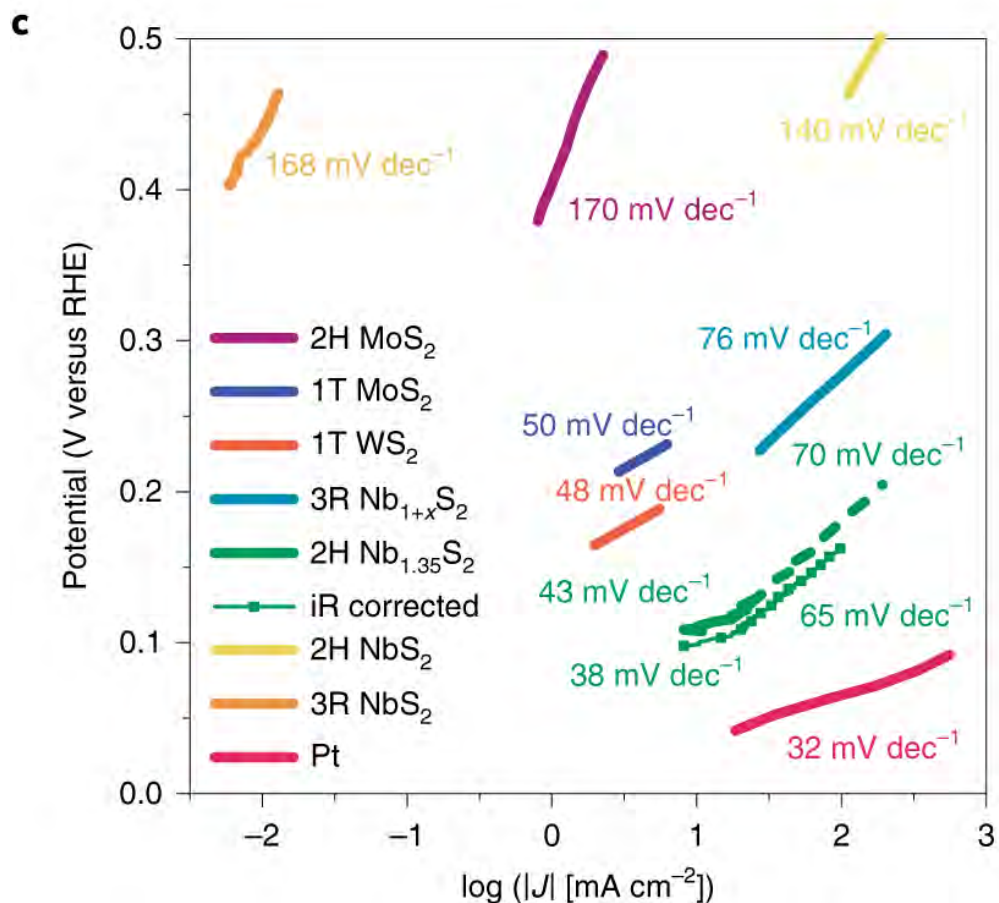


# HER Properties of Nb<sub>1.35</sub>S<sub>2</sub>



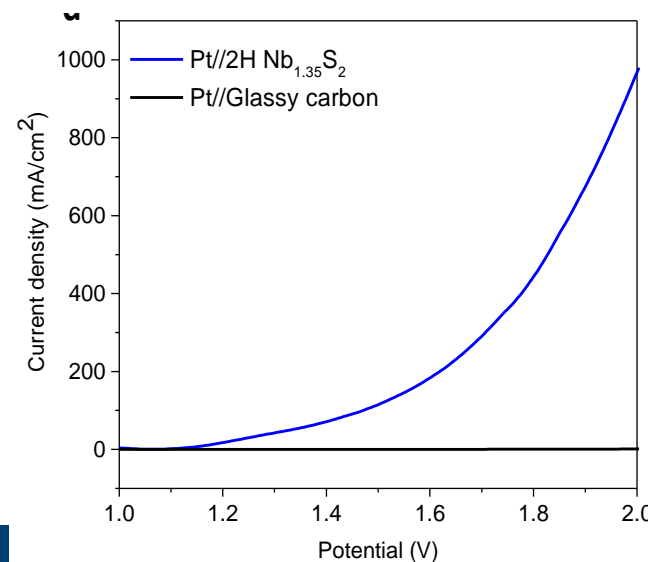
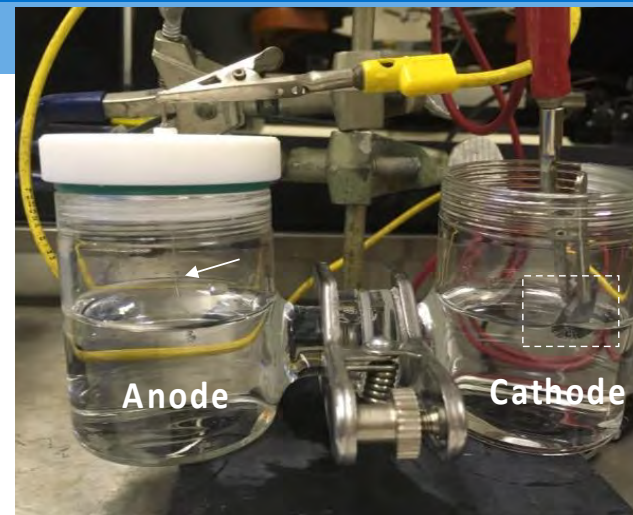
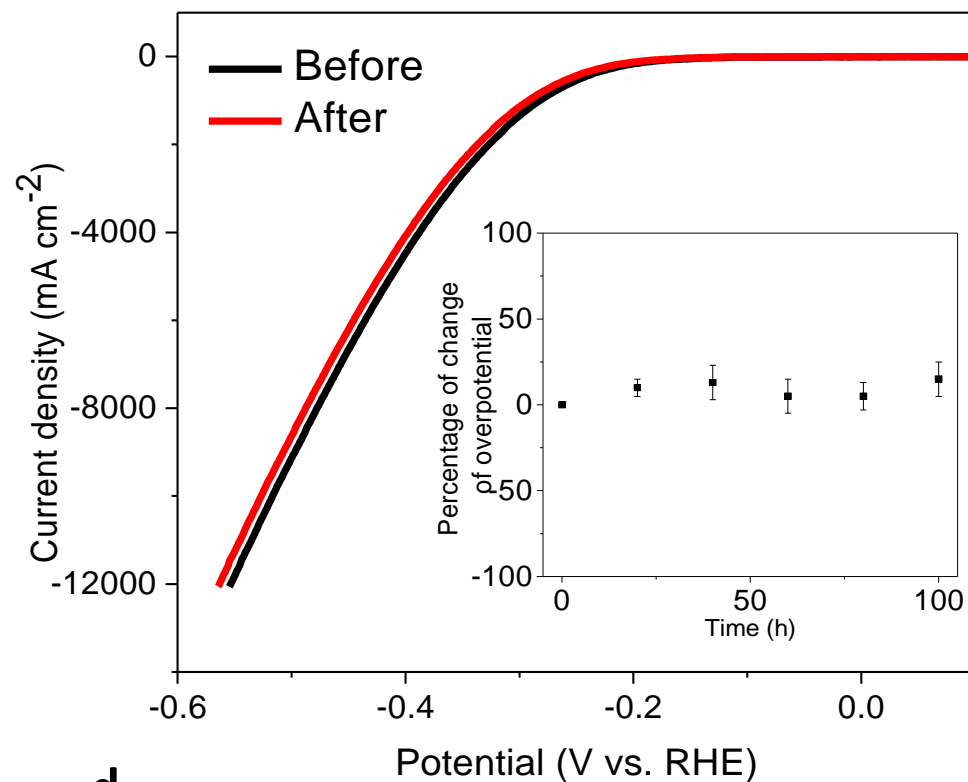
The rate of H<sub>2</sub> evolution reaches ~30 L cm<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> equivalent to 6 mmol h<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> at 400 mV.

# HER Properties of Nb<sub>1.35</sub>S<sub>2</sub>



# 2H NbS<sub>2</sub> catalysts for large scale hydrogen production

## ❖ 2H Metallic NbS<sub>2</sub> catalysts



## ❖ 2H Metallic NbS<sub>2</sub> catalysts

❖ Real Electrolyzer with current density of 1A/cm<sup>2</sup> Demonstrated

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Jieun Yang



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Univ of Edinburgh



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UNIST

Thank You!

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Charles Hatchett Award 2020 Panel

nature  
materials

LETTERS

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## Ultrahigh-current-density niobium disulfide catalysts for hydrogen evolution

Jieun Yang<sup>1,10</sup>, Abdul Rahman Mohmad<sup>2,10</sup>, Yan Wang<sup>1</sup>, Raymond Fullon<sup>1</sup>, Xiuju Song<sup>1,3</sup>, Fang Zhao<sup>4</sup>, Ibrahim Bozkurt<sup>1</sup>, Mathias Augustin<sup>5</sup>, Elton J. G. Santos<sup>5\*</sup>, Hyeon Suk Shin<sup>6</sup>, Wenjing Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Damien Voiry<sup>7</sup>, Hu Young Jeong<sup>8\*</sup> and Manish Chhowalla<sup>1,3,9\*</sup>