

Electronic Supplementary Information for:

Photon-Driven Charge Transfer and Photocatalysis of p-Aminothiophenol in Metal Nanogaps: A DFT Study of SERS

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Computational Details

DFT calculations were carried out with the hybrid exchange-correlation functionals, such as B3LYP^{1,2} for PATP-metal cluster complexes. The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) for exchange-correlation functionals PW91PW91³ was used for DMAB. The main reason is due to that the N=N bond in DMAB is very sensitive to theoretical functionals, significantly influencing peak frequencies and relative Raman intensities in simulated Raman spectra of DMAB.⁴ The basis sets for C, N, S and H atoms of PATP and DMAB were 6-311+G(d, p), which included a polarization function to all four kinds of atoms and a diffuse function to the C, N and S atoms.^{5,6} For Ag and Au atoms, the valence electrons and the inner shells were described by the basis set of LANL2DZ, and the corresponding relativistic effective core potentials, respectively.^{7,8} Full geometry optimizations and analytic frequency analysis were carried out by using Gaussian 03 package.⁹

All the fundamental vibrational bands were assigned on the basis of the scaled quantum mechanics force field (SQMF) procedure¹⁰. We chose the scaling factors of 0.935 for N-H and C-H bonds as well as 0.963 for the other internal coordinators to the force constant matrix calculated at the B3LYP/6-311+G** level. For DMAB the vibrational frequencies calculated at the PW91PW91 level have not been scaled here due to a good agreement with the observed frequencies. Absolute Raman intensities were calculated on top of the differential Raman scattering cross section (DRSC) from the Raman scattering factors (RSF) under the double-harmonic approximation, as published in our previous works.¹¹ In order to make direct comparison with the SERS experiments, the simulated Raman spectra were presented in terms of the Lorentzian expansion of the DRSC magnitudes. The frequency-dependent RSF magnitudes were calculated by using the coupled perturbation Hartree-Fock (CPHF) methods.¹²

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