

## Electronic Supporting Information

# Asymmetric triply bridged lanthanide binuclear clusters with distinctly different magnetic behaviors

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## 1. Physical measurements

All materials of the chemicals and solvent reagents are obtained commercially and used in reactions without further purification. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was carried out using a NETZSCH TG 209F3 analyzer. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS10 spectrophotometer in the range of 400-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Powder X-ray diffraction (P-XRD) was measured using the Rigaku Ultima-VI X-ray diffractometer. The measurements of magnetic properties were performed on the Quantum Design MPMS-XL7 ( $\chi_M T$ - $T$ ) and Quantum Design PPMS-VSM. Both the diamagnetic contribution of the sample holder and the diamagnetism estimated using Pascal's constants were corrected.

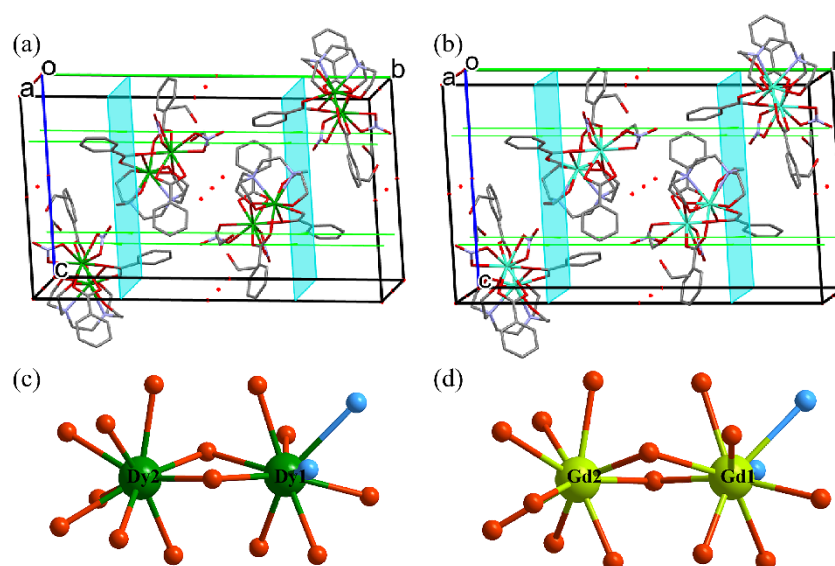
## 2. Syntheses

The **Dy** samples were synthesized by solvothermal reaction.  $\text{Dy}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.5 mmol, 228.3 mg) was slowly added to a 15 mL ethanol solution containing  $\text{H}_4\text{L}$  (1.0 mmol, 236.3 mg) and  $\text{PhCOOH}$  (1.5 mmol, 183.2 mg). The mixture was moved to a vial after 0.5 h of stirring. Colorless crystals were obtained under 90 °C solvothermal condition three hours later in a 56% yield (based on Dy). The synthesis method of **Gd** is the same as that of **Dy**, only  $\text{Dy}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  needs to be replaced with  $\text{Gd}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , the crystal color is colorless, and the yield is 41% based on Gd.

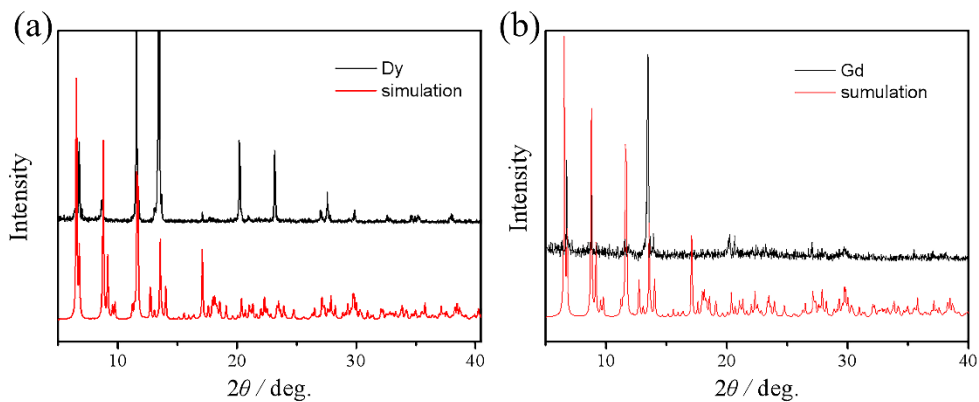
## 3. X-Ray crystallography

Single-crystal X-ray data of **Dy** and **Gd** were collected at 120 K on a Rigaku XtaLAB Synergy R, HyPix High-Flux Rotating Anode X-ray Diffractometer equipped with graphite-monochromated  $\text{Cu-K}\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54184 \text{ \AA}$ ). The structures were solved employing direct methods and refined employing the full-matrix least-squares method on  $F^2$  with anisotropic thermal parameters for all nonhydrogen atoms. Hydrogen atoms were added geometrically and refined using a riding model. CCDC: 2383322 and 2383323.

