

Supporting information

**Facile synthesis of FeOOH quantum dots modified ZnO
nanorods films via a metal-solating process**

Faqi Zhan^{†‡}, Yahui Yang[§], Wenhua Liu^{†‡}, Keke Wang^{†‡}, Wenzhang Li^{†‡*}, Jie Li^{†‡*}

[†] School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Central South University,
Changsha 410083 China

[‡] Key Laboratory of Hunan Province for Metallurgy and Material Processing of
Rare Metals, Changsha, 410083, China

[§] College of Resources and Environment, Hunan Agricultural University,
Changsha 410128, China

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +86 731 8887 9616; fax: +86 731 8887 9616.

E-mail addresses: liwenzhang@csu.edu.cn, lijieliu@csu.edu.cn

5 pages, 6 figures and 1 tables

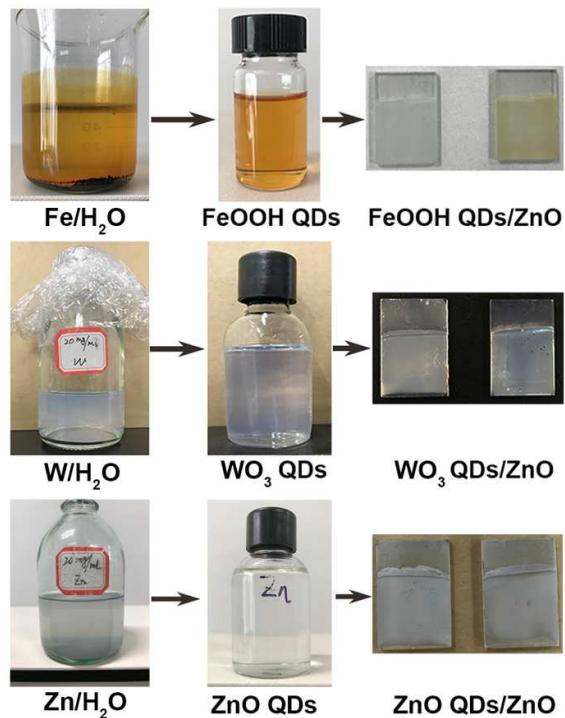


Fig. S1 Images of the as-prepared samples

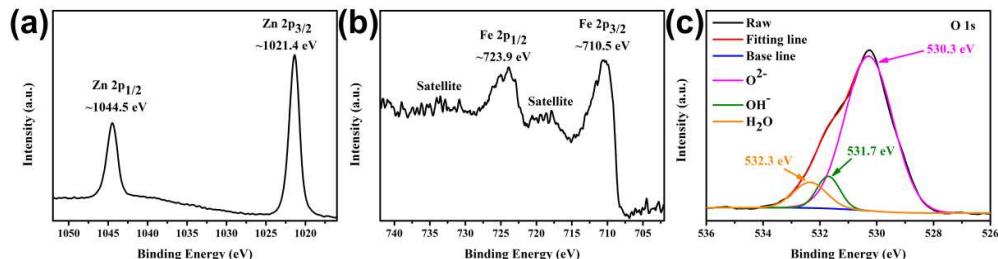


Fig. S2 XPS spectra of FeOOH QDs/ZnO film.

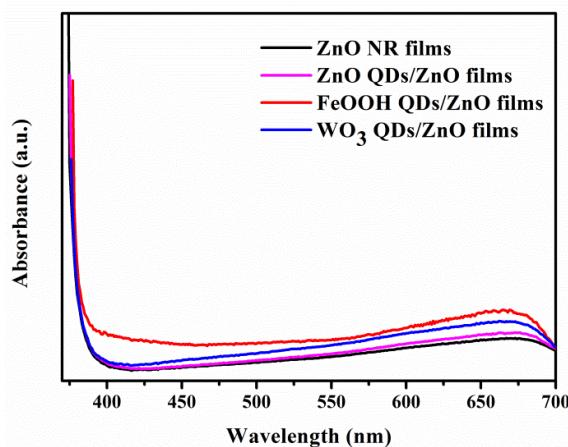


Fig. S3 UV-visible diffuse reflectance spectra of samples.

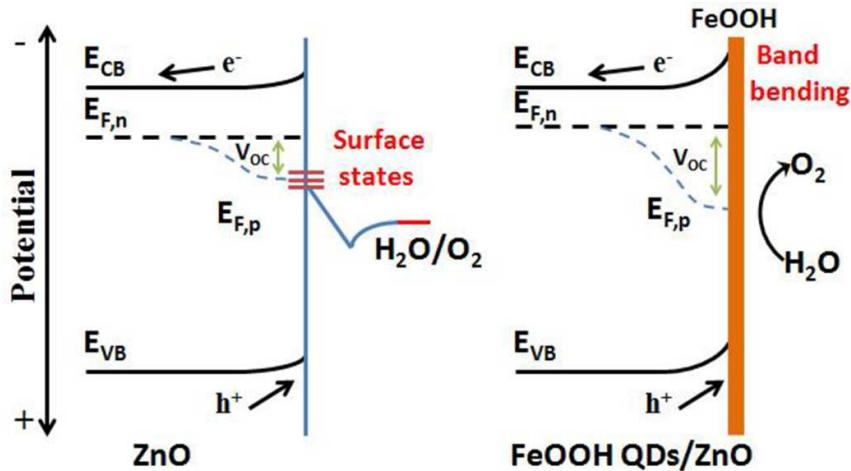


Fig. S4 Schematic band diagrams of bare and FeOOH QDs modified ZnO films under illumination.

