

VIP **Gold Nanoclusters** Very Important Paper

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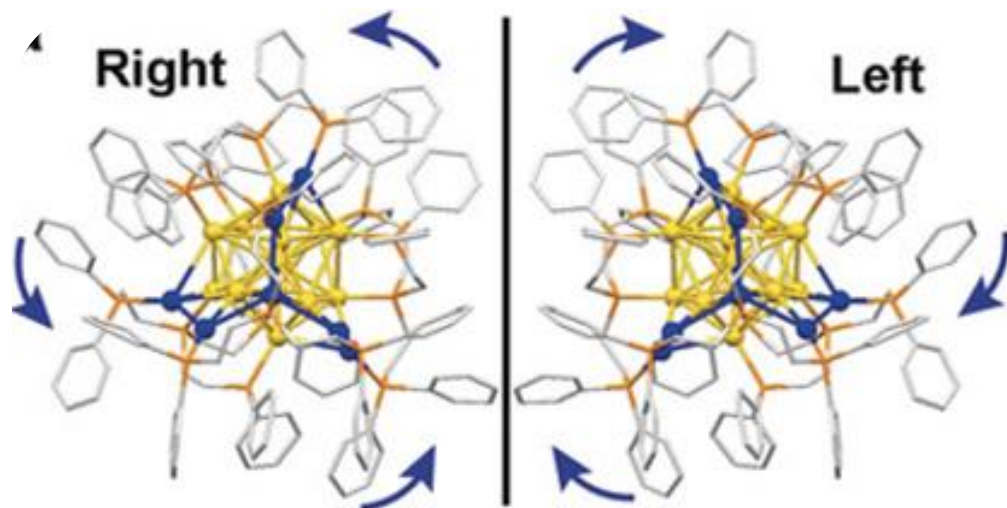
# Enantioseparation of $\text{Au}_{20}(\text{PP}_3)_4\text{Cl}_4$ Clusters with Intrinsically Chiral Cores

Yanfei Zhu, Hui Wang, Kaiwei Wan, Jun Guo, Chunting He, Yue Yu, Luyang Zhao, Yin Zhang, Jiawei Lv, Lin Shi, Renxi Jin, Xinxiang Zhang, Xinghua Shi, and Zhiyong Tang\*

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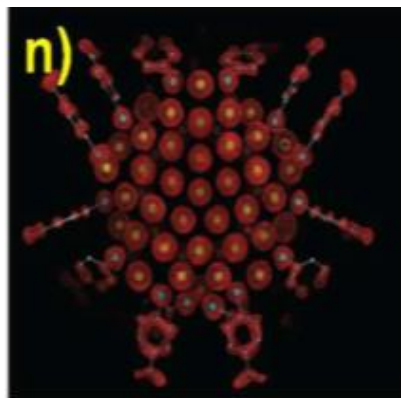
Esma Khatun  
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# Introduction

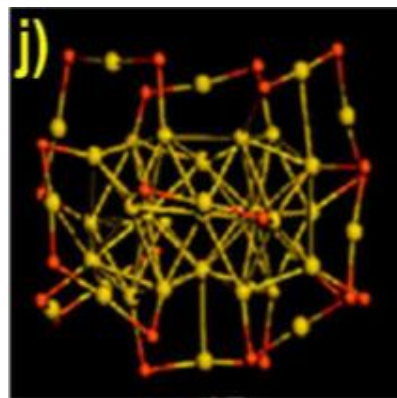
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- ❑ Chirality is ubiquitous in nature and pervades much of modern science. Unlike the extensively studied molecular chirality and that of the microscopic helix, the nanoscale chirality between them remains largely uninvestigated.
- ❑ Although significant advances have been achieved in this field, the chiral evolution from molecules to nanostructures, as well as the corresponding influence on their properties are not clearly elucidated yet.
- ❑ It is suggested that atomically precise chiral Au nanoclusters would become an ideal platform at the nanoscale for understanding the chiral transfer across the organic–inorganic interface and structure–property relationships.
- ❑ Chirality could arise because of the following four reasons: (i) ligands arrangement on the cluster surface, (ii) cis/trans isomerism in the bridged Au–S rings, (iii) inherent chirality of the cluster core, and (iv) chiral thiolate ligands.

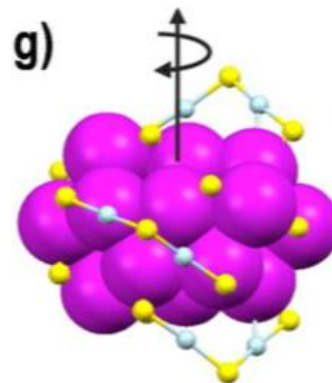
# Background



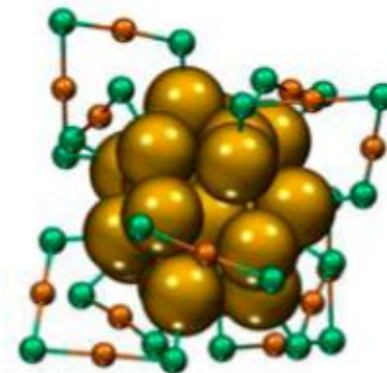
$\text{Au}_{102}(\text{p-MBA})_{44}$



$\text{Au}_{38}(\text{PET})_{24}$



$\text{Au}_{28}(\text{TBBT})_{20}$



$\text{Au}_{40}(\text{2-PET})_{24}$

Angewandte Chemie International Edition

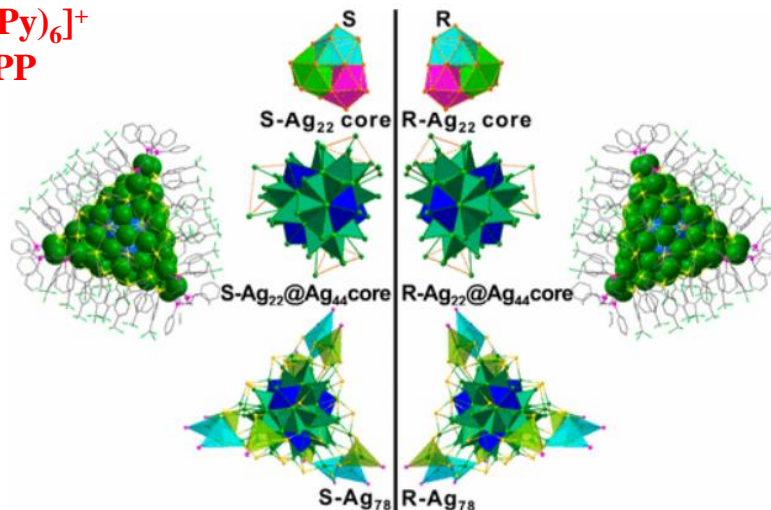
10.1002/anie.201800327

WILEY-VCH

## COMMUNICATION

### From Symmetry Breaking to Unraveling Chirality of Metal Nanoclusters

Guocheng Deng,<sup>[a]</sup> Sami Malola,<sup>[b]</sup> Juanzhu Yan,<sup>[a]</sup> Yingzi Han,<sup>[a]</sup> Peng Yuan,<sup>[a]</sup> Chaowei Zhao,<sup>[a]</sup> Xiting Yuan,<sup>[a]</sup> Shuichao Lin,<sup>[a]</sup> Zichao Tang,<sup>[a]</sup> Boon K. Teo,<sup>[a]</sup> Hannu Häkkinen,<sup>[b]</sup> Nanfeng Zheng<sup>\*[a]</sup>



**J | A | C | S**  
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Cite This: *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2017, 139, 16113-16116

Communication

pubs.acs.org/JACS

### From Racemic Metal Nanoparticles to Optically Pure Enantiomers in One Pot

Huayan Yang,<sup>†</sup> Juanzhu Yan,<sup>†</sup> Yu Wang,<sup>†</sup> Guocheng Deng, Haifeng Su, Xiaojing Zhao, Chaofa Xu, Boon K. Teo,<sup>\*[a]</sup> and Nanfeng Zheng<sup>\*[a]</sup>

Table S9. Anisotropy factor of the reported chiral Au clusters.

