

# Characterizing the time-dependent photocurrent of dye-sensitized solar cells

Dr. Ian McNeil

Bridgewater College, Bridgewater VA

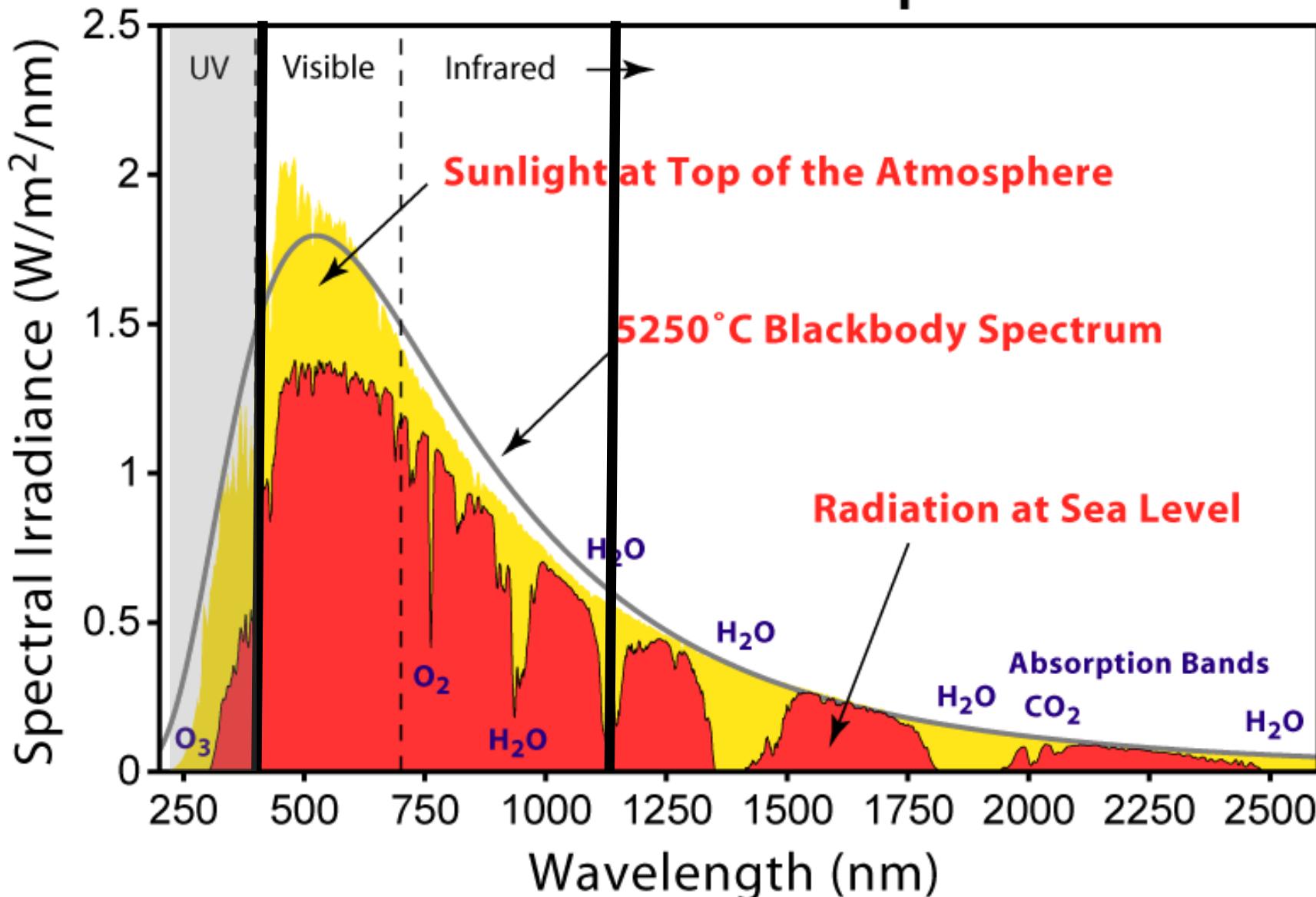
American Chemical Society National Spring Meeting 2020

