

Spectroscopic Investigation of The Reaction Product of Co (II) Chloride with 1,3,5-Hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene and its application as Photoactive material

H.K. Sharma*

Author's Affiliations:

Department of Chemistry, Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya, Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 744101, India.

*Corresponding Author: H.K. Sharma, Department of Chemistry, Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya, Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 744101, India.

E-mail: hemantsharmapb@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In an organic medium, 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP) and CoCl_2 were reacted. IR, UV, and EPR spectrum studies, as well as quantitative estimations, were used to characterize the product. The composition of the reaction product has been determined to be $(\text{P}_3\text{N}_3\text{Cl}_5)(\text{CoCl}_3)^-$. A bidentate coordinated complex with Oh geometry and paramagnetic properties is the reaction product. Under both normal and varying lighting circumstances, the current transport mechanisms in the reaction product's thin films have been investigated. It is discovered that the film displays an Ohmic behavior at low fields and that the Pool Frenkel (PF) mechanism dominates the high field area. It infers that the reaction product may be used as photoactive material.

Keywords: 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP), Paramagnetic, Charge transfer, Pool Frenkel (PF), Photoactive

Received on 28.02.2025, Revised on 18.05.2025, Accepted on 28.05.2025

How to cite this article: Sharma H.K. (2025). Spectroscopic Investigation of The Reaction Product of Co (II) Chloride with 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene and its application as Photoactive material. *Bulletin of Pure and Applied Sciences-Chemistry*, 44C (1), 16-25.

INTRODUCTION

Polymers incorporating transition metal complexes have attracted considerable attention[1][2][3] due to their diverse applications in sensors[4][5][6][7], biomedical applications[8][9], and catalysis[10][11]. Complexes of 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP) with a few metals, including PCl_5 [12], PF_5 [13], TiCl_4 , ZrCl_4 [14], SbCl_3 [15], and Me_3Sn [16][17], as well as Palladium complexes of phosphine-linked cyclophosphazenes[18], have been found because of the electrons that are spare on N atoms. Crystallography and photophysical

characteristics of cyclic phosphazenes containing Pd (II), Pt (II), Ru (II), and Re(I) bipyridine complexes have been investigated by spectroscopic analysis and synthesis[19].

Recent studies have examined the reaction product of $(\text{PNCl}_2)_3$ with ethylamine and its use in acidic soil reclamation[20], as well as the electrical conduction of complexes of $(\text{PNCl}_2)_3$ with Fe (II) and Zr (IV) under various lighting conditions[21][22].

Spectroscopic Investigation of The Reaction Product of Co(II) Chloride with 1,3,5-exachlorocyclotriphosphazene and its application as Photoactive material

In view of this, synthesis, spectral characterization, and application as photoactive material of the reaction product of CoCl_2 with HCTP are being presented here.

EXPERIMENTAL

Aldrich make, Anal. R. grade, doubly distilled chemicals were used throughout the present work.

Synthesis

Synthesis of 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP)

The reported process was used to manufacture 1,3,5-hexachlorotriphosphazene [HCTP][23]. In

short, 0.5 mol of PCl_5 and NH_4Cl each were refluxed for 72 hours in 80 mL of s-Tetrachloroethane. Following a series of washings with distilled water and s-Tetrachloroethane to eliminate any remaining unreacted PCl_5 and NH_4Cl , a colorless material was isolated.

The cyclic trimer (Fig. 1) was formed, as confirmed by reported M.P. and FT-IR spectral studies[24]. The colorless mass was extracted using concentrated H_2SO_4 , which primarily removed the trimer, which was then recovered by diluting the acid with water and then back-extracted with petroleum ether[25].

