# Supplemental Material

### for

# "Giant exchange interaction in mixed lanthanides"

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### Abstract

This material contains:

- 1) DFT based derivations of the 4f and the  $\pi^*$  orbital levels and of the transfer parameters t for all complexes 1-5;
- 2) Fragments *ab initio* calculations of the energies and wave functions of CF multiplets on  $Ln^{3+}$  sites in **1-5**, and calculations of atomic multiplets of the corresponding  $Ln^{2+}$  ions;
- 3) The calculation of the exchange spectra are described;
- 4) The analysis of the first rank exchange parameters.

#### I. DFT CALCULATIONS

#### A. Extraction of the transfer parameter t for 1-5

In order to derive the transfer parameters between the 4f orbital and the  $\pi^*$  orbital of the bridging N<sub>2</sub>, the Kohn-Sham levels are projected into tight-binding Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{\sigma} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{2} \epsilon_{f} \hat{n}_{i\tilde{\gamma}\sigma} + \epsilon_{\pi^{*}} \hat{n}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} + t \left( \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{1\tilde{\gamma}\sigma} \hat{c}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} + \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} \hat{c}_{1\tilde{\gamma}\sigma} - \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{2\tilde{\gamma}\sigma} \hat{c}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} - \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} \hat{c}_{2\tilde{\gamma}\sigma} \right) \right], \quad (S1)$$

where i(=1,2) is the index for the Ln<sup>3+</sup> site in the complex, N<sub>2</sub><sup>3-</sup> site is described by the type of the magnetic orbital  $\pi^*$ ,  $\tilde{\gamma}$  is the orbital component xyz,  $\sigma = \uparrow, \downarrow$  is the projection of spin operator,  $\epsilon_f$  and  $\epsilon_{\pi^*}(=\epsilon_f + \Delta)$  are one electron orbital levels of the 4f orbital and the  $\pi^*$  orbital, respectively, t is the transfer parameter between the 4f and the  $\pi^*$  orbitals,  $\hat{c}^{\dagger}$  ( $\hat{c}$ ) is an electron creation (annihilation) operator, and  $\hat{n}$  is a number operator. The subscripts of the creation, annihilation, and number operators indicate the site, the orbital index for only lanthanide site, and spin projection. Because of the  $D_{2h}$  symmetry of the magnetic core part, only one 4f orbital ( $4f_{xyz}$ ) overlaps with the  $\pi^*$  orbital (Fig. 2b in the main text). Therefore, we only include the  $4f_{xyz}$  orbital for each lanthanide site in the model Hamiltonian.

Diagonalizing the tight-binding Hamiltonian (S1), the one-electron levels are obtained as

$$\epsilon_{f,a} = \epsilon_f,$$
 (S2)

$$\epsilon_{f,s} = \epsilon_f + \frac{1}{2} \left( \Delta - \sqrt{\Delta^2 + 8t^2} \right),$$
 (S3)

$$\epsilon_{\pi^*} = \epsilon_f + \frac{1}{2} \left( \Delta + \sqrt{\Delta^2 + 8t^2} \right), \tag{S4}$$

where the subscript "a" and "s" indicate antisymmetric and symmetric orbitals, respectively. Comparing these orbital levels with the DFT calculations, we obtain parameters  $\epsilon_f$ , t, and  $\Delta$ .

The highest occupied Kohn-Sham orbital for the down spin in the low-symmetry DFT solutions correspond to the  $\pi^*$  orbital. On the other hand, 4f atomic orbitals contribute to many Kohn-Sham orbitals. Thus, the 4f orbitals are localized as follows. Because of the inversion symmetry of the complexes, the 4f orbital part of each Kohn-Sham orbital  $\psi_i$  is decomposed into the antisymmetric and symmetric parts:

$$|\psi_i\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|1\rangle + |2\rangle) C_{a,i} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|1\rangle - |2\rangle) C_{s,i}, \tag{S5}$$

