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Coordination polymers constructed from tetrahedral shaped adamantane tectons⁺

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Two rigid tetrahedral organic linkers derived from adamantane have been employed in constructing a 3-D, 4-fold interpenetrated framework featuring a PtS topology, $[CuL^{1}(H_{2}O)_{2}](BF_{4})_{2}\cdot 8H_{2}O$ (1) $(L^{1}=1,3,5,7-tetrakis{4-(4-pyridyl)phenyl}adamantane), and a 2-fold interpenetrated grid–like coordination polymer, <math>[Mn(hfac)_{2}(L^{2})_{0.5}]$ (2) $(L^{2}=1,3,5,7-tetrakis(4-cyano-phenyl)adamantane).$

Tetrahedral divergent ligands played an important role in crystal engineering.¹ By developing the "node-and-spacer" approach, Robson has shown that coordination polymers featuring a diamond-like topology can be rationally obtained by combining two tectons: a metal ion with a preference for T_d coordination geometry, and an organic molecule with tetrahedrally-disposed coordination groups.² Several other basic inorganic structures are constructed from tetrahedral tectons (mainly metal ions): lonsdaleite (lon), quartz (qtz), SrAl₂ (sra) (tetrahedral nodes – uni- or binodal nets), PtS (pts) (a combination of tetrahedral and square planar nodes), Ge₃N₄ (tetrahedral and trigonal nodes in a 3:4 ratio), fluorite (flu) (tetrahedral and cubic centres) etc.³ Even though a rich diversity of topologies can be envisioned, the number of coordination polymers described in the literature and relying upon tetrahedral spacers is quite low.⁴ The network topologies are different from the diamondoid one when the metal ions have other stereochemical preferences.

The coordinating-prone units attached to tetrahedral skeletons (methane, silane or adamantane derivatives) can be anionic (carboxylate,⁵ sulfonate,⁶ phosphonate⁷⁻⁹ groups), or neutral

(pyridine,¹⁰ triazole,¹¹ and tetrazole^{8,12-13} fragments, cyano groups^{2,14}). Tetra-substituted adamantane derivatives are useful tectons in generating robust porous structures showing high connectivity topologies.^{6-8,12,14c} In spite of the fact that rigid organic tetrahedral tectons are encoded to orient the donor atoms towards the vertices of a regular tetrahedron, thus extending the molecular assembling into three dimensions, 2-D layered comprising organic ligands with T_d symmetry have also been described.^{6a,14}

Herein, we report the crystal structures of two new coordination polymers constructed from copper(II) ions and $\{Mn''(hfac)_2\}\$ entities acting as nodes: $[CuL^1(H_2O)_2](BF_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$ **1** and $[Mn(hfac)_2(L^2)_{0.5}]$ **2**, where L^1 and L^2 are tetrahedral spacers having four phenyl-pyridyl (L¹) or phenyl-cyano moieties (L²) attached to an adamantane backbone (Scheme 1). The two assembling species have been chosen from the following reasons: Cu^{II} adopts various coordination numbers and geometries, but, only rarely tetrahedral; {Mn^{II}(hfac)₂} has two positions available for the interaction with the spacer (either *cis* or *trans*). In the first case, Cu^{II}, the topology of the resulting coordination polymer cannot be easily predicted. In the second case, a 3-D coordination polymer is expected, if the donor atoms arising from the spacer occupy the trans positions at the manganese ion, and a 2-D coordination polymer, when the donor atoms from the spacer occupy the cis positions.



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[†]Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: details of synthetic procedures, crystallographic data, figures of asymmetric units, spectral data, TGA curve and experimental and calculated powder diffraction patterns. CCDC 1508551 and 1508552. For ESI and X-ray crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

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Scheme 1

The two adamantane derivatives, \boldsymbol{L}^1 and \boldsymbol{L}^2 , have been already described in the literature.^{15,8} In the case of L^1 tetrapyridyladamantane (Scheme S1), relevant improvements of the synthesis, compared to the method reported by Müller,¹⁵ were elaborated. The employment of $PdCl_2(dppf)$ instead of $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ lead to an increase of the yields from 27 to 41%, a reducing of the reaction time from 72 to 12 h, and an easier chromatographic separation of the target compound.[‡]