Session: Physical Chemistry Research at Undergraduate Institutions

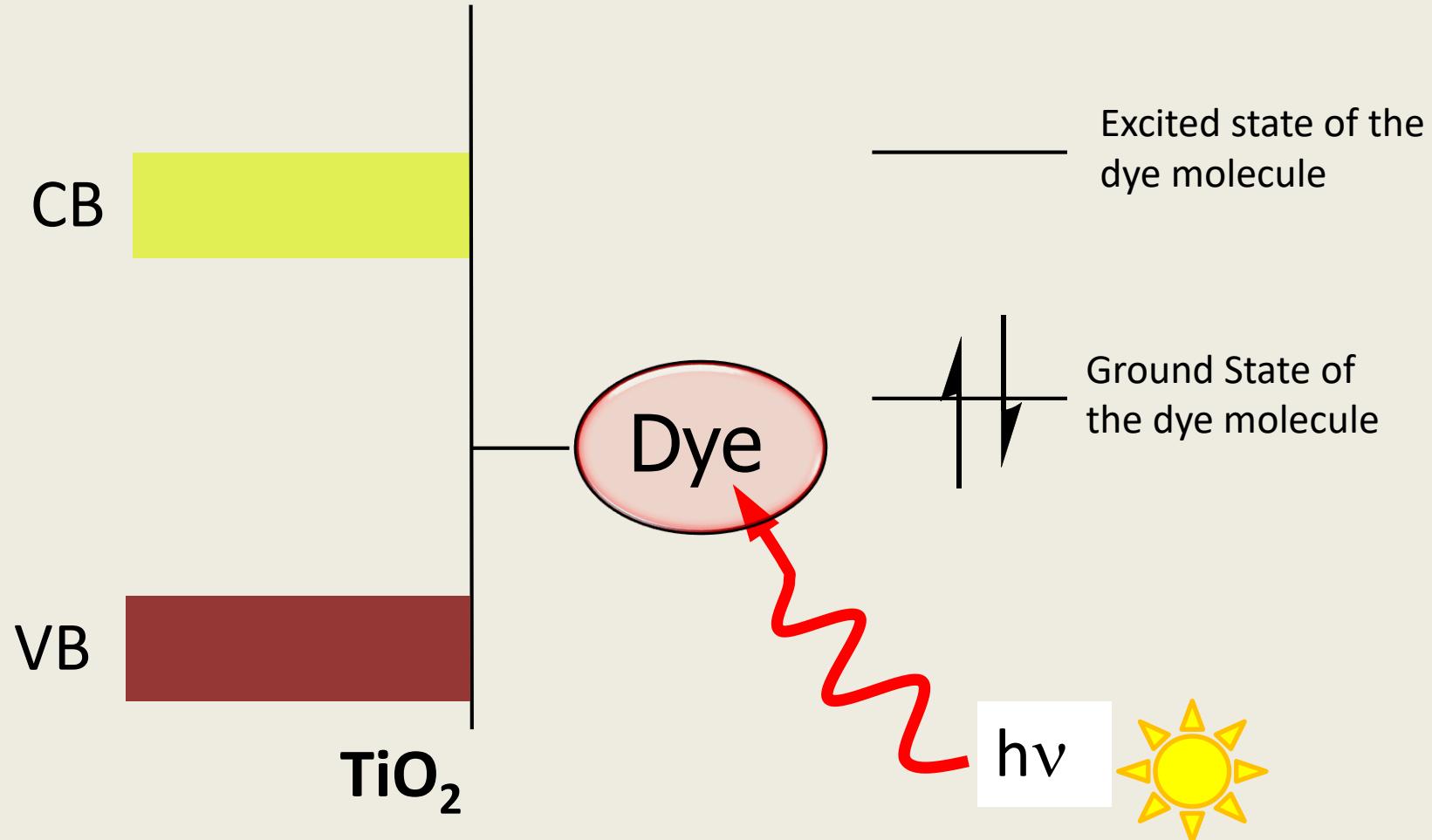
March 25, 2020



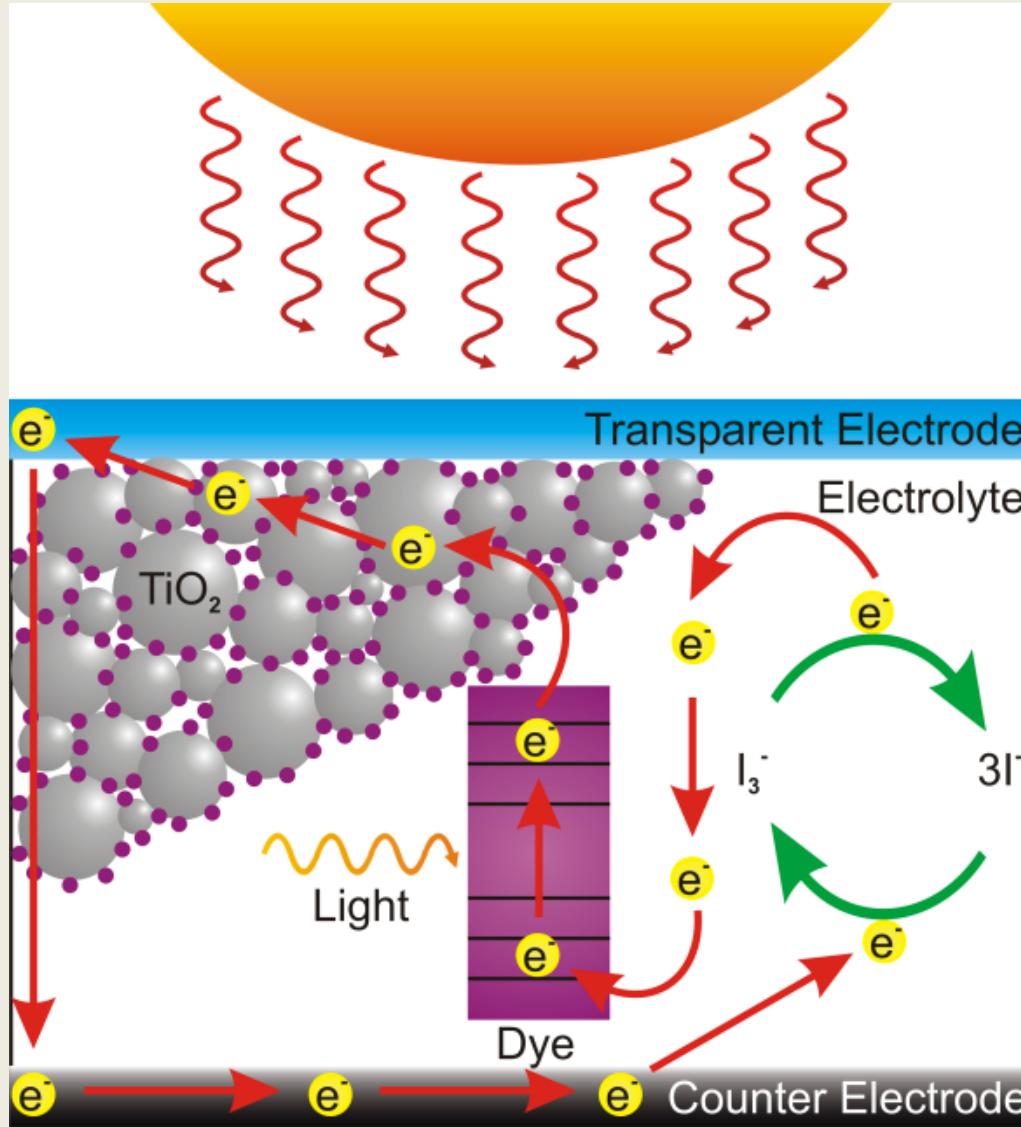
# Solar Radiation Spectrum



# Absorbing into the red: Sensitization



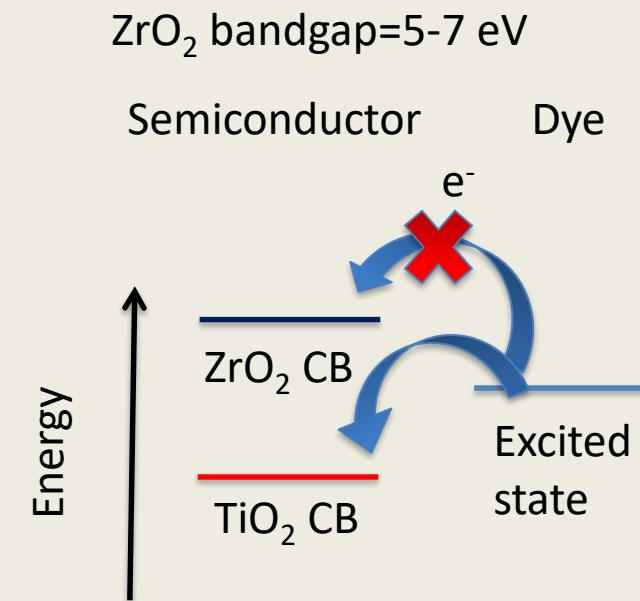
