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Structural studies of HS↔LS transition triggered by temperature or laser light irradiation in the [Fe(ebtz)₂(RCN)₂](BF₄)₂ complexes

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Spin crossover in the complexes of 3d⁴-3d7 metal ions is associated with the change of magnetic, optical and structural properties.¹ In iron(II) complexes the HS↔LS transition is accompanied by shortening of Fe-ligand distance at about 0.2Å. This alteration becomes an origin of perturbation influencing on neighboured molecules as well as spreading through intermolecular interactions on the whole crystal lattice. It can lead to appearance of cooperative behaviours resulting in occurrence of spin crossover in narrow temperature range.

1,2-di(tetrazol-2-yl)ethane (ebtz) creates with iron(II) perchlorate one-dimensional (1D) coordination polymer [Fe(ebtz)₂(C₂H₅CN)₂](ClO₄)₂ exhibiting abrupt spin crossover accompanied by wide hysteresis loop $(T_{1/2})^{\uparrow} \approx 112 \text{K}$, $T_{1/2} \downarrow \approx 141$ K).² The characteristic feature of this complex is uncommon orientation of axially coordinated propionitrile molecules because Fe-N-C(nitrile) angle adopt at 250K value of 149.1(3)°. What is interesting the HS \leftrightarrow LS transition is connected with reorientation of nitrile molecules and in the LS form Fe-N-C(nitrile) angle increases to 162.9(2)°. In order to elucidate a mechanism of spin crossover in [Fe(ebtz)₂(RCN)₂](BF₄)₂ polymers, we have carried out systematic studies changing coordinated nitrile molecules (R = $-CH_3$, $-C_2H_5$, $-C_3H_5$, $-C_3H_7$, $-CH_2Cl$). It was established that the novel complexes crystallize as 1D coordination polymers in which two ebtz molecules link neighbouring Fe(II) ions and axial positions in coordination octahedron are occupied by nitriles. In the complexes containing coordinated molecules of butyro-, allylo- or chloroacetonitrile the HS↔LS transition is accompanied by shortening of the Fe-N distances at about 0.2Å, however, values of Fe-N-C(nitrile) angles remain very similar in both spin forms. In acetonitrile based system the difference becomes more visible. In the HS form Fe-N-C(acetonitrile) angle adopts value of $167.4(2)^{\circ}$ (230K), whereas it increases to $171.6(2)^{\circ}$ (120K) in the LS form. Unfortunately propionitrile derivative remains in the HS form up to 80 K upon cooling. Therefore in order to determine the crystal structure of the LS form and find the value of Fe-N-C(nitrile) angle we have performed the HS↔LS switching at 15K using laser light irradiation (808nm). We have established that similarly to [Fe(ebtz)₂(C₂H₅CN)₂](ClO₄)₂ formation of the LS form in tetrafluoroborate analogue is associated with reorientation of propionitrile molecule. Detailed results of single crystal X-ray diffraction studies of $[Fe(ebtz)_2(RCN)_2](BF_4)_2$ (R = -CH₃, -C₂H₅, -C₃H₅, -C₃H₇, -CH₂Cl) complexes in HS and LS forms, generated by change of temperature or as a result of laser light irradiation, will be presented.

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References:

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