

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for:

**A systematic investigation of structural transformation in copper
pyrazolato system: A case study**

Jing-Huo Chen,^{a,b} Donghui Wei,^a Guang Yang,^{*a} Jian-Gong Ma^{*b} and Peng Cheng^{b,c}

^a Green Catalysis Center, and College of Chemistry, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, Henan, 450001, P. R. China.

^b Department of Chemistry and Key Laboratory of Advanced Energy Material Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, P. R. China.

^c State Key Laboratory of Elemento-Organic Chemistry and Collaborative Innovation Center of Chemical Science and Engineering (Tianjin), Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, P. R. China.

E-mail: yang@zzu.edu.cn; mvbasten@nankai.edu.cn

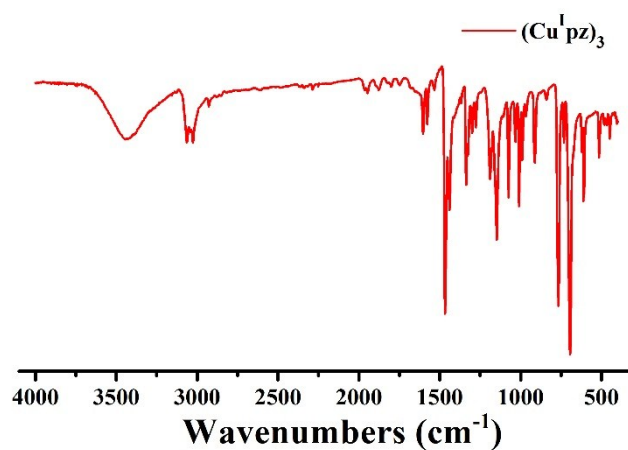


Fig. S1 IR spectrum of complex $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ in KBr pellet.

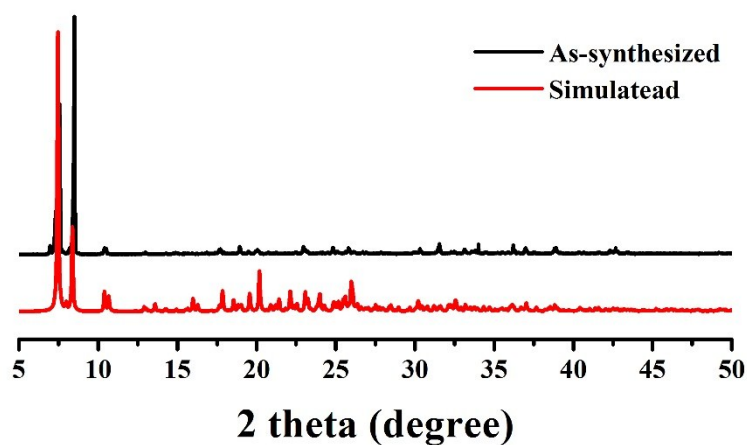


Fig. S2 The P-XRD pattern of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ obtained from the as-synthesized sample (black line) and the simulation based on the crystal data (red line).

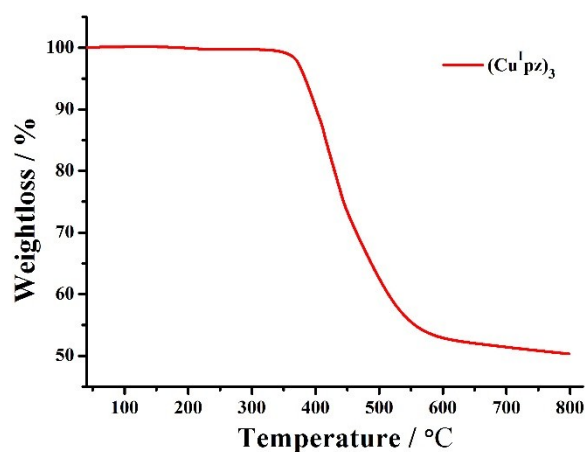


Fig. S3 Thermogravimetric analysis curve of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$.

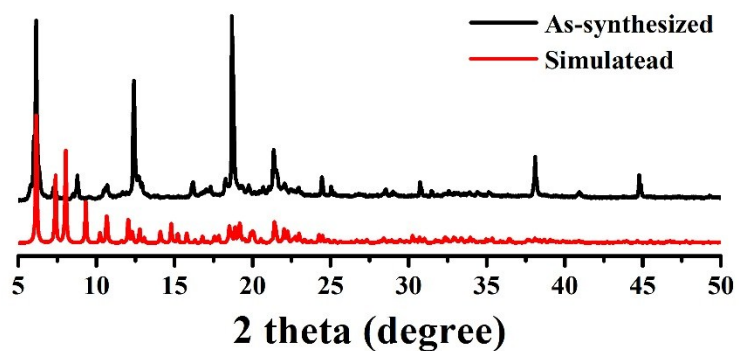


Fig. S4 The P-XRD pattern of $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$ obtained from the as-synthesized sample (black line) and the simulation based on the crystal data (red line).

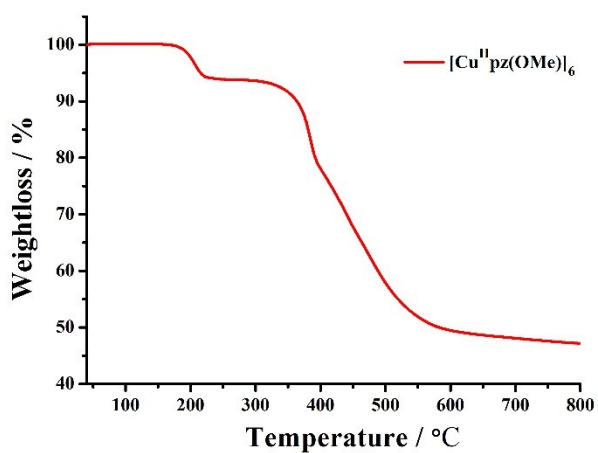


Fig. S5 Thermogravimetric analysis curve of $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$.

Table S1 Crystallographic data and structure refinements

	(Cu ^I pz) ₃	(Cu ^I pz) ₄	Cu ^I ₃ Cu ^{II} ₂ (OMe) ₂ pz ₅	[Cu ^{II} pz(OMe)] ₆
Formula	C ₄₅ H ₃₀ Cl ₃ Cu ₃ N ₆	C _{63.75} H _{47.5} Cl _{11.5} Cu ₄ N ₈	C ₇₇ H ₅₆ Cl ₅ Cu ₅ N ₁₀ O ₂	C ₉₆ H ₇₈ Cl ₆ Cu ₆ N ₁₂ O ₆
Mol. wt.	951.72	1587.43	1648.26	2089.64
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	13.1550(2)	10.0449(2)	16.2557(11)	29.1746(6)
<i>b</i> (Å)	21.1155(3)	15.1382(5)	17.0114(12)	16.6071(4)
<i>c</i> (Å)	14.4734(3)	23.2997(8)	17.9429(11)	19.2602(4)
α (deg)		77.698(3)	72.065(6)	
β (deg)	98.2710(18)	83.790(2)	68.528(6)	100.1273(19)
γ (deg)		80.707(3)	86.629(6)	
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	3978.53(12)	3406.22(19)	4384.9(6)	9186.3(3)
<i>Z</i>	4	2	2	4
<i>T</i> (K)	120(10)	120(10)	120(10)	120(10)
$\rho_{\text{calcd.}}$ (Mg/m ³)	1.589	1.548	1.248	1.511
μ (mm ⁻¹)	1.833	1.728	1.390	1.599
Reflns collected	16007	22985	32709	33733
Reflns unique	7002	11906	15431	16027
	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0292)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0242)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0797)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0332)
Final <i>R</i> indices	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0305	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0701	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0914	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0407
[<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)]	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0606	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1731	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.2115	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0889
<i>S</i>	1.023	1.083	1.020	1.023
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$ (eÅ ⁻³)	0.32	1.65	1.55	1.40
$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$ (eÅ ⁻³)	-0.28	-1.87	-0.96	-0.65

