

# Supporting Information: Electron Transfer Activity in a Cyanide-Bridged Fe<sub>42</sub> Nanomagnet

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# Specific Heat Capacity

Since molecular clusters with large spin moments can exhibit dipolar field driven three dimensional ordering,<sup>1-4</sup> we measured the low temperature specific heat capacity of Fe<sub>42</sub> and confirmed that the S=45 ground state is molecular in origin. Specific heat capacity measurements down to 0.5 K (Figure S1) do not show the appearance of a  $\lambda$ -type anomaly associated with a magnetic phase transition. A broad shoulder deviating from the lattice contribution to the specific heat is observed in zero field at 5 K, consistent with a Schottky anomaly, associated with weak exchange coupling within the molecule. The application of an applied field of 1 T sees this broad feature shift up to 8 K in accordance with the Zeeman-effect. A lack of evidence of anisotropy induced zero-field splitting, confirms the isotropic nature of the S=45 ground state, a result of the cluster's symmetry.

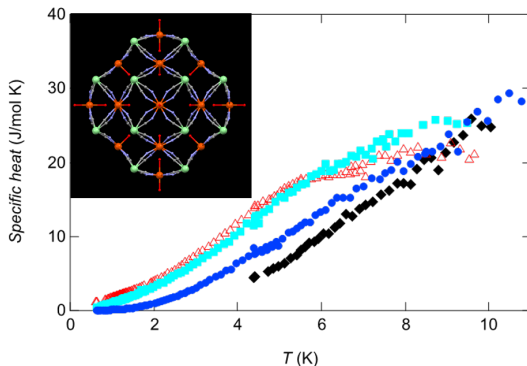


Figure S1: Specific heat capacity of polycrystalline Fe<sub>42</sub> measured at 0 T (red triangles), 1 T (blue squares), 5 T (blue circles) and 10 T (black diamonds). Insert: Fe<sub>42</sub> skeleton crystal structure. The 24 {Fe(Tp)(CN)<sub>3</sub>} are shown as green spheres, the {Fe(NC)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>} and {Fe(NC)<sub>4</sub>(dpp)(H<sub>2</sub>O)} are shown as orange spheres with axial O atoms shown as small red spheres, C; grey spheres and N; blue spheres) and terminal ligand atoms removed clarity.

# Charge Transfer Multiplet Calculations

Charge transfer multiplet simulations of XAS and XMCD are used to determine Fe ion ground states, crystal fields, and nature of metal - ligand hybridization. The calculations were implemented using the TT-multiplets suite of programs. To simulate the spectra, the

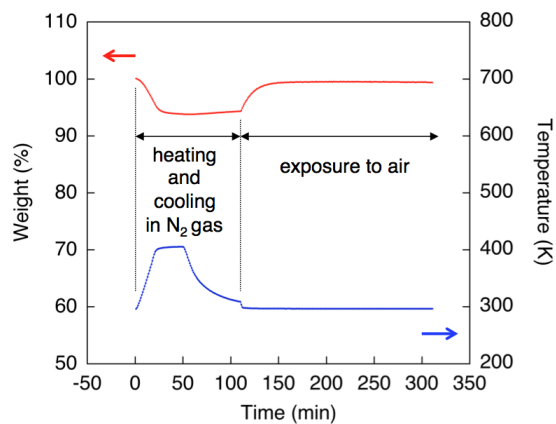


Figure S2: Thermal gravimetric analysis of  $\text{Fe}_{42}$ . A 5% weight loss is observed on heating the sample above room temperature. The lost mass is recovered on exposure of the sample to to air at room temperature.

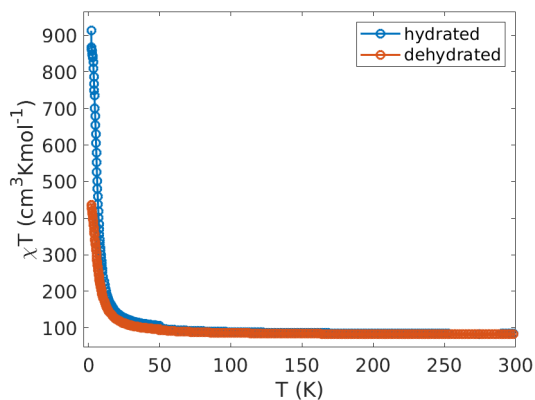


Figure S3: Magnetic susceptibility plotted as the  $\chi T$  product as a function of temperature for a powder sample of  $\text{Fe}_{42}$  in hydrated and dehydrated forms. A applied field of 50 Oe is applied from 2 to 50 K and 1000 Oe from 51 K to 300 K.

