

Electronic Supplementary Information

Impact of crystalline packing on the mechanochromic luminescence properties of copper based compounds: towards functional coatings

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Synthesis.

The mechanochromic coatings were synthesized by spin-coating a solution of cluster **1** ($c = 2.10^{-2}$ mol.L⁻¹ in CH₂Cl₂) on a glass substrate (2.5 * 2.5 cm²). The spin coating speed was set at 2000 rpm for a duration of 60 s.

Characterizations.

NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance). The static ⁶³Cu NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 900 MHz spectrometer (B₀ = 21.1 T) using the wideband uniform rate and smooth truncation¹ Carr–Purcell Meiboom–Gill² (WURST-Q-CPMG)³ pulse sequence in static conditions, with an inter-pulse delay of 202 μs. The WURST pulse had a length of 25 μs and a sweep of 1 MHz. ¹H spin-echo⁴ decoupling (8 μs pulse with 60 kHz rf-field) was applied during acquisition. The recycle delay was 1 s. Number of transients was to 4096, number of echoes was 85. The chemical shifts were referenced to CuI at 0 ppm. The samples were packed in 2.5 mm outer diameter rotors.

The magic-angle spinning (MAS) ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on an Avance III Bruker 900 spectrometer (B₀ = 21.1 T) at MAS of 60 kHz (1.3 mm rotors) using a DEPTH⁵ pulse sequence to suppress the probe background. 1.2 μs π/2 pulse durations were used. The recycle delay was 5 s, and 64 transients were accumulated for each sample. The chemical shifts are referenced to TMS. The ¹³C cross-polarization (CPMAS) NMR spectra were recorded on an Avance Bruker 500 spectrometer (B₀ = 11.7 T), while the ³¹P CPMAS spectra were recorded on an Avance III Bruker 750 spectrometer (B₀ = 11.7 T). The samples were packed in 3.2 or 4 mm outer diameter rotors and spun at 10 kHz. The ¹³C chemical shifts were referenced to TMS at 0 ppm. The ³¹P chemical shifts were reference to a solution of H₃PO₄ at 0 ppm. ¹H SPINAL-64 decoupling was applied during the signal acquisition. The recycle delay was set to 5-20 s, depending on the sample, with 64 to 128 accumulated transients. All NMR spectra were analyzed using the Dmfit software.⁶

Optics. The luminescence spectra were recorded on a Fluoromax-4 spectrofluorimeter (Horiba Jobin Yvon). The excitation source is a 450 Watt xenon lamp, excitation spectra were corrected for the variation of the incident lamp flux, as well as emission spectra for the transmission of the monochromator and the response of the photomultiplier. The absolute internal quantum yields (Φ) were measured by using a Fluoromax-4 integrating sphere (Horiba Jobin Yvon). The error evaluation of the measured values is about 10 %.

UV-visible absorption spectra were recorded with a Varian Cary 50 spectrophotometer with dichloromethane solutions of the clusters and ligands.

SEM (Scanning Electron Microscopy). The imaging was realized using an FEG-SEM Hitachi 4800 microscope operating at 5 kV.

X-ray Diffraction. Powder patterns were recorded using a PANalytical X'Pert diffractometer equipped with CuK_α radiation ($\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$) at room temperature. Note that an internal silicon calibrant was used to obtain the lattice parameters values with accuracy. Structural coherence length and strain parameter values derived from through Pseudo-Voigt peak profile refinement using the Langford method⁷ combined with Williamson-Hall analysis,⁸ as implemented in the Fullprof⁹ suite of programs. The calculated diagram obtained from the single crystal data (at 150 K) was obtained with the Mercury software.

FTIR (Fourier Transform Infra-Red). The spectra were measured on KBr disks in a transmission mode using a Bruker Equinox 55 spectrometer.

Table S1. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for clusters **1** and **2** at 150 K.

<i>Compound</i>	<i>[Cu₄I₄(PPh₂CH₂CH=CH₂)₄]</i>	<i>[Cu₄I₄(PPh₂CH₂CH₂CH₃)₄]</i>
Label	1	2
Chemical formula	(C ₆₀ H ₆₀ Cu ₄ I ₄ P ₄)*2	(C ₆₀ H ₆₈ P ₄ Cu ₄ I ₄)*2
fw	3333.66	3341.72
Crystal system	Tetragonal	Tetragonal
Space group	P -421c	I $\bar{4}2m$
<i>a</i> , Å	15.596(1)	15.951(1)
<i>b</i> , Å	15.596(1)	15.951(1)
<i>c</i> , Å	12.165(1)	12.006(1)
α , deg	90.00	90.00
β , deg	90.00	90.00
γ , deg	90.00	90.00
<i>V</i> , Å ³	2959.0(4)	3054.7(4)
<i>Z</i>	2	2
ρ_{calc} , g/cm ³	1.871	1.816
μ , mm ⁻¹	3.650	3.536
Reflections collected	12958	16954
Independent reflections	4310	2332
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.0231	0.0303
Reflections <i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)	3942	2208
Parameters	163	35
GOF on <i>F</i> ²	1.020	1.118
<i>R</i> ₁ ^a / <i>wR</i> ₂ ^b (<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>))	0.0234/0.0468	0.0731/0.1953
<i>R</i> ₁ ^a / <i>wR</i> ₂ ^b (<i>all</i>)	0.0281/0.0482	0.0861/0.2144
Reference	(10)	(11)

$$^a R_1 = [\sum \text{abs}(\text{abs}(F_o) - \text{abs}(F_c))] / [\sum \text{abs}(F_o)]. \quad ^b wR_2 = [\sum (w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2)] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]^{0.5}.$$

