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## IN THIS ISSUE

ISSN 1463-9076 CODEN PPCPFQ 27(23) 12095–12604 (2025)



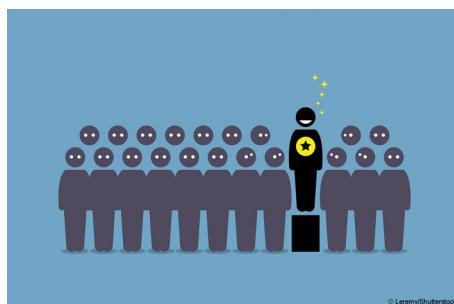
### Cover

See Zhuwu Jiang,  
Yuanmei Chen  
*et al.*, pp. 12129–12138.  
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Xiao Yao from  
*Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*,  
2025, 27, 12129.

## EDITORIAL

12111

**Outstanding Reviewers for *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics* in 2024**

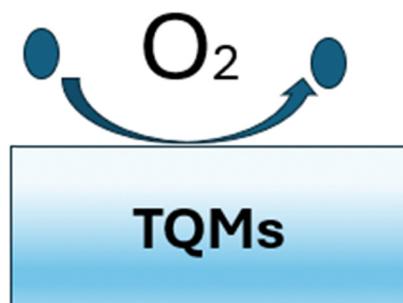


## PERSPECTIVE

12112

**Influence of surface oxidation on the catalytic activity of topological quantum materials**

Ashraf Abdelrahman Assadig Elameen\* and Rowa Mahjoub Yahia Elhassan



# Environmental Science: Atmospheres

GOLD  
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ACCESS

## Connecting communities and inspiring new ideas



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Fundamental questions  
Elemental answers



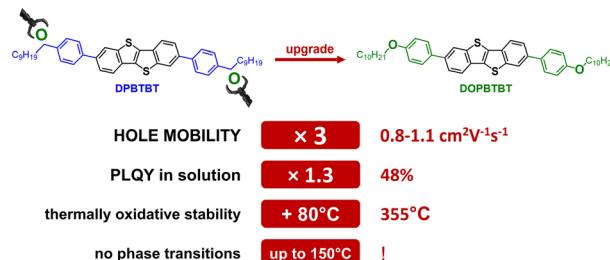
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## COMMUNICATION

12119

## Decyloxy-substituted BTBT derivatives for highly efficient and stable thin-film organic (opto)electronic devices

Roman S. Fedorenko, Liya A. Poletavkina, Vasiliy A. Trukhanov, Konstantin N. Kuklin, Dmitry O. Balakirev, Ivan V. Dyadishchev, Nikita S. Saratovsky, Artem V. Bakirov, Sergei A. Ponomarenko, Yury N. Luponosov,\* Dmitry Yu. Paraschuk\* and Andrey Yu. Sosorev\*

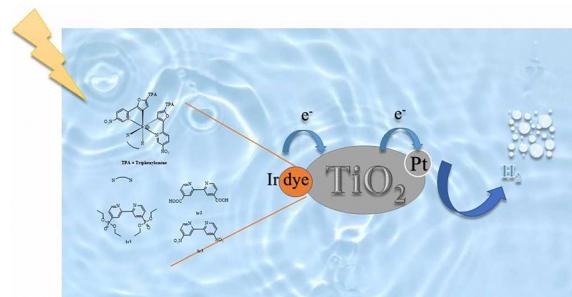


## RESEARCH PAPERS

12129

## Effect of anchoring groups on the photocatalytic performance of iridium(III) complexes in hydrogen production and their toxicological analysis

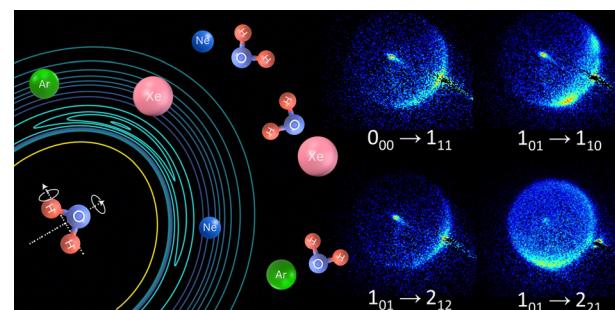
Xiao Yao, Linyu Fan, Zhwu Jiang,\* Chaoqun Zheng, Jinfeng Chen, Yachen Jiang, Yisang Lu, Cheuk-Lam Ho and Yuanmei Chen\*



12139

## A comprehensive study of the differential cross sections for water–rare gas collisions: experimental and theoretical perspectives

