An Investigation of the Photochemical and Spectroscopic Properties of Chromium, Molybdenum, Tungsten, and Rhodium Isocyanide Complexes

Thesis by

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I especially acknowledge the incredible amount of work done by Nate Lewis from whom we may all be taking orders someday.

Harry, I'll get right on it.

#### ABSTRACT

The X-ray crystal structure of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  has been determined. The complex crystallizes in the space group  $R\overline{3}$  with one molecule in the unit cell a =b = c = 10.628 Å;  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 111.17^{\circ}$ ; V = 861.1 Å<sup>3</sup>. The metal atom has crystallographic site symmetry  $S_6$  with the MC<sub>6</sub> framework forming a perfect octahedron. The Cr-C-N bond angles are all 174.7°, the Cr-C bond lengths are  $1.933(2)$  Å, and the C-N bond lengths are  $1.168(2)$  $Å$ .

Both infrared spectra, X-ray crystal structure data, and electronic absorption spectra are consistent with the operation of a second order Jahn Teller distortion of the ground state of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$ . Data obtained on the sterically hindered systems  $Cr(CNDph)_6$  and  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  [Dph = 2,6-dimethylphenyl and Iph = 2,6-diisopropylphenyl] also support the operation of a Jahn Teller effect. Similar considera~ tions apply to the Mo and W systems.

The electronic absorption spectra of  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  [M = Cr(0),  $Mo(0), W(0), Ar = phenyl, ph; 2,6-dimethylphenyl, Dph; and$ 2, 6-diisopropylphenyl, Iph],  $Mn(CNPh)_6Cl$  and  $[Mn(CNPh)_6](PF_6)_2$ are reported. Each of the  $M(CNAr)_6$  complexes exhibits intense allowed metal-to-ligand charge transfer (MLCT) absorption bands between 20. 8 and 32. 7 kK. The lowest MLCT bands are observed at 29.9 and 31.1 kK in the electronic spectrum of  $Mn(CNPh)_6^+$ . Low energy bands at 18.2 and 20.4 kK in  $\left[\text{Mn(CNPh}\right)_{\scriptscriptstyle{6}}\right]^{2+}$  are assigned to vibronic components of a  $\sigma$  (CNPh)  $\rightarrow$  d $\pi$  charge transfer transition.

The unique electronic structural properties of arylisocyanide complexes are apparently related to the *rr* conjugation of aromatic ring orbitals with the out-of-plane  $\pi$  \*(CN) function.

The emission and photochemical behavior of  $M(CNP<sub>h</sub>)<sub>6</sub>$  and  $M(CNIph)_6$  complexes (M = Cr, Mo, W; Ph = phenyl, Iph = 2,6diisopropylphenyl) has been studied. The complexes of Mo and W show emission attributable to an  $L\pi^*$   $\rightarrow$  d $\pi$  process in a variety of solvents (2-methylpentane, 2-MeTHF, benzene, pyridine) at room temperature. Complexes of all three metals show emissions at 77 K in 2-MeTHF that overlap the MLCT absorption bands. The emission quantum yields for  $Mo(CNIph)_6$  and  $W(CNIph)_6$  in 2-MeTHF at 77 K are  $0.78 \pm 0.08$  and  $0.93 \pm 0.07$ , respectively. The emission lifetimes at 77 K in 2-methylpentane for the M(CNIph)<sub>6</sub> complexes are:  $\tau(\text{Cr})$  < 10 nsec,  $\tau(\text{Mo})$  40.2  $\pm$  0.5  $\mu$  sec (298 K, 43  $\pm$  2 nsec),  $\tau(W)$  7.6 ± 0.5  $\mu$  sec (298 K, 83 ± 2 nsec). Both M(CNPh)<sub>6</sub> and  $M(CNIph)_6$  undergo photosubstitution reactions in pyridine solutions. Formation of  $M(CNPh)$ , by and  $M(CNIph)$ , by occurs upon irradiation at 436 nm, with quantum yields decreasing according to a regular pattern  $\left[\text{Cr(CNPh)}_{6}\right]$  (0.23) ~  $\left[\text{Cr(CNIph)}_{6}\right]$  (0.23) >  $\left[\text{Mo(CNPh)}_{6}\right]$  $(0.055) > [\text{Mo(CNIph)}_{6}]$   $(0.022) > [\text{W(CNPh)}_{6}]$   $(0.011)$   $\gg$  $[W(\text{CNIph})_{6}]$  (0.0003). The very small quantum yield for photosubstitution in the case of  $W(CNIph)_6$  is interpreted as an indication that the mechanism of formation of  $W(CNPh)$ <sub>p</sub>py has associative character. Irradiation of  $M(CNIph)_6$  at 436 nm in CHCl<sub>3</sub> yields the one-electron oxidation products  $[M(CNIph)_6]Cl$ . The quantum yield

