Electronic Supplementary Information

Geometric Isomers of Asymmetric Rigid Four-Membered Chelating Ring Based Deep-Red-Emitting Iridium Complexes Fea-turing Three Charged (0, -1, -2) Ligands

Ruoqi Zeng,¹ Nengquan Li,² Feiyang Li,¹ Chao Shi,^{1*} Zhen Jiang,¹ Fuzheng Zhang,¹ Qiuxia Li,^{1*} Kaishun Ye,¹ Aihua Yuan,^{1*} and Chuluo Yang,^{2*}

¹ School of Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Jiangsu University of Science and Technology,

Zhenjiang 212003, P. R. China.

² College of Materials Science and Engineering, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen 518060, P. R. China.

Corresponding Authors' E-mail address

- * shichao@just.edu.cn
- * liqiuxia2019@just.edu.cn
- * aihua.yuan@just.edu.cn
- * clyang@szu.edu.cn

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General information

Unless noted, all reagents or solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All air sensitive experiments were performed in N₂ atmosphere through schlenk technology. The iridium(III) complex precursor compounds (**1a**, **2a** and **2b**) were synthesized according to literature procedures¹. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured by using a Bruker 400 MHz or 600 MHz spectrometer at room temperature. Mass spectra were conducted at Agilent Technologies 5973N (EI). Elemental analyses for C, H, and N were performed on a Vario MICRO elemental analyzer. An Edinburgh FS5 spectrophotometer was used to measure phosphorescence spectra. An Edinburgh FLS-980 spectrometer was used to determine phosphorescence quantum efficiency and lifetimes of the molecule. The experiments for cyclic voltametric were performed by using three electrode cell assemblies from an IM6ex instrument (Zahner). A one-compartment cell equipped with a platinum wire counter electrode, a Ag/Ag⁺ reference electrode, and a glassy-carbon working electrode was used for all measurements with a scan rate of 100 mVs⁻¹. The concentration of tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (Bu₄NPF₆) in dichloromethane solution a was 0.10 molL⁻¹ and used as supporting electrolyte.

Synthesis and characterization



Figure S1. Synthetic route of the asymmetric rigid four-membered Ir-N-C-S chelating ring based iridium complexes isomers (**Ir1K**, **Ir1T**, **Ir2K** and **Ir2T**) featuring three charged (0, -1, -2) ligands.

Ir1K: 2a (0.039 g, 0.05 mmol), benzo[d]thiazole-2-thiol (0.010 g, 0.06 mmol) and Na₂CO₃ (0.013 g, 0.11 mmol) were charged to a 100 mL schlenck tube, followed by 2-ethoxyethanol (10 mL). The mixture was heated to 90 °C for 24 h under N₂. The resulting solution was saturated with water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ three times. The combined organic phase was dried and concentrated in vacuum, and target product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/ petroleum ether 5:1 (v/v) to afford red solid. 10 mg (30 %). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.51 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.81 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (m, 1H), 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.68 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 175.7, 156.8, 156.4, 154.0, 153.7, 153.6, 153.1, 152.4, 147.9, 145.6, 139.9, 138.8, 137.0, 136.2, 131.0, 128.4, 127.6, 126.7, 125.8, 125.6, 124.5, 124.4, 123.4, 123.1, 122.9, 120.8, 120.6, 120.1, 118.8. C₂₉H₂₀IrN₃S₂ calcd: C, 52.23; N, 6.30; H, 3.02. Found: C, 52.20; N, 6.28; H, 3.09. El-MS (*m*/z): 667.3 (M⁺, 100%).

Ir1T: 2a (0.039 g, 0.05 mmol), benzo[d]thiazole-2-thiol (0.010 g, 0.06 mmol) and Na₂CO₃ (0.013 g, 0.11 mmol) were charged to a 100 mL schlenck tube, followed by 2-ethoxyethanol (10 mL). The mixture was

heated to 130 °C for 24 h under N₂. The resulting solution was saturated with water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ three times. The combined organic phase was dried and concentrated in vacuum, and target product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/ petroleum ether 5:1 (v/v) to afford red solid. 23 mg (69 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43 (m, 1H), 8.24 (m, 2H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (td, J = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (m, 6H), 6.97 (m, 4H), 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.53 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.7, 185.7, 155.1, 153.8, 138.6, 137.3, 136.8, 134.9, 132.2, 131.9, 127.6, 126.5, 126.3, 126.1, 124.7, 124.6, 124.5, 124.1, 123.6, 123.0, 122.8, 122.5, 122.4, 122.2, 120.5, 119.8, 119.7, 116.8, 116.1. C₂₉H₂₀IrN₃S₂ calcd: C, 52.23; N, 6.30; H, 3.02. Found: C, 52.19; N, 6.26; H, 3.11. EI-MS (*m*/z): 667.3 (M⁺, 100%).

