

Vapor-, thermo-, and mechanical-grinding-triggered tri-stimuli-responsive luminescence switching of cycloplatinated(II) complex bearing 8-quinolinol derivatives

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ABSTRACT

Four novel cycloplatinated(II) complexes, Pt(ppy)(L1) (1), Pt(ppy)(L2) (2), Pt(ppy)(L3) (3) and Pt(ppy)(L4) (4) based on 5-[2-(4-substituent-phenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol ligands {substituent = H (L1), Me(L2), Et(L3), ^tBu (L4)} were synthesized and characterized. Complex 4 has three main pseudopolymorphs, including orange 4·CH₃CH₂OH, red 4R, and dark-brown 4·½(CCl₄). Complex 4 exhibits interesting tri-stimuli-responsive luminescence switching properties. Upon exposure to different VOC vapors, three pseudopolymorphs display unusual irreversible vapoluminescence that 4R and 4·½(CCl₄) can be exchanged with each other and be irreversibly converted to 4·CH₃CH₂OH. Furthermore, 4·½(CCl₄) shows reversible thermochromic luminescence behaviour and can be reversibly converted to 4R upon heating. No detectable change in color and luminescence of 4·CH₃CH₂OH and 4R can be found during the heating process, although 4·CH₃CH₂OH lost its solvent and changed to desolvated 4O. In addition, 4·CH₃CH₂OH, and 4·½(CCl₄) also show the mechanoluminescent property that both of them will be converted to the same red amorphous 4G peaked at 742 nm after grinding. Systematic studies revealed that the tri-stimuli-responsive luminescence switching property of 4 is due to the structural conversion and resultant changes of the lowest-energy excited states. In contrast, complexes 1–3 have not any luminescent switching property. The reason is most likely due to the compact stacking structures of them which prevent their structural conversion triggered by external stimuli.

1. Introduction

Square-planar Pt(II) complexes have attracted great attention due to their various applications, such as organic light-emitting diodes(OLEDs) [1–5], light-harvesting devices [6–8], display devices [9–12], and bio-imaging probes [13–16]. The unique square-planar geometry and a vacant coordination site of Pt(II) center allow the axial substrate-binding interactions of Pt(II) complexes, which make them conducive to the formation of different aggregates through intermolecular Pt–Pt interactions, resulting in decrease of the energy gaps between HOMO and LUMO and increase of emission wavelength [17–20]. In addition, their rich excited state energy levels are very sensitive to the conversion of stacking structures and resultant changes of intermolecular interactions such as Pt–Pt contact, hydrogen bonding, or aromatic π – π stacking caused by external stimulus [21–28]. These characteristics make square-planar Pt(II) complexes have versatile luminescence switching behaviour and exhibit important application value in phosphorescence sensors devices

and data security storage [29–37].

Cycloplatinated(II) complexes are a very important part of square-planar Pt(II) complex. They exhibit high-efficiency phosphorescence caused by strong ligand-field effects and spin-orbit coupling and show a wide application prospects in the fields of high efficiency light-emitting or electroluminescence devices [38–43], photo-catalysis [44–46] and photooxidation systems [47–49]. As one of the most famous ligands, 2-phenylpyridine (ppy) derivatives have been successfully used to prepare different kinds of cycloplatinated(II) complexes by combining with other bidentate auxiliary ligands such as β -diketonate, 8-quinolinol, and 2-carboxypyridine [50–58]. However, compared with diimine platinum (II) complexes, the research on cycloplatinated(II) complex is still not deep enough neither in the number of complex nor in the theory and application. For example, no more than 30 platinum(II) complexes based on both 2-phenylpyridine and 8-quinolinol derivatives have been reported up until now [55–65]. Furthermore, although cycloplatinated (II) complexes also have the square-planar structure, the luminescence

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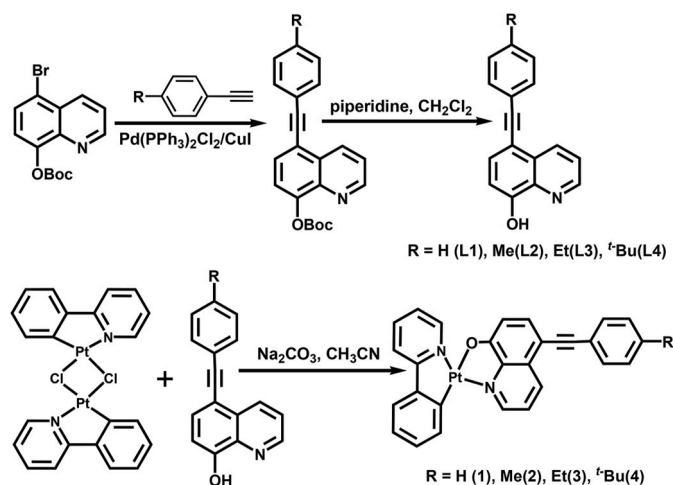
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Scheme 1. Synthetic routes of ligands L1-L4 and complexes 1-4.

switching property of them was seldom studied. Thus, the preparation of new cycloplatinated(II) complexes and in-depth studied of their properties are very important and necessary for better understanding and practical application of such materials.

Our research interests focus on the luminescence switching property and application of Pt(II) complexes [20,23,36,66–68]. Recently, we reported a series of cycloplatinated(II) complexes with ppy and β -diketonate derivatives [68]. These complexes exhibited mechanoluminescence and concentration-dependent luminescence switching properties caused by the molecular aggregation. As a continuation of our research work, we report here the syntheses, structures and luminescence switching properties of four new cycloplatinated(II) complexes, Pt(ppy)(L) (1–4) {where L = 5-[2-(4-substituent-phenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol; substituent = H(L1), Me(L2), Et(L3), and *t*-Bu(L4)}, bearing 2-phenylpyridine ligand and 8-quinolinol derivatives (Scheme 1). Among them, complex 4 has three main pseudopolymorphs, including orange 4·CH₃CH₂OH, red 4R, and dark-brown 4·½(CCl₄), which exhibit vapor-, thermo-, and mechanical-grinding-triggered tri-stimulus-responsive color and luminescence switching properties. In contrast, 1–3 have not any luminescence switching property. Systematic studies on the crystal structure, luminescence spectra, TGA, and PXRD revealed that the tri-stimulus-responsive luminescence switching properties of 4 is due to the structural conversion and resultant changes of the lowest-energy excited states. In contrast, 1–3 have not any luminescence switching property which is most likely due to their compact stacking structure that prevents the structural conversion triggered by external stimuli. Interestingly, the dark-brown 4·½(CCl₄) exhibits a near-infrared (NIR) luminescence peaked at 808 nm. As far as we know, it is first Pt(II) complex based on 8-quinolinol derivatives that emits more than 800 nm in solid state.

