# Double Thionated Pyrimidine Nucleobases: Molecular Tools with Tunable Photoproperties 

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## S1. 2,4-DTU Linear Absorption Spectrum



Figure S1. The absorption spectrum of 2,4-DTU was recorded in the $\mathrm{CCl}_{4}$ solution. Calculated XMS-PT2 and MS-PT2 energy values show a direct comparison between two levels of theory to validate and choose the best method to adopt.

|  | MS-PT2 energy values (eV) |  | XMS-PT2 values |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| State | singlet | triplet | singlet | triplet |
| GS | 0.000 |  | 0.000 |  |
| $\pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ (bright) | 3.511 | 2.522 | 3.467 | 2.556 |
| $\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ (bright) | 3.856 | 3.352 | 3.786 | 3.471 |
| $\pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ (bright) | 4.072 | 3.041 | 4.105 | 3.094 |
| $\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ (bright) | 4.318 | 3.744 | 4.424 | 3.769 |
| $n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ (dark) | 2.726 | 2.653 | 2.614 | 2.551 |
| $n_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ (dark) | 4.149 | 4.132 | 3.894 | 3.872 |
| $n_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ (dark) | 3.548 | 3.489 | 3.493 | 3.415 |
| $n_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ (dark) | 4.111 | 4.113 | 3.937 | 3.910 |

Table S1. Vertical excitation in the minimum ground state geometry (Franck-Condon) calculated at the MSCASPT2 and XMS-CASPT2 levels. The active space includes the sulfur lone pairs and all the valence porbitals, extended by two bonding and two antibonding $S$ orbitals on sulfurs resulting in a total of 18 electrons in 14 orbitals. ANO-RCC basis set, showing 6 s 5 p 3 d 2 f 1 g contraction on sulfur, 5 s 4 p 3 d 2 f 1 g on carbon/oxygen/nitrogen, and 4s3p2d1f on hydrogen atoms. Vertical energies have been obtained by stateaveraging on 9 states.

## S2. CASPT2 Active Space Orbitals.



Figure S2. Active space adopted for the CASPT2 optimizations (inside the blue line) and in the energy refinement of each characterized critical point or conical intersection (inside the red line).

## S3. 2D Photoelectron Signals



Figure S3. 2D maps of the TRPES signal. The experimental data are recorded in the range of -1 ps to 300 ps but are truncated to the first 3.5 ps of pump-probe delays for better visibility of the region responsible for the ultrafast dynamics clearer. The maps are plotted as a function of electron binding energy ( $\mathrm{BE}, \mathrm{in} \mathrm{eV}$ ) on the x -axis and pump-probe delays (ps) on the y-axis. The color scheme for the 2D maps is chosen to show blue for zero intensity and red for the maximum signal intensity, and the color level is set to the same value for all the 2 D plots.

## S4. TRPES Fit Results

### 4.1 Fit Results Using a Two-Step Sequential Exponential Decay Model

Figure S4 provides justification for using a three-step sequential exponential decay model. The graphs show two-step sequential fits on the time traces of the integrated TRPES over the extended pump-probe delay range. Fit results with only two exponentials inadequately describe the dynamics with apparent deviations either in the region around zero pump-probe delay or intermediate pump-probe delay region ( 0.5 ps to 1 ps ).


Figure S4. Fits on integrated TRPES data over the entire pump-probe delay range using a sequential decay function with two exponentials. Integrated TRPES signal (black circles) and total fit (red line) are shown for five pump wavelengths employed in experiments in this study. The same justification was shown for the three wavelengths from our previous publication. ${ }^{l}$

Based on the calculated minimum energy pathways, and experimental results, the 310 nm is introduced as a turning point for the excited state dynamics of $2,4-$ DTU in terms of the final occupied triplet state, which leads to a shortened triplet state lifetime. Figure S5 below plots the time traces of 287, 310, and 329 nm scans on a lin-log scale, and a linear fit on the long-range dynamics emphasize the change in the slope going from 329 nm to 287 nm . The time constant of the triplet state lifetime can be extracted as an inverse of the calculated slope, which leads to $1,1.6$, and 2.2 ns for 287,310 , and 329 nm , respectively.


Figure S5. Integrated time traces of 287,310 , and 329 nm scans are plotted on a lin-log scale. The slope of a linear fit on the long-range dynamic is also shown as an inset.