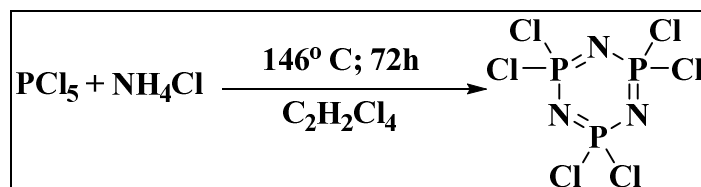


Figure 1: Reaction of phosphorous pentachloride (1 M) with ammonium chloride (1 M) for the synthesis of 1,3,5 Hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP)

Synthesis of the complex of Co (II) Chloride with $(\text{PNCl}_2)_3$

Equimolar ethanolic solutions of CoCl_2 and $(\text{PNCl}_2)_3$ were combined to create the complex, which was then refluxed for 24 hours until the color changed. To get rid of any unreacted reactants, the pink mass that had formed was separated and then washed with petroleum ether and ethanol, respectively. After drying, the complex was kept in a vacuum over fused calcium chloride.

Estimations and recording of spectra

The complex was examined both qualitatively and quantitatively using established techniques for estimations. Benzene was used as a solvent in the viscosity method to calculate molecular weight. The complex's I.R. ($400\text{--}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$), electronic ($200\text{--}800\text{ nm}$), and E.P.R. spectra were then captured at room 300 K using IFS-66 VFT-IR, UV-VIS-NIR, and Varian E-X band spectrometers.

Measurement of I-V Characteristics

Using the isothermal immersion approach, the complex's film was applied on a glass slide that had been ultrasonically cleaned and kept at 300 K in a benzene solution[26]. To get rid of any remaining solvent, the film was vacuum-dried for roughly twenty-four hours. A mechanical stylus setup was used to measure the film's thickness. Before the copper electrode was vacuum-deposited onto the glass slide, a bare copper wire was positioned over the complex's layer. Following deposition, the copper wire was taken out, resulting in a 0.15 cm gap between the two electrodes.

The film was illuminated for ten minutes using sunshine, an 80W mercury lamp, and a 60W regular lamp. The light intensity of a typical lamp is 73.62 W/cm^2 , while that of a mercury lamp is 58.89 W/cm^2 . Measurements of the film's I-V properties under various lighting situations have been reported elsewhere[27]. Fig. 2 shows the schematic diagram of the experimental setup for the I versus V measurement.

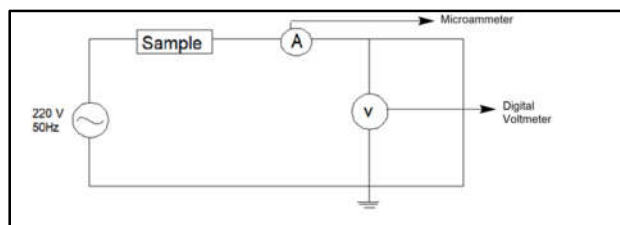


Figure 2: Experimental setup for I vs V measurement

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Characterization of HCTP.CoCl₂

The intricate HCTP. CoCl₂ is a pink amorphous solid that dissolves in ether, acetone, and benzene. When heated above 212°C, it decomposes rather than melts. The percentage of P 19.46, N 8.19, Cl 59.43, Co 12.32, and m.w.478.40 g mol⁻¹ that were obtained in the analytical data for the molecular composition (P₃N₃Cl₃) and (CoCl₃) resembles their theoretical values.

IR has been used to confirm that the complex contains the various functional groups. When the vibrations seen in the complex's infrared spectrum

are compared to those of HCTP (Table I), it is discovered that the frequencies 617.9 and 769.0 cm⁻¹ correspond to two P=N Co bands, while the complex's IR spectrum's assignments at 982.9 and 1087.3 cm⁻¹ are caused by free P=N groups in the ring.

The N-P-Cl bands are represented by the other vibrations in the upper area. It can be deduced from the IR data that HCTP has bidentately coupled with CoCl₂ via its N atoms. Figures 3 and 4 show the infrared spectra of (PNCI₂)₃ and its combination with CoCl₂, respectively.

