



# Stable Co(II) Single-Ion Magnets for Thermal Evaporation Deposition

Ivan Nemec<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Palacký University, Olomouc, CZ <sup>b</sup> Magneto-Optical and THz Spectroscopy, CEITEC Brno University of Technology, Brno, CZ

IAP Meeting 2023, Benguerir



Faculty of Science, Palacky University Olomouc

Department of Inorganic Chemistry

Synthesis of coordination compounds Molecular Magnetism X-ray diffraction lab





Central European Institute of Technology, Brno University of Technology Brno

Magneto-Optical and THz Spectroscopy (RGL: Neugebauer) HFHF-EPR, FIRMS

Synthesis of coordination compounds, organic radicals Thin films of molecular compounds

# Magnetism in nanoworld

- upon decreasing particle size of the magnetic materials to nm dimensions new phenomena arise
- superparamagnetism: no domain structure, large fluctuating magnetic moments
- energy barrier to spin reversal, blocking temperature  $(T_B)$





 $f(T_{B}) = (KV, \tau)$ 

#### W. Wernsdorfer et al. Coord. Chem. Rev., 2021, 213984

# Magnetism in nanoworld: Single Molecule Magnets

- when the size is decreased to individual molecules, similar phenomenon to SP could be observed, individual molecules can behave as nanomagnets
- fingerprint: slow relaxation of magnetization thanks to existence of energy barrier (U)
- U depends on magnetic anisotropy parameters (D) of the ground spin state (S), D < 0 (axial anisotropy)





Integer spins  $U = |D| |S^2$ or Half-integer  $U = |D| (S^2-1/4)$ 

Very rare situation, usually  $U_{\rm eff} \ll U$ 

# **Single Molecule Magnets**

• Relaxation of magnetization can occur via diverse pathways:



**Direct process** – single phonon process involving the phonons with the same energy as the magnetic resonance quantum hv - spin to flip without traversing the energy barrier,  $\tau^{-1}$  shows the  $\Delta T$ and dc applied field dependence.

**Raman process** - two-phonon process with the scattering of phonons - phonon frequencies are related to each other by  $h(v2 - v1) = \Delta$ , leading to the strong  $\Delta T$ dependence, but the non-dependence on *B*.

**Orbach process** - direct, resonant two-phonon process via a real intermediate state - two phonons related to each other by  $h(v2 - v1) = \Delta$ .

**Quantum tunneling** – through the barrier. Can be hindered by the static magnetic field = Field Induced SMMs

# **Single Molecule Magnets**

- design of new SMMs based on tuning *D* and not increasing *S* Single Ion Magnets (SIMs)
- increase of  $T_B$  up to temperature of liquid nitrogen



# Molecular magnetic hysteresis at 60 kelvin in dysprosocenium

CAP Goodwin et al. *Nature*, **2017**, 548, 439

#### Magnetic hysteresis up to 80 kelvin in a dysprosium metallocene single-molecule magnet

from SMMs to SIMs

Fu-Sheng Guo et al. Science, 2018, 362, 1400

## SMMs methods of investigation



#### **DC** magnetometry

$$\hat{H} = D\left(\hat{S}_z^2 - \hat{S}^2/3\right) + E\left(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2\right) + \mu_B Bg\hat{S}_a$$

$$M_{\rm mol} = 1/4\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} M_a \sin\theta d\theta d\varphi$$

|E/D| = 0 - 1/3



HF-EPR



J. Hruby et. al. Dalton Trans. 2020, 49, 11697

## SMMs methods of investigation

- study of relaxation processes, analysis of AC magnetic data (AC magnetic field ~4Oe):
- Real ( $\chi'$ ) and imaginary ( $\chi''$ ) components fitted



$$\tau^{-1} = \tau_0^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{U_{\text{eff}}}{k_{\text{B}}T}\right) + CT^n + AH^mT + C_0$$
$$= \tau_0^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{U_{\text{eff}}}{k_{\text{B}}T}\right) + d\left(\frac{1+eH^2}{1+fH^2}\right)T^n + AH^mT + \left(\frac{b_1}{1+b_2H^2}\right)T^n$$

