

# Diffuse Light Harvesting to Structured Information with Hybrid Photovoltaics



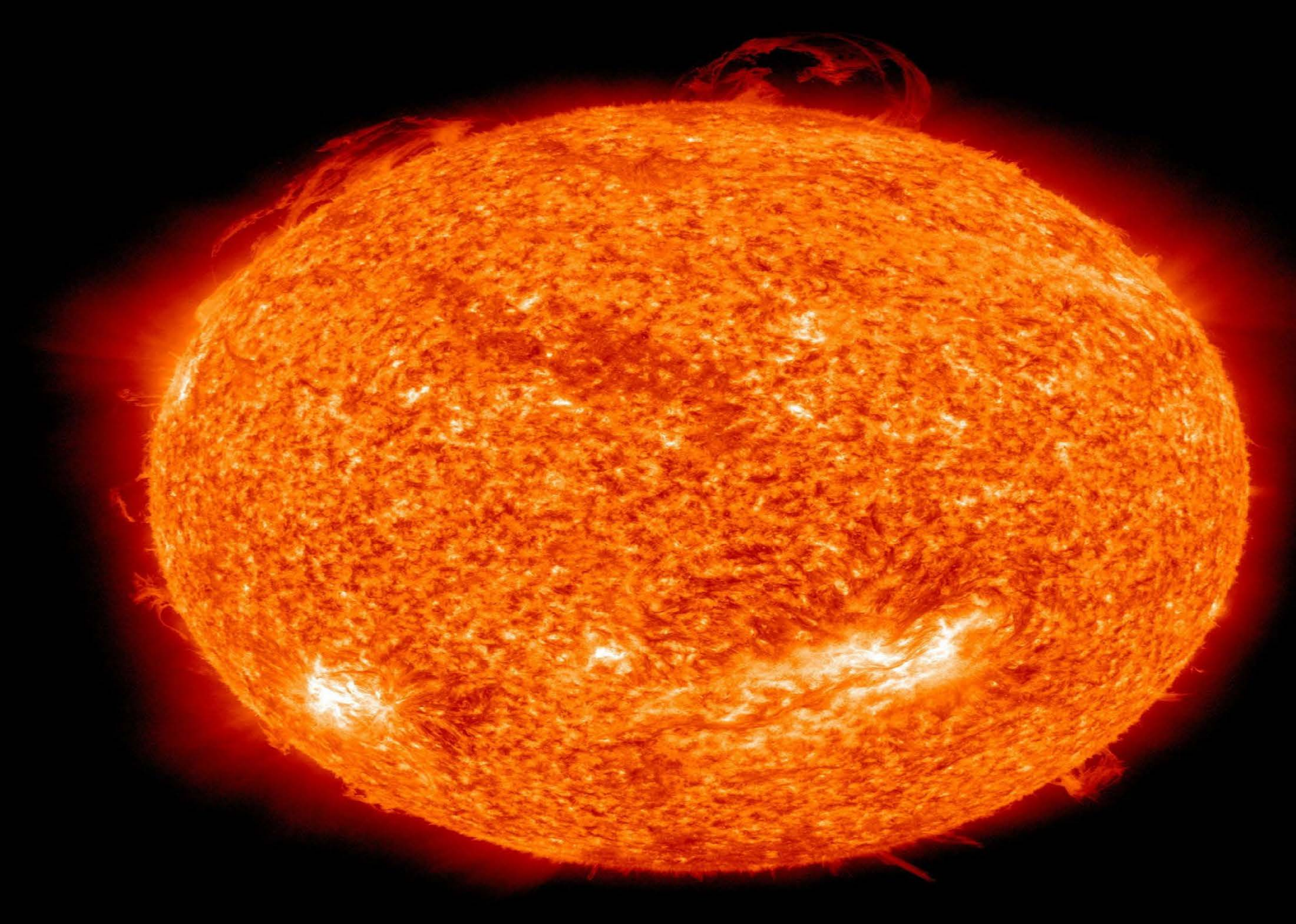
UNSW  
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SDO/AIA 304 2010-09-19 02:49:45 UT





**Dyson Spheres, The Ultimate Megastructures**, building a shell around a star that harnesses all of it's energy...Forbes



Dyson Spheres, The Ultimate Megastructures, building a shell around a star that harnesses all of it's energy...Forbes

1. **WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?**
2. **HOW?**
3. **WHERE ARE YOU GOING?**









IOT

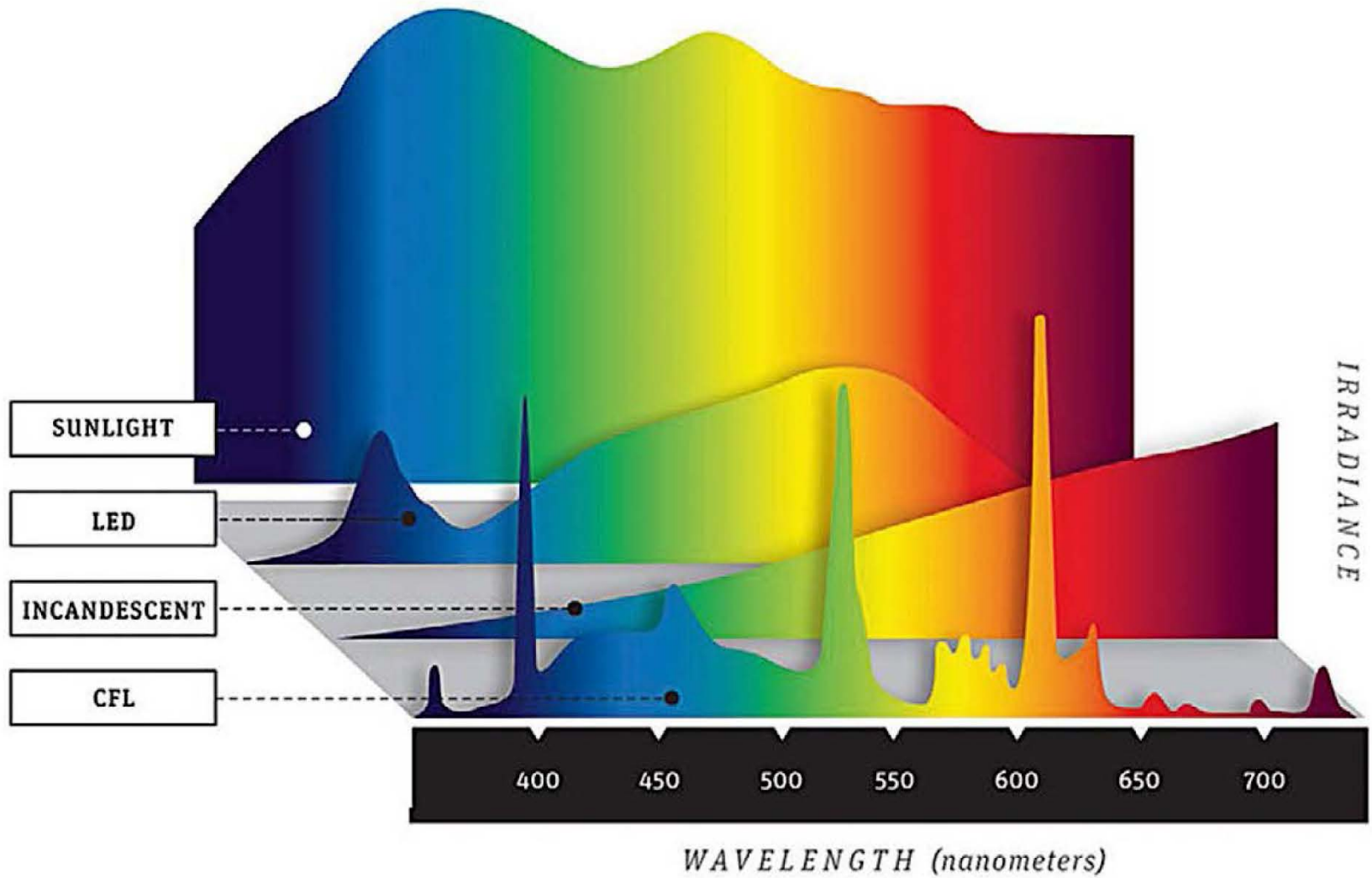


# *Internet of Things: Energy boon or bane?*

Hittinger & Jaramillo, *Science* **2019**, 364, 6438, 326.

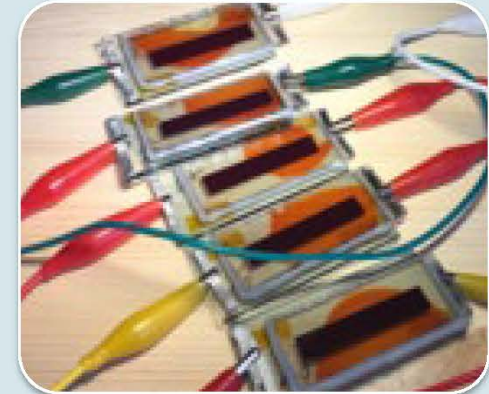
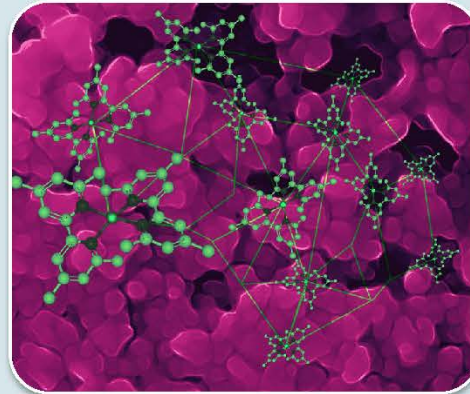
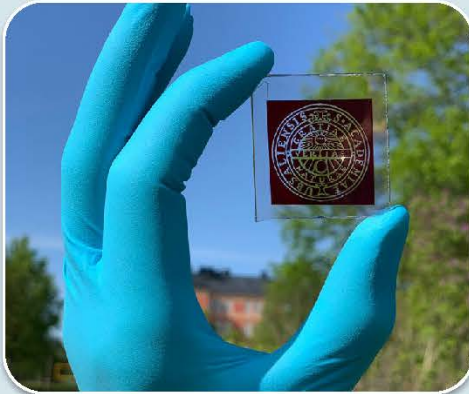
- **growing deployment of technologies grouped under the term “Internet of Things” (IoT) - a worldwide network of interconnected objects that are uniquely addressable**
- **By 2025, there may be as many as 30 billion objects connected to the internet, all of which require energy.**
- **These devices may yield direct energy savings, but it is much less clear what their net effect on the broader energy system will be.**
- **Many of these systems will not be placed in direct sunlight, it is therefore crucial to find an energy source that yields high efficiencies in ambient and low light environments.**







# Ambient Photovoltaics- Progress



Spectral match

to the light  
source

$$\eta = 29\%$$

Surface  
passivation

to reduce  
recombination

$$\eta = 34\%$$

Electrolyte  
adaption

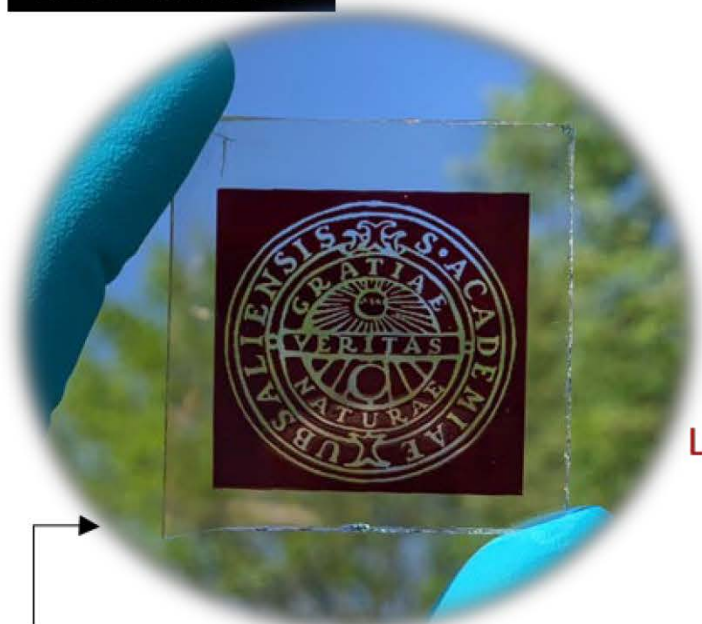
to low light

$$\eta = 40\%$$



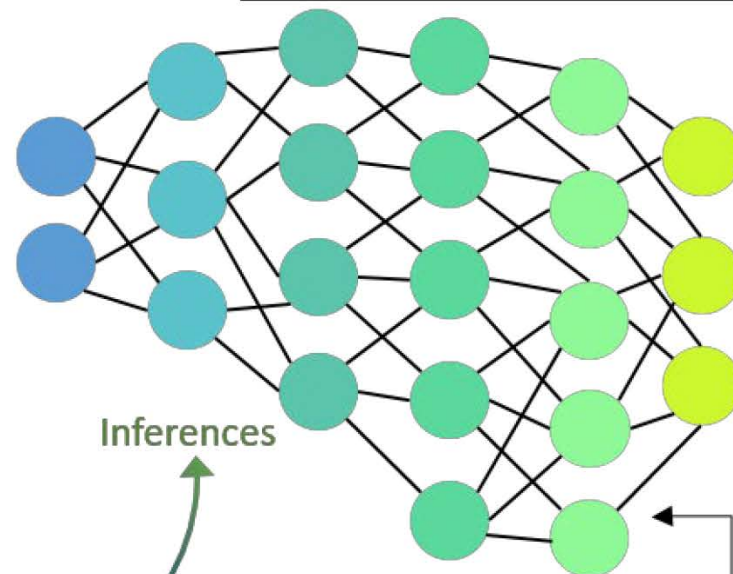
# Future Technology: DSCs for Self-Powered Intelligent IoT

## LIGHT HARVEST



Dye-sensitized solar cells harvest energy from diffuse light with high efficiency.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Light

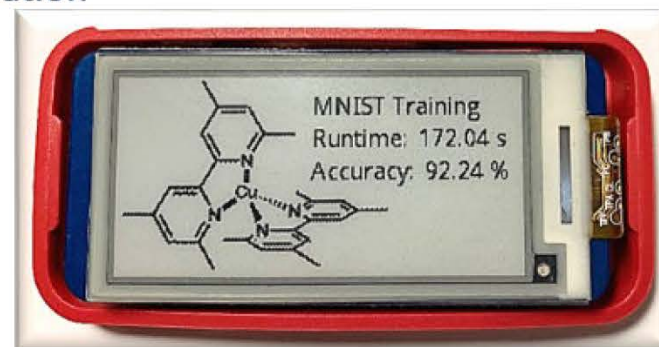
Inferences

Information

Artificial neural networks enable recognition of patterns in large data.

## A SMART AUTONOMOUS INTERNET OF THINGS

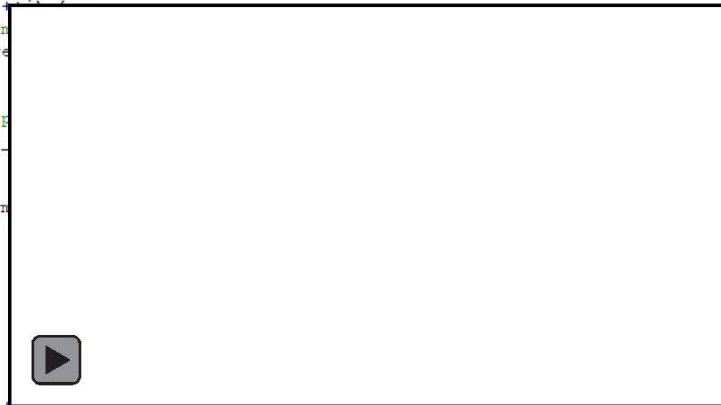
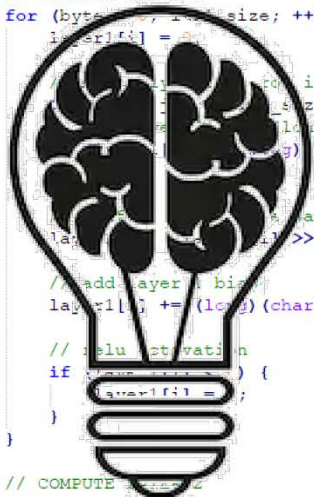
Collecting energy from diffuse light enables the broad installation of wireless sensor devices. Utilizing artificial neural networks, light-powered IoT devices gain the ability to infer information about their surrounding.





