

Supporting Information

Interstitally Mixed Self-Assembled Monolayers Enhance Electrical Stability of Molecular Junctions

Gyu Don Kong,^{a,‡} Hyunsun Song,^{a,‡} Seungmin Yoon,^b Hungu Kang,^a Rakwoo Chang,^{c*} and

Hyo Jae Yoon^{a*}

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Korea University, Seoul, 02841, Korea

^bDepartment of Chemistry, Kwangwoon University, Seoul, 01897, Korea

^cDepartment of Applied Chemistry, University of Seoul, Seoul, 02543, Korea

Corresponding authors' email: rchang90@uos.ac.kr (R.C), hyoon@korea.ac.kr (H.J.Y.)

[‡]These authors contributed to this work equally.

Table of Contents

1. Experimental Details	S3
1.1 Materials	S3
1.2 SAM Formation <i>via</i> ReSEM	S3
2. Breakdown Voltage Measurements and Data Analysis	S4
3. Characterization	S6
3.1 Static and Dynamic Water Contact Angle Measurements	S6
3.2 X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) Analysis	S7
3.3 Percent Electrochemically Active Surface Area (%EAS) Analysis	S7
3.4 Reductive Desorption Analysis	S8
3.5 Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) Analysis	S9
3.6 Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) Analysis	S9
3.7 Ellipsometry Analysis	S9
3.8 Near Edge X-ray Adsorption Fine Structure Spectroscopy (NEXAFS) Analysis	S10
4. Molecular Dynamics (MD)	S11
5. Minor Discussion	S14
6. Supplementary Figures and Tables	S15
7. References	S45

1. Experimental Details

1.1 Materials

All reagents were used as supplied unless otherwise specified. All organic solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Daejung while water was purified using an Aqua MAX-Basic System (deionized water, the electrical resistivity of which is $\sim 18.2 \text{ M}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$). Octanethiol (HSC_8) were purchased from TCI ($>95\%$). High purity eutectic gallium-indium (EGaIn; 99.99%) was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich and used as supplied. 2,2'-Bipyridyl-terminated *n*-undecanethiol ($\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_{11}\text{BIPY}$) was synthesized following the procedures reported in the literature.¹ All thiol derivatives were stored under N_2 atmosphere and $<4^\circ\text{C}$. Silver and gold thin films ($\sim 300 \text{ nm}$) were deposited onto silicon wafer (100 mm in diameter; 1–10 ohm-cm, 525 ± 50 microns thick) by e-beam evaporator (ULVAC). For template-stripping, photo-curable polymer was purchased from Norland (NOA81) and used as supplied.

1.2 SAM Formation via ReSEM

The ReSEM method consists of the following steps. i) Freshly prepared ultraflat template-stripped gold (Au^{TS}) chip² was immersed in a degassed ethanol (anhydrous, 99.9%) solution containing 1 mM $\text{HSC}_{11}\text{BIPY}$. After 3 h incubation under N_2 atmosphere at room temperature, the SAM-bound Au^{TS} chip was thoroughly rinsed with ethanol. ii) Next, the resulting SAM was immersed in an ethanol solution containing 1 mM HSC_8 . After incubation for 3 h under N_2 atmosphere at room temperature, the SAM was rinsed with pure ethanol. iii) The resulting SAM was further incubated with an ethanol solution of 1 mM $\text{HSC}_{11}\text{BIPY}$ for 18 h in N_2 atmosphere. The last two steps are defined as one cycle in the ReSEM. The cycle is repeated till V_{BD} reaches a plateau or the highest value, and the value of r^+ is maximized or similar to that of pure $\text{SC}_{11}\text{BIPY}$ SAM.

2. Breakdown Voltage Measurements and Data Analysis

EGaIn tip fabrication, and junction formation and measurements were done following the method reported in the literature.^{1,3} A conical tip of EGaIn for use as a top contact was formed following the method reported in the literature.^{2,4} Briefly, a 10 μL gas-tight syringe was filled with EGaIn ($\geq 99.99\%$, Aldrich). A drop of EGaIn was pushed to the tip of the syringe needle, the hanging drop was brought into contact with a surface on which the EGaIn could stick (e.g., an oxidized Ag surface), and the needle gently pulled away from the drop using a micromanipulator. Upon breaking from the bulk EGaIn on the surface, a conical tip was obtained. A conical tip of EGaIn was newly formed every junction in order to eliminate complexities that may arise from contamination of the EGaIn surface by volatile organics in air. In cases that visible whiskers formed during tip fabrication, the tip was discarded, and a new tip was formed.

With a freshly prepared EGaIn conical tip, a junction with the structure, $\text{Au}^{\text{TS}}/\text{SAM}/\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3/\text{EGaIn}$ (“/” and “//” correspond to covalent and van der Waals contacts, respectively), was formed, and three J - V traces were measured at ± 0.50 V to make sure the reliable contact formation. Then, a voltage sweep from zero to either of sufficiently high $+V$ or $-V$ (here, $+10.0$ V and -10.0 V) with a step size of $|0.2$ V| was applied to the junction until a sharp increase of J occurred by several orders of magnitude and current (I , A) reached the maximum set value of electrometer, 105 mA (which was defined as the short). Figure S16 shows representative J - V traces and determination of V_{BD} values. We repeated this experiment for many separate junctions to obtain V_{BD} histograms from which mean ($\mu^{V_{\text{BD}}}$) and standard deviation ($\sigma^{V_{\text{BD}}}$) values were extracted.

For measuring $J(V)$ and rectification ratios, we used the same EGaIn junctions. All junction formation and measurements were carried out in ambient conditions. The SAM-bound bottom electrode was grounded, and the EGaIn top electrode was biased. The diameter of the contact area was measured at high magnification. Assuming a circular contact, the area was derived from the measured diameter from which the current densities (J , A/cm²) were calculated. The contact and presence of a SAM was confirmed by running a single J - V scan after which 20 more scans were run if there was indication of contact and tunneling. A trace is based on the following voltage sweep sequence: 0 V \rightarrow +V \rightarrow 0 V \rightarrow -V \rightarrow 0 V. Therefore, one trace corresponds to two scans. The total number of working junctions versus those that shorted was used to calculate the yield (%) of working junctions. Shorts were excluded prior to analysis.⁵ Shorts clearly do not give information about the SAM and can bias distributions of current density toward high values. Thus, when one performs operations on the raw distribution of log-current density ($\log|J|$), one discards values corresponding to shorts. Shorts are defined as values of current that reach the compliance limit of our electrometer (± 0.105 A). For generating histograms, we kept the bin-size of r histograms constant, making the resolution of mean values (the width of each bean is ~ 0.2 in a log-scale).

3. Characterization

3.1 Static and Dynamic Water Contact Angle Measurements

The measurement of static contact angle is a useful tool to study the structure and chemistry of the outermost few angstroms of a surface. Thus, the quality of the SAM can be estimated from the contact angle measurement results. The static contact angle (θ_s) is measured by dropping a liquid droplet onto a SAM. When the droplet is placed on the surface, the angle between the tangent and the solid surface is measured as illustrated in Figure S5. The relationship between the free energy of the surface and a contact angle, θ_s , is described by Young's equation:

$$\gamma_{LV}\cos\theta_s = \gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL} \quad \text{Eq. S1}$$

where γ_{LV} , γ_{SV} , and γ_{SL} are the liquid-vapor, solid-vapor, and solid-liquid surface free energies, respectively. Using a contact angle measurement system (Phoenix10, SEO Co.), we measured contact angles of deionized water droplets over SAMs at room temperature. The droplet volumes for static and dynamic contact angle measurement were $\sim 1.3 \mu\text{L}$ and $\sim 20\text{-}30 \mu\text{L}$, respectively.

The dynamic contact angle ($\Delta\cos\theta$, which corresponds to the contact angel hysteresis, the difference between advancing ($\cos\theta_a$) and receding ($\cos\theta_r$) measurements permit access to degree of structural defects. If the measured value of $\Delta\cos\theta$ is higher than the values of the pure SAMs, the surface becomes disordered and rough; in contrast, if the measured value is lower, it indicates that the surface is relatively ordered (Figure S6).⁶

3.2 X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) Analysis

The XPS measurements were carried out on a Thetaprobe (Thermo) with a monochromated Al Ka (1486.6 eV) source. The measurements were done at room temperature in a vacuum of 6.7×10^{-8} Pa. The binding energies were calibrated by setting Ag 3d_{5/2} of bulk metals to values 368.26 eV and Au 4f_{7/2} of bulk metals to values 84.0 eV.⁷ The XPS N1s and S2p lines were detected to study the imSAMs. The peak shapes of the core level photoelectron spectra were analyzed with a XPS Peak Fit program. A Shirley-type background correction was utilized. The S2p_{3/2} and S2p_{1/2} lines were fitted with a fixed binding energy difference of 1.18 eV and an intensity ratio of 2:1, reflecting the multiplicity of the S2p_{3/2} and S2p_{1/2} energy levels. The reproducibility of the data was confirmed by measuring the data from different samples. Since the addition of SC₁₁BIPY essentially produced a detectable nitrogen signal in the SAMs, we estimated the values of $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$ by comparing the N1s peak areas for different pure and mixed SAMs, as previously described.^{6,8} We avoided the use of C1s and S2p signals as references to eliminate complexities arising from the surface contamination of SAMs by adventitious airborne organic compounds and the different degrees of sulfur photoelectron attenuation by the alkyl backbones.^{8,9}

3.3 Percent Electrochemically Active Surface Area (%EAS) Analysis

The %EAS measurement is an established wet-electrochemical method, which enables comparison of degree of structural disorder among SAMs.¹⁰ The %EAS method typically uses Ru³⁺ complex (e.g., Ru(NH₃)₆) as an electrochemical probe for several reasons: some of these include that it easily undergoes a reversible, one-electron electrochemical reaction, and SAMs remain stable throughout the electrochemical window in which the redox chemistry of the Ru³⁺ complex occurs. What one measures in the %EAS experiment is tunneling current across a

SAM: when negative voltage ($-V$) is applied to a SAM-based electrochemical cell, current flows from a working electrode (Au in our system) to an electrolyte where a redox probe is reduced ($\text{Ru}^{3+} \rightarrow \text{Ru}^{2+}$). If the SAM is well-packed and structurally ordered, low current flows across the SAM resulting in low cathodic peak current (i_{pc}). However, when the SAM is structurally disordered, high current flows across the SAM (and pinholes inside it) resulting in high cathodic current.

