

## Luminance Characteristics of a Novel Red-Light-Emitting Device Based on Znq2 and Dye

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In this study, a novel red emitting organic electroluminescent (EL) device was fabricated with the bis(8-oxyquinolino)zinc II (Znq2) doped dye as an emitting layer. The Znq2 was synthesized successfully from zinc chloride ( $ZnCl_2$ ) as an initial material. Then, we fabricated the red organic EL device with a dye (DCJTB) doped and inserted Znq2 between emission layer and cathode for increasing EL efficiency. The hole transporting layer is a N,N'-diphenyl-N,N'-bis-(3-methylphenyl)-1,1'-diphenyl-4,4-diamine (TPD), and the host material of emission layer is Znq2. And the electrical and luminance characteristics of the device were measured. We found that the EL device with Znq2 inserting layer results in the increasing luminance efficiency.

**Keywords :** Organic EL device (OLED), Bis(8-oxyquinolino) Zinc II (Znq2), Red emitting layer, DCJTB (4-dicyanomethylene-6-c-julolidinostyryl-2-tert-butyl-4H-pyran), Dye dopant.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Organic electroluminescent (EL) device is the self-radiative display luminated by electrical excitation of fluorescent organic compounds. Organic EL displays have excellent advantages such as low driving voltage, high recognition by the self-radiation, and ultra thin- and light-type. Recently, the problems of liquid crystal display (LCD), which has been attracted great interests as a flat panel display, is narrow viewing angle, late response time, and low luminous efficiency, etc. Because organic EL display is able to solve these problems, it is attractive as a new generation display candidate. Since C. W. Tang and S. A. VanSlyke reported the results for high efficiency and high brightness of organic EL devices, many studies have been made for recent decade. However, there are many problems to be solved for practical applications, and among them the luminescent efficiencies of red, green, and blue which is required to realize for full-color display are 3, 6, and 1 [lm/W], respectively. The luminescent efficiency level of green and blue color reaches the relatively satisfied value. But, that of red in the case of monomer luminous materials is

about 1.5 [lm/W] and in polymer materials is 1.8 [lm/W]. These results in red color are very poor value for practical uses. In 1987, Tang and VanSlyke used organic 8-hydroxyquinoline aluminium ( $Alq_3$ ) which luminesces the light in green region of 520 nm, and the various colors in the broad ranges from green to red color are able to obtain by the doping of organic dye[1,2].

The 8-hydroxyquinoline Zinc ( $Znq_2$ ) is attractive luminous material in which has been reported luminance of 16,200 [ $cd/m^2$ ] at the applied voltage of 10 V[3]. Because the band gap of red emission layer is generally narrow for the red color device, a red emission assist (EA) dopant is added in the green emission material. Particularly, DCM family such as a DCJTB shows the highest luminance and superior operational stability among the various red dopants, and approaches nearly to the NTSC requirements[4].

In this paper, we fabricated the organic EL devices of red color using Znq2 as a host material and DCJTB as a red dopant. The luminance and electrical characteristics such as EL spectra, EL efficiency, I-V curve and V-L characteristics were investigated.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### Materials

Figure 1 shows the chemical structures of N, N'-diphenyl-N, N'-bis(3-methylphenyl)-1, 1'-diphenyl-4, 4'-diamine (TPD), Bis(8-oxyquinolino) Zinc II (Znq2), and DCJTJB (4-dicyanomethylene-6-cyanojulolidinostyryl-tert-butyl-4H-pyran). The TPD was used as a hole transporting layer, and purchased from TCI Co. LTD, Japan. The Znq2 as a host material of emission layer was prepared successfully from zinc chloride as a starting material. The DCJTJB (Kodak Co.) as a red dopant was

