



# Solvent effect on 3D topology of hybrid fluorides: Synthesis, structure and luminescent properties of Zn(II) coordination compounds



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## ABSTRACT

The mixture  $\text{ZnF}_2/\text{HF}_{\text{aq}}/\text{Hamtetraz}$  ( $\text{Hamtetraz} = 5\text{-aminotetrazole}$ ) with the molar ratio 10/80/10 reacts at 160 °C in different solvents (methanol/water and water respectively) to give two new 3D compounds:  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) and  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2). The structures, determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction, exhibit neutral 3D-frameworks with narrow cavities that contain water molecules. Each network is built up from two types of parallel chains connected by aminotetrazolate ligands. The comparison of 1 and 2 with literature compounds shows that the nature of the polar solvent, aprotic or protic, influences the network characteristics, as well as the condensation of inorganic species or the bridging mode of the organic moieties. The luminescence properties of the zinc fluoro-aminotetrazolates are discussed.

## 1. Introduction

Porous coordination compounds, also known as Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs), have emerged during the last two decades. These hybrid compounds are nowadays considered as a new generation of multifunctional materials for potential applications in several fields, such as gas storage, health, catalysis or luminescent devices [1–4]. The desired properties can be tuned by combining the inorganic units, commonly built up from 3d metals or lanthanides [5–8] and the organic linkers, mainly carboxylic acids or azoles [9,10]. Azole ligands are extremely versatile linkers due to their heterocyclic character, in particular tetrazole derivatives [11]. Four nitrogen atoms, available in tetrazole rings, allow a broad range of bridging modes, opening the way to the design of new porous crystalline buildings with a remarkable structural diversity [10].

Whether the nature of the organic and inorganic entities plays a key role [12–15], it has been demonstrated that reaction conditions such as the synthesis temperature, the solvent or the pH [16–18] can strongly influence on framework design. Although very numerous examples of MOFs based on carboxylic acid linkers are available [19,20], fewer studies are reported for azole based networks [21,22], and those on fluorinated being downright scarce [23].

Our recent work has been focused on the deep understanding of the

influence of the synthesis parameters in azole based fluorinated networks, for instance, the molar ratio between the starting reactants and the synthesis temperature. We have shown that for fluorine rich compositions, hybrids with covalent bonds between the organic and inorganic entities and with high dimensionalities are favoured [24,25]. Moreover we have demonstrated the key role of the synthesis temperature on the topology of fluorinated MOFs [26]. At high temperatures and in solvothermal conditions, dimethylformamide solvent (DMF) hydrolyses into dimethylammonium cation  $[\text{Hdma}]^+$  and formate anion  $(\text{HCOO})^-$  [27,28]. The fragments produced by the DMF decomposition can either enter into the coordination sphere of the metal cation or act as a template. The network dimensionality can also be tuned by increasing the synthesis temperature, as demonstrated for hybrid fluorozincates prepared in acetonitrile (MeCN) [29].

Herein, we highlight the determining role of the solvent in the crystallization of zinc fluoro-aminotetrazolates. The solvothermal reaction of identical starting mixtures of  $\text{ZnF}_2/\text{HF}_{\text{aq}}/\text{Hamtetraz}$  was explored in different solvents. Two new hybrid fluorides  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) and  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2) were identified in methanol/water and water, respectively. Their structures are compared to the previously reported networks  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  and  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , respectively prepared in dimethylformamide and acetonitrile [24,29]. Lastly

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**Table 1**Selected inter-atomic distances of zincate groups in  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz}))\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) and  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2).

