

## Supporting information

# DFT/TD-DFT Study on the Electronic Structures and Optoelectronic Properties of Several Blue-emitting Iridium(III) Complexes

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**Table S1.** Frontier molecular orbital compositions (%) and energies (eV) in the ground state for (dfppy)<sub>2</sub>Ir(pyN2).

| MO  | Energy | Composition |       |         |      | Assign                                |
|-----|--------|-------------|-------|---------|------|---------------------------------------|
|     |        | Ir          | dfppy | dfppy'  | pyN2 |                                       |
| L+9 | 0.75   | 4.3         | 91.5  | 3.2     | 1.1  | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$                 |
| L+8 | 0.58   | 41.3        | 25.1  | 31.2    | 2.4  | $d^*(\text{Ir})+\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$  |
| L+7 | 0.35   | 11.2        | 5.6   | 81.4    | 1.8  | $d^*(\text{Ir})+\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$  |
| L+6 | -0.01  | 7.5         | 82.4  | 7.4     | 2.7  | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$                 |
| L+5 | -0.95  | 1.2         | 0.7   | 83.3    | 14.8 | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$            |
| L+4 | -1.03  | 1.5         | 64.5  | 3.6     | 30.4 | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$            |
| L+3 | -1.20  | 1.1         | 33.1  | 11.6    | 54.1 | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$            |
| L+2 | -1.54  | 4           | 1.6   | 90.5    | 3.9  | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$                 |
| L+1 | -1.63  | 3.4         | 10.4  | 2.6     | 83.6 | $\pi^*(\text{pyN2/dfppy})$            |
| L   | -1.72  | 3.1         | 83.3  | 2.7     | 10.9 | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$            |
| Gap |        |             |       | 3.85 eV |      |                                       |
| H   | -5.57  | 38.7        | 19.7  | 38.9    | 2.7  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy})$      |
| H-1 | -5.85  | 32.4        | 4.1   | 8.9     | 54.7 | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{pyN2})$       |
| H-2 | -6.06  | 10.6        | 4.4   | 33.1    | 51.9 | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$ |
| H-3 | -6.18  | 10.4        | 6.6   | 52.6    | 30.4 | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$ |
| H-4 | -6.26  | 15.6        | 65.5  | 15.3    | 3.6  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy})$      |
| H-5 | -6.49  | 39.9        | 29.8  | 20.5    | 9.7  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy})$      |
| H-6 | -6.60  | 16.4        | 59.7  | 18.9    | 5.1  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy})$      |
| H-7 | -6.89  | 3.5         | 12.8  | 7.5     | 76.2 | $\pi(\text{pyN2})$                    |
| H-8 | -7.14  | 27.3        | 2.6   | 11.4    | 58.7 | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{pyN2})$       |
| H-9 | -7.80  | 33.0        | 34.3  | 29.1    | 3.5  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy})$      |

**Table S2.** Frontier molecular orbital compositions (%) and energies (eV) in the ground state for (dfppy)Ir(pyN2)<sub>2</sub>.

