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Switchable 2D-waveguiding abilities of luminescent hybrid nanocomposites for active solar concentrators

*Soumaya Khlifi,[†] John Bigeon,[†] Maria Amela-Cortes,[†] Noée Dumait,[†] Goulc'hen Loas,[†] Stephane Cordier[†] and Yann Molard[†,]**

[†]Univ Rennes, CNRS, ISCR - UMR 6226, ScanMAT – UMS 2001, FOTON – UMR6082 F-

ABSTRACT. Passing from fossil energy sources to renewable ones, meanwhile answering the increasing world energy demand, will require innovative and low cost technologies. Smart photovoltaic windows could fulfill our needs in this matter. Their transparency can be controlled to manage solar energy, regulate interior temperature and illumination. Here we present the one-pot synthesis of polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC), in which highly red-NIR phosphorescent transition metal clusters are selectively embedded, either in the polymer, in the liquid crystal or in both phases. The PDLC matrix is used as a tuneable waveguide to transfer the emitted light from nanoclusters to the edge of the device where solar cells could be placed to convert it into electricity. Edge emission is obtained in both "off" and "on" state with a maximum intensity for the scattering "off" one. These doped PDLCs showing photoactivity features and high stability under voltage represent key stepping stones for integration in buildings, displays, and many other technologies.

KEYWORDS. smart window; metal cluster; luminescence; hybrid material; polymer dispersed liquid crystal

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INTRODUCTION

Solar energy is, among all renewable energy sources, the most suitable to meet the increasing demand of worldwide energy. Fiscal policies in western countries have led to a high public demand thus dropping down the prices of photovoltaic (PV) solar cells. However, new challenges arise to fulfill the increasing energy demand in particular in highly urbanized locations like megalopolis city centers that are growing vertically. Yet, building rooftops area, where solar panels are usually installed, have become too small to accommodate the necessary amount of PV modules required to insure the building energetic neutrality, as intended now by the EU.[1] Therefore, integrating new innovative PV systems in newly constructs or old buildings meanwhile improving the quality of life of their residents is particularly relevant in our course to the energetic independency and to the 'zero-energy building' goal. An efficient strategy to reach this objective is to turn building facades into energy generation units by replacing the actual passive glazing windows with PV systems using efficient luminescent solar concentrators (LSC).[2-5] This technology based on the integration of emissive dyes in a low cost and wave guiding material (glass or polymer) was first developed during the 1970's.[6, 7] Sunlight is absorbed by dyes, reemitted at longer wavelength and further concentrated along the edge by internal reflection where PV cells are placed to collect and convert it to energy. Up to now, most of LSCs presented in the literature are static.[2, 4, 8-12] We propose here a new concept of LSC based on the direct and selective integration of emissive metal nanoclusters into smart windows. Indeed, these "smart windows" could offer several other advantages beside energy production as they gained considerable interest for both privacy and climate control as depicted in **Figure 1**.[13] They can modulate their transparency to control the spectral and irradiance of incident sunlight, thus regulating interior temperature and adjusting interior room illumination.[14-16] Recently, switchable windows coupled to a LSC additional layer were

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described,[17, 18] as well as self-powered switchable windows based on polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) technology.[19] Taking into consideration that scattering solar concentrators have also been reported,[20] we hypothesized that PDLC could be used to design an all-in-one device and serve as an active waveguiding medium for the light provided by incorporated emitters. As PDLC are biphasic organic materials containing a polymer phase and a liquid crystal phase, we aim also to study the influence of the emitter location (polymer, LC or both phases) on the waveguiding abilities and electro-optic properties of the resulting hybrid matrices. This point is particularly challenging as it cannot be achieved by a simple mixing of dyes within a host matrix but requires additional engineering steps in the design of dyes to target the desired phase. The ideal LSC should contain highly emissive dyes, stable under irradiation and showing a Stokes shift (energy gap existing between the absorption and emission maxima) as large as possible to avoid reabsorption losses, the dominant energy loss mechanism for this technology. According to Traverse et al.,[21] although they do not mention precisely which wavelength area they are dealing with, only Stokes shift higher than 100 nm would allow the production of LSC bigger than 1 m^2. Octahedral transition metal cluster-based compounds meet all these needs.[8] Most of them are prepared by solid state techniques as ternary salts of general formula $A_nM_6X^i_8X^a_6$ (A = alkali cation, M= transition metal; X^i: inner ligand; X^a: apical ligand), starting from earth abundant elements and, contain neither cadmium nor lead.[22] These phosphorescent inorganic dyes can show an excellent photostability,[23] quantum yield reaching unity,[24] possess a very large Stokes shift, and, unlike quantum dots, such Stokes shift is achieved without the need of complex structure engineering.[25] Several strategies have been employed to bypass their ceramic like behavior by integrating them in various "easy-to-handle" host matrices for large scale and public dedicated devices.[26] A prerequisite is their homogeneous embedment in a host material. To do so, inorganic-organic phase

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segregation phenomena occurring when interactions between components are not strong enough to maintain a good dispersion must be discarded. Here we show that metal nanoclusters can be integrated in PDLC devices, and that the propagation of their emitted photons can be tuned by applying a low voltage on the device.

