

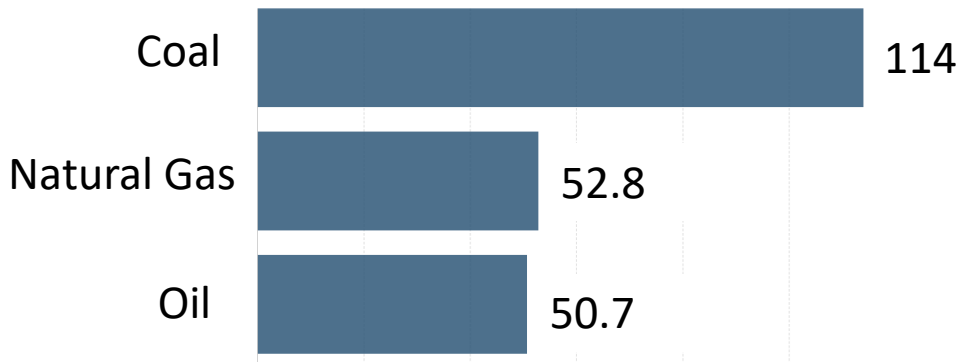
Artificial Photosynthesis:

Minds

Matter

Markets

How much time left?

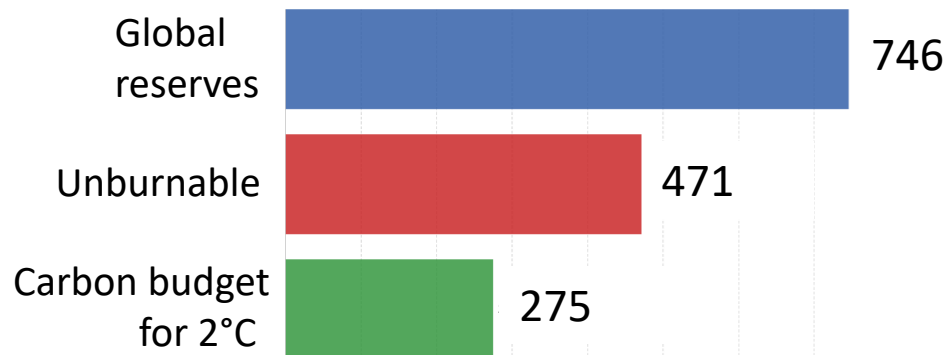


Resource analyses suggest:

Min. 100 years ?

Global warming below
2 °C threshold:

65 – 80% of reserves must be
left untouched (**unburnable**)!



Solar 85,000 TW

x 0.06% = 50 TW



Human Energy Use (2013): 18 TW



**River Hydroelectric
7 TW**



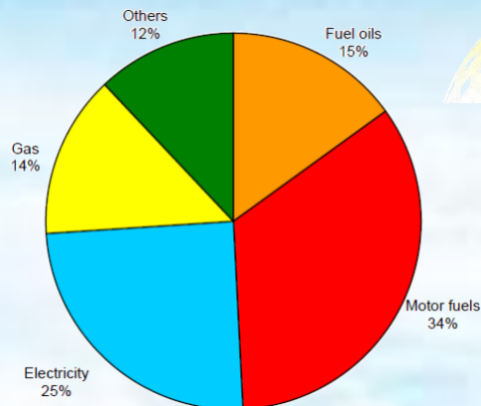
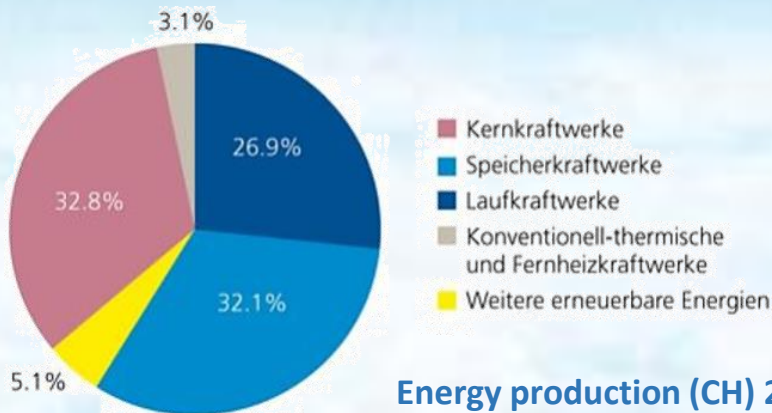
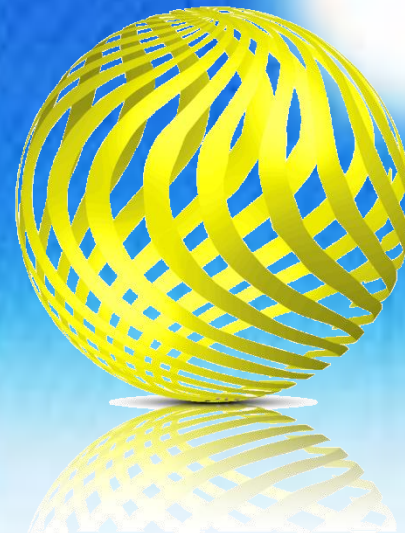
**Biomass
7 TW**



**Geothermal
44 TW**



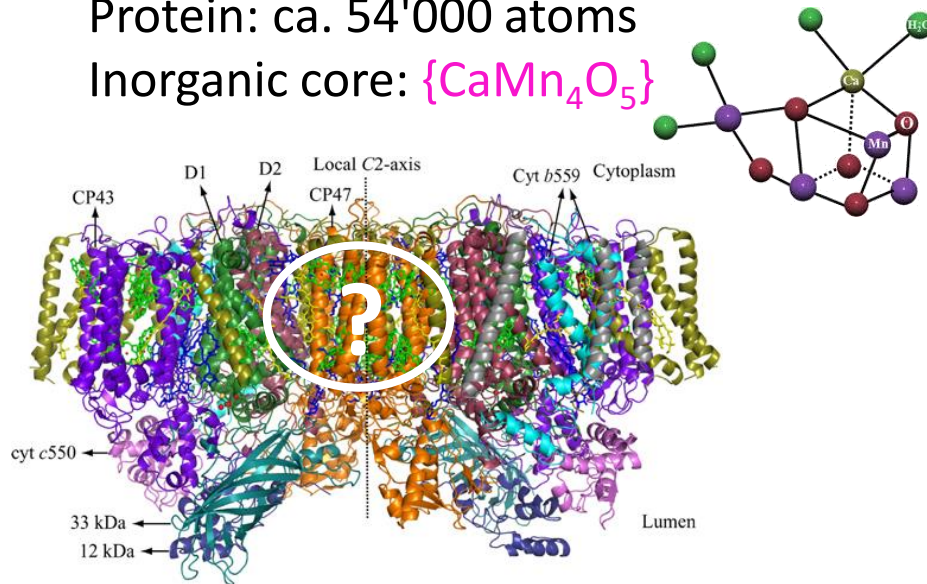
**Wind
72 TW**



Photosystem II

Protein: ca. 54'000 atoms

Inorganic core: $\{CaMn_4O_5\}$

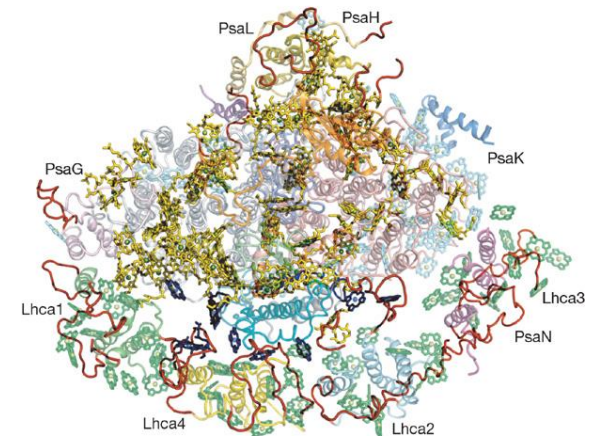


Y. Umena, K. Kawakami, J.-R. Shen, N. Kamiya, *Nature* **2011** (473) 55.

Photosystem I

Protein: ca. 36'000 atoms

Iron-sulfur clusters



I. Caspy, N. Nelson, *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* **2018** (46) 285.



Solar energy directly to hydrogen - GW scale liquid fuels?