Cluster	Wavelength	g-factors	Prepare method	References				
Au <sub>38</sub> (SCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph) <sub>24</sub>	747 nm	4 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Chiral HPLC	6				
Au <sub>40</sub> (SCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph) <sub>24</sub>	534 nm	3 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Chiral HPLC	7				
Au <sub>102</sub> (p-MBA) <sub>44</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		Chiral Phase Transfer	8				
Au <sub>28</sub> (TBBT) <sub>20</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		Chiral HPLC	9				
Au <sub>20</sub> (TBBT) <sub>16</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	10				
Au <sub>30</sub> S(S-t-Bu) <sub>18</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	11	Au <sub>38</sub> (SG) <sub>24</sub>	620 nm	1.08 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Chiral ligand 19
Au <sub>40</sub> (O-MBT) <sub>24</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	12	[Au <sub>11</sub> (BINAP) <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	430 nm	1.2 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Chiral ligand 20
Au <sub>44</sub> (TBBT) <sub>28</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	13	Au <sub>10</sub> (R/S-BINAP) <sub>4</sub> (μ <sub>3</sub> -S) <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	340 nm	1 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Chiral ligand 21
Au <sub>44</sub> (2,4-DMBT) <sub>26</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	14	[Au <sub>24</sub> [(S/R)-chiraphos] <sub>6</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	500 nm	3 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Chiral ligand 22
Au <sub>52</sub> (TBBT) <sub>32</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	12				
Au <sub>130</sub> (p-MBT) <sub>50</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	15	Au <sub>20</sub> (PP <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub>	325 nm	3.5 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Supramolecular assembly This work
Au <sub>133</sub> (TBBT) <sub>52</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	16				
Au <sub>246</sub> (p-MBT) <sub>80</sub>	Cannot be calculated [a]		No separation	17				
Au <sub>25</sub> (PET*) <sub>18</sub>	Cannot be calculated [b]		Chiral ligand	18				
Au <sub>25</sub> (Capt) <sub>18</sub>	Cannot be calculated [b]		Chiral ligand	18				
Au <sub>25</sub> (SG) <sub>18</sub>	Cannot be calculated [b]		Chiral ligand	18				
Au <sub>38</sub> (Capt) <sub>24</sub>	747 nm	4 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	Chiral ligand	19				

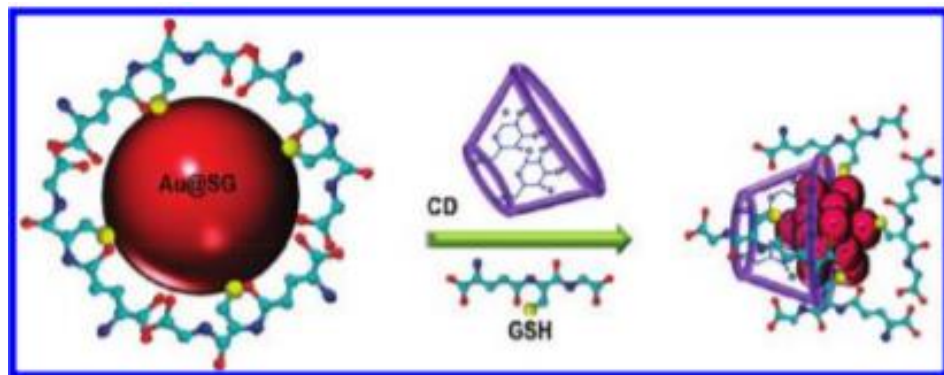
## In this paper...

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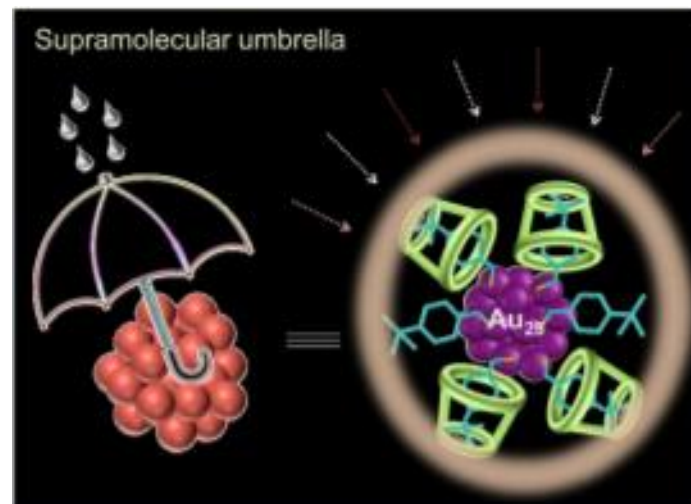
- ❑  $\text{Au}_{20}(\text{PP}_3)_4\text{Cl}_4$  ( $\text{PP}_3$ =tris(2-(diphenylphosphino)ethyl) phosphine), abbreviated as  $\text{Au}_{20}$ , is the only Au nanocluster with an intrinsically chiral core without achiral environment (chiral ligands or Au-thiolate staples), making it a unique object to understand chiral evolution and explore chiral applications.
- ❑ Herein, they report a supramolecular assembly strategy with a cyclodextrin ( $\alpha$ -CD) to afford enantiopure  $\text{Au}_{20}$  in bulk, and an enantiomer excess (ee) value of as-separated  $\text{Au}_{20}$  of 97%.
- ❑ As a result of its high purity, the distinctive optical activity of  $\text{Au}_{20}$ , which originates from electronic transitions confined in chiral cores, is fully explored.
- ❑ Theoretical studies reveals that the enantioseparation results from the preferential self-assembly of  $\alpha$ -CD with organic ligands on the surface of right handed  $\text{Au}_{20}$ .



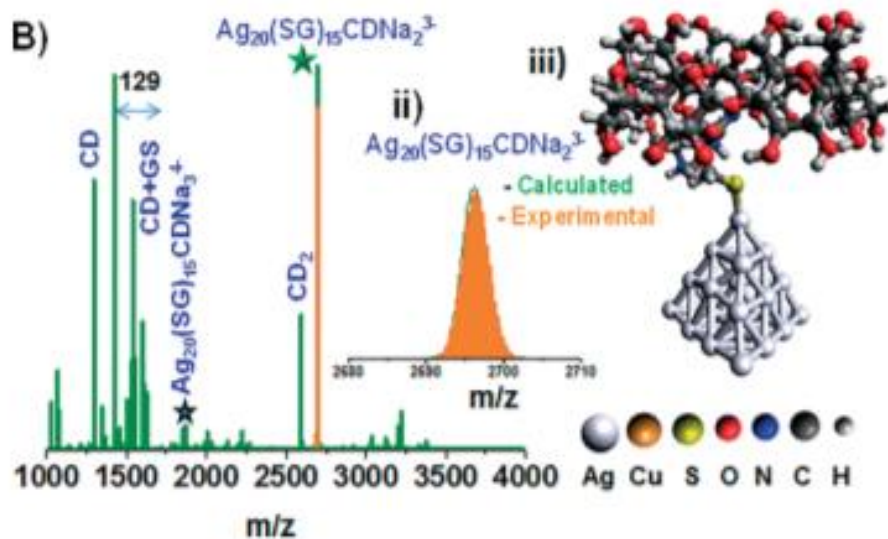
# Relevance to our group



E. S. Shibu, T. Pradeep, *Chem. Mater.*, 23 (2011) 989-999



Ammu Mathew *et al.*, *ACS Nano*, 8 (2014) 139-152



Abhijit Nag *et al.*, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.*, 2017 (2017) 3072-3079

### Synthesis and Structure Determination of a New Au<sub>20</sub> Nanocluster Protected by Tripodal Tetraphosphine Ligands

Jing Chen, Qian-Fan Zhang, Paul G. Williard, and Lai-Sheng Wang\*

Department of Chemistry, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912, United States

#### ➤ Au<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>PP<sub>3</sub> complex was firstly synthesized

0.3 mmol PP<sub>3</sub> (45 ml acetone)      1.2 mmol Me<sub>2</sub>SAuCl (75 ml acetone)

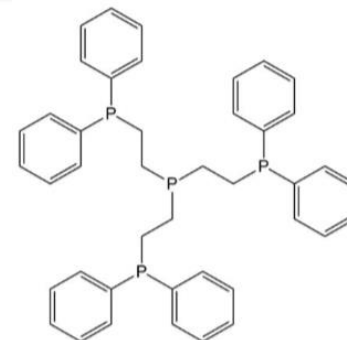
stirred for about  
2 h

A white precipitate

Precipitate was collected by filtration, and washed with acetone, diethyl ether and pentane in sequence

White product was dried under vacuum to get the Au<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>PP<sub>3</sub> complex.