2. Experimental section

2.1. Reagent and materials

All reactions were protected by a dry argon. Intermediate di- μ -chlorobis[2-(2-pyridinyl-*N*)-phenyl- κ C]di-platinum [Pt₂(ppy)₂(μ -Cl)₂] was prepared by the literature method [69]. The ligands, 5-(2-Phenylethynyl)-8-quinolinol (L1), 5-[2-(4-Methylphenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol (L2), 5-[2-(4-Ethylphenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol (L3), and 5-[2-(4-Ethylphenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol (L4) were prepared by similar method according to the reported procedure [70]. All other reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received.

2.2. Synthetic procedures

2.2.1. General method for the preparation of L1-L4

A solution of 5-Bromo-8-tert-butoxycarbonyloxyquinoline (1.0 g, 3.09 mmol), the phenylacetylene derivatives (3.09 mmol), and diisopropylamine (30 mL) in THF (30 mL) was purged with argon for 15 min at room temperature. Then a solid mixture of Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (140 mg, 0.2 mmol) and CuI (38 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added under argon atmosphere and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was filtered and washed with THF (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum and the pure Boc derivatives were obtained by silica gel chromatography using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (V/V = 10:1) as the eluent.

To a 30 mL dry CH₂Cl₂ solution of above obtained Boc derivatives, piperidine (about 3 equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. Then, the solvent was removed under vacuum and the pure products were obtained by silica gel chromatography using CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent.

2.2.1.1. 5-[2-(phenylethynyl)-8-quinolinol (L1). Phenylacetylene was used as the starting acetylene derivative. Yield: 409 mg (54%) of a yellowish powder. M.p. 139–142 °C. ESI-MS *m/z* calculated for [M]⁺ 245.2, found 245.1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 8.840 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.716 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.750 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.571–7.622 (m, 3H), 7.365–7.408 (m, 3H), 7.196 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 155.76, 152.72, 148.34, 138.12, 135.20, 132.97, 131.99, 128.92, 122.68, 115.86, 114.37, 111.94, 109.98, 92.65, 85.33. Elem. Anal.: C₁₇H₁₁NO (%) Calcd for: C, 83.25; H, 4.52; N, 5.71. Found (%): C, 83.24; H, 4.54; N, 5.73.

2.2.1.2. 5-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol (L2). 4-Methylphenylacetylene was used as the starting acetylene derivative. Yield: 464 mg (58%) of a yellowish powder. M.p. 147–150 °C. ESI-MS *m/z* calculated for [M]⁺ 259.3, found 259.5. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ 8.939 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.658 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.701–7.740 (m, 2H), 7.547 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.263 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.109 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.359 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 159.69, 152.60, 148.24, 138.04, 135.17, 132.99, 131.98, 128.84, 122.40, 115.46, 114.12, 111.77, 109.93, 92.76, 85.00, 29.71. Elem. Anal.: C₁₈H₁₃NO (%) Calcd for: C, 83.37; H, 5.05; N, 5.40. Found (%): C, 83.34; H, 5.06; N, 5.38.

2.2.1.3. 5-[2-(4-ethylphenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol (L3). 4-Ethylphenylacetylene was used as the starting acetylene derivative. Yield: 472 mg (56%) of a yellowish powder. M.p. 178–181 °C. ESI-MS *m/z* calculated for [M]⁺ 273.3, found 273.2. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ 8.942 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 8.666 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.732 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.708 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.573 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.292 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.112 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.634 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.192 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 154.98, 152.77, 148.27, 138.04, 135.12, 132.13, 131.51, 128.03, 122.91, 122.42, 120.51, 111.63, 109.95, 93.01, 85.69, 31.94, 15.39. Elem. Anal.: C₁₉H₁₅NO (%) Calcd for: C, 83.49; H, 5.53; N, 5.12. Found (%): C, 83.47; H, 5.56; N, 5.55.

2.2.1.4. 5-[2-(4-tert-butylphenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol (L4). 4-tert-butylphenylacetylene was used as the starting acetylene derivative. Yield: 472 mg (56%) of a yellowish powder. M.p. 176–178 °C. ESI-MS *m/z* calculated for [M]⁺ 301.4, found 301.3. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ 8.939 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.655 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.708–7.749 (m, 2H), 7.584 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.467 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.107 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.234 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 152.72, 151.66, 148.23, 138.01, 135.18, 132.17, 131.27, 128.90, 125.47, 122.44, 120.30, 111.65, 109.94, 92.95, 85.68, 34.84, 31.90. Elem. Anal.: C₂₁H₁₉NO (%) Calcd for: C, 83.69; H, 6.35; N, 4.65.

Found (%): C, 83.70; H, 6.51; N, 4.65.

2.2.2. General method for the preparation of complex 1-4

Pt₂(ppy)₂(μ-Cl)₂ (385 mg, 0.50 mmol), 8-quinolinol ligands (1 mmol), and Na₂CO₃ (530 mg, 5 mmol) were added to CH₃CN (30 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at room temperature. Then, the solvent was removed under vacuum and the pure products were obtained by silica gel chromatography using CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent.

2.2.2.1. [5-(2-phenylethynyl)-8-quinolinolato-κN¹,κO⁸][2-(2-pyridinyl-κN)phenyl-κC]platinum(II) (1). Yield: 552 mg (93%) of a red powder. M.p.: >250 °C. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 3066 (w), 2961(s), 2915(s), 2851(s), 2200 (m), 1610(w), 1578(s), 1552(m), 1506(m), 1485(s), 1464(s), 1382(m), 1336(s), 1258(s), 1196(w), 1096(s), 1007(s), 911(w), 868(w), 795(s), 756(s), 728(s), 686(s). HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₂₈H₁₈N₂O₂PT: 593.1067, found: 593.1058 [M]⁺. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ 9.413 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 9.255 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.946 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.104 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.883 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.789 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.659–7.686 (m, 3H), 7.410–7.506 (m, 4H), 7.271 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.172 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.983 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 168.20, 167.12, 149.52, 147.80, 146.72, 146.34, 138.95, 138.83, 137.83, 137.56, 135.21, 131.98, 131.81, 131.35, 129.61, 128.41, 127.87, 124.03, 123.70, 121.70, 121.61, 118.28, 116.06, 104.70, 92.36, 86.85. Elem. Anal.: C₂₈H₁₈N₂O₂PT (%) Calcd for: C, 56.66; H, 3.06; N, 4.72. Found (%): C, 56.67; H, 3.06; N, 4.71. UV/Vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} nm (log ε): 480 (3.676), 358 (3.802), 316 (4.216), 265 (4.487), 227 (4.762).

