

Supplementary Materials

**Contrasting the excited state properties of
different conformers of *trans*- and *cis*- 2,
2'-Bipyridine oligomers in the gas phase**

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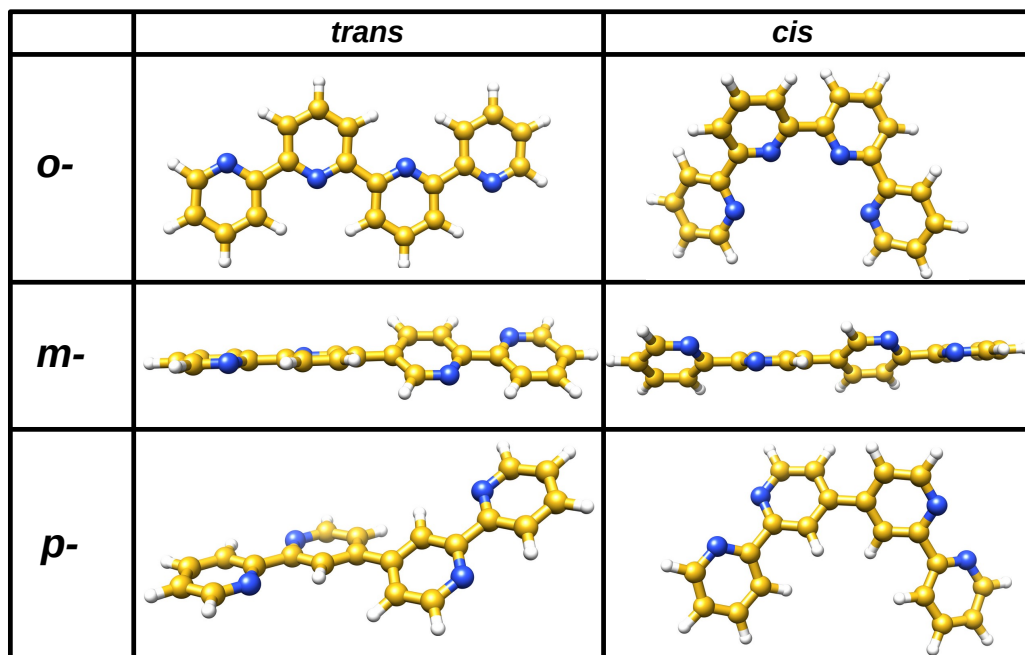


Figure S1: Ground state optimized structures of *trans*- and *cis*-(BPY)₂ for *o*-, *m*-, and *p*- conformers obtained at B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPD level.

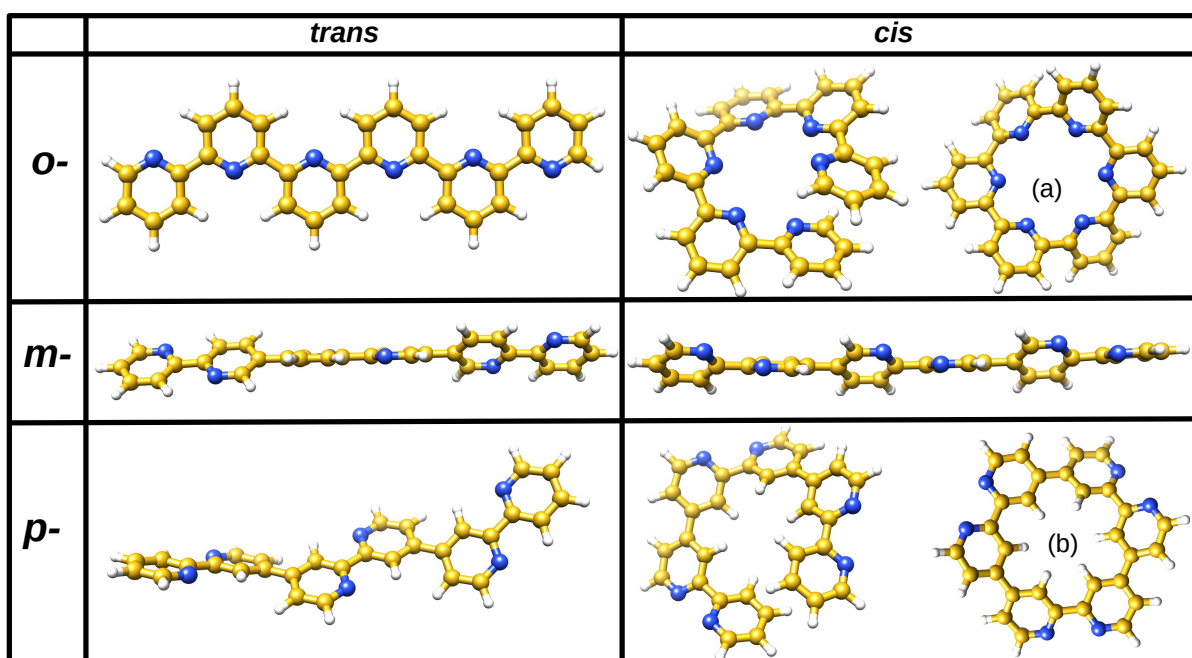


Figure S2: Optimized geometries of *trans*- and *cis*-(BPY)₃ for *o*-, *m*-, and *p*- conformers. In this figure, (a) and (b) are the cyclic (cy) analogs of *o*- and *p*- conformers, respectively.

Table S1: Energies (in eV) of ground state optimized structures of all the oligomers at B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPD level

| <i>trans</i> | (BPY) ₂ | (BPY) ₃ | (BPY) ₄ |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>o-</i> | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| <i>m-</i> | 0.19 | 0.38 | 0.57 |
| <i>p-</i> | 0.17 | 0.33 | 0.50 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| <i>cis</i> | | | |
| <i>o-</i> | 0.91 | 1.38 | 0.50 |
| cy- <i>o-</i> | | 33.91 | |
| <i>m-</i> | 0.88 | 1.28 | 1.77 |
| <i>p-</i> | 0.86 | 1.12 | 1.04 |
| cy- <i>p-</i> | | 33.67 | |

In the case of *trans* oligomers for *o-* conformer, only one type of the dihedral angle ϕ_i , defined as $\angle\text{N-C-C-C}$, is used. In *m-* and *p-*, two types of dihedral angles, ϕ_j and ϕ_k , are used which are defined as $\angle\text{N-C-C-C}$ and $\angle\text{C-C-C-C}$, respectively. Similarly, in the case of *cis-o-* conformer, only one type of dihedral angle $\phi_i = \angle\text{N-C-C-N}$ is used, whereas for *m-* and *p-* two types of dihedral angles $\phi_j = \angle\text{N-C-C-N}$ and $\phi_k = \angle\text{C-C-C-C}$ are used. In the case of tetramers, for example, $i=1-7$, $j=1, 3, 5, 7$, and $k=2, 4, 6$.

Table S2: Calculated dihedral angles (ϕ_{1-7}) of (BPY)₂-(BPY)₄ for *trans-* structures of *o-* conformer at B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPD level

| Angle | (BPY) ₂ | (BPY) ₃ | (BPY) ₄ |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ϕ_1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ϕ_2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ϕ_3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ϕ_4 | | 0 | 0 |
| ϕ_5 | | 0 | 0 |
| ϕ_6 | | | 0 |
| ϕ_7 | | | 0 |

Table S3: Calculated dihedral angles (ϕ_{1-7}) of (BPY)₂-(BPY)₄ for *trans*- structures of *m*- and *p*- conformers at B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPD level

| Angle | <i>m</i> - | | | <i>p</i> - | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | (BPY) ₂ | (BPY) ₃ | (BPY) ₄ | (BPY) ₂ | (BPY) ₃ | (BPY) ₄ |
| ϕ_1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -0.8 | -0.8 | 0.6 |
| ϕ_2 | 37.2 | -37 | 37.1 | 33.7 | 33.6 | -33.3 |
| ϕ_3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -0.5 | -1.6 | 1.6 |
| ϕ_4 | | 37 | 37.2 | | 33.6 | -33.5 |
| ϕ_5 | | 0 | 0 | | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| ϕ_6 | | | 37.1 | | | -33.3 |
| ϕ_7 | | | 0 | | | 0.8 |

Table S4: Calculated dihedral angles (ϕ_{1-7}) of (BPY)₂-(BPY)₄ for *cis*- structures of *o*- conformer at B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPD level

| Angle | <i>o</i> - | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | (BPY) ₂ | (BPY) ₃ | cy-(BPY) ₃ | (BPY) ₄ |
| ϕ_1 | 39.6 | -30.3 | -26.5 | 38.7 |
| ϕ_2 | -38.4 | 20.8 | -26.5 | -26.0 |
| ϕ_3 | 39.6 | -44.6 | 51.7 | 53.3 |
| ϕ_4 | | 20.8 | -26.5 | -38.6 |
| ϕ_5 | | -30.3 | -26.5 | 53.3 |
| ϕ_6 | | | 51.7 | -26.0 |
| ϕ_7 | | | | 38.7 |

