

# X-ray Illumination in Solar Energy Conversion: Highlights of ANSER EFRC Work at the APS

## Argonne-Northwestern Solar Energy Research (ANSER) Center

**David M. Tiede**  
**Chemical Sciences and Engineering Division**  
**Argonne National Laboratory**



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY



<http://www.ANSERCenter.org>



# ANSER Center Institutions



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY



CSE:  
*Chen, Poluektov, Tiede*  
MSD:  
*Elam, Martinson, Pellin*  
CNM  
*Wiederrecht*



Yale University



27 PI's Total

The ANSER Center joins established strengths at Northwestern University and Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) with those of senior personnel at Yale University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Chicago (UC) in molecular and nanostructured assemblies, materials, catalysts, and phenomena integral to solar energy conversion and storage.

# ANSER Research Subtasks

## Subtask 1

*Bio-inspired **Molecular Materials for Solar Fuels***

Tiede, Ratner

Batista, Brudvig, Crabtree,  
Rauchfuss, Stupp, Wasielewski

## Subtask 2

*Interface Science for **Organic Photovoltaics***

Marks, Chen

Chang, Freeman, Hersam, Mason,  
Poepelmeier, Poluektov, Yu



## Subtask 3

***Nanostructured Architectures for Photovoltaic and Solar Fuels Energy Conversion***

Hupp, Kanatzidis

Pellin, Elam, Martinson, Schatz,  
Odom, Wiederrecht

## Develop a Fundamental Understanding of

- the interaction of light and charge with molecules and materials
- the energy levels and electronic structures of molecules and materials
- the dynamics of photoinduced charge generation, separation, and transport with unparalleled temporal and spatial resolution
- the interfaces at which charge generation, separation, transport, and selective chemical reactions occur
- the properties of unique materials, from self-assembling, bio-inspired materials for hydrogen fuel production from water to transparent conductors and nanostructured hard and soft materials for solar electricity generation.

# Unique ANSER Center Identity

- **ANSER Center research is noted for placing a strong emphasis on combining cutting-edge time-resolved spectroscopic and structural techniques, e.g. x-ray, laser, EPR, to understand the mechanistic details of solar energy conversion to both *fuels and electricity*.**
- **This is made possible by ANSER's unique personnel portfolio, which includes a critical mass of researchers with strong backgrounds in both structure and spectroscopy as well as synthesis and materials fabrication.**
- **The ANSER Center focuses on both solar *fuels and electricity* using complementary approaches that provide solutions for both technologies.**
- **The ANSER Center focuses on multiple, hierarchical approaches to these problems with the goal of providing a fundamental science support base for DOE's Energy Innovation Hub, JCAP.**

# APS in ANSER Research

## Subtask 1

### Bio-inspired **Molecular Materials for Solar Fuels**

Tiede, Ratner

Batista, Brudvig, Crabtree,  
Rauchfuss, Stupp, Wasielecki

#### Focus:

- Light-driven transition metal catalysis
- Time-resolved

**X-ray spectroscopy (XANES, XAFS)**  
**X-ray scattering (HEXS-PDF)**



## Subtask 2

### Interface Science for **Organic Photovoltaics**

Marks, Chen

Chen, Hersam, Mason,  
Muektov, Yu

#### Focus:

- Light-driven charge separation
- Thin film materials, interfaces

**Grazing incidence X-ray scattering (GISAXS)**

## Subtask 3

### **Nanostructured Architectures for Photovoltaic and Solar Fuels**

*Energy Conversion*

Hupp, Kanatzidis

Pellin, Elam, Martinson, Schatz,  
Odom, Wiederrecht

# Subtask 1: Bio-inspired Molecular Materials for Solar Fuels

Subtask 1 Leaders: David Tiede (ANL) and Mark Ratner (NU)

## Subtask 1 Members:

**Gary Brudvig & Bob Crabtree (Yale)**

⇒ design, synthesis & characterization of water-oxidation catalysts

**Tom Rauchfuss (UIUC)**

⇒ design, synthesis & characterization of proton-reduction catalysts

**Victor Batista (Yale) & Mark Ratner (NU)**

⇒ theoretical characterization

**Sam Stupp & Mike Wasielewski (NU)**

⇒ self-assembly of light-harvesting and catalytic modules

⇒ develop light-harvesting & charge separation modules wired to catalysts

**Lin Chen, Oleg Poluektov & David Tiede (ANL)**

□ spectroscopic and structural characterization



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY



## Scope of work:

- Homogeneous: molecular, solution
- Inhomogeneous: thin films

## Experiment:

### Water-oxidation catalysts: e- source, O<sub>2</sub> evolving

- Ir-Cp\* complexes solution (Crabtree, Brudvig groups, Yale)
- Ir-oxide electrode films (Crabtree, Brudvig groups, Yale)
- 1<sup>st</sup> row transition complex models (Crabtree, Brudvig groups, Yale)

### Water-reduction catalysts: H<sub>2</sub> fuel evolving

- Fe-Fe hydrogenase mimics (Rauchfuss group, UIUC)
- Co-Cp complexes (Rauchfuss group, UIUC)
- “Dubois” Ni catalysts (Tiede, ANL and Wasielewski group, NU)

### Hierarchical assemblies: i.e., linked to light

- Photosensitizer-catalyst assemblies (Wasielewski group, Subtask 1)
- Semiconductor-catalyst/photosensitizer (Yale group, Subtask 3)

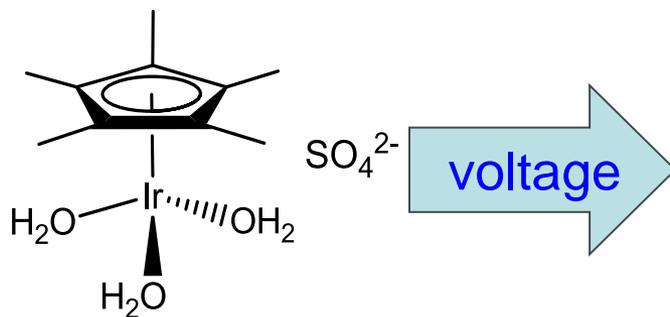
## Theory:

- Use of X-ray structural data for testing/development of coordinate models (Batista, Yale)

# Example: Characterization Ir-oxide Blue Layer Catalyst Film

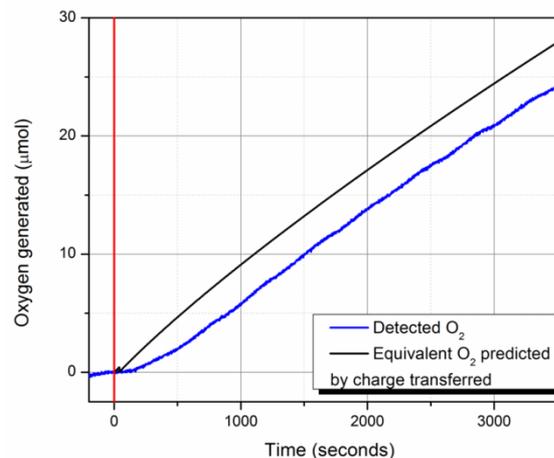
J. Blakemore, R. Crabtree, G. Brudvig, Yale University

Solution  
 Precursors



Highly active water-  
 splitting catalyst  
 amorphous film  
 (\$0.45 per ft<sup>2</sup>!)

Faradaic yield of O<sub>2</sub> is ~ 100%



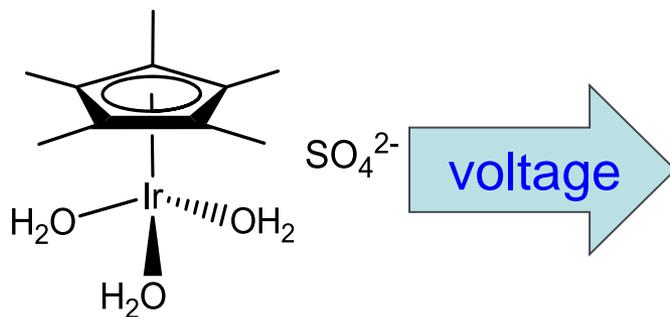
Same slope:  
 stoichiometric  
 oxygen evolution

Best O<sub>2</sub> catalyst  
 to-date

# Example: Characterization Ir-oxide Blue Layer Catalyst Film

J. Blakemore, R. Crabtree, G. Brudvig, Yale University

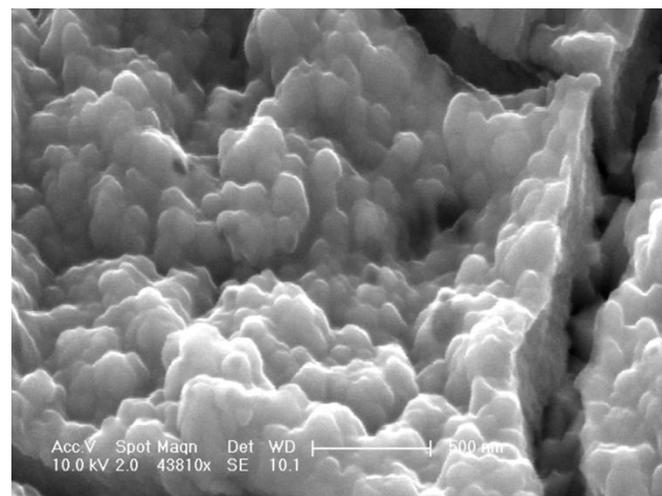
Solution  
 Precursors



Highly active water-  
 splitting catalyst  
 amorphous film  
 (\$0.45 per ft<sup>2</sup>!)

