

## Detection of heavy metals in water using graphene oxide quantum dots: an experimental and theoretical study

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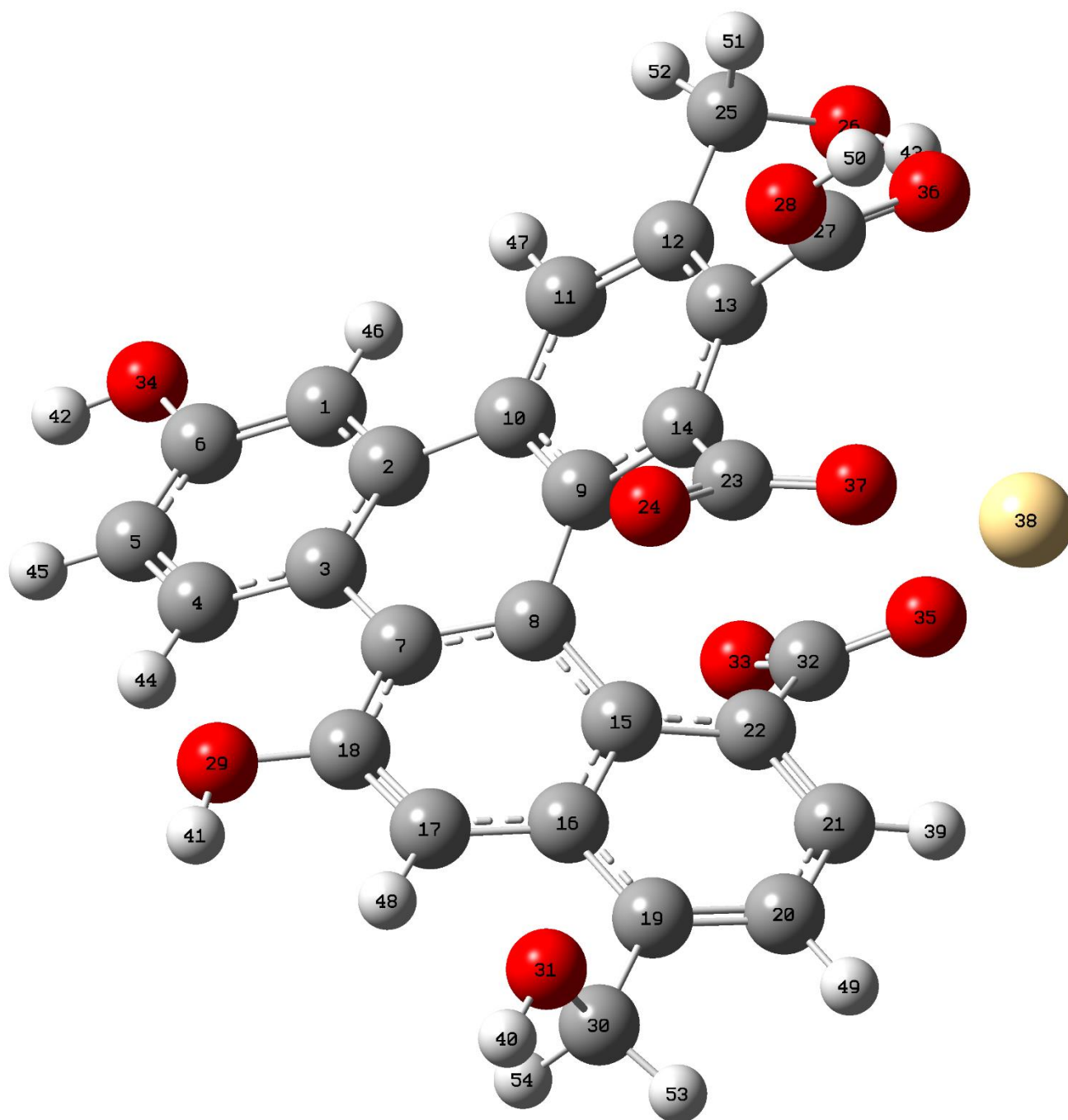
### Spectral Response calculation (experimental)

The spectral response of the PL setup was calibrated over the visible wavelength range through a certified spectral fluorescence standard kit (Sigma-Aldrich). The quantum yields (QY) of UFQD samples were estimated by using standard reference fluorophore solutions, i.e. both quinine sulfate and 9,10-diphenyl-anthracene (DPA) with an absorbance < 0.05 OD in the whole excitation/emission range, and the well-established formula:

$$QY_{Sample} = QY_{Ref} \cdot \frac{I_{Sample}}{Abs_{Sample}} \cdot \frac{Abs_{Ref}}{I_{Ref}} \cdot \frac{n_{Water}^2}{n_{Solvent}^2}$$

where  $QY_{Ref}$  and  $I_{Ref}$  are the quantum yield and the integrated PL emission of the standard reference solution,  $n_{Solvent}$  the refractive index of the solvent and  $Abs_{Ref}$  the absorbance at the excitation wavelength of the standard reference solution, while  $QY_{Sample}$  and  $I_{Sample}$  are the quantum yield and the integrated PL emission of the UFQD solution,  $n_{Water}$  is the refractive index of water and  $Abs_{Sample}$  the absorbance at the excitation wavelength of the UFQD solution.

