

Phosphorescent OLEDs



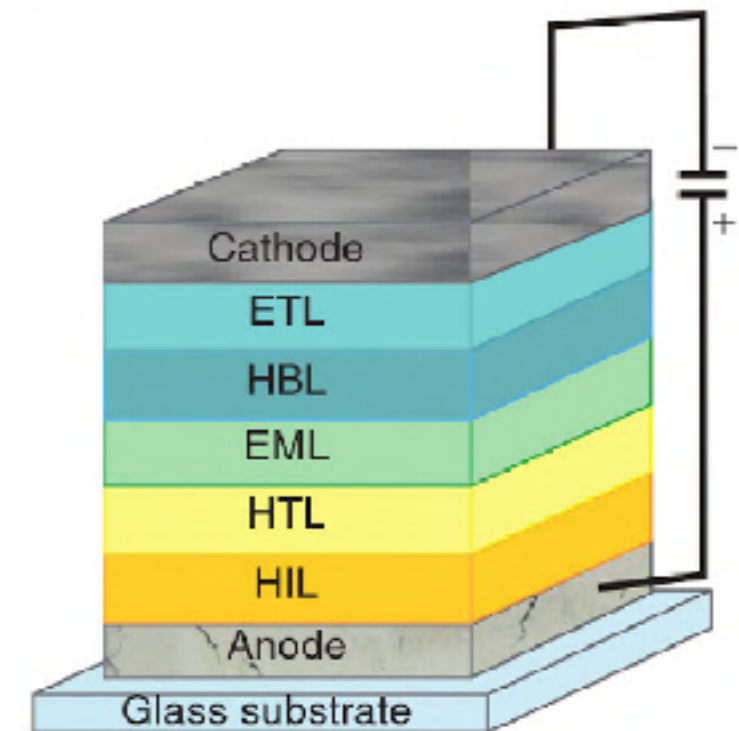
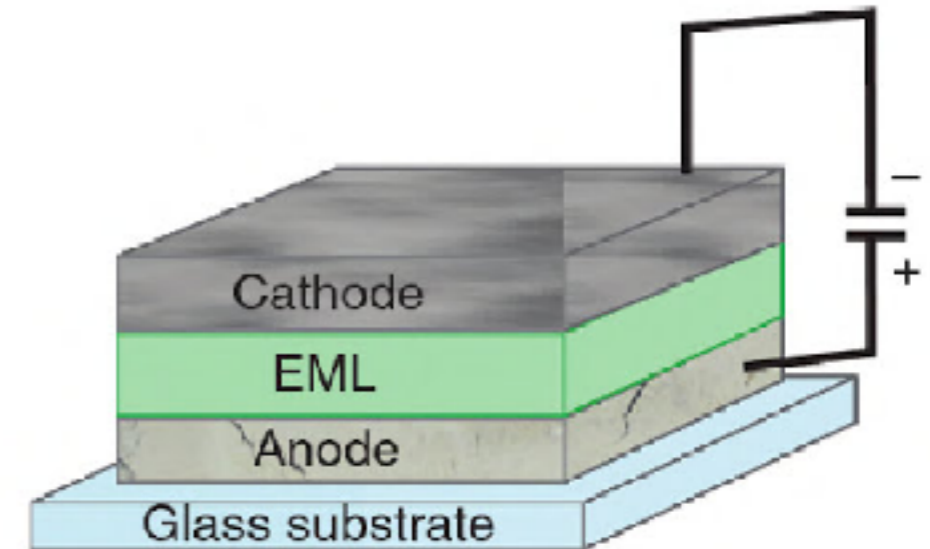
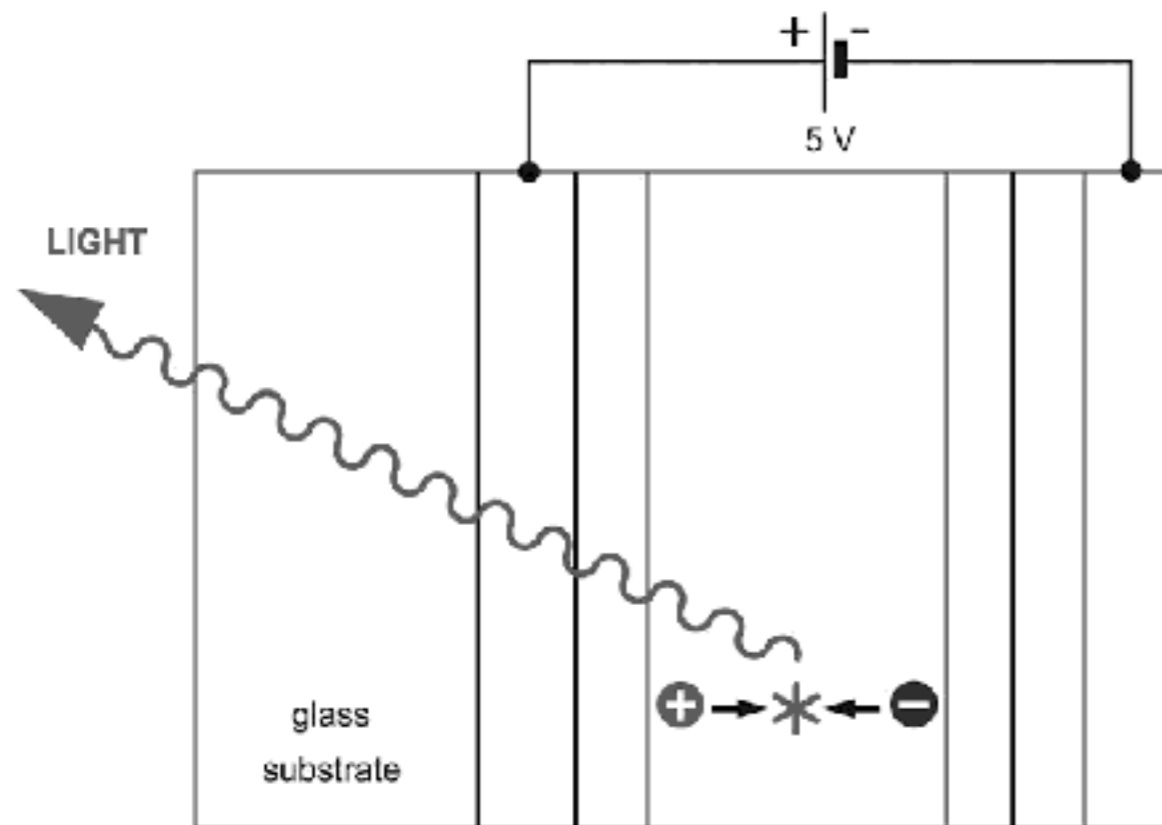
*Jeffrey Lipshultz
MacMillan Lab Group Meeting
November 1, 2017*

What is an Organic LED?

■ Three basic components:

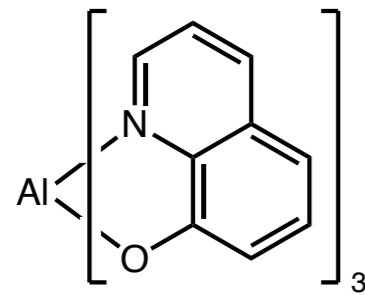
1. Anode: inject holes (i.e. positive charges)
2. Organic semiconductor Emission Layer (EML)
3. Cathode: inject electrons

■ How does it work?

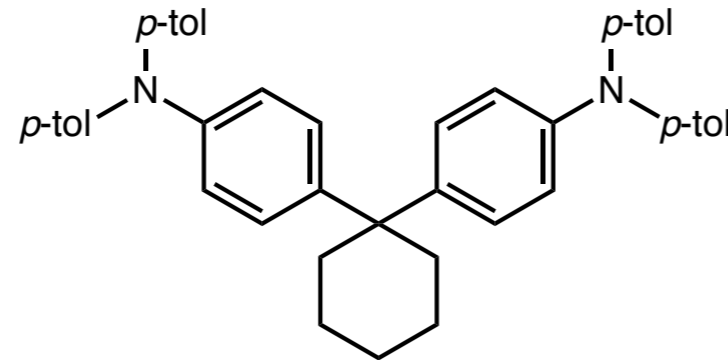


Early OLEDs

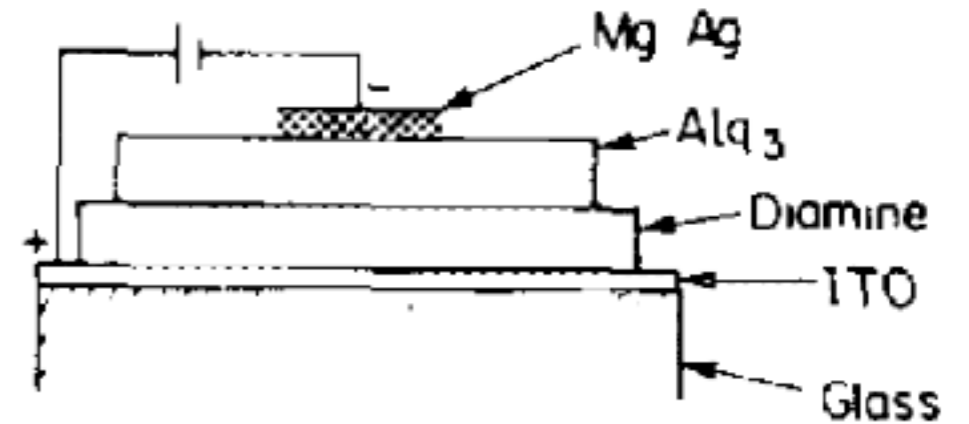
- 1987: First “practical” (> 1% EQE) OLED using Alq₃ (Eastman Kodak)



Alq₃



“diamine”



External Quantum Efficiency (EQE)

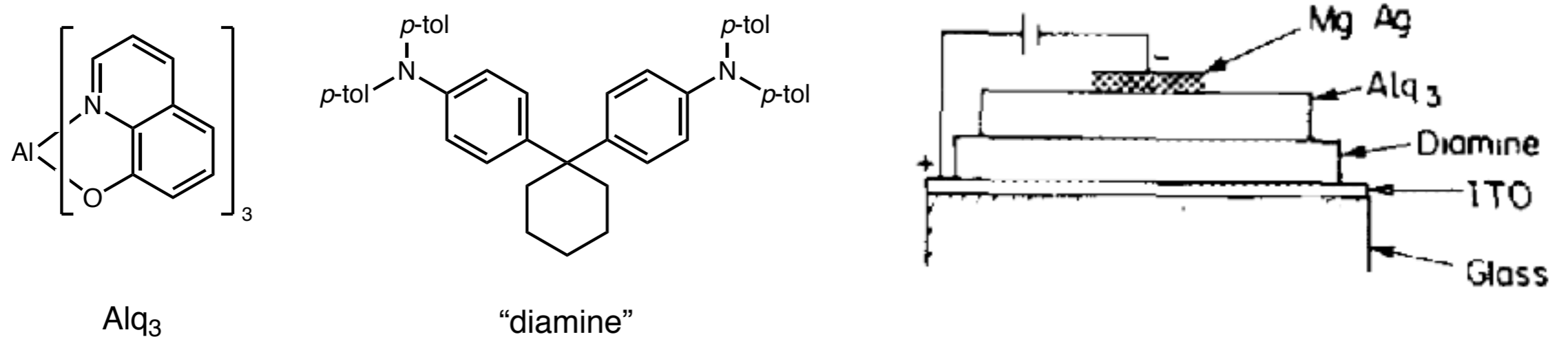
$$\eta_{ex} = \frac{\text{photons emitted}}{\text{electrons injected}}$$

Internal Quantum Efficiency (IQE)

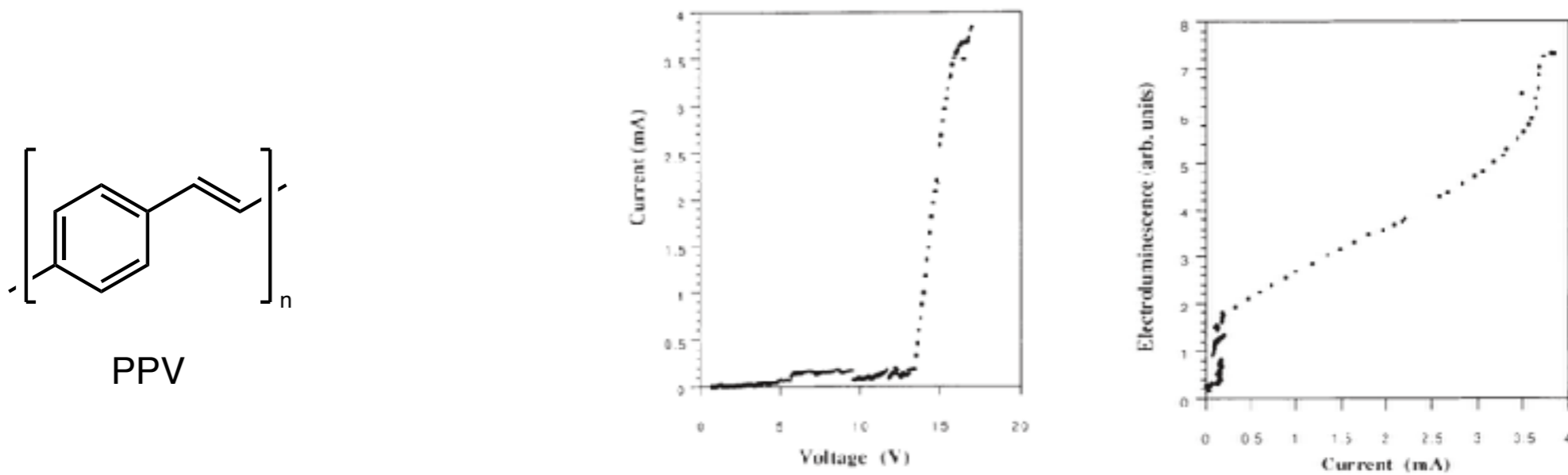
$$\eta_i = \frac{\text{photons emitted}}{\text{excitons produced}}$$

Early OLEDs

- 1987: First “practical” (> 1% EQE) OLED using Alq₃ (Eastman Kodak)



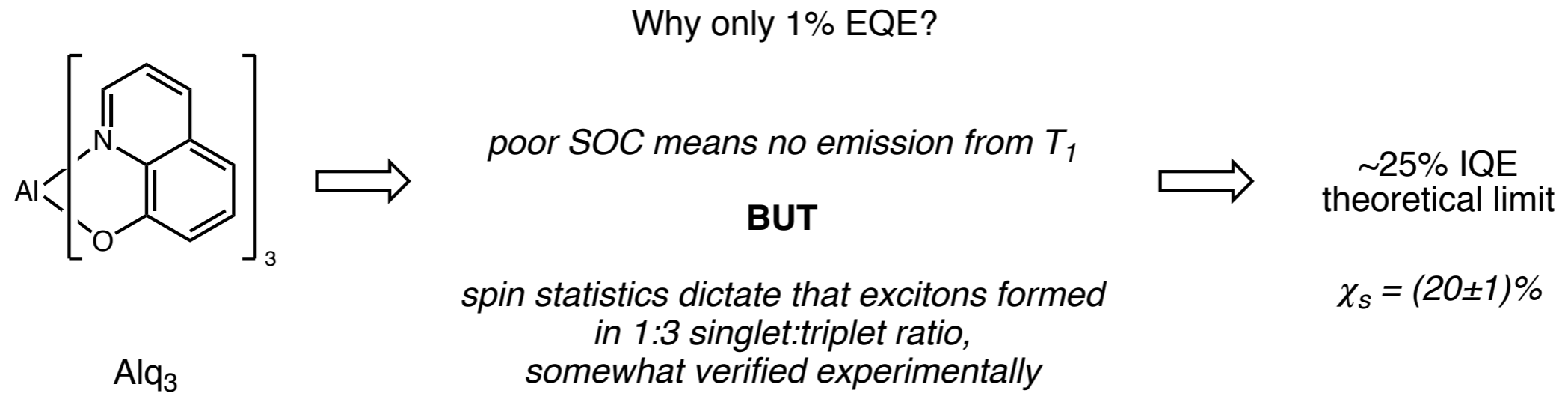
- 1990: First polymer-based OLED (~ 8% EQE) using PPV (Burroughes, Cambridge)



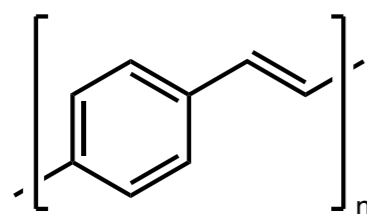
Burroughes, J. H. *et. al. Nature* **1990**, 347, 539.
Tang, C. W.; VanSlyke, S. A. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **1987**, 51, 913.

Fluorescent OLEDs: Limitations

- 1987: First “practical” (> 1% EQE) OLED using Alq₃ (Eastman Kodak)



- 1990: First polymer-based OLED (~ 8% EQE) using PPV (Burroughes, Cambridge)



PPV

$$\chi_s = (20 \pm 4)\%$$

for MEH-PPV

If <100% of excitons are available for luminescence, how do you improve efficiency?

Phosphorescent OLEDs

■ The basics of PhOLEDs

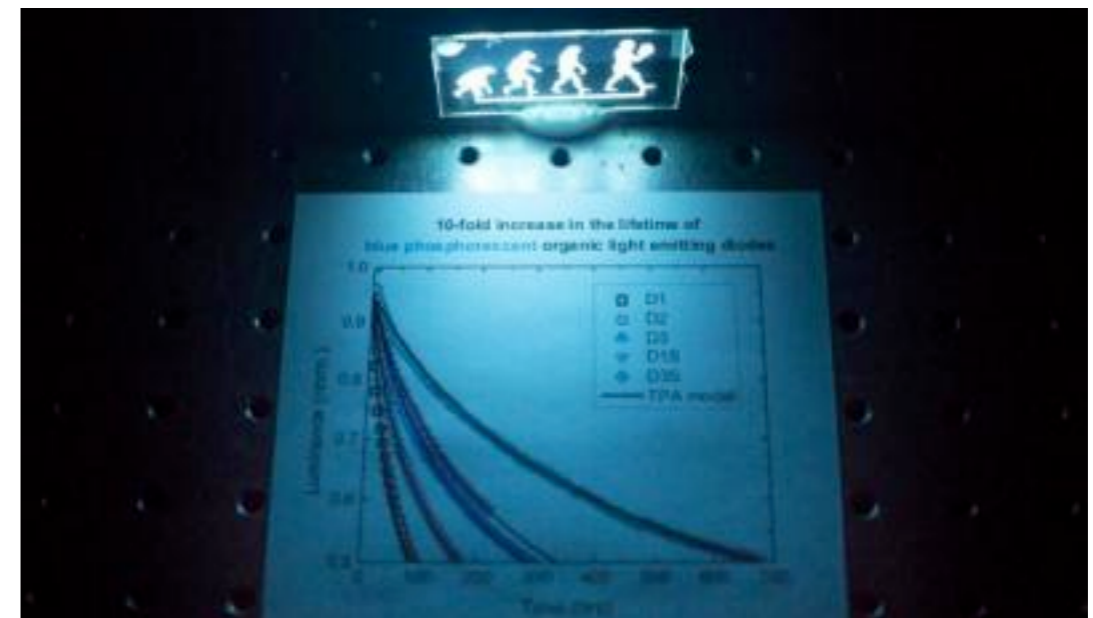
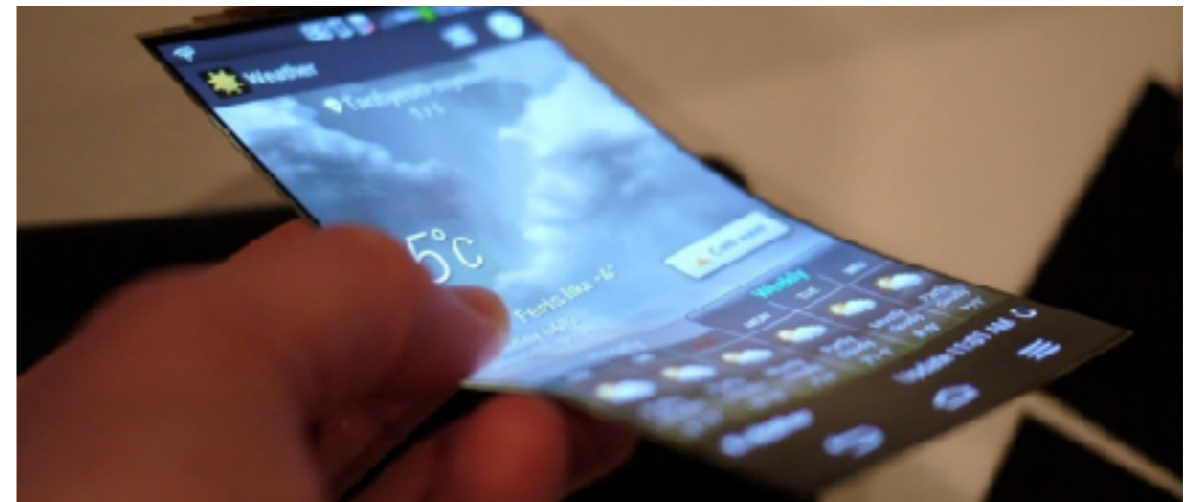
- Fluorescence vs. Phosphorescence
- Basic design concept
- Exciton formation/transfer
- What makes a good dopant and host?

■ PhOLED architectures and materials

- Multi-layered devices
- Phosphorescent emitters
- Small-molecule and polymer hosts
- Specific considerations

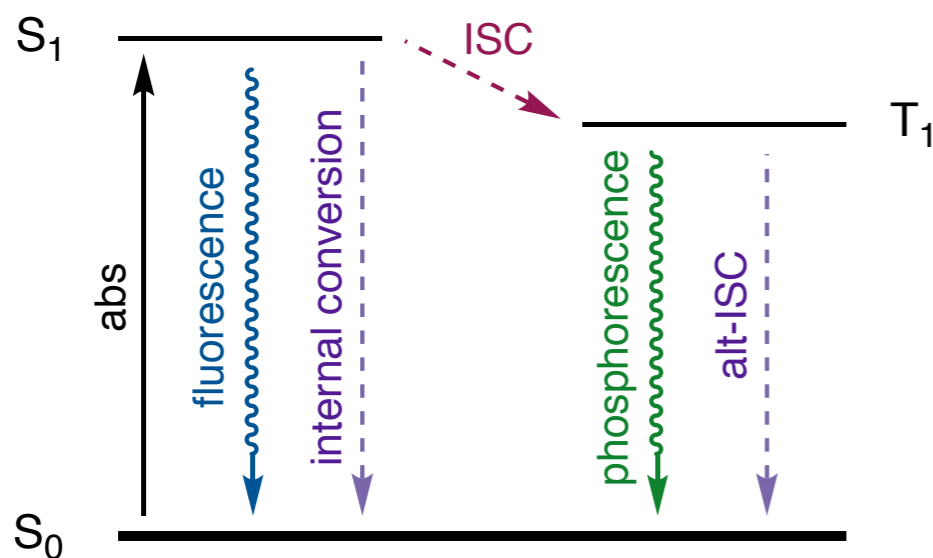
■ Current state-of-the-art

- Blue emitters!
- WOLEDs via mixed fluorescence/phosphorescence
- Thermally-activated delayed phosphorescence (TADF)

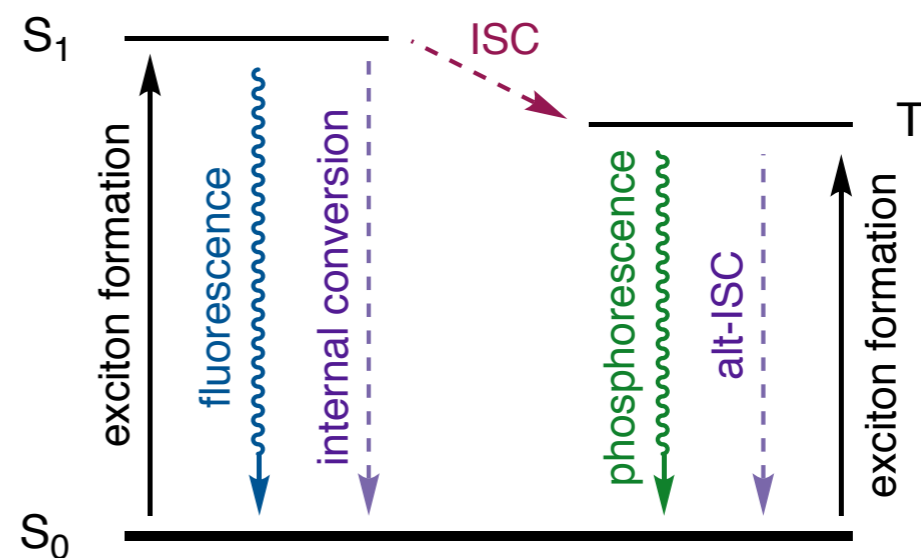


Fluorescence vs. Phosphorescence

Jablonski diagram upon photoexcitation



Jablonski diagram upon **electro**excitation

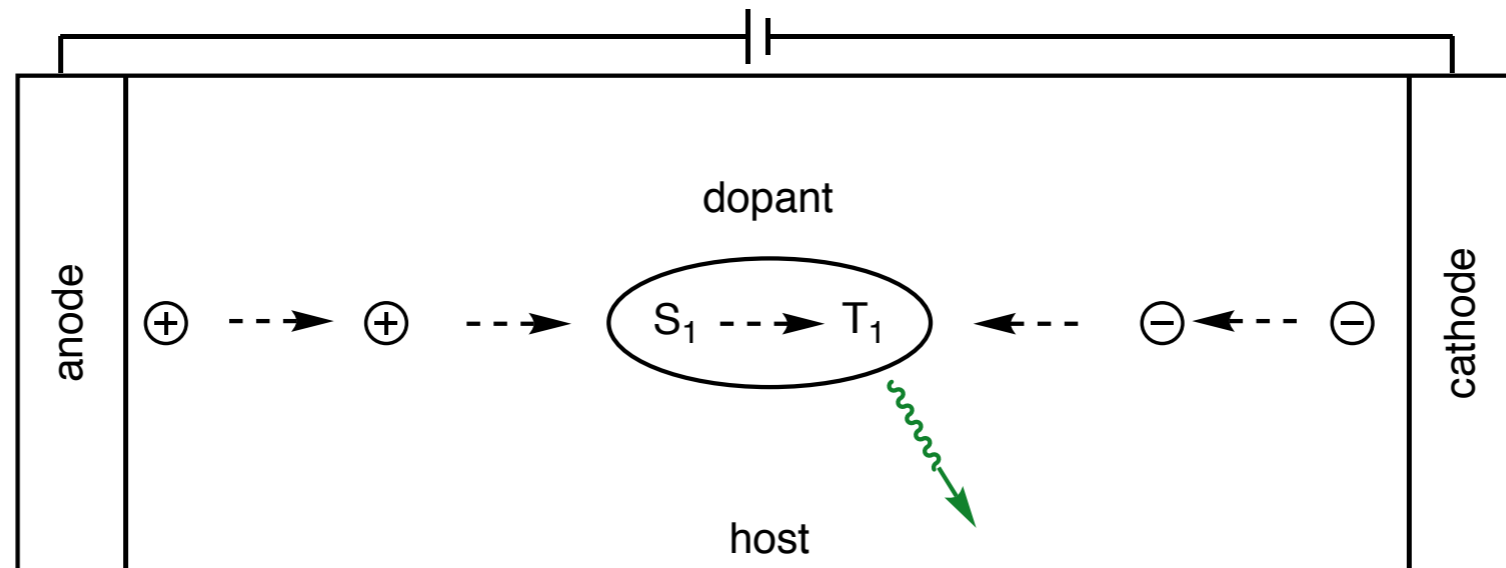


Key points for OLED development:

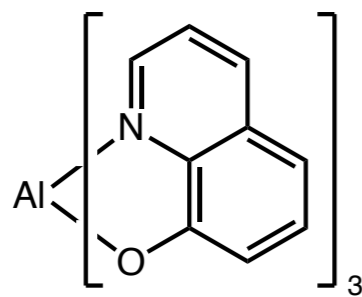
1. Efficient exciton-harvesting requires (?) triplet-harvesting
2. EL from T_1 requires appreciable SOC
3. T_1 lifetime much longer than S_1
4. $E(T_1) < E(S_1)$

Basic Design of PhOLEDs

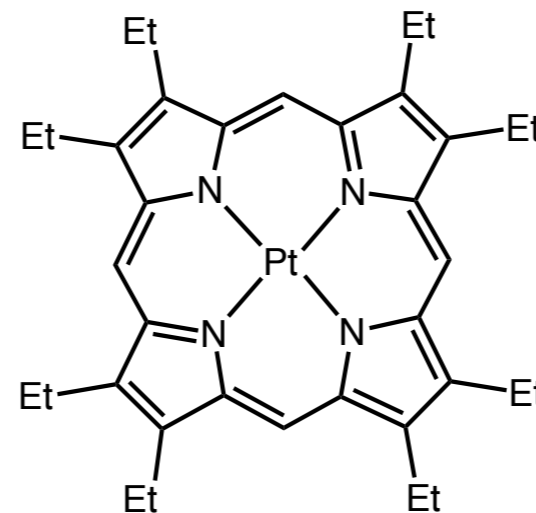
Host/guest or host/dopant EML



1998: First phosphor-doped OLED (Forrest, Princeton)



Alq₃



PtOEP

peak efficiencies:

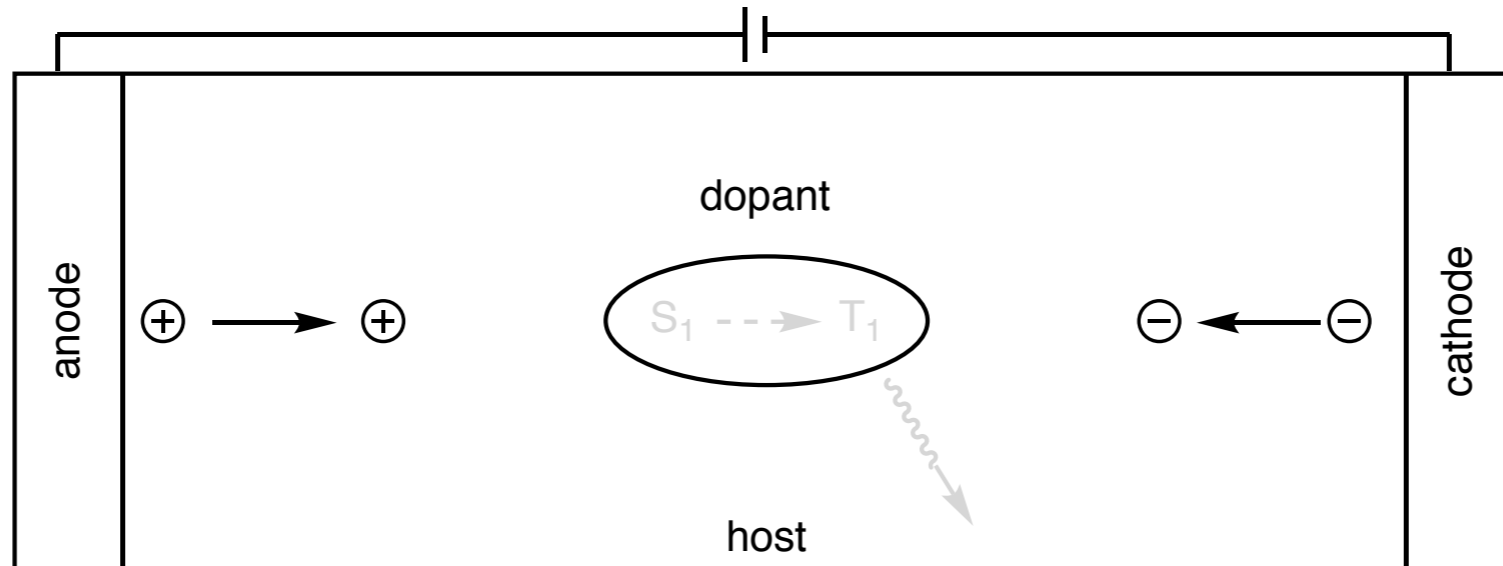
$$\eta_{ex} = 4\%$$

$$\eta_i = 23\%$$

EL lifetime 10-50 μ s

Basic Principles of PhOLEDs

- Hole/electron recombination, aka exciton formation

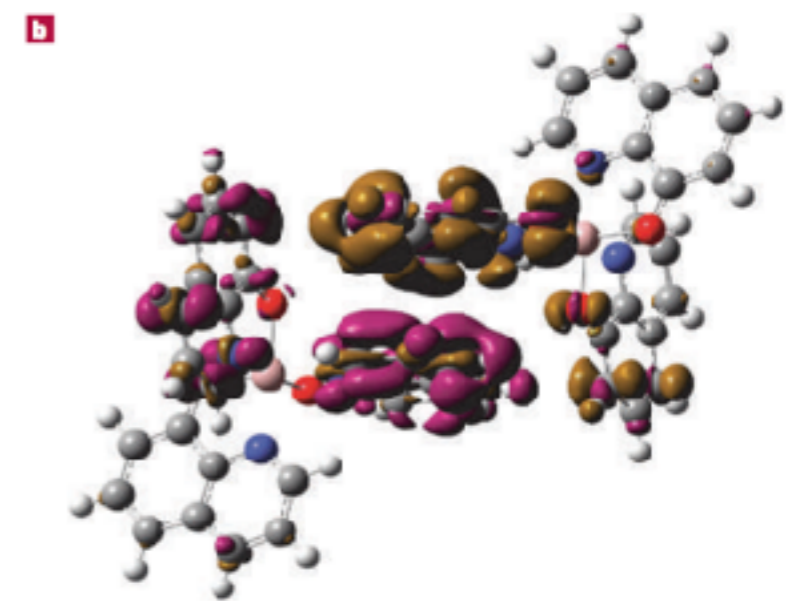
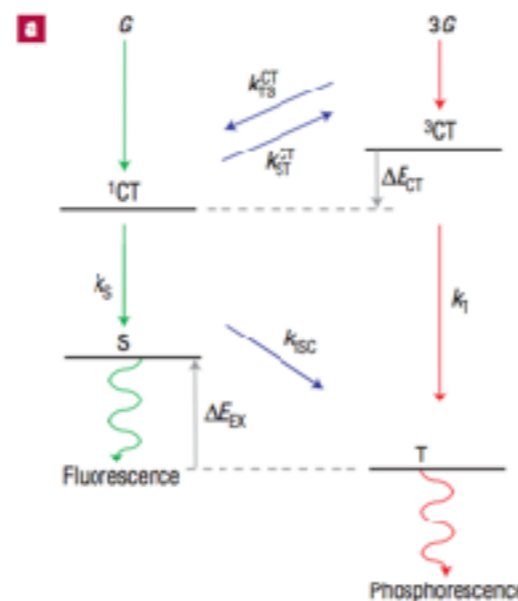


- As hole and electron get closer, Coloumbic attractions come into play

$$\Delta E(e-h) = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon R_C} = k_B T$$

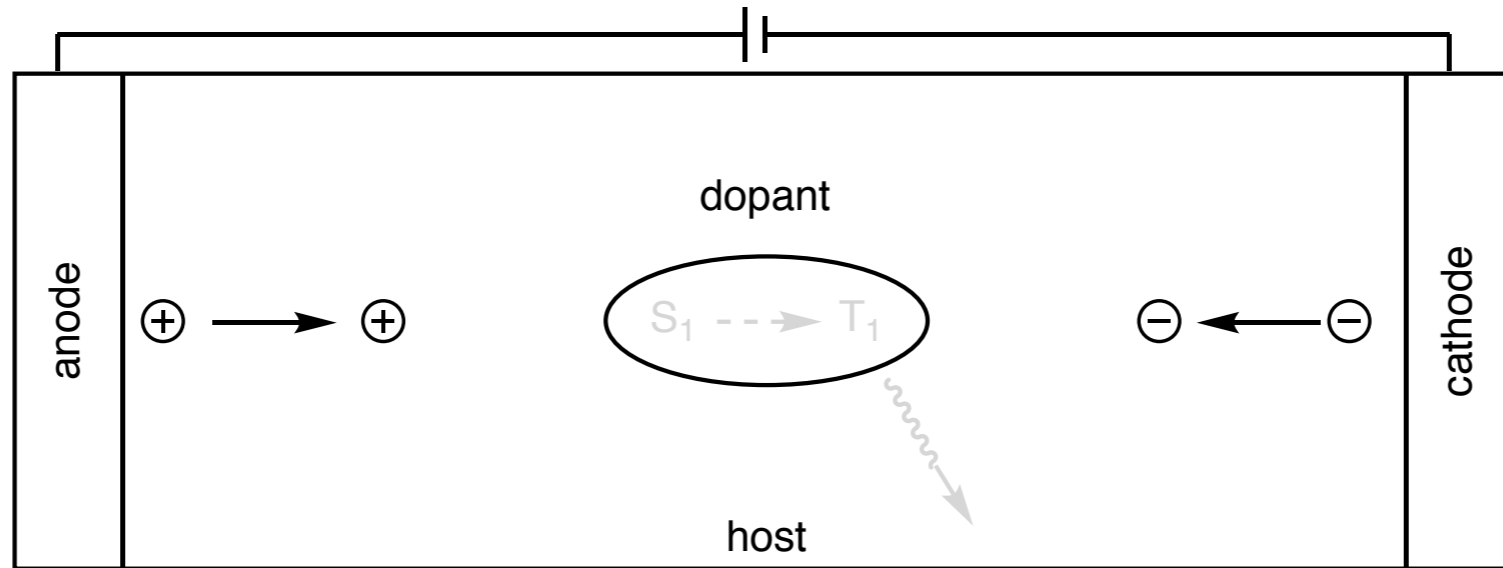
These associated h^+ and e^- are called a charge transfer (CT) state.

They don't necessarily need to be on a single molecule or polymer chain.

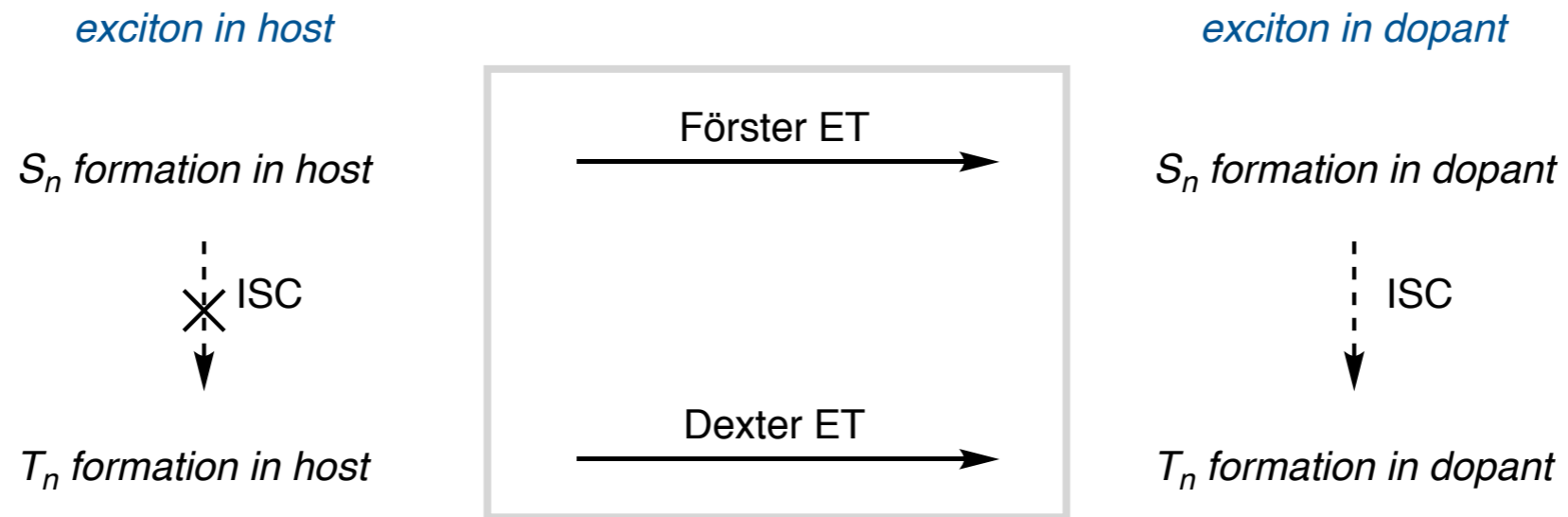


Basic Principles of PhOLEDs

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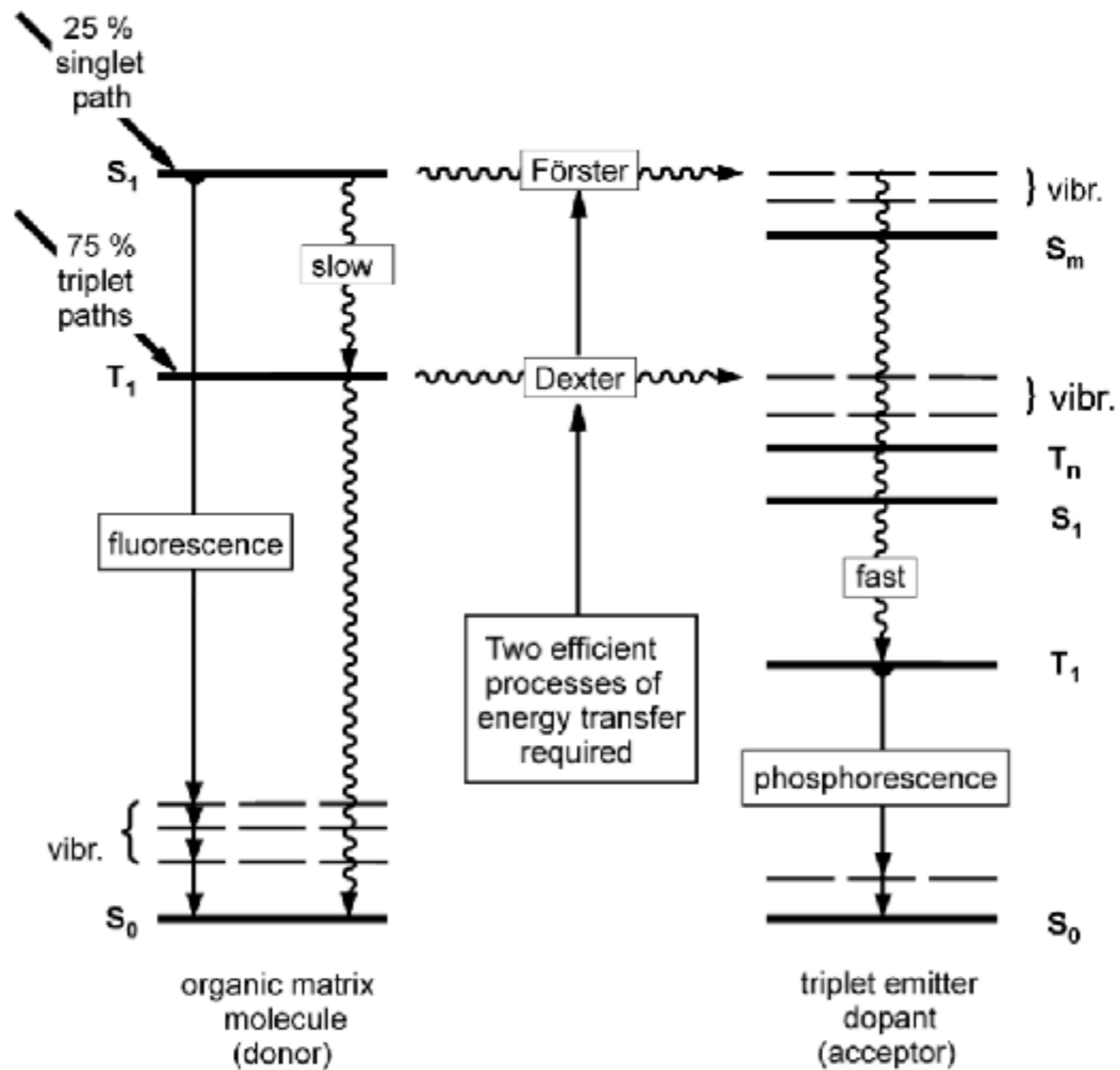


Four main scenarios for exciton formation:



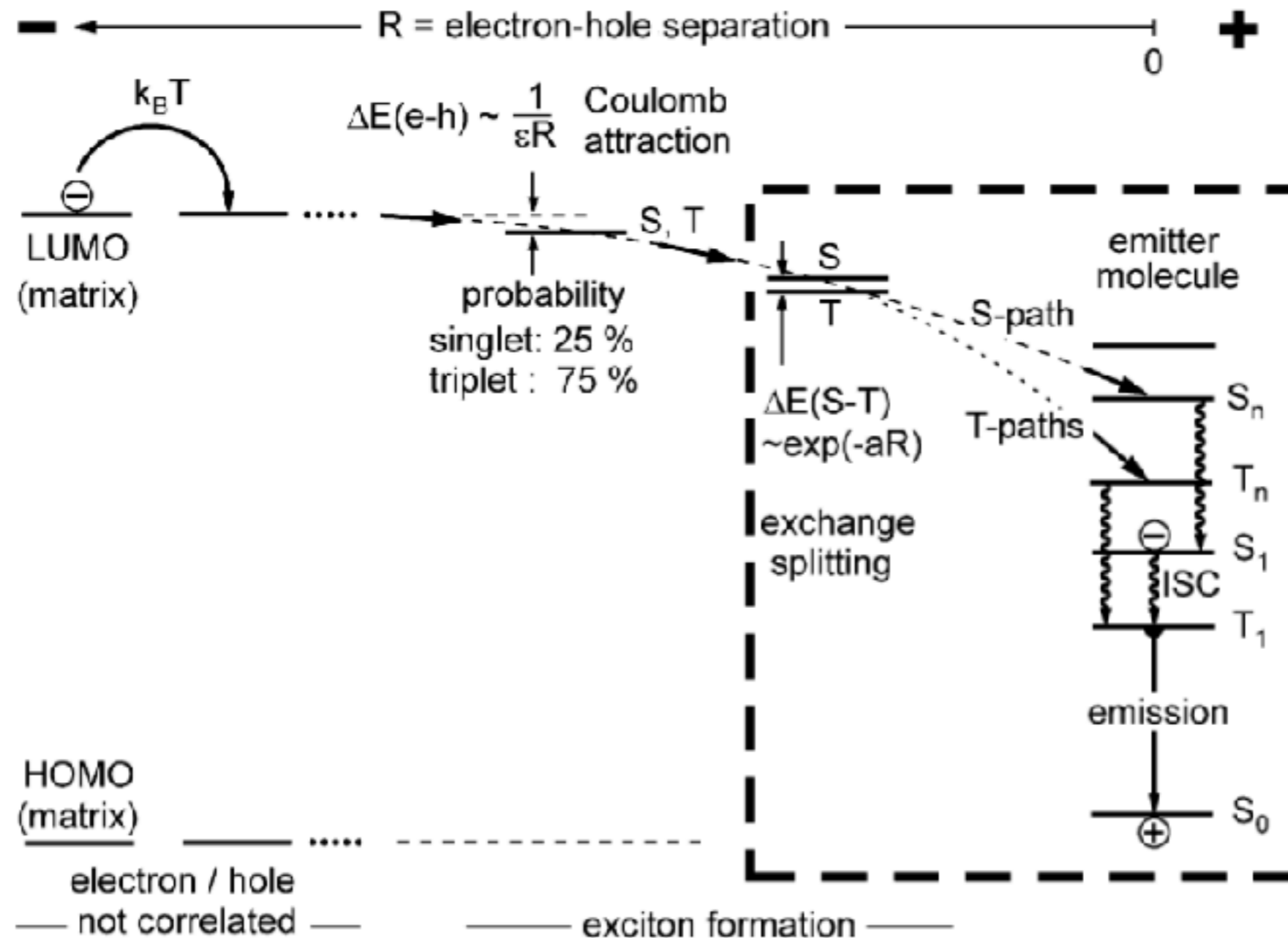
Basic Principles of PhOLEDs

- Host exciton energy transfer to dopant exciton, ISC/relaxation, phosphorescence



Basic Principles of PhOLEDs

- Exciton formation on the dopant: hole trapping first



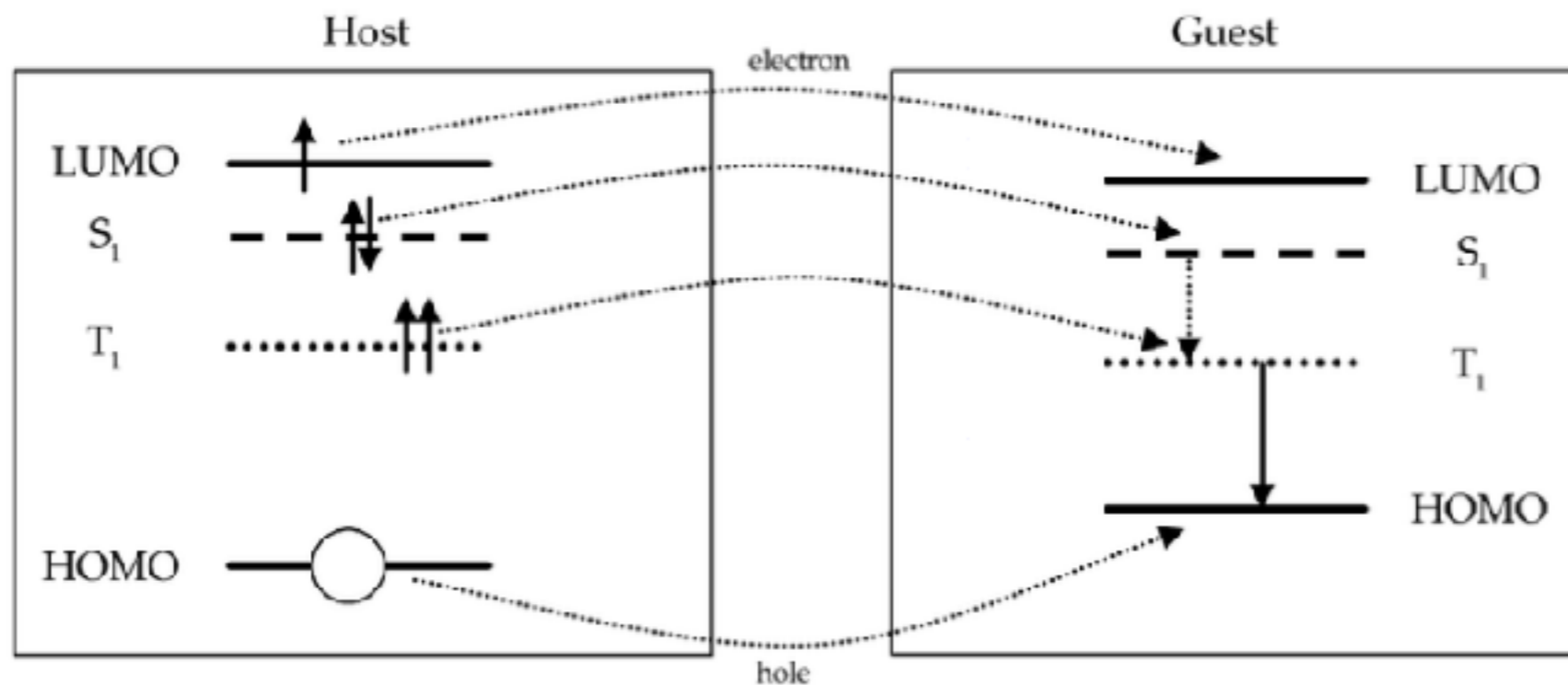
Basic Principles of PhOLEDs

characteristics of good PhOLED host

1. Large HOMO-LUMO gap (high energy LUMO)
2. Long T_1 lifetime = non-phosphorescent = poor SOC
3. Higher energy S_1 , T_1 than dopant
4. Can efficiently transfer h^+ or e^- , or both (ambipolar)
5. Spectral overlap (for FRET) and energy overlap (for DET)

characteristics of good PhOLED dopant/emitter

1. Lower LUMO than host
2. Shorter T_1 lifetime = phosphorescent = good SOC
3. Lower energy S_1 , T_1 than host
4. Can efficiently trap h^+ or e^- , or both
5. Spectral overlap (for FRET) and energy overlap (for DET)



Phosphorescent OLEDs

■ The basics of PhOLEDs

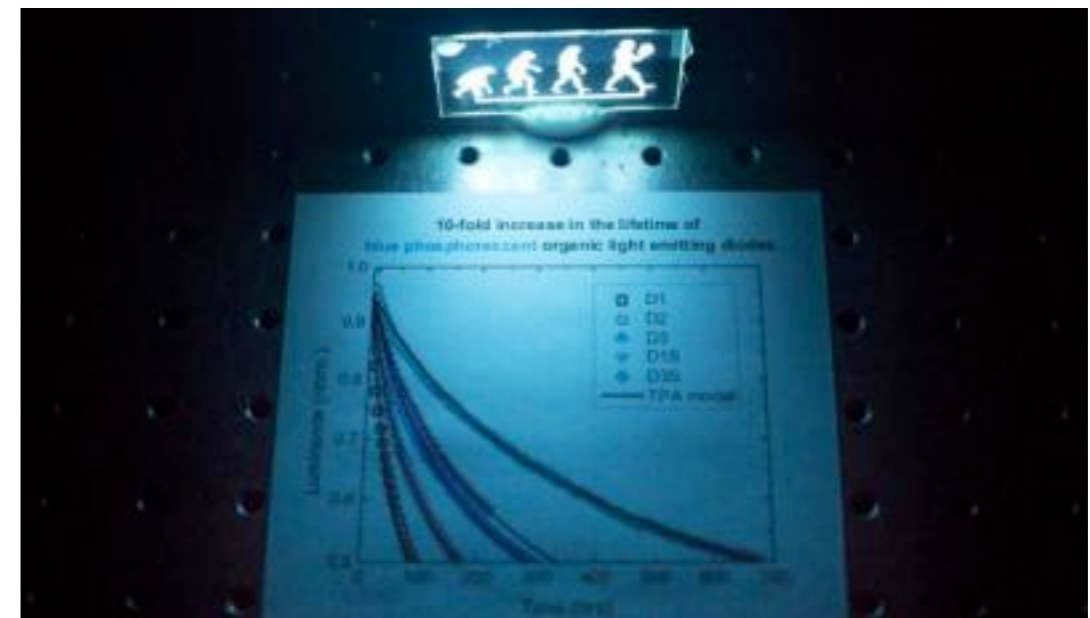
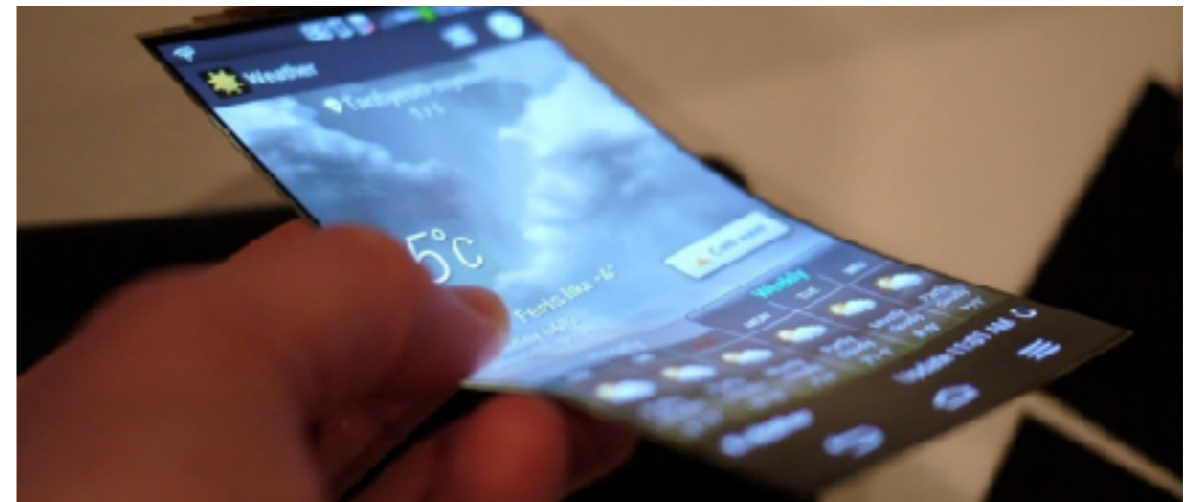
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- Phosphorescent emitters
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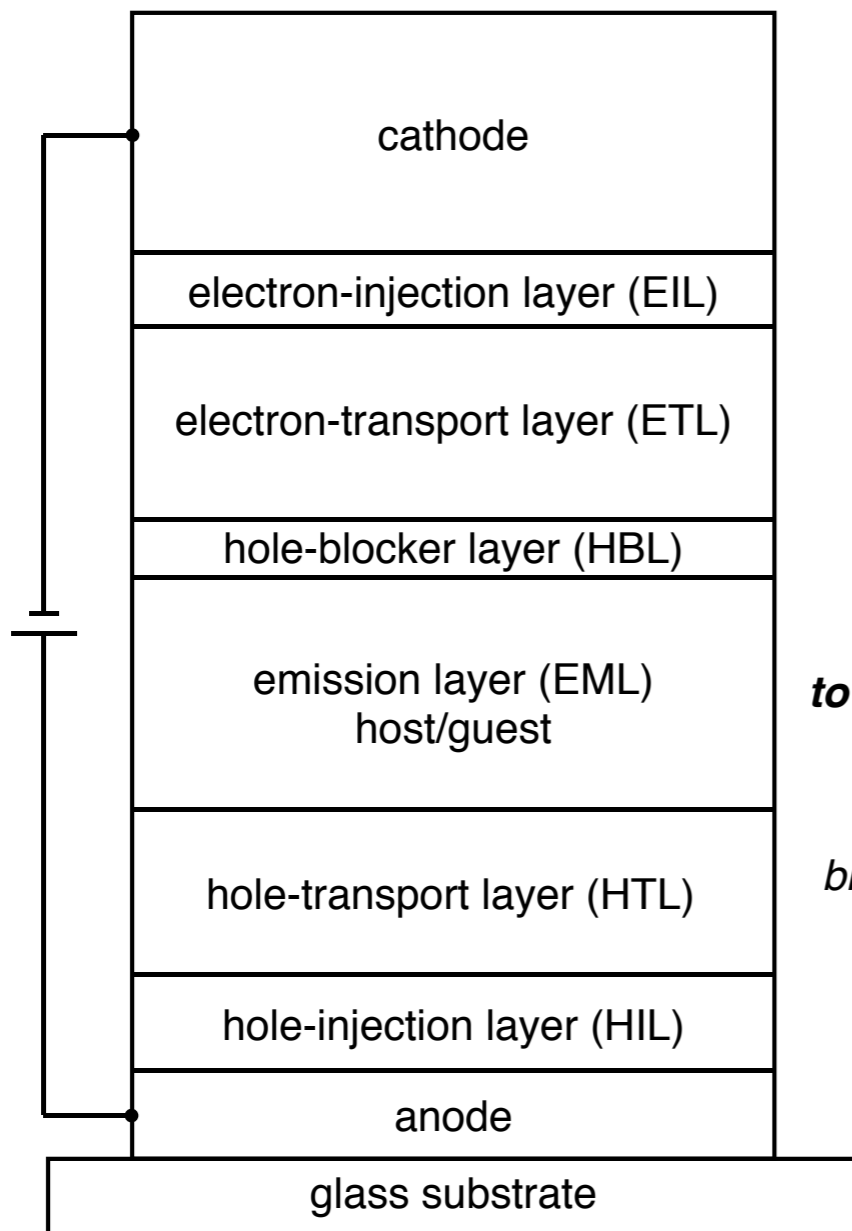
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Multilayer OLED Device

representative multilayer PhOLED



examples

Al, Mg/Ag, metals

CsF, LiF

most common: *Alq₃*

bathocuproine (BCP)

to be discussed in detail

bis(N,N'-diaryl)-biphenyls

PEDOT:PSS, [M]O_n

ITO

characteristics/roles

... to be a cathode

high LUMO

*high E_T
electron-deficient (pyridines)*

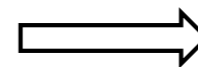
*prevent "unused" h⁺
from destroying ETL*

transport h⁺/e⁻ to form excitons

*high E_T
electron-rich (triarylaminines)*

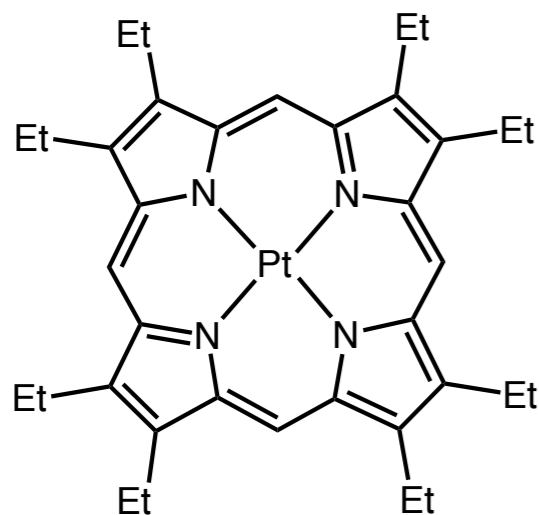
low HOMO

ITO



Triplet-Emitting Dopants (Phosphors)