PP<sub>3</sub> =



#### ➤ Synthesis of Au<sub>20</sub>(PP<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>

32 mg Au<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>PP<sub>3</sub> in 25 mL DCM

heated to 50°C

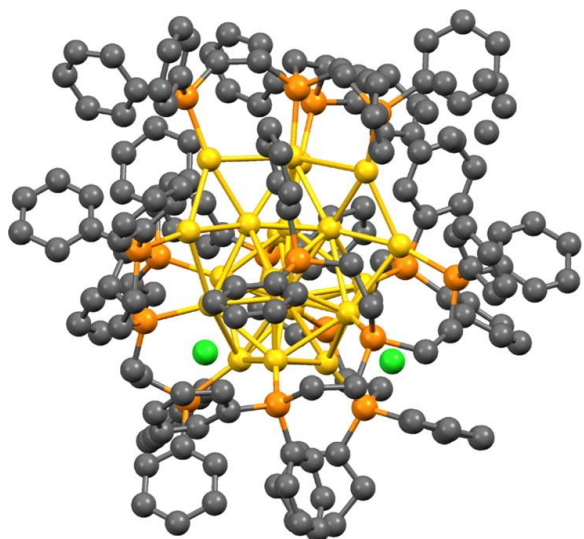
A clear solution

Addition of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (ethanol)

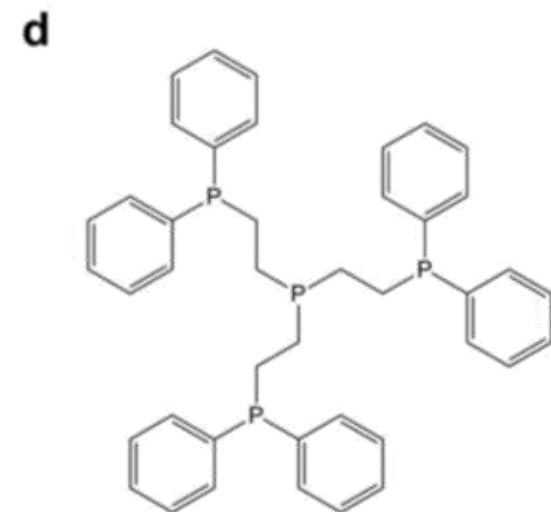
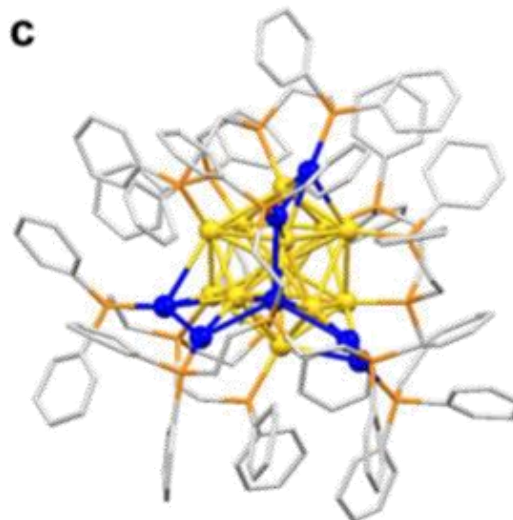
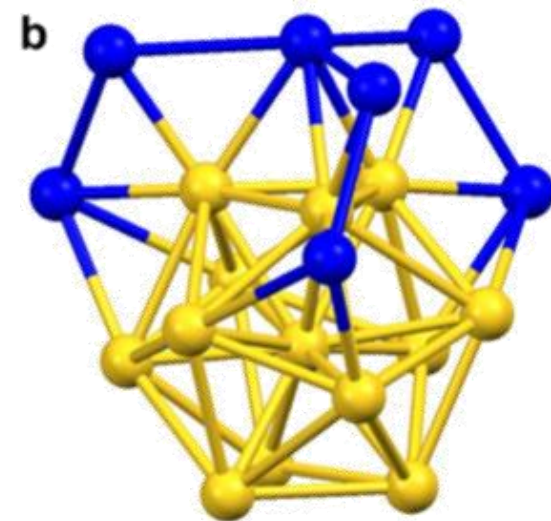
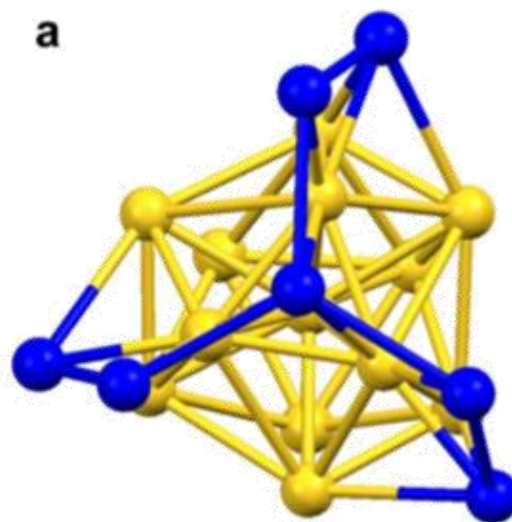
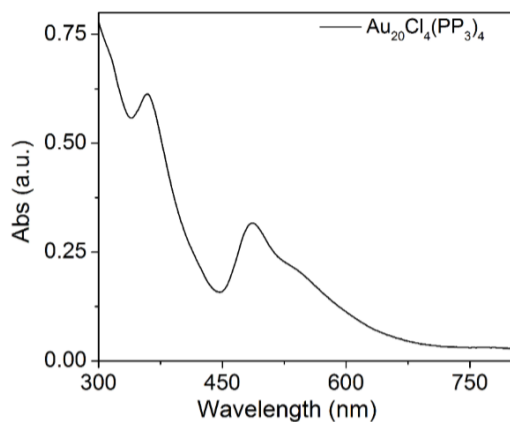
After 4 h

DCM was evaporated and washed several times with DCM-toluene mixture

# Structure of $\text{Au}_{20}(\text{PP}_3)_4\text{Cl}_4$

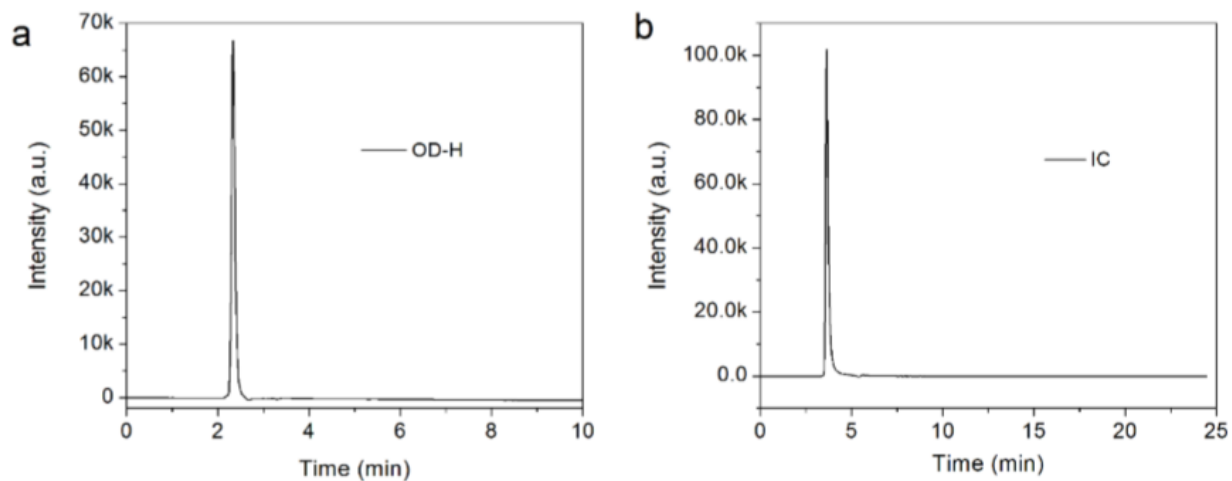


Total structure of  $\text{Au}_{20}(\text{PP}_3)_4\text{Cl}_4$ .

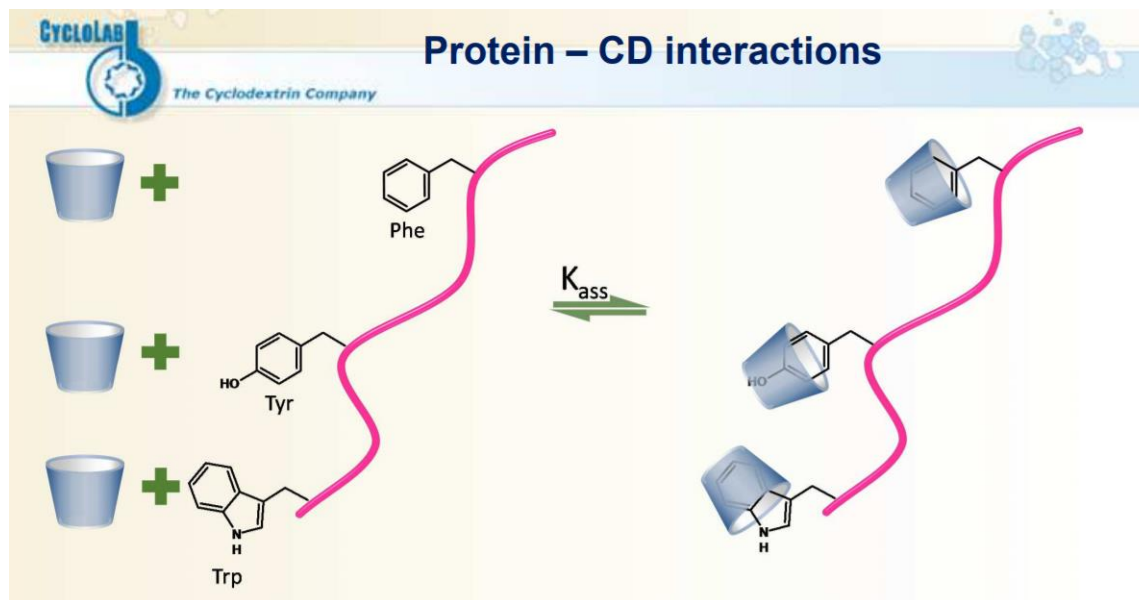


**Figure S1.** (a) Top view of  $\text{Au}_{20}$  core, and chirality of Au atoms is highlighted in blue. (b) Side view. (c) Top view of  $[\text{Au}_{20}(\text{PP}_3)_4]^{4+}$ . (d) Structure of tris(2-(diphenylphosphino)ethyl)phosphine ( $\text{PP}_3$ ) ligand. Color labels: golden and blue, Au; orange, P; gray, C. H atoms are omitted.