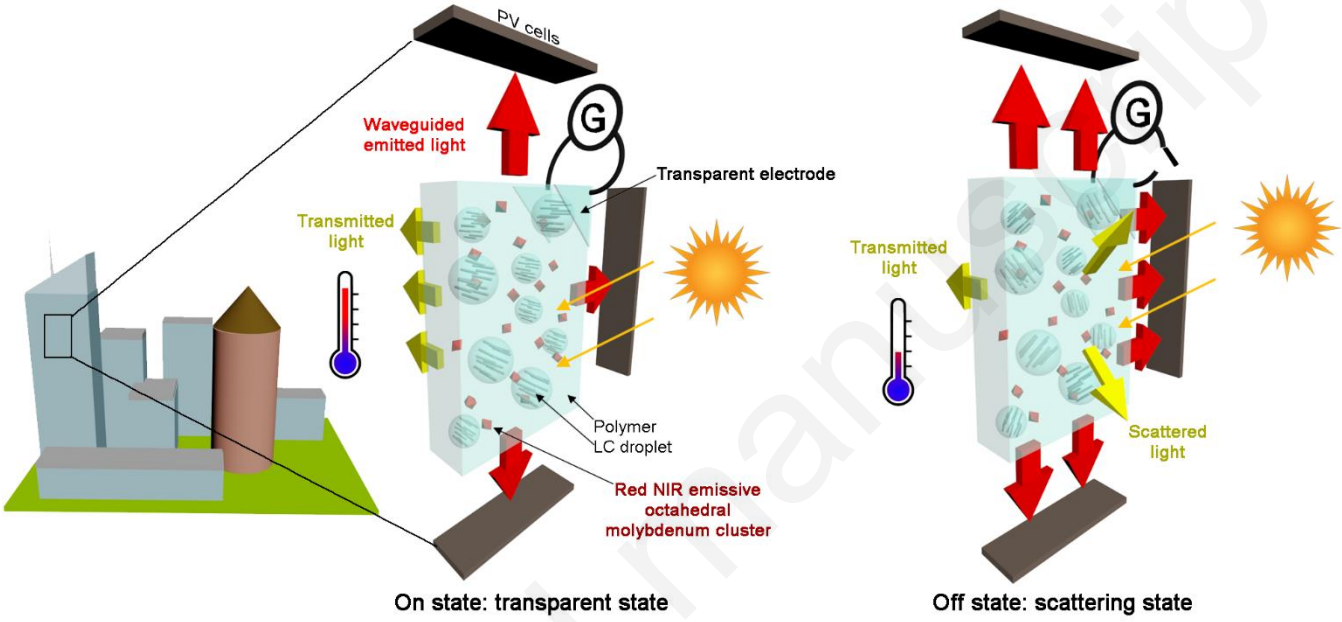


Figure 1. Concept of the active LSC window containing red NIR phosphorescent octahedral molybdenum nanoclusters. Schematic exploded representations of an active LSC window composed of a polymer dispersed liquid crystal matrix containing the phosphorescent inorganic emitter, surrounded by PV cells on its edges. The waveguided light and PV cells on the front left of the windows have been omitted for clarity. In the On state, nematic LC molecules contained in the droplets are aligned in the direction of the weak electric field, allowing a good transparency of the window; the material behave like a basic LSC; in the off state, incident sun light is scattered by the randomly aligned LC droplets which increases the waveguiding abilities of the LSC and limits the amount of transmitted light, thus reducing the building internal temperature.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