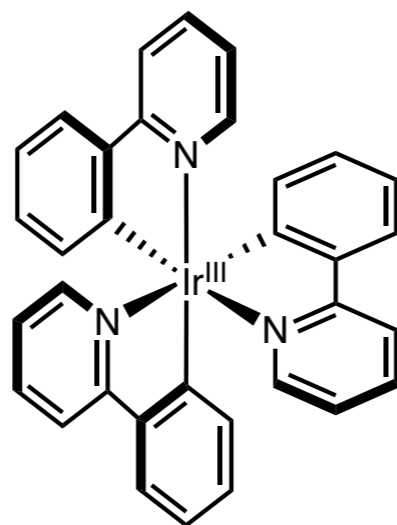
- Heavy-metal organometallic complexes exhibit appropriate phosphorescence



PtOEP

$\lambda_{\max} = 650 \text{ nm}$

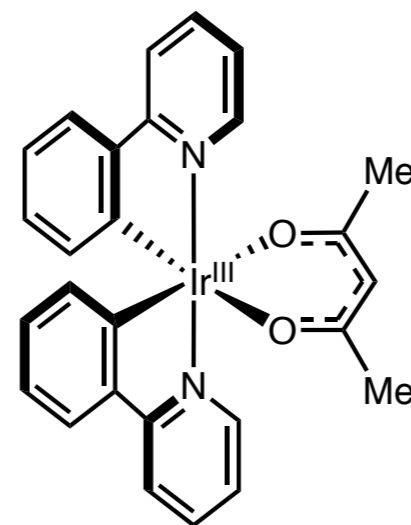
T_1 lifetime = 91 μs



Ir(ppy)₃

$\lambda_{\max} = 509 \text{ nm}$

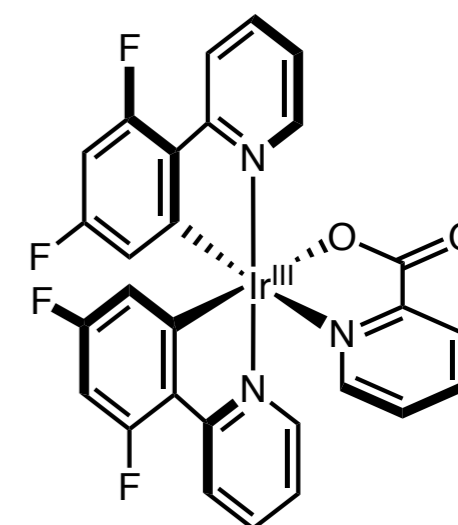
T_1 lifetime = 2.1 μs



Ir(ppy)₂(acac)

$\lambda_{\max} = 516 \text{ nm}$

T_1 lifetime = 1.6 μs



FIrpic

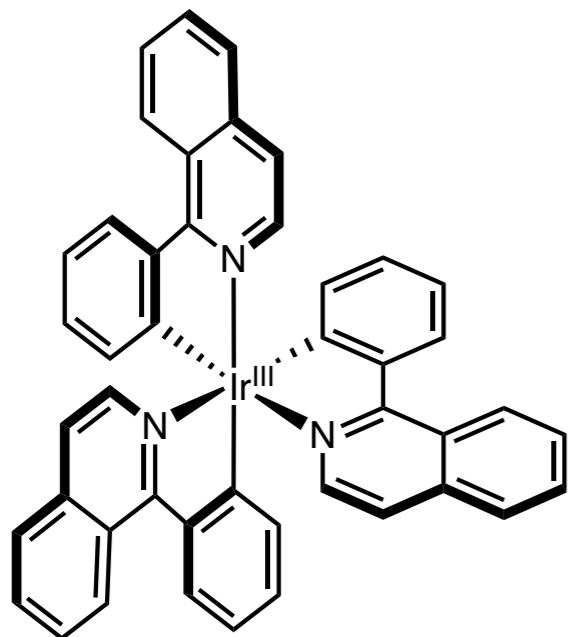
$\lambda_{\max} = 468 \text{ nm}$

T_1 lifetime = 1.7 μs

really long lifetime
high concentration of T_1
triplet-triplet annihilation

Triplet-Emitting Dopants (Phosphors)

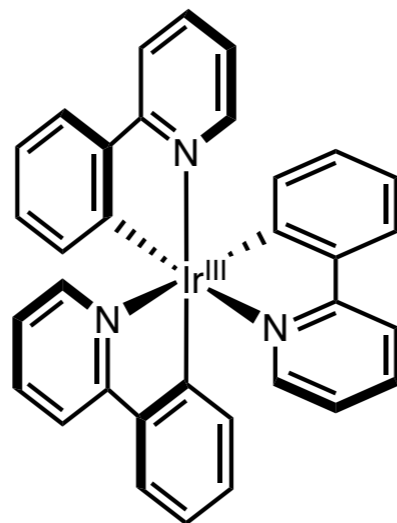
- Heavy-metal organometallic complexes exhibit appropriate phosphorescence



Ir(piq)₃

$\lambda_{\text{max}} = 620 \text{ nm}$

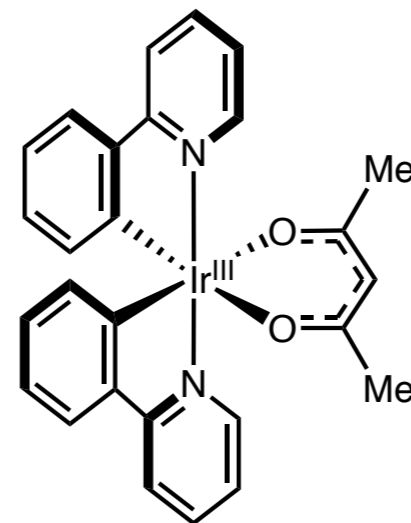
T_1 lifetime = $0.7 \mu\text{s}$



Ir(ppy)₃

$\lambda_{\text{max}} = 509 \text{ nm}$

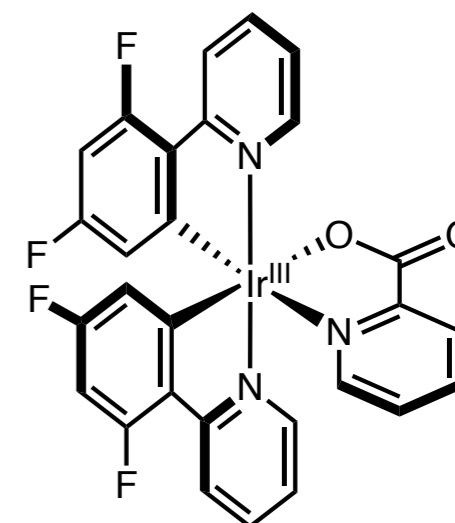
T_1 lifetime = $2.1 \mu\text{s}$



Ir(ppy)₂(acac)

$\lambda_{\text{max}} = 516 \text{ nm}$

T_1 lifetime = $1.6 \mu\text{s}$



FIrpic

$\lambda_{\text{max}} = 468 \text{ nm}$

T_1 lifetime = $1.7 \mu\text{s}$

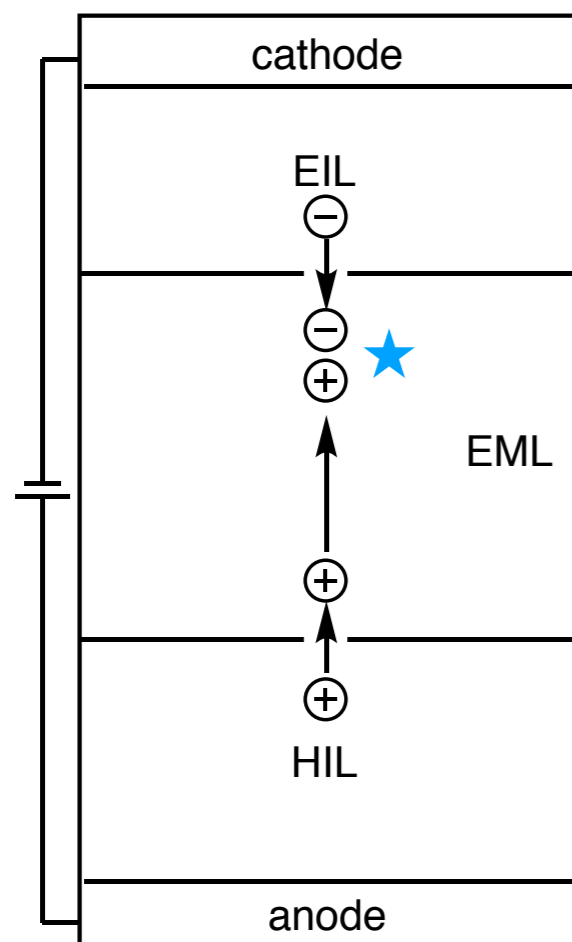
Chou, P.-T.; Chi, Y. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 380.

Nazeeruddin, M. K., *et al.* *Top. Curr. Chem.* **2017**, *375*, 39.

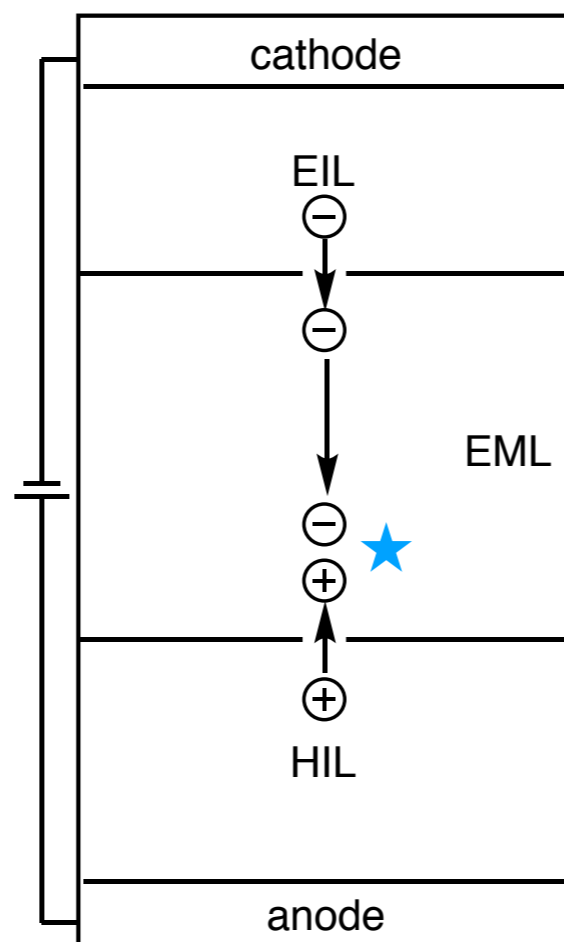
Hartmut, Y. *Highly Efficient OLEDs with Phosphorescent Materials*; Wiley-VCH: Weinheim, 2008.

Host Materials for PhOLEDs

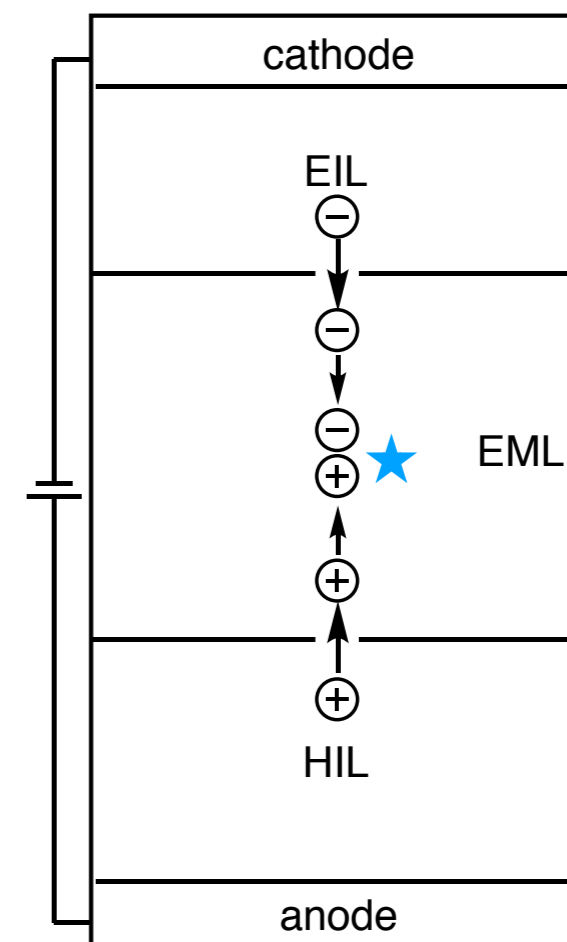
*Hole-transport-type hosts
(electron-rich aromatic systems)*



*Electron-transport-type hosts
(electron-deficient aromatic systems)*



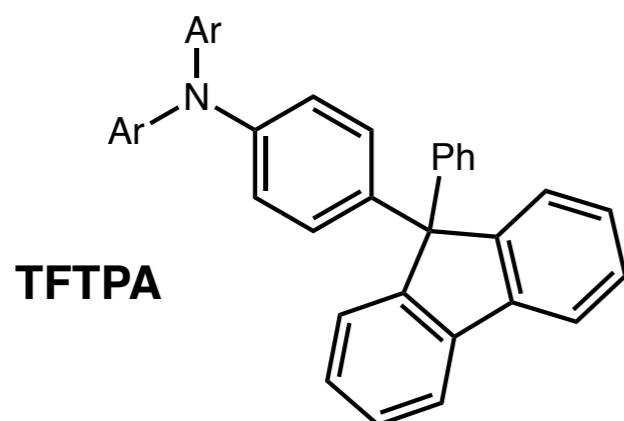
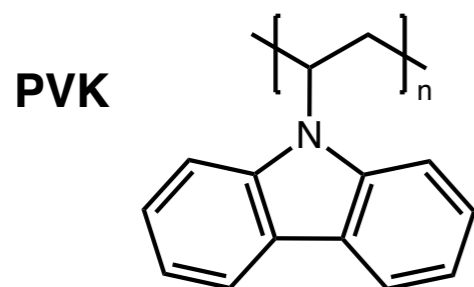
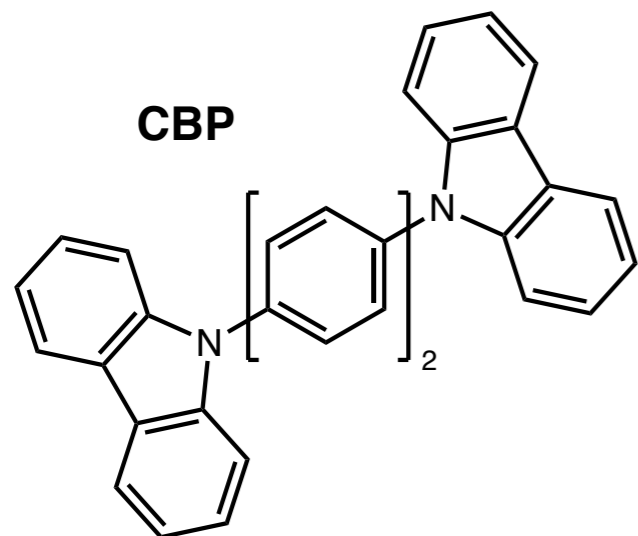
*Ambipolar hosts
(donor-acceptor systems)*



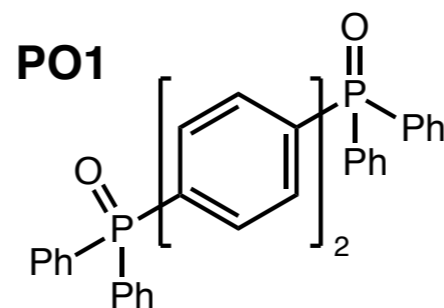
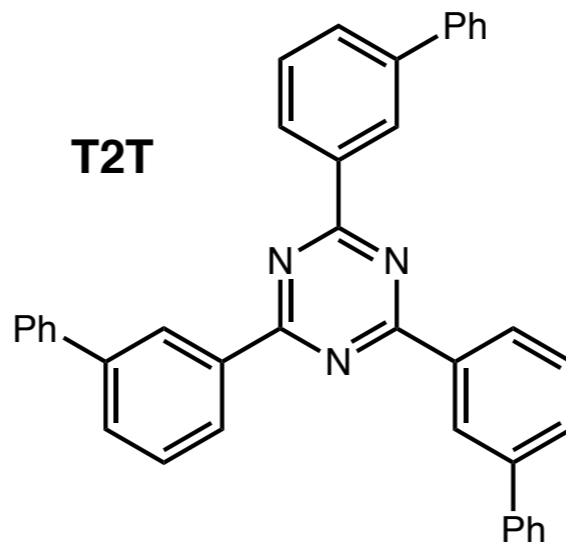
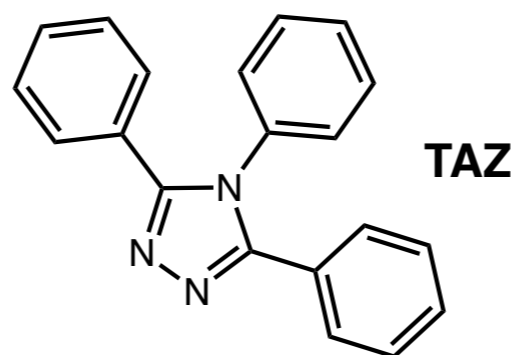
Type of host material determines exciton-generation zone

Host Materials for PhOLEDs

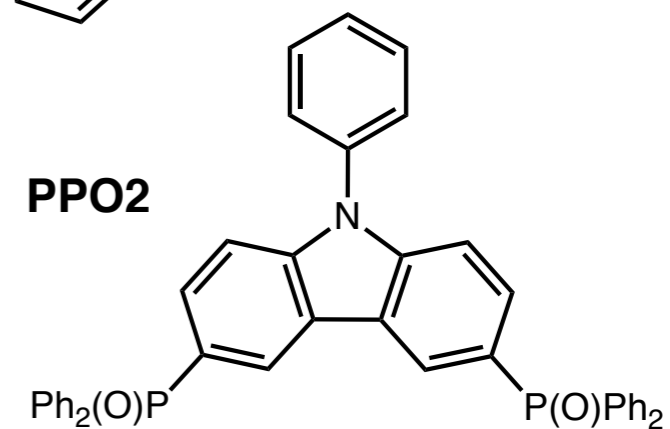
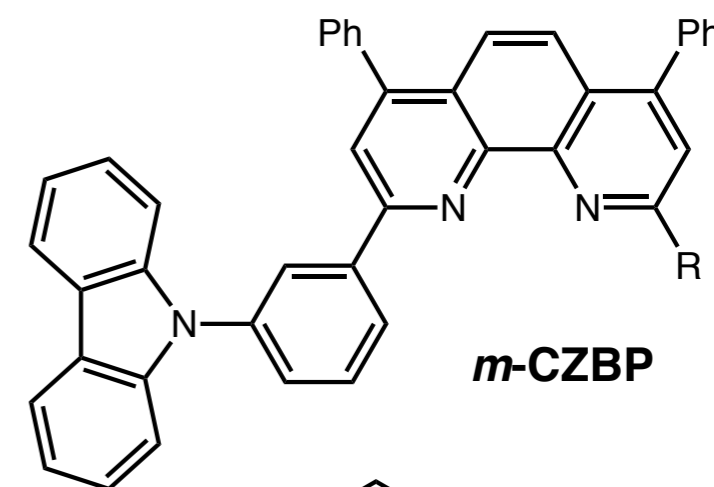
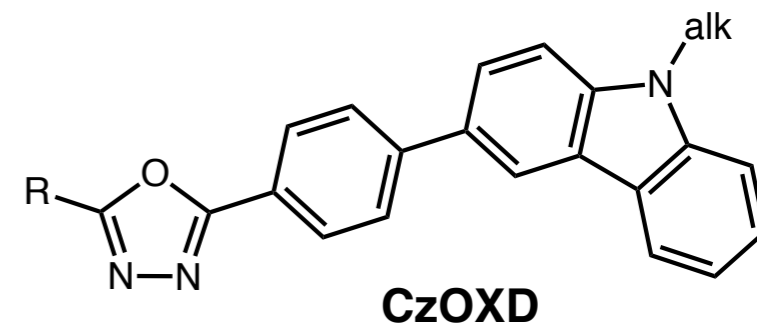
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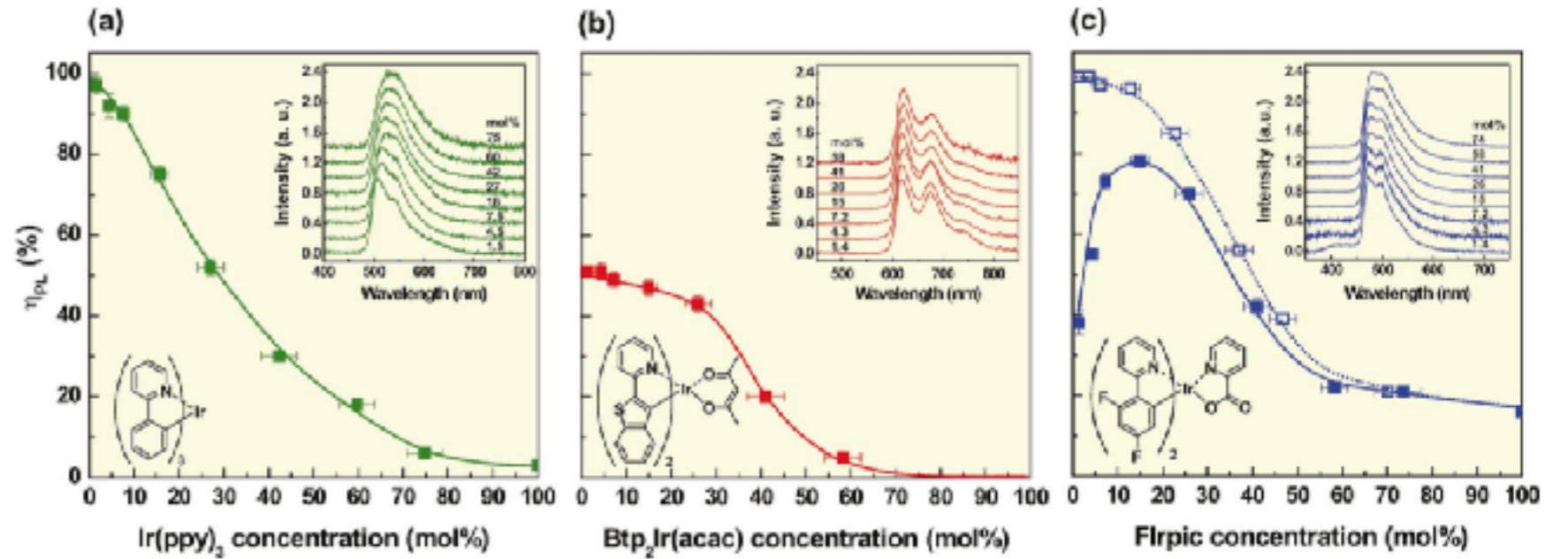


Ambipolar hosts
(donor-acceptor systems)



Dopant Concentration Effect

high concentration of dopant leads to diminished efficiency
 "concentration quenching"



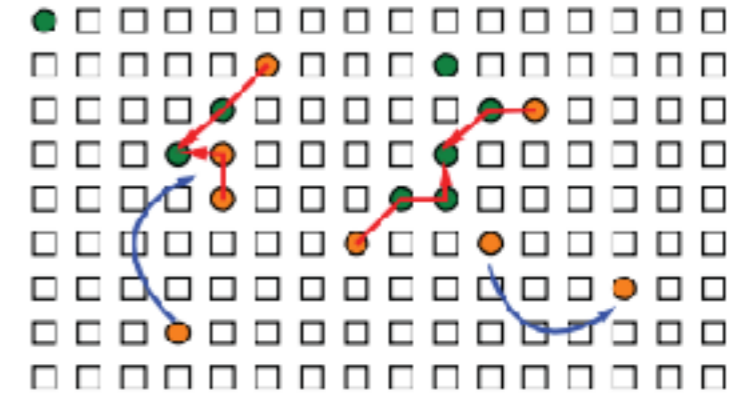
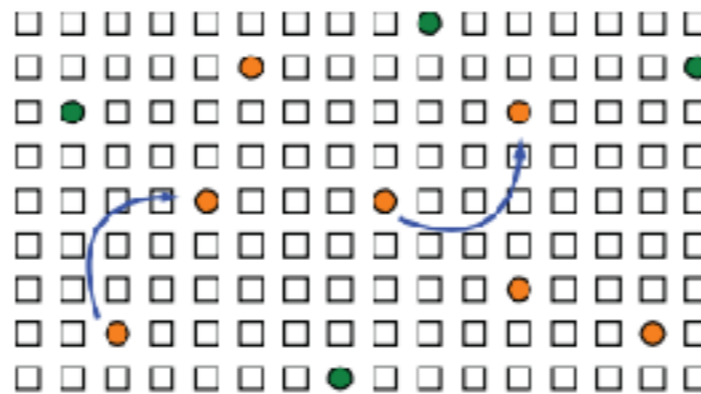
Förster-type

Dexter-type

triplet-triplet annihilation

case study: Ir(ppy)₃ in CBP

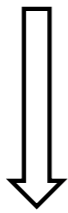
$$R_F = 2.9 \text{ nm}$$



Staroske, W.; Pfeiffer, M.; Leo, K.; Hoffmann, M. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **2007**, *98*, 197402.
 Adachi, C. et al. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **2005**, *86*, 071104.
 Reineke, S.; Baldo, M. A. *Phys. Status Solidi A* **2012**, *209*, 2341.

