

COLLÈGE
DE FRANCE
— 1530 —

Chaire Innovation technologique
Liliane Bettencourt 2021-2022
Énergie solaire photovoltaïque et transition énergétique
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Reconnue d'utilité publique depuis 1987

Le CO₂ pour stocker l'énergie solaire à très grande échelle

Promesses de la photosynthèse artificielle

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COLLOQUE – 21 avril 2022

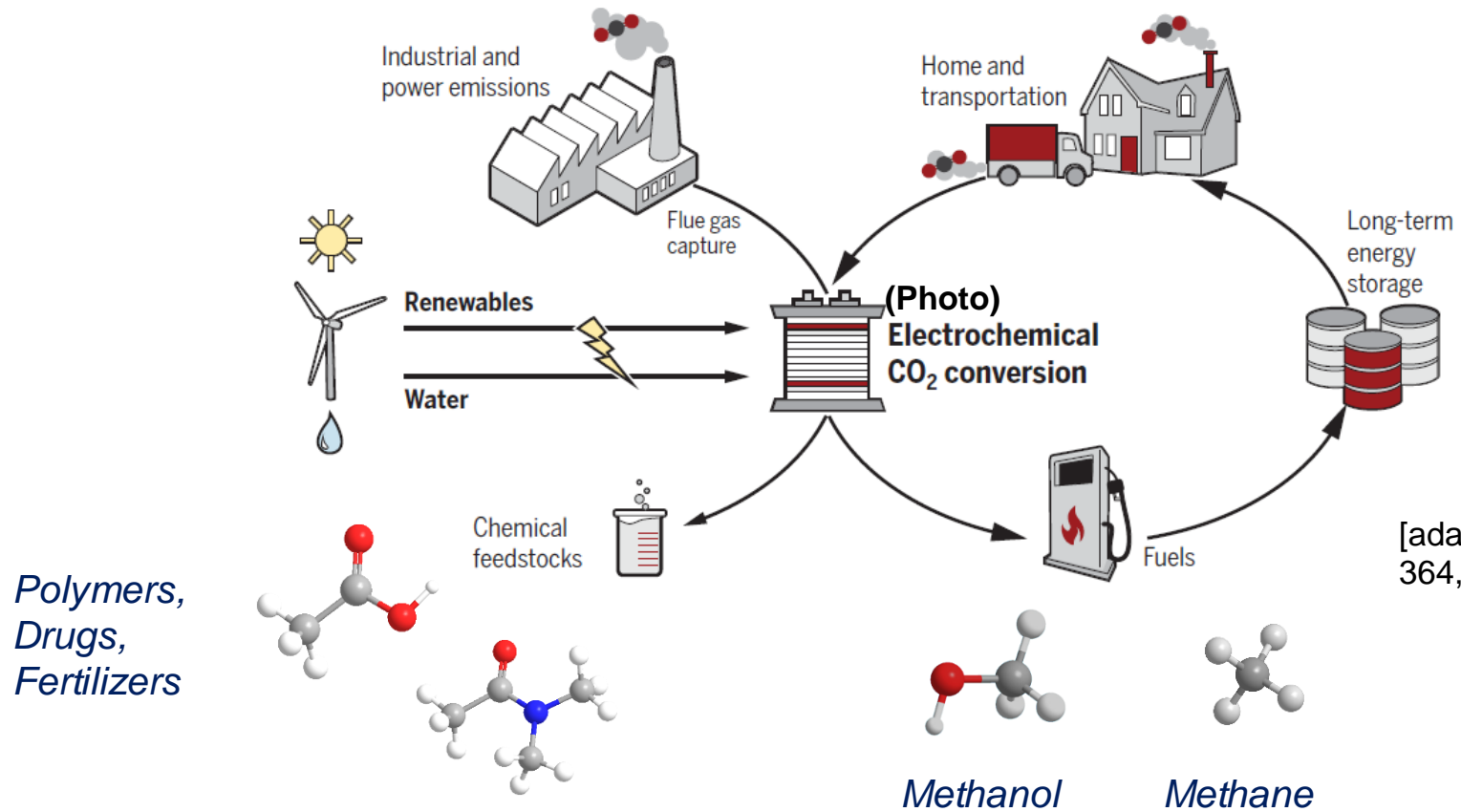
Énergie solaire et société



Use solar energy at a massive scale
for responding human increasing needs ?
So we need being able to store it !

