## **Supplementary Information**

# Influence of the substituents of thiol ligand on the optical properties

## of AuCu<sub>14</sub>

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#### **Experimental Details**

**Reagents and Materials Used.** All chemicals and solvents obtained from suppliers were used without further purification, including hydrogen tetrachloroaurate (HAuCl<sub>4</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O, 99.9%), tetraoctylammonium bromide (TOAB, 95%), triphenylphosphine (PPh<sub>3</sub>, 98%), cuprous chloride (CuCl, 99.9%), 4-tert-butylthiophenol ( $C_{10}H_{14}S$ , TBBT, 98%), sodium borohydride (NaBH<sub>4</sub>, 99.9%), sodium hexafluoroantimonate (NaSbF<sub>6</sub>, 99%), fluorothiophenol (HSC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F, 98%), bis(triphenylphosphine)copper tetrahydroborate ((PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CuBH<sub>4</sub>, 98%), 4-triethylamine (NEt<sub>3</sub>, 99%), dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, A.R.), methanol (CH<sub>3</sub>OH, A.R.), acetone (C3H6O, A.R.) and ether (C4H10O, A.R.).

**Materials Preparation.** Synthesis of  $AuCu_{14}$ -F and  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. The synthesis of two AuCu<sub>14</sub> clusters followed the procedures reported previously.<sup>1, 2</sup> Elemental analysis (%) for evacuated  $AuCu_{14}$ -F (C<sub>180</sub>H<sub>138</sub>AuCu<sub>14</sub>P<sub>6</sub>S<sub>12</sub>F<sub>18</sub>Sb): calcd. C 48.89, H 3.15, S 8.70; found C 48.76, H 3.18, S 8.26. Elemental analysis (%) for evacuated  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (C<sub>228</sub>H<sub>246</sub>AuCu<sub>14</sub>P<sub>6</sub>S<sub>12</sub>F<sub>6</sub>Sb): calcd. C 56.12, H 5.08, S 7.89; found C 57.12, H 5.15, S 7.72.

**Material Characterizations.** Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns of AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> were collected at room temperature in air using an X'Pert PRO diffractometer (Cu-K $\alpha$ ). Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker TENSOR 27 FT-IR spectrometer in the 400-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> region with KBr pellets. Thermogravimetry analyses (TGA) were performed on a TA Q50 system under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere (flow rate = 60 mL·min<sup>-1</sup>) in the temperature range 30-500 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. Mass spectra (MS) were recorded on an X500R QTOF spectrometer. Elemental analyses (EA) were carried out with a Perkin-Elmer 240 elemental analyzer. UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded using a Hitachi UH4150 UV-Visible spectrophotometer in the range 350-800 nm. UV-visible diffuse reflectance spectra of samples were recorded at room temperature in the range of 280-1200 nm using a UH4150 spectrophotometer equipped with an integrating sphere. The room temperature steady-state spectroscopy, time-resolved photoluminescence (PL),

temperature-dependent emission spectra and photoluminescence quantum yield were measured on the HORIBA FluoroLog-3 fluorescence spectrometer.

**DFT calculation.** The density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) calculations were performed with Gaussian 16.<sup>3</sup> The geometric optimization of the ground state calculations was performed under PBE0 functional and using 6-31g\* basis set for H, C, S, P, and F atoms and Lanl2DZ effective core potentials for Au and Cu atoms. Well-converged geometries are obtained by tightening the energy and gradient convergence criteria to  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  Hartree and  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  Hartree/Å, respectively. The theoretical UV-Vis spectra of AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> were calculated using TD-DFT and plotted based on the computation of the lowest 300 singlet-to-singlet excitation energies. The SMD solvent model (dichloromethane) was applied in all calculations.

