Supplementary Information

Reversible, controllable white-light emission of dye systems by dynamic covalent furan moiety exchanges

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We demonstrate a new method to achieve white-light emission of dye systems from furan moiety exchanges by preventing interchromophore energy transfer.

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1. Materials and methods

All commercially available reagents and solvents used in the experiment were purchased from Meryer (Shanghai) Chemical Technology Co., Ltd and Shanghai Aladdin Biochemical Technology Co., Ltd, and the anhydrous solvent (dichloromethane) were prepared according to standard procedures. All solvents used for spectral measurements are spectrally pure and used without further purification. 300-400 mesh silica gel powder was used for column chromatography purification.

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy: NMR data were acquired on Bruker 400 MHz NMR spectrometer using CDCI3 as a solvent at room temperature. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as internal standard.

High resolution mass spectrometer (HRMS): Mass spectra data were recorded on a miorOTOF-QII mass spectrometer using ESI. The tested samples were dissolved in methanol and tested at room temperature.

Infrared spectroscopy: Infrared spectra data were recorded on Bruker ALPHA II infrared spectrometer with KBr pellet at room temperature.

UV/Vis absorption spectroscopy: UV/Vis spectra data were measured by an Agilent Varian Cary 300 spectrometer equipped with quartz glass cuvettes and the extinction coefficients (ϵ) were calculated according to Lambert-Beer's law.

Fluorescence spectroscopy: The steady-state fluorescence emission spectra were measured using an Edinburgh FLS980 spectrofluorometer. Fluorescence decays were measured by using the time-correlated single-photon counting (TCSPC) technology,1 and nanosecond flash lamp as excitation light source, and the instrument response spectrum was measured by collecting the scattered excitation light of aqueous colloid silica.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction: Single crystal X-ray diffraction data were recorded on a Rigaku RAXIS RAPID IP diffractometer. X-ray crystals of exo-2 and 3 were prepared by slow volatilization of their n-hexane / chloroform solution at ambient temperature.

2. Synthesis and characterization



Exo-1: Maleimide **5** (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) and **4** (0.17 g, 0.5 mmol) were mixed and added into chloroform (10 mL) with stirring at ambient temperature for 72 hours. And then the reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether / DCM (3 / 40, v / v) as the eluent to obtain pure product as white solid (0.15 g, 50%).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; Ar*H*), 8.33 (m, 2H; Ar*H*), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; Ar*H* in pyrene ring), 8.15 (m, 2H; Ar*H* in pyrene ring), 7.98 (m, 6H; Ar*H* in pyrene ring), 7.60 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; Ar*H*), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; Ar*H*), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; Ar*H*), 6.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; -C*H*=CH-), 6.39 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz,1H; -CH=C*H*-), 5.89 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; -N*H*-), 5.31 (m, 1H; -O-C*H*R₂), 5.21 (m, 2H; -C*H*₂-), 3.58, 3.29 (m, 2H; -NH-C*H*₂-), 2.92 (m, 2H; 2-C*H*R-), 2.86 (s, 6H; 2-C*H*₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 175.70, 175.61, 152.12, 138.32, 136.83, 134.71, 131.27, 131.26, 130.79, 130.67, 130.01, 129.61, 129.60, 128.75, 128.74, 128.14, 127.98, 127.70, 127.39, 127.13, 126.12, 125.52, 125.40, 124.87, 124.74, 124.66, 123.32, 122.73, 118.70, 115.43, 90.26, 81.09, 50.18, 48.36, 45.50, 42.73, 40.80.

IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 3442.67, 3223.43, 2925.20, 2854.64, 1769.71, 1692.16, 1454.40, 1402.63, 1328.90, 1163.06, 1097.76, 1060.58, 971.51, 846.71, 785.62, 685.67.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calculated for C₃₈H₃₂N₃O₅S, [M + H]⁺, 642.2057; found: 642.2057 [M + H]⁺.