1				2		
	Zn-(F/N)	d, Å	Cluster, Geometry	Zn-(F/N/O)	d, Å	Cluster, Geometry
Layer B	Zn(1)-F(2)	1.981 (6)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_3$ trigonal bipyramidal	Zn(1)-F(1)	1.979 (3)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_3$ trigonal bipyramidal
	Zn(1)-F(1)	1.988 (6)		Zn(1)-F(2)	1.982 (3)	
	Zn(1)-N(6)	2.019 (8)		Zn(1)-N(6)	2.011 (4)	
	Zn(1)-N(12)	2.103 (7)		Zn(1)-N(21)	2.091 (4)	
	Zn(1)-N(15)	2.154 (8)		Zn(1)-N(18)	2.126 (4)	
	< Zn-F > = 1.985 Å < Zn-N > = 2.092 Å			< Zn-F > = 1.981 Å < Zn-N > = 2.076 Å		
	Zn(2)-F(2)	1.979 (5)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_3$ trigonal bipyramidal	Zn(2)-F(2)	1.982 (3)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_3\text{O}$ octahedron
	Zn(2)-F(1)	2.019 (5)		Zn(2)-F(1)	2.014 (3)	
	Zn(2)-N(1)	1.963 (9)		Zn(2)-N(1)	2.054 (4)	
	Zn(2)-N(14)	2.079 (8)		Zn(2)-N(17)	2.137 (4)	
	Zn(2)-N(11)	2.127 (7)		Zn(2)-N(20)	2.141 (4)	
	< Zn-F > = 1.999 Å < Zn-N > = 2.056 Å			Zn(2)-OW(1)	2.363 (7)	
				< Zn-F > = 1.998 Å < Zn-N > = 2.111 Å		
Layer A	Zn(3)-F(4)	2.033 (5)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_4$ octahedron	Zn(3)-F(4)	2.027 (3)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_4$ octahedron
	Zn(3)-F(3)	2.060 (5)		Zn(3)-F(3)	2.077 (3)	
	Zn(3)-N(17)	2.083 (8)		Zn(3)-N(15)	2.094 (4)	
	Zn(3)-N(20)	2.114 (8)		Zn(3)-N(11)	2.110 (4)	
	Zn(3)-N(9)	2.137 (8)		Zn(3)-N(4)	2.120 (4)	
	Zn(3)-N(3)	2.186 (8)		Zn(3)-N(8)	2.195 (4)	
	< Zn-F > = 2.046 Å < Zn-N > = 2.130 Å			< Zn-F > = 2.052 Å < Zn-N > = 2.130 Å		
	Zn(4)-F(4)	2.015 (5)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_4$ octahedron	Zn(4)-F(3)	2.019 (3)	$\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_4$ octahedron
	Zn(4)-F(3)	2.021 (5)		Zn(4)-F(4)	2.049 (3)	
	Zn(4)-N(4)	2.114 (9)		Zn(4)-N(9)	2.116 (4)	
	Zn(4)-N(8)	2.156 (8)		Zn(4)-N(3)	2.147 (4)	
	Zn(4)-N(18)	2.183 (7)		Zn(4)-N(14)	2.203 (4)	
	Zn(4)-N(21)	2.234 (8)		Zn(4)-N(12)	2.252 (4)	
	< Zn-F > = 2.018 Å < Zn-N > = 2.172 Å			< Zn-F > = 2.034 Å < Zn-N > = 2.180 Å		

the photoluminescent properties of the compounds prepared in methanol (**2**), in DMF and MeCN were investigated, since coordination polymers based on  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and azole ligands have been reported as promising candidates for potential applications as photoactive materials: chemical sensors or light emitting diodes (LEDs) [30,31].

## 2. Results and discussion

### 2.1. Crystal structure description and comparison with other known structures

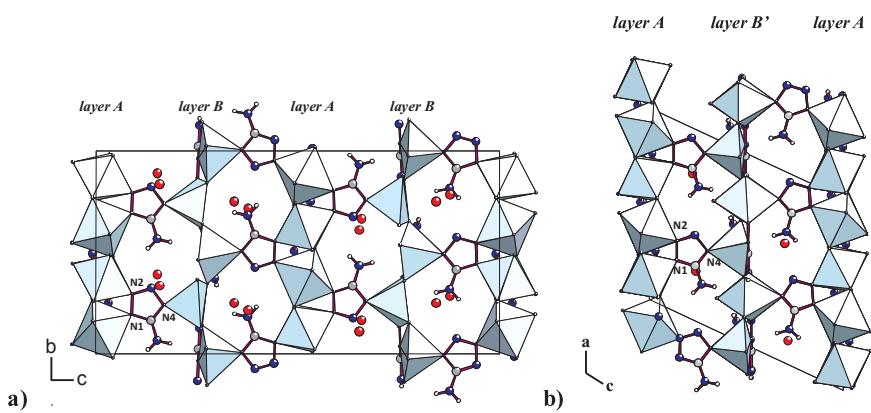
Compounds **1** and **2** crystallize in the orthorhombic and monoclinic systems, respectively; both phases show a 3D neutral framework in which disordered water molecules are inserted. **1** and **2**, with non-centrosymmetric space groups, exhibit roughly similar structures that are confirmed by the examination of inter-atomic distances (**Table 1**), at the exception of one oxygen atom. The 3D frameworks can be described from two types of (001) layers connected along the *c* axis by anionic ligands *amtetraz*<sup>-</sup> in the connection mode N1,N2,N4 as defined in [24] (**Fig. 1(a)** and (**b**)).