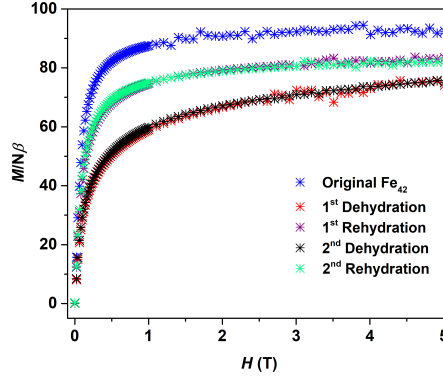


Figure S4: Magnetisation as a function of external magnetic field for a powder sample of  $\text{Fe}_{42}$  during two dehydration-rehydration cycles at 2 K.

Slater-Condon-Shortley parameters, the radial ( $F^i$  and  $G^i$ ) and angular part ( $f^i$  and  $g^i$ ) of Coulomb repulsion and Coulomb exchange interaction, were reduced and fixed to 80% of their Hartree-Fock calculated values in order to account for the overestimation of electron-electron repulsion found in the calculations of the free ion. Ligand-metal hybridisation was modelled using the valence bond configuration interaction approach with charge transfer pathways differentiated according to  $3d$  orbital symmetry, as outlined in the main text.

## Simulations of Reference Spectra

The XAS simulation of  $\text{K}_2[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$  and  $\text{Li}[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$  reference spectra were performed in  $O_h$  crystal field symmetry, where the  $10Dq$  free parameter defines the energy separation between  $e_g$  and  $t_{2g}$  orbitals. Ligand-metal hybridization was simulated using metal to ligand charge transfer (MLCT) via the  $t_{2g}$  orbital symmetry ( $T_{M,t_{2g}}$ ) and ligand to metal charge transfer via the  $e_g$  orbital symmetry ( $T_{L,e_g}$ ). In the case of  $\text{Li}[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$  XAS calculations include LMCT hybridization term is also included via  $t_{2g}$  orbital ( $T_{L,t_{2g}}$ ) to account for delocalisation of ligand p orbital character into the  $t_{2g}$  hole. The energy separating the charge transfer configurations are  $\Delta$  and  $\Delta^*$  for LMCT and MLCT respectively. The parameters obtained fitting the  $\text{K}_2[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$  and  $\text{Li}[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$  reference spectra (table S1) were fixed for the simulation of  $\text{Fe}_{42}$  XAS spectra. XMCD simulations of

$\text{Li}[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$  were performed using the model and parameters previously adopted in Ref. 5.

## Simulations of $\text{Fe}_{42}$

The 24  $\text{Fe}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3$  sites in  $\text{Fe}_{42}$  are chemically identical to the reference compounds  $\text{K}_2[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$  and  $\text{Li}[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{Tp})(\text{CN})_3]$ . The remaining 18 sites do not exist as mononuclear compounds, 6  $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NC})_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2\}$  and 12  $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NC})_4(\text{dpp})(\text{H}_2\text{O})\}$  (together, abbreviated as  $\{\text{FeNC}_4\}$ ). The two moieties are very similar making differentiation of the two species in  $\text{Fe}_{42}$  unjustifiable. The XMCD of  $\text{Fe}_{42}$  indicates the presence of both Fe(II) and Fe(III) high-spin species amongst the 18  $\{\text{FeNC}_4\}$  ensemble. Initial simulations were performed with all 18  $\{\text{FeNC}_4\}$  as Fe(III), a parameter space including a broad range of both crystal field, hybridization terms and the charge transfer energy parameters do not fit the double  $\text{L}_3$  XMCD feature or the XAS suitably. A second attempt fixed  $\{\text{FeNC}_4\}$  valences to 6  $\{\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}\text{NC}_4\}$  and 12  $\{\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{NC}_4\}$ , in this case the double negative peaks in the  $\text{L}_3$  XMCD could be reproduced, but with incorrect intensity ratios. Only with equal a number of Fe(II) and Fe(III) valence  $\{\text{FeNC}_4\}$  is the XMCD and XAS reproduced.