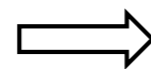
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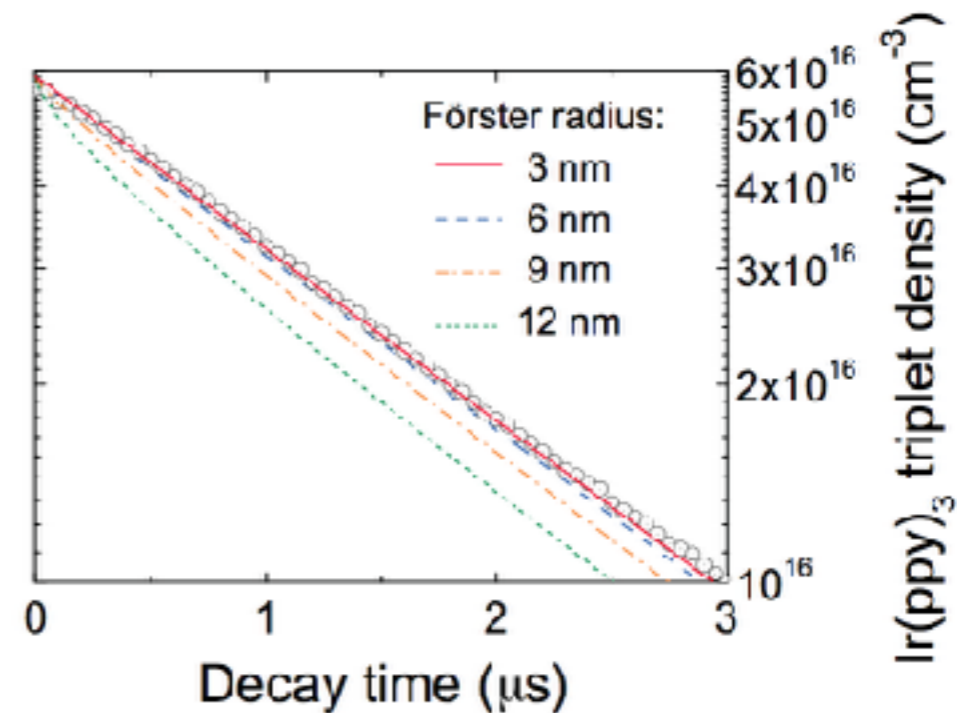
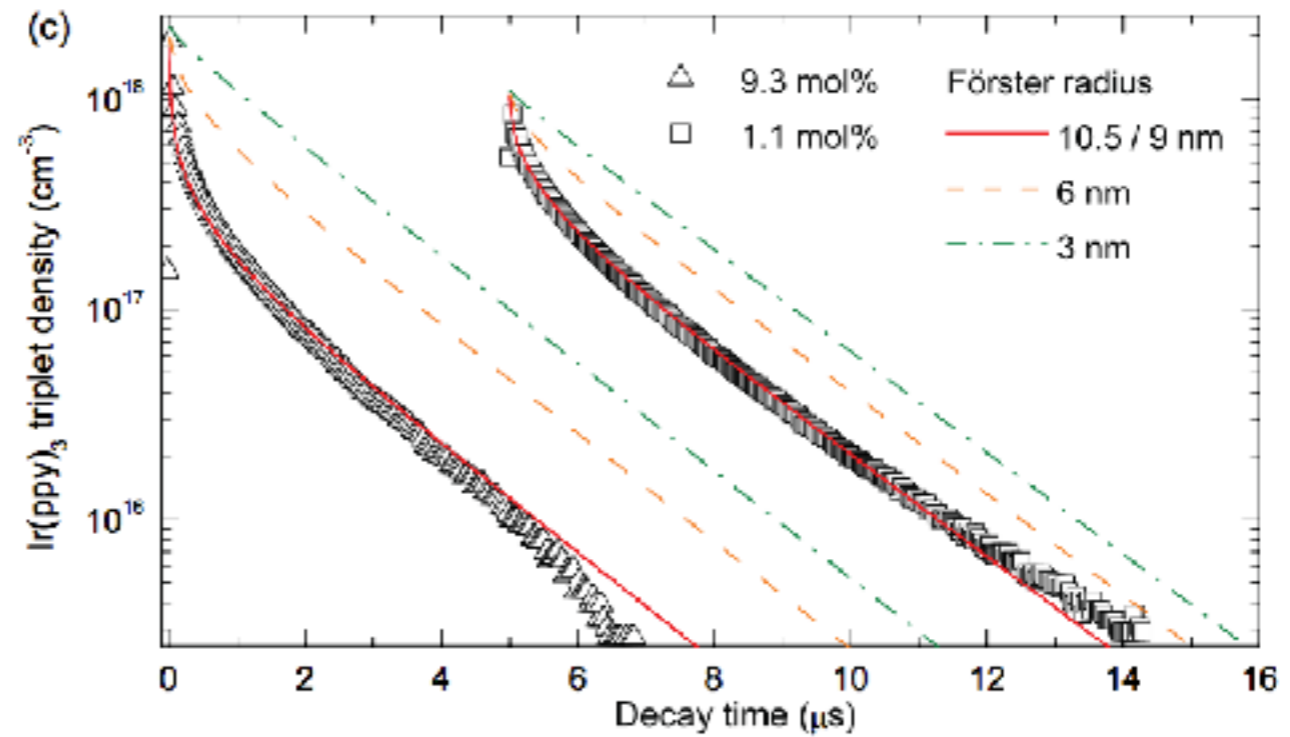


triplet-triplet annihilation

case study: $\text{Ir}(\text{ppy})_3$ in CBP
 $R_F = 2.9 \text{ nm}$



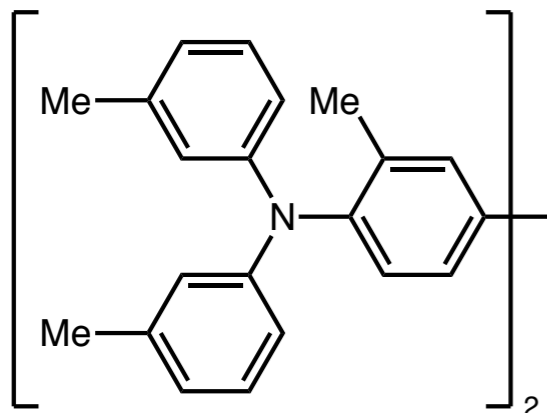
0.1% $\text{Ir}(\text{ppy})_3$ in TCTA



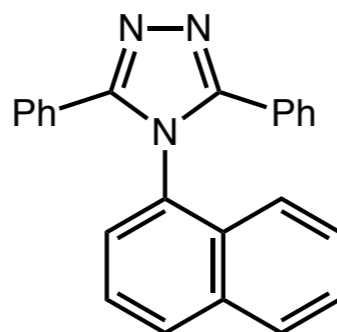
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Increased IQE by Exciton Confinement

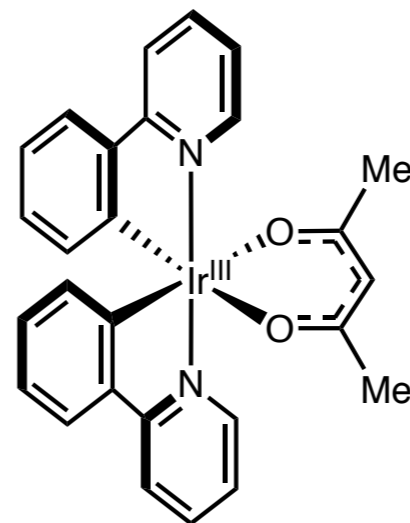
HTL: HMTPD



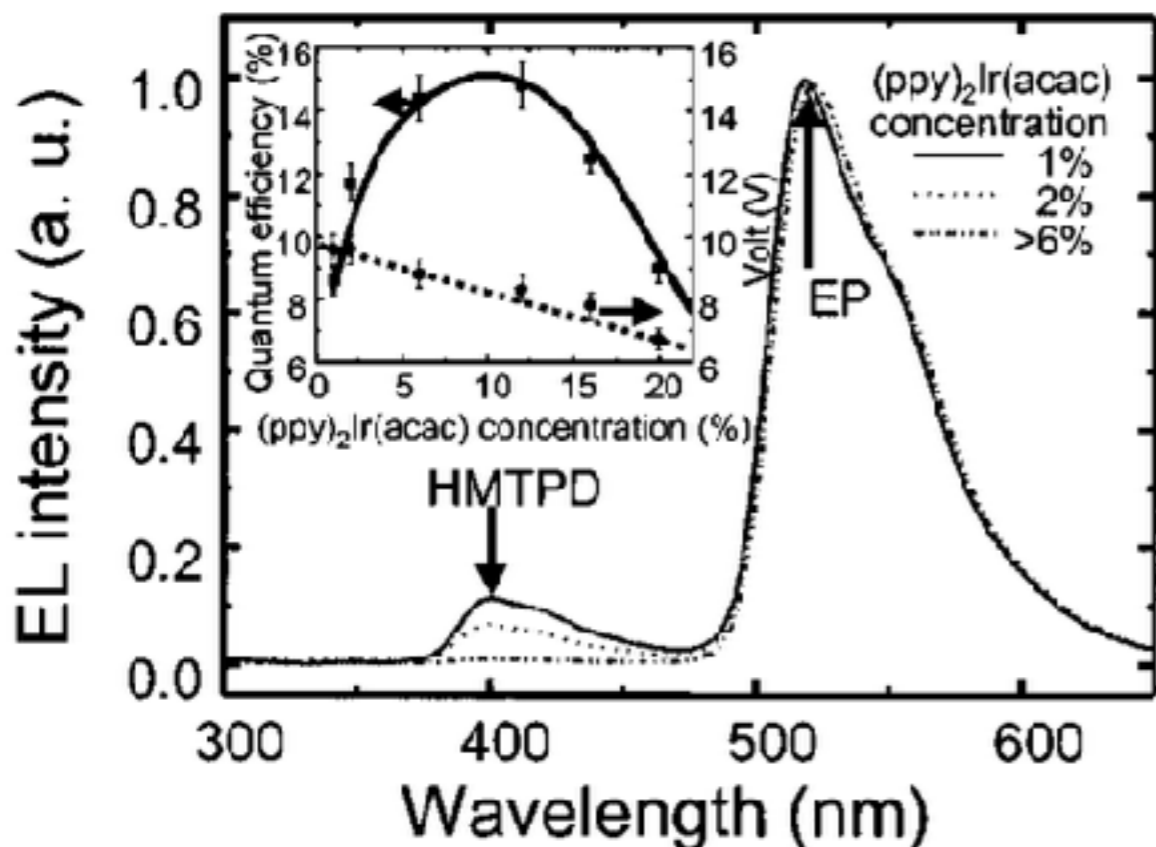
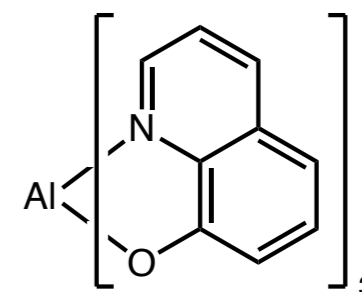
host: TAZ



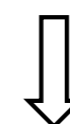
dopant: Ir(ppy)₂(acac)



ETL: Alq₃



emission from HMTPD likely indicates exciton formation in HTL



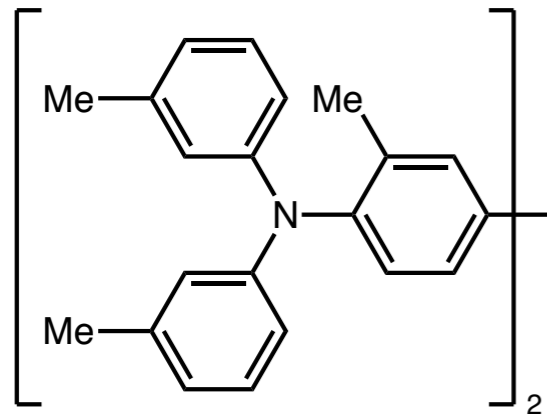
poor hole injection to EML/poor recombination in EML



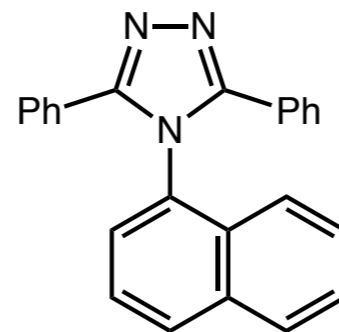
HOMO of host is below HOMO of HTL, unfavorable hole injection

Increased IQE by Exciton Confinement

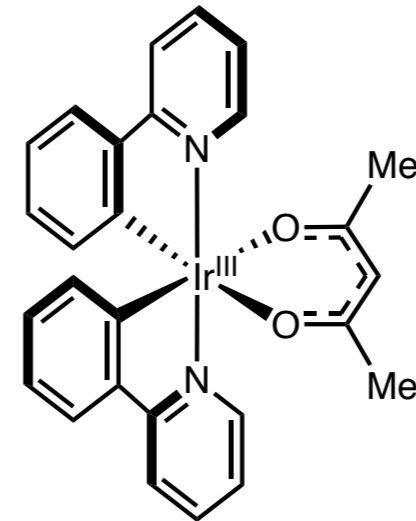
HTL: **HMTPD**



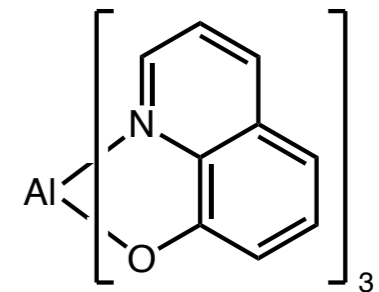
host: **TAZ**



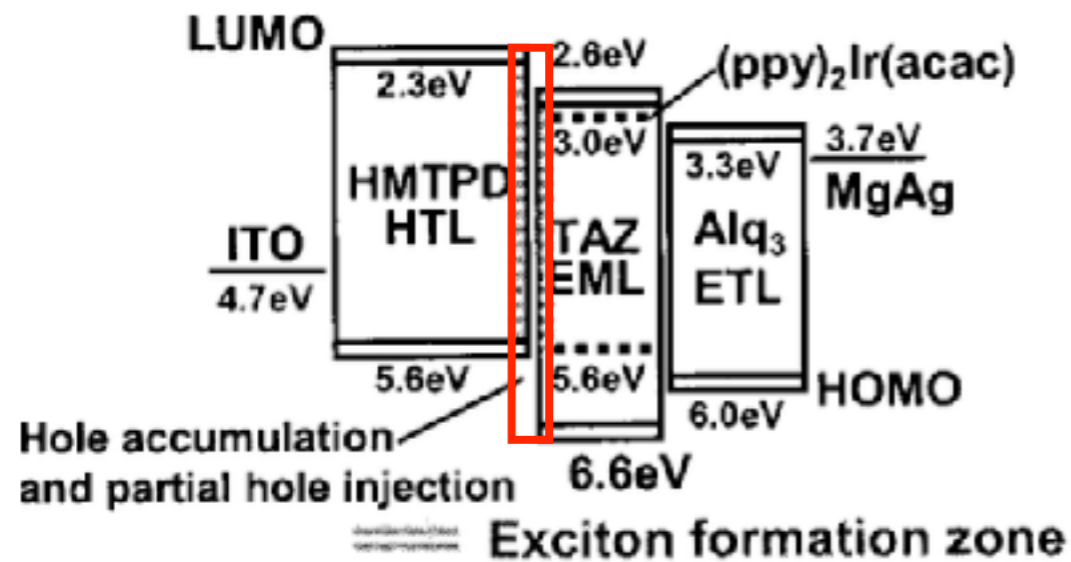
dopant: **Ir(ppy)₂(acac)**



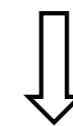
ETL: **Alq₃**



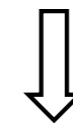
(a) Phosphor <2%



emission from HMTPD likely indicates exciton formation in HTL



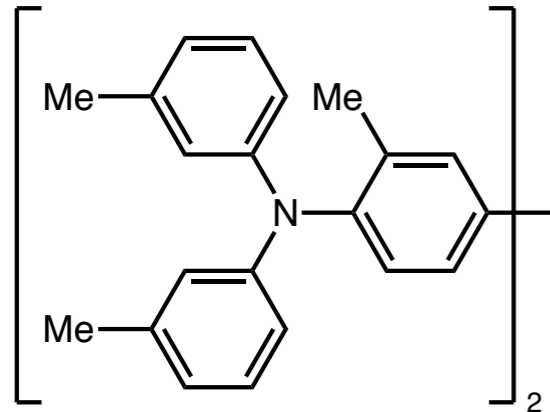
poor hole injection to EML/poor recombination in EML



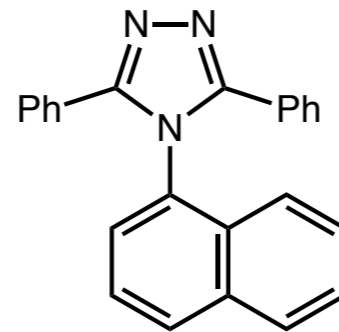
HOMO of host is below HOMO of HTL, unfavorable hole injection

Increased IQE by Exciton Confinement

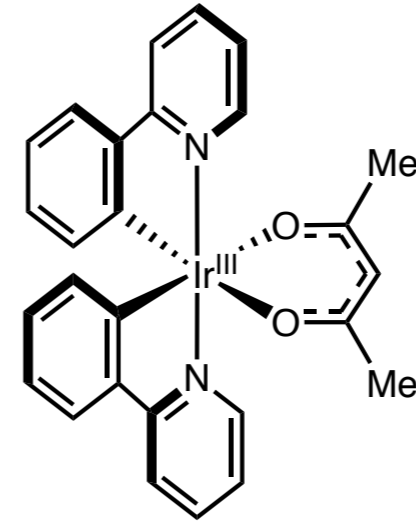
HTL: **HMTPD**



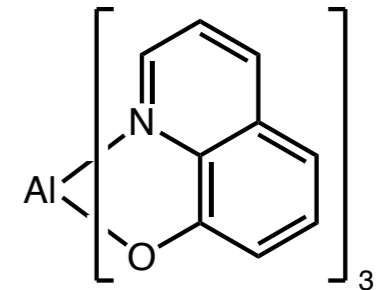
host: **TAZ**



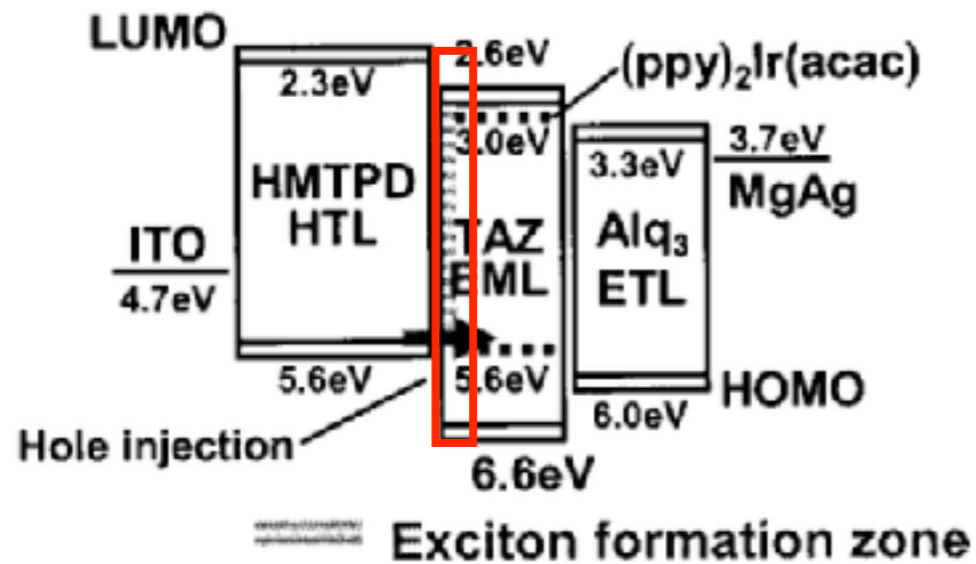
dopant: **Ir(ppy)₂(acac)**



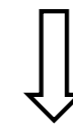
ETL: **Alq₃**



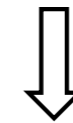
(b) Phosphor >6%



emission from HMTPD likely indicates exciton formation in HTL



poor hole injection to EML/poor recombination in EML



HOMO of host is below HOMO of HTL, unfavorable hole injection

Phosphorescent OLEDs

■ The basics of PhOLEDs

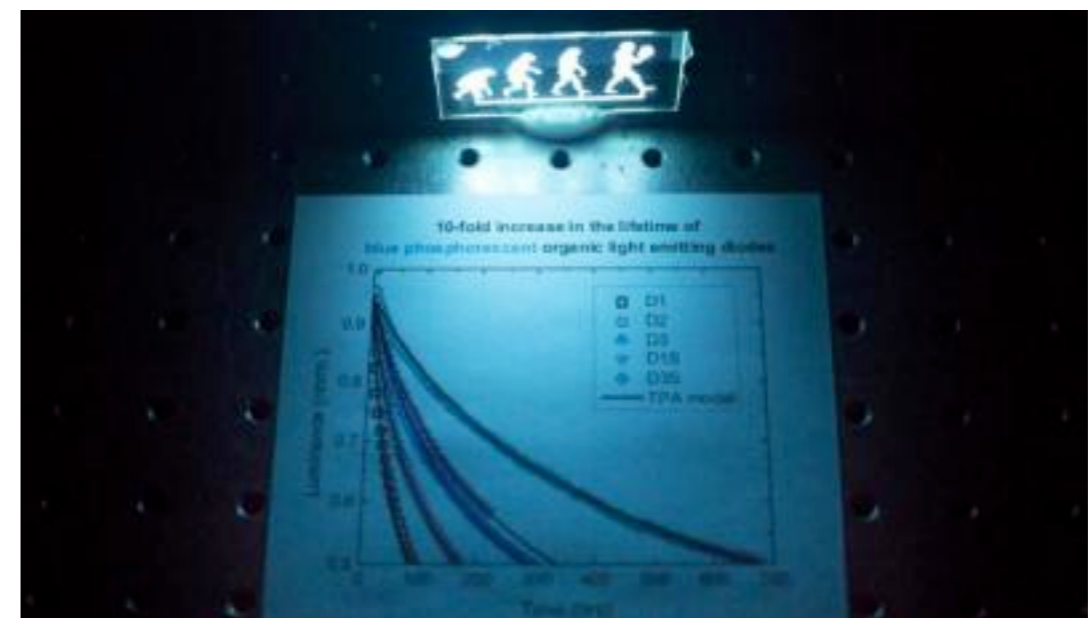
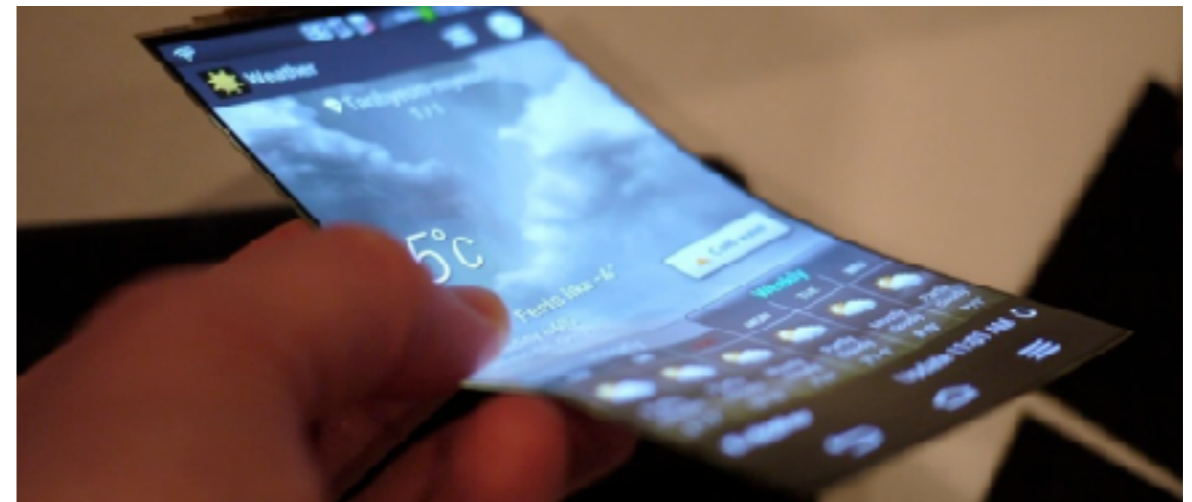
- Fluorescence vs. Phosphorescence
- Basic design concept
- Exciton formation/transfer
- What makes a good dopant and host?

■ PhOLED architectures and materials

- Multi-layered devices
- Phosphorescent emitters
- Small-molecule and polymer hosts
- Specific considerations

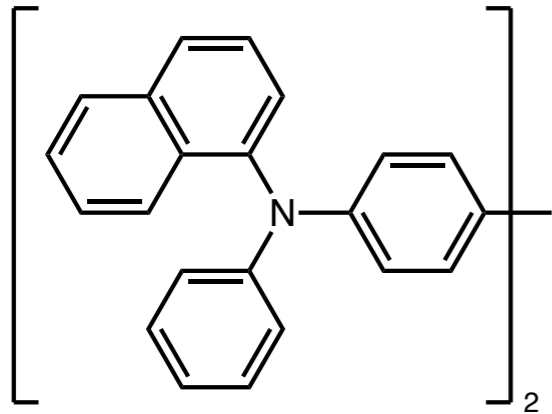
■ Current state-of-the-art

- Blue emitters!
- WOLEDs via mixed fluorescence/phosphorescence
- Thermally-activated delayed phosphorescence (TADF)

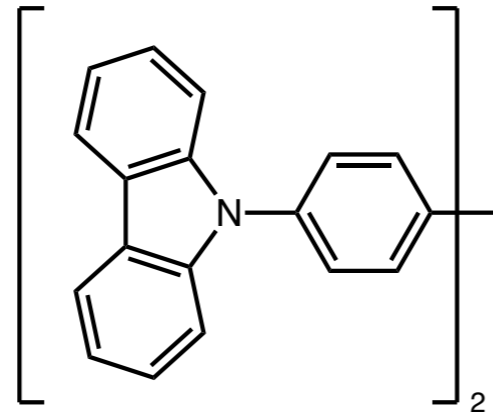


“Endothermic Energy Transfer” for Phosphorescence

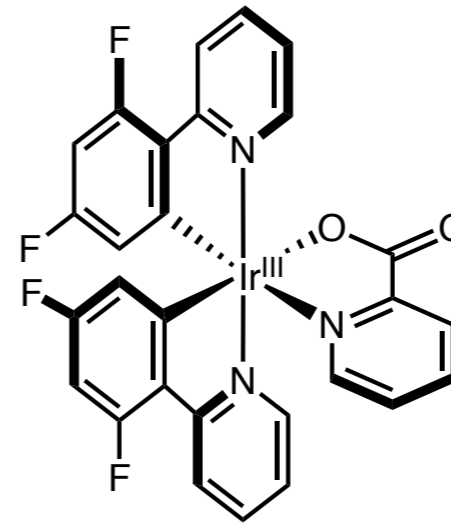
HTL: **NPD**



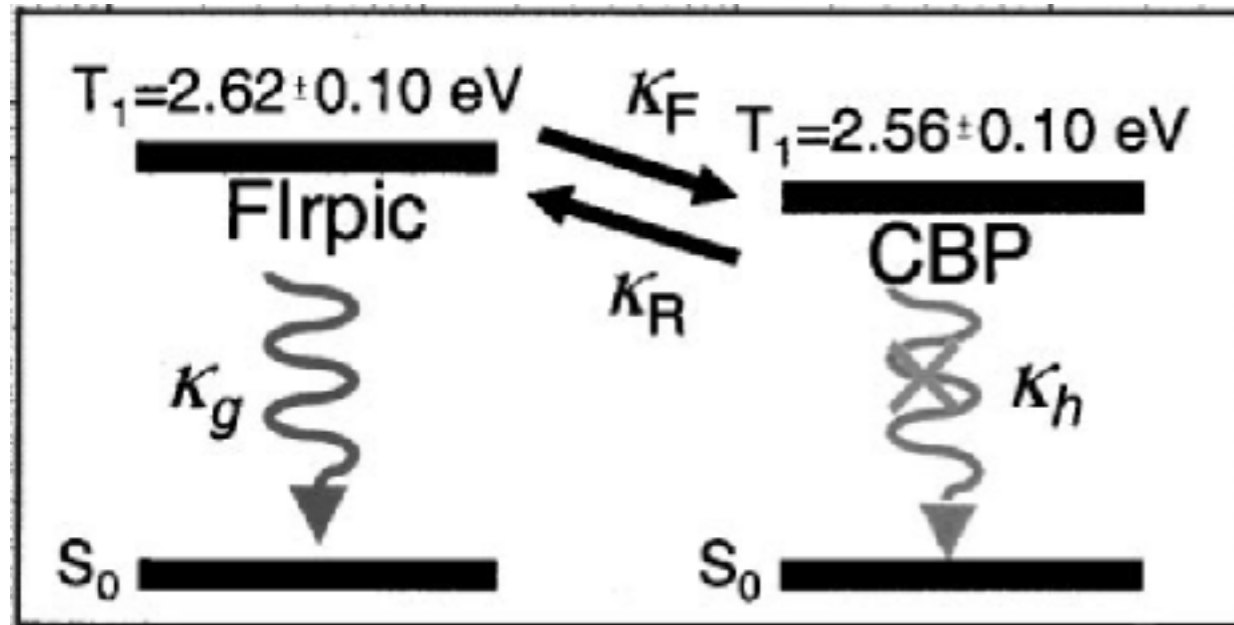
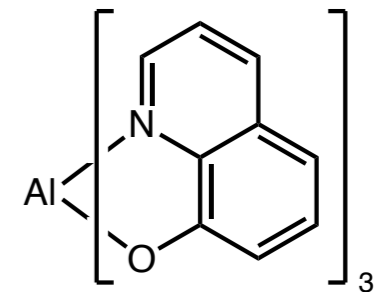
host: **CBP**



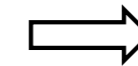
dopant: **Flrpic**



ETL: **Alq₃**



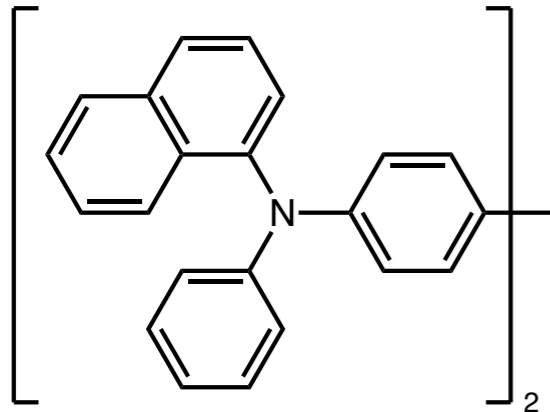
$E(T_1) \text{ Flrpic} > E(T_1) \text{ CBP}$
but
 $k_R \gg k_h$



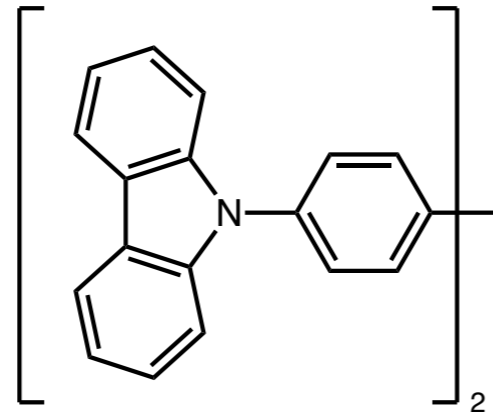
*uphill ET can occur
to repopulate T_1 of Flrpic
leading to delayed/prolonged
phosphorescence!*

