

## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

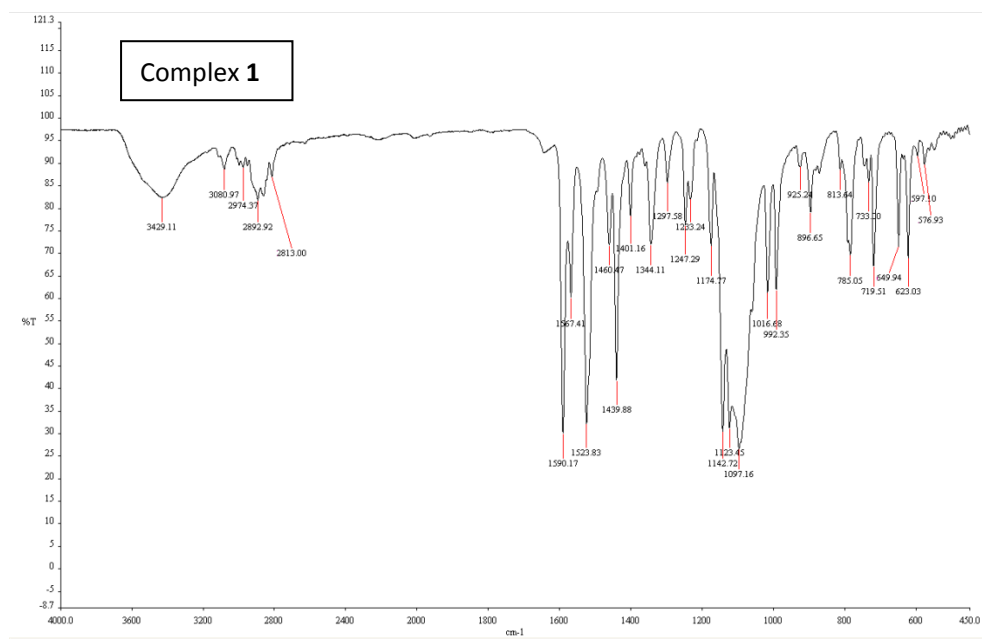
### **Ferromagnetic versus antiferromagnetic exchange in oximate nickel(II) complexes**

