

# UNCONVENTIONAL APPROACHES FOR THE DIRECT READOUT OF CHIRAL INFORMATION

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# Examples of readout strategies

HPLC



CD



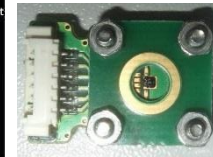
CPL



EC



Actuators



Swimmers



Classic

Unconventional



## The Rising and Receding Fortunes of Electrochemists

This is the golden age of electrochemistry. Never before has this discipline found itself at the nexus of so many developing technologies: batteries, capacitors, fuel cells; solar-to-electrical energy conversion at liquid junctions; nanocrystalline solar cells; and organic solar cells. New electrochemical energy-harvesting technologies are also being explored for thermal energy harvesting,<sup>1</sup> and these are just the electrochemistry-related technologies pertaining to energy. Capacitive water deionization and electrochemical sensors and actuators are being widely explored, and the use of electrochemical methods in electronic manufacturing, coatings, and the synthesis of materials (including aluminum) remains as important as ever.

Energy is an international priority and an abundance of research funding has been made available for applied electrochemistry. Prominent programs just the United States include The Energy Innovation Hubs, grants from the ARPA-E, many of the Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs), and others.

Research (ONR), Department of Energy (DOE), and the National Science Foundation (NSF) filled this niche, but these programs disappeared in the 1990s, well in advance of the recent excitement and investment in applications. While some fundamental science is being carried out at the various EFRCs as well as through NSF-funded programs, there do not appear to be any programs, at any U.S. agencies, focused on fundamental electrochemistry science issues. Historically, these programs not only provided financial support but also knitted the community together, fostering interactions between electrochemists working on fundamental science issues. The Basic Energy Sciences Division of DOE and Chemistry Division of NSF would be obvious sources of support in the United States, and we hope that those and other funding agencies around the world have the will to support fundamental electrochemical science.

Key issues that are ripe for investigation include the following: the kinetics of coupled electron transfer and ion insertion/

# Chirality and electrochemistry

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**Three potential applications**

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graph TD; A[Three potential applications] --> B[Enantioselective electroanalysis]; A --> C[Enantioselective electroseparation]; A --> D[Enantioselective electrosynthesis];
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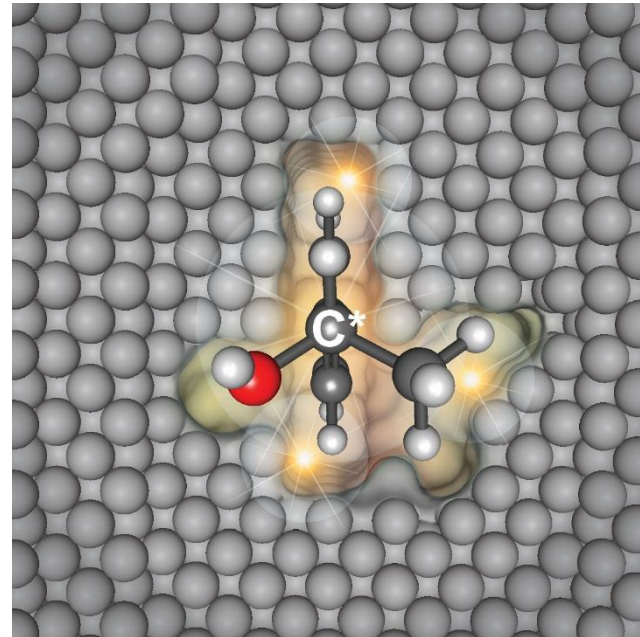
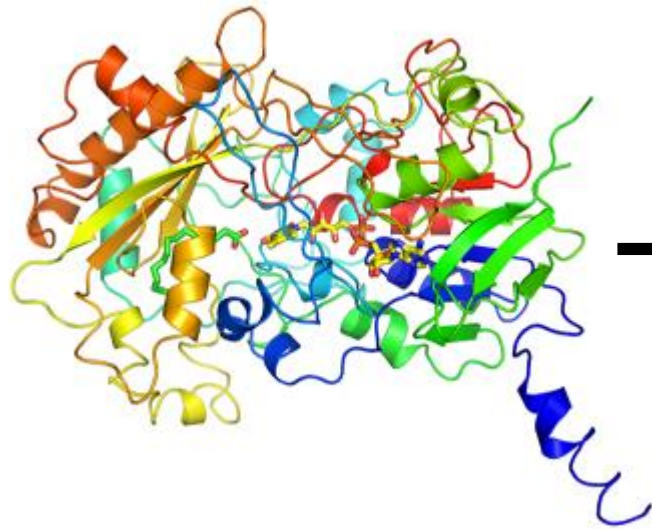
**Enantioselective  
electroanalysis**

**Enantioselective  
electroseparation**

**Enantioselective  
electrosynthesis**

# Artificial biomimetic electrodes

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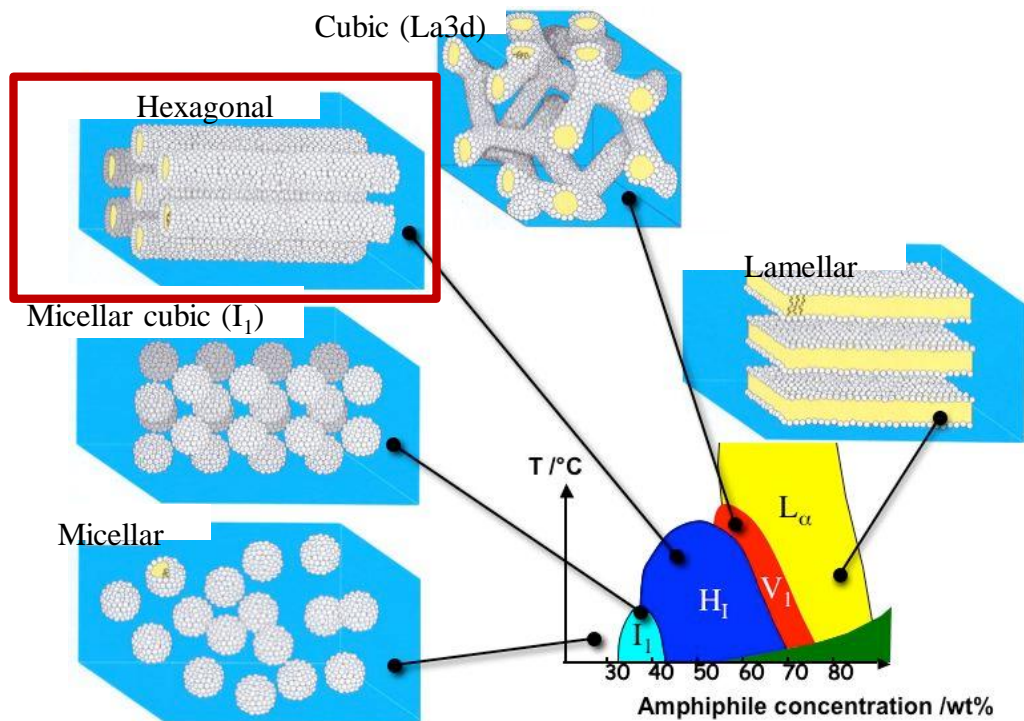


# Chiral imprinting of porous metals

## Mesoporous electrodes

Soft template: lyotropic liquid crystals

Lyotropic liquid crystalline phases (LLC)