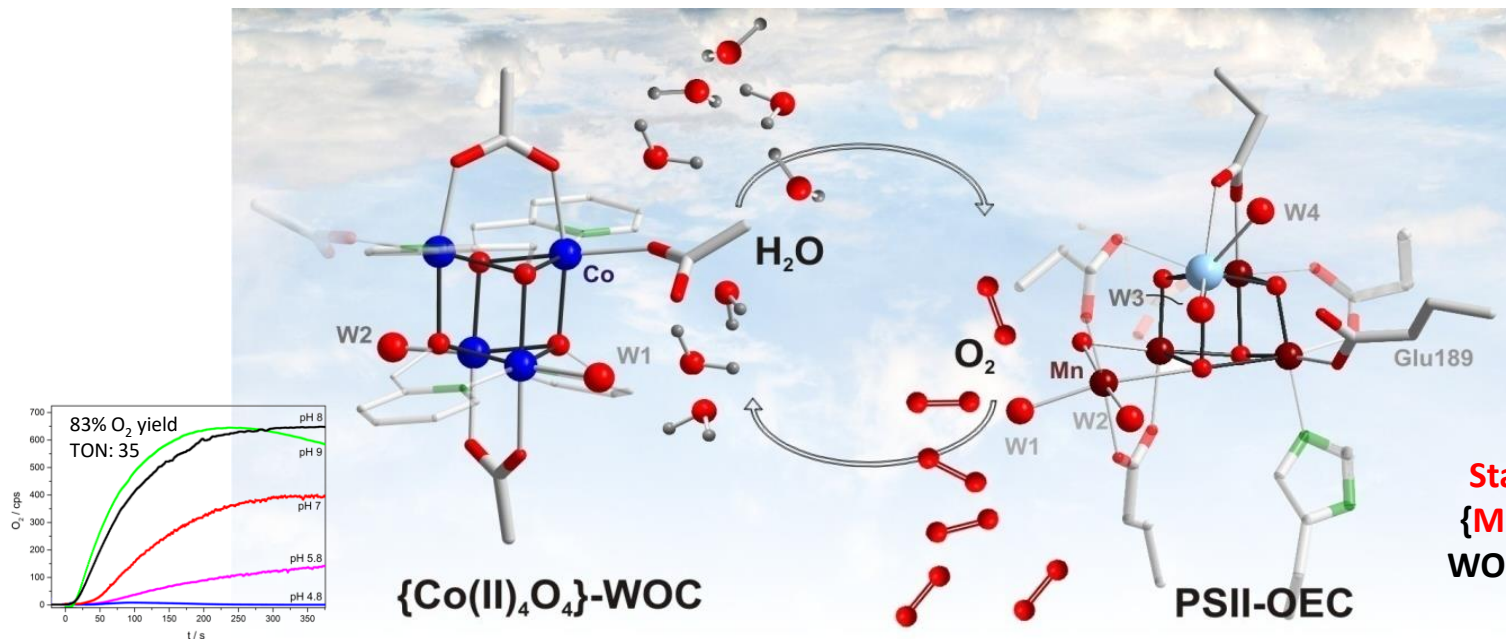


Strong water oxidation catalysts (**WOCs**):



CO₂ reduction challenges:

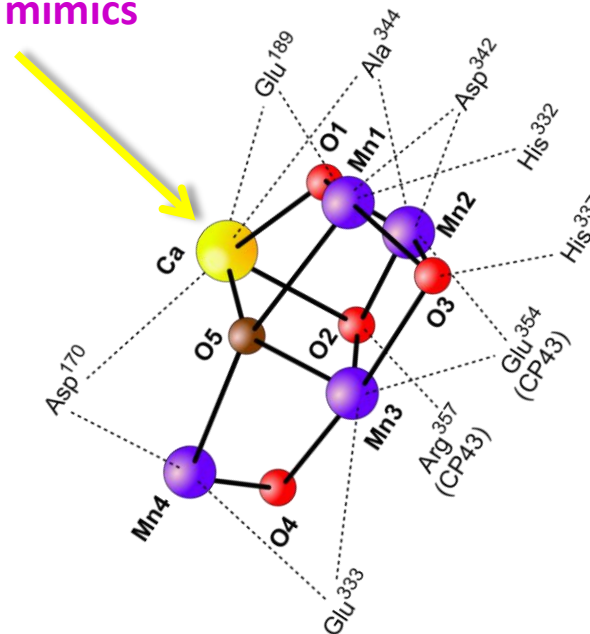
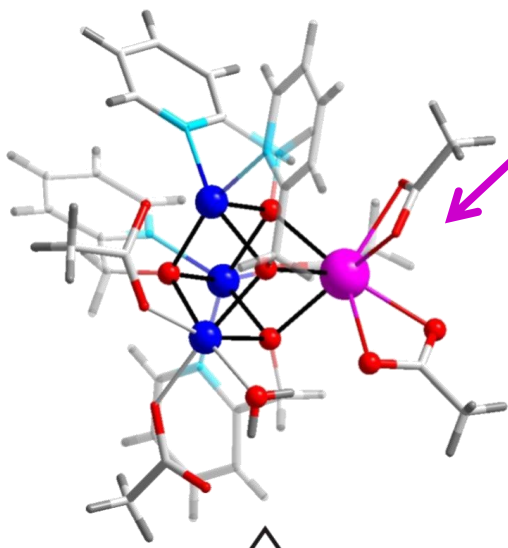
- 6 or more proton/electron transfers limit selectivity
- Higher BOP costs for CO₂ capture
- Unlikely to make big dent in climate mitigation



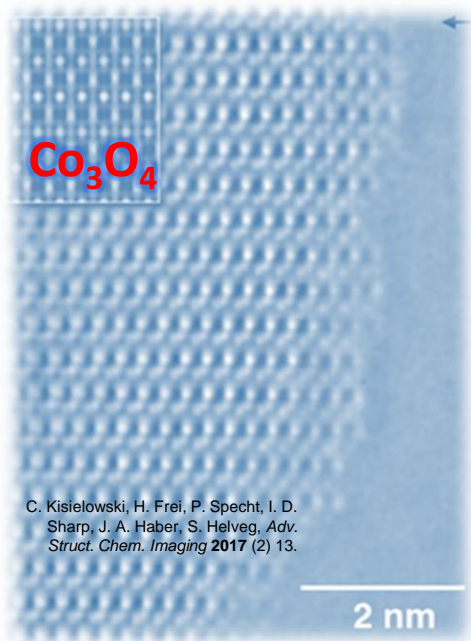
1st generation {Co^{II}₄O₄} cubanes: **Tetra**nuclearity & ligand environment

Why did Nature pick the redox-inert Ca^{2+} ?

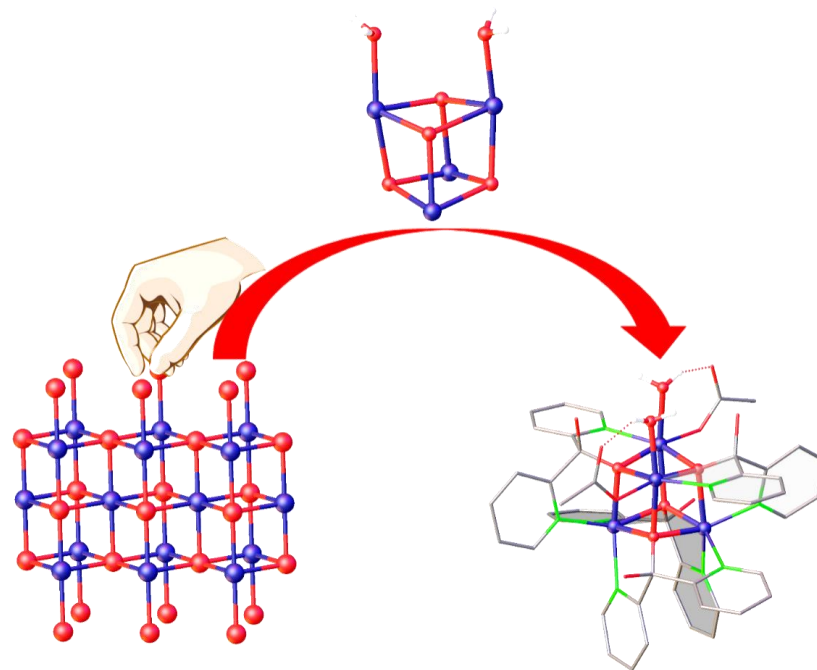
Ln^{3+} ions = Ca^{2+} mimics



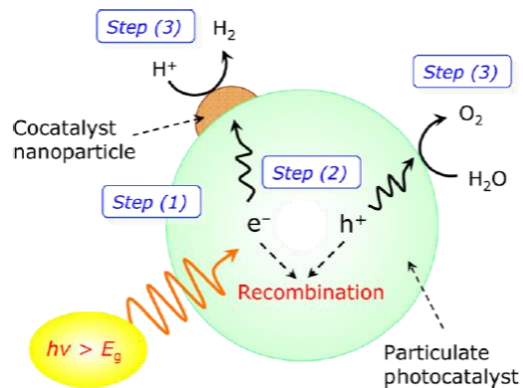
2nd generation $\{\text{Co}^{\text{II}}_3\text{O}_4\}$ cubanes:
Enhanced performance & mechanistic insight