The reaction of L^1 with copper(II) tetrafluoroborate, in the presence of monoethanolamine, affords blue-green single crystals of $[CuL^{1}(H_{2}O)_{2}](BF_{4})_{2}\cdot 8H_{2}O$ 1.[‡] The investigation of the crystal structure[§] of **1** reveals that each L¹ molecule connects four copper(II) ions (Figure 1) in a 3-D network (Figure 2). The copper ions display a distorted octahedral coordination geometry with four nitrogen atoms in the equatorial plane arising from four organic linker molecules (Cu1 - N1 = 2.026(8)) Å) and two semi-coordinated water molecules in trans positions (Cu1 – O1W= 2.626(16) Å). The Cu…Cu distances are 18.130 Å (Cu1…Cu1^a, ^a = 1+x, 1+y, z), and 20.744 Å (Cu1…Cu1^b, b = 0.5+x, 2.5-y, 0.5+z). The 3-D cationic framework can be described as a binodal (4,4)-connected network with a platinum sulfide topology, where L¹ molecules play the role of tetrahedral sulfide nodes while the equatorial CuN₄ units replace platinum square planar centres. The analysis of the packing diagram shows the interpenetration of four independent 3-D nets of 1 (Figure 3). The structural changes of L¹, in comparison with the homolog derived from methane,^{10b} are reflected in an increase of the interpenetration degree. To the best of our knowledge, this is the highest interpenetration degree encountered for molecular assemblies built from a rigid organic linker with T_d symmetry bearing pyridine moieties. The void space resulting upon interpenetration is filled by BF4 anions and solvent molecules. Since the number of the water



Figure 1. Perspective view of the coordination polymer in crystal **1** with atom numbering scheme.



Figure 2. Perspective view of the 3-D coordination framework of **1** and the corresponding representation of platinum sulfide topology.



Figure 3. Crystal packing diagram in crystal **1**, showing the four-fold interpenetration.

molecules could not be directly determined by the crystallographic measurements, we estimated the presence of eight water molecules per formula (ESI^{\dagger}) from the data obtained by elemental and thermogravimetric analyses. The diffuse reflectance electronic spectrum of **1** (Figure S3) shows a band at 604 nm, due to the hexacoordinated Cu^{II} ions.

Compound $[Mn(hfac)_2(L^2)_{0.5}]$ **2** crystallizes in the tetragonal centrosymmetric $I4_1/a$ space group.[§] Taking into consideration the weak coordinating ability of nitrile containing molecules, we have employed a hexafluoroacetylacetonate metal complex, as the electron-withdrawing F atoms increase the Lewis acidity of the metal ion, thus favouring the coordination of the nitrile groups to the manganese ion, by replacing the weakly bounded aqua ligands. A neutral coordination structure is assembled by reacting $[Mn(hfac)_2(H_2O)_2]$ with L² (Hhfac = 1,1,1,5,5,5-hexafluoro-2,4-pentanedione).[‡]

The {Mn(hfac)₂} nodes are linked by L² molecules resulting in neutral (4,4)-connected grid-like layers. The Mn^{II} ions adopt a slightly distorted octahedral geometry with two chelating hfac ligands (Mn – O1 = 2.128(4) Å, Mn – O2 = 2.154(5) Å) and two nitrogen ligand atoms disposed in *cis* positions (Mn – N1 = 2.239(7) Å) (Figure 4). Since L² acts as a 4-connecting knot, the low dimensionality of **2** can be ascribed exclusively to the *cis*-

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arrangement of nitrogen donor atoms in $\{Mn(hfac)_2N_2\}$ units, while a *trans* coordination of the nitrogen L^2 atoms to the metal centre would afford a 3-D net. In the case of honeycomb



Figure 4. Fragment of crystal structure of **2** showing the interaction of the tetrahedral ligand L^2 with two {Mn(hfac)₂} units of opposite chirality.

type layers^{14b,c,} where the tetrahedral shaped ligand acts as 3connecting node, the promotion into the third dimension is disrupted by the presence of solvent molecules or coordinating anions. The inherent chirality of the *cis*-isomer of the metal building blocks enables the formation of chains where two L² arms bridge metal centres of same octahedral delta (Δ) conformation and the other two arms bridge metal centres of lambda (Λ) conformation. Viewed along the *c* axis, the structure of **2** can be regarded as sets of zig-zag chains constructed, each one, by Mn^{II} nodes with the same chirality, and running perpendicular to each other. Layers with meshes of square cross section are thus formed (Figure 5). Two such layers interpenetrate (Figure 6 a). Channels within the *ab* plane are formed (Figure 6 b).





Figure 5. View of a layer in crystal 2 (See text: green - delta,

violet - lambda configuration) (CF₃ groups were omitted for

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Figure 6. (a) Packing diagram of **2** showing the two-fold interpenetration of 2-D nets; (b) perspective view of channels.

In conclusion, two coordination polymers with different dimensionalities have been synthesized from rigid tetrahedral shaped tectons with adamantane scaffolds. We have emphasized the role played by the coordination preference of the metal centre, along with the organic linker's symmetry, in dictating the network topology. Compound 1 features a PtS-type topology of the network, with four interpenetrating nets. The low dimensionality of compound 2 arises from the employment of a neutral building block displaying a *cis*-conformation that limits the propagation into the third dimension. Studies to check the ability of the ligands to afford high connectivity networks with other metal ions are in progress.

