

The controllable synthesis, crystal structure and magnetic properties of Mn^{III} Salen-type composite material

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Abstract

By the reaction of manganese-Schiff-base complexes with penta-anionic Anderson heteropolyanion, a new supramolecular architecture [Mn₂(Salen)₂(H₂O)₂][Mn(Salen)(H₂O)₂]₂Na[IMo₆O₂₄]·8H₂O (**1**) (salen = N,N'-ethylene-bis (salicylideneimine)) has been isolated. Compound **1** was characterized by the single-crystal x-ray diffraction, elemental, IR and thermal gravimetric analyses. Structural analysis reveals that the unit cell simultaneously contains Mn^{III}-Salen dimer and monomer cation fragments, for which the Anderson-type polyanions serve as counter anions. In the packing arrangement, all the Mn^{III} dimers are well separated by polyoxometalate units and form tertiary structure together with Mn^{III} monomers. Interestingly, compared with the previous work, in the exact same reaction conditions, we are able to accurately template Mn^{III}-Salen complexes into different configurations by varying the charge state of polyanions. Besides, the magnetic properties of **1** were also examined by using both dc and ac magnetic field of the superconducting quantum

27 interference devices. Most importantly, our fitting of the experimental data to a Heisenberg-type
28 spin model showed that there exists a ferromagnetic exchange interaction ~ 5 K between the spins
29 ($S=2$) on Mn^{III} in the dimer, while antiferromagnetic ones among monomers and dimer (~ 2 K). In
30 addition, our ac field measurement of the susceptibilities suggested a typical signature for a
31 single-molecule magnet.

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34 Key words: Schiff-base, Dimer and Monomer, POM, Single molecule magnet, Magnetic analysis

35 **I. Introduction**

36 Single-molecule magnets (SMM), a type of well-fined nanosized superparamagnetic magnets, have
37 attracted much attention since they were found more than two decades ago [1], not only because of
38 their potential for applications in quantum computing and high-density information storage, but also
39 their flexibility to chemically and structurally manipulate molecular structures, thus making SMM
40 more controllable [2]. In this field, trivalent manganese ions (Mn^{III}) are especially suitable for
41 carrying electron spins owing to their intrinsic large ground state spin quantum number and uniaxial
42 anisotropy [3-5]. Moreover, from the perspective of ligand, the ideal molecular structure should not
43 only be able to stabilize the coordination environment of the metal center, but also have controllable
44 subunits in order to manipulate the reactivity and magnetic behaviors to adapt different synthesis
45 conditions and application environments, respectively. The tetradentate Schiff-base ligands (Salen)
46 and their analogues have been extensively studied and widely used as an important ingredient to
47 elaborate various types of magnetic materials [6-8]. Therefore, in the last a few years Salens have
48 become one of the most booming areas for the construction of molecule-based magnetic materials,
49 especially SMM [9, 10]. So far, a large number of binuclear SMM and single-chain magnets (SCM)
50 compounds based on Mn^{III} -Salen have been isolated. Meanwhile, people have carried out the
51 in-depth study on the structural and magnetic behavior of these compounds, making a series of
52 important scientific progresses and promoting the development of the molecule-based magnetic
53 materials [11-14].

54

55 It is worthwhile deepening our study in the synthesis of Salen-type Mn complexes based on the
56 extensive research performed by the other researchers in this field, thus still making the research
57 highly rewarding, such as controllable SMM structures and new effective spin models. Since the
58 Mn-Salen family is an important subunit, a systematic exploration of the relationship between
59 structural and magnetic behaviors can facilitate the rational design and synthesis of molecule-based
60 magnets with new effective spin models [15, 16]. As reported by many researchers, the counter
61 anions of different compositions and structures have a crucial effect on the molecular configuration,
62 spatial arrangement and even magnetic behavior of Mn-Salen complexes [17]. However, since the
63 traditional anions such as NO_3^- , ClO_4^- , Ac^- and other charge pinning are difficult to be further
64 regulated, there is currently little work that has discussed the correlations between the different
65 charge numbers of iso-structural counter anions and the molecular configuration as well as
66 magnetic properties of Mn-salen complexes.