3.4 Reductive Desorption Analysis

Reductive desorption method enables one to measure packing densities of thiolate-based monolayers.^{11,12} To ensure the same surface area of the SAM exposed to the electrolyte solution across different samples, we used a custom built three-electrode setup (composed of Teflon) equipped with a platinum wire counter electrode, a Ag/AgCl/KCl reference electrode, and a screw cap to hold the working electrode (area exposed to the solution = 0.152 cm²). First, we removed oxygen dissolved in 0.5M KOH aqueous solution through nitrogen gas bubbling. We carried out measurements by sweeping voltage from -0.20 V to -1.40 V at room temperature. Scan rate was 100 mV/s. In a typical experiment, a linear voltage sweep was applied from a potential at which the electrode was covered by a thiolate monolayer to a negative potential at which the thiolate was desorbed from the surface, and a voltammetric curve was recorded. Integration of voltammetric curve gave the charge corresponding to the desorption (Q). Assuming that the desorption took place through the reduction of Au(I) to Au(0) according to the reaction, $\text{AuSR} + e^- \rightarrow \text{Au(0)} + \text{RS}^-$, the surface coverage Γ was calculated with the equation, $\Gamma = Q/nFA$. Here, F is the Faraday constant, A is the exposed area, and n is the number of electrons used for reductive reaction (here, $n=1$).

3.5 Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) Analysis

Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements were obtained in a conventional three electrode electrochemical cell using a potentiostat (VersaSTAT 3, Princeton Applied Research). The counter and reference electrodes were a platinum mesh and a Ag/AgCl electrode (3 M NaCl), respectively. By using a custom-built equipment, the measurement area (0.15 cm^2) of SAM was kept identical across all samples. The impedance spectra at an applied potential of 0 V (vs Ag/AgCl) in K_2HPO_4 (30 mM, pH 7.7-8.7).

The effect of ReSEM on SAM permeability was investigated over a frequency range from 1Hz to 10 kHz by applying a sinusoidal signal of $\pm 10\text{ mV}$ against open circuit voltage. Each measurement comprised one frequency scan, and two measurements were taken per sample at intervals of 20 min. The impedance spectra were analyzed by fitting appropriate equivalent circuit models to the measured data (VersaStudio).

3.6 Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) Analysis

Topographical morphology of bottom electrodes was measured by atomic force microscopy (Multimode 8, Bruker) in ambient condition. AFM tips (SNL-10) with a resonant frequency of 65 kHz and spring constant of 0.350 N/m were used in the topography measurements. During the scan, a set point was 1 V and scan rate was 1.32 Hz.

3.7 Ellipsometry Analysis

We measured the thickness for pure $\text{SC}_{11}\text{BIPY}$ SAM and $\text{imSAM}^{2\text{nd}}$ formed with $\text{HSC}_{11}\text{BIPY}$ and HSC_8 on Au^{TS} using ellipsometry. The data were obtained at a constant incidence angle of 70° using a single-wavelength scanning ellipsometer ($\alpha\text{-SE}^\circ$ model, J.A. Woollam). The thickness of the SAM was calculated using CompleteEASE® software.

3.8 Near Edge X-ray Adsorption Fine Structure Spectroscopy (NEXAFS) Analysis

Near edge X-ray adsorption fine structure (NEXAFS) spectroscopy measurements were performed at 4D PES beam line of Pohang Accelerator Laboratory (PAL) in South Korea. We used the partial electron yield (PEY) detection mode for the NEXAFS spectra by recording the sample current normalized to a signal current, which was measured simultaneously using a gold mesh in ultrahigh vacuum ($<10^{-9}$ Torr). In this case, a *p*-polarized (~85%) synchrotron photon beam had an energy in the range of 270-325 eV and spectral energy resolution of $\Delta E = 150$ meV. Carbon K-edge angle-dependent NEXAFS from 30° to 70° is sensitive to the π^* antibonding orbital along the π bond (Figure S15). The NEXAFS spectra of typical π -conjugated organic semiconductors shows a C1s to π^* resonance at 284 – 287 eV. The average molecular orientation was determined by analyzing the change in the intensity of the π^* (C=C) and σ^* (C-C) resonance value at 284.5 and 293.0 eV, respectively, as the angle of incidence of the X-ray beam was changed. The peak intensities of the π^* (C=C) and σ^* (C-C) orbital in the NEXAFS spectra were then fitted by the following Eq. S2:

$$I_v = \left[\frac{P}{3} \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2} (3\cos^2\theta - 1)(3\cos^2\alpha - 1) \right\} + \frac{(1-P)}{2} \sin^2\alpha \right] \quad \text{Eq. S2}$$

where θ was the polarization angle of the incident synchrotron light with respect to the normal to the surface, and $P = 0.85$ was used for the degree of polarization. By simply evaluating the intensity ratio at various angles from normal incidence ($\theta = 70^\circ$) to grazing incidence ($\theta = 30^\circ$), the tilt angle of alkyl backbone could be derived.

4. Molecular Dynamics (MD)

4.1 Molecular Dynamics Simulation Setup

In this study, we have performed atomistic molecular dynamic (MD) simulations of two different SAM systems consisting of SC₁₁BIPY + SC₈. The two surfactant molecules (SC₁₁BIPY and SC₈) are modelled using CHARMM General Force Fields (CGenFF).¹³ Each SAM system consists of total 100 surfactant molecules with different molecule fractions, $\chi_{SC_{11}BIPY}^{surf}$, of SC₁₁BIPY, ranging from 0 to 100 %. The interaction between the surfactant molecule and the solid metallic surface is not explicitly present in this study. Instead, the thiol group (-SH) is replaced by the sulfide anion (-S⁻) to mimic the metal-sulfide bond and the following plane harmonic restraint, U_{res} , with the force constant, k , of 1000 kcal/mol·Å² is applied to all sulfur atoms so that they can move freely on a planar surface but not in the normal direction to the surface: $U_{res}(z) = \begin{cases} 0, & z \geq z_0 \\ \frac{1}{2}k(z - z_0)^2, & z < z_0 \end{cases}$, where z is the position of each sulfur atom in the direction normal to the surface and z_0 is set to 10 Å. Na⁺ ions are also added to make the system neutral. Additional plane harmonic restraint with the force constant of 400 kcal/mol·Å² are also applied to the other atoms so that they cannot penetrate into the planar surface. This treatment has been successfully applied to the prediction for the surface coverage of various SAM systems in the previous study.¹⁴

All MD simulations are carried by CHARMM software package (c38b2 version).¹⁵ Each simulation box consists two SAM systems, which are aligned in the opposite direction and separated by 20 Å, which enables us to simulate two SAM systems at the same time. The representative snapshot is shown in Figure 4a. Each initial simulation box is set to 5.0 × 5.0 × 20.0 nm³ and the periodic boundary condition is applied to all directions. The equilibrium

MD simulation is then performed in the constant $N P_t L_z T$ ensemble for 100 ns, where N , P_t , L_z , and T are respectively the number of surfactant molecules, the lateral pressure in the direction parallel to the solid surface, the box length in the direction normal to the surface, and the system temperature. P_t is set to 1 atm using Langevin piston pressure method and T to 298 K using Nose-Hoover thermostat.^{16,17} The first 10 trajectories are discarded for equilibration and the last 90 ns trajectories are used for the calculation of the structural and thermodynamic properties of SAM such as surface coverage, tilt angle, and energy decomposition. The error bars are obtained from the block average of the equilibrated trajectories.

4.2 Surface Coverage Calculation

Figure S11 shows the simulated surface coverage, Γ , of the two SAM systems as a function of the mole fraction, $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$. As $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$ decreases, Γ increases for imSAM^{2nd}. The Γ starts leveling off at $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf} < 0.6$, which means that the replacement of SC₁₁BIPY by SC₈ does not affect Γ very much at low $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$. This can be understood by the fact that the BIPY group of SC₁₁BIPY is located high enough not to disturb the packing of both SC₈ and the SC₁₁ moiety of SC₁₁BIPY. In the case of the Γ derived by experiment, the experimentally determined (by XPS) values of $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$ for one and two ReSEM cycles were nearly the same, but the Γ significantly increased (by 1.5 times). This finding supports that the SC₈ was adsorbed between the SC₁₁BIPY in the interstitial fashion.