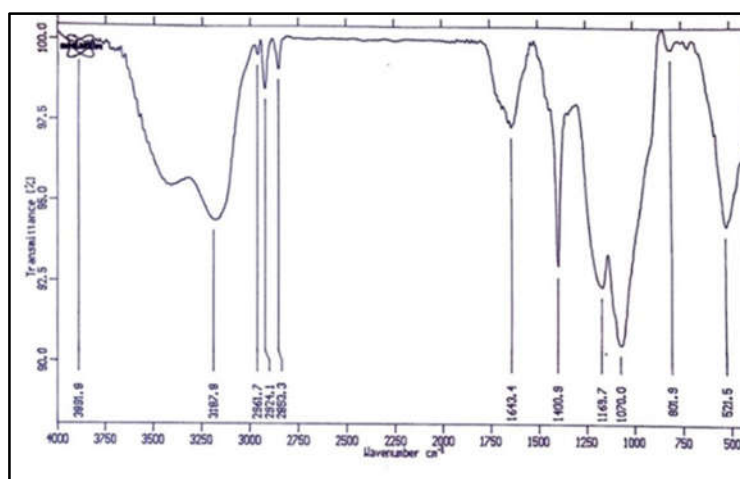


Figure 3: I.R Spectrum of 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP)

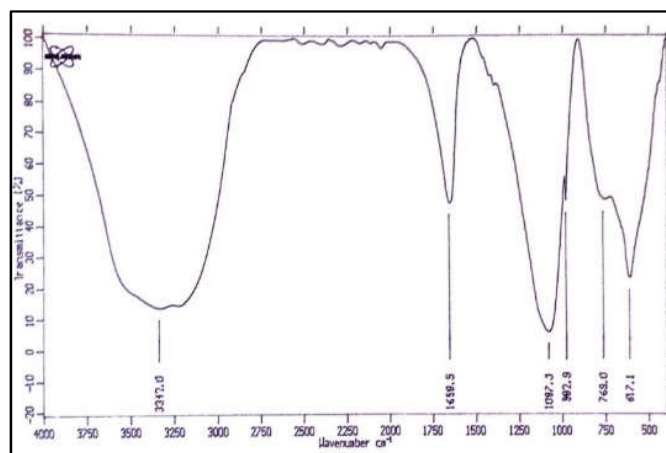


Figure 4: I.R Spectrum of the reaction product of 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP) with Co (II) chloride

Table 1: Comparison of IR spectra of HCTP and its complex HCTP.CoCl₂

Vibrations ν cm ⁻¹		Assignment
HCTP(PNCl ₂) ₃	HCTP.CoCl ₂	
521.5		PCl ₂
	617.9	P-N → M
	769.0	P-N → M
801.9		P=N
	982.9	P=N ring
1070.0	1087.3	P=N
1169.7		N-P-Cl
1400.9		N-P-Cl
1643.4	1658.5	N-P-Cl
2853.3		P-Cl
2924.1		P-Cl
2961.7		P-Cl
3187.8	3342.0	Cyclic P ₃ N ₃ ring

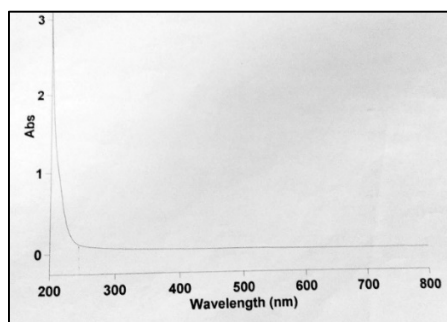


Figure 5: Electronic spectrum of the reaction product of 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP) with Co (II) chloride

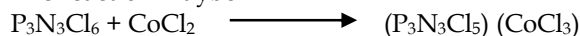
A single peak at 248 nm in the complex's electronic spectrum (Fig. 5) represents the charge transfer transition. The spectrum's greater absorbance value (3.18) suggests that the molecule might be employed as a photoactive material and could have applications in this field. The complex's strong absorbance and charge transfer further imply that it is very conducting.