67

68 Previously we have used three negative charges in the B-series Anderson-type polyanion
69 $[\text{XMo}_6(\text{OH})_6\text{O}_{18}]^{3-}$ ($\text{X} = \text{Al}$ and Cr) to react with classic Mn-Salen complex and successfully
70 isolated Mn-dimer based supramolecular aggregations [18]. Because the molecular configurations
71 of the A and B-series polyanions are exactly the same but their charge states are quite different, they
72 are ideal molecular models to start with. To examine the dependence of structural and magnetic
73 properties on the Coulomb forces, we have selected higher negative charges $[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}]^{5-}$ as a
74 precursor to compare with the previous work. Herein, a new monomer-dimer Mn^{III} Schiff-base unit
75 was crystallized in a hybrid compound $[\text{Mn}_2(\text{Salen})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2][\text{Mn}(\text{Salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]_2\text{Na}[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$
76 (**1**) and its magnetic properties were studied in details. We have found that (i) our newly
77 synthesized compound was formed by Mn monomer and dimers, (ii) an interesting magnetic
78 interaction structure, i.e., slight spin frustration within the molecular complex, and (iii) most
79 importantly the typical behavior of SMM in this compound.

80

81 In the remaining discussion, we first introduce our methods in the section II, discuss our results in
82 the section III, and draw some general conclusions in the section IV.

83

84 **II. Experimental Details**

85 All related chemicals were purchased and used without further purification. The starting materials
86 $[\text{Mn}(\text{salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]_2(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Na}_5[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}] \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ were synthesized according to the
87 previous work in the literature [19-21] and characterized by infrared (IR) spectroscopy. Elemental
88 analyses for iodide, molybdenum and manganese atoms were analyzed on a PLASMA-SPEC (I)
89 ICP atomic emission spectrometer. The crystallographic data were collected at a temperature of
90 296(2) K on a Rigaku R-axis Rapid IP diffractometer using graphite monochromatic $\text{MoK}\alpha$
91 radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). Suitable crystals were mounted in a thin-glass tube and transferred to the
92 goniostat. Multi-scan absorption correction was applied. Iodide, molybdenum and manganese atoms
93 were located by Direct Methods, and successive Fourier syntheses revealed the remaining atoms.
94 Refinements were achieved by the full-matrix method on F^2 using the Shelxtl-97 crystallographic
95 software package [22-24]. In the final refinement, all the non-hydrogen atoms were anisotropically
96 refined. H atoms bonded with the C and N atoms of the Salen ligand were fixed on the calculated
97 atomic positions. The H atoms on the water molecules could not be located from the difference
98 Fourier maps and were directly included in the final molecular formula. The elemental analysis and
99 the charge balance have confirmed their presence. The highest residual peak and the deepest dip are
100 1.750 and $-0.704 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$, respectively. The detailed crystal data and structure refinement are given in
101 Table 1. Selected bond lengths and angles are listed in SI (Table S1). Crystallographic data
102 (excluding structure factors) for the structure have been deposited with the Cambridge
103 Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC), with the depository number CCDC-1057001. IR spectra
104 were recorded in the range of 400 to 4000 cm^{-1} on an Alpha Centaurt Fourier-Transformed IR
105 (FTIR) Spectrophotometer using KBr pellets. Thermal gravimetric (TG) analyses were performed
106 on a Perkin-Elmer TGA-7 instrument in the flowing N_2 with a heating rate of $10^\circ\text{C} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$. The

107 ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) absorption spectrum was obtained using a 752 PC UV-Vis
108 spectrophotometer. The magnetic susceptibility measurements were carried out with the use of a
109 Superconducting Quantum Interference Device (SQUID), produced by Quantum Design,
110 magnetometer MPMS-XL. The magnetic measurements were performed on a polycrystalline
111 sample of 18.83 mg, which has been examined by FTIR and UV-Vis spectroscopies. The AC
112 susceptibility of the same sample has been measured with an oscillating ac field with an amplitude
113 of 500 Oe and the frequencies ranging from 100 to 1200 Hz. The diamagnetic corrections for the
114 compound were estimated using Pascal's constants, and magnetic data were corrected for
115 diamagnetic contributions of the sample holder as well [25].