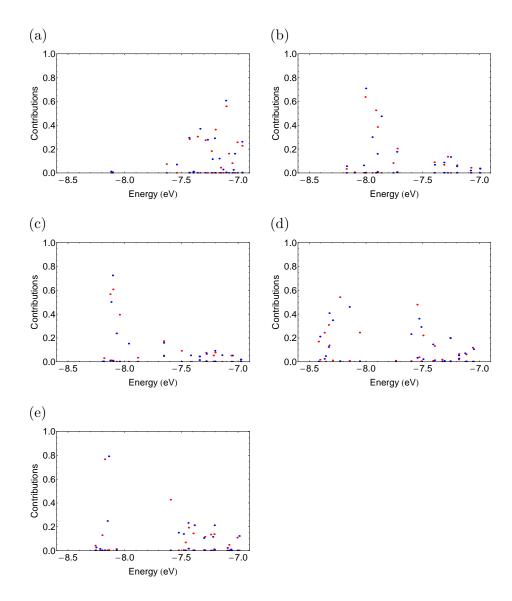


FIG. S1. Contributions of the antisymmetric  $|C_{a,i}|$  (red) and the symmetric  $|C_{s,i}|$  (blue) combinations of the  $4f_{xyz}$  orbitals to each Kohn-Sham orbitals for the (a) Gd, (b) Tb, (c) Dy, (d) Ho, (e) Er complexes.

where,  $|1\rangle$  and  $|2\rangle$  indicate the  $4f_{xyz}$  orbitals on the first and the second lanthanide sites, respectively. The absolute values of  $C_{a,i}$  and  $C_{s,i}$  for the occupied Kohn-Sham orbitals for the up spin part are shown in Fig. S1. As the antisymmetric and the symmetric levels, we averaged the Kohn-Sham levels:

$$\epsilon_{f,a} = \frac{\sum_{i}^{\text{occ.}} C_{a,i}^2 \epsilon_i}{\sum_{i}^{\text{occ.}} C_{a,i}^2}, \qquad \epsilon_{f,s} = \frac{\sum_{i}^{\text{occ.}} C_{s,i}^2 \epsilon_i}{\sum_{i}^{\text{occ.}} C_{s,i}^2}.$$
 (S6)

In Eq. (S6), the sum is taken over occupied Kohn-Sham orbitals. With the use of the levels,

the parameters t and  $\Delta$  are derived (Table I in the main text). The transfer parameter is gradually decreasing as the increase of the atomic number because the ionic radius of the lanthanide shrinks.

## B. Calculation of $\pi^* \to 4f$ electron promotion energy for 1

The high- and low-spin states of the complex 1 were analyzed based on the Hubbard Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i=1,2} \sum_{\gamma\sigma} \epsilon_{f} \hat{n}_{i\gamma\sigma} + \sum_{\sigma} \epsilon_{\pi^{*}} \hat{n}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} 
+ \sum_{\sigma} t \left( \hat{c}_{1\tilde{\gamma}\sigma}^{\dagger} \hat{c}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} + \hat{c}_{\pi^{*}\sigma}^{\dagger} \hat{c}_{1\tilde{\gamma}\sigma} - \hat{c}_{2\tilde{\gamma}\sigma}^{\dagger} \hat{c}_{\pi^{*}\sigma} - \hat{c}_{\pi^{*}\sigma}^{\dagger} \hat{c}_{2\tilde{\gamma}\sigma} \right) 
+ \sum_{i=1,2} \sum_{\langle \gamma\sigma, \gamma'\sigma' \rangle} u_{f} \hat{n}_{i\gamma\sigma} \hat{n}_{i\gamma'\sigma'} + u_{\pi^{*}} \hat{n}_{\pi^{*}\uparrow} \hat{n}_{\pi^{*}\downarrow} + \sum_{i=1,2} \sum_{\gamma\sigma} \sum_{\sigma'} v \hat{n}_{\gamma\sigma} \hat{n}_{\pi^{*}\sigma'}, \tag{S7}$$

where  $\gamma$  is the component of the 4f orbital,  $u_f$  and  $u_{\pi^*}$  are the intrasite Coulomb repulsions on Gd and N<sub>2</sub> sites, respectively, and v is the intersite Coulomb repulsion between the Gd and N<sub>2</sub> sites.

