

# First principles molecular dynamics simulation of electrochemical reactions: application and extension of the effective screening medium method

Energy materials simulation group, Nanosystem research institute, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)

# Collaborators

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## Fuel cell

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- Yoshitada Morikawa (Osaka U.)
- Yasuharu Okamoto (NEC)
- Osamu Sugino (U. of Tokyo)
- Yumin Qian (AIST)
- Nicephore Bonnet (AIST)

## Lithium ion battery

- Tsukuru Ohwaki (NISSAN)
- Tetsuya Morishita (AIST)
- Akinori Tezuka (AIST)

## Photoelectrochemical cell, Super capacitor

- Tadashi Ogitsu (LLNL)
- Brando Wood (LLNL)
- David Prendergast (LBNL)

# Outline

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## ● Introduction

- Application of electrochemical device
- What is the target of our simulation?

## ● Method

- History of the theoretical simulation on the electrochemical interface
- What is the ESM method?

## ● Application

- How to apply bias potential to metal/water interface
- Model of the electrochemical system
- Electrochemical reactions

## ● Extension

- Limitation of the current ESM method
- Smooth ESM & Constant bias potential MD simulation

## ● Summary

# Applied electrochemistry



## Battery

Manganese dry cell

Lead battery

NiCd, NiH secondary battery

Fuel cell

Lithium secondary battery

## Capacitor

Electrolytic condenser

Double layer condenser

Supercapacitor

## Photovoltaic cell

c-Si, a-Si solar cell

Dye sensitized solar cell

photoelectrochemical  
hydrogen production

## Sensor

pH meter

ion selective concentration  
meter

glucose, etc. (using enzyme)  
gas (oxygen, etc.)

## Electroplating

## Cathodic protection



## Electrolysis

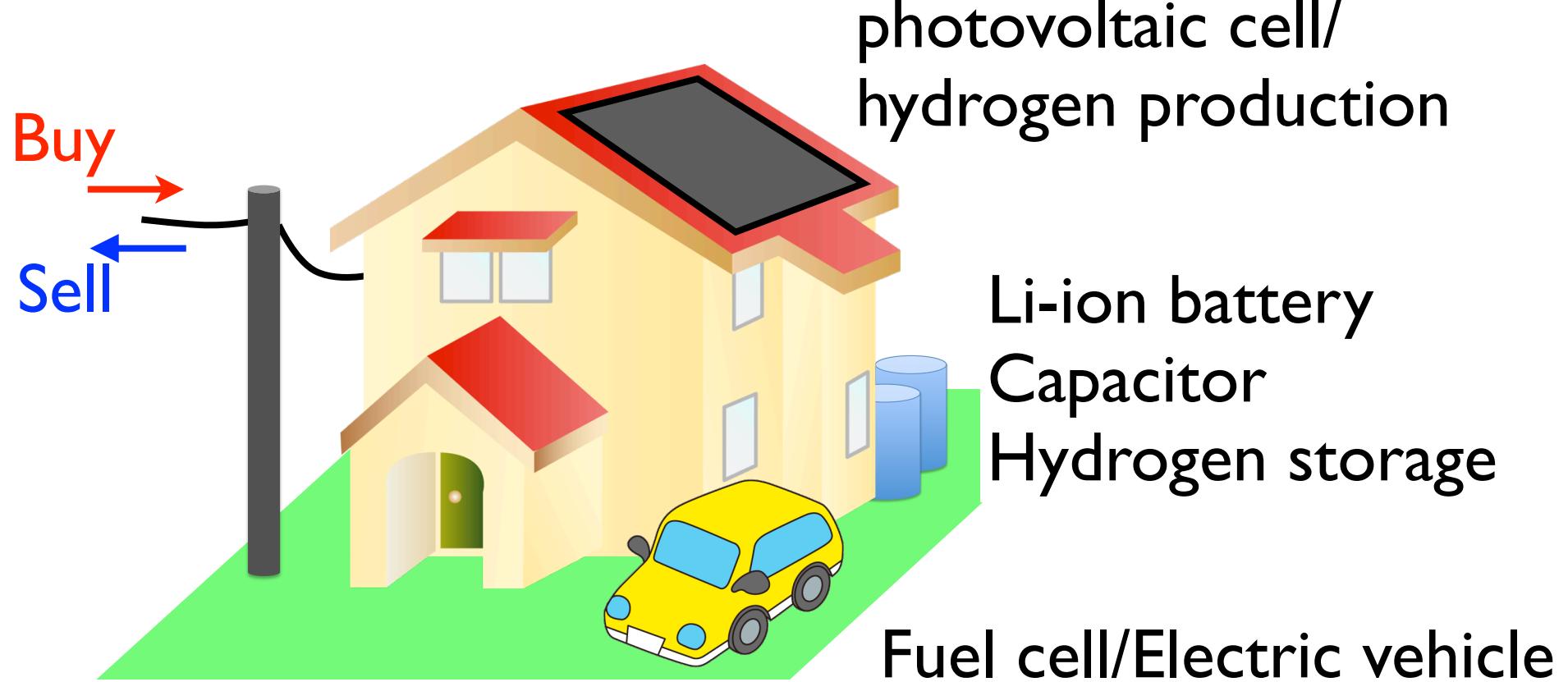
Aluminum, Copper, etc.

Water, salt, etc.

Organic chemicals  
tetraethyl lead



# Energy harvesting & storage



Electrochemical reactions at electrode/electrolyte interface play an important role in renewable energy society.

# Goal of our study

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- Develop a new calculation method to simulate **electrochemical** systems.
- Try to understand microscopic detail of the **electrochemical** reaction.
- Propose or predict high efficiency, durable and cheap catalysts or electrode materials for the fuel cell or energy storage devices.

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- How to apply bias potential to metal/water interface
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## Extension

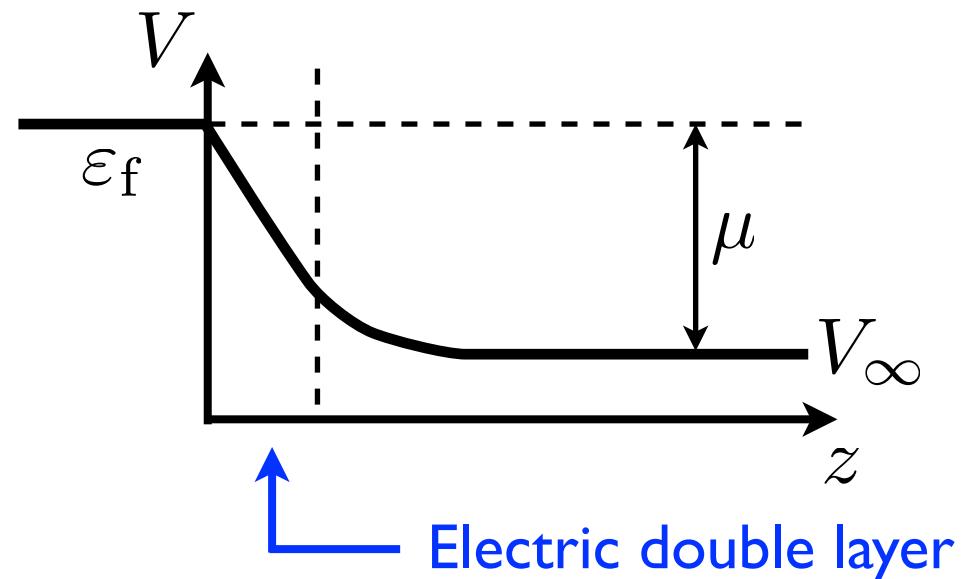
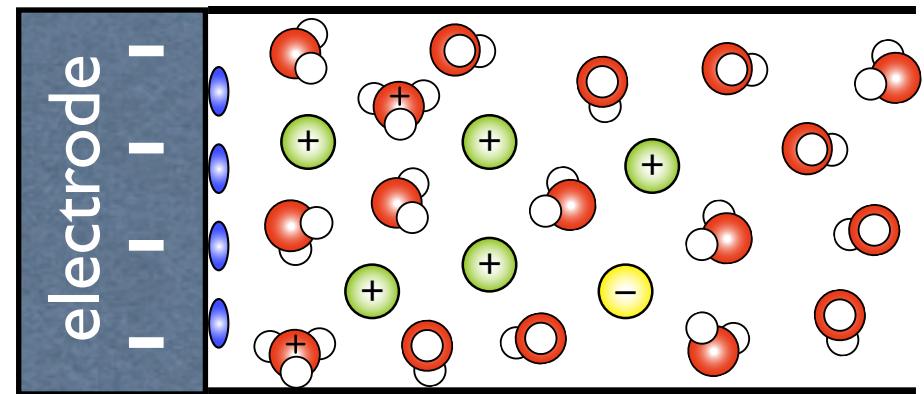
- Limitation of the current ESM method
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## Summary

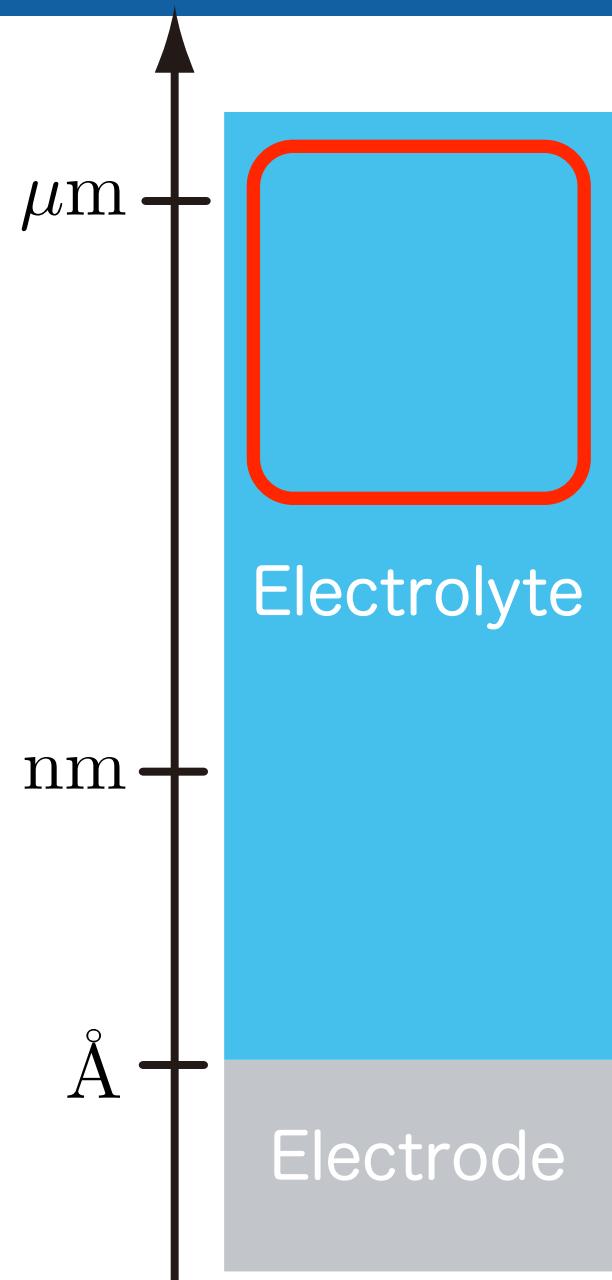
# Electrode/electrolyte interface

Things to be considered:

- ❖ Ion distribution
- ❖ Screening effect of water
- ❖ Interaction btw water & metal
- ❖ Electronic structure
- ❖ Bias potential
- ❖ Electric double layer



# Hierarchical structure of interface



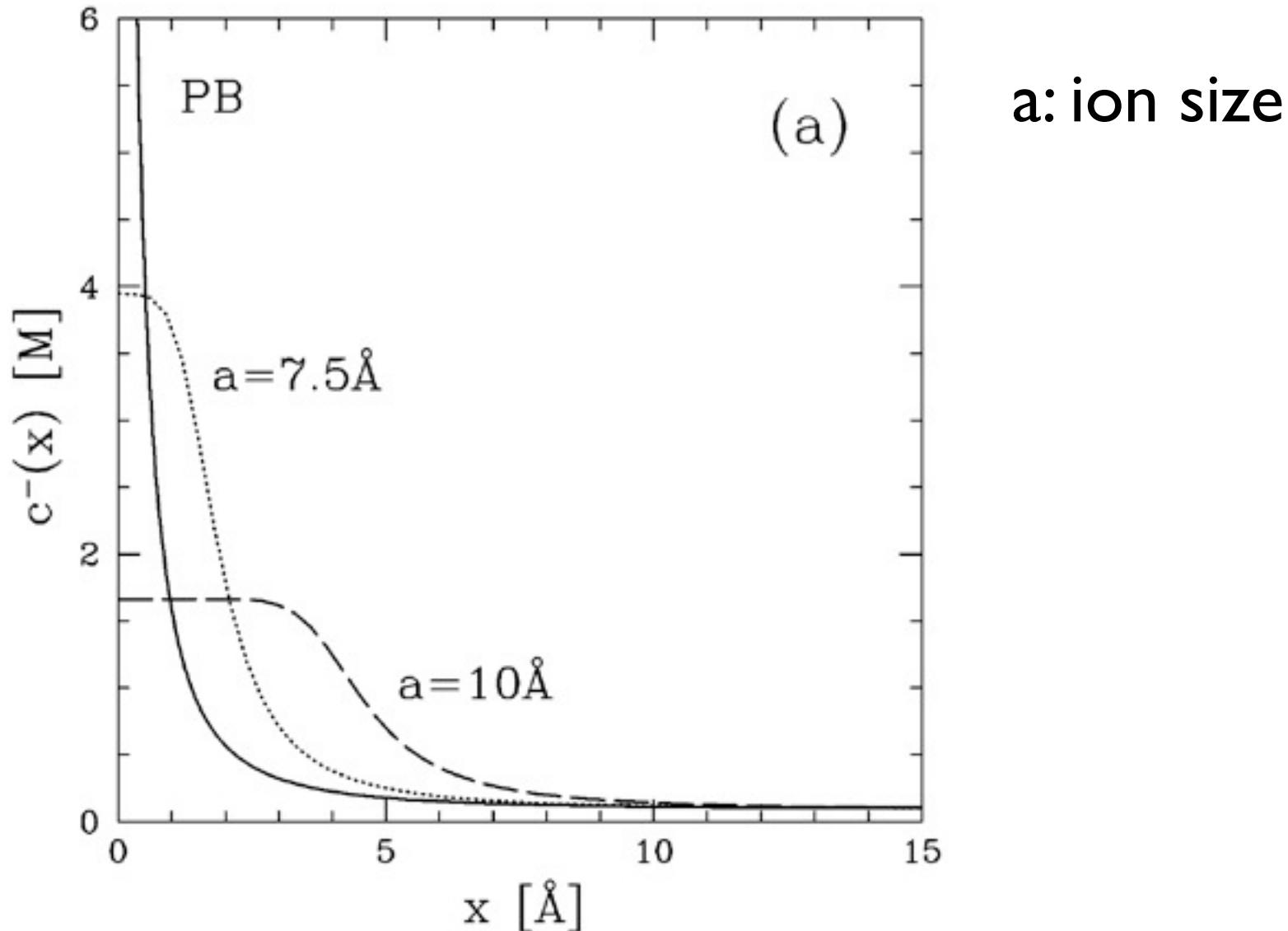
Gouy-Chapman model (1910~)  
Water: continuum ( $\epsilon_r \sim 80$ )  
Ion: point charge/Boltzmann distribution  
Modified Poisson-Boltzmann model (1924~)

Water: continuum

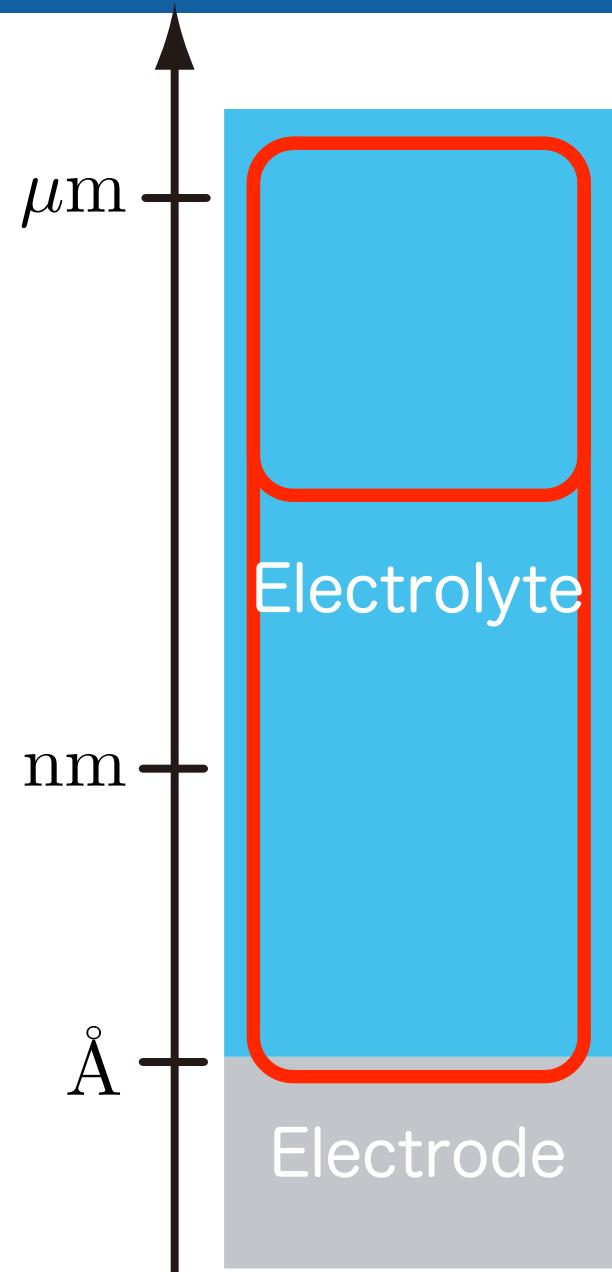
Ion: point chg. + volume effect/  
Boltzmann dist.

Electrode: wall, atom

# Poisson Boltzmann distribution



# Hierarchical structure of interface



Gouy-Chapman model (1910~)

Water: continuum ( $\epsilon_r \sim 80$ )

Ion: point chg./Boltzmann dist.

Modified Poisson-Boltzmann model (1920~)

Water: continuum

ion: point chg.+excluded volume/

Boltzmann distribution

Electrode: wall

Integral equation+DFT (1980~)

HNC approximation

RHNC approximation

RISM

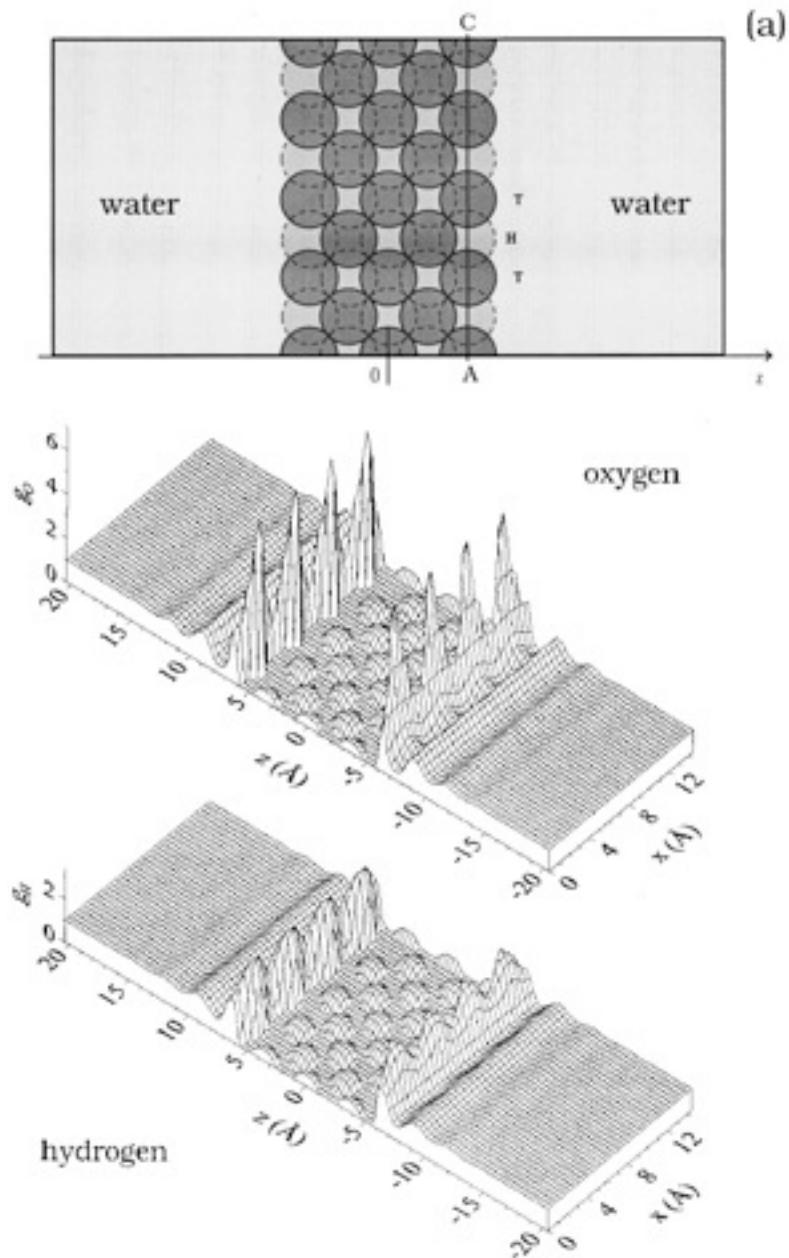
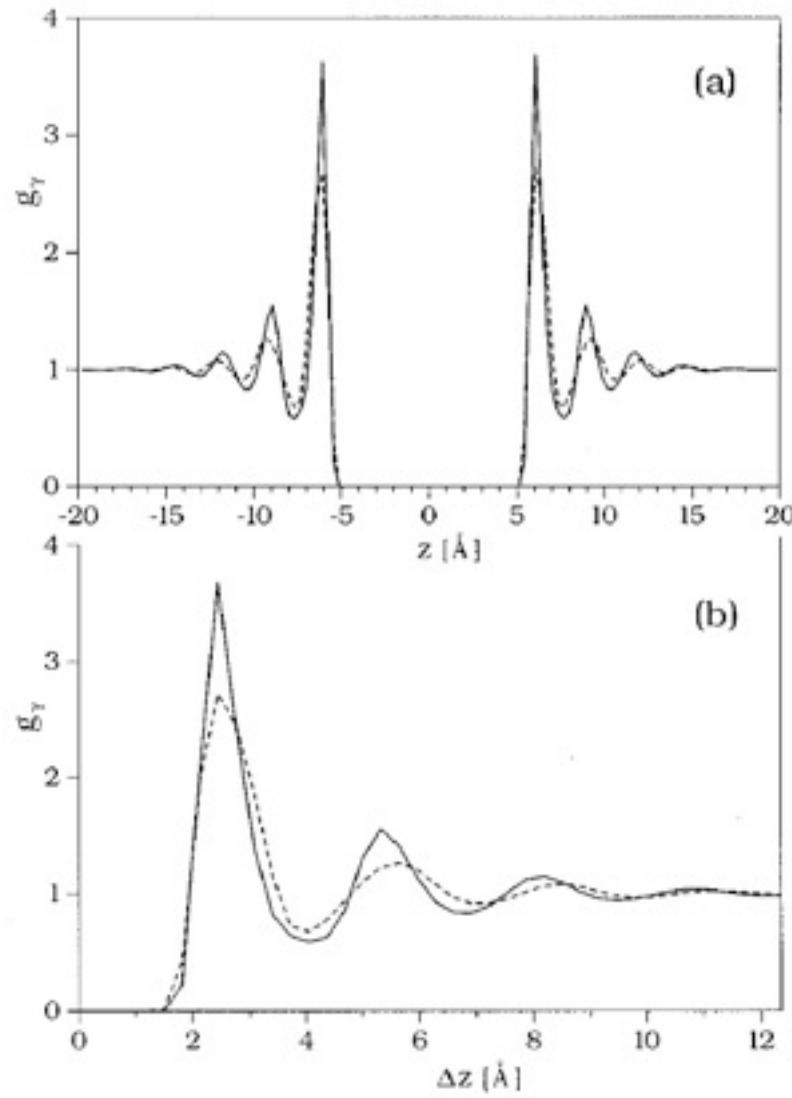
3D RISM

