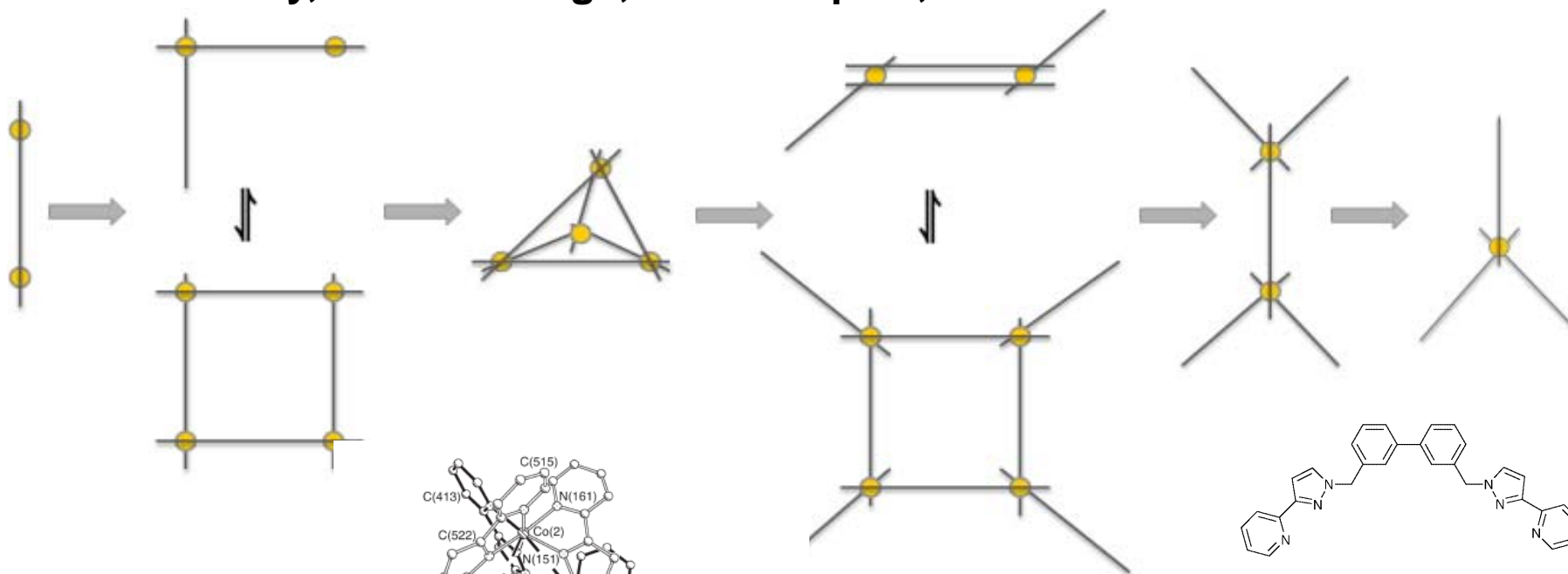


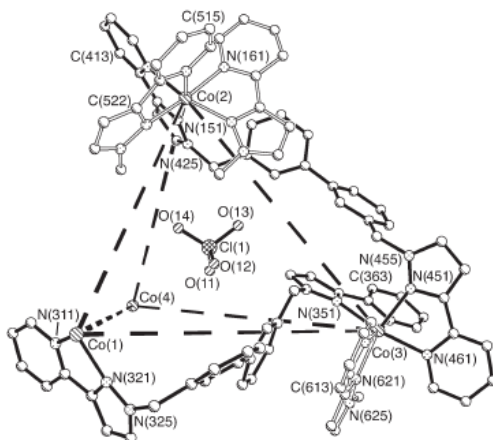
Equilibrium Studies of Self-Assembly Events



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**This 3D
supramolecular
assembly is
entropy driven!**



R.L. Paul, S.P. Argent, J.C. Jeffery, Harding,
L.P. J.M. Lynam, M.D. Ward *J. Chem. Soc.,
Dalton Trans.* **2004**, 3453-3458.

Four ligand molecules (above) and six cobalt dications (yellow spheres) can form a tetrahedral nanocage (left). What happens as the 2 components are slowly added together in solution? From spectroscopic 'snapshots' taken throughout the process, we have identified and characterized at least 5 additional partial structures, all without having to chemical isolated any of them!