

# **Overview of record Solar-To-Fuel efficiencies** (in absence of chemical or electrical bias, without sacrificial reagents, under (simulated) solar illumination)

| Year | Notation                                                                  | Type           | Oxidation catalyst                    | Reduction catalyst                    | Main reduction product(s)           | Photoanode                                           | PV                                 | Photocathode                                         | Electrolyte                                                                                               | STF Efficiency | Reference |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1976 | TiO <sub>2</sub>  1jn-Si Pt                                               | PV-PEC         | -                                     | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | TiO <sub>2</sub>                                     | 1jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 0.1 M NaOH                                                                                                | 0.10%          | 1         |
| 1976 | n-TiO <sub>2</sub> /p-GaP                                                 | PEC            | -                                     | -                                     | H <sub>2</sub>                      | TiO <sub>2</sub>                                     | -                                  | p-GaP                                                | 0.1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                                                                      | 0.25%          | 2         |
| 1983 | SrTiO <sub>3</sub>                                                        | Photocatalytic | -                                     | -                                     | Formic acid, formaldehyde, methanol | SrTiO <sub>3</sub>                                   | -                                  | -                                                    | 0.1 M Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> satd.)                                             | 0.011%         | 3         |
| 1984 | RuO <sub>2</sub>  2jn-Si Pt                                               | Buried PV      | RuO <sub>2</sub>                      | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 2jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                                                                        | 2.6%           | 4         |
| 1987 | MnO n-GaAs p-InP/Pt                                                       | PEC            | MnO                                   | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | n-GaAs                                               | -                                  | p-InP                                                | 6 M KOH                                                                                                   | 8.2%           | 5         |
| 1988 | RuO <sub>2</sub>  3jn-Si Pt                                               | Buried PV      | RuO <sub>2</sub>                      | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 3jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                                                                      | 2.93%          | 6         |
| 1989 | RuO <sub>2</sub>  3jn-Si/Pt                                               | Buried PV      | RuO <sub>2</sub>                      | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 3jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                                                                        | 5%             | 7         |
| 1998 | Co-Mo 3jn-Si NiFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>                             | Buried PV      | NiFe <sub>0.19</sub> O <sub>0.2</sub> | Co <sub>0.73</sub> Mo <sub>0.27</sub> | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 3jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 1 M KOH                                                                                                   | 7.8%           | 8         |
| 1998 | Pt-[1jn-GaAs p-GaInP <sub>2</sub> ]                                       | PV-PEC         | Pt                                    | -                                     | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 1jn-GaAs                           | p-GaInP <sub>2</sub>                                 | 3 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                                                                        | 12.4%*         | 9         |
| 2000 | TiO <sub>2</sub> /NiO <sub>x</sub>                                        | Photocatalytic | -                                     | NiO <sub>x</sub>                      | H <sub>2</sub>                      | TiO <sub>2</sub>                                     | -                                  | -                                                    | 2.2 M Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>                                                                     | 0.016%         | 10        |
| 2001 | In <sub>3</sub> Ni <sub>4</sub> TaO <sub>4</sub> /NiO <sub>x</sub>        | Photocatalytic | -                                     | NiO <sub>x</sub>                      | H <sub>2</sub>                      | In <sub>0.9</sub> Ni <sub>0.1</sub> TaO <sub>4</sub> | -                                  | -                                                    | H <sub>2</sub> O                                                                                          | 0.030%         | 11        |
| 2001 | Pt 1jn-GaAs 1jn-GaInP <sub>2</sub>  Pt                                    | Buried PV      | Pt                                    | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 1jn-GaAs<br>1jn-GaInP <sub>2</sub> | -                                                    | 2 M KOH                                                                                                   | 16.5%          | 12        |
| 2001 | RuO <sub>2</sub>  1jn-AlGaAs 1jn-Si Pt                                    | Buried PV      | RuO <sub>2</sub>                      | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 1jn-AlGaAs<br>1jn-Si               | -                                                    | 1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>                                                                                     | 18.3%          | 13        |
| 2005 | WO <sub>3</sub>  2jn-Si Ni-Mo                                             | PV-PEC         | -                                     | Ni-Mo                                 | H <sub>2</sub>                      | WO <sub>3</sub>                                      | 2jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 0.33 M H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>                                                                     | 0.70%          | 14        |
