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**Nano Mn-Ca oxide surrounded by  
polypeptides as a biomimetic catalyst for  
water-splitting systems**

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# Introduction

IF GLOBAL WARMING CONTINUES THEN...



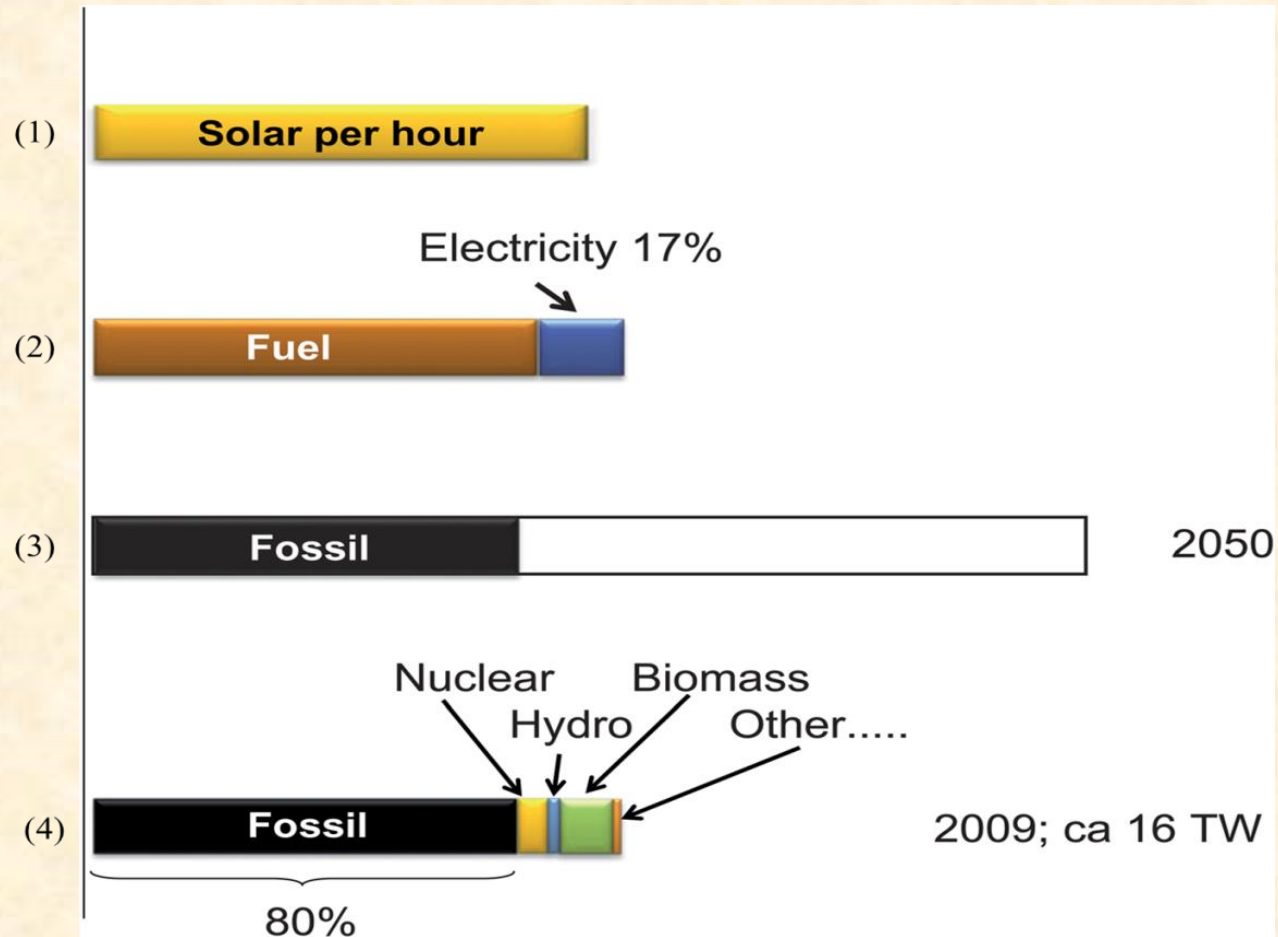
MAJOR CITIES WILL  
SUFFER THE FATE OF  
ATLANTIS

CORAL REEF WILL  
BE WIPED OFF  
VERY SOON

ONE-THIRD OF THE  
ANIMAL SPECIES WILL  
BE EXTINCT BY 2050

GLACIERS WILL  
MELT BY 2030

# Total amount of energy used in the world



**Fossil Fuel**



**Energy Crisis**

**Climate Change**



**CO<sub>2</sub> Production**



**Global Warming**



# Hydrogen Fuel

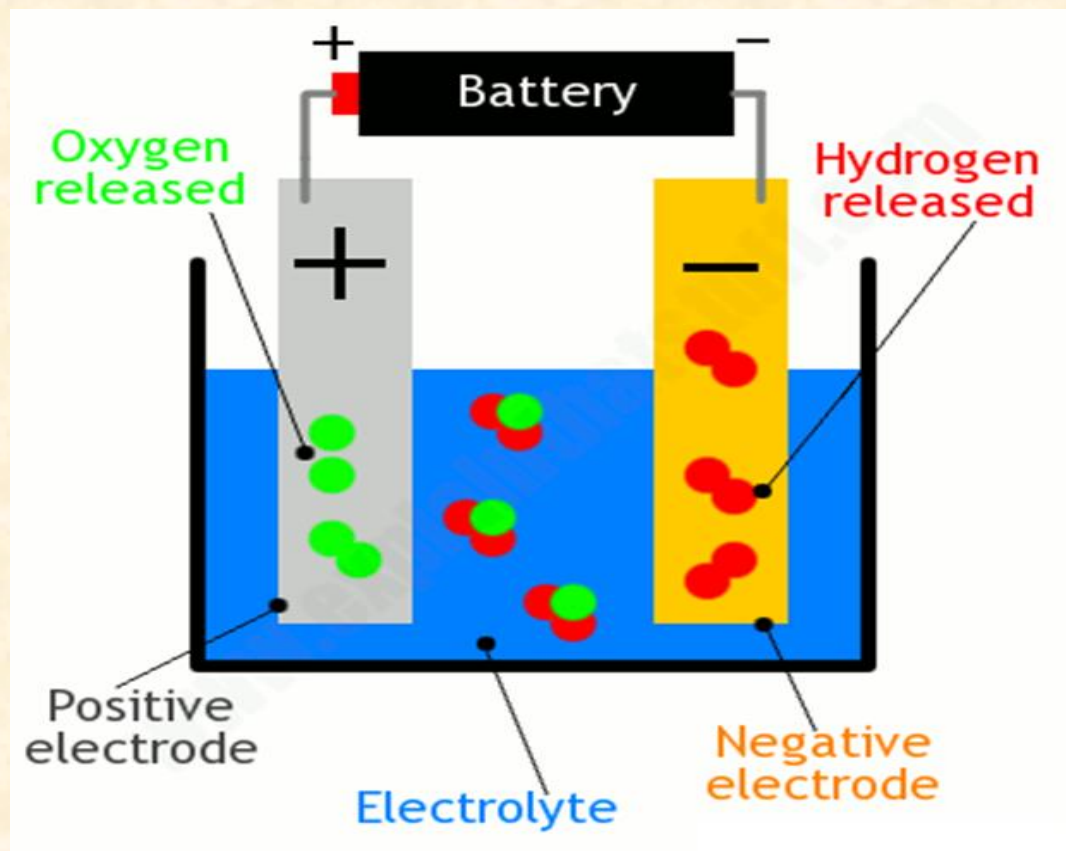
## Significant Properties of Hydrogen:

Transportable  
High efficient  
Safe

## Hydrogen Production:

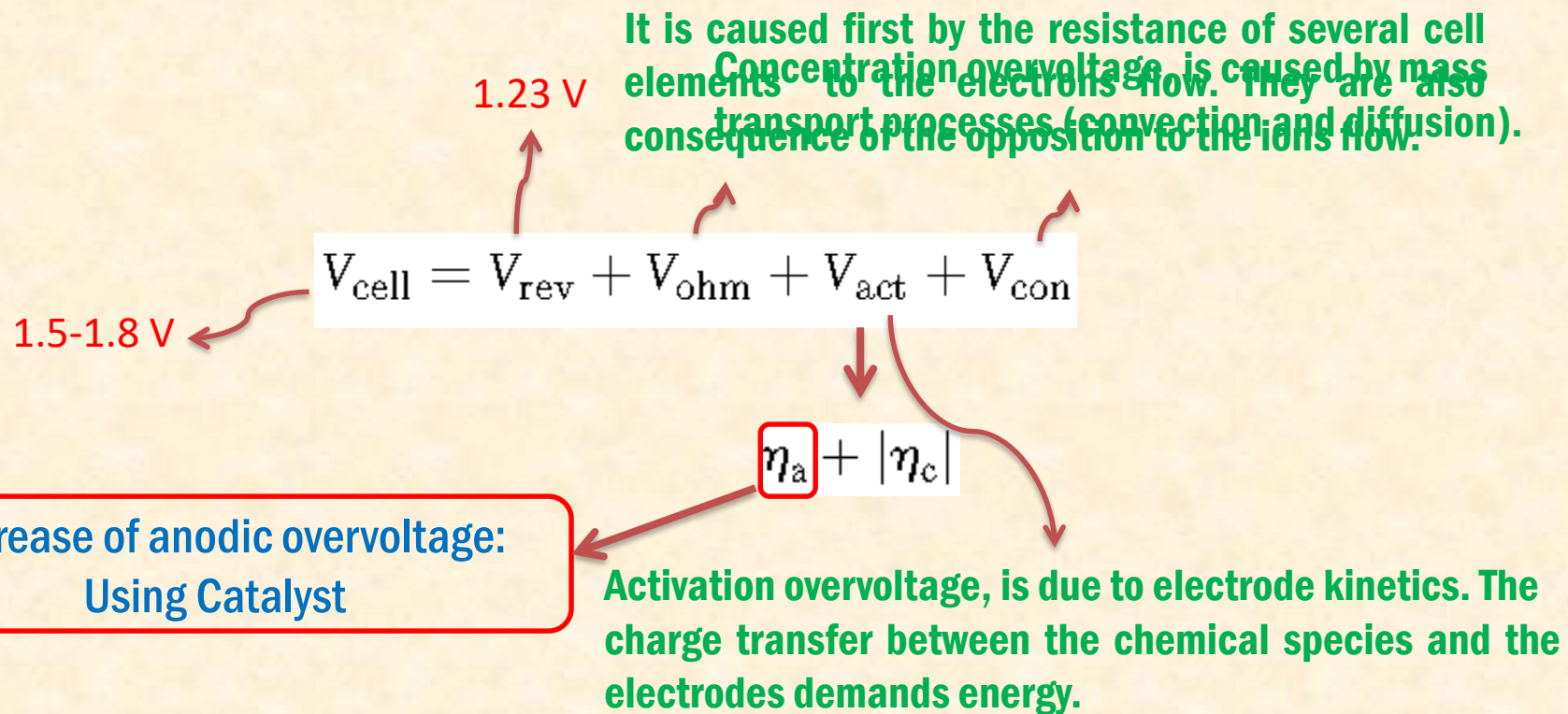
Catalytic conversion of light hydrocarbons  
Thermal decomposition of water  
Photo decomposition of water  
**Water electrolysis**

