

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

# Studies on the reactions of $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$ with different nucleophiles in aqueous solution

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**Table S1.** Observed pseudo-first-order rate constants as a function of nucleophile concentration and temperature for the reaction between  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  and thiourea in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution

T(K)	$10^3 C_{\text{tu}}/\text{M}$	$10^{-2} k_{\text{obsd}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
287.9	2	0.36(5) <sup>a</sup>
	4	0.64(5)
	6	0.88(5)
	8	1.15(5)
	10	1.36(5)
298.3	2	0.54(5)
	4	1.11(5)
	6	1.60(5)
	8	2.04(5)
	10	2.50(5)
310.0	2	0.81(5)
	4	1.58(5)
	6	2.58(5)
	8	3.30(5)
	10	3.77(5)

<sup>a</sup> Number of runs in parentheses

**Table S2.** Observed pseudo-first-order rate constants as a function of nucleophile concentration and temperature for the reaction between  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  and iodide in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution

T(K)	$10^3 C_{\text{I}^-}/\text{M}$	$10^{-2} k_{\text{obsd}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
287.9	2	2.55(5)
	4	2.87(5)
	6	3.25(5)
	8	3.61(5)
	10	4.04(5)
298.2	2	2.69(5)
	4	3.31(5)
	6	3.80(5)
	8	4.18(5)
	10	4.68(5)
310.1	2	2.85(5)
	4	3.73(5)
	6	4.34(5)
	8	4.81(5)
	10	-

**Table S3.** Observed pseudo-first-order rate constants as a function of nucleophile concentration and temperature for the reaction between  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  and pyridine in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution

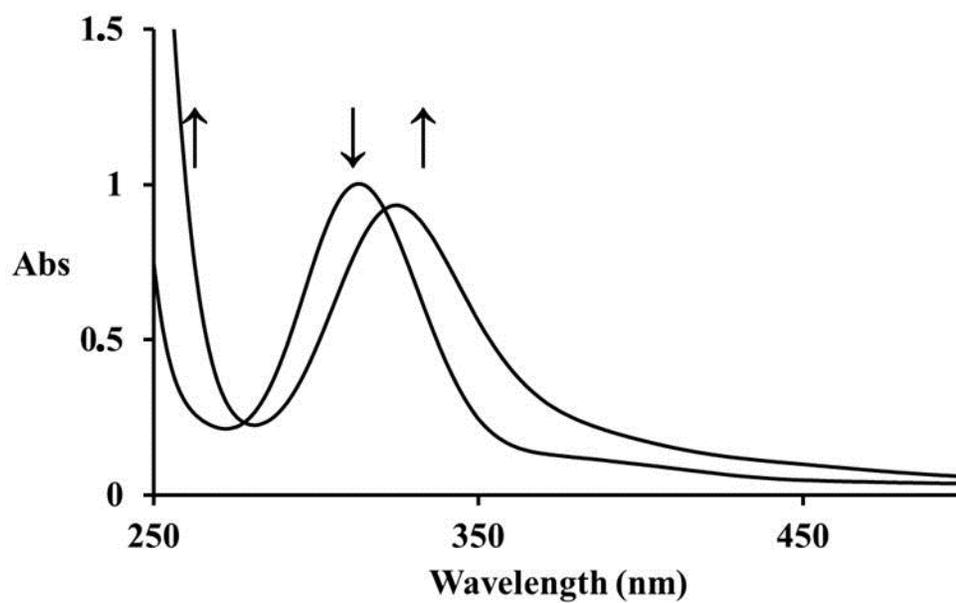
T(K)	$10^3 C_{\text{py}}/\text{M}$	$k_{\text{obsd}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
288.0	2	0.15(5)
	4	0.25(5)
	6	0.34(5)
	8	0.45(5)
	10	0.50(5)
298.3	2	0.30(5)
	4	0.51(5)
	6	0.71(5)
	8	0.91(5)
	10	1.06(5)
310.2	2	0.59(5)
	4	0.95(5)
	6	1.36(5)
	8	1.72(5)
	10	1.98(5)

**Table S4.** Observed pseudo-first-order rate constants as a function of nucleophile concentration and temperature for the reaction between  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  and bromide in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution

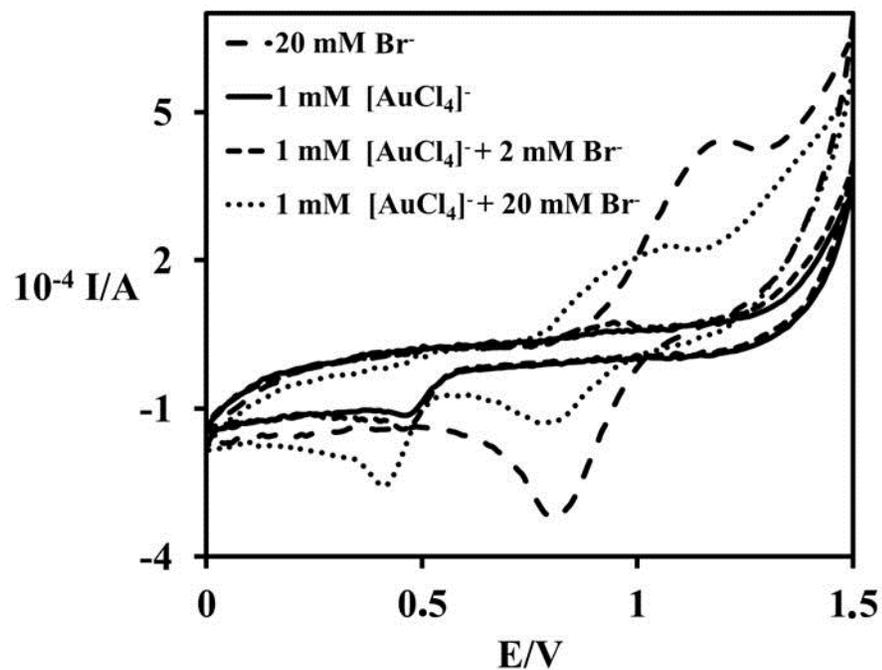
T(K)	$10^3 C_{\text{Br}^-}/\text{M}$	$10^1 k_{\text{obsd}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
288.2	2	0.64(5)
	4	0.87(5)
	6	1.30(5)
	8	1.48(5)
	10	1.88(5)
298.2	2	1.58(5)
	4	2.07(5)
	6	2.75(5)
	8	3.52(5)
	10	3.94(5)
310.2	2	3.09(5)
	4	4.48(5)
	6	5.69(5)
	8	6.62(5)
	10	7.41(5)

**Table S5.** Observed pseudo-first-order rate constants as a function of nucleophile concentration and temperature for the reaction between  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  and nitrite in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution

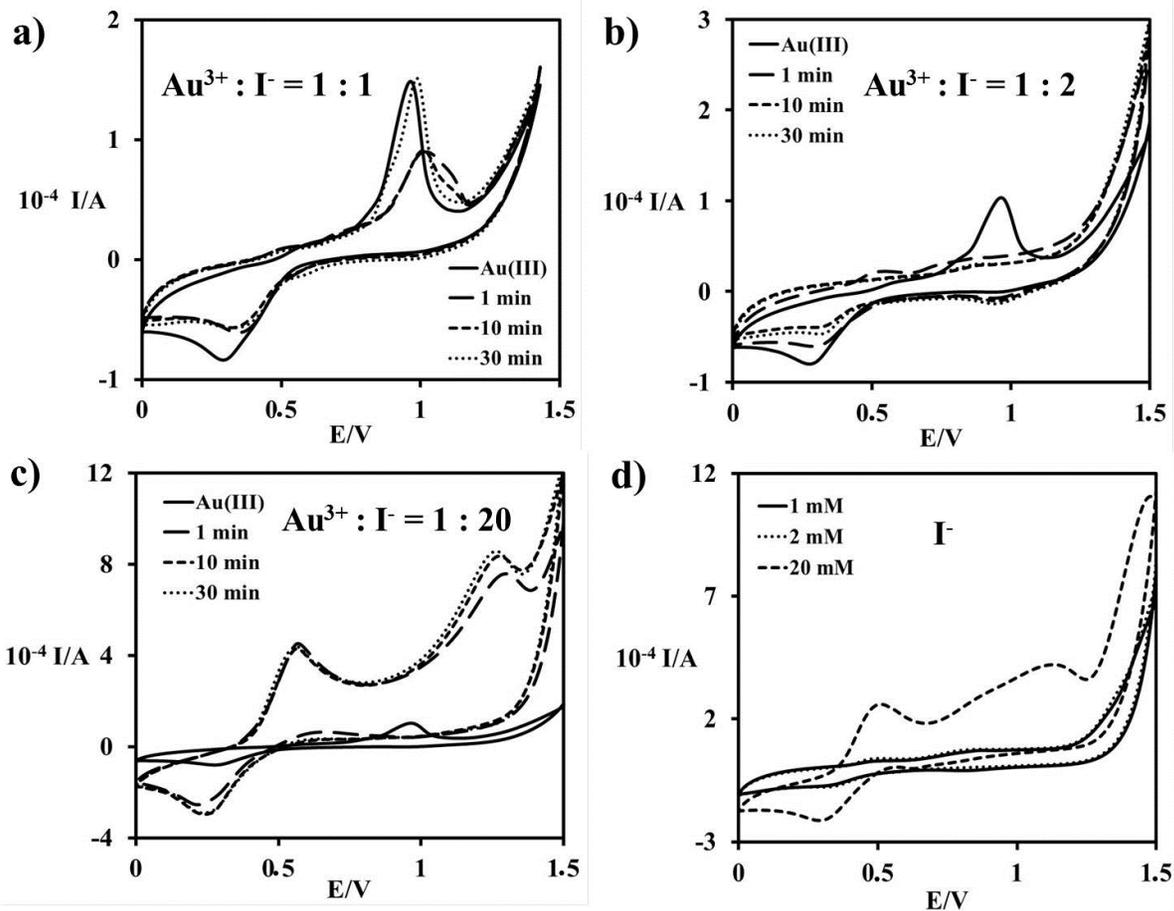
T(K)	$10^3 C_{\text{NO}_2^-}/\text{M}$	$10^2 k_{\text{obsd}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
288.6	2	2.3(5)
	4	2.4(5)
	6	2.68(5)
	8	2.85(5)
	10	3.36(5)
298.6	2	8.75(5)
	4	9.58(5)
	6	10.06(5)
	8	10.50(5)
	10	11.24(5)
310.0	2	13.88(5)
	4	14.58(5)
	6	15.27(5)
	8	16.45(5)
	10	17.19(5)



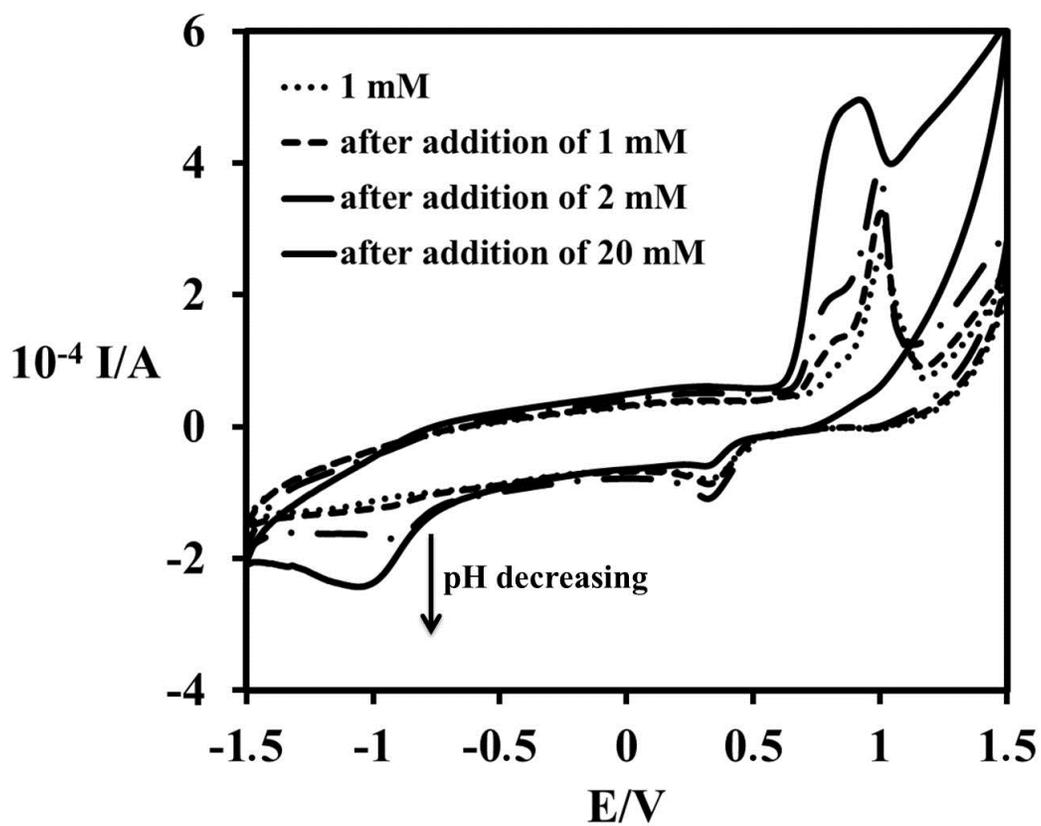
**Figure S1.** Spectral changes observed during the reaction of  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  with  $4 \times 10^{-3}$  M  $\text{Br}^-$ , in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution; the arrows show the reaction progress before and after mixing (without changes after 2 h).



