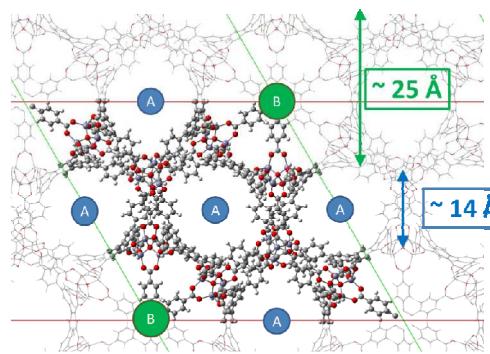


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



## Optoelectronic “Tinker Toys”: Supramolecular Nanocomposite Frameworks for Next Generation Photovoltaics

Erik D. Spoerke

Dara Van Gough, Jill S. Wheeler, Steven  
Wolf, Michael Foster, Kirsty Leong, Vitalie  
Stavila, Alec Talin, and Mark D. Allendorf

**Composites at Lake Louise  
November 3-7, 2013  
Alberta, Canada**

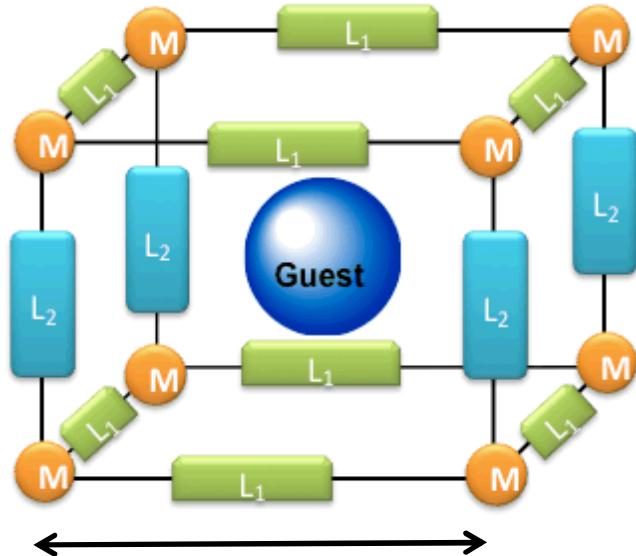
- ❖ What are MOFs?
- ❖ A Basic Introduction to PV
- ❖ “Passive” MOF Scaffolds
- ❖ “Active” MOF Scaffolds

- ❖ What are MOFs?
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- ❖ “Active” MOF Scaffolds

# What are Metal Organic Frameworks?

## Metal Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

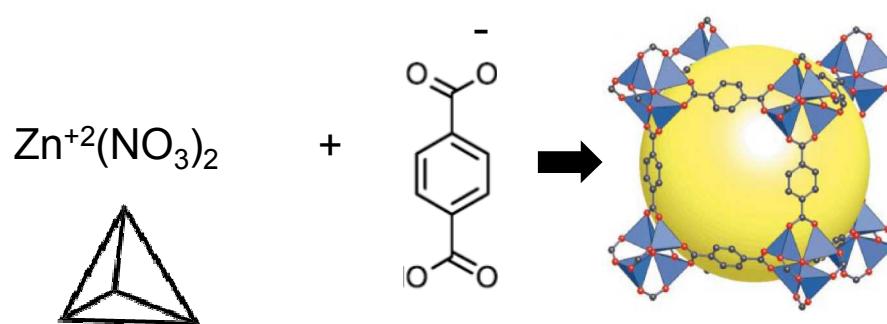
A subset of coordination polymers



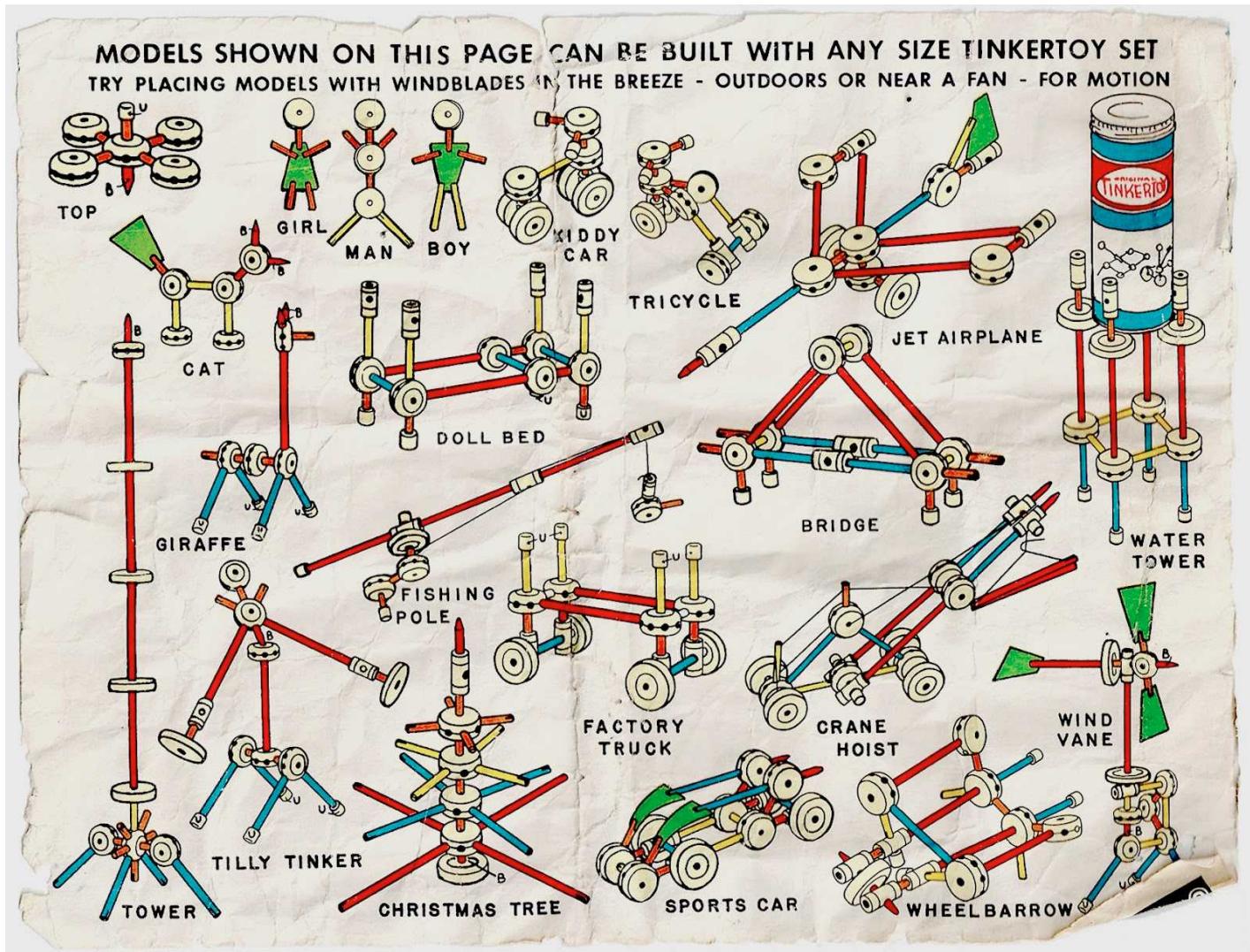
Crystalline MOF structures are composed of metal nodes (M), linkers ( $L_1$ ) and pillars ( $L_2$ ).

The nanoporous character of the MOF allows incorporation of molecular guests, organized on the nanoscale.

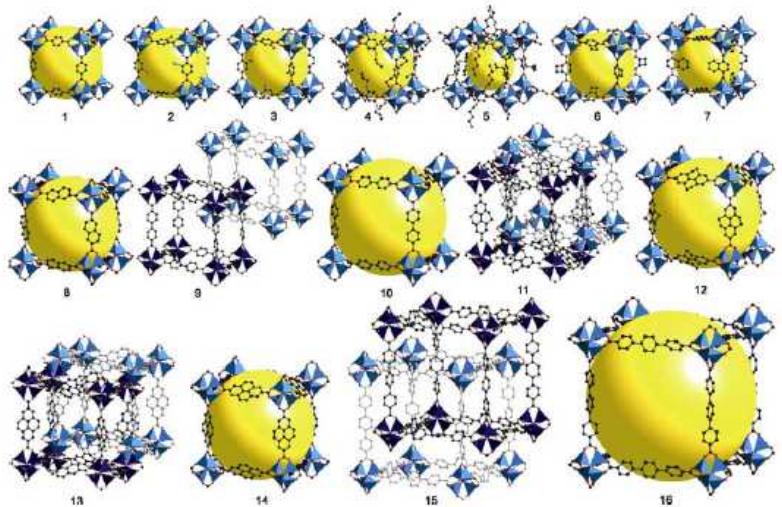
This chemically “modular” system allows for tuning of the structure, properties, and function of these materials.



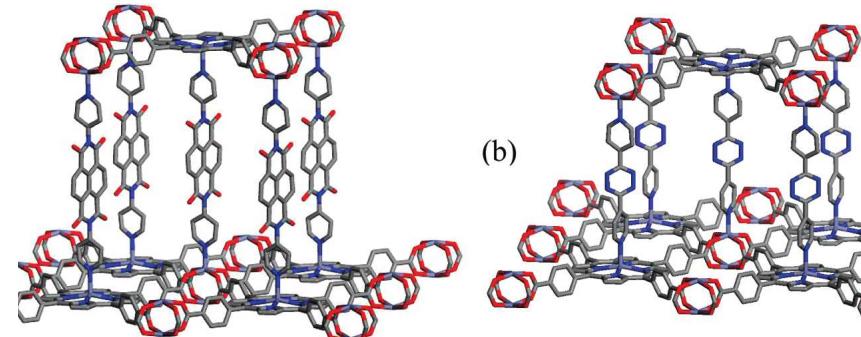
# MOFs: Supramolecular “Tinker Toys”



# MOF Building Block Chemistry Determines Crystal Structure

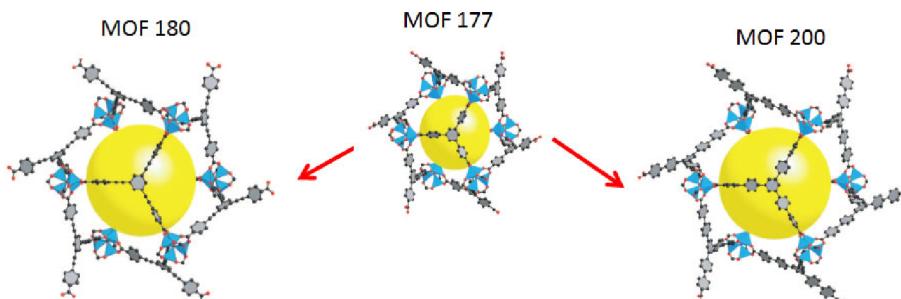


<http://yaghi.berkeley.edu/research-MOF.html>

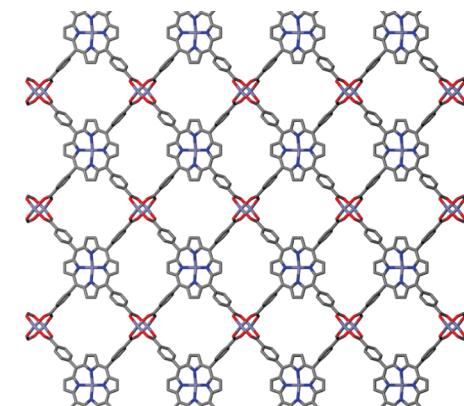


Side view of PPF-18

Chung et al. *Crystal Growth & Design*, Vol. 9, No. 7, 2009

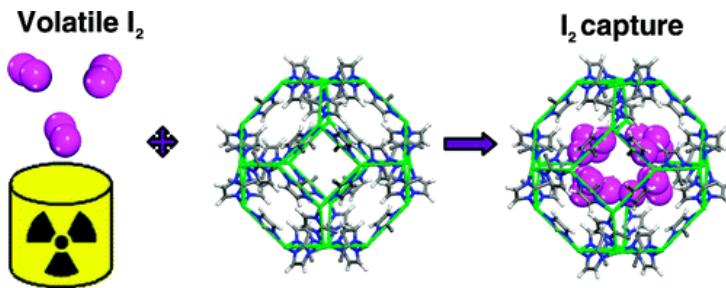


<http://www.cchem.berkeley.edu/molsim/teaching/fall2011/CCS/Group7/structure.htm>



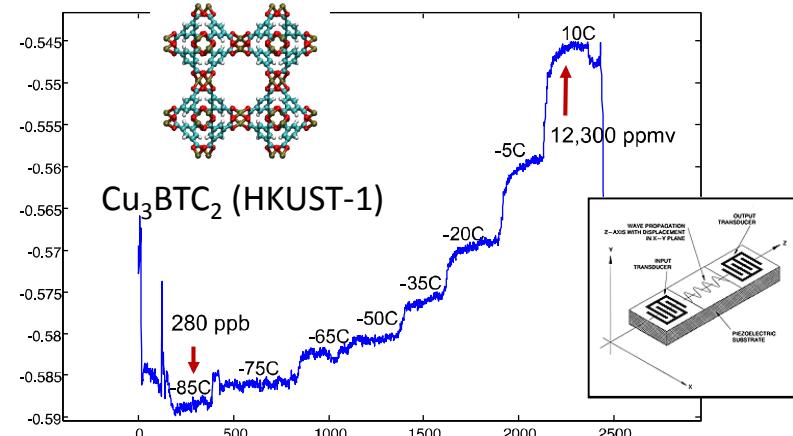
# MOF Applications

## Gas Sorption ( $I_2$ capture)



Sava, et al. *JACS*, **2011**, 133 (32), pp 12398–12401

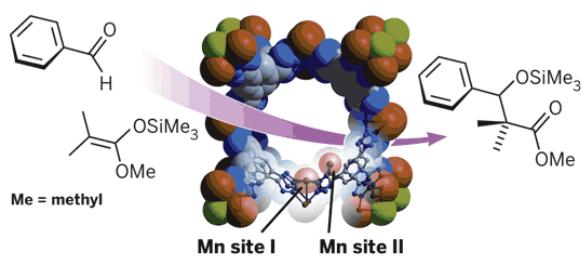
## Sensing ( $H_2O$ sensing)



Robinson et al. *Anal. Chem.* **84** (2012), 7043

## Catalysis (Mukaiyama aldol synthesis)

### Mn-BTT



Horike, et al. *JACS*, **2008**, 130 (18), pp 5854–5855

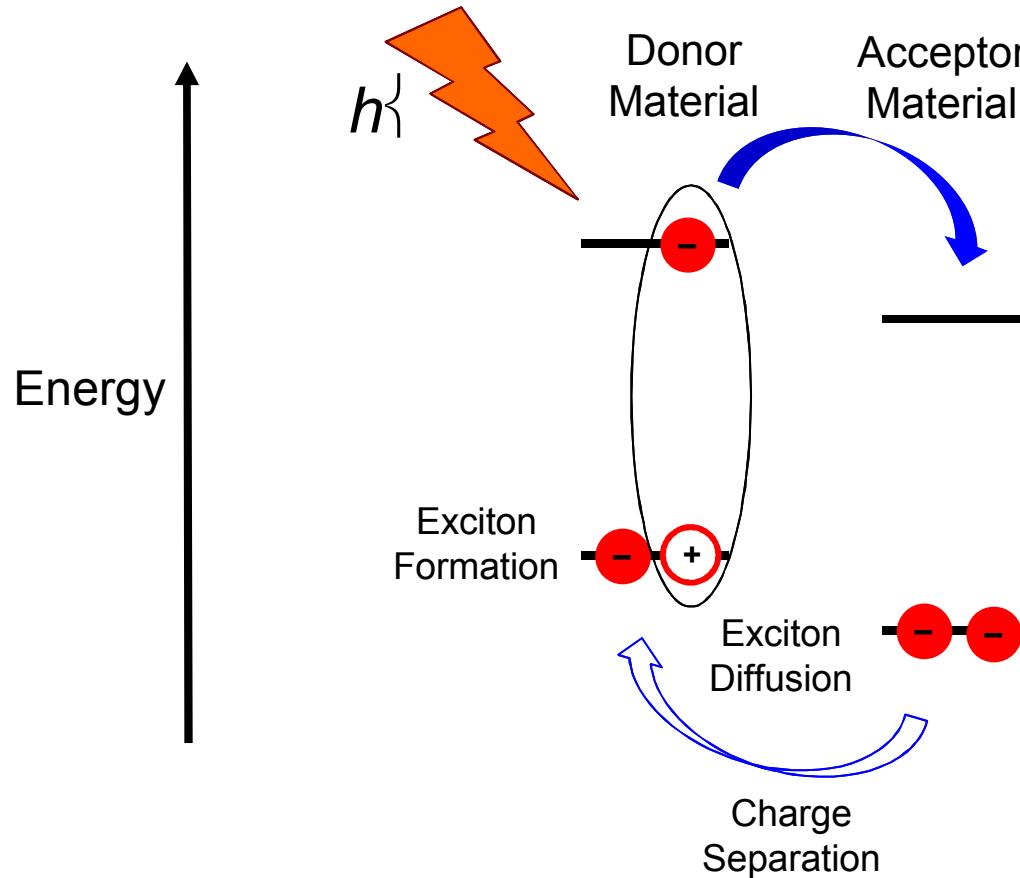
## Electronics/Optoelectronics



- ❖ What are MOFs?
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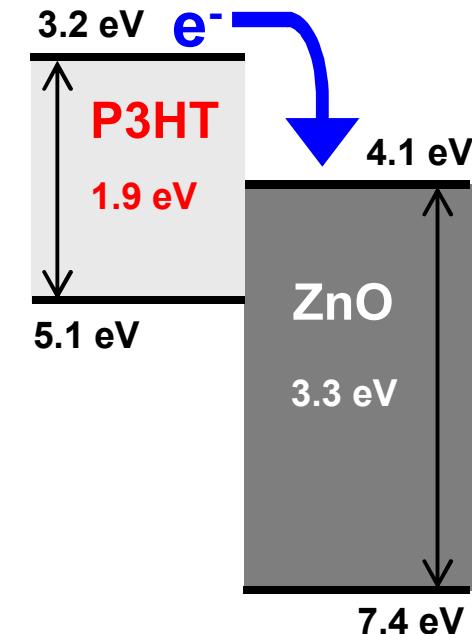
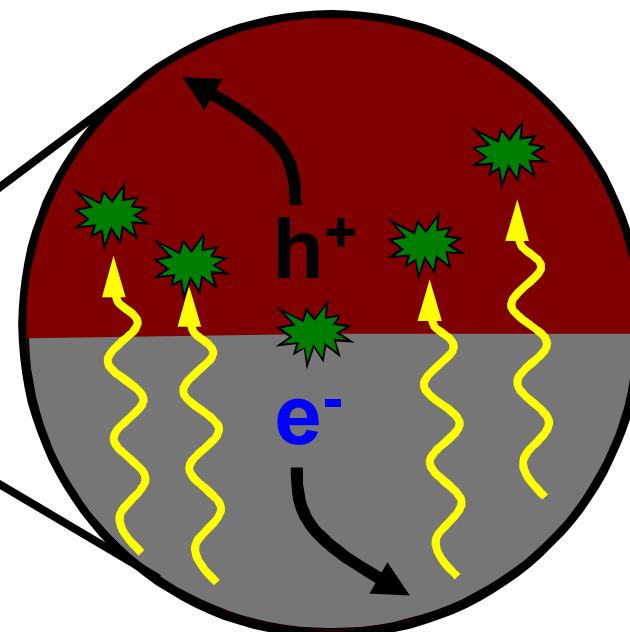
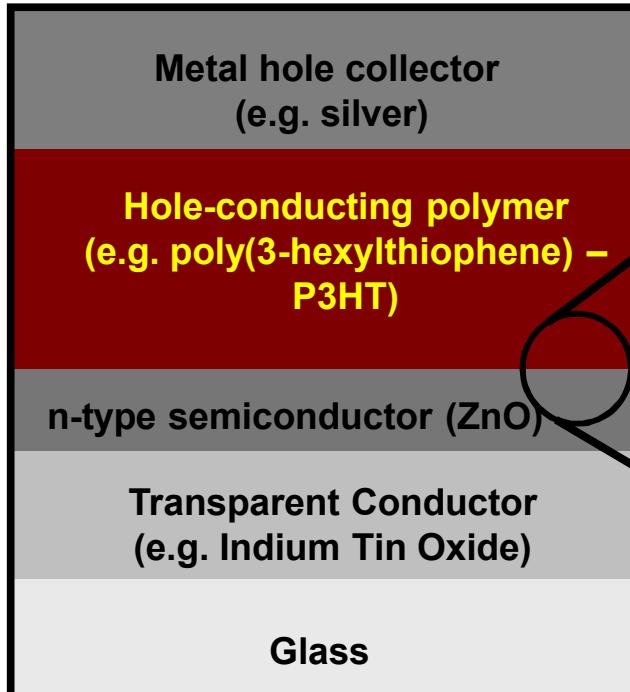
# Organic photovoltaics: potential for low-cost renewable electricity

How does OPV work?

