

## Lecture 20: Solar Fuels (Basic Photocatalysis and Photoelectrochemical Applications)

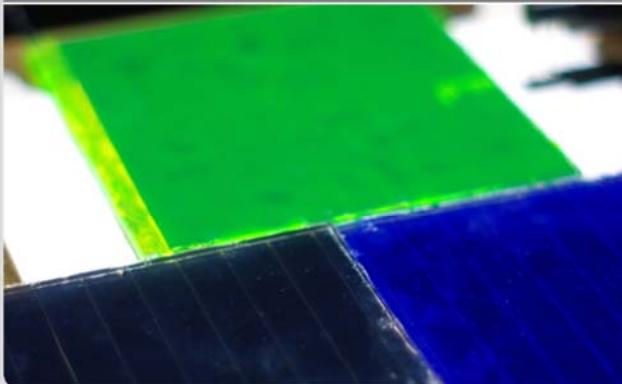
**Prof. Dr. Bryce S. Richards / Dr. Engelbert Redel**

*Institute of Microstructure Technology (IMT), Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen*

*Light Technology Institute (LTI), Engesserstrasse 13, Building 30.34, 76131 Karlsruhe*

*Institute of Functional Interfaces (IFG), Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen*

KIT Focus Optics & Photonics



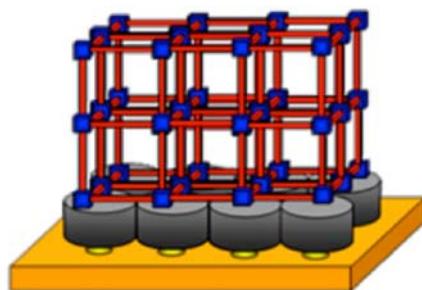
KIT – Universität des Landes Baden-Württemberg und  
nationales Forschungszentrum in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

[www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu)

# “Solar Energy” WS 2014/2015

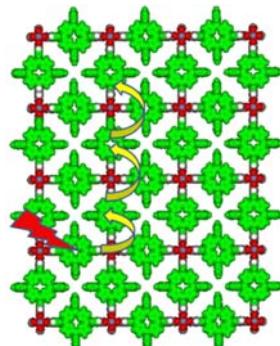
■ **Dr. Engelbert Redel**  
**(Group Leader)**

*Institute of Functional Interfaces (IFG),  
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1,  
76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen*



■ **Research Interest:**

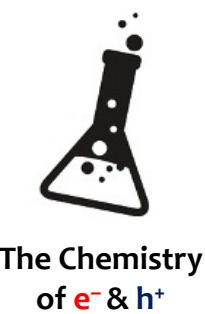
- Nanomaterials and Optical/Photonic Assemblies
- Supramolecular Coordination Networks (CNCs)
- Watersplitting and Photo(electro)catalysis
- Devices and Energy Applications



# Overview & Introduction

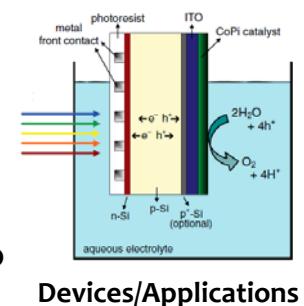
## •Part I (45 min)

- Introduction (Photosynthesis)
- Basic SC Photochemistry
- Basic Photo-oxidation & Photo-reduction
- SC Tandem Systems



## •Part II (45 min)

- Photoelectrochemical (PEC) Applications
- Photovoltaic coupled Photoelectrochemistry
- Dual energy systems, Solar Refinery & GAP



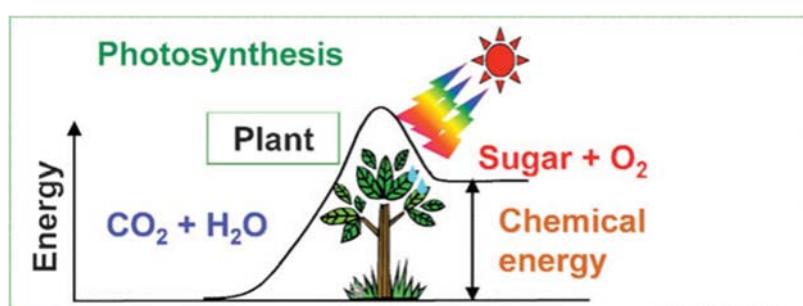
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# Introduction (Photosynthesis)

- ④ **Sunlight energy** is abundant, renewable and well distributed throughout the globe.
- ④ Photosynthesis transform “photon-energy” into high energy density organic-fuel products which are storables!

Photosynthesis is the ultimate source of our:

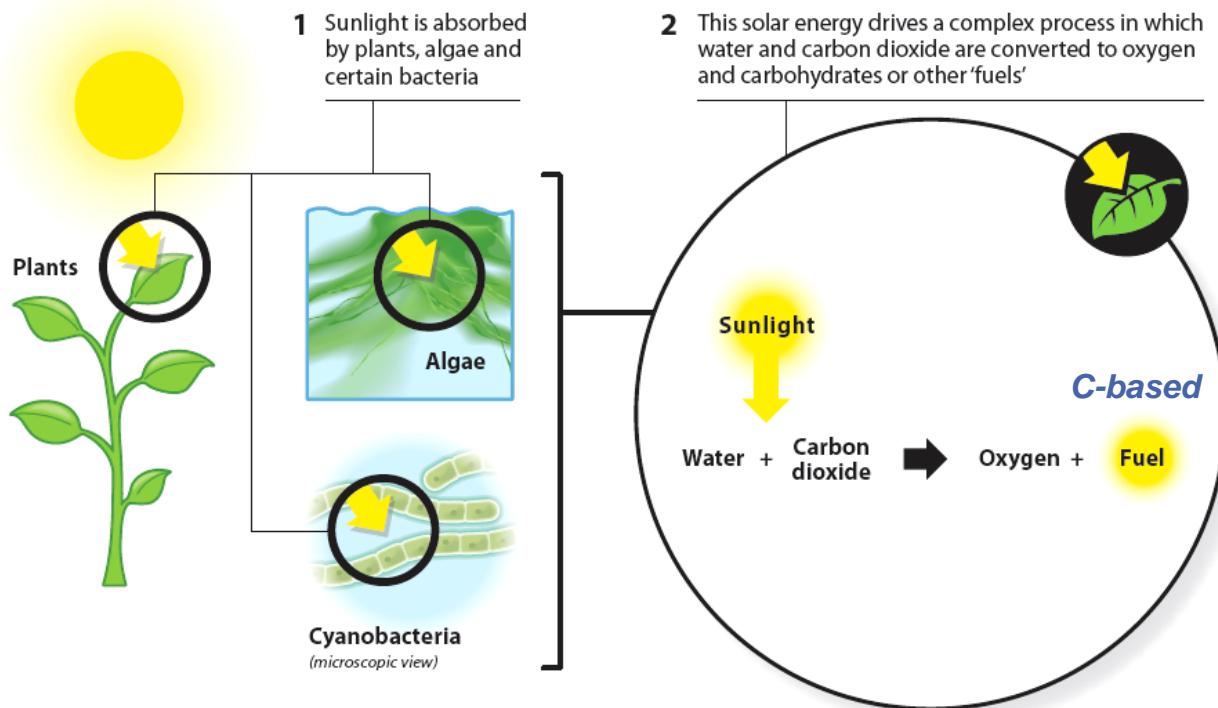
- Oxygen
- Organic Food
- Fossil Fuels



A. Kudo, Y. Miseki Chem. Soc. Rev., 2009, 38, 253–278.

4

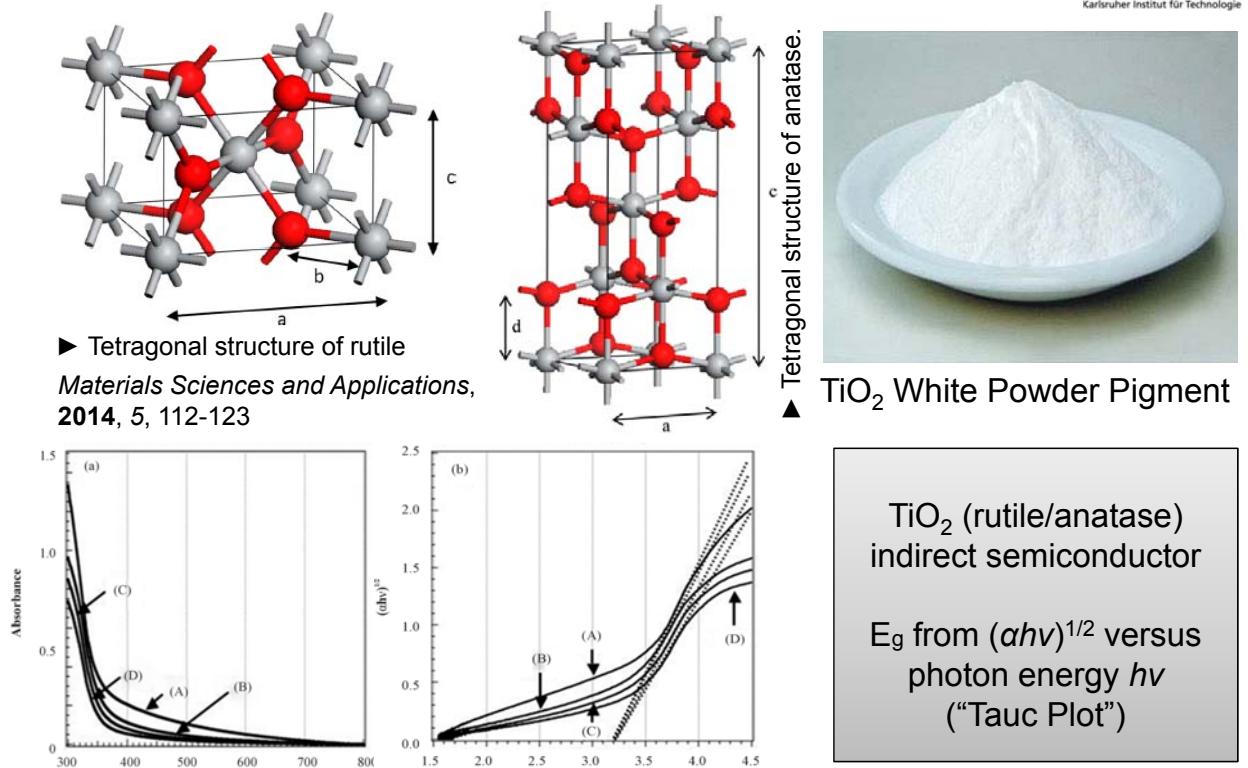
# Photosynthesis: Nature's way of making "solar fuels"



Source/picture from: Solar Fuels and Artificial Photosynthesis (Science and innovation to change our future energy options) January 2012, RSC Advancing the Chemical Sciences, on p. 6 Figure 2; [www.rsc.org/solar-fuels](http://www.rsc.org/solar-fuels)

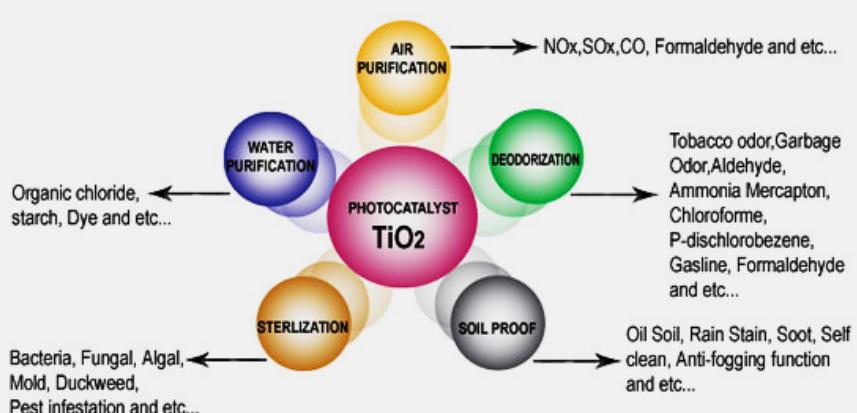
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## Photocatalyst e.g. $\text{TiO}_2$ pigment



6 (A)  $\text{TiO}_2$  film which was made from the sol solution (a); (B)  $\text{TiO}_2$  film which was made from the sol solution (b); (C)  $\text{TiO}_2$  film which was made from the sol solution (c); (D)  $\text{TiO}_2$  film which was made from the sol solution (d).