Fig. S2 ¹³C NMR spectrum of *exo-***1** in CDCl₃ with corresponding signal assignments.



Fig. S3 High-resolution mass spectrum of exo-1.



Endo-1: Maleimide **5** (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) and **4** (0.17 g, 0.5 mmol) were mixed and added to chloroform (10 mL) with stirring at ambient temperature for 72 hours. And then the reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether / DCM (3 / 40, v / v) as the eluent to give a white solid (0.04 g, 13%).

- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 8.48 (m, 2H; Ar*H*), 8.30 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 8.25 (m, 3H; Ar*H* in pyrene ring), 8.19 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H; Ar*H* in pyrene ring), 8.09 (m, 5H; Ar*H* in pyrene ring), 7.52 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 7.45 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 5.91 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H; -CH=CH-), 5.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; -CH=CH-), 5.37 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; -NH-), 5.21 (s, 2H; -CH₂-), 5.12 (m, 1H; -O-CHR₂), 3.55 (m, 2H; -NH-CH₂-), 3.52 (m, 1H; -CHR-), 3.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; -CHR-), 2.84 (s, 6H; 2-CH₃).
- ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 174.66, 174.22, 151.99, 135.15, 134.67, 134.11, 131.40, 131.22, 130.70, 130.64, 130.06, 129.81, 129.48, 129.14, 128.99, 128.53, 128.13, 127.83, 127.36, 126.11, 125.51, 125.42, 124.78, 124.64, 124.49, 123.17, 118.52, 115.18, 89.79, 79.43, 47.99, 47.71, 45.36, 44.06, 40.50.



Fig. S4 ¹H NMR spectrum of *endo-1* in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Fig. S5 ¹³C NMR spectrum of *endo-1* in CDCl₃ with corresponding signal assignments.



Exo-2: **5** (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) and furfuryl alcohol (45 μ L, 0.5 mmol) were dissolved in a mixture of chloroform (10 mL) and stirred at ambient temperature for 72 h. After the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (dichloromethane / ethyl acetate = 15 / 1, v / v) to give white solid (0.12 g, 62%).

- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ = 8.47 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH in pyrene ring), 8.18 (m, 3H, ArH in pyrene ring), 8.12 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H, ArH in pyrene ring), 8.03 (m, 4H, ArH in pyrene ring), 6.58 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H, -CR-CH=CH-), 6.51 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H, -CH=CH-CH-), 5.41 (s, 1H, -O-CRH-), 5.38 (s, 2H, -CH₂-), 4.08 (s, 2H, -CH₂-), 2.99 (m, 2H, -CRH-), 2.76 (m, 1H, -OH).
- ¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, ppm) δ = 175.05, 174.67, 150.03, 131.46, 131.24, 130.58, 129.44, 128.95, 128.46, 128.29, 128.09, 127.26, 126.29, 125.71, 125.52, 124.70, 124.45, 123.21, 80.36, 79.76, 58.38, 47.07, 45.91, 40.27.
- **IR** (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹) 2925.08, 2854.25, 1697.06, 1438.91, 1394.02, 1336.02, 1300.07, 1175.73, 1141.42, 1029.46, 967.85, 877.03, 850.04, 753.41, 704.02, 640.91.
- **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calculated for C₂₆H₁₉NO₄, [M+Na]⁺: 432.1206, found: 432.1217.



Fig. S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of exo-2 in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Fig. S7. ¹³C NMR spectrum of *exo-2* in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Endo-2: **5** (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) and furfuryl alcohol (45 μ L, 0.5 mmol) were dissolved in a mixture of chloroform (10 mL) and stirred at ambient temperature for 72 h. After the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (dichloromethane / ethyl acetate = 15 / 1, v / v) to give white solid (0.05 g, 27%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ = 8.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH in pyrene ring), 8.14 (m, 8H, ArH in pyrene ring), 6.06 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H, -CR-CH=CH-), 5.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, -CH=CH-CH-), 5.27 (s, 1H, -O-CRH-), 5.26 (s, 2H, -CH₂-), 4.20 (m, 2H, -CH₂-), 3.67 (m, 1H, -CRH-), 3.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, -CRH-), 1.96 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, -OH).
¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm) δ = 175.14, 174.66, 135.39, 134.55, 131.39, 131.22, 130.64, 129.16, 129.03, 128.28, 128.07, 127.80, 127.34, 126.08, 125.49, 125.37, 124.79, 124.64, 124.47, 123.25, 92.10, 79.61, 61.52, 48.02, 46.12, 40.47.