PDLC materials are biphasic organic systems in which a LC material, most commonly a nematic LC, segregates into droplets within a polymer matrix.[27] **Figure 2** presents different ways to integrate a metal cluster ternary salt in a PDLC device. It can be introduced in the polymer phase only (case 1), in both phases (case 2), or in the LC phase only (case 3). Here, we use an ionic strategy to control the PDLC doping and homogeneity.[28, 29] This approach consists of replacing the native inorganic ternary salt alkali cations (usually, Cs^+ or K^+ ions) by functional organic ones. Hence organic cations were designed either to copolymerize with targeted organic monomers,[23, 30] or to confer a nematogenic character to the hybrid assembly so that it becomes miscible with nematic organic liquid crystal mixtures (a mandatory step to avoid LC-LC phase segregation in the nematic LC droplets).[31-33] All hybrids were synthesized as previously described with conform analytical data.[23, 32] LC cells of 5µm thickness were filled up and the mixtures were copolymerized by UV-curing (see experimental section). In all cases, mixtures contained 60 wt% of polymer phase and 40 wt% of LC phase. The amounts of polymerizable nanocluster or clustomesogen (cluster containing liquid crystal, Mo_{LC})[34, 35] were set to 12 wt% within the polymer phase (Mo@PMMA) and 5wt% in E7 (a commercially available nematic mixture made of cyanobiphenyl- and cyanoterphenyl-containing derivatives, see the experimental section for the exact composition). The LC–polymer phase segregation was then thermally induced[36] by heating the cells above the LC to isotropic state transition temperature of liquid crystal mixtures and progressively cooled down to 25°C. All cells were treated at the same time to confer them exactly the same thermal history. **Figure 2** presents the optical micrographs observed under cross polarizers with a white light illumination and a UV irradiation (see **ESI**, **Figures S1-S4** for full

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micrographs and **inset Figure S2** for a SEM micrograph presenting the cross-section of the PDLC film contained in cell 1). LC droplets of 10-25µm in diameter could segregate from the mixture.