# Photocatalyst TiO<sub>2</sub> Applications

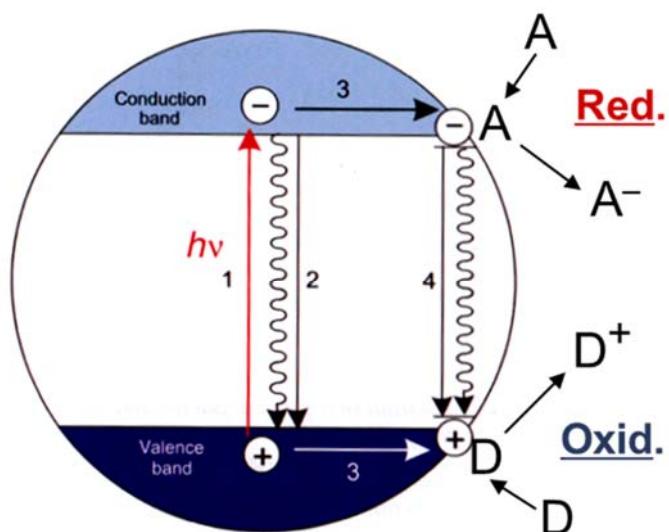


SK  
Building,  
Seoul,  
Korea

<sup>7</sup> <http://haximpower.com/>

## Basic Photochemistry SC

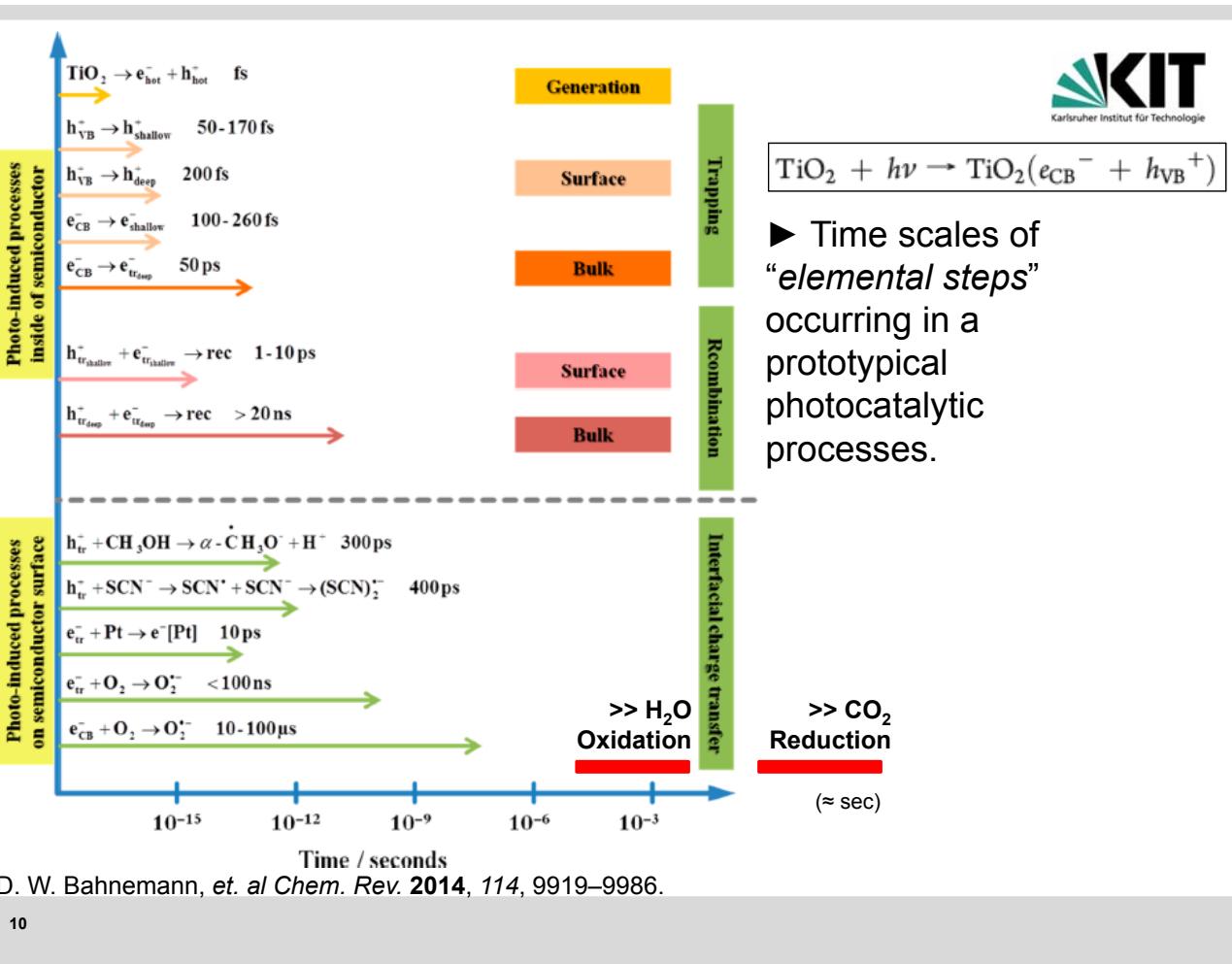
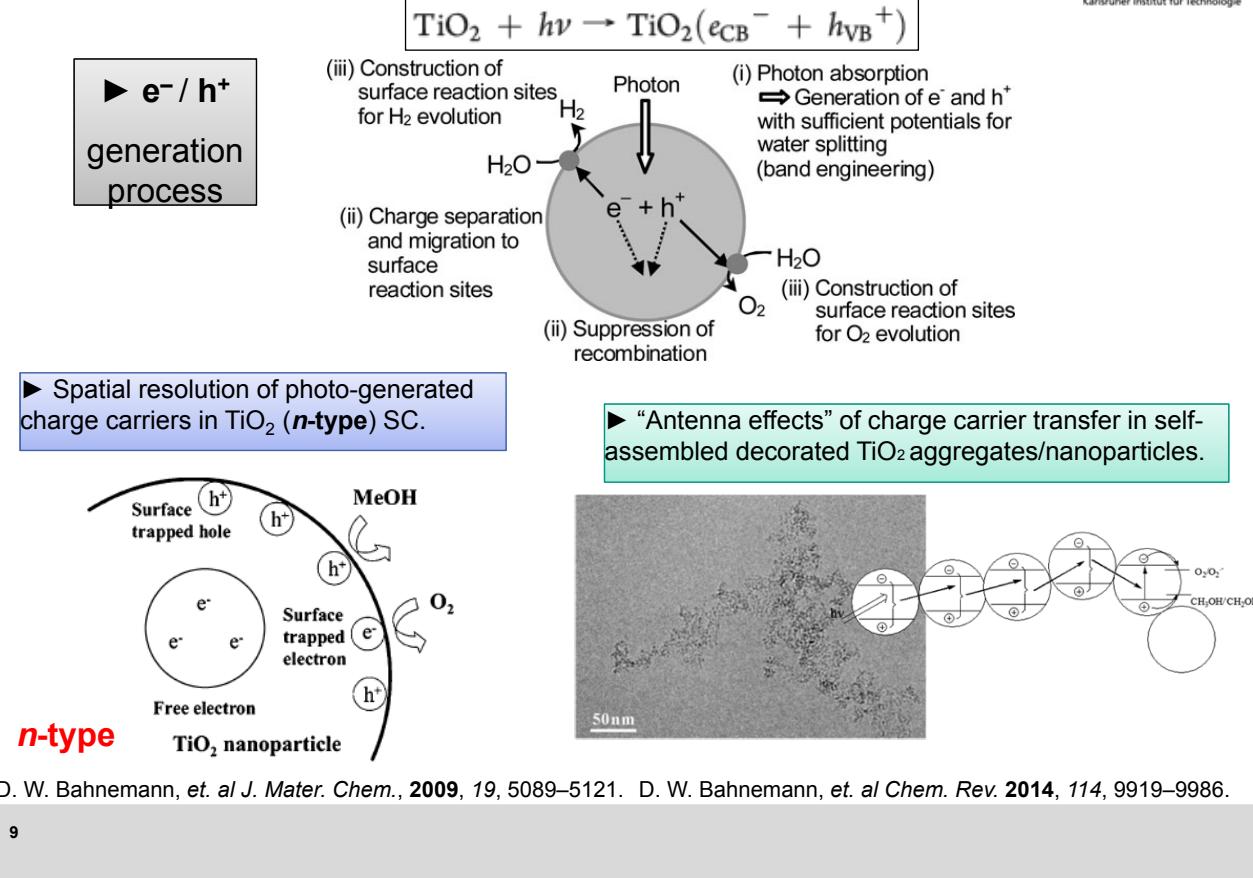
- Primary physical processes taking place after excitation of a SC particle:



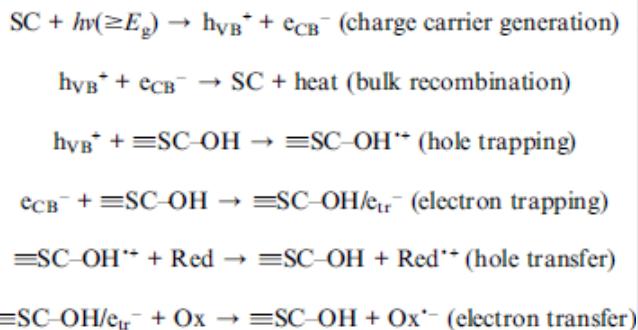
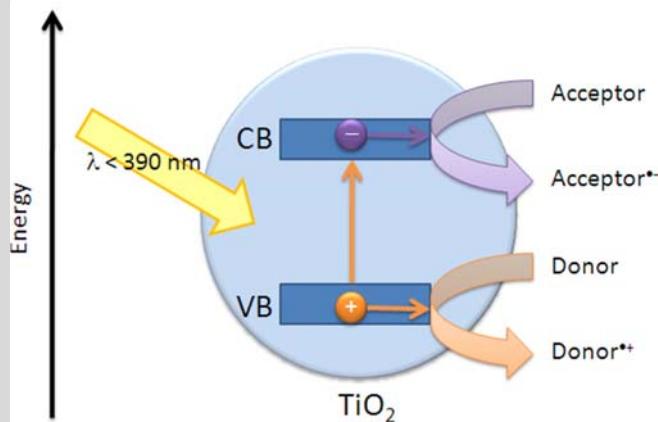
- (1) excitation
- (2) radiative or non-radiative recombination
- (3) charge trapping
- (4) recombination of trapped states

G. Stochel, M. Brindell, W. Macyk, Z. Stasicka, K. Szacilowski,  
*Bioinorganic Photochemistry*, Wiley-VCH, 2009, p.88.

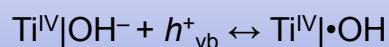
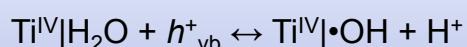
# Basic Photochemistry (SC)



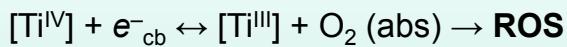
# Basic Photochemistry (SC)



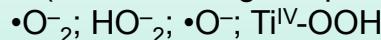
## Oxidation



## Reduction



ROS (Reduced Oxygen Species)