SEM:

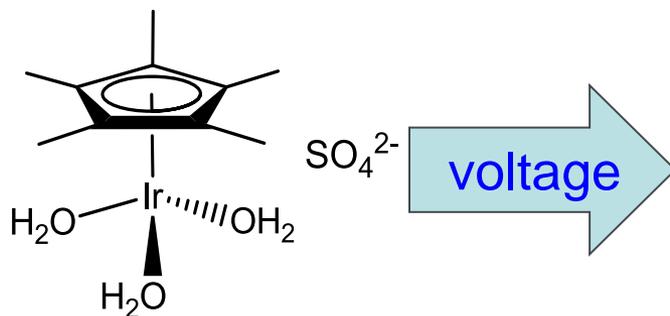
- *Amorphous*
- *Insoluble film*
- *Difficult to characterize*
- *Reoccurring motif:  
 “heterogenized” solar  
 catalyst films*



# Example: Characterization Ir-oxide Blue Layer Catalyst Film

J. Blakemore, R. Crabtree, G. Brudvig, Yale University

Solution  
 Precursors



Highly active water-  
 splitting catalyst  
 amorphous film  
 (\$0.45 per ft<sup>2</sup>!)

## Mechanistic questions:

- What is this film?
- How did it form?
- How and why does it work so well?
- **Can concepts here be used for development of 1<sup>st</sup> row transition metal catalysts?** (feedback to cat. synthesis: Yale, UIUC, NU)

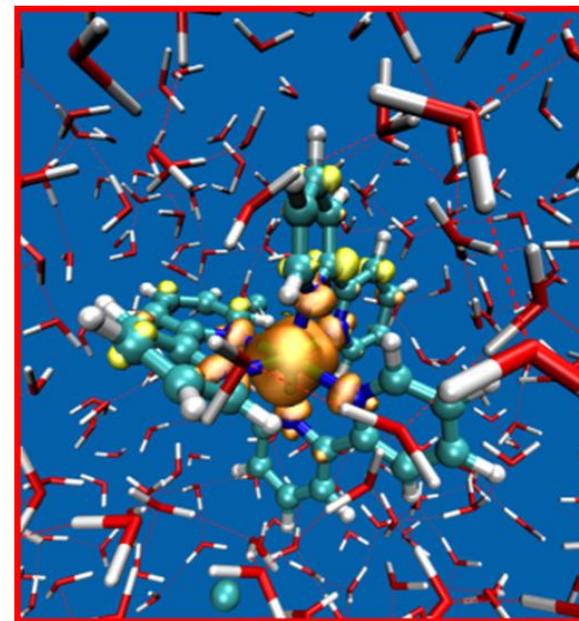
## Approach: Multiple length-scale, *in-situ* Structure Characterization:

- a) X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) and fine structure (XAFS)- Lin Chen
  - Metal atom oxidation state
  - Electronic structure
  - Inner sphere atomic structure
  
- b) High Energy X-ray Scattering (HEXS) and Pair Distribution Function (PDF) Analyses- D. Tiede
  - Inner and outer sphere atomic structures
  - Ensemble structure
  - Solvent interactions

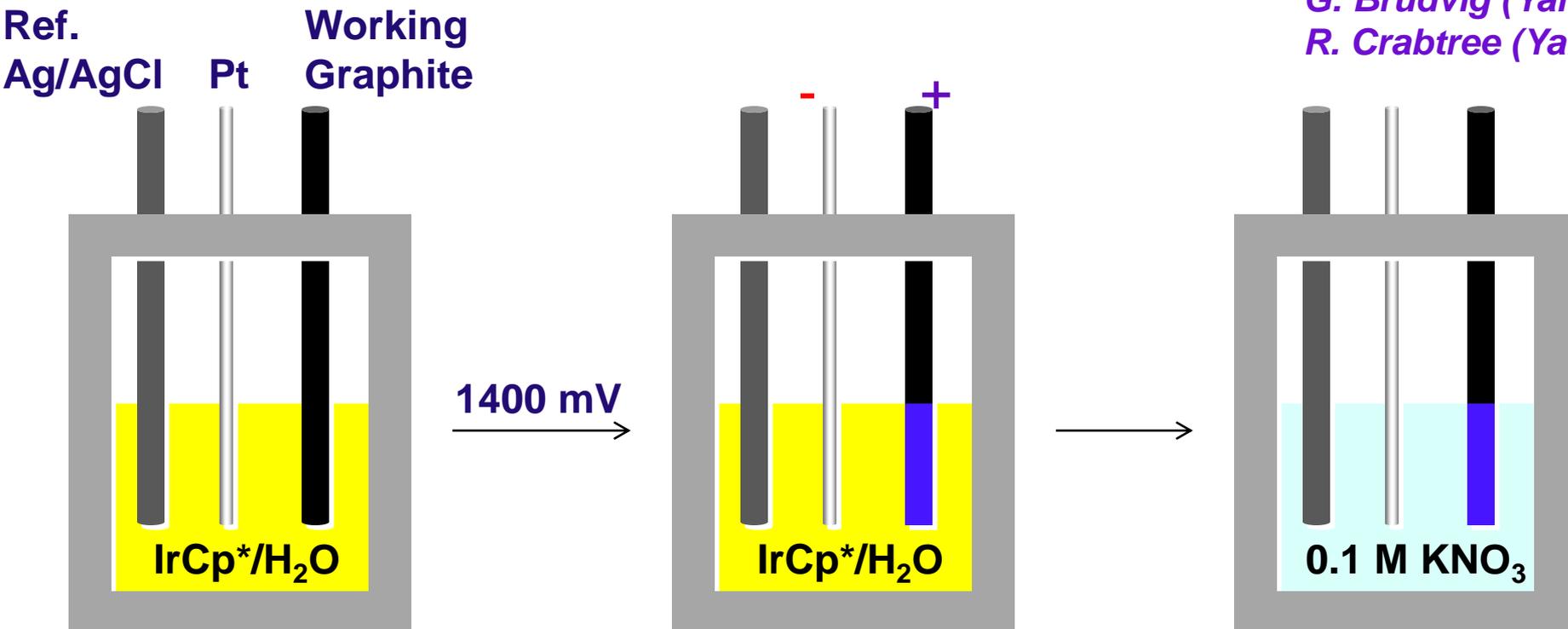
## Combination:

- Enables Multiple Length-Scale Structure Characterization
- Relate *in-situ* structure to catalysis → mechanism, design
- Extendable to pump-probe time-resolved:
  - follow the trail: electron transfer, structure, function

Multi-Scale addressed theoretically



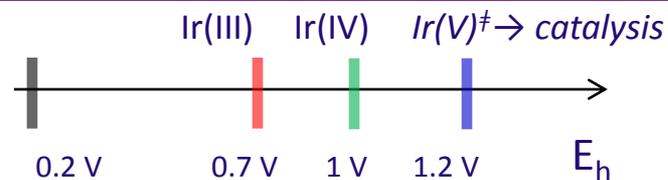
QM-MM/MD model  $[\text{Fe}(\text{bpy})_3]^{+2}$  in water  
Daku and Hauser, JPC. Lett. (2010) 1:1830



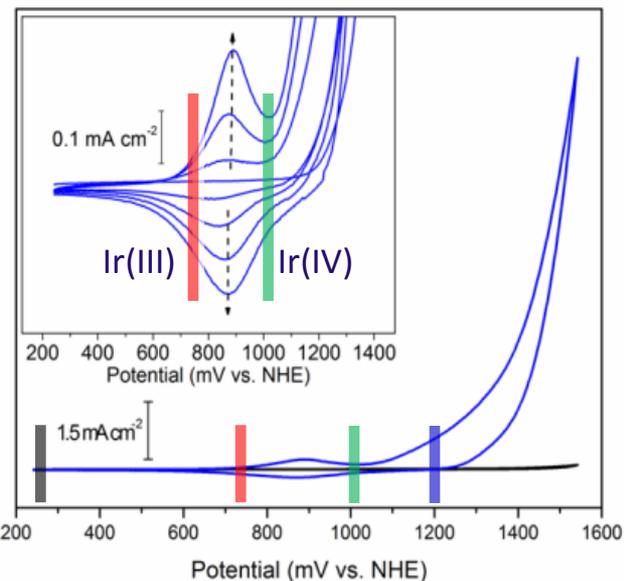
- IrCp\* precursor was electrodeposited onto the graphite working electrode at 1.4 V
- Precursor solution was replaced with 0.1 M KNO<sub>3</sub> solution and film structure was varied as a function of applied voltage

# Metal-centered structure change linked to catalysis

M. Mara (NU)  
 J. Huang (ANL)  
 L. Chen (ANL-NU)  
*J. Blakemore (Yale)*  
*G. Brudvig (Yale)*  
*R. Crabtree (Yale)*

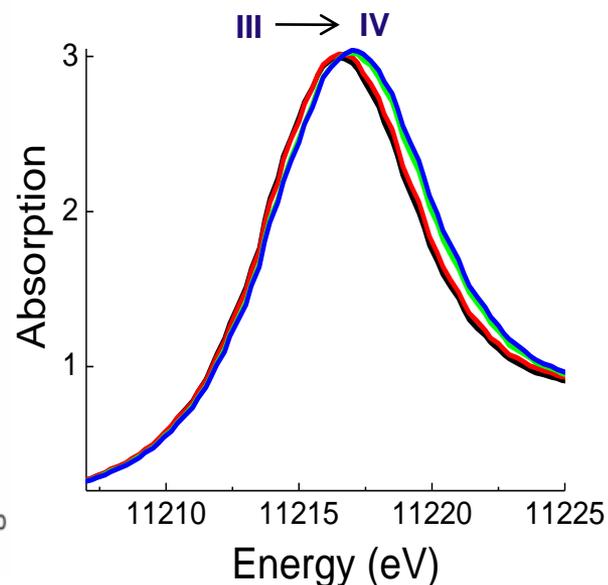


## E-chem



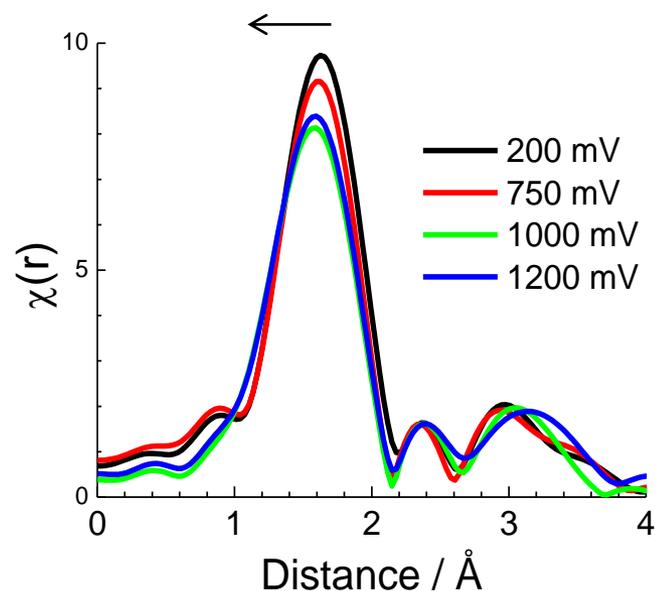
## XANES

5d L-edge absorption



## XAFS

Metal-center structure



Find:

- No accumulation of Ir(V) with on-set of catalysis
- Coordination structure change linked Ir(III) → Ir(IV) redox transition
- **CW echem technique not capture transition state(s) !**

# Voltage-Dependent Structural Changes

M. Mara (NU)  
 J. Huang (ANL)  
 L. Chen (ANL-NU)  
 J. Blakemore (Yale)  
 G. Brudvig (Yale)  
 R. Crabtree (Yale)

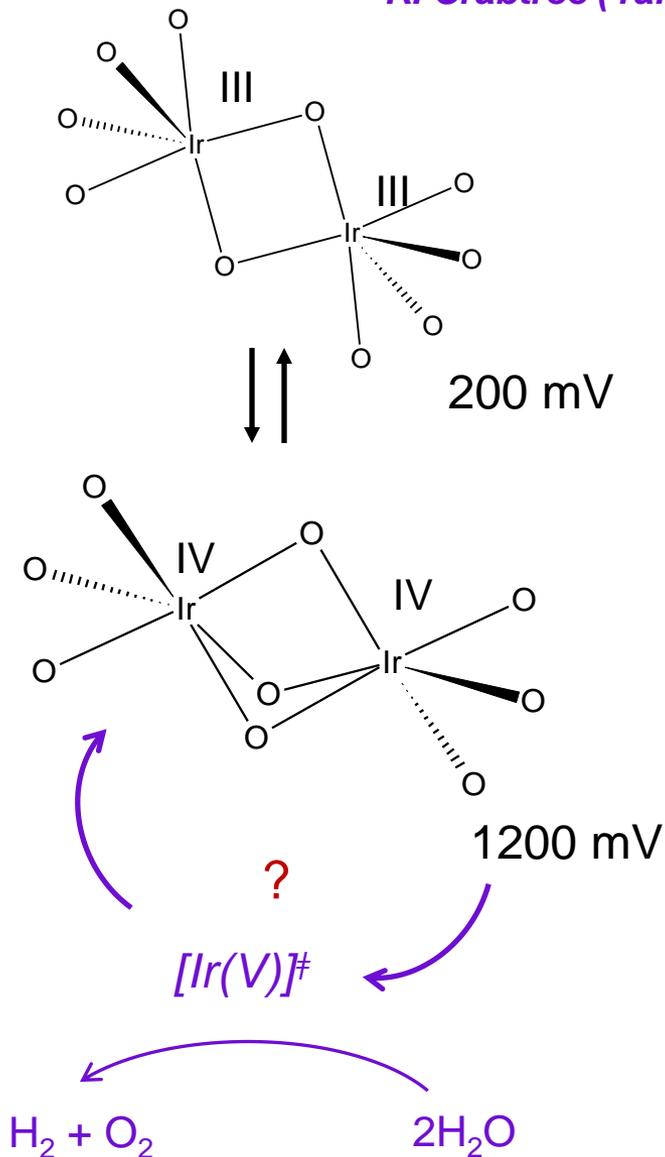
Oxidation state driven changes Ir(III)  $\rightarrow$  Ir(IV):

- Ir-O bridging and Ir-Ir distances decrease
- Ligand geometry: *di-to-tris- $\mu$ -oxo*

## Structural Parameters

	200 mV	1200 mV
Ir-O (bridging)	1.97 Å n = 2	1.94 Å n = 3
Ir-O (terminal)	2.11 Å n = 4	2.11 Å n = 3
Ir-Ir	3.02 Å	2.99 Å
Ir-O (outer)	3.81 Å	3.73 Å

- Metal-centered, inner sphere structure characterization

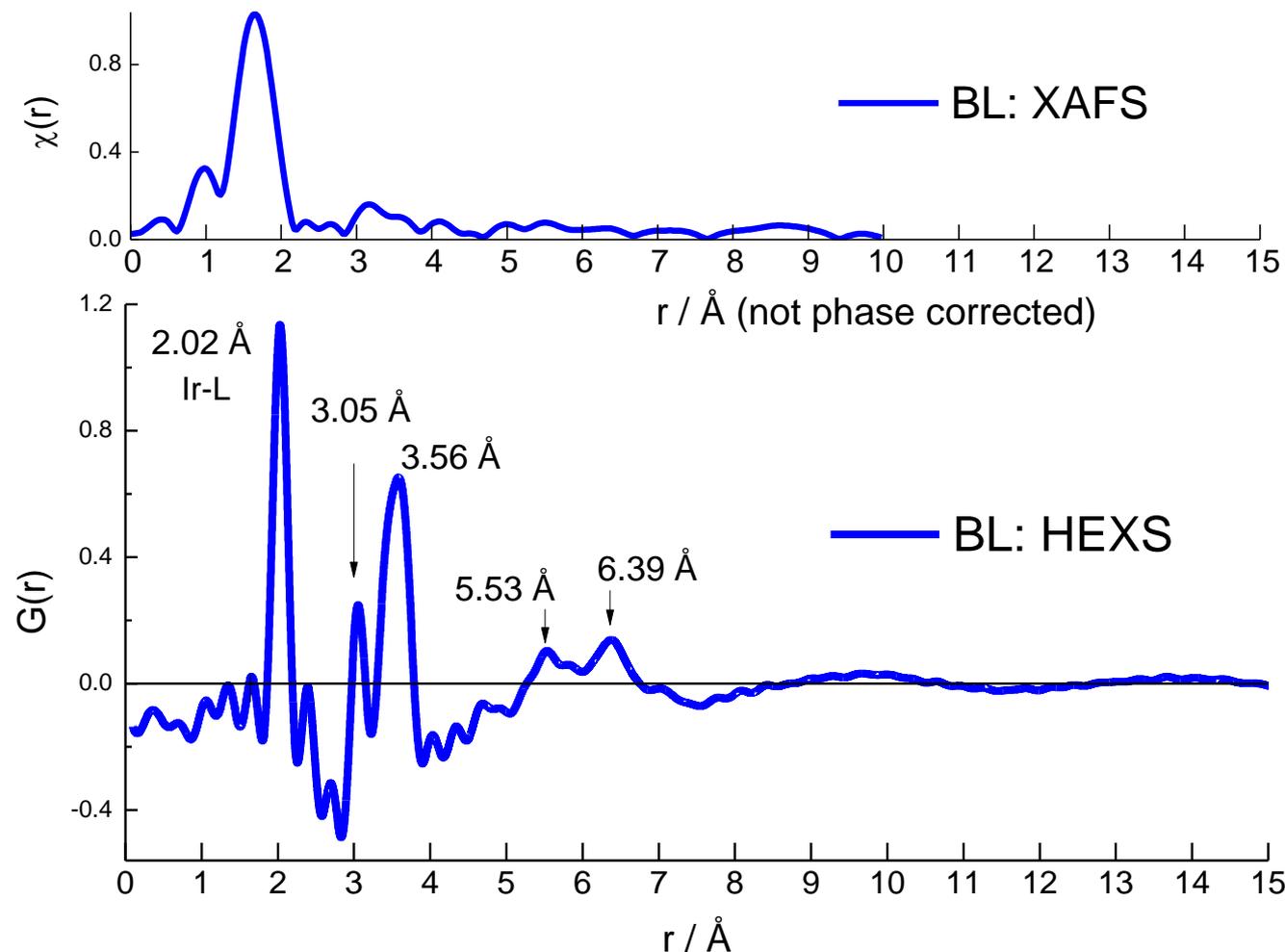


## High Energy X-ray Scattering (HEXS):

- 60 keV to 100 keV X-rays
  - *High energy synchrotron X-ray light sources (APS)*
- Offers highest resolution ( $d \sim 0.15 \text{ \AA}$ ) PDF analysis