Table S2 Crystallographic data and structure refinements

	[Cu^{II}pz(OMe)]₆-12h	[Cu^{II}pz(OMe)]₆-24h	[Cu^{II}pz(OMe)]₆-36h	[Cu^{II}pz(OMe)]₆-48h	[Cu^{II}pz(OMe)]₆-72h	[Cu^{II}pz(OMe)]₆-96h
Formula	C ₉₆ H ₇₈ Cl ₆ Cu ₆ N ₁₂ O ₆	C ₉₅ H ₇₆ Cl ₆ Cu ₆ N ₁₂ O ₆	C ₁₈₉ H ₁₅₀ Cl ₁₂ Cu ₁₂ N ₂₄ O ₁₂	C ₉₄ H ₇₄ Cl ₆ Cu ₆ N ₁₂ O ₆	C ₁₈₇ H ₁₄₆ Cl ₁₂ Cu ₁₂ N ₂₄ O ₁₂	C ₉₂ H ₇₀ Cl ₆ Cu ₆ N ₁₂ O ₆
Mol. wt.	2089.64	2075.61	4137.20	2061.59	4109.15	2033.54
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	29.0762(6)	29.0987(5)	29.0602(6)	29.0564(7)	29.0473(9)	29.0392(8)
<i>b</i> (Å)	16.6019(4)	16.5408(4)	16.4786(6)	16.4701(4)	16.4211(7)	16.3390(8)
<i>c</i> (Å)	19.2306(5)	19.3641(4)	19.3166(4)	19.3195(4)	19.2985(7)	19.2980(6)
α (deg)						
β (deg)	100.045(2)	100.124(2)	100.198(2)	100.272(2)	100.186(3)	100.387(3)
γ (deg)						
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	9140.7(4)	9175.1(3)	9104.0(5)	9097.4(4)	9060.1(6)	9006.3(6)
<i>Z</i>	4	4	2	4	2	4
<i>T</i> (K)	120(10)	120(10)	120(10)	120(10)	120(10)	120(10)
ρ_{calcd} (Mg/m ³)	1.518	1.503	1.509	1.505	1.506	1.500
μ (mm ⁻¹)	1.607	1.601	1.613	1.614	1.620	1.629
Reflns collected	17792	16986	17818	18958	17004	16616
Reflns unique	8057	8068	8001	7987	7954	7907
	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0198)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0186)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0189)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0223)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0256)	(<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0239)
Final <i>R</i> indices	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0421	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0566	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0543	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0451	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0545	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0763
[<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)]	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1038	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1440	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1253	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1012	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1232	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.1642
<i>S</i>	1.030	1.038	1.037	1.040	1.063	1.140
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$ (eÅ ⁻³)	0.99	1.68	1.56	1.06	1.04	1.65
$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$ (eÅ ⁻³)	-0.98	-1.71	-0.98	-0.66	-0.84	-1.17

Table S3 Selected bond distances (Å) and bond angles (°).

(Cu^Ipz)₃			
Cu(1)-N(1)	1.866(2)	Cu(1)-N(6)	1.865(2)
Cu(2)-N(2)	1.852(2)	Cu(2)-N(3)	1.849(2)
Cu(3)-N(4)	1.867(2)	Cu(3)-N(5)	1.866(2)
Cu(1)···Cu(2)	3.2296(4)	Cu(2)···Cu(3)	3.1403(5)
Cu(1)···Cu(3)	3.2508(5)	N(1)-Cu(1)-N(6)	173.22(9)
N(2)-Cu(2)-N(3)	178.42(9)	N(4)-Cu(3)-N(5)	173.68(9)
(Cu^Ipz)₄			
Cu(1)-N(2)	1.857(5)	Cu(1)-N(3)	1.852(5)
Cu(2)-N(4)	1.846(5)	Cu(2)-N(5)	1.850(5)
Cu(3)-N(6)	1.846(5)	Cu(3)-N(7)	1.845(5)
Cu(4)-N(8)	1.846(5)	Cu(4)-N(1)	1.853(5)
Cu(1)···Cu(2)	3.2228(9)	Cu(2)···Cu(3)	3.0385(11)
Cu(3)···Cu(4)	3.2266(9)	Cu(1)···Cu(4)	3.0933(11)
N(2)-Cu(1)-N(3)	178.6(2)	N(4)-Cu(2)-N(5)	179.2(2)
N(6)-Cu(3)-N(7)	179.1(2)	N(1)-Cu(4)-N(8)	178.4(2)
Cu^I₃Cu^{II}₂(OMe)₂pz₅			
Cu ^I (1)-N(1)	1.876(5)	Cu ^I (1)-N(5)	1.877(5)
Cu ^I (2)-N(2)	1.888(4)	Cu ^I (2)-N(3)	1.878(5)
Cu ^{II} (3)-N(4)	1.947(5)	Cu ^{II} (3)-N(7)	1.962(5)
Cu ^{II} (3)-O(1)	1.954(4)	Cu ^{II} (3)-O(2)	1.907(4)
Cu ^{II} (4)-N(6)	1.937(5)	Cu ^{II} (4)-N(10)	1.938(5)
Cu ^{II} (4)-O(1)	1.930(4)	Cu ^{II} (4)-O(2)	1.925(4)
Cu ^I (5)-N(8)	1.890(5)	Cu ^I (5)-N(9)	1.885(5)
Cu ^I (1)···Cu ^I (2)	3.5332(12)	Cu ^I (1)···Cu ^{II} (4)	3.0484(12)
Cu ^I (2)···Cu ^{II} (3)	3.0732(12)	Cu ^{II} (3)···Cu ^{II} (4)	2.9687(12)
Cu ^{II} (3)···Cu ^I (5)	3.1981(11)	Cu ^{II} (4)···Cu ^I (5)	3.1721(13)
N(1)-Cu ^I (1)-N(5)	175.3(2)	N(2)-Cu ^{II} (2)-N(3)	173.3(2)
N(4)-Cu ^{II} (3)-O(1)	94.9(2)	N(4)-Cu ^{II} (3)-O(2)	164.1(2)
N(7)-Cu ^{II} (3)-O(1)	156.2(2)	N(7)-Cu ^{II} (3)-O(2)	89.4(2)
N(4)-Cu ^{II} (3)-N(7)	102.7(2)	N(6)-Cu ^{II} (4)-O(1)	95.7(2)
N(6)-Cu ^{II} (4)-O(2)	167.2(2)	N(10)-Cu ^{II} (4)-O(1)	157.1(2)
N(10)-Cu ^{II} (4)-O(2)	90.1(2)	N(10)-Cu ^{II} (4)-N(6)	100.1(2)
N(8)-Cu ^I (5)-N(9)	173.0(2)		
[Cu^{II}pz(OMe)]₆			
Cu(1)-N(1)	1.961(2)	Cu(1)-N(3)	1.965(2)
Cu(1)-O(5)	1.930 (2)	Cu(1)-O(6)	1.919(2)
Cu(2)-N(2)	1.980(2)	Cu(2)-N(4)	1.961(2)
Cu(2)-O(1)	1.911 (2)	Cu(2)-O(2)	1.933(2)
Cu(3)-N(5)	1.960(3)	Cu(3)-N(7)	1.992(2)
Cu(3)-O(1)	1.930(2)	Cu(3)-O(2)	1.911(2)
Cu(4)-N(6)	1.955(2)	Cu(4)-N(8)	1.983(2)