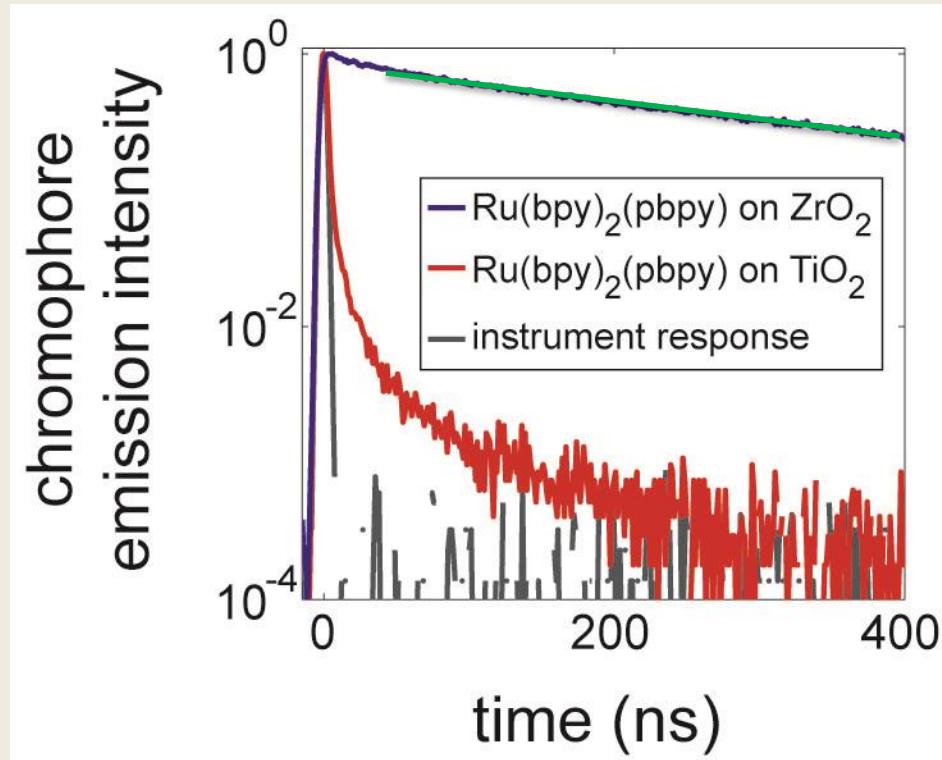
# A complete Dye-sensitize solar cell



Problem: A monolayer of dye on a smooth surface does not absorb much light!

Porous nanoparticle network increases surface area!