116 **Synthesis**

117 $\text{Na}_5[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}] \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1.26 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml distilled water. Then, 20 ml
118 methanol solution containing freshly prepared $[\text{Mn}(\text{salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]_2(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.88 g, 1 mmol) was
119 quickly added to above solution. The dark-brown reaction mixture was sealed and stirred in a
120 conical flask at 35 °C for 2 days. After filtration, the filtrate was slowly evaporated at room
121 temperature. After filtration, the filtrate was sealed with parafilm containing tiny pores for
122 facilitating slow evaporation at room temperature. Dark-brown stick-like crystals of compound **1**
123 were isolated after one week. After filtration, the remaining 31% were washed with methanol and
124 dried in the air. The chemical formula for the compound **1** is $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{56}\text{Mn}_2\text{N}_7\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{45}$. We found the
125 percentages of the elements, compared with the theoretical values, are as follows: 19.11 (19.49) %
126 for C, 5.16 (4.68) % for N, 5.26 (5.98) % for I, 5.76 (6.05) % for Mn, 29.12 (27.36) % for Mo. TG
127 analyses have indicated that there are approximately 6 lattice water molecules in the unit cell of the
128 compound (See SI-Fig. S3).

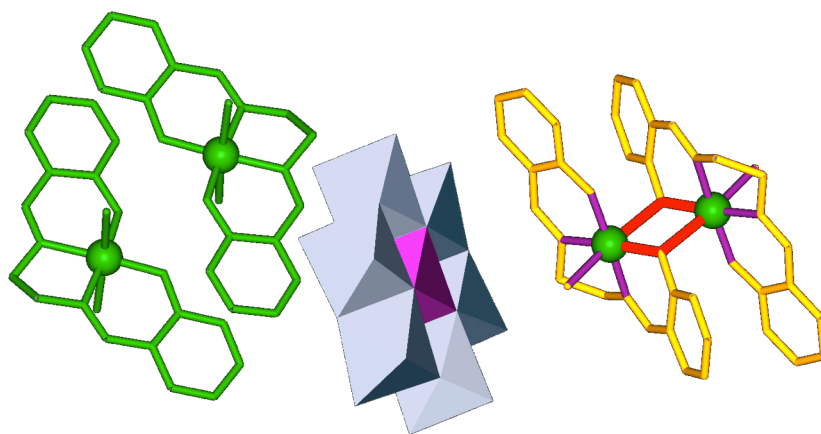
129 III. Results and Discussion

130 Materials Synthesis

131 In order to study the effect of different charge counterions on the structure and magnetic properties
132 of Mn-salen compounds, in this work, we have selected B-series Anderson-type polyanion
133 $[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}]^{5-}$ as a research object and compared its structure and properties with the previous results
134 [18]. In order to rule out the effects of other factors, we have used the same synthetic scheme as
135 reported before. The reaction phenomena and crystallization times in the synthesis process are
136 basically the same as before.

137 Crystal Structure

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140 **Fig. 1:** The supramolecular architecture of $[\text{Mn}_2(\text{Salen})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2][\text{Mn}(\text{Salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]_2\text{Na}[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}]\cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (**1**), by
141 combining polyhedral and ball-and-stick molecular representations. In $[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}]^{5-}$ (middle), Mo is represented by
142 gray octahedral and I by purple octahedral. In $[\text{Mn}(\text{Salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^+$ (right): Mn is represented by green ball; C, N,
143 and O atoms by yellow balls. Mn- O_{Ph} bonds are represented by red sticks. $[\text{Mn}(\text{Salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^+$ monomers are
144 represented by green balls and sticks.

