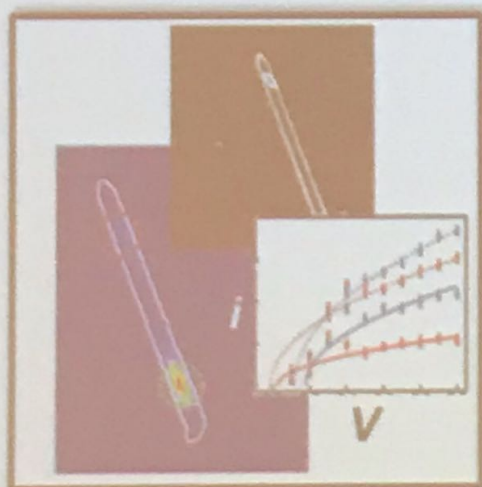
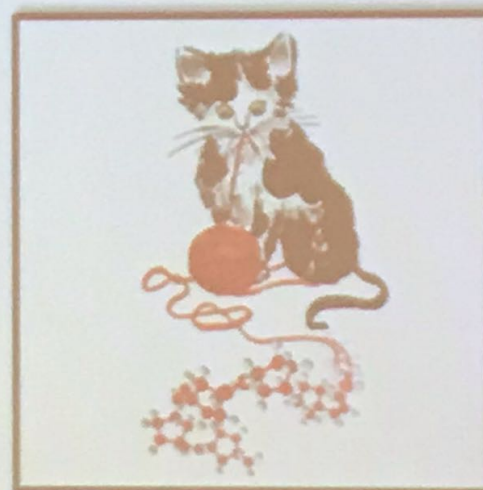


Single-molecule Catalysis

Photoelectrodes



Polymers

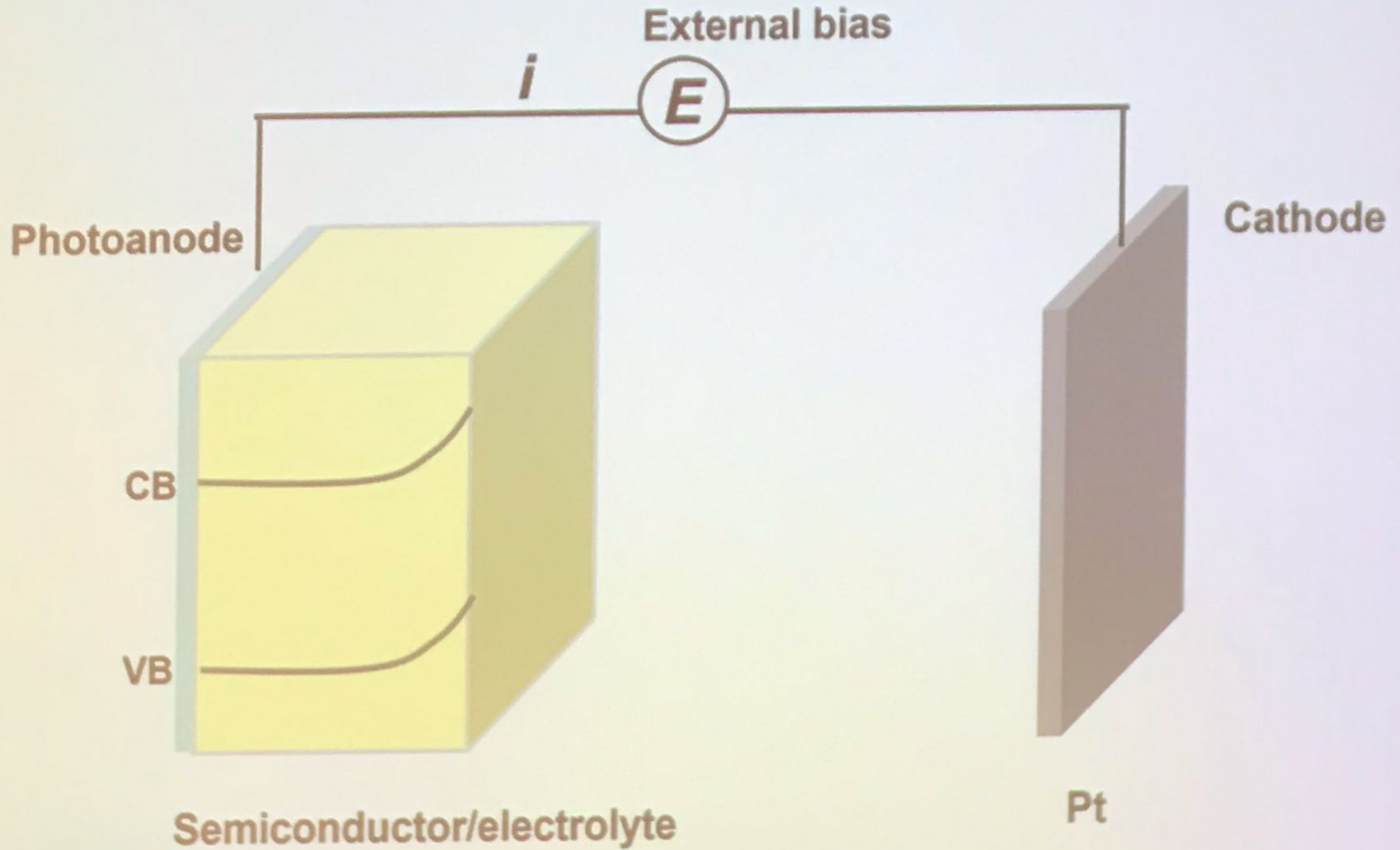


Peng Chen

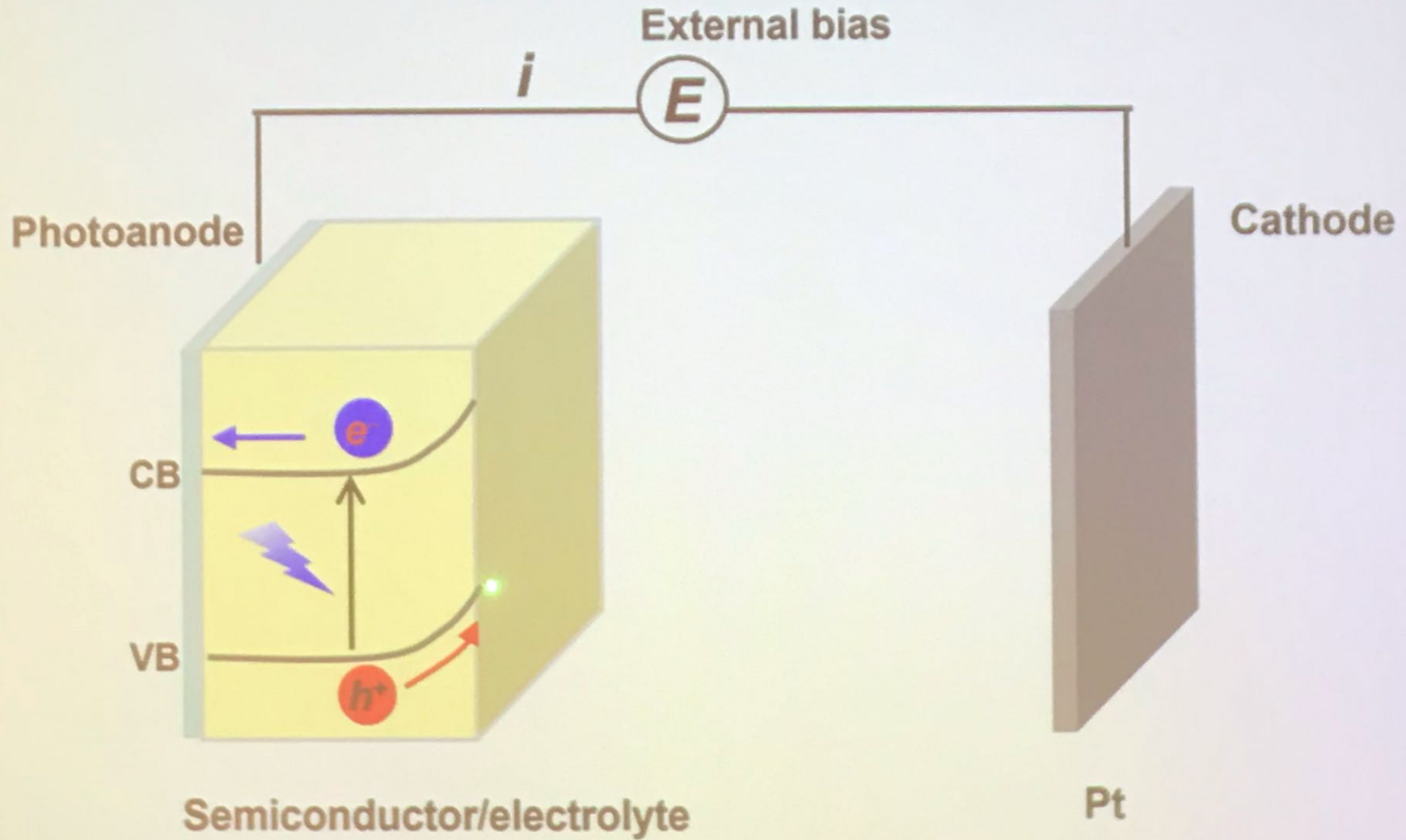
Cornell University

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

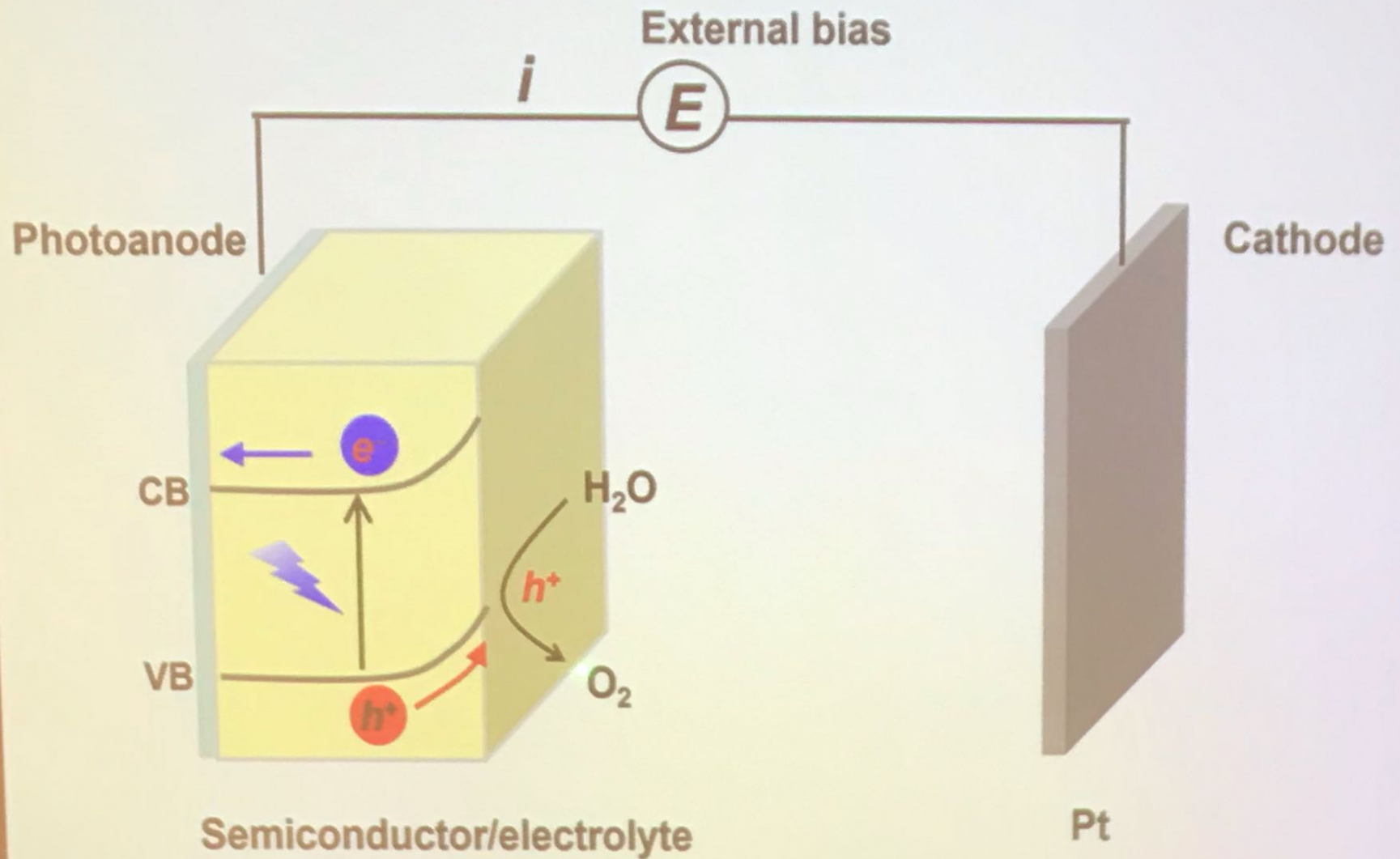
Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting for Solar Energy Conversion



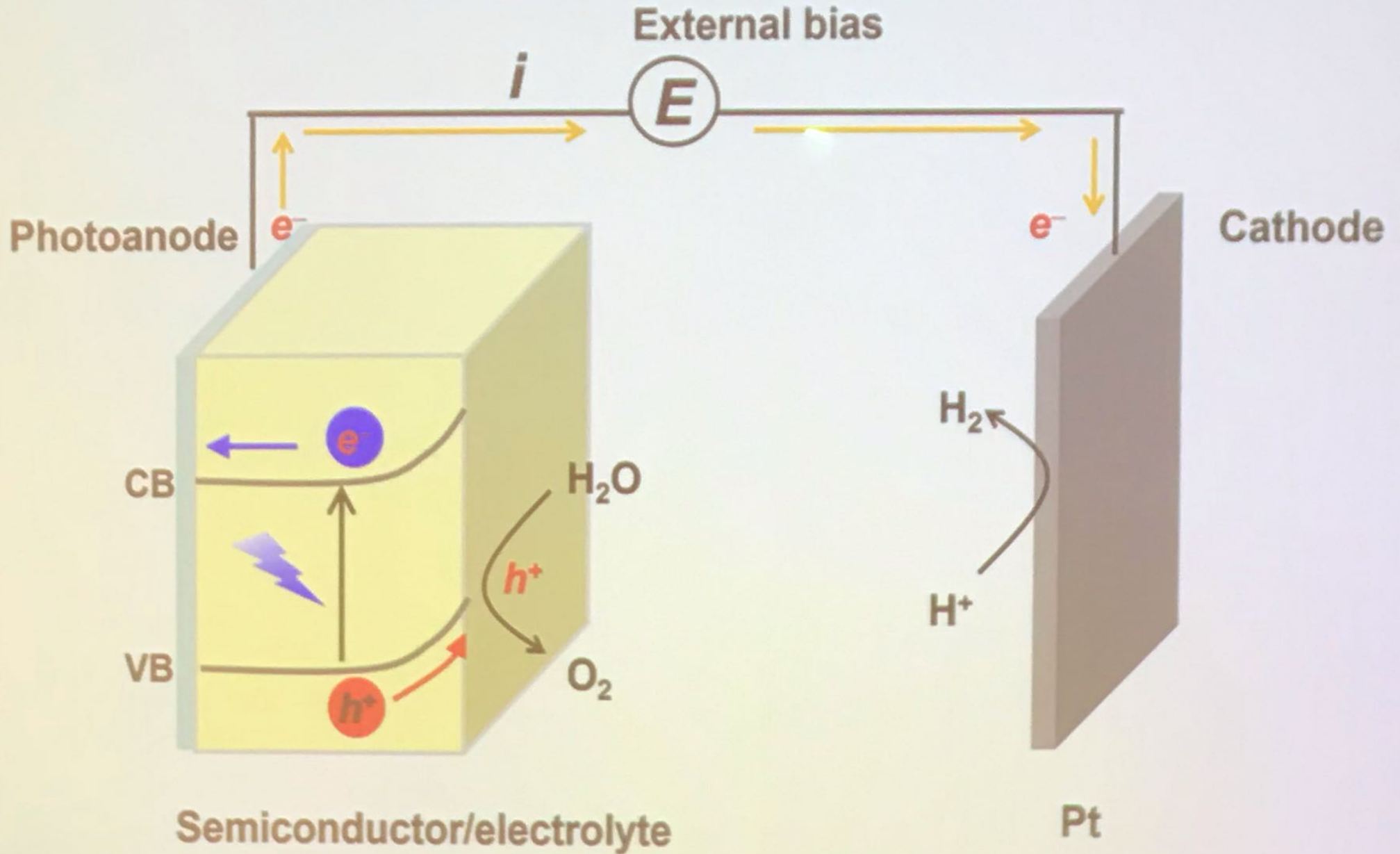
Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting for Solar Energy Conversion



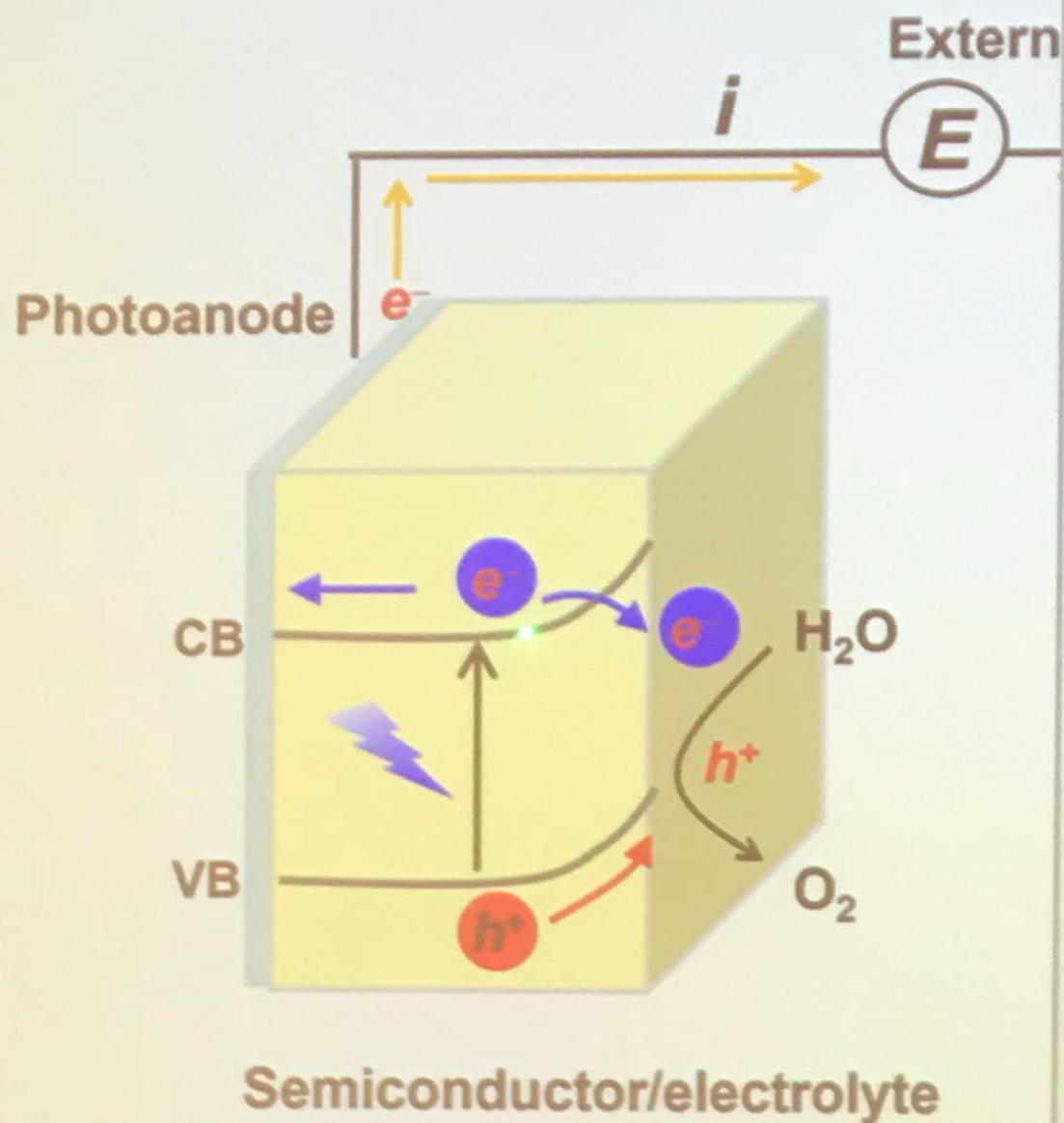
Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting for Solar Energy Conversion



Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting for Solar Energy Conversion



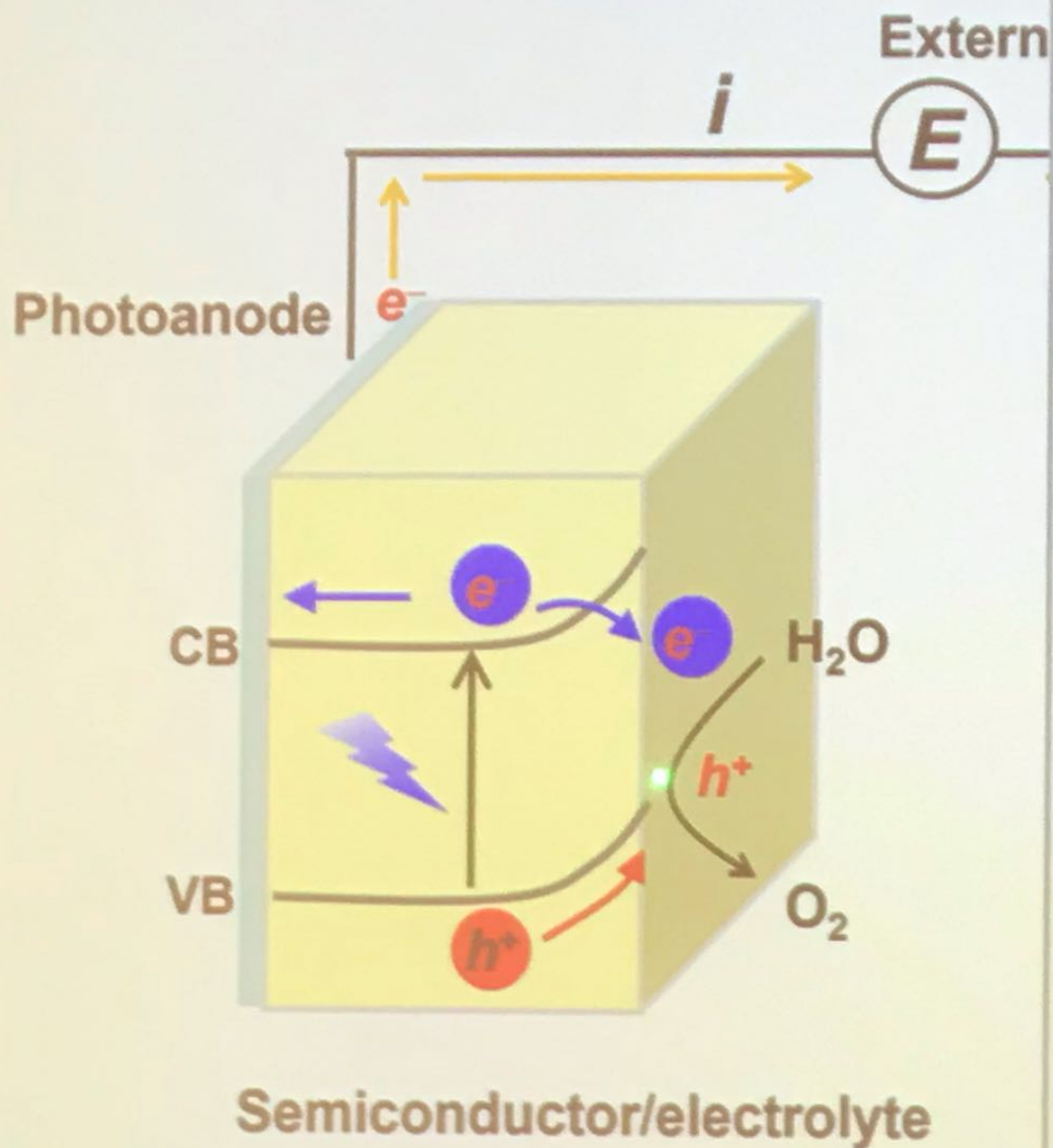
Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting



Fundamental questions:

1. Surface e^- : recombination
→ Where **preferentially**?
→ At water oxidation sites?

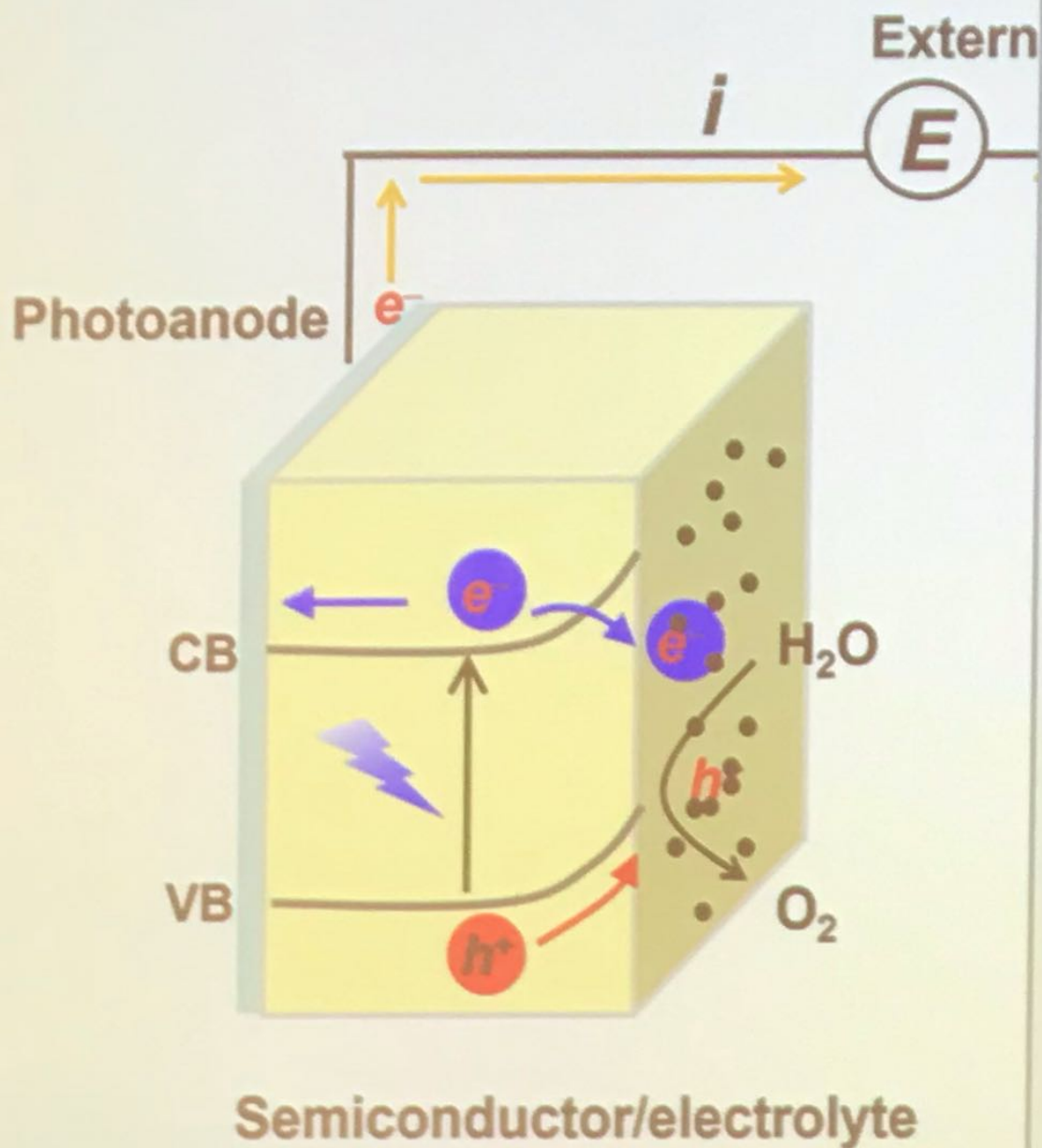
Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting



Fundamental questions:

1. Surface e^- : recombination
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2. Surface h^+ & e^- activity
↔ water oxidation efficiency?

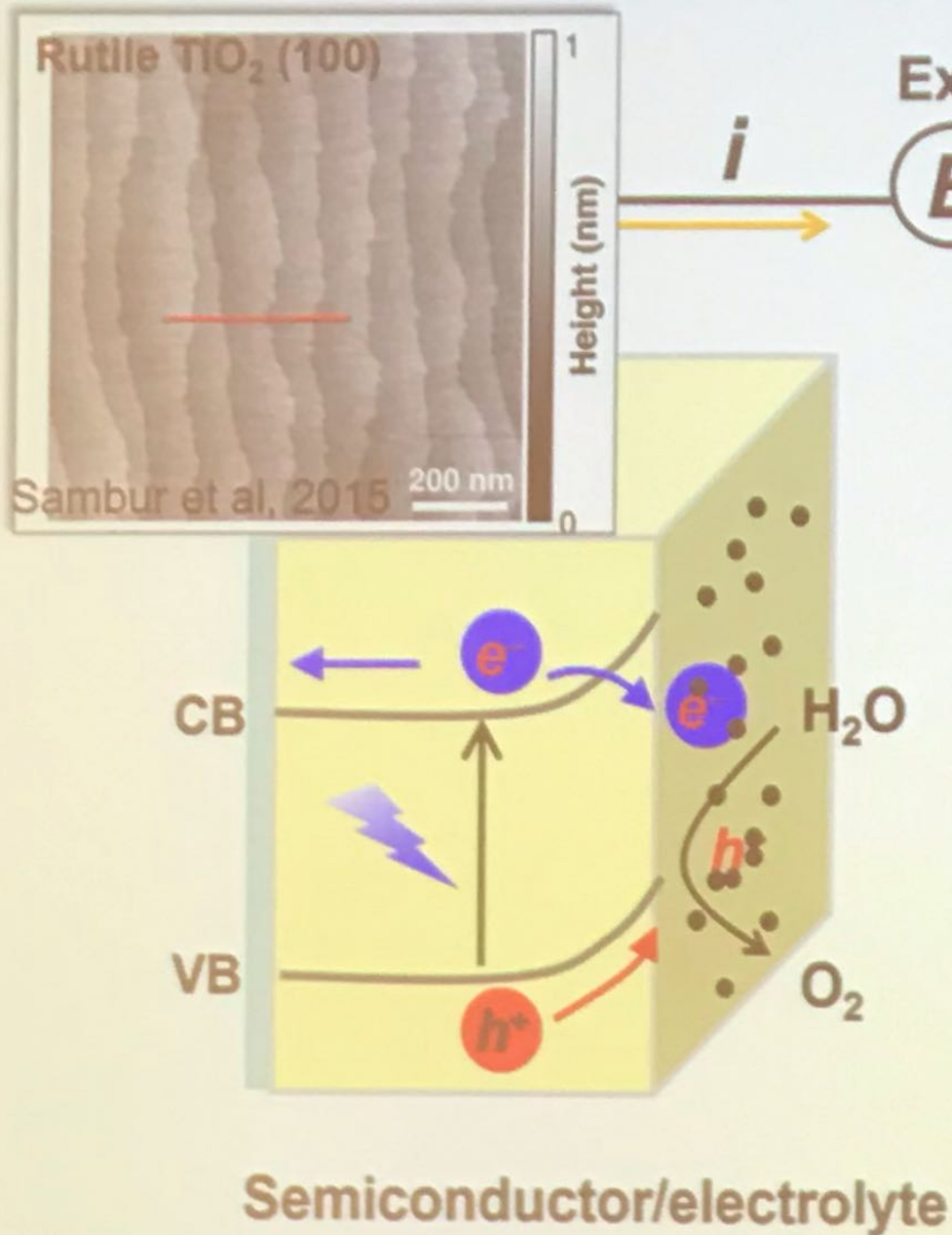
Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting



Fundamental questions:

1. Surface e^- : recombination
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3. Oxygen evolution catalyst needed: where **optimally**?

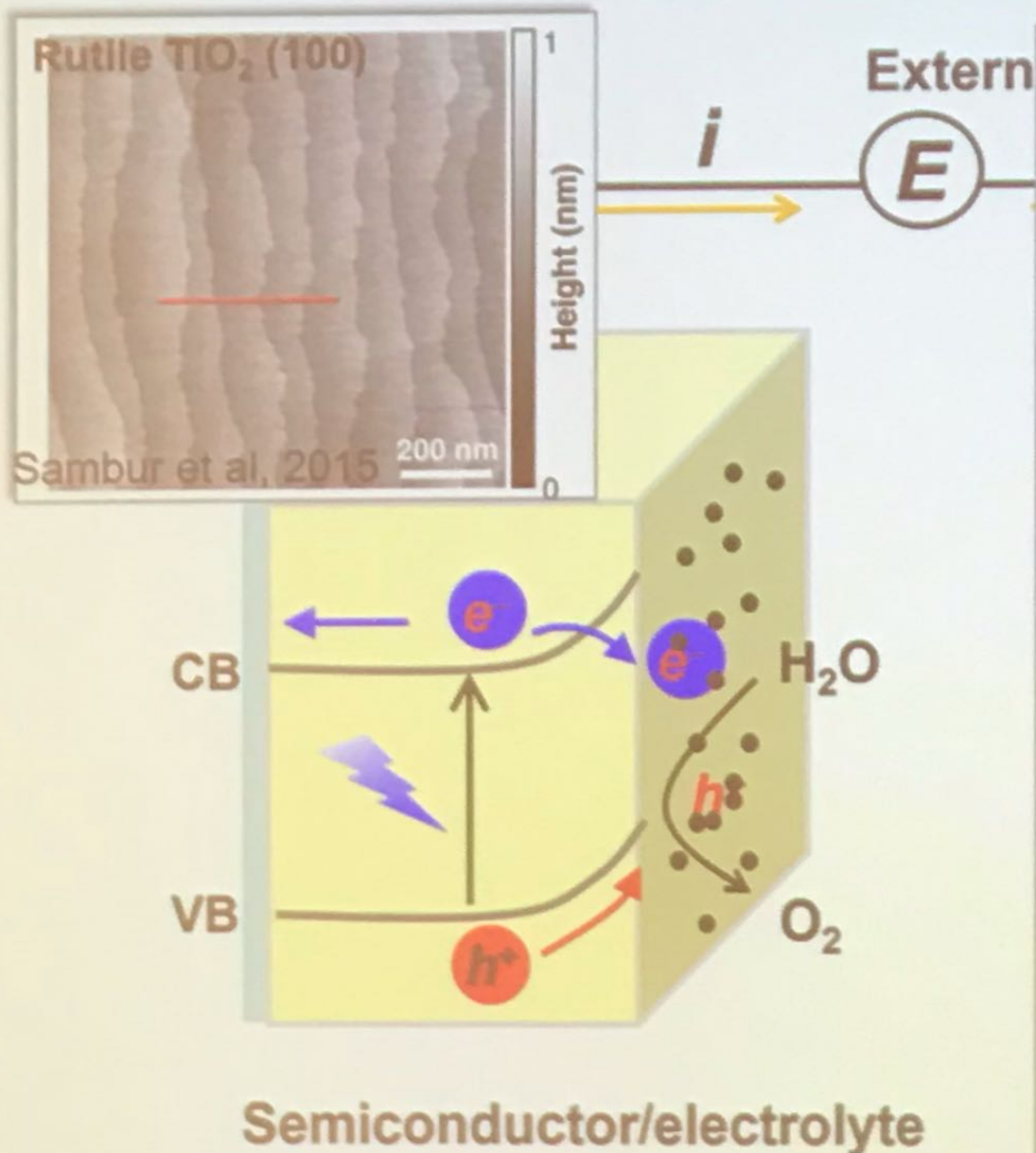
Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting



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→ Surface heterogeneity
→ Worse for **nanoscale photoanodes** → preferred materials

Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting

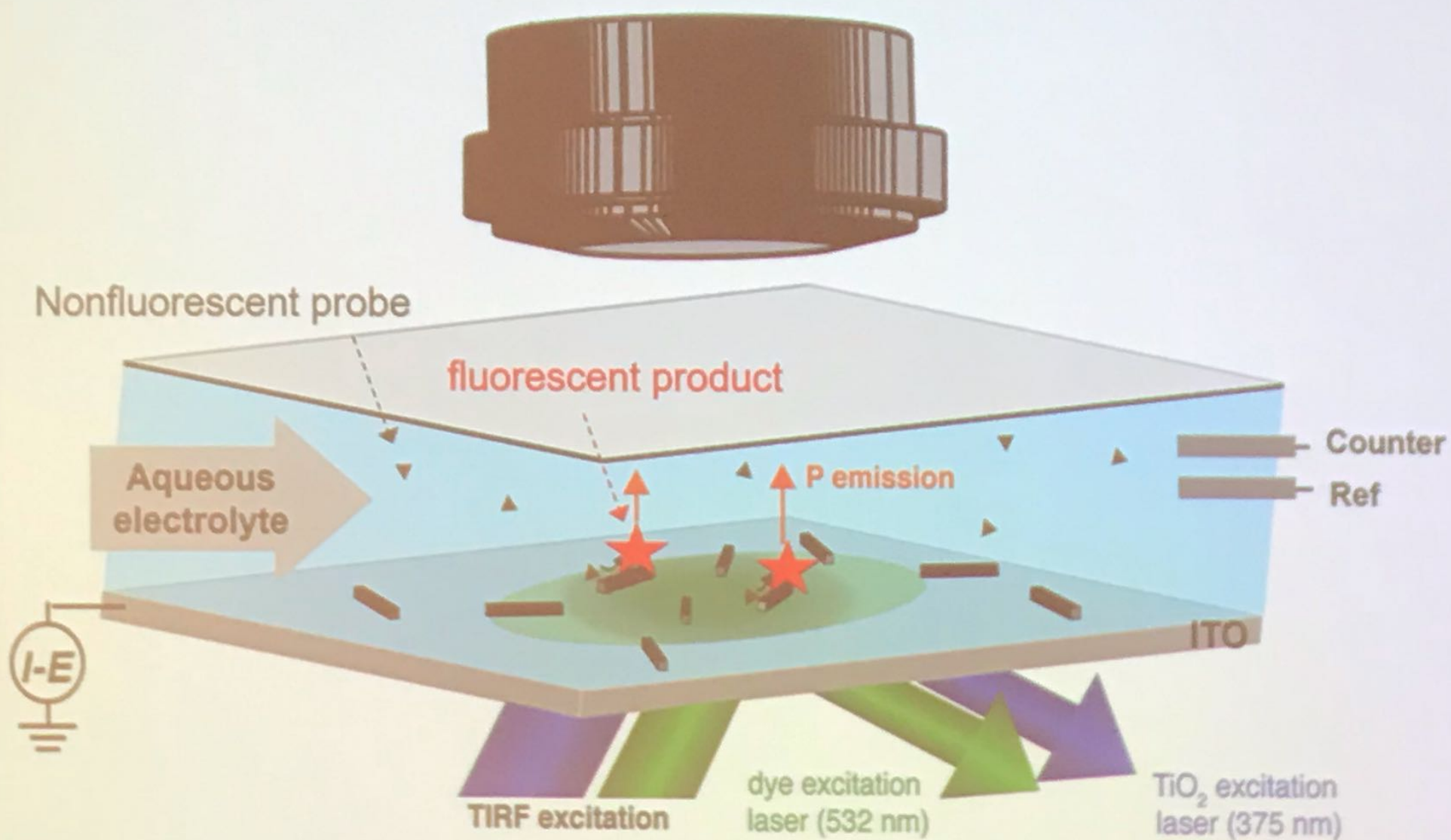


Fundamental questions:

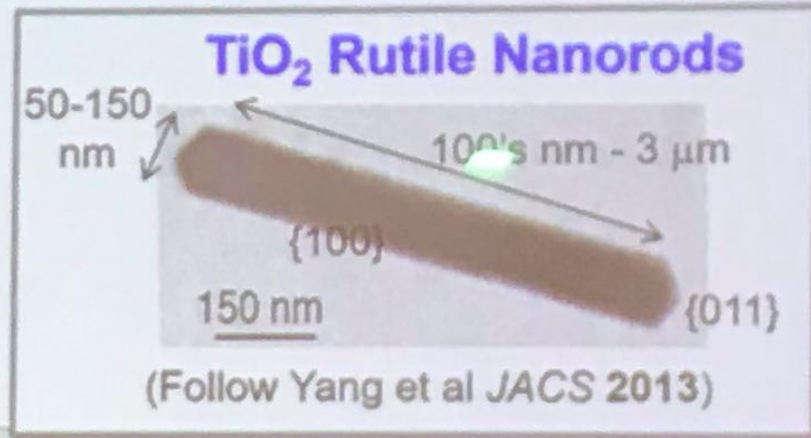
1. Surface e^- : recombination
→ Where **preferentially**?
→ At water oxidation sites?
2. Surface h^+ & e^- activity
↔ water oxidation efficiency?
3. Oxygen evolution catalyst needed: where **optimally**?
→ Surface heterogeneity
→ Worse for **nanoscale photoanodes** → preferred materials

⇒ Need to define correlation b/w: 1) **carrier surface activity at nanoscale** ↔ 2) **water oxidation** ↔ 3) **catalyst deposition**

Carrier Activity: Single-Molecule Imaging of Fluorogenic Probe Reactions



Carrier Activity: Single-Molecule Imaging of Fluorogenic Probe Reactions



Nonfluorescent probe

fluorescent product

Aqueous electrolyte

P emission

Counter

Ref

ITO

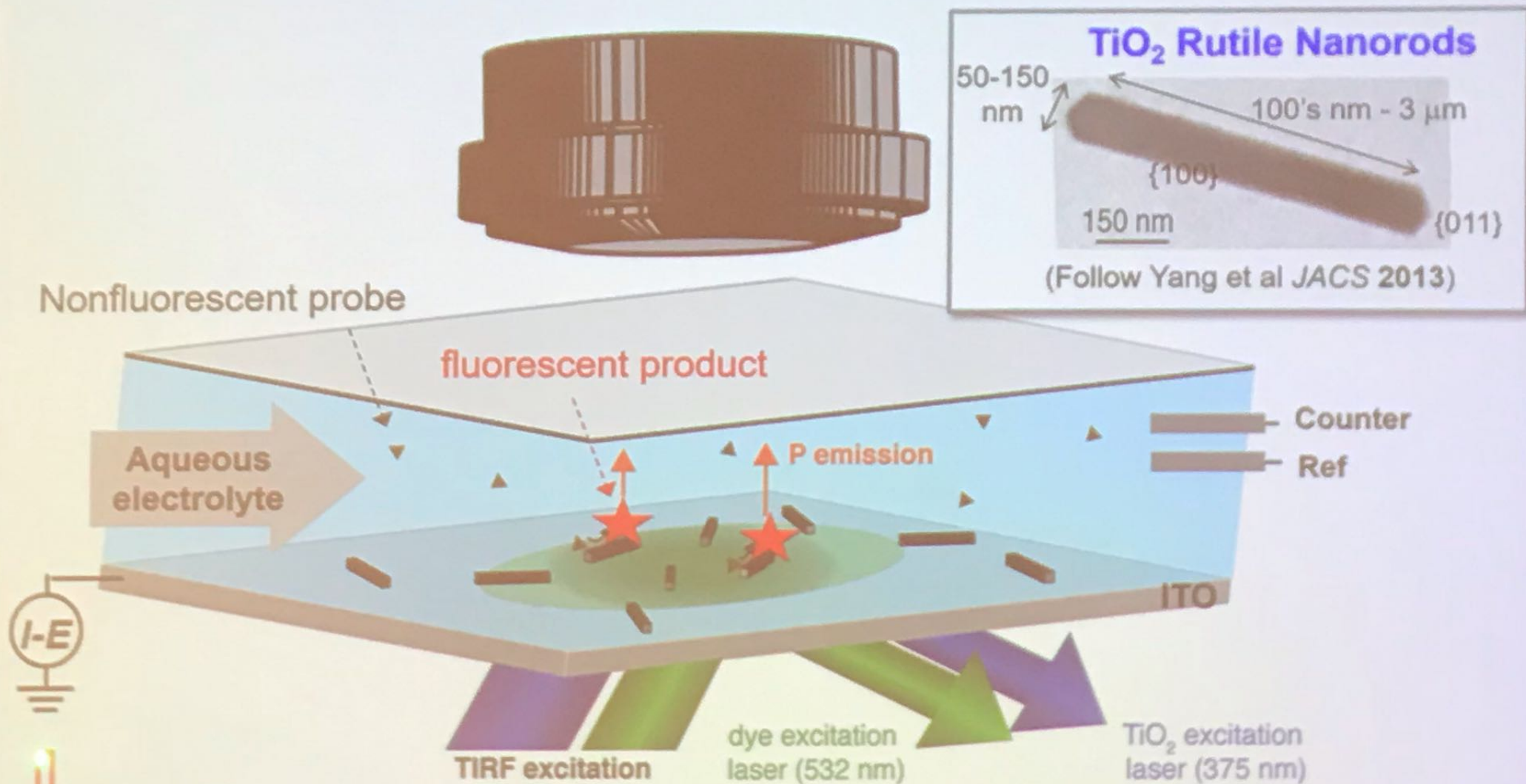
TIRF excitation

dye excitation laser (532 nm)

TiO₂ excitation laser (375 nm)



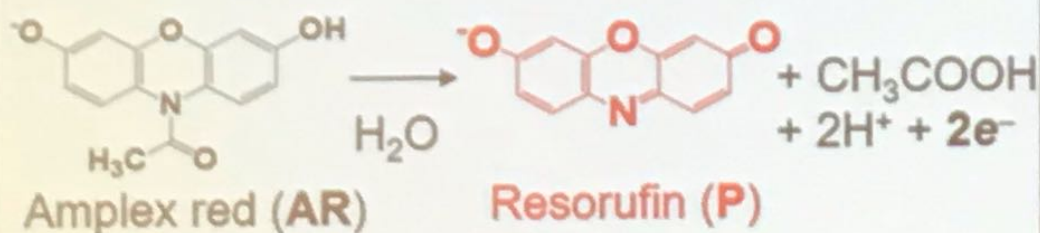
Carrier Activity: Single-Molecule Imaging of Fluorogenic Probe Reactions



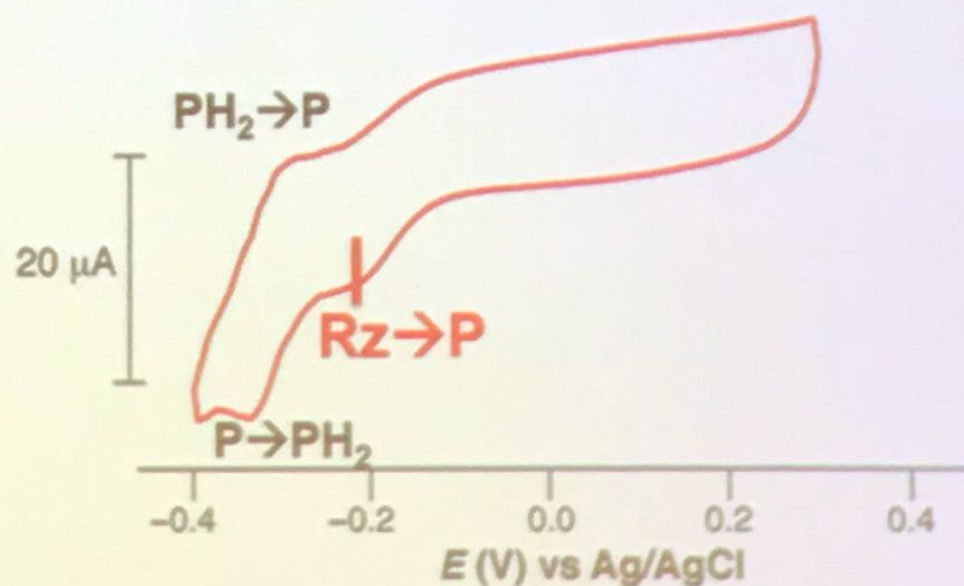
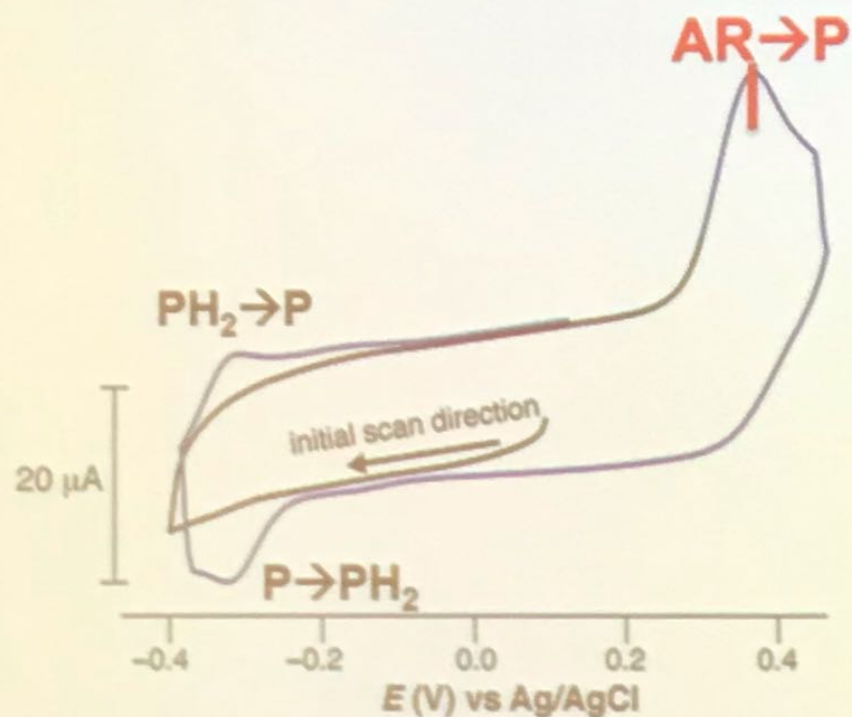
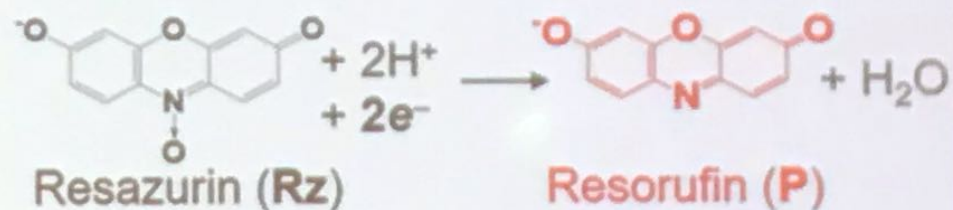
- Fixed E (then step) \rightarrow steady state, anodic photocurrent
- Photocurrent dominated by H₂O oxidation (1M KCl, 100mM pH8 borate, degassed)

Electrochemistry of Carrier-Selective Probes

h^+ probe rxn

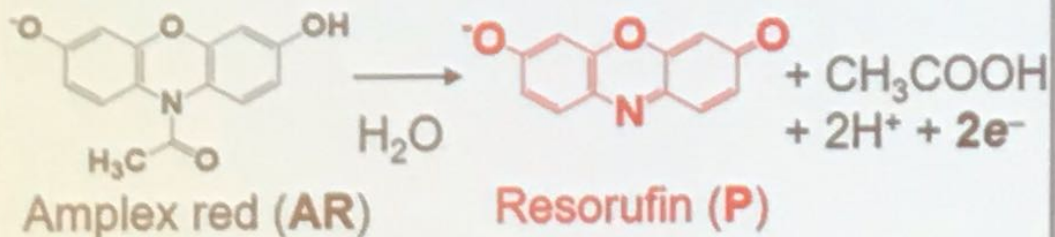


e^- probe rxn

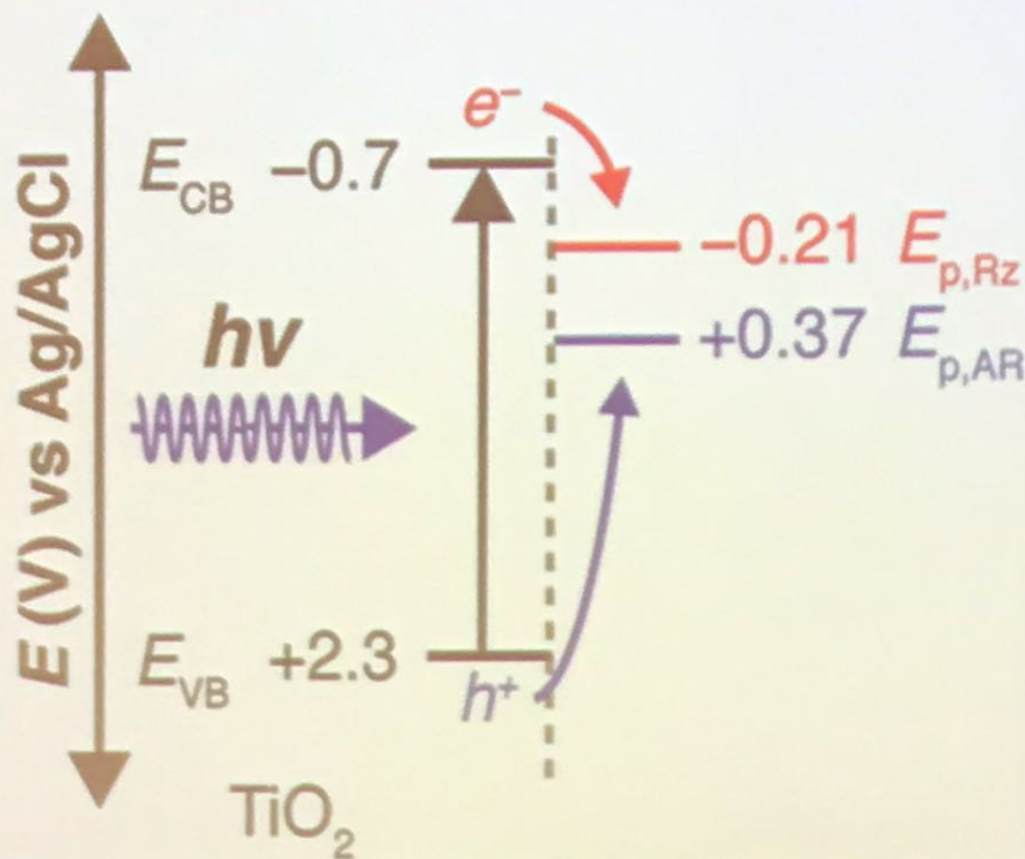
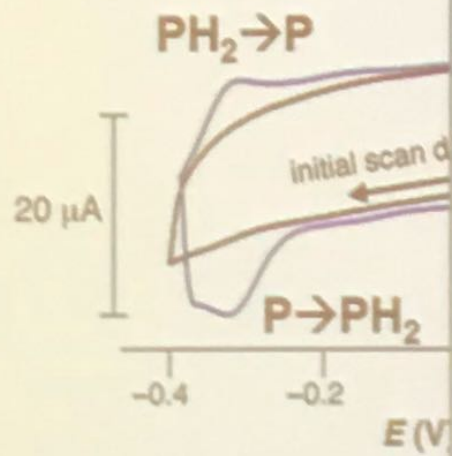
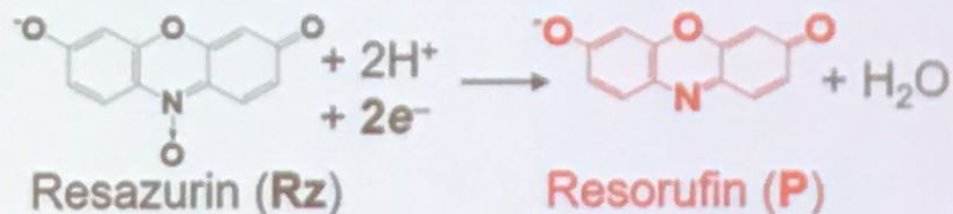


Electrochemistry of Carrier-Selective Probes

h^+ probe rxn



e^- probe rxn

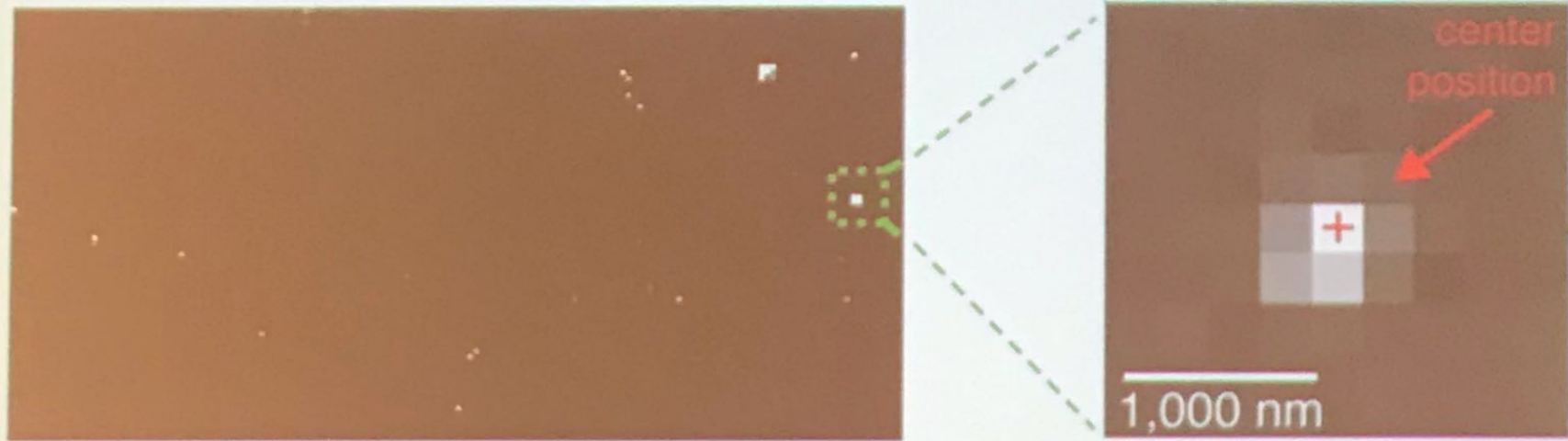


$E (V) \text{ vs Ag/AgCl}$

0.0 0.2 0.4

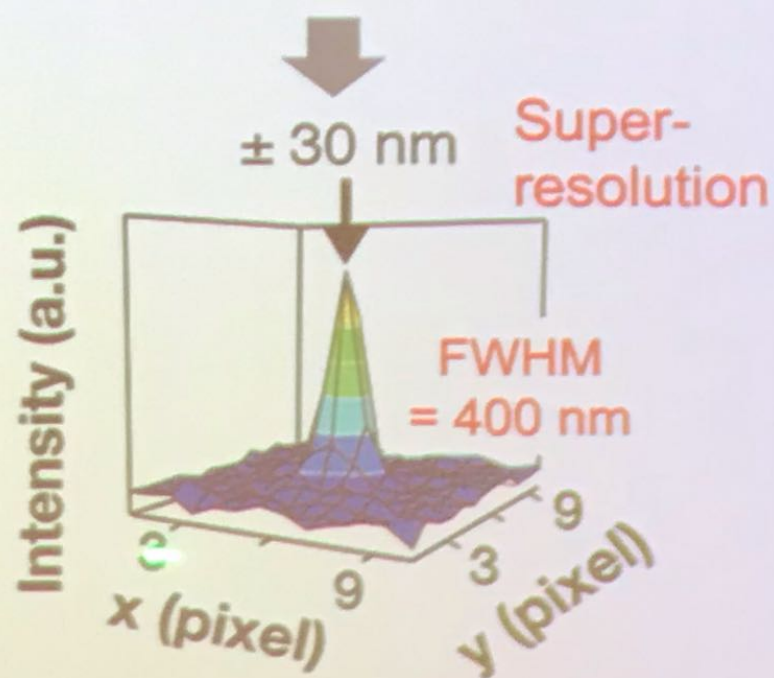
Super-resolution Reaction Mapping (e.g., h^+ -induced)