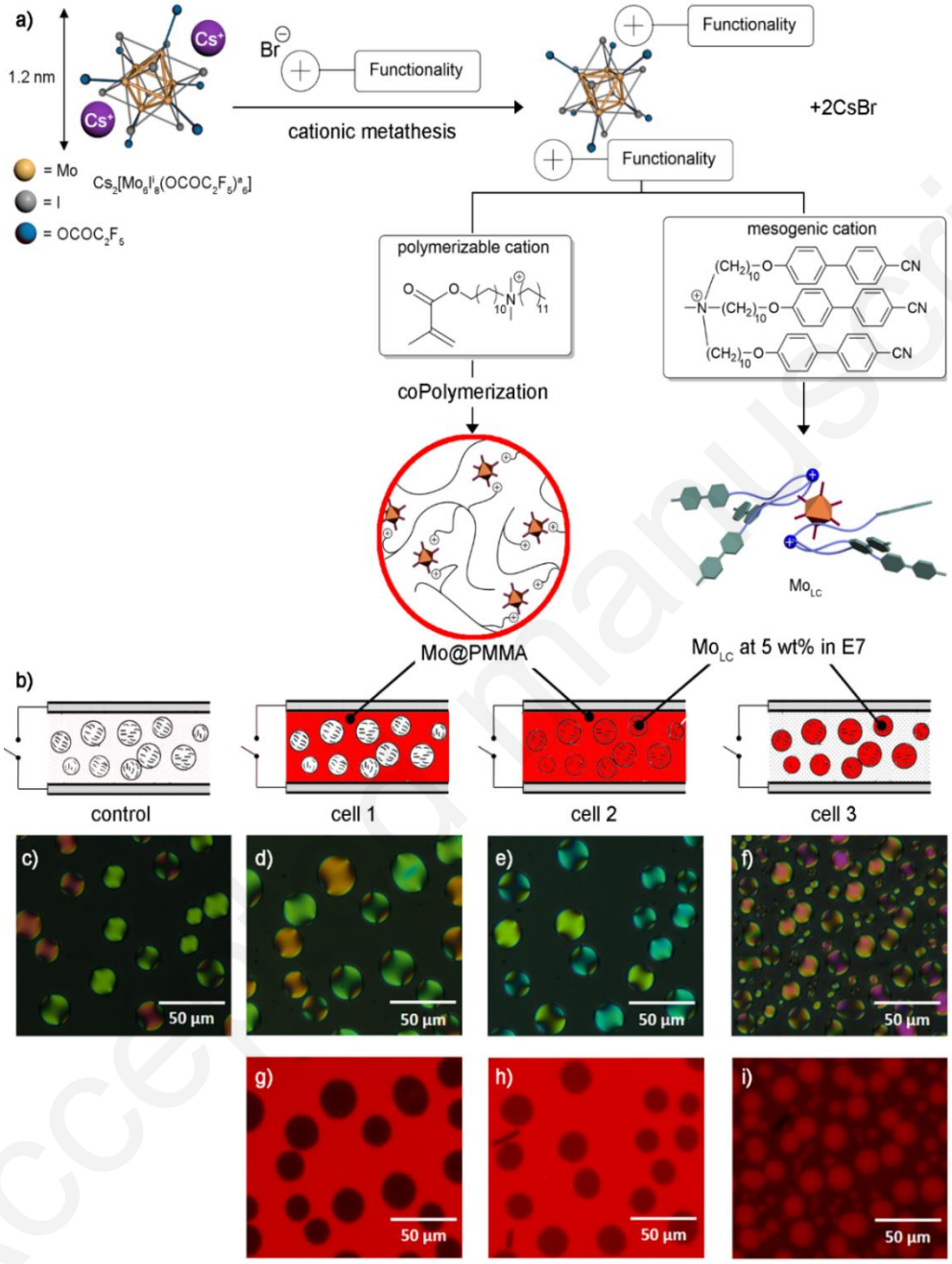


Figure 2. a) Schematic representation of the transition metal cluster salt used in this work and of the metathesis reaction leading to the exchange of its alkali cations with functional organic ones; b) schematic representation of the PDLC LC cells realized; c-f: polarized optical micrographs

under white light of produced LC cells: c) control cell, d) cell 1, e) cell 2, f) cell 3; g-f: optical micrographs under UV irradiation of g) cell 1, h) cell 2 and i) cell 3.

Pictures taken under UV irradiation are very informative. They show for cell 1 that there is no emissive species in the LC phase which indicates an optimal phase segregation process from the polymer point of view; for cell 2: the difference observed in the red intensity between the polymer and LC droplets is mainly due to the difference in cluster concentration chosen *a priori* for both phases; for cell 3: a noticeable emission arises also from the polymer matrix showing that part of the doped LC mixture is miscible within the polymer. This partial solubility is well known[37] and needs to be taken with care as it implies a variation in the LC mixture components concentration often leading to changes in the transition temperature. Nevertheless, LC droplets emit much more than the surrounding polymer which confirms the higher concentration of clusters in the LC phase. Note that although the same protocol was used in the LC-polymer phase segregation procedure, cell 3's droplets appear smaller and more polydispersed compared to the three other cases.

Emission properties were then investigated on the mixtures before and after integration into the cells. Cell 1 was also opened after being filled to observe the influence of air on the emission properties of hybrid matrices. For the sake of comparison, emission properties of neat $Cs_2Mo_6I_8(OCOC_2F_5)_6$ cluster are also reported. Steady state emission spectra and time resolved emission studies data are gathered in **Table 1**. Emission lifetime measurements are very instructive about the cluster environment: octahedral clusters are phosphorescent compounds whose triplet excited state reacts efficiently with surrounding triplet oxygen O_2 ($^3\Sigma_g^-$) to generate the reactive and emissive O_2 ($^1\Delta_g$).[38] Hence, the $Cs_2Mo_6I_8(OCOC_2F_5)_6$ triplet state lifetime decreases from 269 µs for a fully deaerated acetone solution to 2 µs for an aerated one.[39] The same trend is observed for Absolute Quantum Yield (AQY) values.

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Table 1. Threshold voltage (V_{th}) of devices, excited state lifetimes (τ_i and respective contribution in parenthesis, λ_{obs} = 690 nm), and absolute quantum yield (AQY) values in air or N_2 saturated atmosphere of clusters in the material precursor and once embedded in the device, with (ON) or without (OFF) voltage.

	V_{th} [V μm^{-1}]	τ_i (contribution)[c] [µs] ([%])		AQY[c] (λ_{exc} = 365 nm)	
		OFF	ON	air	N_2
$Cs_2Mo_6I_8(OCOC_2F_5)_6$[a]	-	269[b]	-	0.02	0.49
Mo@PMMA[a]	-	135[b]	-	0.02	0.27
Mo_{LC}	-	29 (0.69) 13 (0.31)	-	0.20	0.70
Mo_{LC} /E7	-	3.1 (0.07) 0.84 (0.93)	-	0.02	0.09
Cell 1 (Open cell)	-	47 (0.17) 18 (0.83)	-	0.08	0.40
Cell 1	0.8	188	189	-	-
Cell 2	0.9	184	186	-	-
Cell 3	1.2	185 (0.47) 90 (0.53)	108 (0.28) 45 (0.72)	-	-

[a]in acetone[39], [b] in deaerated solvent[39], [c]error on values is estimated at ±10%

Mesogenic clusters emission decay was fitted with two components that is in line with reported results.[32] Part of the excited light is absorbed and reemitted by cyanobiphenyl units contained in the mesogenic cations which in turn transfer their energy to clusters. An important decrease of cluster lifetime components values and AQY is also observed when the mesogenic cluster is