The high-spin state with the maximal projection is described by one electron configuration:

$$|1\uparrow,\pi^*\uparrow,2\uparrow\rangle,$$
 (S8)

where 1 and 2 are the lanthanide sites and  $\uparrow$  and  $\downarrow$  are spin projections. The 4f electrons which are not in the  $4f_{xyz}$  orbital are not explicitly written here. The total energy  $E_{\text{HS}}$  is

$$E_{HS} = E_0 + (2n+1)\epsilon_f + \Delta + 2nv + n(n-1)u_f,$$
 (S9)

where  $E_0$  is the total electronic energy except for the electrons in the 4f orbitals and  $\pi^*$  orbitals, and n is the number of the 4f electrons in  $\mathrm{Gd}^{3+}$  ion. For the low-spin state  $(\uparrow,\downarrow,\uparrow)$  type), the basis set is

$$\{|1\uparrow,1\downarrow,2\uparrow\rangle,|1\uparrow,\pi^*\downarrow,2\uparrow\rangle,|1\uparrow,2\downarrow,2\uparrow\rangle\}. \tag{S10}$$

Here, the configurations with the electron transfer from the 4f to the  $\pi^*$  are not included because these configurations do not contribute much to the low-energy states due to the large energy gap  $\Delta$  between the 4f and the  $\pi^*$  levels. The lowest energy is

$$E_{LS} = E_0 + (2n+1)\epsilon_f + n(n-1)u_f + \frac{1}{2}\left(\Delta + 2nv + nu_f - \sqrt{(\Delta + 2nv - nu_f)^2 + 8t^2}\right). \tag{S11}$$

The energy difference between the low- and high-spin states are

$$\Delta E = E_{\rm LS} - E_{\rm HS} \tag{S12}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ nu_f - (\Delta + 2nv) - \sqrt{(\Delta + 2nv - nu_f)^2 + 8t^2} \right]$$
 (S13)

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \bar{U} - \sqrt{\bar{U}^2 + 8t^2} \right), \tag{S14}$$

where

$$\bar{U} = nu_f - \Delta - 2nv \tag{S15}$$

is the (averaged) electron promotion energy. Eq. (S15) shows that (i) the energy gap  $\Delta$  significantly reduces the promotion energy and (ii) the promotion energy increases with the number of the 4f electrons n. Using the transfer parameter t derived from the Kohn-Sham orbital, energy gaps between the high-spin state and low-spin state, and Eq. (S14), the averaged promotion energy  $\bar{U}$  is derived.

#### II. AB INITIO CALCULATIONS

### A. Fragment calculations for Ln<sup>3+</sup> centers in 1-5

To obtain the local electronic properties of the magnetic ions, ab initio quantum chemistry calculations (CASSCF/SO-RASSI) were performed using Molcas [1]. In the calculations, one of the metal ions in the complex was replaced by diamagnetic lanthanum ion (La<sup>3+</sup>) and the ligands for the La ion were reduced (Fig. S2). Two point charges (-0.5~e) were put on each N atom creating the N<sub>2</sub> bridge, where e (> 0) is the elementary charge. The latter is to include the electrostatic potential from the unpaired electron of N<sub>2</sub><sup>3-</sup> bridge. The covalent effect is included later ( $\hat{H}'_{cf}$  in the main text). In the CASSCF calculations, all 4f orbitals of the magnetic site are included in the active orbitals. The spin-orbit coupling is included in the SO-RASSI calculation. In the SO-RASSI calculations the following CASSCF states were mixed by spin-orbit coupling: for Gd, 1 octet, 48 sextet, 120 quartet and 113 doublet states, for Tb, 7 septet, 140 quintet, 113 triplet and 123 singlet states, for Dy, 21 sextet, 128 quartet and 130 doublet states, for Ho, 35 quintet, 210 triplet and 196 singlet states, and for Er, 35 quartet and 112 doublets states. As the basis set for the calculations, ANO-RCC was used. The contraction of the basis set is shown in Table S1. The Cholesky

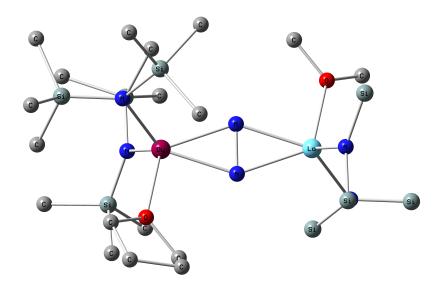


FIG. S2. The  $LnLaN_2^{3-}$  fragment used in *ab initio* calculations. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. The right lanthanide ion was replaced by La in the *ab initio* calculations.