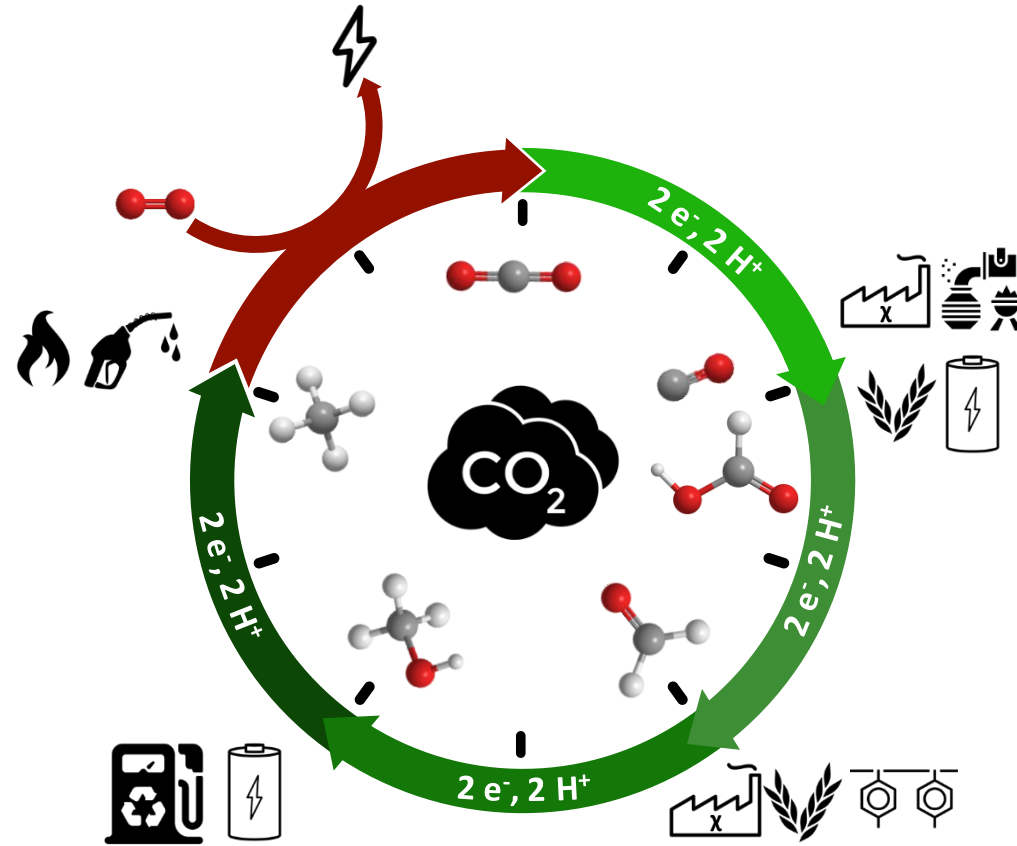
Molecules are ideal candidates to do so
... in particular CO₂ !

Renewably powered (photo)electrosynthesis will displace petrochemical processes : a Revolution, not an Evolution



[adapted from *Science* **2019**,
364, 6438, eaav3506]

The CO₂ clock



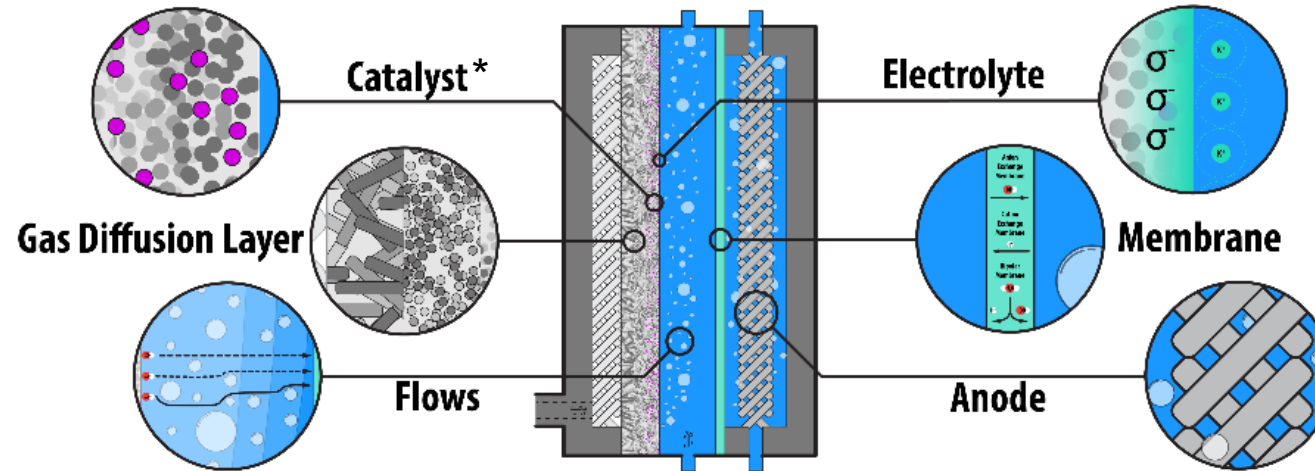
Catalysis is mandatory.