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dispersed in E7. The lifetime decrease may be assessed to an increased O_2 permeability of the Mo_{LC}/E7 mixture compared to MoLC itself. The AQY decrease comes from the fact that most of the incident light is absorbed by the cyanobiphenyl and cyanoterphenyl units contained in E7 with a poor transfer efficiency to Mo_{LC}. Surprisingly, once integrated in LC cells, the cluster emission lifetime largely increases to reach values in the same range as when clusters are in an oxygen free environment with emission lifetime values higher than 100 µs. This phenomenon is even more appreciable for cell 1 and 2 for which emission decays were fitted by a single exponential with a lifetime value of around 185 µs. When cell 1 was open, its emission decay was fitted with two shorter components. Interestingly, the AQY value of the open cell 1 is around 0.08 under air while it increases to 0.4 under N_2 (value close to the one calculated for the cluster precursor in deaerated acetone solution). Note that this value is higher than the one calculated for Mo@PMMA under a N_2 atmosphere. This is explained by an increased gas permeability of the PDLC matrix compared to the pure PMMA polymer matrix. Exploring the 1200-1400 nm window in air atmosphere for the open cell 1 upon UV excitation revealed the appearance of a signal centered around 1270 nm characteristic of O_2 ($^1\Delta_g$) emission (see ESI, **Figure S5**). The emissive O_2 ($^1\Delta_g$) singlet oxygen is generated by reaction of the cluster triplet excited state with the triplet oxygen O_2 ($^3\Sigma_g^-$) contained in the atmosphere which is in good accordance with the shortening of its emission lifetime.[38] Therefore, calculated lifetimes for the three devices indicate that clusters are in a nearly oxygen free environment that fully exploits their abilities to emit (see ESI, **Figures S6-S12** for emission map and related integrated emission decays). Interestingly, the emission decay of cell 2 could also be fitted with a monoexponential decay. As cell 2 contains clusters in the polymer and LC phases, we could have expected at least the same behavior than for cell 3: an emission decay fitted with two components. The observed monoexponential character reflects the poor contribution of

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clusters embedded in the LC phase to the total luminescence signal. This is in line with the previous observations on raw material: in the LC droplets, the excitation light is mainly absorbed by the E7 host. The reversible changes in the emission lifetime values observed for cell 3 upon voltage application indicates a slight influence of the electric field on the cluster emission properties.

Within a PDLC droplet, LC molecules are usually oriented along the liquid crystal director whose alignment will depend on the voltage applied to the material. Without voltage (OFF state), these LC directors are randomly oriented from one droplet to another, causing a modulation of the refractive index within the material, leading to scattering and to the loss of transparency. In the field-on state, the droplet directors are uniformly aligned along the applied field. In this case, when the ordinary refractive index of LC matches the polymer host refractive index, the material appears transparent.[40, 41] Transmission measurements realized in the OFF and ON states on all cells show that the transmittance is slightly influenced by the cluster concentration. Transmission of undoped cell shows a cut off around 350 nm due to ITO layer and glass support, while an additional shoulder, due to cluster absorption bands, is observed between 350 and 500 nm in doped cells (see ESI **Figures S13-S16**). A maximum transmission value of 85% is achieved through the device in the ON state which is imparted to the inherent optical losses due to Fresnel reflection caused by the differences in refractive indexes at the air/glass/ITO/PDLC/ITO/glass/air interfaces.[42] Therefore, in the ON state, our PDLC material is fully transparent in the cluster emission wavelength range. Although the devices are capable of continuous variation of opacity (see ESI **video S1**), it is important to evaluate how the clusters and polymers influence the E7 native switching properties. Hence transmittance vs applied voltage experiments were realized on all cells. Results are gathered in **Figure 3a**. Similar performances are observed for the control cell and cell 1 whose LC phases contain only E7, as expected. Cell 1 possesses the best T_{OFF}/T_{ON}