# Future Technology: DSCs for Self-Powered Intelligent IoT

Light > Information > AI



Richard Socher, you.com

Alessio Gagliardi, TUM

Predict

Millijoules per  
Inference

Sense

Multiple per minute

Communicate

Multiple times per  
second

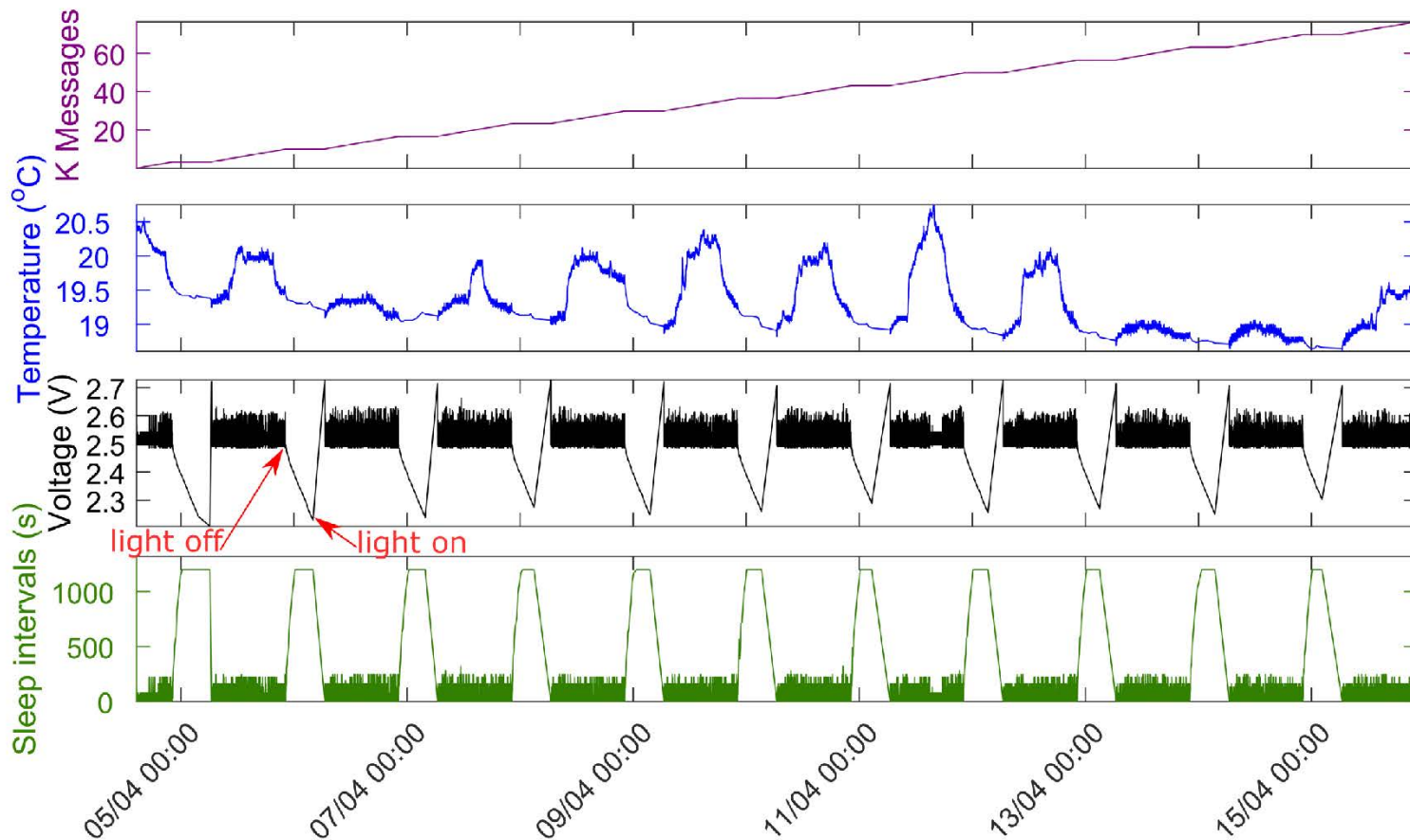
Train

MNIST-training: 100-  
150 Joule



# The DSCs for smart IoT

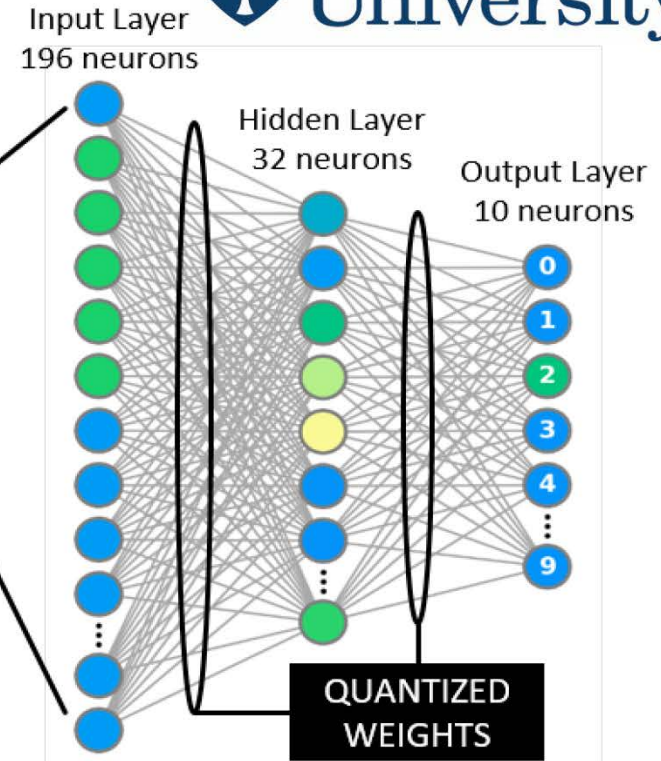
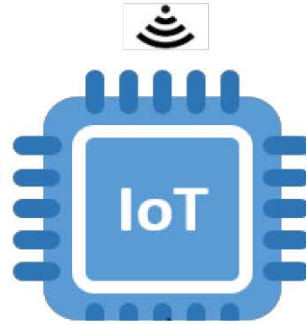
The sensor was tested in simulated light intervals of 16 hours “day” (1000 lux) and 8 hours darkness (10 pm – 6 am, red arrows).







prediction accuracy exceeding 90%

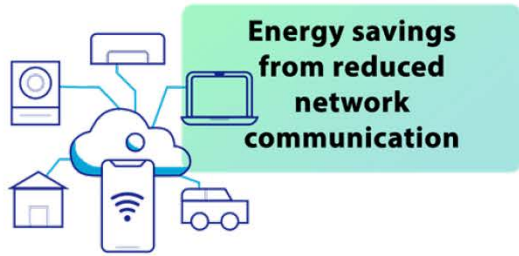


pre-trained artificial neural network

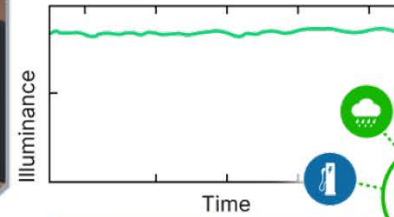
Battery	Power capacity (mAh)	Energy (J)	Days to harvest
AA	2400	12960	15.8
AAA	1000	5400	6.6
CR2032	200	2160	1.3

- 1.0 mJ or  $2.72 \cdot 10^{15}$  photons is needed to compute one inference
- 152 J or  $4.41 \cdot 10^{20}$  photons required for training and verification of an artificial neural network with a 64 cm<sup>2</sup> photovoltaic area in less than 24 hours of **1000 lux** illumination.





**Factory**



**Sustainable energy source for the IoT**



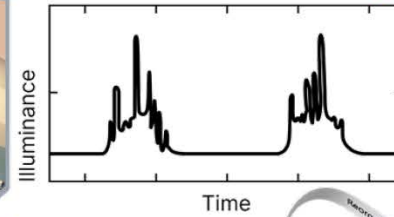
**Reduced battery waste**



**Smart IoT sensors utilise on-device machine learning to infer information**



**Home**



**Forecasting of energy availability**

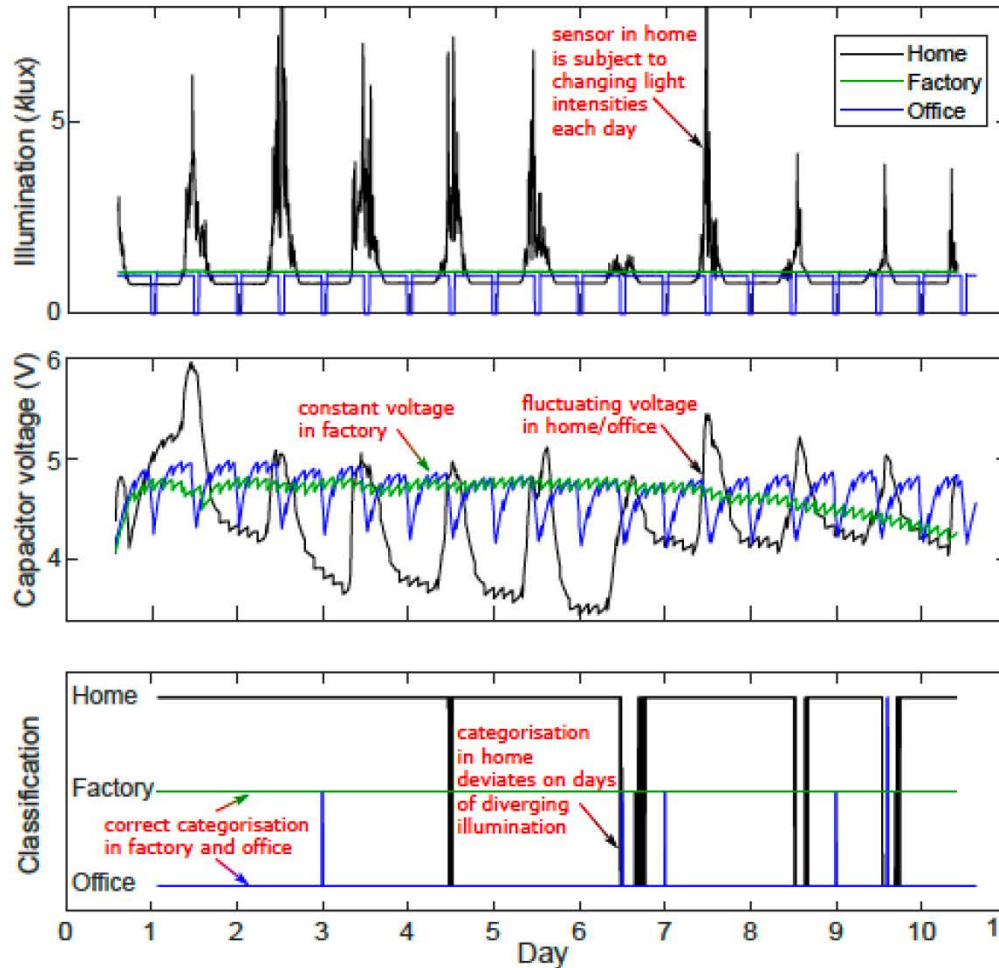


**Adaptive computational load**



In manuscript be kind 😊

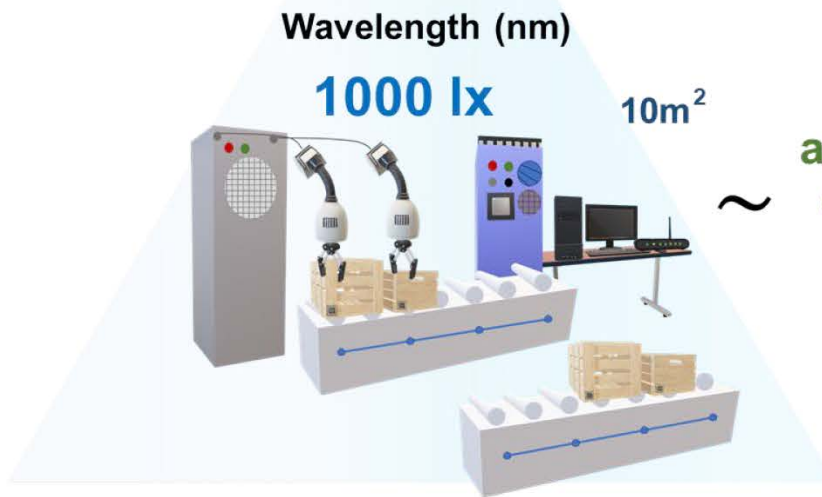
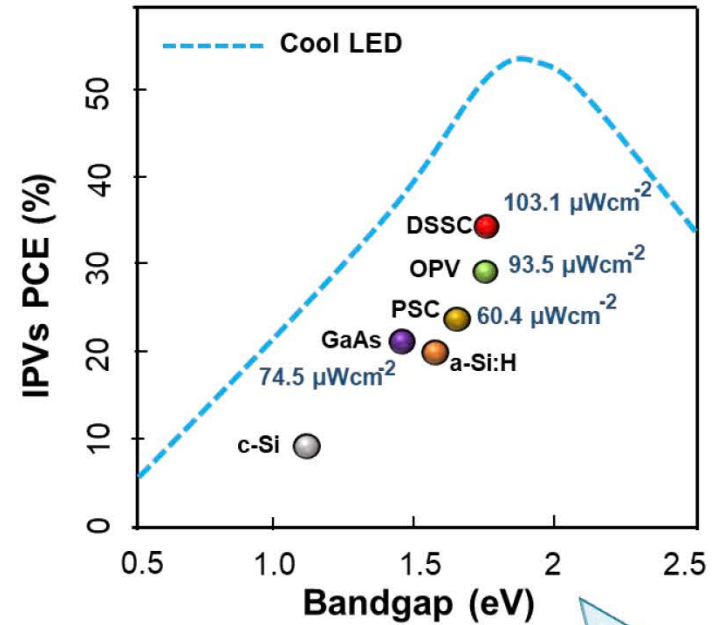
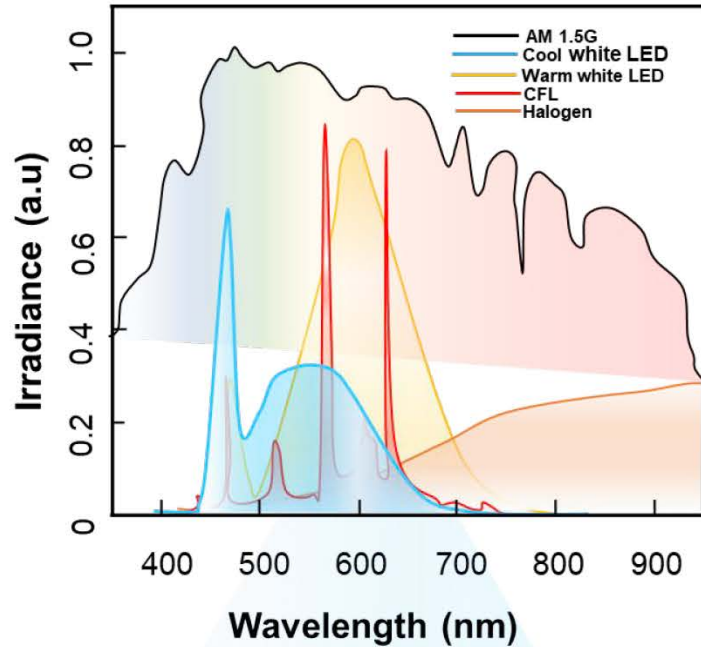
# Dynamic energy management through photovoltaic-powered IoT sensors



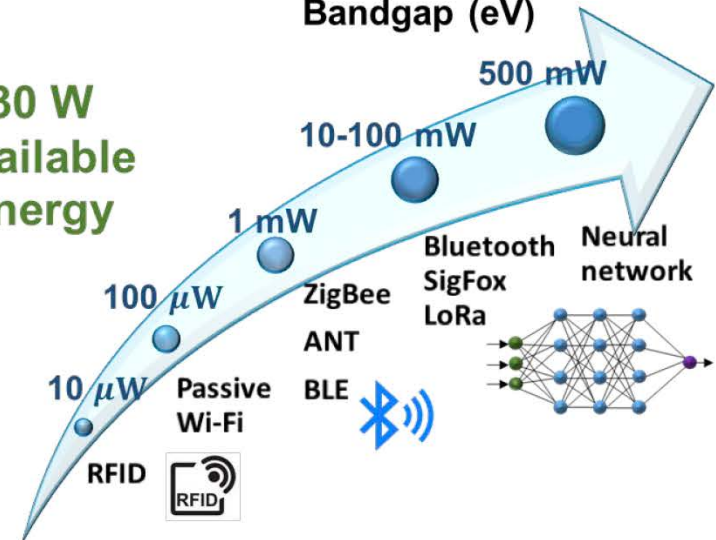
- Photovoltaic specifically adapted to ambient light intensity and spectrum
- autonomous device dynamically infers its deployment scenario based on real-time acquired illumination data

