

# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## **Ratiometric fluorescent sensing of pyrophosphate with $sp^3$ -functionalized single- walled carbon nanotubes**

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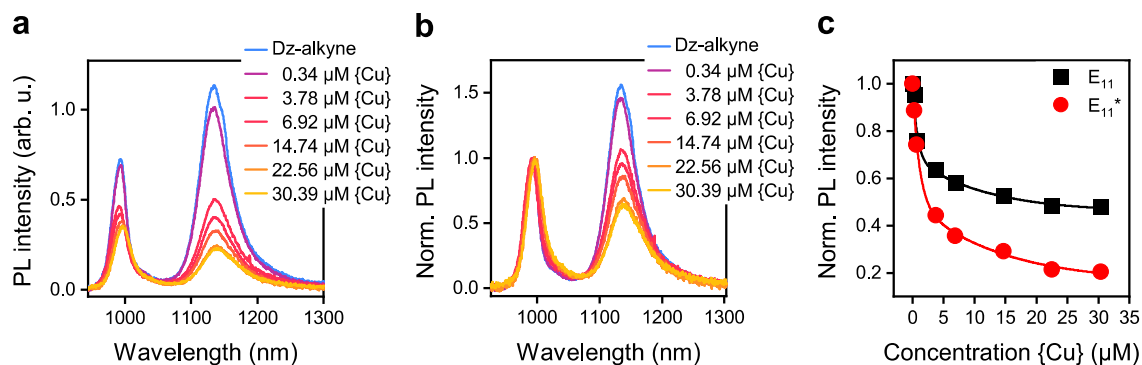
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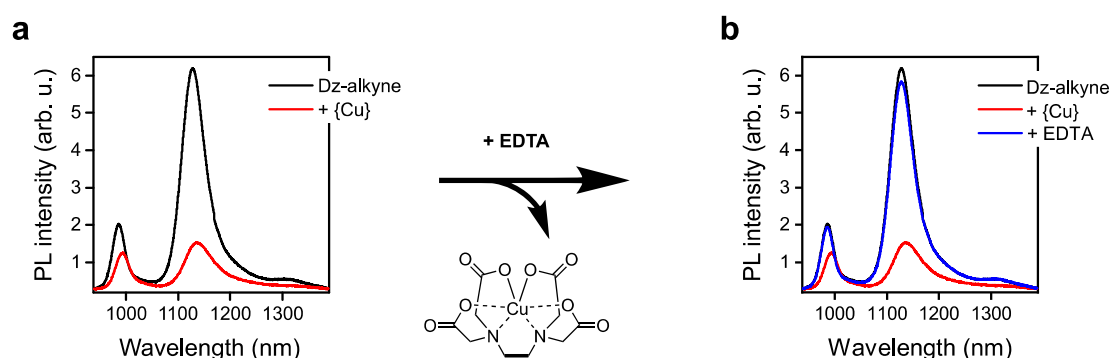
## Supplementary Figures and Tables

**Suppl. Fig. 1 | Copper induced quenching of  $sp^3$ -functionalized (6,5) SWNTs**



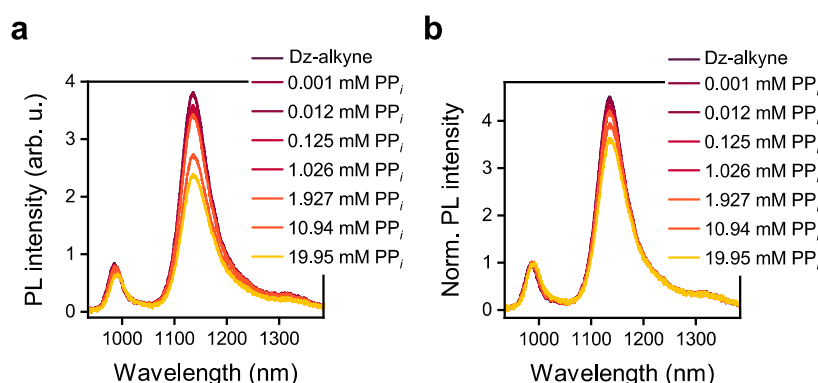
**Supplementary Fig. 1 | Copper induced quenching.** **a,b** Absolute (a) and normalized (b) PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs after the addition of various concentration of {Cu}. **c** Norm.  $E_{11}$  (black) and  $E_{11}^*$  (red) PL intensity vs. concentration of {Cu} (lines are guides to the eye). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

**Suppl. Fig. 2 | Reversible quenching of  $sp^3$ -functionalized (6,5) SWNTs**



**Supplementary Fig. 2 | Reversible quenching with EDTA.** **a** PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs before and after the addition of {Cu} (30  $\mu\text{M}$ ). **b** Further PL spectra after the addition of EDTA (1 mM). The expected complex formed by  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions and EDTA is indicated below the black arrows. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Fig. 3 | Effect of PP<sub>i</sub> on the PL of functionalized SDS-dispersed (6,5) SWNTs

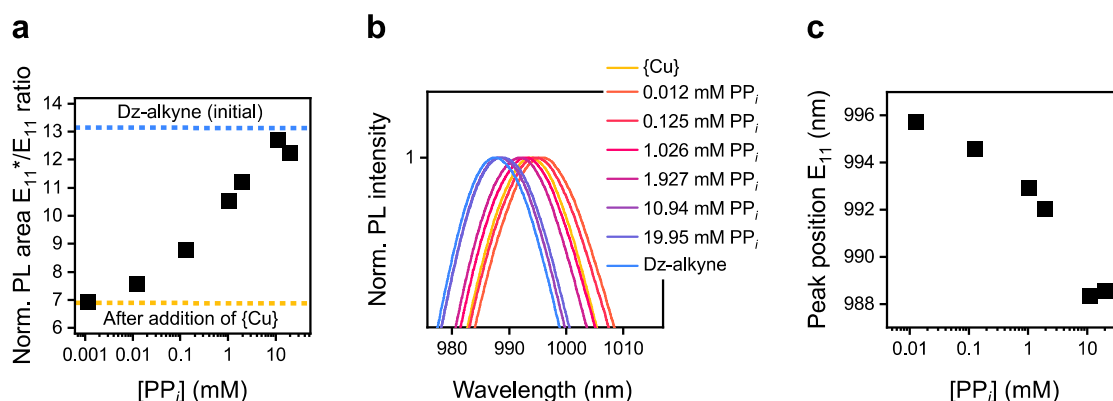


**Supplementary Fig. 3. | Effect of PP<sub>i</sub> on SDS-dispersed (6,5) SWNTs.** Absolute (a) and normalized (b) PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs dispersed in SDS before and after the addition of various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Note 1 | Effect of PP<sub>i</sub> on the PL of functionalized SDS-dispersed (6,5) SWNTs

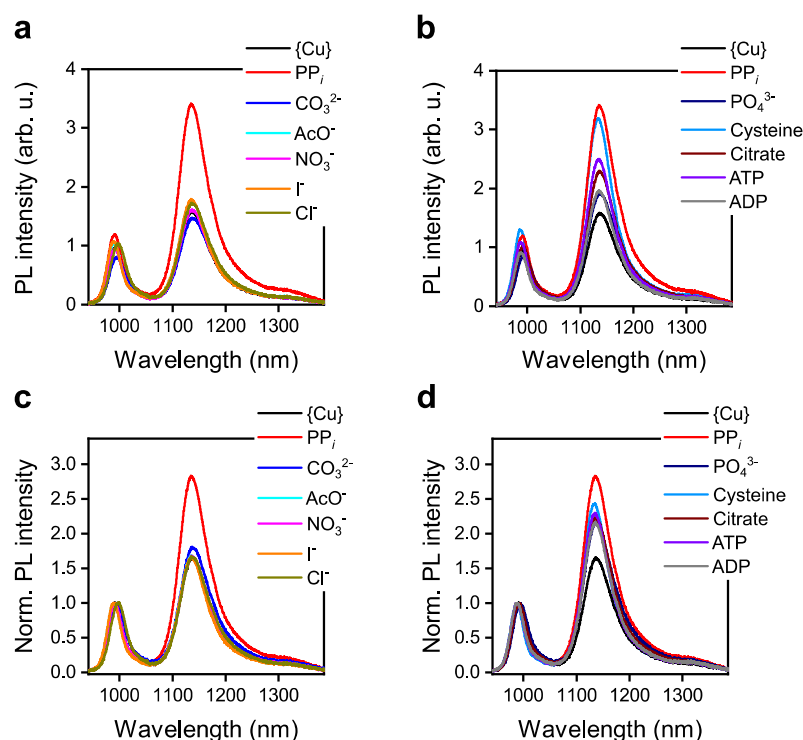
For SDS-dispersed SWNTs, a small decrease in the overall PL intensity and the E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> ratio can be observed for low concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub> (< 2 mM) and a significant drop at high concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub> (> 11 mM). The latter decrease in PL intensity is accompanied by a small red-shift of the E<sub>11</sub> and E<sub>11</sub>\* emission peaks. Aggregation of surfactant-dispersed SWNTs is expected at high salt concentrations as described by Niyogi *et al.* and Koh *et al.* and could cause the observed drop in PL intensity as well as the red-shift.<sup>1,2</sup> However, the E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> PL ratio is affected to a lesser extent.