Fluorescence image from a movie (15 ms/frame)



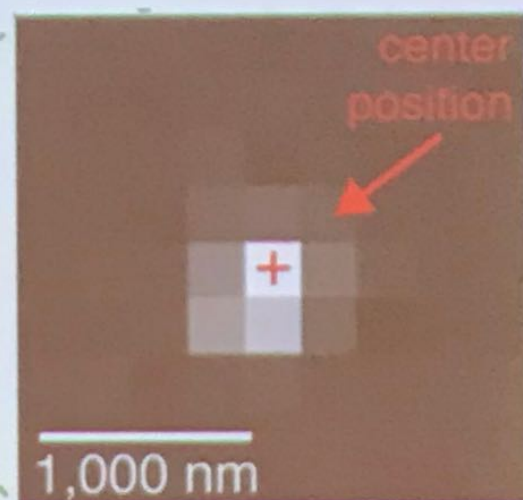
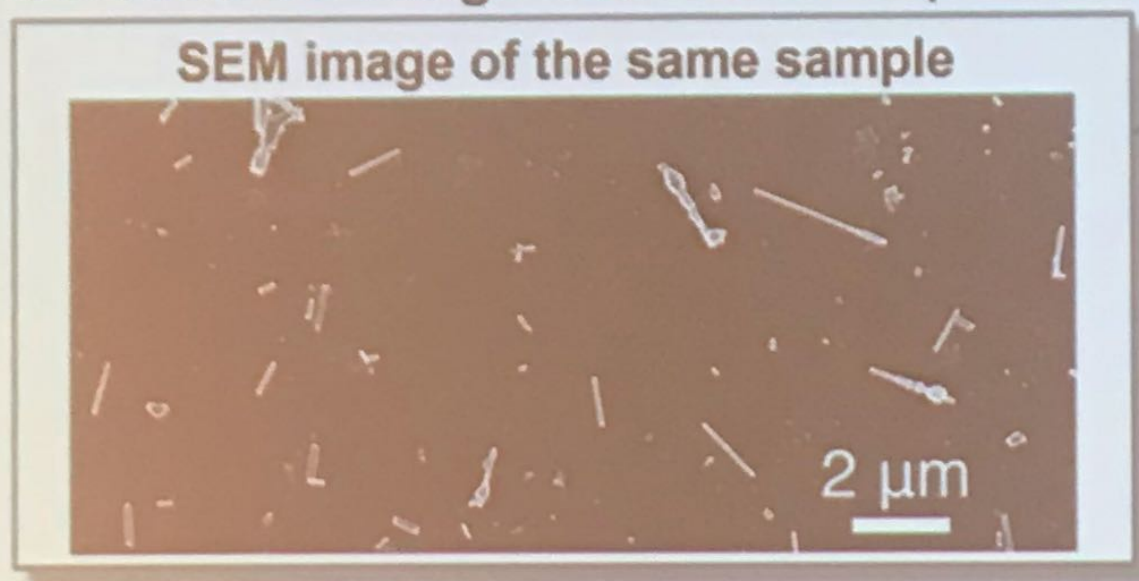
Super-resolution Reaction Mapping (e.g., h^+ -induced)

Fluorescence image from a movie (15 ms/frame)

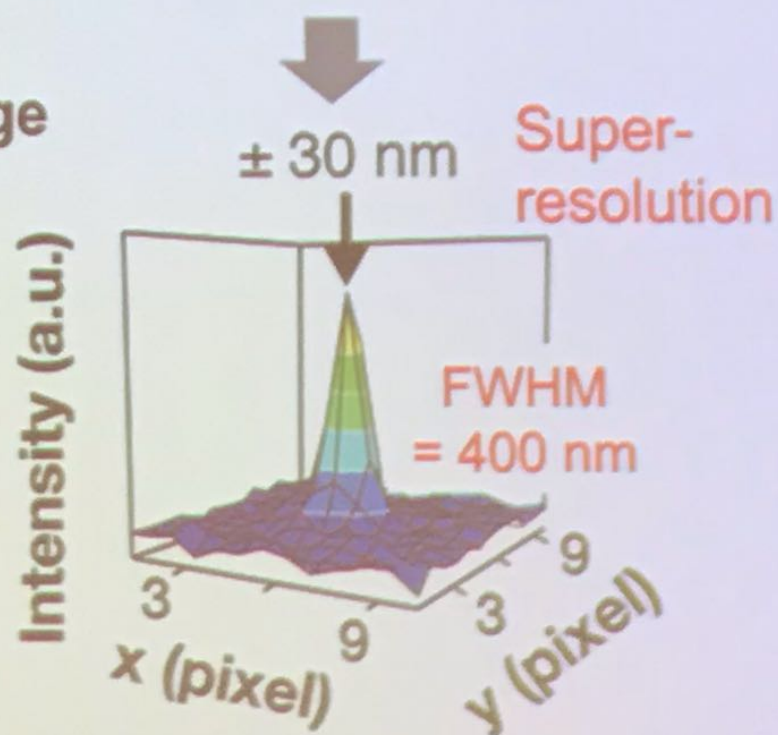
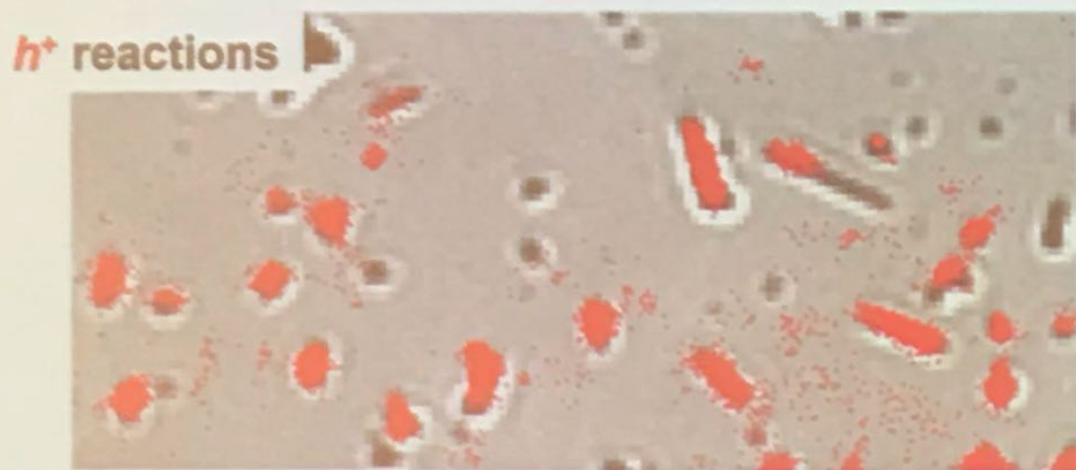


Super-resolution Reaction Mapping (e.g., h^+ -induced)

Fluorescence image from a movie (15 ms/frame)

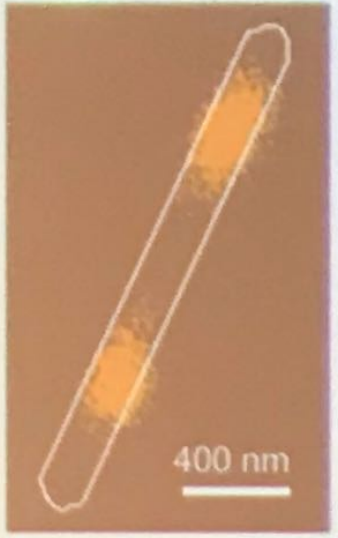


Overlay of 1000s' rxns on transmission image



Super-resolution Single-nanorod h^+ & e^- Reaction Mapping

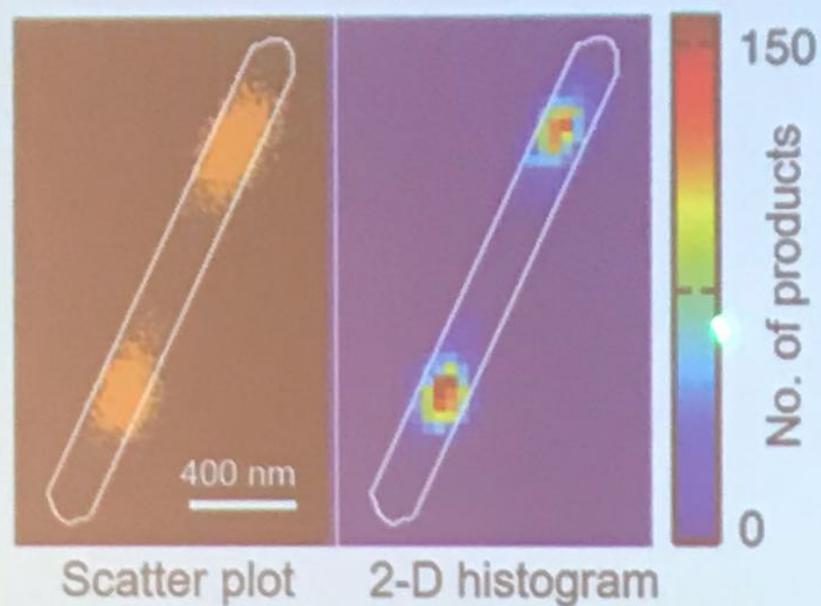
h^+ reactions ($E \geq -0.03$ V)



Scatter plot

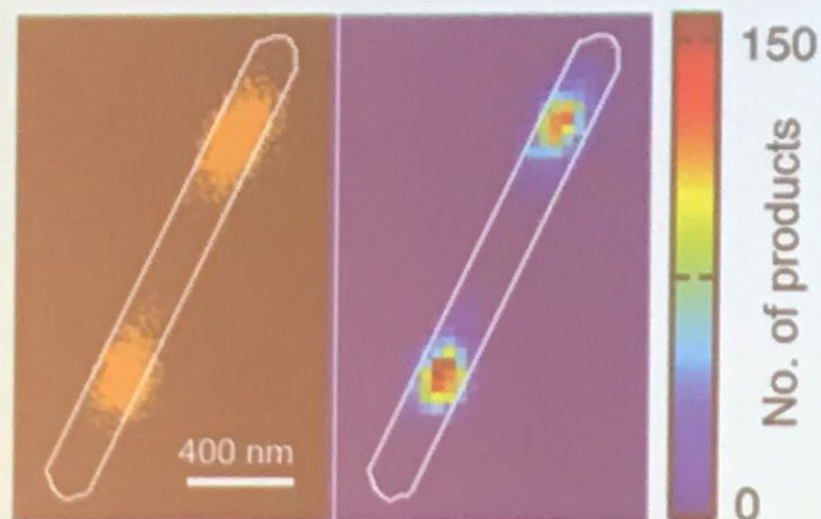
Super-resolution Single-nanorod h^+ & e^- Reaction Mapping

h^+ reactions ($E \geq -0.03$ V)



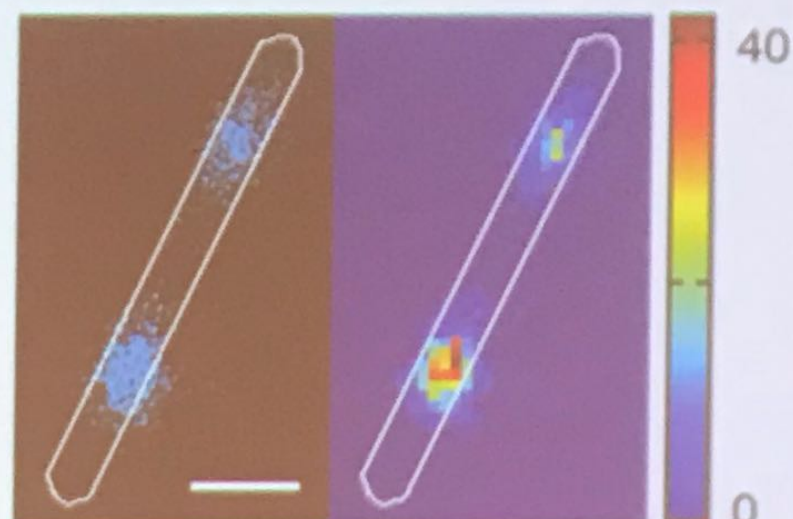
Super-resolution Single-nanorod h^+ & e^- Reaction Mapping

h^+ reactions ($E \geq -0.03$ V)



Scatter plot 2-D histogram

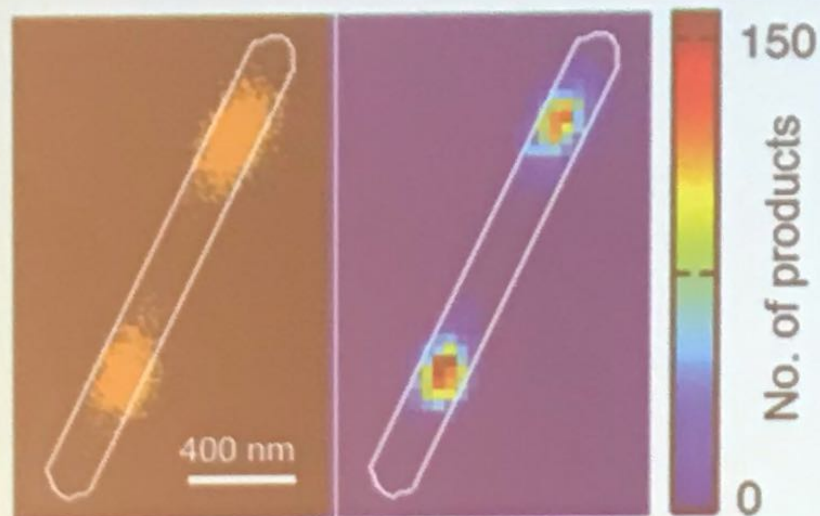
e^- reactions ($E \leq -0.04$ V)



- Reactions **non-uniform**, w/ **nanoscale hot spots!** (\rightarrow impurity atoms or defects)

Super-resolution Single-nanorod h^+ & e^- Reaction Mapping

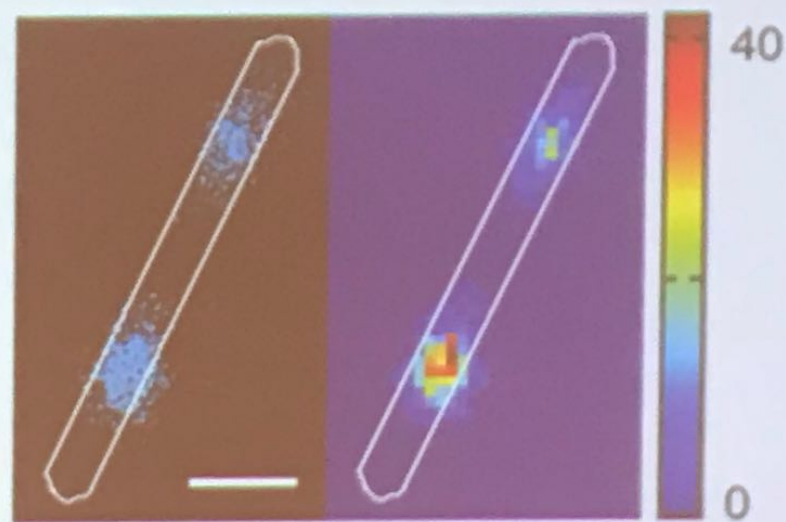
h^+ reactions ($E \geq -0.03$ V)



Scatter plot

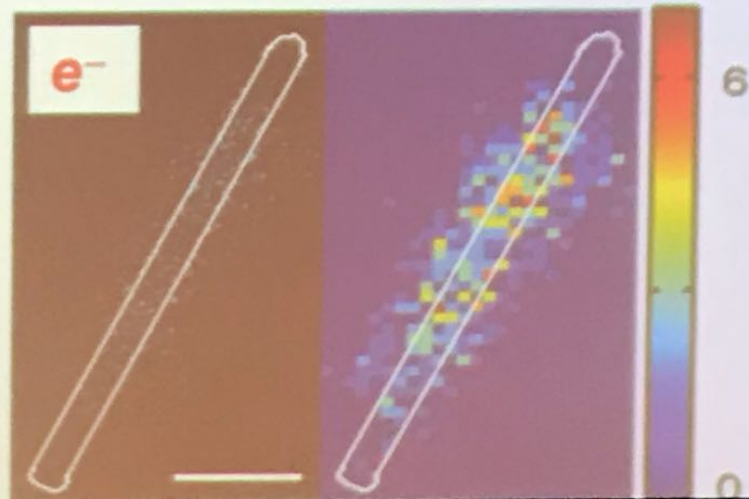
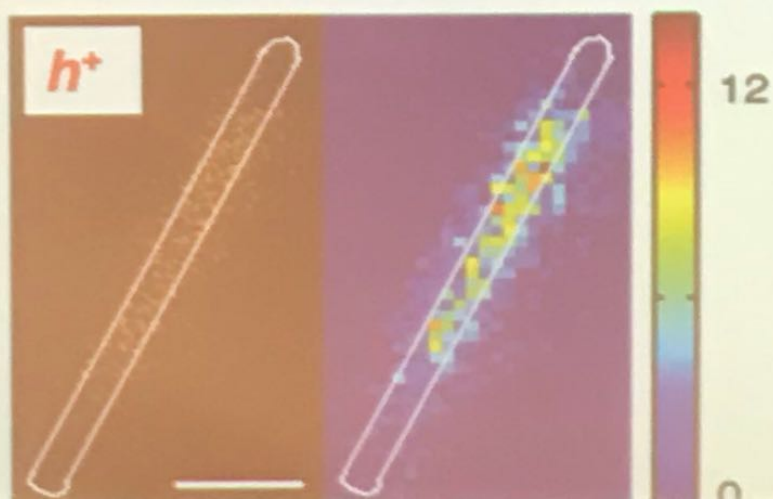
2-D histogram

e^- reactions ($E \leq -0.04$ V)



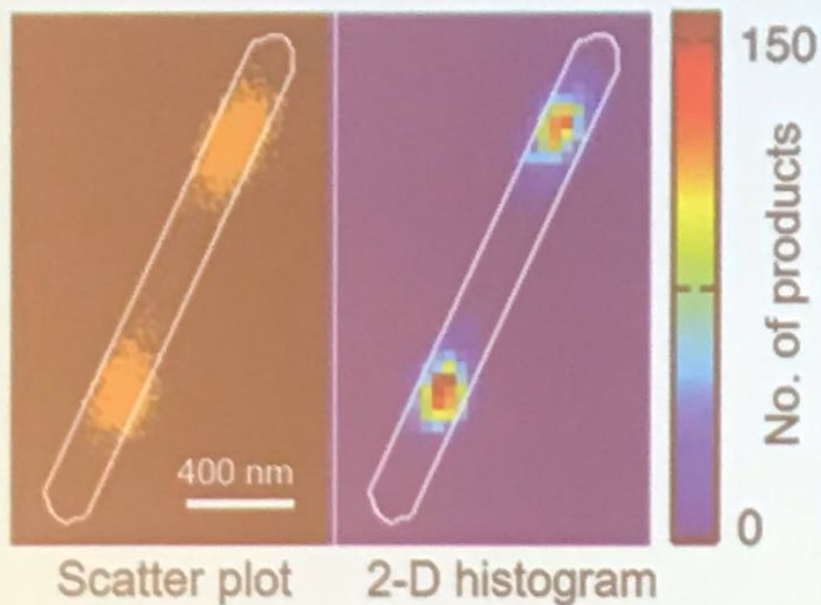
- Reactions **non-uniform**, w/ **nanoscale hot spots!** (\rightarrow impurity atoms or defects)

Another TiO_2 nanorod \rightarrow non-uniform, but more delocalized

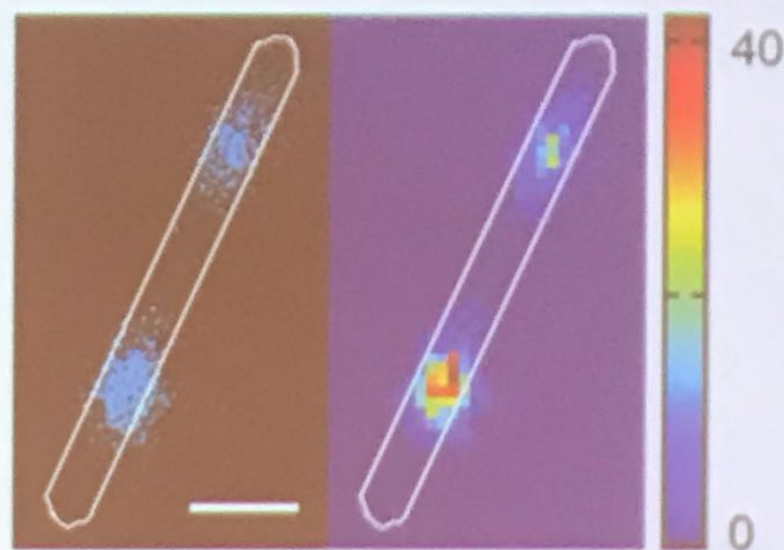


Super-resolution Single-nanorod h^+ & e^- Reaction Mapping

h^+ reactions ($E \geq -0.03$ V)



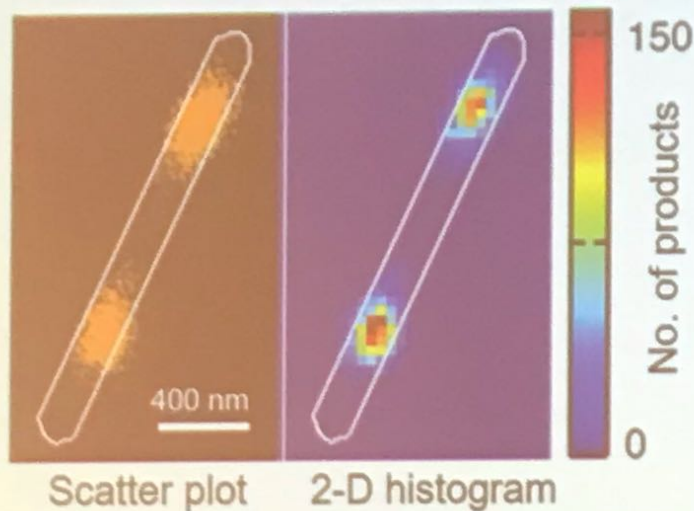
e^- reactions ($E \leq -0.04$ V)



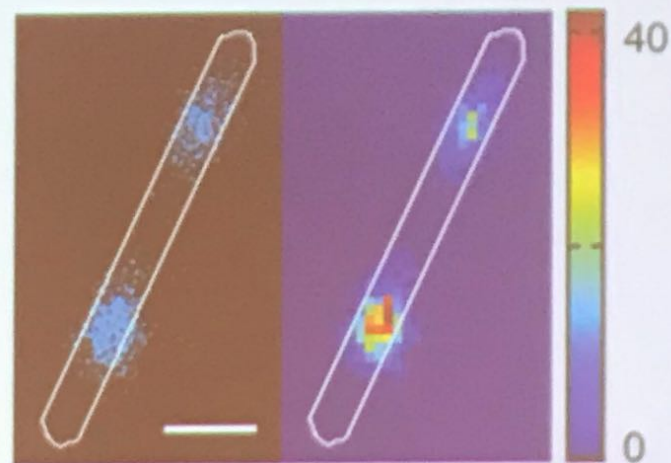
- h^+ & e^- reactions spatially correlated
→ Surprise!

Super-resolution Single-nanorod h^+ & e^- Reaction Mapping

h^+ reactions ($E \geq -0.03$ V)



e^- reactions ($E \leq -0.04$ V)

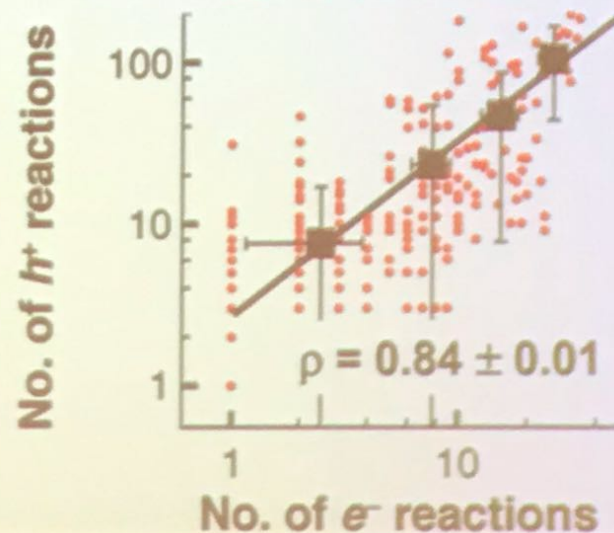


- h^+ & e^- reactions spatially correlated
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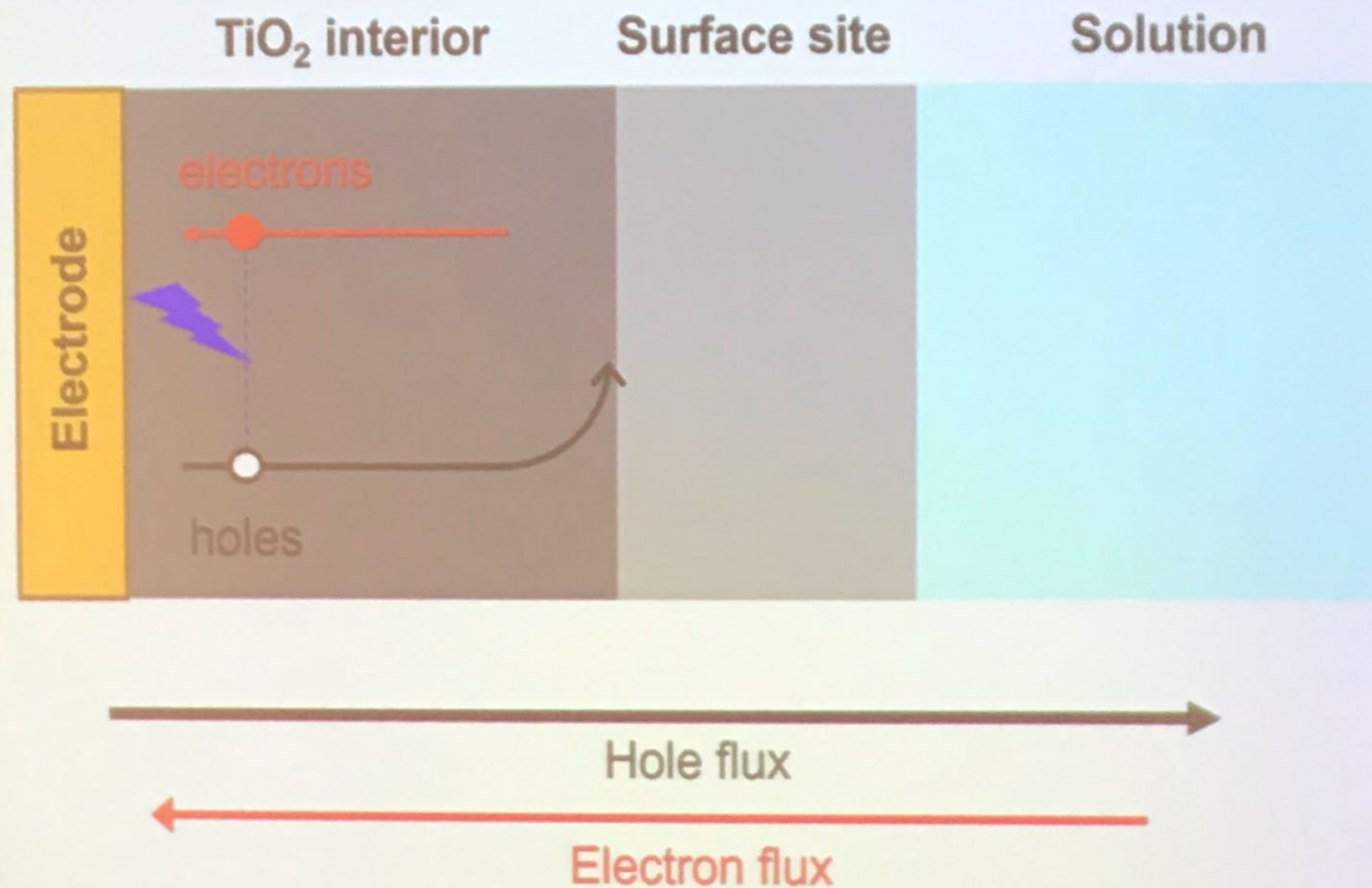
⇒ h^+ (oxid) & e^- (rdn): **prefer** same sites
⇒ Active sites = **dual ox-red activity**
→ **recombination sites**

Why would they?

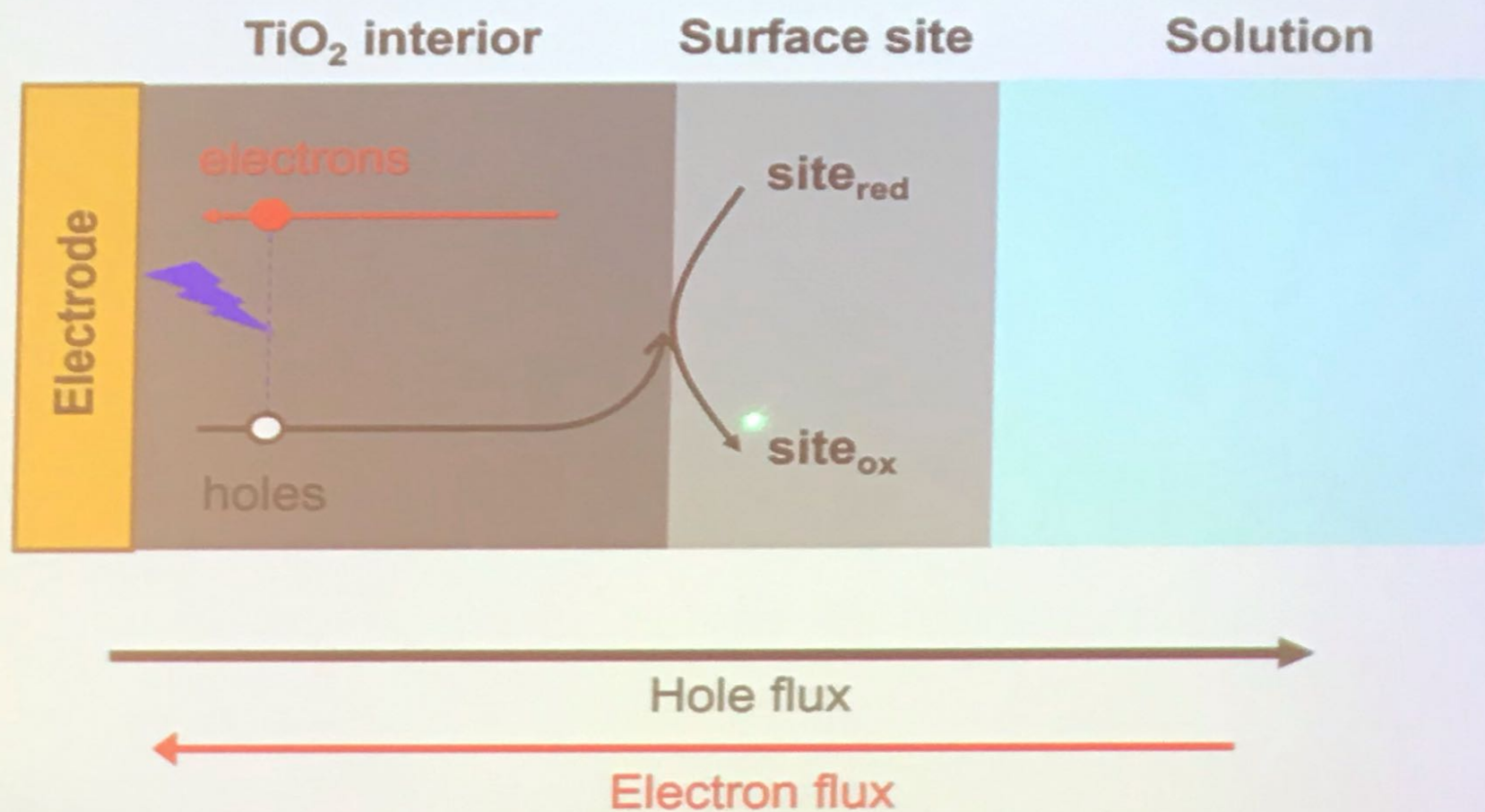
$h^+ \leftrightarrow e^-$ reaction correlation
All locations



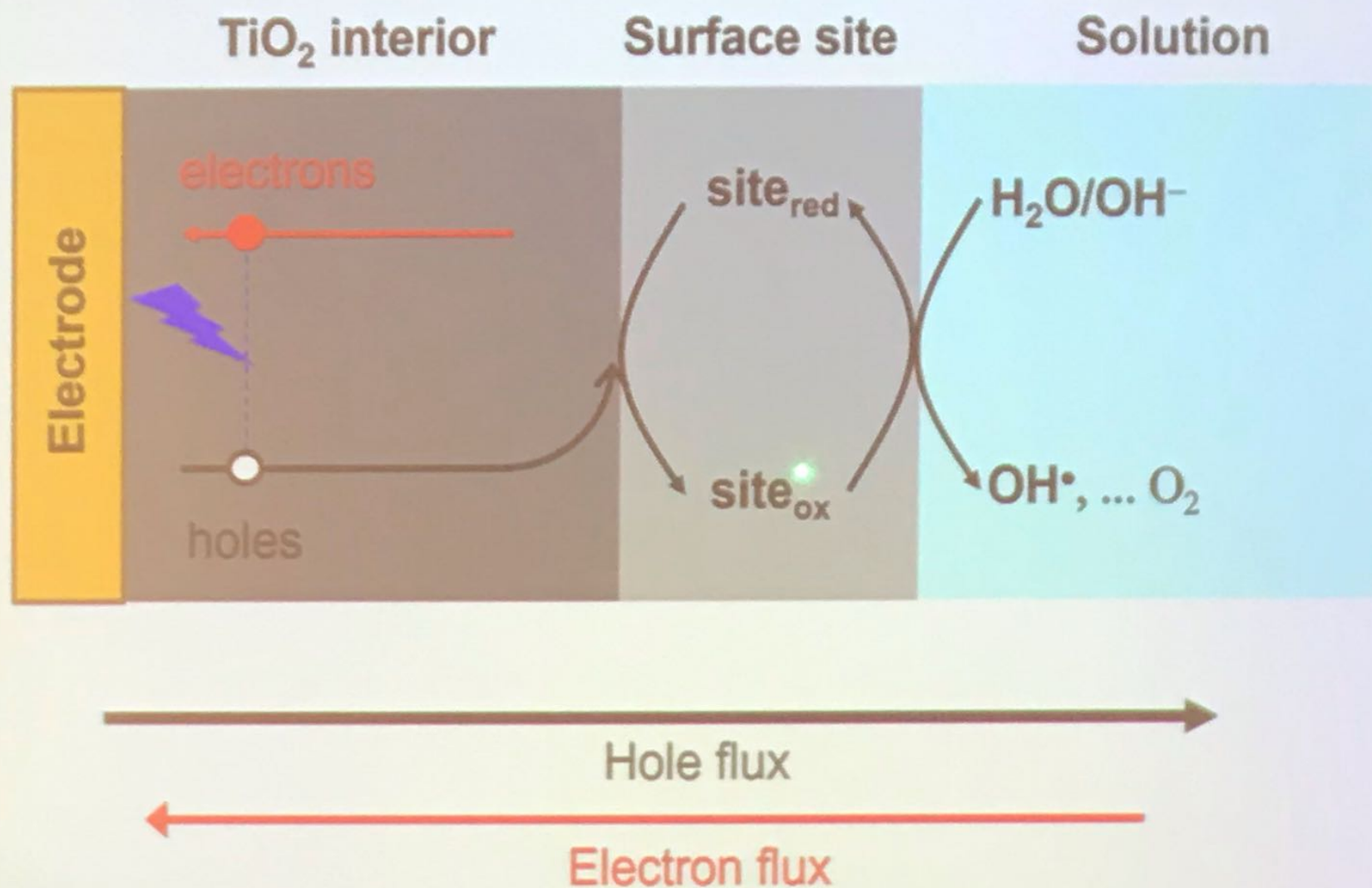
Dual Ox-Red Activity for Efficient “Redox-cycling” for Water Oxidation



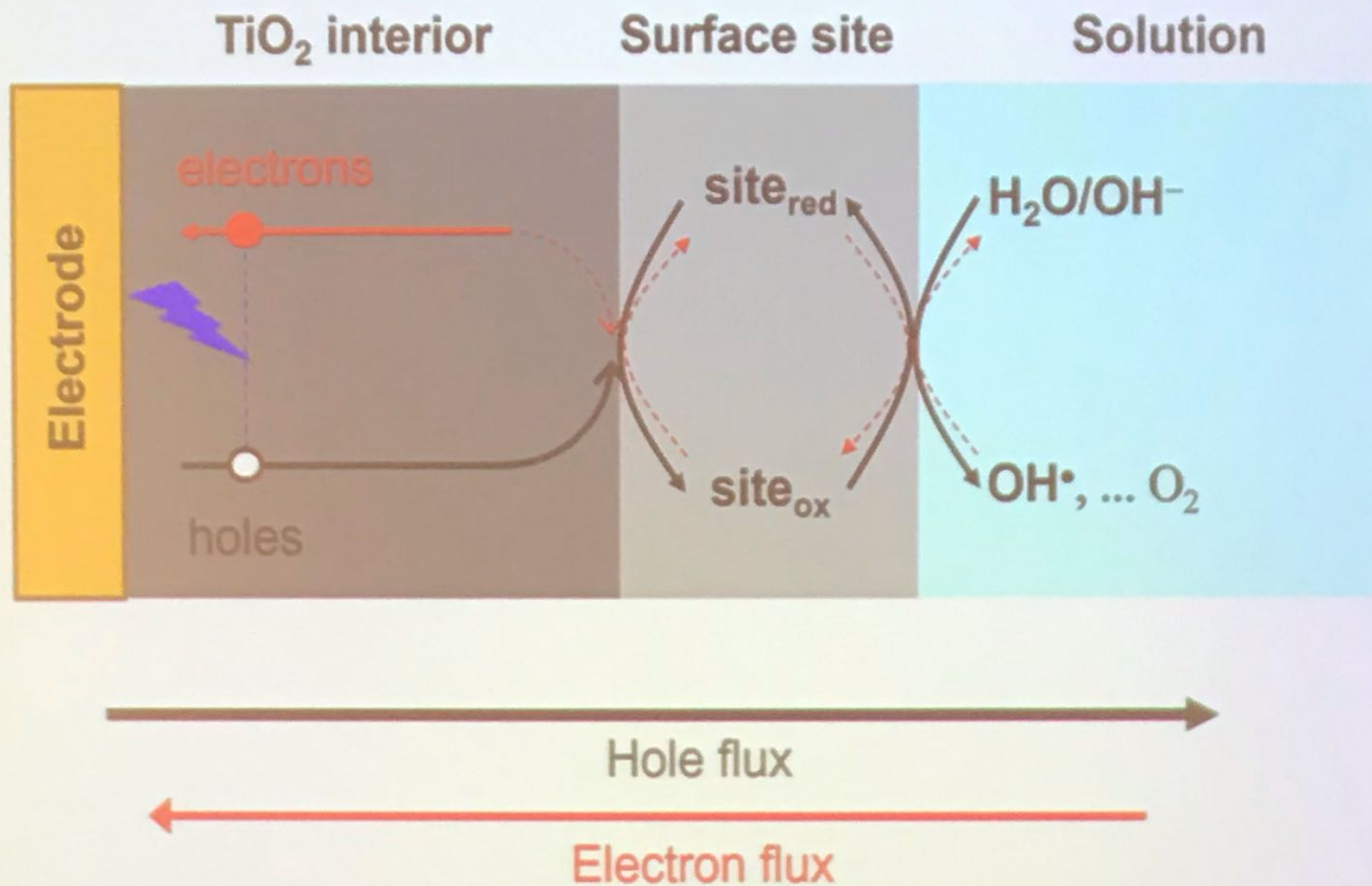
Dual Ox-Red Activity for Efficient “Redox-cycling” for Water Oxidation



Dual Ox-Red Activity for Efficient "Redox-cycling" for Water Oxidation



Dual Ox-Red Activity for Efficient “Redox-cycling” for Water Oxidation



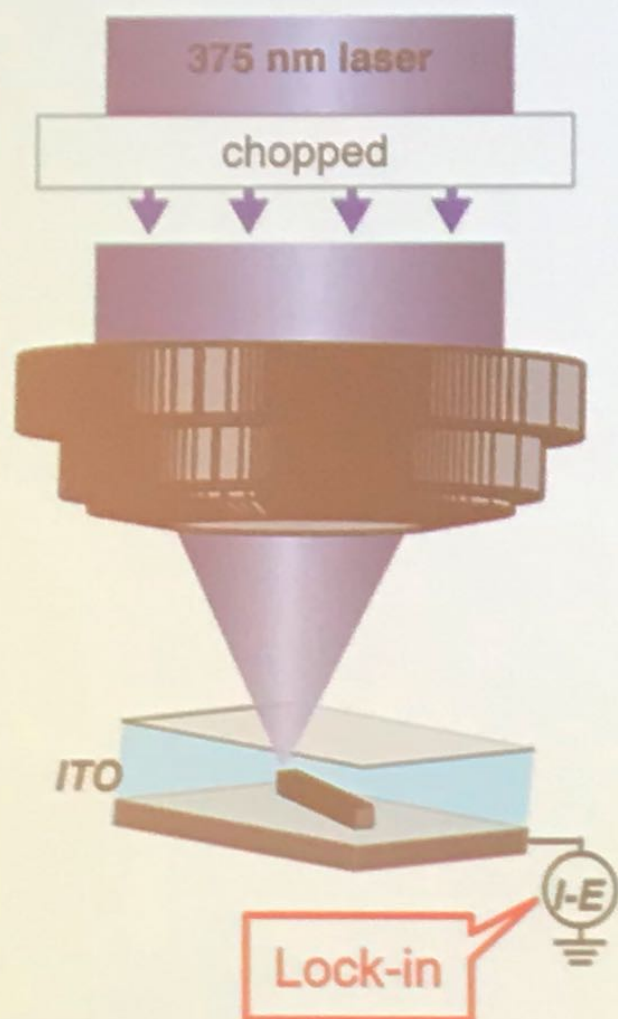
Know:

- 1. Surface h^+ and e^- activity at nm resolution**
- 2. They are spatially correlated**



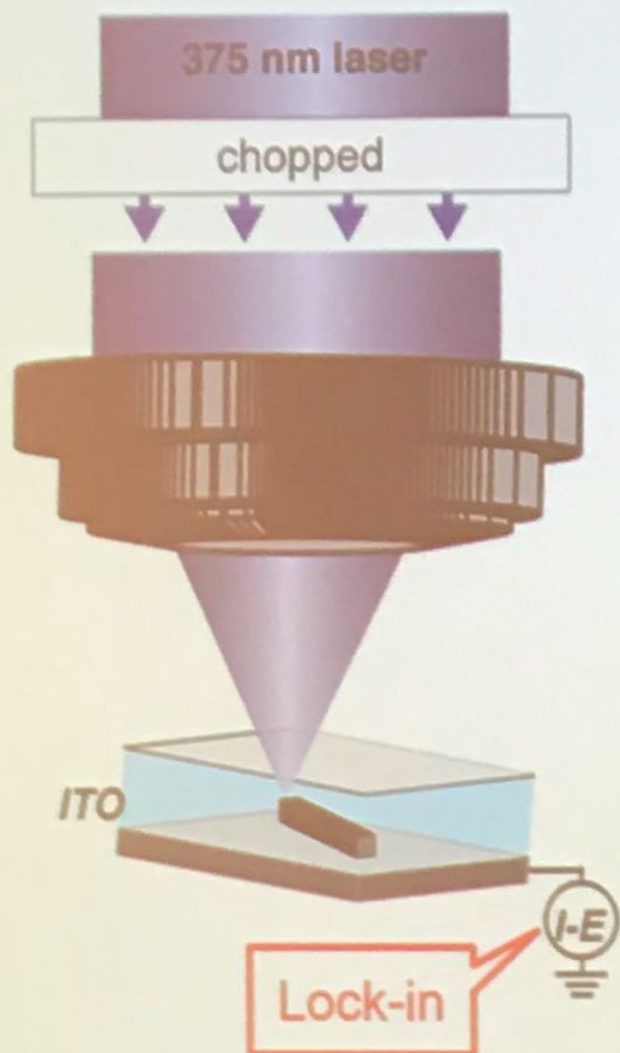
**Connection to local
water oxidation
efficiency?**

Sub-nanorod Photocurrent Measurements



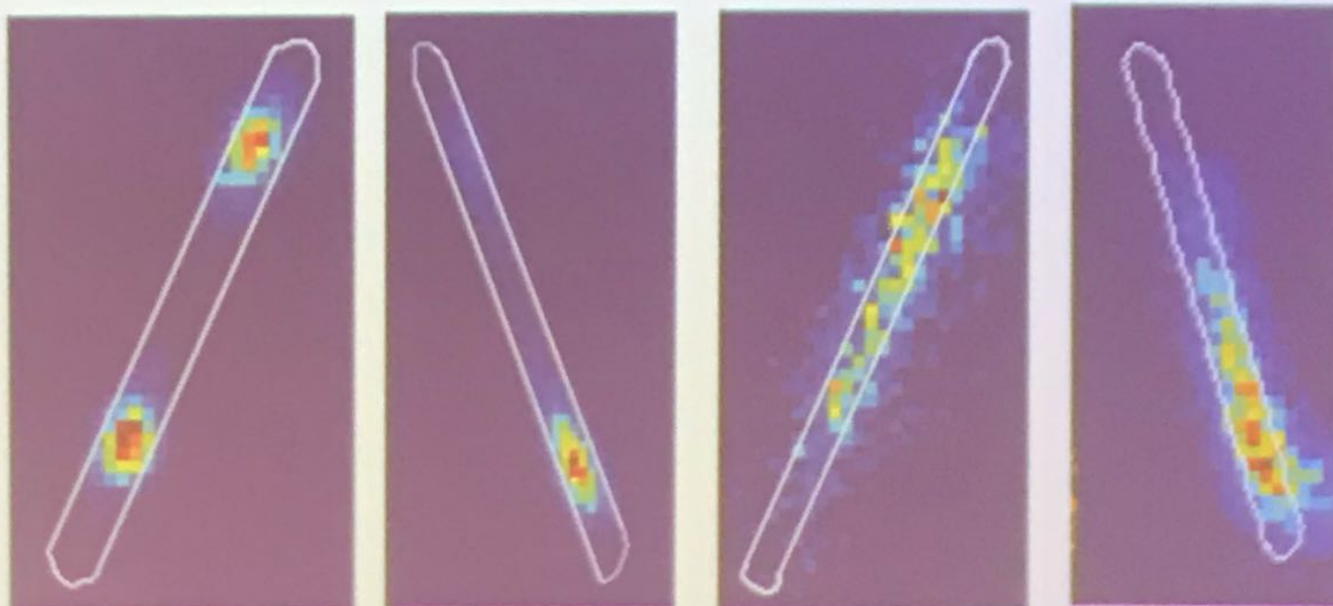
- Photocurrent \propto water oxidation kinetics
- Sub-nanorod measurements : diffraction limited
- No inter-particle charger transfer

Sub-nanorod Photocurrent Measurements

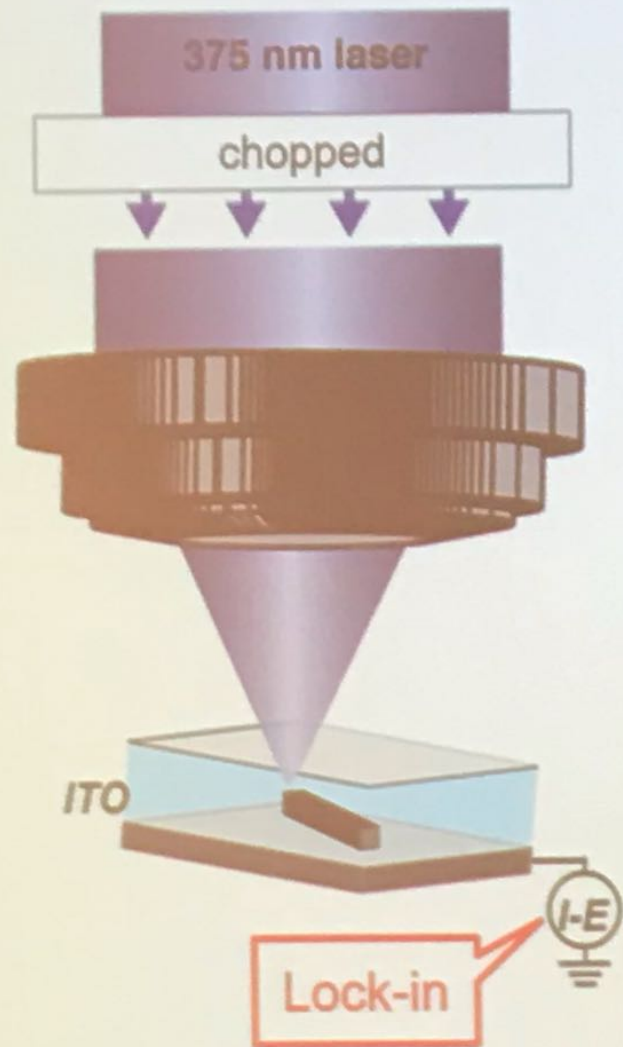


- **Photocurrent** \propto water oxidation kinetics
- **Sub-nanorod** measurements : **diffraction limited**
- **No** inter-particle charger transfer

Use h^+ (e^-) reaction maps as guide

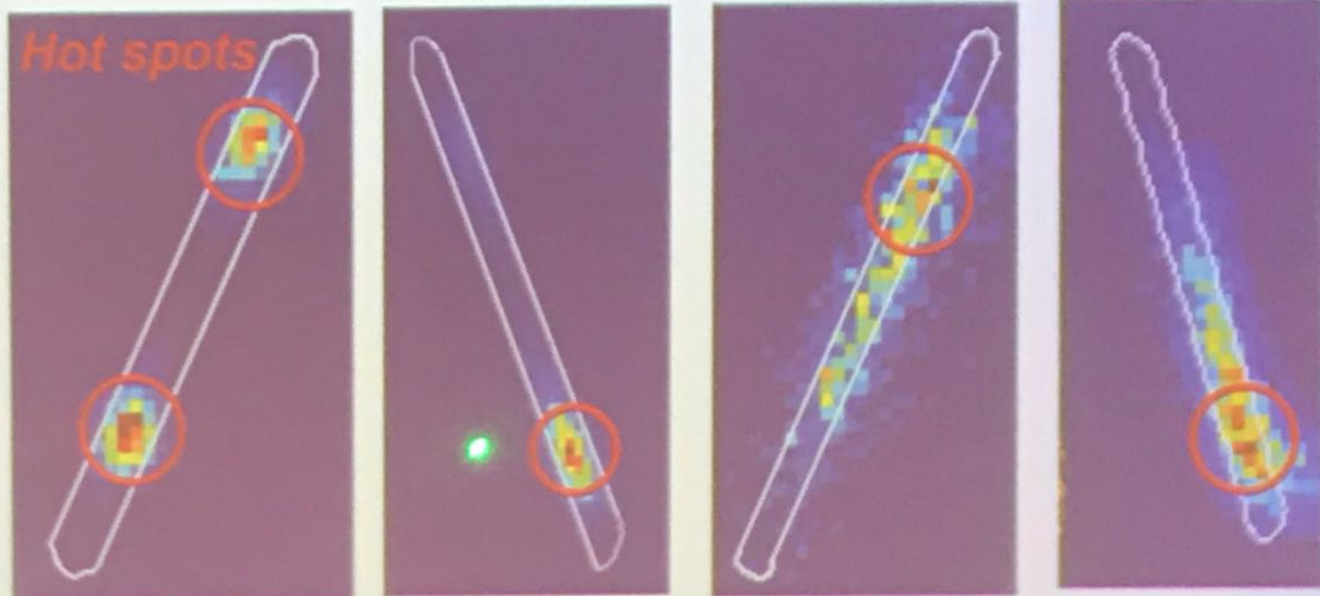


Sub-nanorod Photocurrent Measurements

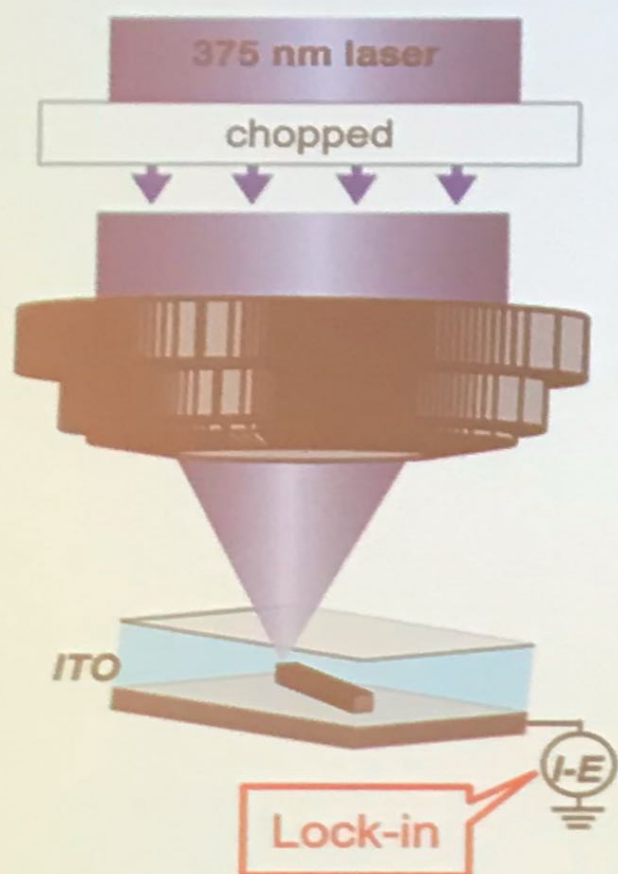


- **Photocurrent** \propto water oxidation kinetics
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Use h^+ (e^-) reaction maps as guide

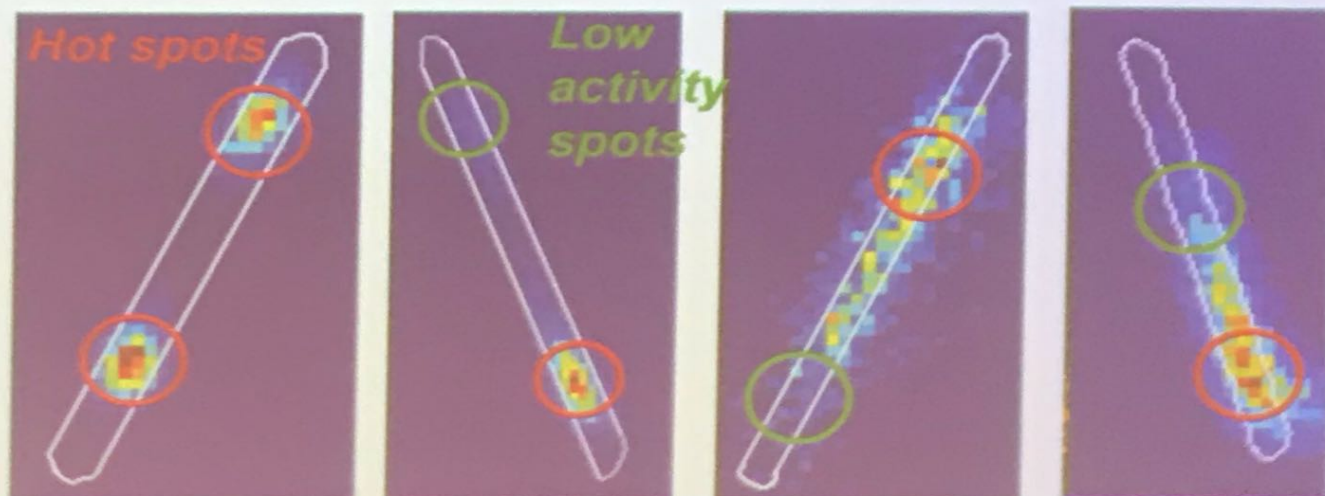


Sub-nanorod Photocurrent Measurements



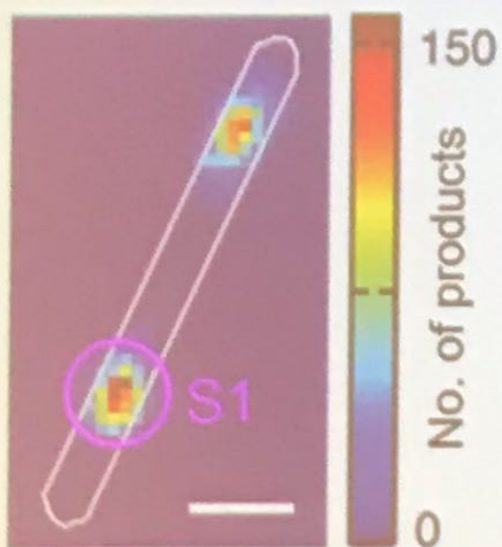
- **Photocurrent** \propto water oxidation kinetics
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Use h^+ (e^-) reaction maps as guide