Orbach Raman direct QT

 $\chi_{T}$ - thermodynamic susceptibility,  $\chi_{s}$  – adiabatic susceptibility  $\alpha$ - distribution of relaxation times,  $\tau$  – spin-lattice relaxation time

# **Single Molecule Magnets**

Theoretical investigations CASSCF/NEVPT2 calculations

Values of zero-field splitting parameters, g-tensor, Kramers doublets...

Electronic structure – ligand field terms AILFT module – splitting of d-orbitals SINGLE\_ANISO module Probabilities of relaxation mechanisms



Malmqvist, P.Å.; Roos, B.O. Chem. Phys. Lett. **1989**, 155, 189–194. Angeli, C et al. Chem. Phys. Lett. **2001**, 350, 297–305.



L.F. Chibotaru et al. J. Phys. Chem. **2012**, 137, 064112. <sup>9</sup>

# **Used computational methods**

- All DFT and CASSCF/NEVPT2 calculations (n-electron valence state perturbation theory) were performed using ORCA 4.2 computational package [1]
- Coordinates from X-ray diffraction experiments were used as inputs for single-point DFT at B3LYP (def2-TZVP) level. Hirshfeld atom refinements (HAR) using NoSpherA2 module in Olex2 1.5 [2] at B3LYP (def2-SVP or def2-TZVPD) level were used for obtaining final structural file.
- All geometry optimization was done by DFT at B3LYP (def2-TZVP) level including D3BJ dispersion correction
- Geometry optimization of the selected molecular fragments were done by DFT at B3LYP (def2-TZVP) level
- Calculations of ZFS parameters were done using CASSCF/NEVPT2 calculations. Active space was set to five dorbitals of Co(II), {CAS (7,5), S = 3/2, 10 quartet and 40 doublet roots)
- QTAIM calculations were performed using MultiWFN software [3]
- Topology of coordination polyhedra was determined calculating continuous shape measures (CSMs) using SHAPE 2.1 software [4]

[1] (a) F. Neese, *Rev.: Comput. Mol. Sci.*, **2012**, 2, 73–78;
(b) F. Neese, *Rev.: Comput. Mol. Sci.*, **2018**, 8, e1327.
[2] (a) O.V Dolomanov *et al. J. Appl. Cryst.*, **2009**, 42, 339-341.;
(b) F. Kleemiss *et al. Chem. Sci.*, **2021**,12, 1675-1692

[3] T. Lu and F. Chen. J. Comput. Chem., 2012, 33, 580
[4] P. Alemany et al. Rev. Comp. Chem., 2017, 30, 289

# SMMs@surfaces

- For practical application of SMMs the deposition on functional (e.g. conductive, magnetic) surfaces is needed. This allows e.g. control, read-out etc.
- Problem with stability of the deposited SMMs typically, the best SMMs are low coordinated species.
- Besides decomposition also changes in the molecular geometry, new phonon modes appear due surface
- Notable examples SMMs@surfaces: metallofullerenes



# Tetra-coordinate Co(II) SMMs

- Easy synthesis, relatively good stability, interesting magnetic properties: tetra-coordinate Co(II) complexes
- Magnetic anisotropy is governed by symmetry of ligand field typically angular distortions from T<sub>d</sub>



S Vaydia et al. *Inorg. Chem.*, **2016**, 9564

M Wang et al. J.Sol. St. Chem., 2021, 122209

D Maganas et al. Inorg. Chem., 2011, 8741

# Tetra-coordinate Co(II) SMMs

- Easy synthesis, relatively good stability, interesting magnetic properties: tetra-coordinate Co(II) complexes
- Magnetic anisotropy is governed by symmetry of ligand field typically angular distortions from T<sub>d</sub>