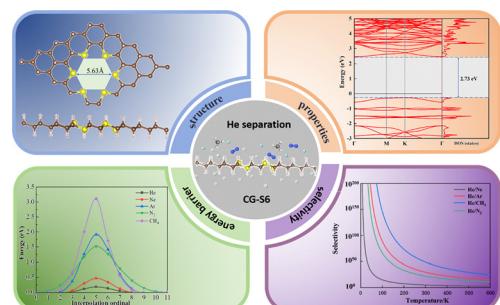
Ricardo Manuel García-Vázquez,\* Zhong-Fa Sun,\* Chung-Hsin Yang, Lisán David Cabrera-González, Otoniel Denis-Alpizar, Philippe Halvick, David H. Parker\* and Thierry Stoecklin\*



12152

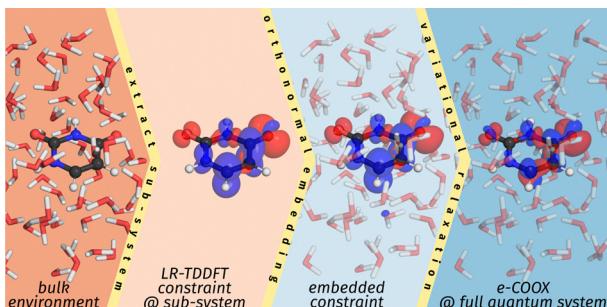
## Sulfur-doped crown ether graphane for enhanced helium separation

Qinglan Zhao, Yingying Fu, Xiaxia Gong, Wenming Lu, Lin Dai, Wei Liu\* and Jing Xu\*



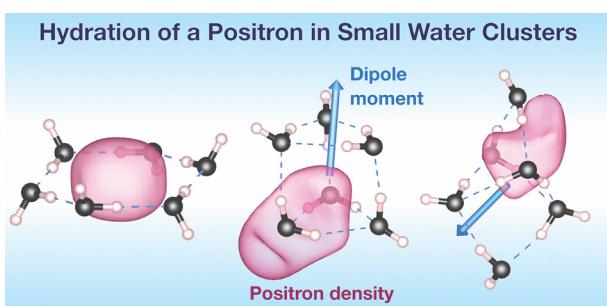
## RESEARCH PAPERS

12161

**An embedding scheme for constraint-based orbital-optimized excitations in molecular and bulk environments**

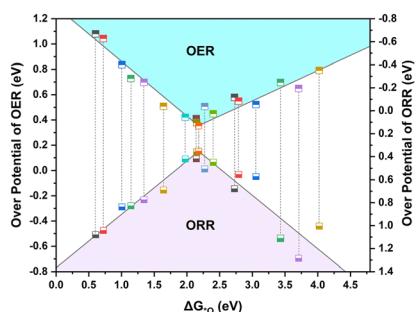
Yannick Lemke, Jörg Kussmann\* and Christian Ochsenfeld\*

12171

**Applications of the density functional method combined with the electron–positron correlation-polarization potential to positron binding to hydrocarbons and water clusters**

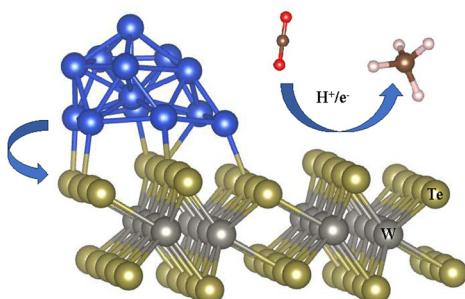
Daisuke Yoshida,\* Toshiyuki Takayanagi, Yukumi Kita, Tomomi Shimazaki and Masanori Tachikawa

12182

**Rational design of bifunctional OER/ORR metal-free catalysts based on boron-doped graphene by strain engineering**

Jun Zhou, Yujia Cheng, Yuping Ren, Mo Xiong, Haozhen Dou, Yi Jiang, Luyuan Wang,\* Chuangwei Liu\* and Wenjun Tang\*

12190

**Enhancing electrocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction via engineering substrate–cluster interaction**

Qian Sun, Huiru Yang,\* Chunmei Zhang\* and Aijun Du

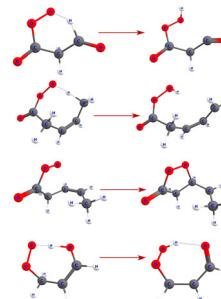


## RESEARCH PAPERS

12198

**Rapid unimolecular reactions of acyl peroxy radicals: extending the structure–activity relationships**

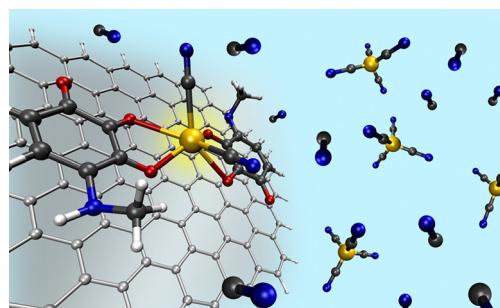
Lauri Franzon,\* Anni Savolainen, Siddharth Iyer,  
Matti Rissanen and Theo Kurtén\*