145 Single-crystal x-ray diffraction structural analysis reveals that the compound **1** crystallizes in the
146 triclinic space group $P-1$, and is constructed from an A-type heteropolyanion, $[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}]^{5-}$, an
147 out-of-plane $[\text{Mn}(\text{Salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^+$ dimeric moiety, and two $[\text{Mn}(\text{Salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^+$ monomers. As
148 illustrated in Fig. 1 and S1, there is a half of typical A-type polyanion $[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}]^{5-}$ structure motif in

149 the asymmetric unit of the compound **1**, in which heteroatoms are situated in specific positions with
150 50% occupancy rate. The $[\text{IMo}_6\text{O}_{24}]^{5-}$ segment is composed of seven edge-sharing $\{\text{XO}_6\}$ octahedra,
151 one of which is located at the center of polyanion and surrounded by six $\{\text{MoO}_6\}$ octahedra. In
152 addition, according to the oxygen-coordination environments, Mo-O bonds can be classified into
153 three types: terminal oxygen O_t (1.694(4)-1.712(6) Å), double-bridging oxygen O_b (1.898(5) -
154 1.933(5) Å), central oxygen O_c (1.883(5)-2.357(5) Å).

155

156 In dimeric $[\text{Mn}_2(\text{Salen})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}$ unit (*abbr.* $[\text{Mn}_2]$), the Mn^{III} ions are coordinated by six oxygen
157 atoms in an octahedral geometry, whose equatorial plane is occupied by N_2O_2 atoms from the
158 Salen^{2-} ligand, with average bond lengths: $d(\text{Mn}-\text{O}) = 1.890$ Å and $d(\text{Mn}-\text{N}) = 1.953$ Å. The axial
159 positions are occupied by a water molecule and a phenoxy oxygen (O_{Ph}) atom from the other halve
160 of salen ligand, resulting in an overall centrosymmetric dimeric structure as shown in Fig. 2. These
161 coordination modes and bond lengths are close to the salen-type manganese dimer complexes
162 reported previously [18].

163 Different from the previous work, there are two monomeric units crystallized
164 $[\text{Mn}(\text{Salen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^+$ (*abbr.* $[\text{Mn}_1]$) in the supramolecular architecture. Mn^{III} ions in monomers also
165 possess a distorted octahedral geometry, in which the equatorial plane is defined by two N_2O_2 from
166 the salen ligand. Nevertheless, different from $[\text{Mn}_2]$ moiety at the apical site, the Mn^{III} center is
167 coordinated with two water molecules; the related bond lengths are 2.270(5) Å ($\text{O}_1\text{W}-\text{Mn}_2$) and
168 2.275(5) Å ($\text{O}_1\text{W}-\text{Mn}_2$), respectively. It is worth noting that a cocrystallized configuration, including
169 Mn-Schiff-base complexes, monomer and dimer, is rarely observed [26]. After performing the
170 structural analysis by using PLATON software [27], we found that two monomers are linked to
171 each other via O-H...O hydrogen bonds between apical water molecule (O_{18}) and adjacent phenoxy

172 oxygen (O₁₃) atoms, while the π - π stacking interactions between adjacent benzene ring are
 173 responsible to form a self-assembled supramolecular dimer. Interestingly, similarly linking mode
 174 occurs between adjacent [Mn₁] and [Mn₂] units. The O-H...O hydrogen bonds connect [Mn₂] and
 175 [Mn₁] fragments to generate one-dimensional '[Mn₁]-[Mn₂]' supramolecular chains along the
 176 crystallographic *b*-axis (See Fig. 2(a)). The details for the hydrogen bonds are listed in Table.2.
 177 Owing to the co-crystallization of polyoxometalates (POMs) and [Mn₁] units, the [Mn₂] dimers are
 178 well dispersed between POMs and [Mn₁], thus forming a tertiary structure. The shortest distance
 179 between [Mn₂] dimer through POMs units and [Mn₁] unit is 13.59 Å and 14.45 Å, respectively (See
 180 Fig. 2(b)). Such a distance is sufficiently long to eliminate the intermolecular magnetic interaction
 181 and thus retain the intrinsic single-molecular magnetic properties of the compound **1**.