The first type of layer (A), located at *z* = 0 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for **1** and at *z* = 0 for **2**, results from the association of  $\text{[ZnFN}_4]$  chains by tetrazolate anions in N1,N2,N3,N4 bridging modes (**Fig. 2(a)**). The zinc atoms, Zn(3) and Zn(4), adopt an octahedral coordination and are surrounded by two fluorine atoms and four nitrogen atoms from independent organic anions.  $\text{Zn}(3)\text{F}_2\text{N}_4$  and  $\text{Zn}(4)\text{F}_2\text{N}_4$  entities, linked by fluorine corners with *trans* or *cis* orientation, respectively, alternate in these original chains. At *z* =  $\frac{1}{4}$  and *z* =  $\frac{3}{4}$  for **1** (B layer) and at *z* =  $\frac{1}{2}$  for **2** (B' layer), the second type of layers is observed, in which the tetrazolate linkers connect the chains of zinc polyhedra in N1,N2,N3,N4 bridging mode (**Fig. 2(b)**).

In **1**, evidenced in a mixture of methanol and water, the  $\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_3$  (Zn(1) and Zn(2)) units share adjacent and opposite fluorine corners to form  $\text{[ZnFN}_3]$  *cis-trans* chains. In **2**, obtained with water only, a similar condensation is observed but the metal cations adopt a trigonal bipyramidal geometry in  $\text{Zn}(1)\text{F}_2\text{N}_3$  and an octahedral geometry in  $\text{Zn}(2)\text{F}_2\text{N}_3\text{O}$ . Therefore, in absence of methanol, water molecules complete the immediate coordination sphere of Zn(2) cations. If water molecules are mentally ignored in **1** and **2**, both structures present a same architecture with a calculated porosity of 19% (PLATON software [32]). It must be noted that both structures **1** and **2** can also be described as inorganic chains connected by *amtetraz* anions along two other perpendicularly directions. A similar construction is observed for two other compounds,  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ , also prepared in identical reaction mixtures but in different solvents, respectively acetonitrile (MeCN) and dimethylformamide (DMF) (**Fig. 3**) [24,29].

In  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ , two types of [100] chains are distinguished (**Fig. 4**). These chains, in which zinc cations adopt octahedral or trigonal bipyramidal coordinations, are linked by tetrazolate anions in the N1,N2,N4 bridging mode as observed in **1** and **2**. The first *trans*-chain  $\text{[ZnFN}_4]$  results from the connection of  $\text{ZnF}_2\text{N}_4$  octahedra by two opposite F<sup>-</sup> vertices while the second *trans*-chain  $\text{[Zn}_2\text{F}_3\text{N}_4]$  results from the condensation of two  $\text{ZnF}_3\text{N}_2$  polyhedra by one (F-F) edge, to give dimeric units that are further connected by opposite F<sup>-</sup> corners. The difference between both structures is the relative orientation of chains (**Fig. 3**), governed by the symmetry elements ( $P_{21}/c$  for  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $P2/m$  for  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ ).

Interestingly, the formation of *trans*-chains linked by organic ligands in N1-N2-N4 bridging mode is formed in aprotic polar solvents (DMF, MeCN), whereas with protic polar solvents (methanol, water), both