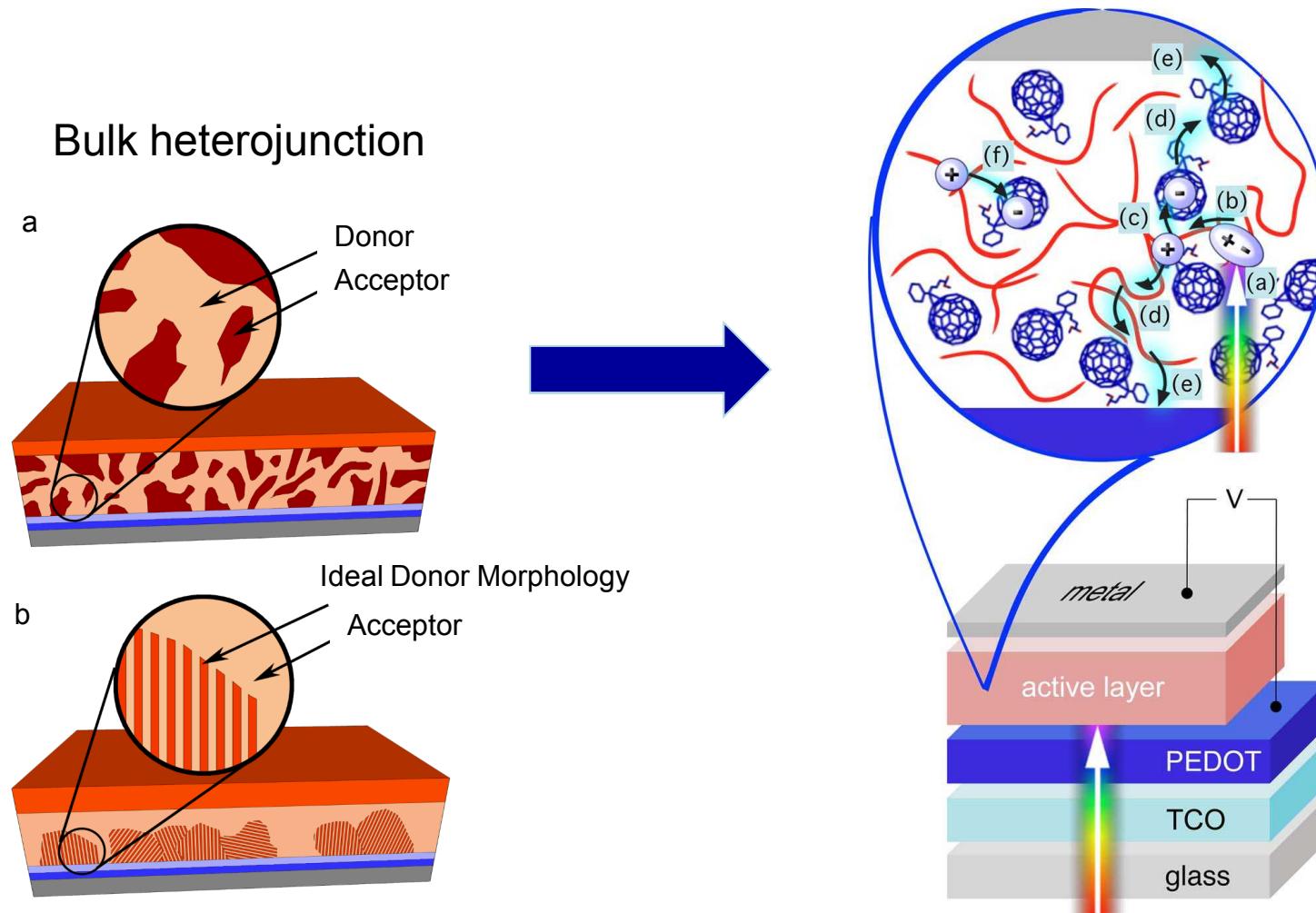


# Realizing a Device Configuration

In a planar configuration, thin films of a conductive polymer (e.g., P3HT) and ZnO can form the charge separation interface.



# Disorder is the enemy of efficiency



Requirements for efficient OPV system:

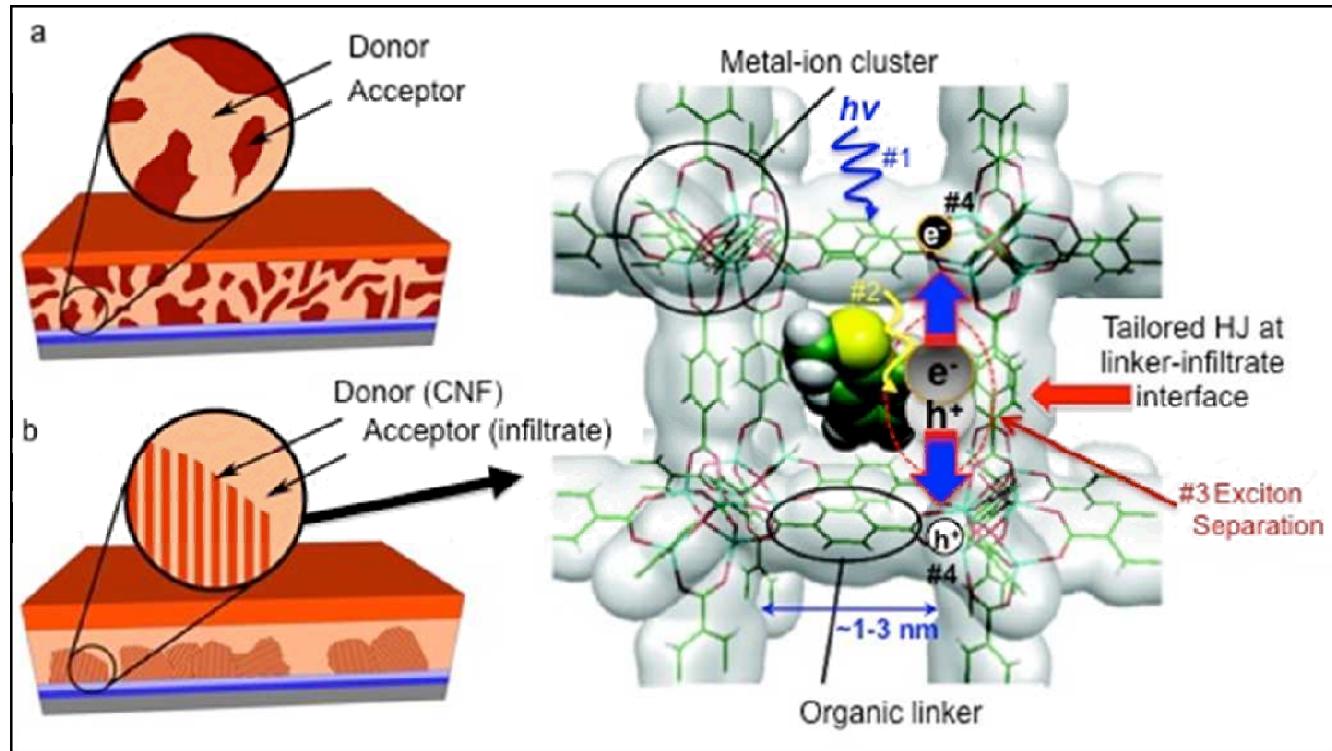
- Good p-type absorber
- Proper band alignments for charge separation/transfer
- Ordered molecular charge separation interfaces
- Short exciton diffusion distances

# Introduction to MOFs

## Order vs. disorder: creation of nano-heterojunctions

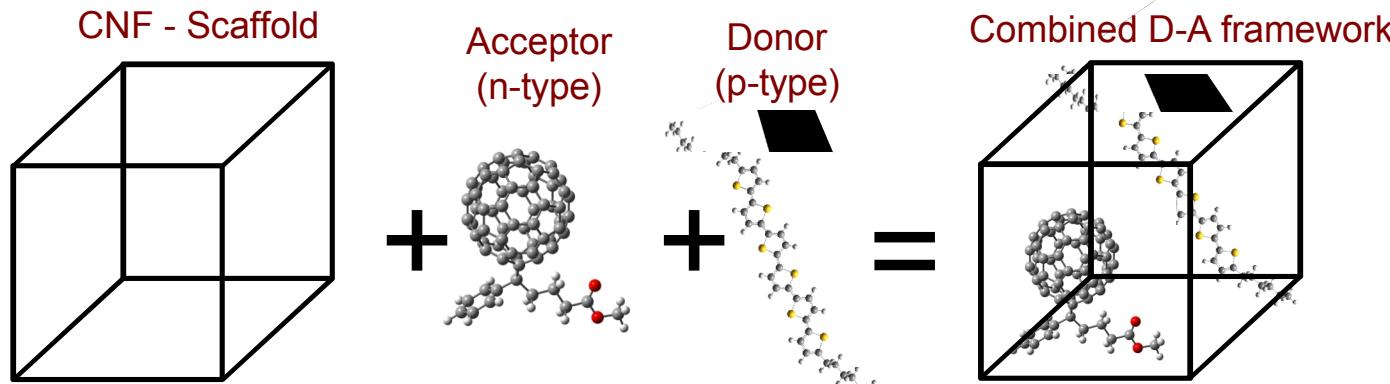
**Conventional  
disordered BHJ**

**Highly ordered  
“Nano-HJ” using  
CNF platform**

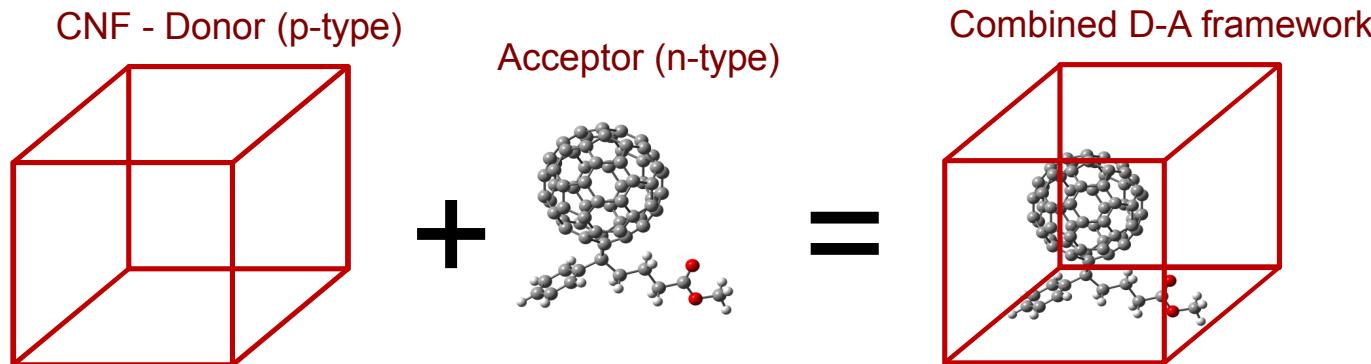


# Composite MOF Scaffolds for OPV

**Passive Scaffolds** - the CNF simply functions to order the donor/acceptor materials and plays no active role in the PV energy conversion process.

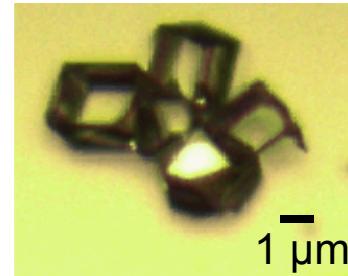
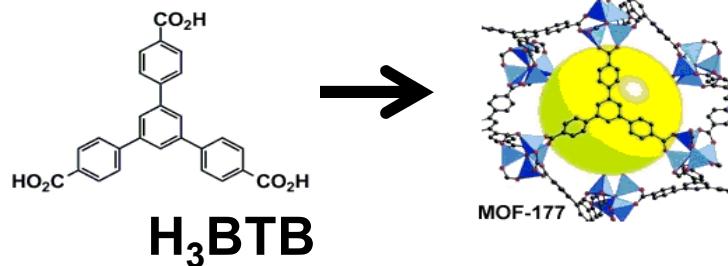


**Active Network** – the CNF is designed to play an active role in the PV energy conversion process by functioning as the donor or acceptor material.

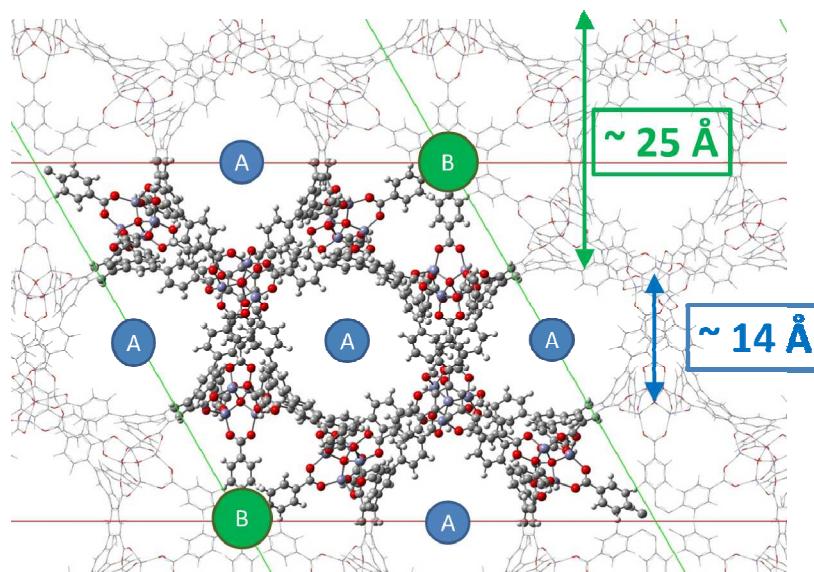


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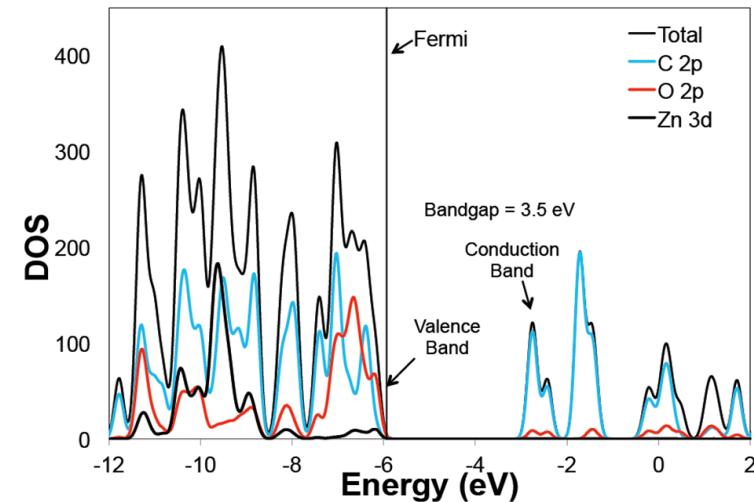
# MOF-177: A Passive Scaffold for D-A Assembly



Optical image  
of MOF-177  
crystals.