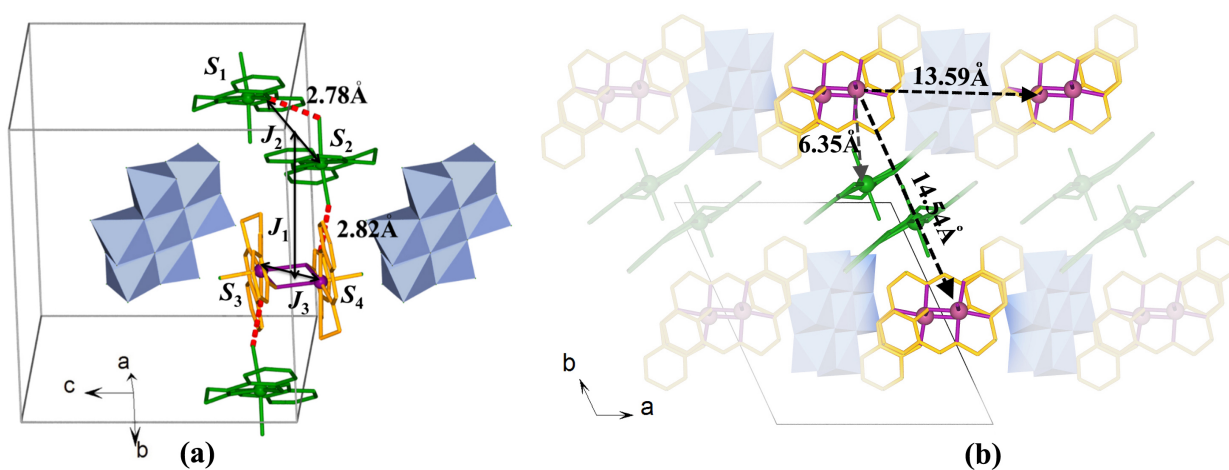
182 **Table 1:** Crystal data and structure refinements for **1**

Compound	1
Empirical formula	C ₆₄ H ₆₈ IMn ₄ Mo ₆ N ₈ NaO ₄₄
Formula weight	2649.1(9)
Temperature (K)	293(2) K
Wavelength. (Å)	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> (Å)	14.204(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	14.876(3)
<i>c</i> (Å)	14.877(3)
α (°)	92.33(3)
β (°)	111.67(3)
γ (°)	112.03(3)
Volume (Å ³)	2649.1(9)
<i>Z</i>	1
Calculated density (g cm ⁻³)	1.629
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	1.521
F(000), e	2628

θ range for data collection	3.01 - 25.00°
Limiting indices	$-16 \leq h \leq 16, -17 \leq k \leq 17, -17 \leq l \leq 17$
Reflections collected / unique / R_{int}	20696 / 9268 / [R(int) = 0.0310]
Completeness to $\theta = 25.00, \%$	99.20%
Refinement method	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Data / restraints / parameters	9268 / 5 / 613
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.064
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	R1 = 0.0509, wR2 = 0.1230
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0649, wR2 = 0.1274
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.750 and -1.51 e.Å ⁻³
${}^a R_1 = \frac{\sum \ F_0\ - F_C }{\sum \ F_0\ }$; ${}^b wR_2 = \frac{\sum [w(F_0^2 - F_C^2)^2]}{\sum [w(F_0^2)^2]}^{1/2}$	

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187 **Fig. 2:** The packing arrangement of compound **1** on the [001] plane (a) and along (001) direction (b), exhibiting the

188 nearest intra and intermolecular Mn...Mn distance in **1**. Lattice water molecules are omitted for clarity. In (a), we

189 defined the related exchange interactions between Mn^{III} ions ($S=2$) in the diagram. J_1 is the exchange interaction

190 between monomers (S_1 and S_2) and dimer (S_3 and S_4), J_2 between S_1 and S_2 , and J_3 between S_3 and S_4 .