Orstein-Zernike eq.+

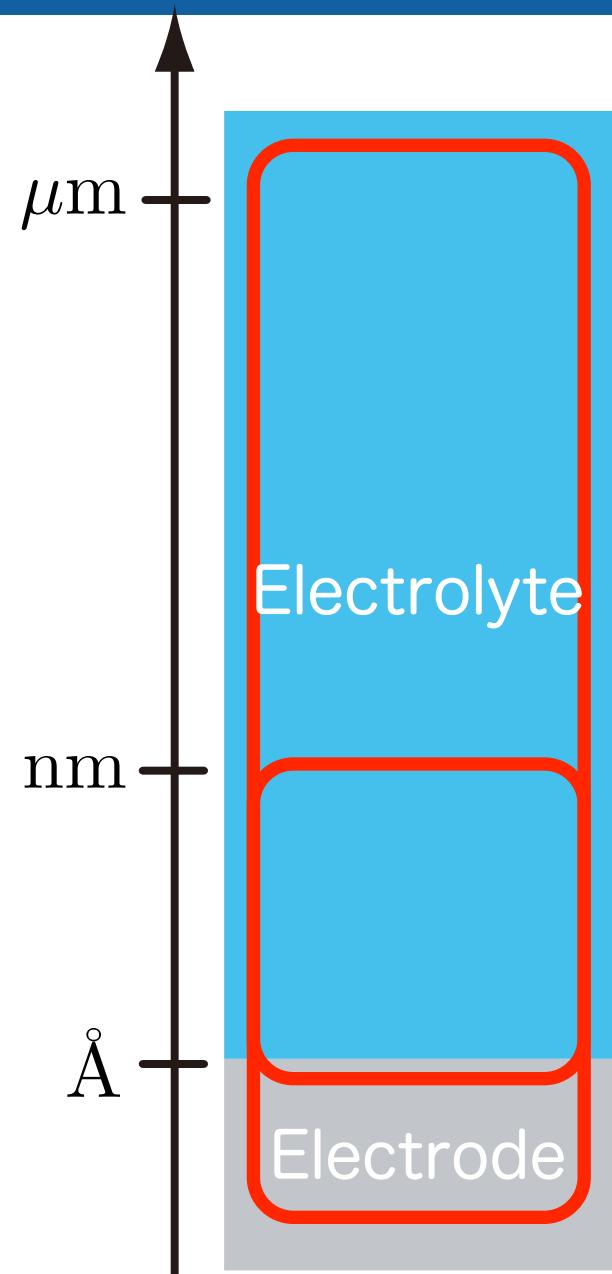
Water/ion : sphere, sphere+di(multi)pole, molecule

Electrode: wall, jellium, atom (pseudo potential)

# 3D RISM+DFT [Cu(100)/water]



# Hierarchical structure of interface



Gouy-Chapman model (1910~)

Water: continuum ( $\epsilon_r \sim 80$ )

Ion: point chg./Boltzmann dist.

Modified Poisson-Boltzmann model (1920~)

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3D RISM

Water/ion : sphere, sphere+di(multi)pole, molecule

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DFT+Molecular dynamics (1995~)

Water, ion, metal: pseudo potential

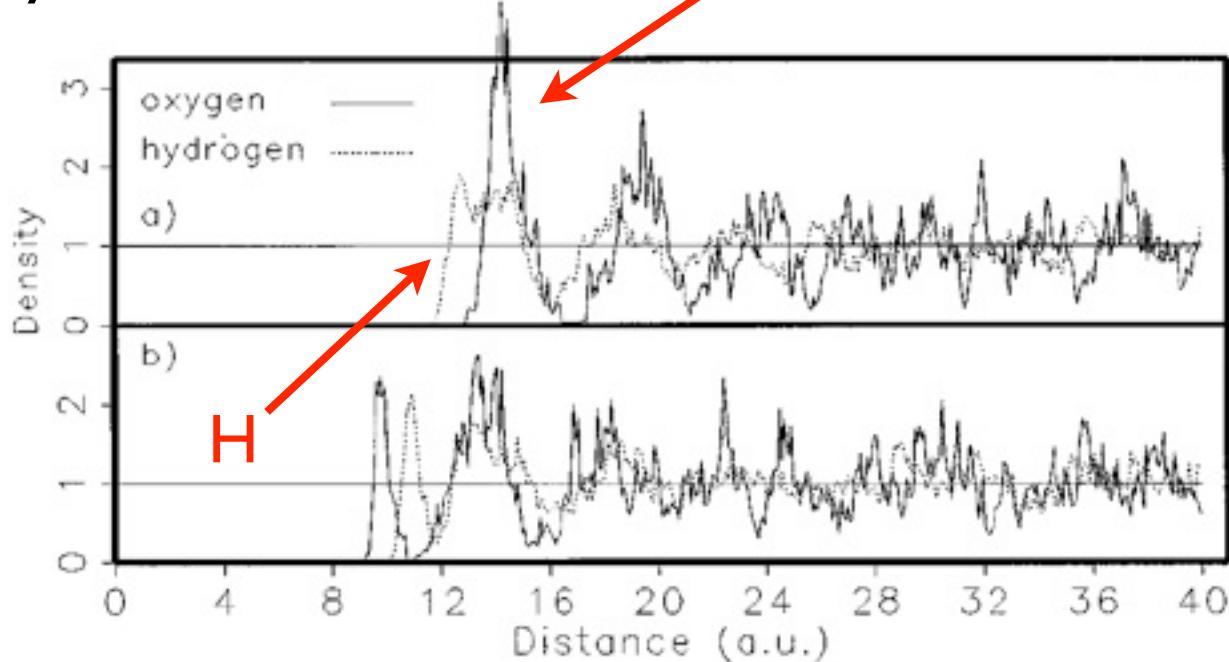
Potential : model potential, ab-initio

Bias potential : surface charge

# Car-Parrinello MD [Cu(100)/water]

180 Cu atoms & 245 water molecules

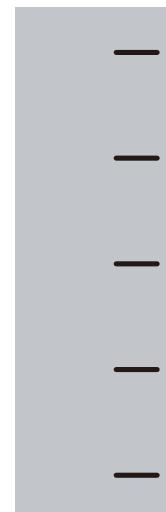
Layer distribution function



oxygen-up



oxygen-down



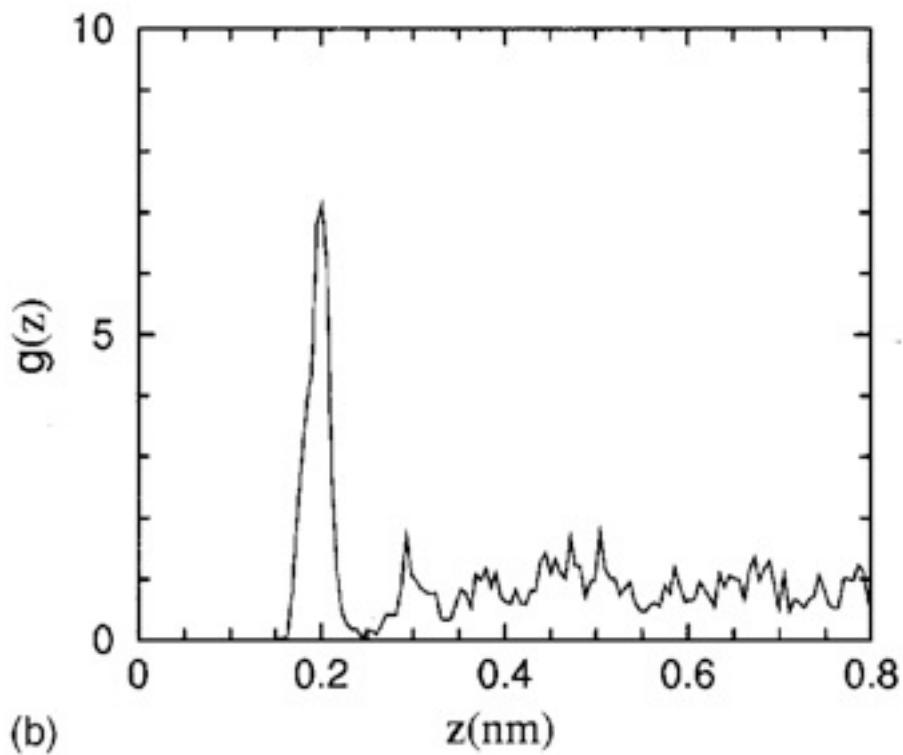
No full DFT (charge on water molecules are fixed)

D.L. Price, et. al. JCP (1995)

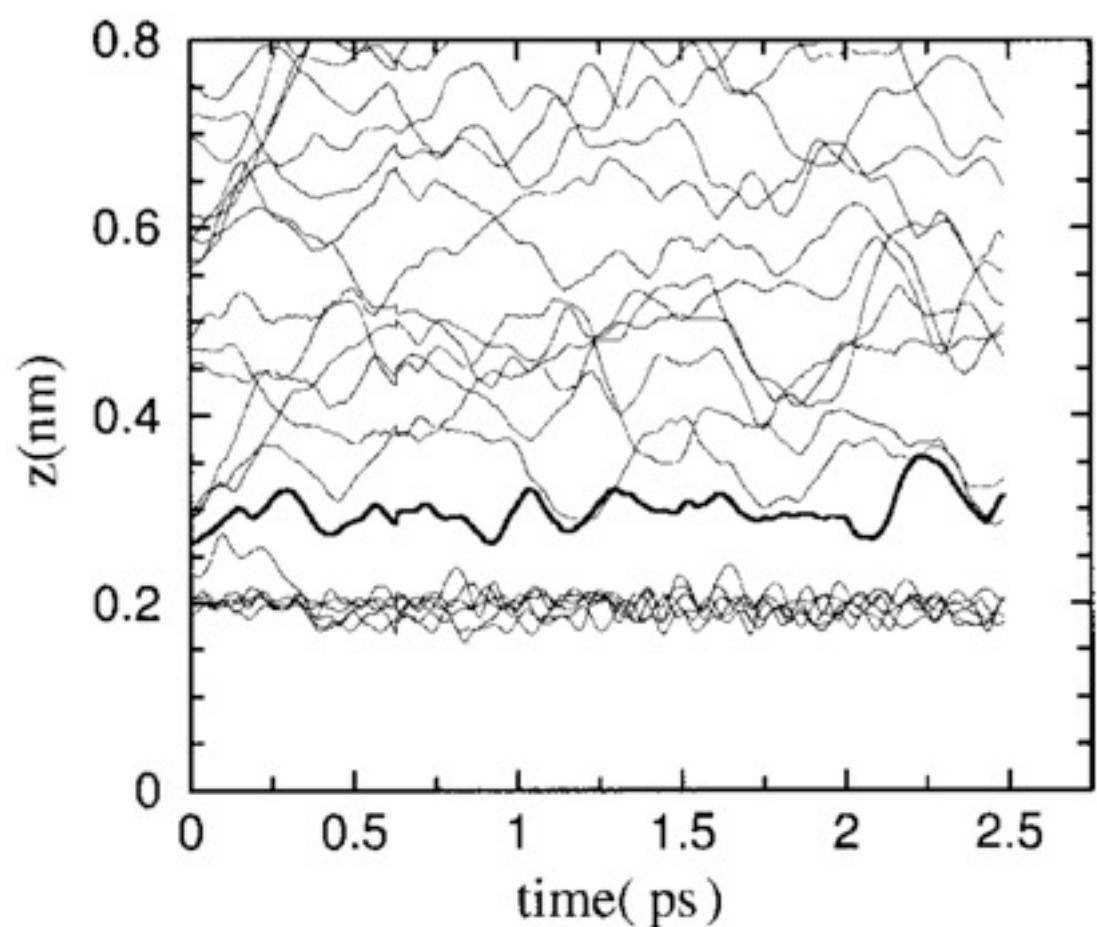
# Car-Parrinello MD [Cu(100)/water]

63 Cu atoms & 24 water molecules

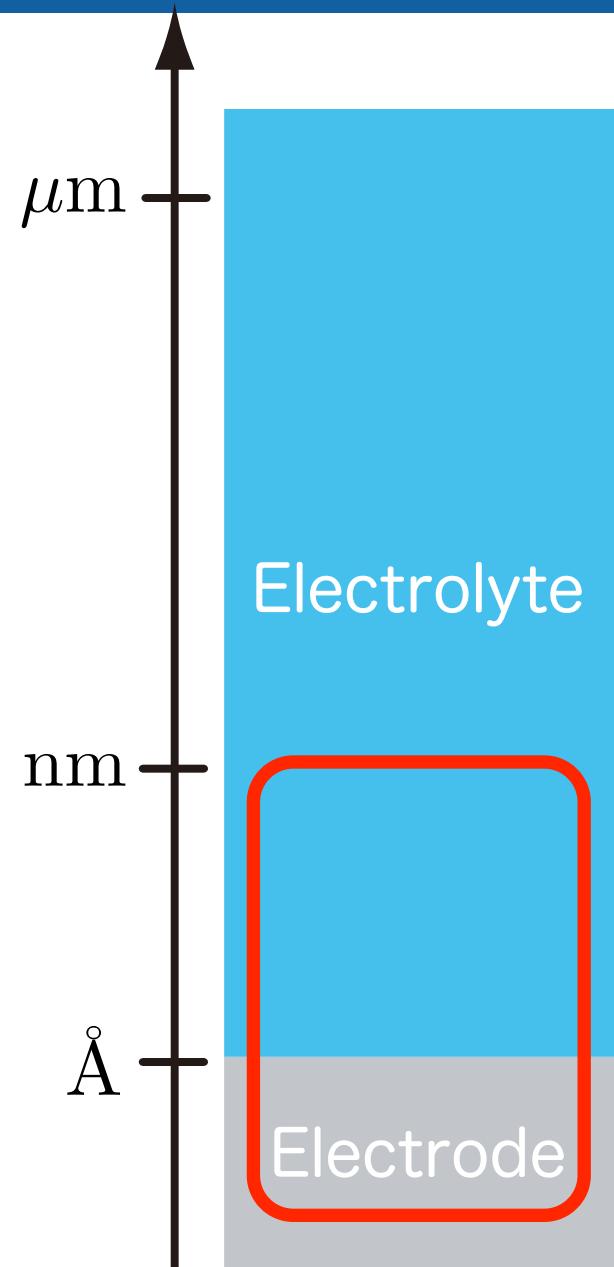
Layer distribution function



Pt-O distance



# Hierarchical structure of interface



Gouy-Chapman model (1910~)

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Ion: point chg./Boltzmann dist.

Modified Poisson-Boltzmann model (1920~)

Water: continuum

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Boltzmann distribution

Electrode: wall

Integral equation+DFT (1980~)

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Water/ion : sphere, sphere+di(multi)pole, molecule

Electrode: wall, jellium, atom (pseudo potential)

DFT+Molecular dynamics (1995~)

Water, ion, metal: pseudo potential

Potential : model potential, ab-initio

Bias potential : surface charge

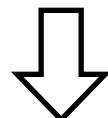
We need to develop a new method

- ✓ FPMD (with out model potential)
- ✓ bias potential

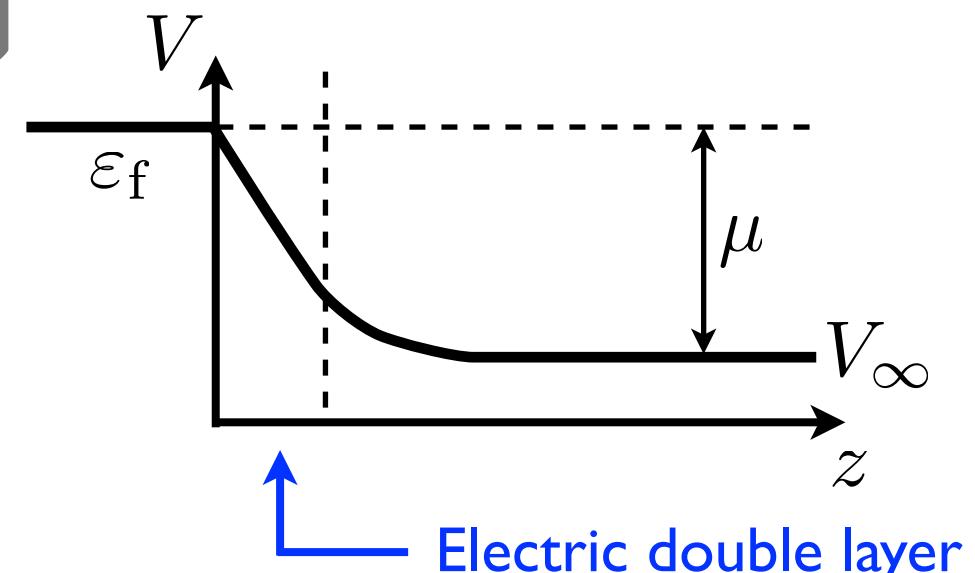
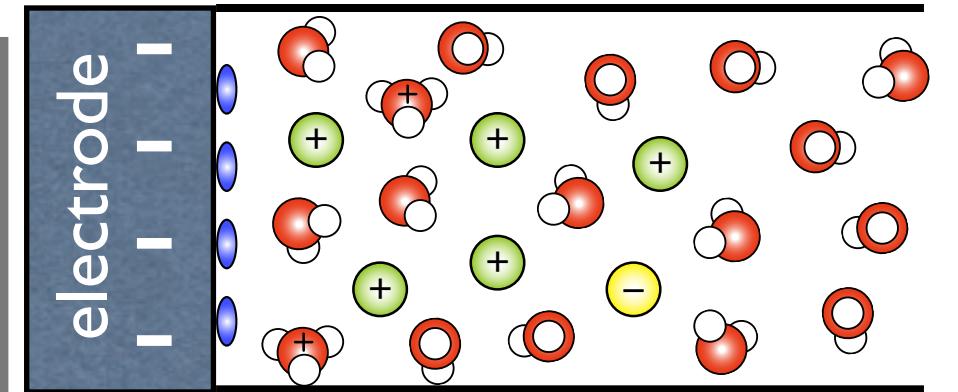
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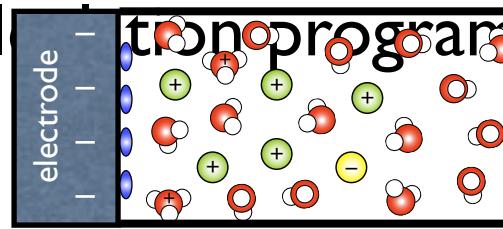


First-principles molecular dynamics simulation with a bias potential.

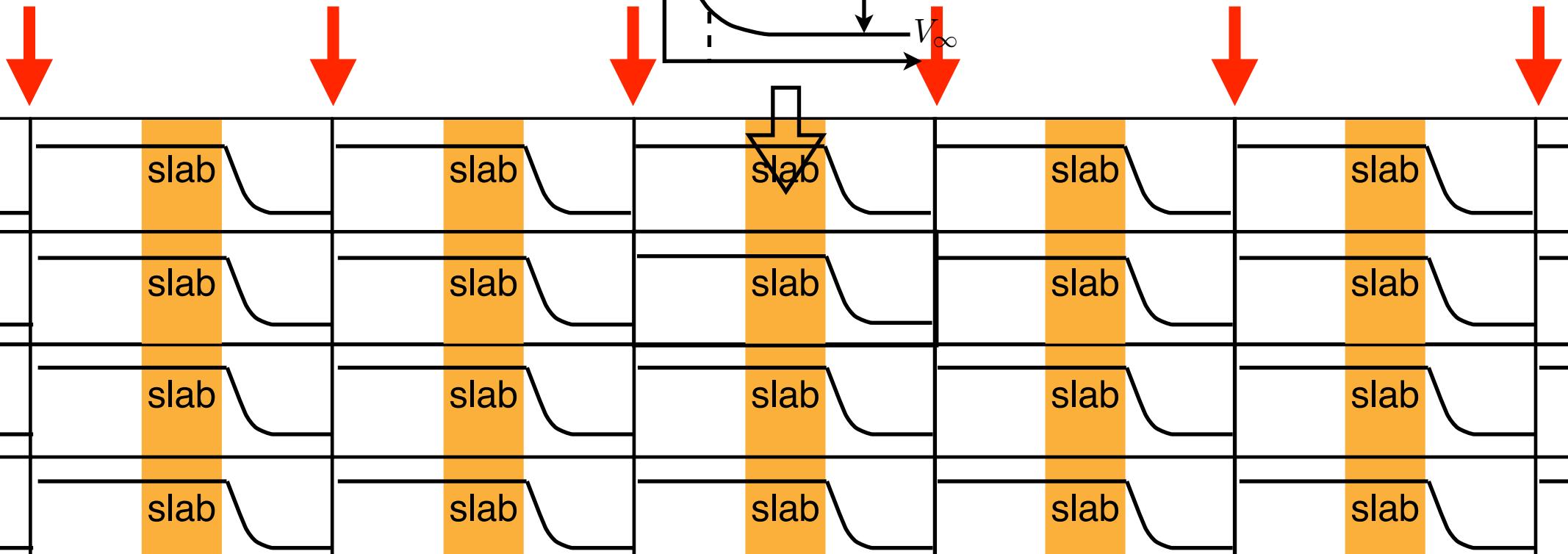


# Why conventional DFT does not work?

Conventional DFT calculation program uses periodic boundary condition.



