



Photoactive nanoscale devices and machines

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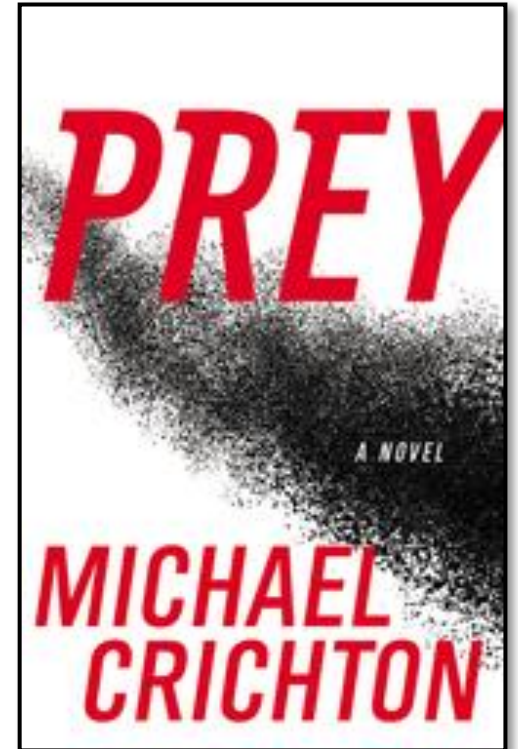
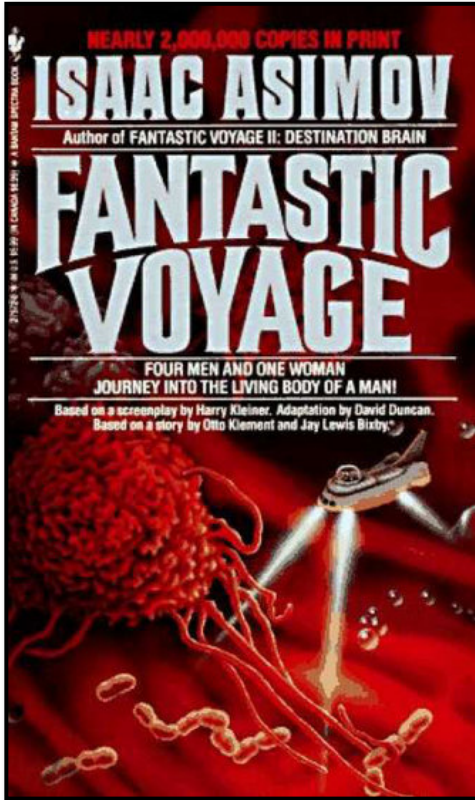


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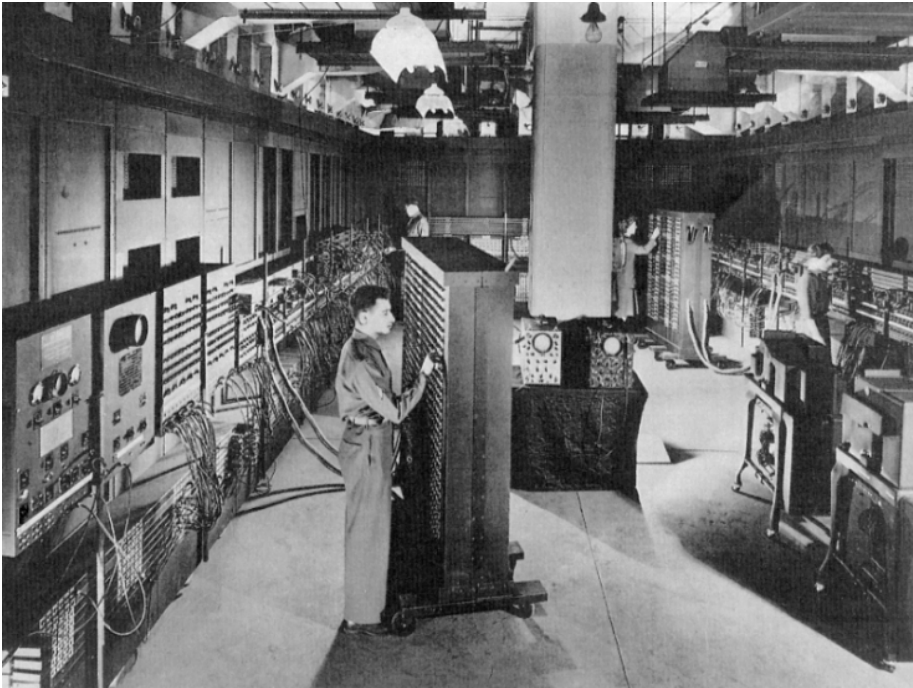
Consiglio Nazionale
delle Ricerche





Why miniaturization?

ENIAC: the first electronic computer (1944)



Weight: ca. 30 t

N. tubes: 19000

Power consumption: 200 kW

Integrated microprocessor (today)



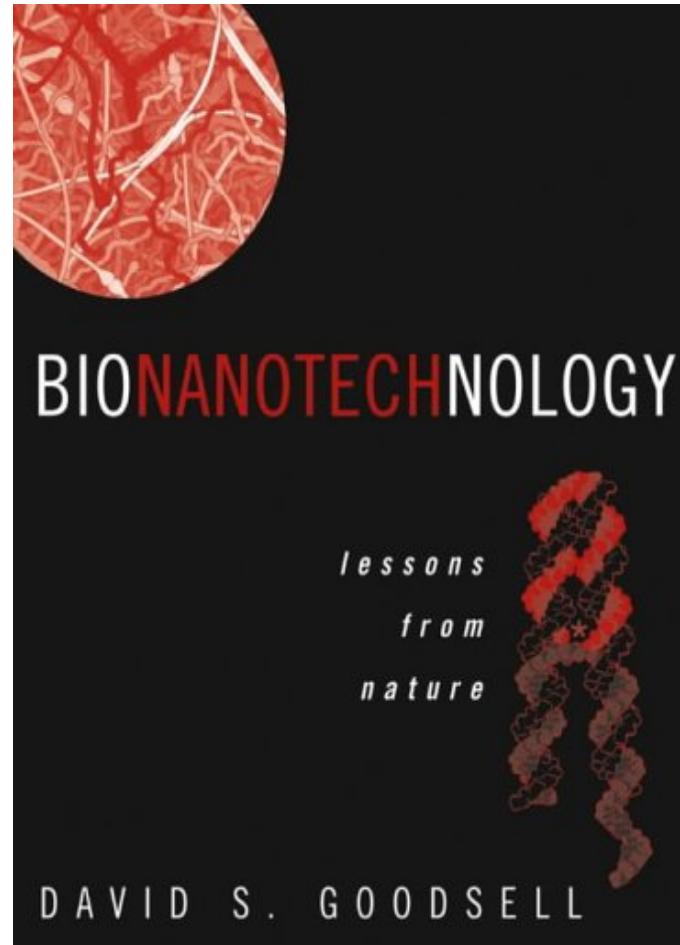
Weight: ca. 2 kg

Power consumption: ca. 60 W (CPU)

