

supporting information

Ligand Field Fine-tuning on Modulation of Magnetic Properties and Relaxation Dynamics for Dysprosium (III) Single-Ion Magnets (SIMs): Synthesis, Structure, Magnetism and *Ab Initio* Calculations

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Table S1. Crystallographic Data for the compounds **1-4**.

| Compound | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Empirical formula | C _{41.33} H _{25.67} DyF ₁₂ | C ₄₂ H ₂₃ Dy | C ₄₃ H ₃₂ Dy | C ₄₅ H ₃₆ Dy |
| | N ₂ O _{6.33} | F ₁₂ N ₂ O ₆ | F ₉ N ₂ O ₆ | F ₉ N ₂ O ₇ |
| Formula weight | 1042.14 | 1042.12 | 1006.21 | 1050.26 |
| Temperature | 296(2) K | 296(2) K | 293(2) | 296(2) K |
| Crystal system | Trigonal | Triclinic | Triclinic | Triclinic |
| space group | <i>P</i> -3 | <i>P</i> -1 | <i>P</i> -1 | <i>P</i> -1 |
| <i>a</i> (Å) | 26.791(4) | 10.273(2) | 12.429(3) | 10.8160(11) |
| <i>b</i> (Å) | 26.791(4) | 13.625(3) | 17.651(4) | 10.9937(11) |
| <i>c</i> (Å) | 10.119(2) | 15.204(3) | 21.655(5) | 18.5997(18) |
| α (°) | 90 | 83.405(4) | 87.902(5) | 81.692(2) |
| β (°) | 90 | 87.777(4) | 74.279(5) | 86.565(2) |
| γ (°) | 120 | 76.586(4) | 71.393(4) | 84.476(2) |
| <i>V</i> (Å ³) | 6289.8(19) | 2056.1(7) | 4327.5(18) | 2166.2(4) |
| <i>Z</i> | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| F(000) | 3074 | 1022 | 1996 | 1046 |
| Goodness of fit (<i>F</i> ²) | 1.022 | 1.051 | 1.099 | 1.082 |
| Final <i>R</i> indices [<i>I</i> >2sigma(<i>I</i>)] | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0652 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1243 | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0637 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1391 | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.1032 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.2068 | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0359 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1052 |
| <i>R</i> indices (all data) | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.1382 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1415 | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.1739 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1905 | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.1225 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.2561 | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0400 <i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1150 |
| CCDC | 1446105 | 1445984 | 1518734 | 1518732 |

Table S2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for **1-4**.

| 1 | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Dy(1)-O(1) | 2.290(7) | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 82.1(3) | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 142.0(3) |
| Dy(1)-O(4) | 2.295(7) | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 75.0(2) | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 73.1(3) |
| Dy(1)-O(2) | 2.301(7) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 148.8(3) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 74.7(2) |
| Dy(1)-O(3) | 2.326(7) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 118.2(3) | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 143.1(3) |
| Dy(1)-O(6) | 2.341(7) | O(6)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 70.2(3) | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 111.4(3) |
| Dy(1)-O(5) | 2.381(8) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 111.0(3) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 139.8(2) |
| Dy(1)-N(2) | 2.529(9) | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 149.3(3) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 74.4(3) |
| Dy(1)-N(1) | 2.558(8) | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 75.7(3) | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 146.9(3) |
| O(1)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 83.1(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 80.0(3) | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 112.3(2) |
| O(1)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 73.3(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 74.2(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 138.0(3) |
| O(4)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 83.0(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 132.4(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 76.4(3) |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|
| O(3)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 74.4(2) | N(2)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 63.4(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 78.2(3) |
| 2 | | | | | |
| Dy(1)-O(3) | 2.286(8) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 71.7(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 142.7(2) |
| Dy(1)-O(6) | 2.302(9) | O(6)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 138.8(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 72.6(2) |
| Dy(1)-O(2) | 2.307(8) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 72.7(3) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 75.0(3) |
| Dy(1)-O(5) | 2.311(8) | O(5)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 142.6(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 71.5(3) |
| Dy(1)-O(4) | 2.327(7) | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 115.3(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 87.8(2) |
| Dy(1)-O(1) | 2.334(10) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 138.0(3) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 81.7(3) |
| Dy(1)-N(2) | 2.553(10) | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 93.7(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 77.5(2) |
| Dy(1)-N(1) | 2.605(9) | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 81.3(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 76.0(4) |
| O(3)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 85.7(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 74.9(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 71.2(3) |
| O(3)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 119.2(3) | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 150.5(4) | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 131.9(3) |
| O(6)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 147.4(3) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 82.1(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 122.2(3) |
| O(4)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 142.3(4) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 70.2(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 71.7(3) |
| 3 | | | | | |
| Dy(1)-O(2) | 2.28(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 139.5(9) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(6) | 2.30(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-N2) | 72.7(9) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(5) | 2.33(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 136.8(8) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(4) | 2.34(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 77.3(10) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(3) | 2.36(2) | O(5)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 145.2(9) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(1) | 2.28(2) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 80.7(9) | | |
| N(1)-Dy(1)-N2) | 64.1(9) | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 114.1(9) | | |
| O(2)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 80.2(8) | O4)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 71.3(9) | | |
| O(2)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 79.5(9) | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 75.2(9) | | |
| O(2)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 119.3(10) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 72.0(8) | | |
| O(2)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 139.5(9) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 104.9(9) | | |
| O(2)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 78.6(9) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 145.9(8) | | |
| O(2)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 73.6(8) | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 123.5(9) | | |
| O(2)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 140.1(9) | O(1)- Dy(1)-O(5) | 76.4(9) | | |
| O(6)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 71.0(9) | O(1)- Dy(1)-O(4) | 75.7(9) | | |
| O(6)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 75.3(10) | O1)- Dy(1)-O(3) | 81.6(8) | | |
| O(6)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 140.4(9) | O(1)- Dy(1)-N(2) | 146.1(9) | | |
| N(1)-Dy(1) | 2.477(18) | Dy(1)-N(2) | 2.53(3) | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| Dy(1)-O(5) | 2.307(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 75.07(12) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(6) | 2.315(3) | O(5)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 77.71(11) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(1) | 2.319(3) | O(6)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 141.62(11) | | |
| Dy(1)-O(3) | 2.333(3) | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 75.78(11) | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Dy(1)-O(2) | 2.336(3) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 71.75(11) |
| Dy(1)-O(4) | 2.359(3) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 136.13(11) |
| Dy(1)-N(1) | 2.544(4) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 134.04(11) |
| Dy(1)-N(2) | 2.554(4) | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 72.13(11) |
| O(5)-Dy(1)-O(6) | 73.26(10) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 150.50(12) |
| O(5)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 74.08(11) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 74.74(12) |
| O(6)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 118.28(11) | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 82.83(12) |
| O(5)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 145.59(11) | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 114.31(12) |
| O(6)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 141.11(11) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 79.56(12) |
| O(1)-Dy(1)-O(3) | 83.26(11) | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 75.90(12) |
| O(5)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 120.27(11) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 143.73(12) |
| O(6)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 81.12(11) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 106.53(12) |
| O(1)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 72.54(11) | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(2) | 143.50(12) |

Table S3. Dy^{III} ion geometry analysis of **1-4** by SHAPE 2.1 software.

Dy^{III} ion geometry analysis of **1**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|---------|--------|-------|
| HBPY-8 | 3 D6h | Hexagonal bipyramid | | | | | | | |
| CU-8 | 4 Oh | Cube | | | | | | | |
| SAPR-8 | 5 D4d | Square antiprism | | | | | | | |
| TDD-8 | 6 D2d | Triangular dodecahedron | | | | | | | |
| JGBF-8 | 7 D2d | Johnson gyrobifastigium J26 | | | | | | | |
| JETBPY-8 | 8 D3h | Johnson elongated triangular bipyramid J14 | | | | | | | |
| JBTPR-8 | 9 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism J50 | | | | | | | |
| BTPR-8 | 10 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism | | | | | | | |
| JSD-8 | 11 D2d | Snub diphenoид J84 | | | | | | | |
| Structure [ML8] | HBPY-8 | CU-8 | SAPR-8 | TDD-8 | JGBF-8 | JETBPY-8 | JBTPR-8 | BTPR-8 | JSD-8 |
| ABOXIY , | 16.036, | 9.293, | 0.511, | 2.267, | 15.933, | 28.208, | 2.818, | 2.207, | 5.166 |

Dy^{III} ion geometry analysis of **2**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|---------|--------|-------|
| HBPY-8 | 3 D6h | Hexagonal bipyramid | | | | | | | |
| CU-8 | 4 Oh | Cube | | | | | | | |
| SAPR-8 | 5 D4d | Square antiprism | | | | | | | |
| TDD-8 | 6 D2d | Triangular dodecahedron | | | | | | | |
| JGBF-8 | 7 D2d | Johnson gyrobifastigium J26 | | | | | | | |
| JETBPY-8 | 8 D3h | Johnson elongated triangular bipyramid J14 | | | | | | | |
| JBTPR-8 | 9 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism J50 | | | | | | | |
| BTPR-8 | 10 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism | | | | | | | |
| JSD-8 | 11 D2d | Snub diphenoид J84 | | | | | | | |
| Structure [ML8] | HBPY-8 | CU-8 | SAPR-8 | TDD-8 | JGBF-8 | JETBPY-8 | JBTPR-8 | BTPR-8 | JSD-8 |
| ABOXIY , | 15.550, | 10.541, | 1.344, | 1.509, | 14.497, | 28.104, | 1.785, | 1.314, | 4.070 |