Transient absorption (TA) measurement. The transient absorption spectra were recorded on a commercial pump-probe system with microscope (Helios-EOS, Ultrafast Systems LLC) in combination with a femtosecond laser system (Astrella, Coherent). Laser pulses (800 nm center wavelength, 100 fs duration, 1 kHz repetition rate, 7 mJ/pulse) were generated by a Ti:Sapphire-based regenerative amplified laser system. The laser pulses were spilt to generate pump and probe beam. The pump pulses at 400 nm were delivered by an optical parametric amplifier which was excited by a portion of 800 nm laser pulses. For femtosecond transient absorptions in DCM solution, the pump pulse energy in each measurement was  $25 \ \mu J/cm^2$  at the sample cell. The probe and reference beams were generated by focusing the 800 nm beam (split from the amplifier with a tiny portion) to a sapphire crystal. The pump-probe delay was controlled by an optical delay line. For the nanosecond transient absorptions in DCM solution, the probe and reference beams were provided by an additional supercontinuum laser (370-900 nm, 0.5 ns duration, 2 kHz repetition rate). The pumpprobe delay time was electronically controlled. TA signal was obtained by detecting the intensity of probe and reference pulses with and without pumped light, and global analysis was performed by Glotaran software.

Femtosecond transient absorptions of AuCu<sub>14</sub> crystal are measured by the single crystal microimaging detection system, and the specific position of a single crystal is measured by a long working distance  $50 \times$  objective lens. The camera provides a direct enlarged view of the sample. The probe beam was generated by focusing the 800 nm beam to another sapphire crystal. The pump pulse energy in each measurement was 250  $\mu$ J/cm<sup>2</sup> at the crystal. The pump-probe delay also was controlled by the same optical delay line. TA signal is obtained by detecting the intensity of probe light with and without pumped light, and global analysis is performed by Glotaran software.

### **Supplementary Figures S1-S20**



**Fig. S1.** Overall structure of (a) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**F** and (b) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**C**(**CH**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> crystal. Orange: Au, cyan: Cu, yellow: S, pink: P, gray: C, green: F. All hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



**Fig. S2.** Local structure of  $AuCu_{14}$  cluster. (a) the surface motif of Cu-S and Cu-P. (b) the  $(SR)_2CuPPh_3$  mount motif capping on the square face of the  $Cu_8$  shell. (c) the body-centered cubic  $AuCu_8$ . Orange: Au, cyan: Cu, yellow: S, pink: P, gray: C, green: F. All hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



Fig. S3. Positive mode ESI-MS of (a)  $AuCu_{14}$ -F and (b)  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM.  $AuCu_{14}$ -F showed two prominent peaks at m/z 4186.50 Da and 3923.41 Da, of which one corresponded to monoca-tionic [AuCu<sub>14</sub>(SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-R)<sub>12</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, (R=F, calcd m/z 4186.56 Da) and the other to [AuCu<sub>14</sub>(SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-R)<sub>12</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (R=F, calcd m/z 3923.47 Da), respectively;  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> only showed a prominent peak at m/z 4381.39 Da where it corresponded to monoca-tionic [AuCu<sub>14</sub>(SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-R)<sub>12</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, (R=C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, calcd m/z 4381.33 Da).



Fig. S4. The experimental and simulated PXRD spectra of (a) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and (b) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S5.** The thermal gravimetric curve of (a) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**F** and (b) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**C**(**CH**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**F**: The weight loss (70.15%) between 230 °C and 365 °C should be caused by the ligands complete dissociation (calcd 70.10%). **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**C**(**CH**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>: The first weight loss (3.62%) from 90 °C to 180 °C could be ascribed to the removal of one -SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (calcd 3.39%), and the weight loss (68.28%) between 200 °C and 340 °C should be caused by the ligands complete dissociation (calcd 69.51%).



Fig. S6. FT-IR spectra of AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.

**Tab. S1.** Hirshfeld percentage of orbital compositions of frontier molecular orbitals in  $SC_6H_4$ -F and  $SC_6H_4$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. S refers to the sulfur atom,  $C_6H_4$ -R refer to the atoms of  $C_6H_4$ -R groups (R=F or C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).

		S	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> -R
Compound	Orb#	Composition	Composition
SC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> -F	НОМО	41.33%	58.67%
	LUMO	1.60%	98.40%
SC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> -C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	НОМО	40.26%	59.74%
	LUMO	2.38%	97.62%

**Tab. S2.** The Hirshfeld charge of single metal atom and the average Hirshfeld charge in each layer based on optimized geometry of  $SC_6H_4$ -F and  $SC_6H_4$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. S refers to the sulfur atom, Ph refers to benzene ring and -R refers to -F or -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, respectively.