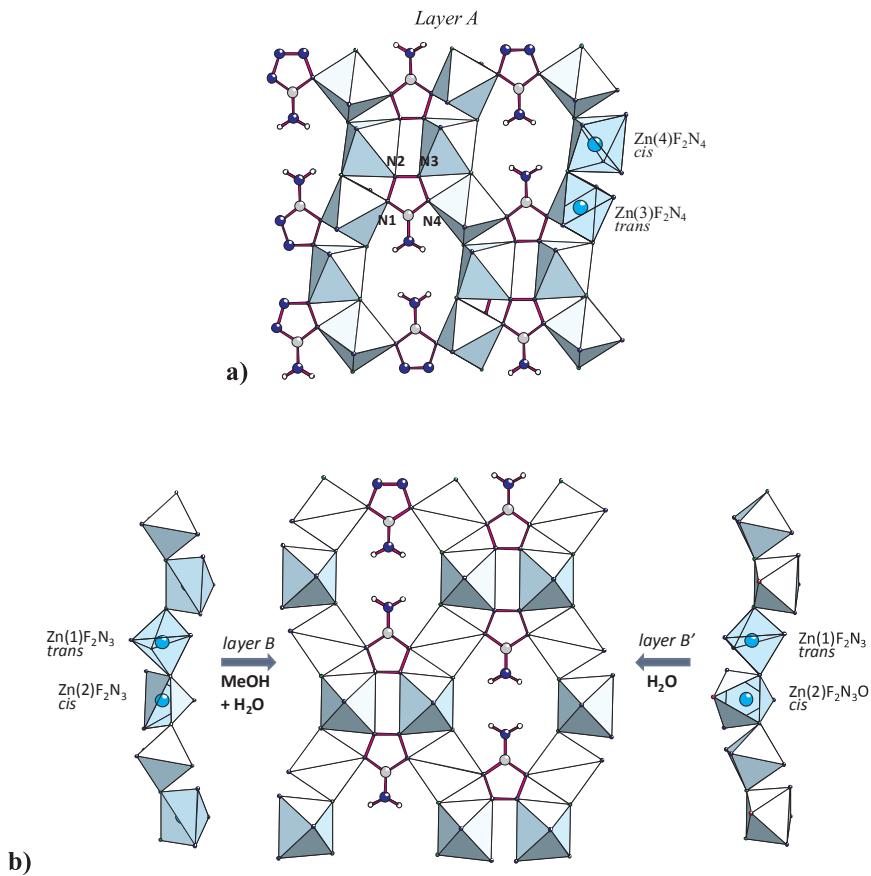
**Fig. 1.** (a) [100] projection of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) built up from (A,B) layers. (b) [010] projection of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})\cdot(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2) built up from (A,B') layers.

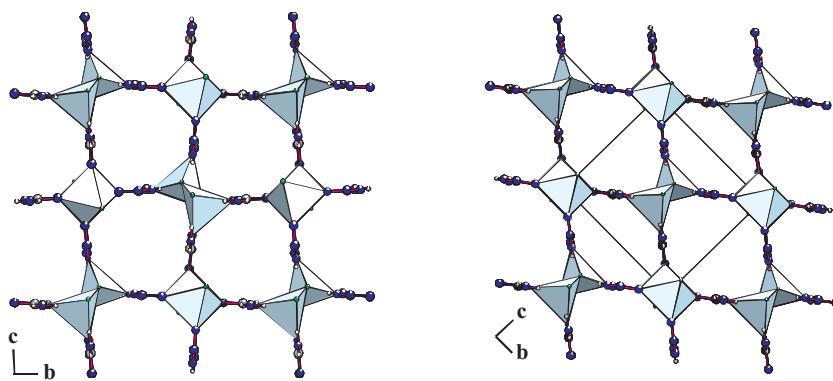
*trans* and *cis* chains are observed and both N1-N2-N4 and N1-N2-N3-N4 coordination modes of azole ligands are favoured (Table 2). To the best of our knowledge, there are no studies clarifying the effect of protic vs. aprotic solvents in the crystallization of MOFs. However we can suppose that the structural variety in the reported hybrid structures results from the difference in polarity and solvation effect in protic and aprotic solvents. In protic solvents, such as water and methanol, two coordination modes are observed due to presence of  $\delta^+$  hydrogen atoms, which can more effectively solvate the tetrazolate anion through hydrogen bonds. This higher stabilization of the anionic tetrazolate cycle allows the formation of both N1-N2-N4 and N1-N2-N3-N4 bridging modes and therefore *cis* and *trans* chains. In the case of aprotic solvents, no hydrogen bonds can be established and the tetrazolate anionic cycle is stabilized via van der Waals interactions, weaker than the hydrogen bonds observed in protic solvents. As a result, only N1,N2-N4 connection mode and chains with a *trans* geometry are observed.