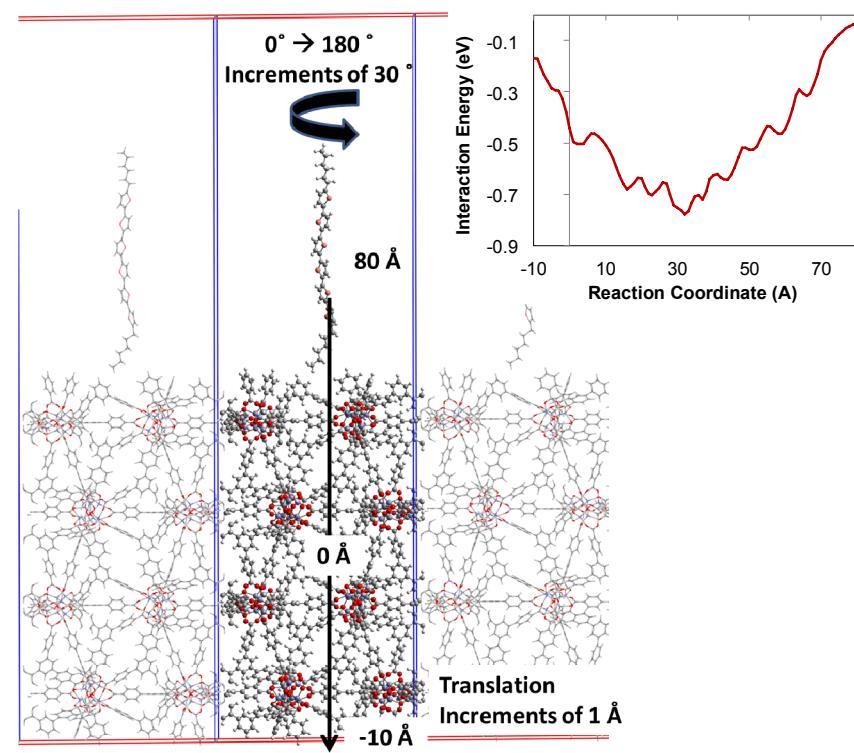
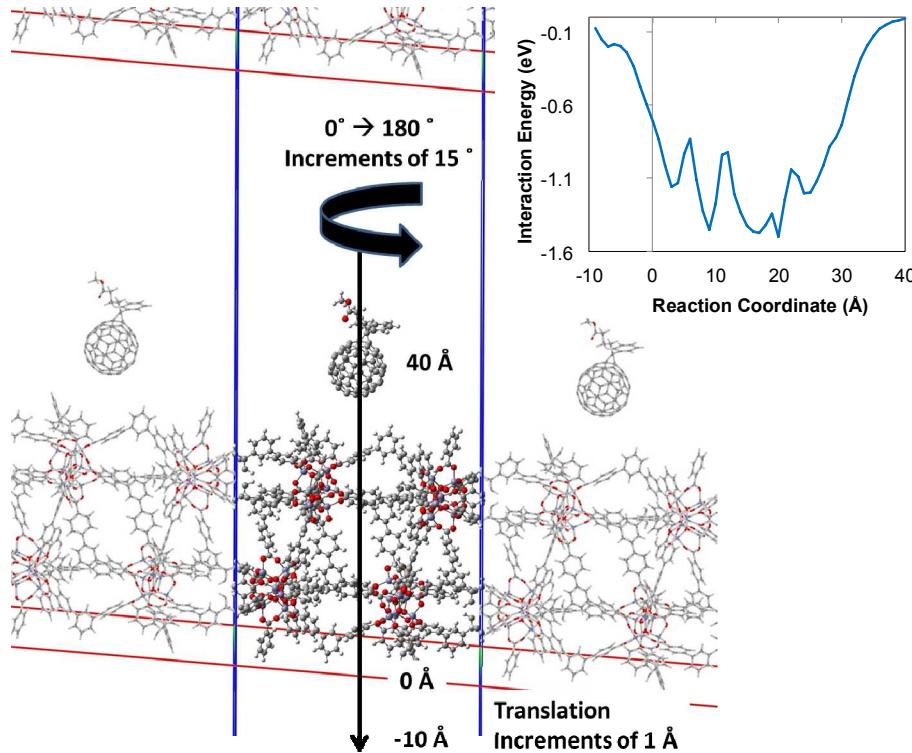
MOF-177 – sites “A” and “B” denote unique cavities; DFTB optimized structure.



Partial Density of States (PDOS) -  
Density Functional Tight-Binding (DFTB)  
calculations of MOF-177.

# Predicting Guest Infiltration

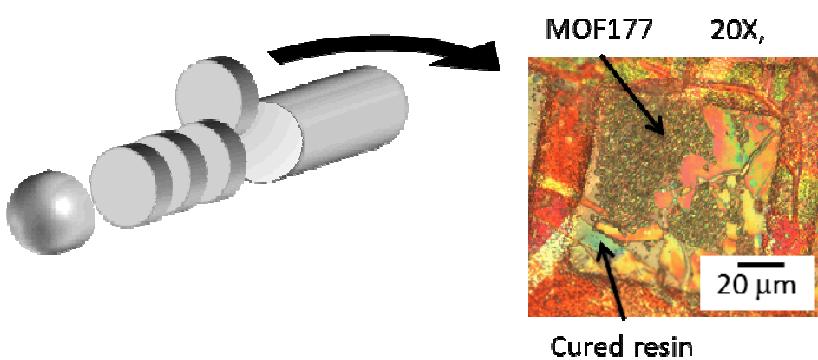
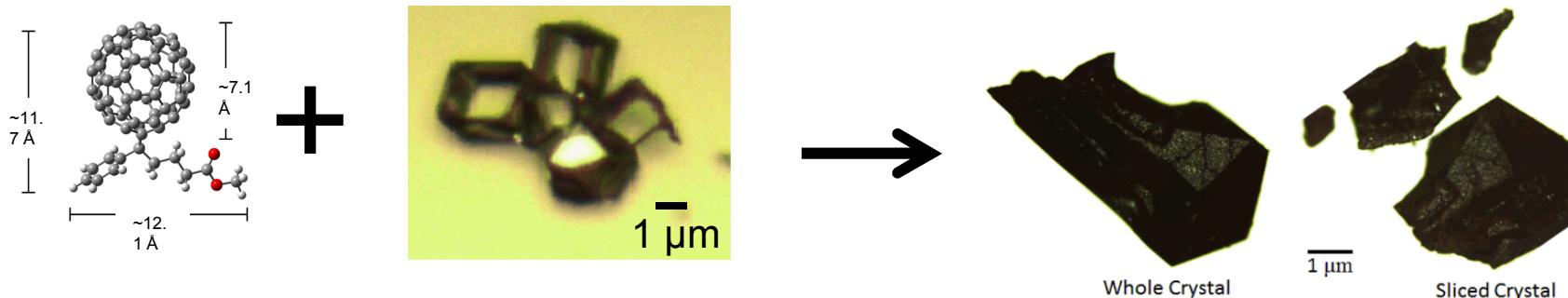
*Density Functional simulations show that infiltration of both PCBM (A) and Sexithiophene (D) in MOF177 are enthalpically favored.*



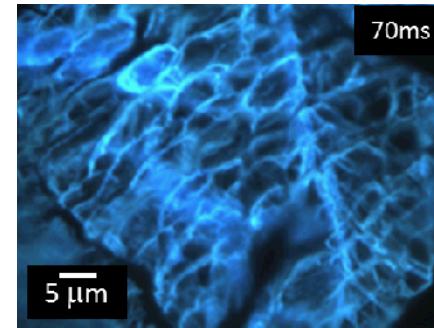
>600 structures generated for each case; 10 step geometry optimization performed to remove close contacts. Interaction energies determined using Density Functional based Tight Binding (DFTB) method.

# PCBM Integration into MOF177

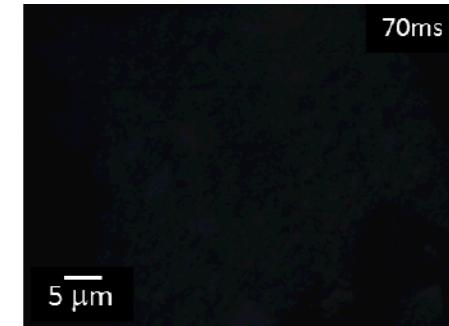
*Incubation of MOF177 crystals in concentrated PCBM solutions leads to PCBM infiltration*



MOF177



MOF177/PCBM

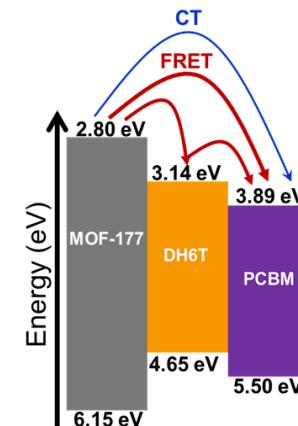
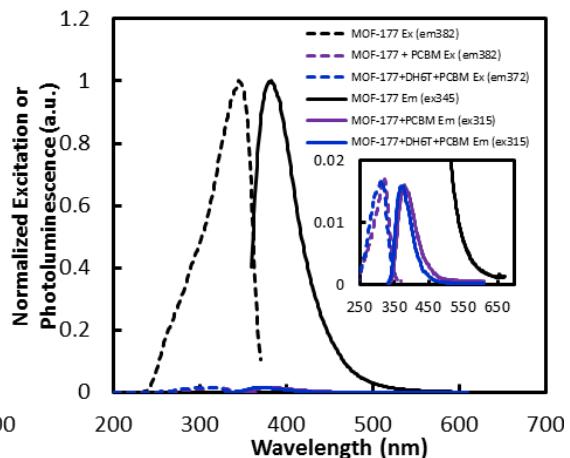
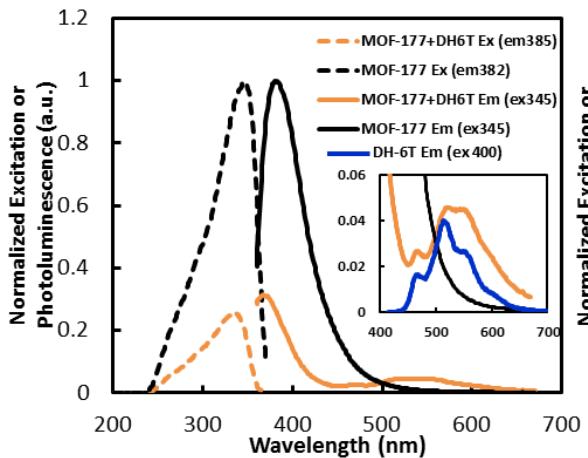
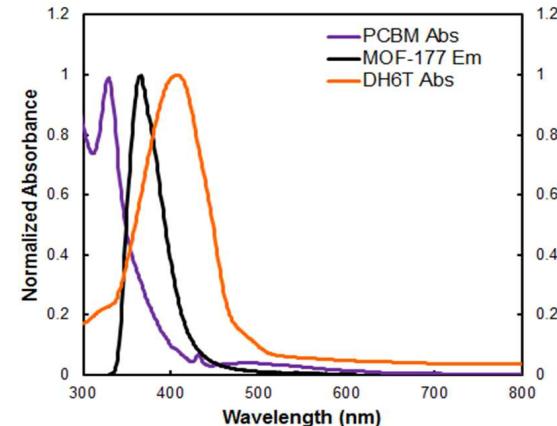
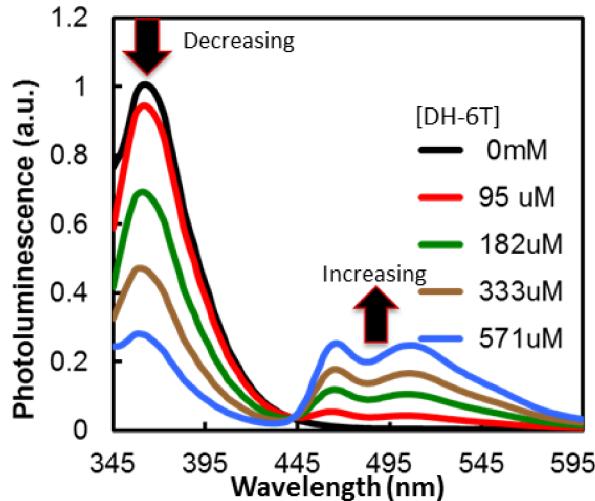
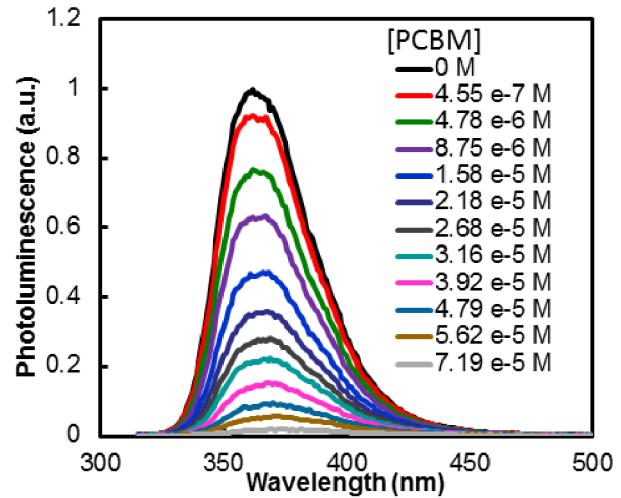


Ex: 330-385nm; Em filter: 420nm

Spectroscopic characterization of PCBM@MOF177 cross-sections shows significant quenching of MOF177 fluorescence.

# Introduction to MOFs

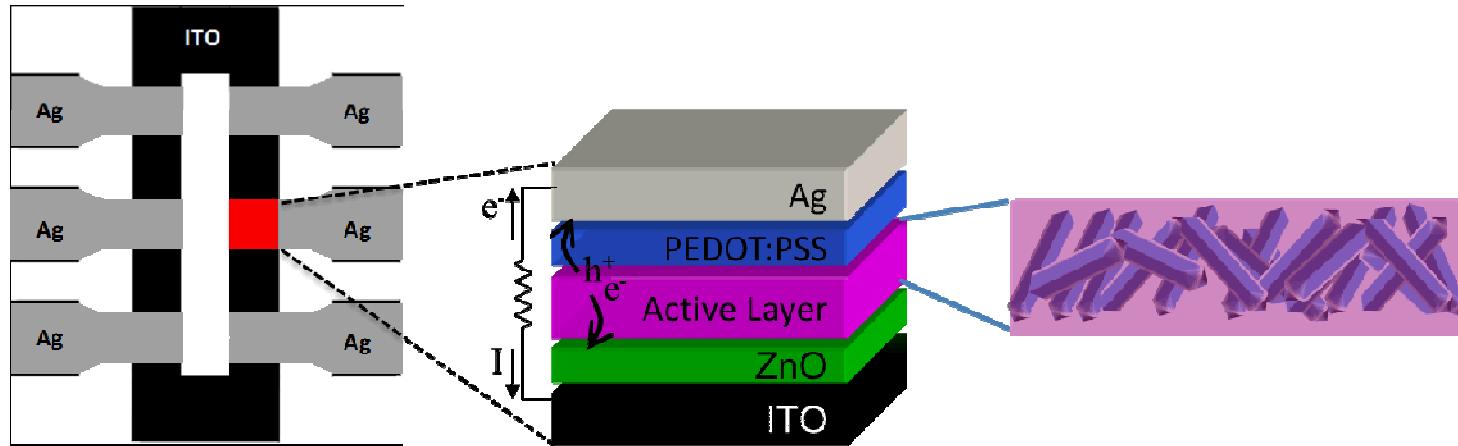
*Spectral characterization reveals complex energy transfer between MOF177, PCBM, and DH6T*



MOF177, DH6T, &PCBM band alignment predicted by SCC-DFTB

# Device Integration

PCBM@MOF177 were incorporated into hybrid OPV active layers to evaluate the influence of MOF templating on PV performance.

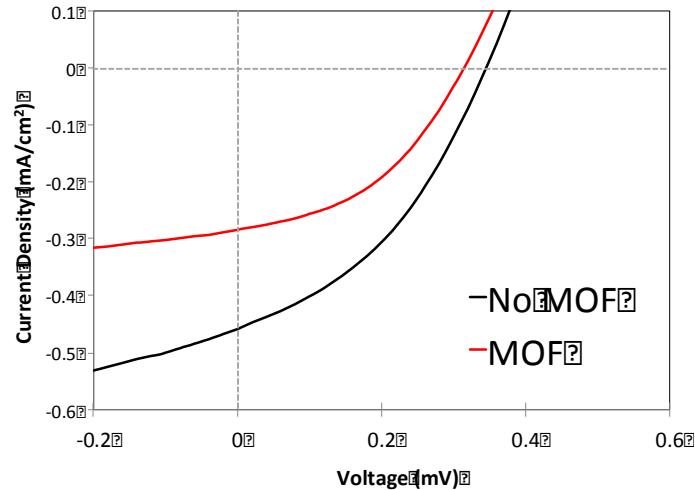
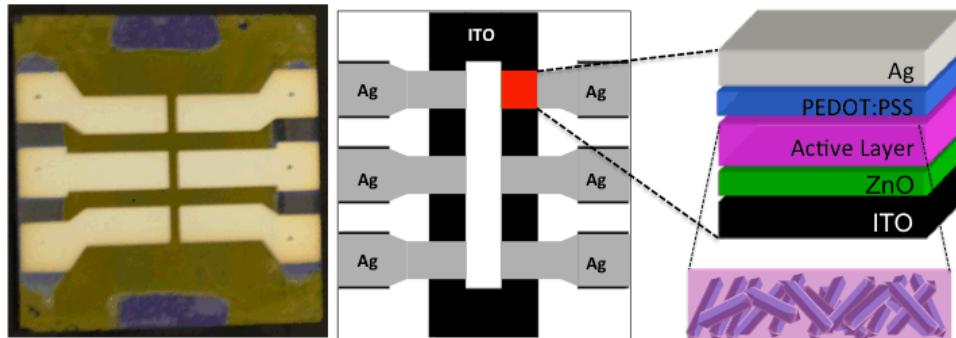


Patterned ITO and silver electrodes create controlled  $0.1\text{cm}^2$  active areas.

Inverted device configuration

Infiltrated (e.g., oligothiophene, PCBM) MOF177 particles incorporated into polythiophene active layer.

# Device Testing



	$V_{OC}$ (mV)	$J_{SC}$ ( $\text{mA}/\text{cm}^2$ )	FF (%)	Efficiency (%)
With MOF177	320 +/- 23	0.290 +/- 0.018	40 +/- 0.3	0.04 +/- 0.003
P3HT Alone	340 +/- 26	0.460 +/- 0.029	39 +/- 1.9	0.06 +/- 0.01

PV testing with 1 sun illumination shows reduced current, ostensibly from reduced active area or charge trapping in suspended PCBM@MOF177 composites.

