

Geometries and Terahertz Motions Driving Quintet Multiexcitons and Ultimate Triplet-Triplet Dissociations via the Intramolecular Singlet-Fissions

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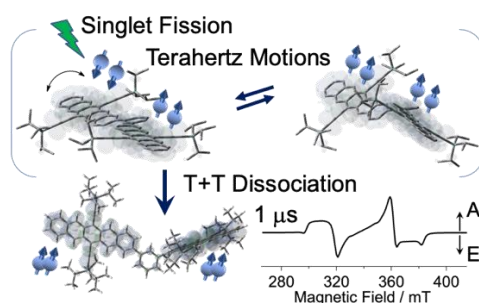
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ABSTRACT: Importance of vibronic effects has been highlighted for the singlet-fission (SF) that convert one high-energy singlet exciton into doubled triplet excitons, as strongly correlated multiexcitons. However, molecular mechanisms of spin conversion processes and ultimate decouplings in the multiexcitons are poorly understood. We have analyzed geometries and exchange couplings of the photoinduced multiexcitons in the pentacene dimers bridged by a phenylene at ortho and meta positions [denoted as *o*-(Pc)₂ and *m*-(Pc)₂] by simulations of the time-resolved electron paramagnetic resonance spectra. We clarified that terahertz molecular conformation

dynamics plays a role on the spin conversion from the singlet strongly coupled multiexcitons $^1(TT)$ to the quintet state $^5(TT)$. The strongly coupled $^5(TT)$ multiexcitons are revealed to possess entirely planar conformations stabilized by mutually delocalized spin distributions, while the intramolecular de-coupled spin-correlated triplet pairs generated at 1 μ s are also stabilized by distorted conformations resulting in two separately localized biradical characters.

TOC GRAPHICS



Singlet fission (SF)¹ is expected to exceed the Shockley–Queisser theoretical limit² with power conversion efficiencies (PCE) ~33 % of single junction organic solar cells (OSC) because two separated triplet excitons (T+T) can be produced from one excited singlet state (S_1S_0) sharing its excitation energy with a neighboring ground-state chromophore.³⁻⁸ The intramolecular SF (iSF) dynamics have widely been studied using the transient absorption spectroscopic methods together with theoretical modeling taking into account the vibronic effects in the ultrafast regimes.⁹⁻¹⁵ The correlated intermolecular triplet pair $^1(TT)$ generated with the singlet character is known to be converted to the quintet (Q) state as $^5(TT)$.¹⁶⁻²⁵ These TT pairs separate into individual triplets as the T+T state. In the previous study, we reported the iSF dynamics and subsequent separations to T+T in the pentacene dimers (PcD) bridged by a phenylene at ortho and meta positions, as *o*-(Pc)₂

and m -(Pc)₂ in Figure 1 by a combination of the ultrafast transient absorption spectroscopy and the time-resolved electron paramagnetic resonance (TREPR) method.²⁶ It was concluded that the quintet generations play a major role for suppressing the unwanted loss of the TT to the pair of the ground state (S₀S₀), as the multiexciton recombination process.

Before the spin-conversions to the ⁵(TT) state, the initially populated ¹(TT) is strongly correlated in the four unpaired spins of the two triplet excitons, i.e. the entangled spin-state by large spin-spin exchange coupling (J) with the large orbital overlap produced at femtoseconds regions. The modulations of the J -couplings are thus thought to be essential for the ¹(TT) \rightarrow ⁵(TT) conversions.^{16-17, 21, 27} The quintet electron spin polarization (ESP) was detected as the microwave absorption (A) and emission (E) in thin films of the SF-materials.²¹ The ESPs were interpreted with the sublevel-selective spin conversions by the zero-field splitting (ZFS) interaction in the presence of the negative J during triplet exciton-diffusion and subsequent re-encounter, causing modulation of the J -coupling and the spin decoherences to result in ⁵(TT).^{17, 21} In an iSF system, on the other hand, Kobori and coworkers interpreted that the quintet ESPs were caused by the anisotropic spin conversions due to singlet-quintet spin-relaxations to the five sublevels at $m_S = +2, +1, 0, -1$ and -2 in accordance with the anisotropy of the ZFS coupling which is highly dependent on the relative orientation of one triplet exciton (T_B) with respect to the other triplet (T_A) in the T_AT_B multiexciton.²⁰ Internal fluctuations in the J -coupling were concluded to be crucial on the quintet generations. Moreover, we reported the treatment of the EPR transitions in the weakly coupled T+T states in the framework of the spin-correlated triplet pair (SCTP)²² for the very weak exchange coupling including the state-mixings of the nine basis functions of ⁵(TT) – ³(TT) – ¹(TT), as treated in the spin-correlated radical pair model.²⁸⁻²⁹

The above pioneering interpretations of the ESP mechanisms may pave a new avenue to clarify how the molecular conformations and their motions drive the spin-conversions and the ultimate T+T generations, both of which are essential but unknown for the photon-to-energy conversion process. In particular, because the J -coupling is anticipated to be sensitive to the $T_A T_B$ conformations, it is expected that the specific molecular motions or phonon modes may play roles for the ultimate T+T de-coupling,³⁰ as the vibronic effects. So far, details of the $T_A T_B$ geometries, the vibration modes and frequencies, and the electronic couplings are unresolved in the iSF systems for generating the quintet multiexcitons and the subsequent T+T dissociations.

