Published online 27 April 2018 | https://doi.org/10.1007/s40843-018-9268-0 Sci China Mater 2019, 62(1): 122-129



# Self-assembled energetic coordination polymers based on multidentate pentazole *cyclo*-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>

Peng-Cheng Wang<sup>†</sup>, Yuan-Gang Xu<sup>†</sup>, Qian Wang, Yan-Li Shao, Qiu-Han Lin<sup>\*</sup> and Ming Lu<sup>\*</sup>

ABSTRACT Coordination to form polymer is emerging as a new technology for modifying or enhancing the properties of the existed energetic substances in energetic materials area. In this work, guanidine cation  $CN_3H_6^+$  (Gu) and 3-amino-1,2,4triazole C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (ATz) were crystallized into NaN<sub>5</sub> and two novel energetic coordination polymers (CPs), (NaN<sub>5</sub>)<sub>5</sub>[(CH<sub>6</sub>- $N_3N_5[(N_5)_3^{-}(1) \text{ and } (NaN_5)_2(C_2H_4N_4) (2) \text{ were prepared re$ spectively via a self-assembly process. The crystal structure reveals the co-existence of the chelating pentazole anion and organic component in the solid state. In polymer 1, Na<sup>+</sup> and N<sub>5</sub> were coordinated to form a cage structure in which guanidine cation  $[C(NH_2)_3]^+$  was trapped; for polymer 2, a mixedligand system was observed; N5 and ATz coordinate separately with Na<sup>+</sup> and form two independent but interweaved nets. In this way, coordination polymer has been successfully utilized to modify specific properties of energetic materials through crystallization. Benefiting from the coordination and weak interactions, the decomposition temperatures of both polymers increase from 111°C (1D structure [Na(H<sub>2</sub>O)(N<sub>5</sub>)] ·2H<sub>2</sub>O) to 118.4 and 126.5°C respectively. Moreover, no crystallized H<sub>2</sub>O was generated in products to afford the anhydrous compounds of pentazole salts with high heats of formation (>800 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>). Compared to traditional energetic materials, the advantage in heats of formation is still obvious for the cyclo- $N_5^-$  based CPs, which highlights cyclo- $N_5^-$  as a promising energetic precursor for high energy density materials (HEDMs).

Keywords: pentazole, energetic coordination polymers, self-assembled, stability, high heats of formation

#### INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, nitrogen-rich and poly-nitrogen compounds have received significant attention due to their interesting chemical properties and potentiality to serve as environmentally friendly high energy density materials (HEDMs) [1–3]. These species release a large amount of energy during the decomposition of single/ double bonded nitrogen in the condensed phase into triple-bonded gas-phase inert  $N_2$  molecules. Nitrogenrich compounds constitute a large family of interesting compounds, which are certainly no less active than the traditional CHON energetic materials [4,5]. It is worth noting that they have boosted the development of energetic salts [6–8], energetic coordination polymers (CPs, also defined as energetic metal organic frameworks (MOFs) in some cases) [9–11], and energetic co-crystals [12,13], and thus significantly expanded the range of energetic materials.

In contrast, the experimental difficulties in studying poly-nitrogen compounds have delayed their contribution to the field of energetic materials. For a very long time, only the azide anion was used to produce energetic salts or simple CPs [14,15]. In 1999, a major breakthrough in poly-nitrogen area was achieved with the preparation of the N<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> ion and its relative stable energetic salts were subsequently synthesized [16,17]. Unfortunately, owing to the unstable bonding interactions with other anions, further developments of  $N_5^+$  ion have been limited. The pentazole anion cyclo-N5<sup>-</sup> was first detected in 2002 via mass spectrometry (MS) [18,19] and was not adopted for bulk production until recently [20-26]. However, the anhydrous pentazole sample  $NaN_5$  [21] and CsN<sub>5</sub> [22] were only observed under extreme high pressure and the metal-pentazole hydrates [24-26] decomposed in the range of 100-110°C. Both high pressure preparing method and hydrates samples are the disadvantages in terms of their application. Fortunately, the cyclo-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> anion shows good adaptability to take part in ionic, coordination, and hydrogen bonding interactions [24,27]. Furthermore, there is a possibility to form either energetic CPs or co-crystals by self-assembling, which is a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> School of Chemical Engineering, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Nanjing, 210094, China

 $<sup>^{\</sup>dagger}$  These authors contributed equally to this study.

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding authors (emails: linqh@njust.edu.cn (Lin QH); luming@njust.edu.cn (Lu M))

new technology for modifying or enhancing the properties of existing energetic substances.

