## A novel multichromic Zn (II) cationic coordination polymer based on a new flexible viologen ligand exhibiting aniline detection in solid state

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## Computational methods and models

All of the DFT calculations were performed by using Vienna ab initio simulation pachage (VASP).<sup>1, 2</sup> The exchange–correlation energy is treated based on the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) in the scheme of Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE).<sup>3</sup> The core–electron interactions are describe by Projector–augmented–wave (PAW) pseudopotentials.<sup>4</sup> The Grimme's dispersion correction (DFT–D3) method is applied to describe the van der Waals (vdW) interaction.<sup>5</sup> A 5 × 3 × 2 Monkhorst–Pack k–point grid was adopted for calculations on Complex 1. The energy cutoff is set to be 420 eV. All atoms were fully relaxed until the total energy converges to less than 10<sup>-4</sup> eV and the ionic relaxation were performed until the force on each atom converge to within 0.02 eV Å<sup>-1</sup>.

## References

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Fig. S1 The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of viologen ligand in D<sub>2</sub>O (600 MHz).



Fig. S2 The  $^{13}$ C-NMR spectrum of viologen ligand in D<sub>2</sub>O (600 MHz).



Fig. S3 The asymmetric unit of complex 1 ( all H atoms were omitted for clarity) Symmetry codes: for complex: #1: 1-x, -y, 1-z; #2: 2-x, -y, 1-z; #3: 1-x, 1-y, 2-z; #4: 2-x, 1-y, 2-z; #5: x, -1+y, -1+z.



Fig. S4 Three-dimensional channels in the crystal.



Fig. S5 Discoloration of viologen ligand (a)Uv irradiation (b)Blue ray irradiation (c)heat at 120  $^\circ\!\!{\rm C}$ 



Fig. S6 EPR data of complex **1** before and after (a)Uv irradiation (b)Blue rays irradiation.



Fig. S7 PXRD patterns of 1 before irradiation, after irradiated by UV and blue rays, respectively. The black line is the simulated curve.



Fig. S8 PXRD patterns of  ${\bf 1}$  before and after heated at 120  $^{o}C.$ 



Fig. S9 The TGA date of  ${\rm 1\!\!I}$  , heat at 120  $^{\rm o}\!{\rm C}$  and the viologen ligand.



Fig. S10 The electron transfer pathways of **1** studied by VASP.



Fig. S11 The luminescence spectra of **1** before and after heated at 120 °C.



Fig. S12 PXRD patterns of 1 and after detecting different benezes.



Fig. S13 EPR of complex 1 and after detecting aniline.



Fig. S14 Varied colour changing to detect  $NO^{2-}$  from  $NaNO_2$  solution with different concentration.

Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement for **1**.

Empirical formula

 $C_{82}H_{56}N_8O_{29}Zn_4\\$ 

Formula weight

1878.82

Crystal system	triclinic	
Space group	P-1	
a/Å	15.5845(8)	
b/Å	16.7477(9)	
c/Å	16.9751(9)	
α/°	114.048(2)	
β/°	100.299(2)	
γ/°	101.237(2)	
Volume/ų	3800.0(4)	
Z	2	
Temperature/K	297	
$ ho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.642	
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.251	
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54178)	
20 range for data collection/°	5.954 to 101.202	
Reflections collected	57367	
Independent reflections	8001 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.1264, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0796]	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.034	
Final R indexes [I>=2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0616, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1553	
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0962, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1775	

	1	<b>1</b> -UV	1-blue
а	15.5845(8)	15.5797(7)	15.5861(8)
b	16.7477(9)	16.7473(8)	16.7515(8)
C	16.9751(9)	16.9714(8)	16.9797(8)
α	114.048(2)	114.109(2)	114.137(1)
β	100.299(2)	100.262(2)	100.258(2)
γ	101.237(2)	101.279(2)	101.247(2)
Volume	3800.0(4)	3795.6(3)	3799.7(3)
Space group	P -1	P-1	P-1

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## Table S2 The main crystal data of 1, 1-UV and1-blue.