Table S5: Calculated dihedral angles (ϕ_{1-7}) of (BPY)₂-(BPY)₄ for *cis*- structures of *m*- and *p*- conformers at B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPD level

| Angle | <i>m</i> - | | | <i>p</i> - | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | (BPY) ₂ | (BPY) ₃ | (BPY) ₄ | (BPY) ₂ | (BPY) ₃ | cy-(BPY) ₃ | (BPY) ₄ |
| ϕ_1 | 35.2 | 35.3 | 35.2 | -37.3 | -40.0 | -17.5 | -42.5 |
| ϕ_2 | -37.9 | -37.7 | -37.8 | 35.7 | 26.8 | -23.9 | 29.0 |
| ϕ_3 | 35.2 | 33.2 | 33.0 | -37.3 | -42.2 | 41.6 | -42 |
| ϕ_4 | | -37.8 | -37.8 | | 26.8 | -23.9 | 22.3 |
| ϕ_5 | | 35.3 | 33.1 | | -40.0 | -17.5 | -42.0 |
| ϕ_6 | | | -37.8 | | | 39.0 | 29.0 |
| ϕ_7 | | | 35.2 | | | | -42.5 |

Table S6: Vertical excitation energies (E_g), oscillator strengths (f_{osc}) and the rotatory strengths (R in 10^{-40} erg-esu-cm/Gauss) of first sixteen excited states for three conformers of *trans*- and *cis*-(BPY)₂ obtained at RI-ADC(2)/def2-TZVPD level

| <i>trans</i> | | <i>o-</i> | | | <i>m-</i> | | | <i>p-</i> | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|
| State | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | R | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | R | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | R |
| S ₁ | A | 4.37 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.19 | 1.487 | -1.68 | A | 4.33 | 0.005 | -6.41 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.37 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.20 | 0.002 | -1.80 | B | 4.34 | 0.013 | 29.95 |
| S ₃ | A | 4.39 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.38 | 0.292 | 28.89 | A | 4.51 | 0.014 | -11.13 |
| S ₄ | B | 4.46 | 0.460 | 0.00 | A | 4.62 | 0.000 | 1.84 | B | 4.55 | 0.298 | 102.66 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.48 | 0.004 | 0.00 | A | 4.64 | 0.001 | 2.40 | A | 4.64 | 0.000 | 2.56 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.70 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.73 | 0.036 | -56.86 | B | 4.66 | 0.060 | -160.54 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.78 | 0.696 | 0.00 | B | 4.75 | 0.010 | -62.68 | B | 4.80 | 0.637 | -235.95 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.79 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.82 | 0.001 | -8.71 | A | 4.84 | 0.034 | 237.77 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.80 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.92 | 0.001 | 13.02 | B | 4.91 | 0.001 | 0.86 |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.82 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.94 | 0.000 | -2.53 | A | 4.91 | 0.000 | -0.11 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 5.05 | 0.004 | 0.00 | B | 5.10 | 0.006 | 12.17 | A | 5.08 | 0.005 | 3.28 |
| S ₁₂ | B | 5.06 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 5.12 | 0.006 | -10.70 | B | 5.08 | 0.000 | -1.66 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 5.13 | 0.228 | 0.00 | B | 5.14 | 0.041 | -21.79 | B | 5.30 | 0.113 | -13.22 |
| S ₁₄ | A | 5.35 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 5.39 | 0.000 | 2.66 | A | 5.41 | 0.027 | 90.78 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 5.47 | 0.580 | 0.00 | A | 5.46 | 0.008 | 60.34 | B | 5.47 | 1.217 | -127.51 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 5.74 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 5.91 | 0.070 | -29.31 | A | 5.75 | 0.000 | -1.82 |
| <i>cis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | A | 4.38 | 0.000 | 0.55 | B | 4.28 | 0.301 | -99.18 | B | 4.35 | 0.003 | -7.50 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.44 | 0.001 | -2.91 | A | 4.31 | 0.000 | -4.22 | A | 4.36 | 0.005 | 37.99 |
| S ₃ | A | 4.47 | 0.000 | 0.67 | B | 4.48 | 0.781 | -213.58 | A | 4.56 | 0.008 | 45.18 |
| S ₄ | B | 4.52 | 0.003 | 25.56 | A | 4.55 | 0.000 | 0.42 | B | 4.57 | 0.007 | 13.80 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.58 | 0.001 | -14.94 | B | 4.59 | 0.383 | 310.76 | B | 4.68 | 0.065 | 22.93 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.59 | 0.010 | -46.51 | A | 4.78 | 0.000 | -2.55 | A | 4.75 | 0.134 | -100.47 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.72 | 0.279 | -68.46 | B | 4.79 | 0.076 | 108.99 | B | 4.77 | 0.001 | -4.37 |
| S ₈ | A | 4.86 | 0.002 | 17.60 | A | 4.86 | 0.000 | -4.24 | A | 4.77 | 0.012 | -4.69 |
| S ₉ | B | 4.86 | 0.003 | -6.70 | A | 4.90 | 0.000 | 0.01 | B | 4.91 | 0.003 | 0.00 |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.89 | 0.121 | 89.00 | B | 4.90 | 0.005 | 17.34 | A | 4.91 | 0.001 | 8.11 |
| S ₁₁ | B | 5.07 | 0.015 | -92.64 | B | 4.94 | 0.217 | -84.32 | B | 5.06 | 0.202 | 132.95 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 5.10 | 0.118 | 23.02 | A | 5.06 | 0.015 | -14.32 | A | 5.08 | 0.062 | -46.53 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 5.31 | 0.095 | 9.21 | B | 5.10 | 0.022 | 23.01 | B | 5.42 | 0.101 | 35.92 |
| S ₁₄ | A | 5.58 | 0.476 | 215.72 | A | 5.52 | 0.002 | 11.30 | B | 5.52 | 0.944 | -24.65 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 5.68 | 0.078 | -19.81 | A | 5.68 | 0.003 | 5.81 | A | 5.59 | 0.457 | -124.32 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 5.70 | 0.028 | 5.03 | B | 5.96 | 0.008 | 9.70 | A | 5.66 | 0.064 | -29.72 |

Table S7: Vertical excitation energies (E_g), oscillator strengths (f_{osc}) and the rotatory strengths (R in 10^{-40} erg-esu-cm/Gauss) of first sixteen excited states for three conformers of *trans*- and *cis*-(BPY)₃ obtained at RI-ADC(2)/def2-TZVPD level

