



The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



2269-26

**Workshop on New Materials for Renewable Energy**

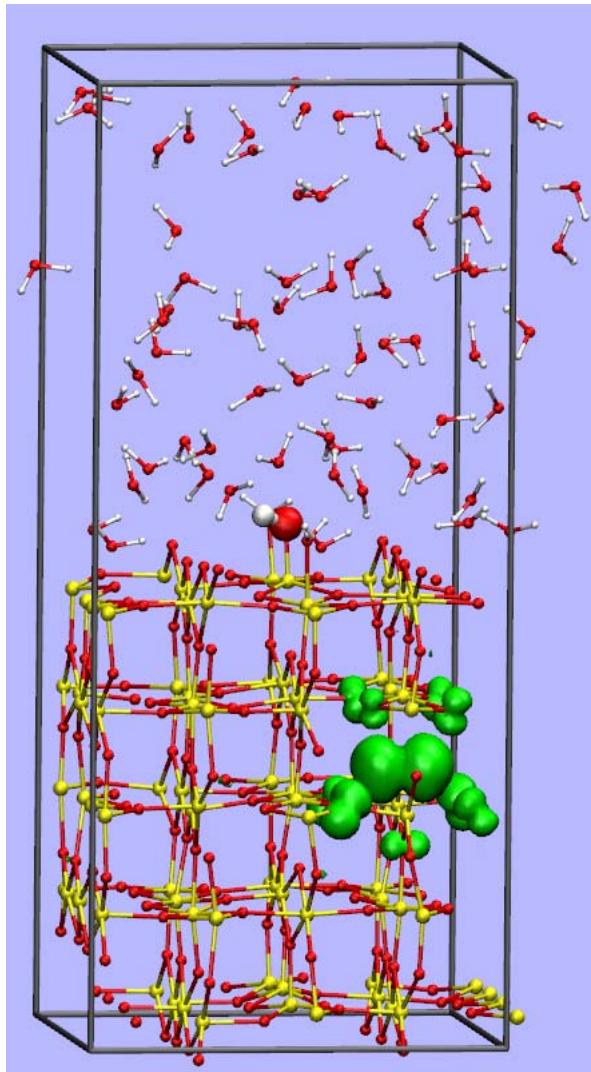
*17 - 21 October 2011*

**The thermochemistry of oxidative dehydrogenation of a water molecule at a TiO<sub>2</sub>  
(110) water interface**

Michiel SPRIK

*Dept. of Chemistry, University of Cambridge  
U.K.*

# Oxidative hydrogenation at the rutile TiO<sub>2</sub>(110) water interface



***Collaboration:***

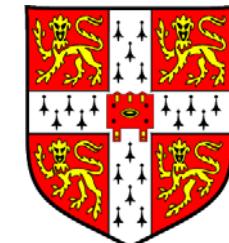
**Jun Cheng**

**Marialore Sulpizi**

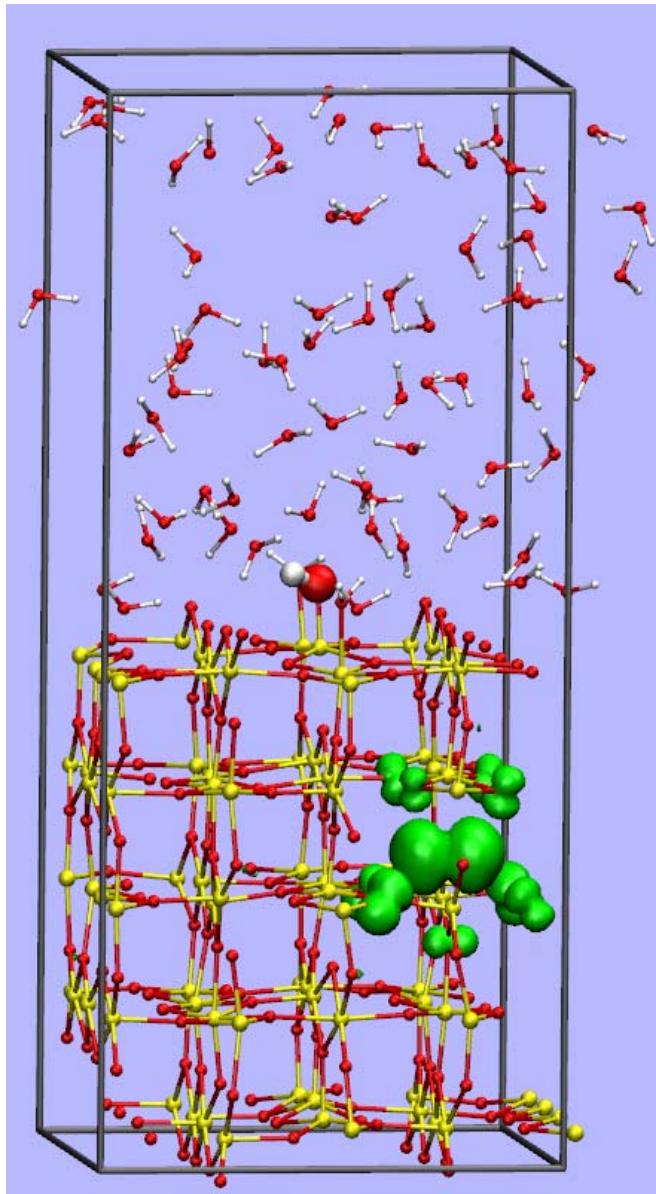
**Joost VandeVondele**

***Funding:* EPSRC, UKCP**

**Department of Chemistry  
University of Cambridge**



# Formation of a surface hydroxyl group



Oxidative dehydrogenation of water



Separated in a deprotonation



and an ionization



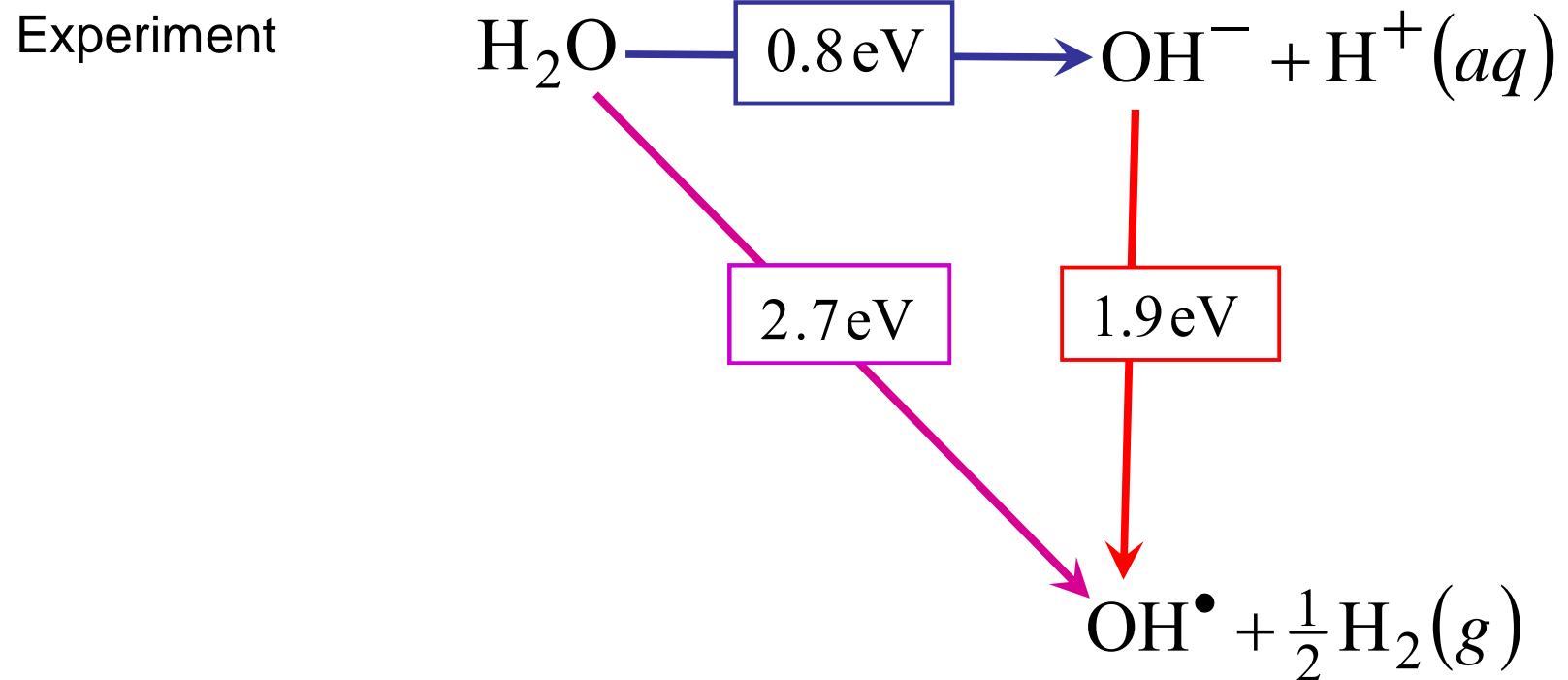
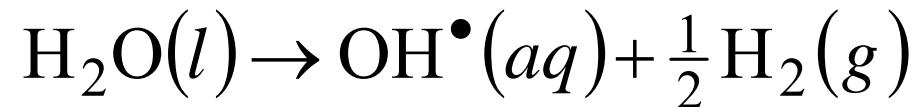
or trapping of a hole



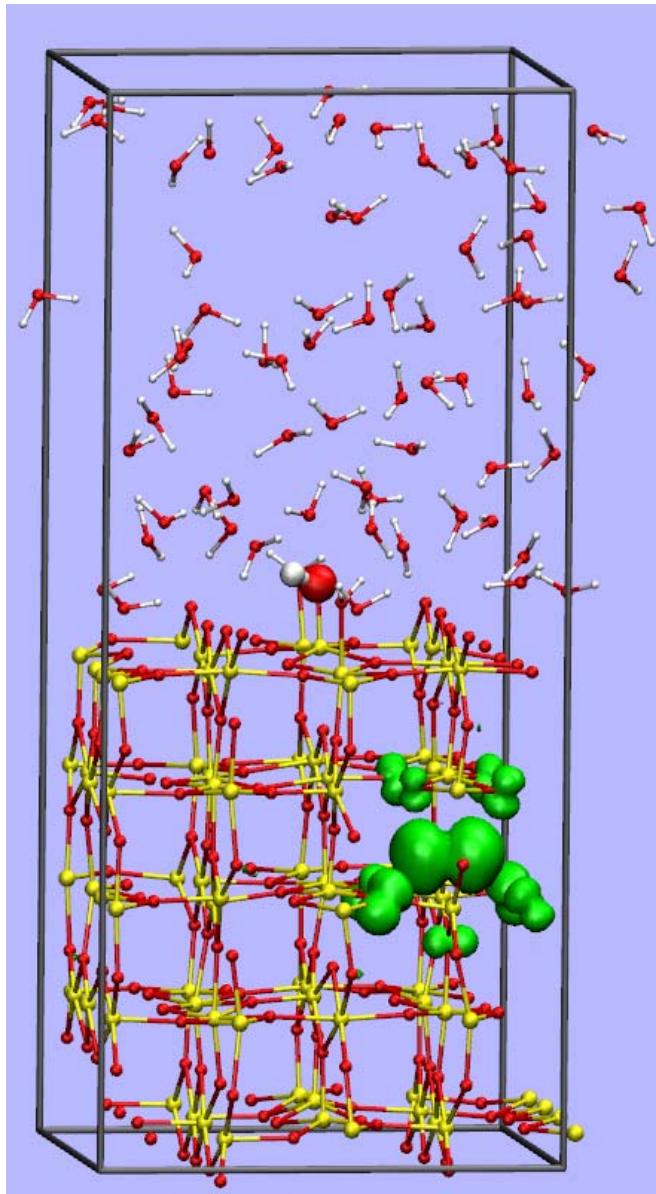
*Spin density in TiO<sub>2</sub>*

(Jun Cheng)

# Abstracting the first hydrogen from water



# Formation of a surface hydroxyl group



Oxidative dehydrogenation of water



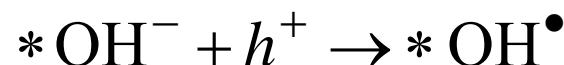
Separated in a deprotonation



and an ionization



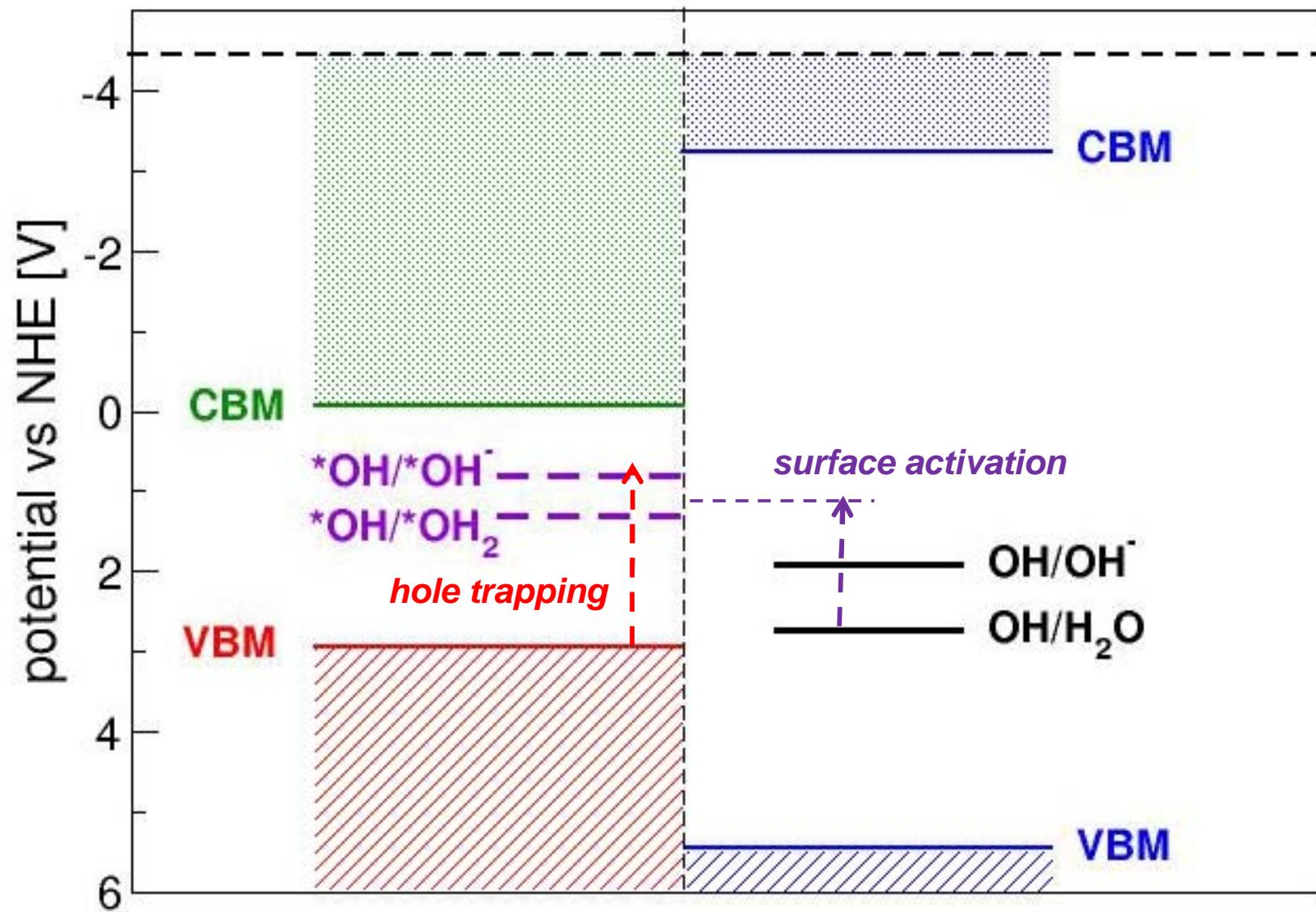
or trapping of a hole



*Spin density in TiO<sub>2</sub>*

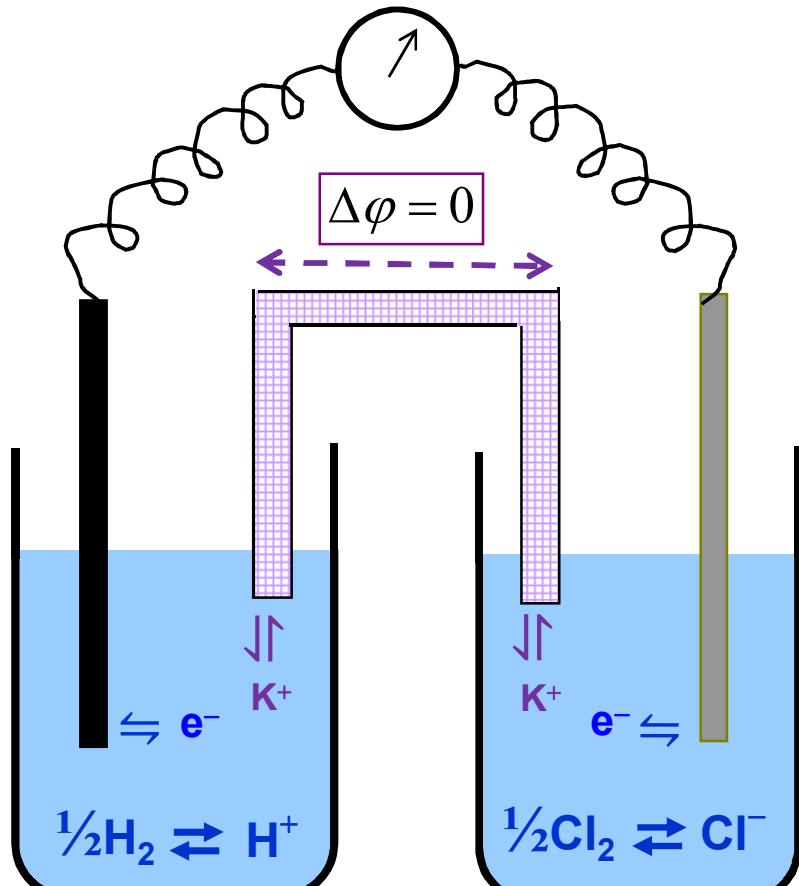
(Jun Cheng)

# Where are the redox levels of adsorbed H<sub>2</sub>O?



# Open circuit voltage of redox electrodes

Electrode reactions in equilibrium



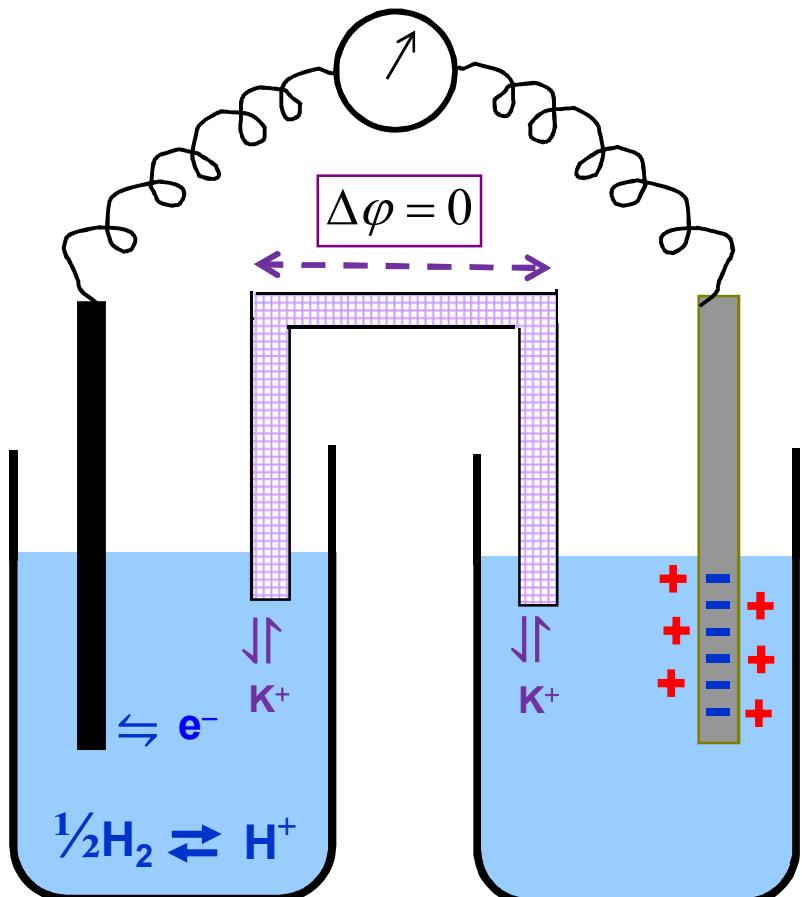
No current

$$E = -\frac{\Delta_r G}{2e}$$

$$E = E^0 + \frac{k_B T}{2e} \ln \frac{p_{H_2} p_{Cl_2}}{[H^+]^2 [Cl^-]^2}$$

Nature of electrodes irrelevant

# No control by a redox process



Redox reference

Double layer

Electrode acts as a capacitor

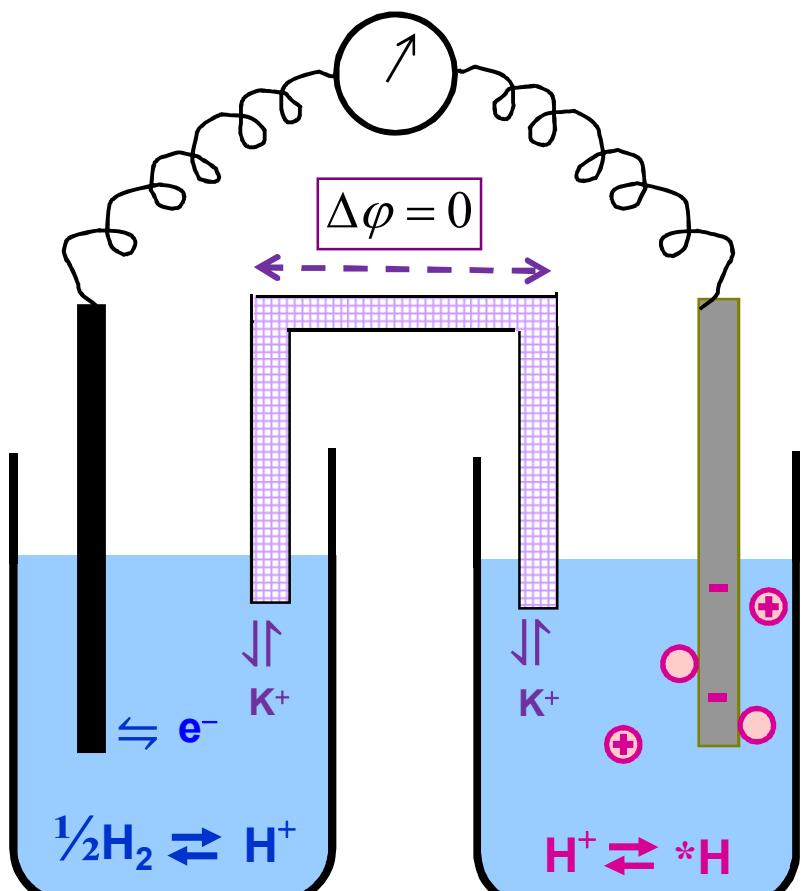
$$E = \varphi_{\text{pzc}} + \frac{Q}{C(Q)}$$

Nature of electrode matters.