Electrostatic potentials do not connect to each other at the cell edge region



# Idea of the method

## Total energy functional

$$E[\rho] = T[\rho] + E_{\text{xc}}[\rho] + \frac{1}{2} \iint d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} + \int d\mathbf{r} v_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + E_{\text{ion}}$$

$V \rightarrow$  variable

$$E[\rho_e, V] = T[\rho_e] + E_{\text{xc}}[\rho_e] + \int d\mathbf{r} \left[ +\frac{\epsilon(\mathbf{r})}{8\pi} |\nabla V(\mathbf{r})|^2 + \rho_{\text{tot}}(\mathbf{r})V(\mathbf{r}) \right]$$

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta V} = 0$$

Poisson equation

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta \rho_e} = 0$$

Kohn-Sham equation

$$\left[ -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 + V(\mathbf{r}) + \hat{V}_{\text{NL}} + V_{\text{xc}}(\mathbf{r}) \right] \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r})$$

conventional

$$\epsilon(\mathbf{r}) = 1$$

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{r}' \frac{\rho_{\text{tot}}(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$

ESM

$\epsilon(\mathbf{r})$  : model dependent

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{r}' G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \rho_{\text{tot}}(\mathbf{r}')$$

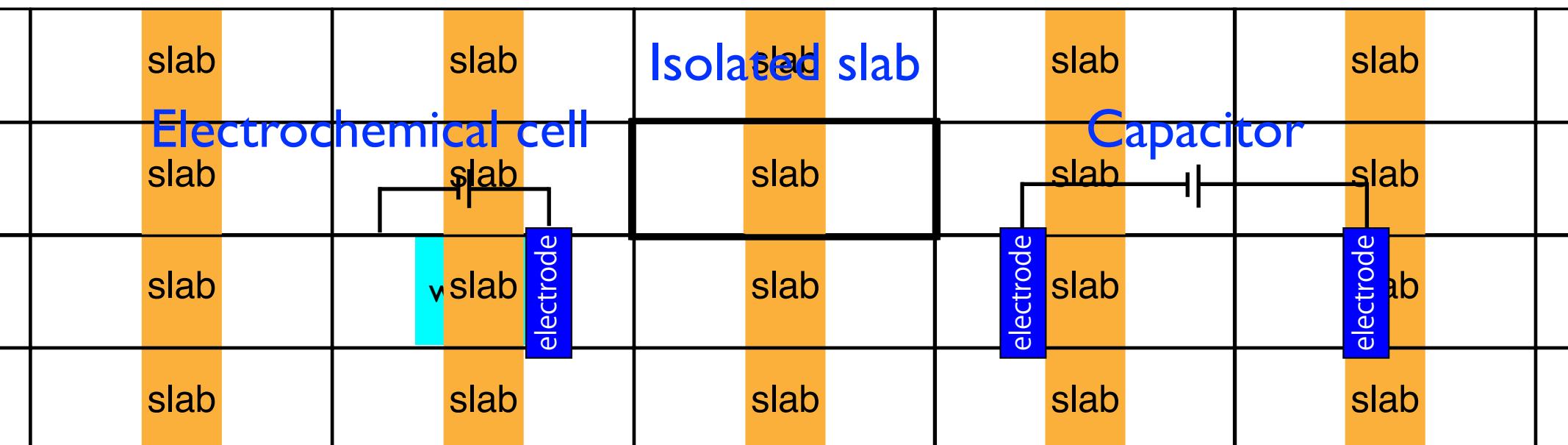
# Effective screening medium method

M.O. and O. Sugino, PRB 73, 115407 (2006)



## ESM method:

- ▶ Remove PBC along z-direction
- ▶ Impose model dependent boundary condition

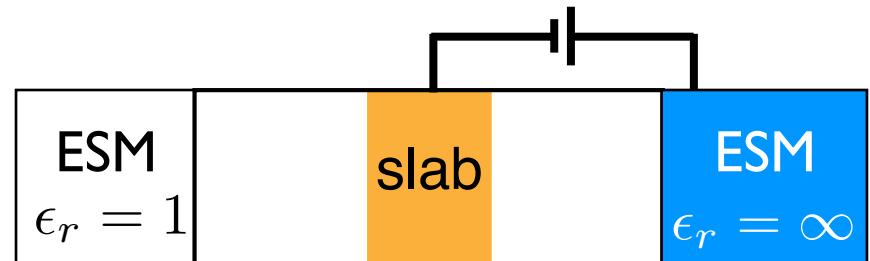


# Effective screening medium method

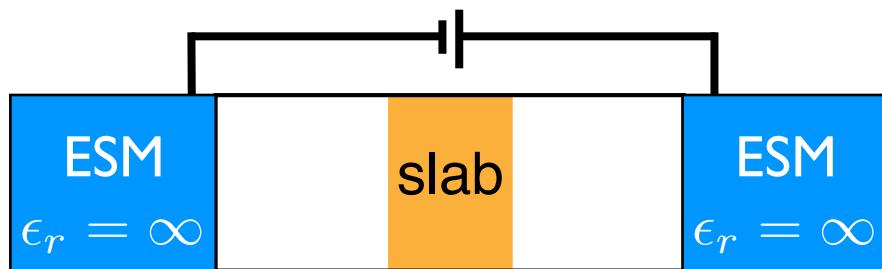
(i) Slab model (standard model)



(ii) STM, Capacitor, electrochemical cell



(iii) nanostructure in capacitor



► Poisson equation:

$$\nabla[\epsilon(r)\nabla]V(r) = -4\pi\rho_{\text{tot}}(r)$$

► Model dependent boundary condition

► ESM is characterized only by  
permittivity constant ( $\epsilon_r$ )

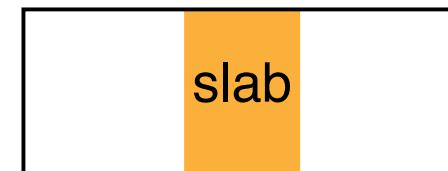
► Solve the PE using the Green's  
function technique

# Effective screening medium method

M.O. and O. Sugino, PRB 73, 115407 (2006)

(i)

$$\partial_z V(g_{\parallel}, z) \Big|_{z=\pm\infty} = 0, \quad \epsilon(z) = 1$$

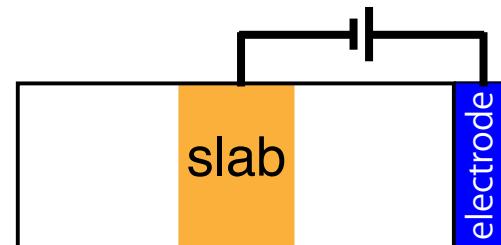


neutral surface, polarized surface...

(ii)

$$\begin{cases} V(g_{\parallel}, z_1) = 0 \\ \partial_z V(g_{\parallel}, z) \Big|_{z=-\infty} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\epsilon(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \geq z_1 \\ \infty & \text{if } z \leq z_1 \end{cases}$$

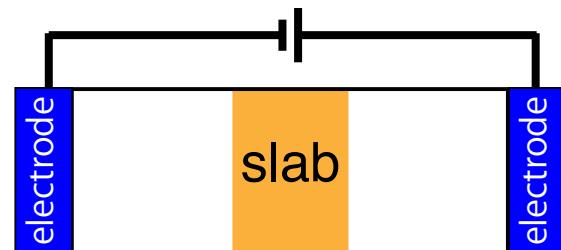


STM, gate electrode...

(iii)

$$\begin{cases} V(g_{\parallel}, z_1) = 0 \\ V(g_{\parallel}, -z_1) = V_0 \end{cases}$$

$$\epsilon(z) = \infty \quad \text{if } |z| \geq z_1$$



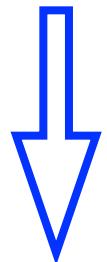
nano-structure in capacitor, zigzag pot.

# Effective screening medium method

M.O. and O. Sugino, PRB 73, 115407 (2006)

How to solve the poisson equation?

$$\nabla[\epsilon(\mathbf{r})\nabla]V(\mathbf{r}) = -4\pi\rho_{\text{tot}}(\mathbf{r})$$



Laue representation

$$[\partial_z\{\epsilon(z)\partial\} - \epsilon(z)g_{||}^2]V(\mathbf{g}_{||}, z) = -4\pi\rho(\mathbf{g}_{||}, z)$$

$$[\partial_z\{\epsilon(z)\partial\} - \epsilon(z)g_{||}^2]G(\mathbf{g}_{||}, z, z') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{g}_{||}, z - z')$$

We can get Green's function analytically with each boundary conditions.

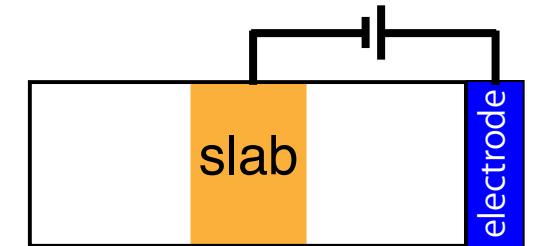
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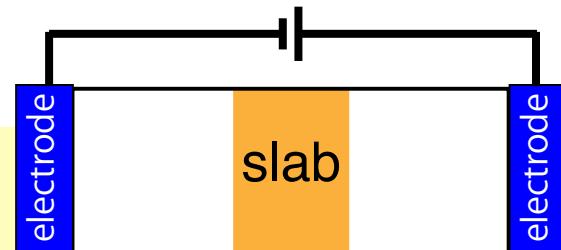
## Green's functions in real space

bare coulomb part  
image charge part

$$G^{(i)}(r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}, z, z') = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 + (z - z')^2)}}$$



$$G^{(ii)}(r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}, z, z') = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 + (z - z')^2)}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 + (2z_1 - z - z')^2}}$$



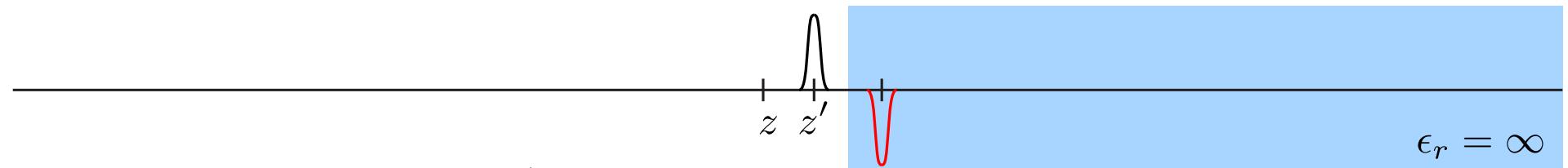
$$G^{(iii)}(r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}, z, z') = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 + (z - z')^2)}}$$

$$+ \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 + (z - z' + (4m + 4)z_1)^2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 - (-z + z' + (4m + 4)z_1)^2}} \right]$$

$$- \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 + (z + z' + (4m + 4)z_1)^2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 - (-z - z' + (4m + 4)z_1)^2}} \right]$$

# Series of mirror images

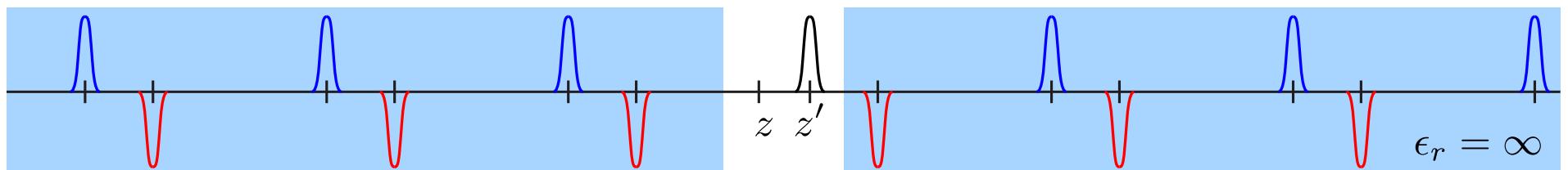
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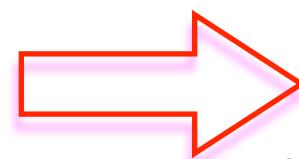
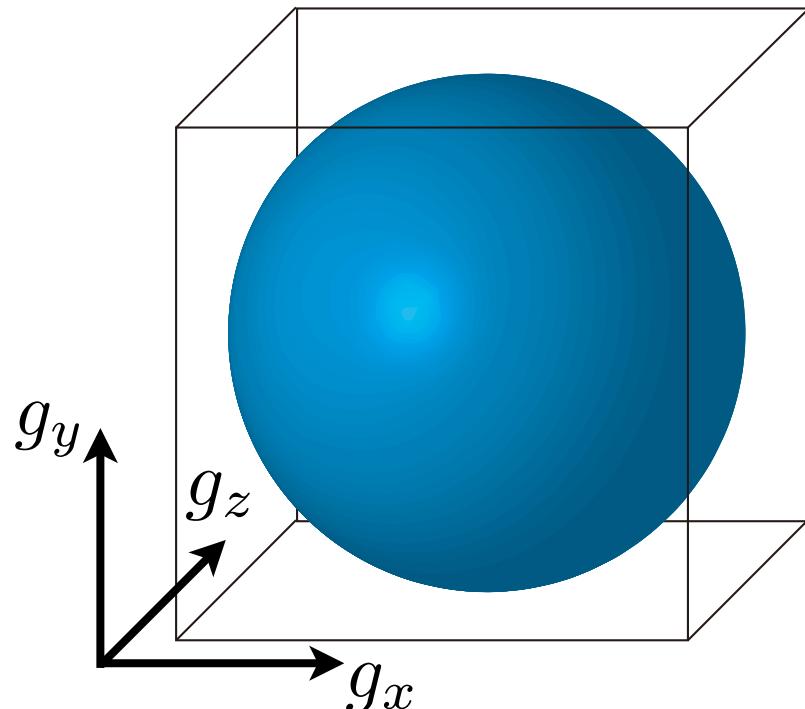
$$- \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \boxed{\frac{1}{\sqrt{|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 + (z + z' + (4m + 4)z_1))^2}}} + \boxed{\frac{1}{\sqrt{|r_{\parallel} - r'_{\parallel}|^2 - (-z - z' + (4m + 4)z_1))^2}}}$$



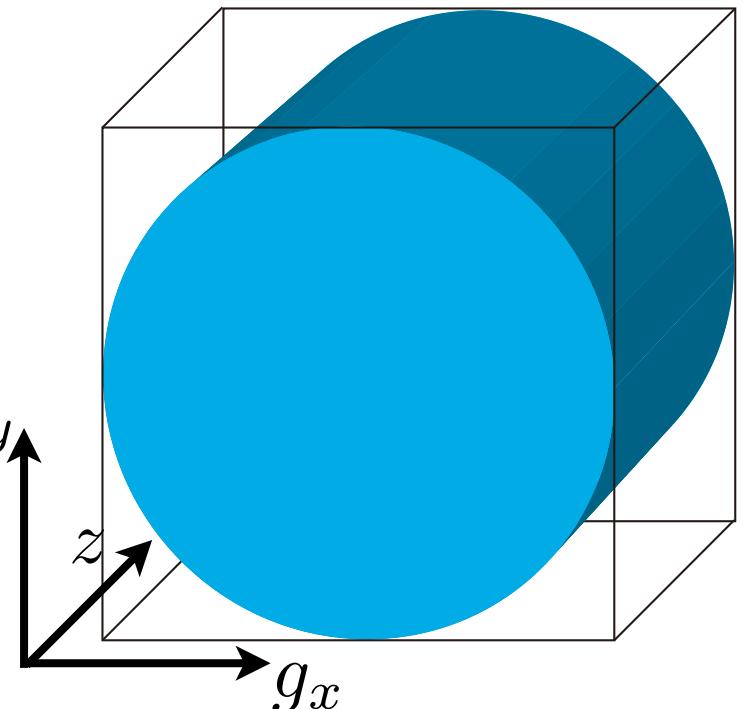
# Effective screening medium method

- Various boundary conditions (battery, FET, STM...)
- Easy to implement “state of the art” DFT programs
- Calculation cost for ESM part is negligible
- No dipole (or more higher order) correction for polar surface

Conventional g-component



g-component in ESM method



# Implementation

$$V_{\text{hart}}(r) = \int dr' G(r, r') \rho_e(r')$$

$$V_{\text{hart}}(r) = \int_{-z_1}^{z_1} dz' G(g_{\parallel}, z, z') \rho_e(g_{\parallel}, z')$$

$$= \sum_{g_z} \rho_e(g_{\parallel}, g_z) \int_{-z_1}^{z_1} dz' G^{(\text{iii})}(g_{\parallel}, z, z') e^{ig_z z'}$$

$$= \sum_{g_z} \frac{4\pi}{g_{\parallel}^2 + g_z^2} \rho_e(g_{\parallel}, g_z) e^{ig_z z} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{conventional}}$$

$$+ \frac{4\pi \sinh(g_{\parallel}(z - z_1))}{\sinh(2g_{\parallel}z_1)} \sum_{g_z} \frac{e^{-ig_z z_1}}{g_{\parallel}^2 + g_z^2} \rho_e(g_{\parallel}, g_z)$$

$$- \frac{4\pi \sinh(g_{\parallel}(z - z_1))}{\sinh(2g_{\parallel}z_1)} \sum_{g_z} \frac{e^{ig_z z_1}}{g_{\parallel}^2 + g_z^2} \rho_e(g_{\parallel}, g_z)$$

$\equiv g_x, g_y, g_z$

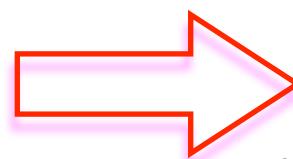
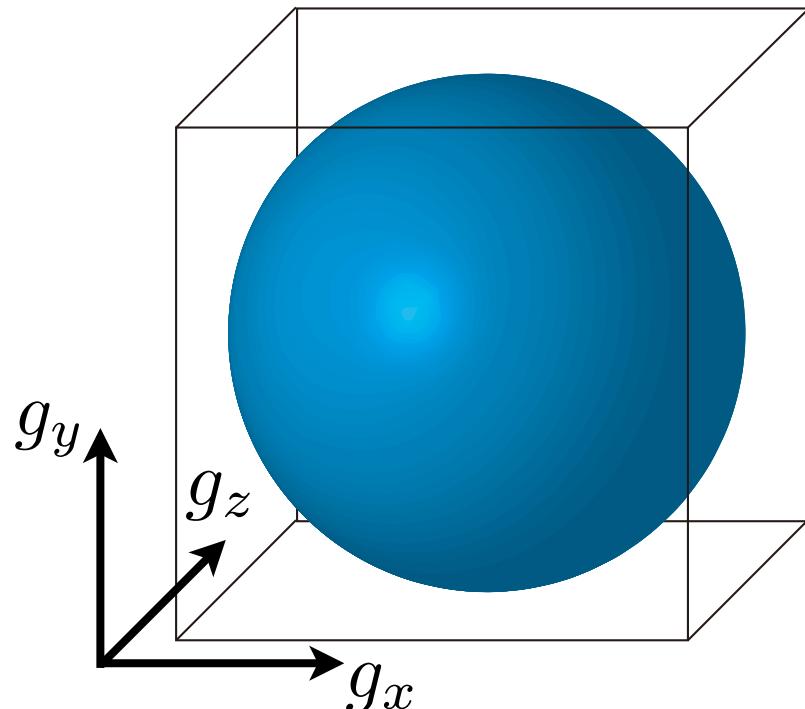
$\equiv g_x, g_y$   
 $\equiv g_z$   
 $\equiv z$

independent  $g_z$  loop

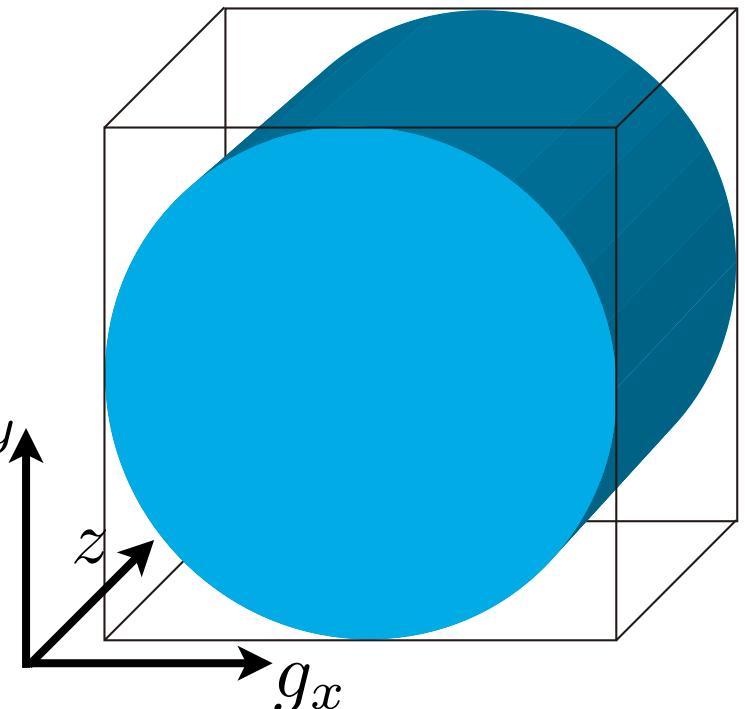
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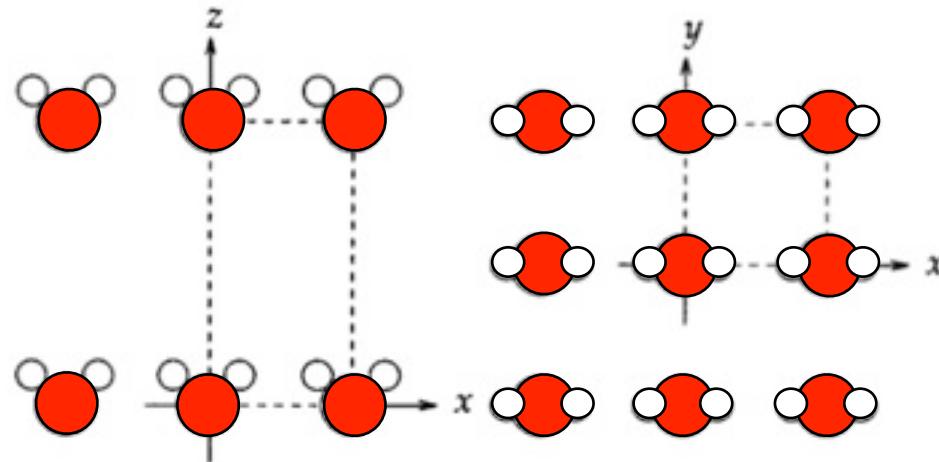
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g-component in ESM method