Requirements for efficient OPV system:

- Good p-type absorber
- Proper band alignments for charge separation/transfer
- Ordered molecular charge separation interfaces
- Short exciton diffusion distances
- **Facile incorporation into device architectures!**

# Functional Host-Guest Interactions: Conducting MOFs

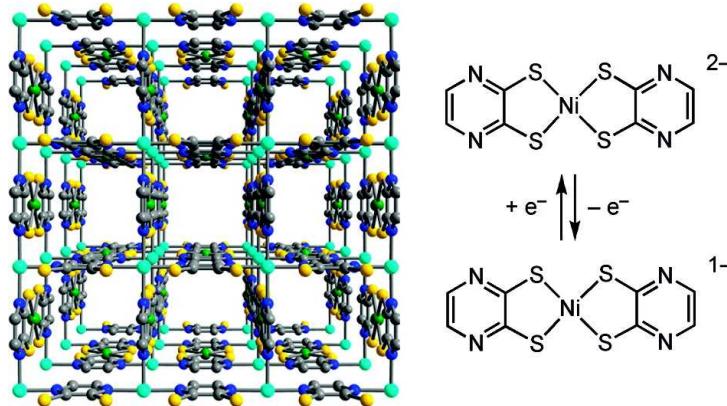
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*Guest molecules create multifunctional materials:*

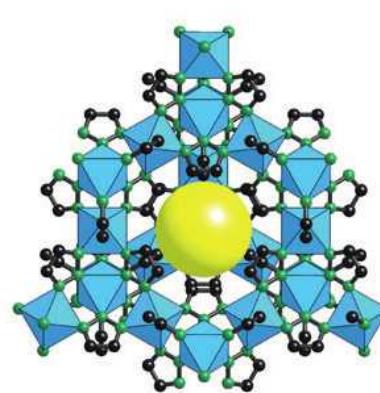
- *Nanoporous*
- *Electrically conducting*

# Electrically conducting porous MOFs are rare

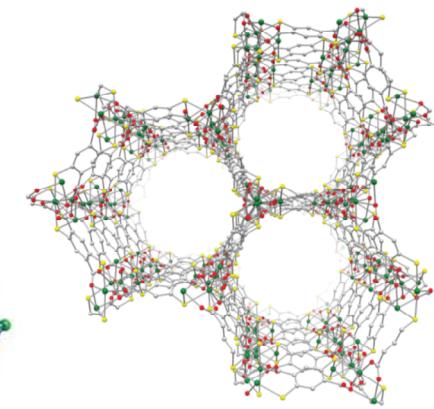
- **p-type Cu-Ni Dithiolene MOF**
  - First semiconducting, porous MOF
  - Conductivity increases with oxidative doping
  - Original Cu-Cu version is not porous  
(*Inorg. Chem.* 2009, 48, 9048)
- **Other examples**
  - MET-3 (Fe-triazolate MOF)
  - Mn(thiophenol) MOF:  $(-\text{Mn}-\text{S}-)^\infty$  Chains
- **Strategies for conducting MOFs:**
  - Charge delocalization
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>- and 3<sup>rd</sup> row transition metals
  - Redox-active ligands (e.g., TCNQ)
  - Soft ligands (e.g. S-containing molecules)



Y. Kobayashi et al. *Chem. Mater.* 2010, 22, 4120



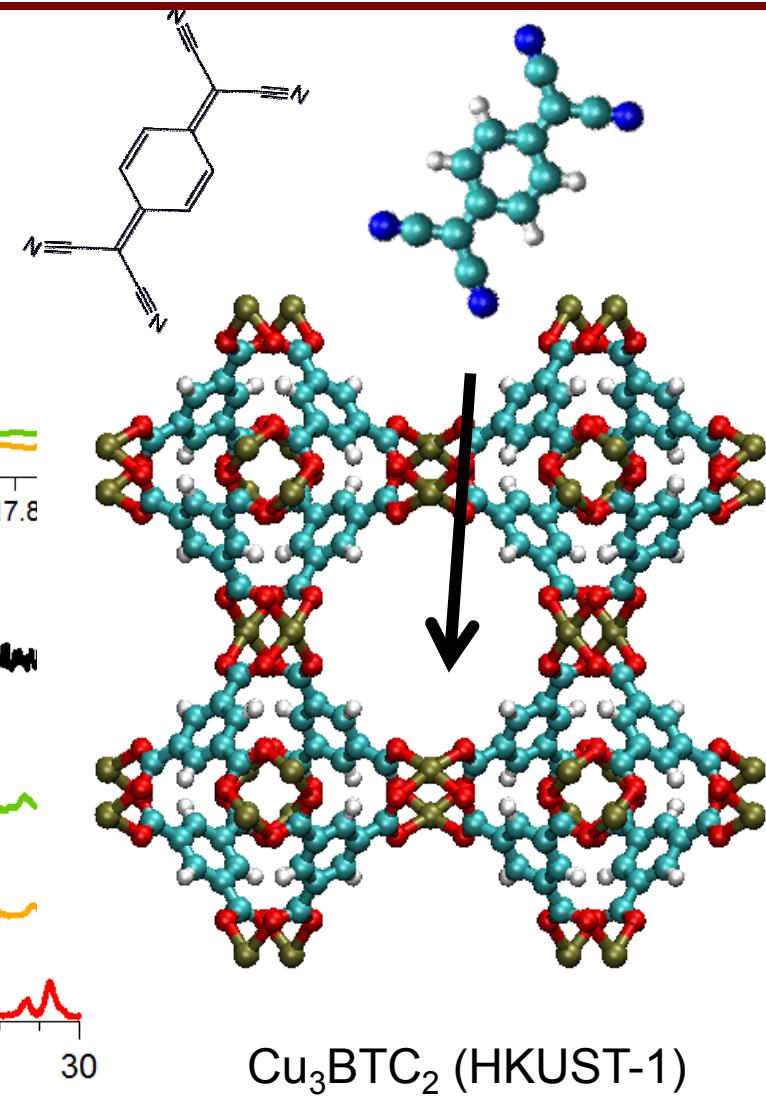
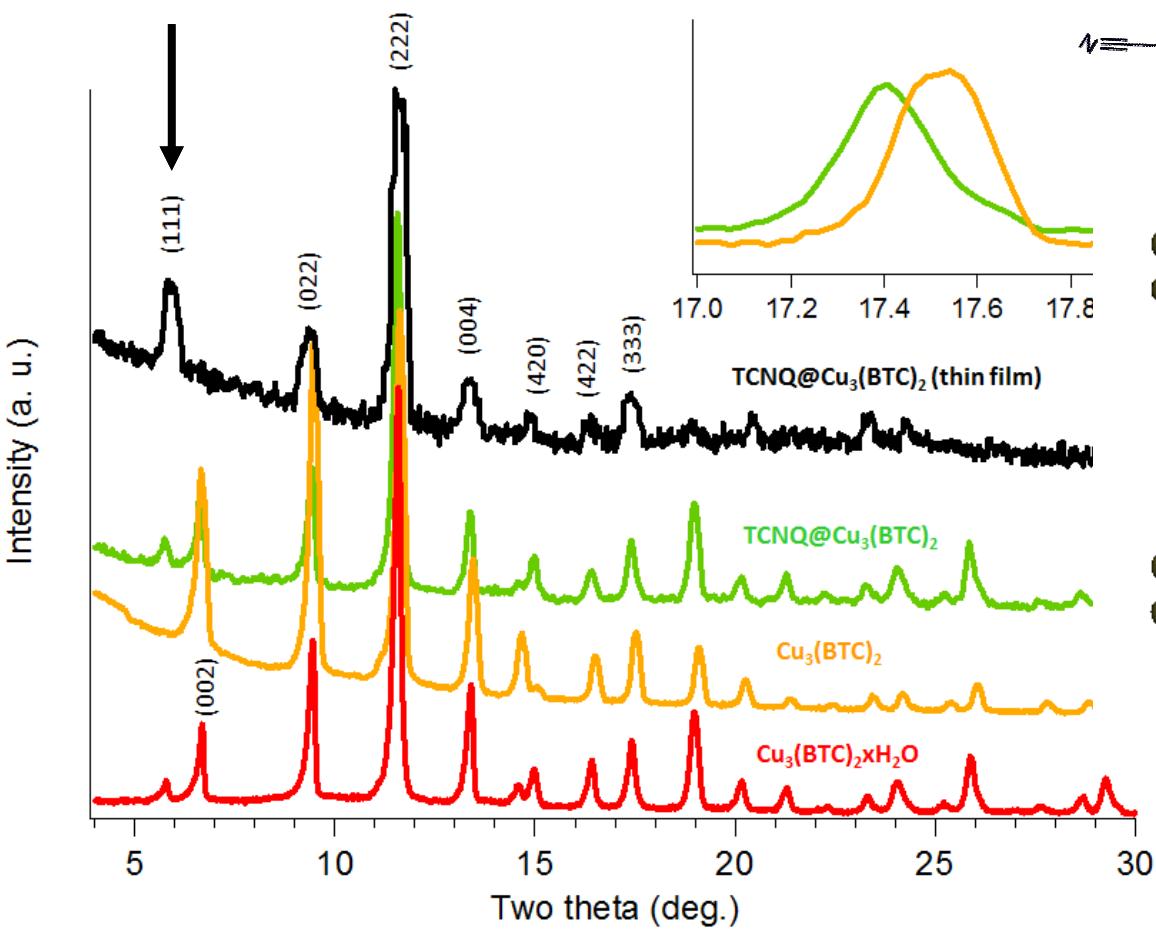
MET-3 (Fe)  
Gándara et al.  
*Chem. Eur. J.* 2012,  
18, 10595



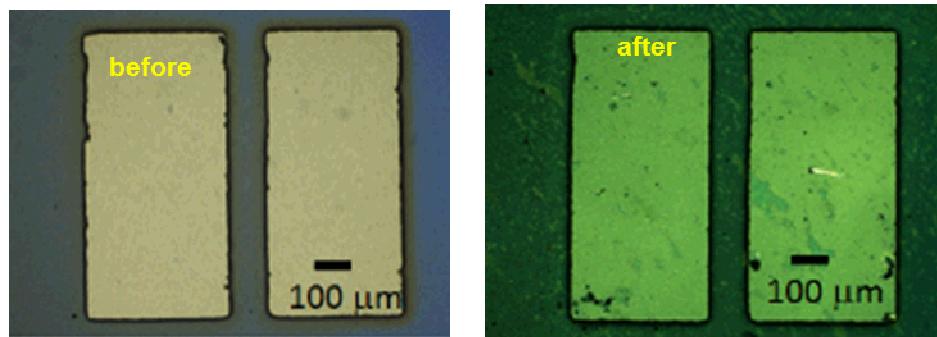
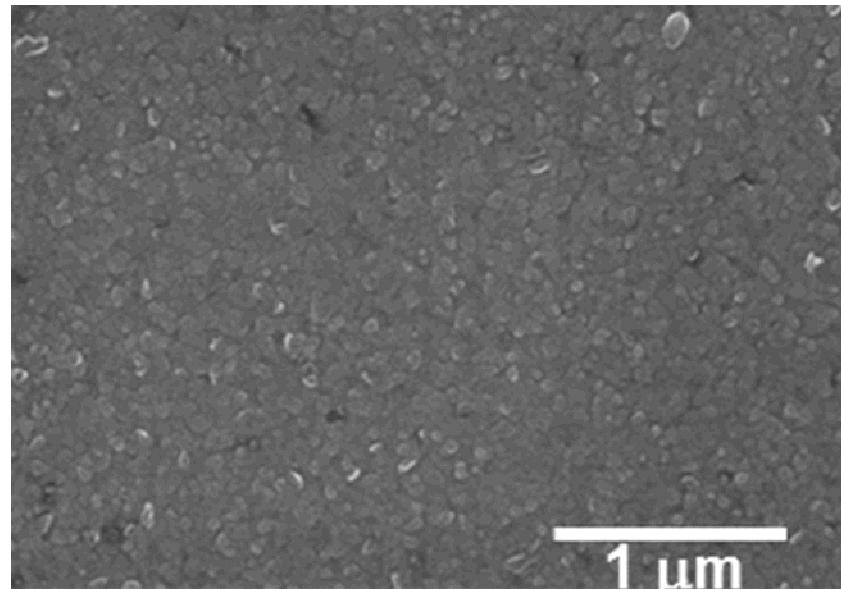
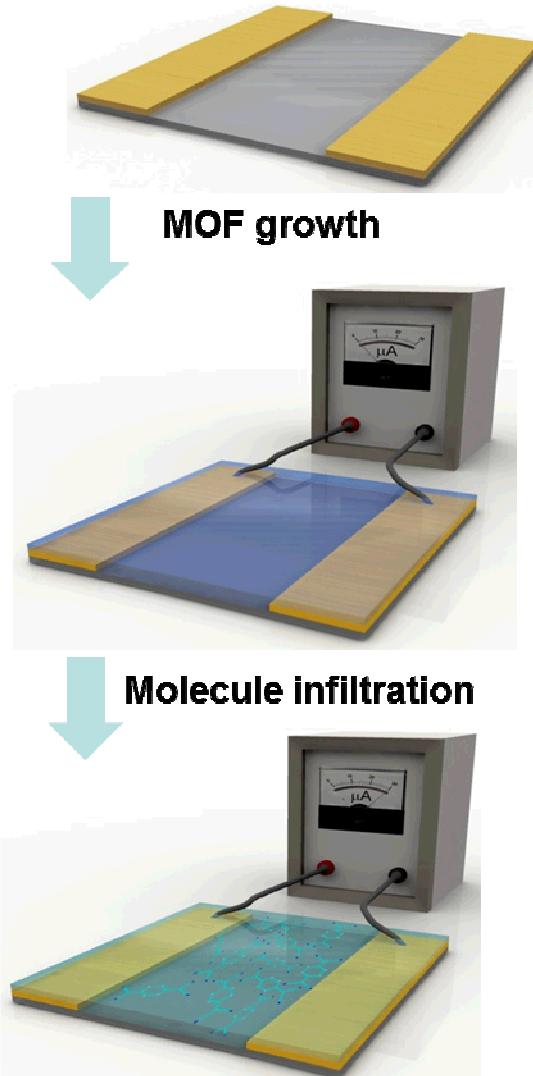
Mn(thiophenol) MOF  
L. Sun et al.  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*  
2013, 135, 8185

# Can guest molecules induce electrical conductivity in an insulating MOF?

TCNQ: 1- or 2-e<sup>-</sup> acceptor ( $\pi$  acid)

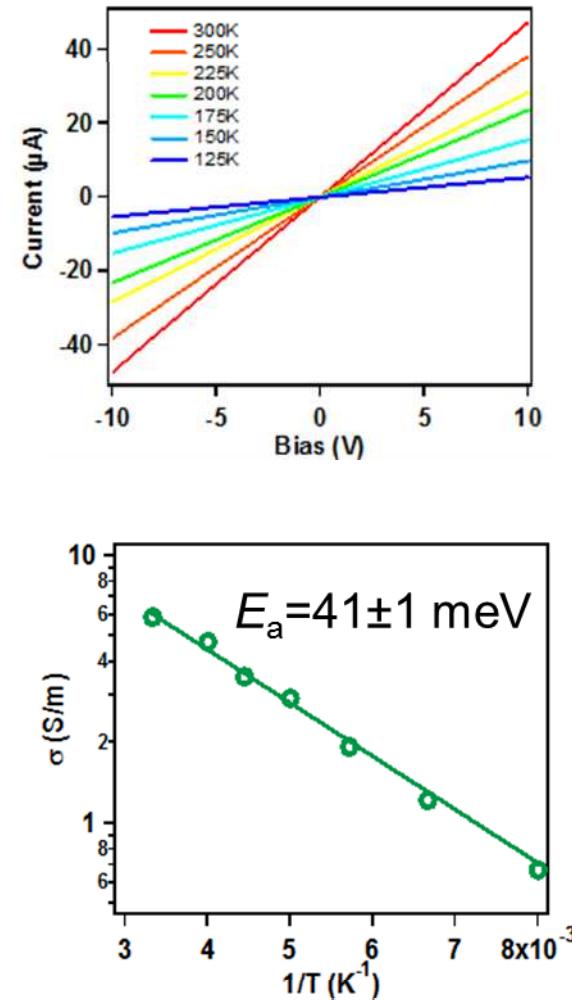
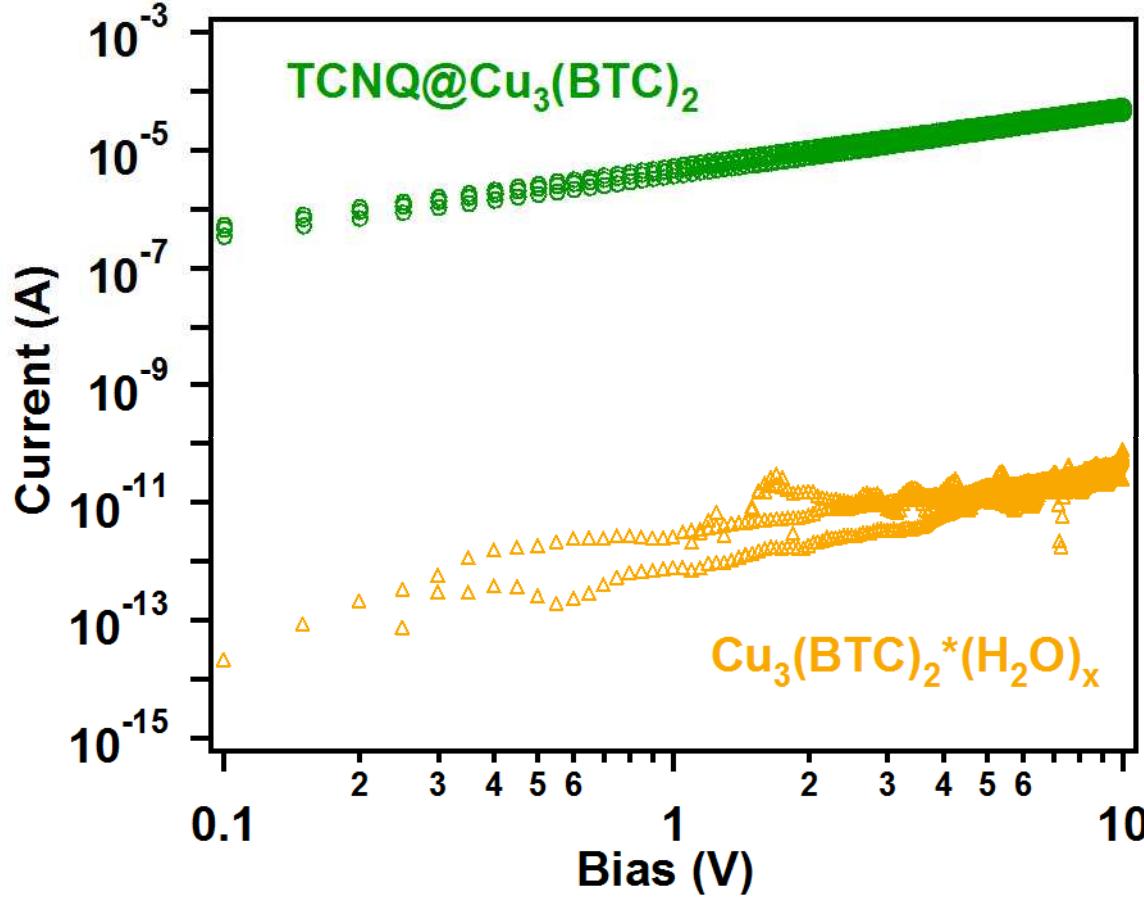