### 4.2 Fit Function

The three-step sequential exponential decay fit function was used to analyze the TRPES integrated time traces, shown below. Where $k_{1}=\frac{1}{\tau_{1}}, k_{2}=\frac{1}{\tau_{2}}$, and $k_{3}=\frac{1}{\tau_{3}}$ are the rate constants for the process $\mathrm{A} \rightarrow \mathrm{B} \rightarrow \mathrm{C} \rightarrow \mathrm{D}$ and $s A(E), s B(E)$, and $s C(E)$ represent decay-associated photoelectron spectra. The instrument response function IRF is described by the FWHM of the Gaussian cross-correlation.

$$
\begin{aligned}
x(t, E)=s A(E) & *\left(e^{\left(\frac{I R F * k_{1}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)^{2}} * e^{-k_{1} t} * \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{2 \sqrt{\ln 2}}{I R F} t-\frac{I R F * k_{1}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)\right)\right)+s B(E) \\
& *\left(e^{\left(\frac{I R F * k_{1}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)^{2}} * \frac{k_{1}}{k_{2}-k_{1}} e^{-k_{1} t} * \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{2 \sqrt{\ln 2}}{I R F} t-\frac{I R F * k_{1}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)\right)+e^{\left(\frac{I R F * k_{2}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)^{2}} * \frac{k_{1}}{k_{1}-k_{2}} e^{-k_{2} t}\right. \\
& \left.* \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{2 \sqrt{\ln 2}}{I R F} t-\frac{I R F * k_{2}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)\right)\right)+s C(E) \\
& *\left(-e^{\left(\frac{I R F * k_{1}}{4 \sqrt{l n 2}}\right)^{2}} * \frac{k_{3} k_{2}}{k_{1}^{2}+\left(k_{2}-k_{1}\right) k_{3}-k_{1} k_{2}} e^{-k_{1} t} * \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{2 \sqrt{\ln 2}}{I R F} t-\frac{I R F * k_{1}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)\right)+e^{\left(\frac{I R F * k_{2}}{4 \sqrt{l n}}\right)^{2}}\right. \\
& * \frac{k_{1} k_{3}}{k_{2}^{2}-\left(k_{2}-k_{1}\right) k_{3}-k_{1} k_{2}} e^{-k_{2} t} * \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{2 \sqrt{\ln 2}}{I R F} t-\frac{I R F * k_{2}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)\right)+e^{\left(\frac{I R F * k_{3}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)^{2}} \\
& \left.* \frac{k_{1} k_{2}}{k_{3}^{2}-\left(k_{1}+k_{2}\right) k_{3}+k_{1} k_{2}} e^{-k_{3} t} * \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{2 \sqrt{\ln 2}}{I R F} t-\frac{I R F * k_{3}}{4 \sqrt{\ln 2}}\right)\right)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

### 4.3 Time Traces and Associated Spectra



Figure S6. Experimental kinematics TRPES fit results are presented in the order of decreasing excitation wavelength from the top to the bottom. Black circles show the signal, the red line is the total fit, and blue, purple, and dark yellow lines are contributing time constants. The dark blue component in the first three wavelengths is the probe-pump signal due to two-photon excitation with probe.

REGION 1





REGION 2





## Electron Binding Energy (eV)

Figure S7. Not-normalized Evolution-Associated Spectra (EAS), extracted from the global lifetime analysis of the experimental TRPES (Figure S3, ESI). More details are provided in the discussion of Figure 4 in the main text.

## S5. TRPES Spectra Interpretation

The change in binding energy (BE) along the relaxation path is characterized by vertical CASPT2 MS-CASPT2/ANO-RCC calculations, using active space $(17,14)$ and $(18,14)$, on the ionic and neutral forms, respectively. BE corresponds to the energy difference between a particular populated neutral critical point and the corresponding target ionic states, added to the initial excitation energy in the FranckCondon (FC) region. Photoelectron signals are expected at the electron binding energies indicated as solid lines in Figure 4 in the manuscript, calculated based on the different adopted excitation energies. This information provides the basis for identifying the electronically excited states participating in the three-step relaxation process. The Dyson amplitude calculations approximate photoelectron intensities between states that differ by exactly one in their number of electrons. These values are indicated in parenthesis, close to the BE vertical line, in Figure 4 (main text). The ionization correlations between electronically excited and ionic states have been considered. The dominant contributions to the photoelectron spectra from the GS minimum are characterized by an n-hole on the sulfur atom for $\mathrm{D}_{0}$ (lowest ionic state) and a $\pi$-hole for $\mathrm{D}_{1}$ (second ionization channel) in the singly thionated systems. ${ }^{2}$ Considering the orbital characteristics of 2,4-DTU with contribution from both sulfurs, in general, two $\mathrm{n} \pi^{*}$ and two $\pi \pi^{*}$ states are expected to ionize into the four $\mathrm{D}_{0-3}$ states, characterized by n and $\pi$ holes on Sulfur 2 and 4, respectively.

### 5.1 Computed $\mathrm{S}_{0}$-Photoelectron Spectra for 2,4-DTU

The first 12 ionization channels ( $\mathrm{D}_{0}-\mathrm{D}_{11}$ ) of the 2,4-DTU were calculated by L. Gonzalez et al. ${ }^{2}$ and show predominant ionization from orbitals on sulfur and the pyrimidine ring, respectively labeled as " S " and "Pyr" (Figure S8). In the following picture, we validate our method, showing that we reproduce the $\mathrm{D}_{0}$ band $\left({ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}\right)$ at the CASPT2 level without applying any energy shift.