| MO  | Energy | Composition |       |         |       | Assign                                |
|-----|--------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------|
|     |        | Ir          | dfppy | pyN2    | pyN2' |                                       |
| L+9 | 0.81   | 3.6         | 1.1   | 94.5    | 0.7   | $\pi^*(\text{pyN2})$                  |
| L+8 | 0.53   | 44.1        | 23.4  | 15.3    | 17.2  | $d^*(\text{Ir})$                      |
| L+7 | 0.25   | 4.2         | 92.5  | 1.4     | 1.9   | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$                 |
| L+6 | 0.14   | 54.4        | 20.8  | 4.6     | 20.3  | $d^*(\text{Ir})$                      |
| L+5 | -0.97  | 1.2         | 94.5  | 4.2     | 0.1   | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$                 |
| L+4 | -1.22  | 0.8         | 2.0   | 29.6    | 67.6  | $\pi^*(\text{pyN2})$                  |
| L+3 | -1.34  | 0.6         | 3.3   | 65.7    | 30.4  | $\pi^*(\text{pyN2})$                  |
| L+2 | -1.58  | 3.3         | 94.2  | 1.0     | 1.4   | $\pi^*(\text{dfppy})$                 |
| L+1 | -1.80  | 4.5         | 0.8   | 68.6    | 26.2  | $\pi^*(\text{pyN2})$                  |
| L   | -1.87  | 2.1         | 1.1   | 28.0    | 68.7  | $\pi^*(\text{pyN2})$                  |
| Gap |        |             |       | 3.87 eV |       |                                       |
| H   | -5.74  | 34.2        | 43.8  | 2.2     | 19.7  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$ |
| H-1 | -6.07  | 27.3        | 21.5  | 42.9    | 8.3   | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{pyN2/dfppy})$ |
| H-2 | -6.21  | 5           | 57.6  | 29.3    | 8.0   | $\pi(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$              |
| H-3 | -6.31  | 7.4         | 16.6  | 1.2     | 74.9  | $\pi(\text{pyN2/dfppy})$              |
| H-4 | -6.41  | 15.4        | 8.0   | 71.0    | 5.6   | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{pyN2})$       |
| H-5 | -6.67  | 18.9        | 35.5  | 6.3     | 39.3  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{dfppy/pyN2})$ |
| H-6 | -6.85  | 49.9        | 13.4  | 7.4     | 29.4  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{pyN2})$       |
| H-7 | -7.33  | 2.9         | 3.3   | 65.5    | 28.4  | $\pi(\text{pyN2})$                    |
| H-8 | -7.51  | 21.1        | 19.9  | 38.8    | 20.2  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{pyN2/dfppy})$ |
| H-9 | -7.66  | 7.2         | 7.1   | 36.1    | 49.6  | $\pi(\text{pyN2})$                    |

**Table S3.** Frontier molecular orbital compositions (%) and energies (eV) in the ground state for (fpmb)<sub>2</sub>Ir(pyN3).

| MO  | Energy | Composition |      |         |      | Assign                                      |
|-----|--------|-------------|------|---------|------|---------------------------------------------|
|     |        | Ir          | fpmb | fpmb'   | pyN3 |                                             |
| L+9 | 0.43   | 2.9         | 2.5  | 94.3    | 0.4  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+8 | 0.25   | 4.3         | 46.3 | 48.8    | 0.7  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+7 | 0.20   | 3.2         | 59.7 | 36.6    | 0.5  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+6 | -0.10  | 8.7         | 76.8 | 11.1    | 3.4  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+5 | -0.23  | 0.9         | 2.7  | 96.3    | 0.1  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+4 | -0.40  | 1.3         | 95.6 | 2.3     | 0.8  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+3 | -0.89  | 5.5         | 1.0  | 92.7    | 0.9  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+2 | -1.02  | 7.3         | 90.5 | 0.8     | 1.4  | $\pi^*(\text{fpmb})$                        |
| L+1 | -1.16  | 0.7         | 0.9  | 0.5     | 97.9 | $\pi^*(\text{pyN3})$                        |
| L   | -1.69  | 2.5         | 0.5  | 0.7     | 96.3 | $\pi^*(\text{pyN3})$                        |
| Gap |        |             |      | 3.59 eV |      |                                             |
| H   | -5.28  | 29.1        | 18.0 | 51.0    | 1.8  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{fpmb})$             |
| H-1 | -5.67  | 11.9        | 47.2 | 38.3    | 2.7  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{fpmb})$             |
| H-2 | -5.96  | 30.5        | 12.5 | 21.2    | 35.8 | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{pyN3}/\text{fpmb})$ |
| H-3 | -6.03  | 16.5        | 32.6 | 43.1    | 7.8  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{fpmb})$             |
| H-4 | -6.29  | 36.4        | 47.0 | 7.6     | 9.0  | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{fpmb})$             |
| H-5 | -6.45  | 8.8         | 3.1  | 37.3    | 50.7 | $\pi(\text{pyN3}/\text{fpmb})$              |
| H-6 | -6.55  | 3.2         | 60.3 | 33.3    | 3.3  | $\pi(\text{fpmb})$                          |
| H-7 | -6.93  | 9.1         | 8.0  | 47.5    | 35.4 | $\pi(\text{fpmb}/\text{pyN3})$              |
| H-8 | -7.03  | 1.7         | 15.1 | 75.1    | 8.1  | $\pi(\text{fpmb})$                          |
| H-9 | -7.13  | 11.1        | 47.2 | 19.1    | 22.6 | $d(\text{Ir})+\pi(\text{fpmb}/\text{pyN3})$ |