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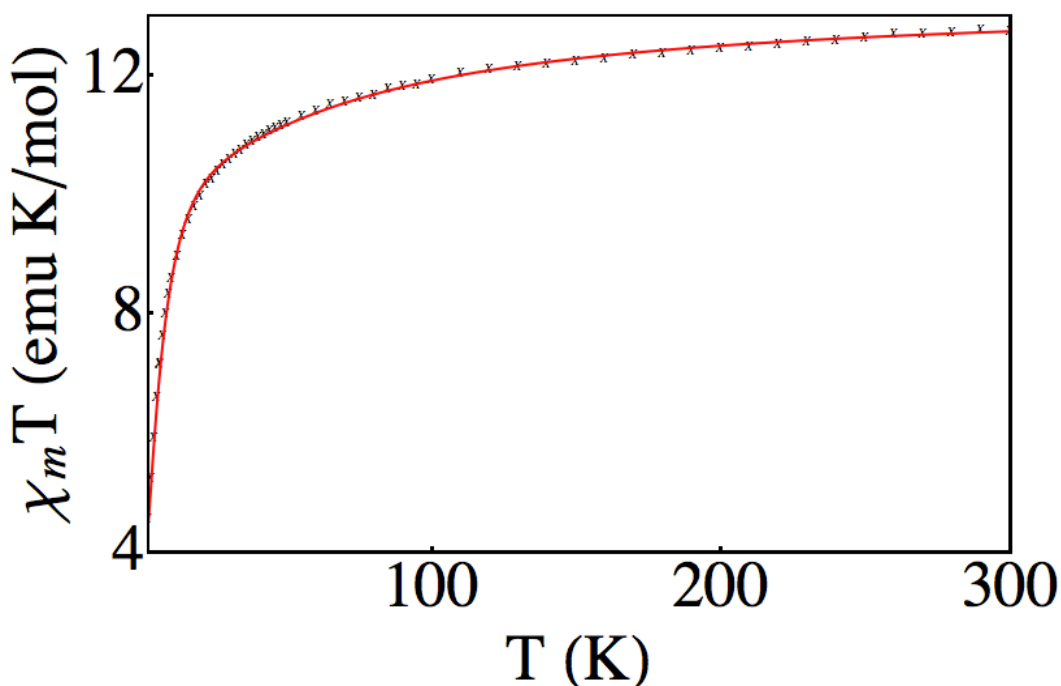
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Table 2: Hydrogen-bond parameters (\AA for distances; $^\circ$ for angles) for **1**

D-H \cdots A	D-H	H \cdots A	D \cdots A	D-H \cdots A
O(18)-H(18C) \cdots O(13)	0.79(8)	2.28(9)	2.820(7)	127(7)
O(19)-H(19B) \cdots O(14)	0.86(6)	1.98(6)	2.778(6)	155(8)
O(19)-H(19C) \cdots O(16)	0.81(6)	2.09(6)	2.727(7)	136(6)

196 **Magnetic measurements**

197

198 **Fig. 3:** Temperature dependence of the $\chi_m T$ for **1**. The crosses are experimental results for $\chi_m T$. The solid red curve is
 199 the fitting based on the Hamiltonian and exchange interactions defined in the text, which is in an excellent agreement
 200 with the experiment. The fitted values for J_1 , J_2 , J_3 and g -factor are -2.00, -2.54, 5.33 K, 2.1057, respectively.

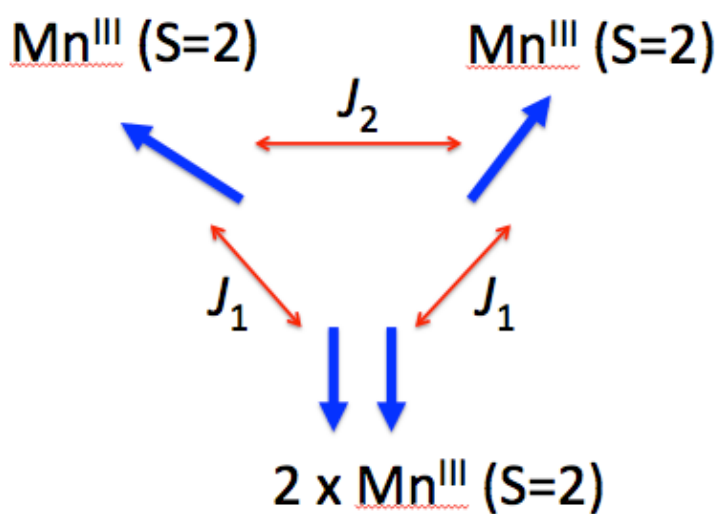
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202 Although the variety of the structures of the Mn-salen family of compounds has been very rich, the
 203 vast majority of the structures of the Mn-salen fragments isolated from the compounds is formed by
 204 a single type of configuration. However, now we have a combination of compounds of various
 205 configurations, which is rare. The spin-2 on Mn^{III} originates from the octahedral crystal-field
 206 environment of the Mn^{III} , and the fact that the on-site Coulomb interaction for d-orbital is much
 207 larger than the crystal-field splitting, thus forming a high-spin state. For its magnetic properties, we