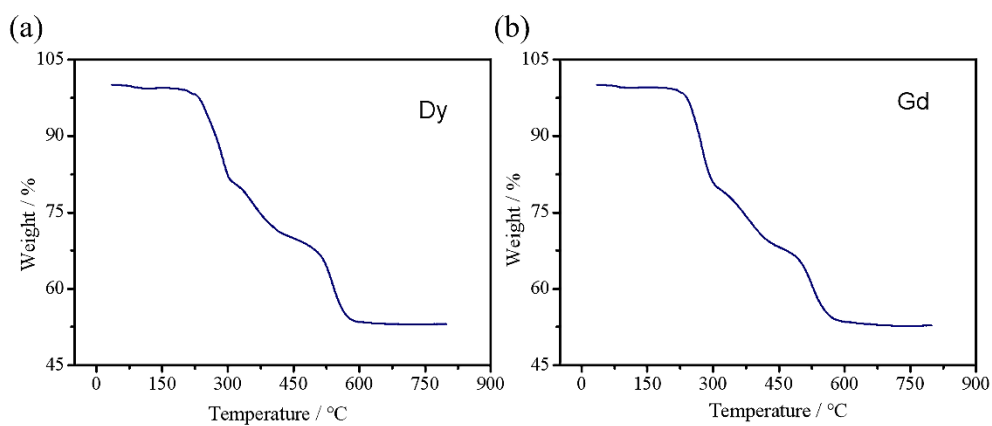
## 4. Structural complement



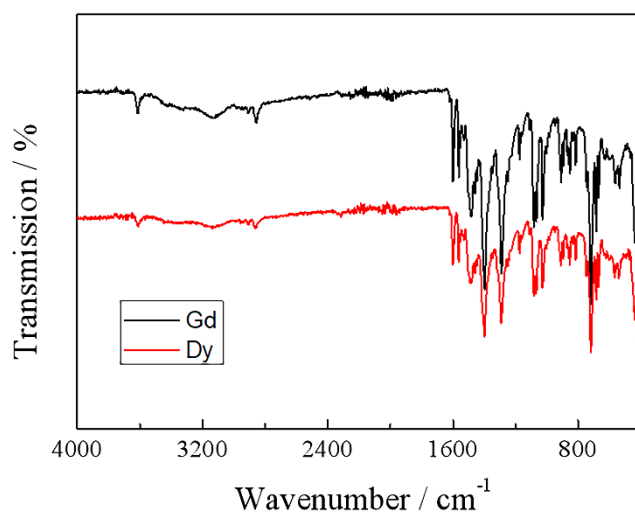
**Fig. S1** Symmetrical elements of **Dy** (a) and **Gd** (b). The blue-green planes represent the glide planes parallel to the (010), the green lines represent the  $2_1$ -screw axes (b-axes), and the red dots represent the inversion centers. Coordination environment of **Dy** (c) and **Gd** (d), red atoms, O; blue atoms, N.



**Fig. S2** Powder-XRD patterns of **Dy** (a) and **Gd** (b), the black lines are the experimental values and the red lines are the simulated values.

