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#### *First-principles contribution to understanding the vision process. Photoisomerization processes in retinal and other bio-photoreceptors*



#### **Experimental Observations**





Schmitt et al. Science **321**, 1649 (2008)

Cavelleri et al. PRB 89, 184516(2014);Nature (2014)



$$M_J \frac{d^2 \mathbf{R}_J^d(t)}{dt^2} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{R}_J^{cl}} \left[ V_{ext}^J(\mathbf{R}_J^{cl}, t) - \int \frac{Z_J \rho(\mathbf{r}, t)}{|\mathbf{R}_J^{cl} - \mathbf{r}|} d\mathbf{r} + \sum_{I \neq J} \frac{Z_J Z_I}{|\mathbf{R}_J^{cl} - \mathbf{R}_I^{cl}|} \right]$$

# Computational efficiency



10<sup>2</sup>

**10**<sup>1</sup>

60

MQ

Memory (MB)

Real space grid



40 Number of Valence Electrons



Optical properties of clusters and molecules from real-time time-dependent density functional theory using a selfconsistent field J. Ren, E. Kaxiras, S. Meng, Mol. Phys. 108, 1829 (2010).





#### Clouds = e density in excited state









# **Real time TDDFT for electron-ion quantum dynamics** OUTLINE

- I. <u>Background: building computational tools for excited state</u> <u>dynamics</u>
- II. <u>Photovoltaic applications</u>
  - interface control in perovskite solar cells
  - electron-hole dynamics in 2D materials heterojunction
- III. Photosplitting dynamics
  - orbital dependent quantum interaction of water
  - photolysis dynamics of H<sub>2</sub>



#### photovoltaics



## Dye solar cell: A 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Solar Cell





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From http://www.solaronix.com



# State of the Art







## Can we predict DSC efficiency from first-principles?





 $P_{inc} = 100 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ 





Injection: (1),  $10^{-15} \text{ s} \sim 10^{-12} \text{ s}$ Relaxation: (5) $10^{-12} \text{ s} \sim 10^{-9} \text{ s}$ Collection 5 A:  $10^{-6} \text{ s} \sim 10^{-3} \text{ s}$ Recombination: (3),(4),  $10^{-12} \sim 10^{-3} \text{ s}$ Reduction: (2), $10^{-9} \text{ s}$ 

Ma, Zhang, Meng, Chin. Phys. B 23, 086801 (2014).

# PANDORA: Predictive algorithms for nano device operation rate assessment





Ma, Jiao & Meng, J. Phys. Chem. C, invited article (2014).











## $\mathbf{H} ) \quad \lambda = \mathbf{p} \left[ \varepsilon \rho \quad d(-\varepsilon \rho x) \right] x$



 $TiO_2$  film thickness: d = 3 dye loading: 300 mmol/L







Zhang, Ma, Jiao, Wang, Shan, Li, Lu, Meng, ACS Appl. Mater. Interface (2014).

# **Electron Injection Dynamics**





# **Electron Injection Dynamics**











#### **Electron Injection Efficiency**





Ma, Jiao & Meng, J. Phys. Chem. C (2014).



### **Different anchors**





a) Bartelt et al. JPCC (2014).



#### Hot electron effect



# Solvent effect

e = 0.00 ps







Experiment: 5 times difference using ultrafast laser photolysis. Ma, Jiao, <u>Meng</u>, PCCP (2013).

### **Electron Collection Efficiency**





η







$$J_{\underline{\alpha}\underline{\alpha}} = \int J(\lambda) d\lambda = \int \frac{SI}{\frac{1}{2m/\sqrt{2}\lambda}} IPCE(\lambda) d\lambda$$





#### Estimating the $V_{\rm OC}$



| Þ | k <sup>-1</sup> ,i | k <sup>-1</sup> e | $J_{s}/$ | V <sub>oc</sub> | F      | $J_{s}$ (p)<br>(c) $(2)$ | V <sub>oc</sub> (p))<br>(Ma | <b>(þ</b> |             |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| D | 9                  | 3                 | 8        | 3               | 8      | 4                        | 5                           | 5         | <b>9</b> ⁄0 | <b>8</b> ⁄0 |
| D | 9                  | 2                 | 6        | Ð               | 0      |                          |                             |           | <b>3</b> ⁄0 |             |
| D | g                  | 8                 | 2        | 6               | 8      | 3                        | 5                           | 6         | <b>T</b> ⁄o | Vo          |
|   |                    |                   |          | Rod             | · Theo | r\/                      | Blue: Ev                    | nerimen   | .t          |             |

ILEU. INEURY



D:



# Quantum mechanics based, parameter free

**Close to experiment values:1-2%** 





| Dye        | Y1  | Y1b  | Y 1b2 |  |
|------------|-----|------|-------|--|
| Theory (%) | 3.6 | 11.6 | 21.9  |  |
| Expt. (%)  | 2.4 | ?    | ?     |  |



Jiao, Ma, Meng, Chem. Phys. Lett. (2013).







#### η 2.4% 6.1%

F. Zhang et al., JPCC (2013).F. Zhang et al., ACS Appl. Mater. Inter (2014).





Perovskite solar cell  $\eta = 20.1\%$ 

# Anomalous hysteresis





Snaith et al. JPCL (2014).

# **Band Structure**













#### DFT+U (U=4.2 eV)







|                          | 1 |   | N | • |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <sub>jn</sub> / <b>£</b> | 8 | 9 | 5 | B |
| e / p                    | 9 | 3 | б | 8 |

**j** 

KapKapKapKapKapKapKapKap



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## **Experiment: Photoluminescence Spectra**





# **MA** Orientation







# Molecular Dynamics Simulation at 350 K



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500 1000 1500 Time (fs)

# Injection and Recombination Dynamics



Dramatic difference in recombination rates

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  - NV center dynamics



#### **Collaborators:**

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