## Supplementary Information for manuscript

# Supramolecular Synthons: Will Giant Rigid Superspheres Do? by

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## 1. Pentaphosphaferrocene-based supramolecules



Figure S1. Spatial arrangement of  $Cp^*$  (gray, d-f) and X functional groups (green, h-j) and their combination in superspheres (a) 2, (b) 3 and (c) 4.

## 2. Superspheres as potential synthons. Specific interactions and their geometric requirements.

	τ <sub>Cp-Cp</sub> ,°	$\tau_{X-X}$ , °	$\tau_{X-Cp}$ , °
2	63, 116, 180	41, 70, 109, 139, 180	38, 79, 100, 143,
3	57, 105, 123, 180	38, 63, 75, 96, 113, 127, 160	33, 61, 72, 94, 108, 146, 156
4	46, 87, 93, 134, 180	30, 51, 129, 150, 180	26, 57, 74, 107, 122, 153
5	52, 57, 75, 77, 80, 98, 107, 123	37, 60, 75, 87, 93, 98, 118, 136, 158	32, 56, 84, 88, 93, 106, 112, 122, 133, 147

### Table S1. Some angles between the functional groups in 2-5

<sup>a)</sup> The angle  $(\tau_{Cp-Cp})$  between the rays 1. and 2. (*cf* Fig. 2); <sup>b)</sup> the angle  $(\tau_{X-X})$  between the rays 3. and 4.; <sup>c)</sup> the angle  $(\tau_{X-Cp})$  between the rays 2. and 3.



Fig.S2 The d(Å)- $\phi$ (°) distributions the for the synthons.

The distribution shows that the geometry of the synthons represented as  $d_1$  vs.  $\varphi_1$  (for  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthon) or  $d_2$  vs.  $\varphi_1$  (for  $\pi$ - $\pi$  synthon) vary in more narrow range for the  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthon.

### 3. Synthon types in 2-5 and their geometry

The more detailed information on the synthons in **2-5** and its geometry. In addition, the clickable Reference Codes in CSD are listed to ease access to the structural data. In the column D...A the type and the number of synthons per each crystallographically unique supramolecule are listed. For **3e** the characteristics of the double  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthons are listed in brackets.

