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Journal of Coordination Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gcoo20>

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Accepted author version posted online: 25 Jun 2013. Published online: 24 Jul 2013.

To cite this article: Lu Zhao & Feng Guo (2013) Tuning the topological net of two new copper(II) coordination polymers based on a paddle-wheel secondary building unit via altering the auxiliary ligands, *Journal of Coordination Chemistry*, 66:16, 2940-2947, DOI: [10.1080/00958972.2013.819090](https://doi.org/10.1080/00958972.2013.819090)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00958972.2013.819090>

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Tuning the topological net of two new copper(II) coordination polymers based on a paddle-wheel secondary building unit via altering the auxiliary ligands

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(Received 16 February 2013; in final form 6 June 2013)

Two new coordination polymers, $[\text{Cu}(\text{BDC})(\text{L}_1)_{0.5}]_n$ (**1**) and $[\text{Cu}(\text{BDC})(\text{L}_2)_{0.5}]_n$ (**2**) [H_2BDC =5-methyl-1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid, L_1 =1,4-bis(2-methyl-imidazol-1-yl) butane and L_2 =1,4-bis(1-imidazol-yl)-2,5-dimethylbenzene], were synthesized from Cu(II), H_2BDC , and L_1/L_2 . The carboxylate groups in **1** and **2** are bis-monodentate. By changing the N-donor ligands, **1** and **2** exhibit different topologies from a rob topological net to a twofold interpenetrating pcu net; however, they possess the same paddle-wheel secondary building unit in which Cu(II) has square-pyramidal geometry. The thermal stabilities of **1** and **2** are investigated.

Keywords: Coordination polymer; Copper(II); Paddle-wheel structure

1. Introduction

Coordination polymers have attracted interest for potential applications in porous materials [1–3], luminescence [4–6], and magnetism [7–9] and for intriguing topologies [10–12]. Objectives within coordination polymers are the construction and analysis of new topologies to understand complicated structures and provide a role in design of functional materials with desirable properties. If the external environment (including metal ion and ligand) is well defined, synthetic methodologies and strategies play key roles in formation of these materials [13–15]. Designing secondary building units (SBU) can be an effective strategy in construction of a topological net [16–18]. A number of factors, such as solvents, the coordination geometry of metal centers, and the addition of auxiliary ligands, significantly affect the final framework [19–22]. To get desired architecture in the final molecule, selection of ligand and metal/metal cluster nodes is important. The paddle-wheel structural unit of Cu(II) ions is a well-known SBU and has been used to construct many coordination polymers such as HKUST-1 [23–25]. In this paper, we chose 5-methylisophthalic acid, imidazole-containing ligands and Cu(II) ion to construct two new coordination polymers, $[\text{Cu}(\text{BDC})(\text{L}_1)_{0.5}]_n$ (**1**) and $[\text{Cu}(\text{BDC})(\text{L}_2)_{0.5}]_n$ (**2**), both of which possess a

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paddle-wheel structure. In addition, **1** and **2** display different topological nets, i.e., rob and pcu topology.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials and physical measurements

All reagents and solvents were commercially available and used as received. Elemental analysis was carried out with a Carlo Erba 1106 full-automatic trace organic elemental analyzer. FT-IR spectra were recorded from 400 to 4000 cm^{-1} with a Bruker Equinox 55 FT-IR spectrometer as a dry KBr pellet. Thermal analysis was carried out with a Netzsch STA449C thermal analyzer under nitrogen at a heating rate of 10 $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$. X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) measurements were performed on a Bruker D8 diffractometer operated at 40 kV and 40 mA using Cu-K α radiation ($\lambda=0.15418$ nm).