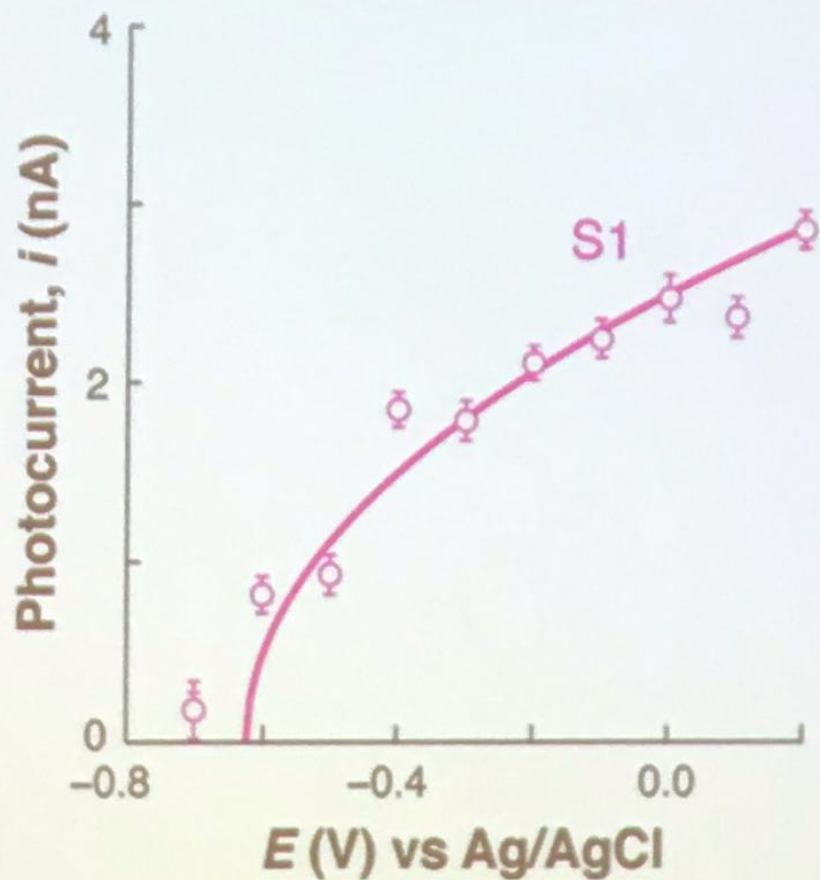
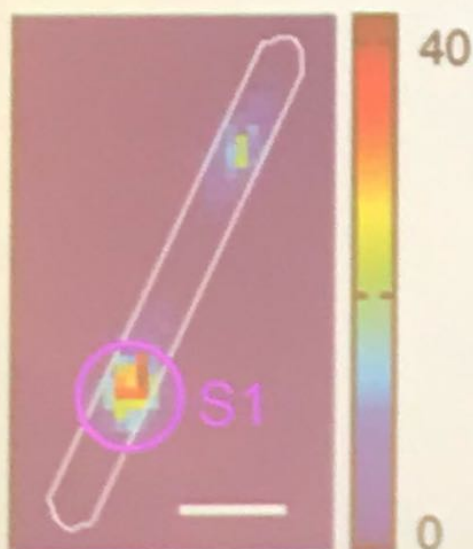
Sub-nanorod *i*-E Behaviors

h^+ reactions



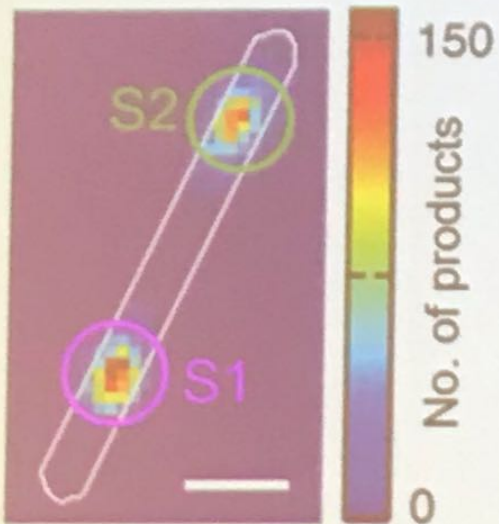
2-D histogram

e^- reactions



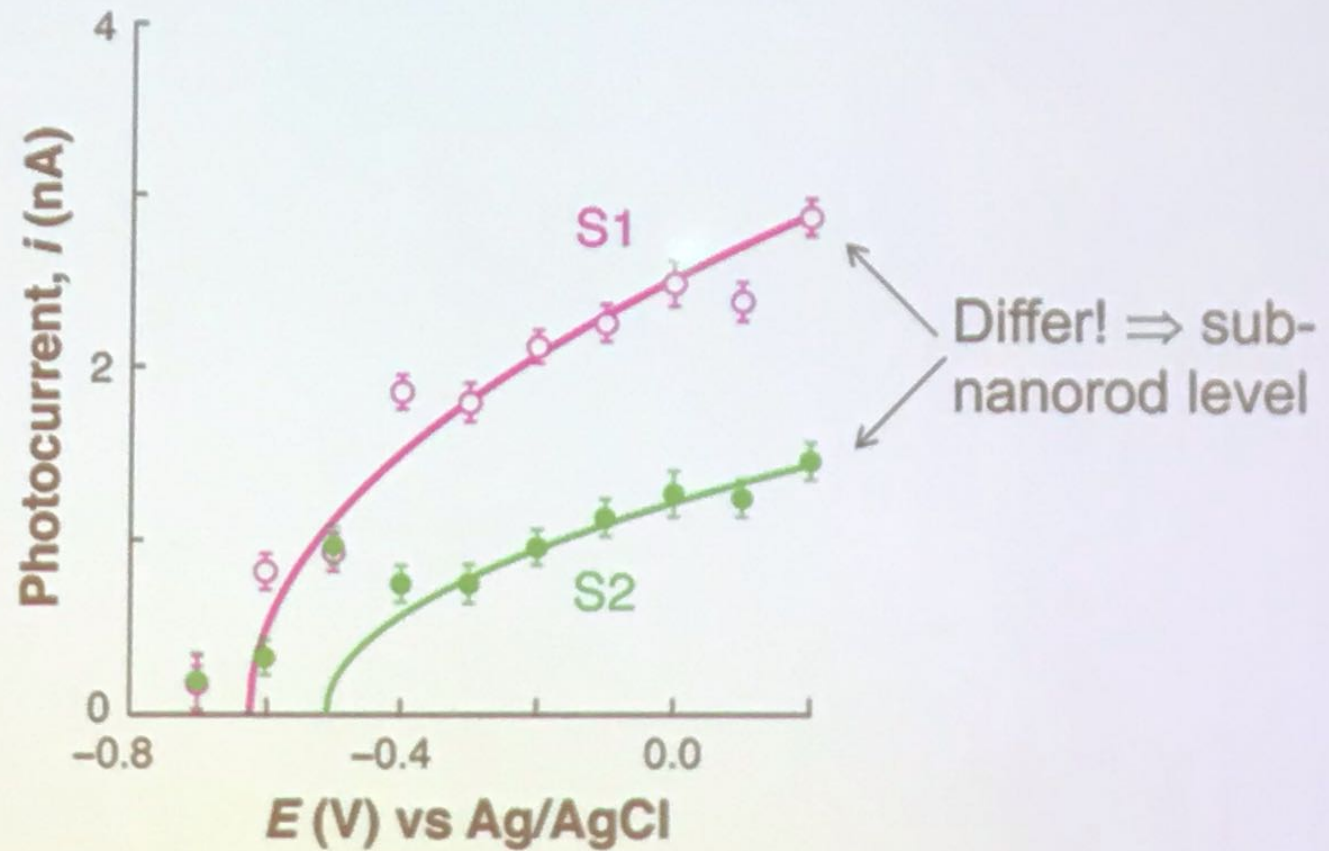
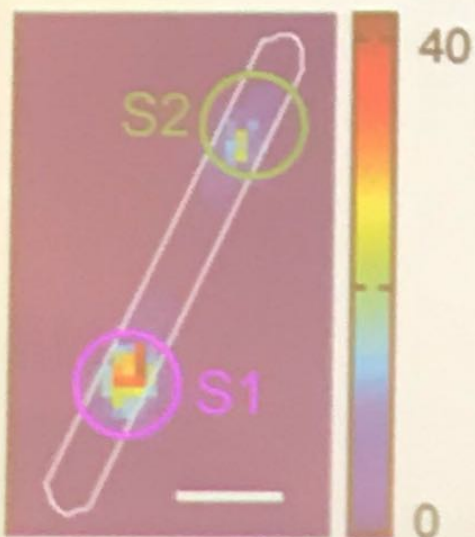
Sub-nanorod i - E Behaviors

h^+ reactions



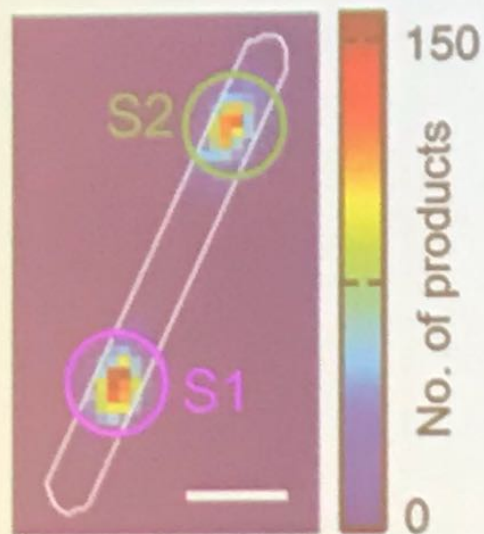
2-D histogram

e^- reactions



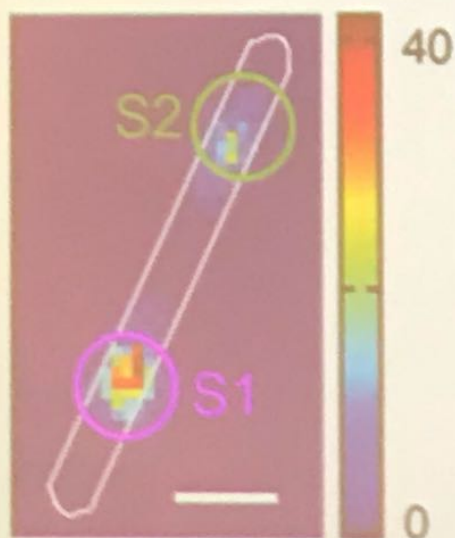
Sub-nanorod i - E Behaviors

h^+ reactions



2-D histogram

e^- reactions



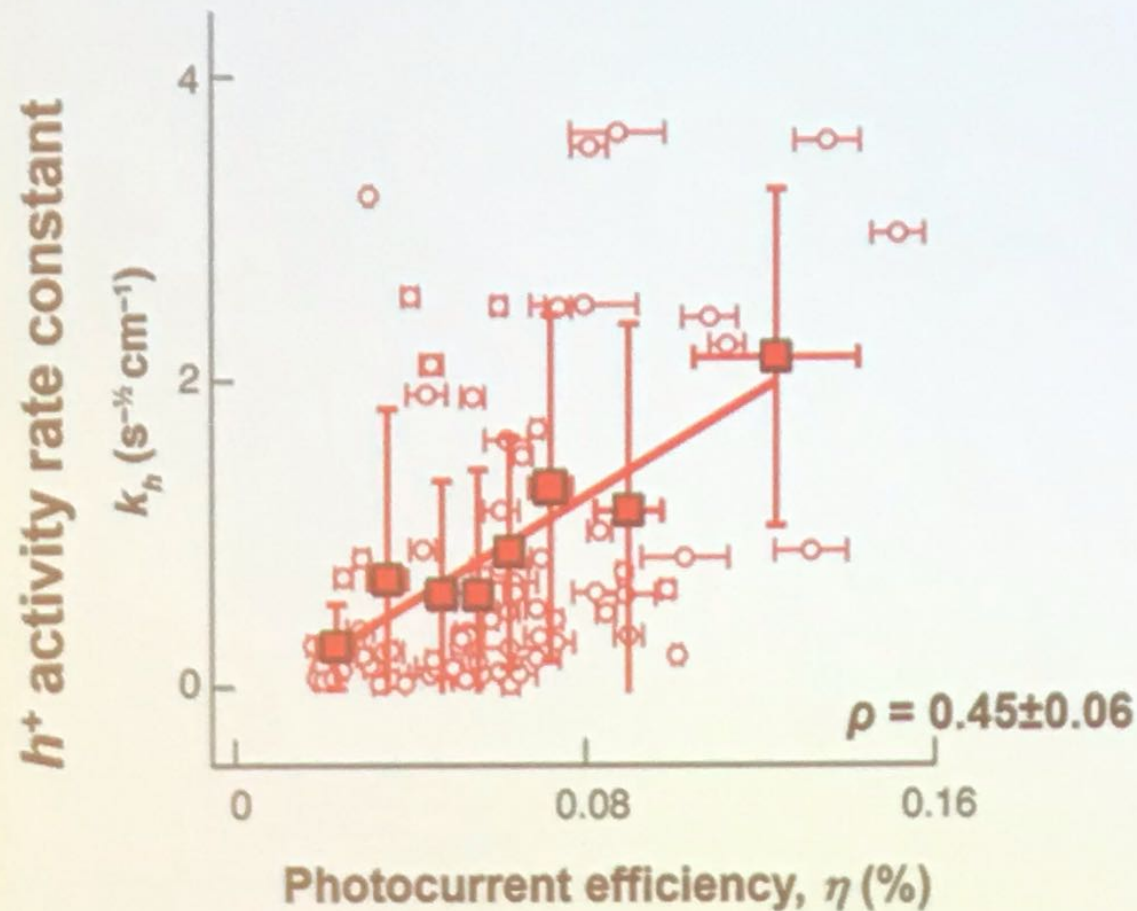
Gärtner-Butler model (PR 1955; JAP 1977)

$$i \propto \eta I_0 \sqrt{E - E_{on,GB}}$$

η : Absorbed photon in depletion layer to photocurrent efficiency

$E_{on,GB}$: Onset potential

Photocurrent Efficiency \Leftrightarrow Surface h^+ & e^- Activity



- Higher h^+ (& e^-) activity = larger photocurrent
- (Note k_h and k_e correlated)

\Rightarrow Surface activity (h^+ & e^-) = *indicator* & *perhaps determinant* of water oxidation efficiency

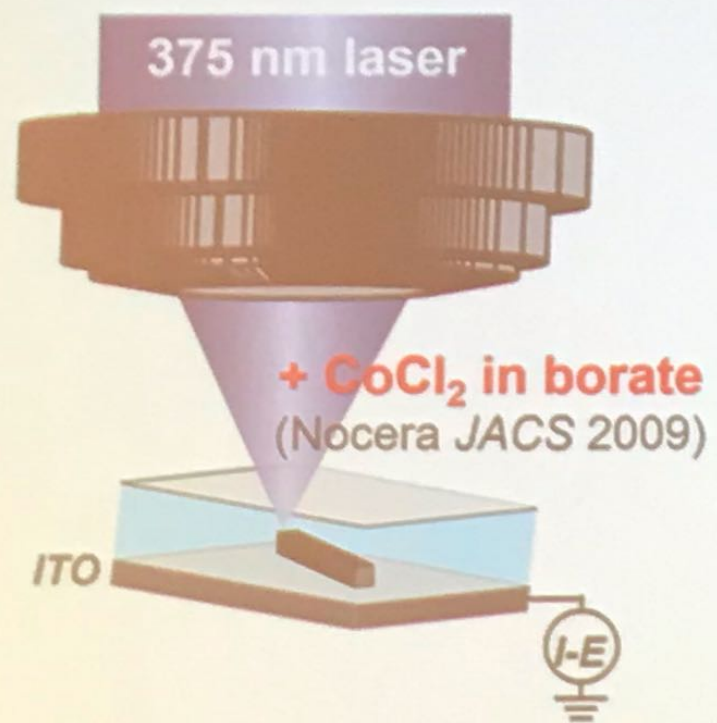
Know:

**Surface h^+ & e^- activity \Leftrightarrow
photocurrent of water oxidation**

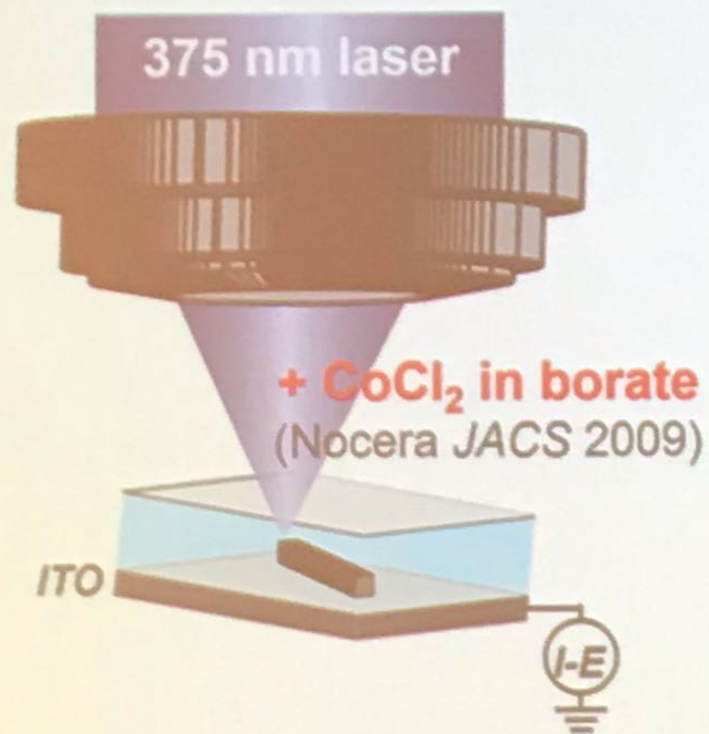


- 1. Effects of OECs on i and E_{on} ?**
- 2. Where best?**

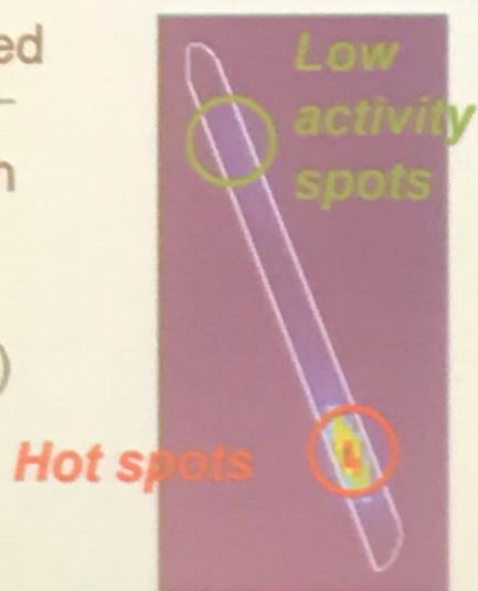
Spatially Controlled Photoelectrodeposition of OEC (CoB₁)



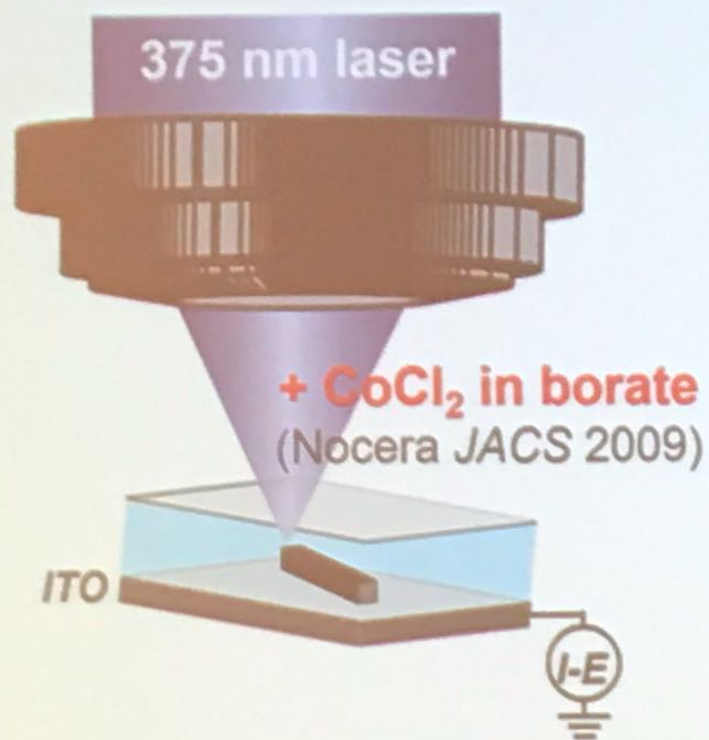
Spatially Controlled Photoelectrodeposition of OEC (CoB_i)



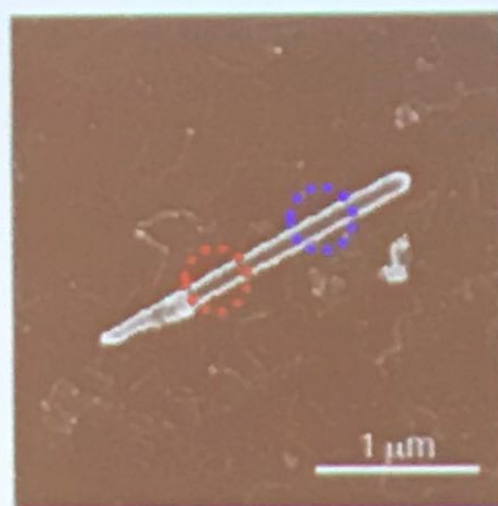
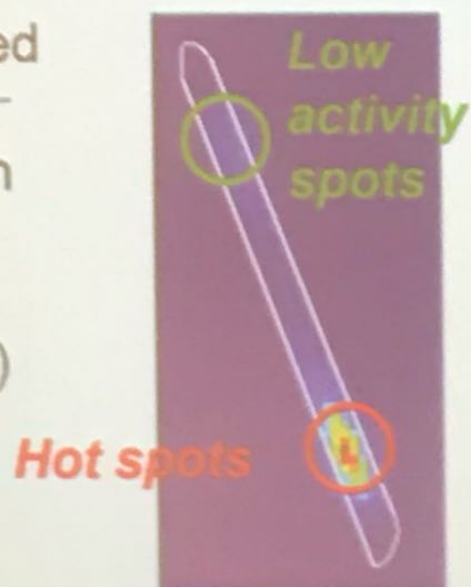
→ Based on h^+/e^- reaction maps (where better?)



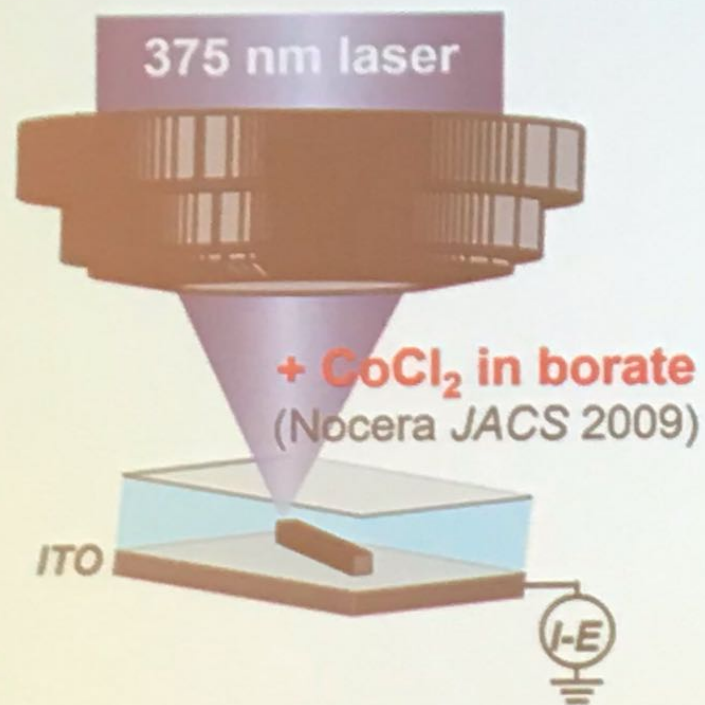
Spatially Controlled Photoelectrodeposition of OEC (CoB_i)



→ Based on h^+/e^- reaction maps (where better?)

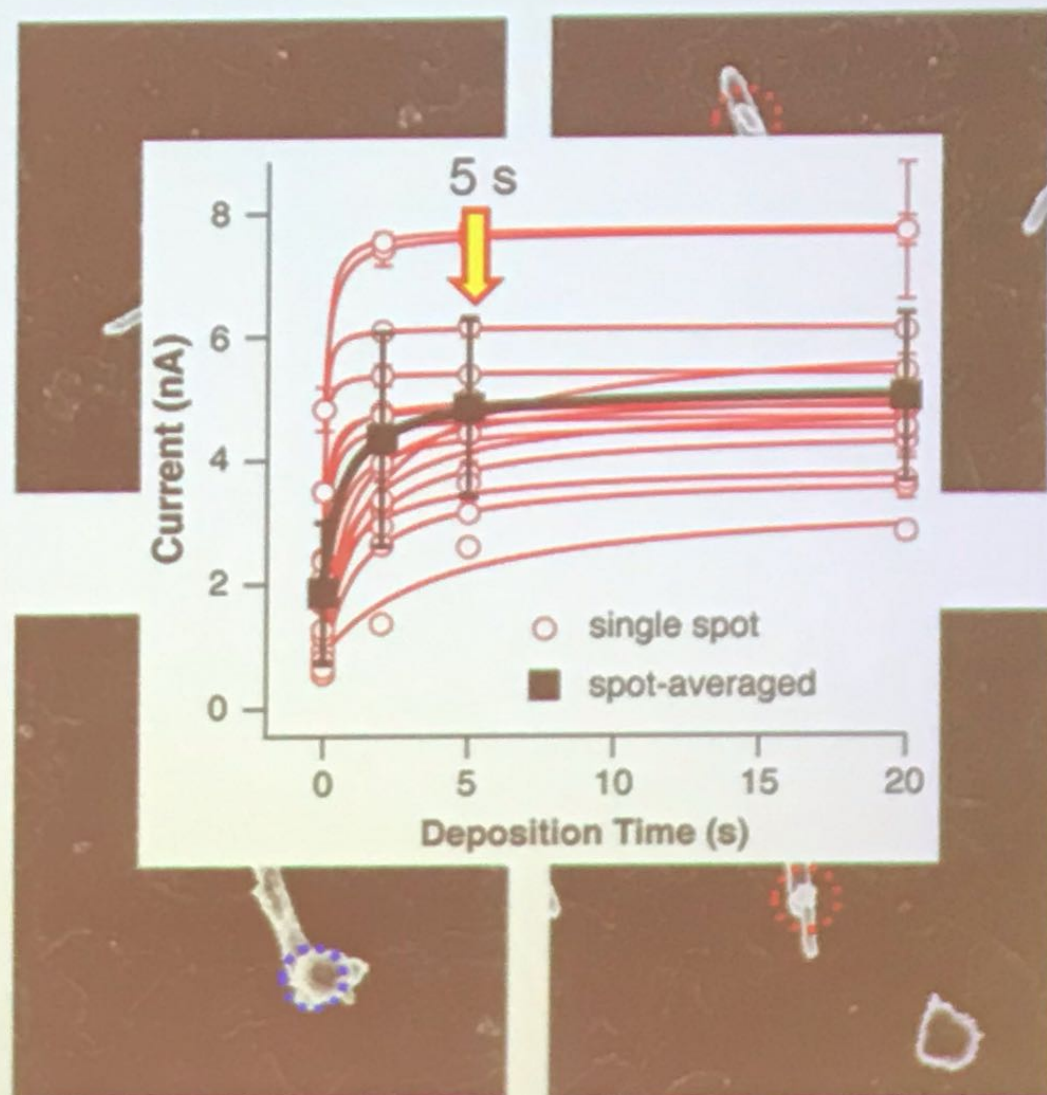
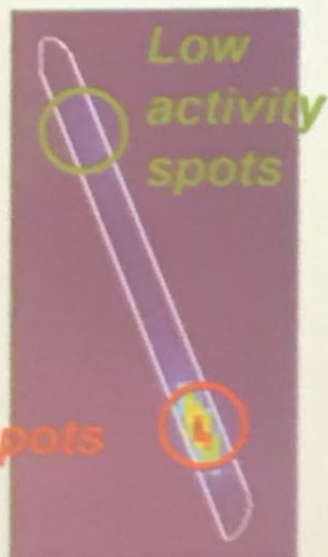


Spatially Controlled Photoelectrodeposition of OEC (CoB₁)



→ Based on h^+/e^- reaction maps (where better?)

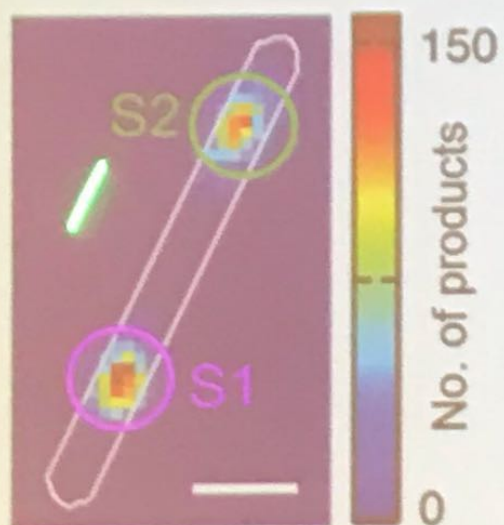
Hot spots



⇒ Catalyst amount saturates photocurrent of water oxidation

OEC Improves Photocurrent & Onset Potential

h^+ reactions



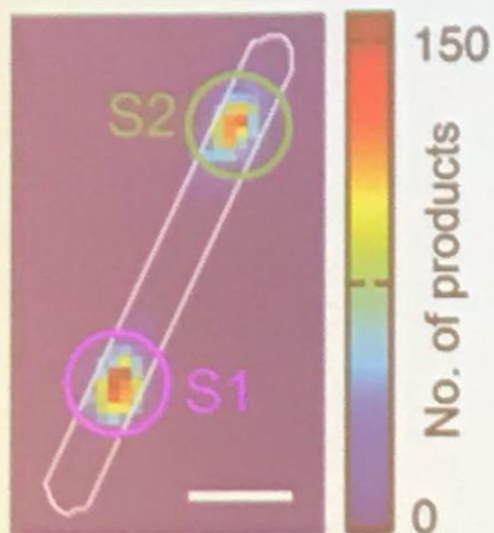
2-D histogram

SEM



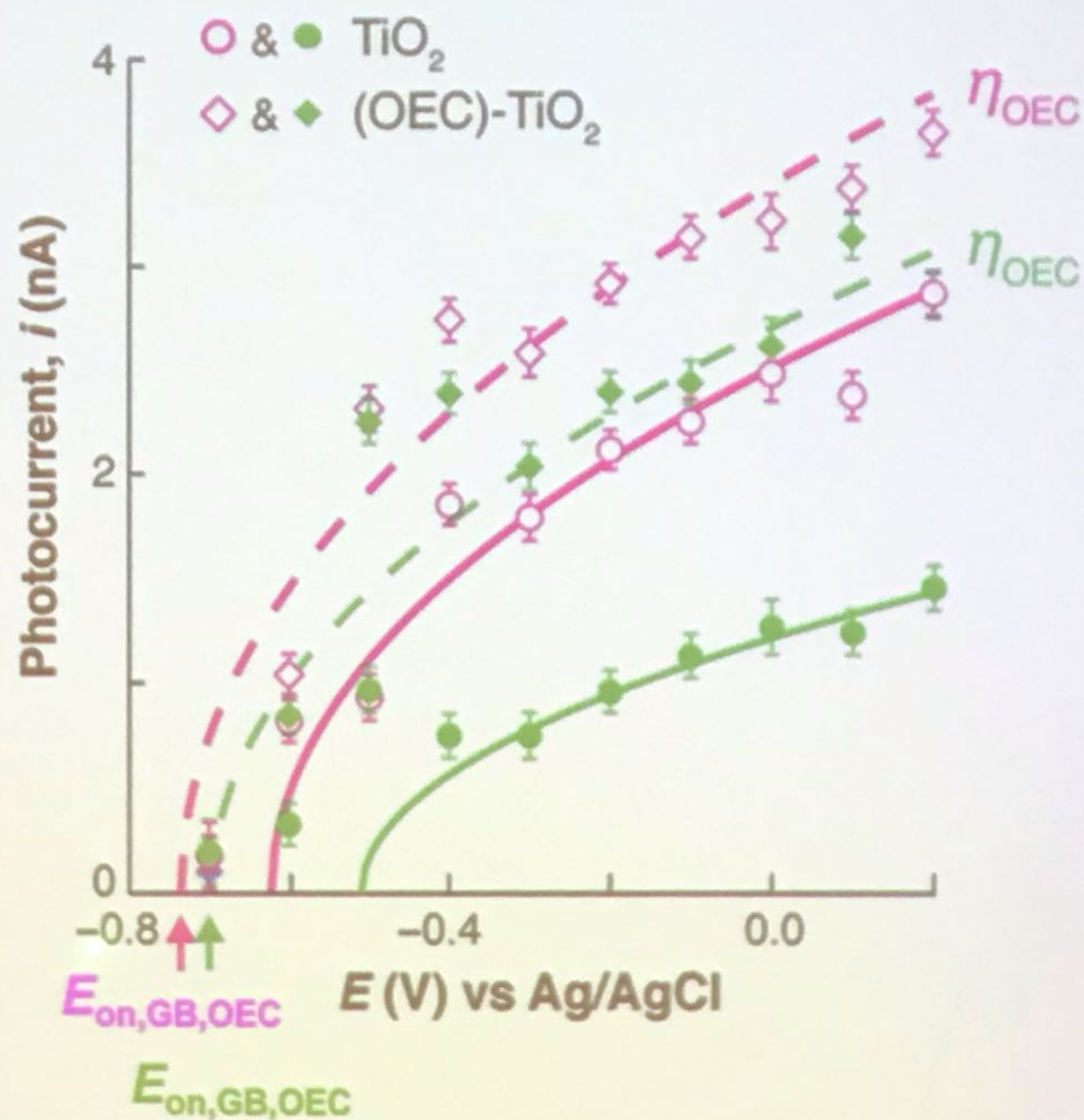
OEC Improves Photocurrent & Onset Potential

h^+ reactions



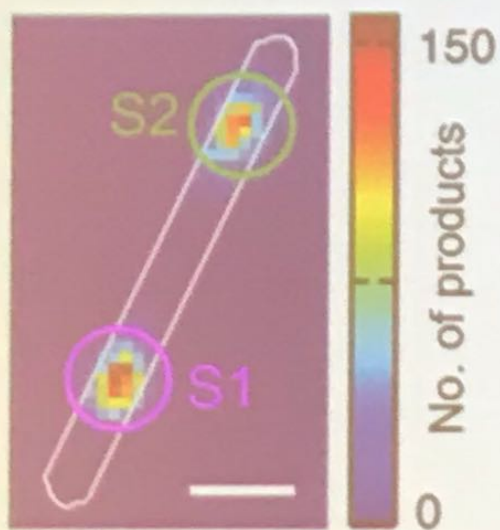
2-D histogram

SEM



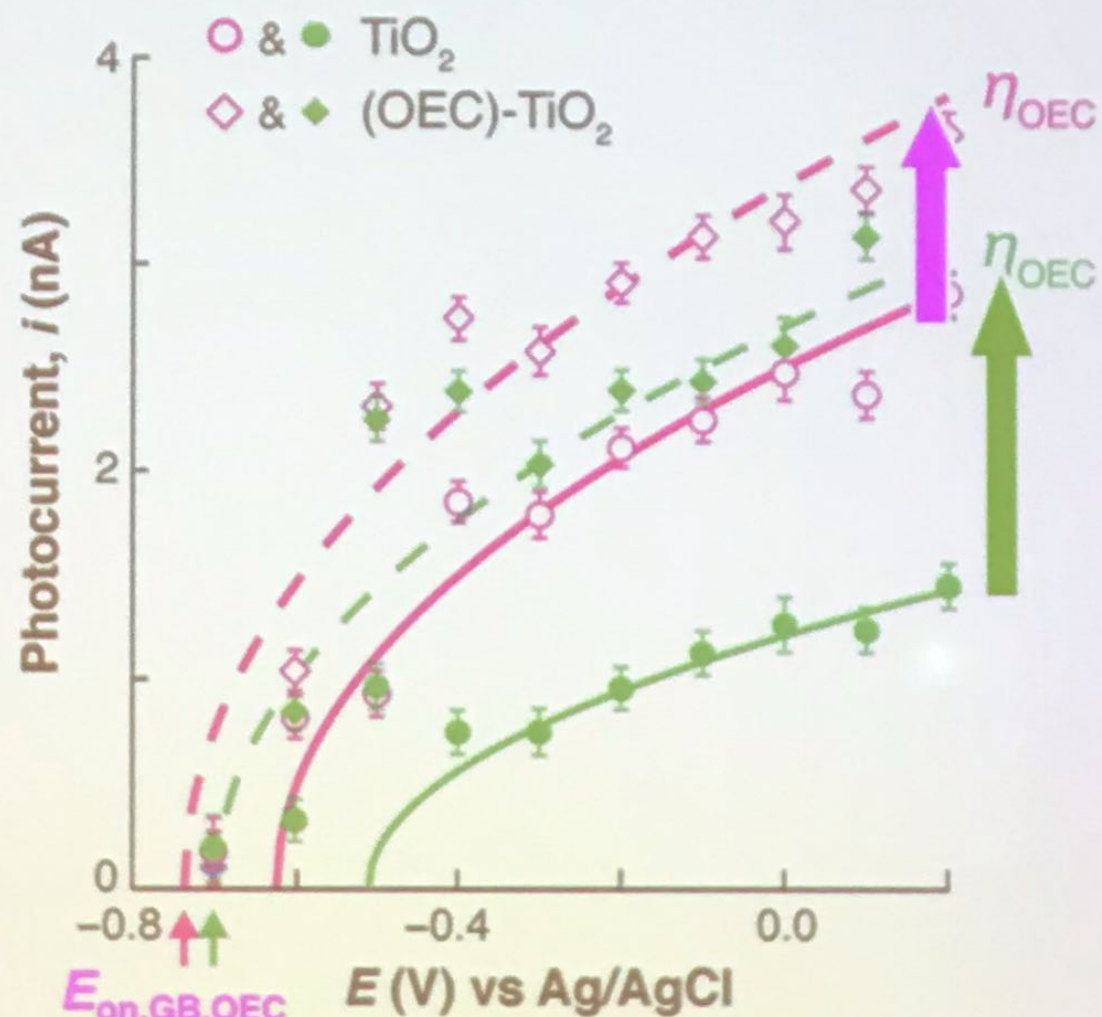
OEC Improves Photocurrent & Onset Potential

h^+ reactions



2-D histogram

SEM

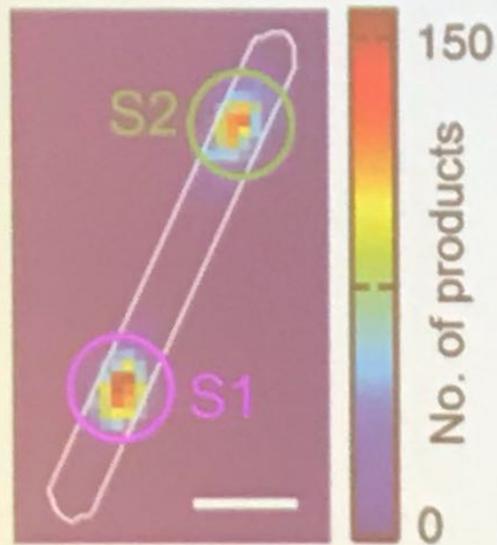


After OEC {

- Photocurrent efficiency η , ↑
- Onset potential $E_{\text{on,GB}}$, ↓

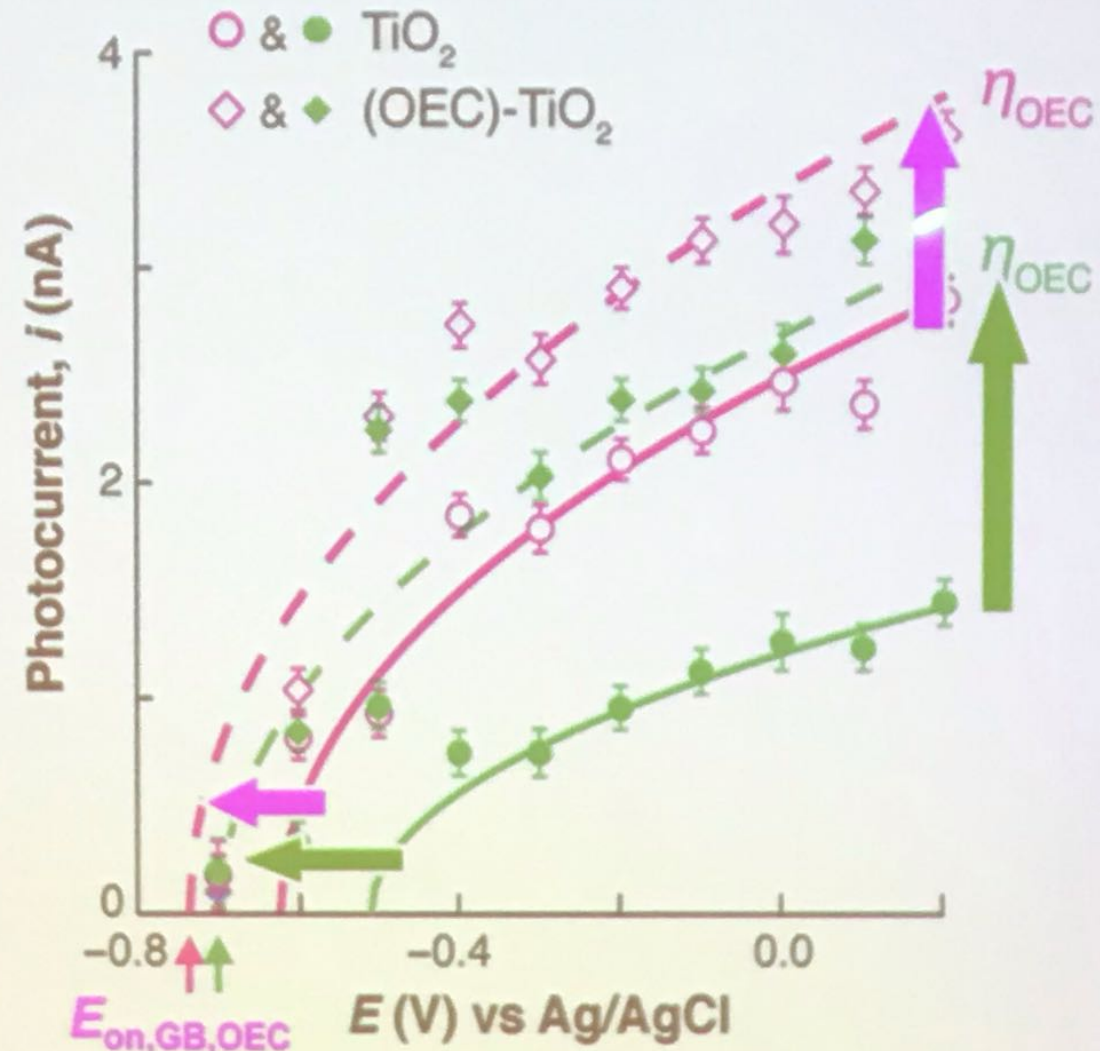
OEC Improves Photocurrent & Onset Potential

h^+ reactions



2-D histogram

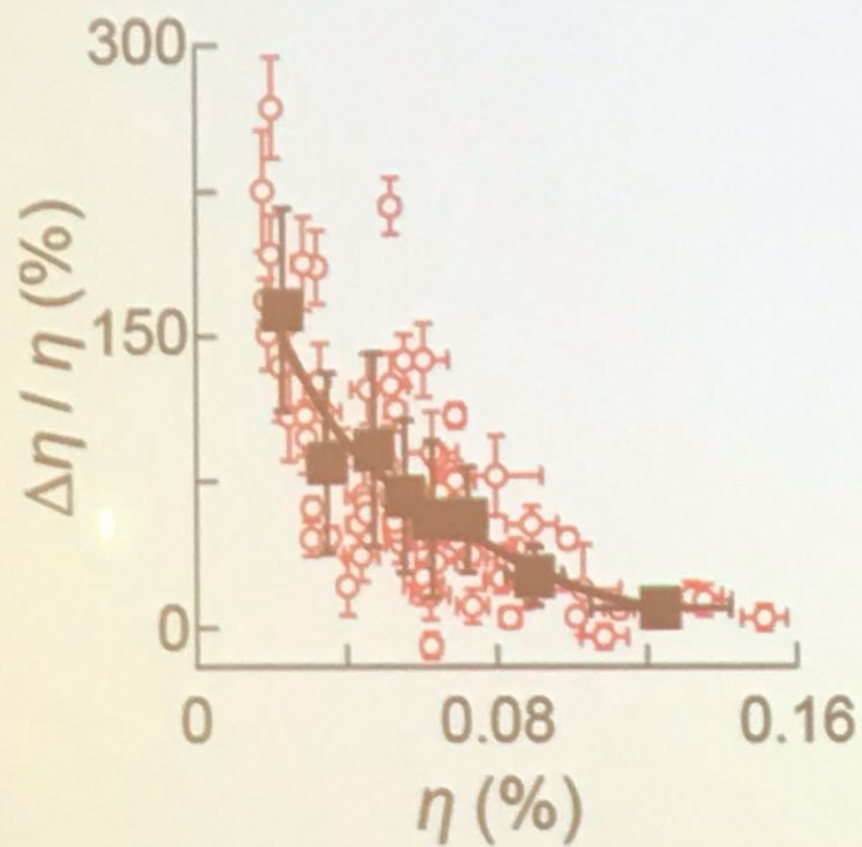
SEM



- After OEC {
- Photocurrent efficiency η , \uparrow
 - Onset potential $E_{on,GB}$, \downarrow

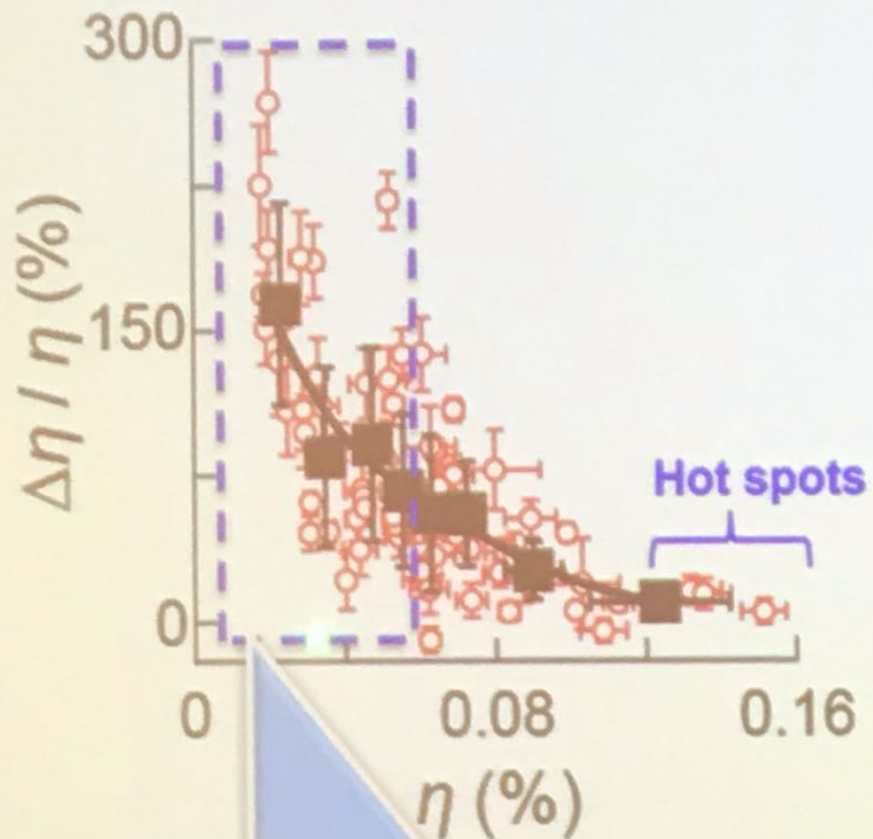
Optimal Sites for Catalysts

Relative photocurrent efficiency enhancement



Optimal Sites for Catalysts

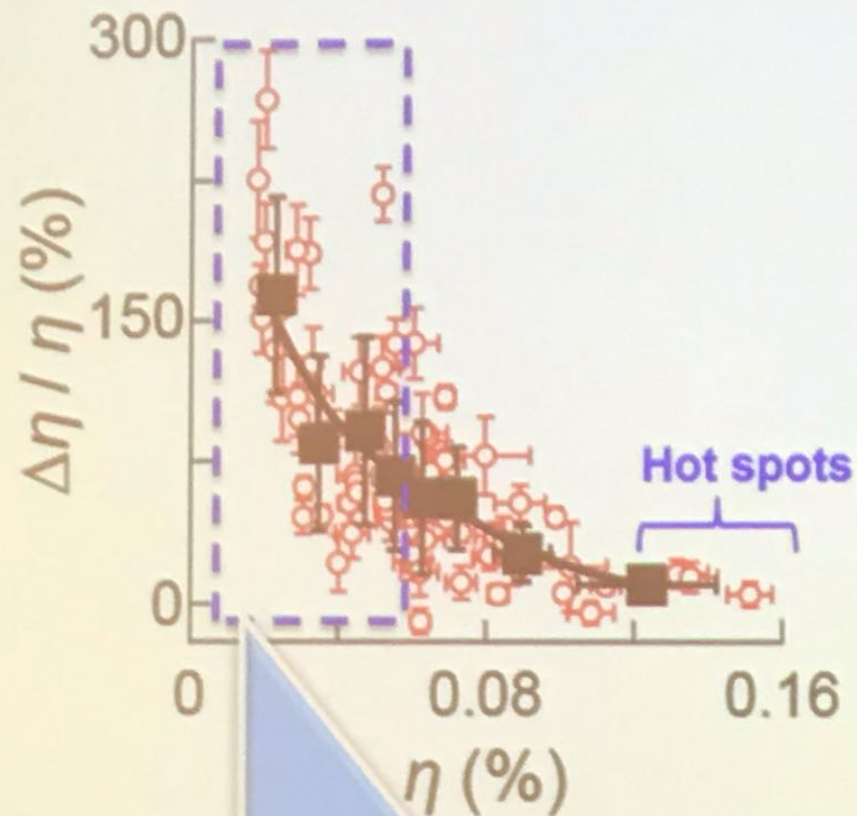
Relative photocurrent efficiency enhancement



Optimal sites: **Least efficient**
/active sites;
NOT the hot spots!

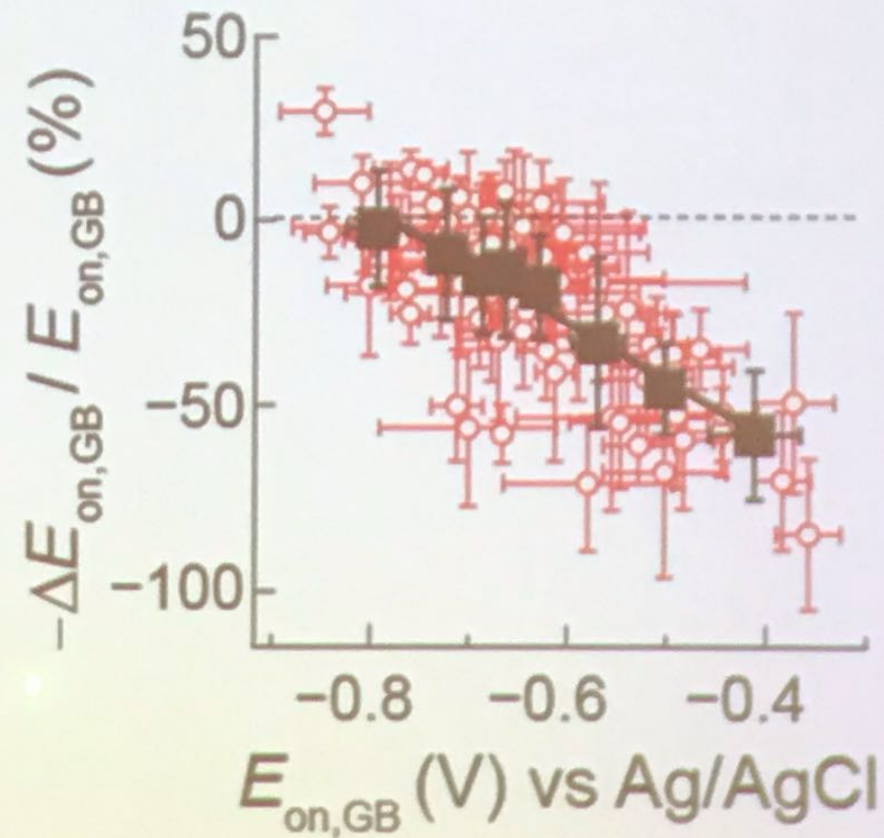
Optimal Sites for Catalysts

Relative photocurrent efficiency enhancement



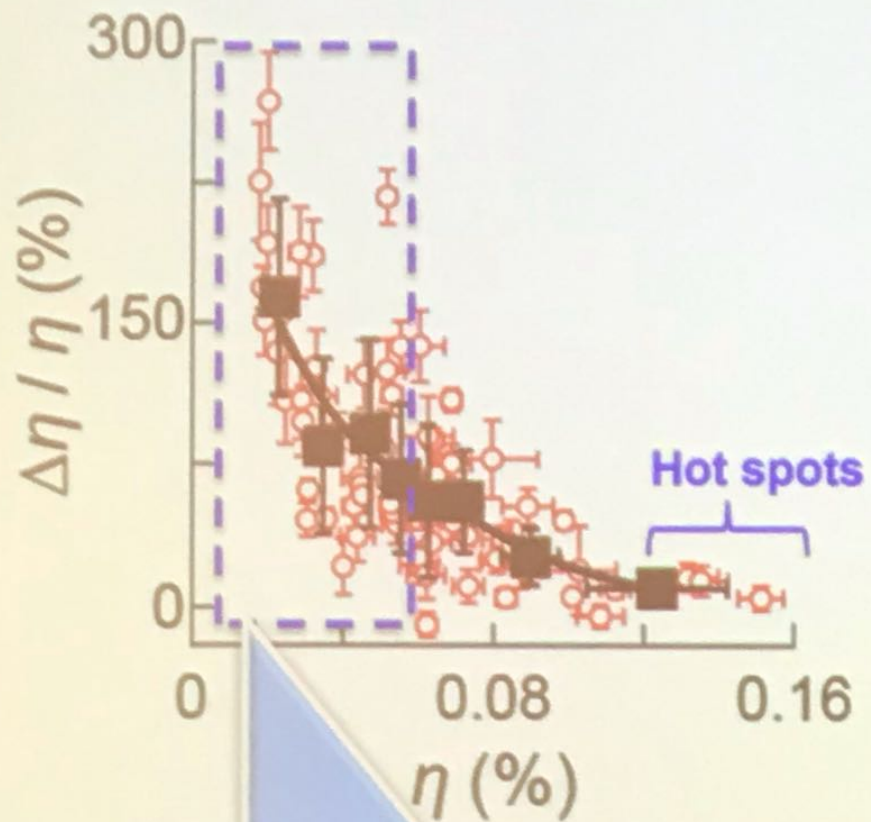
Optimal sites: **Least efficient / active sites;**
NOT the hot spots!

Relative onset potential reduction



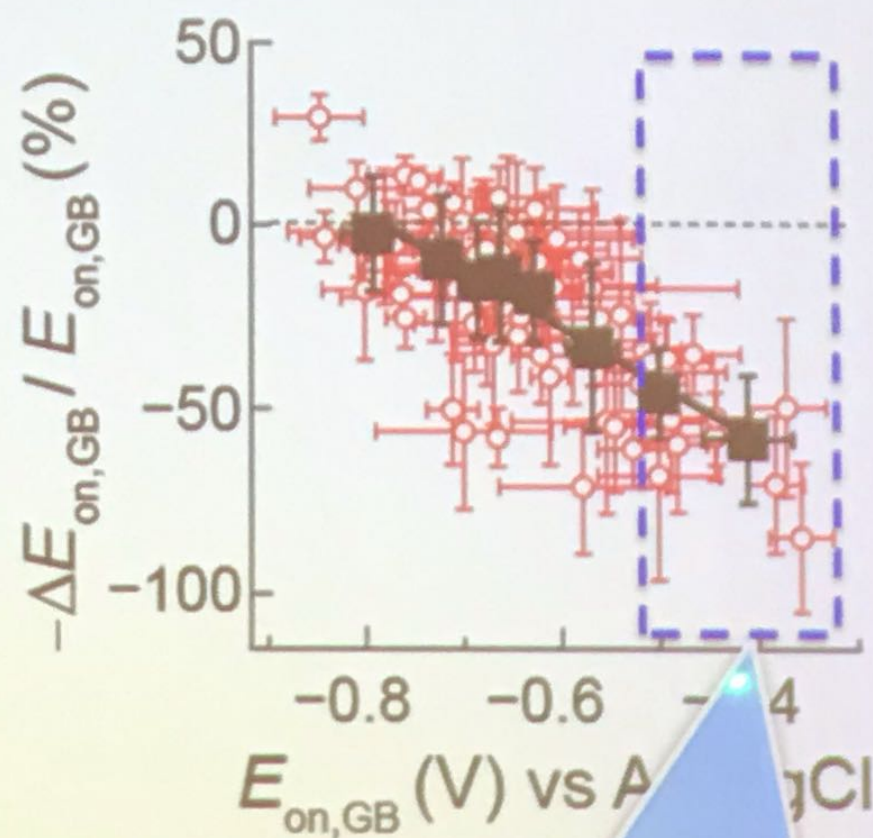
Optimal Sites for Catalysts

Relative photocurrent efficiency enhancement



Optimal sites: **Least efficient / active sites;**
NOT the hot spots!

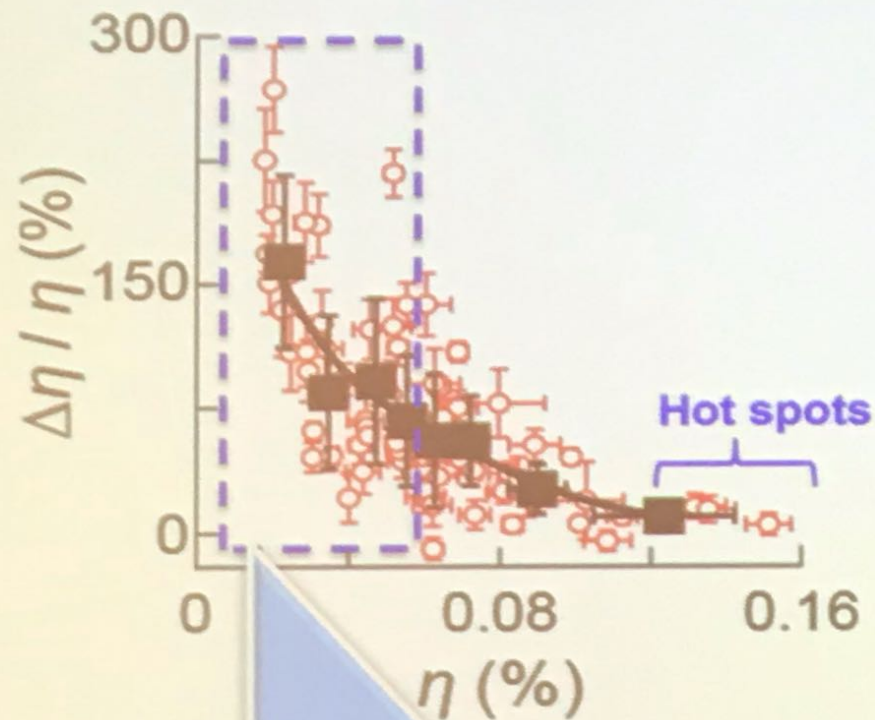
Relative onset potential reduction



Optimal sites: **Most positive onset potential sites**

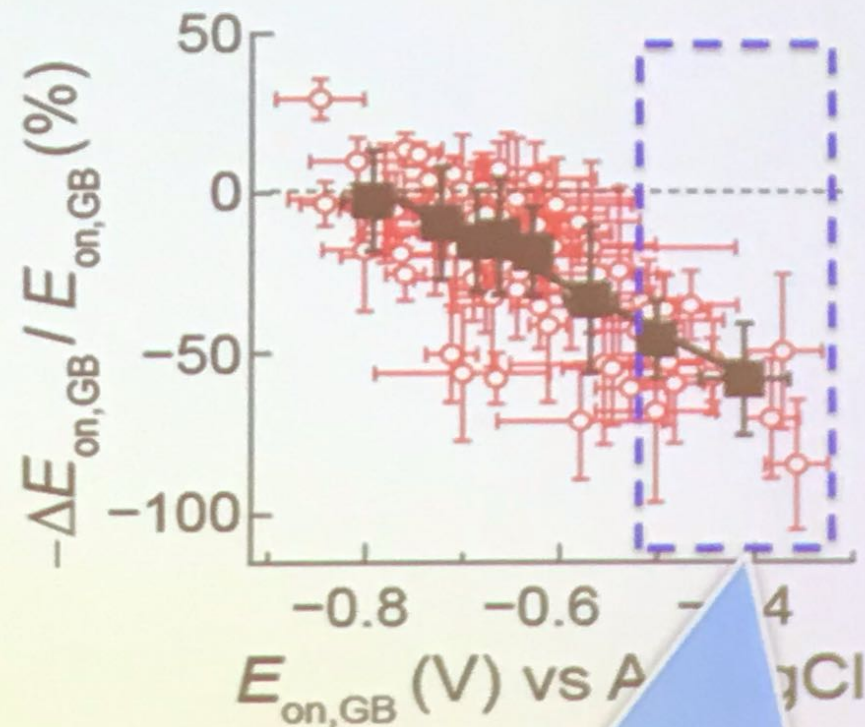
Optimal Sites for Catalysts

Relative photocurrent efficiency enhancement



Optimal sites: **Least efficient / active sites;**
NOT the hot spots!