in each case is  $0.19 \pm 0.01$ . Similar irradiation of M(CNPh)<sub>6</sub> in CHCl<sub>3</sub> gives two-electron oxidation products. For  $M = Mo$ , W, the products are identified as the seven-coordinate species  $[M(CNPh)_6Cl]Cl$ .

The room temperature UV-VIS solution spectra of  $Rh(CNR)_4$ <sup>+</sup>  $[R = \text{aromatic or aliphatic}]$  have been found not to follow Beer's law. This behavior has been attributed to complex oligomerization of the monomeric  $Rh(CNR)_4^+$  units to form species of the type  $[Rh(CNR)_4^+]$ <sub>n</sub>  $(n = 1, 2, 3)$ . The extinction coefficients and formation constants using the following expressions:

$$
\begin{array}{rcl} M &+& M &\rightleftharpoons & D \\ & & K_1 & \\ D &+& M &\rightleftharpoons & T \\ & & & K_2 & \end{array}
$$

have been obtained for the systems  $R =$  phenyl in acetonitrile solution; and  $R = t$ -butyl in water solution. The values for the parameters used are for R = phenyl,  $K_1$  = 35 M<sup>-1</sup>,  $\epsilon_2$  = 10,500,  $\epsilon_3 K_2$  = 183,000 M<sup>-1</sup>; for R = t-butyl,  $K_1 = 251 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ,  $\epsilon_2 = 16,900$ .

The nature of the oligomerization is due to a direct metalmetal interaction of the d<sup>8</sup>Rh atoms. The band positions for the oligomeric species were found to conform to predictions made by simple Hückel theory.

The synthesis and characterization of a dimeric Rh(I) complex containing the bridging ligand 1, 3-diisocyanopropane(bridge) **2+**  is reported. In methanol solution,  $\left[\text{Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4\right]^2$  oligomerizes, and species containing four, six, and eight Rh atoms have been

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 $\text{indentified spectroscopically.}$  The dimer,  $\left[\text{Rh}_{2}(\text{bridge})_{4}\right]^{2+}$ , undergoes two center oxidative addition reactions with  $I_2$ ,  $Br_2$ , and  $CH_3I$ . The  $\text{products}, \; \left[\text{Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4\text{X}_2\right]^{2+} \left(\text{X = I, Br}\right) \, \text{which contain two strongly}$ coupled Rh(II) atoms, possess trans stereochemistry. The mechanism of oxidative addition is thought to involve attack of the  $Rh(I)$  on the heavy atom of substrate molecule.

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# CHAPTER I

# PREPARATION, STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION, AND EXCITED STATE PROPERTIES OF HEXACOORDINATE ARYL ISOCYANIDE COMPLEXES OF

 $Cr(0)$ , Mo $(0)$ , AND W $(0)$ 

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#### Introduc tion

Surprisingly little is known about the electronic structure and photochemistry of isocyanide complexes, in spite of the strong current interest in the coordination chem is try of isocyanides and the obvious relationship of these ligands to cyanide ion and carbon monoxide. $^{\rm 1-12}$  Previous theoretical work on isocyanide complexes appears to be limited to a few semi-empirical molecular orbital calculations,  $^{4-8}$  incomplete electronic spectral data,  $^{4, 7-11}$  and one photochemical study. 13

The approach used in attacking this area was to obtain an overview of the complexes' electronic structure and to explore the photochemical reactions which were suggested by the nature of the excited states.