2.2.2.2. [5-(2-(4-methylphenyl)ethynyl)-8-quinolinolato-κN¹,κO⁸][2-(2-pyridinyl-κN)phenyl-κC] platinum(II) (2). Yield: 559 mg (92%) of a red powder. M.p.: >250 °C. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 3064 (w), 2961(s), 2924(s), 2855(s), 2200(m), 1609(s), 1585(s), 1559(m), 1501(m), 1481(m), 1463 (s), 1404(m), 1334(s), 1295(m), 1265(m), 1234(m), 1165(w), 1116(w), 1100(s), 1016(w), 989(m), 827(s), 775(s), 748(s), 706(s). HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₂₉H₂₀N₂O₂PT: 607.1224, found: 607.1234 [M]⁺. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ 9.046 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 9.253 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.926 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.100 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.874 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.770 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.670 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.543 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.480 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.258–7.293 (m, 3H), 7.168 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.973 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.361 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 168.19, 167.10, 149.46, 147.70, 146.65, 146.27, 138.98, 138.78, 137.94, 137.70, 134.96, 131.88, 131.76, 131.24, 129.52, 129.18, 123.96, 123.57, 121.62, 121.50, 120.76, 118.17, 115.98, 104.86, 92.45, 86.17, 21.54. Elem. Anal.: C₂₉H₂₀N₂O₂PT (%) Calcd for: C, 57.33; H, 3.32; N, 4.61. Found (%): C, 57.34; H, 3.31; N, 4.60. UV/Vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} nm (log ε): 498 (3.750), 358 (3.818), 316 (4.277), 271 (4.503), 229 (4.831).

2.2.2.3. [5-(2-(4-ethylphenyl)ethynyl)-8-quinolinolato-κN¹,κO⁸][2-(2-pyridinyl-κN)phenyl-κC] platinum(II) (3). Yield: 566 mg (91%) of a red powder. M.p.: >250 °C. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 3071 (w), 2955(s), 2917(s), 2850(s), 2206(m), 1606(s), 1585(s), 1562(m), 1496(m), 1463(s), 1384 (m), 1324(s), 1285(m), 1265(m), 1242(s), 1167(m), 1131(m), 1104(m), 1084(s), 1024(m), 943(w), 821(s), 766(s), 731(s). HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₃₀H₂₂N₂O₂PT: 621.1380, found: 621.1361 [M]⁺. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ 9.393 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 9.241 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.913 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.088 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.860 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.766–7.787 (m, 2H), 7.662 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.563 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.467 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.285 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.260 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.164 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.965 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.636 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.361 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR was not measured due to low solubility of this complex in common NMR solvents. Elem. Anal.: C₃₀H₂₂N₂O₂PT (%) Calcd for: C, 57.97; H, 3.57; N, 4.51. Found (%): C, 57.94; H, 3.56; N, 4.50. UV/Vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} nm (log ε): 500 (3.773), 359 (3.815), 316 (4.318), 271 (4.476), 229 (4.752).

2.2.2.4. [5-(2-(4-tert-butylphenyl)ethynyl)-8-quinolinolato-κN¹,κO⁸][2-(2-pyridinyl-κN)phenyl-κC] platinum(II) (4). Yield: 585 mg (90%) of a red powder. M.p.: >250 °C. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 3064 (w), 2961(s), 2924(s), 2855(s), 2200(m), 1605(s), 1578(s), 1559(s), 1501(s), 1481(m), 1463 (s), 1404(s), 1334(s), 1295(m), 1265(m), 1234(m), 1165(w), 1116(w), 1100(s), 989(m), 827(s), 775(s), 748(s), 706(s). HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₂₉H₂₀N₂O₂PT: 607.1224, found: 607.1234 [M]⁺. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ 9.428 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 9.275 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.942 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.124 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.900 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.800–7.825 (m, 2H), 7.692 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.600 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.484–7.527 (m, 3H), 7.288 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.190 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.966 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.337 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 168.19, 167.09, 151.14, 149.45, 147.69, 146.66, 146.26, 138.99, 138.77, 137.69, 134.97, 131.91, 131.76, 131.10, 129.51, 125.42, 123.96, 123.56, 121.61, 121.50, 120.82, 118.16, 115.95, 104.87, 92.40, 86.19, 34.81, 31.25. Elem. Anal.: C₃₂H₂₆N₂O₂PT (%) Calcd for: C, 59.16; H, 4.03; N, 4.31. Found (%): C, 59.14; H, 4.01; N, 4.30. UV/Vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} nm (log ε): 503 (3.890), 359 (3.927), 321 (4.348), 272 (4.466), 229 (4.703).

2.3. Measurements

Infrared (IR) spectra were measured on Nicolet 6700 FT-IR spectrophotometer, while Bruker Avance II (400 MHz) spectrometer provided the ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed under the N₂ atmosphere using a TA-Q50 thermogravimetric analyzer with a heating rate of 10 °C/min. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was performed under the N₂ atmosphere at a heating rate of 5 °C/min in a TA Instrument Q20 Differential Scanning Calorimeter. Electrospray ionization mass spectra (ESI-MS) was performed on a Finnigan LCQ mass spectrometer. UV–vis absorption spectra was acquired from PerkinElmer Lambda 25 UV–vis spectrometer. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) were measured on a D/MAX-2400 with the scan rate of 4°/min. Elemental analysis of C, H and N were performed on a PerkinElmer model 240 C elemental analyzer. Luminescent properties were measured on the PerkinElmer LS55 luminescence spectrometer with a red-sensitive photomultiplier type R928 and Edinburgh analytical instrument (F920 fluorescence spectrometer). Emission lifetimes in solid states and degassed solutions were determined using an Edinburgh analytical instrument (F920 fluorescence spectrometer). The emission quantum yield (Φ_{em}) in degassed dichloromethane solution at room temperature was calculated by Φ_s = Φ_r(B_r/B_s)(n_s/n_r)²(D_s/D_r) using [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂ in degassed acetonitrile as the standard (Φ_{em} = 0.062), where the subscripts ‘r’ and ‘s’ denote reference standard and the sample solution, respectively, and *n*, *D*, and Φ are the refractive index of the solvents, the integrated intensity, and the luminescence quantum yield, respectively. The quantity *B* is calculated by *B* = 1–10^{-AL}, where *A* is the absorbance at the excitation wavelength and *L* is the optical path length. Absolute quantum yields of complexes in solid state were determined in air by an integrating sphere (142 mm in diameter) using an Edinburgh FLS920 spectrofluorophotometer.

2.4. X-ray crystallography

Crystal of **1** was obtained by diffusing petroleum ether onto its dichloromethane solution. The data of crystal was collected on a Bruker SMART APEX II CCD area detector system. Structure was solved using direct methods and refined by a full-matrix least-squares methods procedure on *F*² with anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms using the SHELXTL-97 program package [71,72]. Table S1 of the Supporting Information gives the detailed crystallographic data and structure refinement parameters.

