### Dye-Sensitized Solar cells: Basic Science and Commercialization

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CH3NH3PbI3





### Outline

### **Molecular engineering of:**

- Sensitizers
- **Redox Mediators**

### **Perovskite Sensitized Solar cells (PSC)**

- Hole Transporting Materials for DSC and PSCs
- First commercial applications of dye sensitized solar cells

### Principle of operation of dye sensitized solar cells



### Dye sensitized solar cell



Typical Dye (N3) J<sub>sc</sub> : 17.73 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> V<sub>oc</sub>: 0.846 V FF: 0.74 Eff: 11.2%



JACS, 127, 16835, 2005

## Dynamics of electron transfer reactions in sensitized mesoscopic solar cells





Photo-induced interfacial charge separation occurs within femtosecpnds





F. F. De Angelis, S. Fantacci, A. Selloni, M. Grätzel J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007



#### The DX1 dye harvests more near IR light in the 750 -900 nm region than the black dye





"Black dye" BD

#### DOI: 10.1038/NPHOTON.2013.136

Energy level diagram for a typical embodiment of dye sensitized solar cells



# Absorption spectra of Co<sup>2+</sup>/Co<sup>3+</sup> and iodide/iodine based electrolytes (diluted 200 times in acetonitrile)



With ruthenium dyes these cobalt complexes are only effective at low light intensities due to ion pair formation leading to charge recombination and diffusion limitation of the photocurrent !





JACS, 134, 19438, 2012. DOI: 10.1021/ja3079016.

Schematic representation of the higher recombination probability of N719 with respect to the Z907 dye with cobalt electrolyte.



#### Synthetic scheme leading to complexes 3a and 3b



(1) ANGEWANDTE CHEMIE-INTERNATIONAL EDITION, 2013, 52, 8731-8735. DOI: 10.1002/anie.201304608. (2) ChemSusChem (2014), 7(10), 2930-2938.

### $E_{\text{LUMO}} = -1.35$ , and $E_{\text{HOMO}} = 0.86$ V vs. NHE

418 (23400 M cm<sup>-1</sup>) and 580 nm (19600 M cm<sup>-1</sup>)







LiClO4 = 0.1M, tbp = 0.2M in ACN

[Co(II/III)(bpy)3](B(CN)4)2/3

ChemSusChem (2011), 4(5), 591-594.

### Co(III(bipy)<sub>3</sub>)/Co(II)(bipy)<sub>3</sub> with Y123 dye



V(oc)	J(sc)	FF	PCE
mV	mA/cm^2		%
889	16.4	0.69	10.02

#### ChemSusChem (2011), 4(5), 591-594.



#### **Electrochemical characterization of Co-complexes FK107**



#### Nature Communications (2012), 3(Jan.), 1655



5.6  $\mu$ m thin transparent nanoporous TiO<sub>2</sub> (anatase) film Y123 sensitizer

Nature Communications (2012), 3(Jan.), 1655



DSCs consisting of a 5.6  $\mu$ m thin transparent nanoporous TiO<sub>2</sub> (anatase) film, the Y123 sensitizer.

The  $I^{-}/I_{3}^{-}$  system resulted in 13.01 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>  $J_{sc}$ , 754 mV Voc, and 0.67

*FF*, yielding conversion efficiency of 6.57%.

The  $[Co(bpy-pz)_2]^{2+/3+}$  redox system gave  $J_{sc}$  12.54 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>,

 $V_{oc}$  1018 mV, *FF* of 0.69, yielding PCE ( $\eta$ ) 8.87%.

#### Pt free Counter Electrode: PEDOT, PProDOT



### Nature Communications (2012), 3, 1655



Photovoltaic characteristics of DSC based on  $[Co(bpy-pz)_2]^{2+/3+}$  system employing the double layered TiO<sub>2</sub> (5.6 + 5 µm) and Pt counter electrode (A), Employing the double layered TiO<sub>2</sub> (4.0 + 4.5 µm) and the PProDOT (B)

Pt counter electrode	PProDOT counter electrode
$J_{sc}$ (mA cm <sup>-1</sup> ) = 13.45	13.06
$V_{oc} ({\rm mV}) = 1015$	998
FF(%) = 69.7	77
$\eta$ (%) = 9.52	10.08

Nature Communications (2012), 3, 1655

### **Building-in More Color**





#### SCIENTIFIC REPORTS Volume: 3 Article Number: 2446 DOI: 10.1038/srep02446

Colour of DPP07, 13, 14, 15, and 17 (from left to right). (a) DPP dyes are dissolved in THF solution (0.025 mM) an are adsorbed on 3 mm thick TiO2 film. Chemistry of Materials (2013), 25(13), 2642-2648

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS | 3 : 2446 | DOI: 10.1038/srep02446, 2013



On 4+4 um double layer TiO<sub>2</sub> film and the use of the cobalt electrolyte



**Science** 2011, **334**, 629 – 634.

# Porphyrin-Sensitized Solar Cells with Cobalt (II/III)–Based Redox Electrolyte Exceed 12 Percent Efficiency

Aswani Yella,<sup>1</sup> Hsuan-Wei Lee,<sup>2</sup> Hoi Nok Tsao,<sup>1</sup> Chenyi Yi,<sup>1</sup> Aravind Kumar Chandiran,<sup>1</sup> Md.Khaja Nazeeruddin,<sup>1</sup> Eric Wei-Guang Diau,<sup>3</sup> Chen-Yu Yeh,<sup>2</sup> Shaik M Zakeeruddin,<sup>1</sup> Michael Grätzel<sup>1</sup>\*



#### Subtle changes in porphyrine structure produce large effect on PV performance