C. Kisielowski, H. Frei, P. Specht, I. D. Sharp, J. A. Haber, S. Helveg, *Adv. Struct. Chem. Imaging* **2017** (2) 13.



3rd generation $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}_4\text{O}_4$ -dpk cubane:
New molecular cut-outs of powerful solid catalysts



Overall water splitting: One particle (& co-catalysts)

Example: Al-doped SrTiO₃ loaded with RhCrO_x

Apparent Quantum Yield:

Improved to 69% (365 nm) with MoO_y coloaded

K. Domen et al., ACS Catal. 2018 (8) 2782-2788.

Z scheme: Two catalysts

Example:

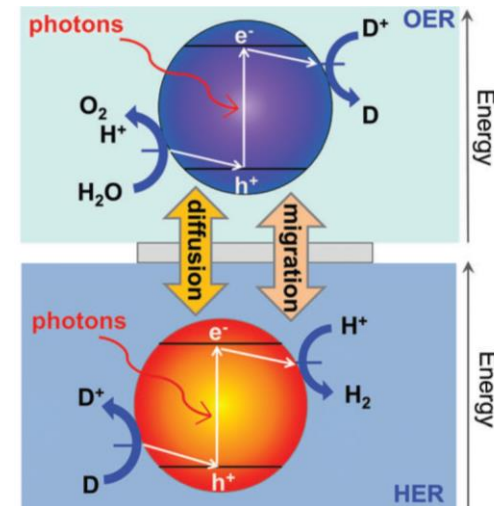
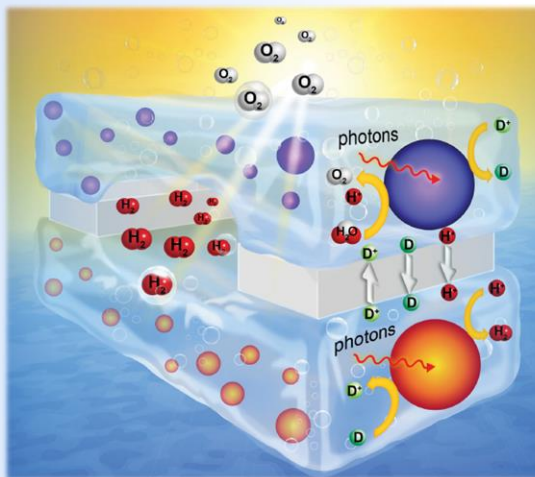
BiVO₄ for O₂ evolution

SrTiO₃:Rh for H₂ production

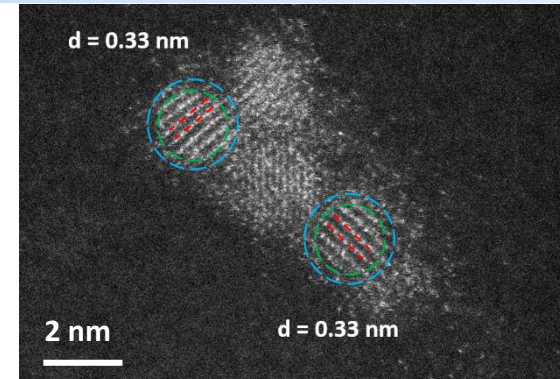
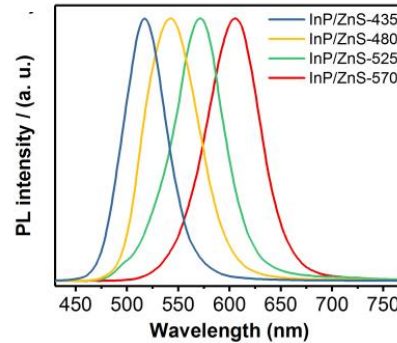
IO₃⁻/I⁻ redox shuttle

Efficiency:

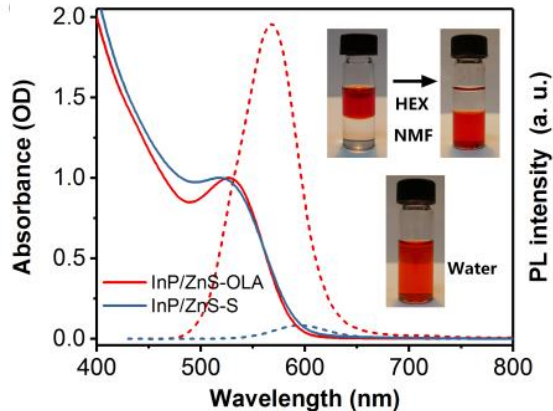
min. 1% STH efficiency



A. Z. Weber et al., Energy Environ. Sci. 2018 (11) 115.



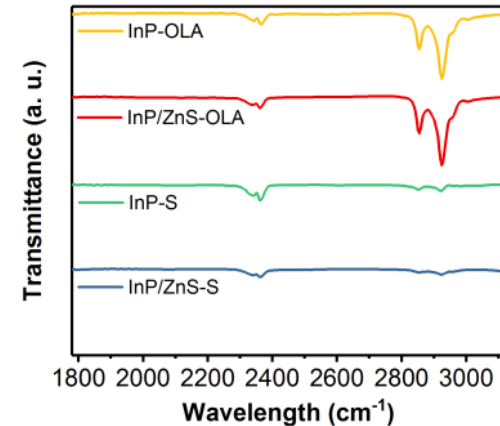
We **replaced toxic Cd** in high performance QD photosensitizers!



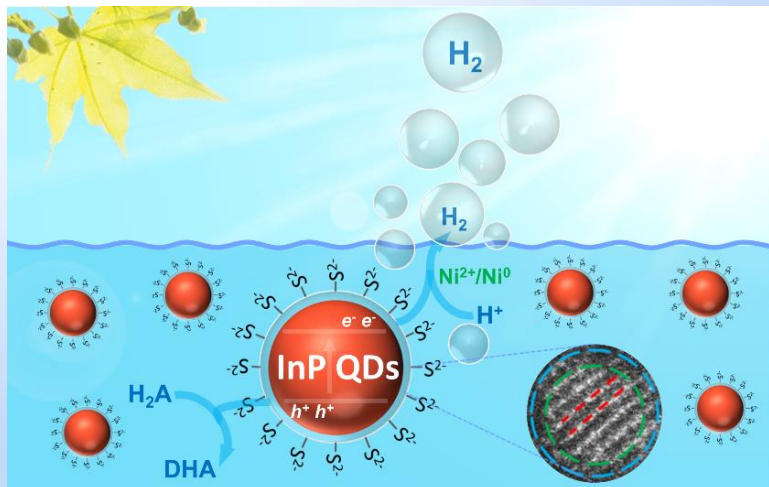
New capping with
sulfide ions:



Water soluble QDs!



S. Yu, X.-B. Fan, X. Wang, J. Li, Q. Zhang, A. Xia, S. Wei, L.-Z. Wu, Y. Zhou, G. R. Patzke, *Nat. Commun.* **2018** (9) 4009.