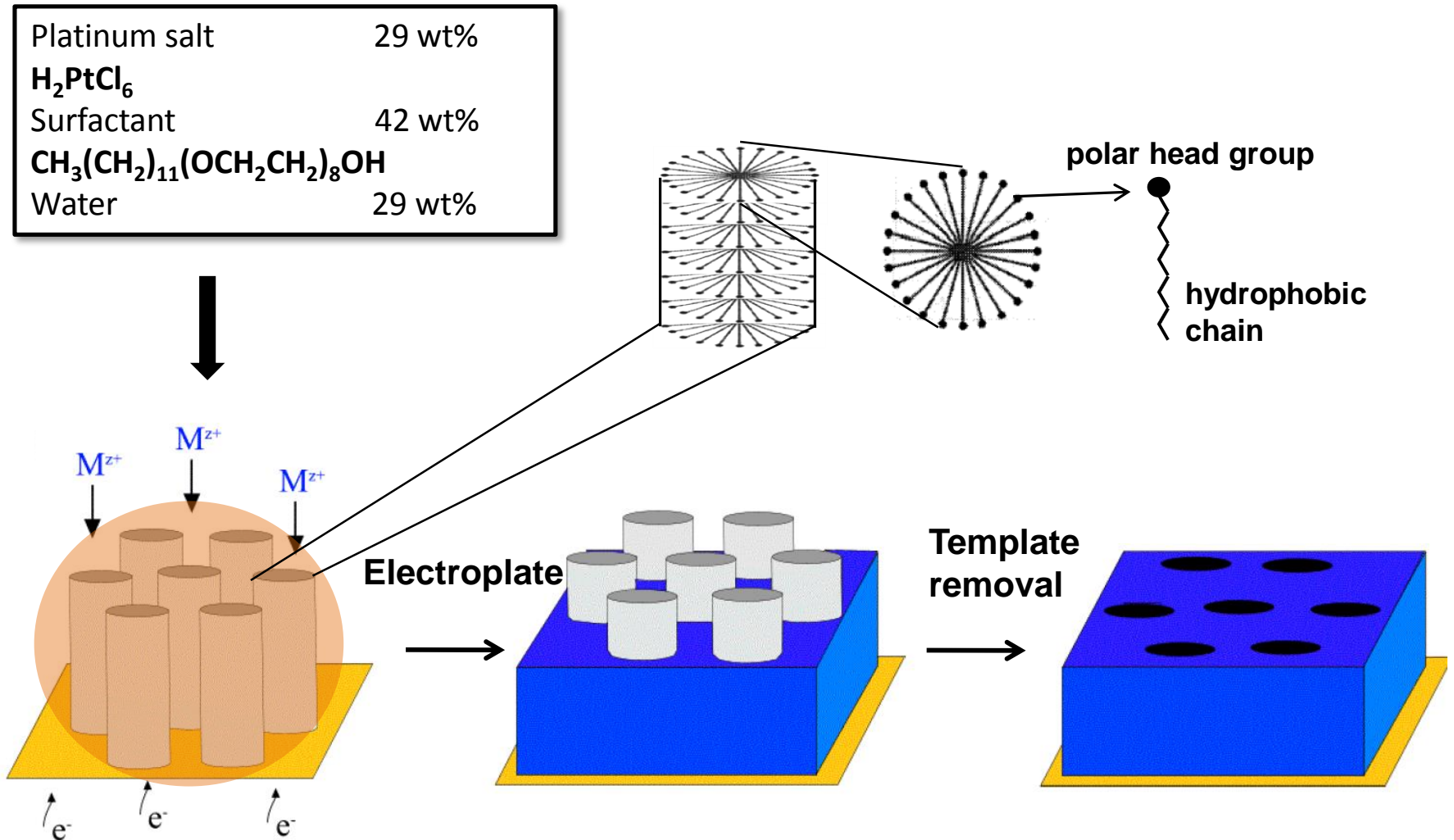


[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyotropic\\_liquid\\_crystal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyotropic_liquid_crystal)

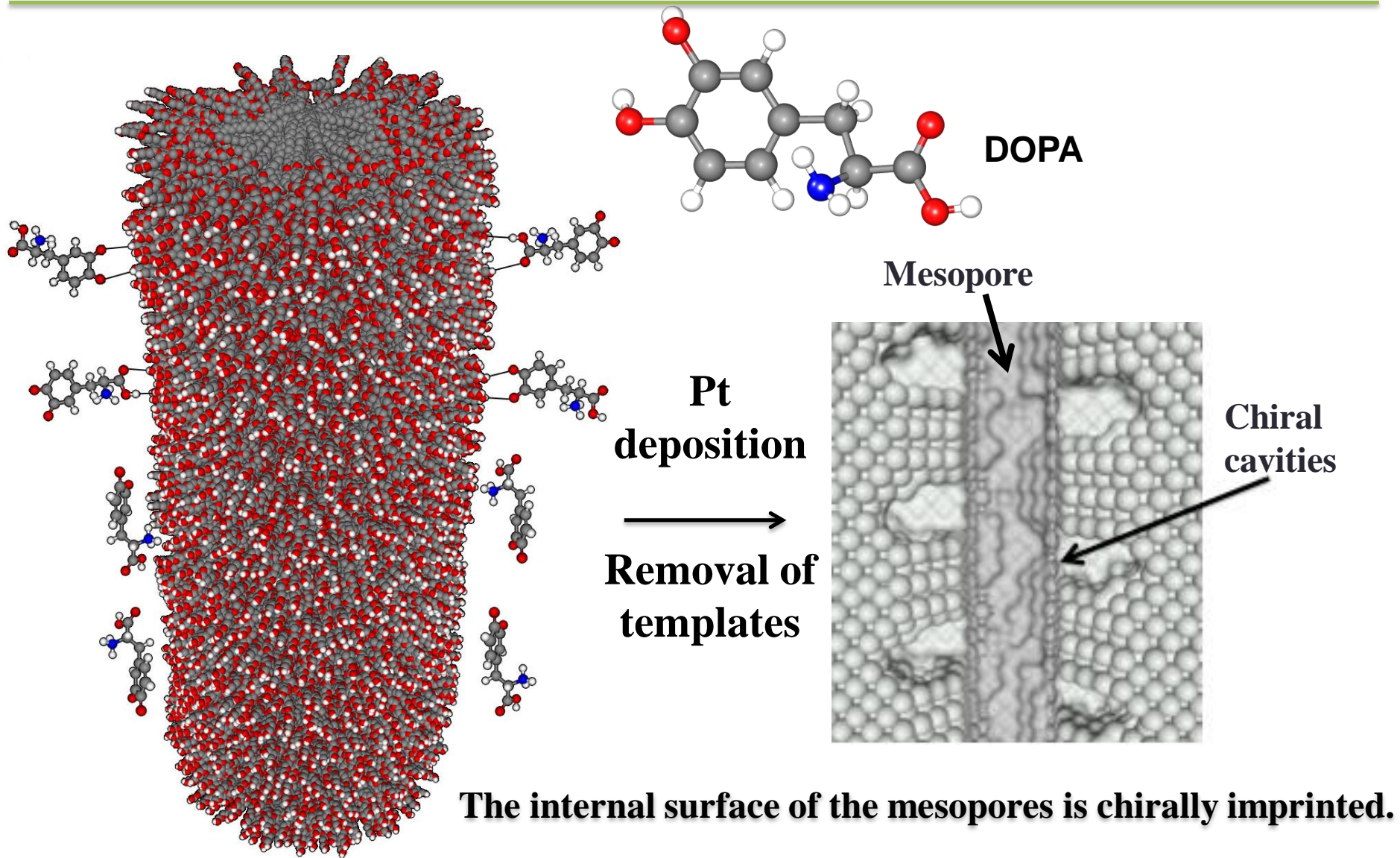
# Chiral imprinting of porous metals

## Mesoporous electrodes

Lyotropic liquid crystal templating:



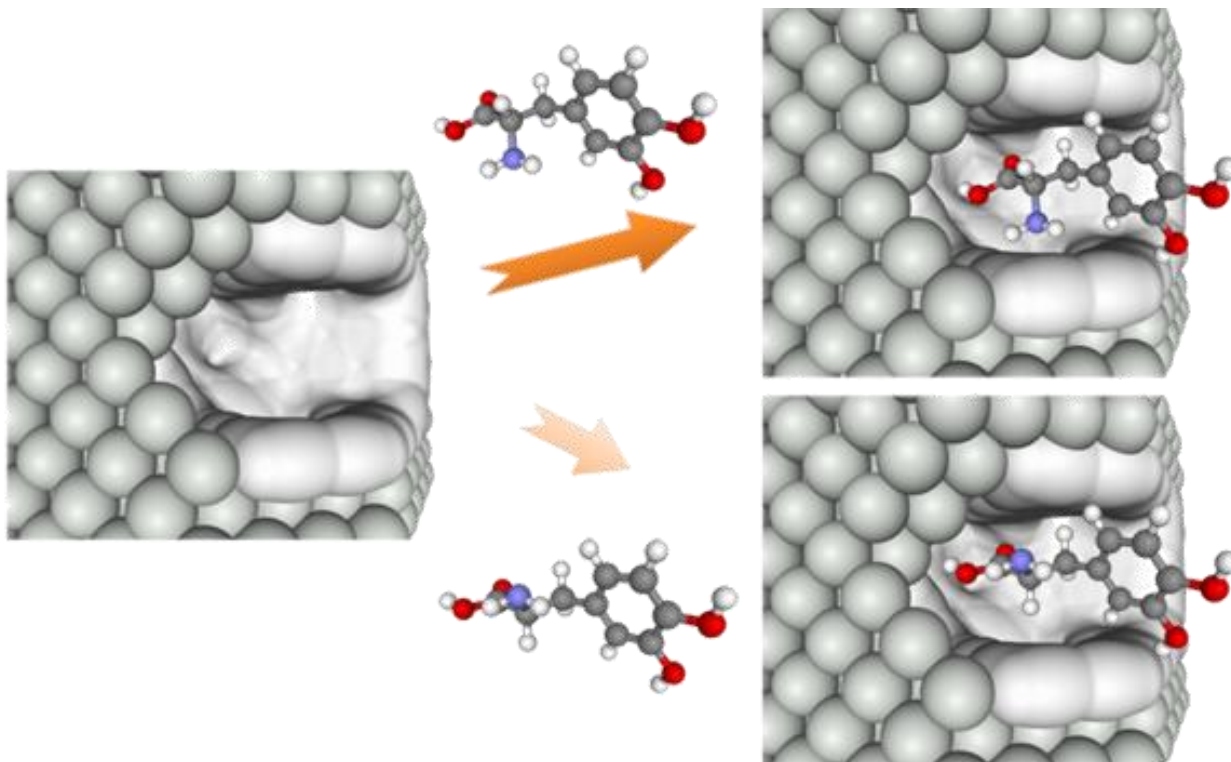
# Preparation of mesoporous chiral metal





