Research

1. Interconversion between a Nonporous Nanocluster and a Microporous Coordination Polymer Showing Selective Gas Adsorption Yan-Juan Zhang, Tao Liu, Shinji Kanegawa and Osamu Sato

Currently, researchers are devoting great effort to the fabrication of nanoscale materials and devices. One of the current challenges is the design and synthesis of smart materials with switchable structures and functions. Using reversible polymerization and depolymerization reactions in a single crystal state, we successfully achieved a reversible transformation from a nanocluster to a coordination polymer. During the interconversion, the structural frameworks switched between a nonporous state in hexanuclear clusters and a porous state in double-zigzag chains; the magnetic behaviors switched between paramagnetic and metamagnetic, respectively. The microporous framework, which had 1D channels $1.9 \times 3.6$ Å in size, exhibited selective gas adsorption of H$_2$ and CO$_2$ over N$_2$.

2. A Cyano-bridged Cr$^{III}$Co$^{II}$ Ferromagnet with a Chiral Nanotubular Structure Constituted of Interlocked Single and Double Helices, Yuan-Zhu Zhang and Osamu Sato

Cover Picture !!

We have synthesized an unprecedented 3D cyano-bridged Cr$^{III}$-Co$^{II}$ compound, which self-assembles into a periodically ordered, homochiral interlocking structure composed of left-handed single helices and right-handed double-helical-strands. It displays four-connected $6^4 8^2$ chiral networks and exhibits ferromagnetic order below 11 K. The formation of the helical structure results in the creation of helical tubular channels in the crystal.
3. An Electric Effect, Osamu Sato

Electrically tunable materials are used to construct switches and memory devices. Applying an electric field within a specific temperature to cyanometallate complexes has now triggered their charge transfer phase transition, altering their optical and magnetic properties. (News & Views)

4. Reversible Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Transformation from Achiral Anti-ferromagnetic Hexanuclears to a Chiral Ferrimagnetic Double Zigzag Chain, Y.-J. Zhang, T. Liu, S. Kanegawa, O. Sato


Using solid state topotactic reactions with an exploitation of directional hydrogen bonding, we established a reversible single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformation from hexanuclear clusters to a one-dimensional double-zigzag chain. With the reversible polymerization, the chirality and magnetic interactions are switched between achiral and chiral, and between antiferromagnetic in hexanuclear clusters and ferrimagnetic in chains, respectively. This study provides a novel example of reversible polymerization with switchable chirality and magnetic properties.


6th! : Top 20 most downloaded articles for the previous month (Nov.2008).

The structural blue color of a *Morpho* butterfly originates from the diffraction of light and interference effects due to the presence of the microstructures on the wing of the butterfly. Structural color on the surface of a damselfish reversibly changes between green and blue. Inspired by these creatures, we have prepared high-quality and/or functional structural color films. Moreover, we have developed several tunable structural color films. In particular, we have successfully prepared photo-tunable photonic crystals using photo-responsive azobenzene derivatives.

A new approach to control the magnetic susceptibility through orbital quenching of angular momentum, instead of controlling their spin state, was proposed. Functional materials with ability to abruptly change magnetic properties as a result of external perturbation have attracted great attention. The change of spin is responsible for the control of magnetic properties. However, magnetic susceptibility of transition metal compounds can also contain a non-vanishing contribution of orbital multiplicity. We found that a Co complex exhibits a bistability in orbital angular momentum connected to a phase transition that distorts the ligand field around the cobalt.


**Cover Picture !!**

An Fe$^{II}_4$ square was prepared by self-assembly and exhibits both thermally induced and photoinduced spin crossover from a system with four high-spin (HS) centers to one with two high-spin and two low-spin (LS) centers. The spin-crossover sites are located on the same side of the square. Because Fe$^{II}$ spin crossover sites were bridged by a single oxygen atom, synergy between magnetic interaction and spin transition was observed. LIESST revealed a form of synergy between the light-induced excited spin state trapping and magnetic interaction.

8. Co$^{II}$ Molecular Square with Single-Molecule Magnet Properties Dayu Wu, Dong Guo, You Song, Wei Huang, Chunying Duan, Qingjin Meng, O. Sato

**12th !! :** Top 20 most downloaded articles over the last 12 months (Mar. 2009)
A new tetranuclear cobalt(II) molecular square has been designed for single-molecule magnets (SMMs) with high anisotropy barriers. The overall intramolecular ferromagnetic coupling at low temperature combined with the slow relaxation at static zero fields suggests a SMM behavior. ZFCM and FCM at 10 Oe illustrate the nonreversibility and bifurcation below 4.5 K. The deviations of magnetization from the saturated value in strong applied fields demonstrate the participation of low-lying excited states. The peaks of the out-of-phase signals are observed corresponding to coincidence of the applied ac field oscillation frequency with the relaxation rate.

9. Photo-Induced Spin Transition of Iron(III) Compounds with \( \pi - \pi \) Intermolecular Interactions

**Cover Picture !! & VIP (Very Important Paper) !!**

Introduction of strong intermolecular interactions leads to the observation of the LIESST effect even for iron(III) spin-crossover (SCO) compounds. For LIESST iron(III) compounds, both stretching and bending modes are considered in the reaction coordinate diagram. The picture depicts the LIESST mechanism in the reaction coordinate diagram considering both stretching and bending modes for SCO iron(III) compounds.

10. Evidence of the Chemical Uniaxial Strain Effect on Electrical Conductivity in the Spin-Crossover Conducting Molecular System: \([\text{Fe}^{III}(qnal)_2][\text{Pd}(dmit)_2]_5 \cdot \text{Acetone}\)
K. Takahashi, H.-B. Cui, Y. Okano, H. Kobayashi, H. Mori, H. Tajima, Y. Einaga, O. Sato

A novel spin-crossover molecular conductor, \([\text{Fe}(qnal)_2][\text{Pd}(dmit)_2]_5 \cdot \text{acetone}\), was prepared and characterized. The crystal structural analyses of both the low- and high-temperature phases revealed that the supramolecular pi-pi interactions between the spin-crossover Fe(qnal)_2 cations as well as the cation contraction play an important role in the uniaxial lattice deformation which will modulate the electrical conductivity of the conducting Pd(dmit)_2 layer.


The behavior of certain magnetic materials can be controlled by external stimuli such as temperature, light, and pressure. Typical examples of such switchable materials are valence-tautomeric compounds, molecular photomagnets, and spin-crossover complexes, which could find application in memory devices or optical switches.


