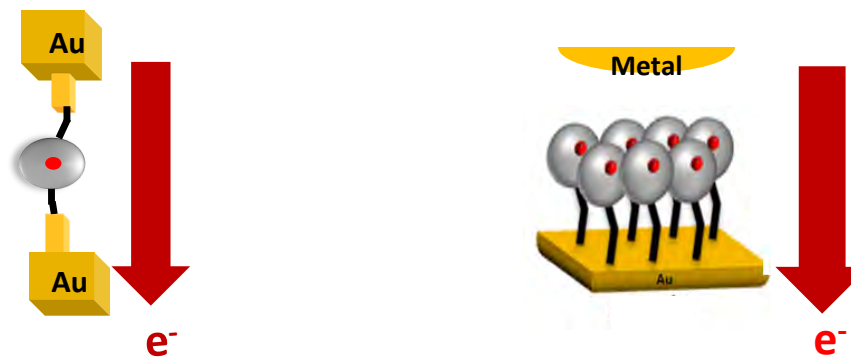


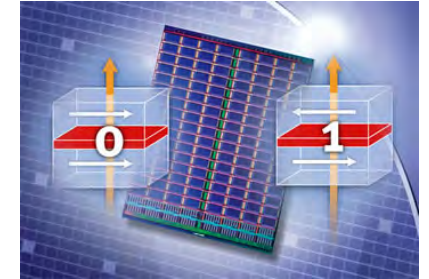
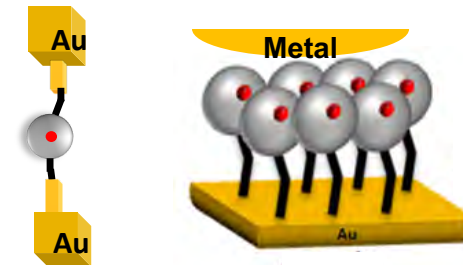
## Organic Free Radicals on Surfaces. A way to manipulate electronic properties of surfaces

Jaume Veciana  
vecianaj@icmab.es

Institut de Ciència de Materials de Barcelona-CSIC/CIBER-BBN (Spain)

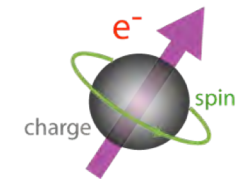


Study of injection, transport, and manipulation of electron spins into organic radical-based solid state systems



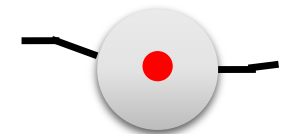
*Why organic molecules?*

Organic molecules are considered to be ideal media for spin transport due to their weak spin-orbit coupling and hyperfine interactions, in which **spin coherence over time and distance are preserved much longer** than in inorganic materials.



*Why organic radical molecules?*

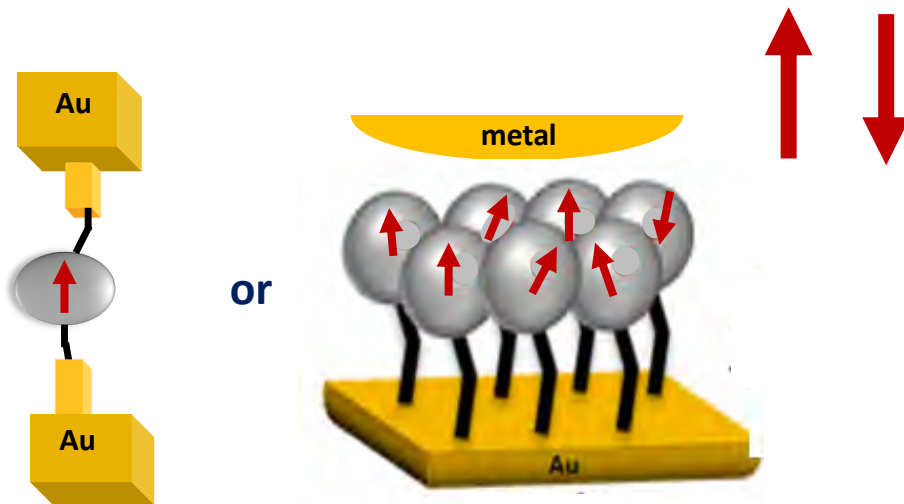
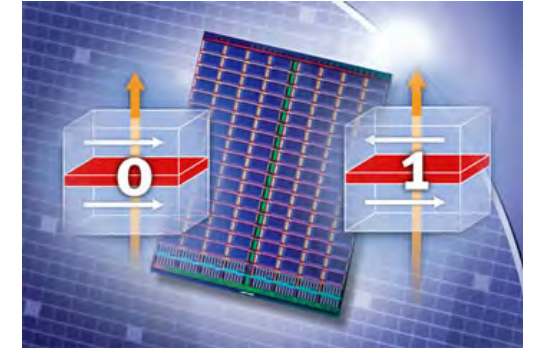
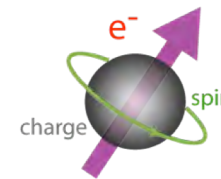
Organic radicals may act as spin filters in the coherent tunneling regime due to the spin polarization of their unpaired electrons



M. A. Ratner and col. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2010, 132, 3682

Study of injection, transport, manipulation and detection of electron spins into organic radical-based solid state systems

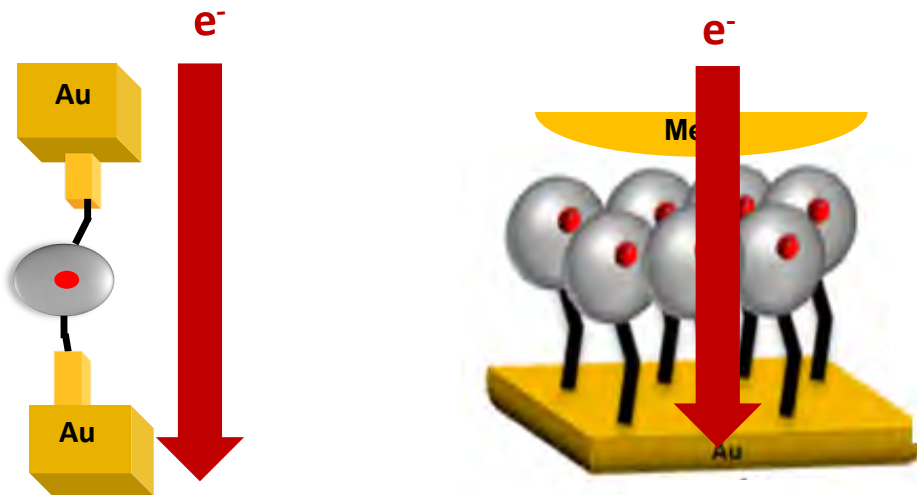
**Final objective:**  
*A spin filter device based on organic radicals*



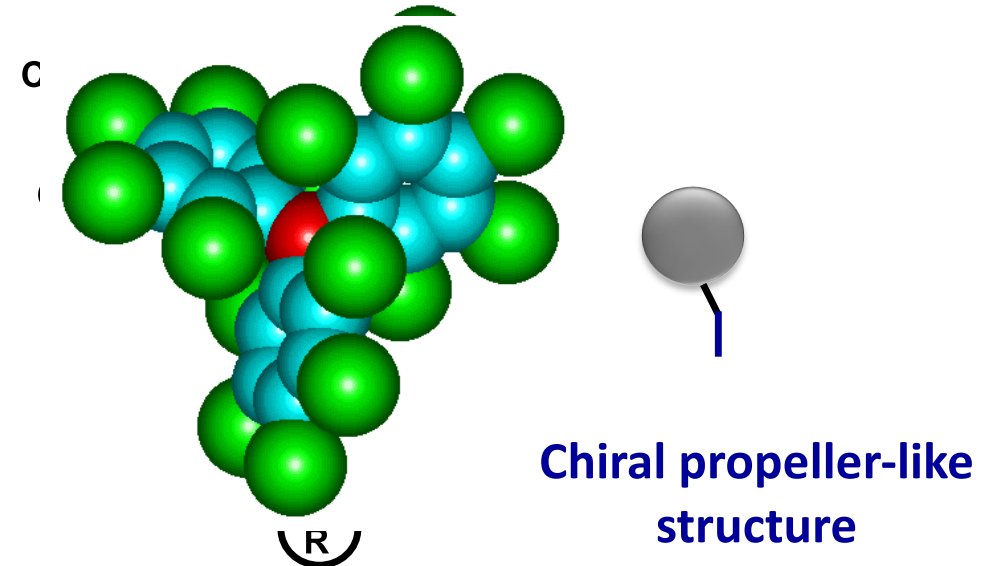
Filtering spin-up e<sup>-</sup>

## Charge transport through PTM radical molecules

Polychlorinated triphenylmethyl (PTM) radicals



Solid-state junctions made of a single-molecule or of a self-assembled monolayer (SAM) of organic **radicals** anchored to Au



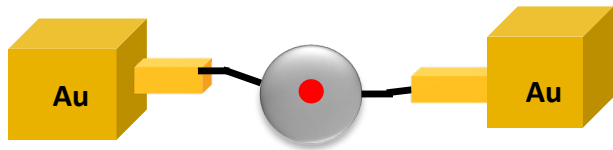
### PTM advantages:

- **Functionalization (R)**
- **Persistent and stable radicals**
- **Non-radical derivative (HPTM)**
- ◆ Ultra-long coherence time ( $> 1 \mu\text{s}$ )
- ◆ Chiral polarized luminescent emitter

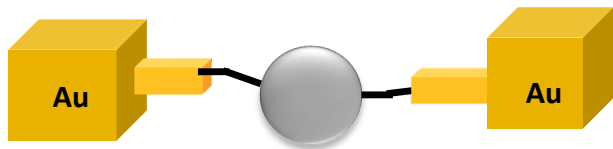
# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Charge transport through a single PTM radical molecule

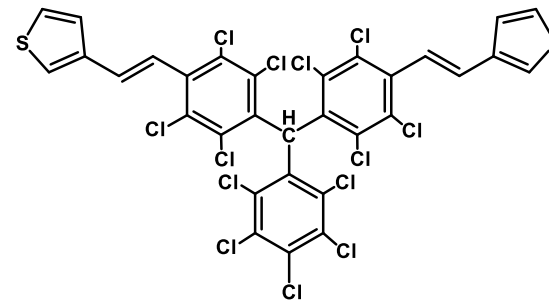
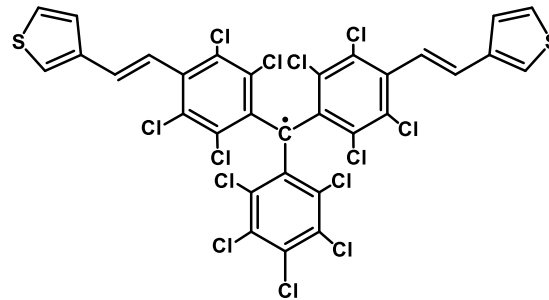
### Single molecule junctions



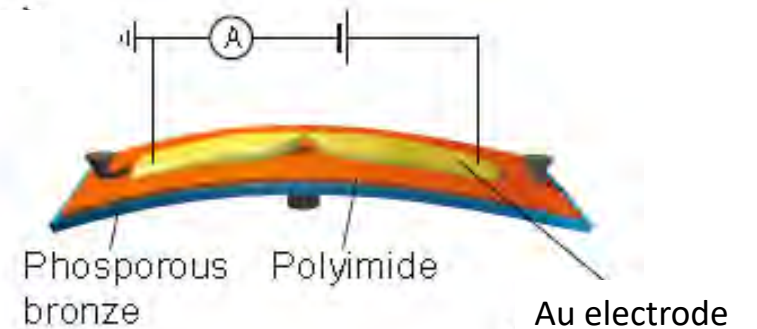
PTM radical molecule



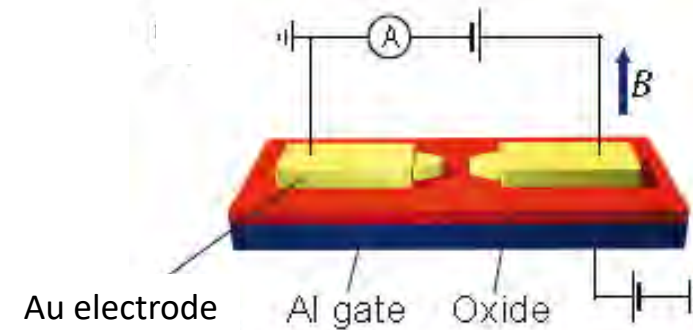
PTM non-radical molecule



### Junctions



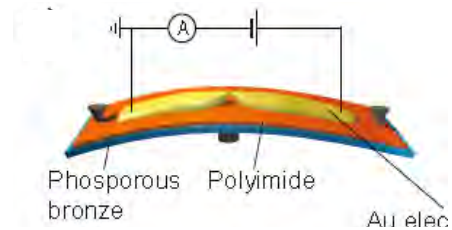
### Mechanically Controlled Break Junction (MCBJ)



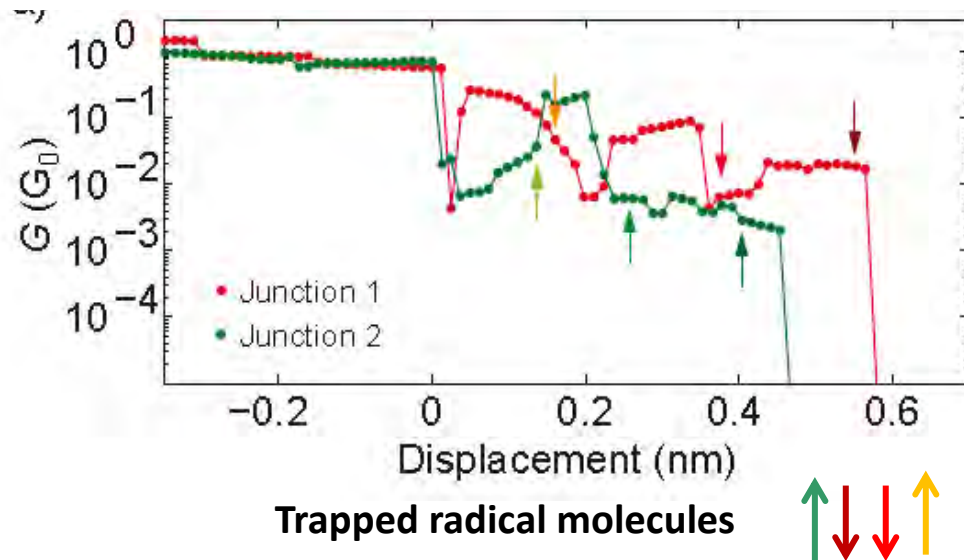
### Electro-Migrated Break Junction (EMBJ)

# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Charge transport through a single PTM radical molecule

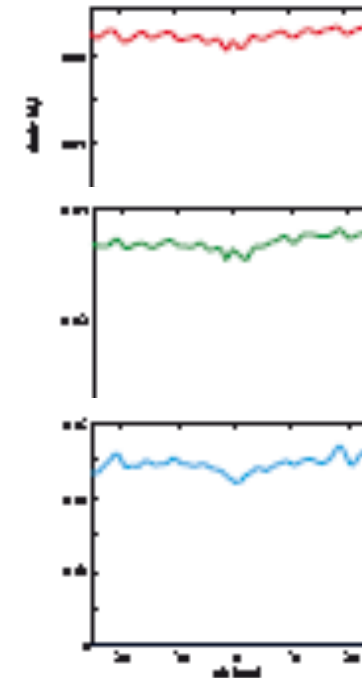
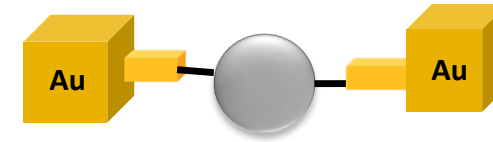


Conductance breaking traces of two PTM radical junctions with MCBJ at 6K



### Two conductance channels:

- A background transport channel that changes with stretching
- Another channel responsible of zero-bias anomaly independent on stretching

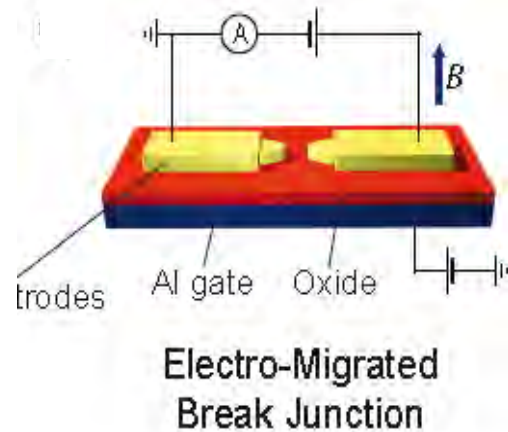
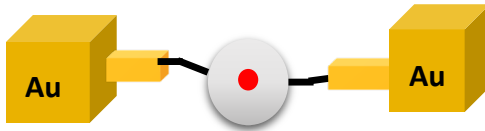


- No zero-bias anomaly at differential conductances
- Non-radical molecules show lower conductances than the **radical** ones

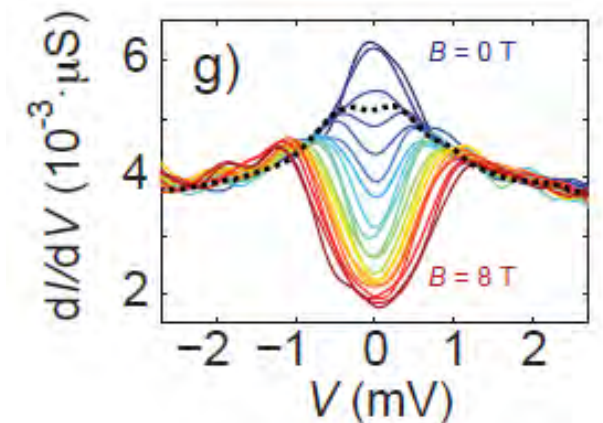
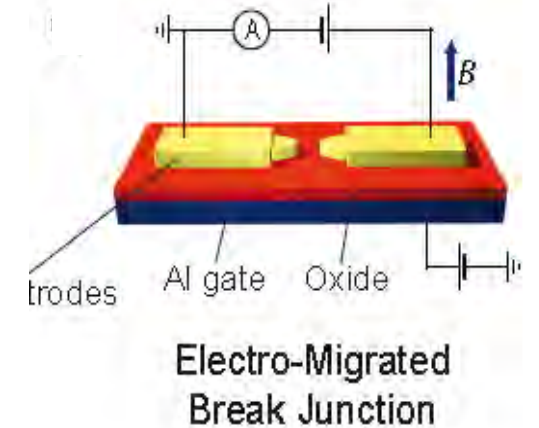
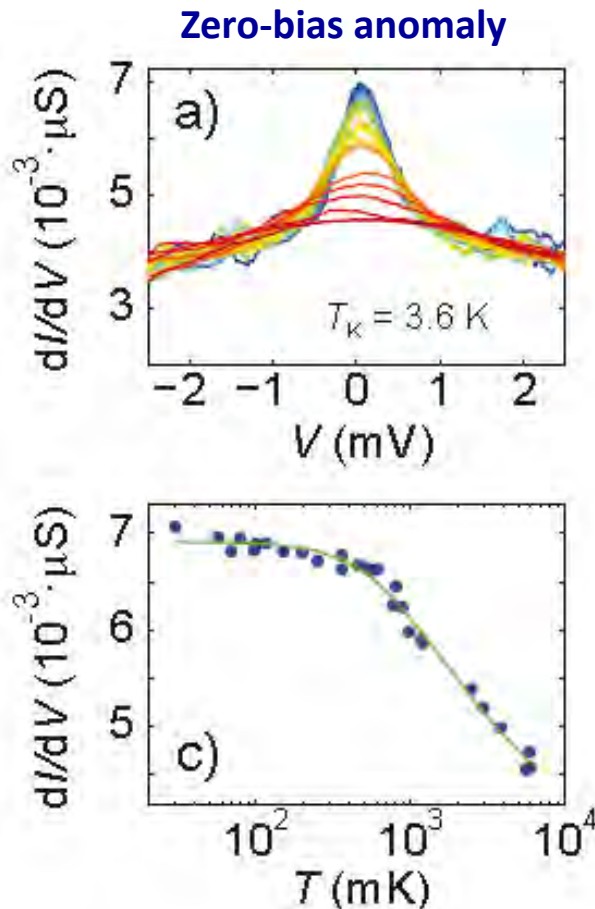
# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Charge transport through a single PTM radical molecule

Conductances at temperatures between 30 mK and 4.5 K of a PTM radical junction with EMBJ



Kondo temperature;  $T_K = 3.0$  K



Onset of Kondo splitting at  $B = 1.2$  T

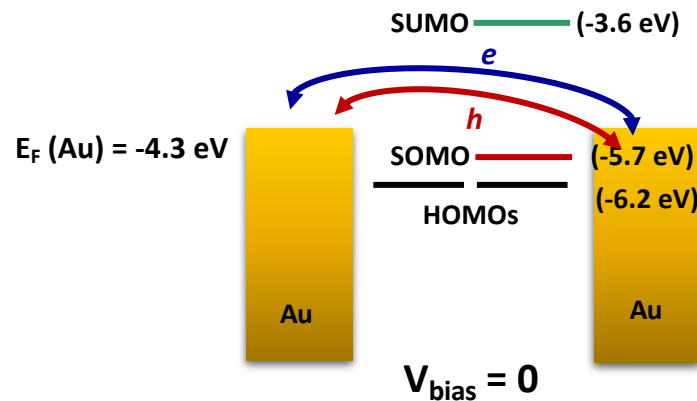
# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Charge transport through a single PTM radical molecule

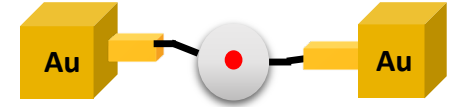
2 Off-resonant conductance channels:

SUMO-assisted transport channel 

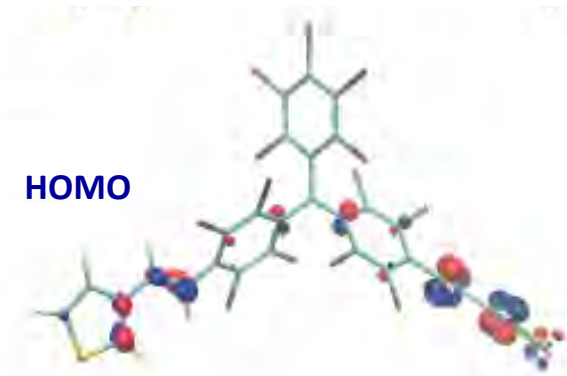
SOMO-assisted transport channel 



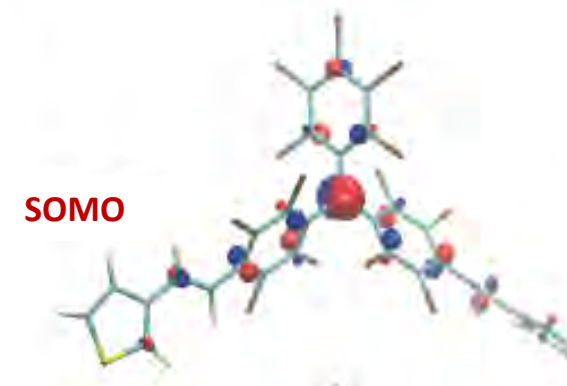
*The strong localization of the SOMO makes the Kondo resonance stable under large molecular stretchings/distorsions*



DFT calculations of energy levels with B3LYP hybrid functional



SUMO-assisted transport channel is responsible for the spin-independent conductance background



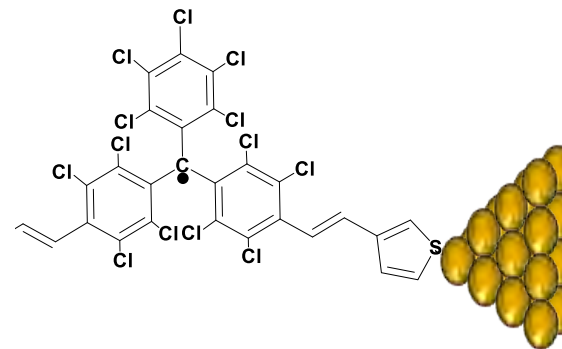
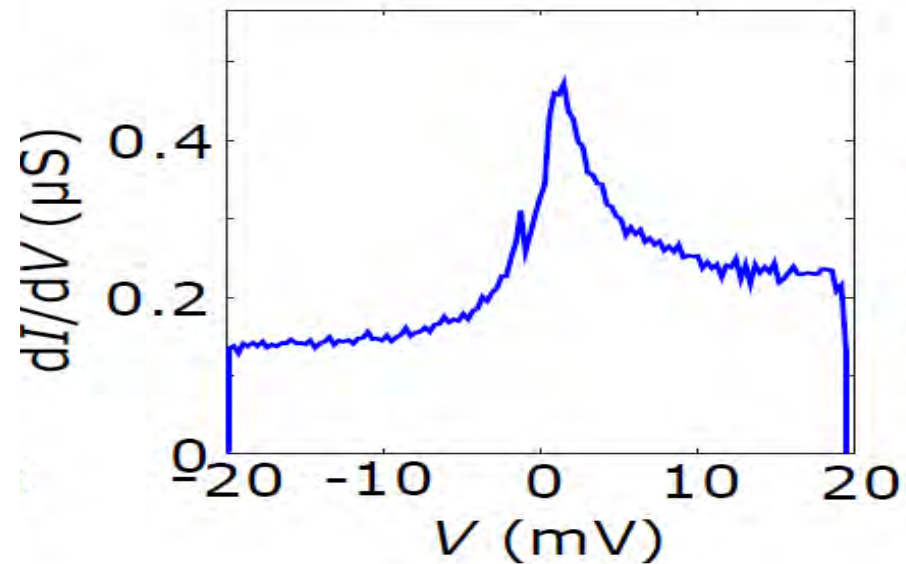
SOMO-assisted transport channel is responsible for the Kondo-correlated phenomena



# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Molecule/electrode contact dependence of transport through single PTM radical molecules

Zero-bias resonance at 4 K  
(Kondo correlation)



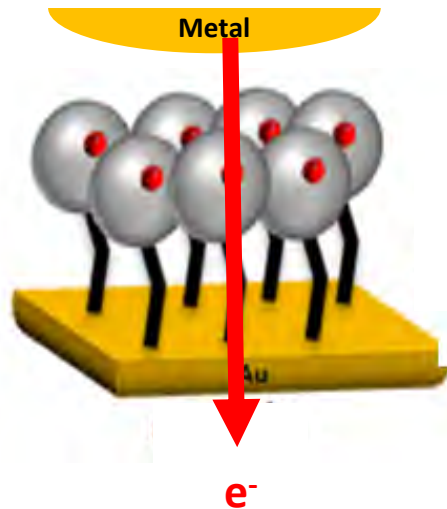
**Conductances are more spread**, a signature of a weaker Au-S bonds with ill-defined molecule-metal contacts

*$\sigma$  Au-C bonds are more robust and have less variability in conductance values  $jjj$*

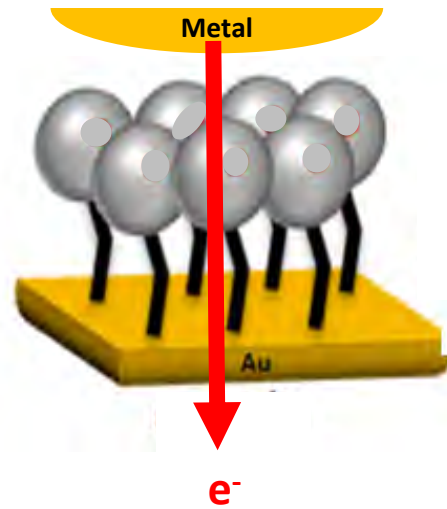
# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based self-assembled monolayers

## Charge transport through organic radicals anchored to metals

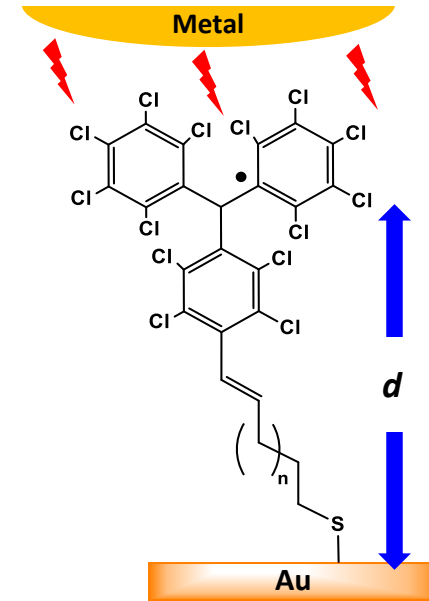
### PTM SAM junctions



PTM radical SAM junctions (R-SAMs)



PTM non-radical SAM junctions (NR-SAMs)

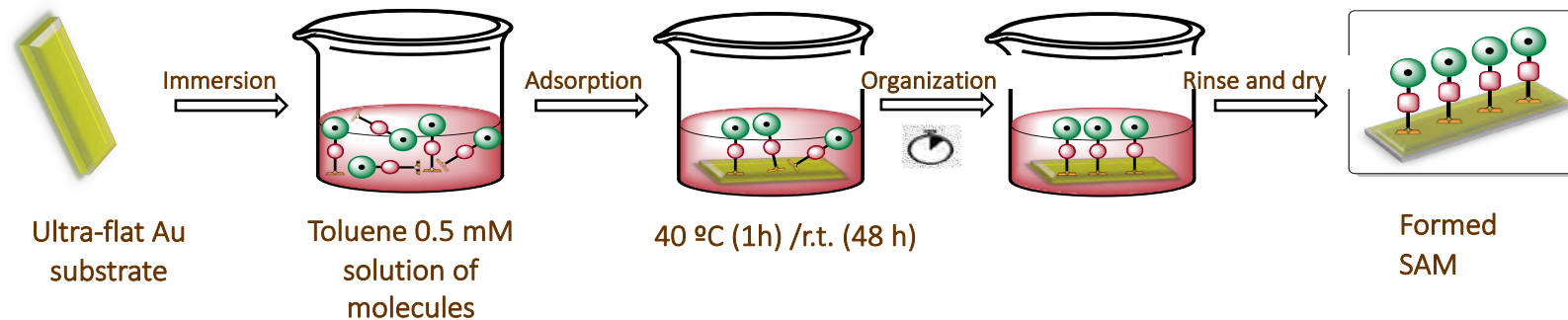
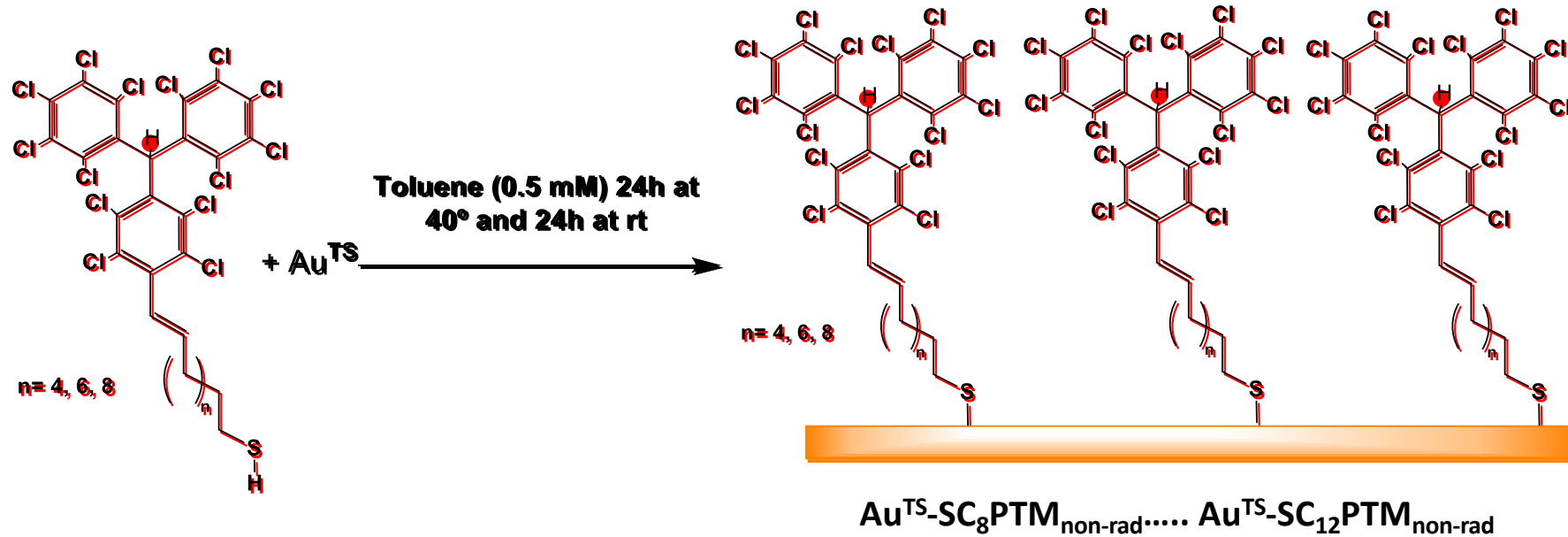


Characteristics of junctions:

- PTM heads are decoupled from the Au bottom-electrode via long alkyl chains guaranteeing the same work functions of in both junctions
- Controlling the PTM distance to Au,  $d$ , changing  $(\text{CH}_2)_n$ ;  $n = 4, 6, 8$
- Similar PTM head/top-electrode interactions via van der Waals interfaces

# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

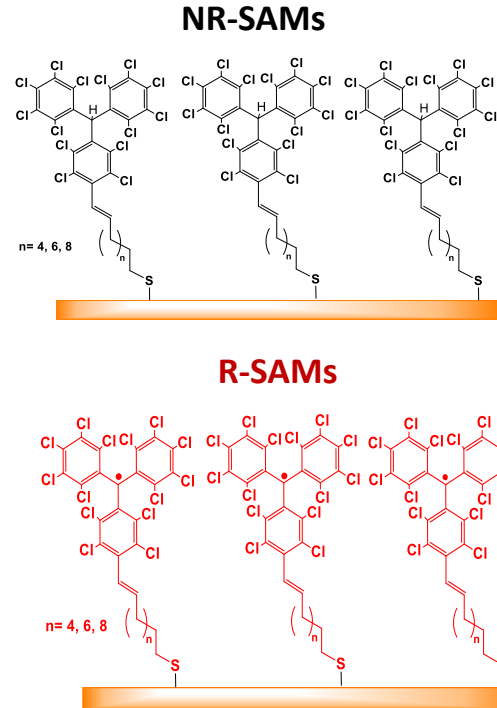
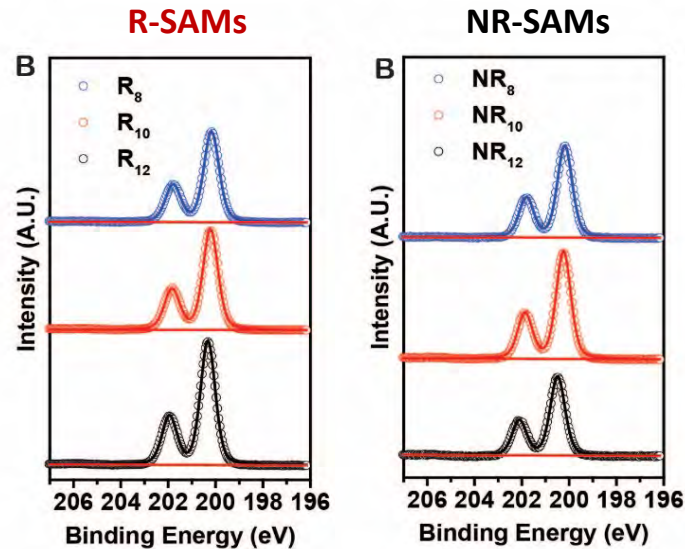
## Preparation of PTM radical SAM (R-SAM) and non-radical SAM (NR-SAM) on Au(111)



# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

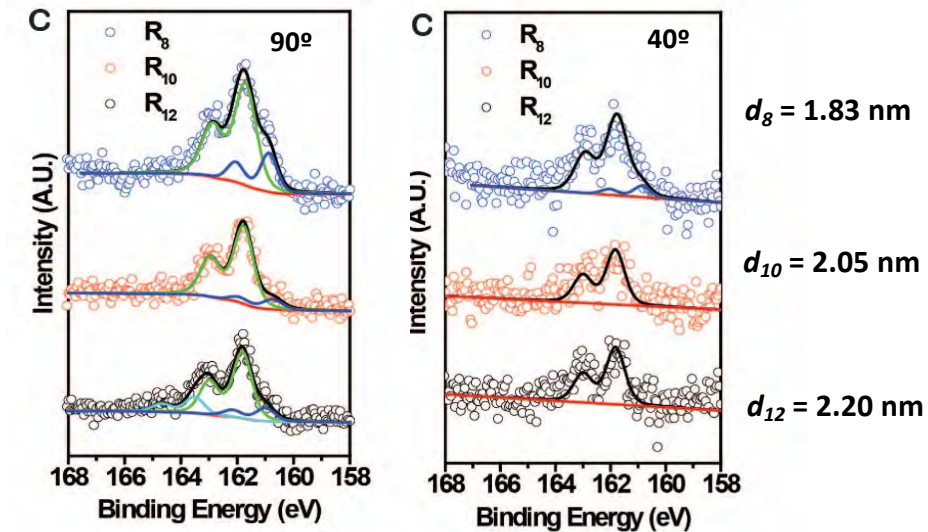
## Supramolecular structure characterizations of PTM radical and non-radical SAMs on Au(111)

### Angle resolved XPS (Cl 2p spectra)



### Angle resolved XPS (S 2p spectra)

$I_{\theta}$  ratios of S 2p at take-off angles of 90° and 40° of SAMs



**Radical and non-radical SAMs are laterally packed with similar molecular densities ( $0.15 \times 10^{-9}$  mol/cm<sup>2</sup>)**

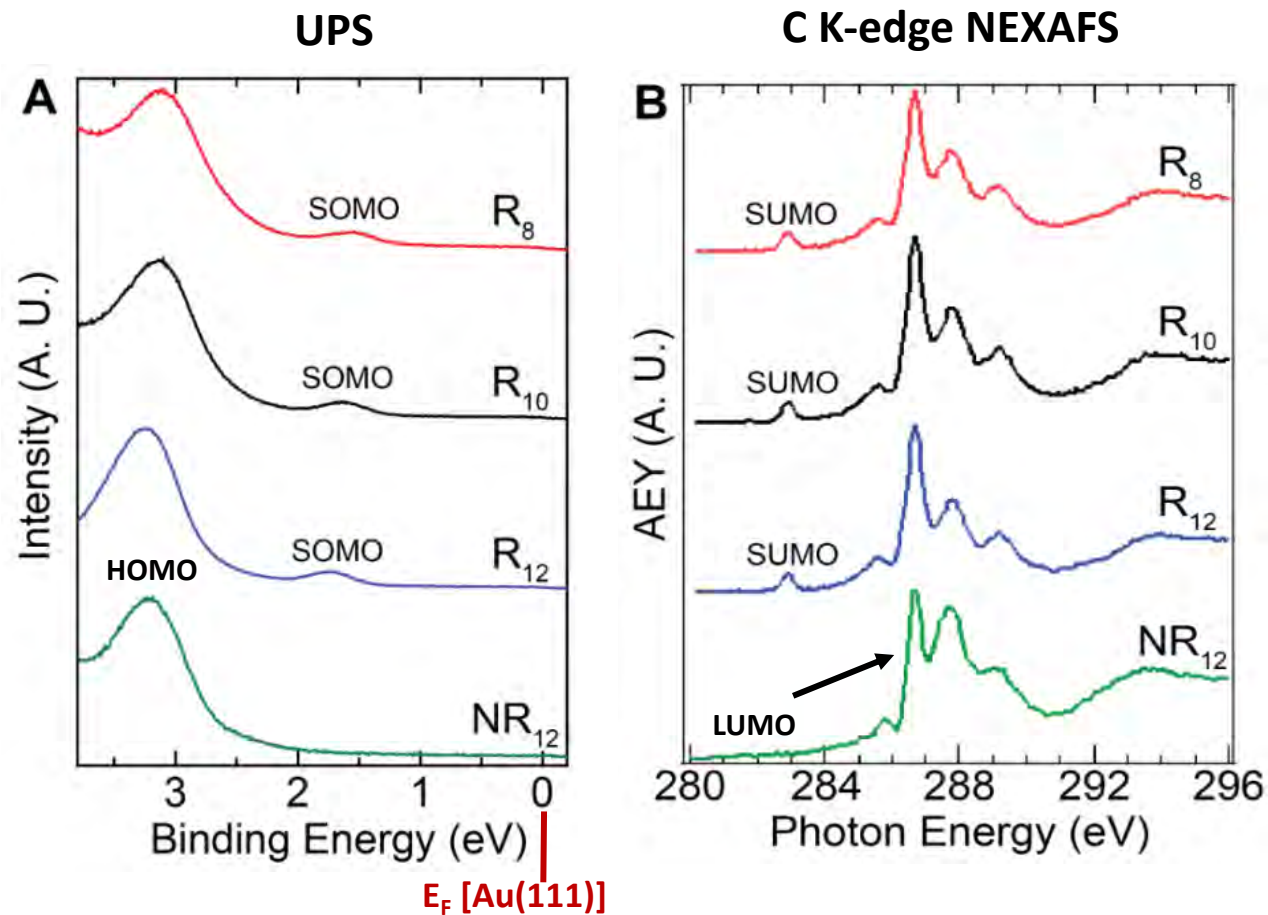
**Molecules are standing-up on the surfaces with thickness,  $d$ , that scales with the number,  $n$ , of C atoms of alkyl chains of R-SAMs and NR-SAMs**

**R-SAMs and NR-SAMs have similar supramolecular structures**

**Other characterizations of SAMs: CA, ESR, CV**

# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Electronic structure determinations of PTM R-SAM and NR-SAMs on Au(111)



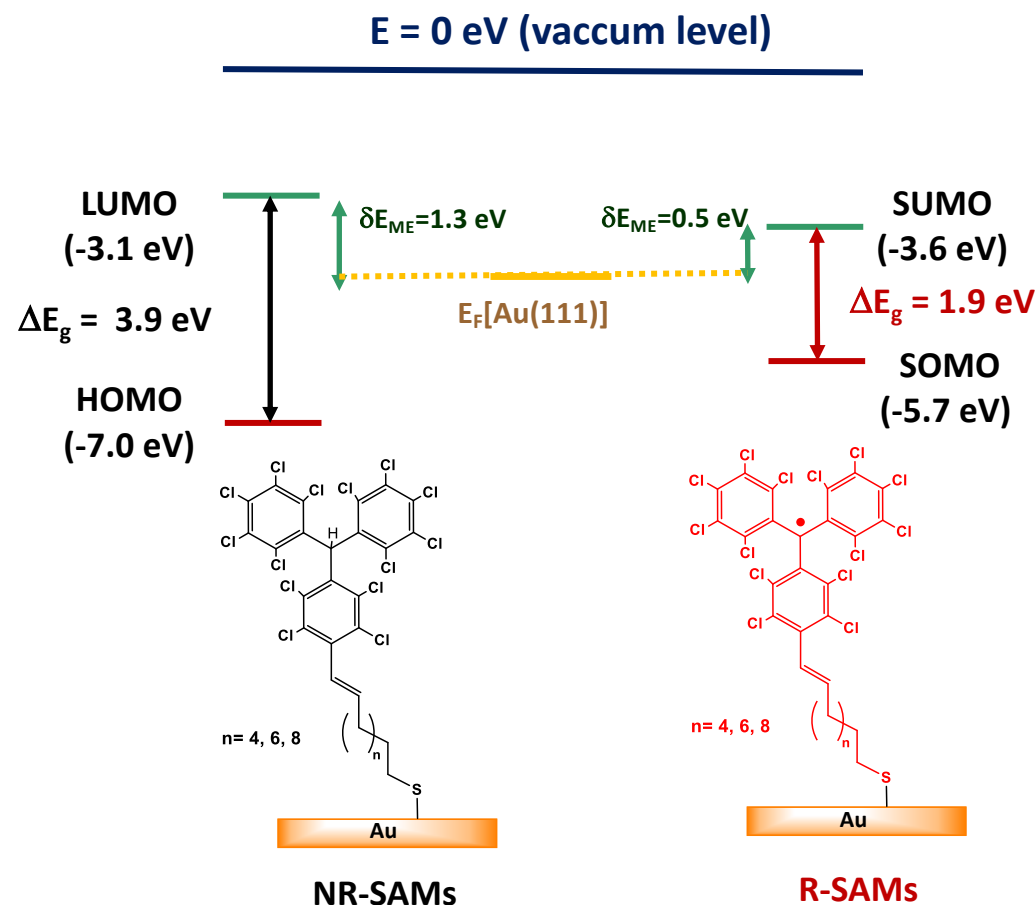
UPS, Ultra-violet photoelectron spectroscopy

