

## **Impacts of Extending the $\pi$ -Conjugation of the 2,2'-Biquinoline Ligand on the Photophysics and Reverse Saturable Absorption of Heteroleptic Cationic Iridium(III) Complexes**

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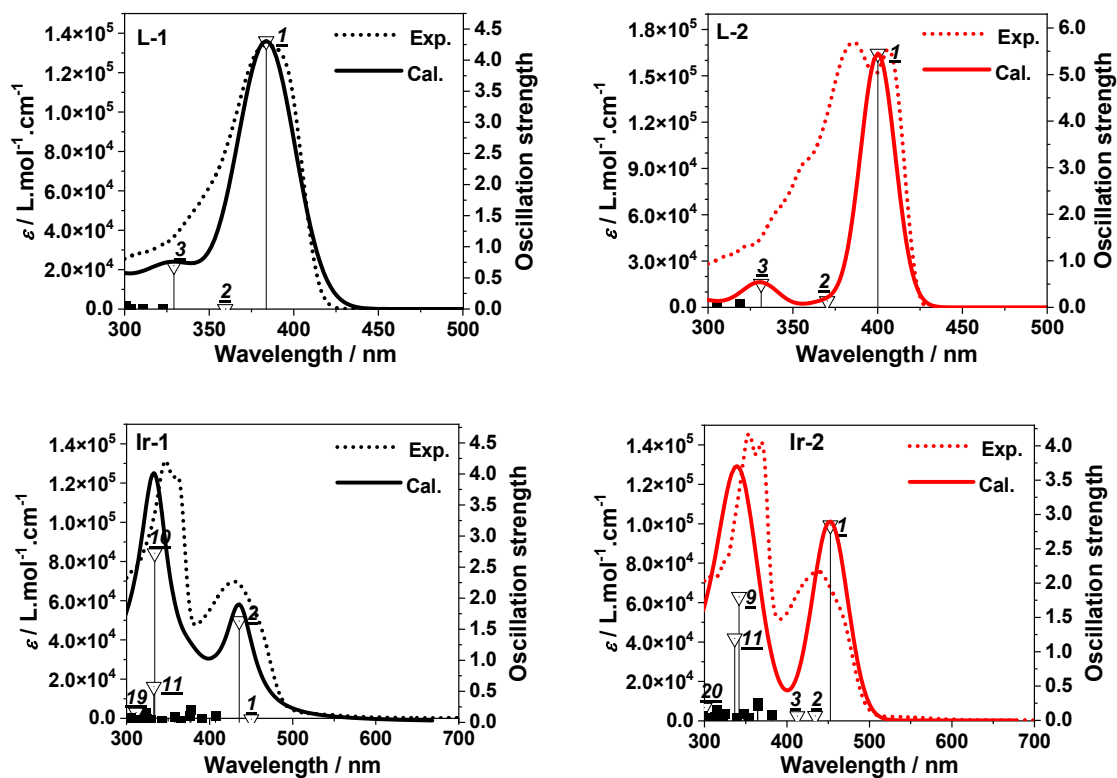
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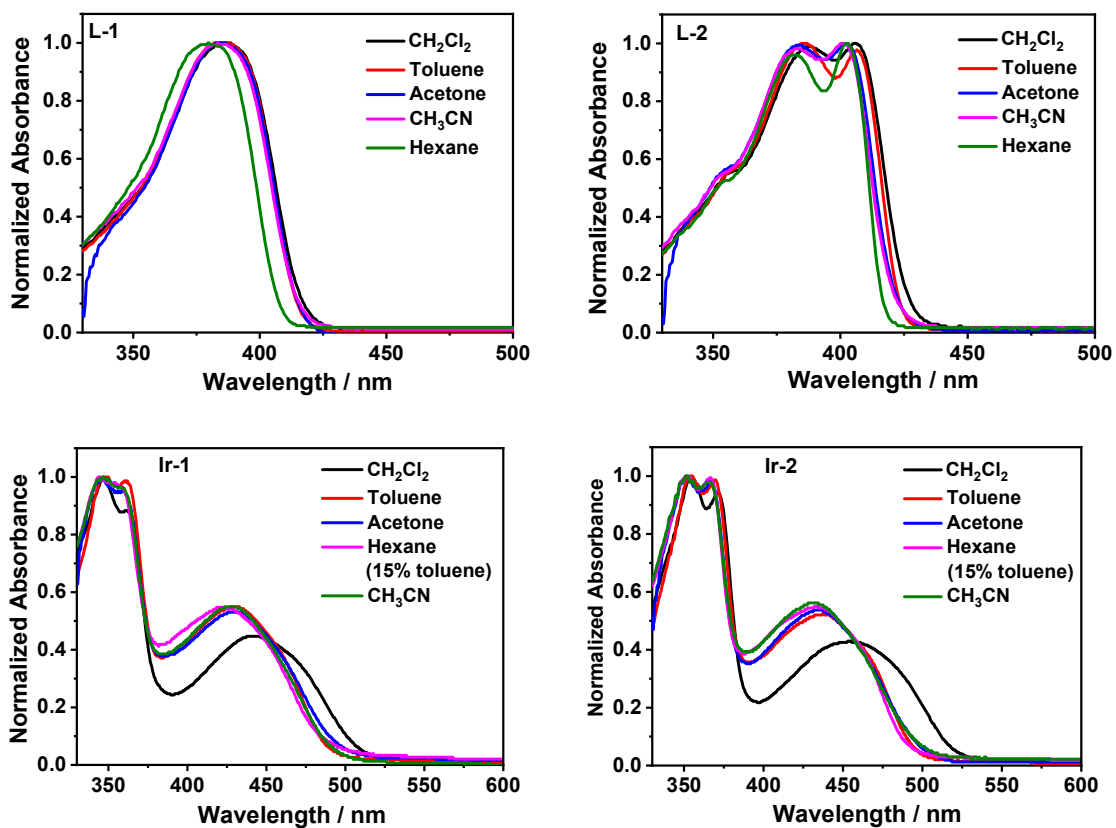
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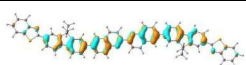
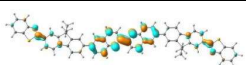
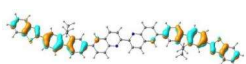
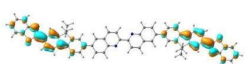
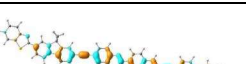