**Pete Chupas**  
**Karina Chapman**  
**APS**  
**Beamline 11-ID-B**

# Characterization of multi-scale structure in BL: HEXS-PDF



## XAFS:

- Metal-centered, exclusive
- Distance phase (path) sensitive

## HEXS:

- All atom
- Distance phase (path) independent
- Multi-scale 0.1 Å to 100s nm

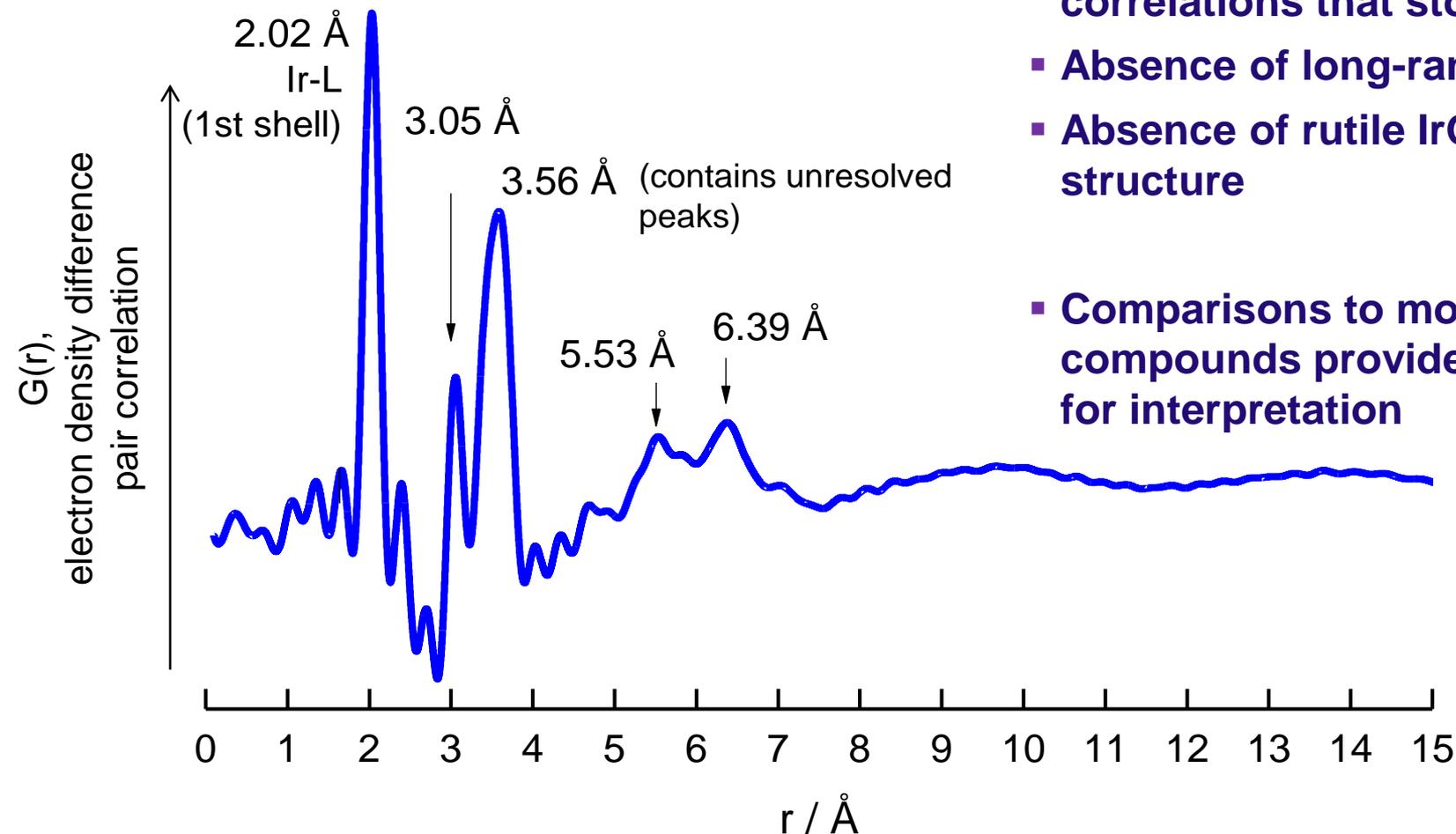
## Combination:

- Two independent direct measures of structure
- Two different “selection” rules (*i.e.*, complementary information)
- Enhanced resolution of structure

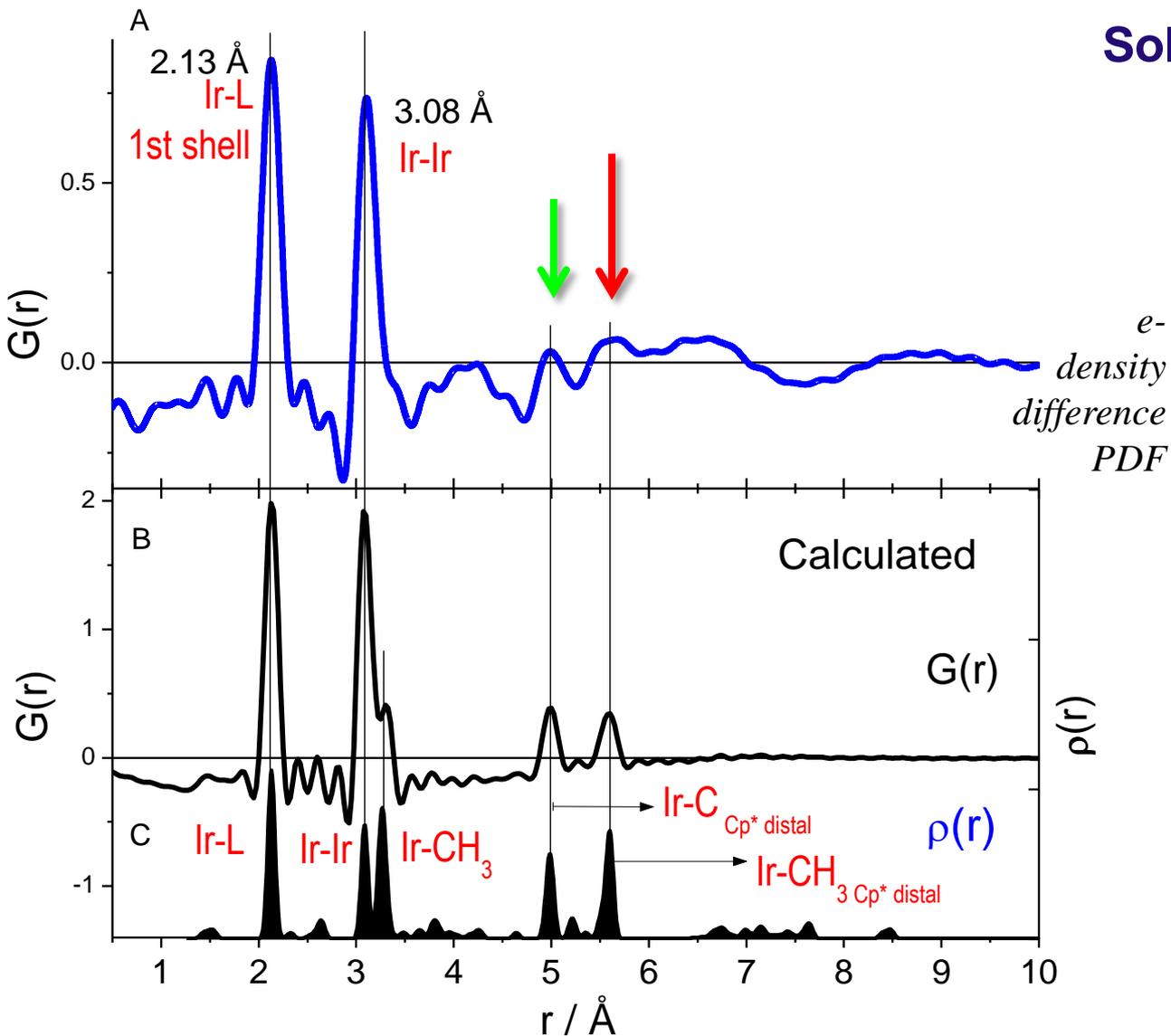
- **ANSER taking lead in developing combined XAFS/HEXS analyses approaches for solar fuels catalysts**

## BL HEXS:

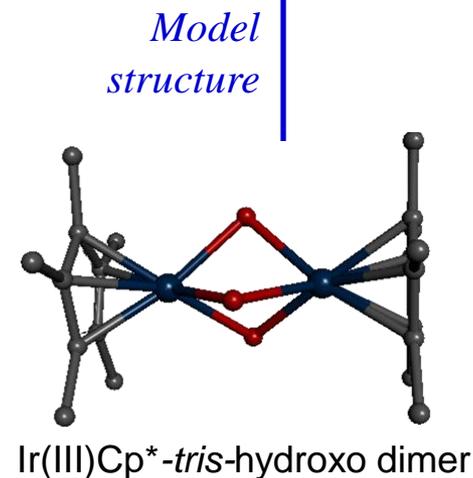
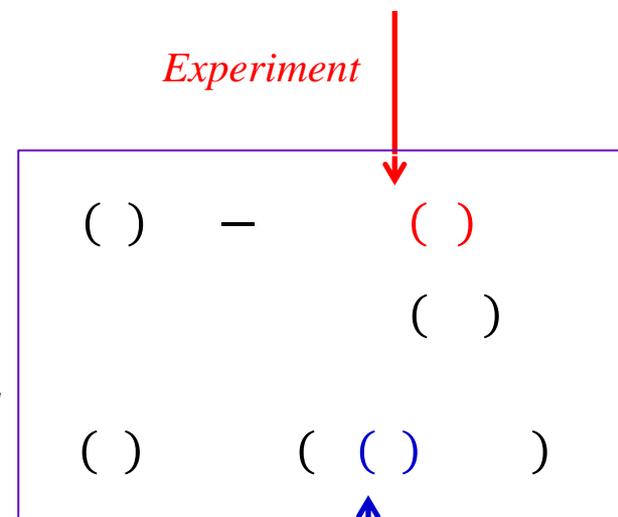
- Distinct pattern of pair correlations that stop by 7 Å.
- Absence of long-range order
- Absence of rutile  $\text{IrO}_2$  structure
- Comparisons to model compounds provide guide for interpretation