# Suppl. Fig. 4 | Dependence of PL area ratio and E<sub>11</sub> peak position on PP<sub>i</sub> concentration



**Supplementary Fig. 4. | PP<sub>i</sub> dependent changes in PL characteristics.** **a**  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  PL area ratio upon addition of various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. Initial PL area ratio before and after the addition of {Cu} is indicated by blue and yellow dotted lines, respectively. **b** Zoom-in on the normalized  $E_{11}$  peak of ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs before and after the addition of {Cu} (15  $\mu$ M) and various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. **c**  $E_{11}$  peak position upon addition of various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

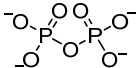
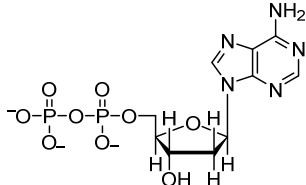
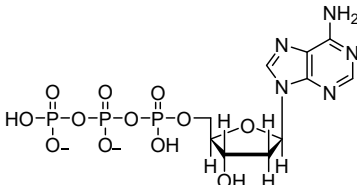
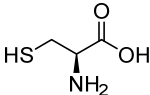
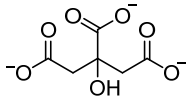

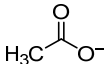


# Suppl. Fig. 5 | Sensor response in the presence of various analytes



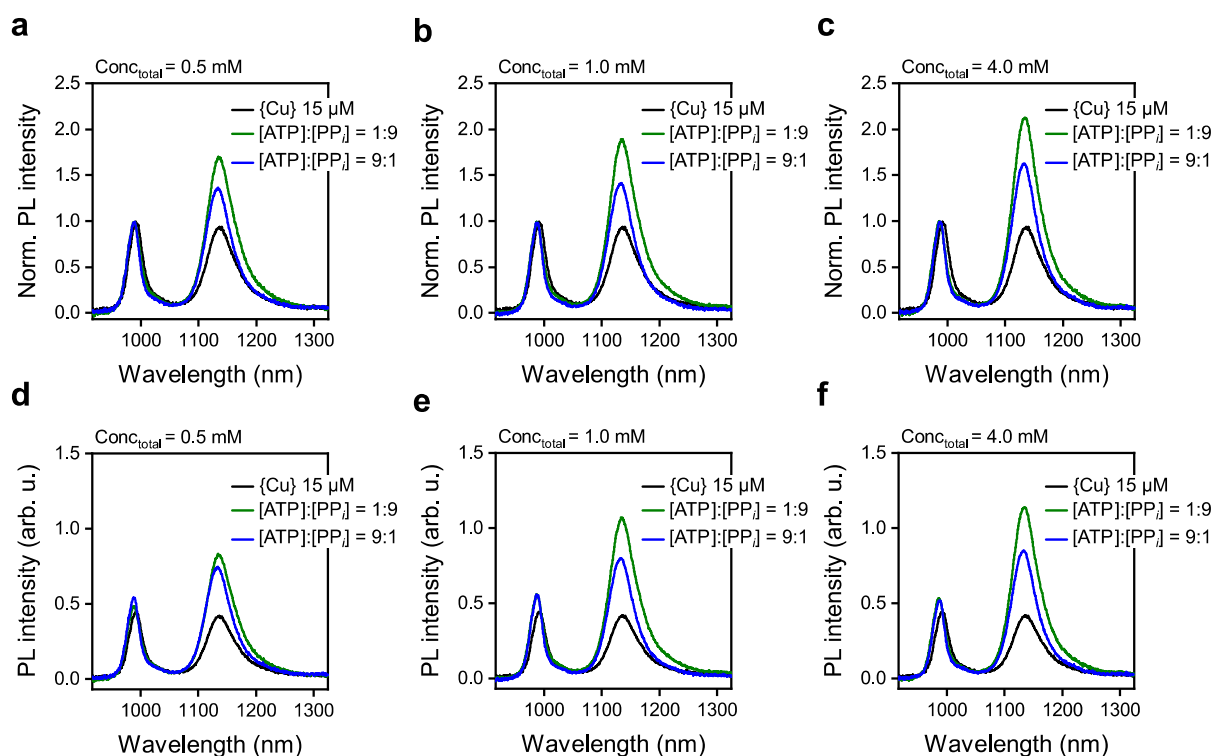
**Supplementary Fig. 5. | Sensor response towards various analytes.** **a,c** Response of the absolute (**a**) and normalized (**c**) PL of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs in the presence of various analytes that weakly complex copper(II) (1 mM). **b,d** Response of the absolute (**b**) and normalized (**d**) PL in the presence of various analytes which strongly complex copper(II) (1 mM). In all cases 15  $\mu$ M {Cu} was used. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

# Suppl. Table 1 | Extracted emission peak positions after addition of various analytes

**Supplementary Table 1. | Extracted peak position after addition of various analytes.**  $E_{11}$  and  $E_{11}^*$  peak position and optical trap depth  $\Delta E$  after addition of various analytes (1 mM).

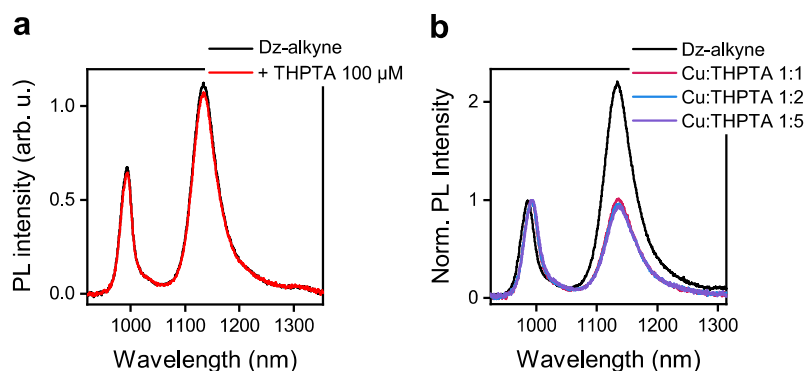
Sample/Analyte	Molecular structure	$E_{11}$ (nm)	$E_{11}^*$ (nm)	$\Delta E$ (meV)
Dz-alkyne	-	986.2	1133.5	163.4
{Cu}	-	992.1	1137.7	159.9
$PP_i$		991.0	1135.8	159.5
ADP		988.7	1135.8	162.4
ATP		988.5	1135	161.9
L-Cysteine		987.6	1133.6	161.7
Citrate		992.2	1136.3	158.5
$I^-$	-	989.6	1136.3	161.7
$CO_3^{2-}$		994.9	1138.1	156.8
$AcO^-$		990.4	1136.3	160.7
$NO_3^-$		991.7	1137.4	160.1
$PO_4^{3-}$		994.5	1136.3	155.6
$Cl^-$	-	997.9	1137.4	152.4

## Suppl. Fig. 6 | Sensing of different mixing ratios of PP<sub>i</sub> and ATP



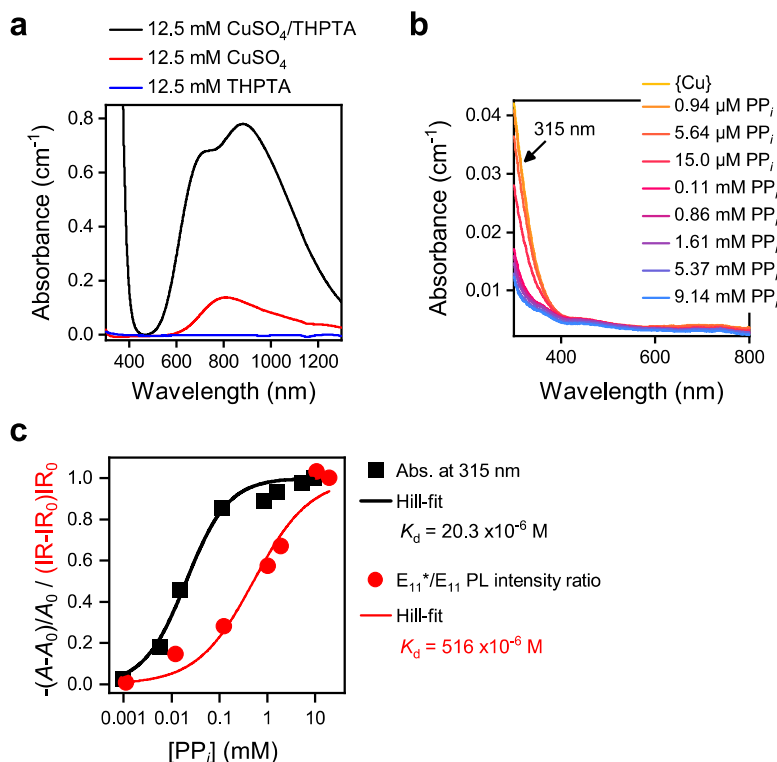
**Supplementary Fig. 6. | Sensing of different mixing ratios.** a-c Normalized PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs after the addition of different ratios of ATP and PP<sub>i</sub> with a total analyte concentration of 0.5 mM, 1.0 mM and 4.0 mM. d-f Absolute PL spectra after the addition of different ratios of ATP and PP<sub>i</sub> with a total analyte concentration of 0.5 mM, 1.0 mM and 4.0 mM. In all cases 15 μM {Cu} was used. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