Figure S8: The simulated ground state photoelectron spectrum of 2,4-DTU. Reprinted from Ruckenbauer, M.; Mai, S.; Marquetand, P.; González, L. Photoelectron spectra of 2-thiouracil, 4-thiouracil, and 2, 4-dithiouracil. The Journal of Chemical Physics 2016, 144 (7), 074303, with the permission of AIP Publishing. The colored solid and dashed lines contributing to the signal peaks are calculated ionization channels. The solid red line is the $\mathrm{D}_{0}$ with an n orbital character, and the close-lying red dashed line is the second ionization channel $D_{1}$ with $\pi$ orbital character. The vertical blue arrow indicates the CASPT2 calculated binding energy (BE) we obtained from the lowest ${ }^{1} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4} *$ state in the Franck-Condon region, pumping at 361 nm excitation energy. Our ${ }^{1} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4} *$ calculated BE matches exactly with the two lowest components of the first band of the calculated ground state photoelectron spectrum for 2,4-DTU ${ }^{2}$ : This double-peak band in the range of 8-10 eV derives from the orbitals localized on sulfur; the other band is centered at about 12 eV , due to ionization from pyrimidine ring orbitals. Also, the experimental photoelectron spectra in Figure S3 concur with the calculated sulfur-addressed signals in terms of the energy range. This is a good confirmation that our calculations reproduce the photoelectron spectra in a proper way.

### 5.2 Binding Energy Estimation for Assignment of EAS

Binding energies and Dyson norms have been evaluated on singlet, triplet and ionic states calculated at MS-CASPT2(18,14)/ANO-RCC level (MS-CASPT2(17,14)/ANO-RCC for ionic states), averaging on the first 9 states. This allows the evaluation of transitions to a large number of ionic states, which are characterized by holes in different binding orbitals. The following Table S2 only reports binding energies associated with non-negligible intensity values for each critical point (Dyson norms $>0.1$ ). The same values are also included in Figure 4. Usually, the most intense transition for a particular excited state corresponds to an ionic state where the electron in the antibonding orbital is removed, leaving a hole in the $\pi$ or $n$ binding orbital.

Table S2. MS-CASPT2-calculated energies at the excited state minima, ionization energy, and vibrational energy can be used to estimate the electron binding energy signal in the photoelectron spectra for each geometry. The ionization energy is calculated as the required energy to remove an electron from the excited state minimum. The vibrational energy is calculated based on the subtraction of the excitation energy and minimum excited state energy. For each wavelength, only the relevant geometries involved in the corresponding relaxation Paths of Figure 3 are shown. If two ionization energies (belonging to the BE spectral window) with non-negligible intensity values are addressed to one geometry, two close ionization bands exist for the same critical point.

| Geometry | Excited state energy (eV) | Vibrational excitation (eV) | Ionization energy (eV) | ```Binding energy \((\mathrm{eV})=\) Ionization energy + Excited state energy + Vibrational energy``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $376 \mathrm{~nm}(3.3 \mathrm{eV})$ |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 3.23 | 0.07 | 5.66 | 8.96 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.49 | 0.81 | 6.12 | 9.42 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.27 | 1.03 | 6.47 | 9.77 |
| $361 \mathrm{~nm}(3.4 \mathrm{eV})$ |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 3.23 | 0.17 | 5.66 | 9.06 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.45 | 0.95 | 6.12 | 9.52 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.27 | 1.13 | 6.47 | 9.87 |
| 344 nm ( 3.6 eV ) |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 3.23 | 0.37 | 5.55 | 9.15 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 3.23 | 0.37 | 5.66 | 9.26 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.45 | 1.15 | 6.12 | 9.72 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.27 | 1.33 | 6.47 | 10.07 |
| $329 \mathrm{~nm}(3.8 \mathrm{eV})$ |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 3.23 | 0.57 | 5.55 | 9.35 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 3.23 | 0.57 | 5.66 | 9.46 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.45 | 1.35 | 6.12 | 9.92 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.27 | 1.53 | 6.47 | 10.27 |
| $310 \mathrm{~nm}(4.0 \mathrm{eV})$ |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.92 | 0.08 | 4.81 | 8.81 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 3.23 | 0.77 | 5.55 | 9.55 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.65 | 0.35 | 5.90 | 9.9 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.45 | 1.55 | 6.12 | 10.12 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.17 | 0.83 | 6.23 | 10.23 |
|  |  |  | 6.34 | 10.34 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ | 2.27 | 1.73 | 6.47 | 10.47 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 2.85 | 1.15 | 6.5 | 10.51 |
| $287 \mathrm{~nm}(4.3 \mathrm{eV})$ |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.92 | 0.38 | 4.81 | 9.11 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.65 | 0.65 | 5.90 | 10.2 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.17 | 1.13 | 6.23 | 10.53 |
|  |  |  | 6.34 | 10.64 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 2.85 | 1.45 | 6.51 | 10.81 |
| ( $267 \mathrm{~nm}(4.6 \mathrm{eV})$ |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.92 | 0.68 | 4.81 | 9.41 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.65 | 0.95 | 5.90 | 10.5 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.17 | 1.43 | 6.23 | 10.83 |
|  |  |  | 6.34 | 10.94 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 2.85 | 1.75 | 6.51 | 11.11 |
| $250 \mathrm{~nm}(4.9 \mathrm{eV})$ |  |  |  |  |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.92 | 0.98 | 4.81 | 9.71 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.65 | 1.25 | 5.90 | 10.8 |
| Min- ${ }^{1} n_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 3.17 | 1.73 | 6.23 | 11.13 |
|  |  |  | 6.34 | 11.24 |
| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ | 2.85 | 2.05 | 6.51 | 11.41 |