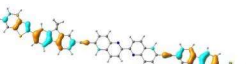
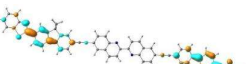
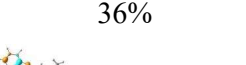
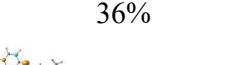
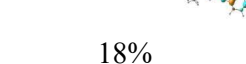
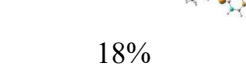
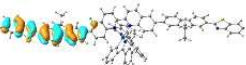

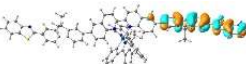

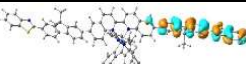

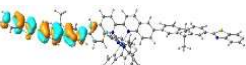
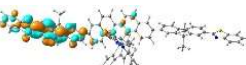
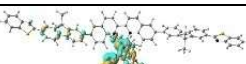
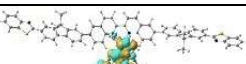




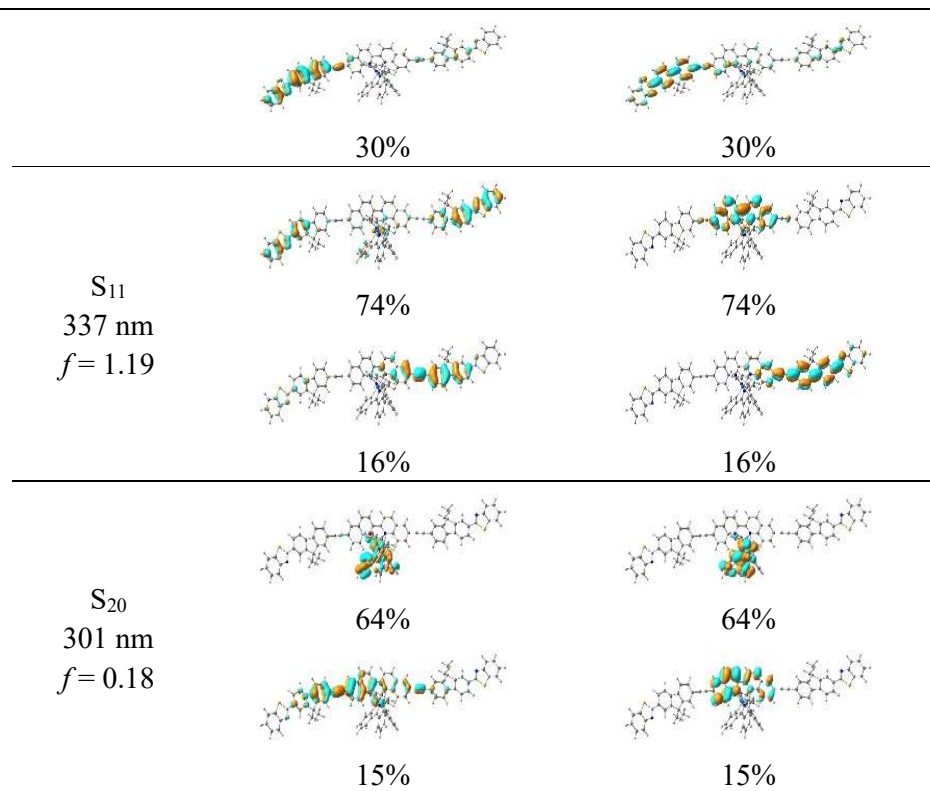
**Fig. S1.** Comparison of the experimental and calculated absorption spectra for **L-1**, **L-2**, **Ir-1** and **Ir-2** in toluene. Calculations were performed with linear response TDDFT with PBE1 functional and LANL2DZ/6-31G\* basis sets. Vertical lines indicate the oscillation strength of the optical transitions.