12211

**Rational design of electrochemical sensors based on quinone derivatives adsorbed on graphene for the detection of  $[\text{Cd}(\text{CN})_4]^{2-}$**

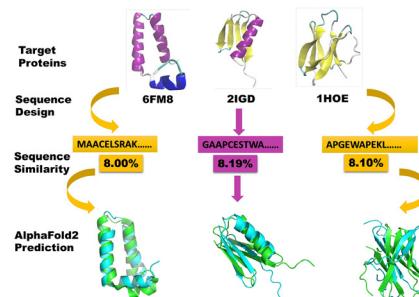
Golfer Muedas-Taipe,\* Michael Badawi,  
Angélica María Baena-Moncada and  
Miguel Ponce-Vargas\*



12220

**Preserving structural integrity: fold reproducibility in computational design of proteins non-homologous to wild-type sequences**

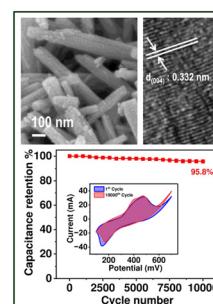
Bondeepa Saikia and Anupaul Baruah\*



12231

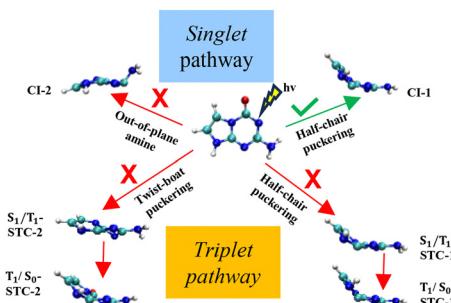
**Hydrothermally synthesized 2H-WS<sub>2</sub> nanorods for improved supercapacitor electrode performance**

Somveer, Rohit Yadav, Jitesh Pani, Rakesh Nanna,  
Ranjit Kumar, Vinay S. Palaparthi, Kusum Kumari,  
Davender Singh, Dharamvir Singh Ahlawat,\*  
Hitesh Borkar\* and Jitendra Gangwar\*



## RESEARCH PAPERS

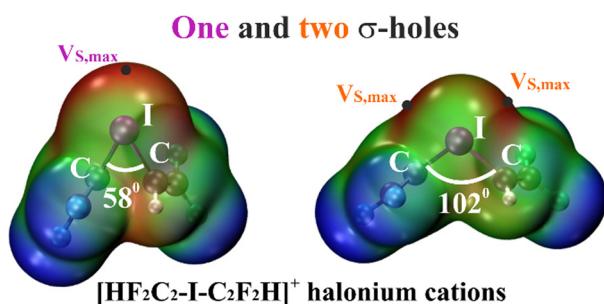
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## Efficient photodeactivation mechanism in an unnatural nucleic acid base

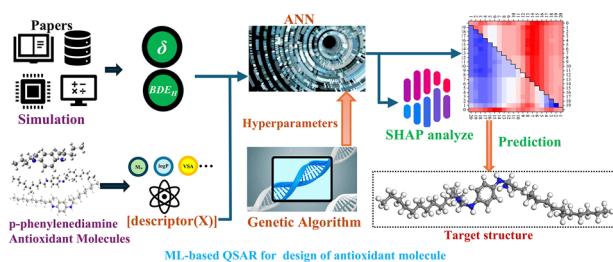
Somsuta Ray and Debashree Ghosh\*

12248

Arrangement of  $\sigma$ -holes at the halogen atom in halonium cations

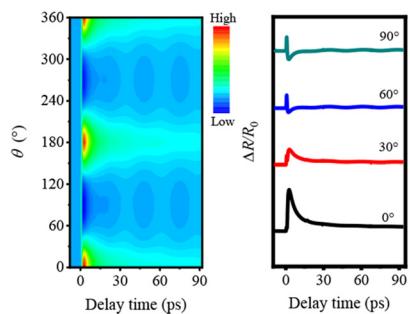
Mariusz Michalczyk\* and Wiktor Zierkiewicz

