Supporting Information

Understanding Covalent versus Spin–Orbit Coupling Contributions to Temperature Dependent Electron Spin Relaxation in Cupric and Vanadyl Phthalocyanines

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Figure S1. (A) Comparison between PXRD patterns of VOPc:TiOPC at concentrations of 1:1000 (top) 1:100 (middle) and simulated Type II VOPc (bottom). **(B)** Comparison between the PXRD patterns of CuPc:ZnPc 1:1000 (top) and 1:100 (middle) and simulated β -CuPc (bottom).

The PXRD patterns of both the 1:1000 and 1:100 VOPc:TiOPc mixtures shown in Figure S1 are consistent with previously reported diffraction data for the type-II polymorph and are well reproduced by simulation. This indicates structural phase homogeneity of the vanadyl samples. The PXRD patterns of the 1:1000 and 1:100 CuPc:ZnPc dispersions show distinct patterns between samples and do not strictly match either the reported α - or β -CuPc diffraction patterns.¹



Figure S2. Comparison between CW X-band EPR at 77 K to pseudo-modulated echo-detected field sweeps (PM-EDFSs) and the associated field sweeps at 5 K (black) and 60 K (red) of **(A)** VOPc 1:1000 and **(B)** 1:100. The additional radical species is indicated by an arrow.

	1:1000 VOPc:TiOPc	1:100 VOPc:TiOPc
g	1.968	1.968
g⊥	1.988	1.988
A∥(MHz)	478.6	473.6
A (cm ⁻¹)	160 x 10 ⁻⁴	158 x 10 ⁻⁴
A⊥(MHz)	167.6	167.9
A ₁ (cm ⁻¹)	56 x 10 ⁻⁴	56 x 10 ⁻⁴

Table S1. Best-fit parameters of the simulated EPR spectra in Figure S2 used to reproduce the EPR spectra T = 77 K.

The CW-EPR of the 1:1000 and 1:100 samples of VOPc are similar. The 1:100 sample exhibits slightly broader features, presumably due to increased dipolar interactions with other vanadyl species at this higher concentration. The EDFSs of the two dilutions at both 5 K and 60 K are similar and consistent with literature reports. The PM-EDFS spectra lack the sharp radical feature present in the CW EPR (although it may slightly appear in the 1:100 spectrum), indicating that the spins responsible for this signal relax significantly slower than the shot repetition time of the spin echo detection experiment. This feature has previously been attributed to organic radical impurities that are consistently found even in diamagnetic phthalocyanine matrices.^{2,3} In both 1:1000 and 1:100 samples, the radical feature was fit to a g = 2.0 and ~1.0% weight in the CW spectra.



Figure S3. Echo-detected EPR X-band field sweeps of **(A)** VOPc:TiOPc 1:1000 and **(B)** 1:100 at 5 K, 60 K, and 300 K. Dashed lines indicate field positions where relaxation data were collected. Comparison between the field position dependent behavior of the T_1 and T_m relaxation times from 5 to 300 K of VOPc:TiOPc **(C)** 1:1000 and **(D)** 1:100.



Figure S4. EDFS EPR Q-band of **(A)** VOPc 1:1000 at 5 K, 10 K, and 60 K. Dashed lines indicate field positions where relaxation data was collected. Comparison of the field position dependent behavior of the T_1 and T_m relaxation times from 5 to 300 K of VOPc **(B)** 1:1000.



Figure S5. Comparison between CW-EPR at 77 K to PM-EDFSs and the associated field sweeps at 5 K (black) and 60 K (blue) of **(A)** CuPc:ZnPc 1:1000 and **(B)** 1:100. In both 1:1000 and 1:100 samples, the radical feature was fit to a g = 2.0 and a 7.5 % and 0.4 % weight in the CW spectra, respectively, consistent with an ~10x dilution factor.

	1:1000 CuPc:ZnPc	1:100 CuPc:ZnPc
g	2.049	2.047
g⊥	2.172	2.185
A _{Cu} (MHz)	646.5	655.0
A _{Cu} (cm ⁻¹)	216 x 10 ⁻⁴	218 x 10 ⁻⁴
A _{Cu⊥} (MHz)	15.2	35.3
A _{Cu⊥} (cm ⁻¹)	5 x 10 ⁻⁴	12 x 10 ⁻⁴
A _{N⊥} (MHz)	45-50	45
A _{N⊥} (cm ⁻¹)	15-17 x 10 ⁻⁴	15 x 10 ⁻⁴
A _N (MHz)	40-48	45
A _N (cm ⁻¹)	13-16 x 10 ⁻⁴	15 x 10 ⁻⁴

Table S2. Best-fit parameters of the simulated EPR spectra in Figure S5 used to reproduce the EPR spectra T = 77 K.



