

Ferro- vs. antiferromagnetic exchange between two Ni(II) ions in a series of Schiff base heterometallic complexes: what makes the difference?

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Supplementary data

Table S1. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for [NiZnL'₂(OMe)Cl]₂ (**1**) and [NiZnL''(Dea)Cl]₂·2DMF (**2**)

1		2	
Zn(1)–O(21)	2.000 (2)	Zn(1)–O(7) ²	1.9599(11)
Zn(1)–O(11)	2.0053 (19)	Zn(1)–O(11)	1.9901(11)
Zn(1)–O(1)	2.0980 (18)	Zn(1)–O(1)	2.0883(10)
Zn(1)–Cl(1)	2.2763 (8)	Zn(1)–Cl(1)	2.2106(5)
Zn(1)–O(12)	2.477 (2)	Zn(1)–O(17)	2.3674(11)
Ni(1)–O(11)	2.019 (2)	Ni(1)–O(11)	2.0212(10)
Ni(1)–O(21) ¹	2.030 (2)	Ni(1)–N(10)	2.0364(13)
Ni(1)–N(26) ¹	2.072 (3)	Ni(1)–O(1)	2.0736(10)
Ni(1)–N(16)	2.077 (3)	Ni(1)–O(1) ²	2.0850(10)
Ni(1)–O(1) ¹	2.091 (2)	Ni(1)–O(7)	2.0940(11)
Ni(1)–O(1)	2.097 (2)	Ni(1)–N(4)	2.1126(13)
O(21)–Zn(1)–O(11)	99.04 (9)	O(7) ² –Zn(1)–O(11)	111.47(5)
O(21)–Zn(1)–O(1)	81.32 (8)	O(7) ² –Zn(1)–O(1)	85.63(4)
O(11)–Zn(1)–O(1)	80.23 (8)	O(11)–Zn(1)–O(1)	80.70(4)
O(21)–Zn(1)–Cl(1)	133.36 (6)	O(7) ² –Zn(1)–Cl(1)	120.55(4)
O(11)–Zn(1)–Cl(1)	127.59 (7)	O(11)–Zn(1)–Cl(1)	127.30(4)
O(1)–Zn(1)–Cl(1)	103.33 (6)	O(1)–Zn(1)–Cl(1)	109.90(3)
O(21)–Zn(1)–O(12)	110.21 (8)	O(7) ² –Zn(1)–O(17)	95.93(4)
O(11)–Zn(1)–O(12)	69.17 (7)	O(11)–Zn(1)–O(17)	71.78(4)
O(1)–Zn(1)–O(12)	148.45 (8)	O(1)–Zn(1)–O(17)	151.02(4)
Cl(1)–Zn(1)–O(12)	89.93 (5)	Cl(1)–Zn(1)–O(17)	94.24(4)
O(11)–Ni(1)–O(21) ¹	174.91 (9)	O(11)–Ni(1)–N(10)	86.55(5)
O(11)–Ni(1)–N(26) ¹	94.94 (10)	O(11)–Ni(1)–O(1)	80.34(4)
O(21) ¹ –Ni(1)–N(26) ¹	89.26 (10)	N(10)–Ni(1)–O(1)	166.39(5)
O(11)–Ni(1)–N(16)	89.42 (9)	O(11)–Ni(1)–O(1) ²	95.44(4)
O(21) ¹ –Ni(1)–N(16)	93.08 (9)	N(10)–Ni(1)–O(1) ²	96.06(5)
N(26) ¹ –Ni(1)–N(16)	94.90 (11)	O(1)–Ni(1)–O(1) ²	81.67(4)
O(11)–Ni(1)–O(1) ¹	94.59 (8)	O(11)–Ni(1)–O(7)	172.53(4)
O(21) ¹ –Ni(1)–O(1) ¹	80.80 (8)	N(10)–Ni(1)–O(7)	86.56(5)
N(26) ¹ –Ni(1)–O(1) ¹	166.71 (10)	O(1)–Ni(1)–O(7)	106.32(4)
N(16)–Ni(1)–O(1) ¹	94.43 (10)	O(1) ² –Ni(1)–O(7)	82.41(4)
O(11)–Ni(1)–O(1)	79.96 (7)	O(11)–Ni(1)–N(4)	102.46(5)
O(21) ¹ –Ni(1)–O(1)	96.98 (8)	N(10)–Ni(1)–N(4)	103.94(5)
N(26) ¹ –Ni(1)–O(1)	93.11 (9)	O(1)–Ni(1)–N(4)	82.61(4)
N(16)–Ni(1)–O(1)	167.21 (10)	O(1) ² –Ni(1)–N(4)	153.77(4)
O(1) ¹ –Ni(1)–O(1)	79.47 (8)	O(7)–Ni(1)–N(4)	82.04(5)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: ¹ -x+1/2, -y+3/2, -z+1; ² -x, 1-y, 1-z