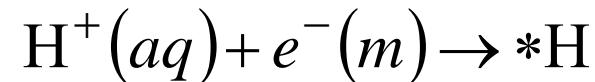
$$\varphi_{\text{pzc}} \propto \epsilon_{\text{fermi}}$$

Point of zero charge for metals

# Redox active species adsorbed on surface



Example: Volmer reaction



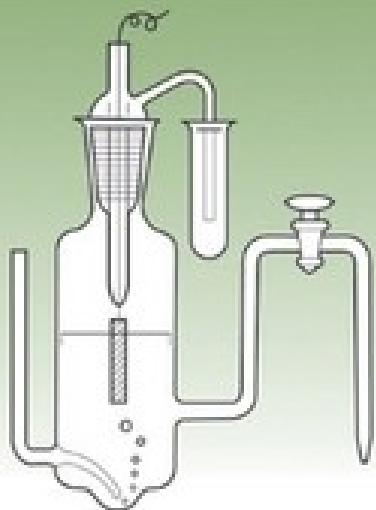
Step in Hydrogen Evolution Reaction



The Electrochemical Society Series

# FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTROCHEMISTRY

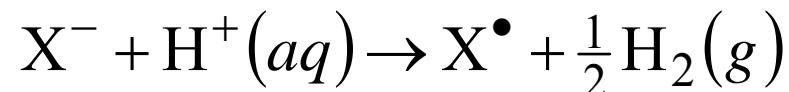
SECOND EDITION



V. S. BAGOTSKY

## We need a common energy reference

Normal hydrogen electrode (NHE)



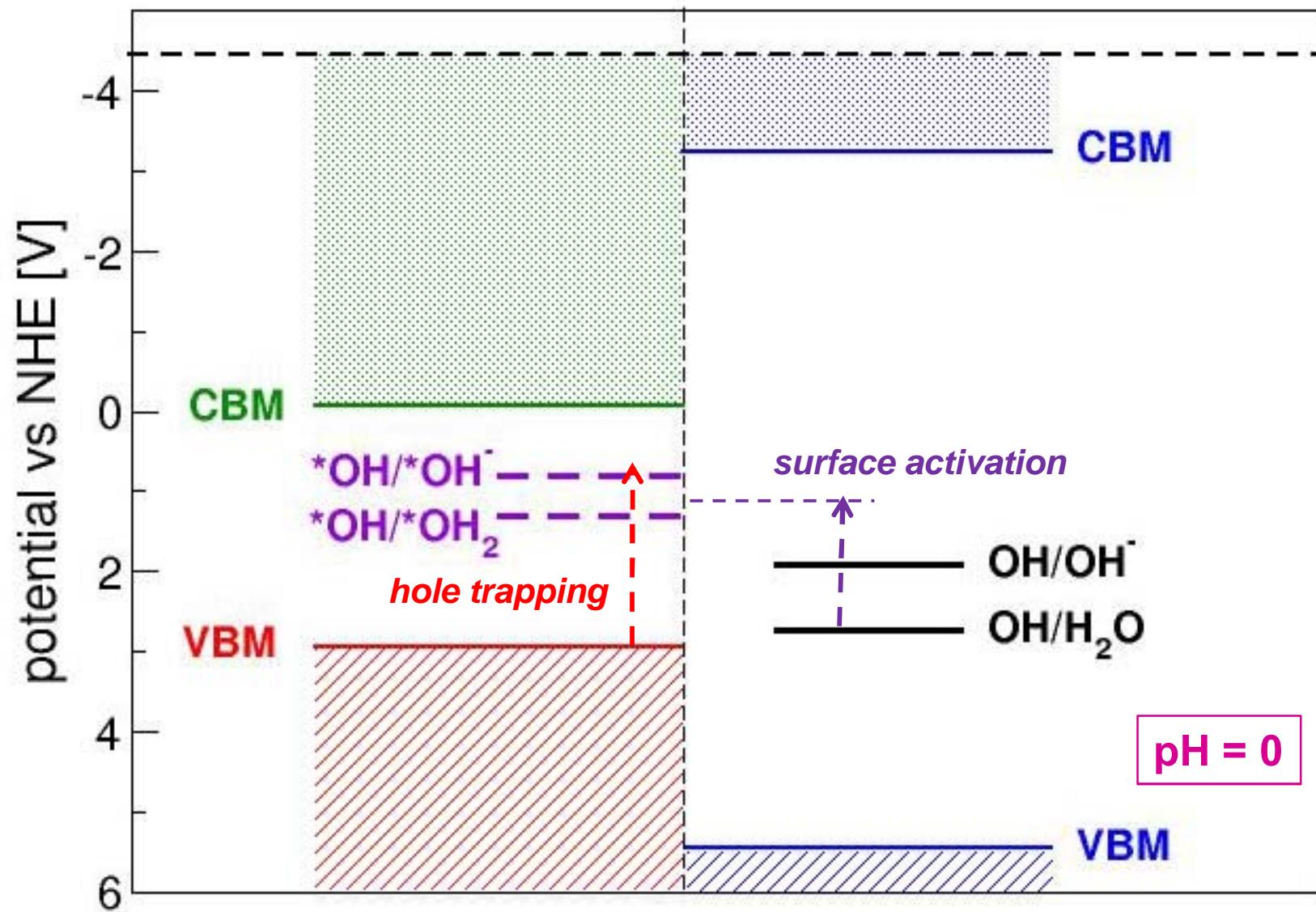
Oxidation free energy of  $X^-$  by  $H^+$

$$eE_X^0 = \Delta_{ox}G_{X^-}^0$$

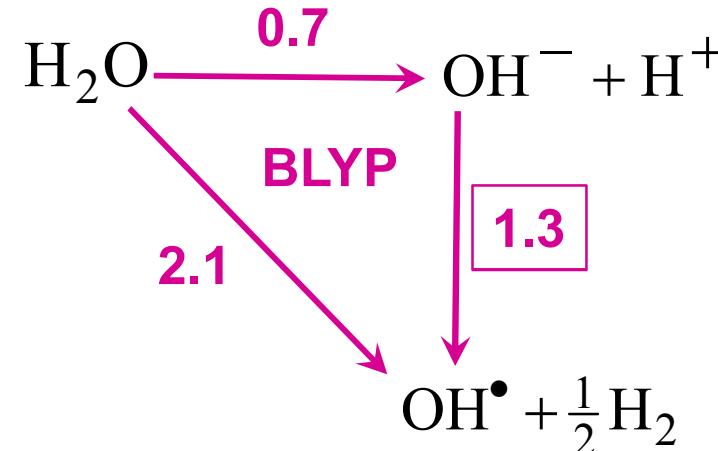
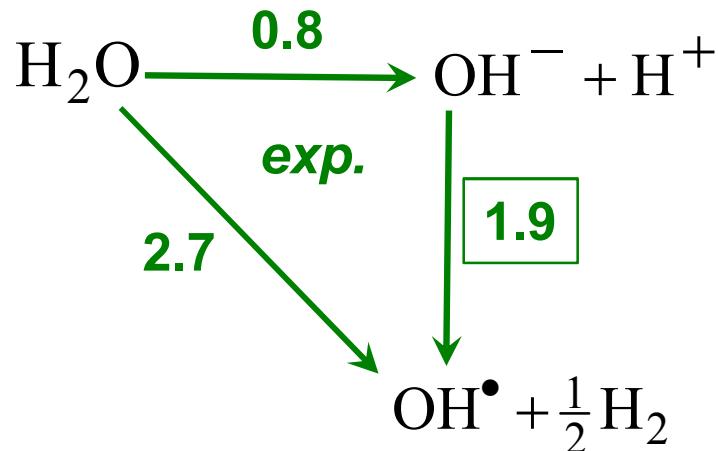
**How to construct a molecular dynamics normal hydrogen electrode?**

**NHE half cell**

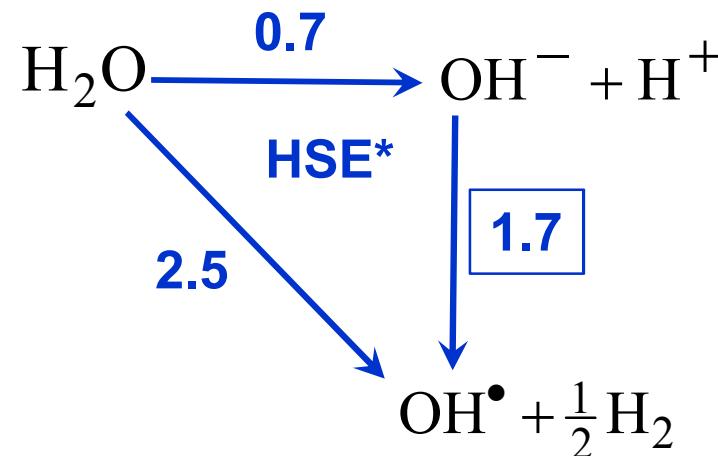
# Where are the redox levels of adsorbed H<sub>2</sub>O?



# $\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{OH}^- + \text{H}^+$ in solution

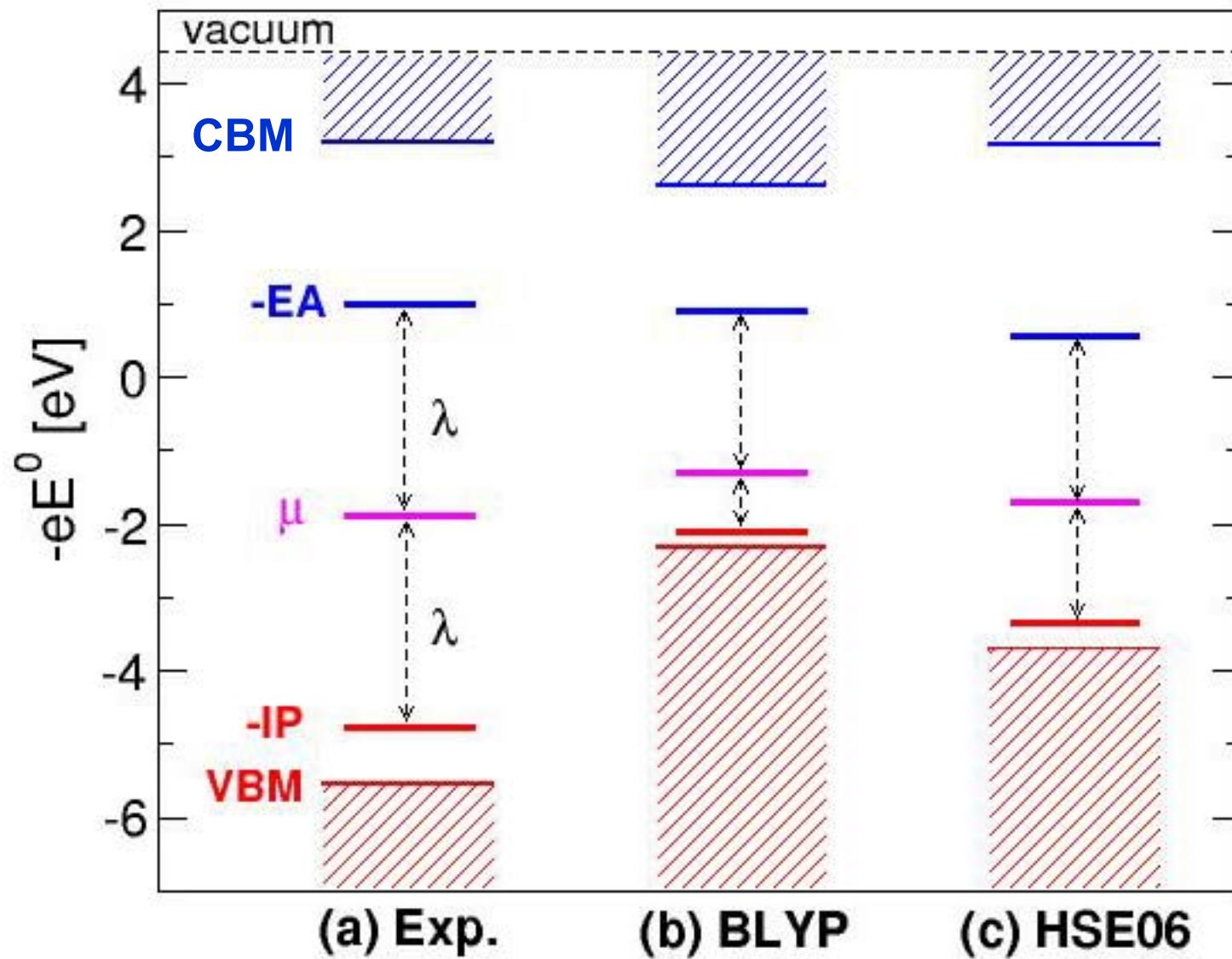


Energies in eV

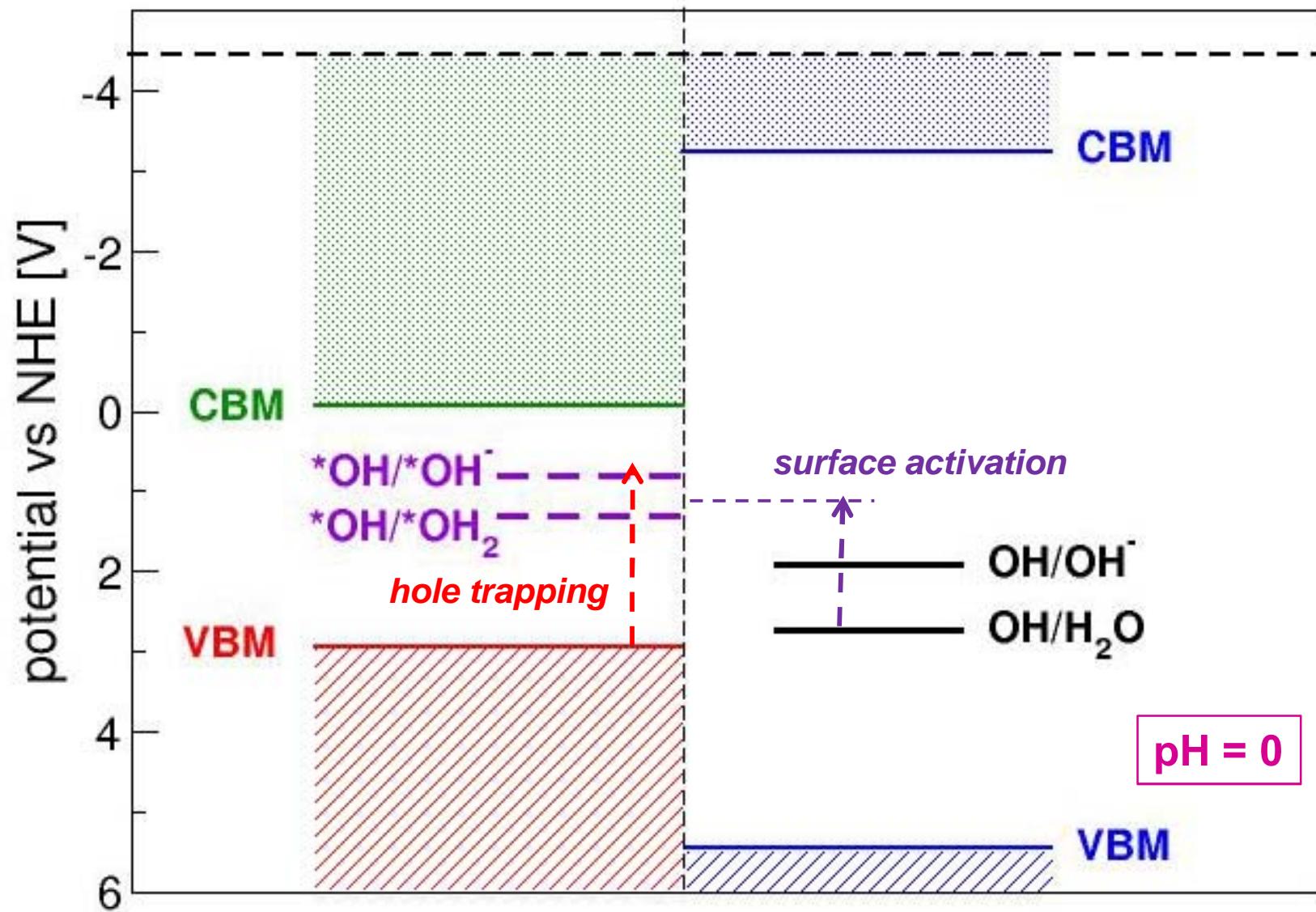


\*Guidon, M.; Hutter, J.; VandeVondele, J.  
“Auxiliary Density Matrix Methods for  
Hartree-Fock Exchange Calculations.”  
*J. Chem. Theory Comput.* (2010), 6, 2348.

