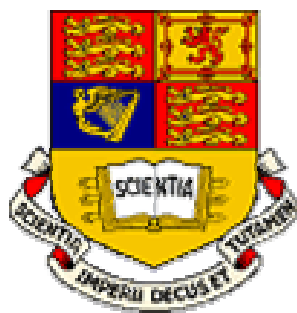


Supramolecular Chemistry of Nanomaterials

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Ramon Vilar

Lecture 5 – Molecular Switches



Department of Chemistry
**Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine**

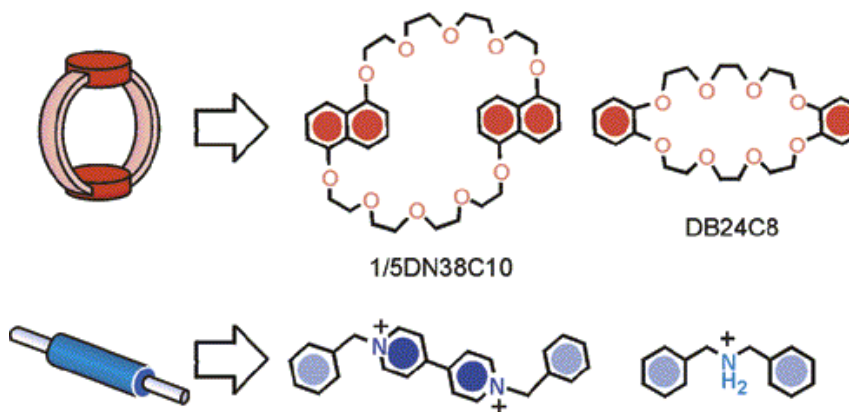
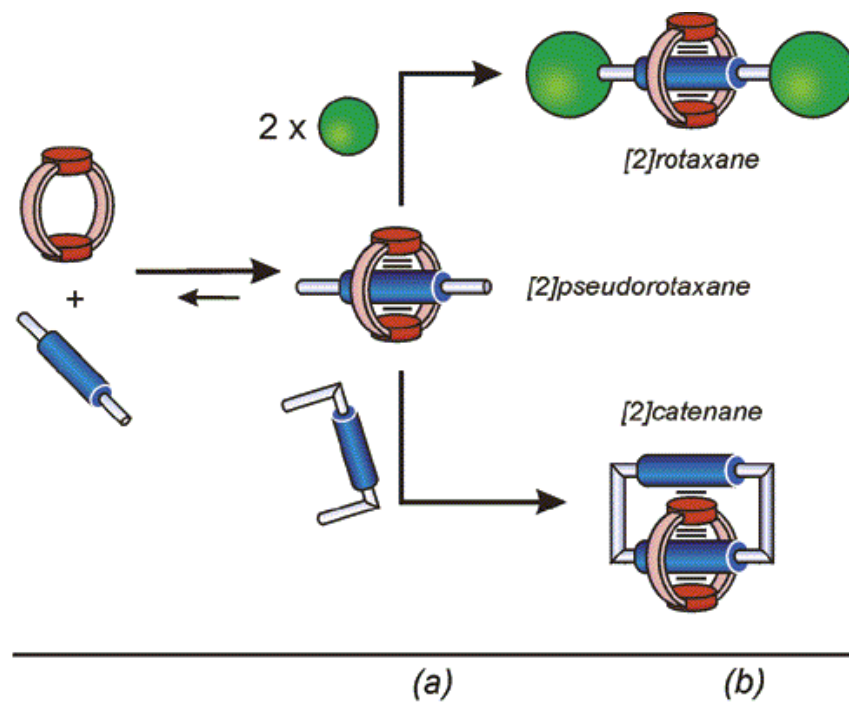
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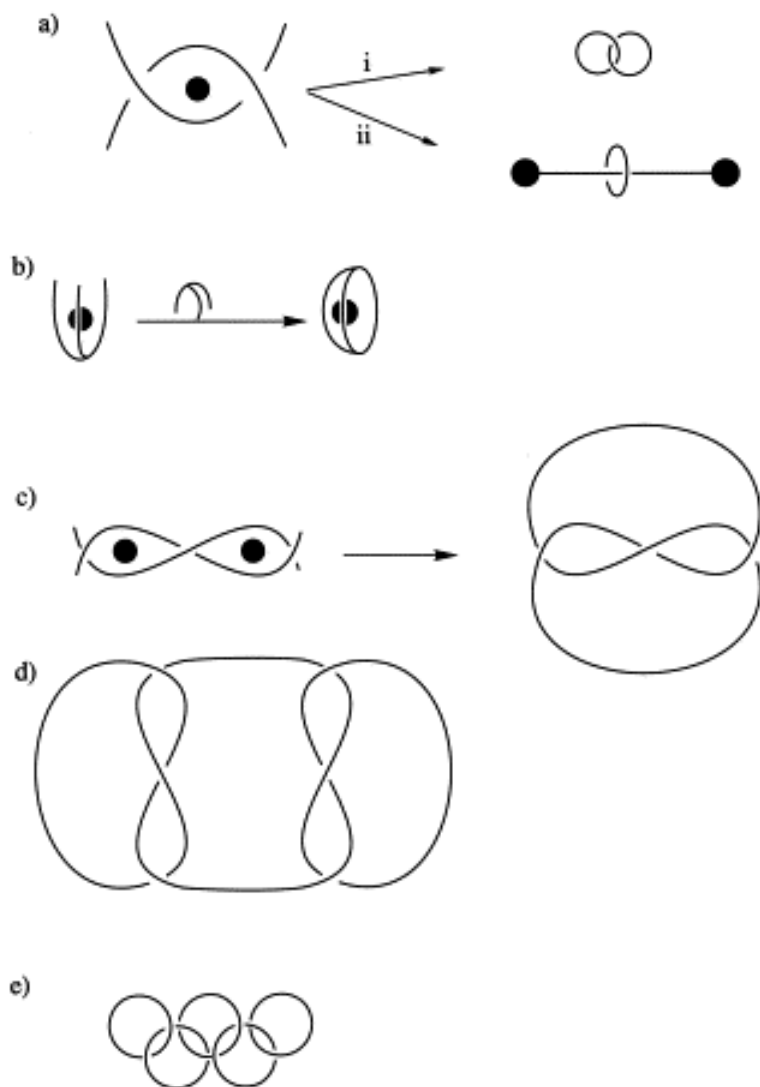
Synthesis of rotaxanes/catenanes

Pictorial representation of the self-assembly of pseudorotaxanes based on

- (a) CT and C-H \cdots O hydrogen-bonding interactions and
- (b) N $^+$ -H \cdots O hydrogen-bonding interactions. A possible route toward the synthesis of rotaxanes and catenanes is also indicated.



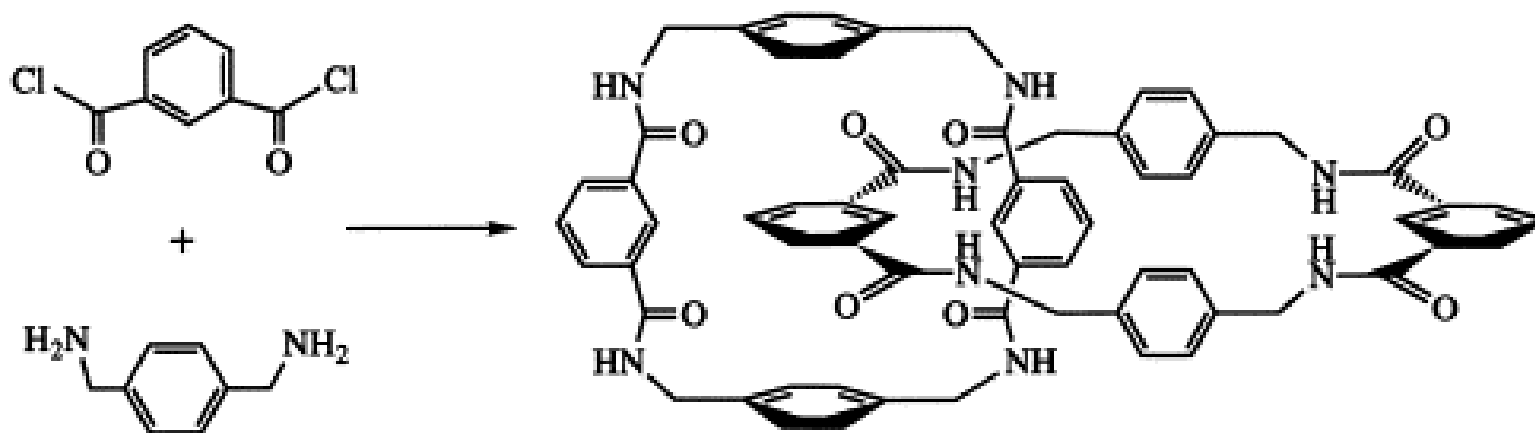
“Crossovers” - Interlocking



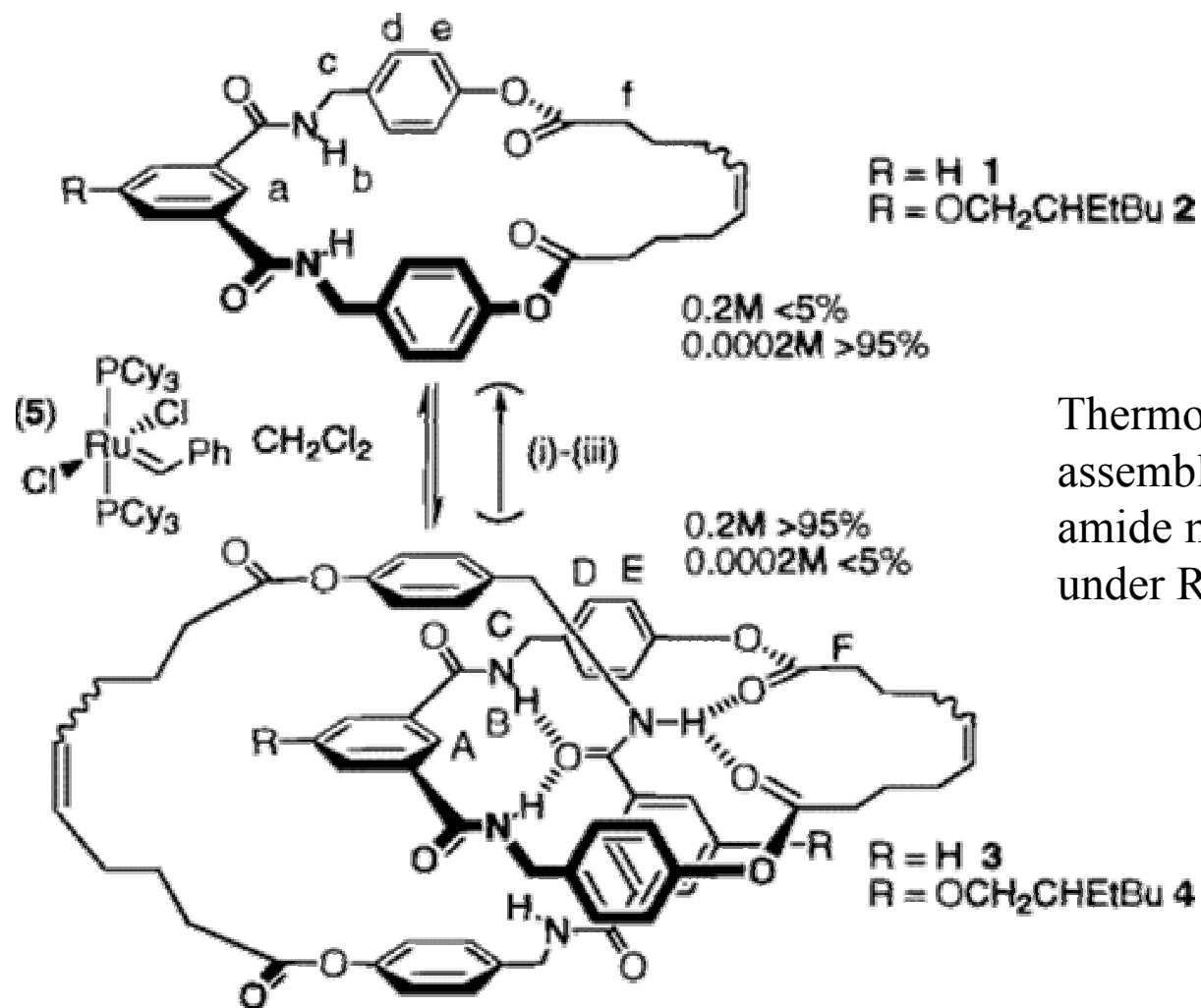
- (a) A simple cross-over gives (i) a catenane upon two ring closures or (ii) a rotaxane upon one ring closure and blocking
- (b) a fused turn can be used for macrobicycle syntheses
- (c) use of two anchors and ditopic turns to form a trefoil knot
- (d) a composite knot from two two-anchor templates
- (e) an oligocatenane resulting from multiple cross-overs on the same anchor.

Hydrogen Bonding in Catenane Formation

- Leigh's simple and flexible synthesis of amide [2]-catenanes.