## Suppl. Fig. 7 | Impact of THPTA



**Supplementary Fig. 7. | Impact of THPTA.** a PL Spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs before and after the addition of 100 μM THPTA. b Normalized PL spectra after the addition of 15 μM {Cu} with different ratios of CuSO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>5</sub>/THPTA. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

## Suppl. Fig. 8 | Competitive complexation of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions



**Supplementary Fig. 8. | Competitive complexation of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions.** **a** Absorption spectra of a 1:1 complex of CuSO<sub>4</sub> and THPTA (12.5 mM), CuSO<sub>4</sub> (12.5 mM) and THPTA (12.5 mM) **b** Absorption spectra of a 1:1 complex of CuSO<sub>4</sub> and THPTA (15 μM) after addition of various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. **c** Black squares: PP<sub>i</sub> concentration dependent changes of absorption at 315 nm are displayed with  $A$  as the absorbance and  $A_0$  as the absorbance before addition of PP<sub>i</sub>. Red circles: PP<sub>i</sub> concentration dependent changes of the E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> PL intensity ratio extracted from PL measurements as displayed in Fig. 2. IR is the E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> intensity ratio and IR<sub>0</sub> the E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> intensity ratio after addition of {Cu}. The data were fitted with a Hill-function and dissociation constants of  $20.3 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ M}$  and  $516 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ M}$  were extracted, respectively. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

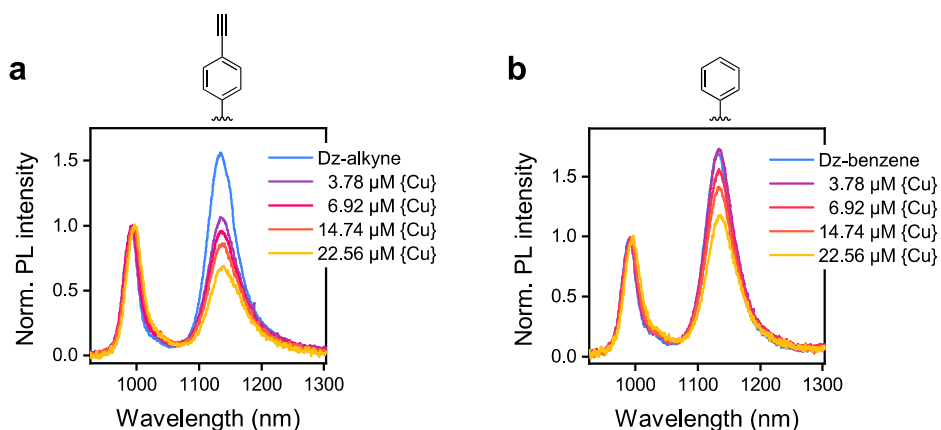
## Suppl. Note 2 | Competitive complexation of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions

The complexation/decomplexation of the Cu<sup>2+</sup>/THPTA complex upon addition of PP<sub>i</sub> can be tracked *in situ* by absorption spectroscopy. The absorption band around  $\approx 315 \text{ nm}$  is suitable for this purpose as it arises from the THPTA ligand when coordinated to CuSO<sub>4</sub>. Neither the THPTA ligand itself nor CuSO<sub>4</sub> show significant absorption bands at this wavelength. Upon titration with PP<sub>i</sub>, this absorption feature vanishes with increasing PP<sub>i</sub> concentration indicating the removal of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions from the THPTA ligand. No absorption feature for the PP<sub>i</sub>/Cu<sup>2+</sup> complex is expected at this absorption wavelength due to the lack of an aromatic backbone. Hence, the concentration of Cu/THPTA complex can be directly correlated with the absorbance at 315 nm. When fitted with a Hill-function a dissociation constant of  $K_d = 20.3 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ M}$  can be extracted. This value can be compared to the dissociation constant for the Cu<sup>2+</sup>/THPTA complex on the SWNT surface when the E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> intensity ratio of the SWNT probe is tracked.



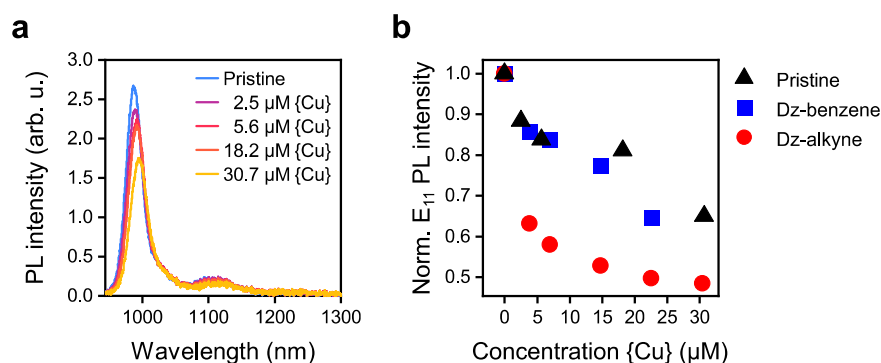
The corresponding  $K_d$  extracted from SWNT PL measurements is 25 times higher ( $K_d = 516 \cdot 10^{-6}$  M) and shows the additional stabilization of the complex by the SWNT surface and the ethynylbenzene group attached to the  $sp^3$  defect.

### Suppl. Fig. 9 | Impact of the functional group



**Supplementary Fig. 9. | Impact of the functional group.** **a** Normalized PL spectrum of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs after the addition of various concentration of {Cu}. **b** Normalized PL spectra of benzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs after the addition of various concentration of {Cu}. Corresponding functional groups are indicated above the spectra. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Fig. 10 | Comparison between functionalized and pristine (6,5) SWNTs



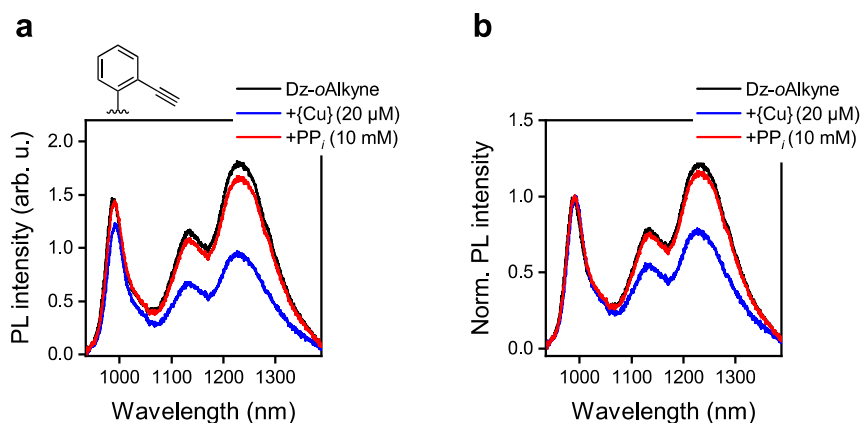
**Supplementary Fig. 10. | Comparison in PL quenching.** **a** PL spectrum of pristine (6,5) SWNTs after the addition of various concentrations of {Cu}. **b** Extracted  $E_{11}$  PL intensities normalized to their initial values before addition of {Cu} for pristine, benzene-functionalized and 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs vs. concentration of {Cu}. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Note 3 | Comparison between functionalized and pristine (6,5) SWNTs

PL quenching after addition of {Cu} occurs for pristine (6,5) SWNTs to a similar degree as observed for functionalized SWNTs with a benzene moiety. Thus, we can consider quenching of  $E_{11}$  excitons to be independent of  $E_{11}^*$  excitons. The stronger quenching effect for

functionalized SWNTs with alkynyl moiety is likely to originate from additional coordination of {Cu} to the alkynyl group, which facilitates adsorption to the SWNT surface.

