

**MODELLING  
PHOTOINDUCED REDOX  
PROCESSES  
IN THE BULK AND AT THE SURFACE  
OF TiO<sub>2</sub>**

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Milano - Italy**

# TITANIUM DIOXIDE PHOTOINDUCED APPLICATIONS



• **TiO<sub>2</sub> coating:  
anti-fogging**



• **TiO<sub>2</sub> coating:  
self-cleaning  
glass and  
materials**



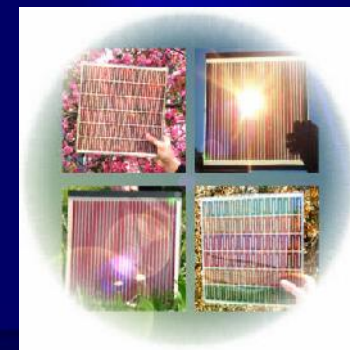
• **TiO<sub>2</sub> coating:  
anti-bacterial  
anti-viral  
fungicidal**



• **TiO<sub>2</sub> coating:  
deodorizing  
air-purification**

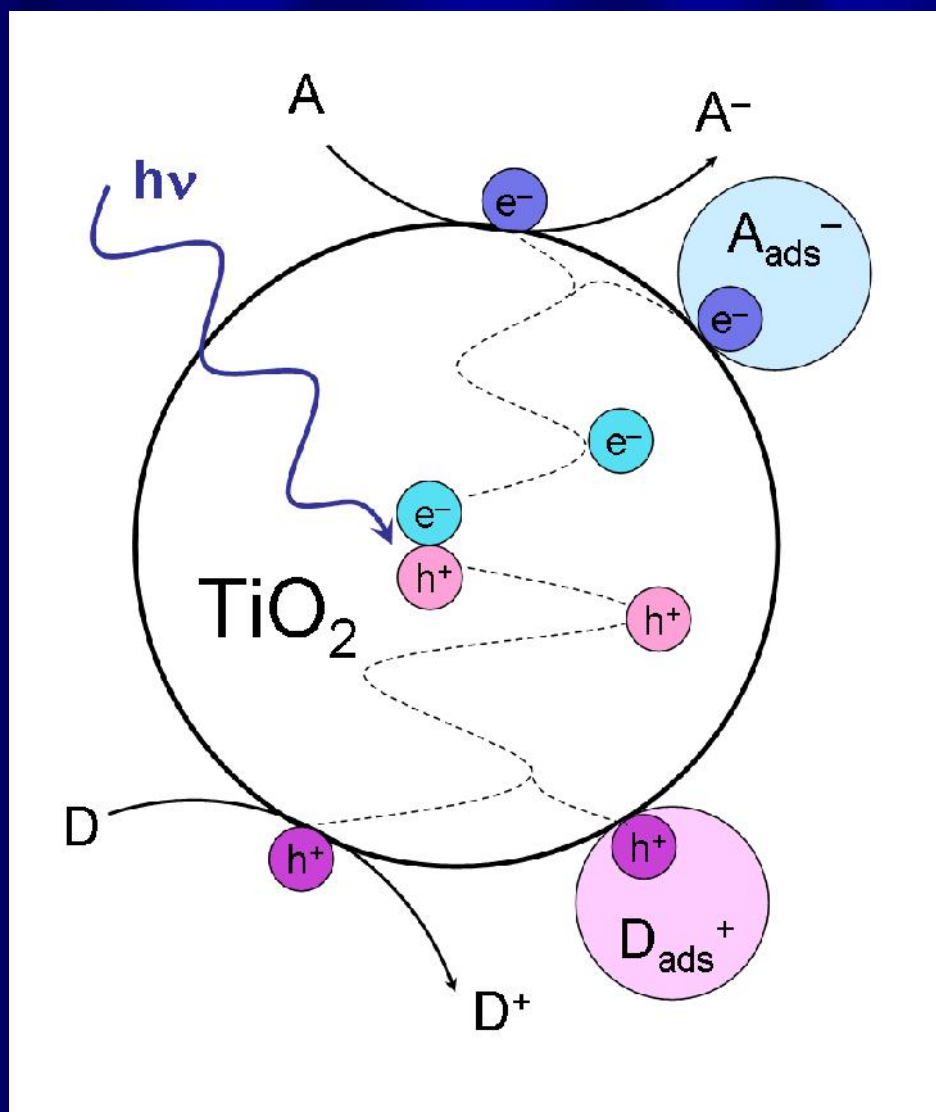


• **TiO<sub>2</sub> based  
photo  
electrochemical  
water splitting**



• **Grätzel  
cells**

# PHOTOINDUCED PROCESSES ON TITANIUM DIOXIDE



PEOPLE GENERICALLY TALK OF:  
RECOMBINATION  
OR  
CHARGE TRAPPING

BUT WHAT ARE THEY?  
STILL MANY OPEN QUESTIONS:

## FOCUS OF OUR WORK

- PHOTOINDUCED EXCITONS
- CHARGE SEPARATION
- ELECTRON-HOLE PAIR
- SELF-TRAPPING
- CHARGE MIGRATION
- ROLE OF INTRINSIC OR EXTRINSIC DEFECTS
- CHARGE TRAPPING AT SURFACE
- SCAVENGERS
- REDOX PROCESSES

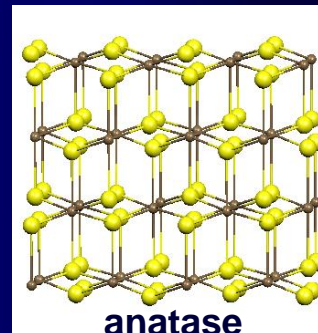
## OUTLINE

- **computational info**
- **photoexcited TiO<sub>2</sub>:**
  - bulk excitons**
  - electron and hole polarons in bulk**
  - electron and hole polarons on clean or OH surface**
- **photoreduction and photooxidation at TiO<sub>2</sub> surface**
  - molecular oxygen as an electron scavenger**
  - organic molecules as hole scavengers**
    - (formic acid, methanol, iso-propanol, tert-butanol, glycerol and catechol)**
- **anatase vs rutile**
- **conclusions**

## COMPUTATIONAL APPROACH

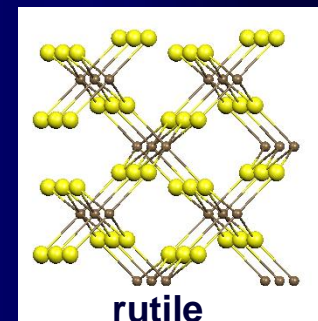
### CRYSTAL09 (hybrid DFT)

atomic gaussian basis set and PBC (3D and 2D)  
Hybrid DFT functionals – spin polarized calculation  
hyperfine coupling constants (EPR)



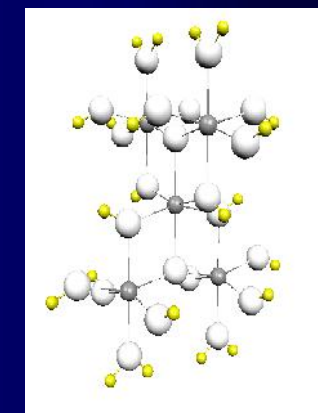
### QUANTUM EXPRESSO (standard DFT and DFT+U)

PWSCF: plane-wave-pseudopotential and PBC (3D)  
PBE functional – spin polarized calculations  
CAR-PARRINELLO molecular dynamics simulations



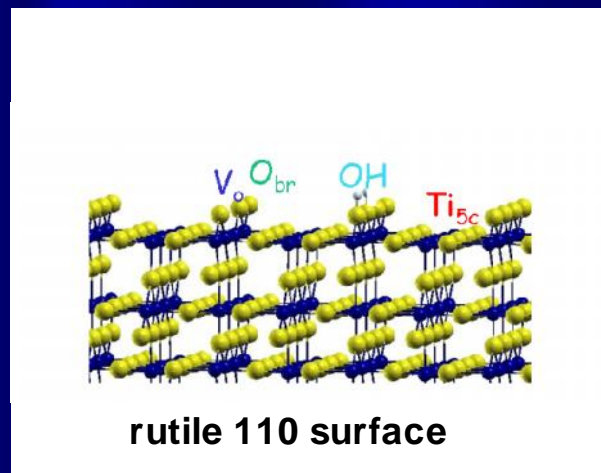
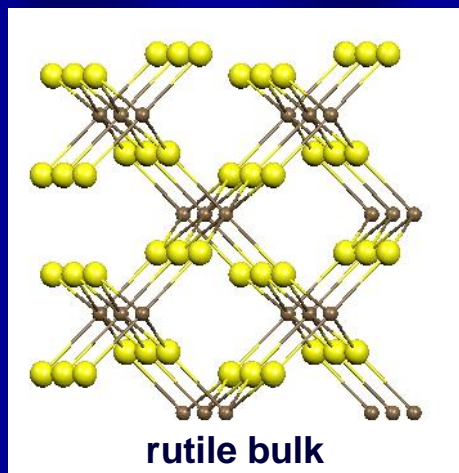
### GAUSSIAN09 (hybrid DFT)

atomic gaussian basis set and embedded cluster approach  
Hybrid DFT functionals – spin polarized calculation  
hyperfine coupling constants and g-tensors (EPR)  
TD time dependent calculations

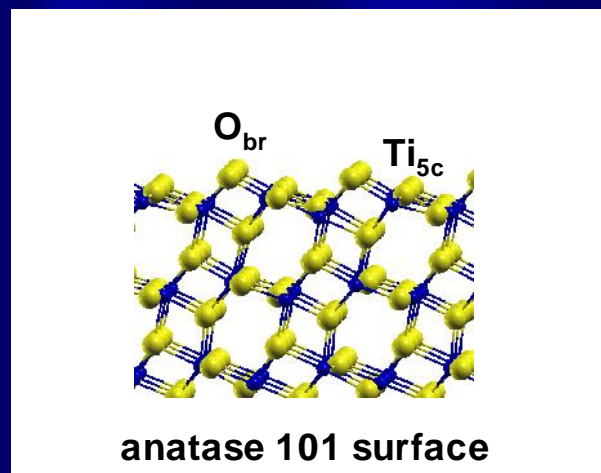
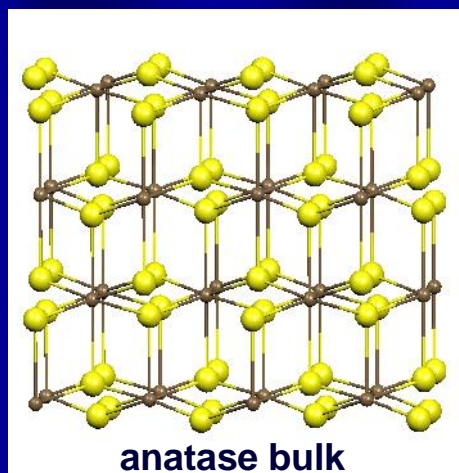


# TiO<sub>2</sub> MODELS

RUTILE



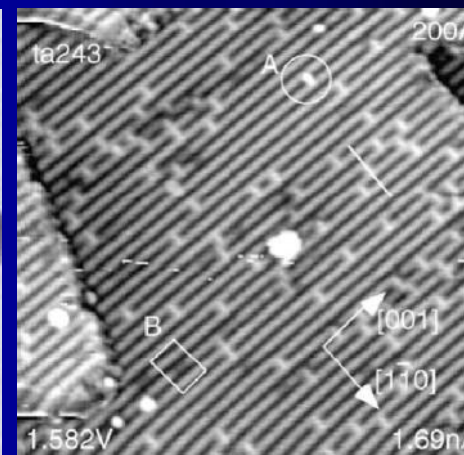
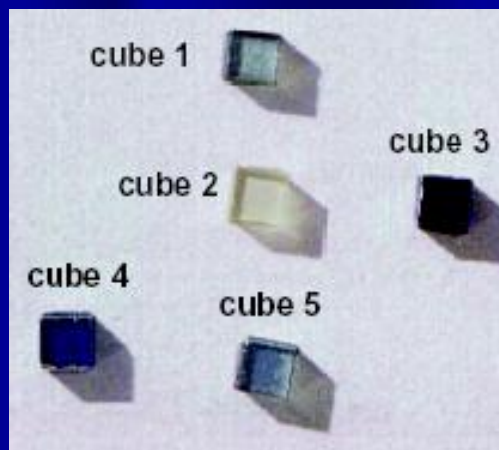
ANATASE



# TiO<sub>2</sub>: VERY IMPORTANT ROLE OF DEFECTS

COLOR CHANGE IN TiO<sub>2</sub> SAMPLES INDUCED BY INCREASING OXYGEN SUB-STOICHIOMETRY

DEFECTS CHANGE ELECTRONIC AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF THE MATERIAL



U. Diebold, Surf. Sci. Reports, 2003, 48, 53



O VACANCIES

V. Ganduglia-Pirovano et al.  
Surf. Sci. Rep. 62, 219 (2007)



Ti INTERSTITIALS

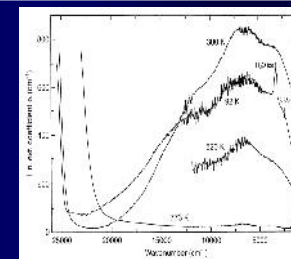
M. A. Henderson Surf. Sci. 419, 174 (1999)  
S. Wendt et al. Science 320, 1755 (2008)

IN REDUCED TITANIA Ti ATOMS ALWAYS EXCEED  
O ATOMS RESULTING IN THE FORMATION OF  
**Ti<sup>3+</sup> SPECIES**

# REDUCED TITANIA: $Ti^{3+}$ SPECIES

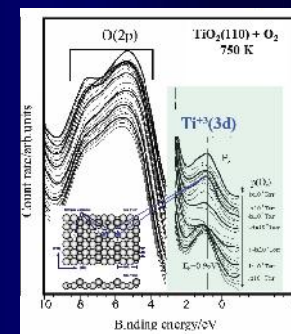
## UV-vis

(1) absorption bands in the visible region responsible for the change in color (assigned to d-d transitions)



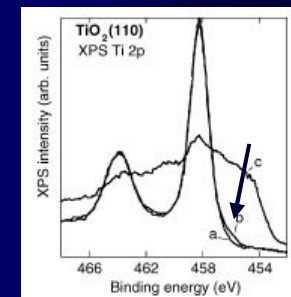
## UPS/EELS

(2) occurrence of a new state in the gap at about 0.8-0.9 eV below the conduction band attributed to the reduced  $Ti^{3+}$  ions



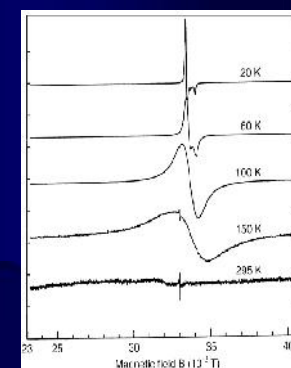
## XPS

(3) shift in the core level binding energies of the reduced Ti atoms from X-ray photoemission



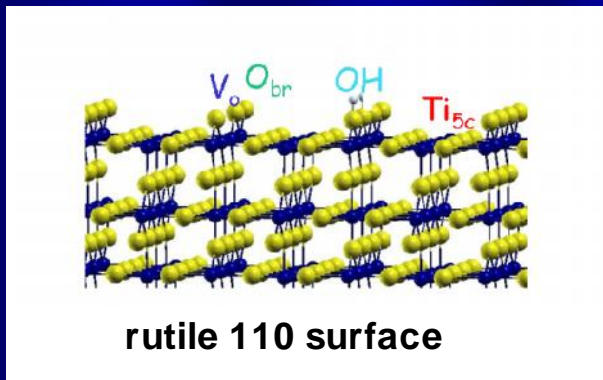
## EPR

(4) presence of more than one EPR signal associated to various kinds of paramagnetic  $Ti^{3+}$  ions in the lattice