| <i>trans</i> | | | | | <i>o-</i> | | | | | <i>m-</i> | | | | | <i>p-</i> | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|--|--|--|
| State | | E_g | f_{osc} | R | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | R | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | R | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | R | | | |
| S ₁ | A | 4.34 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 3.94 | 2.785 | 23.69 | A | 4.30 | 0.007 | 0.03 | A | 4.33 | 0.001 | -10.91 | | | |
| S ₂ | B | 4.35 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.12 | 0.001 | 2.61 | A | 4.33 | 0.001 | -10.91 | B | 4.33 | 0.019 | 34.58 | | | |
| S ₃ | A | 4.36 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.25 | 0.065 | -12.97 | B | 4.33 | 0.019 | 34.58 | A | 4.37 | 0.001 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₄ | B | 4.37 | 0.001 | 0.00 | A | 4.30 | 0.001 | 3.20 | B | 4.47 | 0.137 | 87.82 | A | 4.37 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₅ | A | 4.37 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.49 | 0.002 | -9.67 | A | 4.48 | 0.015 | -43.96 | B | 4.42 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₆ | B | 4.42 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.55 | 0.009 | -1.30 | B | 4.53 | 0.317 | 71.28 | A | 4.43 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₇ | A | 4.43 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.56 | 0.000 | 4.76 | A | 4.55 | 0.044 | 133.02 | B | 4.46 | 1.230 | -0.01 | | | |
| S ₈ | B | 4.46 | 1.230 | -0.01 | B | 4.63 | 0.039 | -11.91 | B | 4.56 | 0.381 | -217.32 | A | 4.50 | 0.007 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₉ | A | 4.50 | 0.007 | 0.00 | A | 4.69 | 0.001 | -1.23 | A | 4.64 | 0.001 | -4.82 | B | 4.65 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.65 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.71 | 0.000 | 4.50 | B | 4.64 | 0.120 | -244.57 | A | 4.75 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.75 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.73 | 0.056 | 199.77 | B | 4.81 | 0.534 | -494.18 | B | 4.75 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₁₂ | B | 4.75 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.78 | 0.100 | -22.73 | A | 4.83 | 0.123 | 565.32 | B | 4.78 | 0.744 | -0.02 | | | |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.78 | 0.744 | -0.02 | B | 4.89 | 0.007 | -35.00 | A | 4.90 | 0.000 | -0.65 | A | 4.79 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₁₄ | A | 4.79 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.92 | 0.000 | 3.59 | A | 4.91 | 0.000 | 0.51 | B | 4.83 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.83 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.93 | 0.001 | 3.66 | B | 4.91 | 0.000 | 0.97 | A | 4.84 | 0.000 | 0.00 | | | |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.84 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 5.05 | 0.002 | 4.08 | B | 5.07 | 0.001 | -1.19 | | | | | | | |
| <i>cis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | B | 3.98 | 0.000 | -1.77 | B | 4.17 | 1.960 | -274.92 | B | 4.31 | 0.007 | 24.89 | A | 3.98 | 0.000 | -0.76 | | | |
| S ₂ | A | 3.98 | 0.000 | -0.76 | A | 4.18 | 0.001 | -5.16 | A | 4.31 | 0.000 | 5.00 | B | 4.15 | 0.000 | -0.41 | | | |
| S ₃ | B | 4.15 | 0.000 | -0.41 | A | 4.30 | 0.000 | 1.27 | A | 4.34 | 0.001 | 8.13 | A | 4.16 | 0.000 | 2.10 | | | |
| S ₄ | A | 4.16 | 0.000 | 2.10 | B | 4.33 | 0.235 | -5.04 | B | 4.37 | 0.008 | 35.70 | A | 4.31 | 0.000 | -0.10 | | | |
| S ₅ | A | 4.31 | 0.000 | -0.10 | B | 4.43 | 0.365 | 184.29 | B | 4.55 | 0.001 | -21.27 | B | 4.34 | 0.002 | -2.24 | | | |
| S ₆ | B | 4.34 | 0.002 | -2.24 | A | 4.54 | 0.002 | 5.25 | A | 4.56 | 0.012 | 65.44 | B | 4.38 | 0.000 | 4.91 | | | |
| S ₇ | B | 4.38 | 0.000 | 4.91 | B | 4.55 | 0.044 | 121.95 | B | 4.58 | 0.019 | 82.03 | A | 4.38 | 0.000 | -1.56 | | | |
| S ₈ | A | 4.38 | 0.000 | -1.56 | A | 4.67 | 0.011 | -4.77 | A | 4.63 | 0.025 | -42.42 | B | 4.44 | 0.001 | 15.75 | | | |
| S ₉ | A | 4.44 | 0.001 | 15.75 | B | 4.76 | 0.115 | 27.44 | B | 4.71 | 0.211 | -139.30 | A | 4.44 | 0.002 | 31.47 | | | |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.44 | 0.002 | 31.47 | A | 4.77 | 0.000 | -1.28 | A | 4.73 | 0.034 | 5.35 | B | 4.51 | 0.049 | -514.84 | | | |
| S ₁₁ | B | 4.51 | 0.049 | -514.84 | B | 4.78 | 0.074 | 136.53 | B | 4.76 | 0.000 | 0.03 | A | 4.60 | 0.328 | 345.84 | | | |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.60 | 0.328 | 345.84 | A | 4.81 | 0.006 | -22.97 | A | 4.76 | 0.000 | -1.80 | B | 4.67 | 0.004 | -0.06 | | | |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.67 | 0.004 | -0.06 | B | 4.84 | 0.015 | -24.76 | A | 4.77 | 0.049 | 8.71 | A | 4.68 | 0.004 | 15.53 | | | |
| S ₁₄ | A | 4.68 | 0.004 | 15.53 | B | 4.89 | 0.066 | -61.39 | B | 4.79 | 0.004 | 4.83 | B | 4.85 | 0.176 | -93.22 | | | |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.85 | 0.176 | -93.22 | A | 4.90 | 0.000 | 0.04 | B | 4.89 | 0.002 | -3.79 | A | 4.88 | 0.001 | 2.05 | | | |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.88 | 0.001 | 2.05 | A | 4.91 | 0.000 | 0.01 | A | 4.89 | 0.000 | 9.38 | | | | | | | |

Table S8: Vertical excitation energies (E_g), oscillator strengths (f_{osc}) and the rotatory strengths (R in 10^{-40} erg-esu-cm/Gauss) of first sixteen excited states for cy-*o*- and cy-*p*- conformers of *cis*-(BPY)₃ obtained at RI-ADC(2)/def2-TZVPD level

| State | irrep | cy- <i>o</i> - | | | cy- <i>p</i> - | | | R |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|------------------|---------|----------------|-------|------------------|---------|
| | | E_g | f_{osc} | R | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | |
| S ₁ | A | 4.05 | 0.000 | 0.00 | B | 4.08 | 0.000 | 0.10 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.05 | 0.001 | 4.06 | A | 4.08 | 0.001 | -0.37 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.18 | 0.000 | 1.96 | A | 4.30 | 0.020 | 3.20 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.18 | 0.000 | 0.56 | B | 4.33 | 0.026 | -113.55 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.39 | 0.001 | 23.68 | B | 4.33 | 0.010 | -46.02 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.40 | 0.000 | 7.25 | A | 4.34 | 0.012 | 90.82 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.40 | 0.000 | 7.42 | B | 4.39 | 0.017 | 121.59 |
| S ₈ | A | 4.40 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.44 | 0.161 | -63.88 |
| S ₉ | B | 4.49 | 0.001 | -16.16 | B | 4.49 | 0.003 | -1.49 |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.51 | 0.000 | 4.62 | A | 4.49 | 0.000 | -4.52 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.52 | 0.012 | 200.15 | B | 4.60 | 0.154 | 24.71 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.54 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.67 | 0.061 | -44.97 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.55 | 0.014 | 31.24 | B | 4.69 | 0.013 | 12.29 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 4.62 | 0.348 | -452.78 | A | 4.69 | 0.004 | 6.79 |
| S ₁₅ | A | 4.82 | 0.000 | 0.00 | A | 4.72 | 0.006 | -1.60 |
| S ₁₆ | B | 4.83 | 0.354 | 317.22 | B | 4.76 | 0.023 | 3.83 |

Table S9: E_g , f_{osc} , Rotatory Strengths (R in erg-esu-cm/Gauss), $|\mu|$ (in esu-cm), $|m|$ (in erg-G⁻¹), $\cos \theta$, g_{CD} , and $|m|/|\mu|$ values of the first sixteen excited states of *trans*-(BPY)₄ for three conformers obtained at RI-ADC(2)/def2-TZVPD level

| <i>o-</i> | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-----------|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| State | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | $R/10^{-40}$ | $ \mu /10^{-20}$ | $ m /10^{-20}$ | $\cos \theta$ | g_{CD} | $ m / \mu $ |
| S ₁ | A | 4.33 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 3.537 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₂ | A | 4.35 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.000 | 0.752 | 0.000 | 0.000 | Inf |
| S ₃ | B | 4.35 | 0.001 | 0.00 | 28.699 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.36 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 2.665 | 0.000 | 0.992 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.38 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.000 | 2.578 | 0.000 | 0.000 | Inf |
| S ₆ | A | 4.39 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 14.058 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.41 | 0.013 | 0.00 | 87.001 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.46 | 2.060 | 0.00 | 1104.190 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.46 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.000 | 0.881 | 0.000 | 0.000 | Inf |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.51 | 0.009 | -0.01 | 73.286 | 0.000 | -0.763 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.70 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 10.560 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₂ | B | 4.79 | 0.747 | 0.00 | 641.601 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.97 | 0.465 | 0.00 | 497.053 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 5.12 | 0.067 | 0.00 | 186.130 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 5.27 | 0.216 | 0.00 | 328.783 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₆ | B | 5.46 | 1.809 | 0.00 | 934.459 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| <i>m-</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | B | 3.82 | 3.796 | -9.29 | 1619.100 | 0.038 | -0.151 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| S ₂ | A | 4.09 | 0.002 | -1.47 | 34.167 | 0.043 | -1.000 | -0.005 | 0.001 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.17 | 0.032 | -4.72 | 141.604 | 0.346 | -0.096 | -0.001 | 0.002 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.19 | 0.000 | 2.67 | 13.522 | 0.198 | 1.000 | 0.059 | 0.015 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.28 | 0.001 | -4.97 | 18.814 | 0.264 | -1.000 | -0.056 | 0.014 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.33 | 0.110 | 13.53 | 258.454 | 0.295 | 0.178 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| S ₇ | A | 4.50 | 0.000 | -2.76 | 11.727 | 0.236 | -1.000 | -0.080 | 0.020 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.52 | 0.288 | 98.00 | 409.653 | 0.513 | 0.466 | 0.002 | 0.001 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.54 | 0.000 | 3.47 | 6.923 | 0.502 | 1.000 | 0.288 | 0.072 |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.57 | 0.000 | -0.14 | 1.240 | 0.372 | -0.303 | -0.334 | 0.300 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.64 | 0.000 | 4.94 | 14.121 | 0.350 | 1.000 | 0.099 | 0.025 |
| S ₁₂ | B | 4.64 | 0.007 | 11.30 | 60.993 | 0.237 | 0.781 | 0.012 | 0.004 |
| S ₁₃ | A | 4.71 | 0.001 | -0.65 | 18.426 | 0.035 | -1.000 | -0.008 | 0.002 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 4.72 | 0.004 | 30.48 | 46.522 | 0.659 | 0.995 | 0.056 | 0.014 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.74 | 0.120 | -252.97 | 258.214 | 1.039 | -0.943 | -0.015 | 0.004 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.76 | 0.001 | -4.68 | 16.917 | 0.277 | -1.000 | -0.065 | 0.016 |
| <i>p-</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | A | 4.33 | 0.010 | 8.75 | 76.791 | 0.114 | 1.000 | 0.006 | 0.001 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.33 | 0.002 | -8.61 | 34.083 | 0.340 | -0.744 | -0.030 | 0.010 |
| S ₃ | A | 4.37 | 0.000 | 6.06 | 7.753 | 0.782 | 1.000 | 0.399 | 0.101 |
| S ₄ | B | 4.37 | 0.015 | -26.28 | 95.222 | 0.367 | -0.752 | -0.012 | 0.004 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.52 | 0.000 | -6.77 | 8.720 | 0.777 | -1.000 | -0.354 | 0.089 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.52 | 0.152 | -138.91 | 297.647 | 0.808 | -0.578 | -0.006 | 0.003 |
| S ₇ | A | 4.54 | 0.032 | 49.94 | 136.574 | 0.366 | 1.000 | 0.011 | 0.003 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.56 | 0.282 | -36.31 | 403.326 | 0.735 | -0.122 | -0.001 | 0.002 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.61 | 0.008 | 6.04 | 68.041 | 0.089 | 1.000 | 0.005 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.61 | 0.013 | 22.63 | 84.615 | 1.256 | 0.213 | 0.013 | 0.015 |
| S ₁₁ | B | 4.63 | 0.795 | 461.84 | 673.165 | 2.235 | 0.307 | 0.004 | 0.003 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.63 | 0.094 | -305.63 | 231.629 | 1.320 | -1.000 | -0.023 | 0.006 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.68 | 0.152 | 286.69 | 292.923 | 1.710 | 0.572 | 0.013 | 0.006 |
| S ₁₄ | A | 4.69 | 0.029 | -14.02 | 127.547 | 0.110 | -1.000 | -0.003 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.89 | 0.435 | 549.80 | 484.638 | 4.221 | 0.269 | 0.009 | 0.009 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.89 | 0.230 | -628.03 | 353.488 | 1.782 | -1.000 | -0.020 | 0.005 |