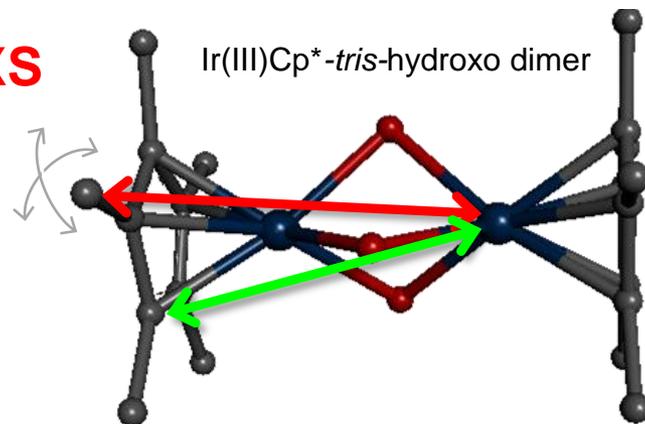
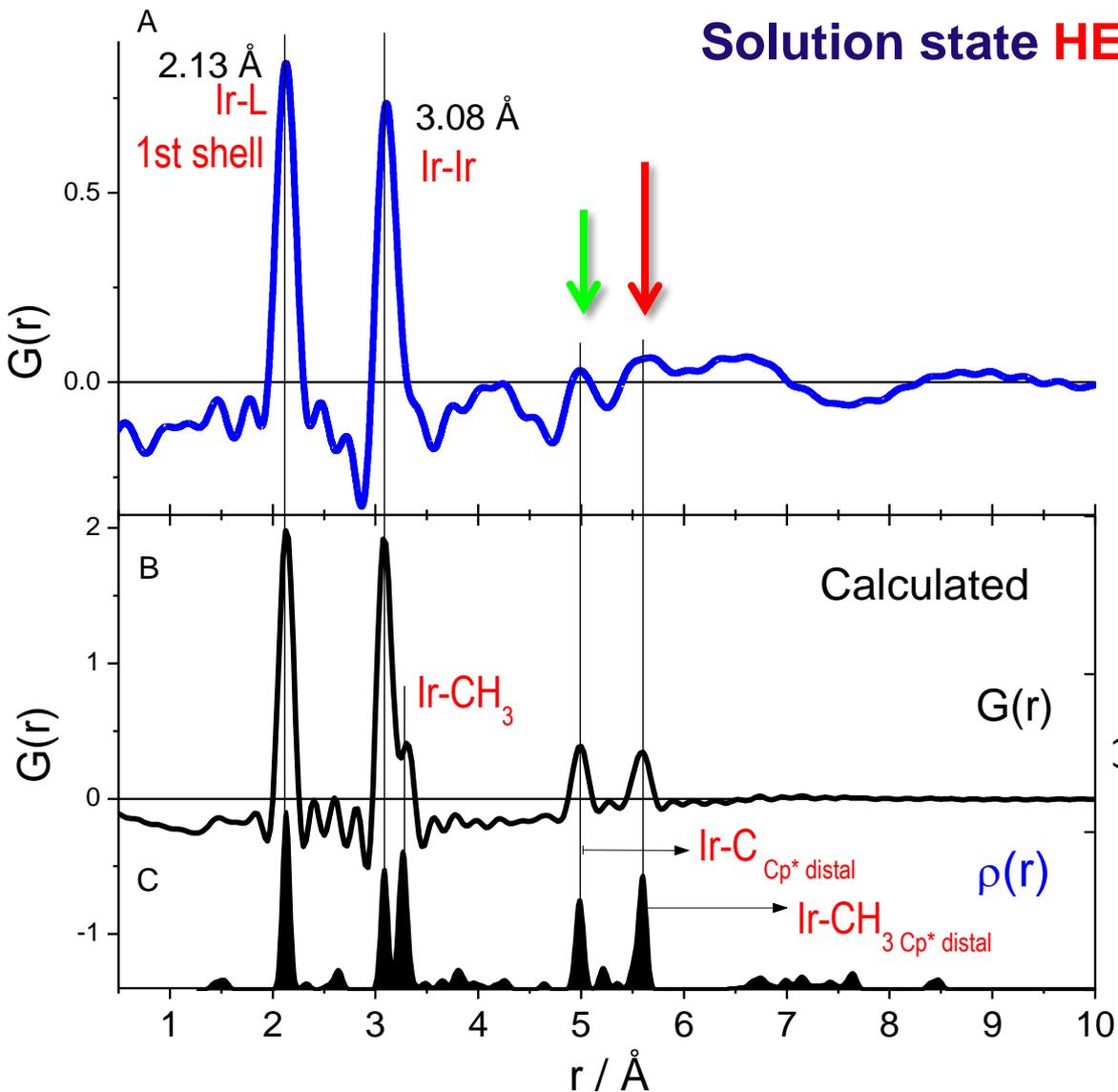
# HEXS of solution-state IrCp\* complexes



## Solution state HEXS



# HEXS of solution-state IrCp\* complexes

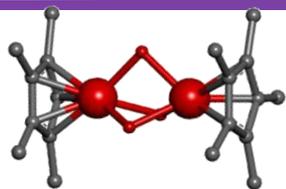


- HEXS-PDF direct, X-ray method to achieve atomic scale resolution in solution
- Resolve effects of thermal factors and structural disorder
- Suitable to provide quantitative benchmarks for comparison to computational models

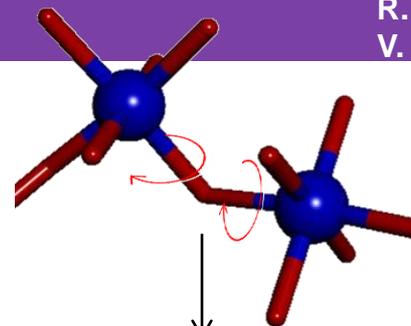
# Nested Disorder in BL:

D. Tiede (ANL)  
 O. Kokhan (ANL)  
 J. Blakemore (Yale)  
 G. Brudvig (Yale)  
 R. Crabtree (Yale)  
 V. Batista (Yale)

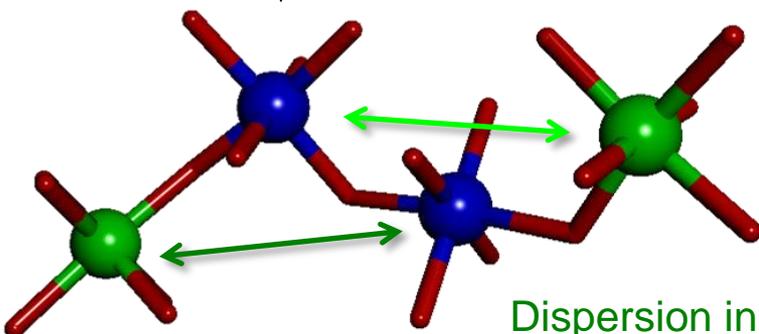
Cp\* complex  
or electrolysis  
 products