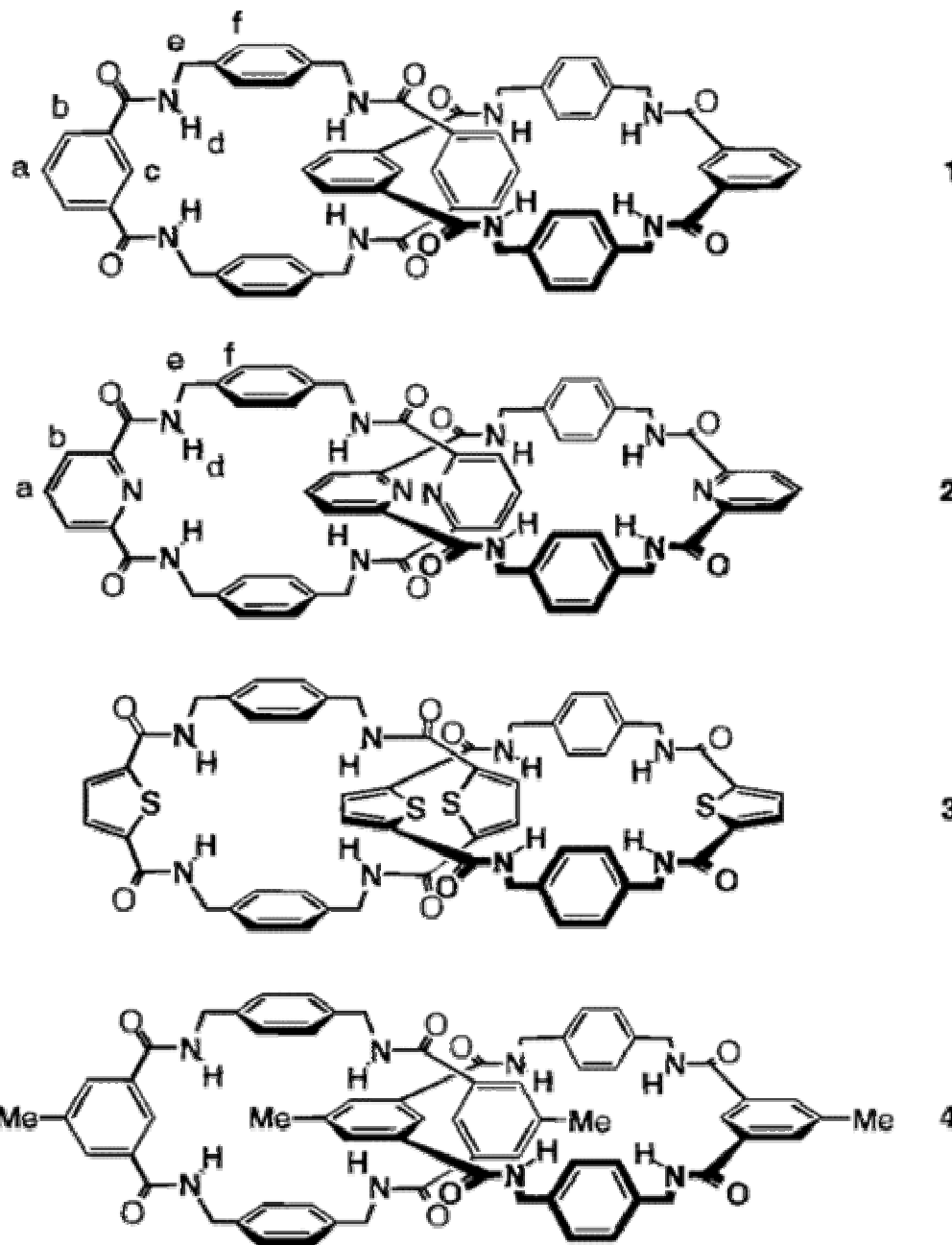
Magic Rings



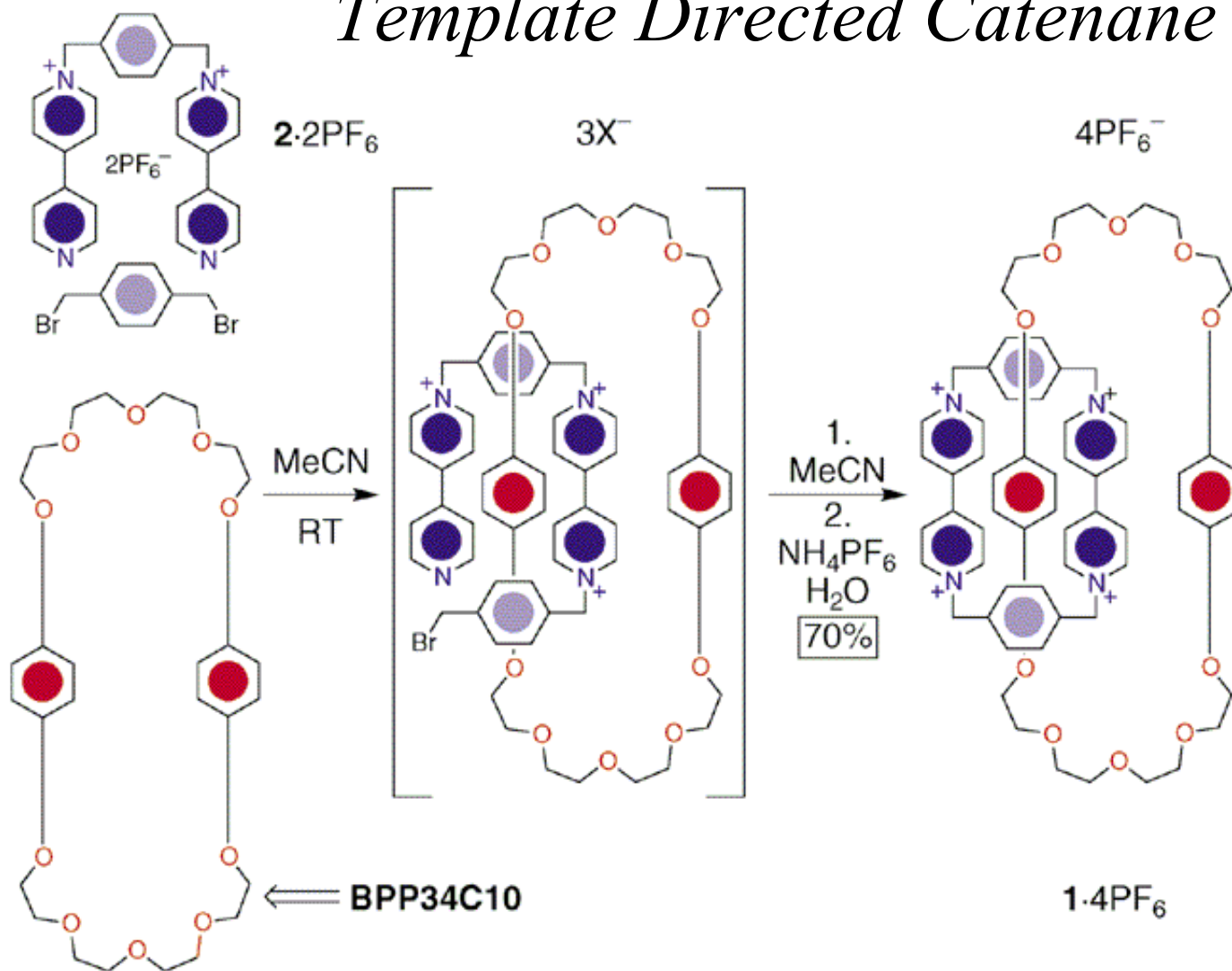
Thermodynamically controlled self-assembly / disassembly of benzylic amide macrocycles and [2]catenanes under RORCM (>95% yield).

Circumrotation

Solvent effects and structural modifications can induce large variations in the rate of circumrotation of benzylic amide catenanes (which can range from the submicro-second time scale (e.g., thiophene catenane **3** at elevated temperatures in polar solvents) to many hours to achieve a single circum-rotation (e.g., pyridine catenane **2** at low temperatures in nonpolar solvents)) allowing tremendous control over the kinetics of a mechanically interlocked molecular system.



Template Directed Catenane Synthesis

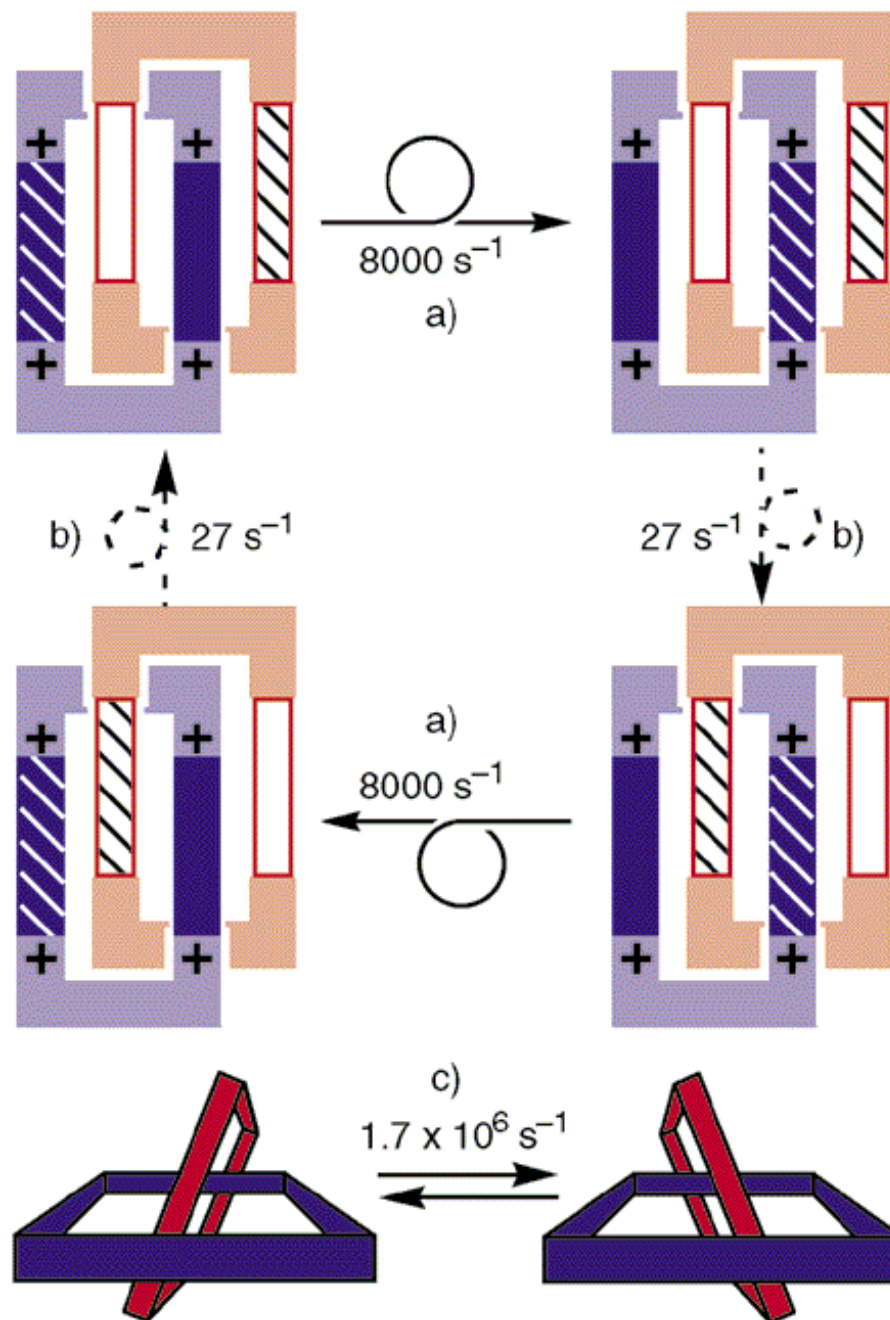


- Template-directed synthesis of the [2]catenane **1·4PF₆**. The key step is the spontaneous threading through BPP34C10 of the tricationic intermediate, formed when **2·2PF₆** reacts with *p*-xylylene dibromide. This supramolecular assistance is followed by covalent modification and counterion exchange to give **1·4PF₆**.

Catenane Kinetics

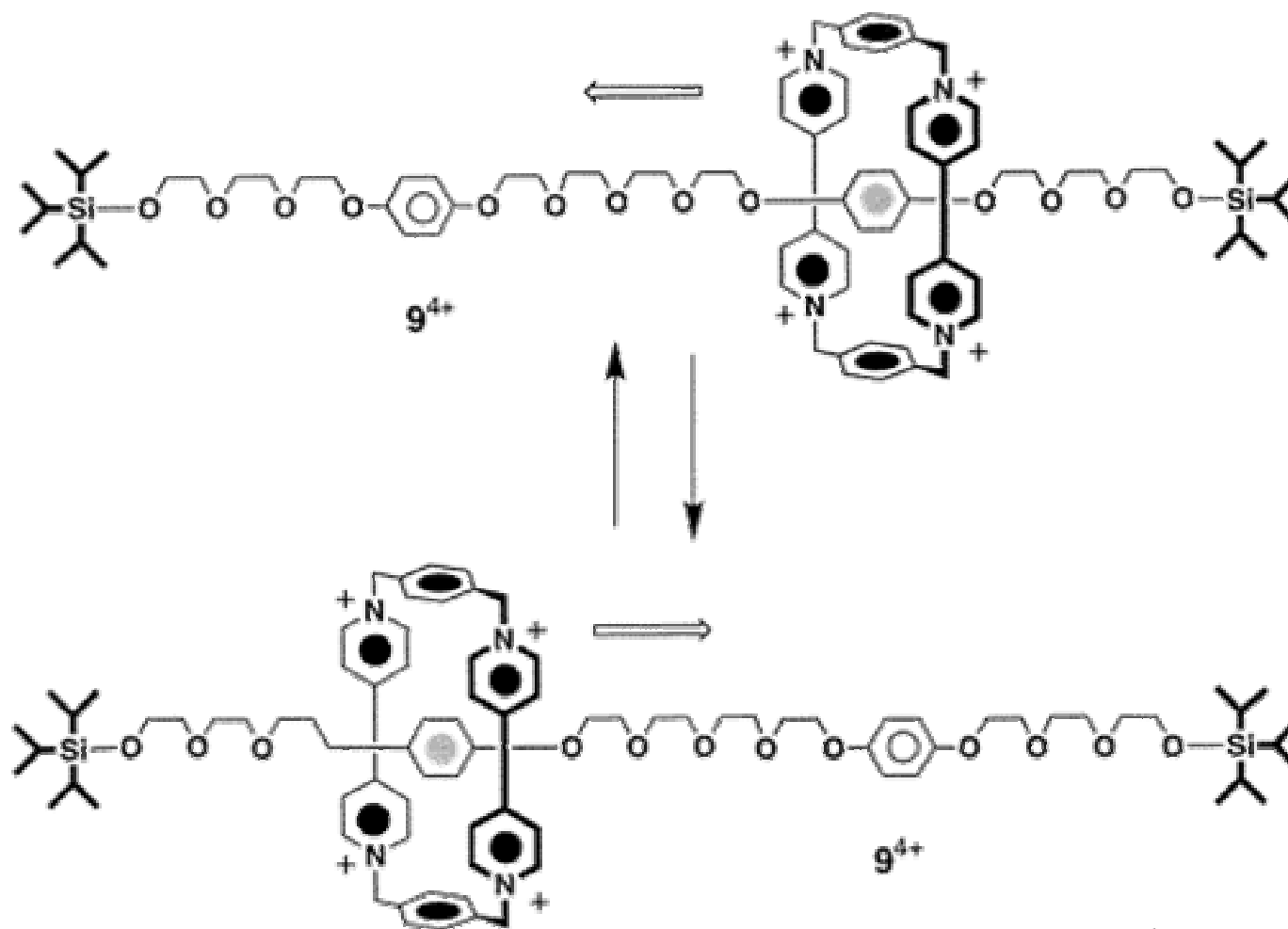
Three different degenerate co-conformational processes observed in temperature-dependent ^1H NMR spectra of the [2]catenane $\mathbf{1}^{4+}$:

- (a) circumrotation of CBPQT $^{4+}$ through BPP34C10;
- (b) circumrotation of BPP34C10 through CBPQT $^{4+}$; and
- (c) rocking of BPP34C10 within CBPQT $^{4+}$. The rates of these processes at room temperature are shown.