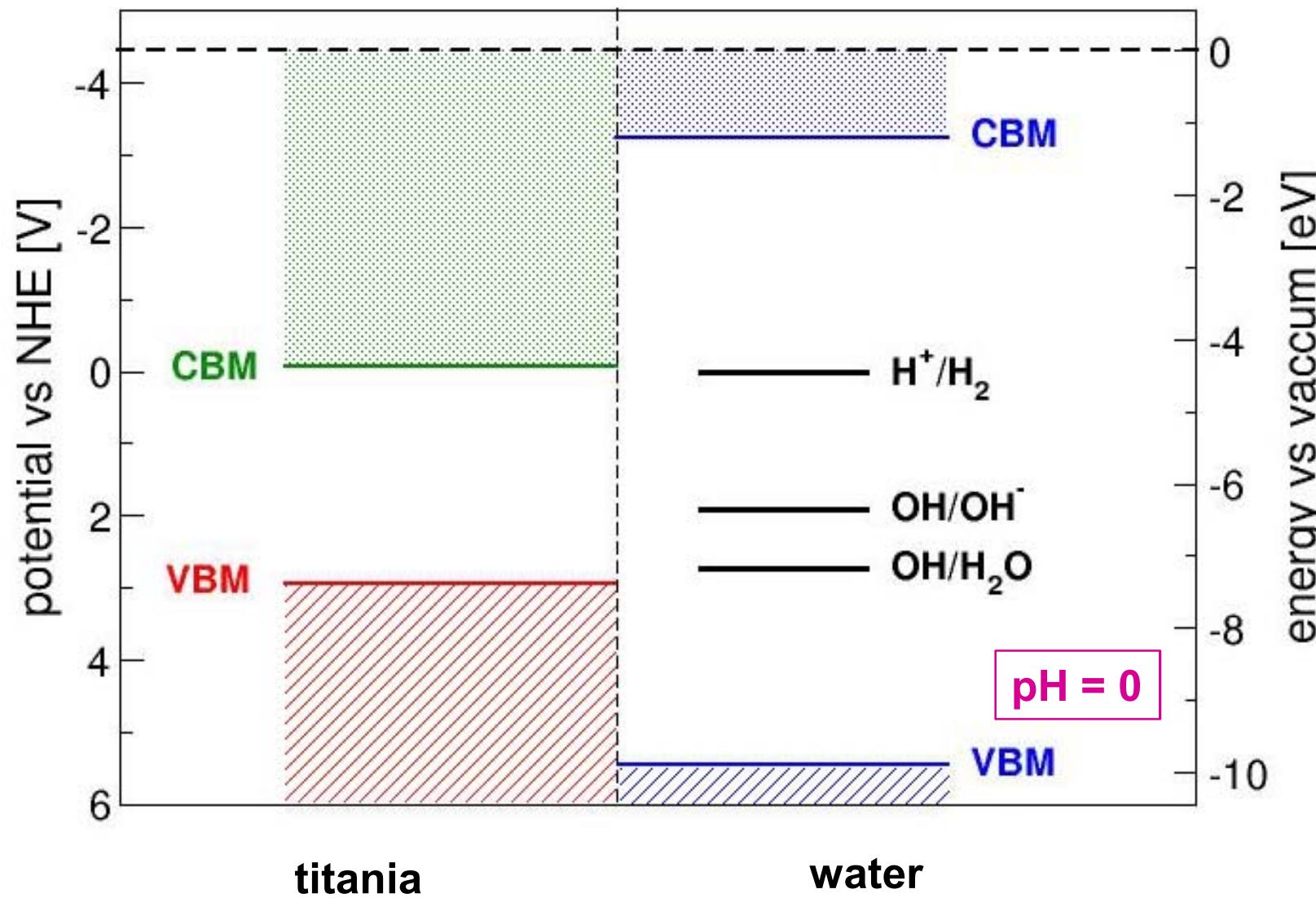
# Vertical and adiabatic levels OH/water



# Where are the redox levels of adsorbed H<sub>2</sub>O?

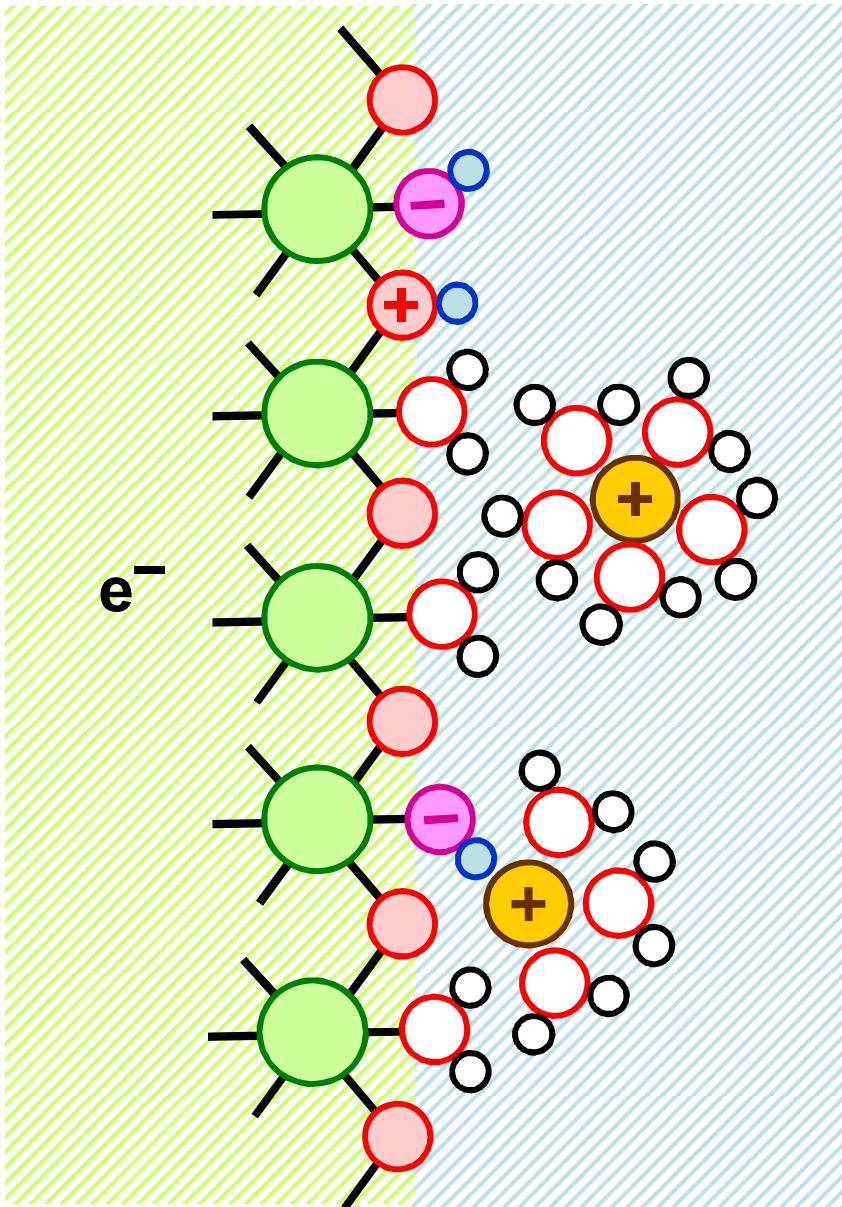


# $\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ aligned with $\text{TiO}_2$ (110) rutile electrode



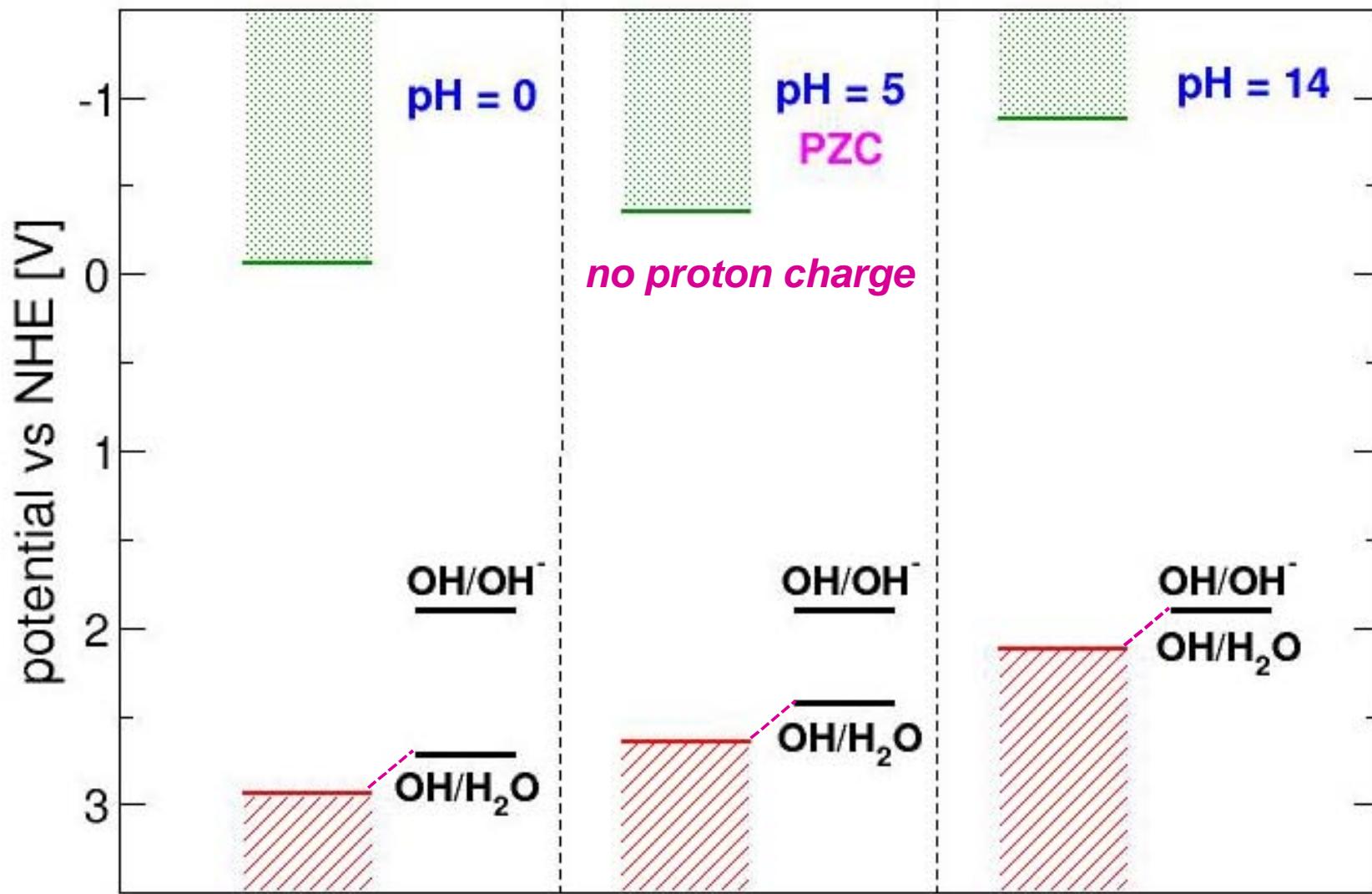
*Experimental data*

# Electrical double layer at a $\text{TiO}_2$ water interface



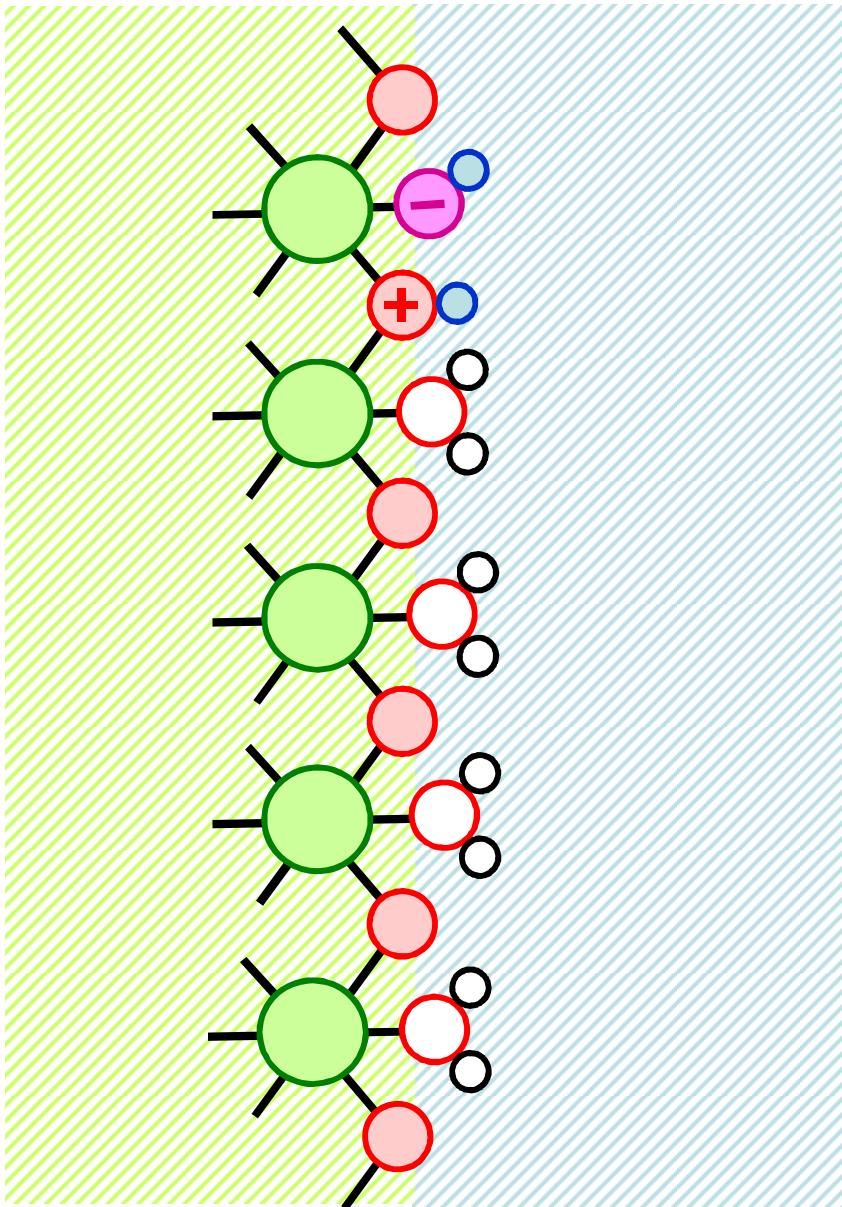
- Excess electron charge  
*electrons in conduction band  
holes in valence band*
- Excess proton charge  
*deprotonation terminal waters  
protonation bridging oxygens*
- Ionic counter charge  
*cations and anions from  
electrolytic solution*

# pH dependence redox levels



*Experimental data*

# Reference state point of our calculation



Point of zero charge (PZC)  
*Zero net proton charge*

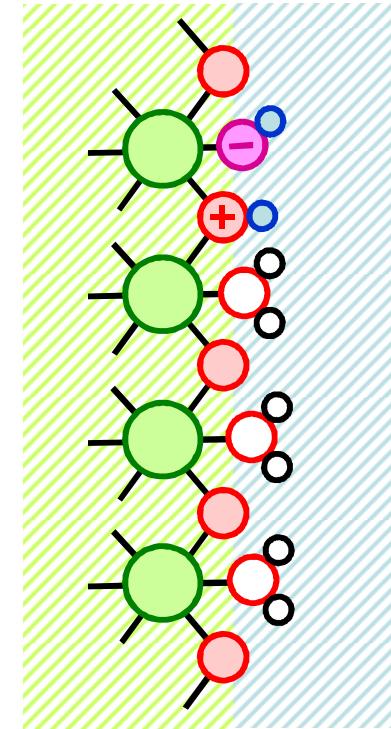
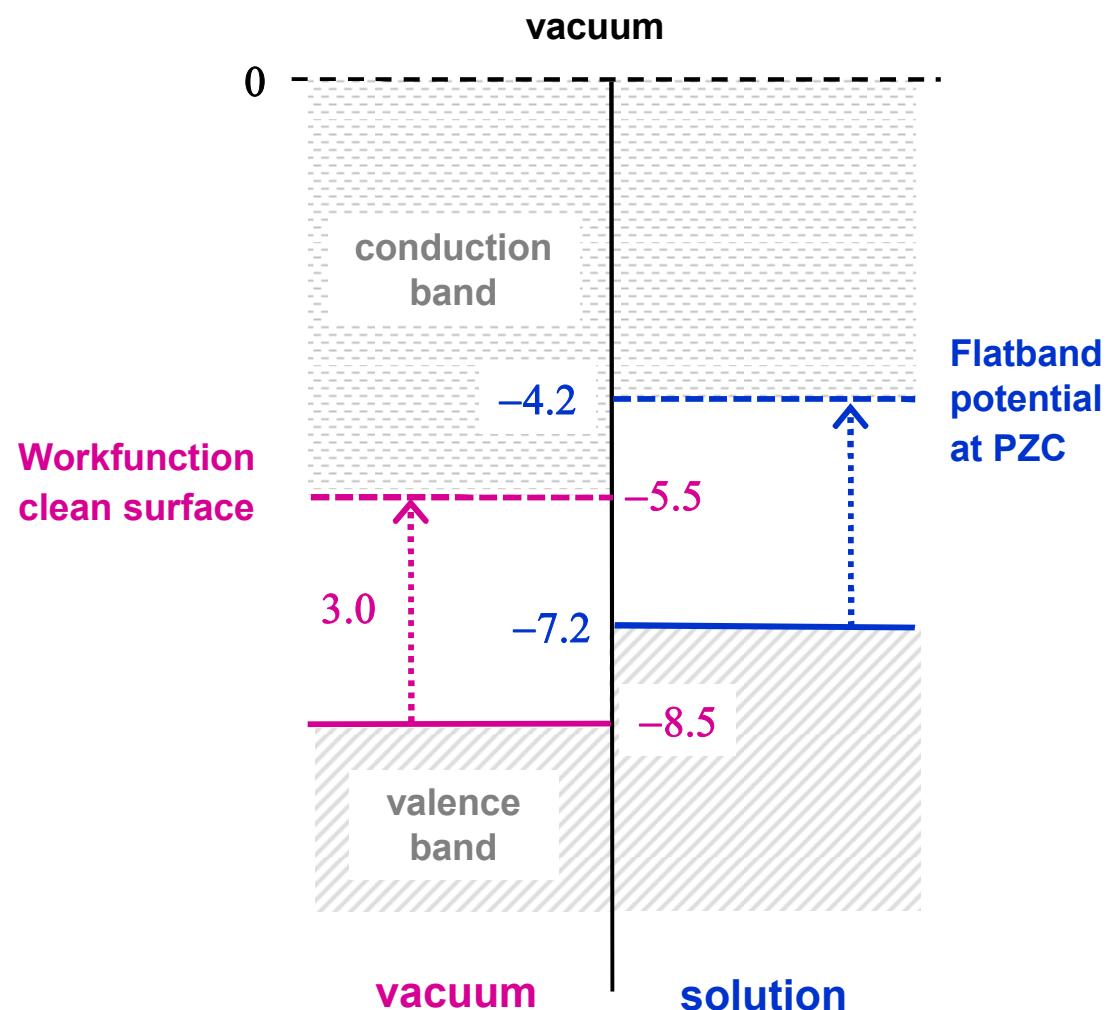
$$\text{pH}_{\text{PZC}} = 5$$