Nearest neighbor  
 distance dispersion:  
 combination oxo-  
 linked +

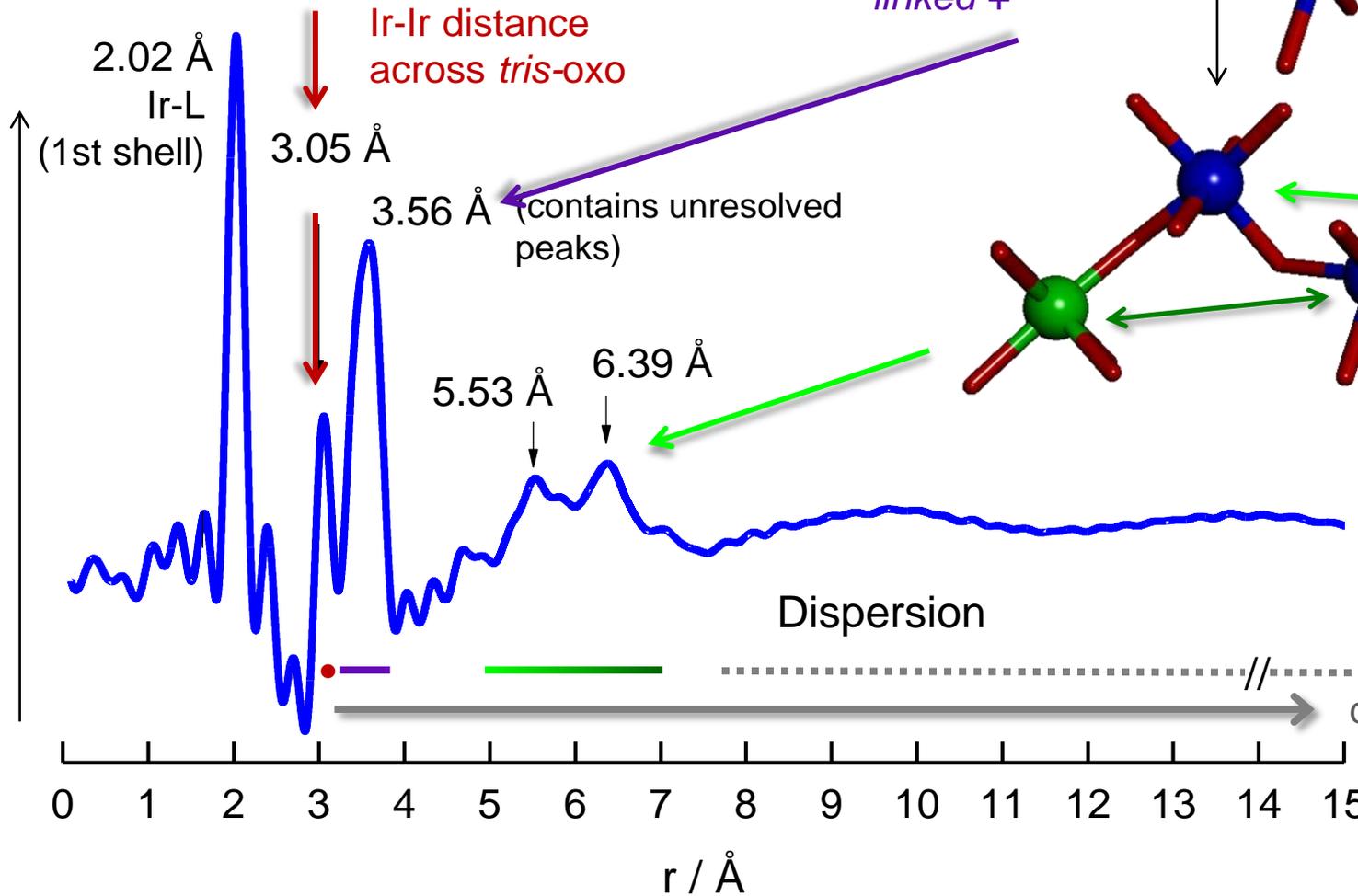


... carboxyl-  
 linked



Dispersion in  
 next-to-nearest  
 neighbor Ir-Ir  
 distances

G(r), atom pair electron density correlation

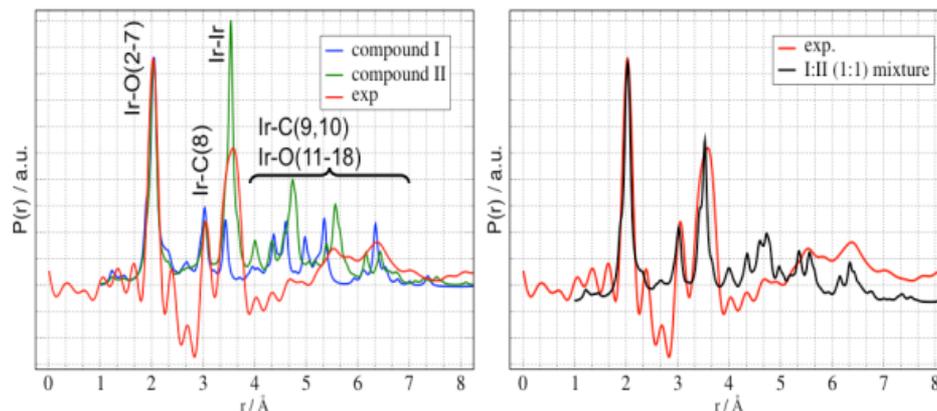
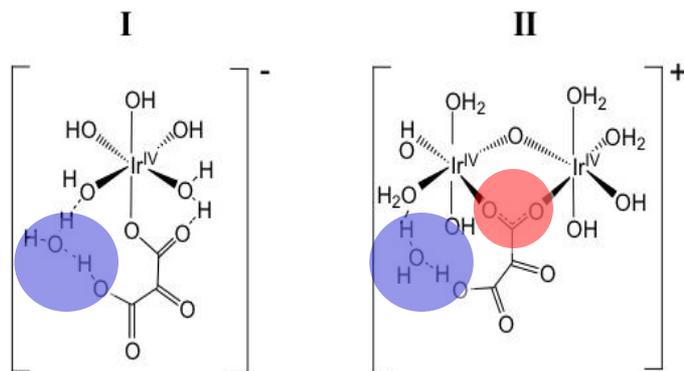


Nested  
 conformational  
 dispersion, yields  
 long range  
 disorder

# First Principles Modeling of Ir Blue Layer Film: Benchmarking to X-ray Data

Victor Batista:

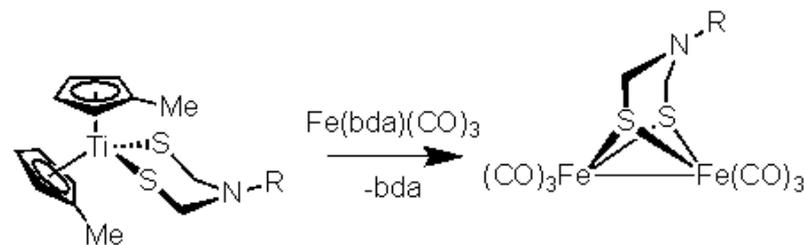
- Simulated annealing, Monte Carlo (MC)
- Density functional theory (DFT) calculations
- Comparison to analogous coordination chemistry



- Comparison of model **PDF** to experimental **G(r)** suggests BL can be described as 1:1 combination of structures I and II. **Introduces:**
  - **Carboxyl bridged Ir-Ir**
  - **Acid-base chemistry for proton-coupled electron transfer catalysis**
- This is the start of 1<sup>st</sup> principles modeling. On-going work developing further support for this model
- **Mark Ratner: presentation**

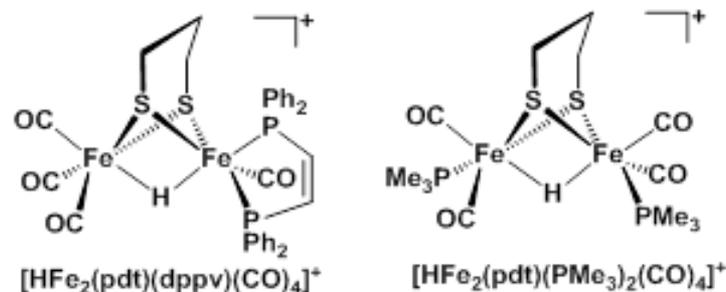
## Novel Synthetic Routes to Hydrogen-Evolution Catalysts

- Titanocene carriers for dithiolate complexes



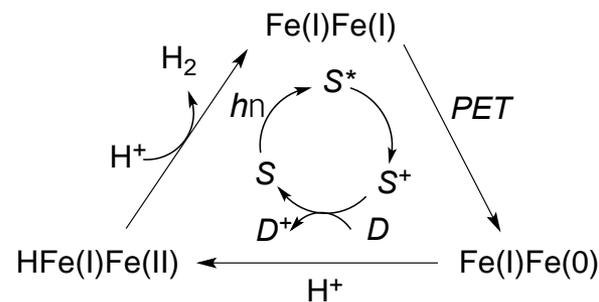
## Phosphine FeFe derivatives

- Enhanced metal-carbonyl bonding
- Enhanced photostability

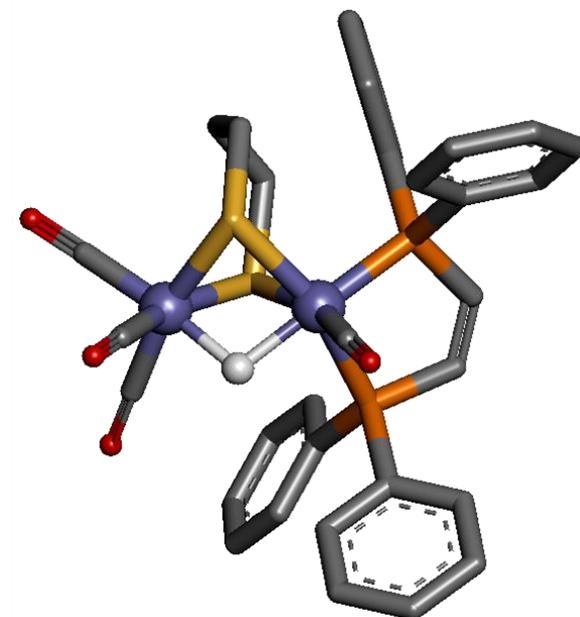
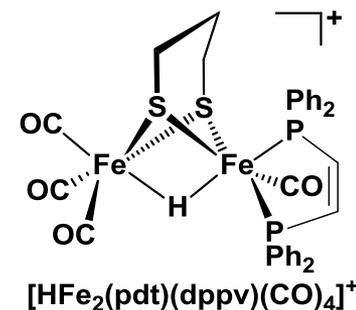
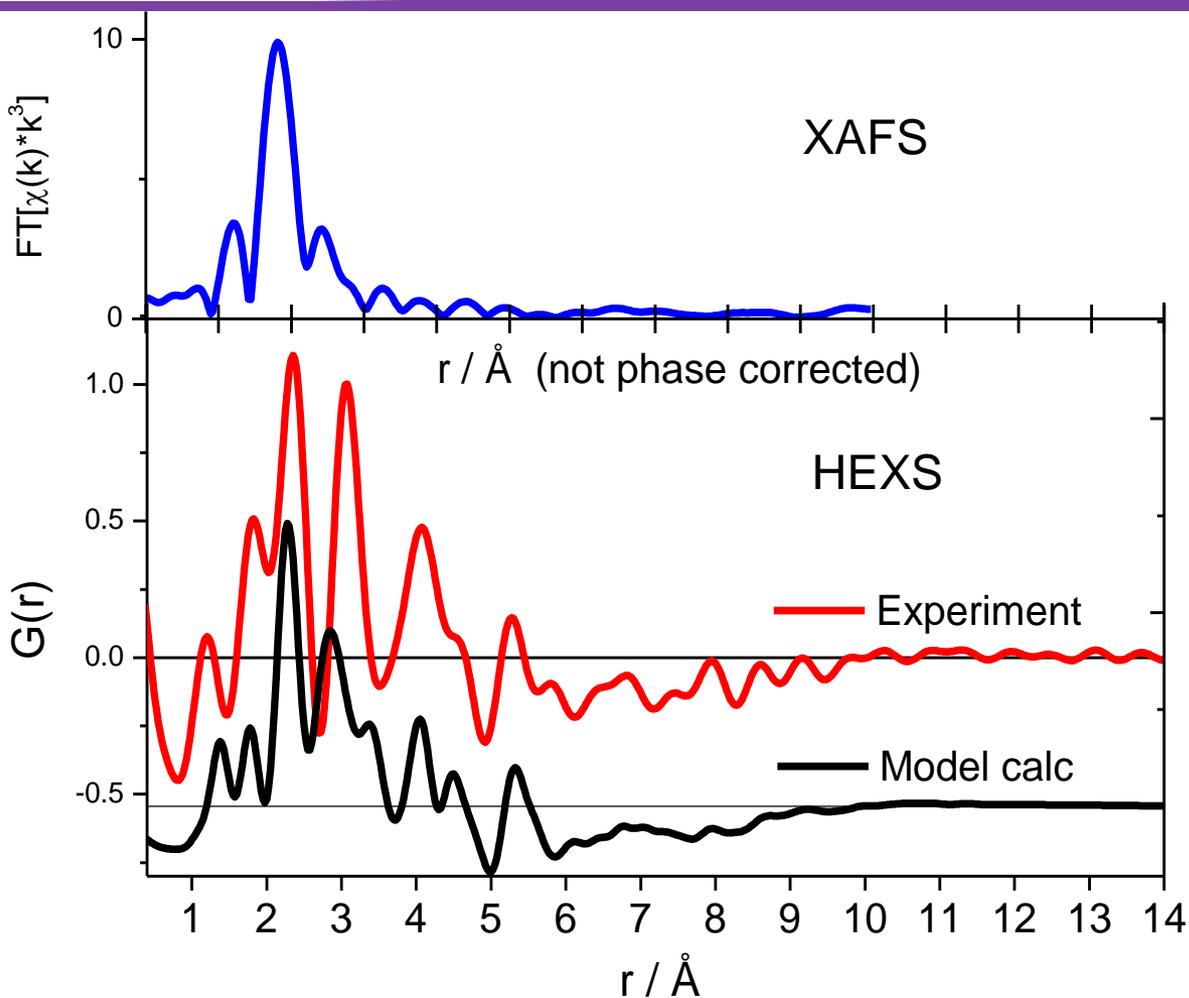