Dy^{III} ion geometry analysis of **3**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| S H A P E v2.1 Continuous Shape Measures calculation | | | | | | | | |
| (c) 2013 Electronic Structure Group, Universitat de Barcelona | | | | | | | | |
| Contact: llunell@ub.edu | | | | | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| PtL4 structures | | | | | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| HBPY-8 | 3 D6h | Hexagonal bipyramid | | | | | | |
| CU-8 | 4 Oh | Cube | | | | | | |
| SAPR-8 | 5 D4d | Square antiprism | | | | | | |
| TDD-8 | 6 D2d | Triangular dodecahedron | | | | | | |
| JGBF-8 | 7 D2d | Johnson gyrobifastigium J26 | | | | | | |
| JETBPY-8 | 8 D3h | Johnson elongated triangular bipyramid J14 | | | | | | |
| JBTPR-8 | 9 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism J50 | | | | | | |
| BTPR-8 | 10 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism | | | | | | |
| JSD-8 | 11 D2d | Snub diphenoид J84 | | | | | | |
| Structure [ML8] | HBPY-8 | CU-8 | SAPR-8 | TDD-8 | JGBF-8 | JETBPY-8 | JBTPR-8 | BTPR-8 |
| ABOXIY , | 15.510, | 10.186, | 0.834, | 2.300, | 14.919, | 27.555, | 2.342, | 1.730, |
| | 4.886 | | | | | | | |

Dy^{III} ion geometry analysis of **4**

S H A P E v2.1 Continuous Shape Measures calculation
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PtL4 structures

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| HBPY-8 | 3 D6h | Hexagonal bipyramid | | | | | |
| CU-8 | 4 Oh | Cube | | | | | |
| SAPR-8 | 5 D4d | Square antiprism | | | | | |
| TDD-8 | 6 D2d | Triangular dodecahedron | | | | | |
| JGBF-8 | 7 D2d | Johnson gyrobifastigium J26 | | | | | |
| JETBPY-8 | 8 D3h | Johnson elongated triangular bipyramid J14 | | | | | |
| JBTPR-8 | 9 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism J50 | | | | | |
| BTPR-8 | 10 C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism | | | | | |
| JSD-8 | 11 D2d | Snub sphenoid J84 | | | | | |
| Structure [ML8] | HBPY-8 | CU-8 | SAPR-8 | TDD-8 | JGBF-8 | JETBPY-8 | JBTPR-8 |
| BTPR-8 | JSD-8 | | | | | | |
| ABOXIY | , | 16.139, | 9.026, | 8.557, | 1.994, | 16.464, | 27.854, |
| 2.135, | 4.959 | | | | | | |

| Configuration | ABOXIY, | ABOXIY, | ABOXIY, | ABOXIY, |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Hexagonal bipyramid (D_{6h}) | 16.036 | 15.550 | 15.510 | 16.139 |
| Cube (O_h) | 9.293 | 10.541 | 10.186 | 9.026 |
| Square antiprism (D_{4d}) | 0.511 | 1.344 | 0.834 | 0.557 |
| Triangular dodecahedron (D_{2d}) | 2.267 | 1.509 | 2.300 | 1.994 |
| Johnson gyrobifastigium J26 (D_{2d}) | 15.933 | 14.497 | 14.919 | 16.464 |
| Johnson elongated triangular bipyramid J14 (D_{3h}) | 28.208 | 28.104 | 27.555 | 27.845 |
| Biaugmented trigonal prism J50 (C_{2v}) | 2.818 | 1.785 | 2.342 | 2.664 |
| Biaugmented trigonal prism (C_{2v}) | 2.207 | 1.314 | 1.730 | 2.135 |
| Snub sphenoid J84 (D_{2d}) | 5.166 | 4.070 | 4.886 | 4.959 |

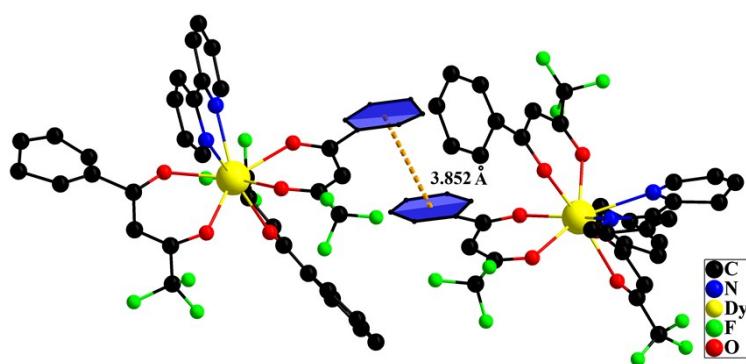


Figure S1. Packing arrangement between two neutral in **3**.

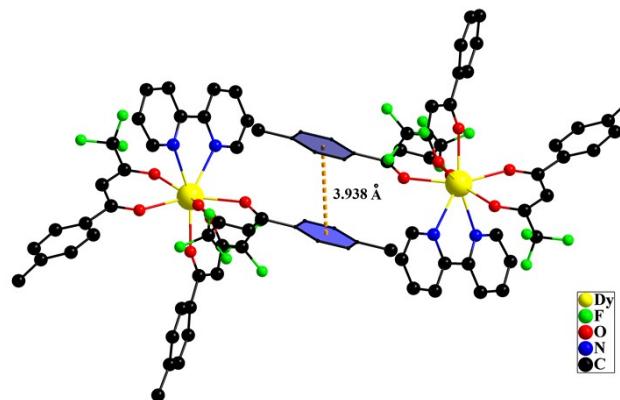


Figure S2. Packing arrangement between two neutral in **4**.

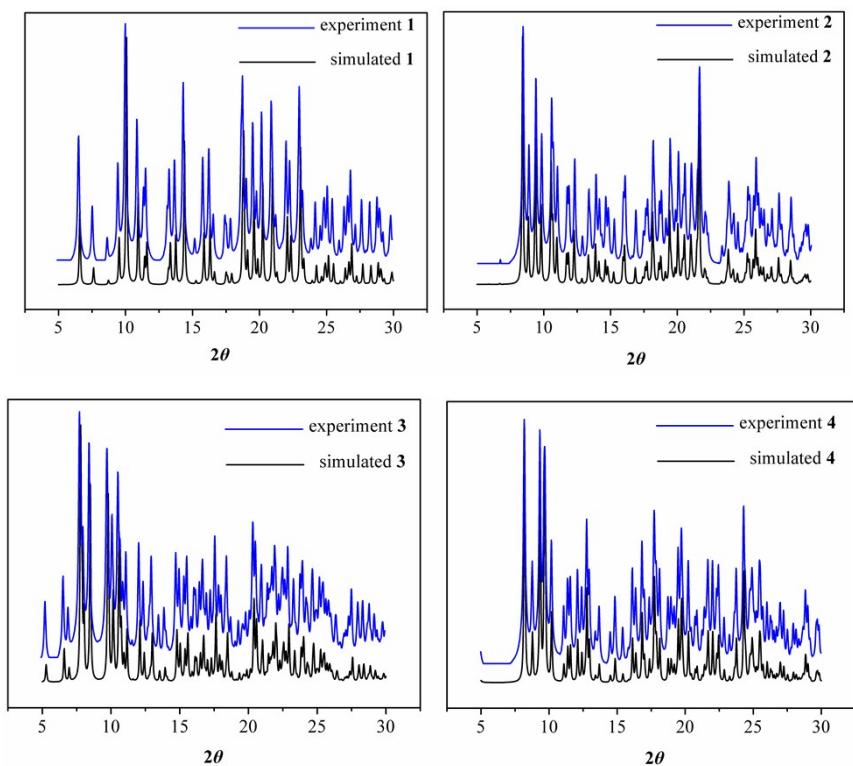


Figure S3. XRPD curves of **1-4**.

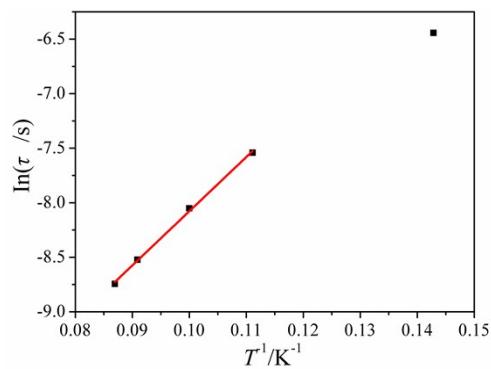


Figure S4. Relaxation time of the magnetization for **1** extracted from the temperature-dependent data under zero-DC field. The red solid lines represent the fitting by the Arrhenius law for high temperature region.