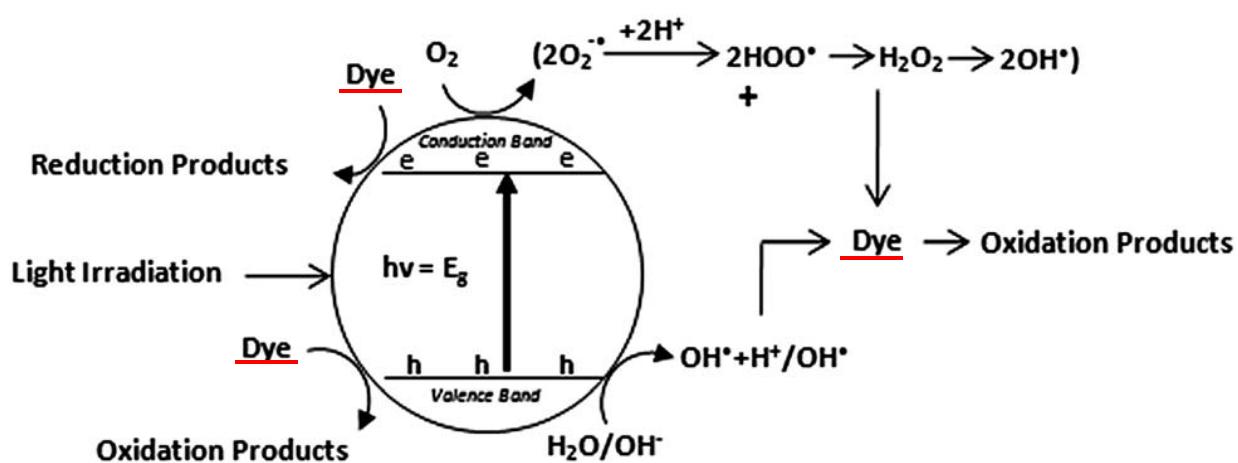


<https://photochemistry.wordpress.com/page/2/>

J. Mater. Chem., 2009, 19, 5089–5121.

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# Basic Photo-oxidation & Photo-reduction

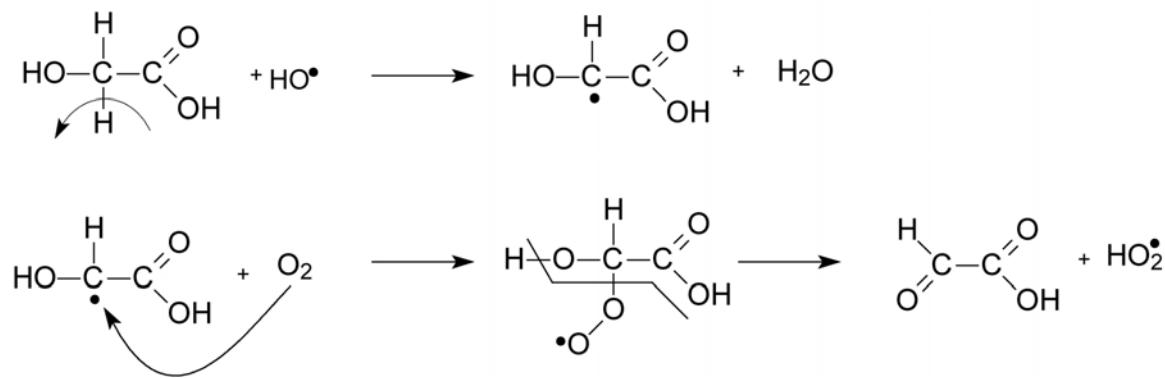


Source: A. Ajmal, I. Majeed, R. N. Malik, H. Idriss, M. A. Nadeem *RSC Adv.*, 2014, 4, 37003–37026.

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# Basic Photo-oxidation & Photo-reduction

- Photodegradation with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  Radicals



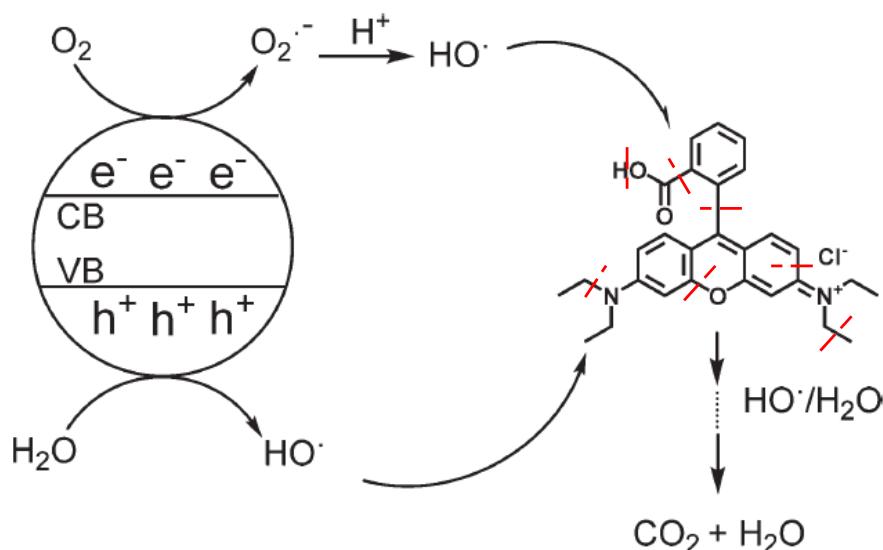
- Example: Photooxidation of carboxylic acids.

*J. Braz. Chem. Soc.*, **2009**, 20, 1467-1472.

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# Basic Photo-oxidation & Photo-reduction

- Photodegradation from reduced  $\cdot\text{O}_2\text{H}$  /  $\cdot\text{OH}$  species



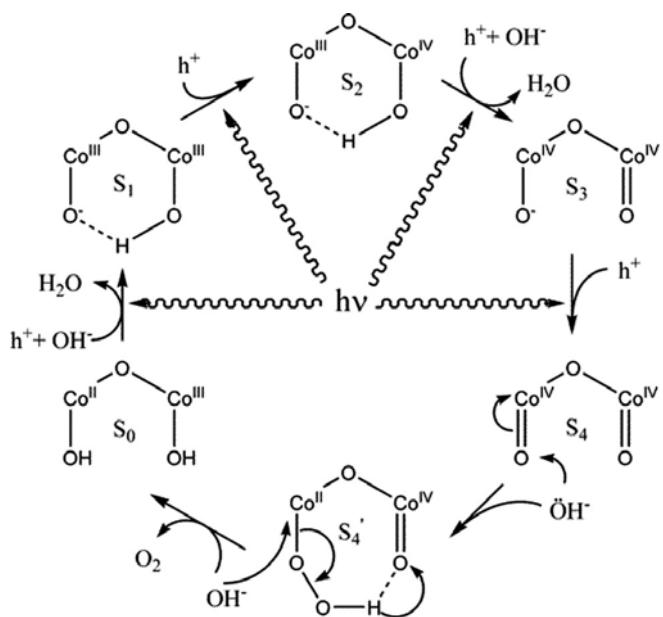
- Example: Photodegradation of an organic dye.

*CrystEngComm*, **2015**, DOI: 10.1039/C4CE02074J

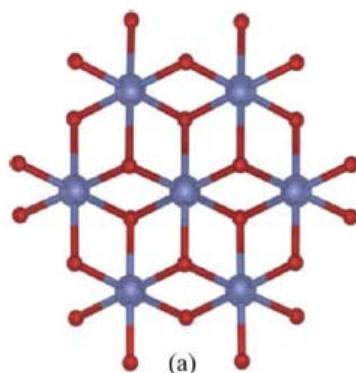
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# Basic Photo-oxidation & Photo-reduction

- Photo-oxidation with  $h^+$  (holes)



Co-OEC



Nocera et al., *Science*, 2011, 334, 645.

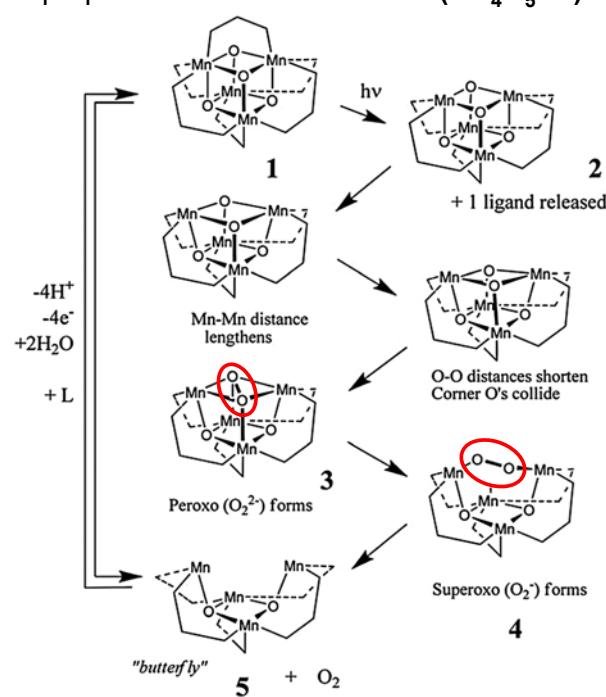
► Example: Oxidation of Water ( $H_2O$ ).

*Catal. Sci. Technol.*, 2013, 3, 1660-1671.

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# Basic Photo-oxidation & Photo-reduction

- gas phase photochemical oxygen evolution from  $Mn_4O_4(PPh_2)_6$
- proposed mechanism for PSII ( $Mn_4O_5Ca$ )