The nitrogen end cyanide ligation does not exhibit sizeable MLCT, hence the inclusion of LMCT type hybridization is sufficient.<sup>6</sup> The  $\{\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{NC}_4\}$  sites include hybridization via two corresponding  $T_{L,t_{2g}}$  and  $T_{L,e_g}$  terms. To obtain the best fit of XMCD and XAS an additional crystal field parameter  $Ds$  is added to the simulation of  $\{\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}\text{NC}_4\}$  which distort the energy of the 3d orbitals to  $C_{4v}$ . This distortion is consistent with a reduced coordination number due to the loss of axial water molecules. The energy of the orbitals with respect to the  $10Dq$  and  $Ds$  parameters are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
b_1(d_{x2y2}) &= 6Dq + 2Ds \\
a_1(d_{z2}) &= 6Dq - 2Ds \\
b_2(d_{xy}) &= -4Dq + 2Ds \\
e(d_{xz,yz}) &= -4Dq - Ds.
\end{aligned}$$

Table S1: Parameters for XAS charge transfer multiplet simulations of {FeTp} reference samples.

compound	10Dq (eV)	$T_{L,t2g}$	$T_{L,e_g}$	$T_{M,t2g}$	$\Delta$ (eV)	$\Delta^*$ (eV)
$K_2[Fe^{II}(Tp)(CN)_3]$	1.9706	-	1.0505	1.7845	-3.3839	-2.4997
$Li[Fe^{III}(Tp)(CN)_3]$	2.9597	0.8808	1.7859	1.7284	-3.4340	0.8710

Table S2: Parameters for XAS and XMCD charge transfer multiplet simulations of high spin Fe sites in  $Fe_{42}$ .

Moiety	10Dq (eV)	Ds (eV)	$T_{L,b_1} (d_{x2y2})$	$T_{L,a_1} (d_{z2})$	$T_{L,b_2} (d_{xy})$	$T_{L,e} (d_{xz,yz})$	$\Delta$ (eV)
$\{Fe^{II}NC_3\}$	0.8	0.05	0.2678	0.0000	0.08520	0.0000	0
$\{Fe^{III}NC_3\}$	1.2	0.00	0.7810	0.7809	0.55515	0.5551	-1

## XAS Data Reduction

Figure S5 shows both left and right circularly polarized XAS and XMCD of  $Fe_{42}$ . Before fitting the measured XAS spectra a linear background function was subtracted from each averaged data set and two arctangent functions of the form  $absorption\ I(energy) = \tan^{-1}[k(energy - L_3) + \pi/2](2/3)(1/\pi) + \tan^{-1}[k(energy - L_2) + \pi/2](1/3)(1/\pi)$ , where  $k = 0.295$  and  $L_2 = L_3 + 12.3eV$  (energy split by  $2p^5$  spin-orbit coupling), were used to model the  $L_3$  and  $L_2$  edge jumps.

Radiation damage due to x-ray overexposure is limited by use of a shutter system reducing exposure for each incident x-ray energy to 200 ms. With sequential reduction of the incident

x-ray flux, short scans over the the  $L_3$ -edge were repeated over the same sample spot to confirm that the spectra were not affected by damaged species contributions. Additionally, reduction of the sample temperature to  $< 200$  K was found to reduce sample damage effects.

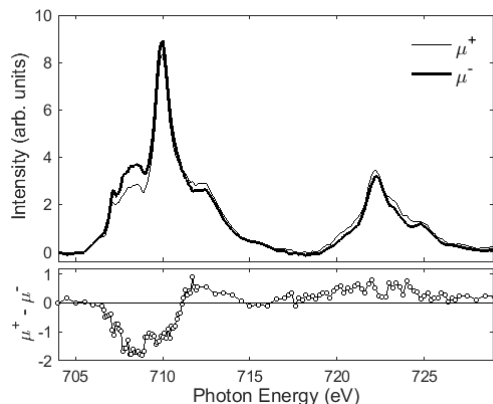


Figure S5: The circularly polarized  $L_{2,3}$ -edge XAS (BL25SU, SPring-8) of  $Fe_{42}$  (Top panel) and XMCD ( $\mu^+ - \mu^-$ ) (bottom panel). The measurements were performed at 15 K with an applied field of 1.9 T.

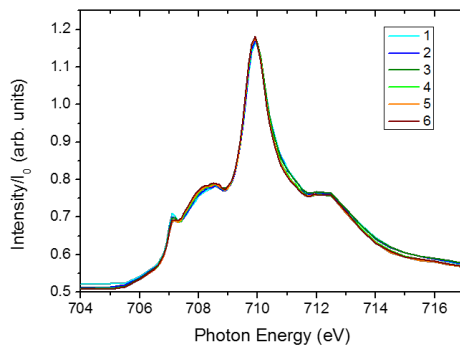


Figure S6:  $L_3$ -edge XAS (BL25SU, SPring-8) of  $Fe_{42}$  ( $\mu^+ + \mu^-$ ) 1 to 6 are repeat measurements on the same sample spot indicating control of x-ray damage.

## References

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