

The Career Of Daniel G. Nocera



Jeff Van Humbeck – MacMillan Group Meeting

Daniel G. Nocera



■ From Dead-Head to Whiz-Kid

Dropped out of high school to follow Grateful Dead*

B.A. – Rutgers, 1979

Ph. D. – Caltech, 1984. Supervisor: Harry Gray

Assistant Prof. – Michigan State, 1983

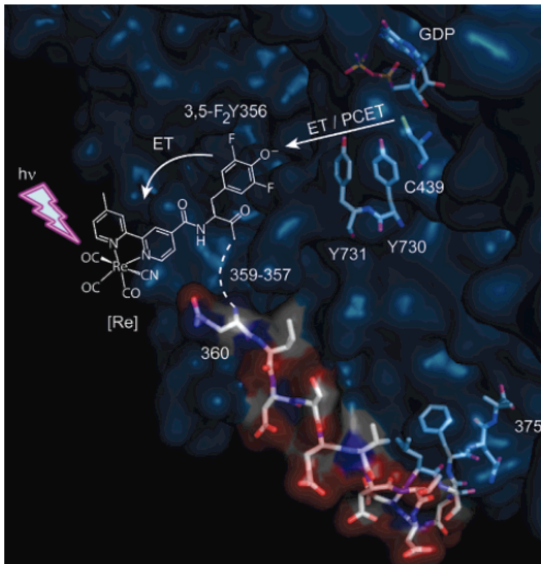
Professor – M.I.T., 1997

W. M. Keck Professor of Energy – M.I.T., 2002

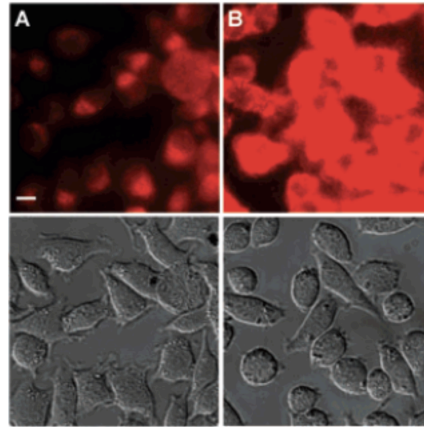
*Confirmed by multiple sources

Scope of Review

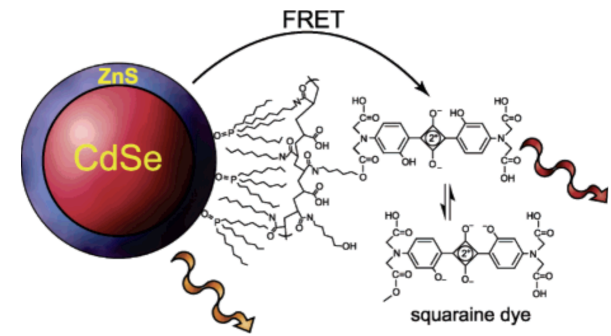
■ Photochemical Probes



Tyrosine Photooxidation



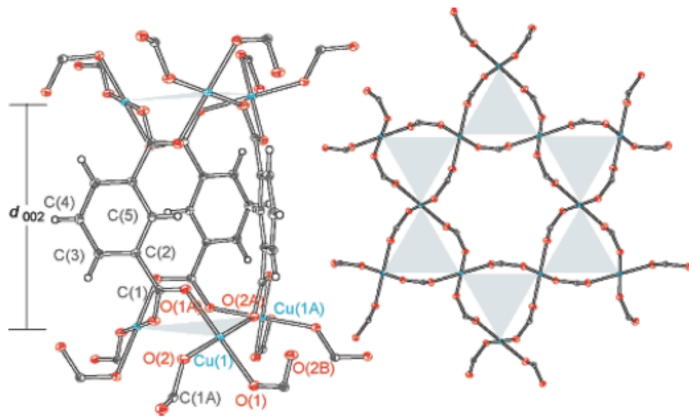
In Vitro Quantum Dots



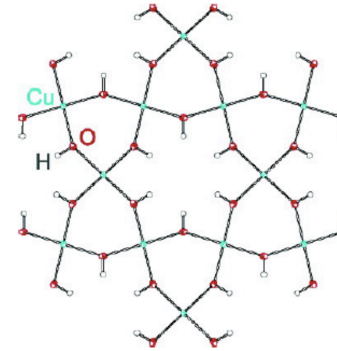
Fluorescence Detection (pH, etc.)

Scope of Review

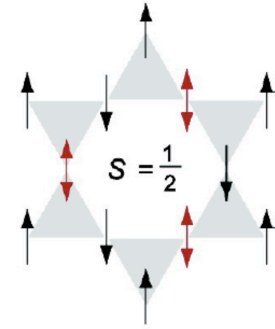
■ Chemistry and Magnetism of Spin Frustration



Metal–Organic Frameworks

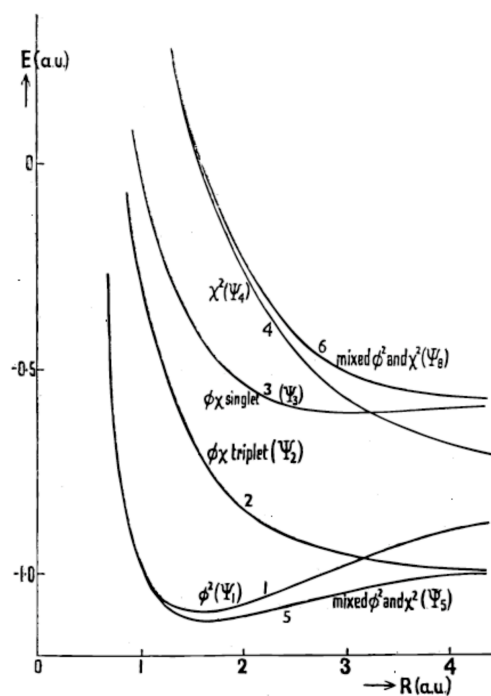


Purely Inorganic

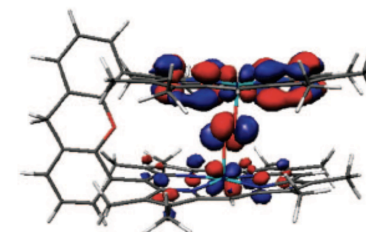
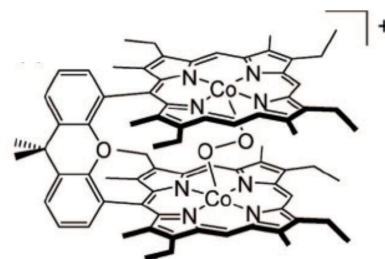


A Wide Career Arc

■ Fundamental MO Theory Leads to Energy



EtOH
20 years

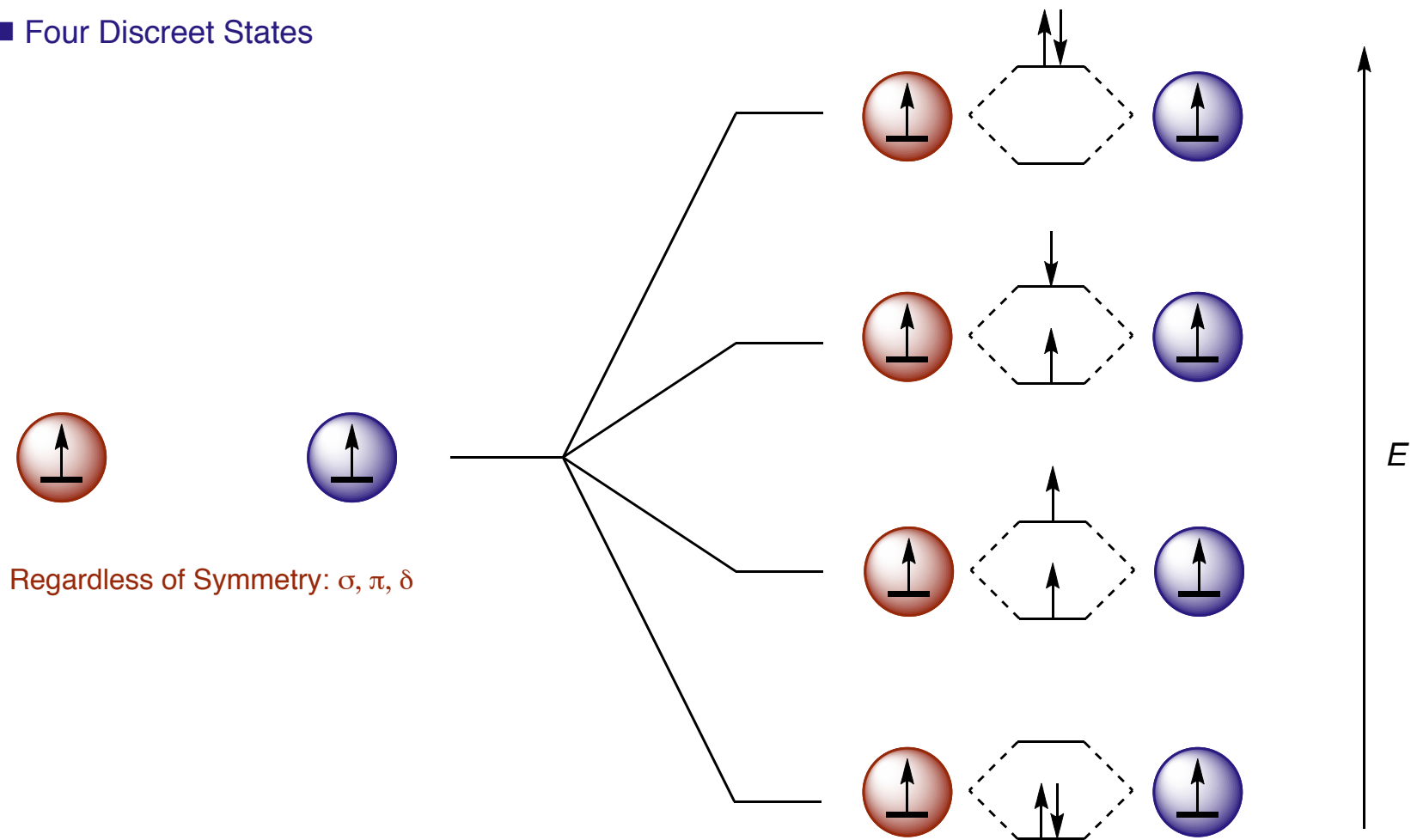


Cotton, F. A.; Nocera, D. G. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2000**, *33*, 483.

Rosenthal, J.; Nocera, D. G. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2007**, *40*, 543.

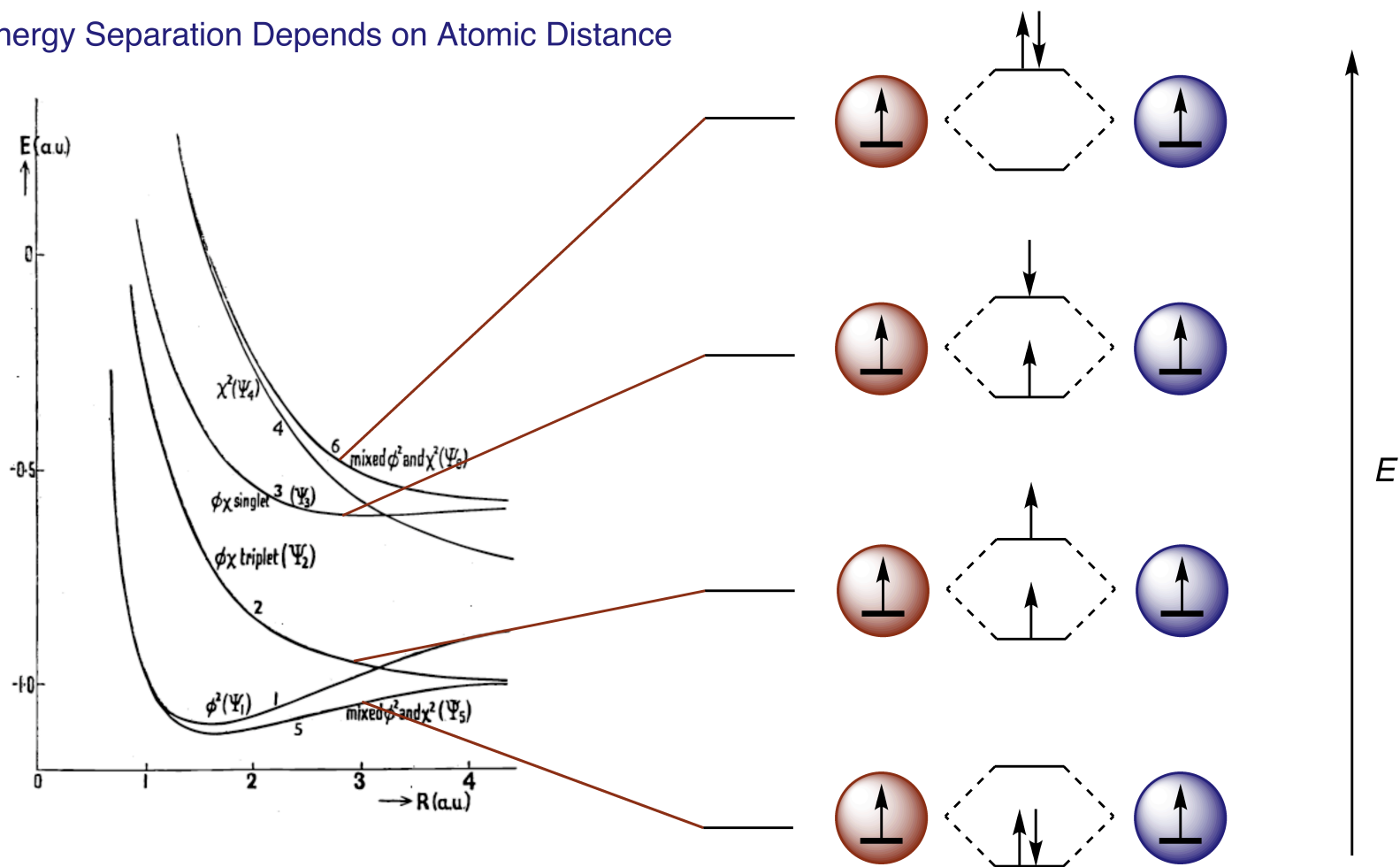
Nature of the Two-Electron Bond

■ Four Discreet States



Relative Energy and Distance

Energy Separation Depends on Atomic Distance

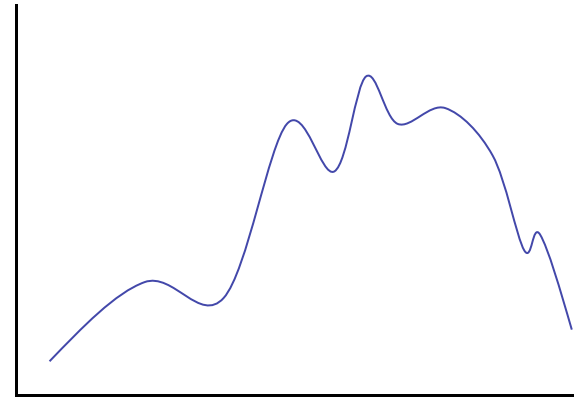
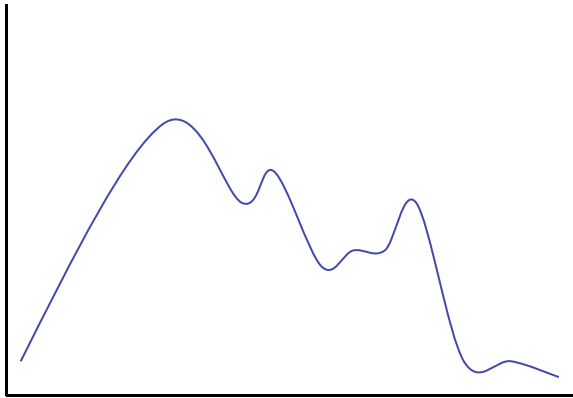
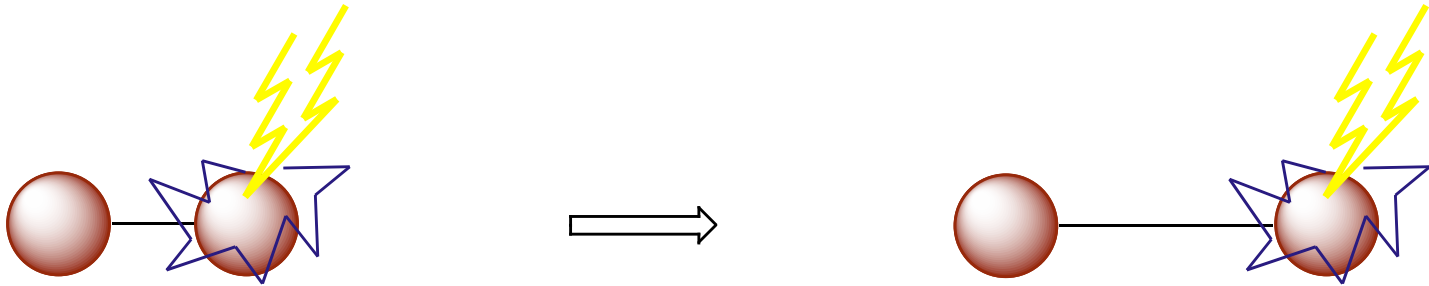


“... it is central to the concept of scientific research that all theoretical results, however little reason there might be to doubt their correctness, ought to be tested experimentally.”

Cotton, F. A.; Nocera, D. G. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2000**, *33*, 483.