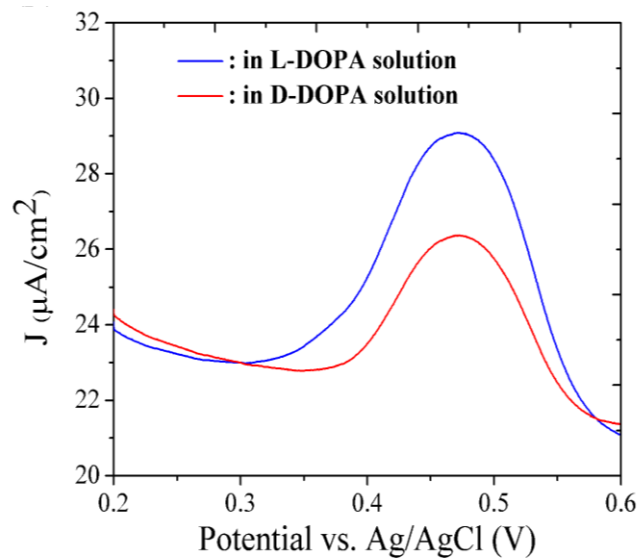
# Selectivity

Enantioselective recognition of 3,4-dihydroxy-phenylalanine (DOPA) enantiomers on chiral imprinted mesoporous platinum electrodes by **differential pulse voltammetry**

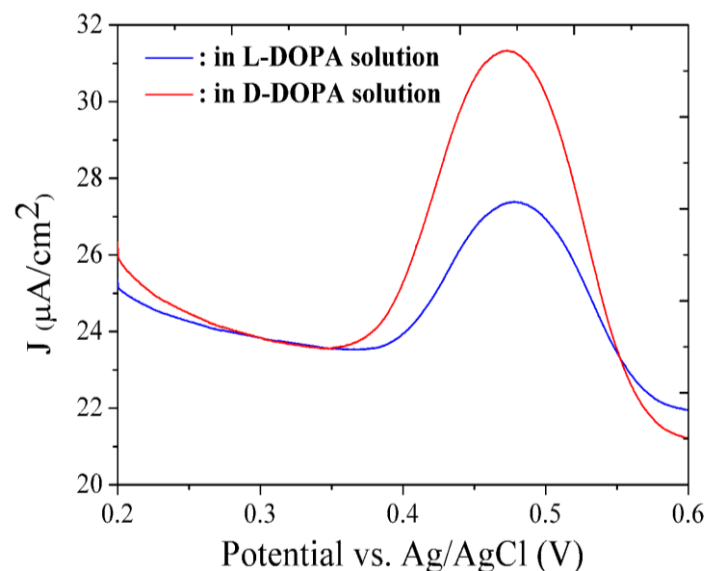


# Enantioselective recognition

## Electrooxidation of DOPA on **chiral imprinted mesoporous Pt**



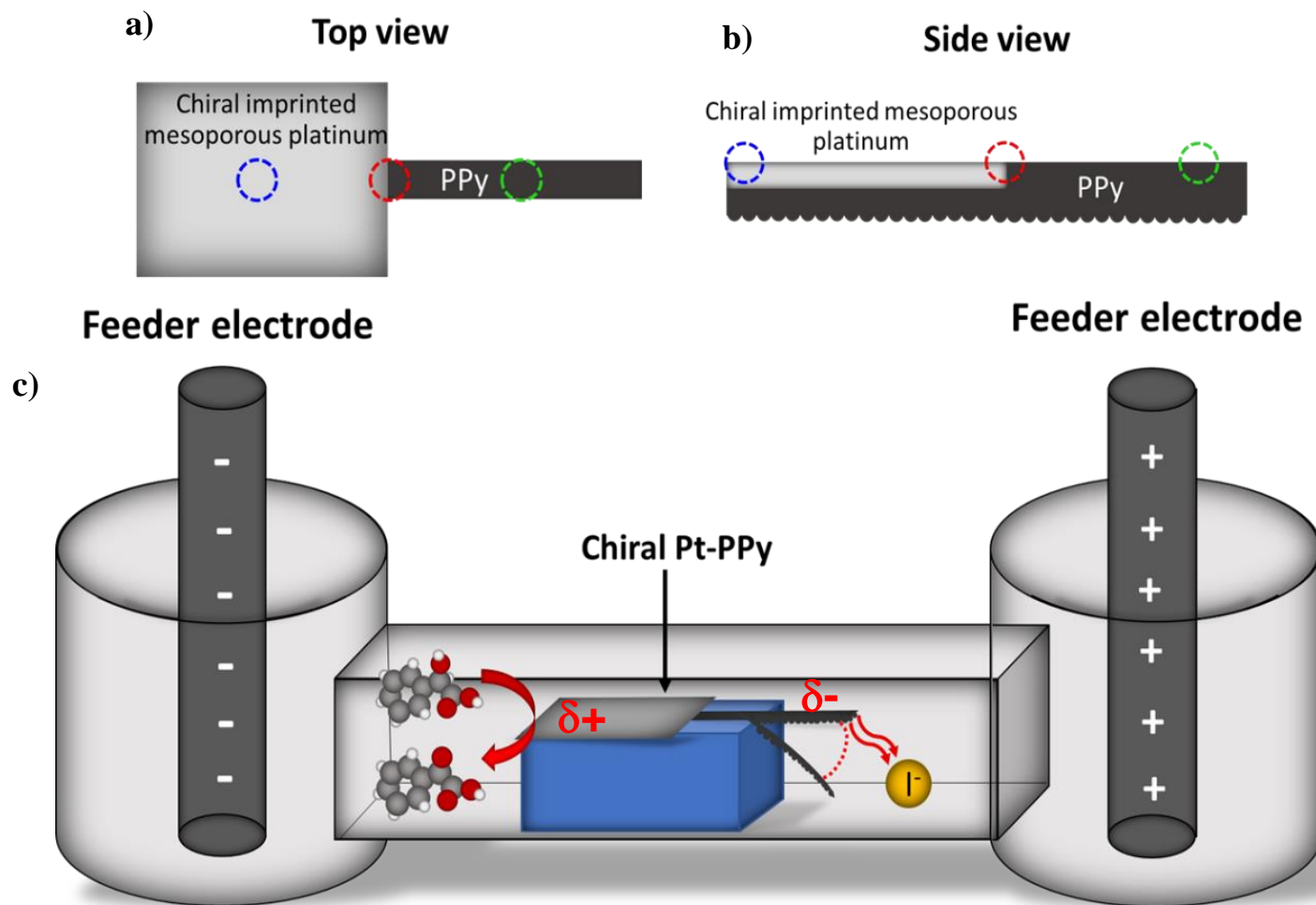
**Imprinted with L-DOPA**  
(L-DOPA/PtCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> = 0.04 )



**Imprinted with D-DOPA**  
(D-DOPA/PtCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> = 0.04 )

- C. Wattanakit, Y. Bon Saint Côme, V. Lapeyre, P. Bopp, M. Heim, S. Yadnum, S. Nokbin, C. Warakulwit, J. Limtrakul, A. Kuhn, *Nat. Comm.* **2014**, 5, 3325  
T. Yuthalekha, C. Wattanakit, V. Lapeyre, S. Nokbin, C. Warakulwit, J. Limtrakul, A. Kuhn, *Nat. Comm.* **2016**, 7, 12678  
C. Wattanakit, T. Yuthalekha, S. Assavapanumat, V. Lapeyre, A. Kuhn, *Nat. Comm.* **2017**, 8, 2087  
S. Assavapanumat, T. Yuthalekha, P. Garrigue, B. Goudeau, V. Lapeyre, A. Perro, N. Sojic, C. Wattanakit, A. Kuhn, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed* **58** (2019) 3471  
S. Assavapanumat, M. Ketkaew, A. Kuhn, C. Wattanakit, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **141** (2019) 18870  
S. Butcha, S. Assavapanumat, S. Ittisanronnachai, V. Lapeyre, C. Wattanakit, A. Kuhn, *Nat. Comm.* **12** (2021) 1314

# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry



B. Gupta, B. Goudeau, A. Kuhn, **Angew.Chem.Int.Ed.** **56** (2017) 14183

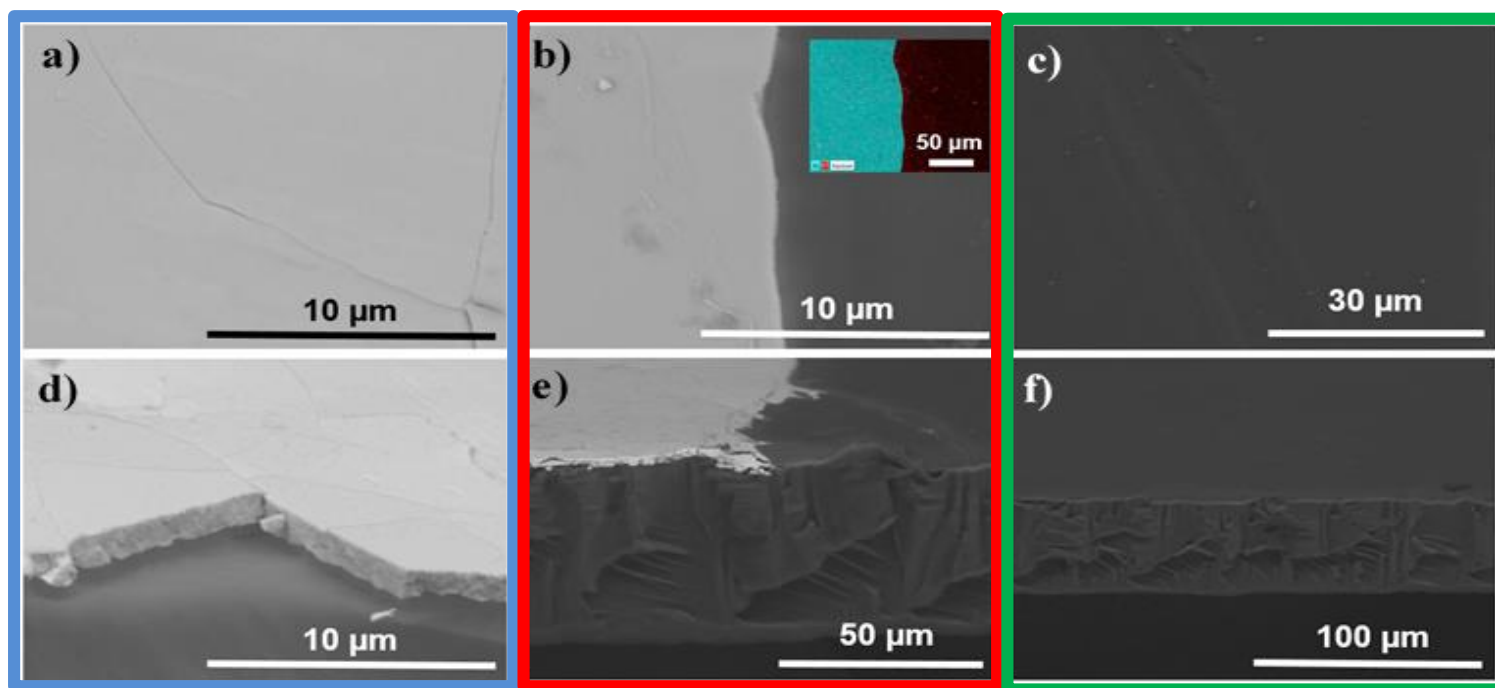
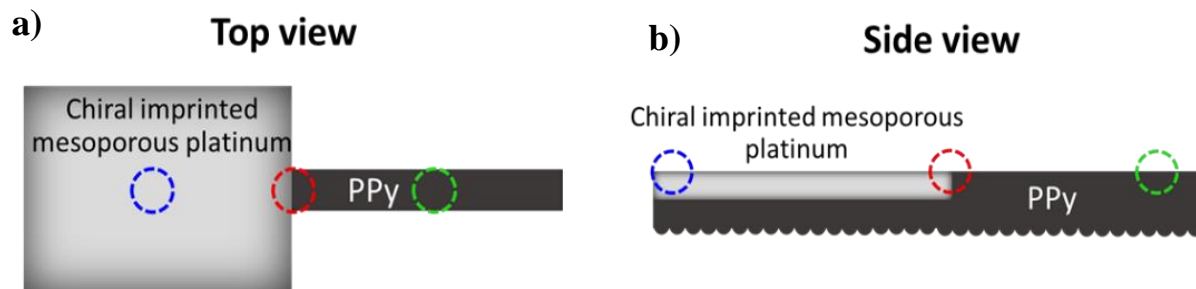
B. Gupta, B. Goudeau, P. Garrigue, A. Kuhn, **Adv.Funct. Mater.** (2018) 1705825

L. Zhang, B. Gupta, B. Goudeau, N. Mano, A. Kuhn, **J.Am.Chem.Soc.** **140** (2018) 15501

B. Gupta, L. Zhang, A. Melvin, B. Goudeau, L. Bouffier, A. Kuhn, **Chem.Sci.** **12** (2021) 2071

S. Assavapanumat, B. Gupta, G. Salinas, B. Goudeau, C. Wattanakit, A. Kuhn, **Chem.Comm.** **55** (2019) 10956

# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry



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# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry

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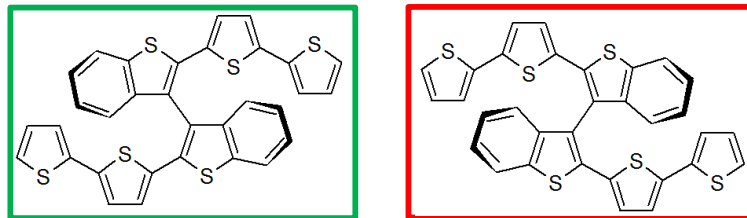
Recognition of mandelic acid on chiral metal/polypyrrole actuators



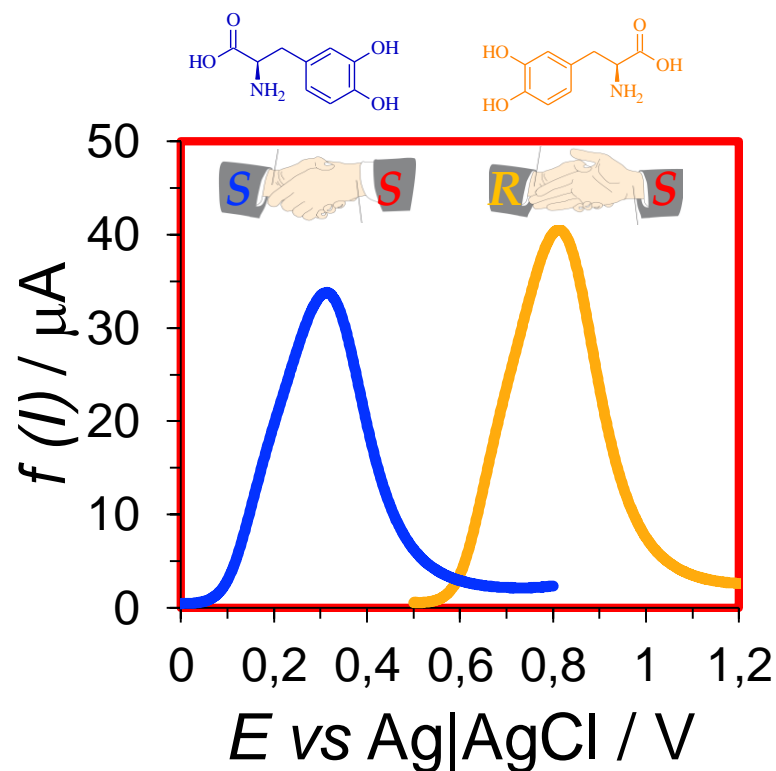
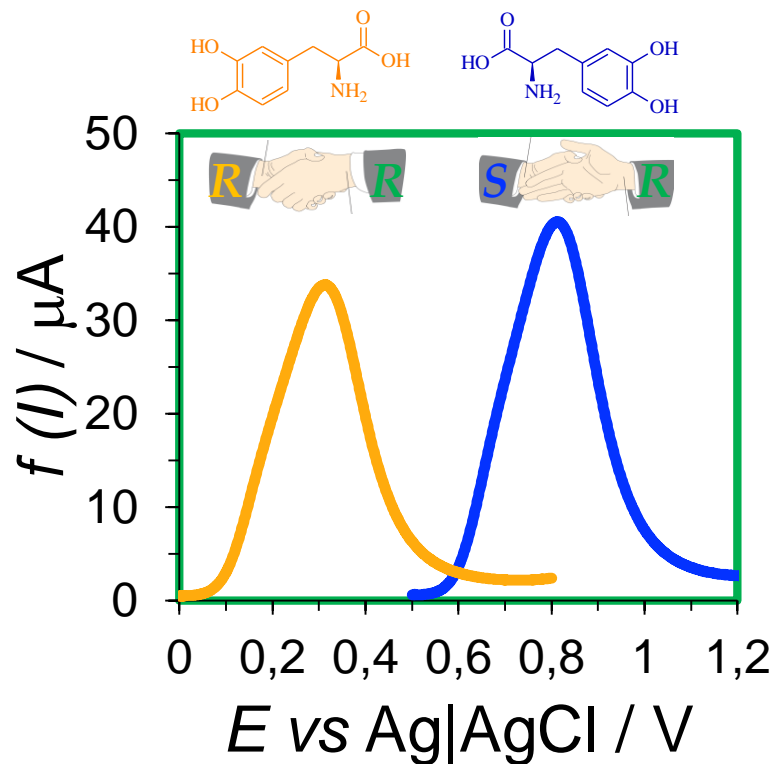
1000 (1000)

# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry

Replacing the chiral metal by inherently chiral oligomers

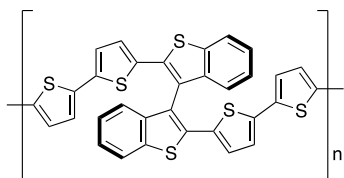


Electropolymerisation of the inherently chiral enantiopure monomers on polypyrrole