Flatband potential (FB)  
*No space electronic charge*

$$\varphi_{\text{FB}} = -0.25 \text{ V}$$

*Experimental data*

# $\text{TiO}_2$ electronic energy levels at PZC: solvent effect



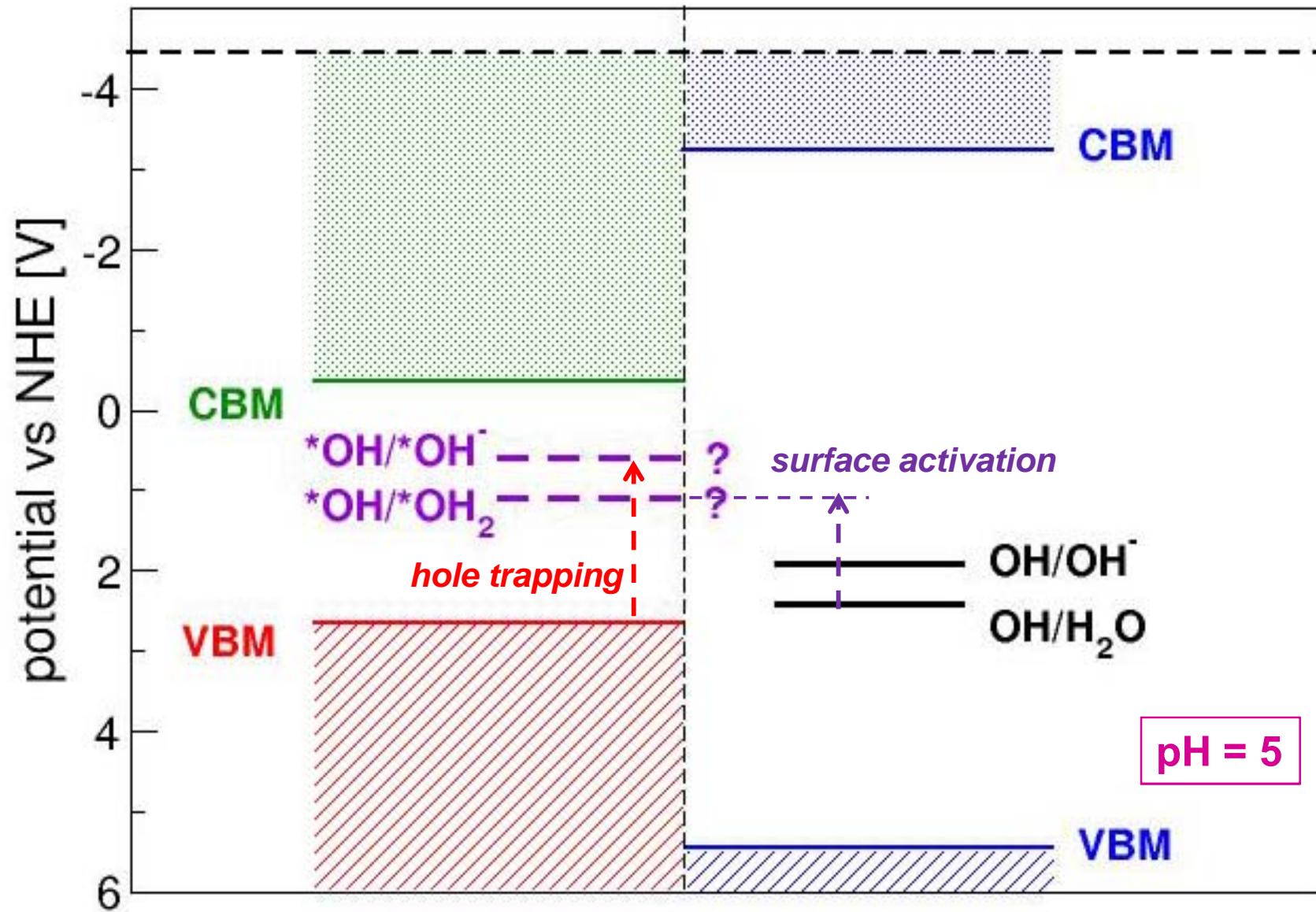
PZC  $\text{TiO}_2$  (110) rutile is 5

Energies in eV

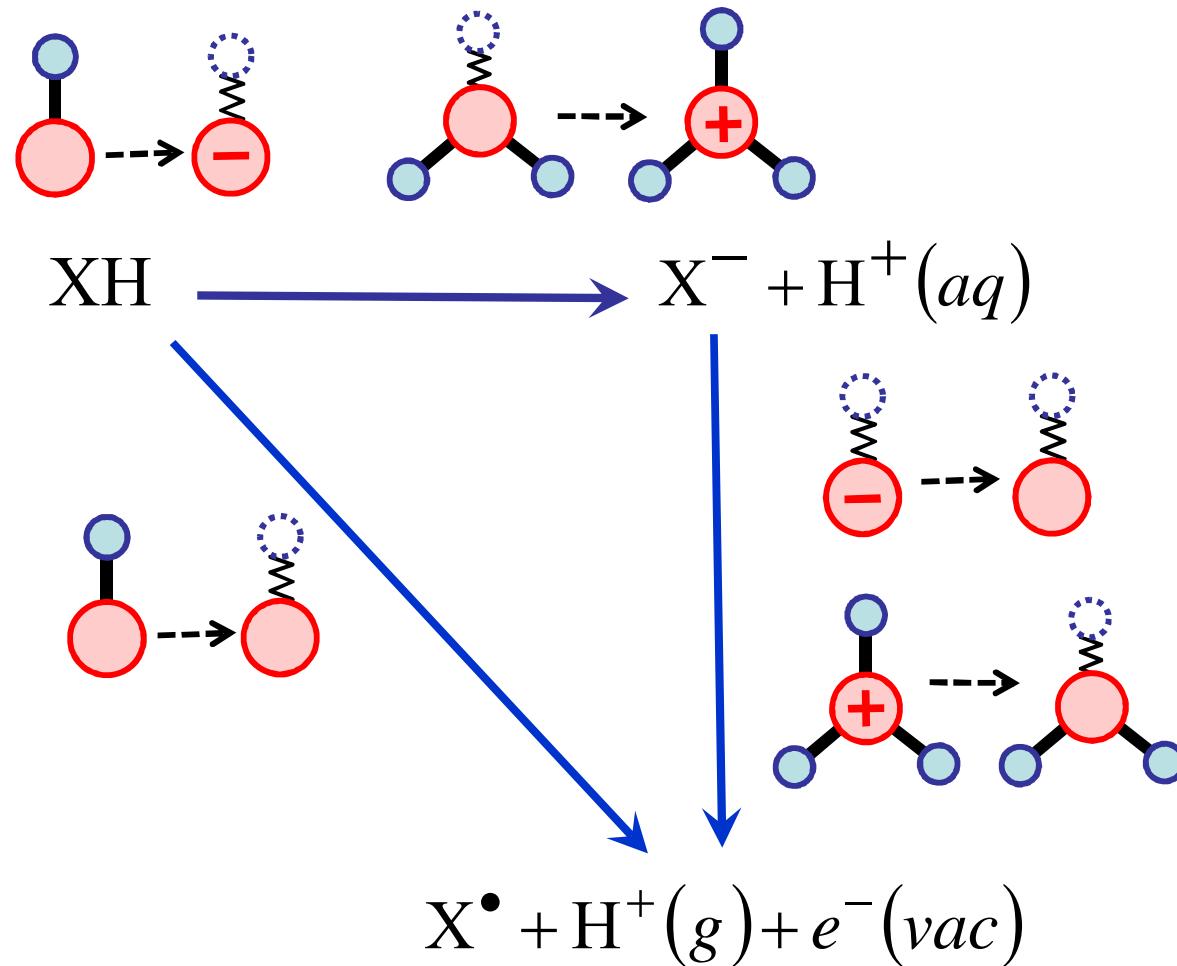
Onda and Petek, PRB (2004) 70, 045415

Kavan, Graetzel et al JACS (1996) 118, 6716

# Where are the redox levels of adsorbed H<sub>2</sub>O?

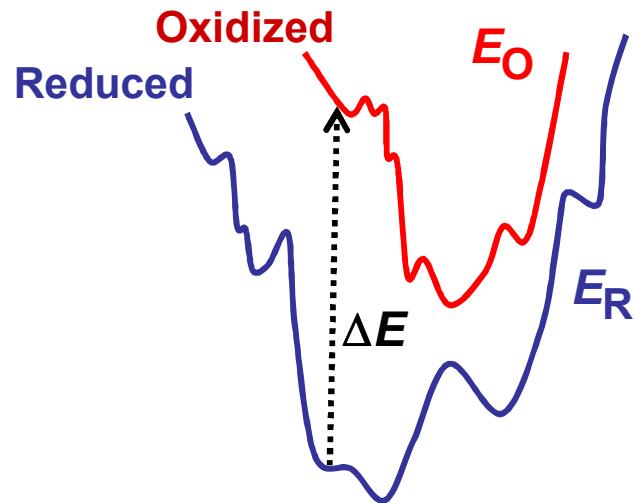


# Reversible discharge of proton + electron



Free energy perturbation plus analytical thermochemical corrections

# From vertical to adiabatic ionization energy



Two potential energy surfaces

$E_R(\mathbf{R}^N)$  : PES **reduced**

$E_O(\mathbf{R}^N)$  : PES **oxidized**

**Vertical energy gap**

$$\Delta E(\mathbf{R}^N) = E_O(\mathbf{R}^N) - E_R(\mathbf{R}^N)$$

**Mapping potential**

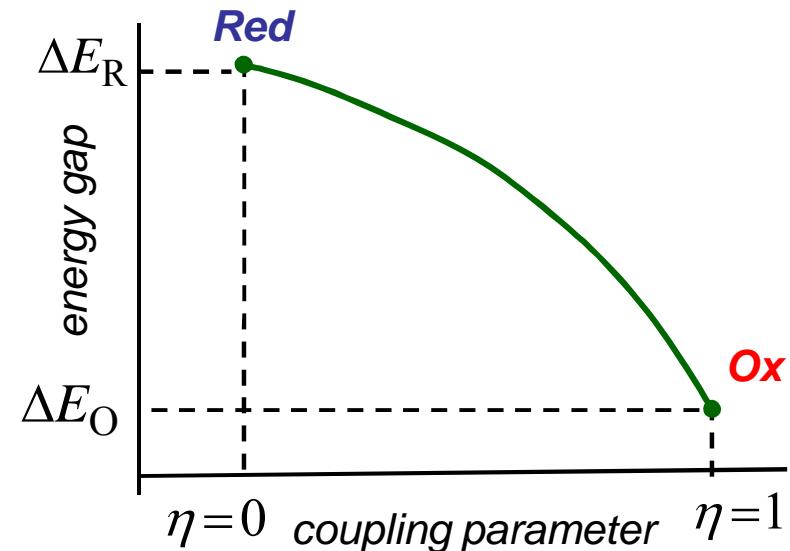
$$E_\eta(\mathbf{R}^N) = \eta E_O(\mathbf{R}^N) + (1-\eta)E_R(\mathbf{R}^N)$$

Coupling parameter derivative

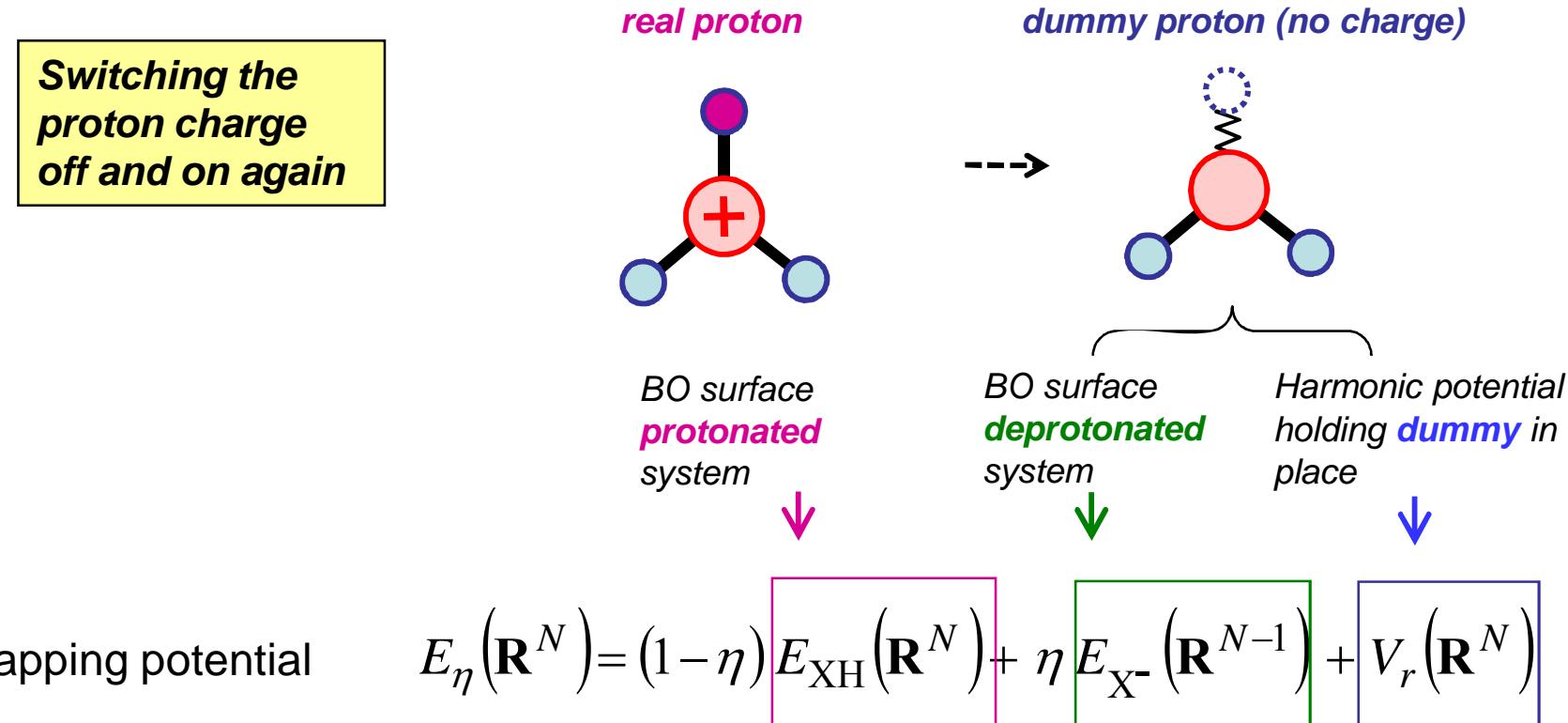
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} E_\eta(\mathbf{R}^N) = \Delta E(\mathbf{R}^N)$$

Oxidation free energy

$$\Delta A = A_O - A_R = \int_0^1 d\eta \langle \Delta E(\mathbf{R}^N) \rangle_\eta$$



# Reversible deprotonation



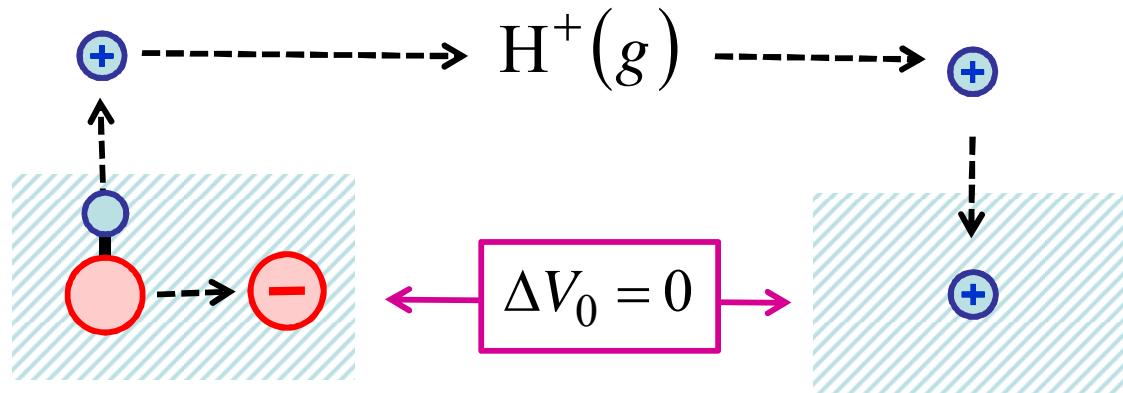
Vertical proton gap:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} E_\eta(\mathbf{R}^N) = E_{\text{X}^-}(\mathbf{R}^{N-1}) - E_{\text{XH}}(\mathbf{R}^N) = \Delta E(\mathbf{R}^N)$$

**Restrained**  
deprotonation  
free energy

$$\Delta A = A_{\text{X}^-} - A_{\text{XH}} = \int_0^1 d\eta \langle \Delta E \rangle_{r\eta}$$

# Half cell method for determination pKa



$$\Delta_{dp} A + \boxed{V_0}$$

Adiabatic deprotonation energy

$$\Delta_s G_{H^+} - \boxed{V_0}$$

Solvation free energy  $H^+$

$$2.3 k_B T \text{p}K_a = \int_0^1 d\eta \left\langle \Delta_{dp} E_{XH} \right\rangle_{r\eta} - \int_0^1 d\eta \left\langle \Delta_{dp} E_{H_3O^+} \right\rangle_{r\eta} + k_B T \ln [c^o \Lambda_{H^+}^3]$$

**Bias  $V_0$  in the electrostatic reference should cancel**

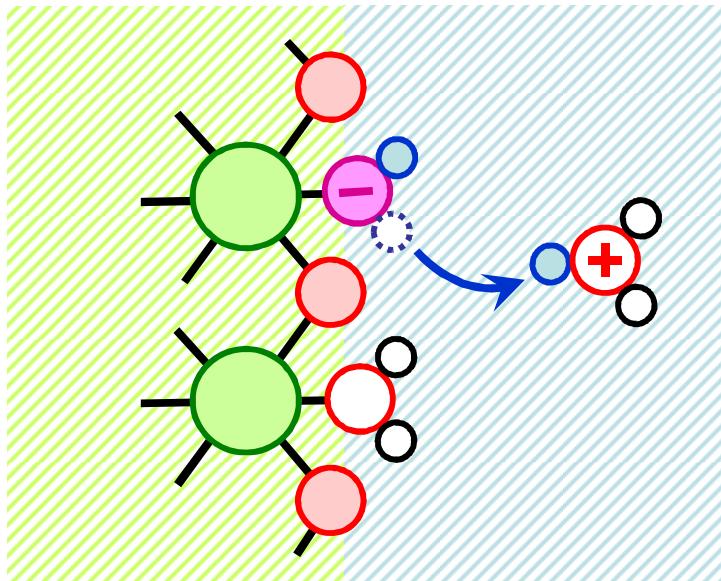
# Small acids: Comparison to experiment

Energies eV	$\Delta_{\text{dp}} A_{\text{XH}}$	$\text{p}K_a$	exp.	$\Delta \text{p}K_a$
HCl	15.1	-7	-7	0
$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$	15.35	-3.2	-1.74	-1.5
HCOOH	15.8	5	3.75	1
$\text{H}_2\text{S}$	16.0	8	7.0	1
$\text{CH}_3\text{SH}$	16.1	11	10.3	1
$\text{NH}_4^+$	16.1	11	10.2	1
Errors	statistical uncertainty < 0.1 eV			<b>MUE = 1</b>

$$\Delta_{\text{dp}} A_{\text{XH}} = \int_0^1 d\eta \left\langle \Delta_{\text{dp}} E_{\text{XH}} \right\rangle_{r\eta}$$

(*Sulpizi*)