TABLE S1. Contractions of the employed ANO-RCC basis sets for the ab initio calculations.

| Ln                       | 7s6p4d2f1g | $\operatorname{Si}$ | 4s3p          |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|
| La                       | 7s6p4d2f   | O                   | 3s2p          |
| $N (N_2 \text{ bridge})$ | 3s2p1d     | $\mathbf{C}$        | 3s2p          |
| N (the others)           | 3s2p       | H                   | $2\mathrm{s}$ |

decomposition threshold was set to  $5 \times 10^{-8}$  Hartree. The obtained SO-RASSI wave functions were transformed into pseudo spin states (or pseudo  $\tilde{J}$  states) [2–5] to analyze the magnetic data using SINGLE\_ANISO module [6].

The obtained crystal-field (CF) levels are shown in Table S2. In all cases, the lowest spin-orbit states are doubly degenerate (Kramers doublet (KD) for Ln = Gd, Dy, Er) or quasidegenerate (Ising doublet for Ln = Tb, Ho). The ground CF states  $|\psi\rangle$  are decomposed into the sum of the ground pseudo  $\tilde{J}$  multiplets  $|JM\rangle$  [4, 5]:

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{M=-J}^{J} C_M |JM\rangle. \tag{S16}$$

The coefficients  $C_M$  are shown in Table S3. The contributions of the multiplets with the largest projection (|M| = J) to the ground CF states are 94.2 %, 96.4 %, 97.1 %, 91.7 %, 78.6 %, for Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, and Er, respectively. For each ground doublets, the g-tensors

TABLE S2. The lowest spin-orbit levels of Ln centers obtained by ab initio fragment calculations  $(cm^{-1})$ . The covalency effect is not included.

| Gd    | $\operatorname{Tb}$ | Dy      | Но      | Er      |
|-------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 0.000 | 0.000               | 0.000   | 0.000   | 0.000   |
| 0.000 | 0.099               | 0.000   | 0.982   | 0.000   |
| 0.329 | 141.153             | 179.143 | 87.999  | 74.691  |
| 0.329 | 142.222             | 179.143 | 88.534  | 74.691  |
| 0.631 | 288.590             | 320.747 | 130.818 | 118.034 |
| 0.631 | 295.694             | 320.747 | 147.454 | 118.034 |
| 1.108 | 401.446             | 406.717 | 167.052 | 166.279 |
| 1.108 | 435.925             | 406.717 | 202.496 | 166.279 |
|       | 490.539             | 470.573 | 224.559 | 212.344 |
|       | 531.201             | 470.573 | 241.625 | 212.344 |
|       | 547.372             | 531.942 | 246.712 | 262.700 |
|       | 730.715             | 531.942 | 284.704 | 262.700 |
|       | 731.087             | 623.187 | 296.344 | 295.345 |
|       |                     | 623.187 | 323.988 | 295.345 |
|       |                     | 749.919 | 327.012 | 396.290 |
|       |                     | 749.919 | 385.730 | 396.290 |
|       |                     |         | 386.659 |         |

are calculated (Table S4). The Er complex is not magnetically anisotropic as much as the other complexes (Tb, Dy, Ho). This is because the multiplets  $|JM\rangle$  with small M (|M| < J) are mixed more than the other systems.