In this work, anhydrous coordination polymers  $(NaN_5)_5[(CH_6N_3)N_5](N_5)^-_3$  (1) and  $(NaN_5)_2(C_2H_4N_4)$  (2) have been synthesized with ion exchange method. The formation of these crystals is mainly assisted by coordination bonding between the metal ion Na<sup>+</sup>, inorganic *cyclo*-N<sub>5</sub> and organic components, which exceed the range of MOFs and shall be classified as CPs. Moreover, the diverse structure and thermal stabilization reveal another advantage of the crystal approach to access explosives with high performance.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

#### Safety precautions

**Caution!** The energetic coordination polymers with cyclo-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> are partly extremely high energetic compounds that may detonate violently; therefore they should be handled only on a very small scale while using appropriate safety precautions (safety glasses, face shield, leather coat, earthen equipment and shoes, Kevlar gloves and ear plugs).

#### Materials and methods

All reagents and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Aladdin, and Energy Chemical as analytical grade and were used as received. The single crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were conducted on a Bruker Smart Apex II diffractometer using Mo-Ka radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) with a graphite monochromator at 170 K. XRD data were collected with Cu Ka radiation on Bruker D8 ADVANCE scanning from 10° to 80°. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) spectra were recorded on a Thermo Nicolet IS10 instrument. Raman spectra were collected using a Horiba-Jobin Yvon Labram HR800 Raman spectrometer with a 514.532 nm  $Ar^+$  laser. A 50× objective was used to focus the laser beam. Differential scanning calorimeter (DSC) plots were acquired on a differential scanning calorimeter (Mettler Toledo DSC-1) at a scan rate of 5°C min<sup>-1</sup> in perforated stainless steel containers under a nitrogen flow of 50 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Transmission electron microscope (TEM) was performed on FEI Tecnai G2 F30 S-TWIN.

All computations were performed using the Gaussian 09 program [28] invoking hybrid HF-DFT calculations with the three-parameter gradient-corrected exchange potential of Becke and the gradient-corrected correlation potential of Lee, Yang, and Parr (B3LYP) [29,30] using the 6-311G\* basis set. The structures were optimized for

energy minimization before spectra acquisition and frequency calculations. The wave-functions of coordination polymers generated from Gaussian were imported into the software Multiwfn [31] to calculate the reduced density gradient (RDG) which was used for revealing noncovalent interactions [32] analysis.

#### Crystallography

Integration and scaling of intensity data was accomplished using the SAINT program [33]. The structures were solved by intrinsic using SHELXT2014 and refinement was carried out by a full-matrix least-squares technique using SHELXT2014 [34]. The hydrogen atoms were refined isotropically, and the heavy atoms were refined anisotropically. N–H and O–H hydrogens were located from different electron density maps, and C–H hydrogens were placed in calculated positions and refined with a riding model. Data were corrected for the effects of absorption using SADABS [35].

#### Synthetic procedures

 $[Na(H_2O)(N_5)]$ ·2H<sub>2</sub>O: This compound was prepared according to our previously reported methods [21]. A solution of arylpentazole (5.000 g, 26.18 mmol) and ferrous glycinate (8.600 g, 42.16 mmol) in a mixed solution of 100 mL methyl alcohol and 100 mL acetonitrile was stirred at -47°C. After 30 min, metachloroperbenzoic acid (85%, 19.25 g, 94.82 mmol) was added in portions. The reaction mixture was maintained at -43°C for 24 h. The precipitate was removed by filtration, and the filtrate was vaporized under reduced pressure. The residue was suspended in 200 mL of water. The precipitate was filtered off and washed with 50 mL water. The filtrate was concentrated. After removing all the solvent under vacuum, the residue was purified by chromatography with ethyl alcohol/ethyl acetate (1:10-1:3 gradient elution). Crude NaN<sub>5</sub> hydrate was obtained as an off-white product (427 mg, 19.56%).

 $[Na_5(CH_6N_3)(N_5)_9]^{3-}$  (1): 1.0 mmol of  $[Na(H_2O)-(N_5)]\cdot 2H_2O$  (147 mg) and 1.0 mmol of guanidine hydrochloride (95.5 mg) was added to 15 mL methanol. The colorless solution was evaporated to dryness followed by repeated recrystallization in anhydrous ethanol to remove the sodium nitrate. Single crystal of **2** was obtained by maintaining 95% alcohol solutions at ambient temperature for several days. Colorless crystals; yield: 80%;  $T_d$  = 118.4°C; IR (KBr): = 3,473, 3,354, 3,161, 1,653, 1,354, 1,225, 1,013, 729 cm<sup>-1</sup>; Raman (514.532 nm, 25°C): 1,172, 1,008, 118 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