	Compound	$\sigma$ - $\pi$ (or double $\sigma$ - $\pi$ )			π-π			RefCode
		D…A	d1, Å a)	$\varphi_{i}$ , <sup>o b)</sup>	D…A	d <sub>2</sub> , Å <sup>c)</sup>	$\varphi_2$ , <sup>o d)</sup>	
2a	$(o-C_2B_{10}H_{12})_{0.5}@[(1a)_{12}(CuBr)_{18.8}]\cdot7.33C_7H_8\cdot0.67MeCN$	2Cp*+2Br			-	-	-	KUCJEZ
		4Cp*	3.21-3.39	162.5-175.8				
<u> </u>		4Br						
2b	$(0-C_2B_{10}H_{12})_{0.5}@[(1a)_{12}(CuBr)_{18.8}]-3.82C_7H_8-2.23MeCN$	2Cp*+2Br			-	-	-	KUCJAV
		4Cp 4Br	3.24-3.50	102.4-1/3.3				
20	$Cp_2Fe@[(1a)_{12}(CuCl)_{20}]$	-	-	-	-	-	-	TATTOZ
2d	$CpCrAs_5@[(1a)_{12}(CuCl)_{20}]$	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>TATTUF</u>
3a	$[1a]@[(1a)_{12}(CuBr)_{25}(MeCN)_{10}]\cdot 2.1C_6H_4Cl_2\cdot MeCN$	2Cp*+2Br	3.30-3.38	165.0-177.7	-	-	-	GUSLEM
3b	$[1a]@[(1a)_{12}(CuBr)_{25}(MeCN)_{10}]\cdot 10.4C_7H_8 \cdot 0.8MeCN$	3Cp*+3Br	3.31-3.42	166.0-176.8	-	-	-	GUSLIQ
3C	$[1a]@[(1a)_{12}(CuBr)_{25}(MeCN)_{10}] \cdot 5C_7H_8 \cdot 17.7MeCN$	3Cp*+3Br	3.29-3.95	162.4-168.1	-	-	-	GUSLOW
3d	$[(CpCr)_{2}(\mu,\eta^{5}-As_{5})]@[(1a)_{12}(CuBr)_{25}(MeCN)_{10}]\cdot 10C_{7}H_{8}\cdot 3M eCN$	3Cp*+3Br	3.32-3.44	166.1-176.2	-	-	-	<u>TATVAN</u>
зе	[ib]@[(ib) <sub>12</sub> (CuBr) <sub>25</sub> (MeCN) <sub>10</sub> ]-2CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> -1.5MeCN	7Cp <sup>Et</sup> +4Br 4Cp <sup>Et</sup> +7Br	3.51-3.70, (3.83-3.85)	168.0-175.9 (171.6-171.9)	-	-	-	TAXDAY
3f	$[1a]@[(1a)_{12}(CuBr)_{25}(MeCN)_{10}] \cdot 2.9C_6H_4Cl_2 \cdot 3.9MeCN$	2Cp*+2Br	3.31-3.56	163.8-172.7	2Cp*	3.72	154.2	<u>GUSLAI</u>
3g	$\label{eq:constraint} \begin{split} & [1a]_{0.6}@[(1a)_{12}Cu_{25}Cl_{24}(MeCN)_9] \\ & [(1a)_{12}Cu_{25}Cl_{26}(MeCN)_9]\cdot 12C_7H_8\cdot 1.5MeCN \end{split}$	4Cp* 4Cl	3.25-3.40	160.5-173.7	3Cp* 2Cp*	3.30- 3.60	129.0-153.8	<u>GUSKUB</u>
3h	[1a] <sub>0.5</sub> @[(1a) <sub>12</sub> (CuCl) <sub>25</sub> (MeCN) <sub>10</sub> ]-6CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> -1.5MeCN	2Cp* 2Cl	3.20	163.1	2Cp* 2Cp*	5.26	180.0	<u>GUSKIP</u>
3i	[1a] <sub>0.6</sub> @[(1a) <sub>12</sub> (CuCl) <sub>25</sub> (MeCN) <sub>10</sub> ]·9.5THF·2MeCN	Cp*+Cl	3.16-3.85	154.6-180	6Cp*	3.58	168.8	<u>GUSKOV</u>
3j	$ \begin{array}{l} [Cu(MeCN)_4]^+[\{ia\}_{0.5}@(ia)_{12}(CuCl)_{25}(MeCN)_{10}]_3\\ \{ia\}_{0.5}@[(ia)_{12}Cu_{24}Cl_{25}(MeCN)_8]^- \cdot 34CH_2Cl_2 \end{array} $	4Cp*+Cl 2Cp*+5Cl	3.18-3.77	160.0-177.9	2Cp* -	3.44- 3.70	140.0-173.4	<u>BAPFOO</u>
4	$[1a]@[(1a)_9{CuCl}_{10}] \cdot 2C_7H_8$	4Cp*+4Cl	3.33-3.41	159.1-160.1	4Cp*	3.42- 3.60	161.3-175.1	<u>OLIWIQ</u>
5	$C_{60}@[(1a)_{13}(CuCl)_{26}(H_2O)_2(MeCN)_9] \cdot 6C_6H_4Cl_2 \cdot MeCN$	2Cp*+2Cl	3.63 <sup>f)</sup>	154.1	-	-	-	COVBAR

Table S2. The structures of 1a- and 1b-based supramolecules.



(a)



Fig.S3 The  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthon-based chains in 90-vertex supramolecules: (a) linear chain in **3i** and (b) zigzag chain in **3h**.



(a)



Fig. S4 The  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthon-based square layers in the supramolecules in monosystem crystal structures (a) **3a** and **3f**, and (b, c) crystal structure **3g**, containing two crystallographically unique supramolecules.