SC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> -F		$SC_6H_4$ - $C(CH_3)_3$			
Atom	Hirshfeld	Atom	Hirshfeld	<b>A 4 a 1 a</b>	Hirshfeld
Atom	Charge (e)		Charge (e)	Atom	Charge (e)
C1	0.087	C1	-0.000	C14	-0.092
C2	-0.053	C2	-0.041	H15	0.030
C3	-0.044	С3	-0.054	H16	0.031
C4	-0.019	C4	-0.017	H17	0.033
C5	-0.046	C5	-0.054	C18	-0.092
C6	-0.054	C6	-0.044	H19	0.033
H7	0.056	H7	0.043	H20	0.032
H8	0.051	H8	0.042	H21	0.032
H9	0.047	Н9	0.045	C22	-0.092
H10	0.056	H10	0.042	H23	0.033
S11	-0.043	S11	-0.048	H24	0.031
H12	0.061	H12	0.059	H25	0.030
F13	-0.100	C13	0.019		
Average Hirshfeld Charge (e)					
		S	Ph		-R
<b>-F</b>	-(	-0.043		-0.100	
-C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-(	0.048	-0.038	0.028	

Bond	Length (Å)	Bond	Length (Å)
Au1-Cu3	2.7947(17)	Au1-Cu4	2.6563(16)
Au1-Cu5	2.7464(15)	Au1-Cu7	2.6448(20)
Au1-Cu10	2.7947(17)	Au1-Cu11	2.6563(16)
Au1-Cu12	2.7464(15)	Au1-Cu14	2.6448(20)
Cu3-Cu4	3.0635(23)	Cu3-Cu5	3.2748(23)
Cu3-Cu7	3.2188(27)	Cu4-Cu12	3.2147(23)
Cu4-Cu14	2.8633(23)	Cu5-Cu11	3.2147(23)
Cu5-Cu14	3.1597(27)	Cu7-Cu11	2.8633(23)
Cu7-Cu12	3.1597(27)	Cu10-Cu11	3.0635(23)
Cu10-Cu12	3.2748(23)	Cu10-Cu14	3.2188(27)
Cu3-S1	2.2875(30)	Cu3-S4	2.2682(33)
Cu3-S5	2.2619(29)	Cu4-S2	2.3063(31)
Cu4-S5	2.2873(30)	Cu4-S9	2.2979(27)
Cu5-S1	2.282(3)	Cu5-S3	2.2869(32)
Cu5-S12	2.2858(34)	Cu7-S4	2.2764(32)
Cu7-S6	2.3319(33)	Cu7-S8	2.2610(35)
Cu10-S7	2.2875(30)	Cu10-S10	2.2682(33)
Cu10-S11	2.2619(29)	Cu11-S3	2.2979(27)
Cu11-S8	2.3063(31)	Cu11-S11	2.2873(30)
Cu12-S6	2.2858(34)	Cu12-S7	2.282(3)
Cu12-S9	2.2869(32)	Cu14-S2	2.2610(35)
Cu14-S10	2.2764(32)	Cu14-S12	2.3319(33)
S1-Cu2	2.2716(30)	S2-Cu2	2.269(3)
S3-Cu1	2.2629(29)	S4-Cu1	2.2726(28)
S5-Cu6	2.2612(28)	S6-Cu6	2.2736(33)
S7-Cu9	2.2716(30)	S8-Cu9	2.269(3)
S9-Cu8	2.2629(29)	S10-Cu8	2.2726(28)
S11-Cu13	2.2612(28)	S12-Cu13	2.2736(33)

Tab. S3. The primary bond length of  $AuCu_{14}$ -F.