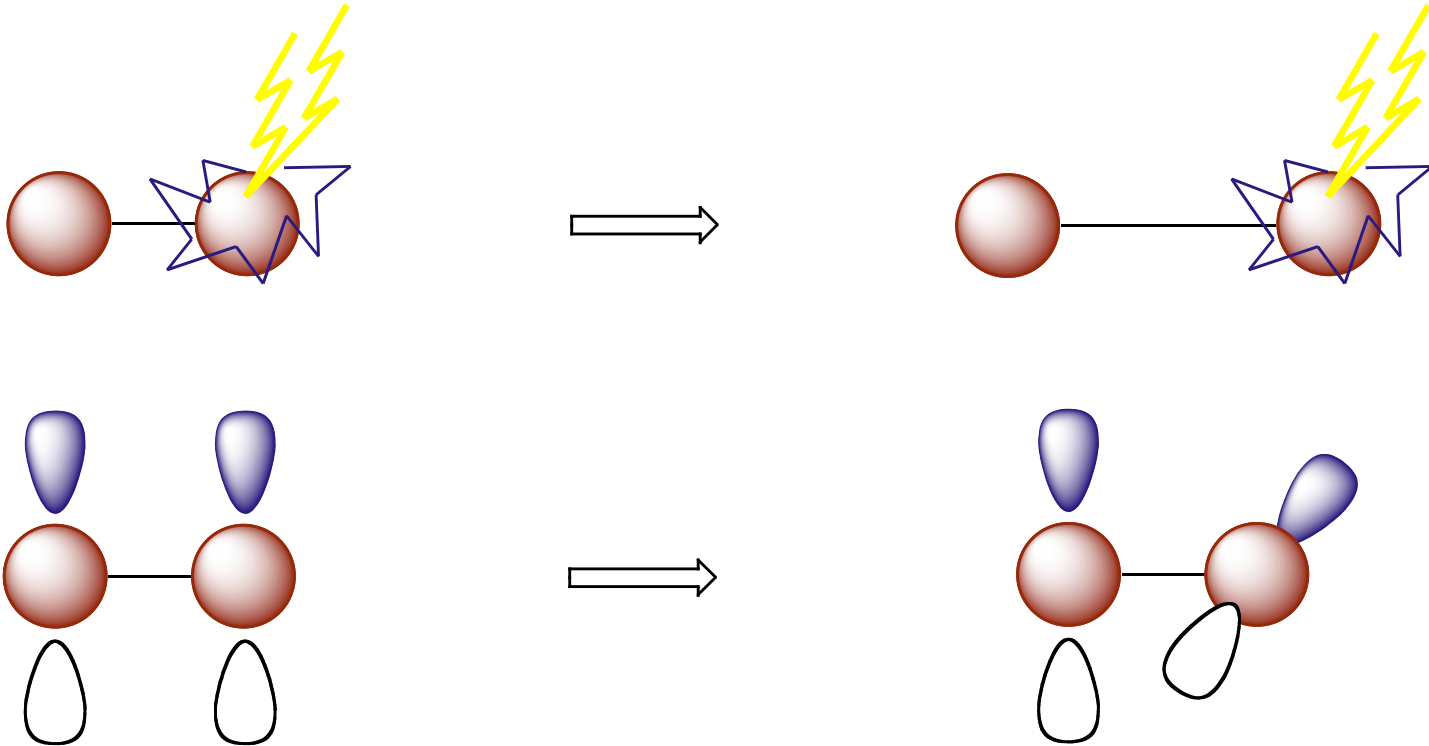
Mission: Impossible

■ Molecular Tweezers Do Not Exist



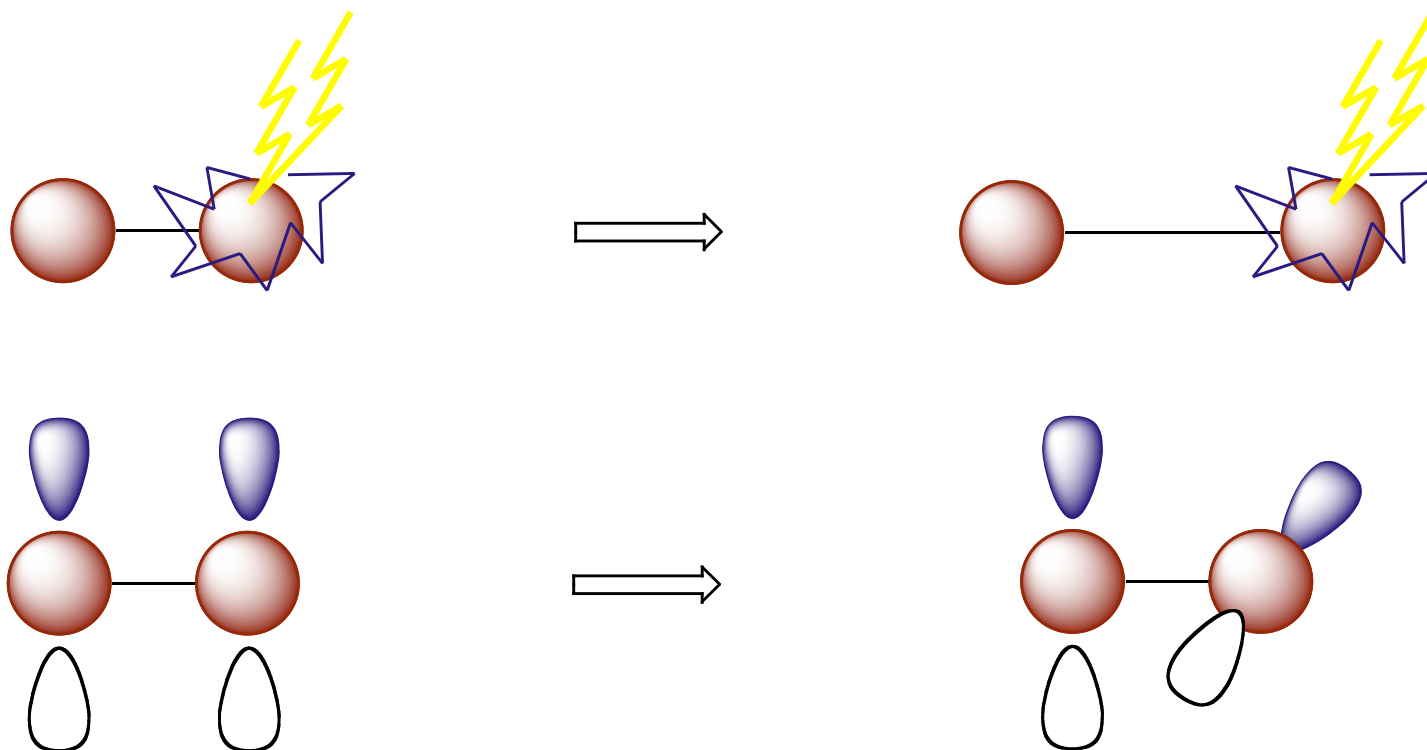
A Crucial Twist

- Rotation of Orbitals Gives Same Effect



A Crucial Twist

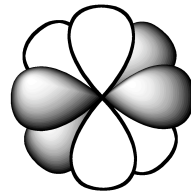
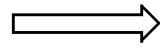
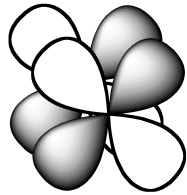
- Rotation of Orbitals Gives Same Effect



- Largest twist of a π -bond only 40° : Leuf, W.; Reese, R. *Top. Stereochem.* **1991**, 20, 231.

40°: Perfect For Beers and δ -Bonds

- 40° Twist Sufficient to Nullify δ -Bond

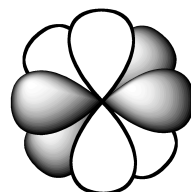
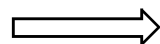
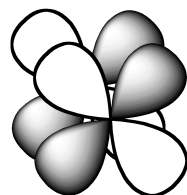


Triple Bond Unaffected

Bond Length Change <3%

40°: Perfect For Beers and δ -Bonds

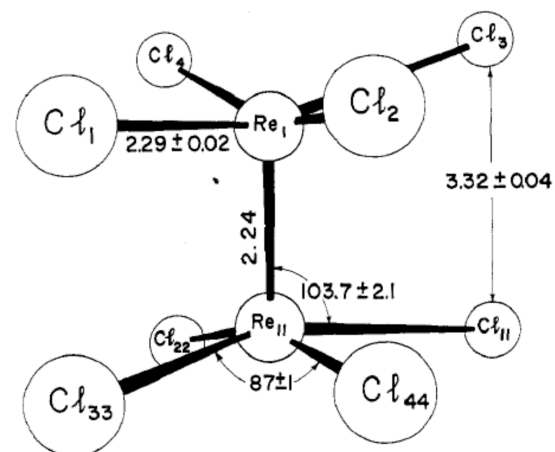
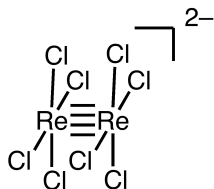
■ 40° Twist Sufficient to Nullify δ -Bond



Triple Bond Unaffected

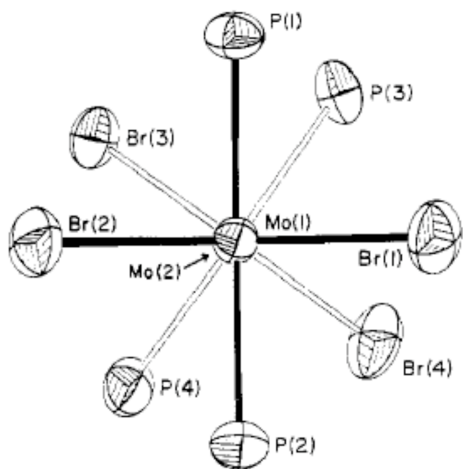
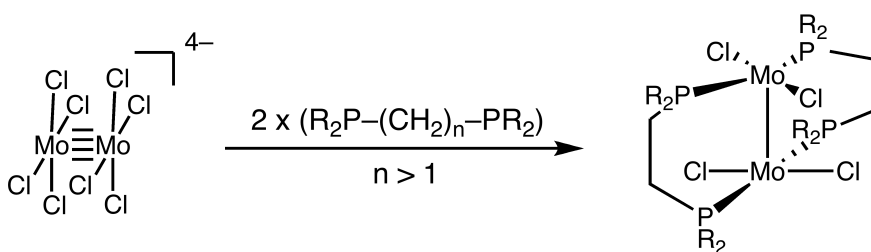
Bond Length Change <3%

■ Simple Metal δ -Bonds are Eclipsed



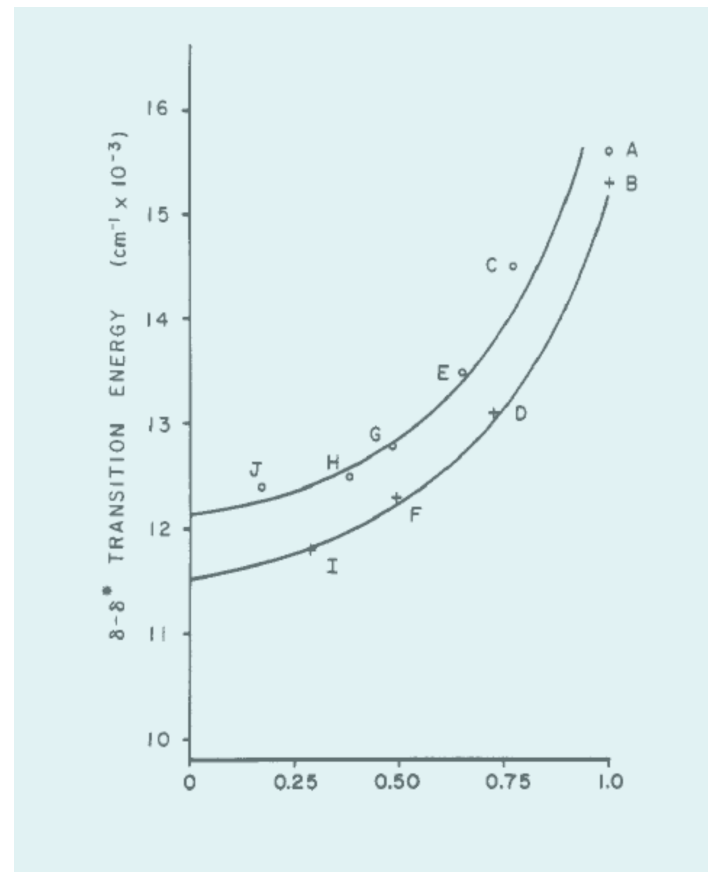
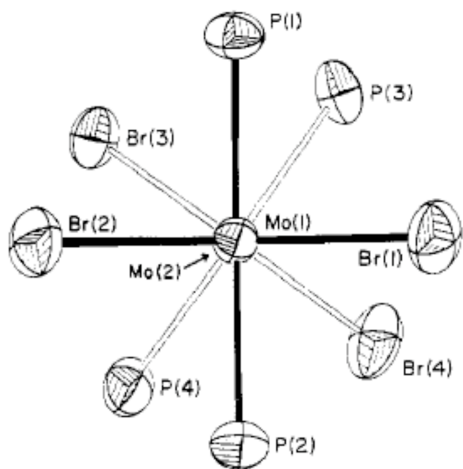
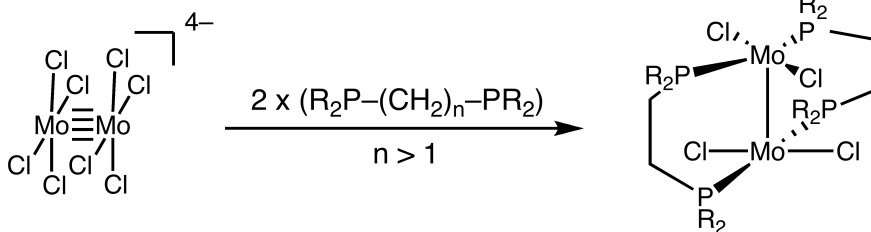
Bidentate Phosphine Torque

■ Varying Chain Length Causes Twist



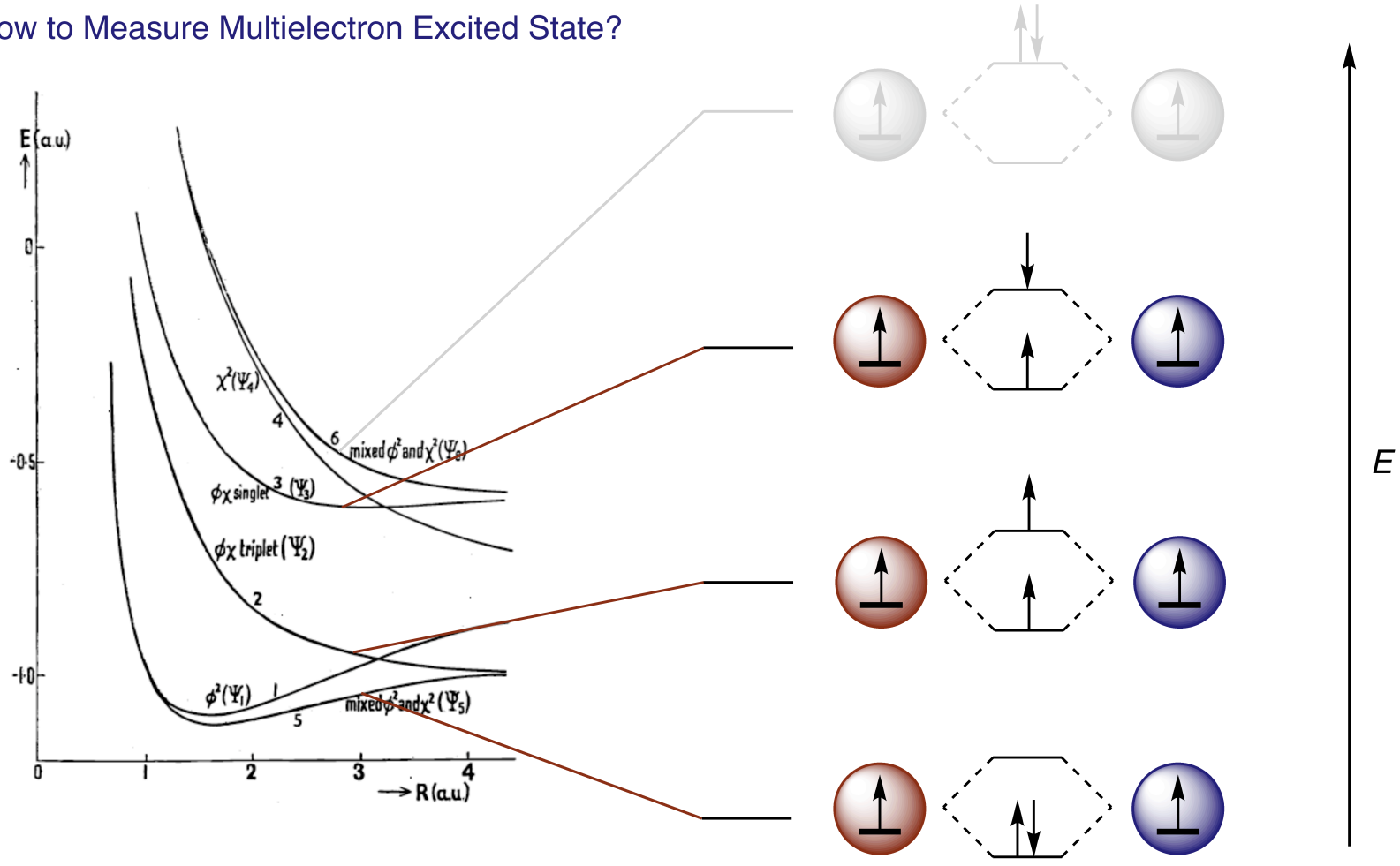
Bidentate Phosphine Torque

■ Varying Chain Length Causes Twist



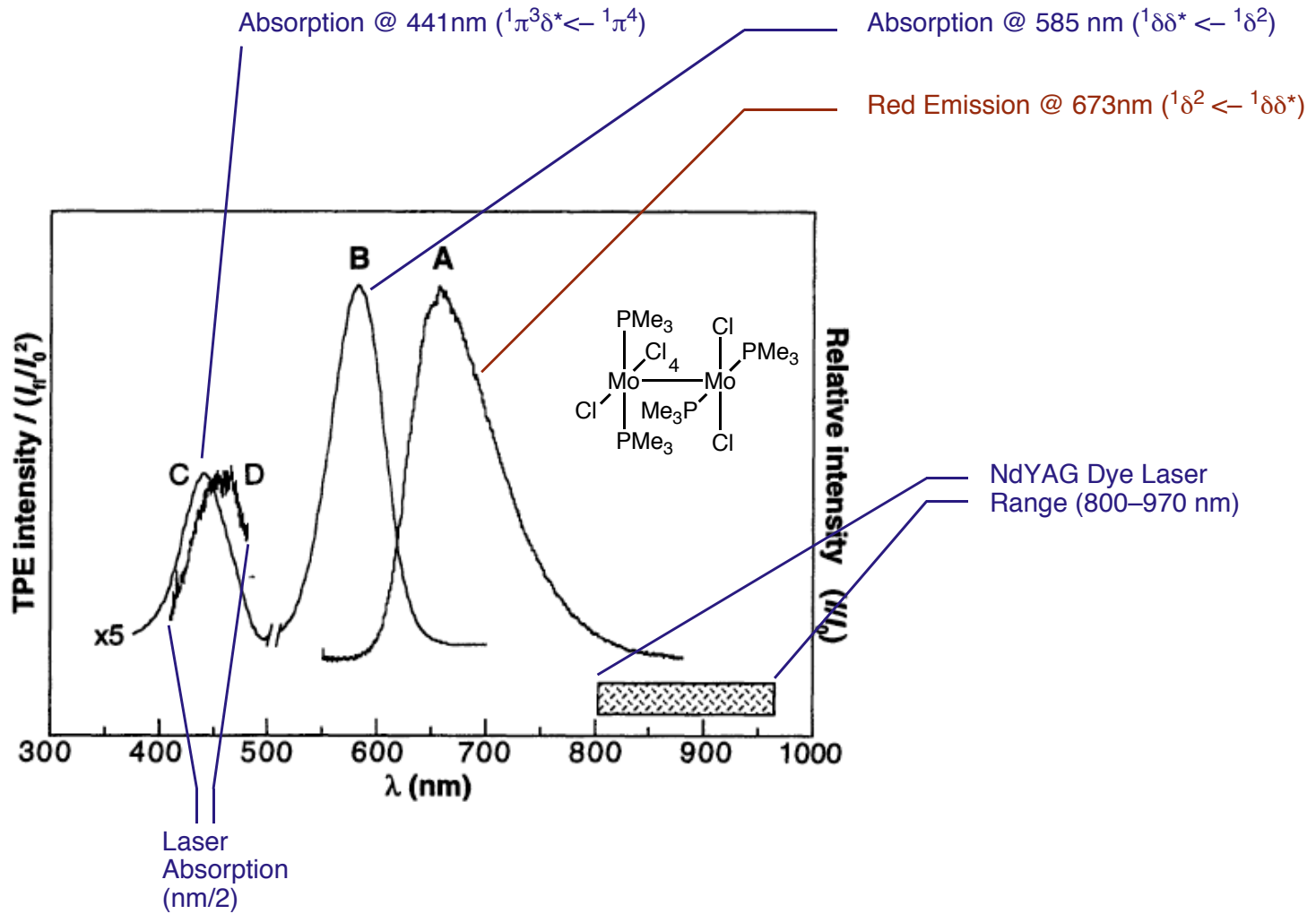
Crucial Evidence Lacking

How to Measure Multielectron Excited State?