The other bands $p\Pi - d\Pi$ for P-N ring of HCTP and ${}^1A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^1T_{1g}$ and ${}^1A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^1T_{2g}$ for Oh Co^{2+} are absent suggesting the linkage of HCTP to CoCl_2 forming N coordinated complex.

EPR spectrum (Fig 6) of the complex shows 16 peaks ($2 \times \frac{7}{2} + 1$)($2 \times \frac{1}{2} + 1$) which arises due to hyperfine interaction between Co and P atom inferring the presence of free electron on P atom. The complex's paramagnetic nature is shown by the magnetic moment, μ_{eff} 1.75 BM, and magnetic

susceptibility, χ_a , 3.61×10^{-3} , which were computed from the complex's EPR spectrum. The coordination is further supported by the empty shell and electron transfer values of g_{\parallel} 1.996 and g_{\perp} 2.0578, respectively. The complex's free-electron, g_{\perp} 2.0578, explains that the P-Cl bond has broken, transferring the Cl atom to the Co^{2+} ion and oxidizing it to the Co^{3+} ion. This is supported by the value of μ_{eff} 1.75 BM based on single or unpaired electrons, which results in the complex's Co^{3+} ion.

The reaction maybe



The presence of a free-electron on the P atom also supports the highly conducting nature of the complex as evidenced by the electronic spectrum of the complex.

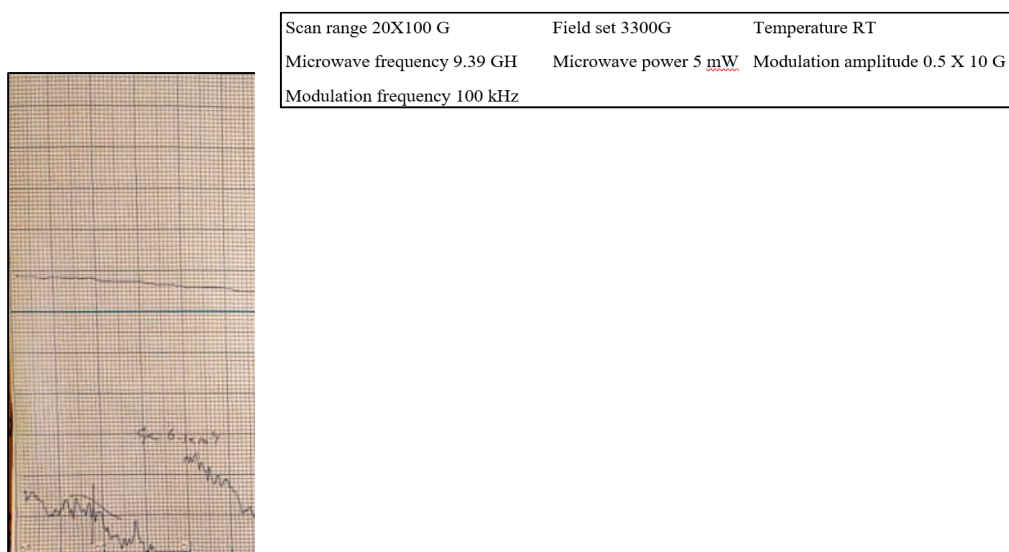


Figure 6: EPR spectra of the reaction product of 1,3,5-hexachlorocyclotriphosphazene (HCTP) with Co (II) chloride

From the results, it is concluded that HCTP has acted as an oxidizing agent during refluxion with the formation of a bidentatedly coordinated complex as shown by its structure (Fig. 7)