Low valent complexes containing only isocyanide ligands of  $Cr(0)$ , Mo $(0)$ , W $(0)$ , and Mn $(i)$  and  $(ii)$  have been known for quite some time.  $^1$  They are usually synthesized from simple metal complexes  $(\text{Cr}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_{\!4}$   $^2\text{H}_2\text{O},$   $^{14}$   $\text{Mo}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_{\!4}$ ,  $^{15}$   $\text{WCl}_6^{-16}$ , and  $\text{MnI}_{2} \text{)}^{17}$  by addition of the appropriate isocyanide and in some cases a reducing agent such as magnesium. In Malatesta's and Bonati's  $book<sup>1</sup>$  and in several more recent reviews, the chemistry of isocyanide complexes of metals is reviewed.  $1, 3, 4$ 

The  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  complexes (where  $M = Cr(0), Mo(0), W(0)$ ) are obtained as very thermally stable dark red to orange crystals that are stable to air in the solid state indefinitely (for  $M = Cr(0)$ ) or for a few days  $(M = Mo(0)$  and  $W(0)$ ). The Mn(I) complexes are air stable. being much more stable than the corresponding Mn(II) complexes

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which under proper conditions are spontaneous ly reduced back to the  $Mn(I)$  complexes.<sup>1</sup>

Having low-spin  $d^{6}$  configurations, one expects that thermal ligand exchange reactions would be rather slow. This is borne out by experiment,  $^{14}$  the half life for exchange of  $\overline{\text{C}}^{^{13}}$  labeled phenyl isocyanide with  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  being about 250 hours at 20 °C. This  ${\rm rate\ is\ slower\ than\ the\ rate\ for\ the\ exchange\ of\ C}^{^{13}}$ O with Cr(CO)<sub>6</sub>.

Early in our work $^{15}$  on the electronic structure of  $\rm{M(CNPh)}_{6}$ complexes (where  $M = Cr(0)$ ,  $Mo(0)$ ,  $W(0)$ ) it became obvious that an X-ray crystal structure would be needed to clarify the structura l ambiguities suggested by the electronic spectra and the  $\bar{\nu}(\text{CN})$ region of the infrared spectra.  $11, 12, 18$ 

### $X$ -ray Crystal Structure of  $Cr(CNPh)_e$

## Experimental Section

Red crystals of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$  were obtained by slow cooling of a saturated toluene solution of the complex. The crystals were found to be rhombohedral in shape and of X-ray quality. A crystal, 0. 24 mm on an edge, was selected and mounted so the spindle axis was perpendicular to the apparent three-fold symmetry axis of the crystal. Weissenberg photographs initially suggested that the space group was triclinic but a precession photograph showed the threefold symmetry present in a hexagonal/rhombohedral unit cell. By fitting fifteen observed reflections with the program  $\text{CELL}^{19}$  and examining the data set for absences, the space group was determined to be  $[RT; 148]$ .

Data were collected on a Datex automated General Electric quarter circle diffractometer and the unit cell dimensions were determined by a least squares procedure program $^{19}$  using  $2\,\theta$  values measured for sixteen reflections. More information is given in Table 1.

## Determination and Refinement of the Structure

Symmetry considerations require that the metal sit. on the inversion center of the unit cell. This requires that all six ligands be equivalent. Thus only the positions of nine nonhydrogen atoms needed to be found. The program MULTAN<sup>20</sup> was used to solve the structure using 100 strong reflections.

Least squares  $^{\mathrm{21}}$  refinement of the structure anisotropically for all nine nonhydrogen atoms and isotropically for the five

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Table 1. Experimental Data for the X-ray Diffraction Study of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$ 

Space group  $[R\bar{3};$  No. 148]



hydrogen atoms yield  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  of 0.0311 and 0.0311 for  $R_1 =$  $\sum ||\mathbf{F}_0| - |\mathbf{F}_c||/\sum |\mathbf{F}_0|$  and  $\mathbf{R}_2 = (\sum w (|\mathbf{F}_0| - |\mathbf{F}_c|)^2/\sum w |\mathbf{F}_0|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .  $\nabla_{rr} (\nabla^2 \nabla^2)^2 / (m \nabla^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ The GOF parameter, GOF =  $[\sum_{m}w(F_{0}^2 - F_{c})^2/(m-s)]^{\frac{1}{2}}$  is 1.5215. A three dimensional difference Fourier synthesis $^{19}$  calculated at the conclusion of the refinement indicated no discrepancies greater than  $\pm$  0.21  $\AA^3$ .