Relative onset potential reduction



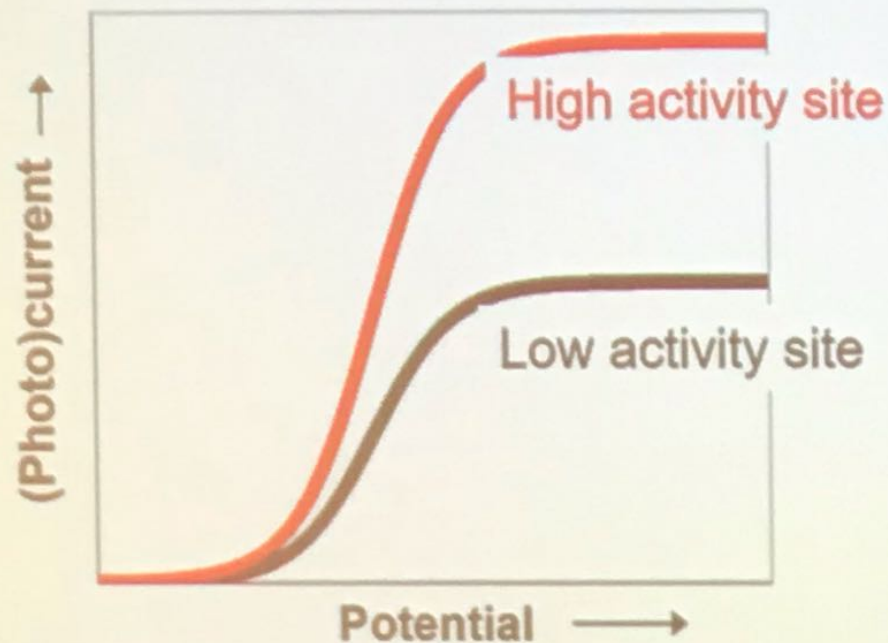
Optimal sites: **Most positive onset potential sites**

\neq

\Rightarrow **Opposite to what's obtainable conventionally!**

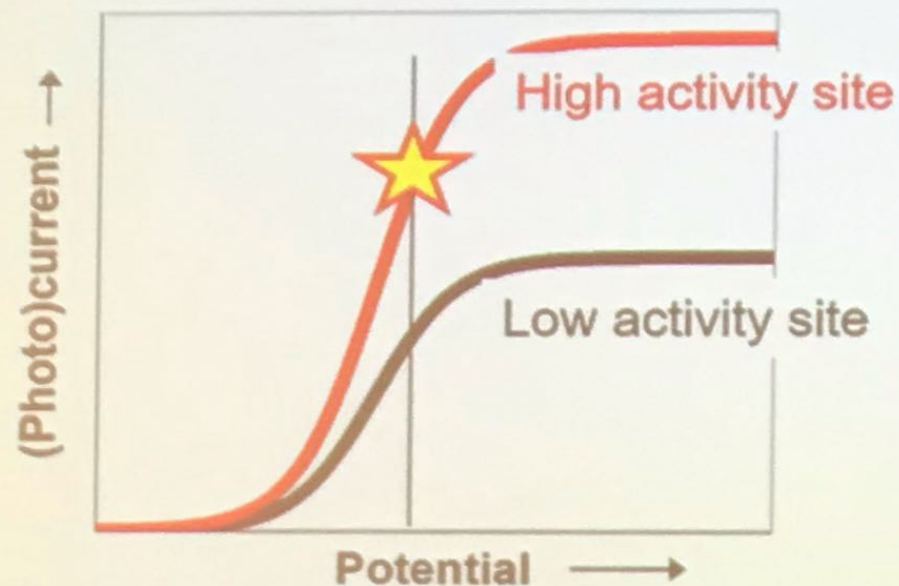
Challenges for Engineering Photoanodes with Catalysts via (Photo)(electro)deposition

Sites differ in activity



Challenges for Engineering Photoanodes with Catalysts via (Photo)(electro)deposition

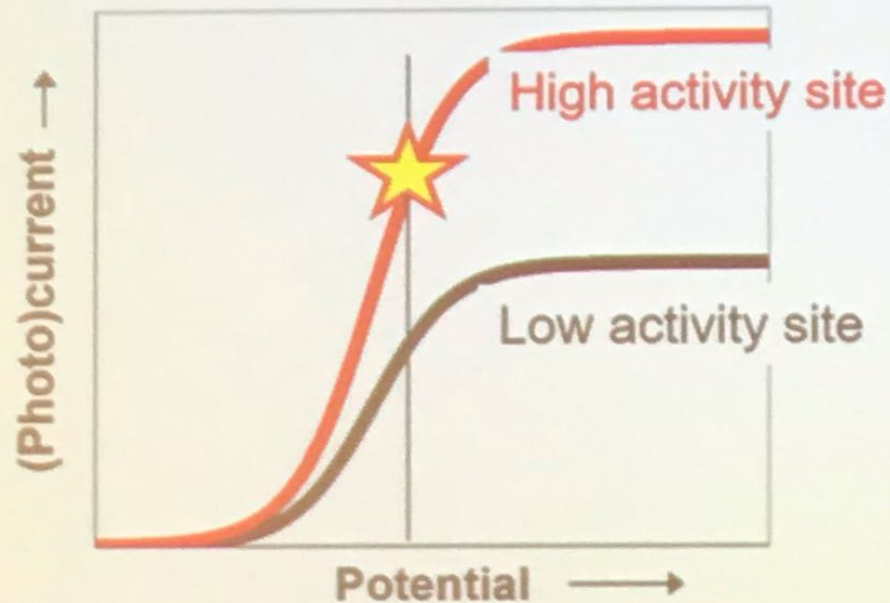
Sites differ in activity



- High activity sites get more catalysts

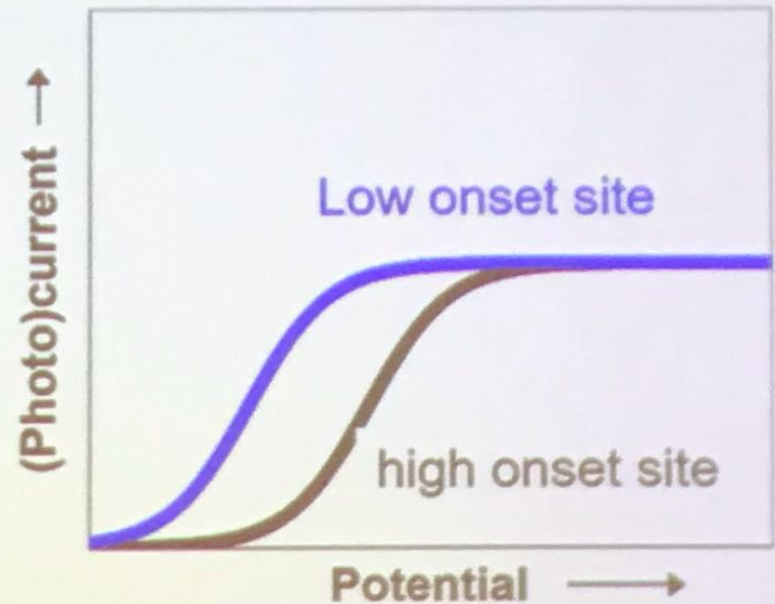
Challenges for Engineering Photoanodes with Catalysts via (Photo)(electro)deposition

Sites differ in activity



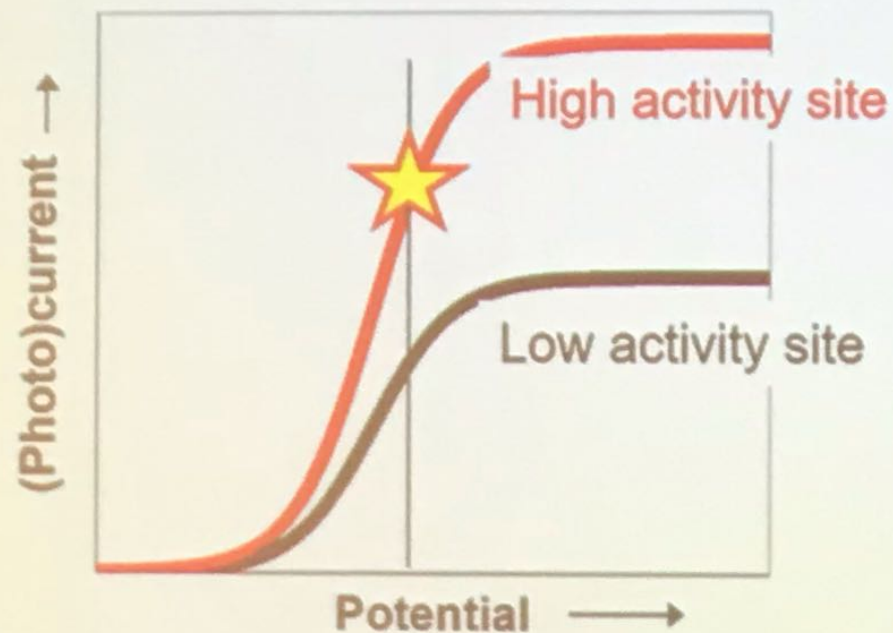
- High activity sites get more catalysts

Sites differ in onset potential



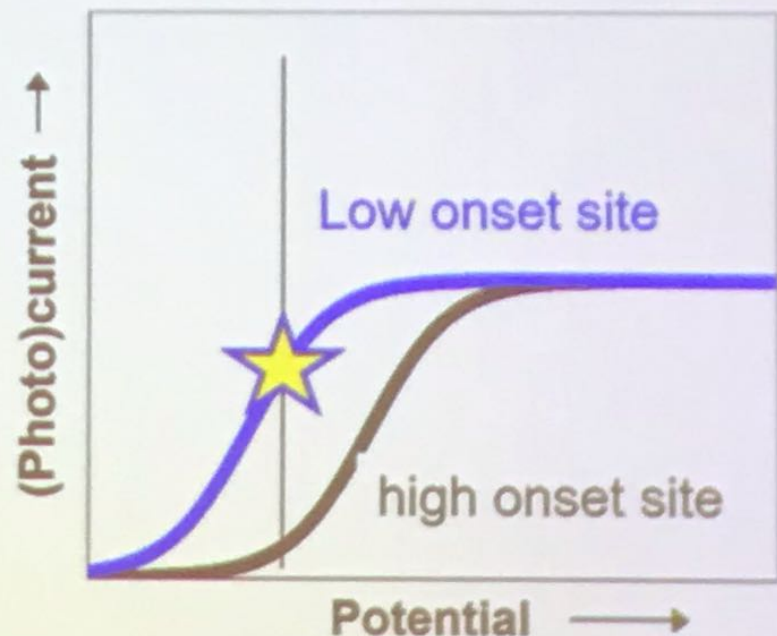
Challenges for Engineering Photoanodes with Catalysts via (Photo)(electro)deposition

Sites differ in activity



- High activity sites get more catalysts

Sites differ in onset potential



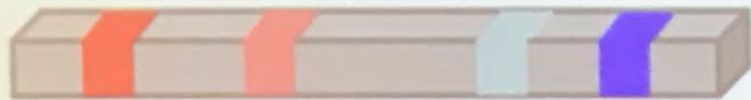
- Low onset potential sites get catalysts first

⇒ Both results are **UN-desirable**, opposite to the optimal sites
⇒ But how to overcome?

Function-based Strategy for Optimal Catalyst Deposition

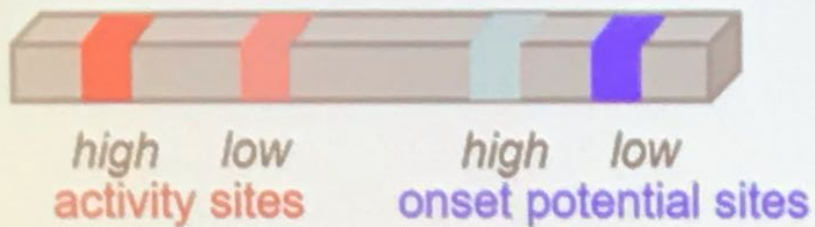


Function-based Strategy for Optimal Catalyst Deposition

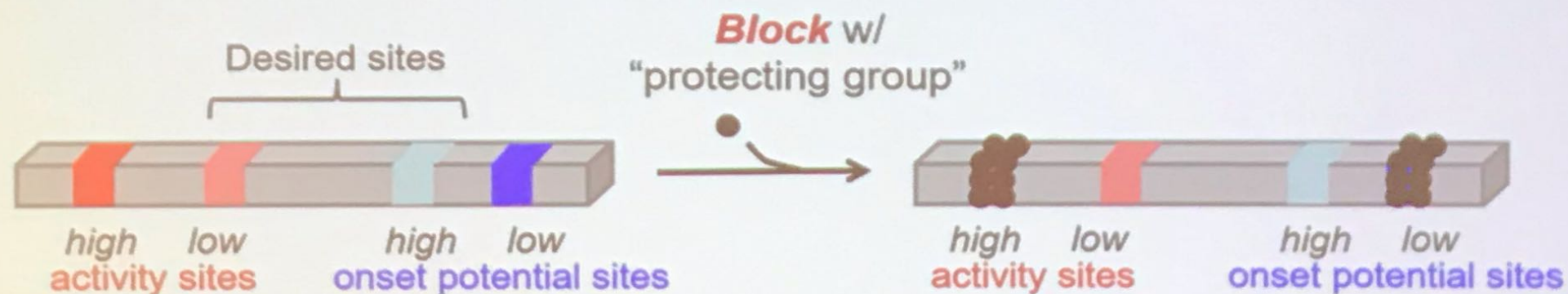


high *low*
activity sites

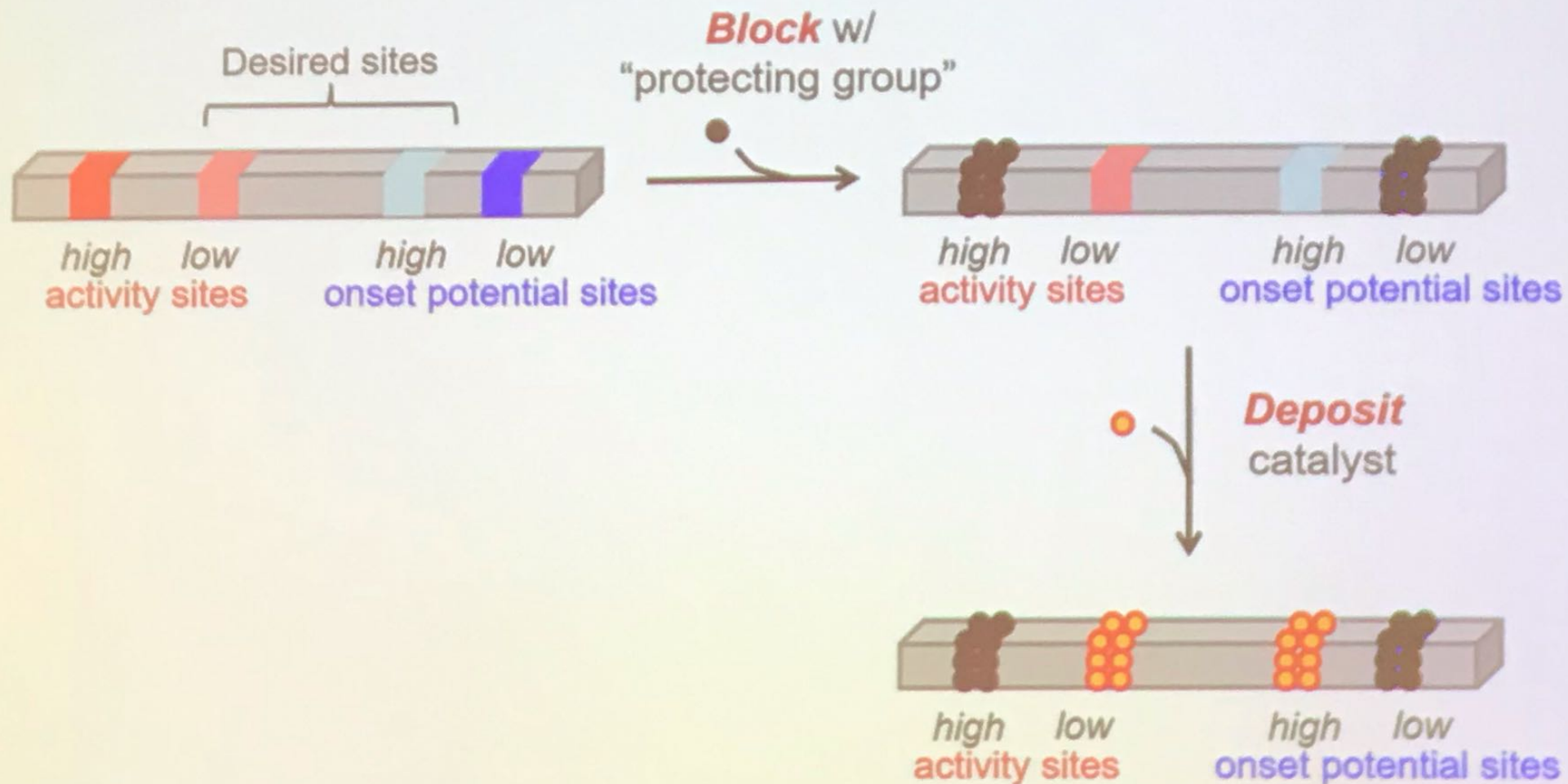
Function-based Strategy for Optimal Catalyst Deposition



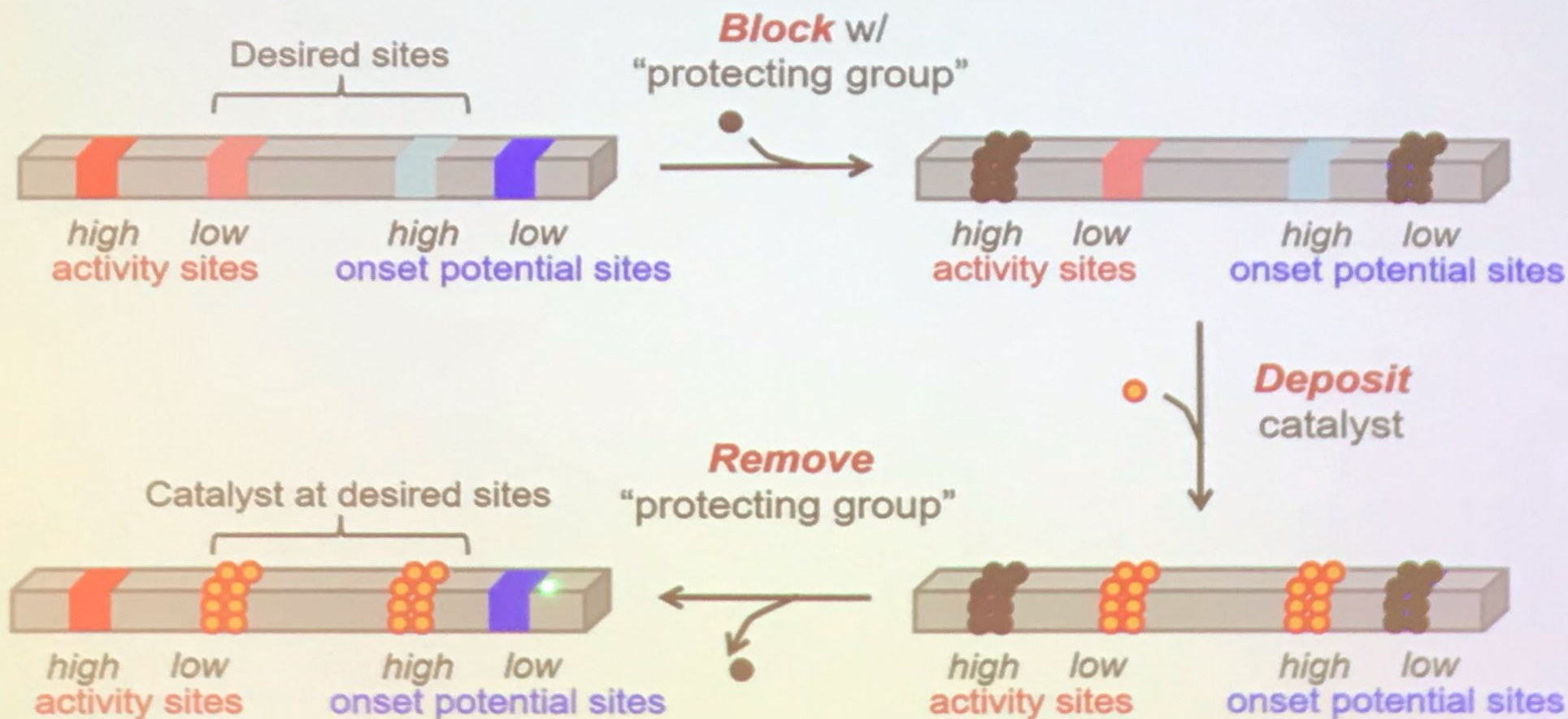
Function-based Strategy for Optimal Catalyst Deposition



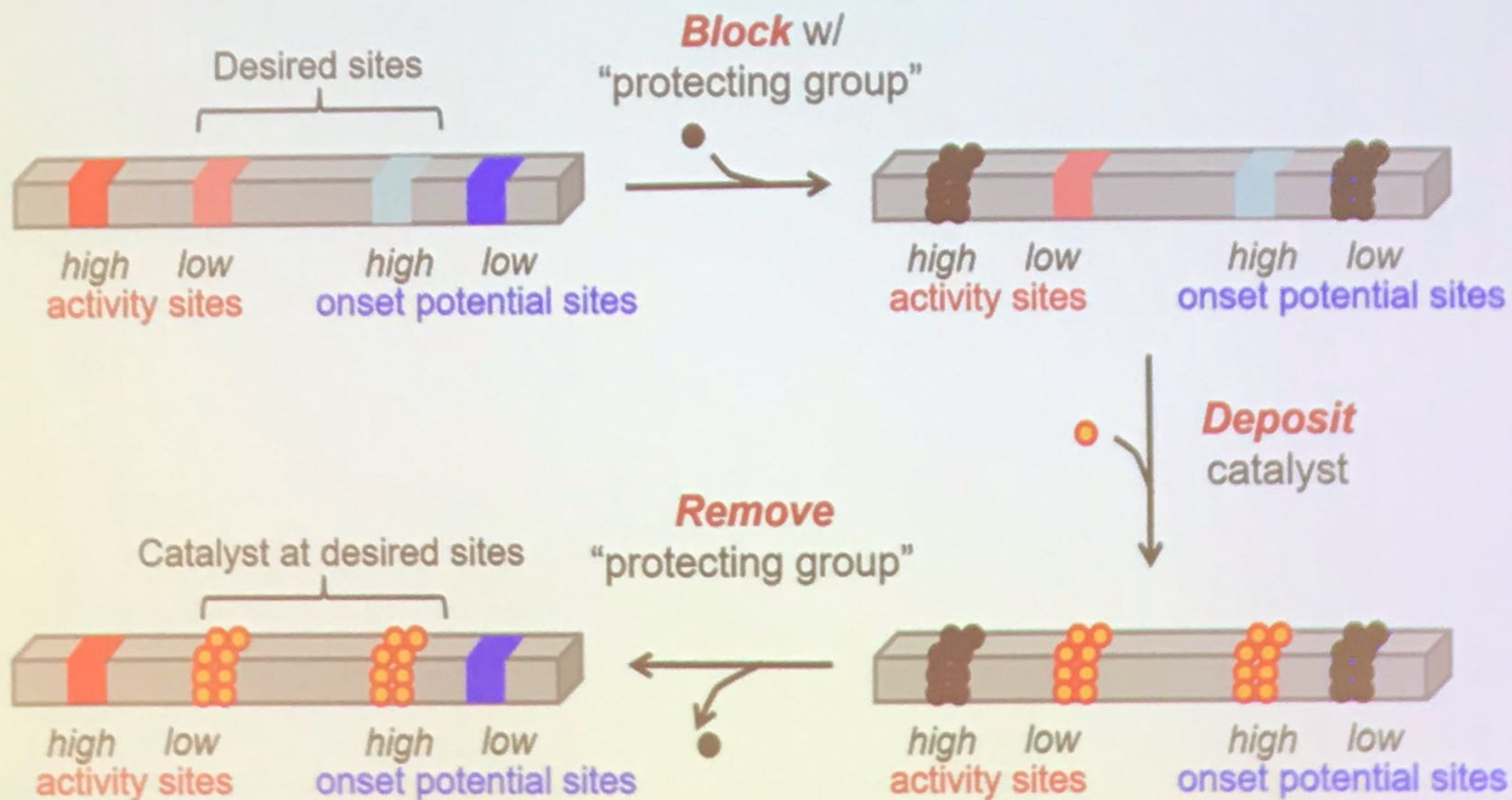
Function-based Strategy for Optimal Catalyst Deposition



Function-based Strategy for Optimal Catalyst Deposition



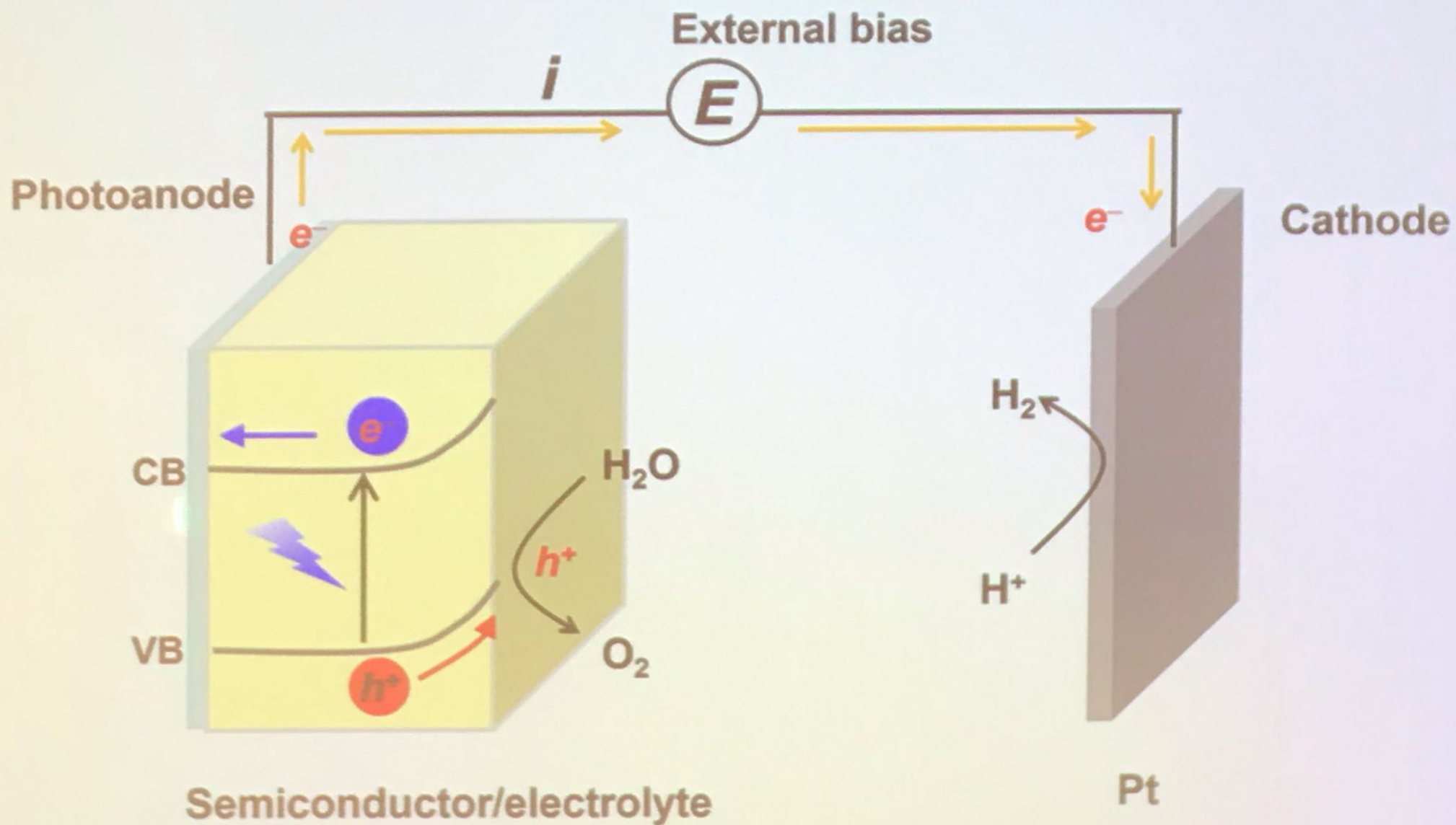
Function-based Strategy for Optimal Catalyst Deposition



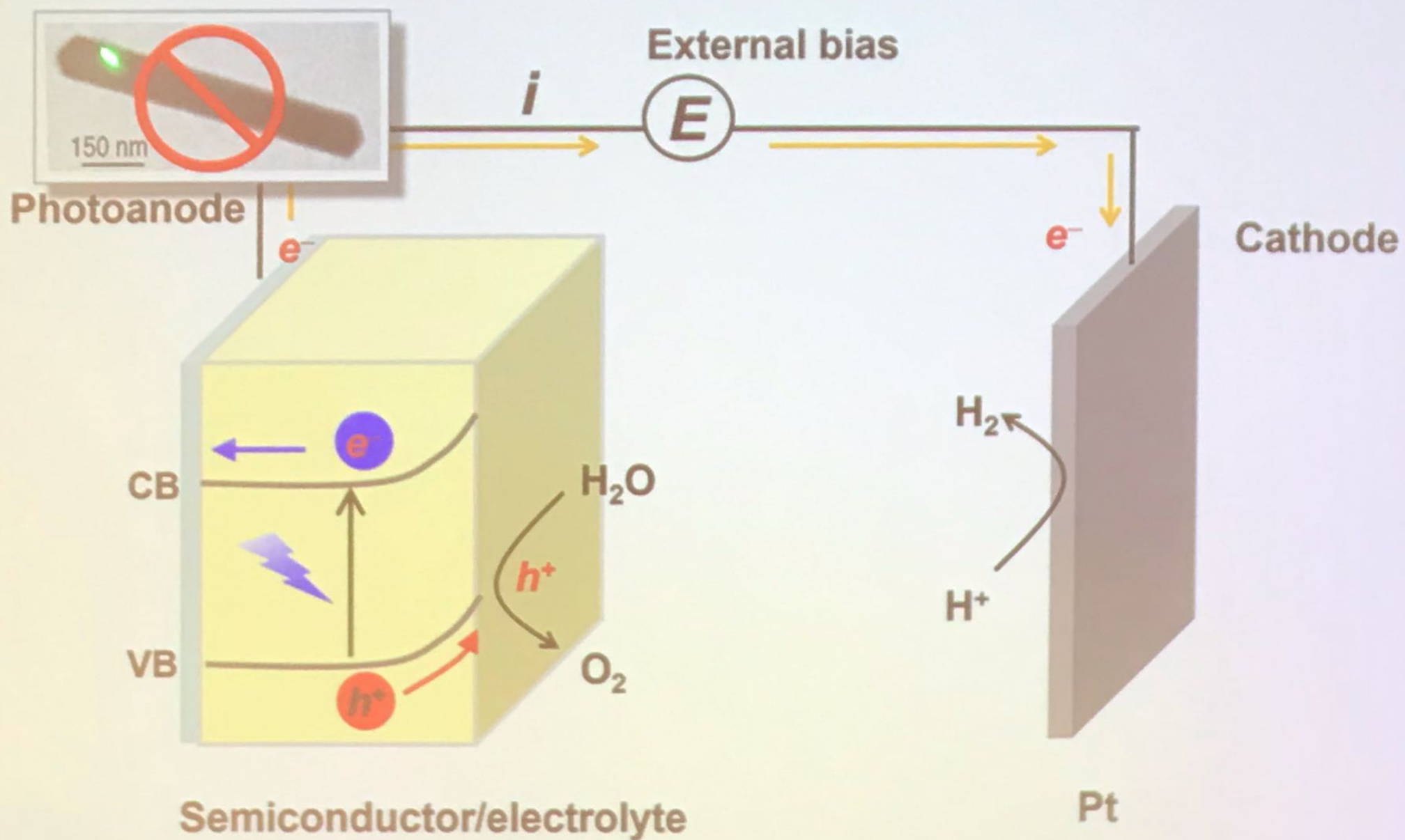
Broad relevance:

- Principles may vary depending on systems
- **But, approaches are general**

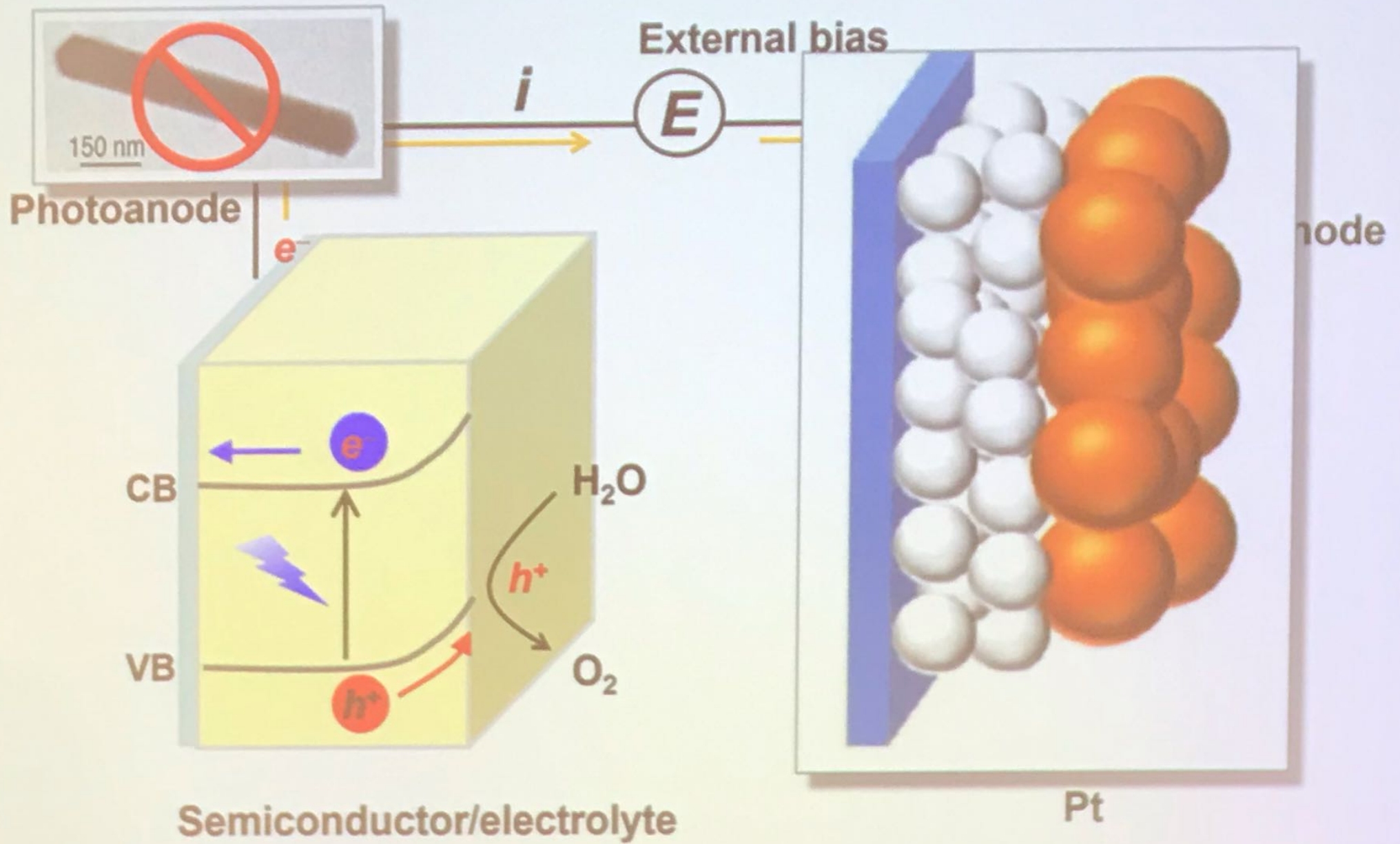
Photoelectrodes: Particle Interfaces?



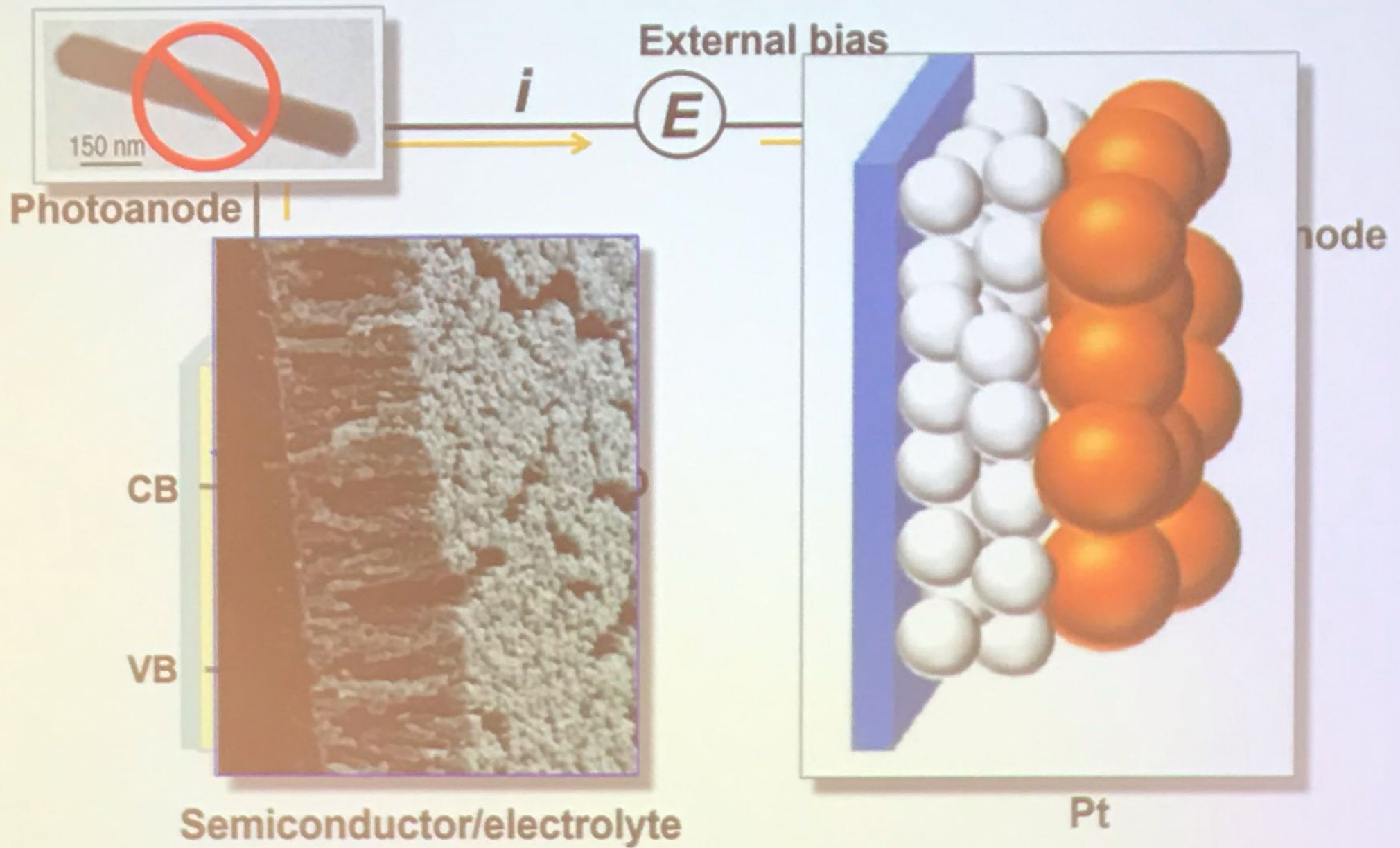
Photoelectrodes: Particle Interfaces?



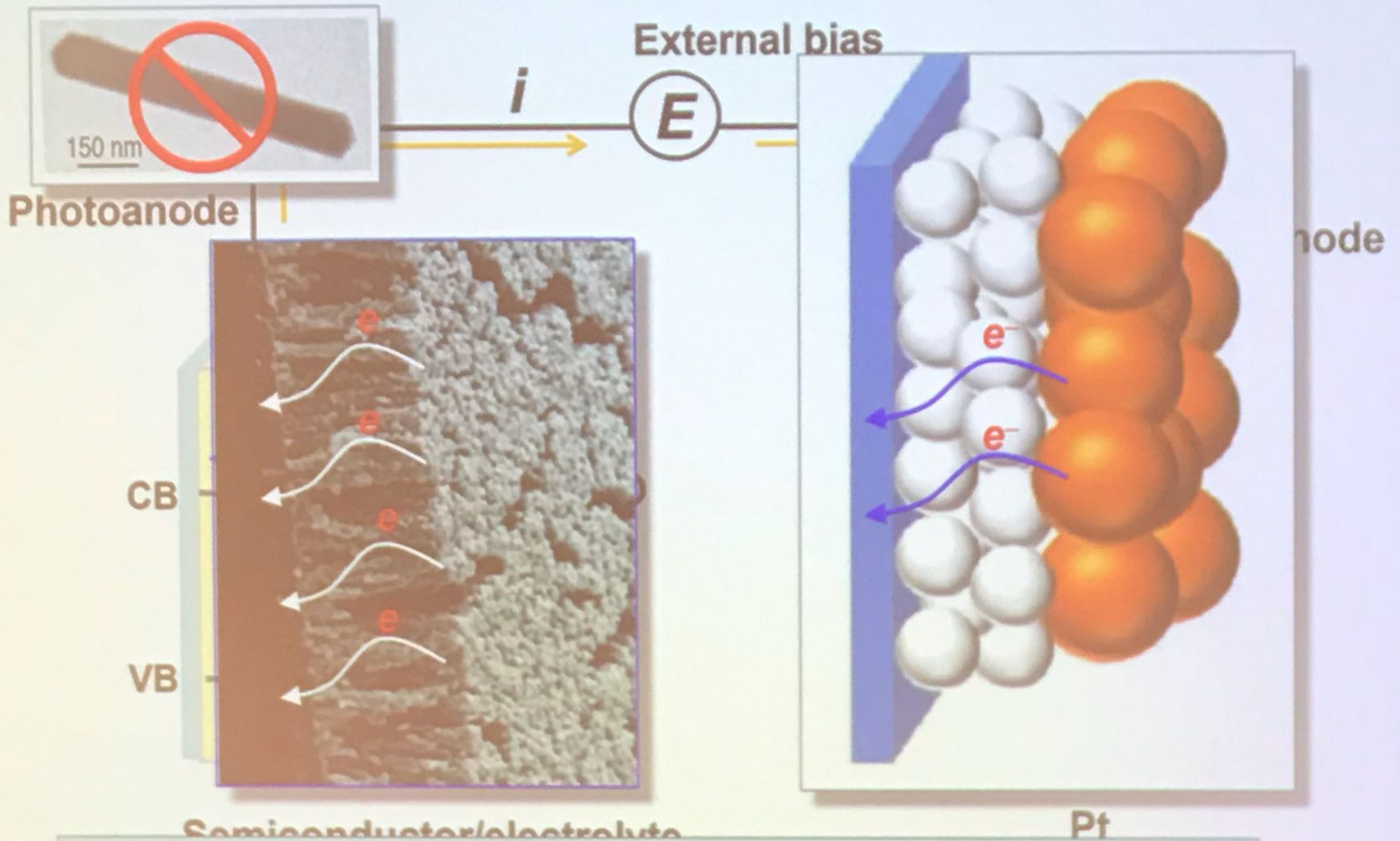
Photoelectrodes: Particle Interfaces?



Photoelectrodes: Particle Interfaces?

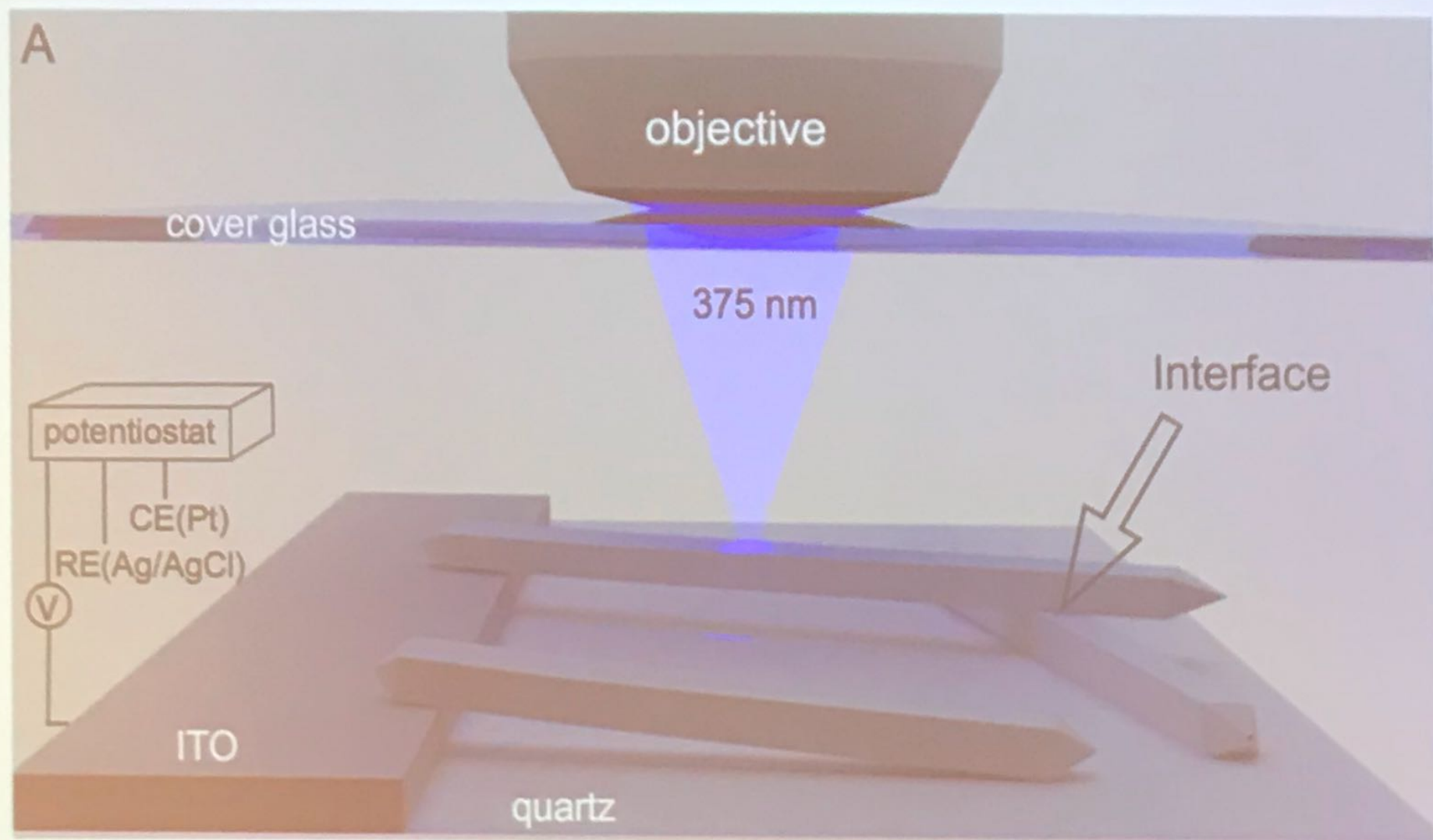


Photoelectrodes: Particle Interfaces?

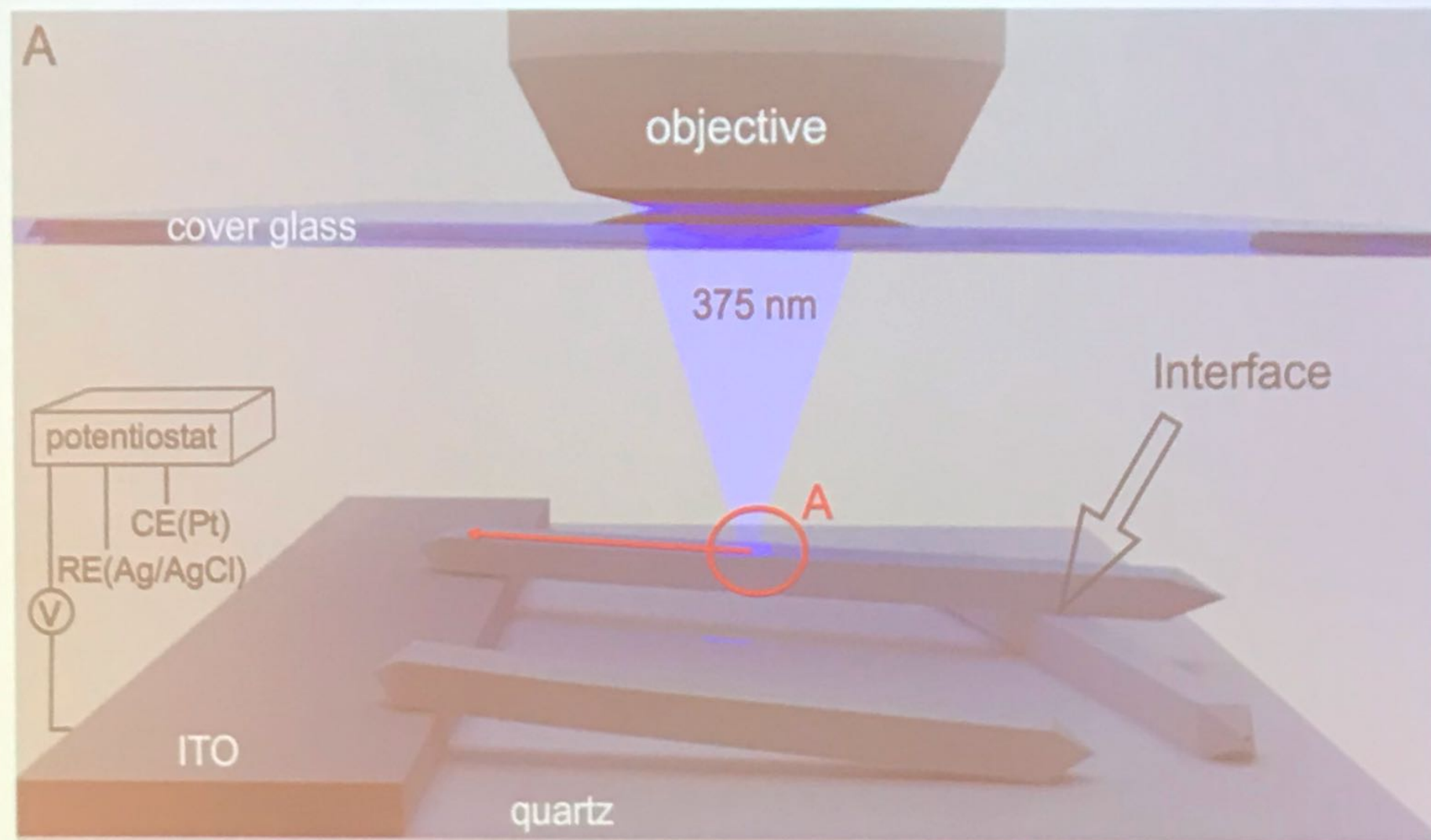


Particle-particle interfaces \Rightarrow Loss of current, but how much?
 \Rightarrow A single interface?

Single Interface Measurements on Crossed Structures

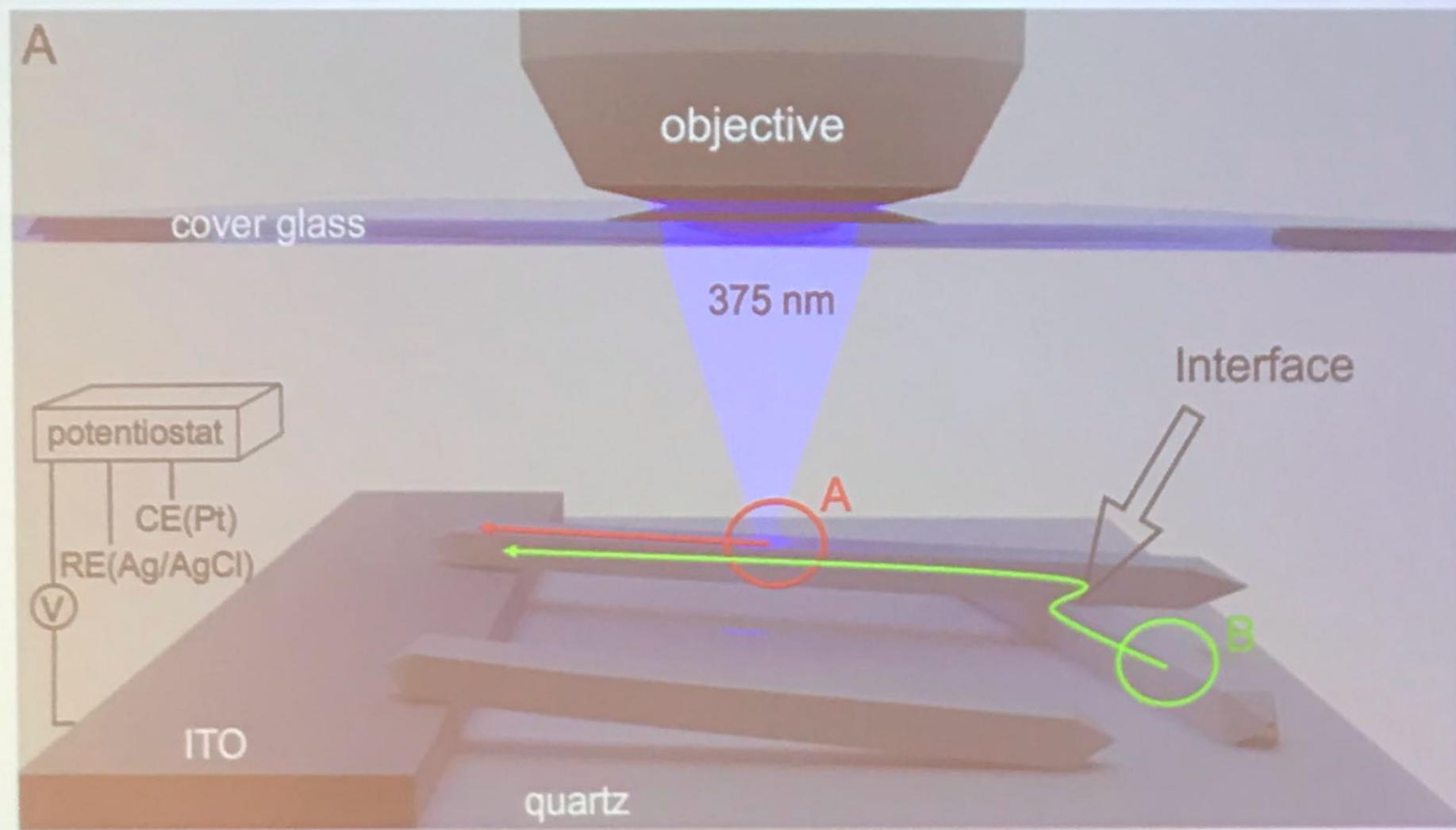


Single Interface Measurements on Crossed Structures



Type-A: current does not go through interface

Single Interface Measurements on Crossed Structures

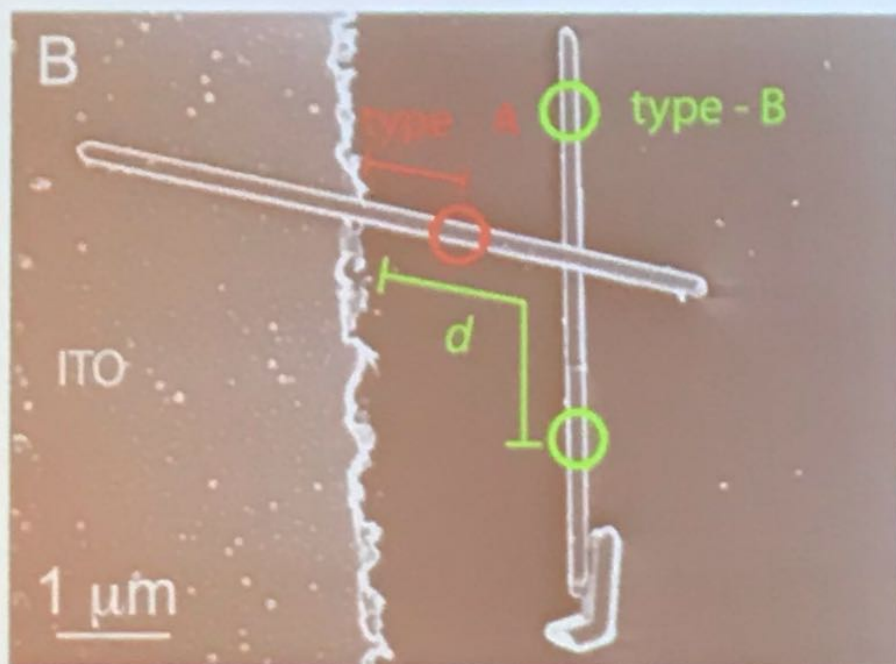


Type-A: current does not go through interface

Type-B: current passes a single interface

TiO₂ nanorods: cross structures vs. isolated ones

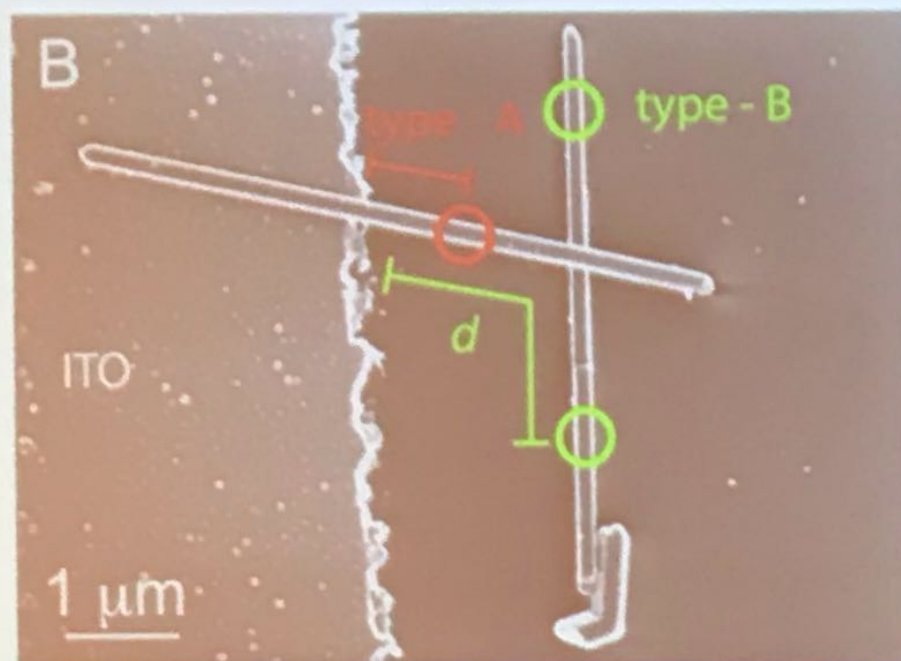
SEM



TiO₂ nanorods: cross structures vs. isolated ones

SEM

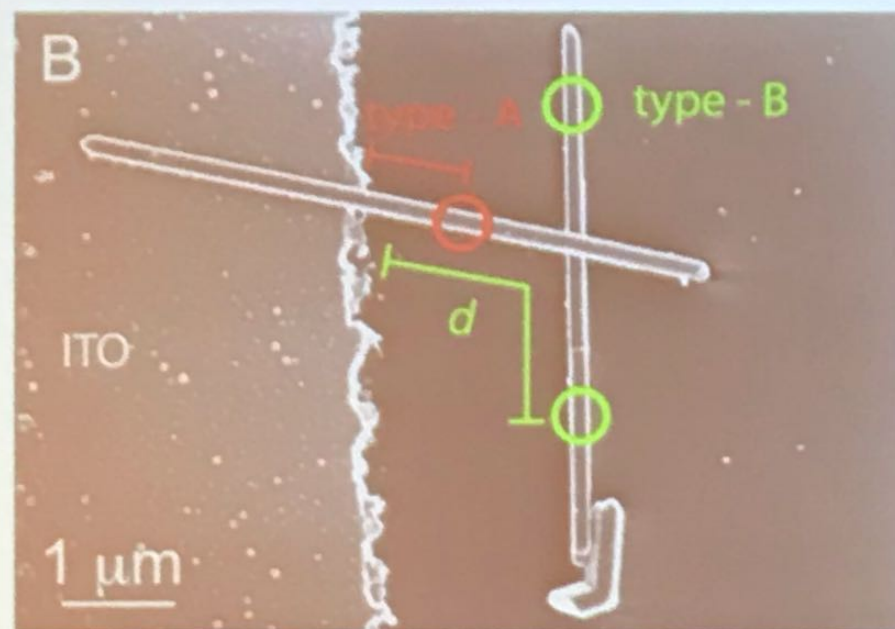
Optical transmission



Interfaces formed under conditions directly relevant to film electrodes!