Figure S6. Echo-detected EPR Q-band field sweeps of **(A)** CuPc 1:1000 and **(B)** 1:100 from 5 K to 180 K. Dashed lines indicate field positions where relaxation data were collected. Comparison between the field position dependent behavior of the T_1 and T_m relaxation times from 5 to 180 K of CuPc **(C)** 1:1000 and **(D)** 1:100. (*) denotes the sharp radical-like feature at 1204 mT is due to a background signal in the Q-band resonator.



Figure S7. Inversion recoveries and associated fits (pink) of **(A)** CuPc 1:1000 and **(B)** VOPc 1:1000 from at X-band. Hahn echo and associated fits (pink) of **(C)** CuPc 1:1000 and **(D)** VOPc 1:1000 from at X-band. Due to large ESEEM modulations in VOPc, we have only displayed 3 normalized traces: 5 K, 180 K, and 300K.



Figure S8. 3D-comparison between the field position dependent behavior of the CuPc 1:1000 T_1 and T_m relaxation times at X-(A and B) and Q- (C and D) band.



Figure S9. 3D-comparison between the field position dependent behavior of the VOPc 1:1000 T_1 and T_m relaxation times at X- (A and B) and Q- (C and D) band.

VOPc 1:1000	303	R mT	329 mT		335.6 mT		386 mT	
Temperature (K)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)
5	8.2·10 ³	2.7	3.3·10 ³	3.4	4.9·10 ³	2.9	9.6·10 ³	2.6
10	3.6·10 ³	3.1	1.8·10 ³	4.0	2.4·10 ³	3.4	4.2·10 ³	2.9
25	$1.4 \cdot 10^{3}$	3.2	$8.7 \cdot 10^2$	4.3	$1.1 \cdot 10^{3}$	3.6	$1.5 \cdot 10^{3}$	3.2
40	6.4·10 ²	3.2	3.4·10 ²	4.5	5.0·10 ²	3.7	6.2·10 ²	3.1
60	$1.9 \cdot 10^2$	3.1	8.8·10 ¹	4.4	$1.3 \cdot 10^2$	3.6	$1.7 \cdot 10^2$	2.9
80	$6.5 \cdot 10^{1}$	2.9	2.9·10 ¹	4.0	4.2·10 ¹	3.4	6.1·10 ¹	2.7
100	3.5·10 ¹	2.6	$1.4 \cdot 10^{1}$	3.7	2.1·10 ¹	3.3	3.3·10 ¹	2.4
110	3.1·10 ¹	2.5	1.2·10 ¹	3.6	1.8·10 ¹	3.2	2.7·10 ¹	2.3
150	1.7·10 ¹	2.1	5.5	3.1	8.5	2.8	1.3·10 ¹	2.0
180	1.1·10 ¹	1.8	3.4	2.7	5.4	2.6	9.6	1.6
300	3.4	_	0.8	1.4	1.3	1.5	2.9	_

Table S3. 1:1000 VOPc:TiOPc temperature-dependent T_1 and T_m data collected at selected field positions at X-band.

VOPc 1:1000	1197	7.5 mT	1214 mT		1218 mT		1265.5 mT	
Temperature (K)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)
5	9.3·10 ³	0.8	8.2·10 ³	0.5	$1.2 \cdot 10^4$	3.5	8.1·10 ³	0.5
10	4.7·10 ³	1.0	3.8·10 ³	0.5	6.3·10 ³	5.4	3.7·10 ³	0.6
25	1.5·10 ³	1.1	1.2·10 ³	0.5	2.0·10 ³	6.6	1.2·10 ³	0.8
40	$5.7 \cdot 10^2$	1.4	$5.5 \cdot 10^{2}$	0.4	1.0·10 ³	6.3	5.3·10 ³	0.6
60	2.0·10 ²	1.2	1.8·10 ²	0.5	4.9·10 ²	7.0	1.6·10 ²	0.6
80	9.0·10 ¹	1.0	7.3·10 ¹	0.5	3.9·10 ²	6.5	6.4·10 ²	0.6
100	5.6·10 ¹	1.3	4.1·10 ¹	0.5	6.0·10 ²	5.8	4.1·10 ²	0.5
110	$4.4.10^{1}$	1.1	3.0·10 ¹	0.5	5.1·10 ²	6.0	3.1·10 ¹	0.5
150	2.0·10 ¹	0.7	1.4·10 ¹	0.5	2.0·10 ²	4.7	$1.4.10^{1}$	0.4
180	1.5·10 ¹	0.7	1.0·10 ¹	0.5	8.4·10 ¹	3.6	1.2·10 ²	0.2
300	3.6	0.2	1.8	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.9	0.2

Table S4. 1:1000 VOPc:TiOPc temperature-dependent T_1 and T_m data collected at selected field positions at Q-band.