Cu(4)-O(3)	1.924(2)	Cu(4)-O(4)	1.908(2)
Cu(5)-N(9)	1.990(2)	Cu(5)-N(11)	1.963(2)
Cu(5)-O(3)	1.908(2)	Cu(5)-O(4)	1.926(2)
Cu(6)-N(10)	1.973(2)	Cu(6)-N(12)	1.959(2)
Cu(6)-O(5)	1.913(2)	Cu(6)-O(6)	1.924(2)
Cu(1)···Cu(2)	3.1015(8)	Cu(2)···Cu(3)	3.0203(6)
Cu(3)···Cu(4)	2.9847(6)	Cu(4)···Cu(5)	2.9980(8)
Cu(5)···Cu(6)	3.0202(6)	Cu(1)···Cu(6)	3.0208(6)
N(1)-Cu(1)-N(3)	88.69(10)	O(5)-Cu(1)-O(6)	76.15(8)
N(2)-Cu(2)-N(4)	89.06(10)	O(1)-Cu(2)-O(2)	76.31(8)
N(5)-Cu(3)-N(7)	89.28(10)	O(1)-Cu(3)-O(2)	76.38(8)
N(6)-Cu(4)-N(8)	88.13(10)	O(3)-Cu(4)-O(4)	76.94(8)
N(9)-Cu(5)-N(11)	89.33(10)	O(3)-Cu(5)-O(4)	76.87(8)
N(10)-Cu(6)-N(12)	88.24(10)	O(5)-Cu(6)-O(6)	76.43(8)

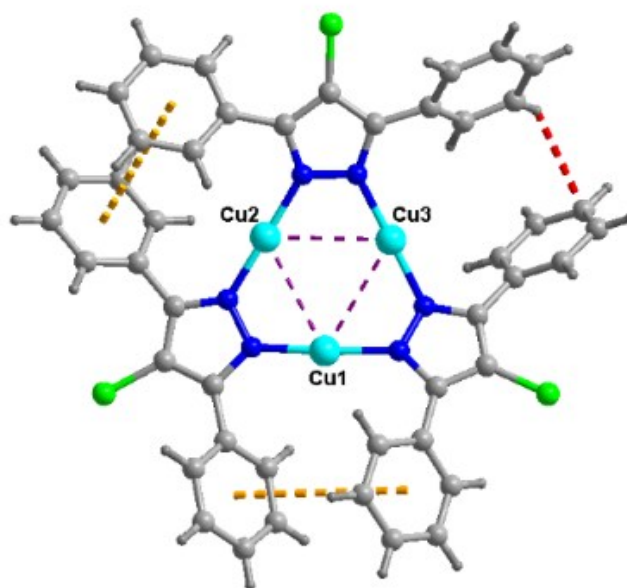


Fig. S6 Ball-and-stick diagram of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ showing the intra-trimer $\pi\cdots\pi$ stacking (dashed yellow lines) and $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi$ interactions (dashed red lines) and the $\text{Cu}\cdots\text{Cu}$ interactions (dashed purple lines).

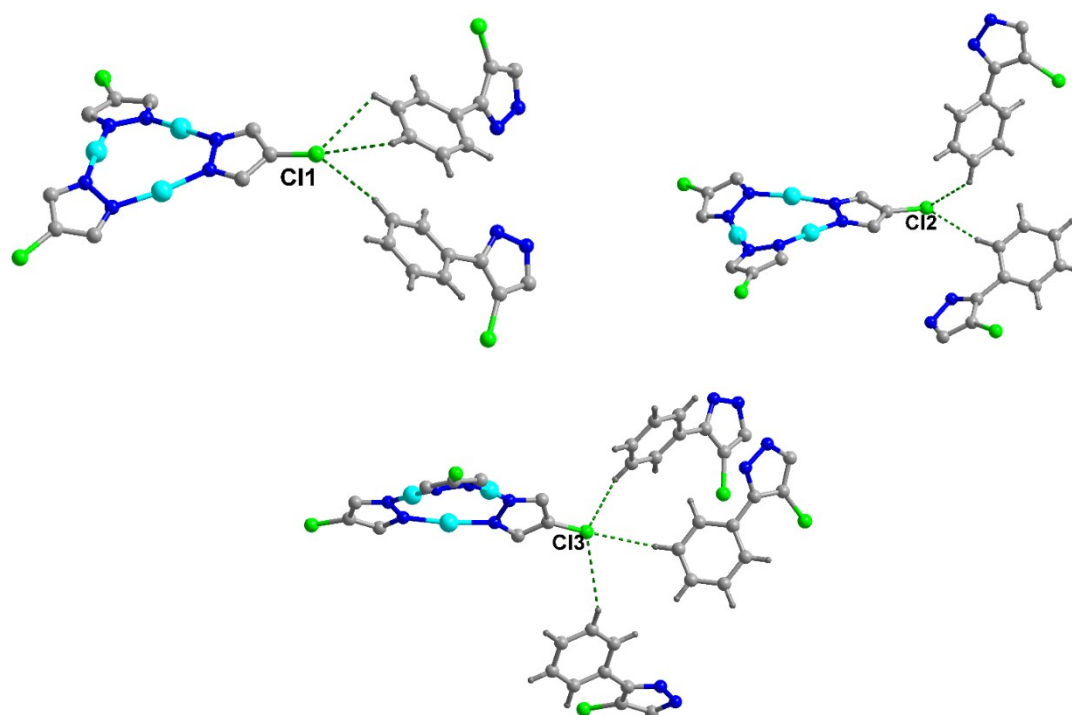


Fig. S7 The intermolecular $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{H}(\text{Ph})$ interactions in $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

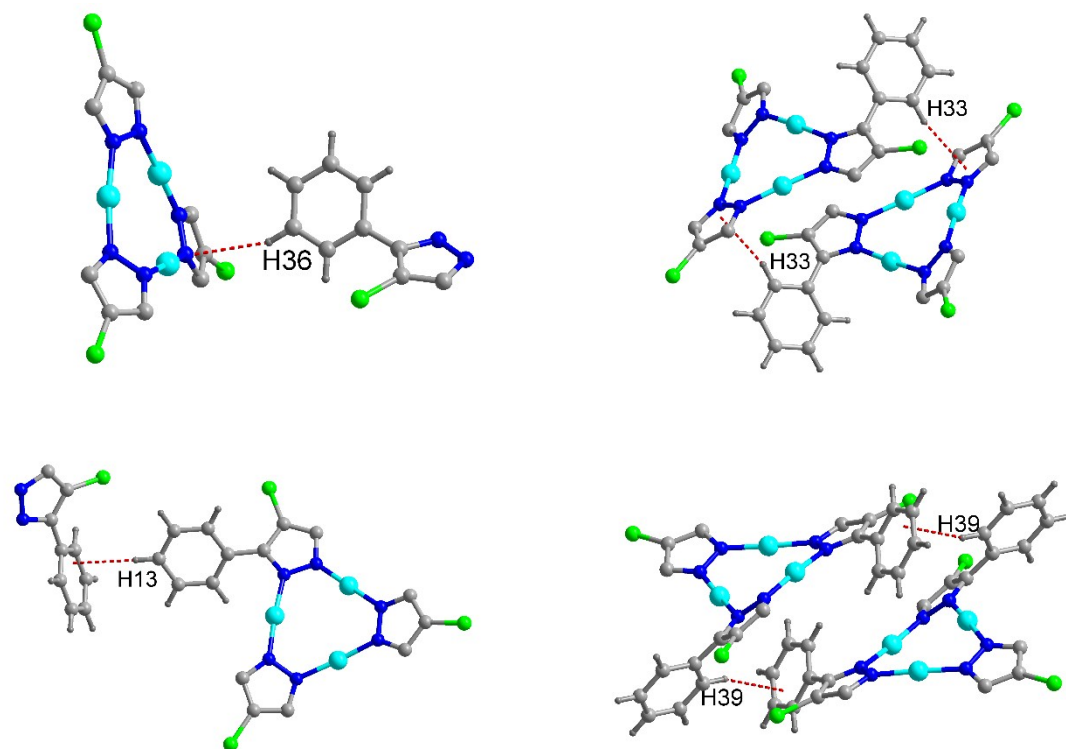


Fig. S8 The intermolecular C-H $\cdots$ π (pz) interaction and C-H $\cdots$ π (Ph) interaction in $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