## 2.2. Thermal behaviour of 1

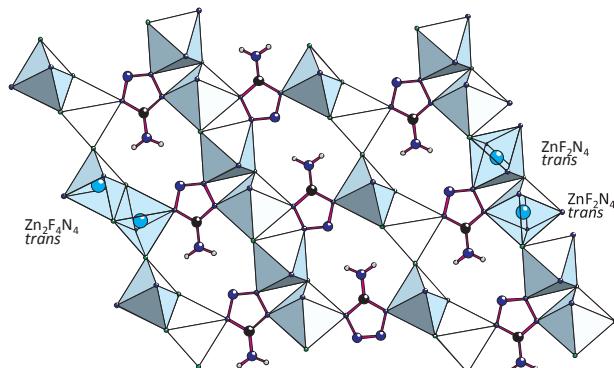
The thermal behaviour of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) was explored by thermogravimetric experiments and X-ray thermodiffraction (Fig. 5). The TGA curve shows three weight losses: dehydration occurs below 130 °C giving  $\text{ZnF}(\text{amtetraz})$  (exp.: 2.8%, calc. 2.6%). The anhydrous phase is stable up to 320 °C. Then, from 320 °C to 400 °C, fluoride species and organic entities are eliminated and leave  $\text{Zn}(\text{CN})_2$  (exp.: 44.1%, calc. 44.4%). Finally the hydrolysis of zinc cyanide leads to the formation of zinc oxide (exp.: 5.9%, calc. 5.8%). X-ray thermodiffraction is in good agreement with TGA analysis. During the dehydration of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , the framework is stable up to 300 °C. Above 300 °C, the structure collapses and  $\text{ZnO}$  is obtained as the final residue.

**Fig. 2.** (a) View of A layers found in  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) and  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})\cdot(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2). (b) View of B or B' layers, respectively found in  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) and  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2).





**Fig. 3.** [100] projection of  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (left) and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  (right).  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  or  $\text{Hdma}^+$  entities in the cavities are omitted for clarity.



**Fig. 4.** View of the *trans*-chains observed in  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ .

### 2.3. Luminescence properties

The origin of luminescence in MOFs is generally ascribed to the presence of organic ligands that often contain aromatic or  $\pi$  conjugated systems. In addition, metallic centres can also contribute to the luminescence properties, usually lanthanides or *d* block elements [33–35].

The photoluminescence spectroscopic characterization is reported for **1** as well as for  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ . All samples were excited at 240 nm. Both  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  display ultraviolet emission, with a maximum peak respectively at 302 nm and 306 nm.  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  shows a slightly red-shifted emission with a maximum at 330 nm (Fig. 6).

In all three cases, the broad band emissions can be ascribed to  $\pi-\pi^*$  intra-ligand fluorescence transitions, as it has already been observed for triazole based frameworks [36]. The spectral variation can be explained by the difference of the bridging modes between aminotetrazolate ligands and the metallic centres. Indeed, the amtetraz<sup>-</sup> linker in  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  is in a N1-N2-N4 bridging mode in all directions while for  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) both N1-N2-N4 and N1-N2-N3-N4 modes can be observed. To fully understand the luminescent properties of these compounds, extended studies are needed and will be soon performed at other excitation

wavelengths, in particular visible wavelengths excitation [37].

### 3. Conclusion

We report herein the synthesis and the structural characterisation of two new fluorinated zinc MOFs,  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) and  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**). Both hybrid compounds were prepared from an identical reaction mixture but in different solvents, water and water/methanol mixture. The comparison of **1** and **2** with two other architectures prepared in acetonitrile and dimethylformamide,  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ , demonstrates clearly that the crystallization of hybrid fluorozincates is strongly dependent on the nature of the solvent. In fact, not only zinc can display bipyramidal and octahedral geometries but also the organic ligand can establish N1-N2-N4 and N1-N2-N3-N4 bridging modes between the inorganic 1D chains. Owing to the remarkable luminescence properties of zinc compounds, the photoluminescent behaviour of these compounds was investigated; however for an excitation at 240 nm, none of the studied compounds show important luminescent response since the shift between excitation and emission is only of about 50 nm.

