

## **Supporting Information**

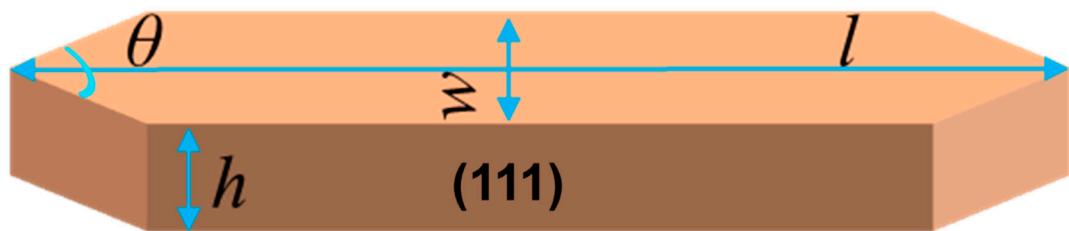
# **Management of $\gamma$ -Alumina with High-Efficient {111} External Surfaces for HDS Reactions**

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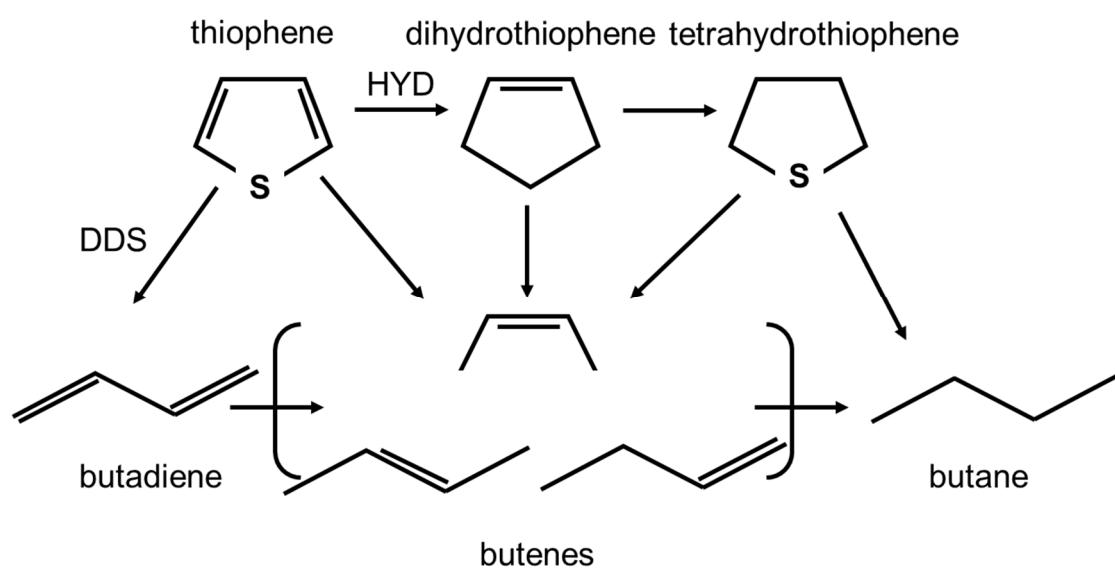
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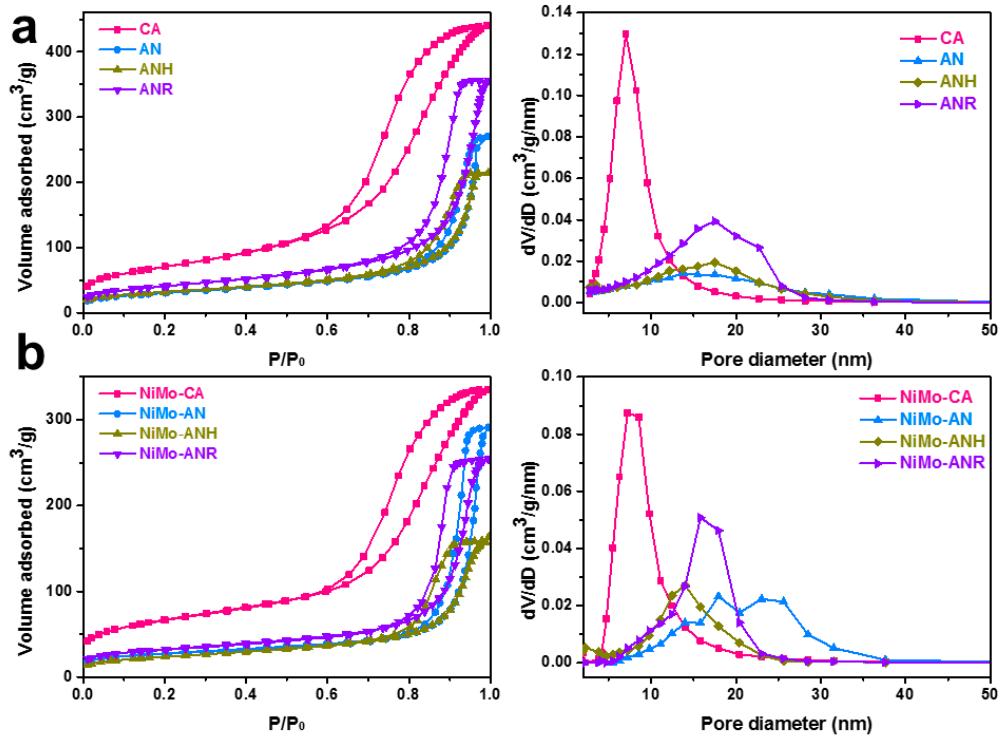
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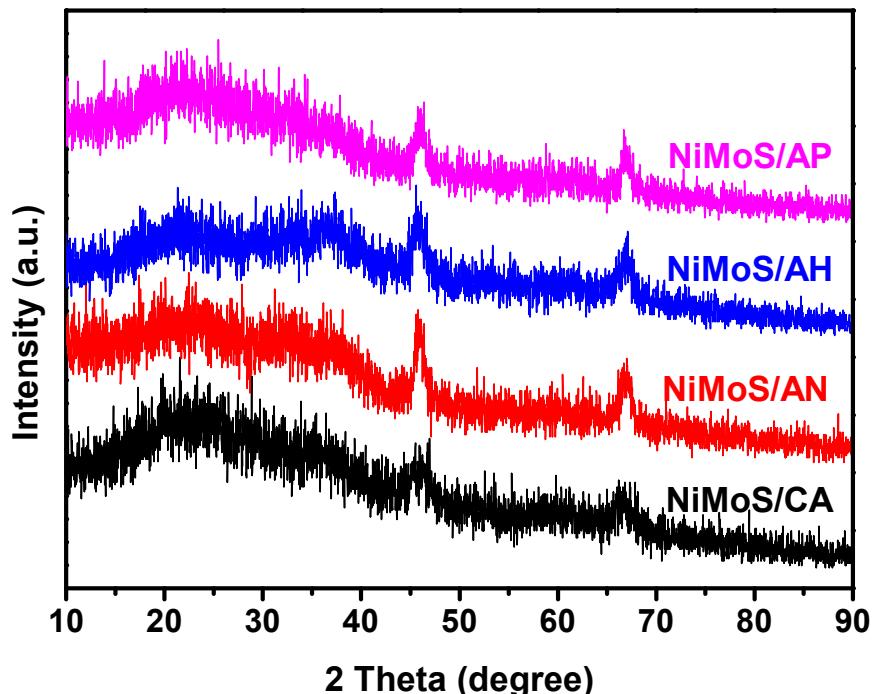
**Scheme S1** Schematic description of  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with the indexing of the dimensional parameters.



**Scheme S2** Proposed reaction network of thiophene over HDS catalysts through DDS (direct desulfurization) and HYD (hydrodesulfurization) pathways.



**Fig. S1** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherms and pore size distribution curves for (a)  $\gamma$ -aluminas and (b) NiMo/  $\gamma$ -alumina catalysts.



**Fig. S2** XRD of the NiMoS/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> samples.

**Table S1** HDS of DBT under 1.6 MPa at 525 K.

Catalysts	Product distribution (%)			DBT conv. (%)	HYD/DDS
	BCH	CHB	BP		
NiMo/AN	0.5	12.9	86.6	62.0	0.16
NiMo/CA	3.9	9.6	86.5	56.4	0.16
NiMo/AH	2.0	12.6	85.4	53.6	0.17
NiMo/AR	2.2	11.4	86.4	50.1	0.16

**Table S2** Texture properties of as prepared alumina after loading with Ni and Mo.

Samples	Surface Area	Pore Volume	Pore Size
	(m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	(cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	(nm)
NiMo/AN	98.4	0.45	22.2
NiMo/CA	238.8	0.52	8.4
NiMo/AH	84.7	0.25	11.5
NiMo/AR	114.8	0.40	15.1