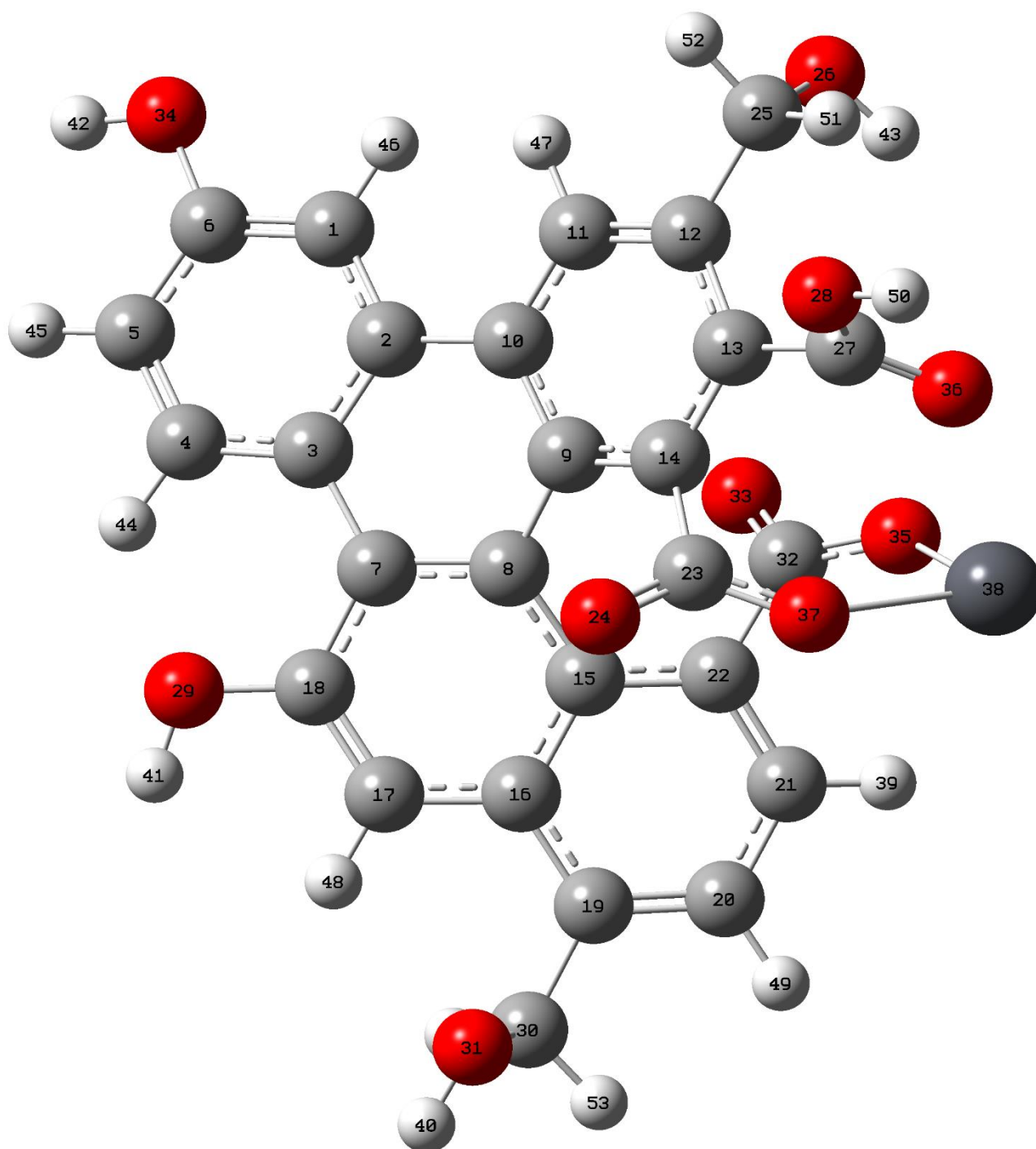
Figure S1 – Atom numbering of the structure CQDOT-Cd<sup>2+</sup> with no explicit water molecules



Tab S1 - Cartesian coordinates of the system CQDOT- Cd<sup>2+</sup> with no explicit water molecules

| Center Number | Atomic Number | Standard orientation:   |           |           |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|               |               | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|               |               | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| C1            | 6             | 4.175966                | -2.239372 | -0.316437 |
| C2            | 6             | 3.214433                | -1.245096 | -0.097400 |
| C3            | 6             | 3.618494                | 0.115129  | -0.087579 |
| C4            | 6             | 4.975001                | 0.410968  | -0.304559 |
| C5            | 6             | 5.919395                | -0.584749 | -0.515562 |
| C6            | 6             | 5.514287                | -1.919038 | -0.518565 |
| C7            | 6             | 2.602229                | 1.151068  | 0.078933  |
| C8            | 6             | 1.203967                | 0.775952  | -0.023130 |
| C9            | 6             | 0.834147                | -0.539896 | 0.313848  |
| C10           | 6             | 1.807840                | -1.589268 | 0.176987  |
| C11           | 6             | 1.373255                | -2.911262 | 0.252810  |
| C12           | 6             | 0.062697                | -3.260212 | 0.565631  |
| C13           | 6             | -0.830172               | -2.223331 | 0.926038  |
| C14           | 6             | -0.471550               | -0.889799 | 0.821634  |
| C15           | 6             | 0.243772                | 1.806924  | -0.427992 |
| C16           | 6             | 0.485157                | 3.134014  | 0.056973  |
| C17           | 6             | 1.752226                | 3.395857  | 0.605018  |
| C18           | 6             | 2.819359                | 2.458990  | 0.493247  |
| C19           | 6             | -0.502438               | 4.142773  | -0.131353 |
| C20           | 6             | -1.620147               | 3.848850  | -0.914248 |
| C21           | 6             | -1.764807               | 2.607842  | -1.516473 |
| C22           | 6             | -0.819256               | 1.577130  | -1.297382 |
| C23           | 6             | -1.372934               | 0.156268  | 1.460332  |
| O24           | 8             | -0.863070               | 0.933520  | 2.280089  |
| C25           | 6             | -0.360846               | -4.710239 | 0.565609  |
| O26           | 8             | -1.217116               | -5.029682 | -0.528770 |
| C27           | 6             | -2.146037               | -2.640833 | 1.507268  |
| O28           | 8             | -2.279464               | -2.325195 | 2.793403  |
| O29           | 8             | 4.070859                | 2.862234  | 0.822346  |
| C30           | 6             | -0.330339               | 5.520605  | 0.443199  |
| O31           | 8             | -0.285831               | 5.440781  | 1.867736  |
| C32           | 6             | -0.969400               | 0.306119  | -2.117723 |
| O33           | 8             | 0.014510                | -0.107569 | -2.749223 |
| C34           | 8             | 6.377652                | -2.954507 | -0.714230 |
| C35           | 8             | -2.138472               | -0.217578 | -2.181007 |
| C36           | 8             | -2.985152               | -3.284123 | 0.897737  |
| C37           | 8             | -2.620394               | 0.110208  | 1.183828  |
| Cd38          | 48            | -3.779919               | -0.229165 | -0.692570 |
| H39           | 1             | -2.619859               | 2.411142  | -2.156693 |
| H40           | 1             | -0.103027               | 6.323828  | 2.214952  |
| H41           | 1             | 4.061793                | 3.782293  | 1.120837  |
| H42           | 1             | 7.277618                | -2.623044 | -0.836374 |
| H43           | 1             | -2.044177               | -4.539512 | -0.386200 |
| H44           | 1             | 5.299824                | 1.442659  | -0.321845 |
| H45           | 1             | 6.960351                | -0.320247 | -0.682594 |
| H46           | 1             | 3.914384                | -3.290879 | -0.326198 |
| H47           | 1             | 2.069533                | -3.722385 | 0.070328  |
| H48           | 1             | 1.975979                | 4.384587  | 0.995522  |
| H49           | 1             | -2.375424               | 4.613712  | -1.075567 |
| H50           | 1             | -3.154877               | -2.621253 | 3.098462  |
| H51           | 1             | -0.850343               | -4.979681 | 1.512420  |
| H52           | 1             | 0.518481                | -5.348874 | 0.457959  |
| H53           | 1             | -1.165793               | 6.154370  | 0.122667  |
| H54           | 1             | 0.597667                | 5.976119  | 0.065698  |