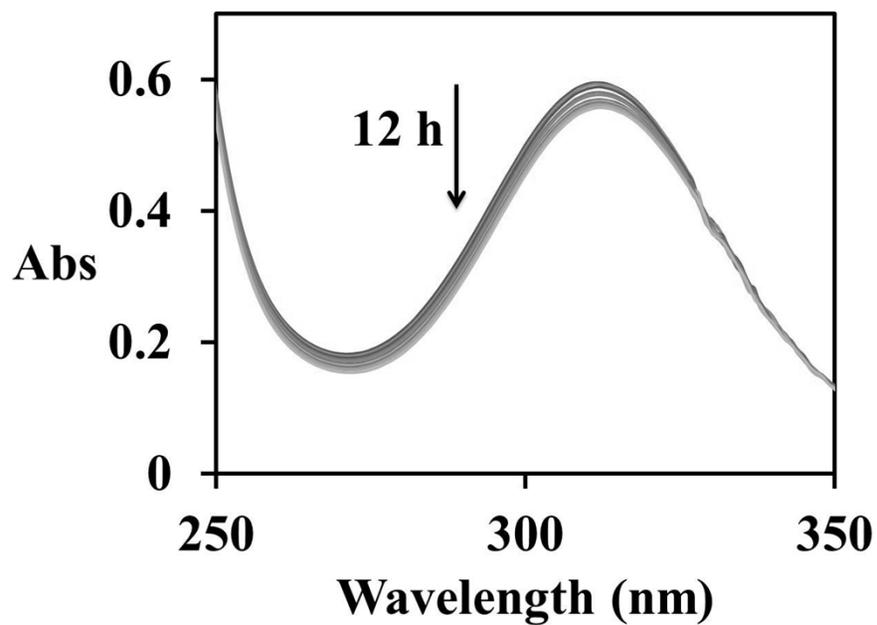
**Figure S2.** Cyclic voltammograms recorded during the first minute of the reaction between 1 mM  $[AuCl_4]^-$  and different concentrations of  $Br^-$ , in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution; GCE;  $E = 0.1 \text{ V s}^{-1}$ .