# Time-resolved emission of RuP on nanocrystalline $\text{TiO}_2$ and $\text{ZrO}_2$ films in pH 1 aqueous solution

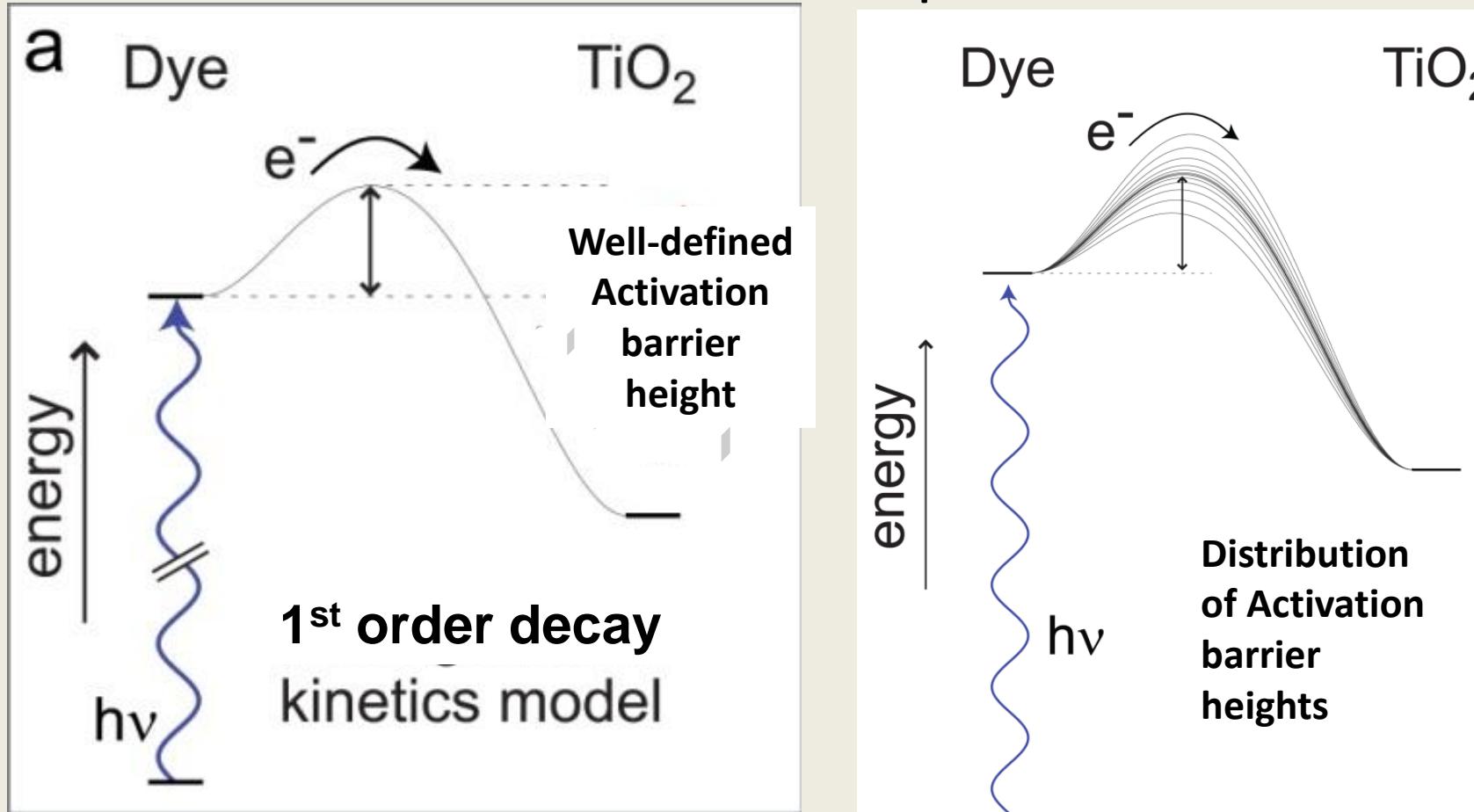


*J. Phys. Chem. C* 2012, 116, 30, 15888-15899

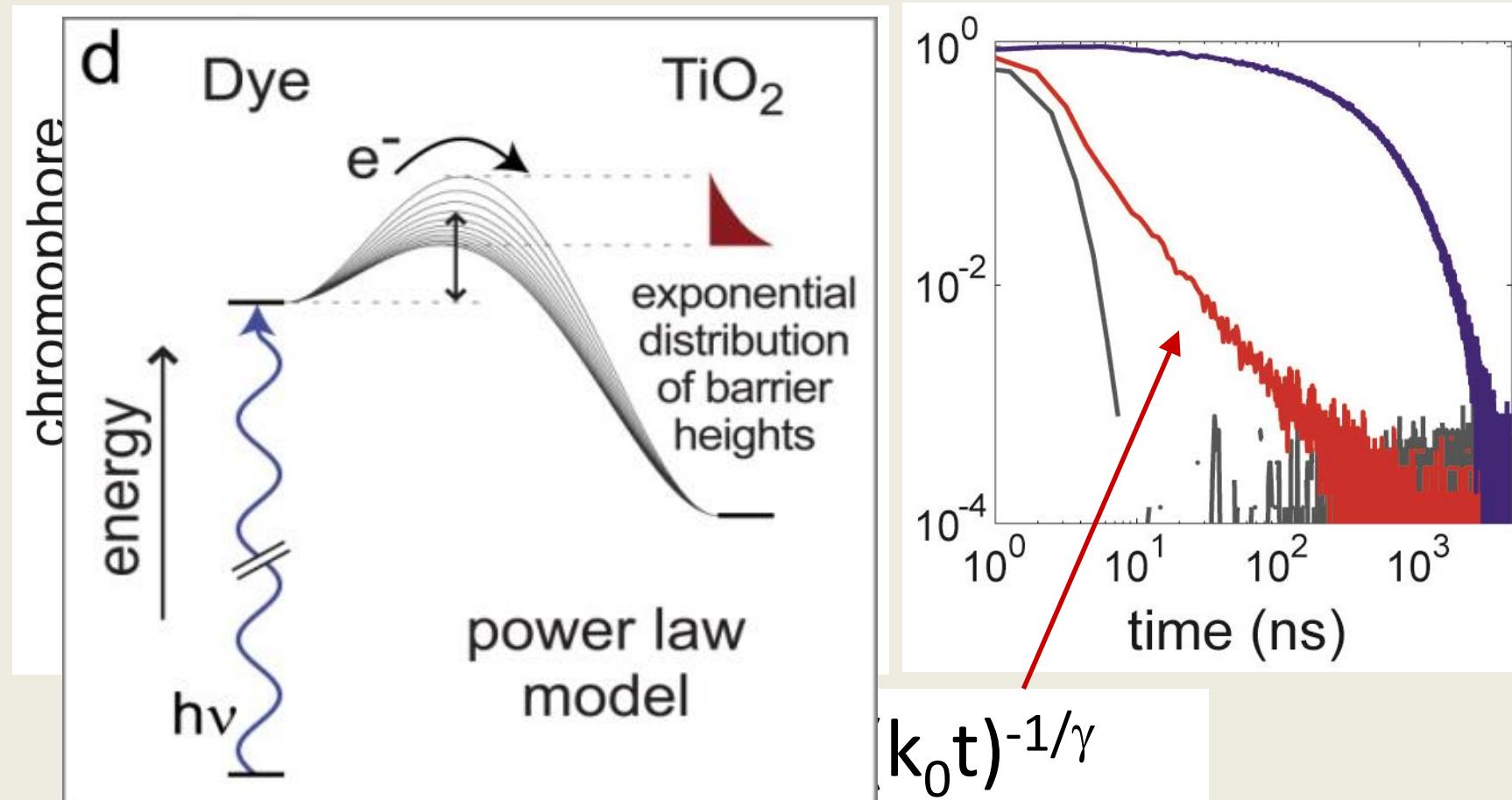
$$\ln[\text{Ru}^*] = -kt + \ln[\text{Ru}^*]_0$$