4.3 Tilt Angle Calculation

We calculated two types of tilt angles of SC₁₁BIPY: one is the tilt angle, θ_t , of the hydrocarbon backbone relative to the surface normal (Figure S13a), and the other is the tilt angle, θ_{pz} , of the BIPY plane relative to the surface normal (Figure S13b). The θ_t steeply

decreased between $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf} = 1.0$ and 0.6. At low $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf} < 0.6$, the hydrocarbon backbone of SC₁₁BIPY gradually decreased. This means that the degree of vertical orientation of the alkyl backbone increased the most at $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf} = 0.6$. As shown in Figure S14, the distribution of θ_{pz} was bimodal: upright (low θ_{pz}) and bowed (high θ_{pz}) conformations. As $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$ was lowered, the portion of the bowed conformation became larger and therefore the average θ_{pz} decreased. On the other hand, θ_{pz} was mono-modal, which corresponded to the upright conformation.

4.4 Decomposition of Intermolecular Energy between Single SC₁₁BIPY and Surrounding Surfactant Molecules

We also decomposed the intermolecular energy between single SC₁₁BIPY and surrounding surfactant molecules into three parts: BIPY-BIPY, BIPY-tail (tail: SC₁₁ in SC₁₁BIPY and SC₈), and tail-tail, as shown in Figure 4d. As $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$ was reduced, $E_{BIPY-BIPY}$ was destabilized in mixed SAM systems because the number of surrounding BIPY groups became smaller. On the other hand, both $E_{BIPY-tail}$ and $E_{tail-tail}$ of the SC₁₁BIPY-SC₈ system were not strongly affected by $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$. It should be noted that the system with $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf} = 0.6$ was the most stable, in agreement with the experiment results.

5. Minor Discussion

Reductive Desorption Analysis on ReSEM-based Mixed SAMs

Figure S8 shows cyclic voltammograms (CVs) obtained from reductive desorption experiments with ReSEM-based mixed SAMs formed on Au^{TS}. Data shows one main desorption peak and one shoulder peak at -1.0 – -1.2 V and -1.3 V, respectively. The shoulder peaks were attributed to reductive desorption from different domains on the polycrystalline gold electrode. The polycrystalline gold can have low-index faces Au(111), Au(100) and Au(110) as well as Au(210). Depending on the crystallographic orientation of gold surface, the interaction and binding site between gold and sulfur can vary to some extent.¹⁸ The fine shoulder peak (-1.3 V) in our CVs could be attributed to the desorption at Au (210). Steichen *et al.*¹⁹ have previously observed the desorption peak at -1.3 V in *n*-decanethiolate SAM formed on polycrystalline gold electrode.

6. Supplementary Figures and Tables

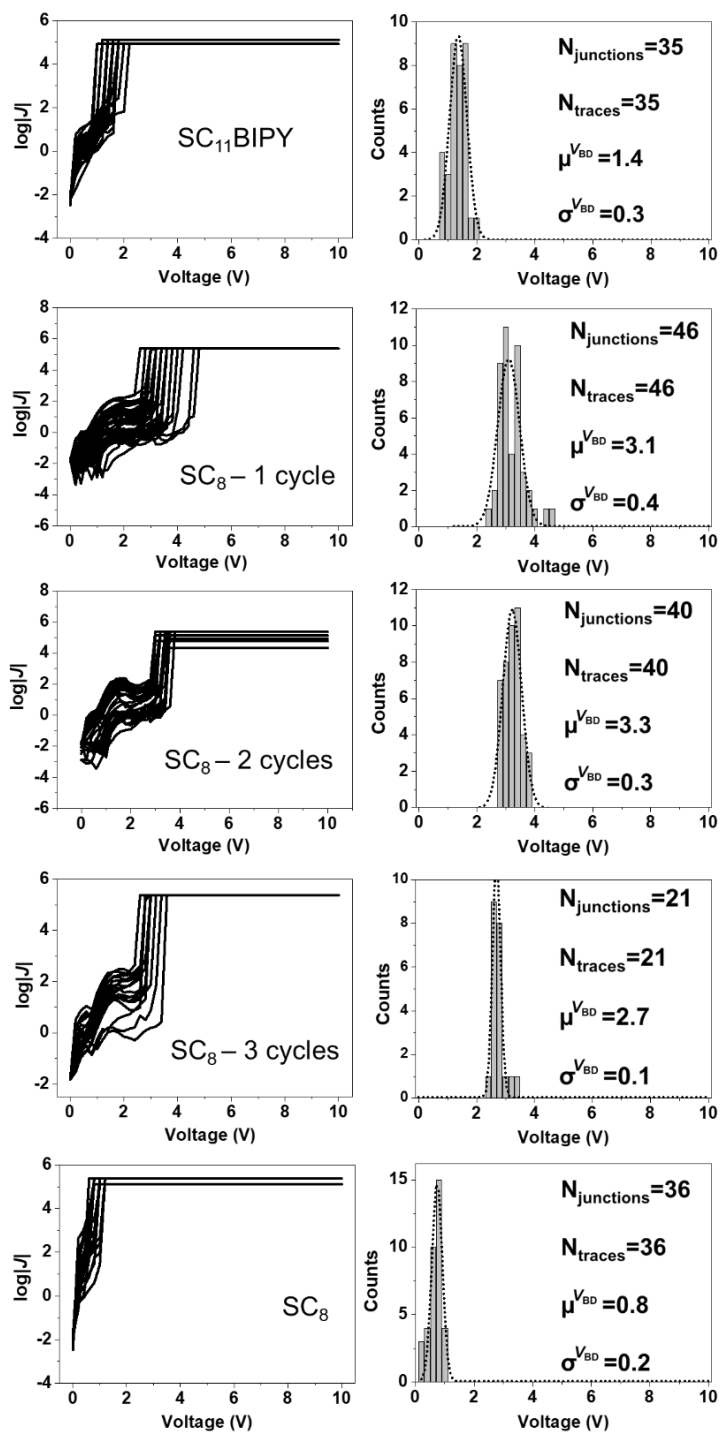


Figure S1. $J(V)$ traces and histograms of breakdown voltage (V_{BD}) for pure SC₁₁BIPY and SC₈ SAMs and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} via different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

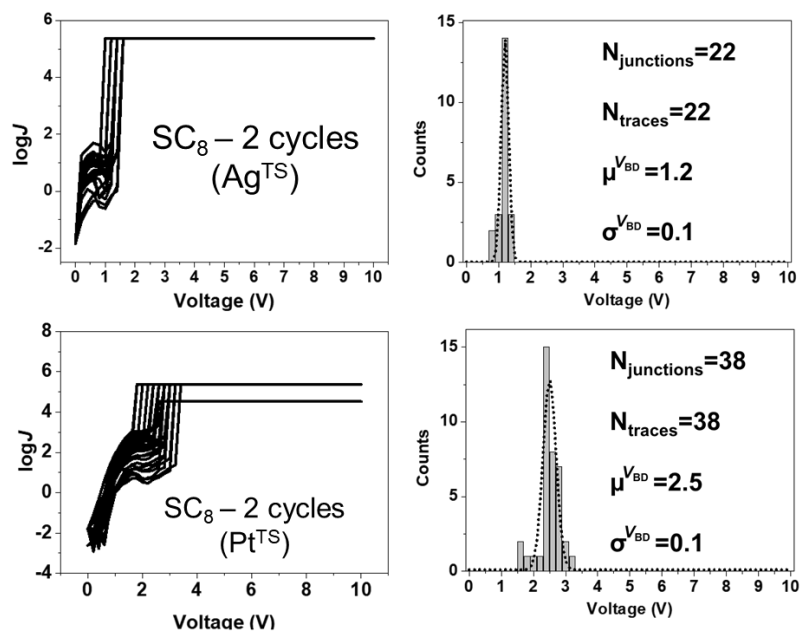


Figure S2. $J(V)$ traces and histograms of breakdown voltage (V_{BD}) for mixed SAMs formed with $SC_{11}BIPY$ and SC_8 on Ag^{TS} and Pt^{TS} via two ReSEM cycles.

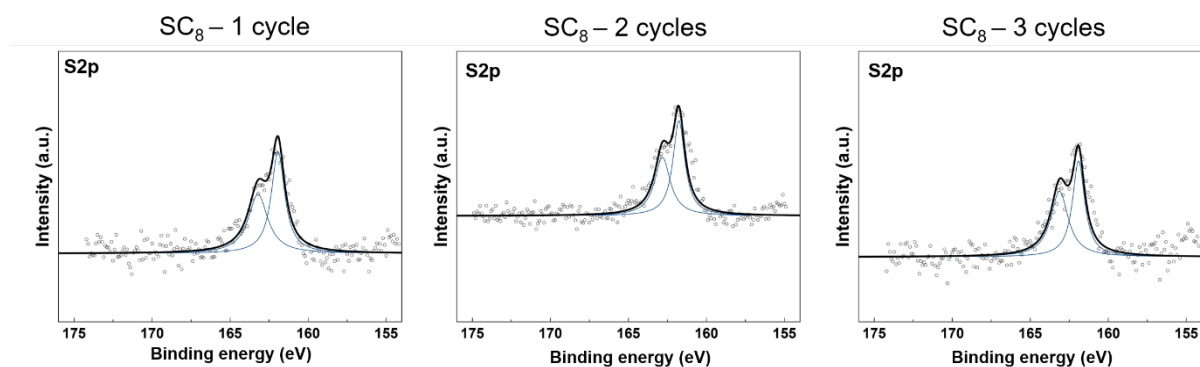


Figure S3. High resolution S2p X-ray photoelectron spectra for a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles. All the spectra show single type of spin-orbit coupled doublets (~162 and ~163 eV for 2p_{3/2} and 2p_{1/2}, respectively), indicative of chemisorbed sulfur.