Bond	Length (Å)	Bond	Length (Å)
Au1-Cu2	2.7227(11)	Au1-Cu4	2.7133(10)
Au1-Cu5	2.7528(11)	Au1-Cu6	2.5766(10)
Au1-Cu9	2.7227(11)	Au1-Cu11	2.7134(10)
Au1-Cu12	2.7527(11)	Au1-Cu13	2.5767(10)
Cu2-Cu4	3.1309(13)	Cu2-Cu5	3.3160(14)
Cu2-Cu6	3.0385(23)	Cu4-Cu12	3.1911(23)
Cu4-Cu13	3.0590(15)	Cu5-Cu11	3.1911(23)
Cu5-Cu13	2.9236(13)	Cu6-Cu11	3.0590(15)
Cu6-Cu12	2.9236(13)	Cu9-Cu11	3.1309(13)
Cu9-Cu12	3.3160(14)	Cu9-Cu13	3.0385(23)
Cu2-S4	2.2823(17)	Cu2-S5	2.2947(26)
Cu2-S6	2.2709(21)	Cu4-S1	2.2925(21)
Cu4-S5	2.2865(27)	Cu4-S8	2.2702(18)
Cu5-S3	2.2691(25)	Cu5-S4	2.3063(18)
Cu5-S7	2.2737(30)	Cu6-S2	2.2745(19)
Cu6-S6	2.2815(28)	Cu6-S9	2.2815(26)
Cu9-S10	2.2823(17)	Cu9-S11	2.2947(26)
Cu9-S12	2.2709(21)	Cu11-S2	2.2702(18)
Cu11-S7	2.2925(21)	Cu11-S11	2.2865(27)
Cu12-S1	2.2737(30)	Cu12-S9	2.2691(25)
Cu12-S10	2.3063(18)	Cu13-S3	2.2815(26)
Cu13-S8	2.2745(19)	Cu13-S12	2.2815(28)
S1-Cu1	2.2629(19)	S2-Cu3	2.2438(27)
S3-Cu7	2.2498(28)	S4-Cu3	2.2535(24)
S5-Cu7	2.2403(21)	S6-Cu1	2.2429(18)
S7-Cu8	2.2629(19)	S8-Cu10	2.2438(27)
S9-Cu14	2.2498(28)	S10-Cu10	2.2535(24)
S11-Cu14	2.2403(21)	S12-Cu8	2.2429(18)

Tab. S4. The primary bond length of AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.

Tab. S5. Average bond lengths (Å) in AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.

	Au-Cu	Cu-Cu	Cu-S
AuCu <sub>14</sub> -F	2.711	3.133	2.280
AuCu <sub>14</sub> -C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	2.692	3.109	2.271



**Fig. S7.** The Hirshfeld charge analyses on (a) **AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F** and (b) **AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)**. Orange: Au, blue: Cu, yellow: S. Other atoms have been omitted for clarity.



Fig. S8. (a) The UV-Vis absorption spectra of AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM. (b) UV-vis absorption of AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> solid. Optical gap determination of (c) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and (d) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM.

AuCu <sub>14</sub> -F		AuCu <sub>14</sub> -C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>		
Atom	Hirshfeld Charge (e)	Atom	Hirshfeld Charge (e)	
Au1	-0.106	Aul	-0.107	
Cu1	0.177	Cu1	0.171	
Cu2	0.177	Cu2	0.141	
Cu3	0.145	Cu3	0.173	
Cu4	0.145	Cu4	0.130	
Cu5	0.130	Cu5	0.141	
Cu6	0.177	Cu6	0.144	
Cu7	0.145	Cu7	0.173	
Cu8	0.177	Cu8	0.171	
Cu9	0.177	Cu9	0.141	
Cu10	0.145	Cu10	0.173	
Cu11	0.145	Cu11	0.130	
Cu12	0.130	Cu12	0.141	
Cu13	0.177	Cu13	0.144	
Cu14	0.145	Cu14	0.173	
<b>S</b> 1	-0.174	<b>S</b> 1	-0.184	
S2	-0.179	S2	-0.182	
S3	-0.175	S3	-0.184	
S4	-0.179	S4	-0.185	
S5	-0.179	S5	-0.182	
<b>S</b> 6	-0.175	S6	-0.185	
<b>S</b> 7	-0.174	<b>S</b> 7	-0.184	
<b>S</b> 8	-0.179	S8	-0.182	
S9	-0.175	S9	-0.184	
S10	-0.179	S10	-0.185	
S11	-0.179	S11	-0.182	
S12	-0.175	S12	-0.185	

S

-0.177

-0.183

 $Cu_{shell}$ 

0.141

0.139

 $Cu_{Cu-S}$ 

0.177

0.173

AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F

AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>

Au

-0.106

-0.107

**Tab. S6.** The Hirshfeld charge of single metal atom and the average Hirshfeld charge in each layer based on the optimized geometry of  $AuCu_{14}$ -F and  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. Cu<sub>Cu-S</sub> and Cu<sub>shell</sub> refer to Cu atoms in the surface Cu-S motif and the Cu<sub>8</sub> shell.