### 4. Experimental

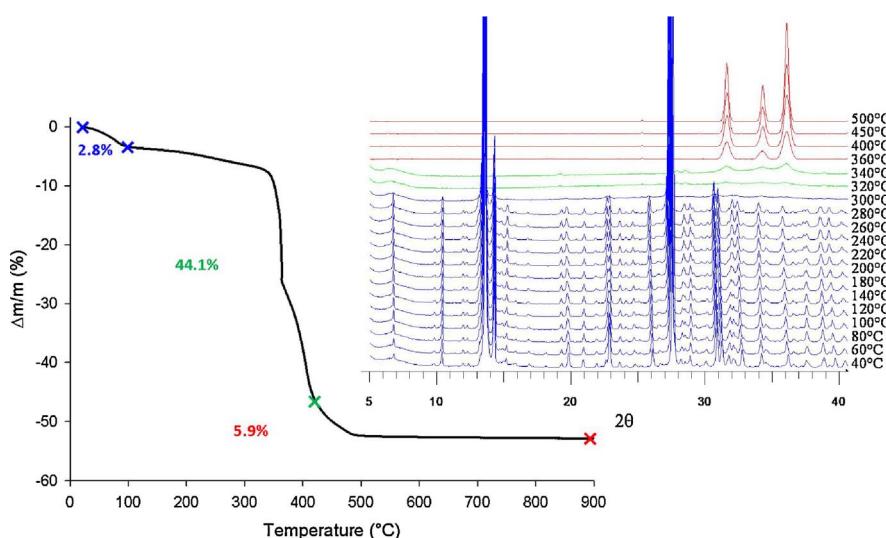
#### 4.1. Synthesis

Both hybrid fluorozincates were obtained from a reaction mixture  $\text{ZnF}_2/\text{HF}_{\text{aq}}/\text{Hamtetraz}$  with the molar ratio 10/80/10 in 10 mL of solvent. The starting reactants were 78 mg of  $\text{ZnF}_2$ , 2.634 mL of 4% hydrofluoric acid solution (2.3 mol L<sup>-1</sup>) prepared from 40% HF (22.8 mol L<sup>-1</sup>), 78 mg of 5-aminotetrazole monohydrate 'Hamtetraz-H<sub>2</sub>O' and 10 mL of solvent (methanol and/or H<sub>2</sub>O). The mixture was heated in Teflon lined autoclaves in a CEM microwave oven at 160 °C during 1 h. For the synthesis of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) 10 mL of water and methanol mixture in 1:1 ratio were used. When the solvent is water, parallelepipedic crystals of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**) are formed; however, it is worth to note that **2** crystallizes together with **1** systematically, despite all attempts to modify the synthesis conditions. The final products were washed with the solvent used during the synthesis, then filtered and dried at room

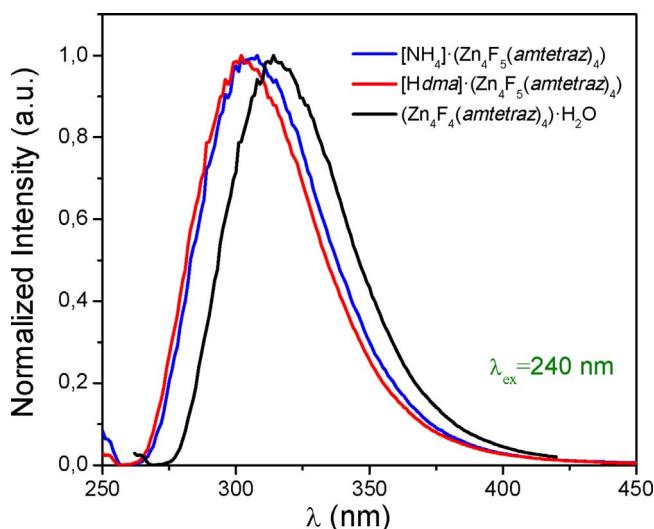
**Table 2**

Comparison between  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**),  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**),  $[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ .

Compounds Solvent	chain 1		chain 2		Bridging mode of amtetraz <sup>-</sup>
	Zn environment	Coordination mode	Zn environment	Coordination mode	
$(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ( <b>1</b> ) MeOH + H <sub>2</sub> O	ZnF <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	<i>trans, cis</i>	ZnF <sub>4</sub> N	<i>trans, cis</i>	N1,N2,N4 N1,N2,N3,N4
$(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ( <b>2</b> ) H <sub>2</sub> O	ZnF <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	<i>trans, cis</i>	ZnF <sub>4</sub> N + ZnF <sub>4</sub> ON	<i>trans, cis</i>	N1,N2,N4 N1,N2,N3,N4
$[\text{NH}_4]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ MeCN	ZnF <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	<i>trans</i>	Zn <sub>2</sub> F <sub>4</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	<i>trans</i>	N1,N2,N4
$[\text{Hdma}]\cdot(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_5(\text{amtetraz})_4)$ DMF	ZnF <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	<i>trans</i>	Zn <sub>2</sub> F <sub>4</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	<i>trans</i>	N1,N2,N4



**Fig. 5.** Thermogravimetric curve and thermal evolution of the X-ray diffractograms of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1).