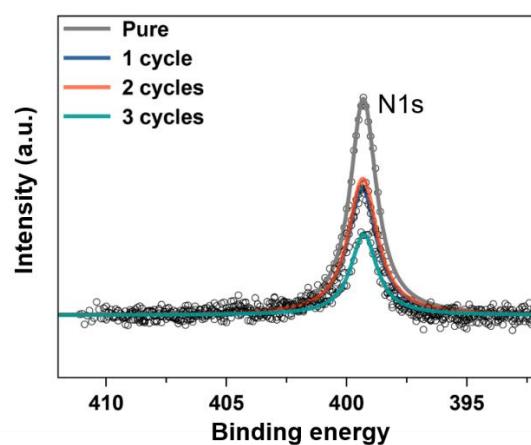
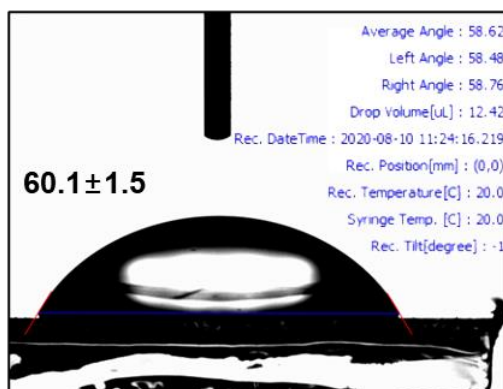
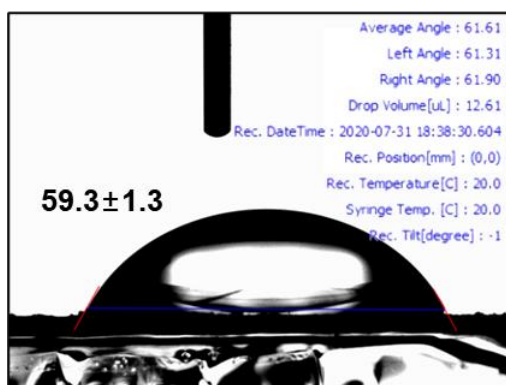


Figure S4. High resolution N1s X-ray photoelectron spectra for a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

SC₈ – 1 cycle



SC₈ – 2 cycles



SC₈ – 3 cycles

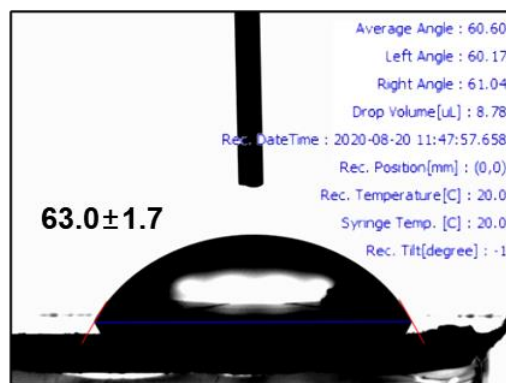


Figure S5. Measurements of static water contact angle for a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles. Data were averaged from eight separate measurements.

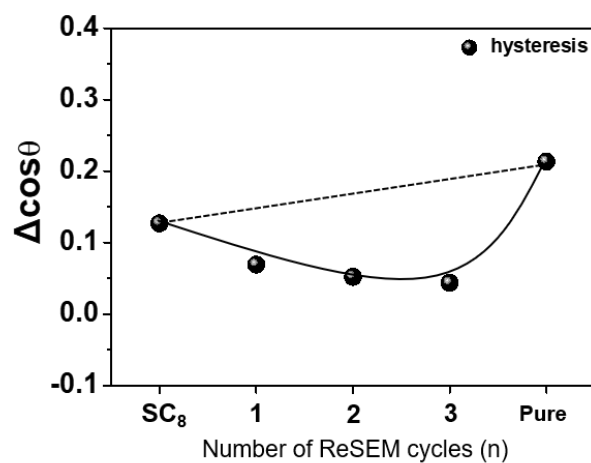
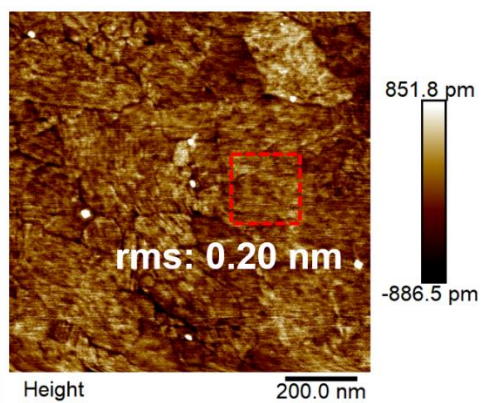


Figure S6. Plots of dynamic water contact angle ($\Delta \cos \theta$) for a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

(a)



(b)

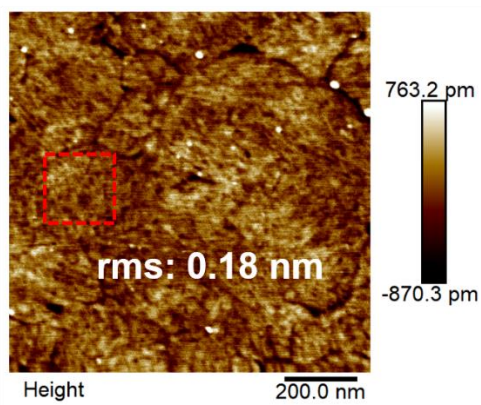


Figure S7. AFM analysis of (a) pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM and (b) imSAM^{2nd} on Au^{TS}.

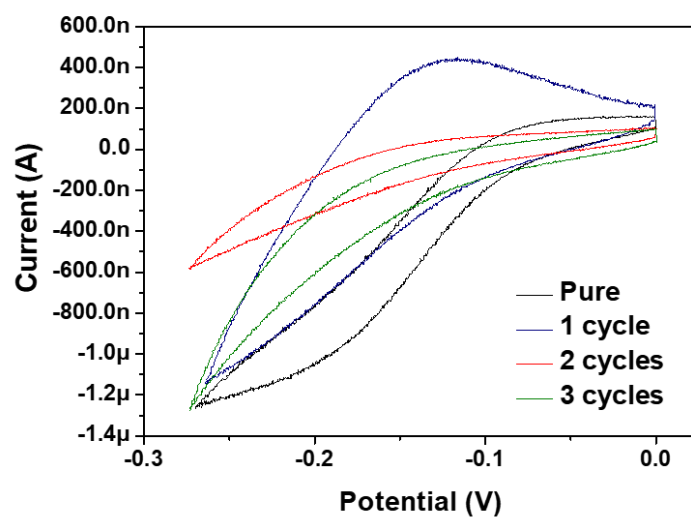


Figure S8. %EAS analysis for pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

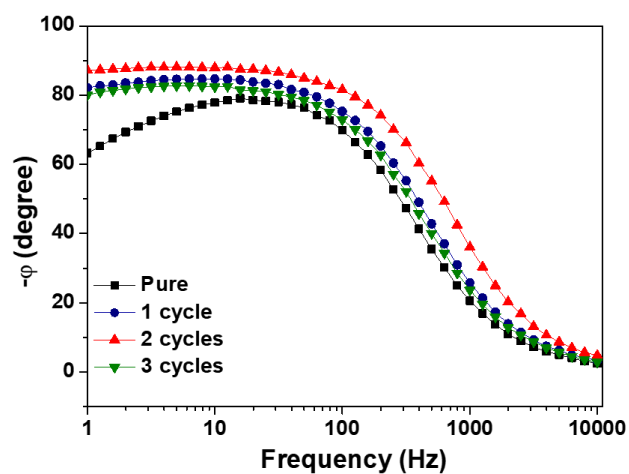


Figure S9. Bode phase plots of pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM and mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles. The data were averaged from seven separate measurements.

