## Supporting Information for

## Role of anions in preparing silver(I) complexes with a new multidentate ligand: polymorphs, structures and nolinear optical propreties

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Scheme S1 Synthetic route to $\mathbf{L}$

## Experimental section

## Synthesis of A

A methanol solution $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$ of $\mathrm{NaOH}(4.00 \mathrm{~g}, 0.1 \mathrm{~mol})$ was added dropwisely to a stirred methanol ( 20 mL ) solution of 4-pyrazolylbenzaldehyde ( $1.72 \mathrm{~g}, 10 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and acetophenone ( $1.20 \mathrm{~g}, 10 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in a round-bottom flask at room temperature. The yellow solid product formed immediately. After filtration, the product was washed by methanol and water, dried in vacuo. Yield: $2.33 \mathrm{~g}, 85 \%$. Anal. Calc. (\%) for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}: \mathrm{C}, 78.81$; H, 5.14; N, 10.21. Found (\%): C, 78.53; H, 5.41; N, 10.46. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{COCD}_{3}$ ), $\delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 6.46(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.57,7.59,7.61(\mathrm{t}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 7.67,7.69,7.71(\mathrm{t}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.82,7.80(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H})$,
7.88 (s, 1H), 7.98, 8.02 (d, $J=15.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.05,8.07$ (d, $J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.17,8.19$ (d, $J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.41(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}) . \mathrm{IR} v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right): 653(\mathrm{~s}), 699(\mathrm{~s}), 727(\mathrm{~m}), 778(\mathrm{~s}), 832(\mathrm{~s})$, 985 (s), 1019 (m), 1058 (s), 1108 (m), 1185 (m), 1219 (s), 1308 (s), 1336 (s), 1486 (m), 1552 (s), 1574 (s), 1600 (s), 1663 (s), 3093 (s). MS (EI) (m/z): Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}: 274.11$ [M] ${ }^{+}$; Found: $274.11[\mathrm{M}]^{+}$.

## Synthesis of B

4-Pyrazolylchalcone ( $2.00 \mathrm{~g}, 7.3 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), acetylpyridine ( $0.88 \mathrm{~g}, 7.3 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and $\mathrm{NaOH}(1.17 \mathrm{~g}, 29.2 \mathrm{mmol})$ were placed in a mortar. The mixture was ground for 30 min , then poured into distilled water ( 500 mL ). The product was extracted twice with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, and the organic layer was dried overnight over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$. The solvent was removed with a rotary evaporator to give the crude product. It was purified by recrystallization from ethanol. Yield: 2.16 g (75\%). Anal. Calc. (\%) for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{22} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ : C, 79.16; H, 5.62; N, 7.10. Found (\%): C, 79.43; H, 5.41; N, 7.41. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{COCD}_{3}$ ), $\delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 3.52-3.60(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.94-4.00(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, 3.76-3.82 (m, 1H), 6.49(s, 1H), 7.43, 7.45 (d, 2H), 7.49-7.53 (t, 2H), 7.60-7.69 (m, $5 H), 7.88,7.90(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.95,8.00(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 8.39(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.71,8.72(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H}) . \mathrm{MS}$ (EI) $(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z})$ : Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{22} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ : $395.17\left[\mathrm{M}^{+}\right.$; Found: $395.16[\mathrm{M}]^{+}$. IR $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right): 558(\mathrm{~s})$, 690 (s), 753 (s), 778 (s), 825 (s), 846 (w), 940 (s), 992 (s), 1033 (m), 1057 (m), 1182 (w), 1212 (m), 1231 (s), 1334 (m), 1365 (s), 1397 (s), 1450 (w), 1525 (s), 1582 (m), 1677 (s), 1702 (s), 3135 (w).