Occupied levels

NEXAFS, Near edge X-ray adsorption fine structure spectroscopy

Unoccupied levels

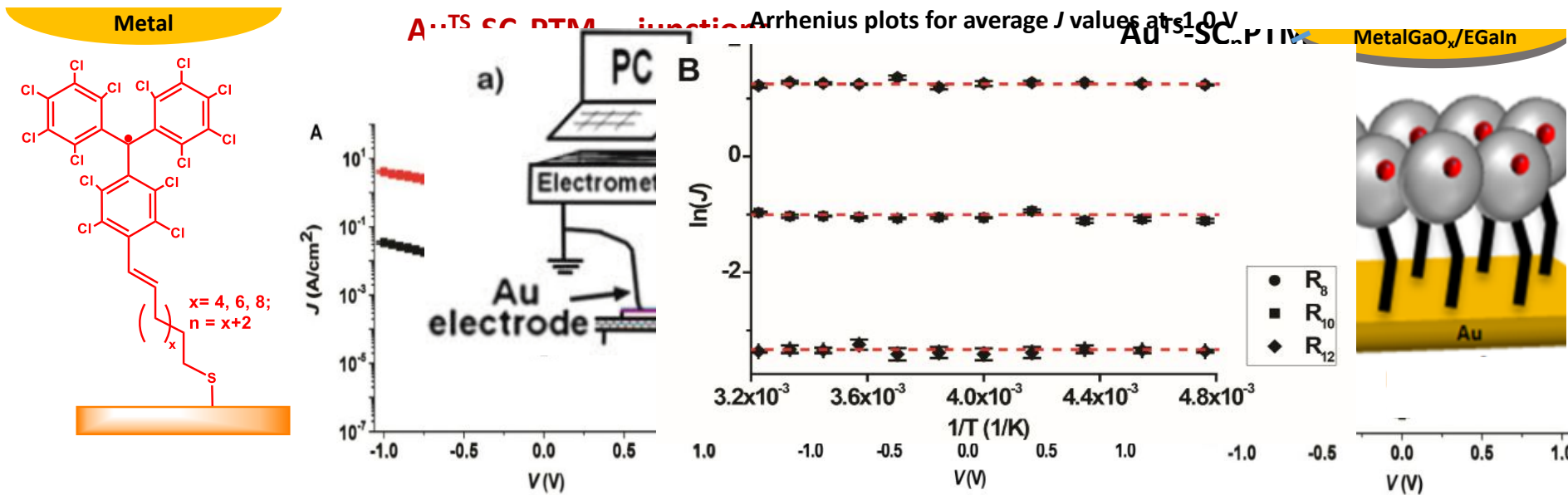
### Energy diagrams of frontier orbitals of SAMs



# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

## Charge transport measurements on Au<sup>TS</sup>-PTM SAM//Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/EGaIn junctions

Current densities of **radical** and non-radical junctions at voltage bias range of -1.0 V/+1.0 V



*Current densities at -1 V do not depend on temperature (210-340 K) confirming a charge transport through a **coherent tunneling mechanism***

In all three junctions and in the whole measured bias range the mean values  $\langle |J| \rangle_G$  for **R-SAMs** are **100 times higher** than for NR-SAMs iiiii

*Current densities,  $J$ , of both SAMs decrease exponentially for larger chains suggesting that charge transport mechanism is in the coherent tunneling regime for both SAMs*

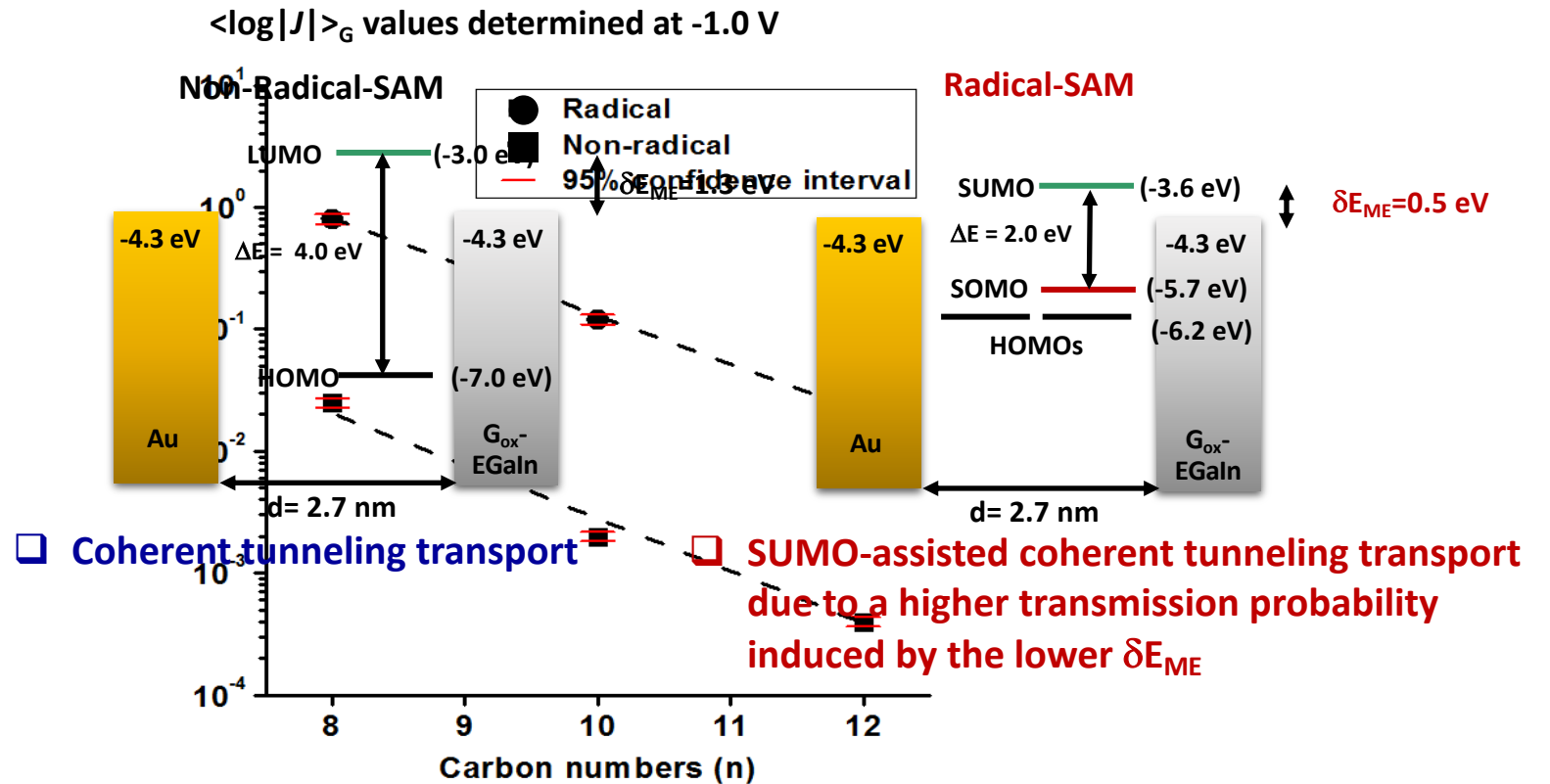
# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

## Charge transport measurements on junctions as function of tunneling distances

**Tunneling regime:**  
 Current density  $J$  ( $\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ ) depends on the  $n^{\text{o}}$  carbons ( $n_c$ ) or the distance,  $d$

$$J = J_0 e^{-\beta d}$$

$\beta$  = tunneling decay constant  
 $J_0$  = pre-exponential factor



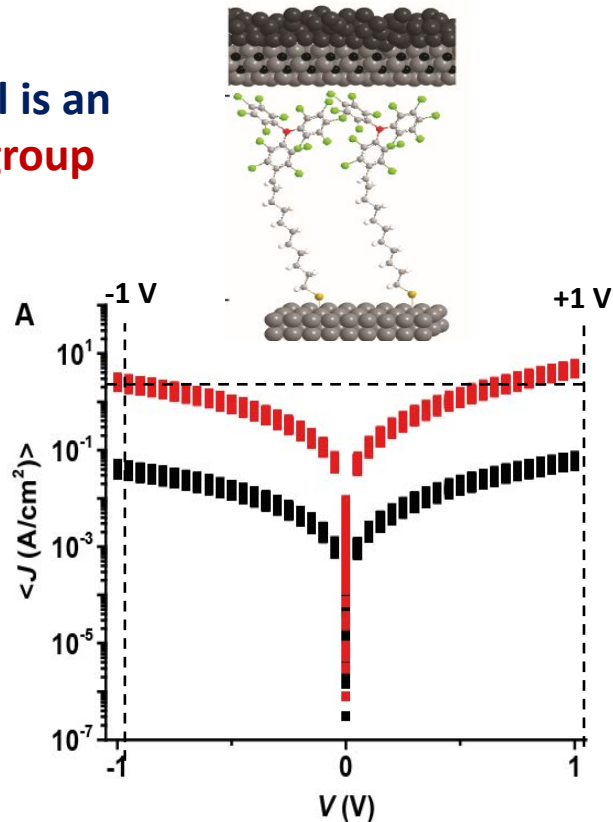
Radical SAMs;  $J_0^R = 1018 \text{ A}/\text{cm}^2$   $\beta_R = 0.89 \pm 0.01 n_c^{-1}$  ( $\beta = 0.72 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ )  
 Non-radical SAMs;  $J_0^{NR} = 78 \text{ A}/\text{cm}^2$   $\beta_{NR} = 1.03 \pm 0.03 n_c^{-1}$  ( $\beta = 0.82 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ )

Transport through a coherent tunneling mechanism in both kinds of SAMs

# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

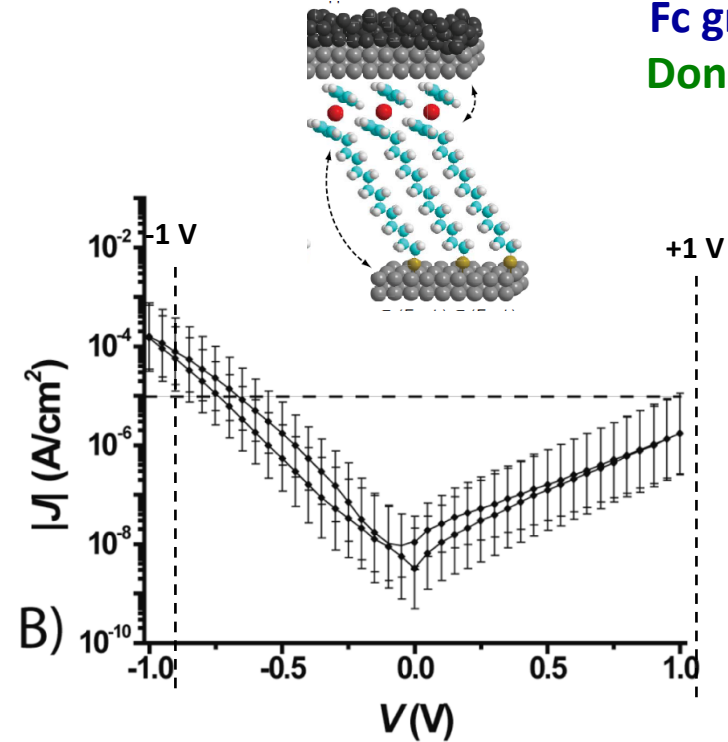
## Current rectification in junctions with asymmetrically located electroactive groups

PTM radical is an  
**Acceptor group**



$$R = |J(-1V)| / |J(+1V)| = 0.7$$

Fc group is a  
**Donor group**



$$RR = |J(-1V)| / |J(+1V)| = 150$$

C. A. Nijhuis and col. *Nat. Commun.*, 2015, 6, 6324

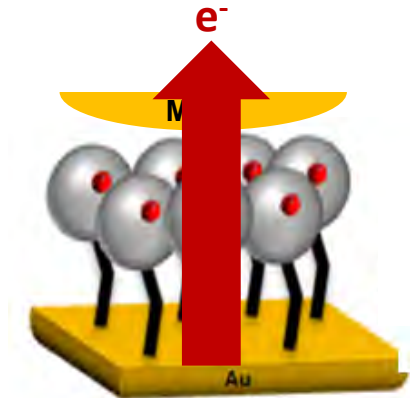
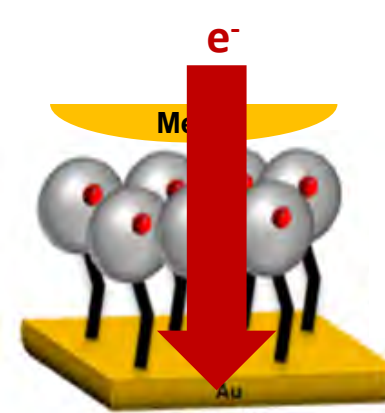
The lack of rectification in **R-SAM** and **NR-SAM** contrasts with the behavior of SAMs with electroactive groups energetically and spatially close to the top electrode and separated from the bottom one, like in **Fc-SAMs**



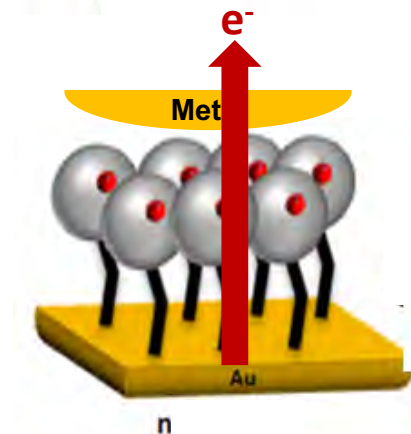
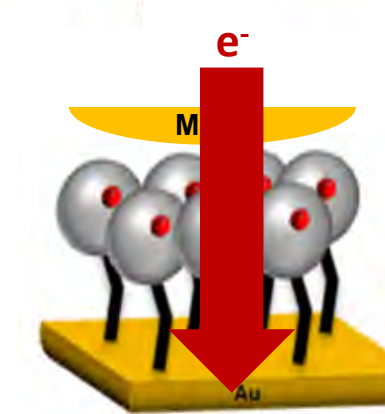
# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

## *Manipulation of charge transport through organic radicals anchored to metals*

**Radical SAMs on Au efficiently transport electrons:**



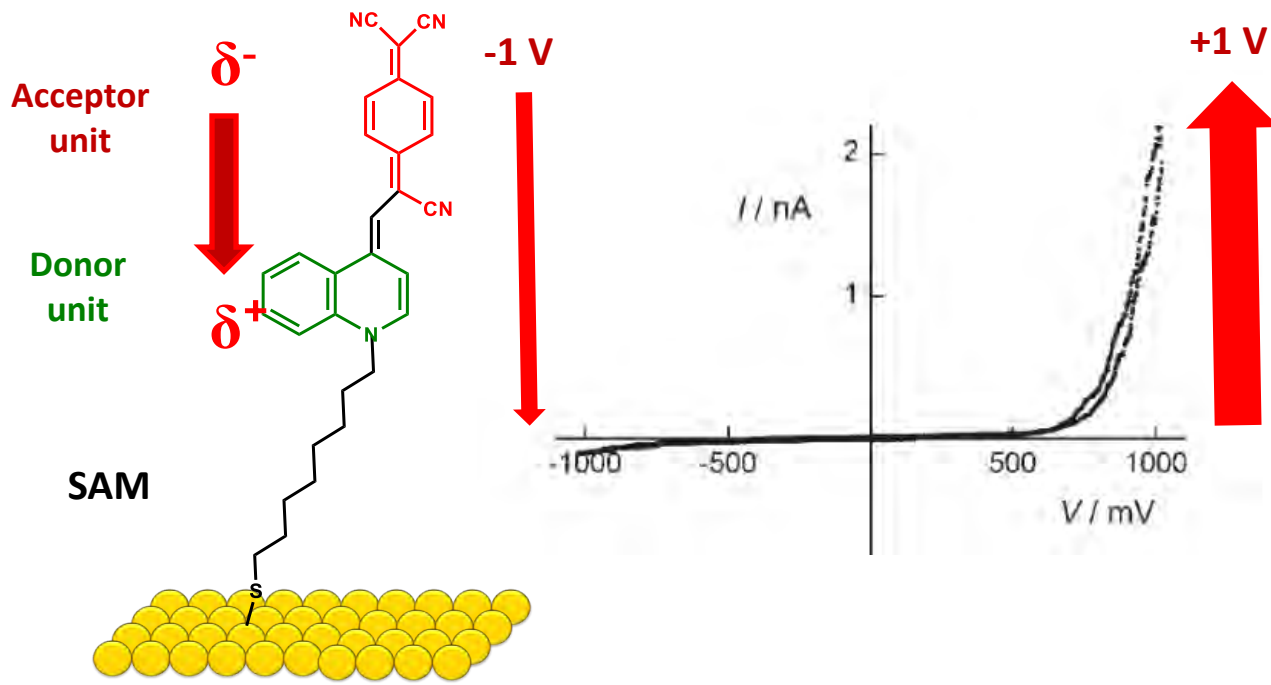
**How to achieve a rectifying Radical SAMs? :**



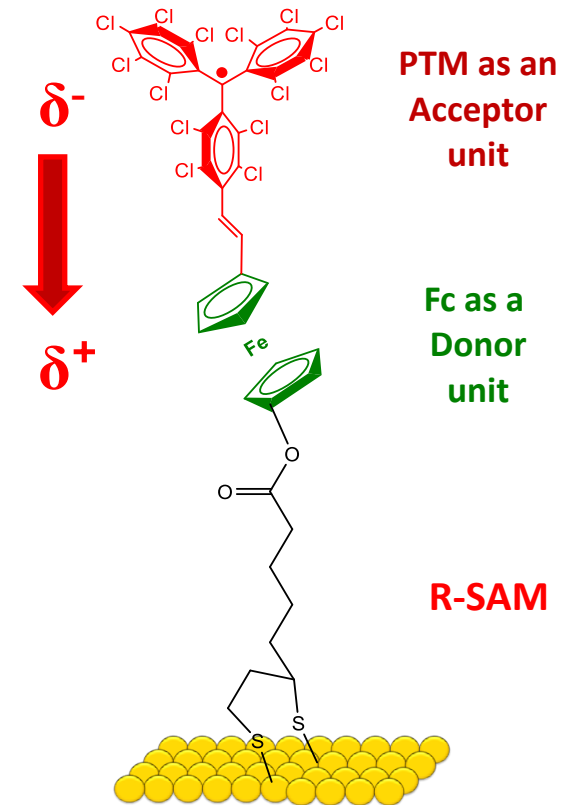
# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

## Current rectification through SAMs based on Donor- $\pi$ -Acceptor dyads

D- $\pi$ -A dyad



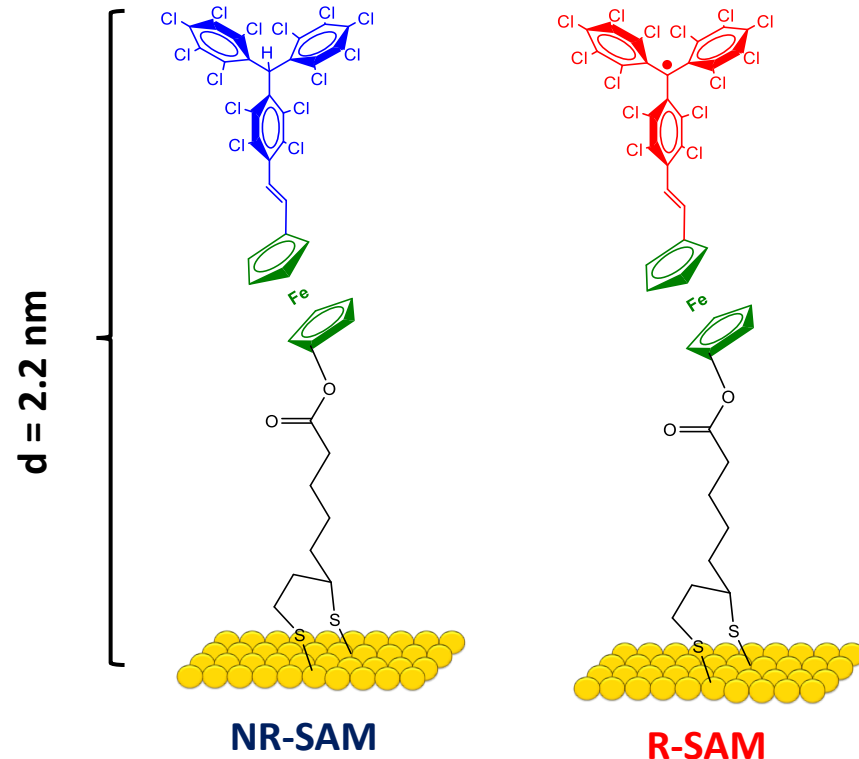
D- $\pi$ -A dyad



# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

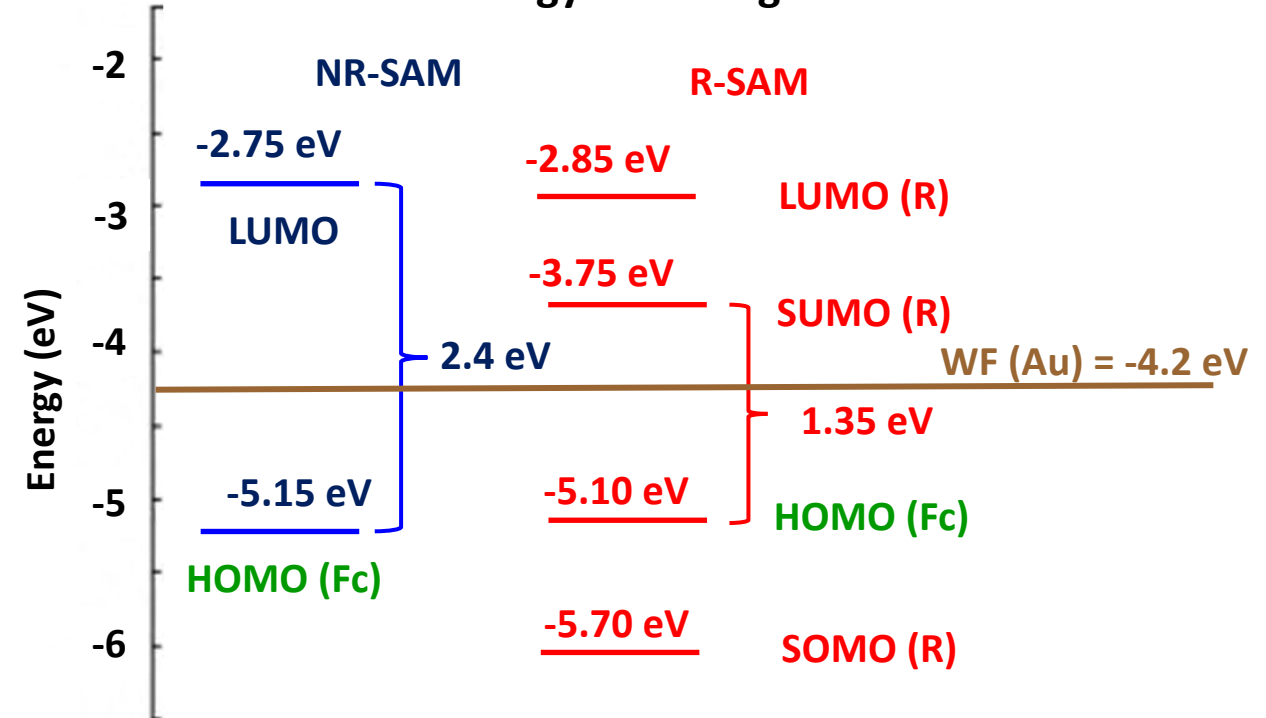
## Charge transport through Au<sup>TS</sup>-Fc- $\pi$ -PTM<sub>rad</sub> dyad SAM//Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/EGaIn junctions