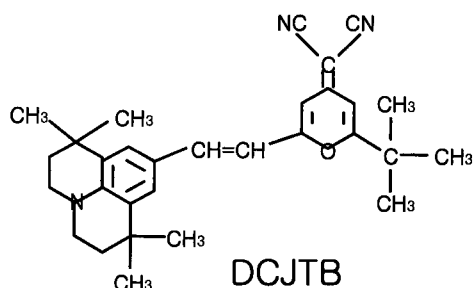
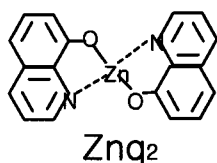
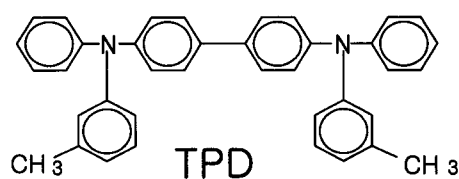


Fig. 1. The chemical structure of organic materials (a) N, N'-diphenyl-N, N'-bis(3-methylphenyl)-1, 1'-diphenyl-4, 4'-diamine (TPD), (b) Bis(8-oxyquinolino) Zinc II (Znq2), and (c) DCJTJB.

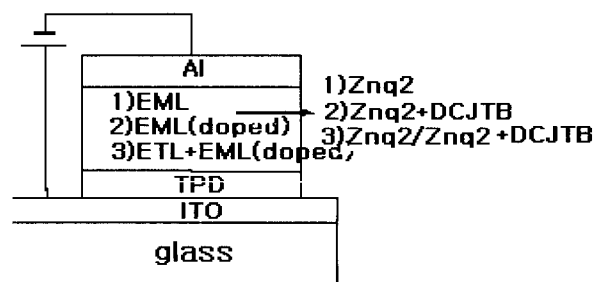


Fig. 2. The configuration of organic EL device.

used for red emitting devices.

### 2.2 Preparation of EL devices

ITO-coated glass sheets with a sheet resistance of  $20 \Omega/\square$  were used as a positive electrode, and were rinsed by ultrasonic cleaner within acetone and alcohol. The organic EL cell was deposited by the conventional vacuum evaporator in a chamber at a pressure of 10 Torr. The growth rate of aluminum used as a cathode layer was 4-10 Å/sec under the same vacuum conditions of EL deposition, and its thickness was 20 nm. The active emission area of EL device provided  $10 \text{ cm}^2$ , and most of electrical measurements was performed by the dc voltage condition at room temperature.

The brief configuration of organic EL device in this study is shown in fig. 2. The multi-layer devices fabricated in this paper for the comparison of luminance properties are specified by three kinds of the following structures: Al(200 nm) /Znq2(60 nm)/TPD(60 nm)/ITO, Al(200 nm)/Znq2+ DCJTJB 2%(60 nm)/TPD(60 nm)/ITO and Al(200 nm) /Znq2(30 nm)/Znq2+DCJTJB 2%(30 nm)/TPD(60 nm) /ITO inserting Znq2 layer as an electron transporting layer.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Variation for DCJTJB dopant

Figure 3 shows the photoluminescent (PL) spectrum of Znq2 as an emitting material. The absorption peak wavelength of 400 nm and the emission peak of around 535 nm were measured from the PL spectrum. Also the PL spectrum of DCJTJB is expressed in fig. 4. The PL

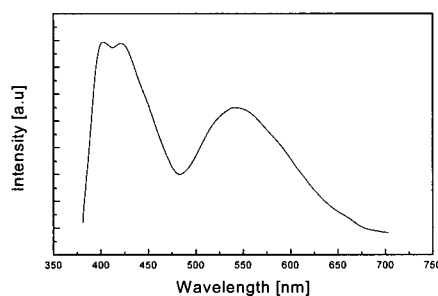


Fig. 3. PL spectrum of Znq2.

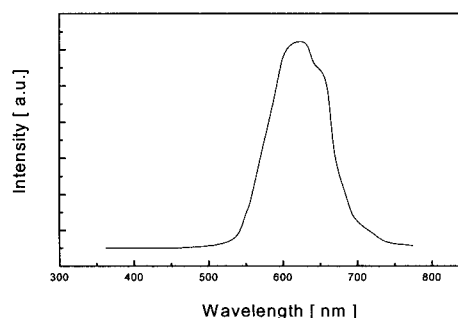


Fig. 4. PL spectrum of DCJTJB.

peak wavelength of DCJTB is positioned at 630 nm as shown in the figure.