# Dipole correction



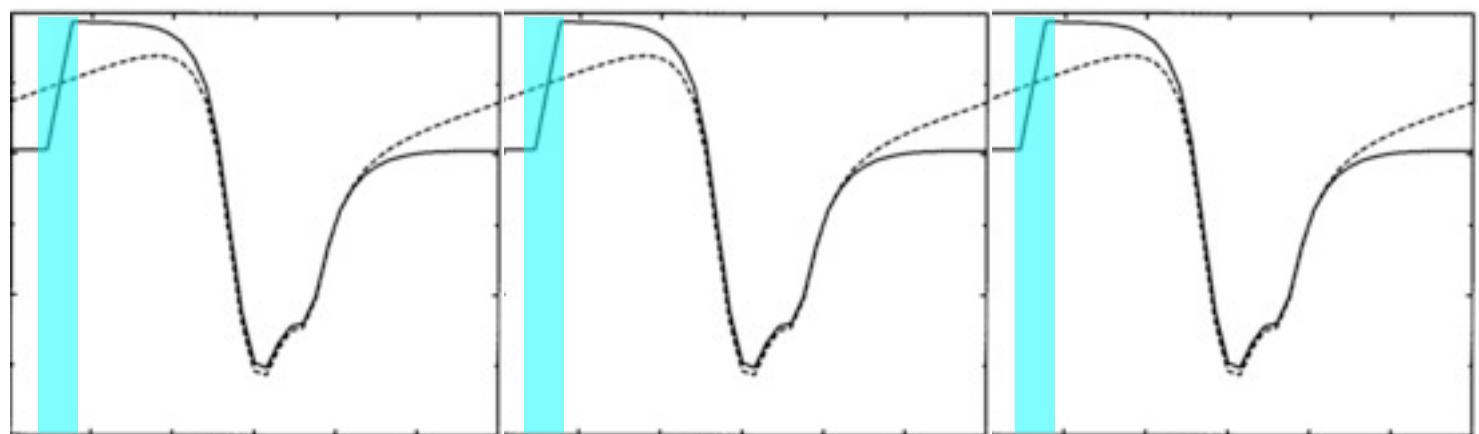
L. Bengtsson, PRB **59**, 12301 (1999)

$$G^{(i)}(g_{\parallel}, z, z') = \frac{4\pi}{2g_{\parallel}} e^{-g_{\parallel}|z-z'|}$$

$g_{\parallel} \rightarrow 0$  term

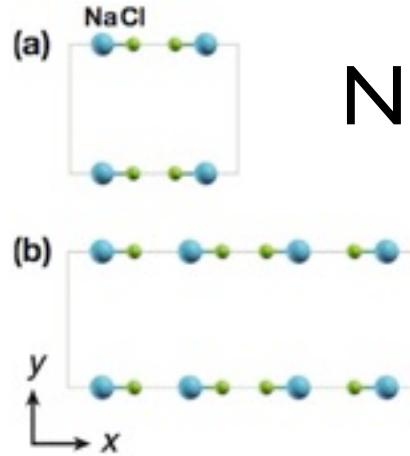


dipole layer

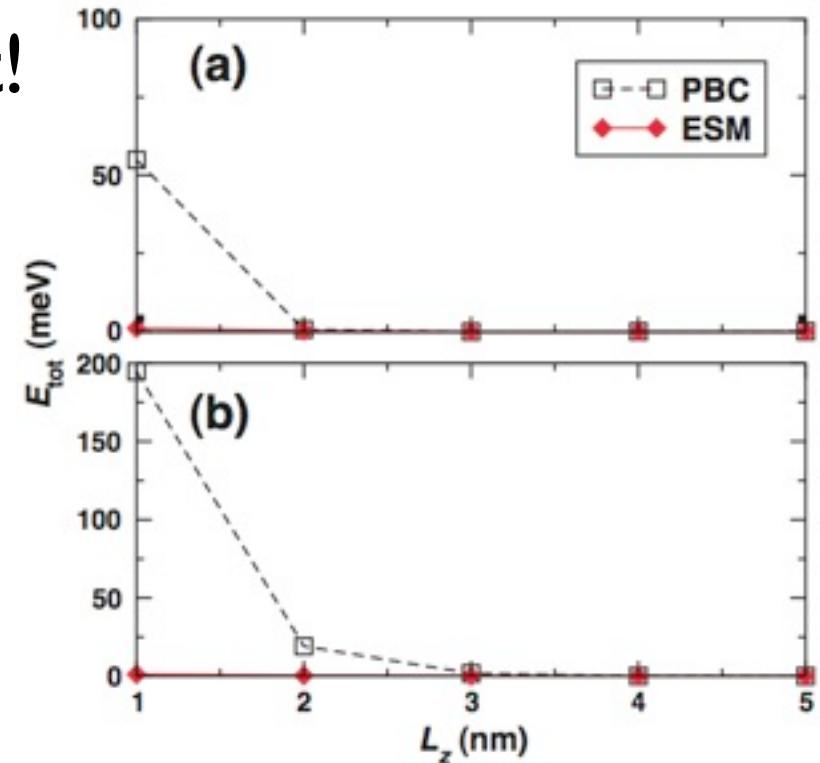
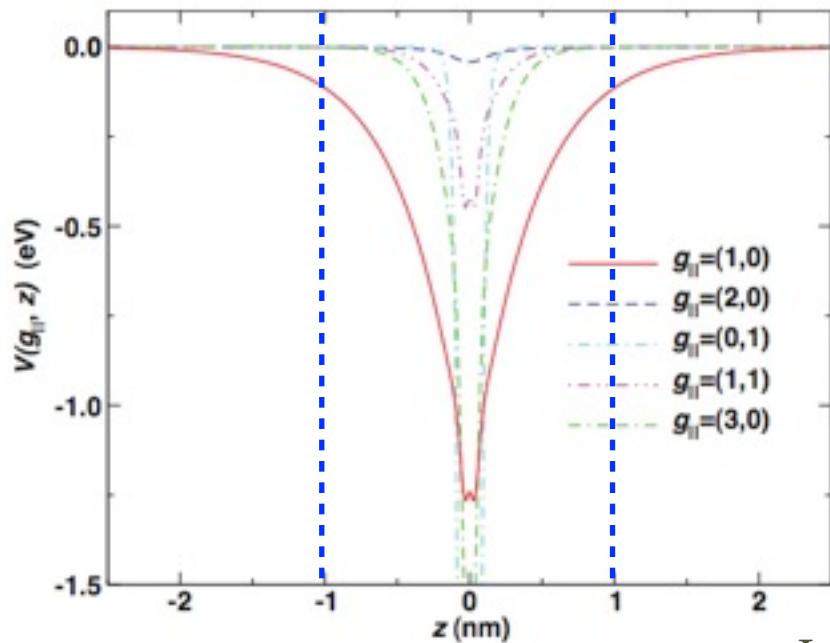


Only dipole contribution can be corrected, but...

# Multipole interaction between slab



No dipole moment!



$$G^{(i)}(g_{\parallel}, z, z') = \frac{4\pi}{2g_{\parallel}} e^{-g_{\parallel}|z-z'|}$$

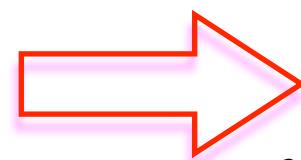
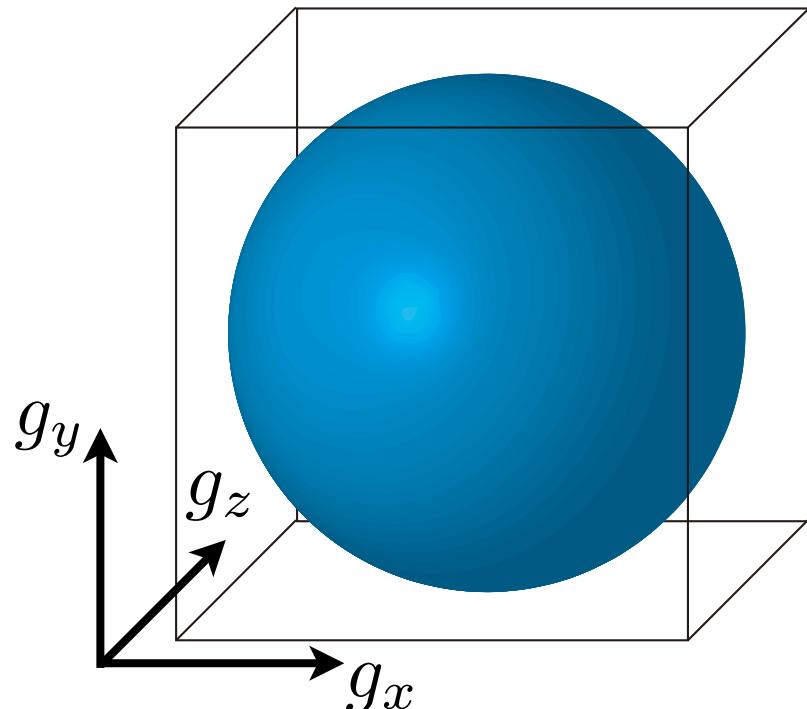
$g_{\parallel} = (1, 0)$  term

quadrupole term give an error.

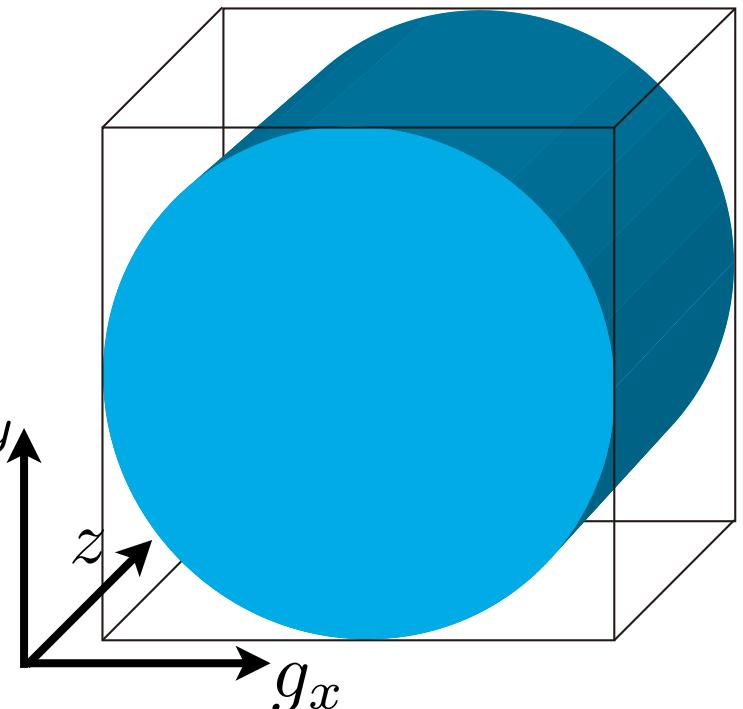
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- No dipole (or more higher order) correction for polar surface

Conventional g-component



g-component in ESM method



# ESM ready programs

- TAPP
  - STATE
  - PWSCF
  - OpenMX
  - SIESTA
  - QBOX?
- }
- Plane wave + Pseudopotential
- }
- Localized basis + Pseudopotential

# Outline

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## Introduction

- Application of electrochemical device
- What is the target of our simulation?

## Method

- History of the electrochemical interface in theoretical simulation
- What is the ESM method?

## Application

- How to apply bias potential to metal/water interface
- Model of the electrochemical system
- Electrochemical reactions (a few steps in the electrolysis of water)

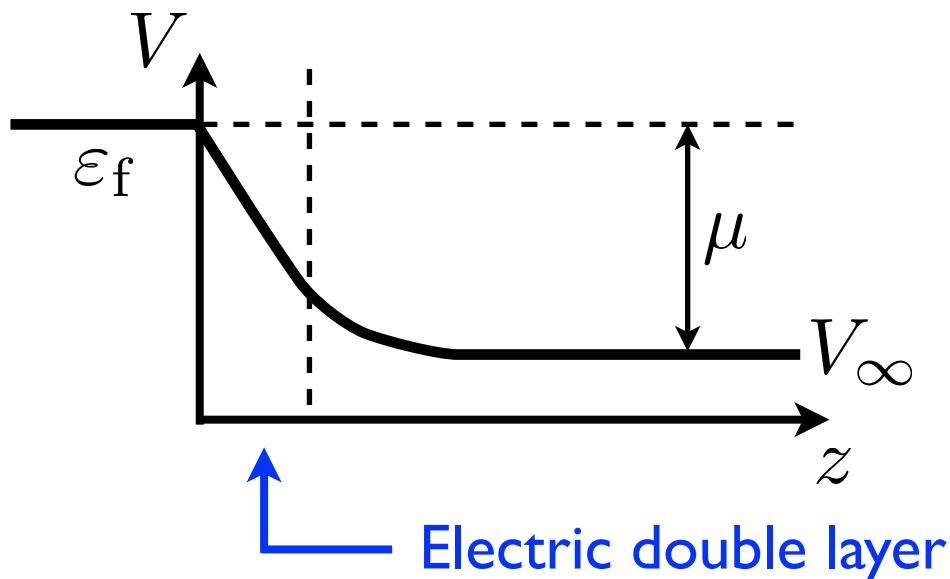
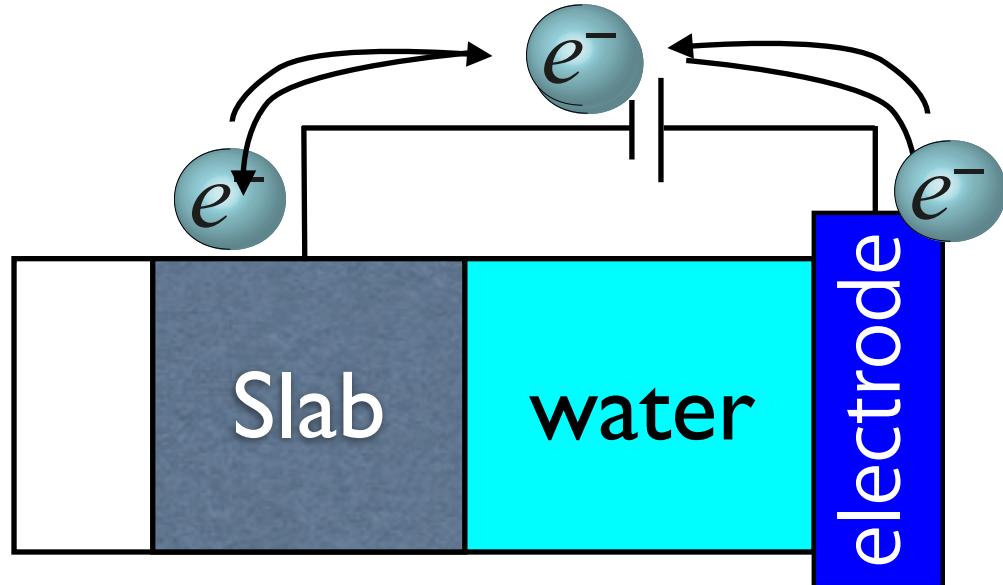
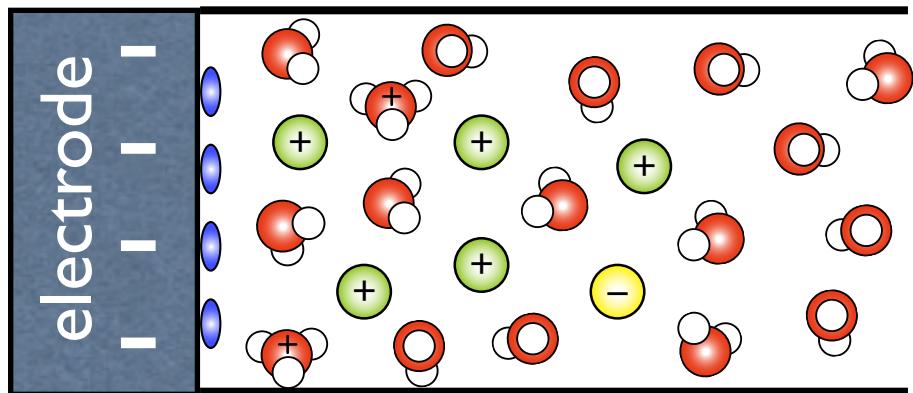
## Extension

- Limitation of the current ESM method
- Smooth ESM & Constant bias potential MD simulation

## Summary

# Effective screening medium method

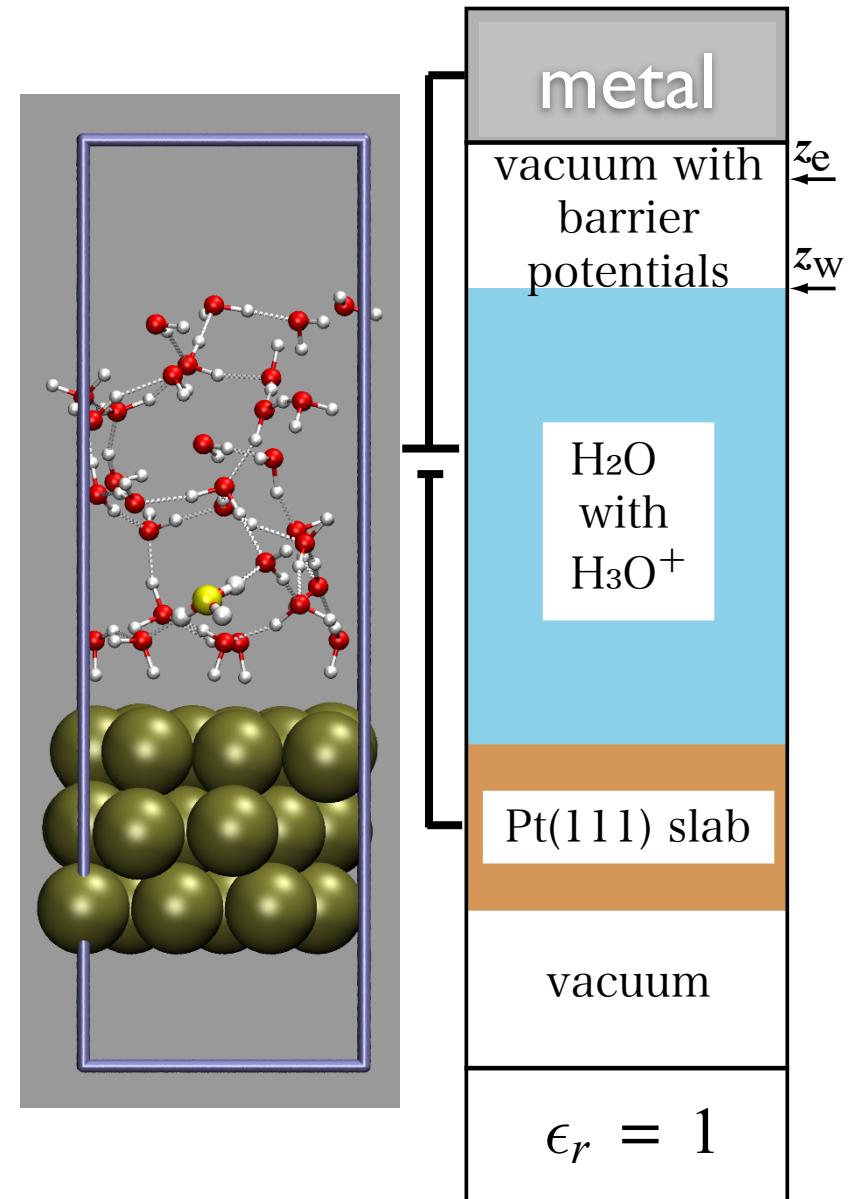
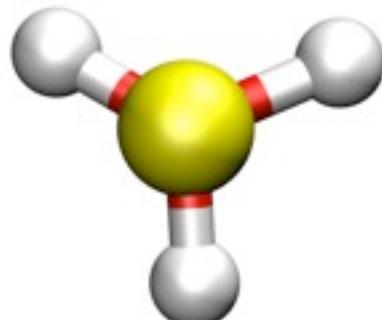
M.O. and O. Sugino, PRB 73, 115407 (2006)



- ❖ A slab model for an electrode
- ❖ Introduce a counter electrode with an imaginary battery
- ❖ Adding/removing an electron from slab electrode → bias potential

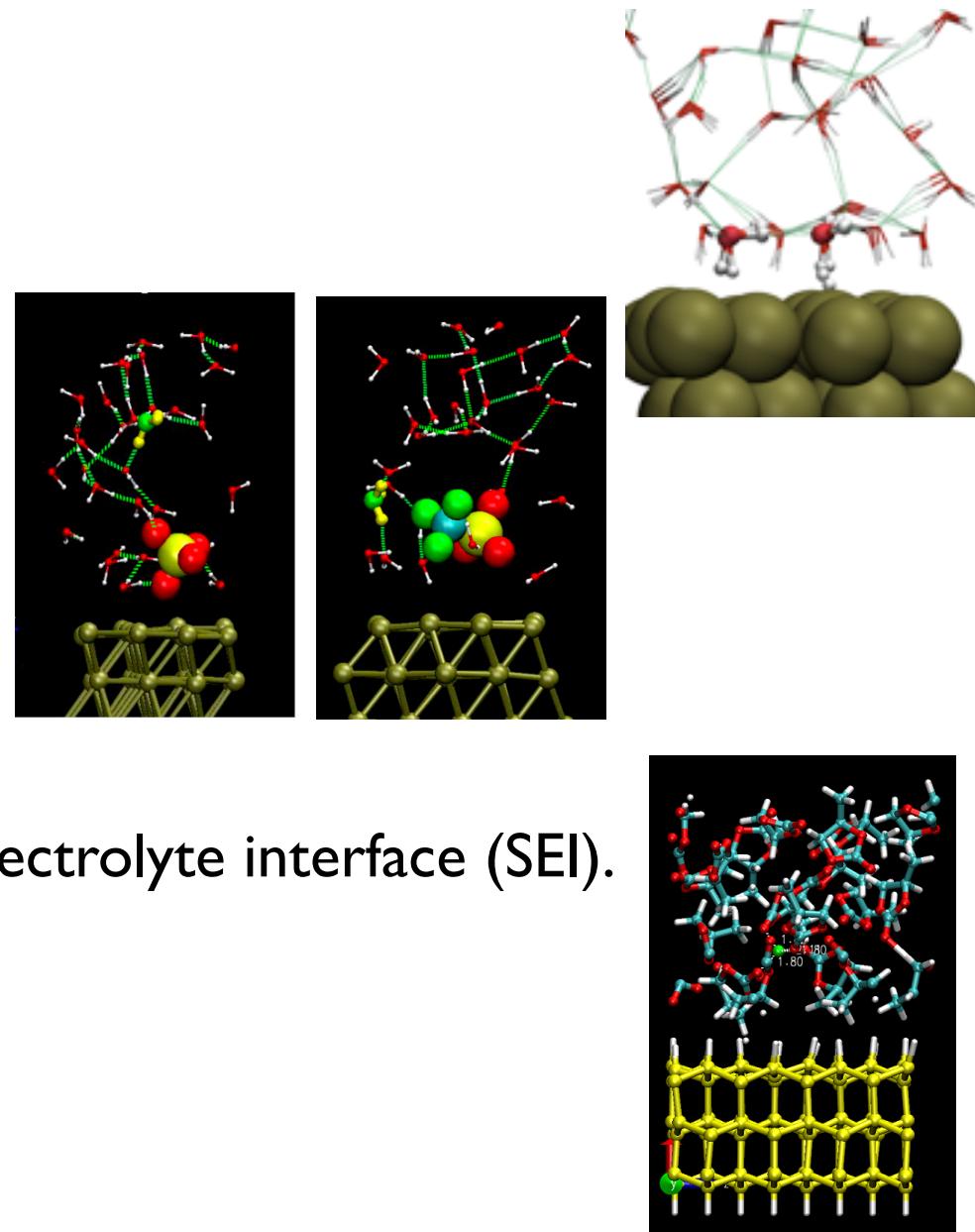
# Simulation condition

- ▶ 32 water molecules
- ▶ 36 Pt atoms (3-layers)
- ▶ GGA-PBE
- ▶ Plane wave - Ultrasoft pp
- ▶ Temperature: 80°C
- ▶ Bias potential ( -/+ )