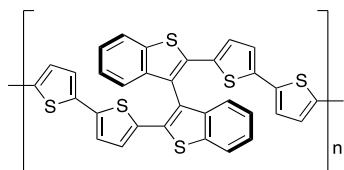
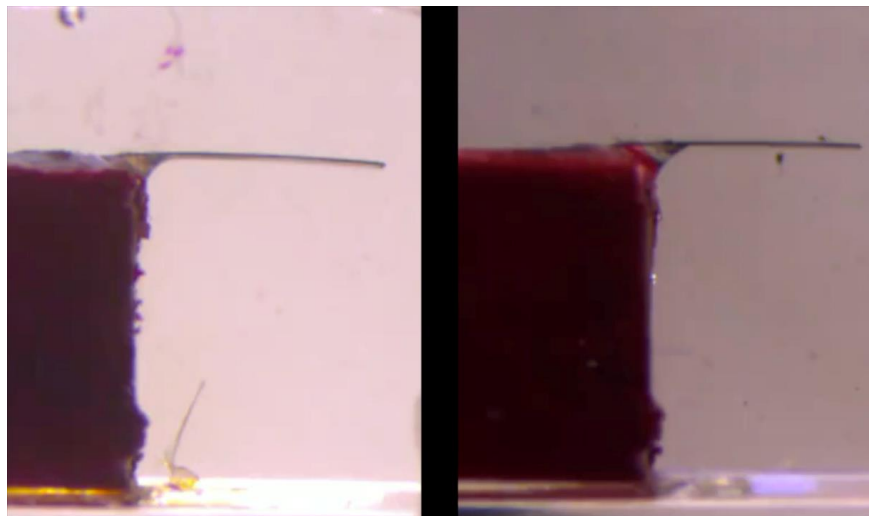


# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry

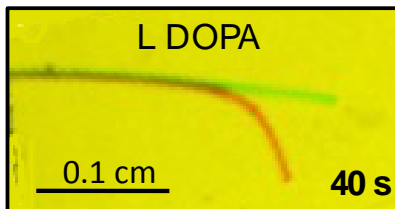
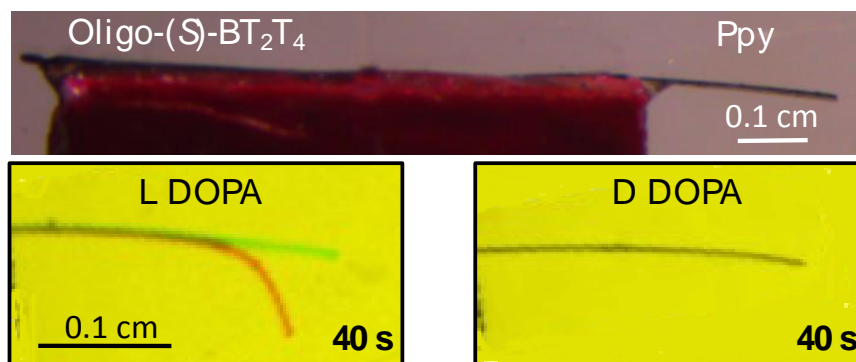
Absolute enantioselective determination with inherently chiral oligomers



Oligo-(R)

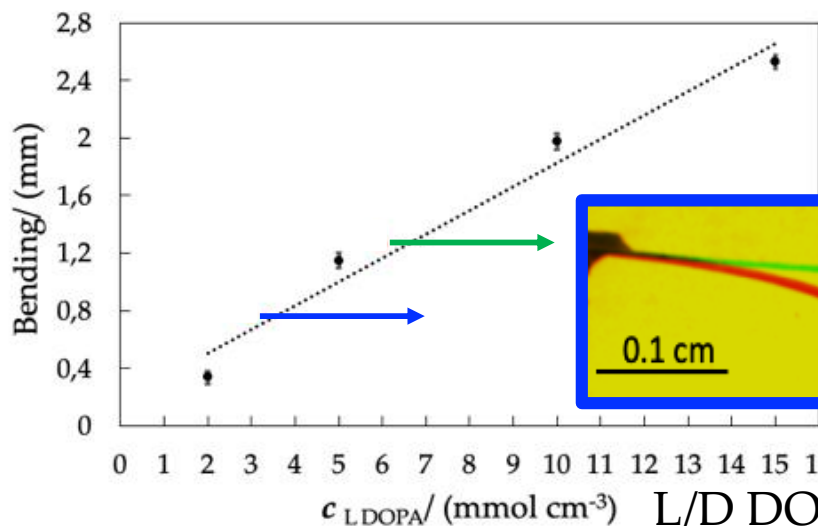
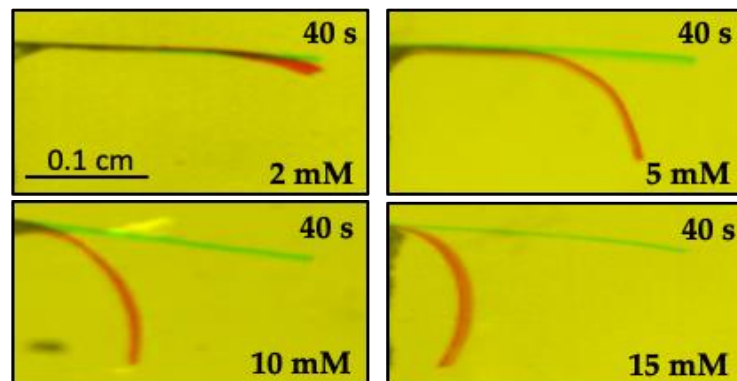


Oligo-(S)

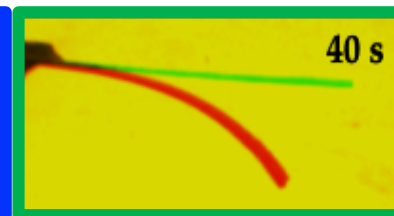
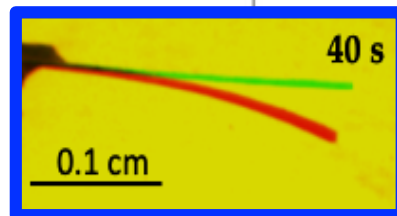


# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry

Concentration dependent enantioselective actuation



Indirect  
determination of the  
enantiomeric excess



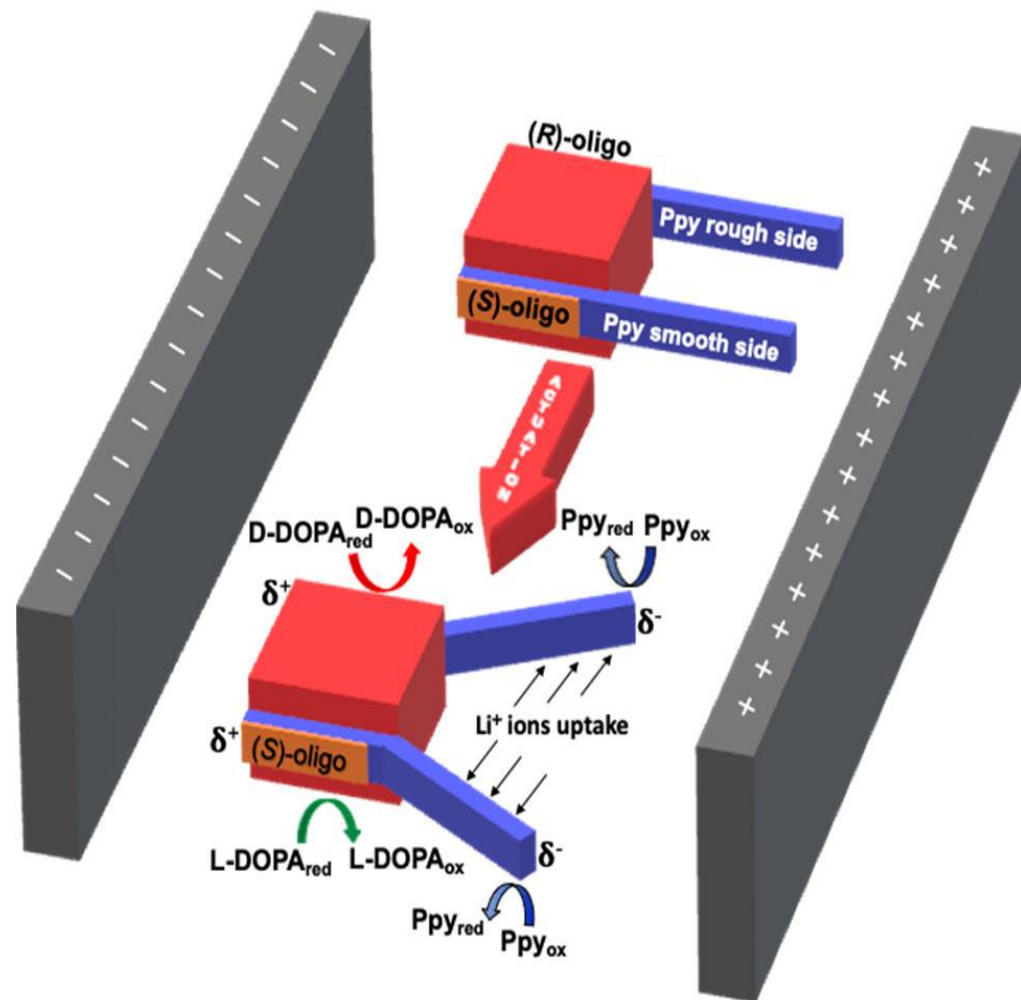
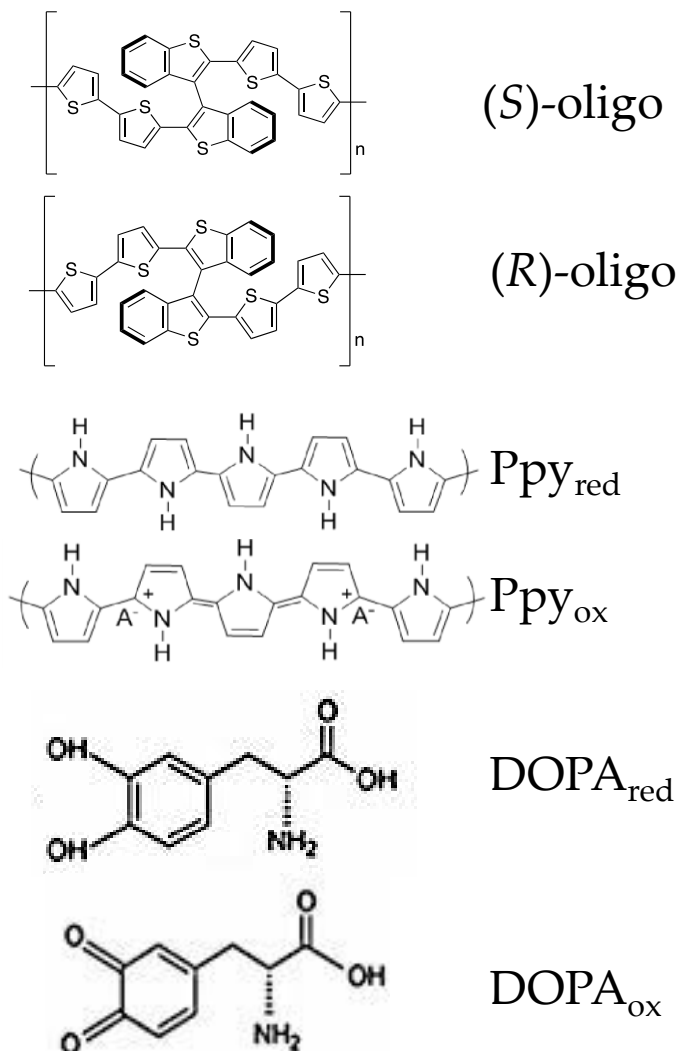
L/D DOPA  
3mM/ 6mM