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Machine learning-assisted design of the molecular structure of *p*-phenylenediamine antioxidants

Zongya Wu, Shuai Sun, Chaokun Huang, Li Zhou, Yanlong Luo and Xiujuan Wang\*

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## Anisotropic ultrafast hot carrier dynamics of two-dimensional SnS single crystals

Zanxiong Peng, Borong Cong, Jiajun Cao, Chunlian Li, Xiaodong Shen and Weizheng Liang\*



## RESEARCH PAPERS

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**Specific features of the spin density distribution and magnetic properties in a series of pyrazolyl-substituted nitronyl nitroxides: a magnetochemical and quantum chemical study**

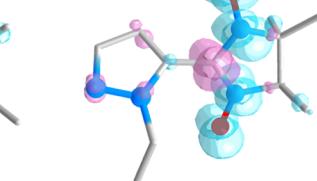
G. A. Letyagin,\* P. A. Chernavin, K. Yu. Maryunina, S. E. Tolstikov, E. V. Tretyakov, G. V. Romanenko and A. S. Bogomyakov

# SPIN LABEL POSITION MATTERS

NN-4PzEt



NN-5PzEt



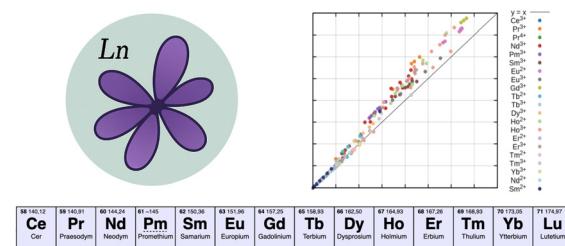
## IN THIS STUDY:

spin density distribution • supramolecular effects • magnetic properties

12284

**Excitations in lanthanide ions: a systematic evaluation of two-component CAS-Cl and GW**

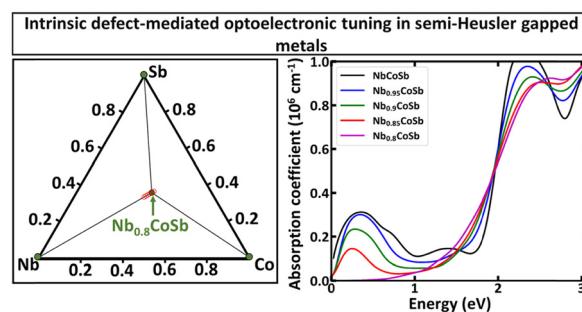
Roman Zielke, Florian Weigend\* and Christof Holzer\*



12294

**Interplay between intrinsic defects and optoelectronic properties of semi-Heusler gapped metals**

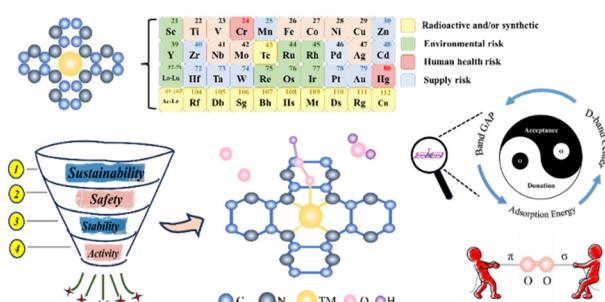
Muhammad Rizwan Khan, Jin Yang, Jincheng Kong,\* Xiaoguang Li\* and Zheng Wang\*



12303

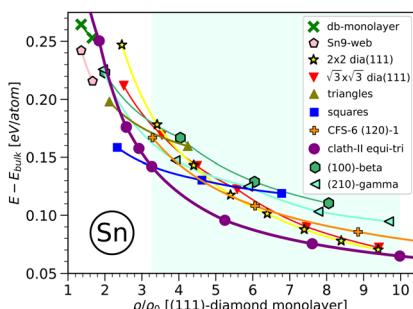
**Computational high-throughput screening of high-performance transition metal C<sub>8</sub>N<sub>8</sub> single-atom electrocatalysts for the oxygen reduction reaction**

Keyuan Chen, Xingkao Zhang, Yongzhi Wu, Li Ma, Hanqing Li, Jueyi Ye, Ju Rong,\* Xiaohua Yu\* and Zhaohua Liu