**Fig. 6.** Normalized emission spectra of hybrid fluorozincates prepared in different solvents (MeCN, DMF, MeOH) for an excitation at 240 nm.

temperature. Experimental and simulated XRD patterns of **1** and **2** can be found as Supplementary information (Figs. S1 and S2).

#### 4.2. Single crystal X-ray structure determination

Crystals were selected and isolated under polarizing optical microscope and then mounted on MicroMount needles (MiTiGen) for single-crystal X-ray diffraction measurements. X-ray intensities were collected on a Bruker APEX II Quazar diffractometer (4 circle Kappa goniometer, CCD detector) using  $\text{I}\mu\text{s}$  microfocus source (Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation with  $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) at 296 K. The structure solutions were found by direct methods (TREF option) and extended by Fourier difference maps and subsequent refinements (SHELXL-2014 software [38]). The nature of atoms was differentiated from bond distance considerations. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and the hydrogen atoms of the amine group in  $[\text{amtetraz}]^-$  ligand were geometrically constrained by HFIX 93 option. Oxygen atoms of hosted water molecules were statistically distributed on symmetry related atomic positions and they were refined isotropically. The hydrogen atoms of water molecules were not localized. The final reliability ratios converged to  $R_1 = 0.0457/\text{wR}_2 = 0.956$  for **1** and  $R_1 = 0.0374/\text{wR}_2 = 0.1068$  for **2**. Structure determination details are provided in Table 3. Atomic positions, anisotropic

**Table 3**

Crystallographic data of  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) and  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2).

	1	2
Empirical formula	$\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4\text{ON}_{20}\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$	$\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4\text{O}_2\text{N}_{20}\text{C}_4\text{H}_{12}$
M (g.mol $^{-1}$ )	691.8	709.8
Crystal system	orthorhombic	monoclinic
Space group	$Cmc2_1$	$Cm$
$a (\text{\AA})$	12.2953(8)	13.0404(3)
$b (\text{\AA})$	12.9607(7)	12.3343(3)
$c (\text{\AA})$	25.7891(16)	14.3326(4)
$\beta (^{\circ})$		116.857(1)
$V (\text{\AA}^3)$	4109.6(4)	2056.6(1)
Z	8	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}} (\text{g cm}^{-3})$	2.236	2.292
$\mu(\text{Mo}, \text{K}\alpha) (\text{mm}^{-1})$	4.696	4.698
F(000)	2704	1392
Unique reflections	3829	7779
Observed reflections [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	3021	7498
Parameters	316	312
GOF on $P^2$	1.081	1.149
Final R indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0418$ $wR_2 = 0.0919$	$R_1 = 0.0374$ $wR_2 = 0.1068$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0642$ $wR_2 = 0.1069$	$R_1 = 0.0388$ $wR_2 = 0.1078$
Largest diff. peak and hole (e/ $\text{\AA}^3$ )	-0.570/0.739	-1.615/1.337
CCDC	1449121	1449120

displacement parameters and selected interatomic distances are given in the Supplementary information (Tables S1-S5).

Crystallographic data for the structures have been deposited to the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, with the following numbers: CCDC 1449121 for  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1) and CCDC 1449120 for  $(\text{Zn}_4\text{F}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{amtetraz})_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2). Copies of data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to the Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44 1223 336033 or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)

#### 4.3. Thermal characterization by TGA and X-ray thermodiffracton

Thermogravimetric analysis was carried out with a thermoanalyser SETARAM TGA 92 under air flow with a heating rate of 3 °C/min from room temperature up to 900 °C. High temperature X-ray diffraction was performed under air flow in an Anton Parr XPK 900 high temperature furnace with a Panalytical X'Pert Pro diffractometer (CuK $\alpha$  radiation). The sample was heated from 40 °C to 500 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C/min and measured at every 10 °C from room temperature to 400 °C and

every 50 °C from 400 °C to 500 °C. X-ray diffraction patterns were recorded in the 5–60° range with a scan time of 10 min.

#### 4.4. Luminescence properties

Excitation and emission spectra were recorded with a SPEX Fluorolog FL212 spectrofluorometer. The excitation spectra were corrected for the variation of the incident flux and the emission spectra were corrected for the transmission of the monochromator and the response of the photomultiplier. All samples were excited at 240 nm.

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#### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfluchem.2017.12.005>.

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