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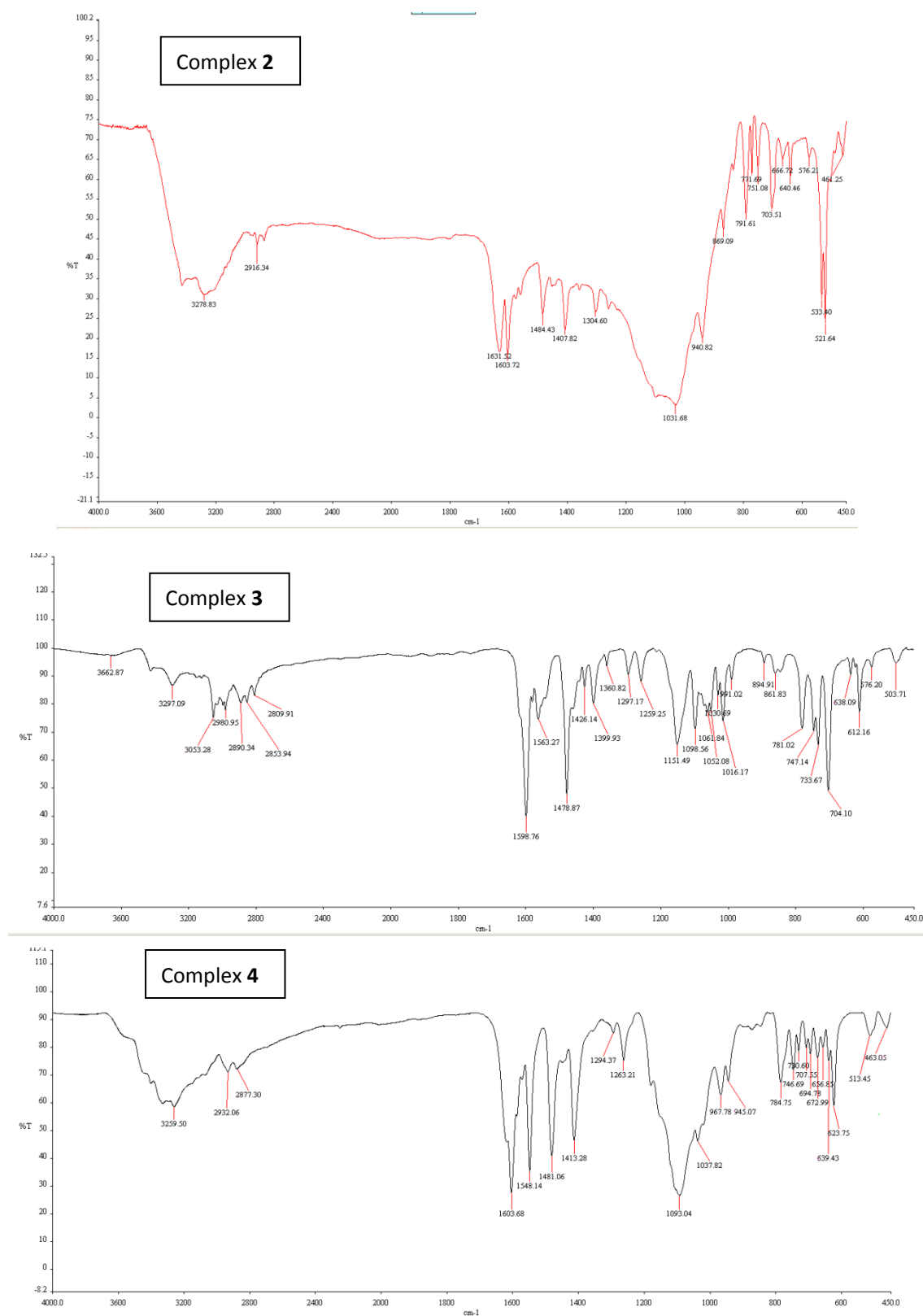
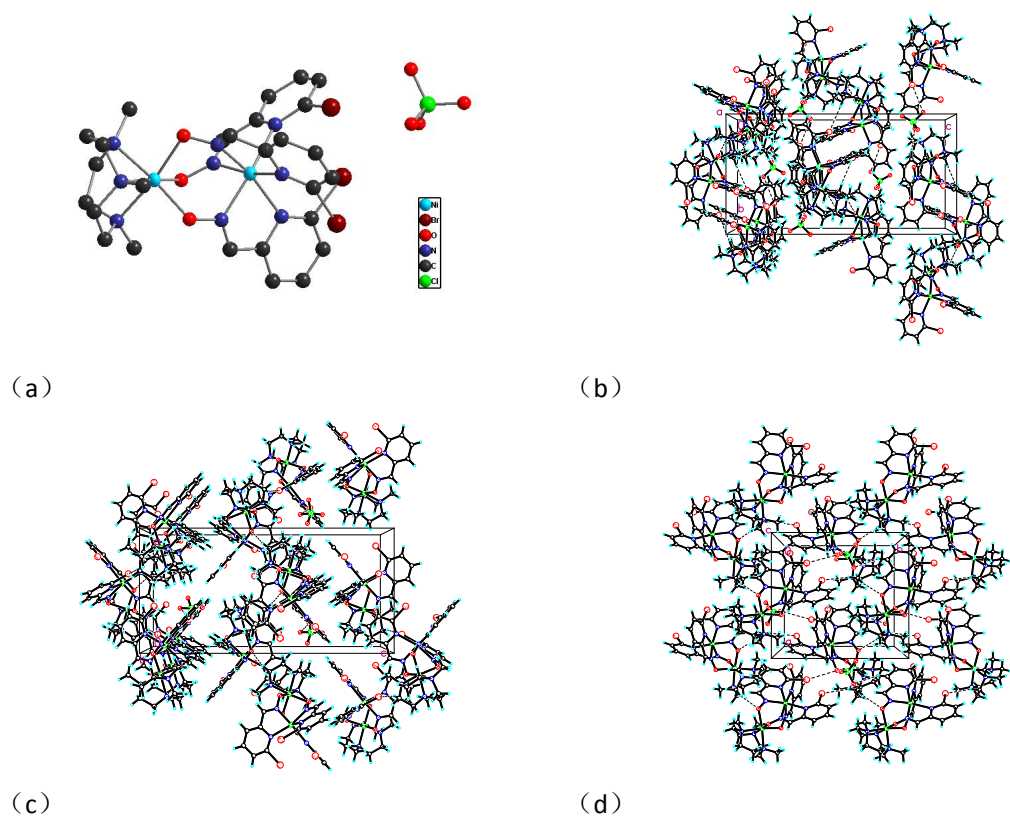
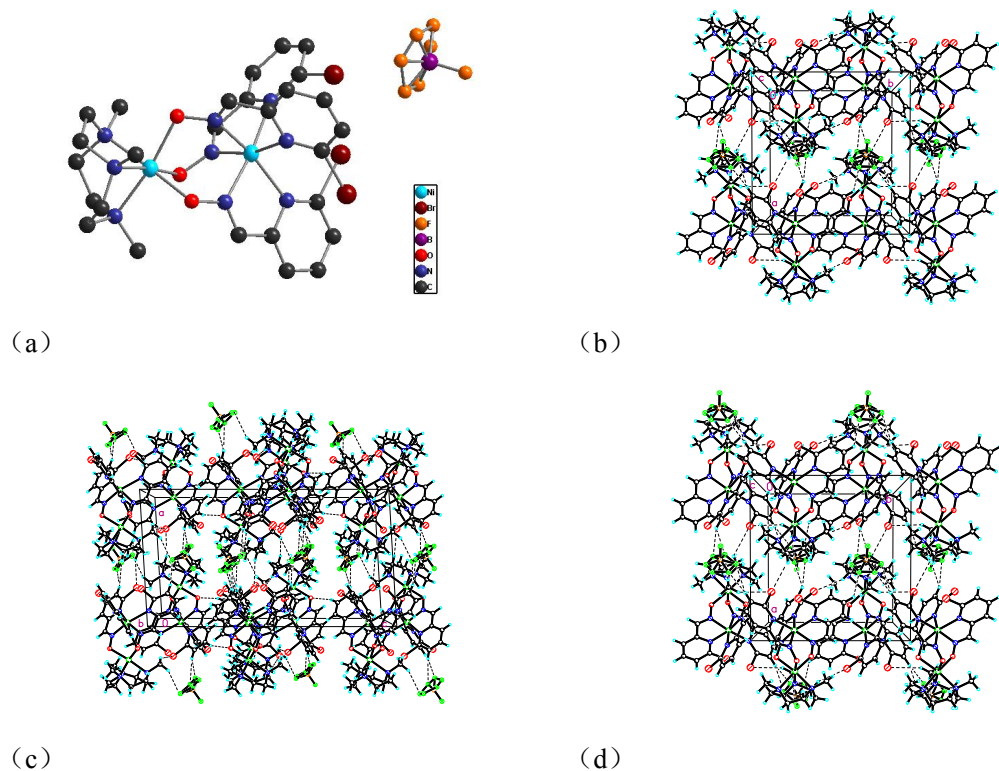