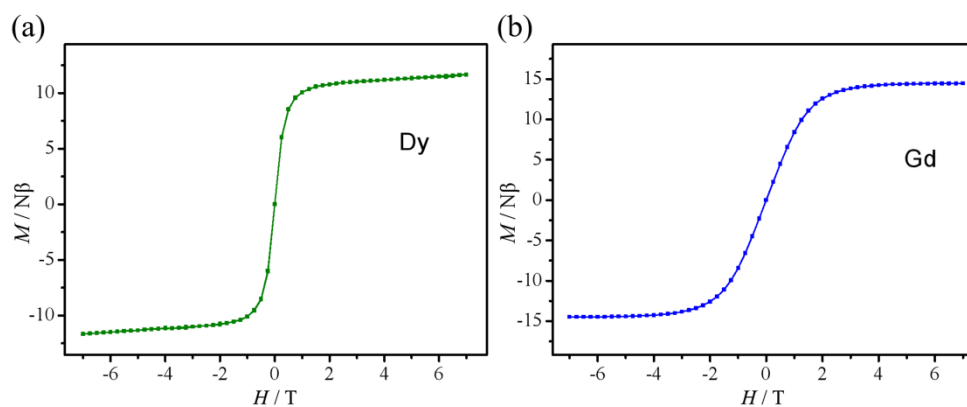


**Fig. S3** TG curves of **Dy** (a) and **Gd** (b).

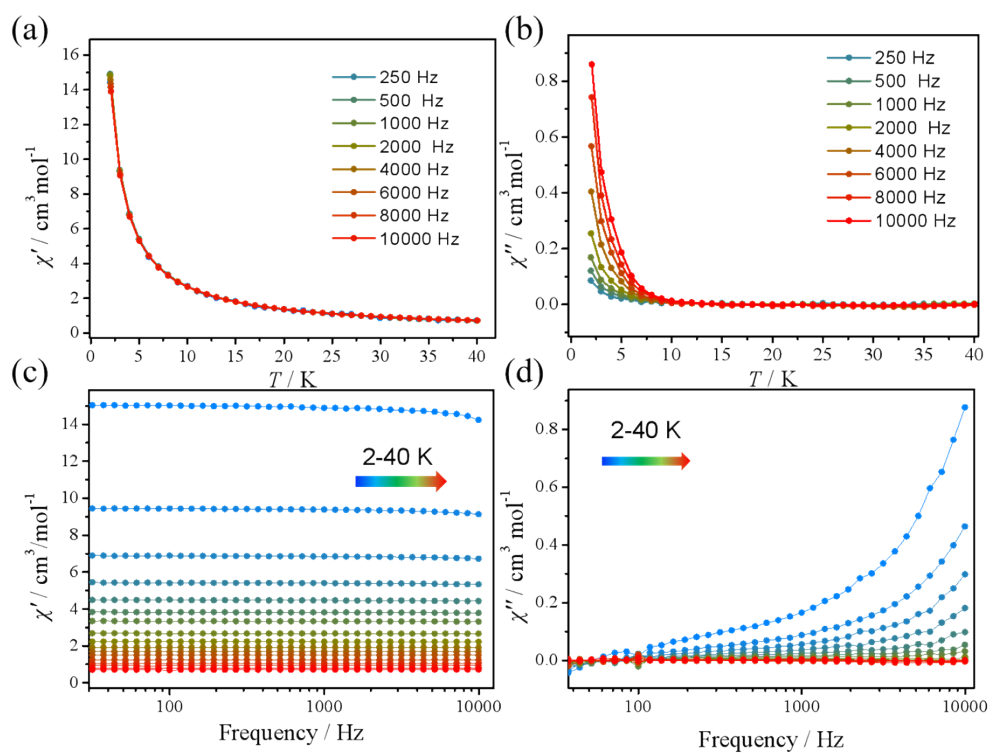


**Fig. S4** Infrared spectral data of **Dy** and **Gd**. The black and red lines represent **Dy** and **Gd**, respectively.