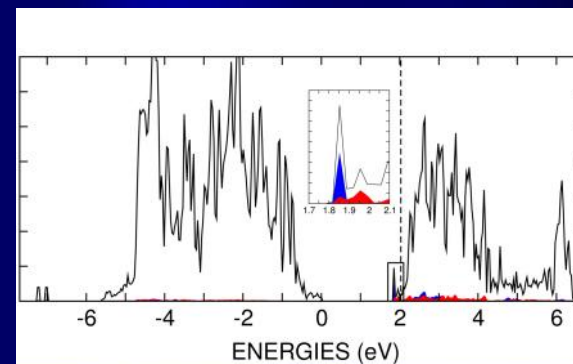




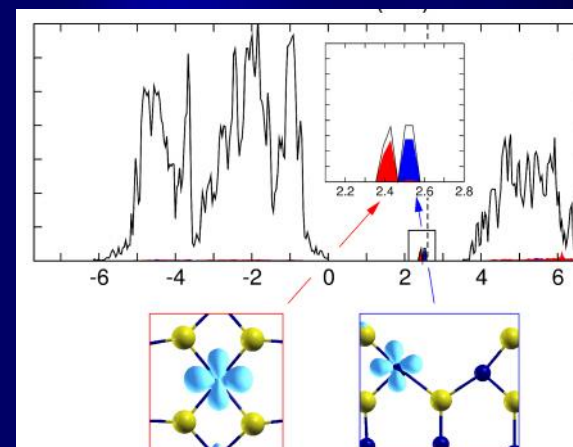
### RUTILE (110) SURFACE



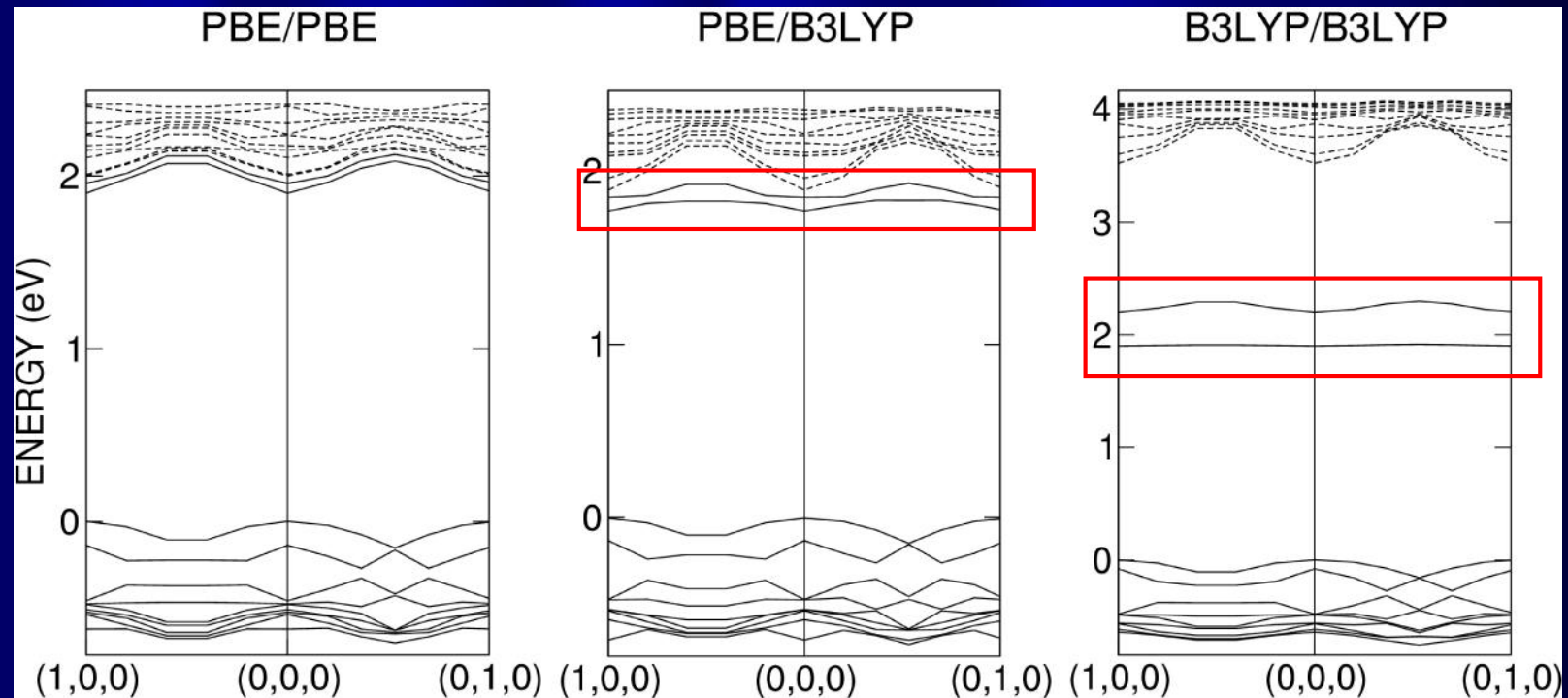
CDV, Pacchioni, Selloni PRL 97 (2006) 166803



- pure DFT functionals (PBE): band gap underestimated
- O vacancy induced states are at the bottom of conduction band (not 0.8 eV below as in exp.)
- states delocalized, not localized as shown by EPR ( $\text{Ti}^{3+}$ )



## OXYGEN DEFICIENT RUTILE (110) SURFACE



**PBE ON DISTORTED B3LYP GEOMETRY LEADS TO LOCALIZATION!**

# SELF-INTERACTION CORRECTION

## PRAGMATIC WAYS TO IMPROVE THE MODEL

### Hybrid functionals

Use of hybrid functionals where HF-like exchange is mixed in with the DFT exchange:  
B3LYP (20%), H&H LYP (50%)

$$E_{xc}^{\text{B3LYP}} = a E_x^{\text{LSDA}} + (1-a) E_x^{\text{HF}} + b E_x^{\text{Becke}} + (1-c) E_c^{\text{LSDA}} + c E_c^{\text{LYP}}$$

Becke J. Chem. Phys. 98, 5648 (1993)

### DFT+U methods

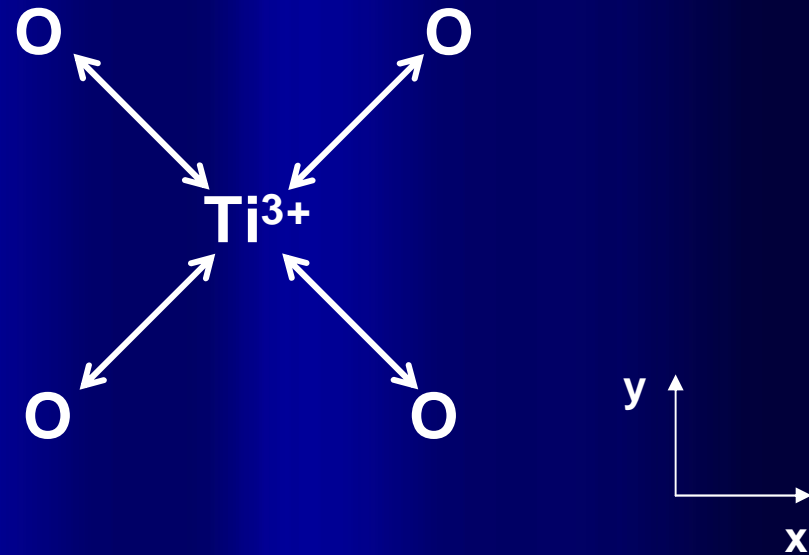
Systems where atomic-like features are persistent in the solid:  
explicit description of on-site Coulomb interaction  
for a few selected localized orbitals

Add a Hubbard-like  $E_{\text{Hub}}$  term to the standard functional:

$$E_{\text{LDA+U}}[n(r)] = E_{\text{LDA}}[n(r)] + E_{\text{HUB}}[\{n_m^{l\sigma}\}] - E_{\text{DC}}[\{n_m^{l\sigma}\}]$$

Anisimov et al., Phys. Rev. B 44, 943 (1991)

**POLARONIC NATURE:**  
distortion around the  
defect  $Ti^{3+}$



**ELONGATION OF EQUATORIAL Ti-O BONDS  
OF ABOUT 0.1 - 0.15 Å**

**HYBRID FUNCTIONALS and DFT+U VS STANDARDS GGA METHODS**

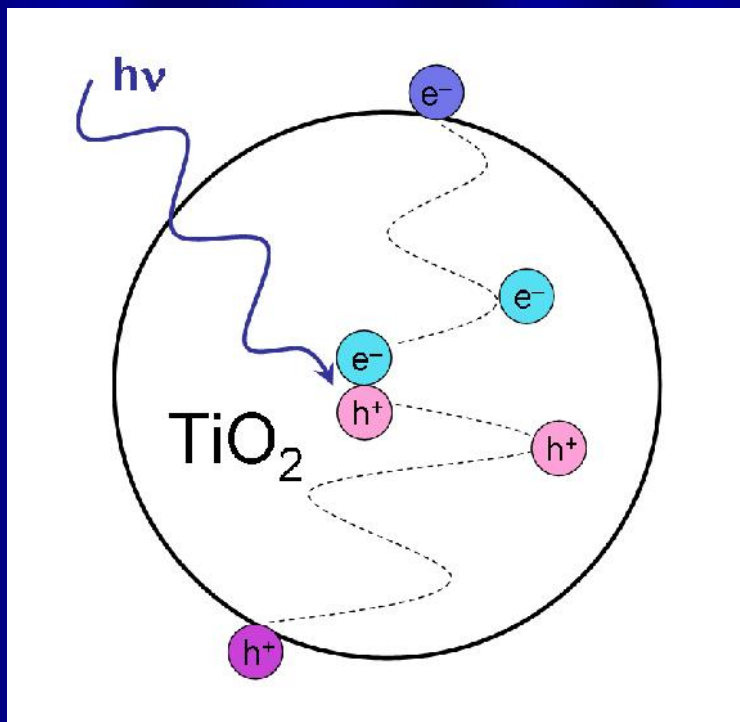
**Di Valentin C., Pacchioni G., Selloni A. PRL 97 (2006) 166803**

**Morgan B. J., Watson G. W. Surf. Sci. 601 (2007) 5034**

**Calzado C. J., Hernandez N. C., Sanz J. F. PRB 77 (2008) 045118**

**Mattioli G., Filippone F., Alippi P., Amore Bonapasta A. PRB 78 (2008) 241201**

## PHOTOEXCITED ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub>



### PHOTOGENERATED CHARGES ARE PROBED BY:

- IR
- EPR
- PHOTOLUMINESCENCE
- O<sub>2</sub> PHOTODESORPTION

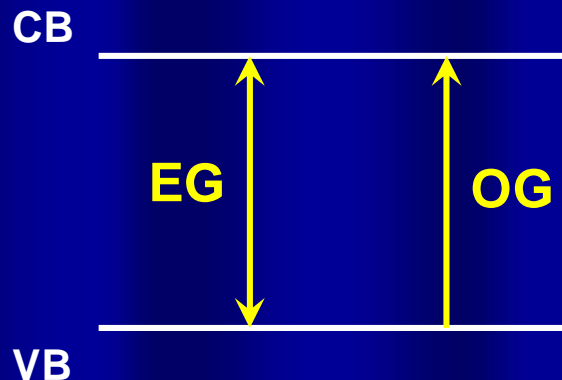
- PHOTOEXCITATION
- BULK EXCITONS
- CHARGE CARRIERS SEPARATION
- ELECTRON AND HOLE POLARONS TRAPPING IN BULK
- MIGRATION TO THE SURFACE
- TRAPPING AT CLEAN AND OH SURFACE

# PHOTOEXCITED ANATASE $\text{TiO}_2$

## ELECTRONIC GAP

PHOTOEMISSION  
EXPERIMENTS

DFT or  
MANY BODY  
CALCULATIONS



## OPTICAL GAP

LIGHT ABSORPTION  
EXPERIMENTS

TD-DFT or BSE  
CALCULATIONS  
INCLUDING EXCITONIC EFFECTS

**BUT:**

ELECTRON-PHONON COUPLING  
and  
SELF\_TRAPPING ENERGY  
(REORGANIZATION ENERGY -  
LOCAL RELAXATION EFFECTS)

**NOT EASELY INCLUDED!**

# PHOTOEXCITED ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub>: EXCITONS FORMATION

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 11

15 SEPTEMBER 1995-I

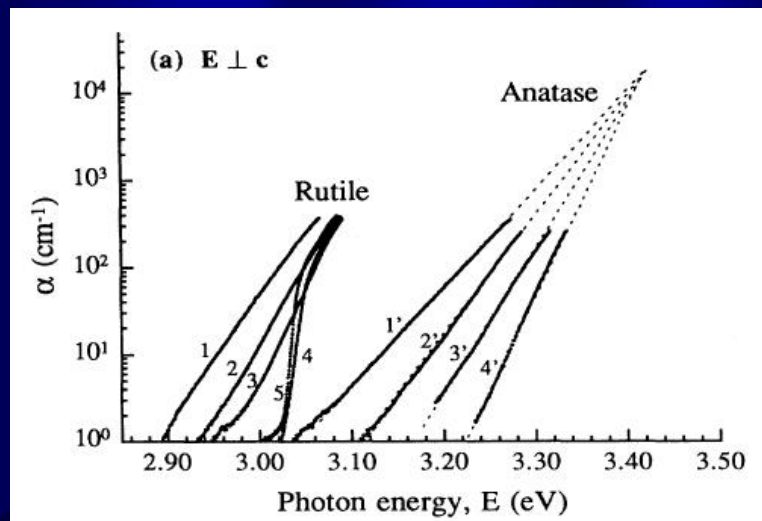
## Urbach tail of anatase TiO<sub>2</sub>

H. Tang, F. Lévy, H. Berger, and P. E. Schmid

*Institut de Physique Appliquée, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland*

(Received 17 January 1995; revised manuscript received 7 April 1995)

The fundamental absorption edge of the anatase phase of TiO<sub>2</sub> has been studied by performing polarized optical transmission measurements on single crystals at temperatures ranging from 4.2 to 300 K. An Urbach tail has been found that shows an exponential spectral dependence down to liquid-helium temperature. The optical gap of anatase has been estimated to be 3.420 eV in polarization E⊥c, and 3.460 eV in polarization E∥c. Our experimental results can be accounted for in terms of the theory of Toyozawa and co-workers, which ascribes the Urbach tail to the momentary localization of excitons due to phonon interaction. Comparing, in this case, the measured absorption spectra of anatase and rutile, we conclude that the excitons in anatase are self-trapped while those in rutile are free. This opposite nature of exciton states in anatase and rutile is consistent with the results of previous photoluminescence studies.