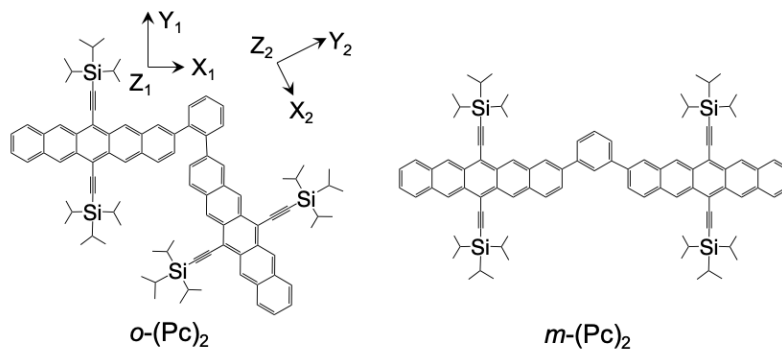


Figure 1. Chemical structures of the pentacene dimers linked by phenylene spacers. Principal axes of the zero-field splitting interactions of the individual triplets are indicated by X_i, Y_i and Z_i . The angle between the Z_1 and Z_2 axes are defined as the dihedral angle of β .

We present a novel theoretical tool to analyze the ESPs of the intramolecular multiexcitons of the quintet state and of the weakly-coupled SCTP state within a framework of the electron spin polarization transfer (ESPT) based upon the stochastic-Liouville equations. We have successfully interpreted the reported TREPR spectra of the multiexcitons observed for the dimers of $o-(Pc)_2$ and $m-(Pc)_2$ and clarified that terahertz conformational motions plays a role on generating the quintet state and the T+T state.

Figure 2 shows the TREPR spectra of *o*-(Pc)₂ and *m*-(Pc)₂ at $T = 77$ K in the frozen glass of toluene. The inner components with a peak splitting of ~ 15 mT as indicated by the blue arrows were assigned to $^5(\text{TT})$ in the previous report.²⁶ The outer spectrum components possessing the 41 mT separations indicated by the red arrows were attributed to the T+T state in the dimer of *m*-(Pc)₂. According to the anisotropic spin-relaxation model,²⁰ the spin polarization pattern of the $^5(\text{TT})$ state is highly dependent of the T_AT_B conformation. The difference in the spin polarization pattern in the quintet states between Figure 2a and 2b thus indicates that the conformation of the T_B is different with respect to the conformation of T_A in the multiexcitons.

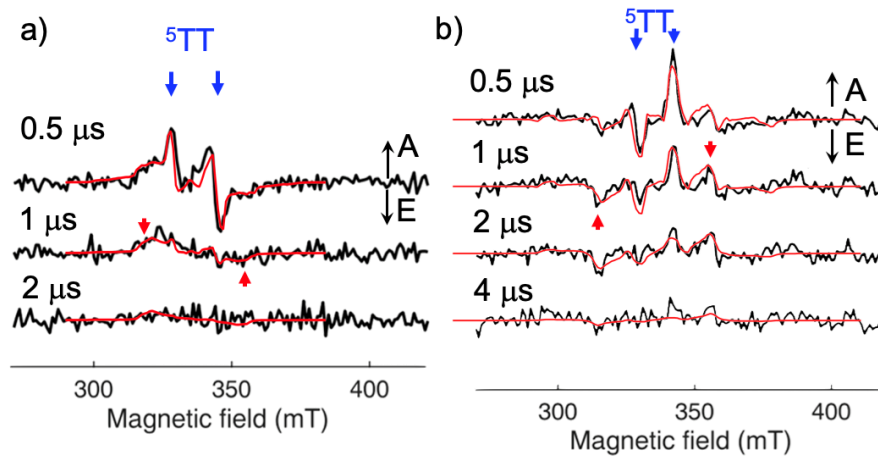


Figure 2. Delay time dependence of the TREPR spectra obtained by the depolarized 532 nm laser irradiation of a) *o*-(Pc)₂ and *m*-(Pc)₂ at 77 K in the frozen glass of toluene. The red lines are computed TREPR spectra as the sums of the transverse magnetizations, eq.(12) by the quintet TT and the SCTP as the T+T states based on the ESPT model.

To interpret the delay time dependence of the ESP to gain the detailed molecular mechanisms of the multiexciton dynamics, we now propose a three-site model to numerically compute the spin-state density matrices ($\rho_{\text{TT}1}$, $\rho_{\text{TT}2}$ and $\rho_{\text{T+T}}$) of the intramolecular multiexcitons for the two of the strongly exchange-coupled multiexcitons (TT₁ and TT₂ states) and one weakly-coupled triplet pair (T+T state) with different T_AT_B conformations and the corresponding exchange couplings of $6J$ as

the singlet-quintet energy gaps in the iSF systems, as shown in Figure 3. In the TT_1 state, the primary SF preferentially produces the $^1(TT)$ state, as shown by the red singlet population. The $6J$ value is now assumed to be very strong, as indicated by the dotted red arrow, so that the $^1(TT)$ and the five of the $^5(TT)_{mS}$ states constitute the diagonalized spin Hamiltonian (\mathbf{H}_{TT}) in the presence of the Zeeman interaction (\mathbf{H}_{TTZ}), the ZFS interactions (\mathbf{H}_{TTzfs}) in the individual triplets, the spin-spin dipolar coupling between the triplets represented by $\mathbf{H}_{TTss} = D_{SS} (\cos^2\theta_D - 1/3)(3\mathbf{S}_{1Z}\mathbf{S}_{2Z} - \mathbf{S}_1\mathbf{S}_2)$,²² and the exchange interaction ($\mathbf{H}_{TTee} = -2J \mathbf{S}_1\mathbf{S}_2$).²¹