First Molecular Shuttle

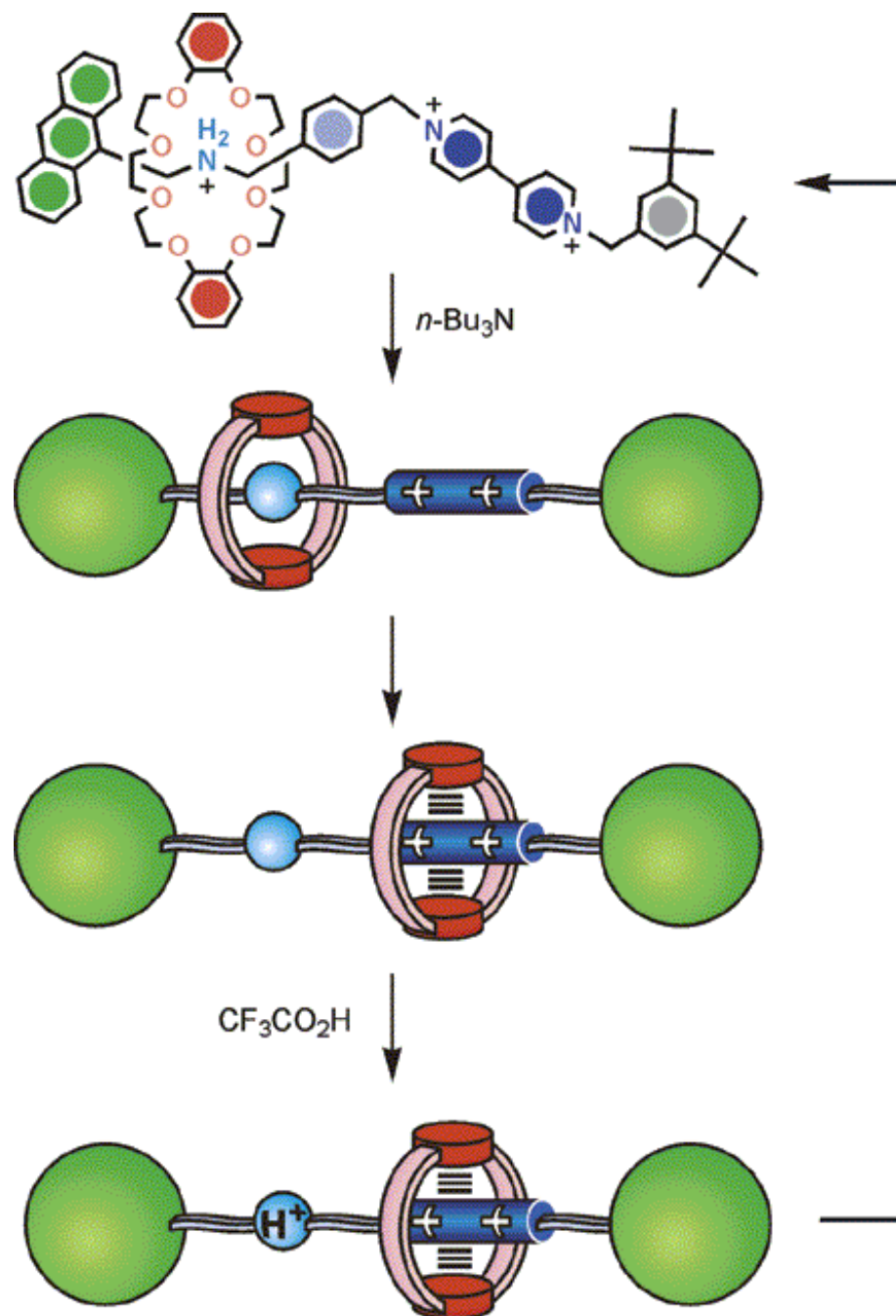
- The first molecular shuttle



Molecular Switches

- Rotaxanes

A chemically controllable molecular shuttle: the ring can be switched between the two "stations" of the dumbbell component by base/acid "inputs".



Logic Operations – Rotaxanes and Catenanes

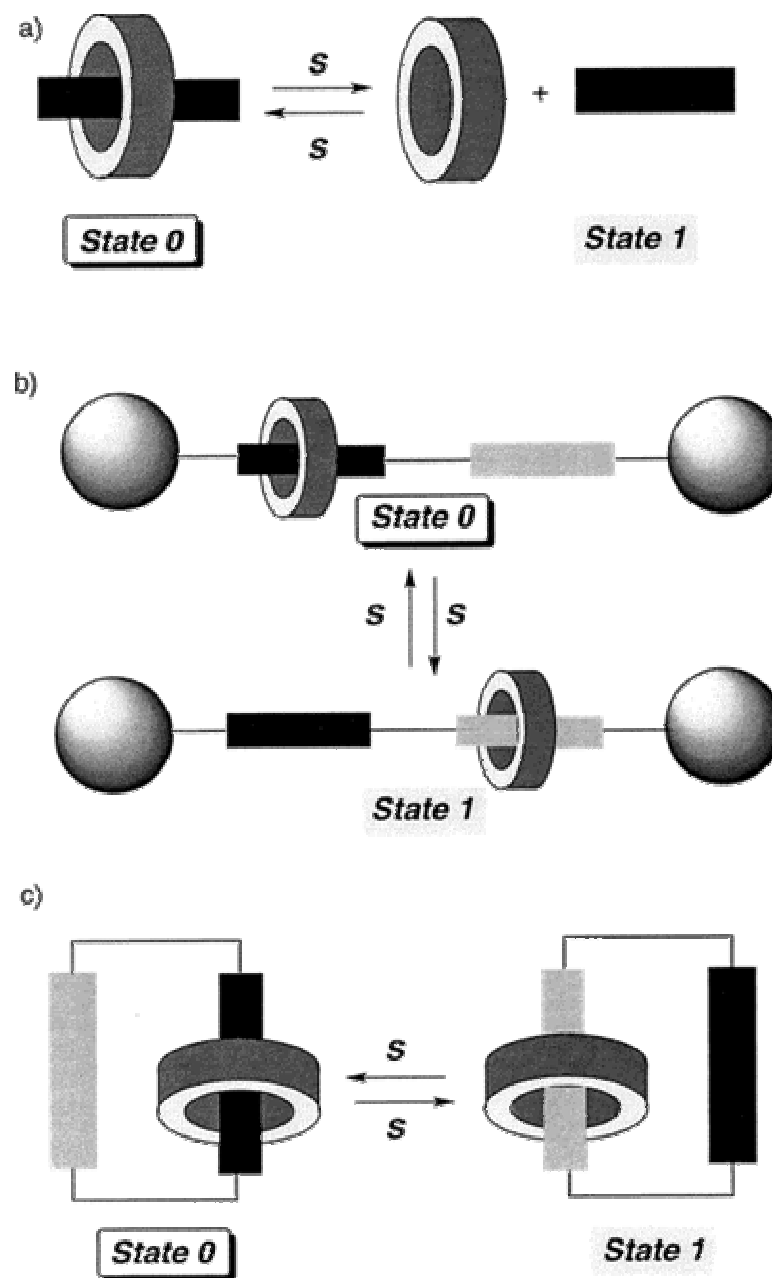
Schematic representations of the mechanical movements relating two states (0 and 1) in

(a) pseudorotaxanes

(b) rotaxanes

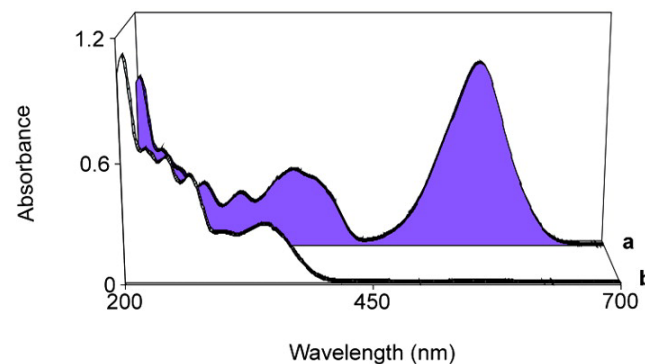
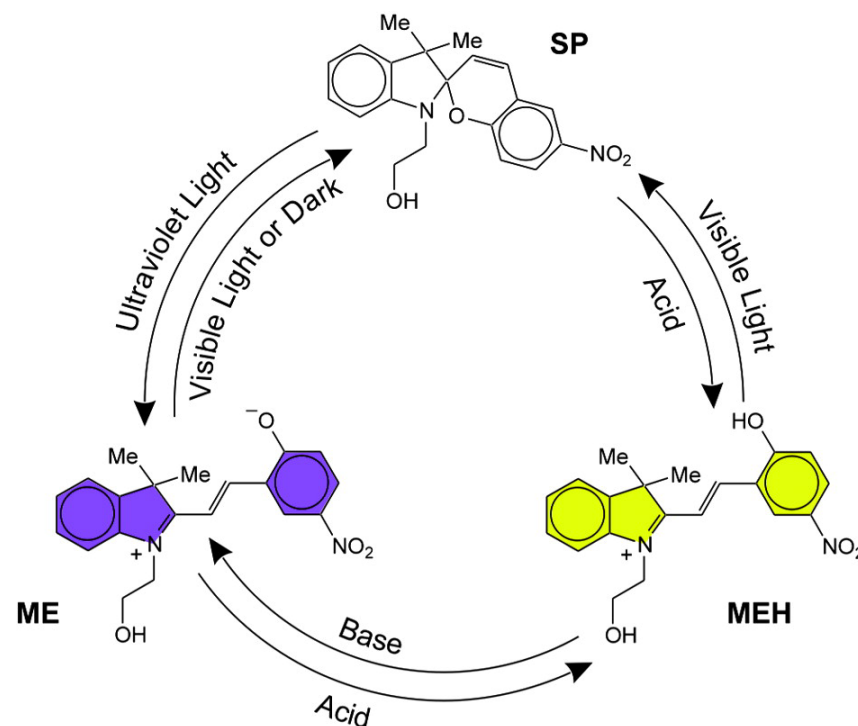
(c) Catenanes

the stimulus (S) can be chemical or electro-chemical energy, or it can be light.



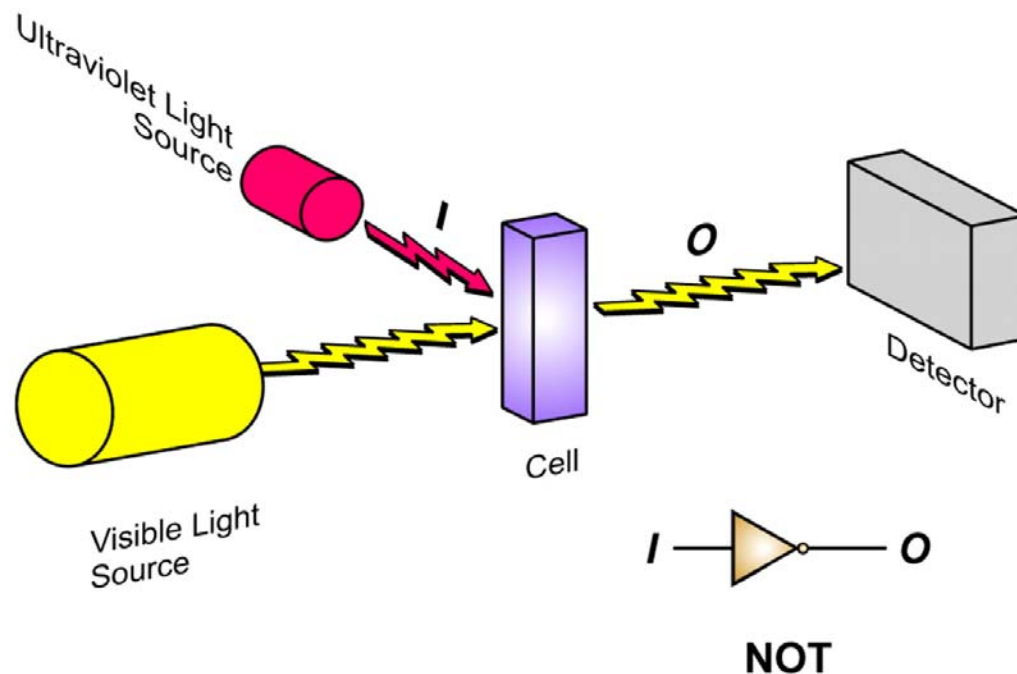
Molecular Switch - All Optical Processing 1

UV light, visible light, and H^+ induce the interconversion between the three states **SP**, **ME**, and **MEH**. Absorption spectra of **SP** recorded after (a in *Lower*) and before (b in *Lower*) irradiation at 254 nm for 5 min.

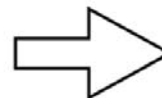


Molecular Switch - All Optical Processing 2

An optical signal (yellow arrows) travels from a light source to a detector after passing through a quartz cell containing a solution of **SP**. The intensity of the optical output (**O**) switches between low and high values as the optical input (**I**) is turned on and off. This signal transduction behavior is equivalent to a NOT operation.