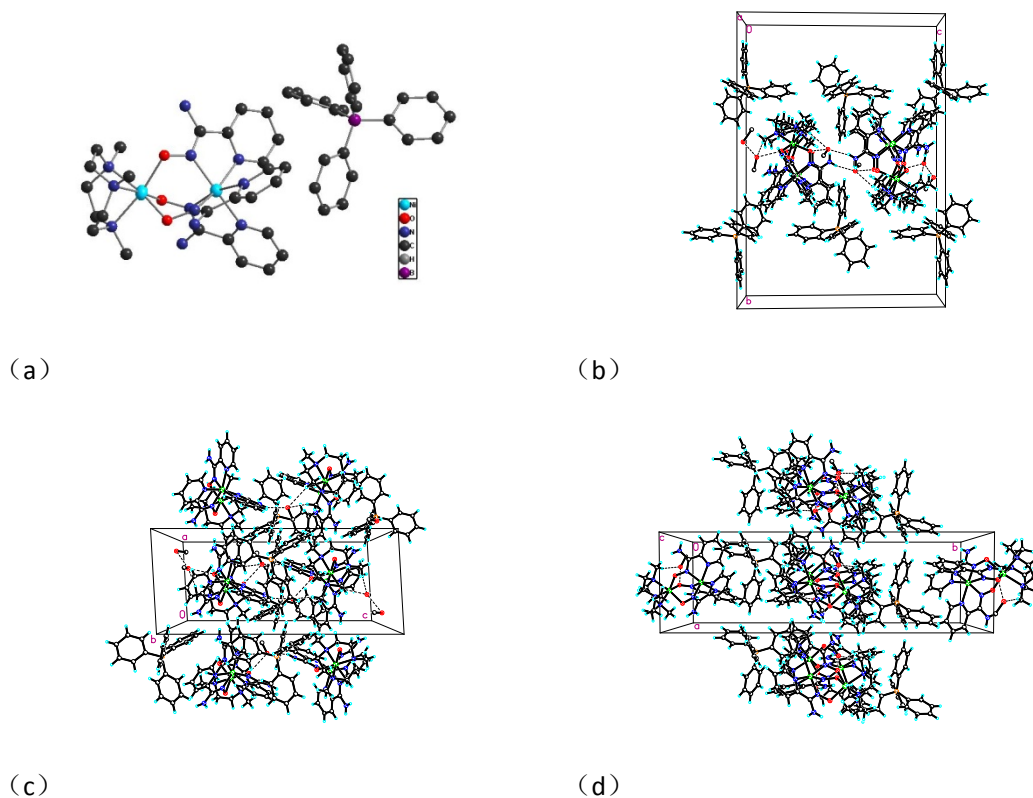
Fig. S1. Infrared spectra for complexes 1-4.