VOPc 1:100	303	^P mT	329	329 mT 335.6 mT		6 mT	386 mT	
Temperature (K)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)
5	1.0·10 ³	0.9	6.3·10 ²	1.0	9.3·10 ²	1.2	1.0·10 ³	0.8
10	6.6·10 ²	0.9	4.6·10 ²	1.2	6.2·10 ²	1.3	6.8·10 ²	0.9
25	$4.1 \cdot 10^{2}$	0.9	3.0·10 ²	1.2	3.9·10 ²	1.3	$4.1 \cdot 10^2$	0.9
40	2.9·10 ²	0.9	2.0·10 ²	1.2	2.7·10 ²	1.3	2.8·10 ²	0.9
60	1.3·10 ²	0.9	6.9·10 ¹	1.2	1.0·10 ²	1.3	1.2·10 ²	0.9
80	$5.4 \cdot 10^{1}$	0.9	2.7·10 ¹	1.2	4.2·10 ¹	1.3	5.2·10 ¹	0.8
100	2.8·10 ¹	0.8	1.2·10 ¹	1.1	2.0·10 ¹	1.3	2.8·10 ¹	0.7
110	2.5·10 ¹	0.8	1.0·10 ¹	1.1	1.7·10 ¹	1.2	2.3·10 ¹	0.7
150	9.3	0.6	3.5	0.9	5.7	1.1	8.9	0.5
180	8.1	0.6	2.8	0.8	4.4	1.1	7.0	0.4
300	2.7	0.3	0.8	0.4	1.3	0.6	1.7	0.1

Table S5. 1:100 VOPc:TiOPc temperature-dependent T_1 and T_m data collected at selected field positions at X-band.

CuPc 1:1000	306	5 mT	329 mT		339 mT		342 mT	
Temperature (K)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)
5	1.6·10 ⁵	4.4	$8.3 \cdot 10^4$	1.0·10 ¹	$1.5 \cdot 10^4$	0.7	$5.1 \cdot 10^4$	5.0
10	$1.7 \cdot 10^4$	5.5	$1.5 \cdot 10^4$	1.8·10 ¹	5.6·10 ³	0.8	$1.3 \cdot 10^4$	8.1
25	7.4·10 ²	1.8	6.7·10 ²	5.0	5.0·10 ²	0.9	6.8·10 ²	3.5
40	1.3·10 ²	1.4	1,1·10 ²	3.4	9.7·10 ¹	1.0	$1.2 \cdot 10^2$	2.5
60	1.9·10 ¹	1.1	1.5·10 ¹	2.3	1.5·10 ¹	1.0	$1.7 \cdot 10^{1}$	1.9
80	5.1	0.9	3.9	1.5	4.0	0.8	4.5	1.3
100	2.0	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.5	0.5	1.7	0.9
110	1.9	0.6	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.3	0.8
150	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4
180	-	_	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4

Table S6. 1:1000 CuPc:ZnPc temperature-dependent T_1 and T_m data collected at selected field positions at X-band.

CuPc 1:1000	1120 mT		118	8 mT	1190 mT	
Temperature (K)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)
5	$5.3 \cdot 10^4$	7.9	$5.0.10^4$	8.9	$5.1 \cdot 10^4$	9.0
25	6.0·10 ²	3.0	5.8·10 ²	4.4	5.9·10 ²	4.7
40	1.1·10 ²	1.9	9.2·10 ¹	3.1	9.3·10 ¹	3.3
80	4.9	0.7	2.8	1.3	2.8	1.4
100	1.7	0.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
110	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
150	_	_	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5

Table S7. 1:1000 CuPc:ZnPc temperature-dependent T_1 and T_m data collected at selected field positions at Q-band.