Synthesis of 6-phenyl-4-(4-(1H-pyrazolyl)phenyl)-2, 2'-bipyridine (L)
Compound B ( $1.0 \mathrm{~g}, 2.53 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{OAc}(1.95 \mathrm{~g}, 25.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ and ethanol ( 25 mL ) were added to a round-bottom flask. The reaction mixture was kept stirring for 10 h at $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After cooled to room temperature, it was poured into distilled water $(100 \mathrm{~mL})$. The product was extracted twice with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, and the organic layer was dried overnight over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$. The solvent was removed with a rotary evaporator to give the crude product. It was purified by recrystallization from ethanol. Yield: $0.378 \mathrm{~g}(40 \%)$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ : C, 80.19; H, 4.85; N, 14.96. Found: C, 80.43 ; H, 4.55 ; N, $14.63 \% .{ }^{1}{ }^{H}$ NMR: $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{COCD}_{3}\right), \delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 6.62$ (s, 1H), 7.50-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 8.16, 8.18 (d, 2H), 8.38-8.41 (m, 3H), 8.64-8.68
(m, 3H). 8.77, $8.78(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H})$. MS (EI) ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ ): Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ : 374.15 [M] ${ }^{+}$; Found: $374.15[\mathrm{M}]^{+} . \mathrm{IR} v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right): 691(\mathrm{~s}), 745(\mathrm{~s}), 793(\mathrm{~s}), 828(\mathrm{~s}), 832(\mathrm{~s}), 935(\mathrm{~s}), 1043(\mathrm{~s})$, 1121(m), 1201(m), 1337(w), 1389(s), 1451(w), 1472(w), 1526(s), 1548(m), 1601(s), 1663(s), 3053(w). Needle-like crystals of polymorph I were grown from the methanol solution by slow evaporation at room temperature, and crystals of polymorph II were obtained from the mixture of ligand and $\operatorname{AgSCN}$ methanol solution or methanol/dichloromethane mixed solution by slow evaporation at room temperature over several days.

Table S1 Crystal Date and Refinement of Polymorphs I and II of Ligand and Complexes 1-3

| Compound empirical formula | $\begin{gathered} \text { Form I } \\ \mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Form II } \\ \mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Complex 1 |  | Complex 3 |
|  |  |  | $\mathrm{C}_{64} \mathrm{H}_{50} \mathrm{Ag}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{~S}$ |  | $\mathrm{C}_{150} \mathrm{H}_{108} \mathrm{Ag}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{28} \mathrm{O}_{16}$ |
|  |  |  | 2 | $\mathrm{O}_{8}$ |  |
| formula weight | 374.43 | 374.43 | 1306.98 | 1163.51 | 2990.12 |
| crystal system | Monoclinic | Monoclinic | Triclinic | Monoclinic | Triclinic |
| space group | $P 2_{1} / \mathrm{c}$ | $P 2_{1}$ | $P_{1}$ | C2/c | $P \overline{1}$ |
| $a[\AA]$ | 19.434(5) | 11.090(2) | 9.731(2) | 16.63(4) | 12.745(5) |
| $b[\AA]$ | 5.479(5) | 7.422(3) | 11.700(2) | 22.03(5) | 13.971(5) |
| $c[\AA]$ | 17.999(5) | 22.999(2) | 13.496(3) | 25.70(6) | 21.091(5) |
| $\alpha\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 90.00 | 90.00 | 77.46(3) | 90.00 | 101.276(5) |
| $\beta\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 92.686(5) | 92.998(4) | 81.25(3) | 119.395(5) | 93.521(5) |
| $\gamma\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 90.00 | 90.00 | 68.07(3) | 90.00 | 114.371(5) |
| $V\left[\AA^{3}\right]$ | 1914(2) | 1890.5(9) | 1387.1(5) | 4718(2) | 3312(2) |
| Z | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| $T$ [K] | 298(2) | 298(2) | 298(2) | 298(2) | 298(2) |
| $D$ calcd [g $\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ ] | 1.299 | 1.316 | 1.565 | 1.638 | 1.499 |
| $\mu\left[\mathrm{mm}^{-1}\right]$ | 0.079 | 0.080 | 0.844 | 1.008 | 0.661 |
| $F(000)$ | 784 | 784 | 664 | 2336 | 1520 |
| $\theta$ range [ ${ }^{\circ}$ ] | 1.05-25.00 | 0.89-25.05 | 1.55-25.00 | 1.68-25.00 | 1.00-25.05 |
| total no. data | 10979 | 13570 | 9949 | 16594 | 23791 |
| no.unique data | 3375 | 5864 | 4862 | 4174 | 11581 |
| no. params refined | 313 | 523 | 381 | 317 | 920 |
| $R$ (int) | 0.0238 | 0.0312 | 0.0145 | 0.0670 | 0.0400 |
| $R_{1}[I>2 \sigma(I)]$ | 0.0462 | 0.0430 | 0.0263 | 0.0435 | 0.0574 |
| $w R_{2}[I>2 \sigma(I)]$ | 0.1432 | 0.0938 | 0.0626 | 0.0839 | 0.1570 |
| $R_{1}$ (all data) | 0.0597 | 0.0702 | 0.0309 | 0.1095 | 0.1054 |
| $w R_{2}$ (all data) | 0.1668 | 0.1164 | 0.0653 | 0.1078 | 0.1886 |
| GOF on $F^{2}$ | 1.059 | 1.023 | 1.042 | 0.998 | 1.038 |