Preparation of radical SAMs



*Similar supramolecular structures of dyads (thickness, surface coverage)  
Calculated from angle resolved XPS*

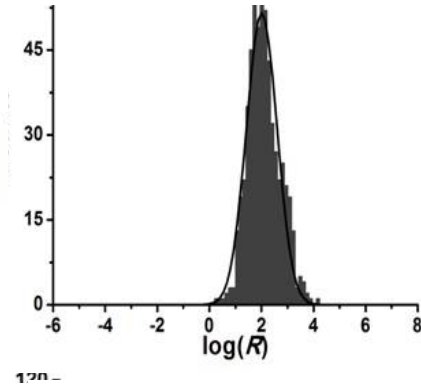
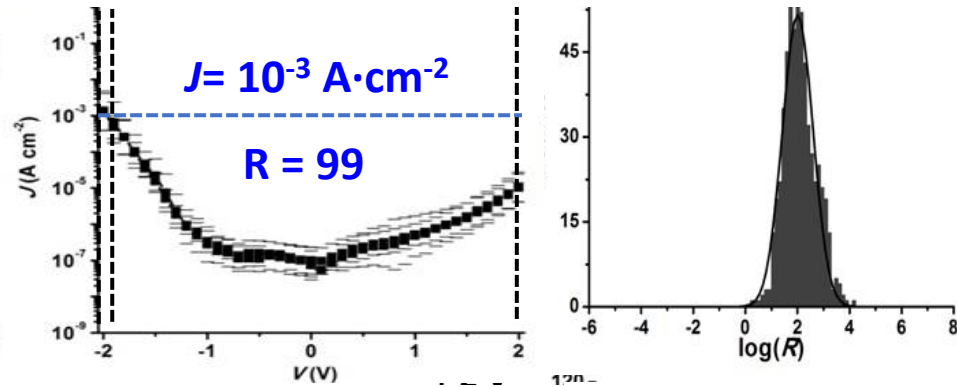
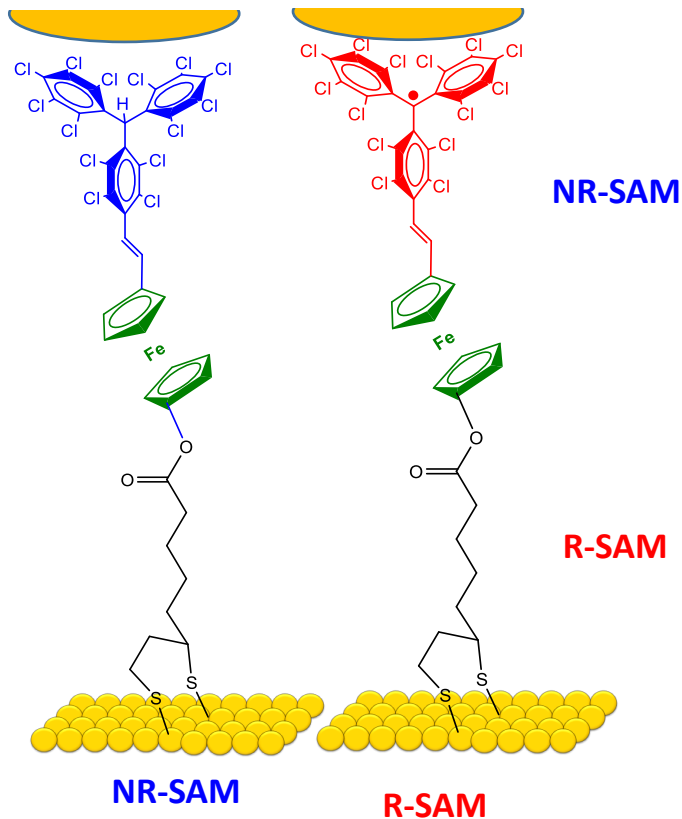
Energy level diagrams



Different electronic structures of dyads  
(frontier molecular orbital levels)  
Calculated from CV, UPS and NEXAFS

# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

## Current rectification through Au<sup>TS</sup>-Fc- $\pi$ -PTM dyad SAM//Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/EGaIn junctions



Rectification ratio  
 $R = |J(-2.0\text{V})| / |J(+2.0\text{V})|$

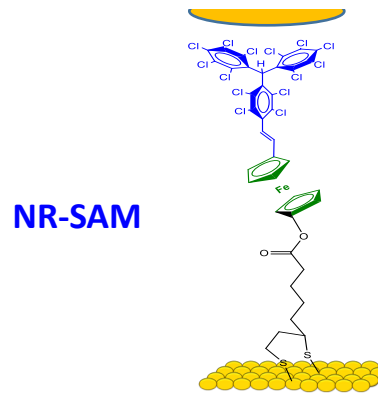
| Parameter                                   | NR-SAM   |
|---|----------|
| N <sup>o</sup> of junctions                 | 25       |
| N <sup>o</sup> of shorts                    | 3        |
| N <sup>o</sup> of traces                    | 528      |
| No shorting junctions (%) <sup>a</sup>      | 88       |
| Rectification ratio (R) (dlog) <sup>b</sup> | 99 (0.7) |

*J values of R-SAM are 100 times higher than those of NR-SAM at all assayed bias voltages*

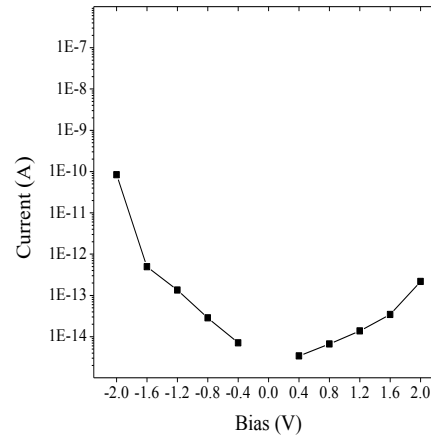
*The rectification ratio is 99 for NR-SAM while it is only 6 for the R-SAM*

# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

Proposed mechanisms for the current rectification through Au<sup>TS</sup>-Fc- $\pi$ -PTM dyads SAM//Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/EGaIn junctions

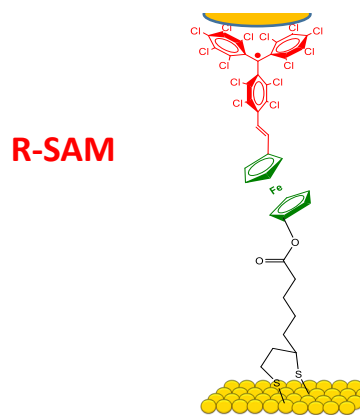
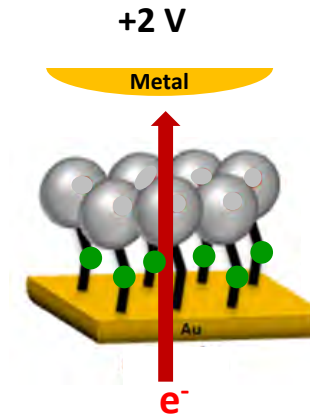


Calculated current densities



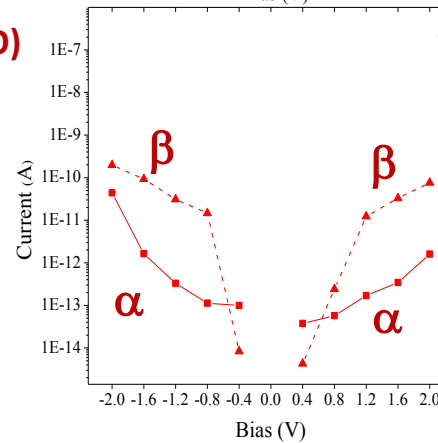
NR-SAM

$$R_{\text{SAM}}(2\text{V})=384$$



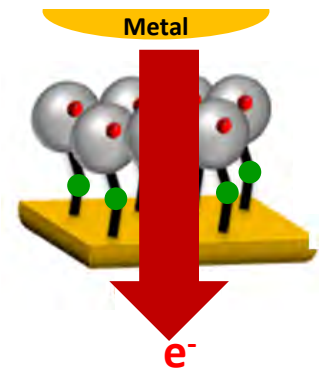
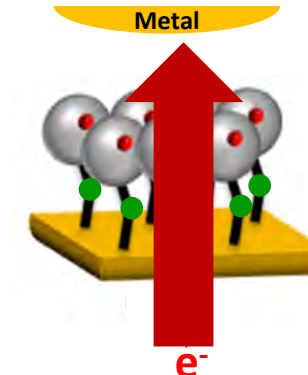
R-SAM ( $\beta$ -SUMO)

$$R_{\text{SAM-}\beta}(2\text{V})=3$$



R-SAM ( $\alpha$ -SOMO)

$$R_{\text{SAM-}\alpha}(2\text{V})=28$$



Presence of SUMO orbital turns off the typical rectification properties of asymmetric junctions because

Calculations at the DFT level with the NEGF method (Mons Univ.)

M. Souto et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017, 139, 4262–4265

# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Manipulation of the work function of a metallic surfaces using polar SAMs

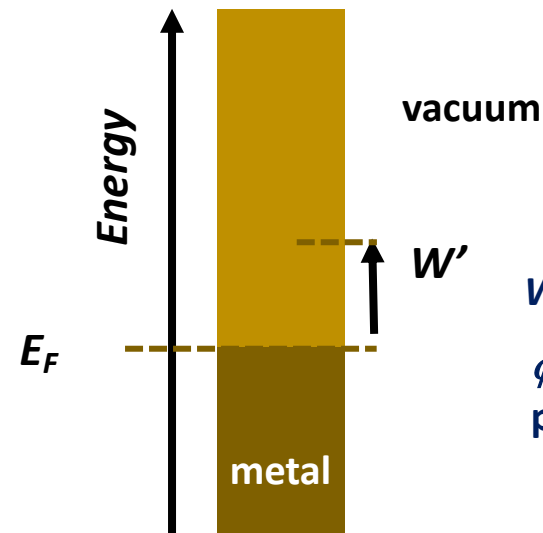
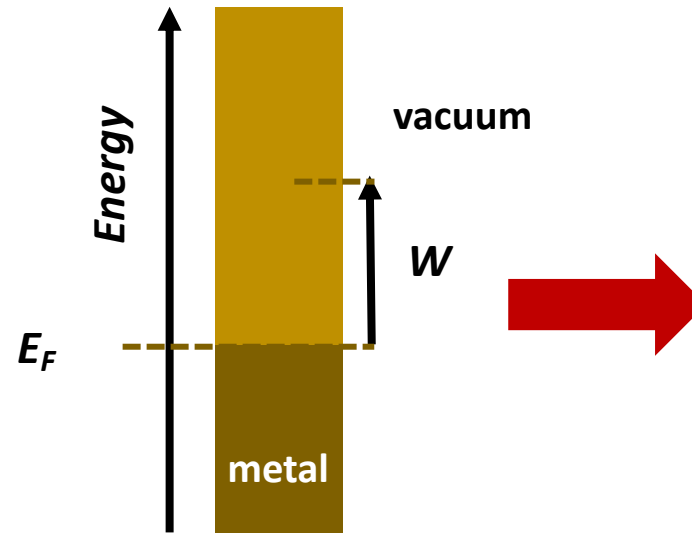
Work function ( $W$ ) of a metal is the thermodynamic work required to remove an electron ( $e$ ) from inside the metal to at state at rest in the vaccum nearby its surface

$$W = -e\phi - E_F$$

$W$ , work function of metal

$E_F$ , Fermi level of metal

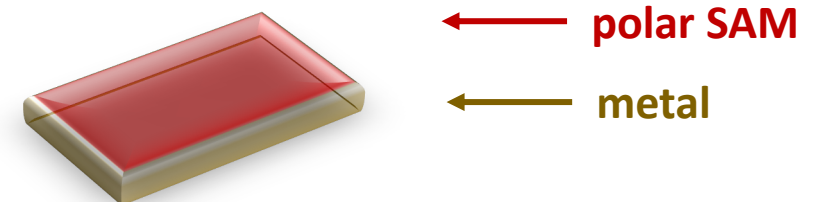
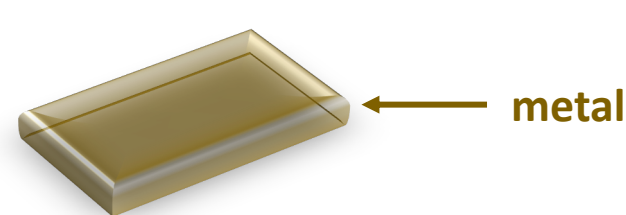
$\phi$ , electrostatic potential in the vacuum nearby the metal surface



$$W' = -e\phi' - E_F$$

$W'$ , modified work function

$\phi'$ , modified electrostatic potential by the polar SAM

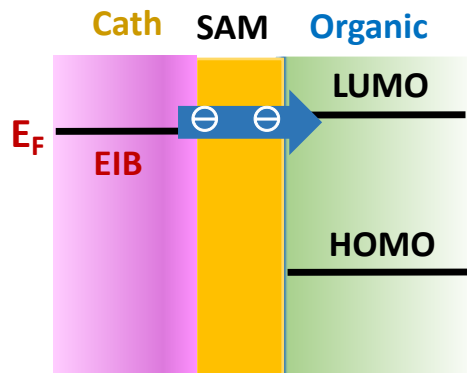
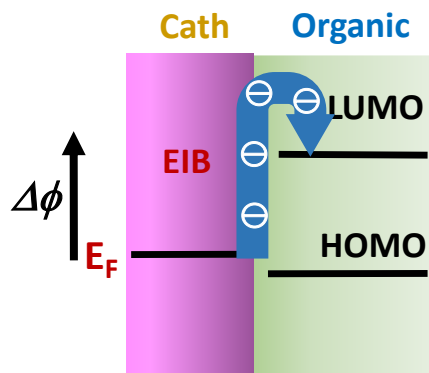


$$\text{Work function shift: } W' - W = \Delta\phi$$

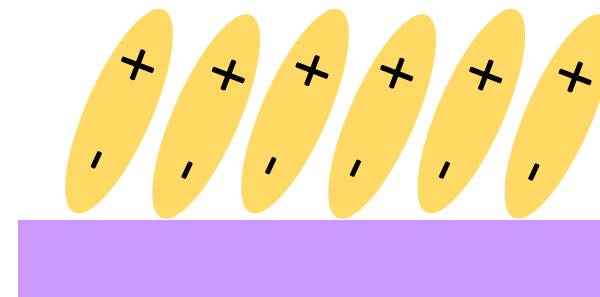
# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

Manipulation of work function is important because the efficiency of molecular electronic devices (OFETs, OPVs) are dictated by the charge injection barriers

Dipolar SAMs

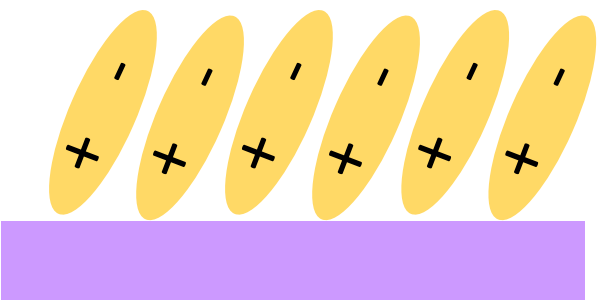


SAM with Positive Interfacial Dipole

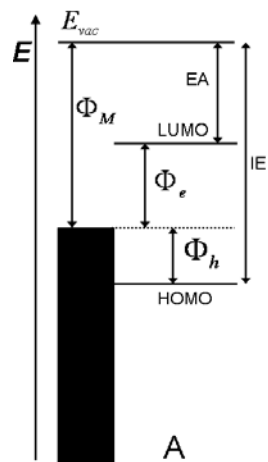


Negative Work Function Shift ( $\Delta\phi < 0$ )

SAM with Negative Interfacial Dipole



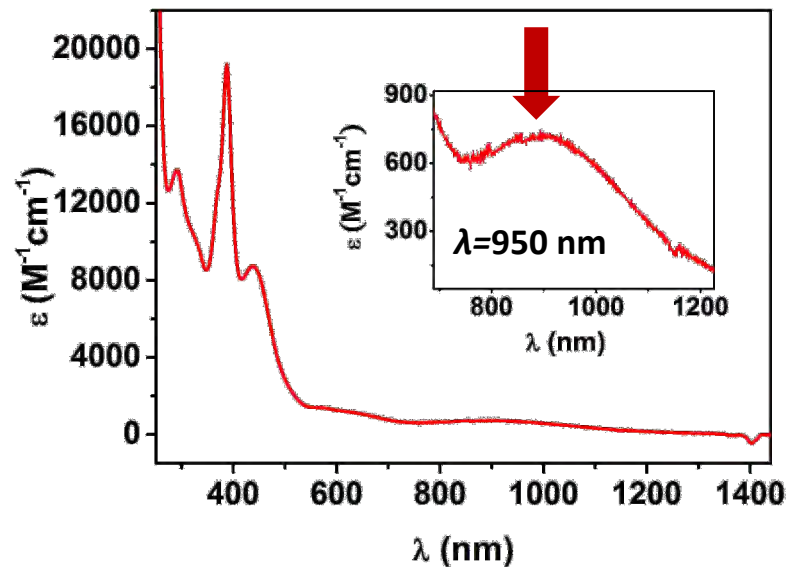
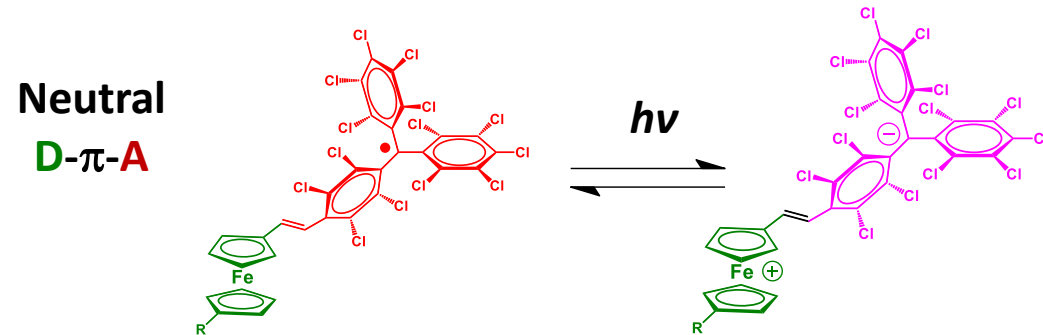
Positive Work Function Shift ( $\Delta\phi > 0$ )



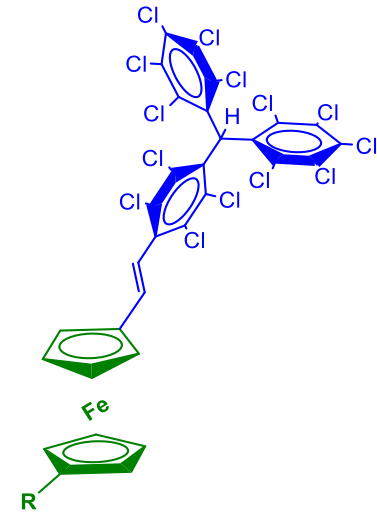
# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Manipulation of the work function of a gold surface, Au(111), using a bistable polar SAM