# B. Calculation of atomic J-multiplets of $Ln^{2+}$ ions

The excitation energies of the intermediate virtual electron transferred states were replaced by the excitation energies for isolated  $Ln^{2+}$  ion (Ln = Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er). To obtain the energies, the CASSCF and the SO-RASSI calculations were performed with ANO-RCC QZP basis set [1]. As in the case of the fragment calculations, all 4f orbitals are

TABLE S3.  $|JM\rangle$  structure of ground CF doublet on  ${\rm Ln^{3+}}$  center in **1-5** 

| G    | łd      | 1  | Tb      | D     | у       |    | Но      | E     | r       |
|------|---------|----|---------|-------|---------|----|---------|-------|---------|
| M    | $ C_M $ | M  | $ C_M $ | M     | $ C_M $ | M  | $ C_M $ | M     | $ C_M $ |
| -7/2 | 0.971   | -6 | 0.694   | -15/2 | 0.986   | -8 | 0.677   | -15/2 | 0.887   |
| -5/2 | 0.001   | -5 | 0.005   | -13/2 | 0.019   | -7 | 0.005   | -13/2 | 0.112   |
| -3/2 | 0.225   | -4 | 0.123   | -11/2 | 0.164   | -6 | 0.162   | -11/2 | 0.321   |
| -1/2 | 0.004   | -3 | 0.014   | -9/2  | 0.027   | -5 | 0.044   | -9/2  | 0.168   |
| 1/2  | 0.077   | -2 | 0.024   | -7/2  | 0.023   | -4 | 0.084   | -7/2  | 0.214   |
| 3/2  | 0.002   | -1 | 0.008   | -5/2  | 0.007   | -3 | 0.056   | -5/2  | 0.103   |
| 5/2  | 0.038   | 0  | 0.009   | -3/2  | 0.010   | -2 | 0.039   | -3/2  | 0.105   |
| 7/2  | 0.000   | 1  | 0.008   | -1/2  | 0.004   | -1 | 0.033   | -1/2  | 0.024   |
|      |         | 2  | 0.024   | 1/2   | 0.002   | 0  | 0.027   | 1/2   | 0.031   |
|      |         | 3  | 0.014   | 3/2   | 0.001   | 1  | 0.033   | 3/2   | 0.021   |
|      |         | 4  | 0.123   | 5/2   | 0.001   | 2  | 0.039   | 5/2   | 0.011   |
|      |         | 5  | 0.005   | 7/2   | 0.000   | 3  | 0.056   | 7/2   | 0.012   |
|      |         | 6  | 0.694   | 9/2   | 0.000   | 4  | 0.084   | 9/2   | 0.016   |
|      |         |    |         | 11/2  | 0.000   | 5  | 0.044   | 11/2  | 0.002   |
|      |         |    |         | 13/2  | 0.000   | 6  | 0.162   | 13/2  | 0.005   |
|      |         |    |         | 15/2  | 0.000   | 7  | 0.005   | 15/2  | 0.000   |
|      |         |    |         |       |         | 8  | 0.677   |       |         |

treated as the active orbitals of the CASSCF calculations. In the SO-RASSI calculations, the following LS terms are included:  ${}^{7}F$  for  $\mathrm{Gd}^{2+}$ ,  ${}^{6}P$ ,  ${}^{6}F$ ,  ${}^{6}H$  for  $\mathrm{Tb}^{2+}$ ,  ${}^{5}D$ ,  ${}^{5}F$ ,  ${}^{5}G$ ,  ${}^{5}I$  for  $\mathrm{Dy}^{2+}$ ,  ${}^{4}F$ ,  ${}^{4}G$ ,  ${}^{4}I$  for  $\mathrm{Ho}^{2+}$ , and  ${}^{3}F$ ,  ${}^{3}H$  for  $\mathrm{Er}^{2+}$ . The excitation energies  $\Delta E$  are shown in Table S5.

TABLE S4. The g tensors for the lowest doublets of Ln centers obtained from the fragment calculations. The transverse g-factors for Tb and Ho are zero because of the Griffith's theorem [7].

|       | $\operatorname{Gd}$ | Tb     | Dy      | Но     | Er     |
|-------|---------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| $g_X$ | 0.492               | 0.000  | 0.0026  | 0.000  | 0.163  |
| $g_Y$ | 0.824               | 0.000  | 0.0040  | 0.000  | 0.227  |
| $g_Z$ | 13.439              | 17.675 | 19.6459 | 19.422 | 16.528 |