LARGE NEGATIVE D

C. Legendre et al. Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., 2021, 8741

# Tetra-coordinate Co(II)@surfaces

- Tetra-coordinate dinuclear Schiff base Co(II) complexes
- Ligand with acridine core fluorescence
- Not SMM behavior but ferromagnetic ordering
- Deposited intact on highly ordered pyrolitic graphite by spin coating







# Tetra-coordinate Co(II)@surfaces

- Two tetra-coordinate complexes with ligands capable forming interactions with graphene
- Two kinds of deposition processes: thermal evaporation or wet techniques (drop-cast)



J. Hruby et. al. Dalton Trans. 2020, 49, 11697

J. Hruby et. al. Molecules. 2020, 25, 5021

Both deposits were very sensitive to moisture and molecules (partially) decomposed during sublimation.

Can we improve stability of the tetracoordinate molecules during an after deposition by using complexes with formally saturated (by semi-coordination) coordination sphere? 15

# Motivation: Co(II) SIMs with bidentate Schiff base ligands

- Bidentate Schiff base ligands, N,O donor set
- Magnetic anisotropy is governed by deformation of tetrahedron (parameter of axial distortion  $\mathcal{E}_{T}$ )



16

Guo Peng et al. Dalton Trans., 2020, 49, 5798

S. Ziegenbalg et al. Inorg. Chem., 2016, 55, 8, 4047

# **Semi-coordination**

- Noncovalent analog of the coordination bond introduced by Brown et al. in 1967, 'intermediate type of bonding between coordination and nonbonding, very weakly coordinated' [1]
- It usually implies the noncovalent nature of corresponding interactions with the major contribution derived from electrostatics and minor contributions from charge polarization and charge transfer [2]
- Simple initial criterion for the M…A pair:  $d(M ...A) < \sum R_{vdW}$ , but significantly longer than typical covalent bond (>>  $\sum R_{cov}$ )



# Semi-coordination – QT-AIM

- The topology of electron density mainly shaped by the attractive forces of the nuclei, resulting in a significant peak at the location of each nucleus.
- A "critical point" (CP) in the electron density is a point in space at which the first derivatives of the density vanish

$$\nabla \rho = \mathbf{i} \frac{d\rho}{dx} + \mathbf{j} \frac{d\rho}{dy} + \mathbf{k} \frac{d\rho}{dz} \rightarrow \begin{cases} = \mathbf{\vec{0}} & \text{(At critical points and} \\ & \text{at } \infty \text{)} \end{cases}$$
Generally  $\neq \mathbf{\vec{0}}$  (At all other points)

• To discriminate between local minimum and maximum – second derivative is calculated. Hessian matrix can be diagonalized and  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  are curvatures of  $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ 

$$\nabla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}) = \nabla \cdot \nabla \rho(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\partial^2 \rho(\mathbf{r})}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \rho(\mathbf{r})}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \rho(\mathbf{r})}{\partial z^2}$$





$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 \rho}{\partial x'^2} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{\partial^2 \rho}{\partial y'^2} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\partial^2 \rho}{\partial z'^2} \end{pmatrix}_{\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{r}_c} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Semi-coordination – QT-AIM

• Critical points are classified according to their rank ( $\omega$ ) and signature ( $\sigma$ ), whereas  $\omega = 3$  and are symbolized by (3,  $\sigma$ ). The rank is the sum of non-zero curvatures of  $\rho$  at the critical point ( $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3$ ).

#### **Bond critical point BCP!**

- (3, -3) Three negative curvatures:  $\rho$  is a local maximum.
- (3, -1) Two negative curvatures:  $\rho$  is a maximum in the plane defined by the corresponding eigenvectors but is a minimum along the third axis which is perpendicular to this plane.
- (3, +1) Two positive curvatures: *ρ* is a minimum in the plane defined by the corresponding eigenvectors and a maximum along the third axis which is perpendicular to this plane.
- (3, +3) Three curvatures are positive:  $\rho$  is a local minimum.