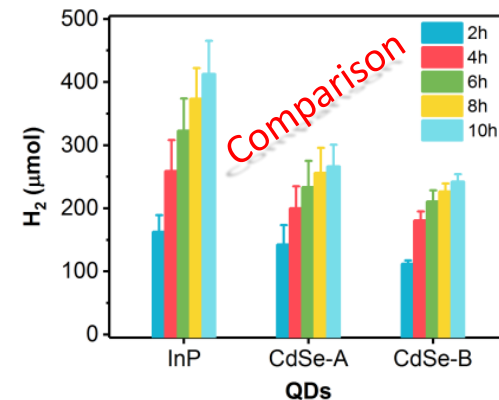
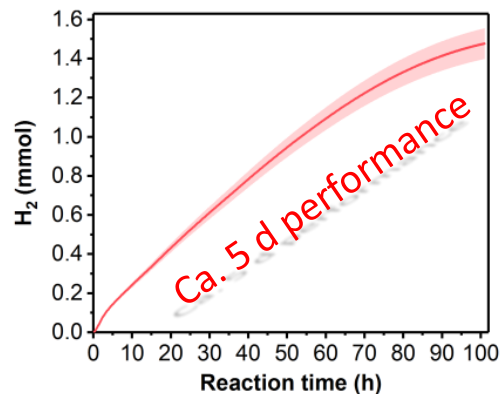
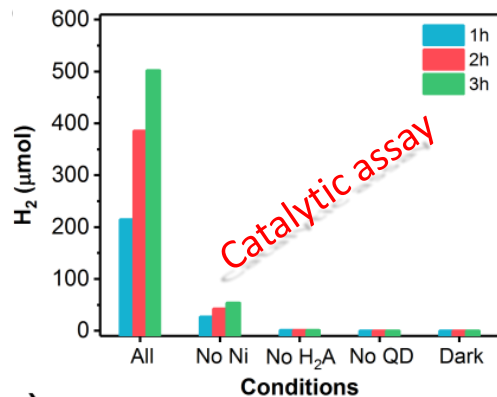
Turnover numbers **up to 128'000**



Activity for > 100 h, 31% IQY

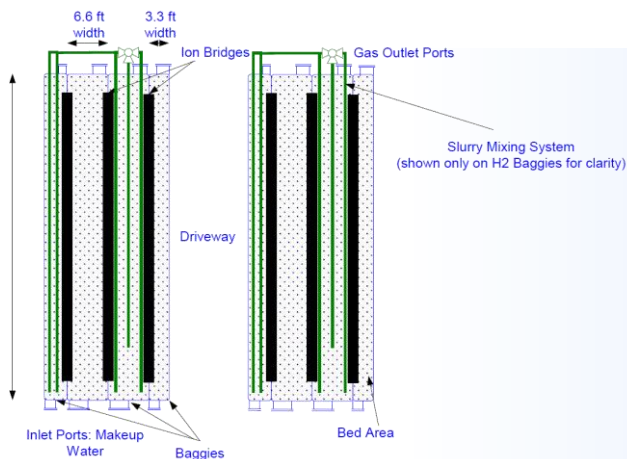
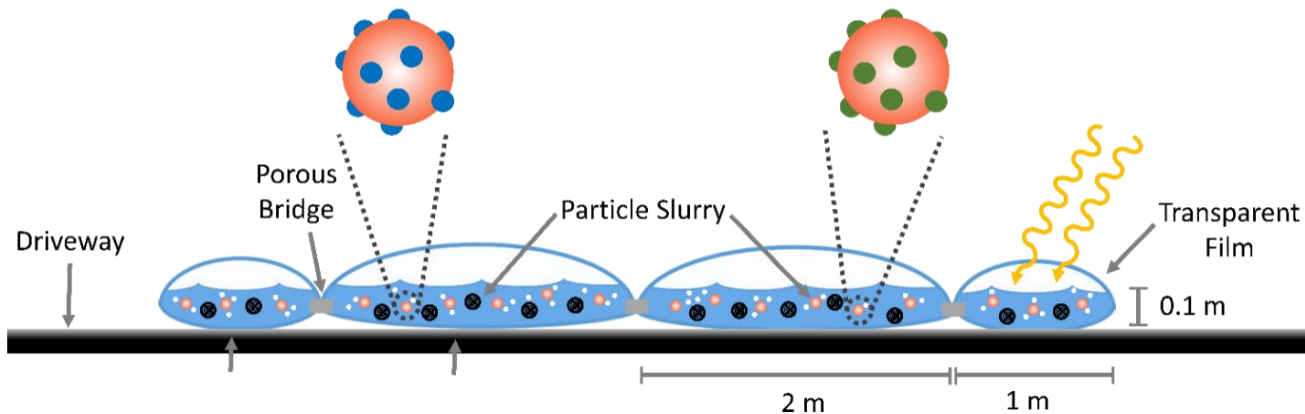


→ **Competitive** with leading Cd-QDs



Water oxidation catalyst: O_2

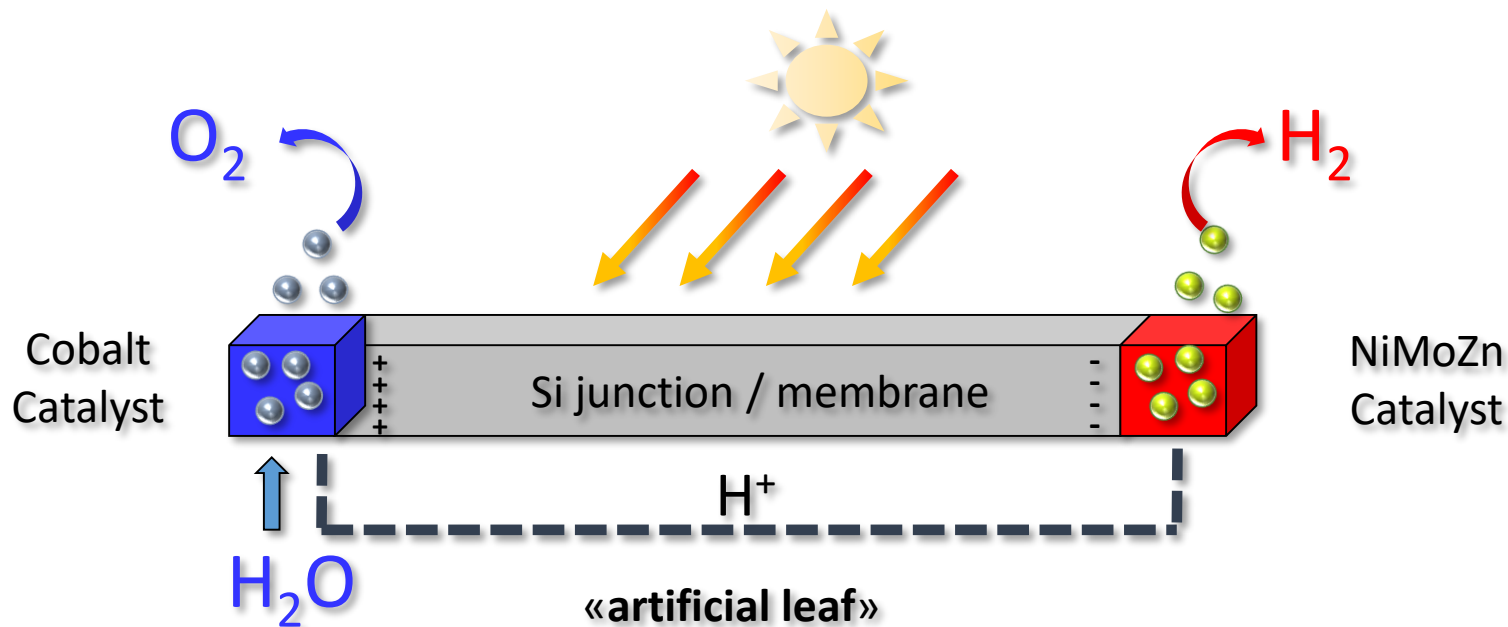
Water reduction catalyst: H_2



Particle bed systems:
Low maintenance & capital costs

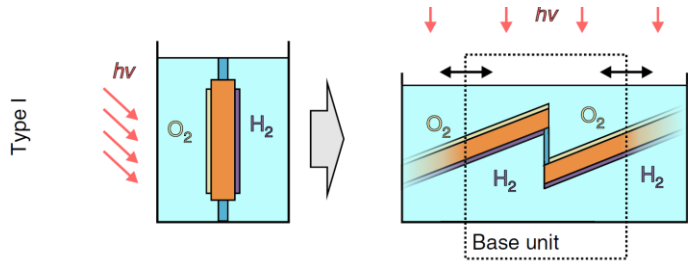
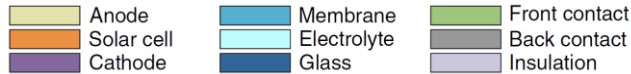
Levelized calculated H_2 costs:
Lower than for panel systems

