## **Supporting Information**

## Ru(II)trisbipyridine Functionalized Gold Nanorods. Morphological Changes and Excited-State Interactions

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## Estimation of number of thiol and Ru-C<sub>5</sub>-SH molecules bound to gold nanorods

The absorbance (O.D) at 453 nm for  $Ru(bpy)_3^{2+}$ - $C_5$ -SH = 0.0065.

The extinction coefficient for  $Ru(bpy)_3^{2+}$ - $C_5$ -SH at 453 nm = 1.49 x  $10^4$  M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>.

The concentration of  $Ru(bpy)_3^{2+}$ -C<sub>5</sub>-SH bound onto Au nanorods = 0.436  $\mu$ M.

The absorbance (O.D) at 700 nm for Au nanorods = 0.54

The extinction coefficient for Au nanorods at 700 nm =  $0.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

The concentration of Au nanorods used = 0.108 nM

The ratio of Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup>-C<sub>5</sub>-SH to rod = 
$$0.436 \times 10^{-6}/0.108 \times 10^{-9} = 4037$$
  
= 1:4037

The total surface area of Au nanorods (length 40 nm and radius 25 nm)

$$= 3140 \text{ nm}^2 + 1963 \text{ nm}^2$$

 $= 5103 \text{ nm}^2$ 

Footprint of thiol =  $0.214 \text{ nm}^2$ 

Maximum number of thiols that can be accommodated by Au nanorods

= 14672 (lateral) + 9172 (both ends)

= 23844

The ratio of Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup>-C<sub>5</sub>-SH to dodecane thiol = 4037:(23844-4037)  $\approx 1.5$