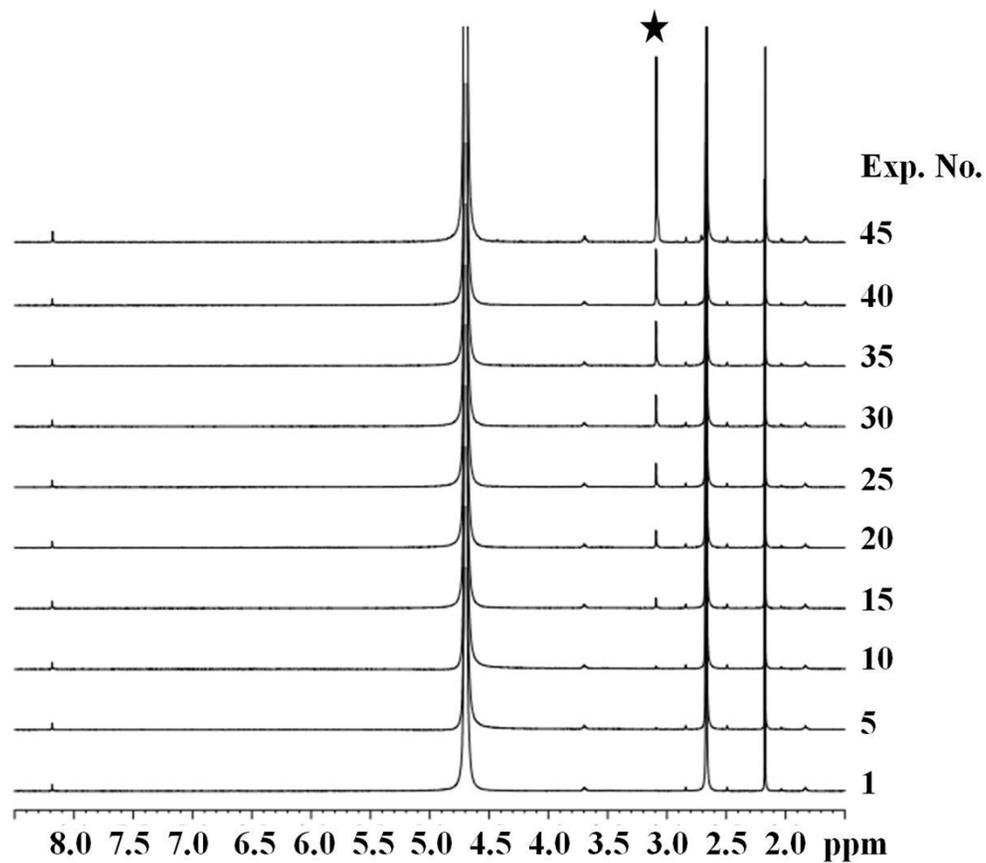
**Figure S3.** Cyclic voltammograms recorded for different  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^- : \text{I}^-$  molar ratios (a), b), c)) compared to free  $\text{I}^-$  (d), in 0.4 M NaCl aqueous solution; GCE;  $E = 0.1 \text{ V s}^{-1}$ .



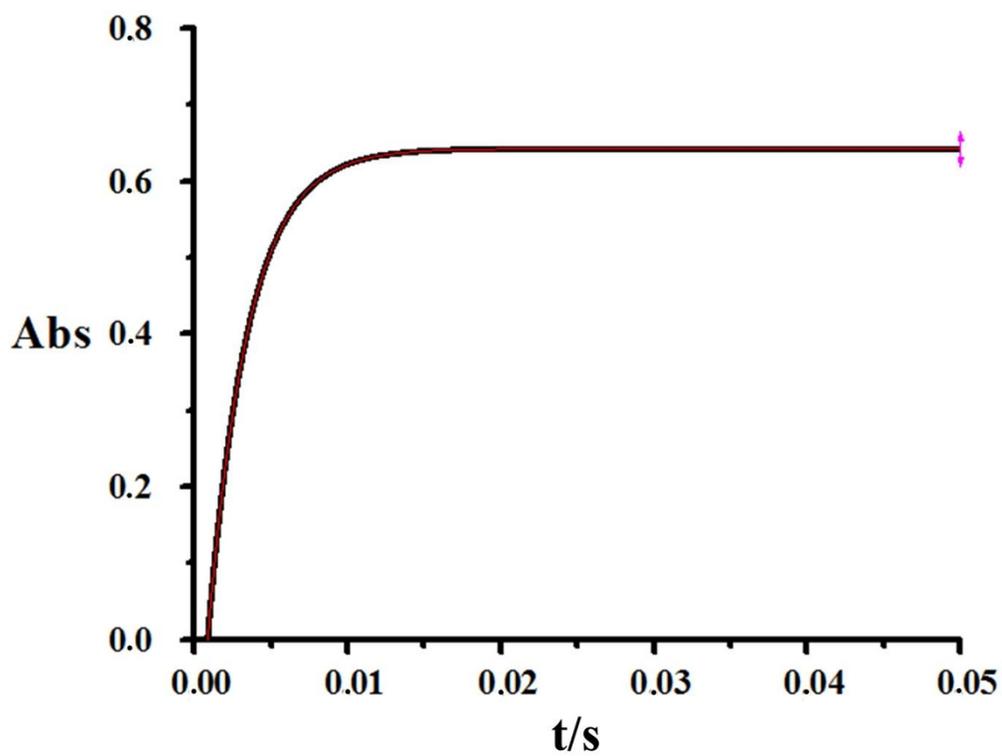
**Figure S4.** Cyclic voltamograms recorded for 1 mM  $[AuCl_4]^-$  and 1 min after addition of different concentrations of  $NO_2^-$  in 0.4 M NaCl, GCE,  $E = 0.1 \text{ V s}^{-1}$ . Evidence for  $H_3O^+$  formation as a side product of the redox reaction.