**1** "cubane"  $Mn_4O_4(PPh_2)_6$

**2** cationic species  $[Mn_4O_4(PPh_2)_5]^+$  after  $hv$  illumination

**3** Peroxo ( $O_2^{2-}$ ) species formation

**4** Superoxo species ( $O_2^{2-}$ )

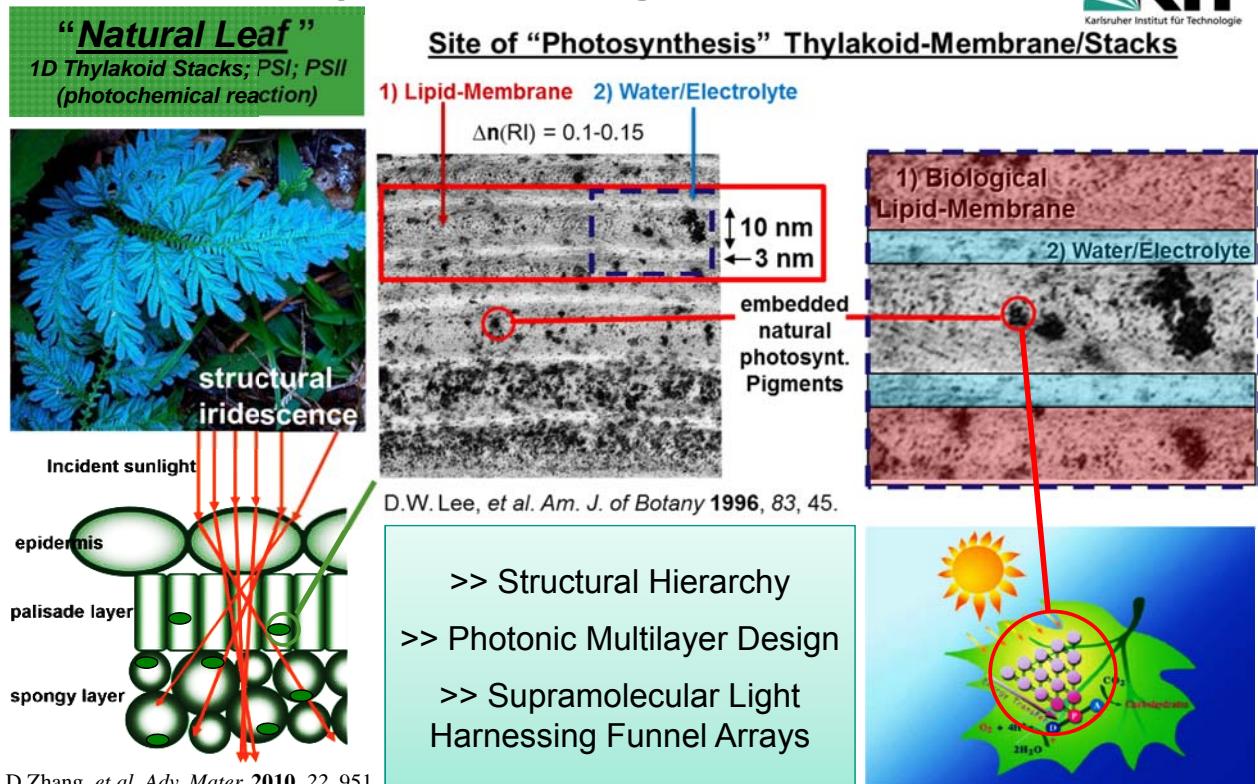
**5** "Butterfly" and  $O_2$  release

>> recycling and self-repairing  
**PSII ( $Mn_4O_5Ca$ )**

*Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2013, 42, 2357-2387

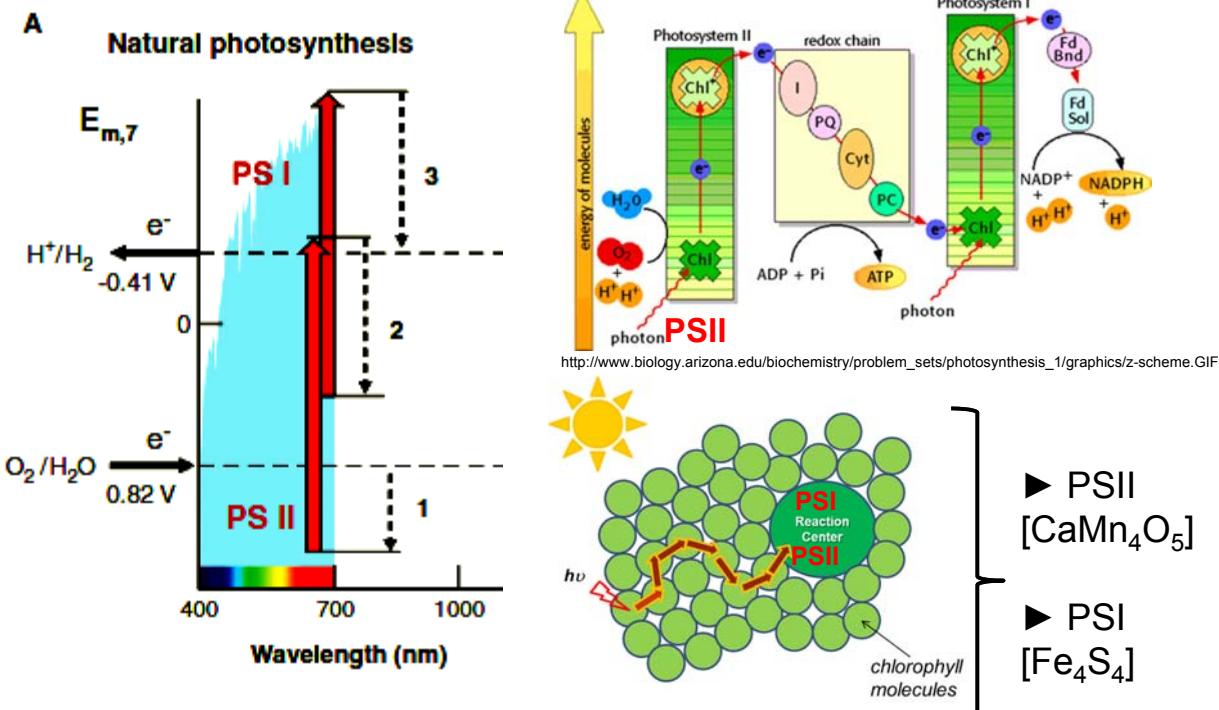
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# Nature's way of making "Solar Fuels"



## Natural Tandem Systems

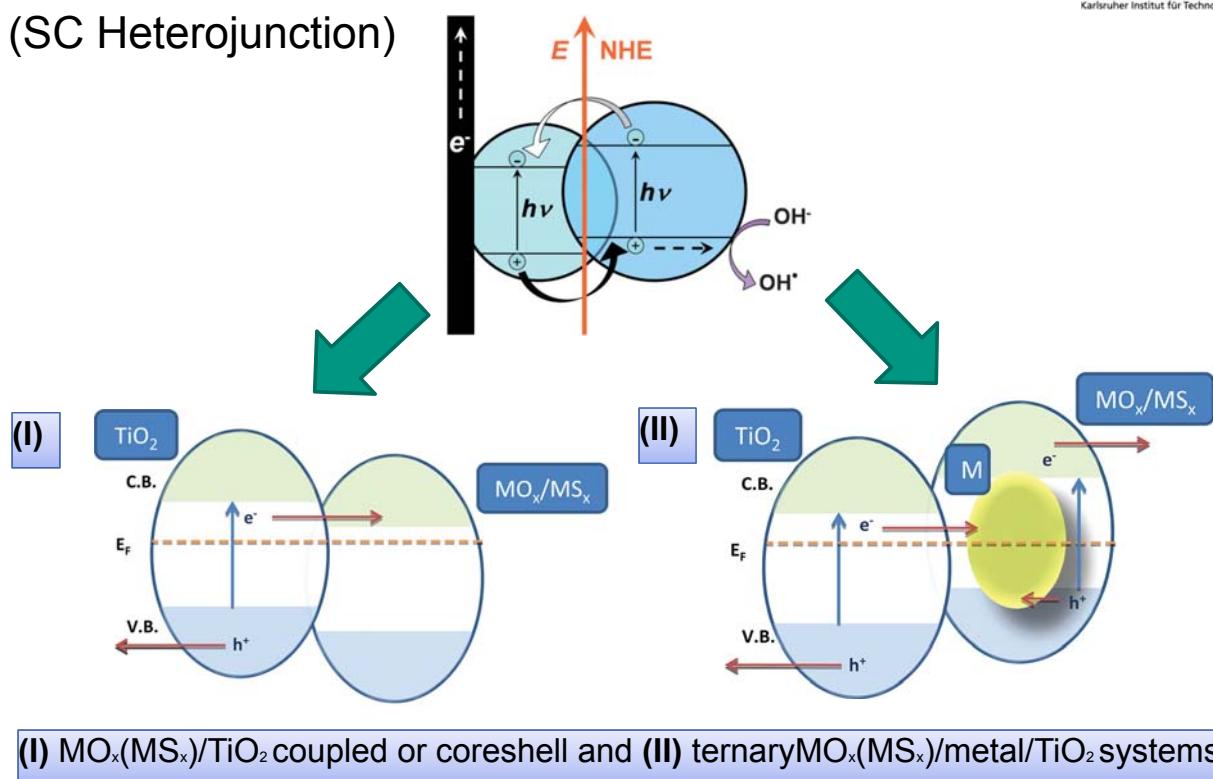
(PSI/PSII in Natural Photosynthesis)



R. E. Blankenship, et al. Science 2011, 332, 805-807.

# SC Tandem Systems

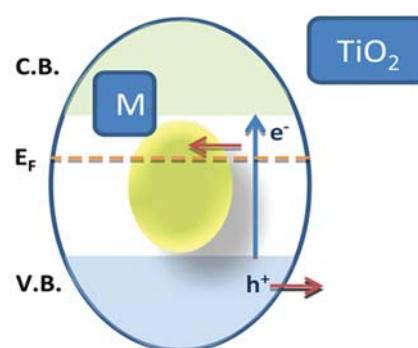
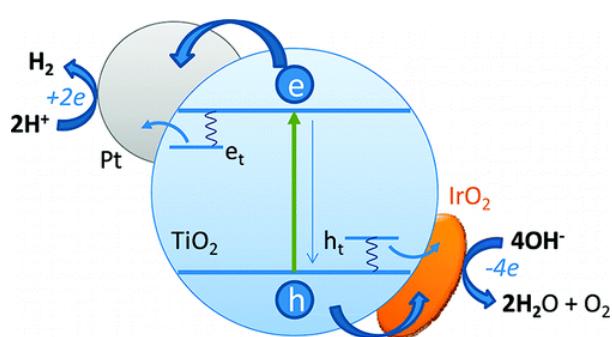
(SC Heterojunction)



19 *J. Mater. Chem.*, **2009**, *19*, 5089–5121; and *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, *112*, 1555–1614 .

# SC Tandem Systems

(charge separation systems)



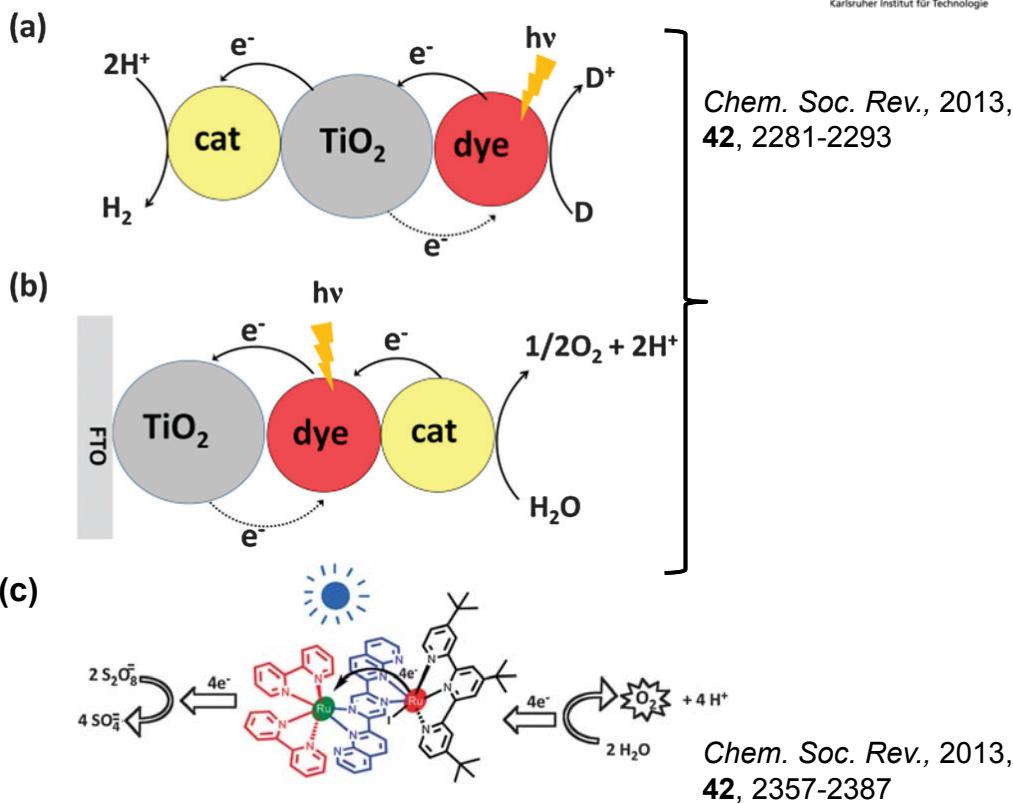
- Charge separation  
® electron and hole trapping!

Kamat, P. V. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **2012**, *3*, 663–672.  
(Perspective article)

- Charge separation  
® electron trapping on nobel Metals (Ag, Pt or Cu)!

A. Kubacka, M. Fernandez-Garcia,  
G. Colon *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, *112*,  
1555–1614.

# Dye Sensitized (SC) Systems

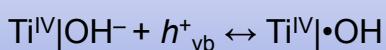
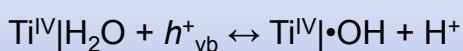


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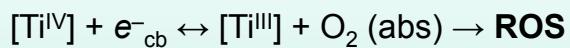
## Summary (Part I)

e<sup>-</sup> and h<sup>+</sup> are doing Redox-Reactions (Oxidations or Reductions) on SC-surfaces

### Oxidation



### Reduction



ROS (Reduced Oxygen Species)  
 $\cdot\text{O}_2^-$ ;  $\text{HO}_2^-$ ;  $\cdot\text{O}^-$ ;  $\text{Ti}^{IV}\text{-OOH}$

>>  $\text{TiO}_2$  as example of a Photoactive Material

>> Timescales from fs to ms

>> Surface/Bulk & Interface

>> Different SC Heterojunction (charge separation)

>> Dye Sensitized Systems (charge separation)

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## Part II



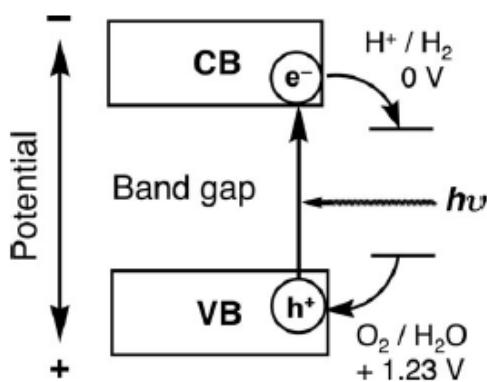
<http://www.kth.se/> Prof. Licheng Sun

- Basic Photoelectrochemical PEC Applications
- Different PEC Devices/Designs
- Photovoltaic coupled (Photo)electrochemistry PECs
- Dual energy systems, Scale up, Solar Refinery and GAP

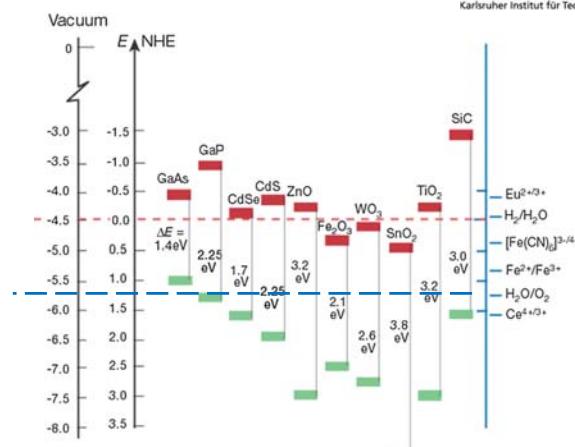
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# Principle of Water Splitting

$$\text{Band Gap (eV)} = \frac{1240}{\text{wavelength (nm)}}$$



Chem. Soc. Rev., 2009, 38, 253–278.