Bistable **push-pull** radical molecules



Molecular bistability of **Fc- $\pi$ -PTM radical dyads**

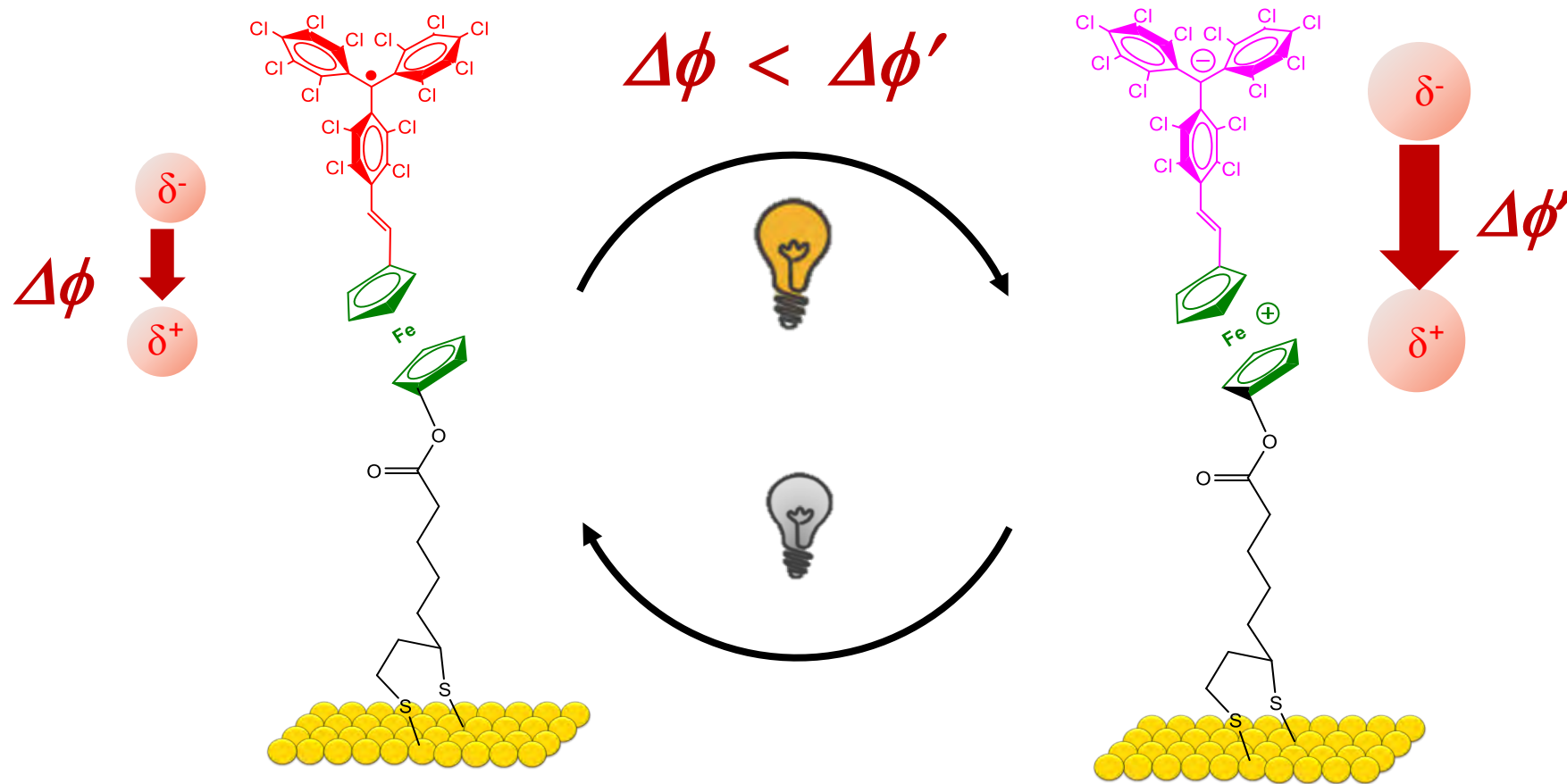


Non-radical derivative  
lacks of bistability



# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

Manipulation of the work function of a gold surface, Au(111) by an external stimulus, using a **bistable R-SAM**

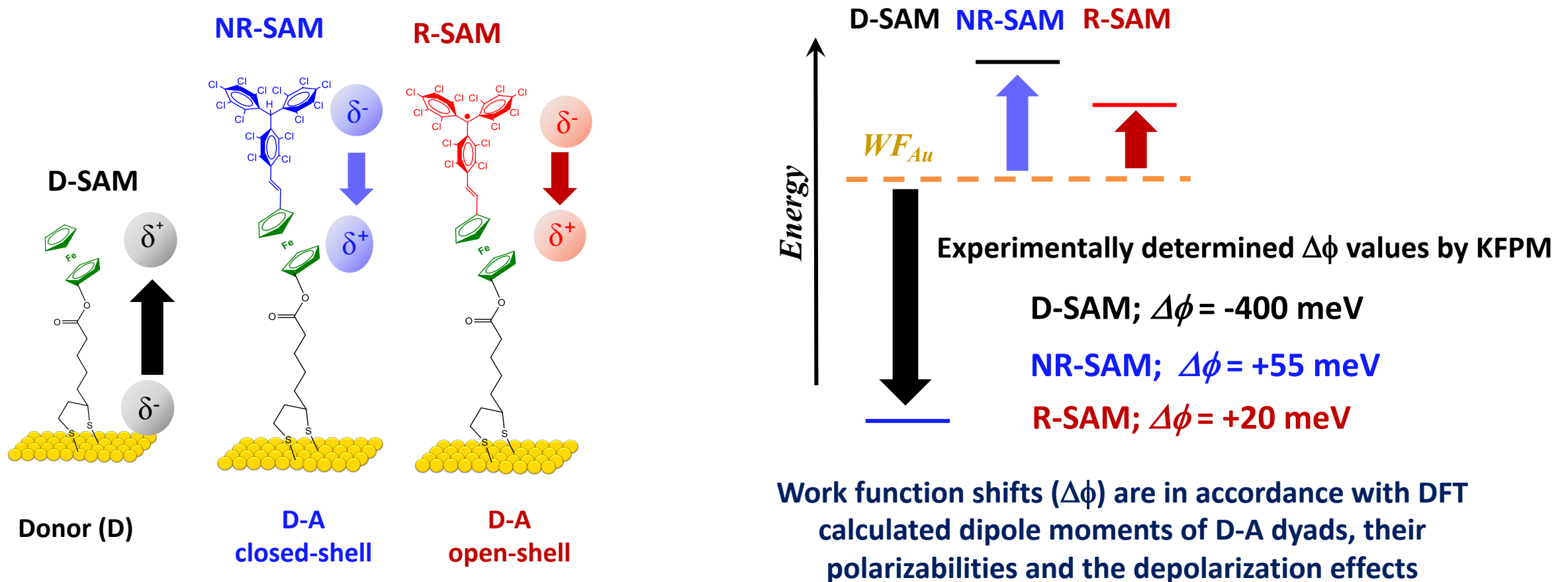


Switching the Au(111) work function

# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Manipulation of the work function of a gold surface, Au(111), using dipolar SAMs

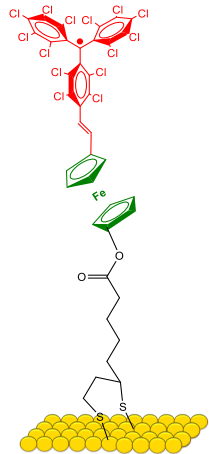
Work functions measured by the Contact Potential Difference (CPD) using Kelvin Probe Force Microscopy (KPFM) with an in-situ reference



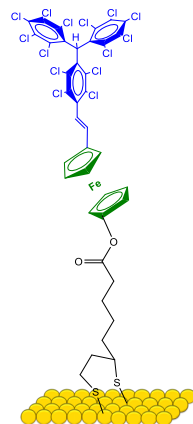
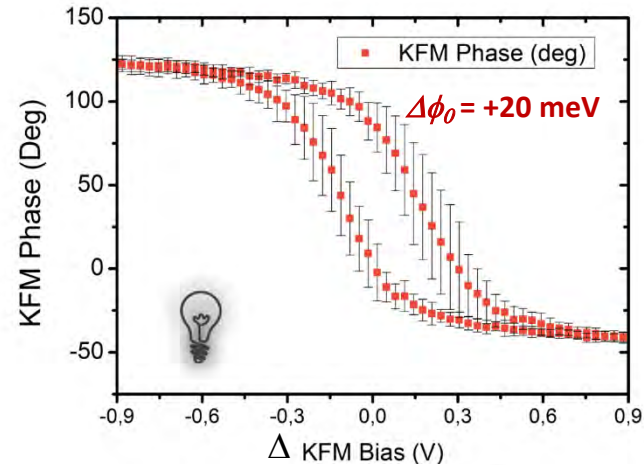


# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

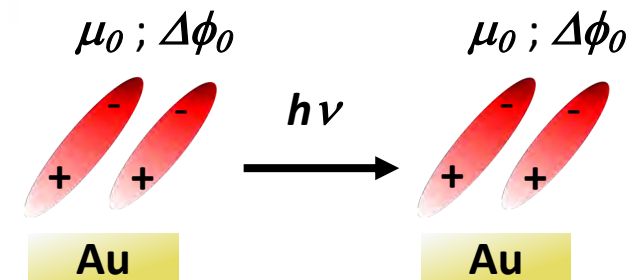
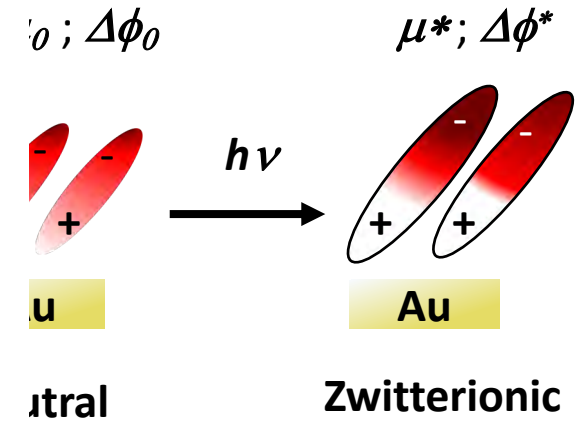
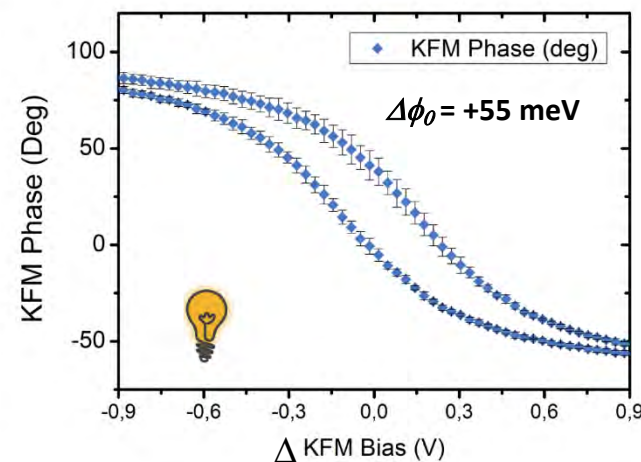
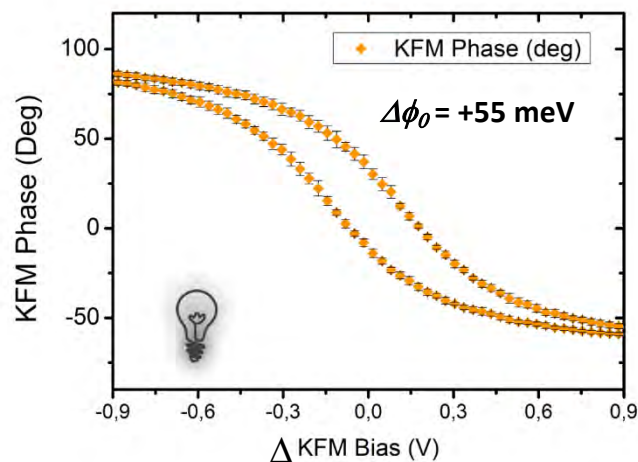
## Modification of surface potential with **Fc- $\pi$ -PTM** SAM under an external stimulus by a **NIR (950 nm) irradiation**



**R-SAM**

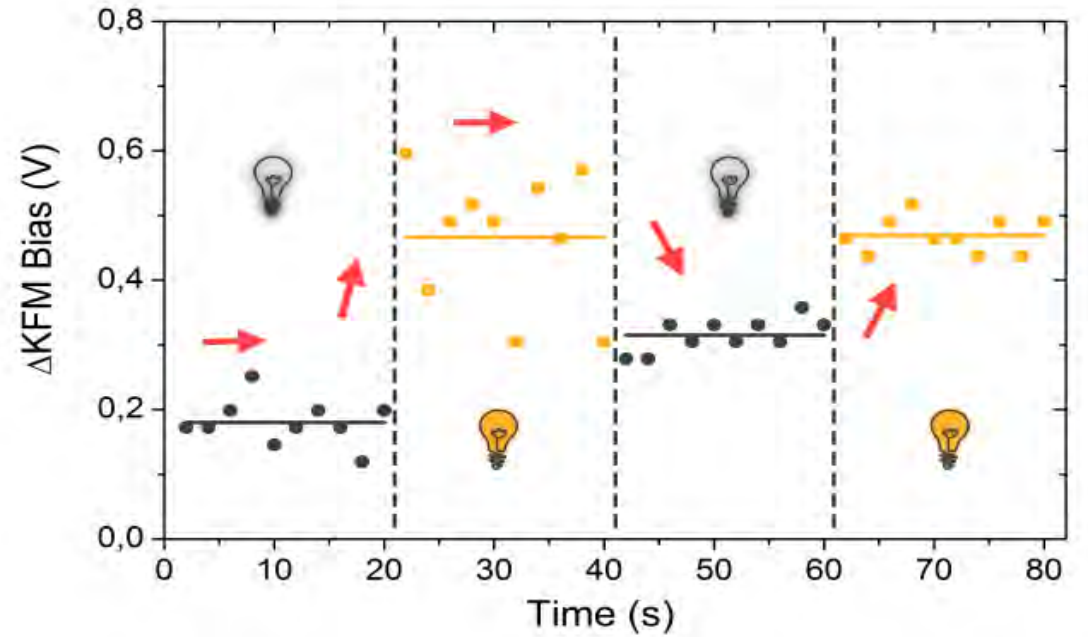
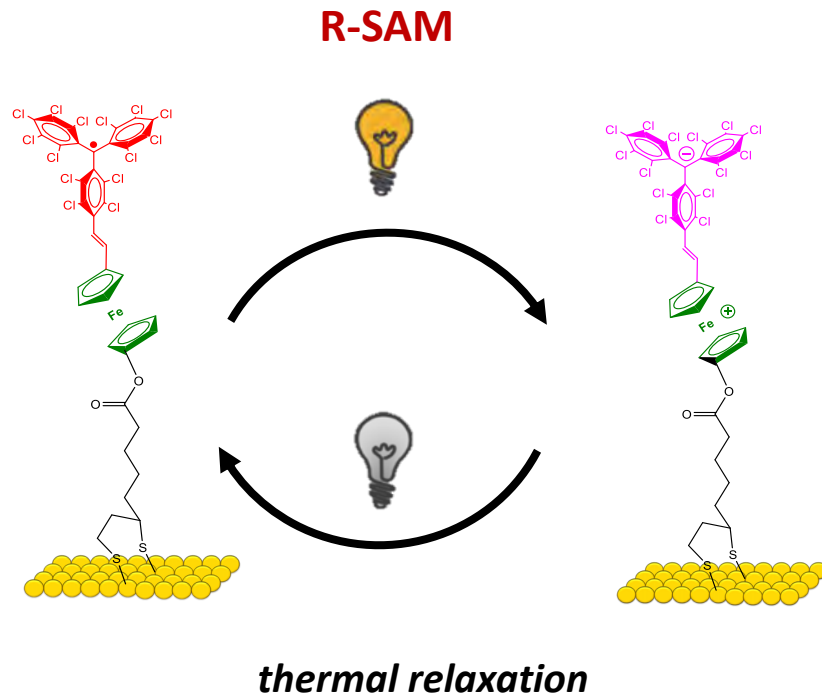


**NR-SAM**



# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Metallic surfaces with photoswitchable work function using a dipolar **Fc- $\pi$ -PTM** radical SAM

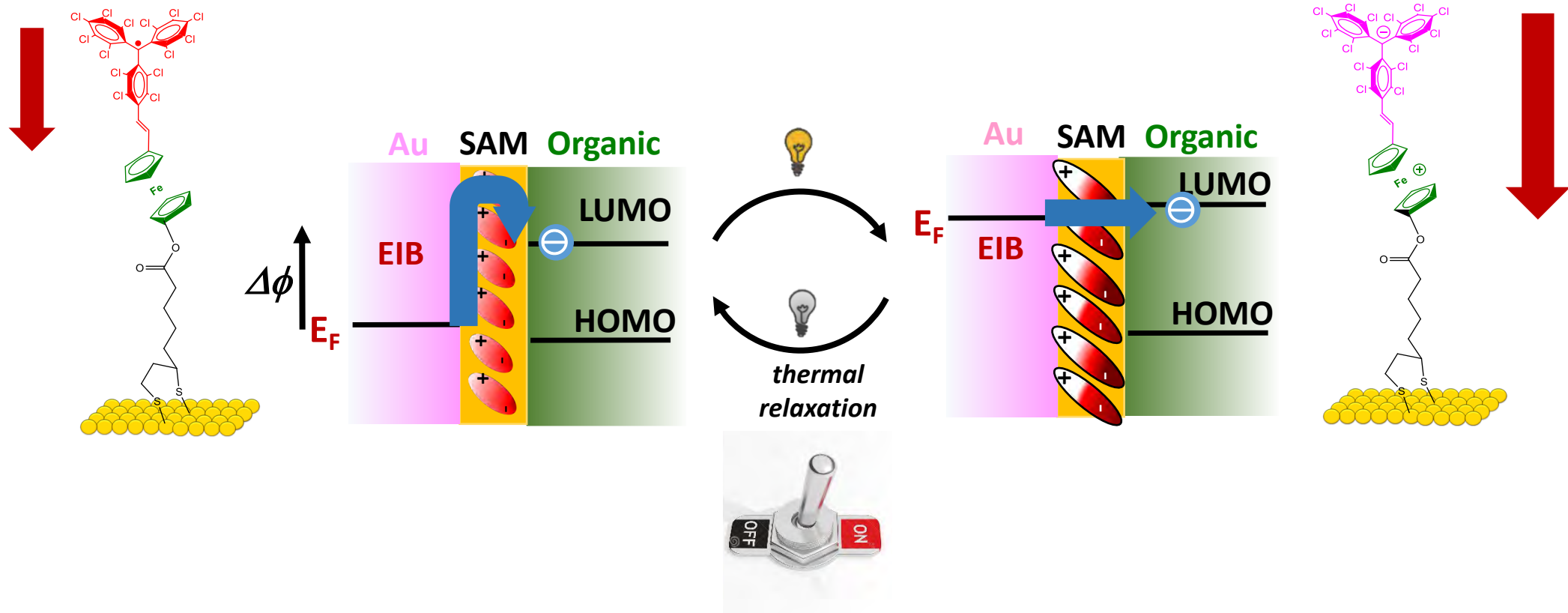


**Reversible photoswitchable work function....**

*Why is interesting this reversible switchability of WFs?*

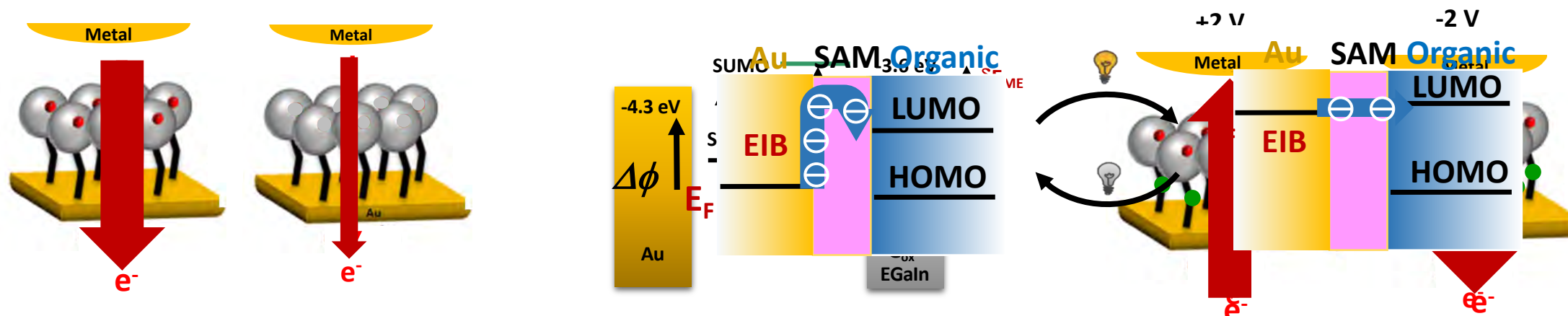
# Possible applications of PTM radical-based materials

## Metallic surfaces with photoswitchable work function using a dipolar **Fc- $\pi$ -PTM** radical SAM



**WORK IN PROGRESS:** Photoswitching of charge injection barriers in organic electronic devices (OFETs, OPVs....) controlling their efficiency...