**URBACH TAIL DEPENDENCE WITH T INDICATES A SELF-TRAPPED EXCITON FOR ANATASE NOT FOR RUTILE**



# PHOTOEXCITED ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub>: EXCITONS FORMATION



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Journal of Luminescence 112 (2005) 88–91

JOURNAL OF  
LUMINESCENCE

[www.elsevier.com/locate/jlumin](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jlumin)

## Time-resolved study of self-trapped exciton luminescence in anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> under two-photon excitation

M. Watanabe\*, T. Hayashi

*Department of Interdisciplinary Environment, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan*

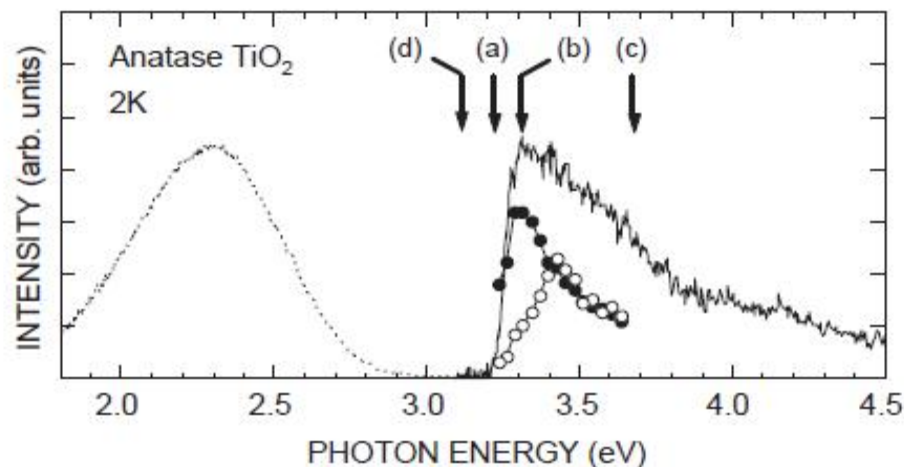


Fig. 1. Luminescence (dotted line) and excitation (solid line) spectra of anatase TiO<sub>2</sub>.

**LUMINESCENCE BAND  
ASSIGNED  
TO RADIATIVE  
RECOMBINATION  
OF SELF-TRAPPED EXCITONS  
(STES).**

**GROUND STATE: SINGLET GROUND STATE**

**EXCITED STATE: TRIPLET GROUND STATE**

THESE ARE CORRECTLY DESCRIBED BY DFT  
WHICH IS A GROUND STATE THEORY

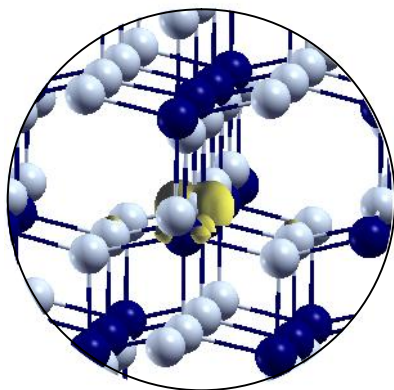
SINGLE POINT CALCULATION



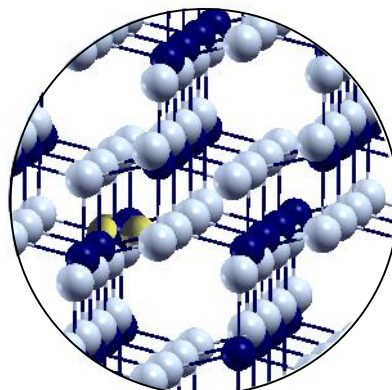
STRUCTURAL RELAXATION: SELF TRAPPING { POLARONIC DISTORTION  
SELF TRAPPING ENERGY

# EXCITONS AND POLARONS IN BULK ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub>

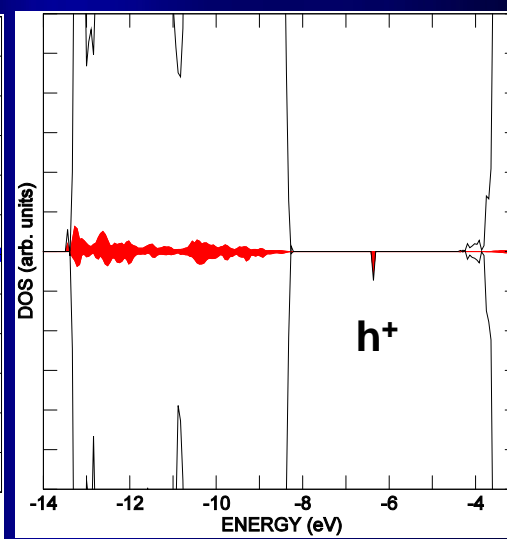
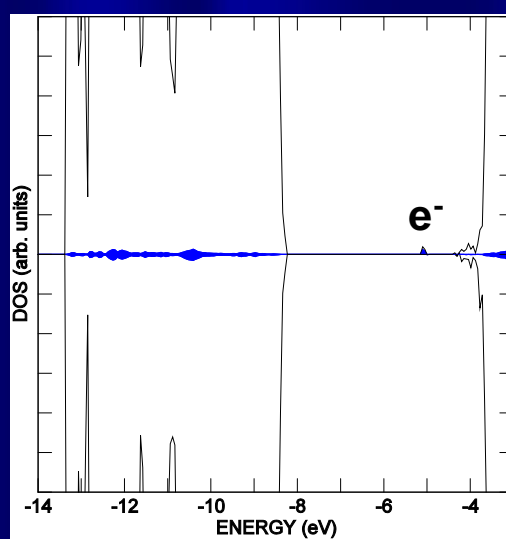
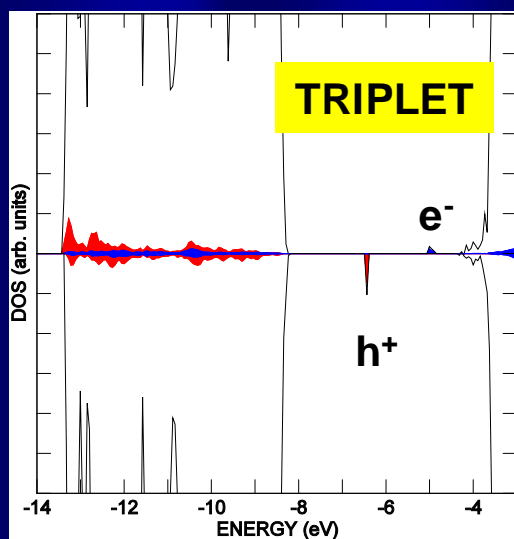
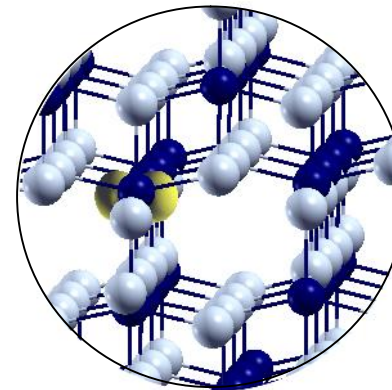
$e^- \text{---} h^+$  pair  
 $Ti_{6c}^{3+} \text{---} O_{3c}^-$



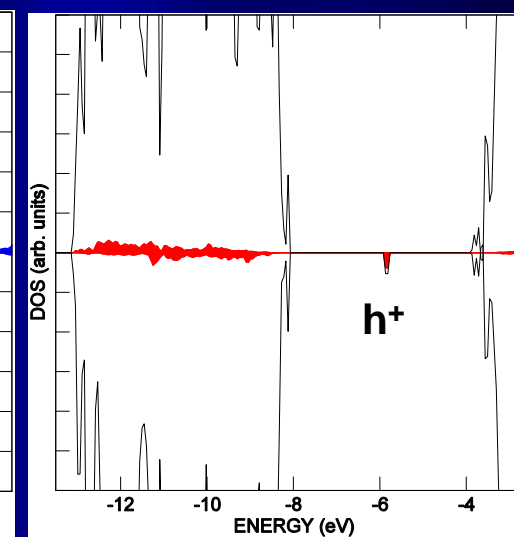
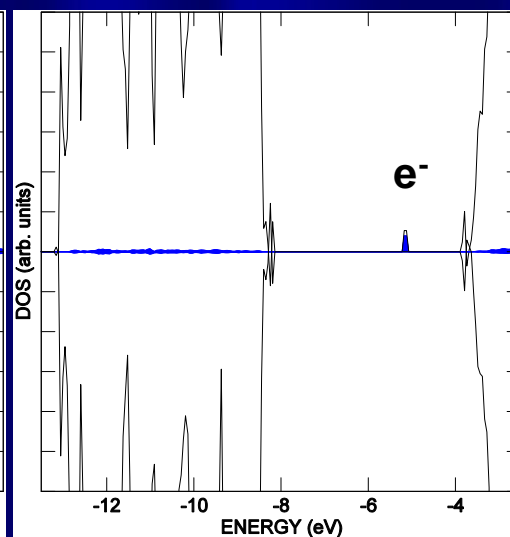
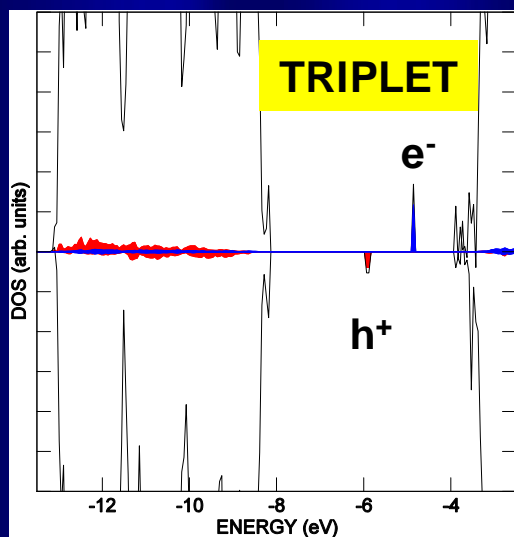
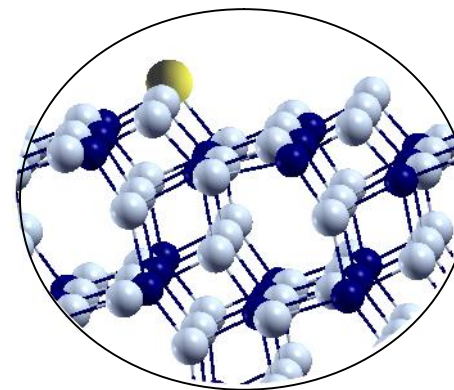
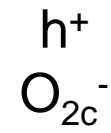
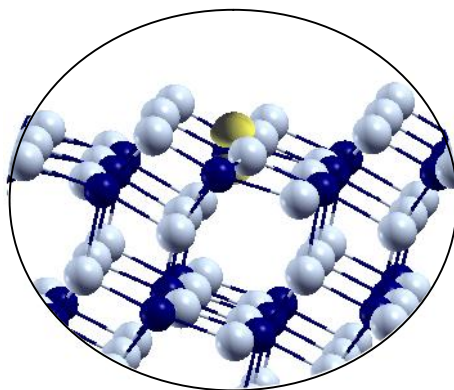
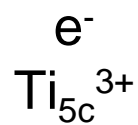
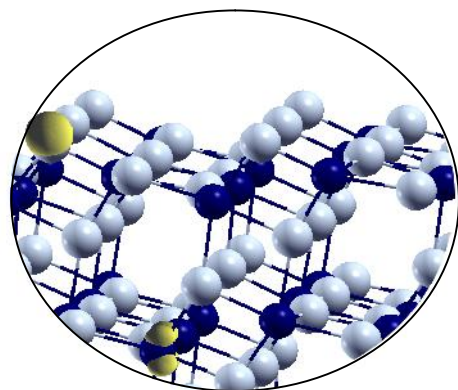
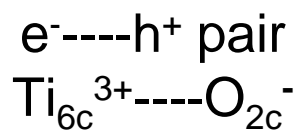
$e^-$   
 $Ti_{6c}^{3+}$



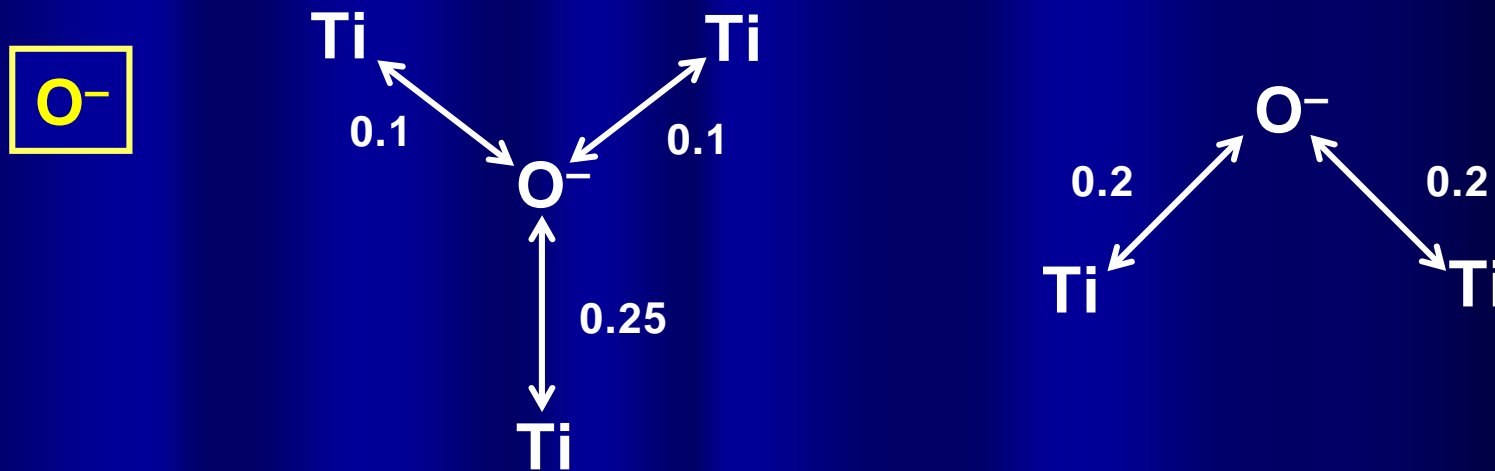
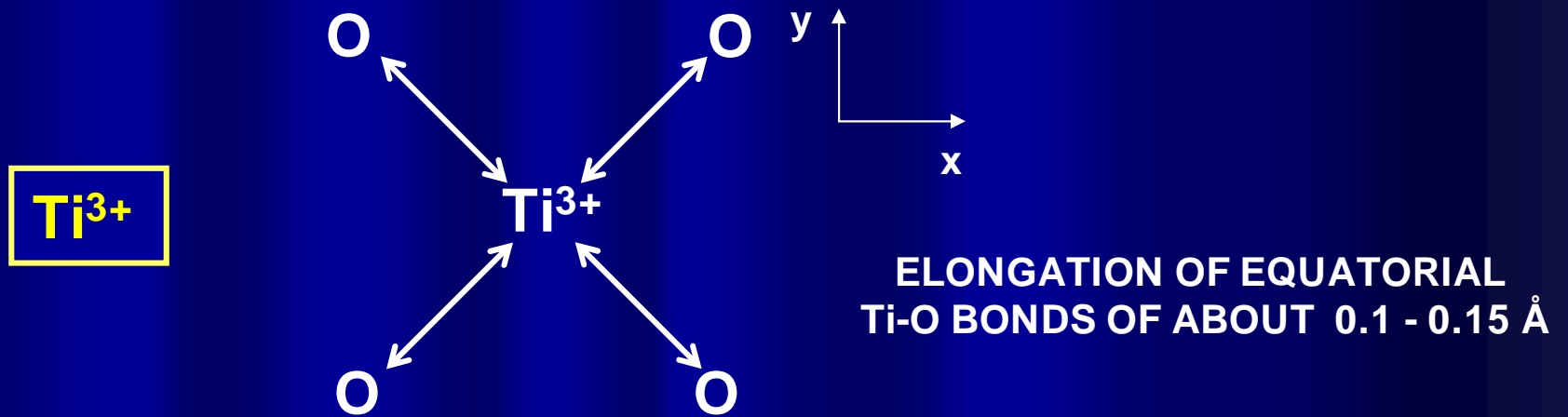
$h^+$   
 $O_{3c}^-$