Table S2. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for [Ni₂(H₃L''')₂(*o*-Van)(MeOH)₂]Cl·[ZnCl₂(H₄L''')₂(MeOH)]·2MeOH (**3**)

Ni(1)–O(11)	1.989(3)	Ni(2)–O(51)	2.065(3)
Ni(1)–N(10)	1.997(4)	Ni(2)–O(211)	2.085(3)
Ni(1)–O(31)	2.033(3)	Ni(2)–O(36)	2.153(3)
Ni(1)–O(321)	2.078(3)		
Ni(1)–O(41)	2.083(3)	Zn(3)–O(61)	1.966(3)
Ni(1)–O(111)	2.096(3)	Zn(3)–O(71)	2.078(4)
Ni(2)–O(21)	1.995(3)	Zn(3)–Cl(2)	2.2465(13)
Ni(2)–N(20)	2.000(4)	Zn(3)–Cl(1)	2.2558(13)
Ni(2)–O(31)	2.043(3)	Zn(3)–O(66)	2.425(3)
O(11)–Ni(1)–N(10)	95.19(14)	O(31)–Ni(2)–O(51)	92.70(12)
O(11)–Ni(1)–O(31)	92.56(12)	O(21)–Ni(2)–O(211)	174.41(12)
N(10)–Ni(1)–O(31)	171.32(14)	N(20)–Ni(2)–O(211)	81.24(13)
O(11)–Ni(1)–O(321)	91.43(12)	O(31)–Ni(2)–O(211)	88.94(12)
N(10)–Ni(1)–O(321)	87.70(13)	O(51)–Ni(2)–O(211)	88.28(12)
O(31)–Ni(1)–O(321)	88.20(12)	O(21)–Ni(2)–O(36)	90.26(12)
O(11)–Ni(1)–O(41)	92.61(12)	N(20)–Ni(2)–O(36)	97.64(13)
N(10)–Ni(1)–O(41)	93.21(13)	O(31)–Ni(2)–O(36)	76.28(11)
O(31)–Ni(1)–O(41)	90.34(12)	O(51)–Ni(2)–O(36)	168.62(12)
O(321)–Ni(1)–O(41)	175.77(13)	O(211)–Ni(2)–O(36)	88.65(12)
O(11)–Ni(1)–O(111)	176.34(12)	O(61)–Zn(3)–O(71)	86.52(13)
N(10)–Ni(1)–O(111)	81.51(14)	O(61)–Zn(3)–Cl(2)	118.11(11)
O(31)–Ni(1)–O(111)	90.84(12)	O(71)–Zn(3)–Cl(2)	101.10(15)
O(321)–Ni(1)–O(111)	90.03(12)	O(61)–Zn(3)–Cl(1)	125.60(11)
O(41)–Ni(1)–O(111)	86.02(12)	O(71)–Zn(3)–Cl(1)	98.97(14)
O(21)–Ni(2)–N(20)	93.48(13)	Cl(2)–Zn(3)–Cl(1)	113.75(5)
O(21)–Ni(2)–O(31)	96.13(12)	O(61)–Zn(3)–O(66)	72.28(12)
N(20)–Ni(2)–O(31)	168.62(13)	O(71)–Zn(3)–O(66)	157.53(13)
O(21)–Ni(2)–O(51)	93.82(12)	Cl(2)–Zn(3)–O(66)	95.55(9)
N(20)–Ni(2)–O(51)	92.72(13)	Cl(1)–Zn(3)–O(66)	87.86(9)

