

Supporting Information for

**Backbone flexibility of extended metal atom
chains. Ab initio molecular dynamics for
 $\text{Cr}_3(\text{dpa})_4\text{X}_2$ ($\text{X} = \text{NCS}^-$, CN^- , NO_3^-) in gas and
crystalline phase.**

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Table S1. Relevant mean distances (d , in Å) and angles (a , in degrees) from the molecular dynamics of $\text{Cr}_3(\text{dpa})_4(\text{CN})_2$. Average values are reported for the group of symmetric ($\Delta\text{dist} < 0.15$ Å) and asymmetric ($\Delta\text{dist} > 0.15$ Å) structures. X-ray values are shown. Previous DFT optimized structural parameters are shown for comparison.

	Gas phase MD		Crystal MD		X-ray ¹	Static DFT Opt ²
	Symmetri c	Asymmetri c	Symmetri c	Asymmetri c		
$d(\text{Cr}_1\text{-Cr}_2)$	2.314	2.275	2.358	1.928	2.370	2.370
$d(\text{Cr}_2\cdots\text{Cr}_3)$	2.332	2.531	2.379	2.695	2.370	2.370
$d(\text{X-Cr}_1)$	2.187	2.198	2.323	2.452	2.284	2.186
$d(\text{X-Cr}_3)$	2.176	2.135	2.201	2.299	2.284	2.186
$a(\text{N-C-Cr}_1)$	164.6	165.5	145.3	145.6	173.7	180.0
$a(\text{N-C-Cr}_3)$	164.2	164.8	139.7	147.6	173.7	180.0

- (1) John F. Berry; F. Albert Cotton; Tongbu Lu; Carlos A. Murillo; Brian K. Roberts; Wang, X. Molecular and Electronic Structures by Design: Tuning Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Linear Trichromium Chains. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126* (22), 7082–7096.
- (2) Spivak, M.; Arcisauskaite, V.; Lopez, X.; McGrady, J. E.; de Graaf, C. A Multiconfigurational Approach to the Electronic Structure of Trichromium Extended Metal Atom Chains. *Dalt. Trans.* **2017**, *46* (19), 6202–6211.