Advantage: Gas collection bags can store day's production



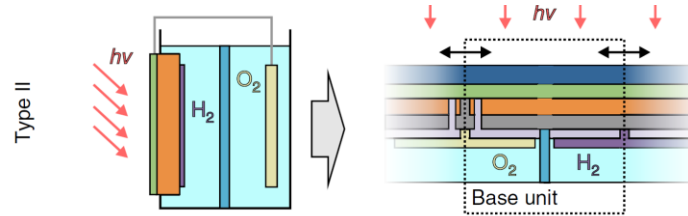
Overall solar-to-fuel efficiency 4.7%: $\varphi(\text{PV}) \cdot \varphi(\text{WS})$

$\varphi(\text{PV}) = 7.7\%$, water splitting efficiency = 60%

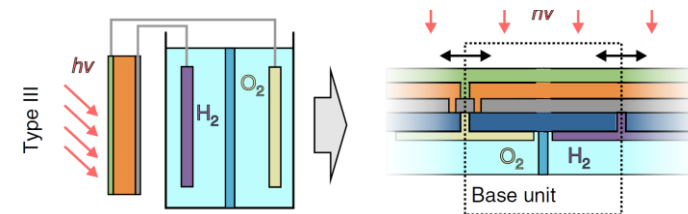


Three lab prototype designs:

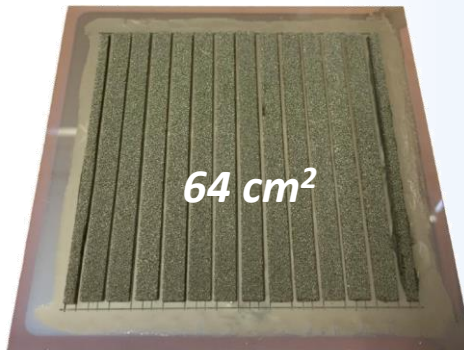
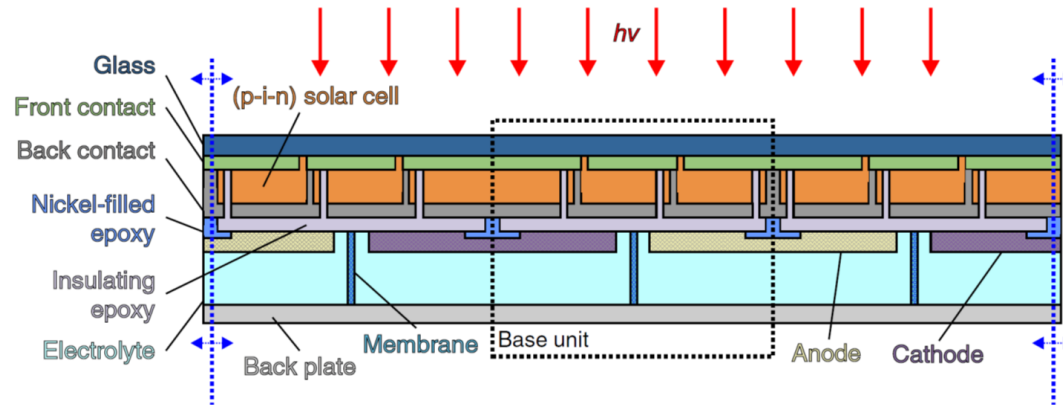
I. PV immersed in electrolyte with catalyst electrodes on both sides



II. Only one side of PV part exposed to electrolyte (wire needed)



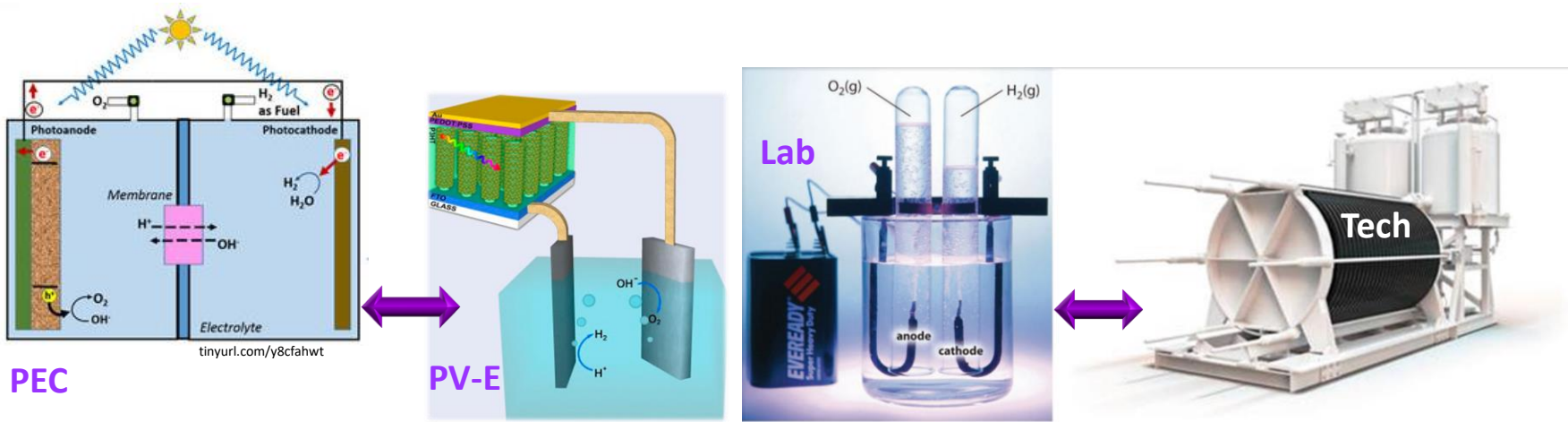
II. Complete separation of PV and electrocatalytic elements



Materials: single-junction a-Si:H solar cells, Ni foam electrodes

Concept: integrated series of thin-film PV modules
& repetitive water splitting modules

Advantage: scalable, wireless, STH 3.9%, little membrane effect



PV-E: Immediate market option

Integrated PEC device advantages: Small current densities & less gas bubbles, better heat management, no Pt/Ir required

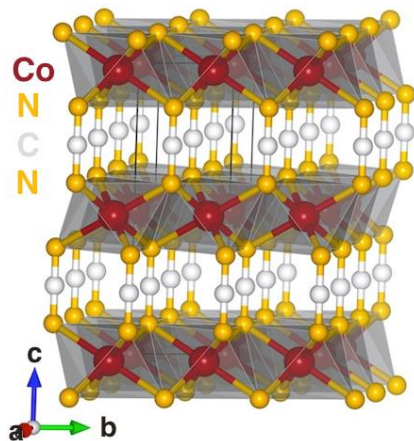
PEC needs: Fresh materials -- Larger devices -- Clear benchmarking

Where Do Catalysts Go?

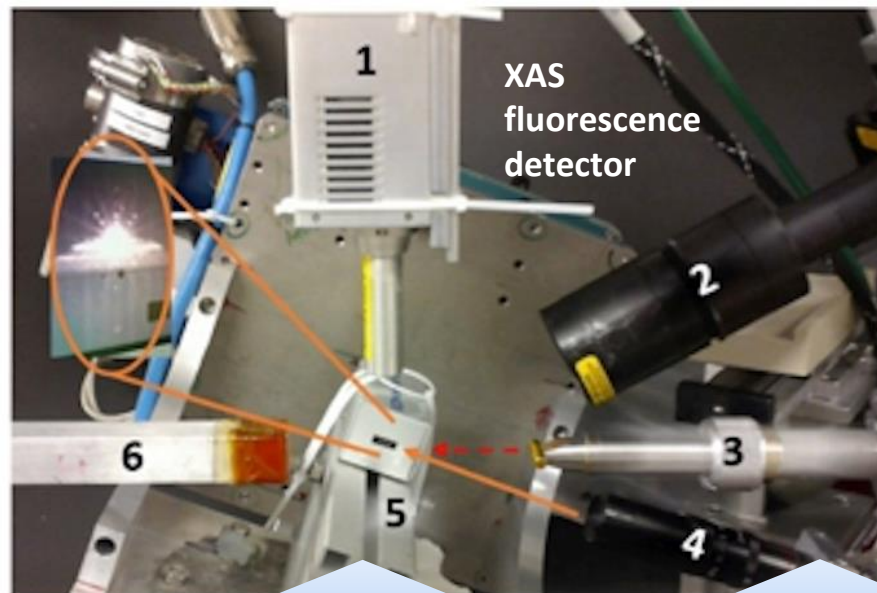
**In & ex
situ**

**Surface
Analytics**

Oxide formation?