Table S3. Geometry of hydrogen bonds for **3** (Å and °)

D–H...A	d(D–H)	d(H...A)	d(D...A)	<(DHA)
O(113)–H(113)...Cl(3)	0.84(2)	2.21(2)	3.047(4)	176(6)
N(60)–H(60N)...O(61)	0.881(19)	1.97(4)	2.620(5)	130(4)
O(612)–H(612)...O(213)	0.83(2)	1.90(2)	2.717(5)	170(7)
O(71)–H(71)...O(611)	0.84(2)	1.84(3)	2.666(5)	166(8)
O(111)–H(111)...O(91)	0.84(2)	1.84(2)	2.666(4)	168(6)
O(112)–H(112)...O(11) ¹	0.83(2)	1.95(3)	2.762(4)	166(6)
O(211)–H(211)...O(112) ²	0.84(2)	1.77(2)	2.605(4)	169(6)
O(212)–H(212)...Cl(3) ³	0.84(2)	2.24(2)	3.069(4)	168(6)
O(213)–H(213)...Cl(1) ⁴	0.84(2)	2.35(2)	3.180(3)	171(6)
O(41)–H(41)...O(21)	0.83(2)	1.86(2)	2.676(4)	167(3)

O(51)-H(51)...O(11)	0.81(2)	1.89(3)	2.664(4)	160(5)
O(611)-H(611)...O(81) ⁴	0.84(2)	1.82(2)	2.645(5)	170(6)
O(613)-H(613)...Cl(3) ⁵	0.85(2)	2.23(3)	3.064(4)	167(6)
O(81)-H(81)...Cl(2)	0.84(2)	2.27(2)	3.108(4)	171(6)
O(91)-H(91)...O(21)	0.84(2)	2.04(3)	2.850(4)	163(6)
O(112)-H(112)...O(16) ¹	0.83(2)	2.58(5)	3.130(5)	125(5)
O(51)-H(51)...O(16)	0.81(2)	2.59(4)	3.185(4)	131(4)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: ¹ -x,y+1/2,-z+3/2; ² -x,y-1/2,-z+3/2;
³ x,y-1,z; ⁴ -x+1,y-1/2,-z+3/2; ⁵ -x+1,-y+1,-z+2.

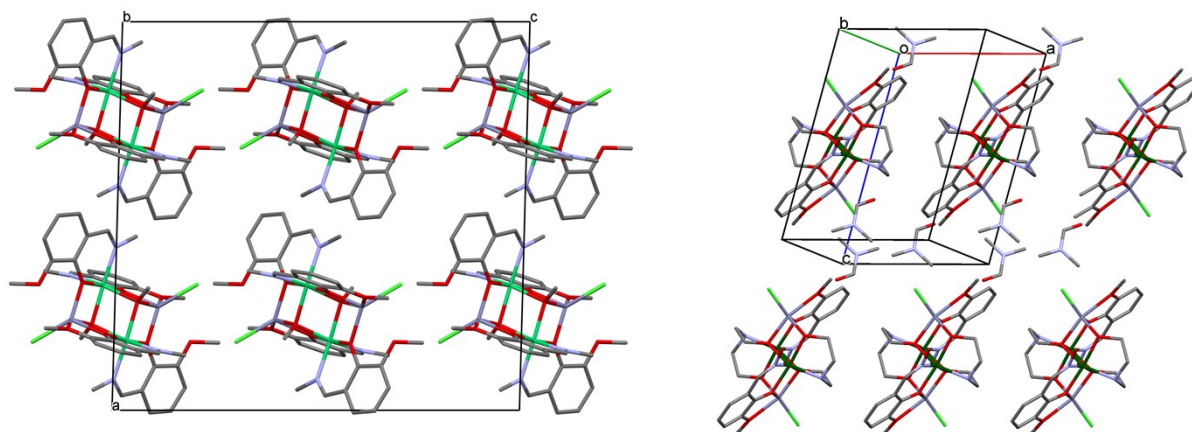


Figure S1. Fragments of crystal packing of $[\text{NiZnL}'_2(\text{OMe})\text{Cl}]_2$ (**1**, left) and $[\text{NiZnL}''(\text{Dea})\text{Cl}]_2 \cdot 2\text{DMF}$ (**2**, right). CH hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