## RESEARCH PAPERS

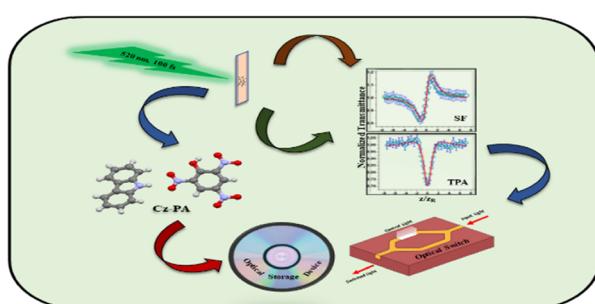
12313



## Stable thin clathrate layers

Eva Pospíšilová

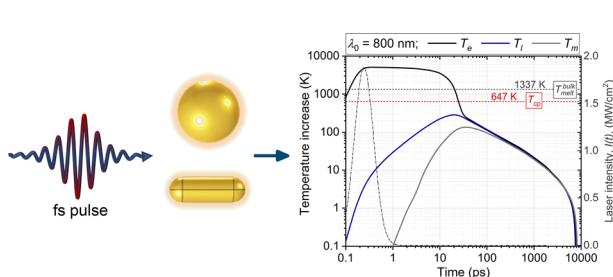
12331



## Enhanced ultrafast cubic nonlinearity in the carbazole–picric acid complex for potential applications in photonic devices: Kerr nonlinearity with two-photon absorption

Mohd Mehkoom, Farman Ali, Amit Kumar Pradhan, Prasanta Kumar Datta\* and Umakanta Tripathy\*

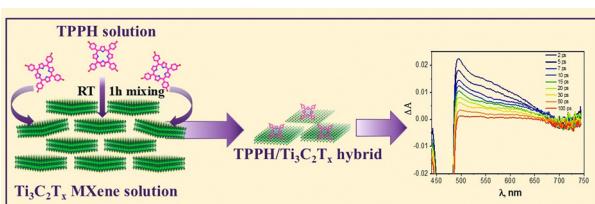
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## Probing ultrafast heat transfer mechanisms in plasmonic gold nanostructures: FEM analysis of core–shell configurations under femtosecond laser irradiation

Joshua Fernandes and Myoung-Jin Kim\*

12368



## Coupling porphyrin with MXene nanosheets: exploring non-covalent interactions and photophysical characteristics

Marina Smirnova, Blazej Scheibe, Marcin Jarek, Alexandra Siklitskaya, Adam Kubas and Anna Lewandowska-Andralojc\*

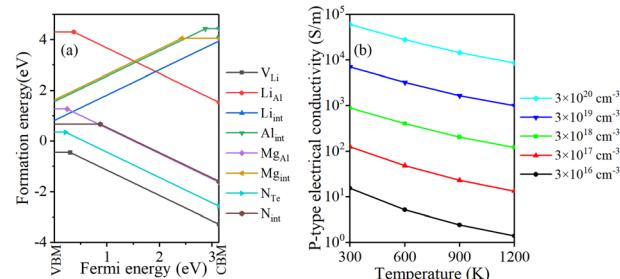


## RESEARCH PAPERS

12381

**A hybrid functional method for screening the p-type defects in wide gap semiconductor  $\alpha\text{-LiAlTe}_2$** 

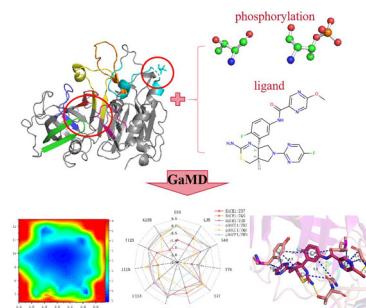
Shuaiwei Fan,\* Jiayuan Wang, Yuhang Deng and Liu Yang



12389

**Molecular mechanism of phosphorylation-mediated impacts on the conformation dynamics of ligand-bound BACE1 probed by Gaussian accelerated molecular dynamics**

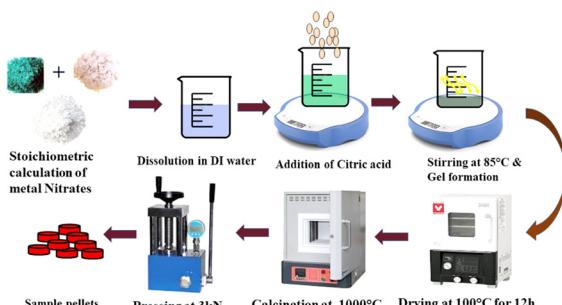
Chaoyue Jia, Yanqi Sun, Jianzhong Chen\* and Xinguo Liu\*



12405

**A study on the role of moderate optical band gap energy in dielectric properties of  $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles by Ce ion doping for electronic device applications: the effect of doping concentration**