# Surface acidity and point of zero charge

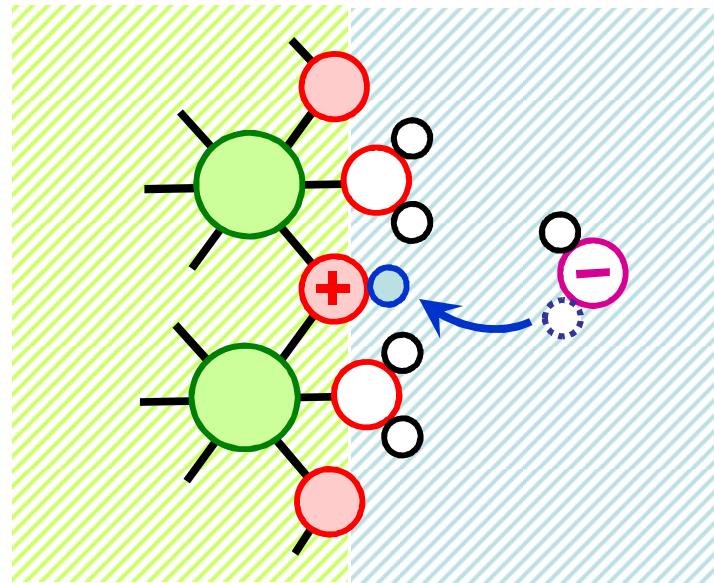


Deprotonation of terminal H<sub>2</sub>O

$$pK_{a1} = pK_{aH_2O_t}$$

$$PZC = \frac{1}{2}(pK_{a1} + pK_{a2})$$

$$\Delta pK_a = pK_{a1} - pK_{a2}$$



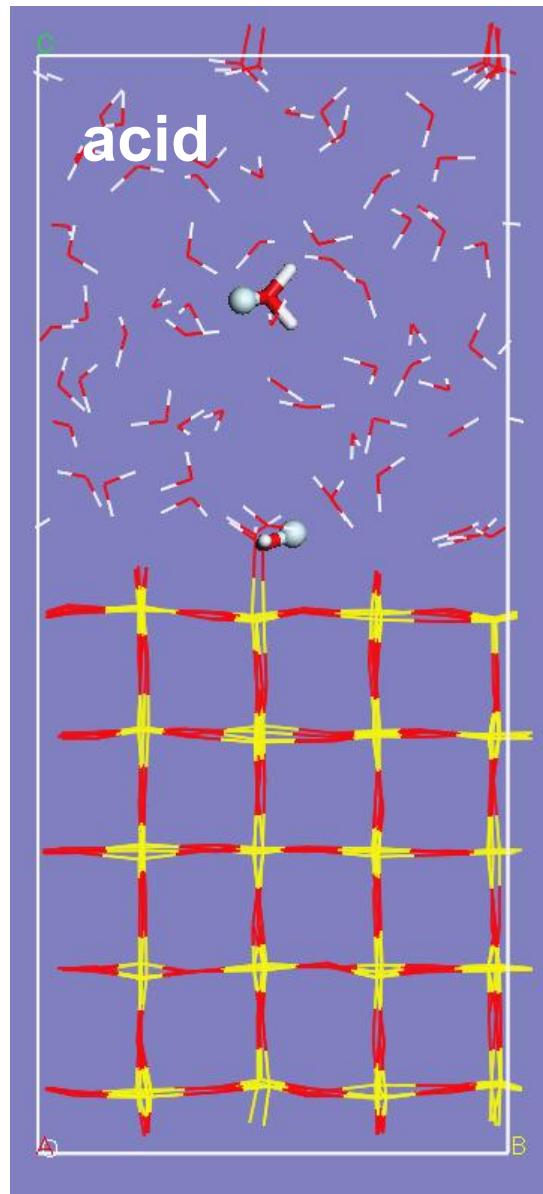
Protonation of bridging O

$$pK_{a2} = pK_W - pK_{bO_b}$$

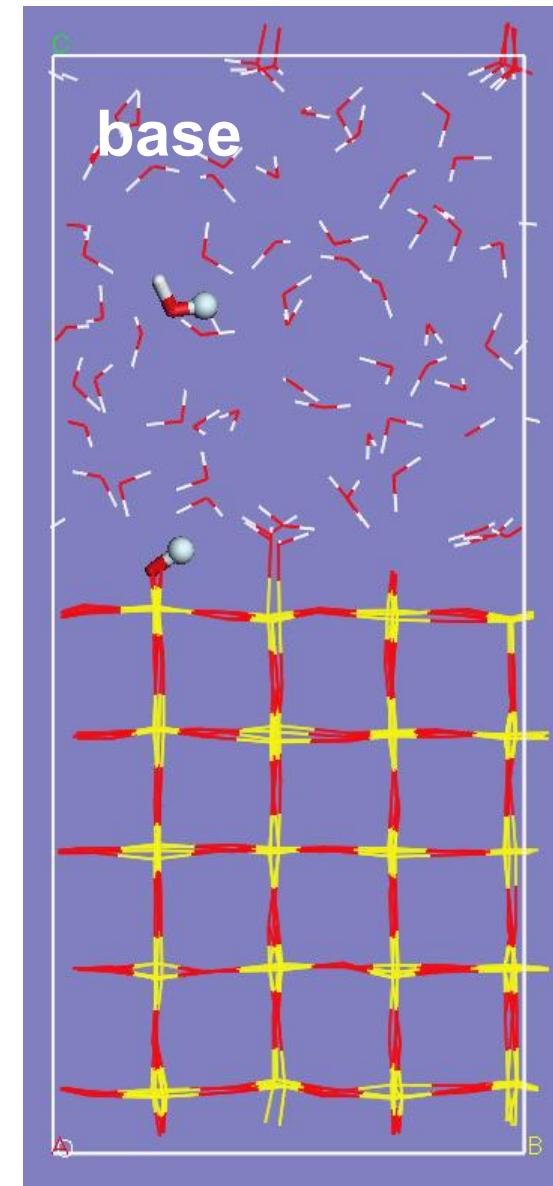
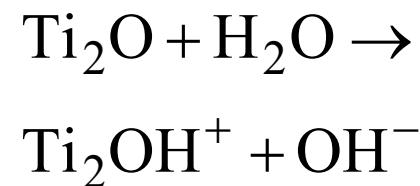
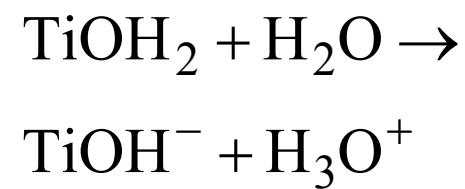
*pH at zero net proton charge*

*Surface dissociation constant*

# Acidity of the $\text{TiO}_2$ (110 rutile) water interface

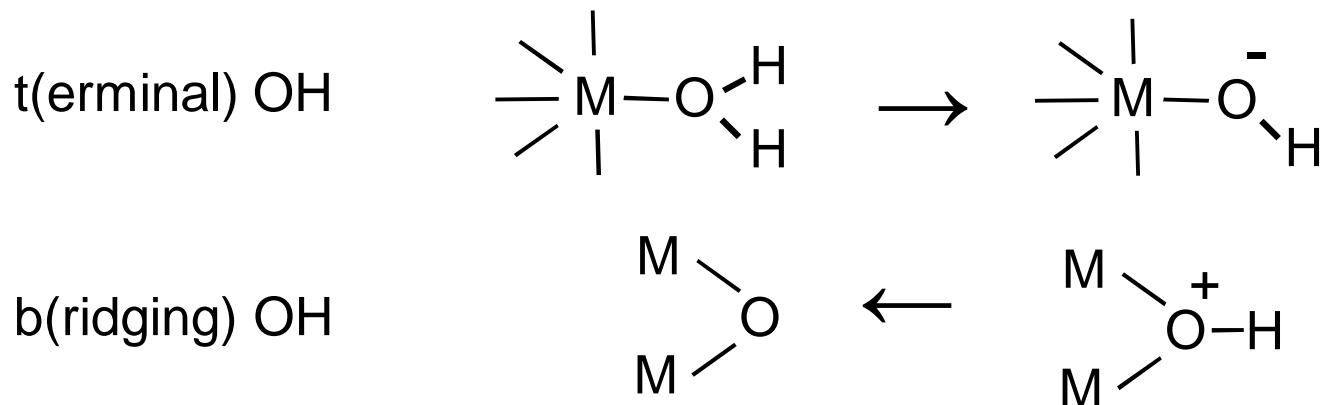


Cell:  $11.9 \times 13.2 \times 30.8 \text{ \AA}^3$   
80  $\text{TiO}_2$  units  
(5 O-Ti-O layers)  
71  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules  
PBE functional (DVZP)



(Jun Cheng)

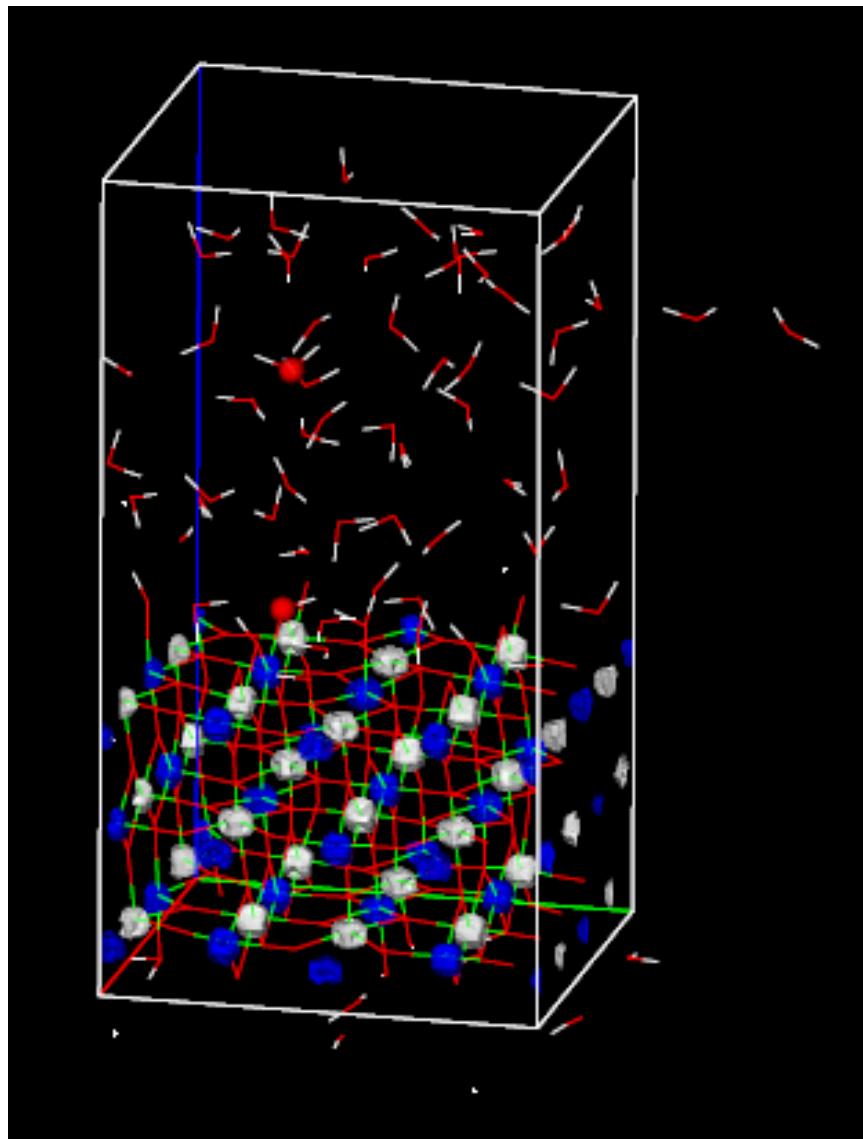
# Acidity of three rutile (110) surfaces compared



	conf	tOH	bOH.	PZC	PZC(exp)	$\Delta pK_a$
TiO <sub>2</sub>	$d^0$	6.	-4	1	5	10
MnO <sub>2</sub>	$d^3$	5	2	3	5-7	3
SnO <sub>2</sub>	$d^{10}$	-1	10	4	4-6	-11

1 pK unit = 0.059 meV

# Acidity of the $\text{MnO}_2$ (110 rutile) water interface



Cell:  $11.5 \times 12.4 \times 23.8 \text{ \AA}^3$

48  $\text{MnO}_2$  units

(3 O-Mn-O layers)

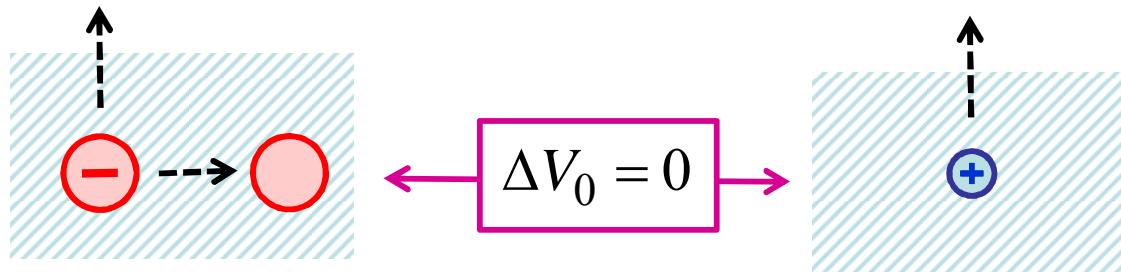
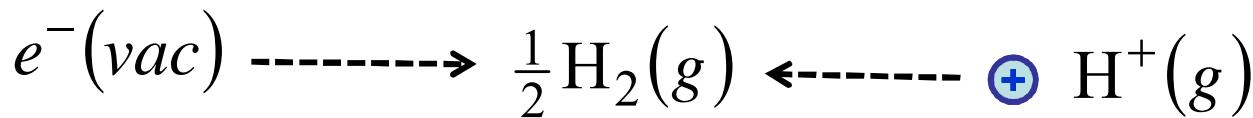
58  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules

PBE functional (DVZP)

**Spin polarization**

*(John Kattirtzi)*

# Half cell method for electrode potentials



$$\Delta_{ip} A - V_0$$

Adiabatic ionization potential

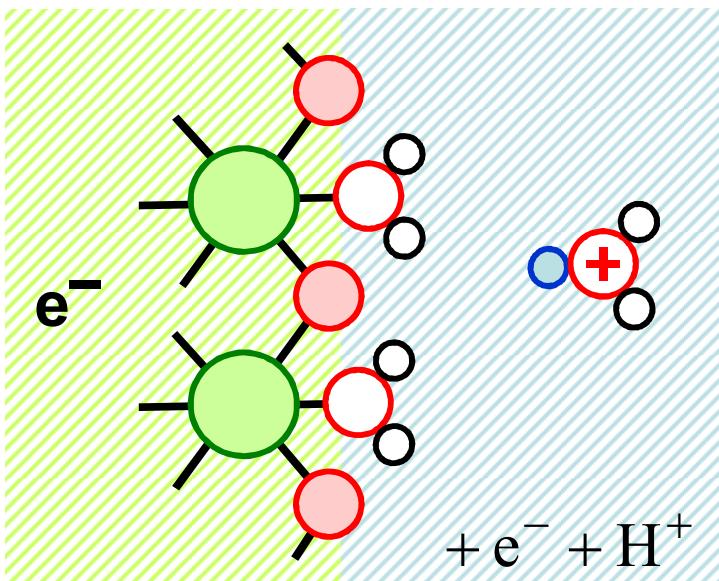
$$- \Delta_s G_{H^+} + V_0$$

Desolvation free energy  $H^+$

$$eE^\circ = \int_0^1 d\eta \left\langle \Delta_{ip} E_{X^-} \right\rangle_\eta + \int_0^1 d\eta \left\langle \Delta_{dp} E_{H_3O^+} \right\rangle_{r\eta} - \Delta_{zp} E_{H^+} - \Delta_f G_{H^+(g)}$$

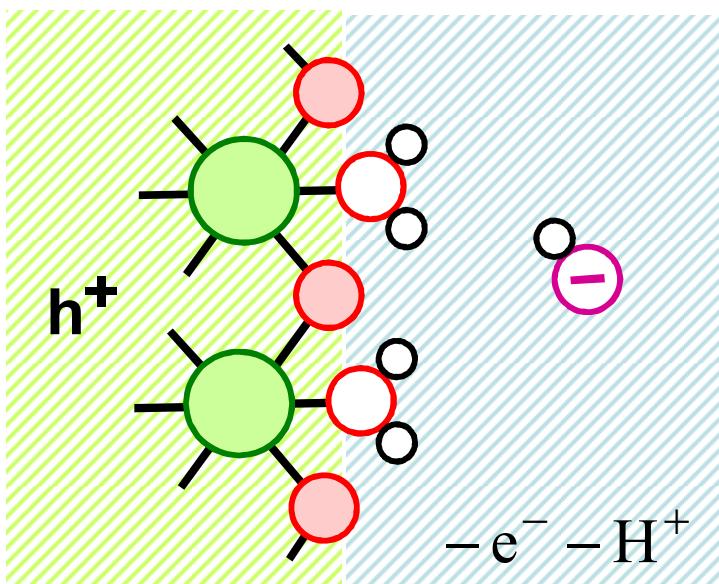
**Bias  $V_0$  in the electrostatic reference should cancel**

# Potentials for oxide electrode



**Electron affinity vs NHE**

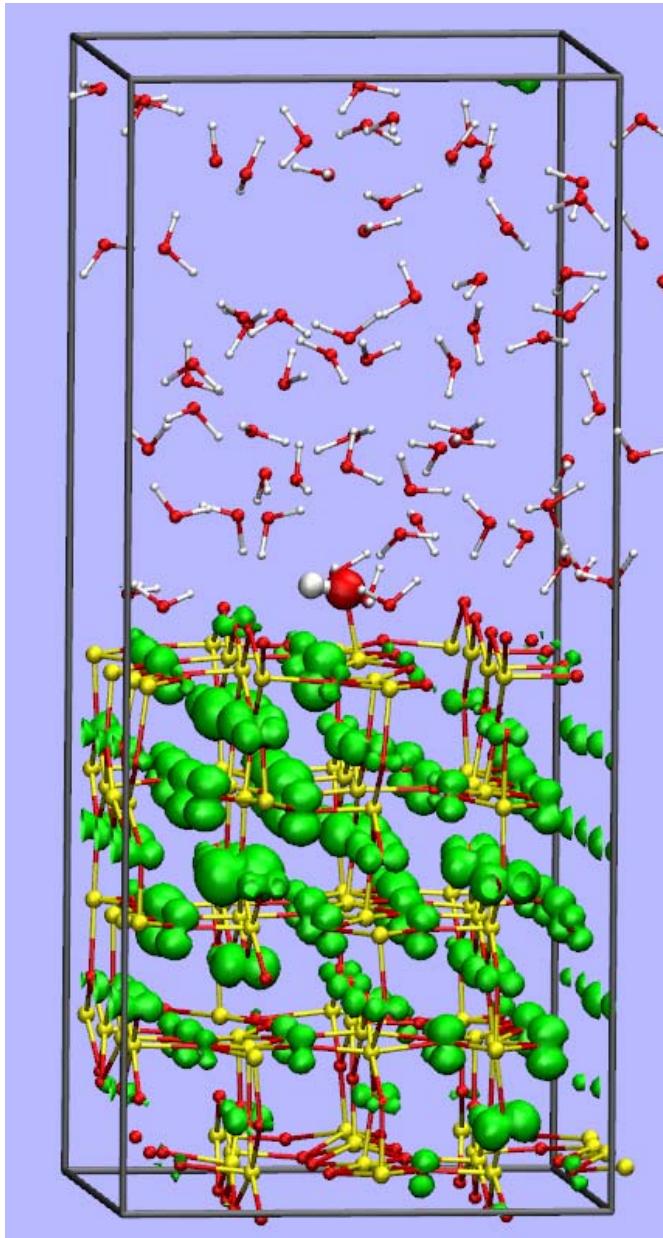
Inserting **electron** in **solid**  
+  
and **proton** in **solution**



**Ionization potential vs NHE**

Removing **electron** from **solid**  
+  
and **proton** from **solution**

# DFTMD Model system $\text{TiO}_2$ water interface



Cell:  $11.9 \times 13.2 \times 30.8 \text{ \AA}^3$   
(water layer  $\approx 15 \text{ \AA}$  across )

80  $\text{TiO}_2$  units

71  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules

Gaussian basis (DVZP)