Ir2K: 2b (0.041 g, 0.05 mmol), benzo[d]thiazole-2-thiol (0.010 g, 0.06 mmol) and Na₂CO₃ (0.013 g, 0.11 mmol) were charged to a 100 mL schlenck tube, followed by 2-ethoxyethanol (10 mL). The mixture was heated to 90 °C for 24 h under N₂. The resulting solution was saturated with water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ three times. The combined organic phase was dried and concentrated in vacuum, and target product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH_2Cl_2 / petroleum ether 5:1 (v/v) to afford red solid. 8 mg (23 %). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.04 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (dd, J = 5.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, J = 15.0, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.88 (qd, J = 7.8, 3.3 Hz, 3H), 6.67 (td, J = 7.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (td, J = 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 219.7, 187.9, 156.1, 154.6, 151.6, 149.8, 149.3, 147.5, 141.6, 135.9, 134.6, 133.5, 132.2, 132.1, 130.6, 130.3, 129.0, 127.7, 127.3, 126.4, 126.3, 125.7, 125.5, 124.3, 122.6, 122.5, 122.1, 121.2, 120.0, 119.6, 115.1. C₃₁H₂₀IrN₃S₂ calcd: C, 53.90; N, 6.08; H, 2.92. Found: C, 53.86; N, 6.06; H, 2.97. EI-MS (*m*/z): 691.2 (M⁺, 100%).

Ir2T: 2a (0.041 g, 0.05 mmol), benzo[d]thiazole-2-thiol (0.010 g, 0.06 mmol) and Na₂CO₃ (0.013 g, 0.11 mmol) were charged to a 100 mL schlenck tube, followed by 2-ethoxyethanol (10 mL). The mixture was heated to 130 °C for 24 h under N₂. The resulting solution was saturated with water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ three times. The combined organic phase was dried and concentrated in vacuum, and target product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/ petroleum ether 5:1 (v/v) to afford red solid. 15 mg (43 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (dd, J = 5.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (m, 1H), 8.03 (dd, J = 16.1, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (m,

2H), 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.02 (m, 3H), 6.85 (m, 2H), 6.40 (td, J = 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.1, 183.2, 164.1, 154.9, 149.0, 142.4, 140.9, 137.7, 135.9, 134.2, 134.1, 132.3, 132.2, 131.6, 131.5, 127.5, 127.3, 126.4, 126.1, 125.3, 124.5, 123.6, 122.9, 122.8, 122.4, 122.0, 120.5, 119.8, 119.7, 117.1, 116.3. C₃₁H₂₀IrN₃S₂ calcd: C, 53.90; N, 6.08; H, 2.92. Found: C, 53.87; N, 6.04; H, 2.95. EI-MS (*m/z*): 691.3 (M⁺, 100%).

X-ray crystal structure analysis

The single-crystals of **Ir1K**, **Ir1T** and **Ir2T** were all obtained by slow diffusion of ethanol to their CH_2CI_2 solutions, respectively. The single-crystal of **Ir2K** was obtained by slow diffusion of ethanol to its $CHCI_3$ solution. The X-ray diffraction data were collected on a Bruker Smart CCD Apex DUO diffractometer with graphite monochromated Mo K α radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å) using the ω -2 θ scan mode. All crystal datas are deposited in The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC: 2234483 for **Ir1K**, 2234484 for **Ir1T**, 2234485 for **Ir2K** and 2234486 for **Ir2T**).

-	Complex	x lr1K lr1T		lr2K	lr2T	
-	chemical formula	2(C ₂₉ H ₂₀ IrN ₃ S ₂), CH ₂ Cl ₂	$C_{29}H_{20}IrN_3S_2$	C ₃₁ H ₂₀ IrN ₃ S ₂ , CHCl ₃	$C_{31}H_{20}IrN_3S_2$	
	formula weight	1418.52	666.80	810.19	690.82	
	crystal size (mm)	0.13 × 0.16 × 0.17	0.14 × 0.17 × 0.18	0.08 × 0.10 × 0.11	0.07 × 0.09 × 0.12	
	temperature (K)	200	150	100	150	
	radiation	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	
	crystal system	Triclinic	Tetragonal	Triclinic	Monoclinic	
	space group	P-1	l41/a	P-1	P21/n	
	a(Å)	9.4955(10)	17.6304(4)	10.0417(1)	9.7082(5)	
	b(Å)	11.7819(12)	17.6304(4)	10.1106(2)	19.5157(8)	
	c(Å)	14.2124(15)	35.1485(17)	16.2358(3)	15.0090(8)	
	α(°)	100.816(2)	90	99.343(1)	90	
	β(°)	108 292(1)	90	97 835(1)	97 881(2)	
	ν(°)	111 137(1)	90	113 684(2)	۵۵ ۵۵	
	Y()	111.137(1)	30	113.004(2)	30	

Table S1. Crystallographic data for Ir1K, Ir1T, Ir2K and Ir2T.