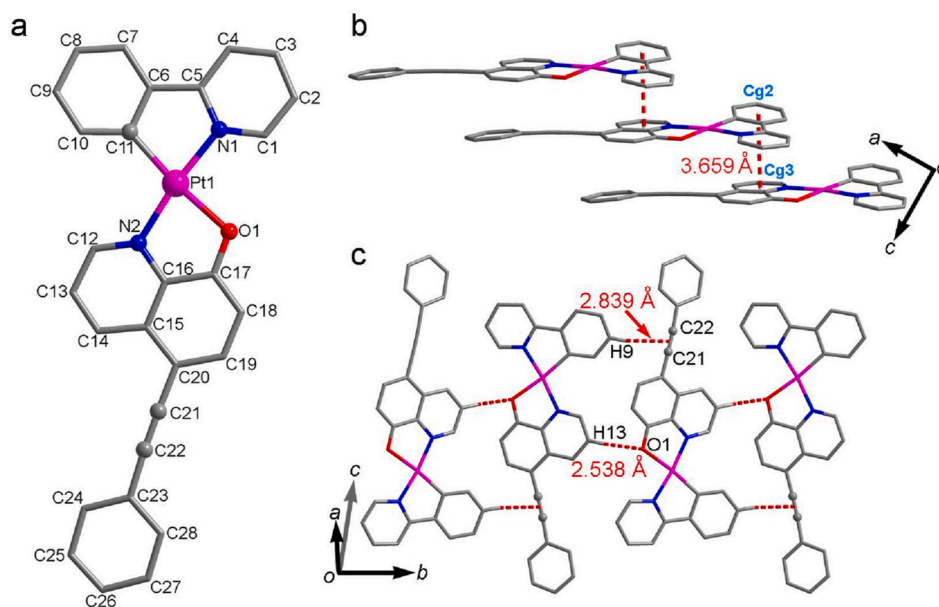


Fig. 1. The molecular structure (a), 1-D scalene cylinder structure (b), and interactions between adjacent molecules along *b* axis (c) of complex 1.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Preparation and structures

Complexes 1–4 were prepared in high yields by the reaction of the precursor $\text{Pt}_2(\text{ppy})_2(\mu\text{-Cl})_2$ with 5-[2-(4-substituent-phenyl)ethynyl]-8-quinolinol ligands in the presence of Na_2CO_3 (Scheme 1). All complexes were fully characterized by elemental analyses, HRMS, ^1H (^{13}C) NMR and IR spectroscopy. The crystal structure of 1 was determined by X-ray crystallography. Interestingly, when 4 was recrystallized from different organic solvents, three kinds of pseudopolymorphs with different color, luminescence and stacking structures, including five orange solvated samples ($4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\text{Toluene})$, $4 \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})$, $4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\text{CH}_3\text{OH})$, and $4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\text{Hexane})$), a red solvent-free sample 4R, and a dark-brown sample $4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\text{CCl}_4)$, were isolated (Figs. S1–S5). This phenomenon indicates that complex 4 may have luminescence switching property. Five orange solvated samples have almost the same PXRD pattern, revealing that they have the same and very stable molecular framework constructed by Pt(II) moieties (Fig. S1). In contrast, only red solvent-free species could be obtained when 1–3 were recrystallized from these solvents (Figs. S6–S9).

Fig. 1a shows the molecular structure of complex 1 and its selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table S2 as the supporting information. The Pt center of 1 is coordinated by $\text{C}_7\text{N}_2\text{O}$ atoms and adopted a

square-planar geometry with four *cis*-angles around the platinum center in the range $80.38\text{--}106.0^\circ$ (Table S2). Two coordinated N atoms from ppy and 8-quinolinol ligands are in the opposite position. The molecule of 1 displays good planarity with the dihedral angle between ppy and 8-quinolinol ligands being 9.15° . Along *a* axis, adjacent molecules are paralleled in the same direction and connected with each other through $\pi\text{-}\pi$ stacking interactions to form the one-dimensional scalene cylinder structure (Fig. 1b and Table S3). Because of the large slip between adjacent molecules, the shortest Pt...Pt distance is 6.600 \AA , indicating no intermolecular Pt-Pt contact exists in the stacking structure (Table S2). The molecules in neighboring scalene cylinder structures along *b* axis are arranged in the opposite directions and connected by strong hydrogen bonds (Fig. 1c and Table S3). The dihedral angles between molecules in adjacent scalene cylinder structures are 26.31° . The molecules in adjacent scalene cylinder structures along *c* axis exhibit a head-to-head structure with larger dihedral angles (64.35°) (Fig. S10). This kind of arrangement allows the compact stacking of molecules through strong C-H... π hydrogen bonding network (Fig. S1 and Table S3). Complexes 2 and 3 may also have the compact stacking structure, whereas 4 most likely stacks in a relatively loose stacking structure considering the steric hindrance of their substituents.

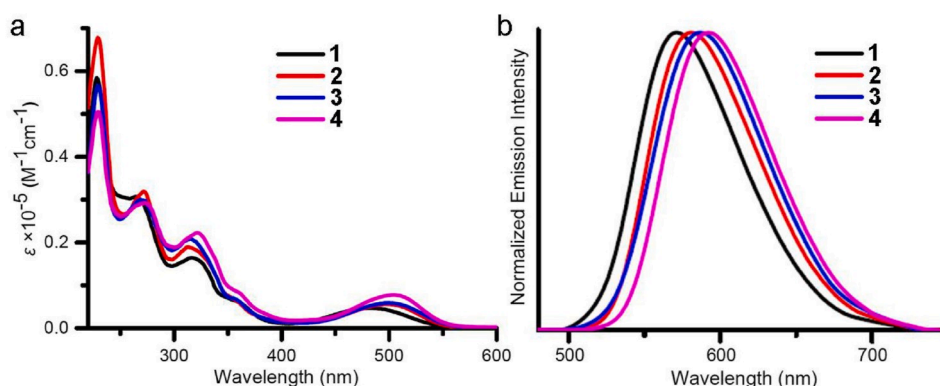


Fig. 2. The UV-Vis absorption (a) and emission spectra (b) of complex 1–4 in CH_2Cl_2 solution: 1, 0.017 mM; 2, 0.024 mM; 3, 0.021 mM; 4, 0.018 mM.

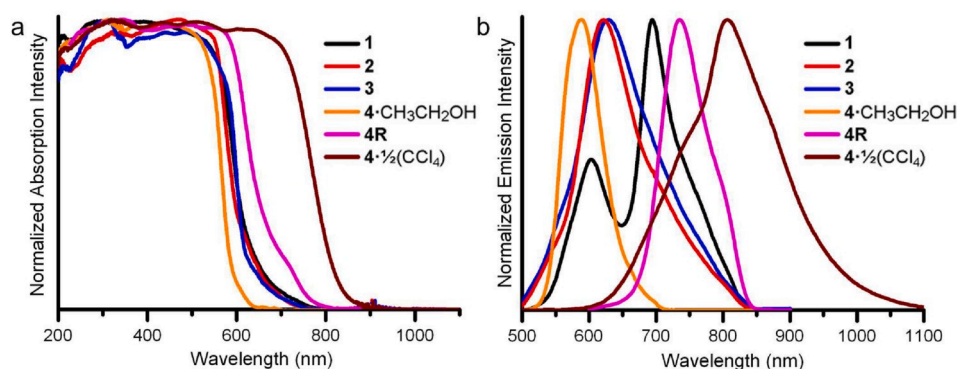


Fig. 3. The UV-Vis absorption (a) and emission spectra (b) of complexes **1-3**, **4-CH₃CH₂OH**, **4R** and **4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄)** in solid state.