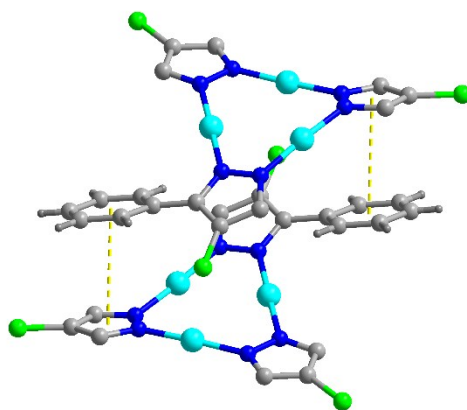


Fig. S9 The intermolecular $\pi(\text{Ph})\cdots\pi(\text{pz})$ interaction in $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

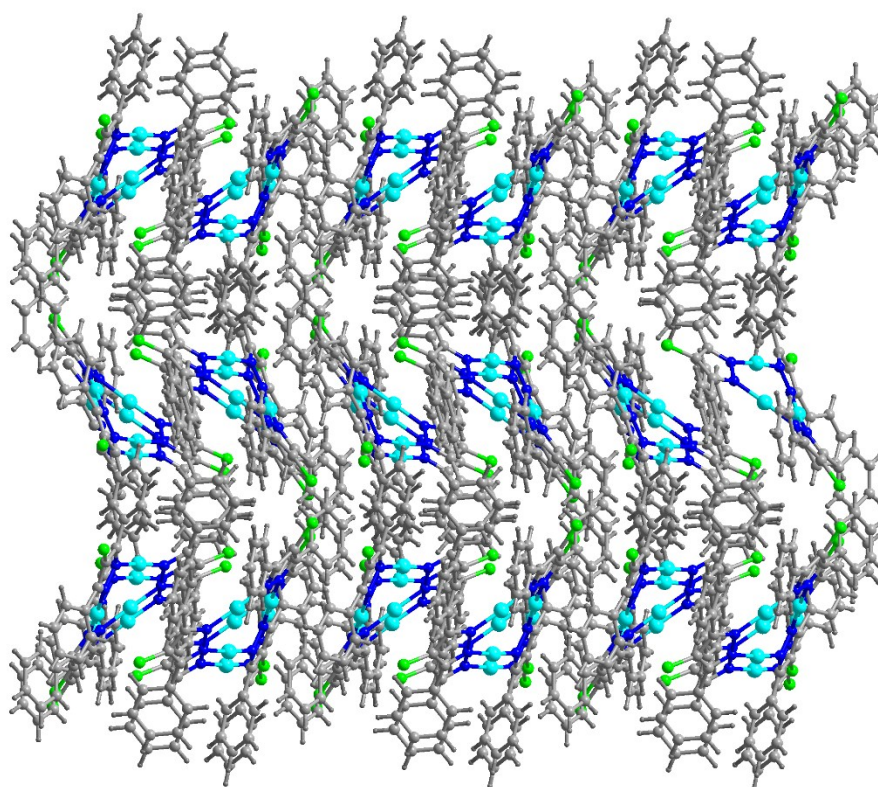


Fig. S10 3-D structure of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ formed *via* the intermolecular $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi$ interactions and $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{H}$ interactions.

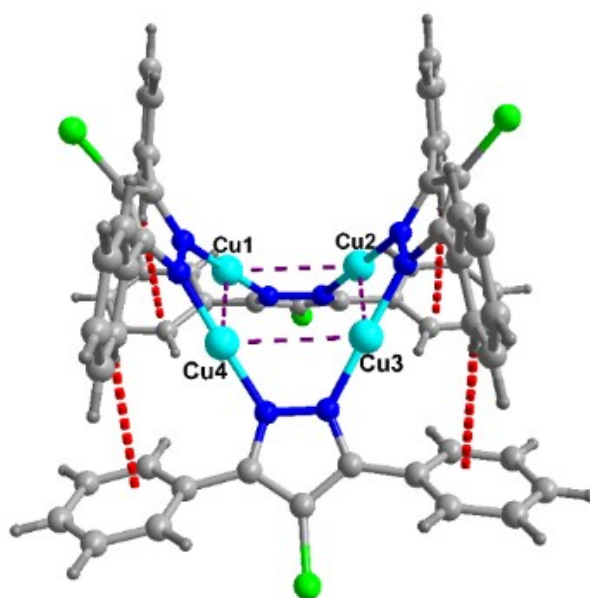


Fig. S11 Ball-and-stick diagram of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_4$, showing the $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi$ interactions (dashed red lines) and the $\text{Cu}\cdots\text{Cu}$ interactions (dashed purple lines), the solvent molecules have been omitted for clarity.

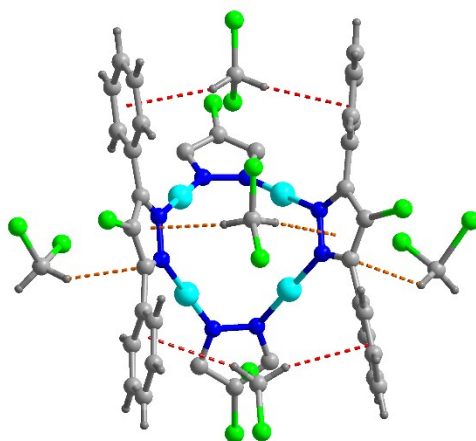


Fig. S12 The intramolecular $\text{C}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2)\text{--H}\cdots\pi(\text{Ph})$ interaction and $\text{C}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2)\text{--H}\cdots\pi(\text{pz})$ interaction in $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_4$.

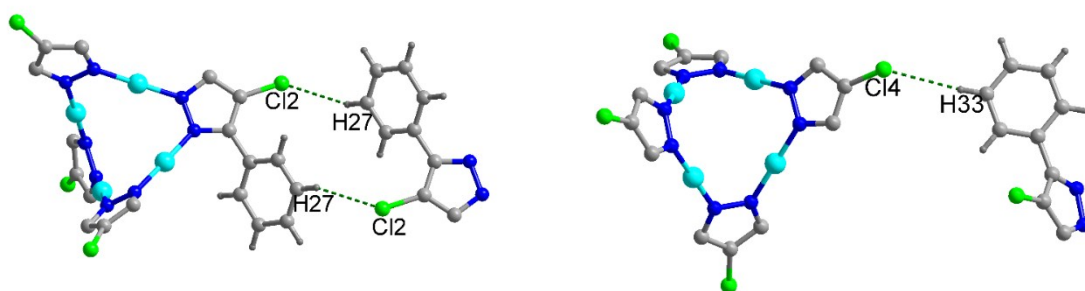


Fig. S13 The intermolecular $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{H}(\text{Ph})$ interactions in $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_4$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

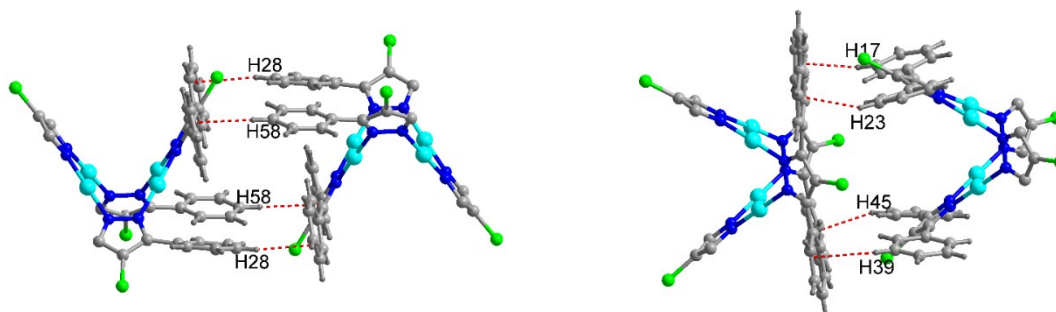


Fig. S14 The intermolecular $\text{C--H}\cdots\pi(\text{Ph})$ interaction in $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_4$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

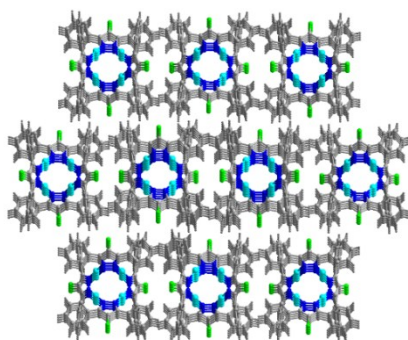


Fig. S15 3-D structure of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_4$ formed *via* the intermolecular $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi$ interactions and $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{H}$ interactions, the solvent molecules have been omitted for clarity.