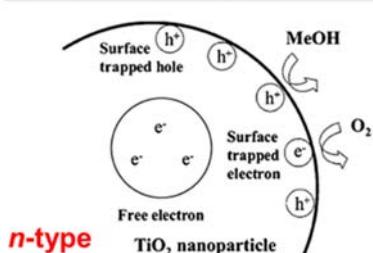
Electrochemical decomposition of water a potential difference of more than 1.23 V is necessary! This potential different is equivalent to the Energy Radiation with a wavelength of  $\approx 1100$  nm.

>> SC E<sub>g</sub> choice with absorption properties of VB and CB levels  
more negation than the Redox-Potential of H<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O  
more positiv than the Redox Potential of H<sub>2</sub>O/O<sub>2</sub>

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## Over potential and Light Irradiation

► Spatial resolution of photo-generated charge carriers in TiO<sub>2</sub> (*n*-type) SC.

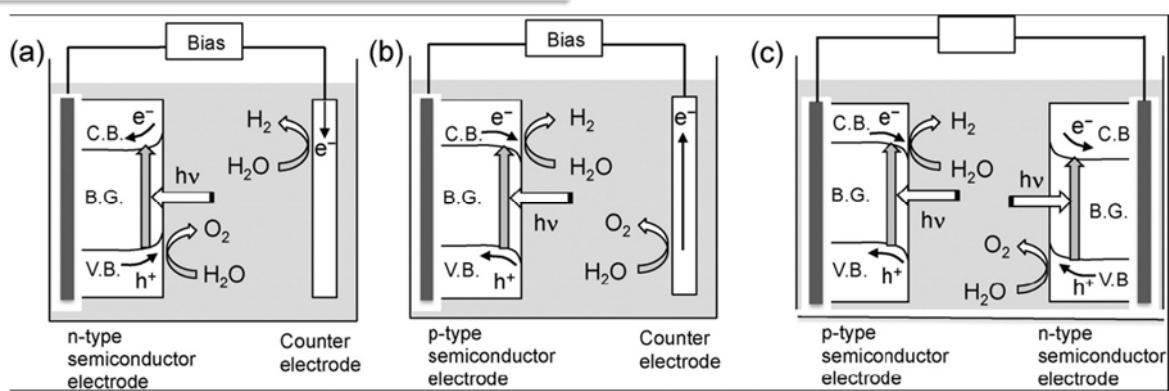


D. W. Bahnemann, et al. J. Mater. Chem., 2009, 19, 5089–5121.

>> ***n*-type SC (h<sup>+</sup>)** on their surface  
 Water-Oxidation H<sub>2</sub>O/O<sub>2</sub>

>> ***p*-type SC (e<sup>-</sup>)** on their surface  
 Water-Reduction H<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O

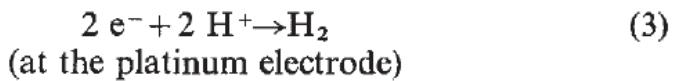
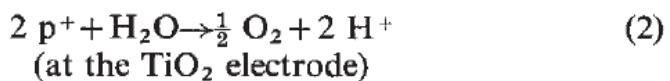
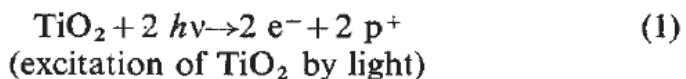
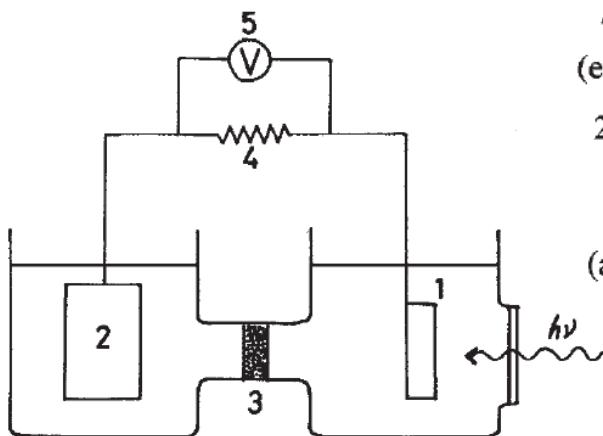
>> Coupled Systems *n/p*-type PECs



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# Historic H<sub>2</sub>O Splitting on TiO<sub>2</sub>

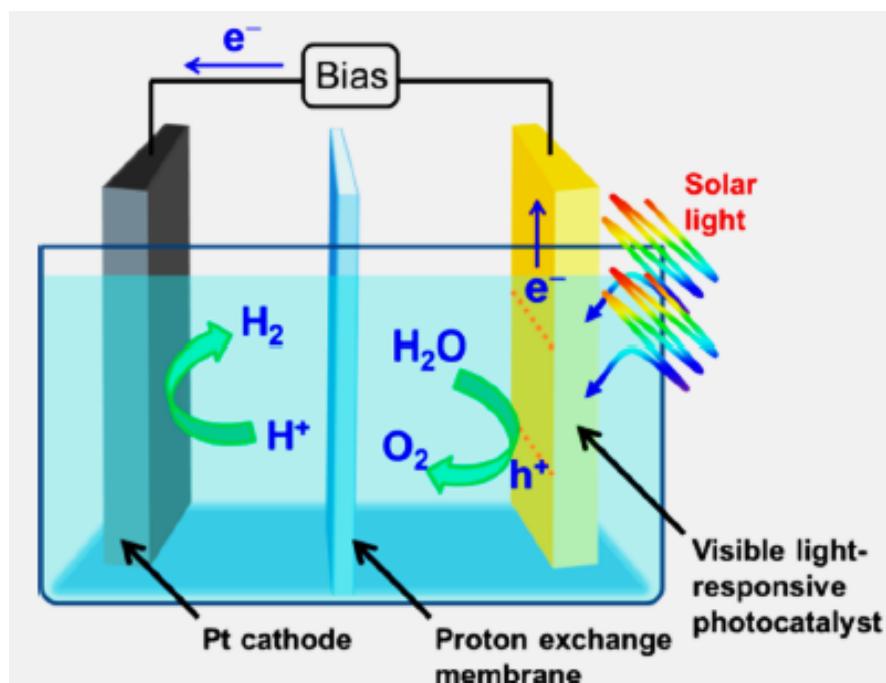
(Honda-Fujishima Effect 1972)



A. Fujishima, K. Honda, *Nature*, 1972, 238, 37-38.

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## Photoelectro-chemical cell



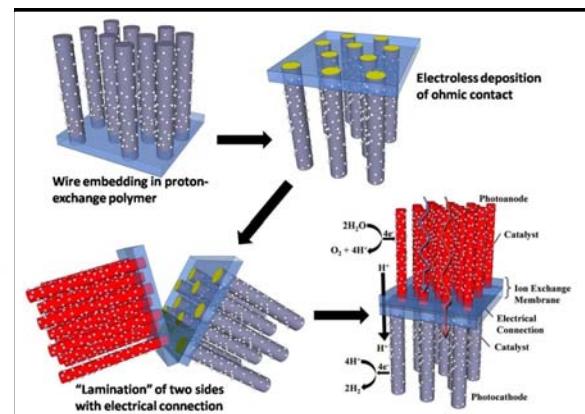
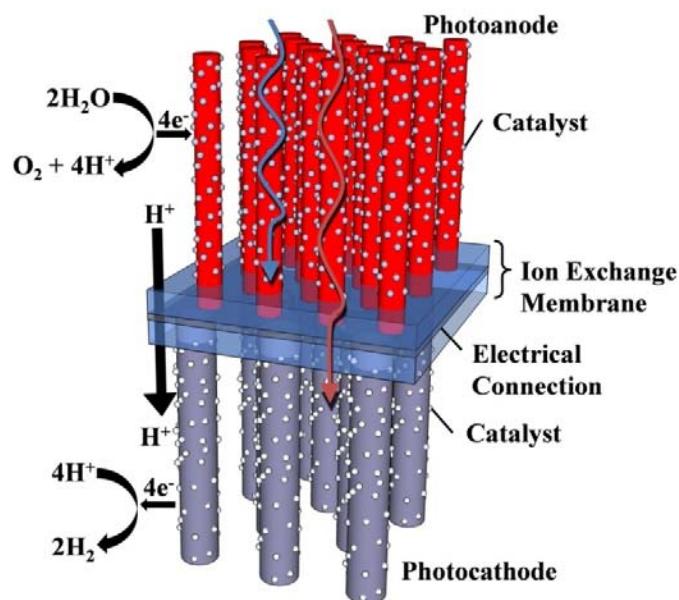
### >> SC Photoanodes:

- TiO<sub>2</sub>
- WO<sub>3</sub>
- ZnO
- RuC
- SiC
- SrTiO<sub>3</sub>
- KTaO<sub>3</sub>
- Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
- BiVO<sub>4</sub>
- (ZnS)
- (CdS)

D. W. Bahnemann, et. al *Chem. Rev.* 2014, 114, 9919–9986.

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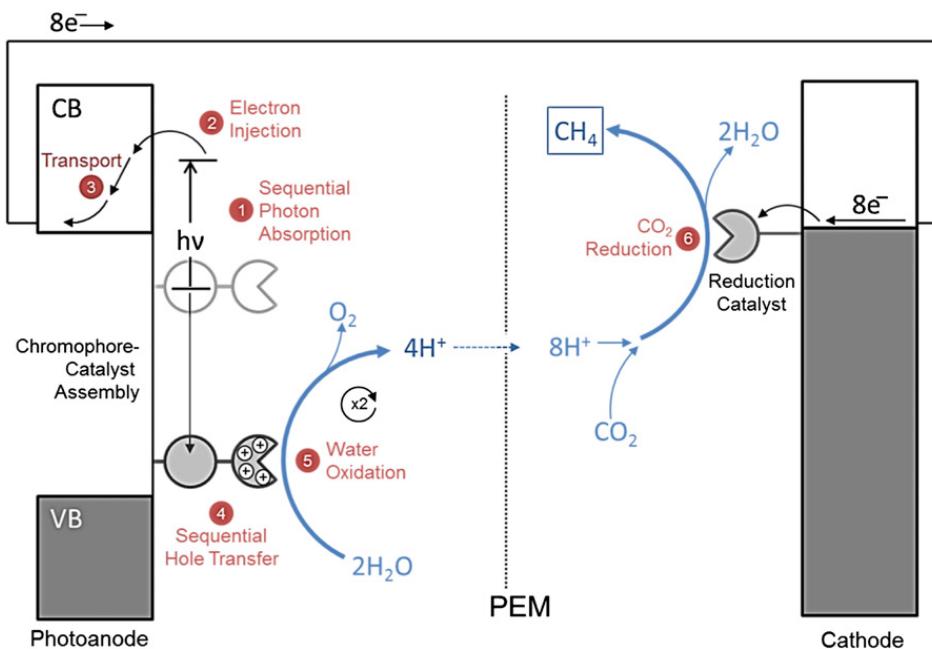
# Photoelectro-chemical Membrane