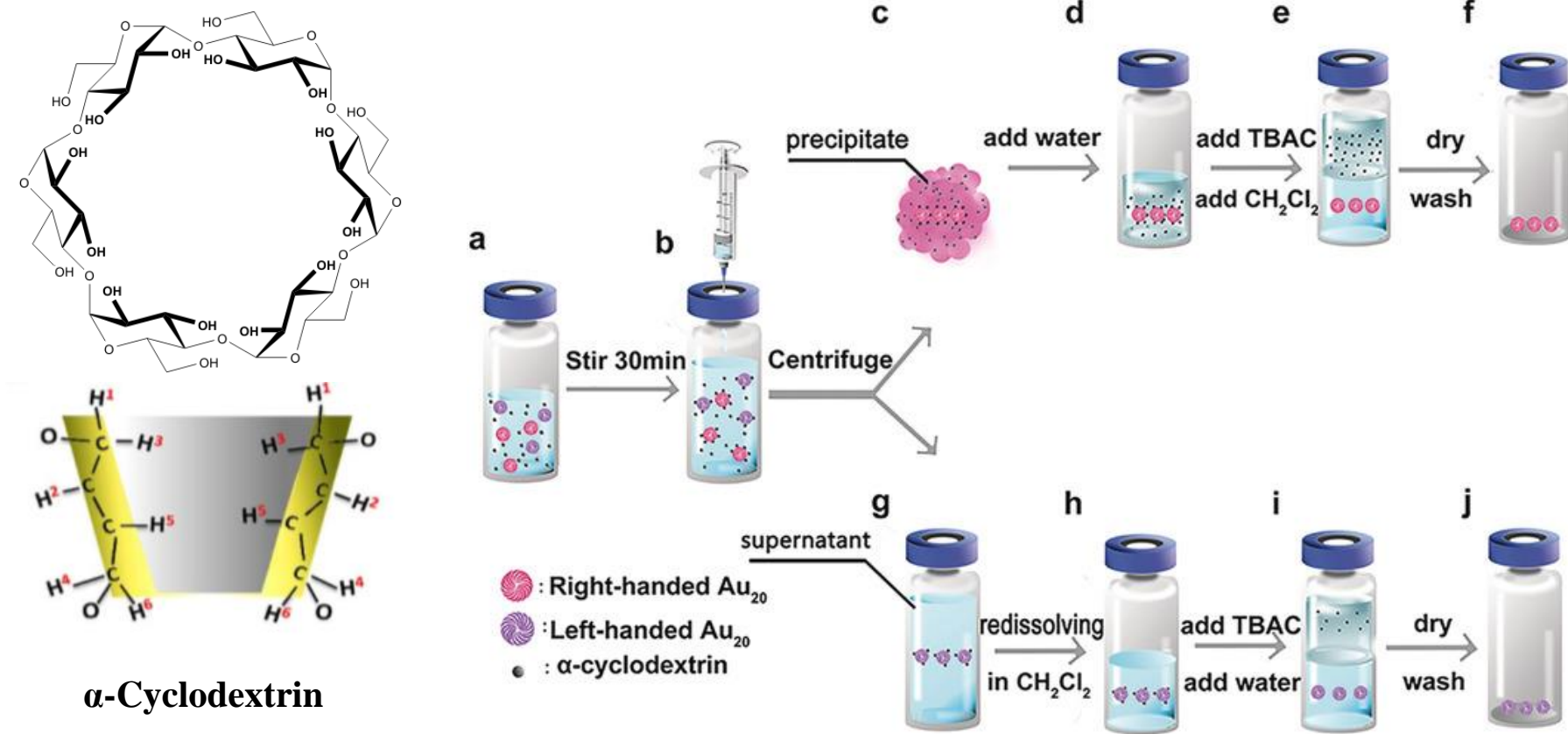




**Figure S3.** (a) HPLC chromatogram of enantioseparation of racemic Au<sub>20</sub> with Chiralcel OD-H column (5 μm, 4.6 mm × 250 mm). (b) HPLC chromatogram of enantioseparation of racemic Au<sub>20</sub> with Chiralcel IC column (5 μm, 4.6 mm × 250 mm).