Table 1

Luminescence data of **1-4** in different states at ambient temperature.

Sample	medium	λ_{em} (nm)	τ_{em} (μ s)	Φ_{em} (%)
1	CH ₂ Cl ₂ solution	572	4.65	0.19 ^a
	solid state	600, 693	4.97, 0.074	0.24
2	CH ₂ Cl ₂ solution	582	2.71	0.15 ^a
	solid state	621	2.80	0.05
3	CH ₂ Cl ₂ solution	586	6.13	0.16 ^a
	solid state	627	2.94	0.04
4	CH ₂ Cl ₂ solution	592	2.42	0.20 ^a
	solid state	586	3.60	0.29
4-CH₃CH₂OH	solid state	586	3.60	0.29
4R	solid state	735	1.87	0.35
4-$\frac{1}{2}$(CCl₄)	solid state	808	0.84	<0.01
4O	heated	586	3.45	0.27
4G	ground	742	1.56	0.24

^a The quantum yield was estimated relative to [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂ in CH₃CN as the standard ($\Phi_{em} = 6.2\%$).

3.2. Photophysical properties

The absorption properties of all complexes **1-4** were measured in dichloromethane at room temperature (Fig. 2a). The spectra all reveal strong absorption bands between 225 and 360 nm mainly corresponding to intraligand ¹IL (ppy and 8-quinolinol ligands) charge transitions. The low-energy absorption bands centered at 480 nm for **1**, 498 nm for **2**,

500 nm for **3**, and 503 nm for **4** can be assigned to $\pi^*(\text{ppy})$ ligand-to-ligand charge transfer (¹LLCT) and $d\pi(\text{Pt}) \rightarrow \pi^*(\text{ppy})$ metal-to-ligand charge transfer (¹MLCT) transitions according to the literatures [56,59,64]. All complexes display an orange-red luminescence in dilute CH₂Cl₂ solution with maximum emission band centered at 572 nm for **1**, 582 nm for **2**, 586 nm for **3**, and 592 nm for **4**, resulting from the admixture of ³LLCT and ³MLCT triplet states. The red-shift of low-energy absorption and emission bands from **1** to **4** are result from the electronic effect of substituents on 8-quinolinol ligand.

In solid state, the red forms of **1-3** exhibit similar UV-Vis absorption spectra with low-energy absorption bands at about 450–555 nm (Fig. 3a). The low-energy bands of orange sample **4-CH₃CH₂OH** display a slight blue-shift compared with those of **1-3** and occurred at 440–540 nm (Fig. 3a). All of them can be attributed to ¹LLCT and ¹MLCT transitions. Their difference in low-energy absorption bands are mostly likely due to the existence of intermolecular aromatic π - π stacking interactions in red samples. Compared to those of **1-3** and **4-CH₃CH₂OH**, the low-energy absorption of red **4R** in the range of 580–800 nm displays a noticeable red shift most likely due to the ¹MMLCT (metal-metal to ligand charge transfer) transition based on existence of Pt-Pt interactions in the stacking structure (Fig. 3a). In comparison, the dark-brown **4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄)** displays a distinct new low-energy absorption band at 701 nm extending to 900 nm, indicating that it originates from the different attribution (Fig. 3a). As this new absorption band is one of the

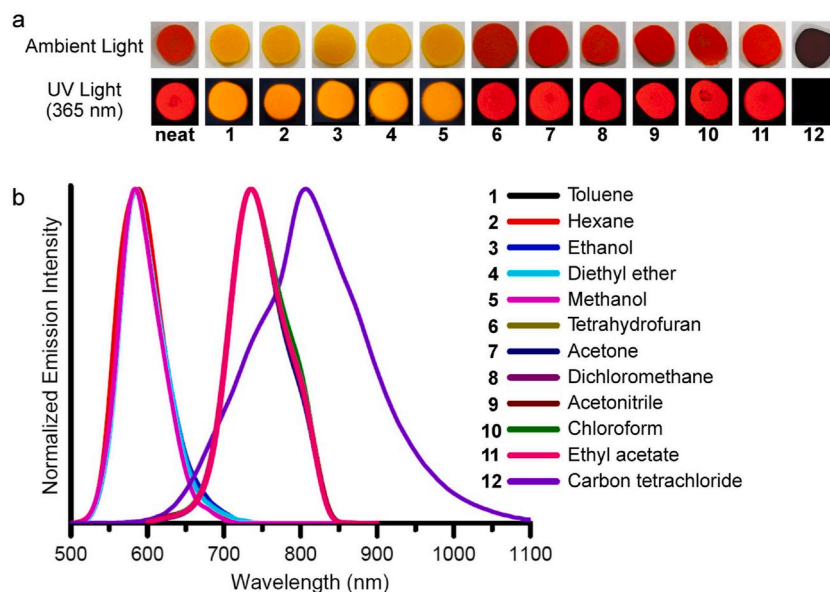


Fig. 4. Vapoluminescence of complex **4**. (a) Photographic images under ambient light and UV light irradiation ($\lambda_{ex} = 365$ nm) and (b) emission spectra of **4R** after exposure to different VOC vapors.

