

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

# A Simplicity-Guided Approach toward Molecular Set-Reset Memories

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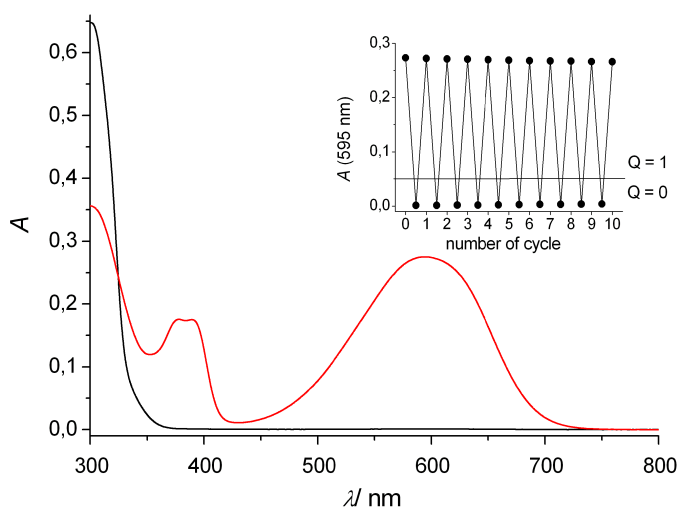
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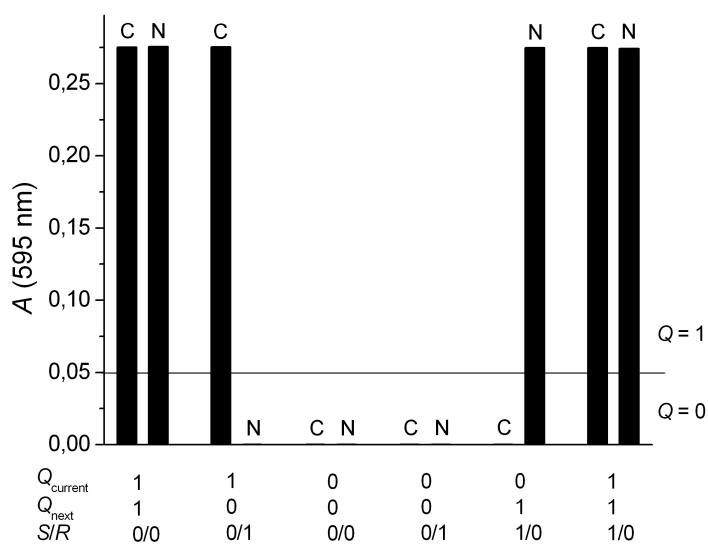
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## Experimental Details

Photochromic compound **1** was synthesized by following a literature procedure (S. L. Gilat, S. H. Kawai and J.-M. Lehn, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 1995, **1**, 275-284). For the spectroscopic measurements toluene was used as the solvent, and deoxygenation of the samples was not performed. The absorption measurements were performed using a CARY 4000 UV/Vis spectrometer. In the photoisomerization experiments the broadband visible light was generated by a 1000 W Xe/Hg lamp running at 450 W. The light from the Xe/Hg lamp was filtered by two hot mirrors (each with  $A = 1.8$  at  $\lambda = 900$  nm) to reduce the IR intensity. A yellow glass filter ( $A > 1$  at  $\lambda < 415$  nm) was used to cut the shorter-wavelength light. The resulting light power density was  $\approx 100 \text{ mWcm}^{-2}$ . A UVP UV lamp (model UVM-57,  $\approx 1.5 \text{ mWcm}^{-2}$ ) was used to provide the  $\lambda = 302$  nm light.



**Figure S1.** Absorption spectra of **1o** (black line) and **1c** (red line) in toluene solution. The inset shows various switching cycles by alternate application of  $R$  and  $S$  inputs. Initially the system is in the  $Q = 1$  state.



**Figure S2.** Switching behavior of photochromic compound **1** (*ca.* 21  $\mu\text{M}$  in toluene) in terms of an S–R latch (C: current state  $Q_{\text{current}}$ , N: next state  $Q_{\text{next}}$ , S:  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 302$  nm, R:  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} > 450$  nm). The absorbances for the six entries in the middle of the graph coincide with the baseline of the spectrum.