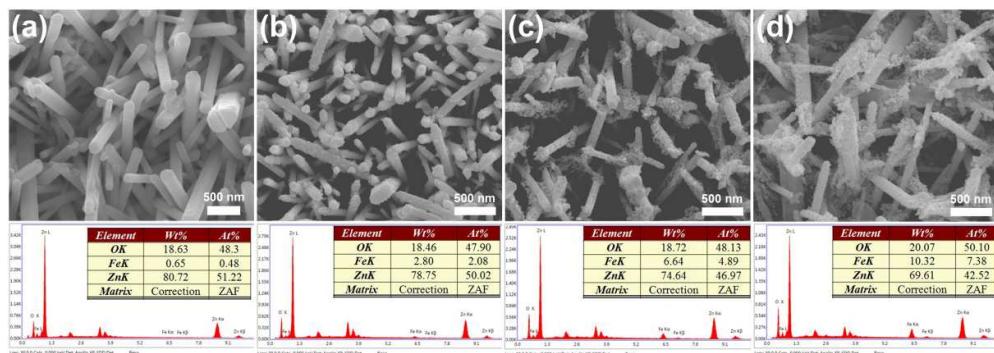


Fig. S5 SEM images of ZnO nanorods modified with different amounts of FeOOH QDs.

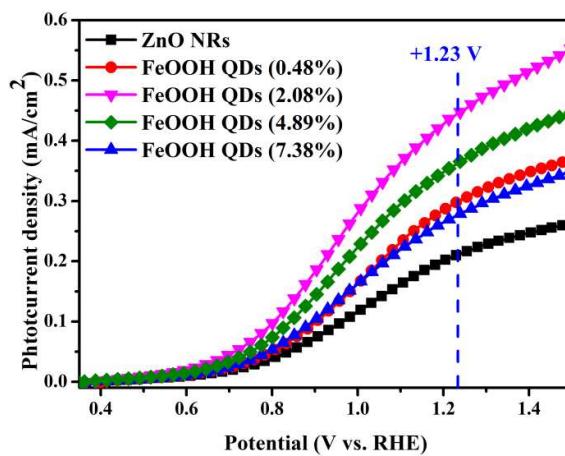


Fig. S6 Photocurrent densities of ZnO nanorods modified with different amounts of FeOOH QDs..

Table S1 Comparison of literature with the similar catalyst system.

Photocatalyst and cocatalyst	Shift of onset potential (V)	Current at 1.23 V _{RHE} without cocatalyst (mA/cm ²)	Current at 1.23 V _{RHE} with cocatalyst (mA/cm ²)	The current enhancement at 1.23 V _{RHE}	Ref.
ZnO; FeOOH QDs	0.20	0.21	0.44	110%	This work
ZnO; Co-Pi	0.02	0.90	1.00	11%	1
ZnO; Ni-B	0.20	0.90	1.25	39%	1
ZnO; Co ₃ O ₄	0.10	0.75	1.20	60%	2
ZnO; C _x N _y	No obvious	0.25	0.48	92%	3
ZnO/TiO ₂ ; FeOOH	0.27	0.50	1.25	150%	4
WO ₃ ; FeOOH	0.07	0.60	1.30	117%	5
Fe ₂ O ₃ ; FeOOH	0.12	0.61	1.21	98%	6

Supplementary References

1. Jiang, C.; Moniz, S. J. A.; Khraisheh, M.; Tang, J., Earth-abundant oxygen evolution catalysts coupled onto ZnO nanowire arrays for efficient photoelectrochemical water cleavage. *Chem-Eur. J.* **2014**, *20* (40), DOI 10.1002/chem.201403067.
2. Li, M.; Chang, K.; Wang, T.; Liu, L.; Zhang, H.; Li, P.; Ye, J., Hierarchical nanowire arrays based on carbon nanotubes and Co₃O₄ decorated ZnO for enhanced photoelectrochemical water oxidation. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2015**, *3* (26), DOI 10.1039/c5ta02901e.
3. Hajduk, Š.; Berglund, S. P.; Podlogar, M.; Dražić, G.; Abdi, F. F.; Orel, Z. C.; Shalom, M., Conformal carbon nitride coating as an efficient hole extraction

- layer for ZnO nanowires-based photoelectrochemical cells. *Adv. Mater. Interf.* **2017**, *4* (24), DOI 10.1002/admi.201700924.
4. Li, Z.; Feng, S.; Liu, S.; Li, X.; Wang, L.; Lu, W., A three-dimensional interconnected hierarchical FeOOH/TiO₂/ZnO nanostructural photoanode for enhancing the performance of photoelectrochemical water oxidation. *Nanoscale* **2015**, *7* (45), DOI 10.1039/c5nr06212h.
 5. Huang, J.; Ding, Y.; Luo, X.; Feng, Y., Solvation effect promoted formation of p–n junction between WO₃ and FeOOH: A high performance photoanode for water oxidation. *J. Catal.* **2016**, *333*, DOI 10.1016/j.jcat.2015.11.003.
 6. Kim, J. Y.; Youn, D. H.; Kang, K.; Lee, J. S., Highly conformal deposition of an ultrathin FeOOH layer on a hematite nanostructure for efficient solar water splitting. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**, *55* (36), DOI 10.1002/anie.201605924.