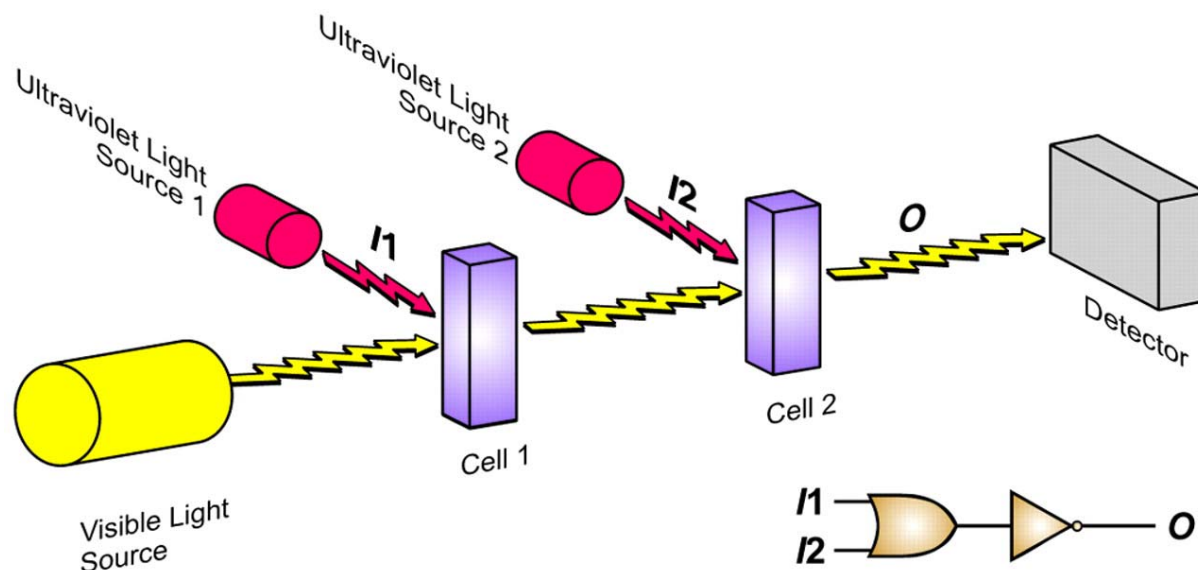
| I | O (%) |
|----------|--------------|
| Off | 100 |
| On | 3 |



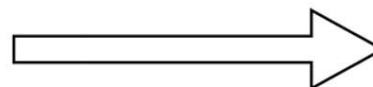
| I | O |
|----------|----------|
| 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 |

Molecular Switch - All Optical Processing 3

An optical signal (yellow arrows) travels from a light source to a detector after passing through two quartz cells containing a solution of **SP**. The intensity of the optical output (**O**) switches between low and high values as the two optical inputs (**I1** and **I2**) are turned on and off. This signal transduction behavior is equivalent to a two-input NOR operation.



| I1 | I2 | O (%) |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Off | Off | 100 |
| Off | On | 3 |
| On | Off | 4 |
| On | On | 0 |

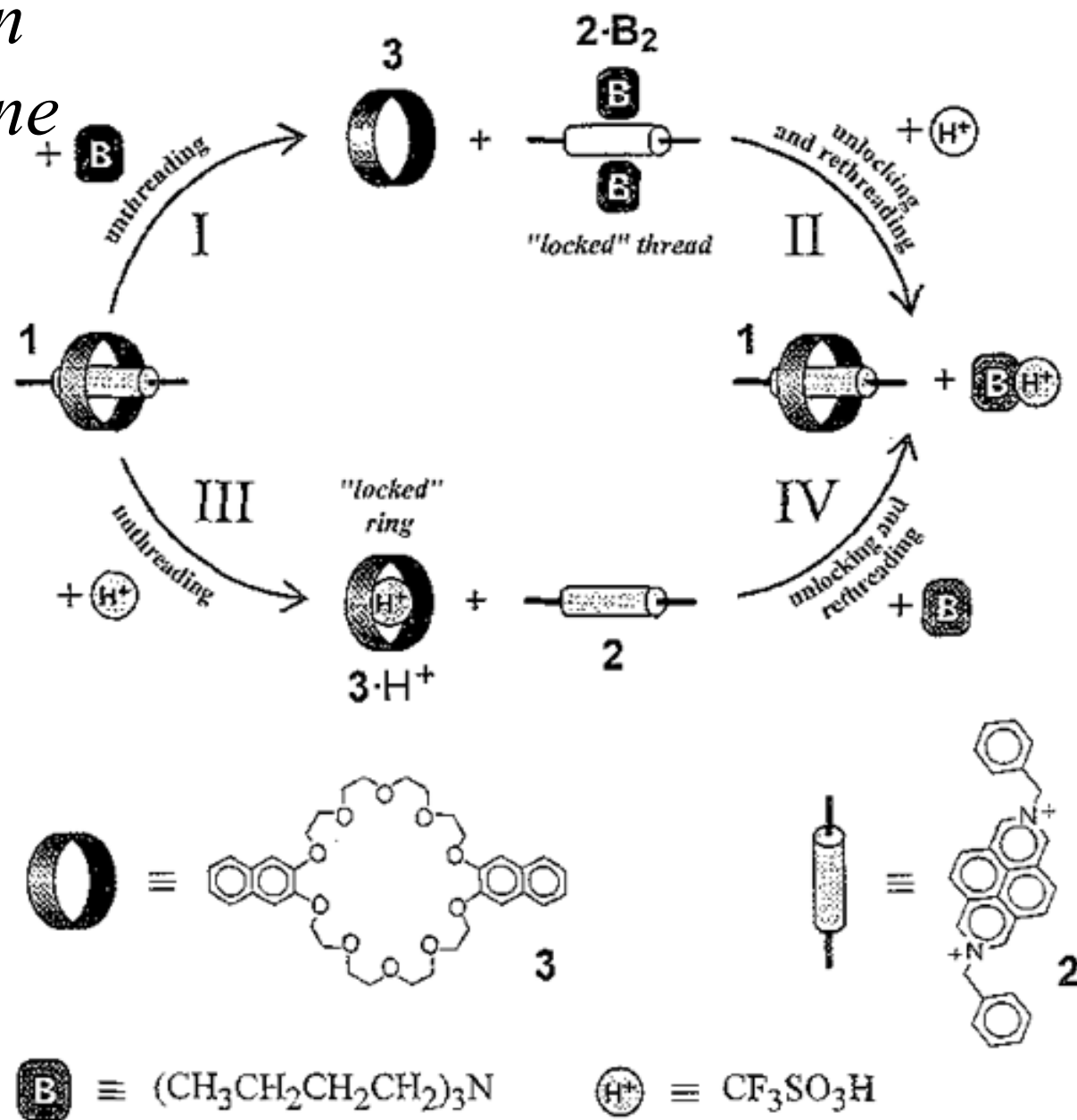


Two-Input NOR

| I1 | I2 | O |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |

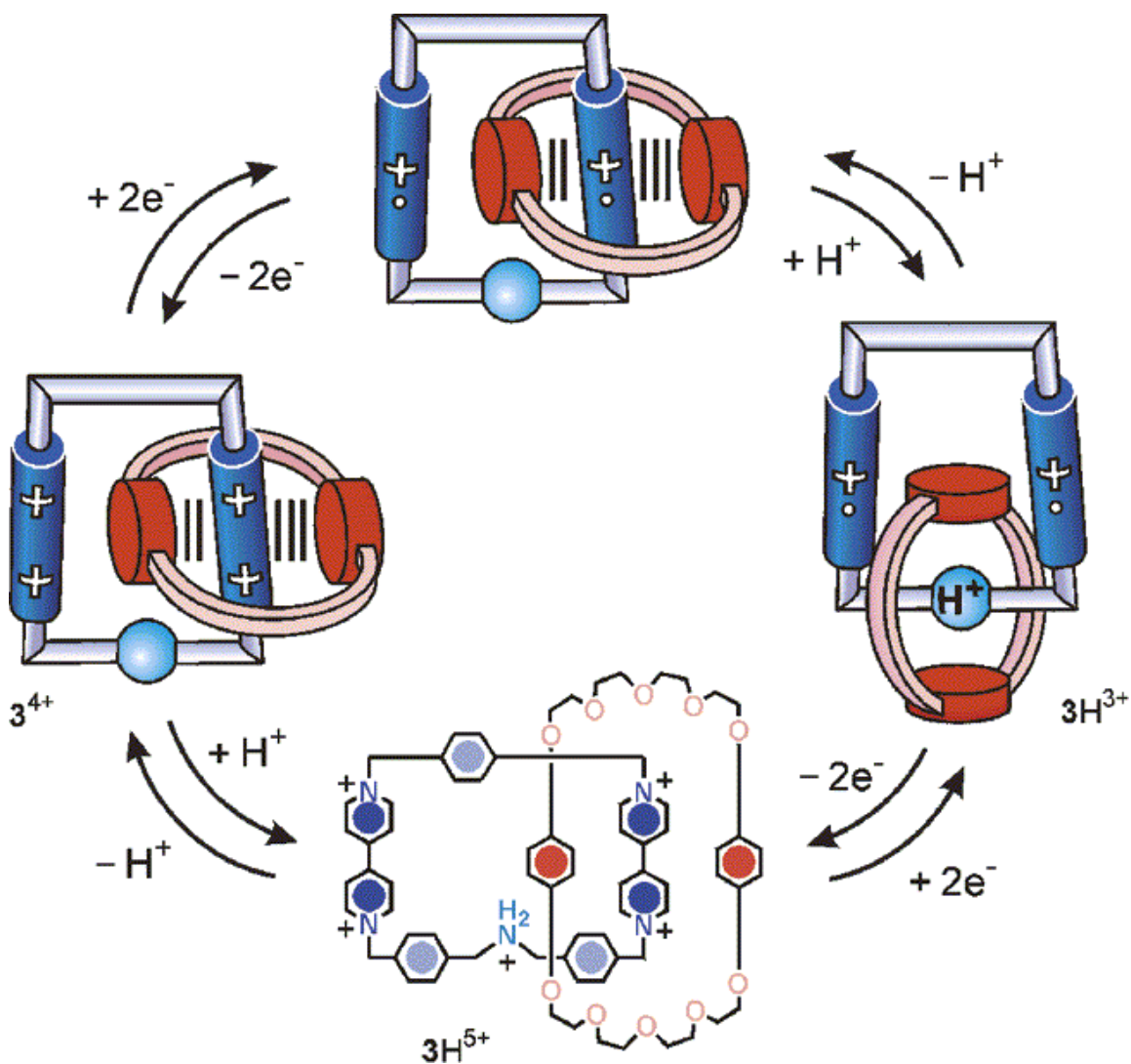
Logic Function - Pseudorotaxane

Schematic representation of the unthreading/rethreading pattern of pseudorotaxane **1**, which corresponds to an XOR logic function.



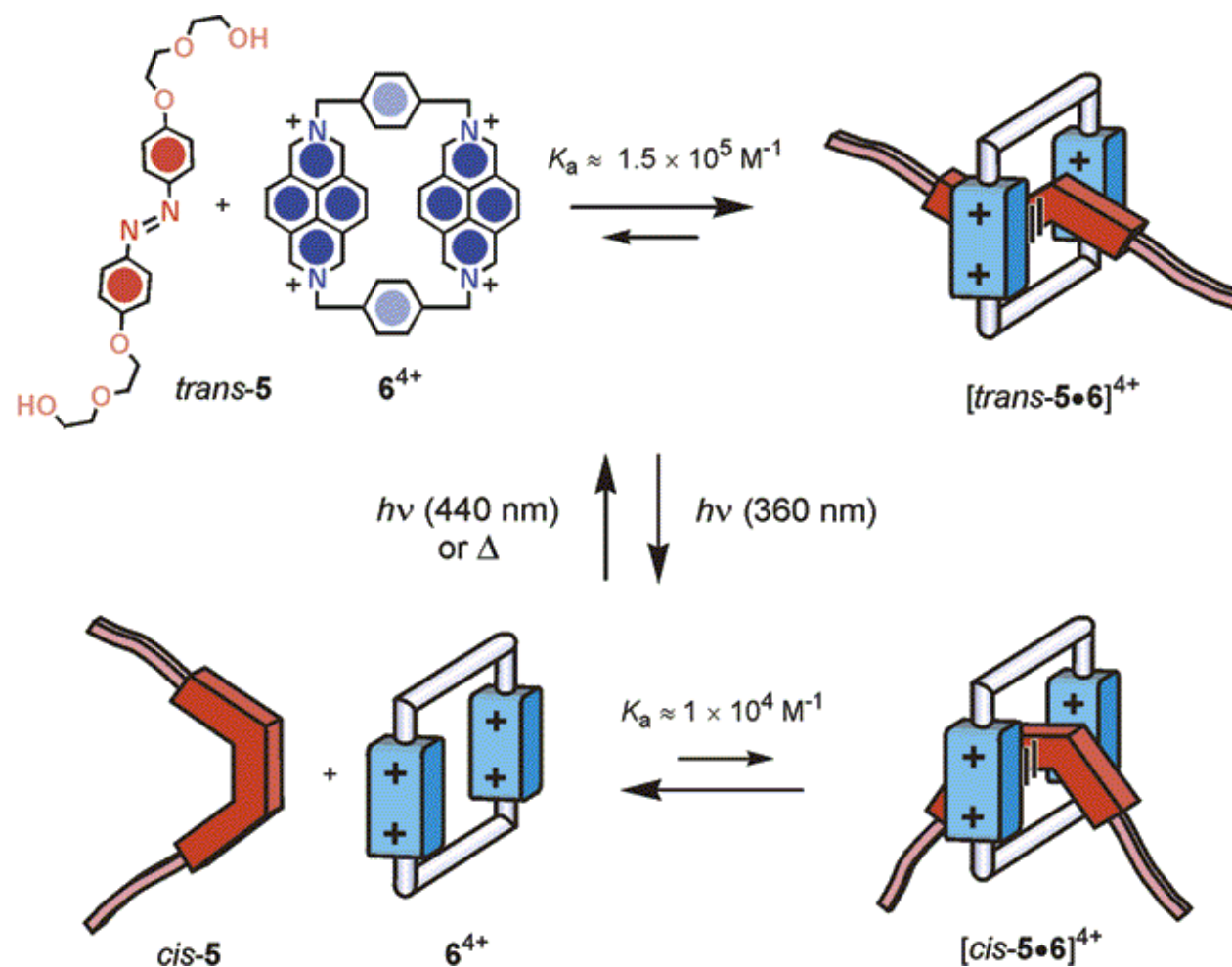
Molecular Switch – AND Logic Gate

Switching processes of catenane $3H^{5+}$. Starting from catenane 3^{4+} , the position of the macrocyclic polyether switches under acid/base and redox inputs (AND logic).