TiO₂ nanorods: cross structures vs. isolated ones

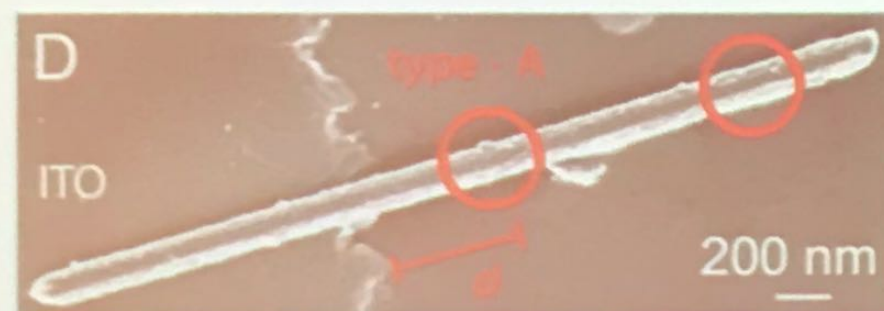
SEM



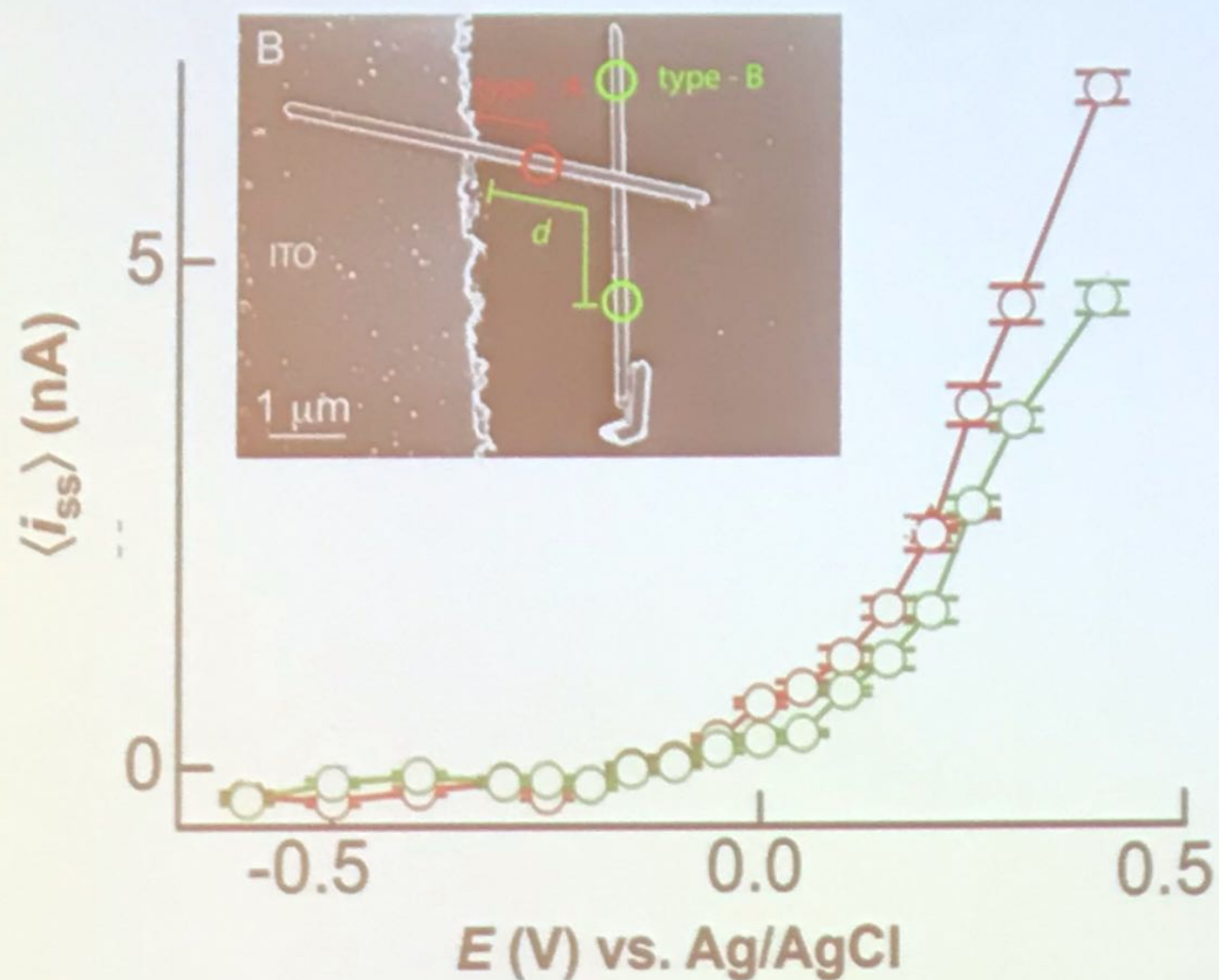
Optical transmission



Interfaces formed under conditions directly relevant to film electrodes!



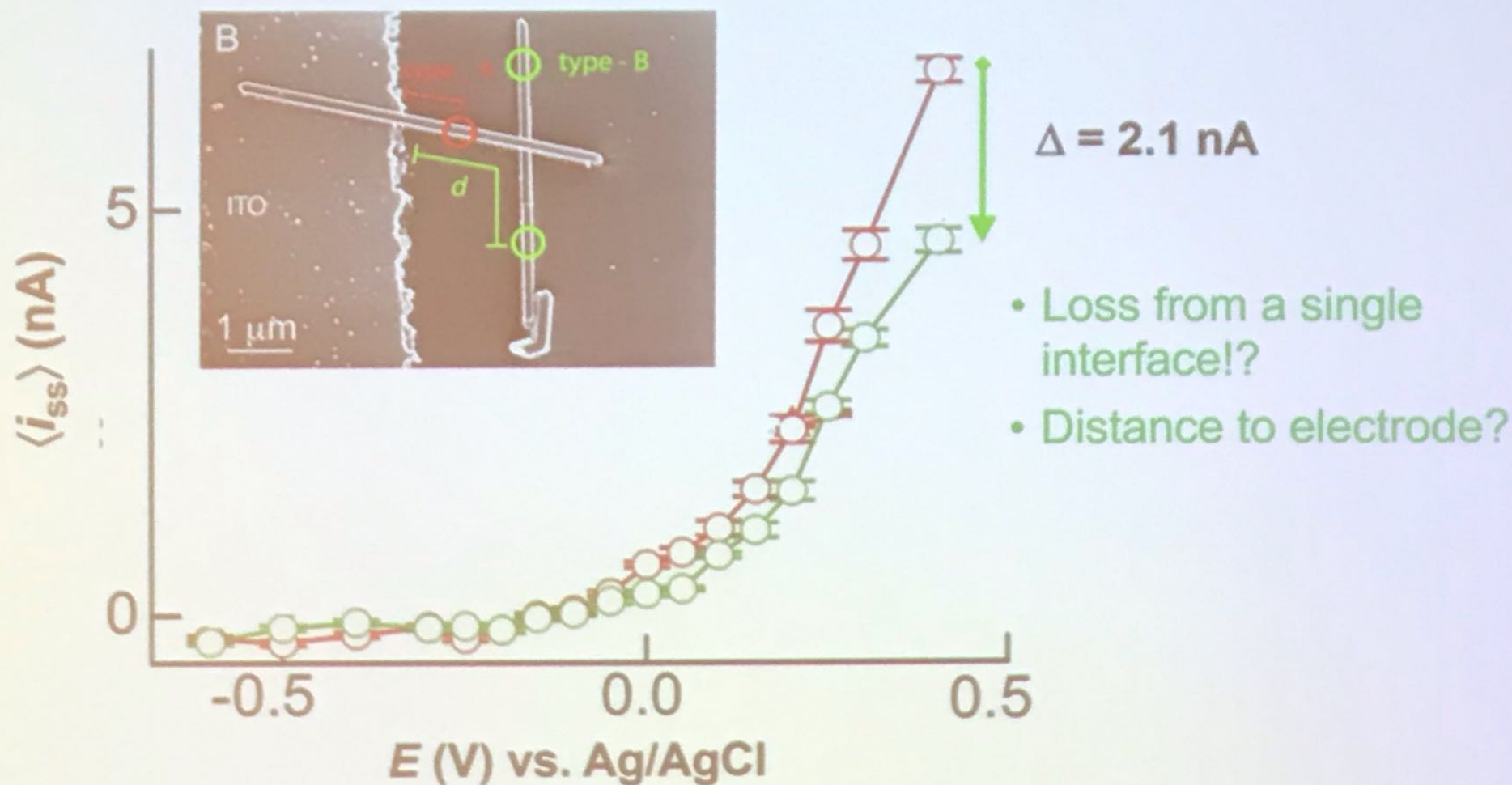
Spot-averaged i_{ss} vs. E dependence



Solution: 0.1 M pH 8.3 borate, 1 M Na_2SO_4

0.6 M Na_2SO_3 (hole scavenger) \rightarrow current enhancement

Spot-averaged i_{ss} vs. E dependence

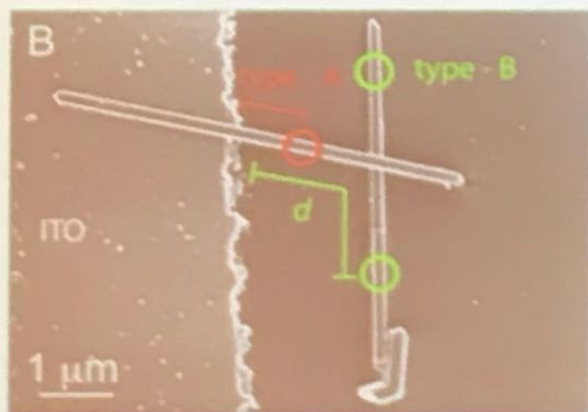
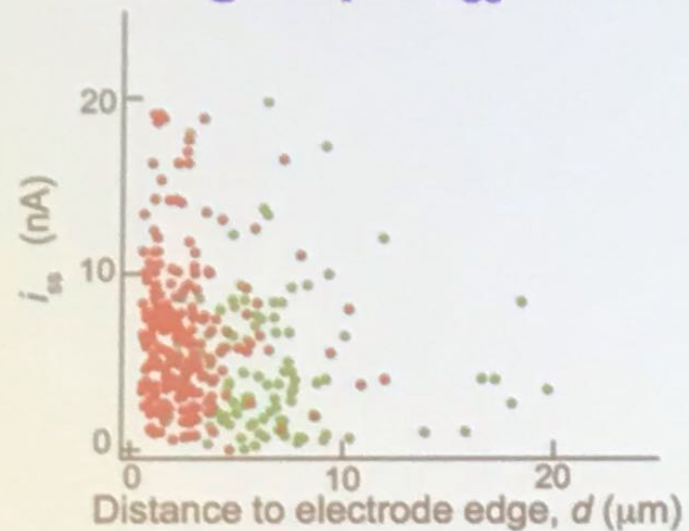


Solution: 0.1 M pH 8.3 borate, 1 M Na_2SO_4

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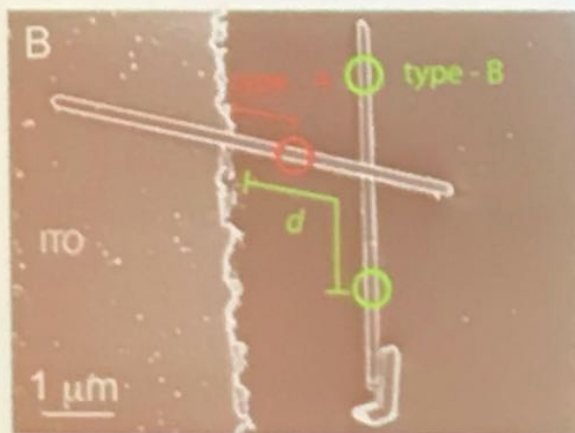
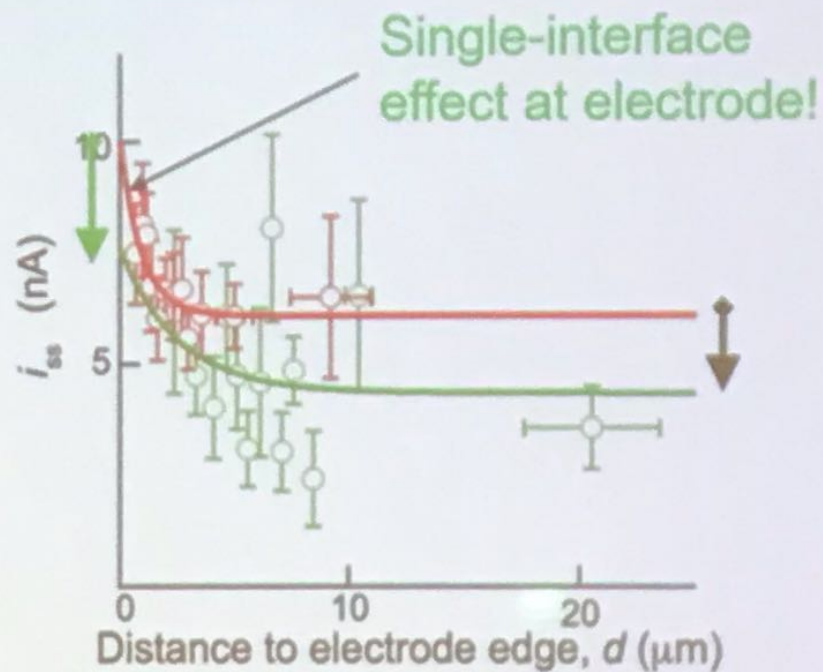
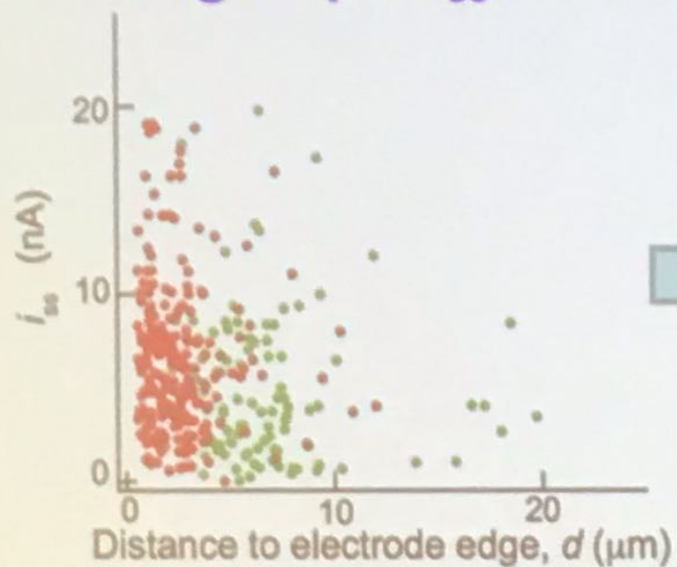
Current Loss from a Single Interface \Rightarrow Bench Mark

Single spot i_{ss} vs. d



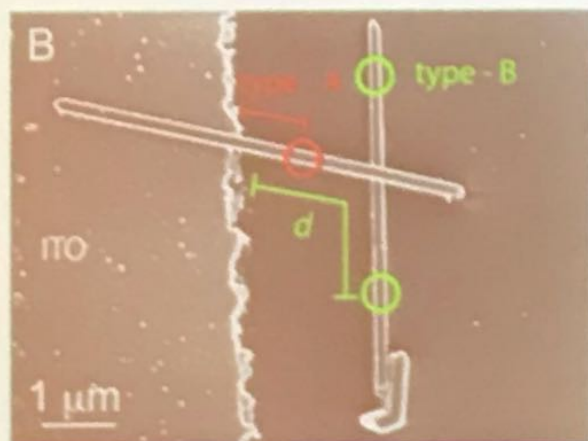
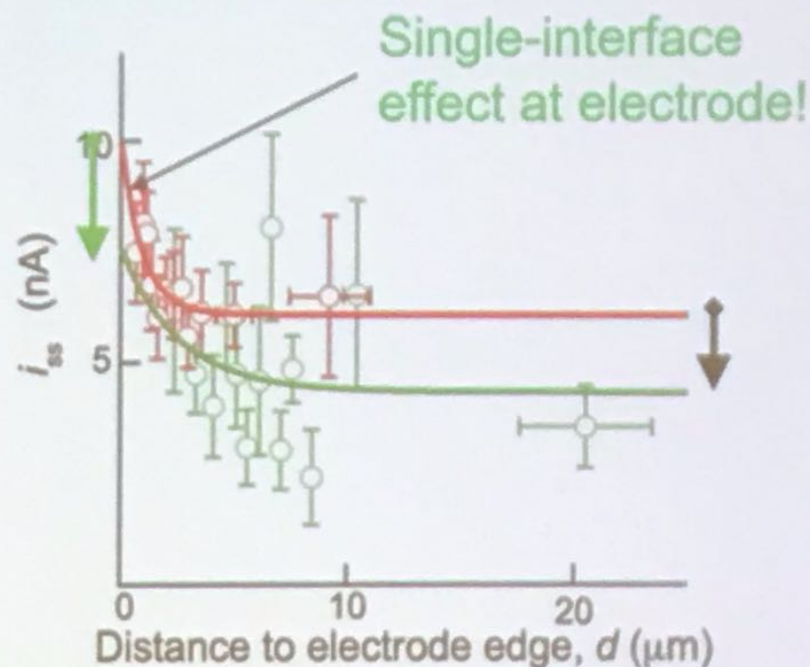
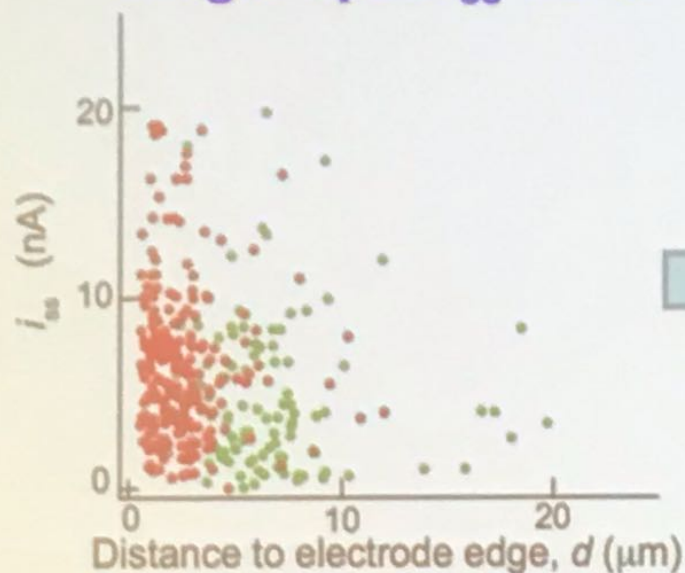
Current Loss from a Single Interface \Rightarrow Bench Mark

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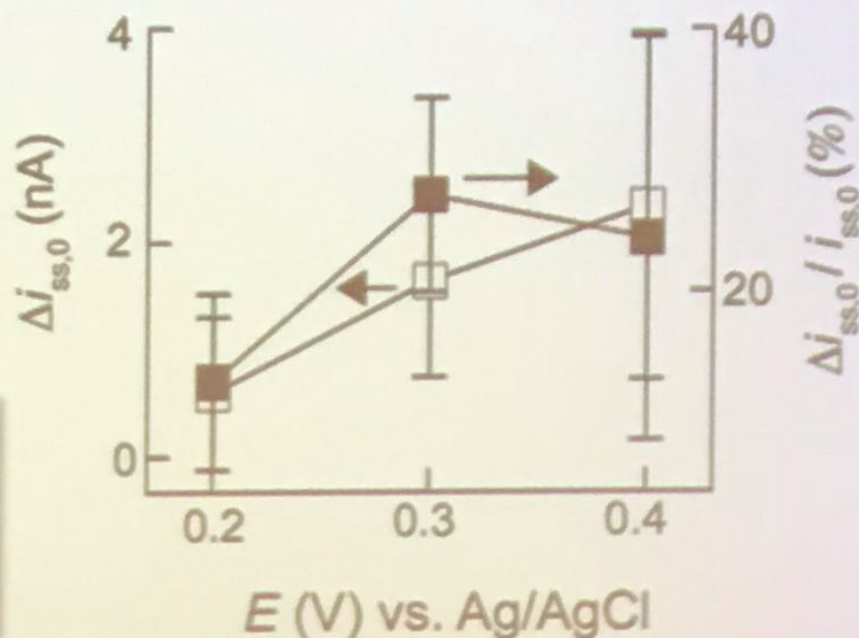


Current Loss from a Single Interface \Rightarrow Bench Mark

Single spot i_{ss} vs. d



Loss from single interface vs. E



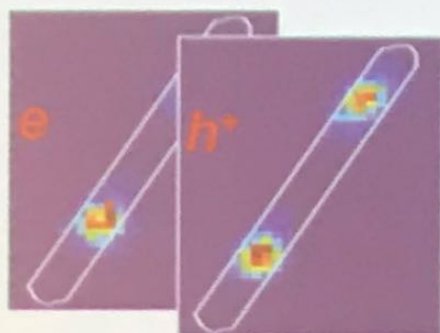
Loss from a single interface:

- $\Delta \approx 2$ nA and $\Delta\% \approx 20\%$
- 10 interfaces: 10% left

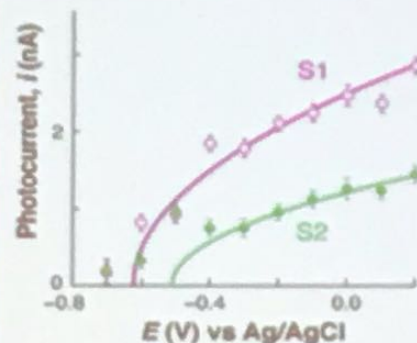
Summary – Subparticle Photoelectrochemistry

Approaches

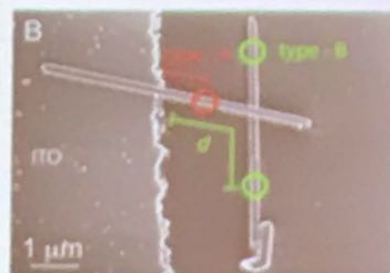
super-resolution h^+ & e^-
rxn mapping



sub-particle i - E



electron
microscopy

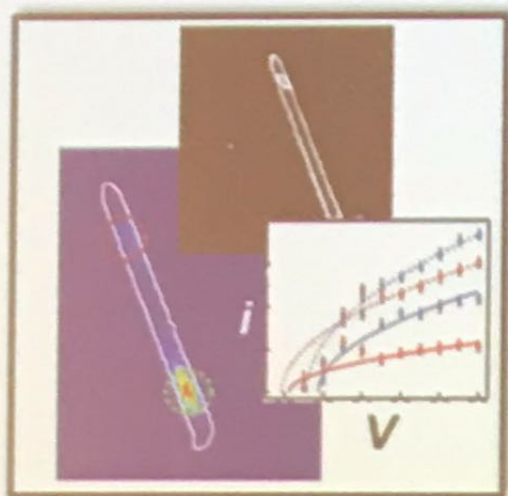


Scientific insights

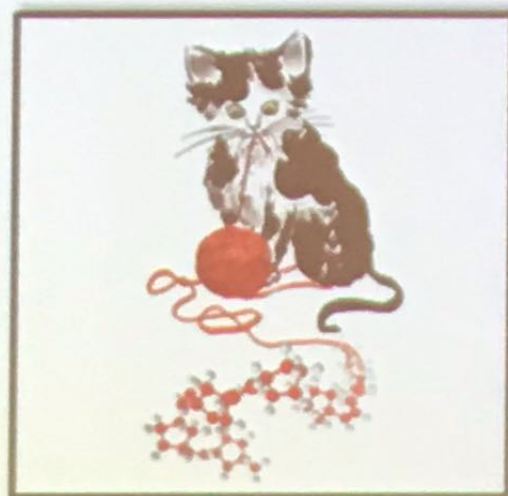
1. Nature of surface active sites
2. Surface activity \leftrightarrow performance correlation
3. Definition of single interface effects

Single-molecule Catalysis

Photoelectrodes



Polymers

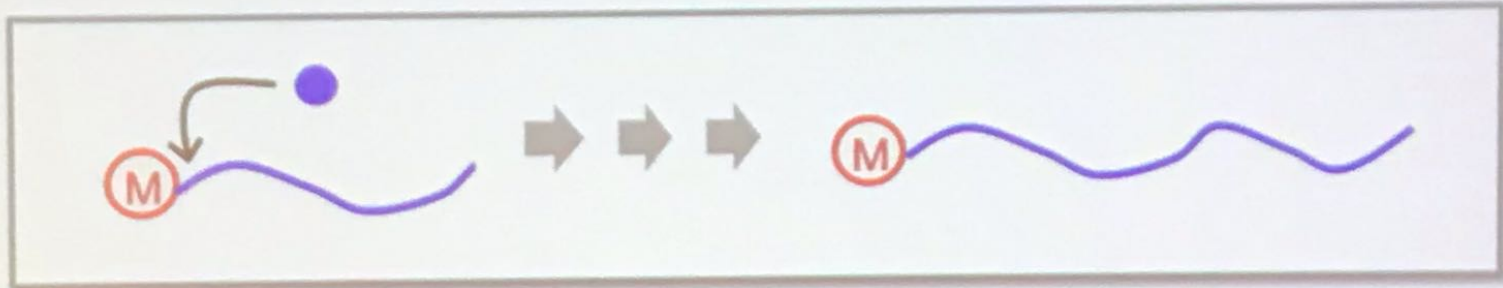


Peng Chen

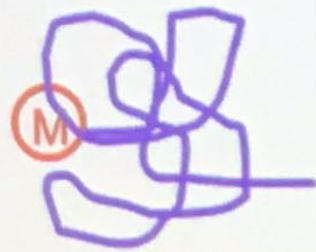
Cornell University

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

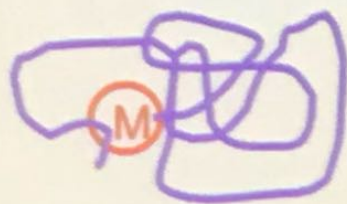
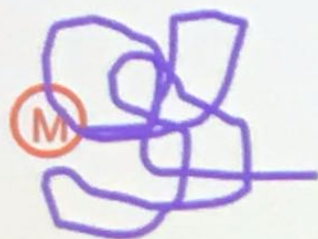
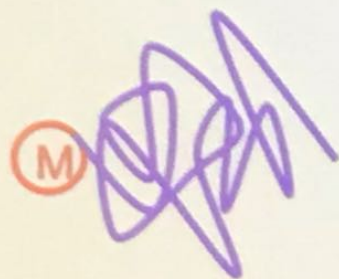
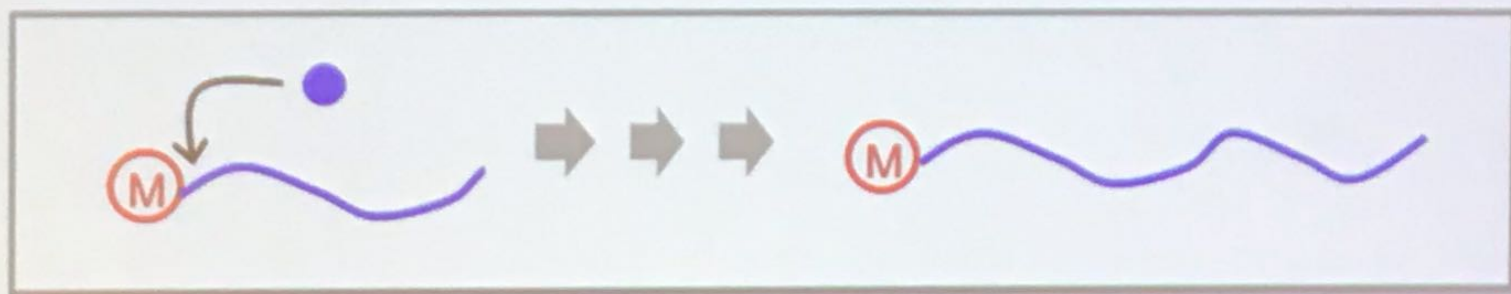
Chain-Growth Polymerization



Chain-Growth Polymerization

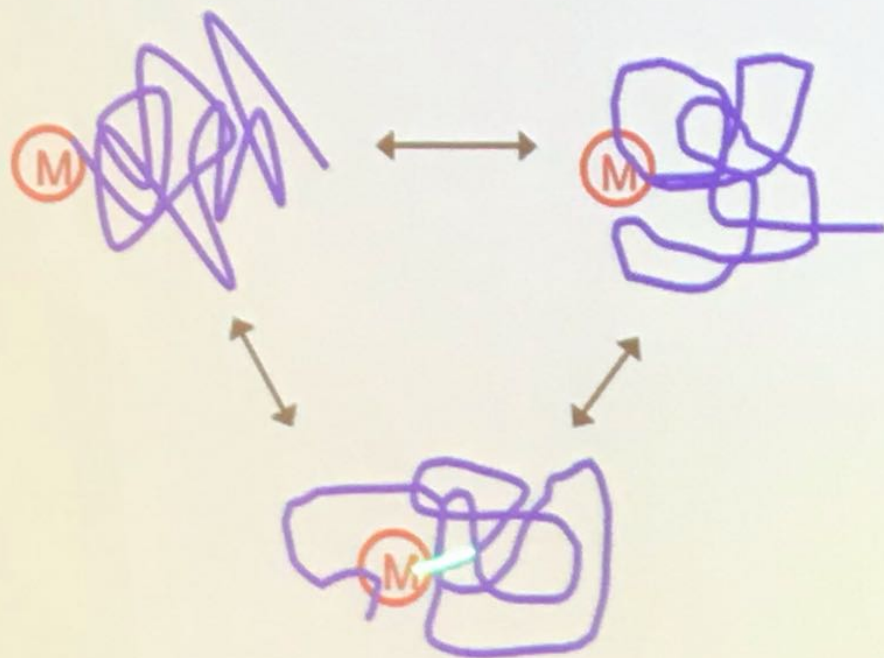
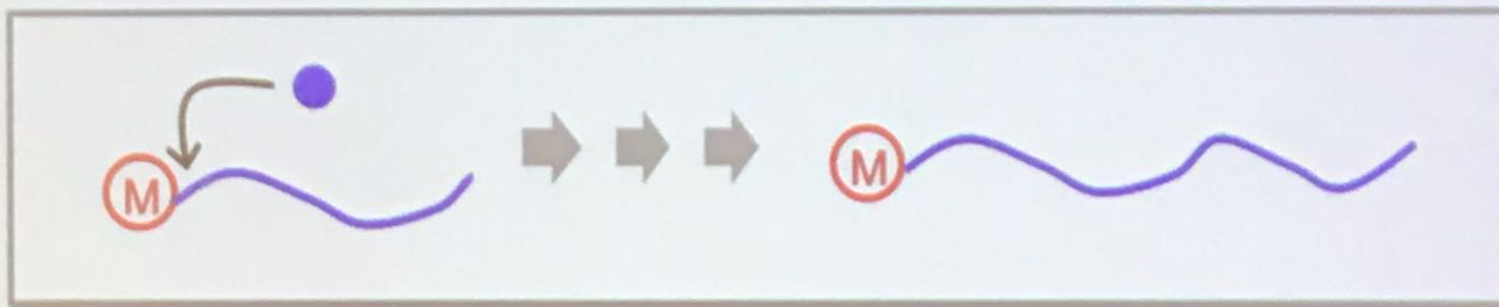


Chain-Growth Polymerization



- Differences in catalyst microenvironment

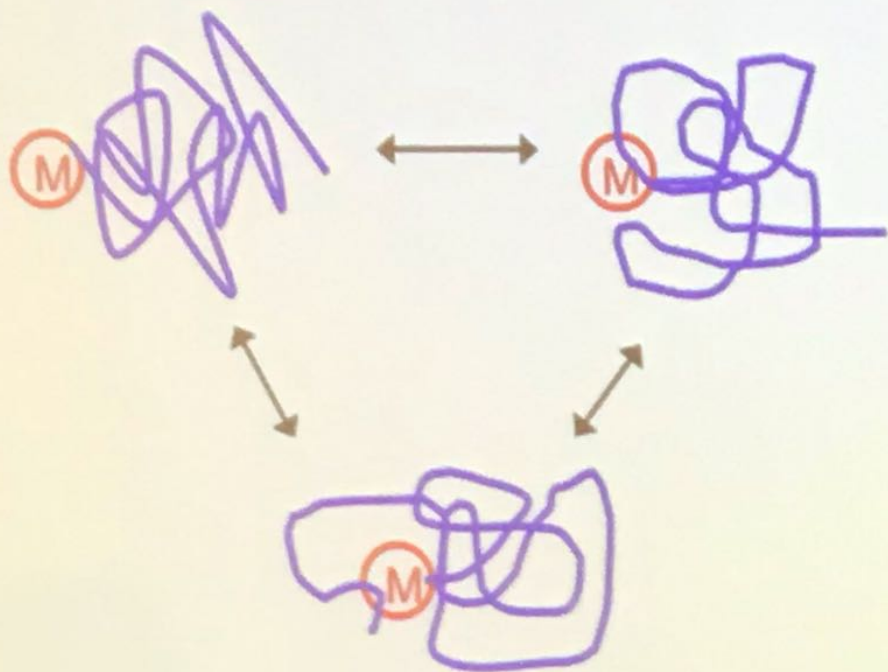
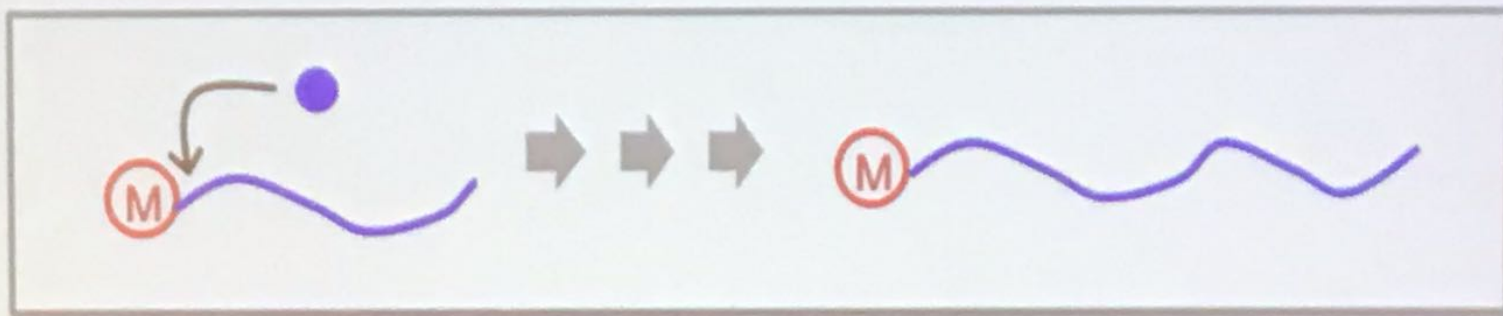
Chain-Growth Polymerization



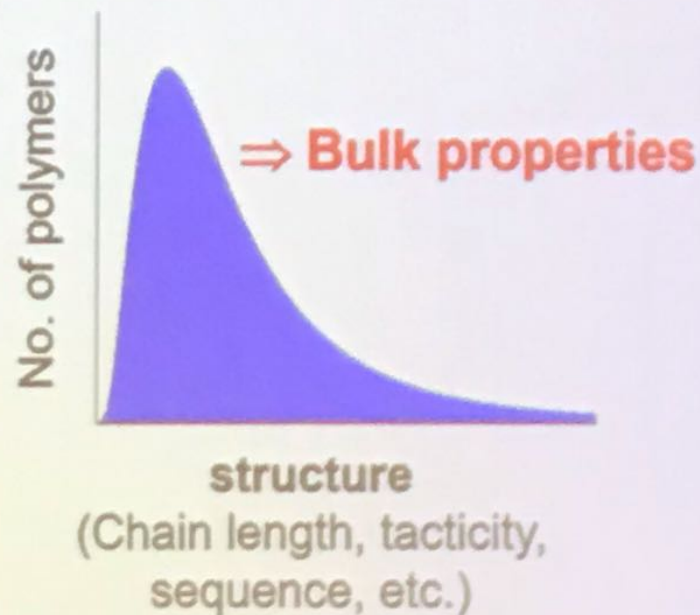
- Differences in catalyst microenvironment
- Inter- and intra-chain rxns

⇒ Each polymer should grow differently.
But, **how?**

Chain-Growth Polymerization



Molecular distribution



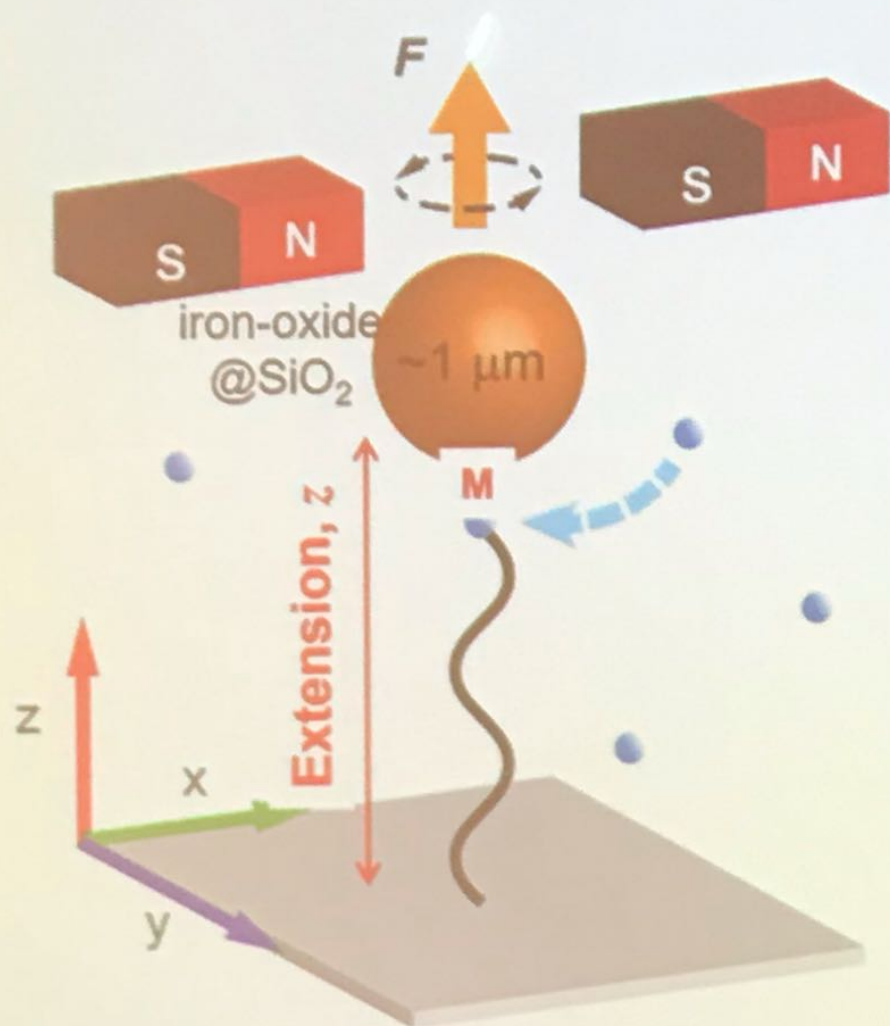
- Differences in catalyst microenvironment
- Inter- and intra-chain rxns

⇒ Each polymer should grow differently.
But, **how?**

⇒ **Need to track single polymer growth in real time!**

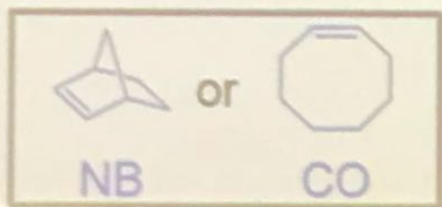
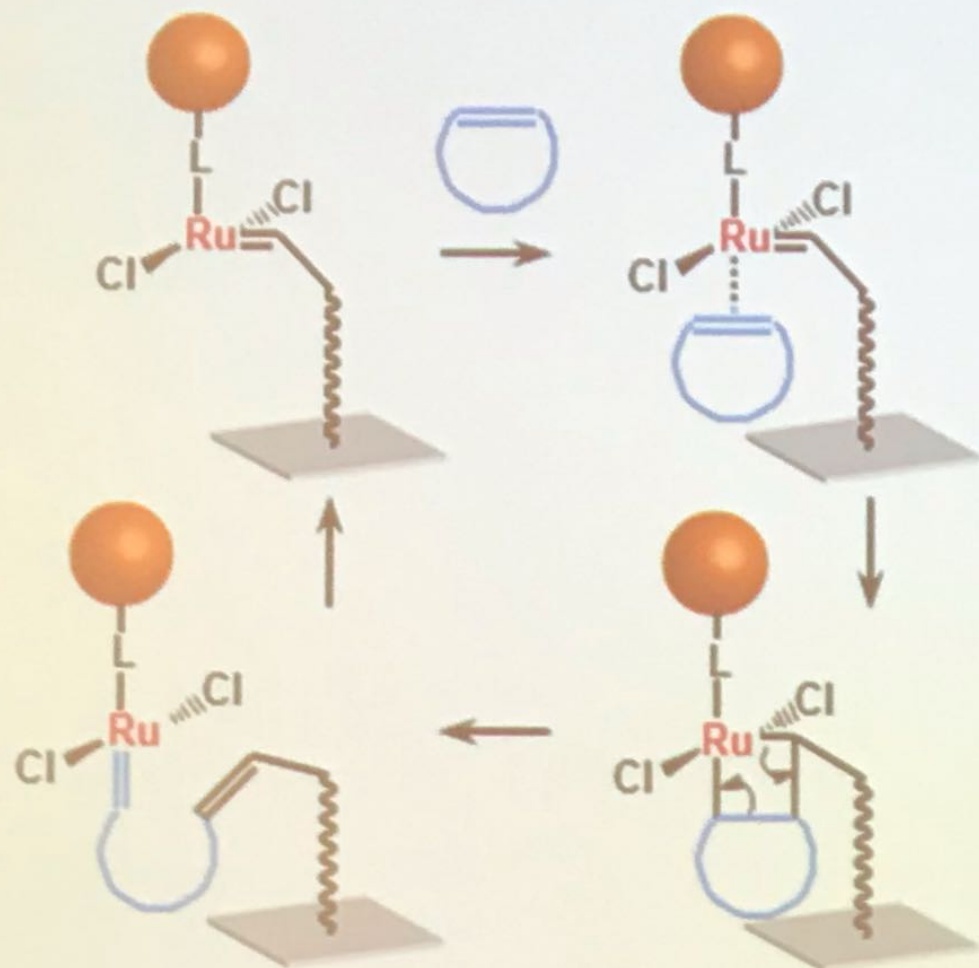
Monitor real-time growth of single polymers

Magnetic tweezers (MT) measurements

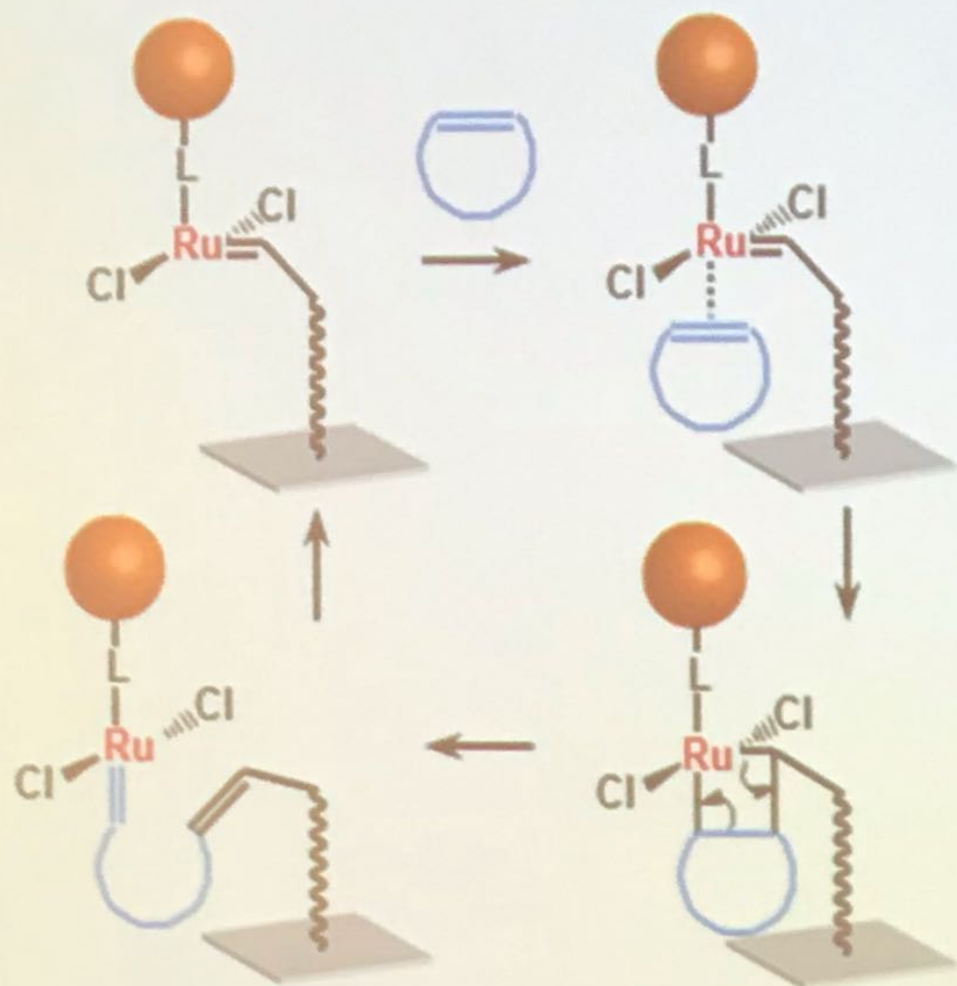


- **Real time extension:** chain length → rate
- **Torsional manipulation (around z-axis):** identify single polymers
- **Force-extension curve:** mechanical properties
- **Vary force:** mechano-catalysis coupling

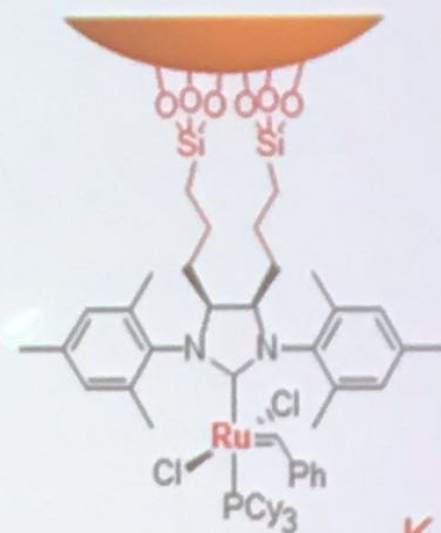
Ring Opening Metathesis Polymerization (ROMP)



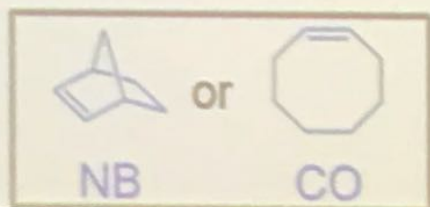
Ring Opening Metathesis Polymerization (ROMP)



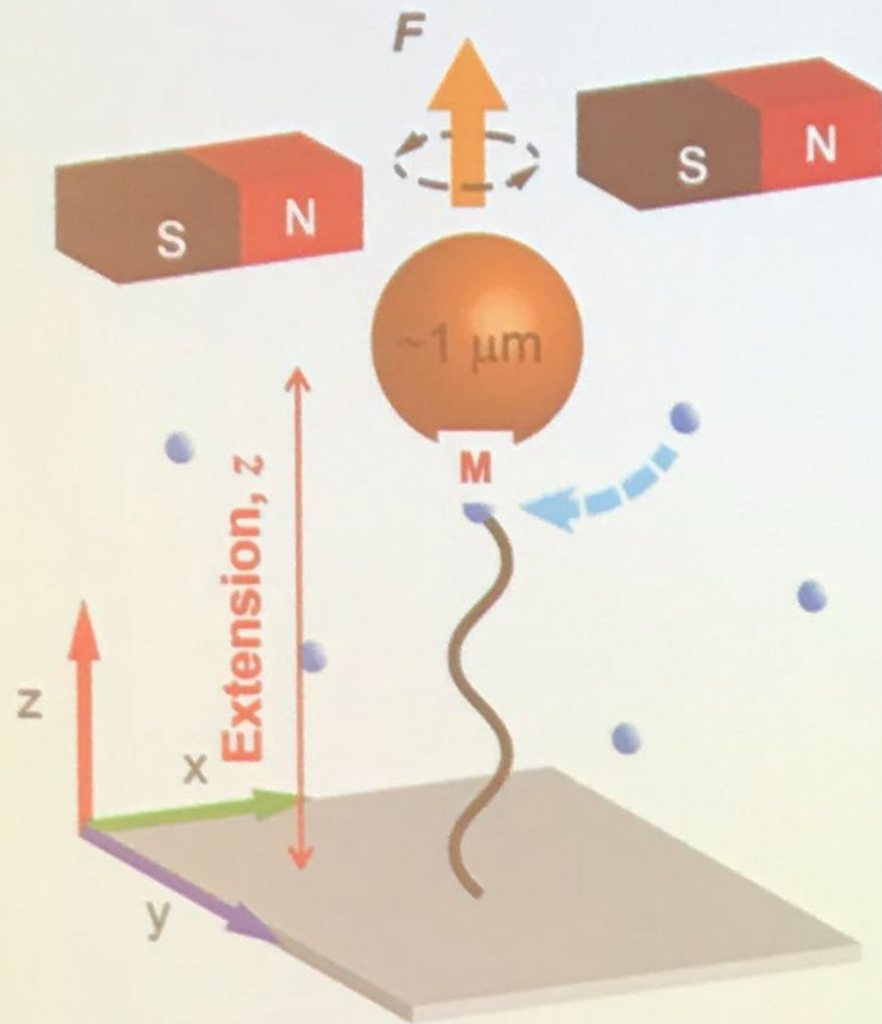
Immobilized Grubbs 2nd Generation Catalyst (G2)