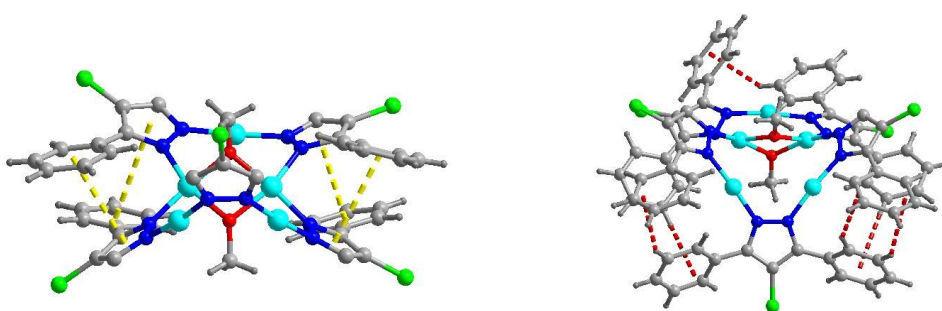


Fig. S16 The intramolecular $\pi(\text{Ph})\cdots\pi(\text{pz})$ interaction and $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi(\text{Ph})$ interaction in $\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}_3\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2(\text{OMe})_2\text{pz}_5$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

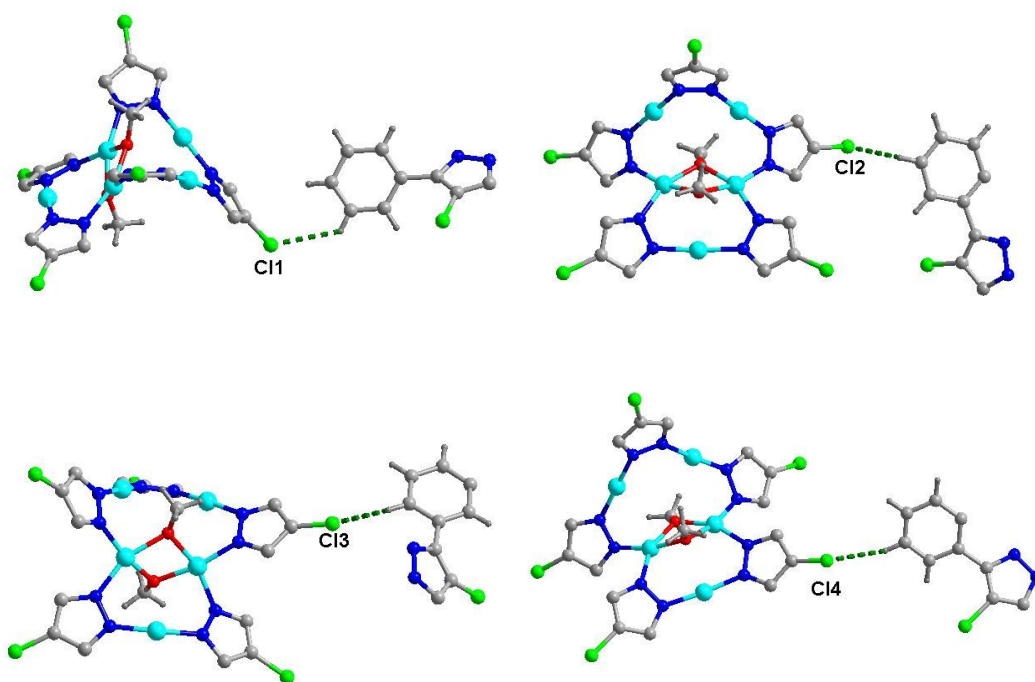


Fig. S17 The intermolecular $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{H}(\text{Ph})$ interactions in $\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}_3\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2(\text{OMe})_2\text{pz}_5$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

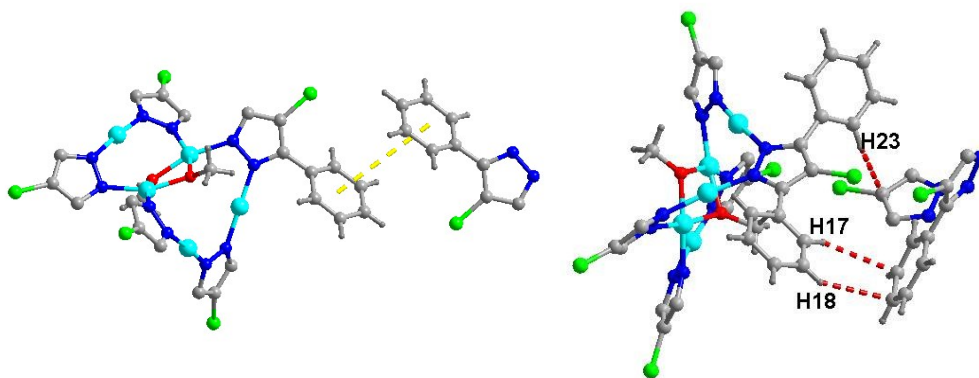


Fig. S18 The intermolecular $\pi(\text{Ph})\cdots\pi(\text{Ph})$, $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi(\text{Ph})$ and $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi(\text{Pz})$ interaction in $\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}_3\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2(\text{OMe})_2\text{pz}_5$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

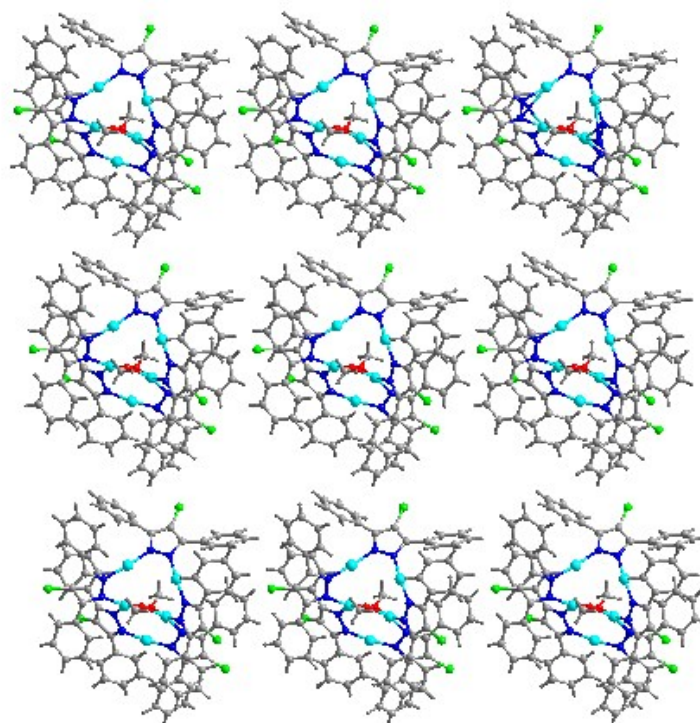


Fig S19 3-D structure of $\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}_3\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2(\text{OMe})_2\text{pz}_5$ formed *via* the intermolecular $\text{C-H}\cdots\pi$, $\pi(\text{Ph})\cdots\pi(\text{Ph})$ and $\text{Cl}(\text{pz})\cdots\text{H}$ hydrogen bond.

