

## Supplementary Material

### Using new solvatochromic parameters to investigate dye–solvent interactions

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# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## Using New Solvatochromic Parameters to Investigate Dye-Solvent Interactions

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27 **S1. Gaussian 16 reference**

28 Gaussian 16, Revision C.01, Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G. E.;  
29 Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.;  
30 Li, X.; Caricato, M.; Marenich, A. V.; Bloino, J.; Janesko, B. G.; Gomperts, R.; Mennucci,  
31 B.; Hratchian, H. P.; Ortiz, J. V.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Sonnenberg, J. L.; Williams-Young, D.;  
32 Ding, F.; Lipparini, F.; Egidi, F.; Goings, J.; Peng, B.; Petrone, A.; Henderson, T.;  
33 Ranasinghe, D.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Gao, J.; Rega, N.; Zheng, G.; Liang, W.; Hada, M.;  
34 Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.; Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao,  
35 O.; Nakai, H.; Vreven, T.; Throssell, K.; Montgomery, J. A., Jr.; Peralta, J. E.; Ogliaro, F.;  
36 Bearpark, M. J.; Heyd, J. J.; Brothers, E. N.; Kudin, K. N.; Staroverov, V. N.; Keith, T. A.;  
37 Kobayashi, R.; Normand, J.; Raghavachari, K.; Rendell, A. P.; Burant, J. C.; Iyengar, S. S.;  
38 Tomasi, J.; Cossi, M.; Millam, J. M.; Klene, M.; Adamo, C.; Cammi, R.; Ochterski, J. W.;  
39 Martin, R. L.; Morokuma, K.; Farkas, O.; Foresman, J. B.; Fox, D. J. Gaussian, Inc.,  
40 Wallingford CT, 2016.

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42 **S2. Spectroscopic data obtained from semi-empirical methods**  
 43 **and experimental values**

44 The ground state absorption maxima ( $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$ ) and oscillator strength ( $f$ ) have been calculated  
 45 using ZINDO/S for vertical excitation energies of 2-methylthio-3-methyluracil (**2MT-3MU**)  
 46 and triazine dyes **1** to **7** optimised using the AM1, PM3 and PM6 methods. Experimental data  
 47 for triazine dyes **1** to **7** were either obtained from ref. [41] or measured directly, while **2MT-**  
 48 **3MU** experimental data was obtained from ref. [37]. Computational data for dyes **1** to **7** were  
 49 obtained from ref. [26]. ND, not determined.

50 **Table S1.** Comparative data obtained from semi-empirical methods and experimental values.

| Dye            | Medium  | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{exp}}$ | AM1                                  |                    | PM3                                  |                    | PM6                                  |                    |
|----------------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                |         |                                     | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$ | $f$                | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$ | $f$                | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$ | $f$                |
| <b>2MT-3MU</b> | Vacuum  | 290                                 | 302                                  | 0.241              | 296                                  | 0.240              | 301                                  | 0.237              |
| <b>BPT 1</b>   | Vacuum  | ND                                  | 401                                  | 0.265              | 374                                  | 0.090              | 388                                  | 0.243              |
|                | DMSO    | 385                                 | 420                                  | 0.277              | 386                                  | 0.169              | 412                                  | 0.309              |
|                | THF     | 381                                 | 418                                  | 0.279              | 385                                  | 0.180              | 409                                  | 0.288              |
|                | MeCN    | 380                                 | 420                                  | 0.239              | 391                                  | 0.144              | 410                                  | 0.301              |
|                | 2-MeTHF | 381                                 | 420                                  | 0.259              | 385 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.180 <sup>A</sup> | 411                                  | 0.260              |
|                | Toluene | 385                                 | 416                                  | 0.282              | 386                                  | 0.192              | 408                                  | 0.199              |
| <b>MPT 2</b>   | Vacuum  | ND                                  | 401                                  | 0.249              | 374                                  | 0.080              | 387                                  | 0.229              |
|                | DMSO    | 387                                 | 429                                  | 0.315              | 384 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.167 <sup>A</sup> | 411                                  | 0.291              |
|                | THF     | 384                                 | 418                                  | 0.259              | 394                                  | 0.177              | 408                                  | 0.271              |
|                | MeCN    | 389                                 | 419                                  | 0.254              | 382                                  | 0.162              | 410                                  | 0.284              |
|                | 2-MeTHF | 384                                 | 418                                  | 0.259              | 394                                  | 0.177              | 408                                  | 0.270              |
|                | Toluene | 387                                 | 422                                  | 0.280              | 392                                  | 0.170              | 407                                  | 0.224              |
| <b>BDT 3</b>   | Vacuum  | ND                                  | 400 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.257 <sup>A</sup> | 376                                  | 0.128              | 389                                  | 0.251              |
|                | DMSO    | 382                                 | 422 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.270 <sup>A</sup> | 387                                  | 0.169              | 413                                  | 0.327              |
|                | THF     | 379                                 | 420                                  | 0.285              | 384                                  | 0.176              | 411                                  | 0.314              |
|                | MeCN    | 378                                 | 420 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.267 <sup>A</sup> | 386                                  | 0.166              | 411                                  | 0.307              |
|                | 2-MeTHF | 378                                 | 420                                  | 0.285              | 384                                  | 0.177              | 411 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.313 <sup>A</sup> |
|                | Toluene | 384                                 | 420                                  | 0.301              | 385                                  | 0.195              | 410                                  | 0.245              |
| <b>MOT 4</b>   | Vacuum  | ND                                  | 389                                  | 0.272              | 364                                  | 0.150              | 373                                  | 0.213              |
|                | DMSO    | 388                                 | 420                                  | 0.324              | 387                                  | 0.181              | 402                                  | 0.244              |
|                | THF     | 381                                 | 416                                  | 0.320              | 383 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.168 <sup>A</sup> | 399                                  | 0.271              |
|                | MeCN    | 381                                 | 417                                  | 0.319              | 386                                  | 0.178              | 401                                  | 0.240              |
|                | DMF     | 389                                 | 420                                  | 0.325              | 387                                  | 0.183              | 402                                  | 0.245              |
|                | Vacuum  | ND                                  | 395                                  | 0.257              | 373                                  | 0.103              | 383                                  | 0.253              |
| <b>AMT 5</b>   | DMSO    | 401                                 | 423 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.312 <sup>A</sup> | 394                                  | 0.168              | 410 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.301 <sup>A</sup> |
|                | THF     | 393                                 | 419                                  | 0.307              | 386                                  | 0.154              | 406                                  | 0.304              |
|                | MeCN    | 393                                 | 420                                  | 0.307              | 393                                  | 0.163              | 408 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.295 <sup>A</sup> |
|                | DMF     | 404                                 | 423                                  | 0.313              | 394                                  | 0.167              | 411 <sup>A</sup>                     | 0.302 <sup>A</sup> |