# Water electrolysis



# Water electrolysis

## Electrochemistry

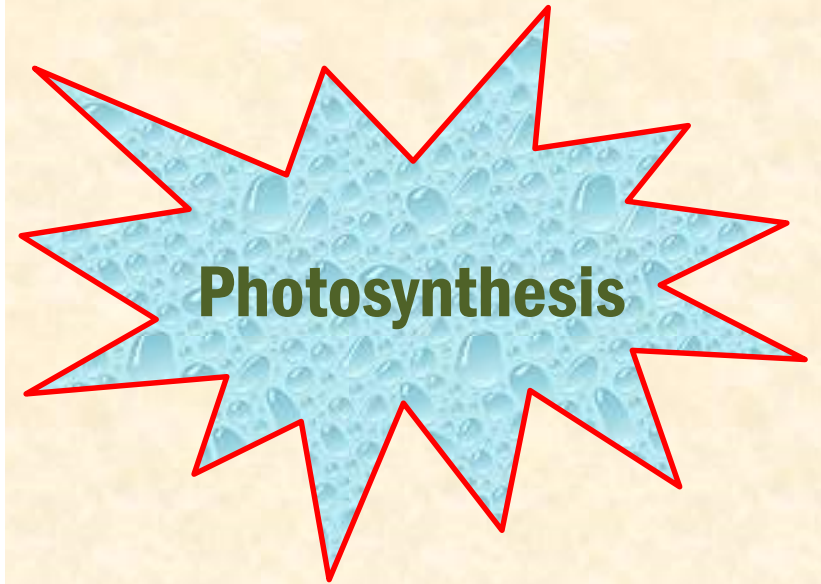




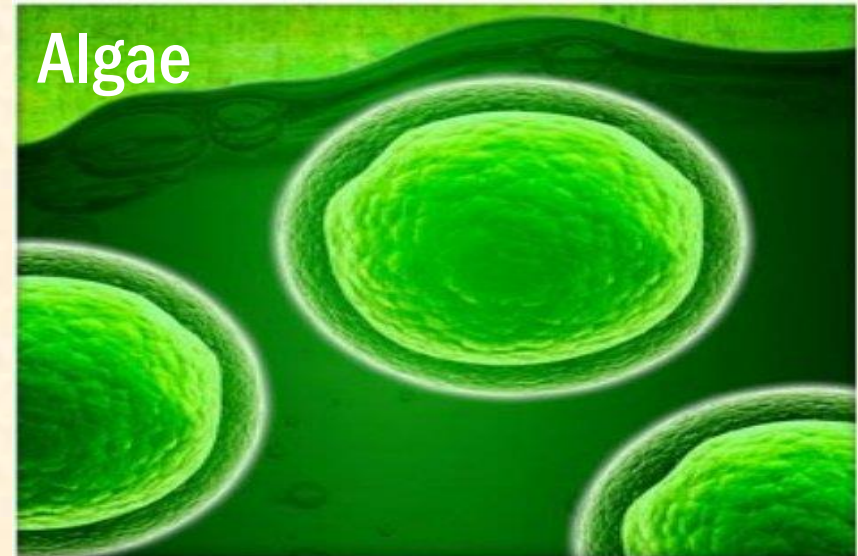
# Water electrolysis

## Main drawbacks

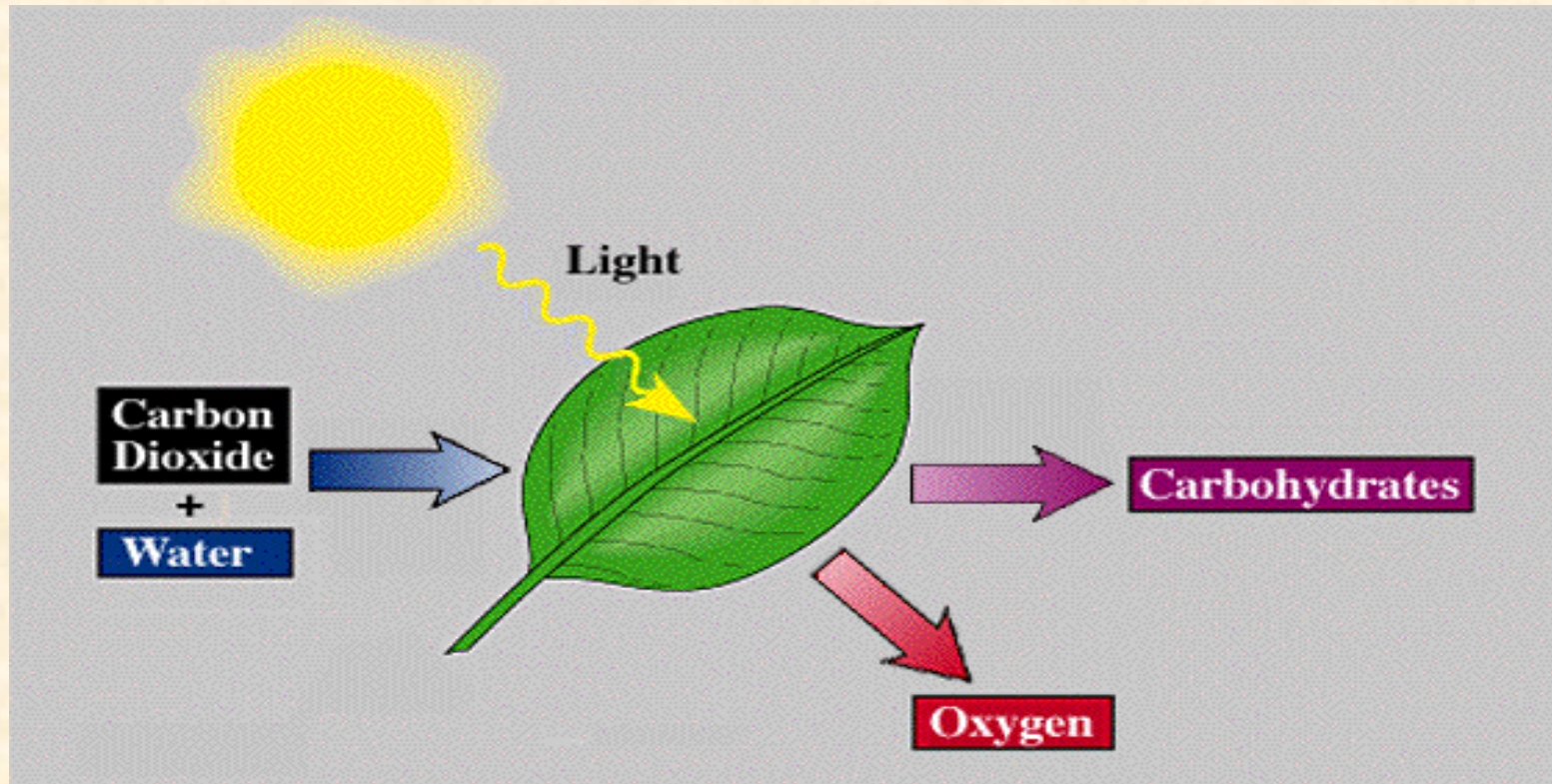
1. Need to high overvoltage for water oxidation half-reaction.
2. Interfere of other ions like chloride.