Table S10: E_g , f_{osc} , Rotatory Strengths (R in erg-esu-cm/Gauss), $|\mu|$ (in esu-cm), $|m|$ (in erg-G⁻¹), $\cos \theta$, g_{CD} , and $|m|/|\mu|$ values of the first sixteen excited states of *cis*-(BPY)₄ for three conformers obtained at RI-ADC(2)/def2-TZVPD level

| <i>o</i>- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|-----------|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| State | irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | $R/10^{-40}$ | $ \mu /10^{-20}$ | $ m /10^{-20}$ | $\cos \theta$ | g_{CD} | $ m / \mu $ |
| S ₁ | A | 4.02 | 0.000 | 0.74 | 13.041 | 0.057 | 1.000 | 0.017 | 0.004 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.02 | 0.000 | 0.63 | 6.979 | 0.228 | 0.395 | 0.052 | 0.033 |
| S ₃ | A | 4.24 | 0.001 | -1.45 | 22.833 | 0.063 | -1.000 | -0.011 | 0.003 |
| S ₄ | B | 4.24 | 0.000 | -4.69 | 16.672 | 0.327 | -0.861 | -0.068 | 0.020 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.34 | 0.000 | 4.41 | 17.004 | 0.260 | 1.000 | 0.061 | 0.015 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.35 | 0.003 | 9.36 | 39.451 | 0.478 | 0.496 | 0.024 | 0.012 |
| S ₇ | A | 4.38 | 0.000 | 0.75 | 14.946 | 0.050 | 1.000 | 0.013 | 0.003 |
| S ₈ | A | 4.40 | 0.001 | 2.95 | 19.019 | 0.155 | 1.000 | 0.033 | 0.008 |
| S ₉ | B | 4.40 | 0.002 | -25.55 | 35.812 | 0.729 | -0.979 | -0.080 | 0.020 |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.46 | 0.000 | -10.39 | 16.733 | 0.643 | -0.966 | -0.148 | 0.038 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.48 | 0.002 | -25.68 | 33.354 | 0.770 | -1.000 | -0.092 | 0.023 |
| S ₁₂ | B | 4.49 | 0.005 | -5.41 | 53.307 | 0.250 | -0.406 | -0.008 | 0.005 |
| S ₁₃ | A | 4.56 | 0.102 | -316.42 | 243.441 | 1.300 | -1.000 | -0.021 | 0.005 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 4.56 | 0.031 | 368.34 | 134.373 | 3.538 | 0.775 | 0.082 | 0.026 |
| S ₁₅ | A | 4.57 | 0.054 | -187.12 | 175.980 | 1.063 | -1.000 | -0.024 | 0.006 |
| S ₁₆ | B | 4.59 | 0.051 | 356.53 | 171.450 | 3.094 | 0.672 | 0.049 | 0.018 |
| <i>m</i>- | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | B | 4.08 | 3.128 | -324.94 | 1422.290 | 1.683 | -0.136 | -0.001 | 0.001 |
| S ₂ | A | 4.17 | 0.004 | -13.595 | 51.910 | 0.262 | -1.000 | -0.020 | 0.005 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.18 | 0.128 | -12.36 | 284.552 | 0.449 | -0.097 | -0.001 | 0.002 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.28 | 0.005 | 22.26 | 55.848 | 0.399 | 1.000 | 0.029 | 0.007 |
| S ₅ | B | 4.31 | 0.064 | 19.32 | 198.506 | 0.364 | 0.267 | 0.002 | 0.002 |
| S ₆ | A | 4.37 | 0.007 | 4.46 | 66.594 | 0.067 | 1.000 | 0.004 | 0.001 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.42 | 0.330 | 284.18 | 443.343 | 0.986 | 0.650 | 0.006 | 0.002 |
| S ₈ | A | 4.48 | 0.038 | 11.45 | 148.589 | 0.077 | 1.000 | 0.002 | 0.001 |
| S ₉ | B | 4.54 | 0.009 | 38.60 | 70.826 | 0.746 | 0.731 | 0.031 | 0.011 |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.56 | 0.008 | -18.68 | 66.878 | 0.279 | -1.000 | -0.017 | 0.004 |
| S ₁₁ | B | 4.70 | 0.185 | 38.01 | 322.158 | 0.880 | 0.134 | 0.002 | 0.003 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.75 | 0.003 | 2.79 | 43.385 | 0.064 | 1.000 | 0.006 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₃ | A | 4.77 | 0.000 | -0.81 | 2.366 | 0.344 | -1.000 | -0.569 | 0.145 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 4.77 | 0.000 | 0.81 | 6.045 | 0.345 | 0.387 | 0.088 | 0.057 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.77 | 0.124 | 182.06 | 262.179 | 0.766 | 0.906 | 0.011 | 0.003 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.79 | 0.011 | -30.67 | 76.059 | 0.403 | -1.000 | -0.021 | 0.005 |
| <i>p</i>- | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | A | 4.20 | 0.001 | 4.11 | 29.829 | 0.138 | 1.000 | 0.019 | 0.005 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.20 | 0.004 | 21.21 | 49.720 | 0.802 | 0.532 | 0.034 | 0.016 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.30 | 0.002 | 0.40 | 34.899 | 0.024 | 0.487 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.31 | 0.001 | 18.05 | 27.545 | 0.655 | 1.000 | 0.095 | 0.024 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.35 | 0.003 | 28.13 | 43.081 | 0.653 | 1.000 | 0.061 | 0.015 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.35 | 0.017 | 41.20 | 100.048 | 0.816 | 0.505 | 0.017 | 0.008 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.37 | 0.005 | 19.42 | 53.638 | 0.698 | 0.519 | 0.027 | 0.013 |
| S ₈ | A | 4.42 | 0.001 | 17.96 | 23.023 | 0.780 | 1.000 | 0.135 | 0.034 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.45 | 0.001 | -14.58 | 18.690 | 0.780 | -1.000 | -0.167 | 0.042 |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.50 | 0.021 | 46.00 | 110.008 | 1.290 | 0.324 | 0.015 | 0.012 |
| S ₁₁ | B | 4.55 | 0.041 | -18.81 | 153.927 | 1.250 | -0.098 | -0.003 | 0.008 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.65 | 0.173 | -190.09 | 313.104 | 0.607 | -1.000 | -0.008 | 0.002 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.67 | 0.011 | 4.94 | 79.276 | 0.772 | 0.081 | 0.003 | 0.010 |
| S ₁₄ | A | 4.69 | 0.003 | -9.37 | 41.180 | 0.227 | -1.000 | -0.022 | 0.006 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.69 | 0.033 | -33.20 | 135.208 | 0.716 | -0.343 | -0.007 | 0.005 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.71 | 0.002 | -6.18 | 30.604 | 0.202 | -1.000 | -0.026 | 0.007 |