*N. transistors: 1.4 billions**
*Elements size (min): 25 nm**

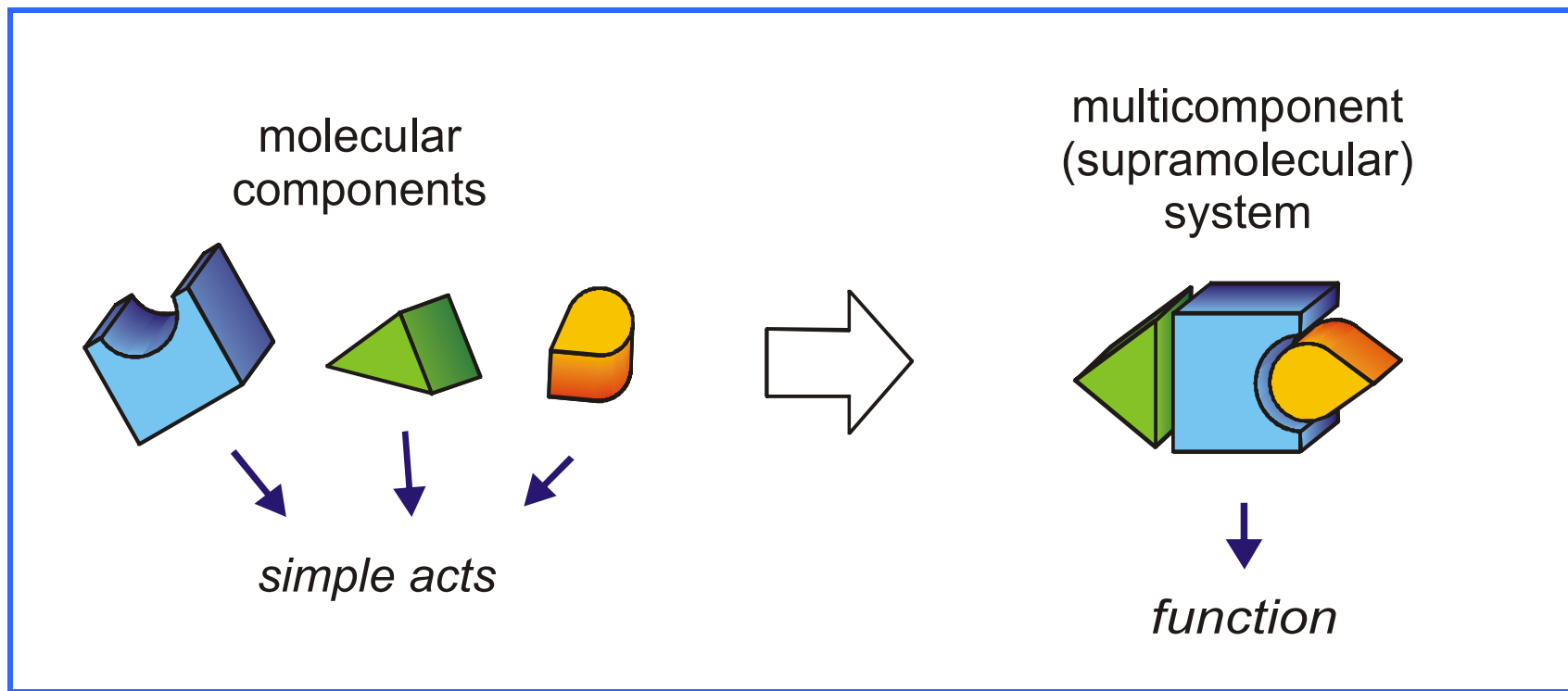
* Intel i7 quad core processor (22-nm lithography), released Q3 2013. See <http://ark.intel.com>

Naturally occurring molecular machines

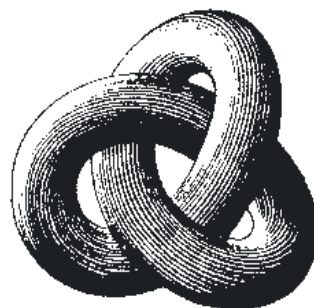


Cells have hundreds of different types of molecular motors, each specialized for a particular function. Many biological motor-like proteins have been discovered and characterized in recent years.

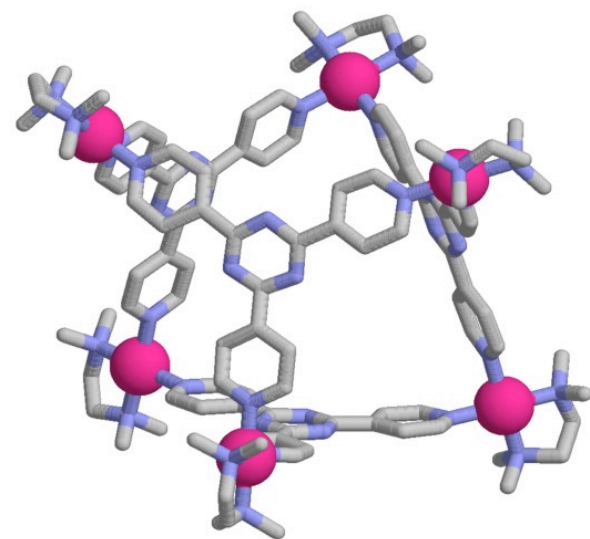
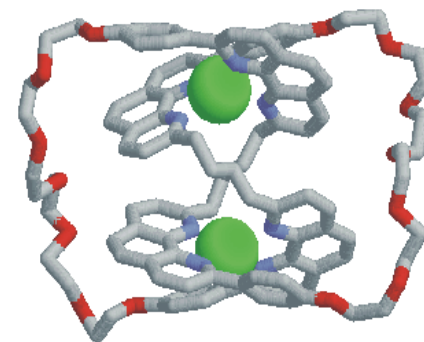
Artificial molecular devices