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(b)

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Notes and references

[‡] Synthesis of L¹: To a 100 mL three-necked round-bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser were added 4-pyridylboronic acid (0.258 g, 2.11 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (0.043 g, 0.05 mmol), and Na₂CO₃ (0.452 g, 4.27 mmol) in dioxane/water (2.5:1 v/v, 35 mL) and the solution was flushed with argon for 20 min, after 1,3,5,7-tetrakis(4iodophenyl)adamantane (0.25 g, 0.26 mmol) was added under argon atmosphere, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80°C for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated, and the crude product was dissolved in chloroform and washed with water (2×50 mL) and satd. NH₄Cl solution (2×50 mL). The separated organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. After column chromatography purification bv (silica gel, pentane/DCM/MeOH: 1.5:1:0.2, Rf= 0.45) the product was isolated solid (0.082 g, as white 41% yield). Tetrakis(pcyanophenyl)adamantane L² was obtained (Scheme S2) in good yields (80%) starting from 1,3,5,7-tetrakis(piodophenyl)adamantane applying the procedure described in the literature.

Synthesis of **1**: A methanol solution (4 mL) of $Cu(BF_4)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (0.0024 g, 0.007 mmol) was reacted with 0.0018 g (0.029 mmol) monoethanolamine in 4 mL methanol and the resulting mixture was left to slowly diffuse through an ethanol layer (5 mL) into 5 mL CHCl₃ of L¹ (0.0019 g, 0.0025 mmol). Blue green single crystals suitable for X-ray measurements appeared in two-three weeks. Yield (based on L¹): 0.0013 g, 46%. Selected IR data (KBr): 3315 (m), 3068 (w), 3033 (w), 2929 (w), 2897 (w), 2849 (w), 1664 (s), 1614 (vs), 1542 (m), 1493 (s), 1431(m), 1401 (w), 1356 (w), 1295 (w), 1236 (w), 1123 (s), 1073 (s), 1028 (s), 1007 (s), 1025 (m), 825 (w), 792 (s), 739 (w), 667 (w), 637 (w).

Synthesis of **2**: [Mn(hfac)₂(H₂O)₂] H₂O (0.0038 g, 0.0072 mmol) was solubilized in 4 mL boiling n-heptane. Upon cooling to room temperature, 4 mL of CH₂Cl₂ were added and the solution was carefully layered on top of 2 mL CH₂Cl₂ solution of L² (0.002g, 0.0037 mmol) in a test tube. Yellow single crystals were formed in few days. Yield (based on L²): 0.0015 g, 28%. Selected IR data (KBr): 3401 (m), 2939 (w), 2858 (w), 2262 (m), 2224 (m), 1647 (s), 1606(w), 1523 (w), 1493 (s), 1405 (w), 1369 (w), 1252 (s), 1196 (s), 1149 (vs), 1096 (w), 836 (w), 794 (w), 764 (w), 665(w).

§Crystal data for [CuL¹(H₂O)₂](BF₄)₂·8H₂O (1): C₅₄H₆₄CuB₂F₈N₄O₁₀, M = 1166.26, T = 293(2) K, tetragonal, space group /422, *a* = 12.8199(9), *c* = 32.617(4) Å, V = 5360.5(1) Å³, D_c = 1.310 gcm³, μ = 1.218 mm⁻¹, Z = 4, Flack parameter = 0.42(7), reflections collected = 6049, independent reflection = 1932 [R_{int} = 0.0566]. Before SQUEZE: *R* indices [$I > 2\sigma(I$]]: R_1 = 0.1033, wR_2 = 0.2671, *R* indices (all data): R_1 = 0.1507, wR_2 = 0.3199, GoF = 1.086 with $\Delta\rho_{min}/\Delta\rho_{max}$ = -0.244/1.258 eÅ⁻³. After SQUEZE: *R* indices [$I > 2\sigma(I$]]: R_1 = 0.0750, wR_2 = 0.1876, *R* indices (all data): R_1 = 0.1138, wR_2 = 0.2237, GoF = 0.938 with $\Delta\rho_{min}/\Delta\rho_{max}$ = -0.216/0.939 eÅ⁻³.

Crystal data for [Mn[hfac]₂[L²]_{0.5}] (2): $C_{29}H_{16}$ MnF₁₂N₂O₄, M = 739.38, T = 293(2) K, tetragonal, space group $I4_1/a$, a = 11.645(5), c = 52.700(5) Å, V = 7146(6) Å³, D_c = 1.374 gcm⁻³, μ = 0.465 mm⁻¹, Z = 8, reflections collected = 32305, independent reflection = 3122 [R_{int} = 0.2541]. *R* indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]: R_1 = 0.0604, wR_2 = 0.1342, *R* indices (all data): R_1 = 0.1674. wR_2 = 0.1807, GoF = 0.885 with $\Delta\rho_{min}/\Delta\rho_{max}$ = 0.249/0.534 eÅ⁻³.

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