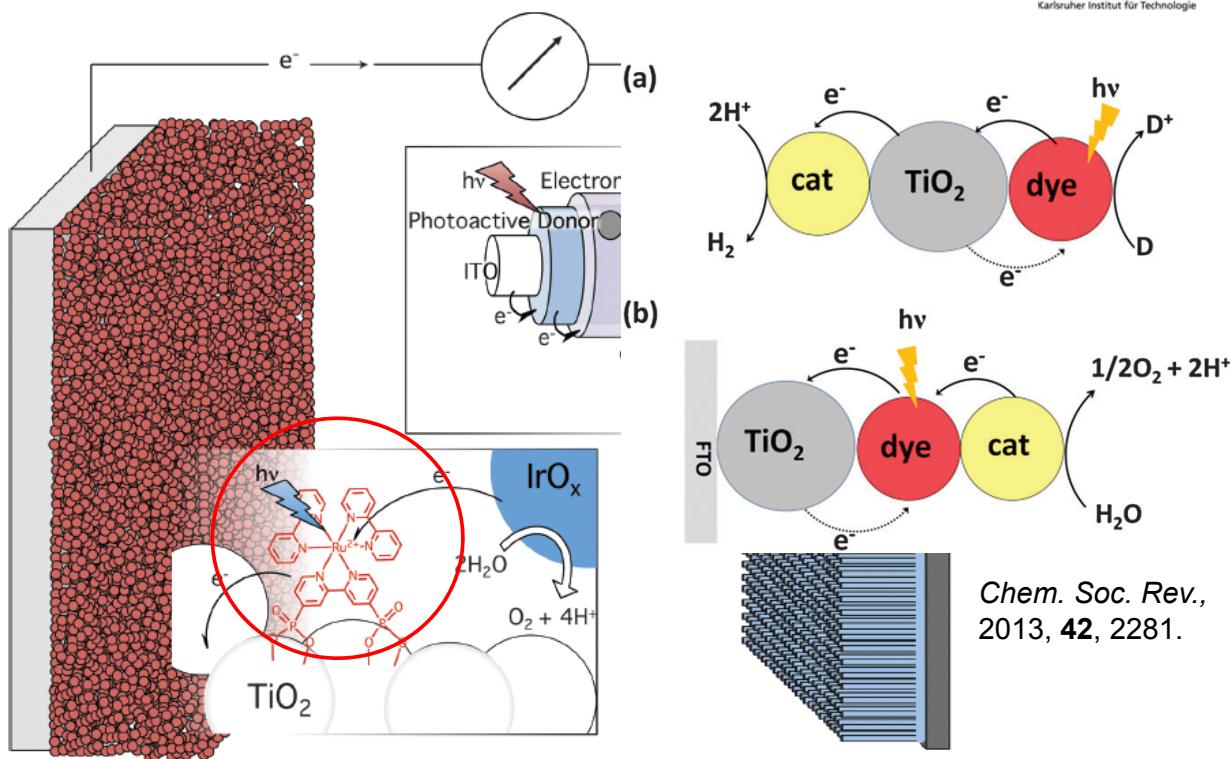
<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~spurgeon/Water%20Splitting.html>

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## Dye sensitized photoelectrosynthesis cell (DSPEC)



# Dye-based Photoelectrochemical Cell (PEC)



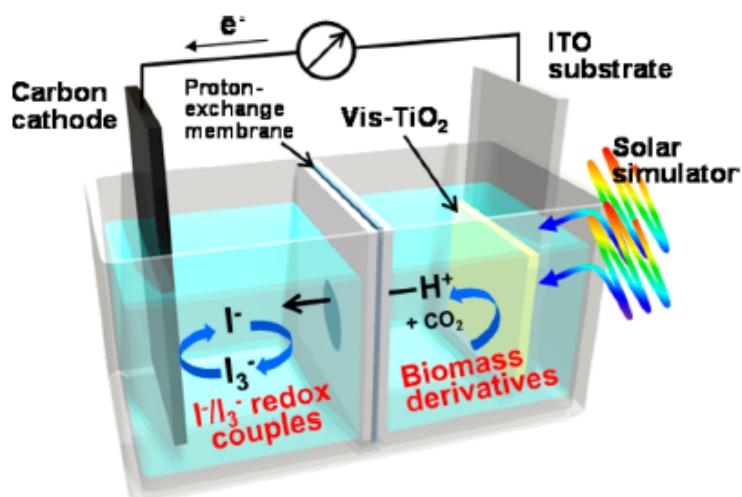
Thomas E. Mallouk, et. al *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2013, **42**, 2357

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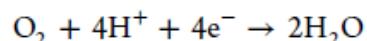
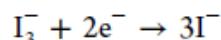
*Chem. Soc. Rev.*,  
2013, **42**, 2281.

## SPFC Photochemical cell

SPFC = Separator-type photofuel cell



Photovoltaic performances is based on various SPFCs based on Vis-TiO<sub>2</sub>



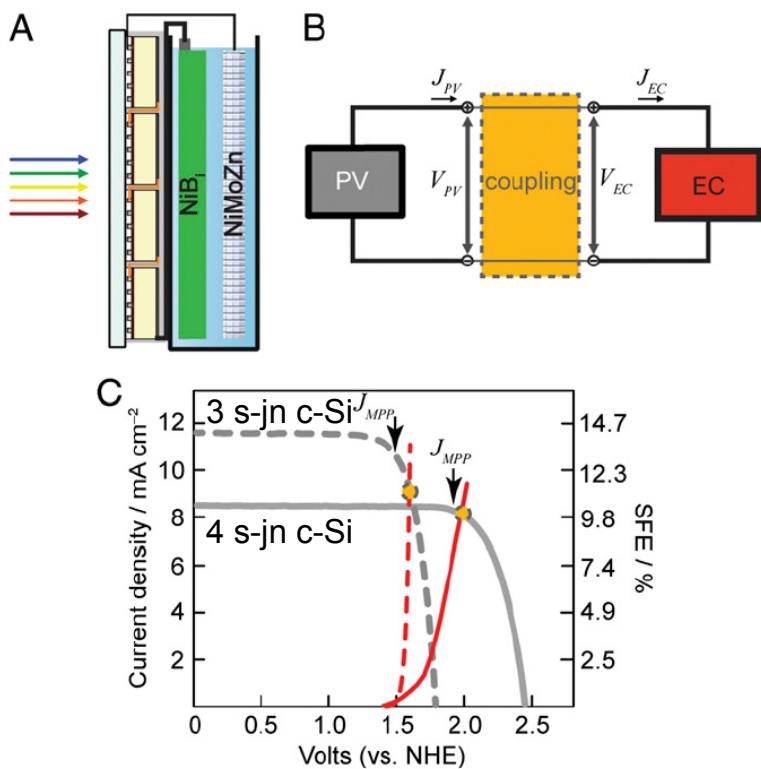
The reduction reaction of I<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> ions to I<sup>-</sup> ions is rather preferred than the oxygen reduction reaction takes place at the carbon cathode.

biomass derivatives	V <sub>OC</sub> [V]	J <sub>SC</sub> [mA cm <sup>-2</sup> ]	FF	η [%]
none	0.42	0.10	0.22	0.009
methanol (10 vol %)	0.66	0.39	0.24	0.062
ethanol (10 vol %)	0.65	0.33	0.20	0.043
ethylene glycol (10 vol %)	0.68	0.52	0.28	0.099
glycerin (10 vol %)	0.72	0.57	0.27	0.111
glucose (9 wt %)	0.68	0.41	0.26	0.073

D. W. Bahnemann, et. al  
*Chem. Rev.* **2014**,  
114, 9919–9986.

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# PV-EC Cell coupled Devices

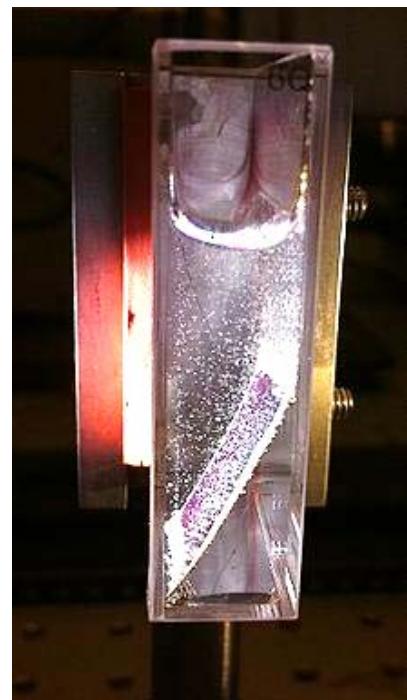
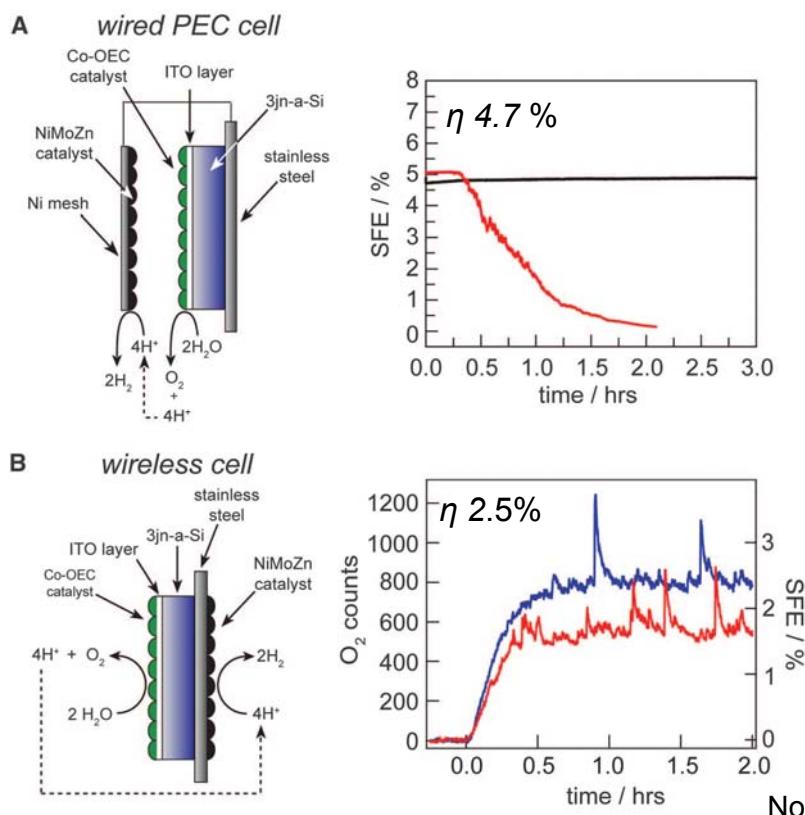


PNAS | September 30, 2014 | vol. 111 | no. 39 | 14057–14061

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- >> Coupled PV/EC-Cell
- >> 10% SFE (Solar to Fuel Efficiency)
- >> usage of nonprecious materials
- >> monolithic approach  
NiB (OEC) - p-type (PV)  
NiMoZn (HEC) - n-type (PV)

## Nocera's Photoelectro-chemical Cell



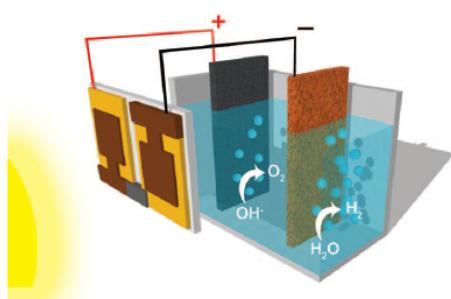
Nocera et al., Science, 2011, 334, 645.