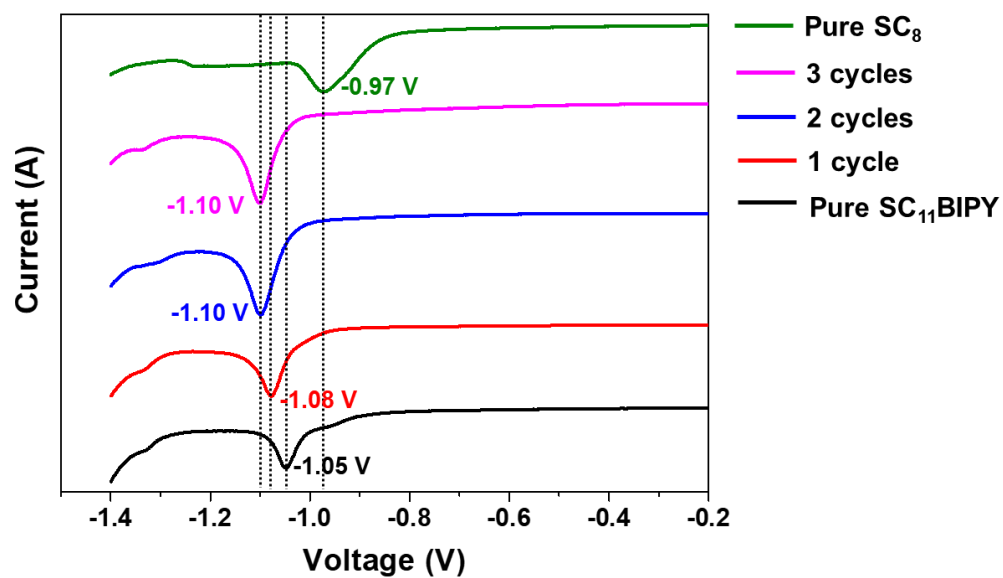


Figure S10. Linear voltammograms for reductive desorption of pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM, pure SC₈ SAM and mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

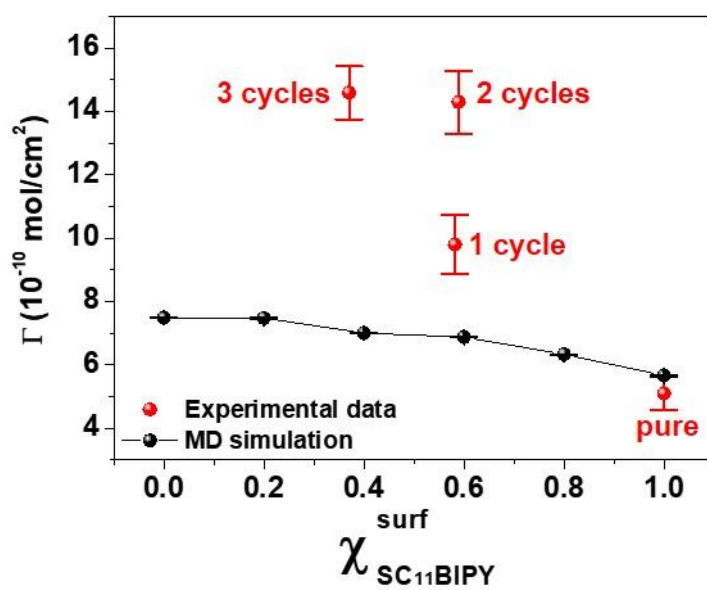


Figure S11. Plots of surface coverage (Γ , mol/cm^2) determined by experiments and simulations for mixed SAMs formed with $\text{HSC}_{11}\text{BIPY}$ and HSC_8 on Au.

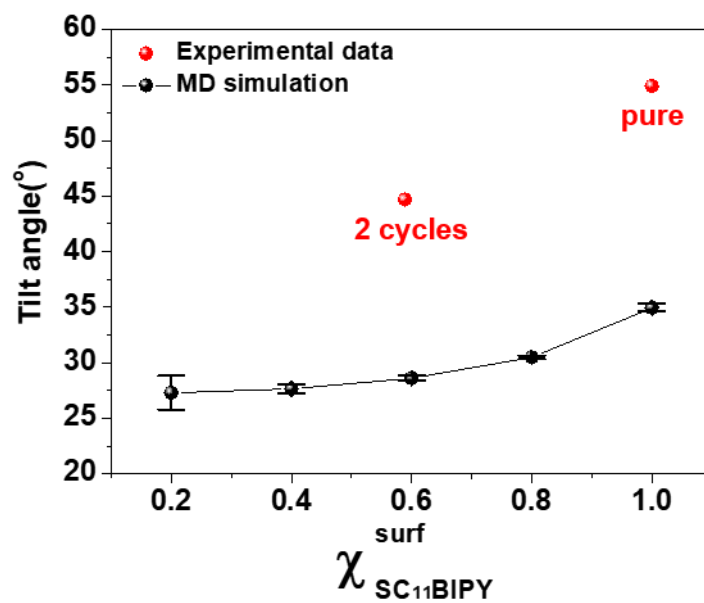


Figure S12. Plots of tilt angle of alkyl backbone determined by experiments (with NEXAFS) and simulations for mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au.

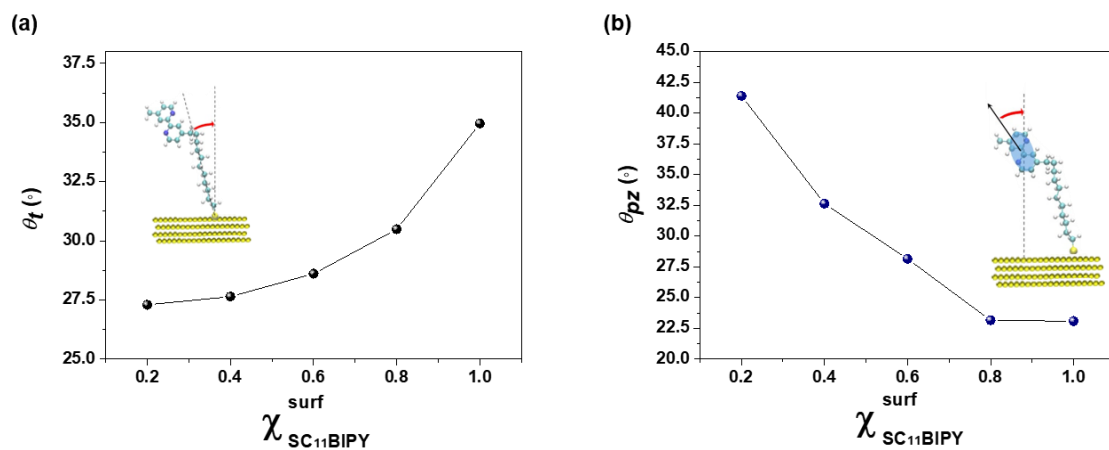


Figure S13. MD-simulated tilt angle, θ_t , of the hydrocarbon backbone of SC₁₁BIPY and (b) tilt angle, θ_{pz} , of the BIPY plane relative to the surface normal for imSAMs.

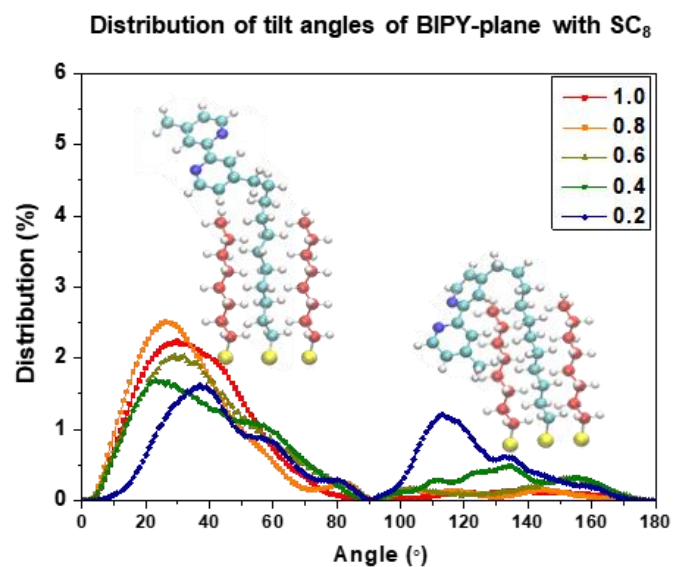


Figure S14. MD simulated distribution of θ_{pz} (tilt angles of BIPY-plane with SC_n) in the mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ for various $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$. Representative snapshots are also shown in the figure.

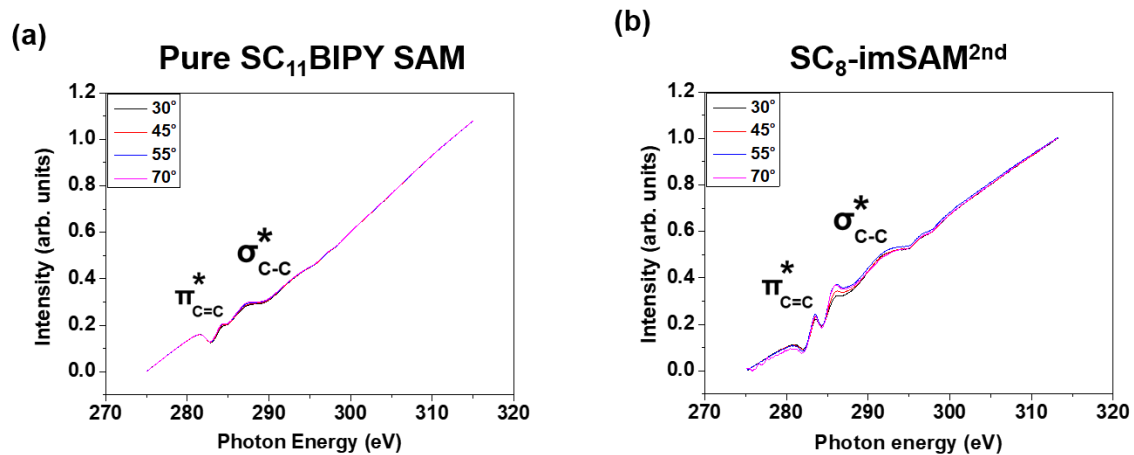


Figure S15. C1s NEXAFS spectra for (a) pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM (b) imSAM^{2nd} on Au^{TS} at various angles from normal (70°) to grazing (30°) X-ray incidence angles.

