# Charge-Transfer Excited States in Phosphorescent Organo-Transition Metal Compounds: A Difficult Case for Time Dependent Density Functional Theory?

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#### **1. VERTICAL ABSORPTION ENERGIES AND 0-0 CORRECTION**

#	$ZPE_{T_1}$	$ZPE_{S_0}$	$\Delta E_{\rm relax}$
1	7.04	7.13	0.26
2	16.86	16.95	0.13
3	8.67	8.76	0.31
4	6.82	6.91	0.03
5	6.47	6.57	0.28
6	12.50	12.58	0.32
7	6.38	6.49	0.18
8	12.64	12.74	0.27
9	9.65	9.74	0.32
10	8.65	8.75	0.29
11	12.33	12.46	0.27
12	13.01	13.11	0.27
13	9.38	9.45	0.15
14	7.75	7.86	0.19
15	7.38	7.48	0.28
16	14.10	14.21	0.32
17	7.68	7.77	0.46

Table S1: Energy contributions (B3LYP/6-31G\*) to the correction of vertical excitation energies according to main article Eq. 7. We also report the relaxation energy on the T<sub>1</sub> B3LYP/6-31G\* potential energy surface ( $\Delta E_{relax}$ ). The latter was obtained by T<sub>1</sub> geometry optimization at the unrestricted Kohn-Sham level with the S<sub>0</sub> minimum as initial geometry. For several cases the SCF cycle for the UKS calculations at the S<sub>0</sub> minimum geometry converged to an excited triplet state. Initialization with the density matrix at the T<sub>1</sub> minimum geometry solved this issue. Relaxation of structure **13** lead to a severe overtwisting of the geometry.<sup>1</sup>  $\Delta E_{relax}$  has been obtained from a LC-PBE (tuned) optimization in this case. All energies in eV.

			LC-PBE		
#	PBE	B3LYP	tuned	TDA	$\gamma=$ 0.3 a $_0^{-1}$
1	1.58	1.95	2.08	2.22	2.13
2	1.56	2.02	2.05	2.07	2.54
3	2.00	2.17	2.28	2.41	2.23
4	1.97	2.20	2.30	2.52	2.29
5	2.22	2.29	2.16	2.60	2.32
6	2.01	2.38	2.36	2.41	2.58
7	2.17	2.44	2.58	2.65	2.67
8	2.15	2.52	2.55	2.62	2.70
9	2.14	2.56	2.75	2.92	2.75
10	2.15	2.58	2.77	2.99	2.76
11	2.16	2.53	2.42	3.06	2.59
12	2.15	2.63	2.57	2.60	2.83
13	2.06	2.53	2.62	2.97	2.57
14	2.31	2.68	2.83	3.01	2.81
15	2.39	2.68	2.53	3.11	2.78
16	2.59	2.81	2.92	3.05	2.88
17	2.74	3.03	3.20	3.45	3.18

Table S2: Vertical  $T_1$  absorption energies [eV].

LC-PBE

#	PBE	<b>B3LYP</b>	tuned	TDA	$\gamma = \textbf{0.3} \; \textbf{a}_0^{-1}$
1	1.83 (0.076)	2.48 (0.126)	2.76 (0.155)	2.83 (0.187)	3.18 (0.224)
2	1.75 (0.031)	2.28 (0.033)	2.31 (0.016)	2.35 (0.020)	2.99 (0.011)
4	2.17 (0.002)	2.73 (0.017)	3.22 (0.052)	3.29 (0.054)	3.25 (0.056)
5	2.70 (0.020)	3.09 (0.054)	3.63 (0.124)	3.77 (0.148)	3.44 (0.095)
7	2.33 (0.000)	2.75 (0.001)	2.94 (0.001)	2.97 (0.001)	3.25 (0.004)
14	2.45 (0.000)	3.08 (0.004)	3.47 (0.011)	3.51 (0.016)	3.66 (0.021)

Table S3: Vertical S $_1$  absorption energies [eV], oscillator strengths in parentheses.

### 1.1 Influence of basis set size

#	6-311G* & LANL2DZ	6-311++G** & LANL2TZF
5	2.29	2.25
7	2.44	2.37
15	2.68	2.63

Table S4: Vertical  $T_1$  absorption energies [eV] at the B3LYP level using basis sets of different size.

#### 1.2 Influence of solvent model

#	COSMO	SMD
5	2.287	2.290
7	2.438	2.444
15	2.677	2.683

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Table S5: Vertical T<sub>1</sub> absorption energies [eV] at the B3LYP/6-311G\* & LANL2DZ level using the COSMO and SMD model for solvation (see main text).

#### 2. FRONTIER MOLECULAR ORBITALS

In the following figures, initial (top) and final (bottom) molecular orbitals corresponding to the dominant single-particle transition for the  $T_1$  state are plotted for the PBE (left) and B3LYP (right) functionals. These are mostly HOMO to LUMO transitions with the expection of **9**, **13**, **16** at the B3LYP level, which are HOMO-1 to LUMO.



Figure S1: **Structure 1** 



Figure S2: Structure 2



Figure S3: Structure 3



Figure S4: Structure 4



Figure S5: **Structure 5** 



Figure S6: **Structure 6** 



Figure S7: Structure 7



Figure S8: **Structure 8** 



Figure S9: Structure 9



Figure S10: Structure 10



Figure S11: Structure 11



Figure S12: Structure 12



Figure S13: Structure 13



Figure S14: Structure 14



Figure S15: Structure 15



Figure S16: Structure 16



Figure S17: Structure 17

## REFERENCES

1. P. Wiggins, J. G. Williams, and D. J. Tozer, "Excited state surfaces in density functional theory: a new twist on an old problem," *J. Chem. Phys.*, vol. 131, no. 9, p. 091101, 2009.