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contrast ratio. Doping E7 with 5wt% of clustomesogen does not have a strong impact on the Freedericksz transition threshold voltage (V_{th}, **table 1**), when the onset of switching of LC molecules is observed (*i.e.* when the transmittance begins to rise), as reported earlier.[32] However, it has a significant effect on the transmittance *vs* applied voltage behavior. Indeed, the transition between the ON and OFF states is not as straightforward when the LC droplets are doped (cell 2 and cell 3) compared to when they only contain E7 (control cell and cell 1). The possible reason could be that the clustomesogens induce their symmetry up to a certain extent onto the nearest neighboring LC molecules constituting the unit volume. Their bulkiness imposes the application of a stronger electric field to align all molecules contained in the LC droplets. Interestingly, we observed a different behavior under voltage when both polymer and LC phases are doped (cell 2) compared to cell 3 where clusters were integrated only in the LC matrix. These differences may originate from an equilibrium between the cluster's "clustomesogen" and "polymerized" forms. Yet, it cannot be excluded that cationic exchanges occur in the material, and that part of cluster anions have their dianionic charge counterparted with one polymerized and one mesogenic cation, in particular at the LC-polymer interfaces. The higher V_{th} value observed for cell 3 is also assessed to the smaller size of LC droplets which implies a higher driving force to align LC molecules.[40] Nevertheless, application of a sufficient voltage to turn the devices in the ON state, did not affect the metal cluster measured lifetime values (**Figure 3d**) which demonstrate the excellent dyes stability toward the application of an electric field. **Figure 3b** presents the set up used to observe the emission on the edge of the PDLC cell. The device is continuously excited perpendicularly with a laser at 448 nm, while applying a 30 V AC 1KHz square voltage in order to observe a full transmission switch and prevent ionic build-up, which can damage the LC cell.[43] The emission is recorded using a spectrometer or a photodiode focused on the edge with a x20 microscope

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objective. The response registered for cell 2 by the photodiode and the spectrometer with or without voltage are given in **Figure 3c** and **Figure 3e**, respectively. These measurements clearly show that the waveguiding abilities of the hybrid PDLC can be tuned. Moreover, as the emission signal is more intense in the OFF state than in the ON one, the waveguiding in the PDLC is more efficient in the OFF state than in the ON one. Hence, a reversible difference of 7%, 16% or 10% of the guided edge-emission intensity was measured in the OFF and ON states for cell 1, cell 2 and cell 3, respectively (see ESI, **Figures S17-S19** for all spectra).

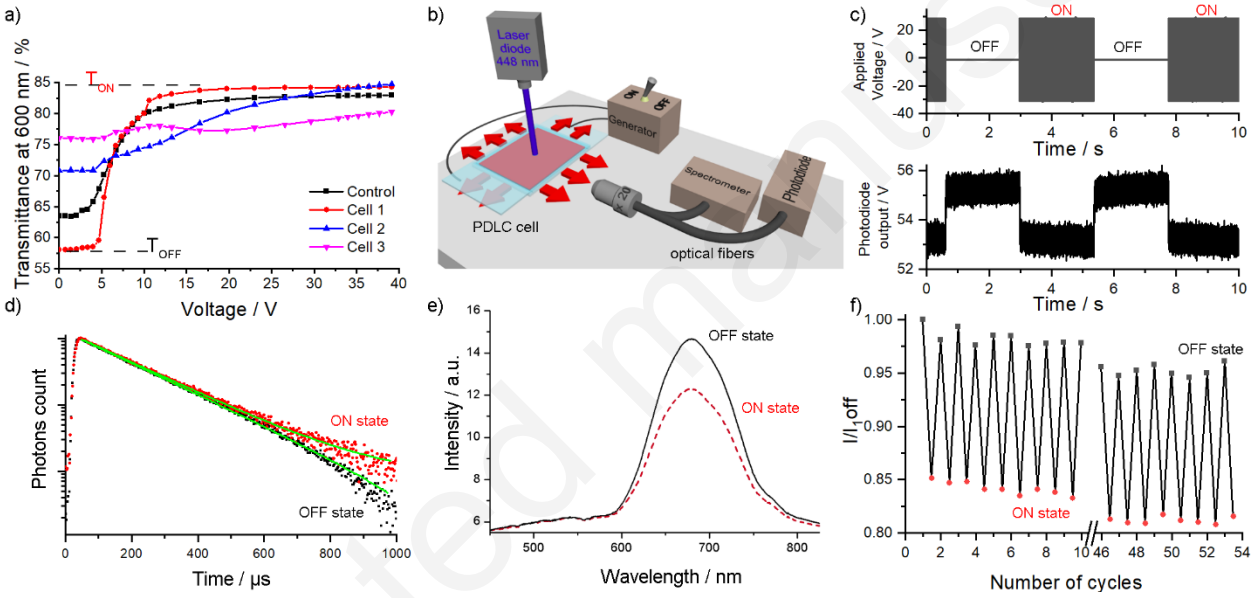


Figure 3. a) Transmittance *vs* driving voltage; b) schematic representation of the experimental set –up used for the "emission-on-the-edge" measurements. Obtained data for cell 2: c) applied AC voltage and corresponding response of the photodiode vs time; d) integrated emission decay profile and related fitted curves (in green), off (black) and on (red) states; e) emission spectra in the off (plain black line) and on (dashed red line) states; and f) fatigue studies of the edge emission in the off (black) and on (red) states.