Multielectron Excited States

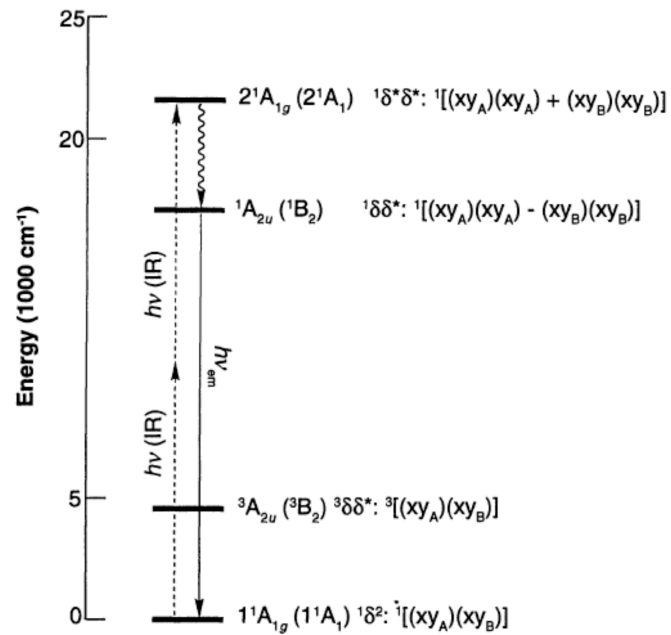
■ Nocera Enters the Mix



Engelbreton, D.S.; Zaleski, J. M.; Lero, G. E.; Nocera, D. G. *Science* **1994**, *265*, 759.

Multielectron Excited States

■ Observation of Zwitterionic State

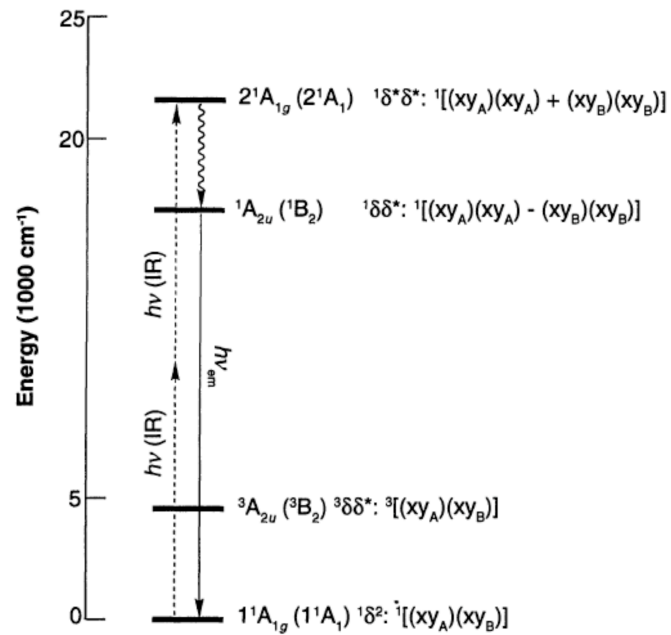


Prove symmetry (A_1) of doubly excited state

Confirms ($2^1A_1 - ^1B_2$) gap = ($^3B_2 - ^1A_1$) gap

Multielectron Excited States

■ Observation of Zwitterionic State



Prove symmetry (A_1) of doubly excited state

Confirms ($2^1A_1 - 1^1B_2$) gap = ($3^1B_2 - 1^1A_1$) gap

Is this what gets you a job at MIT?

“...the zwitterionic excited-state manifold has important ramifications on chemical reactivity owing to the pairing of two electrons on one center and two holes on an adjacent one. . . zwitterionic states may prove to be critical intermediates in strategies to effect multielectron transformations”

Engbretson, D.S.; Zaleski, J. M.; Lero, G. E.; Nocera, D. G. *Science* **1994**, 265, 759.

“...the zwitterionic excited-state manifold has important ramifications on chemical reactivity owing to the pairing of two electrons on one center and two holes on an adjacent one. . . zwitterionic states may prove to be critical intermediates in strategies to effect multielectron transformations”

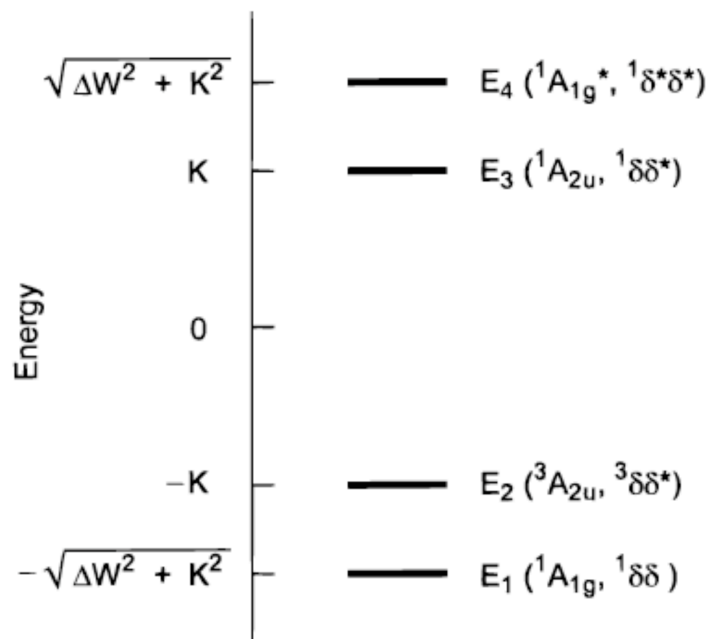
Engbretson, D.S.; Zaleski, J. M.; Lero, G. E.; Nocera, D. G. *Science* **1994**, 265, 759.

Is this true?

Isn't this limited to NdYAG Laser Chemistry? (No)

Accessing Zwitterionic State

- Singlet Excited State Has (Large) Zwitterionic Character



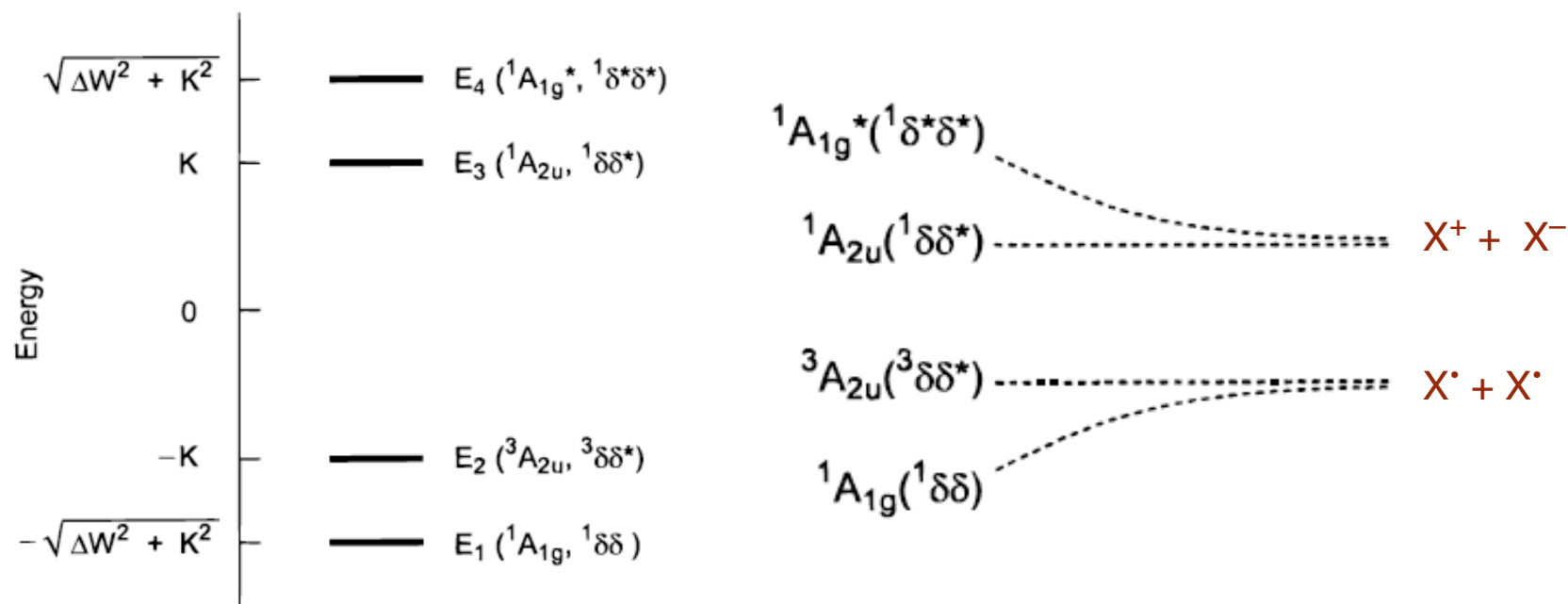
$\Delta W =$ Bond Strength (essentially)

$2K =$ Exchange Energy $X^{\cdot} + X^{\cdot} \rightarrow X^+ + X^-$

What happens when bond is very weak?

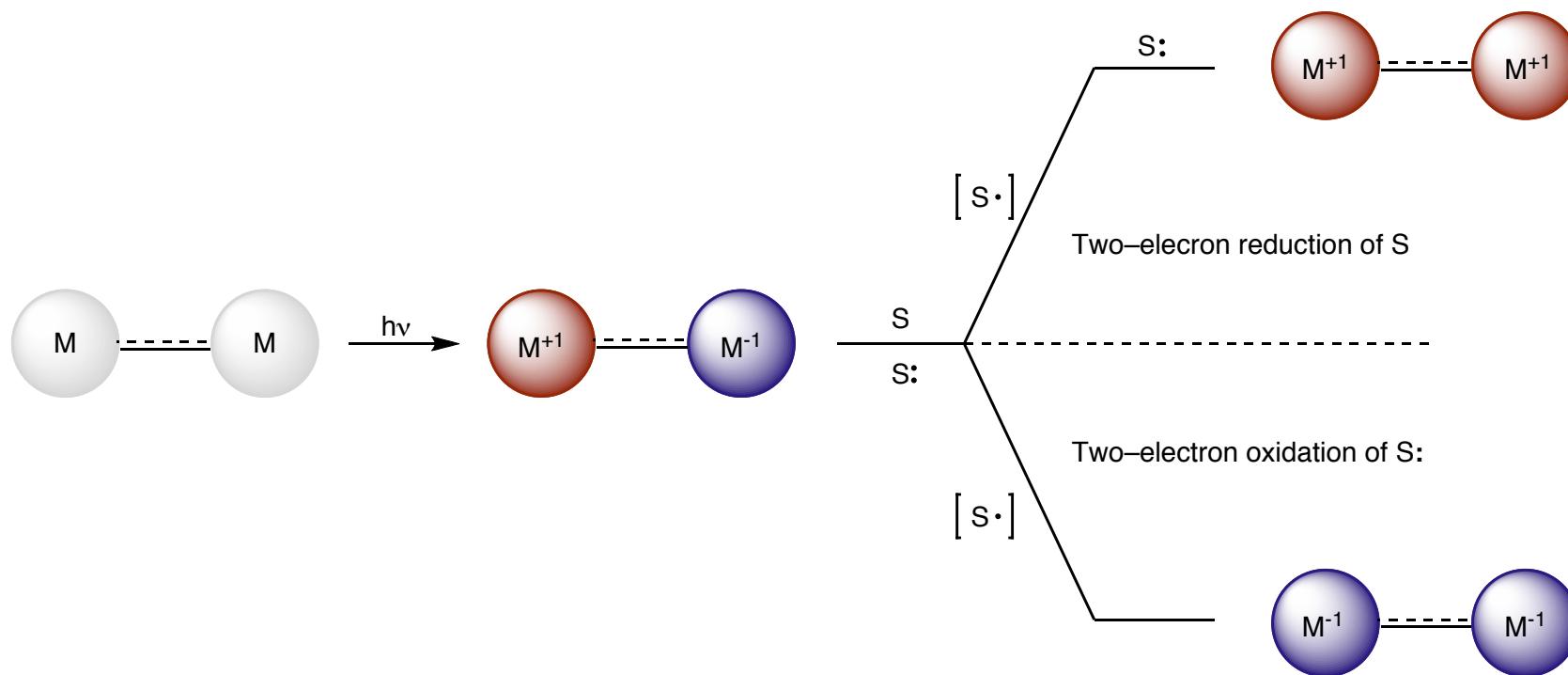
Accessing Zwitterionic State

- Singlet Excited State Has (Large) Zwitterionic Character



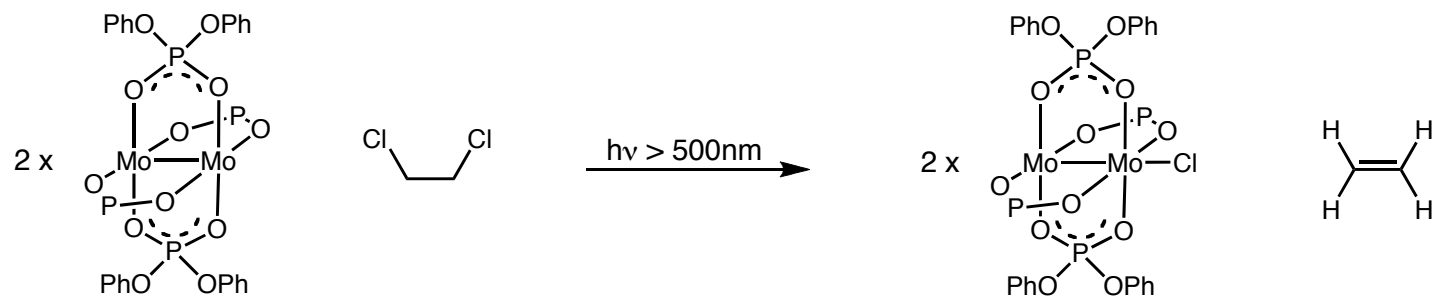
Design Plan

■ Excitation of Weak M—M Bond



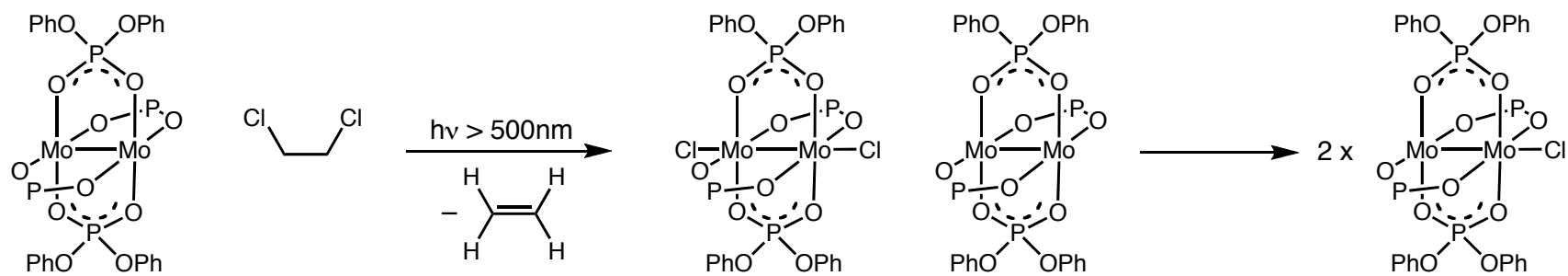
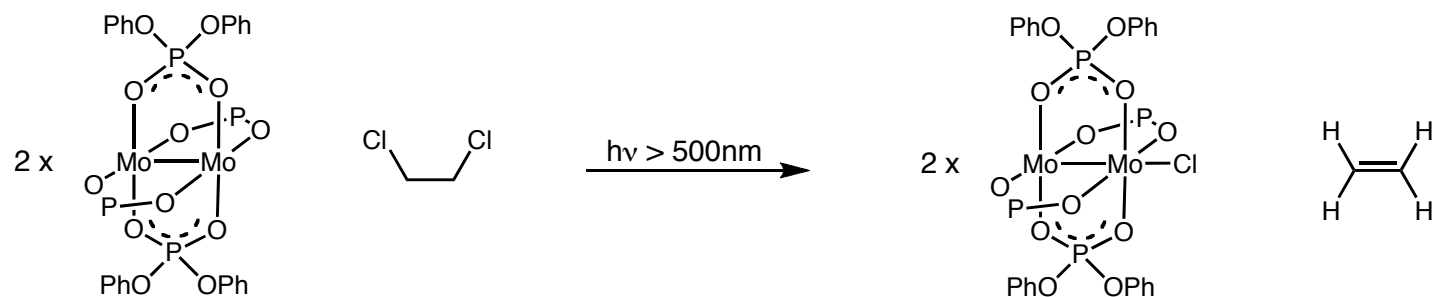
Dimolybdenum Phosphates