# TCNQ $\rightarrow$ Cu<sub>2</sub>(BTC)<sub>3</sub> leads to color change...

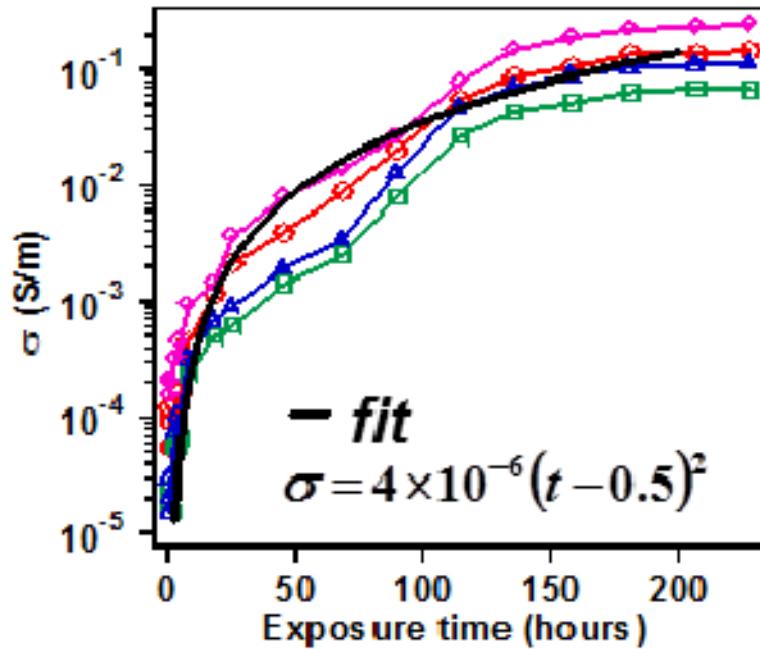


# ... and $>\times 10^6$ increase in conductivity

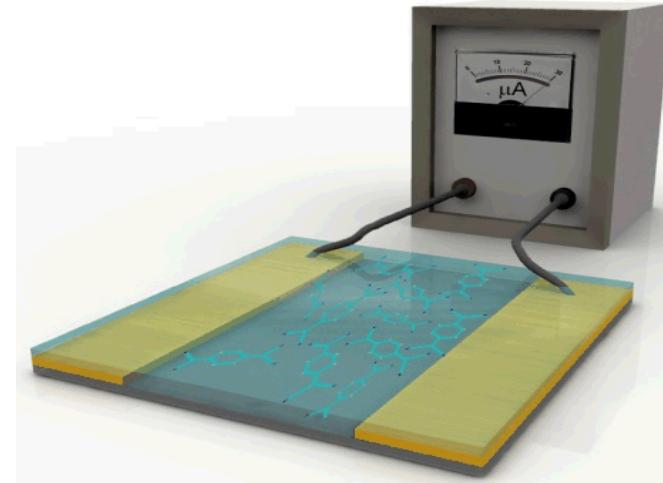
## Conduction is Ohmic



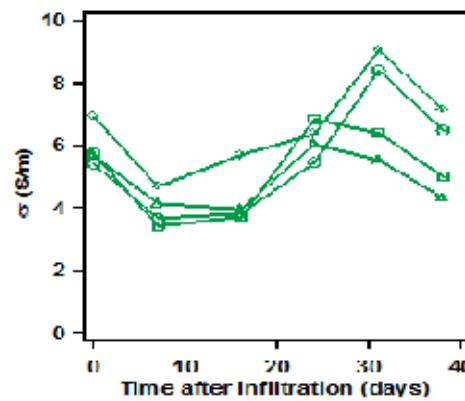
# Conductivity follows classic percolation model



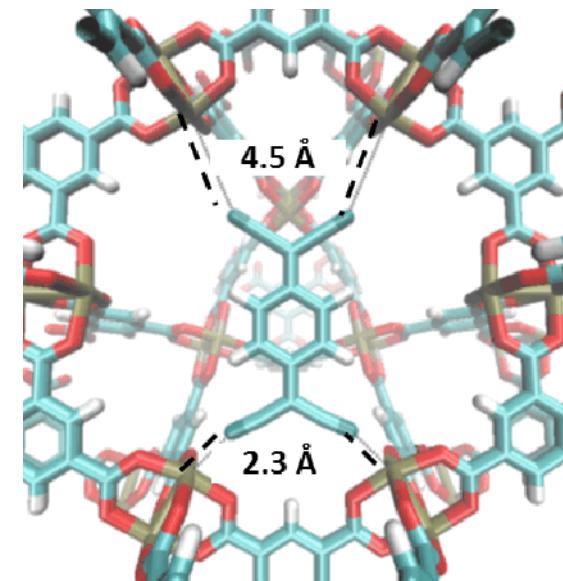
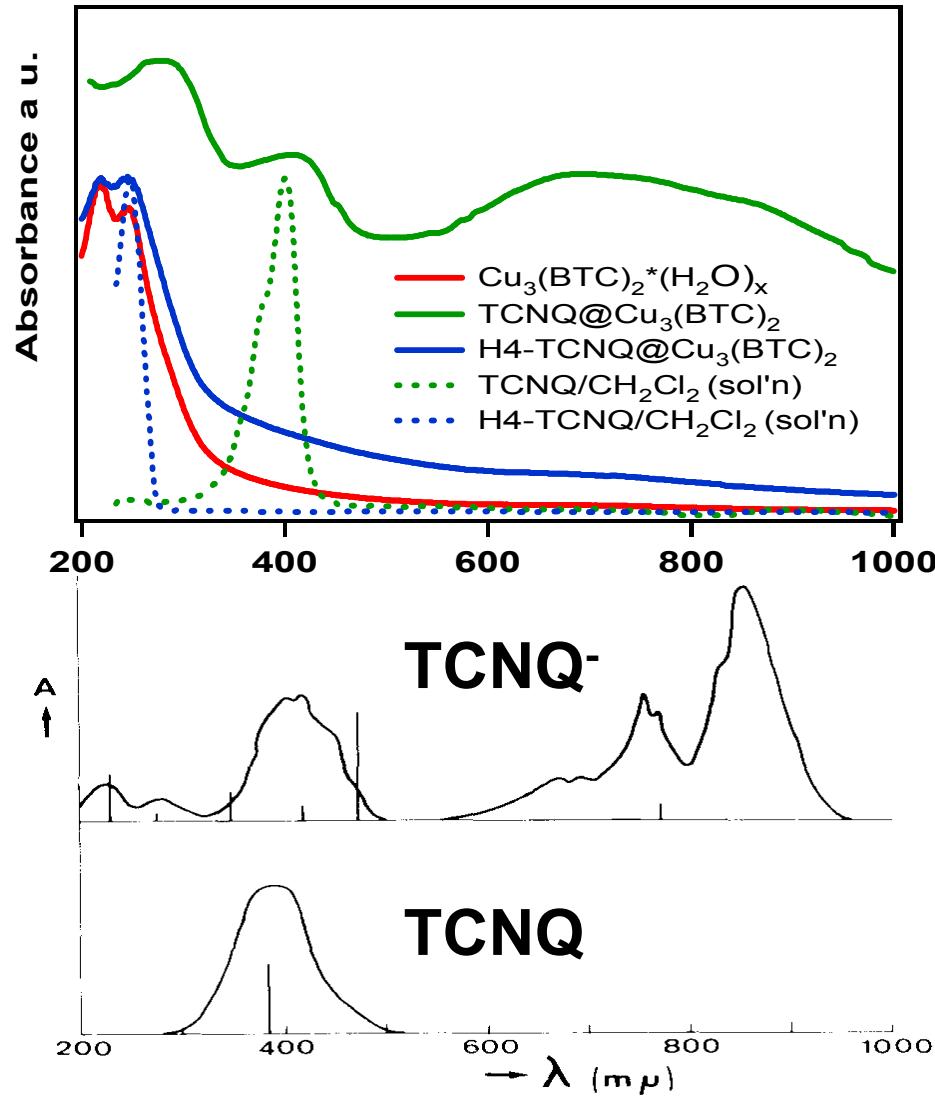
→ Tunable conductivity



Stable in air

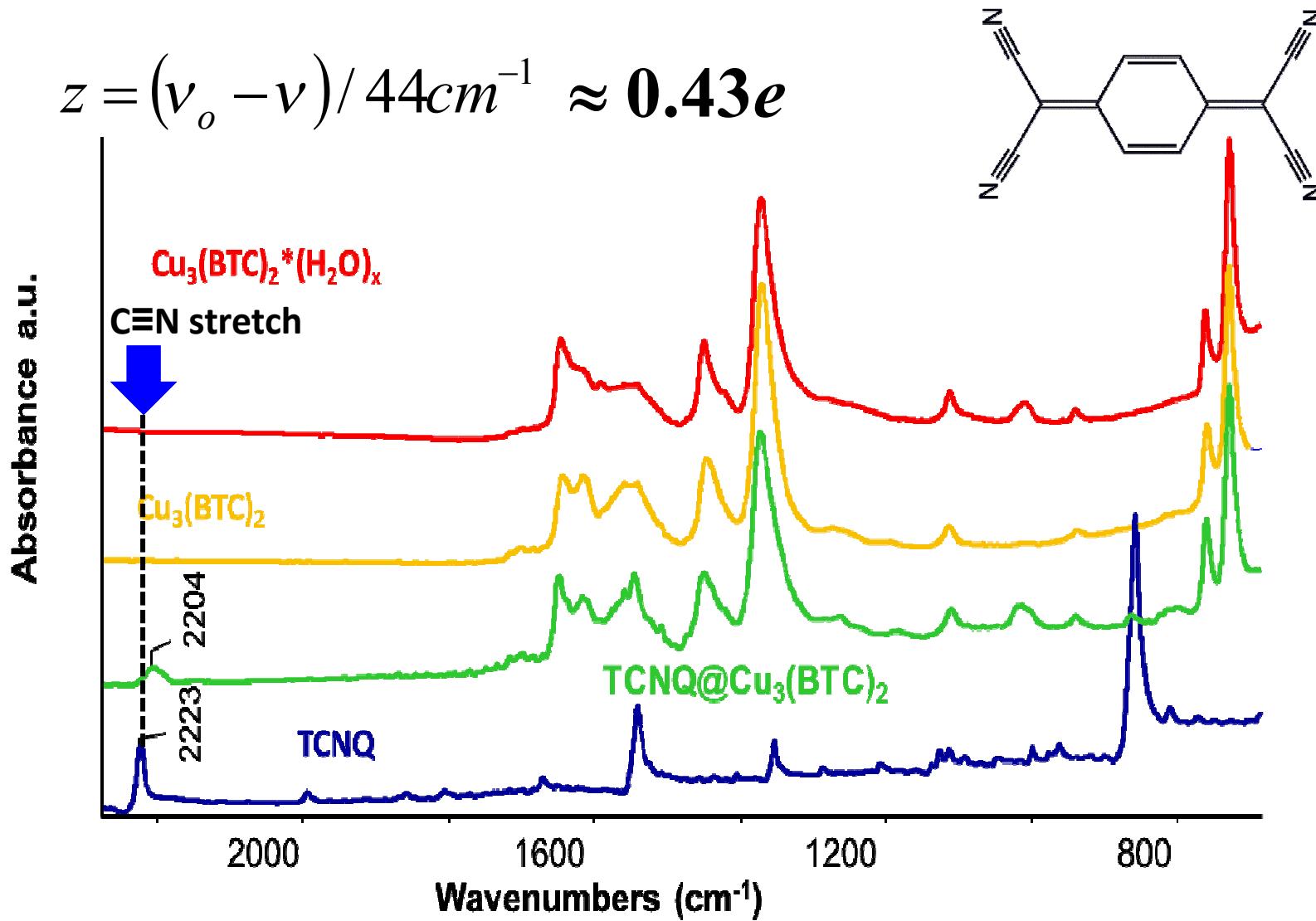


# UV-Vis suggests charge transfer between MOF and TCNQ



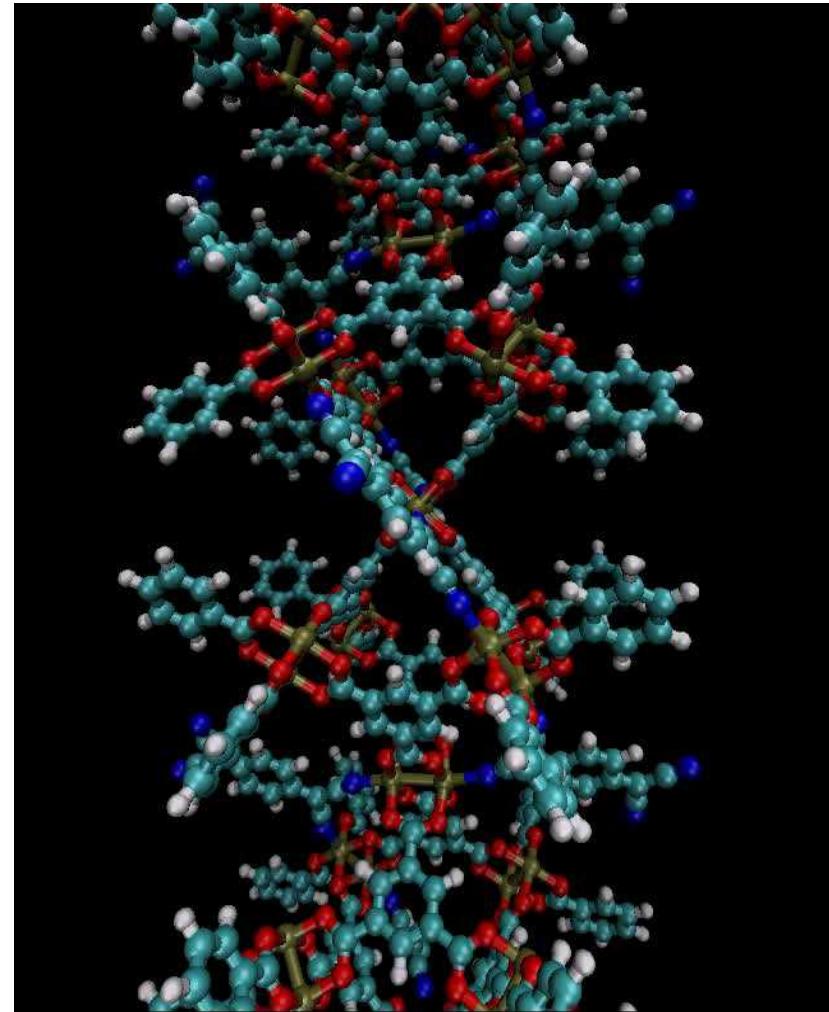
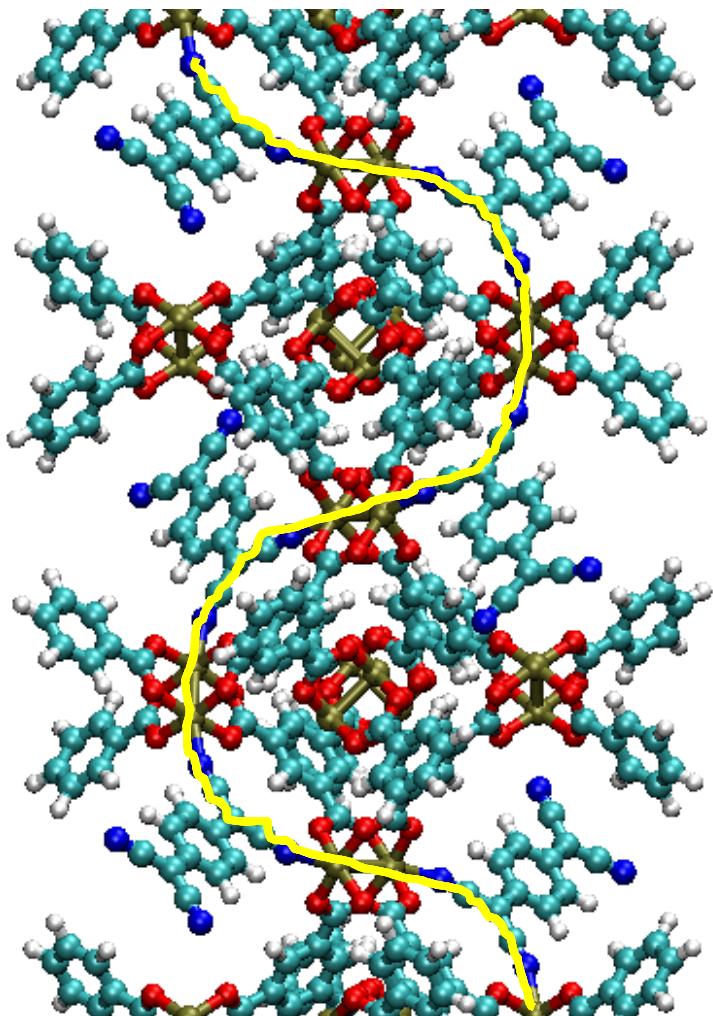
DFT-optimized structure