It should be noted that the calculated photoelectron binding energies shown in Figure 4 (main text) for different states represent a $\Delta v=0$ propensity during photoionization, i.e., the transfer of vibrational excitation into the cation, as a simplistic way to estimate the photoelectron band maxima. For the case of ionization into the vibrationless cation, the predicted binding energy lies within the observation window, even for EAS2 and EAS3. This is explicitly shown in the figure below for 361 nm as an example. For each EAS, the circle marks the calculated electron binding energy to the vibrationless cation, and the arrow tip points to the expected band maximum (Table S2, last column).


Figure S9. The EAS of 361 nm was extracted from a global lifetime analysis of the experimental data. The figure serves as an example of the range where the photoelectron signal is expected to rise. The arrow marks the energies required for ionization from the vibrationally hot excited state minimum to the vibrationless cation (circle) and the transfer of all excited state vibrational energy into the cation (tip). The latter is assumed to provide a rough approximation for the photoelectron band maximum.

The normalized EASs associated with different decays are replotted to facilitate a direct comparison of wavelength-dependent shifts and changes in spectral features. In Figure S10, the normalized EASs are grouped and replotted in three graphs according to their associated decays. The plots in panel b) visualize a wavelength-dependent shift in the EASs. As the excitation energy increases, the additional photon energy is converted into vibrational excitation during the electronic relaxation process. The observed wavelength-dependent shifts of the EASs resemble the differences in photon energy. In panel a), all EASs have been shifted in energy to overlap and enable direct comparison of spectral features. As higher states are photoexcited, changes in the shape of the photoelectron bands become evident for the $\tau_{1}$-EASs. In the main manuscript, the lower energy feature has been associated with ionization from the $\pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ state, while the higher band corresponds to the $\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$.


Figure S10. Normalized experimental EAS of all wavelengths are directly compared for each decay channel. Panel a) compares the EAS spectra for the three decay steps while all the spectra are manually shifted on the energy axis to overlap and highlight any changes in the shape or features of the spectrum. Panel b) compares the normalized spectra based on their energy axis to highlight the shift in the photoelectron spectrum due to vibrational excitation at higher pump photon energies.

## S6. Detailed Decay Paths

The following Figure S11 is a more detailed version of Figure 3 in the main text, which includes additional critical points and state energies not directly discussed in the main text.


## S7. Water Solvent Effect on Triplet Minima and Intersystem Crossings

From the perspective of potential applications, extending the detailed mechanistic picture from the gas phase to other environments is important. While the derived knowledge is directly transferable to nonpolar or weakly interacting surroundings, its validity in polar environments is evaluated here. Additional calculations were performed to verify characteristics of the triplet potential are preserved in a polar solvent. Specifically, the two triplet minima documented in Figure 3 (Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4}{ }^{*}$ and $\operatorname{Min}-{ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2}{ }^{*}$ ) and the two corresponding ISCs between the triplet and ground state (ISC- ${ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 4}{ }^{*} / \mathrm{GS}$ and ISC${ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2}{ }^{*} / \mathrm{GS}$ ), were optimized at MS-CASPT2/ANO-RCC level within a Polarizable Continuum Model ${ }^{3-}$ ${ }^{5}$ representing an aqueous environment. The results are visualized schematically in Figure S12 below. The energy barriers and the molecular distortions computed for the solution phase closely resemble those under isolated conditions. This leads to the conclusion that the excitation wavelength-dependent photodynamics, and hence the tunability of the 2,4 DTU photoresponse, will be preserved across different environments.
For example, for excitation in the UVA region, the calculated energy gap between the Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 4}{ }^{*}$ and the ISC- ${ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4} * / \mathrm{GS}$ is 1.03 eV in water ( 1.35 eV in the gas phase). This absence of an accessible decay funnel for GS recovery is characteristic of 4-TU and results in extended triplet lifetimes on the order of $n s-\mu$ s timescales.
On the other hand, the triplet minimum, $\operatorname{Min}-{ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2}{ }^{*}$, populated via excitation in the UVB region, shows the same Sulfur 2 out-of-plane distortion in water as observed in the gas phase, and the energy barrier to the ISC $-{ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2}{ }^{*} / \mathrm{GS}$ slightly increased ( 0.45 eV in water versus 0.37 eV in the gas phase). While this will still facilitate fast GS recovery, at the same time, it explains the longer triplet lifetimes observed in a solvent. This was documented in side-by-side solution- and gas-phase experiments that directly compared the wavelength-dependent dynamics of 2-TU. ${ }^{6}$