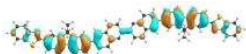
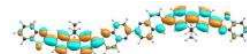




**Figure S2.** Normalized UV-vis absorption spectra of L-1, L-2, Ir-1, and Ir-2 in different solvents.

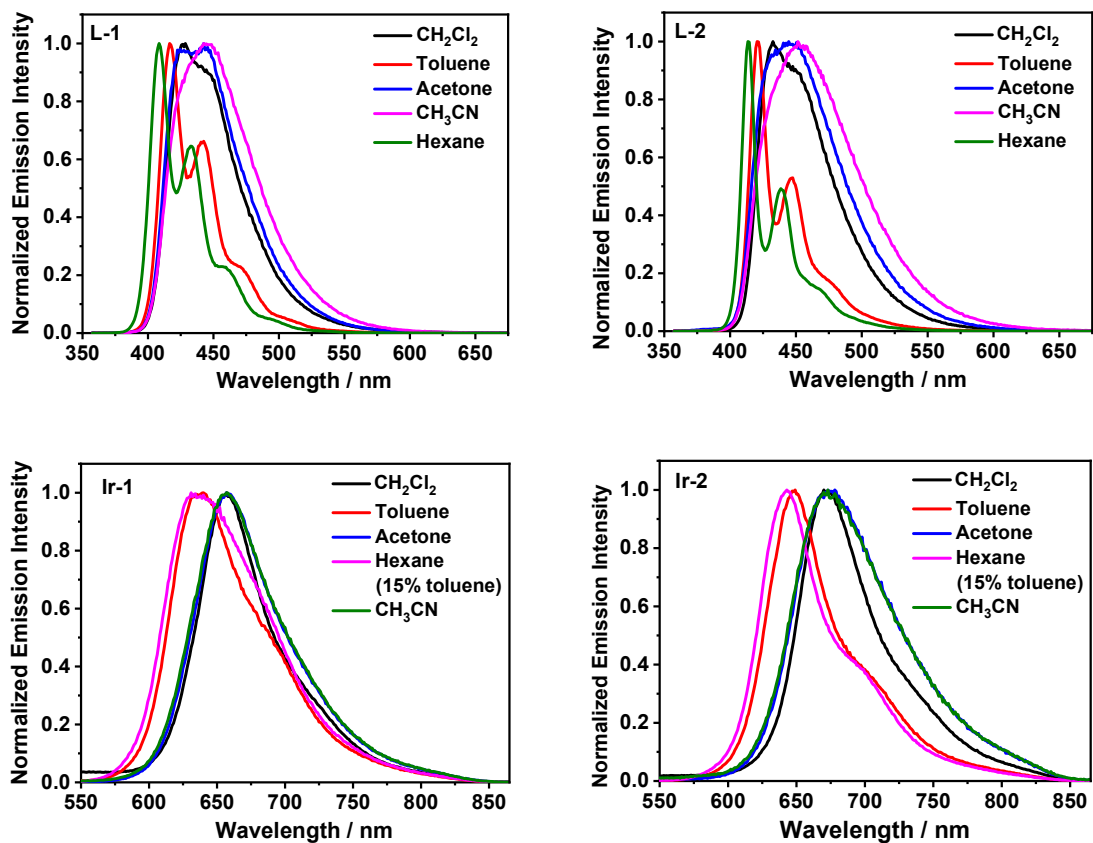
**Table S1.** Natural transition orbitals (NTOs) representing the main transitions contributing to the high-energy absorption bands of **L-1**, **L-2**, **Ir-1**, and **Ir-2** in toluene.