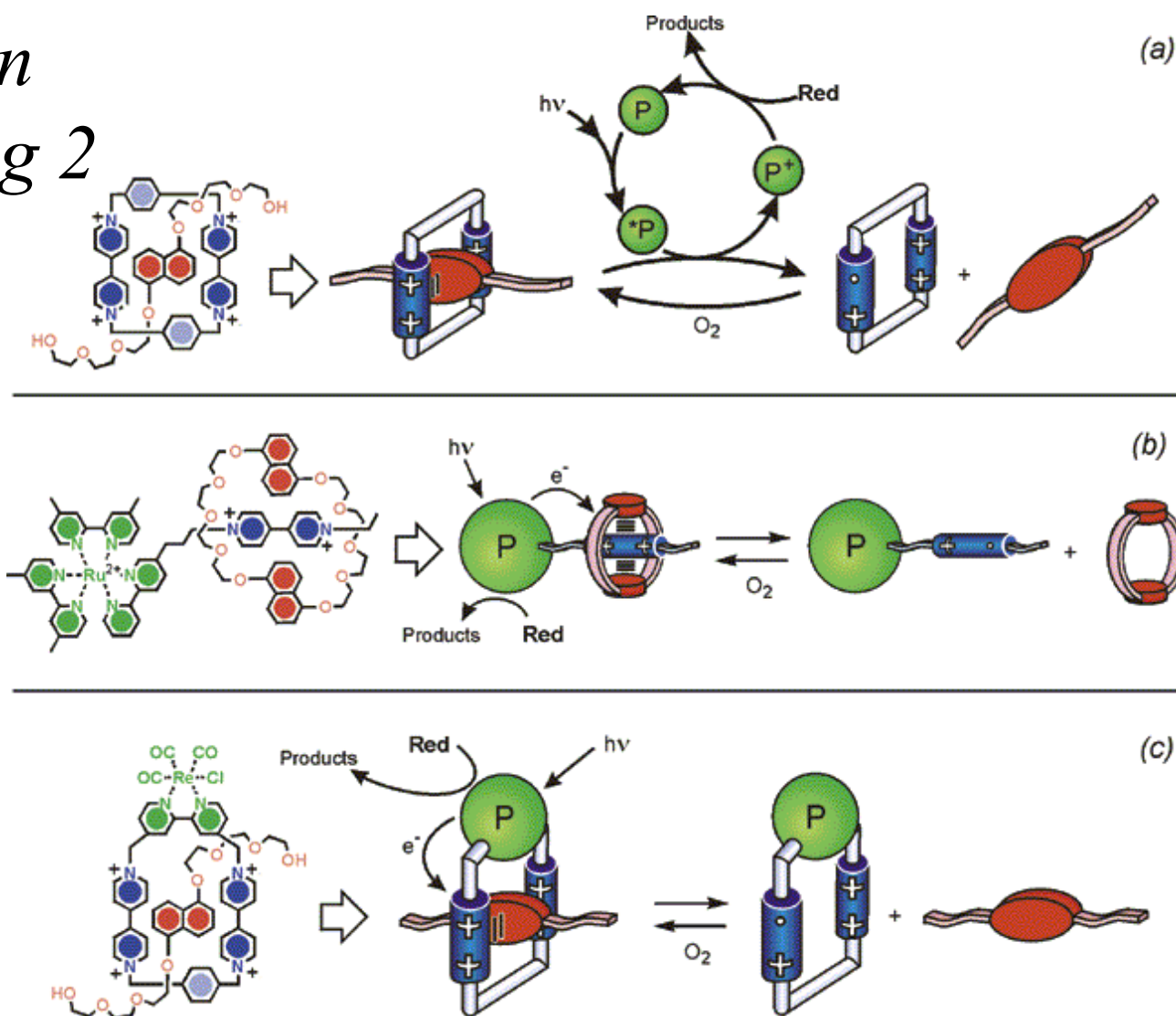


Light Driven Dethreading

Controllable dethreading/rethreading of a pseudorotaxane based on a trans-cis photoisomerization reaction (80% complexed species).



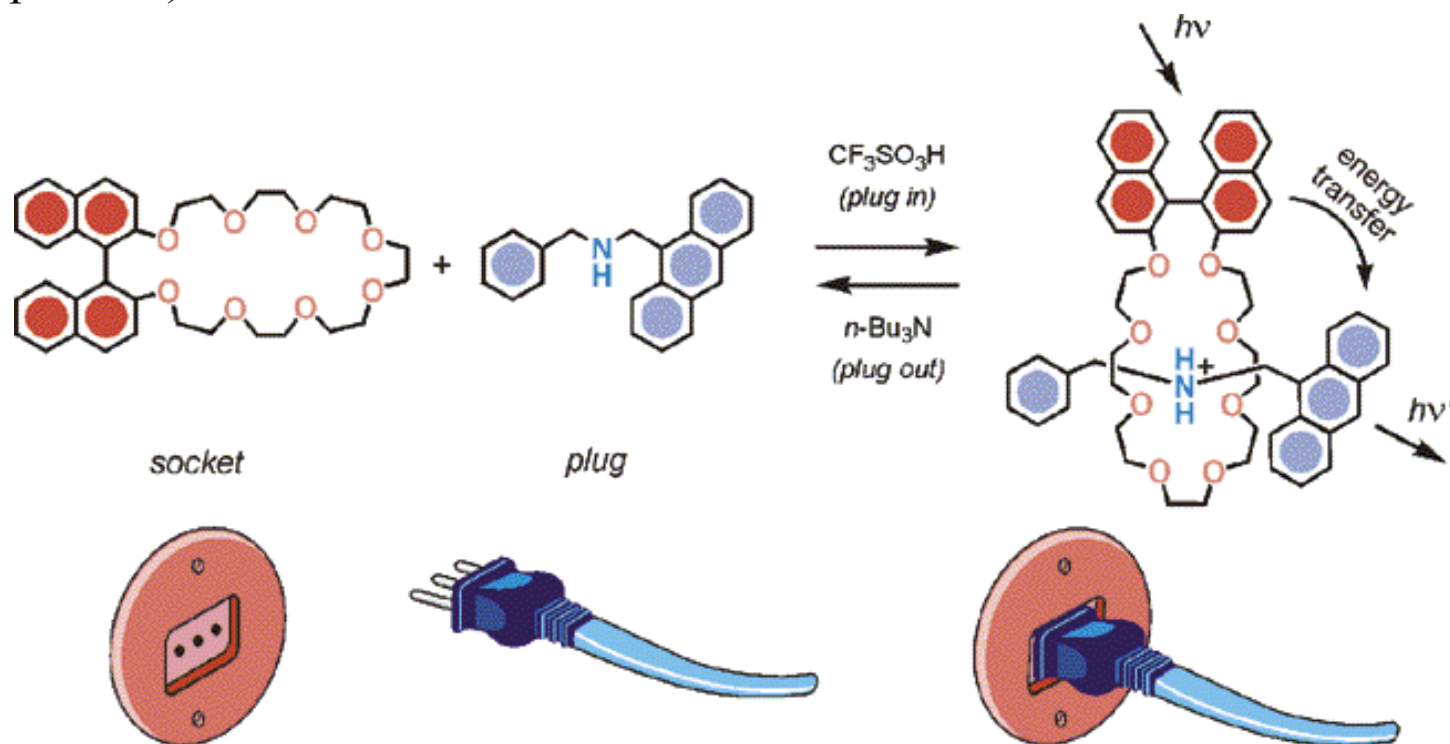
Light-driven Dethreading 2



Light-driven dethreading of pseudorotaxanes by excitation of a photosensitizer **P** as (a) an external reactant, (b) a stopper in the wire-type component, and (c) a component of the macrocyclic ring.

Molecular Level Plug

A molecular-level plug/socket device: "plug in/plug out" is acid/base controlled, and photoinduced energy transfer takes place in the "plug in" state (CH_2Cl_2 , room temperature).



Photocontrollable Abacus

Rotaxane 7^{6+} : photoinduced abacus-like movement of macrocycle **R** between the two stations **A**₁ and **A**₂.

Macrocycle **R**

Dumbbell component (**P**, **A**₁, **A**₂, **S**, **T**):

- (i) a photoactive Ru(II) polypyridine complex (**P**) as a stopper
- (ii) a 4,4'-bipyridinium unit (**A**₁) and a 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium unit (**A**₂) as electron-accepting stations
- (iii) a *p*-terphenyl-type ring system as a rigid spacer (**S**)
- (iv) a tetraarylmethane group as the second stopper (**T**).

The stable translational isomer: **R** encircles the better electron-acceptor **A**₁.

The intramolecular mechanism, which implies the conversion of light energy into mechanical energy without generating waste products, is based on the four operations

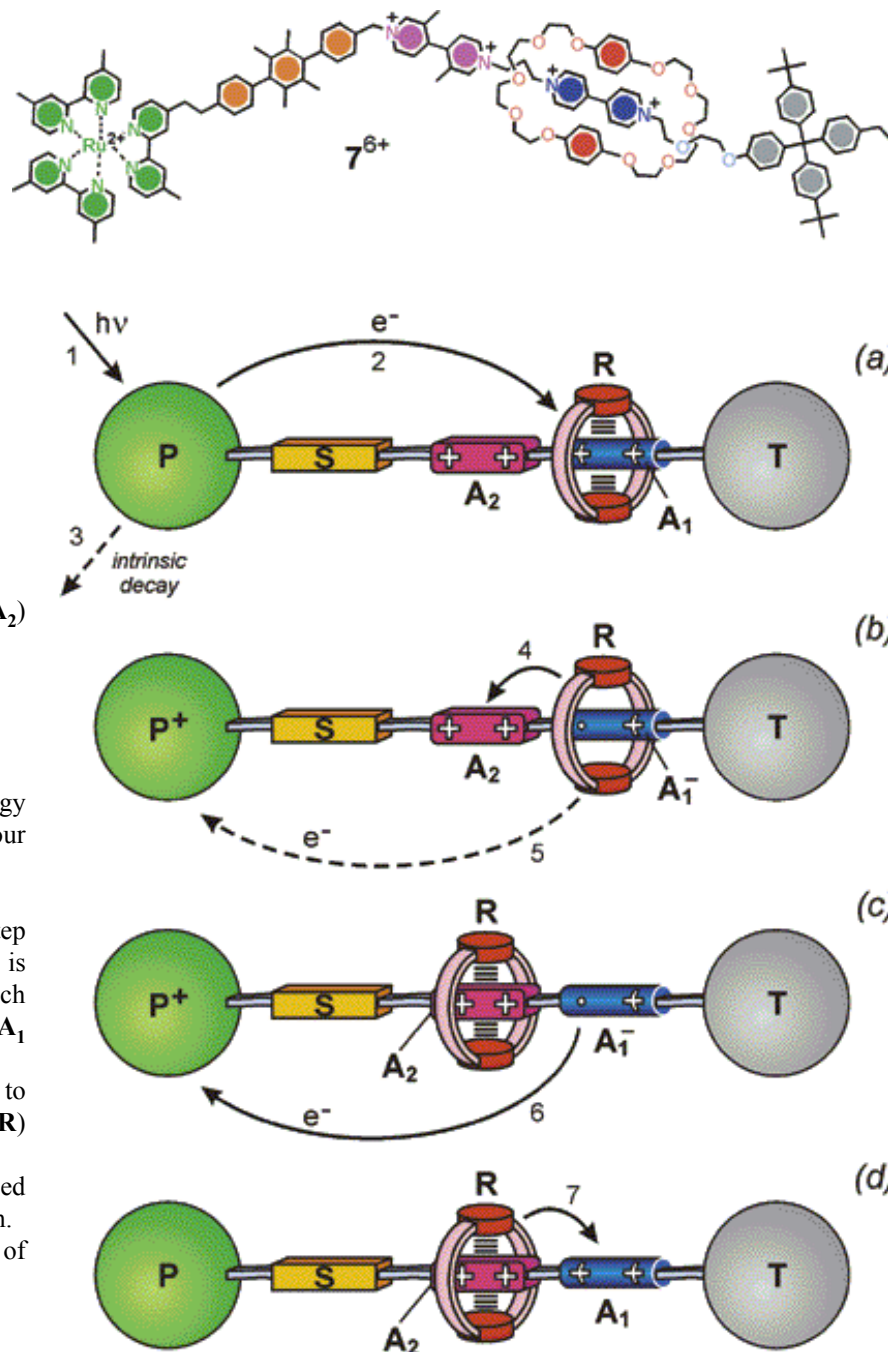
(a) *Destabilization of the stable translational isomer*: light excitation of **P** (step 1) is followed by the transfer of an electron to the **A**₁ station (step 2), which is encircled by ring **R**; such a photoinduced electron-transfer process, which competes with the intrinsic excited-state decay (step 3), "deactivates" the **A**₁ station.

(b) *Ring displacement*: the ring movement from **A**₁[−] to **A**₂ (step 4) has to compete with the back-electron-transfer process from **A**₁[−] (still encircled by **R**) to the oxidized photoactive unit **P**⁺ (step 5).

(c) *Electronic reset*: the back-electron-transfer process from the "free" reduced station **A**₁[−] to **P**⁺ (step 6) restores the electron-acceptor power to the **A**₁ station.