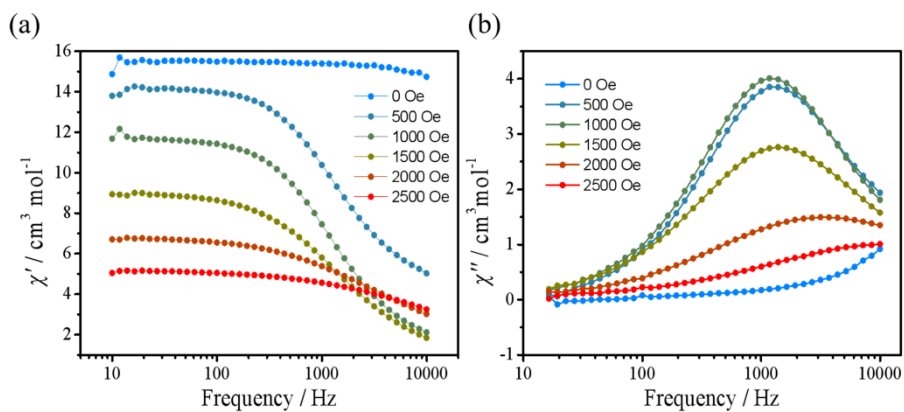
## 5. Magnetic characterization



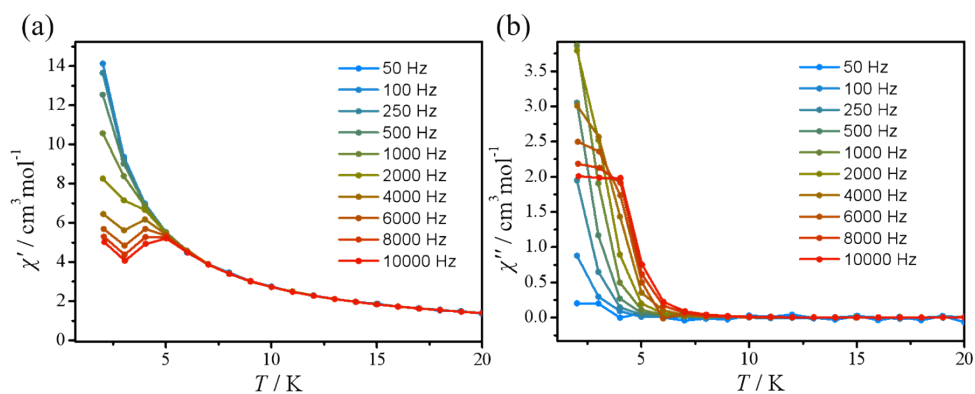
**Fig. S5** Magnetic hysteresis of **Dy** (a) and **Gd** (b) at 2 K.



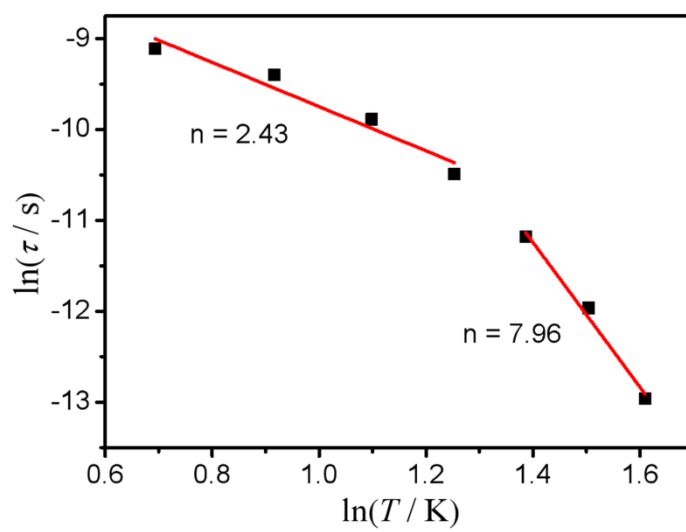
**Fig. S6** AC molar magnetic susceptibility measurements of **Dy**. Temperature (a, b) and frequency (c, d) of the in-phase  $\chi'$  and out-of-phase  $\chi''$  products under a 0 Oe dc field in the temperature range of 2-40 K. Solid lines are guides for the eyes.



**Fig. S7** Alternating-current molar magnetic susceptibility measurements. Frequency dependence of the in-phase  $\chi'$  (a) and out-of-phase  $\chi''$  (b) products under varying applied dc fields (0-2500 Oe) at 2 K of **Dy**. Solid lines are guides for the eyes.



**Fig. S8** Temperature dependence of the in-phase ( $\chi'$ ) and out-of-phase ( $\chi''$ ) ac molar susceptibilities measured on a polycrystalline sample under the 500 Oe field of **Dy**. Solid lines are guides for the eyes.



**Fig. S9** Plots of  $\ln(T)$  vs.  $\ln(\tau)$ ; solid red lines represent the best linear fits.

## 6. Table

**Table S1** A part of crystallographic parameters of **Dy** and **Gd**.

Compound	<b>Dy</b>	<b>Gd</b>
Formular	[Dy <sub>2</sub> (PhCOO) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] $\cdot$ 2C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O	[Gd <sub>2</sub> (PhCOO) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] $\cdot$ 2C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O
	H	H
<i>T</i> (K)	120	120
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	10.27550(10)	10.3156(2)
<i>b</i> (Å)	26.0316(2)	26.0237(4)
<i>c</i> (Å)	16.4282(2)	16.4697(2)
$\alpha = \gamma$ (deg.)	90	90
$\beta$ (deg.)	105.8520(10)	105.754(2)
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	4227.23(8)	4255.21(12)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
<i>D</i> <sub>c</sub> (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.791	1.763
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	19.374	20.619
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0397	0.0547
GOOF	1.072	1.088
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub>	0.0440	0.0463
w <i>R</i> <sub>2</sub>	0.0944	0.1032
$\Delta\rho_{\max}$ (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	1.35	1.67
$\Delta\rho_{\min}$ (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	-1.20	-1.26