*What operating
constraints ?*

- *earth abundant metals*
- *ambient T and P*
- *water as solvent*

Example 1 (*indirect use of solar energy*) : the CO₂ electrolyzer

Ultra-efficient CO₂ to CO conversion : $j_{CO} > 450 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ in a flow cell @ pH 7

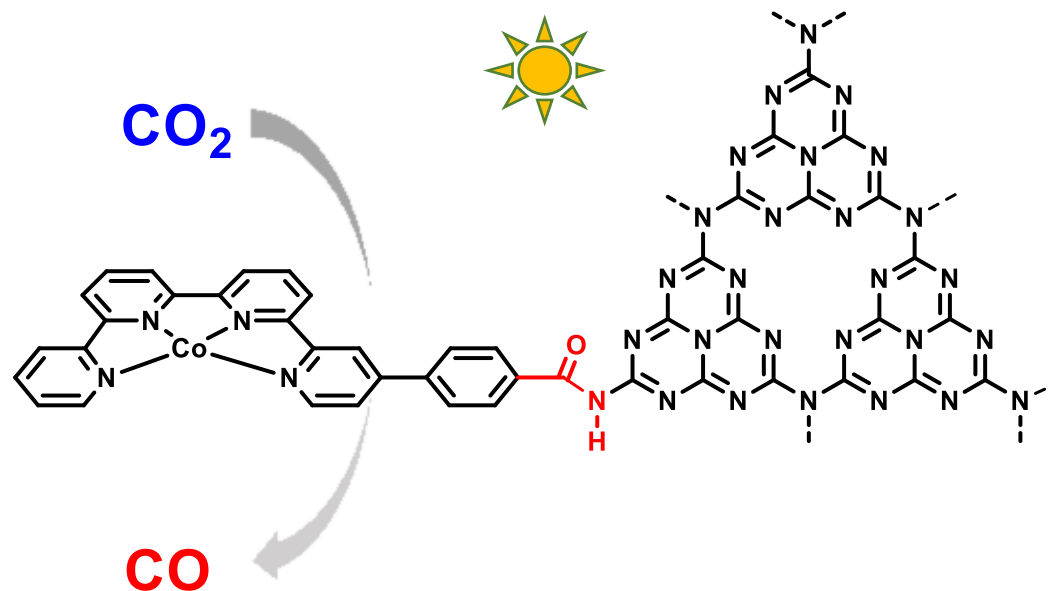
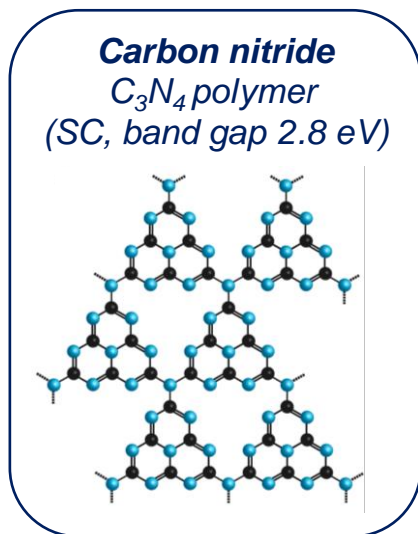


* metal (Fe, Co) complex
deposited at carbon paper

Science **2012**, 338, 90
Science **2019**, 365, 367-369
Nature Commun. **2019**, 10:3602
6 patents – 1 start-up (*Carboneo*)

Example 2 (**direct** use of solar energy) : the photoreduction of CO₂

Hybrid molecule@(semi-conductive) material – a particulate system



selectivity 97%
robustness (> 4 days)