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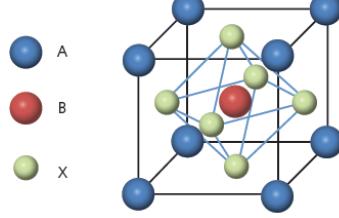
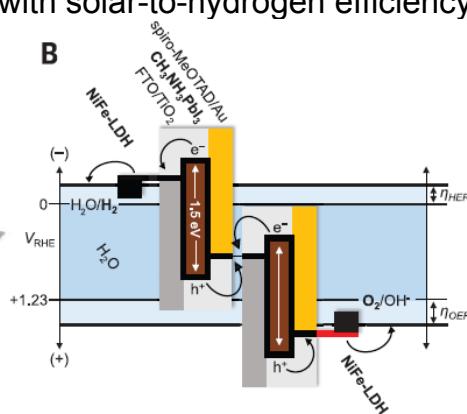
# EPFL Perovskite PV-EC Cell

► low-cost water splitting cell with solar-to-hydrogen efficiency of  $\eta$  12.3%

A

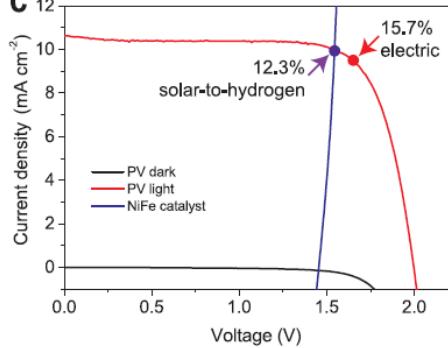


B

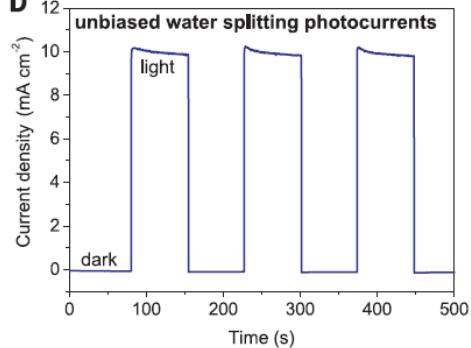


►  $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$   
►  $\text{ABX}_3$

C



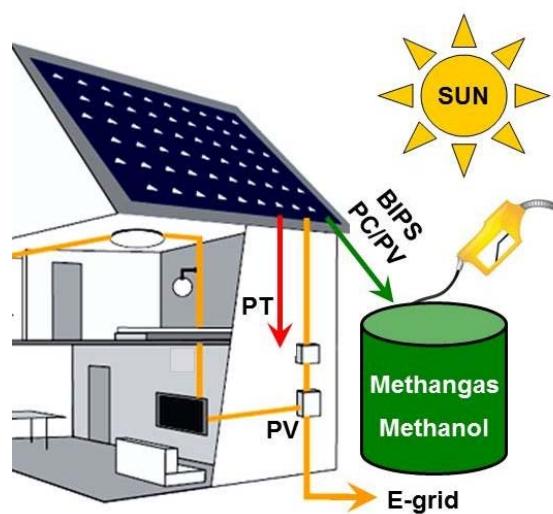
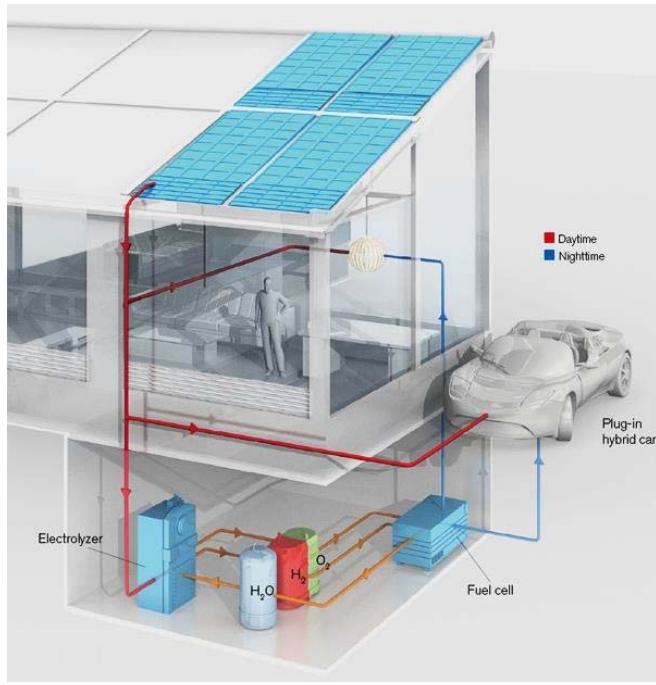
D



Science 2014,  
345,1593-1596.

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## Up Scale (SF) House Facilities



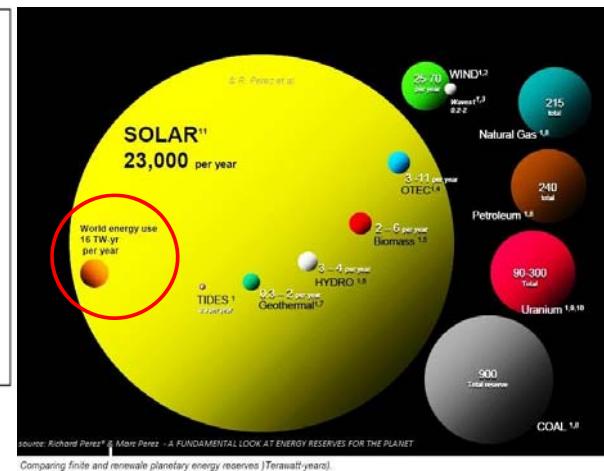
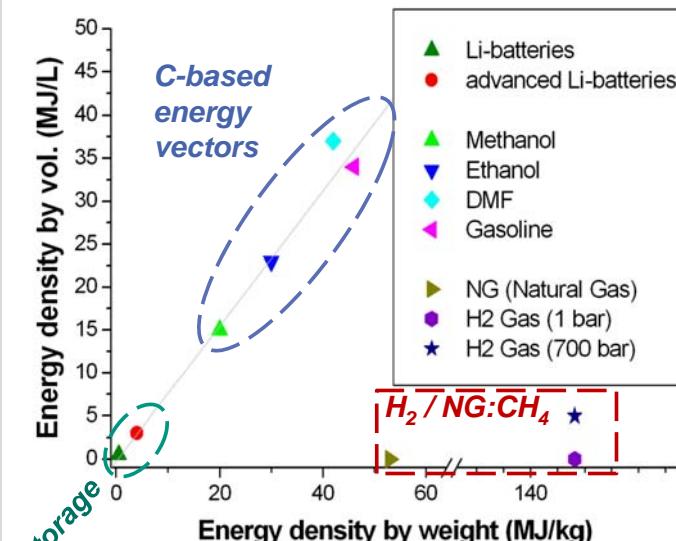
<http://www.technologyreview.com/>

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# Up Scale (SF) Energy Densities

## ► Energy Vector Plot: Fuel Sources

<http://www.asrc.albany.edu/people/faculty/perez/Kit/pdf/a-fundamental-look-at%20the-planetary-energy-reserves.pdf>



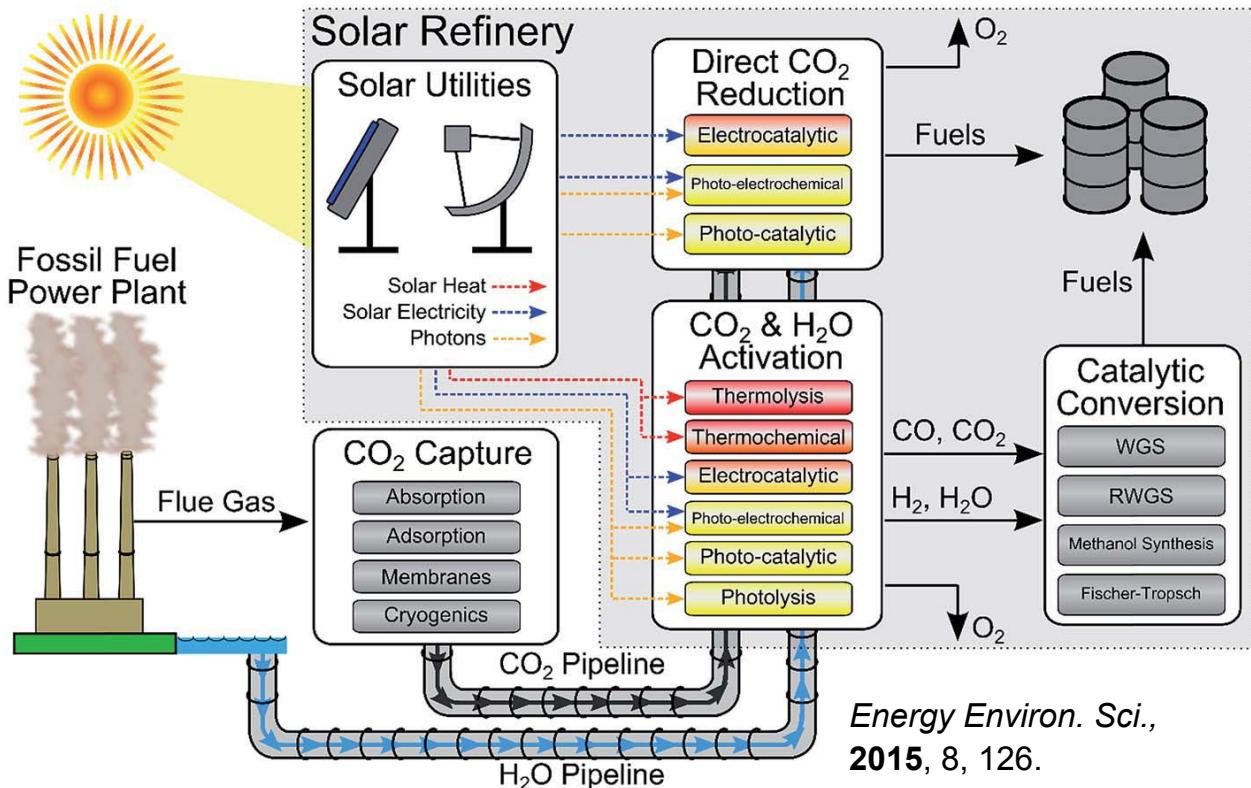
Source: G. Centi, et al. *Greenhouse Gas Sci. Technol.* 2011, 1, 21-35.

## ► Solar Energy vs Planetary Energy Resources

Worlds Energy Needs !!  $\sum \approx 16 \text{ TW/year}$

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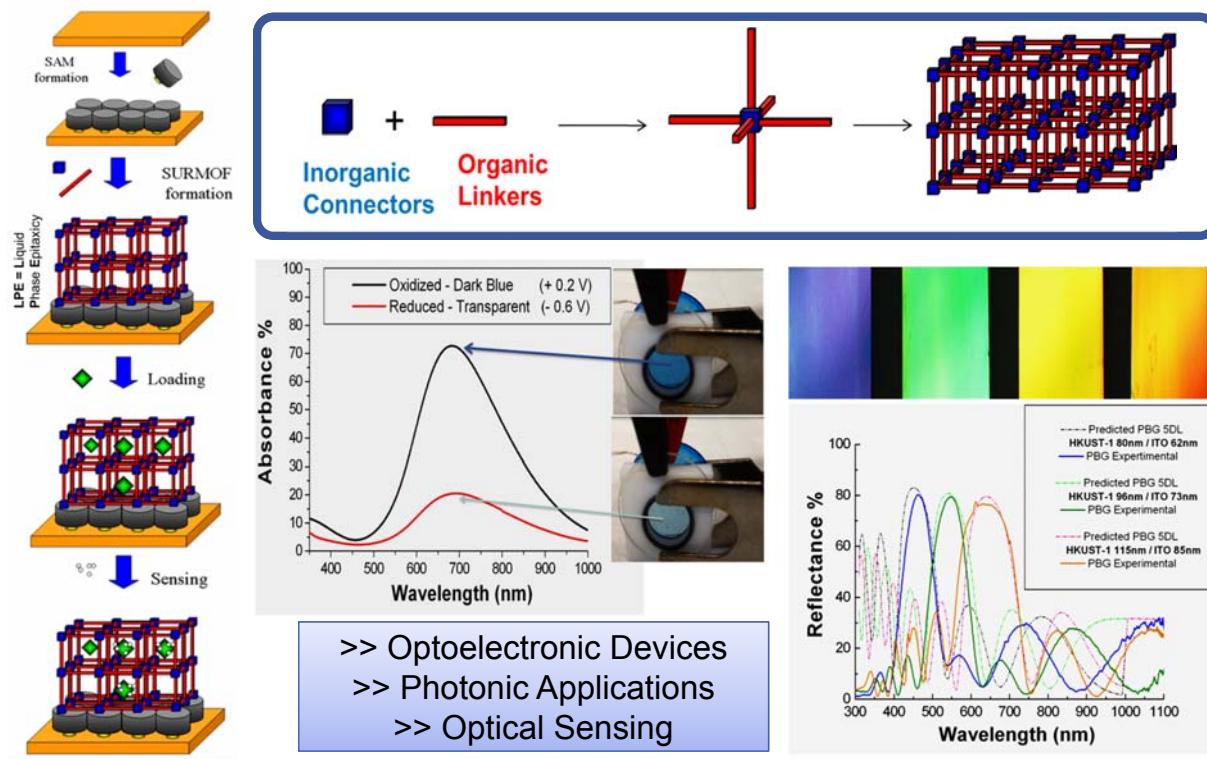
# Solar Refinery / Production Facilities