208 have used a simple magnetic model to perform an in-depth analysis to understand the nature of the
 209 exchange interactions between Mn^{III} spins. The temperature dependence of the magnetic
 210 susceptibility has been studied in the range of 2 to 300 K. The measured $\chi_m T$ versus T plot of **1** is
 211 shown in Fig. 3. The susceptibility data were fitted by a Heisenberg-type spin Hamiltonian that
 212 reads $\hat{H} = -2J_1(S_1 + S_2) \cdot (S_3 + S_4) - 2J_2S_1 \cdot S_2 - 2J_3S_3 \cdot S_4 - g\mu_B B_z(S_{1z} + S_{2z} + S_{3z} + S_{4z})$, where J_1 can
 213 be understood as an averaged exchange interaction between the Mn monomers and the Mn dimer, J_2
 214 is the exchange interaction between monomers, and J_3 between Mn^{III} within the dimer. Since the
 215 A-type polyanion and [IMo₆O₂₄]⁵⁻ units in **1** are expected to be diamagnetic, therefore, the magnetic
 216 properties of **1** should originate from the interactions between the spins on Mn^{III} ions [28]. Notice
 217 that here we neglected the spin anisotropy because based on the $\chi_m T$ measurements the
 218 anti-ferromagnetic interactions among the spins seem more important. When the temperature was
 219 lowered, the $\chi_m T$ values at room temperature is measured to be approximately 12.10 cm³mol⁻¹K,
 220 which is close to the high-temperature limit for a total spin of 4 Mn^{III} ions ($S = 2$, $g = 2$). When the
 221 temperature was lowered, the $\chi_m T$ value decreases steadily and reaches a minimum value of 4.73
 222 cm³mol⁻¹K at 6.2 K, indicating the presence of antiferromagnetic interactions among Mn^{III} centers.
 223 However, **1** contains two types of Mn-salen fragments. We have then fitted the experimental data
 224 by the above Heisenberg Hamiltonian, and found the best fitting parameters for J_1 , J_2 , J_3 and
 225 g-factor are -2.00, -2.54, 5.33 K, 2.1057, respectively. The fitted value for J_3 (ferromagnetic) is in
 226 qualitative agreement with that reported previously [29]; the discrepancy might be owing to the
 227 omission of zero-field splitting [30]; otherwise the compound synthesized here is slightly different
 228 from that in Ref. [29]. However, this ferromagnetic interaction is the most dominant term in the
 229 Hamiltonian apart from the region with high magnetic field. The origin of the ferromagnetic
 230 interaction might be the indirect exchange owing to the bridging O atoms between the Mn^{III} ions
 231 within the dimer [31]. The other two interactions are anti-ferromagnetic, which is consistent with
 232 the experimental curves. This anti-ferromagnetic interaction can be understood as the
 233 super-exchange interaction between two high-spin states between stacked molecules [32]. Note that
 234 there is a slight frustration (as illustrated in Fig.5) that may occur at very low temperature ($kT <$
 235 $\text{Min}[J_1, J_2]$) as J_1 and J_2 are both anti-ferromagnetic because in this temperature range the Mn dimer
 236 can be approximately seen as a single magnet. This might be one of the most important driving
 237 forces for the SMM behavior [33].