#### III. ANALYSIS OF FIRST RANK EXCHANGE PARAMETERS

As shown in Table II in the main text, the first rank part (k = k' = 1) of the exchange interaction is isotropic Heisenberg type in all complexes, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{J}_{1\pm 11\mp 1} = -\mathcal{J}_{1010} \neq 0, \tag{S17}$$

and the other  $\mathcal{J}_{1q1q'}$  are zero. The reason can be understood analyzing the formula of the exchange interaction. The exchange parameter between J multiplet and isotropic spin 1/2 (Eqs. (2), (3) in the main text) is written as [8]

$$\mathcal{J}_{kqk'q'} = \sum_{x} \sum_{\alpha,J} \frac{\{t \times t\}_{kqk'q'}^{x} \mathcal{G}_{\alpha_{J}Jk'xk}^{1} \tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{k'}^{2}}{U_{0} + \Delta E_{\alpha_{J}J}^{n+1}}, \tag{S18}$$

where

$$\{t \times t\}_{kqk'q'}^x = (-1)^{l_1 - k' + q'} \sum_{mm'} \sum_{\xi} t_{m\pi^*}^{12} t_{\pi^*m'}^{21} C_{l_1m'kq}^{x\xi} C_{k'-q'l_1m}^{x\xi}, \tag{S19}$$

 $t_{m\pi^*}$  is the electron transfer between the 4f with component m of orbital angular momentum and the  $\pi^*$  orbital of  $N_2$ ,  $l_1=3$  is the magnitude of the atomic orbital angular momentum for f orbital, x ( $l_1-k' \leq x \leq l_1+k'$ ) indicates a rank,  $\xi=-x,-x+1,...,x$ ,  $C_{l_1m'kq}^{x\xi}$  and  $C_{k'-q'l_1m}^{x\xi}$  are Clebsch-Gordan coefficients [9],  $\alpha_J$  and J are the LS-term and the total angular momentum of  $Ln^{2+}$ , respectively,  $\Delta E_{\alpha_JJ}^{n+1}$  is the excitation multiplet energies of  $Ln^{2+}$ , and  $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha_JJk'xk}^{Ln}$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{k'}^{N_2}$  are functions of their subscripts. For the detailed description of x,  $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha_JJk'xk}^{Ln}$ , and  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{k'}^{N_2}$ , see Ref. 8.

Since the dependence of the exchange parameter (S18) on q and q' appears only in  $\{t \times t\}_{kqk'q'}^x$  (S19), the condition for the isotropy of  $\mathcal{J}_{kq1q'}$  is revealed from the equation. First, we consider the cases where only the transfer between  $f_{\pm m_0}$  orbitals ( $m_0 = 0, 1, 2, 3$ ) and the

TABLE S5. Excitation energies with respect to the lowest J multiplet of isolated  $Ln^{2+}$  ions (meV).

|                  | $\operatorname{Gd}$ |            |         | Tb   |            |         | Dy |            |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|---------|------|------------|---------|----|------------|
| LS term          | J                   | $\Delta E$ | LS term | J    | $\Delta E$ | LS term | J  | $\Delta E$ |
| $\overline{^7F}$ | 6                   | 0.000      | $^6H$   | 15/2 | 0.000      | $^{5}I$ | 8  | 0.000      |
|                  | 5                   | 182.104    |         | 13/2 | 307.374    |         | 7  | 458.212    |
|                  | 4                   | 333.856    |         | 11/2 | 573.765    |         | 6  | 859.148    |
|                  | 3                   | 455.259    |         | 9/2  | 799.172    |         | 5  | 1202.808   |
|                  | 2                   | 546.311    |         | 7/2  | 983.596    |         | 4  | 1489.190   |
|                  | 1                   | 607.012    |         | 5/2  | 1127.038   | $^5G$   | 6  | 3412.346   |
|                  | 0                   | 637.362    | $^6F$   | 11/2 | 1050.937   |         | 5  | 3756.005   |
|                  |                     |            |         | 9/2  | 1276.345   |         | 4  | 4042.388   |
|                  |                     |            |         | 7/2  | 1460.769   | $^5F$   | 5  | 2369.357   |
|                  |                     |            |         | 5/2  | 1604.210   |         | 4  | 2655.740   |
|                  |                     |            | $^6P$   | 7/2  | 4357.932   | $^5D$   | 4  | 5667.150   |
|                  |                     |            |         | 5/2  | 4501.373   |         |    |            |
|                  | Но                  |            |         | Er   |            |         |    |            |
| LS term          | J                   | $\Delta E$ | LS term | J    | $\Delta E$ |         |    |            |
| $^4I$            | 15/2                | 0.000      | $^3H$   | 6    | 0.000      |         |    |            |
|                  | 13/2                | 638.260    |         | 5    | 850.945    |         |    |            |
|                  | 11/2                | 1191.419   |         | 4    | 1197.911   |         |    |            |
|                  | 9/2                 | 1659.477   | $^3F$   | 4    | 1560.065   |         |    |            |
| $^4G$            | 11/2                | 3521.812   |         |      |            |         |    |            |
|                  | 9/2                 | 3989.870   |         |      |            |         |    |            |
| ${}^4F$          | 9/2                 | 2461.643   |         |      |            |         |    |            |