Table S11: Excitation energies (E_g) and oscillator strengths(f_{osc}) of three different conformers for *trans*-(BPY)₄ calculated at RI-ADC(2) level and using two different functionals B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP using the def2-TZVPD basis set

| <i>o</i> - | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| | | RI-ADC(2) | | CAM-B3LYP | | B3LYP | | | |
| State | Irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | Irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | Irrep | E_g | f_{osc} |
| S ₁ | A | 4.33 | 0.000 | A | 4.43 | 0.000 | A | 3.89 | 0.000 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.35 | 0.001 | B | 4.43 | 0.064 | B | 3.89 | 0.001 |
| S ₃ | A | 4.35 | 0.000 | B | 4.47 | 1.344 | A | 3.96 | 0.000 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.36 | 0.000 | B | 4.49 | 1.060 | B | 3.97 | 0.015 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.38 | 0.000 | A | 4.49 | 0.000 | A | 4.07 | 0.000 |
| S ₆ | A | 4.39 | 0.000 | A | 4.55 | 0.000 | B | 4.09 | 0.000 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.41 | 0.013 | B | 4.59 | 0.000 | A | 4.10 | 0.000 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.46 | 2.060 | A | 4.59 | 0.002 | B | 4.11 | 1.741 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.46 | 0.000 | B | 4.61 | 0.000 | B | 4.11 | 0.026 |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.51 | 0.009 | A | 4.61 | 0.001 | A | 4.12 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.70 | 0.000 | A | 4.63 | 0.007 | B | 4.13 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₂ | B | 4.79 | 0.747 | B | 4.65 | 0.000 | A | 4.13 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.97 | 0.465 | A | 4.71 | 0.000 | A | 4.17 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 5.12 | 0.067 | B | 4.76 | 0.784 | B | 4.17 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 5.27 | 0.216 | A | 4.82 | 0.000 | A | 4.23 | 0.006 |
| S ₁₆ | B | 5.46 | 1.809 | B | 4.84 | 0.000 | A | 4.25 | 0.000 |
| <i>m</i> - | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | B | 3.82 | 3.795 | B | 3.75 | 3.723 | B | 3.22 | 2.928 |
| S ₂ | A | 4.09 | 0.002 | A | 4.16 | 0.000 | A | 3.65 | 0.000 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.17 | 0.032 | A | 4.38 | 0.003 | A | 3.69 | 0.000 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.19 | 0.000 | B | 4.43 | 0.011 | A | 3.75 | 0.001 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.28 | 0.001 | A | 4.50 | 0.001 | B | 3.82 | 0.009 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.33 | 0.110 | B | 4.53 | 0.026 | A | 3.94 | 0.000 |
| S ₇ | A | 4.50 | 0.000 | B | 4.55 | 0.273 | B | 4.00 | 0.157 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.52 | 0.288 | A | 4.70 | 0.000 | B | 4.01 | 0.527 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.54 | 0.000 | A | 4.74 | 0.001 | B | 4.03 | 0.021 |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.57 | 0.000 | B | 4.75 | 0.001 | B | 4.14 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.64 | 0.000 | A | 4.79 | 0.000 | A | 4.19 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₂ | B | 4.64 | 0.007 | B | 4.84 | 0.004 | A | 4.21 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₃ | A | 4.71 | 0.001 | A | 4.87 | 0.001 | B | 4.26 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 4.72 | 0.004 | B | 4.88 | 0.014 | B | 4.33 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.74 | 0.120 | B | 4.90 | 0.005 | A | 4.33 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.76 | 0.001 | A | 4.91 | 0.000 | A | 4.36 | 0.001 |
| <i>p</i> - | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | A | 4.33 | 0.010 | A | 4.52 | 0.024 | A | 4.01 | 0.017 |
| S ₂ | B | 4.33 | 0.002 | B | 4.52 | 0.239 | B | 4.02 | 0.005 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.37 | 0.015 | B | 4.53 | 0.166 | B | 4.04 | 0.036 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.37 | 0.000 | A | 4.53 | 0.003 | A | 4.04 | 0.001 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.52 | 0.000 | B | 4.56 | 1.506 | B | 4.11 | 0.129 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.52 | 0.152 | A | 4.63 | 0.161 | A | 4.11 | 0.014 |
| S ₇ | A | 4.54 | 0.032 | A | 4.64 | 0.121 | A | 4.12 | 0.026 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.57 | 0.282 | B | 4.64 | 0.041 | B | 4.15 | 0.798 |
| S ₉ | B | 4.61 | 0.013 | A | 4.71 | 0.011 | B | 4.17 | 0.011 |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.61 | 0.008 | B | 4.73 | 0.012 | A | 4.20 | 0.048 |
| S ₁₁ | B | 4.63 | 0.795 | A | 4.78 | 0.013 | A | 4.25 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.63 | 0.094 | B | 4.80 | 0.065 | B | 4.28 | 0.042 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.68 | 0.152 | B | 4.84 | 0.027 | B | 4.31 | 0.088 |
| S ₁₄ | A | 4.69 | 0.029 | A | 4.84 | 0.009 | A | 4.31 | 0.030 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.89 | 0.435 | B | 4.91 | 0.171 | B | 4.37 | 0.112 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.89 | 0.230 | A | 4.91 | 0.099 | A | 4.38 | 0.000 |

Table S12: Excitation energies (E_g) and oscillator strengths(f_{osc}) for three different conformers of *cis*-(BPY)₄ calculated at RI-ADC(2) level and using two different functionals B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP using the def2-TZVPD basis set

| <i>o</i> - | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| RI-ADC(2) | | CAM-B3LYP | | | | B3LYP | | | |
| State | Irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | Irrep | E_g | f_{osc} | Irrep | E_g | f_{osc} |
| S ₁ | B | 4.02 | 0.000 | B | 4.36 | 0.000 | B | 3.90 | 0.000 |
| S ₂ | A | 4.02 | 0.000 | A | 4.36 | 0.001 | A | 3.91 | 0.000 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.24 | 0.000 | A | 4.56 | 0.000 | A | 4.09 | 0.001 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.25 | 0.001 | B | 4.57 | 0.001 | B | 4.09 | 0.000 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.34 | 0.000 | B | 4.61 | 0.005 | B | 4.16 | 0.036 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.35 | 0.003 | A | 4.62 | 0.000 | A | 4.17 | 0.003 |
| S ₇ | A | 4.38 | 0.000 | A | 4.62 | 0.001 | A | 4.18 | 0.006 |
| S ₈ | B | 4.40 | 0.002 | B | 4.65 | 0.013 | B | 4.18 | 0.009 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.40 | 0.001 | A | 4.66 | 0.020 | A | 4.19 | 0.017 |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.46 | 0.000 | B | 4.67 | 0.002 | B | 4.20 | 0.017 |
| S ₁₁ | A | 4.48 | 0.002 | B | 4.70 | 0.065 | B | 4.23 | 0.028 |
| S ₁₂ | B | 4.49 | 0.005 | A | 4.71 | 0.172 | A | 4.27 | 0.002 |
| S ₁₃ | A | 4.56 | 0.102 | A | 4.78 | 0.003 | A | 4.27 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₄ | B | 4.56 | 0.031 | B | 4.78 | 0.013 | B | 4.29 | 0.004 |
| S ₁₅ | A | 4.57 | 0.054 | A | 4.88 | 0.026 | A | 4.29 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₆ | B | 4.59 | 0.051 | B | 4.89 | 0.011 | B | 4.34 | 0.025 |
| <i>m</i> - | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | B | 4.08 | 3.128 | B | 4.03 | 3.497 | B | 3.50 | 2.670 |
| S ₂ | A | 4.17 | 0.004 | A | 4.37 | 0.050 | A | 3.80 | 0.015 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.18 | 0.128 | B | 4.46 | 0.022 | B | 3.87 | 0.015 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.28 | 0.005 | A | 4.47 | 0.005 | A | 3.91 | 0.023 |
| S ₅ | B | 4.31 | 0.064 | B | 4.55 | 0.002 | A | 3.99 | 0.000 |
| S ₆ | A | 4.37 | 0.007 | A | 4.57 | 0.007 | B | 3.99 | 0.000 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.42 | 0.330 | A | 4.66 | 0.003 | A | 4.01 | 0.007 |
| S ₈ | A | 4.48 | 0.038 | B | 4.67 | 0.077 | A | 4.09 | 0.002 |
| S ₉ | B | 4.54 | 0.009 | B | 4.72 | 0.010 | B | 4.11 | 0.005 |
| S ₁₀ | A | 4.56 | 0.008 | A | 4.73 | 0.001 | B | 4.19 | 0.094 |
| S ₁₁ | B | 4.70 | 0.185 | B | 4.79 | 0.200 | A | 4.20 | 0.000 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.75 | 0.003 | A | 4.91 | 0.004 | B | 4.23 | 0.546 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.77 | 0.000 | B | 4.94 | 0.008 | B | 4.28 | 0.009 |
| S ₁₄ | A | 4.77 | 0.000 | A | 4.96 | 0.000 | B | 4.37 | 0.005 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.77 | 0.124 | B | 4.96 | 0.008 | A | 4.48 | 0.005 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.80 | 0.011 | A | 4.98 | 0.006 | B | 4.48 | 0.028 |
| <i>p</i> - | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | B | 4.20 | 0.004 | A | 4.56 | 0.002 | A | 3.92 | 0.001 |
| S ₂ | A | 4.20 | 0.001 | B | 4.57 | 0.004 | B | 3.94 | 0.012 |
| S ₃ | B | 4.30 | 0.002 | B | 4.59 | 0.003 | B | 4.00 | 0.000 |
| S ₄ | A | 4.31 | 0.001 | A | 4.60 | 0.000 | A | 4.03 | 0.001 |
| S ₅ | A | 4.35 | 0.003 | A | 4.62 | 0.003 | B | 4.04 | 0.006 |
| S ₆ | B | 4.35 | 0.017 | B | 4.63 | 0.009 | A | 4.08 | 0.002 |
| S ₇ | B | 4.37 | 0.005 | B | 4.64 | 0.024 | B | 4.08 | 0.002 |
| S ₈ | A | 4.42 | 0.001 | A | 4.66 | 0.007 | B | 4.13 | 0.013 |
| S ₉ | A | 4.45 | 0.001 | A | 4.69 | 0.001 | A | 4.13 | 0.003 |
| S ₁₀ | B | 4.50 | 0.021 | B | 4.72 | 0.003 | B | 4.15 | 0.006 |
| S ₁₁ | B | 4.55 | 0.041 | B | 4.78 | 0.085 | A | 4.15 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₂ | A | 4.65 | 0.173 | A | 4.86 | 0.264 | A | 4.17 | 0.001 |
| S ₁₃ | B | 4.67 | 0.011 | B | 4.92 | 0.041 | B | 4.25 | 0.005 |
| S ₁₄ | A | 4.69 | 0.003 | A | 4.97 | 0.029 | B | 4.29 | 0.002 |
| S ₁₅ | B | 4.70 | 0.033 | B | 5.01 | 0.004 | A | 4.32 | 0.103 |
| S ₁₆ | A | 4.71 | 0.002 | A | 5.01 | 0.008 | A | 4.34 | 0.000 |

