

Spatiotemporal studies of the one-dimensional coordination polymer
[Fe(ebtz)₂(C₂H₅CN)₂](BF₄)₂ : tug of war between the nitrile reorientation versus crystal
lattice as a tool for tuning the spin crossover properties.

Autorzy

Maria Książek
Marek Weselski
Marcin Kaźmierczak
Aleksandra Tołoczko
Miłosz Siczek
Piotr Durlak
Juliusz A. Wolny
Volker Schünemann

Joachim Kusz

Robert Bronisz

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Kolekcja

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Streszczenie

Reaction of 1,2-di(tetrazol-2-yl)ethane (ebtz) with Fe(BF₄)₂·6 H₂O in different nitriles yields one-dimensional coordination polymers [Fe(ebtz)₂(RCN)₂](BF₄)₂·nRCN (*n*=2 for R=CH₃ (**1**) and *n*=0 for R=C₂H₅ (**2**), C₃H₇ (**3**), C₃H₅ (**4**), CH₂Cl (**5**)) exhibiting spin crossover (SCO). SCO in **1** and **3–5** is complete and occurs above 160 K. In **2**, it is shifted to lower temperatures and is accompanied by wide hysteresis ($T_{1/2}^{\downarrow}$ =78 K, $T_{1/2}^{\uparrow}$ =123 K) and proceeds extremely slowly. Isothermal (80 K) time-resolved single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies revealed a complex nature for the HS→LS transition in **2**. An initial, slow stage is associated with shrinkage of polymeric chains and with reduction of volume at 77 % (in relation to the difference between cell volumes $V_{\text{HS}}-V_{\text{LS}}$) whereas only 16 % of iron(II) ions change spin state. In the second stage, an abrupt SCO occurs, associated with breathing of the crystal lattice along the direction of the Fe–nitrile bonds, while the nitriles reorient. HS→LS switching triggered by light (808 nm) reveals the coupling of spin state and nitrile orientation. The importance of this coupling was confirmed by studies of [Fe(ebtz)₂(C₂H₅CN/C₃H₇CN)₂](BF₄)₂ mixed crystals (**2 a**, **2 b**), showing a shift of $T_{1/2}$ to higher values and narrowing of the hysteresis loop concomitant with an increase of the fraction of butyronitrile. This increase reduces the capability of nitrile molecules to reorient. Density functional theory (DFT) studies of models of **1–5** suggest a particular possibility of **2** to adopt a low (140–145°) value of its Fe–N–C(propionitrile) angle.

Słowa kluczowe

coordination polymers, iron, spatiotemporal effects, spin
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