As for the $^1(TT)$ states, one may treat that this multiexciton partially possesses the singlet charge-transfer (CT) character during the primary SF process by the electronic couplings.^{4, 31} Thus, the $^1(TT)$ state energy can be stabilized due to the configuration interaction from the high-lying CT states of $^1Pc^{+*}-Pc^{-*}$ and $^1Pc^{-*}-Pc^{+*}$ electronic configurations, as reported by Zang et al.³ The above energy shift of the $^1(TT)$ state is treated as the $6J$ of the singlet-quintet gap,³² as follows,

$$6J = \frac{|T_{LH}|^2 + |T_{HL}|^2}{E_{TT} - E_{CT}} \quad (1)$$

where T_{LH} and T_{HL} represent $LUMO_A$ - $HOMO_B$ and $LUMO_B$ - $HOMO_A$ transfer-integrals²⁶ between the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) and highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) in the adjacent monomer units (Pc_A and Pc_B), respectively. E_{TT} and E_{CT} denote the energies of the TT and the CT states. Using $E_{TT} - E_{CT} = -4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $|T_{LH}| = |T_{HL}| = 400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ estimated from the previous cyclic voltammetry (CV) measurements,^{3, 26} $J_1 = -220 \text{ GHz}$ is estimated for the TT_1 state (Figure 3) in o -(Pc)₂ from eq.(1). $J_1 = -98 \text{ GHz}$ is assumed in the TT_1 state (Figure 4) for m -(Pc)₂ because of the weaker chromophore coupling than in o -(Pc)₂.²⁶

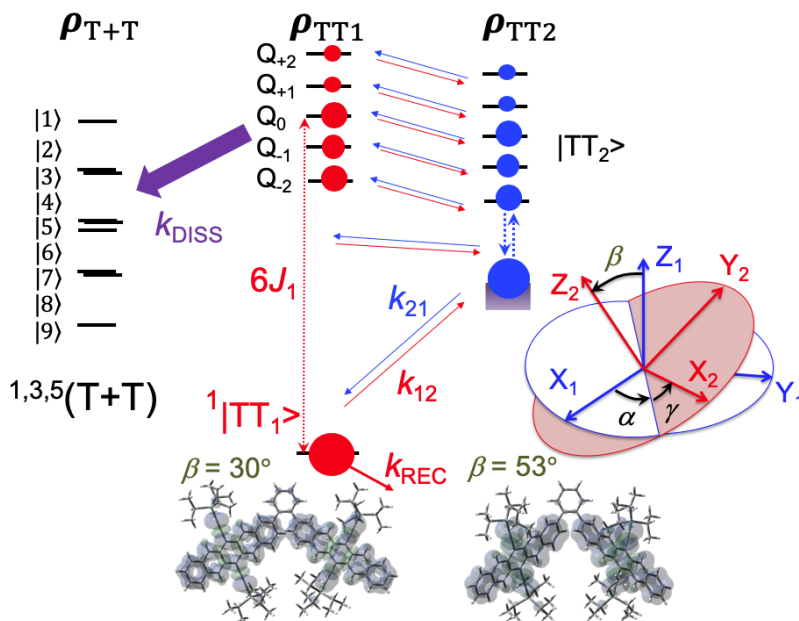


Figure 3. Geometry settings of the multiexcitons to compute the spin sublevel energies in the TT₁, TT₂ and the T+T states. The ³(TT) levels are not shown in TT₁ and TT₂. The density matrix elements of the singlet-quintet systems may rapidly be transferred back and forth between the TT₁ and the thermally activated TT₂ state through the molecular motions or vibrations including the singlet-quintet coherences. The exchange coupling in the activated TT₂ state may be weaker than in the TT₁ state due to the distorted conformations. The T+T state corresponds the SCTP state with a very weak *J*-coupling. At the bottoms, the spin density distributions were computed with the B3LYP/3-21G* level molecular orbital calculations for the quintet states.