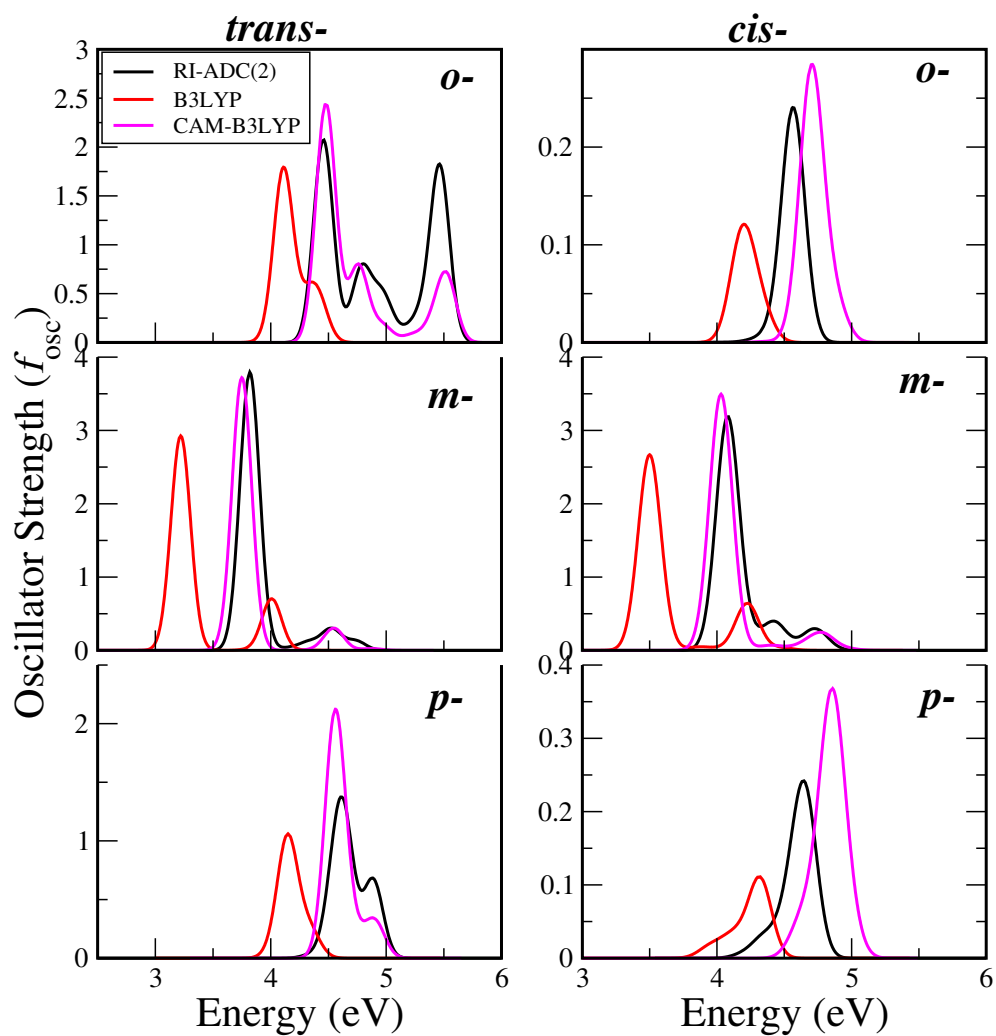


Figure S3: Absorption spectra of *o*-, *m*-, and *p*- conformers for *trans*- and *cis*-(BPY)₄ obtained at RI-ADC(2) level and using two different functionals B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP using the def2-TZVPD basis set

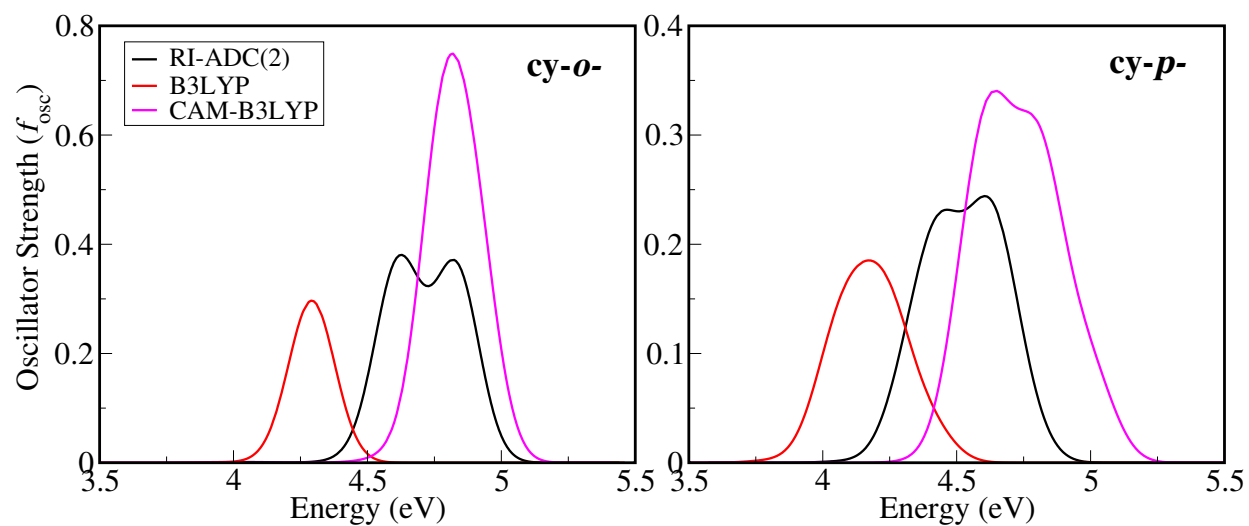


Figure S4: Absorption spectra of **cy-o-** and **cy-p-** obtained at RI-ADC(2) level and using two different functionals B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP using the def2-TZVPD basis set

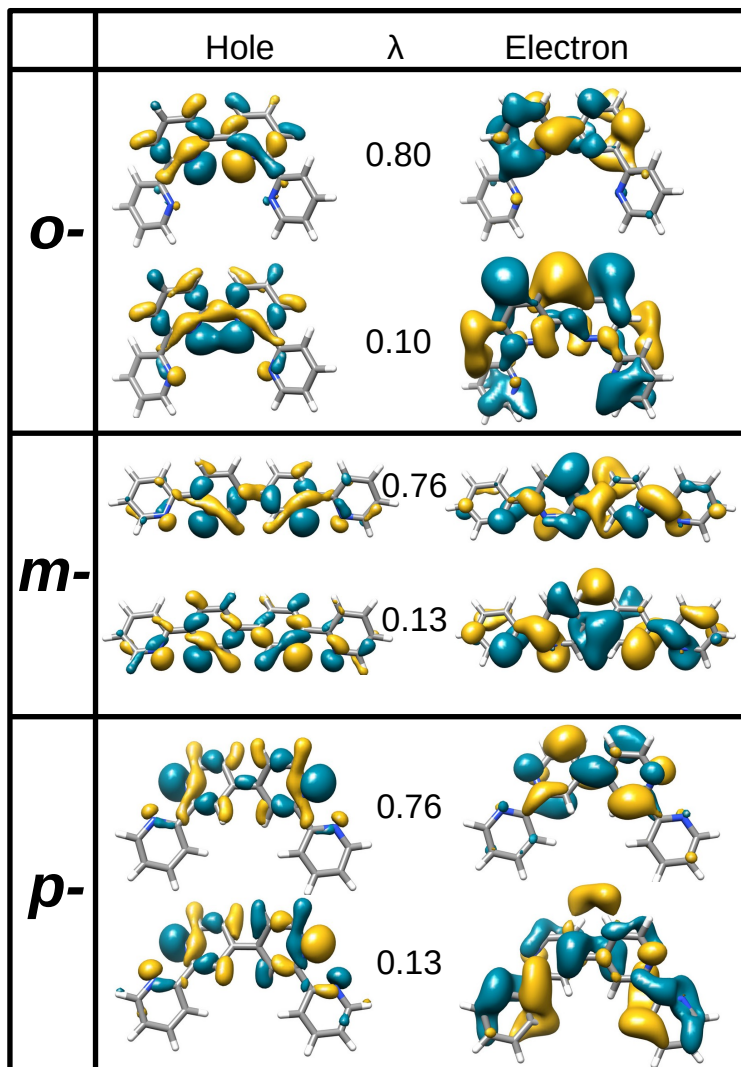


Figure S5: Natural transition orbitals corresponding to the S_1 states of three different conformers of *cis*-(BPY)₂. Here, λ value represents the weight of a configuration.