Fig.S5 The  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthon-based square layers for supramolecules in 5 (top view). The synthons are highlighted in orange.



Fig.S6. Solvent-mediated  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions between supramolecules **3** with dichlorobenzene molecule.



Fig.S7 The realization of the  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthons in the **1b**-derived 90-vertex supramolecule **3e**. The 'single'  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthons are shown as the orange fragments of the neighboring supramolecules; the 'double' synthons are highlighted in green.



(a)



(b)

Fig.S8 The realization of the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  synthons in the **1a**-derived 90-vertex supramolecules (a) **3i** to give a trigonal layer (The  $\pi$ - $\pi$  synthons are highlighted in orange) and (b) in **3g** to give a band based on the 3-connected (orange) and 2-connected (red) supramolecules.



Fig.S9 The formation of Kagome layers in 80-vertex supramolecules **2a** and **2b**. The  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthon-based triangular meshes based on three (a-c) crystallographically unique supramolecules.

To denote a packing, well-known traditional notations are used alongside with symbols of 3D-nets. In these notations, common packings as face-centered cubic (f.c.c.) are also known as fcu net, hexagonal close packing (h.c.p.) as hcp, body-centered cubic as bcu-x type.



Fig. S10 Idealized nets corresponding to the supramolecular assemblies observed in the structures of supramolecules (*cf* Table 3).

#### 4. Synthons in polymeric structures

The correlation is found between the presence of terminal X atom in the skeleton of the polymeric structure and the presence of the  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  synthon. The  $\pi$ - $\pi$  synthon was not found with an exception of the irreproducible interactions with the solvent molecules possessing an aromatic system.

D	Formula	Refcode <sup>a</sup>	Type of the intermolecular contact $(d_i, \mathring{A}; \varphi_i, \circ)$	Role of X					
X=Cl									
1D	$(As_4)_{0.75}@[(Cp*FeP_5)(CuCl)_2]$	DISDAM	-	bridging					
1D	$P_4@[(Cp*FeP_5)(CuCl)_2]$	DISDEQ, DISDEQ01	-	bridging					
2D	[(Cp*FeP <sub>5</sub> )CuCl]	OLIWOW	Cp*…Cl (3.54; 152.6)	terminal					
1D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)(CuCl)_4(MeCN)_2] \cdot 0.4C_6H_4Cl_2$	TAVCEA	Cp*Solv	bridging					
1D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)_4(CuCl)_4] \cdot 2C_6H_6$	TAVBAV	-	bridging					
X=Br									
1D	[(Cp*FeP <sub>5</sub> )CuBr]·CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	MOHDOC	-	bridging					
2D	[(Cp*FeP <sub>5</sub> )CuBr] (2D)	MOHDUI (isostructural OLIWOW)	Cp*…Br (3.62; 151.5)	terminal					
2D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)(CuBr)] \cdot 0.5C_6H_6$	TAVBOJ (isostructural TAVBUP)	- (4.66, 149.5)*	terminal					
1D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)(CuBr)_4(MeCN)_2] \cdot 0.5C_6H_4Cl_2$	TAVCIE	-	bridging					
X=I									
2D	[(Cp*FeP <sub>5</sub> )Cul]	MOHFAQ (substructure of MOHDUI/ OLIWOW)	Cp*…I (3.75; 153.6)	terminal					
2D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)(CuI)] \cdot 0.5C_6H_6$	TAVBUP (isostructural TAVBOJ)	- (4.70, 147.7)	terminal					
1D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)_2(CuI)_2]$ ·thf	TAVBEZ	-	bridging					
1D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)_4(CuI)_4] \cdot 0.5C_6H_4Cl_2$	TAVBID	Cp*Solv	bridging					
2D	$[(Cp*FeP_5)(Cul)_3] \cdot C_6H_4Cl_2$	TAVCAW	Cp*Solv	bridging					

Table S<sub>3</sub>. The structures of **1a**-based polymers.

\*The shortest X…Cp\* contact