Crystallographic studies of spin crossover in \([\text{Fe(abpt)}_2\text{(NCS)}_2]\) polymorphs

H. E. Mason\(^a\) and H. A. Sparkes\(^b\)

\(^a\)Department of Chemistry, Durham University, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, U.K.
\(^b\)Science and Technology Facilities Council, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell Oxford, Didcot, OX11 0QX, U.K.

Email: h.e.mason@durham.ac.uk

\([\text{Fe(abpt)}_2\text{(NCS)}_2]\) (abpt = 4-amino-3,5-bis(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4-triazole) is a spin crossover compound with four structurally different polymorphs (A-D).\([1-5]\) Three of these (A, C and D) undergo temperature induced spin crossover of the iron centre from high spin to low spin upon cooling and also display light induced excited spin-state trapping (LIESST) at low temperature. Magnetic data, room temperature crystal structures\([1-5]\) and crystallographic studies of the thermal and light induced spin transitions in C and D have been published previously.\([3-5]\) Herein we report structural studies of polymorph A; in particular the gradual thermal spin transition with \(T_{1/2} \approx 180\) K, the pressure induced and low temperature light induced spin transitions and also relaxation of the LIESST structure at 30 K. Full characterization of the thermal, pressure and light induced transformations in this interesting polymorphic system will help us to understand the predominant factors, both steric and electronic, favouring the spin transition.


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