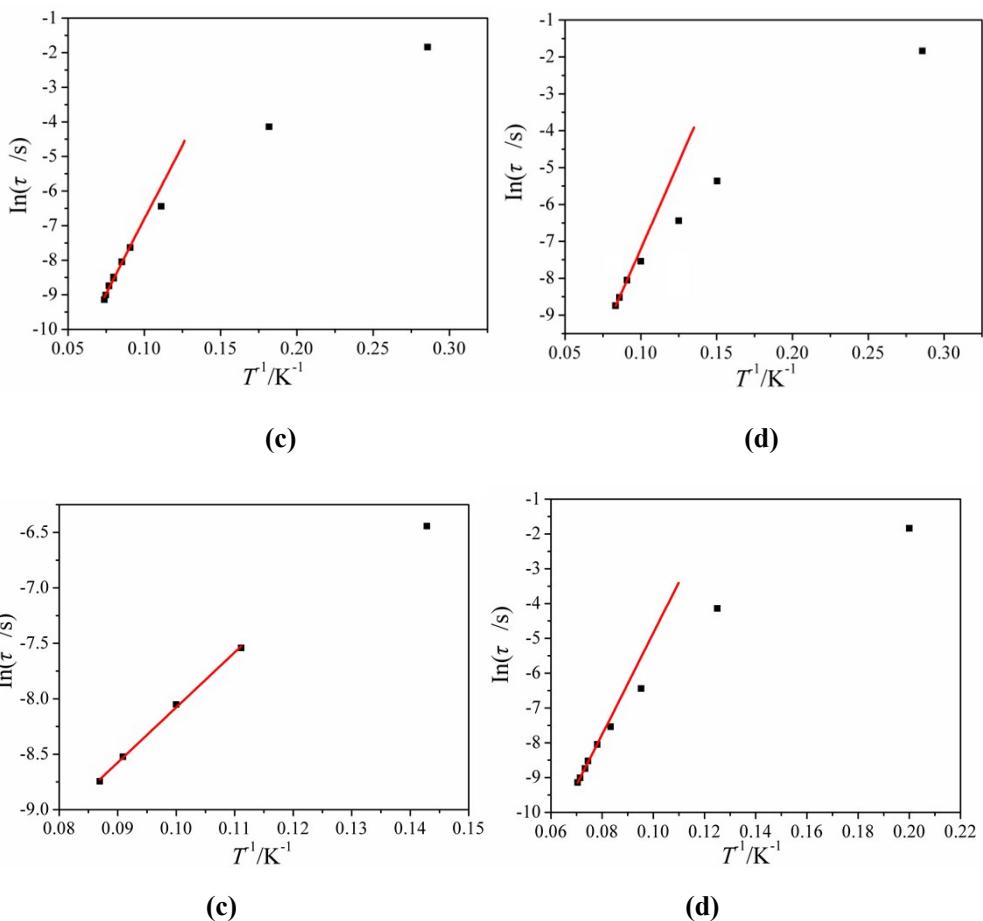


Figure S5. Relaxation time of the magnetization for **1** (a)-**4** (d) extracted from the temperature-dependent data under an applied dc field of 1200 Oe. The red solid lines represent the fitting by the Arrhenius law for high temperature region.

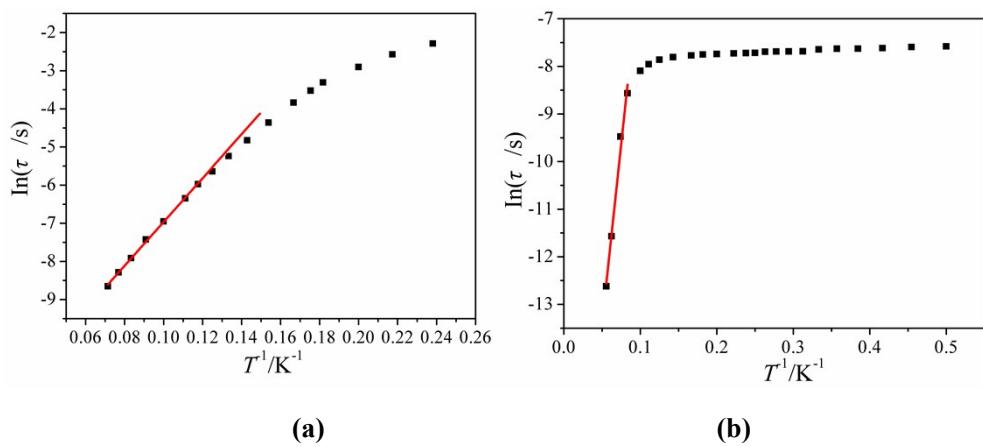
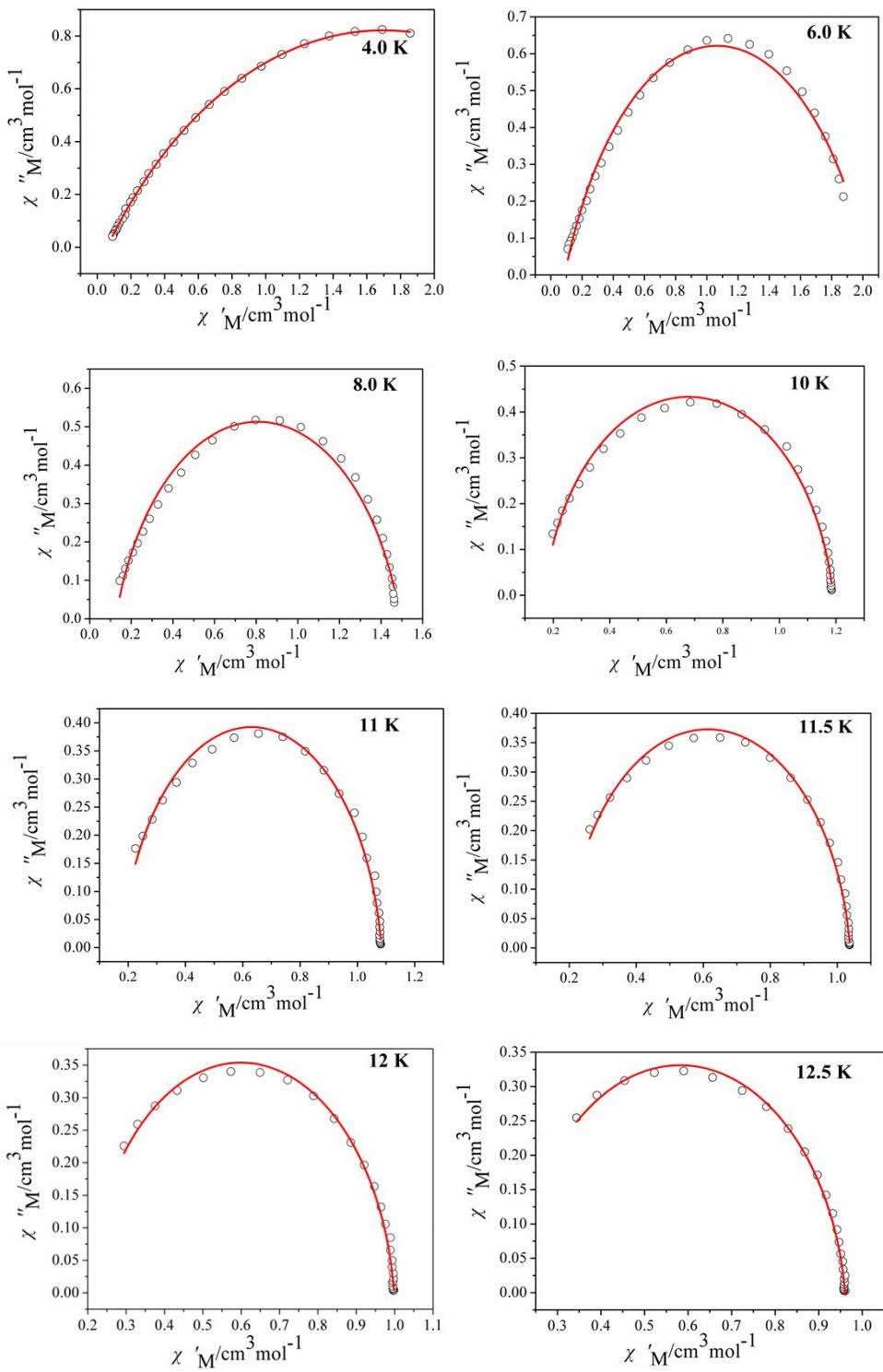


Figure S6. Relaxation time of the magnetization for **3** (a) and **4** (b) extracted from the frequency-dependent data , by fitting the χ''_M vs. frequency curves based on the Debye model, under 1200 Oe-DC field. The red solid lines represent the fitting by the Arrhenius law for high temperature region.