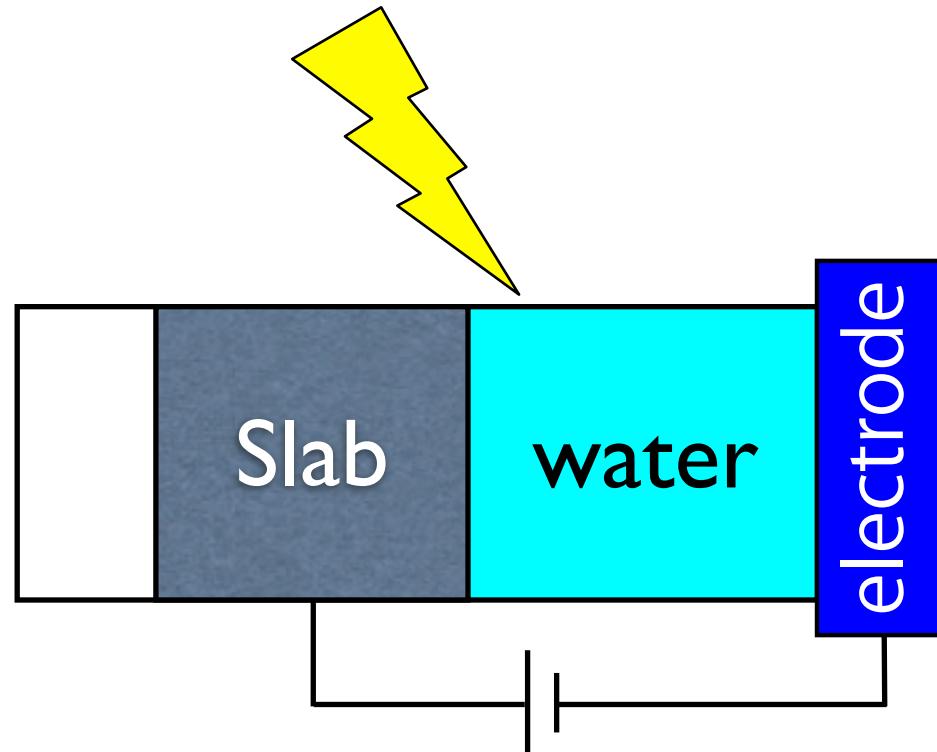


# Application of the ESM

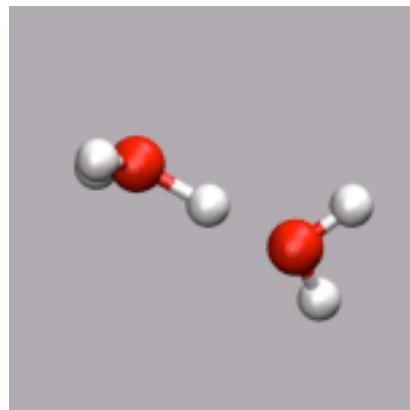
- Pt/water interface
  - ❖ Hydrogen adsorption reaction
  - ❖ Water splitting and formation
  - ❖ Pitted pt surface
  - ❖  $\text{HSO}_4$ ,  $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_4$
- Si/propylene carbonate (PC)
  - ❖ Solvation and desolvation of Li
  - ❖ Formation mechanism of solid electrolyte interface (SEI).



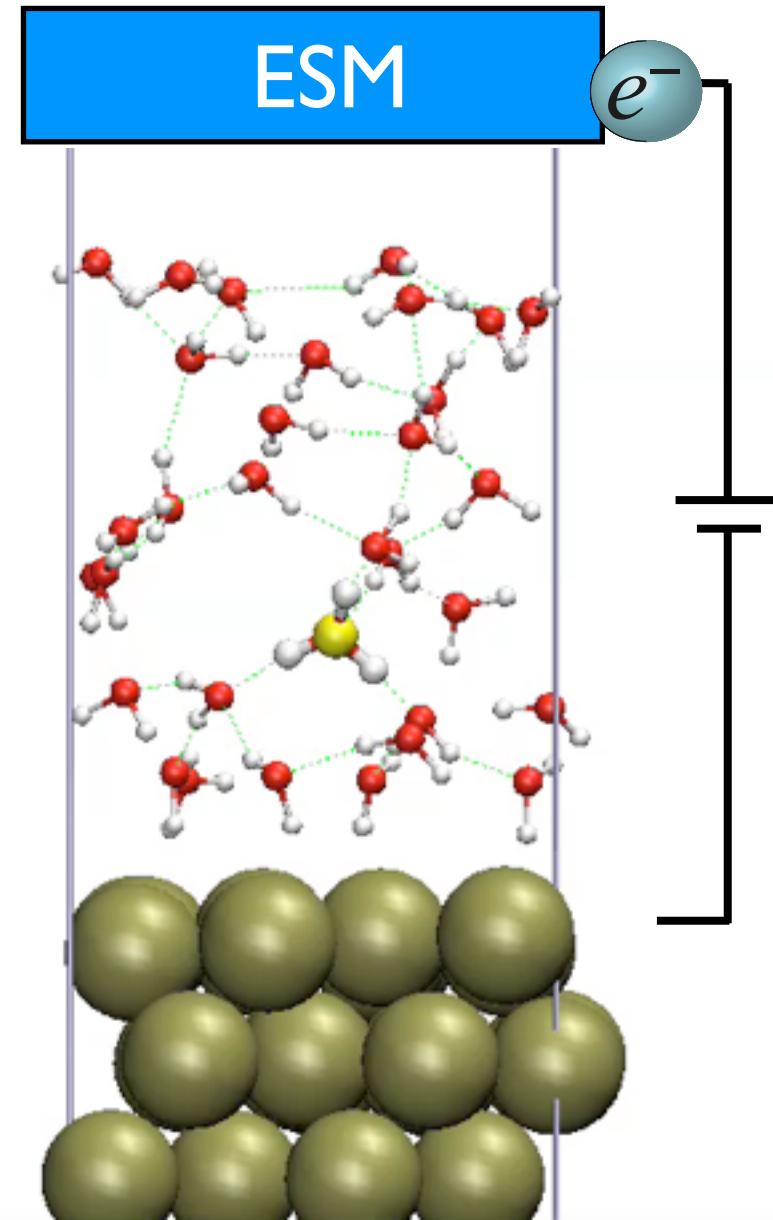
# Impact of bias potential on vibration of water molecule and structure of water layer.



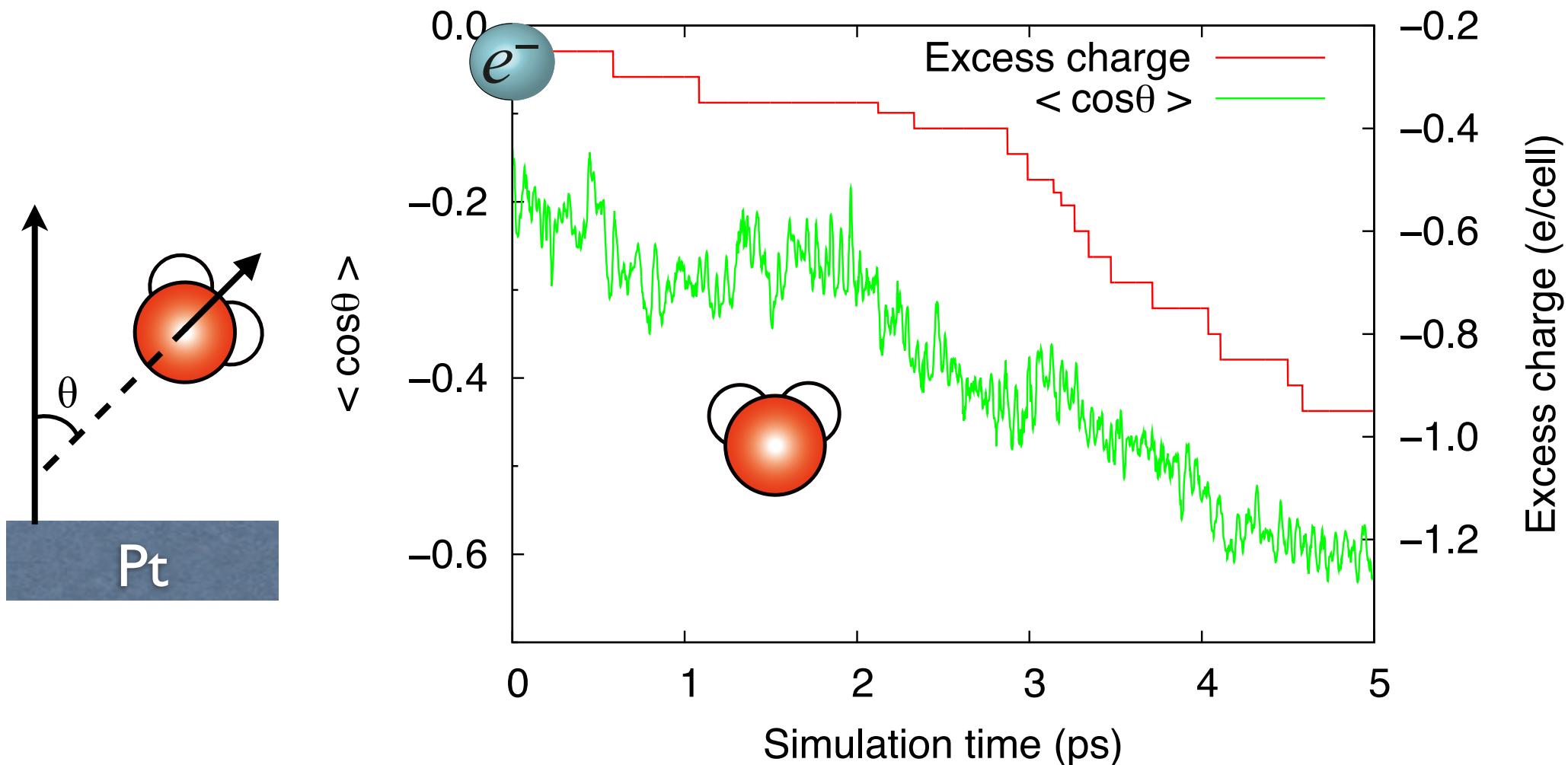
# MD simulations with bias potential



Grotthuss mechanism

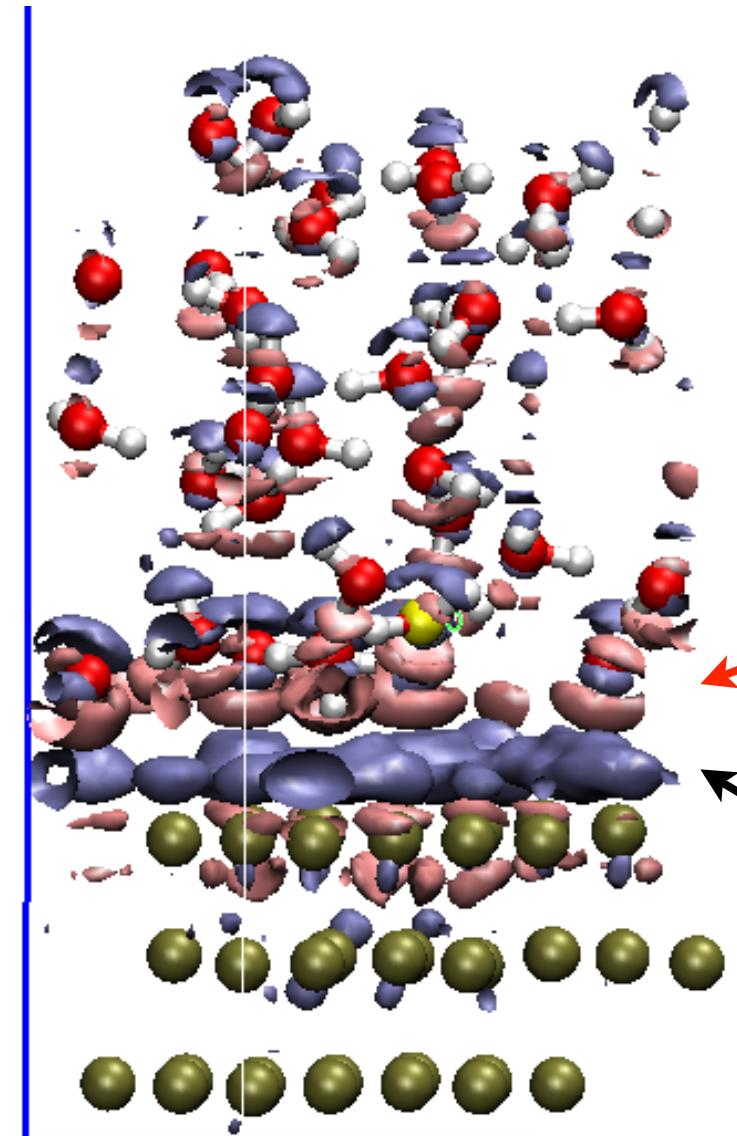


# Rotation of water molecules



Increase surface charge (negative bias)  
⇒ Screen external electric field

# Charge redistribution



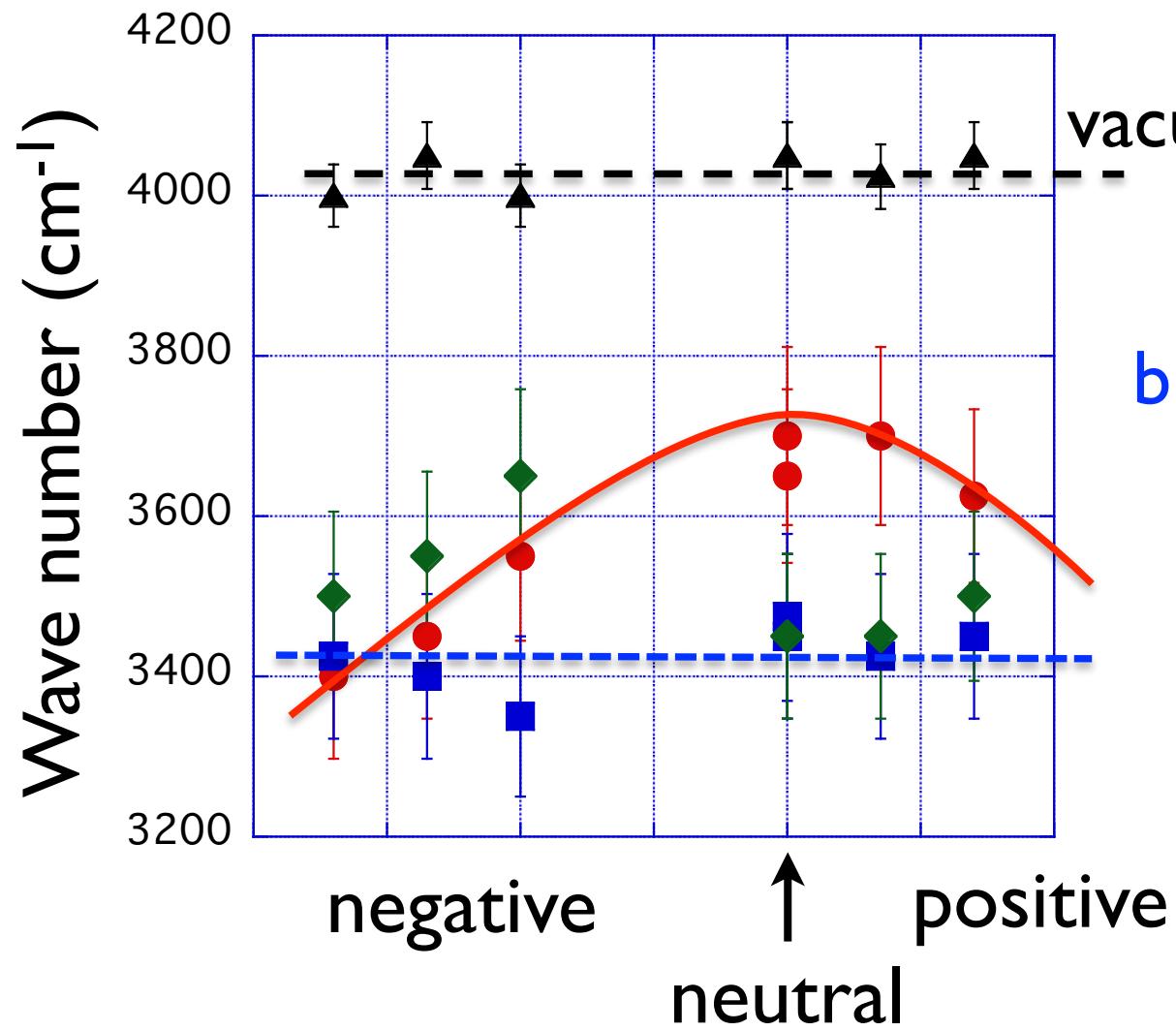
$$\Delta\rho = \rho(\text{charged}) - \rho(\text{neutral})$$

polarization of water

Large charge redistribution occurs  
at the interface

Accumulated charge on  
metal surface

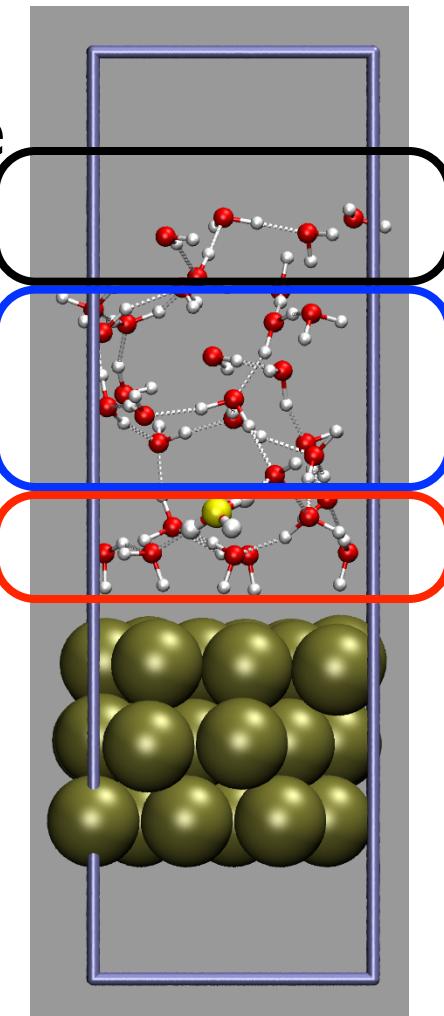
# Vibration frequency (OH stretching)



