

MASTER'S THESIS

Photoluminescent mechanism of trivalent lanthanide organic complexes

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**Photoluminescent Mechanism of
Trivalent Lanthanide Organic Complexes**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Philosophy**

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Abstract

The research on lanthanide organic complexes is a rapidly expanding field in the past four decades, largely because there are many interesting photophysical properties of $4f-4f$ transitions of trivalent lanthanide ions. The potential applications are in lasers, luminescent devices, chemical and biological sensors.

The optical properties of lanthanide Schiff-based complexes in the visible range and porphyrinate complexes in near-infrared range by photoluminescent measurement have been investigated in this thesis.

In the Schiff-base lanthanide complexes, we observed that Ln(S-4N) had the highest quantum efficiency. 24% and 4% were achieved at 10K for Tb(S-4N) and Eu(S-4N) complexes respectively. In addition, we proposed a structural change taking place at low temperature. At room temperature, the pyridyl group in the complex was not coplanar to the phenyl group and it could rotate at a range of angles. As temperature decreased, the pyridyl group became more rigid and fixed at certain angle. Eventually, less energy was relaxed through non-radiative process and then the intensity of PL dramatically increased. The experimental results of the PLE spectra, the quantum yield and the lifetime, all supported this change in structure.

Novel Yb-porphyrinate complexes have also been studied. Porphyrinate ligand was used as an antenna chromophore to sensitize lanthanide luminescence. The fluorescent intensities of these complexes were determined and compared. The relation between the luminescent efficiency and the structure of complexes was deduced. It was found that the complex YbCoP had high luminescent efficiency due to broad band absorption in the visible range. The emission spectrum of YbCoP was well-split. Its peak intensity changed as a function of temperature and it was explained successfully from the proposed energy diagram using the Maxwell-Boltzmann law. Finally, ErCoP was also synthesized and characterized to exhibit high luminescence at around 1530nm, which was the suitable wavelength for optical communication.

Table of Contents

<i>Declaration</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Abstract</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>viii</i>
<i>List of Appendices</i>	<i>xii</i>

Chapter One

<i>1. Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
1.1 General introduction.....	1
1.2 Motivation of research.....	3
1.3 Scope of study.....	3
1.4 Introduction to content of thesis.....	4

Chapter Two

<i>2. Background review of lanthanides</i>	<i>5</i>
2.1 Introduction to lanthanides.....	5
2.2 History of investigation on trivalent lanthanides.....	7
2.3 Applications of lanthanides.....	9

Chapter Three

<i>3. Basic theory</i>	<i>12</i>
3.1 Photoluminescence of organic materials.....	12
3.1.1 Electronic structure of molecules.....	13
3.1.2 Electronic spin and excited state of organic molecules.....	15
3.1.3 Energy level diagrams of luminescent molecules.....	16
3.1.4 Radiative emissions.....	18
3.2 Transition lines of trivalent lanthanide ions.....	19
3.3 RE ions in the static crystal field.....	19

3.4 Energy transfer mechanism from ligand to RE ions.....	21
3.5 Non-radiative and relaxation processes.....	23
3.6 Quantum efficiency.....	23
3.7 Radiative lifetime studies.....	24
3.8 Conditions for high-luminescence lanthanide complexes.....	24
 Chapter Four	
4. Main characteristics of photoluminescent spectroscopy.....	25
4.1 Introduction to photoluminescent spectroscopy of organic materials.....	25
4.2 Absorption spectroscopy.....	27
4.3 Excitation spectroscopy.....	28
4.4 Emission spectroscopy.....	30
4.5 Time-resolved spectroscopy.....	31
 Chapter Five	
5. Experimental setup.....	32
5.1 Introduction to experiment setup.....	32
5.2 Absorption spectrum measurement.....	33
5.3 Experimental setup for PL and PLE measurement.....	33
5.4 High-resolution PL.....	35
5.5 Low temperature measurement.....	36
5.6 Sample preparation.....	36
5.7 Emission quantum yield measurement.....	38
5.8 Time-resolved PL.....	40
 Chapter Six	
6. Visible emission of lanthanide organic complexes.....	42
6.1 Introduction of research.....	42
6.2 Brief introduction of lanthanide Schiff-base complexes.....	42
6.3 First series -- Same ligand with various lanthanide ions.....	44
6.3.1 XRD data of Ln(S-2N) series.....	45

6.3.2	UV-visible absorption spectra of Ln(S-2N) series.....	47
6.3.3	Emission spectra of Ln(S-2N) series.....	48
6.3.3.1	Ligand emission spectra.....	51
6.3.3.2	Re-absorption spectra.....	53
6.3.3.3	Lanthanide 4 <i>f</i> -4 <i>f</i> emission.....	56
6.3.3.3.1	PL result of Eu(S-2N).....	56
6.3.3.3.2	PL result of Tb(S-2N).....	58
6.3.4	Summary of Ln(S-2N) series.....	70
6.4	Second series -- Same lanthanide ions with different ligands.....	72
6.4.1	XRD data of Tb(S- <i>R</i>) series.....	72
6.4.2	UV-visible absorption spectra of Tb(S- <i>R</i>) series.....	74
6.4.3	Tb(S- <i>R</i>) series.....	75
6.4.4	Eu(S- <i>R</i>) series.....	86
6.4.5	Summary of Ln(S- <i>R</i>) series.....	98

Chapter Seven

7.	<i>NIR emission of lanthanide organic complexes</i>	99
7.1	Introduction of search on NIR emission.....	99
7.2	Introduction of Yb-porphyrinate complexes.....	101
7.3	Photophysical properties of Yb-porphyrinate complexes.....	103
7.4	Er-porphyrinate complexes.....	115
7.5	Summary of porphyrinate complexes.....	117

Chapter Eight

8.	<i>Conclusion</i>	119
	<i>References</i>	121
	<i>Appendices</i>	128
	<i>List of Publication and Conference Presentations</i>	131
	<i>Curriculum Vitae</i>	133