Figure 5 presents the EL spectra of Znq2 emission devices and the mixed layer of Znq2+DCJTB, adding an emitting dopant of red color such as DCJTB. The devices with an emission layer of only Znq2 have the EL peak at 550 nm, similar to the PL peak spectrum of Znq2 at 535 nm as shown in fig. 3. However, the EL spectrum shifts toward higher wavelength, as the DCJTB dopant is added in the emitting layer. The EL peak of Znq2+DCJTB appears at 630 nm and, therefore, the device shows the luminescent characteristics of red color. Actually, there is no comparison between the two devices directly, because Znq2 has the main emission of green while the device with DCJTB dopant has the main emission of red color[5].

The luminance in the Standard Visible Sensitivity indicates as a maximum 1, identifying the intensity at the wavelength of 555 nm for light sensitivity that human comes aware generally. Therefore, it cannot be reflected exactly the intensity value of EL luminance. In fig. 5 shows that the peak amplitude is normalized arbitrarily to a value of 1, to certify the shifted peak wavelength.

**2 Effect of electron transporting layer**

The current density of EL devices as a function of applied voltage is shown in fig. 6. The current of EL device with DCJTB dopant is more difficult to flow than that of device without dopant as expressed in figure. Thus it means that the DCJTB molecular works as the carrier trap in Znq2[6]. However, as the DCJTB dopant is added and an electron transporting layer of Znq2 is inserted, the device is similar to the undoped devices. In Znq2 operates as an electron transporting layer, and the electrons caused by tunnel effects move into the emitting layer of Znq2+DCJTB[7].

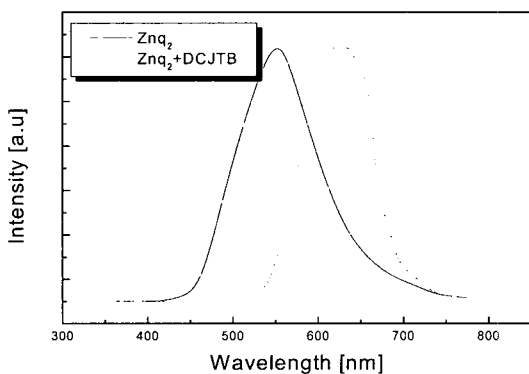


Fig. 5. EL characteristics with the variations of emitting layer.

Figure 7 describes the variations of EL spectrum devices with/without an electron transporting layer Znq2. Both devices with DCJTB represent the lumina properties with EL peaks at 630 nm, due to the addition of red DCJTB dopant. The device that inserts an electron transporting layer of individual Znq2 shows a little broad peak at nearby 550 nm as EL spectrum of Znq2 in fig. It means that a small amount of hole does not recombine in an emitting layer, and moves to the Znq2 layer and recombines with electron in there.

Figure 8 shows the luminance properties as a function of applied voltage. As the DCJTB as a red dopant is added the luminance of device is lower than that of device using Znq2 as an emitting layer of green color.

Figure 9 shows the luminance efficiency versus applied voltage relationships for three types of emission layer as the following structures: Znq2, Znq2+DCJTB (2%), and Znq2/Znq2+DCJTB (2%). As the organic devices of red color have the Znq2 emission layer mix

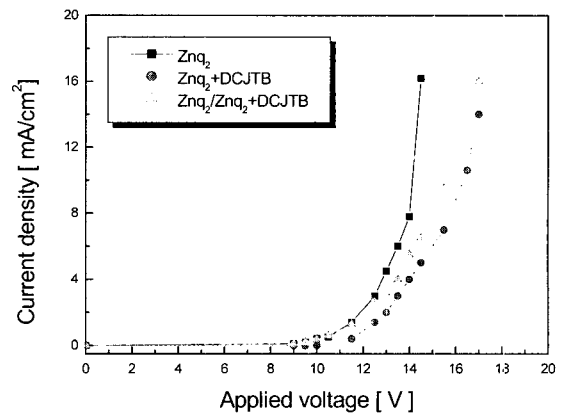


Fig. 6. Current density of EL devices as a function of applied voltage.