vacuum surface  
region

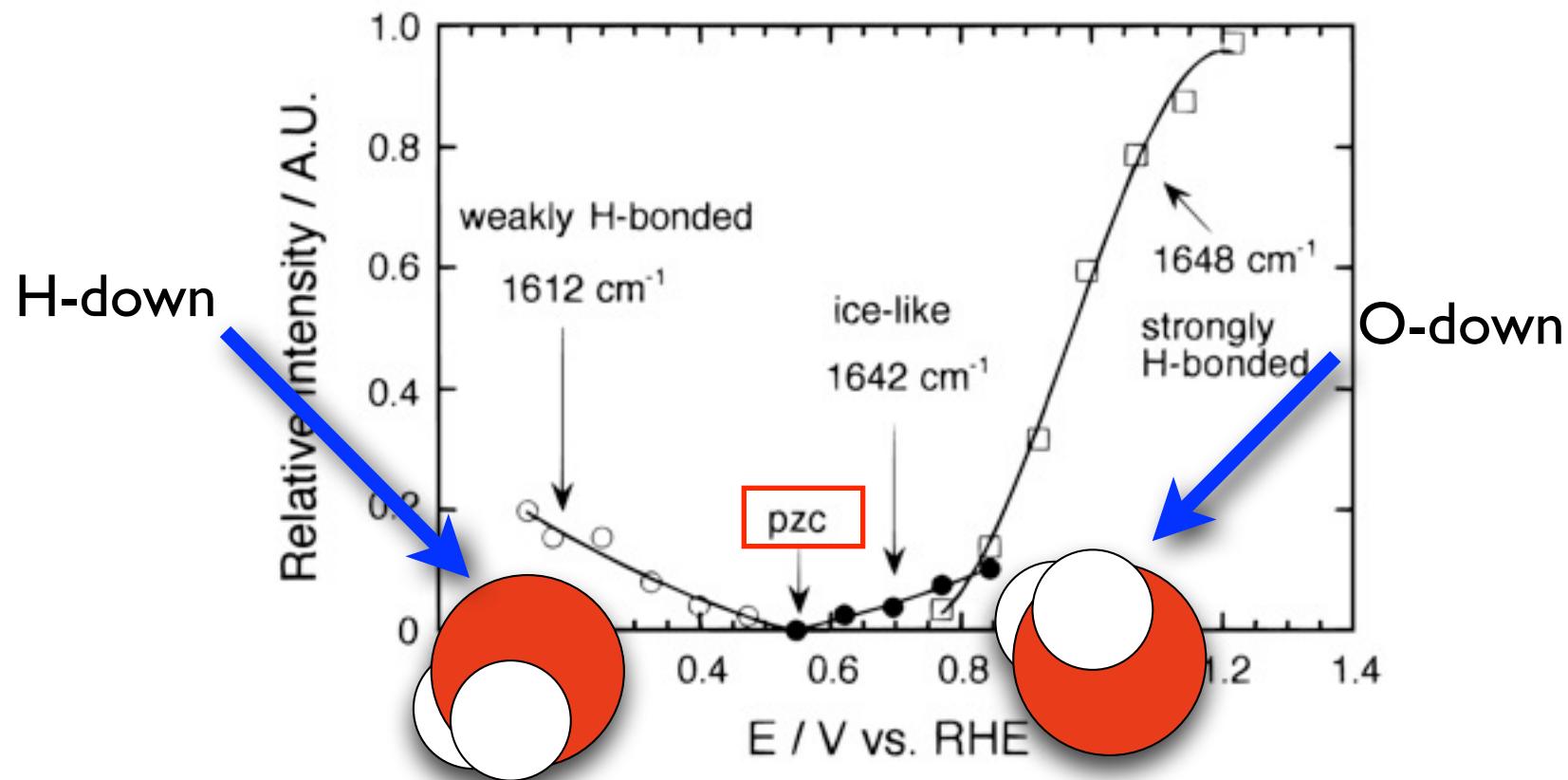
bulk region

interface  
region

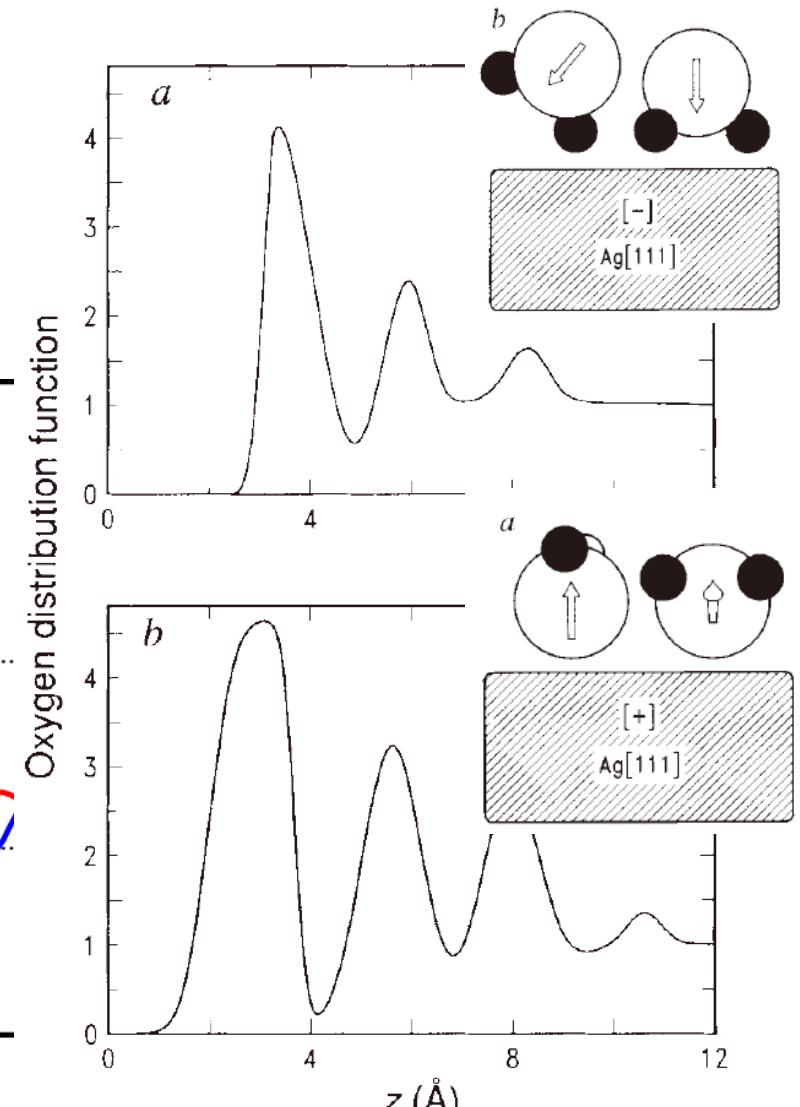
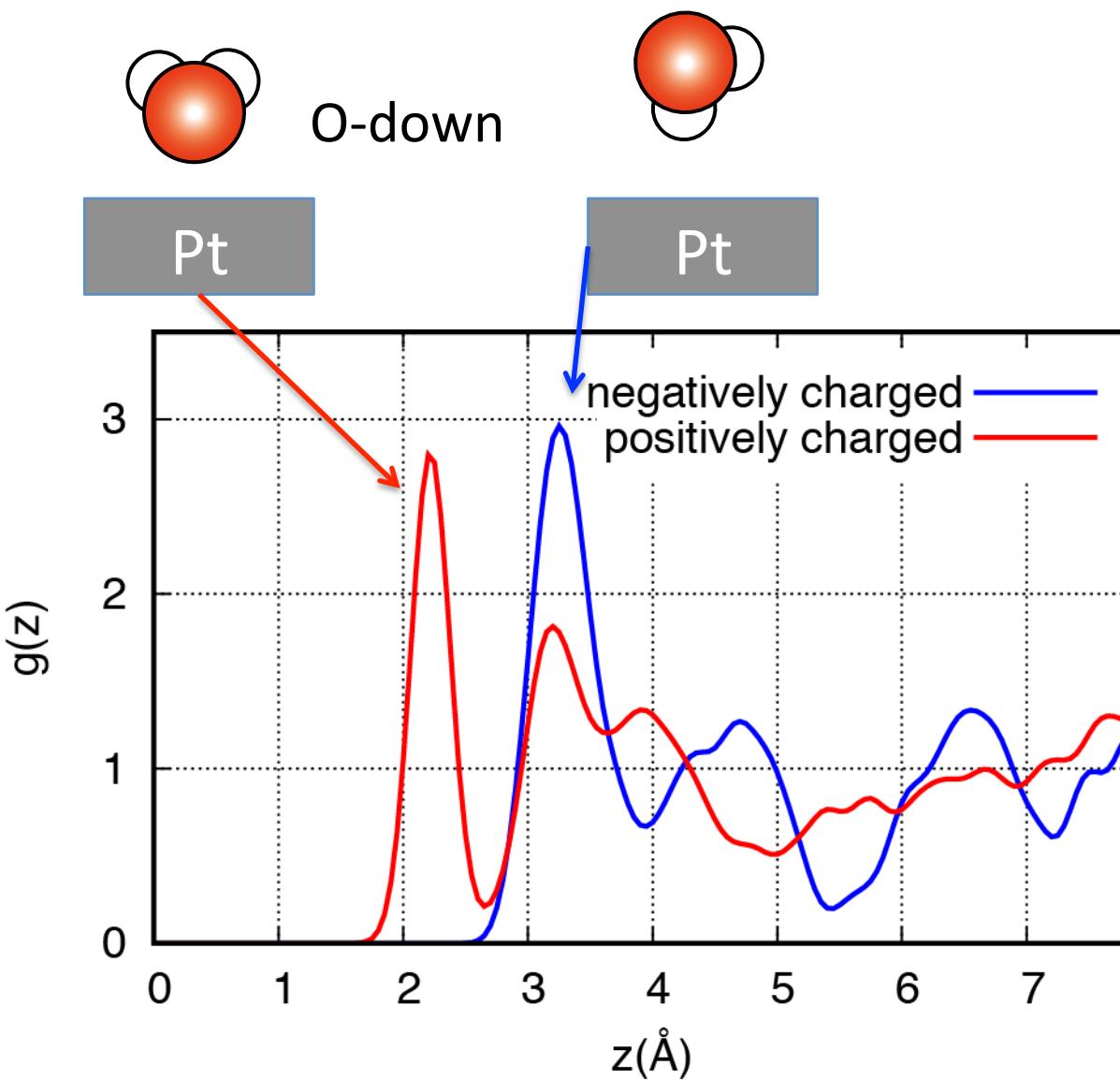


# Orientation of water molecule at interface

Surface enhanced infrared absorption spectroscopy (ATR-SEIRAS)  
Au(111)/Water

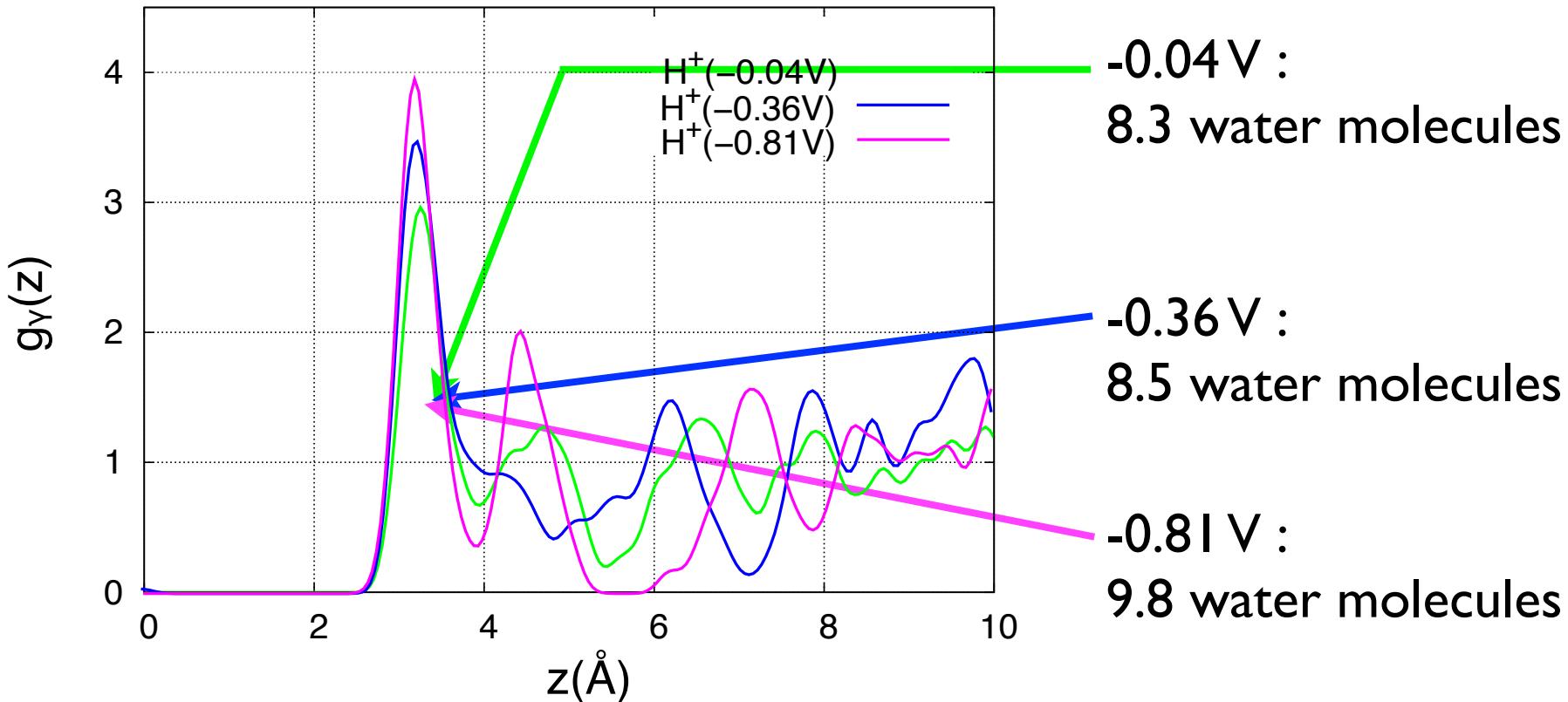


# Orientation of water molecules



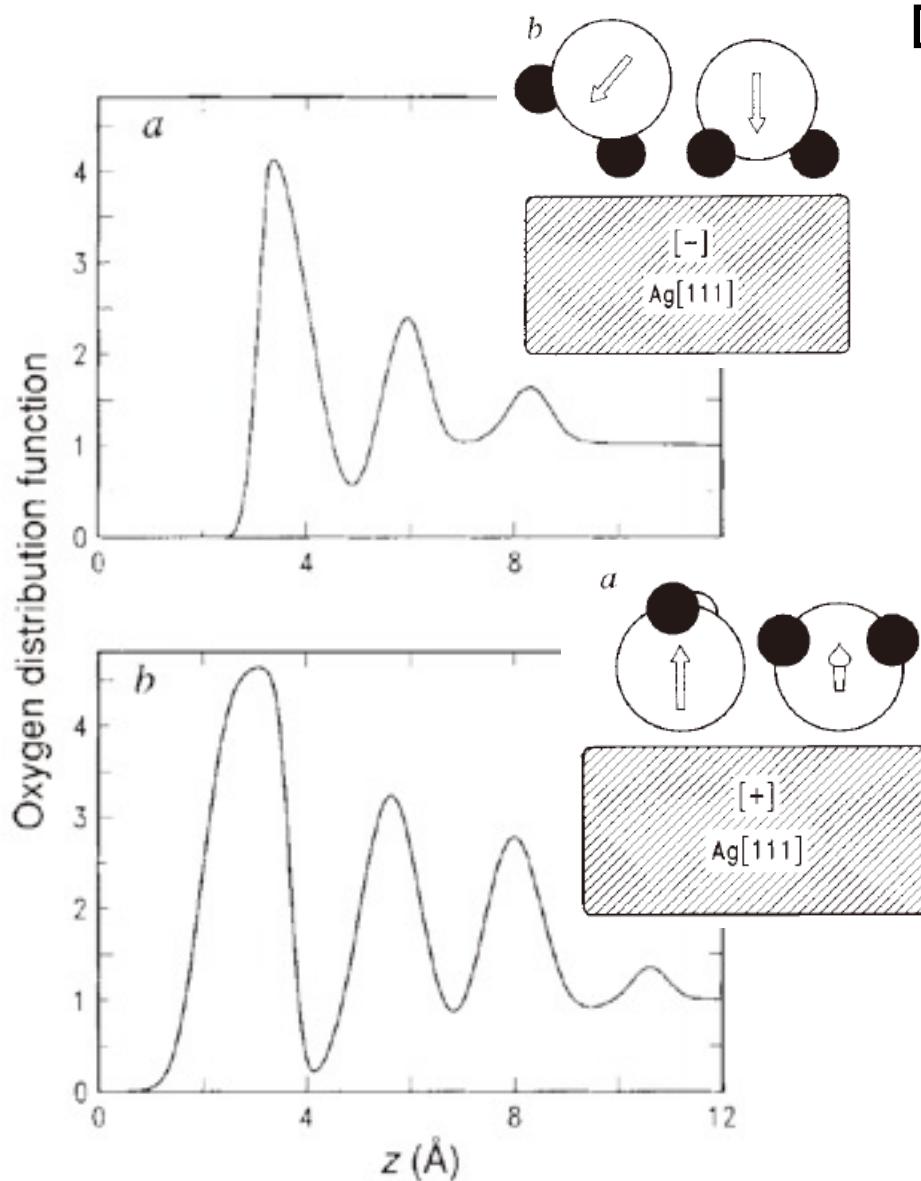
M.F. Toney, et.al. Nature (1994)

# Density of water at interface



Number of water molecules (density of water) increases as increasing the bias potential

# Enhancement of water density



Distribution function [Ag(111)/Water]

$$V = -0.23 \text{ V vs. } V_{\text{pzc}}$$

1.1 water mol. / Ag atom

Oxygen-up configuration

$\times 1.4$

bulk  $\sim 0.8$  water mol. / Ag atom

$\times 2.3$

$$V = +0.52 \text{ V vs. } V_{\text{pzc}}$$

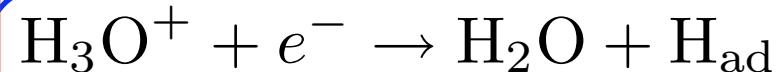
1.8 water mol. / Ag atom

Oxygen-down configuration

# Electrolysis of water



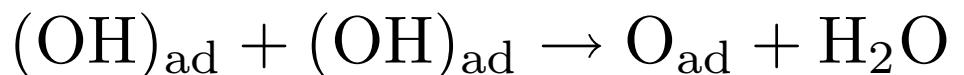
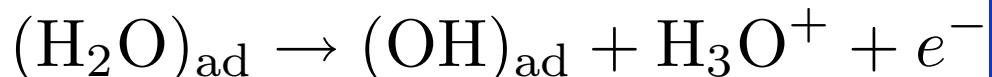
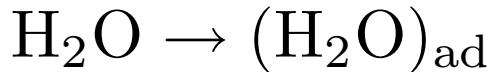
**HER**



**or**



**OER**

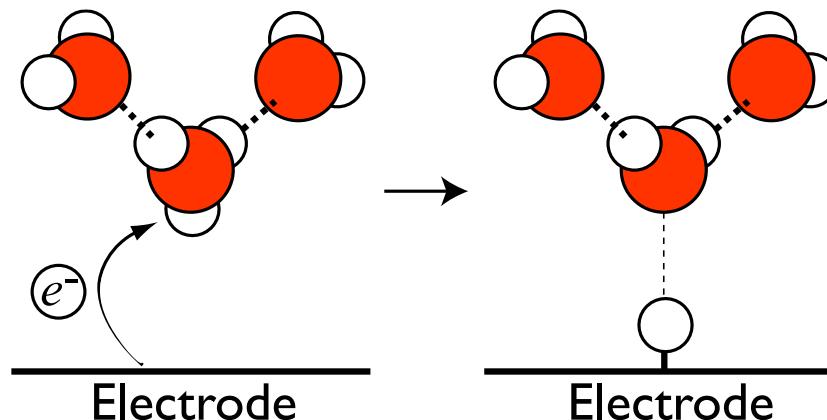


# Hydrogen evolution reaction

Hydrogen evolution



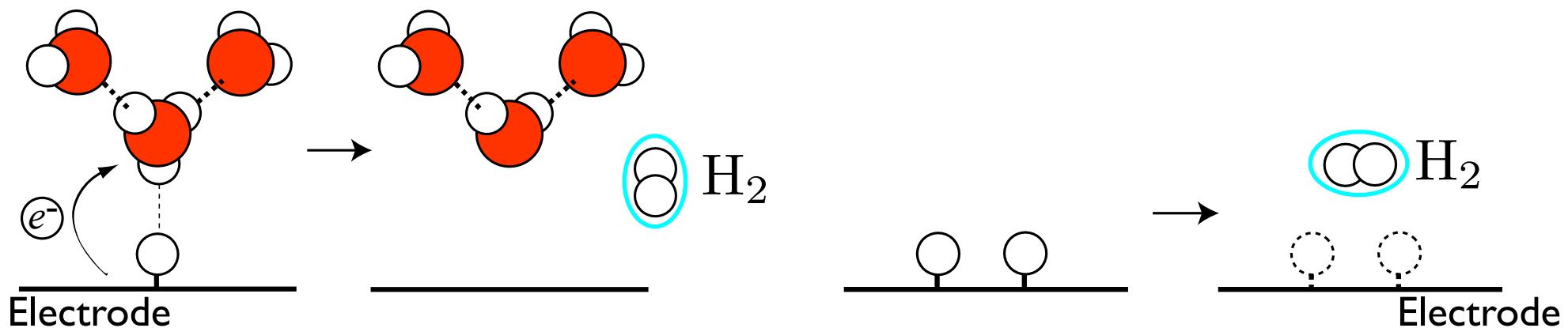
Volmer step:  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + e^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}_{\text{ad}}$



Heyrovsky step:



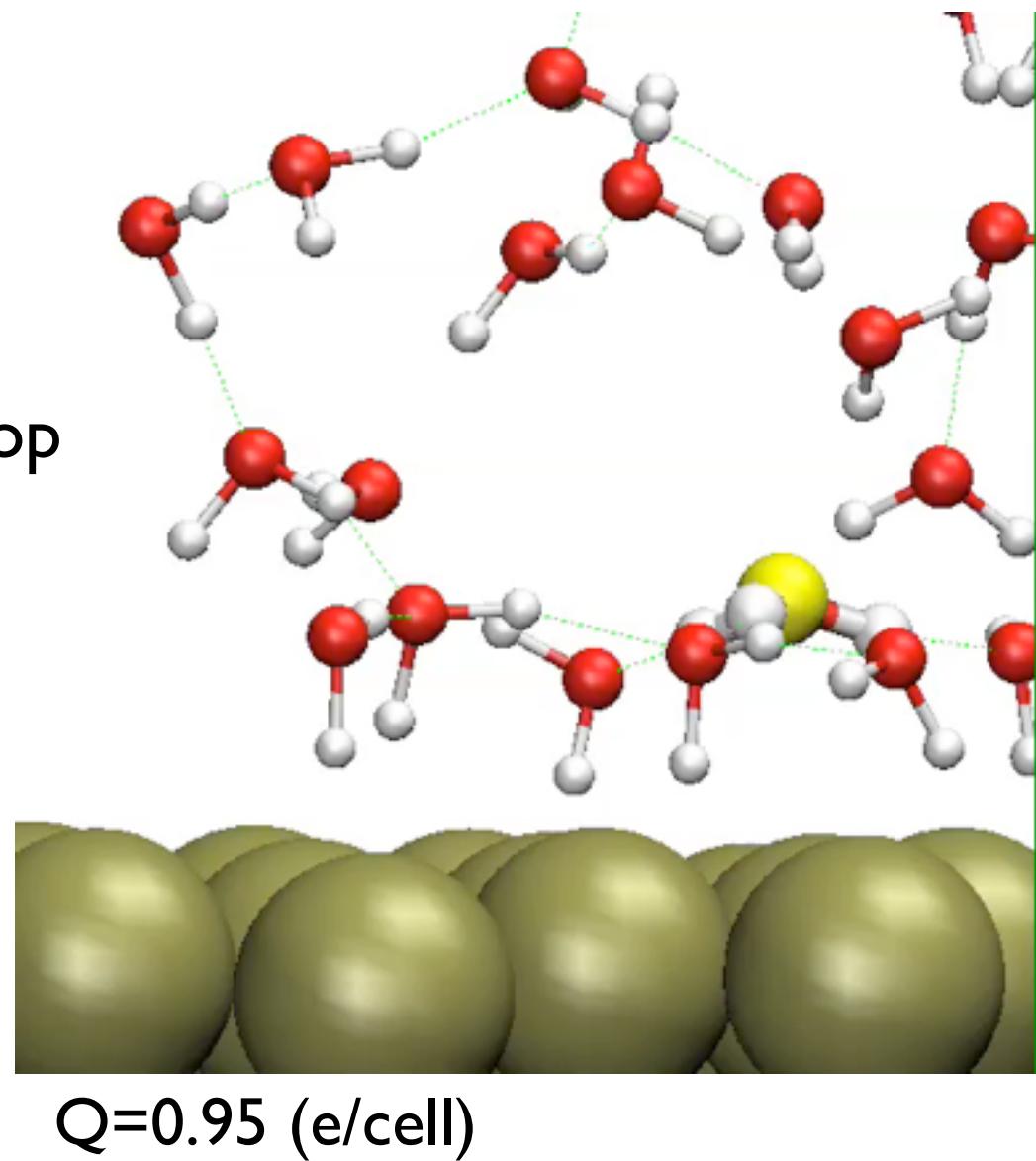
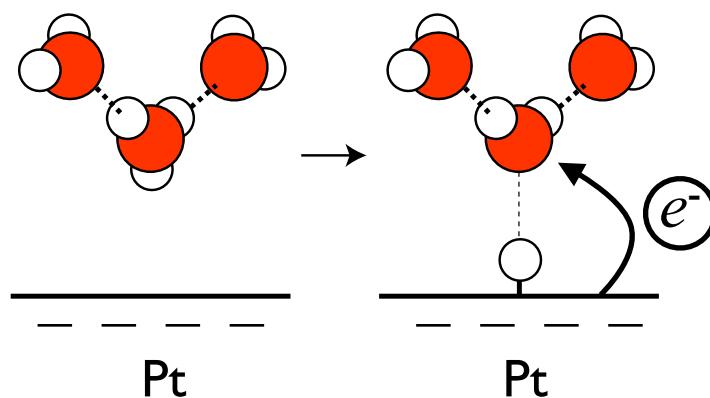
Tafel step:  $\text{H}_{\text{ad}} + \text{H}_{\text{ad}} \rightarrow \text{H}_2$