# Semi-coordination – QT-AIM

- At BCP we calculate parameters determining topology and energetic properties of  $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ :
- G(r) kinetic energy density, V(r) potential energy density virial, H(r) full energy density
- At BCP *H*(**r**) is negative for interactions with significant sharing of electrons, positive for non-covalent int.
- At BCP | V(r) |/G(r) < 1, if larger than 1, increasing covalency
- Strength of interaction can be estimated from virial  $-V(\mathbf{r})/2$

$$\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{4m}\right)\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r}) = 2G(\mathbf{r}) + \mathscr{V}(\mathbf{r}) \qquad H(\mathbf{r}) = G(\mathbf{r}) + V(\mathbf{r}) \qquad E_{\text{int}} = -V(\mathbf{r})/2$$

• In line with this the definition of semi-coordination at the (3, -1) BCP is:

(1) **attractive** non-covalent interaction:  $\nabla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}) > 0$  and  $H(\mathbf{r}) > 0$ )

 $(2|V(\mathbf{r})| / G(\mathbf{r}) < 1.0$  for non-covalent interactions

[1] I. V. Ananyev *et al., Acta Cryst. B76*, **2020**, 436–449
[2] Z.M. Efimenko *et al., Inorg. Chem.*, **2020**, 59, 2316–2327.
[3] E. Espinosa *et al., J. Chem. Phys.* **2002**, 117, 5529

## Semi-coordination and magnetism

- The Single-ion Magnets (SIMs) often contain M–A bonds which fulfil initial criterion, *e.g.* complexes with macrocyclic ligands. How are the ligand field and magnetic anisotropy affected?
- Semi-coordination can affect magnetic properties. Mediation of ferromagnetic exchange interaction in NaCu(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> or antiferromagnetic exchange interaction in the Cu(II) complex.



B. Drahos et al. EJIC., 2018, 4286.





Y.V. Nelyubina *et al. Inorg. Chem.* **2013**, 52, 14355.

V.A. Starodub *et al. J. Phys. Chem. Sol.* **2013**, 73, 2, 350.

# Co(II) SMMs & semi-coordination

• [Co(dpt)(NCS)<sub>2</sub>], dpt = dipropylenetriamine

 $Co(NCS)_2 + dpt = [Co(dpt)(NCS)_2]$ 

D. Jayatilaka and M.A. Spackman, CrystalExplorer package



# Co(II) SMMs & semi-coordination

[Co(dpt)(NCS)<sub>2</sub>], dpt = dipropylenetriamine •

AC magnetism

0.8





# Co(II) SMMs & semi-coordination

• [Co(dpt)(NCS)<sub>2</sub>], theoretical investigations

**BS-DFT calculations** B3LYP/ZORA/-def2-TZVP(-f)

 $J = +0.22 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 



Non-covalent exchange pathway

L. Havlicek et al. Polyhedron., 2022, (223), 115962



**BCPs for Co…N:** type (3,-1)

 $abla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}) = 0.0126267$   $H(\mathbf{r})/a.u. = 0.000321$   $V(\mathbf{r})/a.u. = -0.002513$   $G(\mathbf{r})/a.u. = 0.002835$ 

*E*<sub>int</sub> = |*V*(r)|/2 = 1.6 kcal/mol

 $abla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}) > 0$  *H*(**r**) > 0 |*V*(**r**)|/*G*(**r**) = 0.886 < 1 non-covalent character<sup>24</sup>