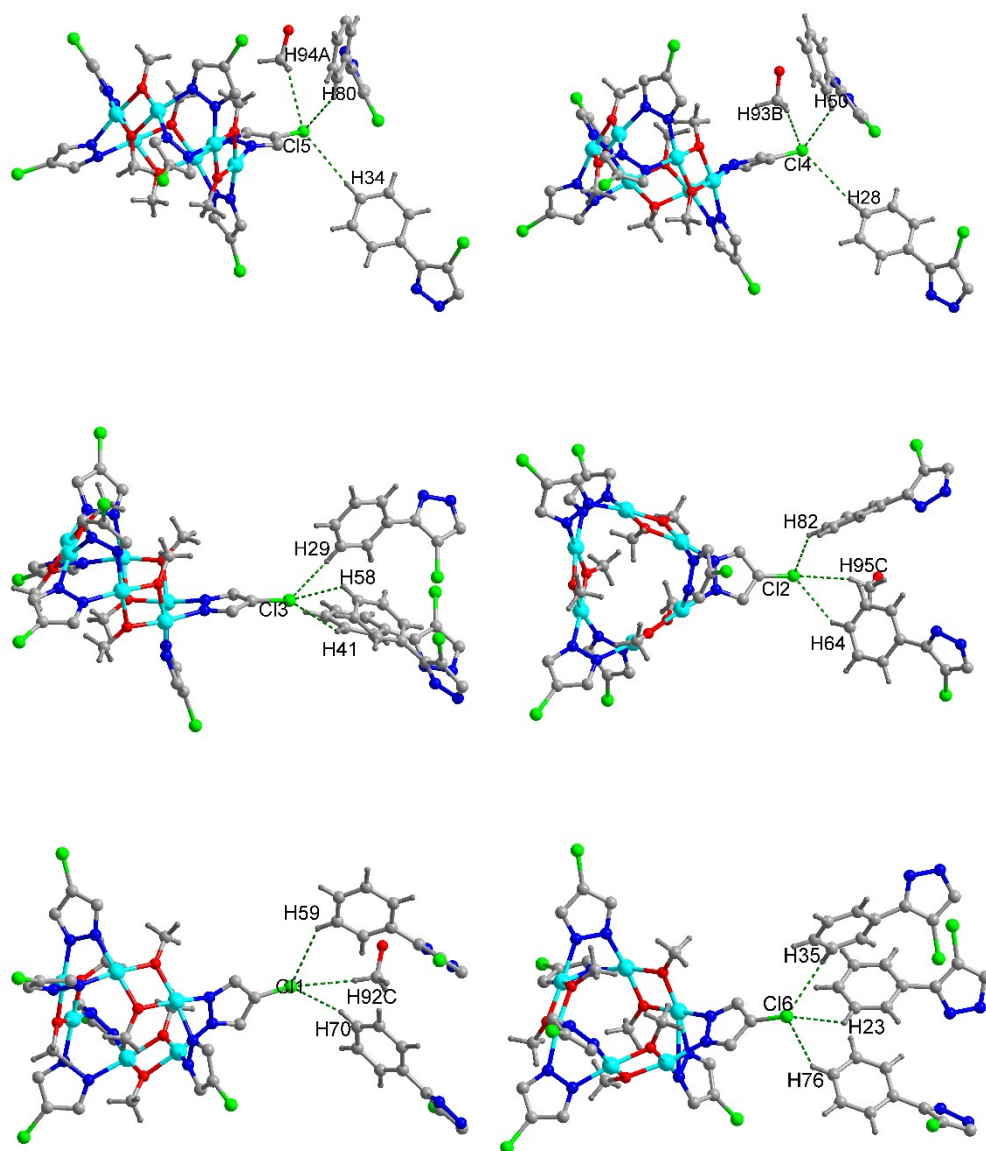


Fig. S20 The intermolecular Cl $\cdots$ H(Ph) interactions in $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

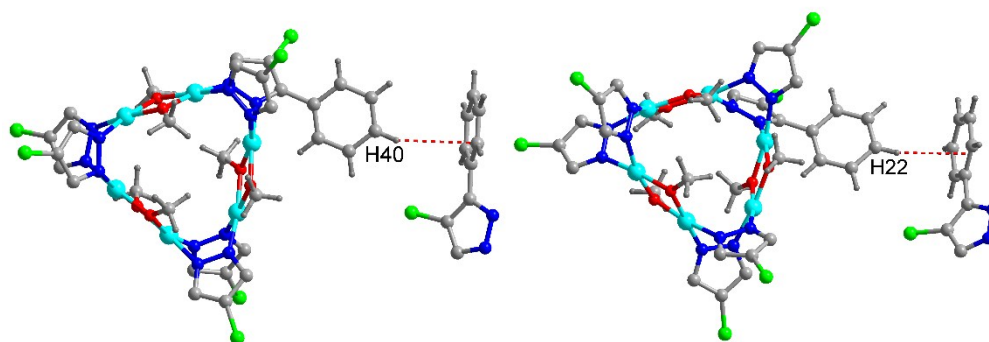


Fig. S21 The intermolecular C-H $\cdots$ π (Ph) interaction in $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$, some phenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

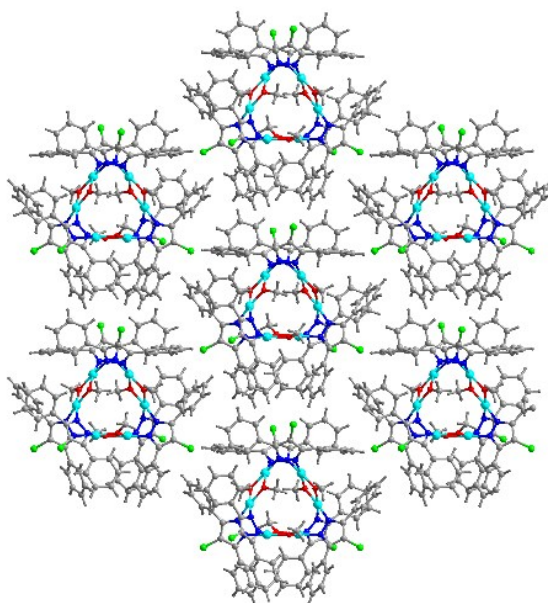


Fig. S22 3-D structure of $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pzM}(\text{OMe})]_6$ formed *via* the intermolecular C-H... π interactions and Cl...H interactions.

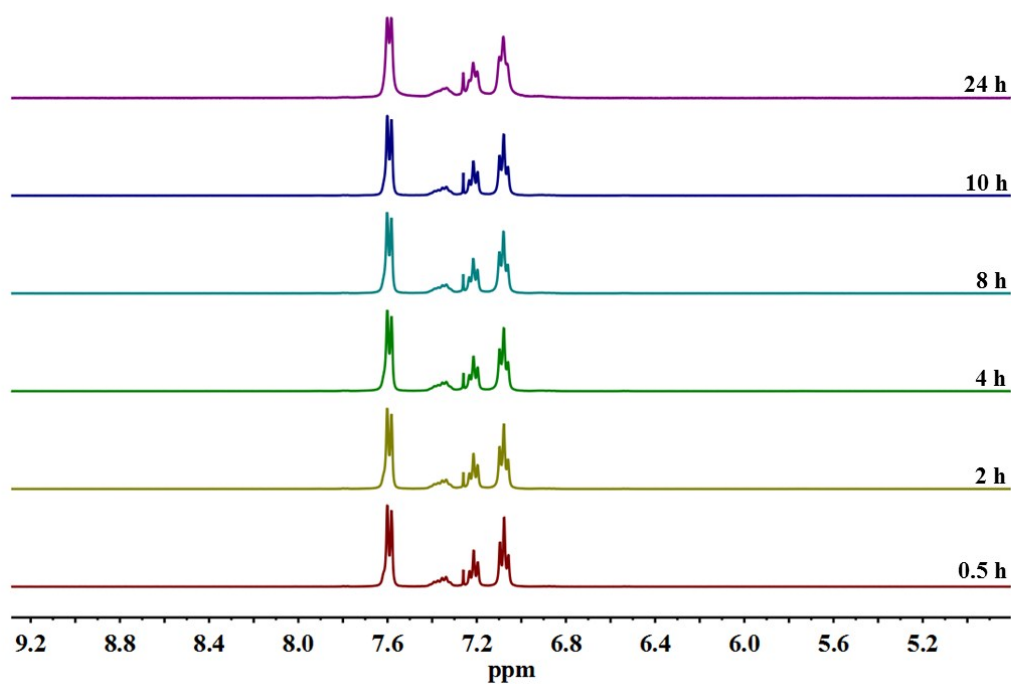


Fig. S23 Stack plot of ^1H NMR spectra for $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ in CDCl_3 at R.T. The sample of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ for NMR spectroscopic measurements was prepared in the glovebox by use of *J. Young* valve NMR tube.

