Linear Dichroism (LD) & Absorption Characterization of Solution-Cast Organic Semiconductor Thin Films





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Motivation



Organic Semiconductors have many advantages over inorganic semiconductors including:

- Flexibility
- Low-Cost manufacturing
- Environmentally friendly



Flexible Organic display

Applications of Organic Semiconductors



Biomedical & Physical Sciences Building Michigan State University





Organic Field-Effect Transistor (OFET)



My REU Project



How do the optical properties of organic thin films evolve when the morphology of the film changes?





Phthalocyanine (*H*₂OBPc)



Leaves (Chlorophyll)



Solution & recrystallization



Purified *H*₂OBPc Crystals











Important Concepts



Linear Polarization:

The direction of electric field vector does not vary with time or position

• Absorption & Transmission:

How much light is absorbed Vs how much passes through the sample. $I = I_0 e^{-\alpha d}$ A

• Linear Dichroism (LD):

 $LD = A_x - A_y$

The effect of causing different polarizationsORto be absorbed by different amounts.

$$LD = A_{||} - A_{\perp}$$

Exciton:

The combination of negatively charged electron and positively charged electron hole which interact through the electrostatic Coulomb Force (Transition Dipole).



Source: Physics Stack Exchange





How do we make our samples?



1. Purification & Solution Making process

- Column Chromatography & Rotary Evaporation I.
- Concentration (Pc in Toluene): $C = \frac{m}{V} \times 100\%$ II.

2. Substrate Treatment:

- Cleaning with soap and water I.
- Sonication in Toluene II.
- III. Dry cleaning with Nitrogen
- IV. Ozone cleaning

A. Column Chromatography



B. Rotary Evaporation



C. Recrystallization



Purified *H*₂OBPc Crystals







Pen Writing vs Spin Coating



3. Put the solution carefully into the capillary tube using a pipette.

Different parameters:

- I. Concentration (Pc in Toluene): 0.1% & 0.5% : $C = \frac{m}{v} \times 100\%$
- II. Substrate Temperature: 25 °C to 60 °C
- III. Pen-Writing Speeds: $18~\mu m/s$ to $700~\mu m/s$





Pen Writing Stage



Microscopic Imaging: 0.5%, 25°C



Grain Like structures

Fan Like structures



 $40 \ \mu m/s$



Convective & LLD regime



TIPS Pentacene











Samples Continued: 0.5%, 60°C





400 µm/s

100 µm/s













Mounting sample & Shining light







Source: J. Phys. Chem. C 2021, 125, 51, 27966–27974

Waterfall Diagram of Absorption for 0.5%, 25°C











Waterfall Diagram of LD for 0.5%, 25°C









Waterfall Diagram of Absorption for 0.5%, 60°C







Waterfall Diagram of LD for 0.5%, 60°C







Waterfall Diagram of Absorption for 0.1%, 60°C





Waterfall Diagram of Absorption for 0.1%, 60°C









- We observed that the optical properties of organic thin films such as
 - Phthalocyanines evolve with the changes in the *pen writing speeds*,

substrate temperatures, and solution concentrations.

- Convective and LLD regimes were observed in Pen-Written samples.
- Millimeter sized grains were achieved & grain-like and fan-like structures were also seen.













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- 2. Dr. Varun Mapara
- 3. Dr. Hadi Afshari
- 4. <u>Tabassum Haque</u>
- 5. <u>Hinata Yokoyama</u>
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Questions?