Note that in the structure of **2**, the propyl chains on the phosphine ligands are disordered therefore carbon and hydrogen atom positions were refined using isotropic thermal displacement parameters.

Figures.

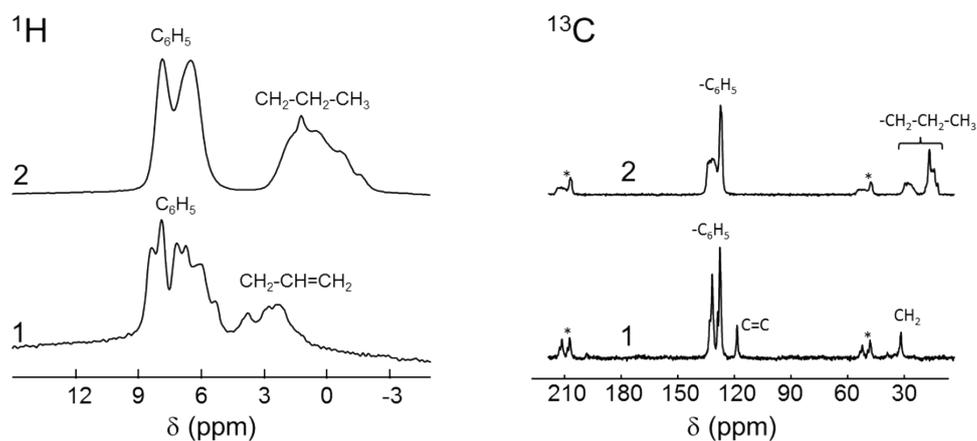


Figure S1. Solid state MAS ^1H and ^{13}C CPMAS NMR spectra of $[\text{Cu}_4\text{I}_4(\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2)_4]$ (**1**) and $[\text{Cu}_4\text{I}_4(\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4]$ (**2**). The peaks marked with * are spinning sidebands.

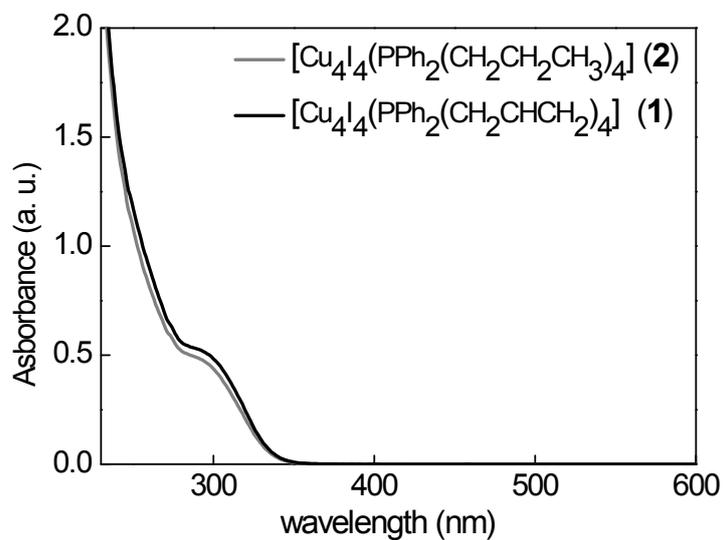


Figure S2. UV-visible absorption spectra of **1** and **2** in dichloromethane ($c = 1.2 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ mol. L}^{-1}$).

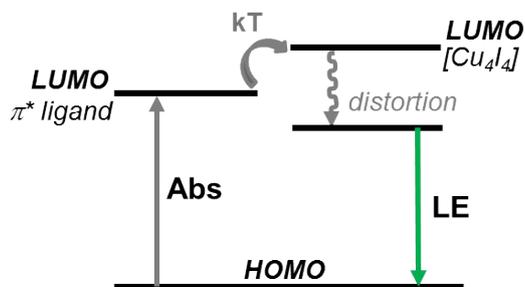


Figure S3. Schema of the emission mechanism of the studied clusters.