L/D DOPA  
6mM/ 3mM



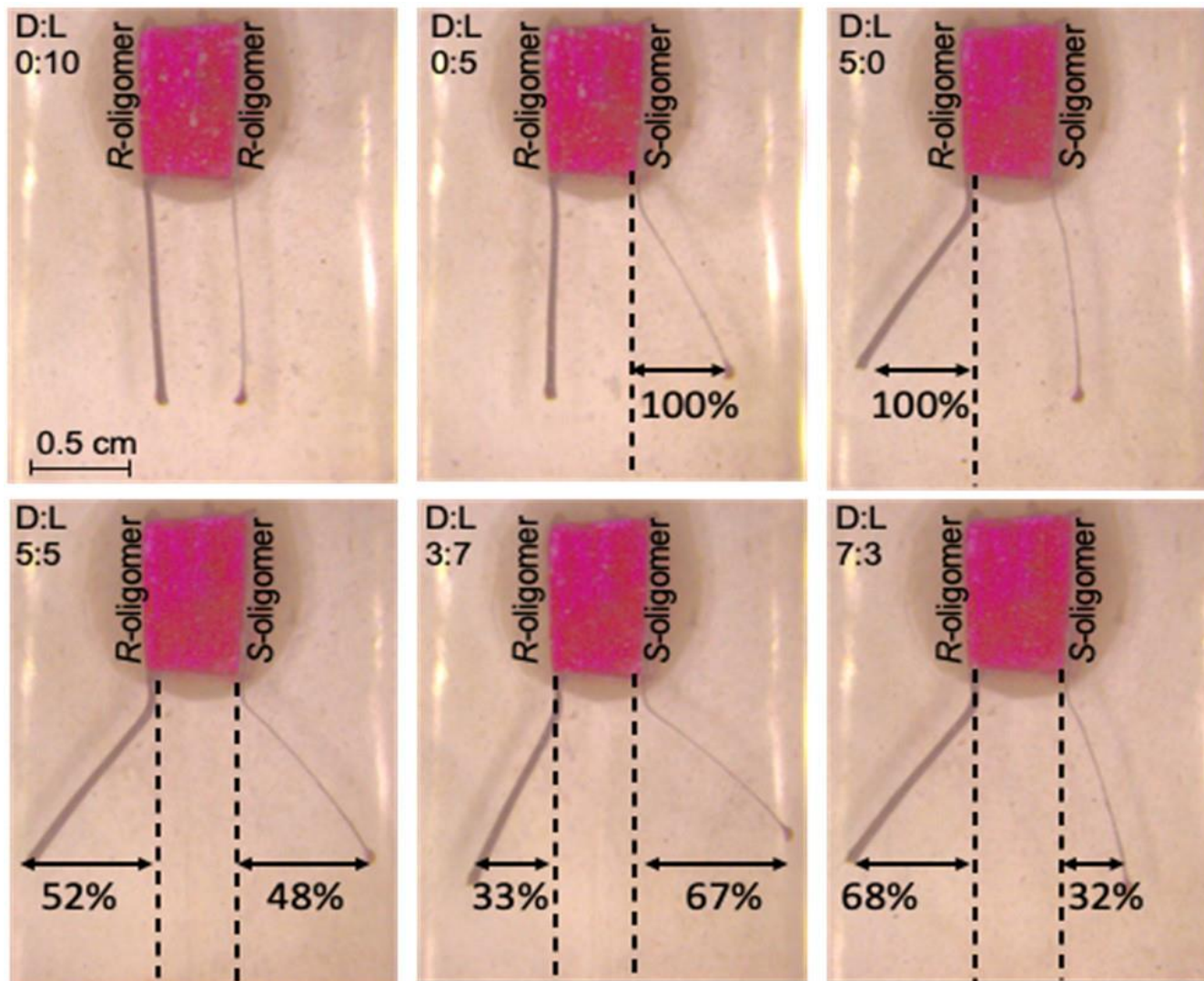
# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry

Direct readout of enantiomeric excess



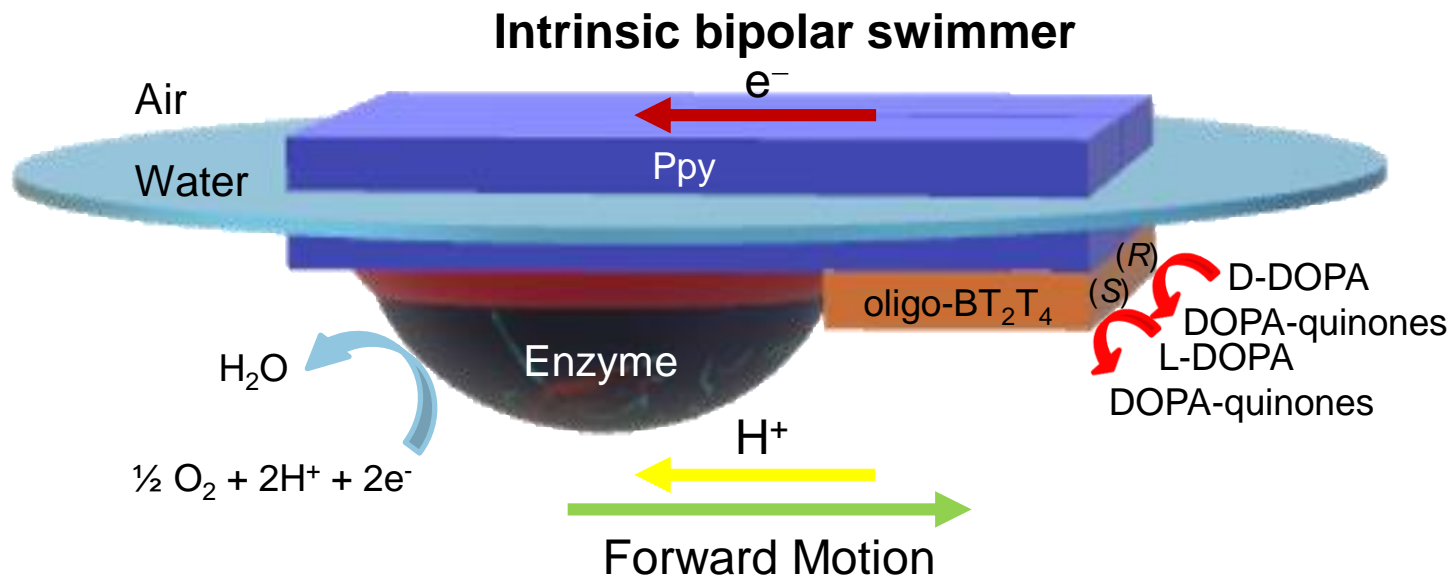
# Enantioselective actuation with bipolar electrochemistry