		Au	Cu <sub>8</sub> shell	surface motifs
Compound	Orb#	Composition	Composition	Composition
AuCu <sub>14</sub> -F	НОМО	16.64%	42.15%	41.21%
	LUMO	14.58%	34.87%	50.55%
AuCu <sub>14</sub> -C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	НОМО	17.28%	42.49%	40.23%
	LUMO	15.00%	34.53%	50.47%

Tab. S7. Hirshfeld percentage of orbital compositions of frontier molecular orbitals in AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S9. Relative energy levels of frontier molecular orbitals of AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.

**Tab. S8.** Emission quantum yield of  $AuCu_{14}$ -F and  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (c = 5×10<sup>-5</sup> mol/L) and solid state.

	$\lambda_{max}$ (CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> )	$\Phi$ (CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> )	$\lambda_{max}$ (solid)	$\Phi$ (solid)
AuCu <sub>14</sub> -F	628 nm	3.81%	625 nm	27.14%
AuCu <sub>14</sub> -C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	747 nm	4.17%	650 nm	32.84%



Fig. S10. The emission spectra of (a)  $AuCu_{14}$ -F and (b)  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM under Arpurged, O<sub>2</sub>-saturated,  $AuCu_{14}$ -F:  $\lambda_{ex} = 408$  nm;  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>:  $\lambda_{ex} = 415$  nm.



**Fig. S11.** The excitation spectra of **AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F** in DCM with different emission wavelengths (650, 750 and 810 nm).



Fig. S12. RT time-resolved emission decays spectra of (a) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F in DCM at 628 nm, (b) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM at 747 nm, (c) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F in DCM under Ar-purged at 628 nm and (d) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM under Ar-purged at 747 nm, (e) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F crystal at 625 nm, (f) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> crystal at 650 nm.



**Fig. S13.** The temperature-dependent emission spectra of (a) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and (b) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in the range of 83 to 303 K. The temperature-dependent emission decays spectra of (c) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F at 627 nm and (d) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> at 655 nm.



**Fig. S14.** The ns-TA data of (a) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**F** and (c) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**C**(**CH**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM pumped at 400 nm. Evolution associated spectra (EAS) obtained from global analysis on the TA data of (b) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**F** and (d) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**C**(**CH**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S15.** The fs-TA data of (a) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and (c) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM under Ar-purged pumped at 400 nm. Evolution associated spectra (EAS) obtained from global analysis on the TA data of (b) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and (d) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S16.** The ns-TA data of (a) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**F** and (c) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**C(CH**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in DCM under Ar-purged pumped at 400 nm. Evolution associated spectra (EAS) obtained from global analysis on the TA data of (b) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**F** and (d) **AuCu**<sub>14</sub>-**C(CH**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S17.** The corresponding fitting kinetic traces at different wavelengths were obtained from global fitting for (a) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and (b) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S18.** The corresponding fitting kinetic traces at different wavelengths were obtained from global fitting for (c) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-F and (d) AuCu<sub>14</sub>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S19. Schematic diagram showing the excited-state relaxation dynamics of  $AuCu_{14}$  in crystalline state.



**Fig. S20.** Packing structure of  $AuCu_{14}$ -F in a 2 × 2 × 2 cell viewed along the (a) a, (b) b and (c) c axis. (d) Edge to face aromatic interactions between two adjacent  $AuCu_{14}$ -F molecules.<sup>4, 5</sup> Orange: Au, cyan: Cu, yellow: S, pink: P, gray: C, green: F. All hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



Fig. S21. Packing structure of  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in a 2 × 2 × 2 cell viewed along the (a) a, (b) b and (c) c axis. (d) Edge to face aromatic interactions between two adjacent  $AuCu_{14}$ -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> molecules.<sup>4, 5</sup> Orange: Au, cyan: Cu, yellow: S, pink: P, gray: C. All hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

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