■ Proof of Concept



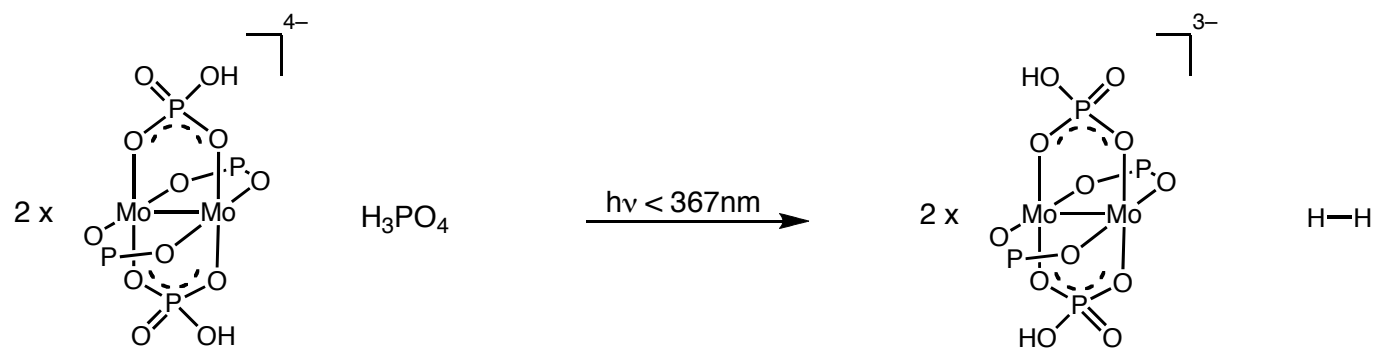
Dimolybdenum Phosphates

■ Proof of Concept



Dimolybdenum in Acid

■ Early Hydrogen Production

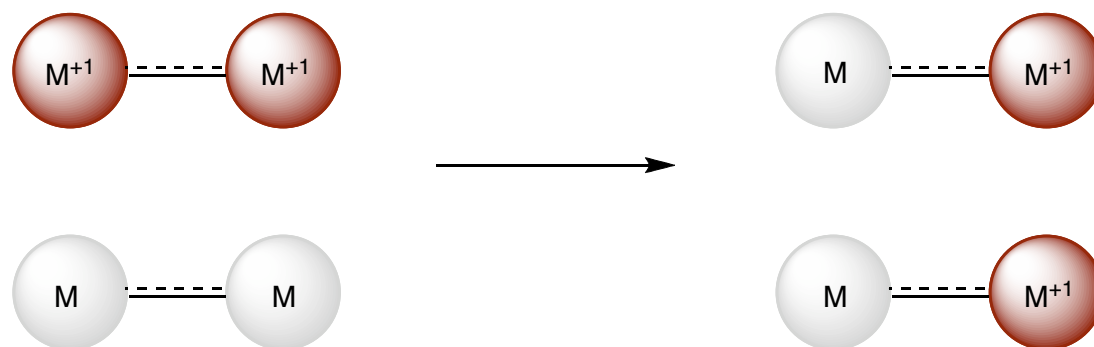


Molybdenum subject to same disproportionation

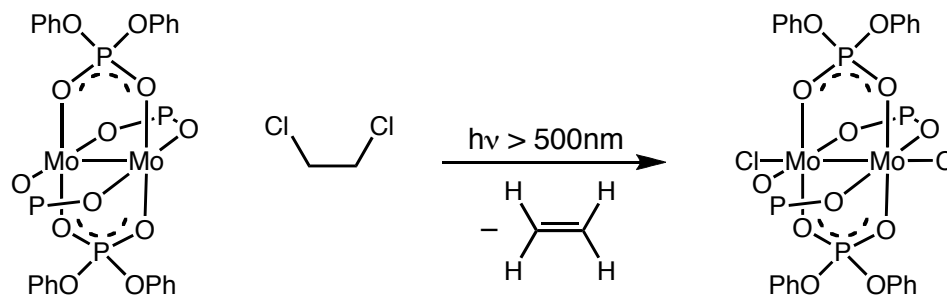
UV excitation required ($\pi^* \leftarrow \pi$)

Consistent Problems

■ Catalyst Disproportionation

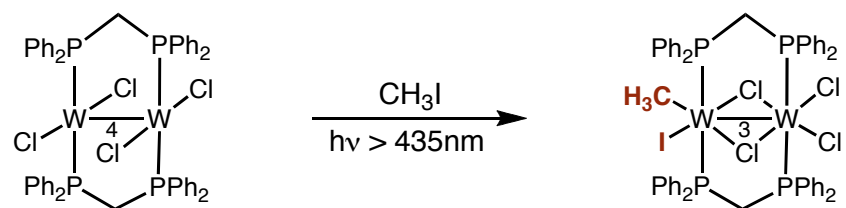


■ Independent (Though Coordinated) Reactivity



Photooxidative Addition

■ Reaction at Single Metal Center

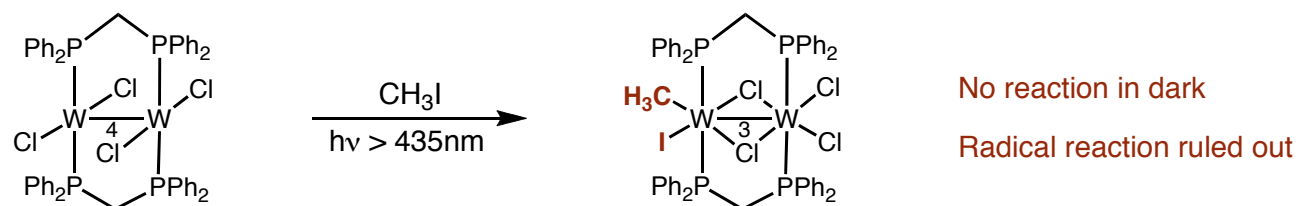


No reaction in dark

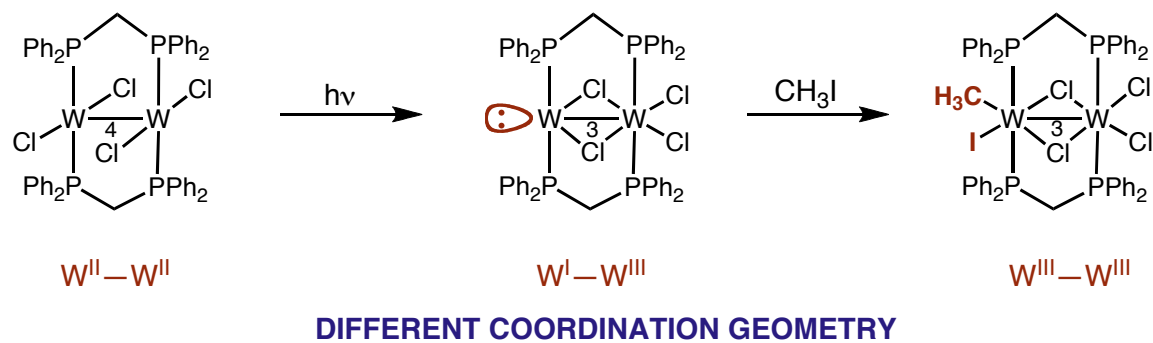
Radical reaction ruled out

Photooxidative Addition

■ Reaction at Single Metal Center

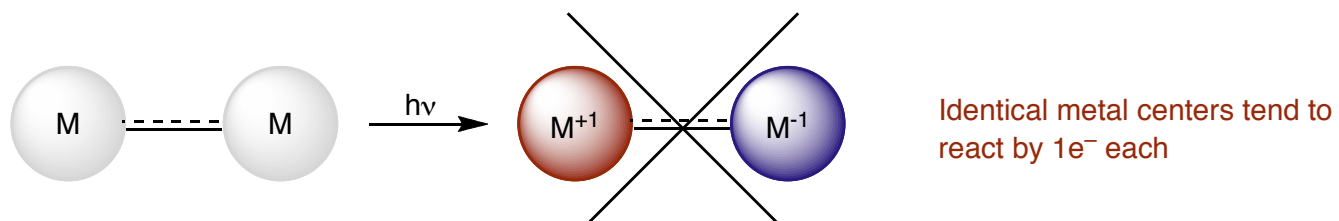


■ Stabilization of Zwitterionic Intermediate



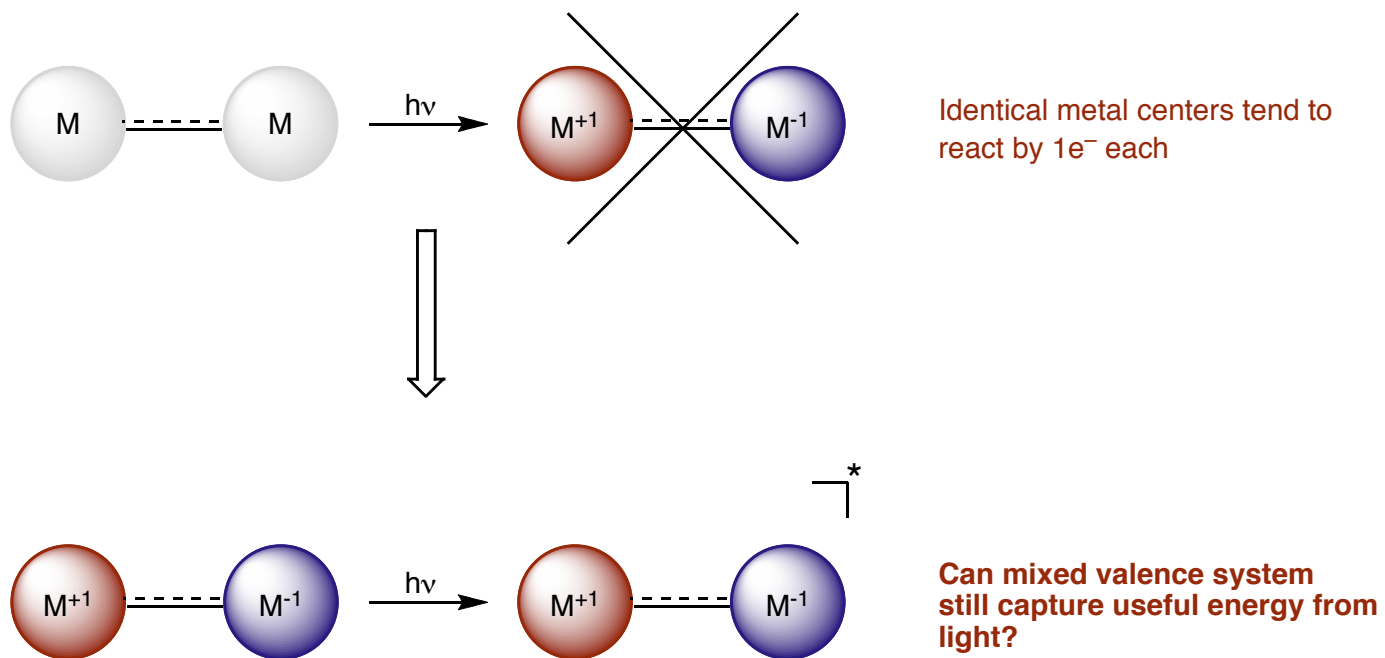
Ground-State Mixed Valency

■ Analogous Excited State Reactivity?



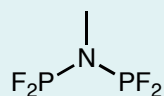
Ground-State Mixed Valency

■ Analogous Excited State Reactivity?



Crucial Ligand Set

■ Mixed Valence Complexes (With M^n-M^{n+2}) Rare

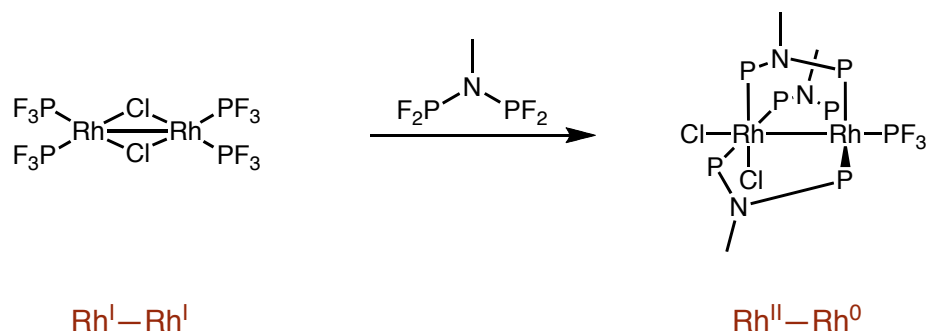


dfpma = bis(difluorophosphine)methylamine

Discovery: Nixon, J.F. *J. Chem. Soc. A* **1968**, 269.

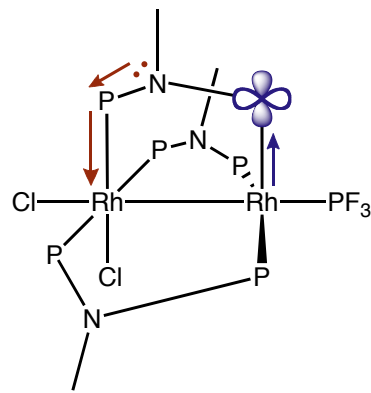
Widely explored: King, R. B. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1980**, 13, 243.

■ Induces Spontaneous Disproportionation



DPFMA

■ Electronic Communication



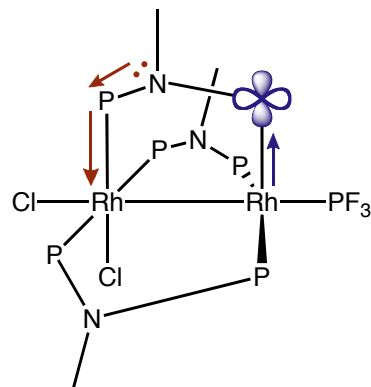
Methylamine linker donates lone pair towards Rh^{II}