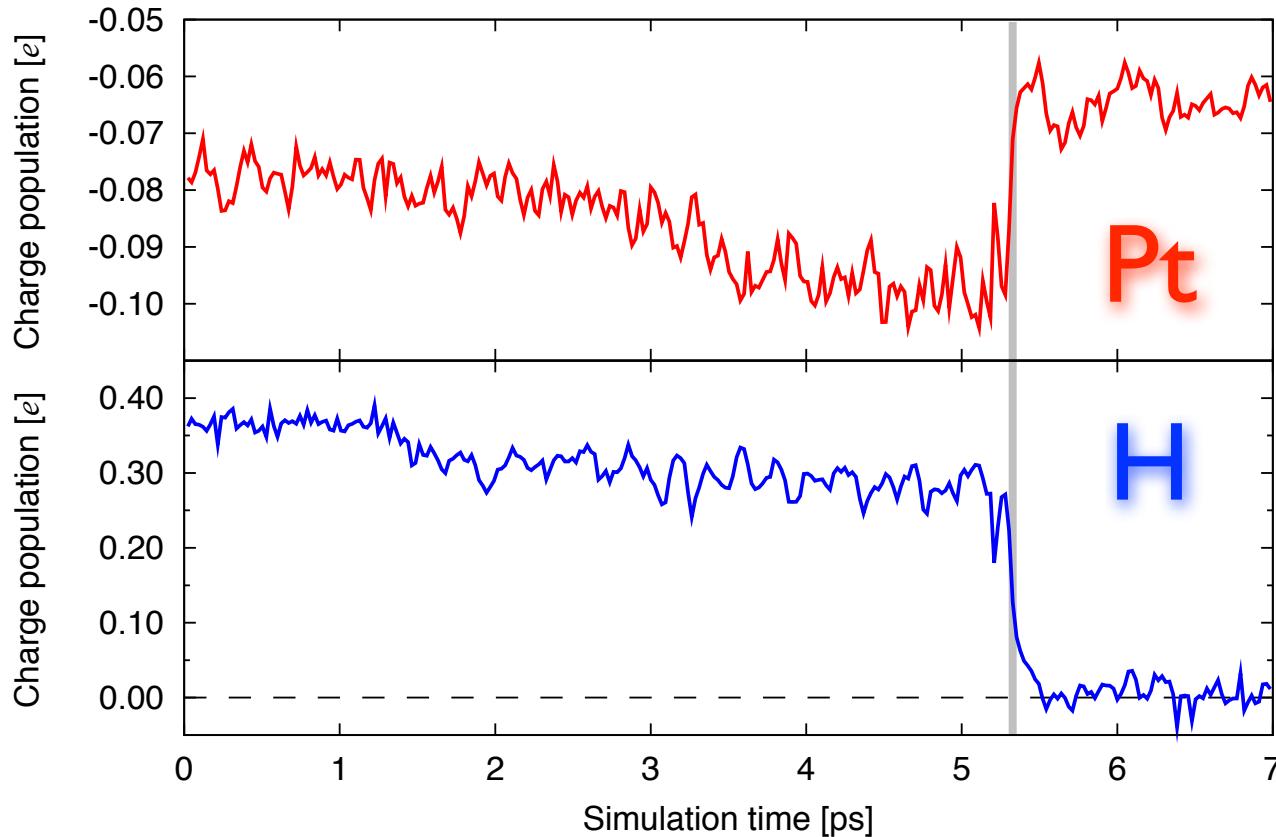
# Electrochemical reaction (cathode)

Hydronium ion diffuses via  
the Grotthus mechanism

H atom is adsorbed on a top  
site of Pt surface.



# Charge transfer

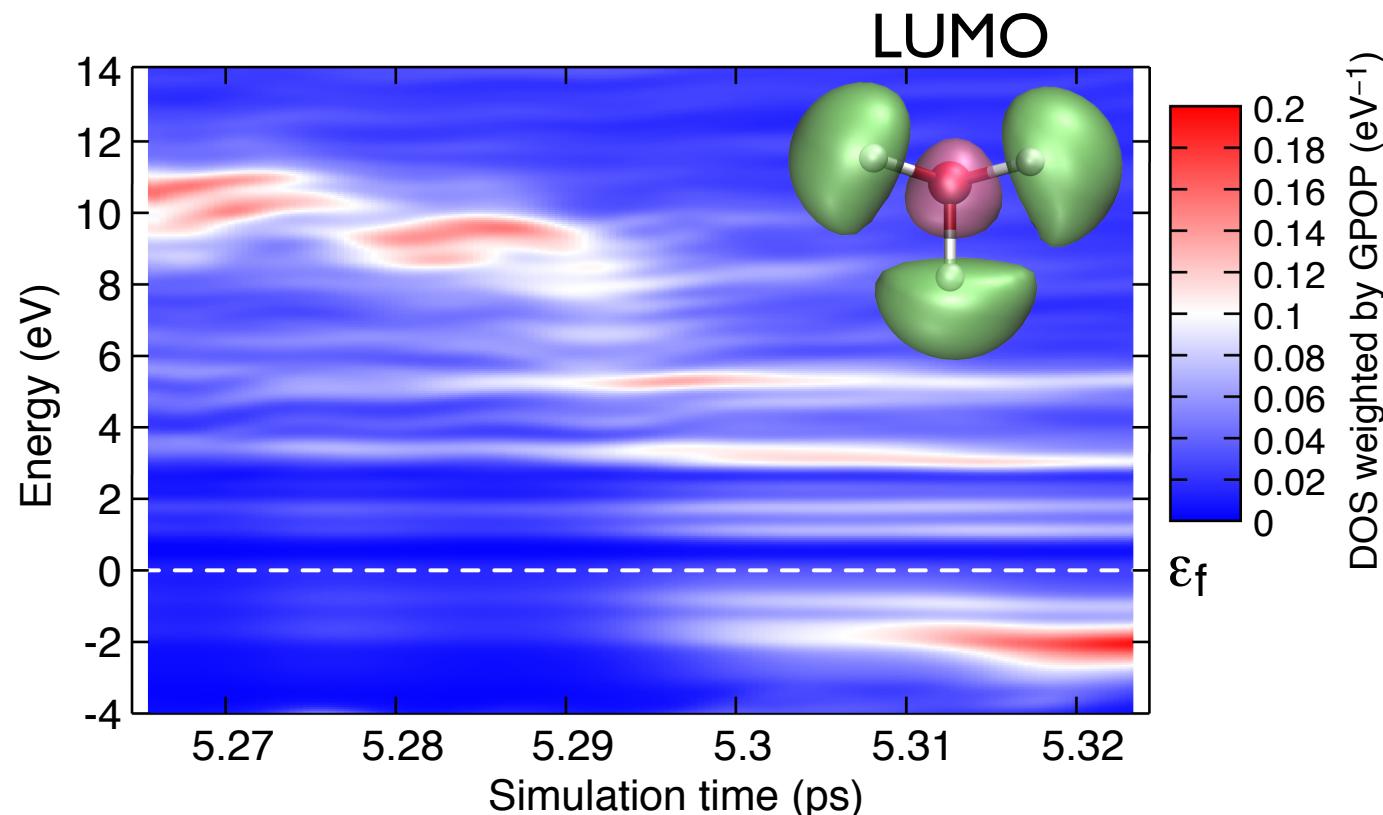


Charge population of top most Pt layer averaged by the number of Pt atoms

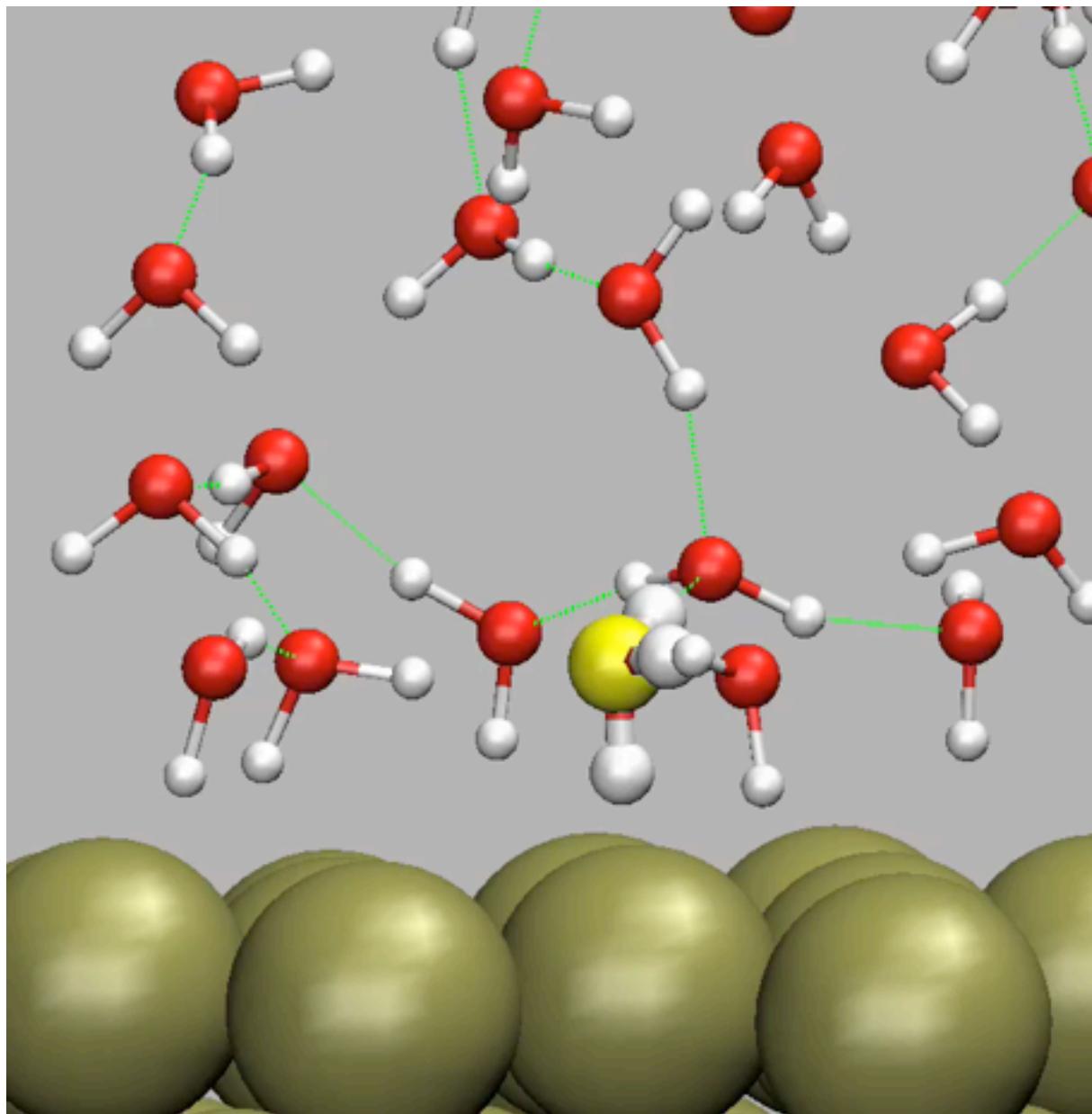
Charge population of the adsorbed hydrogen atom.

- Charge population of the Pt surface gradually decreases until the reaction and suddenly increases at the reaction.
- Charge population of the hydrogen atom slightly decreases before the reaction and suddenly decreases at adsorption

# Electron transfer from Pt to water



# Reorganization of water molecule at interface



After the reaction, the water molecule goes upward.

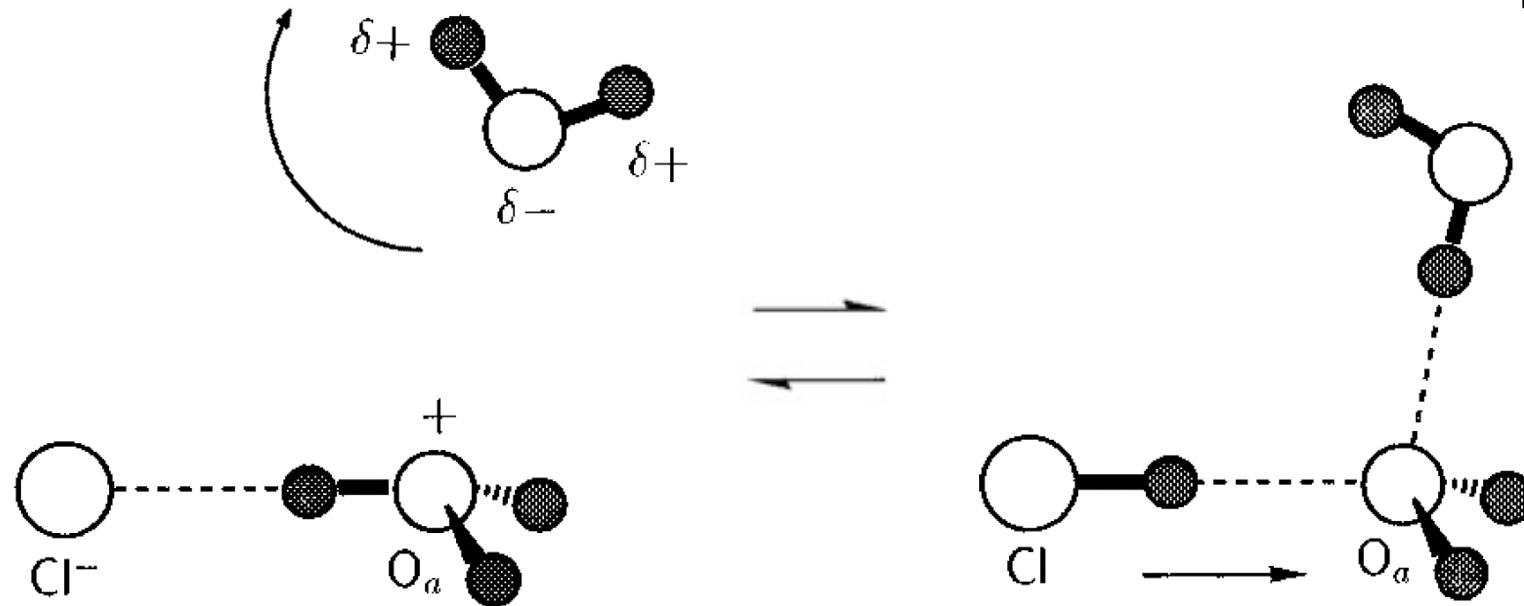
Rotate its molecular axis to have a H-down configuration.

Eventually, the water molecule comes back to the contact water layer with H-down configuration

# Reorganization of water molecule in bulk

Usual picture of the reorganization motion of water after an electrochemical reaction.

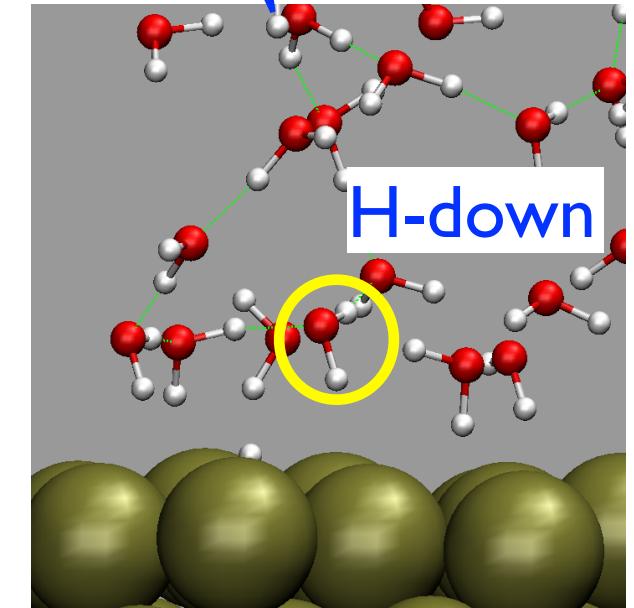
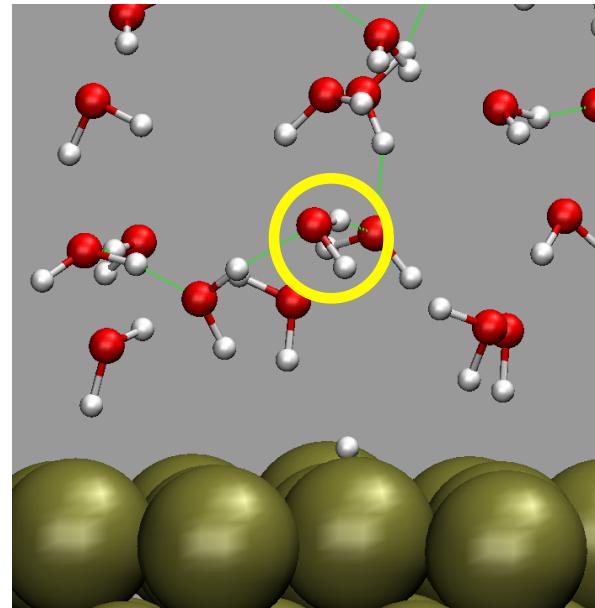
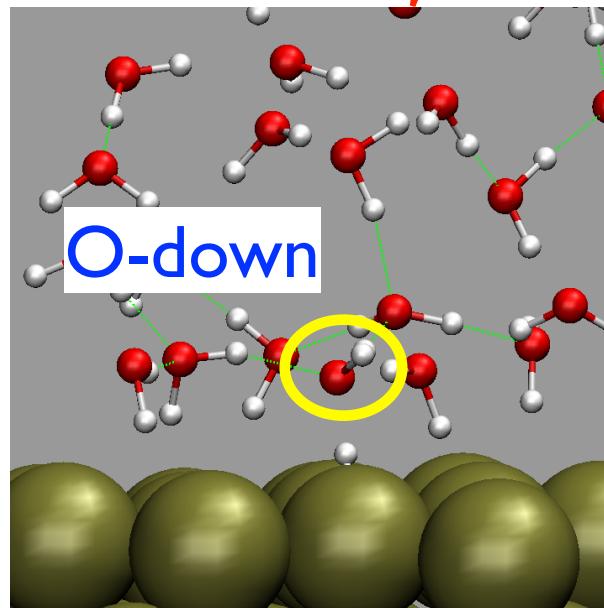
K. Ando, 1997



A water molecule belonging to the first hydration shell rotates its molecular axis to make a new hydrogen bond.