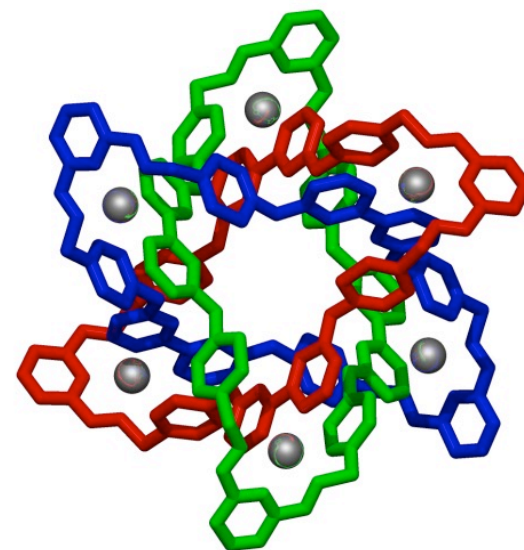
Complex synthetic structures



J.-P. Sauvage *et al.*

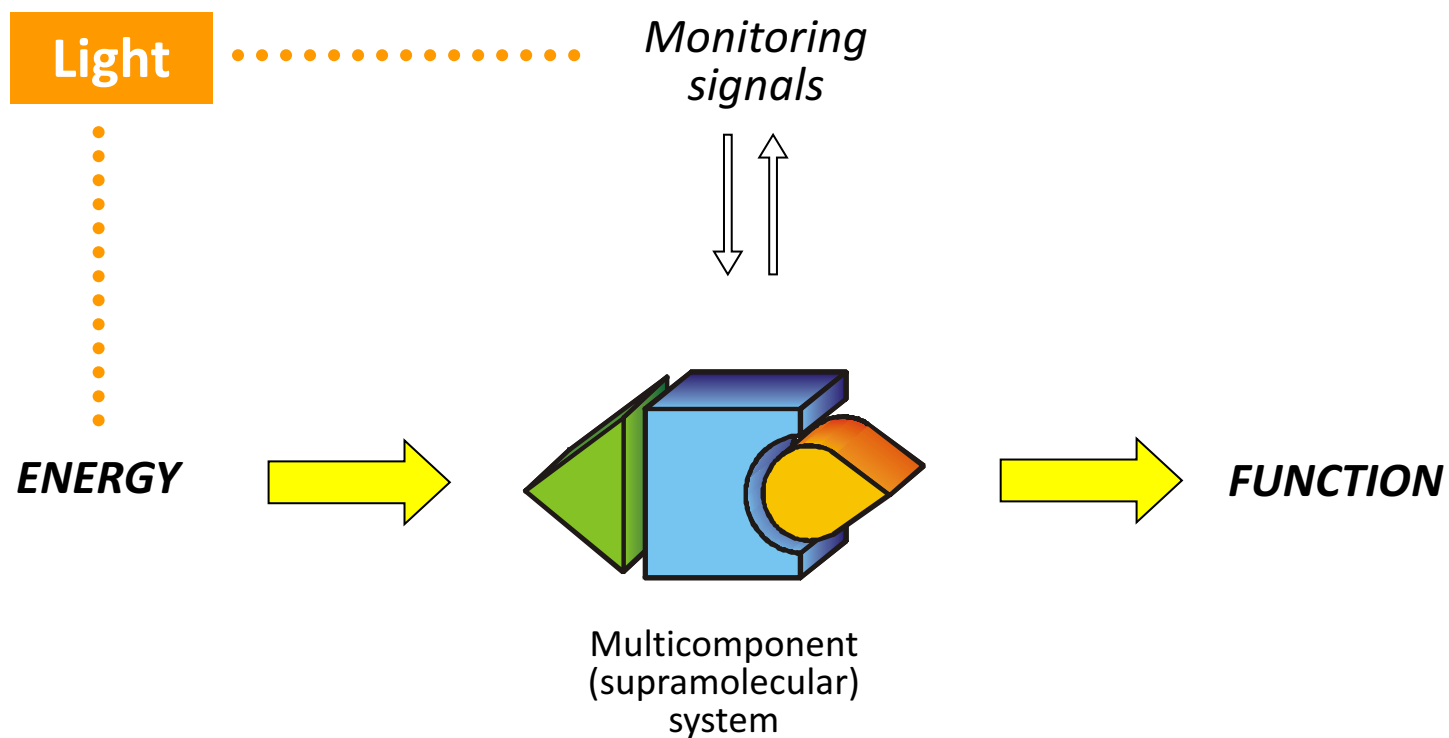


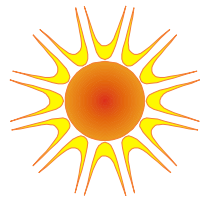
M. Fujita *et al.*



J.F. Stoddart *et al.*

Artificial molecular devices: the role of light

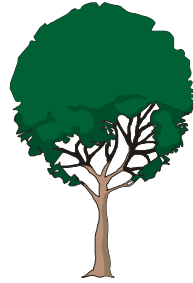
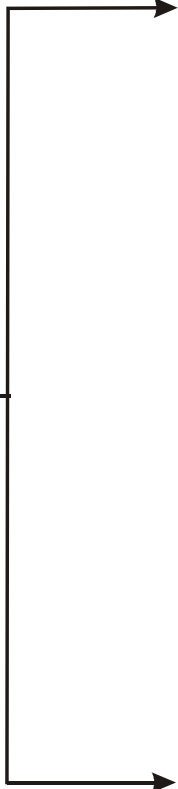




SUN



living
matter



photosynthetic
processes



ENERGY
for life



vision-related
processes



INFORMATION
for life

Artificial molecular devices

- **Devices for signal (information) processing**

Wires, plug/socket devices, electrical extension cable systems, antennas, sensors, switches, logic gates,...

- **Devices for harvesting and converting light energy**

Light harvesting antennas, wires, charge-separation devices, ...

- **Mechanical devices (molecular machines)**

Tweezers, shuttles, muscles, valves, rotary motors, ...

Artificial molecular devices

Information processing devices

A.P. de Silva, S. Uchiyama, *Nature Nanotech.* **2007**, *2*, 399

K. Szacilowski, *Chem. Rev.* **2008**, *108*, 3481

V. Balzani, A. Credi, M. Venturi, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2008**, *14*, 26

A. P. de Silva, *Molecular Logic-based Computation*, RSC Publishing, Cambridge, **2012**.

Mechanical molecular machines

D.A. Leigh *et al.*

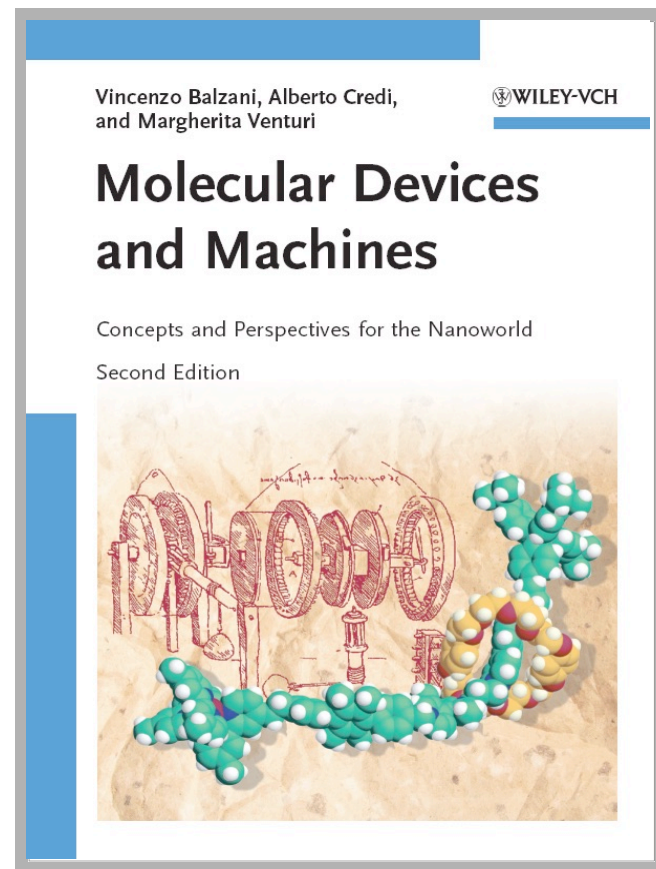
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2007**, *46*, 72

Chem. Rev. **2015**, *115*, 10081

S. Silvi, M. Venturi, A. Credi, *J. Mater. Chem.* **2009**, *19*, 2279;

Chem. Commun. **2011**, *47*, 2483 (feature articles)