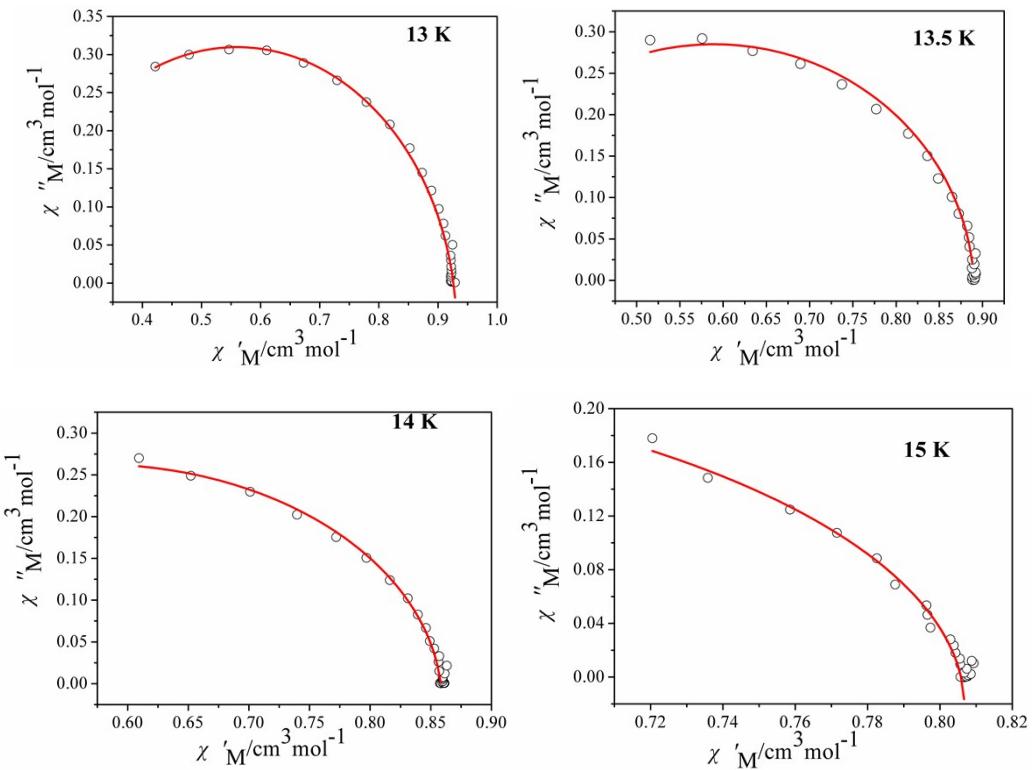
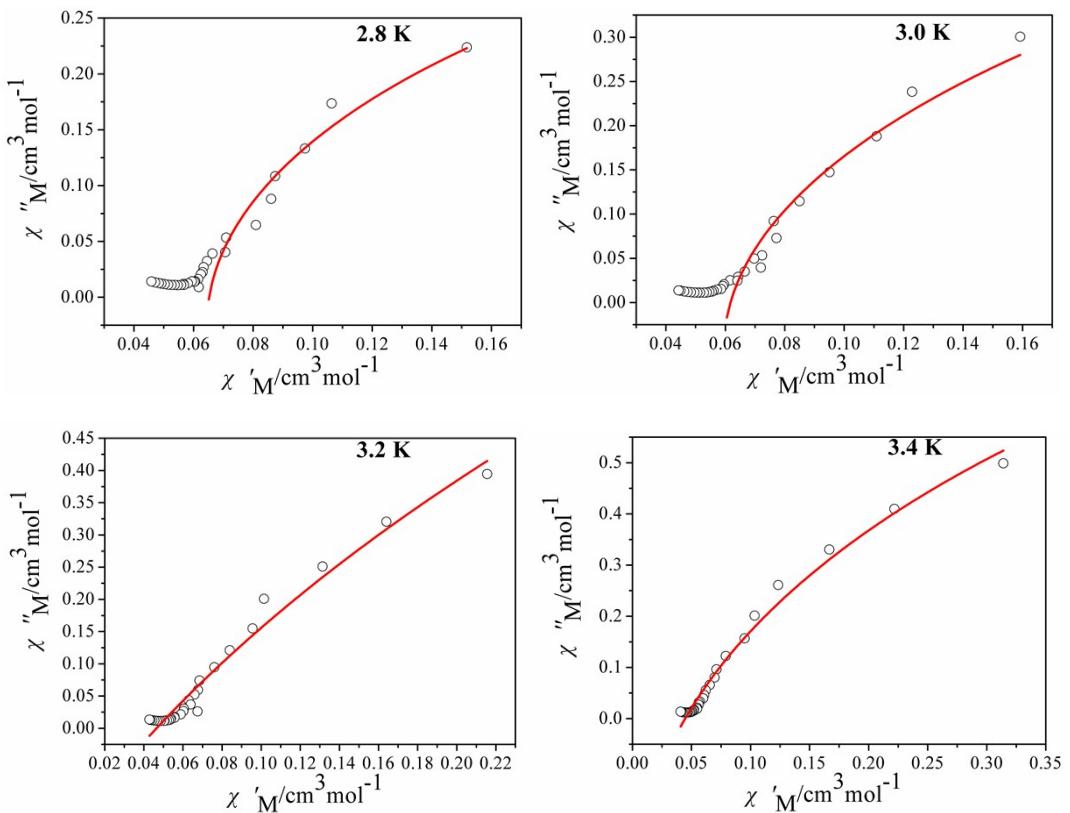
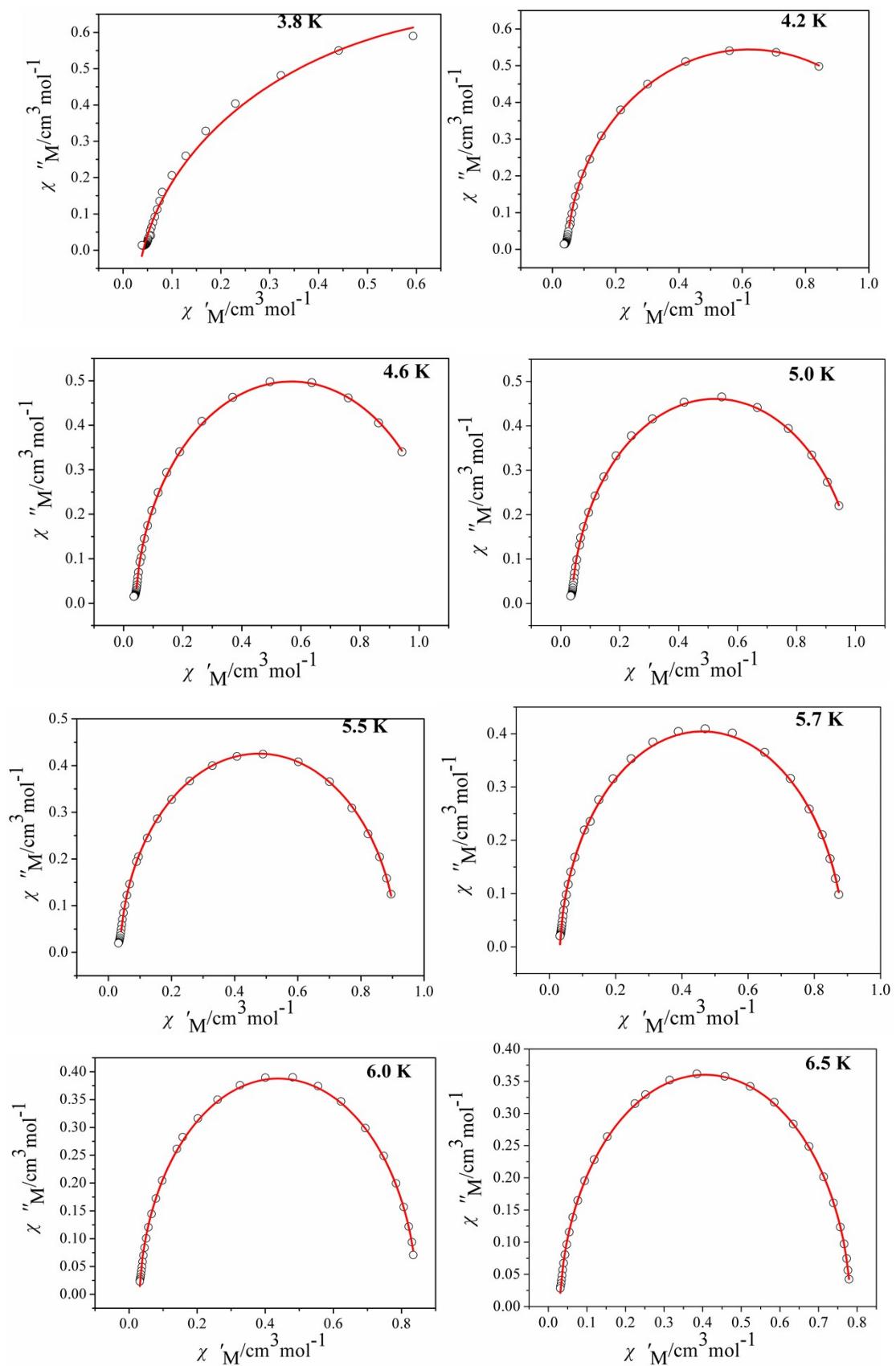
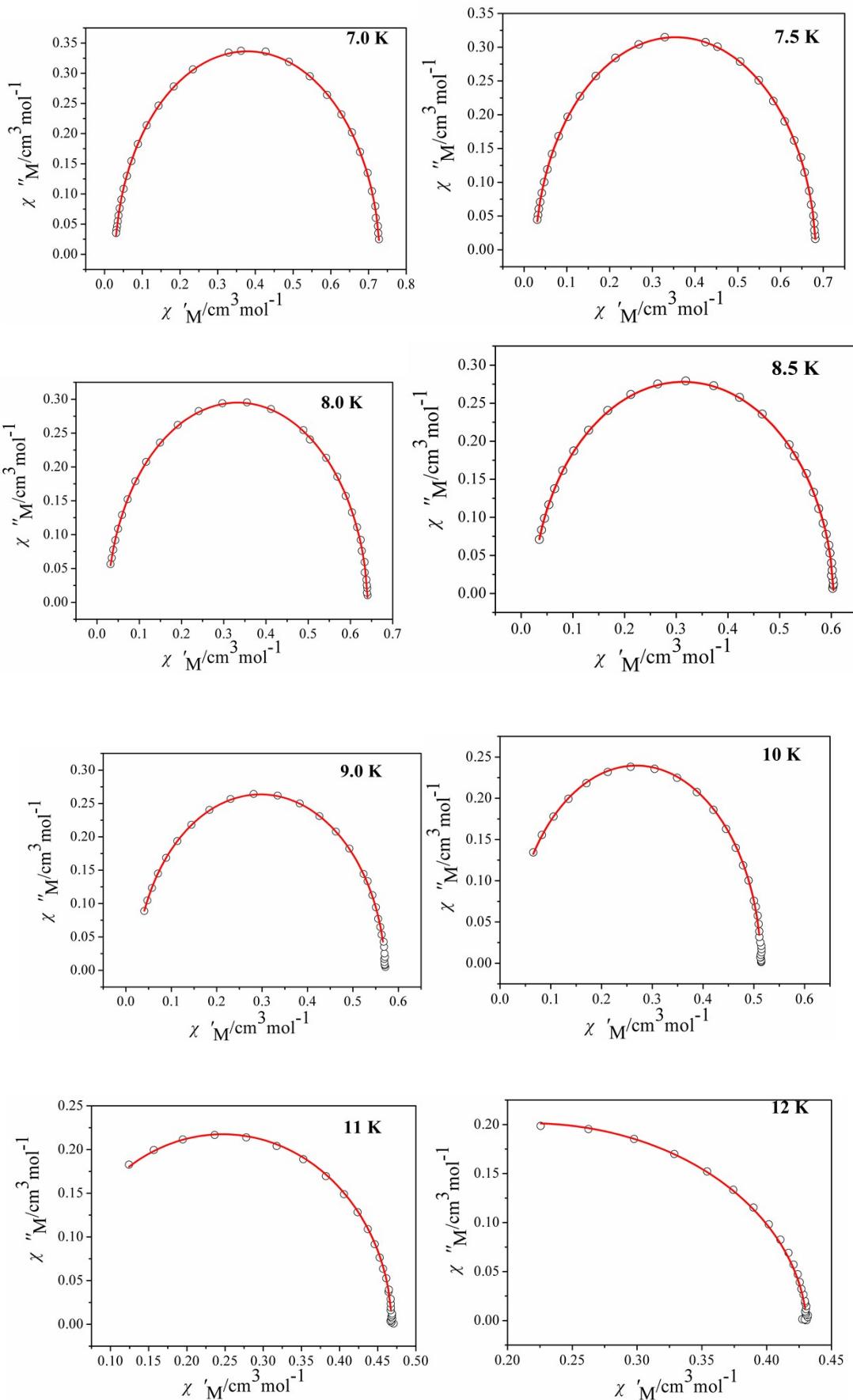


