# **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

# Observance of a large conformational change associated with the rotation of the naphthyl groups during the photodimerization of crisscross aligned C=C bonds within a 2D coordination polymer

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## **Experimental**

1. Preparation of 4-spy, (E)-4-(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)vinyl)pyridine 4-(2-npy) and (E)-4-(2-(naphthalen-1-yl)vinyl)pyridine (4-npy). Corresponding bromomethyl derivatives were treated with triphenylphosphine in toluene. The resulting product mixed with pyridylaldehyde in sodium hydrate solution and stirred for 20h. The crude product was obtained by evaporation of the solvents in vacuo. The mixture was loaded on a column filled with silica gel and eluted with ethyl acetate/ mineral ether (2:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, DMSO, TMS): 4-spy,  $\delta$  8.56 (d, 2H, py-H), 7.6 (d, 2H, py-H), 8.57 (d, 2H, Ph-H) 7.56 (d, 1H, C=C), 7.3-7.4 (m, 5h, Ph-H), 7.28 (d, 1H, C=C). 4-(2-npy),  $\delta$  8.6 (d, 2H, py-H), 8.1 (s, 1H, naphthalene-H), 7.9 (m, 4H, naphthalene-H), 7.7(1H, C=C), 7.6(2H, py-H), 7.5(2H, naphthalene-H), 7.4(1H, C=C). 4-npy,  $\delta$  8.6 (d, 2H, py-H), 8.46 (d, 1H, naphthalene-H), 8.39 (d, 1H, C=C), 7.94 (m, 5h, naphthalene-H), 7.75 (dd, 2H, py-H), 7.59 (m, 5h, naphthalene-H), 7.32 (d, 1H, C=C) (Figures S1).

### 2. Computational method

Gas phase structure optimizations were carried out using DFT as implemented in the Gaussian 09 package with the B3LYP functional using 6-31G\* basis sets.<sup>1</sup>

#### References

1. M. J. Frisch, et al. Gaussian 09, Revision A.02; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, 2009





**Figure S1**. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 4-spy, 4-npy and 4-(2-npy).



Figure S2. The photos of 1, 1a (1 irradiated for 5h), 3 and 3a (3 irradiated for 5h).







Figure S4. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 1a.



Figure S5. IR spectra of crystal samples of 1 and 1a (irradiated by UV light for 5h).



Figure S6. Pespective view showing the angle of 4-(2-npy) is 85.44° and the edge-to-face interaction.



Figure S7. (top) The dihedral angle between the Py rings in 1 and 1a. (bottom) The dihedral angle between the naphthalene molecules in 3 and 3a.







Figure S9. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3a.



Figure S10. IR spectra of crystal samples of 3 and 3a (irradiated by UV light for 5h).



**Figure S11**. Potential energy profile for the C3-C4-C5-C6 bond of npy calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level.



**Figure S12**. Potential energy profile for the C1-C2-C3-C4 bond of npy calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level.



Figure S13. Ratio of the irradiated products in 1.



Figure S14. Ratio of the irradiated products in 3.



Figure S15. Experimental (cyan (1) and black (one sample irradiated for 5h)) and simulated (red (1) and blue (1a)) PXRD patterns.



Figure S16. Experimental (black (2)) and simulated (red (2)) PXRD patterns.



Figure S17. Experimental (red (3) and cyan (one sample irradiated for 5h)) and simulated (black (3) and blue (3a)) PXRD patterns.



Figure S18. TG (green) and DSC (blue) curves of 1.



Figure S19. TG (green) and DSC (blue) curves of 1a.







Figure S21. TG (green) and DSC (blue) curves of 3.



Figure S22. TG (green) and DSC (blue) curves of 3a.



Figure S23. Solid state emission spectra of complexes 1, 1a, 3 and 3a.