# IR shift of $\text{-C}\equiv\text{N}$ indicates charge transfer

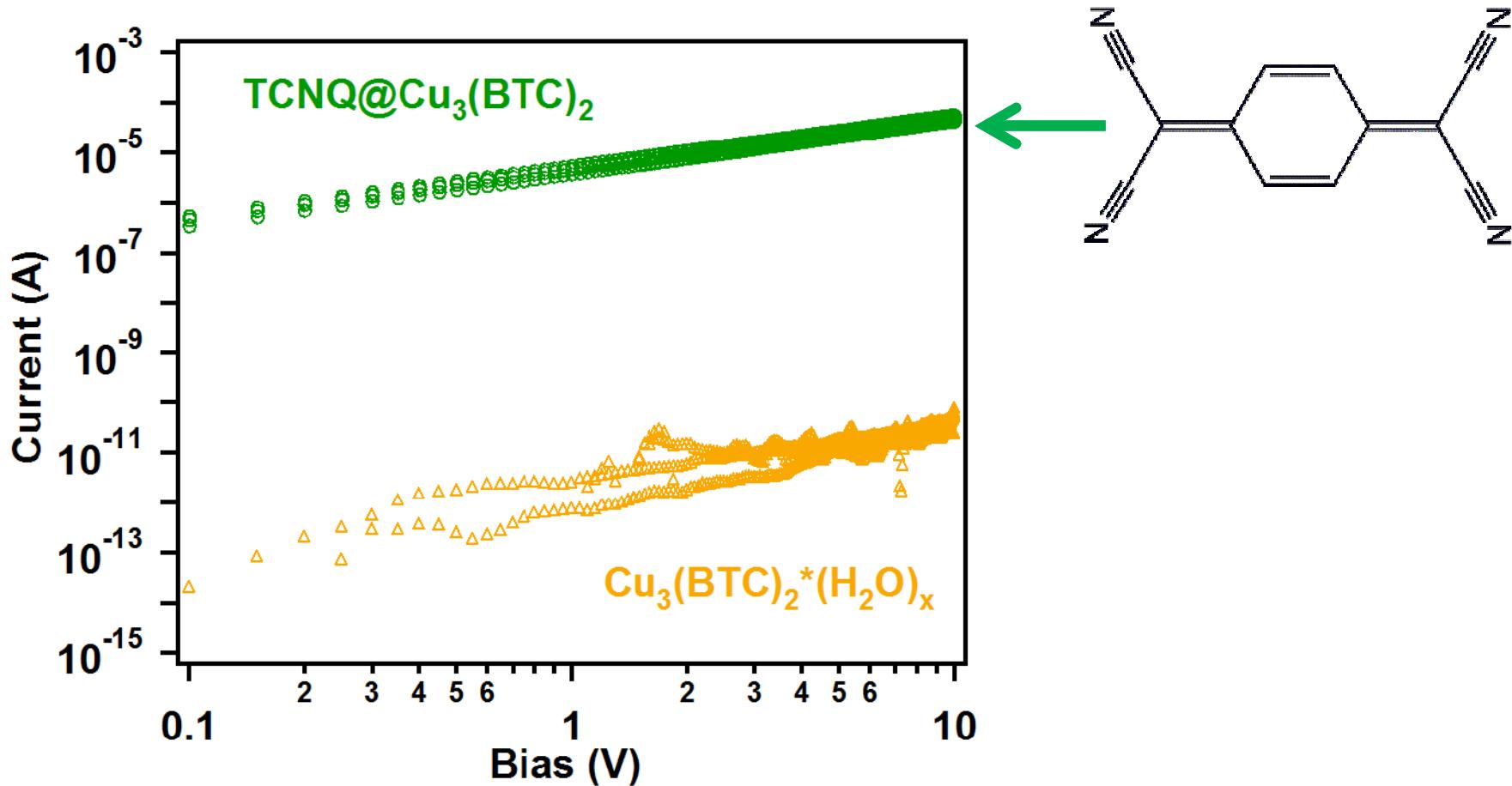


# Proposed TCNQ@CuBTC Conduction Pathway

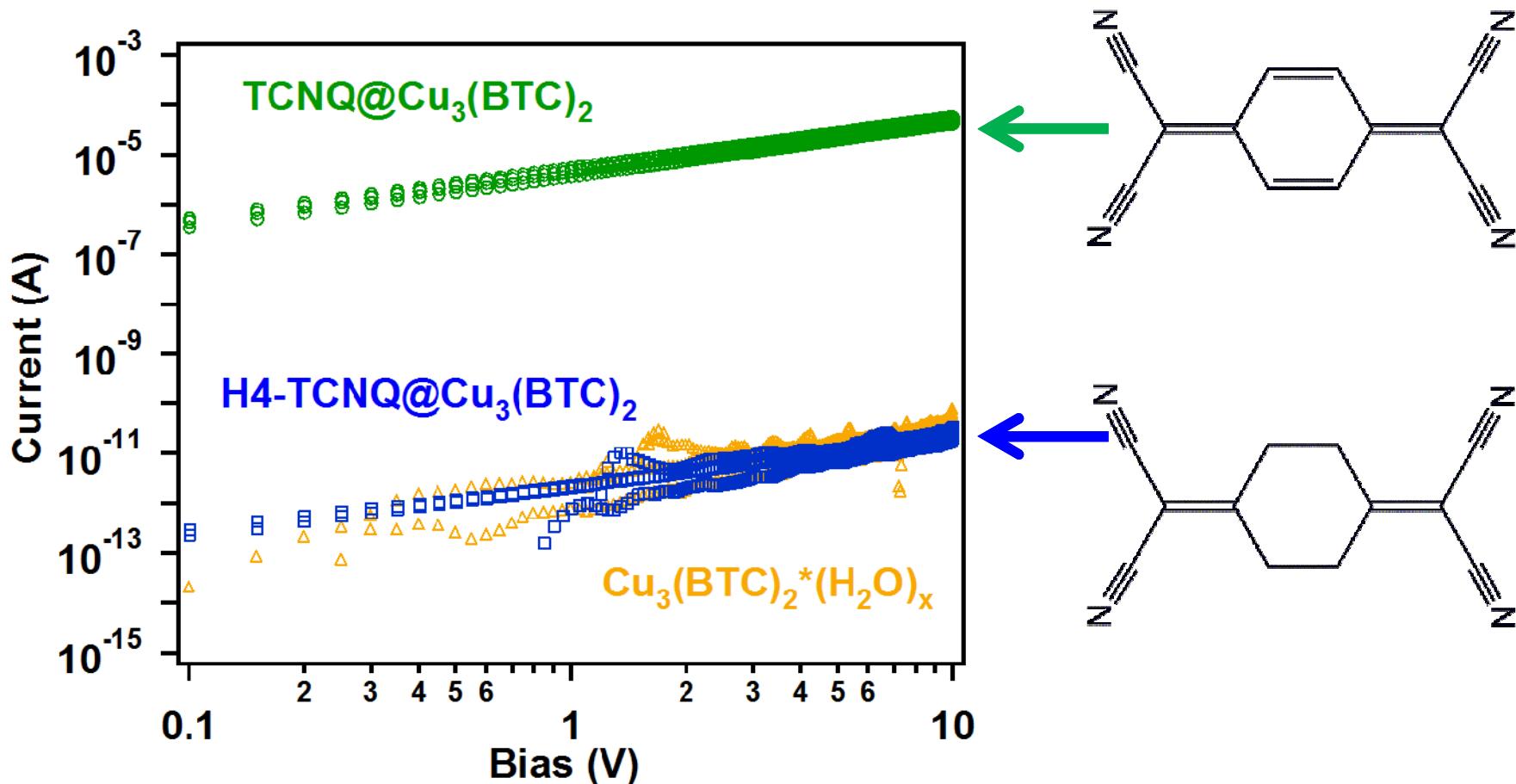
## Plane-wave (periodic) DFT optimized structure



# Extended $\pi$ network essential for conductivity

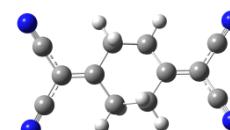
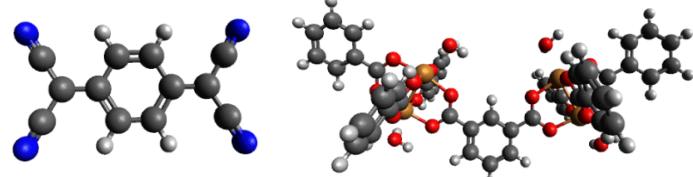
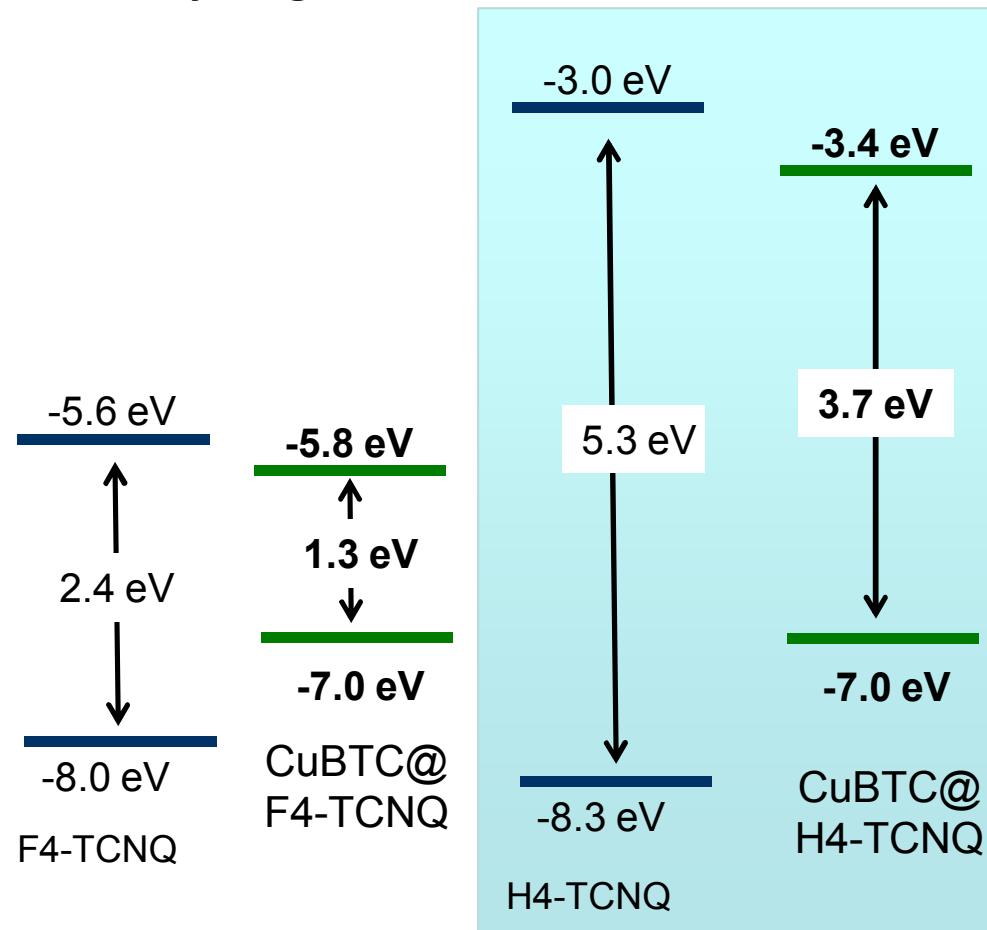
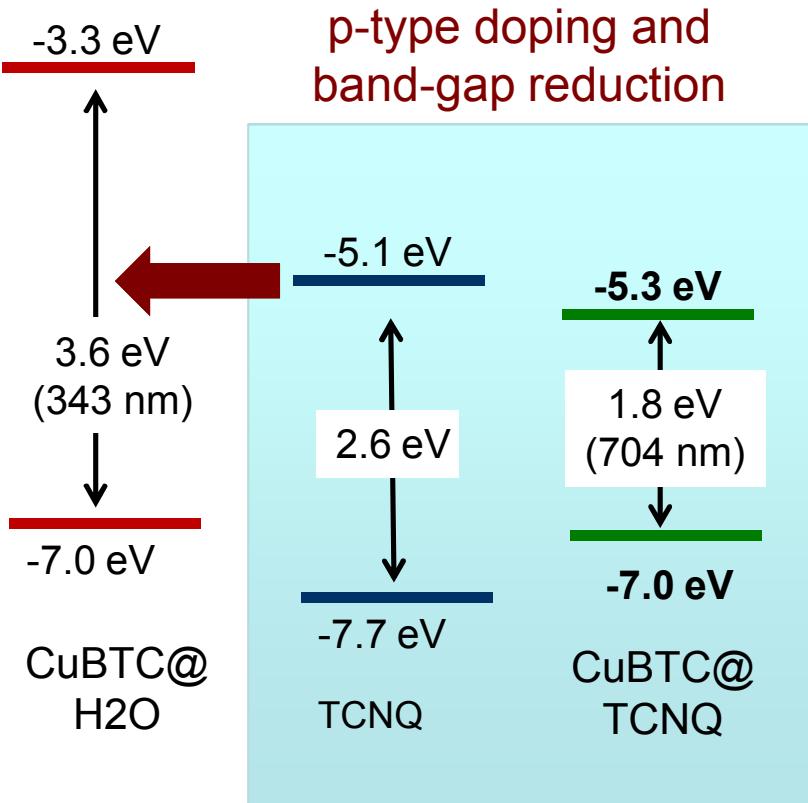


# Extended $\pi$ network essential for conductivity

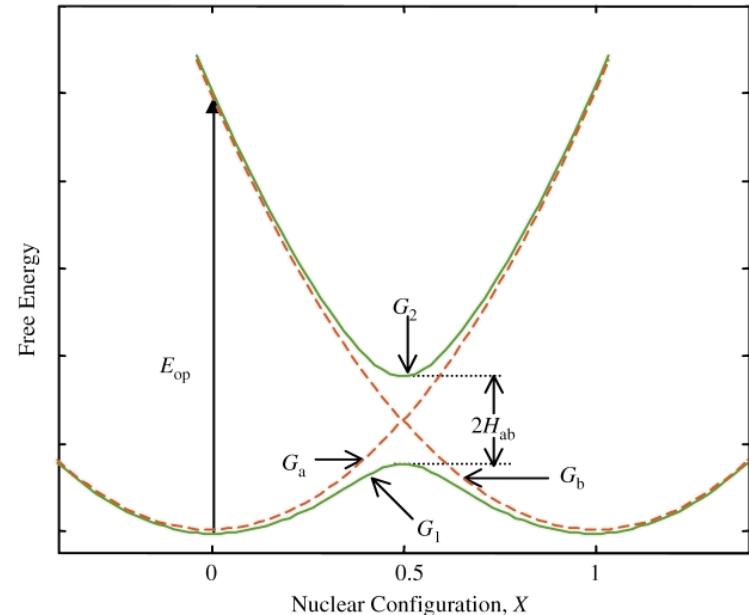
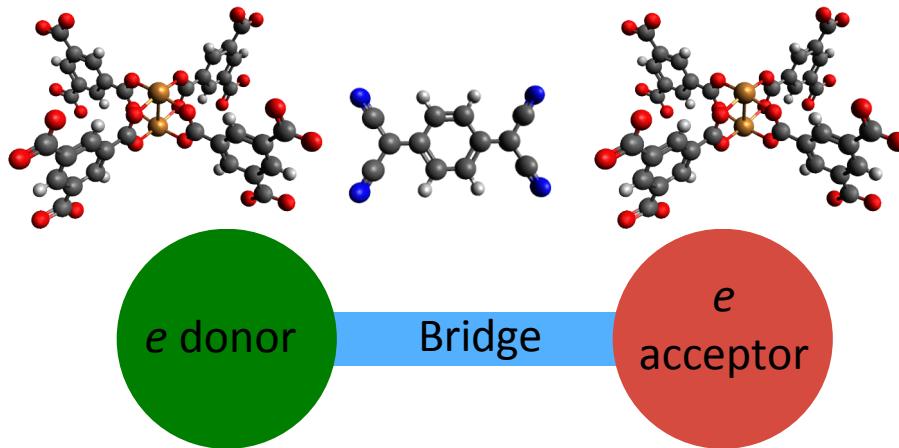


# Cu-BTC band alignments: DFT/PBEsol calculations

## Effect of fluorination and hydrogenation of TCNQ



# DFT predicts TCNQ@Cu<sub>3</sub>(BTC)<sub>2</sub> is a delocalized system



## Robin-Day

### classification

Class I

Class II

Class III

### Electronic coupling

very weak (isolated charge)

intermediate (charge localized)

very strong (delocalized charge)

$$2H_{AB}/\lambda$$

<< 1

$\leq 1$

$> 1$

### Optical/electronic Properties

no new features

New Vis-near IR absorption

New Vis-near IR absorption

	$H_{AB}$ (eV)	$\Delta G^*$ (eV)	$\lambda$ (eV)	$H_{AB}/\lambda$
TCNQ	2.32	0.041	3.84	1.21
F <sub>4</sub> -TCNQ	1.04	0.104	3.23	0.64

→ Class III

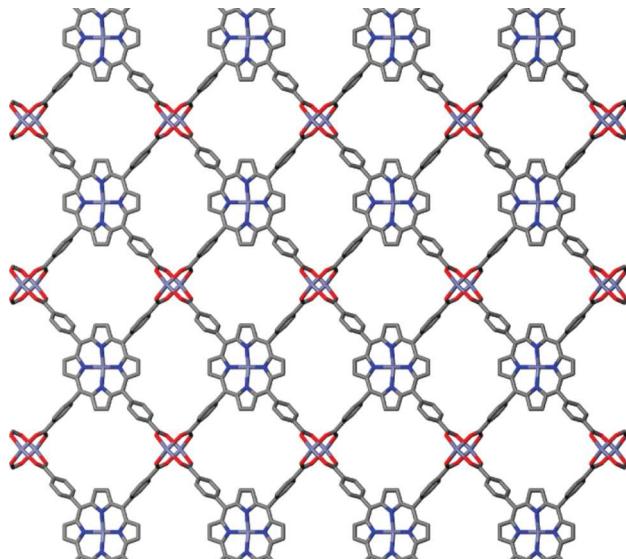
→ Class II-III

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- ❖ “Active” MOF Scaffolds

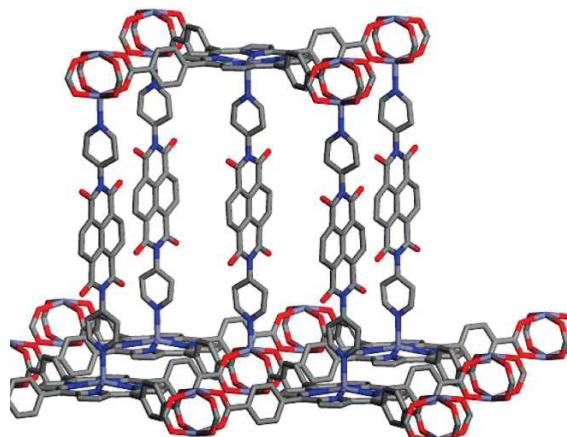
# Building Photoactive MOFs

## Consider Pillared Porphyrin Frameworks (PPFs)

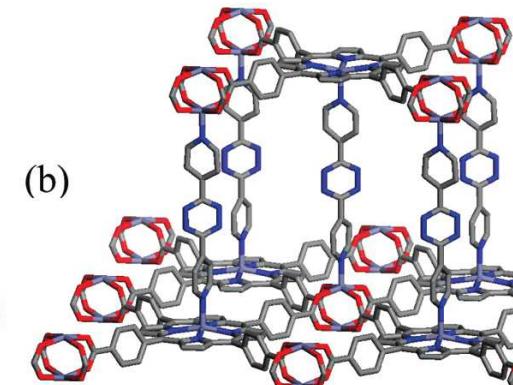
In PPF MOFs, transition metal cations coordinate the assembly of photoactive metalloporphyrins into sheets, stacked atop molecular pillars.