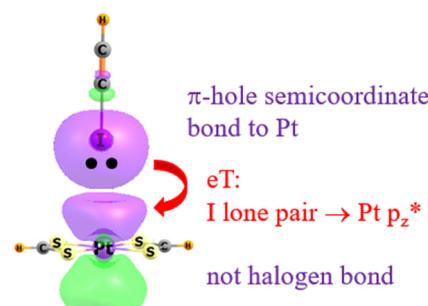
Abdulrahman I. Alharthi, Awais Khalid,\* Pervaiz Ahmad, Arshad Ali, Shahroz Saleem\* and Muhammad Adnan Munir\*



12416

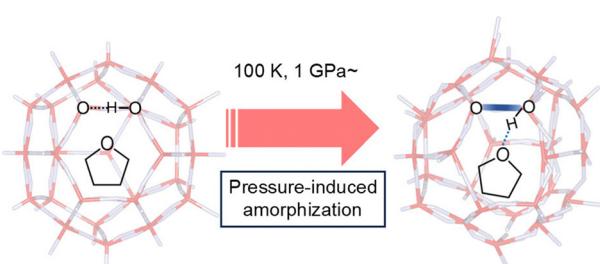
**Semicoordinate and halogen bonding to group 10 and group 8 metals**

Steve Scheiner



## RESEARCH PAPERS

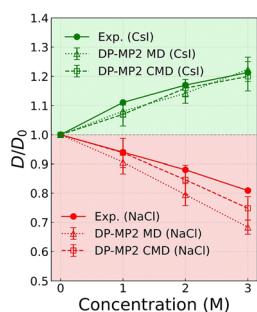
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**Similarities between the tetrahydrofuran clathrate hydrate after pressure-induced amorphization and aqueous tetrahydrofuran solution: an *in situ* Raman and infrared spectroscopic study**

Naoki Noguchi,\* Haruki Fujii and Hidekazu Okamura

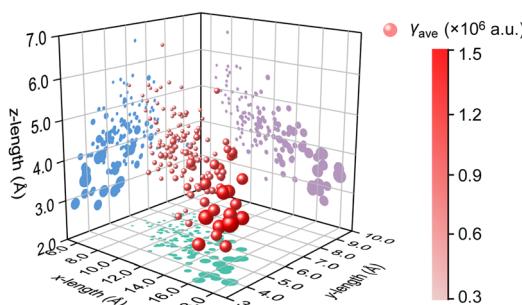
12438



**Structure making and breaking effects of ions on the anomalous diffusion of water revealed by machine learning potentials**

Jinfeng Liu,\* Xuchao Zhou and Xiao He\*

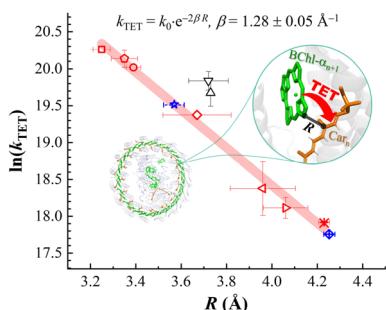
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**A length descriptor to measure the linear and third-order nonlinear optical responses of atomic-cluster isomers**

Quanjie Zhong

12462



**Triplet excitation dynamics of photosynthetic light-harvesting antennae: mechanistic insights into the conjugation regulated carotenoid functionality**

Yu-Qian Li, Yi-Hao Yan, Rong-Yao Gao, Jian-Wei Zou, Yu-Lu Wu, Xing-Yu Yue, Yao Lu, Xiang-Ping Wang, Ming-Qing Chen, Qi-Wei Li, Hao-Yi Wang, Peng Wang, Long-Jiang Yu,\* Junrong Zheng and Jian-Ping Zhang\*

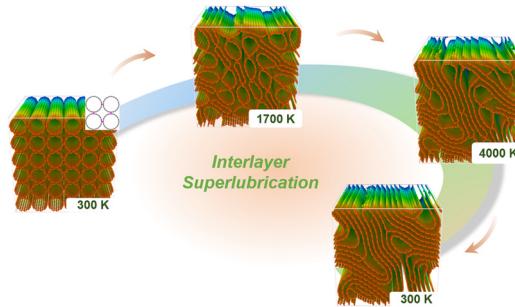


RESEARCH PAPERS

12474

# Inter-layer superlubricity in a carbon nanotube array induced by high-temperature annealing

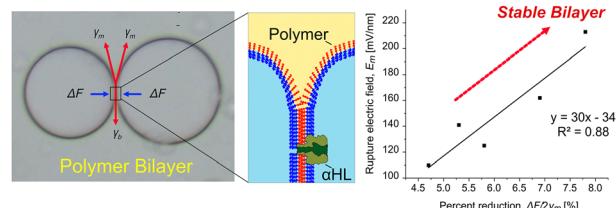
Yunlong Fan, Yushun Zhao,\* Kaiyi Zheng, Yingxia He,  
Chao Sui, Xiaodong He and Chao Wang