**Table S4.** Selected calculated wavelength (nm) /energies (eV), oscillator strength (*f*), major contribution, and transition characters of (dfppy)<sub>2</sub>Ir(pyN2).

| State           | $\lambda/E$ | <i>f</i> | Configuration  | Nature                                       |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| S <sub>1</sub>  | 383/3.23    | 0.041    | H→L (0.68)     | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(dfppy)→π*(dfppy)]      |
| S <sub>5</sub>  | 337/3.67    | 0.077    | H-1→L+1 (0.55) | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(dfppy)]          |
|                 |             |          | H-1→L+2 (0.37) | MLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]             |
| S <sub>18</sub> | 294/4.21    | 0.152    | H-5→L (0.47)   | MLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy)→π*(dfppy)]           |
|                 |             |          | H-4→L (0.21)   | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(dfppy)→π*(dfppy)]      |
|                 |             |          | H-1→L+4 (0.21) | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(dfppy)]          |
| S <sub>23</sub> | 284/4.37    | 0.090    | H-6→L (0.33)   | IL/MLCT/LLCT [π(dfppy)+d(Ir)→π*(dfppy)]      |
|                 |             |          | H-1→L+4 (0.43) | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(dfppy)]          |
| S <sub>27</sub> | 276/4.50    | 0.088    | H-2→L+3 (0.52) | MLCT/LLCT/IL[d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)]   |
| S <sub>30</sub> | 268/4.63    | 0.151    | H-4→L+3 (0.37) | MLCT/IL/LLCT[d(Ir)+π(dfppy)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)]  |
|                 |             |          | H-3→L+3 (0.33) | MLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)] |
|                 |             |          | H-2→L+4 (0.27) | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(dfppy)]          |
| S <sub>32</sub> | 264/4.70    | 0.139    | H-2→L+5 (0.52) | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(pyN2/dfppy)]  |
| S <sub>34</sub> | 260/4.77    | 0.109    | H-4→L+4 (0.32) | MLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy)→π*(dfppy)]           |
|                 |             |          | H-3→L+4 (0.31) | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(dfppy)] |

**Table S5.** Selected calculated wavelength (nm) /energies (eV), oscillator strength (*f*), major contribution, and transition characters of (dfppy)Ir(pyN2)<sub>2</sub> as well as the corresponding experimental

| State           | $\lambda/E$ | <i>f</i> | Configuration | Nature                                            | Exp. <sup>14</sup> |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| S <sub>1</sub>  | 368/3.37    | 0.039    | H→L(68%)      | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]       | 356                |
| S <sub>5</sub>  | 329/3.76    | 0.075    | H-1→L+1(64%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)]       | 326                |
| S <sub>7</sub>  | 312/3.97    | 0.068    | H-2→L (64%)   | MLCT/LLCT/IL [π(dfppy/pyN2)+d(Ir)→π*(pyN2)]       | 311                |
| S <sub>14</sub> | 297/4.18    | 0.079    | H-3→L+1(58%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)] | 299                |
| S <sub>16</sub> | 295/4.21    | 0.091    | H-3→L+2(56%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)] |                    |
| S <sub>18</sub> | 291/4.26    | 0.081    | H-4→L+2(44%)  | IL/MLCT [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)]      |                    |
|                 |             |          | H→L+5(39%)    | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)] |                    |
| S <sub>19</sub> | 289/4.30    | 0.075    | H-5→L(45%)    | MLCT [d(Ir)→π*(pyN2)]                             |                    |
|                 |             |          | H-4→L+1(25%)  | IL/MLCT [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)]      |                    |
| S <sub>23</sub> | 278/4.47    | 0.125    | H-1→L+4(45%)  | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+π(pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]             |                    |
|                 |             |          | H-5→L+1(29%)  | MLCT [d(Ir)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)]                       |                    |
| S <sub>27</sub> | 268/4.63    | 0.111    | H-2→L+3(54%)  | IL/LLCT/MLCT [π(dfppy/pyN2)+d(Ir)→π*(pyN2)]       | 264                |
| S <sub>31</sub> | 262/4.73    | 0.119    | H-4→L+3(49%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]       |                    |
|                 |             |          | H-3→L+3(31%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]       |                    |
| S <sub>32</sub> | 262/4.74    | 0.097    | H-2→L+4(32%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]       |                    |
|                 |             |          | H-2→L+5(29%)  | IL/LLCT/MLCT [π(dfppy/pyN2)+d(Ir)→π*(pyN2)]       |                    |
|                 |             |          | H-4→L+3(29%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [π(dfppy/pyN2)+d(Ir)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)] |                    |
| S <sub>34</sub> | 258/4.80    | 0.177    | H-3→L+4(39%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]       |                    |
|                 |             |          | H-2→L+5(34%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [π(dfppy/pyN2)+d(Ir)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)] |                    |
| S <sub>35</sub> | 258/4.81    | 0.089    | H-3→L+4(38%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]       |                    |
|                 |             |          | H-2→L+5(38%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [π(dfppy/pyN2)+d(Ir)→π*(dfppy/pyN2)] |                    |
| S <sub>36</sub> | 256/4.84    | 0.089    | H-4→L+4(61%)  | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+π(dfppy/pyN2)→π*(pyN2)]       |                    |