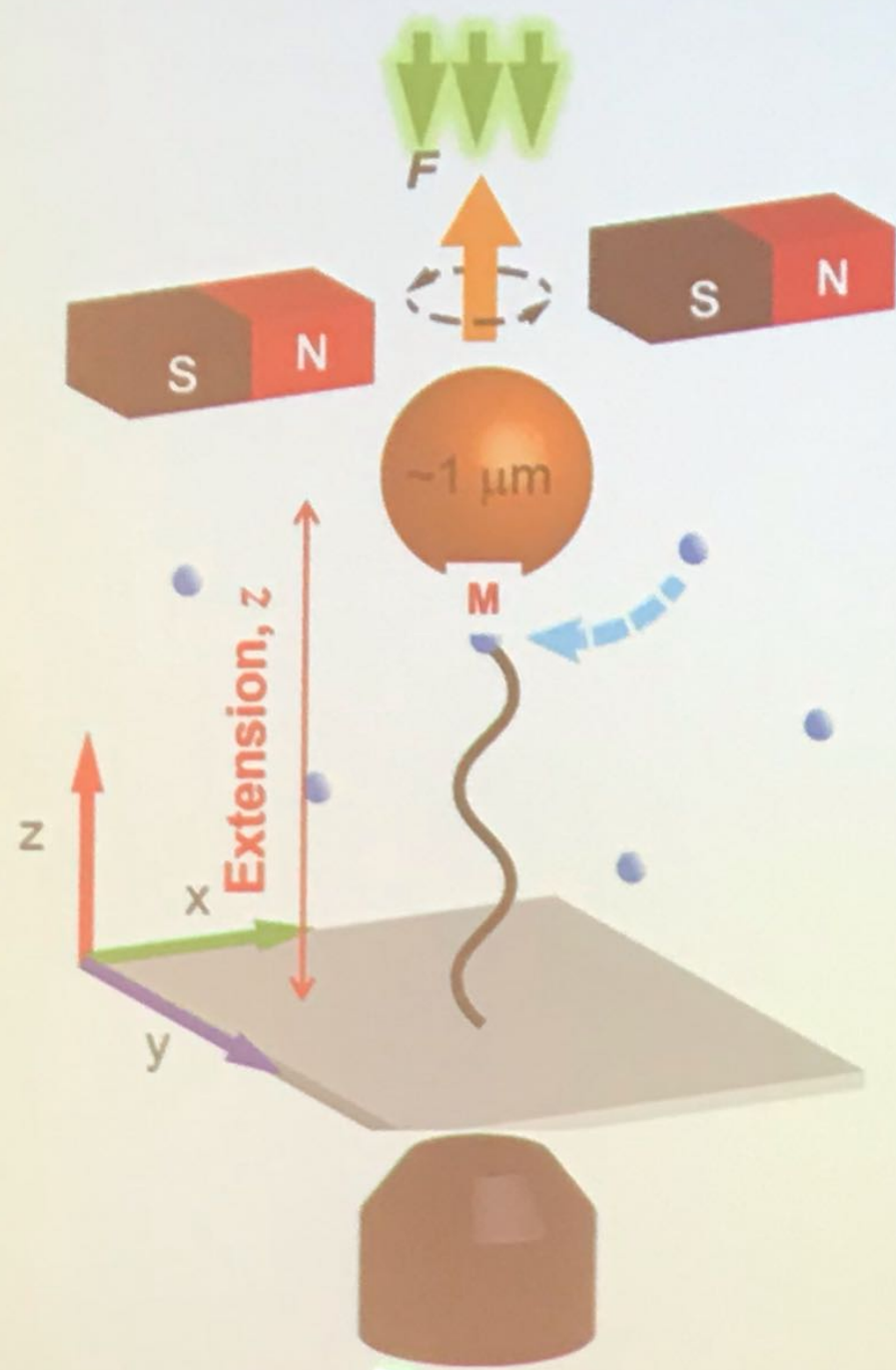
K. Kubo



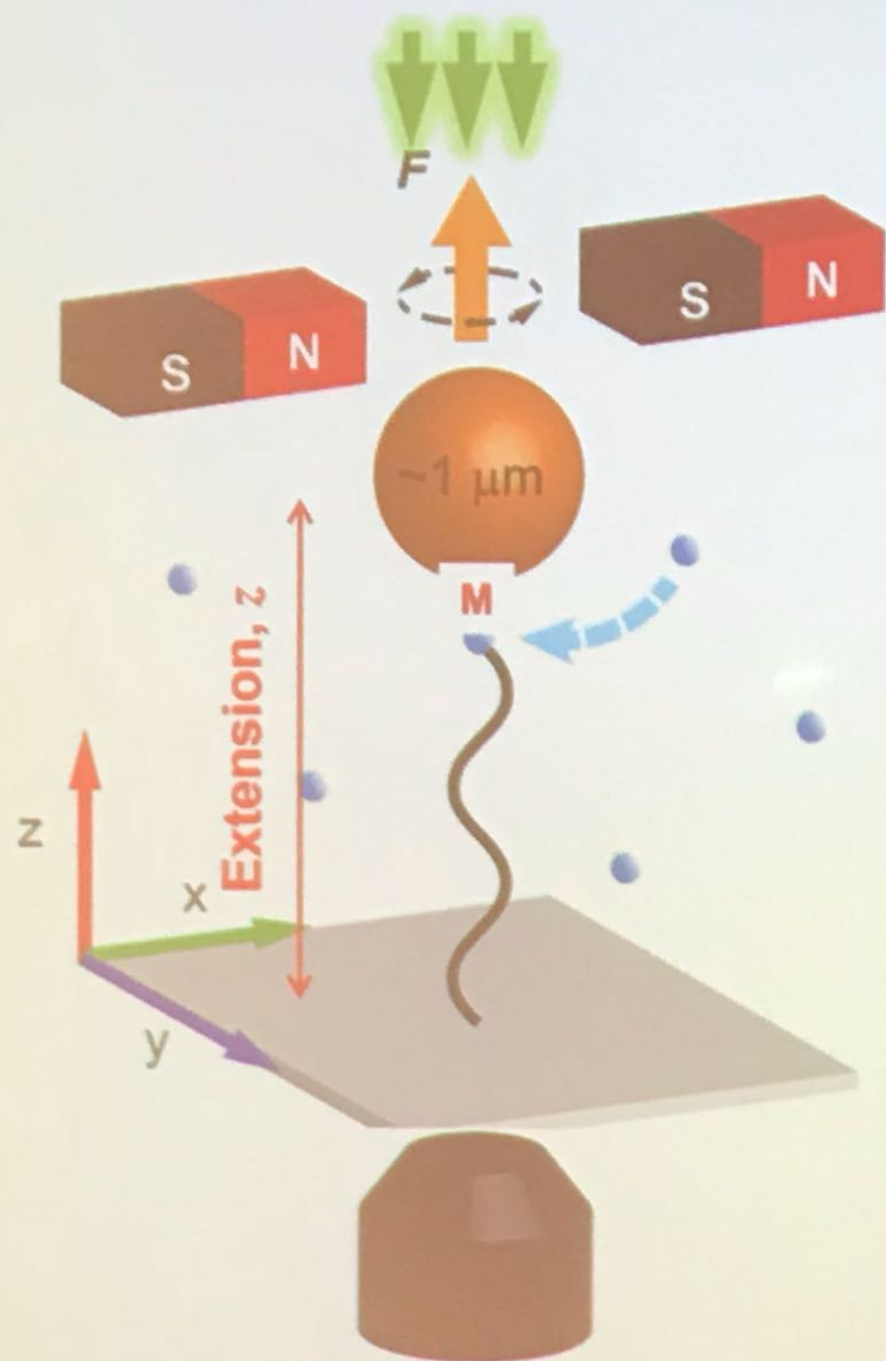
Magnetic Tweezers



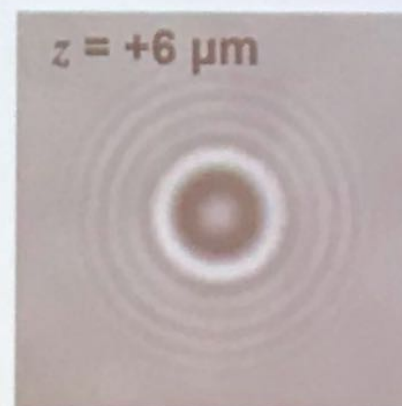
Magnetic Tweezers



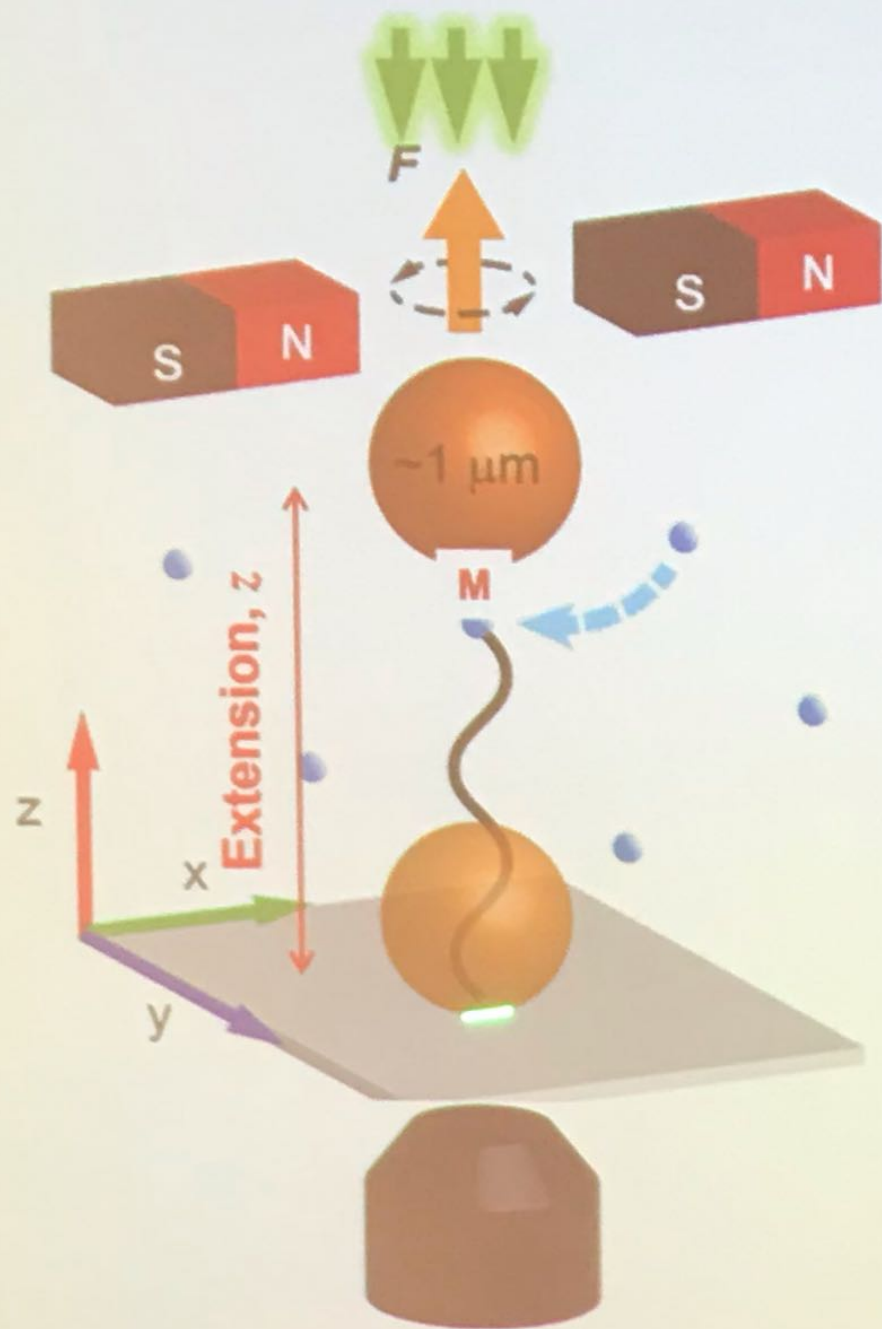
Magnetic Tweezers



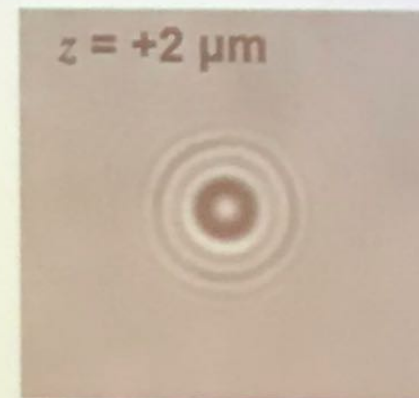
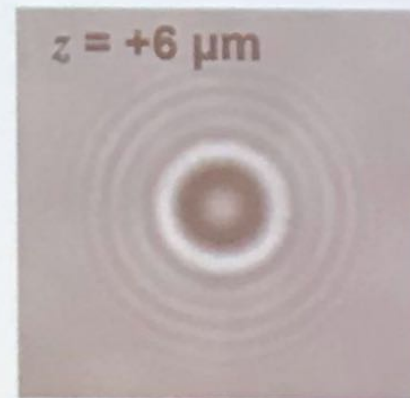
Transmission image
at different z



Magnetic Tweezers

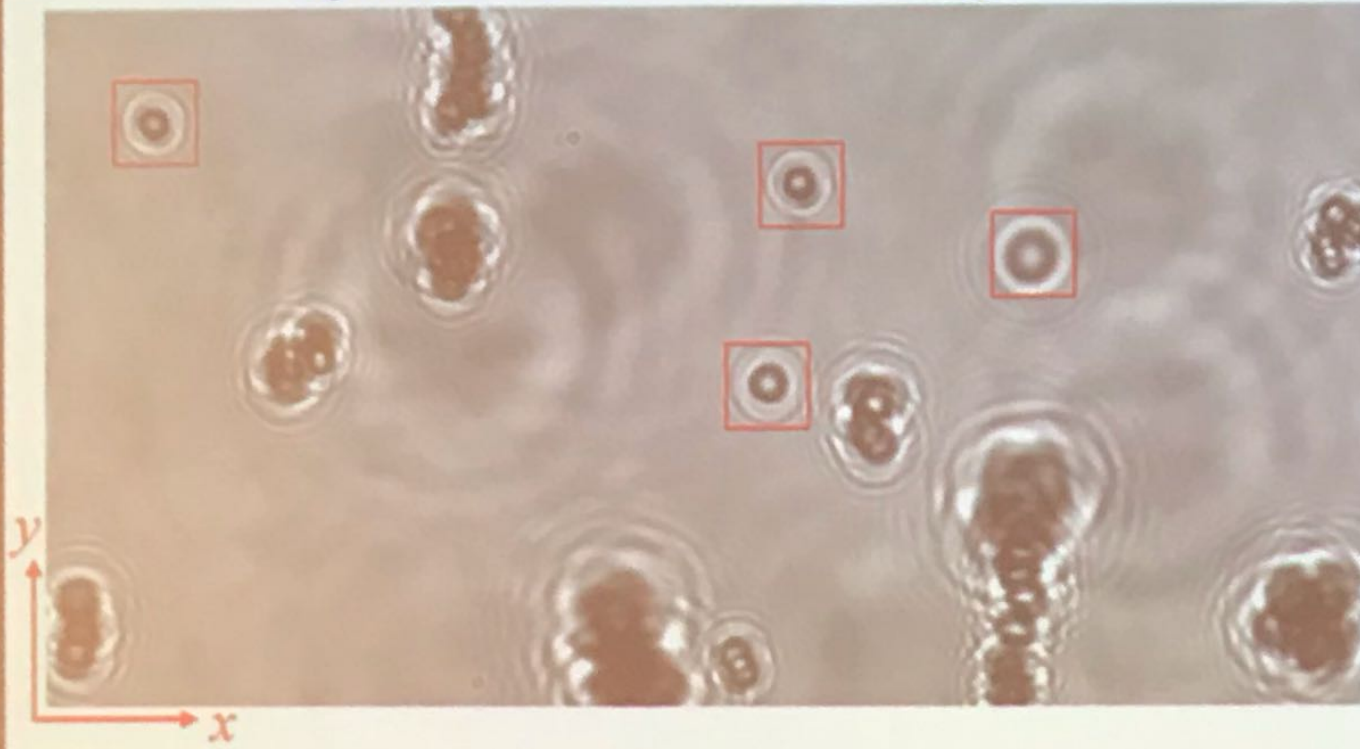


Transmission image
at different z



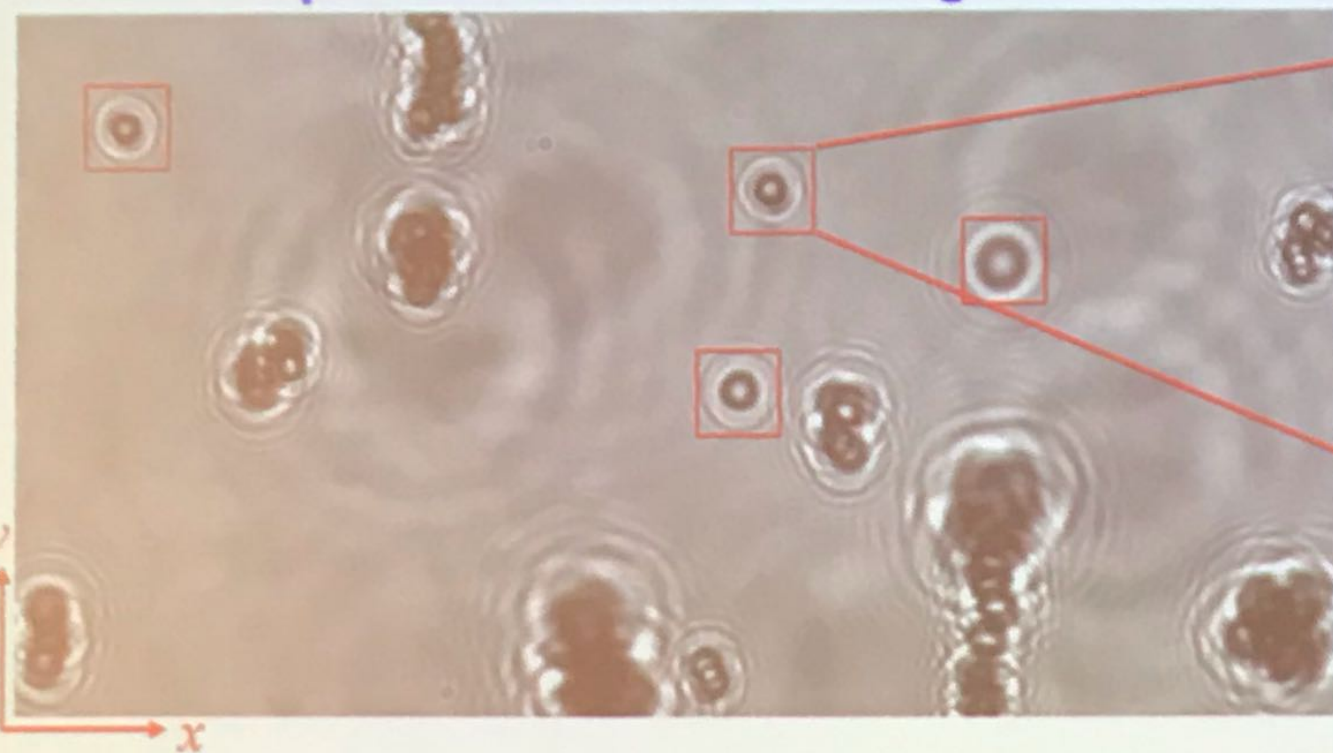
Real-time movie of single polymer growth

Optical transmission image

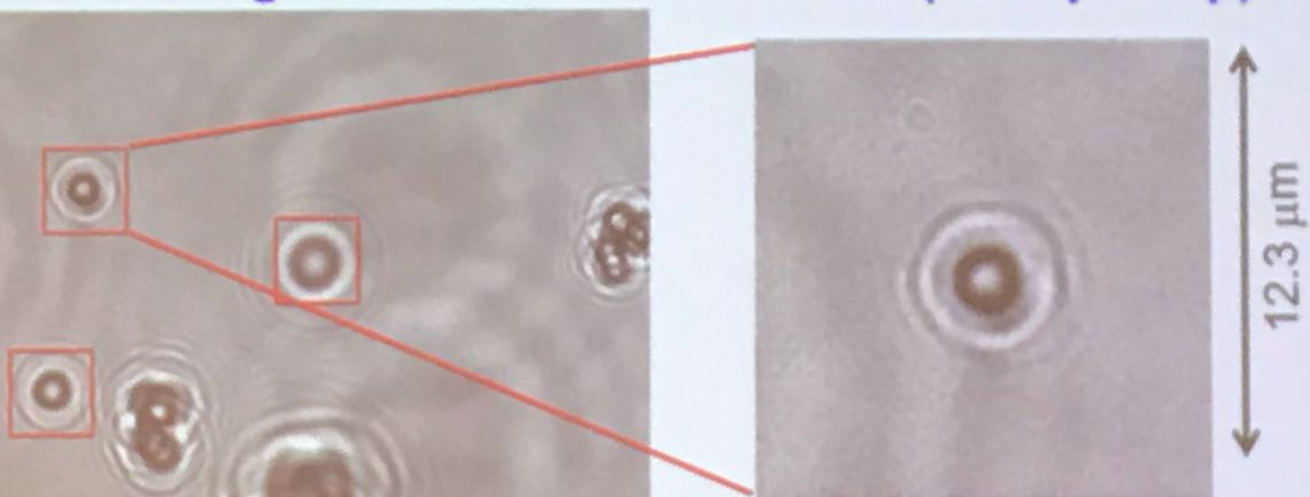


Real-time movie of single polymer growth

Optical transmission image

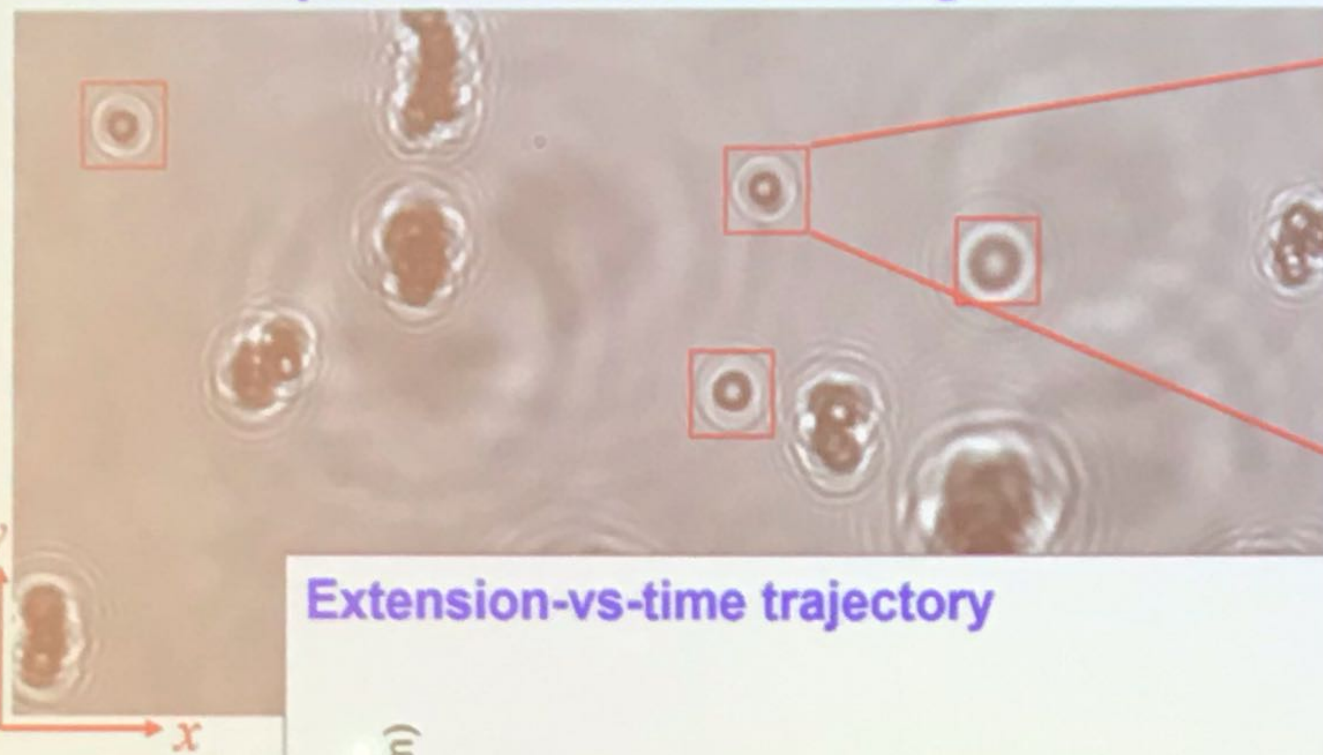


Movie (20x sped up)

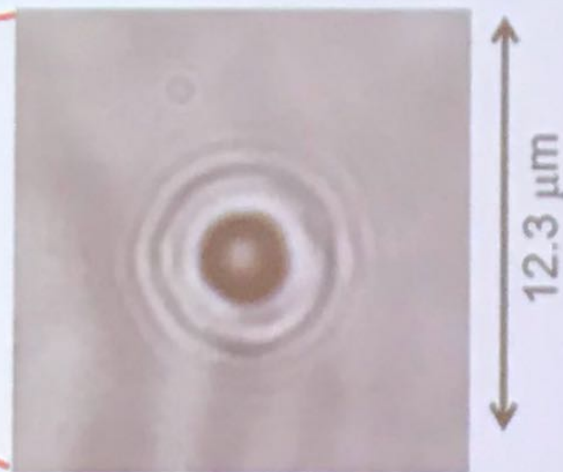


Real-time movie of single polymer growth

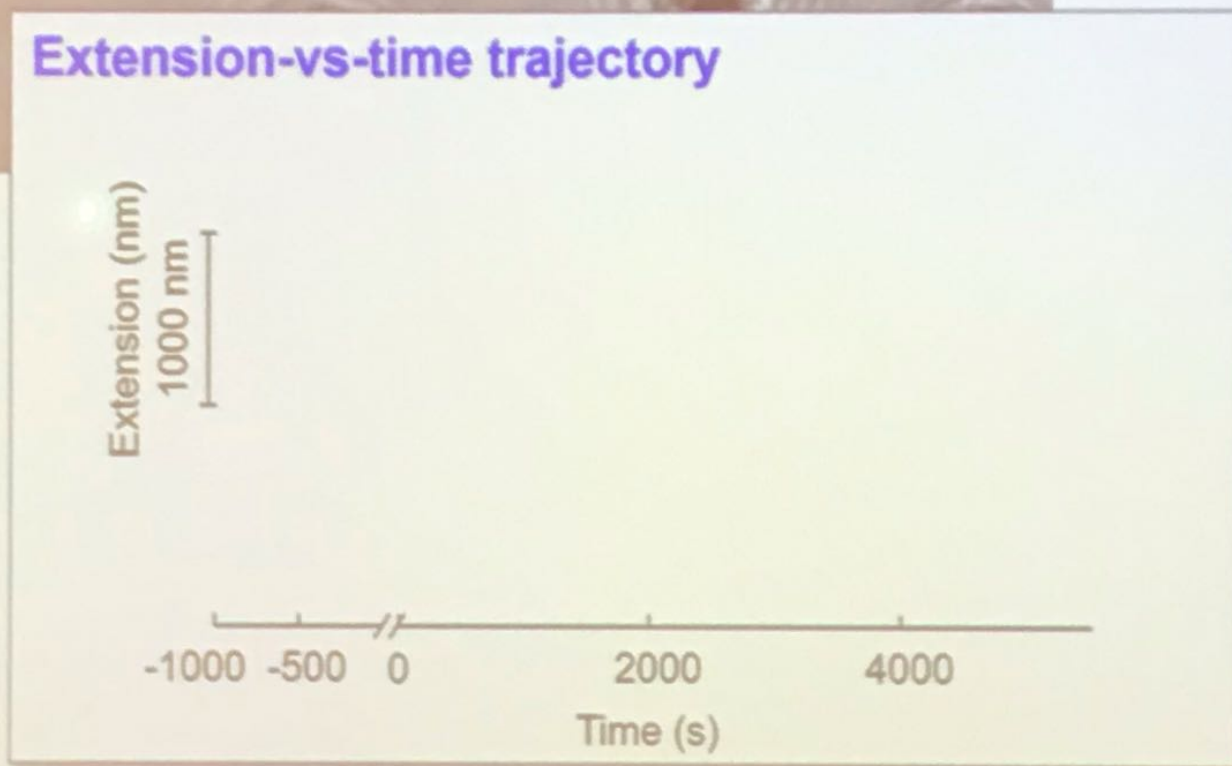
Optical transmission image



Movie (20x sped up)



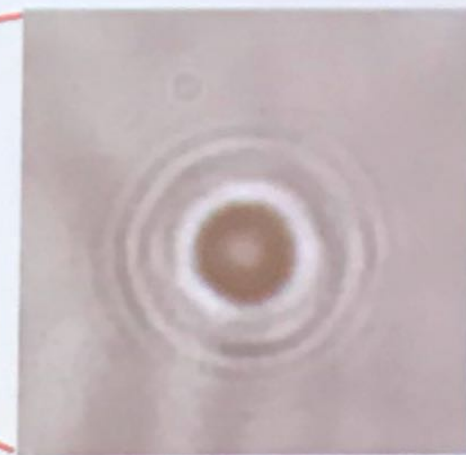
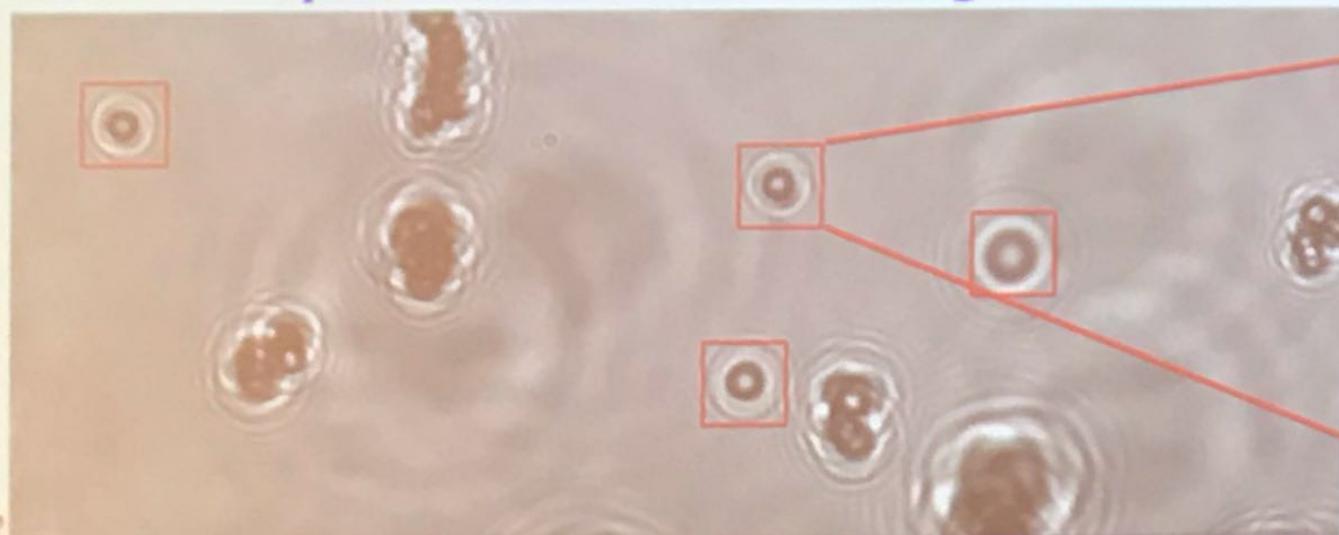
Extension-vs-time trajectory



Real-time movie of single polymer growth

Optical transmission image

Movie (20x sped up)



12.3 μm

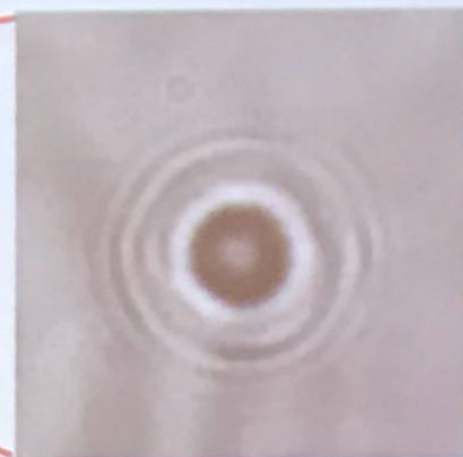
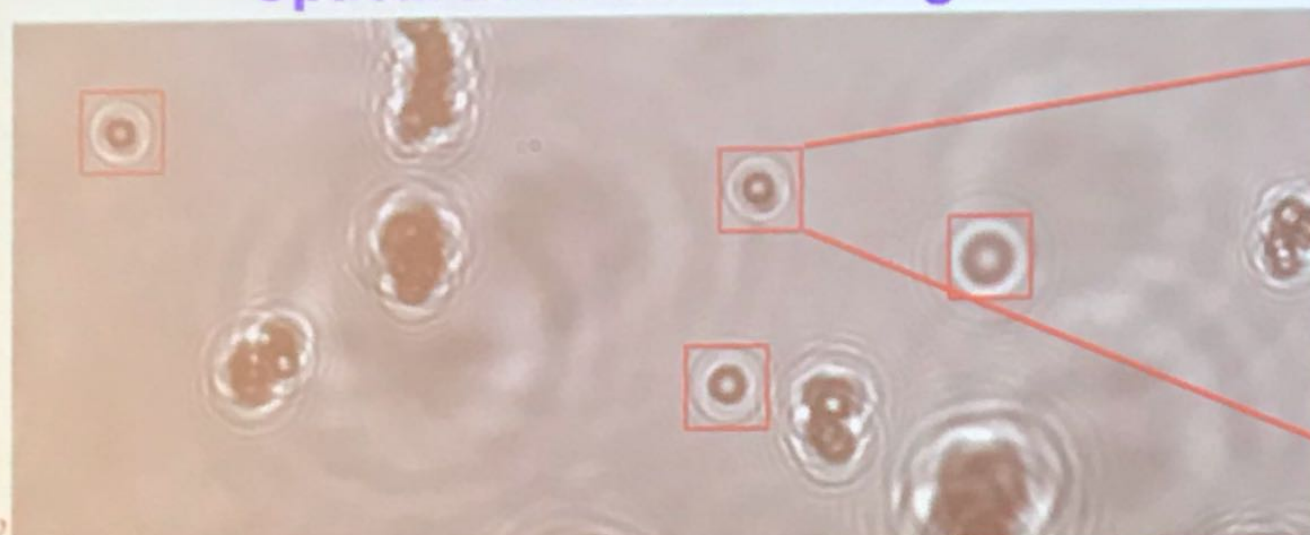
Extension-vs-time trajectory



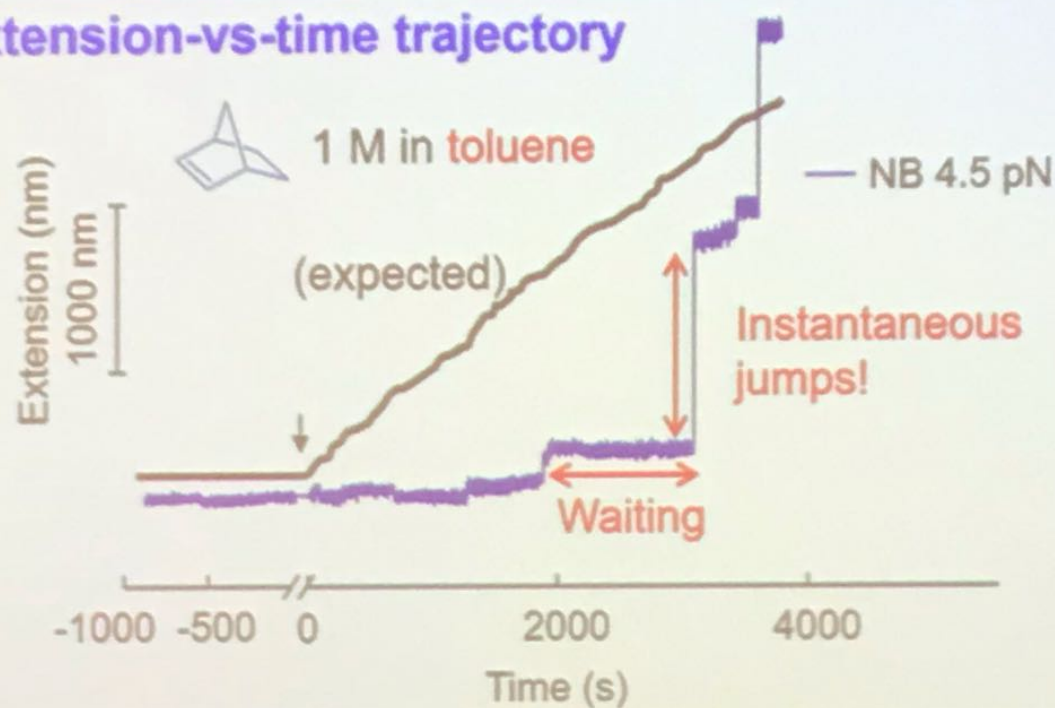
Real-time movie of single polymer growth

Optical transmission image

Movie (20x sped up)



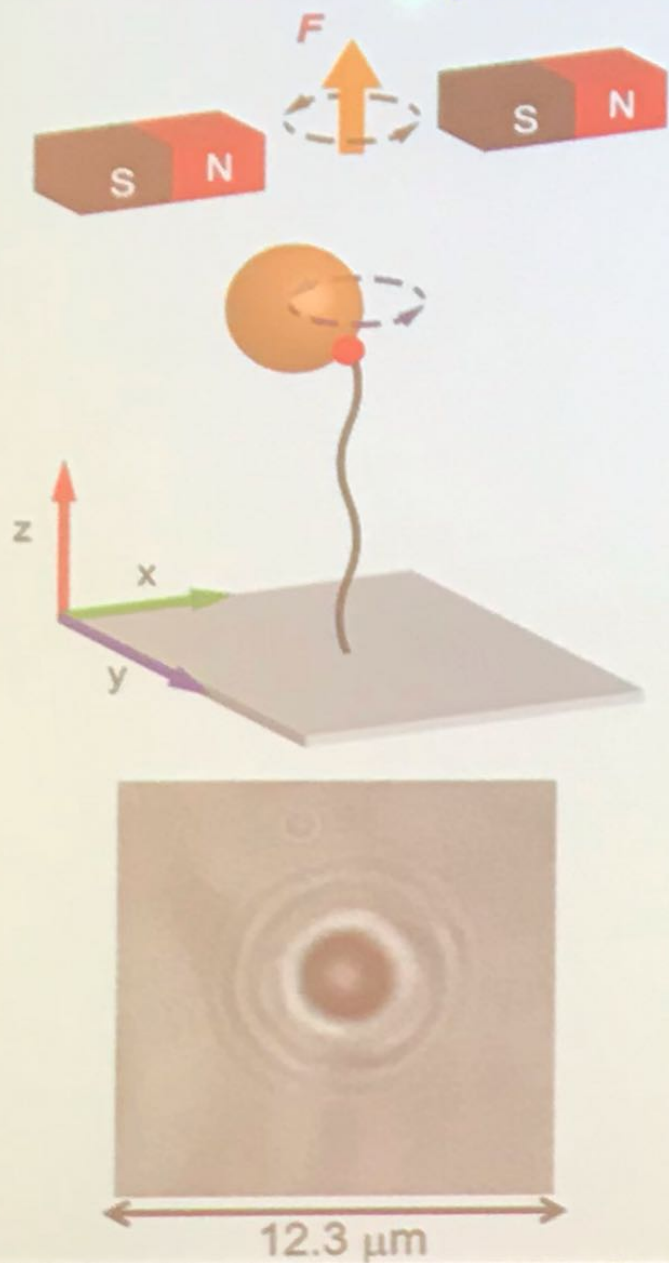
Extension-vs-time trajectory



⇒ Single polymer?

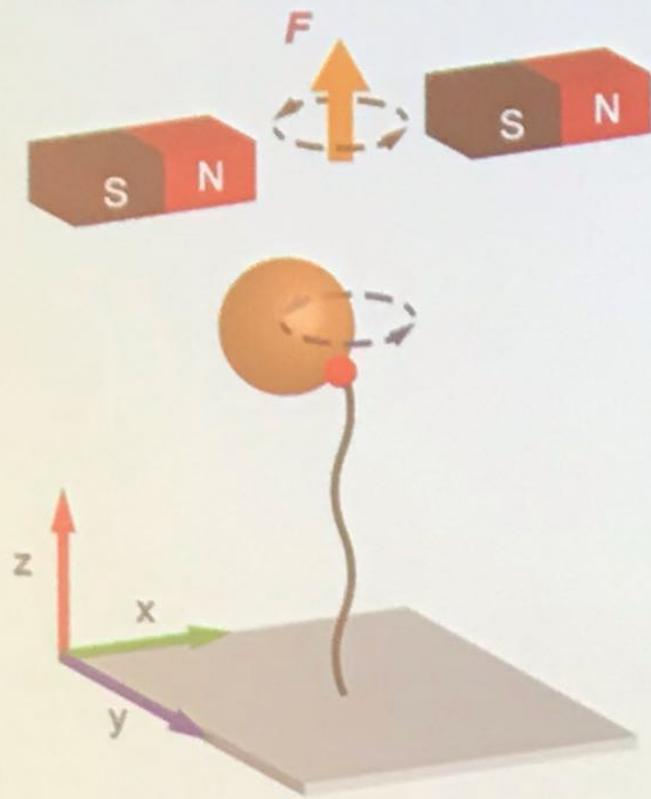
How do we know it is a single polymer?

Rotational manipulation

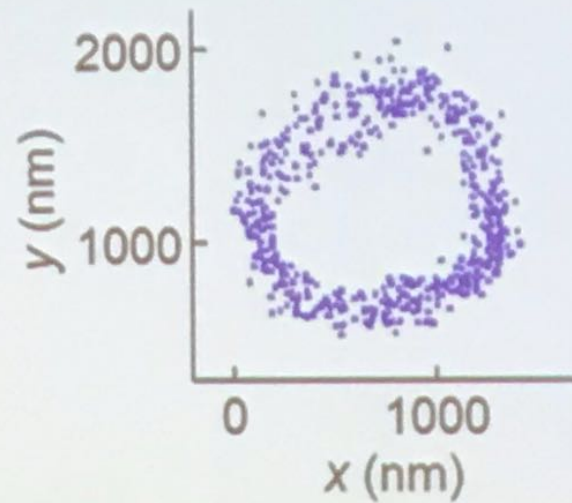


How do we know it is a single polymer?

Rotational manipulation

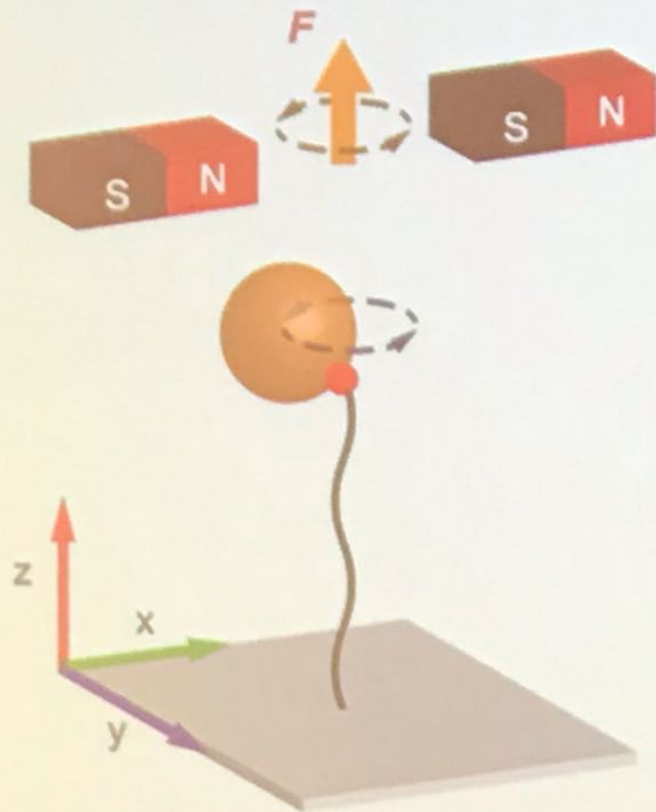


Single-tether: circular procession

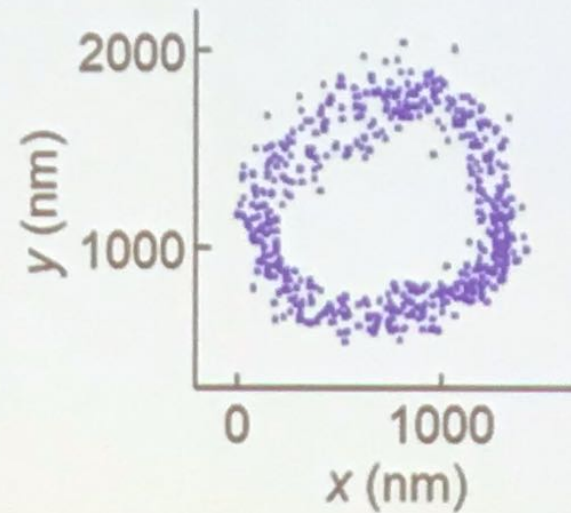


How do we know it is a single polymer?

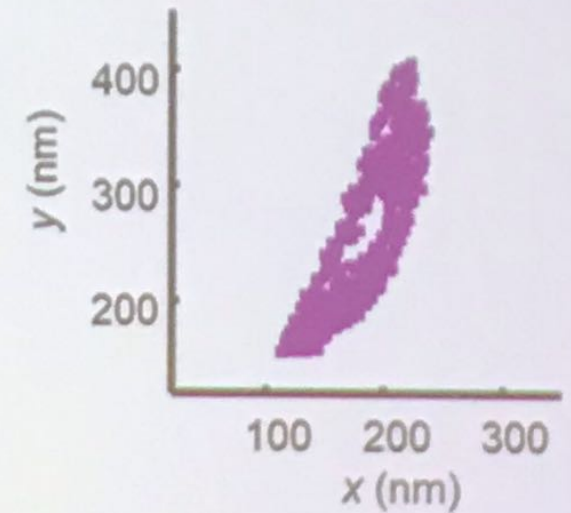
Rotational manipulation



Single-tether:
circular procession

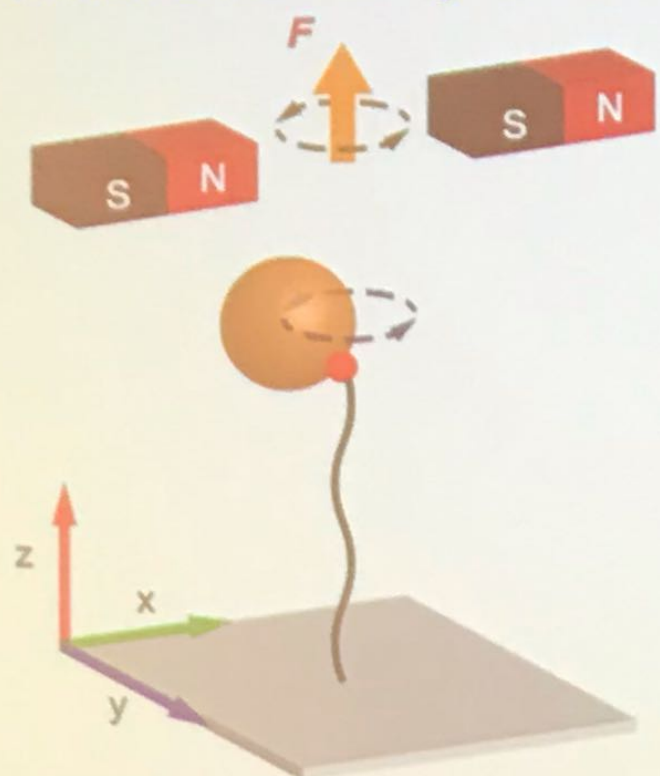


Multi-tether:
irregular

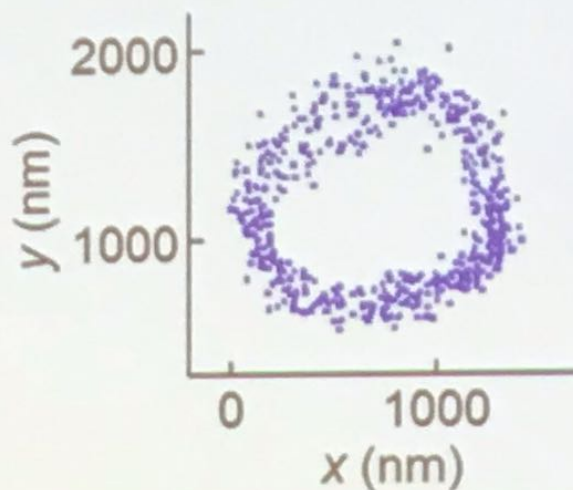


How do we know it is a single polymer?

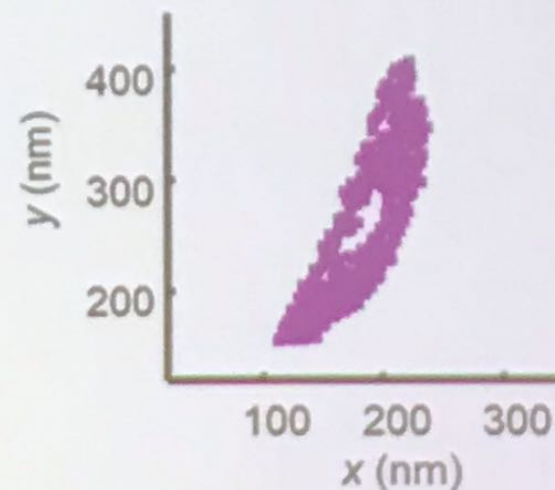
Rotational manipulation



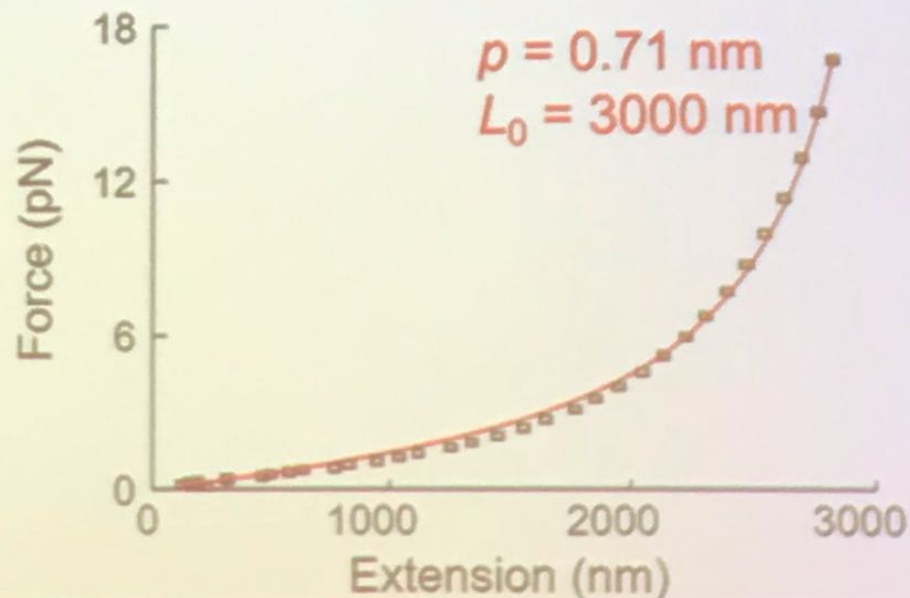
Single-tether: circular procession



Multi-tether: irregular

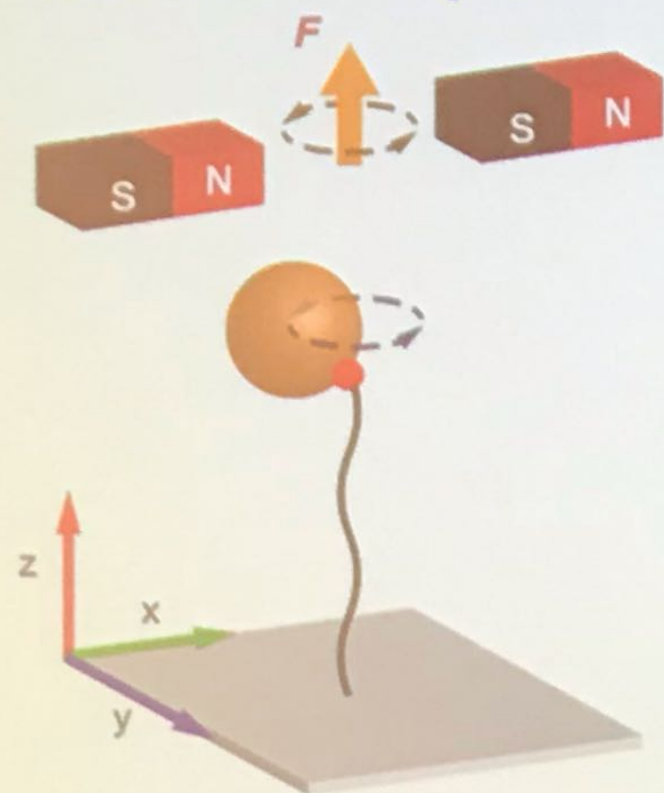


Force-extension afterward = WLC

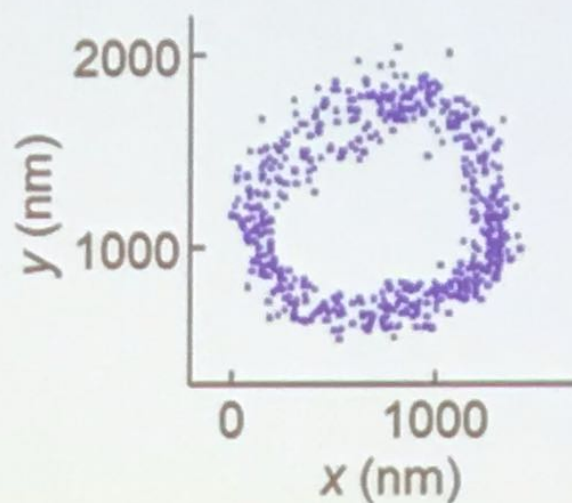


How do we know it is a single polymer?

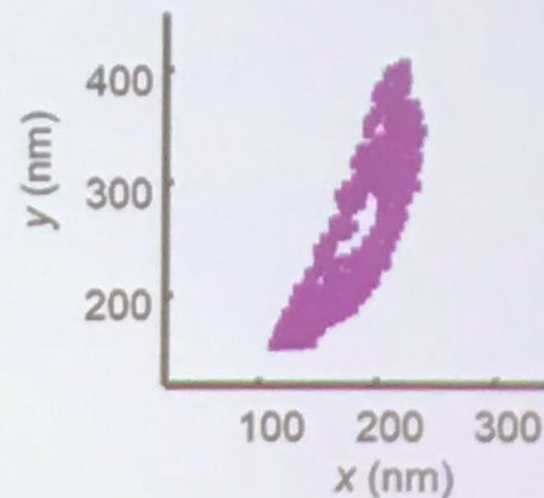
Rotational manipulation



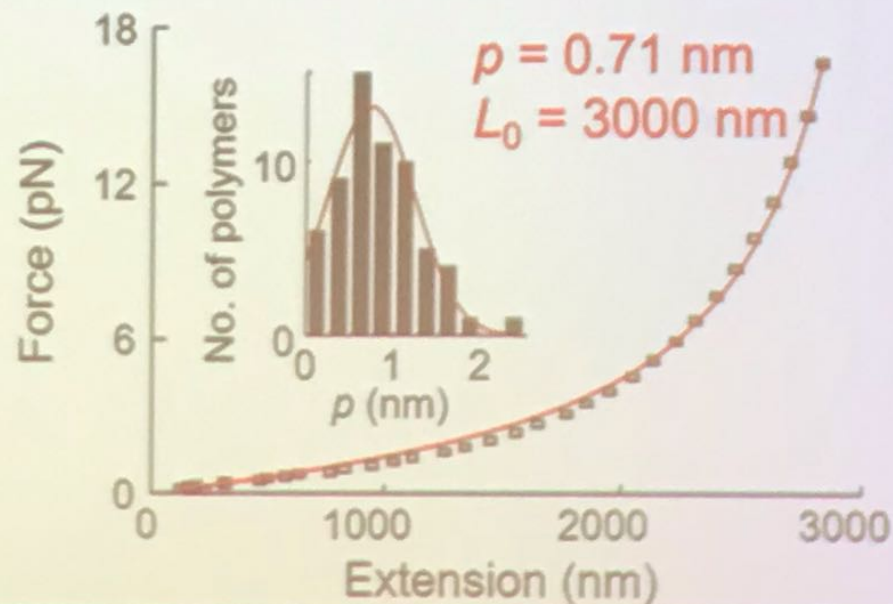
Single-tether:
circular procession



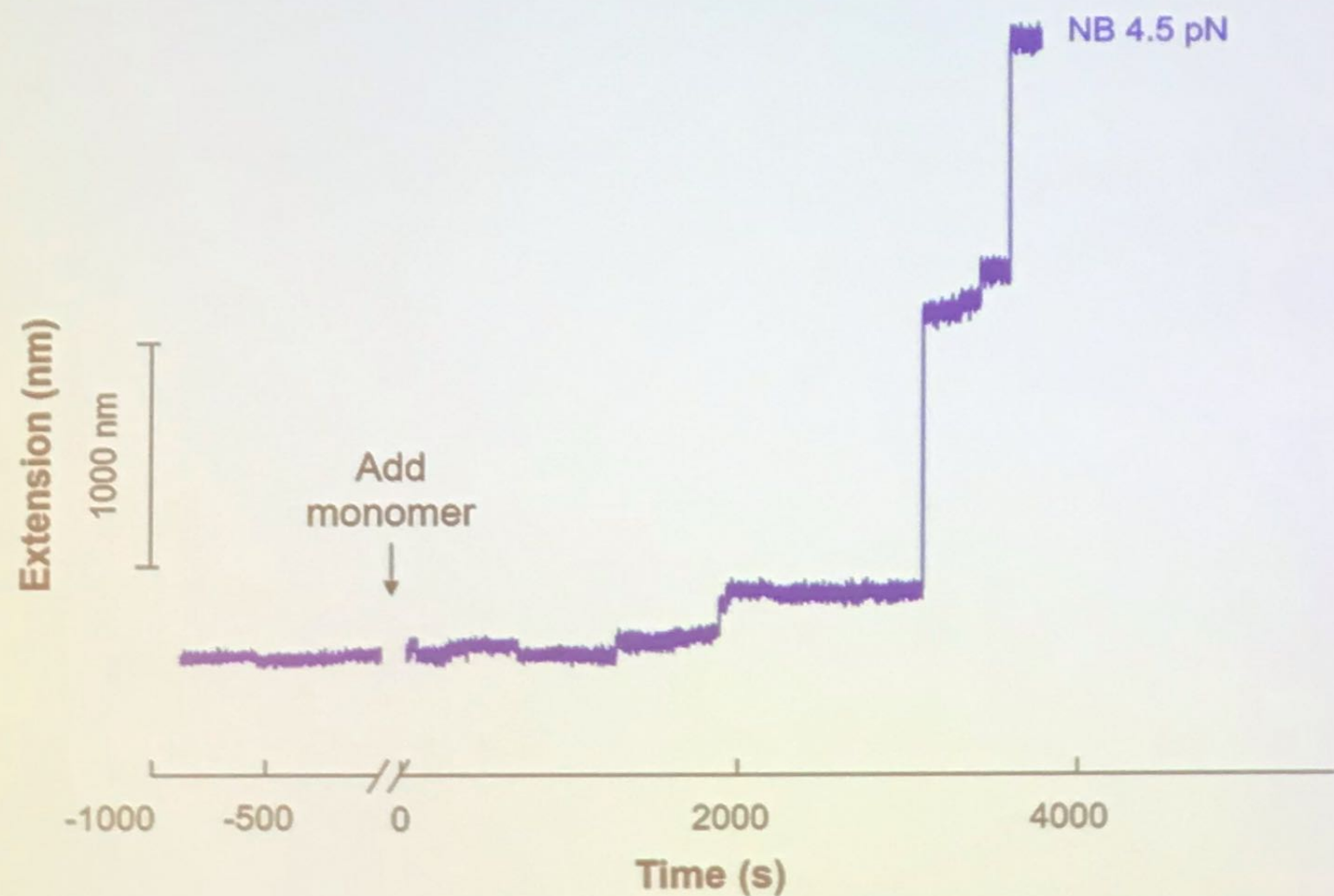
Multi-tether:
irregular



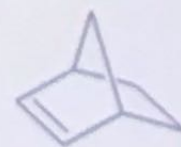
Force-extension afterward = WLC



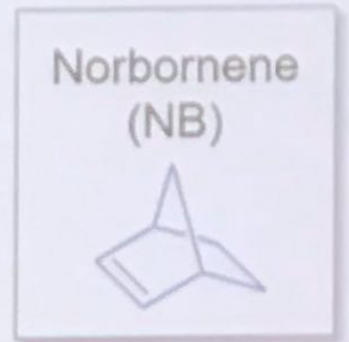
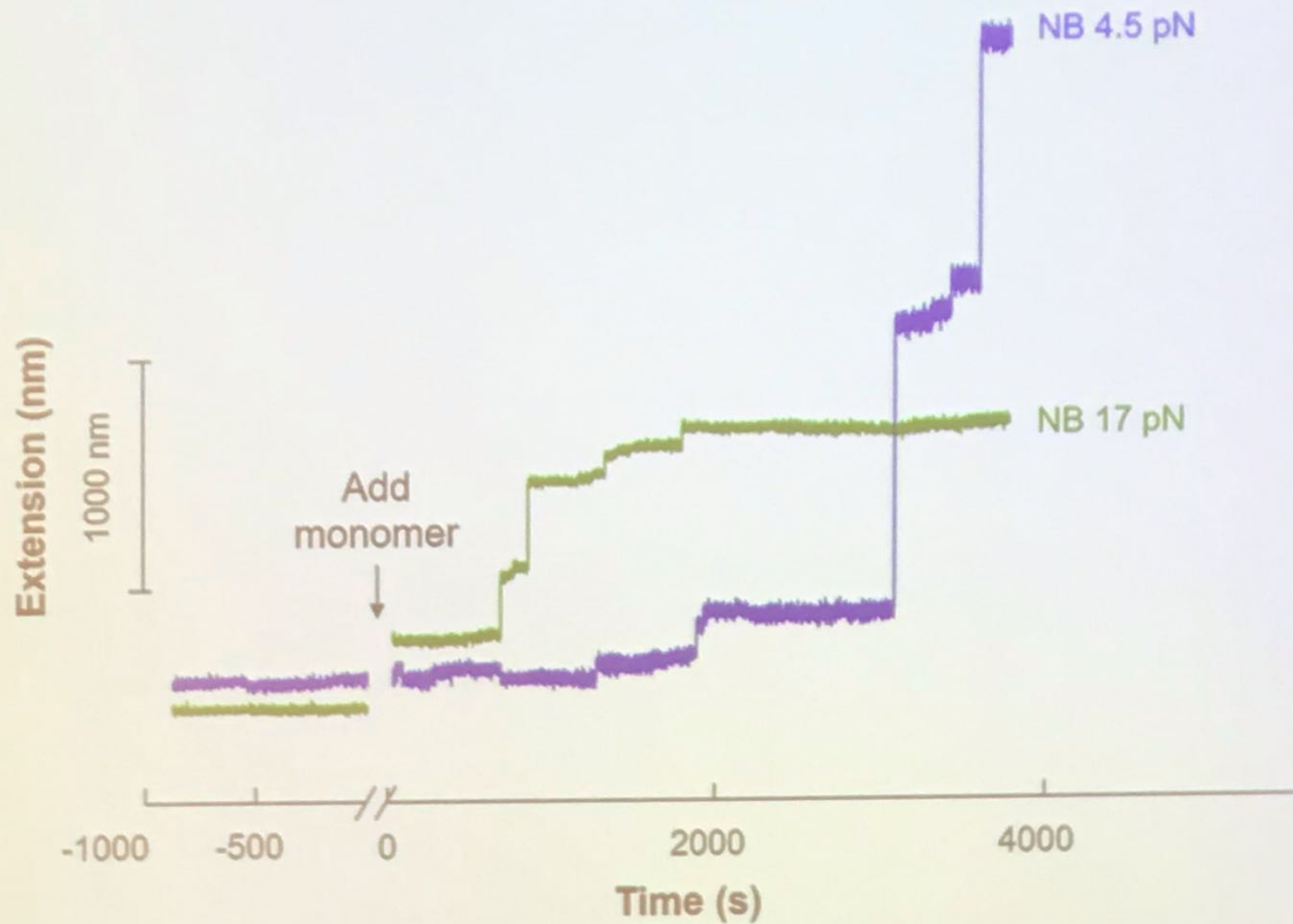
Real-time extension trajectory of single polymer growth



