

Photochemistry and Photophysics of Transition Metal Complexes:

Quantum Studies

Prof. Chantal Daniel

Université de Strasbourg



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This lecture will illustrate the progress made in the past few years in our understanding of complicated mechanism underlying photophysical and photochemical processes in transition metal complexes taking into account environment and spin-orbit effects. Three recent applications, based on state-of-the-art quantum chemical methods, will illustrate the complexity at different scales. The first part of the lecture is dedicated to the spectroscopy and photophysics of Ru (II) complexes used as DNA intercalators. The influence of the environment on the optical properties will be discussed under the light of recent results obtained by means of DFT and QM/MM calculations performed on ruthenium polypyridyl complexes. The second part of the lecture reports a comprehensive theoretical study of the ultra-fast steps leading to ligand trans-cis isomerization of Rhenium (I) tricarbonyl diimine complexes under visible light. The chosen molecule is representative of a wide class of compounds largely studied experimentally. The electronic absorption spectroscopy and the photophysics of [Re (CO)₃(2,2'-bipyridine (t-4-styrylpyridine))⁺ and derivatives are analyzed on the basis of ab initio CASSCF/MS-CASPT2 and spin-orbit calculations. In a last illustration the simulation of ultra-fast intersystem crossing processes by means of TD-DFT calculations and wavepacket propagations will show how the standard image based on singlet-triplet transitions and heavy atom effects is being undermined in the case of Re (I) complexes investigated by fs laser luminescence experiments.

連絡先:北海道大学大学院理学研究院化学部門武次徹也 (Tel: 011-706-3535, Mail: take@sci.hokudai.ac.jp)