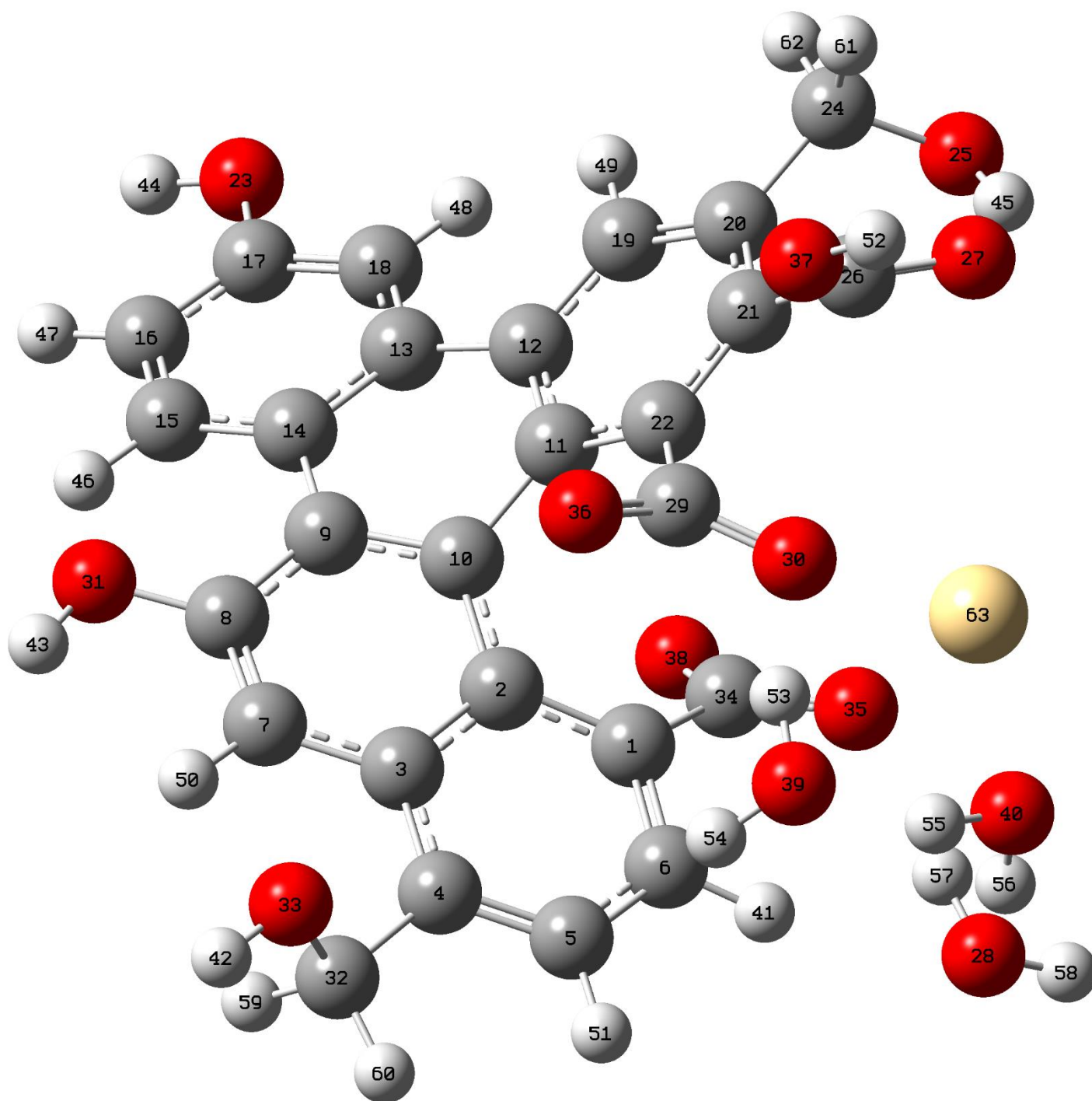
Figure S2 – Atom numbering of the structure CQDOT-Pb<sup>2+</sup> with no explicit water molecules



Tab S2 - Cartesian coordinates of the system CQDOT- Pb<sup>2+</sup> with no explicit water molecules