### Suppl. Fig. 11 | PP<sub>i</sub> Sensing with E<sub>11</sub>\* and E<sub>11</sub>\*<sup>-</sup> emission



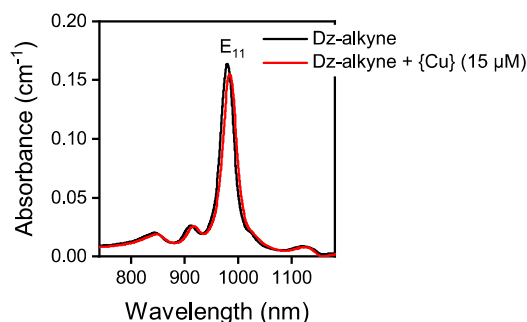
**Supplementary Fig. 11. | PP<sub>i</sub> sensing with E<sub>11</sub>\* and E<sub>11</sub>\*<sup>-</sup> emission.** **a,b** Absolute (**a**) and normalized (**b**) PL spectra of 2-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (*o*Alkyne) (6,5) SWNTs after the addition of 20 μM {Cu}. The functional group is indicated above the spectrum in **a**. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Table 2 | Extracted values for PP<sub>i</sub> sensing with E<sub>11</sub>\* and E<sub>11</sub>\*<sup>-</sup> emission

**Supplementary Table 2. | Extracted values for PP<sub>i</sub> sensing.** Extracted peak positions, area ratios and quenching factors (QF) for E<sub>11</sub>\*<sup>-</sup> and E<sub>11</sub>\*<sup>-</sup> emission after fitting with Voigt functions. Note that E<sub>11</sub>\*<sup>-</sup> emission is quenched stronger than E<sub>11</sub>\* emission, likely caused by its initially longer PL lifetime.

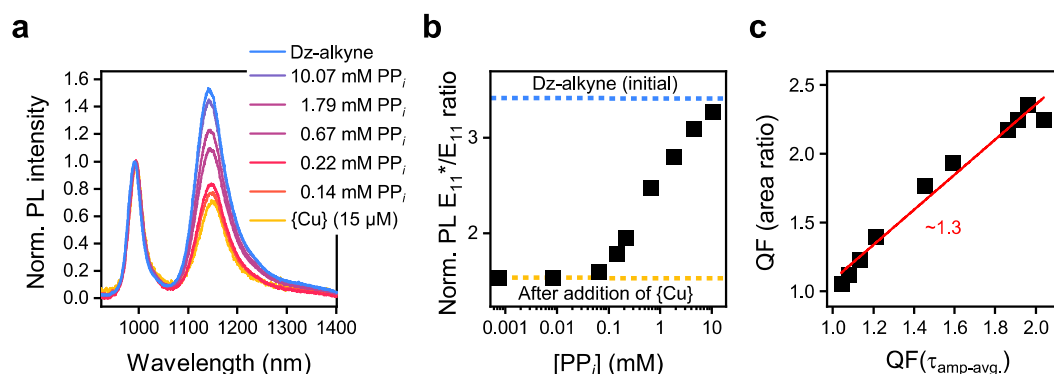
Sample	Dz- <i>o</i> Alkyne	+{Cu}
Peak position E <sub>11</sub> (nm)	990	995
Peak position E <sub>11</sub> * (nm)	1128	1127
Peak position E <sub>11</sub> * <sup>-</sup> (nm)	1242	1240
Area ratio E <sub>11</sub> */E <sub>11</sub>	1.00	0.86
Area ratio E <sub>11</sub> * <sup>-</sup> /E <sub>11</sub>	2.93	2.13
QF E <sub>11</sub> */E <sub>11</sub> (area ratio)	-	1.16
QF E <sub>11</sub> * <sup>-</sup> /E <sub>11</sub> (area ratio)	-	1.38

## Suppl. Fig. 12 | Impact of {Cu} on the absorption spectra



**Supplementary Fig. 12. | Impact of {Cu} on the absorption spectra.** Absorption spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs before and after addition of 15 μM {Cu}. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

## Suppl. Fig. 13 | Detection of PP<sub>i</sub> under pulsed laser excitation



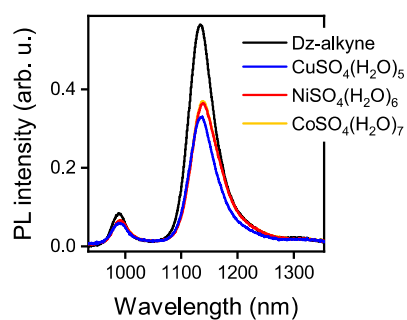
**Supplementary Fig. 13. | Detection of PP<sub>i</sub> under pulsed laser excitation.** **a** Normalized PL spectrum under pulsed laser excitation (as in TCSPC measurements for data in Table S3) after addition of various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. **b** E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> PL area ratio upon addition of various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. The initial PL area ratios before and after the addition of {Cu} are indicated by blue and yellow dotted lines, respectively. **c** QF extracted from E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> PL area ratios plotted vs. the QFs extracted from amplitude averaged lifetimes (τ<sub>amp-avg.</sub>) obtained by TCSPC measurements (see Supplementary Table 3). The red solid line is a linear fit to the data with a slope of ~1.3. The strong correlation between QFs extracted from PL area ratios and τ<sub>amp-avg.</sub> indicates the absence of ground-state quenching. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Table 3 | Extracted lifetime values from TCSPC measurements

**Supplementary Table 3. | Extracted lifetime values from TCSPC.** Extracted  $\tau_{\text{amp-avg.}}$  from TCSPC measurements and  $E_{11}/E_{11}^*$  PL area ratios with corresponding QF.

Sample	$\tau_{\text{amp-avg.}}$	QF ( $\tau_{\text{amp-avg.}}$ )	Area ratio	QF (Area ratio)
Dz-alkyne	151		3.47	
+ {Cu}	79	1.91	1.54	2.25
0.75 $\mu\text{M}$	74	2.04	1.54	2.25
8.27 $\mu\text{M}$	77	1.96	1.47	2.36
64.7 $\mu\text{M}$	81	1.86	1.59	2.18
0.14 mM	95	1.59	1.79	1.94
0.22 mM	104	1.45	1.96	1.77
0.67 mM	125	1.21	2.48	1.40
1.80 mM	134	1.13	2.81	1.23
4.43 mM	140	1.08	3.10	1.12
10.07 mM	145	1.04	3.27	1.06

### Suppl. Fig. 14 | Investigation of the quenching mechanism



**Supplementary Fig. 14. | Metal ion dependent PL quenching.** PL spectra after addition of CuSO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>5</sub>, NiSO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub> and CoSO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>7</sub> (0.25 mM). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

#### Suppl. Note 4 | Estimation of PET & mechanistic considerations

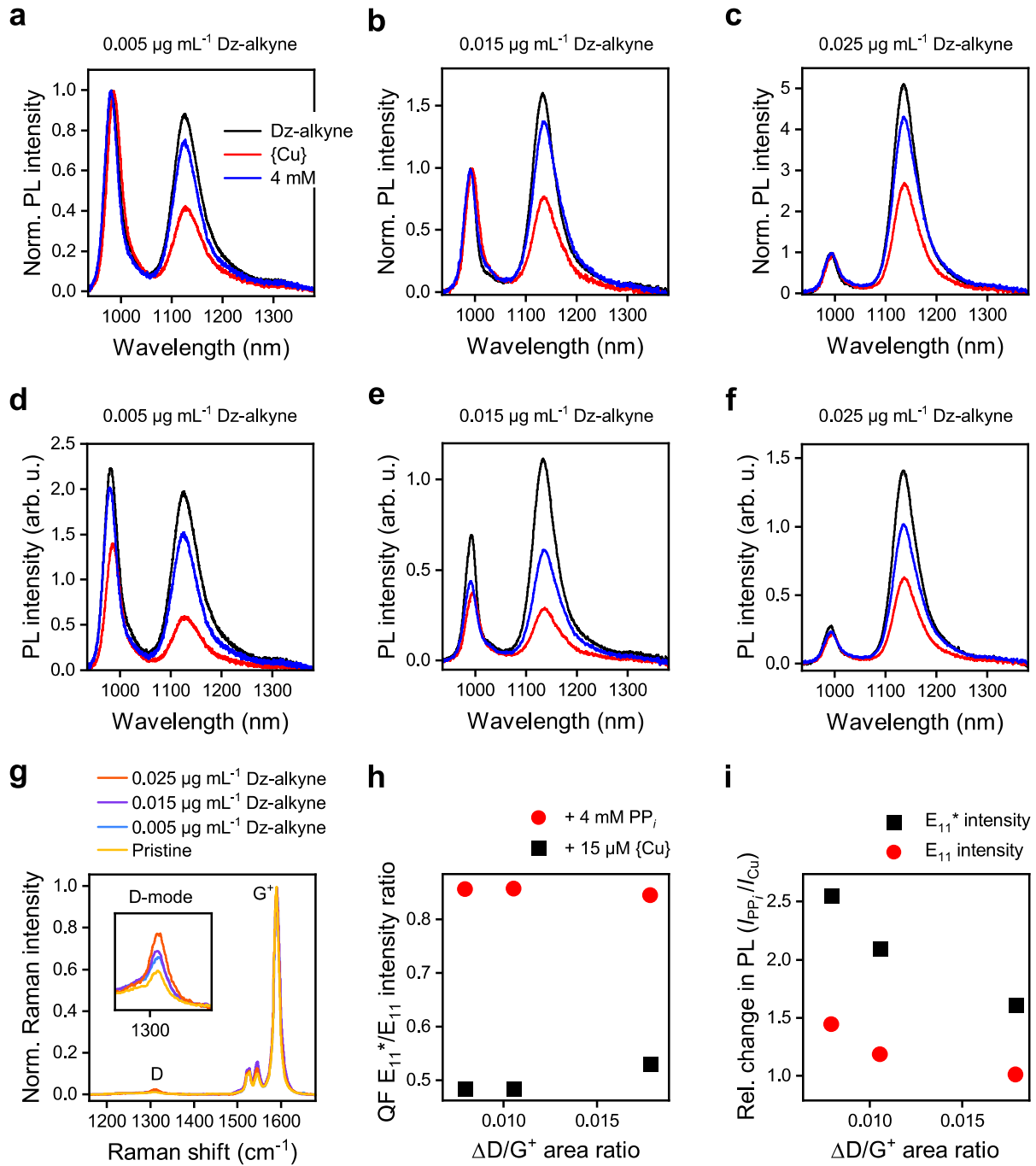
Quenching mechanisms from paramagnetic metals are frequently expected to result from fast electron transfer mechanisms such as photoinduced electron transfer (PET) from the excited state of the fluorophore to the paramagnetic metal centre.<sup>3-5</sup> To evaluate this possibility, the Gibbs free energy of the PET was estimated according to