X-ray path for transmission

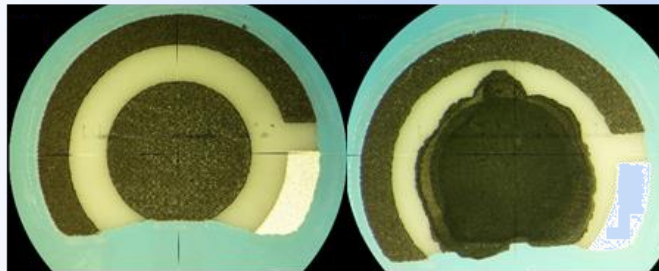
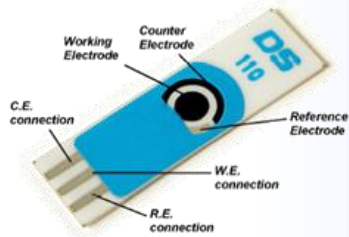


SPE connector

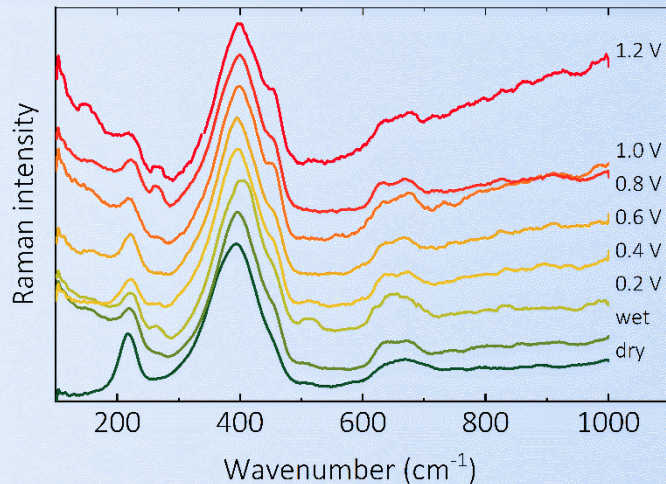
Raman source

ESRF BM01 Swiss Norwegian Beamline: **MNCN** series

M = Co, Co_{0.9}Ni_{0.1}, Ni, Mn, Cu



Screen printed electrode (SPE):
Dropcasting of CoNCN/Nafion ink

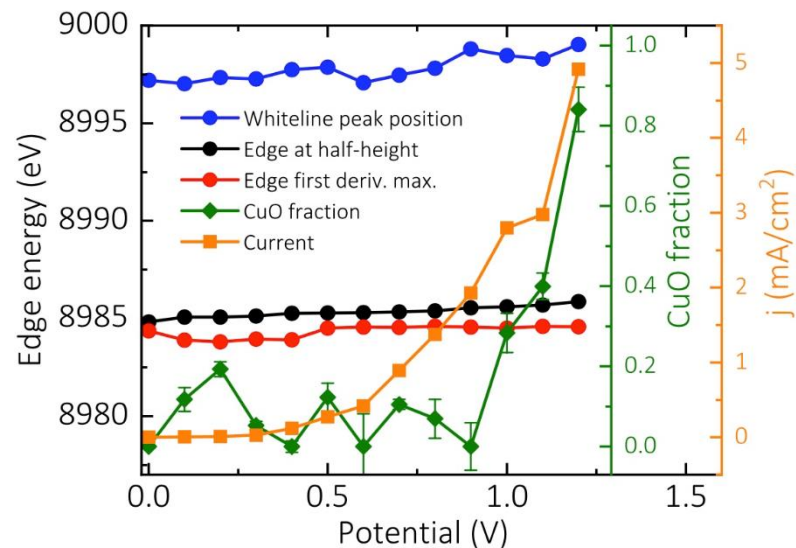
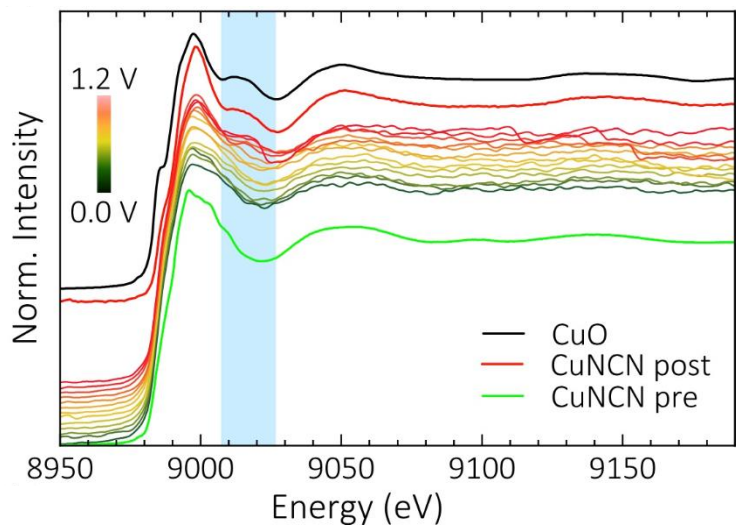


Operando Raman spectra of CoNCN at different applied voltages:



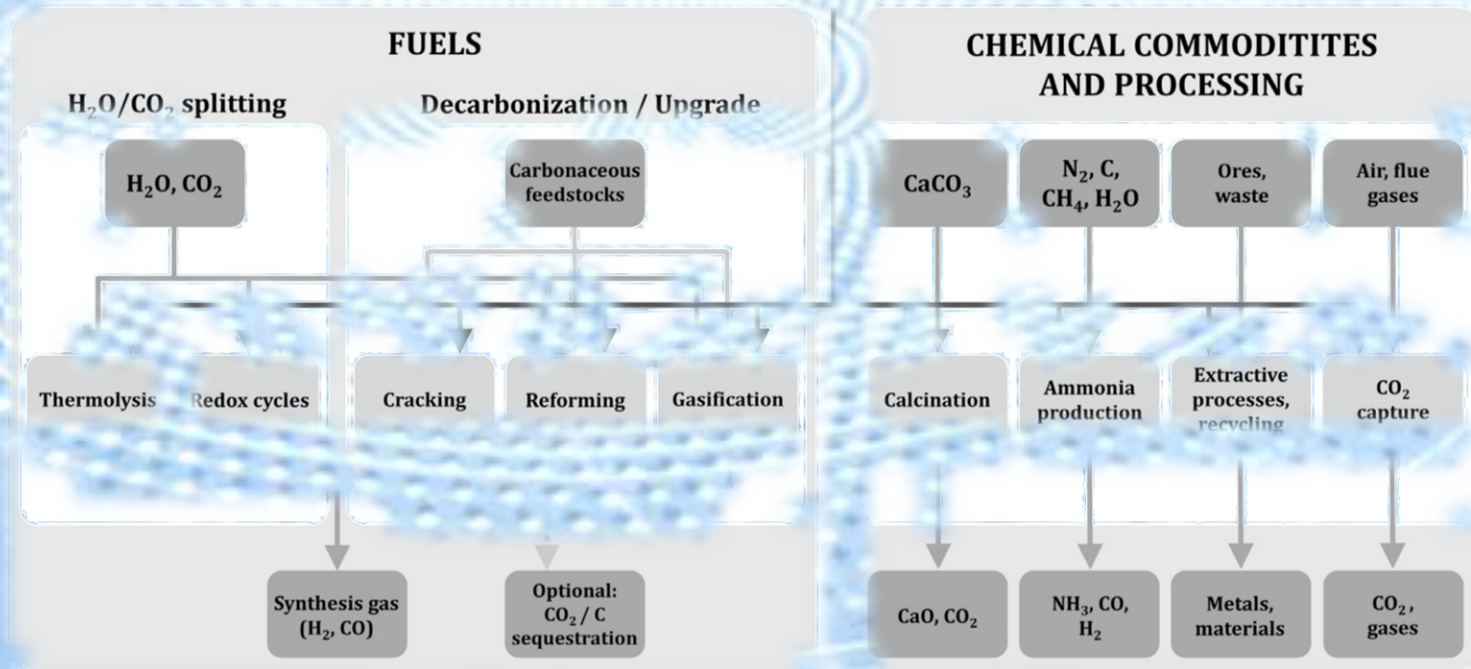
→ Oxide-related peaks absent

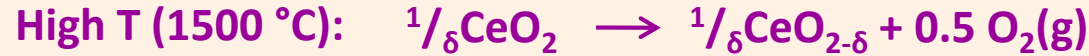
CuNCN: XANES (fluorescence) spectra & descriptors: 80 % CuO at 1.2 V