 $[(NaN_5)_2(C_2H_4N_4)]$  (2): 1.0 mmol of  $[Na(H_2O)-$ 

# ARTICLES

Sample	1	2		
CCDC	1544794	1575478		
Empirical formula	CH <sub>6</sub> N <sub>48</sub> Na <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> N <sub>7</sub> Na		
Temperature (K)	170	173		
Crystal system	Hexagonal	Trigonal		
Space group	<i>P</i> 6 <sub>3</sub> / <i>mmc</i>	P3 <sub>2</sub> 21		
a (Å)	13.5635(11)	9.687(4)		
b (Å)	13.5635(11)	9.687(4)		
c (Å)	13.8295(12)	9.585(4)		
α (°)	90.00	90.00		
β (°)	90.00	90.00		
γ (°)	120.00	120.00		
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2203.3(4)	779.0(6)		
Ζ	1.99992	6		
$ ho_{\rm calc}~({\rm g~cm}^{-3})$	1.214	1.728		
$\mu \ (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	0.139	0.205		
F(000)	806.0	408.0		
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.28×0.17×0.12	0.28×0.15×0.12		
2θ (°)	3.468 to 54.93	4.856 to 54.766		
Reflections collected	11891	1948		
$R_{\rm int}/R_{ m sigma}$	0.0564/0.0276	0.0503/0.0809		
Data/restraints/ parameters	975/0/54	1160/6/85		
GOF on $F^2$	1.048	1.046		
$R_1/wR_2 \ [I>= 2\sigma \ (I)]$	0.0339/0.0821	0.0485/0.1105		
$R_1/wR_2$ [all data]	0.0457/0.0879	0.0607/0.1240		
Largest diff. peak/hole (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.25/-0.23	0.27/-0.26		

 Table 1
 Crystal data and structure refinement details of CPs 1 and 2

 $(N_5)$ ]·2H<sub>2</sub>O (147 mg) and 1.0 mmol of 4-amino-1,2,4triazole (84 mg) was added to 15 mL methanol. Colorless rod-like crystal of **2** was obtained by maintaining the solutions at ambient temperature for several days. Colorless crystals; yield: 82%;  $T_d = 126.5^{\circ}$ C; IR (KBr): =3,367, 3,292, 3,123, 2,988, 2,038, 1,614, 1,517, 1,451, 1,370, 1,229, 1,188, 1,070, 974, 945, 872, 670, 624 cm<sup>-1</sup>; Raman (514.532 nm, 25°C): 3,321, 1,635, 1,553, 1,005, 525 cm<sup>-1</sup>; Elemental analysis calcd. (%) for Na<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>14</sub> (270.13): H 1.49, N 72.59; found: H 1.51, N 72.51.

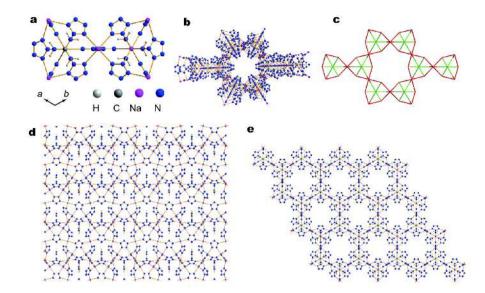
#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### Crystal structure

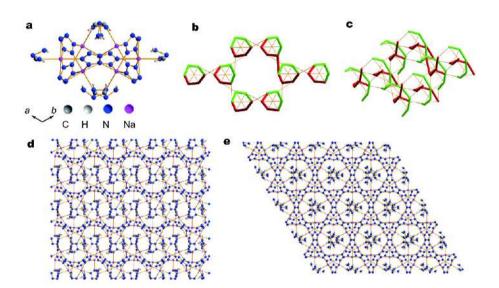
The prepared CPs are analyzed by single-crystal XRD as shown in Table 1. Polymer 1 crystallizs into a 3D porous metal-inorganic framework with hexagonal crystal sys-

tem and belongs to the P63/mmc space group. Here the polymer 1 represents a negatively charged structure, because sometimes charge-balancing cations in the cages is irregular and cannot be directly located in the crystal structure analysis. The detailed crystallographic data are provided in Supplementary Tables S1-S3. As depicted in Fig. 1, each sodium center Na(I) is hexahedral linked to pentazole linkers (Na-N bond length 2.462-2.499Å), involving a  $\eta^1$ -bonding-type coordination. There are two types of pentazole rings in polymer 1. The first type is one N<sub>5</sub> ring attached to three Na(I) ions with coordination angle of ~90 and 140° (Na-N5-Na), analogous to imidazolate rings in zeolite-imidazolate frameworks (ZIFs). The N atoms in these N<sub>5</sub> rings are not completely coplane, with N1-N2-N3-N4 and N1-N5-N4-N3 torsion angles of 0.5° and 0.7°, respectively. The second type is one N<sub>5</sub> ring attached to four Na(I) ions with coordination angle of ~150° (Na-N<sub>5</sub>-Na). These N<sub>5</sub> rings and Na(I) are of perfect planarity and the plane is perpendicular to c axis. Moreover, the N<sub>5</sub> rings in both types do not have identical N-N bond lengths with average values found to be 1.316 and 1.320 Å respectively. Through these connection modes, 8 Na(I) ions and 9 N<sub>5</sub> rings stitch into a cage of a ~7.5 Å diameter cavity with guanidine cation [C  $(NH_2)_3^{\dagger}$  placed in it. The cage as a repeat unit is further extended into microporous zeolite-like 3D framework with SOD topology (Fig. 1c). Upon removal of guest molecules, the structure of polymer 1 has a porosity of  $\sim$ 35%, as calculated with PLATON software [36].