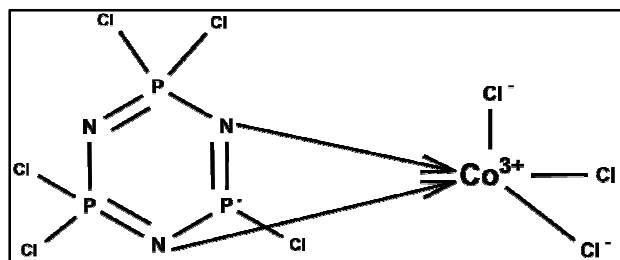


Figure 7: Proposed structure of the reaction product of HCTP with Co (II)chloride

APPLICATION AS PHOTOACTIVE MATERIAL

I-V CHARACTERISTICS:

The I-V characteristics of the (P₃N₃Cl₅) (CoCl₃) film under various lighting circumstances and normal illumination are displayed in Fig. 8. Both regular and mercury light, with intensities of 73.62 W/cm² and 58.89 W/cm², respectively, were used to illuminate the films. For ten minutes, sunlight was likewise shone on the other film. These charts demonstrate how the type of illumination affects the current's magnitude. For all four films, the log I against log V plots are primarily linear in low fields. Two forms of conduction can be seen in films that are normal, ordinary, lighted by sunlight, or by mercury light.

For all four curves, the computed slope value in the low field zone is ≈ 1 (Fig. 10). This shows that ohm's law holds good in the low field region. The high field area slopes of thin films under normal, ordinary, mercury, and sunlight are 1.080, 1.106, 1.064, and 1.233, respectively. While curvature is

seen in the high field region, indicating a non-ohmic zone, the linearity for all lighting circumstances in the lower voltage region is caused by the charge carrier velocity's independence from the applied field. Slope increased significantly in the high field zone, rising from 1.055 to 1.080, 0.998 to 1.106, 1.014 to 1.064, and 1.032 to 1.233 in sunlight, normal, ordinary, and mercury, respectively.

There is a 19% rise in slope in film that is exposed to sunshine, compared to 11% in a 100 W conventional bulb, 5% in mercury light, and 2% in normal light in the high field zone. This suggests that sunlight has reduced the surface barrier, which in turn has increased the emission current. However, the slope of the thin-film irradiated by sunlight changes from 1.233 to 0.797 in the high field zone, indicating that the space charge limiting region has caused charge carrier saturation. Figure 9 shows a replot of the data from Figure 8 as log I vs V^{1/2} for each of the four films.