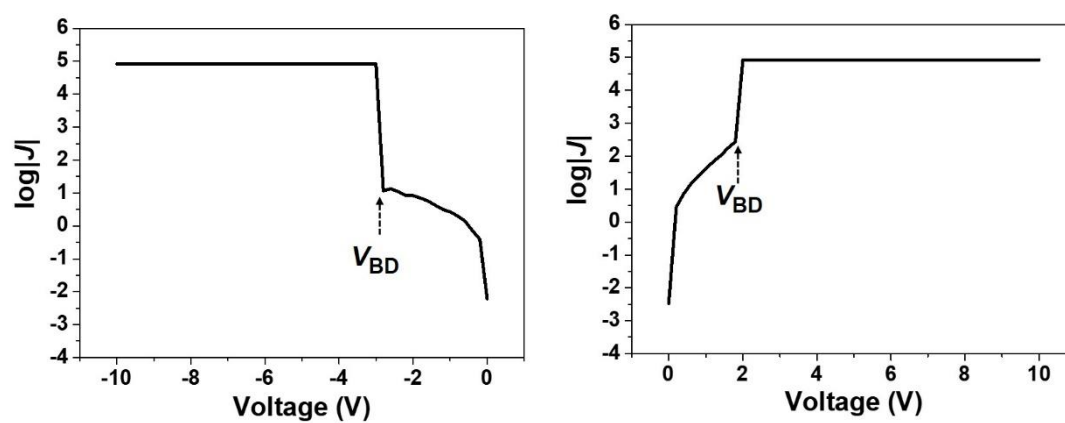


Figure S16. Representative breakdown J - V curves in forward and reverse biases for imSAM^{2nd} SAM.

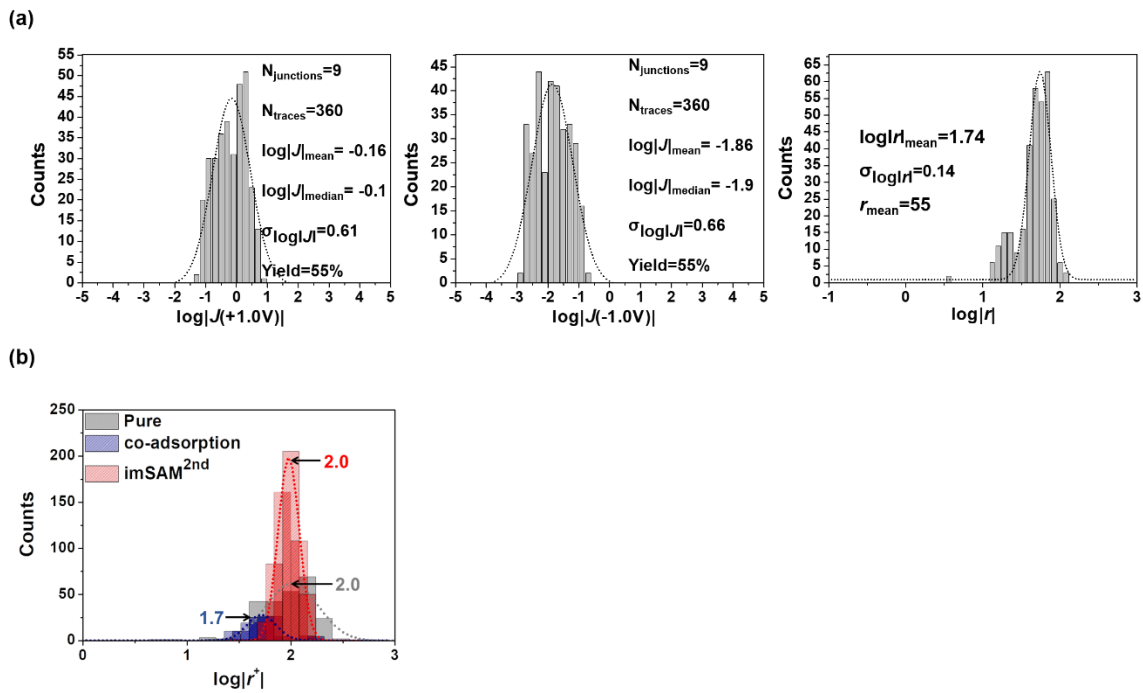
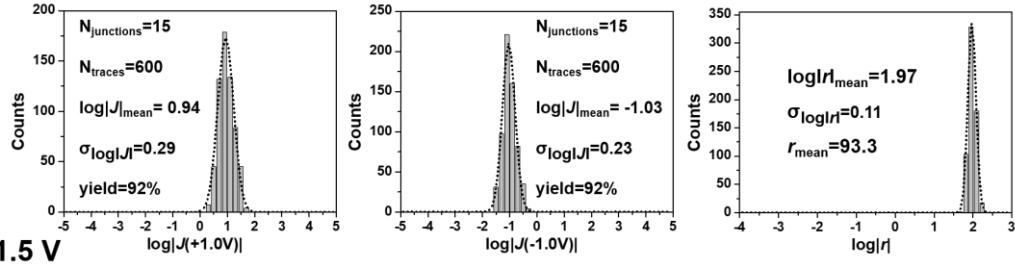
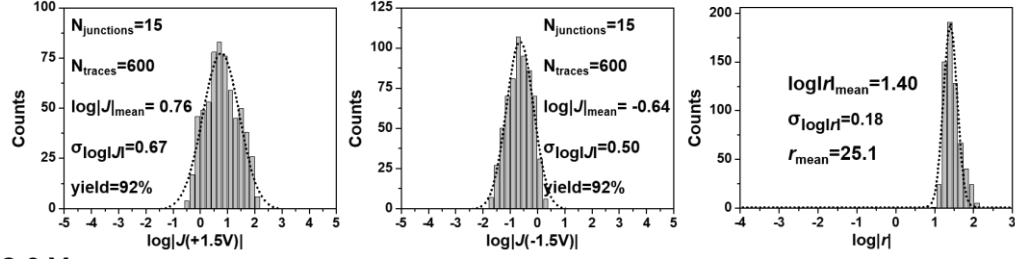


Figure S17. (a) Histograms of $\log|J(V)|$ and $\log|r|$ values for mixed SAM formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* traditional co-adsorption. (b) Histograms of $\log|r|$ value for the pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM, mixed SAM formed *via* traditional co-adsorption, and imSAM^{2nd}.

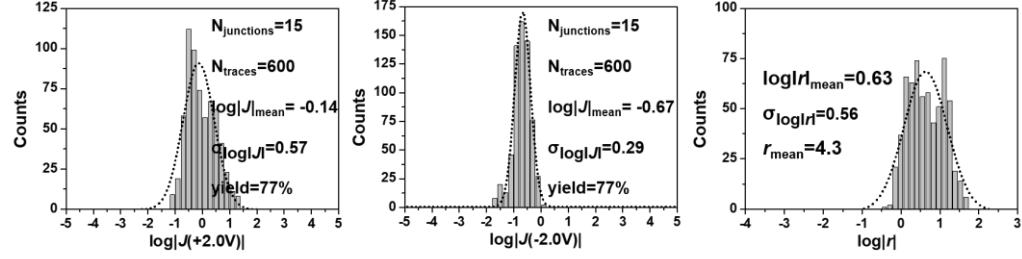
1.0 V



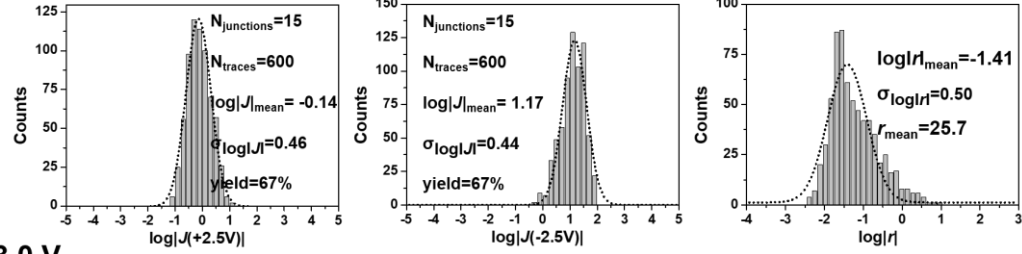
1.5 V



2.0 V



2.5 V



3.0 V

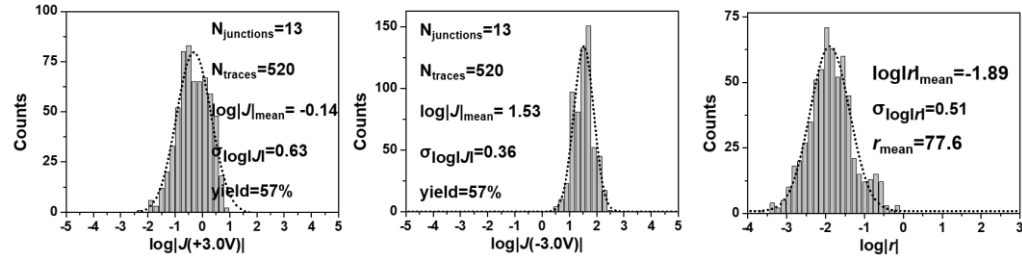


Figure S18. Histograms of $\log|J(V)|$ and $\log|r|$ values for imSAM^{2nd} on Au^{TS} as a function of external bias voltage.