# Conclusions



- ❑ **Radical SAMs** in junctions are significantly more conducting (two orders of magnitude) than the Non-Radical SAMs.
- ❑ Presence of accessible SOMO orbital close to metal WF enhances the transport of **open-shell (radical) molecules**.
- ❑ Non-radical SAMs with donor units (Fc) show considerable rectification values typical of junctions with electroactive groups energetically and spatially close to the top electrode and separated from the bottom one.
- ❑ Presence of accessible SOMO orbital of radicals, in radical SAMs, even with donor units (Fc), kills the typically expected rectification properties.
- ❑ Metallic surfaces with NIR photoswitchable work functions using dipolar Fc-PTM radical SAMs

# Acknowledgements

## Coworkers (ICMAB)

A. Gómez  
M. Souto  
V. Diaz-Cabanes  
N. Gonzalez-Pato  
J. Guasch  
F. Bejarano  
C. Franco  
P. Mayorga-Burruezo  
A. Kyvik

N. Crivillers  
M. Mas-Torrent  
V. Lloveras  
A. Gómez  
C. Ocal  
I. Ratera  
C. Rovira



## Financial Support



## Collaborations

H.S.J. van der Zant, E. Burzurí (Delft T. U.)  
C.A. Nijhuis, Y. Li (Nat. Singapore Univ.)  
J. Cornil, V. Diez-Cabanes (U. Mons)  
A. Painelli (Parma Univ)





# Acknowledgements

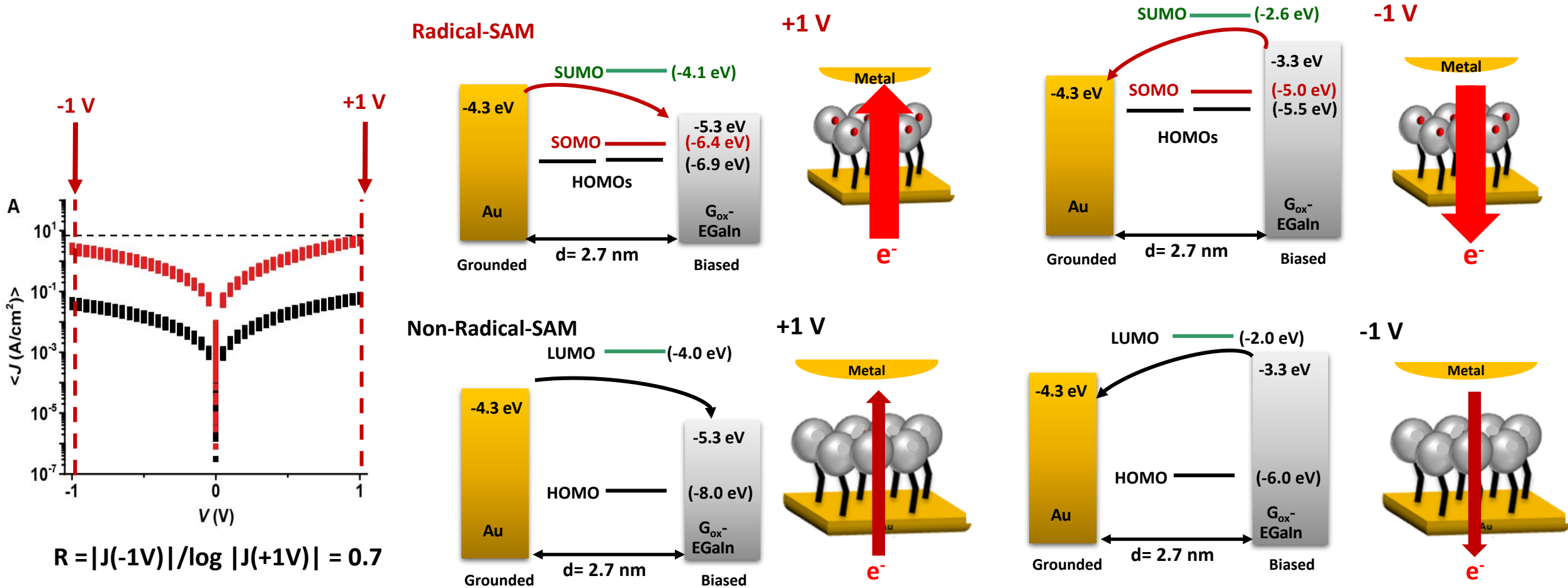


Thanks for you attention.....



# Charge transport through PTM radical molecules anchored to metal surfaces

## Charge transport through organic radicals anchored to metals

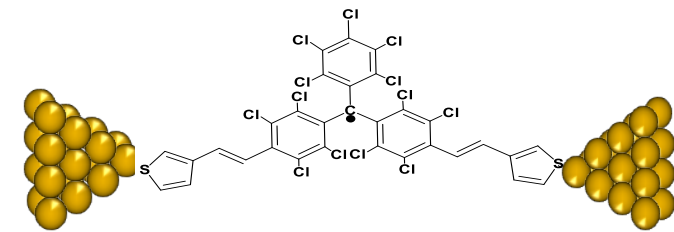
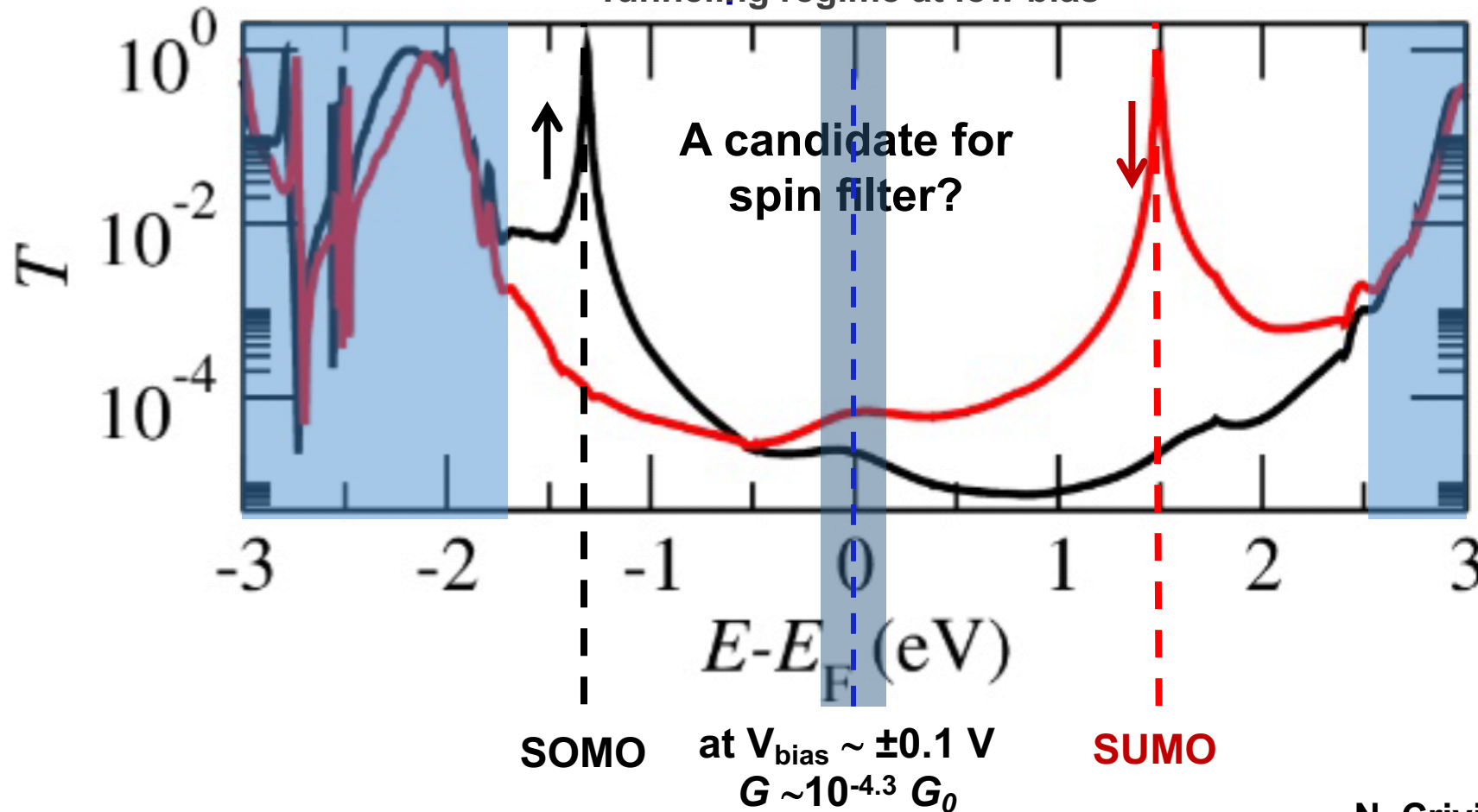


**Radical SAMs in junctions are two orders of magnitude more conducting than Non-Radical SAMs but there is no rectification in both SAMs**

# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Charge/spin transport modelisation through a single PTM radical molecule

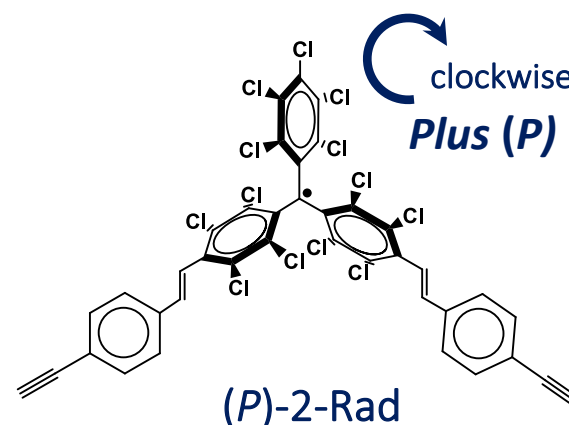
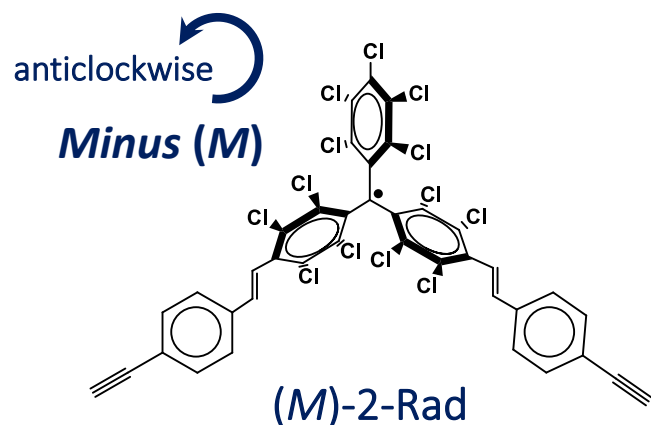
Transmission is unpolarized for energies below -2 eV and above +2.5 eV  
Up-spins transmission due to resonant transport through the filled SOMO level  
Down-spins transmission due to resonance transport through the empty SUMO  
DFT calculations in the tunnelling regime at low bias



DFT-based transport simulations with *Smeagol* code

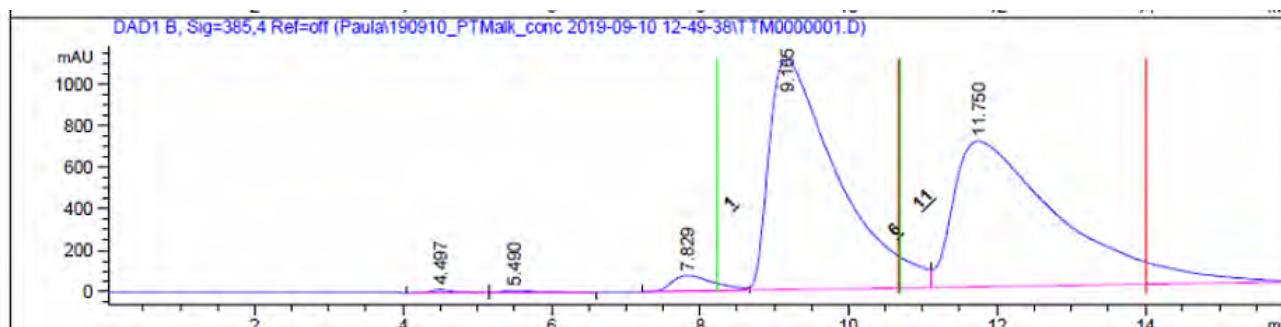
# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Resolution of the racemic mixture of disubstituted 2-Rad PTM radical



“propeller”  
conformation of  
the PTM• moiety

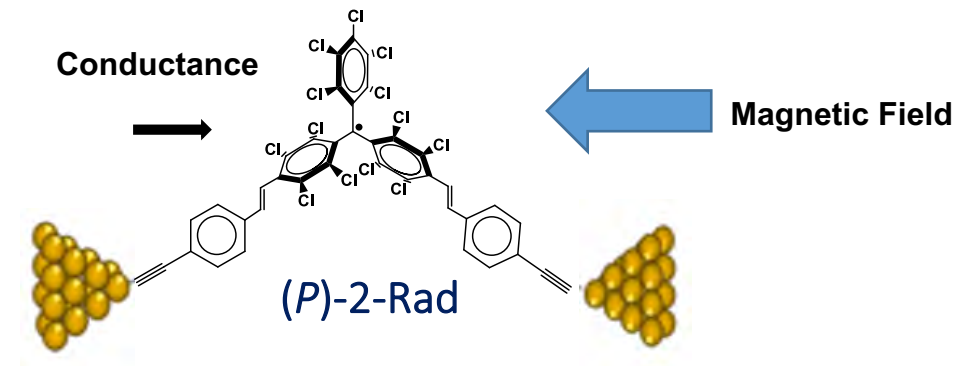
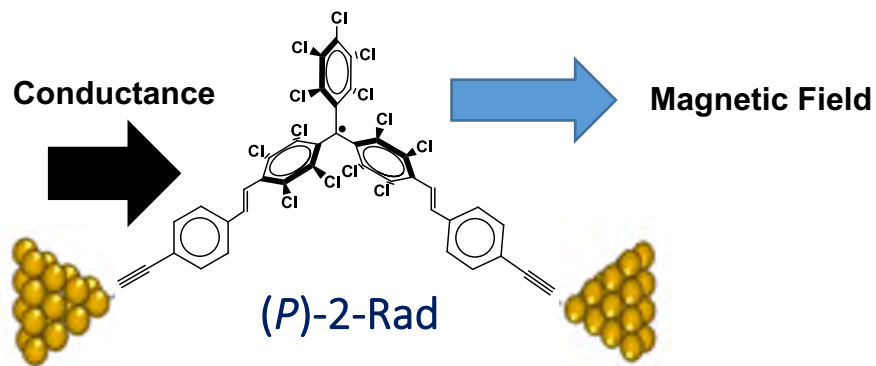
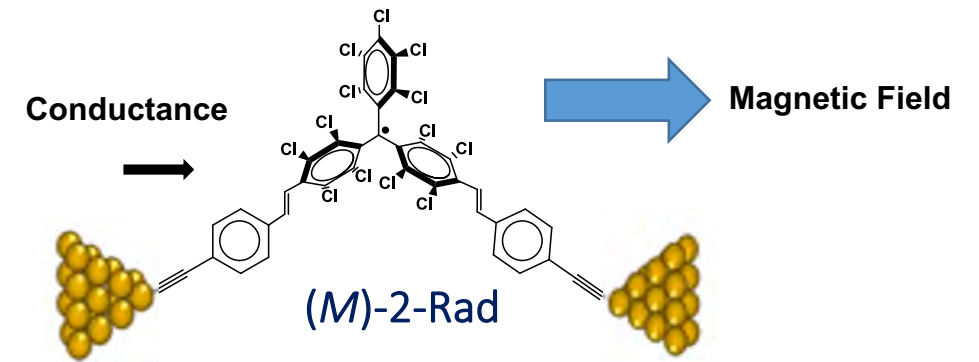
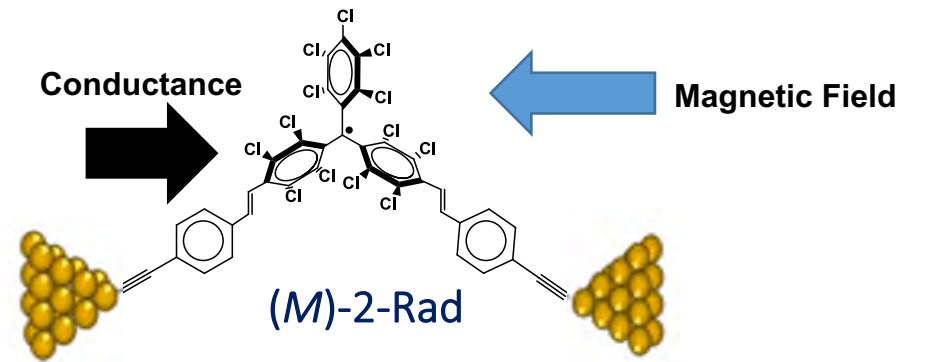
### Chiral stationary phase (CSP) HPLC



After the resolution of the racemic mixture by CSP HPLC, the conductance through the two possible enantiomers can be explored

# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Evaluation of the chiral-induced spin selectivity (CISS) effect using a chiral single radical molecule with EMBJ



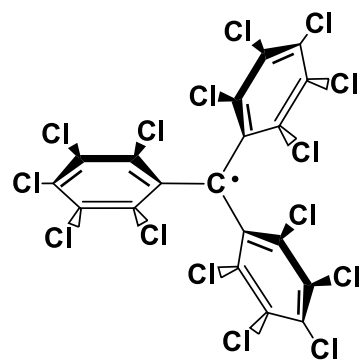


# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Trityl-based radical derivatives with intrinsic chirality

clockwise

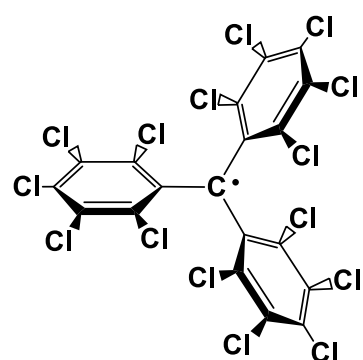
*Plus (P)*



*(P)*-PTM

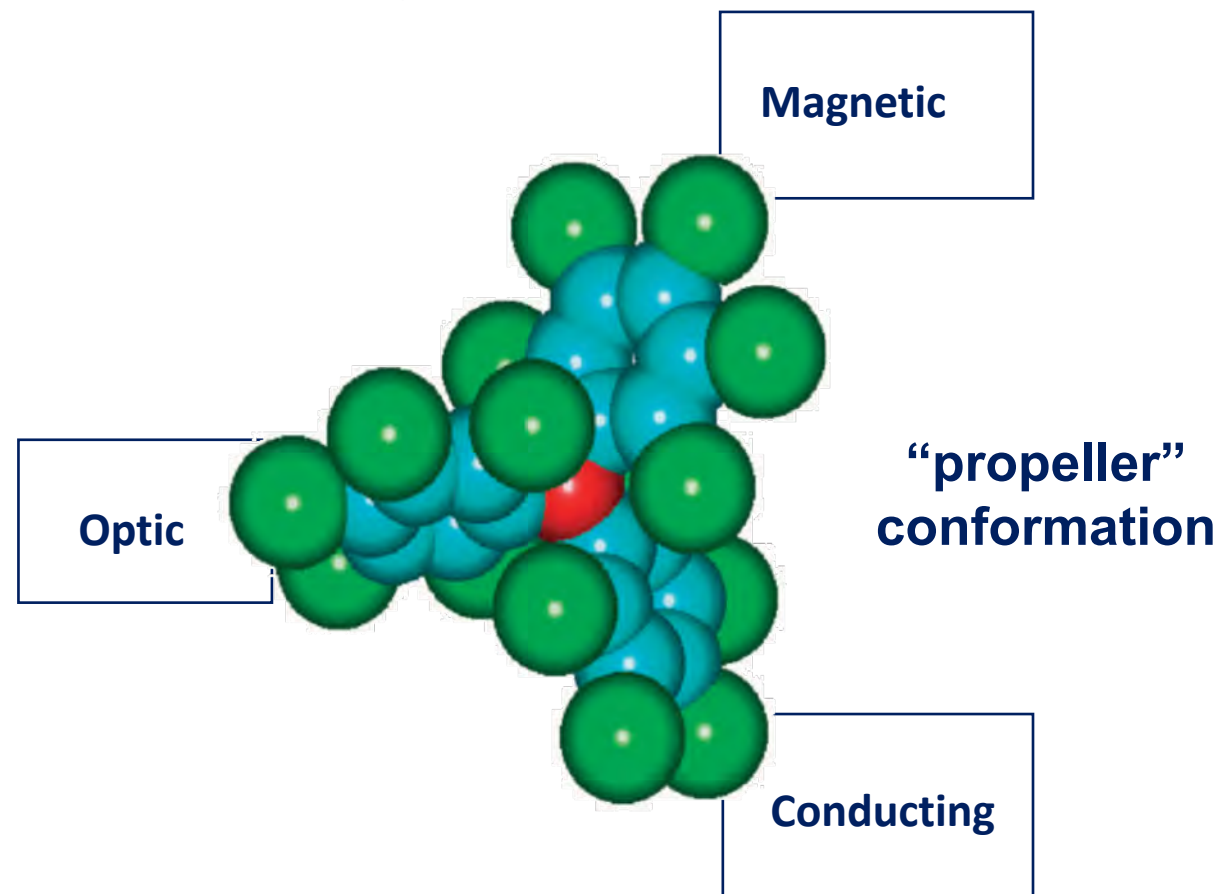
anticlockwise

*Minus (M)*



*(M)*-PTM

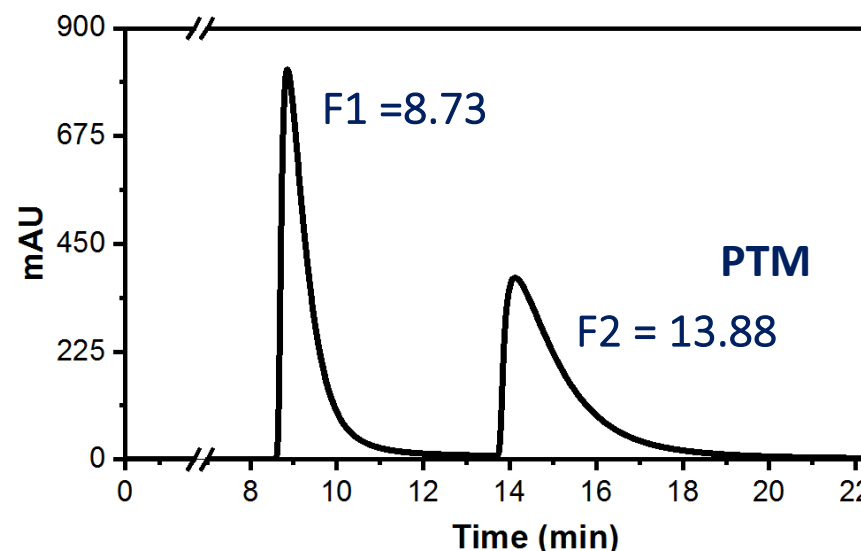
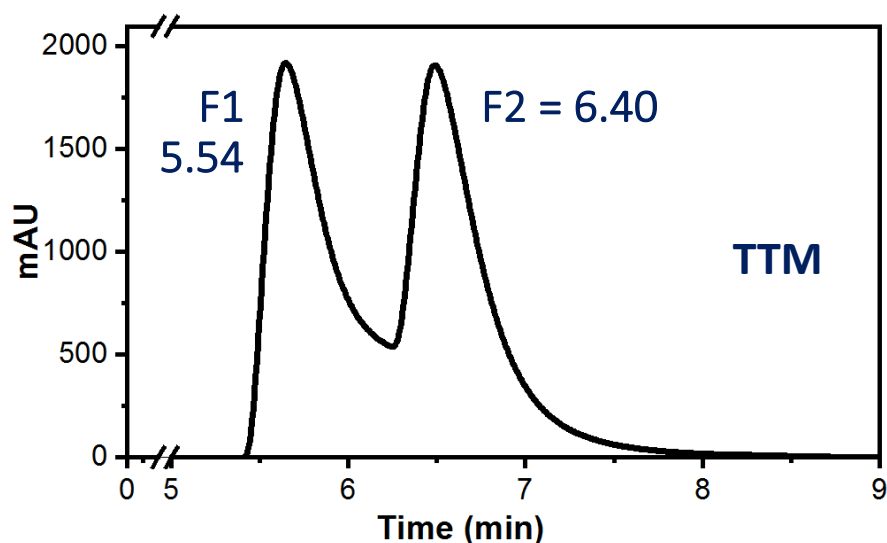
Polychlorotriphenylmethyl (PTM) radical



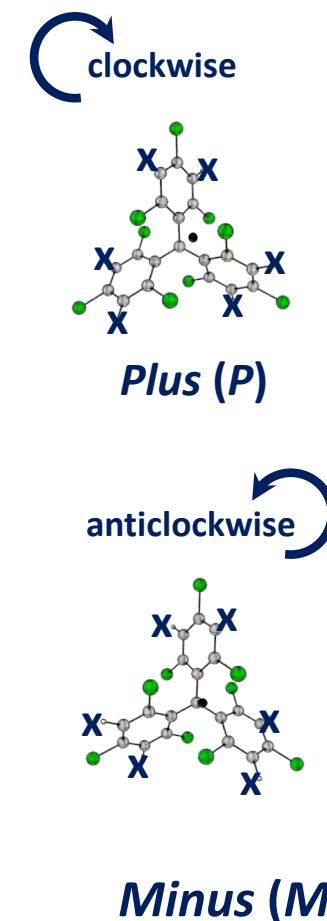


# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Resolution of racemic PTM and TTM radical samples



Chiral stationary phase (CSP) HPLC: Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd. (250 x 4.6 mm, 5  $\mu$ m).  
Sample injection: 200  $\mu$ L in n-hexane ~1 mg/mL. Separation conditions: eluent: n-hexane/DCM (99.9:0.1), flow rate: 1 mL/min, 20  $^{\circ}$ C.