# Reorganization of water molecule at interface

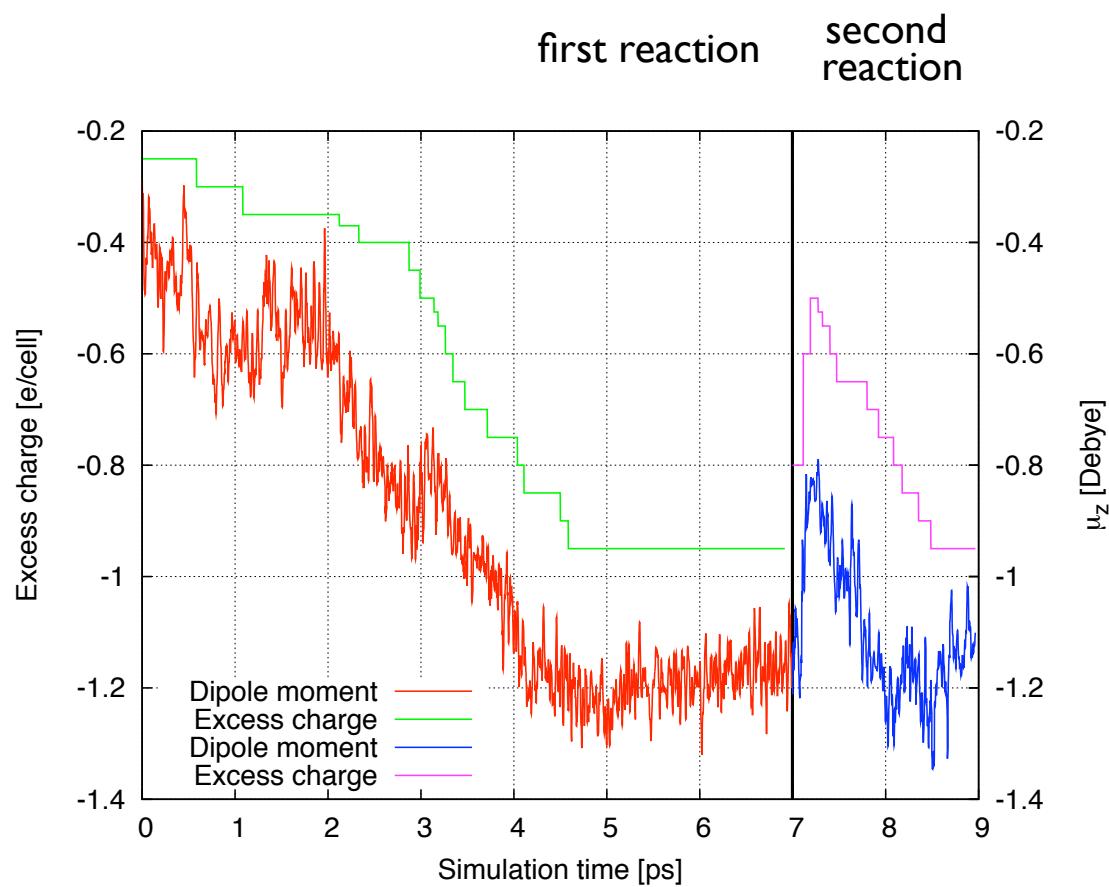
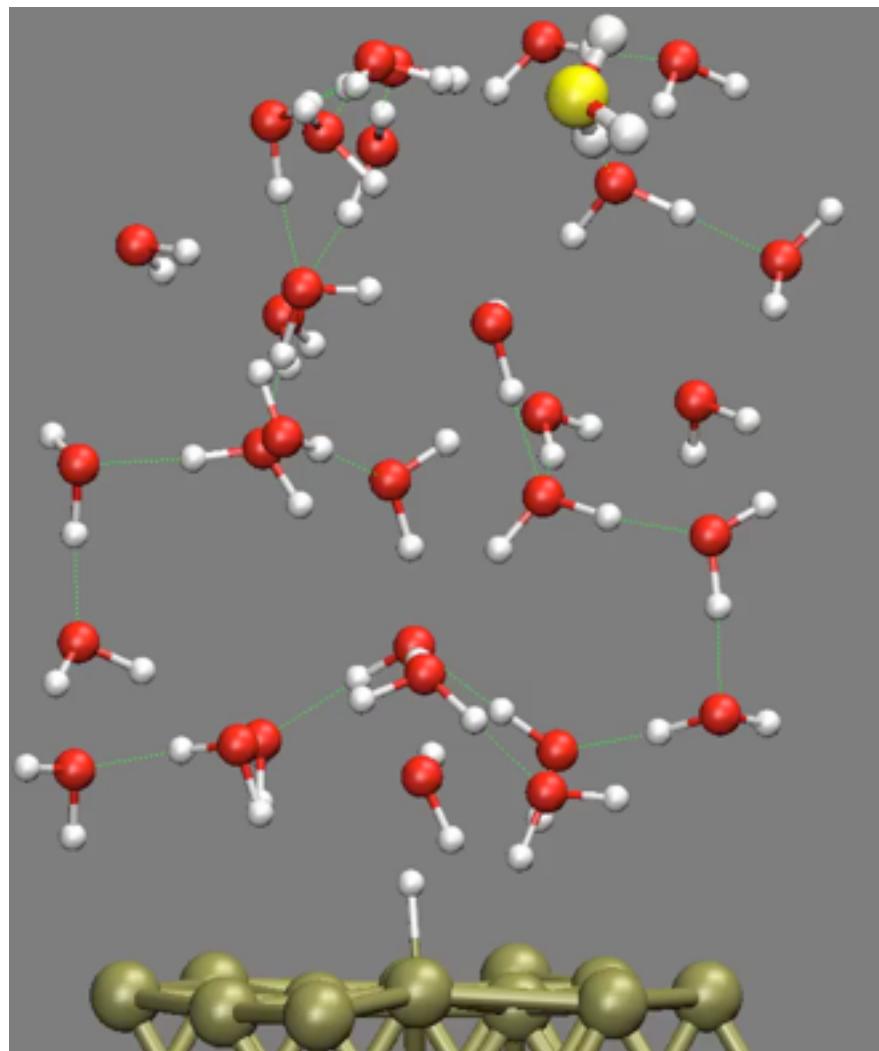
- Energetically unfavorable
- Can not contribute to sequential hydrogen adsorption



time →

- Energetically favorable
- Can contribute to sequential hydrogen adsorption

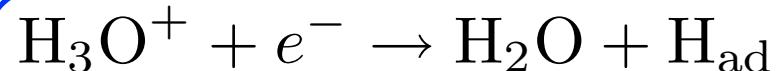
# Sequential hydrogen adsorption



# Electrolysis of water



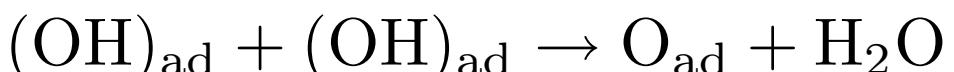
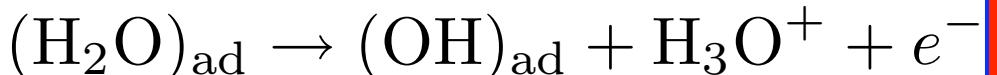
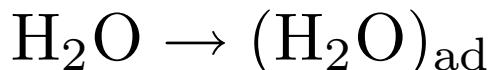
**HER**



**or**

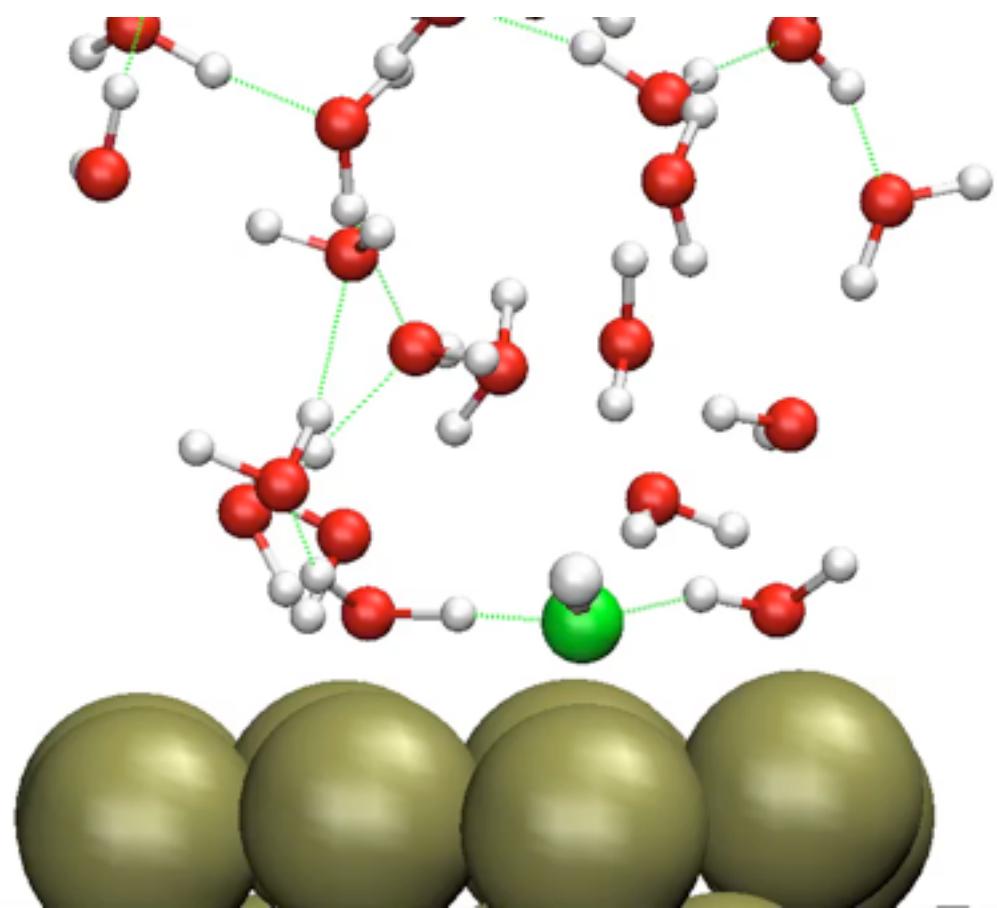
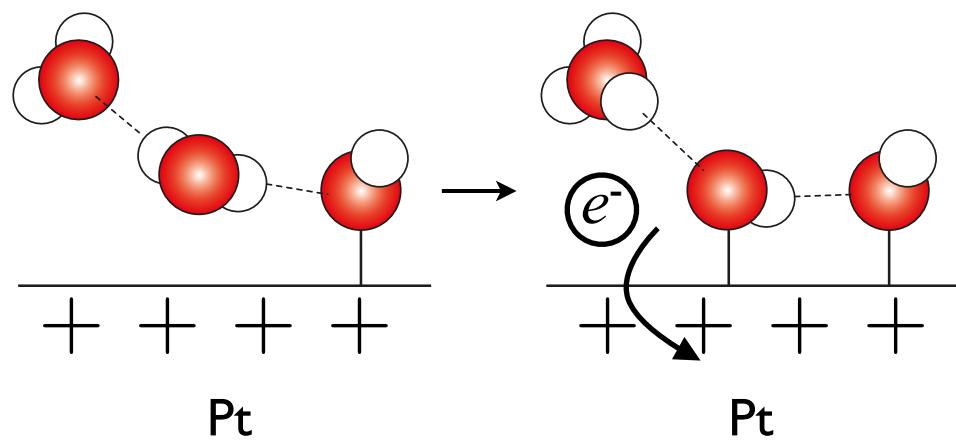


**OER**



# Electrochemical reaction (anode)

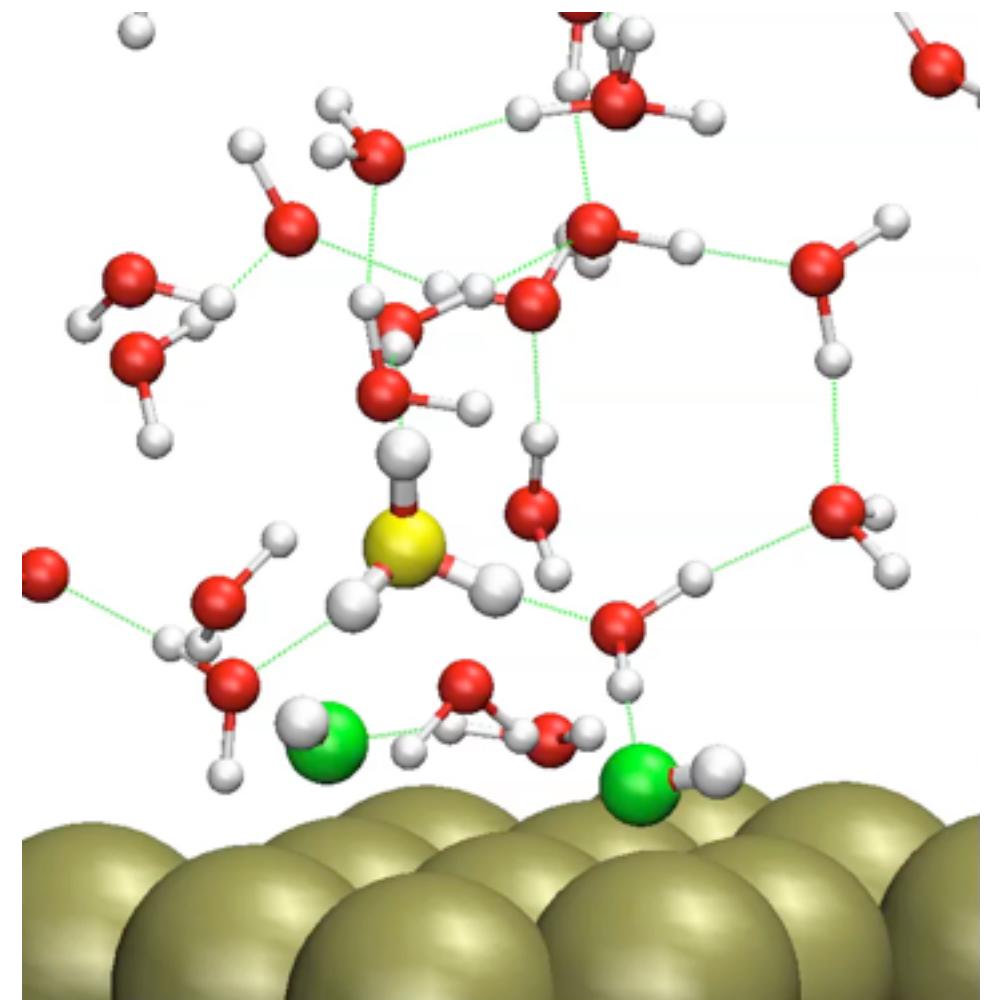
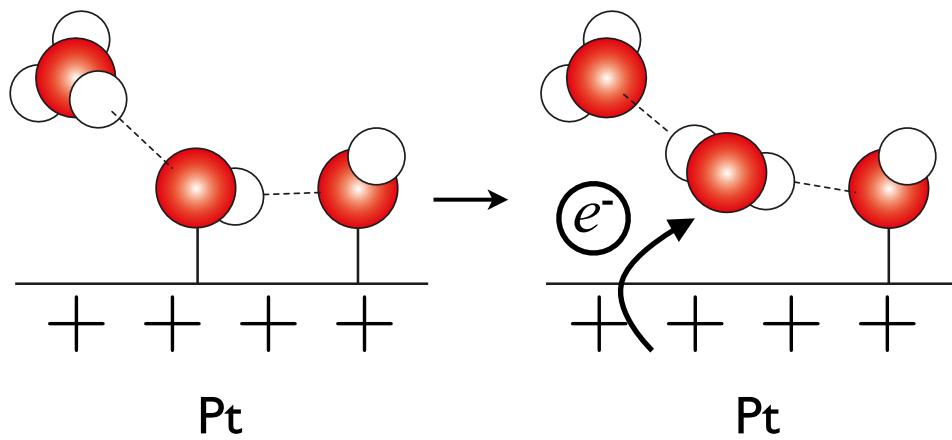
Water dissociation:



$$Q_{\text{ESM}} = -0.35 \text{ (e/cell)}$$

# Electrochemical reaction (anode)

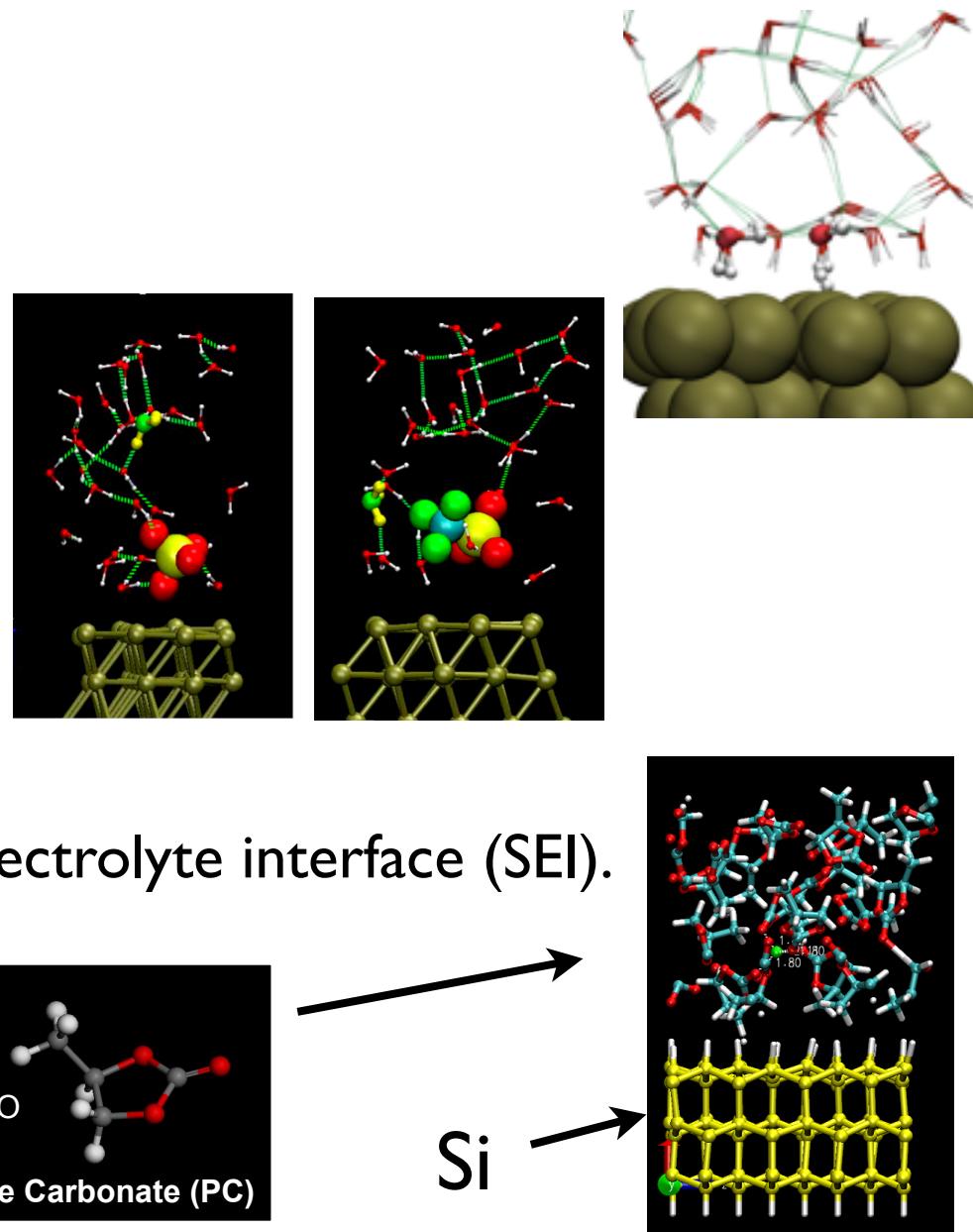
Water formation:



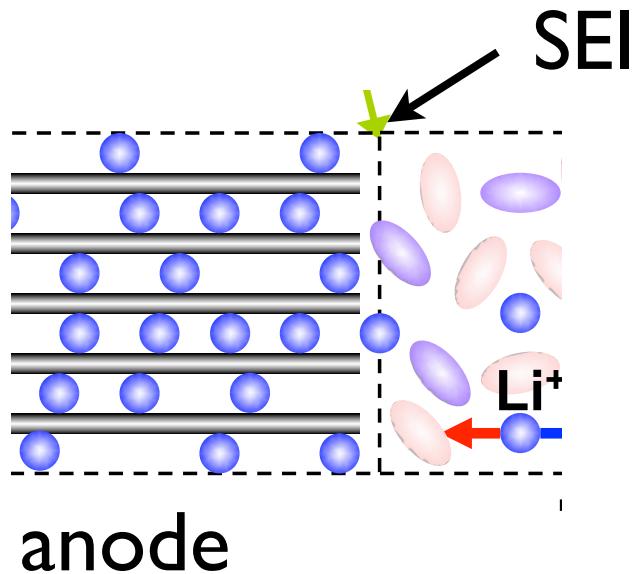
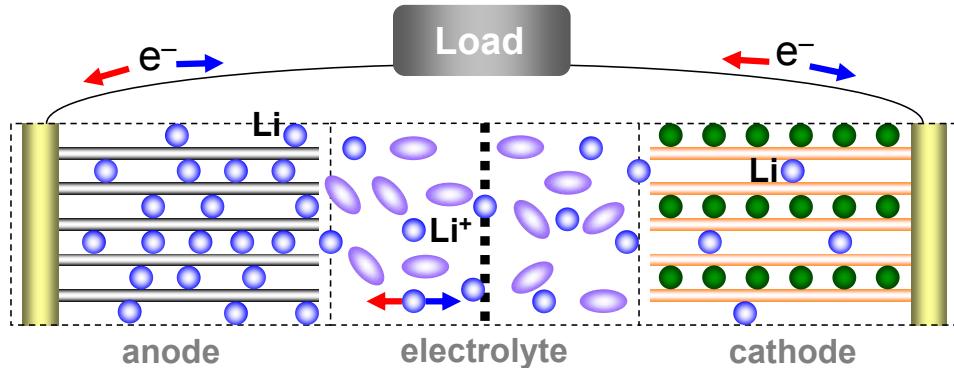
$$Q = -0.35 \text{ (e/cell)}$$

# Application of the ESM

- Pt/water interface
  - ❖ Hydrogen adsorption reaction
  - ❖ Water splitting and formation
  - ❖ Pitted pt surface
  - ❖  $\text{HSO}_4$ ,  $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_4$
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  - ❖ Solvation and desolvation of Li
  - ❖ Formation mechanism of solid electrolyte interface (SEI).



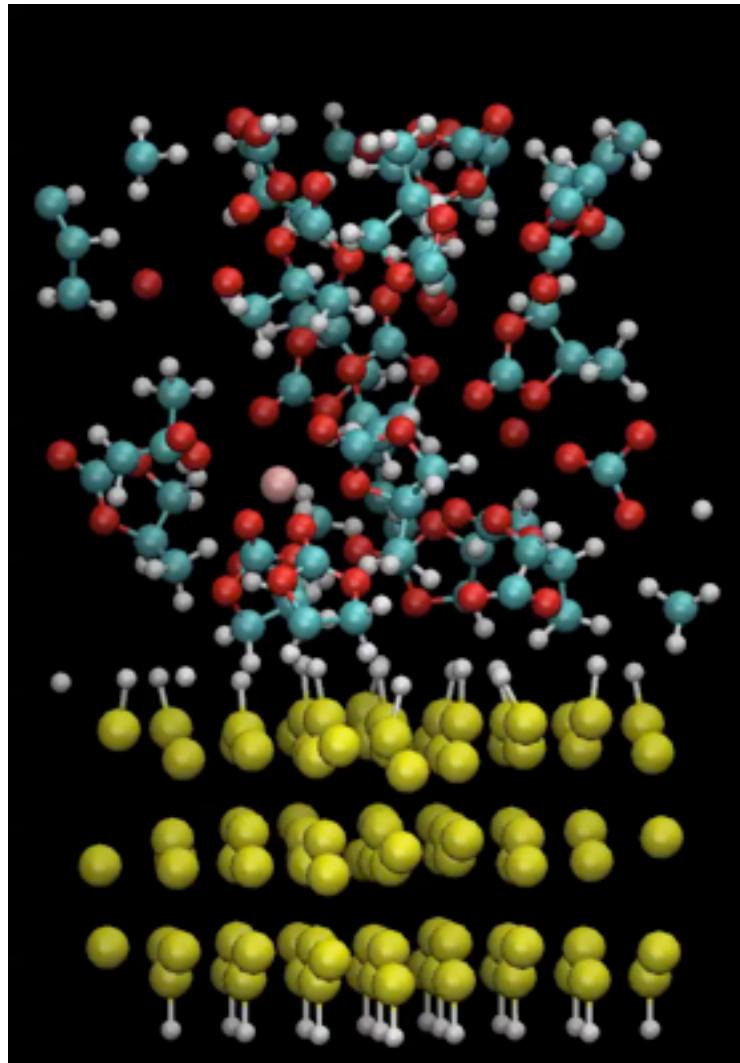
# Surface electrolyte interface (SEI)



Purpose:

- Clarify the formation mechanism of the SEI
- Understand the solvation and desolvation of Li ion at the interface

# Si-electrode for Li-ion battery



Li ion is solvated to PC



desolvation



Form a Li-Si bond

# Summary

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- Develop a new calculation method to simulate **electrochemical** systems.
- Reproduce **electrochemical** reactions on an electrode/electrolyte interface
- Constant bias potential is developed in the frame work of the first principles molecular dynamics with the ESM method.
- Next target is the constant bias simulation of the metal/water interface.