2D porphyrin sheet commonly found in PPF series



Side view of PPF-18  
Chung *et al.* *Crystal Growth & Design*, Vol. 9, No. 7, 2009



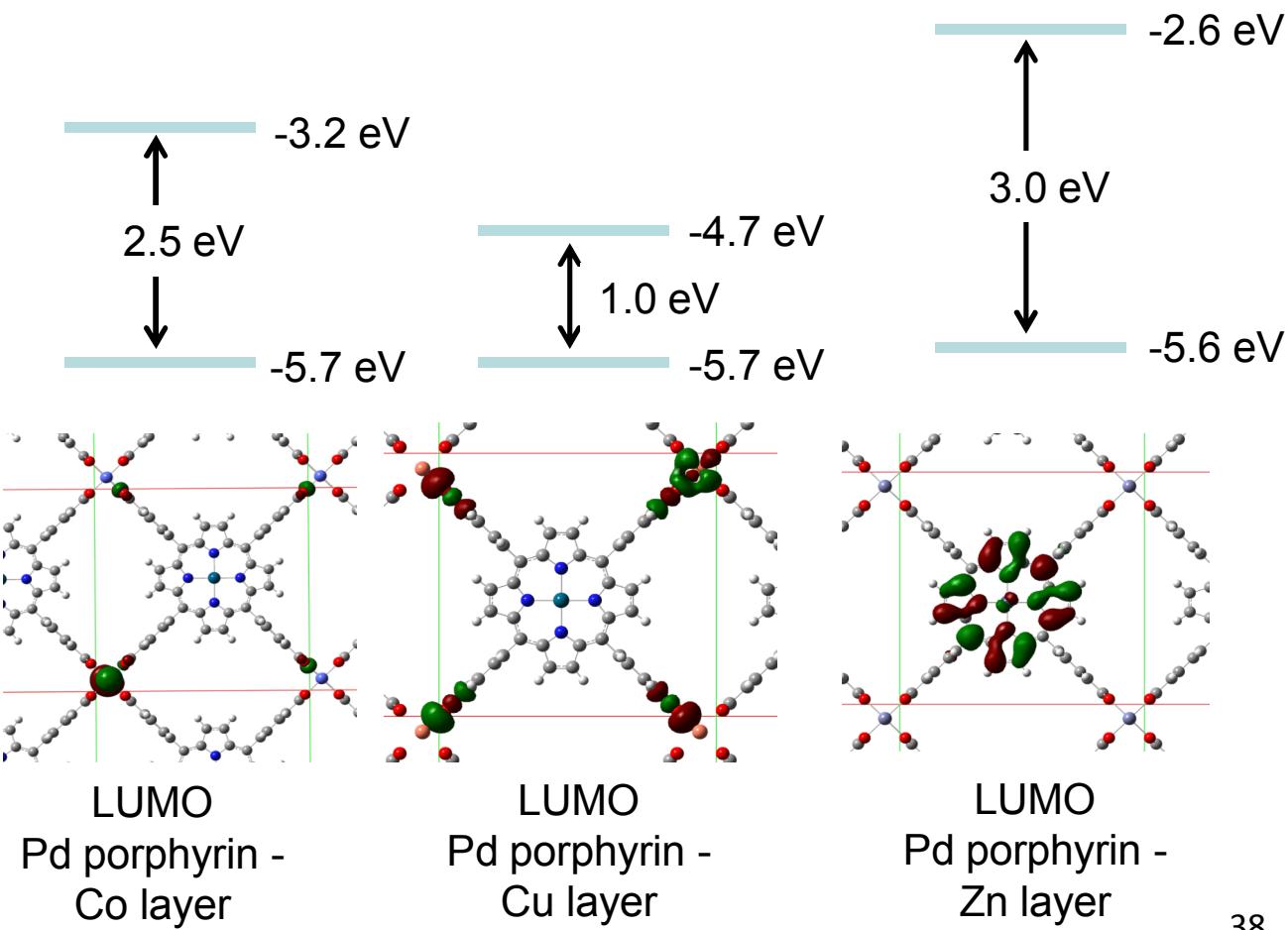
(b)

# Band Structure Tailoring

*Density Functional Theory (DFT) simulations show that by varying the composition of PPF molecular building blocks, it is possible to tune the electronic band structure of these MOFs.*

## Varying transition metal ions

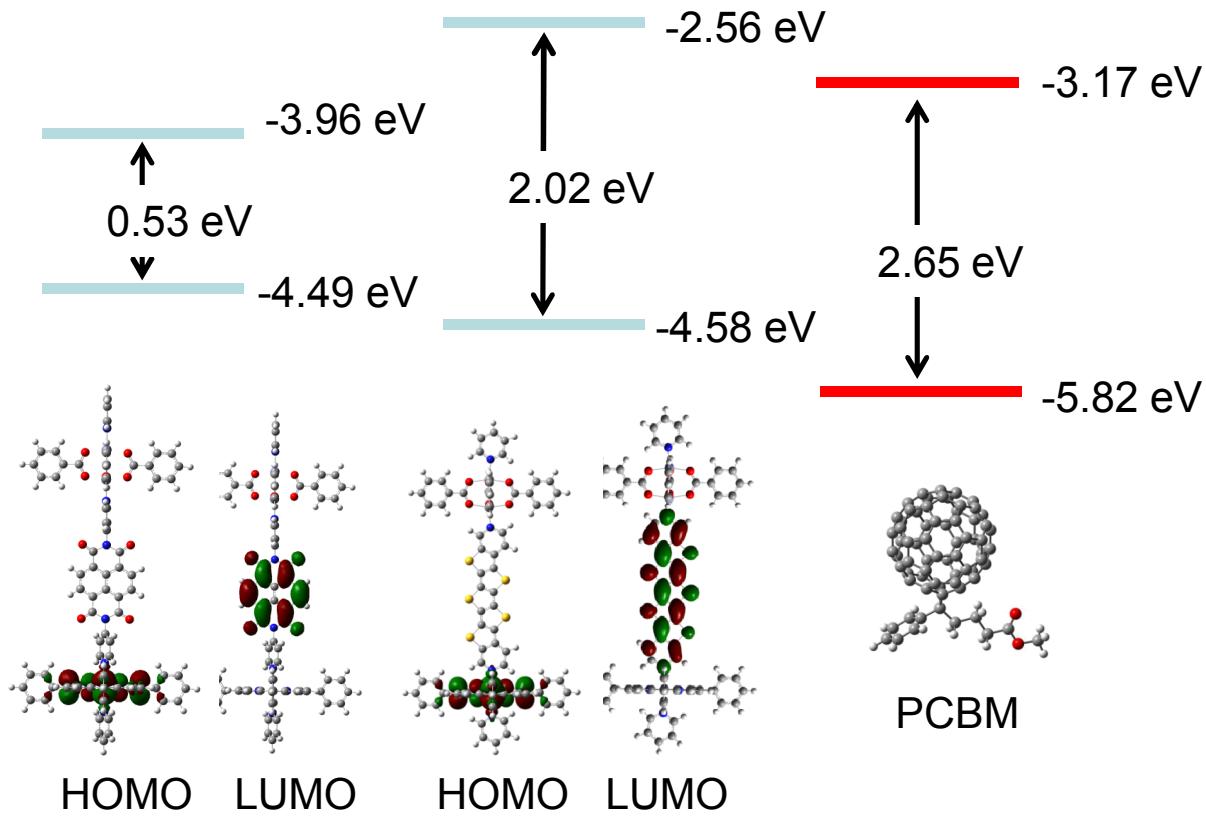
2D periodic  
optimization -  
DFT(B3LYP/ CEP-  
31G)



# Band Structure Tailoring

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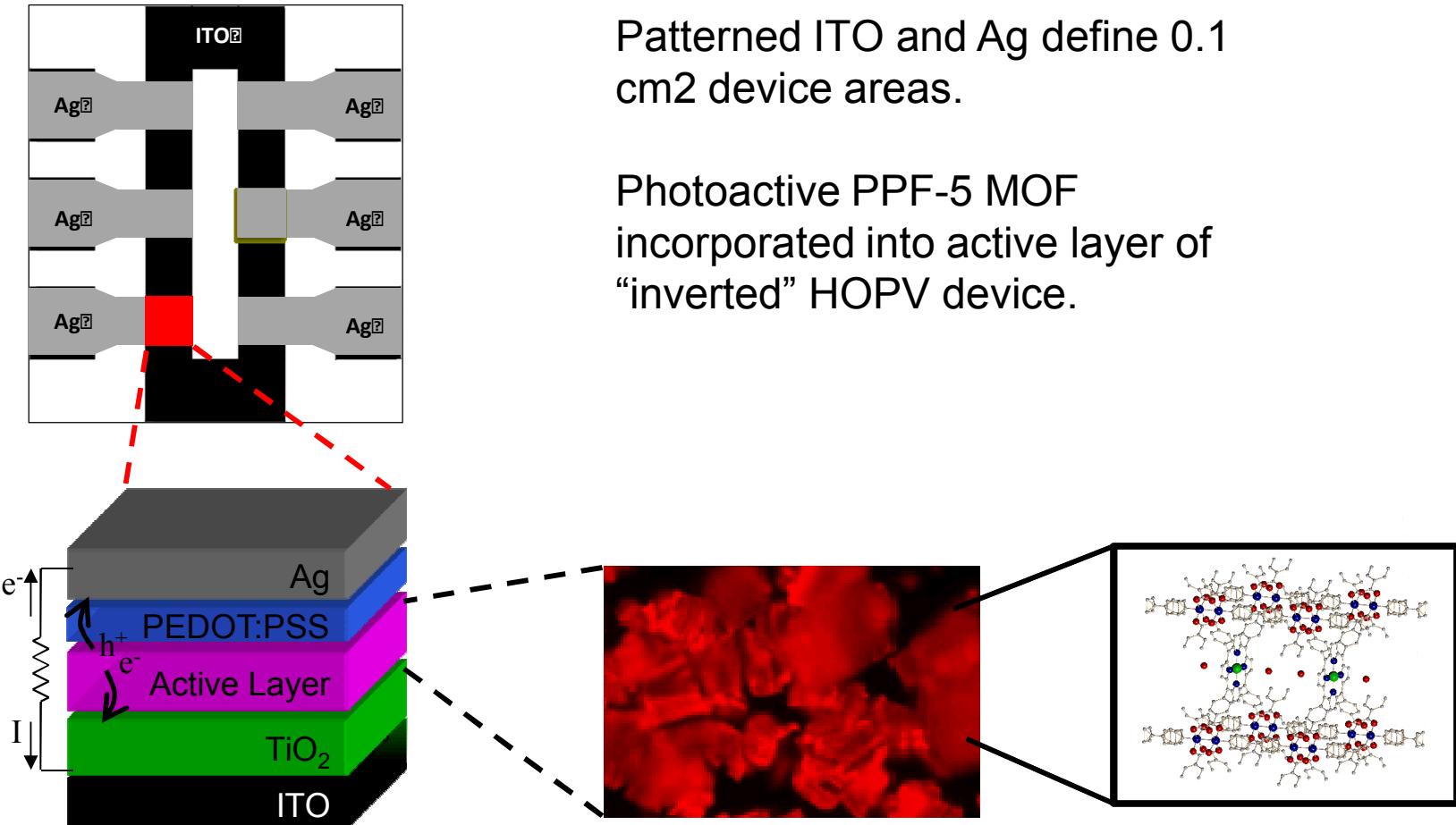
## Varying organic pillars



2D periodic optimization -  
DFT(B3LYP/ CEP-31G)

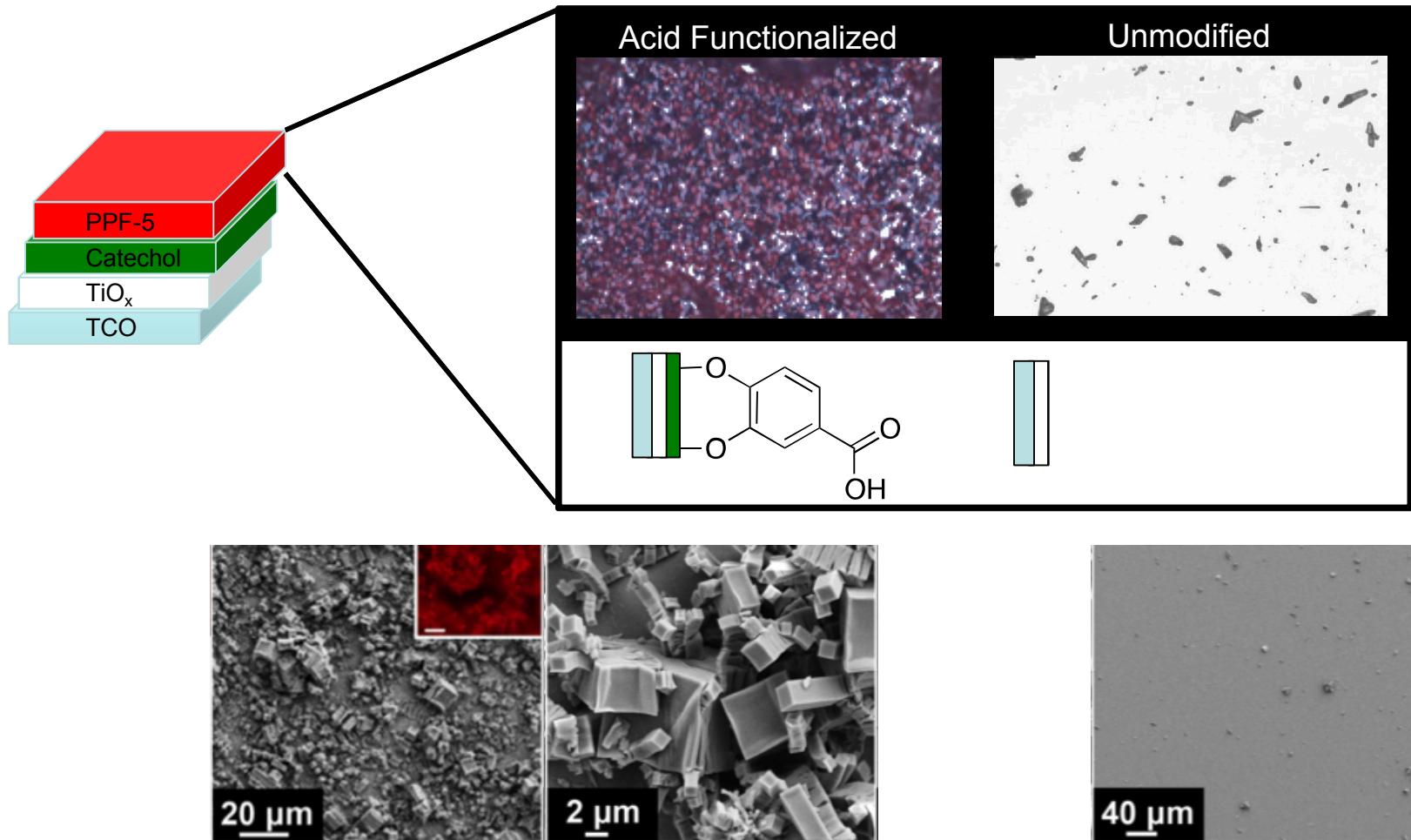
# Integration of PPF-5 into Devices

**Challenge:** Can we develop the chemistry to integrate these versatile materials into HOPV devices?



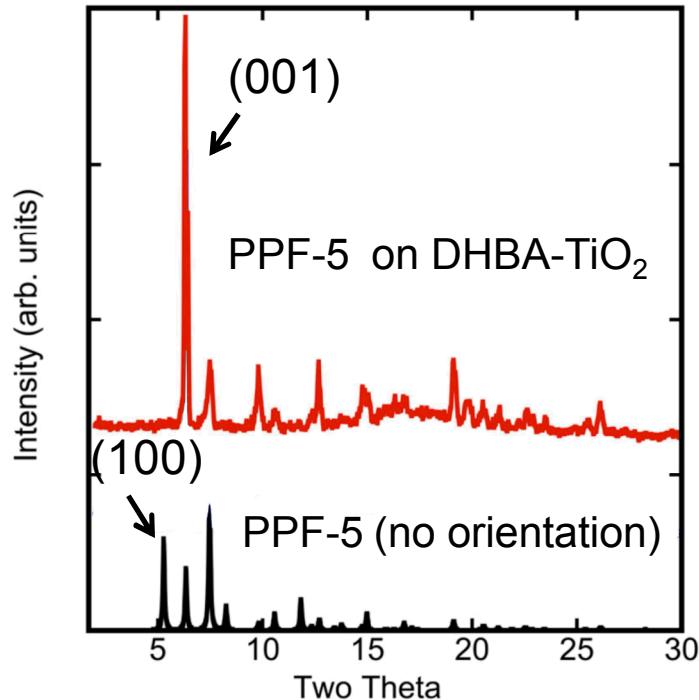
# Introduction to MOFs

Solvothermal PPF-5 growth on acid-functionalized surfaces promotes surface-nucleated PPF-5 crystal growth.

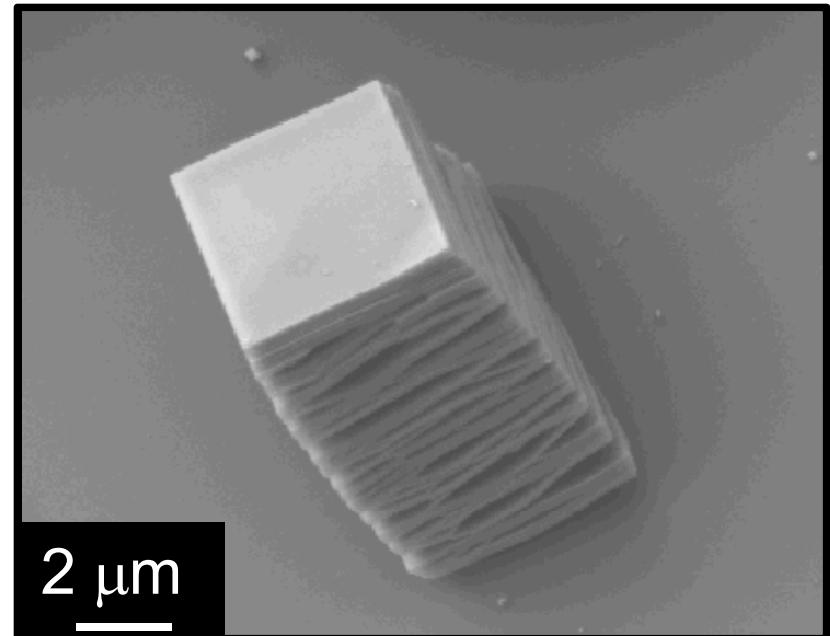


# Oriented Solvothermal PPF-5

*Solvothermal PPF-5 is oriented, appearing as stacks of MOF-sheets.*



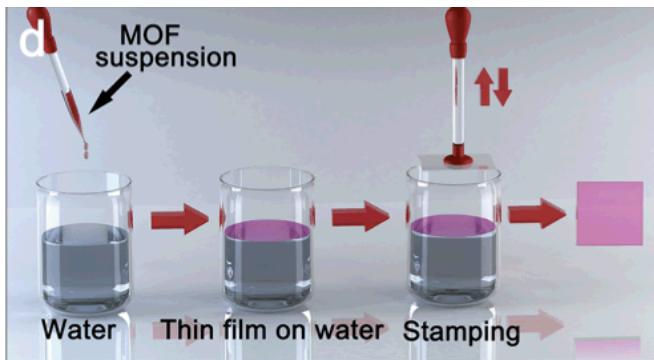
Grazing Incidence XRD shows growth of PPF-5 with preferential (001) orientation (red).