## SNEAK PEAK

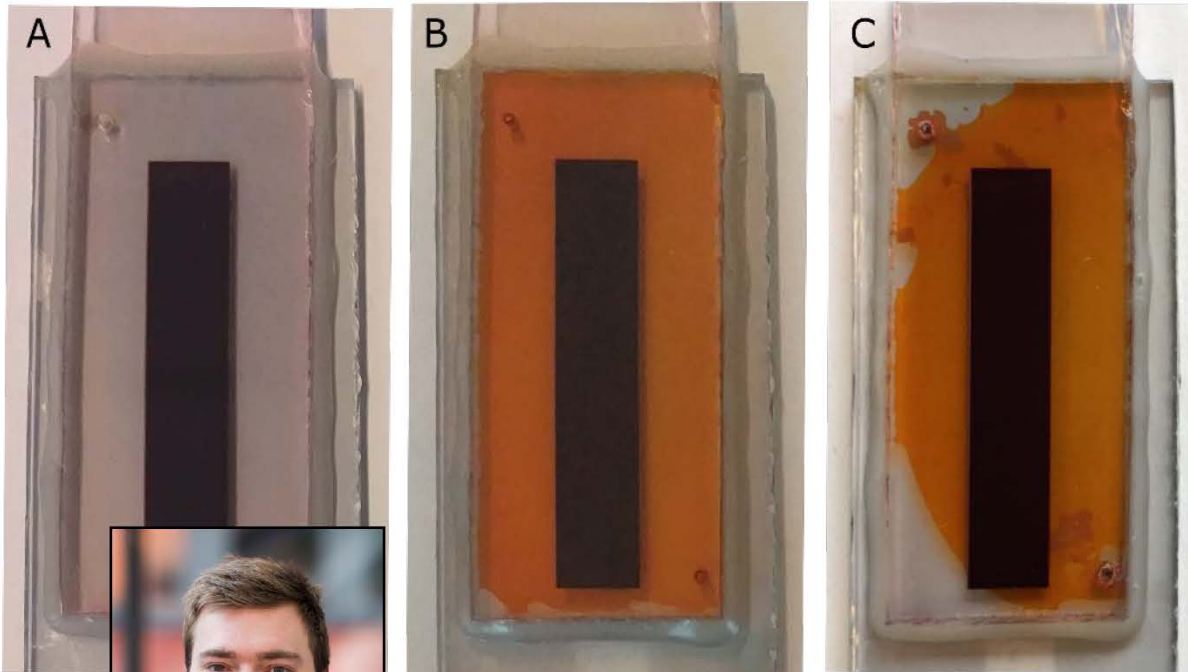




**30 W available energy**



# The "Zombies" for smart IoT



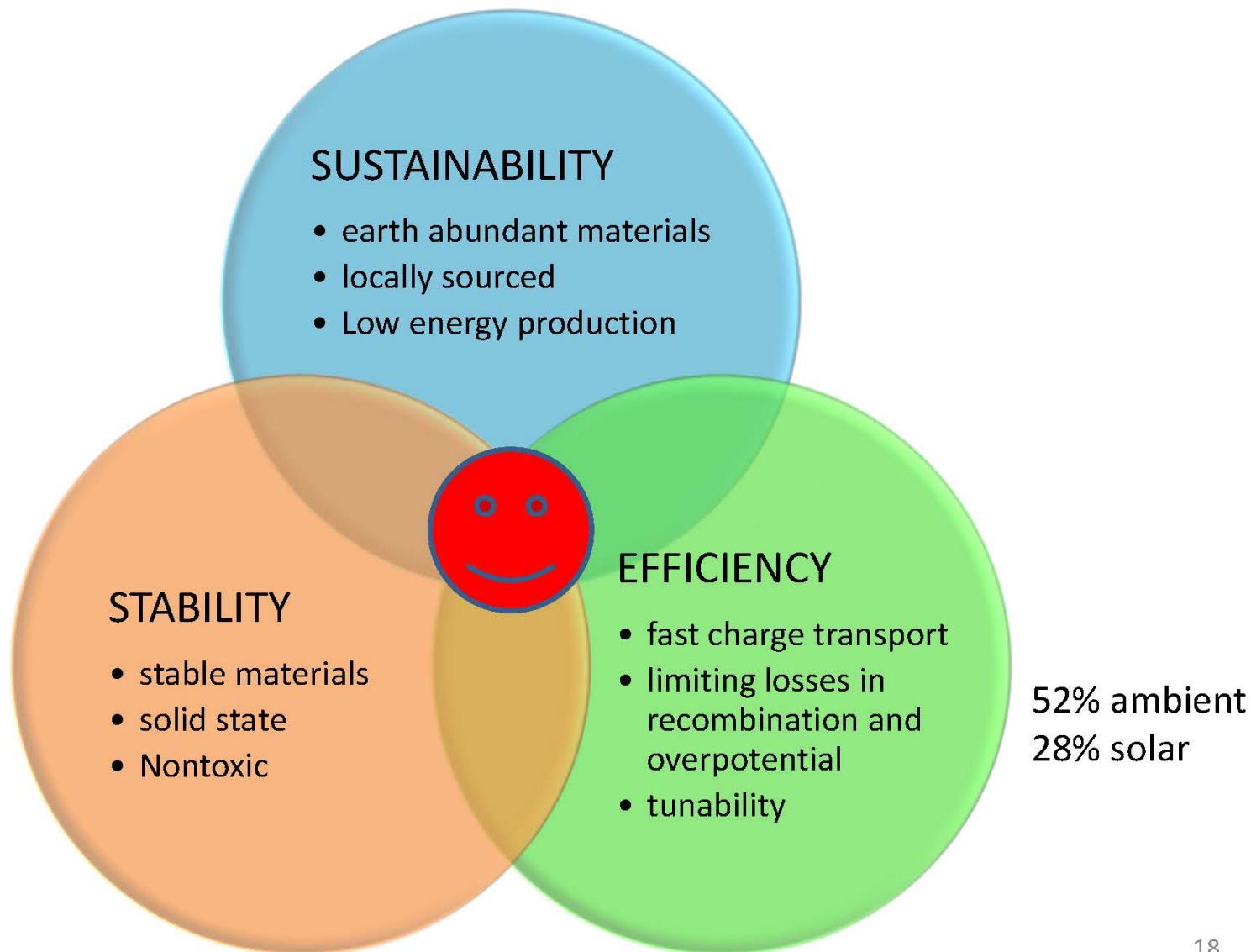
Hannes Michaels

## SMART ZOMBIES

*Chem. Sci.*, 2020,**11**, 2895-2906

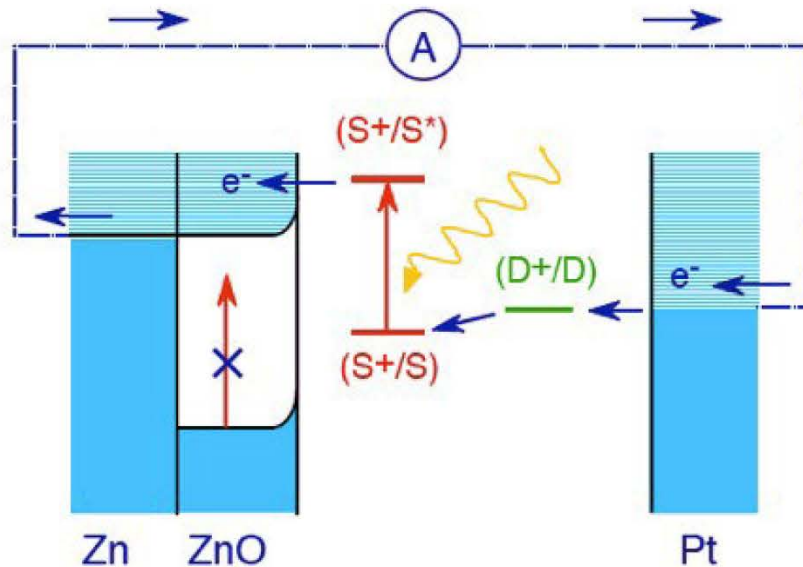


# What can chemistry fix ?



# The First Dye-sensitized Photogalvanic Cell

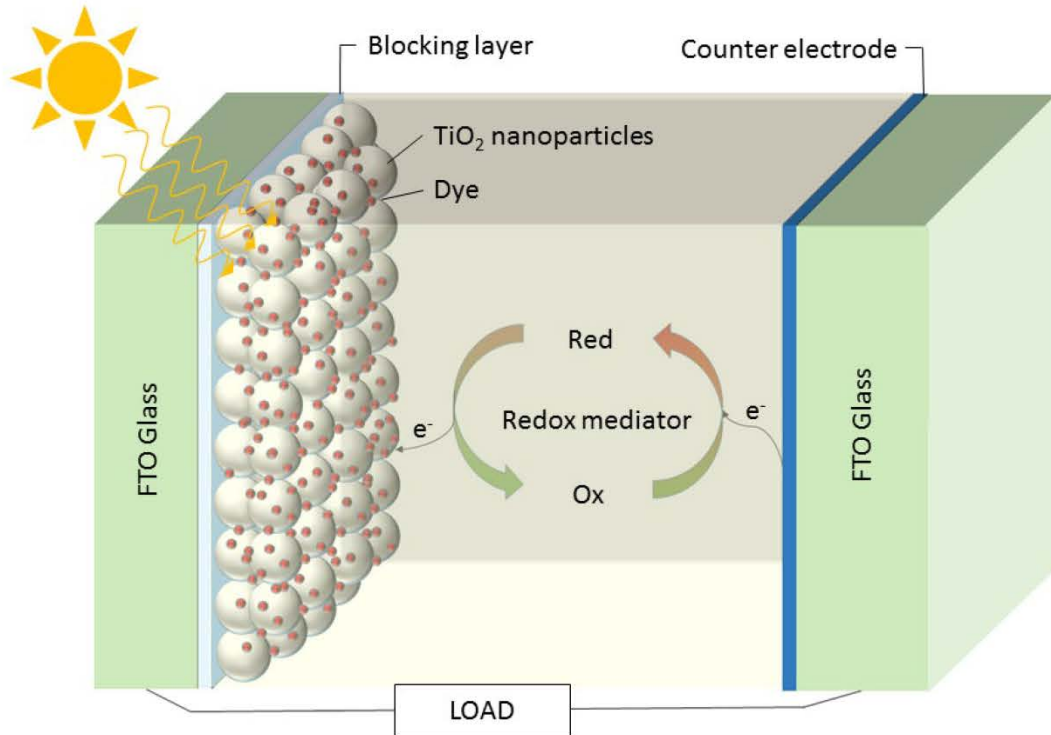
Heinz Gerischer (1968):  
Dye-sensitized photogalvanic cell



While multilayer absorption of dye has very low quantum yield, a significant problem of this device is incomplete light absorption, because of a monolayer of dye attached to a smooth surface absorbed less than 1% of the incident monochromatic light.



# DSC and the Redox Mediator



O'Regan, B. & Grätzel, M. A LOW-COST, HIGH-EFFICIENCY SOLAR-CELL BASED ON DYE SENSITIZED COLLOIDAL TiO<sub>2</sub> FILMS. *Nature*, 353(6346), 737-740 (1991).

1991

## Dye-Sensitized Solar Cell Components

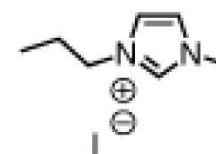
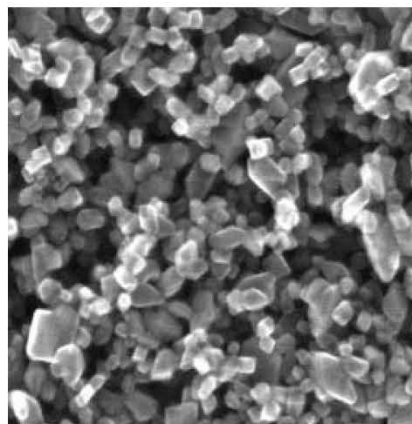
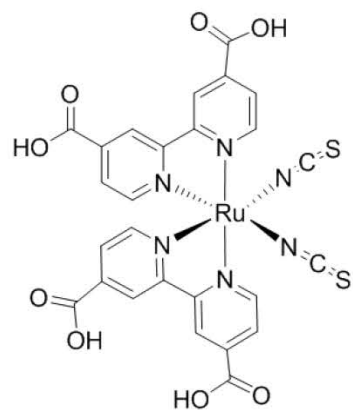
### Sensitizing Dye



### Titania Nanoparticles



### Electrolyte



Chemical Structure of N3 Dye

Titania nanoparticles

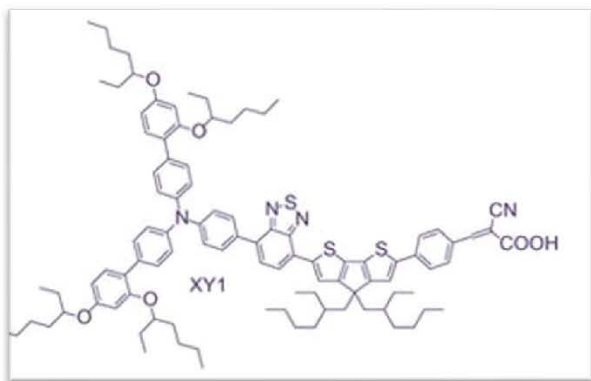
Iodide/Tri-iodide Redox Couple



2021

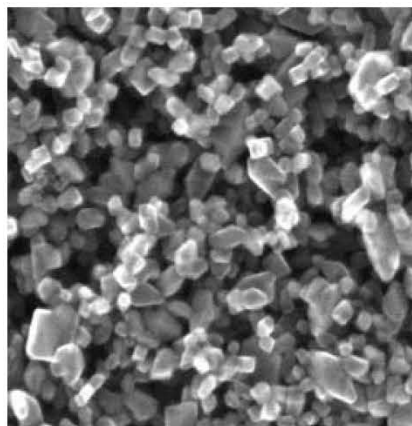
Dye-Sensitized Solar Cell Components

### Sensitizing Dye



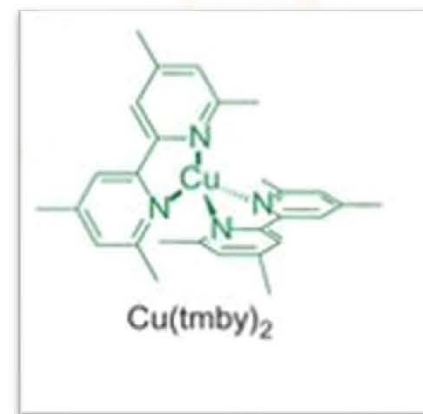
Dye

### Titania Nanoparticles



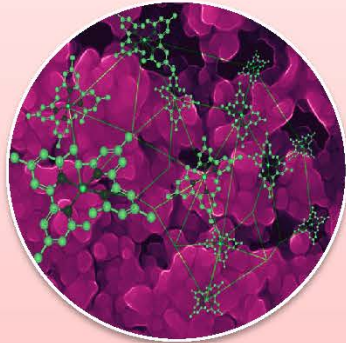
Titania nanoparticles

### Electrolyte



Redox Couple

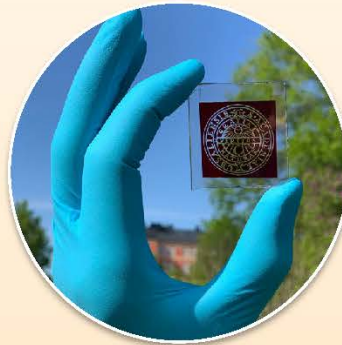
# FREITAG LAB



## Materials

Charge Transport  
Materials

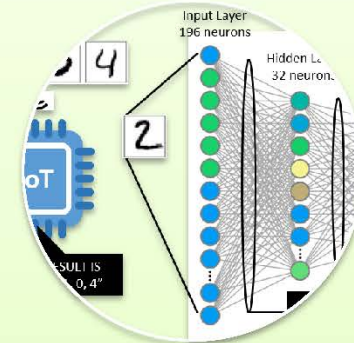
**Coordination Complexes  
and Polymers**



## Devices

Dye sensitized solar cells

**Ambient Photovoltaics**



## Application

Power wireless sensor  
systems

**Smart autonomous IoT**





# Coordination Materials and Charge Transport

## Molecular building blocks



Metal center  
Cu, Ni, ...



Bidentate ligands ( $\eta^2$ )  
Bipyridines, phenanthrolines, ...

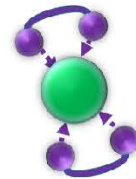


Tetradentate ligands ( $\eta^4$ )  
Phthalocyanine, porphyrine,  
Substituted bipyridines, polypyridines...

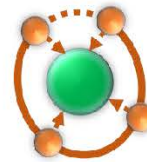


Bridging ligands  
Halides, polyacids, polythiols, ...

## Coordination complexes

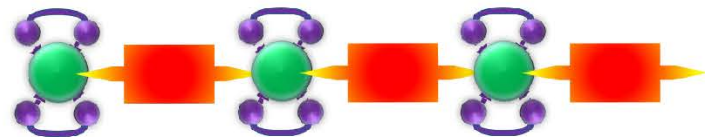


Coordination complex from  
*bidentate* ligands



Coordination complex from  
*tetradentate* ligands

## Coordination polymers



Coordination polymers for emerging molecular devices

GH Morritt, H Michaels, M Freitag  
Chemical Physics Reviews 3 (1), 011306

# Ambient Photovoltaics

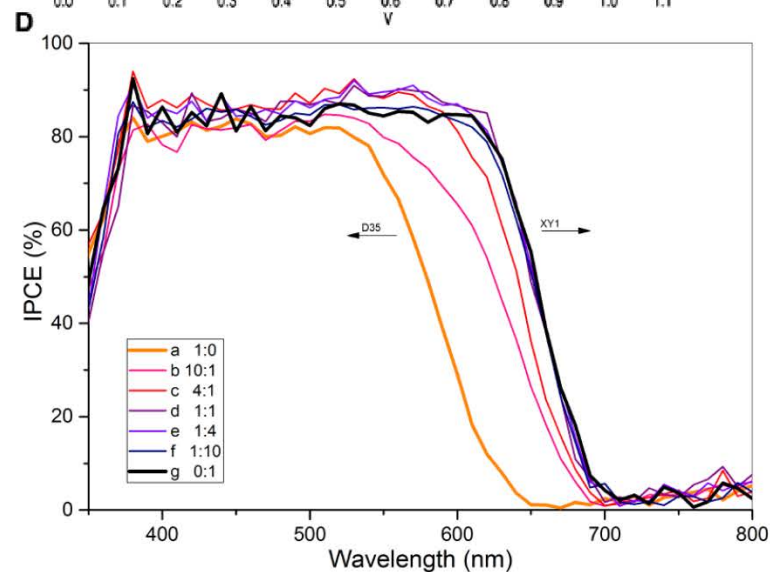
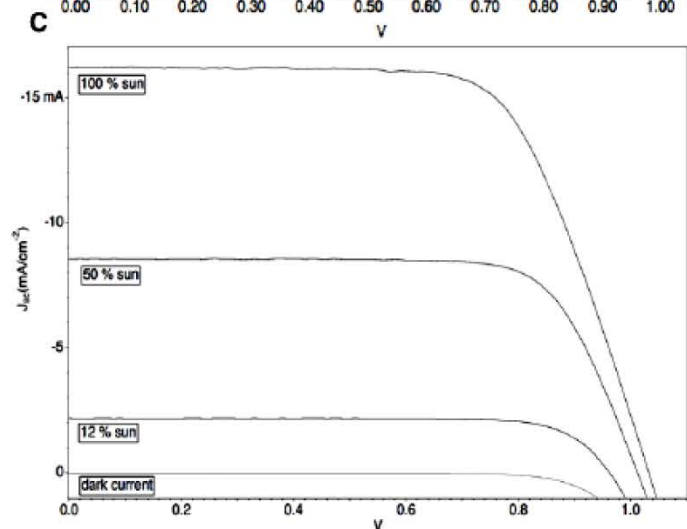
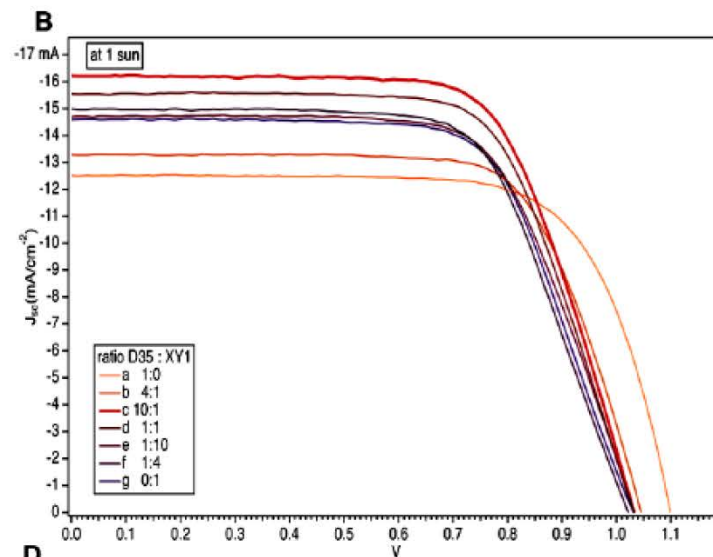
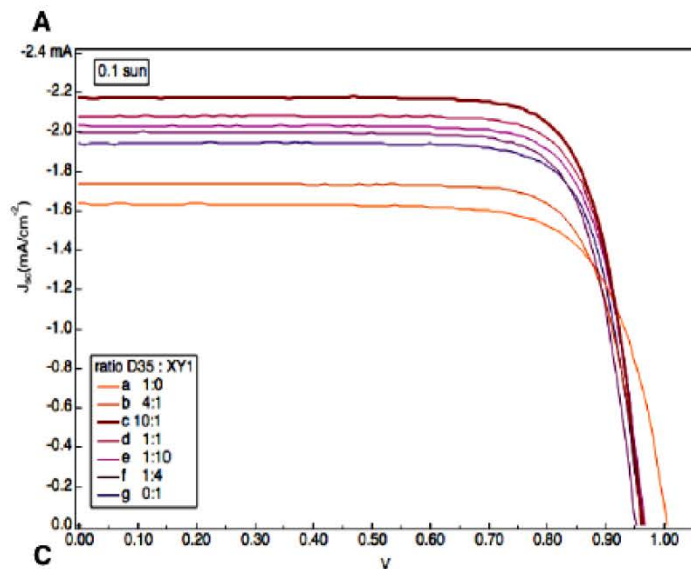


Freitag M., et. al : **Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells for Efficient Power Generation under Ambient Lighting**, Nature Photonics, 2017

Benesperi, *Chem*, **2022**, 8 (2), 439-449.