# **Co(II)** SMMs with bidentate Schiff base ligands

- (i) Structural/QT-AIM investigations
- (ii) Magnetism
- (iii) Depositions by thermal evaporation



d(Co…N) > 2.6Å

L.Xuet al., *Z. Strukt. Khimii*, **2006**, 47, 1003

## **Synthesis**





Petr Přecechtěl & Ondřej F. Fellner Palacky Uni Olomouc

 $R_1 = R_2 = -H, -X, -OMe, -NO_2$  $R_3 = -H_1 - X_1 - CH_3 - CH_2 CH_3 - CF_3$ 

Different reaction conditions (stoichiometric ratios, pH, reaction times...)  $\rightarrow$  polynuclear complexes





26

## **Crystal structure**



# Shape of coordination polyhedron



shorter Co…N distance ≈ larger axial distortion

4+2 geometry exhibits larger distortions

## QT-AIM



V(r)/a.u. = -0.02878 H(r)/a.u. = -0.0007 G(r) /a.u. = 0.02807

**∇**<sup>2</sup>*ρ*(**r**) = 0.1095

 $\nabla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}) > 0$ ,  $H(\mathbf{r}) < 0$ weakly covalent character

|*V*(r)|/*G*(r) = 1.03 > 1 weak covalent character *E*<sub>int</sub> = |*V*(r)|/2 = <u>9.0 kcal/mol</u>

other Co-N/O bonds: 42-55 kcal/mol

(3,-1)

QT-AIM

# [Co(pymep)<sub>2</sub>]



# **Electron localization function**



#### Non-covalent interaction index



#### No BCP but interaction is attractive and very likely with dominant electrostatic character

J. Navarro et al, PCCP. **2023**, 25, 29516

### **Magnetic properties**

$$\hat{H} = -J\left(\hat{S}_1 \cdot \hat{S}_2\right) + D\left(\hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{S^2}{3}\right) + E\left(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2\right) + \mu_{\rm B}Bg\hat{S}_a$$

Magnetism – DC data

**BS-DFT** 





 $g_{iso} = 2.272, D = -15.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}, E/D = 0.012, J = -0.27 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

 $J = -0.25 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ B3LYP/ZORA/-def2-TZVP(-f)

## **Magnetic properties**

Magnetism – HF-EPR no zero-field absorption observed

D < -20 cm<sup>-1</sup>, E/D = 0.122, J = -0.3 cm<sup>-1</sup>





Vinicus T. Santana CEITEC Brno

# CASSCF/NEVPT2 calculations AILFT

The lowest LF terms are all quartets

### $D = -24.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}, E/D = 0.084$

(magnetometry: *D* = -15.3 cm<sup>-1</sup>, *E*/*D* = 0.012 HFEPR: *D* < -20cm<sup>-1</sup>, *E*/*D* = 0.122 )



# **CASSCF/NEVPT2** calculations

 $D = -28.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

E/D = 0.11

crystal structure coordinates  $d(\text{Co} \cdots \text{N}) = 2.6951(9) \text{ Å}$  (1) = 1 + 32 (2) = 1 + 32



• absence of pyridyl groups –  $E(d_{xy}) \downarrow decrease$  of  $d_{xy}$  energy

3000

2000 -

1000 -

0 –

|2>

0>

ху

**7**<sup>2</sup>

 $2 > x^2 - y^2$ 

• lowering of  $d_{xy}$  energy leads to increase of |D|

S. Gomez-Coca et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 18, 7010

 $D = -40.1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

E/D = 0.04

# CASSCF/NEVPT2 calculations All prepared complexes



### **Dynamic magnetic data**

 $U_{\rm eff}$  = 48.2 K,  $\tau_0$  = 9×10<sup>-9</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>









# **Depositions on graphene**



Home-built high-vacuum sublimation chamber

Base pressure: 1 x 10<sup>-6</sup> mbar

- •QCM for film thickness monitoring
- •Heated crucible for sample
- •Temperature monitoring by thermocouple



**Dr. Jakub Hrubý** PhD at CEITEC Brno currently: <u>NHMFL</u>, Tallahassee, USA



Šárka Vavrečková MSc at CEITEC Brno currently: <u>Friedrich-Schiller</u> <u>Universitat Jena</u>, Germany

#### Wet deposition

From diluted solutions (drop-casting)

#### Characterization

- XPS
- AFM
- micro-Raman spectrocopy

#### Substrates used

CVD graphene on Si/SiO<sub>2</sub>

## **Depositions on graphene**



#### **Thermal evaporation**

starts of deposition were detected at 270 °C for **1** and at 283 °C for **2**. Both compounds were thermally evaporated for 4 days.