$$\Delta G_{\text{PET}} = eE_{\text{red}}(D^+/D) - eE_{\text{red}}(A/A^-) - \Delta G_{00} - \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_r\epsilon_0 d} \quad (1)$$

where  $E_{\text{red}}$  is the reduction potential,  $\Delta G_{00}$  the optical transition energy,  $\epsilon_r$  the relative permittivity of water ( $\epsilon_r(20^\circ\text{C}) = 80$ ). A distance  $d$  of approximately 1.0 nm between the defect site and the metal centre was assumed. For the redox potential of functionalized (6,5) SWNTs (Donor,  $D$ ) values reported by Shiraishi *et al.* were used ( $E_{\text{ox}}(\text{V}) = 0.584$  vs. Ag/AgCl)<sup>6</sup> and for Cu(II)/Cu(I) (Acceptor,  $A$ )  $E_0(\text{V}) = 0.161$  was used.<sup>7</sup> Note, that the reduction potential of Cu(II) is expected to shift upon complexation with THPTA.<sup>8</sup> However, no exact values are reported and its redox potential may further vary upon adsorption to the SWNT sidewall. Hence, the effect of the ligand was not considered within this estimation. With an optical transition energy of  $\Delta G_{00} = 1.09$  eV, a large negative  $\Delta G_{\text{PET}}$  was calculated ( $\Delta G_{\text{PET}} = -2.05$  eV). Thus, PET would be thermodynamically highly favourable and would present a viable route to quench  $E_{11}^*$  emission (as well  $E_{11}$  emission).<sup>9</sup>

If the above assumption is correct, the quenching efficiency is expected to correlate with the standard reduction potential of the metal ion. With a standard reduction potential for Ni(II/0) and Co(II/0) of -0.26 V and -0.28 V, respectively, a negative  $\Delta G_{\text{PET}}$  of -1.61 eV and -1.65 eV can be calculated.<sup>7</sup> Thus, PL quenching of Ni(II) and Co(II) *via* PET is also likely and quenching should occur to a similar degree. This notion agrees with our observation that Ni(II) and Co(II) exhibit similarly strong quenching (see Supplementary Fig. 11) while stronger quenching is observed for Cu(II). Other effects such as the influence of the counter ion and impact of pH value were previously reported to be negligible and thus were not further investigated within the scope of this work.<sup>10</sup> While our observations indicate PL quenching *via* PET, further studies with different metal ions are necessary to obtain a more conclusive picture.

**Suppl. Fig. 15 | Influence of the defect density on sensor sensitivity**



**Supplementary Fig. 15. | Impact of the defect density on  $\text{PP}_i$  sensing.** Normalized (a-c) and absolute (d-f) PL spectra of (6,5) SWNTs in SDS functionalized at various concentrations of 4-ethynyl benzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate after addition of 15  $\mu\text{M}$  {Cu} and 4 mM  $\text{PP}_i$ . **g** Normalized Raman spectra of functionalized (6,5) SWNTs. **h** QF of the  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  intensity ratio vs. change in D/ $G^+$  area ratio ( $\Delta\text{D}/G^+$ ). **i** Relative changes in PL intensity ( $I_{\text{PP}_i}/I_{\text{Cu}}$ ) of  $E_{11}$  and  $E_{11}^*$  emission vs. change in D/ $G^+$  area ratio ( $\Delta\text{D}/G^+$ ). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

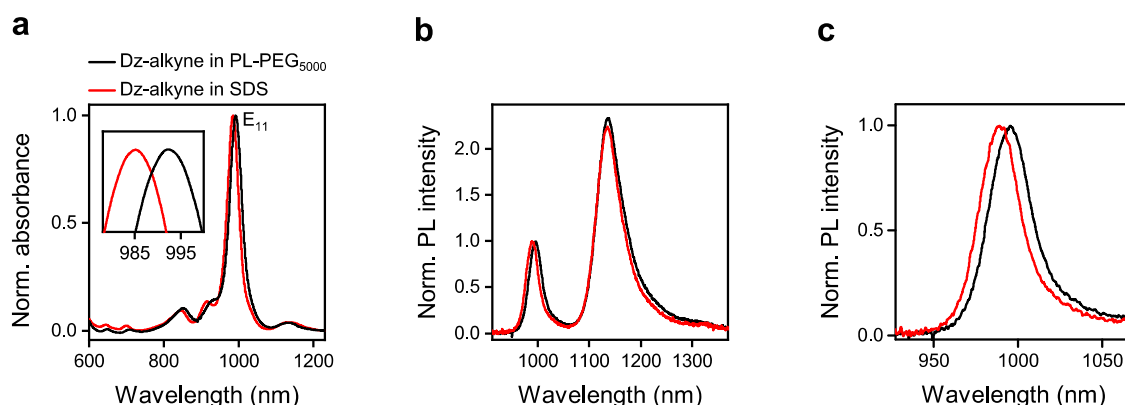
## Suppl. Note 5 | Influence of the defect density on sensor sensitivity

PL and Raman spectra were recorded for SWNT dispersions with three different defect densities that were obtained by variation of the 4-ethynylbenzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate concentration during functionalization. Normalized as well as absolute PL spectra and Raman spectra are shown in Supplementary Fig. 15. The defect density after functionalization correlates with the differential Raman  $\Delta D/G^+$  area ratio, representing the change in  $D/G^+$  area ratio compared to the pristine sample. Upon addition of 15  $\mu\text{M}$   $\{\text{Cu}\}$  similarly strong quenching and PL recovery after addition of 4 mM  $\text{PP}_i$  is observed, although, with subtle differences. Extracting the QF ( $I_{\{\text{Cu}\}}/I_{\text{Ref-alkyne}}$ ) of the PL  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  intensity ratio and plotting it against the  $\Delta D/G^+$  area ratio shows that the overall reduction of the PL ratio is slightly reduced at higher defect densities. This is reasonable, as more defect sites must be coordinated by  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions in contrast to samples with low defect densities to achieve a similarly strong quenching of the defect state emission. However, we do not find a change in the sensitivity/dynamic range for the PL  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  intensity ratio. This observation agrees with data presented later (see Supplementary Fig. 22a).

In contrast to this, a dependence on the absolute PL intensities can be observed. When extracting the relative increase in PL intensities for  $E_{11}$  and  $E_{11}^*$  emission, *i.e.* the ratio of PL intensity before and after the addition of  $\text{PP}_i$  ( $I_{\text{PP}_i}/I_{\{\text{Cu}\}}$ ) (see Supplementary Fig. 15i), a clear correlation with the defect density is found. In this case, a higher sensitivity is obtained for low defect densities. Supplementary Fig. 22b shows a similar effect, where the dynamic range shifts toward higher concentrations of  $\text{PP}_i$  for SWNTs that were functionalized to a higher degree.

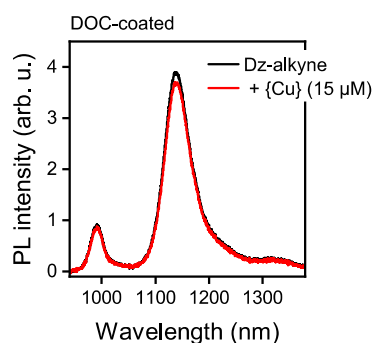
In summary, the best sensitivity can be obtained at very low defect densities, however, its impact on the PL intensity ratio is minimal. Thus, we recommend to use defect densities that are close or slightly below the PLQY maximum of functionalized SWNTs to obtain an overall high PL signal with good sensitivity.