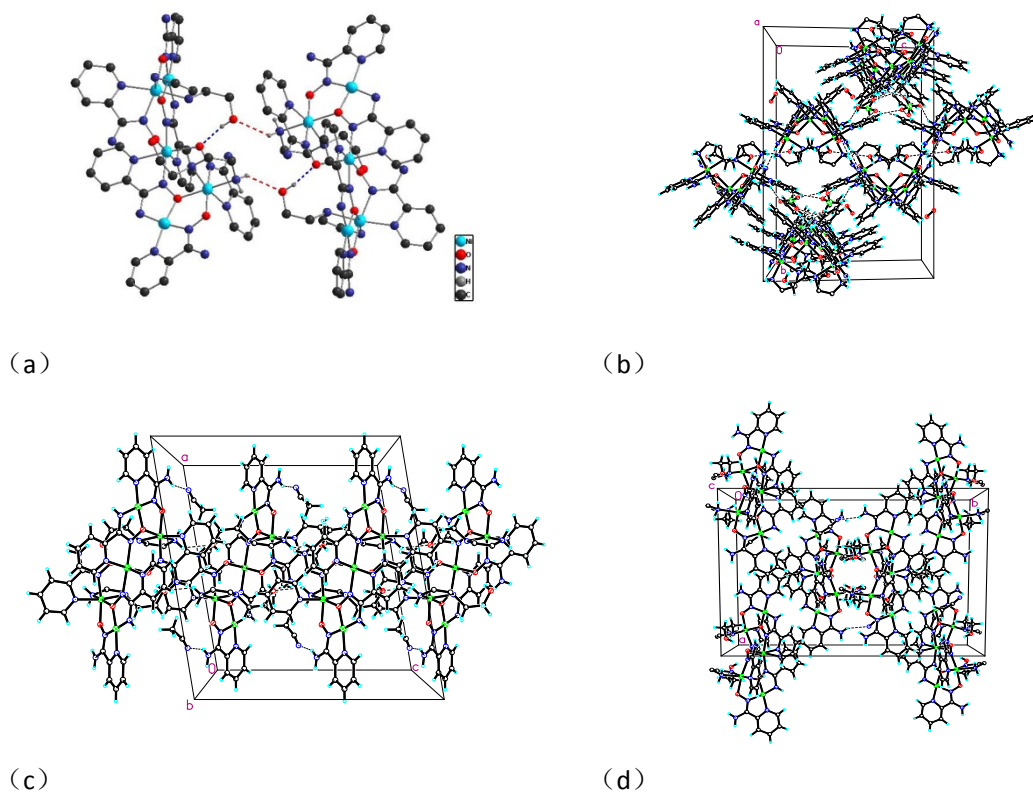
*Fig. S2.* (a) Top view of the molecular structure of the complex **1**. (b-d) Cell packing diagrams along the a, b and c axis, respectively, showing the intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions.



*Fig. S3.* (a) Top view of the molecular structure of the complex **2**. (b-d) Cell packing diagrams along the a, b and c axis, respectively, showing the intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions.