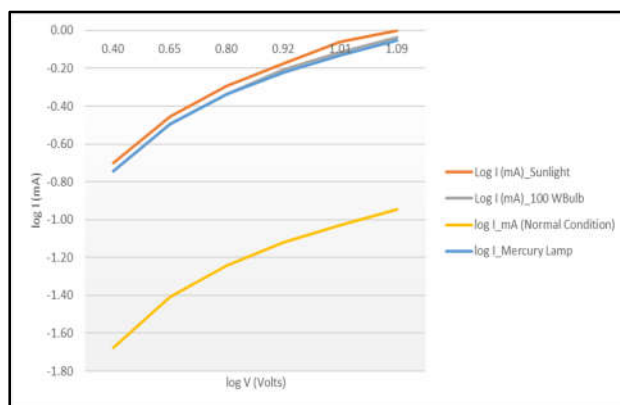


Figure 8: log I vs log V under different illuminating conditions

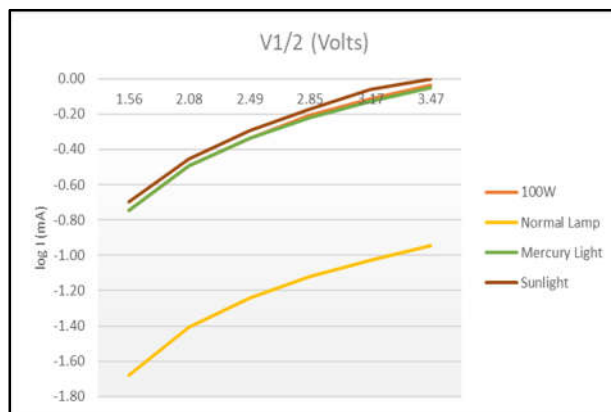


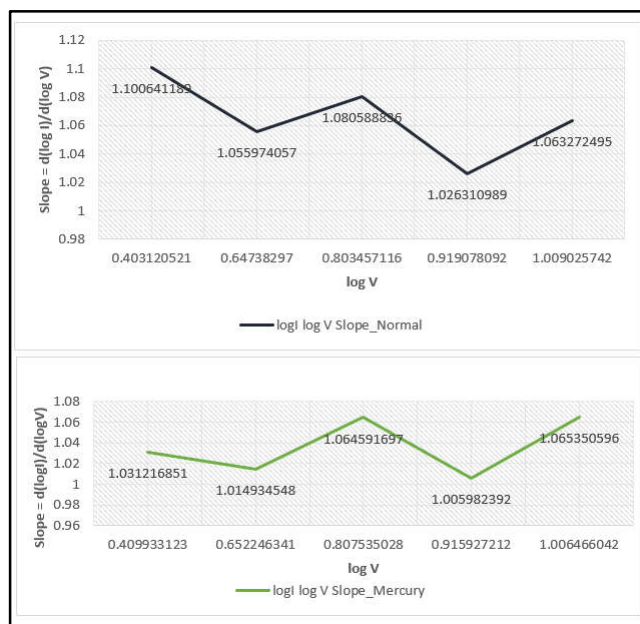
Figure 9: $\log I$ vs $V_{1/2}$ under different illuminating conditions

All four curves in the $\log I$ versus $V_{1/2}$ plots exhibit linearity in the high field region and curvature in the lower field. This discovery indicates that, when β is a constant, current in the high field zone obeys $I \propto \exp(\beta V_{1/2})$. Only when high field conduction is controlled by the Richardson Schottky (RS) or Pool Frenkel (PF)

effects can such a current dependence be seen (Lamb 1967).

The only point of distinction between the two being the values of β i.e., $\beta_{PF} = 2 \beta_{RS}$. The experimental value of β has been calculated by using the relation $\beta_{PF} = kT \times \text{slope}$.

Where k = Boltzmann constant. The values of β_{PF} and slope are shown in table 2.



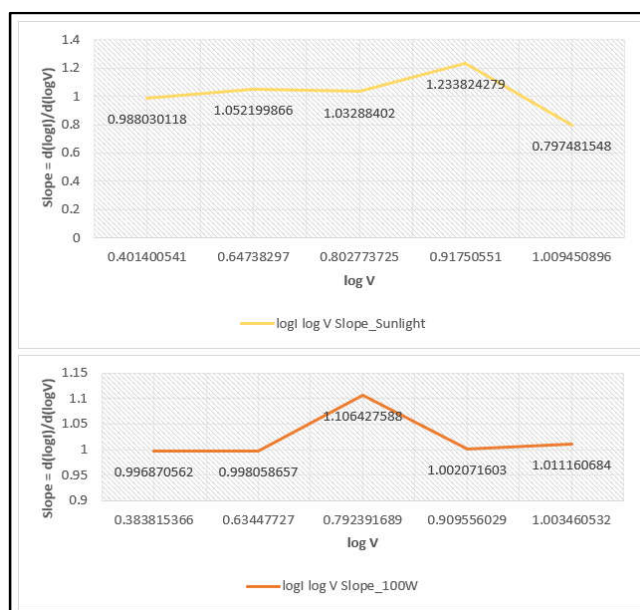


Figure 10: Slope versus log V under different illuminating conditions

Table 2: Values for β_{PF} calculated from the slope of log I versus $V^{1/2}$ plots.