PF₂ groups a Rh⁰ very π -acidic, strong backbonding

Confirmed by crystal structure

DPFMA

■ Electronic Communication

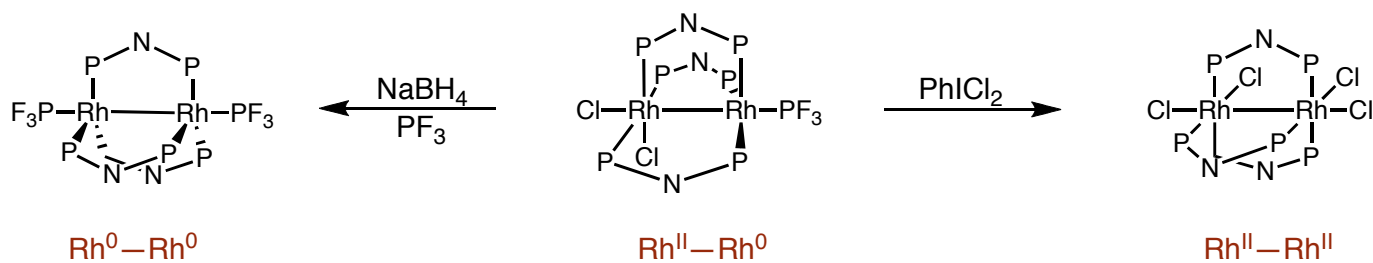


Methylamine linker donates lone pair towards Rh^{II}

PF₂ groups a Rh⁰ very π -acidic, strong backbonding

Confirmed by crystal structure

■ Bis-Oxidized and Bis-Reduced Products Accessible



Rh⁰-Rh⁰

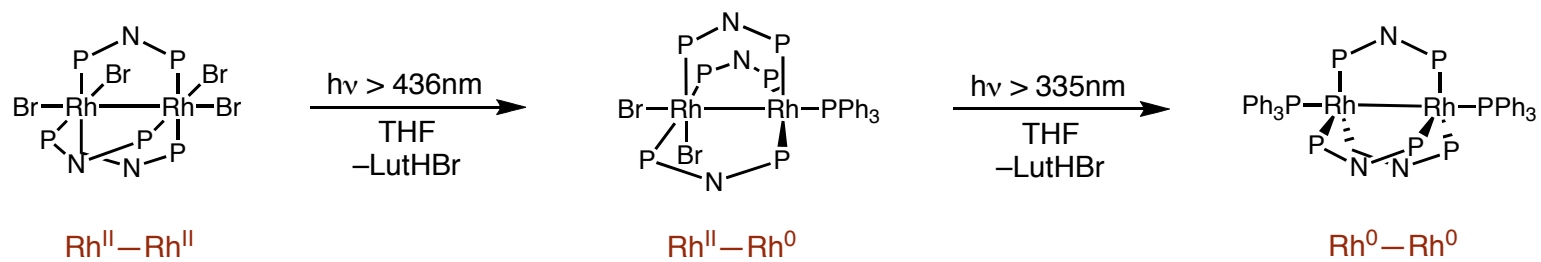
Rh^{II}-Rh⁰

Rh^{II}-Rh^{II}

NB: Actual geometry is twisted

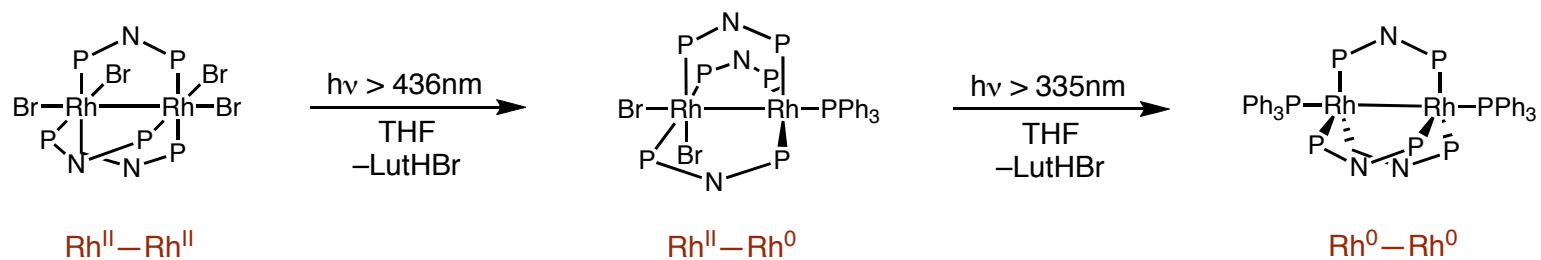
X_2 Reductive Elimination

■ Four-Electron Rh_2 Series

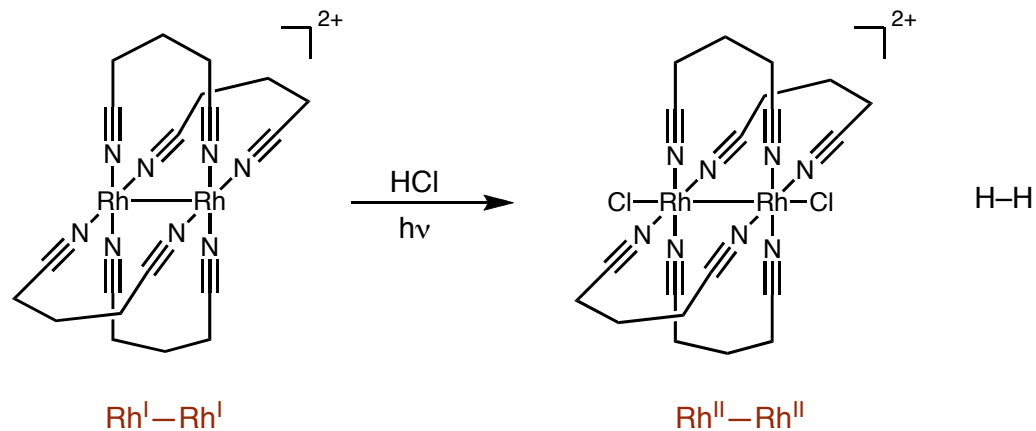


X_2 Reductive Elimination

■ Four-Electron Rh_2 Series



■ Rh-X Typically Dead End

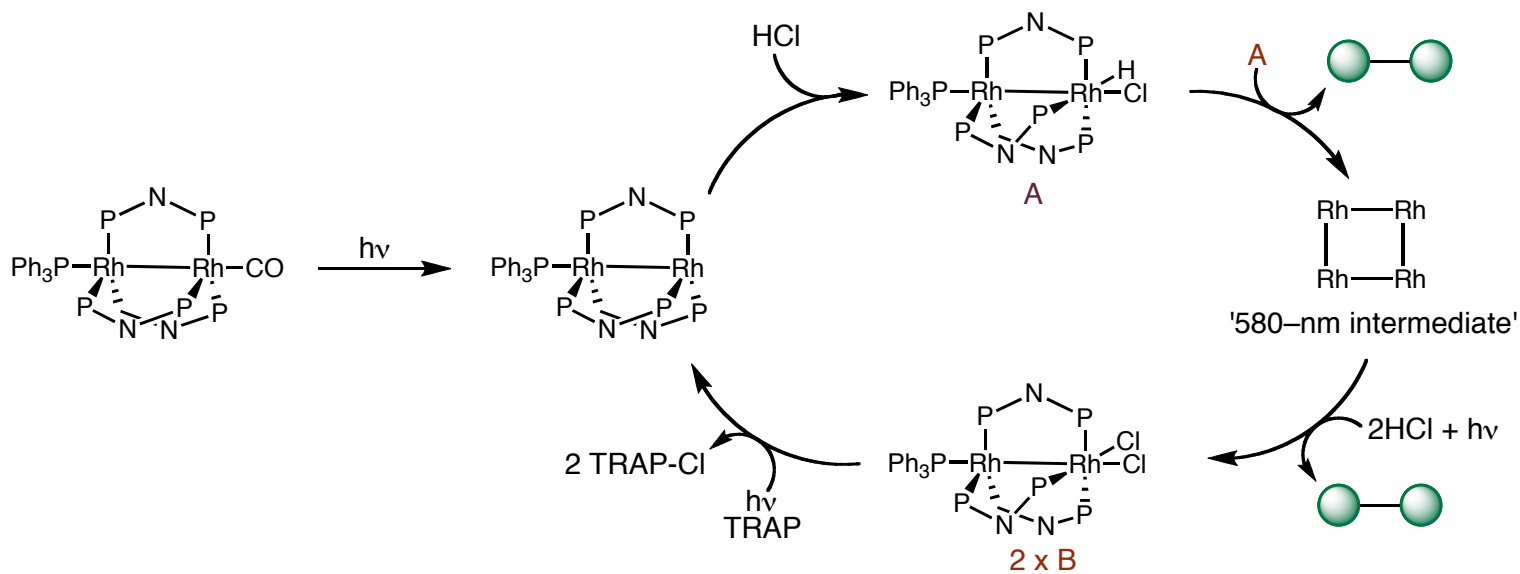
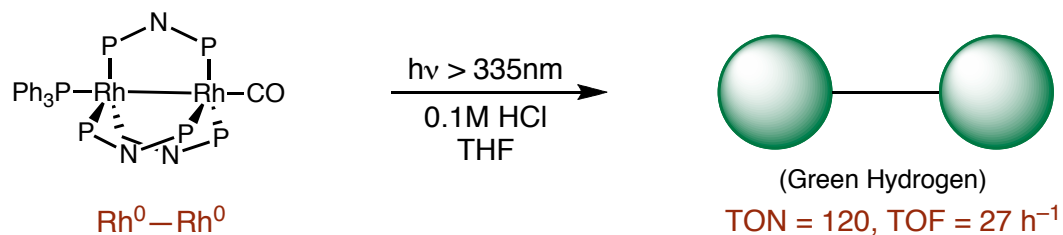


Heyduk, A. F.; Macintosh, A. M.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1999**, *121*, 5023.

Gray, H. B.; Maverick, A. W. *Science*, **1981**, *214*, 1201.

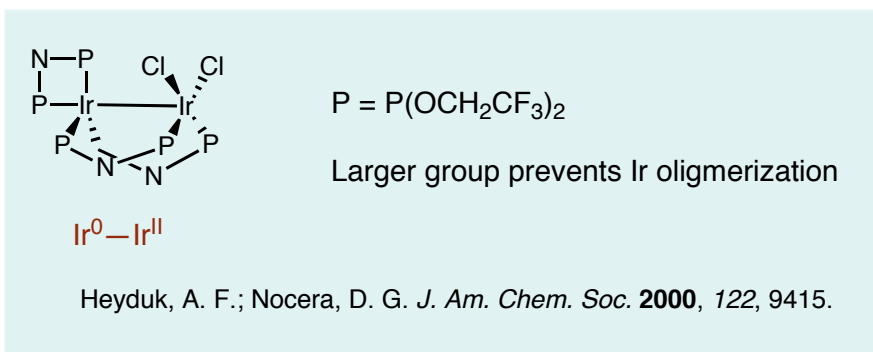
Photocatalytic H₂ Production

■ Complicated, But Possible

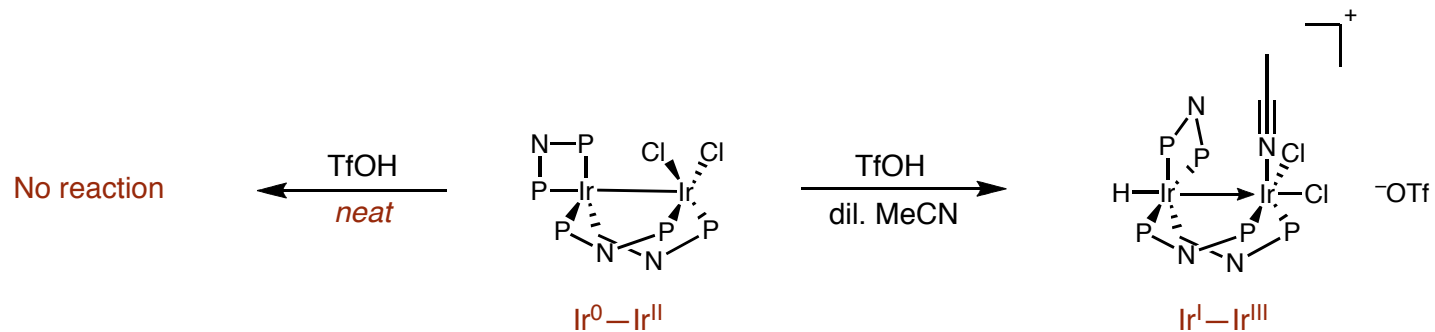


Iridium Analogues

■ Slightly Altered Ligand

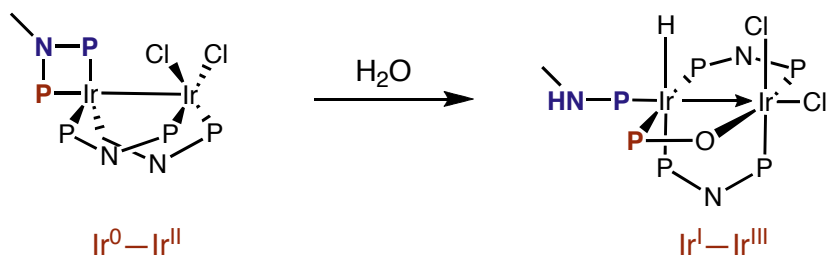


■ Incredible Protonation Characteristics



Water Splitting at Ir

■ Reaction With H₂O To Deliver Ir-H



Free ligand stable to H₂O

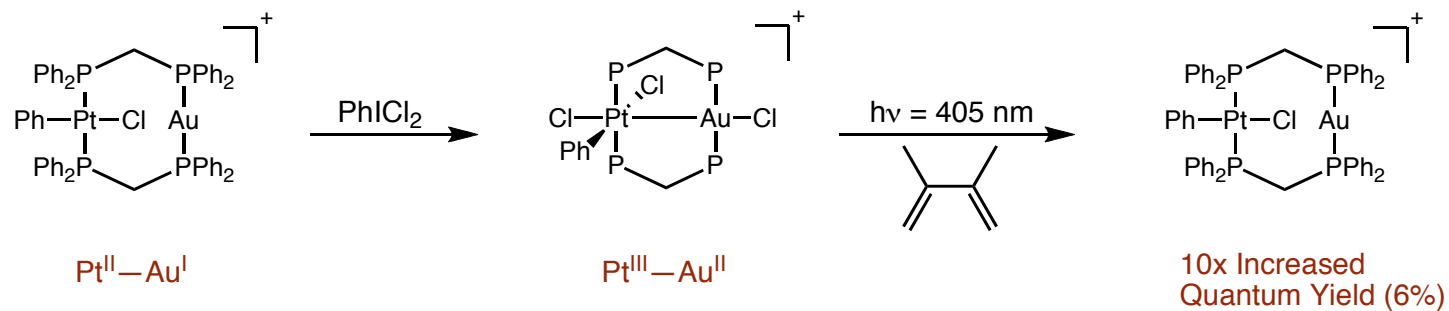
Ir complex stable to TfOH

Veige, A. S.; Nocera, D. G. *Chem. Comm.* **2004**, 1958.

Could advantages of separate metals (e.g. Rh and Ir) be combined into a single catalyst?

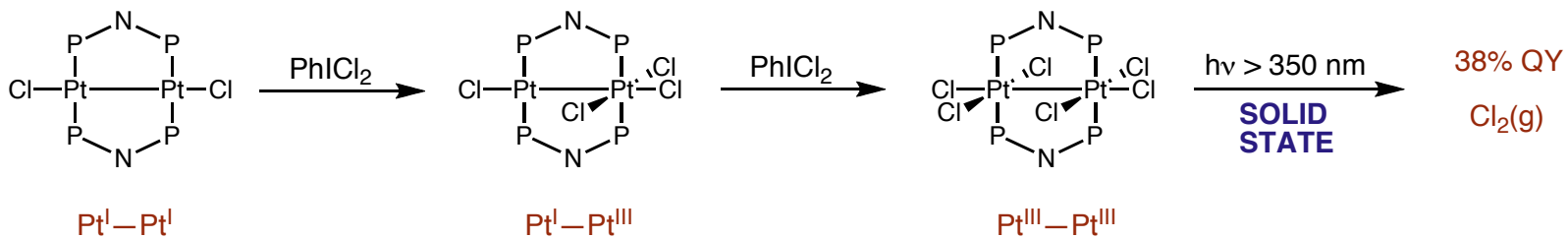
Pt–Au Bimetallics

■ Increased Halogen Elimination at Au



Cook, T. R.; Esswein, A. J.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 10094.

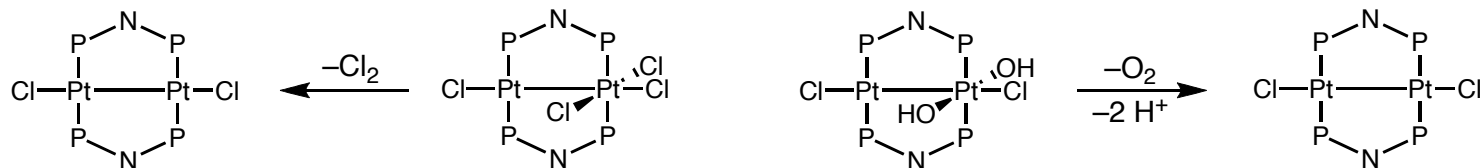
■ Trap-Free Hydrogen Production



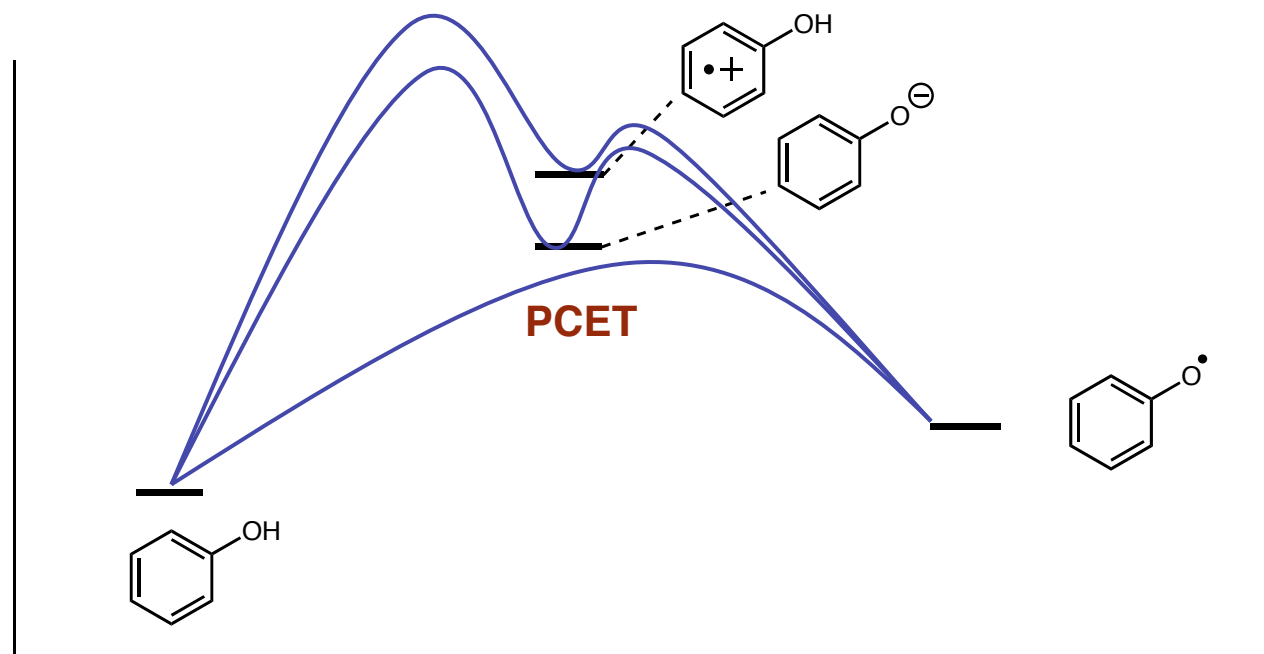
Cook, T. R.; Surendranath, Y.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 28.

X₂ vs O₂ Elimination

■ Halogen Elimination Couples No Protons

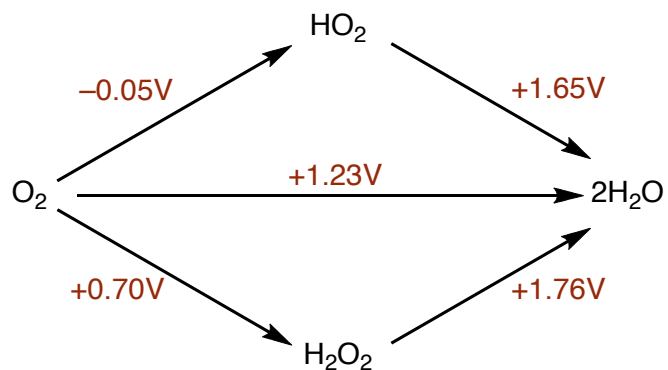


■ PCET Often Lowest Energy Path



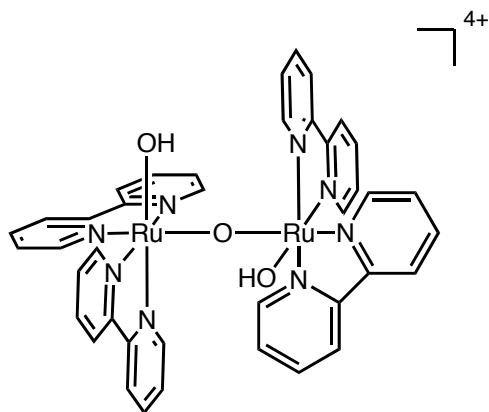
Maximum Power With O₂ Reduction

■ Want To Avoid Semi-Reduced Pathways



Collman, J. P.; Wagenknecht, P. S.; Hutchinson, J. E. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **1994**, *33*, 1537.

