

Contents

1	Introduction	7
2	Physics in a Nanoscale Junction	13
2.1	A metal/molecule/metal junction	14
2.2	Resonant transport	15
2.3	Non-resonant transport	20
3	Experimental Techniques	23
3.1	STM	23
3.1.1	The theory of STM	24
3.1.2	Theory behind Scanning Tunneling Spectroscopy	27
3.2	Complementary techniques	29
3.2.1	XPS	30
3.3	Experimental setup	32
3.3.1	The UHV-STM system	33
3.3.2	STM and STS data acquisition	35
4	The Theory of Molecular Electronics: DFT	37
5	The Self-Assembly of Molecules	39
5.1	The self-assembly process	40
5.2	Attaching molecules to the surface	41
5.3	Preparation of self-assembled monolayers	42
5.4	Structure of self-assembled monolayers	44
5.4.1	Organothiols on gold	45
5.4.2	Carboxylates on copper	47
6	Bottom Electrode Materials	51
6.1	The standard substrate: Au(111) thin films deposited on mica	52

6.2	An alternative metal substrate: Cu(110)	54
6.2.1	Single crystals	55
6.2.2	Thin films	60
6.3	From conducting to semi-conducting substrates: Pt NW's on Ge(001)	61
7	Carboxylates on Cu(110)	65
7.1	Investigation path	66
7.2	Experimental details	68
7.3	Benzenecarboxylic acid	69
7.3.1	The structure of benzenecarboxylic acid SAMs	70
7.3.2	Current vs. voltage spectroscopy	71
7.3.2.1	Combining experiment and theory: LDOS investigations	72
7.3.2.2	I-V curves: a mirror image of the gap symmetry	76
7.3.2.3	Transition voltage spectroscopy	82
7.3.2.4	UV-VIS spectroscopy: cross-checking STS data	85
7.4	Benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid	86
7.4.1	The structure of benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid SAMs	86
7.4.2	Current vs. voltage spectroscopy	89
7.4.2.1	Experimental data	89
7.4.2.2	LDOS and the HOMO-LUMO gap	91
7.4.2.3	Cu/BDCA/W junction symmetries	95
7.4.2.4	Transition voltage spectroscopy	97
7.5	Pyridinecarboxylic acid	98
7.5.1	Current vs. voltage spectroscopy	99
7.5.2	Current vs. distance spectroscopy	105
7.5.3	Theoretical predictions for the LDOS of the PCA isomers	108
7.6	Pyridinedicarboxylic acid	109
7.6.1	Current vs. voltage spectroscopy	110
7.6.1.1	Electronic mapping of molecular orbitals	112
7.6.1.2	The HOMO-LUMO gap	117
7.7	Mixed Monolayers	118
7.8	Conclusion	120
8	2,3-dihydroxy-4(thiomorpholinomethyl) benzoic acids on Au (111)	123
8.1	Experimental details	124

8.2	Structure characterization of TMBA monolayers	125
8.2.1	XPS analysis	128
8.2.2	Low coverage phases	131
8.2.3	High coverage phases	137
8.3	Electronic characterization of TMBA monolayers	142
8.4	Mixed Monolayers	146
8.4.1	Embedding TMBA molecules into a C8 SAM	147
8.4.2	Current decay parameters for TMBA molecules	150
8.5	Conclusion	153
9	Molecules on Pt nanowires on Ge(001) - Triphenylphosphane	155
9.1	Experimental details	156
9.2	Structural investigations	156
10	Conclusion	159