Triplet minima and intersystem crossings in water solution


Figure S12: MS-CASPT2(18,14)/ANO-RCC energies and structures calculated in water solution Polarizable Continuum Model). The cartesian coordinates of the optimized structures in water are presented in section S9.

## S8. Comparison of 2-TU, 4-TU and 2,4-DTU Decay Constants

As described in the main text, 2,4-DTU follows kinetics similar to 2-TU when excited in the UVB region of the absorption spectrum and 4-TU when excited in the UVA region of the absorption spectrum. The ISC and triplet state lifetimes of 2,4-DTU mirror this similarity to the singly substituted thiouracils. The table below directly compares $2-\mathrm{TU}, 4-\mathrm{TU}$, and 2,4-DTU dynamics fitted with the same sequential exponential model.
The similarity in the triplet state lifetime is evident. Considering the negligible energy barrier for the ISC from ${ }^{1} \mathrm{n} \pi^{*}$ to ${ }^{3} \pi \pi^{*}$ for both $4-\mathrm{TU}$ and 2,4 -DTU (excited in region 1 ), the 626 fs and 2660 fs might seem to differ more than expected. Nevertheless, these ISC dynamics are slower compared to 2-TU or 2,4-DTU-excited in region 2 . The generally faster ISC in 2,4-DTU could stem from higher SOC because the two sulfur atoms increase the coupling to the triplet state. This was also observed computationally, where this SOC is calculated $223 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ for 2,4-DTU and $160 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ for $4-T U .^{7}$

Table S3. 2,4-DTU decay constants, excited in the UVA and UVB region of the absorption spectrum, are compared with the decay constants of $4-\mathrm{TU}^{8}$ and $2-\mathrm{TU}^{6}$. The $2,4-\mathrm{DTU}$, photoexcited at 361 nm (yellow highlighted row), follows relatively similar dynamics as 4-TU (third row, also highlighted with yellow), and it follows the 2-TU dynamics (last row, highlighted with blue) when excited at 267 nm (second row, highlighted with blue color).

| Pump <br> wavelength (nm) | Molecule | $\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathbf{1}}(\mathbf{f s})$ | $\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{f s})$ | $\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathbf{3}}(\mathbf{n s})$ | Ref. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 361 | $2,4-$ DTU | $30 \pm 25$ | $626 \pm 50$ | $>2$ | $[1]$ |
| 267 | $2,4-$ DTU | $40 \pm 20$ | $240 \pm 20$ | 0.54 | This work |
| 330 | $4-T U$ | $<40$ | $2660 \pm 250$ | $>1.5$ | $[8]$ |
| 260 | $2-T U$ | $67 \pm 15$ | $285 \pm 60$ | 0.856 | $[6]$ |

## S9. Cartesian Coordinates

Cartesian Coordinates in water solution:

| Min- $^{3} \pi_{\text {s4 }} \pi_{\text {S4 }} *$ (in water) |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.677169 | 16.418450 | 14.679547 |
| N | 18.101555 | 17.622189 | 14.302086 |
| C | 18.461276 | 18.641602 | 15.186068 |
| C | 18.355297 | 18.378522 | 16.561297 |
| C | 17.920133 | 17.151628 | 16.971472 |
| N | 17.594440 | 16.193755 | 15.991806 |
| H | 18.612837 | 19.132317 | 17.276033 |
| S | 17.700922 | 16.680756 | 18.652414 |
| S | 17.261068 | 15.225547 | 13.550588 |
| H | 18.802164 | 19.556889 | 14.757344 |
| H | 17.285715 | 15.288071 | 16.281481 |
| H | 18.156635 | 17.792105 | 13.318300 |


| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 2} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 2} *$ (in water) |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.615269 | 16.365428 | 14.671509 |
| N | 18.043022 | 17.633610 | 14.300528 |
| C | 18.380045 | 18.570254 | 15.203333 |
| C | 18.338578 | 18.343645 | 16.528468 |
| C | 17.894152 | 17.063499 | 16.988898 |
| N | 17.579512 | 16.163908 | 16.057156 |
| H | 18.614866 | 19.095959 | 17.232955 |
| S | 17.755474 | 16.669217 | 18.645076 |
| S | 18.346381 | 15.065110 | 13.654140 |
| H | 18.679988 | 19.516952 | 14.795249 |
| H | 17.264924 | 15.266462 | 16.373327 |
| H | 17.999480 | 17.881400 | 13.331193 |