**Suppl. Fig. 16 | Transfer of ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs to PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub>**



**Supplementary Fig. 16. | Surfactant exchange to PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub>.** **a** Normalized absorption spectrum before and after transfer to PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> with zoom-in on the E<sub>11</sub> transition. **b** Normalized PL spectra before and after transfer to PL-PEG<sub>500</sub>. **c** Zoom-in on E<sub>11</sub> PL peak. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

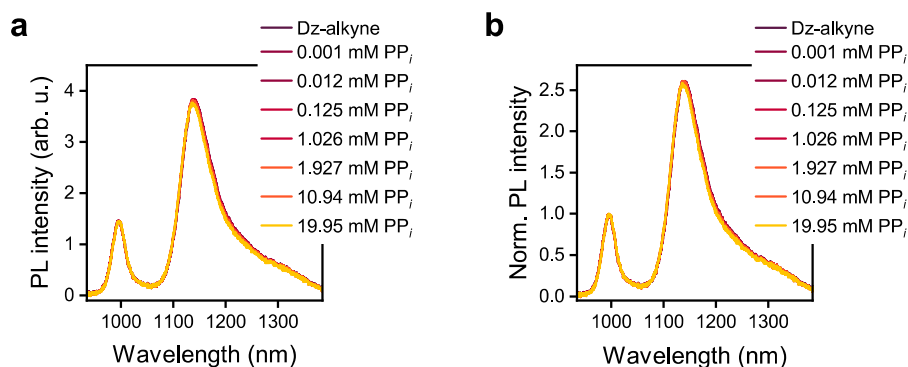
**Suppl. Fig. 17| Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion induced quenching for DOC-coated (6,5) SWNTs**



**Supplementary Fig. 17. | Copper induced quenching for DOC-coated (6,5) SWNTs.** PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs dispersed in DOC before and after addition of 15 μM {Cu}. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

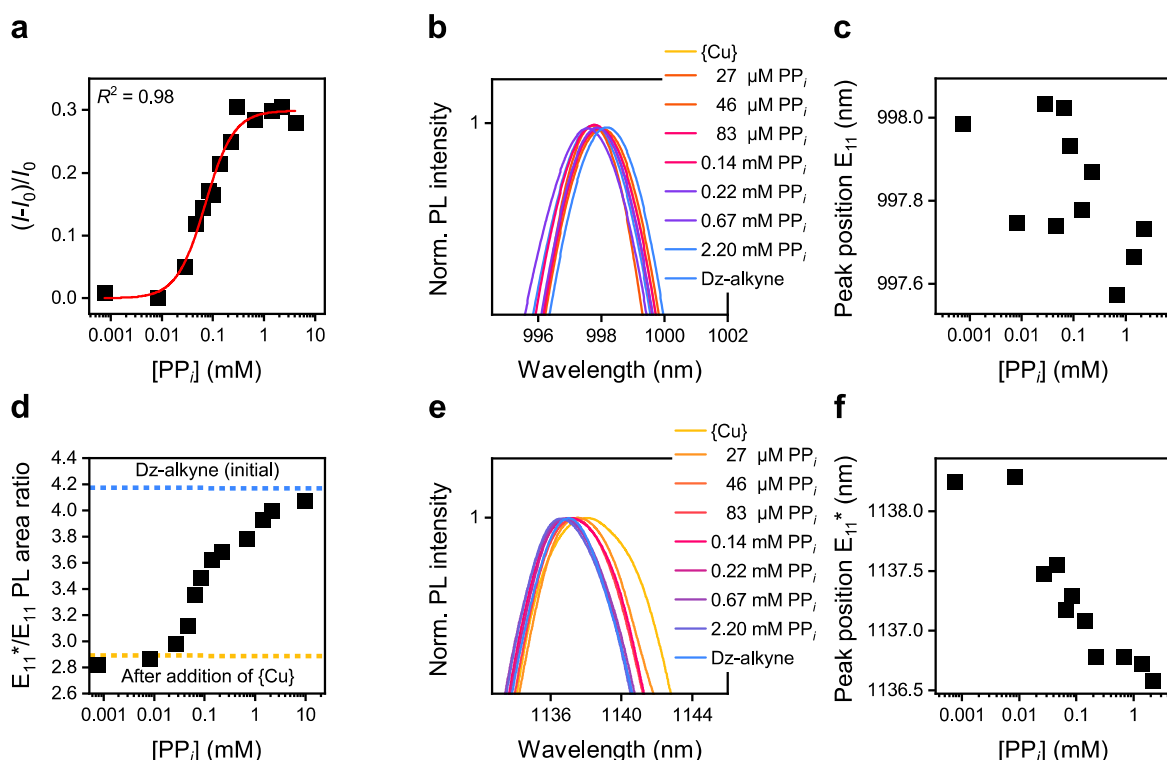


**Suppl. Fig. 18 | Effect of PP<sub>i</sub> on the PL of functionalized PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub>-coated (6,5) SWNTs**



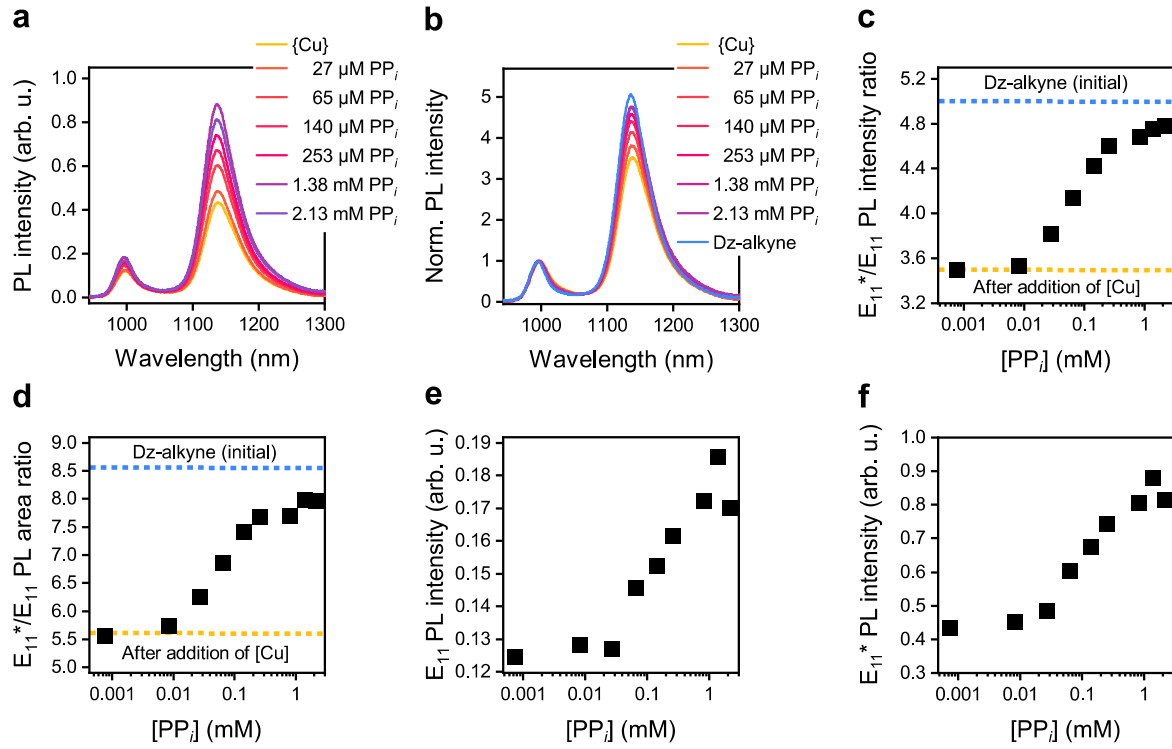
**Supplementary Fig. 18. | Effect of PP<sub>i</sub> on PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> dispersed (6,5) SWNTs.** Absolute (a) and normalized (b) PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs dispersed in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> before and after the addition of various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

**Suppl. Fig. 19 | Detection of PP<sub>i</sub> in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> and buffer system**