# Photosynthesis

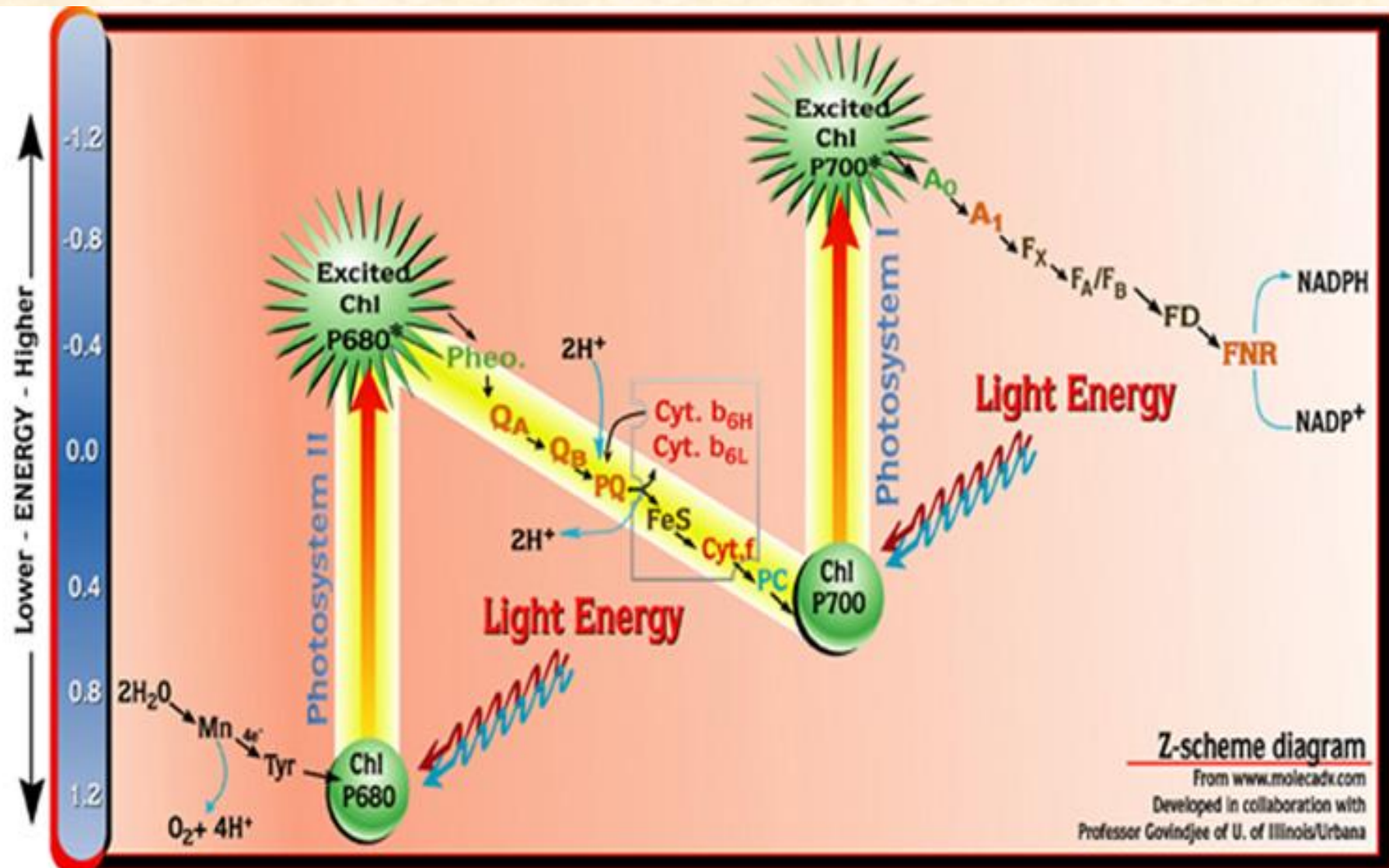


# Photosynthesis



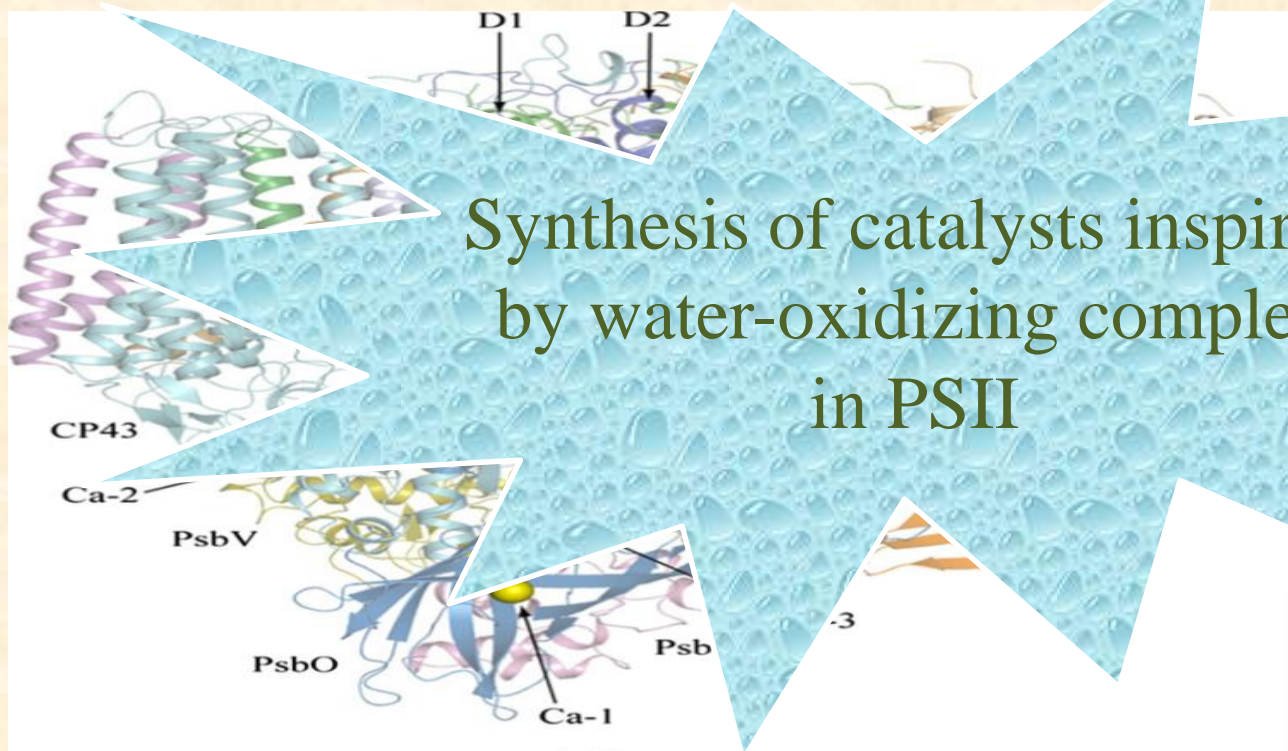
# Photosynthesis

## Photosystem I, II

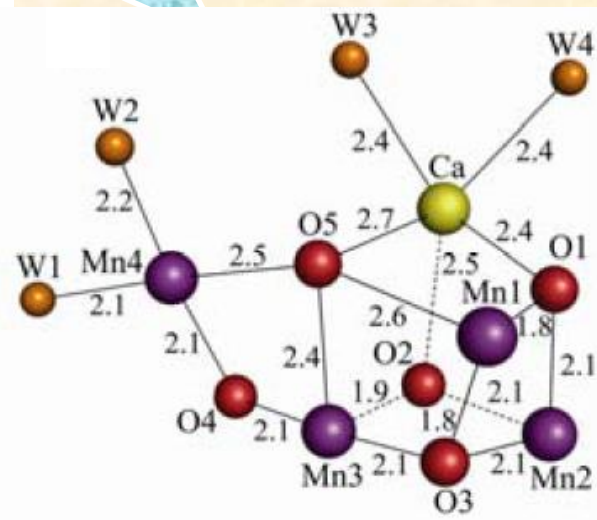
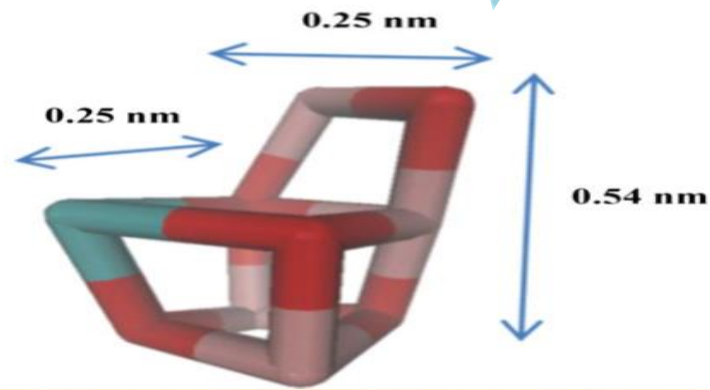


# Photosystem II (PSII)

## Mn<sub>4</sub>CaO<sub>5</sub> Cluster



Synthesis of catalysts inspired by water-oxidizing complex in PSII



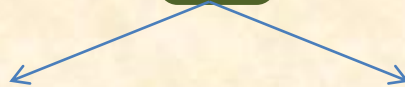
# Artificial water-oxidizing catalysts

Ru, Ni, Pt, Au, Ag, Pd, Re, Co, Fe, Ir, Cu,