|             | States                                       | Hole   | Electron   |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| <b>L-1</b>  | S <sub>3</sub><br>329 nm<br><i>f</i> = 0.69  | <br>49%   | <br>49%   |
|             |  | <br>38%   | <br>38%   |
|             |  | <br>43%   | <br>43%   |
| <b>L-2</b>  | S <sub>3</sub><br>332 nm<br><i>f</i> = 0.51  | <br>36%   | <br>36%   |
|             |  | <br>18%   | <br>18%   |
|             |  | <br>70%  | <br>70%  |
| <b>Ir-1</b> | S <sub>10</sub><br>343 nm<br><i>f</i> = 0.95 | <br>23% | <br>23% |
|             |  | <br>68% | <br>68% |
|             | S <sub>11</sub><br>336 nm<br><i>f</i> = 0.69 | <br>24% | <br>24% |
|             |  | <br>74% | <br>74% |
| <b>Ir-2</b> | S <sub>9</sub><br>342 nm<br><i>f</i> = 1.80  | <br>14% | <br>14% |
|             |  | <br>37% | <br>37% |

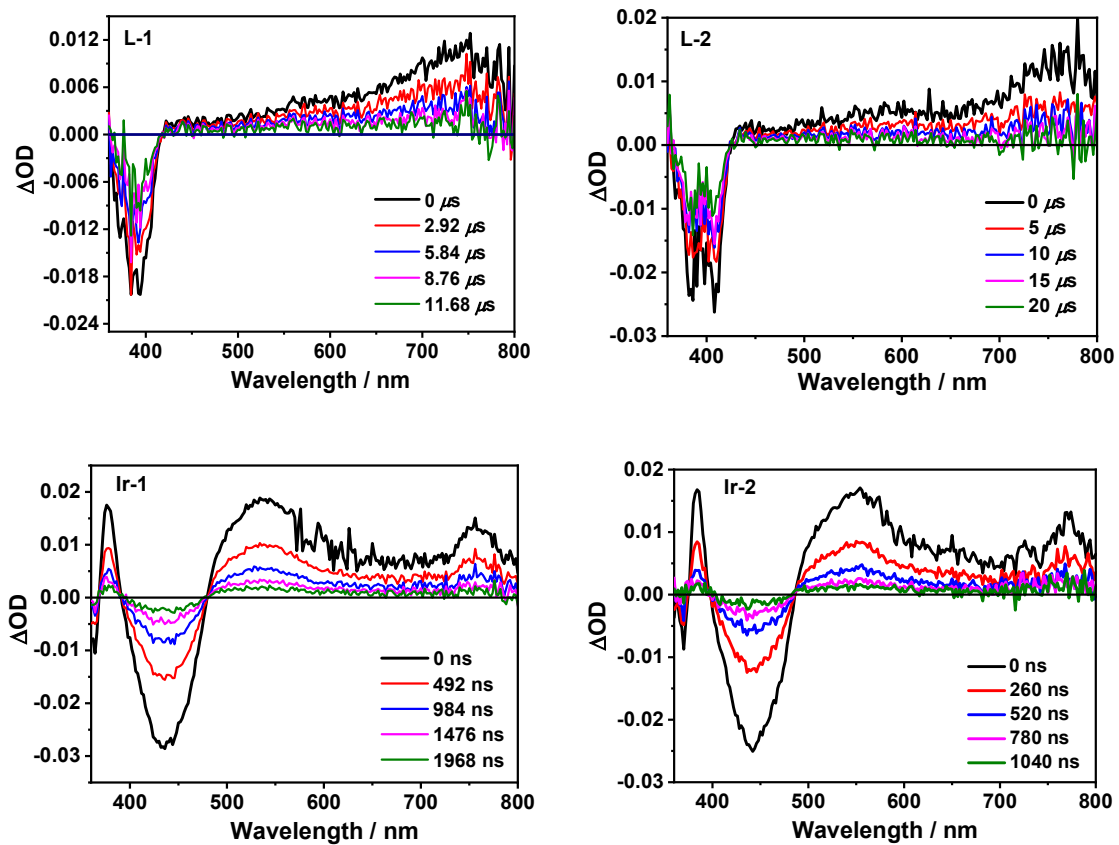


**Table S2.** NTOs representing the fluorescence emitting states for **L-1** and **L-2** in toluene.

|            | Emission energy | Electron   | Hole   |
|------------|-----------------|--|--|
| <b>L-1</b> | 414 nm          | <br>87% | <br>87% |
|            |                 | <br>12% | <br>12% |
| <b>L-2</b> | 440 nm          | <br>61% | <br>61%  |
|            |                 | <br>10% | <br>10%  |



**Figure S3.** Normalized emission spectra of L-1, L-2, Ir-1, and Ir-2 in different solvents at room temperature.



**Figure S4.** Nanosecond time-resolved TA spectra of **L-1**, **L-2**, **Ir-1**, and **Ir-2** in toluene.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 355 \text{ nm}$ ,  $A_{355} = 0.4$  in a 1-cm cuvette.