Table S2 Selected Bond Lengths $(\AA)$ and Angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ of Complexes 1-3

| Complex 1 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ag(1)-N(4)\#1 | 2.249(2) | $\mathrm{N}(4) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 122.44(6) |
| Ag(1)-N(1) | 2.313(2) | $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 71.05(6) |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 2.385(2) | $\mathrm{N}(4) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 91.72(7) |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 2.511(2) | $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 117.16(6) |
| $\mathrm{N}(4) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 132.11(7) | $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 126.79(7) |
| Complex 2 |  |  |  |
| $\operatorname{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2) \# 1$ | 2.178(4) | $\mathrm{N}(2) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | 152.1(2) |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | 2.249(4) | $\mathrm{N}(2) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | 126.0(2) |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | 2.453(4) | $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | 71.4(2) |
| Complex 3 |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 2.217(5) | Ag(1)-N(6) | 2.231(4) |
| Ag(1)-N(5) | 2.404(4) | Ag(1)-N(1) | 2.450(4) |
| $\operatorname{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{N}(12) \# 1$ | 2.232(5) | $\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{N}(9)$ | 2.297(5) |
| Ag(2)-N(10) | 2.399(5) | $\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 2.55(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(6)$ | 151.6(2) | $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(5)$ | 134.0(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(6)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(5)$ | 71.9(2) | $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 71.5(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(6)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 126.7(2) | $\mathrm{N}(5)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 91.9(1) |
| $\mathrm{N}(12) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{N}(9)$ | 133.5(2) | $\mathrm{N}(12) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{N}(10)$ | 123.8(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(9)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{N}(10)$ | 70.4(2) | $\mathrm{N}(12) \# 1-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 99.1(5) |
| $\mathrm{N}(9)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 112.2(4) | $\mathrm{N}(10)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 117.8(5) |

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms. For 1: \#1-x,-y+1,-z+2 ; For 2: \#1-x,-y+2,-z+2; For 3: \#1-x+2,-y+1,-z+2

Table S3 The dihedral angles between the neighboring connected aromatic rings in structures of two polymorphs and the ligand in complexes.

|  | polymorph I | polymorph II | Complex 1 | Complex 2 | Complex 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Angle (1-2) $\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 8.29 | $10.11 / 3.10$ | 34.82 | 39.35 | $34.28 / 28.63$ |
| Angle (2-3) $\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 13.88 | $22.74 / 35.94$ | 25.71 | 11.45 | $19.47 / 22.39$ |
| Angle (3-4) $\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 9.85 | $7.32 / 13.98$ | 16.28 | 22.93 | $6.89 / 3.86$ |
| Angle (3-5) $\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 2.30 | $22.17 / 27.21$ | 35.07 | 23.58 | $38.17 / 44.50$ |



Table S4. Third-order NLO date for $\mathbf{L}$ and complexes $\mathbf{2}$ and $\mathbf{3}$

| Compound | $\mathbf{L}$ | Complex 2 | Complex 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\beta\left(\mathrm{cm} \mathrm{GW}^{-1}\right)$ | 0.556 | 1.428 | 1.093 |
| $\sigma\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{4}\right.$ s photon $^{-1}$ molecular $\left.^{-1}\right)$ | $2.483 \times 10^{-46}$ | $6.369 \times 10^{-46}$ | $4.875 \times 10^{-46}$ |
| $\gamma\left(\mathrm{~m}^{2} \mathrm{~W}^{-1}\right)$ | $3.441 \times 10^{-18}$ | $3.361 \times 10^{-18}$ | $3.151 \times 10^{-18}$ |
| $\chi^{(3)}(\mathrm{esu})$ | $1.709 \times 10^{-15}$ | $2.142 \times 10^{-15}$ | $3.345 \times 10^{-15}$ |


pm (t1
Figure S1 ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathbf{L}$.


Figure S2 ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of complex 1.

ppm (t1)
Figure S3 ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of complex 2.


Figure S4 $\quad{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of complex 3.


Figure S5 MS of $\mathbf{L}$


Figure S6 Solid-state emission spectra of polymorphs I, II and complexes 1-3 at room temperature.


Figure S7 The open aperture Z-scan data of (a) $\mathbf{L}$ and (b) complex 2. The filled squares represent the experimental data and the solid curve is the theoretical data.


Figure S8 The closed aperture Z-scan data of (a) L, (b) complex 2 and (c) complex 3. The filled squares represent the experimental data and the solid curve is the theoretical data.