# Dispersive kinetics: Moving from the ideal to the real

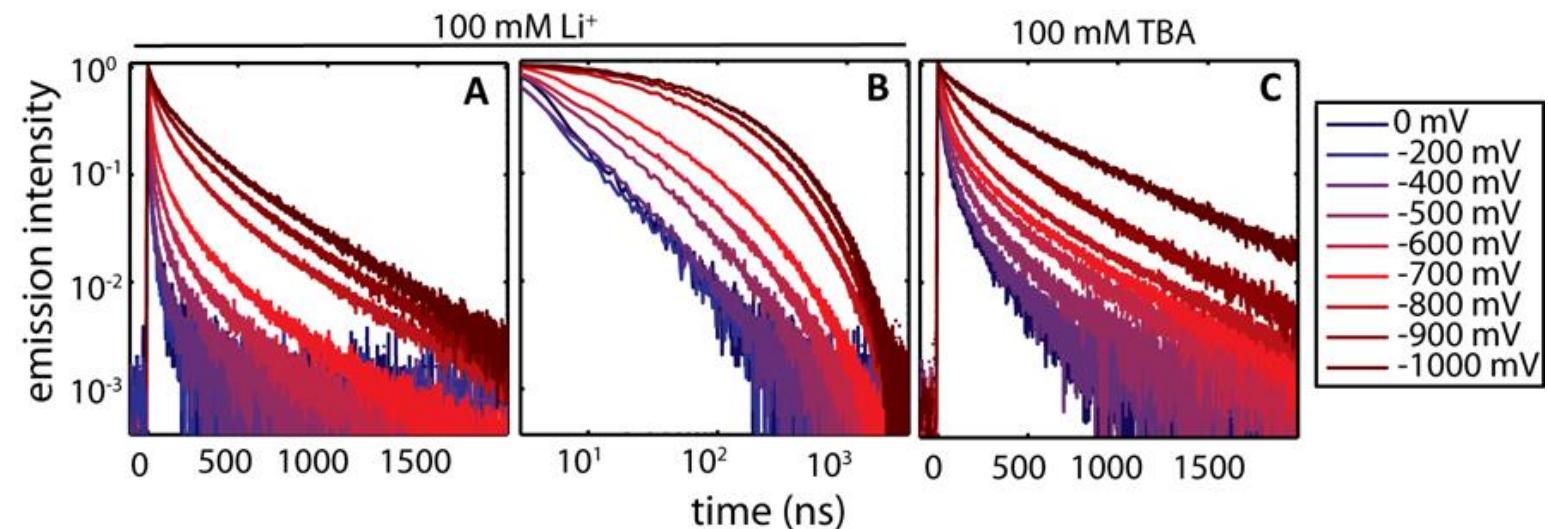
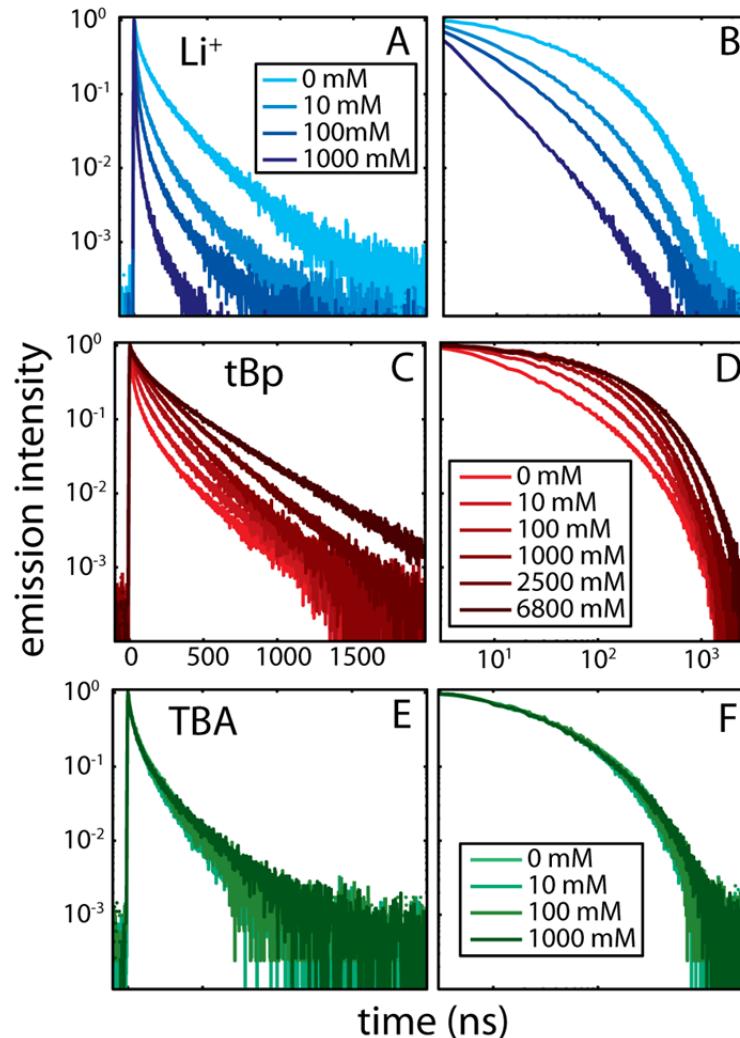
Dispersive Kinetic Model



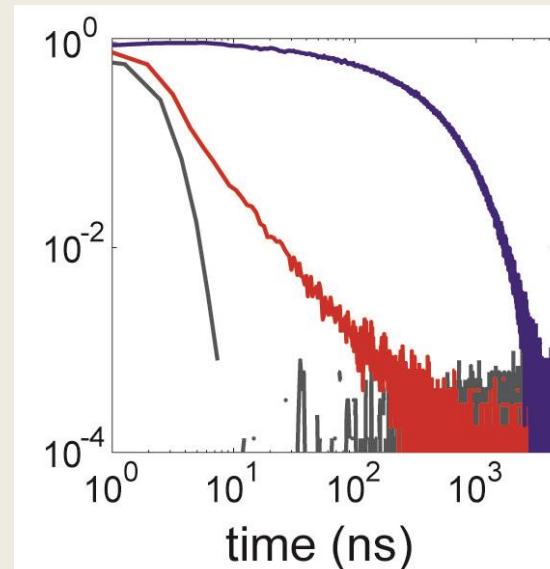
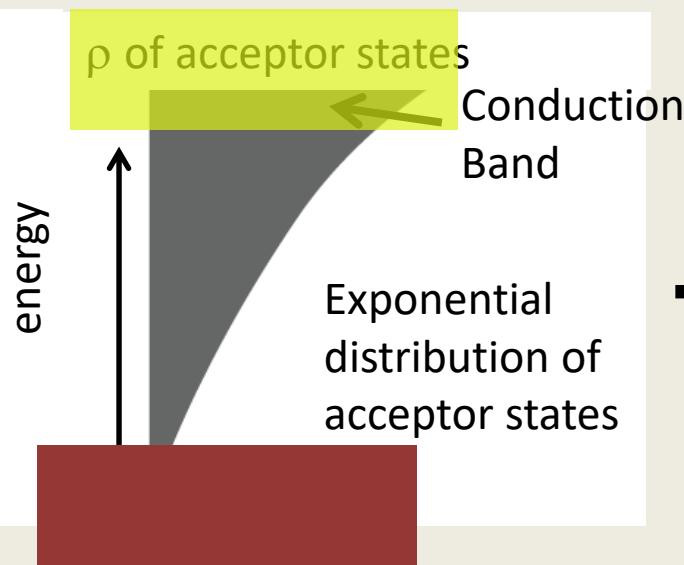
# The photoluminescence decay of RuP on TiO<sub>2</sub> in pH 1 exhibits power law decay!