In contrast to CP 1, both N<sub>5</sub> and 4-amino-1,2,4-triazole (ATz) rings act as a linker in 2 and form a different kind of 3D porous framework with trigonal crystals in the P3<sub>2</sub>21 space group (Tables S4, S5). As shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. S4, all of the N atoms in the pentazole ring are coordinated to Na(I). The atoms N2 and N5 participate in constructing the DNA-like double helix structure. The atoms N1, N3, and N4, together with the N atoms in the ATz ring form links between the different helices, whose dihedral angle with the ab plane is ~70°. The N atoms in these N<sub>5</sub> rings are not perfectly coplanar, with N1-N2-N3-N4 and N1-N5-N4-N3 torsion angles being 0.5° and 0.2°, respectively. As all of the N atoms in the  $N_5$  rings are in the same chemical environment that is affected by the weak coordination with the Na(I) ion and all the Na-N bond length being  $\sim 2.5$  Å, the N<sub>5</sub> ring retains almost identical N-N bond lengths; these bonds are of length 1.317 Å. Six groups of double helices construct a channel of 9.5 Å diameter, similar to that in zeolites (Fig. 2c). However, in contrast to the typical zeolites, the channel in 2 is filled with coordinated ATz rings, which implies that



**Figure 1** Crystal structure of **1**. (a) The coordination mode of Na<sup>+</sup> in CP 1. (b) Perspective view of the coordination mode along c axis. (c) A topological net of simplified unit cell. (d) Unit cell stacking diagram view along b axis (4×4×4). (e) Unit cell stacking diagram view along c axis (4×4×4). Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and sodium atoms are shown in gray, white, blue, red, and purple respectively.



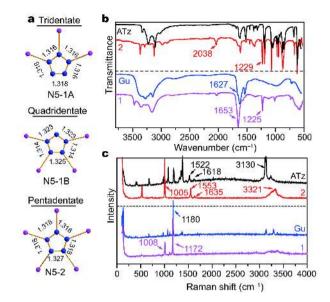
**Figure 2** Crystal structure of **2**. (a) The coordination mode of Na<sup>+</sup> in CP **2**. (b) A topological net of simplified unit cell. (c) Two-helical structure of simplified unit cell. (d) Unit cell stacking diagram view along *a* axis ( $4 \times 4 \times 4$ ). (e) Unit cell stacking diagram view along *c* axis ( $4 \times 4 \times 4$ ). Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and sodium atoms are shown in gray, white, blue, red, and purple respectively.

the polymer is not porous.

#### Spectra analysis

A comparison of the spectra of CPs **1** and **2** together with that of the starting material is shown in Fig. 3. This figure reveals that several band shifts occur when the three CPs are formed. Furthermore, it indicates the existence of weak interactions between the individual components even when they are not directly coordinated. Both the coordination bond and weak interactions cause a deformation of  $cyclo-N_5^-$  in frameworks. From the geometric parameters of the N<sub>5</sub> ring in 1 and 2, it can be concluded that the tri- and tetradentate  $cyclo-N_5^-$  (N<sub>5</sub>-1A and N<sub>5</sub>-1B in 1), pentadentate  $cyclo-N_5^-$  anion (N<sub>5</sub>-2) all represent  $C_{2v}$  symmetry. However, the coordination effect between Na<sup>+</sup> and  $cyclo-N_5^-$  in the CPs is weaker than that

## ARTICLES



**Figure 3** Geometric parameter, FT-IR and Raman spectra of CPs 1 and 2. (a) Bond length of tri- quadri-, and pentadentate-*cyclo*- $N_5^-$  in CPs 1 and 2. (b) FT-IR spectra of CPs 1 and 2, Gu (guanidine hydrochloride), and ATz (4-amino-1,2,4-triazole). (c) Raman spectra of CPs 1 and 2, Gu, and ATz.