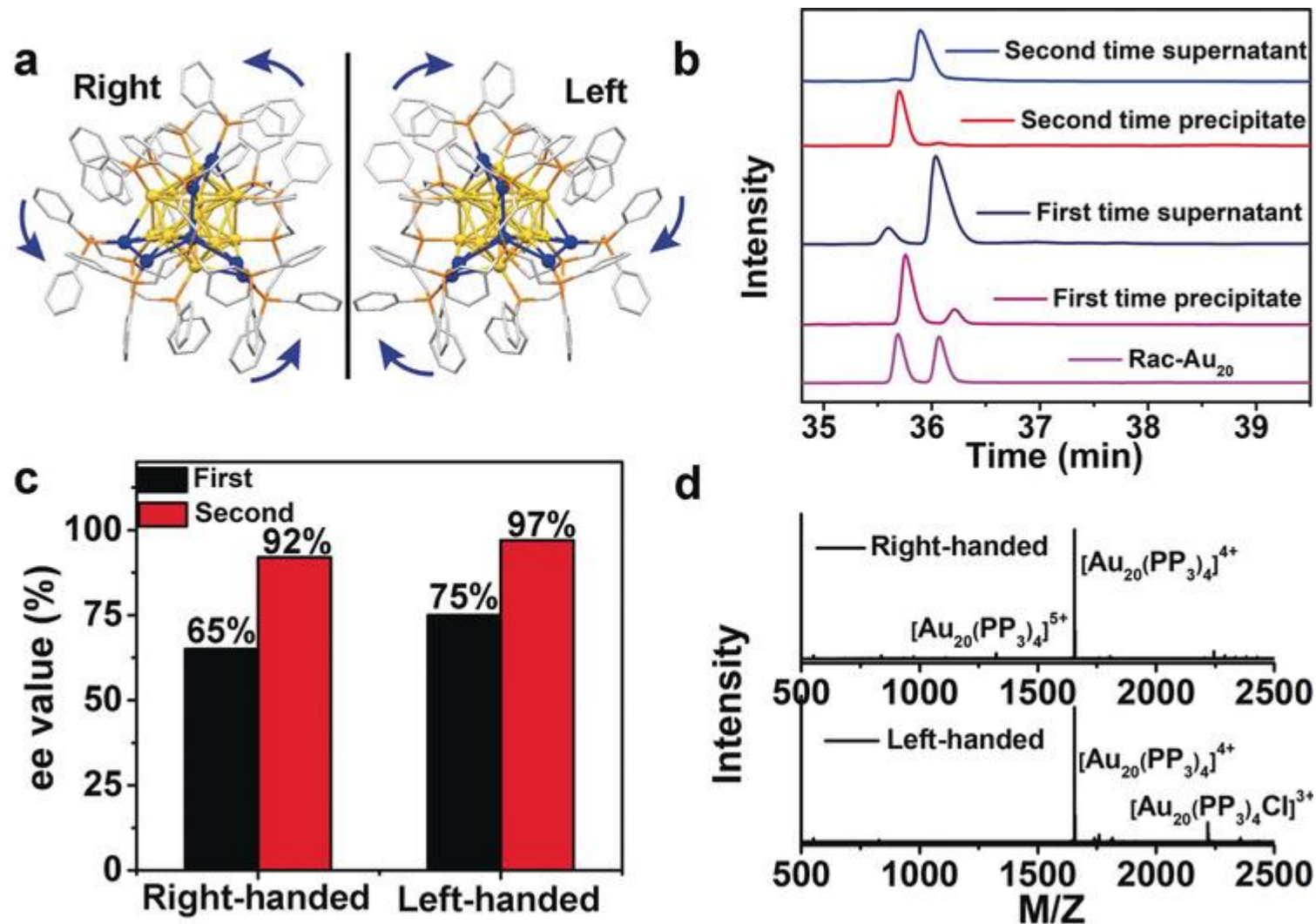


# Separation

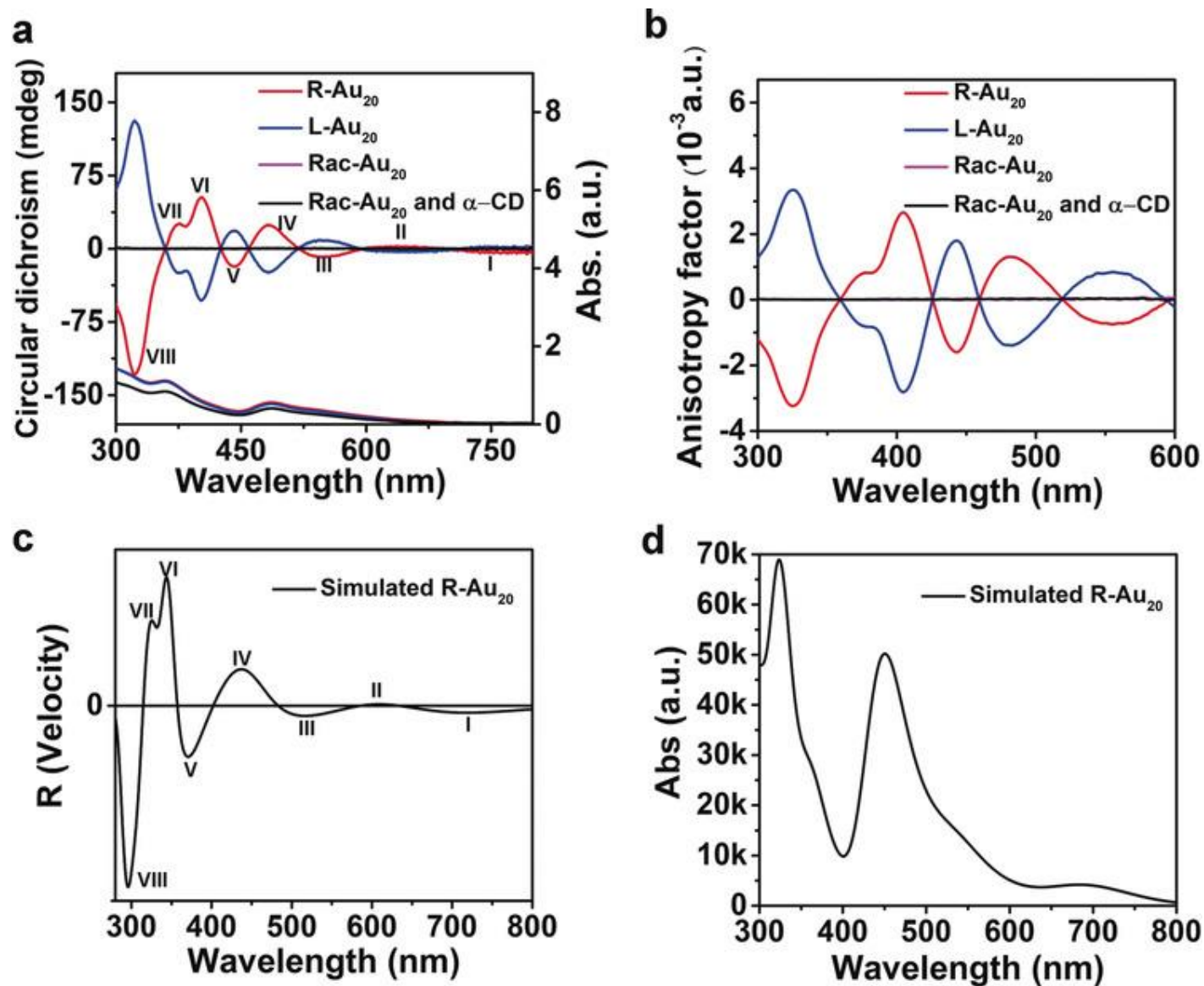


**Figure 1.** a) Dissolving  $\text{Au}_{20}$  and  $\alpha$ -CD in DMF. b) Stirring and adding  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  as a poor solvent. c) Centrifuging to isolate the precipitate (enriched R- $\text{Au}_{20}$ ). d) Dissolving precipitate in water. e) Transferring R- $\text{Au}_{20}$  from water to  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with aid of TBAC (to remove bound  $\alpha$ -CD). f) Acquiring bare R- $\text{Au}_{20}$  via drying and washing by water to remove TBAC. g) Centrifuging to collect supernatant solution (enriched L- $\text{Au}_{20}$ ). h) Re-dissolving in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . i) Removing residual  $\alpha$ -CD in L- $\text{Au}_{20}(\alpha\text{-CD})_n$  with TBAC. j) Acquiring bare L- $\text{Au}_{20}$  via drying and washing by water to remove TBAC. Solvents: blue  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  or DMF; gray  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

# Characterizations

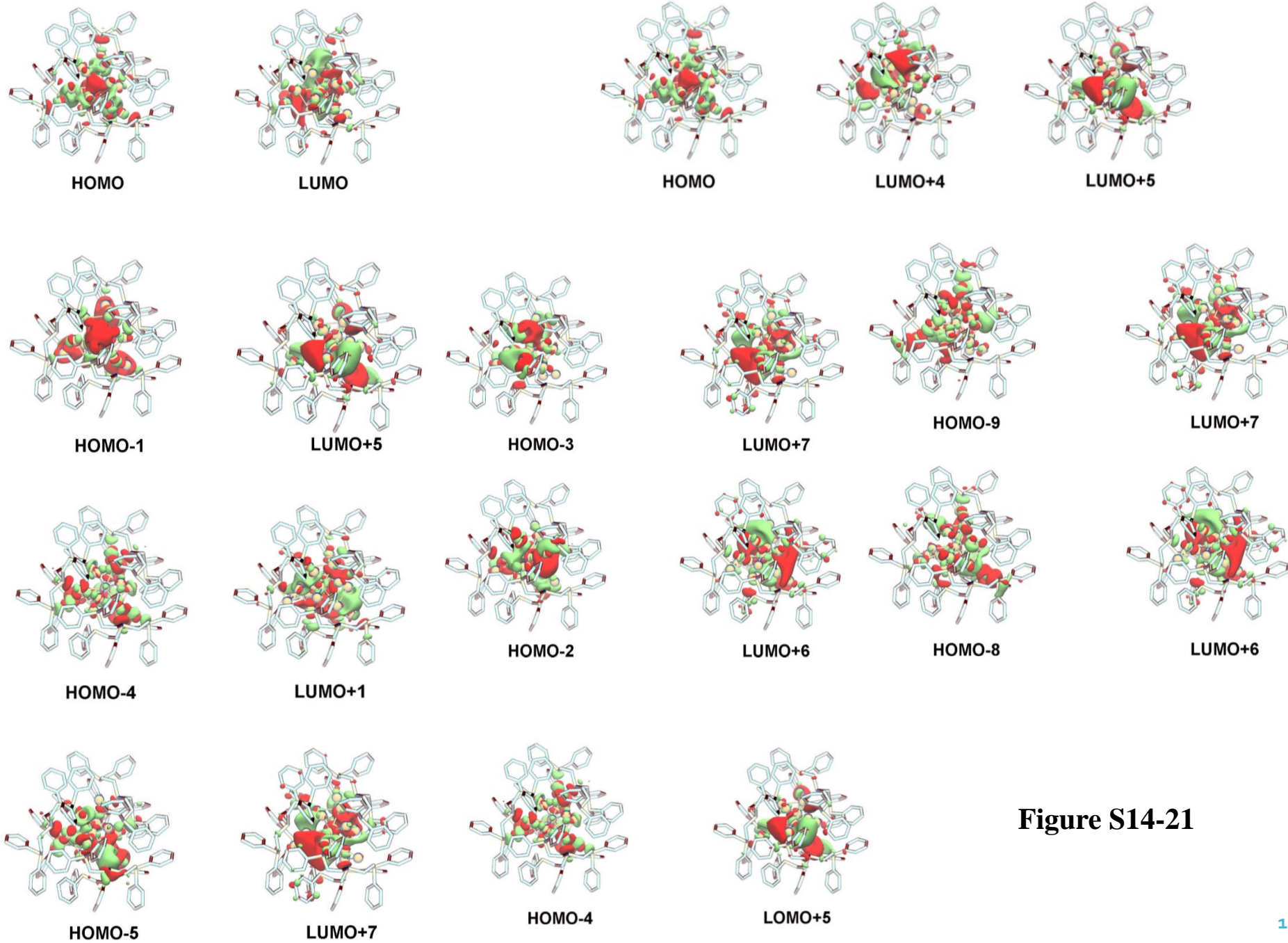


**Figure 2.** a) Structure of two enantiomers of  $\text{Au}_{20}$ . b) Electropherograms of racemic  $\text{Au}_{20}$ , precipitate, and supernatant after the first and second separation (from bottom to top). c) The  $ee$  value of products after the first and second enantioseparation processes. d) ESI-MS spectra of R- $\text{Au}_{20}$  and L- $\text{Au}_{20}$ .