| 2006 | WO <sub>3</sub> -(I <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> /I <sup>-</sup> )-1xDSSC Pt | PV-PEC         | -                                     | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | WO <sub>3</sub>                                      | 1xDSSC                             | -                                                    | 0.25 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                                                                    | 1.90%          | 15        |
| 2007 | WO <sub>3</sub> -2xDSSC Pt                                                | PV-PEC         | -                                     | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | WO <sub>3</sub>                                      | 2xDSSC                             | -                                                    |                                                                                                           | 2.50%          | 16        |
| 2008 | TiO <sub>2</sub> -Cu-Ti-O                                                 | PEC            | -                                     | -                                     | H <sub>2</sub>                      | TiO <sub>2</sub>                                     | -                                  | Cu <sub>0.74</sub> Ti <sub>0.26</sub> O <sub>x</sub> | 1 M KOH (anode)<br>0.1 M Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> (cathode)                                       | 0.30%**        | 17        |
| 2009 | N-TiO <sub>2</sub> /Cu                                                    | Photocatalytic | -                                     | Cu                                    | Methane, H <sub>2</sub>             | N-TiO <sub>2</sub>                                   | -                                  | -                                                    | Gaseous CO <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O satd.)                                                          | 0.0148%        | 18        |
| 2009 | BiVO <sub>4</sub> +SrTiO <sub>3</sub> :Rh/Ru                              | Photocatalytic | -                                     | Ru                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | BiVO <sub>4</sub>                                    | -                                  | SrTiO <sub>3</sub> :Rh                               | Aqueous H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (pH 3.5)                                                           | 0.12%          | 19        |
| 2010 | RuO <sub>2</sub> /WO <sub>3</sub>  2jn-Si Ni-Mo                           | PV-PEC         | RuO <sub>2</sub>                      | Ni-Mo                                 | H <sub>2</sub>                      | WO <sub>3</sub>                                      | 2jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 0.33 M H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>                                                                     | 3%             | 20        |
| 2011 | TiO <sub>2</sub> -p-InP/RuCP                                              | PEC            | -                                     | Dual Ru polypyridyl complex polymer   | Formate                             | TiO <sub>2</sub>                                     | -                                  | p-InP                                                | 0.01 M NaHCO <sub>3</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> satd.)                                                         | 0.04%          | 21        |
| 2011 | Co 3jn-Si NiMoZn                                                          | Buried PV      | Co-P <sub>i</sub>                     | NiMoZn                                | H <sub>2</sub>                      | -                                                    | 3jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 0.5 M K-B <sub>i</sub> + 1.5 M KNO <sub>3</sub>                                                           | 4.7%           | 22        |
| 2012 | WO <sub>3</sub> -1xDSSC Pt                                                | PV-PEC         | -                                     | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | WO <sub>3</sub>                                      | 1xDSSC                             | -                                                    | 1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>                                                                                     | 3.10%          | 23        |
| 2013 | SrTiO <sub>3</sub> -p-InP/RuCP                                            | PEC            | -                                     | Dual Ru polypyridyl complex polymer   | Formate                             | SrTiO <sub>3</sub>                                   | -                                  | p-InP                                                | 0.1 M NaHCO <sub>3</sub> + H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (pH 7.7) (CO <sub>2</sub> satd. at the cathode) | 0.14%**        | 24        |
| 2013 | Co-Pi/W-BiVO <sub>4</sub> -2jn-Si Pt                                      | PV-PEC         | Co-P <sub>i</sub>                     | Pt                                    | H <sub>2</sub>                      | W-BiVO <sub>4</sub>                                  | 2jn-Si                             | -                                                    | 0.1 M K-P <sub>i</sub>                                                                                    | 4.9%           | 25        |

\*Obtained under concentrated sunlight

\*\*Obtained with a small chemical bias

## Notation

The notation is written from the water oxidation side (left) to the reduction side (right). Only photoactive materials and co-catalysts are given. Materials for interconnects, back contacts *etc.* are omitted. The following symbols are used to indicate connections between active materials:

- |        Buried interface: semiconductor shielded entirely from electrolyte  
(e.g. |1jn-Si| = single junction silicon PV with protective coating on both sides)
- /        Non-buried interface: semiconductor in contact with electrolyte  
(e.g. p-InP/Pt = Pt islands deposited on a p-InP photoelectrode)
- Wired: electrodes are electrically connected through a wire  
(e.g. TiO<sub>2</sub>–Pt = TiO<sub>2</sub> photoelectrode externally connected with a Pt counter electrode)
- (I<sub>3</sub><sup>–</sup>/I<sup>–</sup>)–    Redox mediator: electrons are shuttled between electrodes *via* ionic species
- +        No connection: different particles are mixed together in a suspension, without wiring or mediator

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