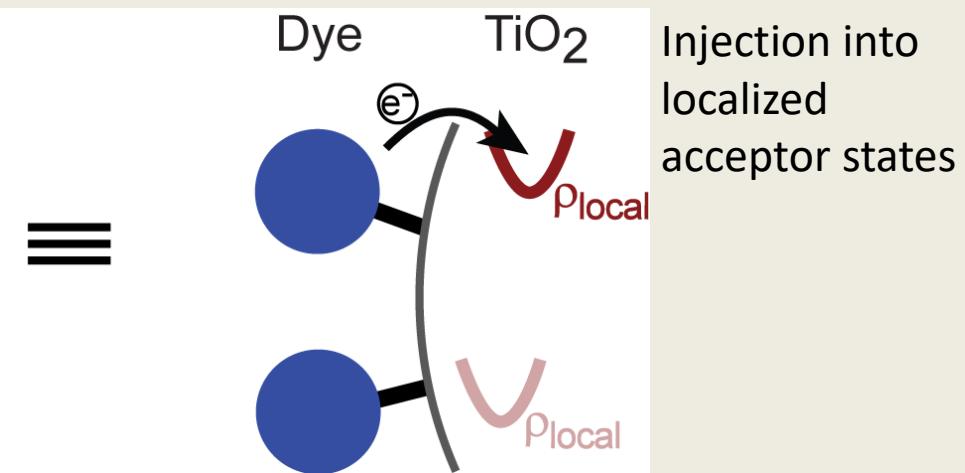
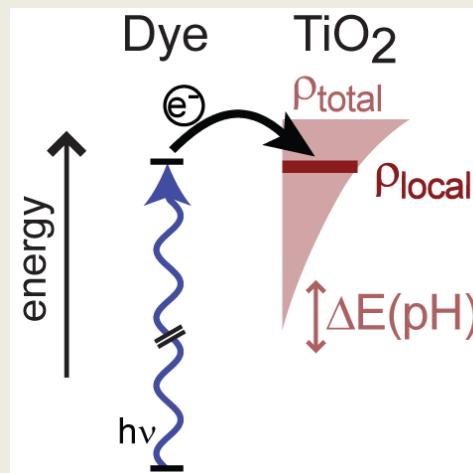
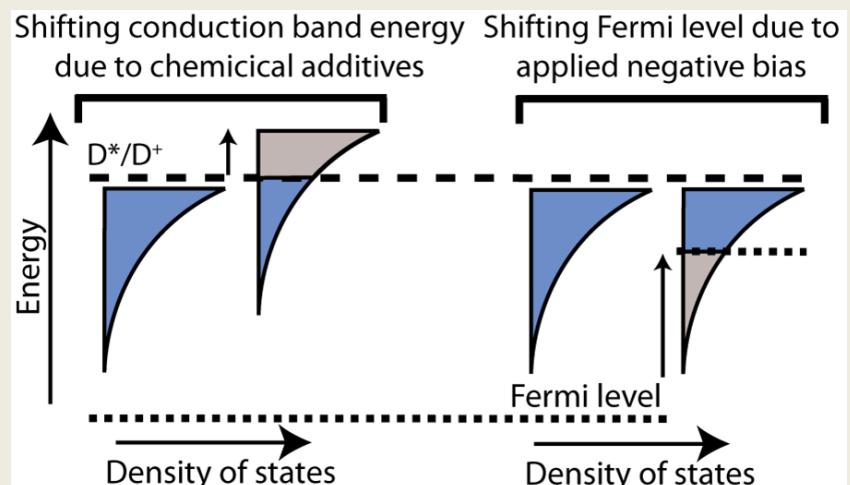
# Chemical additives and electric potential can shift emission characteristics



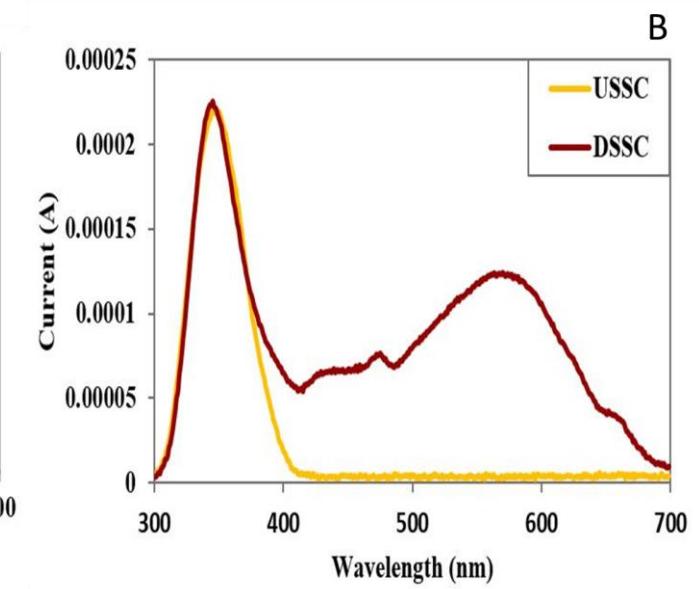
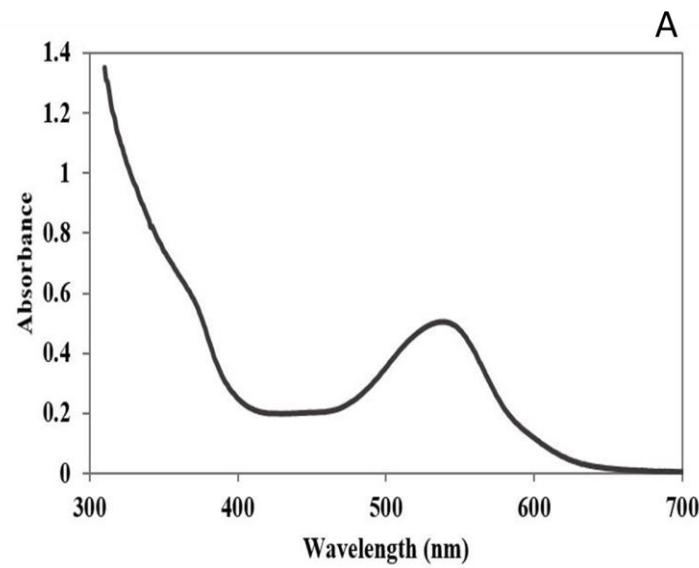
# Connecting power-law charge mobility to power-law emission kinetics