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From these results, some trends can already be highlighted: in terms of power consumption, cell 1 prototype seems the most promising device, while cell 2 offers the best contrasts results in terms of edge emission. Cycling tests realized under laser excitation on about 50 ON-OFF cycles, revealed that these systems are very stable. In all cases, the emission intensity difference between the ON and OFF states is maintained after 50 cycles. Best results are obtained for cell 2 with a loss of only 2.5% of the emitted intensity at the end of the studies **(Figure 3f and ESI Figures S20-S22**). The continuous laser excitation during the experiments leads to a local increase of the temperature. This affects the refractive index of the PDLC and explains such emission losses. However, in all cases, the emission intensity difference between the ON and OFF states is maintained. For cell 2, cycling tests were also conducted with the photodiode on 170 cycles (see ESI **Figure S23**) without noticing any damages, indicating the high electrical and environmental stability of the PDLC cells. At this stage, we wish to emphasize that the devices described herein remain proof-of-concept devices. Therefore, depending on environmental factors, parameters such as driving voltage, light transmission and waveguiding abilities can be optimized. Indeed, the nature of the polymer and LC phases, their ratio in PDLC, the droplets size that influences the ON/OFF contrast in transmittance and the driving voltage,[44-48] and the cluster nature and concentration are belonging to the main parameters that affect the device efficiency. Our efforts in optimizing all these parameters will be reported in due course.

CONCLUSIONS

This work describes the first example of hybrid organic inorganic PDLC in which the inorganic nanofillers location is fully controlled. We have demonstrated how nanocluster compounds could be integrated in such biphasic material to design active luminescent solar concentrators for smart

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photovoltaic windows. By associating the inorganic polyanion with specifically designed organic cations, we showed that the emitters could be selectively introduced in the polymer, LC or both organic phases. The hybrid features high photo- and electrical- stability and fully reversible and tuneable waveguiding performances, which are key requirements for successful integration into diverse applications. In the on-state, our devices are transparent and behave like typical static LSC, while in the off-state, their transparency disappears and their waveguiding abilities increase notably. The best waveguiding contrast values are observed when the polymer and LC phases contain the emitter while the best electro-optical properties are obtained when only the polymer phase is doped. The described integration technique has the potential to be extended to other types of metal based clusters showing different emission-absorption properties. Our results indicate that octahedral metal clusters are not only ideal for low-cost, eco-friendly and smart solar cell concentrators, but also possess an excellent stability for switchable optoelectronics.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials. E7 thermotropic nematic LC was purchased from Merck licristal®. This eutectic mixture contained 51 wt.% 4-cyano-4'-*n*-pentyl-biphenyl, 25 wt.% 4-cyano-4'-*n*-heptyl-biphenyl, 16 wt.% 4-cyano-4'-*n*-oxyoctyl-biphenyl and 8 wt.% 4-cyano-4''-*n*-pentyl-*p*-terphenyl. Methyl methacrylate (MMA) monomer was purchased from Aldrich and was distilled before use. 2-hydroxy-2-methylpropiophenone (HMPP) was provided by Specific Polymers and used such as a polymerization UV-photoinitiator. Ebecryl® 350 was purchased from Cytec and used like a UV curable resin. LC cells were purchased from Awat Spółka z o.o. (Poland), AWAT2 standard with 9mm x 9 mm active area. The polymerizable cluster $(CatP^{+})_2[Mo_6I_8(OCOC_2F_5)_6]$[23] and the clustomesogen[32] miscible with E7 were synthetized by reported procedures with conform analysis.

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Emission measurements. Lifetime measurements and TRPL mapping were realized using a picosecond laser diode (Jobin Yvon deltadiode, 375 nm) and a Hamamatsu C10910-25 streak camera mounted with a slow single sweep unit. Signals were integrated on a 30 nm bandwidth. Fits were obtained using origin software and the goodness of fit judged by the reduced $\chi 2$ value and residual plot shape. Absolute quantum yields in the solid state and in solution were measured with a C9920–03G Hamamatsu system. O_2 ($^1\Delta_g$) measurements were realized with a Hamamatsu H12397-75 NIR-PMT unit mounted on a IHR3 spectrometer. Excitation of thin films was realized with a 375 nm laser diode (Jobin Yvon deltadiode). Luminescence spectra in the liquid crystal phases were recorded with an Ocean Optics QE65000 CCD spectrophotometer by irradiating the samples directly on the microscope hotstage with a Nikon-INTENSILIGHT C-HGFI (UV 1 or UV2 filters). Cycling tests were performed by vertical optical coupling using continuous-wave 448 nm excitation. The optical setup is based on a vertical microscope with an objective x8 (NA=0.25). The pump spot (diameter =3 mm) is focused in the centre of the cell (power = 2.8mW). Edge emission was collected with an objective x20 (NA=0.30) at one of the slab edges, optimized thanks to a visible camera and analysed by a spectrometer or a photodiode. Photoluminescence spectra was recorded 10 seconds after switch (ON or OFF) was applied. No reabsorption process or shift of the emission band was observed after more than 100 repeated ON/OFF cycles. Voltage was provided by a homemade generator providing a tuneable AC square waved voltage (1 kHz). When the edge emission of the cell was collected on a photodiode, the emission was analyzed vs time temporal on an oscilloscope. The cycling consists of alternation of 30 seconds ON-OFF cycle (1h40 experiment, 100 cycles). The ON state consists of 1 kHz square voltage signal with peak