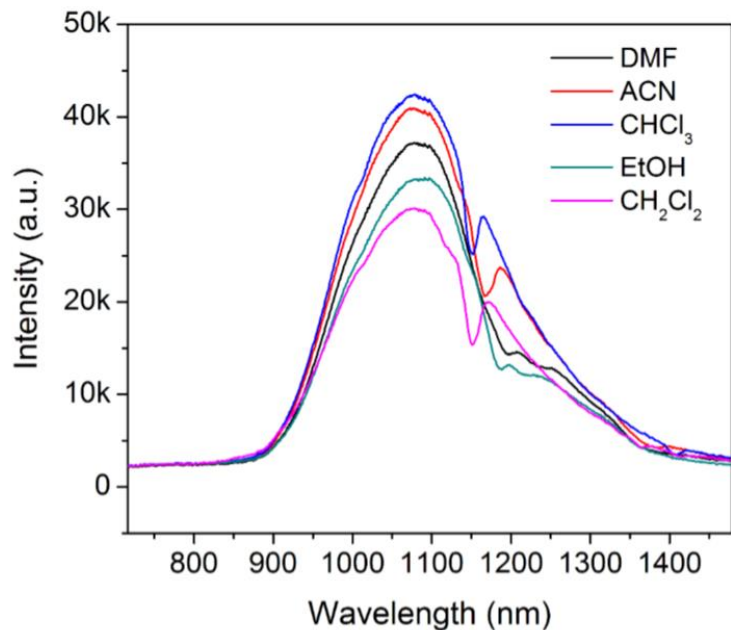
**Figure 3.** a) Experimental circular dichroism and UV/Vis spectra of racemic Au<sub>20</sub> (*rac*-Au<sub>20</sub>), mixture of racemic Au<sub>20</sub> and  $\alpha$ -CD, R-Au<sub>20</sub>, and L-Au<sub>20</sub>. b) Experimental g-factors. c) Simulated circular dichroism spectrum. d) Simulated UV/Vis spectrum.



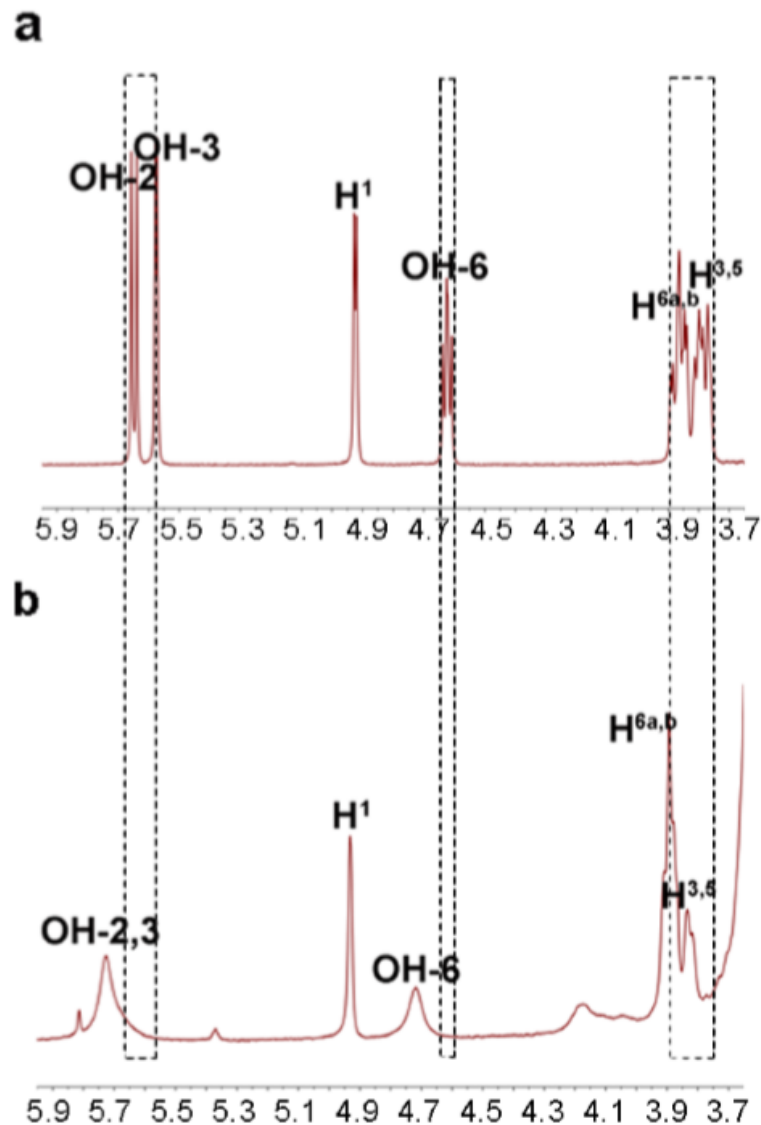
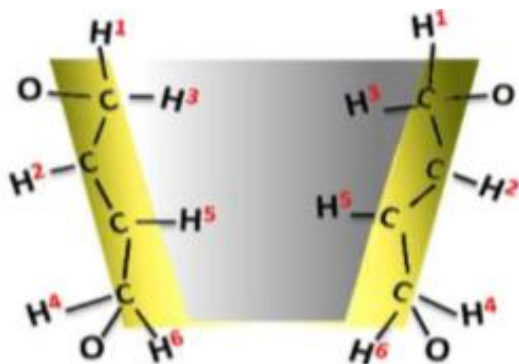


**Figure S14-21**

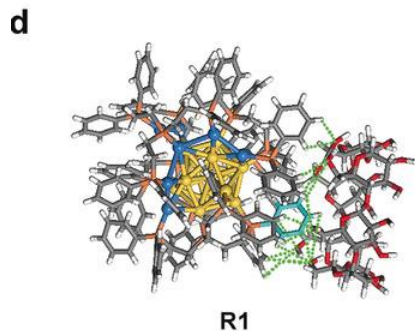
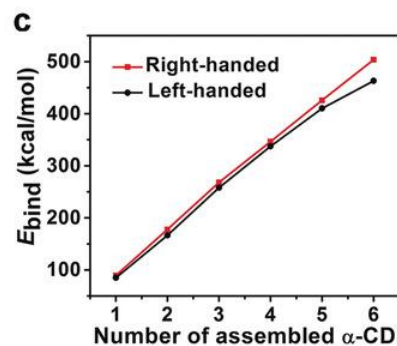
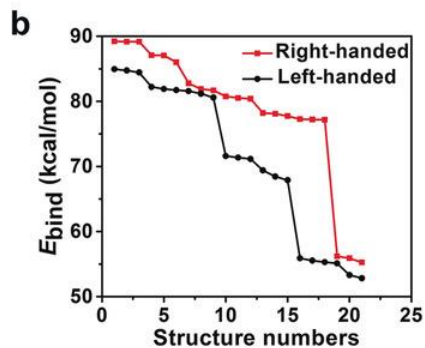
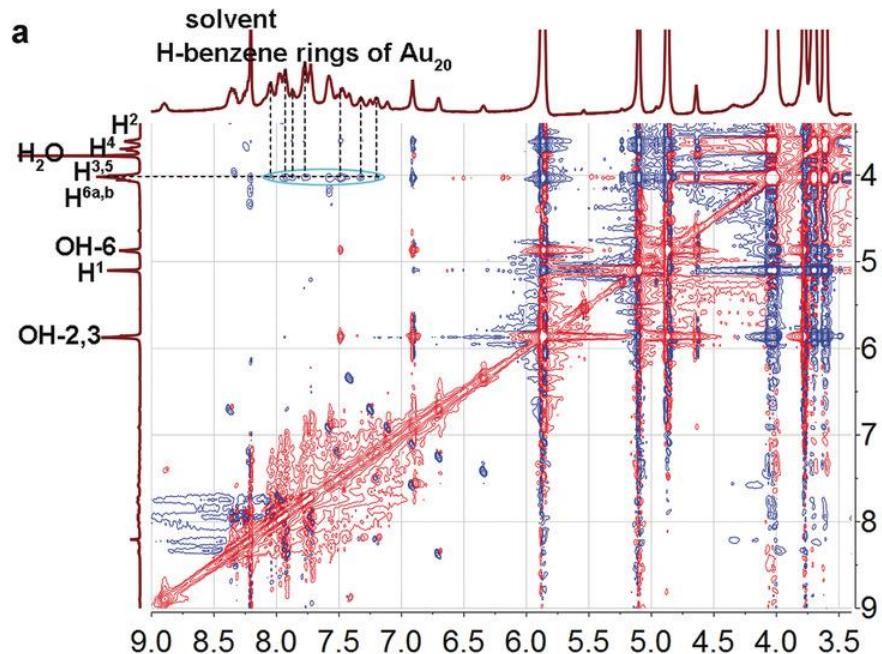