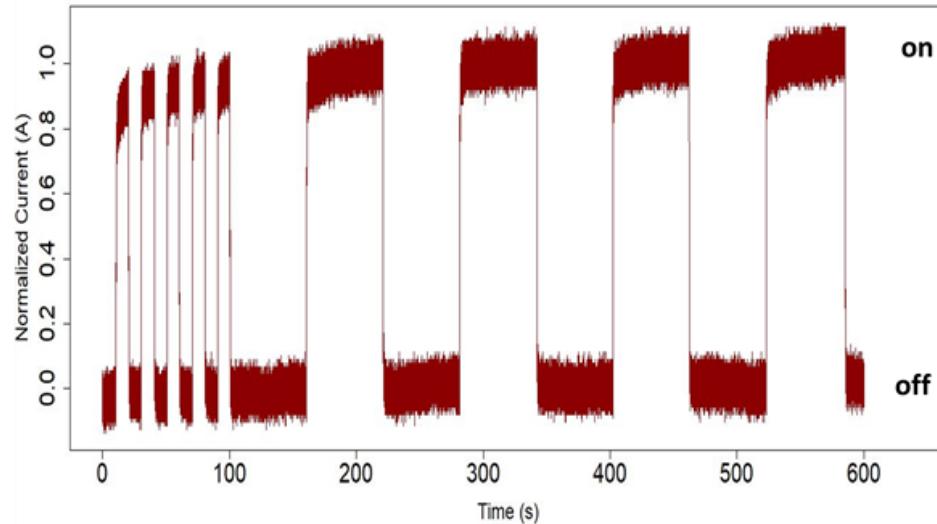
Power-law emission kinetics



# Transitioning my graduate school project to be appropriate for a PUI.



# Studying the decay curves to learn about electron mobilities in these devices.



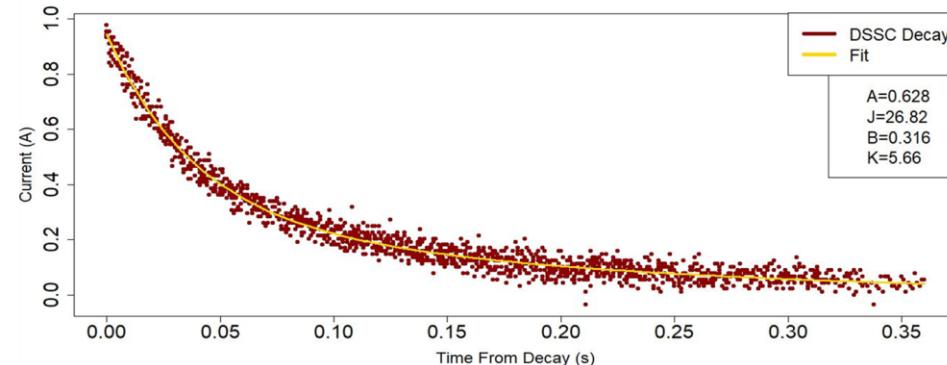
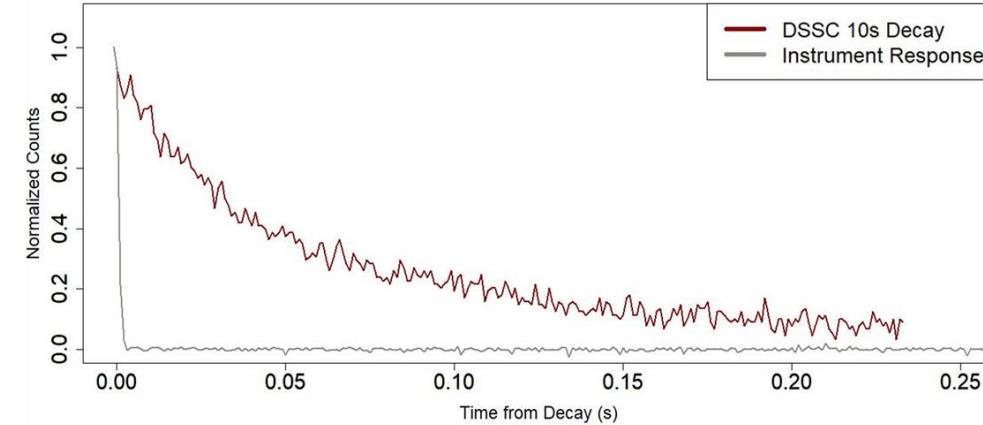
$$y = Ae^{\frac{-t}{\tau_1}} + Be^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}}$$

Parameters:

y is the photocurrent vs t (time)

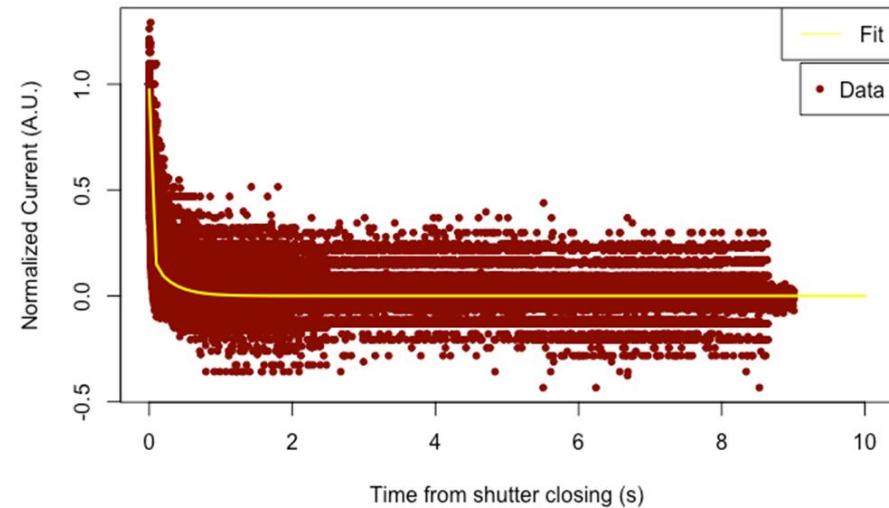
A is the fraction with the fast component  $\tau_1$