In $H_{TTzfs} (= S_1 D_1 S_1 + S_2 D_2 S_2)$, S_i is the *i*-th triplet spin operator (*i* = 1 and 2 for A and B moieties, respectively in the T_AT_B multiexciton), and D_i represents the ZFS tensor of the individual triplet. The matrix of the H_{TTzfs} tensor is dependent on the orientation of the principal axes in the D_2 tensor (X_2, Y_2, Z_2) with respect to the principal axes in D_1 tensor (X_1, Y_1, Z_1), the geometries of the second TIPS-Pn groups were generated by using Euler rotation angles (α, β, γ) with respect to the principal axes in D_i as shown in Figure 3. In particular, it was reported that the quintet ESP is highly dependent of the dihedral angle (β) between the Z_1 and Z_2 axes in the aromatic chromophores in Figure 1.²⁰ Direction for the second triplet-state position in TT was set by the

polar angles (θ_2 and ϕ_2) with respect the (X_1, Y_1, Z_1) principal axes.²² The direction of the external magnetic field (\mathbf{B}_0) was set by the polar angles (θ, ϕ).²¹ Thus, $\cos^2\theta_D$ where θ_D is the angle between \mathbf{B}_0 and the inter-spin vector in $\mathbf{H}_{\text{TTss}} = D_{\text{SS}} (\cos^2\theta_D - 1/3)(3\mathbf{S}_{1Z}\mathbf{S}_{2Z} - \mathbf{S}_1\mathbf{S}_2)$ is defined for each \mathbf{B}_0 direction, as reported previously.³³

The vibronic effect can be treated by setting the three different $6J$ parameters for the different geometries corresponding to TT_1 , TT_2 , and T+T in Figure 3. After the rapid primary SF to populate the singlet TT_1 state with the strong J_1 , it is anticipated that the β angle between the Pc chromophores is modulated by the molecular motions, as shown in the bottom of Figure 3 resulting in a weaker J -coupling ($J_2 = -9$ GHz) in the TT_2 state than in the TT_1 state. This weakened J_2 may enable partial instantaneous singlet-quintet interconversions through the anisotropic $\mathbf{H}_{\text{TTzfs}}$ while such conversions are prohibited in TT_1 . Even though the thermally activated TT_2 state immediately returns to the original TT_1 , quick repetitive molecular motions eventually induce the singlet-quintet decoherences to produce the anisotropic spin sublevel populations as the red quintet populations in Figure 3, which phenomenon is relevant to the spin-lattice relaxation due to the J -modulations.³⁴⁻³⁵ The respective quick equilibrium between TT_1 and TT_2 and the T+T dissociation were previously observed by the ultrafast transient spectroscopy.³⁶ This kinetics is computed by solving the coupled stochastic-Liouville equations, as follows,

$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{TT}_1} = -i[\widehat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{TT}_1}, \rho_{\text{TT}_1}] - k_{12}\rho_{\text{TT}_1} + k_{21}\rho_{\text{TT}_2} - k_{\text{DISS}}\rho_{\text{TT}_1} + \widehat{\mathbf{K}}_{\text{REC}}\rho_{\text{TT}_1} \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{TT}_2} = -i[\widehat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{TT}_2}, \rho_{\text{TT}_2}] + k_{12}\rho_{\text{TT}_1} - k_{21}\rho_{\text{TT}_2} \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{T+T}} = -i[\widehat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{T+T}}, \rho_{\text{T+T}}] + k_{\text{DISS}}\rho_{\text{TT}_1} + \widehat{\mathbf{K}}_2\rho_{\text{T+T}} \quad (4)$$

In eqs (2)-(4), five of the ${}^5(\text{TT})_{m_S} - {}^1(\text{TT})$ two-level interconversions are separately treated among the nine basis functions (singlet, triplets and quintets) that diagonalize $\hat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{TT}1}$ in the presence of J_1 assuming that the spin-conversions within the quintet levels and the conversions from ${}^5(\text{TT})$ to ${}^3(\text{TT})$ are ignored because the ${}^1(\text{TT}) \rightarrow {}^5(\text{TT})$ conversions are initially predominant through $\mathbf{H}_{\text{TT}zfs}$. $\hat{\mathbf{K}}_i \boldsymbol{\rho} = -k_i(|S\rangle\langle S|\boldsymbol{\rho} + \boldsymbol{\rho}|S\rangle\langle S|)/2$ is substituted as the singlet deactivation by ${}^1(\text{TT}) \rightarrow (\text{S}_0\text{S}_0)$ in eqs.(2) and (4).³⁷ Therefore, from eqs.(2)-(4), the time dependence of the twelve elements, $\rho_{\text{SS}1}$, $\rho_{\text{SQ}1}$, $\rho_{\text{QS}1}$, $\rho_{\text{QQ}1}$, $\rho_{\text{SS}2}$, $\rho_{\text{SQ}2}$, $\rho_{\text{QS}2}$, $\rho_{\text{QQ}2}$, $\rho_{\text{SS}(\text{T}+\text{T})}$, $\rho_{\text{SQ}(\text{T}+\text{T})}$, $\rho_{\text{QS}(\text{T}+\text{T})}$, and $\rho_{\text{QQ}(\text{T}+\text{T})}$ where $\text{S} = {}^1(\text{TT})$ and $\text{Q} = {}^5(\text{TT})_{m_S}$ are solved using a matrix form of the time-differential equation of $\partial \bar{\boldsymbol{\rho}}/\partial t = \mathbf{L} \bar{\boldsymbol{\rho}}$, as detailed in eqs.(S1)-(S7) and Table S1 of the supporting information. The time developments of the density matrix elements in $\bar{\boldsymbol{\rho}}$ are thus computed by the following equation:³⁸

$$\bar{\boldsymbol{\rho}}(t) = \mathbf{S}_{\text{TT}} \exp(\boldsymbol{\eta}t) \mathbf{S}_{\text{TT}}^{-1} \bar{\boldsymbol{\rho}}(t=0) \quad (5)$$

where \mathbf{S}_{TT} and $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ are the eigenvectors and the eigenvalues matrices obtained by diagonalizing the \mathbf{L} matrices³³ in Table S1 with $\rho_{\text{SS}1}(t=0) = 1$ and with the other terms being zeros as the initial condition.