Direct readout of enantiomeric excess

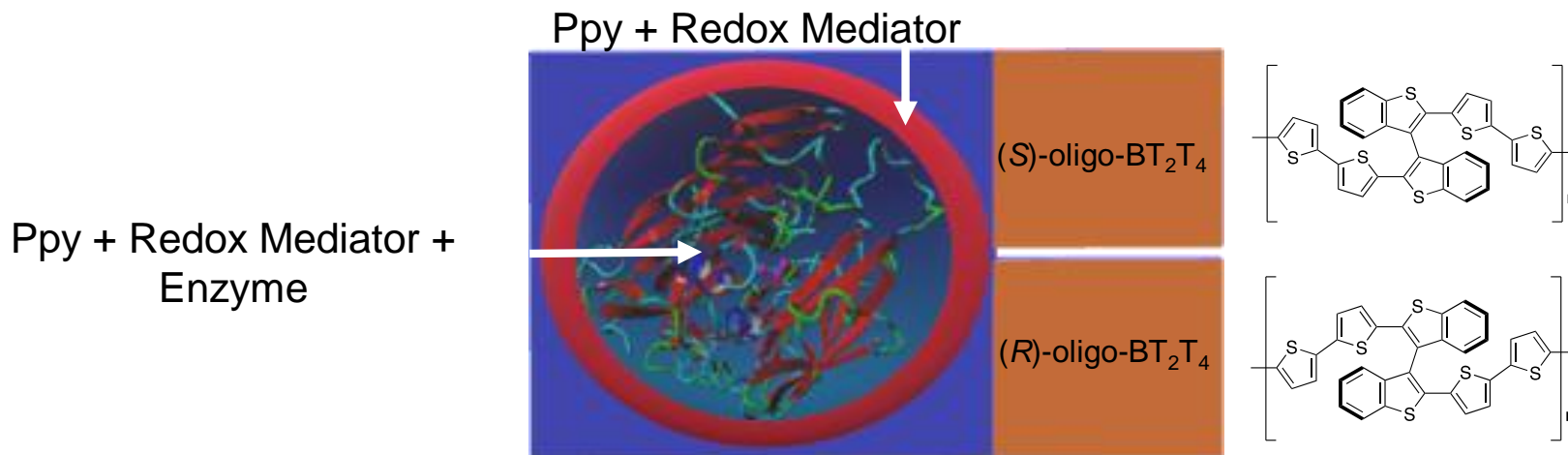


L-DOPA+D-DOPA = 10 mM  
LiClO<sub>4</sub> 0.2 M + H<sub>2</sub>O  
Electric field 0.6 V cm<sup>-1</sup>

# Enantioselective autonomous motion



## Top view of the swimmer

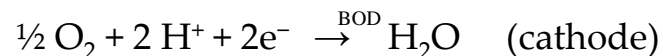
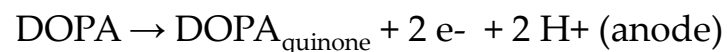


# Enantioselective autonomous motion

## Self-electrophoresis mechanism

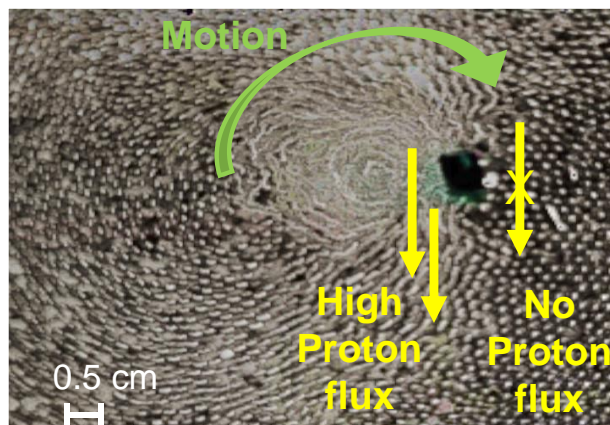


*The swimmer is placed in a 5 mM D-DOPA  
0.3 M citrate/phosphate buffer (pH 5).*

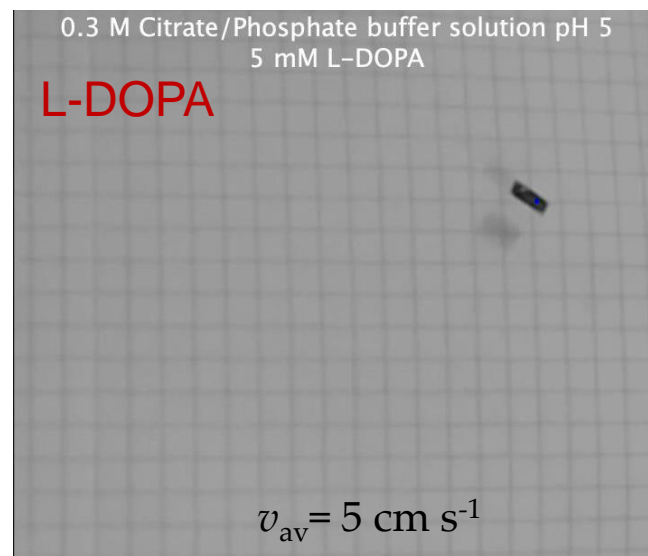
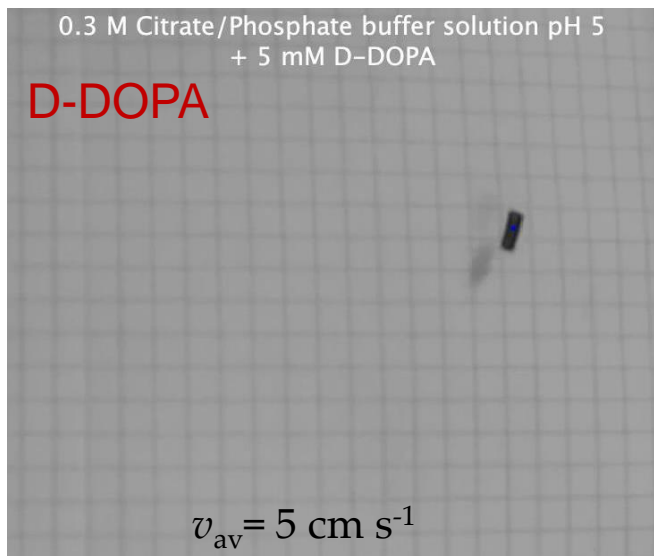


The swimmer is on purpose immobilized at a fixed position.

Only the liquid can move and the hydrodynamic flow can be tracked by adding carbon beads (1  $\mu\text{m}$ ) to the solution.

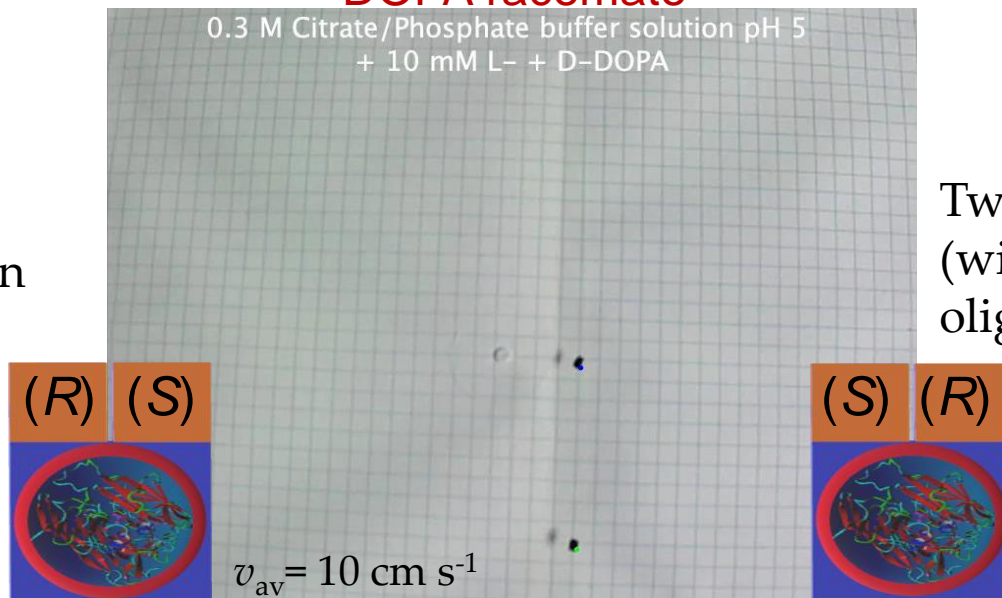


# Enantioselective autonomous motion



## DOPA racemate

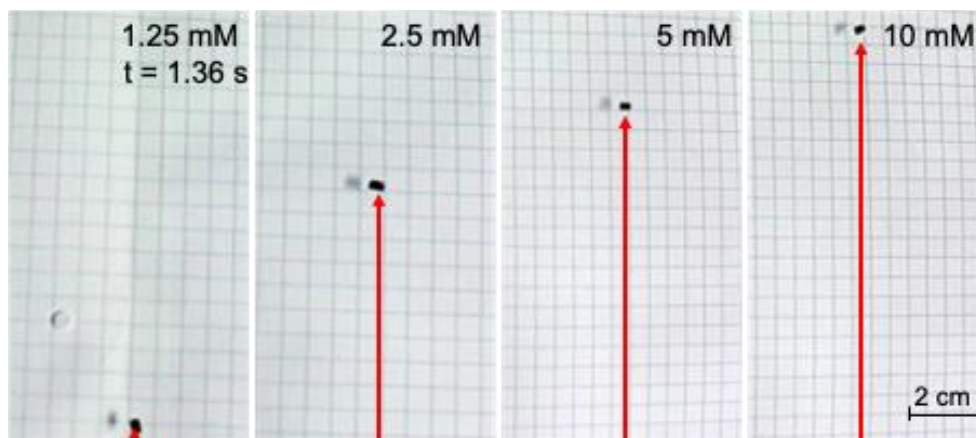
Conversion of  
molecular  
information into  
macroscopic action