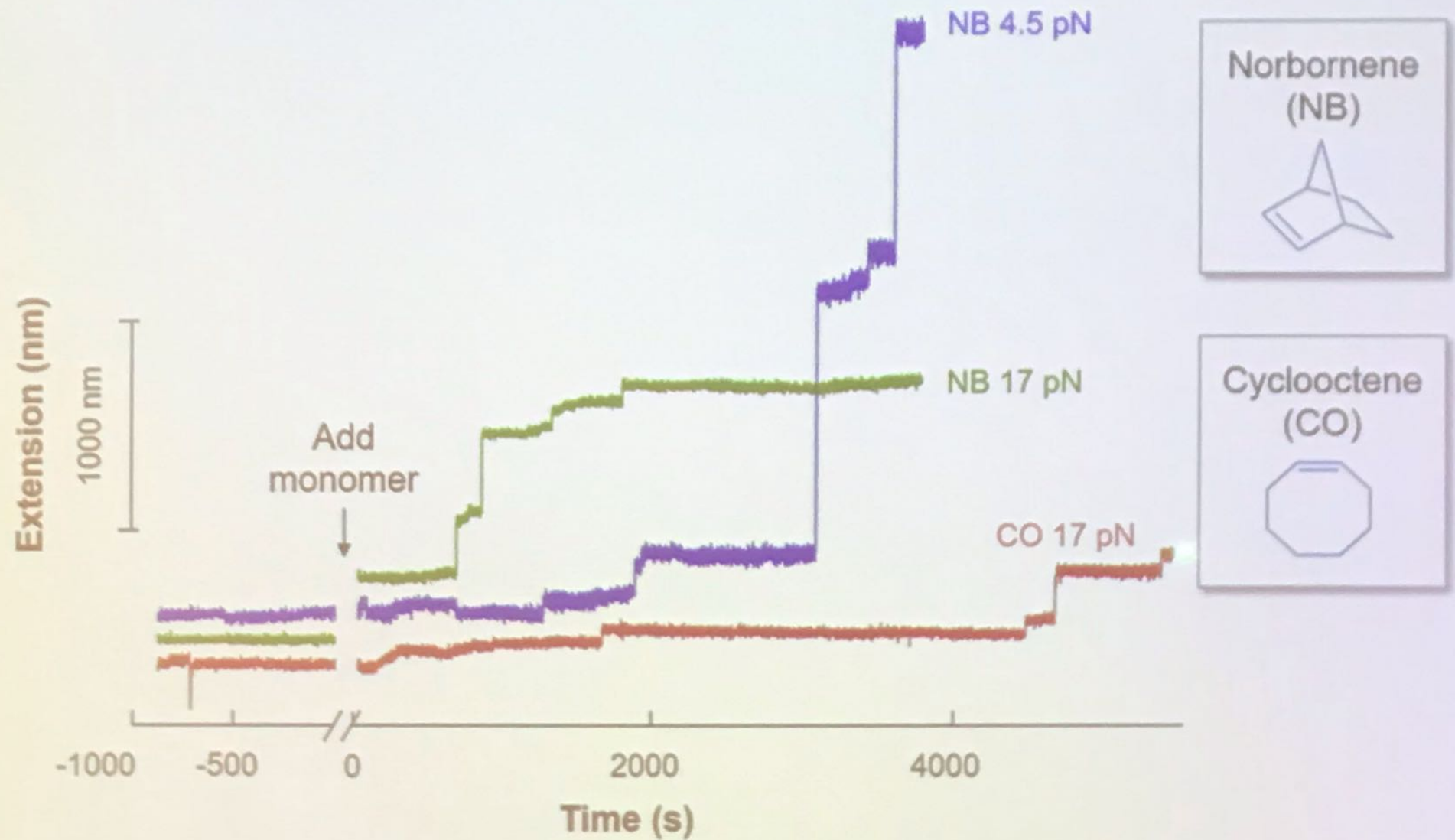
Norbornene
(NB)



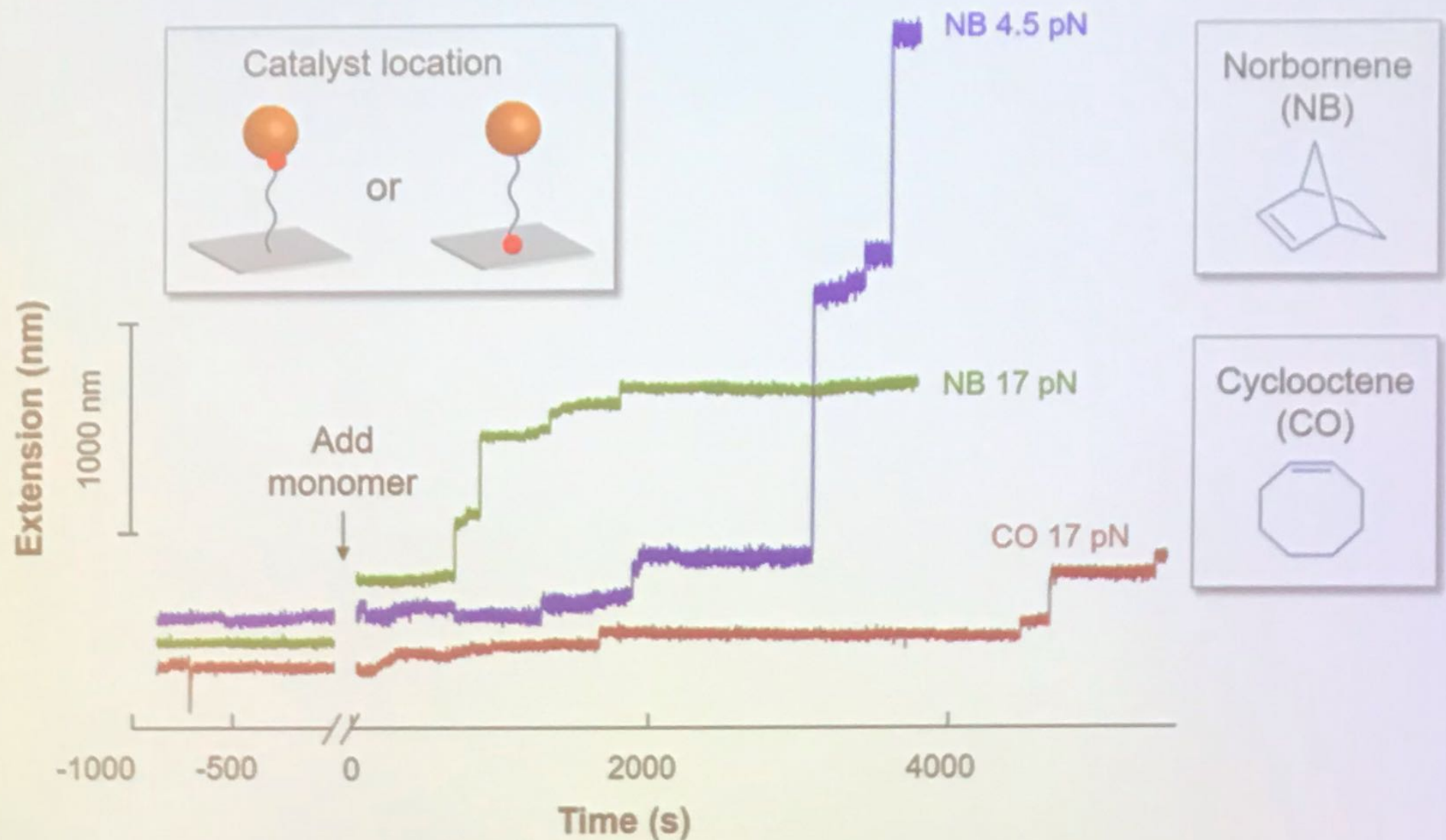
Real-time extension trajectory of single polymer growth



Real-time extension trajectory of single polymer growth



Real-time extension trajectory of single polymer growth

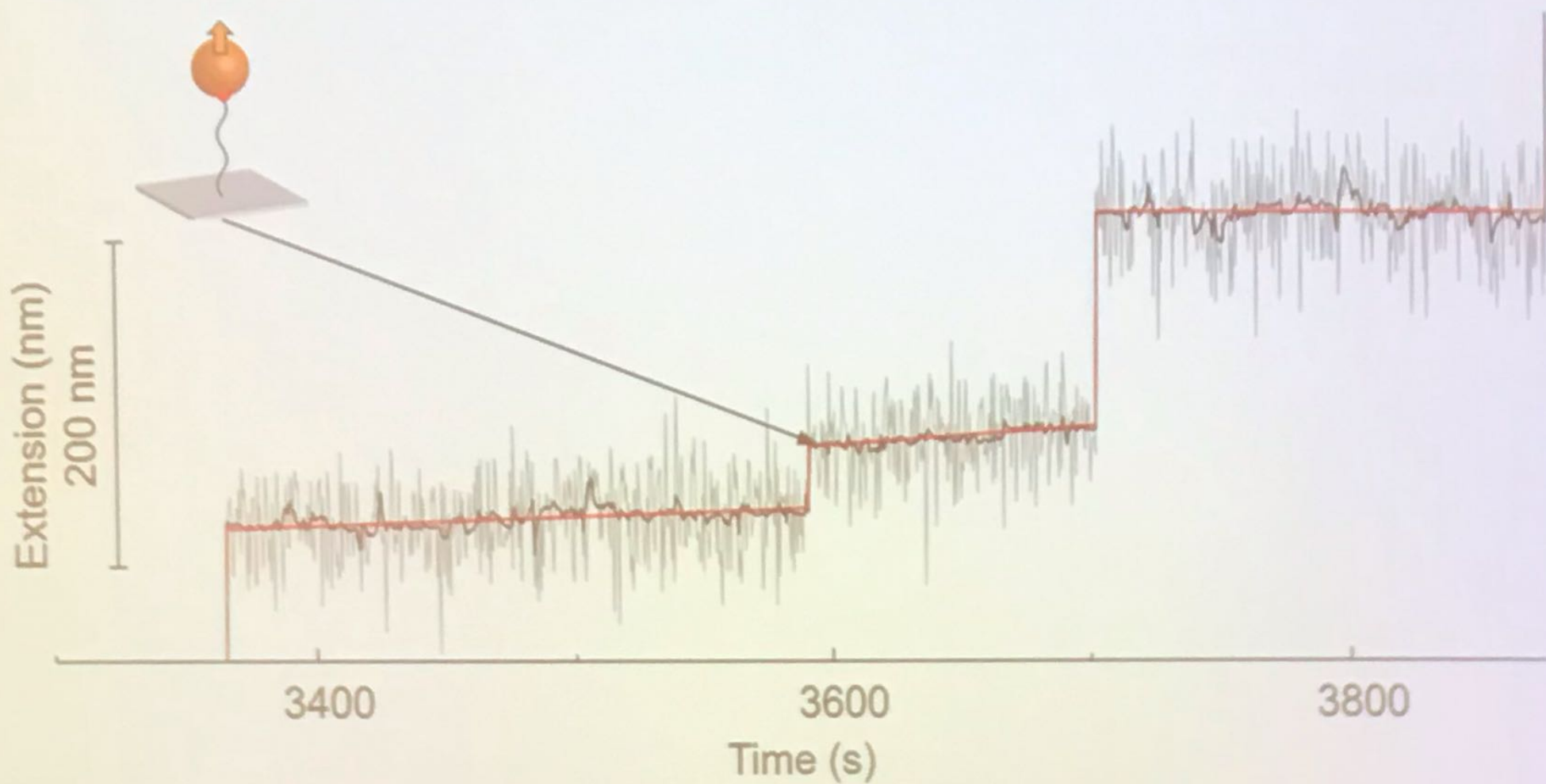


• Waiting periods: $\sim 10^2$ s

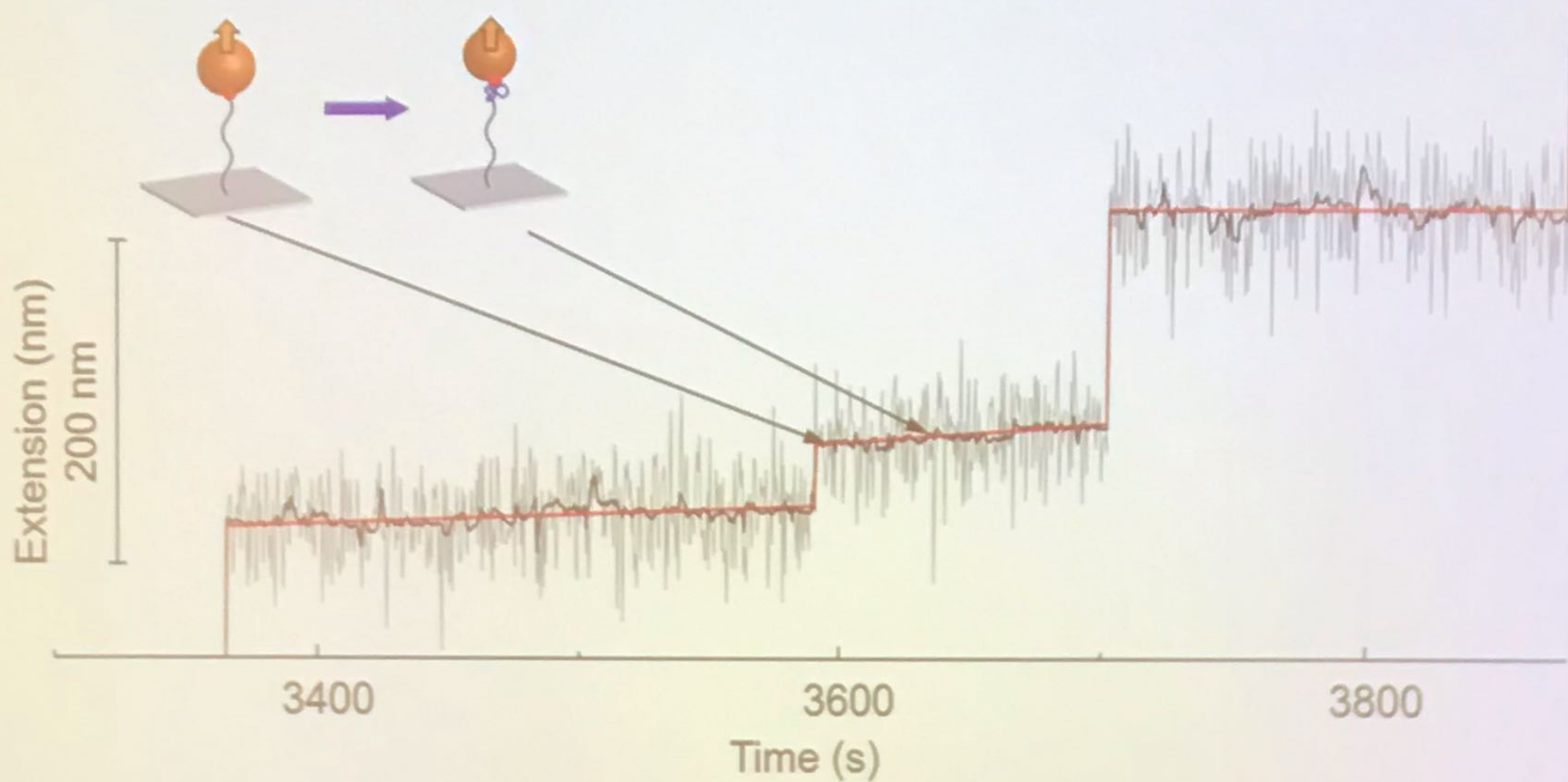
• Jumps (**instantaneous**): 10^2 - 10^3 nm
= 10^2 - 10^3 monomers

⇒ Too fast for polymer growth! What & how?

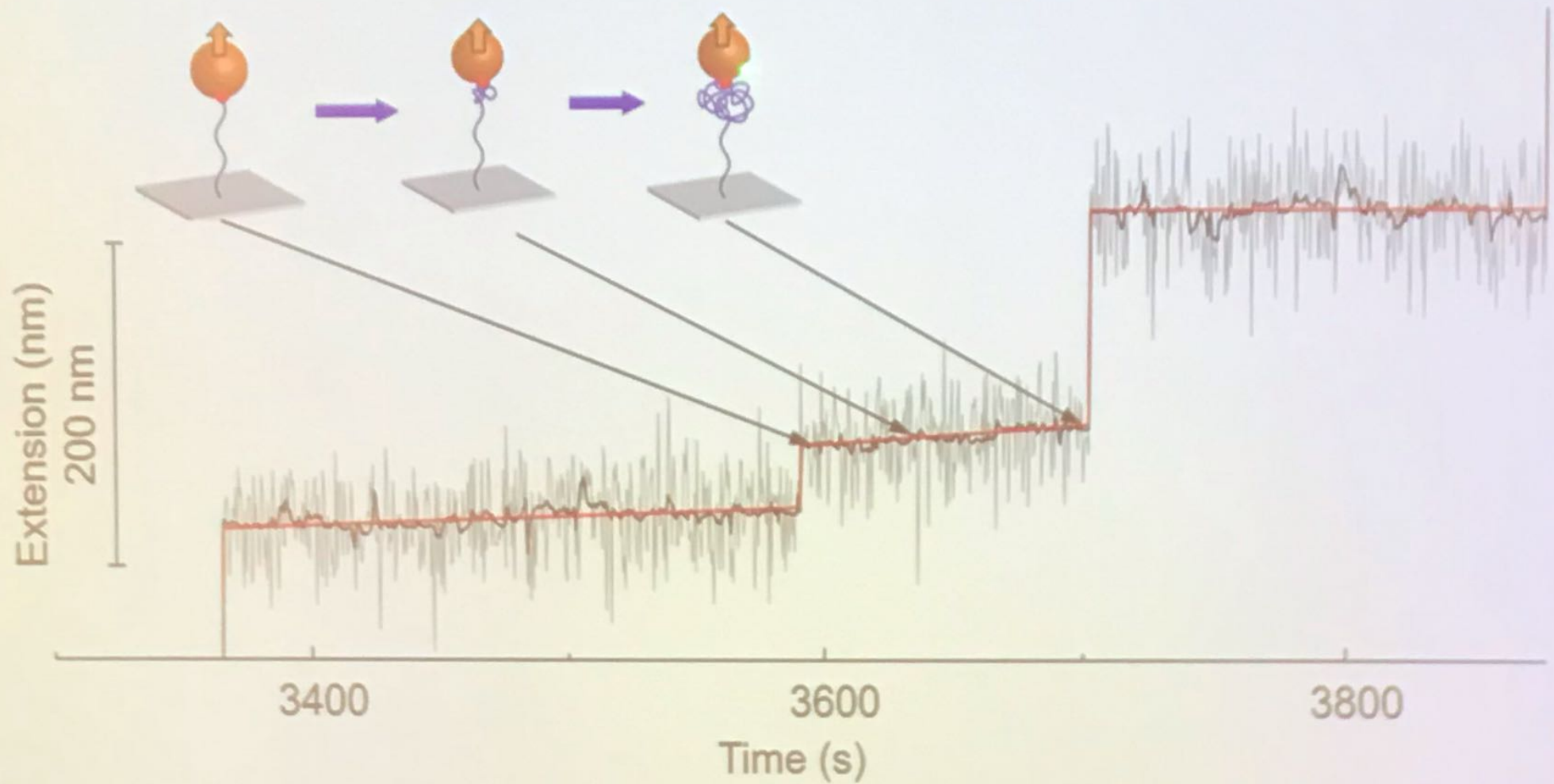
Hypothesis: torsional strain from living polymerization → entanglements (“hairballs”)



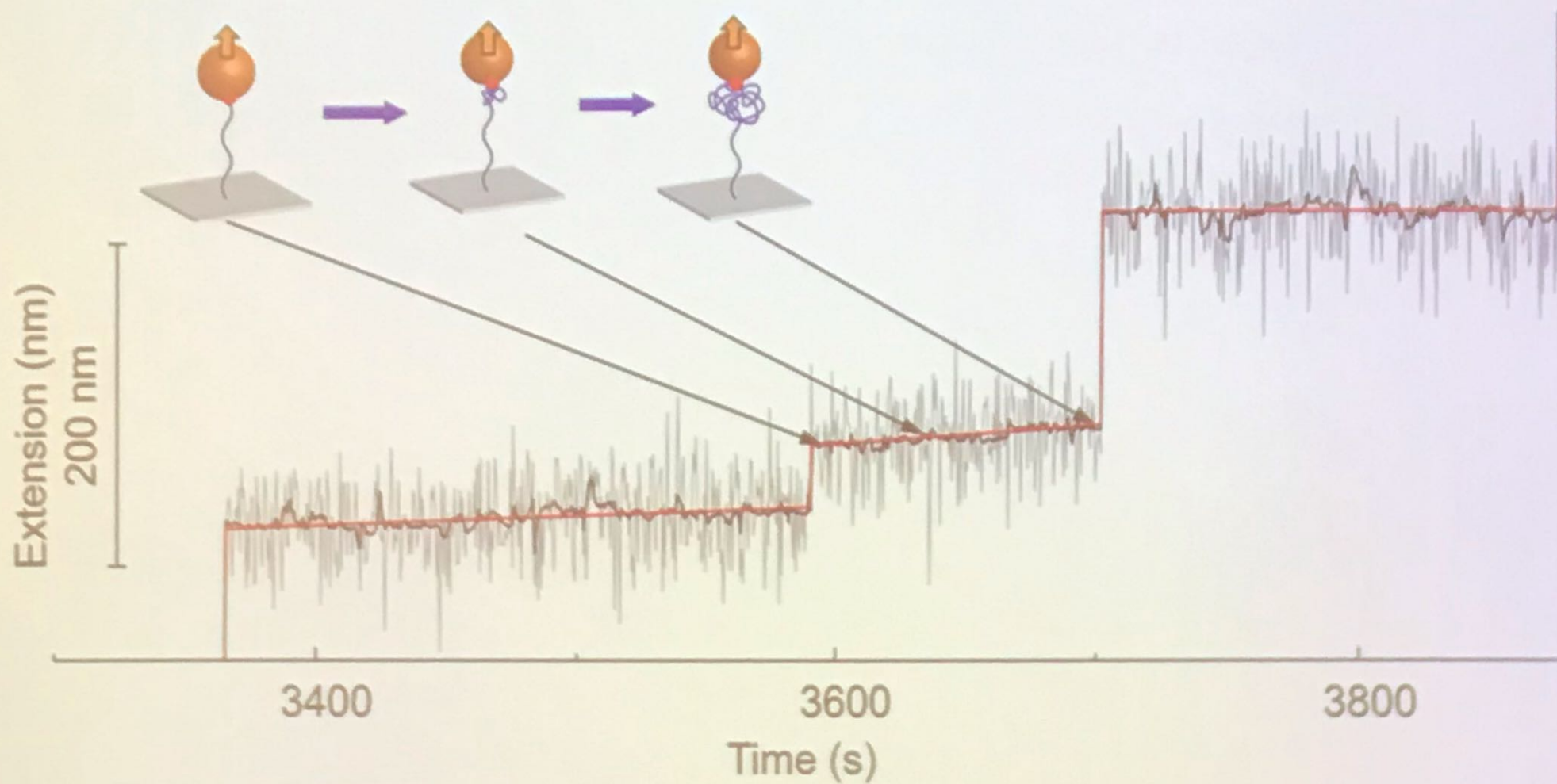
Hypothesis: torsional strain from living polymerization → entanglements (“hairballs”)



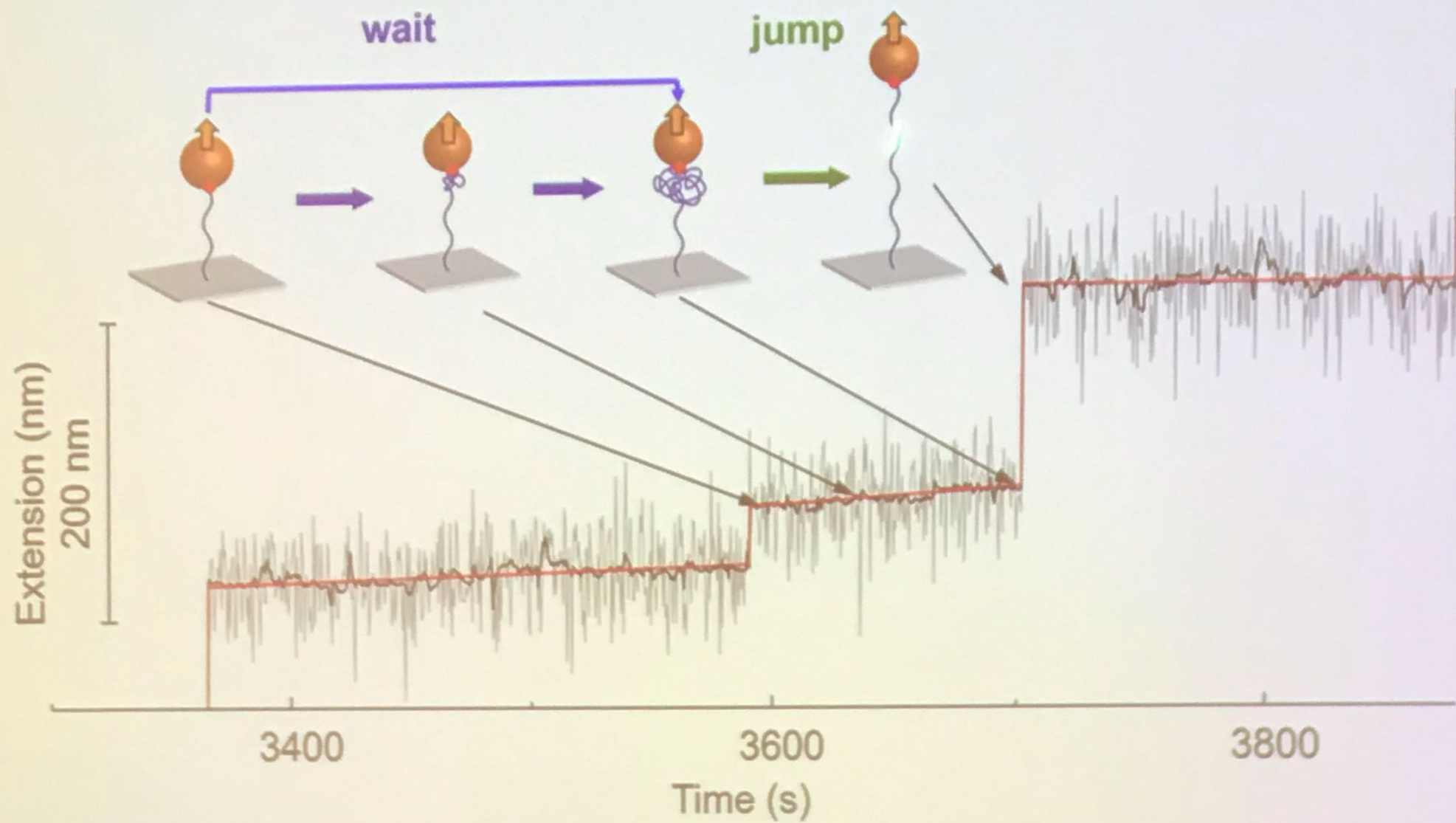
Hypothesis: torsional strain from living polymerization → entanglements (“hairballs”)



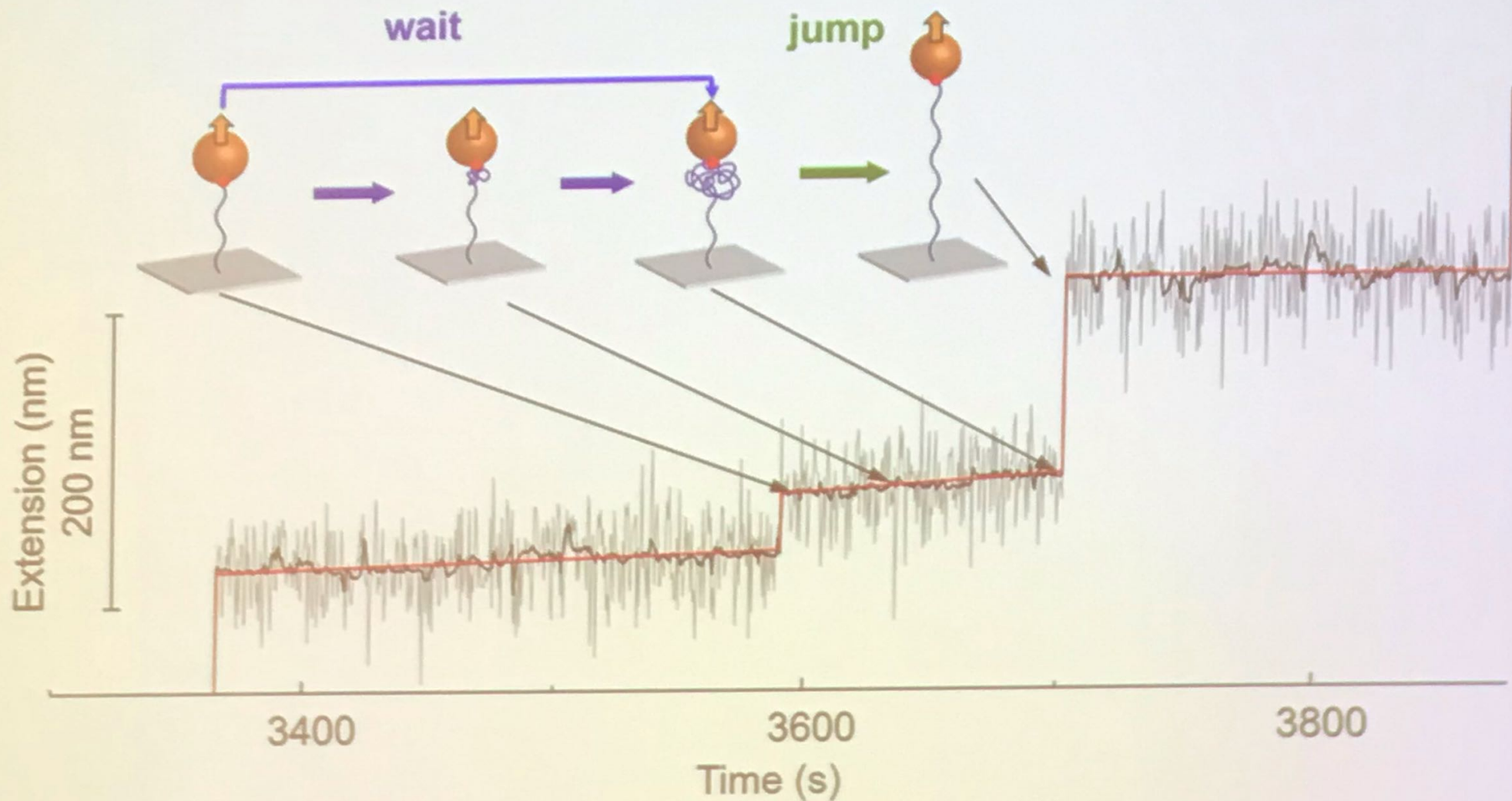
Hypothesis: torsional strain from living polymerization → entanglements (“hairballs”)



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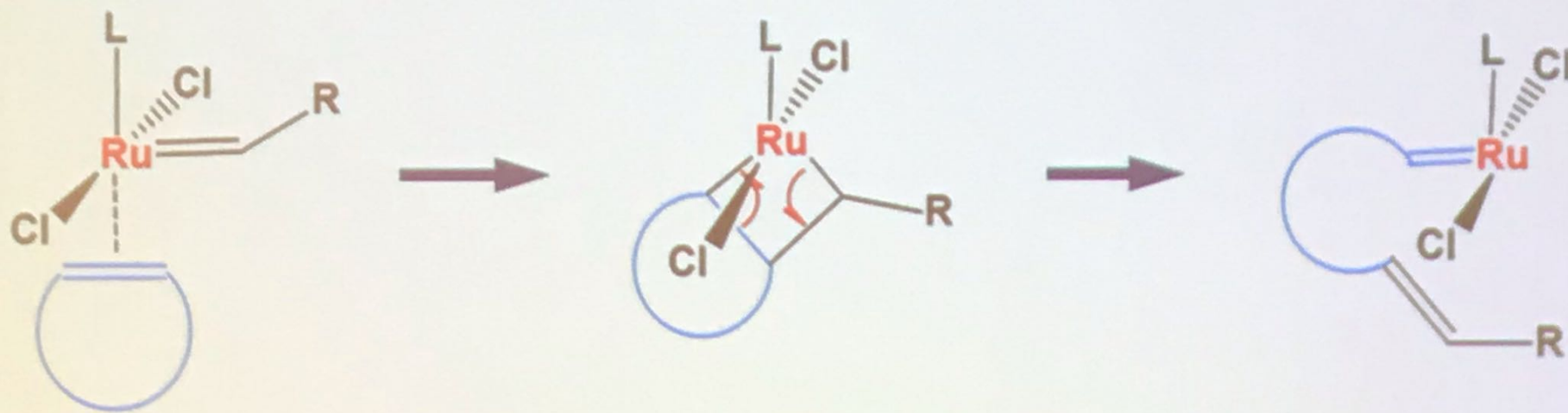
Torsional Strain \rightarrow Entanglements (Hairball)



But, how could torsional strain be generated during polymerization?

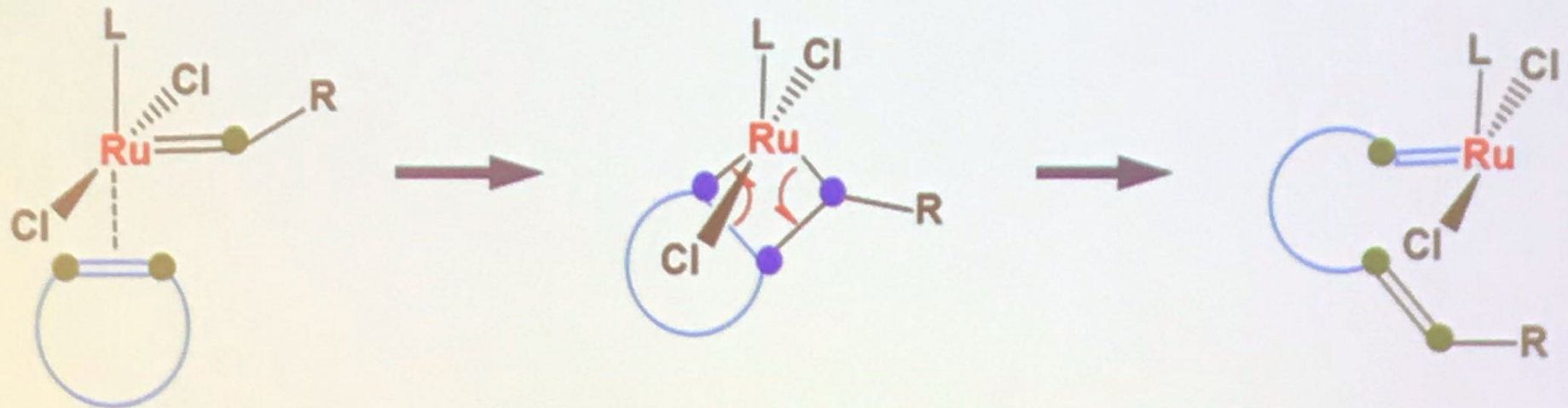
Torsional strain generation during ROMP

(1) Ru=C bond rotation (Grubbs, Chen, et al.)



Torsional strain generation during ROMP

(1) Ru=C bond rotation (Grubbs, Chen, et al.)



Dihedral strain

sp^2 carbon: ●

Preferred dihedral: 0°

sp^3 carbon: ●

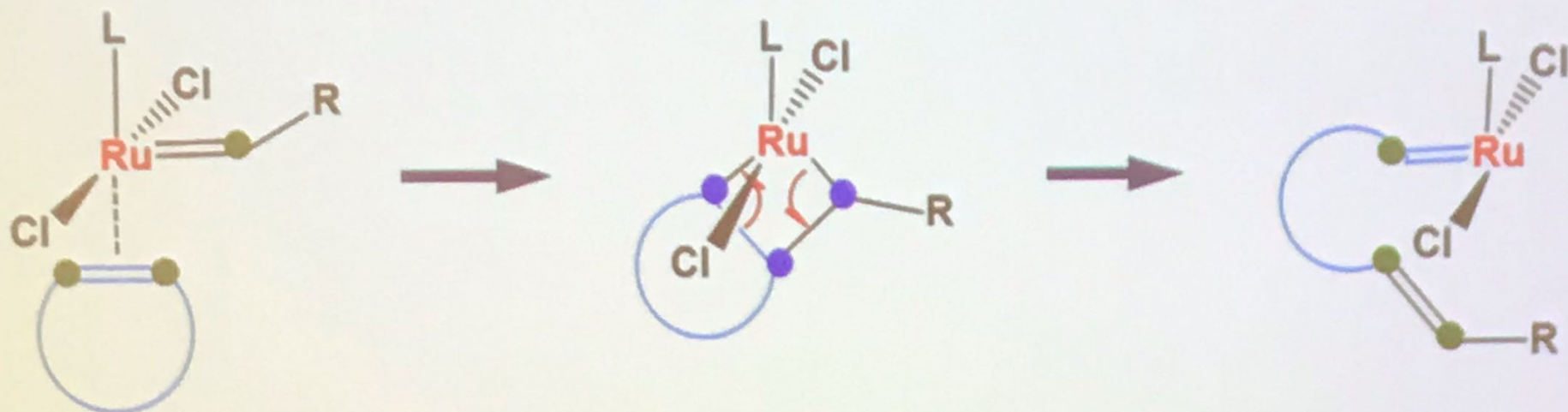
Preferred dihedral: 60°

(2) Changes in orbital hybridizations



Torsional strain generation during ROMP

(1) Ru=C bond rotation (Grubbs, Chen, et al.)



Dihedral strain

sp^2 carbon: ●

Preferred dihedral: 0°

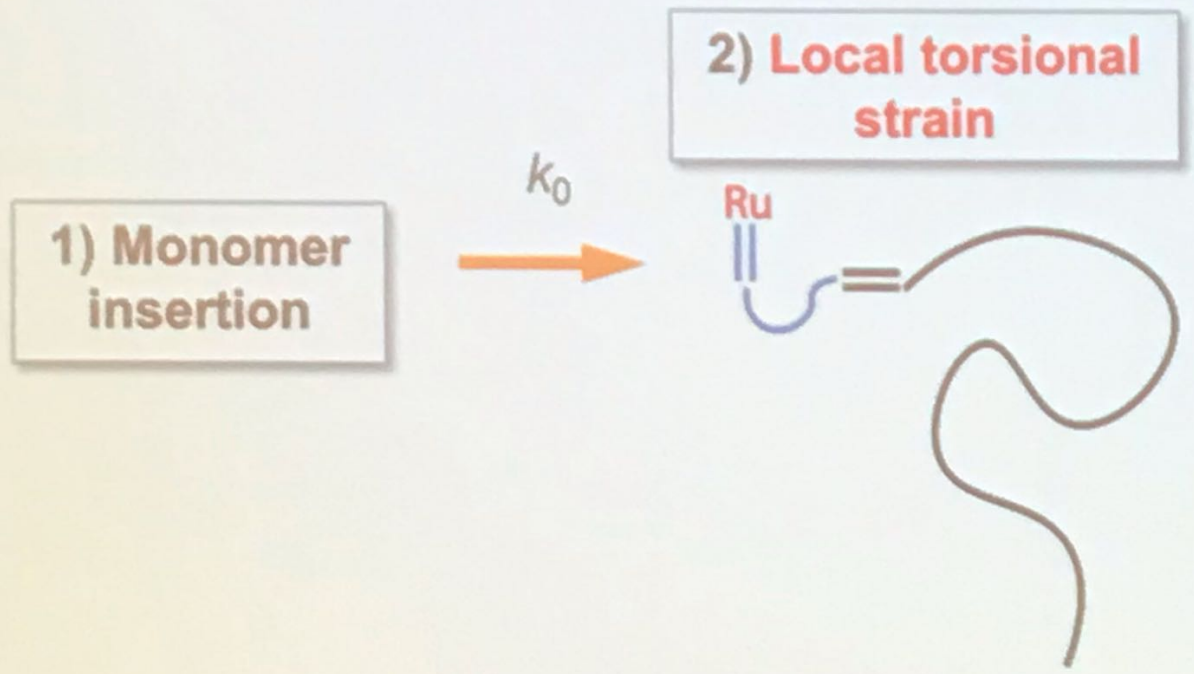
sp^3 carbon: ●

Preferred dihedral: 60°

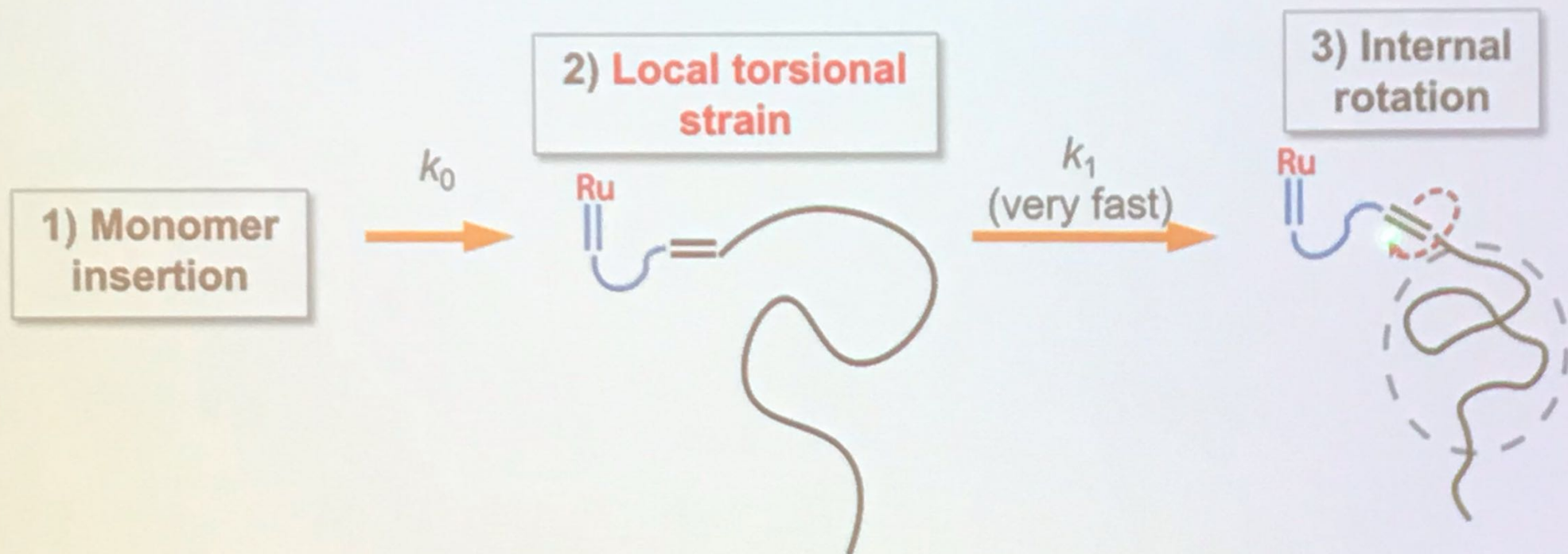
(2) Changes in orbital hybridizations



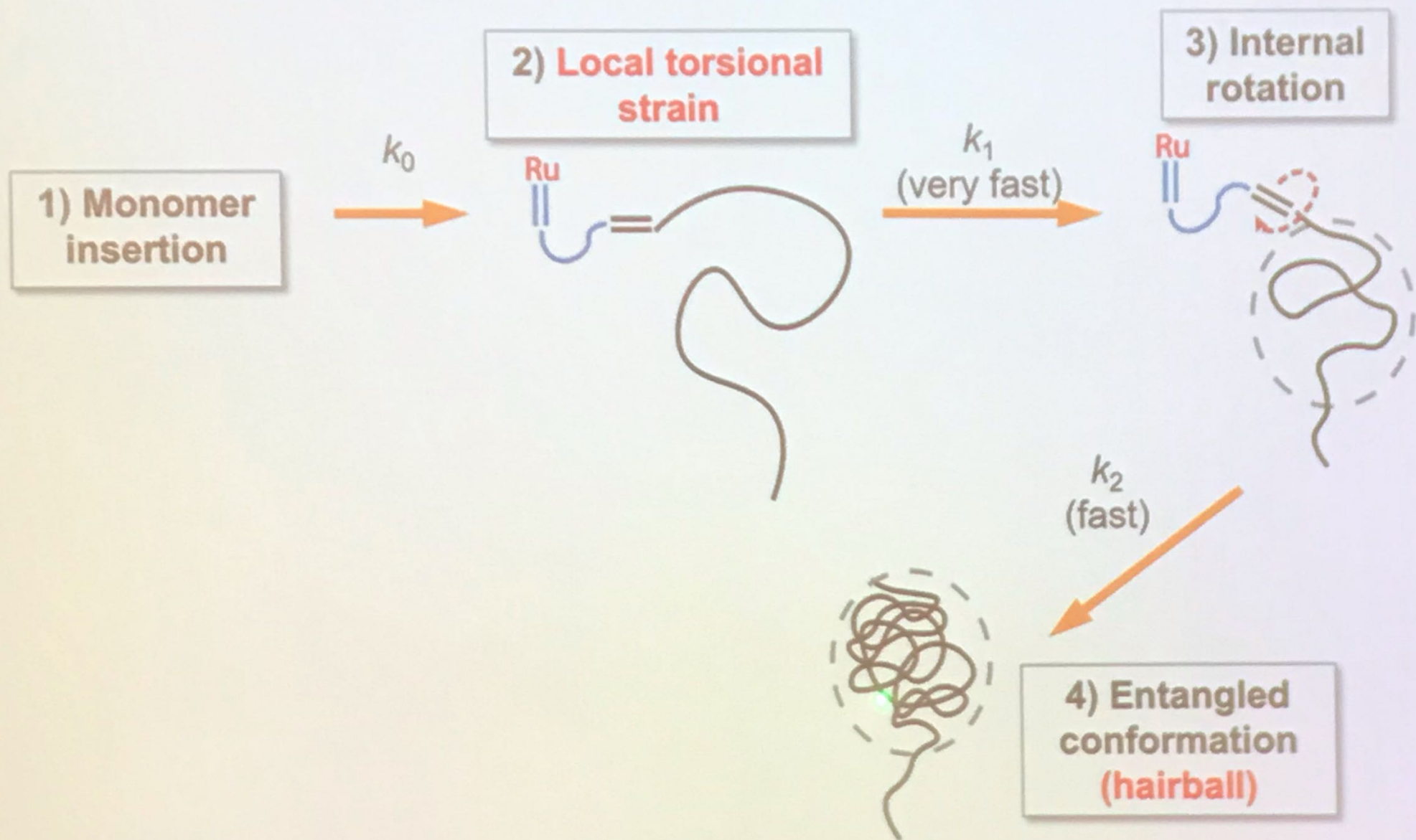
Model: Torsional strain induced conform. entanglement



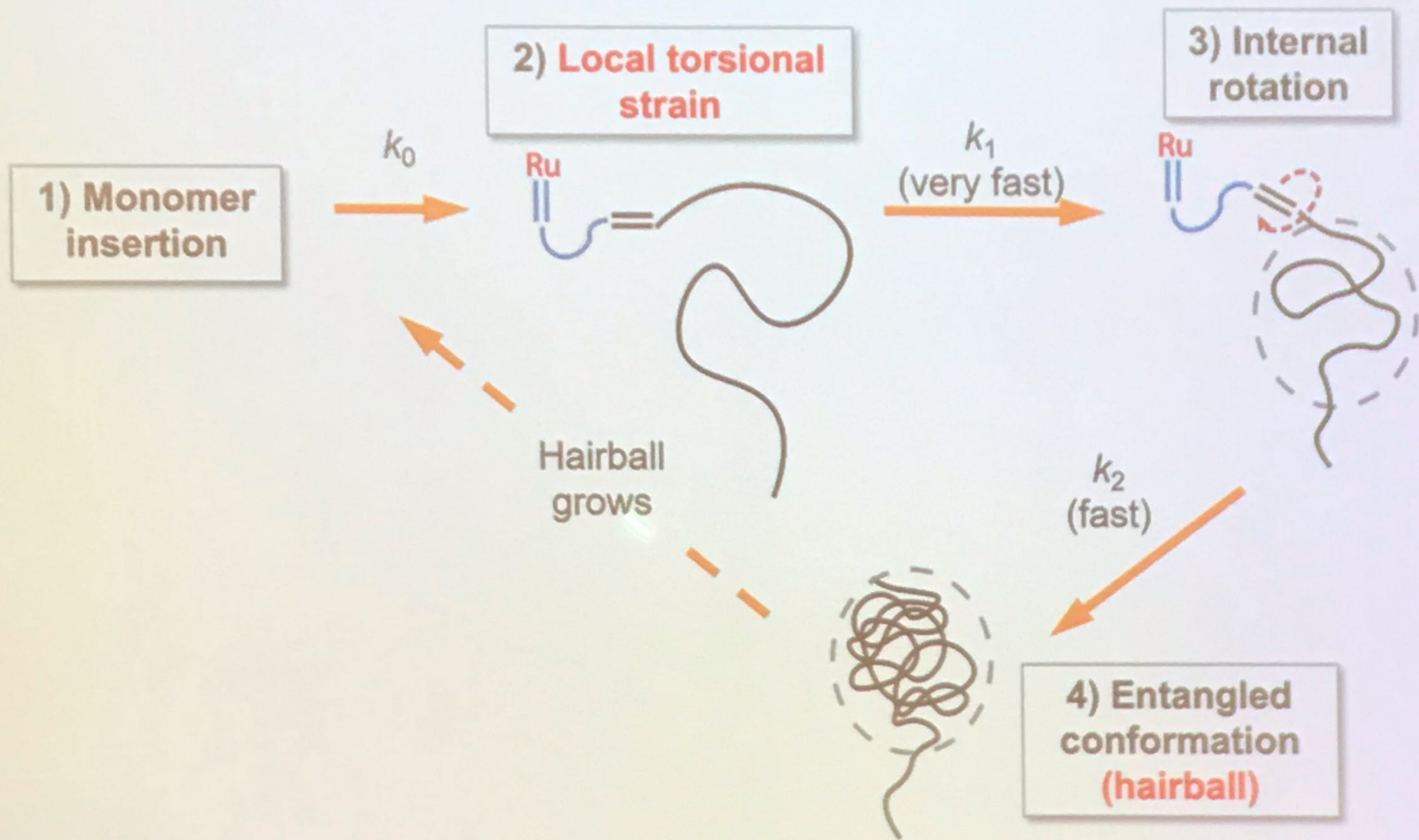
Model: Torsional strain induced conform. entanglement



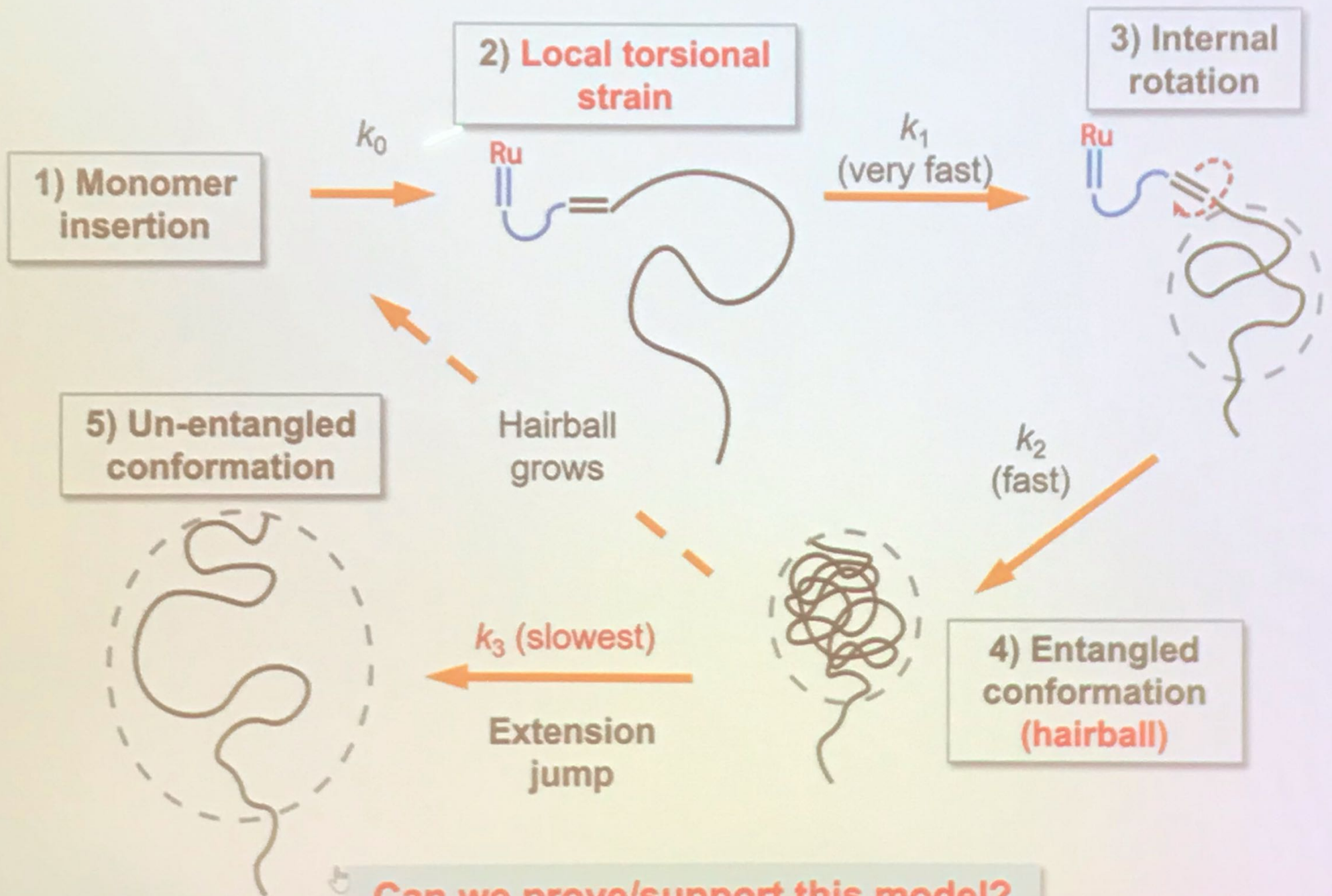
Model: Torsional strain induced conform. entanglement



Model: Torsional strain induced conform. entanglement



Model: Torsional strain induced conform. entanglement



Simulation: Torsional strain \rightarrow Hairball formation \rightarrow Unravels suddenly under force

Built-in
torsional
strain
(artificial)



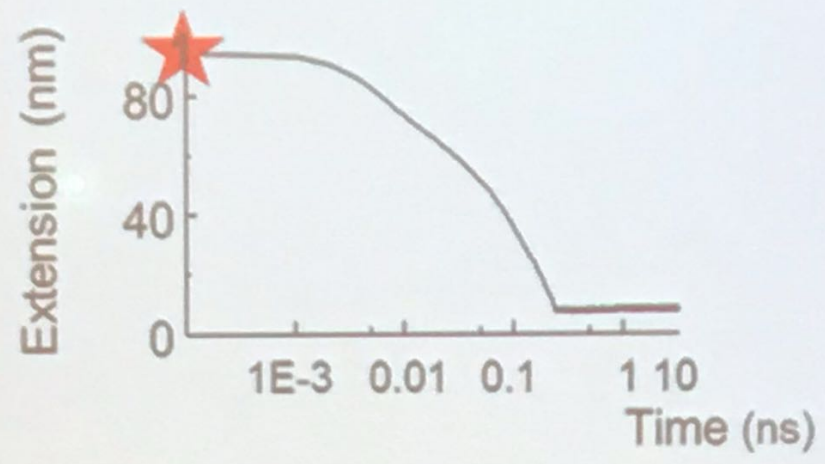
★ 0 ns

146 monomer



Simulation: Torsional strain \rightarrow Hairball formation \rightarrow Unravels suddenly under force

Built-in torsional strain (artificial)

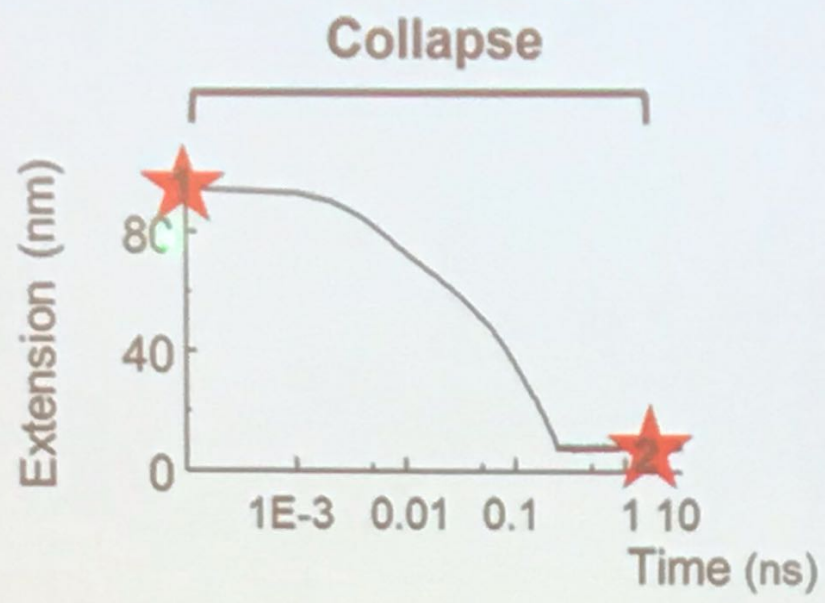
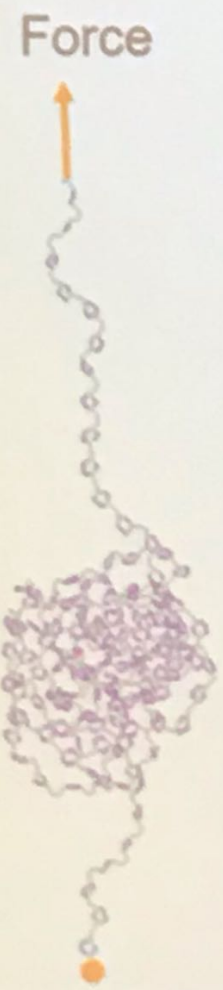


★ 0 ns

146 monomer

Simulation: Torsional strain \rightarrow Hairball formation \rightarrow Unravels suddenly under force

Built-in torsional strain (artificial)