|              |        |     |     |       |     |       |     |       |
|--------------|--------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| <b>BMT 6</b> | Vacuum | ND  | 395 | 0.220 | 375 | 0.082 | 383 | 0.175 |
|              | DMSO   | 406 | 424 | 0.264 | 395 | 0.167 | 410 | 0.234 |
|              | THF    | 397 | 421 | 0.262 | 391 | 0.169 | 410 | 0.223 |
|              | MeCN   | 396 | 423 | 0.260 | 394 | 0.164 | 408 | 0.228 |
|              | DMF    | 409 | 424 | 0.265 | 395 | 0.168 | 410 | 0.234 |
| <b>EOT 7</b> | Vacuum | ND  | 397 | 0.254 | 379 | 0.130 | 387 | 0.263 |
|              | DMSO   | 399 | 419 | 0.260 | 385 | 0.167 | 407 | 0.288 |
|              | THF    | 393 | 417 | 0.268 | 384 | 0.182 | 408 | 0.307 |
|              | MeCN   | 395 | 417 | 0.256 | 384 | 0.164 | 405 | 0.283 |
|              | DMF    | 397 | 419 | 0.261 | 386 | 0.169 | 407 | 0.289 |

51 <sup>A</sup>Structure optimised based on negligible forces.

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54 **S3. Comparative electronic ground state absorption ( $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$ ) and**  
 55 **excited state emission ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}^{\text{calc}}$ ) data with the corresponding oscillator**  
 56 **strengths ( $f$ ) for EOT (7)**

57 Comparison of the ground state absorption maxima ( $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$ ), excited state emission ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}^{\text{calc}}$ ) data  
 58 and associated oscillator strengths ( $f$ ) were calculated using TDDFT analysis at the  $\omega$ B97X-  
 59 D/6-31G(d) level for 2-methylthio-3-methyluracil (**2MT-3MU**) and triazine dye **EOT**.  
 60 Experimental data for **EOT** was either obtained from ref. [41] or measured directly, while  
 61 **2MT-3MU** experimental data was obtained from ref. [37]. Computational data for dyes **EOT**  
 62 was obtained from ref. [26].  $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{exp}}$  and  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}^{\text{exp}}$  are the experimental absorption and emission  
 63 maxima respectively. Computational absorptions were calculated using (i) the linear response  
 64 or (ii) state-specific solvation models. The emission data were calculated only through the  
 65 state-specific approach. ND, not determined.

66 **Table S2.** Comparative data obtained for **EOT (7)** and **2MT-3MU** using TDDFT calculations.

| Calculation  | Medium              | EOT (7)                                     |  |       | 2MT-3MU                                     |  |       |
|--|---------------------|---|--|-------|---|--|-------|
|  |                     | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{exp}}$<br>[nm] | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$<br>[nm] | $f$   | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{exp}}$<br>[nm] | $\lambda_{\text{grd}}^{\text{calc}}$<br>[nm] | $f$   |
| TDDFT, obtained from vertical excitation energies, linear response solvation | Vacuum <sup>A</sup> | ND  | 396  | 0.166 | 290   | 253  | 0.202 |
|  | DMSO                | 399   | 405  | 0.213 | -   | -  | -     |
|  | THF                 | 393   | 405  | 0.211 | -   | -  | -     |
| TDDFT, obtained from vertical excitation energies, state-specific solvation  | DMSO                | 399   | 401  | 0.168 | -   | -  | -     |
|  | THF                 | 393   | 401  | 0.167 | -   | -  | -     |
|  |                     | $\lambda_{\text{exc}}^{\text{exp}}$<br>[nm] | $\lambda_{\text{exc}}^{\text{calc}}$<br>[nm] | $f$   | $\lambda_{\text{exc}}^{\text{exp}}$<br>[nm] | $\lambda_{\text{exc}}^{\text{calc}}$<br>[nm] | $f$   |
| TDDFT, obtained from adiabatic excitation energies, state-specific solvation | Vacuum <sup>A</sup> | ND  | 501  | 0.125 | -   | 300  | 0.172 |
|  | DMSO                | 527   | 517  | 0.125 | -   | -  | -     |
|  | THF                 | 496   | 514  | 0.125 | -   | -  | -     |

67 <sup>A</sup>Calculations completed under vacuum involve no implicit solvation model.

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