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Charge transfer states for organic opto-electronics

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Intermolecular charge transfer (CT) states at the interface between electron-donating and electron-accepting materials in organic thin films are characterized by absorption and emission bands within the optical gap of the interfacing materials. Depending on the used donor and acceptor materials, CT states can be very emissive, or generate free carriers at high yield. The former can result in rather efficient organic light emitting diodes, via thermally activated delayed fluorescence, while the latter property is exploited in organic photovoltaic devices and photodetectors. In this contribution, we will discuss the fundamental properties of CT states and link them to organic opto-electronic device performance. Furthermore, we introduce a new device concept, using an optical cavity resonance effect to boost CT absorption at photon energies below the optical gap of both donor and acceptor, enabling narrow-band, near infrared (NIR) photo-detection. This new type of photodetector can compete with standard organic photodetectors but extends their detection range to longer wavelengths.