# Copper Complexes as Redox Mediator

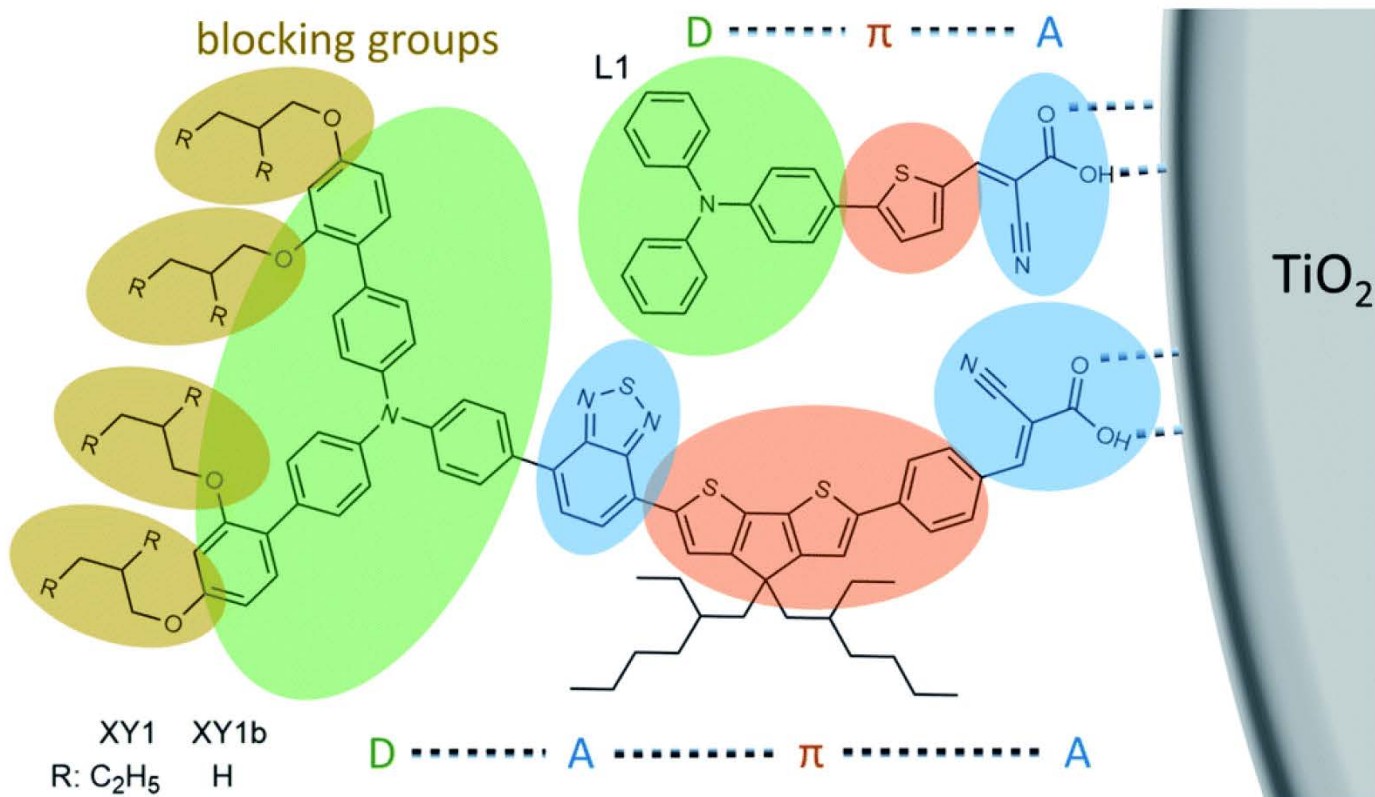


## Copper Complexes as Redox Mediator

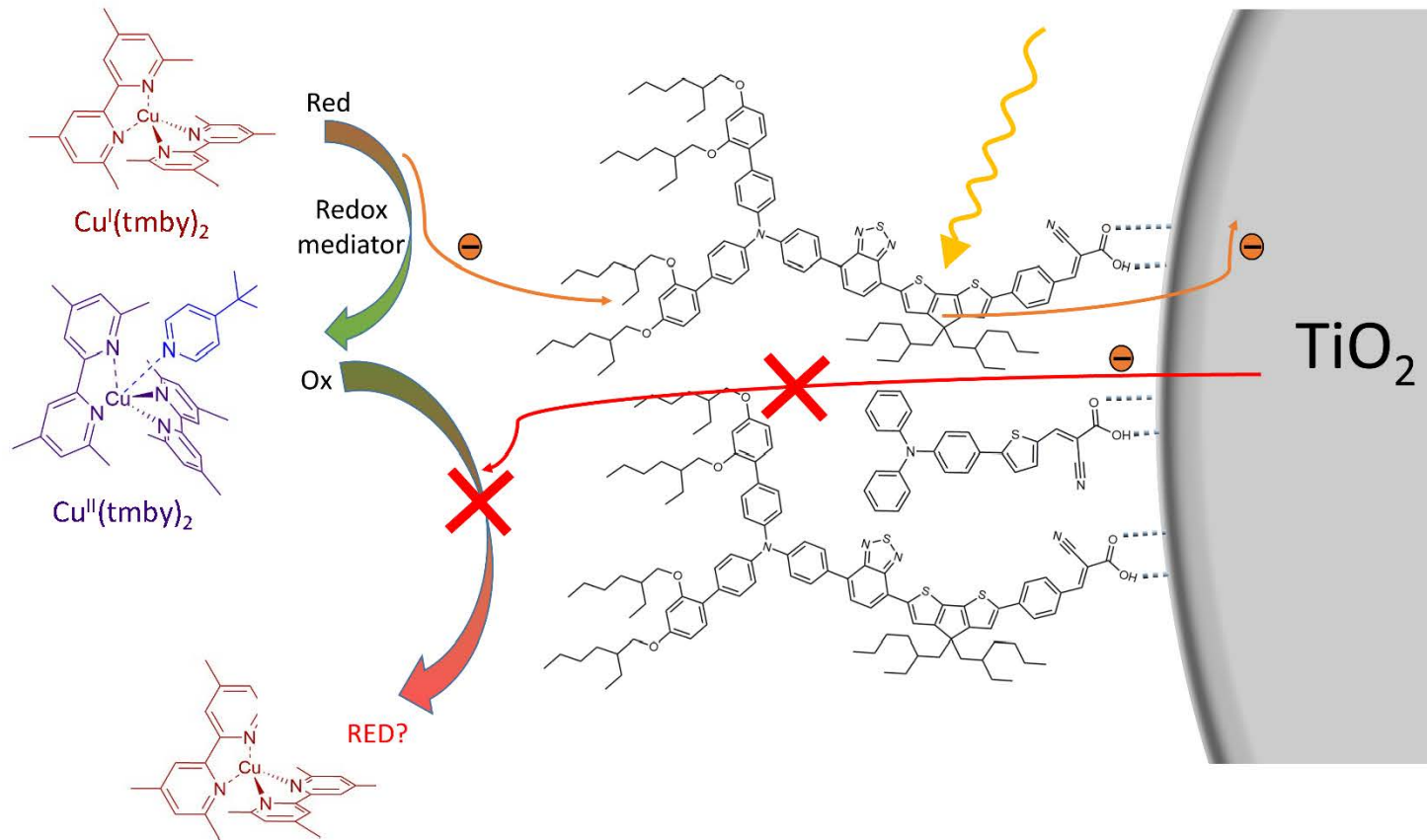
Solar Cell	Light source	Light intensity	$J_{sc}$ ( $\mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ )	$V_{oc}$ (mV)	FF (%)	$P_{in}$ ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ )	$P_{out}$ ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ )	PCE (%)
DSC <sup>a</sup>	OSRAM Warm White 930	200 lux	27.2	732.0	0.79	61.3	<b>15.6</b>	25.5
DSC <sup>b</sup>		200 lux	24.8	700.0	0.79	61.3	<b>13.7</b>	22.3
DSC <sup>a</sup>		1000 lux	138.0	797.0	0.80	306.6	<b>88.5</b>	28.9
DSC <sup>b</sup>		1000 lux	137.2	766.0	0.80	306.6	<b>84.1</b>	27.4
flexi GaAs Alta	OSRAM Warm White 827	200 lux	20.1	870.0	0.75	70.6	<b>13.1</b>	18.6
flexi GaAs Alta		1000 lux	99.0	940.0	0.80	354.0	<b>74.5</b>	21.0



Photoanode Engineering for  
Lower Recombination

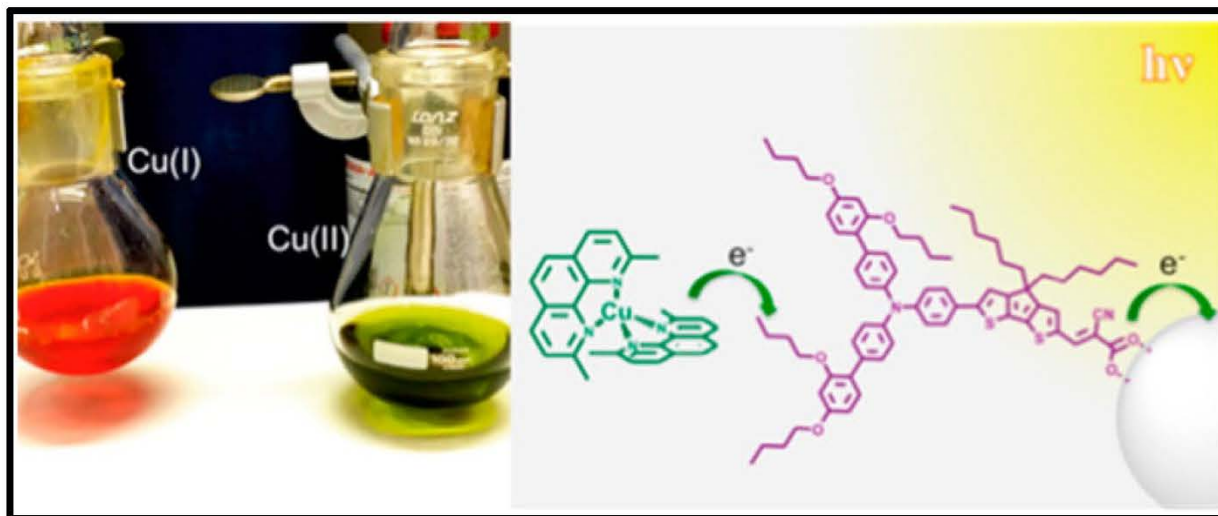


# Suppressing recombination



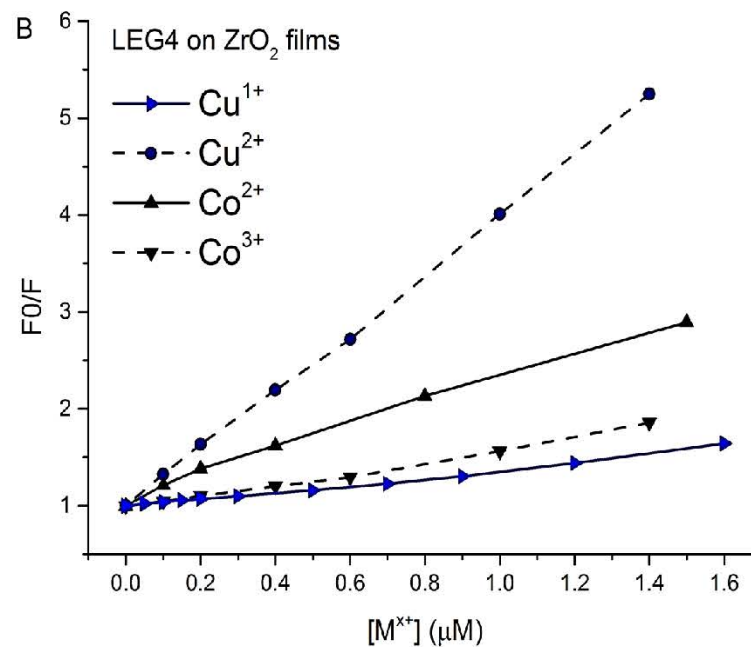
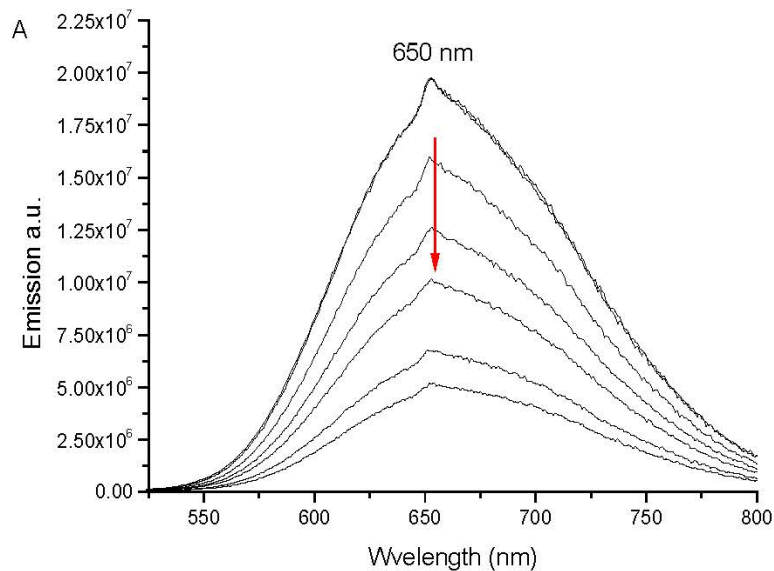


## Coordination Complexes

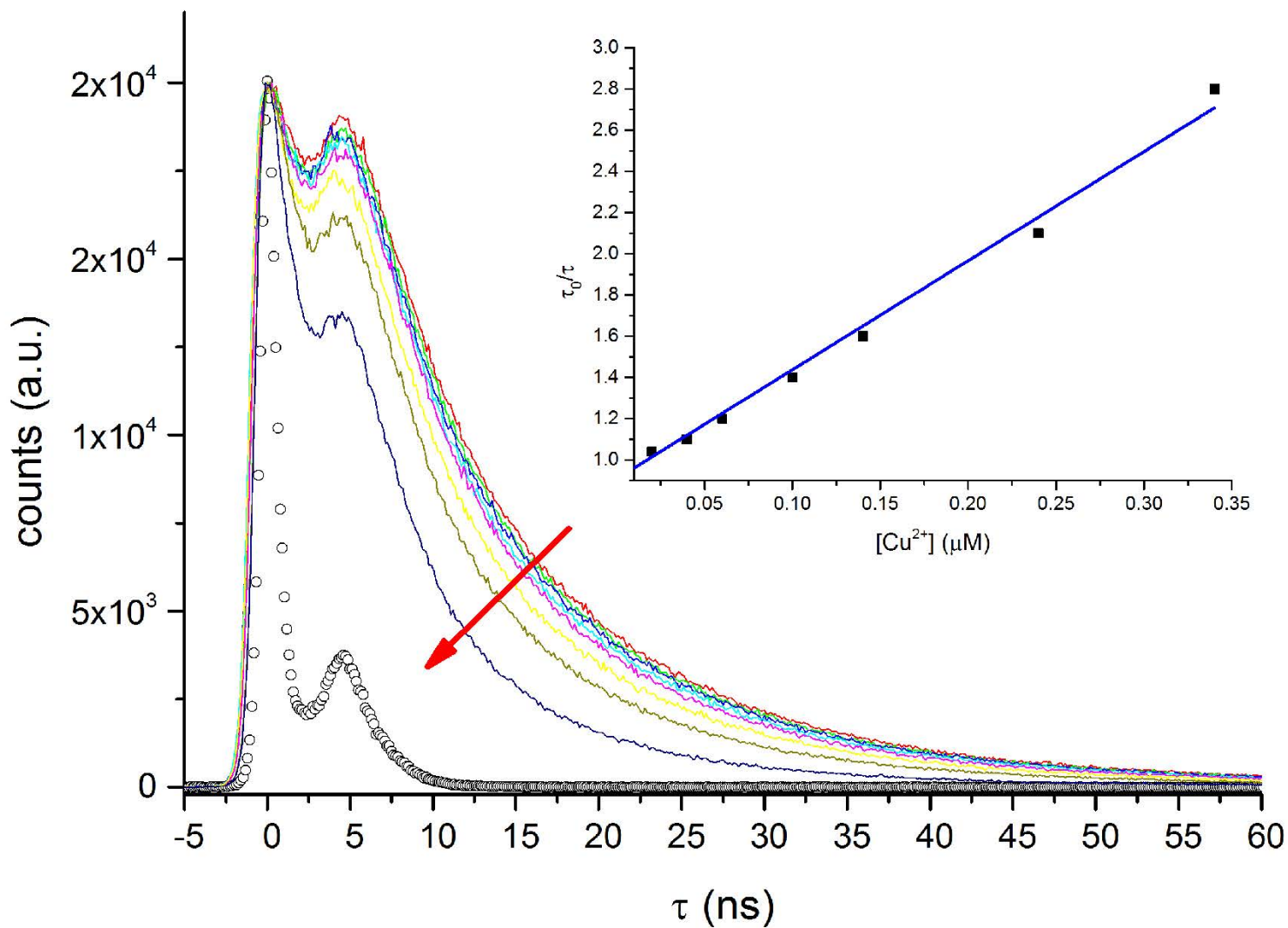


The Journal of Physical Chemistry C 120 (18), 9595-9603, Journal of the American Chemical Society 138 (45), 15087-15096

# Copper Redox Mediators: Stern-Volmer



# Copper Phenanthroline Redox Mediators: TC-SPC





# Copper Coordination Complexes as redox mediators in DSCs

## Copper Bipyridyl Redox Mediators for Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells with High Photovoltage

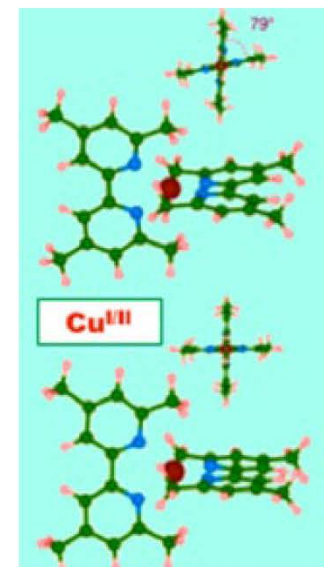
Yasemin Saygili,<sup>†</sup> Magnus Söderberg,<sup>‡</sup> Norman Pellet,<sup>§</sup> Fabrizio Giordano,<sup>§</sup> Yiming Cao,<sup>§</sup> Ana Belen Muñoz-García,<sup>||</sup> Shaik M. Zakeeruddin,<sup>†</sup> Nick Vlachopoulos,<sup>†</sup> Michele Pavone,<sup>||</sup> Gerrit Boschloo,<sup>⊥</sup> Ladislav Kavan,<sup>§,#</sup> Jacques-E. Moser,<sup>‡</sup> Michael Grätzel,<sup>§</sup> Anders Hagfeldt,<sup>†</sup> and Marina Freitag<sup>\*,†,⊥</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Laboratory of Photomolecular Science, <sup>‡</sup>Photochemical Dynamics Group, and <sup>§</sup>Laboratory for Photonics and Interfaces, Institute of Chemical Sciences Engineering, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

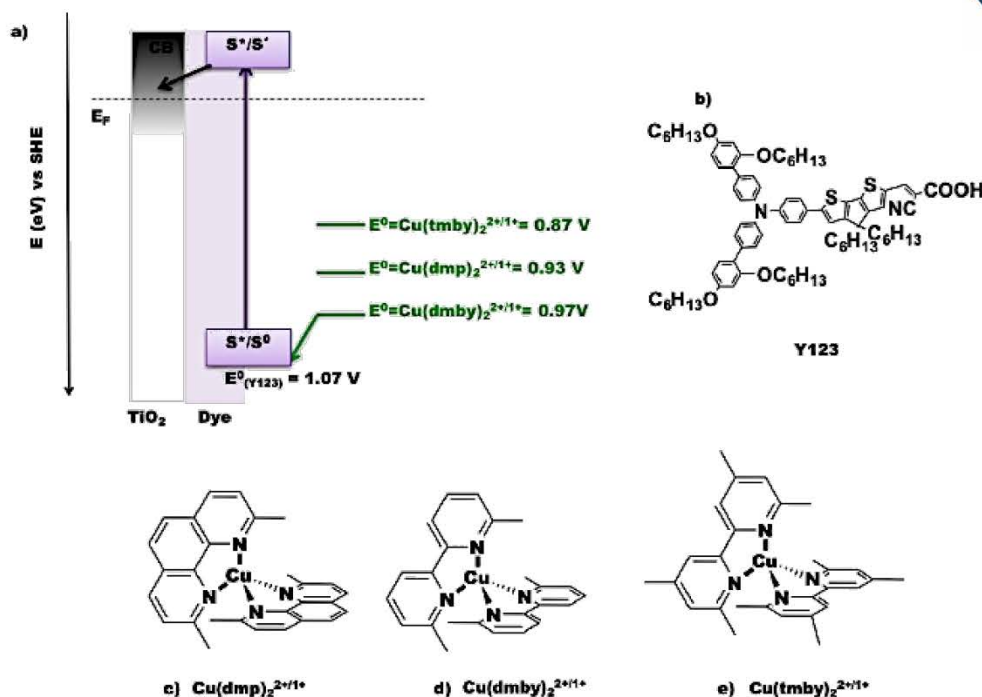
<sup>||</sup>Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Naples Federico II, 80126 Naples, Italy