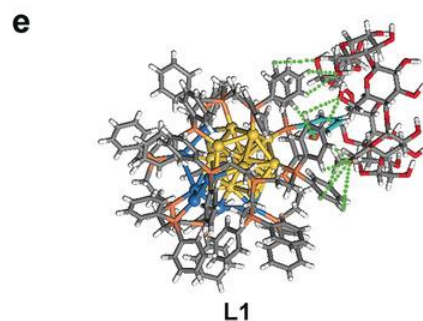
**Figure S22.** Photoluminescence spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 480 \text{ nm}$ ,  $C_{\text{Au}_{20}} = 1.34 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ) of  $\text{Au}_{20}$  in different solvents.



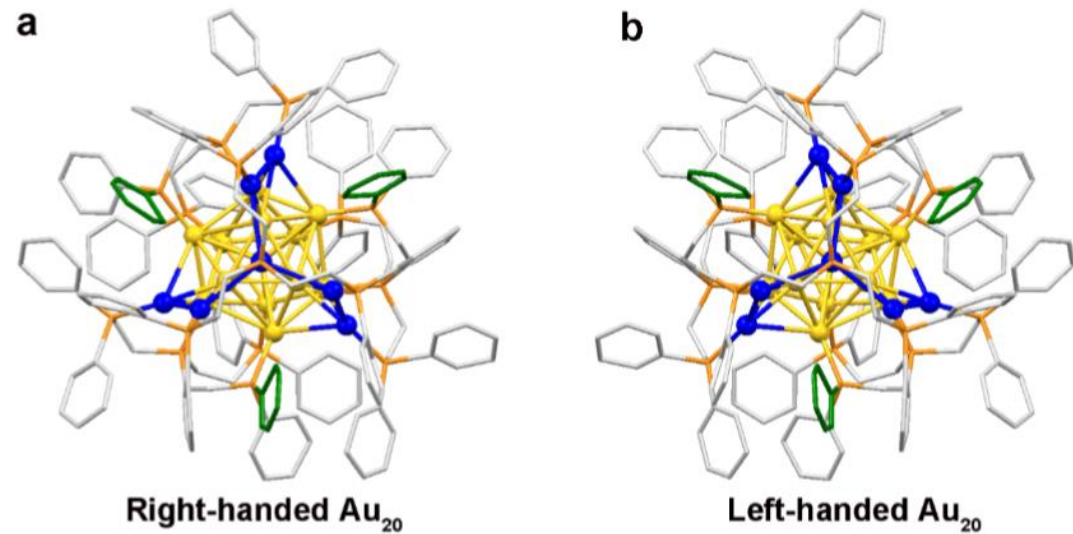
**Figure S23.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\alpha\text{-CD}$  in absence and presence of  $\text{Au}_{20}$  in  $\text{DMF-d}_7$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively. (a)  $\alpha\text{-CD}$ . (b)  $\alpha\text{-CD}$  and  $\text{Au}_{20}$  (1:1).



$$\Delta E_1 = 4.48 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

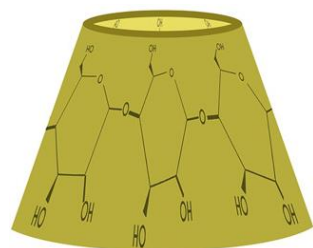


**Figure 4.** a) Two-dimensional ROESY of  $\alpha$ -CD and  $\text{Au}_{20}$  in  $[\text{D}_7]$ DMF showing interaction between the inner cavity protons of  $\alpha$ -CD and  $\text{PP}_3$  ligands (cyan oval). b) Binding energy of  $\text{R-Au}_{20}(\alpha\text{-CD})_1$  and  $\text{L-Au}_{20}(\alpha\text{-CD})_1$  at 21 different binding sites. c) Binding energy of  $\text{R-Au}_{20}(\alpha\text{-CD})_{1-6}$  and  $\text{L-Au}_{20}(\alpha\text{-CD})_{1-6}$  with preferred configuration. d),e) The most stable configuration of  $\text{R-Au}_{20}(\alpha\text{-CD})_1$  and  $\text{L-Au}_{20}(\alpha\text{-CD})_1$  assemblies, abbreviated as, R1 and L1, respectively (the cyan benzene ring is the one which inserts into the cavity of  $\alpha$ -CD). Green dashed lines present the interactions between hydroxy groups of  $\alpha$ -CD and hydrogen atoms of benzene rings. Au gold or blue, P orange, C gray, O red, H white.



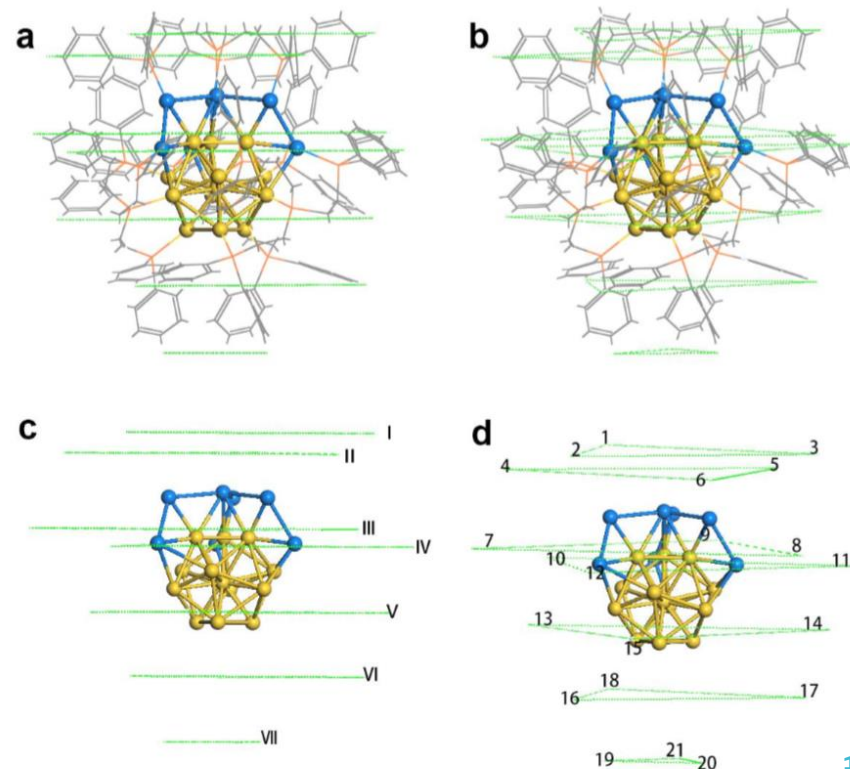
**Figure S25.** (a) Schematic structures of three benzene rings (green) of R-Au<sub>20</sub> that couldn't insert into  $\alpha$ -CD according to molecular docking simulation. (b) Schematic structures of three benzene rings (green) of L-Au<sub>20</sub> that couldn't insert into  $\alpha$ -CD according to molecular docking simulation. Color labels: golden and blue, Au; orange, P; gray, C. H atoms are omitted.

