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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# ELECTROPOLYMERZED POLYTHIOPHENE PHOTOELECTRODES FOR PHOTOCATALYTIC WATER SPLITTING AND HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

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#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- develop and demonstrate electropolymerized thiophene onto conductive metallic
- substrates
- electrochemically analyze photoelectrochemical devices for water splitting, showing
- appreciable photocurrent for organic devices
- electropolymerized thiophene shows more than 0.5 V improvement in onset voltage
- as compared to spin-coated poly-3hexylthiophene

#### **ABSTRACT**

We present thiopene-based devices fabricated via spin-coating and electropolymerization (EP) for usage in solar-powered, photocatalytic hydrogen gas ( $H_2$ ) harvesting. Two innovative claims are achieved in this work: (1) demonstration of electropolymerized photoelectrochemical (PEC) devices for water splitting, and (2) drastically improved performance of EP-PEC devices over spin-coated PEC hydrogen harvesters, achieving >0.5V improvement in onset voltage ( $V_{on}$ , bias voltage needed to produce photocurrent), with  $V_{on}$  of 0 V vs. Ag/AgCl. As such, this work points to new opportunities for material and device fabrication for cheaper and efficient PEC hydrogen harvesting systems.\

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