## FeFe hydrides for photosensitized and photochemical hydrogen production

- Amanda Smeigh presentation  
 M. Wasielewski (NU)



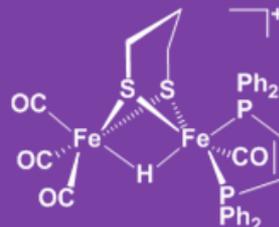
- Multiple length-scale X-ray structural characterization



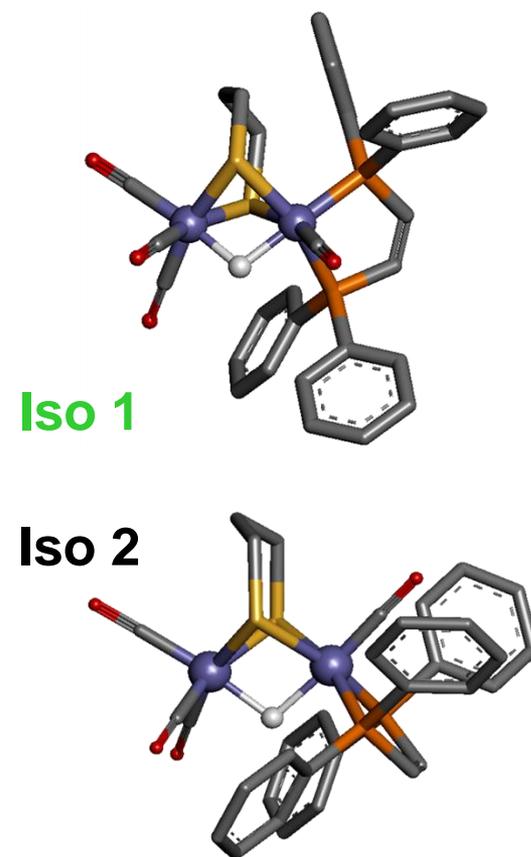
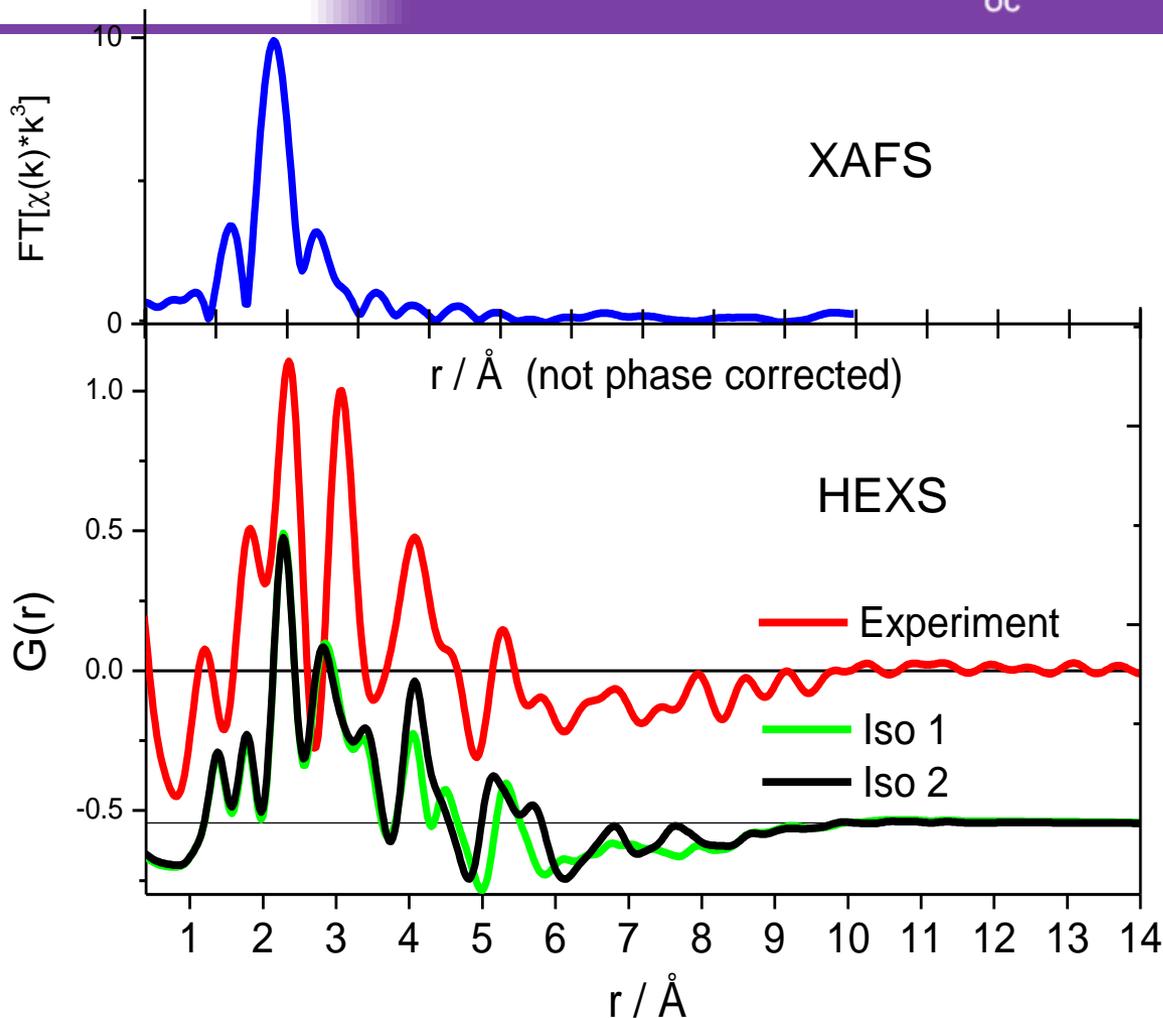
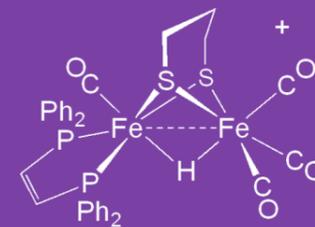
New opportunities *in-situ*, high-resolution structure characterization:

- Model structure refinement
- Catalysis-linked coordination change

# Isomers:



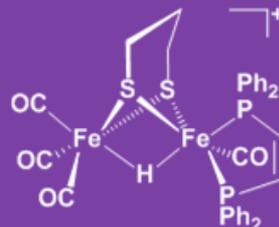
VS



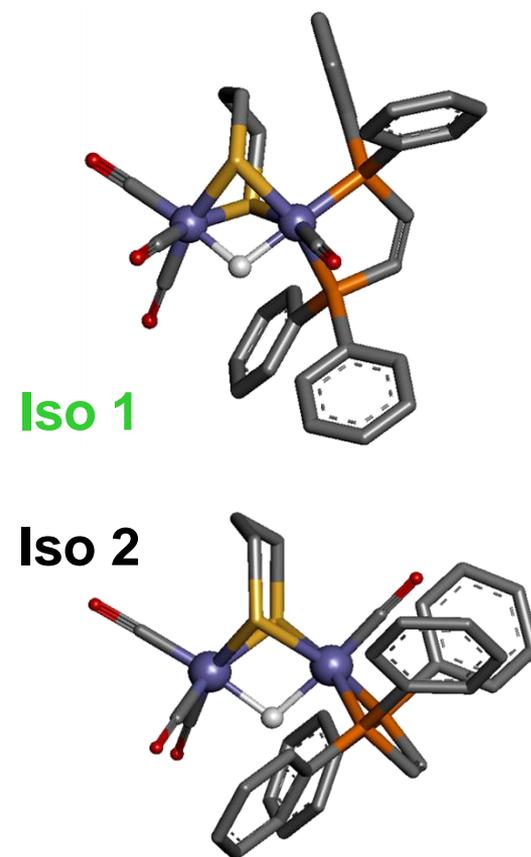
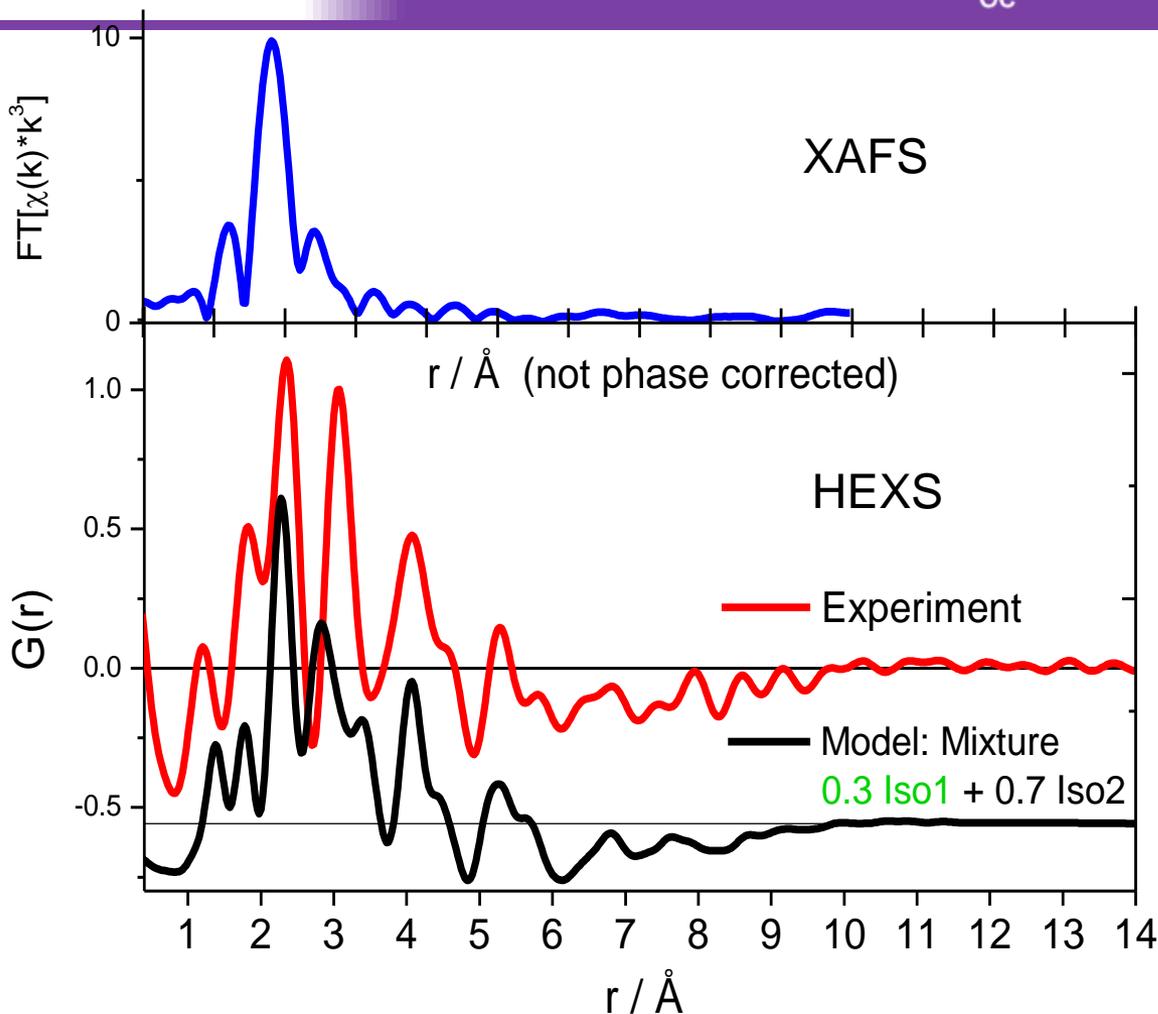
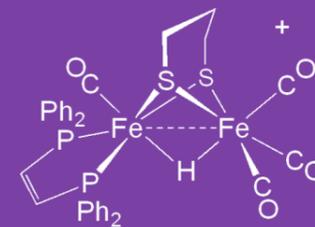
New opportunities *in-situ*, high-resolution structure characterization:

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Isomers:



VS

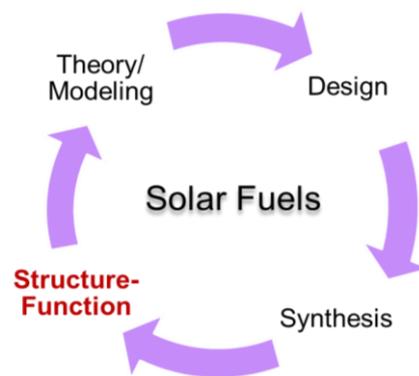
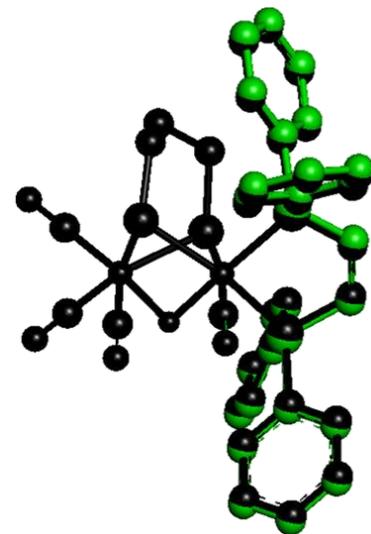


New opportunities *in-situ*, high-resolution structure characterization:

- Model structure refinement
- Detailed catalysis-linked coordination structure change

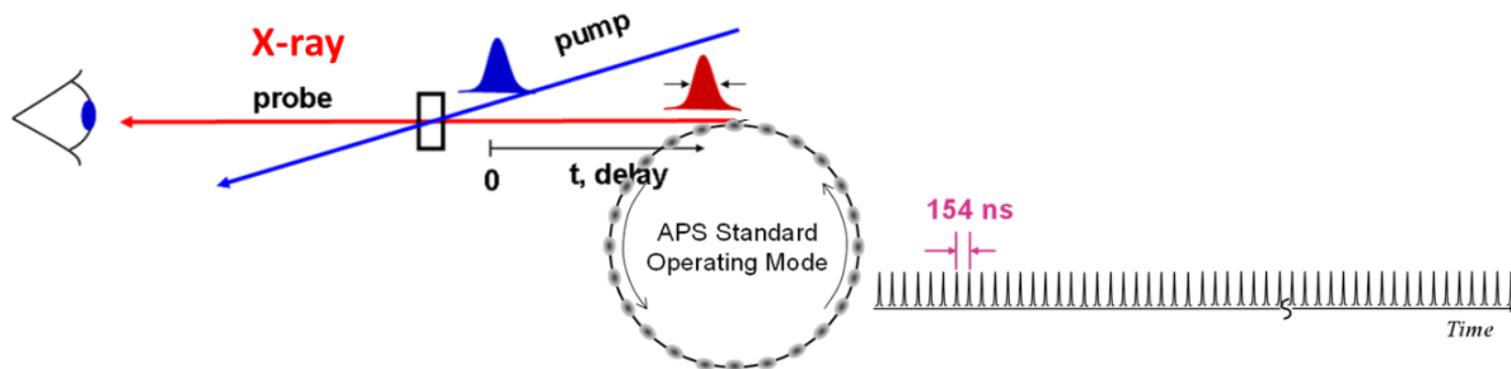
# Conclusions: Solar Fuels Catalyst X-ray Characterization

- ❑ **Combined XAS-HEXS provides multi-scale measure structure**
- ❑ **New opportunities in-situ, high-resolution structure-function analyses:**
  - **Model structure refinement**
  - **Measure detailed, catalysis-linked coordination structure change**
  - **Applicable to both *in-situ* homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis**
  - **Unique feature of ANSER:**
    - **multi-scale atomic approach to solar fuel catalyst structure-function analysis**
  - **Provide quantitative benchmarks modeling, solar catalyst design iteration**



# Moving forward: Solar Fuels Catalyst X-ray Characterization

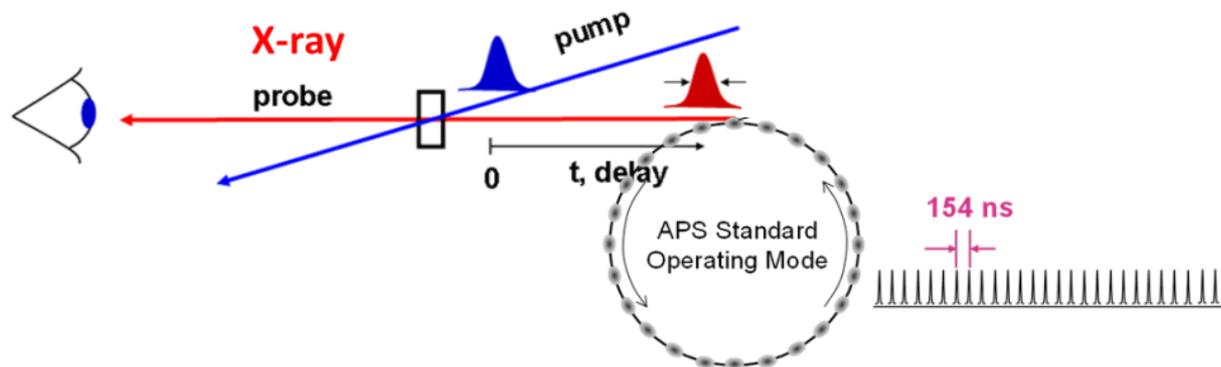
- XAFS-HEXS determined structure for water-splitting, water-reduction catalyst theory (**Batista, Ratner**), design, synthesis (**Brudvig, Crabtree, Rauchfuss**)
- Real-time and Pump-probe time-resolved, in-situ X-ray characterization: structure following single-turnover, sequential single-electron transfer chemistry. Capture intermediate state structures (**Chen, Tiede**)



- Multi-scale (XAFS-HEXS) characterization of hierarchical assemblies
  - ❑ Subtask 1 - Linked photosensitizer-catalyst assemblies (**Wasielewski, Brudvig, Crabtree, Rauchfuss, Stupp**)
  - ❑ Subtask 2 - TCO films (**Mason, Chang, Poeppelmeier**)
  - ❑ Subtask 3 - Chalcogel-based films (**Kanatzidis**)

# Moving forward: Solar Fuels Catalyst X-ray Characterization

- **XAFS-HEXS determined structure for water-splitting, water-reduction catalyst theory (Batista, Ratner), design, synthesis (Brudvig, Crabtree, Rauchfuss)**
- **Real-time and Pump-probe time-resolved, in-situ X-ray characterization: structure following single-turnover, sequential single-electron transfer chemistry. Capture intermediate state structures (Chen, Tiede)**



**APS:**

**Xiaoyi Zhang**  
**Naran Dashdorj**

**Pete Chupas**  
**Karina Chapman**

- **Multi-scale (XAFS-HEXS) characterization of hierarchical**
  - ❑ **Subtask 1 - Linked photosensitizer-catalyst assemblies (Wasielewski, Brudvig, Crabtree, Rauchfuss, Stupp)**
  - ❑ **Subtask 2 - TCO films (Mason, Chang, Poeppelmeier)**
  - ❑ **Subtask 3 - Chalcogel-based films (Kanatidis)**

# Thanks!

..... Questions, Comments?

# Proposed Mechanism for Oxygen Evolution