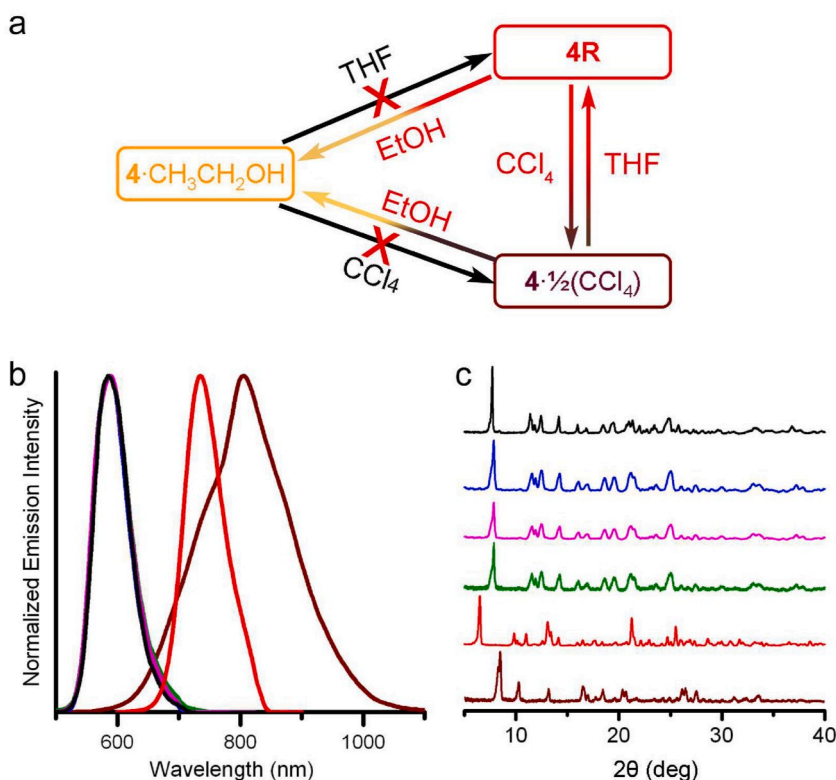


Fig. 5. The vapor-triggered irreversible structural conversion of **4**. (a) The conversion routes of **4**-CH₃CH₂OH, **4R** and **4**·½(CCl₄) upon exposure to corresponding VOC vapors. (b) The emission spectra and (c) PXRD patterns of **4**-CH₃CH₂OH after absorbing THF (black) and CCl₄ (blue) vapor; **4R** after absorbing ethanol (magenta) and CCl₄ (wine) vapor; and **4**·½(CCl₄) after absorbing ethanol (olive) and THF (red) vapor. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

characteristics of Pt(II) complex with 1-D “platinum wire” stacking structure, there is no doubt it derives from the ¹MMLCT transition [20, 36].

Under irradiation at 460 nm, **1** shows a distinct emission profile with two components peaked at 600 and 693 nm, respectively (Fig. 3b and Table 1). The high-energy emission band at 600 nm has a little red-shift compared with its emission band in solution, revealing the same emission origin of them. As no Pt-Pt interaction exists in **1**, the lower-energy transition at 693 nm can not be ³MMLCT, so we suggest that it is the exciplex emission generated by intermolecular aromatic π - π interactions according to the literatures [58,73–76]. The red solid sample **2** and **3** exhibit the similar red luminescence with a broad emission band peaked at 621 nm and 627 nm, respectively (Fig. 3b and Table 1). Both of them arise from the ³LLCT and ³MLCT transitions. The yellow **4**-CH₃CH₂OH displays the yellow-orange luminescence peaked at 586 nm which is similar with its emission in CH₂Cl₂ solution (Fig. 3b and Table 1). Whereas, **4R** emits a red luminescence with broad emission band centered at 735 nm (Fig. 3b and Table 1). The significant large red-shift of emission compared with that of **4**-CH₃CH₂OH demonstrates that the emission of **4R** most likely originates from ³MMLCT transition. More interestingly, under visible light (460 nm) irradiation, dark-brown **4**·½(CCl₄) emits an unusual NIR luminescence peaked at 808 nm (Fig. 3b and Table 1) possibly mainly because of the formation of 1-D “platinum wire” stacking structure with strong Pt-Pt interactions and thus further reduced energy level of ³MMLCT excited state. To the best of our knowledge, it is the first Pt(II) complex bearing 8-quinolinol derivatives that exhibits NIR luminescence beyond 800 nm in the solid state.

3.3. Vapoluminescence

The vapoluminescent properties of **1–4** were explored. Upon exposure to different VOC vapors, there is no change in the color and luminescence of complexes **1–3**, indicating they haven’t vapoluminescent property (Figs. S11–S13). The reason is most likely due to their compact

and stable stacking structures that prevents the structural conversion of them once exposure to VOC vapor.

In contrast, **4** exhibits unusual irreversible vapoluminescent property. As shown in Fig. 4, once exposure to toluene, hexane, ethanol, diethyl ether, or methanol vapors, both the color and luminescence of red **4R** were changed from red to orange accompanied with the blue shift of emission spectra from 735 nm to ca. 586 nm. Meanwhile, the sample exposure to CCl₄ vapor changed to the dark-brown color and the original red luminescence was quenched. The luminescence spectrum, TGA and PXRD measurements confirmed that this dark-brown sample is **4**·½(CCl₄) (Figs. S14 and S15). In contrast, there is no any change in color and luminescence of the sample exposed to THF, acetone, CH₂Cl₂, CH₃CN, CHCl₃, or ethyl acetate vapors (Fig. 4). These results are in good agreement with the fact that **4** recrystallized from different solvents. The interconversions between orange sample (**4**-CH₃CH₂OH is selected as the representative), **4R** and **4**·½(CCl₄) were also studied (Fig. 5). We have known that **4R** can be converted to **4**-CH₃CH₂OH or **4**·½(CCl₄) once absorbing ethanol or CCl₄ vapors, respectively. When **4**·½(CCl₄) was exposed to ethanol or THF vapor, **4**-CH₃CH₂OH and **4R** can also converted as confirmed by luminescence spectra and PXRD measurements (Fig. 5b–c). To our surprise, **4**-CH₃CH₂OH can not be changed to **4R** or **4**·½(CCl₄) by vapor absorption. The results indicate that the vapoluminescent property of **4** is not fully reversible. As vapoluminescence of square-planar Pt(II) complexes are usually caused by the structural conversion and consequent changes in weak intermolecular interactions, most vapoluminescent behaviours of Pt(II) complexes are reversible, and only a few examples about irreversible vapoluminescent behaviours have been reported up until now [36,68,77–80]. The results demonstrate that the molecular framework of **4**-CH₃CH₂OH may have a better stability than that of **4R** and **4**·½(CCl₄). Thus, **4R** and **4**·½(CCl₄) can be changed to other forms triggered by vapor absorption, while **4**-CH₃CH₂OH could not. Furthermore, the vapoluminescence behaviour of **4** can be attributed to the changes of the lowest-excited states between LLCT/MLCT and MMLCT transitions caused by structural conversions triggered by vapor absorption. Meanwhile, the experimental results

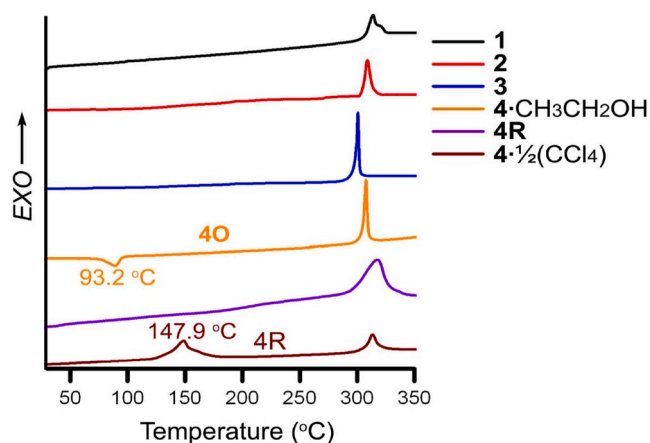


Fig. 6. DSC curves of complexes 1–4 under the N₂ atmosphere at a heating rate of 5 °C/min.

suggest that Pt(II) complex with stable and compact stacking structure may be not conducive to generation of vapoluminescent property.