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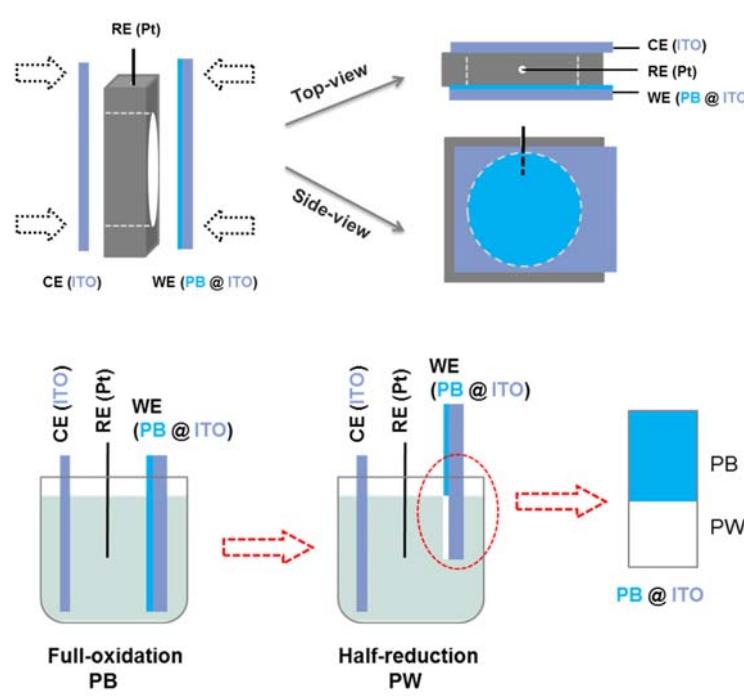
# Own Research Approach at IFG/IMT

## ► SURMOFs and CNCs for Solar Energy/Solar Fuels Applications

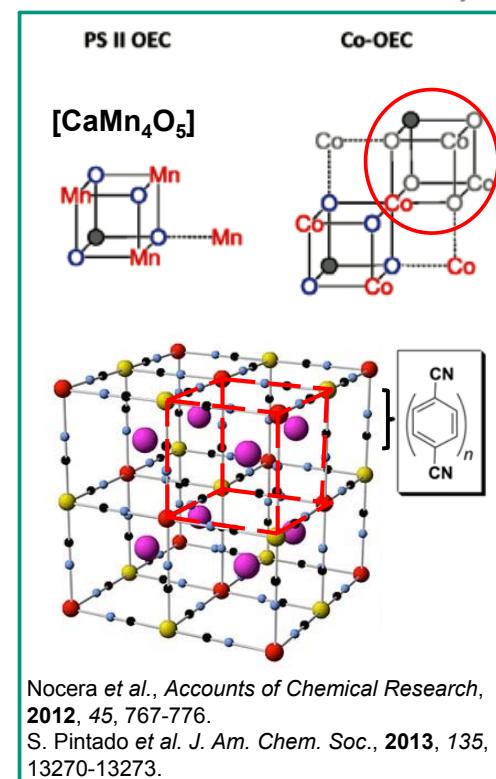


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# Own Research Approach at IFG/IMT

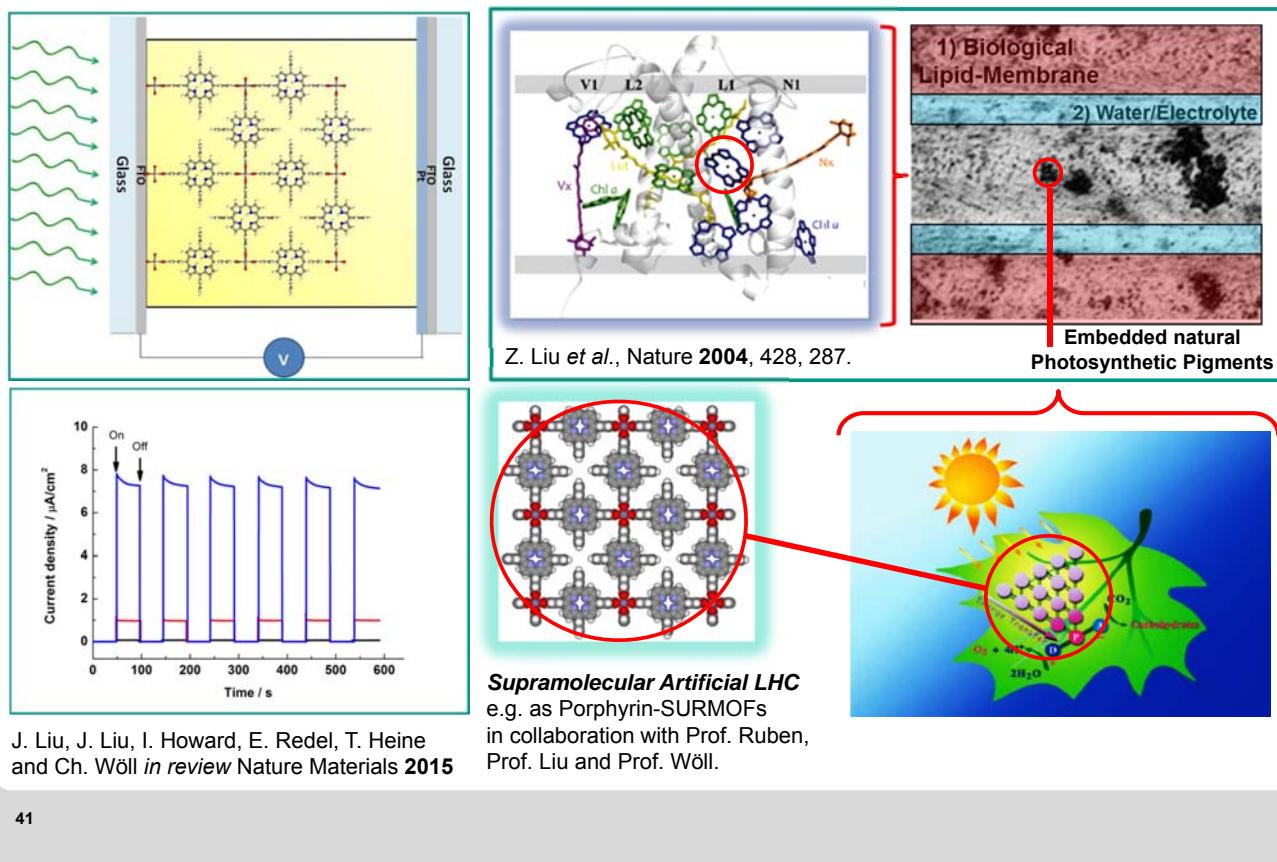


E. Redel et. al, Optics Express submitted 2015



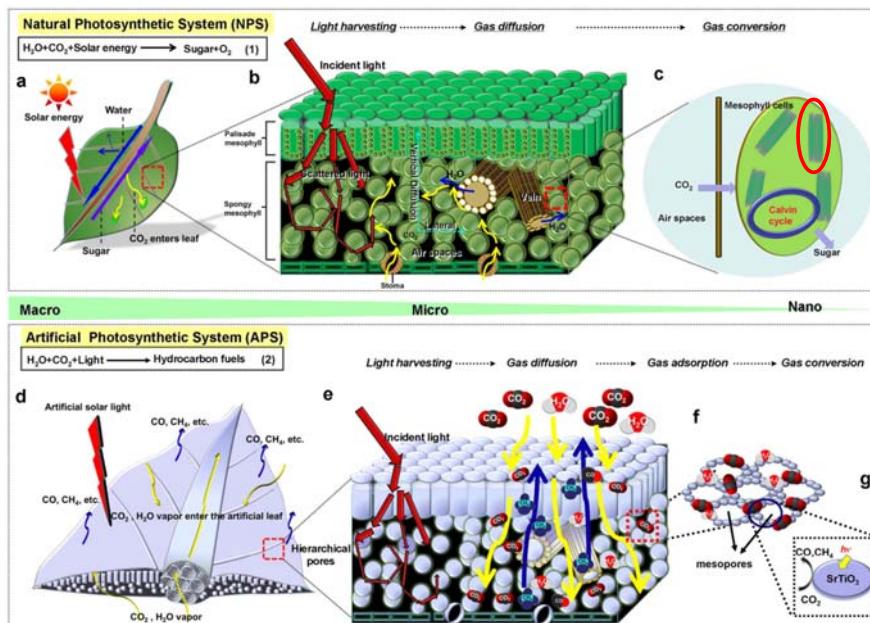
40

# Own Research Approach at IFG/IMT



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## Global Artificial Photosynthesis (GAP)



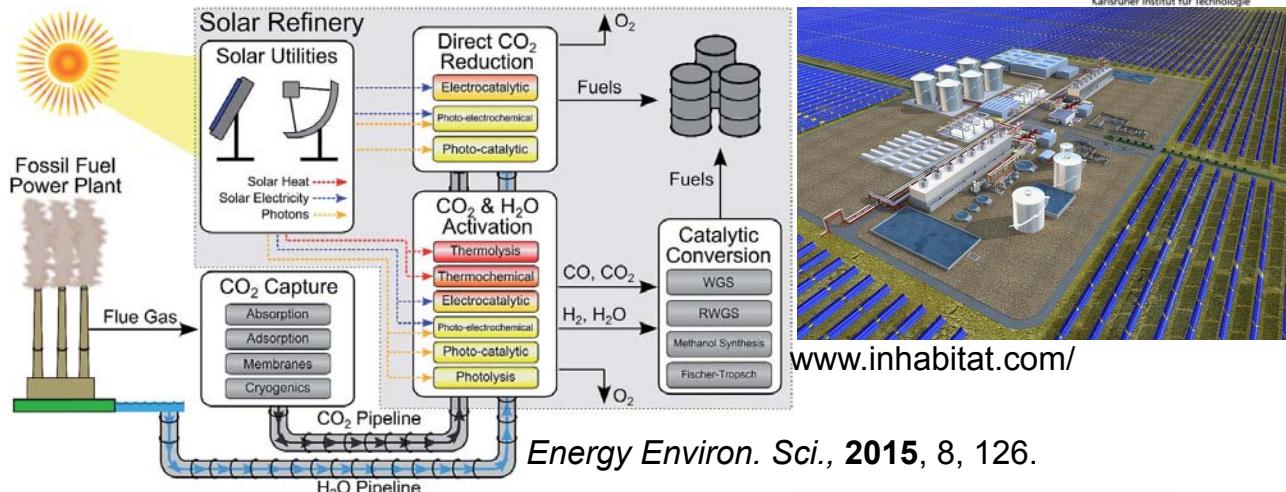
SCIENTIFIC REPORTS 2013 | 3 : 1667 | DOI: 10.1038/srep01667

>> Mimic Photosynthesis on a global Scale!!

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www.business2community.com

# Summary (Part II)



- Basic Photoelectrochemical PEC Applications
- Different PEC Devices/Designs
- Photovoltaic coupled (Photo)electrochemistry PECs
- Dual Energy Systems, Scale up, Solar Refinery & GAP