| Standard orientation: |               |                         |           |           |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Center Number         | Atomic Number | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|                       |               | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| C1                    | 6             | 4.490609                | -2.372840 | -0.207198 |
| C2                    | 6             | 3.575222                | -1.329552 | -0.030633 |
| C3                    | 6             | 4.031432                | 0.012955  | -0.096488 |
| C4                    | 6             | 5.397565                | 0.239135  | -0.346222 |
| C5                    | 6             | 6.294731                | -0.804136 | -0.520875 |
| C6                    | 6             | 5.836946                | -2.119944 | -0.448185 |
| C7                    | 6             | 3.063267                | 1.096592  | 0.025675  |
| C8                    | 6             | 1.651135                | 0.769950  | -0.015597 |
| C9                    | 6             | 1.233691                | -0.511342 | 0.374534  |
| C10                   | 6             | 2.156404                | -1.609085 | 0.259699  |
| C11                   | 6             | 1.656826                | -2.899652 | 0.353451  |
| C12                   | 6             | 0.311424                | -3.180236 | 0.622705  |
| C13                   | 6             | -0.544881               | -2.103152 | 0.916374  |
| C14                   | 6             | -0.100781               | -0.786091 | 0.857081  |
| C15                   | 6             | 0.706233                | 1.816973  | -0.418654 |
| C16                   | 6             | 1.015992                | 3.154001  | -0.020167 |
| C17                   | 6             | 2.320259                | 3.400726  | 0.446986  |
| C18                   | 6             | 3.343583                | 2.422000  | 0.350717  |
| C19                   | 6             | 0.047964                | 4.181943  | -0.197222 |
| C20                   | 6             | -1.131431               | 3.885535  | -0.879921 |
| C21                   | 6             | -1.357369               | 2.619176  | -1.401415 |
| C22                   | 6             | -0.429556               | 1.575647  | -1.188594 |
| C23                   | 6             | -0.897338               | 0.311509  | 1.522661  |
| O24                   | 8             | -0.335511               | 1.070321  | 2.308872  |
| C25                   | 6             | -0.156546               | -4.613542 | 0.545283  |
| O26                   | 8             | -0.229676               | -5.078724 | -0.802190 |
| C27                   | 6             | -1.944872               | -2.425864 | 1.331558  |
| O28                   | 8             | -2.043506               | -2.912131 | 2.548984  |
| O29                   | 8             | 4.619200                | 2.790146  | 0.612568  |
| C30                   | 6             | 0.303221                | 5.583774  | 0.284294  |
| O31                   | 8             | 0.478491                | 5.571677  | 1.699141  |
| C32                   | 6             | -0.677631               | 0.262541  | -1.901187 |
| O33                   | 8             | 0.199626                | -0.232664 | -2.602349 |
| O34                   | 8             | 6.651583                | -3.197627 | -0.606351 |
| O35                   | 8             | -1.873115               | -0.243338 | -1.794071 |
| O36                   | 8             | -2.930233               | -2.305903 | 0.600267  |
| O37                   | 8             | -2.177920               | 0.364464  | 1.289756  |
| Pb38                  | 82            | -3.503806               | -0.157093 | -0.358487 |
| H39                   | 1             | -2.246051               | 2.436060  | -1.998899 |
| H40                   | 1             | 0.704818                | 6.466729  | 1.984273  |
| H41                   | 1             | 4.661114                | 3.728384  | 0.844618  |
| H42                   | 1             | 7.560537                | -2.912632 | -0.772300 |
| H43                   | 1             | -0.868544               | -4.533189 | -1.281923 |
| H44                   | 1             | 5.765337                | 1.253160  | -0.422976 |
| H45                   | 1             | 7.341994                | -0.591716 | -0.719639 |
| H46                   | 1             | 4.185558                | -3.411293 | -0.157276 |
| H47                   | 1             | 2.308648                | -3.751916 | 0.196541  |
| H48                   | 1             | 2.591913                | 4.398416  | 0.779240  |
| H49                   | 1             | -1.871178               | 4.666081  | -1.034160 |
| H50                   | 1             | -2.975665               | -3.122452 | 2.745383  |
| H51                   | 1             | -1.120614               | -4.759106 | 1.045432  |
| H52                   | 1             | 0.567753                | -5.269913 | 1.034099  |
| H53                   | 1             | -0.543549               | 6.222821  | 0.007952  |
| H54                   | 1             | 1.201943                | 5.990263  | -0.203403 |

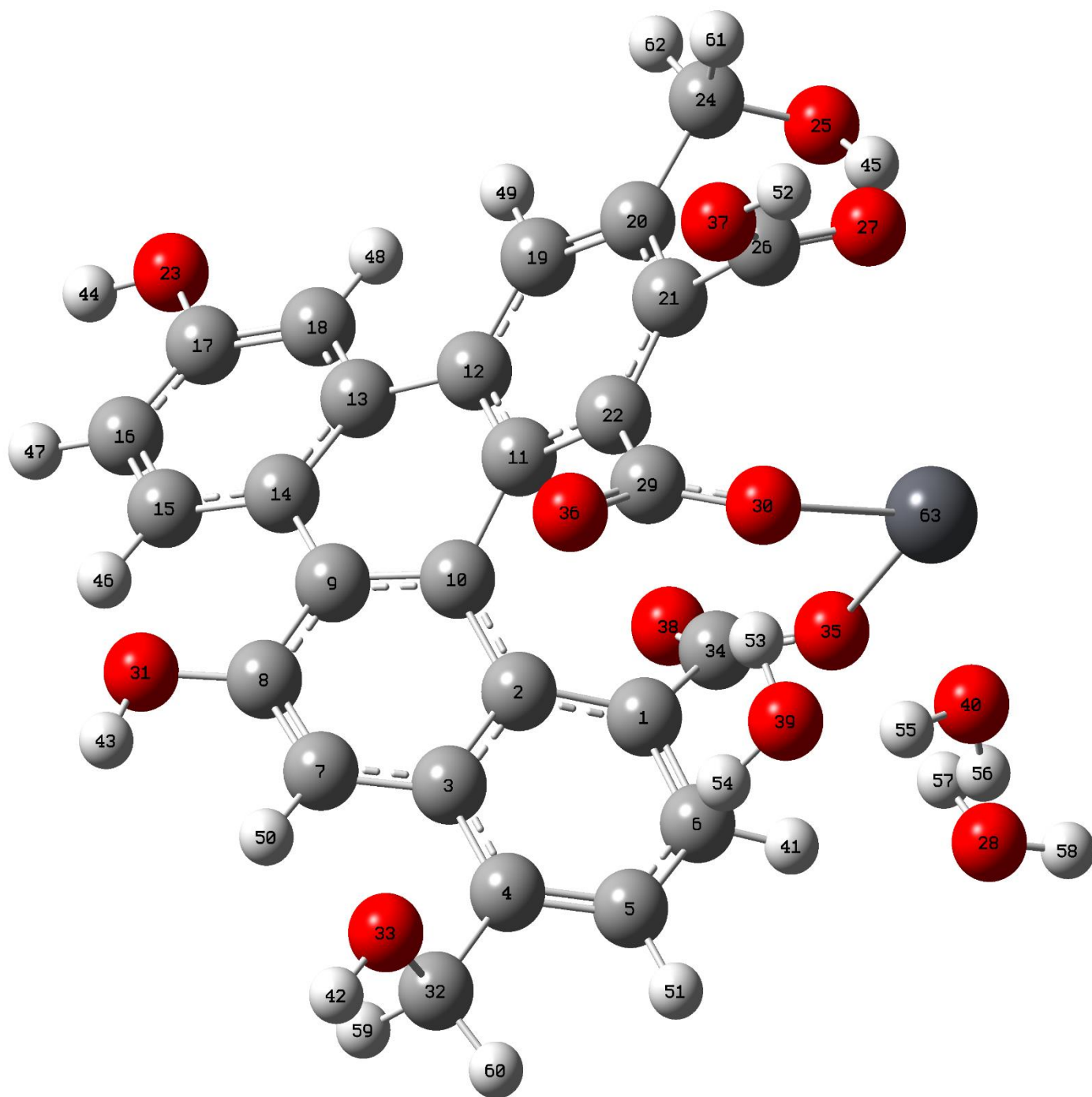
Figure S3 – Atom numbering of the structure CQDOT-Cd<sup>2+</sup> with three explicit water molecules