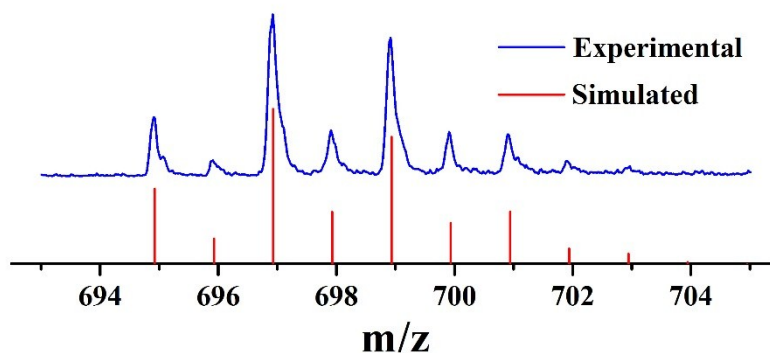


Fig. S24 MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of $[\text{Cu}_3\text{pz}_2]^+$ with enlargement of the molecular ion peak (696.93 m/z) and its simulated isotopic pattern.

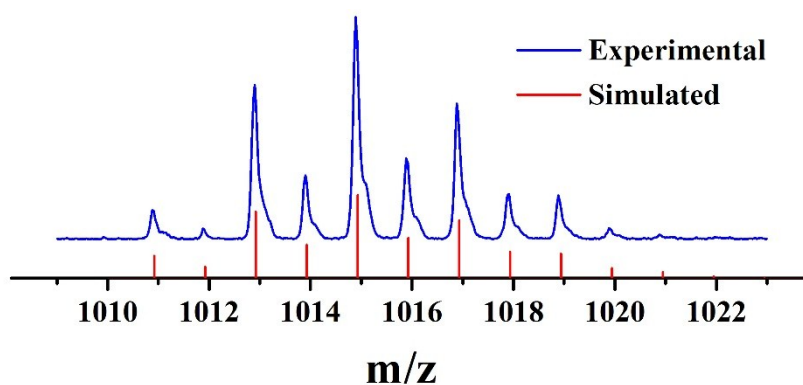


Fig. S25 MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of $[\text{Cu}_4\text{pz}_3]^+$ with enlargement of the molecular ion peak (1014.90 m/z) and its simulated isotopic pattern.

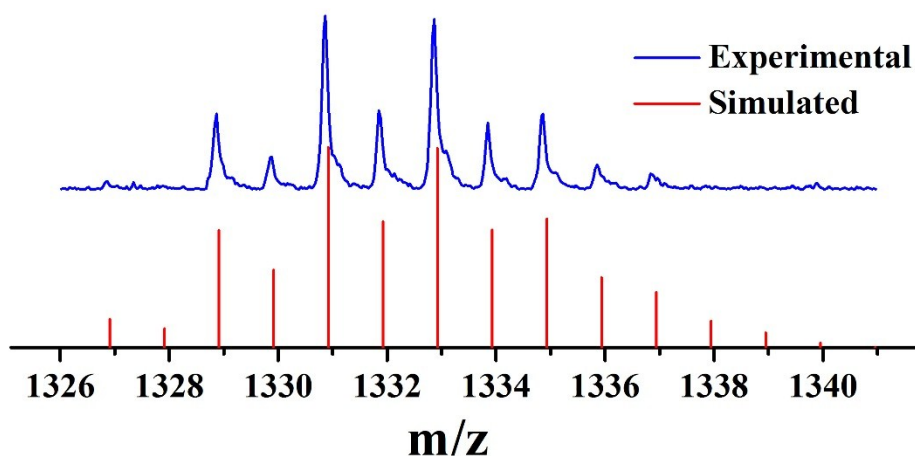


Fig. S26 MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of $[\text{Cu}_5\text{pz}_4]^+$ with enlargement of the molecular ion peak (1330.96 m/z) and its simulated isotopic pattern.

Table S4 The elemental analysis of $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$ drying in the air for three days.

	C	H	N
$[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$	55.18	8.04	3.76
experimental	53.93	8.36	3.32
$[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OH})]_6$	53.90	8.38	3.37

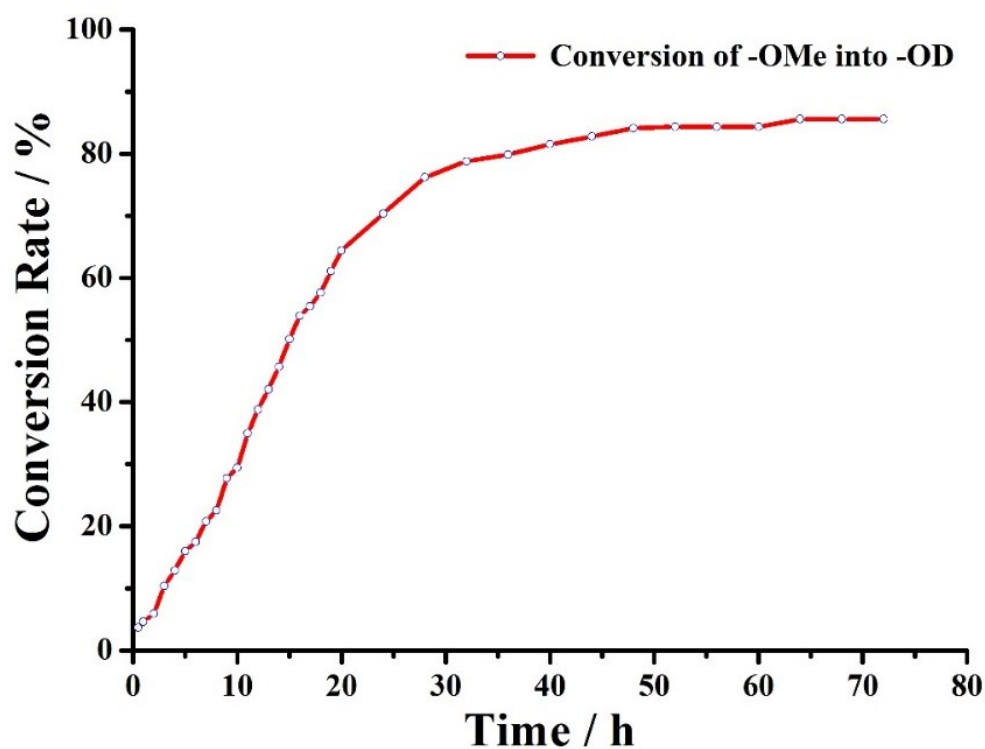


Fig. S27 Conversion curve of OMe^-/OD^- for $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$ soaked in D_2O . Maleic acid was used as standard substance to evaluate the concentration of MeOD released to the solution due to the replacement of OMe^- by OD^- .