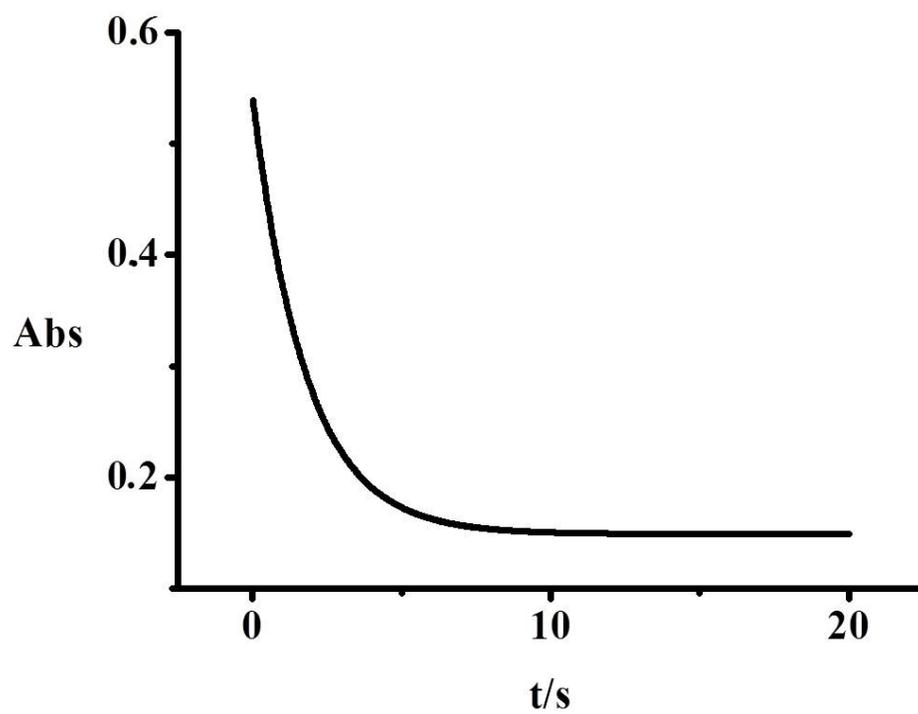
**Figure S5.** UV-Vis spectral changes observed for the reaction of  $[\text{AuCl}(\text{OH})_3]^-$  and DMSO (1:1), in 0.4 M NaCl, at room temperature; indication of gold(III) time-dependent instability. No evidence for substitution reaction, nor for  $\text{Au}^0$  formation.



**Figure S6.** Expanded <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded for the reaction of [AuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup> and DMSO in a 10:1 molar ratio in D<sub>2</sub>O; recorded during 30 h; T = 298.2 K; \* is dimethylsulfone.



**Figure S7.** Kinetic trace fitted to a double exponential function for the reaction of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  and  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  M  $\text{I}^-$ ;  $T = 298$  K;  $\lambda = 380$  nm.



**Figure S8.** Typical kinetic trace for the reaction of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  with the sixty-fold excess of py,  $T = 298.3$  K,  $\lambda = 310$  nm.