B is the fraction with the slower component  $\tau_2$

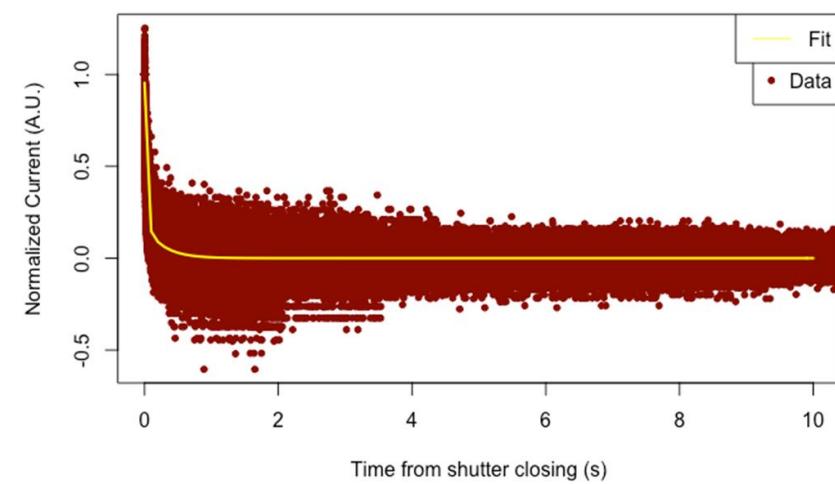


# Studying the decays

With  
lithium



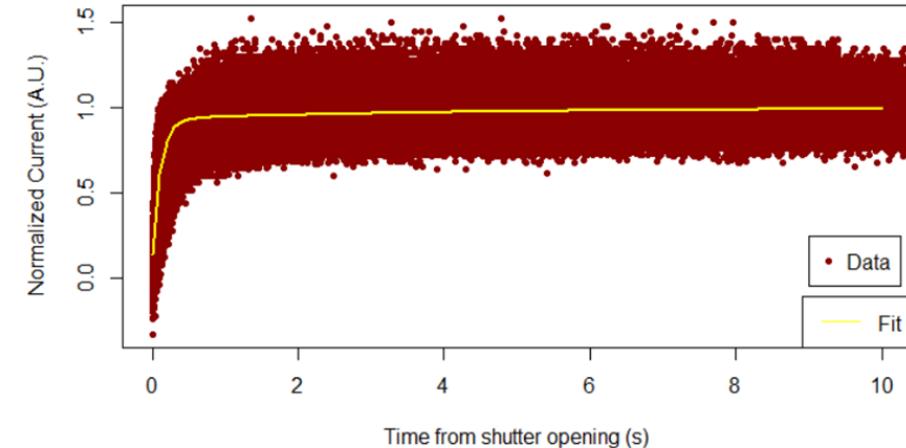
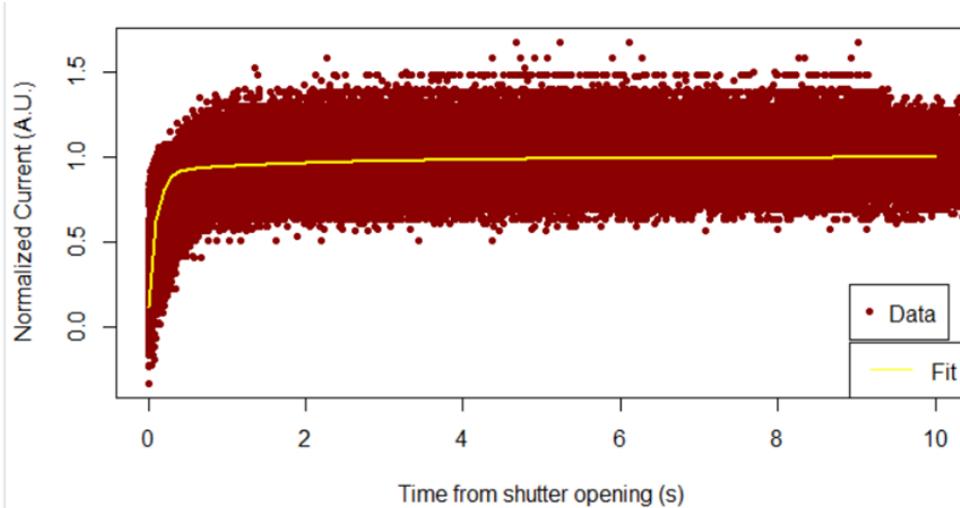
Without  
lithium



	<b>A</b>	<b><math>\tau_1</math>(ms)</b>	<b>B</b>	<b><math>\tau_2</math>(ms)</b>
<b>DSSC w/Li<sup>+</sup> (10 sec)</b>	$0.7130 \pm 0.0067$	$22.24 \pm 0.42$	$0.2813 \pm 0.0053$	$184.6 \pm 3.1$
<b>(1 min)</b>	$0.7847 \pm 0.0056$	$25.87 \pm 0.36$	$0.1898 \pm 0.0034$	$280.3 \pm 5.0$
<b>(average)</b>	$0.7480 \pm 0.0043$	$23.71 \pm 0.28$	$0.2391 \pm 0.0031$	$217.1 \pm 2.7$
<b>DSSC w/o Li<sup>+</sup>(10 sec)</b>	$0.6453 \pm 0.0084$	$17.48 \pm 0.43$	$0.3830 \pm 0.0080$	$112.8 \pm 1.9$
<b>(1min)</b>	$0.7710 \pm 0.0047$	$26.99 \pm 0.32$	$0.1838 \pm 0.0030$	$273.0 \pm 4.4$
<b>(average)</b>	$0.7063 \pm 0.0046$	$20.73 \pm 0.27$	$0.2951 \pm 0.0040$	$152.0 \pm 1.8$

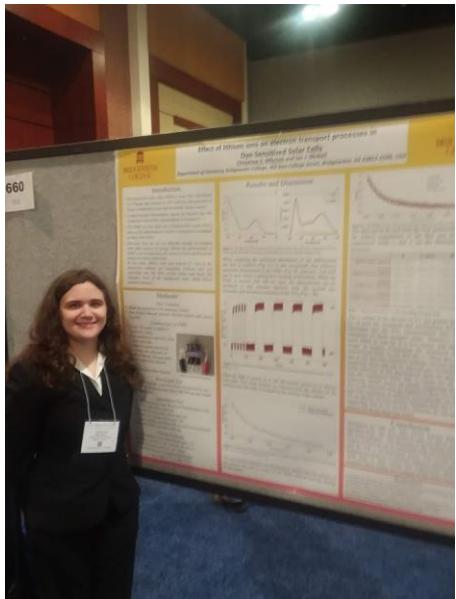
# Studying the growth curves

$$y = 1 - (Ae^{\frac{-t}{\tau_1}} + Be^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}})$$



	A	$\tau_1(\text{ms})$	B	$\tau_2(\text{ms})$
<b>DSSC w/Li<sup>+</sup> (10 sec) (1 min) (average)</b>	0.7582±0.0048	63.38± 0.80	0.2122 ± 0.0036	554.1± 8.6
	0.7800±0.0024	116.86± 0.56	0.06707±0.00040	5929± 46
	0.7978±0.0019	100.89± 0.42	0.08359±0.00059	2276± 19
<b>DSSC w/o Li<sup>+</sup>(10 sec) (1min) (average)</b>	0.8512 ± 0.0040	82.34± 0.68	0.0848 ± 0.0014	1638± 31
	0.7584±0.0025	136.89± 0.70	0.07201±0.00047	5714 ± 48
	0.8001±0.0020	113.21± 0.45	0.06464±0.00042	4268± 37

# Acknowledgements



Cheyenne Mitchell class of 2019



Gabrielle Perkins class of 2020



**BRIDGEWATER**  
COLLEGE