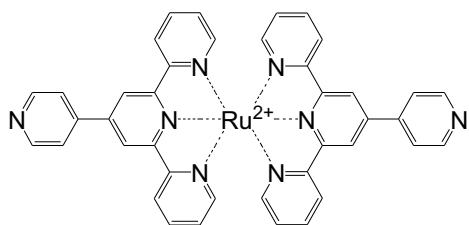
C. Bruns, J. F. Stoddart, *The Chemistry of the Mechanical Bond – From Molecules to Machines*, Wiley, New York, **2016**



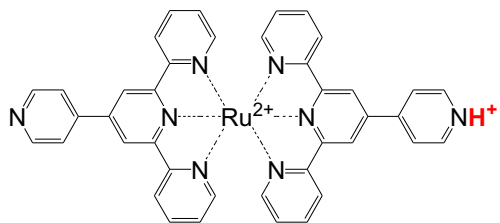
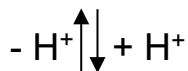
Wiley-VCH, Weinheim,
Germany, **2008**

**Information processing devices
based on transition metal complexes**

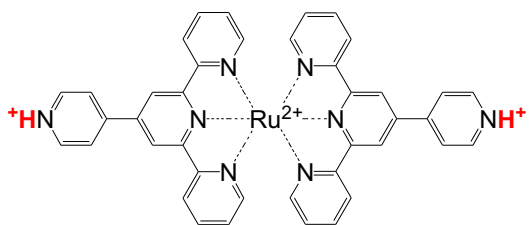
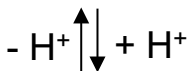
An acid-base controlled luminescent switch



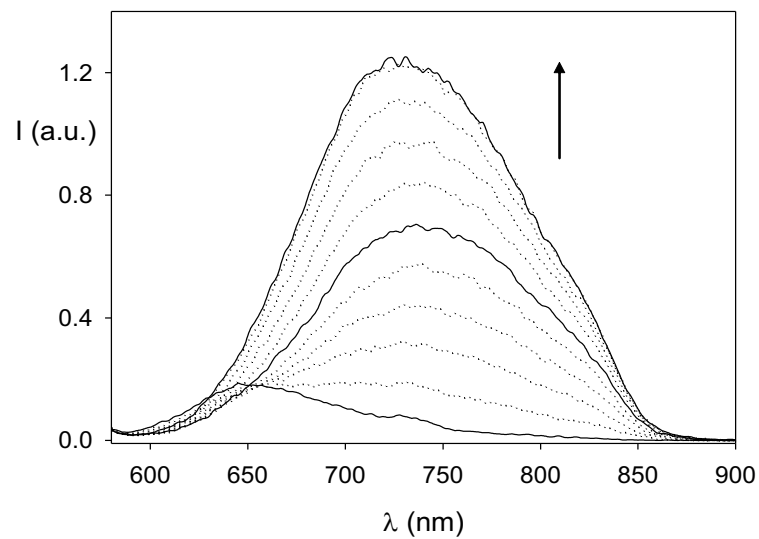
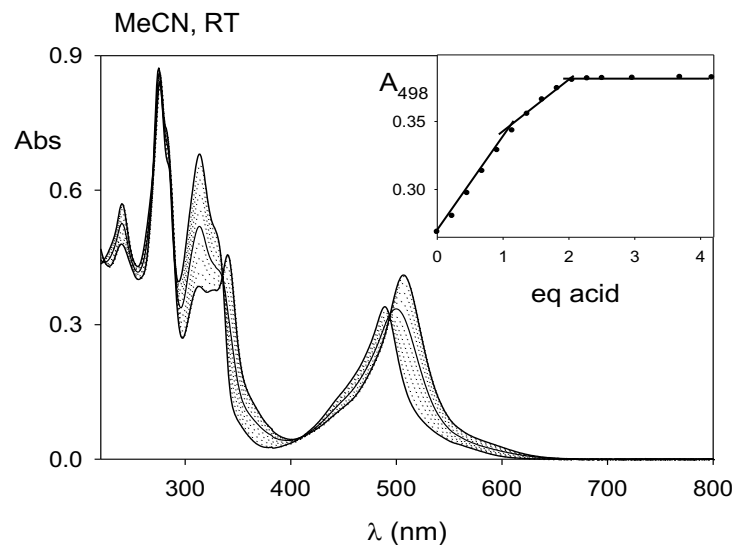
Ru

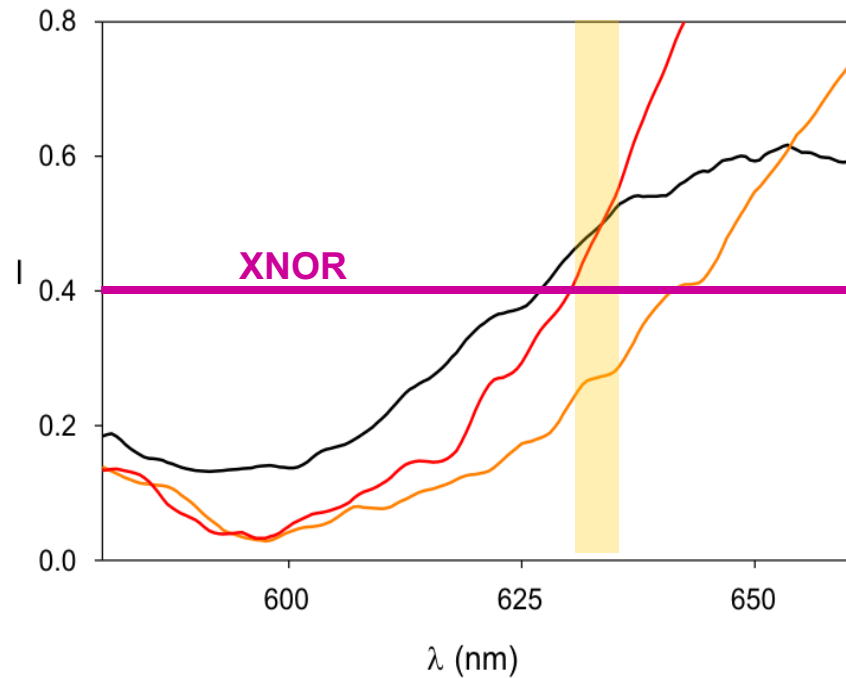
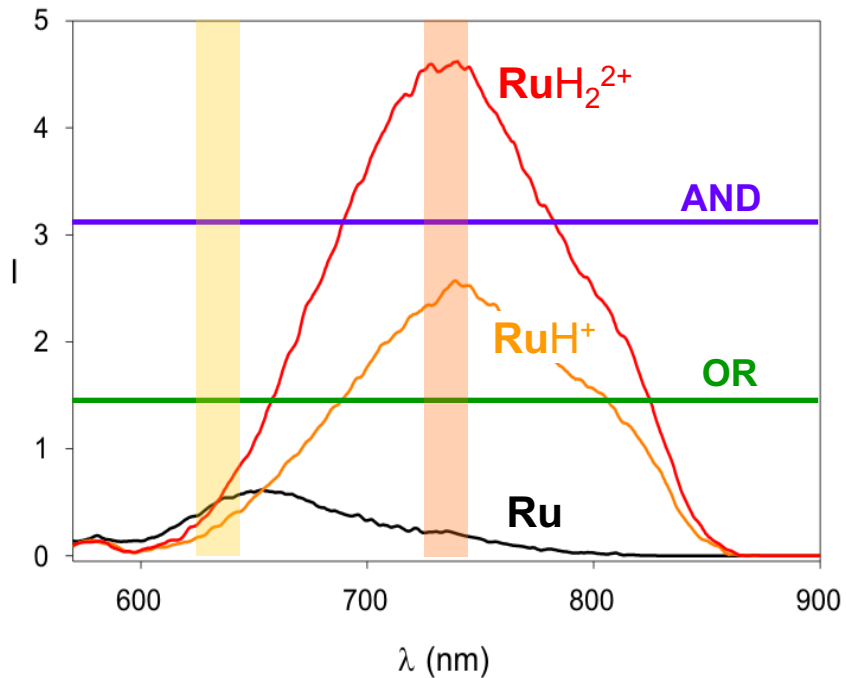