2.2. Syntheses of **1** and **2**

2.2.1. Synthesis of [Cu(BDC)(L₁)_{0.5}]_n (1**).** **1** is hydrothermally synthesized by reaction of Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (0.241 g, 1.0 mM), H₂BDC (0.180 g, 1.0 mM), L₁ (0.218 g, 1.0 mM), NaOH (0.08 g, 2 mM), and deionized water (18 mL) in a sealed 25-mL teflon-lined stainless steel vessel at 160 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 96 h. After cooling to room temperature, green block crystals were obtained and washed with alcohol several times (Yield 40%). Anal. Calcd (%) for C₁₅H₁₅CuN₂O₄: C, 51.35; N, 7.99; H, 4.31. Found: C, 51.33; N, 7.98; H, 4.33. IR/ cm^{-1} (KBr): 1616s, 1453, 1381, 1247, 1121, 1088, 942, 876, 763, 622, and 576 m.

2.2.2. Synthesis of [Cu(BDC)(L₂)_{0.5}]_n (2**).** **2** was prepared in a similar manner to **1**. In this case, L₂ (0.238 g, 1.0 mM) was used instead of L₁. Green crystals of **2** were obtained (Yield 43%). Anal. Calcd (%) for C₁₆H₁₃Cu N₂O₄: C, 53.26; N, 7.76; H, 3.63. Found: C, 53.28; N, 7.74; H, 3.62. IR/ cm^{-1} (KBr): 1609s, 1441, 1352, 1214, 1157, 1072, 976, 861, 752, and 633 m.

2.3. X-ray crystallography

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction analyses of **1** and **2** were carried out with a Bruker SMART APEX CCD diffractometer equipped with graphite-monochromated Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda=0.71073$ Å) using a ω -scan mode. An empirical absorption correction was applied using SADABS [26]. The structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F^2 using SHELX 97 [27]. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogens were located by geometric calculations and their positions, and thermal parameters were fixed during structure refinement. The crystallographic data and experimental details of structural analyses for the coordination polymers are summarized in table 1. Selected bond and angle parameters are listed in table 2.

Table 1. Crystallographic data and structure refinement summary for **1** and **2**.

Empirical formula	C ₁₅ H ₁₅ CuN ₂ O(4)	C ₁₆ H ₁₃ CuN ₂ O ₄
Formula weight	350.83	360.82
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, <i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i>	Monoclinic, <i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i>
Unit cell dimensions	<i>a</i> = 11.678(2) Å <i>b</i> = 14.596(3) Å <i>c</i> = 18.893(3) Å β = 104.110(2)°	<i>a</i> = 9.8110(8) Å <i>b</i> = 13.5050(11) Å <i>c</i> = 11.1750(9) Å β = 96.6020(11)°
Volume (Å ³)	3123.2(9)	1470.8(2)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
Calculated density (mg/m ³)	1.492	1.629
Independent reflections (<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>))	5069	2836
<i>F</i> (000)	1440	736
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ²	1.017	1.024
θ range for data collection	2.28–24.98	2.37–27.45
Limiting indices	−15 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 15 −18 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 18 −18 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 24	−12 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 12 −15 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 17 −12 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 14
<i>R</i> ₁ ^a , <i>wR</i> ₂ ^b [<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)]	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0385, <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0836	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0256, <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0668
<i>R</i> ₁ ^a , <i>wR</i> ₂ ^b (all data)	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0647, <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0953	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0330, <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0705
Largest diff. peak and hole (e/Å ³)	0.397 and −0.303	0.407 and −0.263

$$^a R = S(|F_o| - |F_c|) / |S|F_o; \quad ^b wR = [Sw(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2) / Sw(F_o^2)]^{1/2}$$

Table 2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for **1** and **2**.