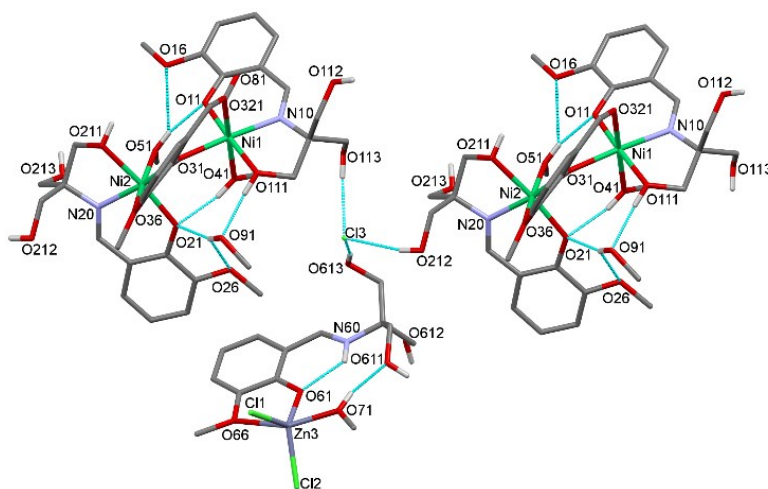


Figure S2. Fragment of the crystal structure of **3** showing the hydrogen bonding environment of the chloride anion Cl3. CH hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity, H-bonds are shown as blue dotted lines.

Table S4. Results of magnetic data fitting

Complex	1	2	3
g_{average}	2.11(5)	2.23(2)	2.28(2)
J (cm ⁻¹)	7.7(1)	-6.5(1)	-0.6(2)
D_{Ni}^* (cm ⁻¹)	2.27	-4.491	-11.398
E_{Ni}^* (cm ⁻¹)	0.243	-0.684	-1.151
D_{12}^* (cm ⁻¹)	-0.02	0.034	0**
E_{12}^* (cm ⁻¹)	0.04	-0.06	0**
Monomer fraction	0.18	0**	0**
zJ (cm ⁻¹)	0.07	0.066	-1.1(2)

*Fixed as obtained from EPR. **Fixed.

Note that energies in Tables S5-S7 do not include the spin-orbit coupling contribution.

Table S5. Contributions of the ligand-field states to the ZFS in **1**.

Parent Term (O_h)	Energy (cm ⁻¹)	D (cm ⁻¹)	E (cm ⁻¹)
$^3T_{2g}(^3F)$	3B_2 7842	13.385	-10.062
	3B_3 7905	11.544	17.661
	3B_1 8009	-23.483	-7.359
$^3T_{1g}(^3F)$	13366	0.005	0.004
	13583	0.003	-0.003
	13860	0.002	-0.001
$^1E_g(^1D)$	18523	-0.000	0.000
	18576	-0.000	0.000
$^1T_{2g}(^1D)$	25586	-7.282	-7.304
	25634	-7.270	7.292
	25737	14.384	-0.005
$^3T_{1g}(^3P)$	29067	0.000	-0.000
	29175	0.000	-0.000
	29349	0.000	0.000
$^1A_{1g}(^1G)$	29626	0.005	0.000
$^1T_{1g}(^1G)$	32389	-0.003	0.003
	32468	-0.004	-0.004
	32605	-0.004	0.004
$^1E_g(^1G)$	37646	-0.010	0.009
	37706	-0.003	0.002
$^1T_{2g}(^1G)$	38273	0.794	-0.141
	38422	-0.288	0.460
	38472	-0.488	-0.338
$^1A_{1g}(^1S)$	71680	0.000	0.000