RuH⁺



RuH₂²⁺





$In_1 = H^+$
 $In_2 = H^+$
 $Out = hv$

In_1	In_2	Out ₇₄₀	Out ₇₄₀	Out ₆₃₀
0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	1

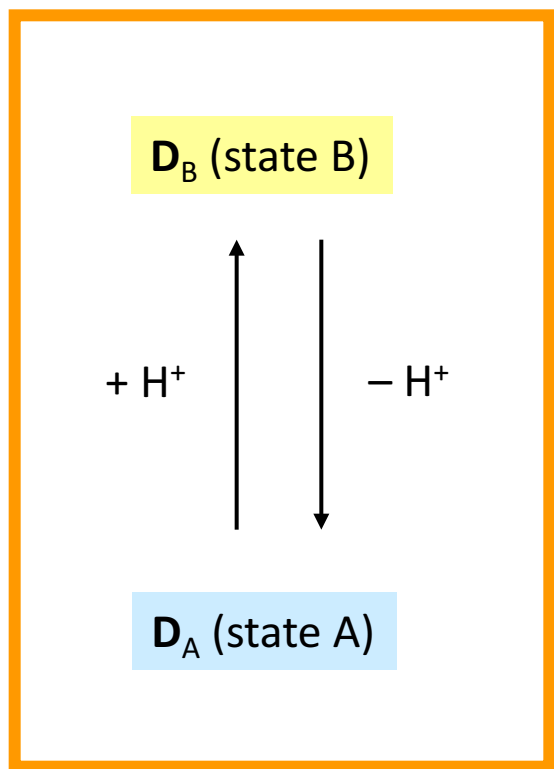
AND

OR

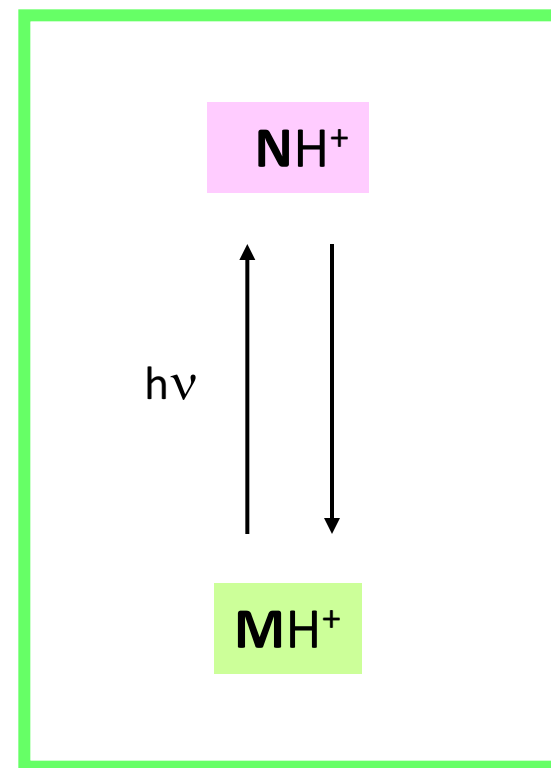
XNOR

Photochemical operation of pH-controlled molecular switches

Molecular Switch 1



Molecular Switch 2

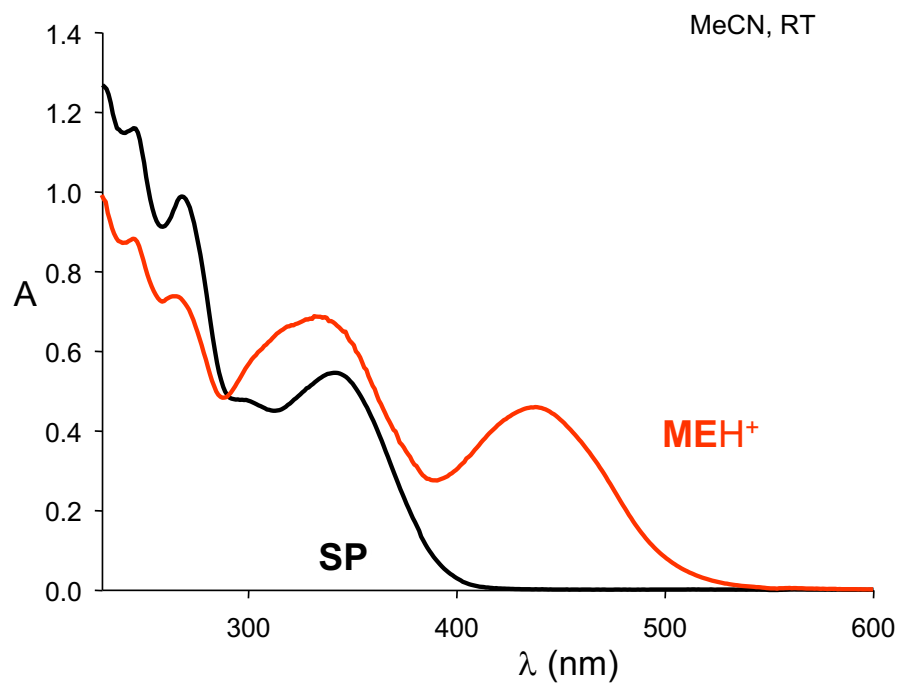
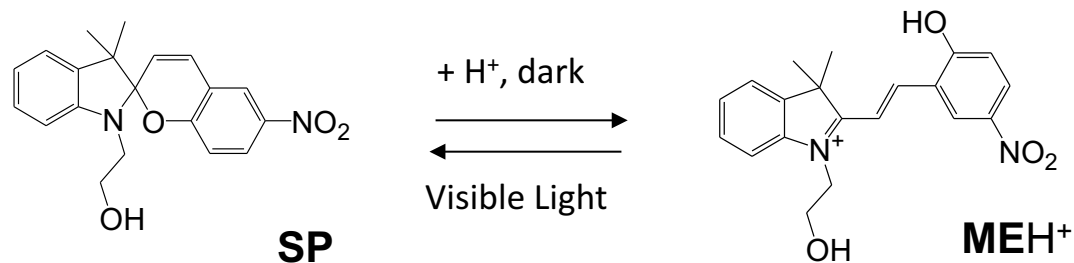


communication
of a chemical
signal (H^+ ions)