From eqs. (2), (3) and (5), the time developments of the transverse magnetizations of ρ_{m_S, m_S-1} ($m_S = +2, +1, 0$, and -1) are computed both for the ${}^5\text{TT}_1$ and ${}^5\text{TT}_2$ states with $S = 2$ under the very weak microwave strength (ω_1) in the rotating frame,³⁹ as follows,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \rho_{m_S, m_S-1}^{\text{TT}1} \\ \rho_{m_S, m_S-1}^{\text{TT}2} \end{pmatrix} = \omega_1 \begin{pmatrix} -(-\omega_0 + E_{Q_{m_S}}^{\text{TT}1} - E_{Q_{m_S-1}}^{\text{TT}1}) + i \left(k_{12} + \frac{1}{T_{2Q}} \right) & -ik_{21} \\ -ik_{12} & -(-\omega_0 + E_{Q_{m_S}}^{\text{TT}2} - E_{Q_{m_S-1}}^{\text{TT}2}) + i \left(k_{21} + \frac{1}{T_{2Q}} \right) \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \times$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \rho_{m_S m_S}^{\text{TT}1} - \rho_{m_S-1, m_S-1}^{\text{TT}1} \\ \rho_{m_S m_S}^{\text{TT}2} - \rho_{m_S-1, m_S-1}^{\text{TT}2} \end{pmatrix} \{S(S+1) - m_S(m_S-1)\} \quad (6)$$

where ω_0 , $E_{Q_{m_S}}^{TT_1}$ and $E_{Q_{m_S}}^{TT_2}$ represent the microwave energy, the eigenenergies of the quintet sublevels in the respective TT_1 and TT_2 states in the units of angular frequencies. T_{2Q} denotes the phase memory time. Thus, the present EPR line-shape analysis reflects the dynamics on the sublevel populations and on the motional-narrowing effect between the two different quintet conformations caused by the quick nuclear motions or vibrations. We also regard the TT_2 state residing higher by a thermally accessible energy (ΔE) from the TT_1 in Figure 3 at $T = 77$ K. The following relation is thus utilized for the inter-exchange process between TT_1 and TT_2 :

$$k_{12} = k_{21} e^{-\frac{\Delta E}{k_B T}} \quad (7)$$

where $\Delta E = 80 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ was assumed in the present analysis. Relaxation time (τ) to reach the $TT_1 \rightleftharpoons TT_2$ equilibrium populations may thus be related to the wavelength ($\bar{\nu}_{\text{vib}}$) of the vibration motion in the present model, as follows,

$$\tau = \frac{1}{k_{12} + k_{21}} = \frac{1}{2\pi c \bar{\nu}_{\text{vib}}} \quad (8)$$

where c represents the speed of light. From eqs. (7) and (8), the vibration motions (k_{12} and k_{21}) are characterized by a single parameter of $\bar{\nu}_{\text{vib}}$.

When the exchange coupling is weaker than \mathbf{H}_{TTzfs} in the dimers, one needs to include the state-mixings of the nine basis functions of ${}^5(TT) - {}^3(TT) - {}^1(TT)$,²² as shown by the nine sublevels (Figure 3) of ${}^{1,3,5}(T+T)$ computed by diagonalizing $\hat{\mathbf{H}}_{T+T}$ in eq.(4):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 & & \\ & \varepsilon_2 & \\ & & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{U}_{T+T}^t \hat{\mathbf{H}}_{T+T} \mathbf{U}_{T+T} \quad (9)$$

where ε_i represent nine eigenenergies of $|i\rangle$ in T+T. The transformation matrix is described as,

$$\mathbf{U}_{T+T} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & c_{21} & c_{31} & c_{41} & c_{51} & c_{61} & c_{71} & c_{81} & c_{91} \\ c_{12} & c_{22} & c_{32} & c_{42} & c_{52} & c_{62} & c_{72} & c_{82} & c_{92} \\ c_{13} & c_{23} & c_{33} & c_{43} & c_{53} & c_{63} & c_{73} & c_{83} & c_{93} \\ c_{14} & c_{24} & c_{34} & c_{44} & c_{54} & c_{64} & c_{74} & c_{84} & c_{94} \\ c_{15} & c_{25} & c_{35} & c_{45} & c_{55} & c_{65} & c_{75} & c_{85} & c_{95} \\ c_{16} & c_{26} & c_{36} & c_{46} & c_{56} & c_{66} & c_{76} & c_{86} & c_{96} \\ c_{17} & c_{27} & c_{37} & c_{47} & c_{57} & c_{67} & c_{77} & c_{87} & c_{97} \\ c_{18} & c_{28} & c_{38} & c_{48} & c_{58} & c_{68} & c_{78} & c_{88} & c_{98} \\ c_{19} & c_{29} & c_{39} & c_{49} & c_{59} & c_{69} & c_{79} & c_{89} & c_{99} \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