Mn

Mn Oxide

Mn  
Complex



# Experimental Design for Evaluating Water Oxidation Catalysts

**Chemical Oxidants:** Ceric ammonium nitrate, sodium periodate, Tris(bipyridine)ruthenium(II), potassium peroxymonosulfate

**Photochemical water Oxidation**

**Electrochemical water Oxidation**

# Our work

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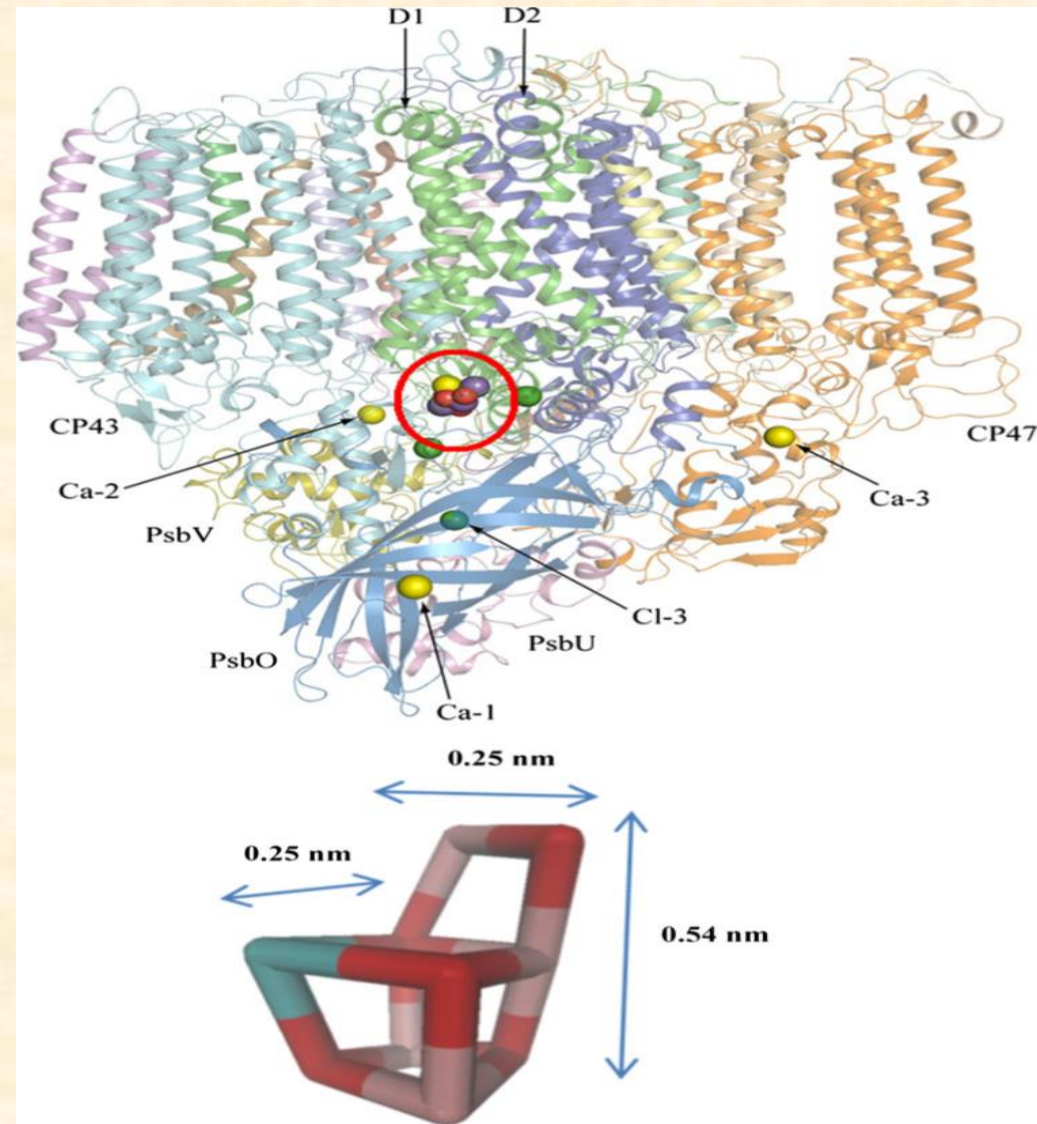
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# Photosystem II (PSII)