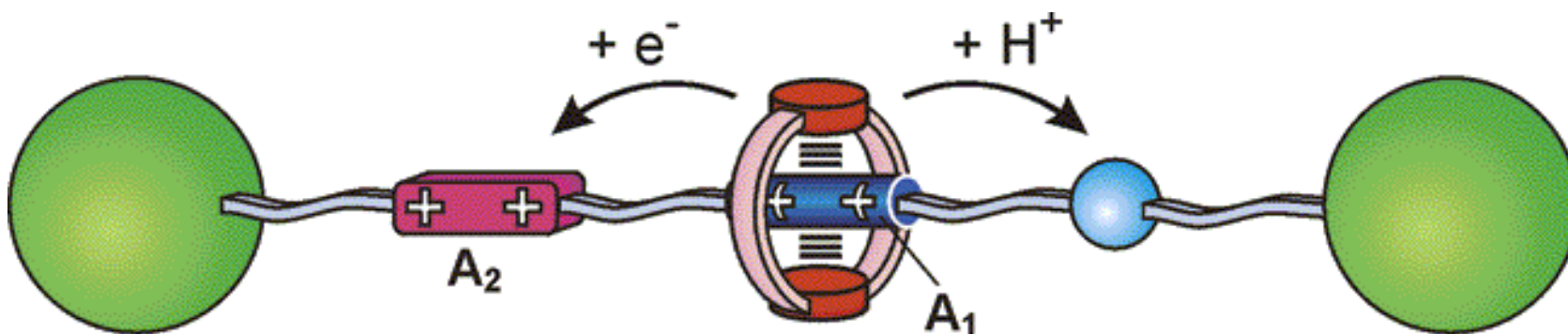
(d) *Nuclear reset*: as a consequence of the electronic reset, back movement of the ring from **A**₂ to **A**₁ occurs (step 7).

Acc. Chem. Res., **34** (6), 445–455, 2001

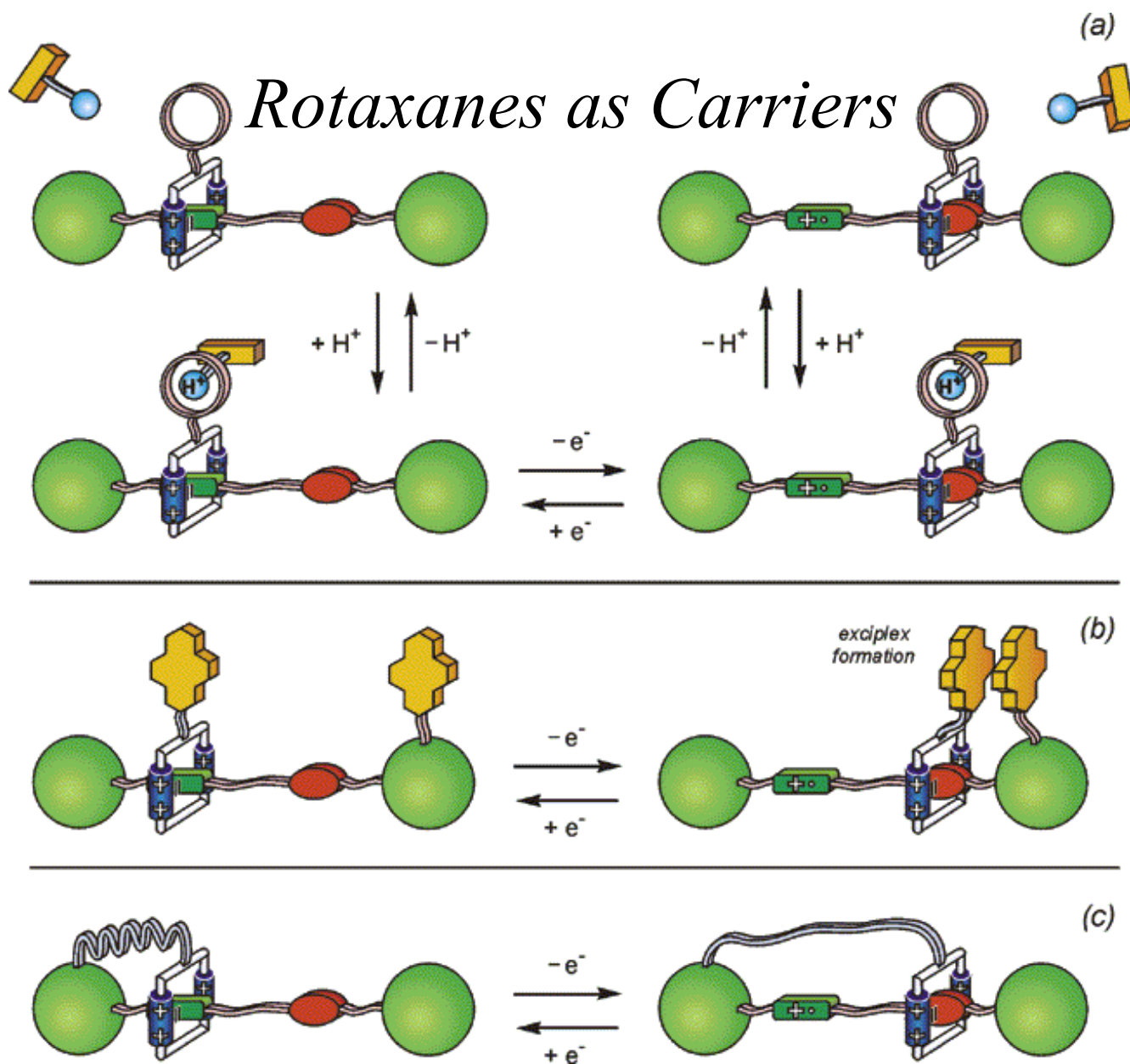


Directionality

A three-station rotaxane in which the direction of ring displacement is determined by the selected input.

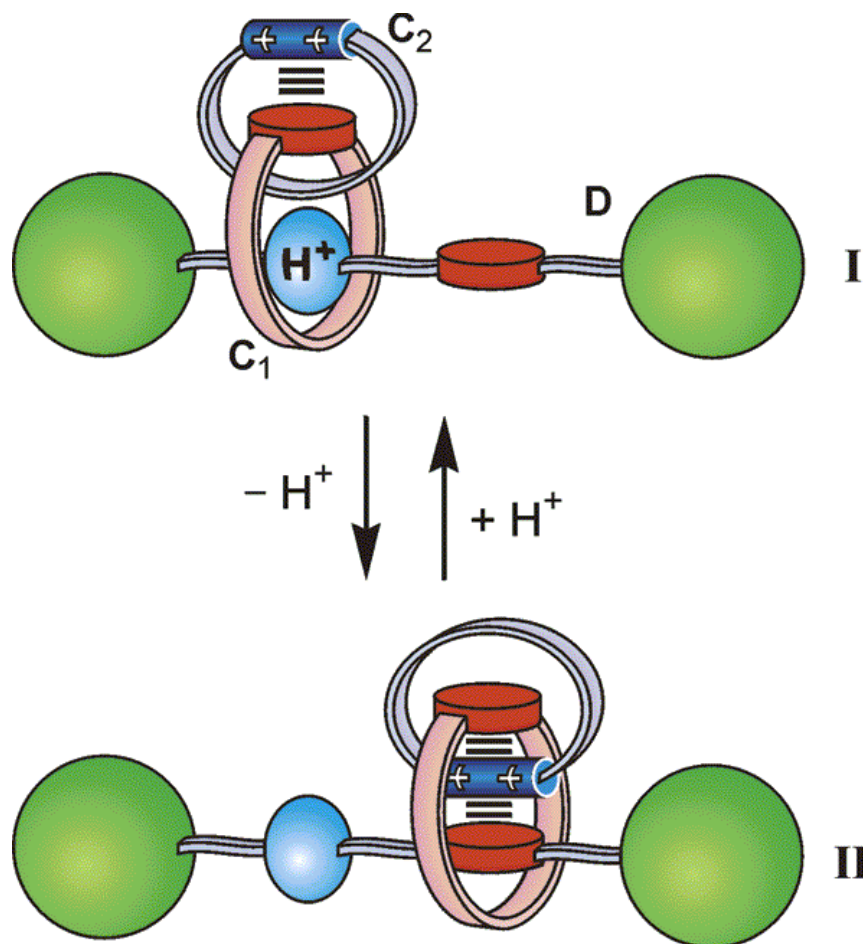


The A_1 and A_2 stations can be a 4,4'-bipyridinium and a 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium unit, respectively. Depending on the sequence in which the three stations are assembled, a suitable macrocyclicpolyether component can be moved along the thread according to predetermined patterns.



A rotaxane carrier powered by electrochemical inputs designed to perform (a) transport of an amine, (b) formation of an exciplex, and (c) stretching of a molecular spring.

Rotaxane as Molecular Gears



A rotacatenane designed to couple linear and rotary motions under acid/base stimuli.

Acc. Chem. Res., **34** (6), 445 -455, 2001

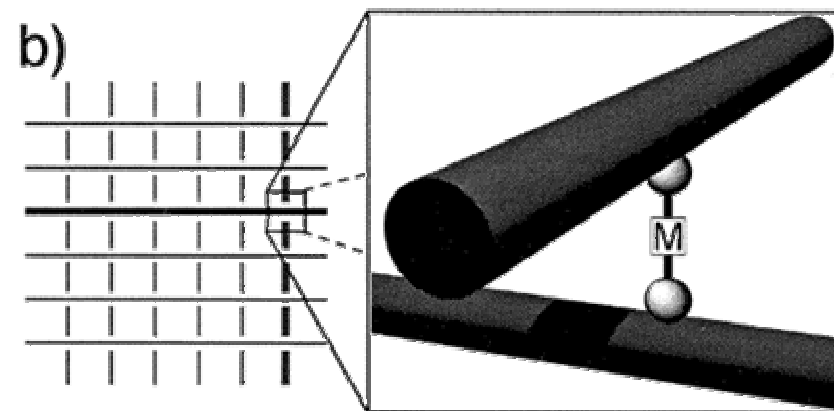
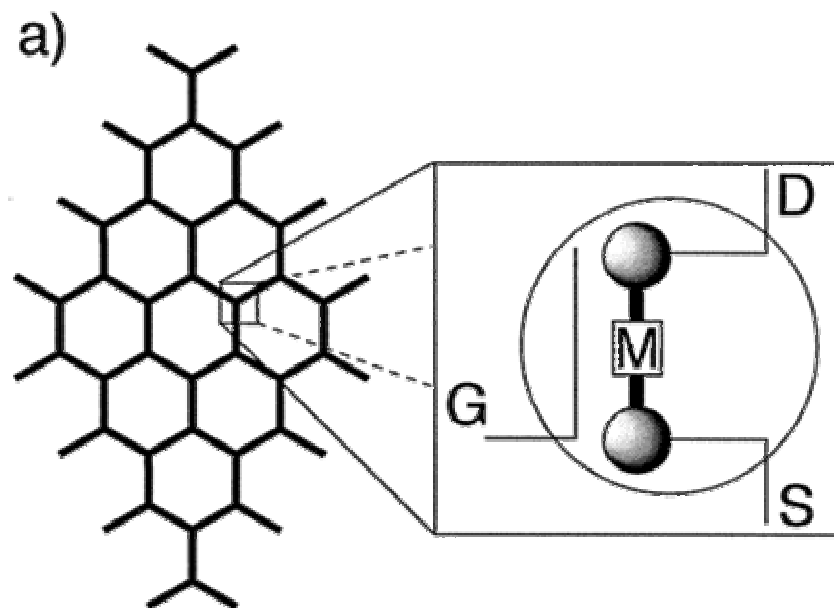
Device Architectures

Two possible device architectures that tile in two dimensions and so may potentially be fabricated through chemical techniques.

(a) Three-terminal devices (transistors) arranged in a hexagonal lattice

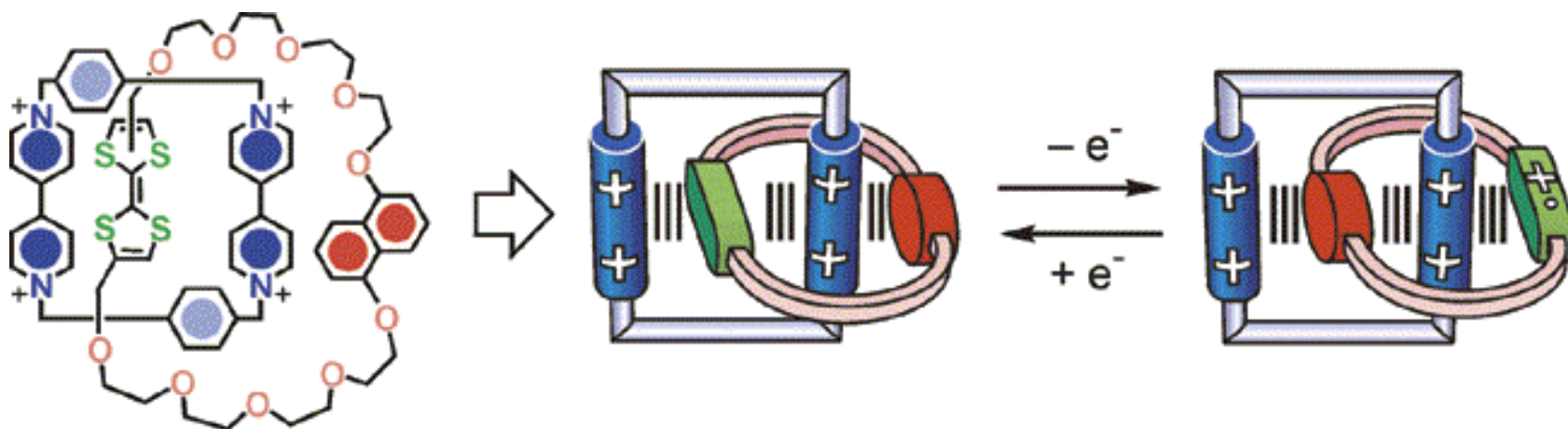
(b) two-terminal devices arranged in a square lattice or crossbar structure.

G, S, and D represent the gate, source, and drain terminals of a field effect transistor; M stands for a molecule.