| ISC- ${ }^{1} \mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{S} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{S} 4}{ }^{* / \beta} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 4} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 4} *$ (in water) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 17.623463 | 16.567611 | 14.688596 |
| N | 17.746278 | 17.853640 | 14.350325 |
| C | 18.626154 | 18.614827 | 15.167575 |
| C | 18.190515 | 18.494160 | 16.573961 |
| C | 18.056493 | 17.159250 | 17.003100 |
| N | 18.021971 | 16.235189 | 15.943675 |
| H | 17.665788 | 19.280774 | 17.083661 |
| S | 17.770921 | 16.674335 | 18.556367 |
| S | 17.040601 | 15.397183 | 13.631748 |
| H | 19.675185 | 18.449541 | 14.956026 |
| H | 17.910412 | 15.271133 | 16.185849 |
| H | 17.601431 | 18.084187 | 13.387554 |


| ISC- ${ }^{3} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 2} \pi_{\mathrm{s} 2} * / \mathrm{GS}$ (in water) |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.439272 | 16.415610 | 14.574298 |
| N | 17.834395 | 17.720991 | 14.275154 |
| C | 18.364353 | 18.561990 | 15.178735 |
| C | 18.444828 | 18.265054 | 16.489114 |
| C | 17.913446 | 17.018257 | 16.932075 |
| N | 17.466788 | 16.178350 | 15.969226 |
| H | 18.848593 | 18.954194 | 17.196650 |
| S | 17.791422 | 16.577243 | 18.546299 |
| S | 18.918575 | 15.084819 | 14.223934 |
| H | 18.705357 | 19.504831 | 14.792708 |
| H | 17.004917 | 15.346882 | 16.284170 |
| H | 17.779802 | 18.007276 | 13.31951 |

Cartesian Coordinates in the gas phase:

| Min-GS |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.758354 | 16.301690 | 14.598135 |
| N | 18.130070 | 17.580152 | 14.275097 |
| C | 18.366011 | 18.554378 | 15.194636 |
| C | 18.269506 | 18.304836 | 16.525052 |
| C | 17.939166 | 16.986357 | 16.972414 |
| N | 17.667198 | 16.092446 | 15.956168 |
| H | 18.481511 | 19.069817 | 17.254354 |
| S | 17.880059 | 16.522077 | 18.559449 |
| S | 17.456355 | 15.140619 | 13.473168 |
| H | 18.647683 | 19.517148 | 14.792844 |
| H | 17.370338 | 15.157706 | 16.223042 |
| H | 18.239196 | 17.789446 | 13.286981 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Min- $\pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| C | 17.778603 | 16.344599 | 14.622560 |
| N | 18.127171 | 17.632289 | 14.299664 |
| C | 18.372627 | 18.660741 | 15.153077 |
| C | 18.270293 | 18.381385 | 16.571843 |
| C | 17.926000 | 17.125816 | 16.942378 |
| N | 17.680231 | 16.150952 | 16.000339 |
| H | 18.473445 | 19.143081 | 17.304525 |
| S | 17.748815 | 16.444369 | 18.613576 |
| S | 17.511654 | 15.155223 | 13.502297 |
| H | 18.625011 | 19.612764 | 14.719401 |
| H | 17.403267 | 15.233756 | 16.326696 |
| H | 18.196353 | 17.781634 | 13.300658 |


| CI- $\pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*} / n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.737848 | 16.359098 | 14.618990 |
| N | 18.115850 | 17.644198 | 14.299413 |
| C | 18.355713 | 18.680086 | 15.110658 |
| C | 18.193296 | 18.409126 | 16.586444 |
| C | 17.954000 | 17.139038 | 16.917862 |
| N | 17.749937 | 16.148876 | 16.009476 |
| H | 18.302203 | 19.192156 | 17.314490 |
| S | 17.726405 | 16.333955 | 18.631020 |
| S | 17.360140 | 15.210405 | 13.483682 |
| H | 18.829874 | 19.546574 | 14.677335 |
| H | 17.577537 | 15.231317 | 16.411767 |
| H | 18.210669 | 17.771782 | 13.295876 |

Min- $n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$

| C | 17.728704 | 16.354585 | 14.631569 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| N | 18.128609 | 17.610462 | 14.283145 |
| C | 18.417123 | 18.637581 | 15.187231 |
| C | 18.315129 | 18.376203 | 16.541801 |
| C | 17.925050 | 17.113002 | 16.958579 |
| N | 17.634717 | 16.146302 | 15.981008 |
| H | 18.535847 | 19.149327 | 17.262301 |
| S | 17.780692 | 16.584333 | 18.617714 |
| S | 17.375733 | 15.167420 | 13.528317 |
| H | 18.706396 | 19.586514 | 14.772441 |
| H | 17.338574 | 15.218558 | 16.242168 |
| H | 18.193806 | 17.765957 | 13.291360 |