*Fig. S4.* (a) Top view of the molecular structure of the complex 3. (b-d) Cell packing diagrams along the *a*, *b* and *c* axis, respectively, showing the intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions.



*Fig. S5.* (a) Intra- and inter-molecular hydrogen bond in complex 4. (b-d) Cell packing diagrams along the *a*, *b* and *c* axis, respectively, showing the intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions.

**Table S1. Comparison of structural and magnetic coupling via the N-O bridges  
for oximato-bridged Ni(II) complexes**

| Compounds                                                                                               | $J/\text{cm}^{-1}$ | $d_{\text{N-O}}/\text{\AA}$ | Torsion angle/ $^{\circ}$ | ref       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| $\text{K}_4[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6][\text{Ni}_8(\text{Hvi})_{10}(\text{H}_2\text{vi})_2]$      | -30                | 0.932-1.265                 | 166.63-177.67             | 24        |
| $\text{Ni}_2(\text{moda})_2(\text{Odien})_2(\text{ClO}_4)_2$                                            | -32.0              | 1.310                       | 7.05                      | 19        |
| $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{pao})_3(\text{Me}_3\text{tacn})]\text{ClO}_4$                                       | -33.6              | 1.326(3)–1.338(3)           | 41.3–44.3                 | 15        |
| $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{tren}(\text{DO}))_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                                               | -39.5              | 1.327, 1.347                | 23.38, 34.63              | 27        |
| $[\text{Ni}_5\text{Br}_3(\text{MeO})_4(\text{pyC}\{\text{CN}\}\text{NO})_3(\text{MeOH})_6]$             | -25.7              | 1.312(3)                    | 38.3(3)                   | 26        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{L}^1)_4\text{Cl}_2(\text{MeOH})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                                 | -11.1              | 1.395(4)                    | 38.2, 39.7, 70.9, 71.2    | 23        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{L}^1)_4(\text{N}_3)_2(\text{MeOH})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                              | -11.4              | 1.388(2), 1.392(2)          | 34.2, 41.3, 68.5, 73.0    | 23        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{L}^2)_4(\text{pyz})_2(\text{PhCOO})_2(\text{MeOH})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$              | -5.4               | 1.391(2), 1.395(3)          | 41.5, 41.7, 68.3, 69.0    | 23        |
| $[\text{Ni}_3(\text{Dtox})(\text{DtoxH})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                                            | -7.6(11)           | 1.391(5), 1.394(5)          | 69.5, 75.7                | 29        |
| $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{HL}^3)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                                                          | -12                | 1.388(4)                    | 70.4                      | 20        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{HL}^4)_2(\text{AcO})_2(\text{MeOH})]$                                               | -16                | 1.378(3)                    | 132.7                     | 28        |
| $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{Br-pao})_3(\text{Me}_3\text{tacn})]\text{ClO}_4$ ( <b>1</b> )                       | -16.7              | 1.324(8)-1.337(9)           | 47.2-50.4                 | This work |
| $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{Br-pao})_3(\text{Me}_3\text{tacn})]\text{BF}_4$ ( <b>2</b> )                        | -17.7              | 1.324(1)-1.341(8)           | 45.6-51.9                 | This work |
| $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{Hpyaox})_3(\text{Me}_3\text{tacn})]\text{BPh}_4$ ( <b>3</b> )                       | -18.5              | 1.371(3)-1.377(3)           | 38.3-40.9                 | This work |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{dpt})_2(\text{N}_3)_4(\text{py}_2\text{CNO})_4]$                                    | -14.4              | 1.330(2)                    | 18.0(2)                   | 25        |
| $[\text{Ni}_5(3\text{-ClBzO})_2(\text{dapdo})_2(\text{Hdapdo})_2\text{-}(\text{dca})_2(\text{MeOH})_2]$ | -0.25(10)          | 1.385(2)                    | 103.3(2)                  | 21        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpzaox})_2(\text{pzaox})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$                   | -0.35(5)           | 1.383(12)                   | 2.23                      | 10        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{AcO})_3(\text{dapdo})(\text{Hdapdo})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]\text{-}(\text{AcO})$  | +0.58              | 1.387(4)                    | 92.5(2)                   | 22        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpyaox})_2(\text{pyaox})_2(\text{Him})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                          | +1.9               | 1.413(10)                   | 2.8                       | 8         |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpyaox})_2(\text{pyaox})_2(\text{py})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                           | +1.6               | 1.410(3)                    | 10.55                     | 11        |
| $[\text{Ni}_5(\text{Hpyaox})_4(\text{pyaox})_2\text{L}_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ ( <b>4</b> )                 | +3.12              | 1.404(5), 1.365(5)          | 8.3(5), 75.7(4)           | This work |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpyaox})_2(\text{pyaox})_2(4\text{-CH}_3\text{py})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$              | +3.4               | 1.418(8)                    | 13.41                     | 11        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpyaox})_2(\text{pyaox})_2(3\text{-CH}_3\text{py})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$              | +6.3               | 1.411(5), 1.419(5)          | 10.05, 11.32              | 11        |
| $\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpyaox})_2(\text{pyaox})_2(1\text{-CH}_3\text{im})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$               | +2.28              | 1.395(3)                    | 7.96                      | 11        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpzaox})_2(\text{pzaox})_2(\text{py})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                           | +1.19(5)           | 1.409(4)                    | 5.15                      | 10        |
| $[\text{Ni}_4(\text{Hpzaox})_2(\text{pzaox})_2(\text{py})_4](\text{NO}_3)_2$                            | +4.8(2)            | 1.402(4)                    | 0                         | 10        |
| $[\text{Ni}_8(\text{Hpyaox})_4(\text{pyaox})_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]\text{Br}_4$                       | +0.442             | 1.420(13), 1.415(15)        | 18.70, 18.40              | 11        |
| $[\text{Ni}_8(\text{Hpyaox})_4(\text{pyaox})_4(\text{Him})_4](\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$              | +2.03              | 1.417(11), 1.460(11)        | 11.32, 2.80               | 11        |