“Endothermic Energy Transfer” for Phosphorescence

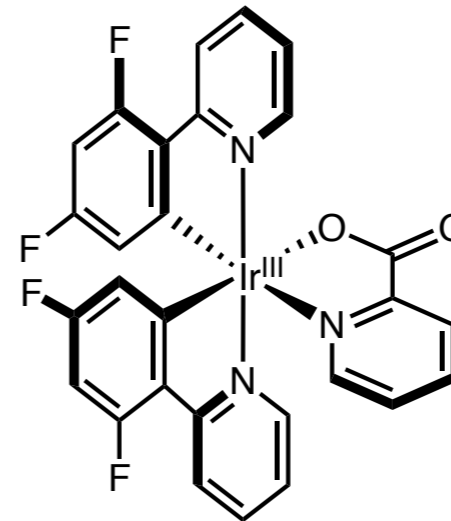
HTL: **NPD**



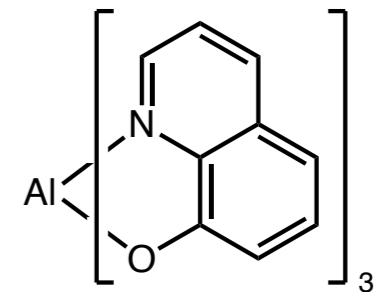
host: **CBP**



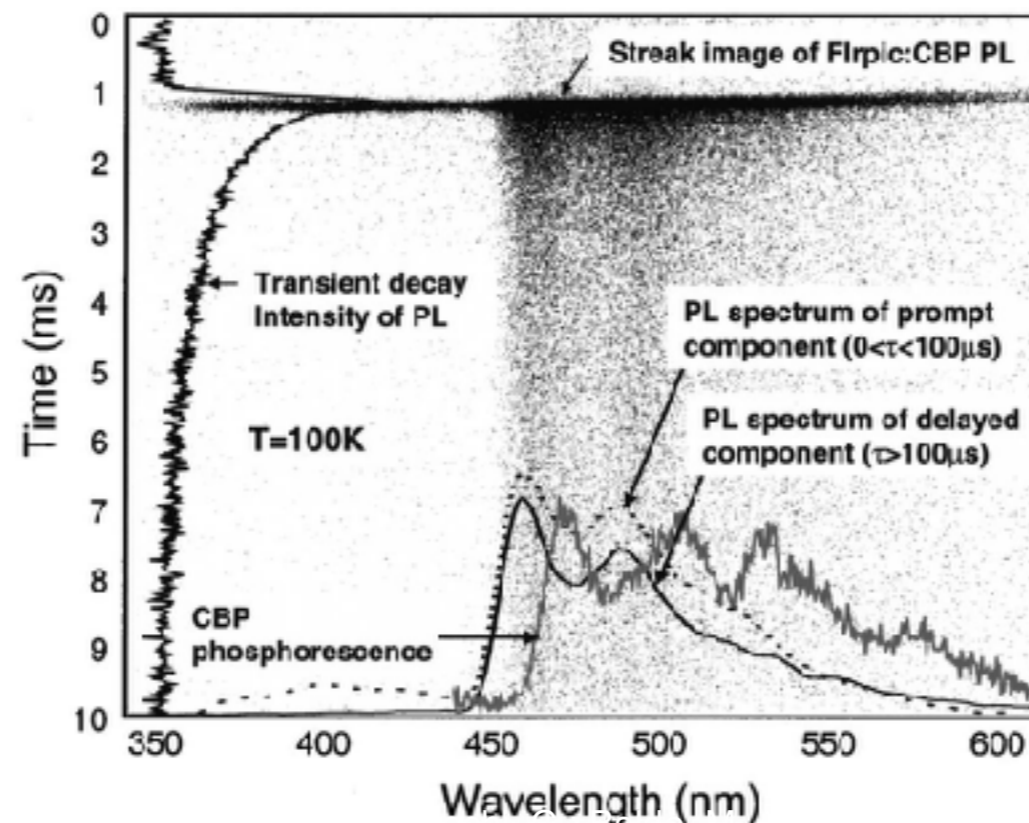
dopant: **Flrpic**



ETL: **Alq₃**



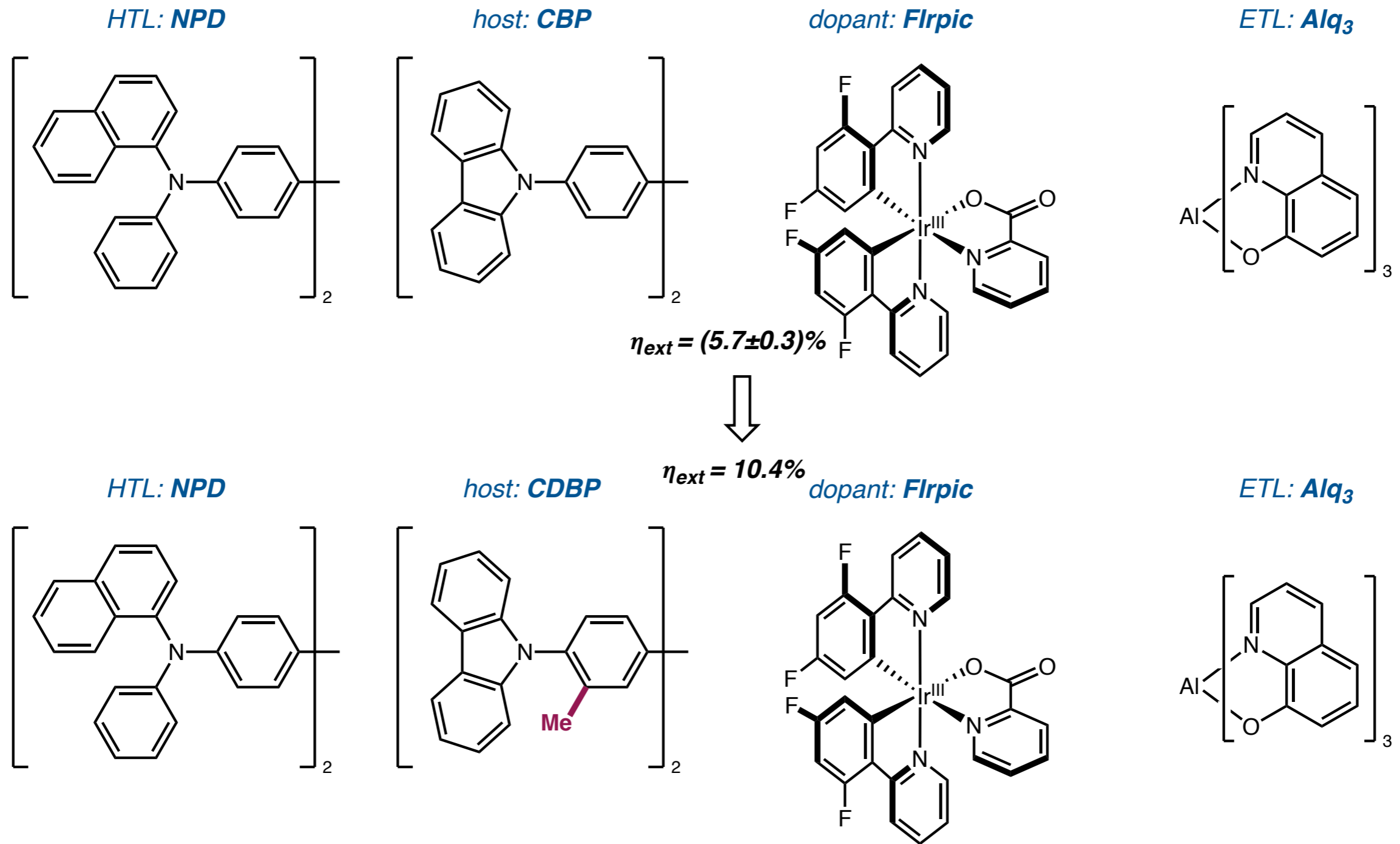
up to 10 ms lifetime of phosphorescence



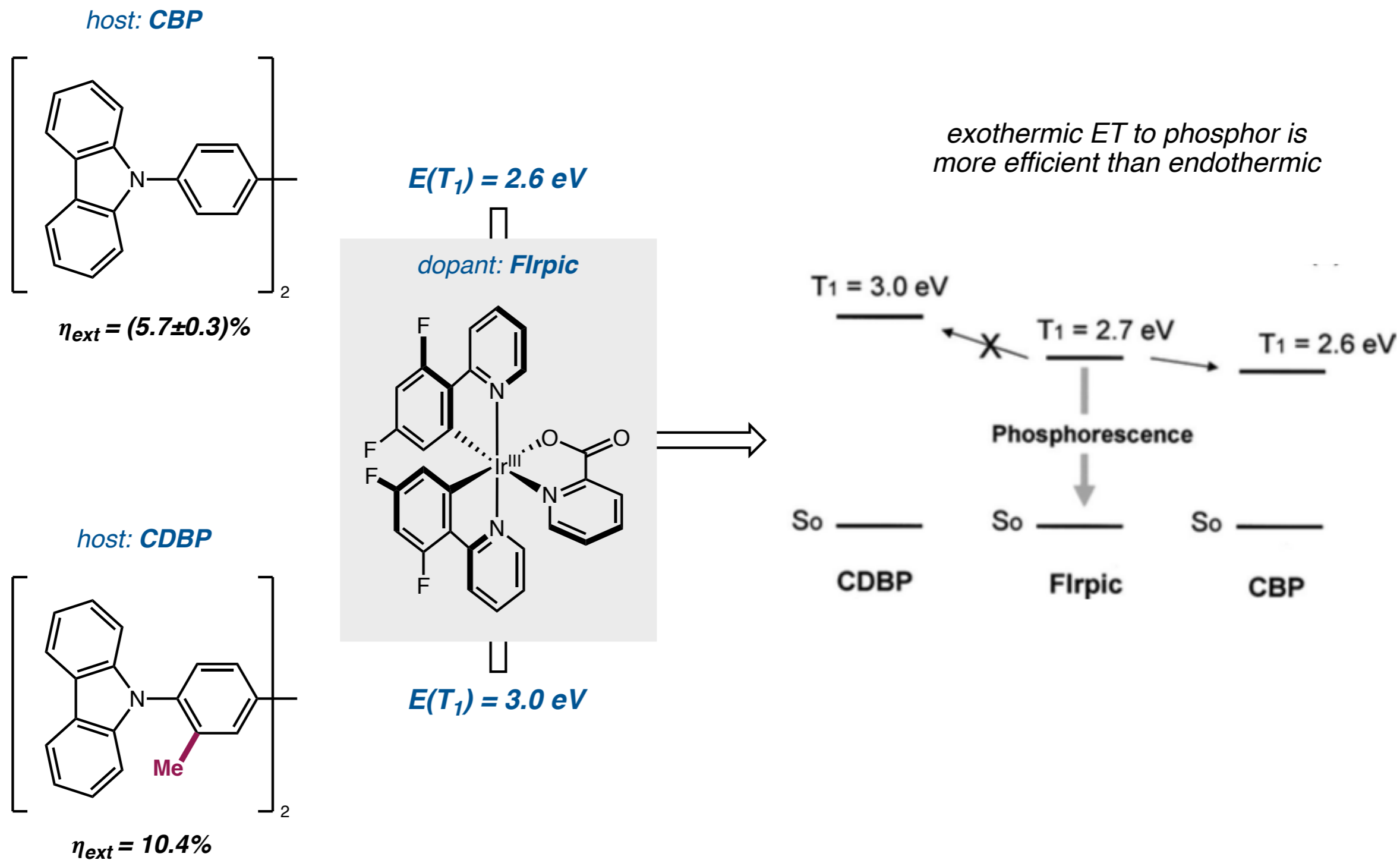
*no CBP phosphorescence observed
Flrpic phosphorescence observed
at both early and delayed times*

$$\eta_{\text{ext}} = (5.7 \pm 0.3)\%$$

Improved Efficiency in Blue Phosphorescent LEDs

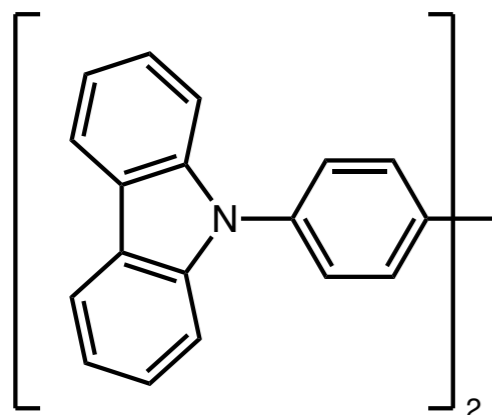


Improved Efficiency in Blue Phosphorescent LEDs



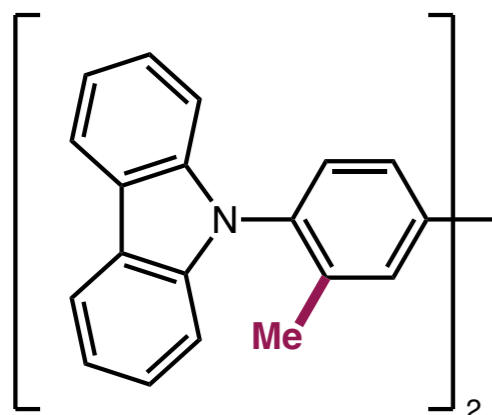
Improved Efficiency in Blue Phosphorescent LEDs

host: **CBP**



$\eta_{\text{ext}} = (5.7 \pm 0.3)\%$

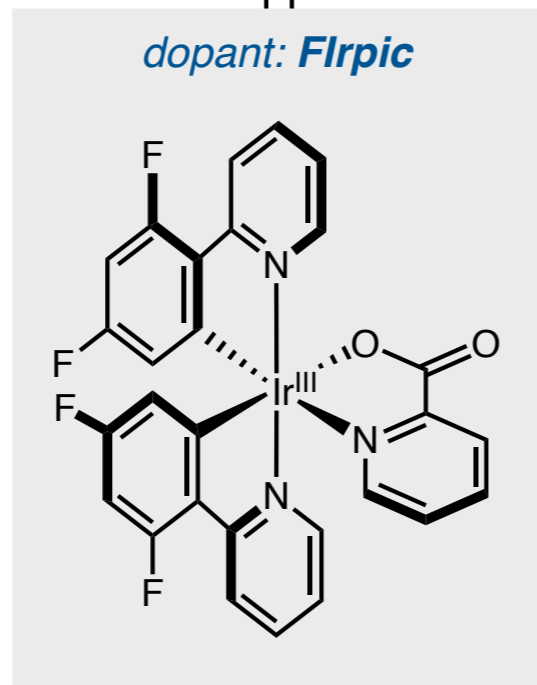
host: **CDBP**



$\eta_{\text{ext}} = 10.4\%$

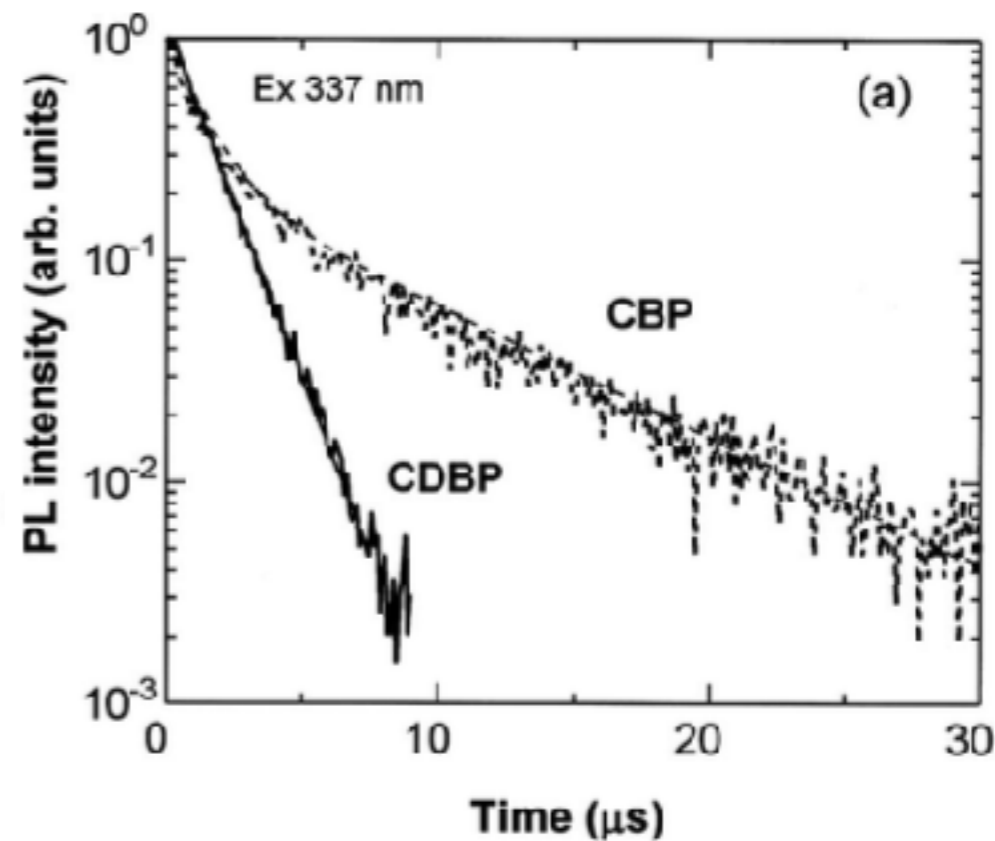
$E(T_1) = 2.6 \text{ eV}$

dopant: **Flrpic**



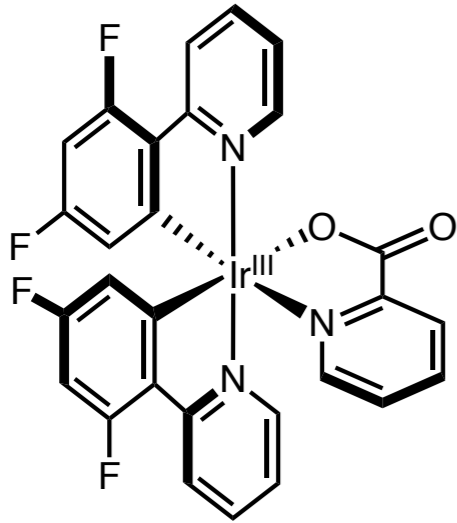
$E(T_1) = 3.0 \text{ eV}$

exothermic ET to phosphor is more efficient than endothermic



phosphorescence decays significantly faster

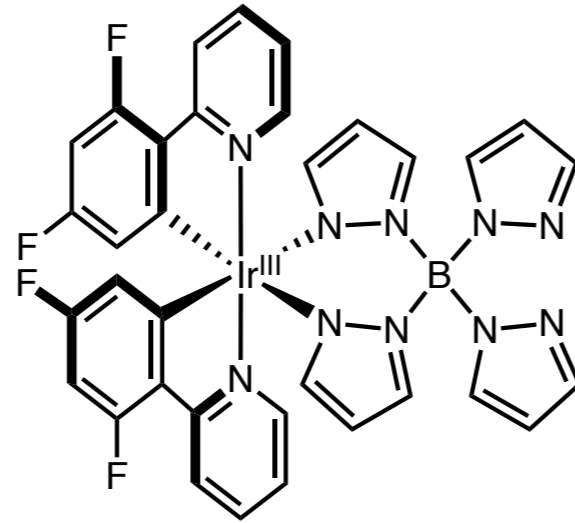
Improving Stability and Lifetime of Blue PhOLEDs



FIrpic

$\lambda_{\max} = 476 \text{ nm}$

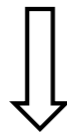
T_1 lifetime = $1.2 \mu\text{s}$



FIr6

$\lambda_{\max} = 458 \text{ nm}$

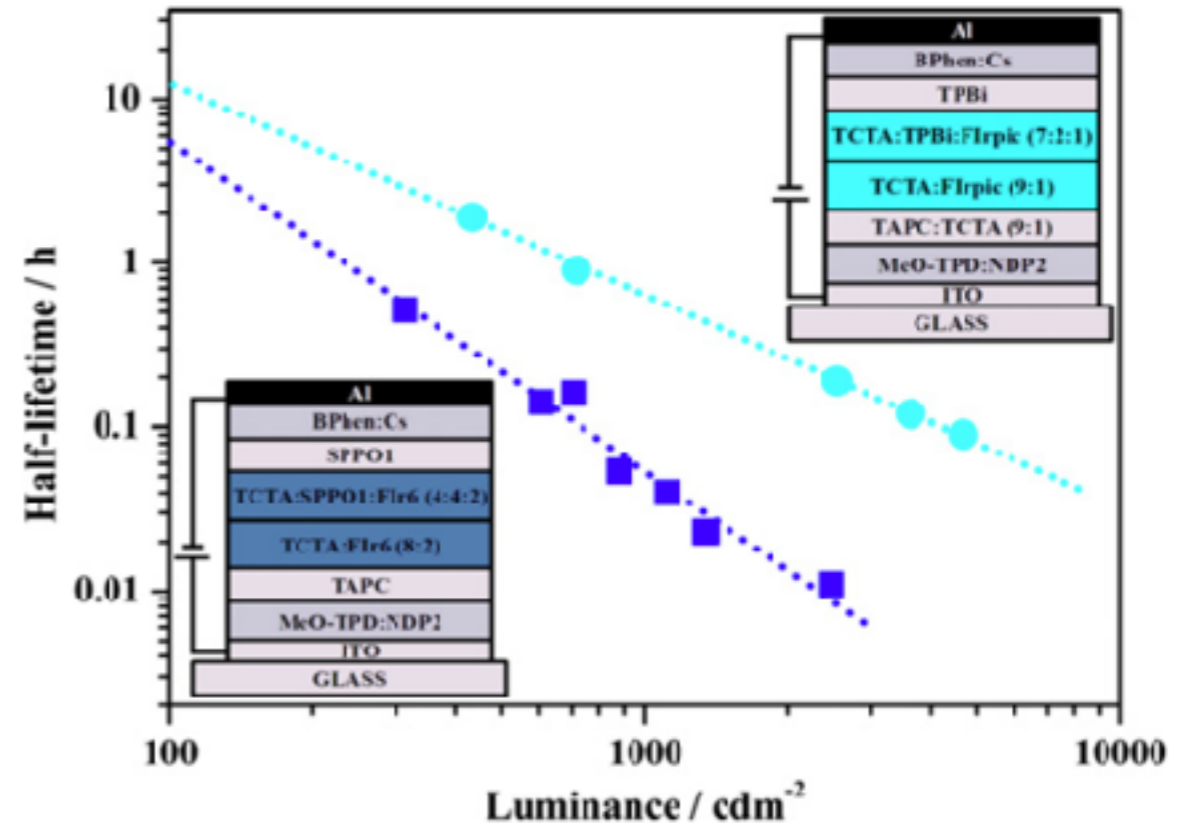
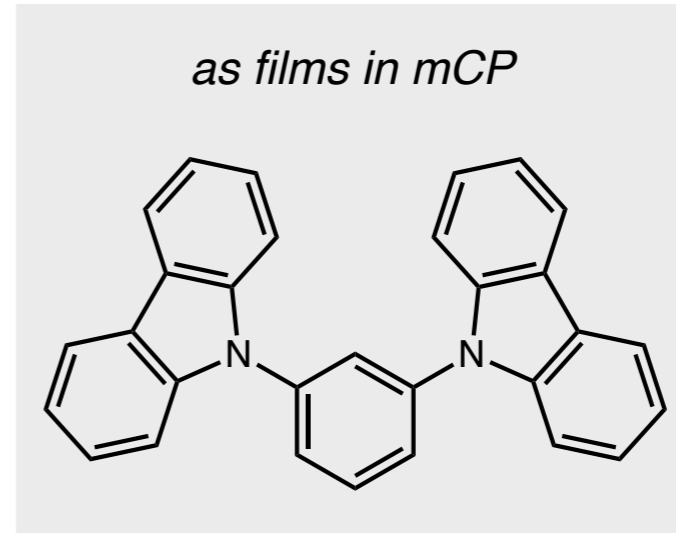
T_1 lifetime = $2.2 \mu\text{s}$



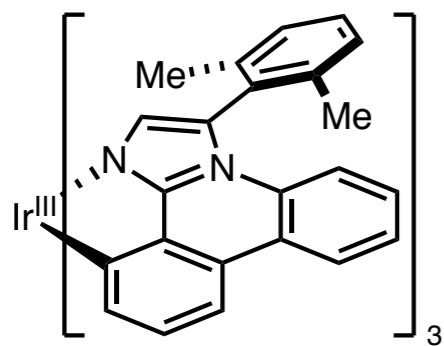
high triplet energy emitters

rapid decay of pure films and OLED devices

stabilization with improved hosts, HBL, etc



Improving Stability and Lifetime of Blue PhOLEDs

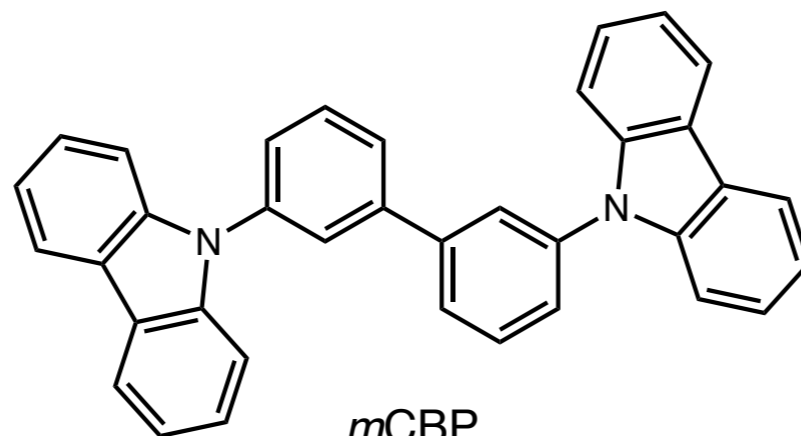


$\text{Ir}(\text{dmp})_3$

$\lambda_{\text{max}} = 466 \text{ nm}$

$E(\text{HOMO}) = 5.0 \text{ eV}$

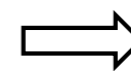
hole transport in EML



mCBP

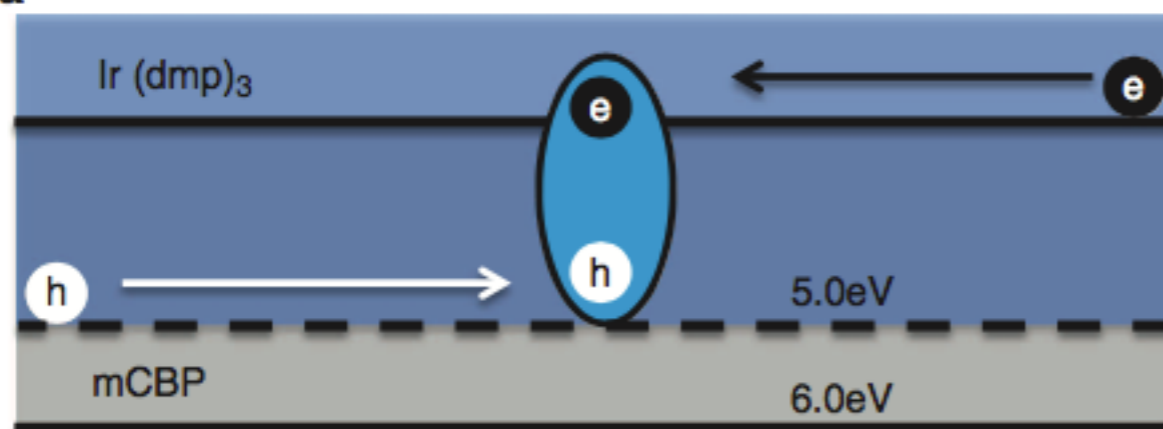
$E(\text{HOMO}) = 6.0 \text{ eV}$

electron transport in EML

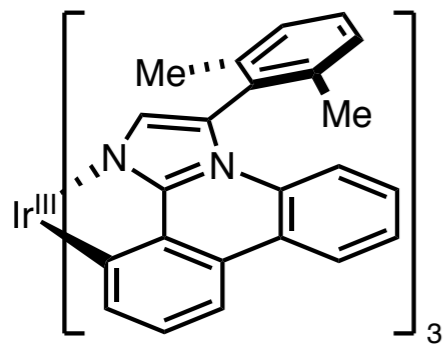


at high $\text{Ir}(\text{dmp})_3$ concentrations,
exciton formation should occur
only in vicinity of/on $\text{Ir}(\text{dmp})_3$

a



Improving Stability and Lifetime of Blue PhOLEDs

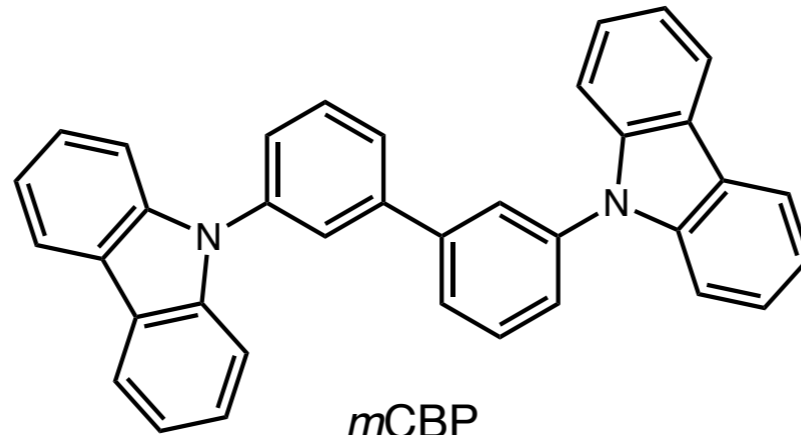


Ir(dmp)_3

$\lambda_{\text{max}} = 466 \text{ nm}$

$E(\text{HOMO}) = 5.0 \text{ eV}$

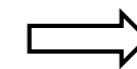
hole transport in EML



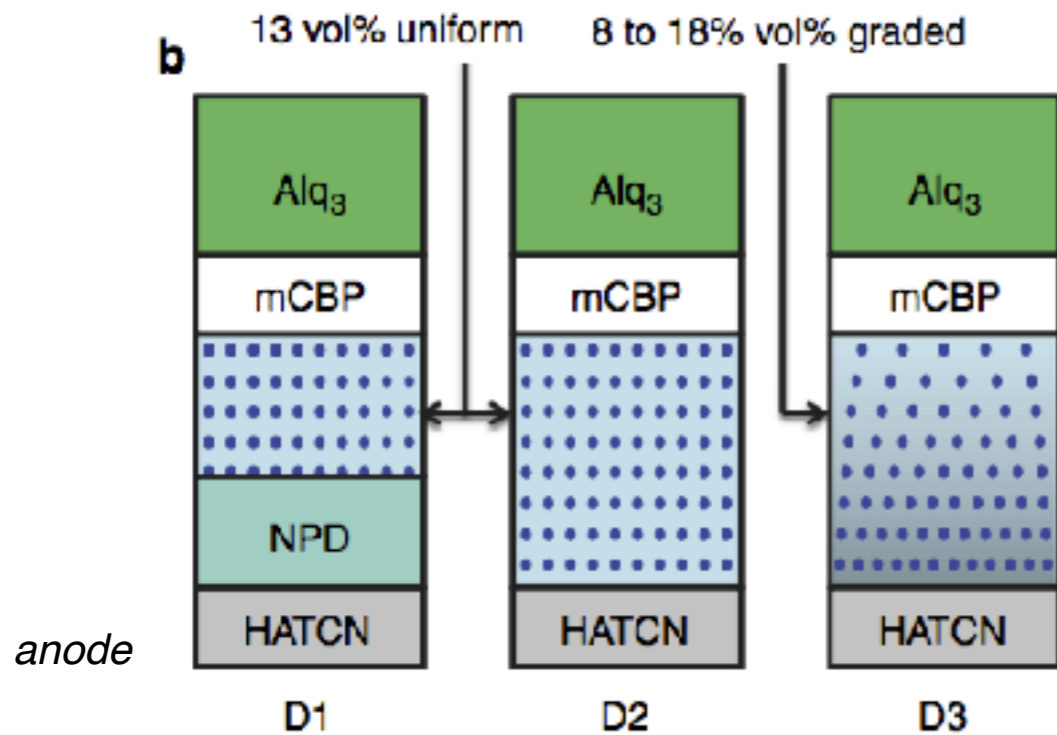
mCBP

$E(\text{HOMO}) = 6.0 \text{ eV}$

electron transport in EML

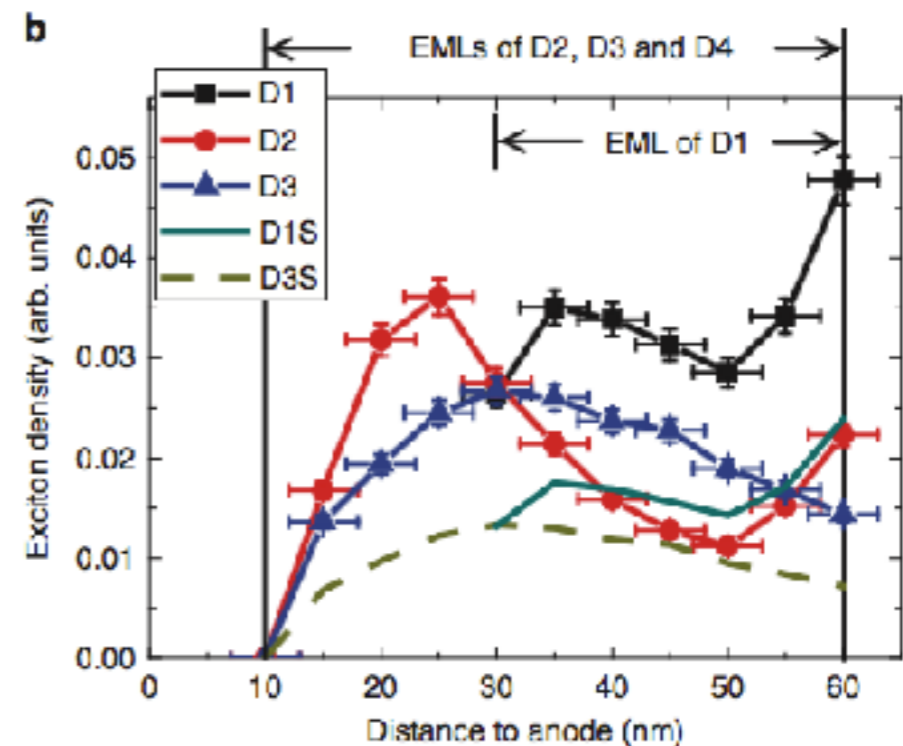
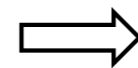


at high Ir(dmp)_3 concentrations, exciton formation should occur only in vicinity of/on Ir(dmp)_3