# EXCITONS AND POLARONS ON ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub> (101) SURFACE

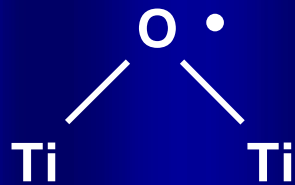


# POLARONIC DISTORSION

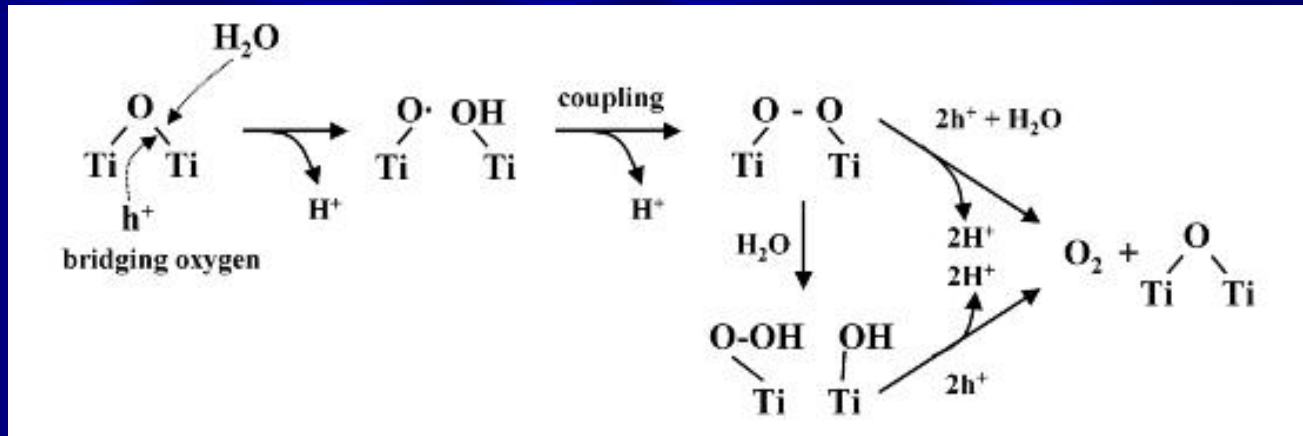
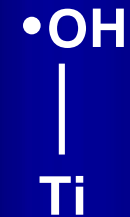


# HOLE TRAPPING: DIRECT OR INDIRECT MECHANISM?

DIRECT



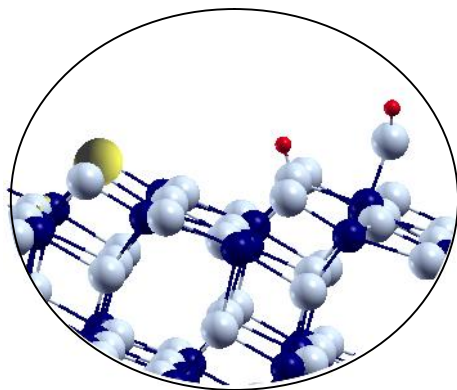
INDIRECT



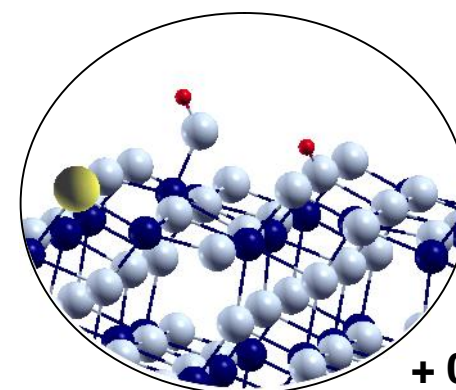
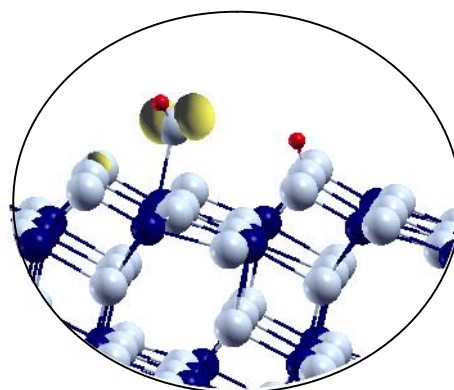
R. Nakamura, Y. Nakato JACS 2004 126 1290

# HOLE POLARONS ON ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub> (101) OH SURFACE

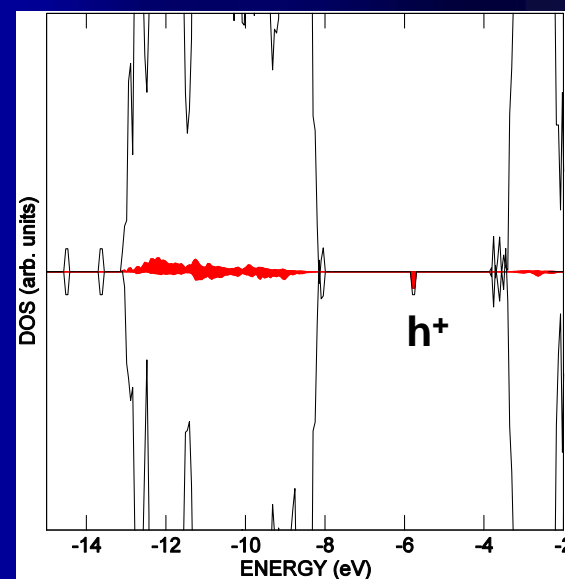
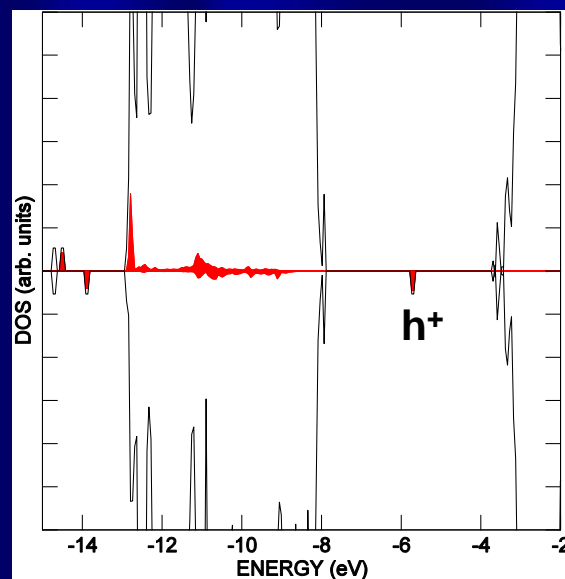
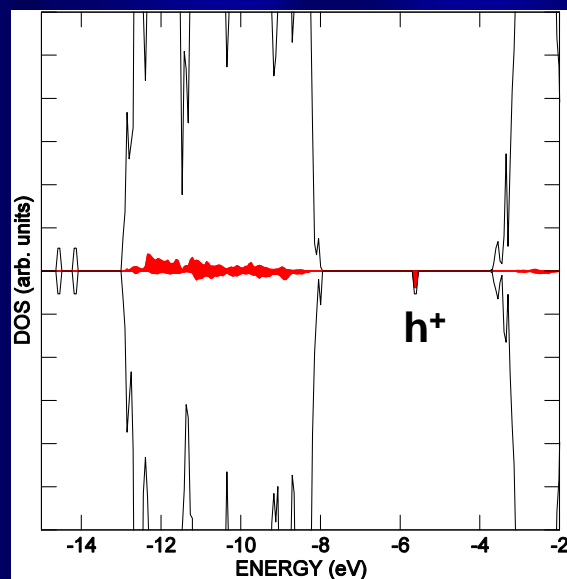
$h^+$   
INTRAPAIR OHs



$h^+$   
SPLITPAIR OHs

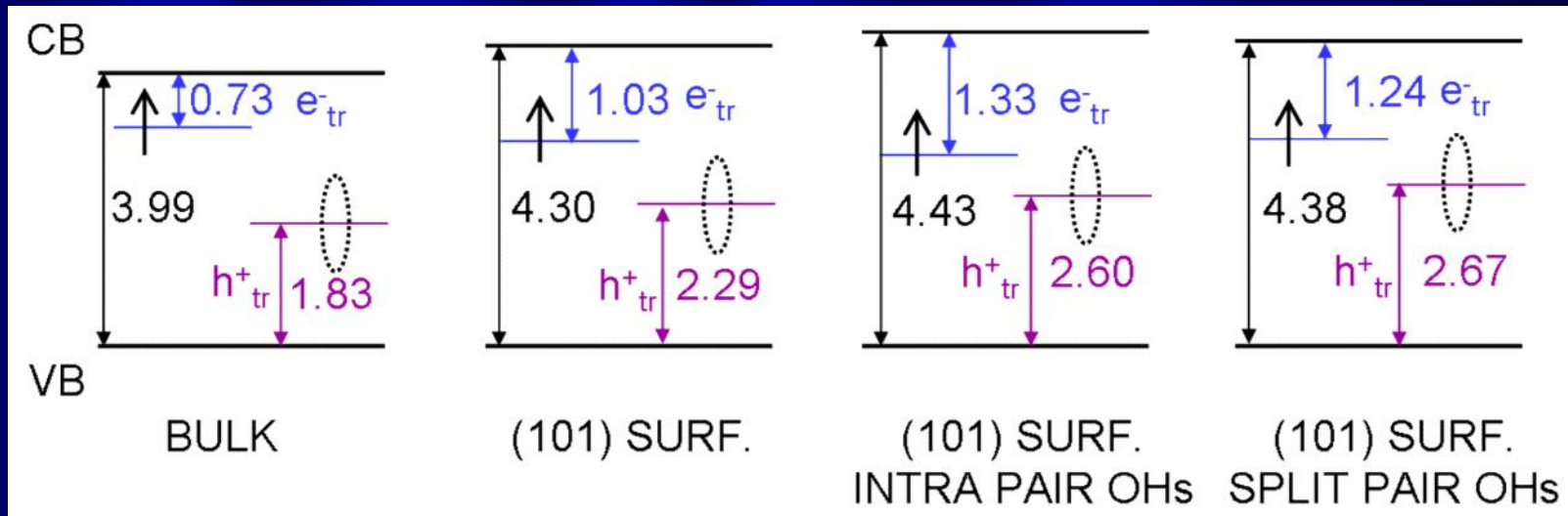


+ 0.2 eV



# EXCITONS AND POLARONS IN ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub>

## ONE-ELECTRON KOHN-SHAM EIGENSTATES



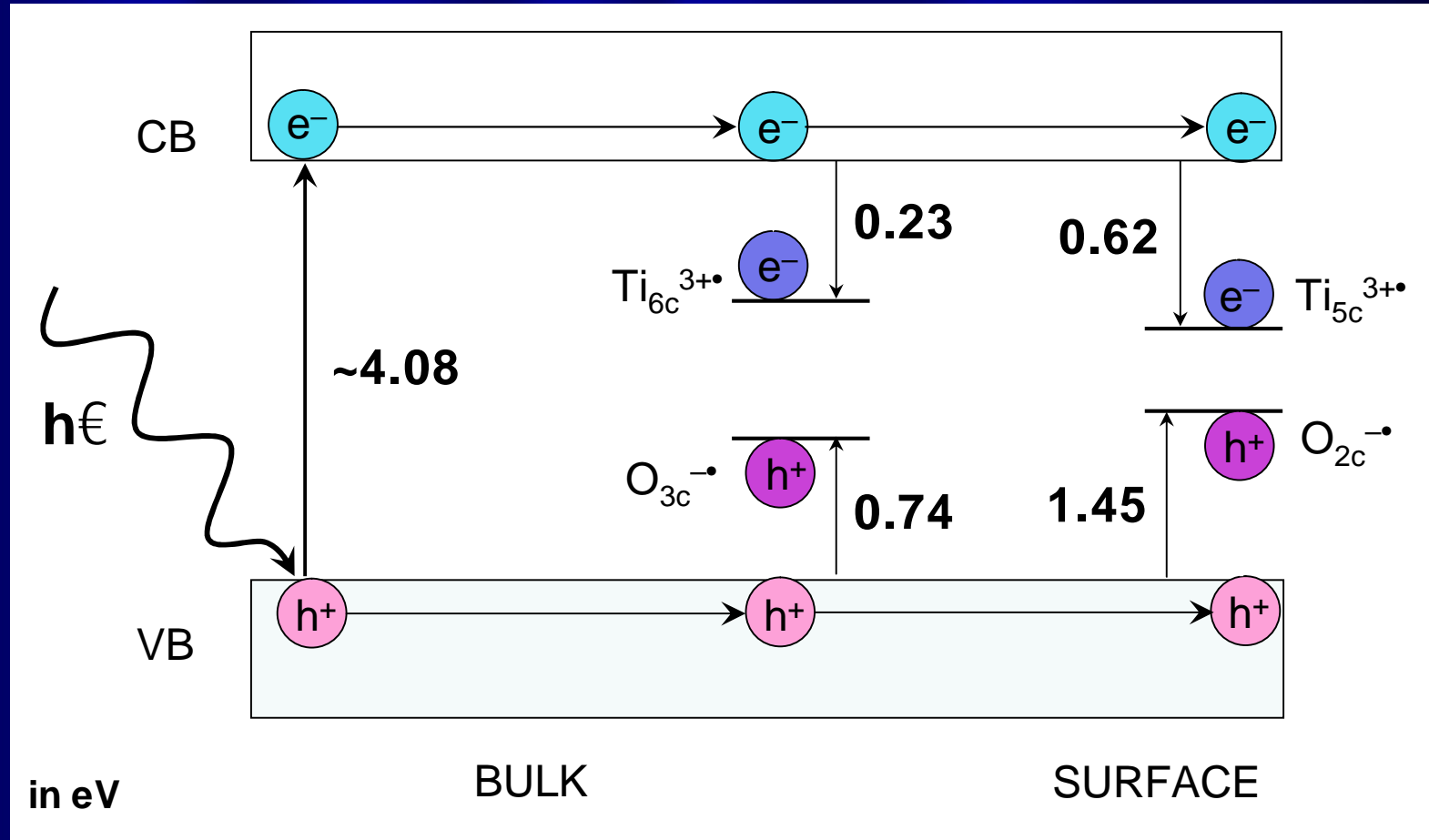
### TRIPLET STATES

Electron associated (Ti<sup>3+</sup>) state similar to ground state (n-type TiO<sub>2</sub>) Ti<sup>3+</sup> species  
Hole associated (O<sup>-</sup>) state much lower than for ground state (p-type TiO<sub>2</sub>) N species: 2.7 eV!  
in line with lower photooxidation properties of N-doped TiO<sub>2</sub>