Tab S3 - Cartesian coordinates of the system CQDOT- Cd<sup>2+</sup> with three explicit water molecules

| Center Number | Atomic Number | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|               |               | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| C1            | 6             | 0.743012                | 1.470709  | 1.109898  |
| C2            | 6             | -0.310399               | 1.813539  | 0.265672  |
| C3            | 6             | -0.372847               | 3.133919  | -0.291935 |
| C4            | 6             | 0.770013                | 3.980519  | -0.220286 |
| C5            | 6             | 1.869177                | 3.554867  | 0.527845  |
| C6            | 6             | 1.853142                | 2.342906  | 1.203417  |
| C7            | 6             | -1.619054               | 3.561157  | -0.777317 |
| C8            | 6             | -2.807210               | 2.807186  | -0.537791 |
| C9            | 6             | -2.757209               | 1.499908  | -0.074603 |
| C10           | 6             | -1.428115               | 0.922219  | -0.047452 |
| C11           | 6             | -1.285276               | -0.441633 | -0.386843 |
| C12           | 6             | -2.410241               | -1.316877 | -0.201105 |
| C13           | 6             | -3.698691               | -0.762484 | 0.252112  |
| C14           | 6             | -3.895178               | 0.640874  | 0.236924  |
| C15           | 6             | -5.152130               | 1.147979  | 0.605014  |
| C16           | 6             | -6.192775               | 0.312290  | 0.986647  |
| C17           | 6             | -5.985920               | -1.067204 | 1.017074  |
| C18           | 6             | -4.750300               | -1.594039 | 0.657210  |
| C19           | 6             | -2.247605               | -2.682223 | -0.428178 |
| C20           | 6             | -1.058932               | -3.237586 | -0.888790 |
| C21           | 6             | 0.001466                | -2.358802 | -1.207738 |
| C22           | 6             | -0.090286               | -0.994527 | -0.970827 |
| C23           | 8             | -6.952633               | -1.950108 | 1.394344  |
| C24           | 6             | -0.946157               | -4.733069 | -1.079237 |
| C25           | 8             | -0.127216               | -5.351059 | -0.090902 |
| C26           | 6             | 1.192370                | -2.947886 | -1.899197 |
| C27           | 8             | 1.869775                | -3.852833 | -1.439421 |
| C28           | 8             | 4.072837                | 0.878196  | 3.325617  |
| C29           | 6             | 1.002945                | -0.098059 | -1.520891 |
| C30           | 8             | 2.207447                | -0.349220 | -1.147513 |
| C31           | 8             | -4.004298               | 3.384460  | -0.791643 |
| C32           | 6             | 0.781263                | 5.333030  | -0.873673 |
| C33           | 8             | 0.618532                | 5.180702  | -2.283283 |
| C34           | 6             | 0.689452                | 0.272112  | 2.038903  |
| C35           | 8             | 1.804113                | -0.343612 | 2.262003  |
| C36           | 8             | 0.697963                | 0.779224  | -2.334669 |
| C37           | 8             | 1.408815                | -2.434923 | -3.107594 |
| C38           | 8             | -0.375786               | -0.005975 | 2.599222  |
| C39           | 8             | 3.972439                | 1.703728  | -1.408141 |
| C40           | 8             | 4.833549                | 0.265864  | 0.744419  |
| H41           | 1             | 2.702181                | 2.062713  | 1.815748  |
| H42           | 1             | 0.549026                | 6.060168  | -2.677422 |
| H43           | 1             | -3.882064               | 4.283169  | -1.128471 |
| H44           | 1             | -7.765287               | -1.479361 | 1.624115  |
| H45           | 1             | 0.777495                | -5.031572 | -0.246276 |
| H46           | 1             | -5.315470               | 2.217998  | 0.611002  |
| H47           | 1             | -7.152510               | 0.734220  | 1.273401  |
| H48           | 1             | -4.636396               | -2.670722 | 0.708420  |
| H49           | 1             | -3.079745               | -3.358290 | -0.264784 |
| H50           | 1             | -1.719876               | 4.552415  | -1.210315 |
| H51           | 1             | 2.740434                | 4.200820  | 0.611164  |
| H52           | 1             | 2.204383                | -2.848716 | -3.485604 |
| H53           | 1             | 3.261229                | 1.021612  | -1.481417 |
| H54           | 1             | 3.503937                | 2.518461  | -1.178740 |
| H55           | 1             | 4.629723                | 0.952479  | 0.064797  |
| H56           | 1             | 4.752038                | 0.672730  | 1.635037  |
| H57           | 1             | 3.227241                | 0.400546  | 3.189381  |
| H58           | 1             | 4.552108                | 0.392375  | 4.009034  |
| H59           | 1             | -0.030943               | 5.955938  | -0.468624 |
| H60           | 1             | 1.729422                | 5.836702  | -0.650501 |
| H61           | 1             | -0.569063               | -4.974682 | -2.082968 |
| H62           | 1             | -1.934283               | -5.187651 | -0.981785 |
| Cd63          | 48            | 3.122605                | -1.310414 | 0.699296  |

Figure S4 – Atom numbering of the structure CQDOT-Pb2+ with three explicit water molecules





Tab S4 - Cartesian coordinates of the system CQDOT- Pb<sup>2+</sup> with three explicit water molecules