CuPc 1:100	306	б mT	329 mT		339 mT		342 mT	
Temperature (K)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (μs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)
5	$1.2 \cdot 10^4$	1.4	2.7·10 ³	1.1	3.7·10 ³	1.5	5.6·10 ³	1.5
10	5.5·10 ³	1.4	1.9·10 ³	1.2	2.4·10 ³	1.5	3.7·10 ³	1.5
25	6.0·10 ²	1.3	4.0·10 ²	1.2	4.7·10 ²	1.5	5.6·10 ²	1.5
40	1.2·10 ²	1.2	8.9·10 ¹	1.1	9.5·10 ¹	1.4	1.1·10 ²	1.3
60	2.0·10 ¹	0.9	$1.4.10^{1}$	0.9	1.4·10 ¹	1.1	1.5·10 ¹	1.0
80	5.3	0.7	3.9	0.7	3.7	0.7	4.1	0.7
100	2.5	0.5	1.7	0.5	1.6	0.5	1.8	0.5
110	1.7	0.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.5	1.3	0.5
150	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3
180	_	_	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2

Table S8. 1:100 CuPc:ZnPc temperature-dependent T_1 and T_m data collected at selected field positions at X-band.

Table S9. 1:100 CuPc:ZnPc temperature-dependent T_1 and T_m data collected at selected field positions at Q-band.

CuPc 1:100	1120 mT		118	8 mT	1190 mT		
Temperature (K)	T ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	Τ _m (μs)	Τ ₁ (μs)	T _m (µs)	
5	$1.36 \cdot 10^4$	5.5	1.1·10 ³	3.2	1.0·10 ³	2.9	
25	4.8·10 ²	2.8	2.9·10 ²	1.9	3.0·10 ²	1.8	
40	1.0·10 ²	1.8	7.0·10 ¹	1.6	7.0·10 ¹	1.5	
80	4.9	0.6	2.6	0.7	2.6	0.7	
100	1.7	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.5	
110	1.5	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.4	
150	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	
180	_	_	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	



Figure S10. Comparison stretching term, β , for VOPc 1:1000 at 335.6 mT (red) and CuPc 1:1000 at 329 mT (blue) **(A)** T_1 times (β_1) and **(B)** T_m times (β_m).



Figure S11. (A) Comparison of the PXRD pattern of an independent preparation of CuPc:ZnPc. **(B)** Echo-detected EPR X-band field sweeps of CuPc at 5 K, 10 K, and 60 K. Dashed lines indicate field positions where relaxation data were collected. **(C)** Comparison of the field position dependent behavior of the T_1 and T_m relaxation times from 5–180 K of CuPc dilution. **(D)** Comparison between X-band T_1 and T_m times vs temperature for the 329 mT features in CuPc at X- and Q-band for the 1:1000, 1:100 preparations and the independent preparation.

A CuPc:ZnPc sample was prepared to yield a final dilution of 1:1000 by an independent method analogous to the preparation for VOPc:TiOPc samples using DCM/CF₃CO₂H/IPA. Due to solubility issues in the preparation of this CuPc:ZnPc sample, the final concentration is

unknown. The PXRD patterns are distinct from the 1:1000 and 1:100 previously prepared (Figure S11A). However, the CW-EPR spectrum shows similar copper features despite a significantly more intense radical signal (Figure S12). As well, the T_1 and T_m temperaturedependences observed for this sample were consistent with the other CuPc samples when measured at 306, 329, and 342 mT (Figure S11). This preparation method did, however, display substantially different behavior with respect to the 339 mT field position. In the EDFS, there is a sharp signal at 339 mT. The T_1 times measured at this position remained significantly longer at higher temperatures than for other field positions, whereas the T_m times of this feature were found to be lower than at the other positions. These observations indicate that this signal arises from the organic radical. In contrast to the samples prepared by the sulfuric acid method, the EDFS spectra do not change much with increasing temperature. The distinct temperature dependences in the EDFS spectra, T_1 , and T_m times between the various preparations indicate that the radical species may be delocalized in different ways in these two samples. When monitoring relaxation behavior at field positions not associated with the radical (e.g. 306, 329 mT at X-band), then similar temperaturedependent trends are observed regardless of sample preparation method or concentration (Figure S11D). This suggests that the radical is not the dominant feature contributing to the differences in relaxation times between VOPc and CuPc mixtures.



Figure S12. (A) Comparison of CW-EPR at 77 K of the CuPc:ZnPc 1:100 and 1:1000 and independent preparations. **(B)** Zoom-in to show ¹⁴N superhyperfine features.

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