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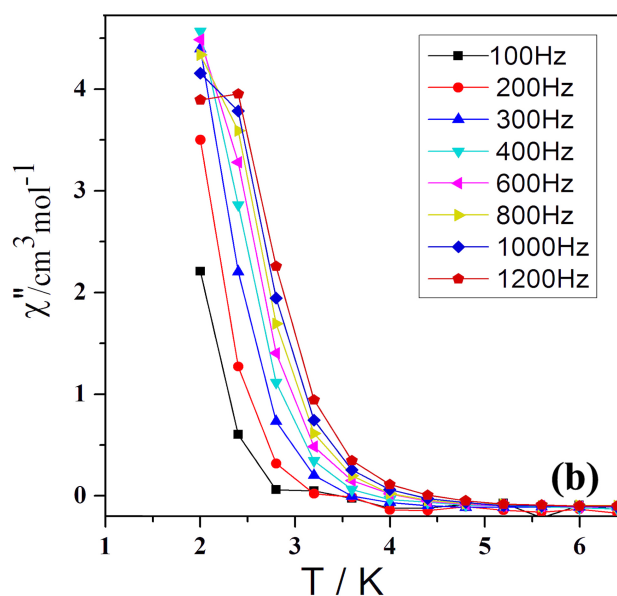
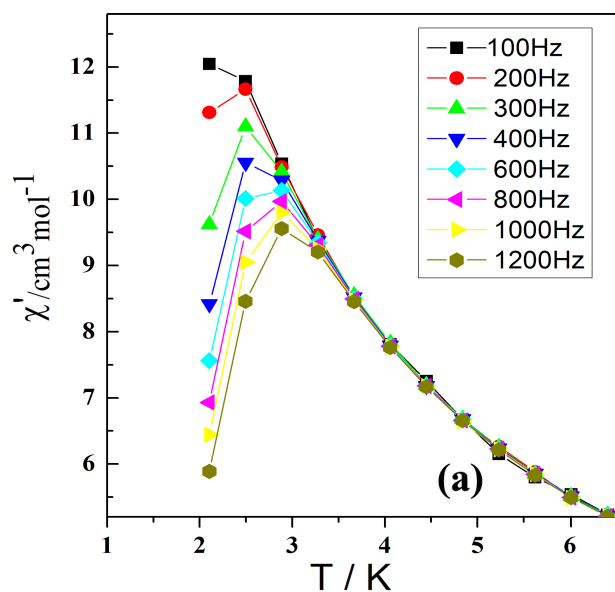
Fig.4: An illustration for the spin frustration among spins in compound **1**.

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243 The slow relaxation behavior of the magnetization of **1** has been studied using AC susceptibility
244 measurements with a series of ac magnetic fields with a magnitude of 5 Oe, as a function of
245 frequencies (100-1200Hz) and temperatures (2-6.5 K). As shown in Fig.6 (a) and (b), No maximum
246 was observed, but the frequency-dependent χ'' shows the signals below 5 K, indicating the slow
247 magnetization relaxation, a typical behavior for SMM. At zero DC field, a frequency-dependent
248 out-of-phase ac signal is detected between 2 and 6 K. Unfortunately the relaxation time cannot be
249 determined from the χ'' as even at 2 K the peaks have appeared.

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253 IV. Conclusions

254 By using the counterions with different molecular configurations having the same charge state, we
 255 have isolated a new type of Mn-Salen complex with the coexistence of the monomer and dimer
 256 structures. This work demonstrated the effect of the amount of charge (equivalently the different
 257 size of the Coulomb forces) on the coordination of the metal complex during the crystallization
 258 process. This methodology could be important for the further design and construction of
 259 molecule-based magnetic materials. Our SQUID DC magnetic measurements showed that there
 260 exist both strong anti-ferromagnetic (between monomer and dimer) and ferromagnetic interaction
 261 (within the dimer), which is much larger than the spin anisotropy reported previously. The
 262 combination of both types of exchange interactions suggests that a meta-magnetic state should be
 263 present in this complex. Our AC magnetic measurements, including the real and imaginary parts,
 264 indicated that the compound consists of SMM, which would have great potential in my applications.
 265 In the future, we would like to introduce other POM precursors to act as inorganic building blocks,
 266 bridges, or spacers for new types of supramolecular architectures.

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271

272 **Supporting information**

273 Detailed bond lengths and angles, packing arrangement, IR spectra as well as TG analysis are given
274 as Supporting Information (SI) available online.

275

276 **Reference**

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