Figure S7. Simulations of dynamical susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$ of **1** ranging from 4 to 15 K in a Cole-Cole diagram. Red lines were performed using the sum of two modified Debye functions with the fitting parameters in Table S4.







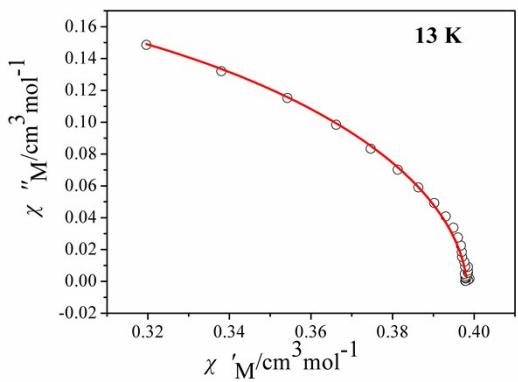
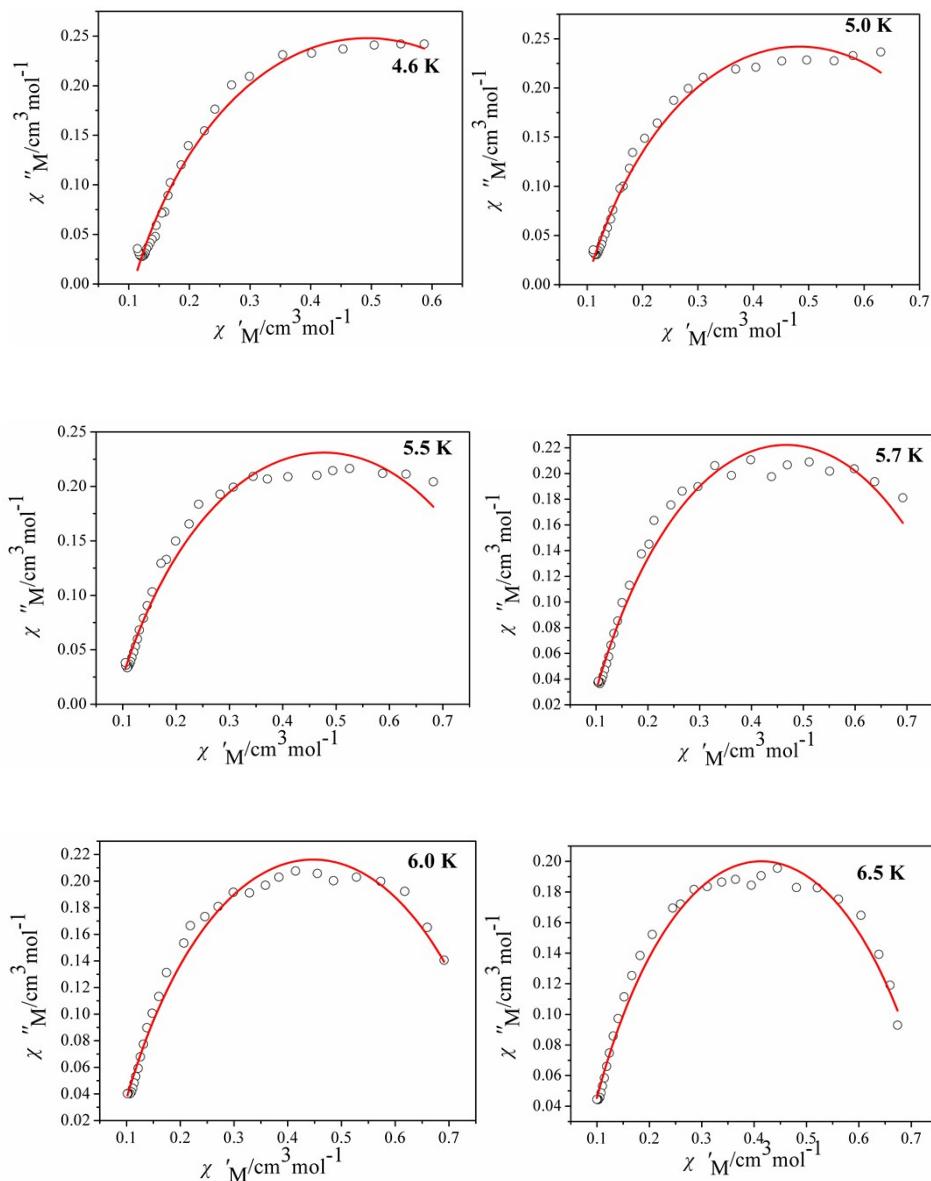


Figure S8. Simulations of dynamical susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$ of **2** ranging from 2.8 to 13 K in a Cole-Cole diagram. Redlines were performed using the sum of two modified Debye functions with the fitting parameters in Table S5.