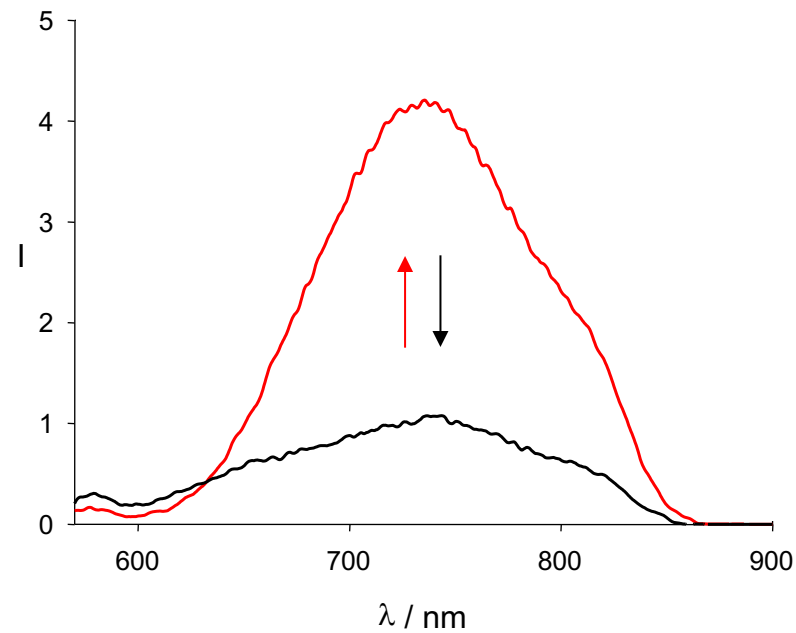
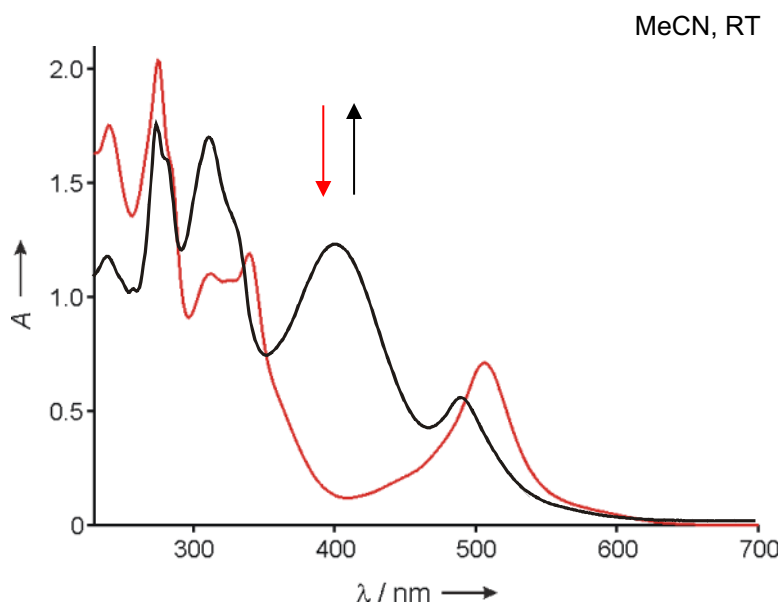
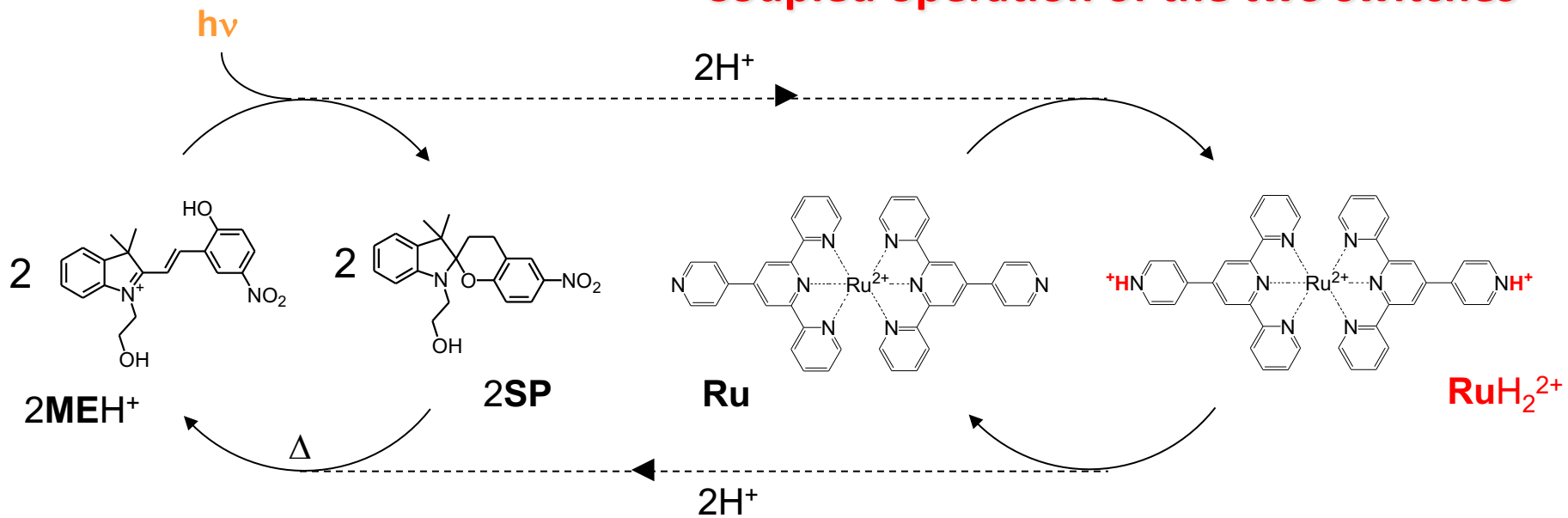
- compatibility of conditions
- no further chemical interactions between MS1 and MS2

- no interference of input/output signals
- correct timing of the switching processes
- $pK_a(NH^+) < pK_a(D_A) < pK_a(MH^+)$