<sup>⊥</sup>Department of Chemistry, Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University, 751 20 Uppsala, Sweden

<sup>#</sup>J. Heyrovsky Institute of Physical Chemistry, 1823 Prague, Czech Republic

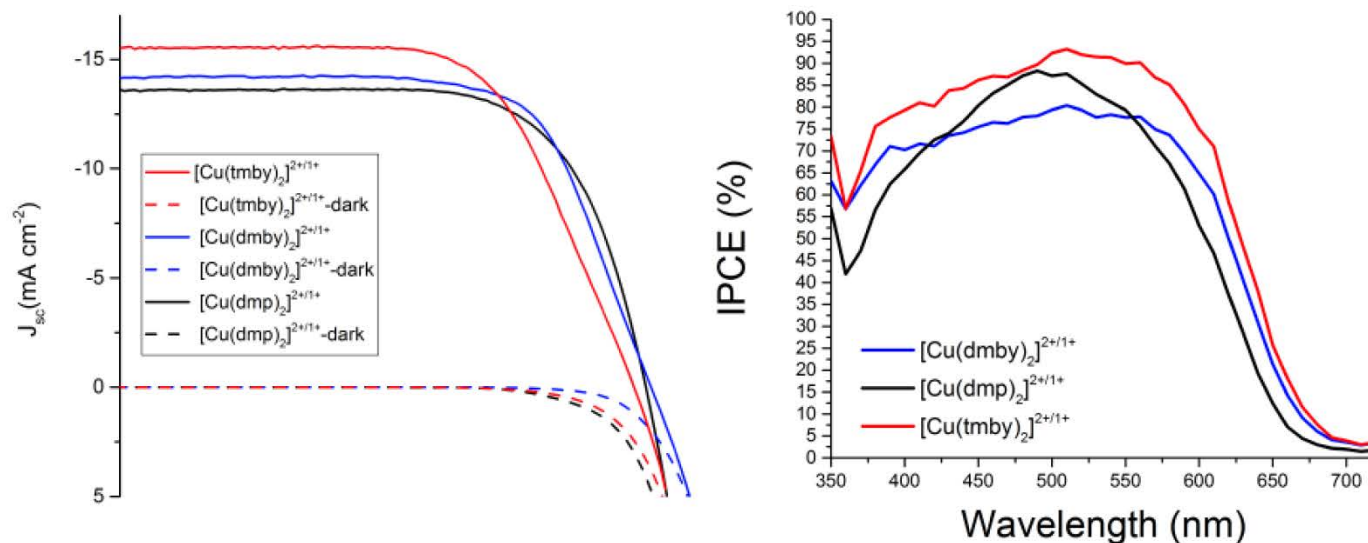


# Copper Bipyridyl Redox Mediators



	$\epsilon \text{ (M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	$\lambda_{\text{max}} \text{ (nm)}$	$D \text{ (10}^{-6}\text{ cm}^2\text{ s}^{-1}\text{)}$	$E^\circ$ (V vs SHE)
$\text{Cu(I)(dmp)}_2\text{TFSI}$	7300	457	12.6	0.93
$\text{Cu(II)(dmp)}_2(\text{TFSI})_2$	850	360	14.4	
$\text{Cu(I)(dmby)}_2\text{TFSI}$	6900	455	11.7	0.97 <sup>a</sup>
$\text{Cu(II)(dmby)}_2\text{TFSI/Cl}$	1300	360	33.3	
$\text{Cu(I)(tmby)}_2\text{TFSI}$	5300	451	11.2	0.87 <sup>a</sup>
$\text{Cu(II)(tmby)}_2\text{TFSI/Cl}$	1400	360	22.0	

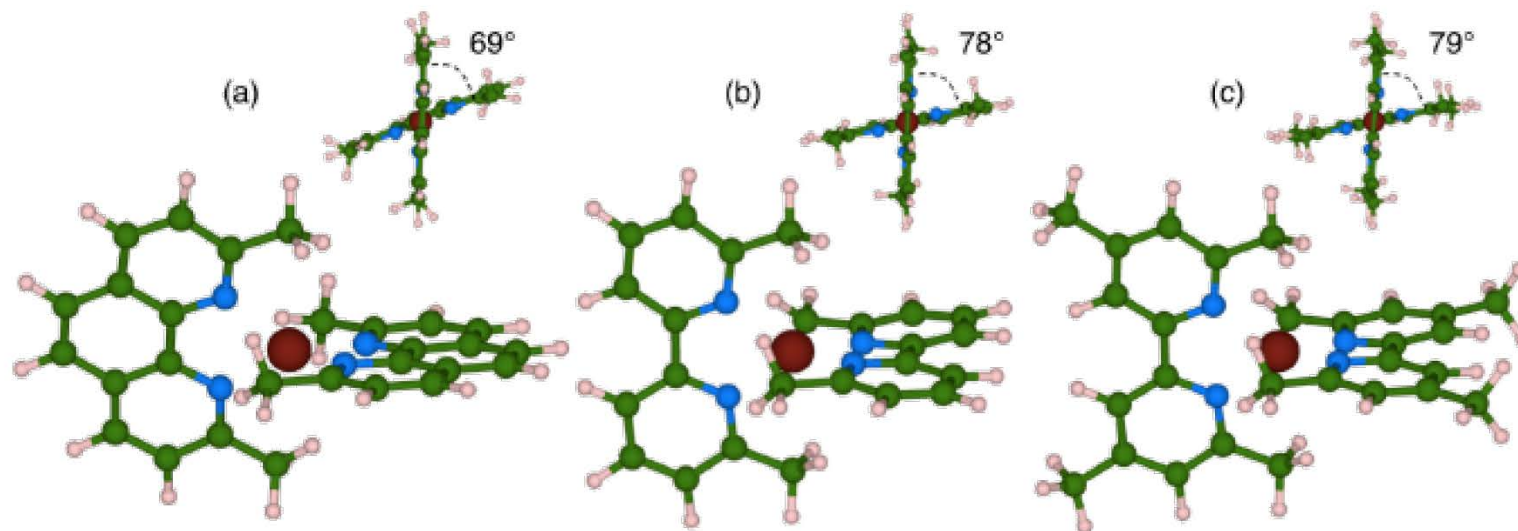
# Copper Bipyridyl Redox Mediators



Redox couple	$V_{oc}$ (V)	$J_{sc}$ ( $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$ )	FF	PCE (%)
$[\text{Cu}(\text{tmby})_2]^{2+/1+}$	1.04	15.53	0.640	10.3
$[\text{Cu}(\text{dmby})_2]^{2+/1+}$	1.07	14.15	0.687	10.0
$[\text{Cu}(\text{dmp})_2]^{2+/1+}$	1.06	13.61	0.692	10.3

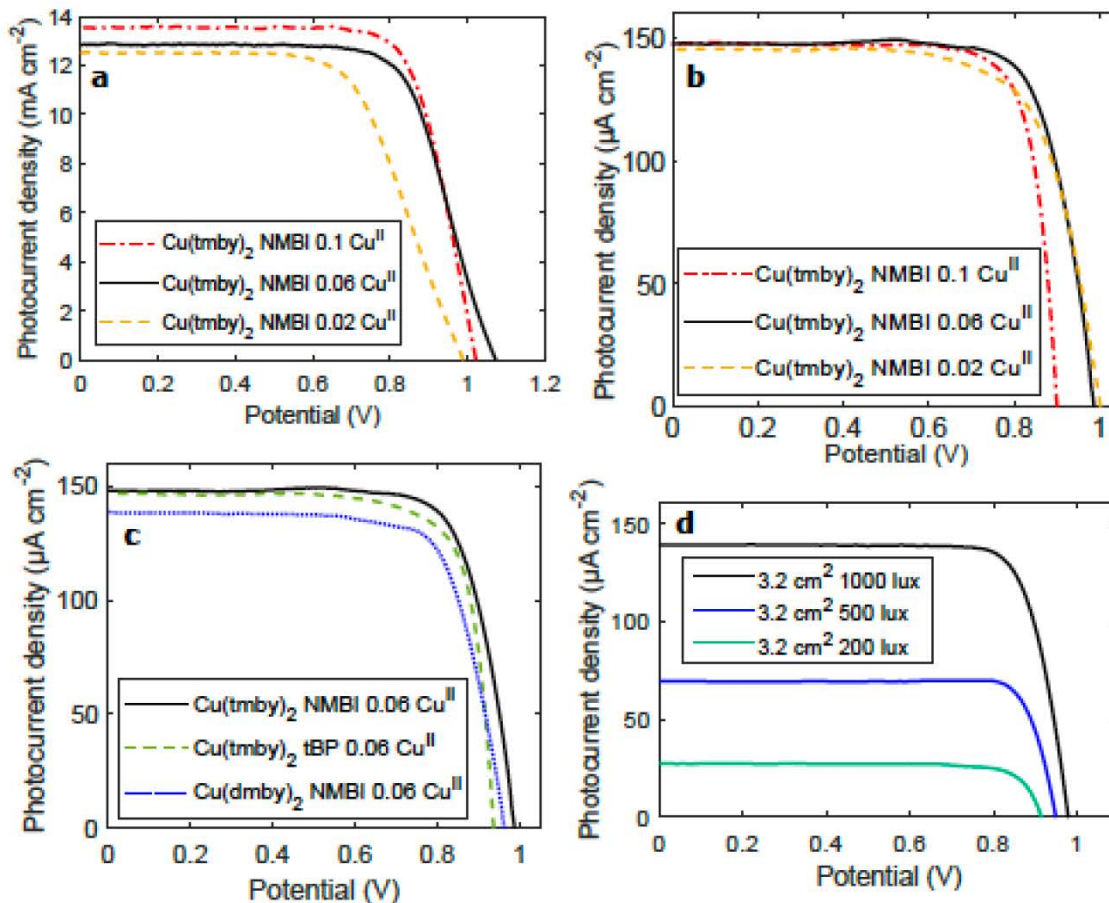


# Copper Bipyridyl Redox Mediators



	$\Delta G_{\text{ox}}$ (eV)	$\lambda_{\text{in}}$ (eV)
$[\text{Cu}(\text{dmp})_2]^{1+/2+}$	4.68	0.281
$[\text{Cu}(\text{dmby})_2]^{1+/2+}$	4.64	0.301
$[\text{Cu}(\text{tmby})_2]^{1+/2+}$	4.47	0.294
$[\text{Co}(\text{bpy})_2]^{2+/3+}$ (low-spin) <sup>36</sup>	5.00	0.613

# Dynamic energy management through photovoltaic-powered IoT sensors

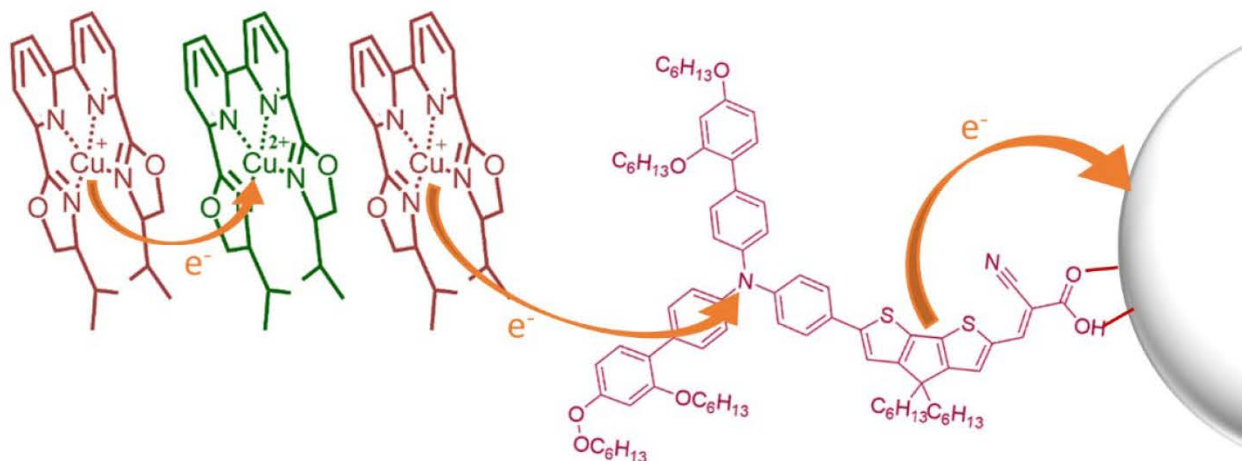


- Photovoltaic specifically adapted to ambient light intensity and spectrum
- autonomous device dynamically infers its deployment scenario based on real-time acquired illumination data

## SNEAK PEAK

# Tetradentate copper complexes

Enhanced charge transport in Dye-sensitized Solar Cells



Michaels, H. *et al.*, *Inorganics* **2018**, 6(2), 53.

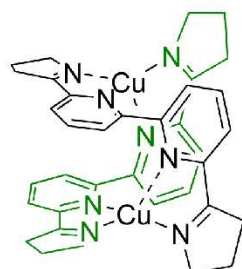


NEW

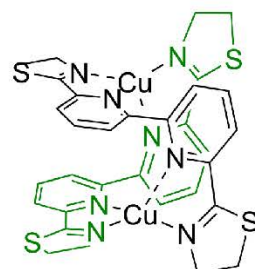
# DYNAMIC Dimer copper redox mediators



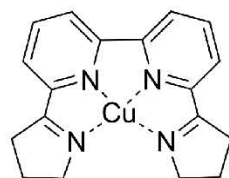
Iacopo Benesperi



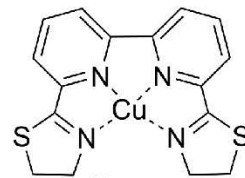
$\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}(\text{CTetra})$



$\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}(\text{STetra})$



$\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{CTetra})$



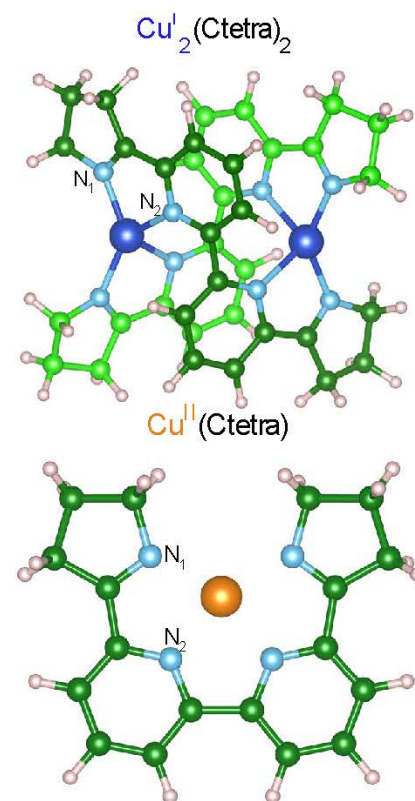
$\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{STetra})$



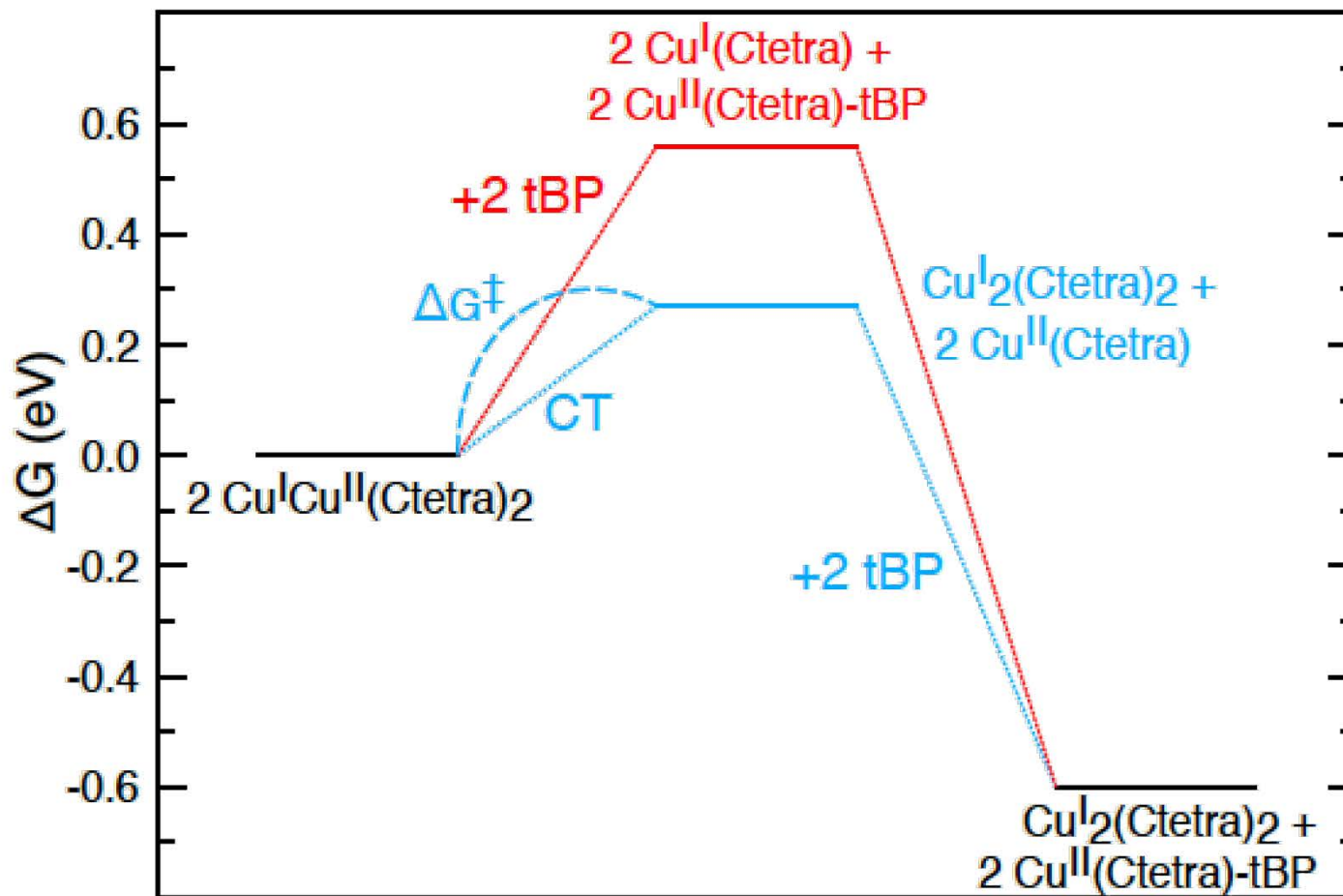
Benesperi, *Chem*, **2022**, 8 (2), 439-449.