■ Difficult to Prevent H₂O₂ Release in Solution



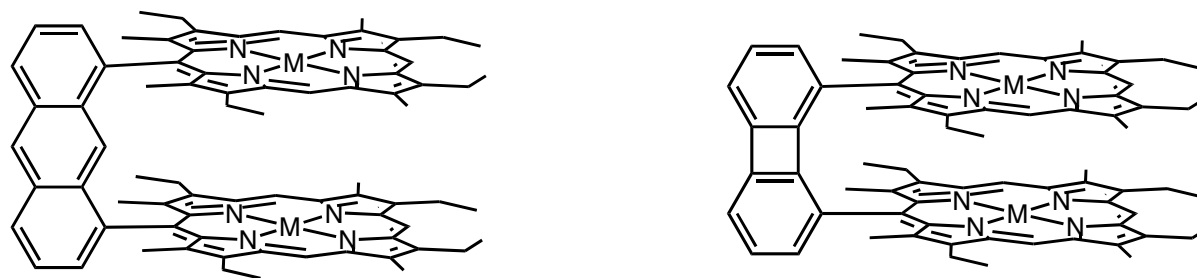
Catalyzed H₂O oxidation by Ce(IV)

Mechanism unknown

Gersten, S. W.; Samuels, G. J.; Meyer, T. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *104*, 4029.

Bisporphyrin Electroreduction

- Introduced Late 70s by Collman, Kagan, Ogoshi and Chang

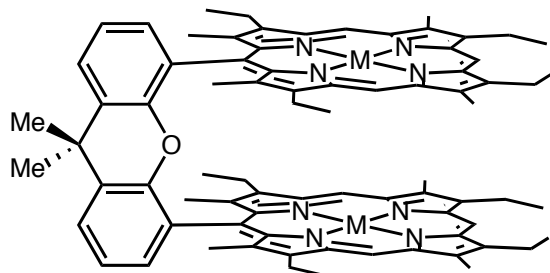


Used as Co complex deposited on C electrode

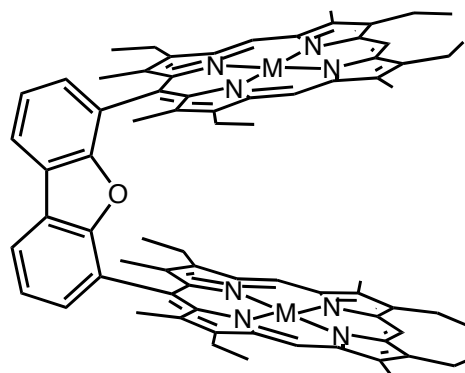
Collman, J. P.; Wagenknecht, P. S.; Hutchinson, J. E. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **1994**, *33*, 1537.

Expanding Framework

■ Significant Change in Cleft Size



DPX



DPD

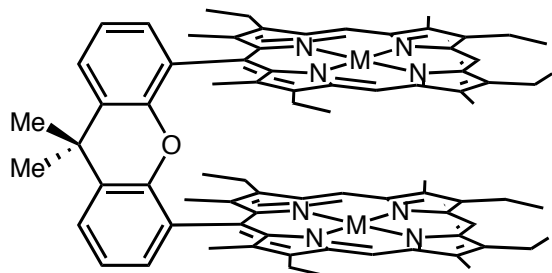
$M = (\text{Fe}-\text{O}-\text{Fe}) \text{ } 3.5 \text{ \AA}$

$M = \text{H}_2 > 7.5 \text{ \AA}$

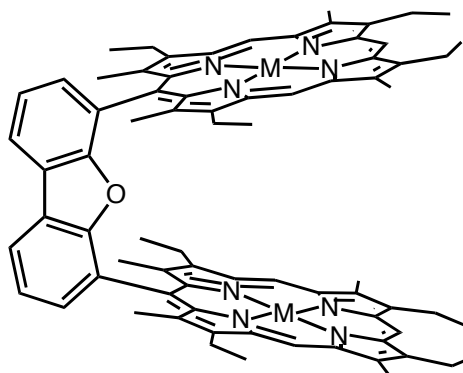
Chang, C. J.; Deng, Y.; Heyduk, A. F.; Chang, C. K.; Nocera, D. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2000**, *39*, 959.

Expanding Framework

■ Significant Change in Cleft Size



DPX

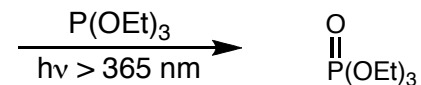
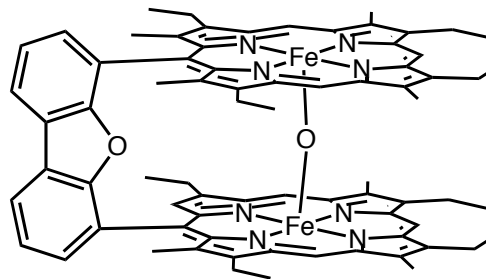
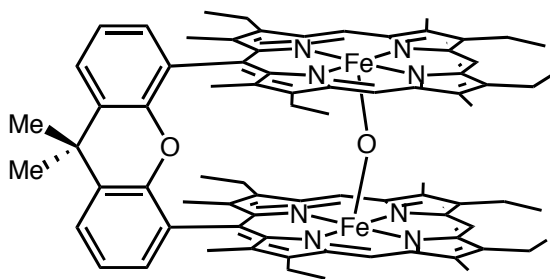


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Chang, C. J.; Deng, Y.; Heyduk, A. F.; Chang, C. K.; Nocera, D. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2000**, *39*, 959.

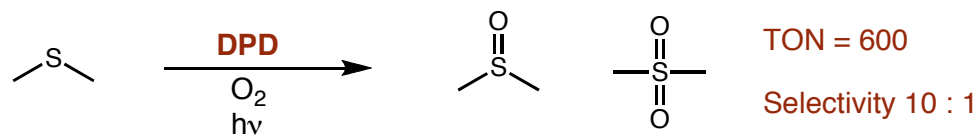


10,000x Greater Rate

Chang, C. J.; Baker, E. A.; Pistorio, B. J.; Deng, Y.; Loh, Z.-H.; Miller, S. E.; Carpenter, S. D.; Nocera, D. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2002**, *41*, 3102.

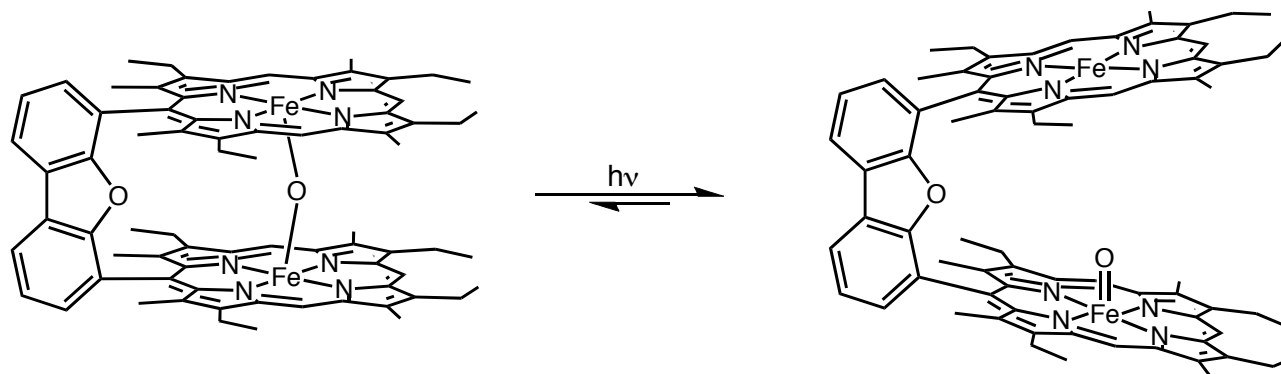
'Pacman' Effect

■ Effective in Catalytic Oxidation



Pistorio, B. J.; Chang, C. J.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 7884.

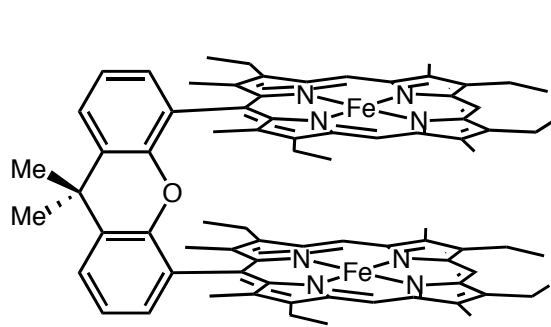
■ Recapture Ability



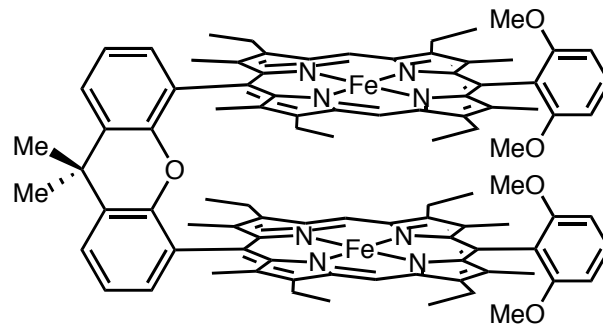
Deng, Y.; Chang, C. J.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 410.

Picosecond Laser Observations

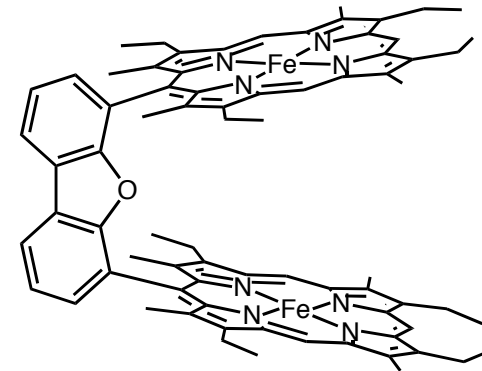
■ Oxyl Lifetime \neq Reactivity



$$\begin{aligned}\Delta D &= 0.208\text{\AA} \\ \tau &= 1.26\text{ ns} \\ RR &= 1\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\Delta D &= 2.424\text{\AA} \\ \tau &= 1.27\text{ ns} \\ RR &= 100\end{aligned}$$

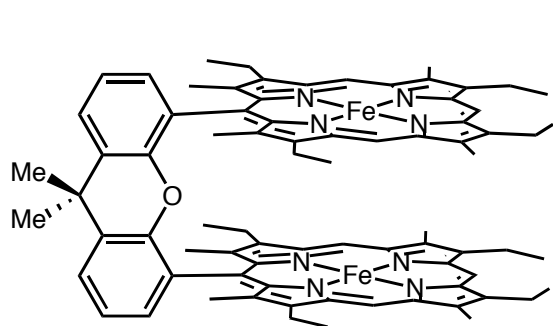


$$\begin{aligned}\Delta D &= 4.271\text{\AA} \\ \tau &= 1.36\text{ ns} \\ RR &= 10,000\end{aligned}$$

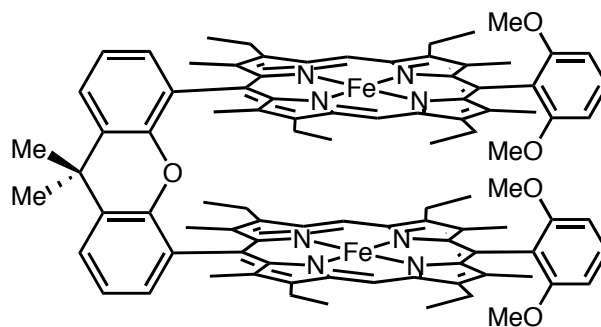
Hodgkiss, J. M.; Chang, C. J.; Pistorio, B. J.; Nocera, D. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2003**, 42, 8270.

Picosecond Laser Observations

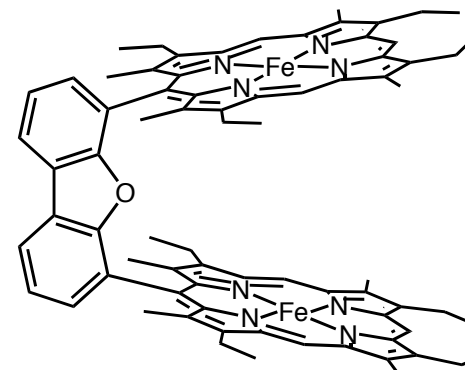
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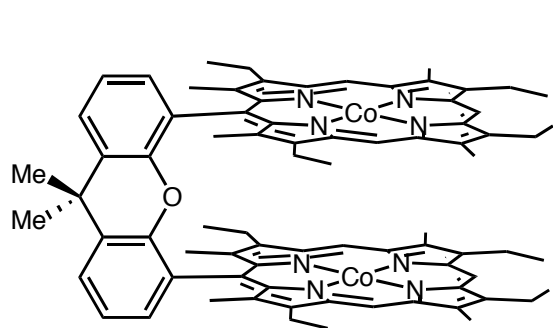
Hodgkiss, J. M.; Chang, C. J.; Pistorio, B. J.; Nocera, D. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2003**, 42, 8270.

DOES NOT INCLUDE PROTON TRANSFER

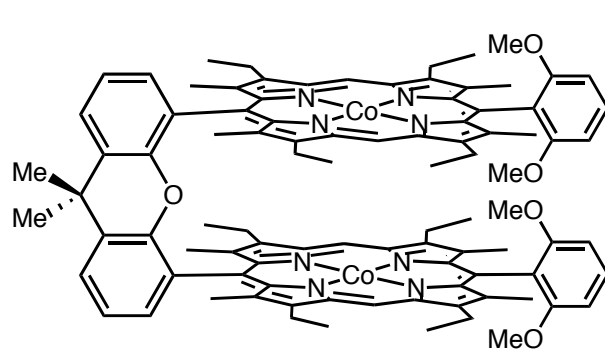
Co-Catalyzed O₂ Reduction

■ Reduction at +0.3V (Ag/AgCl)

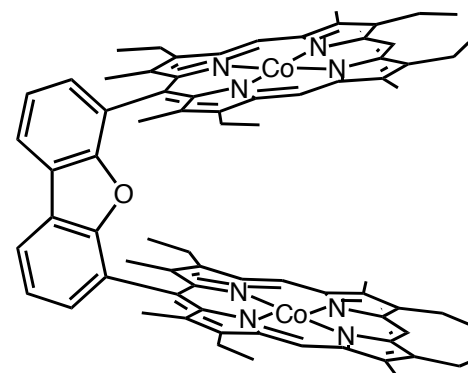
H₂O vs. H₂O₂ Selectivity



Ox = +0.28V



Ox = +0.31V



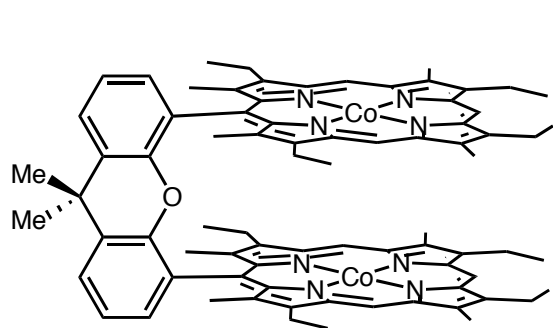
Ox = +0.33V

Chang, C. J.; Loh, Z.-H.; Shi, C.; Anson, F. C.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 10013.

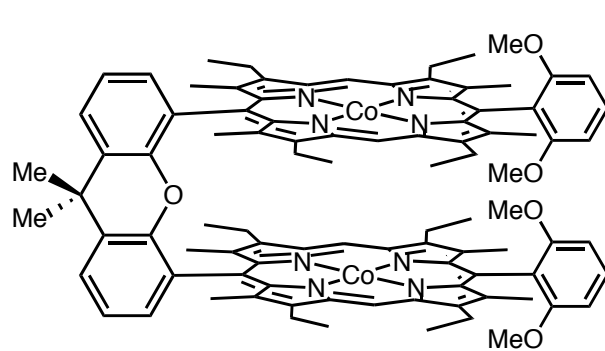
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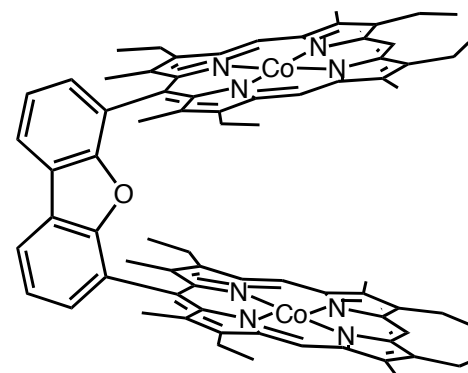
H₂O vs. H₂O₂ Selectivity



Ox = +0.28V
% H₂O = 72



Ox = +0.31V
% H₂O = 52



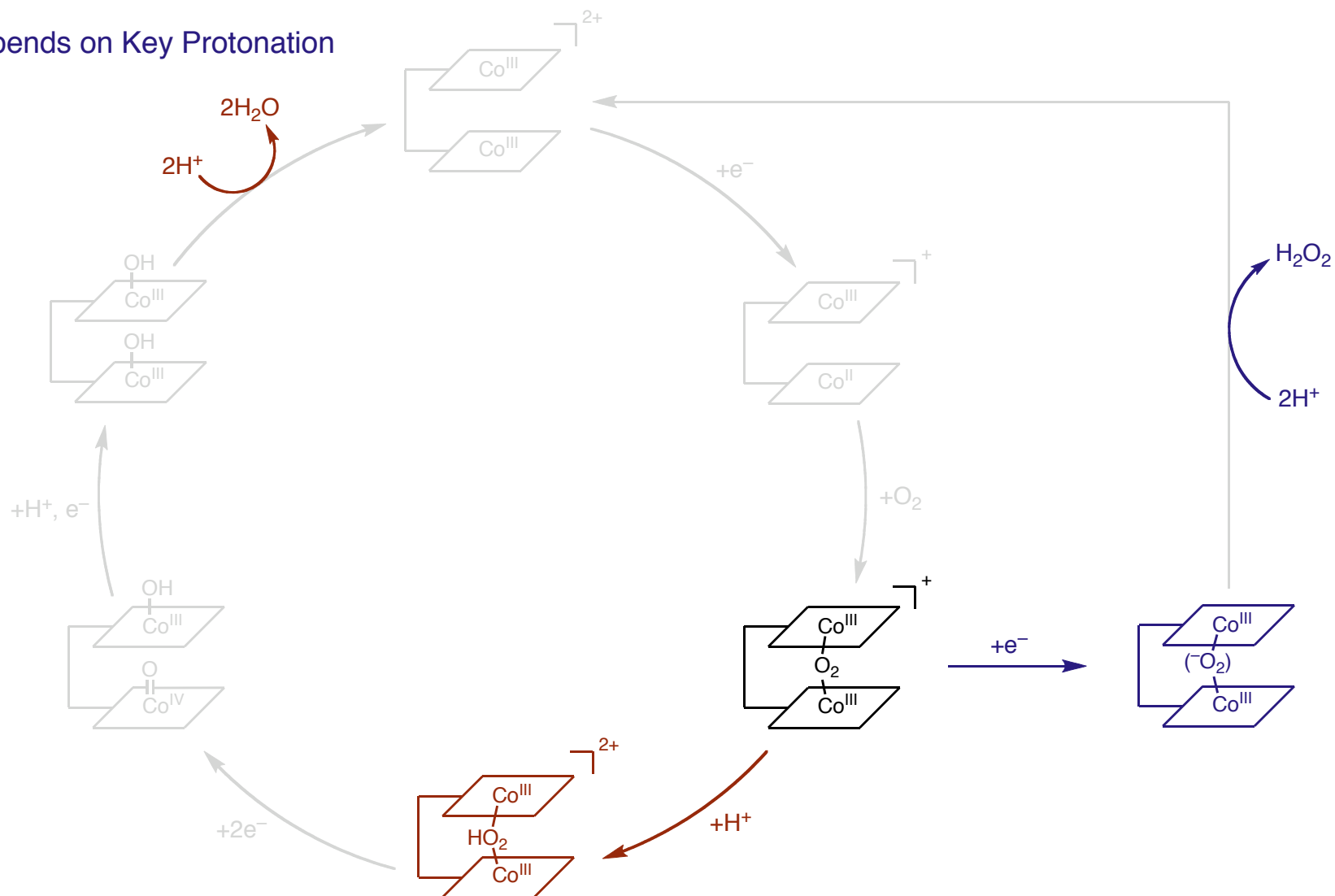
Ox = +0.33V
% H₂O = 80

KEY IS BALANCING PROTON INVENTORY

Chang, C. J.; Loh, Z.-H.; Shi, C.; Anson, F. C.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 10013.