V(Å ³)	1324.4(2)	10925.2(7)	1452.00(5)	2816.8(2)
Z	1	16	2	4
$ ho(_{calc})$ (g/cm ³)	1.779	1.622	1.853	1.629
F (000)	690	5184	788	1344
absorp.coeff. (mm ⁻¹)	5.324	5.063	5.047	4.912
θ range (deg)	1.6 to 25.0	2.1 to 26.4	2.3 to 25.0	2.4 to 25.0
refins collected	9824 (R _{int} = 0.030)	119077 (R _{int} = 0.087)	23711 (R _{int} = 0.032)	37355 (R _{int} = 0.054)
indep. reflns	4574	5581	5089	4975
Refns obs.[$l > 2\sigma(l)$]	4335	4703	4846	4332
data/restr/paras	4574/0/334	5581/0/316	5089/0/370	4975/0/334
GOF	1.20	1.11	1.03	1.24
R ₁ /wR ₂ [<i>l</i> >2σ(<i>l</i>)]	0.0299/0.0874	0.0370/0.0905	0.0199/0.0433	0.0483/0.1144
R_1/wR_2 (all data)	0.0333/0.1059	0.0448/0.0947	0.0218/0.0441	0.0557/0.1177
larg peak and hole(e/ų)	1.70/–1.37	1.43/–1.91	0.86/-0.75	1.78/–1.08



Figure S2. The single crystal structure of **Ir1K**, the hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity, selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Ir1–C1: 2.000(7), Ir1–C2: 2.031(7), Ir1–N1: 2.135(6), Ir1–N2: 2.041(6), Ir1–S1: 2.379(2), Ir1–N3: 2.216(6), C3–S1: 1.713(7), C3–N3: 1.295(9), C3–S2: 1.748(7); C1–Ir1–C2: 80.7(3), N1–Ir1–N2: 78.7(2), N3–Ir1–S1: 67.37(16), N3–C3–S1: 115.3(5).



Figure S3. The single crystal structure of **Ir1T**, the hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity, selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Ir1–C1: 2.022(5), Ir1–C2: 2.020(5), Ir1–N1: 2.110(4), Ir1–N2: 2.037(4), Ir1–S1: 2.5656(16), Ir1–N3: 2.058(4), C3–S1: 1.701(5), C3–N3: 1.318(6), C3–S2: 1.759(5); C1–Ir1–C2: 80.6(2), N1–Ir1–N2: 78.41(14), N3–Ir1–S1: 66.22(11), N3–C3–S1: 115.5(4).



Figure S4. The single crystal structure of **Ir2K**, the hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity, selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Ir1–C1: 2.016(3), Ir1–C2: 2.015(3), Ir1–N1: 2.131(3), Ir1–N2: 2.049(3), Ir1–S1: 2.377(9), Ir1–N3: 2.196(3), C3–S1: 1.720(3), C3–N3: 1.316(4), C3–S2: 1.734(3); C1–Ir1–C2: 81.66(12), N1–Ir1–N2: 79.04(11), N3–Ir1–S1: 67.92(8), N3–C3–S1: 114.3(2).



Figure S5. The single crystal structure of **Ir2T**, the hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity, selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Ir1–C1: 2.019(9), Ir1–C2: 2.012(8), Ir1–N1: 2.185(8), Ir1–N2: 2.027(8), Ir1–S1: 2.586(2), Ir1–N3: 2.057(8), C3–S1: 1.699(10), C3–N3: 1.317(12), C3–S2: 1.741(10); C1–Ir1–C2: 80.7(3), N1–Ir1–N2: 78.6(3), N3–Ir1–S1: 65.7(2), N3–C3–S1: 115.5(7).

Photophysical and electrochemical properties



Figure S6. (a) Absorption and (b) PL spectra of the iridium complex Ir1K in different solutions.



Figure S7. (a) Absorption and (b) PL spectra of the iridium complex Ir1T in different solutions.



Figure S8. (a) Absorption and (b) PL spectra of the iridium complex Ir2K in different solutions.



Figure S9. (a) Absorption and (b) PL spectra of the iridium complex Ir2T in different solutions.