of previously reported transition metal-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> complexes. So the bond lengths in cyclo- $N_5^-$ , especially  $N_5$ -2, vary slightly and they are also close to  $D_{5h}$  symmetry, with IR spectra at 1,225 and 1,229 cm<sup>-1</sup> observed respectively in Fig. 3a. From Raman spectra, the typical cyclo- $N_5^-$  in  $C_{2v}$ symmetry with significantly different bond length in N<sub>5</sub>-1B compared with previous transition metal complexes represents a strong peak at 1,170–1,190 cm<sup>-1</sup> in Fig. 3b; the other cyclo- $N_5^-$  in  $C_{2v}$  symmetry including  $N_5$ -1A and  $N_5$ -2 with similar bond length which is also close to  $D_{5h}$ symmetry shows a strong peak at 1,000–1,010 cm<sup>-1</sup>. That is to say although N<sub>5</sub>-1A and N<sub>5</sub>-2 belongs to  $C_{2v}$  symmetry in theoretical, but they indeed present the properties of D<sub>5h</sub> symmetry because of very close N-N bond length. Combining previous reports and the results of this paper, cyclo-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> can provide up to five coordination positions and all of them show  $C_{2v}$  symmetry. The absolute configuration of  $D_{\rm 5h}$  symmetry is difficult to be achieved even in the pentadentate  $cyclo-N_5^-$  (N<sub>5</sub>-2) in which each N atom is at almost the same chemical conditions or nondentate cyclo- $N_5^{-}$  [Mg(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub>(N<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]·4H<sub>2</sub>O [23].

The experimental powder XRD (PXRD) patterns for the CPs **1** and **2** are shown in Fig. S4. Comparison of the experimental XRD pattern with the calculated pattern for the simulated unit cell shows good agreement of the reflection positions. The PXRD patterns of the CPs differed from those of the constituents, confirming the formation

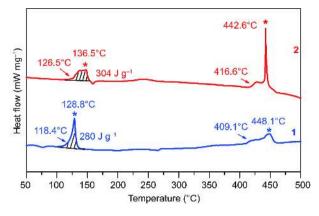


Figure 4 Differential scanning calorimetry spectra of CPs 1 and 2. The point of decomposition temperature is onset temperature.

of a new complex phase. HRTEM pictures confirm the new formed phases of prepared samples are highly ordered structures (Fig. S5); meanwhile, they also show that the *cyclo*- $N_5^-$  is unstable under electron beam.

#### Thermal properties

The DSC curves of the synthesized CPs are shown in Fig. 4. No endothermic peaks can be observed below 100°C, which suggests that the polymers contain very little water. The first exothermic peak of 1 and 2 is observed at 118.4 and 126.5°C (onset temperature). This suggests a decomposition of the CPs takes place during the heating sequence and from an assessment of the amount of heat released. The products of CPs 1 and 2 heated at 118.4 and 126.5°C were tested with FeCl<sub>3</sub> solution and the color of solution turned into red, which indicated that both of them have decomposed from  $cyclo-N_5^-$  to  $N_3^-$  (Fig. S6). The decomposition point, compared with that of the 1D structure [Na(H<sub>2</sub>O)(N<sub>5</sub>)]·2H<sub>2</sub>O, is increased by 7.4 and 15.5°C in 1 and 2, respectively. These observations indicate that the coordination and hydrogen bonding interactions (Fig. S7) is beneficial for stabilizing the N<sub>5</sub> ring. From another point of view, the identical N-N bond lengths are indicative of better conjugation and stability.

#### **Detonation properties**

The heat of detonation is greatly affected by the standard enthalpies of formation of energetic CPs, which is calculated using their constant-volume combustion energies. The constant-volume combustion energies ( $Q_V$ ) of CP **1** and **2** were measured by an oxygen-bomb calorimeter, from which the standard molar enthalpy of combustion ( $\Delta_C H_m^{\text{e}}$ ) is estimated by using an equation  $\Delta_C H_m^{\text{e}} = \Delta_C U_m^{\text{e}}$ + $\Delta nRT$ . The standard enthalpies of formation for CP **1** 

		-						
	$\frac{\rho^{a}}{(g \text{ cm}^{-3})}$	N <sup>b</sup> (%)	Ω <sup>c</sup> (%)	$\Delta H_{\rm f}^{\rm d}$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$T_{\rm d}^{\rm e}$ (°C)	$Q^{\rm f}$ (kcal $g^{-1}$ )	$D^{g}$ (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	P <sup>h</sup> (GPa)
1	1.19	83.48	-14.9	1015	118.4	0.329	4407	6.5
2	1.70	72.59	-41.5	902	126.5	1.650	7863	26.4
HMX	1.90	37.84	-21.6	105	279	1.320	8900	38.4
RDX	1.81	37.84	-21.6	80	210	1.386	8600	33.9
TNT	1.65	18.50	-74.0	-67	290	0.897	7178	20.5

Table 2 Properties of 1 and 2 and comparison with TNT, RDX, and HMX

a) Recalculated from low-temperature X-ray densities ( $\rho = \rho_T / (1 + \alpha_V (298 - T_0)); \alpha_V = 1.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ). b) Nitrogen content. c) Oxygen balance. d) Calculated heat of formation. e) Thermal decomposition temperature (onset) under nitrogen gas (DSC, 5°C min<sup>-1</sup>). f) The heat of detonation. g) Detonation velocity. h) Detonation pressure.

and **2** are obtained *via* the known  $\Delta_f H_m^{\ \theta}$  of the combustion products and  $\Delta_C H_m^{\ \theta}$  of CP **1** and **2** (see ESI).

