UV-Vis spectroscopy

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UV-vis spectroscopy

- Use of ultraviolet and visible radiation
- Electron excitation to excited electronic level (electronic transitions)
- Identifies functional groups (-(C=C)_n-, -C=O, -C=N, etc.)
- Access to molecular structure and oxidation state

pros

- economic
- non-invasive (fiber optics!)
- versatile (e.g. solid, liquid, gas)
- extremely sensitive (concentration)
- fast acquisition (but S/N!)

cons

- no atomic resolution
- broad signals (spectral resolution, multiple overlapping components)





Electronic transitions



 $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ high *E*, low λ (<200 nm)

n→σ* 150-250 nm, weak n→π* **200-700 nm**, weak

 $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ **200-700 nm**, intense

Condition to absorb light (200-800 nm):

 π and/or *n* orbitals

CHROMOPHORE



The UV spectrum

Conjugation effect







If a colour is absorbed by white light, what the eye detects by mixing all other wavelengths is its complementary colour

UV-vis spectra of transition metal complexes originate from

Electronic *d*-*d* transitions









- Yellow light is absorbed and the Cu²⁺ solution is coloured in blue (ca. 800 nm)
- The greater Δ , the greater the *E* needed to promote the e⁻, and the shorter λ
- Δ depends on the nature of ligand, $\Delta_{NH3} > \Delta_{H2O}$

TM(H₂O)₆ⁿ⁺



*d***-***d* **transitions:** factors governing magnitude of Δ

Oxidation state of metal ion

• Δ increases with increasing ionic charge on metal ion

Nature of metal ion

• Δ increases in the order 3d < 4d < 5d

Number and geometry of ligands

Nature of ligands

spectrochemical series

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{I}^{-} < \mathsf{Br}^{-} < \mathsf{S}^{2^{-}} < \mathsf{SCN}^{-} < \mathsf{CI}^{-} < \mathsf{NO}_{3}^{-} < \mathsf{N}_{3}^{-} < \mathsf{F}^{-} < \mathsf{OH}^{-} < \\ \mathsf{C}_{2}\mathsf{O}_{4}^{2^{-}} < \mathsf{H}_{2}\mathsf{O} < \mathsf{NCS}^{-} < \mathsf{CH}_{3}\mathsf{CN} < \mathsf{py} < \mathsf{NH}_{3} < \mathsf{en} < \\ \mathsf{bipy} < \mathsf{phen} < \mathsf{NO}_{2}^{-} < \mathsf{PPh}_{3} < \mathsf{CN}^{-} < \mathsf{CO} \end{array}$

UV-vis spectra of transition metal complexes originate from

Electronic d-d transitions



Charge transfer

Charge transfer complex

- no selection rules \rightarrow intense colours (ϵ =50'000 Lmol⁻¹cm⁻¹, strong)
- Association of 2 or more molecules in which a fraction of electronic charge is transferred between the molecular entities. The resulting electrostatic attraction provides a stabilizing force for the molecular complex
- **Electron donor**: source molecule
- **Electron acceptor**: receiving species
- CT much weaker than covalent forces
- Ligand field theory (LFT), based on MO
 - Metal-to-ligand transfer (MLCT)
 - Ligand-to-metal transfer (LMCT)



Ligand field theory (LFT)

- LMCT
 - ligand with high energy lone pair
 - or, metal with low lying empty orbitals
 - high oxidation state (laso d⁰)
 - M-L strengthened

MLCT

- Iigands with low lying π^* orbitals (CO, CN⁻, SCN⁻)
- Iow oxidation state (high energy d orbitals)
- M-L strengthened, π bond of L weakened



CO adsorption on precious metals





Metal colloids

Analysis of metals

- Localized plasmon resonance
 - When

wavelength larger than metal particle

What

collective excitations of conduction electrons (plasmons)

- limit: ca. 20-30 nm
- λ position depends on nature of metal





Instrumentation

Dispersive instruments

Measurement geometry:

- transmission
- diffuse reflectance



double beam spectrometer



In situ instrumentation



 \rightarrow different parts of spectrum do not represent same reaction time!!!

Weckhuysen, Chem. Commun. (2002) 97



Examples

Determination of oxidation state: 0.1 wt% Crⁿ⁺/Al₂O₃

Compound	Coordination geometry and oxidation state	Absorption bands (nm) ^a	Color
K_2CrO_4 (solution)	T_d , Cr^{6+}	440 (sh, vw), 370 (s), 275 (s)	Yellow
K ₂ CrO ₄ (solid)	T_d , Cr^{6+}	459 (s), 340 (s), 265 (s), 229 (s)	Yellow
K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇ (solution)	T_d , Cr^{6+}	440 (w), 352 (s), 255 (s)	Orange
K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇ (solid)	T_d , Cr^{6+}	526 (s, br), 332 (s), 262 (s), 229 (s)	Orange-red
Cr(NO ₃) ₃ ·9H ₂ O (solution)	O_h , Cr^{3+}	575 (s), 410 (s), 303 (s)	Green
Cr(NO ₃) ₃ ·9H ₂ O (solid)	Dist O _h , Cr ³⁺	575 (s), 410 (s), 304 (s), 263 (sh)	Green
$Cr(H_2O)_6^{2+}$ (solution)	O_h, Cr^{2+}	769 (s)	Blue
K_2CrCl_4 (solid)	Distorted T _d , Cr ²⁺	1430 (s)	Blue
Cr ₂ O ₃ (solid)	Distorted O _h , Cr ³⁺	714 (sh), 645 (sh), 595 (s), 461 (s), 351 (s), 274 (s)	Green

^as: strong; m: medium; w: weak; vw: very weak; sh: shoulder; br: broad.



Weckhuysen et al., Catal. Today 49 (1999) 441





Weckhuysen et al., Chem. Commun. 49 (2013) 1518

Examples

UV-vis probe in a pilot-scale reactor