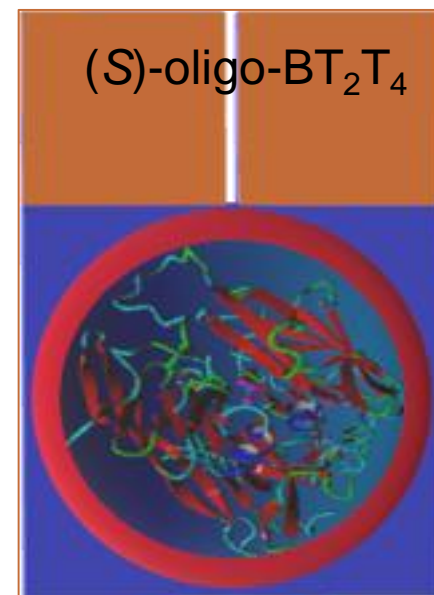
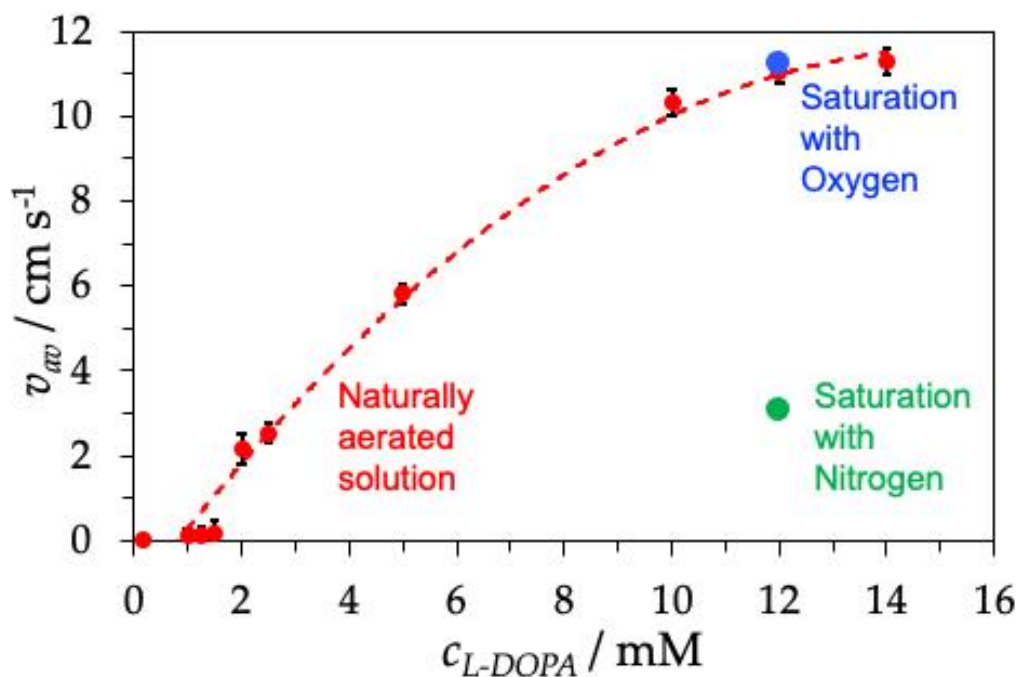
Two swimmers  
(with opposite  
oligomer configuration)

# Enantioselective autonomous motion

## Concentration dependent speed

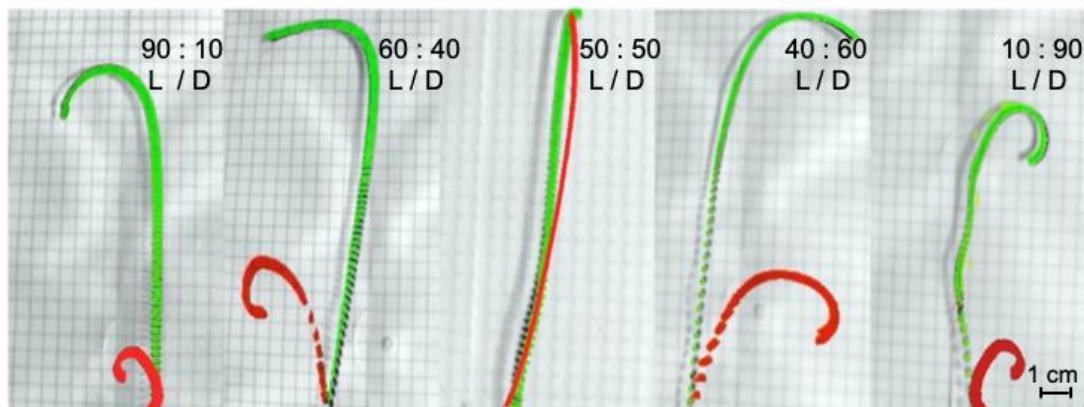


Only (S)-BT<sub>2</sub>T<sub>4</sub> oligomer is deposited on the entire extremity of the swimmer to generate linear motion.



# Enantioselective autonomous motion

## Direct readout of enantiomeric excess

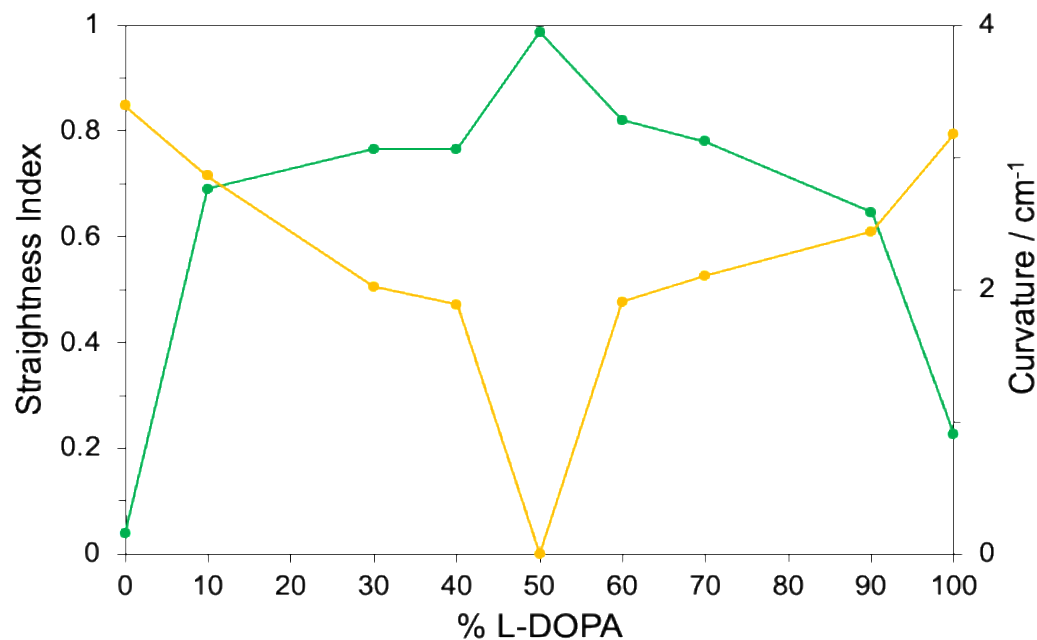


Green trajectories

L- + D-DOPA 5 mM

Red trajectories

L- + D-DOPA 2.5 mM.



*0.3 M citrate/phosphate buffer  
solutions at pH 5*

# **CONCLUSION**

**Biomimetic recognition of chiral molecules**

**at unconventional chiral surfaces**

**with a straightforward readout**

**in an unconventional way**

**Applications in analysis**

**electroseparation**

**and synthesis**



# Thanks

## PhD students

Chularat  
Wattanakit



Thittaya  
Yutthalekha



Sunpet  
Assavapanumat



Sopon  
Butcha



Marisa  
Ketkaew



## Post-docs

Bhavana  
Gupta



Lin  
Zhang



Aleksandar  
Karajic



Gerardo  
Salinas



Serena  
Arnaboldi



# Thanks

Laurent Bouffier, Neso Sojic, Dodzi Zigah, Valerie Ravaine, Adeline Perro  
Patrick Garrigue, Veronique Lapeyre, Bertrand Goudeau, Stéphane Reculosa **ISM**

Nicolas Mano, Sebastien Gounel, Sabrina Bichon, **CRPP**

Chularat Wattanakit, Jumras Limtrakul, **VISTEC, Thailand**

Tiziana Benincori, Giogia Bonetti, **Univ.Insubria, Como, Italy**

Roberto Cirilli, **Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy**

Patrizia Mussini, **University of Milano, Italy**

## Financial support

CNRS (PICS, IRP), IUF, ERC

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Campus France

Thailand Research Fund, VISTEC

University of Milano

# Thank YOU for your attention