Heat of detonation (Q), detonation velocity (D), and detonation pressure (P) are pivotal parameters for energetic CPs. On the basis of the largest exothermic principle proposed by Kamlet-Jacobs (K-J) [37], We employed a widely used empirical method [38,39] proposed by Pang and coworkers [40] to investigate the detonation properties of metal-containing energetic CPs. The detonation reactions of CP 1 and 2 are described by Equation S5, 6, and the detonation properties are calculated by K–J equations (see Supporting Information). As shown in Table 2, the nitrogen contents (>66%) and heats of formation (>800 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) for the two CPs are much higher than those of the traditional energetic materials (TNT, RDX, and HMX). But only the heat of detonation for CP **2** (1.65 kcal  $g^{-1}$ ) is higher than those of TNT, RDX, HMX, and CL-20 (about 1.5 kcal  $g^{-1}$ ). The *D* and *P* of CP 2 are calculated to be 7,863 m s $^{-1}$  and 26.44 GPa, respectively, which are slightly higher than TNT. The poor detonation performance of CP 1 is attributed to their low density ( $<1.3 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) caused by porous structure. From another point of view, this porous structure may hold other small energetic materials and improve the energetic performance.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

The target of our designs is to obtain multidimensional structure that possess the potential high energy (provided by  $N_5$ ) and better stability compared with previously reported species (through coordination and hydrogen bonding provided by framework). With this strategy, guanidine hydrochloride and ATz standing for the cation and neutral molecule with similar size are employed to coordinate with NaN<sub>5</sub>. Two novel energetic CPs,  $(NaN_5)_5$ - $[(CH_6N_3)N_5](N_5)^-_3$  and  $(NaN_5)_2(C_2H_4N_4)$ , were synthesized and characterized. From crystal structure analysis,

the cyclo-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> anion shows a unique coordination ability that some other polynitrogen species do not have. In CPs 1 and 2, it can form tri-, quadri- and pentadentate with central Na<sup>+</sup> due to the various coordination positions and represents two different structures. As a result of the coordination effect, hydrogen bonding and structural modification, cyclo-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> anions in CPs 1 and 2 possess better thermal stability (118.4 and 126.5°C as onset decomposition temperature) than that in NaN<sub>5</sub> and its hydrate  $[Na(H_2O)(N_5)] \cdot 2H_2O.$ Moreover, the fully coordination of possible positions prevents H<sub>2</sub>O entering the crystal and generates anhydrate compounds, which is a big forward step to obtain final energetic materials. The 3D CPs 1 and 2 also show high heats of formation  $(>800 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})$ . Considering their detonation properties, the anhydrous products of sodium-pentazole species with better thermal stability and higher heats of formation are potential to being applied in HEDMs.

# Received 1 March 2018; accepted 30 March 2018; published online 27 April 2018

- Christe KO. Polynitrogen chemistry enters the ring. Science, 2017, 355: 351–351
- 2 Klapötke TM. Chemistry of High-Energy Materials. Boston: De Gruyter, 2017
- 3 Yin P, Shreeve JM. Advances in heterocyclic chemistry. London: Elsevier, 2017, 121: 89–131
- 4 Zhang Q, Shreeve J'M. Energetic ionic liquids as explosives and propellant fuels: a new journey of ionic liquid chemistry. Chem Rev, 2014, 114: 10527–10574
- 5 Singh RP, Gao H, Meshri DT, Shreeve JM. High Energy Density Materials. Berlin: Springer, 2007, 35–83
- 6 Chen SL, Yang ZR, Wang BJ, et al. Molecular perovskite highenergetic materials. Sci China Mater, 2018, 61: 1123–1128
- 7 Gao H, Shreeve J'M. Azole-based energetic salts. Chem Rev, 2011, 111: 7377–7436
- 8 Fischer N, Fischer D, Klapötke TM, et al. Pushing the limits of energetic materials—the synthesis and characterization of dihydroxylammonium 5,5'-bistetrazole-1,1'-diolate. J Mater Chem, 2012, 22: 20418–20422