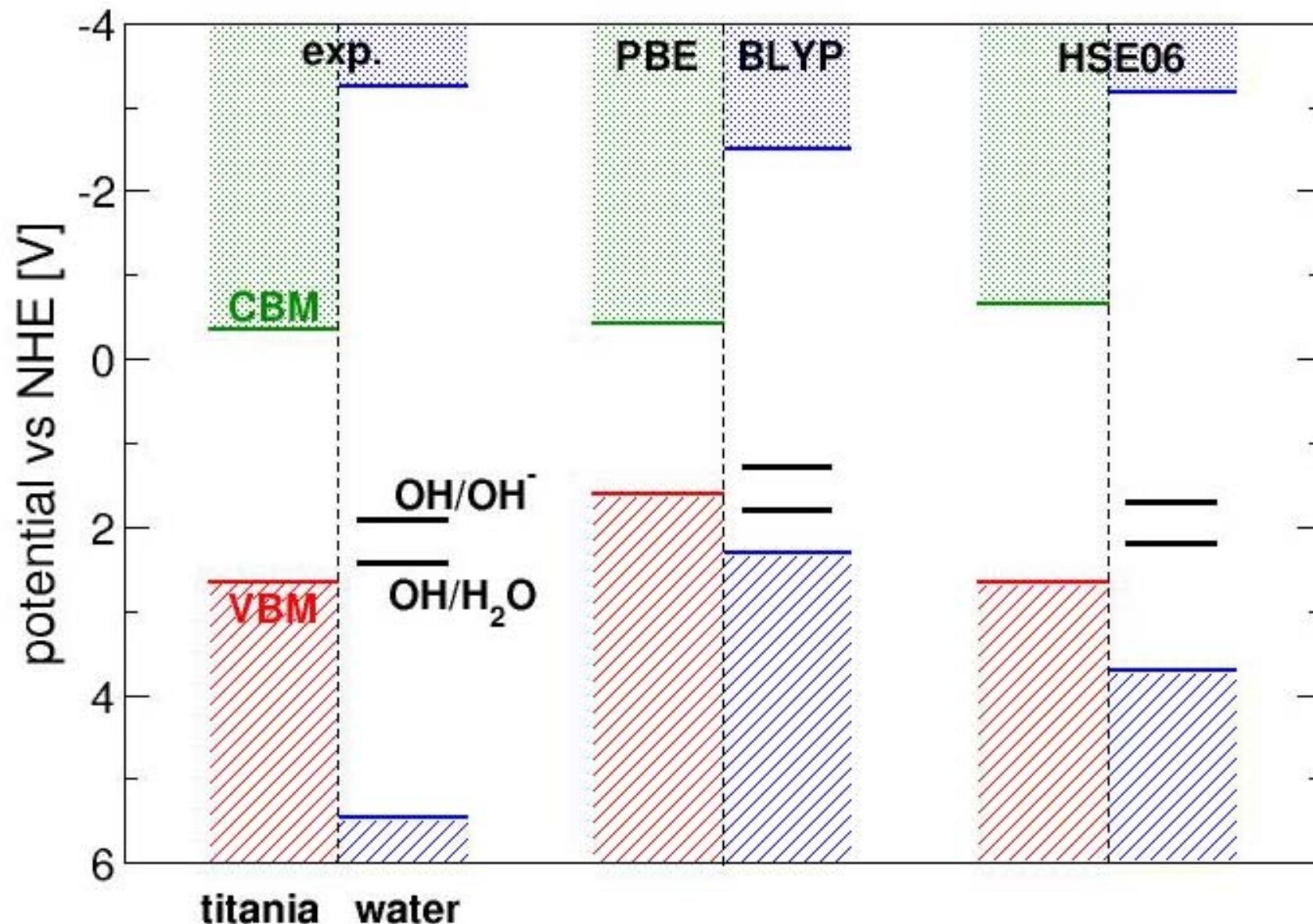
MD trajectories of 5-10 ps

DFTMD code: **CP2K**

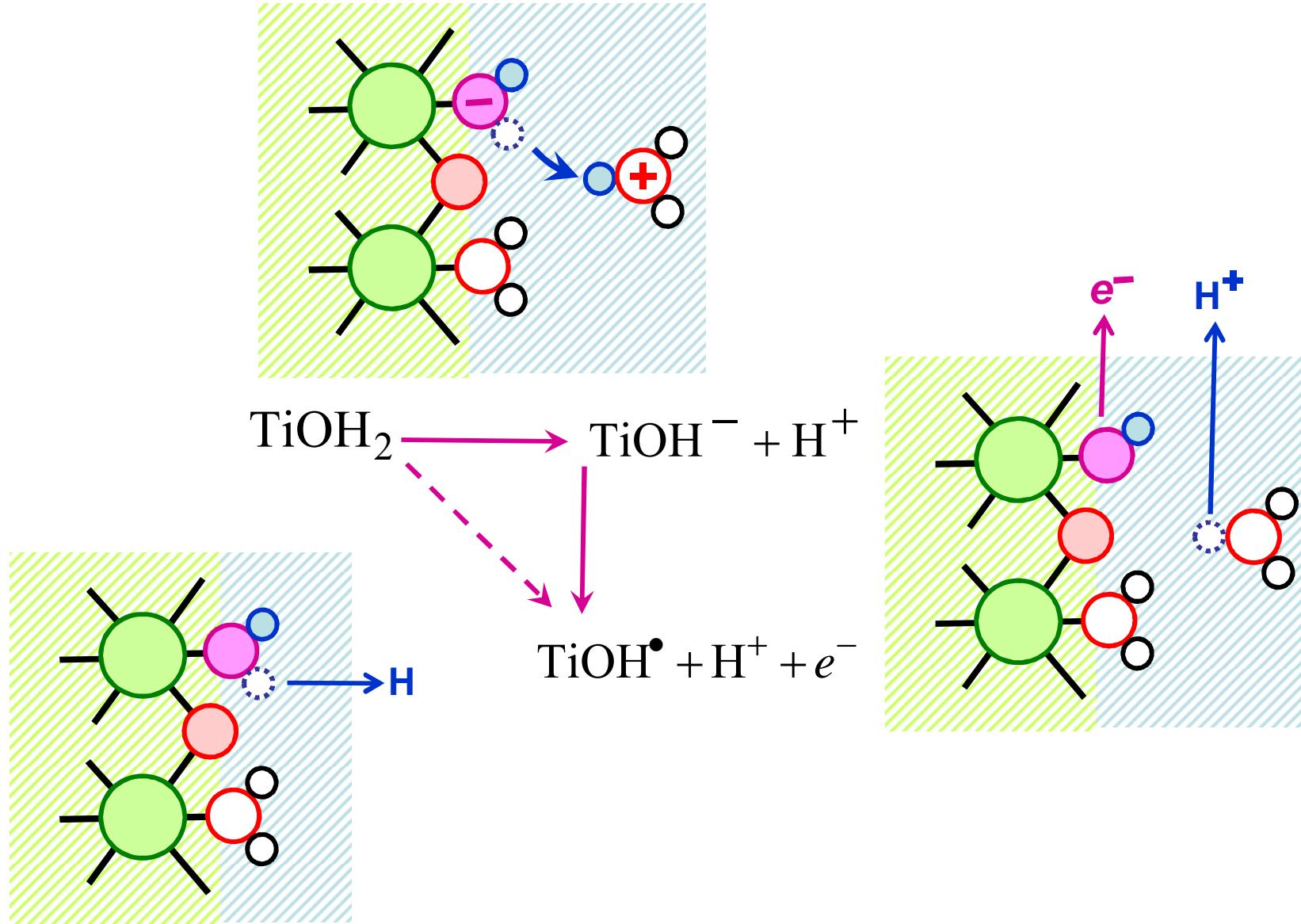
*Solid slab and NHE in the same  
periodic DFTMD model system*