## DYNAMIC Dimer copper redox mediators

- Copper complexes form dimers or monomers depending on metal oxidation states
- Upon single oxidation of two dimers, these undergo disproportionation
- Reduction of Cu(II) monomers to Cu(I) monomers is highly energetically unfavorable
- The stability of the Cu(II) monomer reduces charge recombination in solar cells



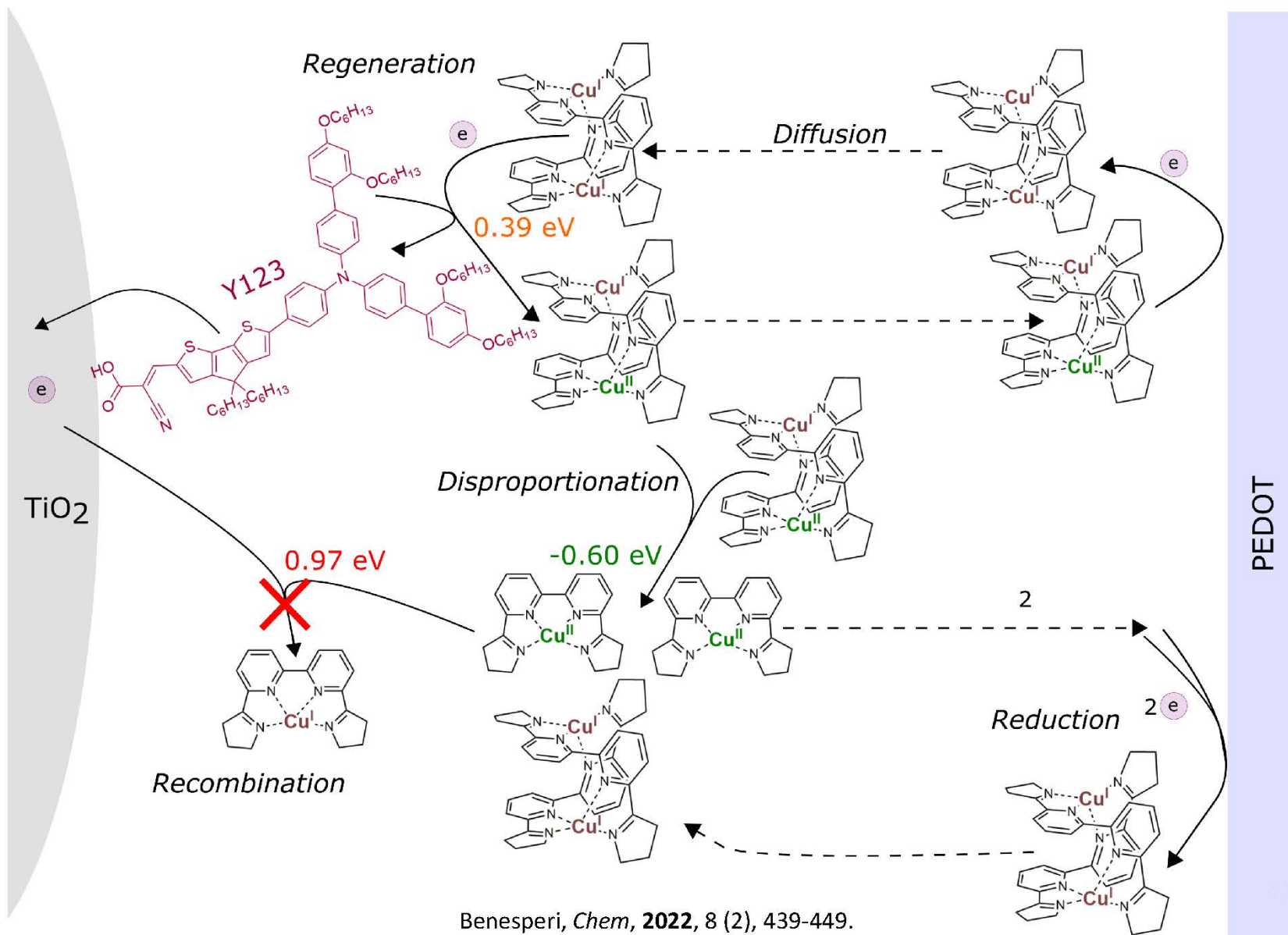
Benesperi, *Chem*, **2022**, 8 (2), 439-449.



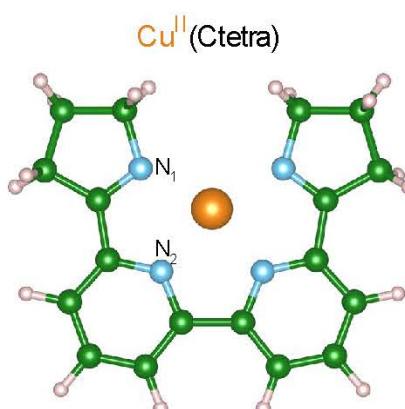
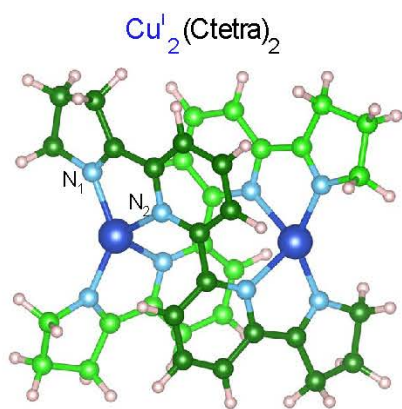
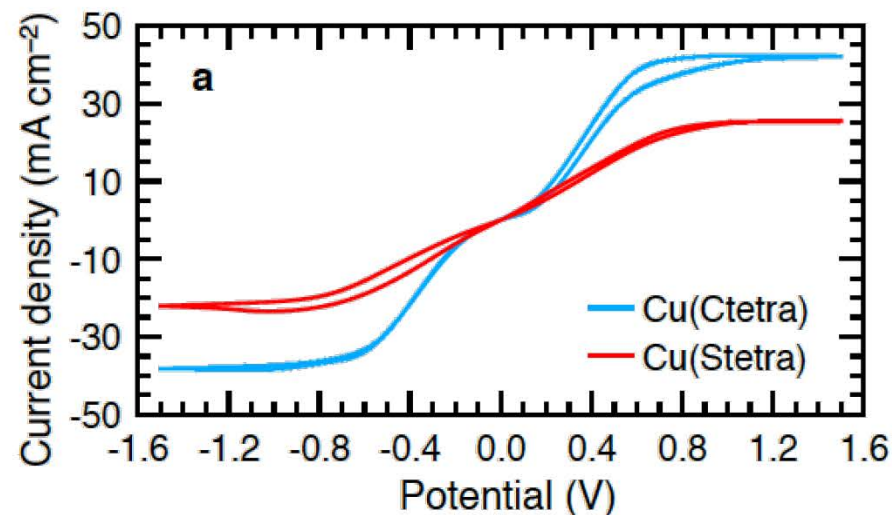
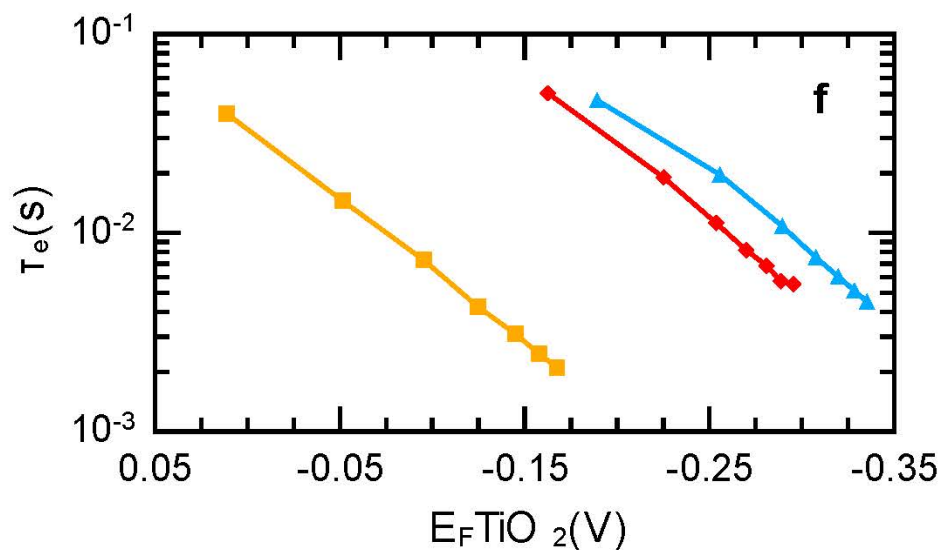
Benesperi et al., Chem 8, 439–449.

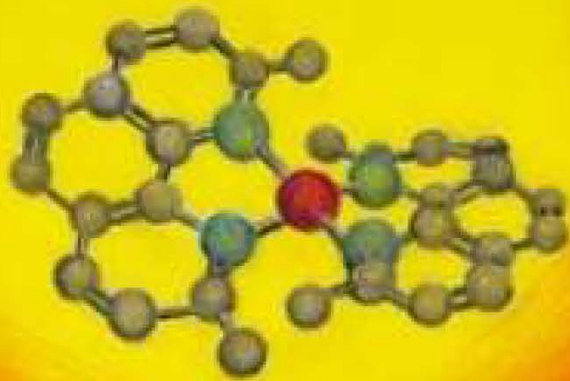


NEW



## Dimer copper redox mediators





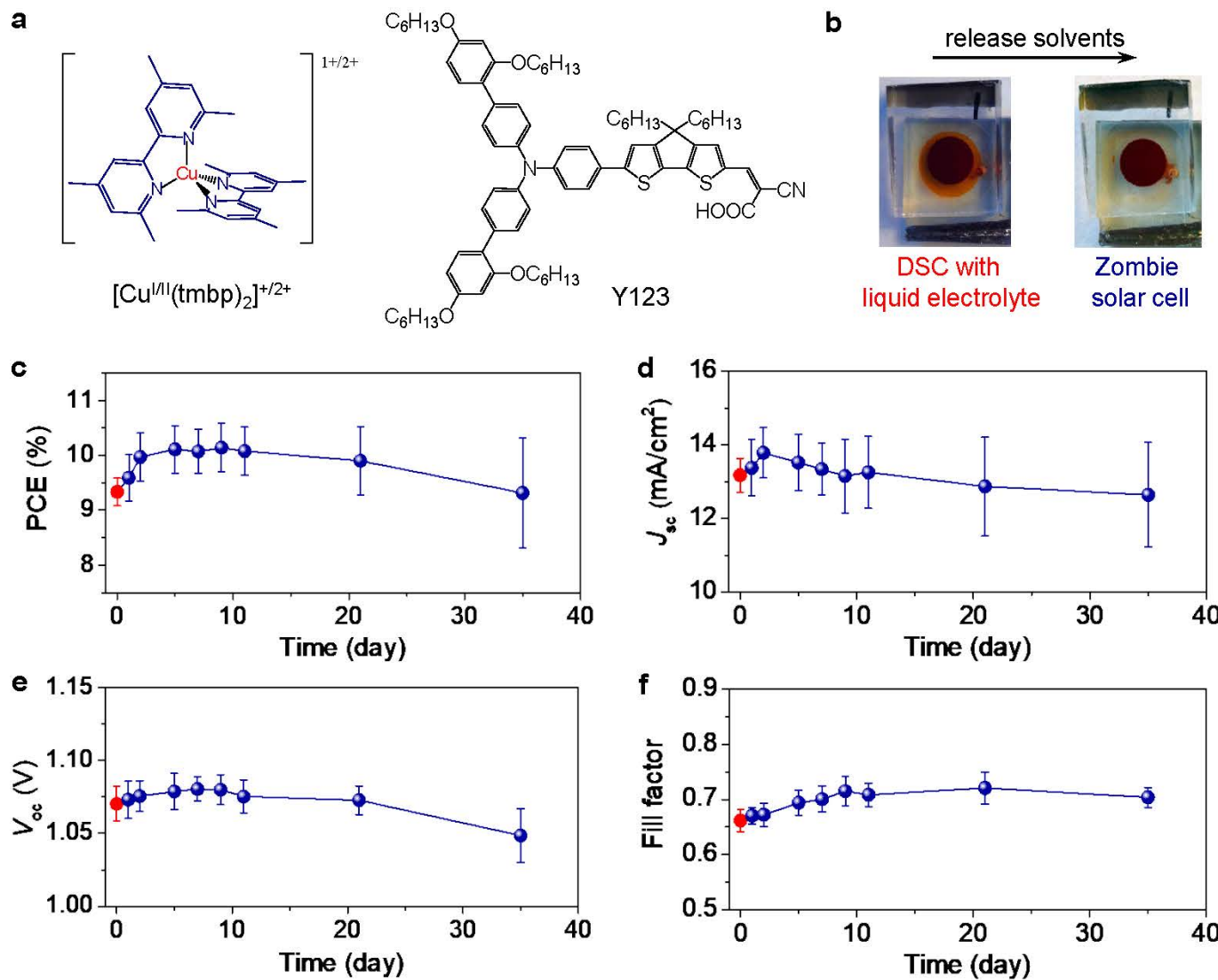
## “Zombie solar cells” discovered

Freitag et al.  
*Energy & Environ. Sci.*,  
2015, 8, 2634.

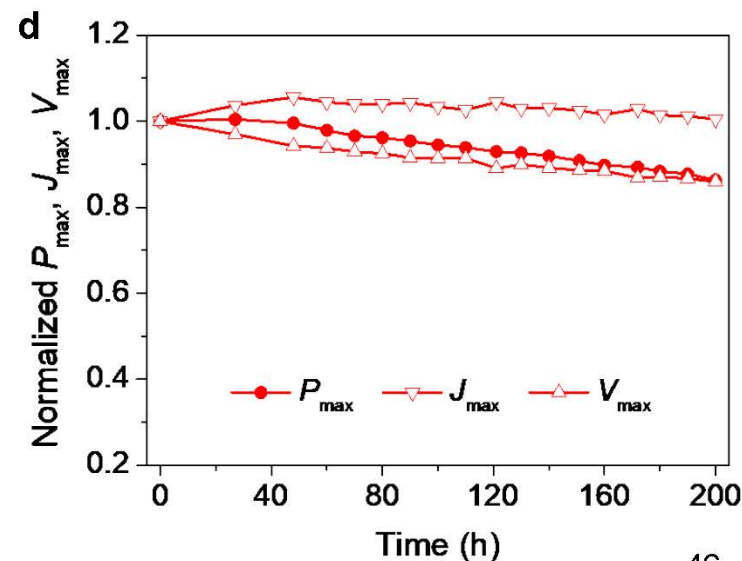
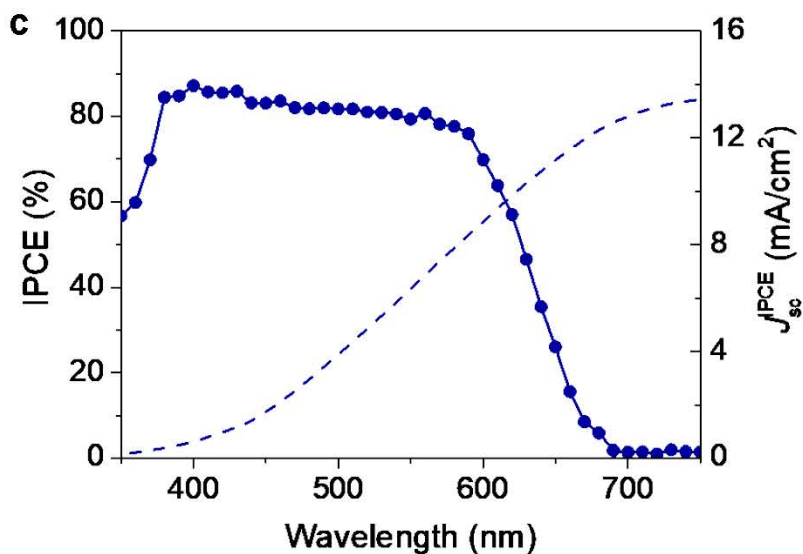
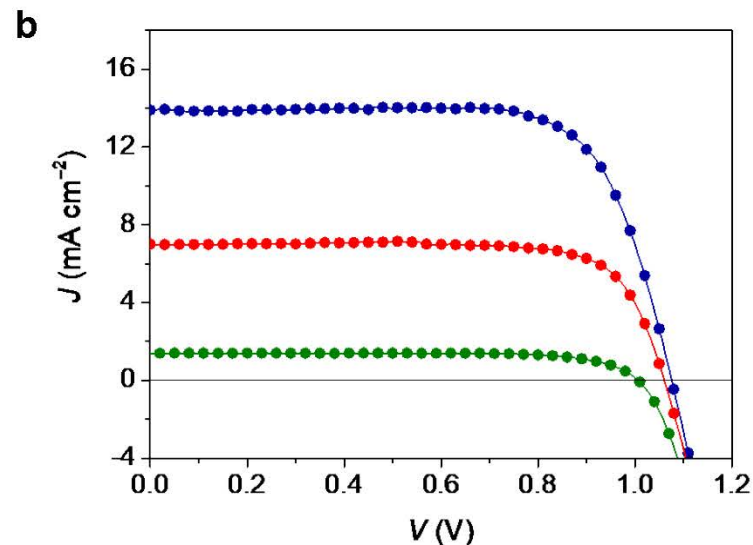
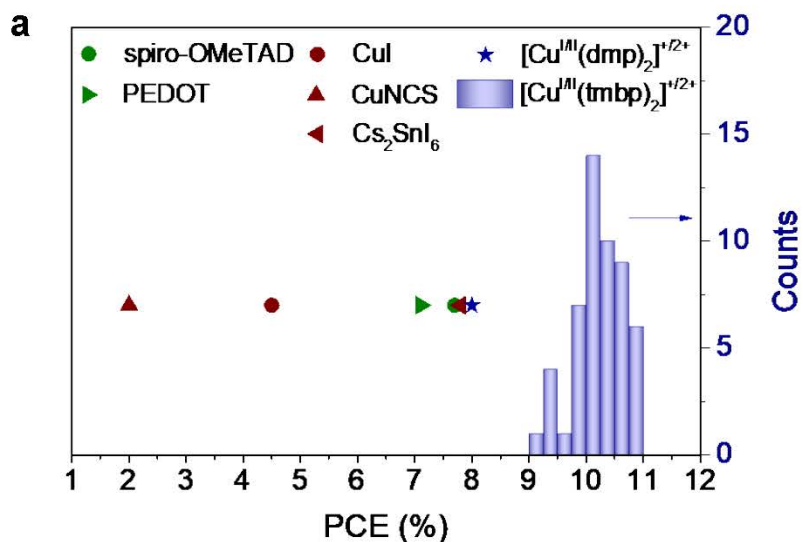
“The dried-out solar cells worked in some cases even better than when they were liquid-filled and alive.”