#### Discussion

The metal atom sits on a site of  $S_6$  symmetry, allowing a distortion along the three fold crystalographic axis such that the four··fold axis present in an octahedron vanishes. The distortion takes the form of a deviation from linearity of both the M-C-N angle and the  $C_{iso}^-N-C_{ring}$  angle of about  $7^\circ$ . The two planes defined by these two sets of three atoms however do not coincide, the dihedral. angle between the plane normals being  $59.15^\circ$ . The M-C<sub>iso</sub>-N plane normal also makes an angle of  $89.2^\circ$  with the three fold symmetry axis. This can be visualized easily by taking the  $M(CN)_{6}$  frame work and bending all of the MCN bond angles toward the plane perpendicular to the three fold axis of the complex, reducing the symmetry of the  $M(CN)_6$  portion of the molecule from  $O_h$  to  $D_{3d}$ . Addition of the phenyl rings further reduces the symmetry of the molecule to that of the site symmetry, which is  $S_6$ . The phenyl rings are arranged in an almost perfect  $T<sub>h</sub>$  fashion about the Cr atom. Each ring normal. is tipped 6.86 $^{\circ}$  away from one of the two fold axes of a T<sub>h</sub> structure while it is nearly perpendicular (88. 97°) to the other unique two-fold. (The angle made with the third two-fold is  $90^\circ + 6.86^\circ = 96.86^\circ$ .)

 $S_6$  was predicted from the  $\bar{\nu}$  (CN) stretching region of the infrared This reduction in the symmetry of the molecule from  $T<sub>h</sub>$  to  ${\rm spectrum.}^{15}$  Infrared data will be discussed in relation to structural considerations in a following section.

The bond lengths and angles are set out in .Tables  $2$  and  $3$ . The metal-carbon bond length of  $1.933(2)$ Å is close to that found in  $Cr(CO)_6$  where the M-C bond length is  $1.92 \pm 0.04$ Å. <sup>25</sup> The carbon-nitrogen triple bond is  $1.168(2)$ Å which compares favorably to those found in other phenyl isocyanide structures.  $26$  The six carbon atoms of the phenyl rings form nearly perfect hexagons; the **C-C** bond lengths being  $(1.374 \pm 0.018 \text{ Å})$ ; deviations from<br>
coplanarity being less than  $0.007 \text{ Å}$ .<br> **Infrared Spectra**<br>
Symmetry considerations suggest that a M(CN)<sub>6</sub> fra coplanarity being less than  $0.007\text{\AA}$ .

Symmetry considerations suggest that a  $M(CN)_{6}$  fragment having perfect  $O_h$  symmetry should give rise to one infrared active  $T_{1U}$   $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) stretching mode. If, however, one reduces the symmetry to  $D_{3d}$  by applying a trigonal distortion to the  $M(CN)_6$  fragment, the triply degenerate  $T_{1U} \bar{\nu}$ (CN) mode is split into a singly degenerate  $A_{2u}$  and doubly degenerate  $E_u$  mode. Further lowering of the symmetry from  $\mathbf{D_{3d}}$  to  $\mathbf{S_{6}}$  only changes the appropriate symmetry labels, maintaining the degeneracy of the  $E_{\text{u}}$  mode. (The new labels in  $S_6$  are  $A_u$  and  $E_u$ .) Reduction of the  $M(CN)_6$  fragment from  $O_h$  to  $T<sub>h</sub>$  does not split the degeneracy of the triply degenerate  $T<sub>u</sub>$  $\tilde{\nu}$ (CN) mode (T<sub>u</sub> in T<sub>h</sub>). Interestingly, infrared spectra of





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 $101681 - 21$  $\overline{N}$  $- C(1)$ **Simple Street**  $C(2) - C(7)$  $1.384(2)$  $C(3) - H(3)$   $C_0$ 551(16)  $C(5) - C(6)$  1.366(2)  $C(6) - C(7)$  $1.335(2)$ in in  $C(7) = F(7)$  0.852(16)  $C(4) - C(5)$  1.349(2)  $C(5) - F(5)$  0.579(19)  $C(6) - F(6)$  0.925(22)  $\sqrt{5}$ 

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# Table 3. Bond Angles<sup>2</sup> for  $Cr(CNPh)_6$



a Number system is the same as for Table 2.



Figure 1. View of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  down the three-fold axis.

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Figure 2. Stereoscopic view of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$  down the three-fold axis.