isotropic spin is nonzero for simplicity. The values of  $\{t \times t\}_{1q1q'}^x$  are tabulated in Table S9. We find that the condition (S17) is fulfilled when  $m_0 = 2$ , while it is not for other  $m_0$ . In the case of  $m_0 = 1$ , the nonzero terms with  $q = q' = \pm 1$  are also the source of the anisotropic exchange. When more than one set of f orbitals  $m_0$  contribute to the electron transfer, the exchange interaction becomes always anisotropic. Finally, since Eq. (S19) is independent of

TABLE S6. Kinetic contributions to the CF parameters  $\mathcal{J}_{kq00}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) for complexes 1-5.

| k | q       | $\mathcal{J}_{kq00}$   |                      |        |        |                     |  |  |
|---|---------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|--|--|
|   |         | $\operatorname{Gd}$    | Tb                   | Dy     | Но     | $\operatorname{Er}$ |  |  |
| 0 | 0       | -94.88                 | -95.77               | -70.78 | -55.38 | -24.20              |  |  |
| 4 | 0       | $5.86 \times 10^{-3}$  | -30.11               | 23.76  | 10.00  | -11.15              |  |  |
| 4 | $\pm 4$ | $3.50 \times 10^{-3}$  | -18.00               | 14.20  | 5.97   | -6.66               |  |  |
| 6 | 0       | $4.12 \times 10^{-7}$  | $-4.95\times10^{-1}$ | 6.13   | -8.53  | 4.29                |  |  |
| 6 | $\pm 4$ | $-7.70 \times 10^{-7}$ | $9.27\times10^{-1}$  | -11.46 | 15.96  | -8.02               |  |  |

ions, the condition given above applies to the exchange interaction between any f electron ions and spin 1/2.

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TABLE S7. Energies of the CF multiplets (cm<sup>-1</sup>) of Ln centers in **1-5** originating from the ground atomic J-multiplet of the corresponding Ln<sup>3+</sup> ions, calculated with included kinetic contribution. Due to the latter, the ground CF multiplets of Ln centers are stabilized by 95, 110, 58, 55, 14 cm<sup>-1</sup> for Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, respectively.

| Gd    | Tb      | Dy      | Но      | Er      |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 0.000 | 0.000   | 0.000   | 0.000   | 0.000   |
| 0.000 | 0.055   | 0.000   | 1.297   | 0.000   |
| 0.329 | 168.191 | 163.450 | 95.958  | 68.276  |
| 0.329 | 168.965 | 163.450 | 96.064  | 68.276  |
| 0.630 | 316.136 | 300.460 | 129.220 | 112.297 |
| 0.630 | 318.418 | 300.460 | 147.698 | 112.297 |
| 1.108 | 426.550 | 396.451 | 174.642 | 150.837 |
| 1.108 | 444.805 | 396.451 | 211.117 | 150.837 |
|       | 501.172 | 458.147 | 223.439 | 197.730 |
|       | 541.183 | 458.147 | 248.194 | 197.730 |
|       | 556.192 | 510.902 | 250.839 | 249.831 |
|       | 740.636 | 510.902 | 280.160 | 249.831 |
|       | 741.002 | 604.121 | 290.136 | 276.581 |
|       |         | 604.121 | 320.445 | 276.581 |
|       |         | 747.503 | 322.767 | 387.217 |
|       |         | 747.503 | 371.677 | 387.217 |
|       |         |         | 371.948 |         |