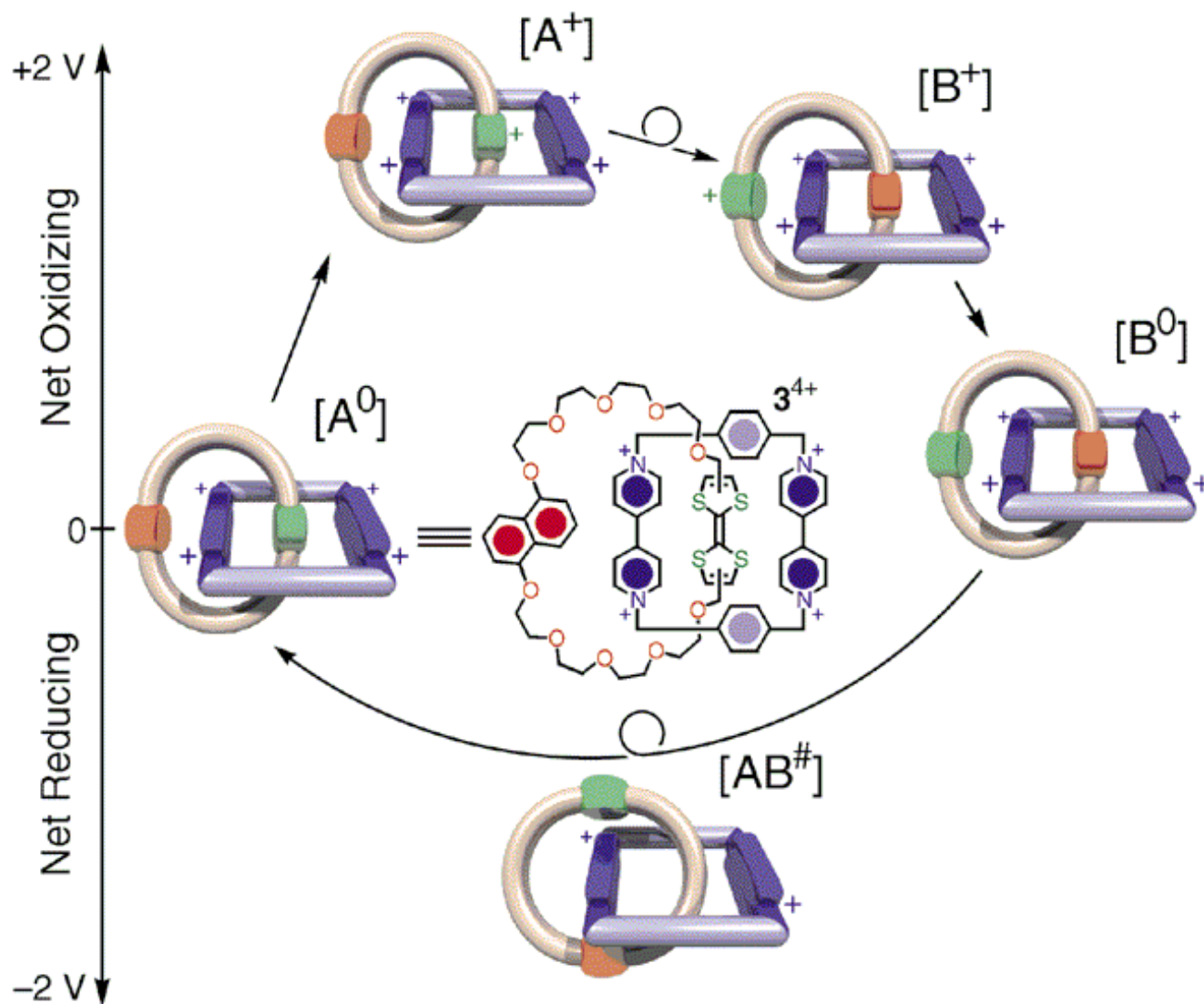


Molecular Switches - Catenanes

Electrochemically controlled movements upon one-electron oxidation/reduction of a TTF unit in a catenane containing a nonsymmetric ring.



Mechanomechanical Mechanism

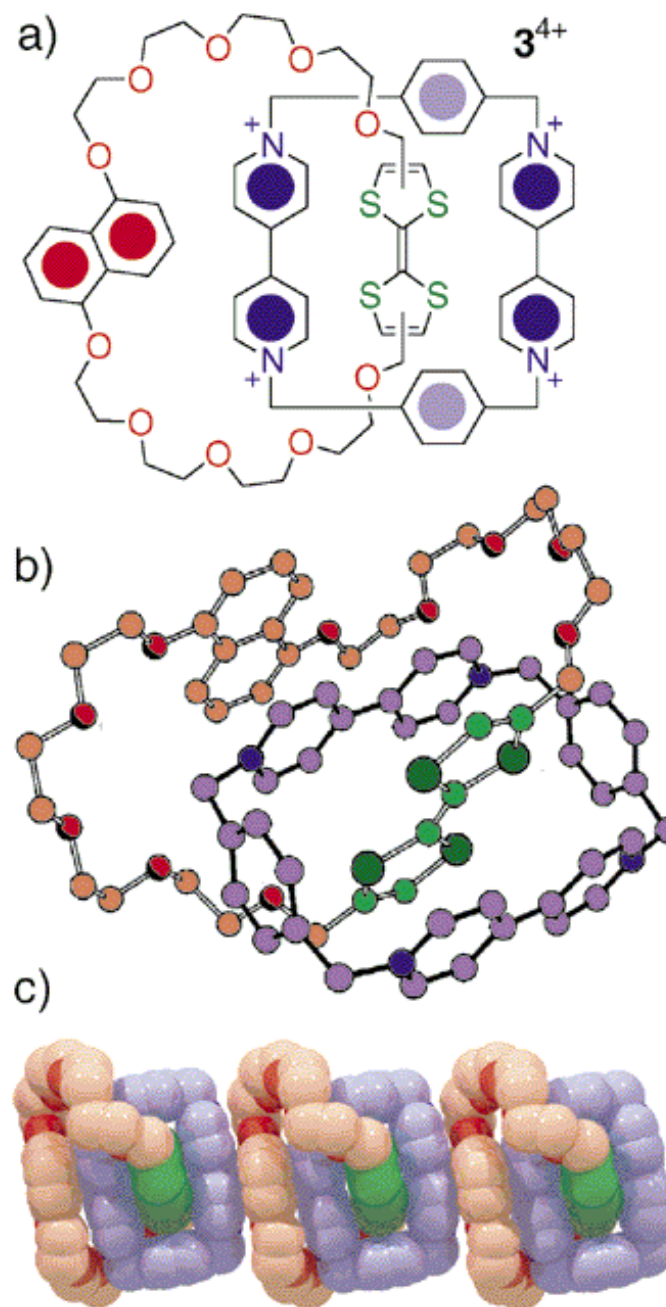


Electroswitchable Catenane

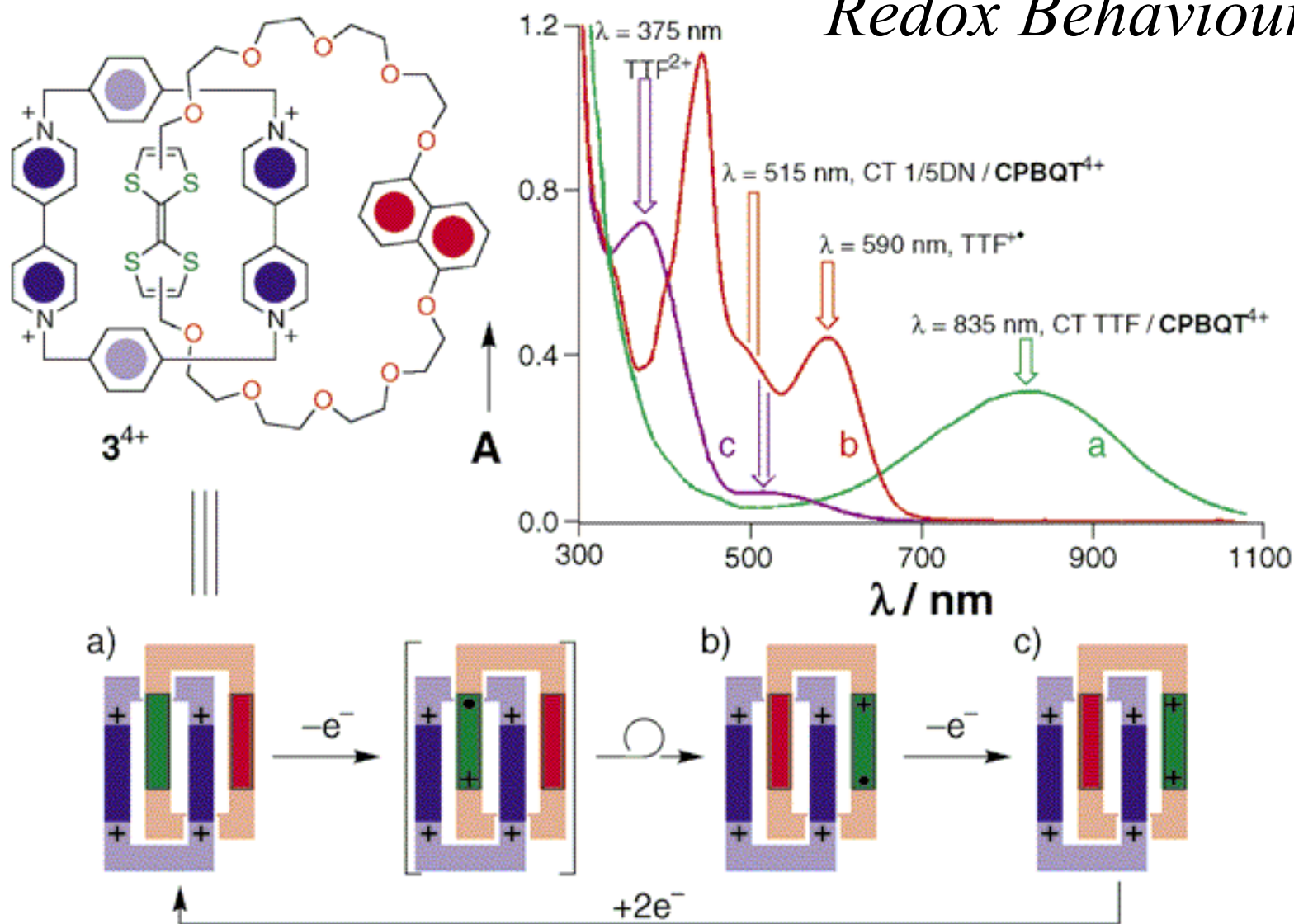
(a) Structural formula of the [2]catenane 3^{4+} .

(b) Ball-and-stick representation of the catenane's solid-state structure showing the TTF unit of the crown ether residing inside the CBPQT $^{4+}$ component.

(c) Space-filling representation of its solid-state superstructure.



Redox Behaviour



UV-vis spectroscopic evidence for the redox switching of the [2]catenane 3^{4+} . (a) Spectrum of the catenane prior to addition of (b) 1 equiv of $Fe(ClO_4)_3$ followed by (c) a second equivalent of $Fe(ClO_4)_3$. Oxidation is reversed on addition of 2 equiv of ascorbic acid.

Redox Switch Device Construction

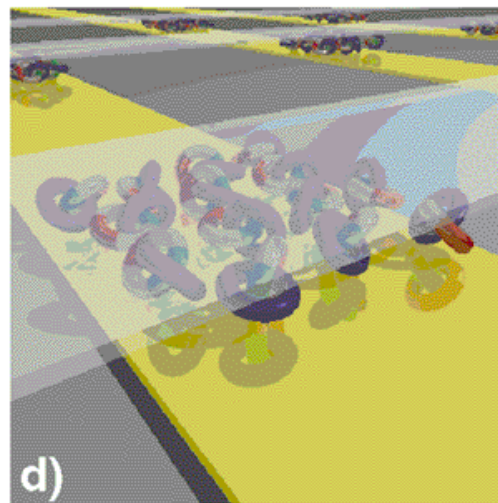
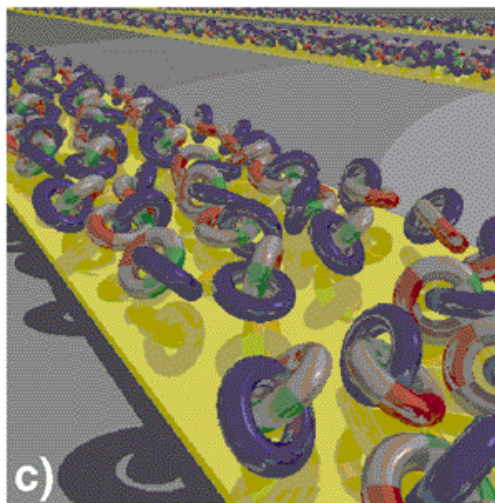
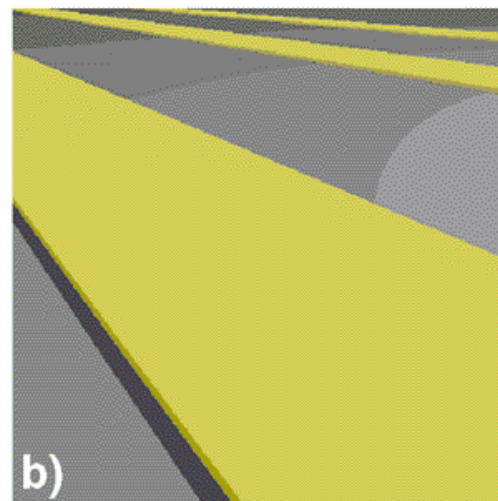
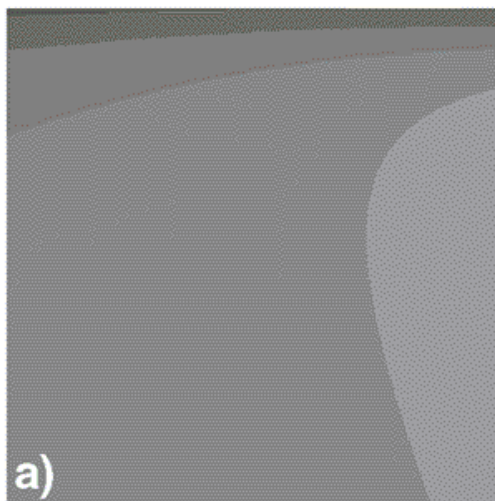
Construction of a molecular-based device.