*Spin density (PBE)*

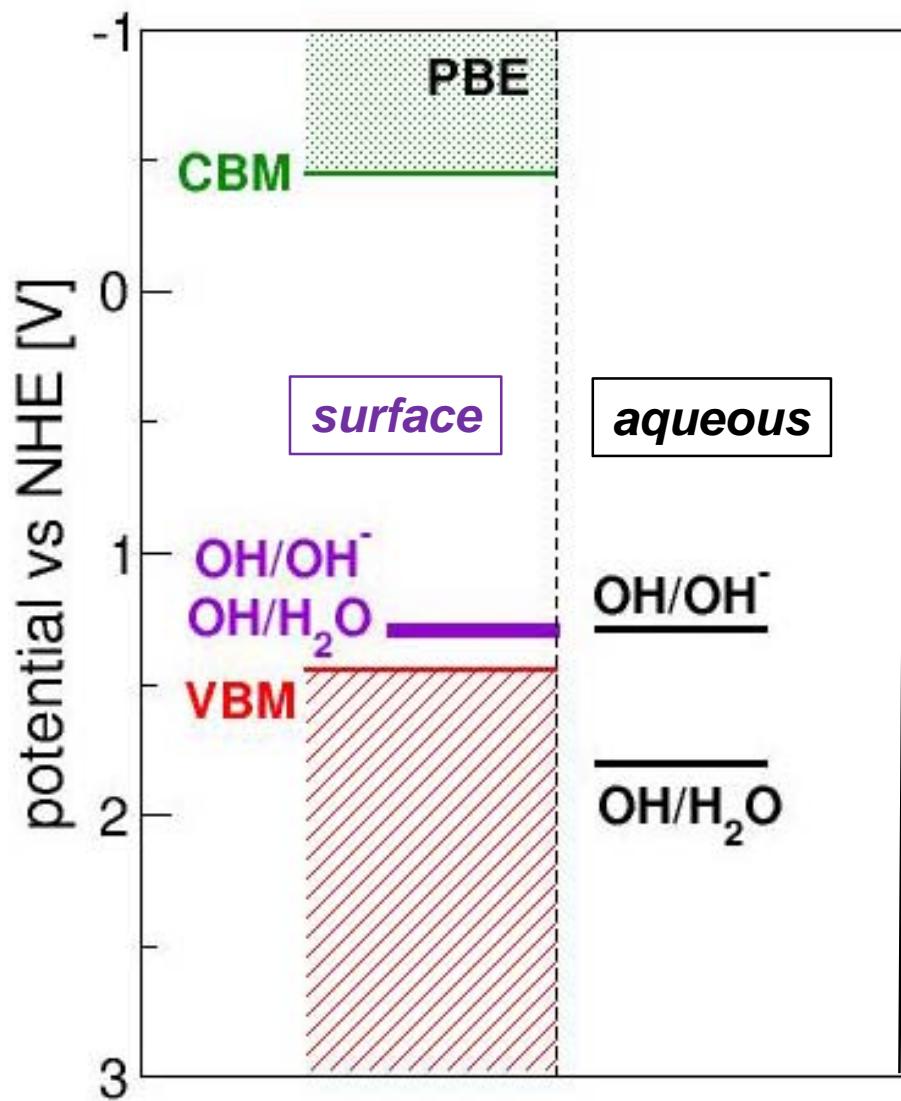
# Level alignment at PZC



# Oxidative dehydrogenation of a terminal water



# Surface activation of ODH of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at PZC

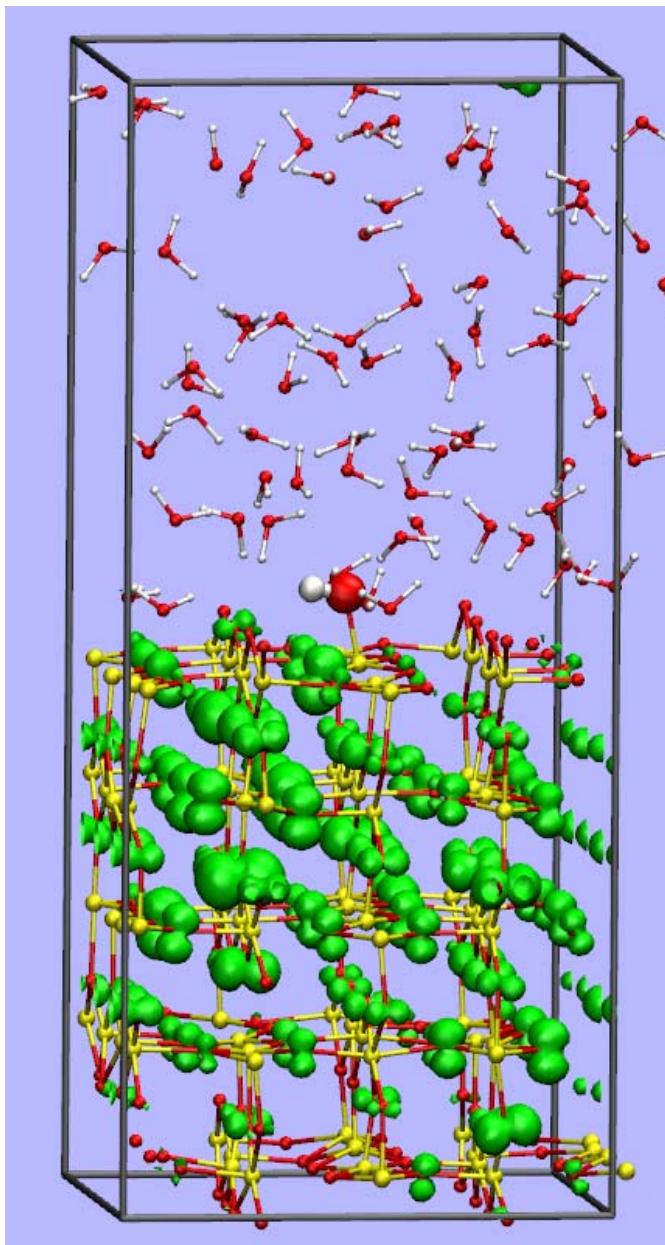


- Adsorption decreases pKa
- No electronic activation

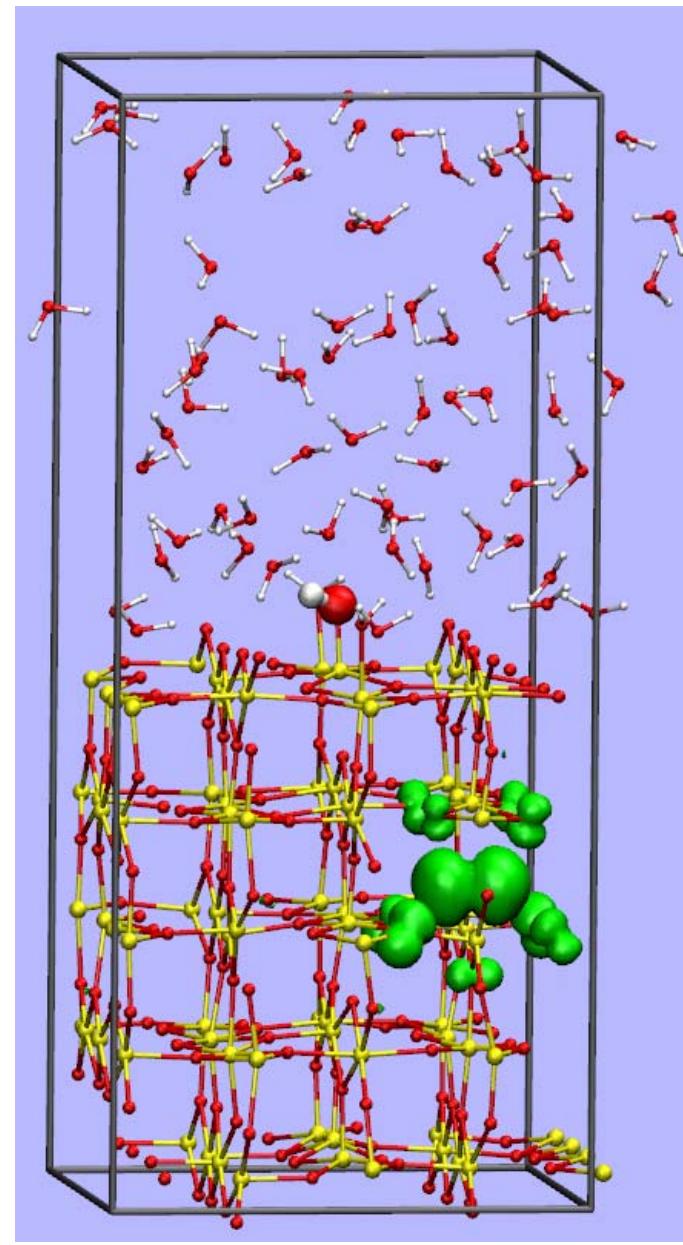
*Fooled by the GGA?*

# Surface OH<sup>-</sup> - hole pair

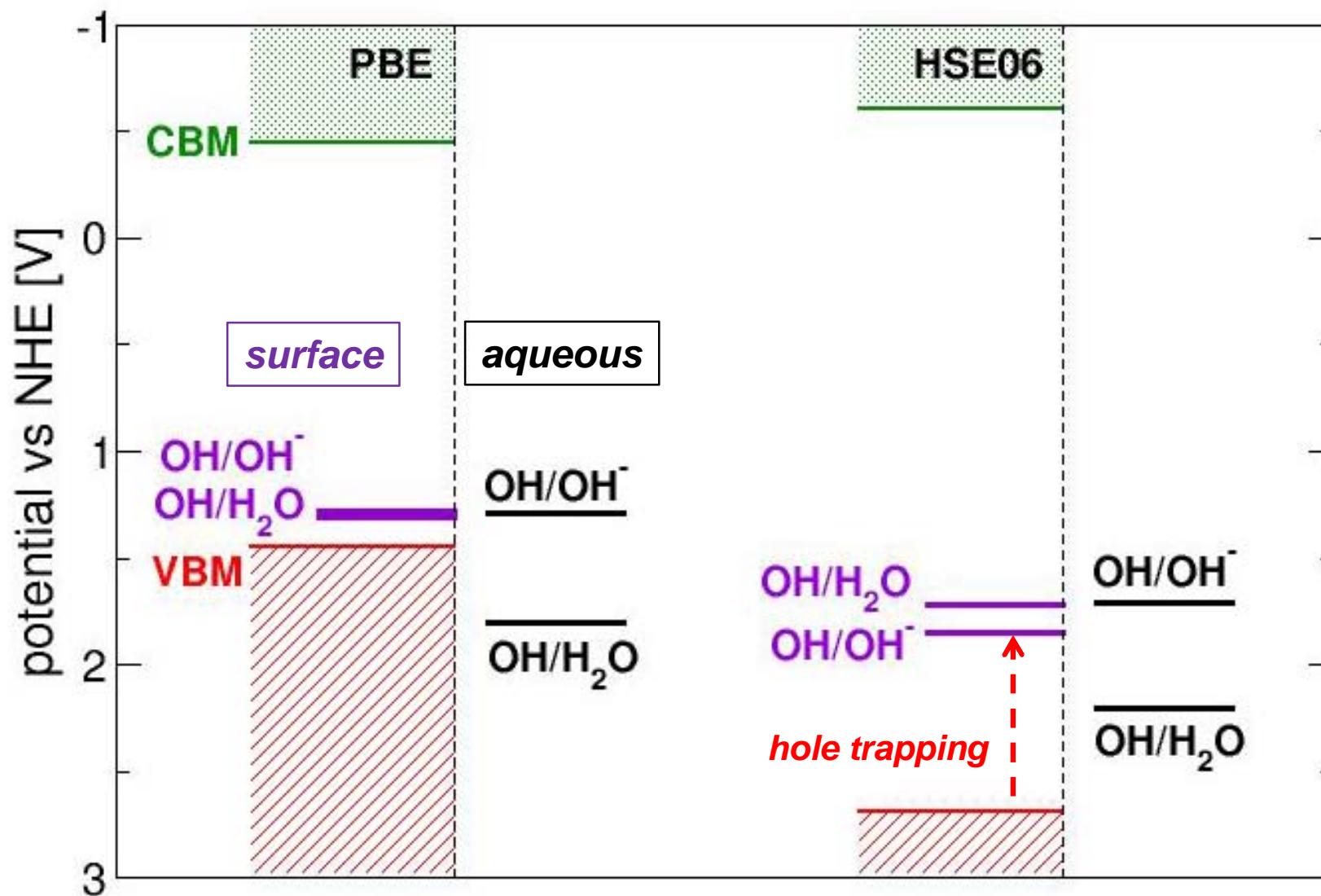
PBE



HSE06

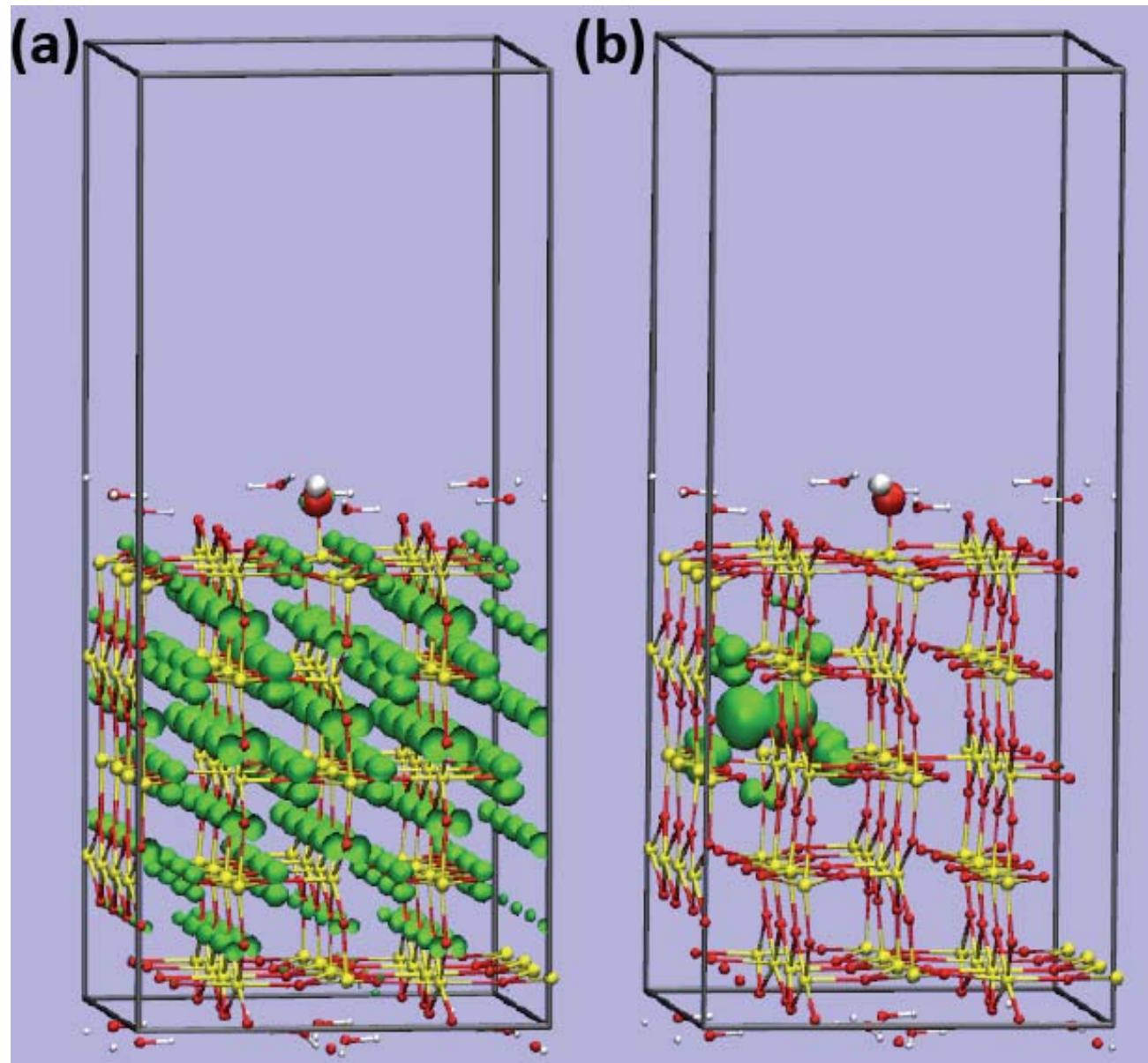


# Surface activation of ODH of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at PZC

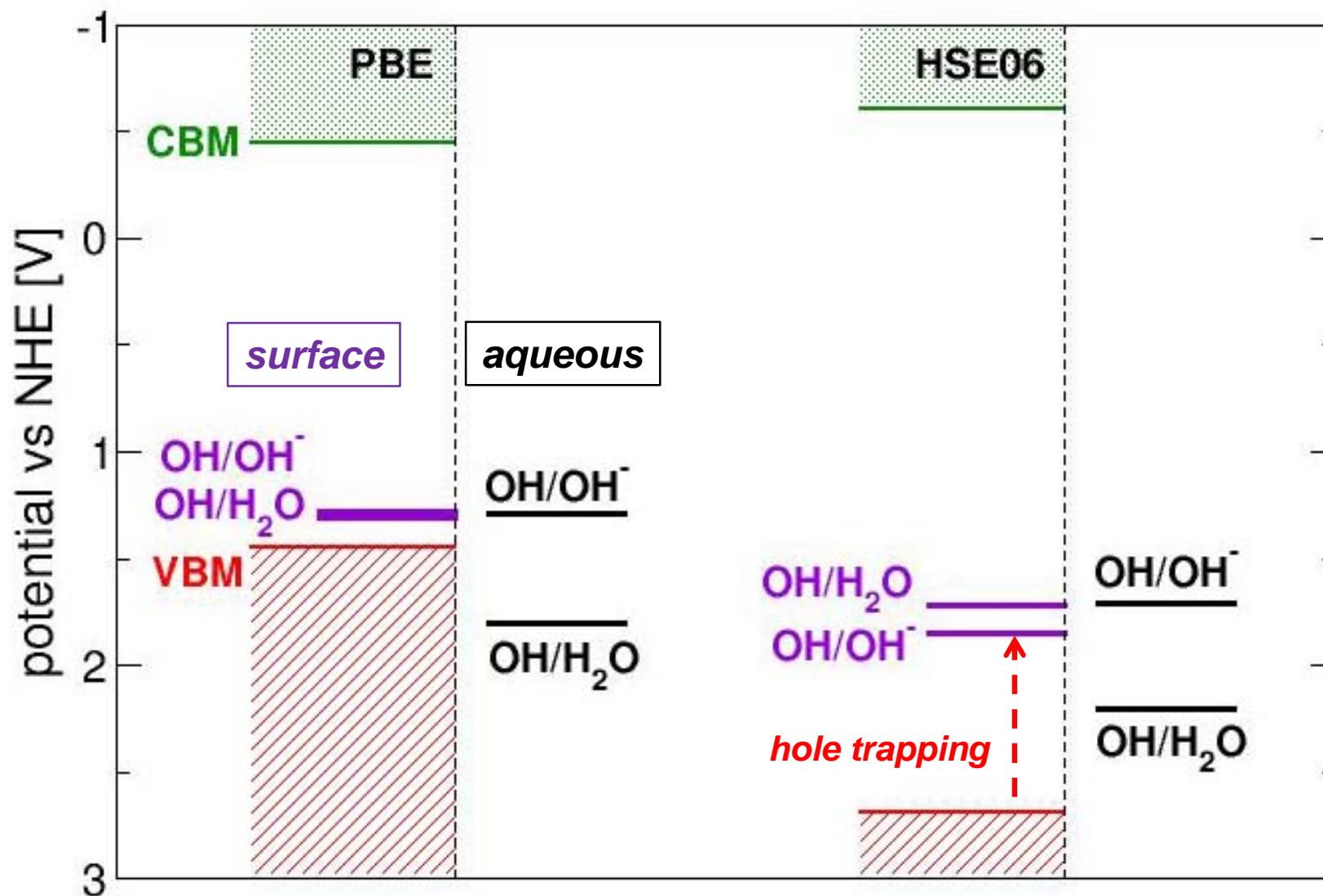


**No electronic activation, increase in acidity only**

# The 1 mono-layer of water model system

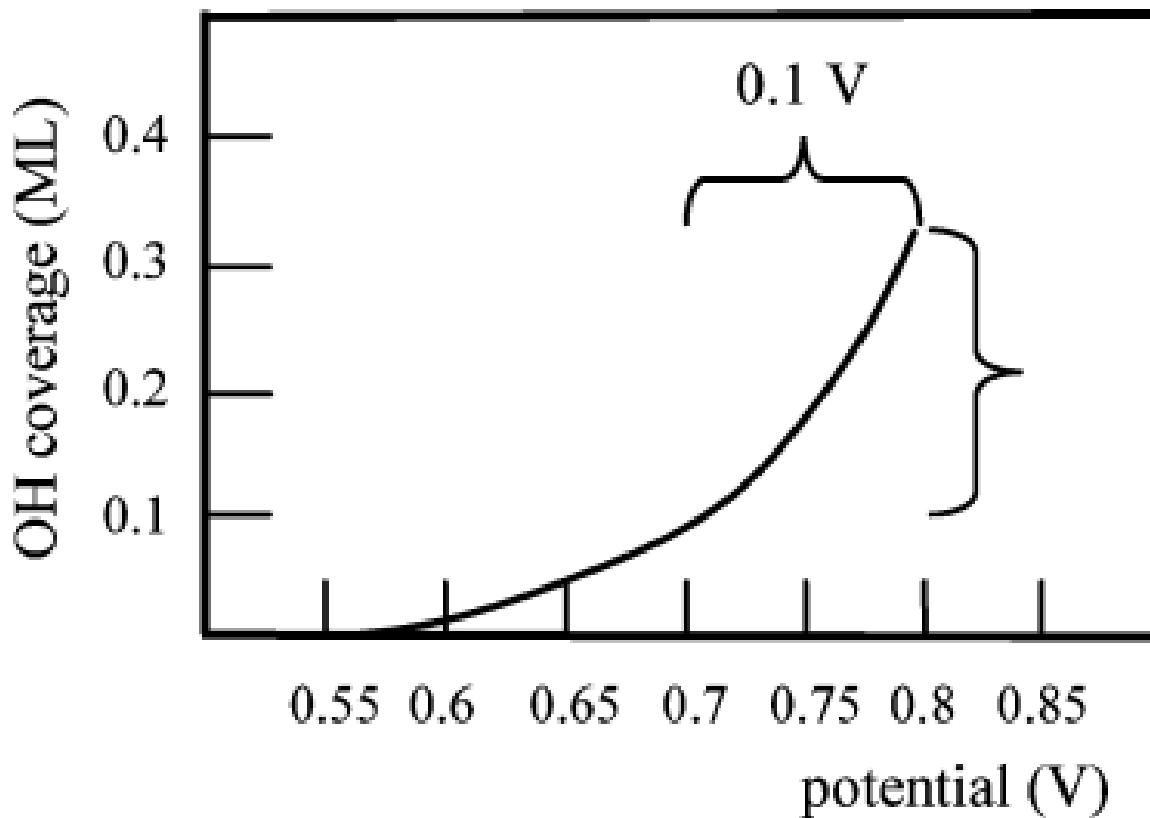


# Surface activation of ODH of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at PZC



**No electronic activation, increase in acidity only**

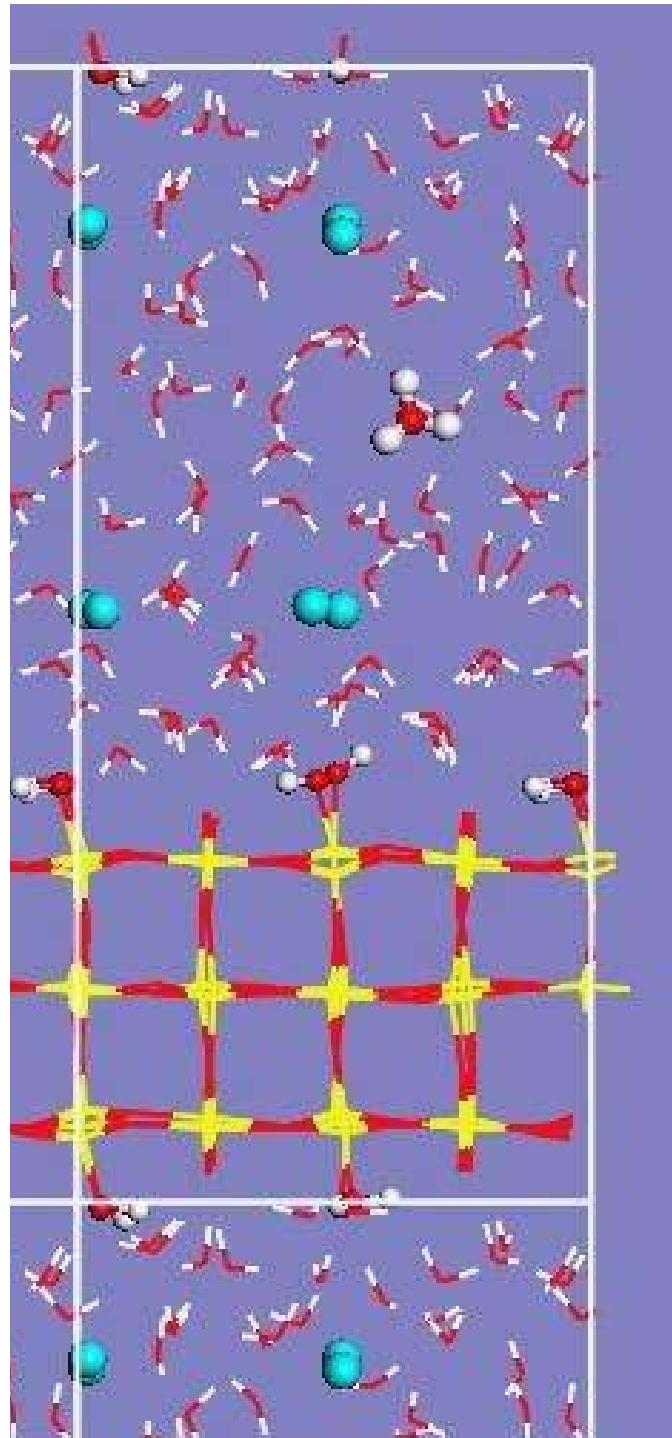
# Surface activation of ODH on Pt(111)



*Why is Pt so much  
more effective?*

(1) Climent, V.; Gomez, R.; Orts, J. M.; Feliu, J. M. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2006, 110, 11344–11351.

(2) Wakisaka, M.; Suzuki, H.; Miotsui, S.; Uchida, H.; Watanabe, M. *Langmuir* 2009, 25, 1897–1900.



## Compact (Stern) double layer model

Cell:  $11.9 \times 13.2 \times 29.2 \text{ \AA}^3$

48  $\text{TiO}_2$  units

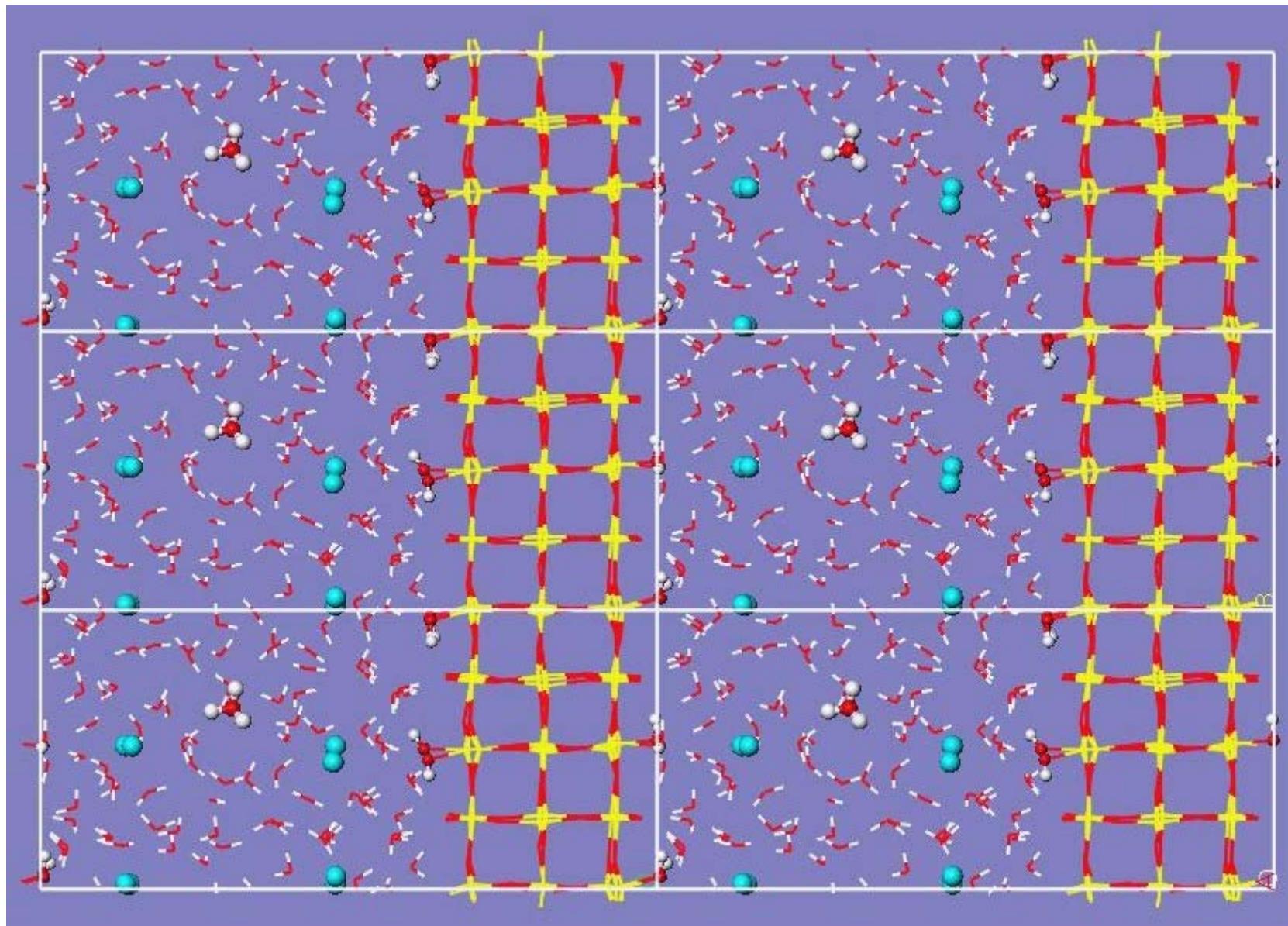
97  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules

$2 \times 4 = 8$   $\text{Na}^+$  ions

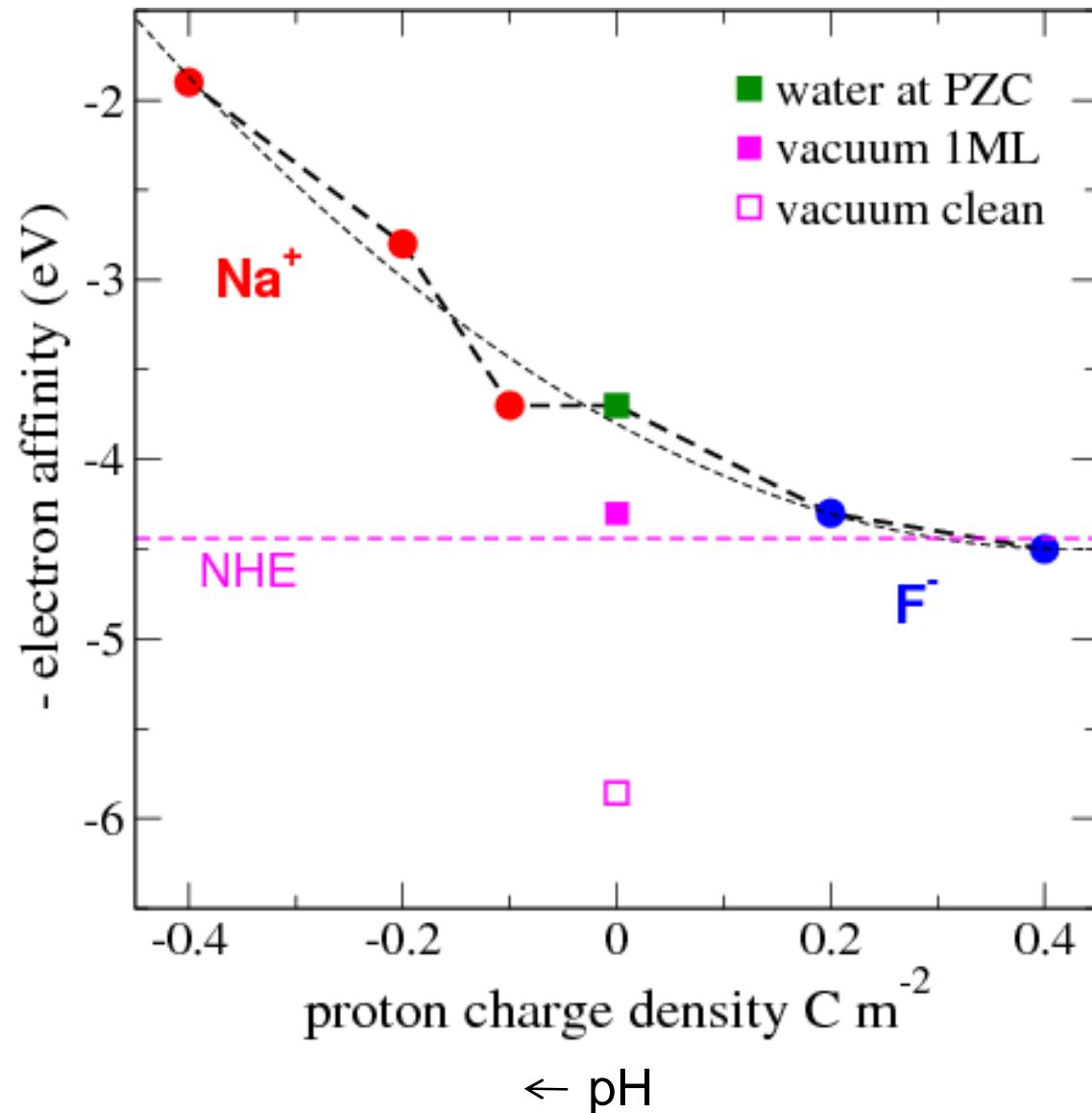
PBE functional (DVZP)