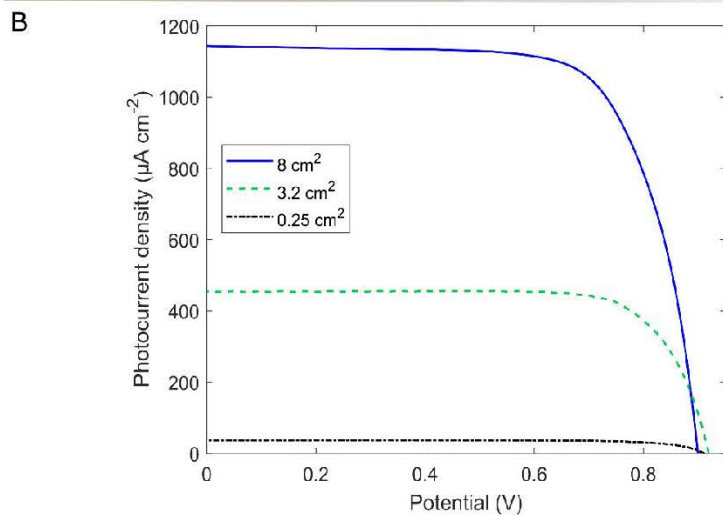
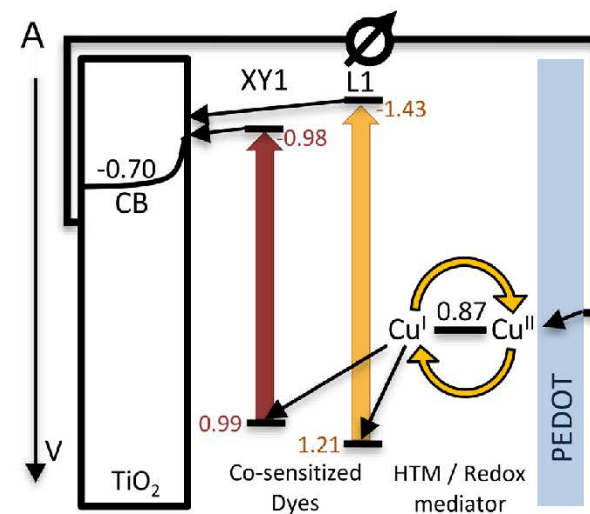
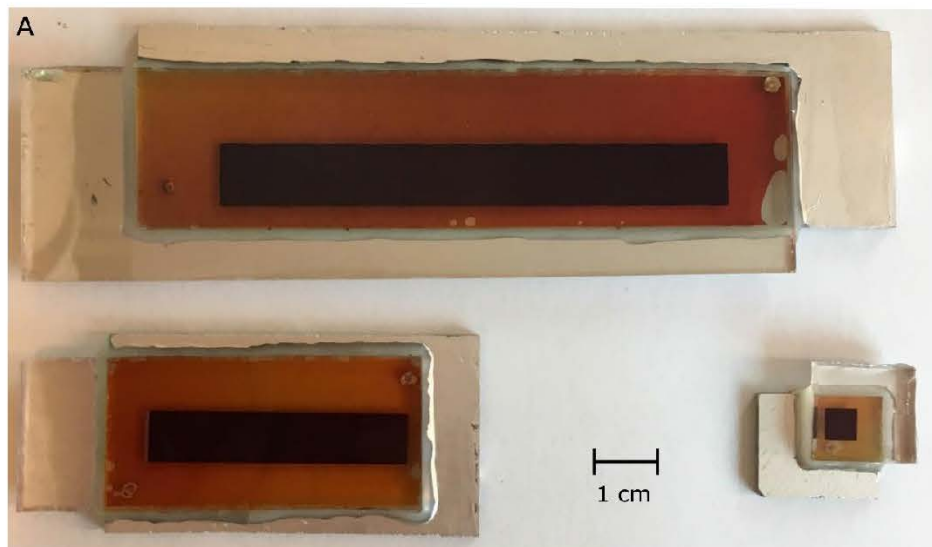
# Solid State Charge Transport Materials



# Copper Complexes as HTM



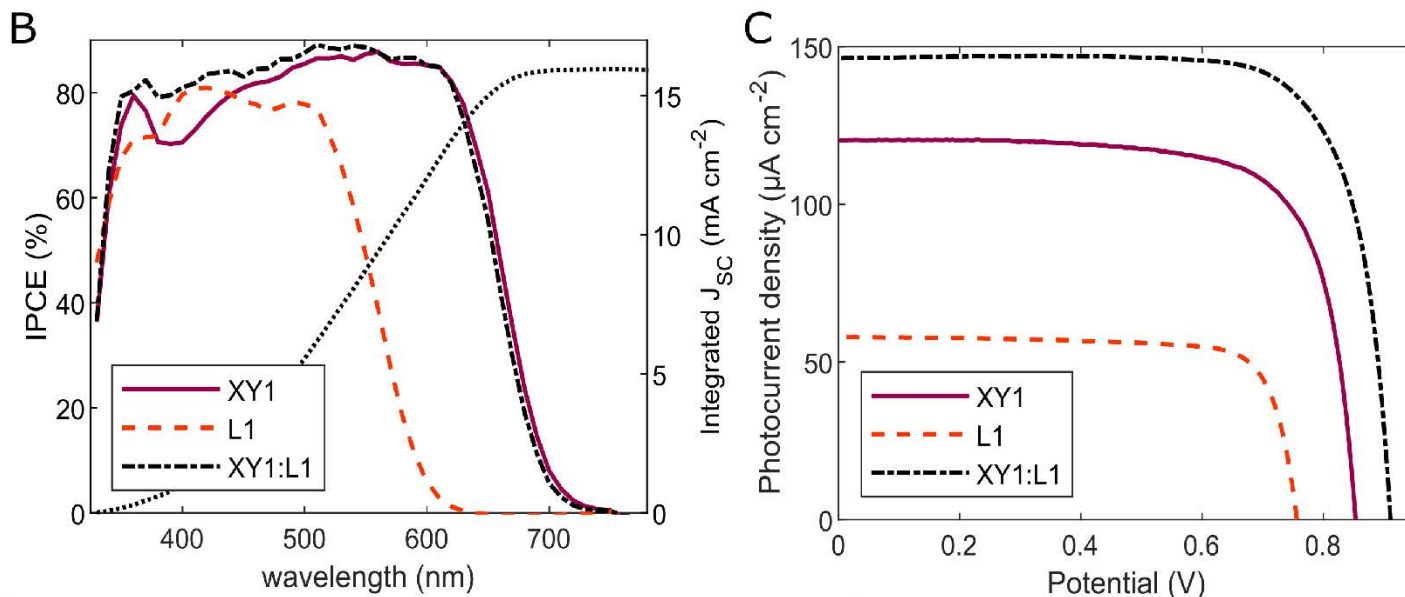
# Photoanode Engineering for Lower Recombination



	XY1	L1	XY1:L1	XY1:D35
$V_{oc}$ (mV)	1000 (930)	910 (830)	1080 (980)	1070 (980)
$J_{sc}$ (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	13.3 (1.59)	9.4 (1.00)	15.9 (1.80)	15.3 (1.69)
Fill Factor	0.67 (0.80)	0.71 (0.80)	0.67 (0.77)	0.67 (0.77)
PCE (%)	8.9 (11.8)	6.1 (6.7)	11.5 (13.7)	11.0 (13.0)

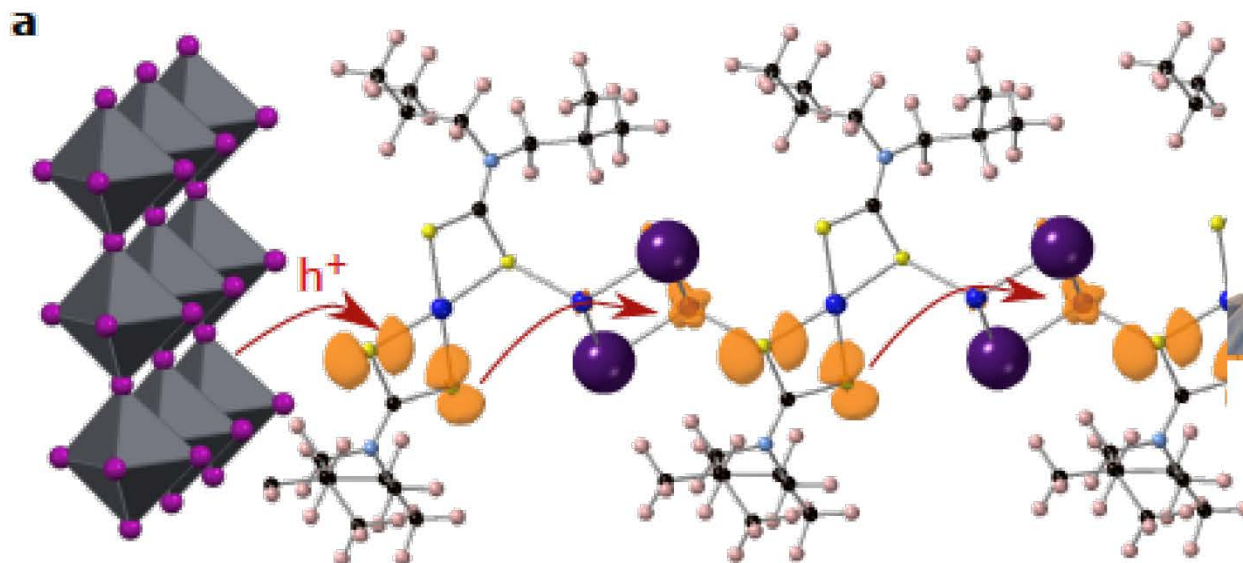


# The DSCs for smart IoT



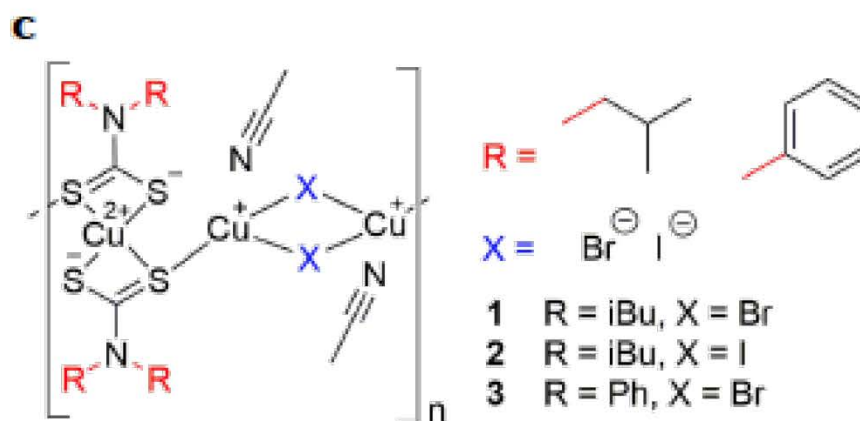
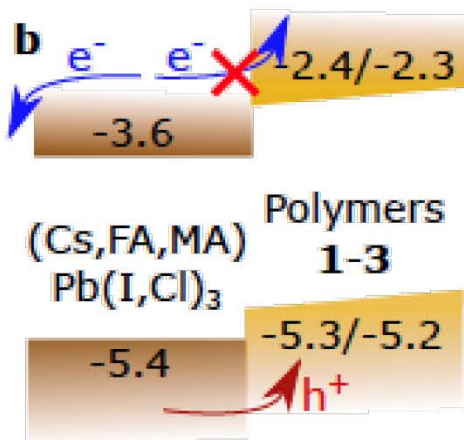
	XY1	L1	XY1:L1	XY1:D35
$V_{oc}$ (mV)	850	750	910	880
$J_{sc}$ ( $\mu A$ ) ( $\mu A\ cm^{-2}$ )	30.0 (120)	14.5 (58)	36.7 (147)	33.0 (132)
Fill Factor	0.74	0.78	0.77	0.77
$P_{max}$ ( $\mu W$ ) ( $\mu W\ cm^{-2}$ )	18.9 (75.4)	8.6 (34.4)	25.7 (103.1)	22.4 (89.4)
PCE (%)	24.9	11.3	34.0	29.5

# Copper coordination polymers with selective hole conductivity



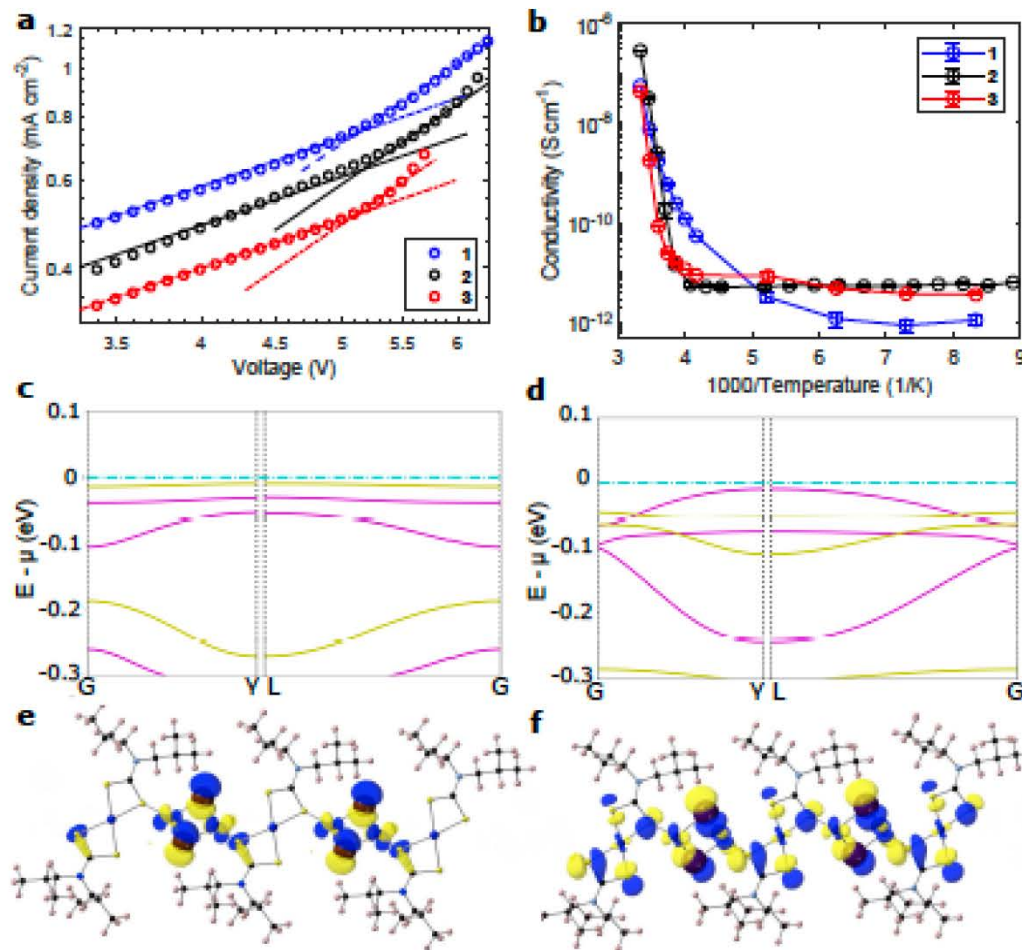
Matthias J Golomb & Aron Walsh

**Imperial College London**



Just accepted in JMCA

# Solid State Charge Transport Materials



H. Michaels, M. J. Golomb, B. Kim, T. Edvinsson, F. Cucinotta, P. G. Waddell, M. Probert, S. J. Konezny, G. Boschloo, A. Walsh and M. Freitag, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2022,

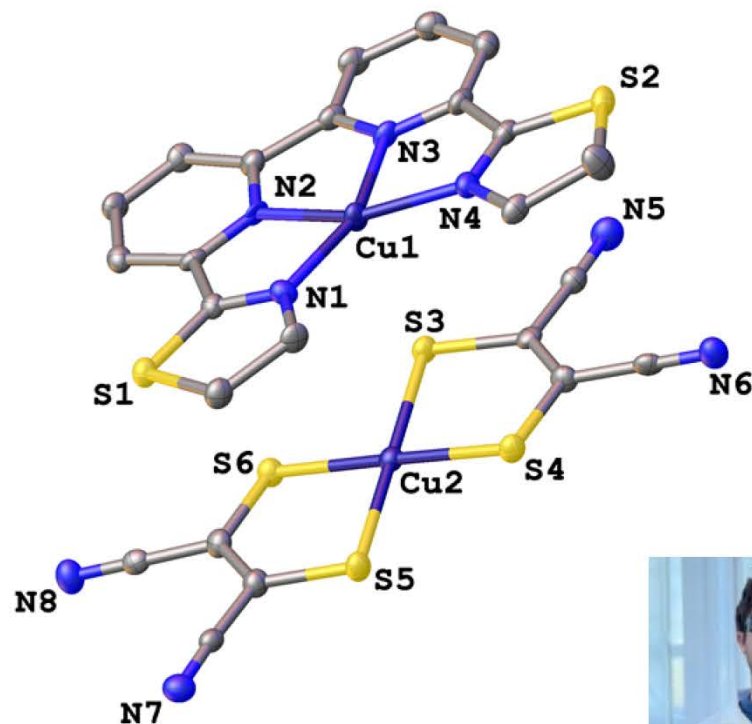
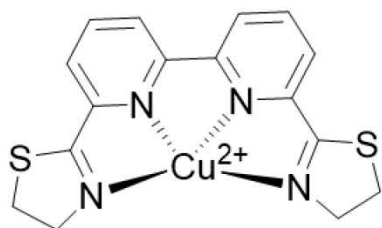
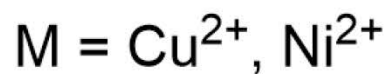
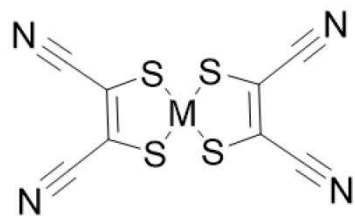


# Solid State Charge Transport Materials

	RT conductivity (S cm <sup>-1</sup> )	E <sub>A</sub> (eV)	ln(A)	μ <sub>h</sub> (cm <sup>2</sup> (Vs) <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>Spiro-MeOTAD (Li/tBP/Co)</b>	<b>3.7 10<sup>-4</sup> (5 10<sup>-4</sup>)<sup>41</sup></b>	<b>0.371</b>	<b>0.144</b>	<b>4.0 10<sup>-4</sup> (4 10<sup>-4</sup>)<sup>42</sup></b>
<b>Spiro-MeOTAD (pristine)</b>	<b>1 10<sup>-7</sup> (5 10<sup>-7</sup>)<sup>42</sup></b>	<b>0.503</b>	<b>-0.148</b>	<b>8 10<sup>-5</sup> (1.6 10<sup>-4</sup>)<sup>42</sup></b>
<b>1 (tBP)</b>	<b>3.9 10<sup>-6</sup></b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>1.1 10<sup>-4</sup></b>
<b>2 (tBP)</b>	<b>1.0 10<sup>-3</sup></b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>4.33</b>	<b>5.8 10<sup>-4</sup></b>
<b>3 (tBP)</b>	<b>4.9 10<sup>-6</sup></b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>4.34</b>	<b>2.4 10<sup>-4</sup></b>

The copper coordination polymers present a unique class of sustainable, high-performing hole conducting materials.