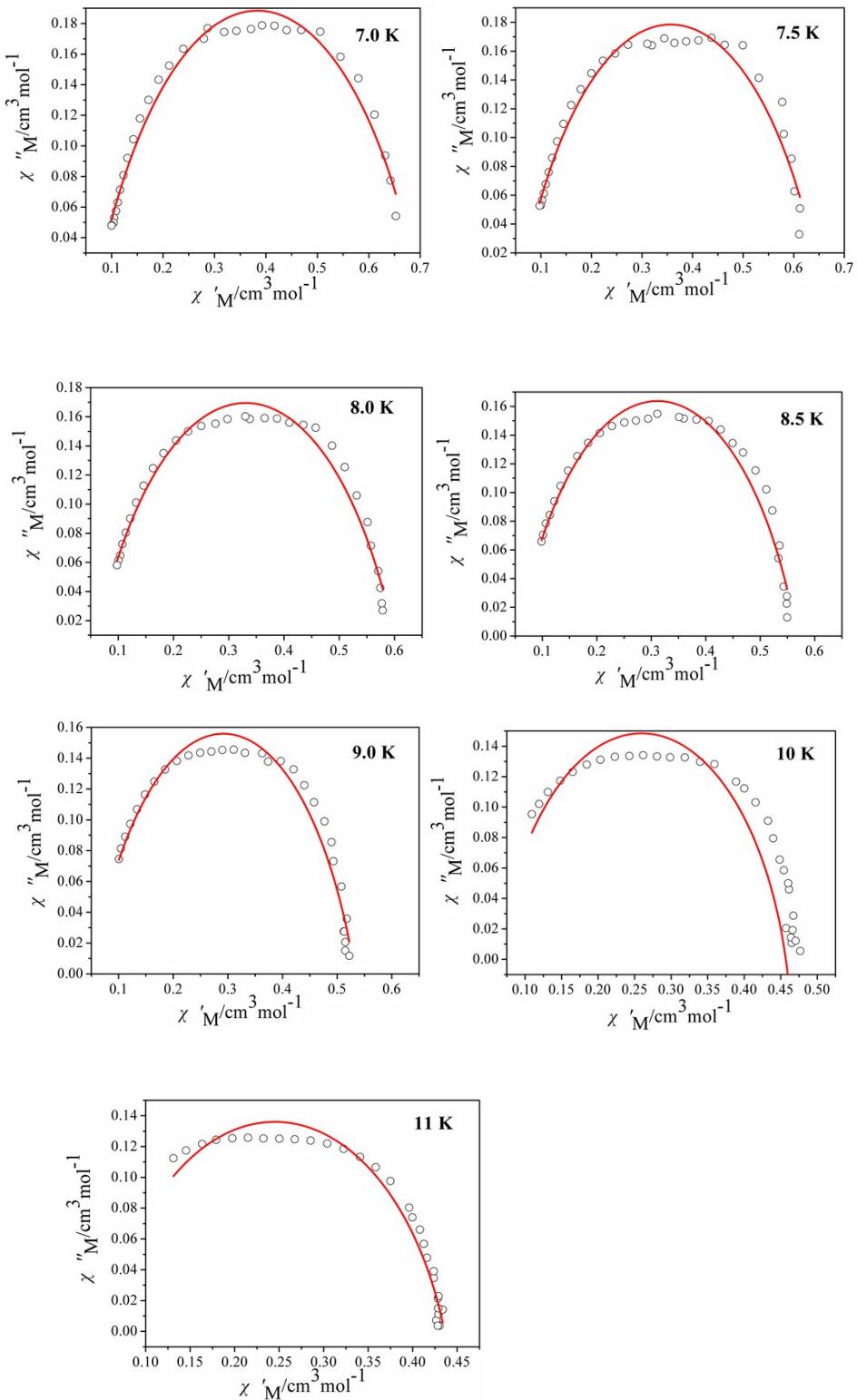
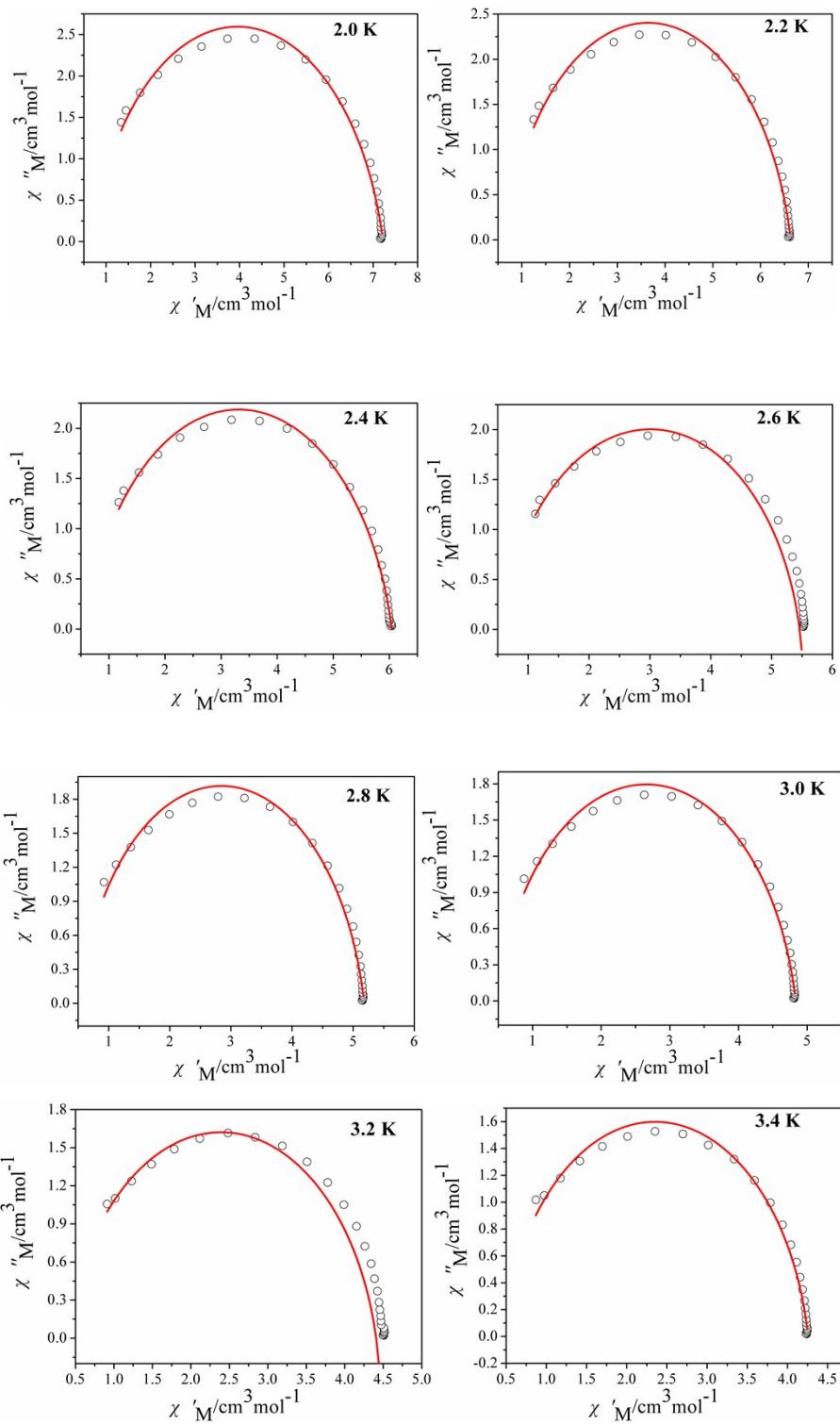
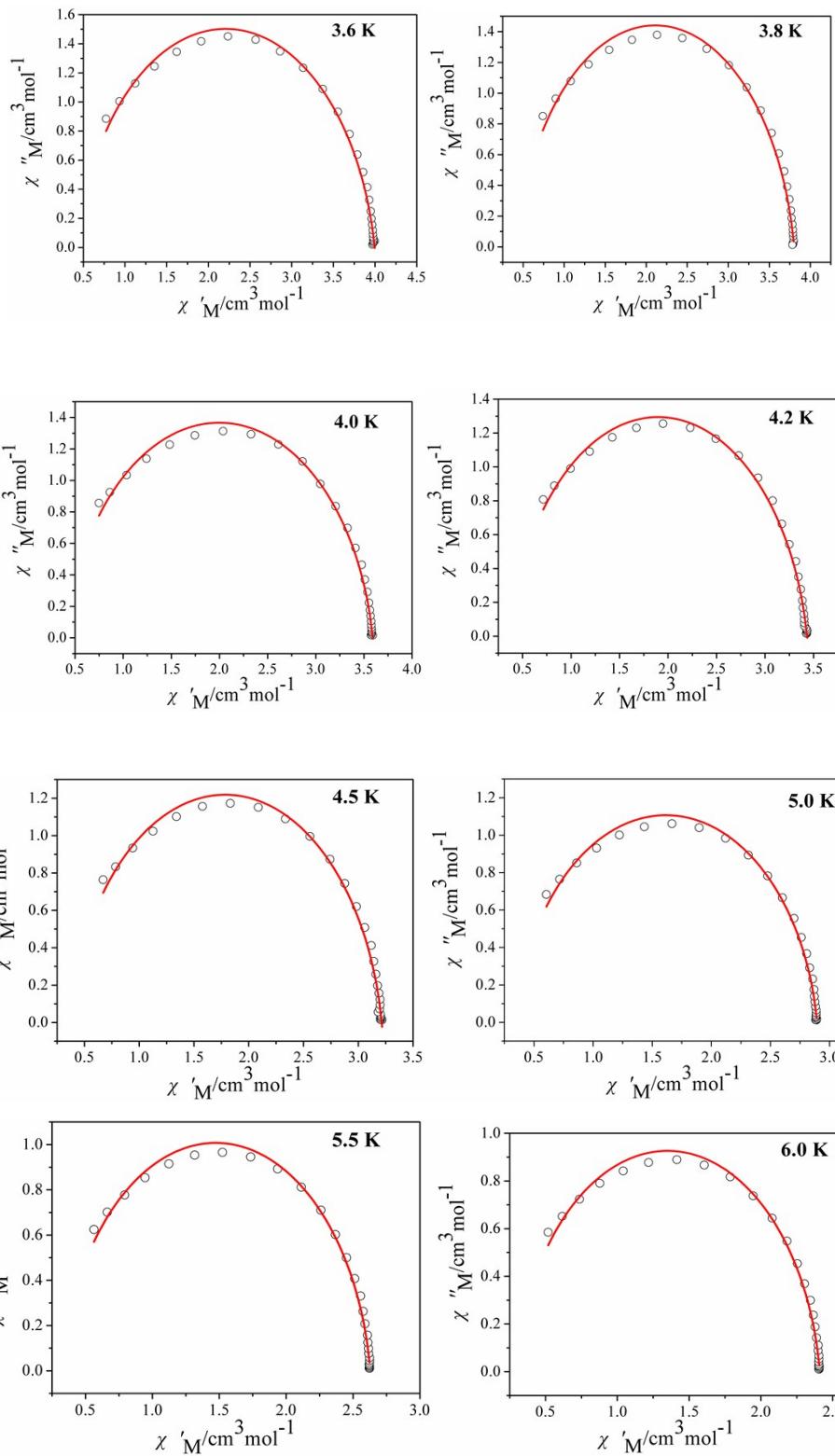


Figure S9. Simulations of dynamical susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$ of **3** ranging from 4.6 to 11 K in a Cole-Cole diagram. Redlines were performed using the sum of two modified Debye functions with the fitting parameters in Table S6.