**Roles for the residues that come in contact directly with the Mn-Ca cluster include regulation of charges and electrochemistry of the Mn-Ca cluster, and help in coordinating water molecules at appropriate metal sites and stability of the cluster.**

# Important parameters for synthesis new manganese oxide-based catalysts for water oxidation

- (i) A mean oxidation state of Mn between +3 and +4.
- (ii) A layered-oxide structure of low order with extensive di- $\mu$ -oxo bridge between Mn ions.
- (iii) Presence of redox- inactive cations that are linked to Mn ions by  $\mu$ -oxo bridges.

**Mn(III,IV) > Mn(III) > Mn(IV), Mn(II) and Mn(II,III)**

# Synthesis of new manganese-based catalyst in protein environment

**Direct:**

**Carboxylate  
Imidazole**



**Indirect:**

**D1-Asp61  
D1-His33  
CP43-Arg357**

Hydrophilic (white) and hydrophobic (yellow) residues around Mn-Ca cluster.

**Role: Stability of Mn cluster, proton, water or oxygen transfer.**

# Layered $\text{MnCaO}_x$ surrounded by engineered poly peptide matrix

Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-His-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val( $\text{G}_7\text{HV}_8$ ).

- The hydrophobic property of valine helps to peptide insolubility in water that is necessary to use the compound as heterogeneous catalyst.
- This bulky groups cause inhibit from leaking from the surface of oxide to solution.
- The protein is stable in the presence of potential needs for water oxidation.
- The carboxylate and imidazole groups stabilize Mn(III).

# Synthesis of MnCaOx-G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>

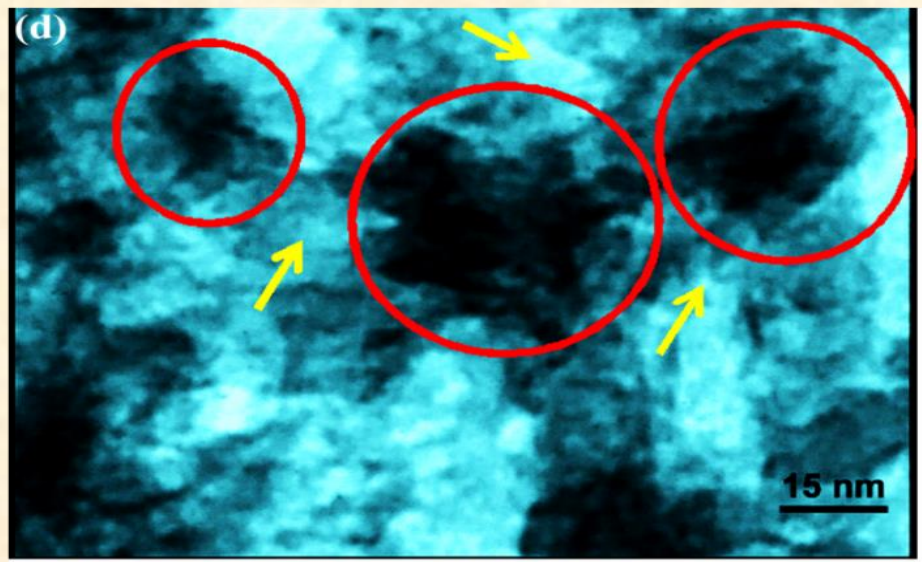
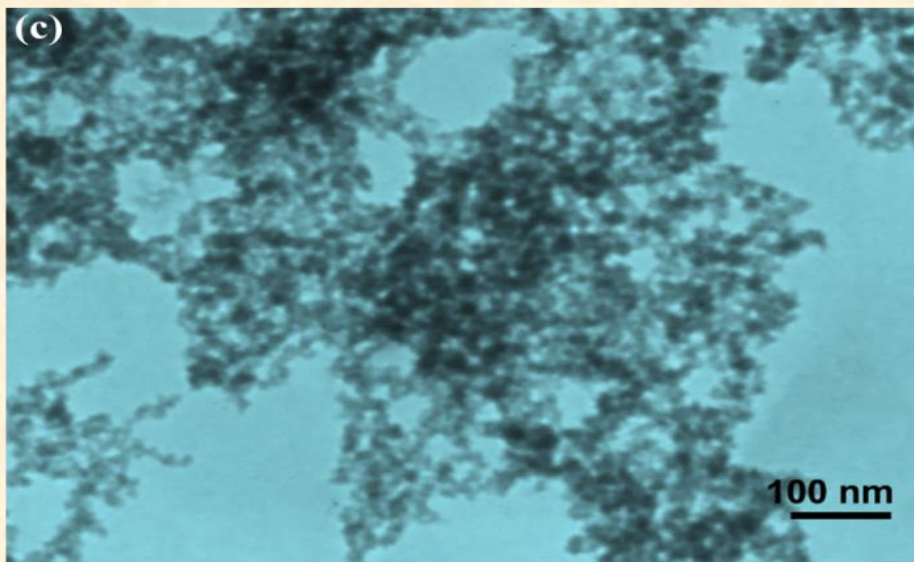
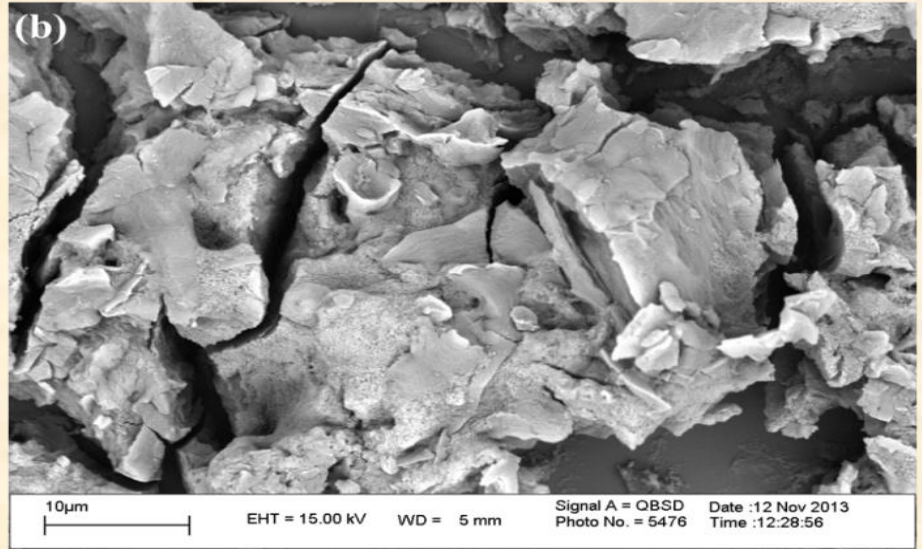
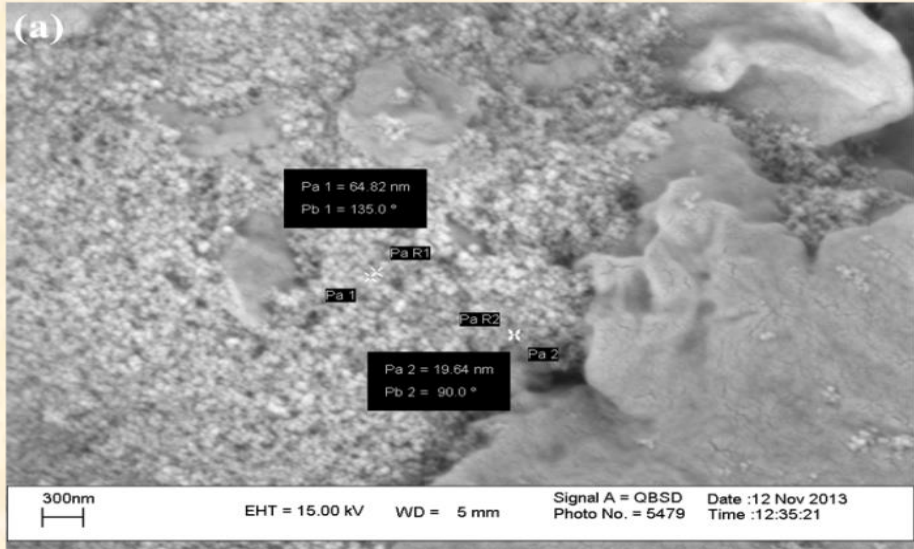
Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-His-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val-Val(G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>).