Narrow rim

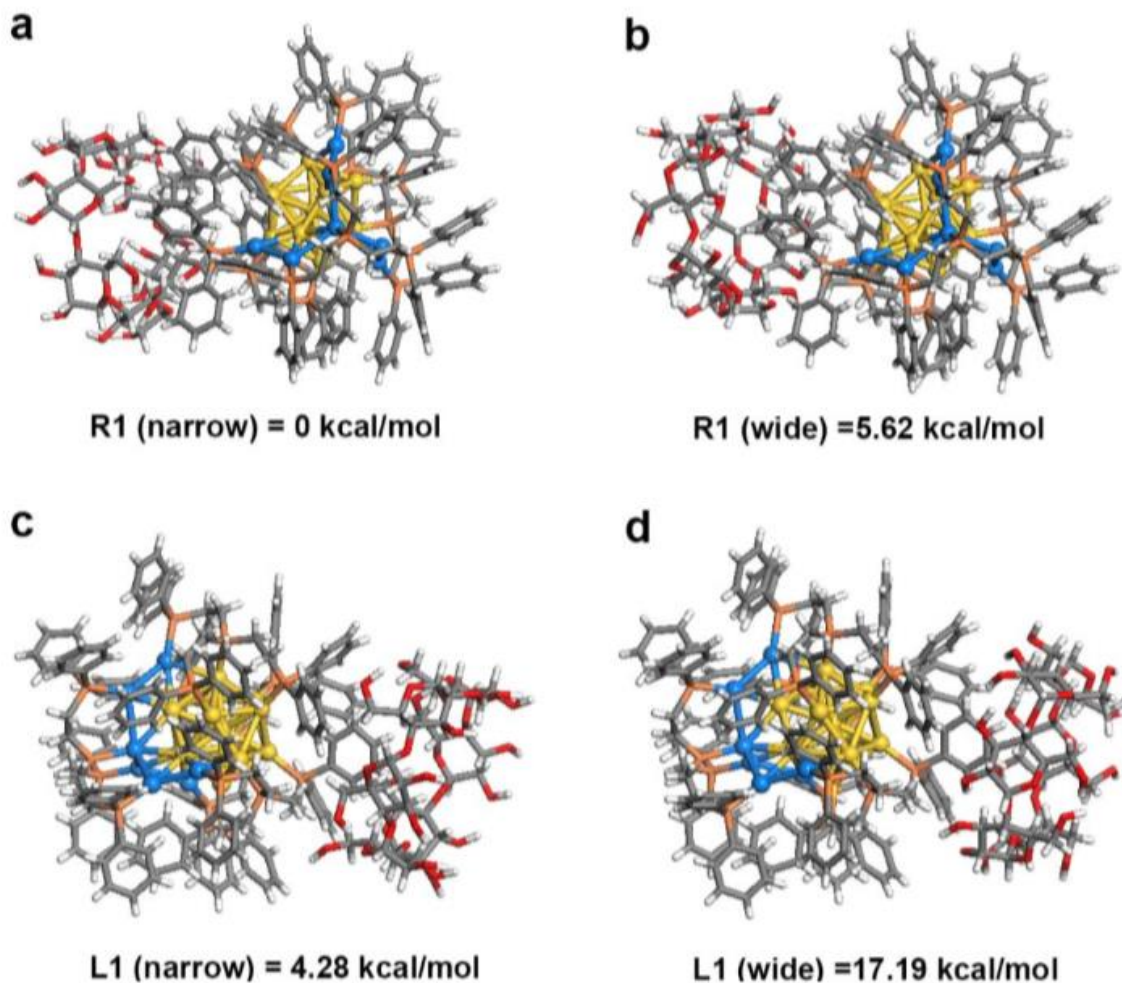


wide rim

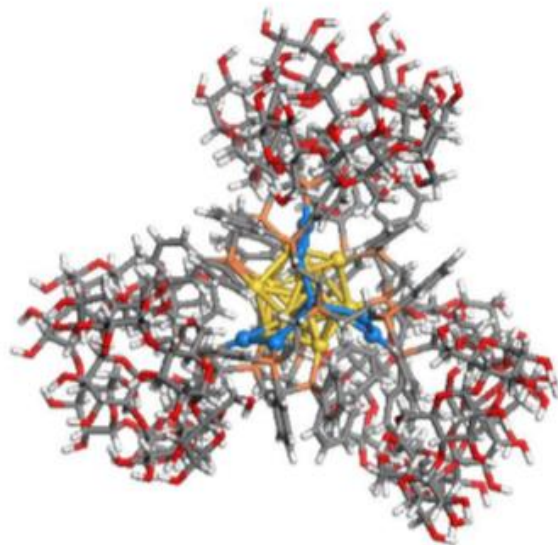
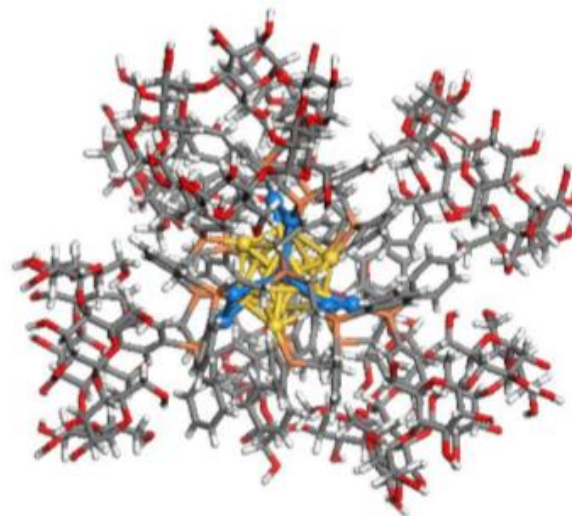
**Figure S26.** (a), (b) Structures of 7 triangle planes that are composed of three binding sites with similar conformations (green dashed lines). (c), (d) Corresponding structures without ligands. Color labels: golden and blue, Au; orange, P; gray, C and H. R-Au<sub>20</sub> is chosen as the model to show the conformations of 21 binding sites. The vertex of each triangle is the hydrogen atom located on the para-position of phosphorus atom.







**Figure S27.** Relative energy and structure of R-Au<sub>20</sub> or L-Au<sub>20</sub> assembled with narrow or wide rim of  $\alpha$ -CD according to QM calculations. (a) R-Au<sub>20</sub> assembled with narrow rim of  $\alpha$ -CD. (b) R-Au<sub>20</sub> assembled with wide rim of  $\alpha$ -CD. (c) L-Au<sub>20</sub> assembled with narrow rim of  $\alpha$ -CD. (d) L-Au<sub>20</sub> assembled with wide rim of  $\alpha$ -CD. Color labels: golden and blue, Au; orange, P; gray, C; red, O.

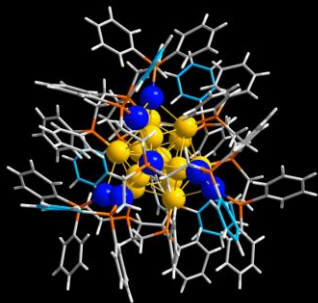
**a****R-Au<sub>20</sub>( $\alpha$ -CD)<sub>6</sub>****b****L-Au<sub>20</sub>( $\alpha$ -CD)<sub>6</sub>**

$$\Delta E_6 = 40.5 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

**Figure S34.** (a) Schematic structures of the most stable R-Au<sub>20</sub>( $\alpha$ -CD)<sub>6</sub> assemblies. (a) Schematic structures of the most stable L-Au<sub>20</sub>( $\alpha$ -CD)<sub>6</sub> assemblies



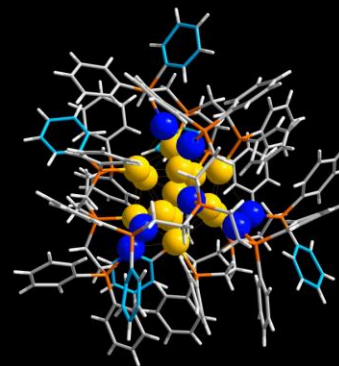
R-Au<sub>20</sub>



**Movie S1.** (mp4 format) Movie of molecular docking and quantum-chemistry simulations of the R-Au<sub>20</sub>(α-CD)<sub>6</sub> assembly process.

**Movie S2.** (mp4 format) Movie of molecular docking and quantum-chemistry simulations of the L-Au<sub>20</sub>(α-CD)<sub>6</sub> assembly process.

L-Au<sub>20</sub>



# Conclusions

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- ❑ In summary, inspired by the process of chaperonin mediated protein folding with multiple chiral sites, racemic Au<sub>20</sub> which has an intrinsically chiral core without achiral environment has been separated via supramolecular assembly with  $\alpha$ -CD in a high enantiopurity and large yield.
- ❑ The inherent chirality endows the as-separated Au<sub>20</sub> enantiomers with unique optical activity originating from the electronic transitions inside the cores, which is clearly different from other metal clusters that have large contributions from charge transfer between ligands and metal centers.
- ❑ The favorable configurations of R-Au<sub>20</sub>( $\alpha$ -CD)<sub>n</sub> assemblies, in which more O $\cdots$ H attraction bonds form and thus result in stronger binding energy, is found to be responsible for efficient enantioseparation.
- ❑ This supramolecular assembly strategy opens the new avenue towards facile separation of chiral nanomaterials via multiple weak interactions, which will greatly benefit the application of chiral materials in the field of optics, catalysis and magnetics.

Thank You

Questions?