| Standard orientation: |               |                         |           |           |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Center Number         | Atomic Number | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|                       |               | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| C1                    | 6             | 0.182720                | 1.721045  | 1.030300  |
| C2                    | 6             | -0.957640               | 1.878997  | 0.248027  |
| C3                    | 6             | -1.290260               | 3.175533  | -0.265044 |
| C4                    | 6             | -0.322581               | 4.218688  | -0.212589 |
| C5                    | 6             | 0.872175                | 3.990000  | 0.473241  |
| C6                    | 6             | 1.117153                | 2.781083  | 1.107825  |
| C7                    | 6             | -2.612502               | 3.368335  | -0.694444 |
| C8                    | 6             | -3.624240               | 2.392976  | -0.440732 |
| C9                    | 6             | -3.306920               | 1.105445  | -0.027617 |
| C10                   | 6             | -1.892362               | 0.795834  | -0.057826 |
| C11                   | 6             | -1.498267               | -0.504749 | -0.441904 |
| C12                   | 6             | -2.430776               | -1.586323 | -0.266540 |
| C13                   | 6             | -3.781822               | -1.303691 | 0.249073  |
| C14                   | 6             | -4.246179               | 0.034319  | 0.287304  |
| C15                   | 6             | -5.562304               | 0.276357  | 0.714681  |
| C16                   | 6             | -6.402044               | -0.755725 | 1.109485  |
| C17                   | 6             | -5.927788               | -2.068270 | 1.094945  |
| C18                   | 6             | -4.630966               | -2.334452 | 0.670472  |
| C19                   | 6             | -2.025047               | -2.887982 | -0.554755 |
| C20                   | 6             | -0.767229               | -3.195360 | -1.062668 |
| C21                   | 6             | 0.100211                | -2.123200 | -1.354448 |
| C22                   | 6             | -0.228619               | -0.809659 | -1.047832 |
| O23                   | 8             | -6.682873               | -3.130885 | 1.488526  |
| C24                   | 6             | -0.360965               | -4.630794 | -1.303530 |
| O25                   | 8             | 0.556758                | -5.105698 | -0.322583 |
| C26                   | 6             | 1.372065                | -2.443379 | -2.078002 |
| O27                   | 8             | 2.263097                | -3.129686 | -1.600284 |
| O28                   | 8             | 3.599839                | 1.696291  | 3.204053  |
| C29                   | 6             | 0.717140                | 0.266253  | -1.529523 |
| O30                   | 8             | 1.960227                | 0.153171  | -1.144617 |
| O31                   | 8             | -4.916412               | 2.733537  | -0.634725 |
| C32                   | 6             | -0.594894               | 5.561408  | -0.829075 |
| O33                   | 8             | -0.811681               | 5.401350  | -2.229799 |
| C34                   | 6             | 0.402754                | 0.500407  | 1.888688  |
| O35                   | 8             | 1.643318                | 0.087748  | 1.998933  |
| O36                   | 8             | 0.334165                | 1.148239  | -2.289422 |
| O37                   | 8             | 1.425151                | -1.937381 | -3.302182 |
| O38                   | 8             | -0.529069               | -0.008813 | 2.501867  |
| O39                   | 8             | 3.417049                | 2.490103  | -1.409430 |
| O40                   | 8             | 4.297218                | 1.025850  | 0.669825  |
| H41                   | 1             | 2.032091                | 2.647631  | 1.673841  |
| H42                   | 1             | -1.067891               | 6.257439  | -2.597363 |
| H43                   | 1             | -4.986374               | 3.651175  | -0.933909 |
| H44                   | 1             | -7.554720               | -2.833534 | 1.781854  |
| H45                   | 1             | 1.384706                | -4.612809 | -0.442548 |
| H46                   | 1             | -5.931836               | 1.292650  | 0.759488  |
| H47                   | 1             | -7.413068               | -0.536601 | 1.443266  |
| H48                   | 1             | -4.305080               | -3.367918 | 0.689568  |
| H49                   | 1             | -2.712389               | -3.712638 | -0.401887 |
| H50                   | 1             | -2.916176               | 4.330103  | -1.097874 |
| H51                   | 1             | 1.609995                | 4.786130  | 0.539254  |
| H52                   | 1             | 2.283304                | -2.162098 | -3.704466 |
| H53                   | 1             | 2.762356                | 1.775091  | -1.561900 |
| H54                   | 1             | 2.889495                | 3.268460  | -1.182314 |
| H55                   | 1             | 4.058102                | 1.711189  | -0.010335 |
| H56                   | 1             | 4.198512                | 1.427008  | 1.569211  |
| H57                   | 1             | 2.840423                | 1.083307  | 3.181092  |
| H58                   | 1             | 4.172020                | 1.397351  | 3.923062  |
| H59                   | 1             | -1.481237               | 6.017237  | -0.361867 |
| H60                   | 1             | 0.257398                | 6.226439  | -0.646348 |
| H61                   | 1             | 0.063539                | -4.758179 | -2.309122 |
| H62                   | 1             | -1.238485               | -5.276635 | -1.233884 |
| Pb63                  | 82            | 2.985319                | -0.909024 | 0.551669  |

## Details on PCM method and electronic spectra calculations

### PCM – Polarizable Continuum Model (of solvation)

According to the model, the charge distribution of the target molecule (or group of molecules/ions) identified as solute, is embedded into a given volume of space (the "molecular cavity") dug into an infinite continuum dielectric (the solvent) characterized by specific macroscopic properties (density, refractive index, dielectric permittivity  $\epsilon$ , etc.). The field produced by the solute charges into the exterior volume interacts with the solvent itself (described as a polarizable dielectric), and leads to the establishment of an apparent surface charge distribution  $\zeta$  on the cavity surface. A new field, called reaction field, is produced in response to such charge and it can ultimately modify the previous solute charge distribution. The combination of solute and solvent reaction fields can be analytically treated, so that a final state in which both distributions are mutually equilibrated is obtained.

Within the quantum mechanical framework, the interactions between solvent and solute are modeled through specific (perturbation or reaction) operators of the solute Hamiltonian.

The Schrödinger equation describing the system becomes

$$(H^0 + V^{Reac})|\psi\rangle = E|\psi\rangle$$

where  $H^0$  is the Hamiltonian in the absence of the solvent.

The solvent operator  $V^{Reac}$  acting on  $\psi$  depends on the surface apparent charge  $\zeta$  and ultimately, as said before, on the solute charge distribution (i.e. the solute wavefunction  $\psi$ ). This mutual interactions between  $\psi$  and  $V^{Reac}$  assures that the solution of the equation represents an equilibrated solute–solvent system.

### Calculation of electronic spectra

Regarding the electronic transitions, the Gaussian program outputs the energy/wavelength value of the transition as well as the "Oscillator Strength"  $f$ , an adimensional quantity that is related to the Dipole Strength  $D$  stored internally by the relation

$$f_i = \frac{8\pi^2 \bar{\nu}_i m_e c}{3he^2} D_i$$

In turn, the dipole strength is linked to  $\bar{\nu}$ , the excitation energy (in wavenumbers, i. e. the reciprocal of wavelength) and to  $\epsilon_i^{max}$ , the intensity at the maximum (i. e. when the incident radiation  $\bar{\nu} = \bar{\nu}_i$ ) by

$$D_i = 4 \cdot \left[ \frac{3 \cdot 1000 \cdot \ln(10) \cdot hc}{32\pi^3 N} \right] \cdot \epsilon_i^{max} \sqrt{\pi} \frac{\sigma}{\bar{\nu}_i}$$

In these equations N is the Avogadro constant, e is the electron charge,  $m_e$  the electron mass, c the speed of light, h the Planck constant and  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation (bandwidth) equal to the half-width of the band when  $\epsilon = \epsilon^{max}/e$  if the band shape is Gaussian.

To obtain simulated UV-Vis spectra comparable to experimental ones, the software Gaussview was used. The code assigns a Gaussian band shape

$$\epsilon_i(\bar{\nu}) = \epsilon_i^{max} \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{\bar{\nu} - \bar{\nu}_i}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right]$$

to every calculated absorption/emission transition and plots the convolution of all the bands. For the calculations of these spectra, the broadening assigned to each transition was 0.333 eV (as Half Width at Half Height).