3.4. Thermochromic luminescence

We also explored the responses of complexes 1–4 to heat. As shown in Fig. 6, complexes 1–3 and 4R haven't any change before decomposition during the heating process, revealing they don't have thermochromic luminescence property.

Upon heating to 300 °C, 4-CH₃CH₂OH experience a phase transition at 93.2 °C, corresponding to the transformation from 4-CH₃CH₂OH to 4O caused by the loss of CH₃CH₂OH solvent (Figs. 6 and 7 and Fig. S16). The new polymorphs 4O has the same color, luminescence and PXRD pattern with those of 4-CH₃CH₂OH and can be easily restored to original 4-CH₃CH₂OH by absorbing CH₃CH₂OH vapor (Fig. 7). Although solvated CH₃CH₂OH was lost during the heating, 4-CH₃CH₂OH has not thermochromic luminescence because 4O has the same stabled

molecular framework with that of 4-CH₃CH₂OH.

In contrast, once 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) is heated at 155 °C, the color of the sample changes to red (Fig. 7). This red sample does not contain any solvent molecules and emits a red luminescence peaked at 735 nm (Fig. 7b and Table 1). The PXRD measurement confirms that this red sample is 4R (Fig. 7c). It's well known that 1-D "platinum wire" stacking structures have weak intermolecular interactions and large spaces between neighboring columns, they are usually broken and transformed to dimeric with Pt-Pt interaction under external stimuli. The thermochromic luminescence of 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) is fully reversible as 4R can easily be converted to 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) upon exposure to CCl₄ vapor. So, the mechanism of thermochromic luminescence of 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) is the conversion of the 1-D "platinum wire" stacking structure to dimeric structure with intermolecular Pt-Pt interaction upon heating and the resultant changes of the lowest-excited state energy levels.

3.5. Mechanoluminescence

Upon mechanical grinding, the color and luminescence of complexes 1–3 have no visibly discernible change although PXRD measurement indicate that they have changed from crystalline state to amorphous phase (Figs. S17–S20). The result demonstrates that grinding force could not change their energy level of lowest excited states. Therefore, complexes 1–3 have not mechanoluminescent property and the most likely reason is their compact stacking structures.

In contrast, the color and luminescence of 4-CH₃CH₂OH and 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) changed to red after ground, whereas those of 4R have no visibly discernible change, revealing both 4-CH₃CH₂OH and 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) have the mechanoluminescence behaviour (Fig. 8, Fig. 9 and Fig. S21). The ground samples of them are all in an amorphous phase and display the same luminescence spectra with maximum emission wavelength peaked at 742 nm (Fig. 8 and Table 1), indicating they are the same product (namely 4G). The corresponding luminescence response shifts of them to the mechanical grinding are ca. 156 nm for 4-CH₃CH₂OH, 7 nm for 4R, and –66 nm for 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄). The large red-shift of 4-CH₃CH₂OH indicates the change of its excited state from original ³LLCT/³MLCT to the ³MMLCT transitions. Interestingly, the response of

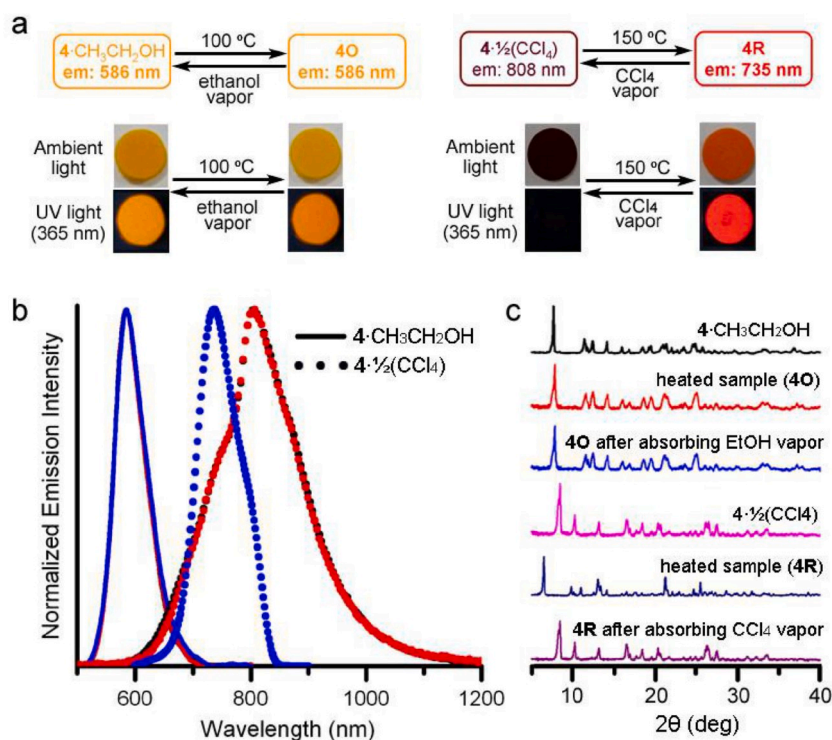


Fig. 7. Thermochromic luminescence of 4. (a) The conversion routes and photographic images of 4-CH₃CH₂OH and 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) under ambient light and UV light (365 nm) irradiation during a reversible process of heating and vapor absorbing. (b) The luminescence spectra of 4-CH₃CH₂OH and 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) in different states: crystalline state (black color), heated state (red color) and the restored state by exposure heated samples to CH₃CH₂OH or CCl₄ vapor (blue color). (c) PXRD patterns of 4-CH₃CH₂OH and 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) during a heating-vapor absorbing process. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

