

Nanoelectronic Switches

Objective: Explain the cause of reversible binary switching in a mechanically-controlled, single-molecule junction.

Implications: Possible basis for a new class of switches useful for electronics. Key synergy between NERSC and LBNL Molecular Foundry.

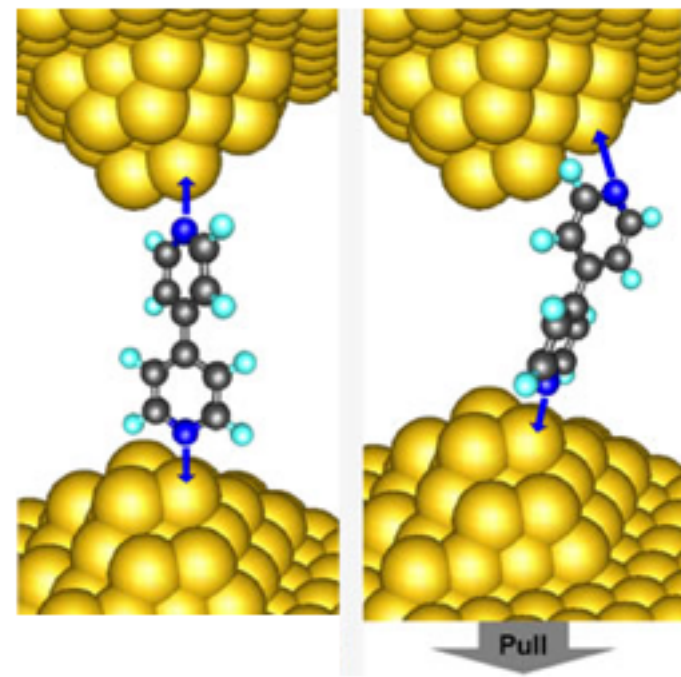
Accomplishments: Density Functional Theory reveals the bonding mechanism in the molecule that spans the junction.

- Shows conductance to be directly related to degree of tilt and type of molecule.
- Total of 55 different junction configurations studied.

NERSC: High throughput and power of the NERSC resources facilitated a highly interactive back-and-forth with experimentalists.

- PWscf, Paratec, SCARLET Codes, typically 100-500 cores

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Schematics showing the molecular junction configurations for a model nanoswitch based on a junction between gold electrodes and a bipyridine molecule that is either vertical or tilted.