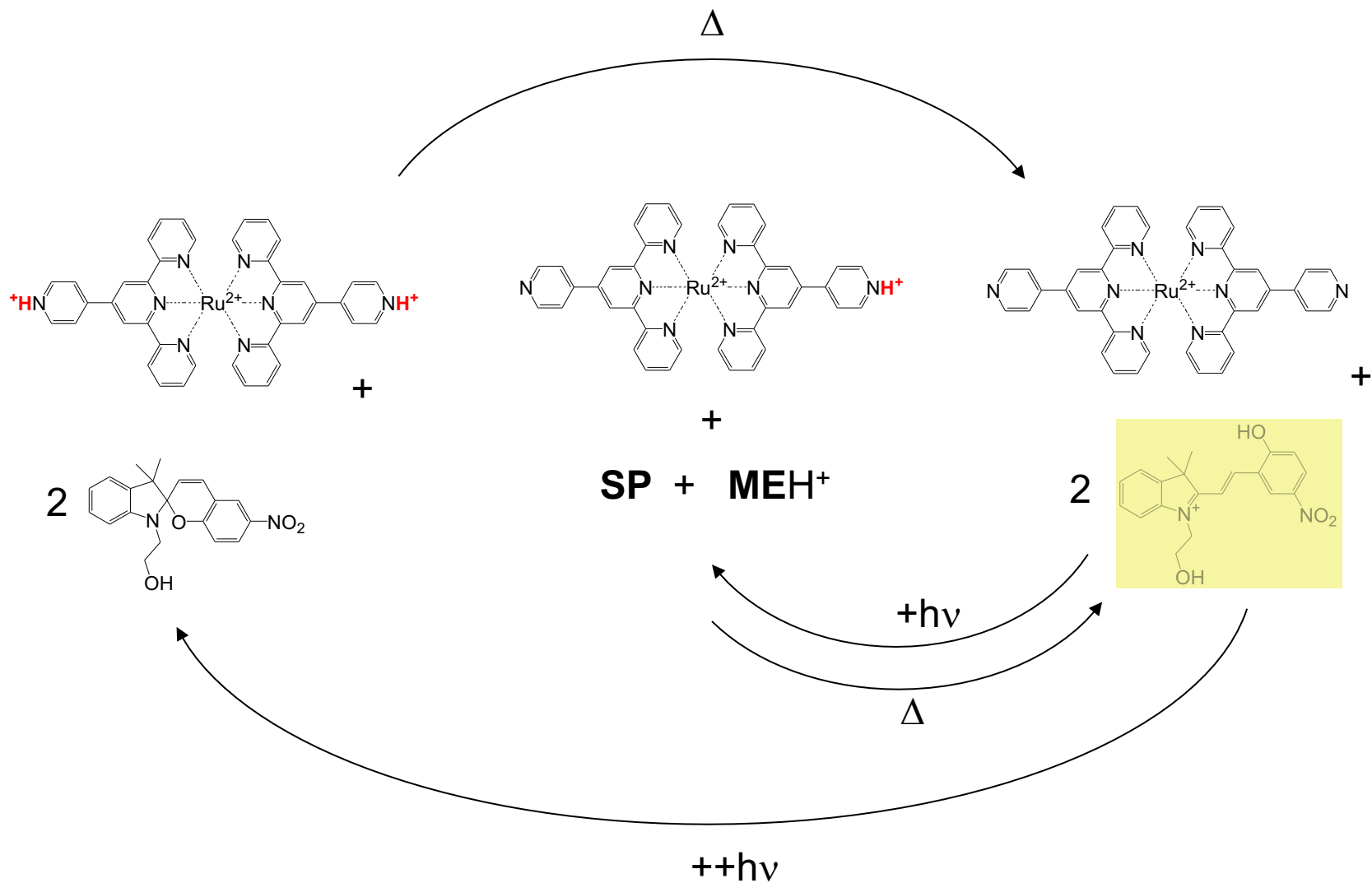
The spyropyran/merocyanine photochromic system