$\eta_{\text{ext}} = (8.5 \pm 0.1)\%$
 $T_{50} = 510 \text{ h}$

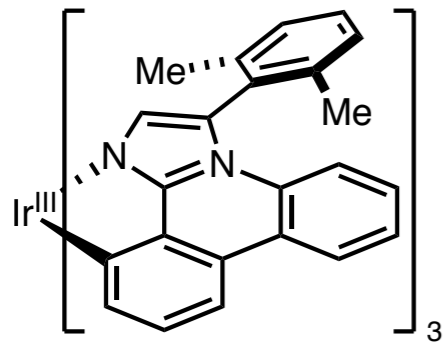
$\eta_{\text{ext}} = (9.5 \pm 0.1)\%$
 $T_{50} = 1500\text{-}1600 \text{ h}$



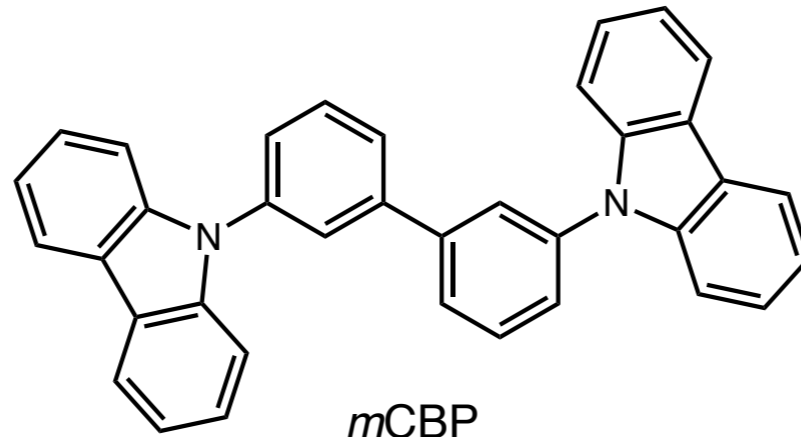
Zhang, Y.; Lee, J.; Forrest, S. R. *Nat. Commun.* **2014**, *5*, 5008.

Seifert, R.; Rabelo de Moraes, I.; Scholz, S.; Gather, M. C.; Lussem, B.; Leo, K. *Org. Electron.* **2013**, *14*, 115.

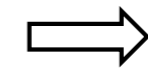
Improving Stability and Lifetime of Blue PhOLEDs



Ir(dmp)_3
 $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 466 \text{ nm}$
 $E(\text{HOMO}) = 5.0 \text{ eV}$
 hole transport in EML

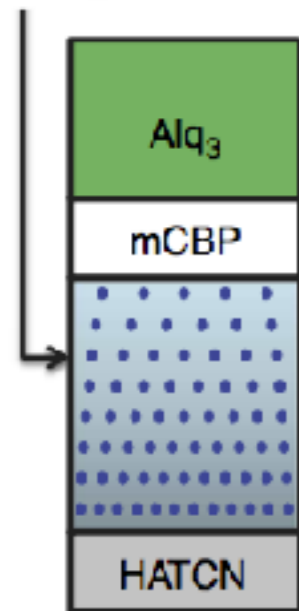


$E(\text{HOMO}) = 6.0 \text{ eV}$
 electron transport in EML



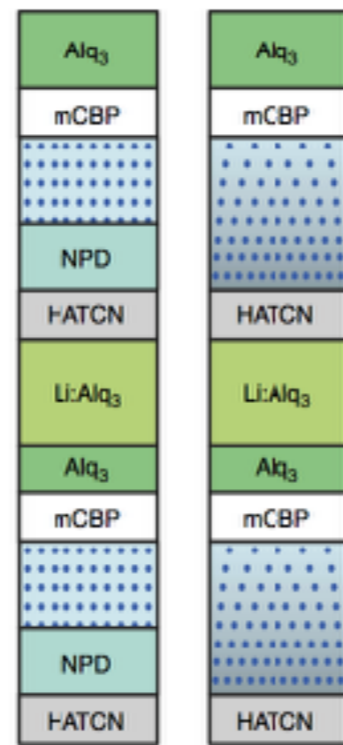
at high Ir(dmp)_3 concentrations, exciton formation should occur only in vicinity of/on Ir(dmp)_3

8 to 18% vol% graded



D3

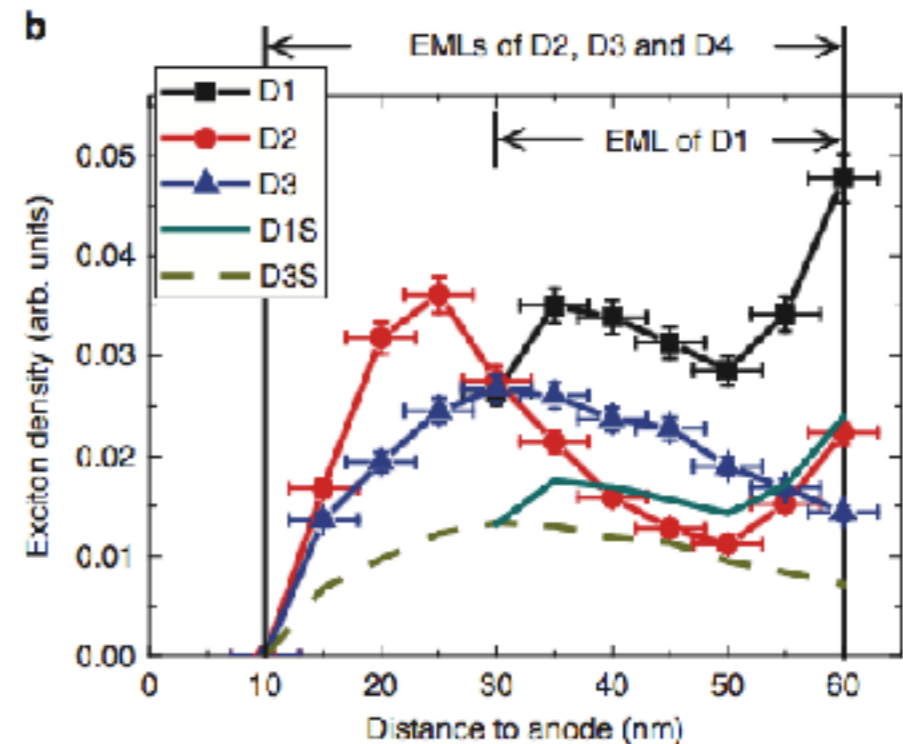
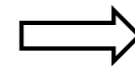
$\eta_{\text{ext}} = (9.5 \pm 0.1)\%$
 $T50 = 1500\text{-}1600 \text{ h}$



D1S

D3S

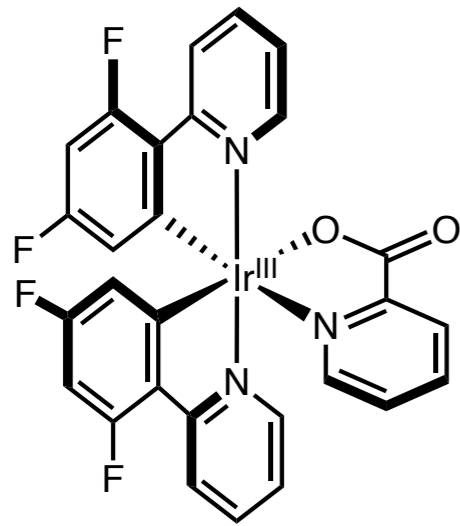
$\eta_{\text{ext}} = (18 \pm 0.2)\%$
 $T50 = 3500\text{-}3700 \text{ h}$



Zhang, Y.; Lee, J.; Forrest, S. R. *Nat. Commun.* **2014**, *5*, 5008.

Seifert, R.; Rabelo de Moraes, I.; Scholz, S.; Gather, M. C.; Lussem, B.; Leo, K. *Org. Electron.* **2013**, *14*, 115.

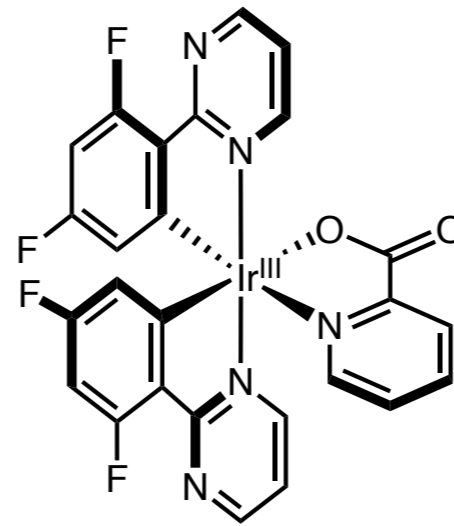
Improving Stability and Lifetime of Blue PhOLEDs



Irpic

$\lambda_{\max} = 470 \text{ nm}$

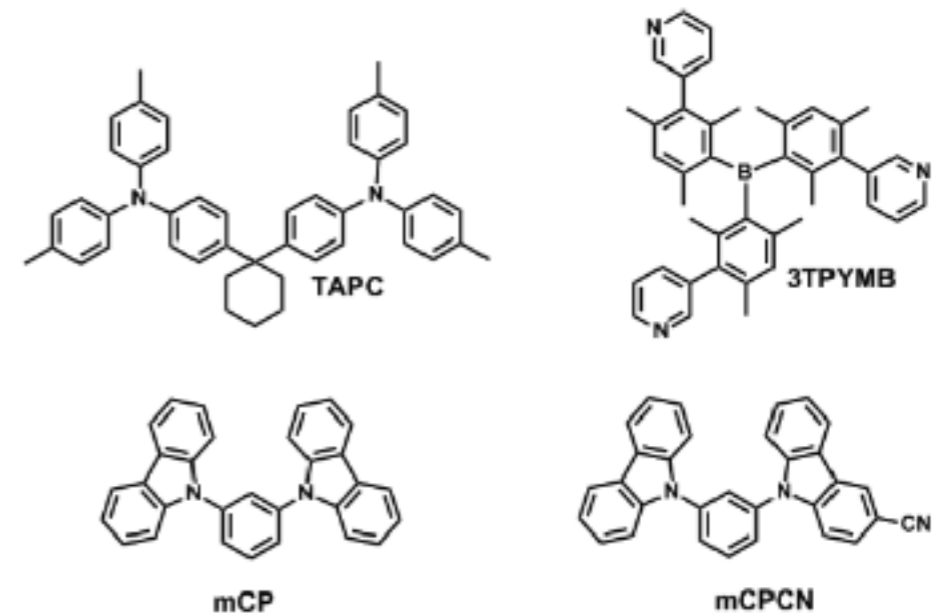
T_1 lifetime = $1.1 \mu\text{s}$



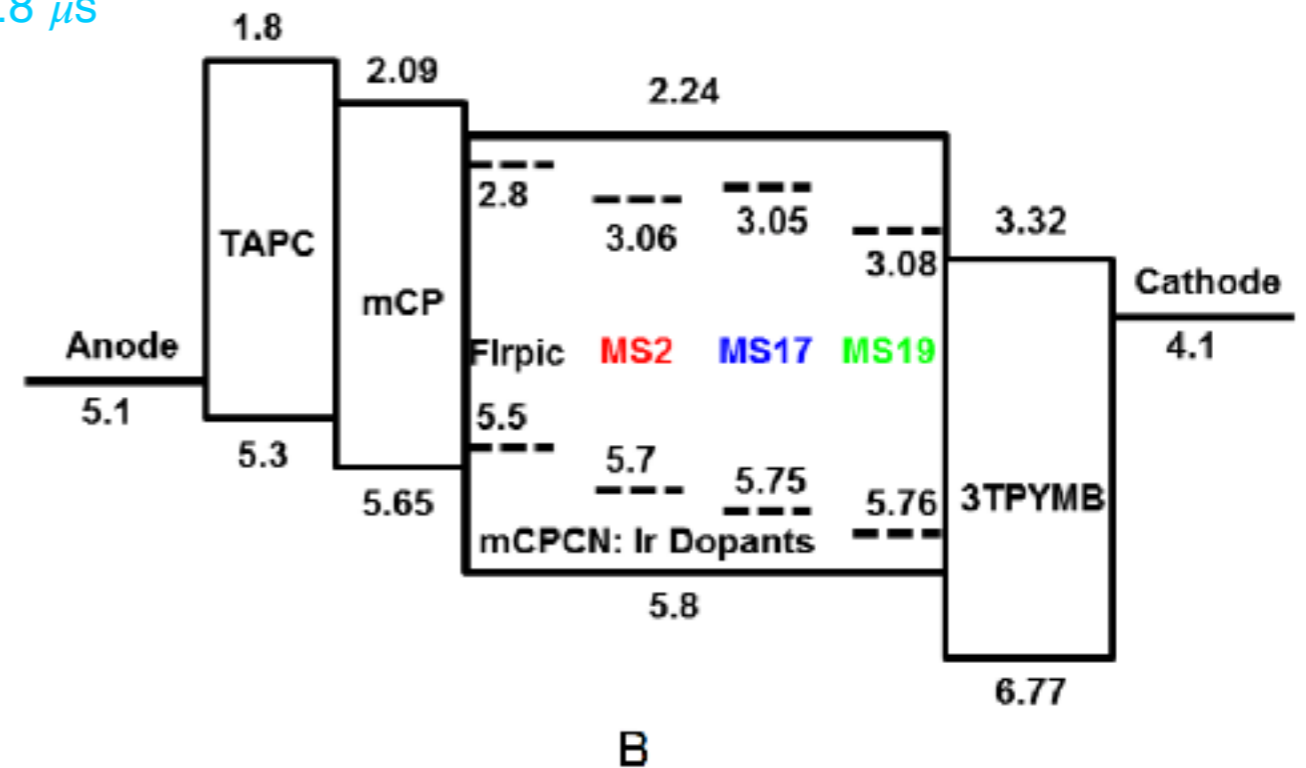
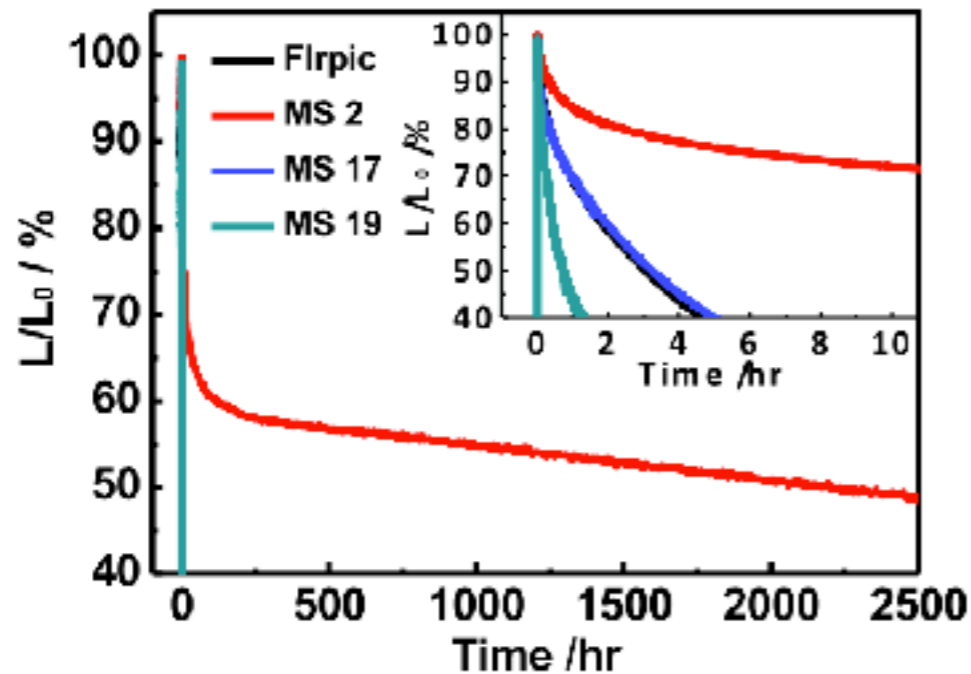
MS2

$\lambda_{\max} = 475 \text{ nm}$

T_1 lifetime = $0.8 \mu\text{s}$

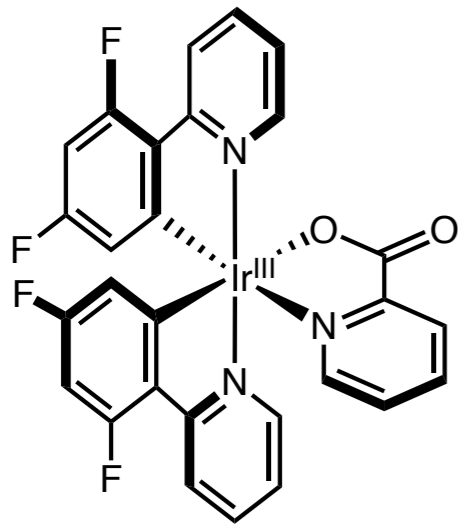


A



B

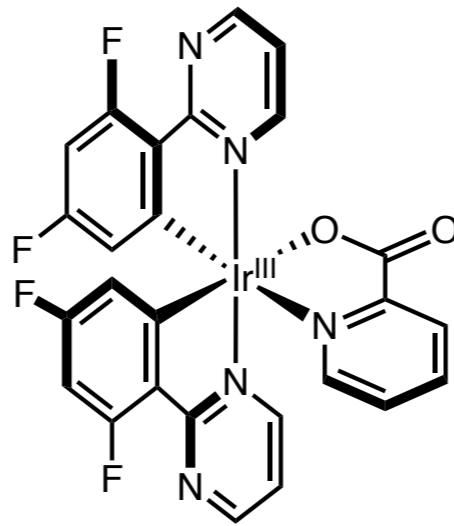
Improving Stability and Lifetime of Blue PhOLEDs



Irpic

$\lambda_{\max} = 470 \text{ nm}$

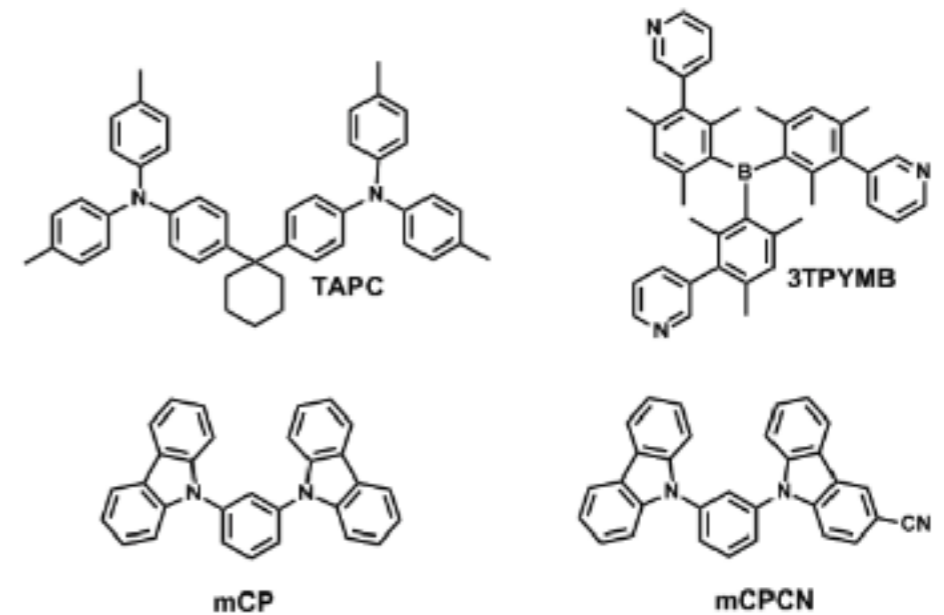
T_1 lifetime = $1.1 \mu\text{s}$



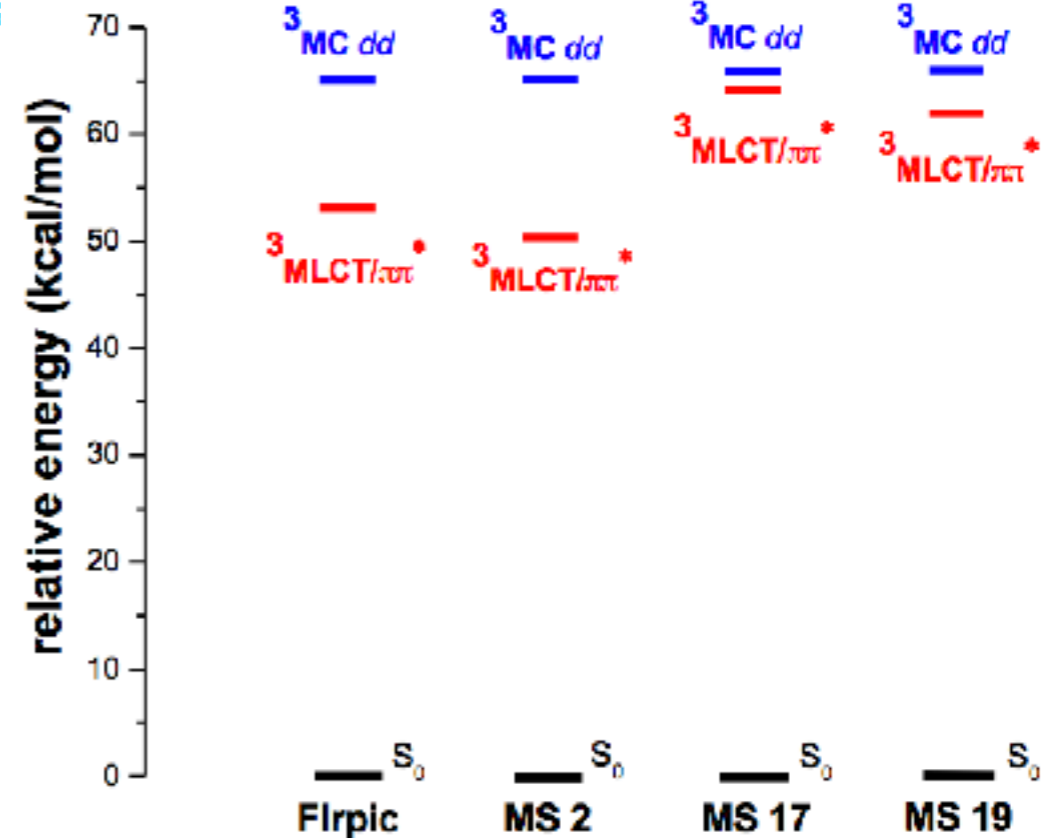
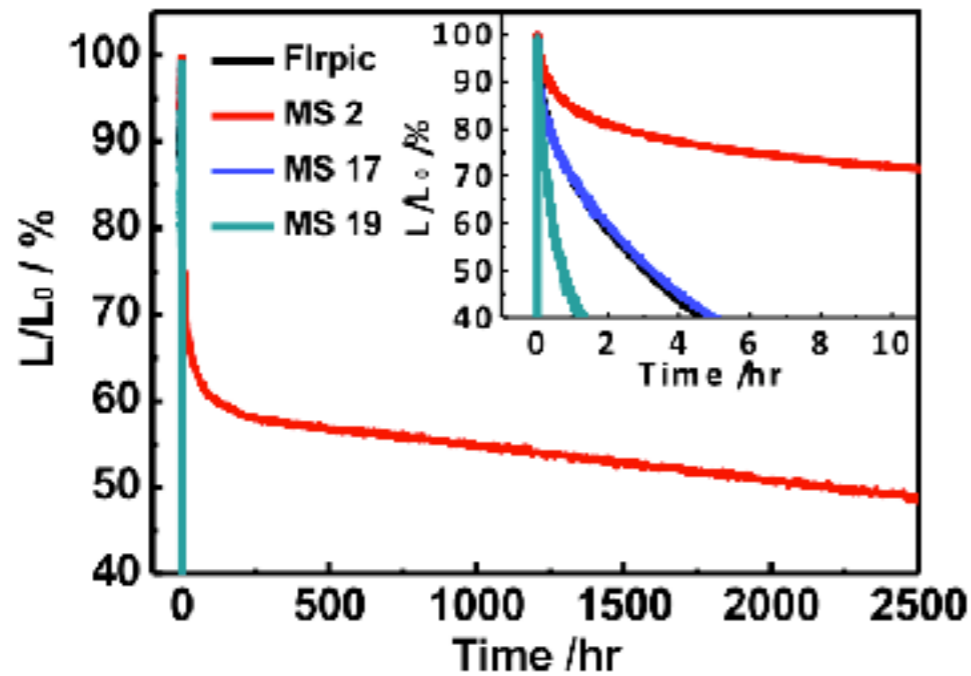
MS2