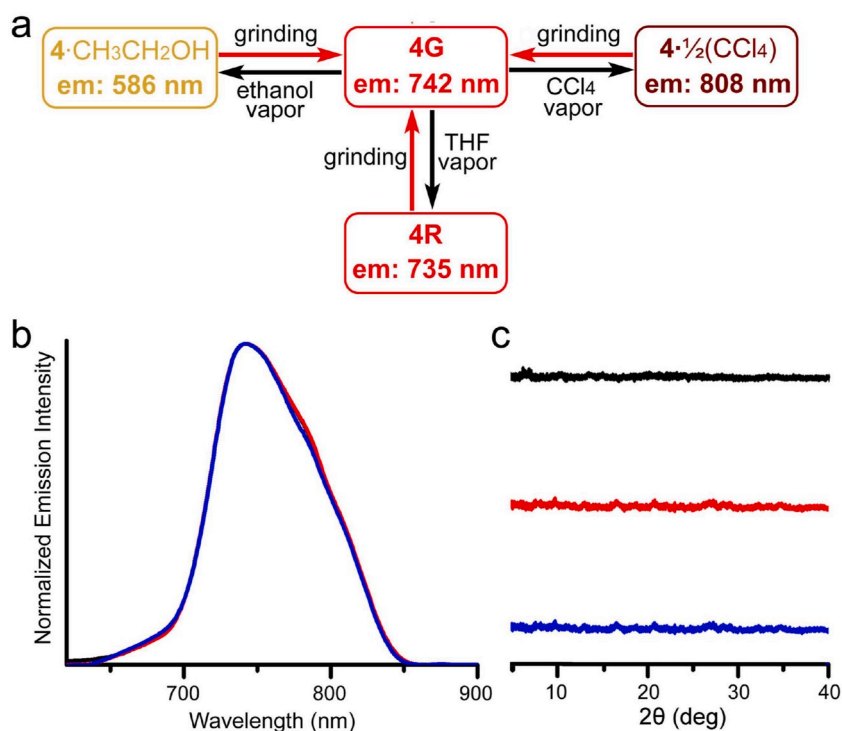


Fig. 8. Mechanoluminescence of 4. (a) The reversible conversion routes of 4-CH₃CH₂OH, 4R, and 4· $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) in response to mechanical grinding and restored by vapor absorbing. (b) The luminescence spectra and (c) PXRD patterns of 4-CH₃CH₂OH (black line), 4R (red line), and 4· $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) (blue line) after ground. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

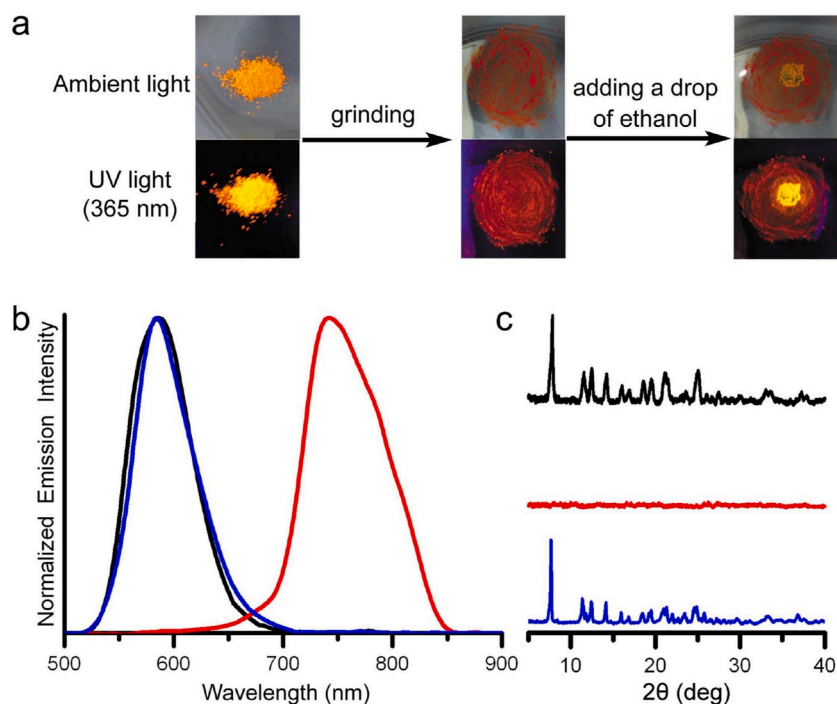


Fig. 9. The reversible mechanoluminescence of 4-CH₃CH₂OH. (a) Photographic images of samples under ambient light and UV light (365 nm) irradiation during the reversible process. (b) Emission spectra and (c) PXRD patterns of unground sample (black line), ground sample (red line), and ground sample with a drop of ethanol added (blue line). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

4R to mechanical grinding only has 7 nm. The results show that the luminescence of 4R and 4G originates from the same excited state, and the existence of Pt-Pt contact in 4G is also confirmed. For 4· $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄), mechanical grinding lead to a 66 nm blue shift in the emission spectrum.

The blue shift in emission is caused by the breaking of 1-D “platinum wire” structure into the amorphous phase (existence of Pt-Pt contact) and resultant increasing of energy gap between HOMO and LUMO.

Once either exposed to CH₃CH₂OH or CCl₄ vapor or a drop of

CH₃CH₂OH or CCl₄ was added, the color, luminescence and PXRD patterns of **4G** could be converted back to the original crystalline states of 4-CH₃CH₂OH or 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄), respectively (Fig. 9 and Fig. S21). In fact, **4G** could also be restored to **4R** after exposure to THF vapor (Fig. S22). Therefore, the mechanoluminescence property of 4-CH₃CH₂OH and 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) are fully reversible. The emission wavelength and intensity of both 4-CH₃CH₂OH and its ground sample have no evident changes even after 20-cycles of grinding/solvent-adding process (Fig. S23). It is well known that the mechanical grinding can result the desorption of the solvent molecule from a solvated complex which may also lead to the changes in color and luminescence. However, the mechanoluminescence of 4-CH₃CH₂OH and 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) are not due to the desorption of the solvent molecules because their ground sample are quite different with their heated samples.

4. Conclusions

In summary, four square-planar cycloplatinated(II) complexes based on 5-substituted-8-quinolinol derivatives and 2-phenylpyridine ligand have been designed and synthesized. Complexes **1–3** were isolated as red desolvated samples. Whereas, three main types of **4** were obtained, namely, orange 4-CH₃CH₂OH, red **4R** and dark-brown 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄). Among them the dark-brown 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) exhibits a NIR luminescence peaked at 808 nm, which is the longest luminescent wavelength of reported Pt(II) complex based on 8-quinolinol derivatives to the best of our knowledge. Complexes **1–3** show no detectable response to VOC vapors, heating, or mechanical grinding, indicating they have not vapoluminescent, thermochromic luminescent and mechanoluminescent properties. In contrast, **4** exhibits tri-stimuli-responsive luminescence switching property caused by structural conversion and resultant changes of the lowest-energy excited states. Upon exposure to VOC vapors, **4** exhibited unusual irreversible vapoluminescent property which is mainly due to the compact stacking structure of 4-CH₃CH₂OH. Furthermore, both orange 4-CH₃CH₂OH and dark-brown 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ (CCl₄) also displayed reversible responses to heating and mechanical grinding. Considering that the only difference of **1–4** is their substituents, the different response of **4** to external stimuli compared with that of **1–3** is mainly due to the large steric hindrance of tert-butyl group which results the loose stacking structure and possibility of structural conversion.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Jun Ni: Project administration, Writing - original draft, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition. **Gao Liu:** Data curation, Investigation, Formal analysis. **Mengmeng Su:** Formal analysis. **Wei Zheng:** Formal analysis. **Jianjun Zhang:** Formal analysis, Funding acquisition.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dyepig.2020.108451>.

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