Double layer on both sides of the slab

# Compact (Stern) double layer model



# Charging the $\text{TiO}_2$ water interface



Capacitance

$$\frac{1}{C} = \frac{dV}{dQ}$$

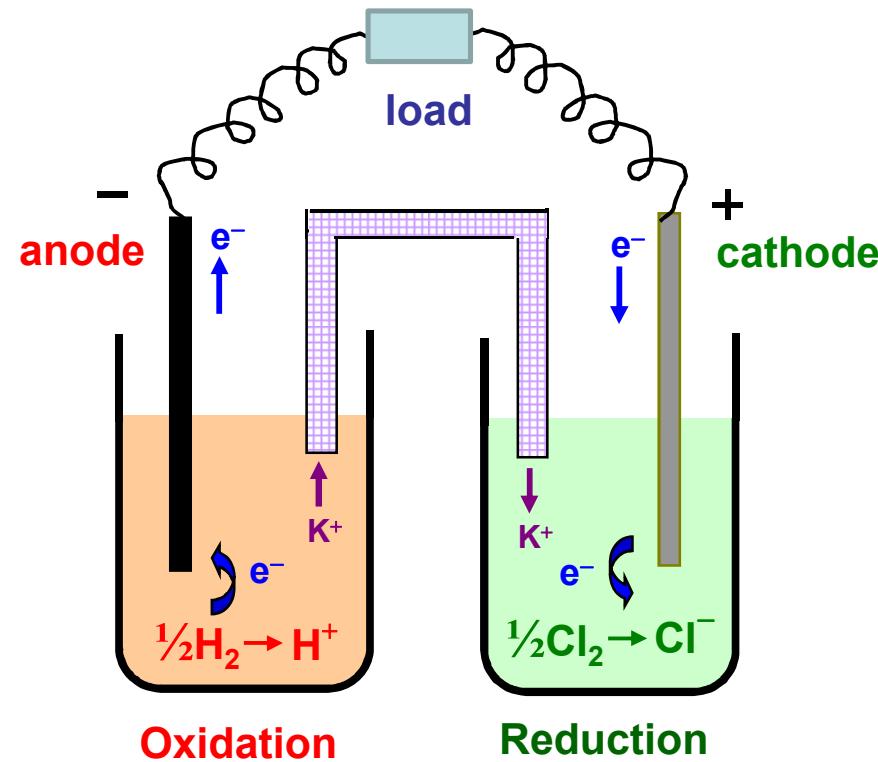
at PZC

Calc.  $C = 0.3 \text{ Fm}^{-2}$

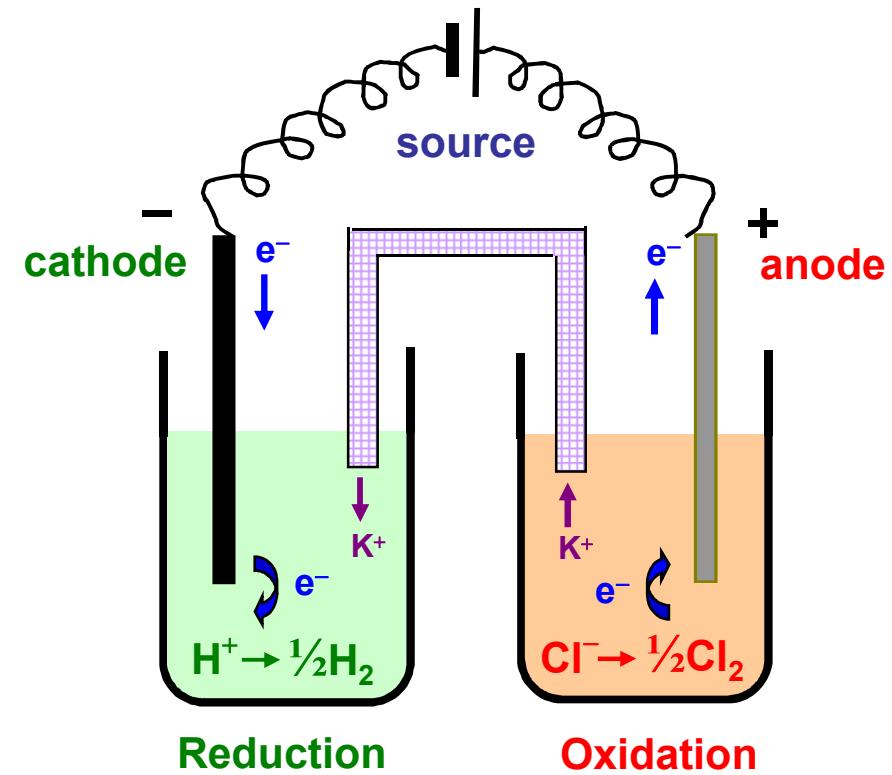
Exp.  $C = 1.0 \text{ Fm}^{-2}$

*pH dependence  
flatband potential  
is overestimated*

# The two modes of an electrochemical cell



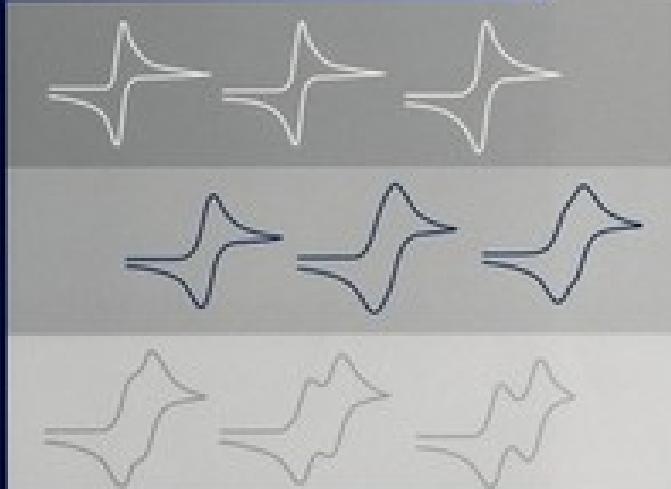
*Generating electricity*



*Driving reactions*

ELECTROCHEMICAL  
METHODS  
Fundamentals  
and  
Applications

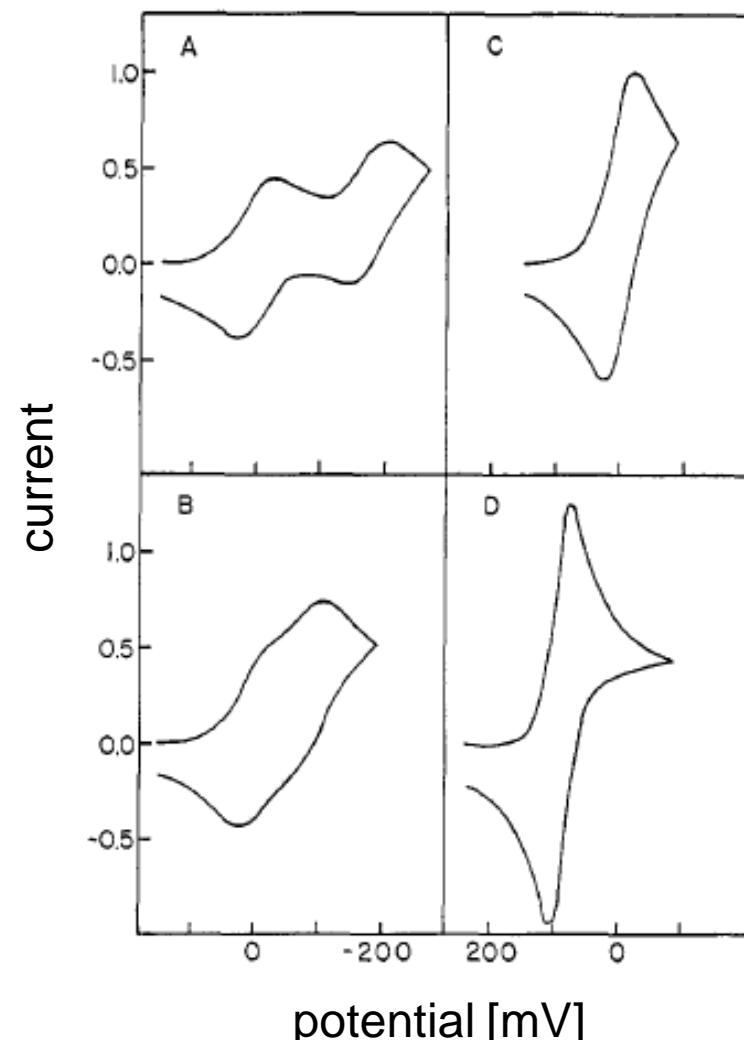
SECOND EDITION



ALLEN J. BARD

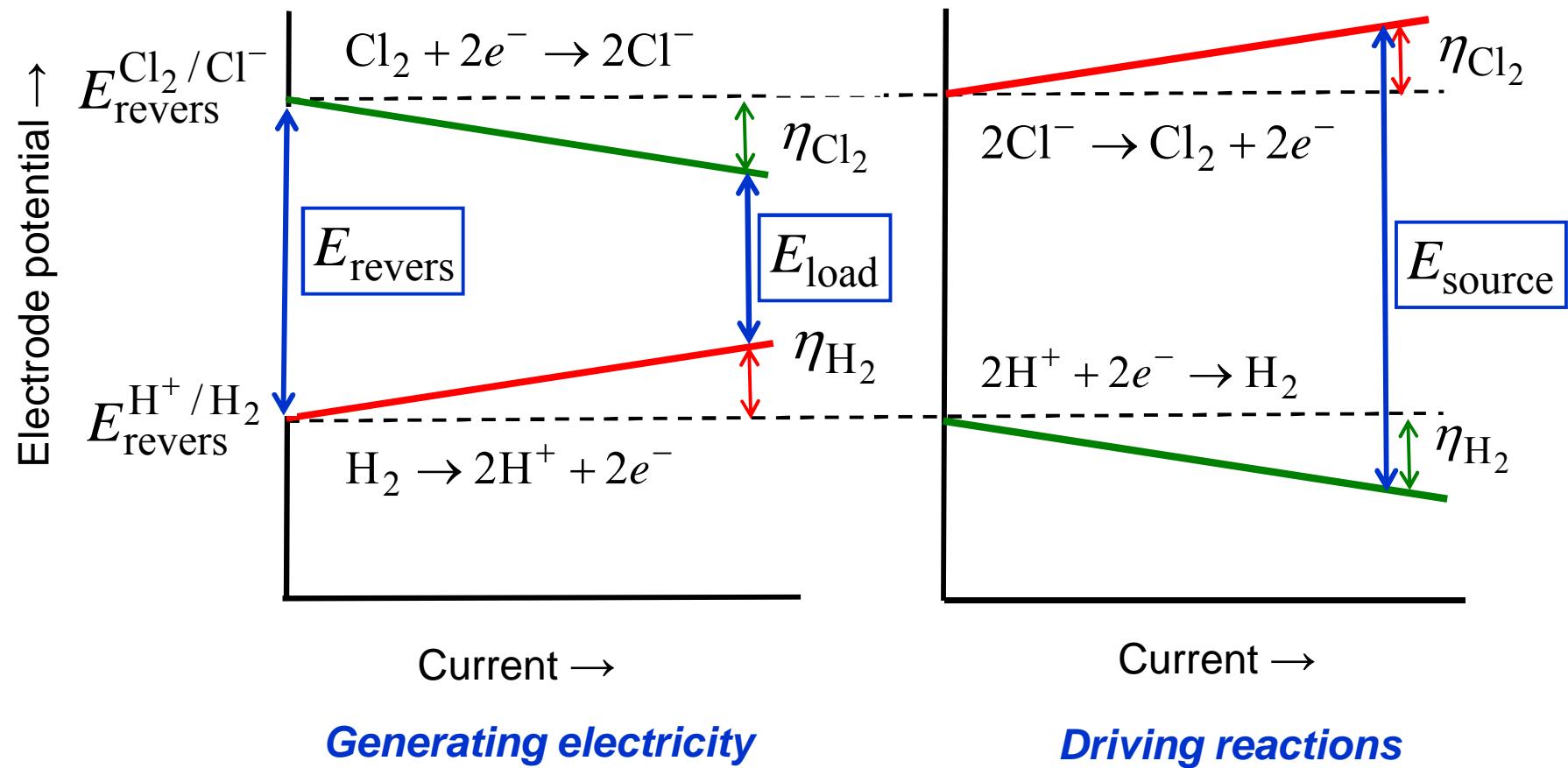
LARRY R. FAULKNER

# Cyclic Voltammetry



***Not ready for this yet***

# Overpotentials are wasting energy



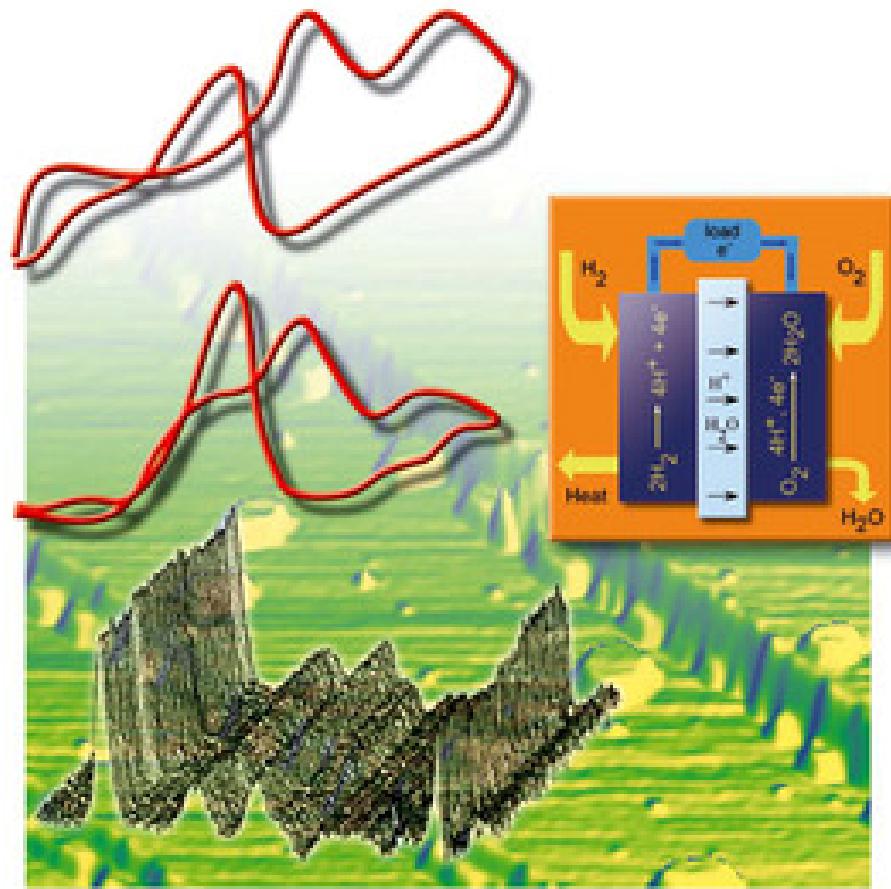
Energies of barriers and intermediates can already give a clue

Carl H. Hamann, Andrew Hamnett,  
Wolf Vielstich

WILEY-VCH

# Electrochemistry

Second, Completely Revised and Updated Edition

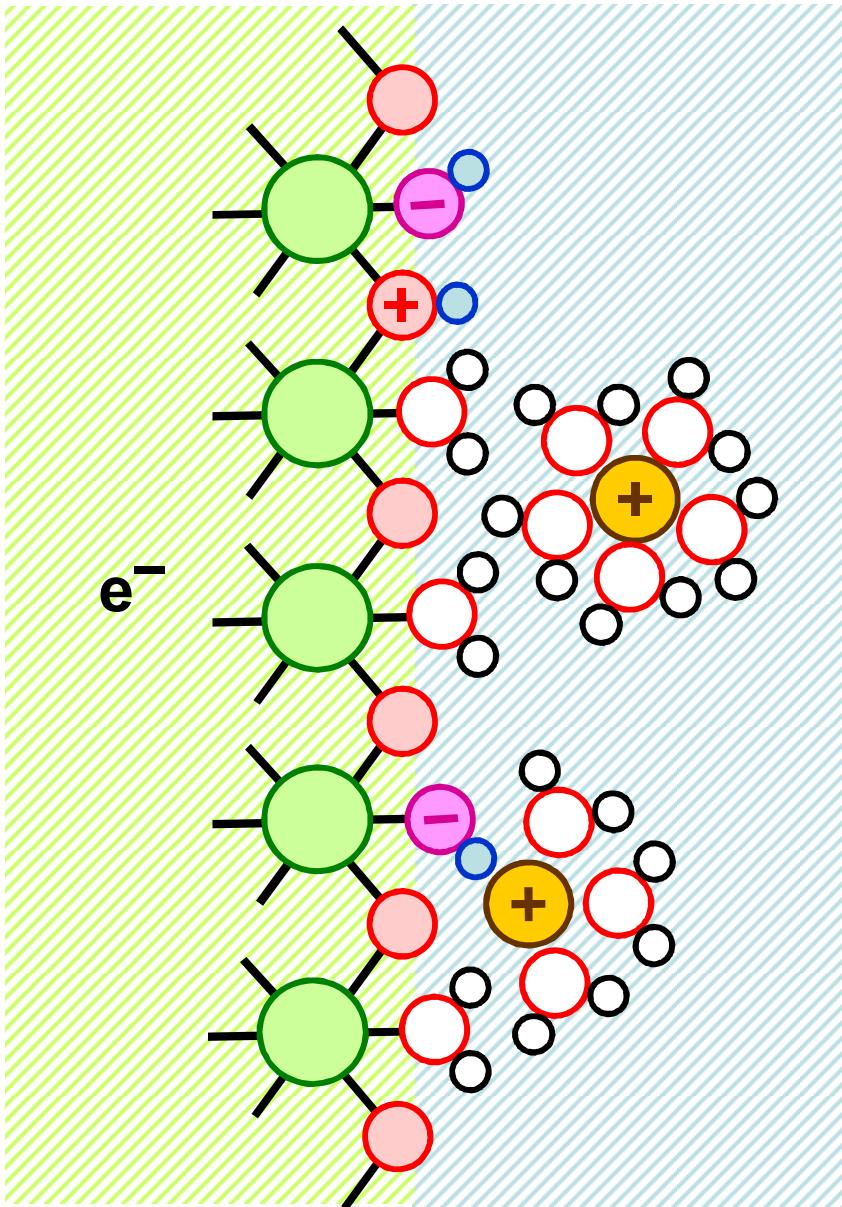


Reference for the  
previous slide

But, yes

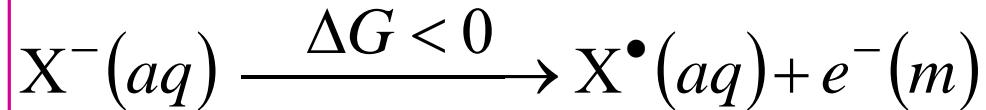
*Electrochemistry is  
hard for theorists ...*

# Electrical double layer at a $\text{TiO}_2$ water interface



- Excess electron charge  
*electrons in conduction band  
holes in valence band*
- Excess proton charge  
*deprotonation terminal waters  
protonation bridging oxygens*
- Ionic counter charge  
*cations and anions from  
electrolytic solution*

# Rates: Compare vertical and adiabatic IP's

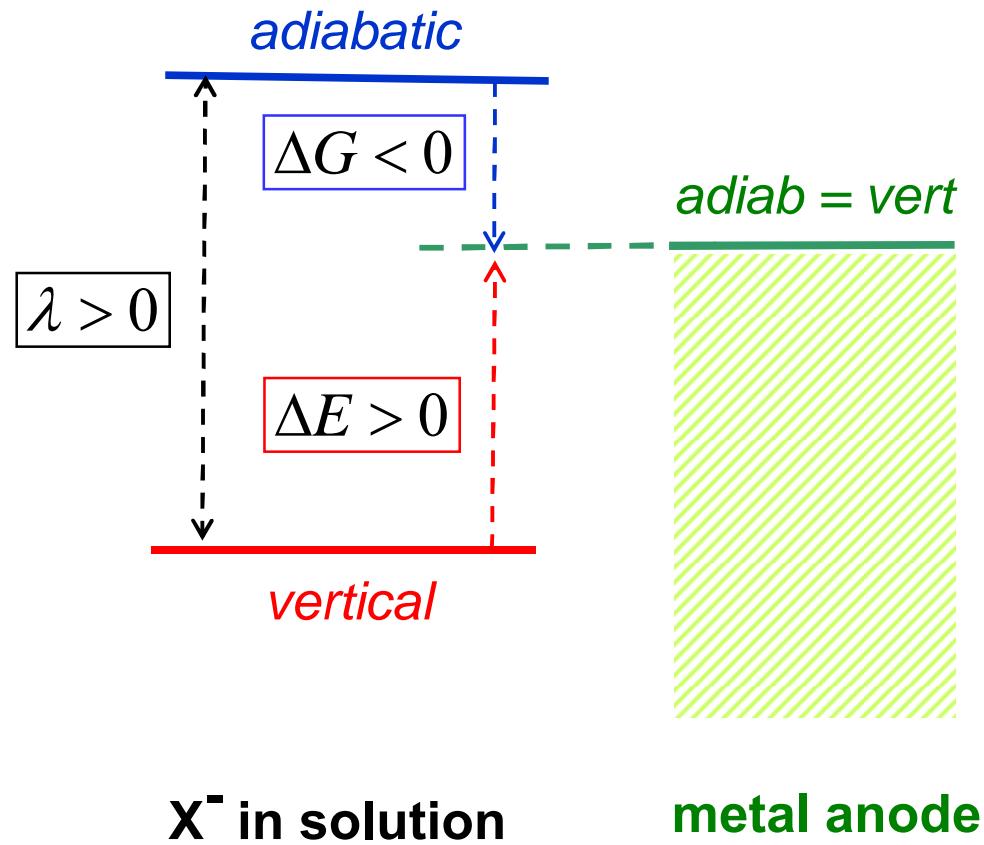


equilibrium constant

$$K = \exp\left[-\frac{\Delta G}{k_B T}\right]$$

rate constant

$$k \propto \exp\left[-\frac{(\Delta E)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right]$$



# People involved



**Jun Cheng**

**Marialore Sulpizi**

**Joost VandeVondele**

**Regla Ayala**

**Francesca Costanzo**

**John Kattirzi**

# Density functional molecular dynamics method

## *Credo*

***Treat solute and solvent at the same level of density functional theory***

## **Code**

**CP2K** ([cp2k.berlios.de](http://cp2k.berlios.de))

- Gaussian basis set (+ plane waves for density)
- GGA and now also Hybrid functionals
- Born-Oppenheimer dynamics
- Free energy calculation

*J. VandeVondele, M. Krack, F. Mohamed, M. Parrinello, T. Chassaing, J. Hutter,  
Comp. Phys. Comm. (2005), 167, 103.*