with $|i\rangle = \sum_j^9 c_{ij} |\text{TT}\rangle_j$ where $|\text{TT}\rangle_{1,\dots,5}$ corresponds to ${}^5|\text{TT}\rangle_{+2,\dots,-2}$. $|\text{TT}\rangle_{6,7,8}$ corresponds to ${}^3|\text{TT}\rangle_{+1,0,-1}$. And, $|\text{TT}\rangle_9$ equals to ${}^1|\text{TT}\rangle$. The spin-state populations (ρ^{T+T}_{ii}) where $i = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ in Figure 3 for the dissociated multiexciton is computed by $\rho_{1-9}^{T+T} = \mathbf{U}_{T+T}^t \rho^{T+T} \mathbf{U}_{T+T}$, as detailed in eq(S8). The transverse magnetization of the SCTP was obtained as a function of the external magnetic field strength, as,²²

$$\text{imag}(\rho_{i,k}^{T+T}) = \text{Int}(i, k) \frac{\omega_i(\rho_{ii}^{T+T} - \rho_{kk}^{T+T})T_2}{1 + (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_k - \omega_0)^2 T_2^2} \quad (11)$$

with, $k = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Int}(i, k) = & 4|c_{i1}|^2|c_{k2}|^2 + 4|c_{i2}|^2|c_{k1}|^2 + 6|c_{i2}|^2|c_{k3}|^2 + 6|c_{i3}|^2|c_{k2}|^2 + 6|c_{i3}|^2|c_{k4}|^2 + \\ & 6|c_{i4}|^2|c_{k3}|^2 + 4|c_{i4}|^2|c_{k5}|^2 + 4|c_{i5}|^2|c_{k4}|^2 + 2|c_{i6}|^2|c_{k7}|^2 + 2|c_{i7}|^2|c_{k6}|^2 + 2|c_{i7}|^2|c_{k8}|^2 + \\ & 2|c_{i8}|^2|c_{k7}|^2 \quad (12) \end{aligned}$$

The computations of the time-dependences of the twelve elements, ρ_{SS1} , ρ_{SQ1} , ρ_{QS1} , ρ_{QQ1} , ρ_{SS2} , ρ_{SQ2} , ρ_{QS2} , ρ_{QQ2} , $\rho_{SS(T+T)}$, $\rho_{SQ(T+T)}$, $\rho_{QS(T+T)}$, and $\rho_{QQ(T+T)}$ were performed for $m_S = +2, +1, 0, -1$, and -2 by eq.(5). One may then obtain the TREPR line-shape function (SP) from the eqs.(6) and (11), as follows,

$$SP = -imag \left\{ \sum_{m_s} \left(\rho_{m_s, m_s-1}^{TT1} + \rho_{m_s, m_s-1}^{TT2} \right) + \sum_{i \neq k} \rho_{i, k}^{T+T} \right\} \quad (12)$$

In the second term of eq.(12), sixteen of allowed $i \leftrightarrow k$ transitions ($|1\rangle \leftrightarrow |2\rangle, |1\rangle \leftrightarrow |3\rangle, |2\rangle \leftrightarrow |4\rangle, |2\rangle \leftrightarrow |5\rangle, |2\rangle \leftrightarrow |6\rangle, |3\rangle \leftrightarrow |4\rangle, |3\rangle \leftrightarrow |5\rangle, |3\rangle \leftrightarrow |6\rangle, |4\rangle \leftrightarrow |7\rangle, |4\rangle \leftrightarrow |8\rangle, |5\rangle \leftrightarrow |7\rangle, |5\rangle \leftrightarrow |8\rangle, |6\rangle \leftrightarrow |7\rangle, |6\rangle \leftrightarrow |8\rangle, |7\rangle \leftrightarrow |9\rangle, \text{ and } |8\rangle \leftrightarrow |9\rangle$ in Figure 3) may contribute between the eigenfunctions for small J . The powder-pattern integrations of eq.(12) were performed to compute the delay time dependences of the spin polarization patterns as the TREPR spectra (the red lines in Figure 2). Decompositions to the components of the quintet states, $-imag(\rho_{m_s, m_s-1}^{TT1} + \rho_{m_s, m_s-1}^{TT2})$ and the T+T state of $-imag(\rho_{i, k}^{T+T})$ in eq.(12) are shown in Figure S1.

On the fitting of the TREPR spectra, we first estimated the $T_A T_B$ conformation of the multiexcitons in \mathbf{H}_{TTzfs} for the TT1 and TT2 states by the Euler rotation angles (α, β, γ) because the spin polarization pattern is highly dependent on this orientation of the \mathbf{D}_2 tensor, as reported previously.²⁰ In o -(Pc)₂, the strong chromophore interaction was described as mentioned above, resulting in terahertz range of the $6J_1$ parameter from eq.(1). This may cause planarly folded $T_A T_B$ dimer conformation in the TT₁ state resulting in the small β value ($\beta = 30^\circ$) in Figure 3. On the other hand, $\beta > 30^\circ$ is anticipated for the transition state (TT₂) with $\Delta E = 80 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in eq.(7), as shown by $\beta = 53^\circ$ in Figure 3, because the orbital overlap is expected to become weaker ($J_2 = -10 \text{ GHz}$). Because such butterfly molecular motions are expected to be quicker than picosecond regime, $\bar{\nu}_{vib} = 26 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ was considered. In Figure 2a, the quintet state EPR signal immediately disappeared. With this the very weak broad EPR contribution originating from the T+T state became dominant at $1 \mu\text{s}$. Therefore, $k_{DISS} = 1.1 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $k_{REC} = 3.0 \times 10^7 \text{ s}^{-1}$ were utilized to fit the TREPR spectra.