Fig. S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of *endo-2* in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Fig. S9 ¹³C NMR spectrum of *endo*-2 in CDCl₃ with corresponding signal assignments.



N-(1-methylpyrene) succinimide (**3**): Triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) was added dropwise to the chloroform solution (10 mL) of 1-pyrenemethylamine hydrochloride (0.27 g, 1.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After evaporation to remove the solvent, a white solid was obtained as crude product (1-pyrenemethylamine), which was directly used for the next step without further purification. The crude product of 1-pyrenemethylamine (0.44 g) was dissolved in DCM solution (5 mL) and then was added

dropwise to a diethyl ether solution (5 mL) of succinic anhydride (0.22 g, 2.25 mmol) with vigorous stirring at room temperature for 2 hours. After the reaction was completed, a white solid was given by filtration. The above dried white solid was subsequently added to acetic anhydride (2.2 mL) and then reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C with stirring for 10 hours in the presence of sodium acetate (0.21 g) as catalyst. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was poured slowly into ice water with stirring rapidly and the precipitate was collected by filtration and drying. The crude product was further purified by silica gel column chromatography with petroleum ether / DCM (2 / 1, v / v) as the eluent to give a white solid (0.29 g, 49%).

- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 8.60 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 8.17 (m, 4H; Ar*H*), 8.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 8.01 (m, 3H; Ar*H*), 5.38 (s, 4H; -CH₂-CH₂-), 2.68 (s, 2H; -CH₂-).
- ¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 177.12, 131.34, 131.22, 129.10, 128.68, 128.63, 128.15, 127.69, 127.34, 126.03, 125.39, 125.30, 124.84, 124.62, 123.21, 40.47, 28.22.
- **IR** (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 3446.53, 3043.52, 2977.10, 2937.56, 1770.60, 1698.11, 1602.25, 1443.44, 1404.13, 1345.83, 1326.61, 1296.61, 1248.41, 1162.89, 1099.40, 1063.13, 1004.93, 909.47, 842.81, 816.49, 766.46, 705.96, 666.98, 639.44.
- HRMS (ESI): m/z calculated for C₂₁H₁₆NO₂ [M + H]⁺, 314.1176; found: 314.1175 [M + H]⁺.



Fig. S10 ¹H NMR spectrum of 3 in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Fig. S11 ¹³C NMR spectrum of 3 in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Acceptor **4**: Dansyl chloride (0.27g, 1.0 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (DCM) was added dropwise to the dry DCM (10 mL) solution of 2-furanmethanamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) under an inert Ar atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 10 minutes at ambient temperature. The solvent was removed. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using ethyl acetate / petroleum ether (1 / 4, v / v) to give pure product as white solid (0.29 g, 92%).

- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 8.50 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 8.23 (m, J = 11.2, 8.0 Hz, 2H; Ar*H*), 7.50 (m, J = 20.6, 8.0 Hz, 2H; Ar*H*), 7.16 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H; Ar*H*), 7.01 (s, 1H; -O-C*H*=CH-), 6.02 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H; -O-CH=C*H*-), 5.87 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H; -C*H*=CR₂), 5.16 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H; -SO₂-N*H*-), 4.12 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H; -C*H*₂-), 2.87 (s, 6H; 2-C*H*₃).
- ¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 151.96, 149.42, 142.20, 134.76, 130.49, 129.58, 128.40, 123.11, 118.63, 115.14, 110.13, 107.96, 45.41, 40.20.
- **IR** (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 3052.99, 2849.73, 1567.94, 1459.33, 1406.91, 1295.80, 1225.08, 1199.00, 1142.96, 1035.54, 917.92, 786.94, 756.41.
- HRMS (ESI): m/z calculated for C₁₇H₁₉N₂O₃S, [M + H]⁺, 331.1111; found: 331.1108 [M + H]⁺.