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TABLE S8. Energy of the low-lying exchange KDs (cm  $^{-1}$ ) in 1-5

| Gd     | Tb      | Dy      | Но      | Er     |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.000   | 0.000   | 0.000  |
| 0.381  | 207.619 | 120.686 | 105.154 | 27.999 |
| 0.643  | 207.670 | 120.686 | 106.791 | 28.000 |
| 0.865  | 210.623 | 158.882 | 108.718 | 53.467 |
| 1.187  | 227.323 | 164.275 | 110.590 | 64.209 |
| 1.605  | 362.446 | 252.462 | 146.181 | 68.710 |
| 2.112  | 366.170 | 273.941 | 153.019 | 86.241 |
| 27.527 | 369.751 | 273.943 | 160.514 | 86.254 |
| 27.761 | 369.876 | 293.589 | 161.003 | 99.987 |

TABLE S9.  $\{t \times t\}_{1q1q'}^x$  for  $m_0 = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .

| $\overline{x}$ | $q_1$   | $q_2$       | $m_0$                              |  |                                      |                                      |  |  |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|                |         |             | 0                                  | 1                                      | 2                                    | 3                                    |  |  |
| 2              | 0       | 0           | $\frac{3}{7} t_{0\pi^*}^{12} ^2$   | $\frac{16}{21} t_{1\pi^*}^{12} ^2$     | $\frac{10}{21} t_{2\pi^*}^{12} ^2$   | 0                                    |  |  |
| 2              | $\pm 1$ | $\mp 1$     | $-\tfrac{1}{7} t_{0\pi^*}^{12} ^2$ | $-rac{1}{3} t_{1\pi^*}^{12} ^2$       | $-\tfrac{10}{21} t_{2\pi^*}^{12} ^2$ | $-\frac{5}{7} t_{3\pi^*}^{12} ^2$    |  |  |
| 2              | $\pm 1$ | $\pm 1$     | 0                                  | $-rac{2}{7}(t_{\pm 1\pi^*}^{12})^2$   | 0                                    | 0                                    |  |  |
| 3              | 0       | 0           | 0                                  | $-rac{1}{6} t_{1\pi^*}^{12} ^2$       | $-\tfrac{2}{3} t_{2\pi^*}^{12} ^2$   | $-\tfrac{3}{2} t_{3\pi^*}^{12} ^2$   |  |  |
| 3              | $\pm 1$ | $\mp 1$     | $\frac{1}{2} t_{0\pi^*}^{12} ^2$   | $rac{11}{12} t_{1\pi^*}^{12} ^2$      | $\frac{2}{3} t_{2\pi^*}^{12} ^2$     | $\tfrac{1}{4} t_{3\pi^*}^{12} ^2$    |  |  |
| 3              | $\pm 1$ | $\pm 1$     | 0                                  | $-\frac{1}{2}(t_{\pm 1\pi^*}^{12})^2$  | 0                                    | 0                                    |  |  |
| 4              | 0       | 0           | $\frac{4}{7} t_{0\pi^*}^{12} ^2$   | $rac{15}{14} t_{1\pi^*}^{12} ^2$      | $\frac{6}{7} t_{2\pi^*}^{12} ^2$     | $\tfrac{1}{2} t_{3\pi^*}^{12} ^2$    |  |  |
| 4              | $\pm 1$ | <b> =</b> 1 | $-\frac{5}{14} t_{0\pi^*}^{12} ^2$ | $-rac{3}{4} t_{1\pi^*}^{12} ^2$       | $-rac{6}{7} t_{2\pi^*}^{12} ^2$     | $-\tfrac{29}{28} t_{3\pi^*}^{12} ^2$ |  |  |
| 4              | ±1      | ±1          | 0                                  | $-\frac{3}{14}(t_{\pm 1\pi^*}^{12})^2$ | 0                                    | 0                                    |  |  |