(a) A smooth silicon substrate.

(b) A series of parallel polysilicon wires etched onto the substrate photolithographically.

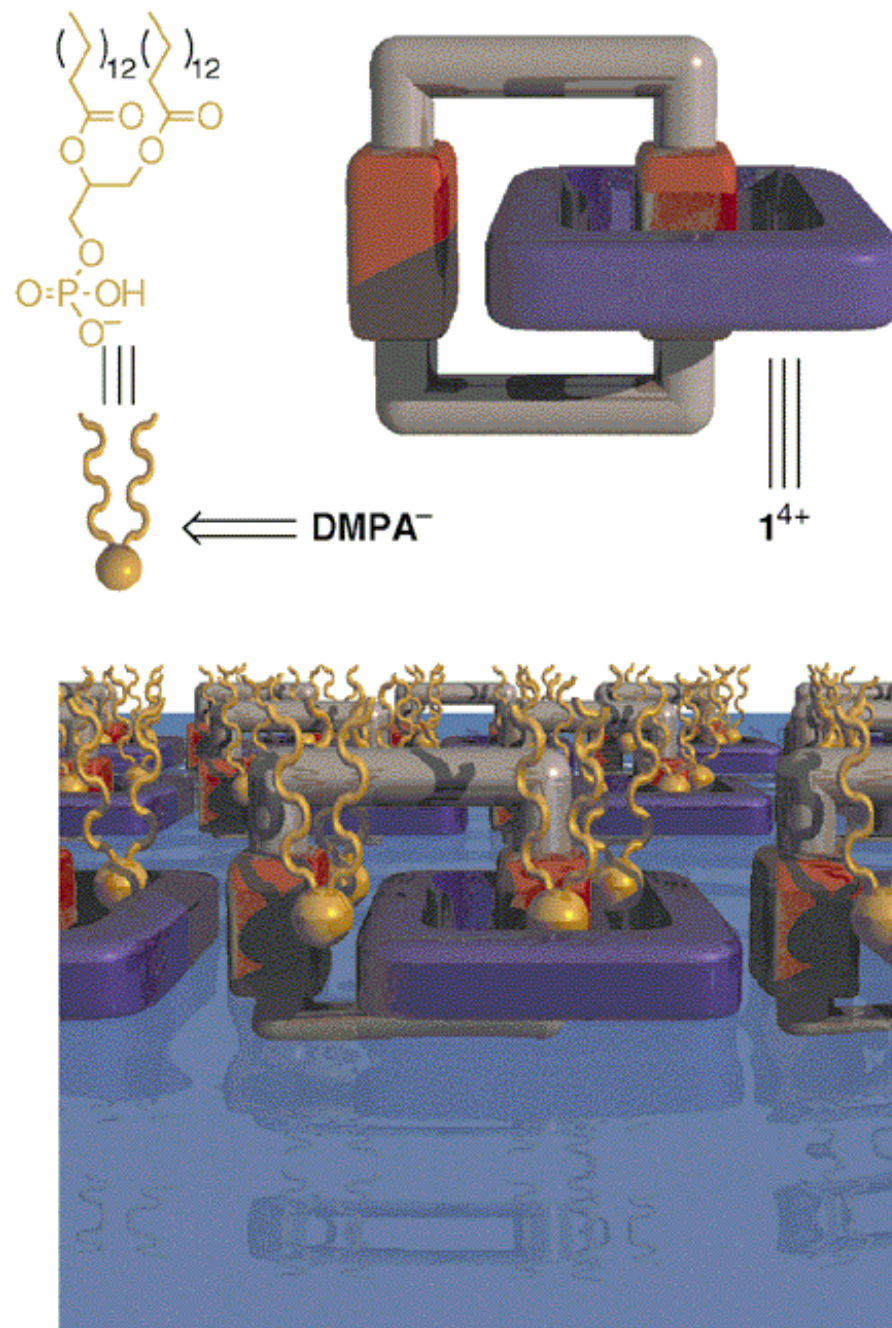
(c) Following deposition of the catenane monolayer onto the wafer by a LB procedure.

(d) The result when titanium vapor is condensed through a shadow mask, depositing a second layer of wires aligned perpendicularly with respect to the first.



Redox Switch SAM

Schematic representation of the monolayer of $1^{4+} \cdot 4\text{DMPA}$ at the air-water interface. Note the intermolecular π - π stacking interactions between the catenane tetracations.

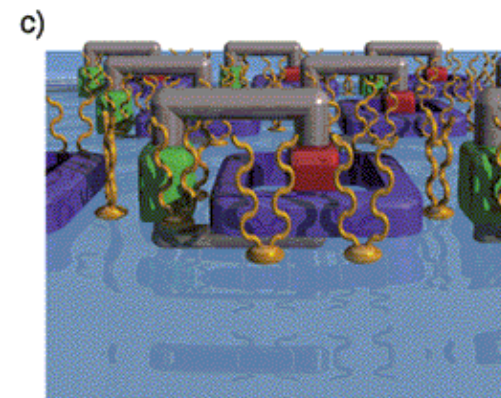
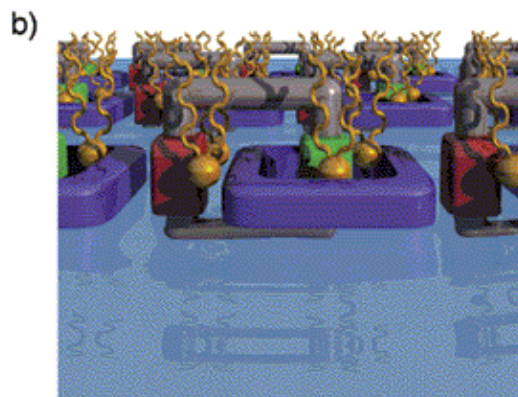
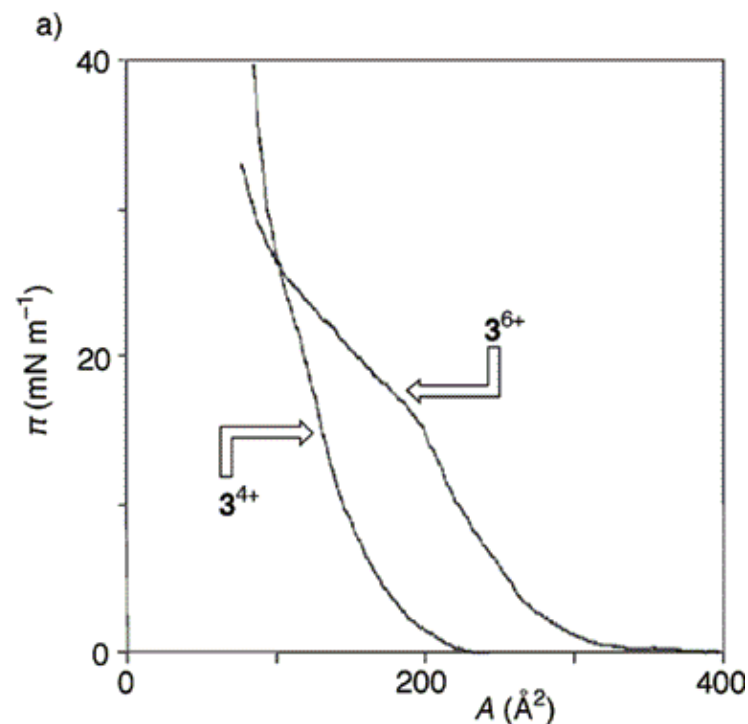
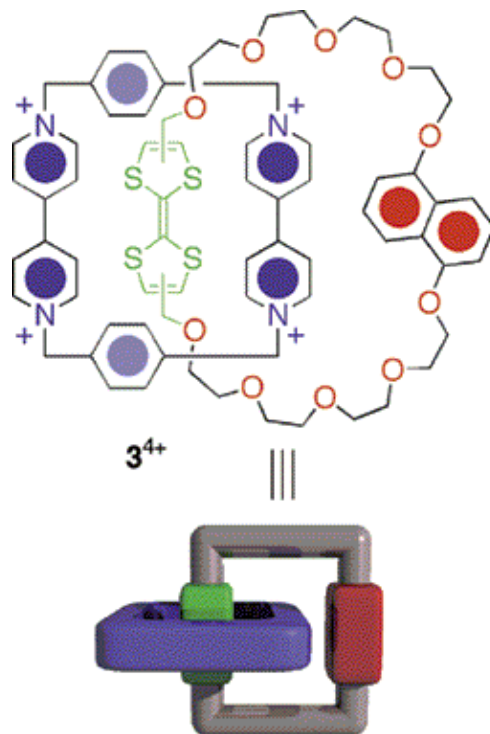


Redox Switch LB Behaviour

(a) π - A isotherms of monolayers of the [3]catenane 3^{4+} and its oxidized derivative 3^{6+} anchored with 4 and 6 equiv of DMPA $^-$ anions, respectively.

(b) Schematic representation of the monolayer of $3 \cdot 4\text{DMPA}$ stabilized by extensive π - π interactions.

(c) Schematic depiction of the first stable monolayer formed by $3 \cdot 6\text{DMPA}$. The dicationic TTF units show no affinity for the neighboring catenane hexacations, and so the six DMPA $^-$ anions fill the voids in the monolayer.



Redox Switch SAM

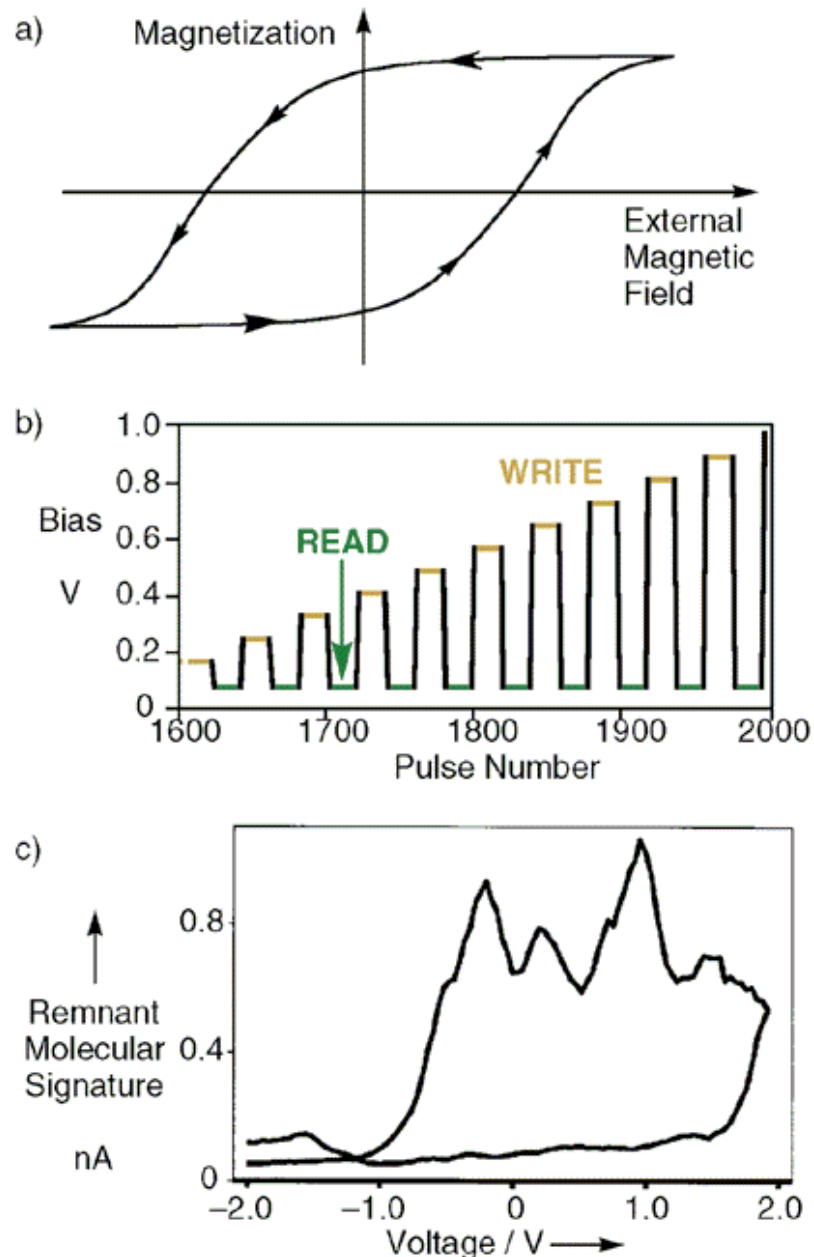
- Hysteresis

(a) Hysteresis curve associated with a conventional magnetic memory bit.

(b) Voltage profile used in the acquisition of

(c) the remnant molecular signature of a device incorporating the switchable [2]catenane 3^{4+} .

The device response was monitored at 0.1 V (b). Robust and significant hysteresis (c) was observed in the bistable [2]catenane, but not in the control devices, indicating that the bistable [2]catenane device is, in fact, a solid-state molecular switch. It exhibited a "read" current difference between the open and closed states of approximately a factor of 3, a "close" voltage of about 1.8 V, and an "open" voltage of about -1.0 V. The bistable [2]catenane device was fairly stable. It was intermittently cycled many times over a two-month period before it showed signs of failure.



Mechanochemical Mechanism

Proposed mechanochemical mechanism for the operation of the device fabricated from the bistable [2]catenane 3^{4+} . Co-conformation $[A^0]$ is the "switch open" state and co-conformation $[B^0]$ the "switch closed" state of the device. When 3^{4+} is oxidized, the TTF unit is ionized in state $[A^+]$ and experiences a Coulomb repulsion inside the CBPQT $^{4+}$ component, resulting in circumrotation of the crown ether and formation of co-conformation $[B^+]$. When the voltage is reduced to near-zero bias, the TTF $^+$ unit is reduced to give co-conformation $[B^0]$, which does not return to co-conformation $[A^0]$ by further circumrotation of the crown ether ring via state $[AB^\#]$ until the cyclophane component is reduced.