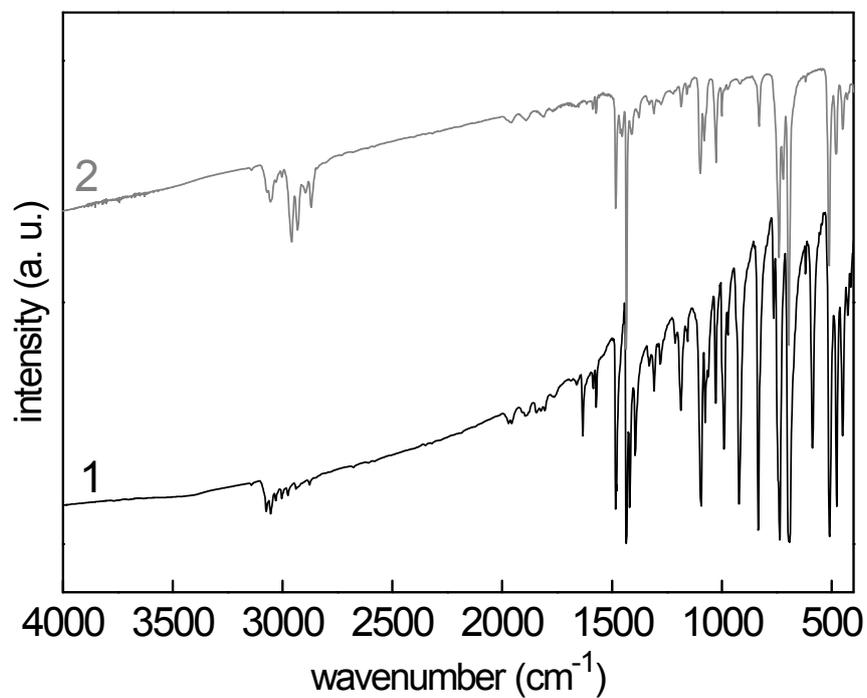


Figure S4. FTIR spectra of **1** and **2** clusters.

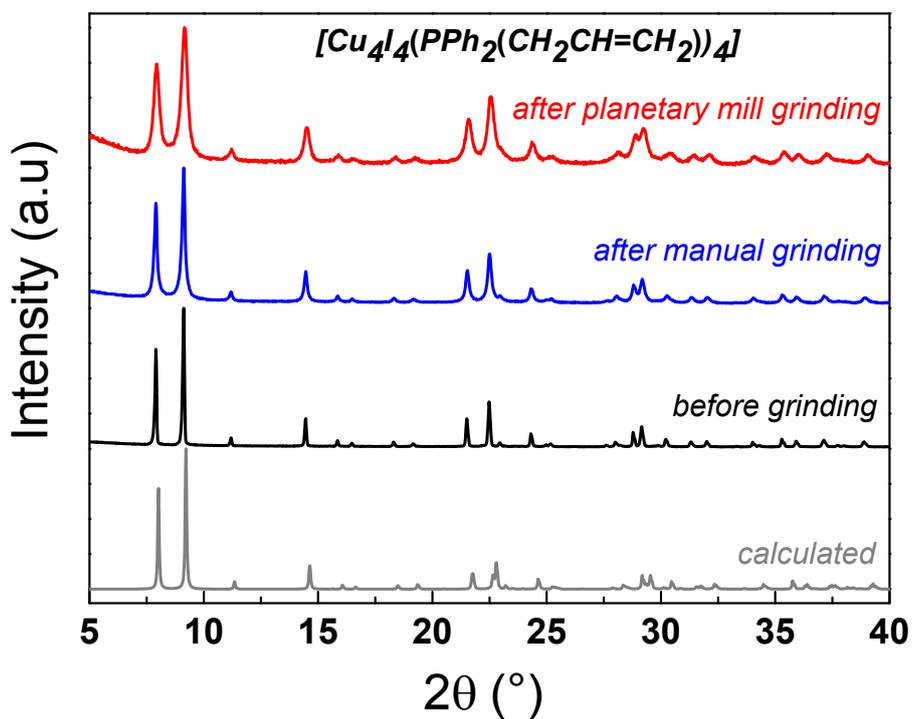


Figure S5. PXRD diagrams of **1** and before and after grinding recorded at RT.

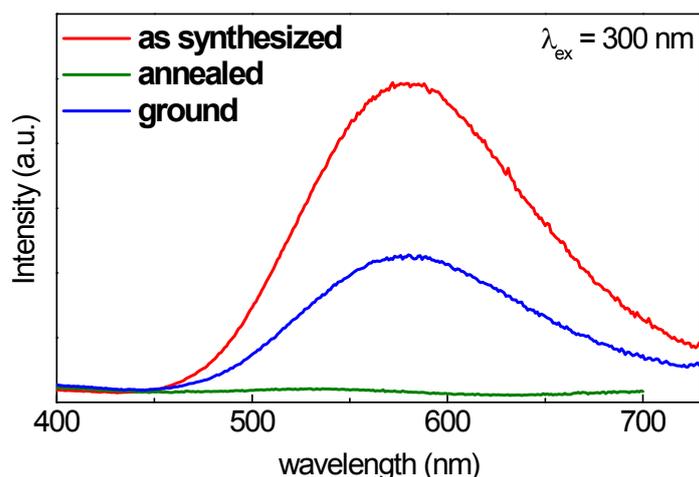


Figure S6. Emission spectra of mechanochromic films of **1**, as-synthesized, after annealing and ground. A further annealing lead to a similar emission spectra as recorded after the first thermal treatment.

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