Product Selectivity

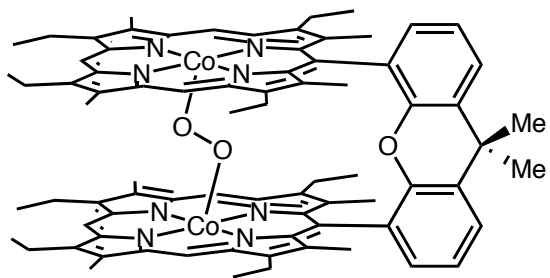
■ Depends on Key Protonation



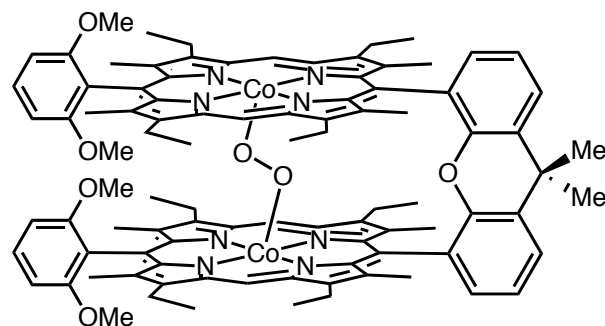
Chang, C. J.; Loh, Z.-H.; Shi, C.; Anson, F. C.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 10013.

DFT Calculations

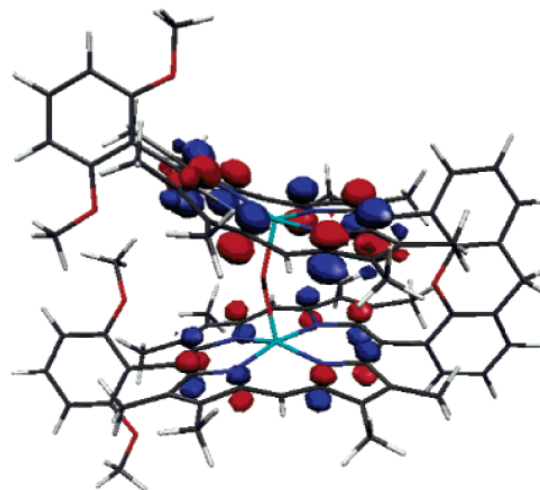
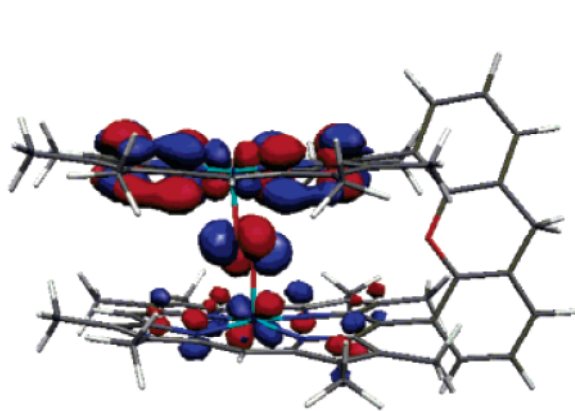
■ Stunning Difference



Ox = +0.28V
% H₂O = 72

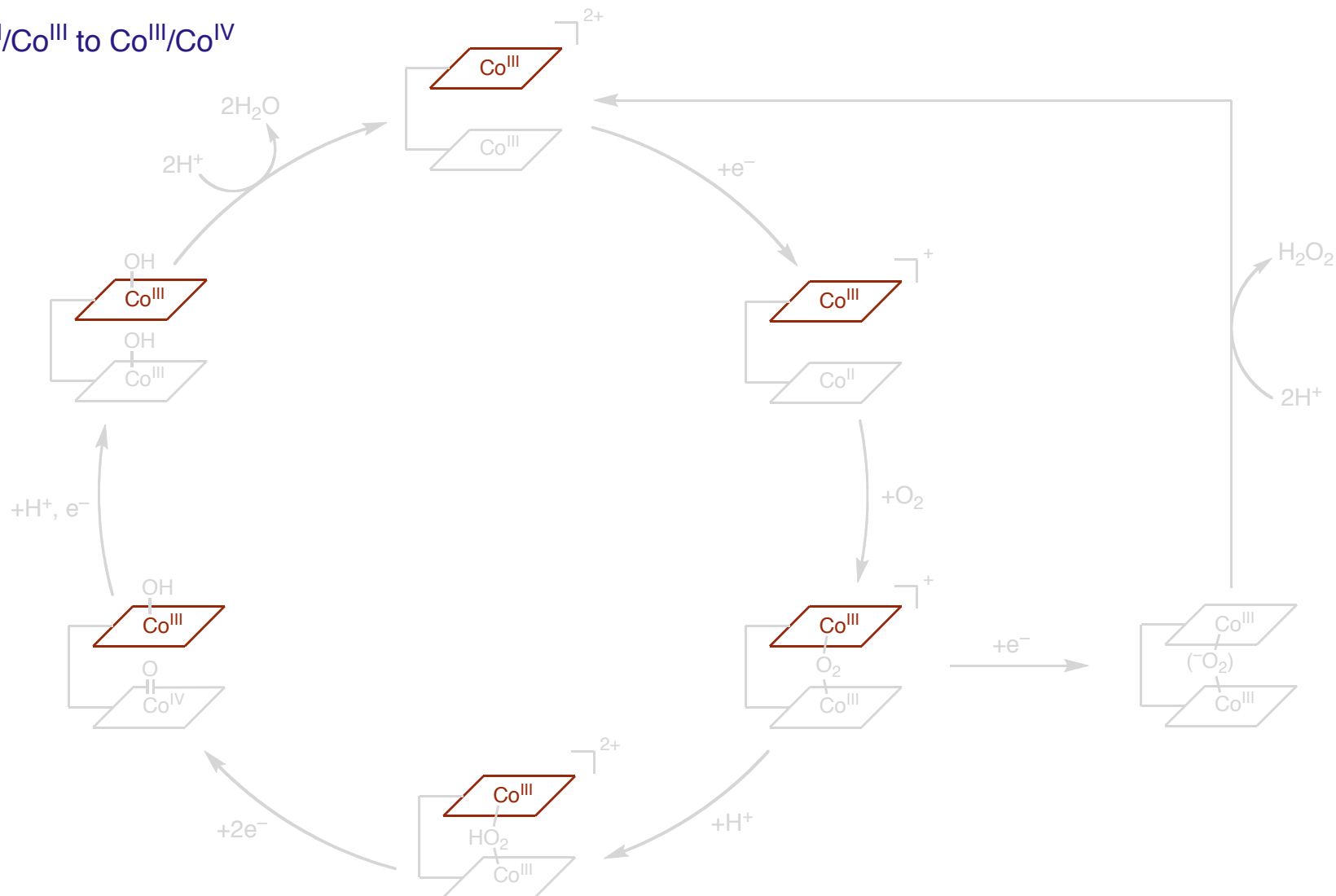


Ox = +0.31V
% H₂O = 52



Co-Reduction Cycle

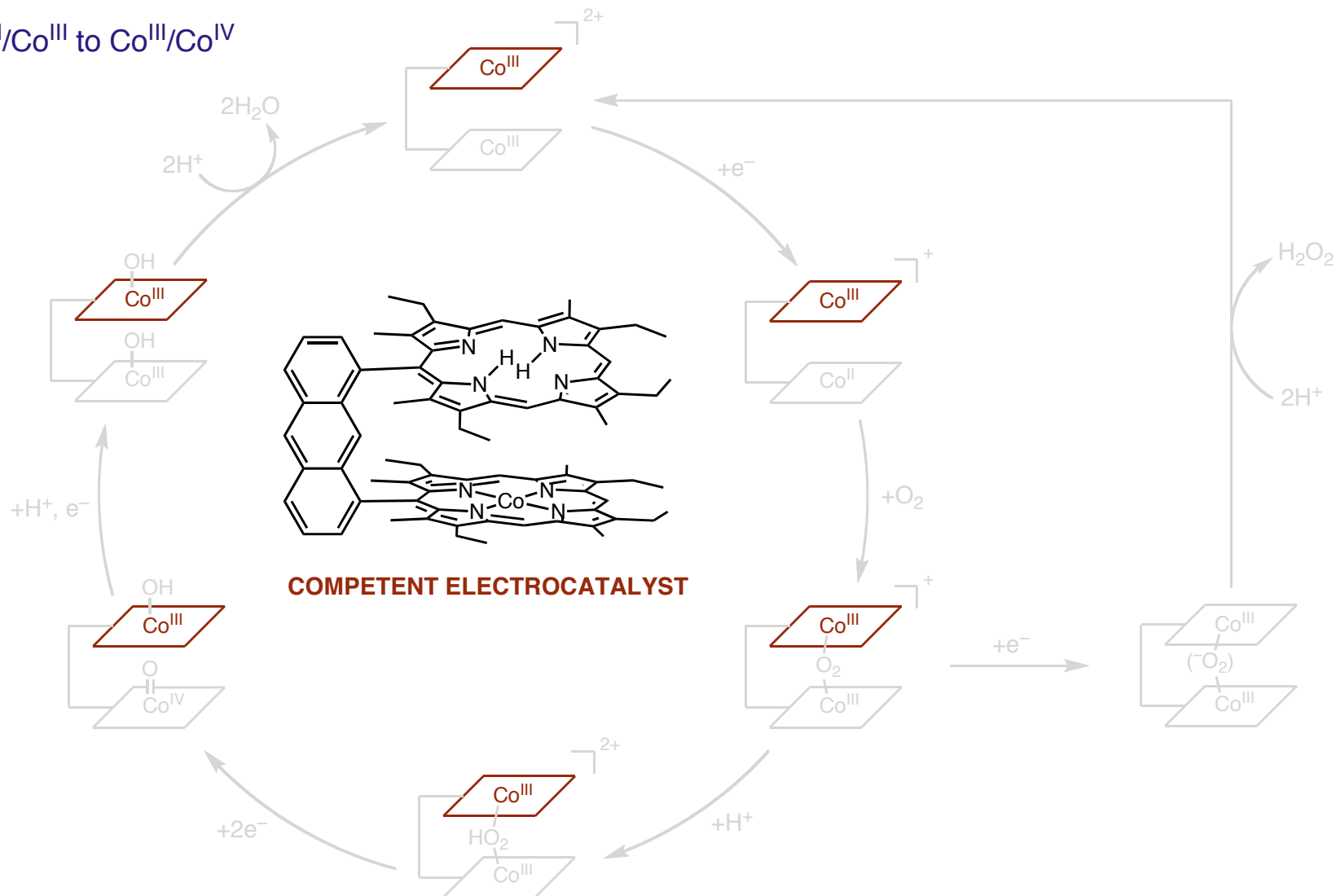
■ Co^{II}/Co^{III} to Co^{III}/Co^{IV}



Chang, C. J.; Loh, Z.-H.; Shi, C.; Anson, F. C.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 10013.

Co-Reduction Cycle

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Second Pillar Site

- Why Two Cobalt Porphyrins?

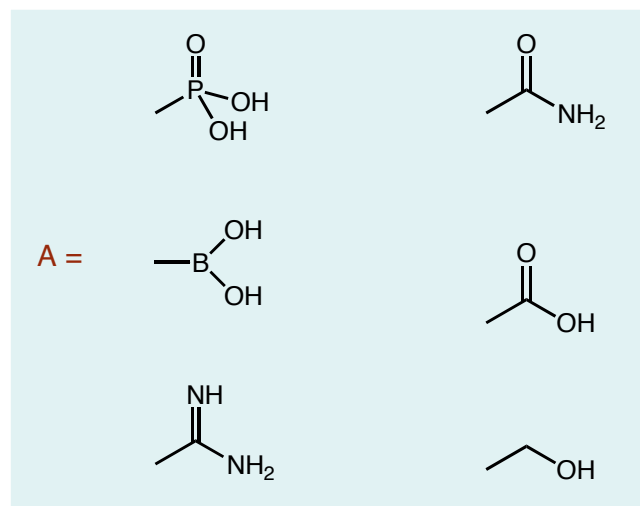
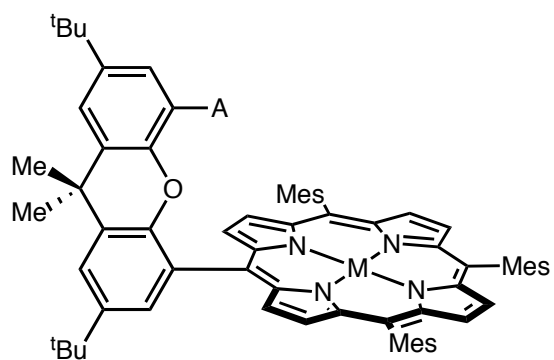
Induce protonation of bound superoxide

Second Pillar Site

■ Why Two Cobalt Porphyrins?

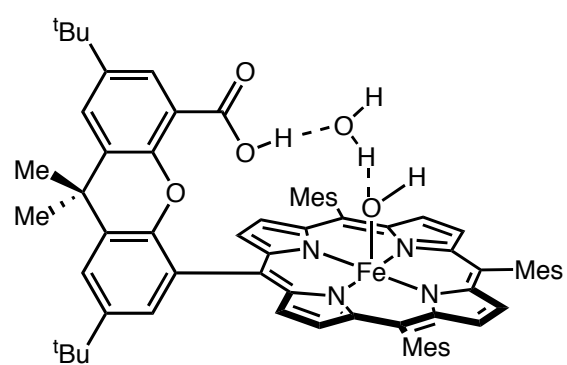
Induce protonation of bound superoxide

■ Hangman Architecture



Water-Bound

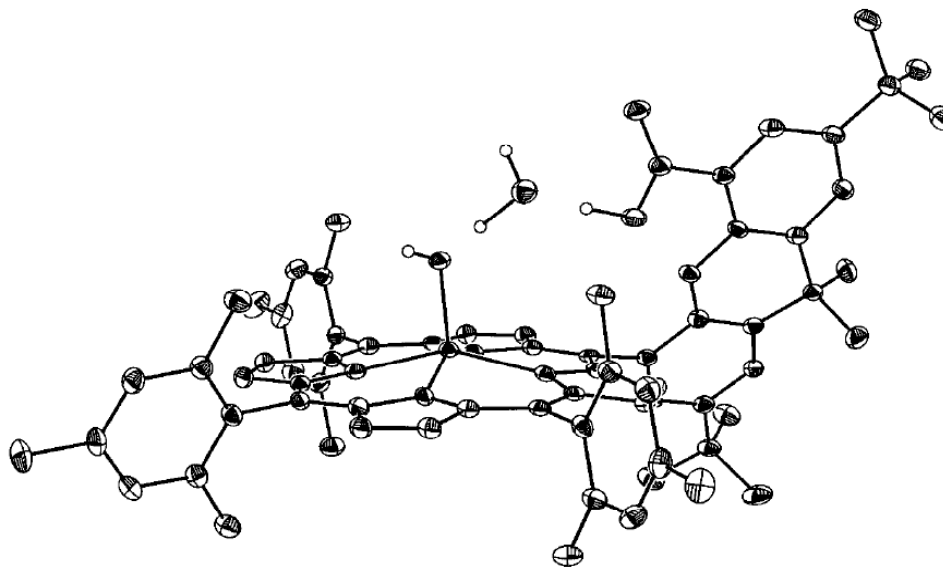
■ A Crystal Structure Surprise



Crystallographically resolved water

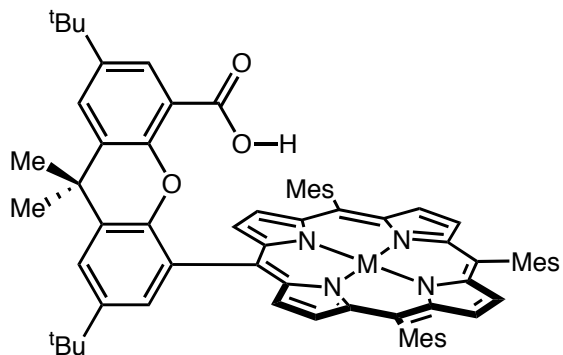
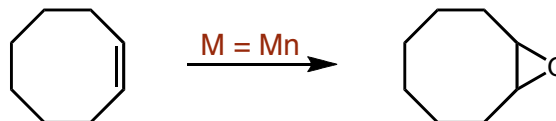
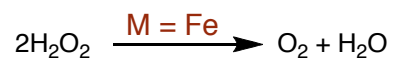
Maintained in solution