**Table S2** Continuous shape measure calculations for the Dy<sup>3+</sup> ions.

<b>Dy</b>			
Dy1			
[ML9]	JCSAPR-9	CSAPR-9	MFF-9
Shape	$C_{4v}$	$C_{4v}$	$C_s$
Symmetry	Capped square antiprism J10	Spherical capped square antiprism	Muffin
Deviation value	2.409	2.220	2.495
Dy2			
[ML9]	CSAPR-9	TCTPR-9	MFF-9
Shape	$C_{4v}$	$D_{3h}$	$C_s$
Symmetry	Spherical capped square antiprism	Spherical tricapped trigonal prism	Muffin
Deviation value	2.132	2.449	2.399

**Table S3** Continuous shape measure calculations for the Gd<sup>3+</sup> ions.

<b>Gd</b>			
Gd1			
[ML9]	JCSAPR-9	CSAPR-9	MFF-9
Shape	$C_{4v}$	$C_{4v}$	$C_s$
Symmetry	Capped square antiprism J10	Spherical capped square antiprism	Muffin
Deviation value	2.549	2.331	2.577
Gd 2			
[ML9]	CSAPR-9	TCTPR-9	MFF-9
Shape	$C_{4v}$	$D_{3h}$	$C_s$
Symmetry	Spherical capped square antiprism	Spherical tricapped trigonal prism	Muffin
Deviation value	2.334	2.569	2.575



**Table S4** The  $-\Delta S_m$  for selected dinuclear Gd<sub>2</sub> clusters.

Binuclear Gd compounds	$-\Delta S_m$ (J kg <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	$T$ (K)	$\Delta H$ (T)	Ref.
[Gd <sub>2</sub> L <sub>4</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> COO) <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> OH) <sub>2</sub> ]	39	2	7	43
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (PhCOO) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]·2C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH	32.37	2	14	This work
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (PhCOO) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]·2C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH	29.44	2	7	This work
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (iba) <sub>6</sub> (bipy) <sub>2</sub> ]	29.3	2	7	44
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (nic) <sub>6</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> ]	27.4	2.5	7	44
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L) <sub>2</sub> (NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ](NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	27.50	2	7	22
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (OAc) <sub>2</sub> (Ph <sub>2</sub> acac) <sub>4</sub> (MeOH) <sub>2</sub> ]	23.7	2.4	7	45
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (HFAC) <sub>4</sub> (L1) <sub>2</sub> ]	17.66	2	7	46
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (HFAC) <sub>4</sub> (L2) <sub>2</sub> ]	14.81	3	7	46
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (tfac) <sub>4</sub> (L) <sub>2</sub> ]	23.23	2	8	47
[Gd <sub>2</sub> (hfac) <sub>4</sub> (L) <sub>2</sub> ]	17.05	2	8	47

**Table S5** Cole-Cole plot fitting parameters for **Dy** in an external field of 500 Oe.

$T$ (K)	$\chi_s$ (cm <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\chi_t$ (cm <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\tau$ (s)	$\alpha$
2	3.94532	13.4081	1.10283E-4	0.16
2.5	3.22475	10.589	8.26235E-5	0.14343
3	2.68273	8.71643	5.08463E-5	0.13387
3.5	2.32571	7.39668	2.778E-5	0.12061
4	2.07328	6.41588	1.39235E-5	0.10181
4.5	1.74928	5.672	6.35897E-6	0.10524
5	0.95711	5.08107	2.34359E-6	0.13564

**Table S6** The best fitting results of the temperature dependent relaxation times.

$\tau^{-1} = AHT + \tau_{QTM}^{-1} + CT^n + \tau_0^{-1} \exp(-U_{eff}/k_B T)$	
AH	4292.01
B	0.67518
n	8.20481
$\tau_0$	---
$U_{eff}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	---
dominated relaxation processes	Direct + Raman