MNCN series (M = Co, $\text{Co}_{0.9}\text{Ni}_{0.1}$, Ni, Mn, Cu):

→ Only CuNCN forms oxide layer *operando*

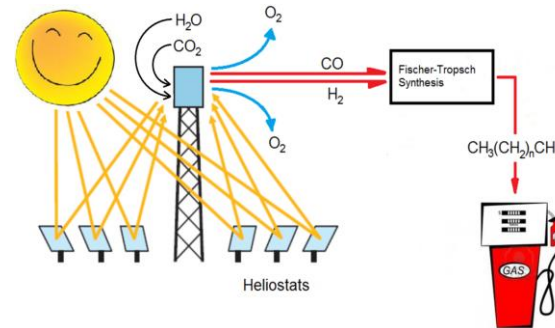
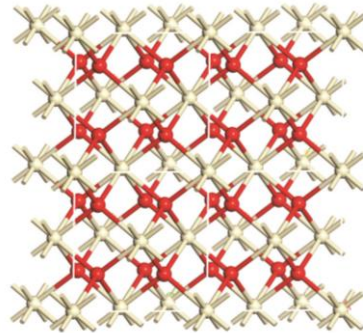




Lower T \downarrow 1000 °C



Best dopants for ceria?



Task: max. δ
oxygen vacancies ($\text{V}_{\text{O}^{\cdot\cdot}}$)

CO & H₂
Fischer-Tropsch fuels

Solar Power through Oxide Materials

- Engineering@ETH Zurich (Prof. Aldo Steinfeld)



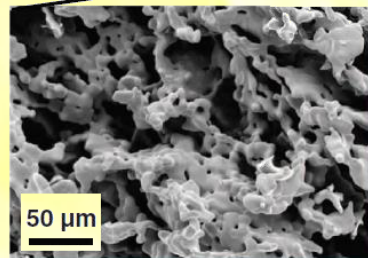
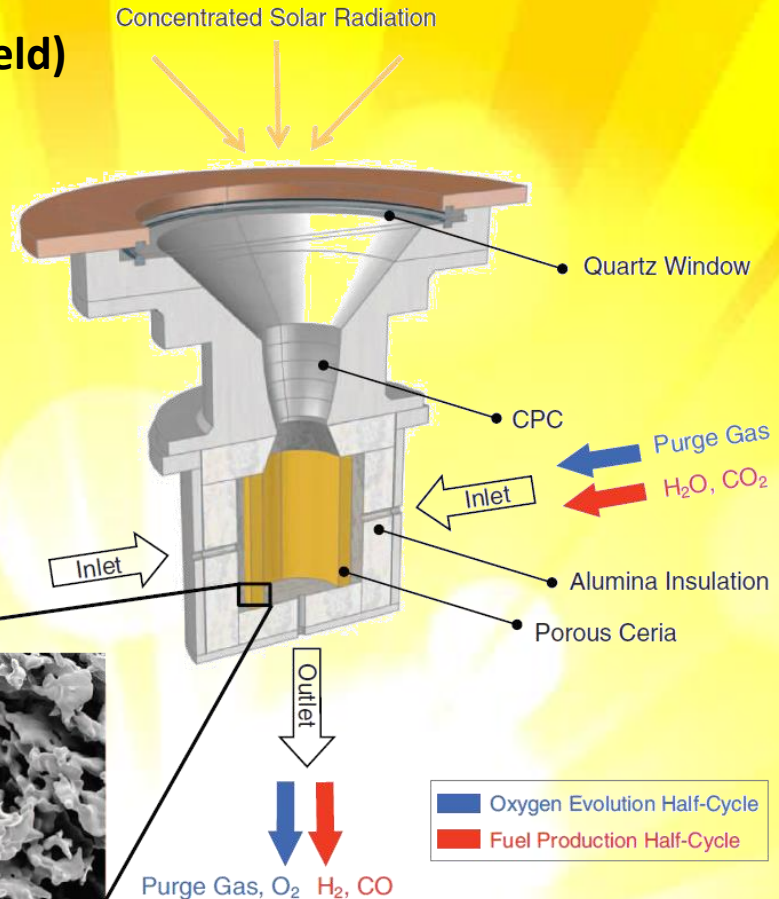
STF (4kW) = 5.25%

$PV-E_{\max} = 6.25\%$

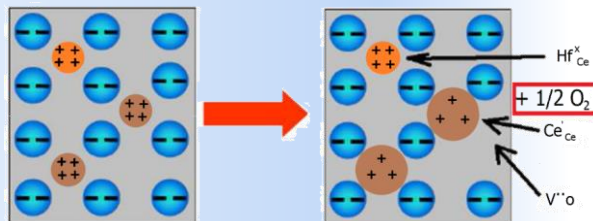
$PEC_{\max} = 2\%$



OUR TASK:
High performance
oxide reactor for
present heliostat
infrastructure



Tetravalent dopants



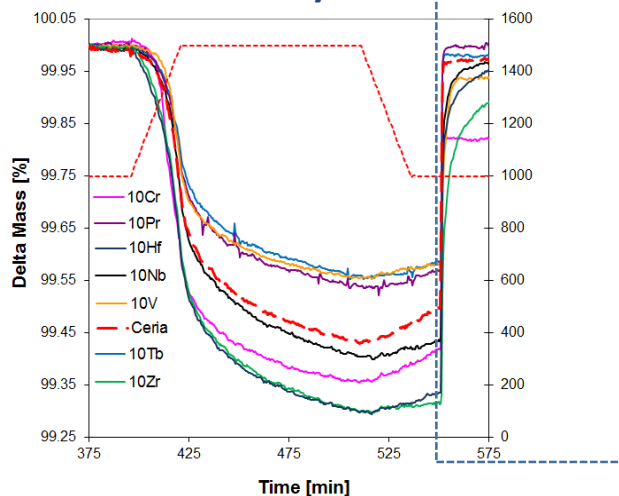
- Reversible oxygen vacancies
- Ce^{3+} is larger than Ce^{4+}

Screening of all potential tetravalent dopants in the PSE (Shannon radii)

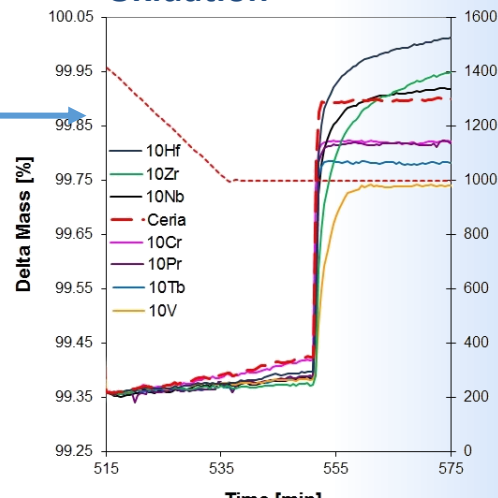


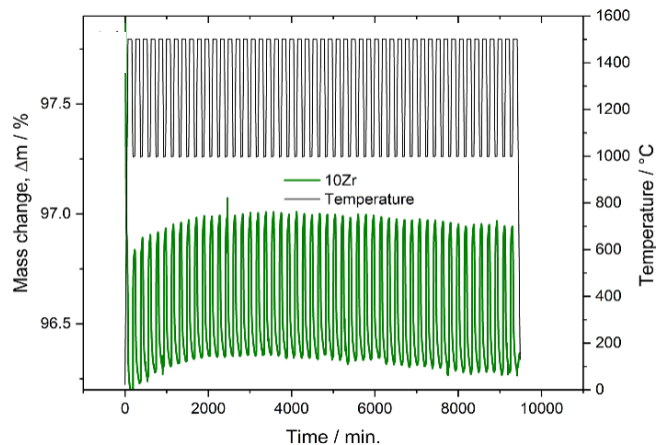
Nb, Ta, Hf, Zr:
stable &
improved ceria
performance