Binding energy ~6 kcal



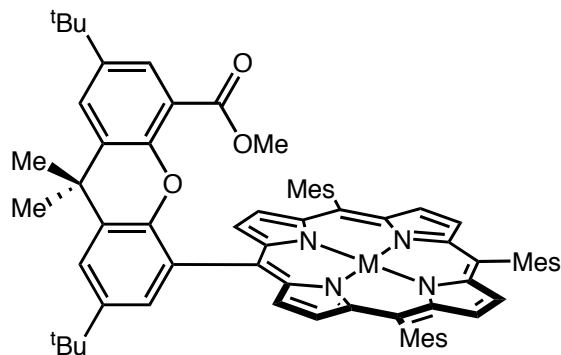
Exceptional Activity

■ Highly Active Catalyse and Epoxidation Activity



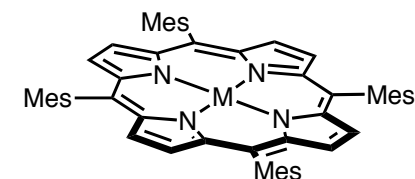
Fe TON = 436

Mn TON = 460



Fe TON = 48

Mn TON = 210

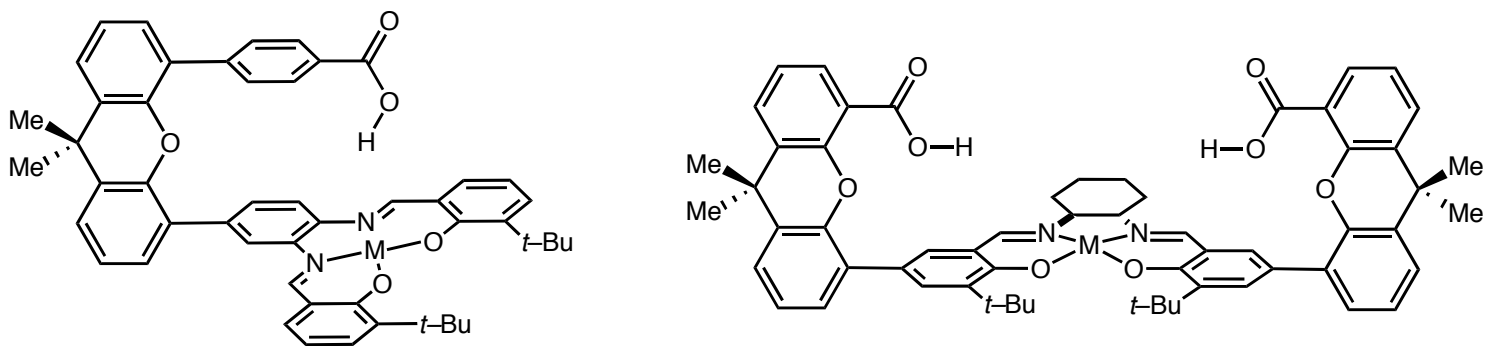


Fe TON = 4

Mn TON = 45

Salen Hangman

■ Simpler Synthesis



Large increase in synthetic simplicity

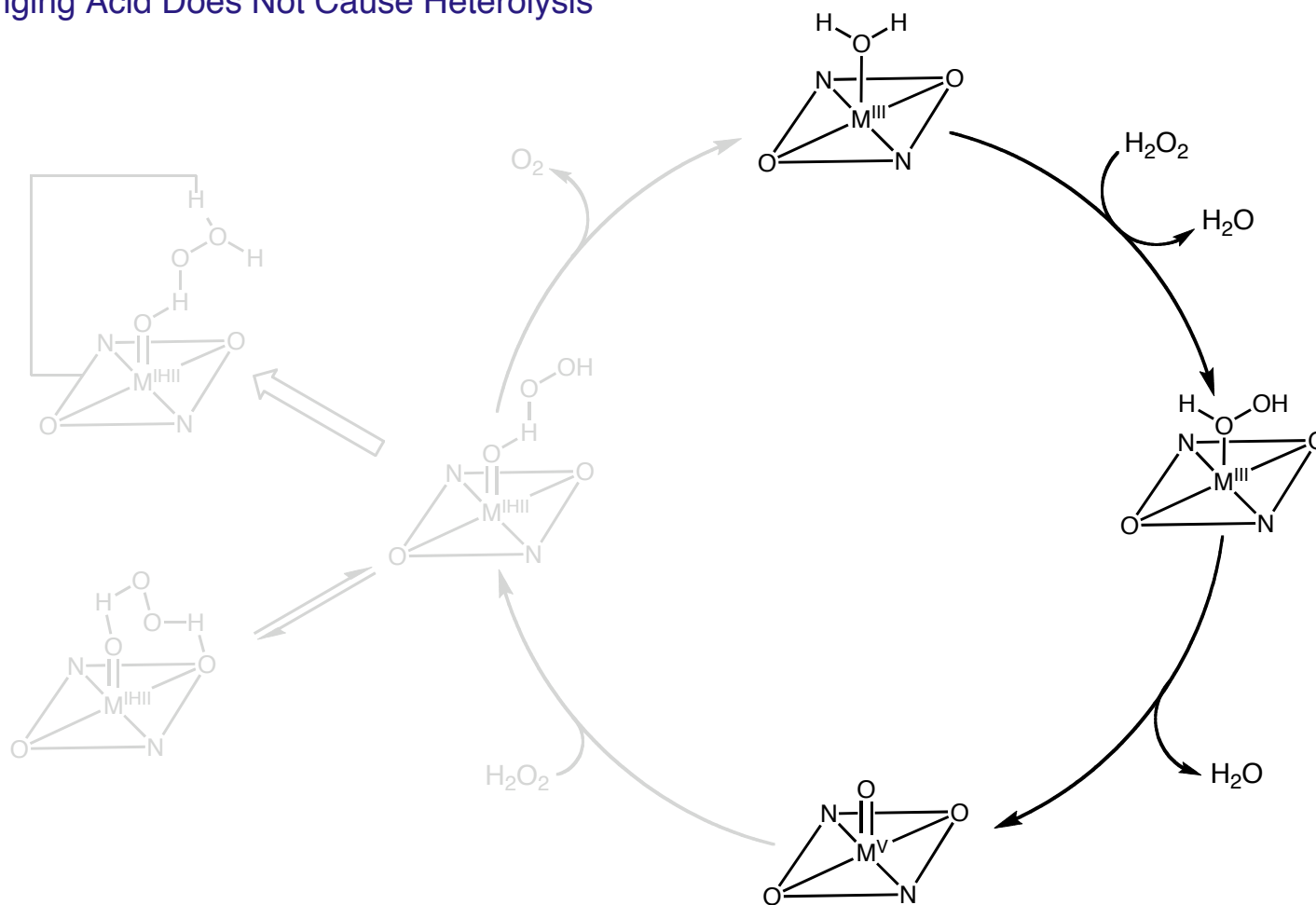
Small increase in TON

Liu, S.-Y.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 5278.

Yang, J. Y.; Bachmann, J.; Nocera, D. G. *J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, *71*, 8706.

Another Mechanistic Twist

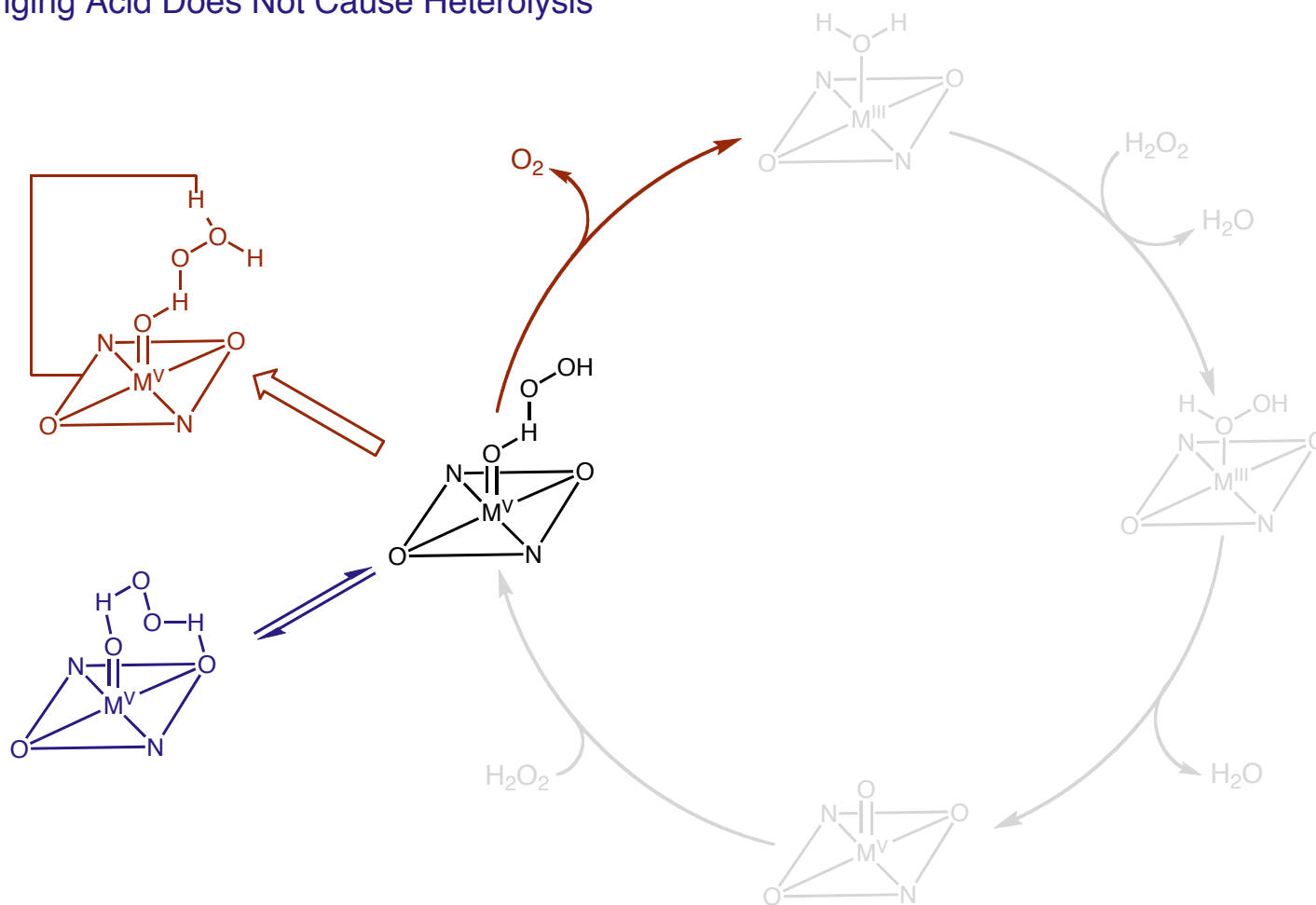
■ Hanging Acid Does Not Cause Heterolysis



Liu, S.-Y.; Soper, J. D.; Yang, J. Y.; Rybak-Akimova, E. V.; Nocera, D. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2006**, *45*, 7572.

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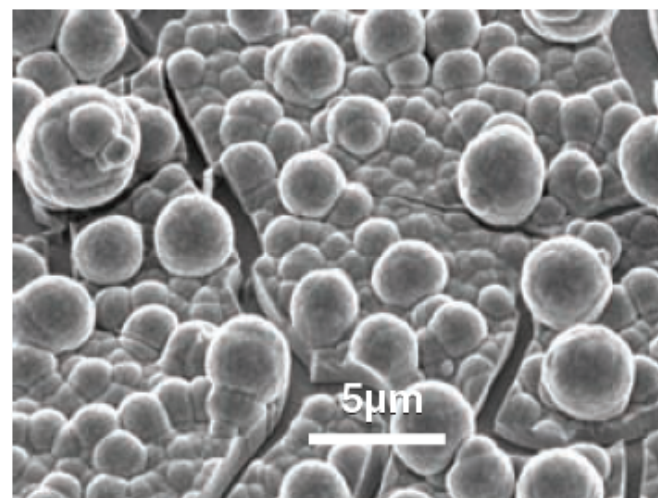
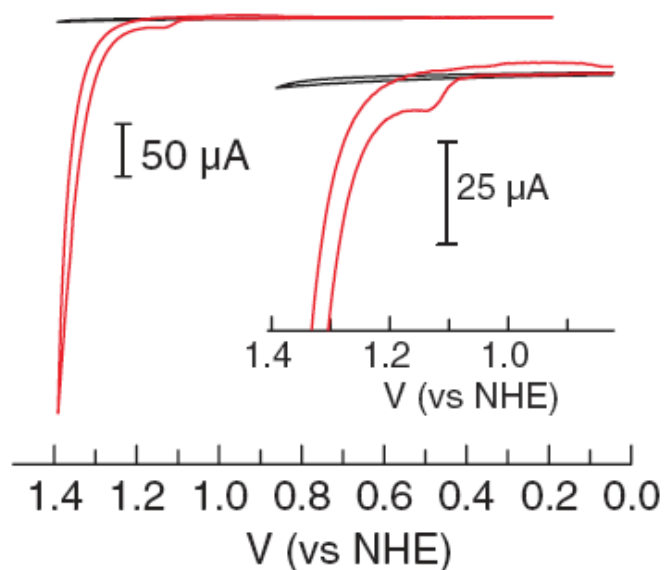


Liu, S.-Y.; Soper, J. D.; Yang, J. Y.; Rybak-Akimova, E. V.; Nocera, D. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2006**, *45*, 7572.

Paradigm Shift

■ Co-Coated Electrodes

“Here we report such a catalyst that forms upon oxidative polarization. . .in phosphate buffered water containing Co(II)”



Kanan, M. W.; Nocera, D. G. *Science*, **2008**, *321*, 1072.

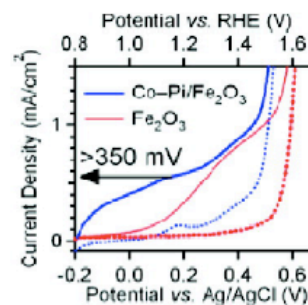
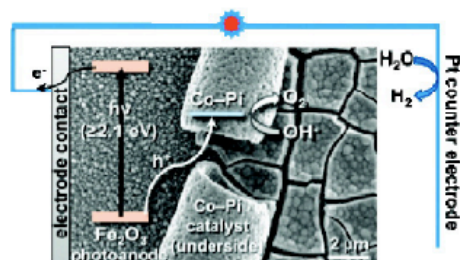
Communication

Solar Water Oxidation by Composite Catalyst/ FeO Photoanodes

Diane K. Zhong, Jianwei Sun, Hiroki Inumaru, and Daniel R. Gamelin

J. Am. Chem. Soc., **Article ASAP** • DOI: 10.1021/ja9016478 • Publication Date (Web): 08 April 2009

Downloaded from <http://pubs.acs.org> on April 14, 2009

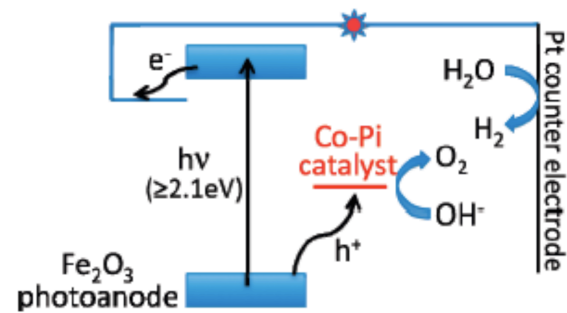
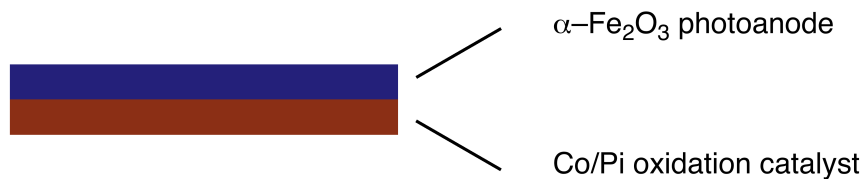


α -Fe₂O₃ Photoanodes

- Hematite is cheap, available, oxidatively stable
- Absorbs visible light to generate 2.1 eV hole/charge combination (>1V overpotential for water oxidation)
- Kinetically, can't oxidize water very well

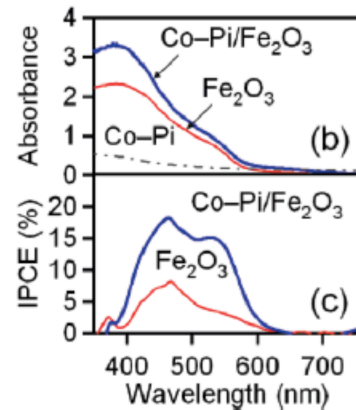
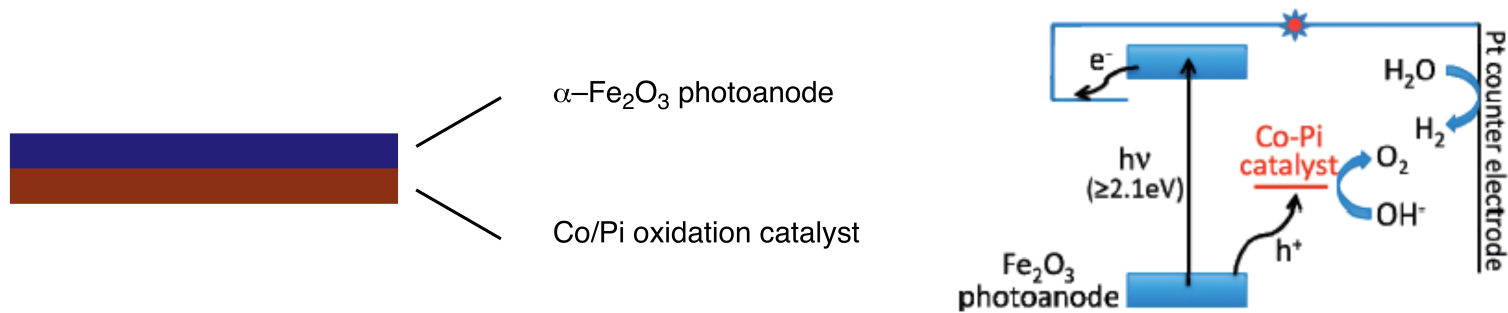
$\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ Photoanodes

- Hematite is cheap, available, oxidatively stable
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α -Fe₂O₃ Photoanodes

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Zhong, D. K.; Sun, J.; Inumaru, H.; Gamelin, D. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, ASAP.