# EXCITONS AND POLARONS IN ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub>

## TOTAL ENERGY DIFFERENCES



DRIVING FORCE TO TRAVEL FROM BULK TO SURFACE

EXP. HOLE OXIDATION POTENTIALS ARE REDUCED OF 1.3-1.4 V UPON TRAPPING

# TRAPPED ELECTRONS IN TiO<sub>2</sub>

SCIENTIFIC  
REPORTS

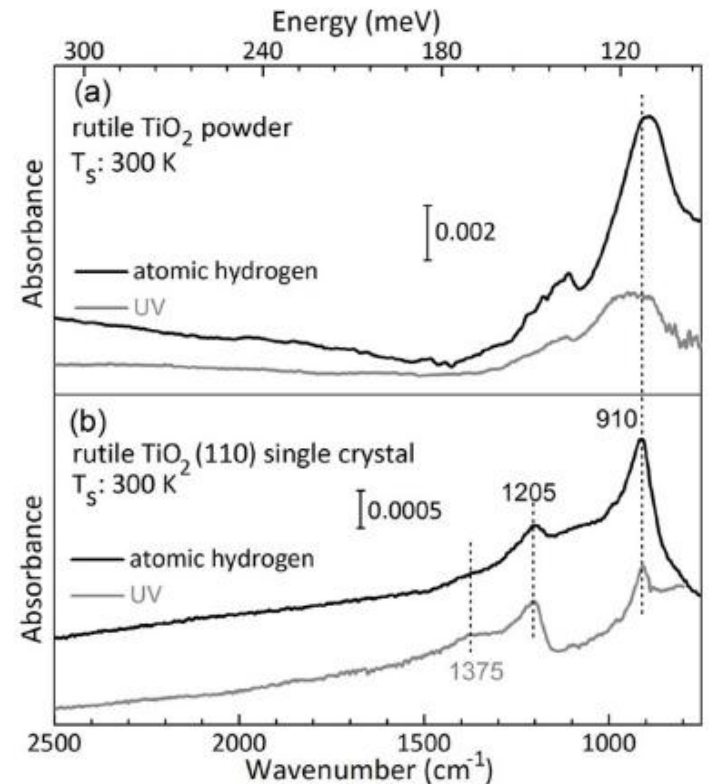
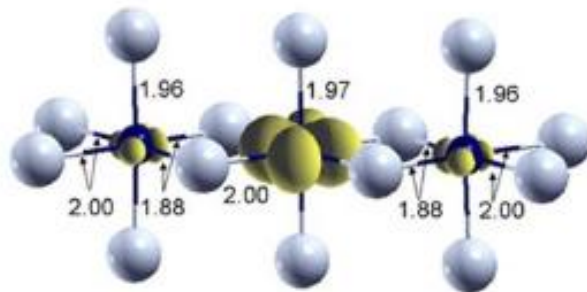
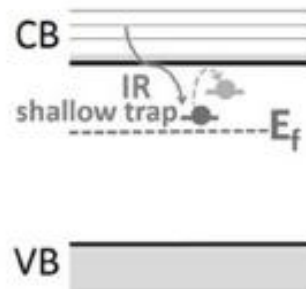
OPEN

Probing electrons in TiO<sub>2</sub> polaronic trap states by IR-absorption: Evidence for the existence of hydrogenic states

SUBJECT AREAS:  
PHOTOCATALYSIS  
ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE

Received  
4 November 2013

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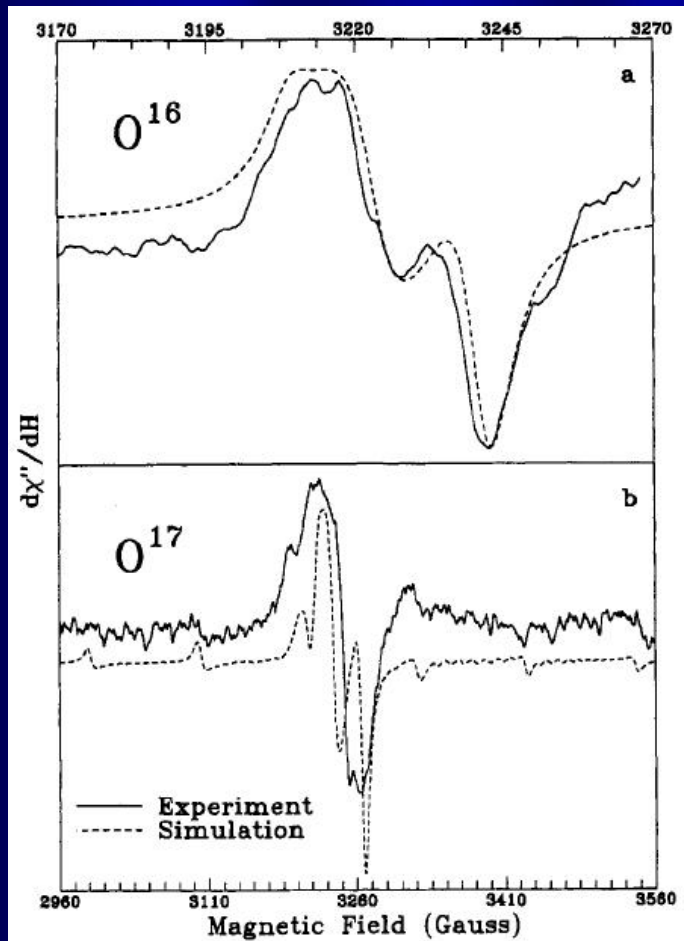


$$E_{\text{STe}} = 380 \text{ meV}$$

Total energy difference between  
free CB e<sup>-</sup> and self-trapped e<sup>-</sup>

# TRAPPED HOLES IN ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub>

## EPR MEASUREMENTS: <sup>17</sup>O HYPERFINE COUPLING CONSTANTS



**TABLE II: EPR Parameters of Trapped O<sup>•-</sup> in Various Systems**

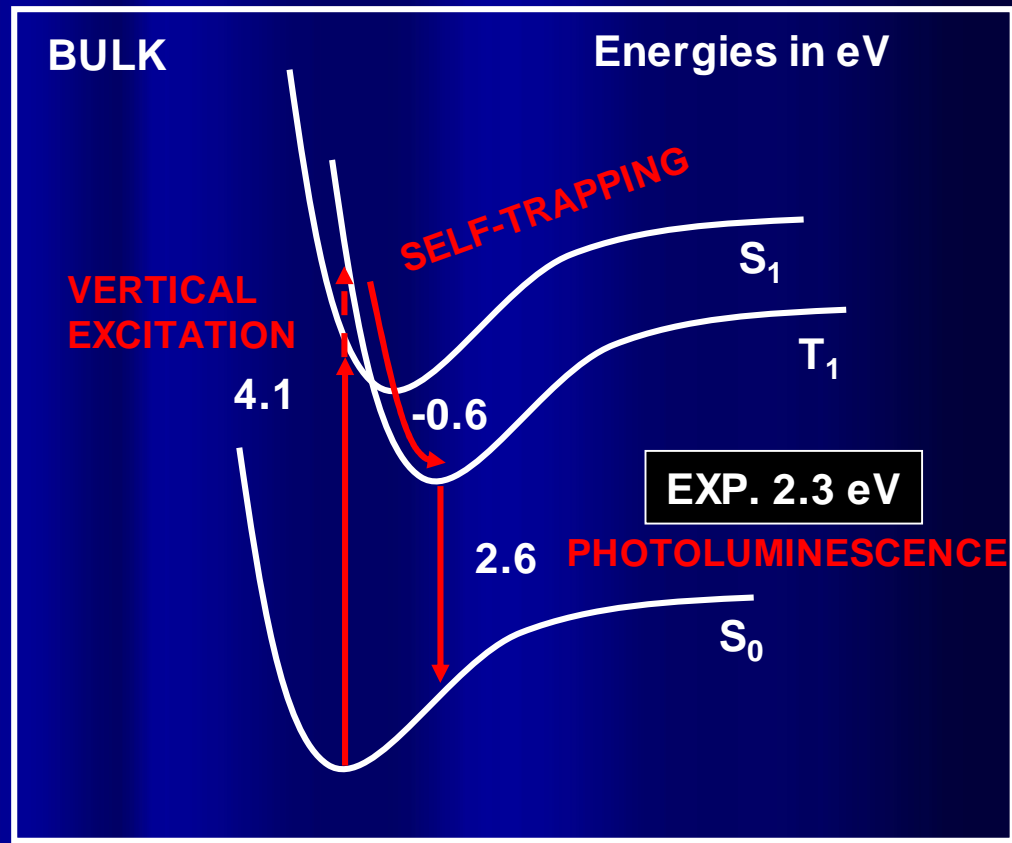
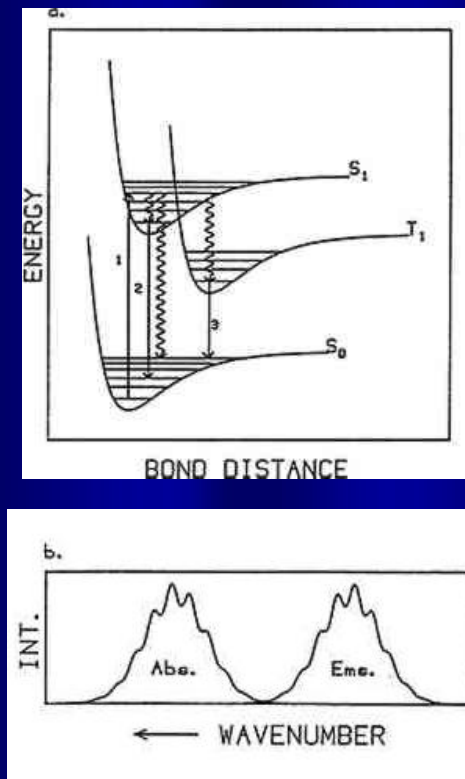
system (T, K)	g-tensor <sup>a</sup>			<sup>17</sup> O hyperfine coupling <sup>b</sup>		
	g <sub>z</sub>	g <sub>y</sub>	g <sub>x</sub>	A <sub>x</sub>	A <sub>y</sub>	A <sub>z</sub>
TiO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> O colloids (8) <sup>c</sup>	2.0073	2.0188	2.0273			
TiO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> O with <sup>17</sup> O <sup>c</sup>	2.0073	2.0188	2.0273	104	19	19
NaOH/H <sub>2</sub> O (77) <sup>d</sup>	2.002	2.07	2.07	99		
MgO (77) <sup>e</sup>	2.002	2.042	2.042	103.5	19.5	19.5
BeO (1.5) <sup>f</sup>	2.0026	2.0149	2.0149			
ZnO (77) <sup>g</sup>	2.0026	2.021	2.021			

Micic et al. JPC 97 (1993) 7277

O <sub>2c</sub> <sup>-</sup>	a <sub>iso</sub>	B <sub>x</sub>	B <sub>y</sub>	B <sub>z</sub>
EXP.	-22	41	41	-82
B3LYP	-37	45	45	-90

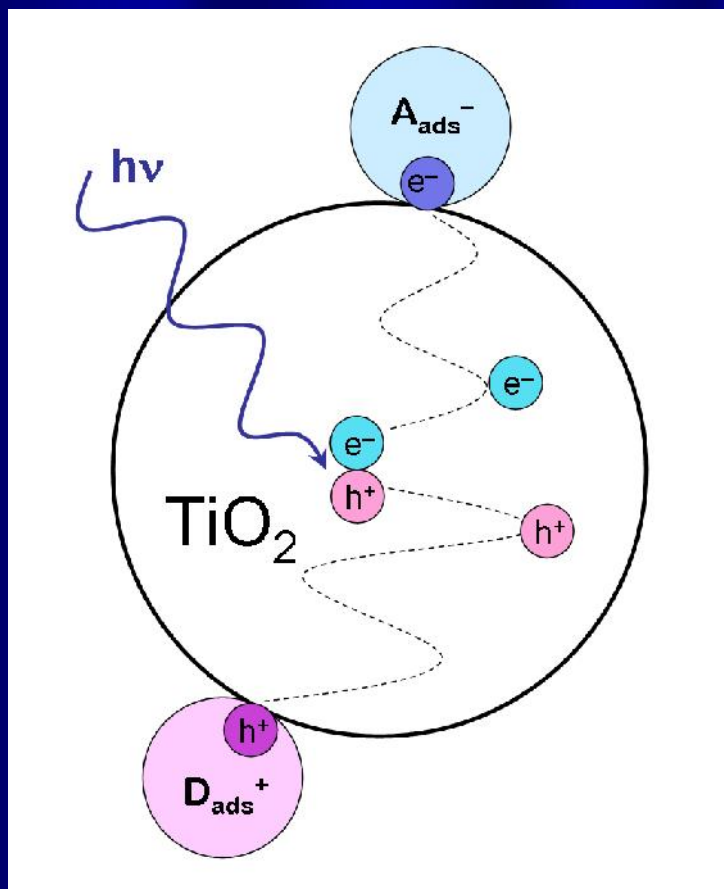
**DEGREE OF LOCALIZATION BY B3LYP IN EXCELLENT AGREEMENT WITH EPR DATA**

# SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF BULK ANATASE TiO<sub>2</sub> SPECTROSCOPY



Ongoing collaboration with Claudia Draxl (Berlin) for comparison with BSE calculations including excitonic effects but no ionic relaxation