Fig. S12 ¹H NMR spectrum of 4 in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Fig. S13 ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4 in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



N-(1-methylpyrene) maleimide (**5**): Triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) was added dropwise to the chloroform solution (10 mL) of 1-pyrenemethylamine hydrochloride (0.27 g, 1.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After evaporation to remove the solvent, a white solid was obtained as crude product (1-pyrenemethylamine), which was directly used for the next step without further purification. The crude product of 1-pyrenemethylamine (0.44 g) was dissolved in DCM solution (5 mL) and then was added

dropwise to a diethyl ether solution (5 mL) of maleic anhydride (0.22 g, 2.25 mmol) with vigorous stirring at room temperature for 2 hours. After the reaction was completed, a yellow solid was obtained by filtration. The above dried yellow solid was subsequently added to acetic anhydride (2.2 mL) and then reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C with stirring for 10 hours in the presence of sodium acetate (0.21 g) as catalyst. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was poured slowly into ice water with stirring rapidly and the precipitate was collected by filtration and drying. The crude product was further purified by silica gel column chromatography with petroleum ether / DCM (2 / 1, v / v) as the eluent to give a yellow solid (0.22 g, 38%).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,1H; Ar*H*), 8.16 (m, 4H; Ar*H*), 8.09 (m, 1H; Ar*H*), 8.00 (m, 3H; Ar*H*), 6.66 (s, 2H; -C*H*=C*H*-), 5.38 (s, 2H; -C*H*₂-).

¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 170.61, 134.24, 131.31, 131.25, 130.69, 129.04, 128.83, 128.17, 127.93, 127.66, 127.35, 126.03, 125.41, 125.32, 124.87, 124.69, 122.85, 39.58.

IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 3446.53, 3043.52, 2977.10, 2937.56, 1770.60, 1698.11, 1602.25, 1443.44, 1404.13, 1345.83, 1326.61, 1296.61, 1248.41, 1162.89, 1099.40, 1063.13, 1004.93, 909.47, 842.81, 816.49, 766.46, 705.96, 666.98, 639.44.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calculated for C₂₁H₁₃NO₂Na, [M + Na]⁺, 334.0838; found: 334.0838 [M+Na]⁺.

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a-d g-i h C d f e 5 8.2 8.0 k,l i H₂O n-hexane TMS CHCl₃ 10 ż 6 5 3 ġ 8 2 Ò 4 1 Chemical shift / ppm





Fig. S15. ¹³C NMR spectrum of maleimide 5 in CDCl₃ and corresponding signal assignments.



Fig. S16. Energy-optimized molecular structure of *exo-*1 calculated by AM1 semi-empirical method.

3. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction



Fig. S17. Molecular structures (ORTEP) of *exo-2* (a), **3** (b) determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 50 % probability level. All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