data<sup>14</sup>.

**Table S6.** Selected calculated wavelength (nm) /energies (eV), oscillator strength ( $f$ ), major contribution, and transition characters of (fpmb)<sub>2</sub>Ir(pyN3) as well as the corresponding experimental

| State           | $\lambda/E$ | $f$   | Configuration | Nature                                                  | Exp. <sup>17</sup> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| S <sub>1</sub>  | 399/3.11    | 0.000 | H→L(0.70)     | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]         |                    |
| S <sub>2</sub>  | 348/3.57    | 0.036 | H-1→L(0.68)   | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]         | 356                |
| S <sub>11</sub> | 289/4.29    | 0.120 | H-1→L+3(0.66) | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]      | 298                |
| S <sub>12</sub> | 286/4.34    | 0.074 | H-5→L(0.55)   | IL/LLCT [ $\pi$ (pyN3/fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]            |                    |
|                 |             |       | H-2→L+1(0.34) | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (pyN3/fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)] |                    |
| S <sub>18</sub> | 274/4.52    | 0.081 | H→L+6(0.46)   | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]      |                    |
| S <sub>19</sub> | 273/4.55    | 0.262 | H-3→L+2(0.33) | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]         |                    |
|                 |             |       | H-2→L+3(0.30) | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (pyN3/fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)] |                    |
|                 |             |       | H→L+6 (0.37)  | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]      |                    |
| S <sub>22</sub> | 267/4.65    | 0.103 | H-3→L+3(0.55) | MLCT/IL [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]           |                    |
| S <sub>23</sub> | 264/4.69    | 0.102 | H-4→L+1(0.52) | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]         |                    |
|                 |             |       | H-4→L+2(0.28) | MLCT/IL [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]           |                    |
| S <sub>24</sub> | 264/4.70    | 0.127 | H-4→L+1(0.30) | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]         |                    |
|                 |             |       | H-4→L+2(0.47) | MLCT/IL [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]           |                    |
| S <sub>28</sub> | 255/4.86    | 0.089 | H-1→L+4(0.51) | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]      |                    |
| S <sub>30</sub> | 250/4.95    | 0.072 | H-8→L(0.30)   | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]         |                    |
|                 |             |       | H-7→L(0.29)   | MLCT/LLCT/IL [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb/pyN3)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)] |                    |
|                 |             |       | H-5→L+1(0.34) | IL/LLCT [ $\pi$ (pyN3/fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]            |                    |
| S <sub>31</sub> | 250/4.97    | 0.095 | H-8→L(0.29)   | MLCT/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (pyN3)]         |                    |
|                 |             |       | H-1→L+5(0.31) | MLCT/IL/LLCT [d(Ir)+ $\pi$ (fpmb)→ $\pi^*$ (fpmb)]      |                    |

data<sup>17</sup>.