

**Figure 4.** Overlay of X-ray structure of  $[Ni(L2b)]^{2+}$  (solid) and  $[Cu(L2b)]^{2+}$  (dotted). The atom numbering scheme (identical for both complexes) is the same as that shown in Fig 2.



**Figure 5.** Overlay of X-ray structure of  $[Ni(L2a)]^{2+}$  (solid) and  $[Cu(L2a)]^{2+}$  (dotted). The atom numbering scheme (identical for both complexes) is the same as that shown in Fig 1.

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**Figure 7.** UV- Visible spectrum of the arm on/off behavior of  $[Ni(L2a)]^{2+}$ . Concentration of initial  $[Ni(L2a)](ClO_4)_2$  solution 0.006 M. The initial 2 mL of solution was titrated with 12 additions of 0.5 µL of 1.100 M HClO<sub>4</sub>. The final acid concentration was 0.003 M.