|                                                                                                         |       |                                 |              |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--------------|----|
| $[\text{Ni}_{12}(\text{Hpyaox})_6(\text{pyaox})_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\text{Cl}_6$                    | +1.04 | 1.400(6), 1.417(6),<br>1.427(6) | 11.06, 12.31 | 11 |
| $[\text{Ni}_8(\text{Hpyaox})_4(\text{pyaox})_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$                  | +3.10 | 1.404(4)–1.418(4)               | 16.2–21.1    | 8  |
| $[\text{Ni}_{12}(\text{Hpyaox})_6(\text{pyaox})_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{N}_3)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_4$ | +0.24 | 1.401(8)–1.429(8)               | 0.8–15.5     | 8  |
| $[\text{Ni}_{12}(\text{Hpyaox})_6(\text{pyaox})_6(\text{MeOH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\text{Cl}_4$                | +2.28 | 1.393(5)–1.412(5)               | 11.2–19.8    | 9  |

$\text{H}_3\text{vi}$ , 5-(hydroxyimino)-2,4,6-(1H,3H,5H)-pyrimidinetrione; Hmoda, 2,3-butanedione monoxime; Odien, 1,5-diamino-3-oxapentane;  $\text{Me}_3\text{tacn}$ , 1,4,7-trimethyl-1,4,7-triazacyclononane;  $\text{pao}^-$ , anion of pyridine-2-aldoxime; Htren(DO), 1:1 Schiff base from 2,3-butanedione monoxime and tris[2-aminoethyl]amine; 4- $\text{CH}_3\text{py}$ , 4-methylpyridine; 3- $\text{CH}_3\text{py}$ , 3-methylpyridine;  $\text{HL}^1$ , bipyridine-2-carboxamideoxime;  $\text{HL}^2$ , pyrimidine-2-carboxamideoxime;  $\text{DtoxH}_2$ , 4,7-dithiadecane-2,9-dione dioxime;  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^3$ , 4,4,9,9-tetramethyl-5,8-diazadodecane-2,11-dione dioxime;  $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4$ , N,N'-dimethyl-N,N'-ethylene-bis(5-bromo-3-formyloxime-2-hydroxybenzylamine);  $\text{H}_2\text{dapdo}$ , 2,6-diacetylpyridine dioxime; dpt, dipropylenetriamine;  $\text{Hpy}_2\text{CNO}$ , dipyridylketoneoxime;  $\text{HpyC}\{\text{CN}\}\text{NO}$ , 2-pyridylcyanoxime;  $\text{H}_2\text{pzaox}$ , pyrazine-2-amidoxime.

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