Table S6. Contributions of the ligand-field states to the ZFS in **2**

Parent Term (O_h)	Energy (cm^{-1})	D (cm^{-1})	E (cm^{-1})
${}^3T_{2g}({}^3F)$	3B_1 6802	-47.001	-4.604
	3B_2 7571	13.555	-4.040
	3B_3 7875	24.245	7.631
${}^3T_{1g}({}^3F)$	12295	0.067	-0.062
	12492	0.032	-0.031
	13730	0.032	-0.007
${}^1E_g({}^1D)$	18360	0.008	-0.000
	18444	-0.001	-0.001
${}^1T_{2g}({}^1D)$	24490	15.188	-0.018
	25109	-7.152	6.573
	25476	-7.144	-6.545
${}^3T_{1g}({}^3P)$	27830	0.002	0.000
	28614	0.003	-0.003
	29131	-0.000	-0.000
${}^1A_{1g}({}^1G)$	29445	-0.001	0.004
${}^1T_{1g}({}^1G)$	31406	-0.028	0.029
	32158	-0.026	-0.029
	32367	-0.058	0.051
${}^1E_g({}^1G)$	36542	-0.004	0.003
	36967	-0.101	-0.057
${}^1T_{2g}({}^1G)$	37319	-0.727	0.180
	37600	0.356	-0.158
	37746	0.389	0.043
${}^1A_{1g}({}^1S)$	70918	0.000	-0.000

Table S7. Contributions of the ligand-field states to the ZFS in **3**

Parent Term (O_h)	Energy (cm^{-1})	D (cm^{-1})	E (cm^{-1})
${}^3T_{2g}({}^3F)$	3B_1 6612	-64.799	-0.086
	3B_2 7806	26.750	-25.274
	3B_3 8848	24.099	22.153
${}^3T_{1g}({}^3F)$	13028	0.117	0.059
	13514	0.219	-0.177
	13902	-0.064	0.003
${}^1E_g({}^1D)$	18102	0.006	-0.000
	18582	0.000	-0.000
${}^1T_{2g}({}^1D)$	24446	15.680	0.003
	25423	-7.119	6.813
	26483	-6.753	-6.442
${}^3T_{1g}({}^3P)$	28322	0.005	0.004
	29212	0.011	-0.010
	29859	-0.005	-0.002
${}^1A_{1g}({}^1G)$	29976	0.000	0.001
${}^1T_{1g}({}^1G)$	31319	-0.052	-0.043
	32743	-0.092	0.090
	33440	0.028	-0.000
${}^1T_{2g}({}^1G)$	37320	0.081	-0.005
	37640	-0.028	0.020
	37966	-0.448	-0.012
${}^1E_g({}^1G)$	38401	0.776	0.109
	38563	-0.831	-0.210
${}^1A_{1g}({}^1S)$	71630	0.000	0.000