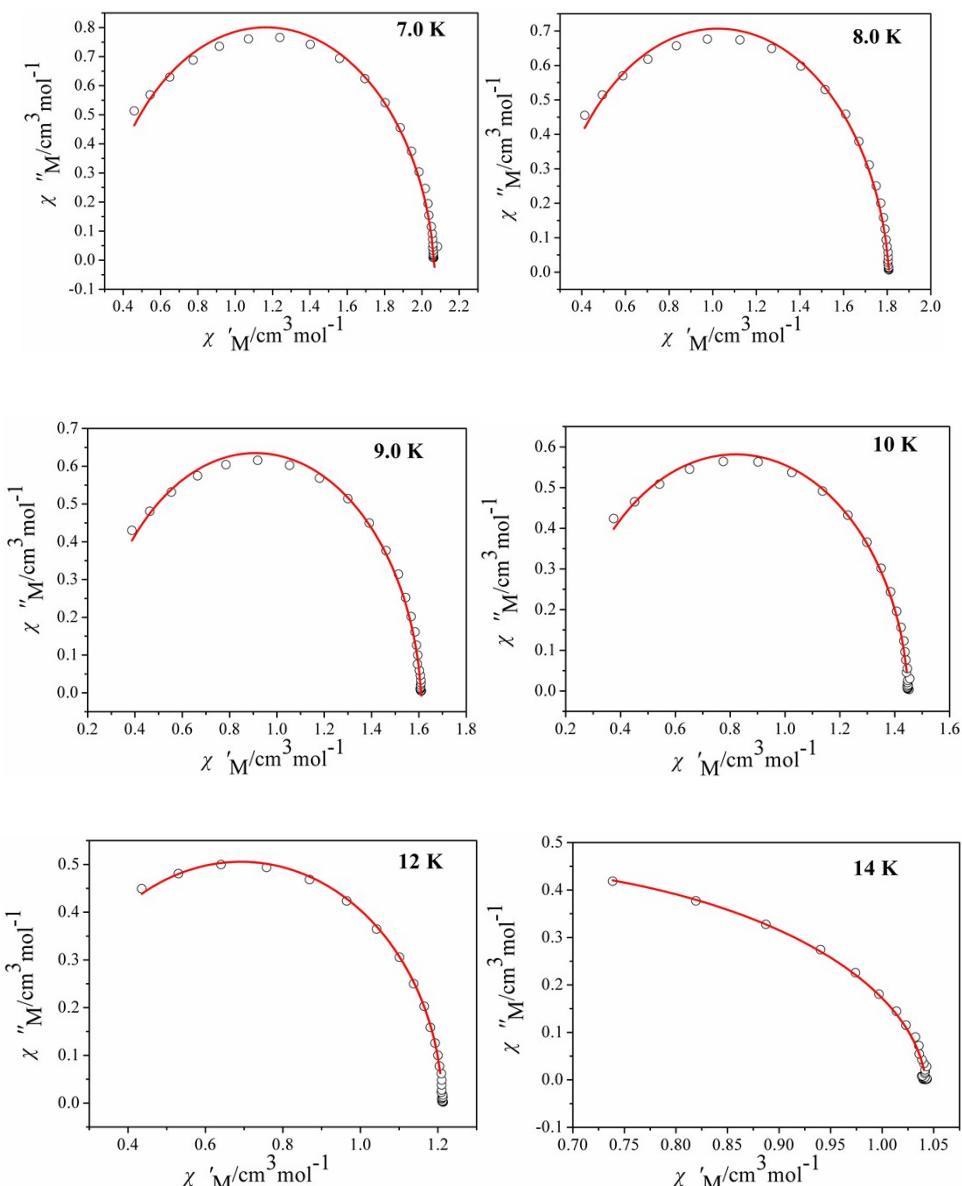


Figure S10. Simulations of dynamical susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$ of **4** ranging from 2.0 to 14 K in a Cole-Cole diagram. Redlines were performed using the sum of two modified Debye functions with the fitting parameters in Table S7.

The magnetic susceptibility data were described by the modified Debye functions:¹

$$\chi'(\omega) = \chi_s + (\chi_t - \chi_s) \frac{1 + (\omega\tau)^{1-\alpha} \sin(\frac{\pi}{2}\alpha)}{1 + 2(\omega\tau)^{1-\alpha} \sin(\frac{\pi}{2}\alpha) + (\omega\tau)^{(2-2\alpha)}}$$

$$\chi''(\omega) = (\chi_t - \chi_s) \frac{(\omega\tau)^{1-\alpha} \cos(\frac{\pi}{2}\alpha)}{1 + 2(\omega\tau)^{1-\alpha} \sin(\frac{\pi}{2}\alpha) + (\omega\tau)^{(2-2\alpha)}}$$

$$\chi''_{\omega=\tau^{-1}} = (\chi_t - \chi_s) \frac{\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}\alpha)}{2 + 2\sin(\frac{\pi}{2}\alpha)} = \frac{1}{2}(\chi_t - \chi_s) \tan \frac{\pi}{4}(1-\alpha)$$

1. F. Habib, G. Brunet, V. Vieru, I. Korobkov, L. F. Chibotaru, M. Murugesu, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 13242.

Table S4. Relaxation fitting parameters from Least-Squares Fitting of $\chi(\omega)$ data for **1**.

| $T(K)$ | $\Delta\chi_1$ (cm ³ mol ⁻¹) | $\Delta\chi_2$ (cm ³ mol ⁻¹) | α_1 |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 4 | 3.336 | 0.059 | 0.408 |
| 6 | 2.041 | 0.089 | 0.278 |
| 8 | 1.492 | 0.125 | 0.180 |
| 10 | 1.190 | 0.167 | 0.105 |
| 10.5 | 1.134 | 0.171 | 0.097 |
| 11 | 1.084 | 0.177 | 0.091 |
| 11.5 | 1.038 | 0.190 | 0.082 |
| 12 | 0.999 | 0.199 | 0.077 |
| 12.5 | 0.961 | 0.202 | 0.086 |
| 13 | 0.926 | 0.194 | 0.106 |
| 13.5 | 0.890 | 0.289 | 0.034 |
| 14 | 0.858 | 0.285 | 0.055 |
| 15 | 0.806 | 0.304 | 0.053 |

Table S5. Relaxation fitting parameters from Least-Squares Fitting of $\chi(\omega)$ data for **2**.

| $T(K)$ | $\Delta\chi_1$ (cm ³ mol ⁻¹) | $\Delta\chi_2$ (cm ³ mol ⁻¹) | α_1 |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 2.8 | 4.848 | 0.065 | 0.038 |
| 3.0 | 3.256 | 0.062 | 0.054 |
| 3.2 | 2.885 | 0.046 | 0.190 |
| 3.4 | 2.542 | 0.045 | 0.155 |
| 3.8 | 1.588 | 0.041 | 0.115 |
| 4.2 | 1.199 | 0.046 | 0.037 |
| 4.6 | 1.094 | 0.041 | 0.035 |
| 5.0 | 1.011 | 0.037 | 0.035 |
| 5.5 | 0.912 | 0.036 | 0.022 |
| 5.7 | 0.893 | 0.032 | 0.040 |
| 6.0 | 0.846 | 0.031 | 0.032 |
| 6.5 | 0.784 | 0.029 | 0.029 |
| 7.0 | 0.729 | 0.028 | 0.027 |
| 7.5 | 0.682 | 0.026 | 0.026 |
| 8.0 | 0.641 | 0.025 | 0.028 |
| 8.5 | 0.604 | 0.023 | 0.029 |
| 9.0 | 0.571 | 0.022 | 0.026 |
| 10 | 0.514 | 0.023 | 0.016 |
| 11 | 0.468 | 0.026 | 0.011 |
| 12 | 0.430 | 0.021 | 0.040 |
| 13 | 0.398 | 0.021 | 0.029 |

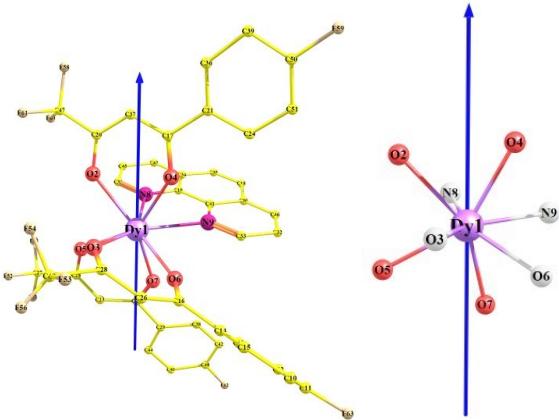
Table S6. Relaxation fitting parameters from Least-Squares Fitting of $\chi(\omega)$ data for **3**.

| $T(K)$ | $\Delta\chi_1 (\text{cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1})$ | $\Delta\chi_2 (\text{cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1})$ | α_1 |
|--------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| 4.6 | 0.879 | 0.108 | 0.272 |
| 5.0 | 0.867 | 0.099 | 0.284 |
| 5.5 | 0.869 | 0.085 | 0.322 |
| 5.7 | 0.853 | 0.080 | 0.336 |
| 6.0 | 0.818 | 0.077 | 0.327 |
| 6.5 | 0.757 | 0.070 | 0.329 |
| 7.0 | 0.701 | 0.066 | 0.319 |
| 7.5 | 0.651 | 0.062 | 0.307 |
| 8.0 | 0.603 | 0.058 | 0.292 |
| 8.5 | 0.567 | 0.055 | 0.275 |
| 9.0 | 0.533 | 0.051 | 0.269 |
| 10 | 0.457 | 0.062 | 0.179 |
| 11 | 0.436 | 0.054 | 0.211 |

Table S7. Relaxation fitting parameters from Least-Squares Fitting of $\chi(\omega)$ data for **4**.