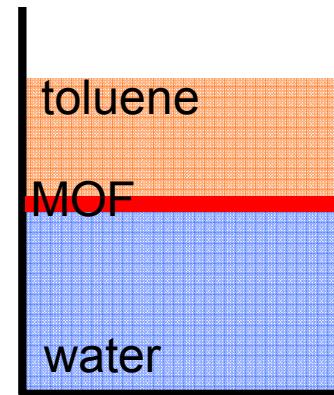
Scanning electron micrograph of PPF-5 stacks

# An Alternative Approach to PPF5 Thin Film Formation

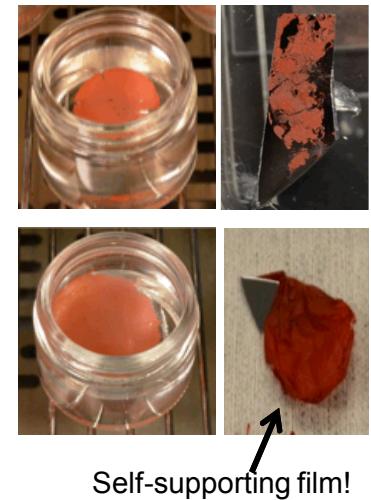
*Assembling MOF thin films at solvent interfaces allows for formation of dense, robust porphyrin-MOF thin films*



G. Xu, et al., JACS 2012, 134, 16524



Stamped onto  
OTS/APS-treated  
Si  
(toluene +  
acetone, 1:4)  
Untouched on  
water surface for  
48 hours  
(toluene + acetone,  
1:4)



*Robust films are too thick for OPV!*

# Starting point for device applications: thin films

## In-situ methods

- Layer-by-layer (Fischer, Woell)
- Gel-layer (Bein et al. *Angew. Chem.* 2010)
- Electrochemical/redox (DeVoos *Chem. Mat.* 2009)



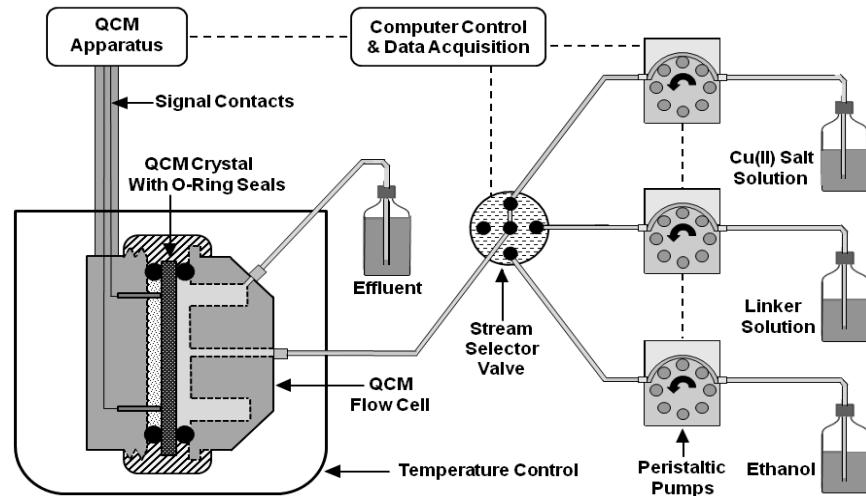
## Seeding methods

- Nanocrystals
- Langmuir-Blodgett (Makiura et al. *Nat. Mat.* 2010)

## Ex-situ methods

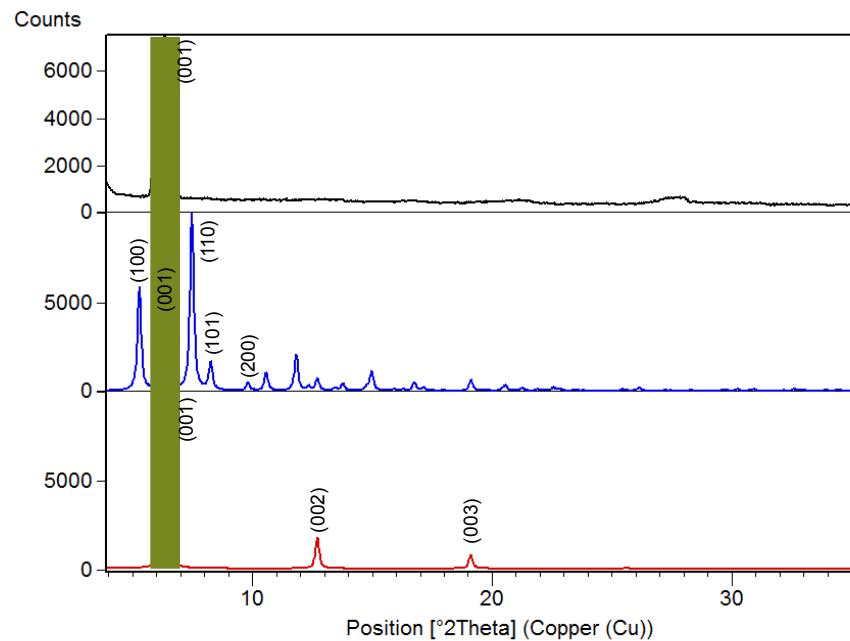
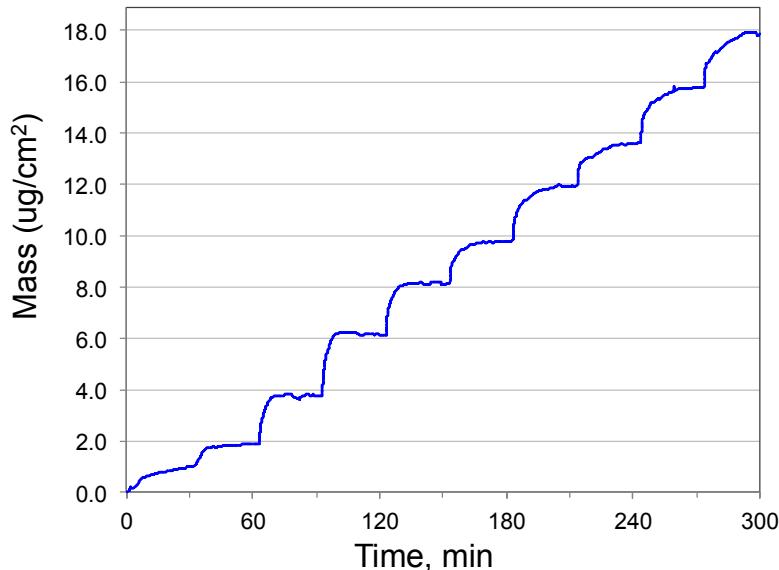
- Colloidal synthesis (A. Demessence et al. *Chem. Comm.* 2009)

Schematic representation of automated MOF film growth/QCM capability



# Layer by Layer Growth of PPF-5

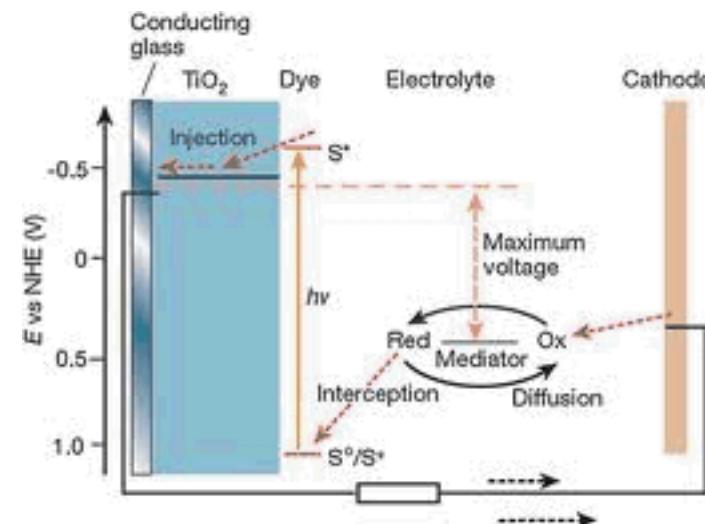
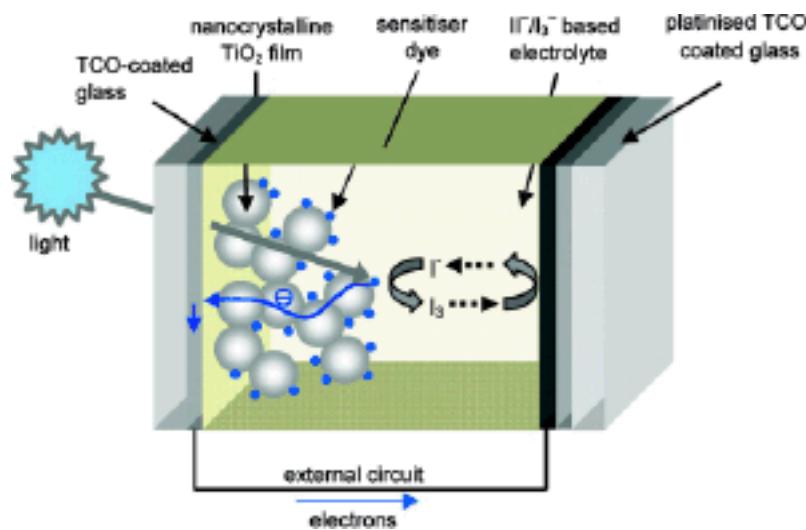
Layer-by-layer growth of PPF-5 is monitored by QCM and shows step-wise growth of an oriented PPF-5 film.



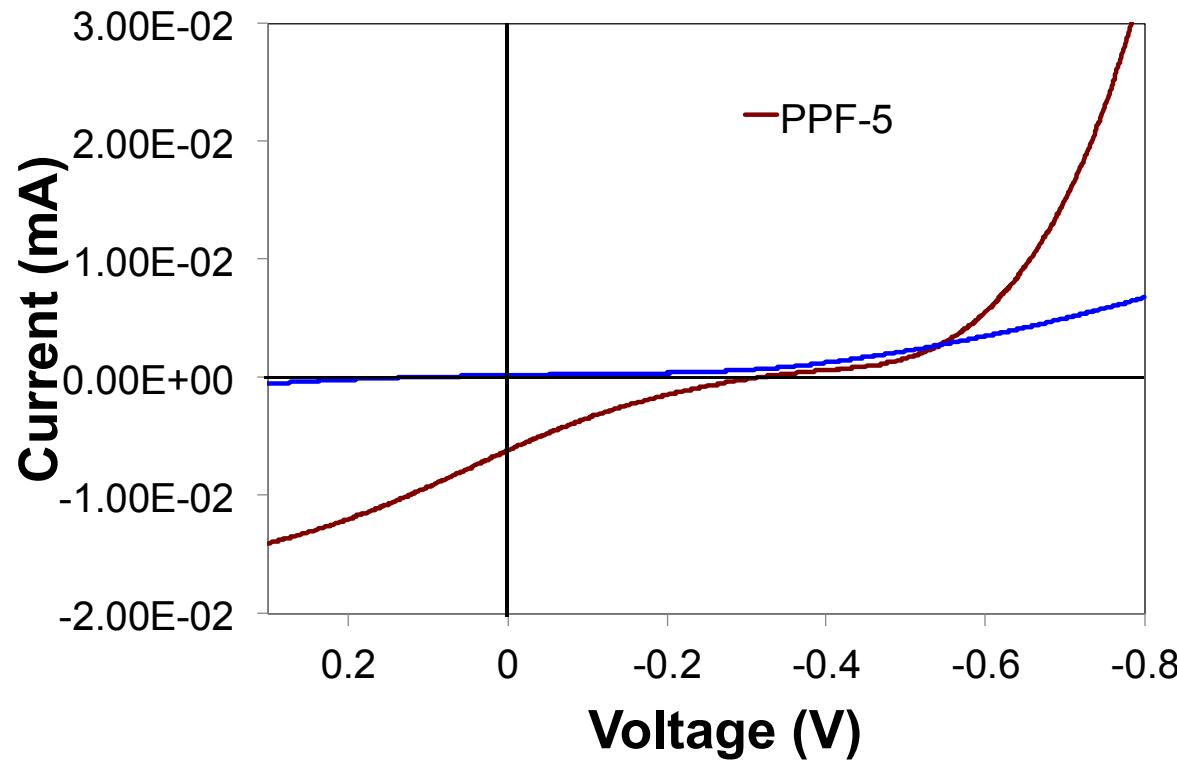
The grazing incidence XRD pattern indicates a strong preferred orientation along the (001) axis.

# Resolving the “Wiring” Issue

An alternative approach to the solid-state PV systems involves incorporating MOFs into DSSCs.



# PPF-5 in a DSSC



# Acknowledgements

## Sandia (Albuquerque)

Jill S. Wheeler  
Dara Van Gough  
Steven Wolf  
Tim Lambert  
Bonnie McKenzie

## Funding

- **U.S. DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Sunshot)**
- **Sandia Laboratory Directed Research and Development Program**

## Sandia (California)

Michael Foster  
Kirsty Leong  
Alec Talin  
Mark D. Allendorf



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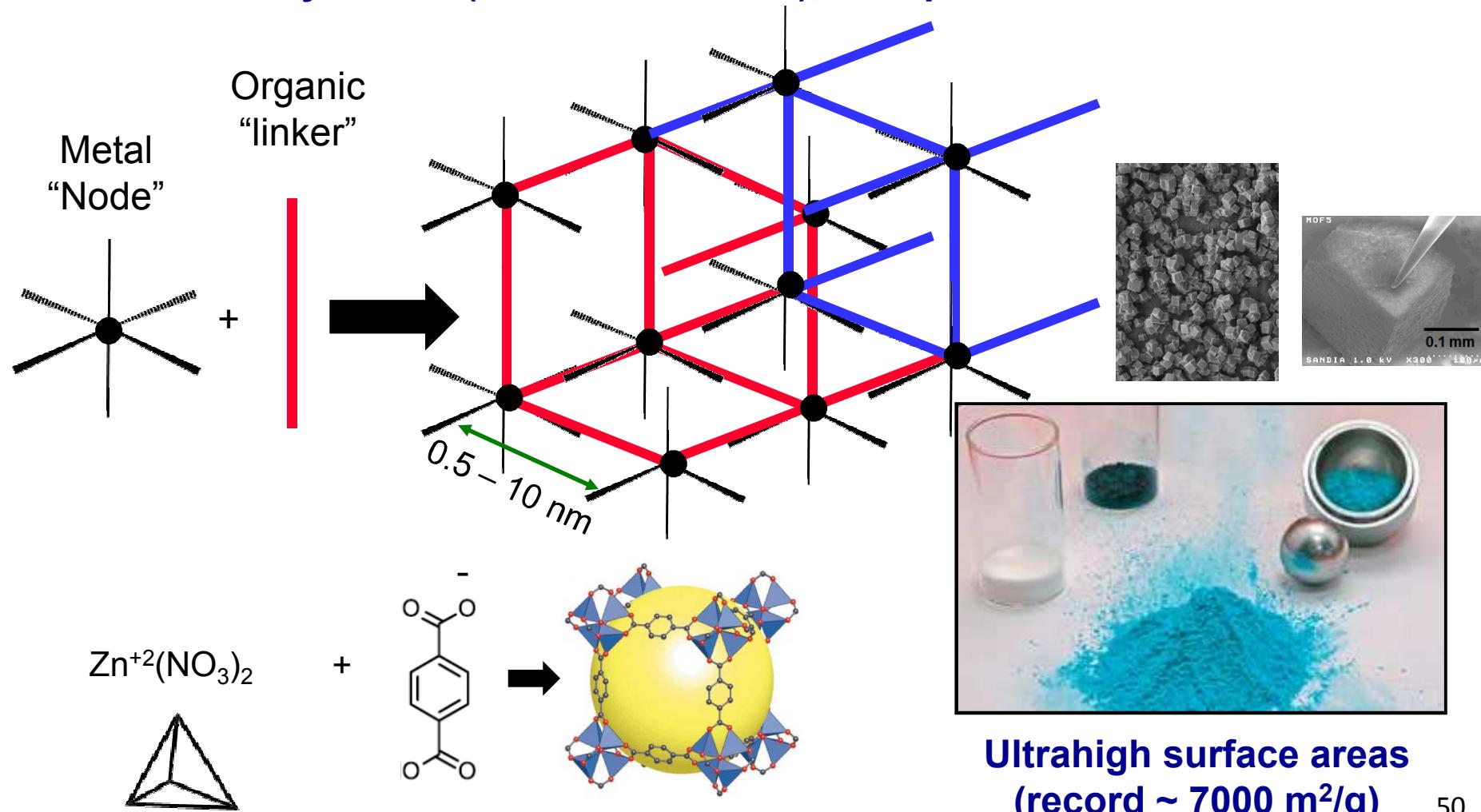
# Backup Slides



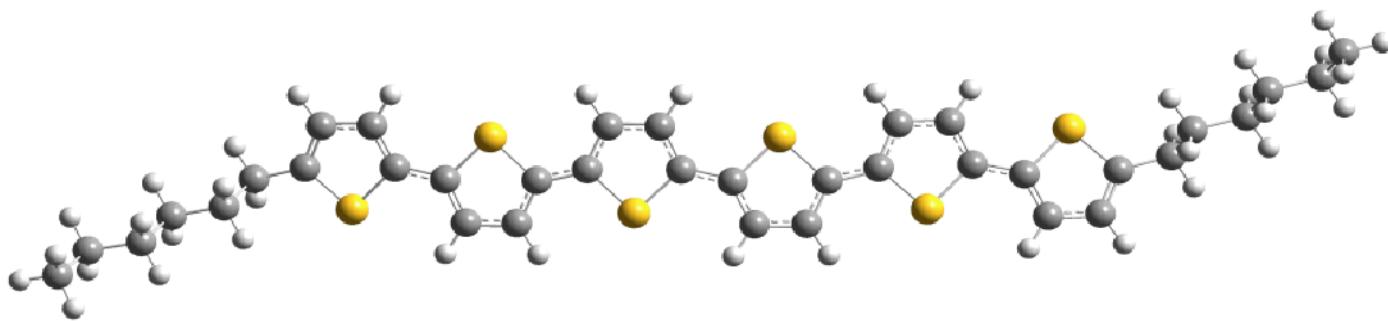
# What are Metal-Organic-Frameworks (MOFs)?

## A subset of “Coordination Polymers”

## Crystalline (therefore ordered), nanoporous structure



## Ultrahigh surface areas (record ~ 7000 m<sup>2</sup>/g)



# Step-by-step synthesis of PPF-5