To the engineered polypeptide (25 mg) in water (10 mL), Mn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (6 mg) and Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (3 mg) were added and stirred for 1 h. Then, a solution of KMnO<sub>4</sub> (1.8 mg) in water (2 mL) containing Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> (pH = 9) was added at 4 °C and stirred for 30 minutes.

# Results

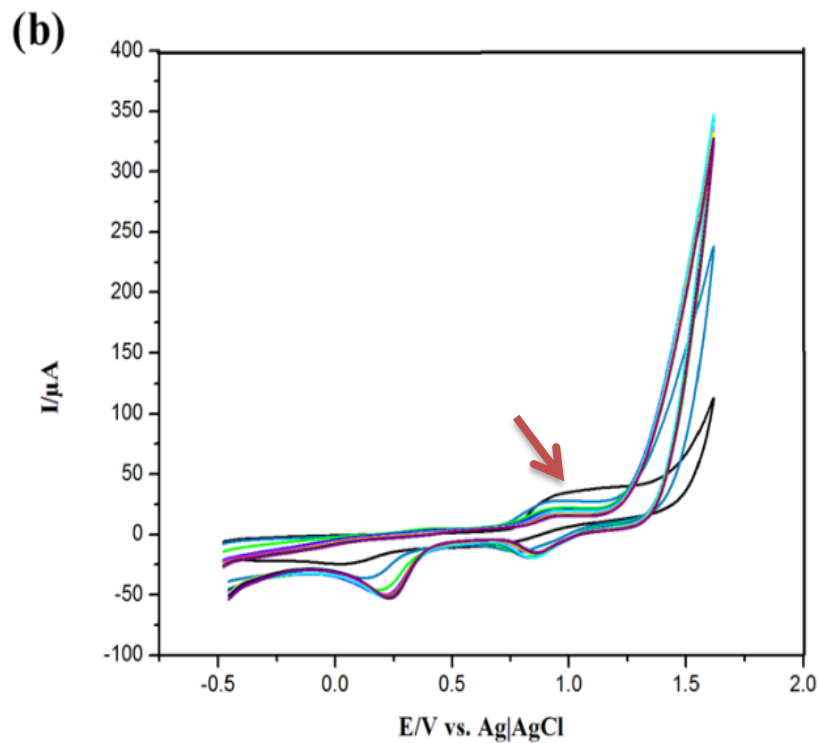
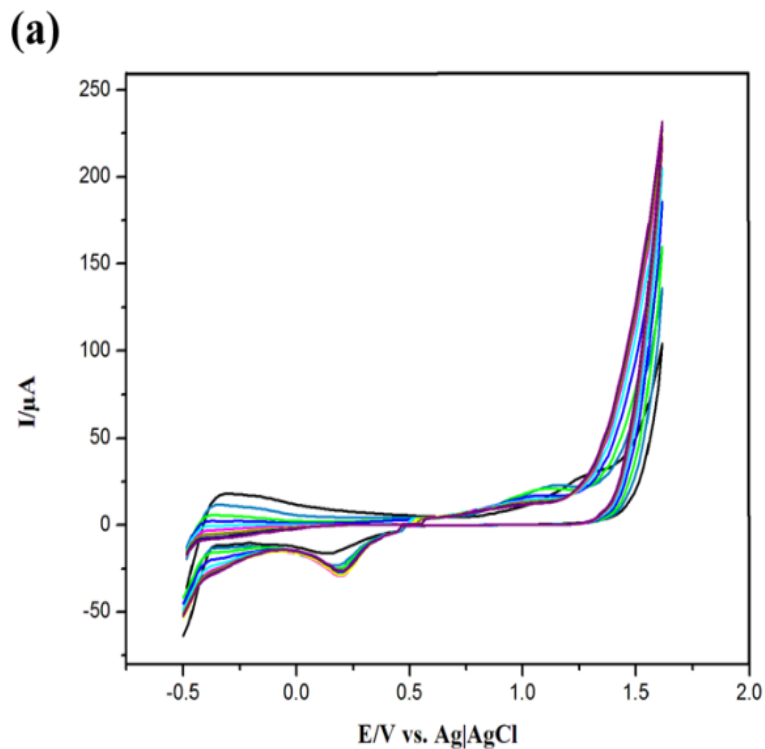
# Characterization

## SEM and TEM



SEM (a,b) and TEM (c,d) images of MnCaOx-G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>.