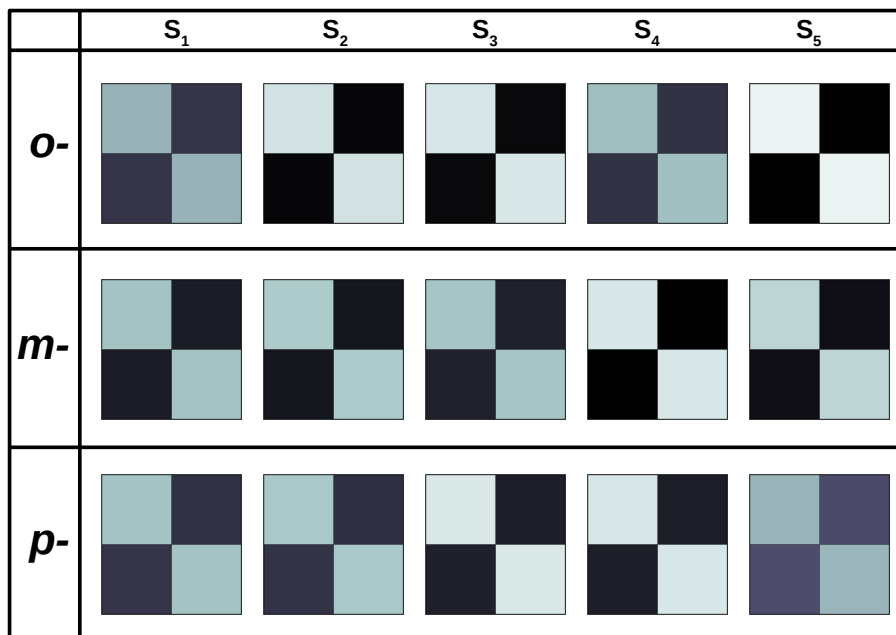


Figure S6: *e-h* correlation plots corresponding to the first five excited states of *cis*-(BPY)₂ for three different conformers.

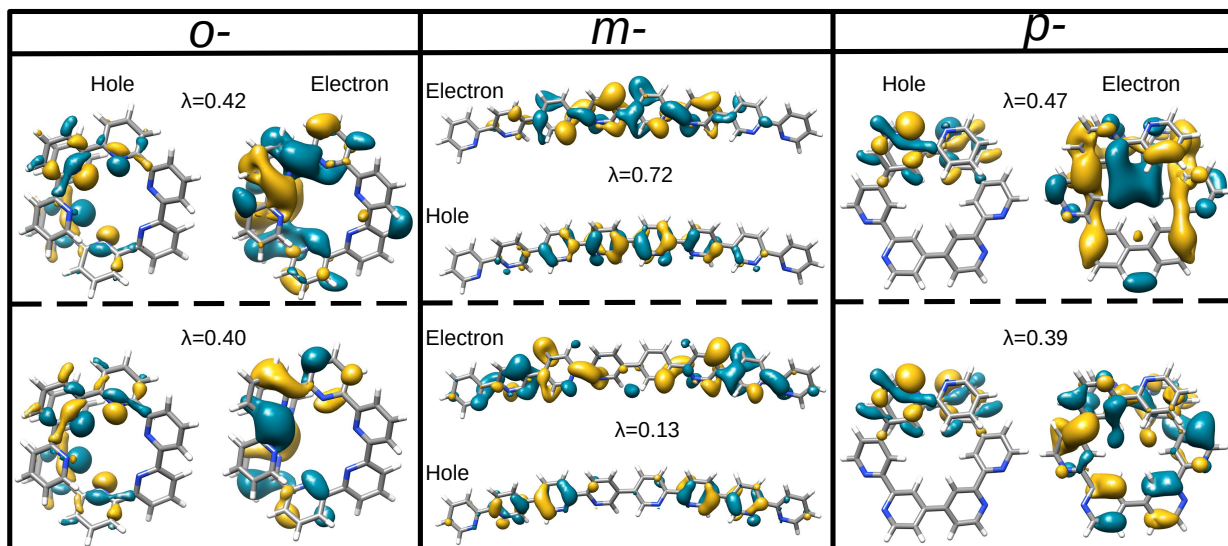


Figure S7: Natural transition orbitals corresponding to the S_1 states of three different conformers of *cis*-(BPY)₄. Here, λ value represents the weight of a configuration.

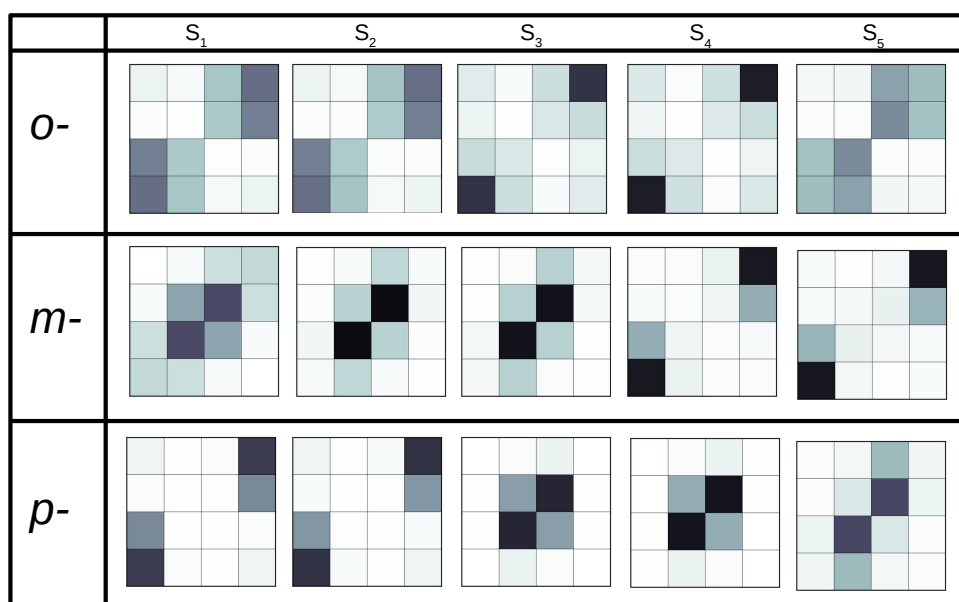


Figure S8: $e-h$ correlation plots corresponding to the first five excited states of $cis-(BPY)_4$ for three different conformers.

Table S13: Excitation energies (E_g), oscillator strengths(f_{osc}), and ω_{CT} values of first five states of three different conformers of *trans*-(BPY)₄ calculated at RI-ADC(2) level and using two different functionals B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP using the def2-TZVPD basis set

| <i>o-</i> | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| State | RI-ADC(2) | | | CAM-B3LYP | | | B3LYP | | |
| | E_g | f_{osc} | ω_{CT} | E_g | f_{osc} | ω_{CT} | E_g | f_{osc} | ω_{CT} |
| S ₁ | 4.33 | 0.000 | 0.33 | 4.43 | 0.000 | 0.25 | 3.89 | 0.000 | 0.60 |
| S ₂ | 4.35 | 0.001 | 0.44 | 4.43 | 0.064 | 0.35 | 3.89 | 0.001 | 0.58 |
| S ₃ | 4.35 | 0.000 | 0.41 | 4.47 | 1.344 | 0.25 | 3.96 | 0.000 | 0.56 |
| S ₄ | 4.36 | 0.000 | 0.33 | 4.49 | 1.060 | 0.27 | 3.97 | 0.015 | 0.55 |
| S ₅ | 4.38 | 0.000 | 0.42 | 4.49 | 0.000 | 0.33 | 4.07 | 0.000 | 0.53 |
| <i>m-</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | 3.82 | 3.795 | 0.44 | 3.75 | 3.723 | 0.38 | 3.22 | 2.928 | 0.60 |
| S ₂ | 4.09 | 0.002 | 0.30 | 4.16 | 0.000 | 0.34 | 3.65 | 0.000 | 0.69 |
| S ₃ | 4.17 | 0.032 | 0.27 | 4.38 | 0.003 | 0.17 | 3.69 | 0.000 | 0.76 |
| S ₄ | 4.19 | 0.000 | 0.38 | 4.43 | 0.011 | 0.14 | 3.75 | 0.001 | 0.38 |
| S ₅ | 4.28 | 0.001 | 0.29 | 4.50 | 0.001 | 0.10 | 3.82 | 0.009 | 0.36 |
| <i>p-</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | 4.33 | 0.010 | 0.19 | 4.52 | 0.024 | 0.11 | 4.01 | 0.017 | 0.25 |
| S ₂ | 4.33 | 0.002 | 0.19 | 4.52 | 0.239 | 0.10 | 4.02 | 0.005 | 0.24 |
| S ₃ | 4.37 | 0.015 | 0.19 | 4.53 | 0.166 | 0.09 | 4.04 | 0.036 | 0.20 |
| S ₄ | 4.37 | 0.000 | 0.18 | 4.53 | 0.003 | 0.08 | 4.04 | 0.001 | 0.19 |
| S ₅ | 4.52 | 0.000 | 0.47 | 4.56 | 1.506 | 0.12 | 4.11 | 0.129 | 0.51 |