#### **Drop casting**

A solution (c = 1 mM) was drop-casted under ambient conditions, where 4 x 10 µL of the solution was deposited onto a substrate.

J. Navarro et al, *PCCP*. **2023**, <sup>38</sup>/<sub>25</sub>, 29516

# **Depositions on graphene: AFM & XPS**

1 Bulk



#### **1** Thermal deposition



#### 1 Drop-casting





10

Distance (µm)

5

0

15

20

5 µm

0

## **Depositions on graphene: micro-Raman**





J. Navarro et al, PCCP. 2023, 25, 29516

# **Depositions on graphene: micro-Raman**

shift of graphene's 2D peak to lower  $E \rightarrow$  n-doping due to deposited molecules







Jorge G. Navarro CEITEC Brno

#### **DFT** calculations

For various conformations transfer of electrons from molecules to graphene was confirmed

consistent with n-doping

# **Depositions on graphene: transport measurements**

- 0.1mmol solutions drop-casted on surface of graphene field-effect transistors
- gate voltage was varied from zero to 100 V
- charge neutrality point for deposited was shifted by -23V
- Electron transfer to the graphene was confirmed



Davonne Henry & Shehan da Silva Paola Barbara, Georgetown University



J. Navarro et al, PCCP. 2023, 25, 29516

• utilization of semi-coordination in zero-field SMMs.

Schiff bases again





• utilization of semi-coordination in zero-field SMMs.

diazotation reaction



*d*(Co···Cl) = 2.68 Å

*d*(Co…O) = 2.52 and 2.73 Å



• utilization of semi-coordination in zero-field SMMs.

sulfonylation reactions









Petr Halas & Ondřej F. Fellner Palacky Uni Olomouc



utilization of semi-coordination in zero-field SMMs. ٠

sulfonylation reactions



Petr Halas & Ondřej F. Fellner Palacky Uni Olomouc



*d*(Co···O) = 2.69 Å  $D = -125 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ **ZF-SMM** 



# Conclusions

- We employed semi-coordination in design and synthesis of Co(II) field-induced SIMs
- We confirmed that the Co…N interactions have attractive and electrostatic nature
- We explained how the Co…N interactions influence the value of D parameter
- We successfully used some of the prepared complexes for deposition on the graphene by thermal evaporation

# Acknowledgement

#### **Synthesis**

O.F. Fellner (UP Olomouc, CZ) Petr Přecechtěl (UP Olomouc, CZ) Petr Halaš (UP Olomouc, CZ)

#### **Theoretical calculations**

Radovan Herchel (UP Olomouc, CZ)

## **HF-EPR & Depositions**

Jakub Hrubý (CEITEC Brno, CZ) Šárka Vavrečková (CEITEC Brno, CZ) Jorge G. Navarro (CEITEC Brno, CZ) Vinicius T. Santana (CEITEC Brno, CZ) Petr Neugebauer (CEITEC Brno, CZ)

## **SQUID magnetometry**

Ivan Šalitroš (STU Bratislava, SK) Eric McInnes (University of Manchester, UK)

#### Transport measurements

Davonne Henry (Georgtown University, USA) Shenan da Silva (Georgtown University, USA) Paola Barbara (Georgtown University, USA)

#### **Funding**

"Semicoordination: a way to chemically stable molecular nanomagnets" (Grant Agency of Czech Republic, 23-07175S)