In m -(Pc)₂, the chromophore interaction is reported to be weaker than in o -(Pc)₂.²⁶ Thus, it is anticipated that the T_AT_B dimer conformation is more flexible in m -(Pc)₂ than in o -(Pc)₂. From this, a planarly extended T_AT_B conformation with $\beta = 22^\circ$ is considered for the TT₁ state, while T_B aromatic plane is assumed to be rotated by the dihedral angle of $\beta = 75^\circ$ with respect to T_A in the TT₂ transition state in m -(Pc)₂ with $\bar{\nu}_{\text{vib}} = 72 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, as shown in Figure 4. $k_{\text{DISS}} = 1.0 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $k_{\text{REC}} = 3.0 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ were utilized to explain the delay time dependence of the EPR spectra in Figure 2b. The slower singlet recombination kinetics in m -(Pc)₂ is essential to explain the longer-lived quintet signals in Figure 2b than in Figure 2a. Table S2 summarizes full of applied EPR parameters for computations of the delay time dependences of the EPR spectra (Figure 2).

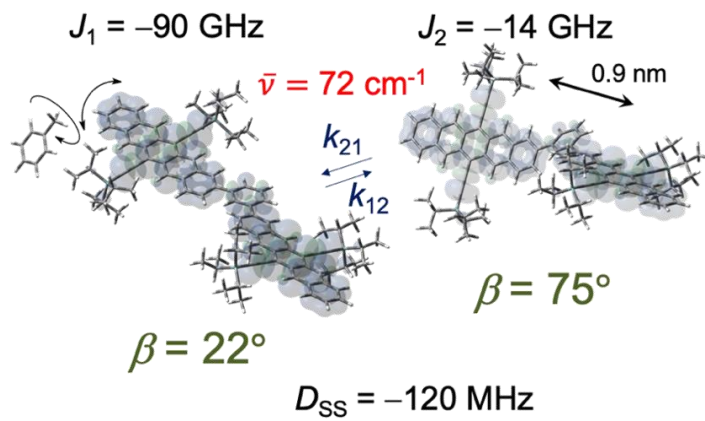


Figure 4. Geometry fluctuation model of the quintet multiexcitons to compute the spin dynamics between the TT₁ (left) and TT₂ (right) states in m -(Pc)₂ to reproduce the TREPR spectra in Figure 2b. $D_{\text{SS}} = -120 \text{ MHz}$ was utilized representing the inter-spin separations of 0.9 nm in T_AT_B. Internal rotations of the methyl groups of the surrounding solvent molecules would couple to the conformation changes with $\bar{\nu}_{\text{vib}} = 72 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ at 77 K. The delocalized spin density distributions were identified by the weakened $\mathbf{H}_{\text{TTzfs}}$ in Table S2.

For the de-couplings in the intramolecular multiexcitons to generate the T+T state, it is essential that the $6J$ become significantly weak. Thus, it is highly anticipated that dramatical geometry changes are required to result in the T+T states to reduce both the through-bond and the through-

space orbital overlaps ($|T_{LH}|$ and $|T_{HL}|$) in eq.(1). From this we propose that the one or both of the Pc units take conformations that the X_i-Y_i planes in T_A or T_B in Figure 1 are orthogonal to the aromatic planes of the phenylene spacers of the dimers to minimize the superexchange couplings in $|T_{LH}|$ and $|T_{HL}|$ as shown in Figure 5. At the bottom of Figure 5, the SCTP spectra were computed by the corresponding geometries and exchange couplings, exhibiting that the ESP is highly affected by the $T_A T_B$ conformation. Notably, the absorptive and emissive polarization around 320 mT at 1 μ s, as shown by the red arrows in Figure 2a and 2b, respectively, are both consistent with the modulation of the A and E polarizations in Figure 5 around 320 mT. This strongly supports that the large degree of the $T_A T_B$ conformation changes in Figure 5 accompany to the intramolecular de-coupling for the T+T state from the planar $T_A T_B$ geometries in the strongly coupled multiexcitons of TT_1 in Figure 3.

As have been discussed previously,^{16-17, 21, 27} the fluctuations of the J -coupling are essential for generating the quintet multiexcitons. The present model calculations demonstrate that the intramolecular twisting $T_A T_B$ conformation changes are linked to the fluctuations. Importantly, the terahertz vibrations with $\bar{\nu}_{\text{vib}} = 26$ and 72 cm^{-1} in Figures 3 and 4, respectively, are revealed be crucial to obtain the good agreements with the delay time dependences of the EPR spectra in Figure 2, because the spin-relaxation effects are dependent of the fluctuation frequency.³⁴ This also coincides with the estimated terahertz range of the $6J_1$ parameter in the TT_1 state from eq.(1) because the spin-lattice relaxation generating $^5(TT)$ is anticipated to be efficient when the $6J$ energy difference between TT_1 and TT_2 roughly resonate with the frequency of the J -modulation.²⁰