# PHOTOREDUCTION AND PHOTOOXIDATION AT TiO<sub>2</sub> SURFACE



## ELECTRON SCAVENGER

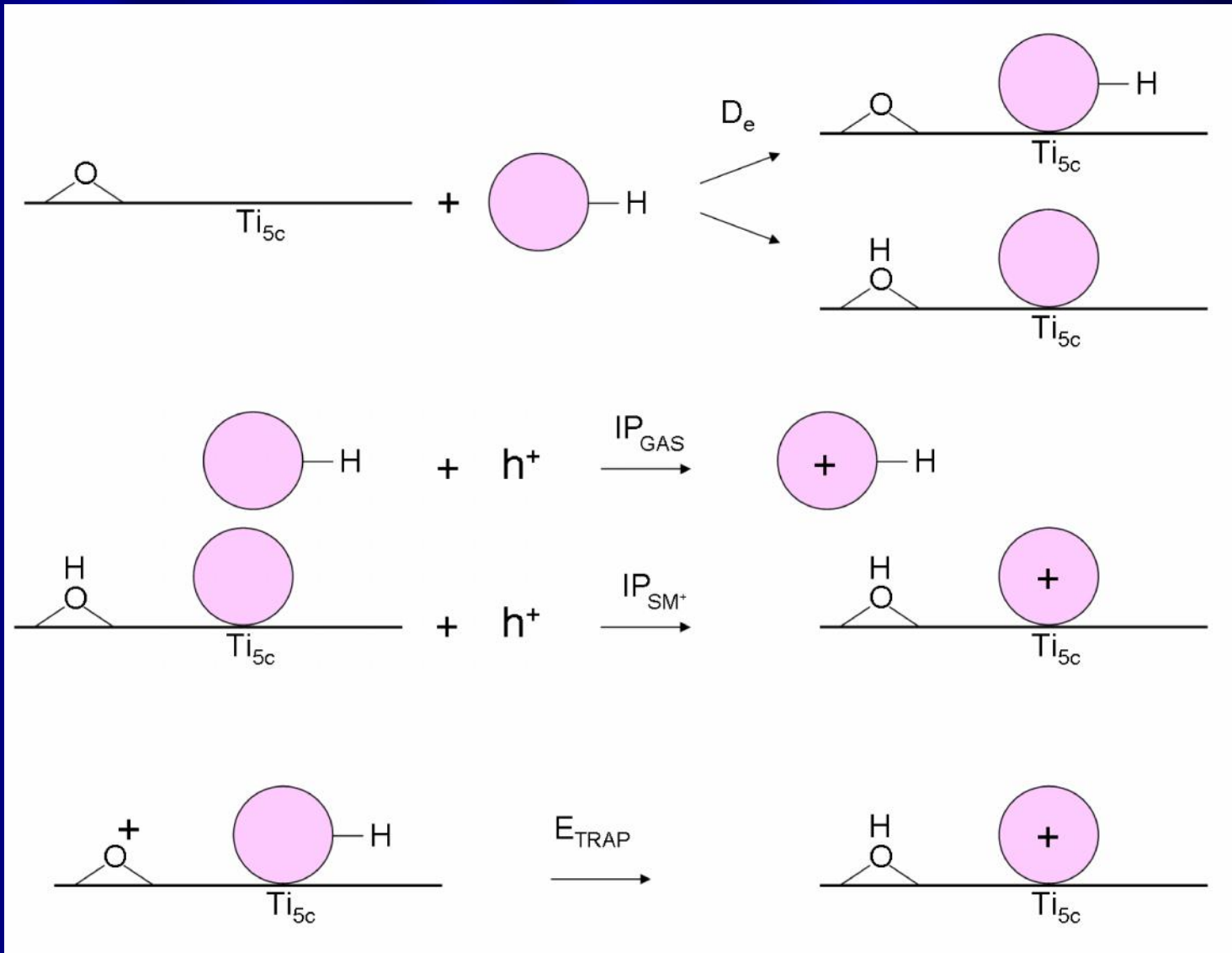


## HOLE SCAVENGERS

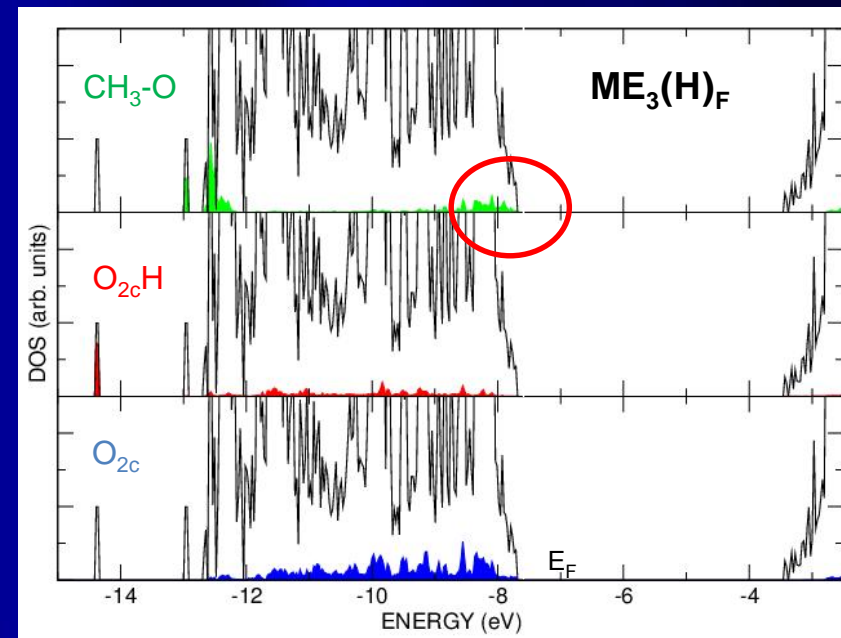
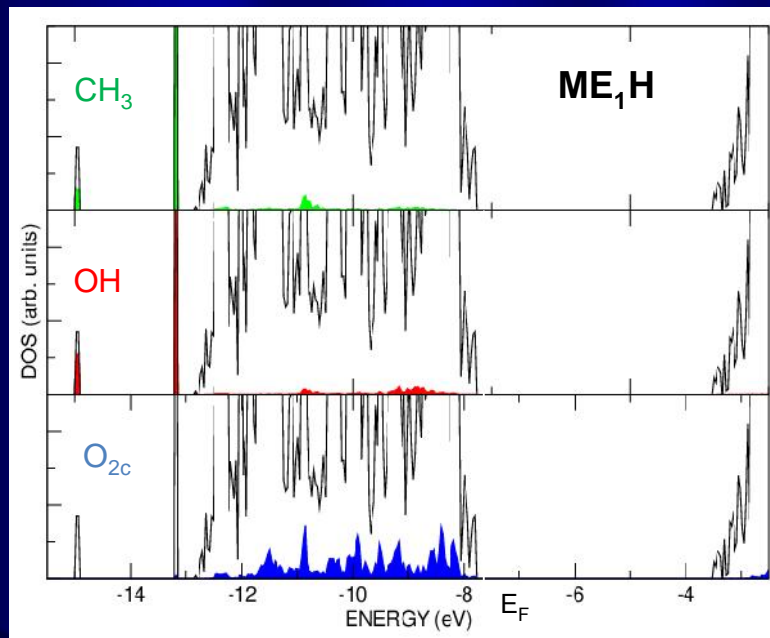
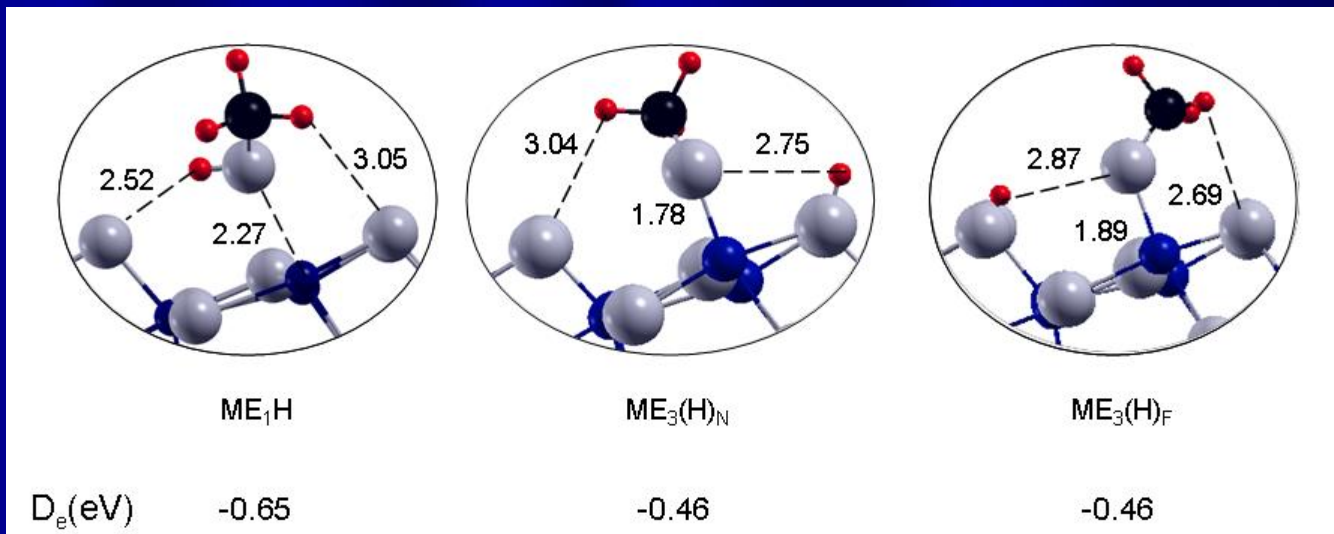
ORGANIC ACIDS  
AND ALCOHOLS

FORMIC ACID – METHANOL – ISOPROPANOL  
TERT-BUTANOL – GLYCEROL – CATECHOL

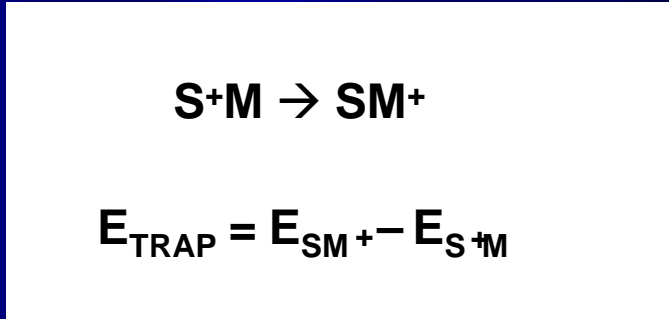
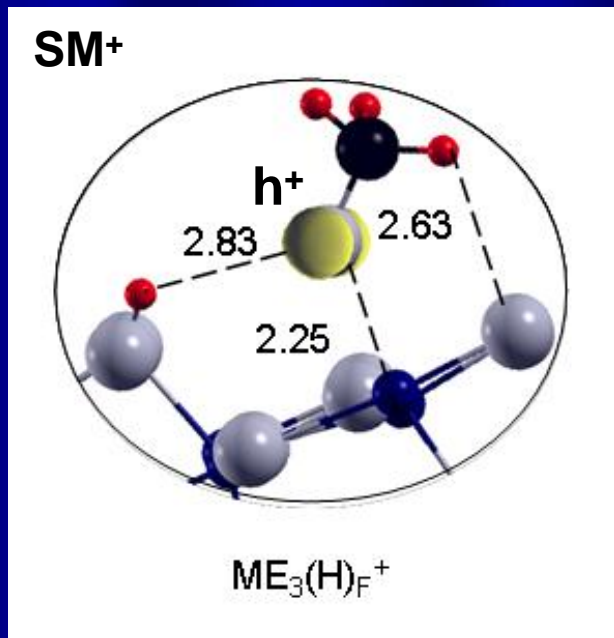
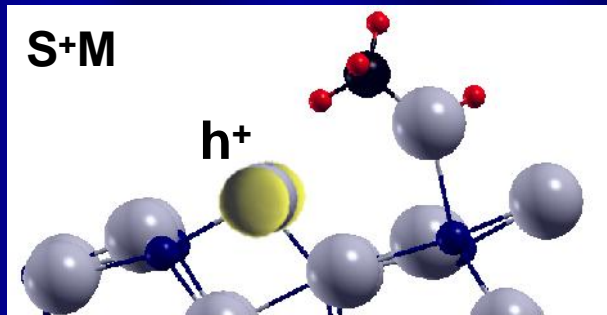
# DEFINITIONS



# METHANOL: UNDISSOCIATED VS DISSOCIATED ADSORPTION MODES



# METHANOL: HOLE TRAPPING

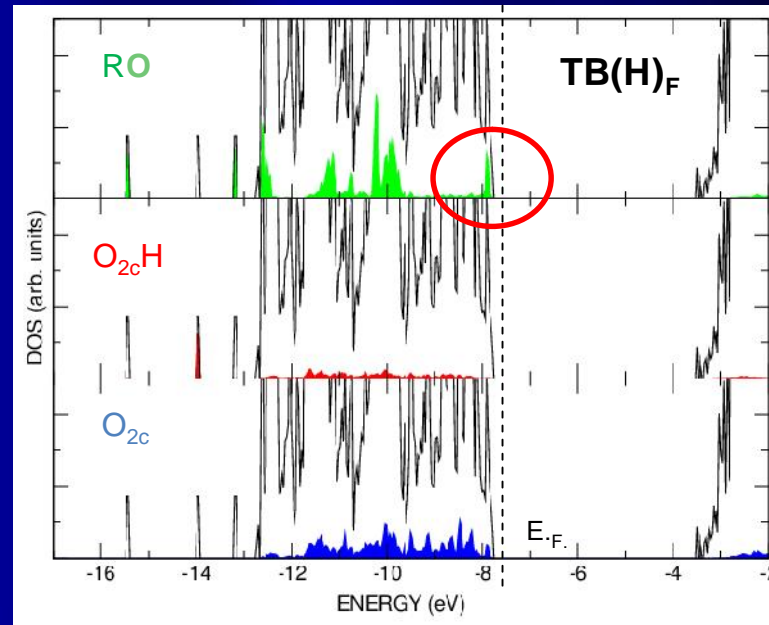
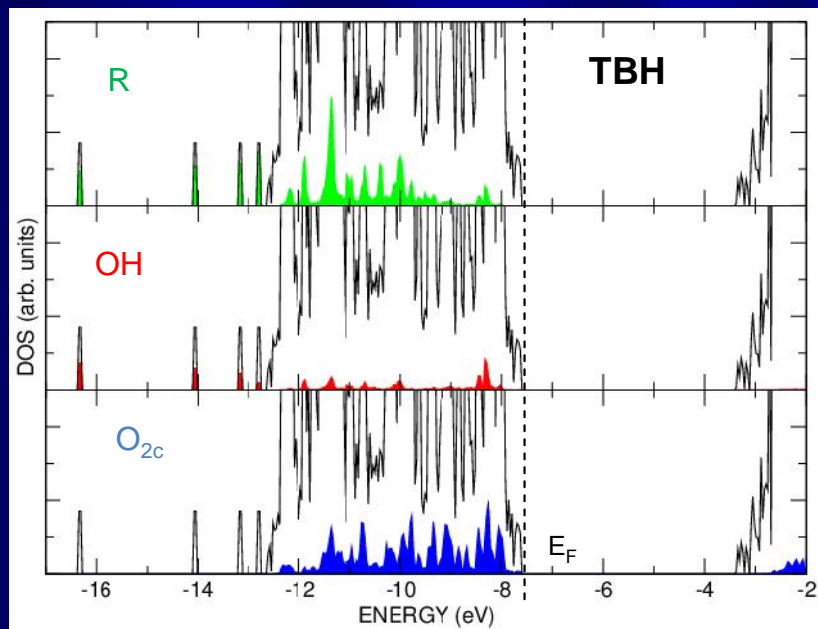
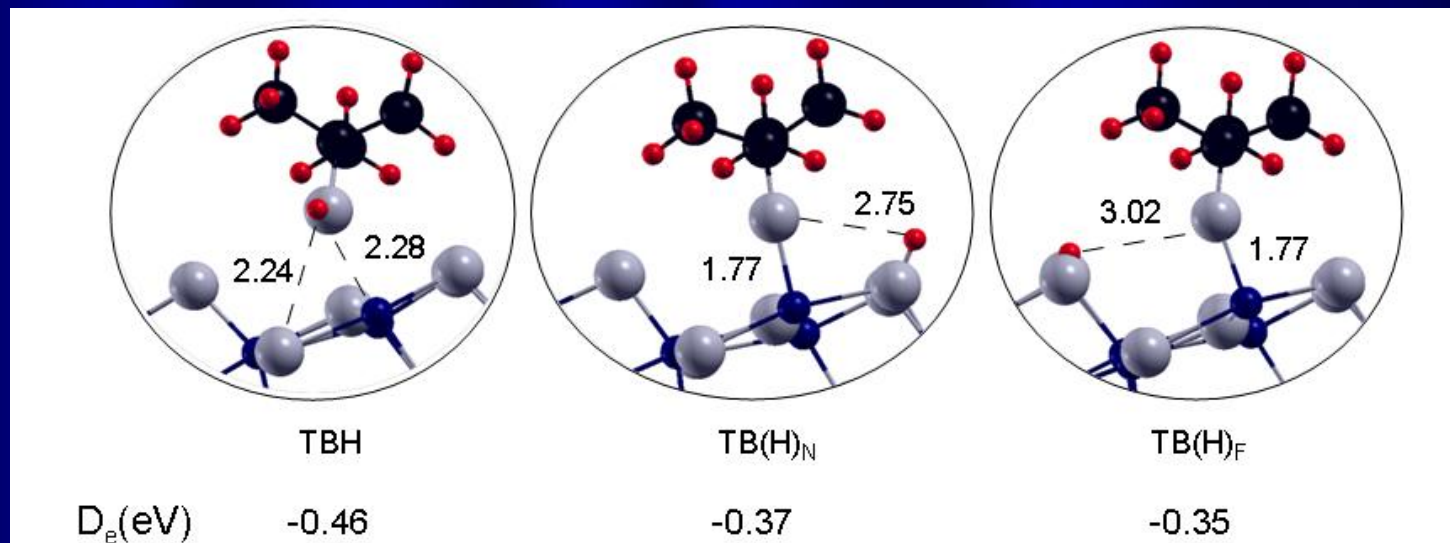


$IP_{GAS}$	10.6 eV
$IP_{ME_3(H)_F^+}$	6.2 eV
$E_{TRAP}$	-0.65 eV
$-0.52 \text{ eV} < E_{TRAP} < -0.65 \text{ eV}$	