# ARTICLES

- 9 Zhang S, Yang Q, Liu X, et al. High-energy metal-organic frameworks (HE-MOFs): Synthesis, structure and energetic performance. Coord Chem Rev, 2016, 307: 292–312
- 10 Li S, Wang Y, Qi C, *et al.* 3D energetic metal-organic frameworks: synthesis and properties of high energy materials. Angew Chem Int Ed, 2013, 52: 14031–14035
- 11 McDonald KA, Seth S, Matzger AJ. Coordination polymers with high energy density: an emerging class of explosives. Cryst Growth Des, 2015, 15: 5963–5972
- 12 Zhang J, Shreeve JM. Time for pairing: cocrystals as advanced energetic materials. CrystEngComm, 2016, 18: 6124–6133
- 13 Landenberger KB, Bolton O, Matzger AJ. Energetic-energetic cocrystals of diacetone diperoxide (DADP): dramatic and divergent sensitivity modifications *via* cocrystallization. J Am Chem Soc, 2015, 137: 5074–5079
- 14 Haiges R, Boatz JA, Vij A, *et al.* Polyazide chemistry: preparation and characterization of  $Te(N_3)_4$  and  $[P(C_6H_5)_4]_2[Te(N_3)_6]$  and evidence for  $[N(CH_3)_4][Te(N_3)_5]$ . Angew Chem Int Ed, 2003, 42: 5847–5851
- 15 Fehlhammer WP, Beck W. Azide chemistry—an inorganic perspective, part I metal–azides: overview, general trends and recent developments. Z Anorg Allg Chem, 2013, 639: 1053–1082
- 16 Christe KO, Wilson WW, Sheehy JA, et al. N<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>: a novel homoleptic polynitrogen ion as a high energy density material. Angew Chem Int Ed, 1999, 38: 2004–2009
- 17 Haiges R, Schneider S, Schroer T, *et al.* High-energy-density materials: synthesis and characterization of  $N_5^+[P(N_3)_6]^-$ ,  $N_5^+[B(N_3)_4]^-$ ,  $N_5^+[HF_2]^- \cdot nHF$ ,  $N_5^+[BF_4]^-$ ,  $N_5^+[PF_6]^-$ , and  $N_5^+[SO_3F]^-$ . Angew Chem Int Ed, 2004, 43: 4919–4924
- 18 Vij A, Pavlovich JG, Wilson WW, et al. Experimental detection of the pentaazacyclopentadienide (pentazolate) anion, cyclo-N<sub>5</sub>. Angew Chem Int Ed, 2002, 41: 3051–3054
- 19 Östmark H, Wallin S, Brinck T, *et al.* Detection of pentazolate anion (*cyclo-N<sub>5</sub>*<sup>-</sup>) from laser ionization and decomposition of solid *p*-dimethylaminophenylpentazole. Chem Phys Lett, 2003, 379: 539–546
- 20 Steele BA, Oleynik II. Sodium pentazolate: A nitrogen rich high energy density material. Chem Phys Lett, 2016, 643: 21–26
- 21 Bazanov B, Geiger U, Carmieli R, *et al.* Detection of *cyclo*- $N_5^-$  in THF solution. Angew Chem Int Ed, 2016, 55: 13233–13235
- 22 Steele BA, Stavrou E, Crowhurst JC, *et al.* High-pressure synthesis of a pentazolate salt. Chem Mater, 2017, 29: 735–741
- 23 Zhang C, Sun C, Hu B, et al. Synthesis and characterization of the pentazolate anioncyclo-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> in (N<sub>5</sub>)<sub>6</sub>(H<sub>3</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Cl. Science, 2017, 355: 374–376
- 24 Xu Y, Wang Q, Shen C, *et al.* A series of energetic metal pentazolate hydrates. Nature, 2017, 549: 78–81
- 25 Zhang C, Yang C, Hu B, et al. A symmetric Co(N<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O high-nitrogen compound formed by cobalt(II) cation trapping of a cyclo-N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> anion. Angew Chem Int Ed, 2017, 56: 4512–4514
- 26 Xu Y, Wang P, Lin Q, *et al.* A carbon-free inorganic–metal complex consisting of an all-nitrogen pentazole anion, a Zn(ii) cation and H<sub>2</sub>O. Dalton Trans, 2017, 46: 14088–14093
- 27 Zhang W, Wang K, Li J, et al. Stabilization of the pentazolate anion

in a zeolitic architecture with  $Na_{20}N_{60}$  and  $Na_{24}N_{60}$  nanocages. Angew Chem Int Ed, 2018, 57: 2592–2595