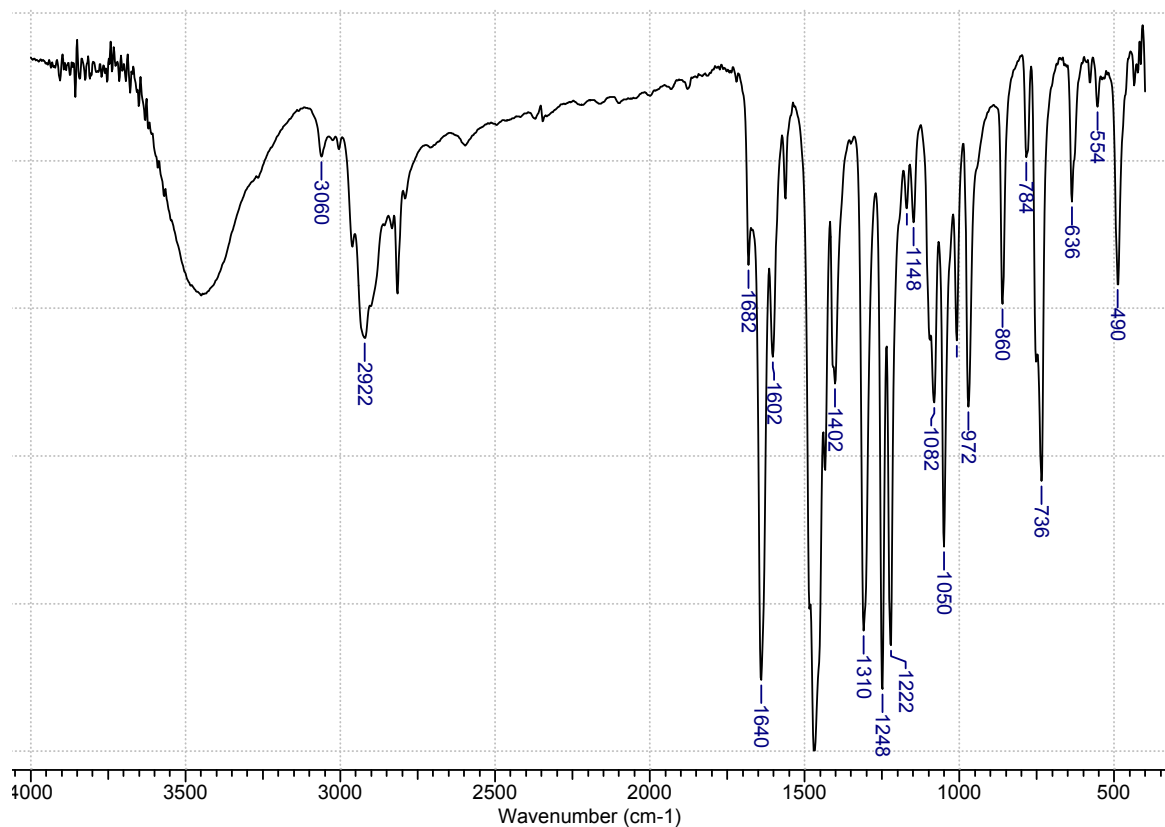


Figure S3. IR spectrum of $[\text{NiZnL}'_2(\text{OMe})\text{Cl}]_2$ (1).