Table S14: Excitation energies (E_g), oscillator strengths(f_{osc}), and ω_{CT} values of first five states of three different conformers of *cis*-(BPY)₄ calculated at RI-ADC(2) level and using two different functionals B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP using the def2-TZVPD basis set

| <i>o</i>- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| | RI-ADC(2) | | | CAM-B3LYP | | | B3LYP | | |
| State | E_g | f_{osc} | ω_{CT} | E_g | f_{osc} | ω_{CT} | E_g | f_{osc} | ω_{CT} |
| S ₁ | 4.02 | 0.000 | 0.52 | 4.36 | 0.000 | 0.30 | 3.90 | 0.000 | 0.42 |
| S ₂ | 4.02 | 0.000 | 0.53 | 4.36 | 0.001 | 0.30 | 3.91 | 0.000 | 0.42 |
| S ₃ | 4.24 | 0.000 | 0.36 | 4.56 | 0.000 | 0.10 | 4.09 | 0.001 | 0.17 |
| S ₄ | 4.25 | 0.001 | 0.33 | 4.57 | 0.001 | 0.10 | 4.09 | 0.000 | 0.15 |
| S ₅ | 4.34 | 0.000 | 0.51 | 4.61 | 0.005 | 0.19 | 4.16 | 0.036 | 0.49 |
| <i>m</i>- | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | 4.08 | 3.128 | 0.46 | 4.03 | 3.497 | 0.38 | 3.50 | 2.670 | 0.57 |
| S ₂ | 4.17 | 0.004 | 0.33 | 4.37 | 0.050 | 0.30 | 3.80 | 0.015 | 0.48 |
| S ₃ | 4.18 | 0.128 | 0.34 | 4.46 | 0.022 | 0.16 | 3.87 | 0.015 | 0.32 |
| S ₄ | 4.28 | 0.005 | 0.34 | 4.47 | 0.005 | 0.17 | 3.91 | 0.023 | 0.46 |
| S ₅ | 4.31 | 0.064 | 0.32 | 4.55 | 0.002 | 0.11 | 3.99 | 0.000 | 0.77 |
| <i>p</i>- | | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | 4.20 | 0.004 | 0.42 | 4.56 | 0.002 | 0.18 | 3.92 | 0.001 | 0.72 |
| S ₂ | 4.20 | 0.001 | 0.40 | 4.57 | 0.004 | 0.18 | 3.94 | 0.012 | 0.88 |
| S ₃ | 4.30 | 0.002 | 0.36 | 4.59 | 0.003 | 0.17 | 4.00 | 0.000 | 0.43 |
| S ₄ | 4.31 | 0.001 | 0.32 | 4.60 | 0.000 | 0.20 | 4.03 | 0.001 | 0.36 |
| S ₅ | 4.35 | 0.003 | 0.42 | 4.62 | 0.003 | 0.28 | 4.04 | 0.006 | 0.41 |

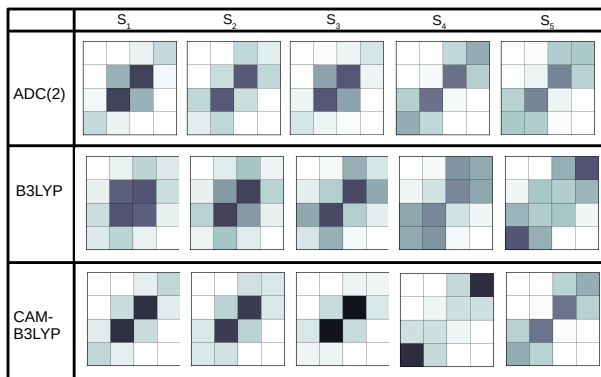


Figure S9: $e-h$ correlation plots obtained using the RI-ADC(2) method, and B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP functionals for the first five excited states of *o-trans*-(BPY)₄

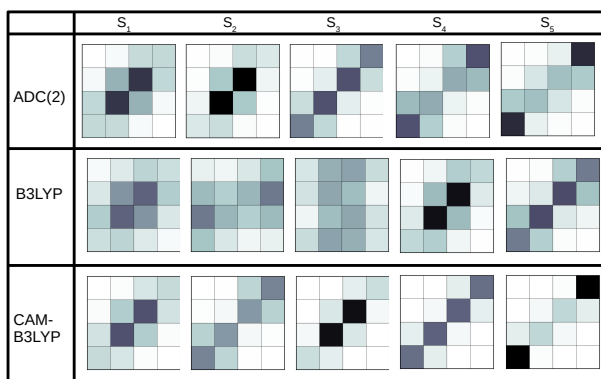


Figure S10: $e-h$ correlation plots obtained using the RI-ADC(2) method, and B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP functionals for the first five excited states of *m-trans*-(BPY)₄

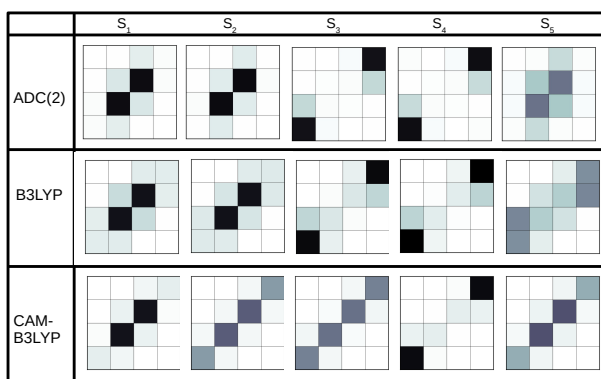


Figure S11: $e-h$ correlation plots obtained using the RI-ADC(2) method, and B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP functionals for the first five excited states of *p-trans*-(BPY)₄

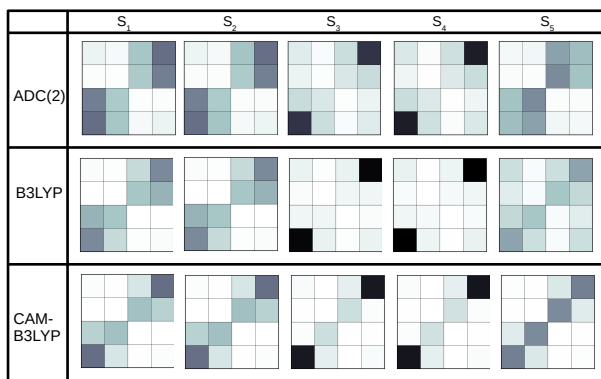


Figure S12: $e-h$ correlation plots obtained using the RI-ADC(2) method, and B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP functionals for the first five excited states of *o-cis*-(BPY)₄

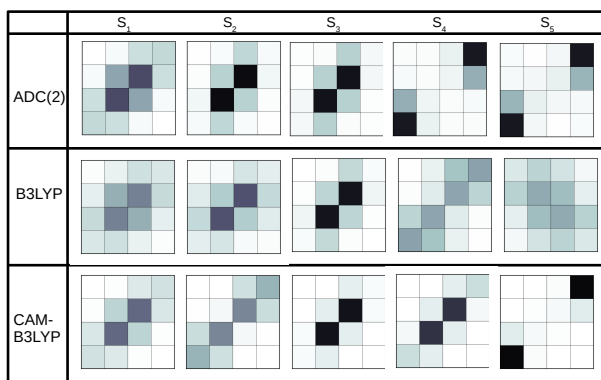


Figure S13: $e-h$ correlation plots obtained using the RI-ADC(2) method, and B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP functionals for the first five excited states of *m-cis*-(BPY)₄

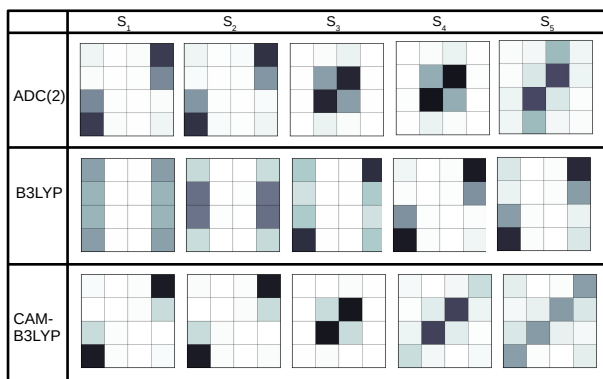


Figure S14: $e-h$ correlation plots obtained using the RI-ADC(2) method, and B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP functionals for the first five excited states of *p-cis*-(BPY)₄