- 28 Frisch MJ, Trucks GW, Schlegel HB, et al. Gaussian 09, Revision A.02, Gaussian, Inc, Wallingford CT, 2009
- 29 Becke AD. Density-functional thermochemistry. III. The role of exact exchange. J Chem Phys, 1993, 98: 5648–5652
- 30 Lee C, Yang W, Parr RG. Development of the Colle-Salvetti correlation-energy formula into a functional of the electron density. Phys Rev B, 1988, 37: 785–789
- 31 Lu T, Chen F. Multiwfn: A multifunctional wavefunction analyzer. J Comput Chem, 2012, 33: 580–592
- 32 Johnson ER, Keinan S, Mori-Sanchez P, *et al.* Revealing noncovalent interactions. J Am Chem Soc, 2010, 132: 6498–6506
- 33 SAINT v7.68A Bruker AXS Inc: Madison, WI, 2009
- 34 Sheldrick GM. SHELXL-2014/7, University of Göttingen, Germany, 2014
- 35 SADABS v2008/1 Bruker AXS Inc.: Madison, WI, 2008
- 36 Spek AL. PLATON, An integrated tool for the analysis of the results of a single crystal structure determination. Acta Crystallogr sect A, 1990, 46: C34
- 37 Kamlet MJ, Jacobs SJ. Chemistry of detonations. I. A simple method for calculating detonation properties of C-H-N-O explosives. J Chem Phys, 1968, 48: 23-35
- 38 Zhang Y, Zhang S, Sun L, et al. A solvent-free dense energetic metal-organic framework (EMOF): to improve stability and energetic performance via in situ microcalorimetry. Chem Commun, 2017, 53: 3034–3037
- 39 Xu Y, Liu W, Li D, et al. In situ synthesized 3D metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) constructed from transition metal cations and tetrazole derivatives: a family of insensitive energetic materials. Dalton Trans, 2017, 46: 11046-11052
- 40 Wang Y, Zhang J, Su H, *et al.* A simple method for the prediction of the detonation performances of metal-containing explosives. J Phys Chem A, 2014, 118: 4575–4581

**Acknowledgements** This work was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (11702141, 21771108, and U1530101). The authors gratefully acknowledge Dongxue Li (College of Chemical Engineering, Nanjing Tech University) for her tests of the Raman spectra.

**Author contributions** Wang PC, Lin QH and Lu M conceived the idea, designed the experiments and co-wrote the manuscript. Wang PC and Xu YG conducted synthetic experiments, calculations, and performed the DSC, TGA, PXRD measurements. Wang Q and Shao YL assisted the synthetic experiments. Wang PC assisted the calculations. Xu YG performed the single-crystal XRD measurements. All authors discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

Conflict of interest The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Supplementary information** Experimental details and supporting data are available in the online version of the paper.

### **SCIENCE CHINA Materials**



**Pengcheng Wang** obtained his BSc in 2008 and PhD in 2013 at Nanjing University of Science and Technology (NJUST), and was a postdoc at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) from 2013 to 2014. He joined NJUST in 2014. His current research interest is in the synthesis and crystal engineering of energetic materials.



Yuangang Xu was born in 1990. He is a PhD candidate of applied chemistry in NJUST. His research focuses on the synthesis of nitrogen-rich energetic materials.



Qiuhan Lin obtained his BSc in 2008 and PhD in 2013 at Beijing Institute of Technology. He joined NJUST as an associate professor in 2014. His current research interest is in the synthesis and crystal engineering of energetic salts.



Ming Lu obtained his BSc in 1984, MSc in 1989 and PhD in 1999 at NJUST. He then became a professor in 2001. His current research interest focuses on the synthesis and crystal engineering of energetic materials, pharmaceutical intermediates and green chemistry.

#### 多齿五唑N5<sup>-</sup>的自组装纳米含能配位聚合物

#### 王鹏程<sup>†</sup>, 许元刚<sup>†</sup>, 王乾, 邵艳丽, 林秋汉<sup>\*</sup>, 陆明<sup>\*</sup>

**摘要** 在含能材料领域,通过协同作用形成聚合物已成为改善或增强现有含能物质性能的一种新技术.本文将胍阳离子CH<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>(GU)和氨 基-1,2,4-三唑C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>4</sub>(ATZ)与NaN<sub>5</sub>一起结晶,通过自组装过程分别制备了两种新型含能配位聚合物(CPs),(NaN<sub>5</sub>)<sub>5</sub>[(CH<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>)N<sub>5</sub>](N<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(1)和 (NaN<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>4</sub>)(2). 晶体结构表明,在固体状态下,螯合的五唑阴离子实现了与其他有机成分共存.聚合物1,Na<sup>+</sup>和N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>形成笼状,并将胍 阳离子[C(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>围在里面;而聚合物2是一个混合配体体系,N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>和ATZ与Na<sup>+</sup>分别形成两个独立但相互交织的网.这些都说明了通过结晶 形成配位聚合物,来改变含能材料的特定性能是可行的.受益于配位和弱相互作用,两种聚合物的热分解温度分别从111℃(一维结构[Na (H<sub>2</sub>O)(N<sub>5</sub>)]·2H<sub>2</sub>O)提高到了118.4和126.5℃.此外,他们成功地除去了产物中的结晶水,成为具有高生成热特点的五唑无水盐(> 800 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>).聚合物1和2比传统能量材料高得多的生成热,表明N<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>作为高能量密度材料(HEDMs)的前驱体,具有很好的前景.