Temperature in K	The film under normal condition		Film illuminated with an ordinary lamp		Film illuminated with mercury light		Film illuminated with sunlight	
	Slope	β_{PF}	Slope	β_{PF}	Slope	β_{PF}	Slope	β_{PF}
298	0.34	13.9×10^{-24}	0.36	14.8×10^{-24}	0.34	13.9×10^{-24}	0.33	13.5×10^{-24}

The theoretical values of β_{RS} are calculated by using the Schottky relation

$$\beta_{RS} = \left(\frac{e^3}{4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r} \right)^{1/2},$$

where e is the electronic charge, ϵ_r is the dielectric constant of the complex and ϵ_0 is the permittivity of free space. We have used $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ C, $\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$ F/m. 3.62×10^{-24} is the computed value of β_{RS} . The conduction process follows the Pool Frenkel (PF) mechanism if $\beta_{PF} > \beta_{RS}$, and the Schottky type conduction mechanism when $\beta_{PF} = \beta_{RS}$. For the films under various illuminations, the experimental value of $\beta_{PF} > \beta_{RS}$ (Table II) indicates that the PF mechanism is the most dominant mechanism of conduction at high fields. Additionally, it is shown that conduction is more common in the film that is exposed to sunlight (Fig. 9 log I vs $V^{1/2}$).

CONCLUSION

Based on the data, it can be inferred that thin films exposed by sunlight exhibit superior conduction when compared to films illuminated by regular lamps and mercury light. Conduction is nearly the same in films that are lit by mercury light and regular lamp light. In the high field area, however, the Pool Frenkel (PF) mechanism dominates all four films.

REFERENCES

1. Abd-El-Aziz, A. S., & Manners, I. (n.d.). *Frontiers in transition metal-containing polymers*.
2. Manners, I. (2006). *Synthetic metal-containing polymers*. John Wiley & Sons.
3. Chan, W. K. (2007). *Metal containing polymers with heterocyclic rigid main chains*.