Identification code	exo- 2	3
Empirical formula	C ₂₆ H ₁₉ O ₄ N	C ₂₁ H ₁₅ O ₂ N
Formula weight	409.42	313.34
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	P21	P212121
Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.2348(3) Å,	a = 4.6945(2) Å,
	b = 9.0936(4) Å,	b = 9.6477(3) Å,
	c = 12.7865(4) Å	c = 33.0272(9) Å
	$\alpha = 90^{0}$,	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$,
	$\beta = 94.996(3)^0$,	$\beta = 90^{\circ},$
	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$
Volume	953.87(6) Å ³	1495.84(9) Å ³
Z	2	4
Calculated density	1.425 g / cm ³	1.391 g/cm³
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	0.71073 Å
Temperature	113.15 K	113.15 K
Absorption coefficient	0.097 mm ⁻¹	0.090 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	428	656.0
Crystal size	0.25 x 0.2 x 0.17 mm	0.26 x 0.21 x 0.17mm
Theta range for data collection	4.966 ⁰ to 52.738 ⁰	4.398 ⁰ to 64.596 ⁰
Limiting indices	-10≤ h ≤10,	-6 ≤ h ≤6,
	-11≤ k ≤11,	-13 ≤ k ≤13,
	-15≤ l ≤15	-47 ≤ I ≤ 44
Reflections collected / unique	10240 / 3899	16364 / 4918
	[R(Int) = 0.0392]	[R(INI) = 0.0443]
Completeness to theta = 26.369	1.87 / 1.00	1.59 / 0.93
Max. and min. transmission	1.000 and 0.758	1.000 and 0.711
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares	Full-matrix least-squares
	on F ²	on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	3899 / 2 / 292	4918 / 0 / 218
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.060	1.038
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.18 and -0.23 e. Å ⁻³	0.23 and -0.21 e. Å ⁻³
Final R indices [I>=2sigma(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0418, wR ₂ = 0.1002	$R_1 = 0.0489$, $wR_2 = 0.1178$
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0462, wR ₂ = 0.1053	$R_1 = 0.0584$, $wR_2 = 0.1269$

 Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for exo-2 and 3.

4. UV/Vis absorption and fluorescence spectroscopy



Fig. S18 UV/Vis absorption and fluorescence emission spectra of *exo-***1**, **3** and **4** in dichloromethane, $[exo-1] = [3] = [4] = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $\lambda_{ex} = 315$ nm.



Fig. S19. a) Spectral overlap of donor **3** (emission) and acceptor **4** (absorption) in dichloromethane, $[\mathbf{3}] = [\mathbf{4}] = 1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$. b) Photograph of *exo-***1** and **3** in dichloromethane under 365 nm UV lamp, [*exo-***1**] = $1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$, $[\mathbf{3}] = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$.



Fig. S20 UV/Vis absorption and fluorescence emission spectra of **3** and **5** in dichloromethane, $[3] = [5] = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $\lambda_{ex} = 340$ nm.



5. Time-resolved fluorescence

Fig. S21 Fluorescence decays of *exo-***1** and **3** in dichloromethane, $\lambda_{ex} = 345$ nm $\lambda_{em} = 400$ nm. [*exo-***1**] = [**3**] = 1.0 × 10⁻⁵ M.

Fig. S22 Fluorescence decays of a) *exo-2*, $\lambda_{ex} = 340$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 400$ nm; b) **3**, $\lambda_{ex} = 340$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 400$ nm; c) **4**, $\lambda_{ex} = 345$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 510$ nm in dichloromethane. [*exo-2*] = [**3**] = [**4**] = 1.0 × 10⁻⁵ M.

Fig. S23 a) Chemical structures of *retro* Diels-Alder addition reaction of *exo-1*. b) Diels-Alder covalent bond cleavage monitoring by ¹H NMR spectroscopy before (0 h, top) and after (72 h, bottom) *retro* Diels-Alder addition reaction in CD₃CN at 75 °C. c) The change of fluorescence spectra before (0 h) and after (72 h) Diels-Alder covalent bond cleavage. Fluorescence spectra were measured in diluted CH₂Cl₂ solution (2 x 10⁻⁵ M) at room temperature. $\lambda_{ex} = 277$ nm.

6. References

- (1) J. R. Lakowicz, *Principles of Fluorescence Spectroscopy*, Springer, New York, 2006, pp. 205-472.
- (2) B. Valeur and M. N. Berberan-Santos, *Molecular Fluorescence: Principles and Applications*, Wiley-VCH, Germany, 2012, pp. 109-138.