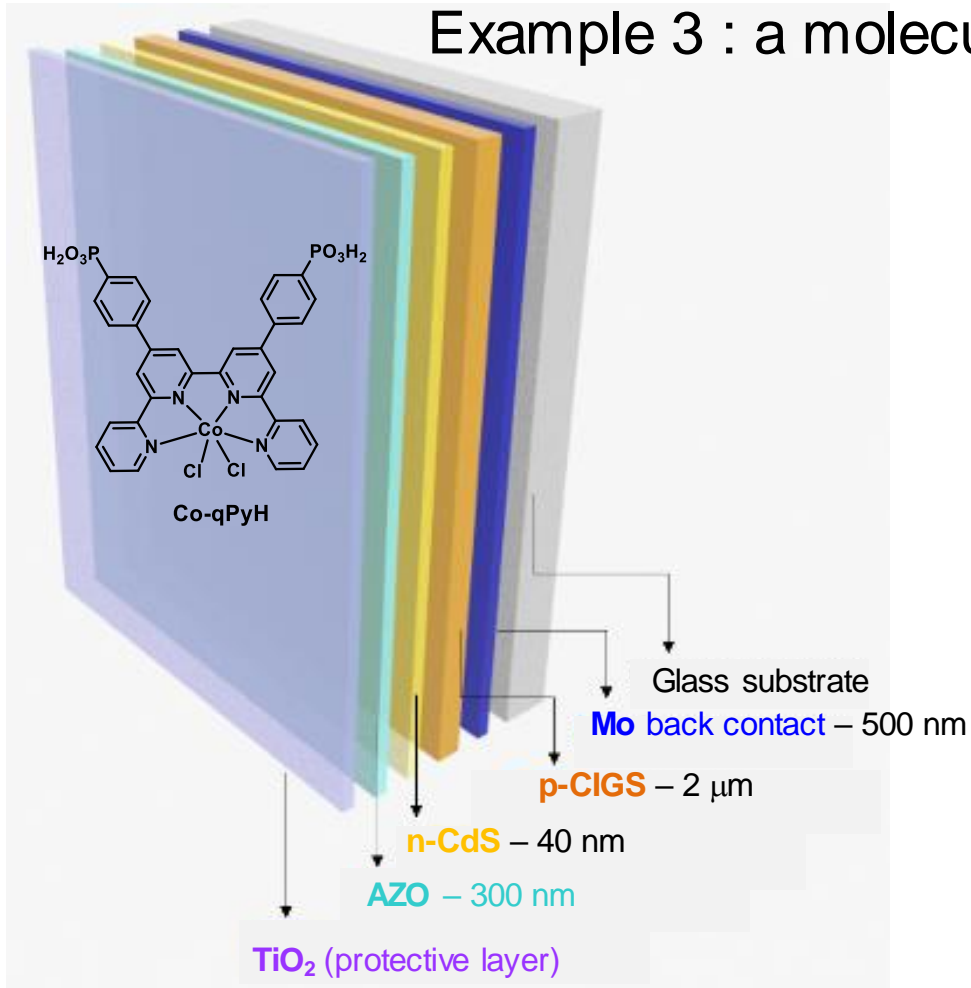
Nature, **2017**, 548, 74

Nature Catal. **2019**, 2, 801

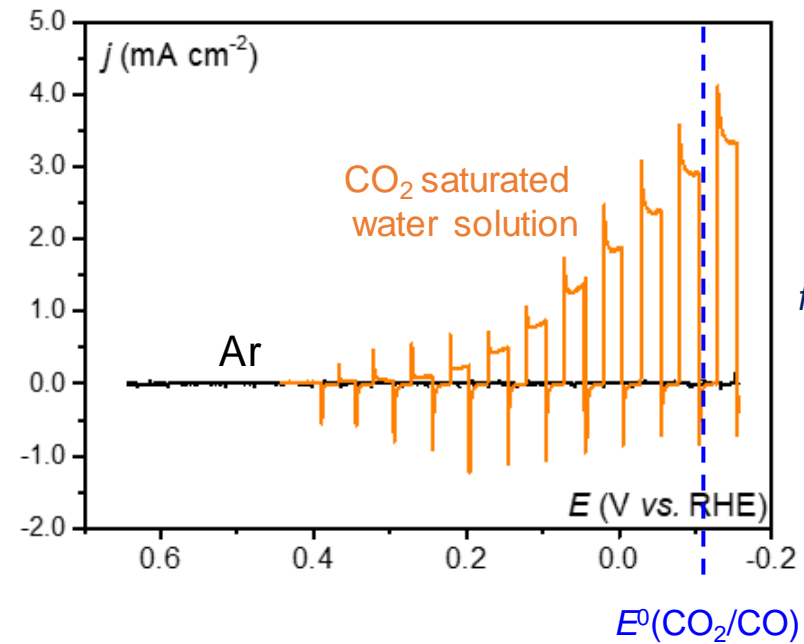
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2022**, e2021116832

1 patent

Example 3 : a molecular photoelectrode for CO₂ reduction



Photoelectrochemical response under chopped light illumination



*> 95% efficiency
for CO production;
hours of stability*