One may raise next questions about origins of the large degrees of the TT conformation changes as in Figure 4 and also in Figure 5 for the T+T dissociations, even though the multiexcitons are

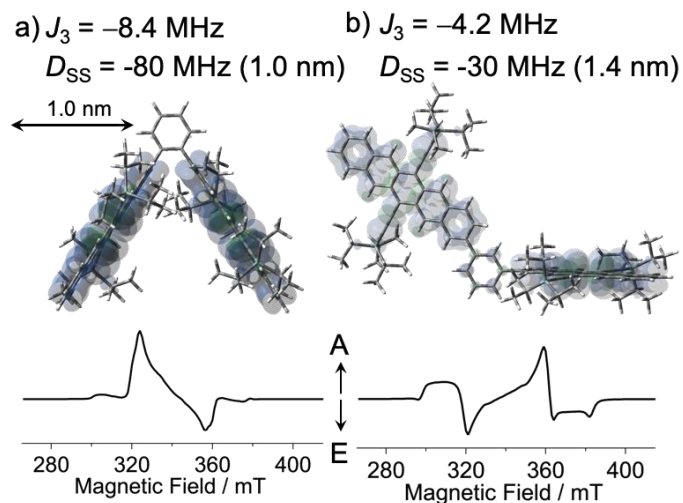


Figure 5. The geometries, exchange-couplings and spin-dipolar couplings of the T+T multiexcitons in a) *o*-(Pc)₂ and in b) *m*-(Pc)₂, respectively. The parentheses denote inter-spin separations estimated by the point-dipole approximation. Corresponding computed TREPR spectra of the T+T contribution were obtained from the geometries for 1 μ s, as shown at the bottom.

dissolved in the bulk frozen solutions. Inherent gas phase low-frequency molecular vibrations must be small and hindered by the surrounding toluene molecules in Figure 4. Instead, the solvent dynamics²⁰ may cause the terahertz orientation motions. It is well known that the methyl group of toluene undergoes the internal rotation in the cryogenic conditions. Tsukushi et al.⁴⁰ characterized the molecular motions of the glass matrix of toluene at cryogenic temperature and reported that 80 cm^{-1} mode of the vibration originates from the internal rotations. This wavenumber well coincides with $\bar{\nu}_{\text{vib}} = 26$ and 72 cm^{-1} and may trigger the conformation dynamics, as shown in Figure 4. In addition, several methyl groups are substituted in the terminal substituents in PcD and may assist the conformation dynamics in *o*-(Pc)₂ at the bottom of Figure 3, because the internal rotations of the bulky triisopropylsilylethynyl groups near the adjacent Pc moiety would probably affect the electronic coupling within the dimer.²⁶

In the TT_1 states with the very strong J couplings, the $T_A T_B$ takes on the planar conformations (Figure 3 and 4) so that the orbital overlap in $T_A T_B$ is significant. These flat conformations are consistent with a recent ultrafast study of an iSF system; Korovina et al. reported that the initial $^1(TT)$ state conformation possesses the long-range planar structure in the perylene oligomers lined by 1,4-dialkynyl-2,5-bis(ethylhexyloxy)-benzene molecular motif, reflecting electronic delocalized character in the S_1 state.³⁰ This denotes that the strongly-coupled $^5(TT)$ s also take on the initial $^1(TT)$ flat conformations, most likely because the two triplets in the multiexciton are mutually delocalized in the entire planar geometry in Figure 4 to stabilize the multiexcitons rather than in the twisted conformers of TT_2 . The above delocalized feature is very consistent with the weaker ZFS parameters of the D and E values applied in \mathbf{H}_{TTzfs} than in the T+T states, as shown in Table S2 to explain the line-shapes of Figure 2. The weakened ZFS interaction is well known for the delocalized triplet spins in the special pair of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* R26 of the photosynthetic reaction center.^{33, 41}

It was also clarified, in the T+T dissociations, that the large degrees of the conformation changes occurred with $k_{DISS} \approx 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Figure 5). This is also in line with the reported proposal that the torsional disorders resulted to form the two separated triplet excitons in the linked perylene oligomers.³⁰ After such large degrees of the distortions in Figure 5, the two triplet spins can separately be localized to form the biradical characters concentrated around the C6 and C13 positions in the pentacene units stabilizing the T+T individual two spins with the significantly reduced orbital overlap.¹⁴ The ultimate T+T dissociations were very slow with respect to the dissociation kinetics of picosecond regime in the crystalline TIPS-pentacene.^{8, 22, 42-43} The present small k_{DISS} values are explained by large barriers for the internal conformation changes (Figure 5) associated with the rearrangements of the spin densities to reduce the J -decoupling. The present

molecular level analysis of the spin-state populations in the multiexciton are thus significantly informative for future designs of the doubled photon-to-energy conversion materials by optimizing the conformation changes and the electronic couplings in the transient multiexcitons including the usage for the four-bit quantum computing processing.²²

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website.

Electron spin polarization transfer model for the numerical simulation of the TREPR spectra with the matrix form in Table S1. The full sets of the EPR parameters (Table S2) and the decomposed quintet and the SCTP spectra are detailed in Figure S1. (PDF)

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