12483

## Reconstitution of nanopores in bilayers of diblock and triblock copolymers

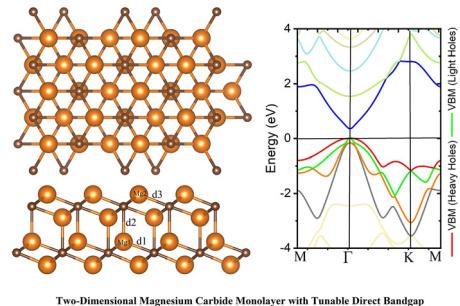
Hiroaki Kihara, Mikiyoshi Sato and Ryuji Kawano\*



12494

# First-principles investigation of a two-dimensional magnesium carbide monolayer: tunable bandgap, light carriers, and strain-induced topological and semiconductor-to-metal transitions

Mosayeb Naseri,\* Shahram Yalameha and Sergey Gusrayev

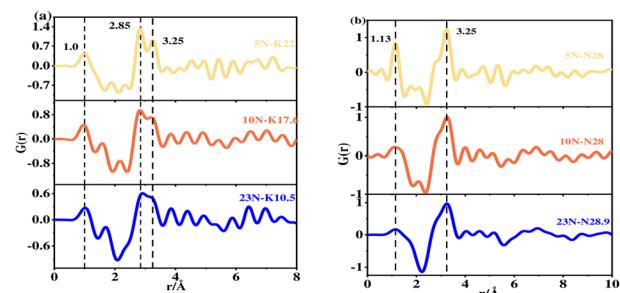


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12507

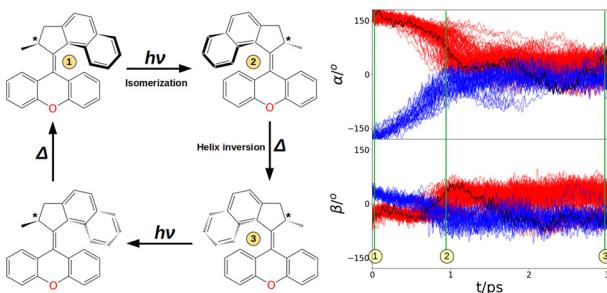
## **Study on the effect of NH<sub>3</sub> on the solubility of KCl and NH<sub>4</sub>Cl: a microscopic view**

Ao Wang, Xiaofu Guo, Fei Li,\* Jie Liu, Mengdan Qiao,  
Zihan Xing, Yingying Zhao, Shizhao Wang,  
Panpan Zhang, Jingtao Bi, Jing Wang,  
Junsheng Yuan and Zhiyong Ji



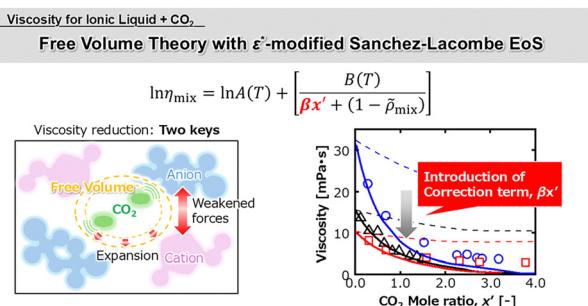
## RESEARCH PAPERS

12519

**First principles prediction of wavelength-dependent isomerization quantum yields of a second-generation molecular nanomotor**

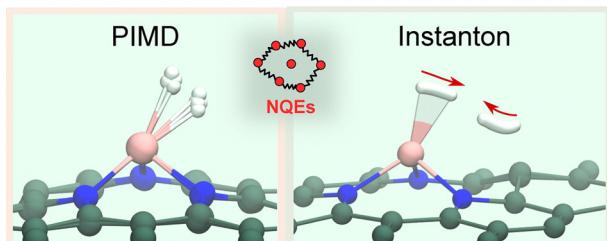
Jesús Lucia-Tamudo, Michelle Menkel-Lantz and Enrico Tapavicza\*

12532

**Viscosity prediction of CO<sub>2</sub>-saturated imidazolium-based ionic liquids using the  $\varepsilon^*$ -modified Sanchez–Lacombe equation of state and free volume theory with a new correction term**