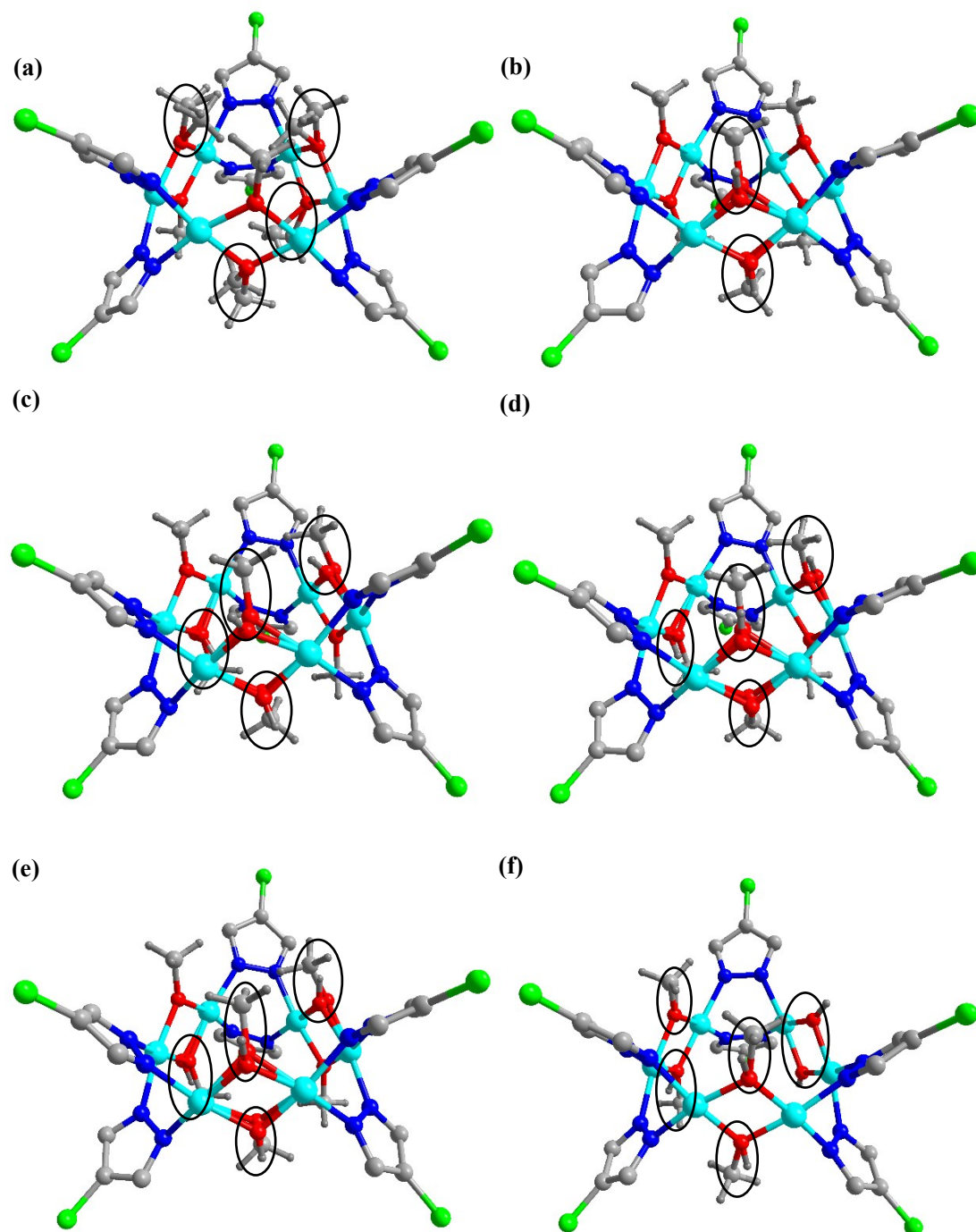


Fig. S28 The ball-and-stick diagram of $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{pz}(\text{OMe})]_6$ which was immersed in H_2O for: (a) 12 h; (b) 24 h; (c) 36 h; (d) 48 h; (e) 72 h; (f) 96 h.

Solid State Luminescence Properties.

Considering the attractive photophysical properties exhibited by the similar trimer - $[\text{Cu}(\mu\text{-pz})]_3$ (pz = substituted pyrazolate anion), so the solid-state luminescence properties of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ have been studied. As shown in Fig. S29, the crystalline sample of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ shows a dual-emission centered at 482 and 531 nm with $\lambda_{\text{exc}} \sim 390$ nm at RT. In order to understand the origin of emission, the

luminescent spectra of the ligand were recorded under the same conditions. The ligand also shows a dual emissions centered at 485 and 529 nm with $\lambda_{\text{exc}} \sim 390$ nm (Fig. S30). It is indicated that the emission from $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ is mainly ligand-centered.

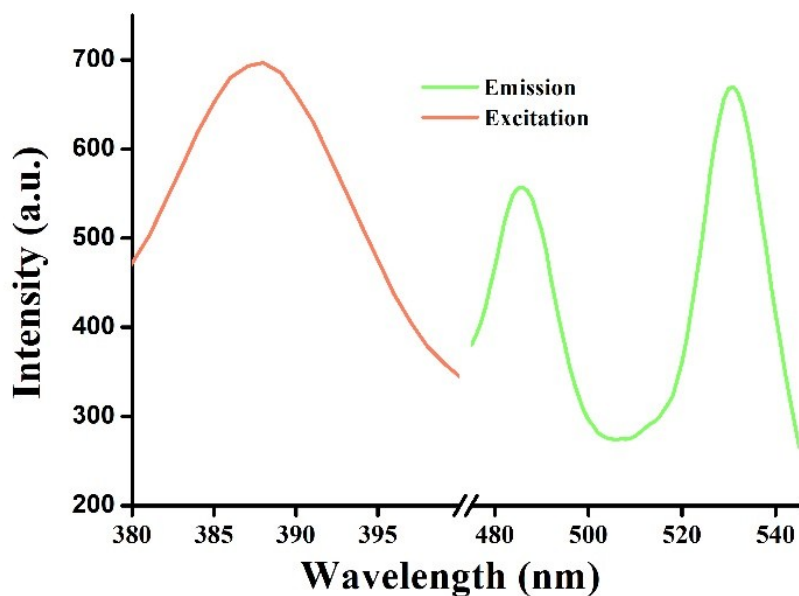


Fig. S29 Emission and excitation spectra of a crystalline sample of $(\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}\text{pz})_3$ at RT.

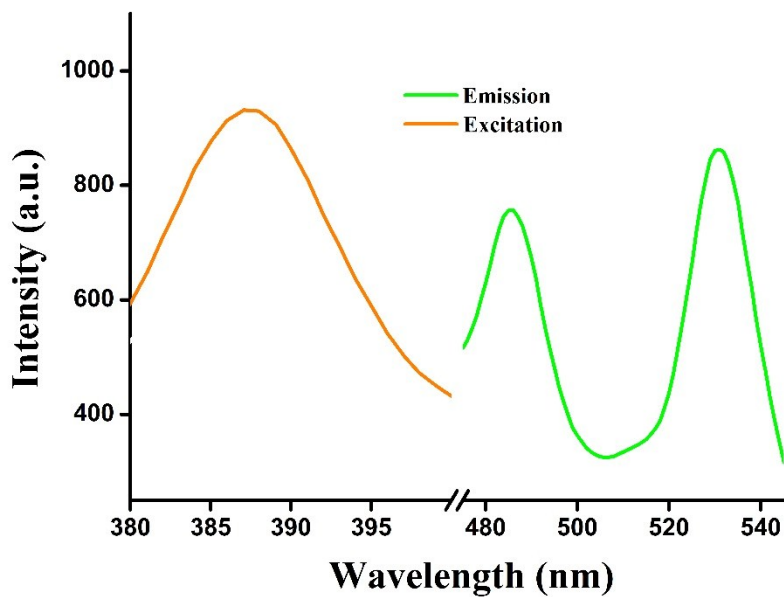


Fig. S30 Emission and excitation spectra of a crystalline sample of 4-chloro 3,5-diphenylpyrazole at RT.