Supporting Information

## Orbital-based insights into parallel-displaced and twisted conformations in $\pi$ - $\pi$ interactions

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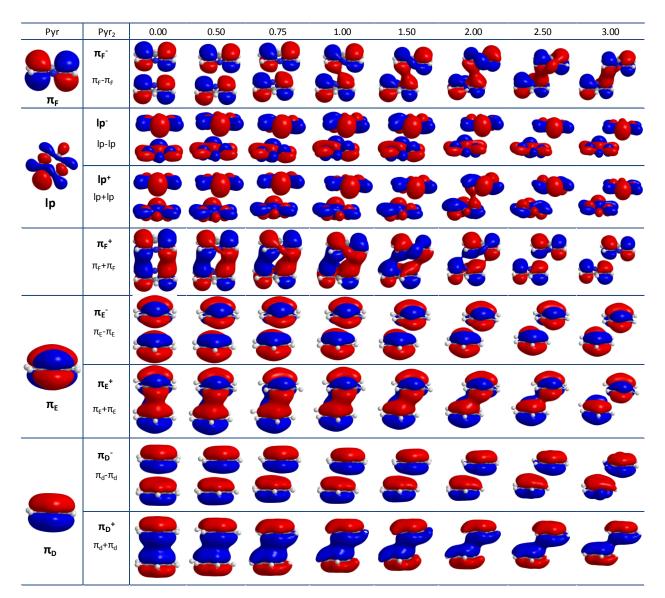


Figure S1. The orbital representations of the top four  $\pi$  molecular orbitals of Pyr<sub>2</sub> as a function of R<sub>slip</sub>.

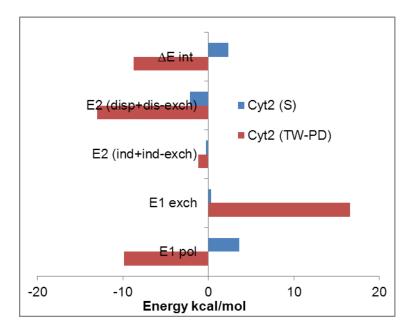
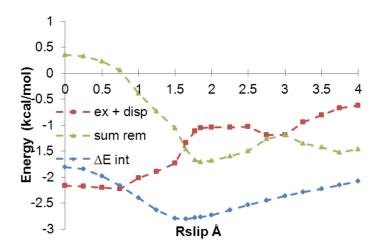
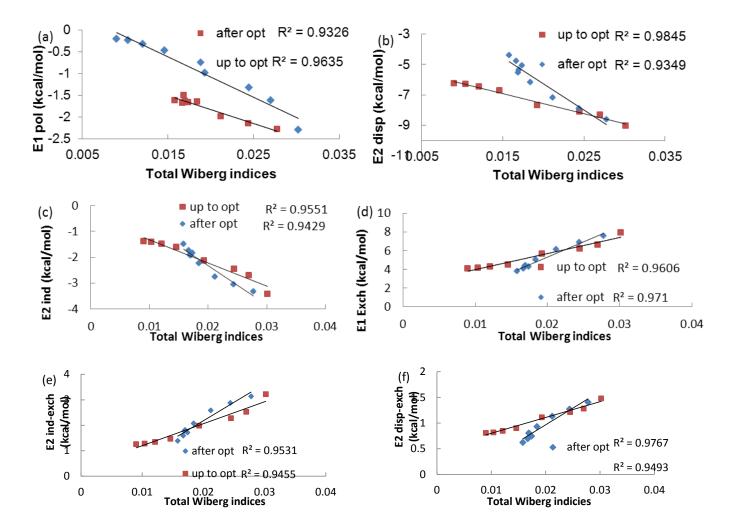


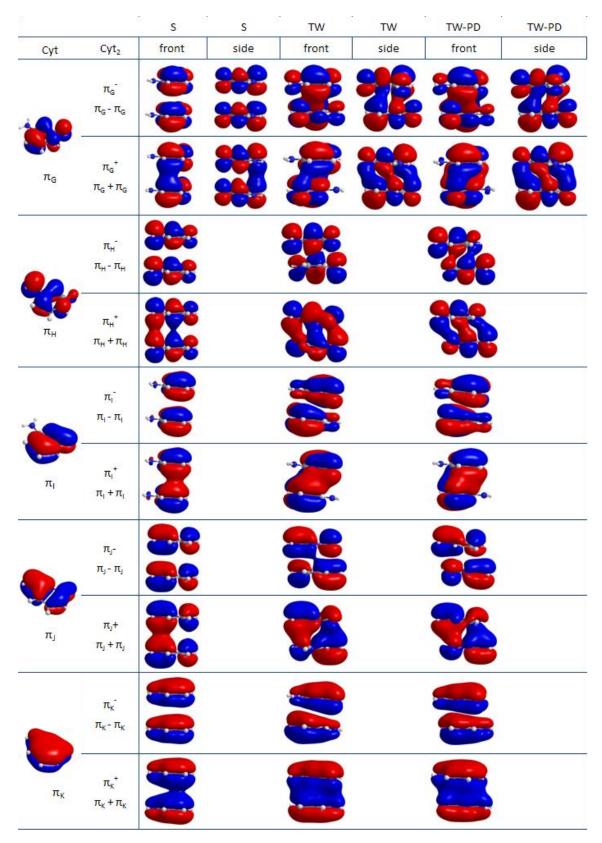
Figure S2. DF-DFT-SAPT energy contributions for both Cyt<sub>2</sub>(S) and Cyt<sub>2</sub>(TW-PD).



**Figure S3.** Plot of the DF-DFT-SAPT  $E_{int}$ , the sum of the  $E_{exch}^{(1)}$  and  $E_{disp}^{(2)}$  contributions, and the sum of the remaining  $E_{pol}^{(1)}$ ,  $E_{ind}^{(2)}$ ,  $E_{ind-disp}^{(2)}$ ,  $E_{exch-disp}^{(2)}$  and  $\delta(HF)$  terms for Bz<sub>2</sub> plotted as a function of  $R_{slip}$ .



**Figure S4.** DF-DFT-SAPT energy contributions for  $Bz_2$  plotted as a function of the total intermolecular Wiberg bond indices which displays a change in slope before and after the minimum reflecting a change in the type of momomer MOs involved in inter-ring bonding. (a) Plot of  $E_{pol}^{(1)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (b) Plot of  $E_{disp}^{(2)}$  plotted as function of total WBI. (c) Plot of  $E_{ind}^{(2)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (d) Plot of  $E_{exch}^{(1)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (e) Plot of  $E_{ind-exch}^{(2)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (f) Plot of  $E_{disp-exch}^{(2)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (c) Plot of  $E_{disp-exch}^{(2)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (c) Plot of  $E_{disp-exch}^{(2)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (c) Plot of  $E_{disp-exch}^{(2)}$  as a function of the total WBI. (c) Plot of  $E_{disp-exch}^{(2)}$  as a function of the total WBI.



**Figure S5.** The orbital representations of the 10  $\pi$  orbitals for Cyt<sub>2</sub>.