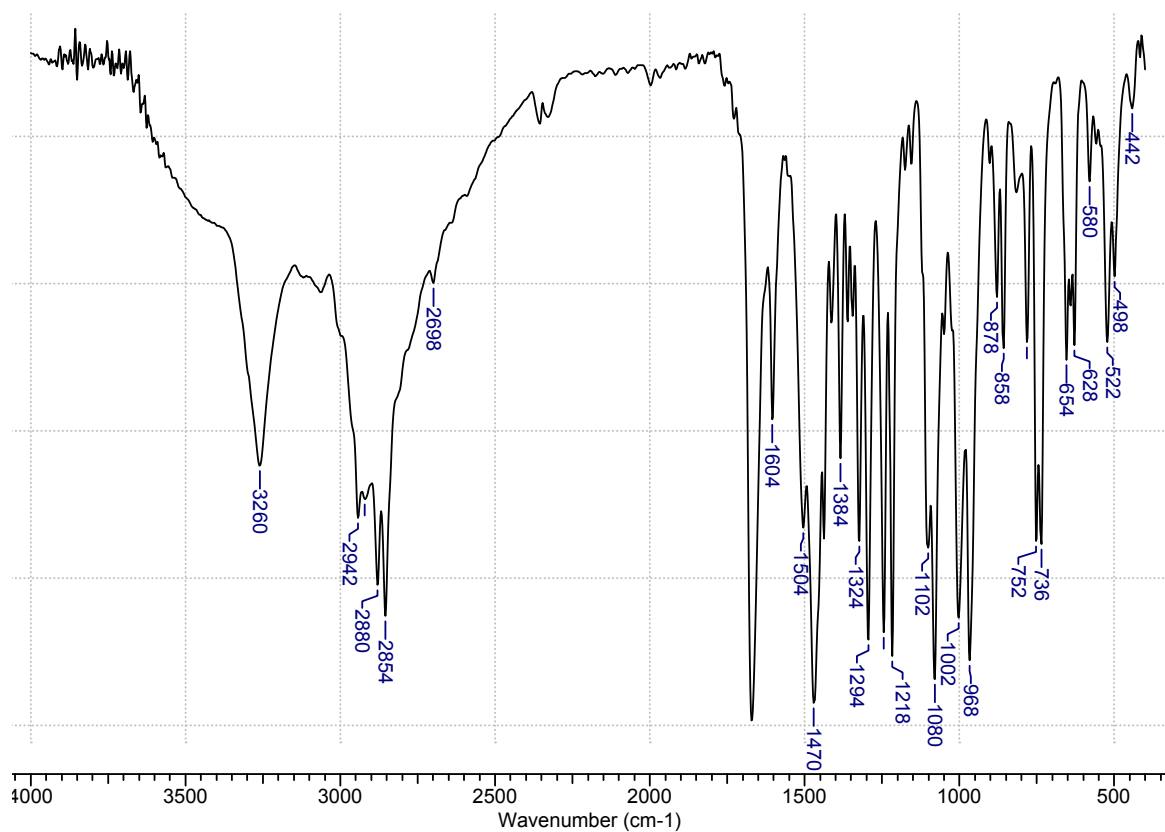


Figure S4. IR spectrum of $[\text{NiZnL}''(\text{Dea})\text{Cl}]_2 \cdot 2\text{DMF}$ (2).