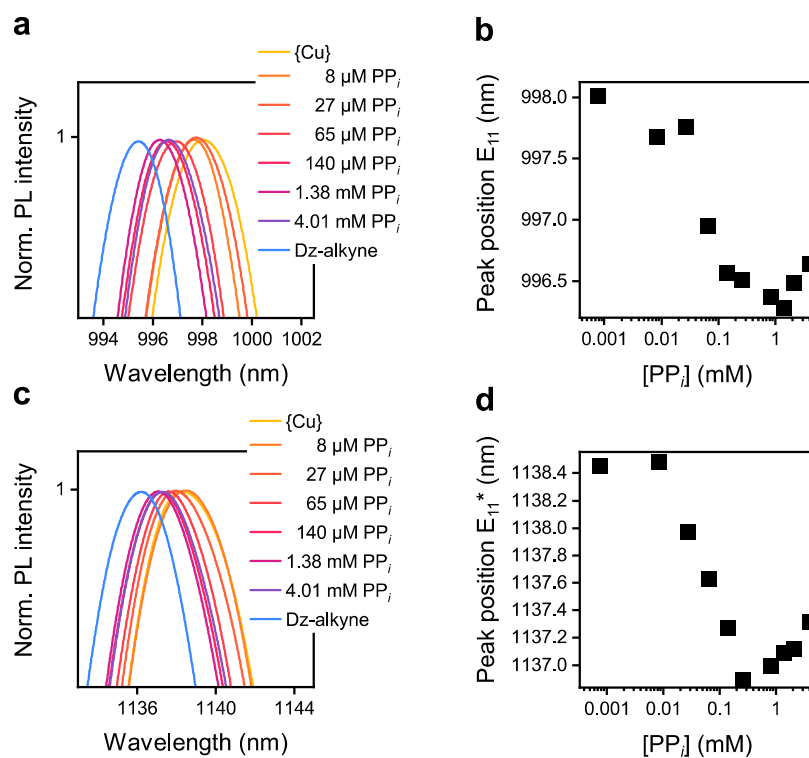
**Supplementary Fig. 19. | Detection of PP<sub>i</sub> in buffer system.** a,d PP<sub>i</sub> concentration dependent changes of E<sub>11</sub> PL intensities (a) and PL area ratios (d). Initial E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> PL area ratio before and after the addition of {Cu} is indicated by blue and yellow dotted lines, respectively. Red line shows the fitted curve for  $Y = [PP_i]^n / (K_d^n + [PP_i]^n)$ . The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of the fit is given in the plot. b,e Zoom-in on the normalized E<sub>11</sub> (b) and E<sub>11</sub>\* (e) peak at various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. c,f E<sub>11</sub> (c) and E<sub>11</sub>\* (f) peak position vs. PP<sub>i</sub> concentration. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

# Suppl. Fig. 20 | Detection of PP<sub>i</sub> at high defect density



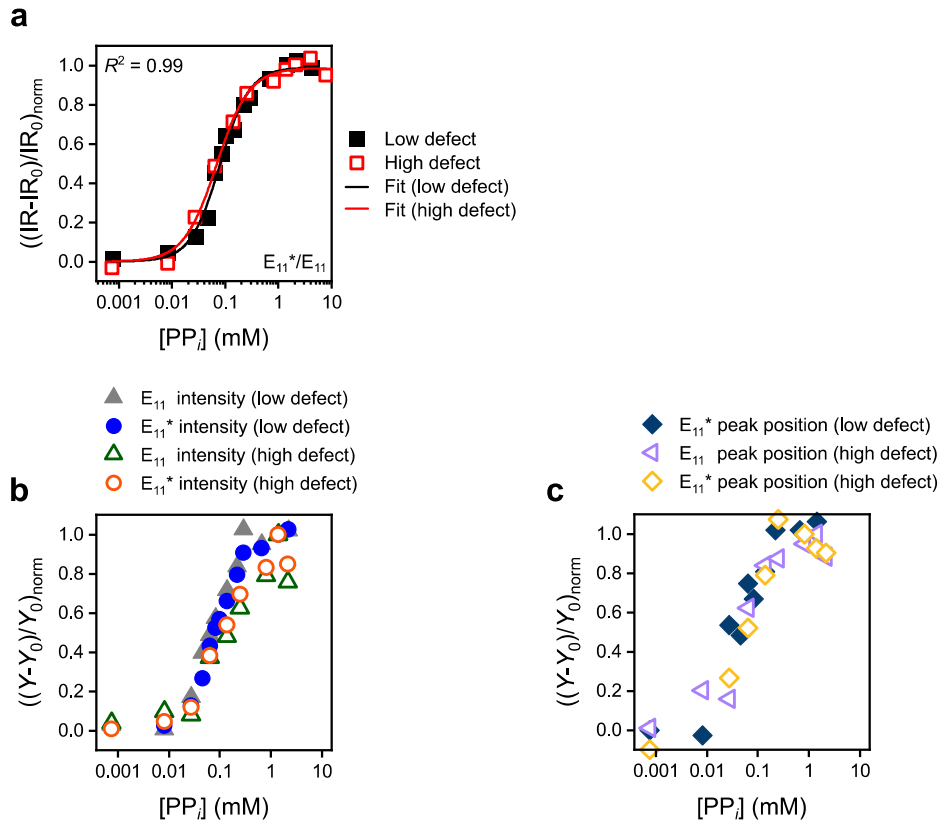
**Supplementary Fig. 20. | Detection of PP<sub>i</sub> at high defect density.** **a,b** Absolute (a) and normalized (b) PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> and 10 mM MOPS buffer at various concentrations of PP<sub>i</sub>. **c** PL intensity ratio vs. PP<sub>i</sub> concentration. **d** PL area ratio vs. PP<sub>i</sub> concentration. **e** E<sub>11</sub> PL intensity vs. PP<sub>i</sub> concentration. **f** E<sub>11</sub>\* PL intensity vs. PP<sub>i</sub> concentration. Initial E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> PL intensity and area ratios before and after the addition of {Cu} are indicated by blue and yellow dotted lines, respectively. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

**Suppl. Fig. 21 | Shift of PL peak positions at high defect density**



**Supplementary Fig. 21. | Shift of PL peak position. a,c** Zoom-in on the normalized  $E_{11}$  and  $E_{11}^*$  peak at various concentrations of  $\text{PP}_i$ . **b,d**  $E_{11}$  and  $E_{11}^*$  peak position vs.  $\text{PP}_i$  concentration. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

## Suppl. Fig. 22 | Comparison of sensing metrics at low and high defect densities



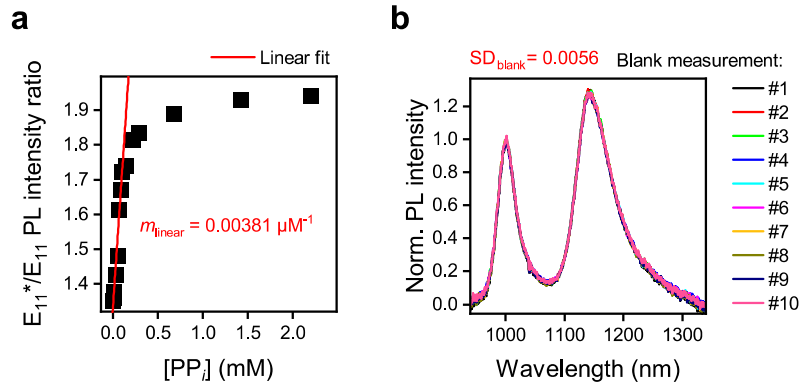
**Supplementary Fig. 22. | Comparison of sensing metrics.** **a**  $PP_i$  concentration dependent changes of the normalized  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  PL intensity ratio for high and low  $sp^3$  defect densities. Lines show the fitted curves for  $Y = [PP_i]^n / (K_d^n + [PP_i]^n)$ , with  $IR$  - normalized  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  intensity ratio and  $IR_0$  - normalized  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  intensity ratio after the addition of  $\{Cu\}$ . **b,c**  $PP_i$  concentration dependent changes of the normalized  $E_{11}^*$  and  $E_{11}$  PL intensities (**b**) and  $E_{11}^*$  and  $E_{11}$  peak positions (**c**) for high and low and high  $sp^3$  defect densities, with  $Y$  - normalized PL intensity and peak position and  $Y_0$  - normalized PL intensity and peak position after the addition of  $\{Cu\}$ . For changes in  $E_{11}$  peak position at low defect density please see Fig. S13c. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

## Suppl. Table 4 | Extracted dissociation constants and Hill-parameters

**Supplementary Table 4. | Extracted parameters from Hill-model.** Dissociation constant ( $K_d$ ) and Hill-parameter ( $n$ ) for normalized  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  PL intensity ratios fit with the Hill-model.