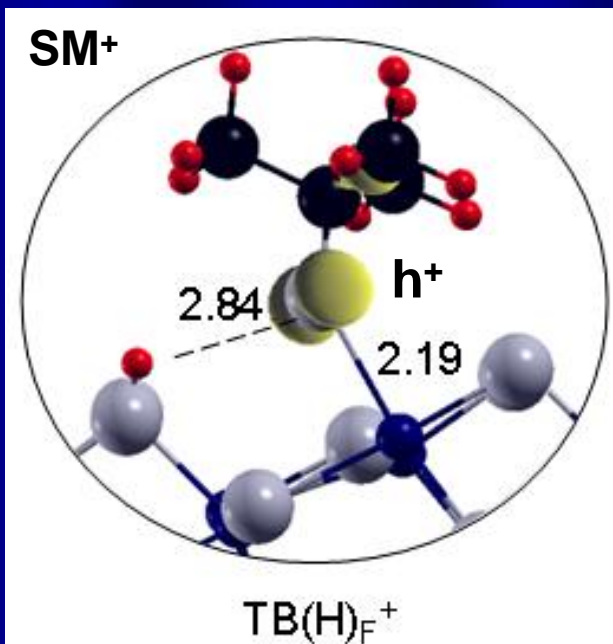
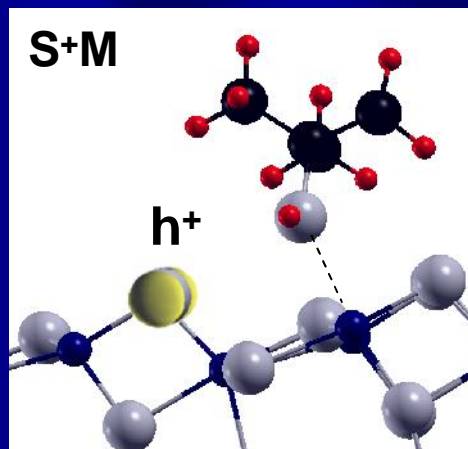
M. Shen, M. A. Henderson JPC Lett. 2011 2 2707:  
 adsorbed **methoxy** and not molecularly adsorbed **methanol** is  
 the reactive species for hole-mediated oxidation of methanol on  $TiO_2$  (110)



# TERT-BUTANOL: UNDISSOCIATED VS DISSOCIATED ADSORPTION MODES



# TERT-BUTANOL: HOLE TRAPPING



$$E_{\text{TRAP}} = E_{\text{SM}^+} - E_{\text{S+M}}$$

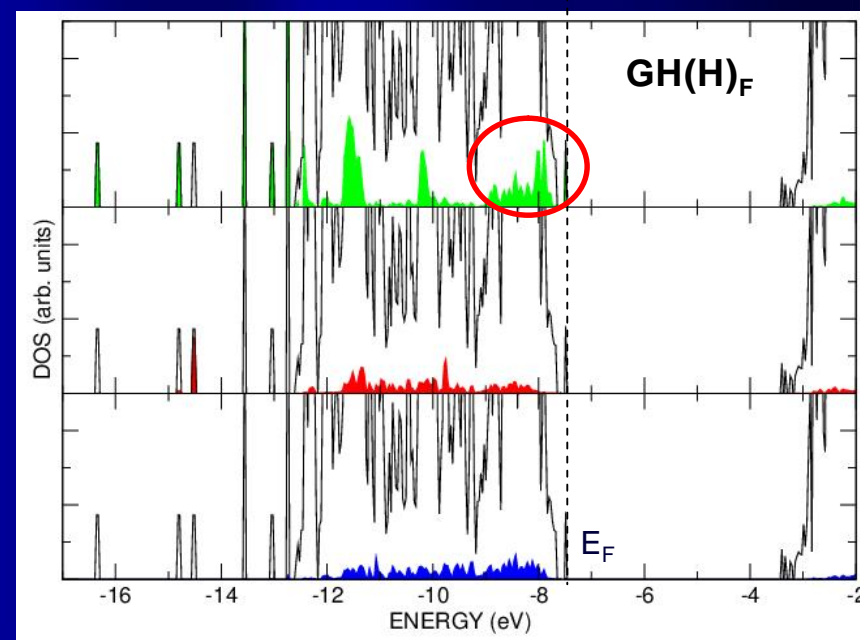
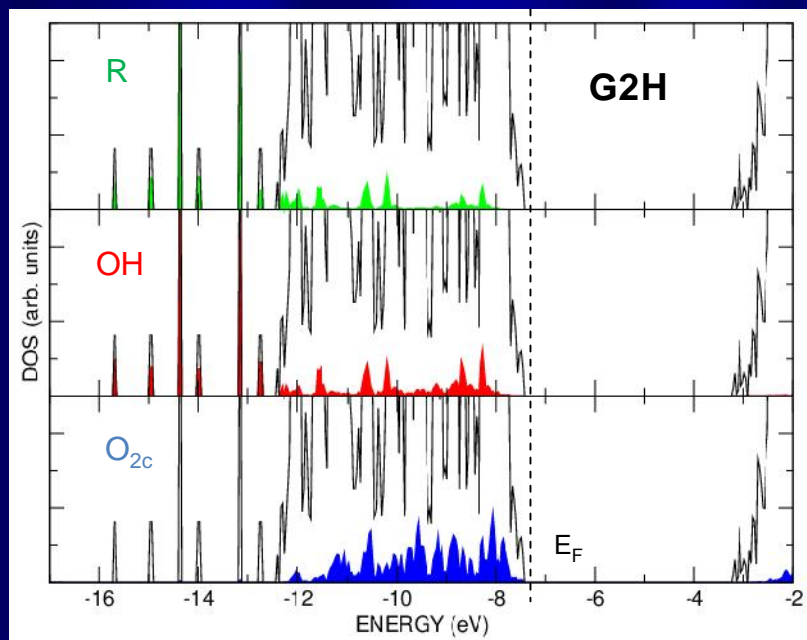
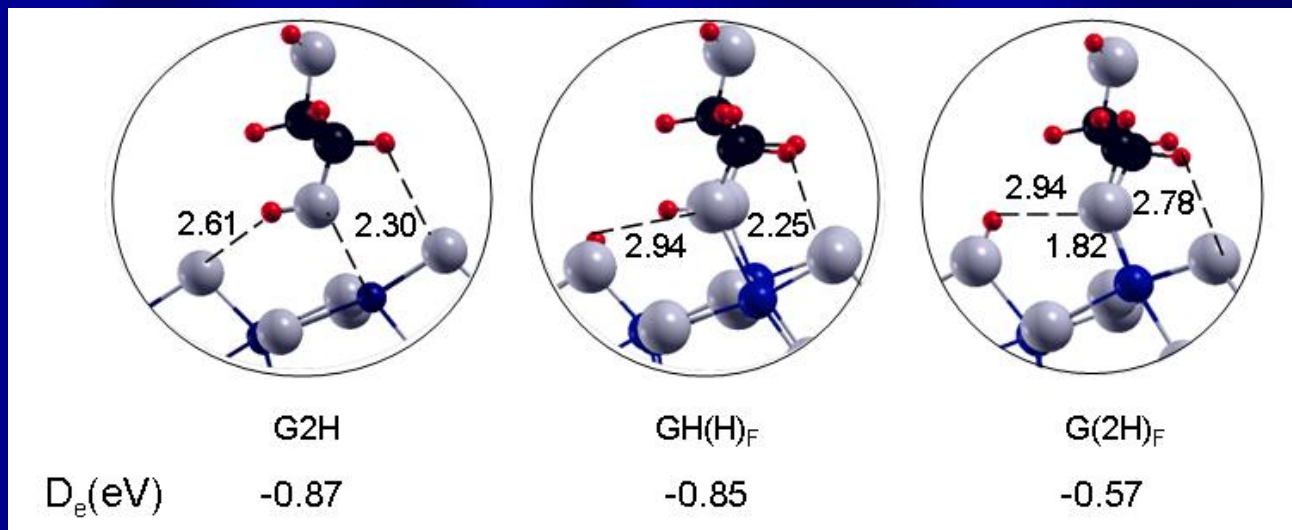
$$IP_{\text{GAS}} \quad 9.4 \text{ eV}$$

$$IP_{\text{TB(H)}_F^+} \quad 6.0 \text{ eV}$$

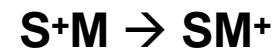
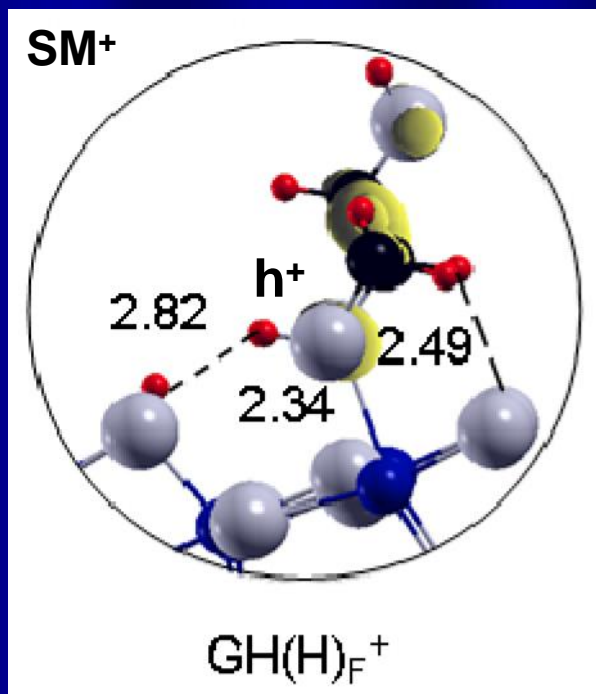
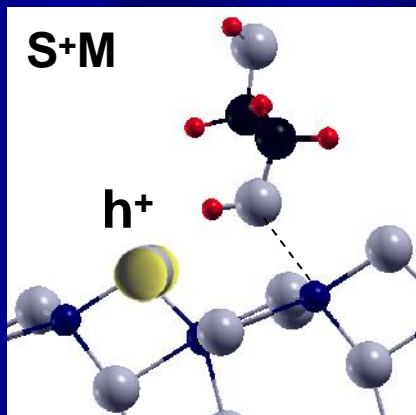
$$E_{\text{TRAP}} \quad -0.64 \text{ eV}$$

$$-0.56 \text{ eV} < E_{\text{TRAP}} < -0.64 \text{ eV}$$

# GLYCEROL: UNDISSOCIATED VS DISSOCIATED ADSORPTION MODES



# GLYCEROL: HOLE TRAPPING



$$E_{TRAP} = E_{SM^+} - E_{S+M}$$

$$IP_{GAS} \quad 8.8 \text{ eV}$$

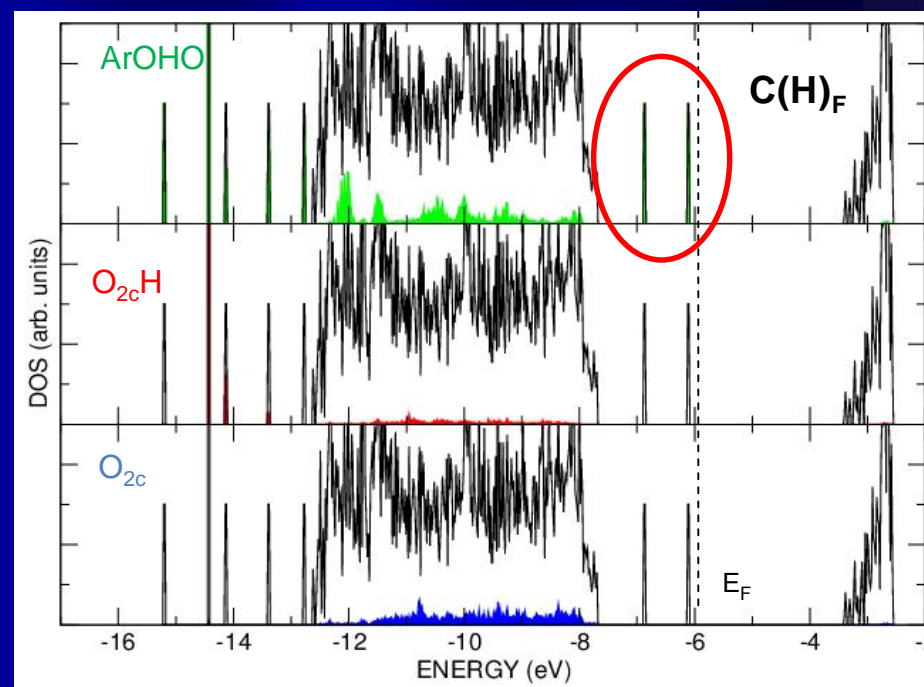
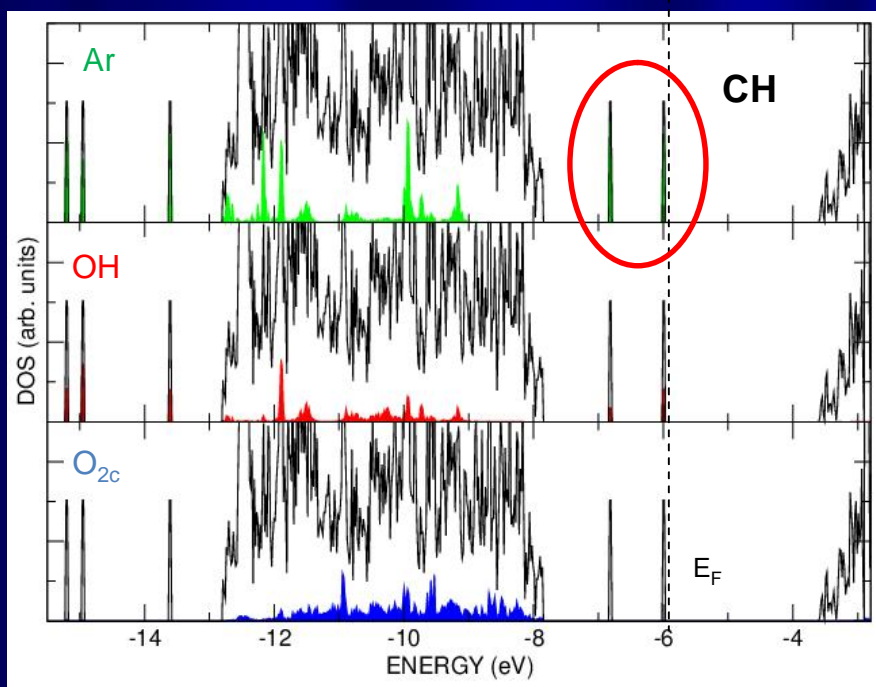
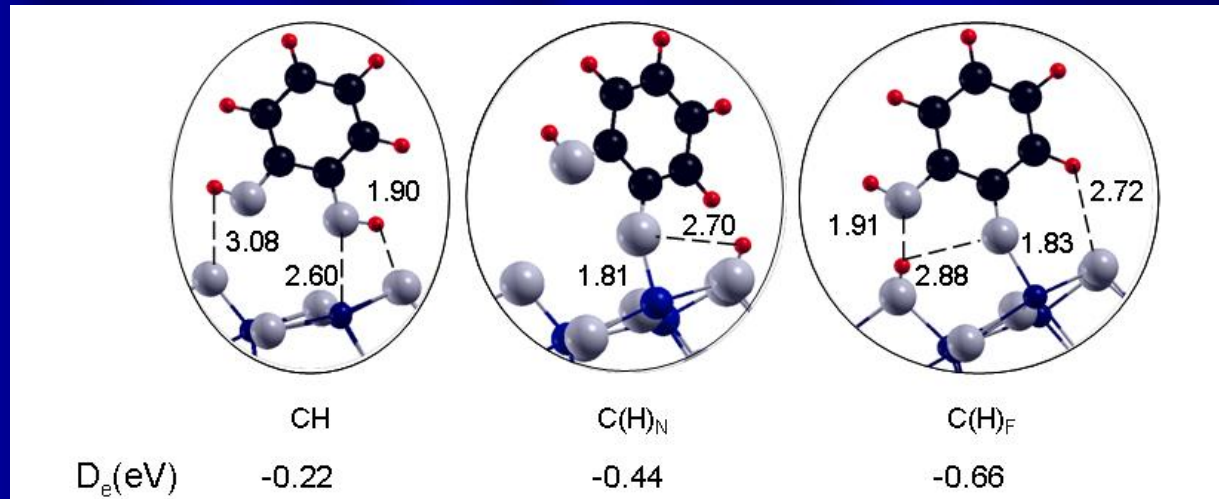
$$IP_{ME_3(H)_F^+} \quad 5.9 \text{ eV}$$

