Thermal and Light-Induced Polymorphism in Fe(II) Spin Crossover Materials

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In certain Fe(II) complexes, the energy difference between the high spin (HS) and low spin (LS) state is of the order of k_bT . In these materials it is possible to induce a spin crossover (SCO) by a change of temperature, application of pressure and more interesting for potential applications, by light irradiation [1].

Materials such as $Fe[H_2BPz_2]_2L$ (Pz = pyrazol L = 2,2'-bipyridine (1) or 1,10-phenanthroline (2)) have been shown to exhibit Light-Induced Excited Spin-State Trapping (LIESST) when irradiated at low temperature [2]. In 2, the thermal SCO is coupled with a structural change from C2/*c* to P1, which is retained on irradiation, giving a new high spin structure [3].

Another SCO material, the coordination polymer $\{Fe(Bpe)_2[Ag(CN)_2]_2\}$ (3) exhibits an incomplete SCO transition [4], the structural consequences which include an effect complementary to the "Thermal and Light-Induced Polymorphism" seen in 2.

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