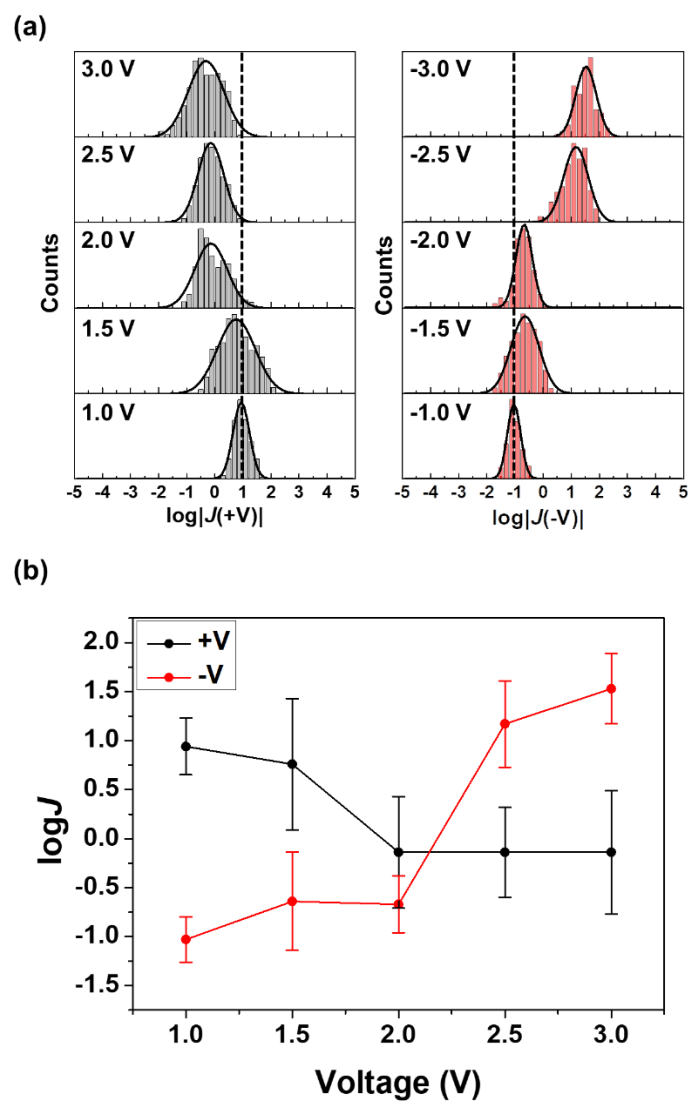


Figure S19. (a) Histograms and (b) J - V plots of imSAM^{2nd} as a function of external bias voltage.

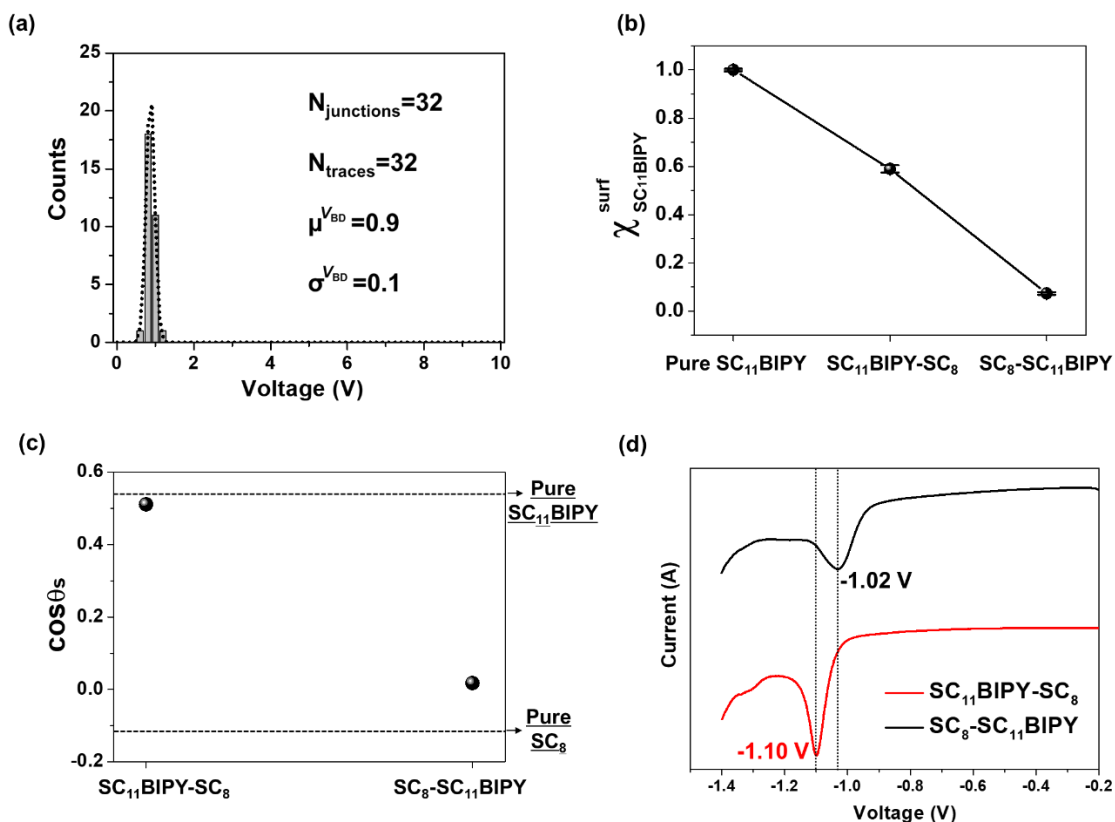


Figure S20. (a) Histogram of V_{BD} for the reversed system where matrix and reinforcement molecules are HSC_8 and $HSC_{11}BIPY$, respectively). The SAM was formed on Au^{TS} via two numbers of ReSEM cycles. Comparison among the reversed ($SC_8-SC_{11}BIPY$) and original ($SC_{11}BIPY-SC_8$) mixed SAMs, and pure SAMs: (a) $\chi_{SC11BIPY}^{surf}$, (b) static contact angle, and (c) reductive desorption.

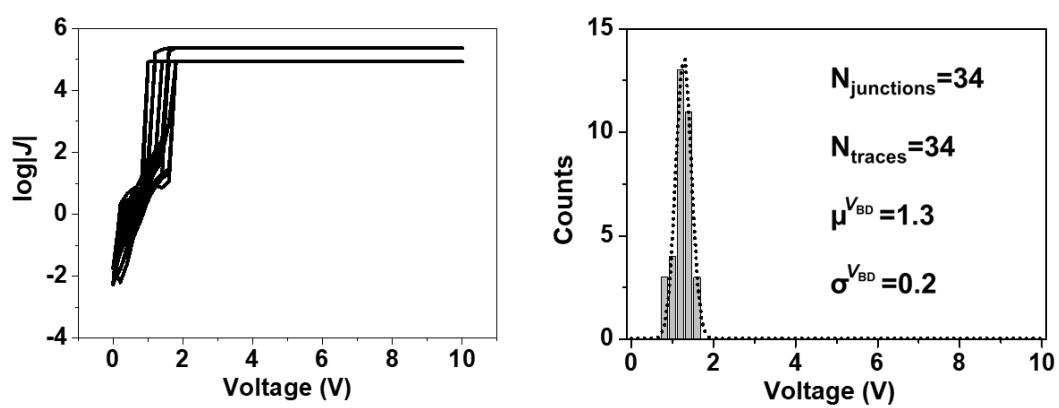


Figure S21. $J(V)$ traces and histograms of V_{BD} for pure $SC_{11}BIPY$ SAM formed *via* two numbers of ReSEM cycles with pure ethanol solvent.

Table S1. Summary of electrical characterization for pure SC₈ and SC₁₁BIPY SAMs and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles. The pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM is considered as single component SAM.

	-V			+V		
	Number of junctions	Number of <i>J-V</i> traces	$\mu^{V_{BD}} \pm \sigma^{V_{BD}}$	Number of junctions	Number of <i>J-V</i> traces	$\mu^{V_{BD}} \pm \sigma^{V_{BD}}$
Pure SC ₁₁ BIPY	32	32	-2.9 ± 0.3	35	35	1.4 ± 0.3
1 cycle	30	30	-3.0 ± 0.1	46	46	3.1 ± 0.4
2 cycles	29	29	-3.0 ± 0.2	40	40	3.3 ± 0.3
3 cycles	20	20	-2.9 ± 0.1	21	21	2.7 ± 0.1
SC ₈	29	29	-2.2 ± 0.1	36	36	0.7 ± 0.2

Table S2. Summary of electrical characterization for mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Ag^{TS} and Pt^{TS} *via* two ReSEM cycles.