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amplitude of 30 Vpk and average voltage of 0 Vavg. The voltage is applied by a function generator followed by a high voltage amplifier.

Mesomorphism studies. Mesomorphism was studied by hot stage polarizing microscopy using a Nikon polarized optical microscope equipped with a Linkam THMS600 hot stage, a TMS94 temperature controller, a Nikon -DSFi2 camera.

SEM analysis were realized in the CMEBA –UMS 2001 ScanMat with a JEOL JSM 7100 F

Preparation of the PDLC cells. All Preparations were realized in normal atmosphere. The monomer/LC mixtures were heated at 60°C to obtain homogenous samples. Blends were then injected by capillarity into LC cells deposited on a hotplate at 60°C. The LC cells were then cured by UV irradiation at 365 nm (4 W) for 1 hour. Homogenous opaque red-luminescent (under UV) mixtures were obtained. To induce the liquid-crystal/polymer phase segregation, the cells were heated up to 80°C and cooled at 20°C/min to 61°C. After 5 min at 61°C, cells were cooled to room temperature following several cooling rates: from 61°C to 56°C at 0.1°C/min, from 56°C to 52.5°C at 0.05°C/min, from 52.5°C to 50°C at 0.1°C/min, from 50°C to 40°C at 0.5°C/min and from 40°C to 20°C at 1°C/min. This segregation procedure was performed twice. The phase segregation was then controlled by polarized optical microscopy and UV irradiation as depicted in Figure S1-4.

PDLC Cells composition.

Control cell: 60 wt% of a monomer mixture (90 wt.% MMA, 9 wt.% Ebecryl® 350 and 1 wt.% photoinitiator), 40 wt% of E7 LC.

Cell 1: 60 wt% of a monomer mixture (70 wt.% MMA, 20 wt.% $(Cat)_2Mo_6I_8(OCOC_2F_5)_6$, 9 wt.% Ebecryl® 350 and 1 wt.% photoinitiator), 40 wt% of E7 LC.

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Cell 2: 60 wt% of a monomer mixture (70 wt.% MMA, 20 wt.% $(Cat)_2Mo_6I_8(OCOC_2F_5)_6$, 9 wt.% Ebecryl® 350 and 1 wt.% photoinitiator), 40 wt% of a LC mixture containing 5 wt.% of clustomesogen in E7 LC.

Cell 3: 60 wt% of a monomer mixture (90 wt.% MMA, 9 wt.% Ebecryl® 350 and 1 wt.% photoinitiator), 40 wt% of a LC mixture containing 5 wt.% of clustomesogen in E7 LC.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information.

The following files are available free of charge.

Polarized optical micrographs, emission spectra, emission decay map and integrated profiles, transmittance spectra, emission response on the edge studies. (PDF)

Video of cell 2 under 365 nm irradiation when a voltage is applied (mp4)

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

* E-mail: yann.molard@univ-rennes1.fr

Author Contributions

The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to the final version of the manuscript.

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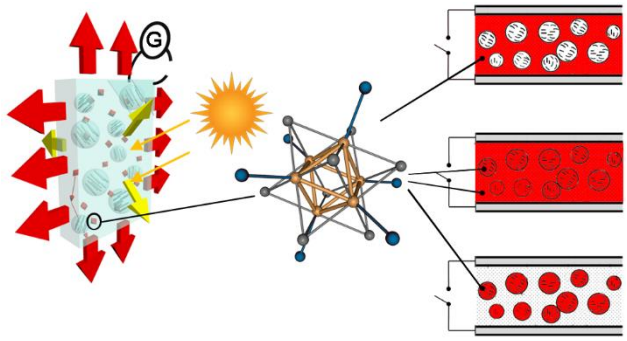
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