$$E_{TRAP} \quad -0.78 \text{ eV}$$

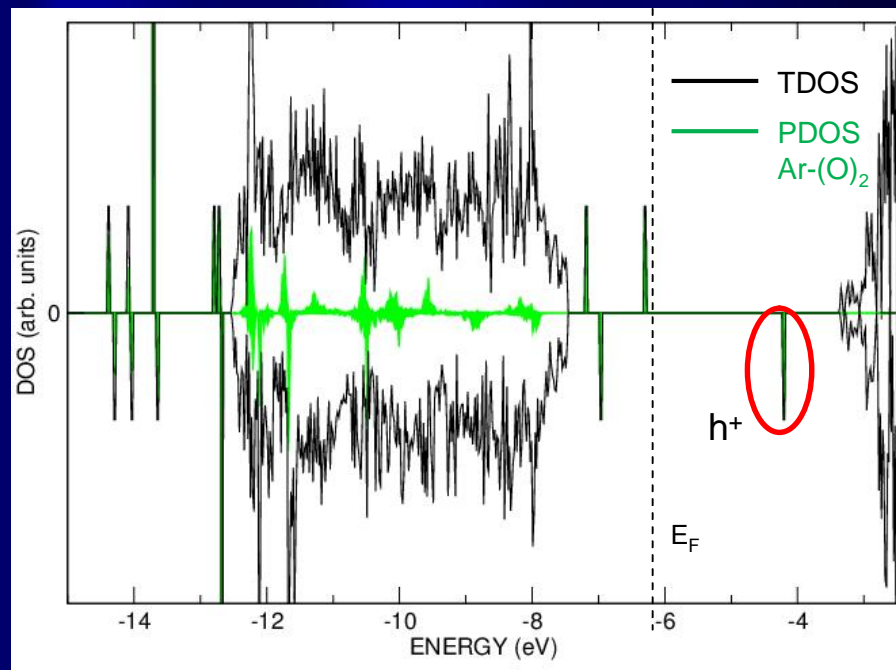
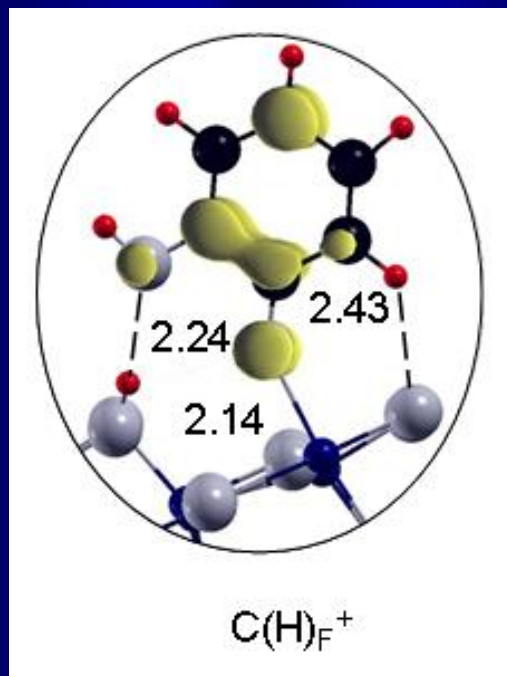
$$-0.38 \text{ eV} < E_{TRAP} < -0.78 \text{ eV}$$

**C-C BOND ELONGATION:  
IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING FORMALDEHYDE AND ETHYLENE GLYCOL**

# CATECHOL: UNDISSOCIATED VS DISSOCIATED ADSORPTION MODES



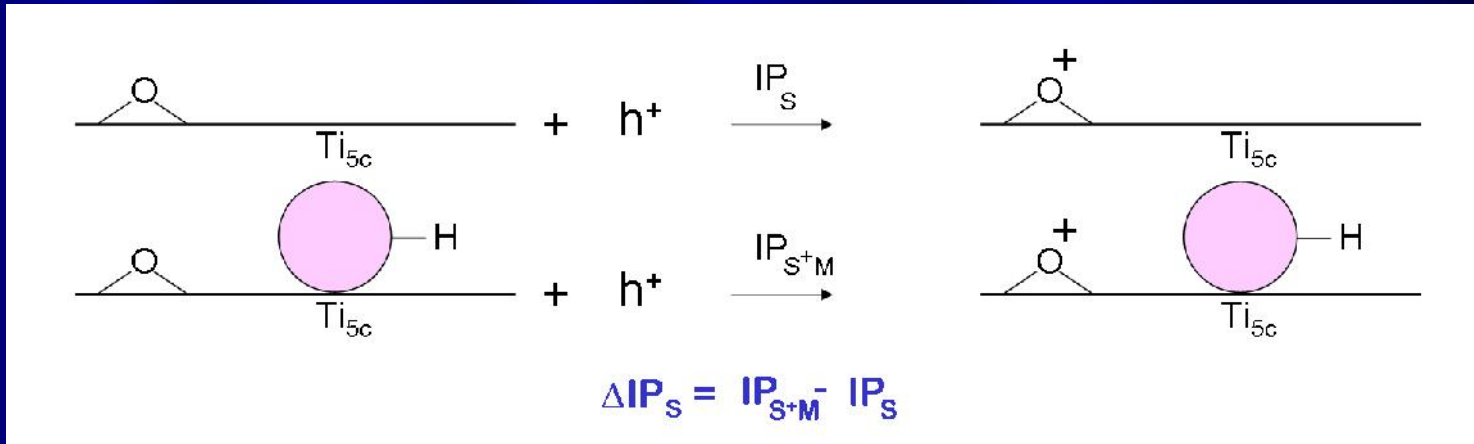
# CATECHOL: HOLE TRAPPING



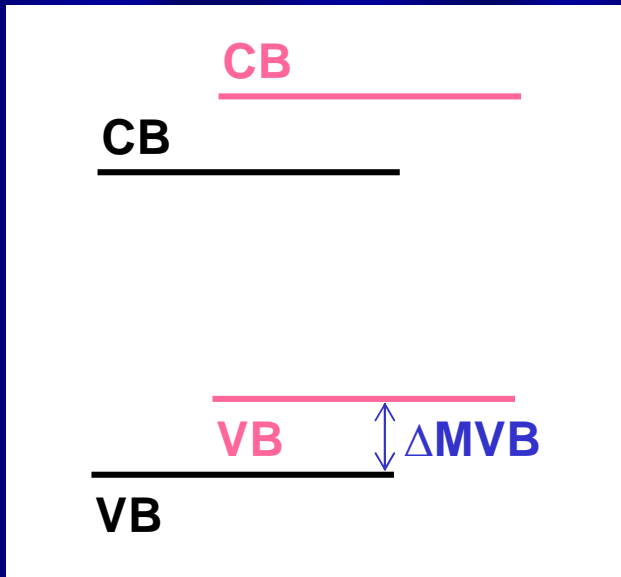
**HIGH HOLE STABILIZATION  
THROUGH DELOCALIZATION  
ON THE AROMATIC RING**

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF **SCAVENGING POWER**

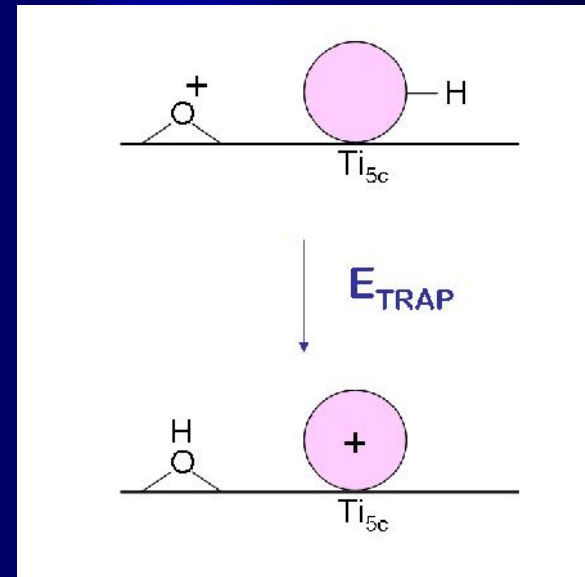
SURFACE IP CHANGE



CHANGE IN WORKFUNCTION



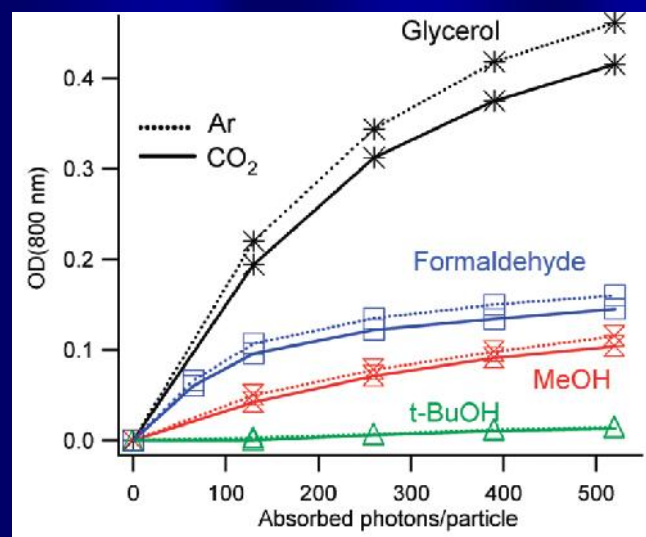
TRAPPING ENERGY



# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF **SCAVENGING POWER**

<b>M</b>	$\Delta IP_s$	$\Delta MVB$	$E_{TRAP}$	$\Delta MVB + E_{TRAP}$
<b>Formic Acid</b>	<b>-0.59</b>	<b>-0.31</b>	<b>-0.22</b>	<b>-0.53</b>
<b>Methanol</b>	<b>-0.69</b>	<b>-0.44</b>	<b>-0.65</b>	<b>-1.09</b>
<b>Tert-butanol</b>	<b>-1.07</b>	<b>-0.57</b>	<b>-0.64</b>	<b>-1.21</b>
<b>Isopropanol</b>	<b>-0.91</b>	<b>-0.48</b>	<b>-0.90</b>	<b>-1.38</b>
<b>Glycerol</b>	<b>-1.32</b>	<b>-0.76</b>	<b>-0.77</b>	<b>-1.53</b>

**GLYCEROL > ISOPROPANOL > TERT-BUTANOL > METHANOL > FORMIC ACID**



T. RAJH AND CO. JPC C 2012, 116, 878

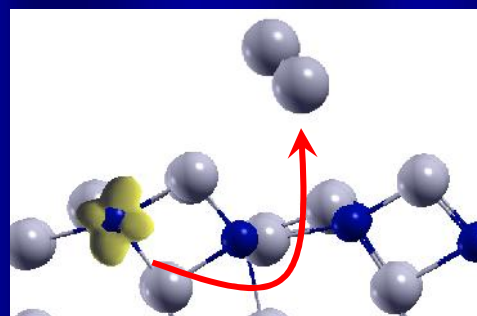
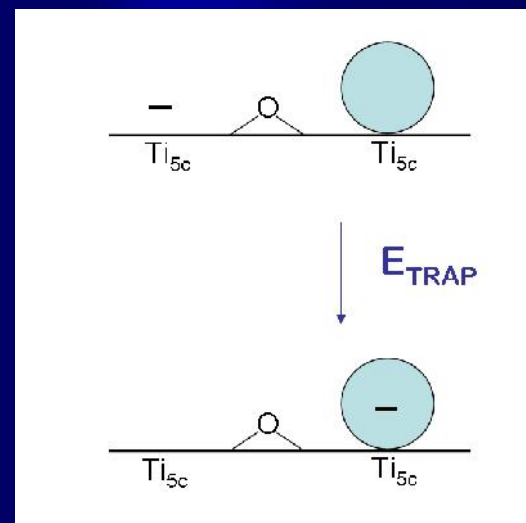
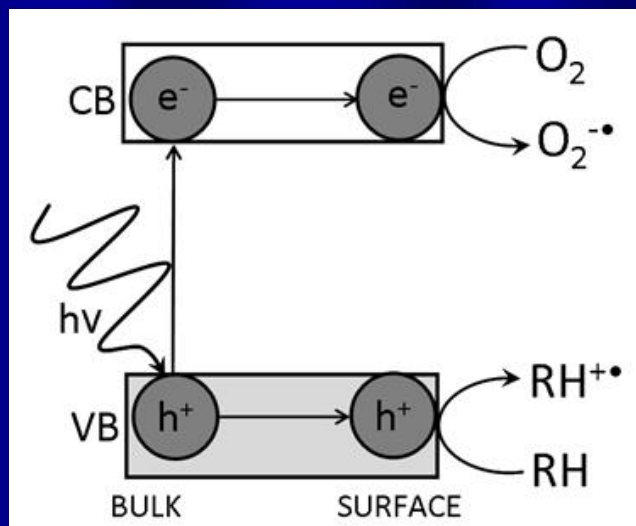
**REDUCED SURFACE WORKFUNCTION  
DUE TO SURFACE DIPOLE CHANGE  
EASIER FORMATION OF HOLE AT SURFACE**

CDV and D. Fittipaldi JPC Lett. 4 (2013) 1901

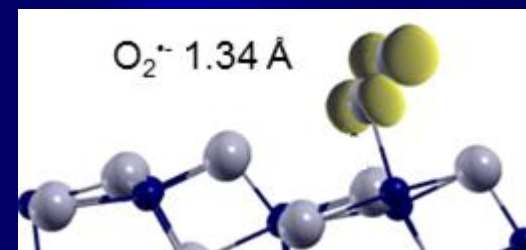
**OPTICAL ABSORPTION  
MEASUREMENTS  
OF PHOTOEXCITED ELECTRONS  
IN THE PRESENCE  
OF HOLE SCAVENGERS**



# O<sub>2</sub> ELECTRON SCAVENGER



$Ti_{5c}^{3+}$



$E_{trap} = -1.4 \text{ eV}$

## CONCLUSIONS

- **bulk/surface excitons and polarons in photoexcited anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> can be described with a simplified approach which takes into account self-trapping energy and local relaxation**
- **we find that a driving force exists for photoexcited electrons and holes to travel from the bulk to the surface**
- **comparison with exp. data from IR, EPR and luminescence spectroscopies is very good for the photoexcited model system**
- **photoexcited holes trapping by adsorbed organic alcohols and acids induces proton dissociation (except for catechol which is an excellent hole scavenger - because of the states in the gap)**
- **the change in the surface workfunction as a consequence of adsorption together with the trapping ability of the molecular species enhance the driving force for photoexcited electrons and holes to travel from the bulk to the surface**
- **on these basis we could define a scale of scavenging power**
- **interesting comparison between trapping energies on anatase and rutile!**