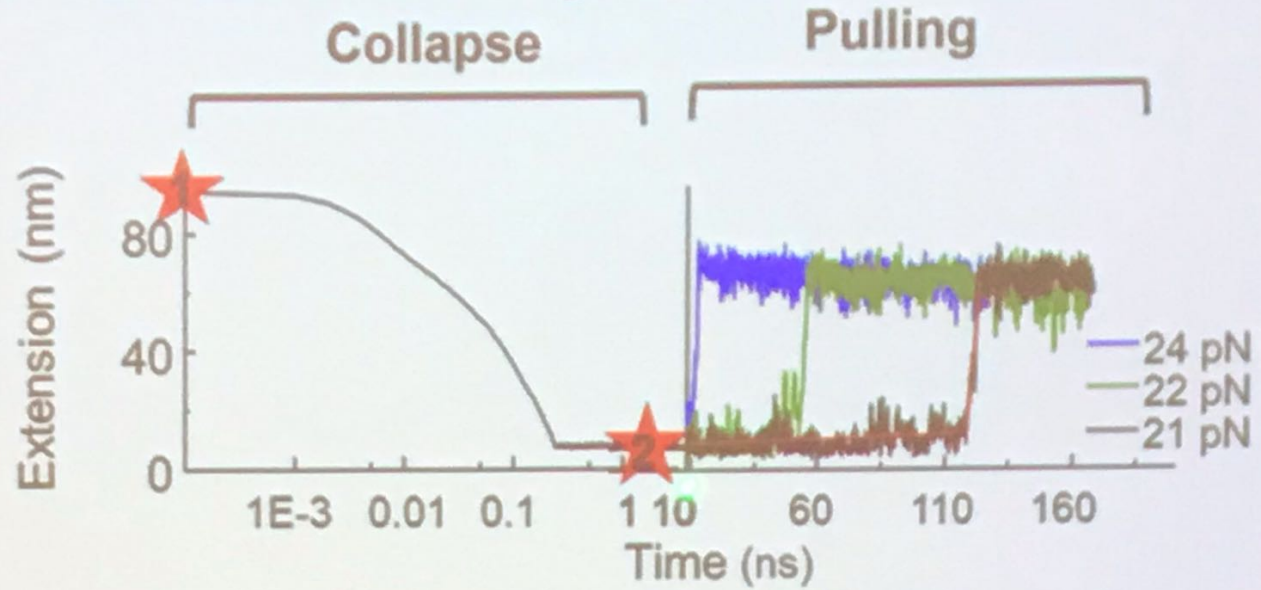
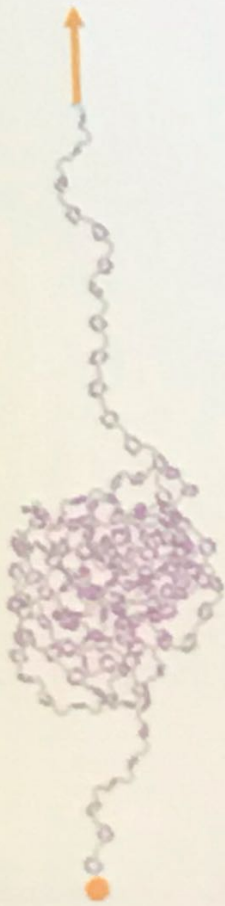
0 ns 2 ns

146 monomer

Simulation: Torsional strain \rightarrow Hairball formation \rightarrow Unravels suddenly under force

Built-in
torsional
strain
(artificial)

Force



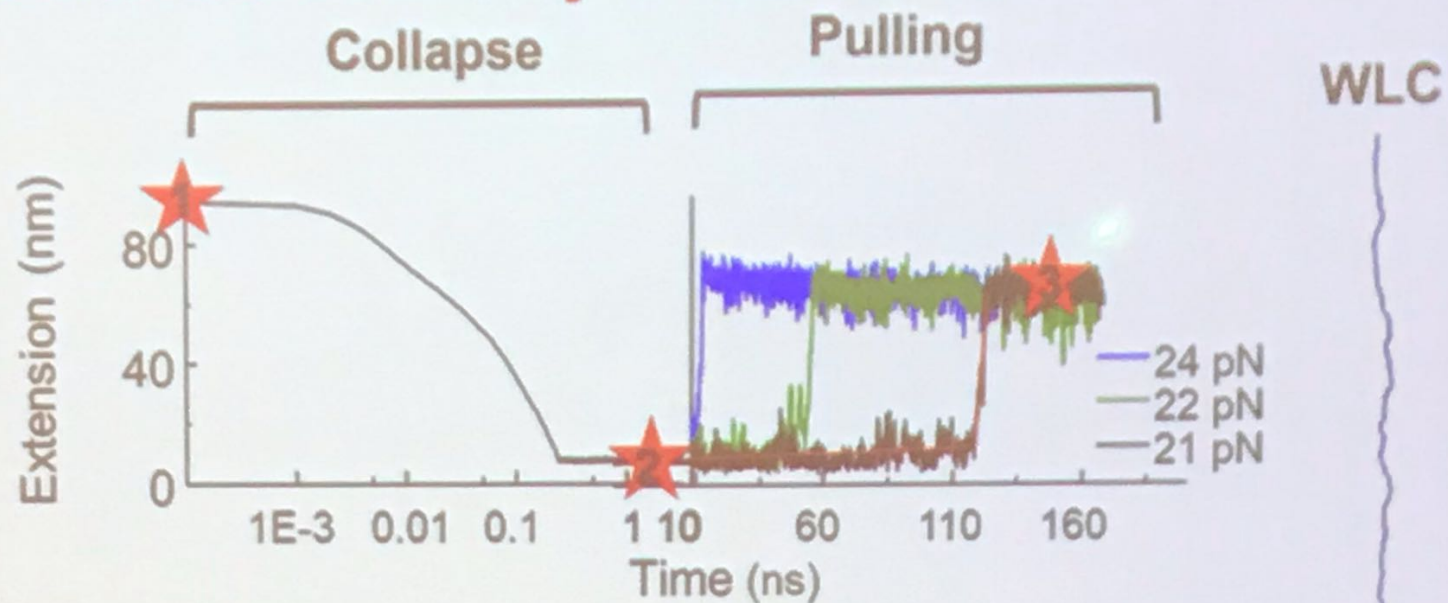
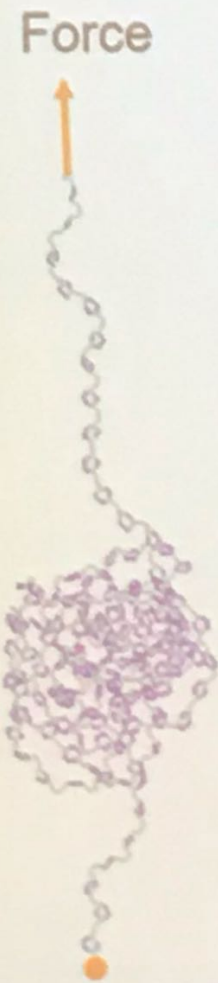
0 ns 2 ns

146 monomer

F. Escobedo

Simulation: Torsional strain \rightarrow Hairball formation \rightarrow Unravels suddenly under force

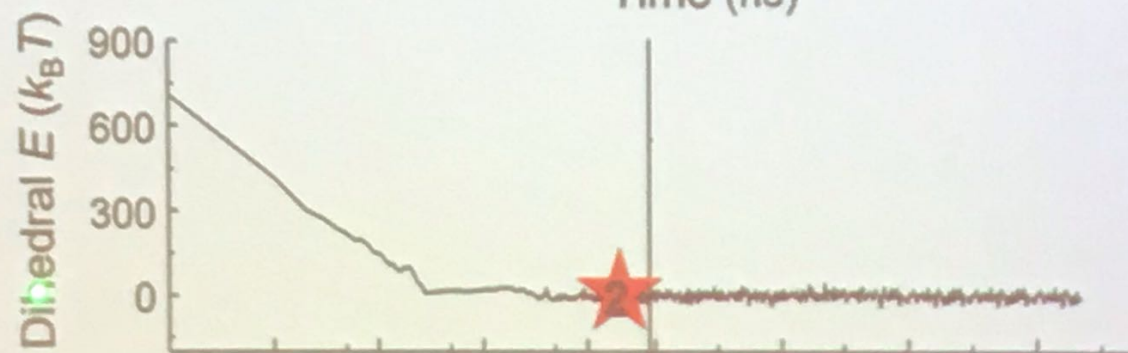
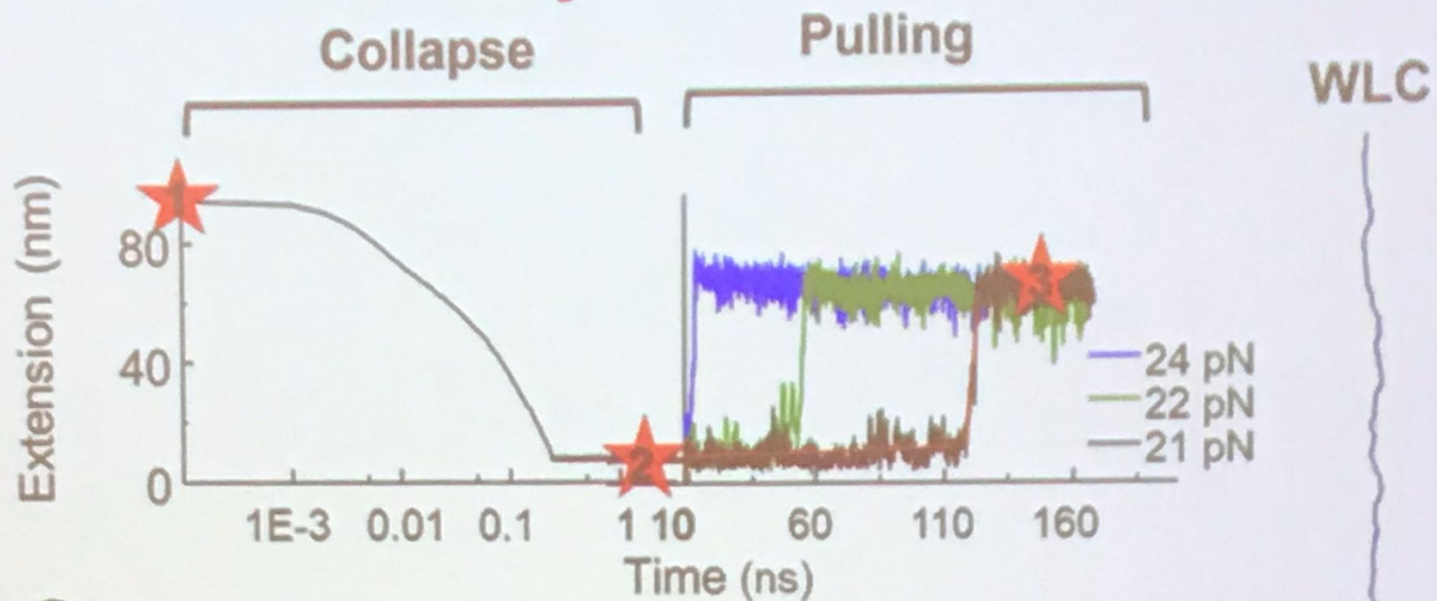
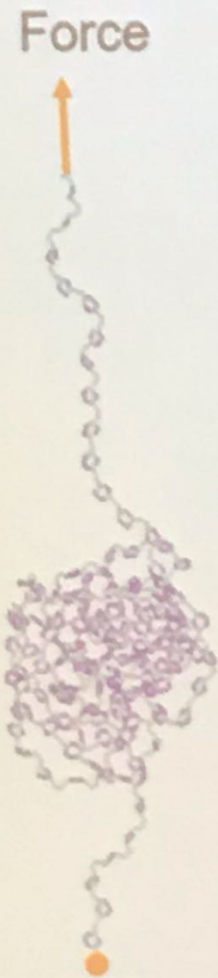
Built-in
torsional
strain
(artificial)



160 ns

Simulation: Torsional strain \rightarrow Hairball formation \rightarrow Unravels suddenly under force

Built-in
torsional strain
(artificial)

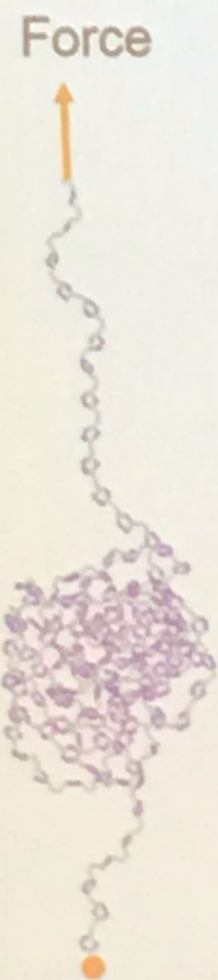


WLC

160 ns

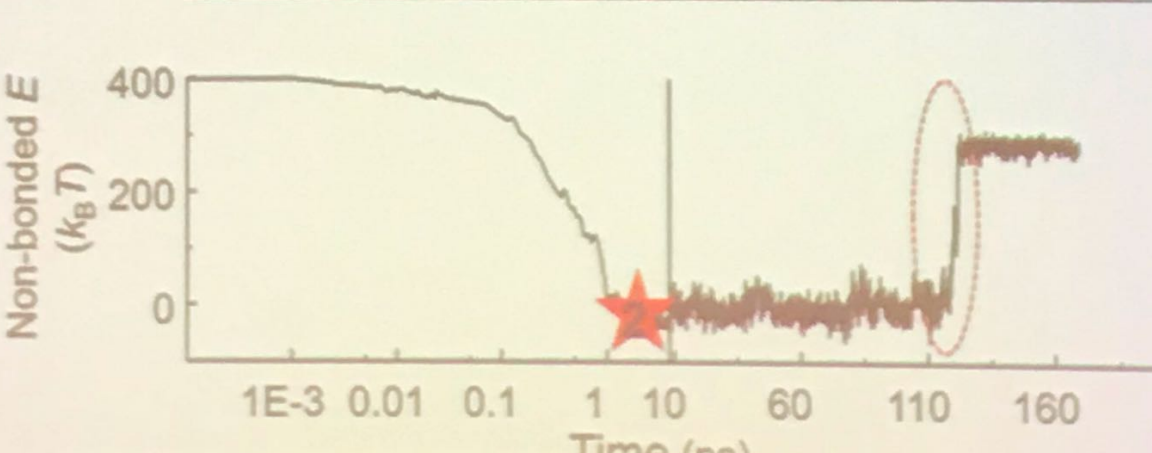
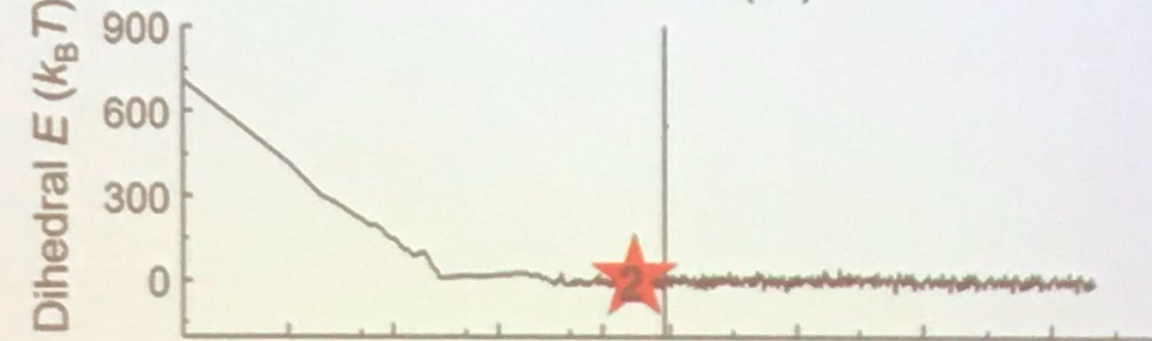
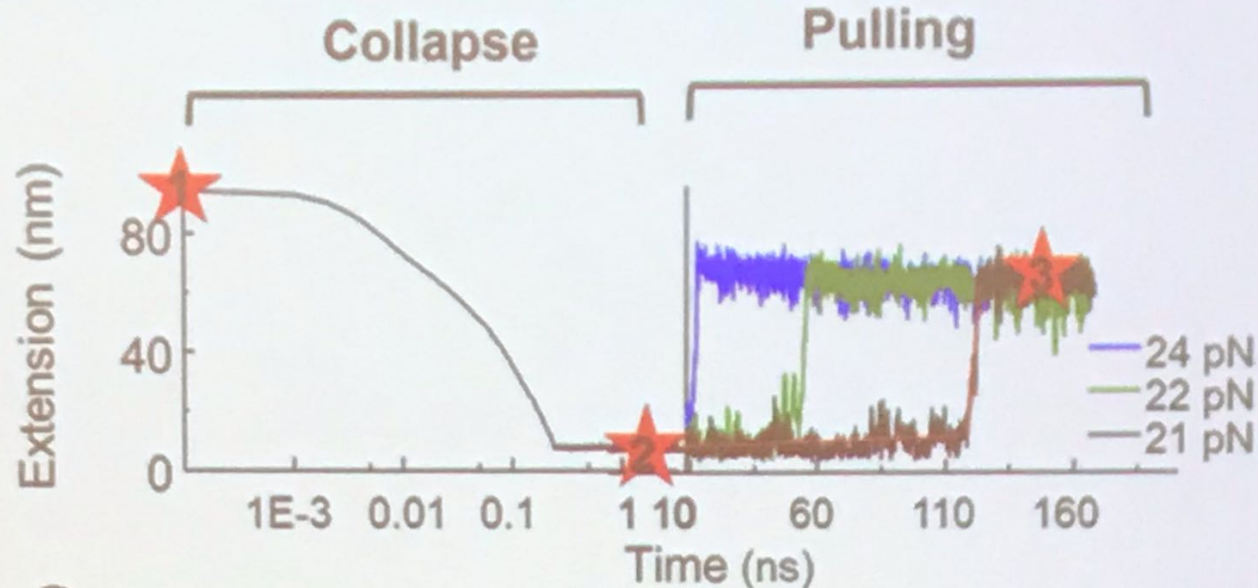
Simulation: Torsional strain \rightarrow Hairball formation \rightarrow Unravels suddenly under force

Built-in torsional strain (artificial)

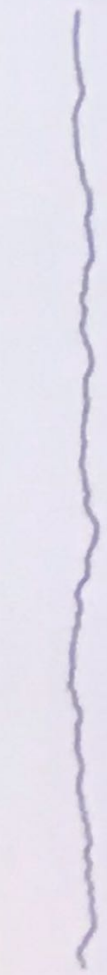


0 ns 2 ns

146 monomer

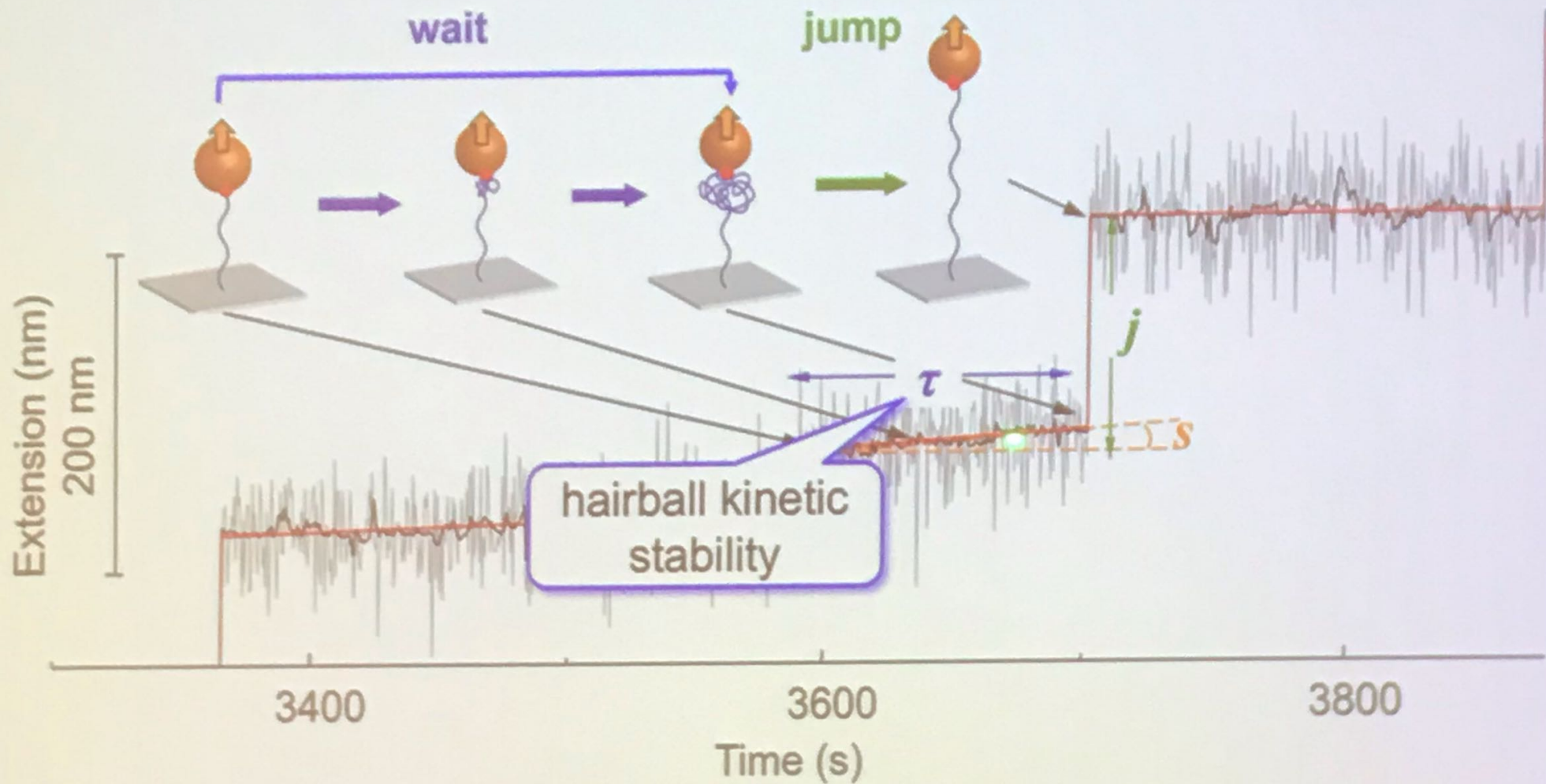


WLC

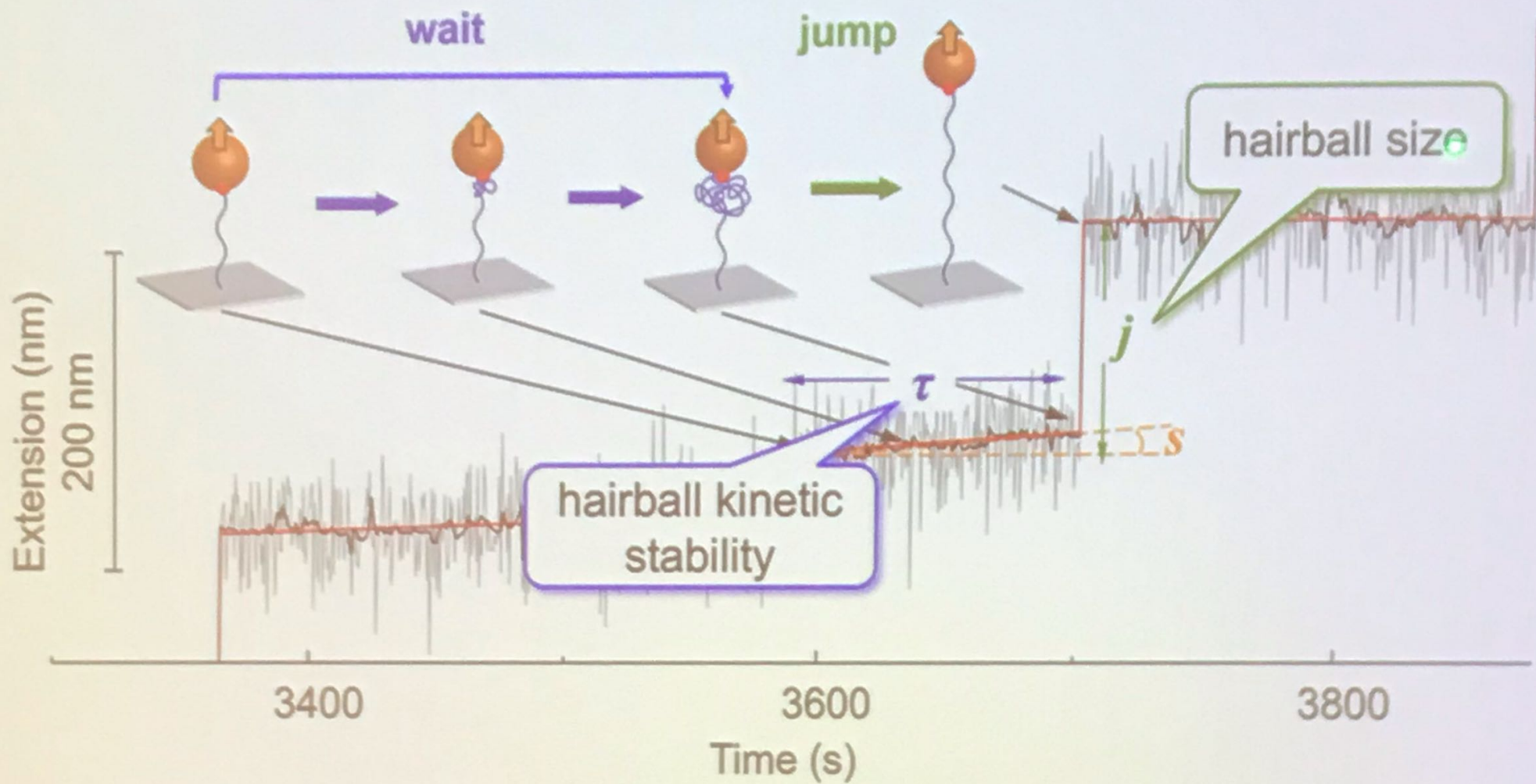


160 ns

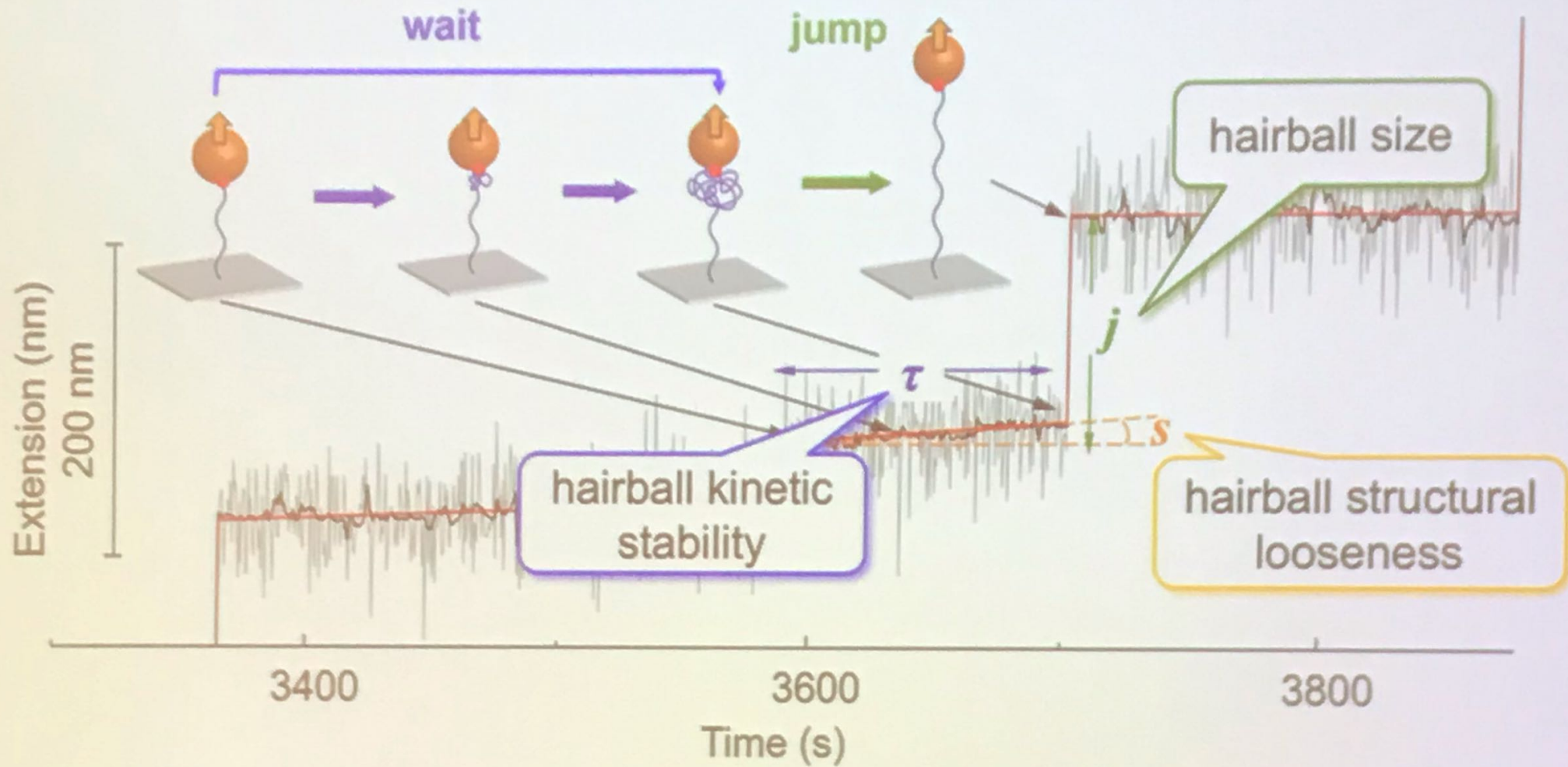
Hairball: Microscopic properties



Hairball: Microscopic properties

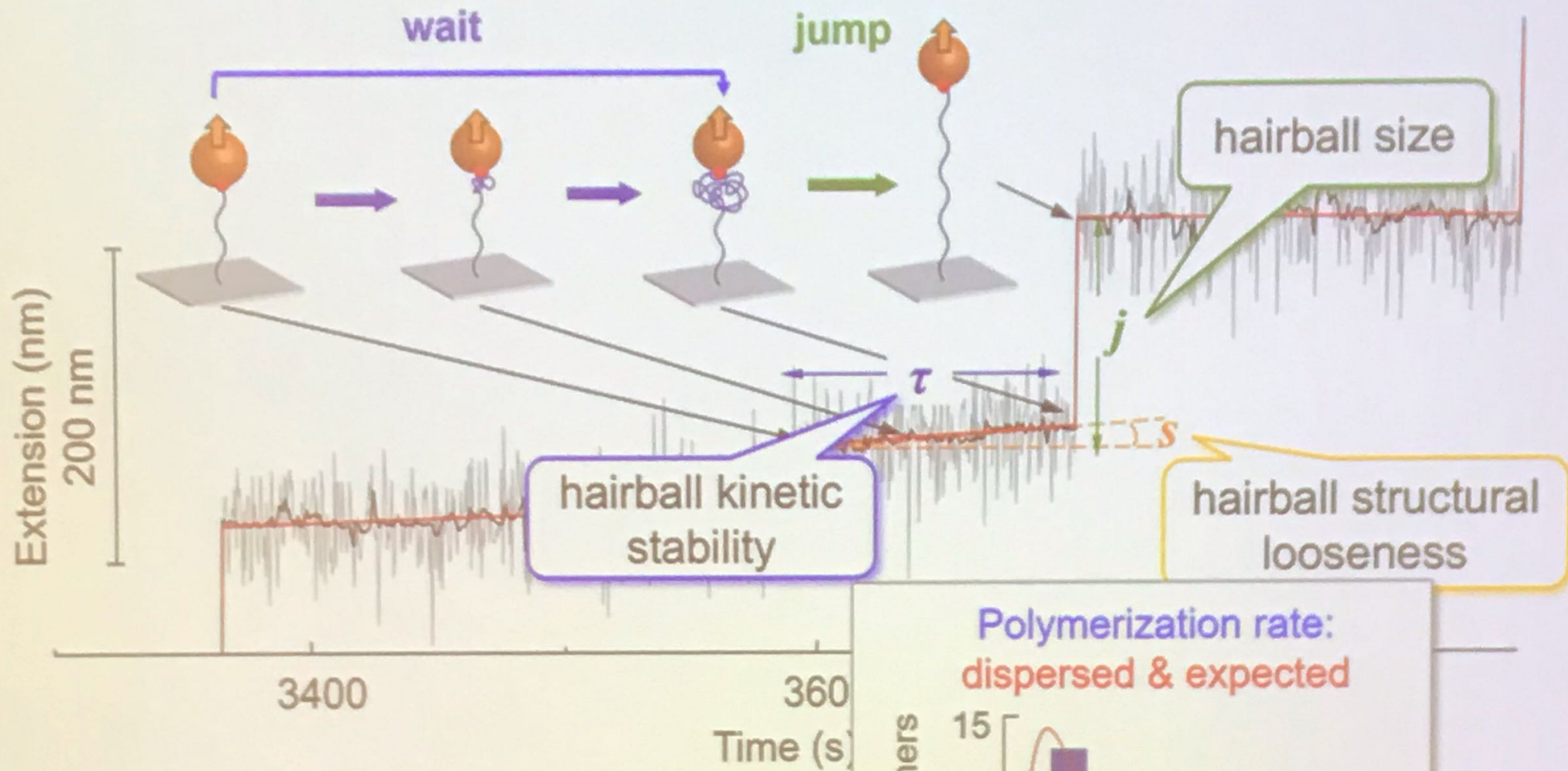


Hairball: Microscopic properties



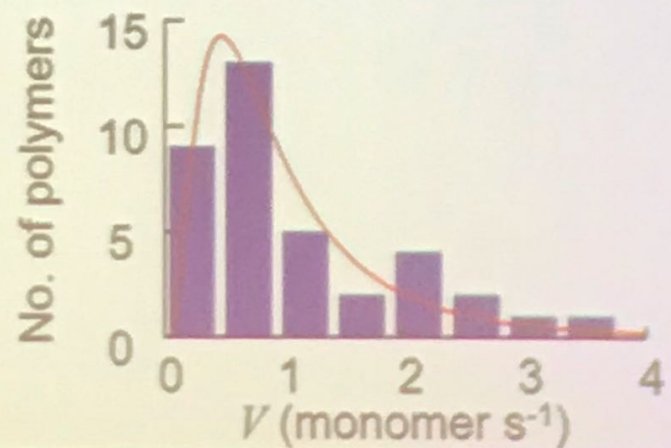
Micros. properties of hairballs \longleftrightarrow ? Polymerization rate of **EACH** polymer

Hairball: Microscopic properties



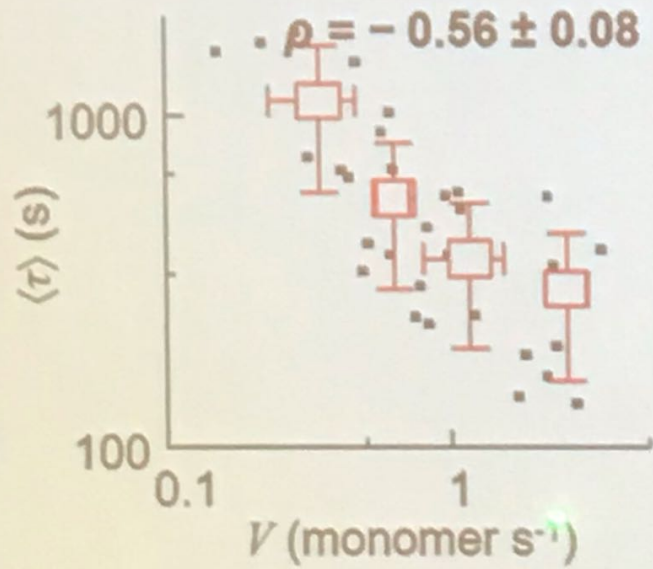
Micros. properties of hairballs \longleftrightarrow ? Polymerization rate of **EACH** polymer

Polymerization rate: dispersed & expected



Polymerization Kinetics \leftrightarrow Hairball Micro. Properties

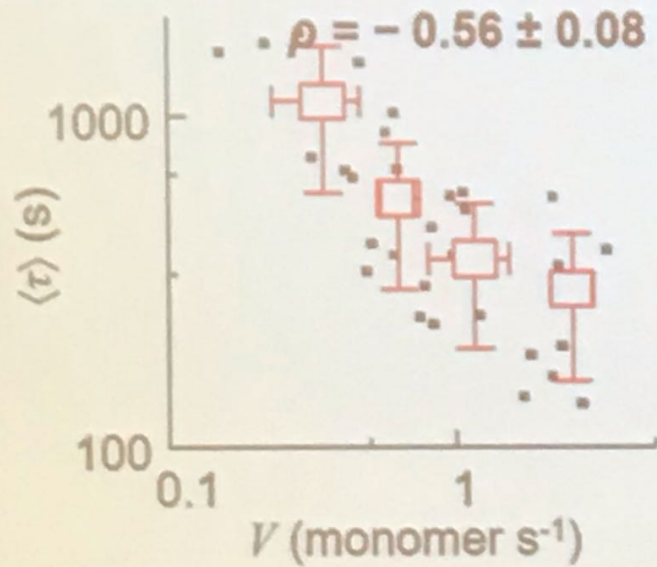
$V \leftrightarrow \langle \text{Waiting time} \rangle$
(kinetic stability)



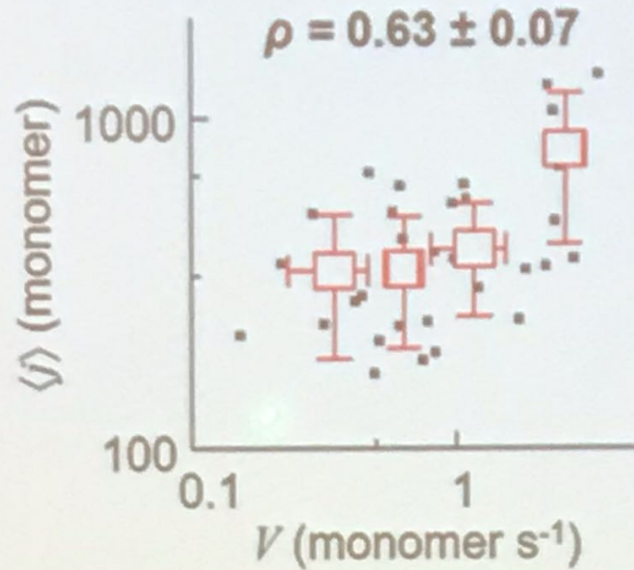
Faster $V \leftrightarrow$ Less stable hairball

Polymerization Kinetics \leftrightarrow Hairball Micro. Properties

$V \leftrightarrow \langle \tau \rangle$
(kinetic stability)



$V \leftrightarrow \langle j \rangle$
(hairball size)

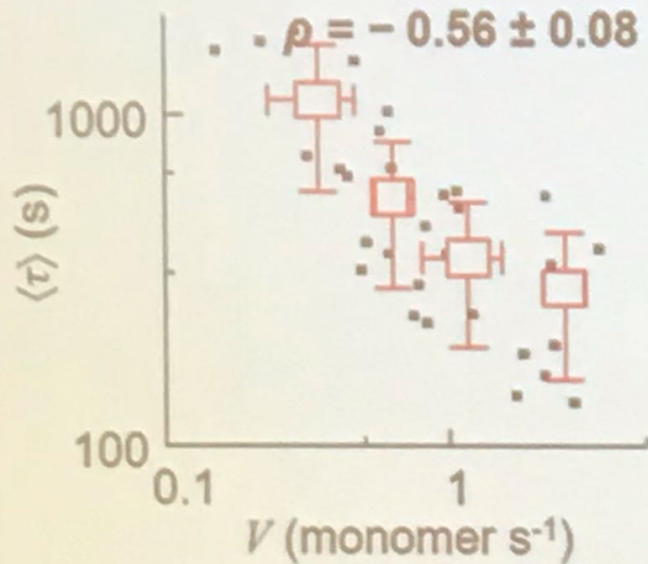


Faster $V \leftrightarrow$ Less stable hairball

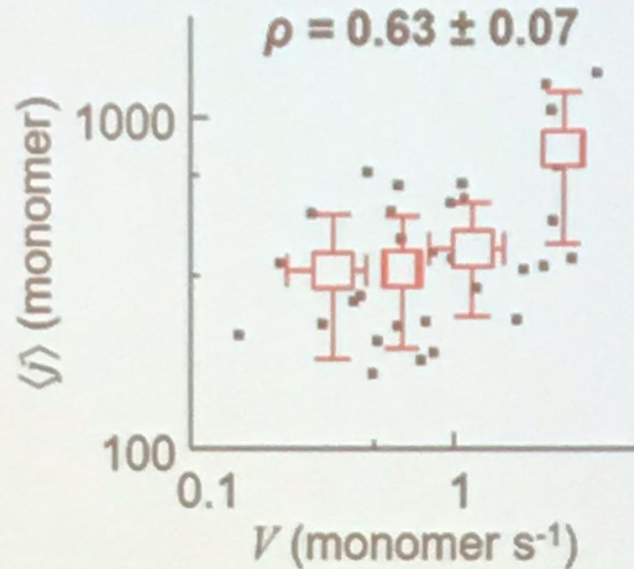
\leftrightarrow Larger hairballs

Polymerization Kinetics \leftrightarrow Hairball Micro. Properties

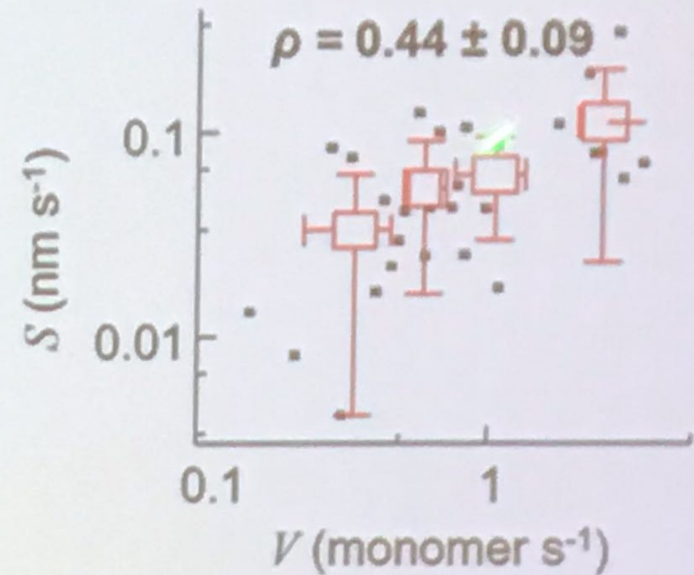
$V \leftrightarrow \langle \text{Waiting time} \rangle$
(kinetic stability)



$V \leftrightarrow \langle \text{jump length} \rangle$
(hairball size)



$V \leftrightarrow \langle \text{slope} \rangle$
(structural looseness)



Faster $V \leftrightarrow$ Less stable hairball

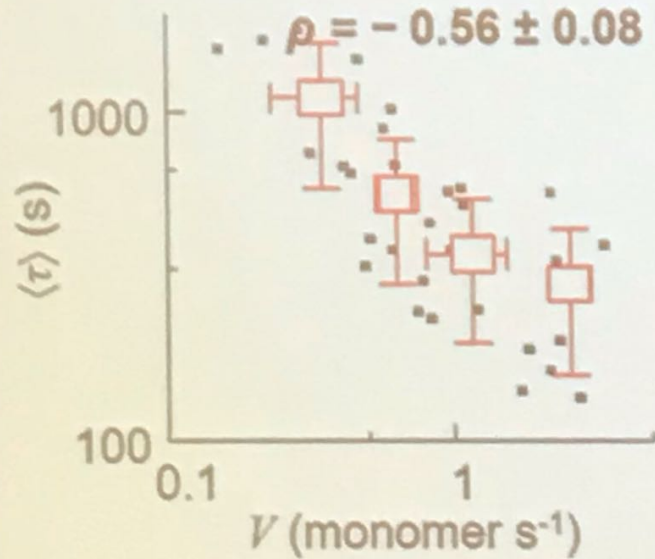
\leftrightarrow Larger hairballs

\leftrightarrow Looser hairballs

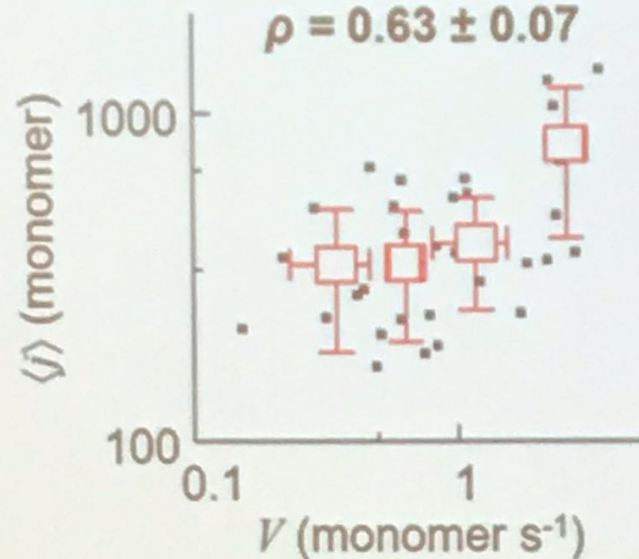
\Rightarrow Configurations of
hairballs control
polymerization rate

Polymerization Kinetics \leftrightarrow Hairball Micro. Properties

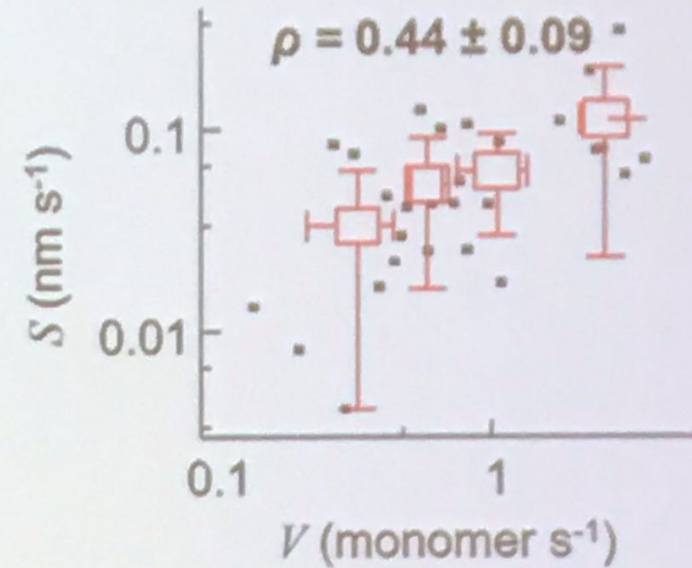
$V \leftrightarrow \langle \tau \rangle$ (Waiting time)
(kinetic stability)



$V \leftrightarrow \langle j \rangle$ (jump length)
(hairball size)



$V \leftrightarrow \langle S \rangle$ (slope)
(structural looseness)

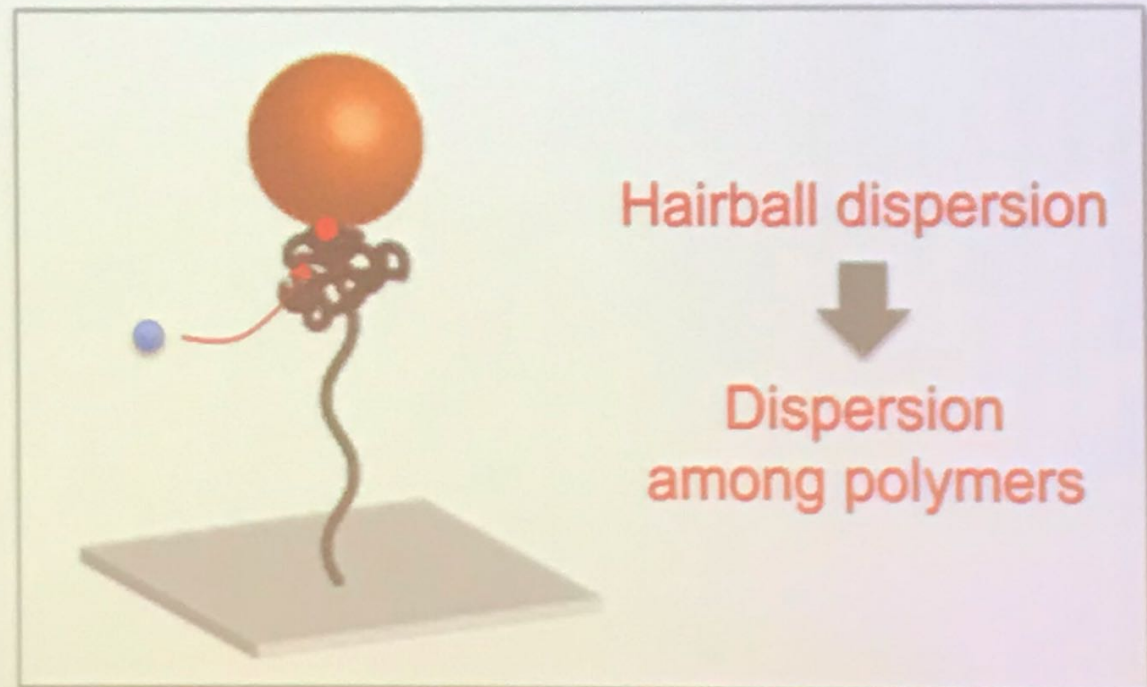


Faster $V \leftrightarrow$ Less stable hairball

\leftrightarrow Larger hairballs

\leftrightarrow Looser hairballs

\Rightarrow Configurations of hairballs control polymerization rate

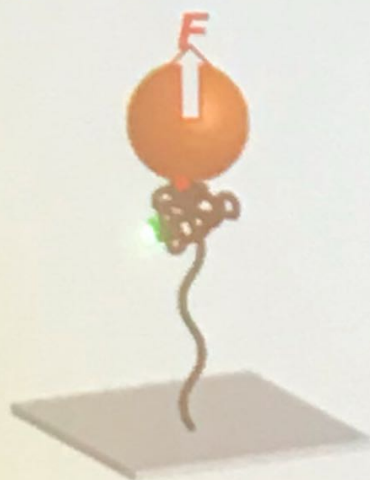


Hairball dispersion

Dispersion among polymers

Broad relevance: Non-equil. conform. entanglements

Living polymerization in free solution

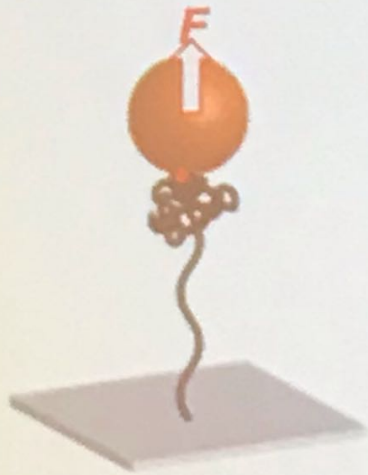


free
solution?

- Hairball more likely
- Bigger role in affecting kinetics
- Can we manipulate hairball formation to alter kinetics and dispersion (e.g., shear flow?)

Broad relevance: Non-equil. conform. entanglements

Living polymerization in free solution

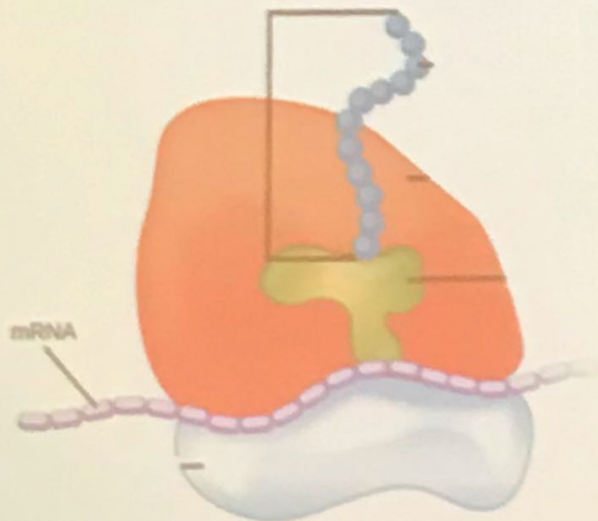


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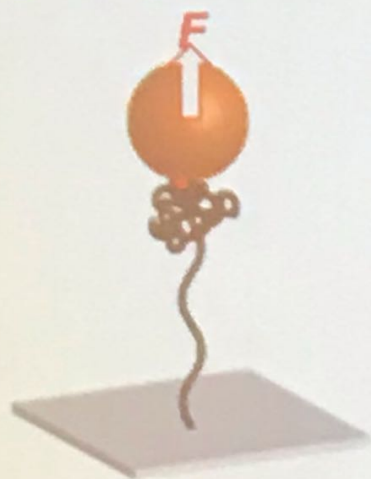
Living bio-polymerization

Protein synthesis



Broad relevance: Non-equil. conform. entanglements

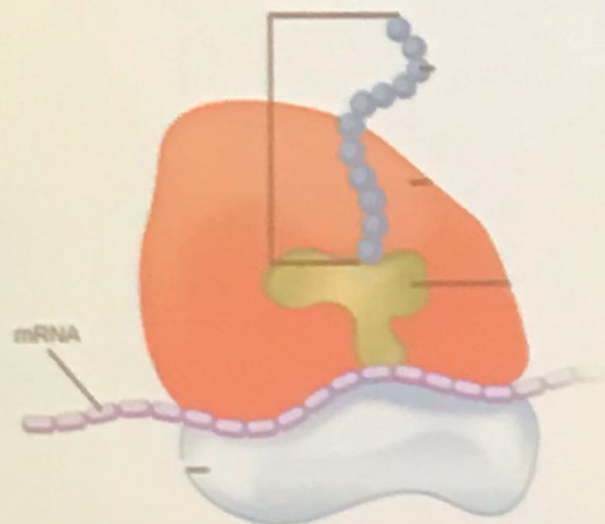
Living polymerization in free solution



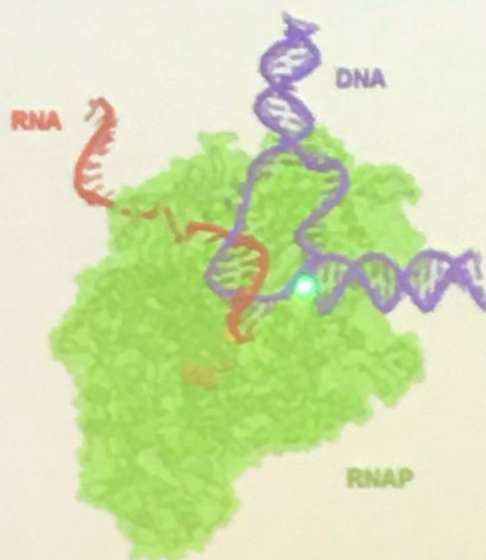
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Living bio-polymerization

Protein synthesis

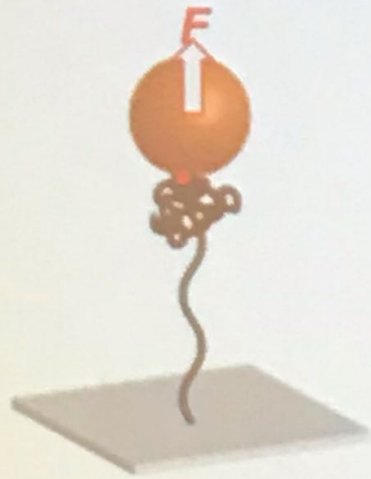


RNA synthesis



Broad relevance: Non-equil. conform. entanglements

Living polymerization in free solution

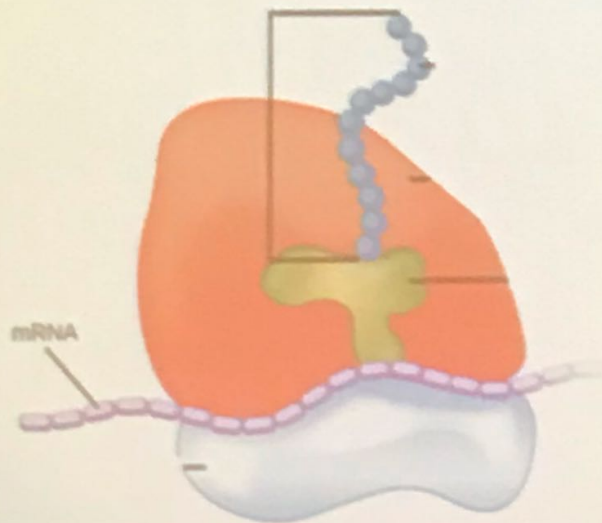


free
solution?

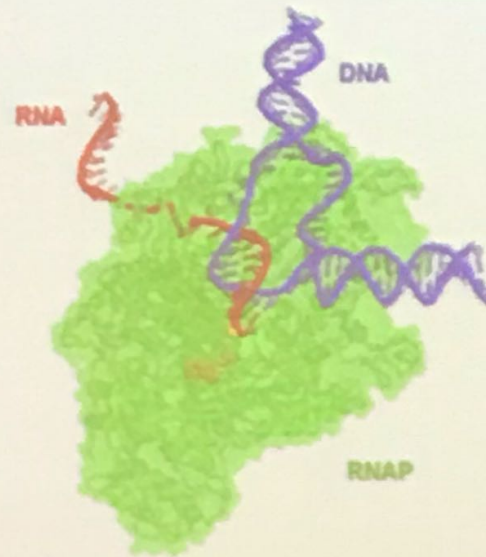
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Living bio-polymerization

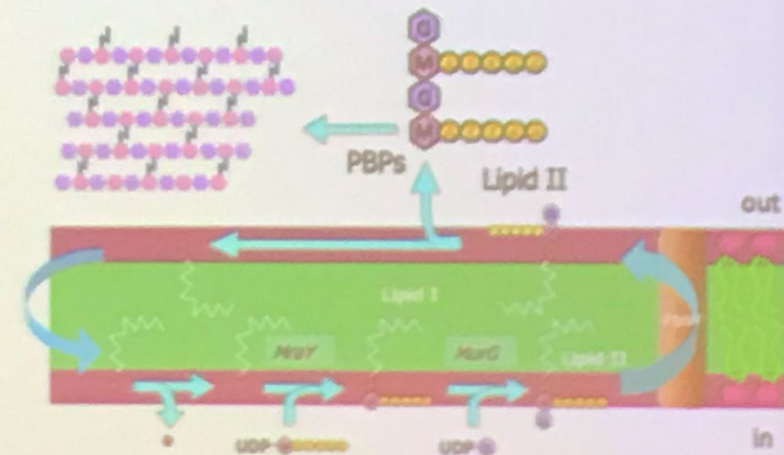
Protein synthesis



RNA synthesis

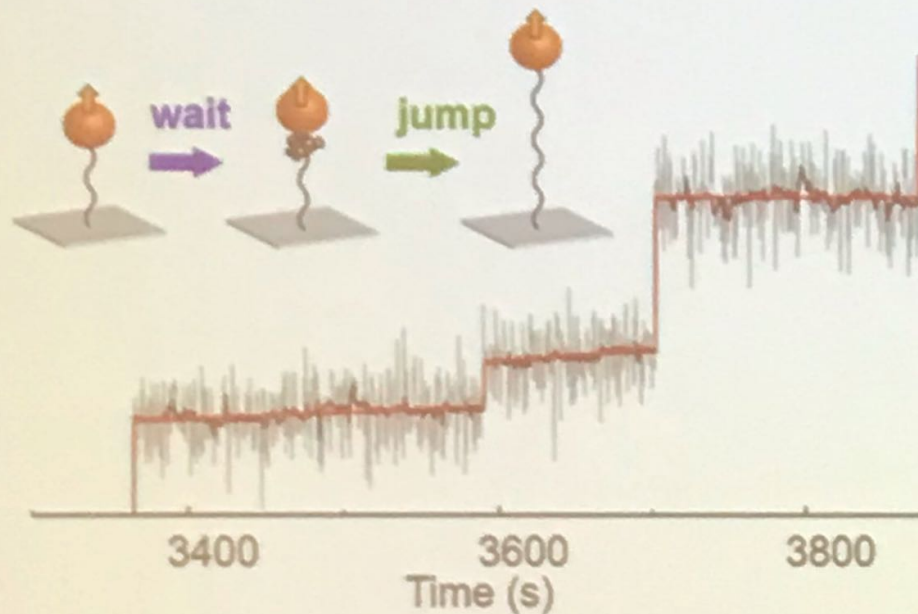


Polysaccharide synthesis



Summary: Single-polymer growth dynamics

MT → Real-time visualization of single-polymer growth



- Discovery of nonequilibrium conformational entanglements
→ step-wise extension
- Entanglement controls polymerization rate and contributes to dispersion
- Broad relevance: Living (bio)polymerization

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