- Coordination Chemistry Reviews*, 251(17–20), 2104–2118.
4. Bignozzi, C. A., Ferri, V., & Scoconi, M. (2003). Syntheses and characterization of luminescent polymers containing rhenium (I) pyridinyl-carbonyl complexes. *Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics*, 204(15), 1851–1862.
 5. Huynh, L., et al. (2005). Evaluation of phosphorescent rhenium and iridium complexes in polythionylphosphazene films for oxygen sensor applications. *Chemistry of Materials*, 17(19), 4765–4773.
 6. Pang, Z., et al. (1996). Phosphorescent oxygen sensors utilizing sulfur-nitrogen-phosphorus polymer matrices. *Advanced Materials*, 8(9), 768–771.
 7. Che, C.-M., Zhang, J.-L., & Lin, L.-R. (2002). PEG-linked luminescent platinum (II) complex as aqueous polymeric molecular light switch for protein binding reactions. *Chemical Communications* (21), 2556–2557.
 8. Saatchi, K., & Häfeli, U. O. (2007). One-pot syntheses, coordination, and characterization of application-specific biodegradable ligand-polymers. *Dalton Transactions* (39), 4439–4445.
 9. Wang, C., et al. (2009). Fabrication of polymer-platinum (II) complex nanomicelle from mPEG-g- α , β -poly [(N-amino acidyl)-dl-aspartamide] and cis-dichlorodiammine platinum (II) and its cytotoxicity. *Colloids and Surfaces B: Biointerfaces*, 70(1), 84–90.
 10. Madhavan, N., Jones, C. W., & Weck, M. (2008). Rational approach to polymer-supported catalysts: Synergy between catalytic reaction mechanism and polymer design. *Accounts of Chemical Research*, 41(9), 1153–1165.
 11. Leadbeater, N. E., & Marco, M. (2002). Preparation of polymer-supported ligands and metal complexes for use in catalysis. *Chemical Reviews*, 102(10), 3217–3274.
 12. Emsley, J., & Udy, P. B. (1970). Elucidation of the reaction of phosphorus pentachloride and ammonium chloride by phosphorus-31 nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. *Journal of the Chemical Society A: Inorganic, Physical, Theoretical*, 3025–3029.
 13. Binder, H. (1971). Darstellung der Verbindung $(\text{NPF}_2 \cdot \text{PF}_5)_3$. *Zeitschrift für Anorganische und Allgemeine Chemie*, 383(2), 130–135.
 14. Buslaev, J. U. A., Levin, B. V., Rumjanceva, Z. G., Petrosjanc, S. P., & Mironova, V. V. (1970). Rk. von 2,2,4,4,6,6-Hexaäthoxy-1,3,5,2,4,6-Triazatriphosphorin mit Titan- und Zirkoniumtetrachlorid. *Chemisches Informationsdienst. Organische Chemie*, 1(11), no. no.
 15. Millington, D., & Sowerby, D. B. (1973). Reactions of tris- and tetrakisdimethylaminochlorotetraphosphonitriles with antimony trifluoride. *Journal of the Chemical Society, Dalton Transactions* (23), 2649–2652.
 16. Roesky, H. W., & Wiezer, H. (1973). Zur Darstellung und Reaktion von Zinn-Stickstoff-Verbindungen. *Chemische Berichte*, 106(1), 280–287.
 17. Roesky, H. W., & Wiezer, H. (1974). Ein neues anorganisches Ringsystem: Cyclotristannazan. *Chemische Berichte*, 107(4), 1153–1155.
 18. de Paula, V. I., Sato, C. A., & Buffon, R. (2012). Pd complexes based on phosphine-linked cyclophosphazenes: Synthesis, characterization and application in Suzuki coupling reactions. *Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society*, 23, 258–266.
 19. Ainscough, E. W., et al. (2011). Spectroscopic studies of phosphazene polymers containing photoluminescent metal complexes. *Wiley Online Library*.
 20. Sharma, H. K., Kumar, P., Nag, R., Sharma, I., Sharma, J., & Vashishtha, M. (2019). Synthesis, spectroscopic characterization and application of 1,3,5-tris-(monoethylamino)-cyclotrichlorophosphonitrile for acidic soil reclamation. *Advanced Science, Engineering and Medicine*, 11(7), 625–632.
 21. Sharma, H. K., & Kumar, R. (2007). Electrical conduction in solution grown thin films of the complex of Fe (II) with cyclodichlorophosphazene trimer. *Asian Journal of Chemistry*, 19(7), 5763.
 22. Sharma, H. K., & Sharma, H. (2011). Electrical conduction in solution grown thin films of the complex of Zr (IV) with cyclodichlorophosphazene trimer. *Bangladesh Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*, 46(2), 231–234.
 23. Steinman, R., Schirmer, F. B. J., & Audrieth, L. F. (1942). The preparation and physical properties of trimeric phosphonitrilic chloride. *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 64(10), 2377–2378.
<https://doi.org/10.1021/ja01262a044>

24. Allen, C. W. (1994). Linear, cyclic and polymeric phosphazenes. *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*, 130(1-2), 137-173.
25. Lund, L. G., Paddock, N. L., Proctor, J. E., & Searle, H. T. (1960). 514. Phosphonitrilic derivatives. Part I. The preparation of cyclic and linear phosphonitrilic chlorides. *Journal of the Chemical Society*, 2542-2547.
26. Steckelmacher, W. (1996). Handbook of thin film process technology. *Vacuum*, 47(3), 313. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0042-207X\(96\)80014-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0042-207X(96)80014-5)
27. Kosaki, M., Ohshima, H., & Ieda, M. (1970). Electrical conduction of poly (vinyl fluoride). *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan*, 29(4), 1012-1017. <https://doi.org/10.1143/JPSJ.29.1012>