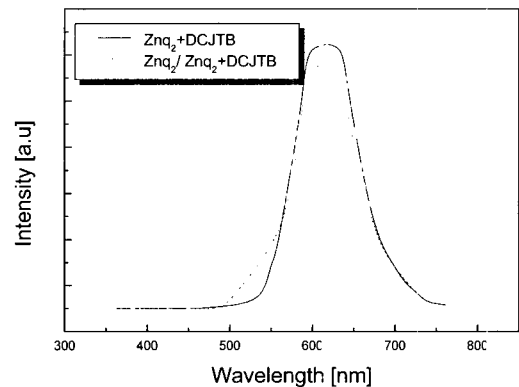


Fig. 7. EL spectrum in devices with an electron transporting layer.

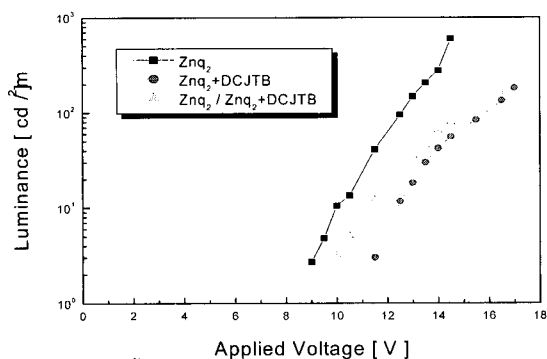


Fig. 8. Luminance properties as a function of applied voltage.

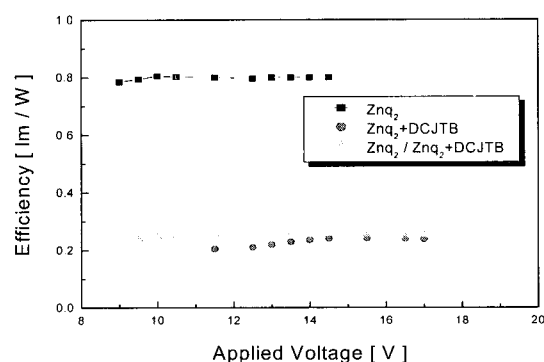


Fig. 9. Luminance efficiency versus applied voltage relationships for three types of emission: Znq<sub>2</sub>, Znq<sub>2</sub>+DCJTb (2%), and Znq<sub>2</sub>/Znq<sub>2</sub>+DCJTb (2%).

With a DCJTb dopant of 2%, the maximum efficiency is 0.42 lm/W at the applied voltage of 15.5 V. The maximum efficiency of Znq<sub>2</sub>/Znq<sub>2</sub>+DCJTb structure exhibits 0.262 lm/W at 13.5 V. In order to obtain the better red EL devices as shown in fig. 9, the luminance efficiency of red color is compensated by the inserting of electron transporting layer.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

A novel organic EL device of red color was fabricated with the Znq<sub>2</sub> doped with DCJTb of 2% as an emitting layer. The Znq<sub>2</sub> as a host material was synthesized successfully from zinc chloride (ZnCl<sub>2</sub>). The devices with an emission layer of only Znq<sub>2</sub> have the main peak at 550 nm, while the peak of Znq<sub>2</sub>+DCJTb appears at 610 nm. Therefore, the device shows the excellent red color purity and, however, the luminance and efficiency are relatively poor. Then, as we fabricated the red organic EL device of Znq<sub>2</sub>/Znq<sub>2</sub>+DCJTb structure having the electron transporting layer of Znq<sub>2</sub>, the luminance is

improved and then the EL efficiency is increased. The color purity is degraded minutely due to the emission from the inserted Znq<sub>2</sub> layer. But the device without Znq<sub>2</sub> layer has also the infinite small peak at nearby 550 nm. It would be cut off the holes toward the cathode, if the hole blocking layer was prepared. Then it will be possible to increase the recombination rates between electrons and holes. Therefore, if the choice for proper blocking material is searched closely, the efficiency of red emission device will be improved.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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