$\lambda_{\max} = 475 \text{ nm}$

T_1 lifetime = $0.8 \mu\text{s}$

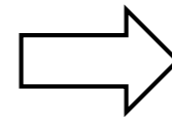
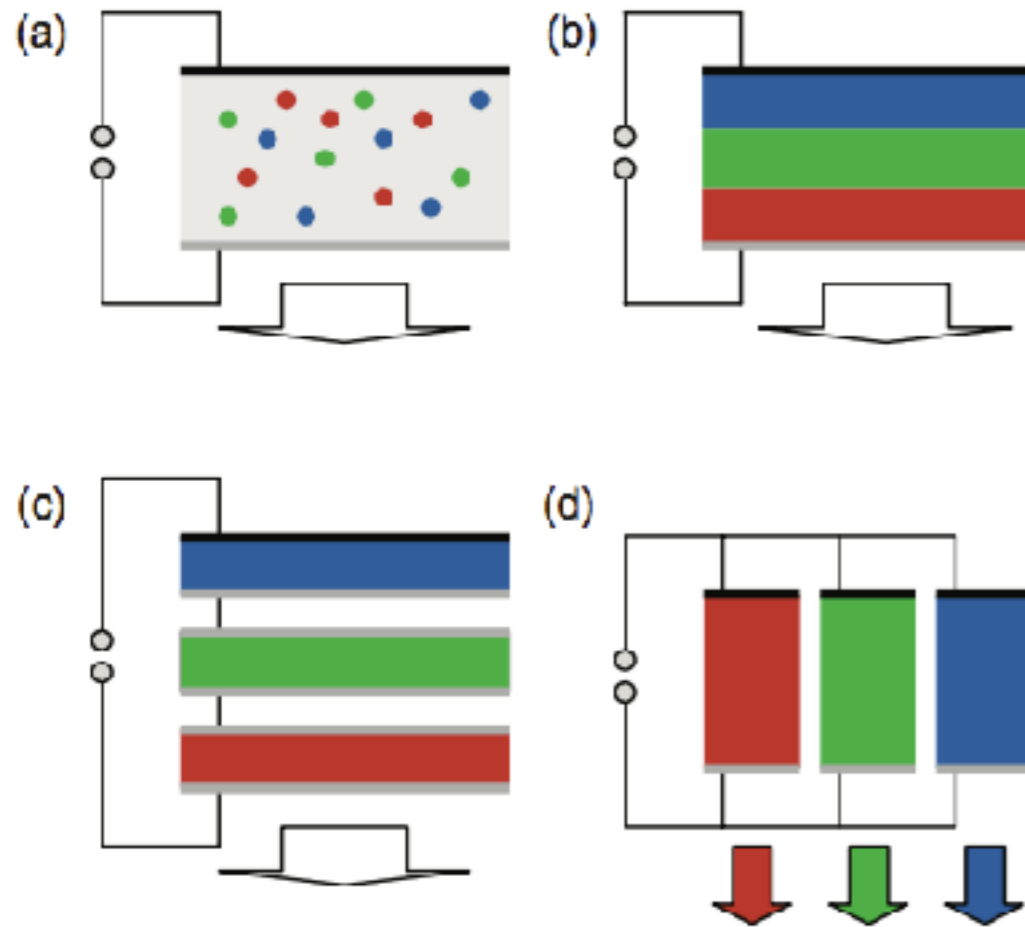


A



White OLEDs (WOLEDs)

white light = blended blue, green, red



Red PhOLED ✓

Green PhOLED ✓

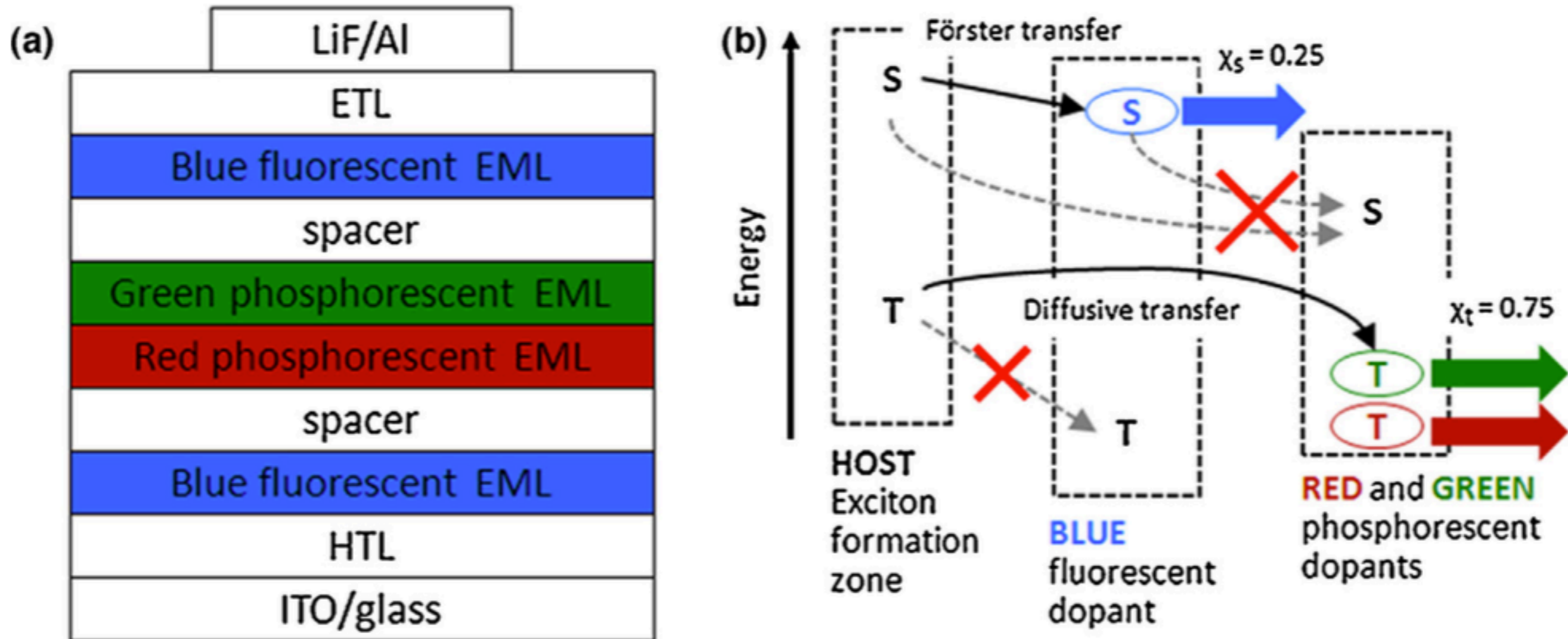
Blue PhOLED ?

Solution: combine blue fluorescence with red/green phosphorescence

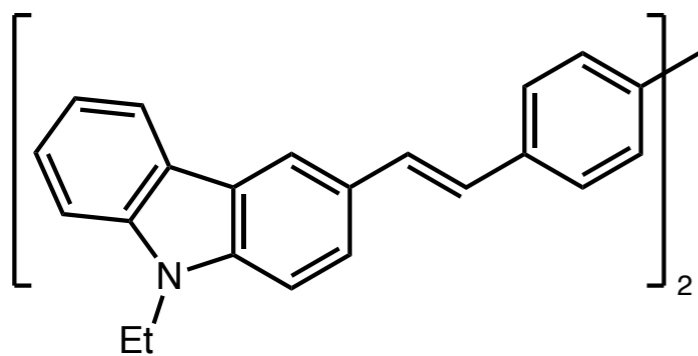
White OLEDs (WOLEDs)

Working principle:

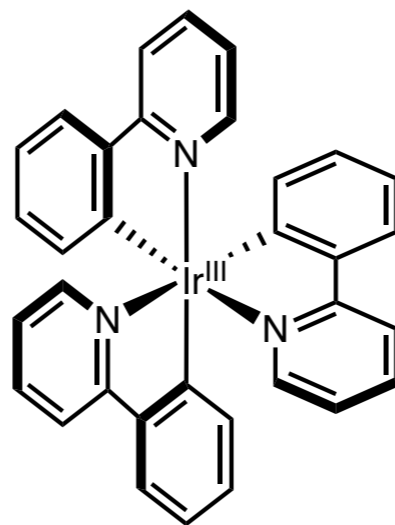
trap singlets on **blue** fluorescent emitter
trap triplets on **red/green** phosphorescent emitter



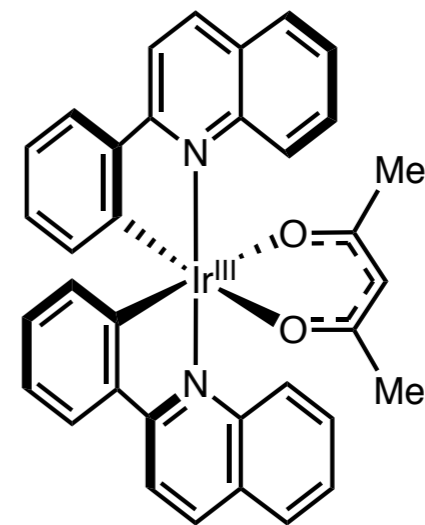
White OLEDs (WOLEDs)



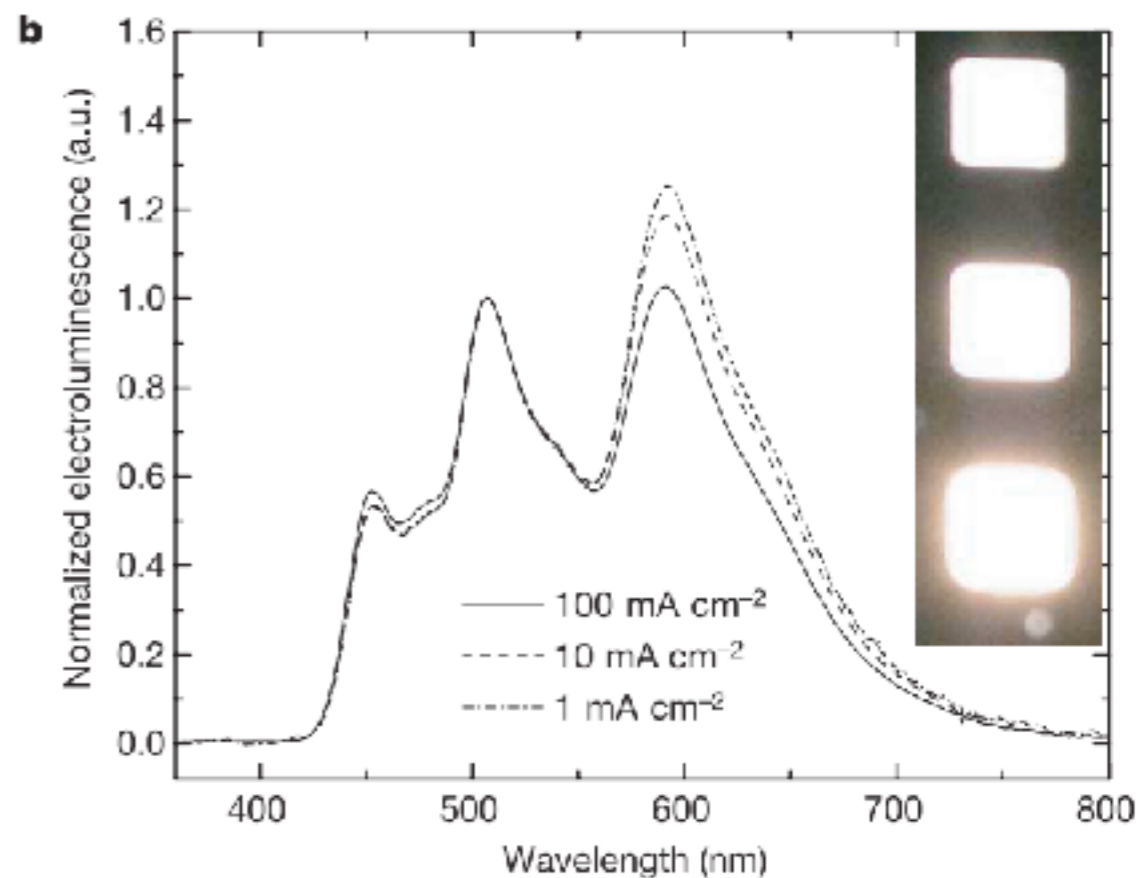
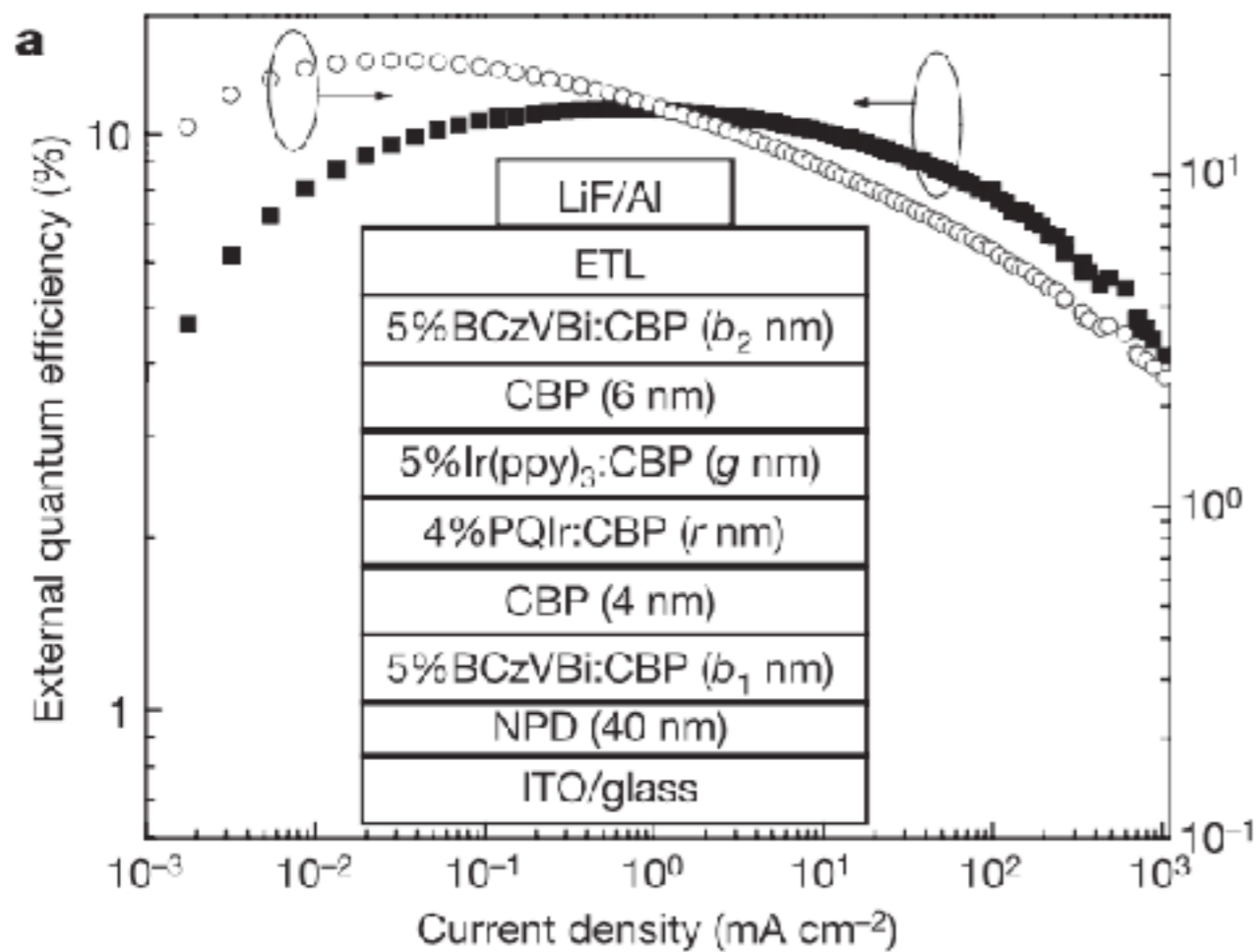
BCzVBi



Ir(ppy)₃



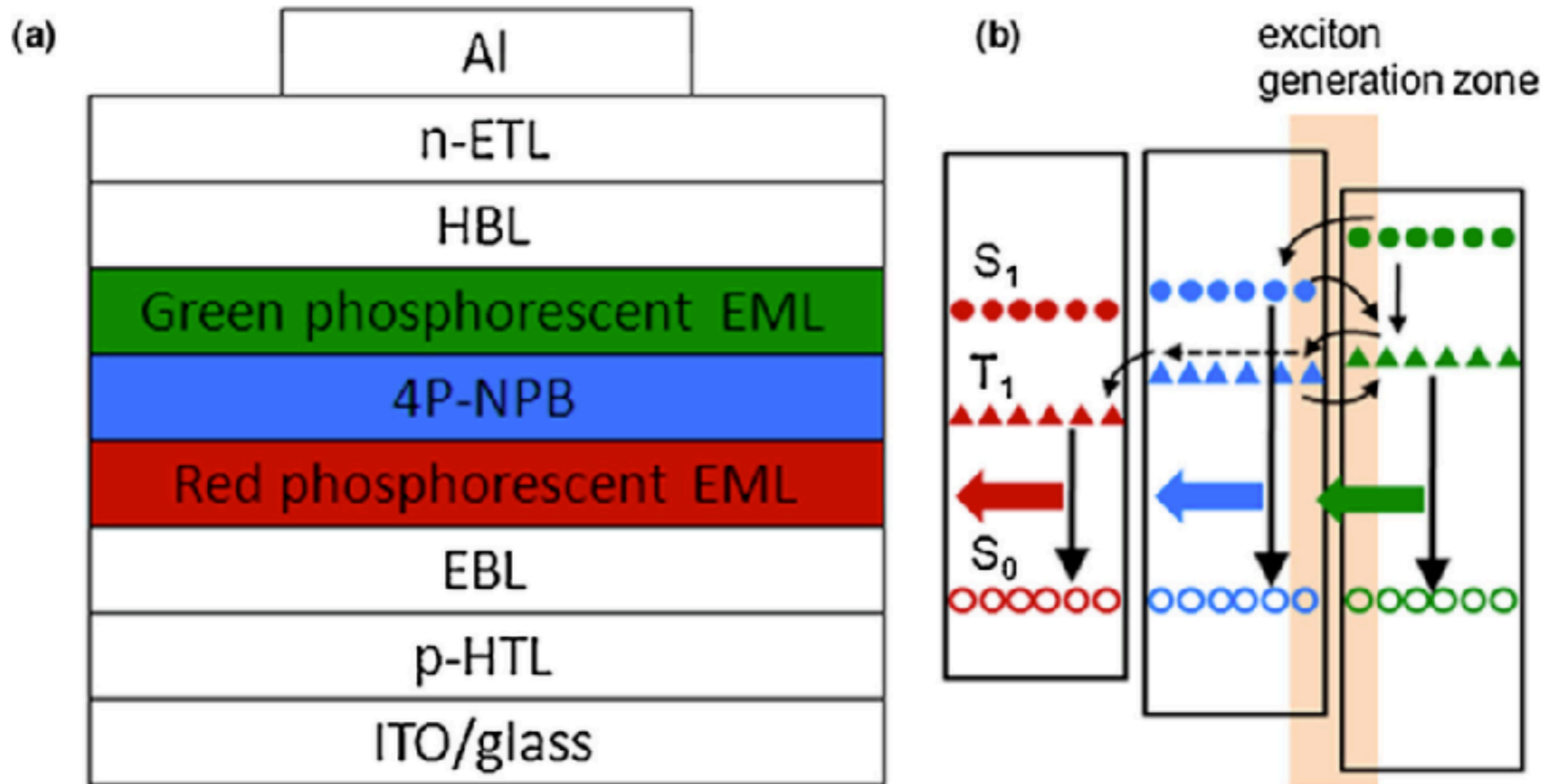
PQIr



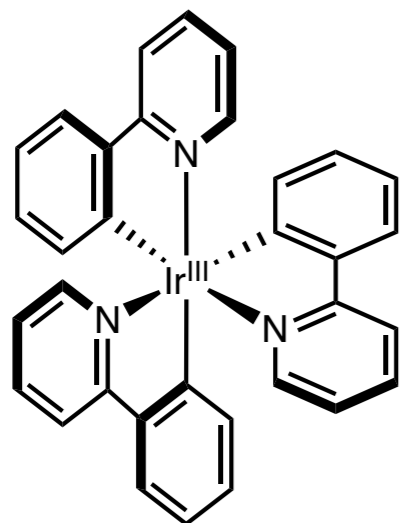
White OLEDs (WOLEDs)

Working principle:

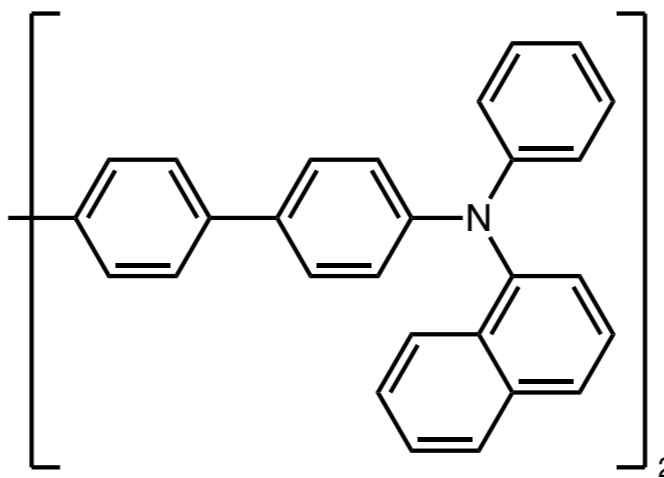
trap singlets on *blue* fluorescent emitter
trap triplets on *red/green* phosphorescent emitter



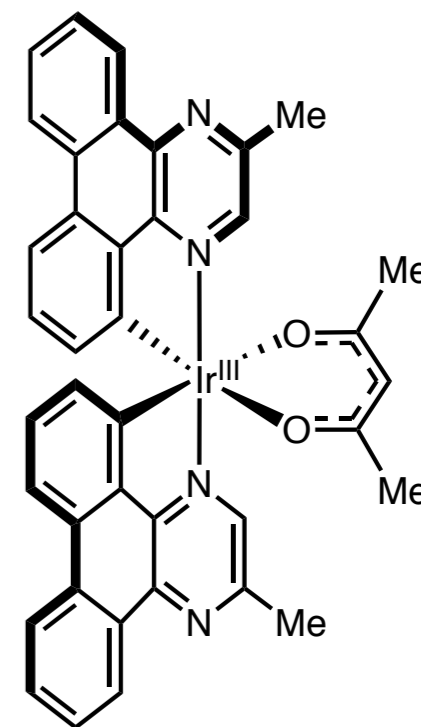
White OLEDs (WOLEDs)



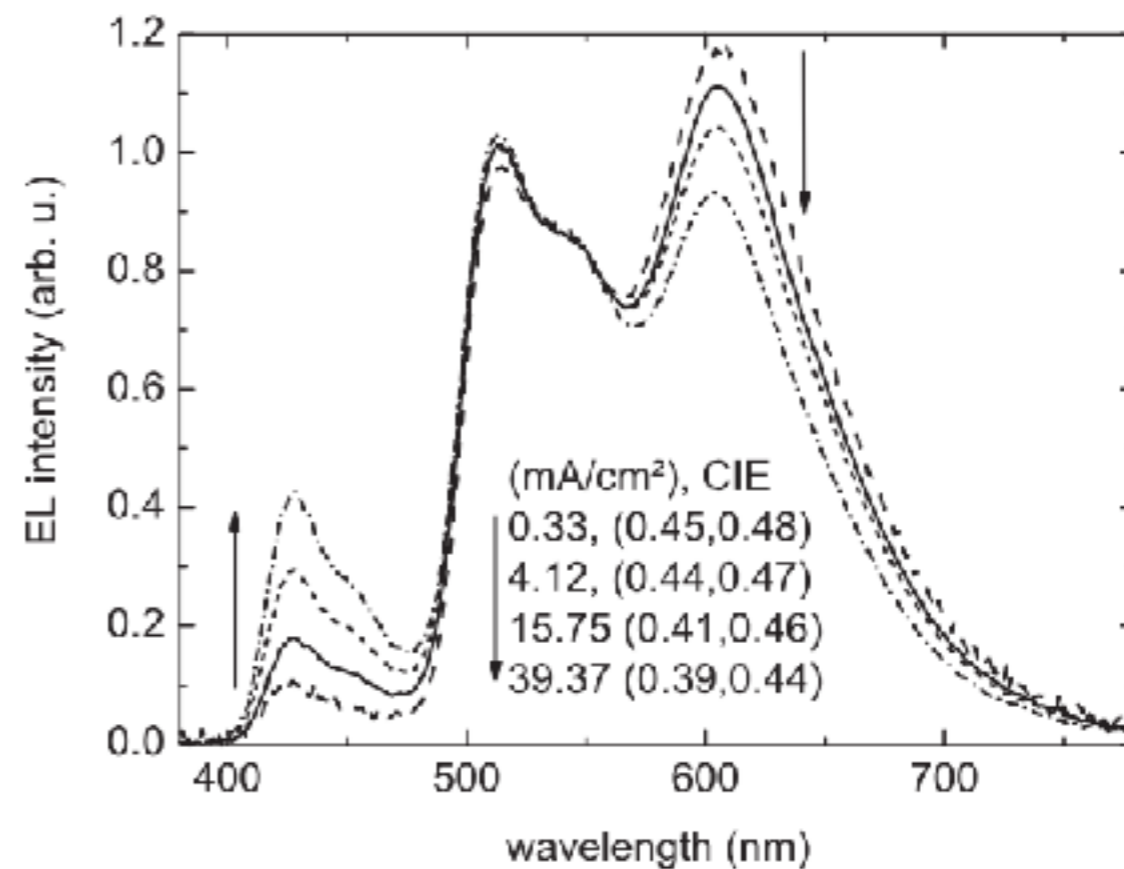
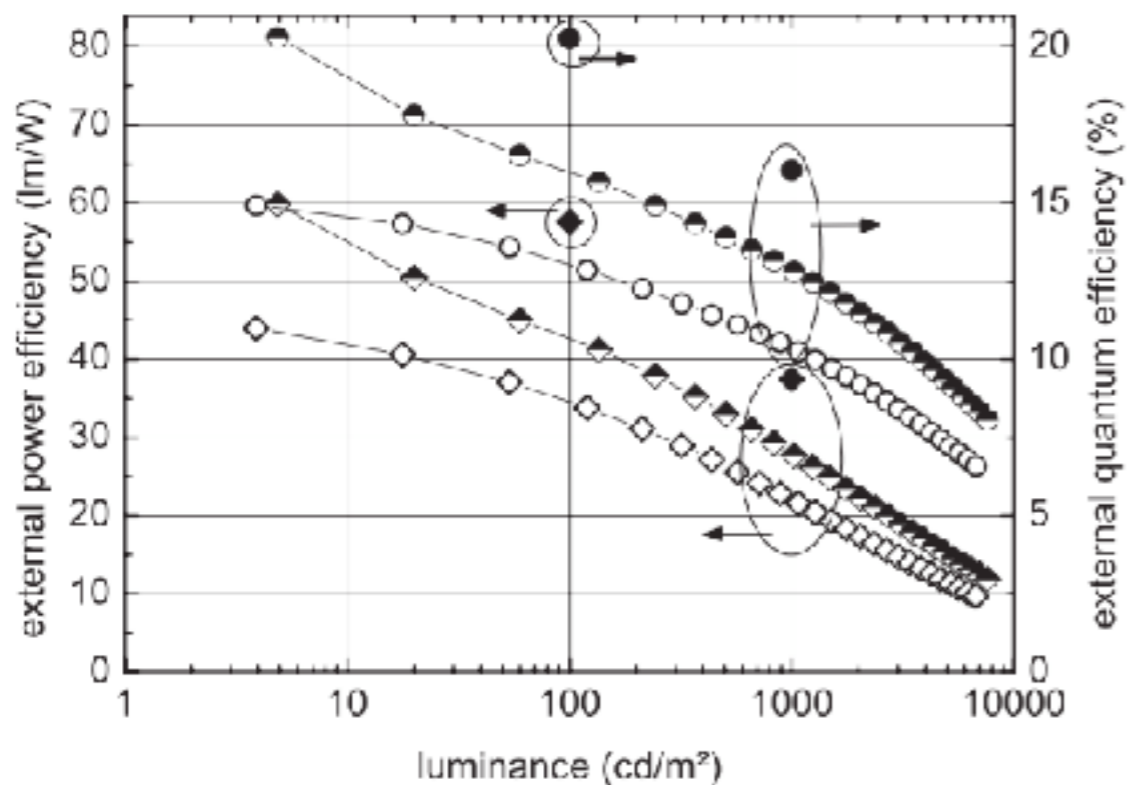
Ir(ppy)₃



4P-NPD

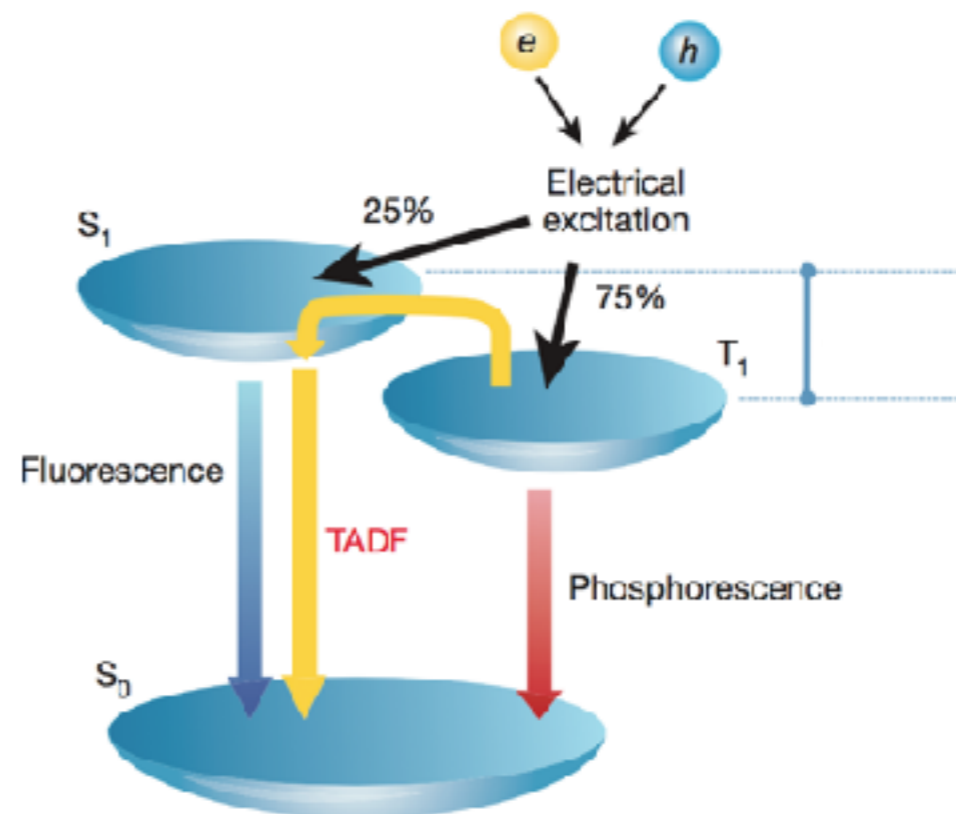
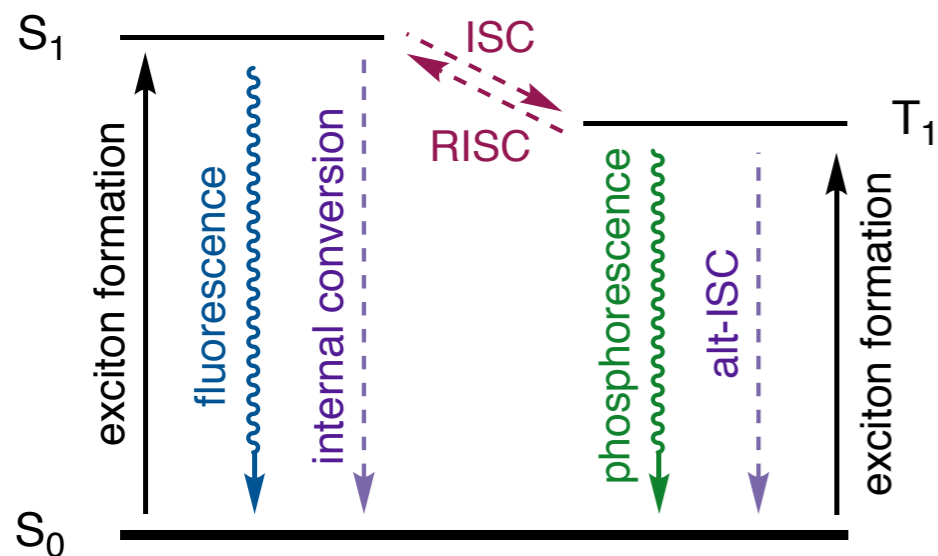