Sample	$K_d (10^{-6} \text{ M})$	$n$
low $sp^3$ defect concentration	79.3	1.57
high $sp^3$ defect concentration	68.4	1.42

## Suppl. Fig. 23 | Determination of the limit of detection



**Supplementary Fig. 23. | Determination of the LOD.** a  $PP_i$  concentration dependent changes of the  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  PL intensity ratio with linear fit to data at low concentrations of  $PP_i$  ( $m_{\text{linear}} = 0.00381 \mu\text{M}^{-1}$ ). b Normalized PL spectra of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs dispersed in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> and 10 mM MOPS buffer after addition of {Cu} with a standard deviation of the  $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  PL intensity ratio of  $SD_{\text{blank}} = 0.0056$  (number of blank measurements,  $n = 10$ ). The displayed data correspond to the data set shown in Fig. 5. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

## Suppl. Note 6 | Determination of the limit of detection

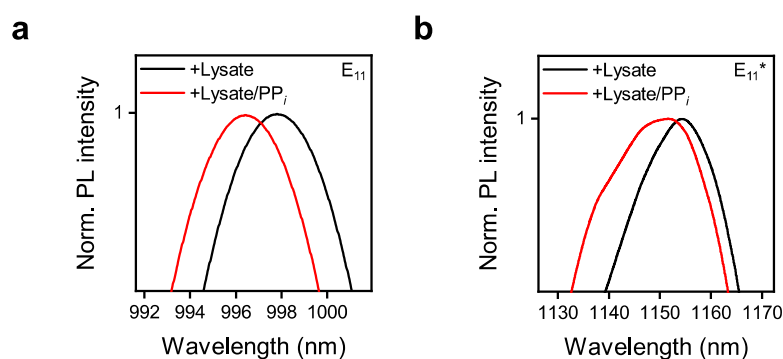
The limit of detection (LOD) was calculated based on the standard deviation of the response upon addition of {Cu} to the SWNT sensor ( $SD_{\text{blank}}$ ;  $n = 10$ ) and the slope  $m_{\text{linear}}$  from a linear fit of the calibration curve at low  $PP_i$  concentrations. The values for  $m_{\text{linear}}$  and  $SD_{\text{blank}}$  were extracted and measured from the same sample as shown in Fig.5.

$$\text{LOD} = (3 \cdot SD_{\text{blank}})/m_{\text{linear}} \quad (2)$$

This analysis yielded a LOD for the different parameters of:

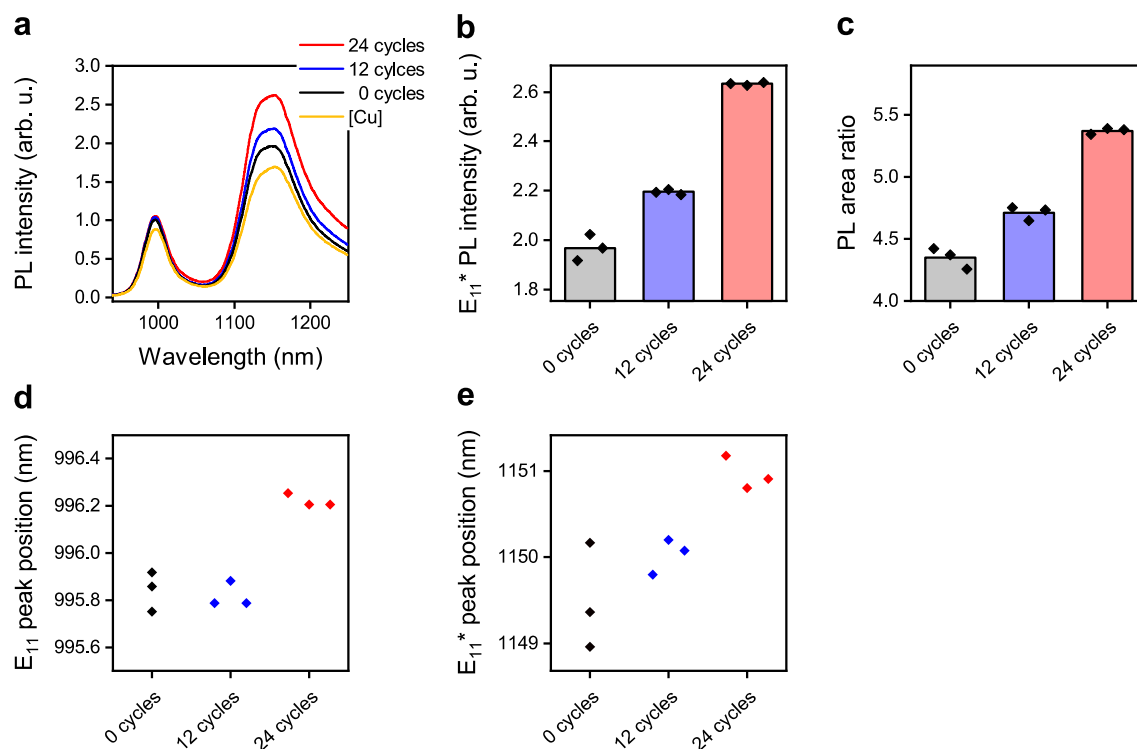
- $E_{11}$  intensity: LOD = 5.2  $\mu\text{M}$
- $E_{11}^*$  intensity: LOD = 12.5  $\mu\text{M}$
- $E_{11}^*/E_{11}$  PL ratio: LOD = 4.4  $\mu\text{M}$

# Suppl. Fig. 24 | Spiking experiment – shift in peak position



**Supplementary Fig. 24. | Shift in PL peak position. a,b** E<sub>11</sub> (a) and E<sub>11</sub>\* (b) peak position of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> quenched by {Cu} after addition of 0.5  $\mu$ L cell-lysate which was subsequently spiked with 188  $\mu$ M of PP<sub>i</sub>. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

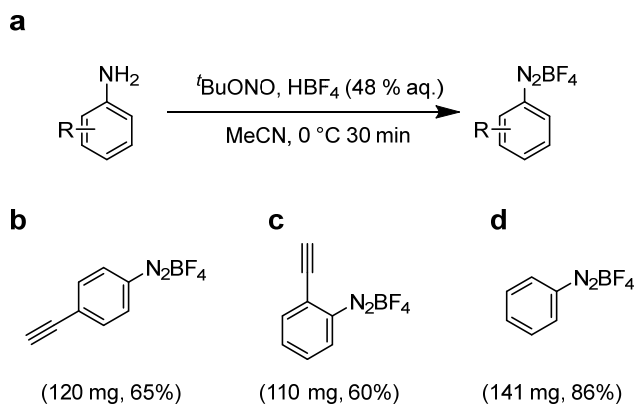
# Suppl. Fig. 25 | Sensing of PP<sub>i</sub> released in PCR



**Supplementary Fig. 25. | Sensing of PP<sub>i</sub> released in PCR. a-e** PL spectra (a, averaged over 3 measurements), absolute E<sub>11</sub>\* PL intensities (b), E<sub>11</sub>\*/E<sub>11</sub> PL area ratios (c), E<sub>11</sub> peak positions (d) and E<sub>11</sub>\* peak positions (e) of 4-ethynylbenzene-functionalized (6,5) SWNTs dispersed in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> after the addition of 5  $\mu$ L of PCR product after 0 (black/grey), 12 (blue) and 24 (red) cycles. One biologically independent sample was examined over  $n = 3$  independent measurements with the SWNT sensor, and should represent the spread in the response of the sensor. Individual data points are indicated as diamonds. The height of the bar represents the average of the three measurements. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Fig. 26 | Synthesis of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates

Arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates were synthesized as described in the Methods sections. A similar procedure can be found in reference 11.<sup>11</sup>



**Supplementary Fig. 26 | Synthesis of diazonium salts.** **a** Reaction scheme for the synthesis of diazonium salts. Preparation and obtained yield of 4-ethynylbenzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate (**b**) 2-ethynylbenzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate (**c**) and Benzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate (**d**). Source data of <sup>1</sup>H NMR are provided as a Source Data file.

### Suppl. Note 7 | Synthesis of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates

#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates

4-ethynylbenzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  = 8.45 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (s, 1H) ppm. The data are consistent with the previous literature.<sup>12</sup>

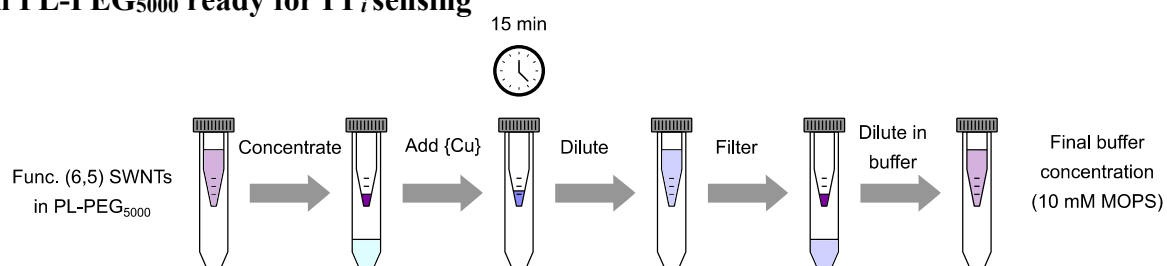
2-ethynylbenzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO):  $\delta$  = 8.81 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (td,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.05-8.00 (m, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H) ppm. The data are consistent with the previous literature.<sup>13</sup>

Benzene diazonium tetrafluoroborate:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO):  $\delta$  = 8.67 (d,  $J$  = 8.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 8.26 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 7.7 Hz, 2H) ppm. The data are consistent with the previous literature.<sup>14</sup>

**Suppl. Fig. 27 | Workflow sample preparation of functionalized (6,5) SWNTs dispersed in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub> ready for PP<sub>i</sub> sensing**



**Supplementary Fig. 27 | Workflow of sample preparation.** Sample preparation of functionalized (6,5) SWNTs dispersed in PL-PEG<sub>5000</sub>. After an initial concentration step *via* spin-filtration the dispersion is incubated with {Cu} for 15 min. After incubation the dispersion is diluted with ultra-pure water, filtered and re-dispersed in 10 mM MOPS buffer.



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