Coupled operation of the two switches



Photocontrol of molecular logic gate operation

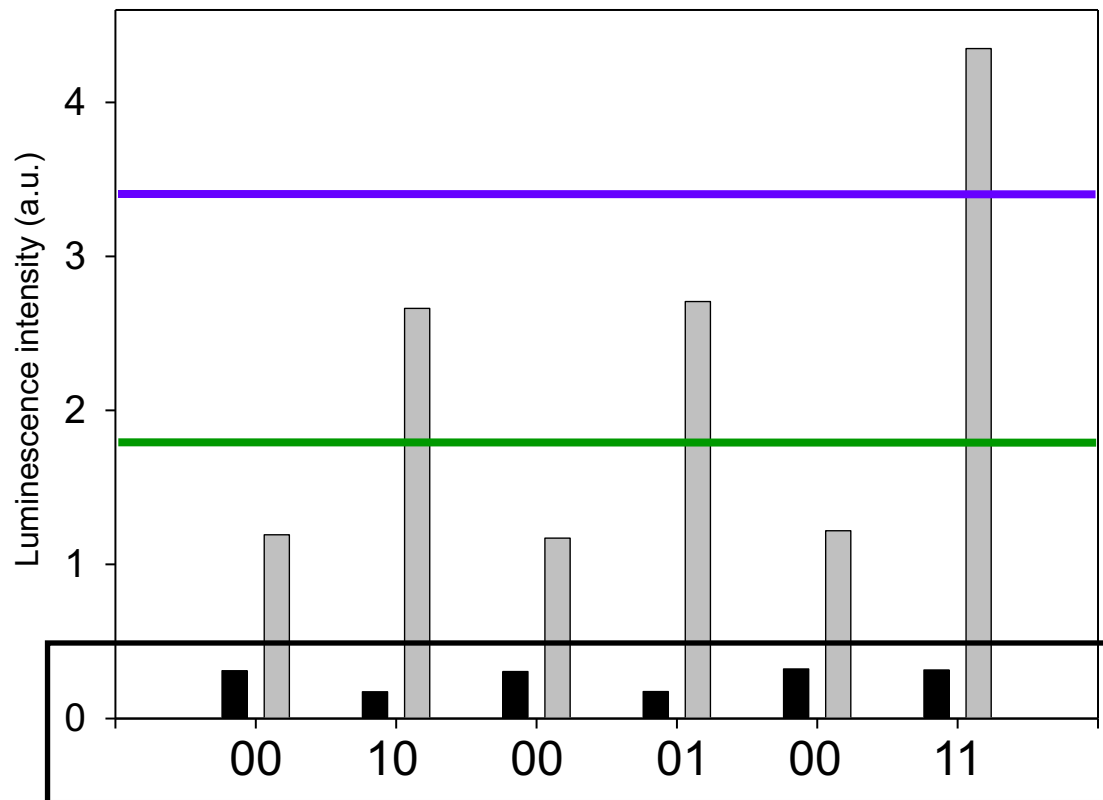




630 nm



740 nm



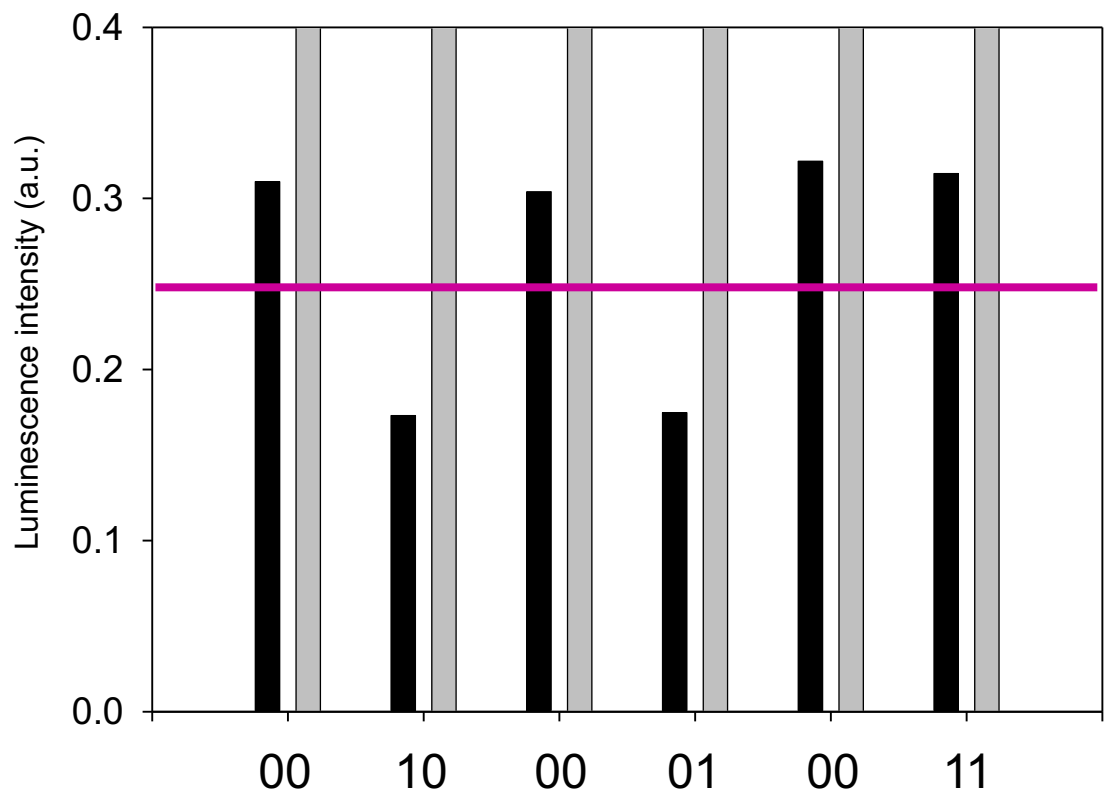
		AND	OR
In ₁	In ₂	Out	Out
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1



630 nm



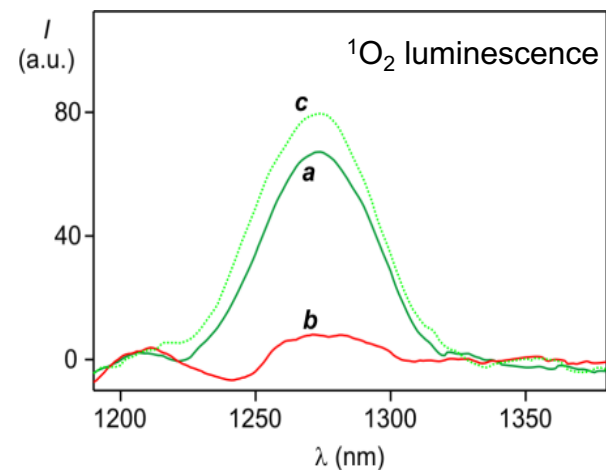
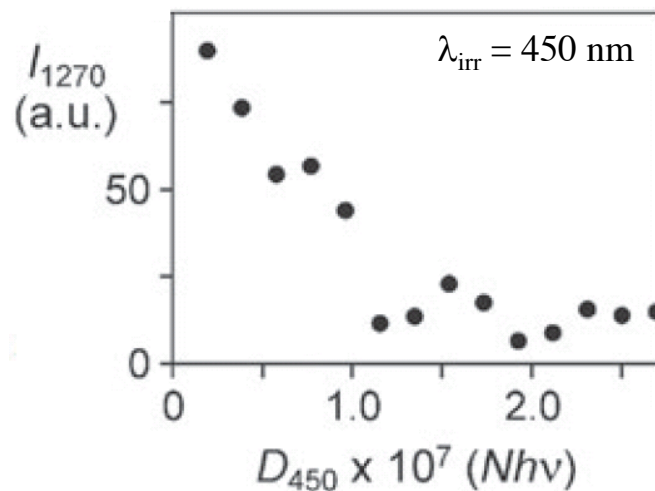
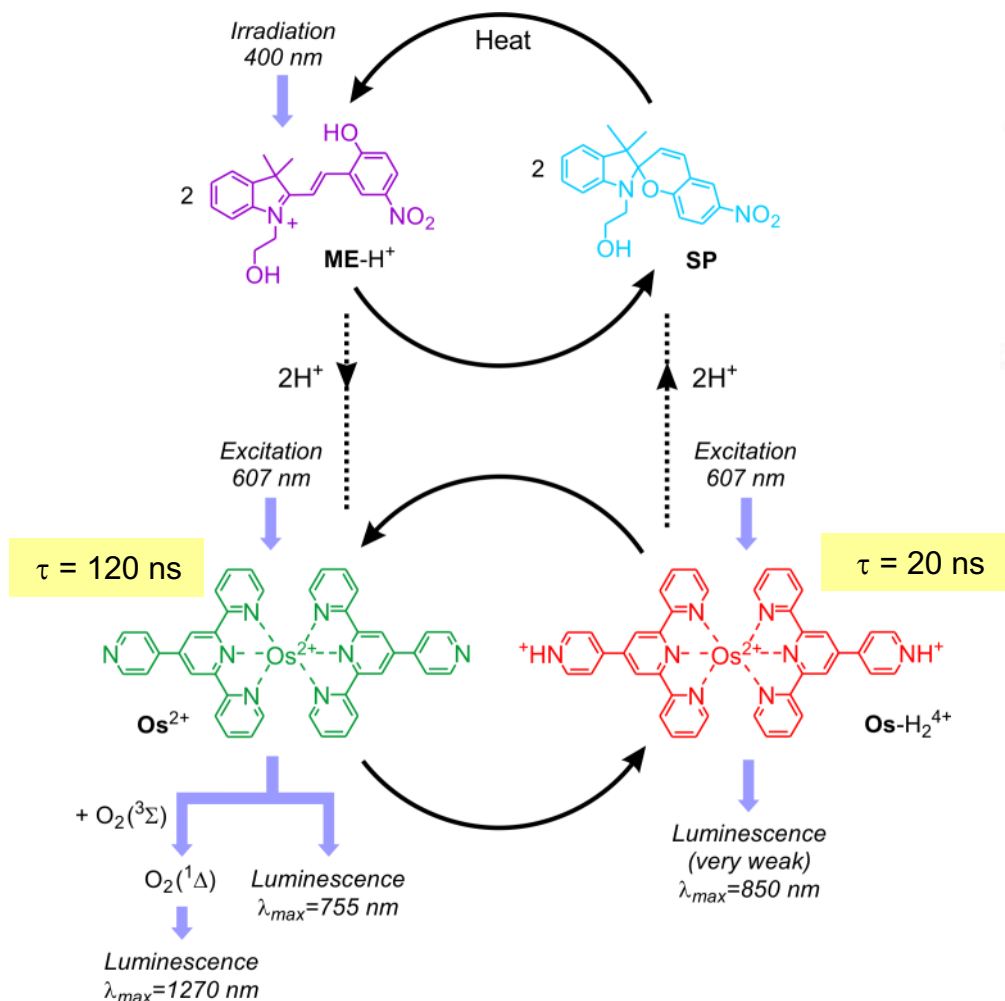
740 nm



XNOR

In ₁	In ₂	Out
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

Photochemical switching of luminescence and $^1\text{O}_2$ generation



**Nanoscale devices based on
semiconductor nanocrystal quantum dots**