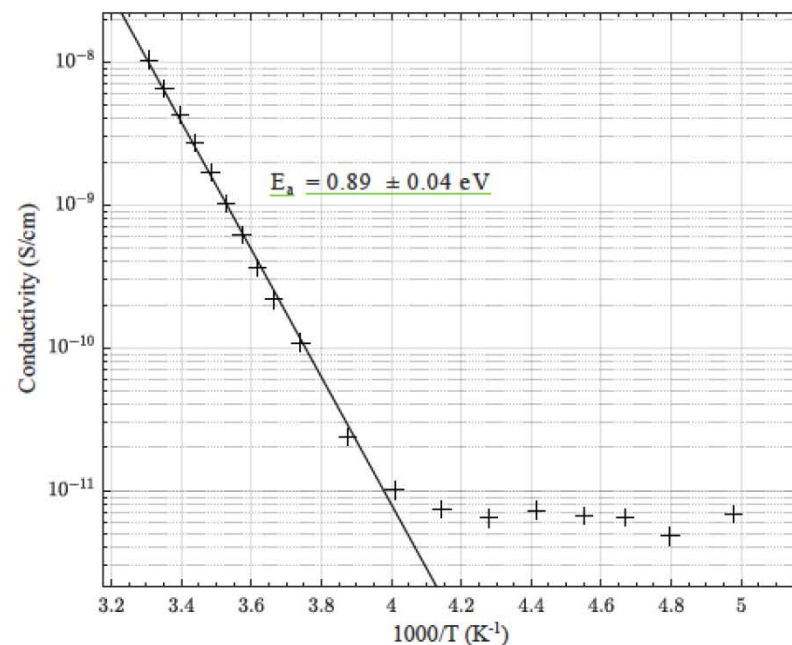
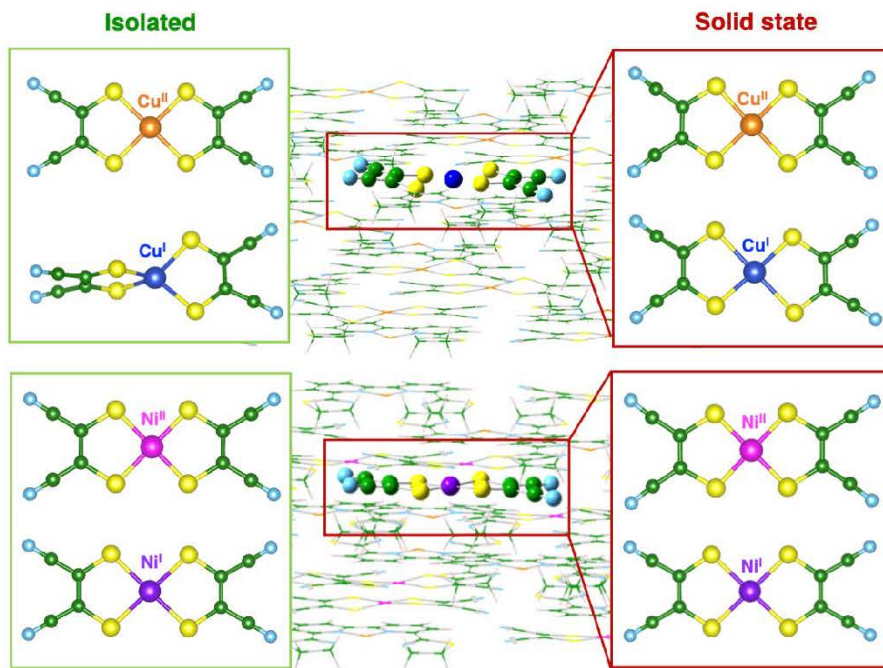
# Salty Stuff



Giovanni Spinelli

In manuscript  
be kind ☺

# Salty Stuff

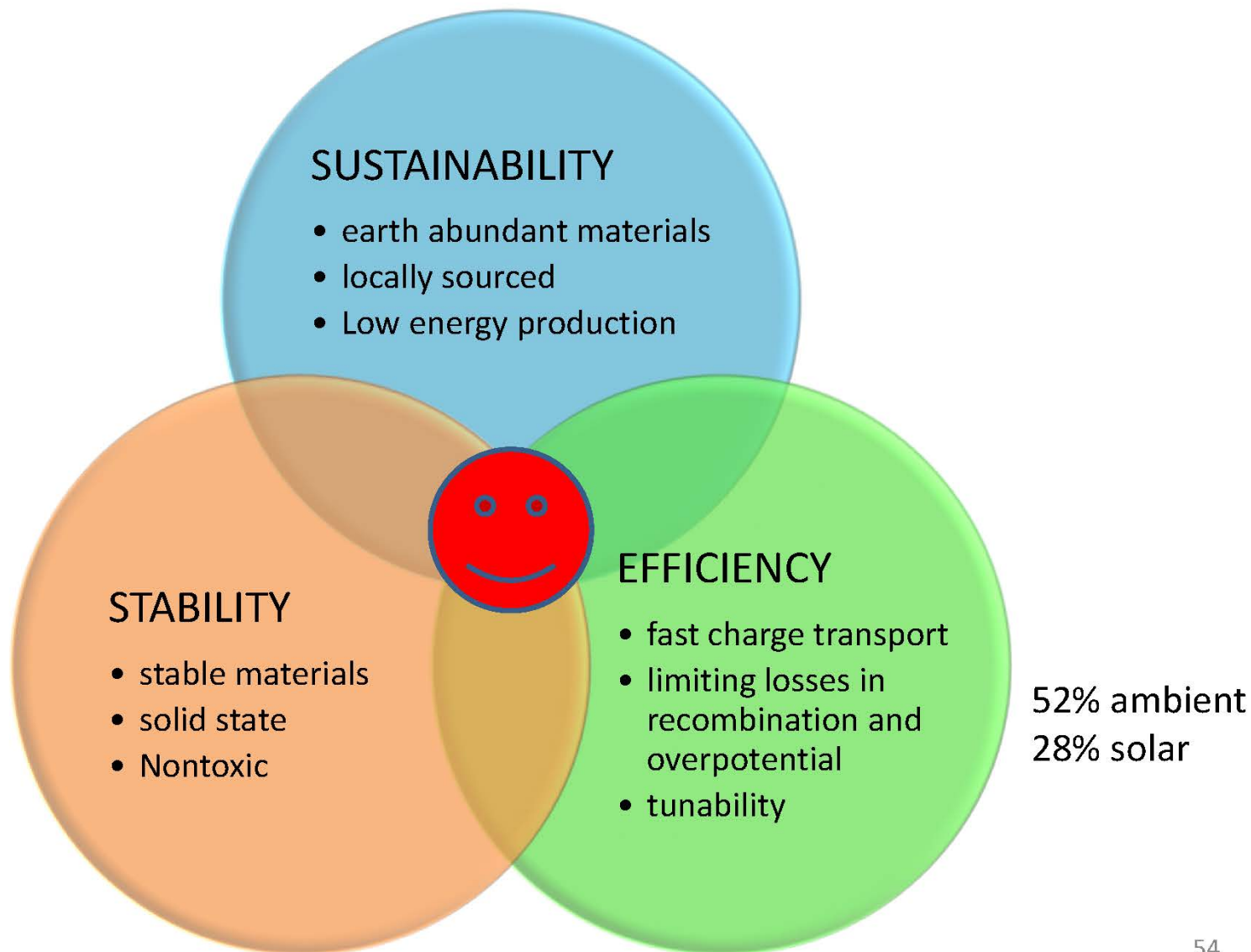


Minimum energy structures of CuII(mnt)2 and CuI(mnt)2 complexes both as isolated moieties and within the Cu-Cu crystal

Arrhenius plot for Cu-Cu compound displaying clear semiconductor behavior.



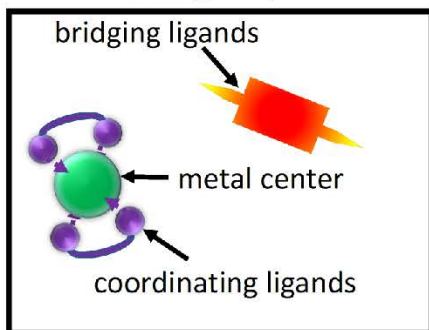
# What can chemistry fix ?



# SNEAK PEAK

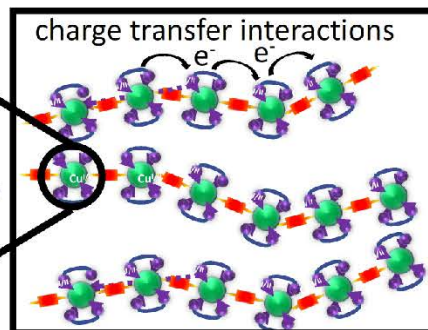
## molecular building blocks

chemical variety  
functional groups

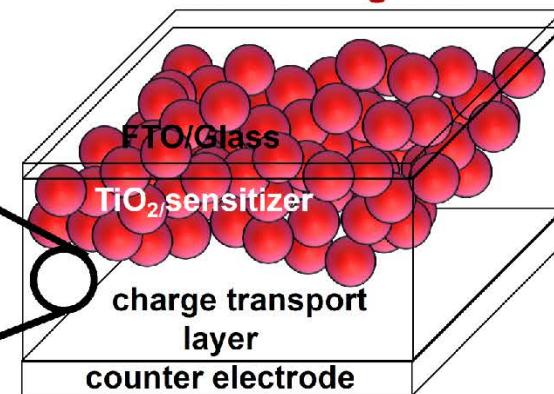


## coordination polymers

structural variety  
conductivity



## device integration



molecular electronics

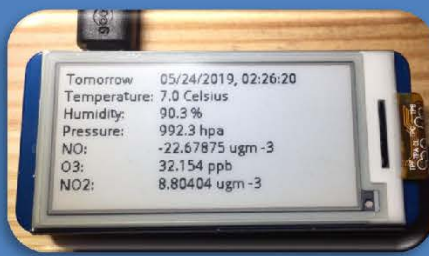
### Goals

- Efficient, sustainable and stable functional materials



### Action needed now

- Developing new technologies and materials



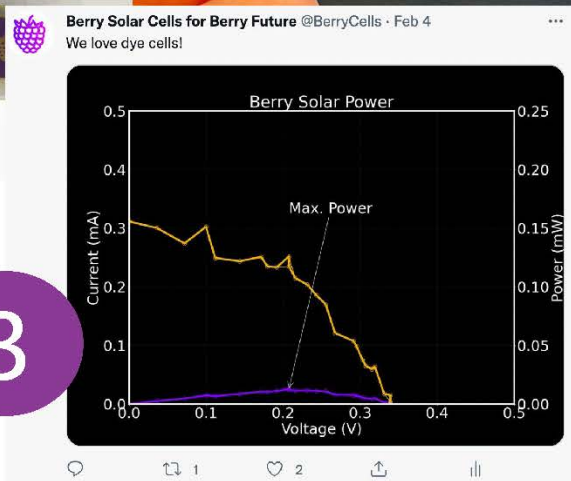
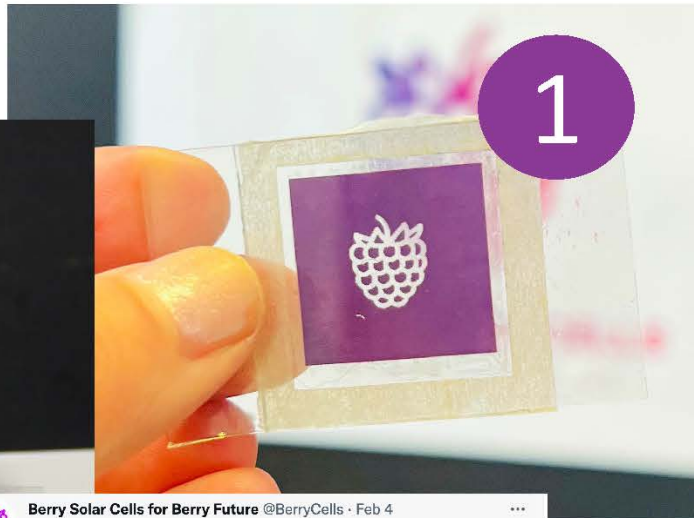
### Create new breakthroughs

- Integrate high shares of light harvesting to power smart systems





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FREE EVENT

SUMMER SCIENCE EXHIBITION

6 – 10 JULY 2022

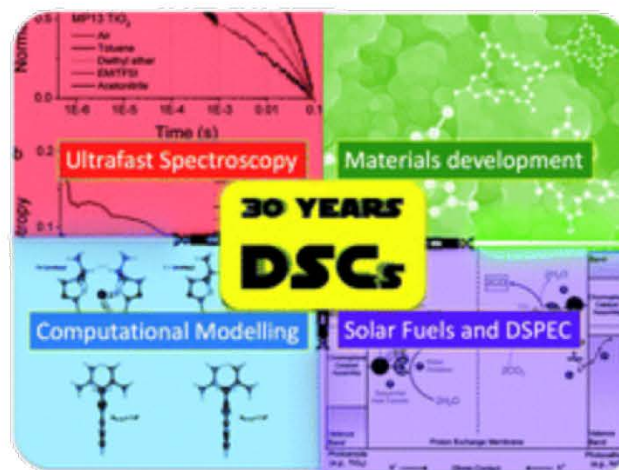
SELECTED FOR THE ROYAL SOCIETY SUMMER SCIENCE EXHIBITION 2022



## Dye-sensitized solar cells strike back

Ana Belén Muñoz-García, Iacopo Benesperi, Gerrit Boschloo, Javier J. Concepcion, Jared H. Delcamp, Elizabeth A. Gibson, Gerald J. Meyer, Michele Pavone, Henrik Pettersson, Anders Hagfeldt and Marina Freitag

Dye-sensitized solar cells (DSCs) are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and they are attracting a wealth of research efforts aimed at unleashing their full potential. Righteous font designed by Astigmatic and licensed under the Open Font License.



The article was first published on 30 Sep 2021  
**Chem. Soc. Rev.**, 2021, Advance Article



EPSRC

Harrison-Meldola  
Memorial Prize



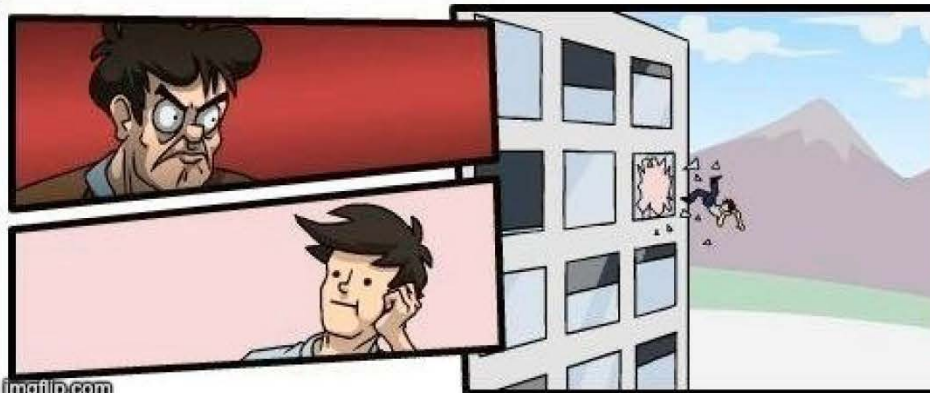
Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

Tomas Edvisson, Gerrit Boschloo, Uppsala  
Fabio Cucinotta & Elizabeth Gibson, Newcastle  
Pablo Docampo, Glasgow  
Neil Robertson, Edinburgh  
Alessio Gagliardi, TU Munich  
Ana Belén Muñoz-García & Michele Pavone, Naples  
Steven Konezny & Gary Brudvig, Yale  
Aron Walsh, Imperial College London

**Dr. Iacopo Benesperi**  
**Dr. Natalie Flores Diaz**  
**Dr. Kezia Sasitharan**  
**Dr. Zhongjin Shen**

**Dr Hannes Michaels (finito)**  
**Harvey Morrith**  
**Giovanni Spinelli**  
**Timo Keller**  
**David Bradford**

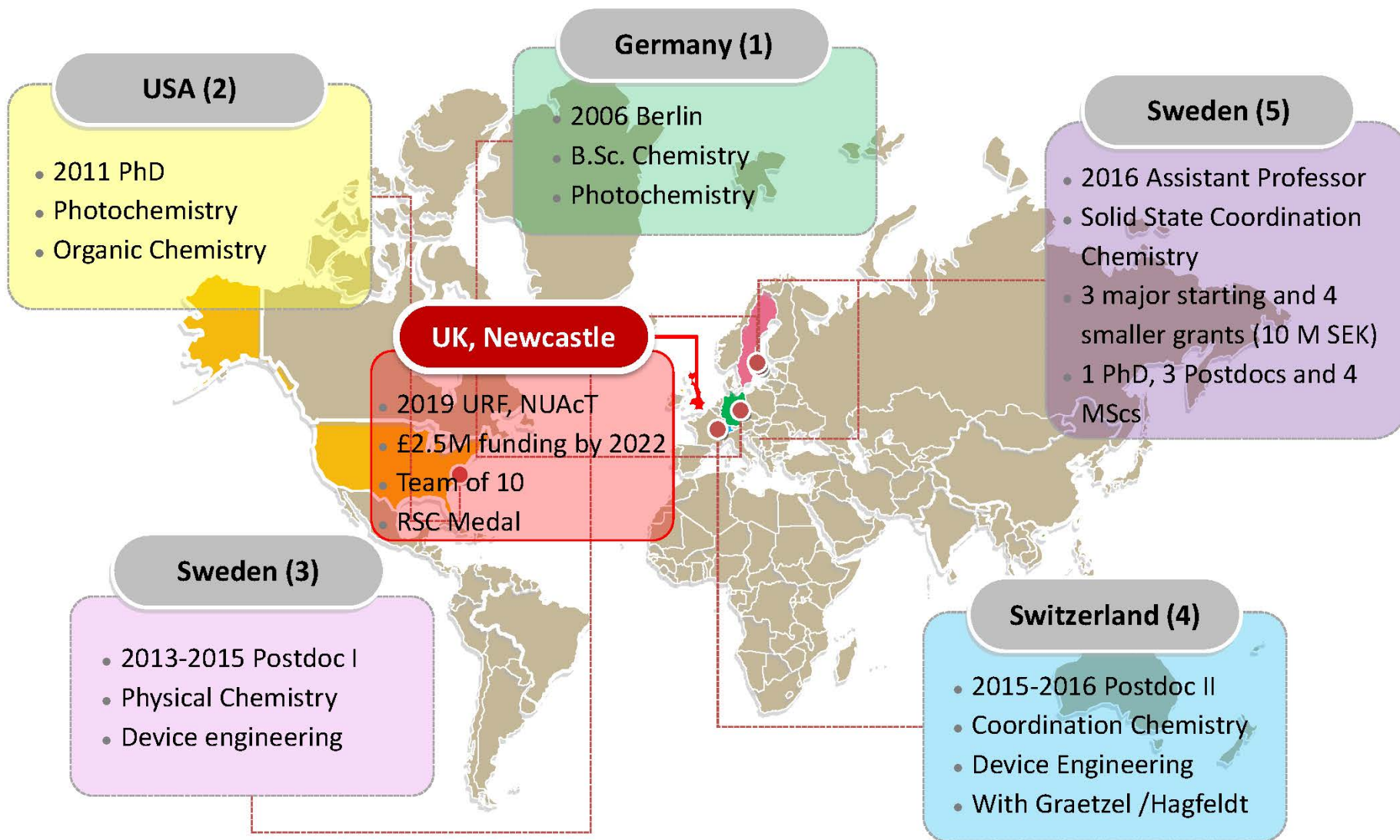








# Background



# INVISIBLE PROBLEMS

Research environment is very important!

You will need as much support as you can possibly get!

## USA

- 2011 PhD, chose to do mostly because did not want to do MSc self funded

## Germany

- Got a kid #1 2011
- Tried to get a postdoc position in 2011/12 with 8 Profs in Germany...
- Industry experience ☹️

## Sweden

- 2016 Assistant Professor
- No starting funds... nothing
- Non tenure, Lots of Teaching
- Applied for starting grant 4 times
- In total 12 grant rejections
- 25% success rate in general
- Kid #2 2019

## UK, Newcastle

- Rejected ERC, FLF after Interview
- Restart my group during COVID
- Messy move from previous uni
- 80% of grant applications rejected, need space

## Sweden

- 2013-2015 3 Postdoc fellowship rejections
- Got research stolen, industrial postdoc

## Switzerland

- 2015-2016 Postdoc II
- SUPER competitive
- New emerging field, was told I will not publish my research anymore
- MC nope