Compound 1			
Cu(1)–O(1) ^b	1.974(2)	Cu(1)–O(8) ^a	1.994(2)
Cu(1)–O(2) ^c	1.962(2)	Cu(1)–O(7)	1.970(2)
Cu(1)–N(1)	2.156(2)		
O(1) ^b –Cu(1)–N(1)	92.67(9)	O(2) ^c –Cu(1)–O(8) ^a	90.45(10)
O(1) ^b –Cu(1)–O(8) ^a	87.20(10)	O(2) ^c –Cu(1)–O(7)	86.80(10)
O(2) ^c –Cu(1)–Cu(1) ^a	84.42(6)	O(8) ^a –Cu(1)–N(1)	98.39(9)
O(2) ^c –Cu(1)–O(1) ^b	165.20(9)	O(7)–Cu(1)–O(1) ^b	91.67(11)
O(7)–Cu(1)–O(8) ^a	164.89(9)		
Compound 2			
Cu(1)–O(1)	1.9707(13)	Cu(1)–O(2) ^c	1.9848(13)
Cu(1)–O(4) ^a	1.9750(14)	Cu(1)–N(1)	2.1564(16)
Cu(1)–O(3) ^b	1.9841(14)		
O(1)–Cu(1)–O(4) ^a	88.92(6)	O(1)–Cu(1)–N(1)	93.83(6)
O(1)–Cu(1)–O(3) ^b	88.62(7)	O(4) ^a –Cu(1)–N(1)	105.17(6)
O(4) ^a –Cu(1)–O(3) ^b	166.56(6)	O(3) ^b –Cu(1)–N(1)	88.17(6)
O(1)–Cu(1)–O(2) ^c	166.36(6)	O(2) ^c –Cu(1)–N(1)	99.71(6)
O(4) ^a –Cu(1)–O(2) ^c	89.05(6)	O(1)–Cu(1)–O(4) ^a	88.92(6)
O(3) ^b –Cu(1)–O(2) ^c	90.24(7)		

Symmetry code for compounds: **(1)** (a) $-x+1, -y+1, -z+2$; (b) $-x+3/2, y+1/2, -z+3/2$; (c) $x-1/2, -y+1/2, z+1/2$; **(2)** (a) $-x+5/2, y+1/2, -z+3/2$; (b) $x-1/2, -y+3/2, z-1/2$; (c) $-x+2, -y+2, -z+1$.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Description of crystal structures

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis reveals that **1** has a 3-D rob framework crystallizing in the monoclinic space group *P*2₁/*n*. The asymmetric unit contains one Cu(II), one BDC²⁻, and a half of L₁. Each Cu(II) is a square-pyramid coordinated by four carboxylate

oxygens at basal positions (Cu–O bond lengths range from 1.962(2) to 1.994(2) Å) and one N (Cu(1)–N(1)=2.156(2) Å) at the apical position (figure 1(a)). Four carboxylates from four symmetry-related BDC²⁻ connect two Cu(II) ions to form a dinuclear paddle-wheel Cu(II) subunit with Cu···Cu separation of 2.745(8) Å. Neighboring [Cu₂(BDC)₄] dimers are connected by BDC²⁻. If the dinuclear Cu(II) can be four-connected nodes and carboxylates can be viewed as linkers, the Cu(II)-carboxylate structure can be simplified as a cds topological net with short Schläfli symbol of (6⁵ × 8) by TOPOS software [28]. L₁ as linkers connect four-connected nodes to form six-connected nodes, which lead the cds net to the rob net with short Schläfli symbol (4⁸ × 6⁶ × 8) (figure 1(b)). Indeed, the six-connected rob net can be obtained by the net deriving from a cds net and a series of parallel 4⁴-net sharing common edges (figure 1(c)).

Compared to **1**, replacement of L₁ with L₂ results in generation of **2** which lead the structure from 3-D rob net to 3-D pcu topology. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction reveals that each Cu(II) is coordinated by four oxygen donors (Cu–O distances from 1.971(2) to 1.985(2) Å) and one N (Cu(1)–N(1)=2.156(2) Å) (figure 2(a)). Two Cu(II) ions, related by a twofold axis, are bridged by two pairs of carboxylates into a paddle-wheel unit with a Cu(II)...Cu(II) distance of 2.694(4) Å. The [Cu(CO₂)₄Cu] dimers are bonded to four BDC²⁻ ligands. The binuclear Cu(II) ions can be viewed as four-connecting nodes to generate a layer formed by a series of squares (figure 2(b)). Each [Cu(CO₂)₄Cu] unit is bridged to two structural units in the sheet above and below by pairs of L₂. From the topological view, the [Cu(CO₂)₄Cu] unit can be treated as a six-connected node, the BDC²⁻ and L₂ are taken as linkers and the 3-D structure can be classified as a pcu net (α -Po topology) (figure 2(c)). The pcu topology can be described as comprising three intersecting (4,4) nets that share connections. This arrangement leads to layers of (4,4) nets cross-linked by co-linear connections. Due to the absence of guest molecules to fill the large void space in the 3-D framework during assembly, the potential voids in **2** are filled by mutual interpenetration of two identical 3-D nets, which directly lead to the formation of a twofold interpenetrating pcu network (figure 2(d)).