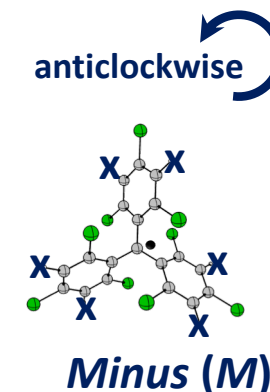
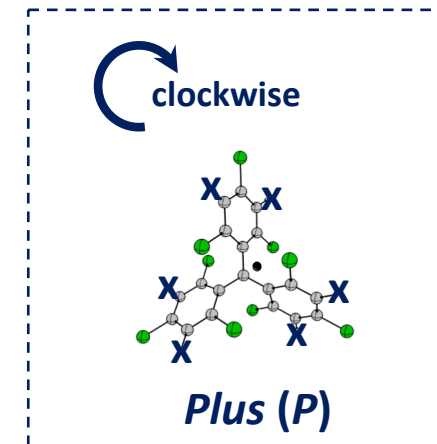
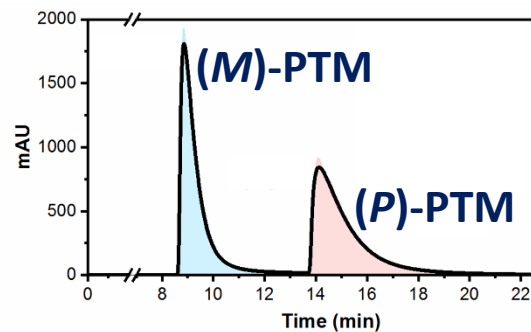
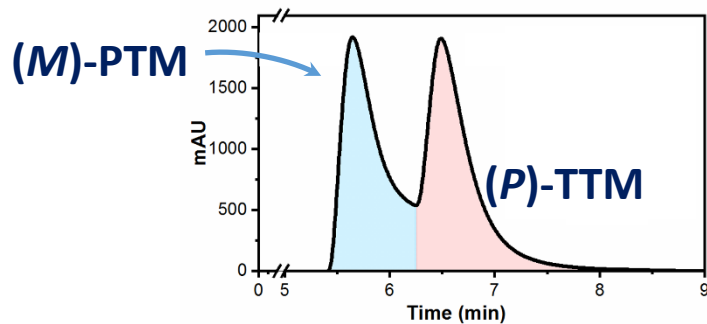
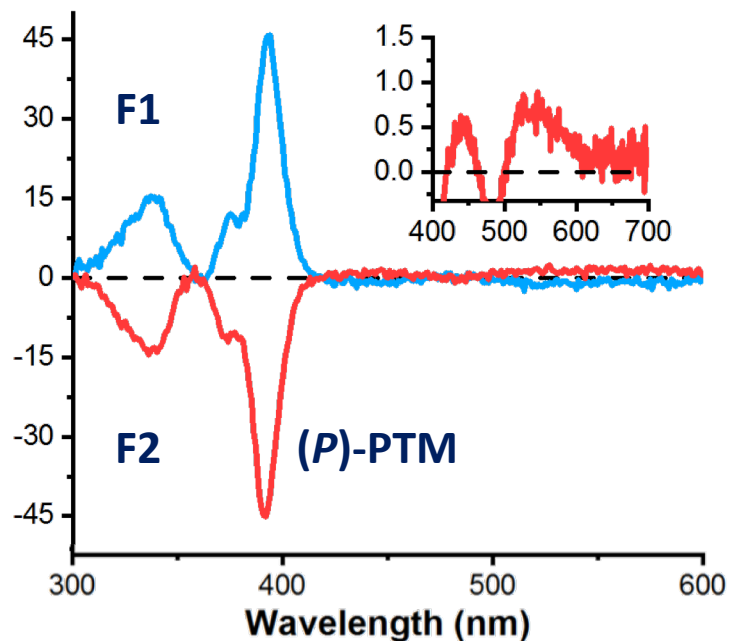
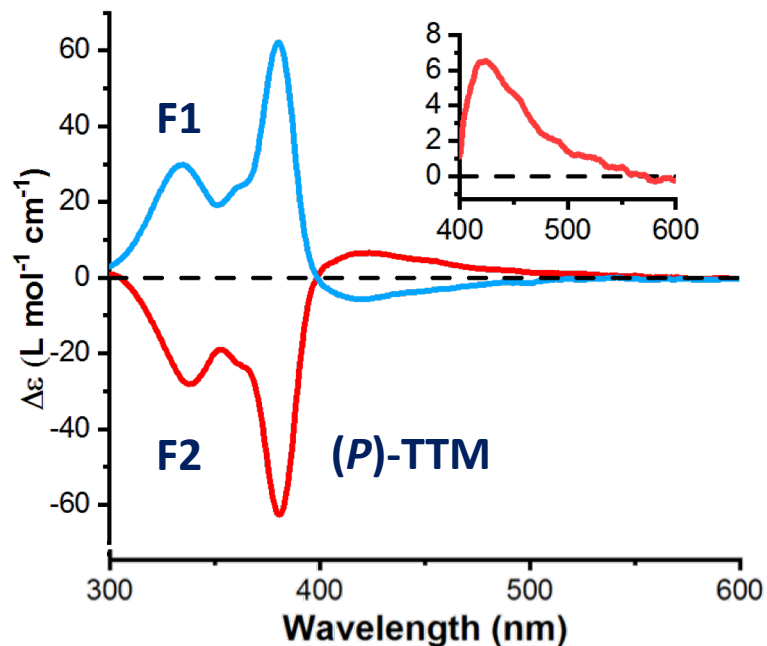
X:

- = chlorine atoms (PTM)
- = hydrogen atoms (TTM)

# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Determination of the absolute configuration of chiral radicals

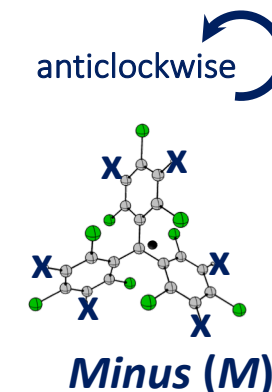
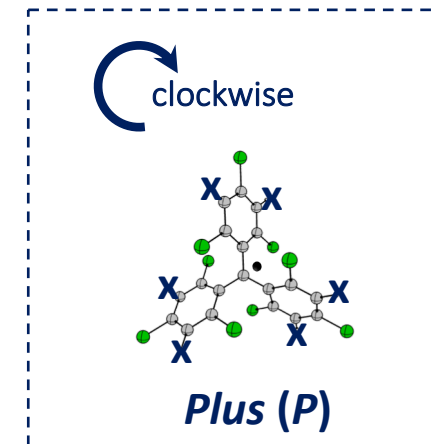
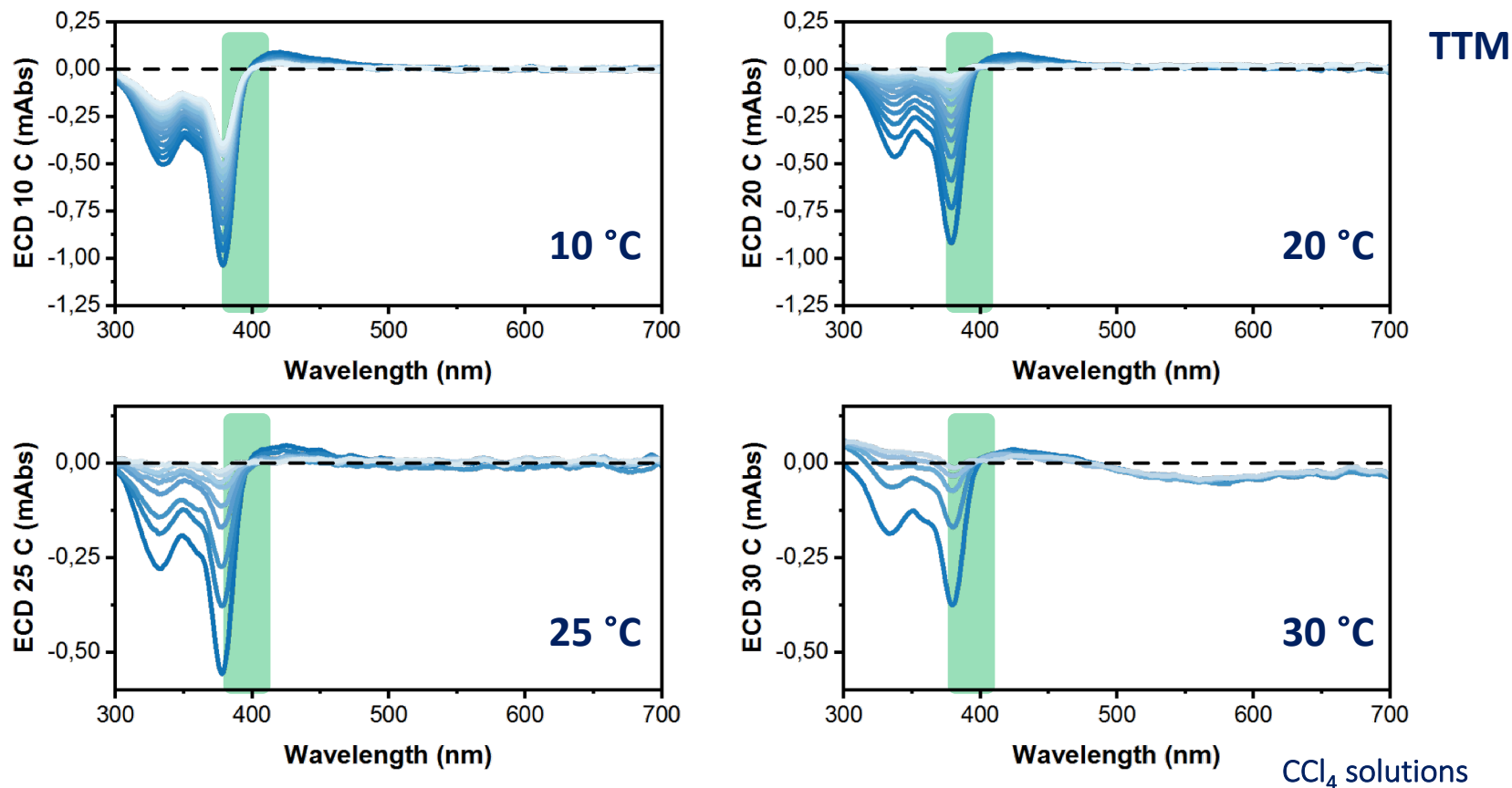
### ELECTRONIC CIRCULAR DICHROISM (ECD) SPECTRA



X: \_\_\_\_\_  
● = chlorine atoms (PTM)  
○ = hydrogen atoms (TTM)

# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Racemization kinetics of enantiopure radical samples



*DYNAMIC (d) ECD signal decays with time at different temperatures*

Racemization energy barriers

|         | $\Delta G_{303K}^{\ddagger}$ (Kcal/mol) | $\Delta H_{303K}^{\ddagger}$ (Kcal/mol) |
|---------|---|---|
| (P)-TTM | 21.12                                   | 1.77                                    |
| (P)-PTM | 22.36                                   | 1.92                                    |

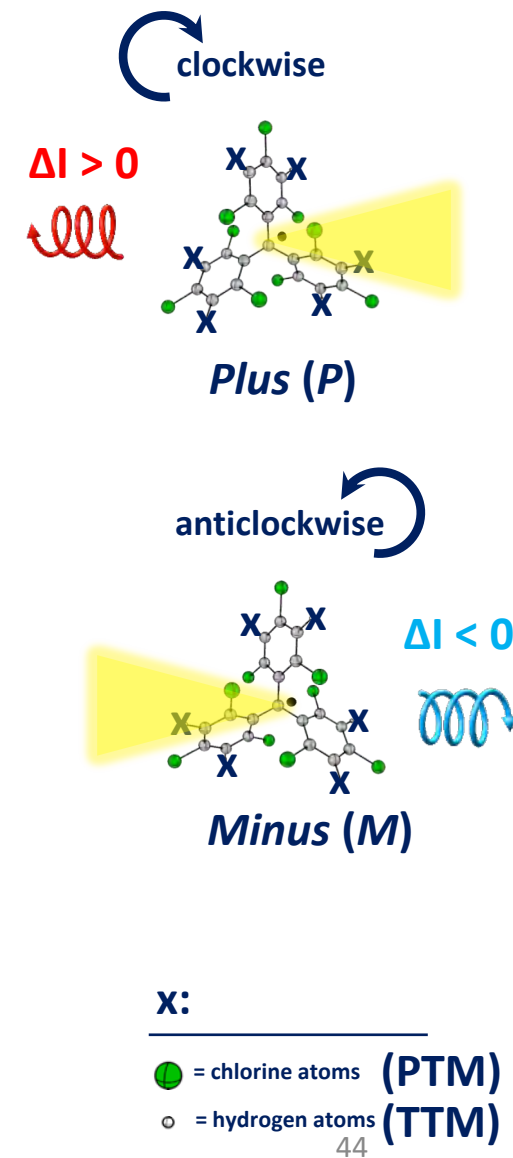
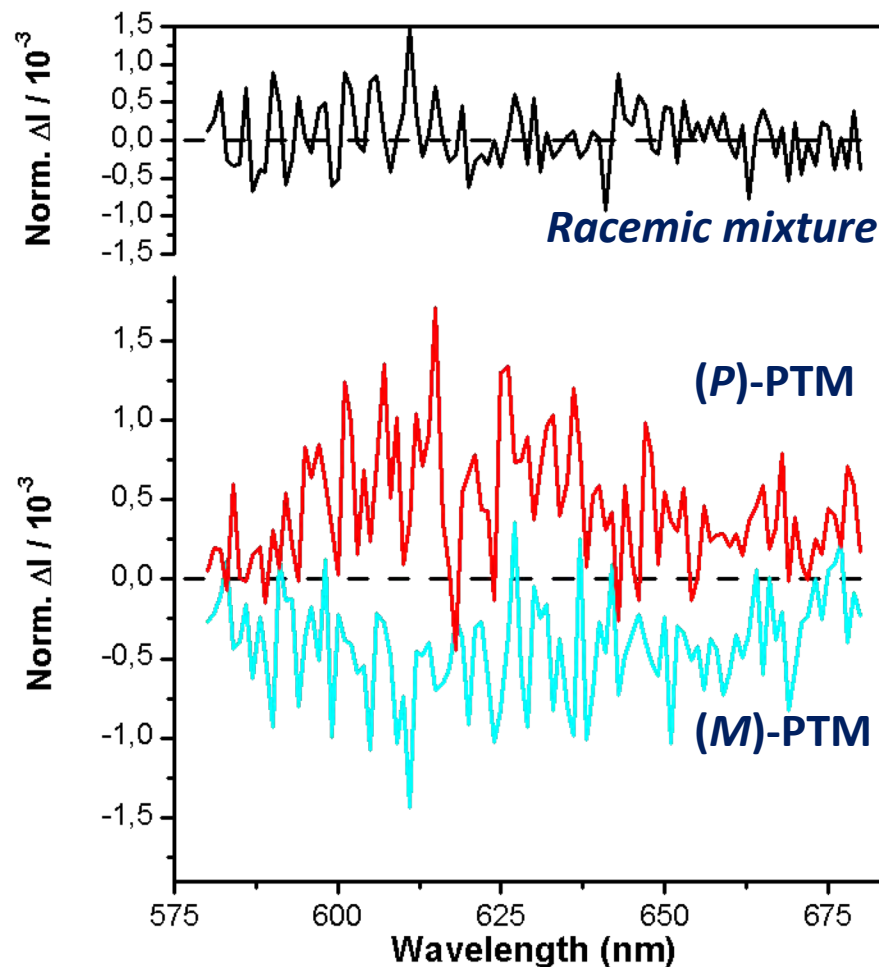
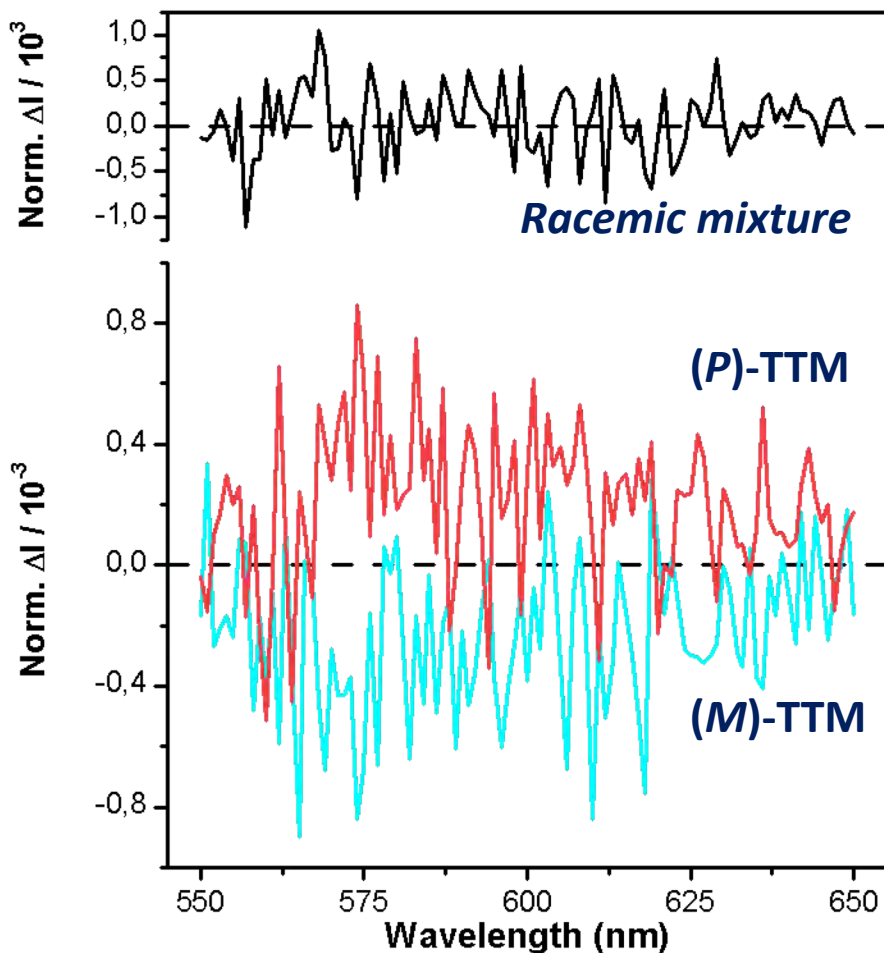
X:

- = chlorine atoms (PTM)
- = hydrogen atoms (TTM)

# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

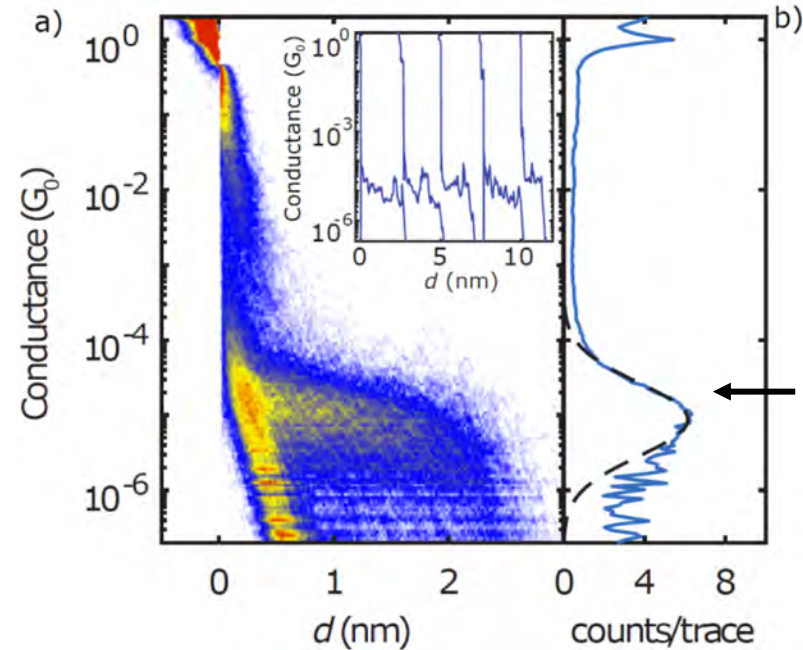
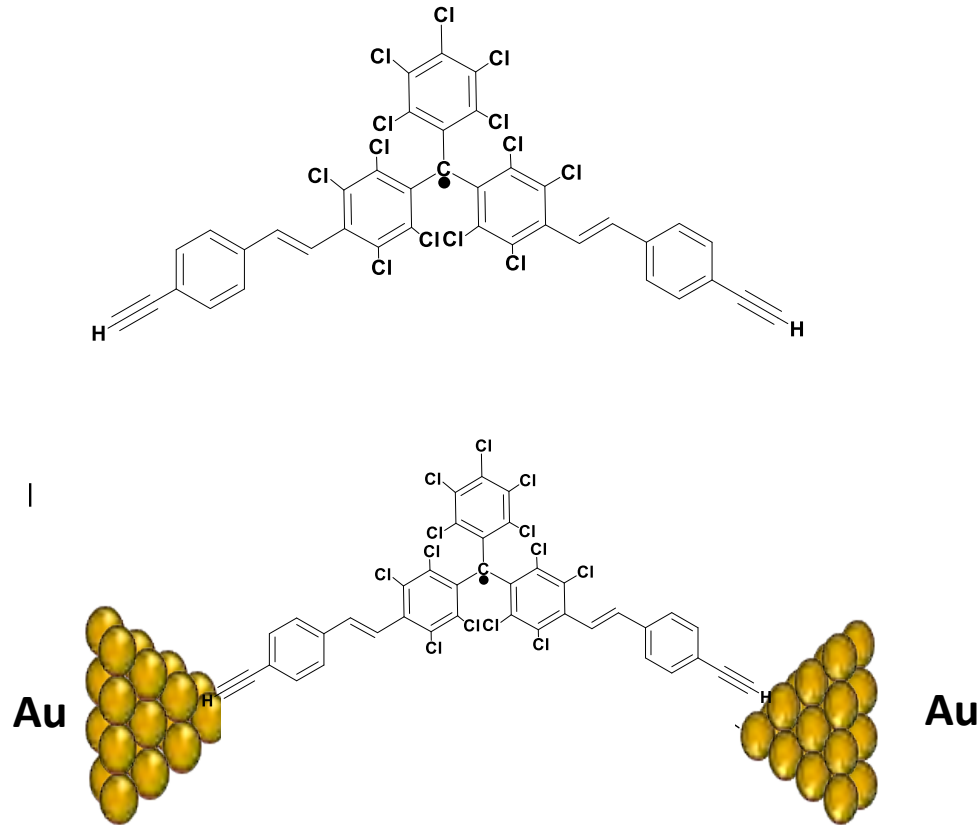
## Evaluation of the Circularly Polarized Luminescence (CPL) activity

$\text{CCl}_4$  solutions,  $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$



# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

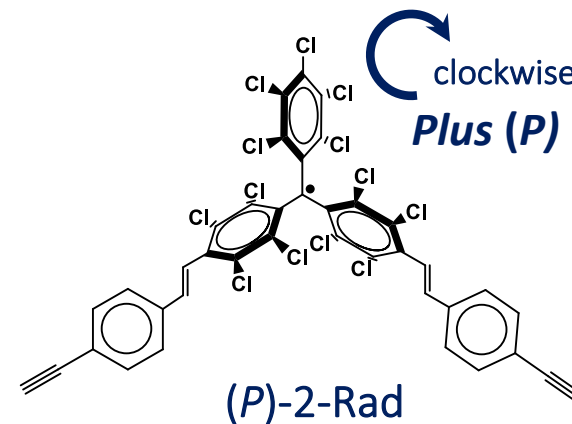
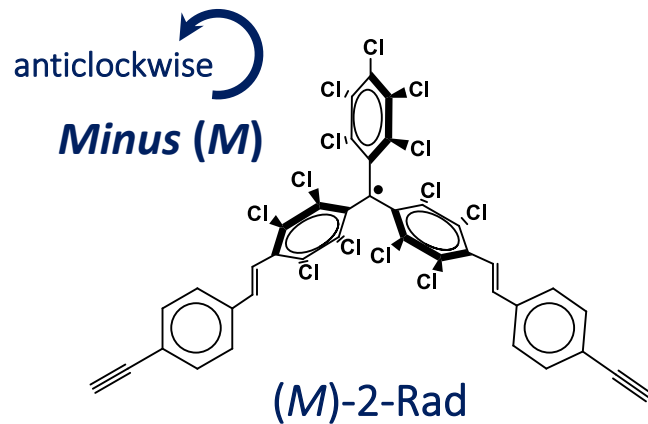
## Transport through a single PTM radical molecule



In collaboration with H.S.J. van der Zant (Delft Univ. Tech)

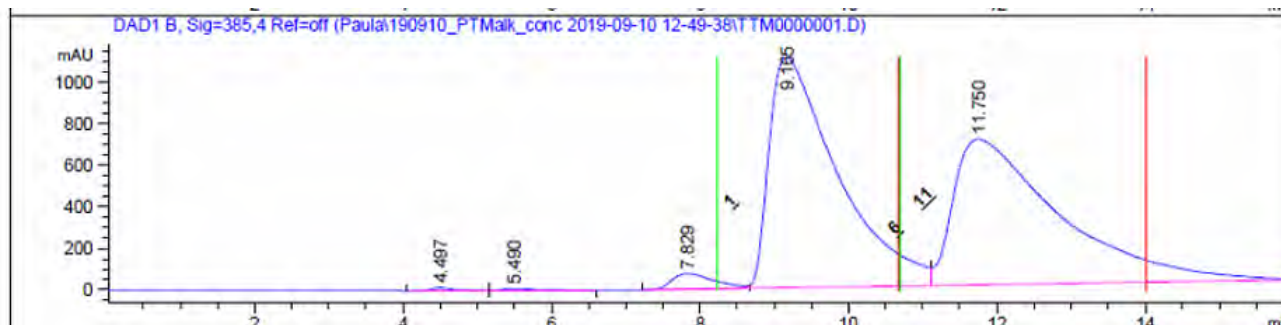
# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Resolution of the racemic mixture of disubstituted 2-Rad PTM radical



“propeller”  
conformation of  
the PTM• moiety

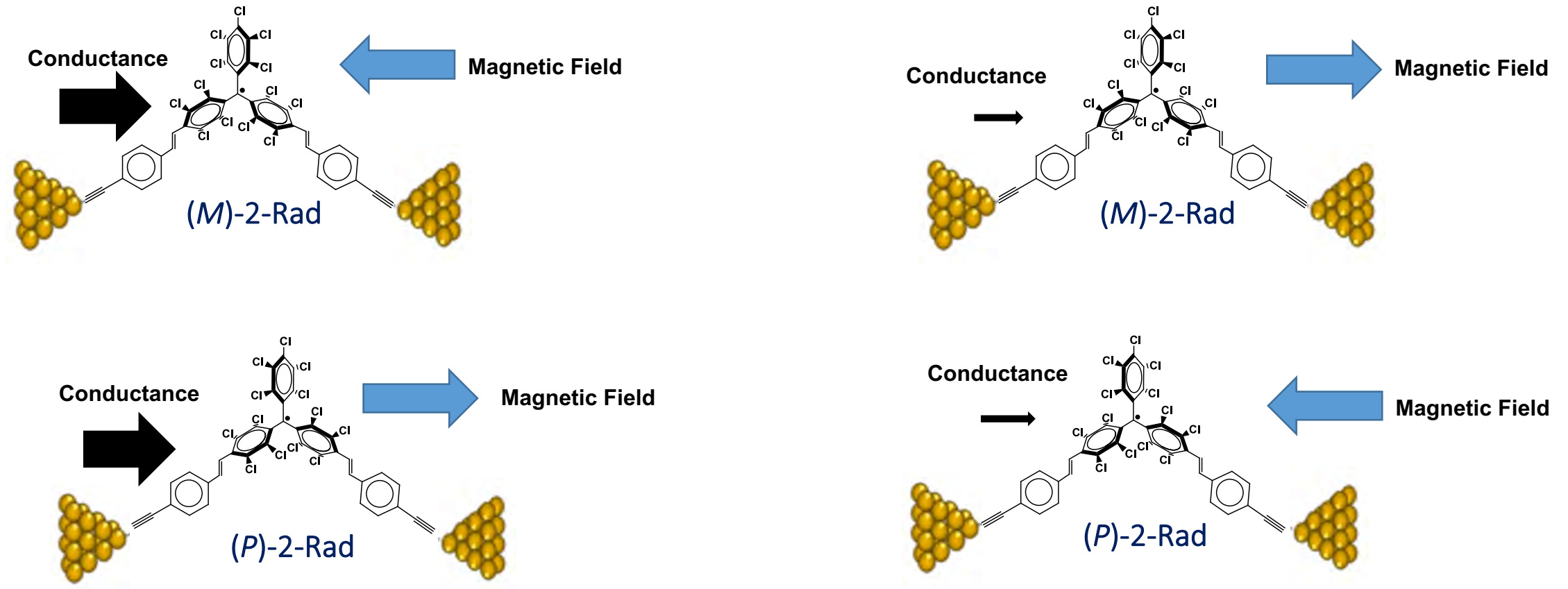
### Chiral stationary phase (CSP) HPLC



After the resolution of the racemic mixture by CSP HPLC, the conductance through the two possible enantiomers can be explored

# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

## Evaluation of the chiral-induced spin selectivity (CISS) effect using a chiral single radical molecule with EMBJ

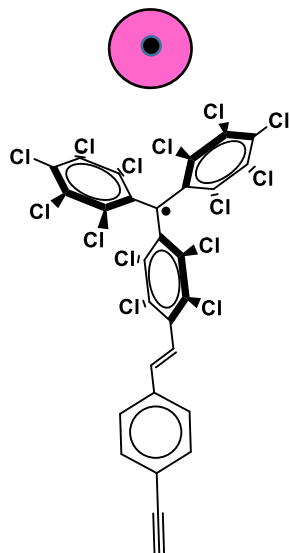




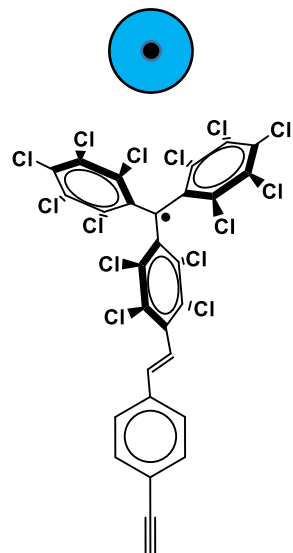


# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

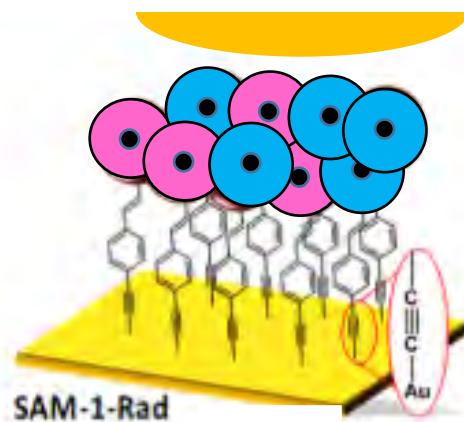
## Transport through a racemic PTM radical SAM



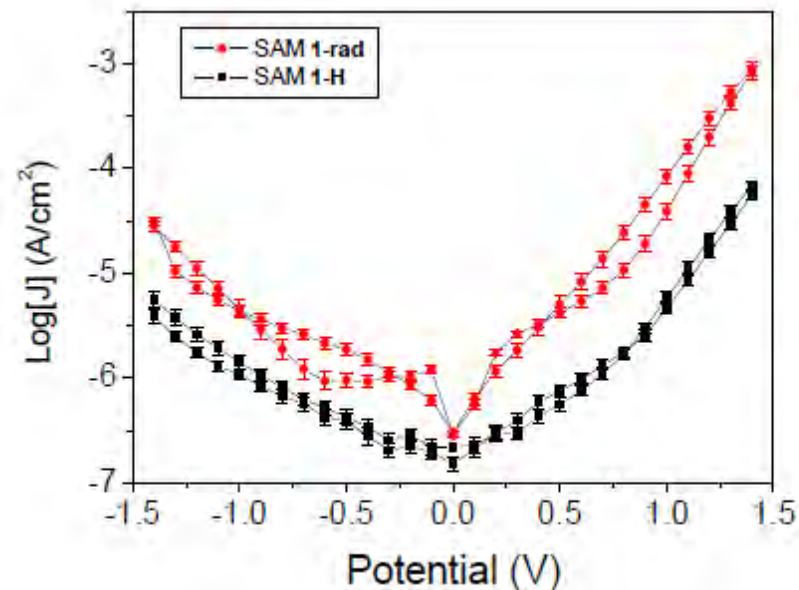
(P)-1-Rad



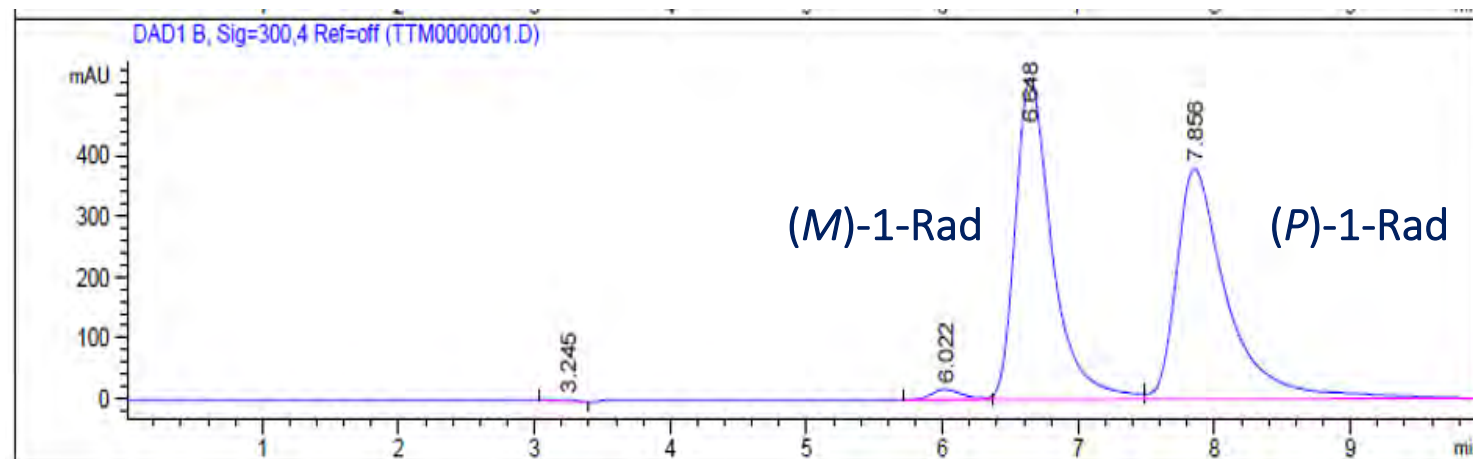
(M)-1-Rad



SAM with racemic mixture of radicals

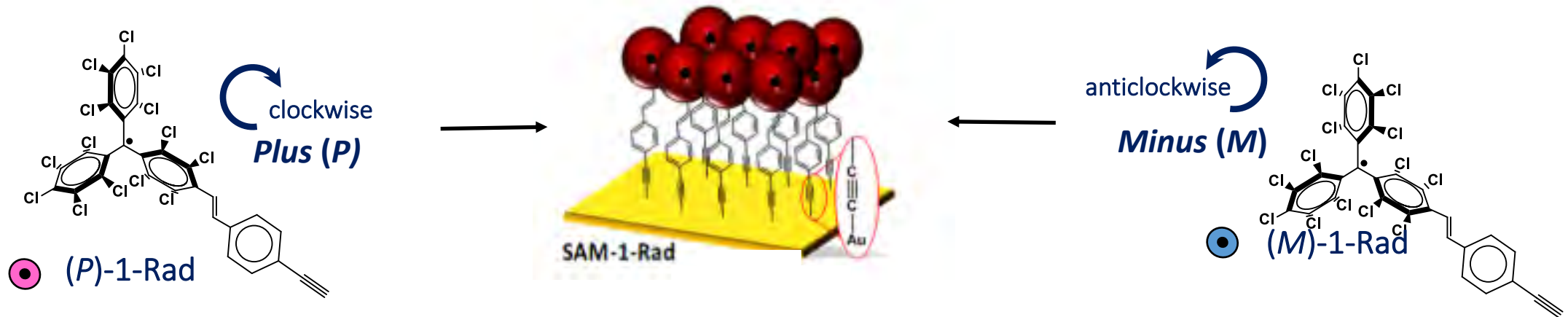


Resolution of the racemic mixture of 1-Rad by CSP HPLC.

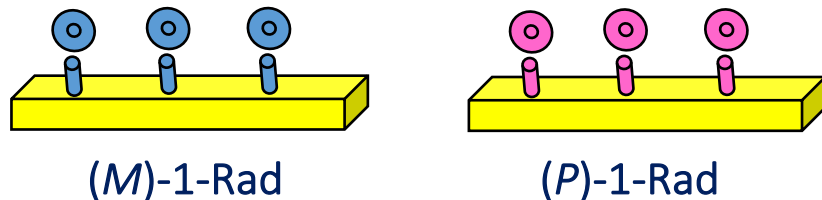


# Spin filtration with intrinsic chiral organic radical-based materials due to CISS effect

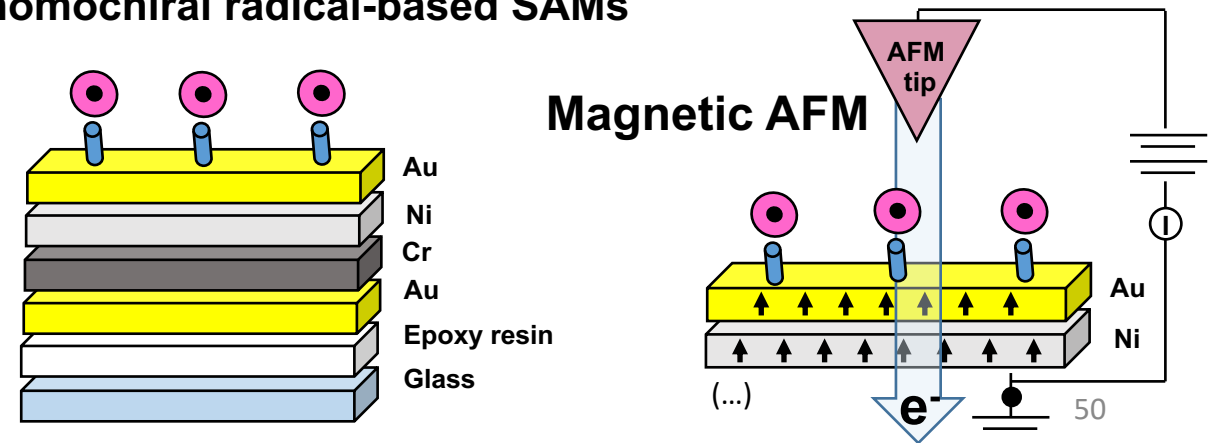
## Chiral-induced spin selectivity (CISS) effect with a homoquiral radical Self Assembled Monolayer



(1) Preparation of magnetically active homochiral SAMs for the evaluation of the chiral-induced spin selectivity (CISS) effect with a radical SAM.

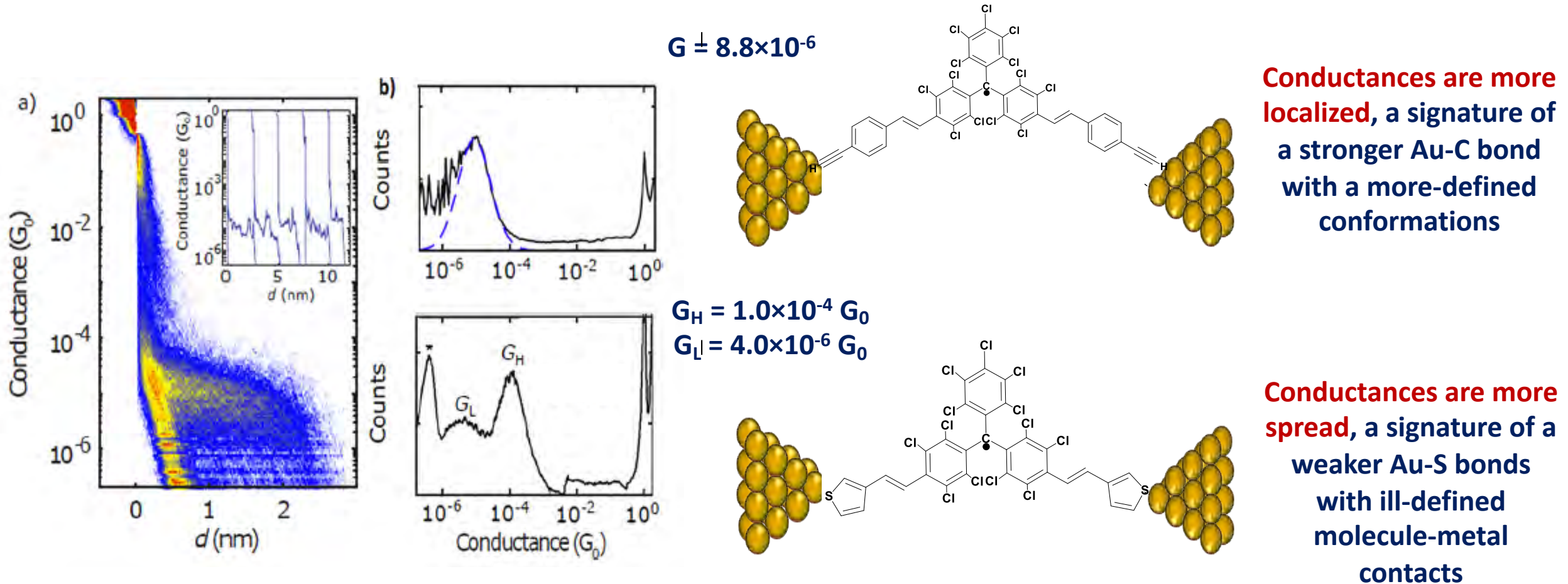


(2) The transmission of spin orientations at r.t. through homochiral radical-based SAMs



# Electrical properties of PTM radical-based materials

## Molecule/electrode contact dependance of transport through single PTM radical molecules



*$\sigma$  Au-C bonds are more robust and have less variability in conductance values  $\mu$*