| $T(K)$ | $\Delta\chi_1 (\text{cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1})$ | $\Delta\chi_2 (\text{cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1})$ | α_1 |
|--------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| 2.0 | 7.226 | 0.686 | 0.146 |
| 2.2 | 6.634 | 0.658 | 0.138 |
| 2.4 | 6.044 | 0.584 | 0.140 |
| 2.6 | 5.550 | 0.556 | 0.128 |
| 2.8 | 5.182 | 0.511 | 0.125 |
| 3.0 | 4.833 | 0.485 | 0.121 |
| 3.2 | 4.408 | 0.377 | 0.137 |
| 3.4 | 4.257 | 0.451 | 0.111 |
| 3.6 | 3.996 | 0.418 | 0.110 |
| 3.8 | 3.804 | 0.417 | 0.102 |
| 4.0 | 3.591 | 0.403 | 0.098 |
| 4.2 | 3.433 | 0.363 | 0.108 |
| 4.5 | 3.214 | 0.357 | 0.101 |
| 5.0 | 2.894 | 0.338 | 0.091 |
| 5.5 | 2.629 | 0.318 | 0.089 |
| 6.0 | 2.411 | 0.289 | 0.086 |
| 7.0 | 2.065 | 0.265 | 0.074 |
| 8.0 | 1.809 | 0.239 | 0.067 |
| 9.0 | 1.610 | 0.209 | 0.063 |
| 10 | 1.450 | 0.191 | 0.050 |
| 12 | 1.212 | 0.171 | 0.018 |
| 14 | 1.042 | 0.084 | 0.035 |

(a)



(b)

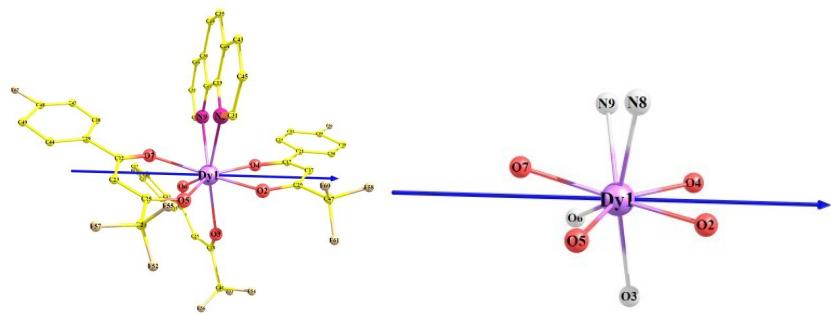
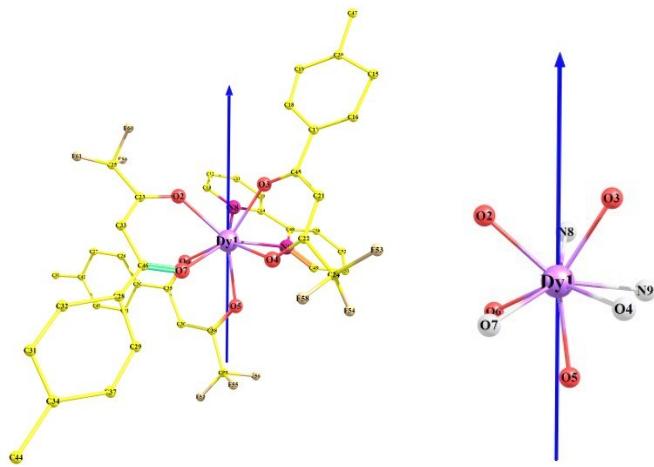


Figure S11. The orientation of the easy axis (g_z) of the ground KD of **2** obtained from *ab initio* calculations

(a)



(b)

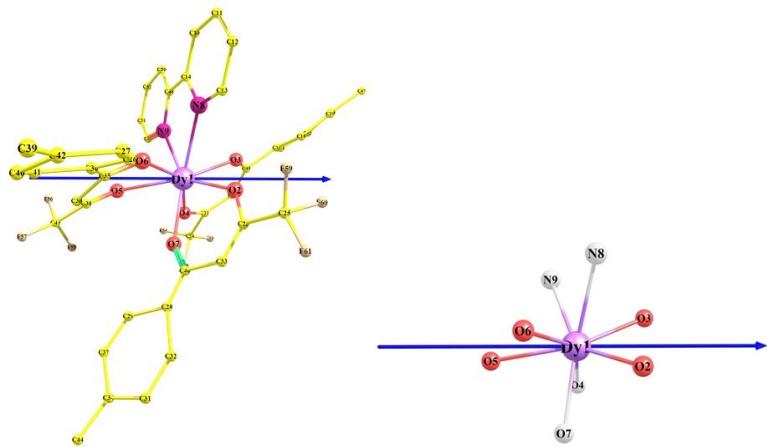
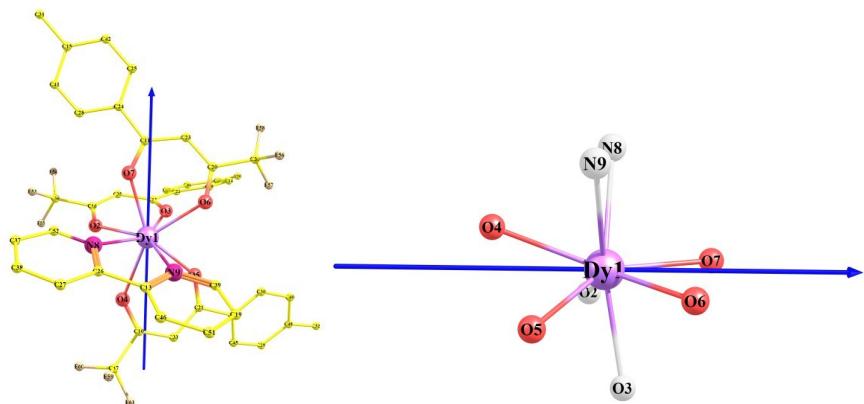


Figure S12. The orientation of the easy axis (g_Z) of the ground KD of **3** obtained from *ab initio* calculations.

(a)



(b)

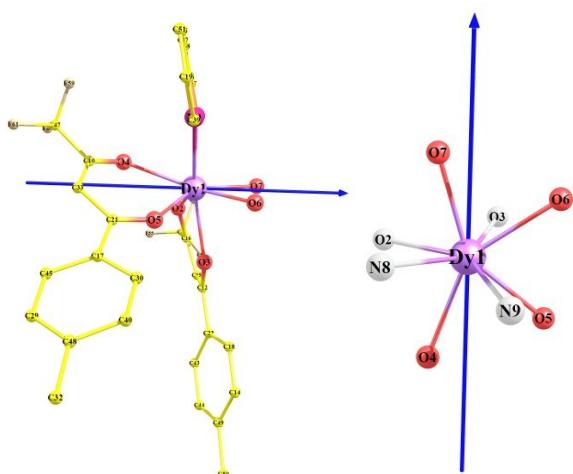


Figure S13. The orientation of the easy axis (g_Z) of the ground KD of **4** obtained from *ab initio* calculations.

Table S8. Decomposition of the wavefunctions of ground KDs of 1-4 into components corresponding to the lowest atomic multiplet J=15/2, | JM >

| Wavefunction composition | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | KD₀₋₁ 91.57% $ ^{15/2}\rangle$ + 7.19% $ ^{11/2}\rangle$ |
| | KD₀₋₂ 91.57% $ ^{-15/2}\rangle$ + 7.19% $ ^{-11/2}\rangle$ |
| 2 | KD₁₋₁ 85.20% $ ^{-15/2}\rangle$ + 13.57% $ ^{-11/2}\rangle$ |
| | KD₁₋₂ 85.20% $ ^{15/2}\rangle$ + 13.57% $ ^{11/2}\rangle$ |
| 3 | KD₁₋₁ 78.93% $ ^{-15/2}\rangle$ + 1.87% $ ^{-13/2}\rangle$ + 11.87% $ ^{-11/2}\rangle$ + 2.98% $ ^{-9/2}\rangle$ + 2.57% $ ^{-5/2}\rangle$ |
| | KD₁₋₂ 78.93% $ ^{15/2}\rangle$ + 1.87% $ ^{13/2}\rangle$ + 11.87% $ ^{11/2}\rangle$ + 2.98% $ ^9/2\rangle$ + 2.57% $ ^5/2\rangle$ |
| 4 | KD₀₋₁ 93.88% $ ^{-15/2}\rangle$ + 5.53% $ ^{-11/2}\rangle$ |
| | KD₀₋₂ 93.88% $ ^{15/2}\rangle$ + 5.53% $ ^{11/2}\rangle$ |

Table S9 Coplanarity of the first-sphere atoms at the equatorial positions for **1-4**

| 1 | O4 | O5 | N8 | N9 | average |
|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Z_coordinate | -0.5099 | 0.2617 | -0.3333 | 0.0729 | -0.1272 |
| Deviation from average | -0.3287 | 0.3889 | -0.2061 | 0.2001 | 0.2810 |
| 2 | O3 | O6 | N8 | N9 | average |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Z_coordinate | 0.4058 | -0.7206 | 0.1072 | -0.1350 | -0.0856 | |
| Deviation from average | 0.4914 | -0.6350 | 0.1928 | -0.0494 | 0.3422 | |
| 3 | O4 | O7 | N8 | N9 | average | |
| Z_coordinate | 0.1245 | -0.3376 | 0.4724 | -0.6438 | -0.0961 | |
| Deviation from average | 0.2206 | 0.1299 | 0.5685 | -0.5477 | 0.3667 | |
| 4 | O2 | O3 | N8 | N9 | average | |
| Z_coordinate | 0.0003 | -0.4184 | -0.2432 | 0.4225 | -0.0597 | |
| Deviation from average | 0.0600 | -0.3587 | -0.1835 | 0.4822 | 0.2711 | |