$\operatorname{Min}-{ }^{3} n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$

| C | 17.778139 | 16.346982 | 14.630725 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| N | 18.128692 | 17.618563 | 14.289886 |
| C | 18.378753 | 18.647971 | 15.202474 |
| C | 18.273229 | 18.374750 | 16.553674 |
| C | 17.923127 | 17.094159 | 16.964822 |
| N | 17.694588 | 16.119707 | 15.980270 |
| H | 18.459583 | 19.149019 | 17.280817 |
| S | 17.762044 | 16.580508 | 18.618262 |
| S | 17.477818 | 15.157474 | 13.515514 |
| H | 18.634833 | 19.607788 | 14.790615 |
| H | 17.413512 | 15.184857 | 16.231196 |
| H | 18.189152 | 17.784832 | 13.298758 |


| Min- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.667164 | 16.388291 | 14.657604 |
| N | 18.110210 | 17.637670 | 14.301100 |
| C | 18.446871 | 18.657300 | 15.180997 |
| C | 18.353581 | 18.381890 | 16.559072 |
| C | 17.916272 | 17.146553 | 16.982049 |
| N | 17.569530 | 16.195148 | 16.007448 |
| H | 18.623641 | 19.127581 | 17.288955 |
| S | 17.739558 | 16.674248 | 18.644447 |
| S | 17.285943 | 15.225397 | 13.541467 |
| H | 18.791126 | 19.582576 | 14.755640 |
| H | 17.242653 | 15.288060 | 16.304298 |
| H | 18.182726 | 17.777176 | 13.305412 |


| ISC- ${ }^{3} \pi_{S 4} \pi_{S_{4}^{*}}^{*} / \mathrm{GS}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.619912 | 16.554861 | 14.683199 |
| N | 17.734387 | 17.862023 | 14.356879 |
| C | 18.621088 | 18.616216 | 15.163135 |
| C | 18.203455 | 18.489121 | 16.575915 |
| C | 18.051656 | 17.156462 | 17.004660 |
| N | 18.032784 | 16.233800 | 15.945480 |
| H | 17.688574 | 19.275495 | 17.086672 |
| S | 17.748459 | 16.676109 | 18.559862 |
| S | 17.056824 | 15.405424 | 13.630888 |
| H | 19.668748 | 18.464732 | 14.941827 |
| H | 17.903967 | 15.278443 | 16.184515 |
| H | 17.599414 | 18.069198 | 13.395451 |


| Min- $\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.782333 | 16.383599 | 14.670894 |
| N | 18.134381 | 17.615677 | 14.268797 |
| C | 18.371753 | 18.668577 | 15.187825 |
| C | 18.265494 | 18.366662 | 16.542152 |
| C | 17.926294 | 17.092938 | 17.040911 |
| N | 17.663262 | 16.134888 | 15.969380 |
| H | 18.460745 | 19.143946 | 17.266306 |
| S | 17.783525 | 16.511310 | 18.607879 |
| S | 17.496509 | 15.162411 | 13.494176 |
| H | 18.605331 | 19.627264 | 14.763668 |
| H | 17.392689 | 15.205720 | 16.269552 |
| H | 18.231158 | 17.753618 | 13.275473 |


| CI- $\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*} / n_{S 4} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.779587 | 16.406854 | 14.692369 |
| N | 18.123853 | 17.613434 | 14.256572 |
| C | 18.376669 | 18.679599 | 15.181846 |
| C | 18.260576 | 18.356734 | 16.540137 |
| C | 17.924873 | 17.088842 | 17.087498 |
| N | 17.664871 | 16.134473 | 15.962837 |
| H | 18.453192 | 19.139114 | 17.259162 |
| S | 17.772694 | 16.495897 | 18.605535 |
| S | 17.507284 | 15.173058 | 13.469953 |
| H | 18.629892 | 19.629558 | 14.748818 |
| H | 17.407017 | 15.207727 | 16.293283 |
| H | 18.212965 | 17.741320 | 13.259004 |


| $\mathrm{CI}-\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 4}^{*} / n_{S S} \pi_{S 4}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| C | 17.792408 | 16.409263 | 14.687199 |
| N | 18.116818 | 17.597035 | 14.279435 |
| C | 18.376425 | 18.652210 | 15.202454 |
| C | 18.268408 | 18.359056 | 16.544199 |
| C | 17.928967 | 17.116540 | 17.006895 |
| N | 17.694305 | 16.145629 | 15.950755 |
| H | 18.456211 | 19.129102 | 17.261388 |
| S | 17.735271 | 16.512788 | 18.570875 |
| S | 17.482929 | 15.145185 | 13.507696 |
| H | 18.629831 | 19.590325 | 14.770563 |
| H | 17.445415 | 15.237382 | 16.268193 |
| H | 18.186483 | 17.772093 | 13.307361 |