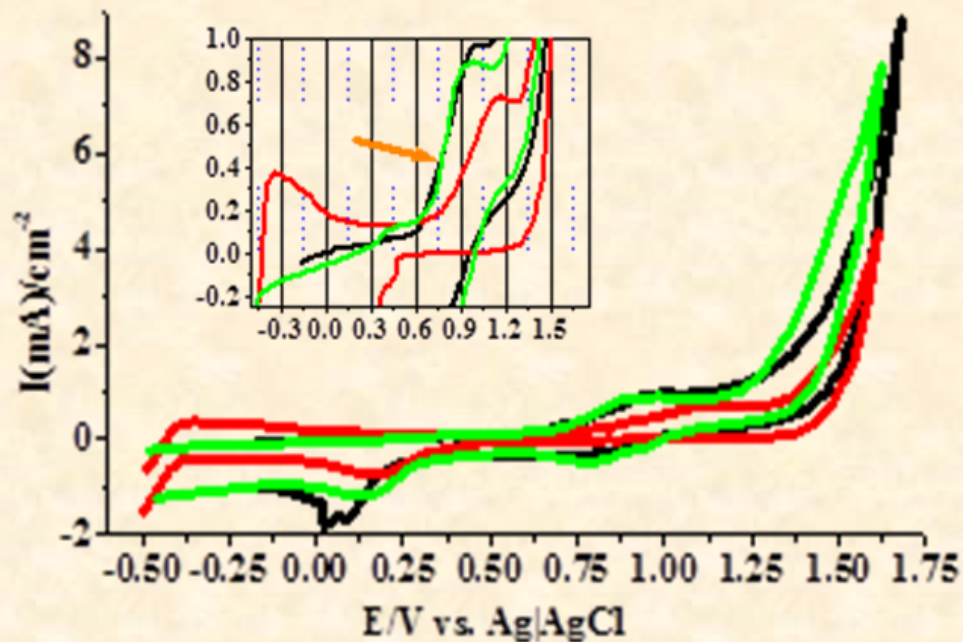
# Cyclic Voltammetry



Cyclic voltammograms (CVs) of (a) Pt/G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>/Nafion , (b) Pt/MnCaO<sub>x</sub>-G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>/Nafion in LiClO<sub>4</sub> solution (0.1 M), pH = 6.3 at a scan rate of 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.

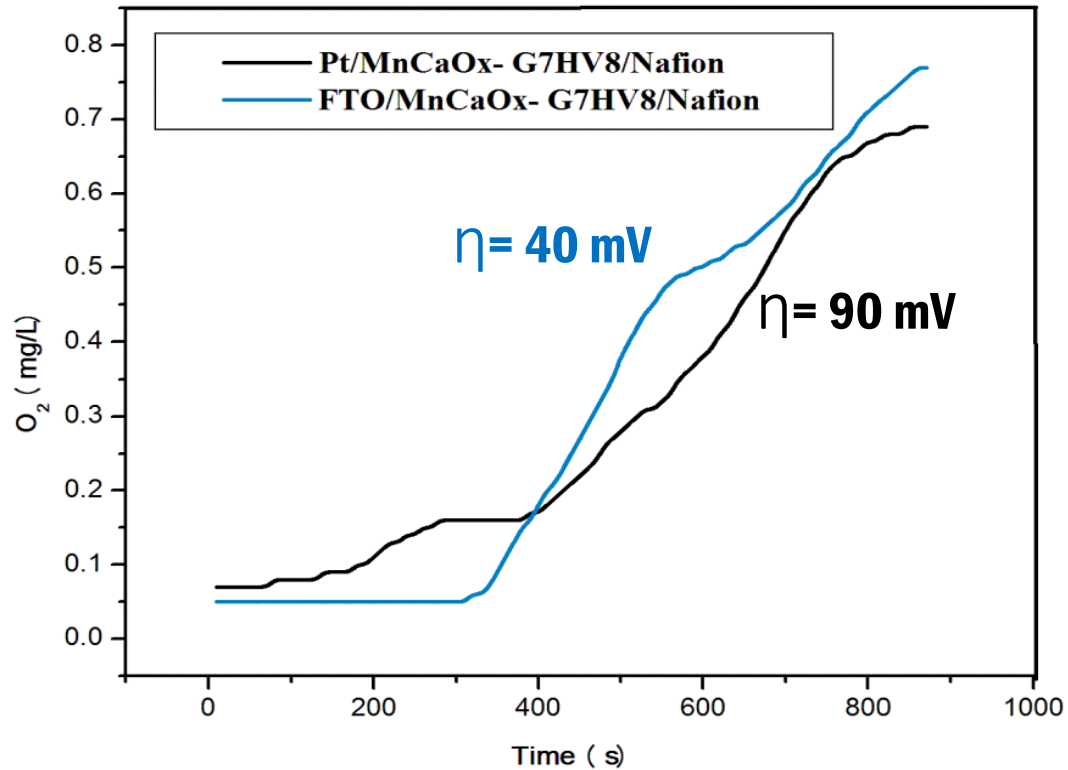


# Cyclic Voltammetry



Cyclic voltammograms (CVs) of Pt/G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>/Nafion, Pt/MnCaO<sub>x</sub>/Nafion, Pt/MnCaO<sub>x</sub>-G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>/Nafion in LiClO<sub>4</sub> solution (0.1 M), pH = 6.3 at a scan rate of 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The arrow represents the oxidation of Mn(III) to Mn(IV) oxidation.

# Chronoamperometry



Oxygen evolution by Pt/MnCaO<sub>x</sub>-G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>/Nafion at potential of 0.75V and FTO/MnCaO<sub>x</sub>-G<sub>7</sub>HV<sub>8</sub>/Nafion at 0.7V (vs. Ag/AgCl) in LiClO<sub>4</sub> solution (0.1 M), pH = 6.3.

# Conclusion

- **The layered manganese oxides are more efficient catalysts than other structures.**
- **Proper choice of matrix environment around manganese oxides leads to decrease required overpotential for water oxidation reaction.**
- **The groups which stabilize Mn(III), can reduce the potential of water oxidation.**



**Thank you for your attention**