Figure S10. Cyclic voltammogram of the asymmetric four-membered Ir-N-C-S chelating ring based iridium complexes isomers (**Ir1K**, **Ir1T**, **Ir2K** and **Ir2T**) in dichloromethane under the scan rate of 100 mV s⁻¹.

TG analysis



Figure S11. TG thermograms of the iridium complexes (a) Ir1K, (b) Ir1T, (c) Ir2K and (d) Ir2T.

DFT calculation

DFT method was used to optimize the geometries all the complexes. The electronic transition energies and electron correlation effects were also calculated by (TD)-DFT method with the B3LYP functional (TD-B3LYP). The LANL2DZ basis set was used to treat with the iridium atom, and the 6–31G(d) basis set was used to treat with all other atoms. The sum of electronic and zero-point energies (E_0) and the sum of electronic and thermal free energies (G) of all complexes were obtained by frequency calculation. The contributions of fragments to the "holes" and "electrons" and Inter Fragment Charge Transfer (IFCT) in the electronic excitation process were analyzed by the Hirshfeld method in the Multiwfn 3.8 program². All calculations were carried out according to the Gaussian 09 program.³



Figure S12. Optimized structures and dipole moment for Ir1K, Ir1T, Ir2K and Ir2T at the ground state (S_0) .



Figure S13. Calculated UV spectra of Ir1K, Ir1T, Ir2K and Ir2T.



Figure S14. HOMO and LUMO spatial distribution and energy levels of all iridium complexes isomers at the ground state (S_0).

Table S2.	Calculated	energies	and	oscillator	strengths	for	lowest-energy	singlet	(S ₁)	and	triplet	(T ₁)
transitions.												

Comployee	ototoo	E	Oscillator	main configurations	Character	
complexes	States	(eV)	strength	(CI coeff)		
lr1K	S ₁	1.5013	0.0048	HOMO→LUMO (0.96)	MLCT/LLCT	
	T_1	0.8885	0	HOMO→LUMO (0.96)	³ MLCT/ ³ LLCT	
1=4 T	S ₁	1.6164	0.0036	HOMO→LUMO (0.96)	MLCT/LLCT	
11.1	T ₁	1.0748	0	HOMO→LUMO (0.96)	³ MLCT/ ³ LLCT	
1-216	S ₁	1.5405	0.0064	HOMO→LUMO (0.96)	MLCT/LLCT	
1121	T_1	0.9609	0	HOMO→LUMO (0.95)	³ MLCT/ ³ LLCT	
lr2T	S ₁	1.6583	0.0048	HOMO→LUMO (0.96)	MLCT/LLCT	
	T_1	1.1564	0	HOMO→LUMO (0.96)	³ MLCT/ ³ LLCT	

OLED Device characterization

The ITO coated glass substrates with a sheet resistance of 15 Ω square⁻¹ were consecutively ultrasonicated with acetone/ethanol and dried with nitrogen gas flow, followed by 20 min ultraviolet lightozone (UVO) treatment in a UV-ozone surface processor (PL16 series, Sen Lights Corporation). Then the samples were transferred to the vacuum deposition system, and the organic layers were deposited at the rates of 0.2-3 Å/s sequentially. After the deposition of organic layers, 8-hydroxyquinolinolato-lithium (Liq) as electron injection layer and aluminum (AI) as cathode layer were deposited with rates of 0.1 and 3 Å/s, respectively by thermal evaporation under 5×10⁻⁵ Pa. The emitting area of the device is about 0.09 cm². The thickness of the deposited films were monitored by an INFICON SQC-310C deposition controller. The current density-voltage-luminance (*J-V-L*), *L-EQE* curves, and electroluminescence spectra were measured using a Keithley 2400 source meter coupled with an absolute EQE measurement system (C9920-12, Hamamatsu Photonics, Japan).



Figure S15. (a) The current efficiency and (b) powder efficiency for device of the iridium complexes Ir1K, Ir1T, Ir2K and Ir2T.

NMR and MS spectra



Figure S16. The ¹H NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir1K.



Figure S17. The ¹³C NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir1K.



Figure S18. The ¹H NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir1T.



Figure S19. The ¹³C NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir1T.



Figure S20. The ¹H NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir2K.



Figure S21. The ¹³C NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir2K.



Figure S22. The ¹H NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir2T.



Figure S23. The ¹³C NMR spectra of the iridium complex Ir2T.



Figure S24. The MS spectra of the iridium complex Ir1K.



Figure S25. The MS spectra of the iridium complex Ir1T.



Figure S26. The MS spectra of the iridium complex Ir2K.



Figure S27. The MS spectra of the iridium complex Ir2T.

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