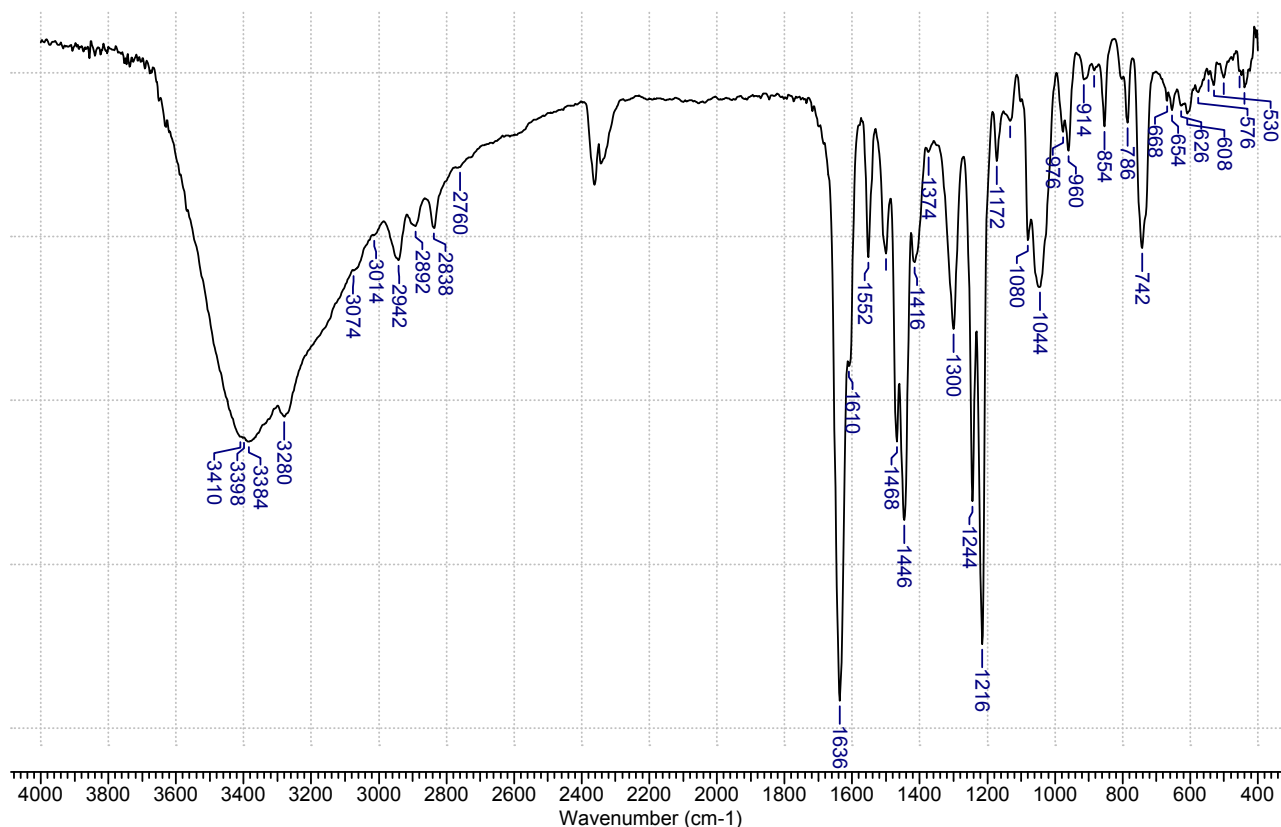


Figure S5. IR spectrum of $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{H}_3\text{L}'')_2(o\text{-Van})(\text{MeOH})_2]\text{Cl}\cdot[\text{ZnCl}_2(\text{H}_4\text{L}'')](\text{MeOH})\cdot 2\text{MeOH}$ (**3**).

Table S8. Crystallographic data for **1–3**

	1	2	3
Empirical Formula	$\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{46}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_4\text{Ni}_2\text{O}_{10}\text{Zn}_2$	$\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_6\text{Ni}_2\text{O}_{12}\text{Zn}_2$	$\text{C}_{49}\text{H}_{76}\text{Cl}_3\text{N}_3\text{Ni}_2\text{O}_{23}\text{Zn}$
Formula weight	1037.85	1003.80	1364.26
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	$C2/c$	$P\bar{1}$	$P2_1/c$
T/K	100(2)	180(2)	100(2)
$a/\text{\AA}$	19.6732 (5)	8.9536(4)	17.7587(3)
$b/\text{\AA}$	10.9932 (2)	9.8327(4)	14.0514(2)
$c/\text{\AA}$	20.6092 (3)	13.4081(5)	24.0434(4)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90	99.742(3)	90
$\beta/^\circ$	91.555 (2)	104.655(4)	98.607(2)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90	113.637(4)	90
Z	4	1	4
$V/\text{\AA}^3$	4455.54 (15)	996.23(7)	5932.09(17)
$D_{\text{cal}}/\text{g cm}^{-3}$	1.547	1.673	1.528
No. of reflections measured	20435	29860	57005
No. of independent reflections	3977	10146	10579

R_{int}	0.0385	0.0357	0.0704
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical equivalents	from Analytical	Analytical
Data / restraints / parameters	3977/0/267	10146 / 0 / 248	10579 / 16 / 795
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.002	1.023	1.127
Final R_1 values ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	0.0403	0.0376	0.0555
Final $wR(F^2)$ values ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	0.1127	0.0845	0.1508
Final R_1 values (all data)	0.0463	0.0592	0.0734
Final $wR(F^2)$ values (all data)	0.1179	0.0955	0.1627
Largest diff. peak and hole/ e \AA^{-3}	1.34 / -0.36	0.796 / -0.624	1.587 / -0.414
CCDC No.	1898551	1898552	1837991

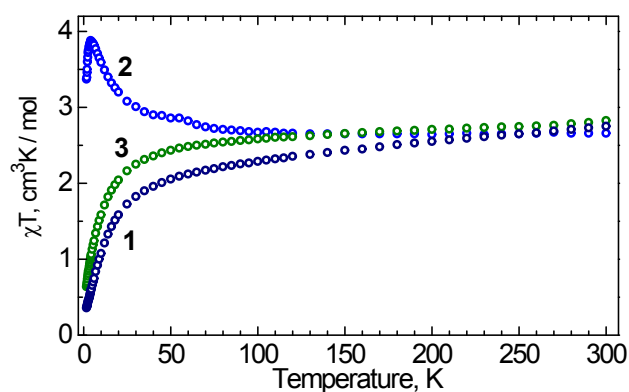


Figure S6. The original magnetic data. To obtain the plots in Figure 11 (main text), TIP per one Ni^{2+} of $950 \cdot 10^{-6}$ cgs emu, $250 \cdot 10^{-6}$ cgs emu and $300 \cdot 10^{-6}$ cgs emu was subtracted from data of **1**, **2** and **3**, respectively.