Initial redox cycle



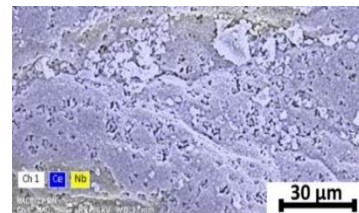
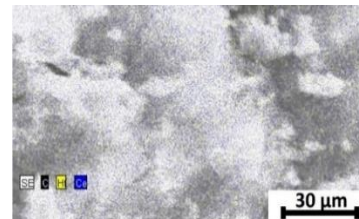
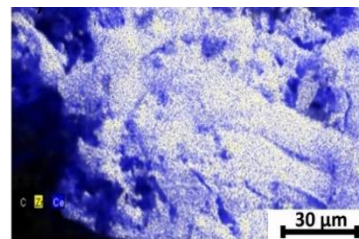
Oxidation



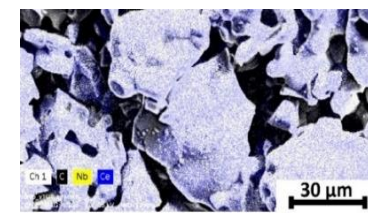
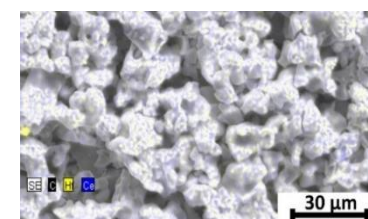
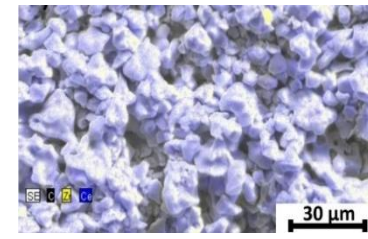


→ **Hf-, Zr- & Nb doped**
ceria remains stable
after prolonged TGA cycling

Before 50 cycles



After 50 cycles



→ Homogeneous dopant distribution: **Key** factor!



www.sunfire.de

CO₂ & Water electrolysis (solid oxide cell stacks)



skytree®

www.skytree.eu



www.climeworks.com

CO₂ capture from air



www.dimensionalenergy.net

Solar thermal CO₂ conversion to methanol



www.opus-12.com

CO₂ electrolysis to CO for on-site generation

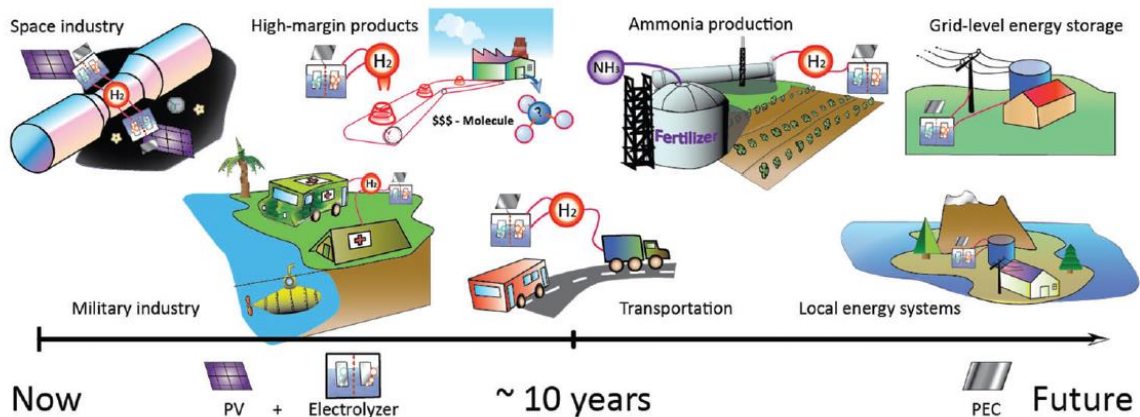


www.catalytic-innovation.com

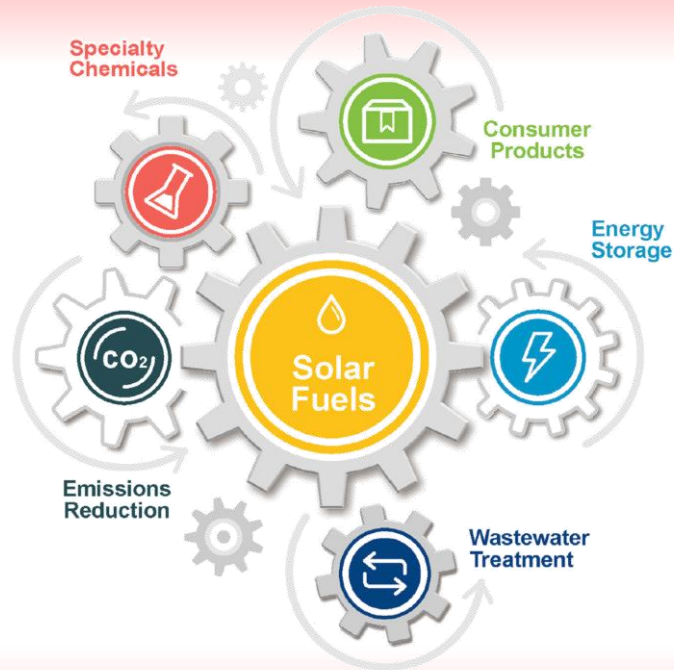
Water oxidation for corrosion resistance

- (1) Fossil H₂ prices are too low for market price as innovation driver
- (2) Economic incentives through CO₂ taxes
- (3) Judging new technologies without large-scale tests is premature
- (4) Final capital investment & life cycle analysis for PV?

(5) High **public acceptance** level for new solar!



T. Bolsen, J. N. Druckman, F. Lomax Cook, *Chem* **2016** (1) 515.
 S. Ardo et al., *Energy Environ. Sci.* **2018**, DOI: 10-1039/c7ee03639f.



Unconventional marketing ideas:

- WOCs for corrosion inhibition
- «Free» H₂ as water cleaning by-product
- Electro-refinement of biomass instead of O₂ formation



**Swiss leadership through innovation:
A resource as inexhaustible as light**

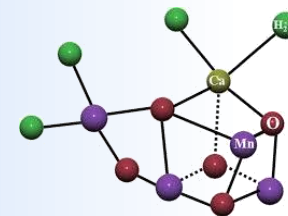


Entering the market evolutionarily & with public support

1. Molecular Catalysts

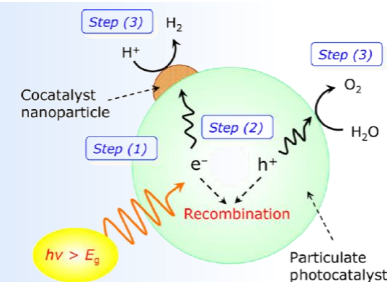
Principles of **Photosystem II**

H₂ evolution with **Quantum Dots**



2. Nanoscale & Solid Catalysts

In situ formation monitoring &
Analytical **tracking**



ACS Catal. 2013 (3) 1486.

3. Concentrated Solar Power

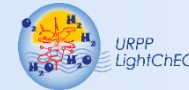
Doped ceria vs. perovskites

Cooperation: Prof. Aldo Steinfeld, ETH Zurich



25 °C

1500 °C



Andreas Borgschulte (EMPA)

trMOKE

Advanced Analytical Technologies



Karl-Heinz Ernst (EMPA)

H₂ Formation and CO₂ Reduction



Roger Alberto

Water Reduction Catalysts & Photosensitizers

Metals in Medicine / Molecular Imaging



David Tilley

Photoelectrocatalysis

Molecular Approaches to Renewable Energies

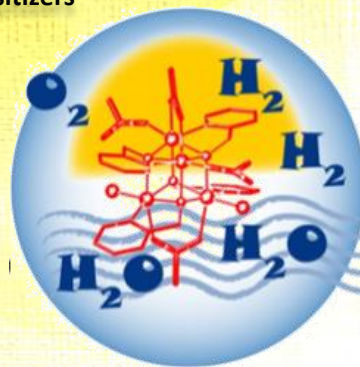
Catalysts



Greta R. Patzke

Water Oxidation Catalysts

Solids, Oxoclusters & Molecules



Mechanisms



Peter Hamm

Ultra-fast Spectroscopy & Mechanisms

Femto Second and 2D-IR Spectroscopy



Jürg Hutter



Sandra Luber

Electronic Structures and Reaction Pathways of WOC/WRC

Advanced Electronic Structure Methods

Theory



Jürg Osterwalder

Catalysts on Surfaces

Ultrafast Electron Dynamics and Scattering

UZH Priority Program: www.lightchec.uzh.ch

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Dr. Shan Yu, Prof. Ying Zhou (Southwest Petroleum U/Chengdu)



www.lightchec.uzh.ch

<https://tinyurl.com/y7799dc2>