| Min $-\pi_{S 4} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.766962 | 16.308640 | 14.601050 |
| N | 18.131105 | 17.661957 | 14.297488 |
| C | 18.365633 | 18.615645 | 15.183774 |
| C | 18.265188 | 18.362313 | 16.554742 |
| C | 17.902251 | 17.044737 | 16.932579 |
| N | 17.679811 | 16.132225 | 16.001364 |
| H | 18.454276 | 19.114638 | 17.300455 |
| S | 17.790739 | 16.662243 | 18.663663 |
| S | 17.490859 | 15.142099 | 13.435993 |
| H | 18.636371 | 19.586372 | 14.790978 |
| H | 17.425355 | 15.192473 | 16.290999 |
| H | 18.204923 | 17.843268 | 13.303928 |


| Min- $\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.407799 | 16.454489 | 14.637111 |
| N | 17.942897 | 17.679131 | 14.279709 |
| C | 18.382159 | 18.601411 | 15.189577 |
| C | 18.356365 | 18.327623 | 16.522952 |
| C | 17.901383 | 17.043439 | 16.996737 |
| N | 17.561351 | 16.167205 | 15.979603 |
| H | 18.686101 | 19.056122 | 17.244908 |
| S | 17.772432 | 16.601993 | 18.584770 |
| S | 18.112924 | 15.090197 | 13.585806 |
| H | 18.755794 | 19.530147 | 14.787261 |
| H | 17.294426 | 15.229228 | 16.258616 |
| H | 17.939842 | 17.885624 | 13.289963 |


| CI- $\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*} / n_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.305895 | 16.487913 | 14.637760 |
| N | 17.864658 | 17.692232 | 14.285606 |
| C | 18.357150 | 18.600539 | 15.181353 |
| C | 18.354422 | 18.316479 | 16.512909 |
| C | 17.887714 | 17.042439 | 16.994720 |
| N | 17.468966 | 16.204722 | 15.967995 |
| H | 18.756725 | 19.016640 | 17.226418 |
| S | 17.852106 | 16.553973 | 18.571414 |
| S | 18.313760 | 15.168328 | 13.706178 |
| H | 18.769509 | 19.509072 | 14.770129 |
| H | 17.229239 | 15.248280 | 16.214771 |
| H | 17.953326 | 17.825992 | 13.287760 |


| Min- $n_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}\left(\right.$ ISC-n $\left.\pi_{S 2}^{*} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}\right)$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.525409 | 16.401976 | 14.610650 |
| N | 17.973443 | 17.675776 | 14.259635 |
| C | 18.378445 | 18.595491 | 15.186740 |
| C | 18.379968 | 18.316092 | 16.518884 |
| C | 17.914181 | 17.030771 | 16.981523 |
| N | 17.529218 | 16.159087 | 15.991146 |
| H | 18.703089 | 19.041847 | 17.245064 |
| S | 17.808987 | 16.595982 | 18.579826 |
| S | 18.142938 | 15.081044 | 13.588225 |
| H | 18.682756 | 19.552834 | 14.791069 |
| H | 17.160273 | 15.275523 | 16.313510 |
| H | 17.914765 | 17.940185 | 13.290741 |


| Min $^{3} \pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C | 17.466473 | 16.432396 | 14.625964 |
| N | 18.030883 | 17.658113 | 14.278184 |
| C | 18.383660 | 18.601278 | 15.187429 |
| C | 18.297941 | 18.347696 | 16.530930 |
| C | 17.902985 | 17.039363 | 16.996078 |
| N | 17.586870 | 16.152520 | 15.996313 |
| H | 18.571632 | 19.093112 | 17.257406 |
| S | 17.857915 | 16.595245 | 18.591336 |
| S | 17.909438 | 15.117164 | 13.519127 |
| H | 18.722570 | 19.545309 | 14.790232 |
| H | 17.304724 | 15.228522 | 16.291646 |
| H | 18.078380 | 17.855893 | 13.292366 |
|  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{CI}-\pi_{S 2} \pi_{S 2}^{*} / \mathrm{GS}$ and | ISC- $^{3} \pi_{S S} \pi_{S 2}^{*} / \mathrm{GS}$ |  |  |
| C | 17.450197 | 16.416535 | 14.555883 |
| N | 17.921703 | 17.703985 | 14.255302 |
| C | 18.350456 | 18.601713 | 15.184561 |
| C | 18.398602 | 18.306814 | 16.515289 |
| C | 17.958866 | 17.020535 | 16.972717 |
| N | 17.579468 | 16.136857 | 15.961390 |
| H | 18.728493 | 19.033458 | 17.237772 |
| S | 17.831667 | 16.550141 | 18.554443 |
| S | 18.586500 | 15.040146 | 14.175313 |
| H | 18.647980 | 19.566575 | 14.801139 |
| H | 17.090037 | 15.311775 | 16.287820 |
| H | 17.967783 | 17.946971 | 13.280255 |

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