

DOCTORAL THESIS

Metal-organic compounds of iridium(III) and platinum(II): synthesis, characterization and optoelectronic applications

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Date of Award:
2014

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Abstract

The molecular design, synthesis and characterization of a series of ligands and the corresponding novel iridium(III) or platinum(II) complexes are discussed in this thesis. Their photophysical and electrochemical properties, the applications in organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSCs), aggregation induced emission (AIE) and time-resolved infrared (TRIR) study are also investigated.

Chapter 1 generates a brief overview of the background, principle, and development of OLEDs, DSSCs, AIE materials and the involvement of the TRIR technique.

Chapter 2 describes the synthesis, spectroscopic, photophysical and electrochemical characterization of a series of cationic iridium(III) complexes. Strong electron-withdrawing carboxylic acid substituted bipyridyl was involved in the ligand system and the intra-ligand charge transfer character of diphenylamino containing ligand further shift the dominant absorption band to the lower energy region. Some of them were applied for DSSC device fabrication.

Chapter 3 presents the synthesis, spectroscopic, photophysical and electrochemical characterization as well as OLED application of a group of cyclometalated iridium(III) complexes by using 2-substituted 9-benzylcarbazolyl,

9-phenylcarbazolyl or 2-methyl-7-phenylcarbazolyl groups as the ligands. They show significant bathochromatic shift from those using 3-substituted ligands. And this can be explained by the fact that more electron density is located at 2-position of carbazole moiety and make them suitable candidates for deep red OLED application.

Chapter 4 delivers the synthesis, spectroscopic, photophysical and electrochemical characterization of a series of platinum(II) acetylide complexes for AIE study. All of the complexes contain [4-(1,2,2-triphenylethenyl)phenyl]ethynyl ligand, which is designed from AIE active building block tetraphenylamine (TPE). Some of these metal complexes show AIE behavior.

Chapter 5 outlines the synthetic methodology and characterization of another series of cyclometalated iridium(III) and platinum(II) complexes, containing TPE or carbazole units. It is very interesting to find out that there is hardly any emission in all of the TPE-containing cyclometalated complexes, nor any signs of AIE behavior. Meanwhile, for carbazole-containing platinum(II) complexes, remarkable AIE results could be generated, which is believed to be important for further organometallic AIE active material development.

Chapter 6 describes the synthetic methodology and characterization of a series of symmetric or asymmetric platinum(II) acetylides. Some of them were

further applied for TRIR analysis to generate detailed experimental information of the electron transitions during excitation. The results demonstrate that both localized and delocalized metal ligand orbital mixing could be generated according to the variations in electronegativity of the ligand system.

Chapter 7 and 8 present the concluding remarks and summarize the experimental details of all of the previous chapters.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to my supervisor Prof. Raymond Wong Wai Yeung for his invaluable guidance, encouragement and support throughout my study and research, as well as his precious and uninterrupted suggestions, comments and corrections on the accomplishment of this thesis. His hardworking and devoted attitude has impressed me a lot and truly made my study and research a rewarding experience.

I would like to give my profound gratitude and special thanks to Prof. Malcolm Chisholm (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, U. S. A.), for his invaluable ideas, precious guidance and continuous support on the TRIR analysis of Pt acetylides described in Chapter 6. His academic rigor, generous and devoted attitude in science inspire and encourage me a lot and will be valuable assets in my future work and life.

Special thanks are given to Dr. T. Chen (Department of Physics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Mr. C. H. Siu (our group) for DSSC fabrication of the complexes in chapter 2; Dr. S. M. Chen (Department of Electronic & Computer Engineering, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology) for OLED fabrication of complexes in chapter 3; Dr. W. Y. Lam (Department of Chemistry, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology) for his

invaluable help in the synthesis and analysis of complexes in chapter 4; Ms. S. Brown-Xu, Mr. C. Durr, Miss S. Lewis, Dr. V. Naseri, Mr. T. Spilker, Mr. P. Young and other graduate students of Prof. Malcolm Chisholm's group, for their precious support in the synthesis and TRIR analysis of complexes in chapter 5.

I would like to thank my research group members: Dr. C. L. Ho, Dr. G. J. Zhou, Dr. F. R. Dai, Dr. C. J. Qin, Dr. Y. Zeng, Dr. Q. W. Wong, Dr. L. Li, Dr. H. M. Zhan, Dr. G. P. Tan, Dr. Q. C. Dong, Dr. Z. Xie, Dr. Q. Liu, Dr. L. F. Lai, Mr. C. H. Siu, Miss W. S. Lau, Miss N. Y. Chau, Mr. B. Y. Ho, Mr. C. H. Cui, Mr. Y. Ma, Miss J. Xiang, Mr. Z. G. Meng and other members for their invaluable help and supports. I would also like to thank all the staff and scientific officers in the Department of Chemistry, Hong Kong Baptist University.

I would also like to thank the University Grants Committee, Areas of Excellence Scheme (Project No. [AoE/P-03/08]) for the financial support.

Last but not least, my wordless and wholehearted gratitude must be dedicated to my parents Mr. Wu Zhenkun and Mrs. Zhao Minghua for their trust, comfort and support during my course of study.

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