Complexes **1** and **2** are constructed by using dicarboxylate and N-donor ligands and show different topological nets. Complexes **1** and **2** have the same SBUs; the different topological nets may derive from different rigid/flexible ligands. When using the rigid ligand, **2** has a potential void which leads to a twofold interpenetrating net. Using the flexible ligand, the potential void cannot be created, leading to a rob net.

3.2. Thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) and X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD)

In order to check the purity and homogeneity of the bulk products of **1** and **2**, the as-synthesized samples were investigated by XRPD at room temperature. As shown in figure S1, in Supplementary material, the peak positions of the experimental patterns are in agreement with the simulated ones, which indicate good purity and homogeneity of the complexes.

TGA analyses of **1** and **2** were carried out under N₂ from 25° to 600° with a heating rate of 10°C min⁻¹. For **1**, the weight loss of 77.38% (Calcd 77.33%) from 255 to 580°C indicates loss of carboxylate and L₁. For **2**, TGA exhibits one-weight losses of 77.87% (Calcd 77.96%) from 215 to 550°C, also attributed to loss of carboxylate and L₂ (figure S2, Supplementary material).

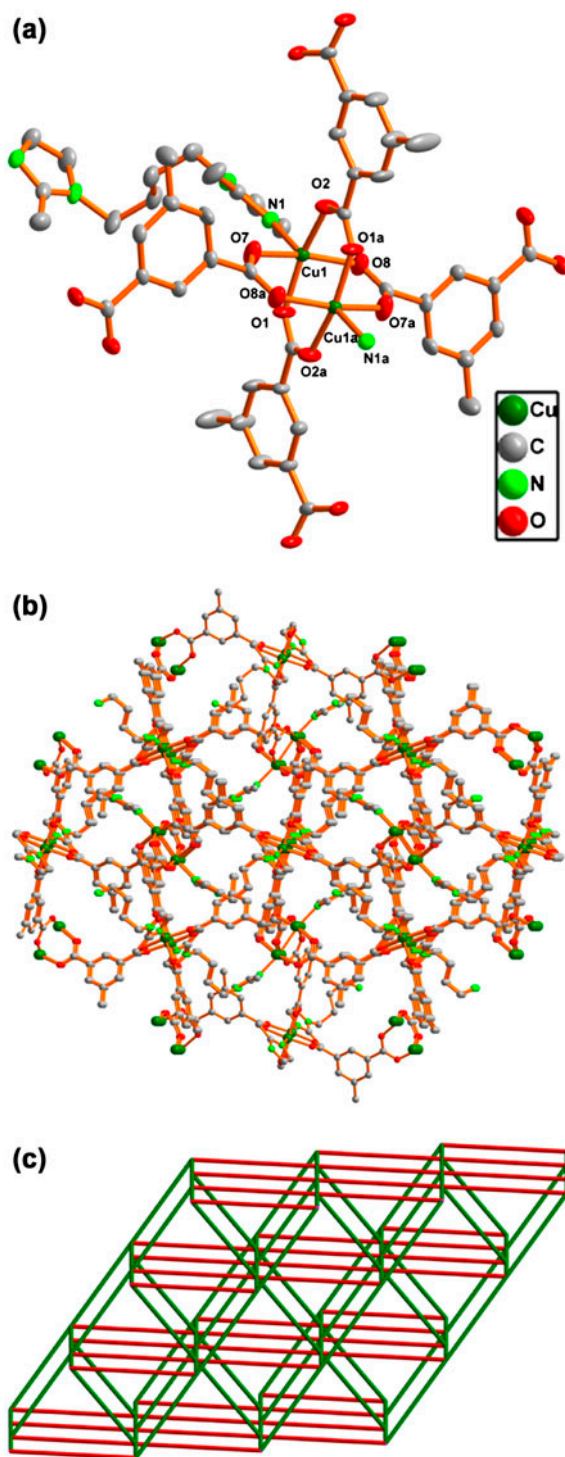