Ir(MDQ)₂(acac)

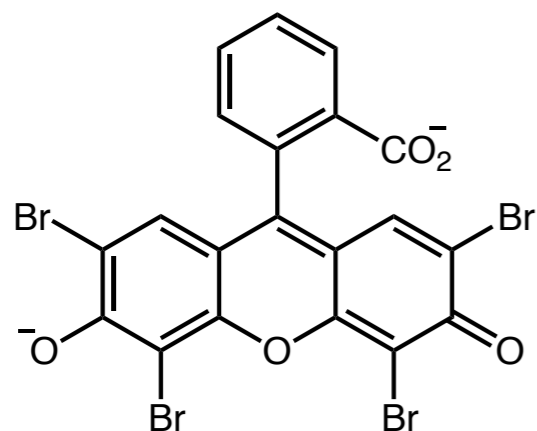


Thermally-Activated Delayed Fluorescence (TADF)

Obviously not phosphorescence

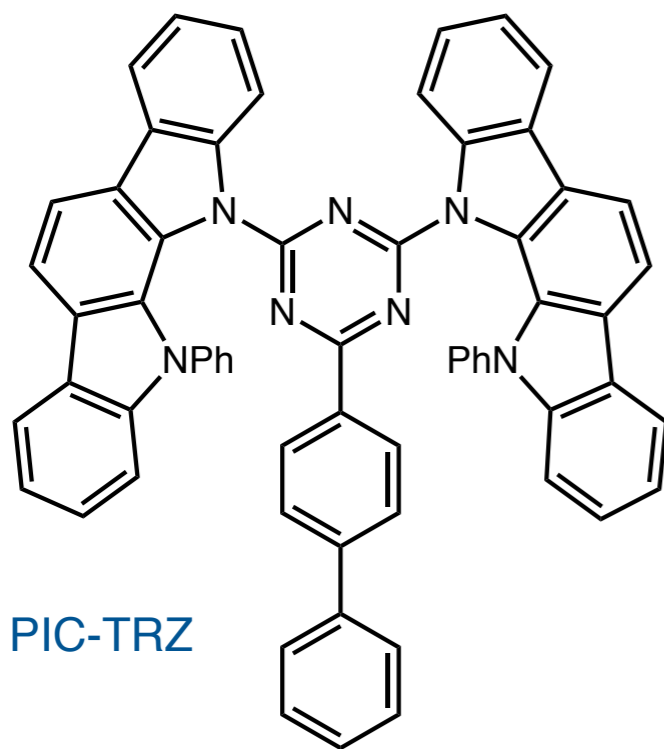


eosin Y, 1961
(E-type delayed fluorescence)



“the high-frequency band (which has a contour identical with the fluorescence band) is the result of thermal activation to the upper singlet level followed by a radiative transition from there to the ground state, and we shall therefore call this the delayed fluorescence band”

Thermally-Activated Delayed Fluorescence (TADF)

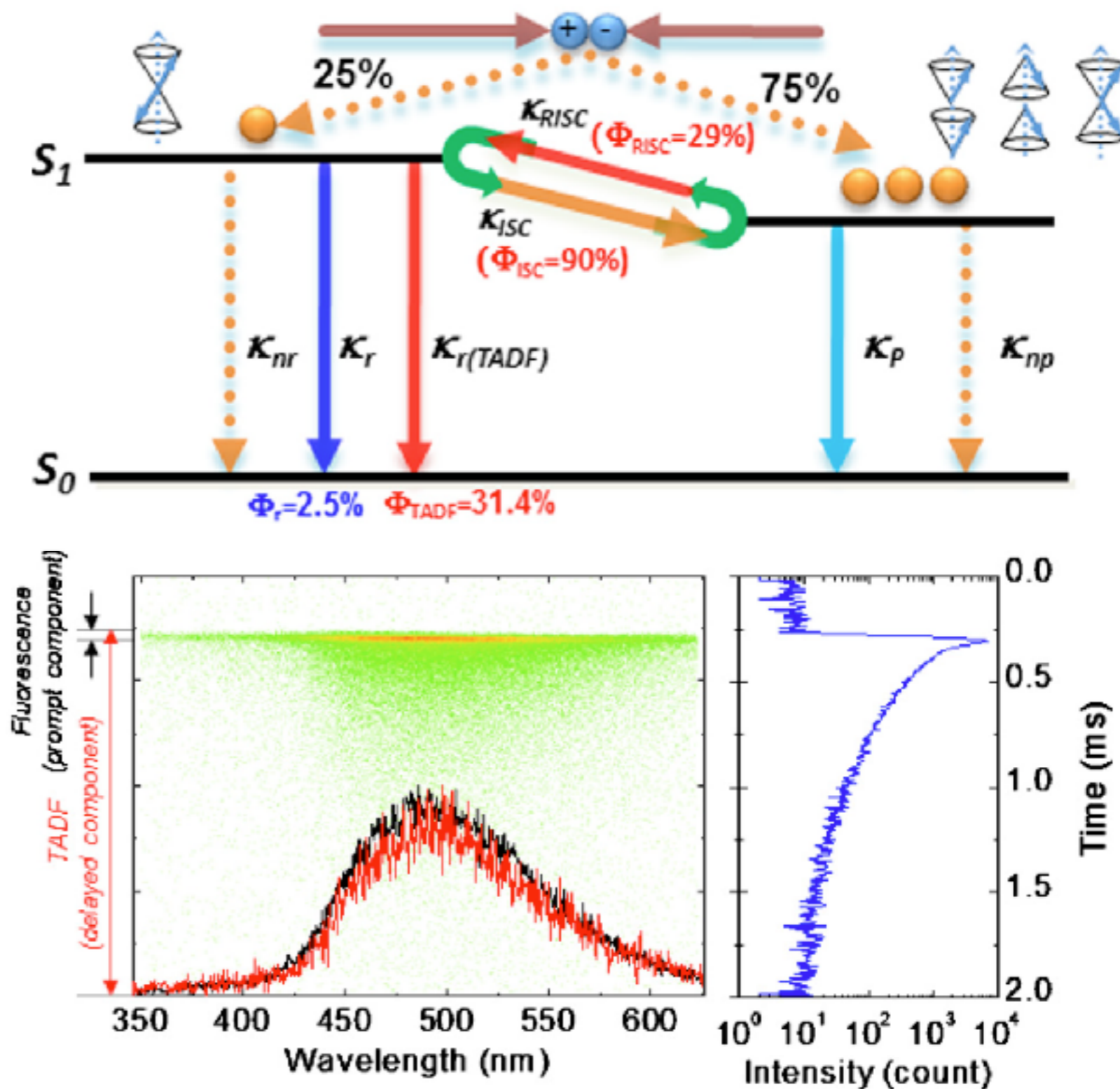


$$E(T_1) = 2.55 \text{ eV}$$

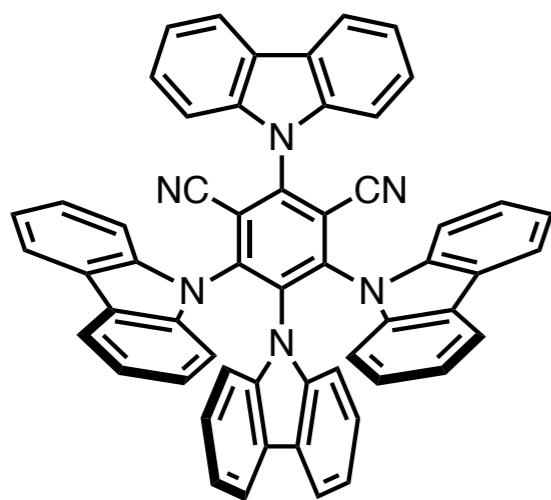
$$E(S_1) = 2.66 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta E_{ST} = 0.11 \text{ eV}$$

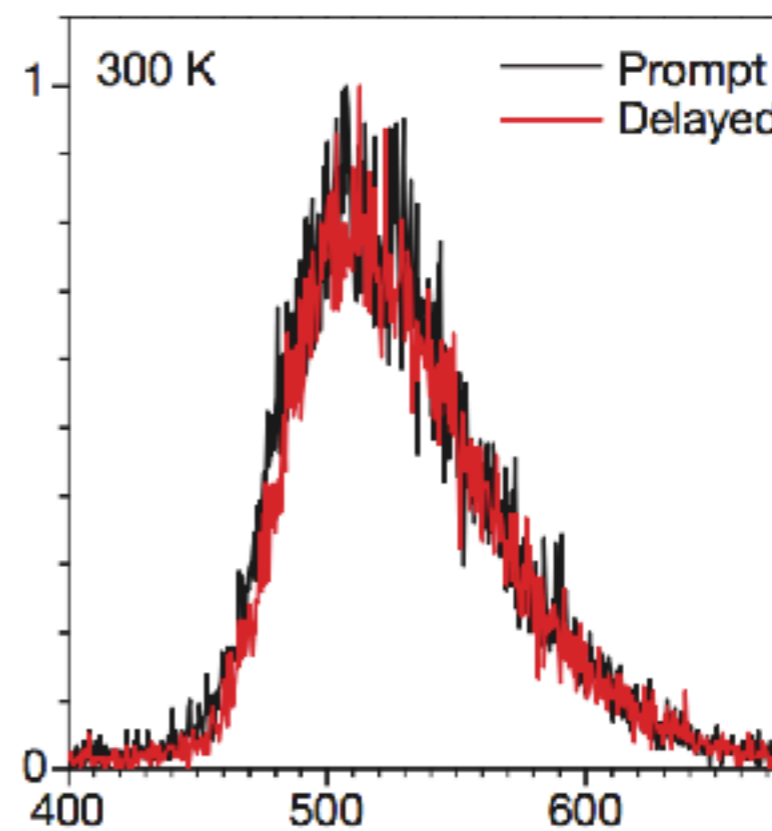
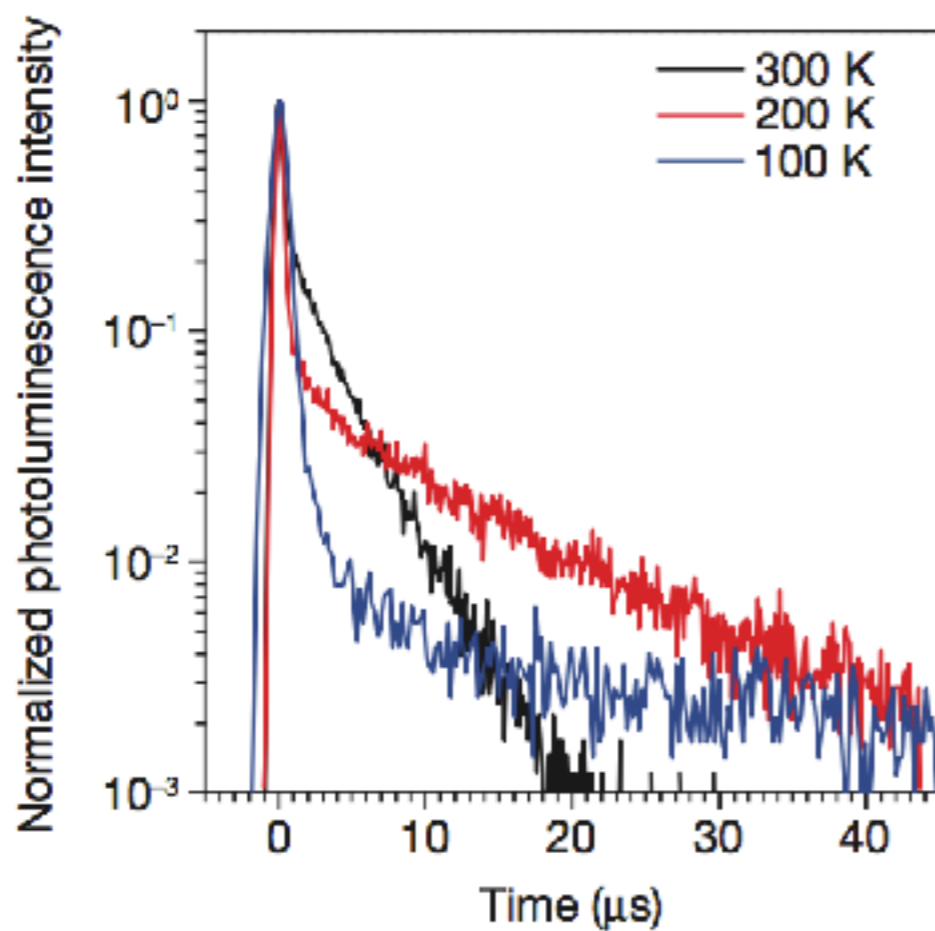
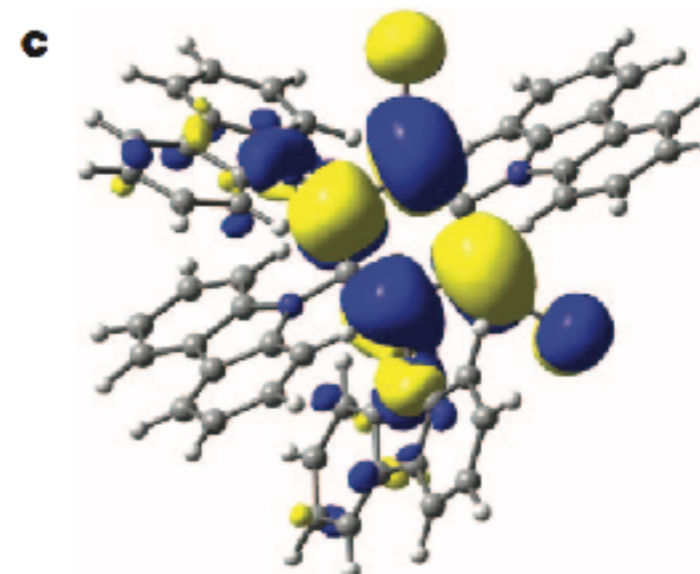
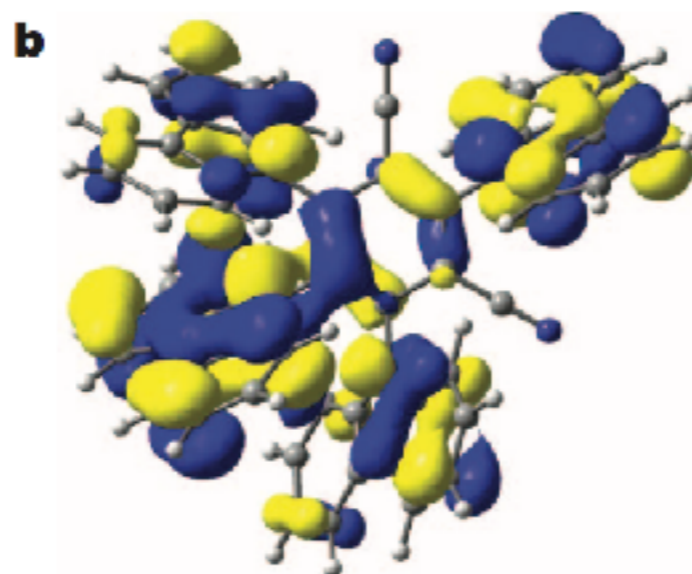
$$\eta_{\text{ext}} = 5.3\%$$



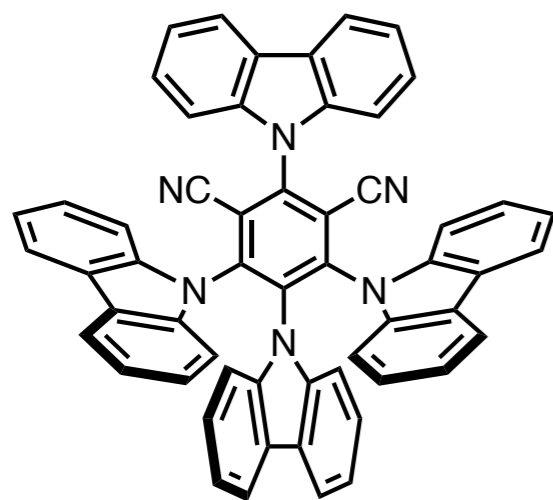
Thermally-Activated Delayed Fluorescence (TADF)



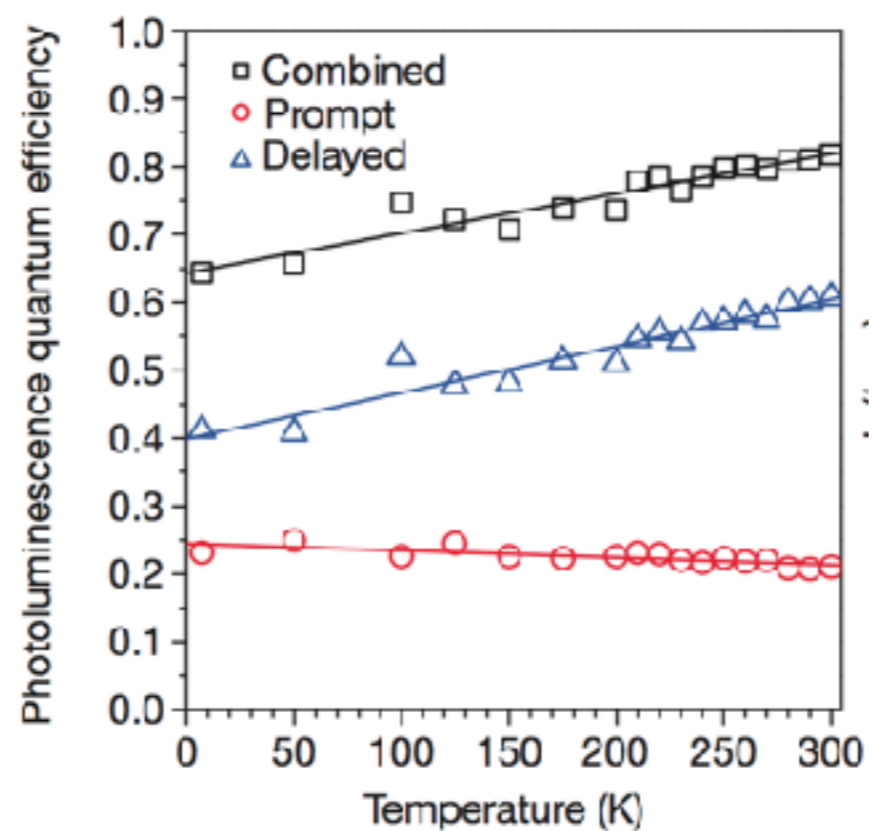
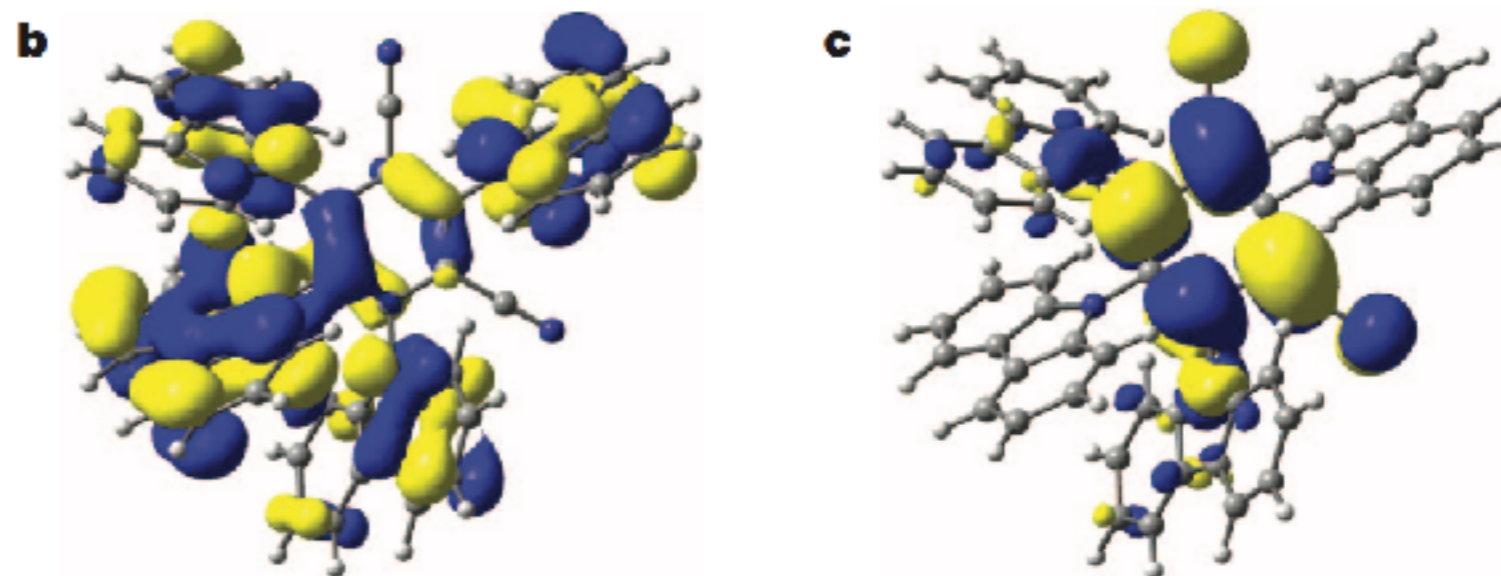
4-CzIPN



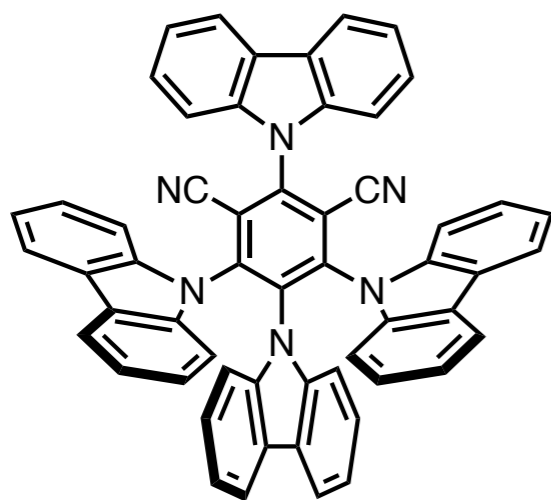
Thermally-Activated Delayed Fluorescence (TADF)



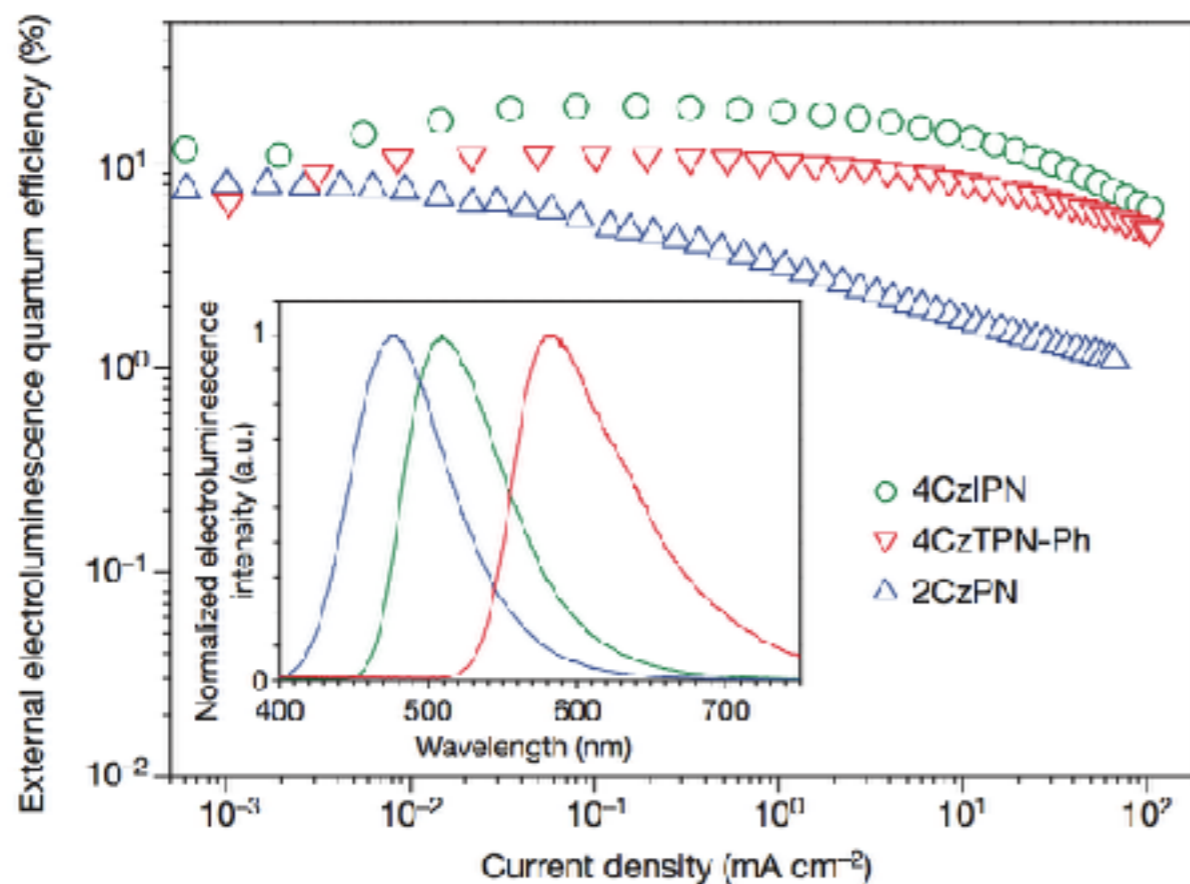
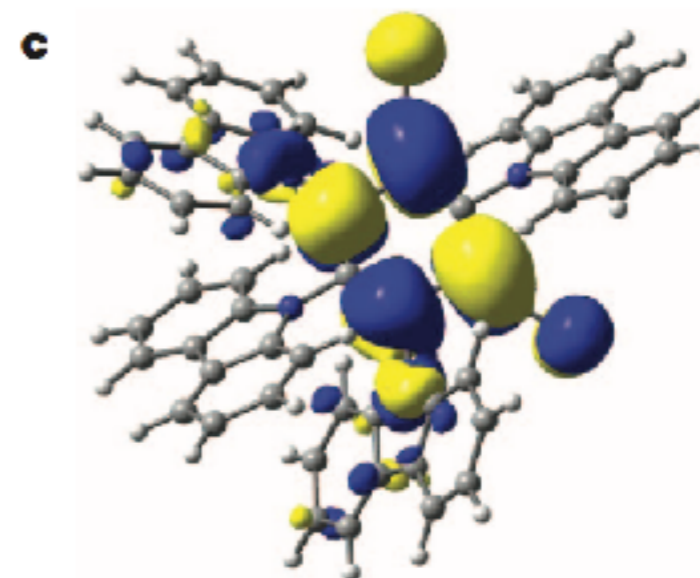
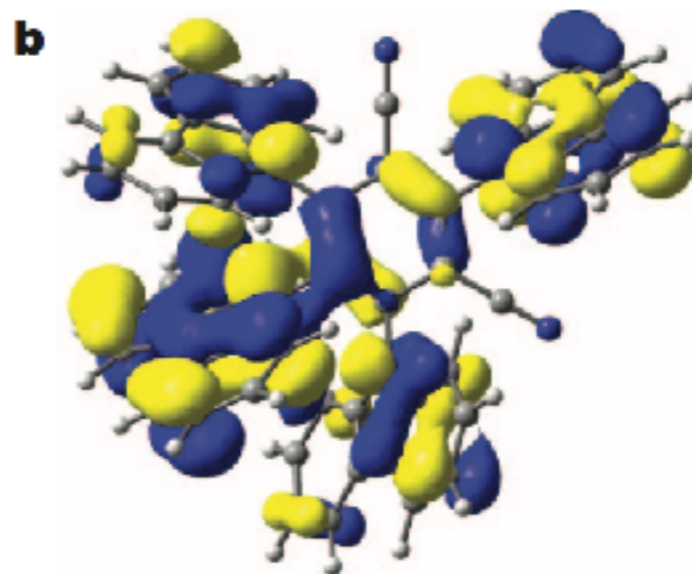
4-CzIPN



Thermally-Activated Delayed Fluorescence (TADF)



4-CzIPN



$$\eta_{\text{ext}} = (19.3 \pm 1.5)\%$$

“Third-generation organic electroluminescence materials”

335 references in Review below, published Jan 2017