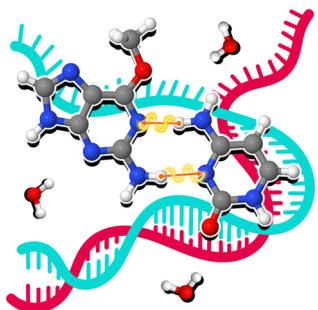
Ryohei Otani, Yuya Hiraga\* and Masaru Watanabe\*

12542

**Nuclear quantum effects in two-hydrogen intermediates on graphene-embedded transition metal atoms**

Erxun Han, Wei Fang\* and Ji Chen\*

12550

**Proton transfer in methylated G–C: nuclear quantum effects and water-assisted hopping**

Juliana G. de Abrantes,\* Adam P. Motala, Ian Riddlestone, Louie Slocombe and Marco Sacchi\*

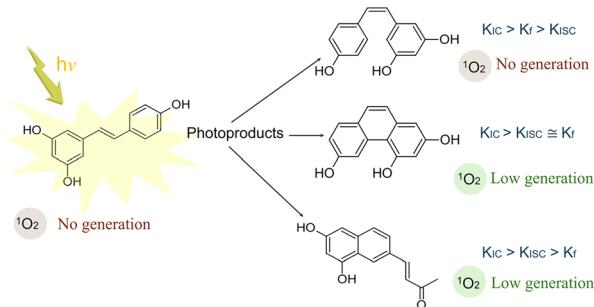


## RESEARCH PAPERS

12560

**Photophysics of resveratrol derivatives for singlet oxygen formation**

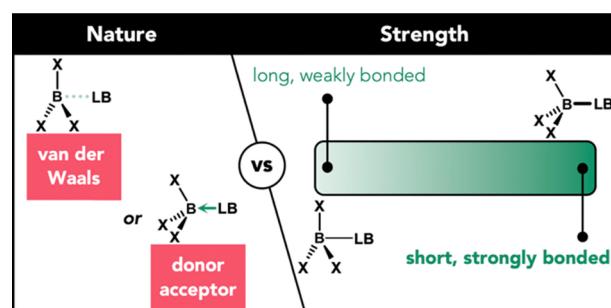
Mariana Yoshinaga, Josene M. Toldo, Willian R. Rocha\* and Mario Barbatti\*



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**The spectrum from van der Waals to donor–acceptor bonding**

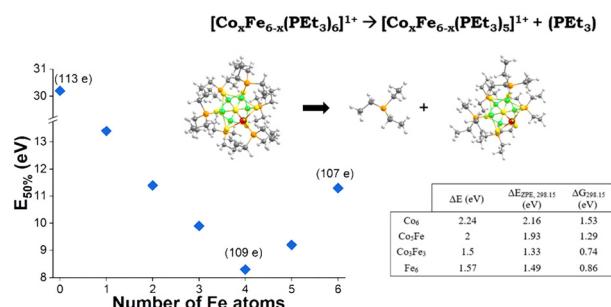
Daniela Rodrigues Silva,\* Lucas de Azevedo Santos, Matthijs A. J. G. Koning, Célia Fonseca Guerra and Trevor A. Hamlin\*



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**Effect of heteroatom incorporation on electronic communication in metal chalcogenide nanoclusters**

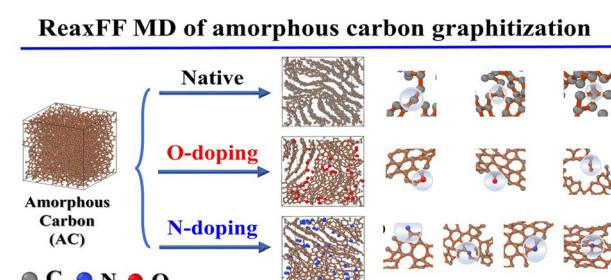
Shana Havenridge, Xilai Li, Julia Laskin\* and Cong Liu\*



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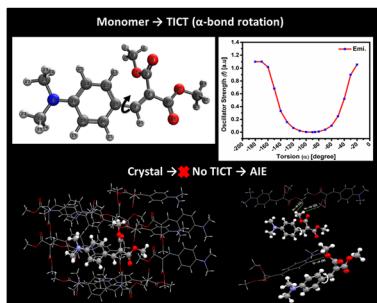
**ReaxFF MD simulations of graphitization of intact and O,N-doped amorphous carbon**

Yiru Bian, Wentao Zhang, Tao Wu\* and Dongqi Wang\*



## RESEARCH PAPERS

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**Aggregation-induced emission mechanism of styrene derivative: a theoretical study**

Aarzoo, Kenichiro Saita, Masato Kobayashi,  
Takao Tsuneda,\* Tetsuya Taketsugu and  
Ram Kinkar Roy\*