Figure 1. (a) The coordination environment of Cu(II) for **1**; (b) The 3-D topological net for **2** (green: cds net formed by carboxylate; red: L_1 as linkers). (see <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00958972.2013.819090> for color version.)

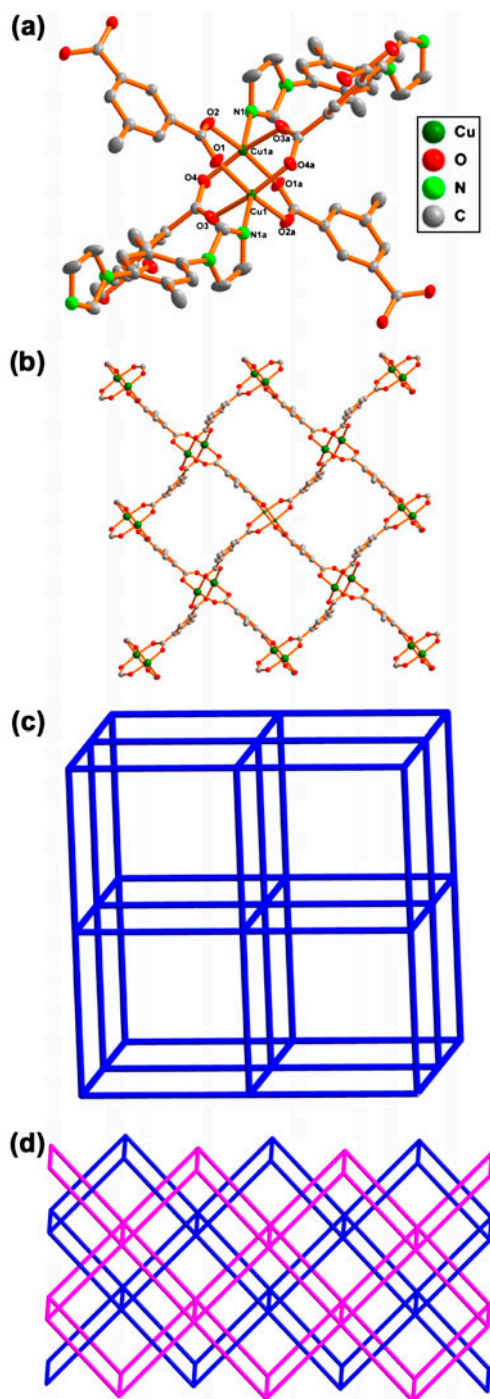


Figure 2. (a) The coordination environment of Cu(II) for 1; (b) the 2-D layer structure formed by carboxylates; (c) the twofold interpenetrating pcu topology for 2.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, two new Cu(II) metal-organic frameworks based on dinuclear secondary building blocks have been obtained. Complex **1** is a 3-D rob topology net, while **2** exhibits a twofold interpenetrating 3-D pcu topology. Structure transition from rob to pcu topology between the complexes was realized with the aid of imidazole-containing ligands, which indicate it is an effective method to tune the topological net via changing auxiliary ligands.

Supplementary materials

Crystallographic data for the structural analysis have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, CCDC reference numbers: 901067 and 901068. These data can be obtained free of charge at <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk> (or Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: +44-1223-336-033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

Acknowledgement

We thank the support of this work by the Natural Science Foundation of Shandong Province (ZR2011BL024) and the financial support from Dezhou University (318019).

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