See the webpage <https://gaussian.com/uvvisplot/> for further details-

## Wavefunction analysis

- 1) Mulliken Partial charges of ground (GS) and excited (ES) states and their differences for models without explicit water.

The charge of hydrogen atoms is condensed in the heavy atom. Refer to figures/tables S1 and S2 for atom labeling.

|       | Cd GS     | Cd ES     | Delta     | Pb GS     | Pb ES     | Delta     | Type     |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| C1    | -0.913075 | -0.892919 | 0.020156  | -0.988626 | -0.964650 | 0.023976  | Aring    |
| C2    | 0.468504  | 0.452193  | -0.016311 | 0.468772  | 0.450918  | -0.017854 | Bring    |
| C3    | 0.484823  | 0.454373  | -0.03045  | 0.474850  | 0.449949  | -0.024901 | Bring    |
| C4    | -0.147725 | -0.139927 | 0.007798  | -0.109829 | -0.101197 | 0.008632  | Aring    |
| C5    | 0.036759  | 0.024034  | -0.012725 | -0.004349 | -0.011155 | -0.006806 | Aring    |
| C6    | 0.331069  | 0.331583  | 0.000514  | 0.316536  | 0.315235  | -0.001301 | Aring    |
| C7    | 0.612100  | 0.648991  | 0.036891  | 0.638474  | 0.680784  | 0.04231   | Bring    |
| C8    | 0.064355  | -0.026100 | -0.090455 | 0.056662  | -0.029508 | -0.08617  | Bring    |
| C9    | 0.137864  | 0.140713  | 0.002849  | 0.172881  | 0.159795  | -0.013086 | Bring    |
| C10   | 0.290258  | 0.251294  | -0.038964 | 0.343024  | 0.308807  | -0.034217 | Bring    |
| C11   | -0.245186 | -0.237302 | 0.007884  | -0.124810 | -0.128455 | -0.003645 | Ering    |
| C12   | 0.479354  | 0.479139  | -0.000215 | 0.575832  | 0.577264  | 0.001432  | Ering    |
| C13   | -0.269137 | -0.278537 | -0.0094   | -0.817658 | -0.847987 | -0.030329 | Ering    |
| C14   | -0.172986 | -0.181452 | -0.008466 | -0.035328 | -0.053491 | -0.018163 | Ering    |
| C15   | -0.176796 | -0.166278 | 0.010518  | -0.057812 | -0.054904 | 0.002908  | Cring    |
| C16   | 0.247269  | 0.254205  | 0.006936  | 0.180954  | 0.204254  | 0.0233    | Cring    |
| C17   | -0.709024 | -0.678052 | 0.030972  | -0.724300 | -0.701763 | 0.022537  | Cring    |
| C18   | 0.204800  | 0.231368  | 0.026568  | 0.188910  | 0.207507  | 0.018597  | Cring    |
| C19   | 0.503472  | 0.537245  | 0.033773  | 0.554952  | 0.591252  | 0.0363    | Dring    |
| C20   | -0.596791 | -0.618221 | -0.02143  | -0.476767 | -0.487142 | -0.010375 | Dring    |
| C21   | 0.162897  | 0.138655  | -0.024242 | -0.033664 | -0.049040 | -0.015376 | Dring    |
| C22   | -0.079236 | -0.055673 | 0.023563  | 0.027591  | 0.059752  | 0.032161  | Dring    |
| C23   | 0.182053  | 0.204976  | 0.022923  | 0.190980  | 0.219629  | 0.028649  | C00(E)   |
| O24   | -0.485548 | -0.481817 | 0.003731  | -0.416422 | -0.418421 | -0.001999 |          |
| C25   | -0.133400 | -0.151280 | -0.01788  | -0.330996 | -0.350877 | -0.019881 | CH2OH(E) |
| O26   | -0.154271 | -0.155872 | -0.001601 | -0.118545 | -0.119356 | -0.000811 |          |
| C27   | 0.469864  | 0.471714  | 0.00185   | 0.916604  | 0.945498  | 0.028894  | C00H(E)  |
| O28   | 0.009218  | 0.006431  | -0.002787 | 0.098245  | 0.093744  | -0.004501 |          |
| O29   | -0.194959 | -0.175522 | 0.019437  | -0.190087 | -0.170048 | 0.020039  |          |
| C30   | 0.052159  | 0.066527  | 0.014368  | 0.054648  | 0.072272  | 0.017624  | CH2OH(D) |
| O31   | -0.199542 | -0.196238 | 0.003304  | -0.200179 | -0.196240 | 0.003939  |          |
| C32   | 0.372912  | 0.373851  | 0.000939  | 0.143192  | 0.128645  | -0.014547 | C00(D)   |
| O33   | -0.497176 | -0.493291 | 0.003885  | -0.424782 | -0.420942 | 0.00384   |          |
| O34   | -0.205826 | -0.207597 | -0.001771 | -0.202428 | -0.202038 | 0.00039   |          |
| O35   | -0.515567 | -0.512249 | 0.003318  | -0.463130 | -0.461858 | 0.001272  |          |
| O36   | -0.446938 | -0.450102 | -0.003164 | -0.380734 | -0.385072 | -0.004338 |          |
| O37   | -0.477307 | -0.480515 | -0.003208 | -0.434550 | -0.441225 | -0.006675 |          |
| MET38 | 1.510761  | 1.511652  | 0.000891  | 1.131888  | 1.130066  | -0.001822 |          |

- 2) Inter Fragment Charge Transfer IFCT (Sang, S.; Chen, F.; Zhang, C, Int. J. Quantum. Chem 121(6) e26522(2021) <https://doi.org/10.1002/qua.26522>

A) IFCT for UFQD-Cd<sup>2+</sup> without explicit water

Ring A: atoms 1,4,5,6; ring B: 2,3,7,8,9,10; ring C: 15,16,17,18; ring D: 19,20,21,22; ring E: 11,12,13,14; Cd: 38. See figures/tables S1 for atom numbering

Input atom indices for fragment 1, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15  
1,4,5,6

Input atom indices for fragment 2, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15  
2,3,7,8,9,10

Input atom indices for fragment 3, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15  
15,16,17,18

Input atom indices for fragment 4, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15  
19,20,21,22

Input atom indices for fragment 5, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15  
11,12,13,14

Input atom indices for fragment 6, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15  
38

Contribution of each fragment to hole and electron:

1 Hole: 6.37 % Electron: 7.06 %

2 Hole: 23.94 % Electron: 39.76 %

3 Hole: 30.09 % Electron: 18.32 %

4 Hole: 23.60 % Electron: 17.32 %

5 Hole: 10.51 % Electron: 14.11 %

6 Hole: 0.00 % Electron: 0.00 %

Variation of population number of fragment 1: 0.00523

Variation of population number of fragment 2: 0.14455

Variation of population number of fragment 3: -0.11737

Variation of population number of fragment 4: -0.06427

Variation of population number of fragment 5: 0.03186

Variation of population number of fragment 6: 0.00000

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 1: 0.00450

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 2: 0.09518

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 3: 0.05513

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 4: 0.04088

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 5: 0.01484

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 6: 0.00000

Transferred electrons between fragments:

|                 |                 |                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 -> 2: 0.02531 | 1 <- 2: 0.01690 | Net 1 -> 2: 0.00841  |
| 1 -> 3: 0.01167 | 1 <- 3: 0.02124 | Net 1 -> 3: -0.00957 |
| 1 -> 4: 0.01103 | 1 <- 4: 0.01666 | Net 1 -> 4: -0.00564 |
| 1 -> 5: 0.00899 | 1 <- 5: 0.00742 | Net 1 -> 5: 0.00156  |
| 1 -> 6: 0.00000 | 1 <- 6: 0.00000 | Net 1 -> 6: 0.00000  |
| 2 -> 3: 0.04387 | 2 <- 3: 0.11961 | Net 2 -> 3: -0.07574 |
| 2 -> 4: 0.04146 | 2 <- 4: 0.09384 | Net 2 -> 4: -0.05238 |
| 2 -> 5: 0.03379 | 2 <- 5: 0.04180 | Net 2 -> 5: -0.00801 |
| 2 -> 6: 0.00000 | 2 <- 6: 0.00000 | Net 2 -> 6: 0.00000  |
| 3 -> 4: 0.05211 | 3 <- 4: 0.04325 | Net 3 -> 4: 0.00885  |
| 3 -> 5: 0.04246 | 3 <- 5: 0.01927 | Net 3 -> 5: 0.02320  |
| 3 -> 6: 0.00000 | 3 <- 6: 0.00000 | Net 3 -> 6: 0.00000  |
| 4 -> 5: 0.03332 | 4 <- 5: 0.01821 | Net 4 -> 5: 0.01511  |
| 4 -> 6: 0.00000 | 4 <- 6: 0.00000 | Net 4 -> 6: 0.00000  |
| 5 -> 6: 0.00000 | 5 <- 6: 0.00000 | Net 5 -> 6: 0.00000  |

Delta-r index: 1.39682 (see ref. 32).  $\Delta r \geq 1.5$  Bohr is the threshold to separate a valence transition from a charge-transfer transition

Lambda index: 0.84525

Transition dipole moment: 3.037 a. u.

## B) IFCT for UFQD-Pb2+ without explicit water

Ring A: atoms 1,4,5,6; ring B: 2,3,7,8,9,10; ring C: 15,16,17,18; ring D: 19,20,21,22;  
ring E: 11,12,13,14; Pb: 38. See figures/tables S2 for numbering

Input atom indices for fragment 1, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15

1,4,5,6

Input atom indices for fragment 2, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15

2,3,7,8,9,10

Input atom indices for fragment 3, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15

15,16,17,18

Input atom indices for fragment 4, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15

19,20,21,22

Input atom indices for fragment 5, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15

11,12,13,14

Input atom indices for fragment 6, e.g. 1,4,8-12,15

38

Contribution of each fragment to hole and electron:

|   |               |                   |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Hole: 7.54 %  | Electron: 6.54 %  |
| 2 | Hole: 24.09 % | Electron: 38.87 % |
| 3 | Hole: 29.30 % | Electron: 17.67 % |
| 4 | Hole: 22.02 % | Electron: 13.39 % |
| 5 | Hole: 11.68 % | Electron: 19.32 % |
| 6 | Hole: 0.00 %  | Electron: 0.62 %  |

Variation of population number of fragment 1: -0.01081

Variation of population number of fragment 2: 0.13559

Variation of population number of fragment 3: -0.11529

Variation of population number of fragment 4: -0.08553

Variation of population number of fragment 5: 0.07022

Variation of population number of fragment 6: 0.00583

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 1: 0.00493

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 2: 0.09365

Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 3: 0.05179  
Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 4: 0.02949  
Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 5: 0.02258  
Intrafragment electron redistribution of fragment 6: 0.00000

Transferred electrons between fragments:

|                 |                 |                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 -> 2: 0.02931 | 1 <- 2: 0.01576 | Net 1 -> 2: 0.01356  |
| 1 -> 3: 0.01333 | 1 <- 3: 0.01917 | Net 1 -> 3: -0.00584 |
| 1 -> 4: 0.01010 | 1 <- 4: 0.01440 | Net 1 -> 4: -0.00430 |
| 1 -> 5: 0.01457 | 1 <- 5: 0.00764 | Net 1 -> 5: 0.00693  |
| 1 -> 6: 0.00047 | 1 <- 6: 0.00000 | Net 1 -> 6: 0.00046  |
| 2 -> 3: 0.04257 | 2 <- 3: 0.11391 | Net 2 -> 3: -0.07133 |
| 2 -> 4: 0.03227 | 2 <- 4: 0.08558 | Net 2 -> 4: -0.05332 |
| 2 -> 5: 0.04655 | 2 <- 5: 0.04542 | Net 2 -> 5: 0.00113  |
| 2 -> 6: 0.00149 | 2 <- 6: 0.00001 | Net 2 -> 6: 0.00148  |
| 3 -> 4: 0.03925 | 3 <- 4: 0.03891 | Net 3 -> 4: 0.00034  |
| 3 -> 5: 0.05662 | 3 <- 5: 0.02065 | Net 3 -> 5: 0.03597  |
| 3 -> 6: 0.00181 | 3 <- 6: 0.00001 | Net 3 -> 6: 0.00181  |
| 4 -> 5: 0.04254 | 4 <- 5: 0.01565 | Net 4 -> 5: 0.02689  |
| 4 -> 6: 0.00136 | 4 <- 6: 0.00000 | Net 4 -> 6: 0.00136  |
| 5 -> 6: 0.00072 | 5 <- 6: 0.00001 | Net 5 -> 6: 0.00072  |

Delta-r index: 1.46032 Bohr (see ref. 32).  $\Delta r \geq 1.5$  Bohr is the threshold to separate a valence transition from a charge-transfer transition

Lambda index: 0.83280

Transition dipole moment: 2.917 a. u.