	<i>-V</i>			<i>+V</i>		
	Number of junctions	Number of <i>J-V</i> traces	$\mu^{V_{BD}} \pm \sigma^{V_{BD}}$	Number of junctions	Number of <i>J-V</i> traces	$\mu^{V_{BD}} \pm \sigma^{V_{BD}}$
Ag ^{TS}	14	14	-1.3 ± 0.1	22	22	1.2 ± 0.1
Pt ^{TS}	18	18	-2.5 ± 0.1	38	38	2.5 ± 0.1

Table S3. Summary of static water contact angle measurements for pure SC₈ and SC₁₁BIPY SAMs and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

	contact angle (θ) ^a
	Pure SAM
SC ₁₁ BIPY	59.9 \pm 0.5
HSC ₈	97.0 \pm 3.5
	ReSEM-processed SAM
1 cycle	60.1 \pm 1.5
2 cycles	59.3 \pm 1.3
3 cycles	63.0 \pm 1.7

^aAveraged from eight separate measurements; error range is based on standard deviation.

Table S4. Summary of dynamic contact angle measurements for pure SC₈ and SC₁₁BIPY SAMs and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

contact angle (θ) ^a			
Pure SAM			
	θ_A^a	θ_R^b	$\Delta\theta^c$
SC ₁₁ BIPY	64.5 ± 4.5	49.7 ± 7.7	14.8 ± 2.2
HSC ₈	99.5 ± 1.7	91.2 ± 3.8	8.2 ± 2.1
ReSEM-processed SAM			
	θ_A^a	θ_R^b	$\Delta\theta^c$
1 cycle	60.8 ± 1.5	56.3 ± 1.8	4.5 ± 0.3
2 cycles	59.0 ± 1.3	55.0 ± 1.6	4.0 ± 0.3
3 cycles	64.4 ± 0.4	61.5 ± 4.9	2.9 ± 4.5

^aAdvancing contact angle

^bReceding contact angle

^cAveraged from eight separate measurements; error range is based on standard deviation.

Table S5. Summary of %EAS data for pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

%EAS ^a	
Pure SAM	
SC ₁₁ BIPY	2.4 ± 0.2
ReSEM-processed SAM	
1 cycle	2.1 ± 0.2
2 cycles	1.0 ± 0.1
3 cycles	2.2 ± 0.1

^aAveraged from six measurements; error range is based on standard deviation.

Table S6. Summary of surface coverage measurements for pure SC₈ and SC₁₁BIPY SAMs and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

Γ^a	
Pure SAM	
SC ₁₁ BIPY	$5.1 \times 10^{-10} \pm 5.3 \times 10^{-11}$
HSC ₈	$7.5 \times 10^{-10} \pm 1.0 \times 10^{-10}$
ReSEM-processed SAM	
1 cycle	$9.8 \times 10^{-10} \pm 9.2 \times 10^{-11}$
2 cycles	$1.43 \times 10^{-9} \pm 1.0 \times 10^{-10}$
3 cycles	$1.46 \times 10^{-9} \pm 8.4 \times 10^{-11}$

^aAveraged from seven measurements; error range is based on standard deviation.

Table S7. Summary of EIS data for pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM and a series of mixed SAMs formed with HSC₁₁BIPY and HSC₈ on Au^{TS} *via* different numbers of ReSEM cycles.

	$-\varphi_{1\text{ Hz}}^{\text{a}}$
	Pure SAM
SC ₁₁ BIPY	73.2 ± 6.0
	ReSEM-processed SAM
1 cycle	81.7 ± 2.8
2 cycles	86.3 ± 0.7
3 cycles	80.7 ± 2.2

^aAveraged from seven measurements; error range is based on standard deviation.

Table S8. Comparison of experimental thicknesses for pure SC₁₁BIPY SAM and imSAM^{2nd} using ellipsometer.

	Thickness
Pure SC ₁₁ BIPY	1.742 nm
imSAM ^{2nd}	1.877 nm

Table S9. Summary of electrical characterization for imSAM^{2nd} on Au^{TS}.

$ V $	Number of junctions	Number of J - V traces	Yield of working junctions (%)	$\log J(+V) _{\text{mean}} \pm \sigma_{\log J }$	$\log J(-V) _{\text{mean}} \pm \sigma_{\log J }$	$\log r^+ _{\text{mean}} \pm \sigma_{\log r^+ }$ ($ r^+ _{\text{mean}} \pm \sigma_{ r^+ }$)
1.0 V	15	600	92	0.9 ± 0.3	-1.0 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.1 (93.3 ± 1.3)
1.5 V	15	600	92	0.8 ± 0.7	-0.6 ± 0.5	1.4 ± 0.2 (25.1 ± 1.6)
2.0 V	15	600	77	-0.1 ± 0.6	-0.7 ± 0.3	0.6 ± 0.6 (4.3 ± 4.0)
2.5 V	15	600	67	-0.1 ± 0.5	1.2 ± 0.4	-1.4 ± 0.5 (-25.7 ± 3.2)
3.0 V	13	520	57	-0.1 ± 0.6	1.5 ± 0.4	-1.9 ± 0.5 (-77.6 ± 3.2)

7. References

- 1 Yoon, H. J. *et al.* Rectification in tunneling junctions: 2,2'-Bipyridyl-terminated *n*-alkanethiolates. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **136**, 17155-17162 (2014).
- 2 Kong, G. D., Kim, M., Jang, H. J., Liao, K. C. & Yoon, H. J. Influence of halogen substitutions on rates of charge tunneling across SAM-based large-area junctions. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **17**, 13804-13807 (2015).
- 3 Simeone, F. C. *et al.* Defining the value of injection current and effective electrical contact area for EGaIn-based molecular tunneling junctions. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **135**, 18131-18144 (2013).
- 4 Kong, G. D., Kim, M., Cho, S. J. & Yoon, H. J. Gradients of rectification: Tuning molecular electronic devices by the controlled use of different-sized diluents in heterogeneous self-assembled monolayers. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **55**, 10307-10311 (2016).
- 5 Reus, W. F. *et al.* Statistical tools for analyzing measurements of charge transport. *J. Phys. Chem. C* **116**, 6714-6733 (2012).
- 6 Kong, G. D. *et al.* Elucidating the Role of Molecule-Electrode Interfacial Defects in Charge Tunneling Characteristics of Large-area Junctions. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **140**, 12303-12307 (2018).
- 7 Laiho, T., Leiro, J. A., Heinonen, M. H., Mattila, S. S. & Lukkari, J. Photoelectron spectroscopy study of irradiation damage and metal-sulfur bonds of thiol on silver and copper surfaces. *J. Electron Spectrosc. Relat. Phenom.* **142**, 105-112 (2005).
- 8 Nelson, K. E. *et al.* Surface characterization of mixed self-assembled monolayers designed for streptavidin immobilization. *Langmuir* **17**, 2807-2816 (2001).
- 9 Folkers, J. P., Laibinis, P. E. & Whitesides, G. M. Self-assembled monolayers of alkanethiols on gold: Comparisons of monolayers containing mixtures of short- and long-chain constituents with methyl and hydroxymethyl terminal groups. *Langmuir* **8**, 1330-1341 (1992).
- 10 Schoenfish, M. H. & Pemberton, J. E. Air stability of alkanethiol self-assembled monolayers on silver and gold surfaces. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **120**, 4502-4513 (1998).
- 11 Schneider, T. W. & Buttry, D. A. Electrochemical quartz crystal microbalance studies of adsorption and desorption of self-assembled monolayers of alkyl thiols on Gold. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **115**, 12391-12397 (1993).
- 12 Walczak, M. M. *et al.* Reductive desorption of alkanethiolate monolayers at gold: A measure of surface coverage. *Langmuir* **7**, 2687-2693 (1991).
- 13 Brooks, B. R. *et al.* CHARMM: The Biomolecular Simulation Program. *J. Comput. Chem.* **30**, 1545-1614 (2009).
- 14 Kang, H., Kim, Y., Choi, I., Chang, R. & Yeo, W.-S. Determination of self-exchange rate of alkanethiolates in self-assembled monolayers on gold using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry. *Anal. Chim. Acta.* **843**, 38-45 (2014).
- 15 Vanommeslaeghe, K. *et al.* CHARMM general force field: A force field for drug-like molecules compatible with the CHARMM all-atom additive biological force fields. *J. Comput. Chem.* **31**, 671-690 (2010).
- 16 Feller, S. E., Zhang, Y., Pastor, R. W. & Brooks, B. R. Constant pressure molecular dynamics simulation: The langevin piston method. *J. Chem. Phys.* **103**, 4613-4621 (1995).
- 17 Hoover, W. G. Canonical dynamics: Equilibrium phase-space distributions. *Phys. Rev. A* **31**, 1695 (1985).
- 18 Arihara, K. *et al.* Multiple voltammetric waves for reductive desorption of cysteine and 4-mercaptobenzoic acid monolayers self-assembled on gold substrates. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **5**, 3758-3761 (2003).
- 19 Doneux, T., Steichen, M., De Rache, A. & Buess-Herman, C. Influence of the crystallographic orientation on the reductive desorption of self-assembled monolayers on gold electrodes. *J. Electroanal. Chem.* **649**, 164-170 (2010).