Atom	$\mathbf{X}$	Y	Z		
CZ	301 $\left($ $Q_{\alpha} Q$	$Q_{\alpha}Q_{\alpha}$ ( - 281	2e $\mathbf{I}$ $C_0$ $C_1$		
N	J <sub>2</sub> 11769 301	28) 0.361131	23) $C_0136481$		
C(1)	30) 1.76658(	0.22274( 721	$Co$ (7850) 291		
C(2)	1.17730( 321	0.521851 30)	291 6.188651		
C(3)	34) 30077361	$C_0$ 57660(32)	$(0.18972(-32))$		
C(4)	$J_2$ 132691 361	0,734161 521	6.23257 32)		
C(5)	$J_0 284501$ 4()	0.83731137	$C_0$ 27768(36)		
C(6)	1.38540 41)	$C_0 785701$ (1)	$0.28005$ (40)		
C(7)	1.33383(37)	$C_0$ $62785$ (39)	$C_0 2367C$ (36)		
H(3)	$-0.03733(321)$	$C_0$ 49852 (307)	$C_0$ 1465C(298)		
H(4)	$J_066022(339)$	$C_0$ 77079(335)	(622839(328))		
H(5)	$J_9$ 32070(356)	0.94843(388)	(0.20721(354))		
$H(\sigma)$	1.49175(441)	$C_0 85893(426)$	$C_{0}$ 21772 (409)		
H(7)	0.39543(329)	$C_0$ 55359(321)	$C_0$ 24155(317)		

Table 4. Atomic Coordinates in Terms of the Rhonbohedral Cell

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#### Final Thermal Parameters for  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$ Table 6.



Atom



 $\mathbf{B}$ 

 $a_{\text{The form of the anisotropic temperature factor is } \exp[-2\pi^2(h^2a^*^2\beta_{11} +$  $\ldots + 2 \text{K1b}^{*} \text{c}^{*} \beta_{23}$ ].

<sup>b</sup>The form of the isotropic temperature factor is of the form  $\exp\bigl[ \, - B \bigl( \sin^2 \theta \bigl/ \lambda^2 \bigr) \bigr]$  .

 $\overline{1}$ 

H	K	$\mathbf{I}$	FOBS	FCAL	H	$\kappa$	L	FUBS	FCAL
$-13$	$-2$	$-5$	16.50	15.07	$-13$	$-1$	C	43.38	44.06
$-13$	$-3$	$-4$	25.33	25.98	$-13$	$-2$	ı	41.43	41.28
$-13$	$-4$	$-3$	15.20	14.26	$-13$	$-3$	2	10.19	10.53
$-14$	$-1$	$-4$	9.94	8.14	$-13$	$-1$	3	$20 - 84$	19.99
$-14$	$-2$	$-3$	14.21	11.76	$-14$	$-1$	$\overline{c}$	24.36	22.59
$-14$	$-3$	$-2$	13.40	14.08	$-14$	$-2$	3	20.44	19.92
$-15$	$-1$	$-2$	10, 46	10.07	-9	$-1$	- 5	2.74	1.00
$-15$	$-2$	- 1	14.59	14.20	-9	$-2$	$-4$	17.65	18.28
-11	$-1$	-7	4.46	1.82	-9	$-3$	-3	26.11	25.70
$-11$	$-2$	$-6$	35.64	36.84	$-9$	$-l_{\dagger}$	$-2$	82.89	$83 - 25$
$-11$	$-3$	$-5$	17.72	17.59	-9	$-5$	$-1$	65.22	65.49
$-11$	$-4$	$-4$	8.08	$8 - 48$	-- 9	-6	0	4.01	3.06
$-11$	$-5$	$-3$	22,48	22.53	$-9$	$-7$	1	20.26	19.62
$-11$	$-6$	$-2$	47.56	49.49	$-9$	$-8$	$\overline{c}$	8.11	7.28
$-11$	$-7$	$-1$	11.61	13.17	$-9$	$-5$	$\mathbf{3}$	2.75	4.36
$-12$	$-1$	$-5$	49.00	51.08	$-10$	$-1$	$-3$	29.33	29.54
$-12$	$-2$	$-4$	42.19	42.73	$-10$	$-2$	$-2$	20.15	21.41
$-12$	$-3$	$-3$	29.29	30.52	$-10$	$-3$	$-1$	16.47	15.32
$-1.2$	$-1$	$-2$	$7 - 83$	4.80	$-10$	$-\ell_i$	C	23.63	23.93
$-12$	$-5$	$-1$	5.84	2.06	$-10$	$-5$	$\mathbf{I}$	17.95	17.61
$-12$	$-6$	$\mathbf{0}$	14.25	14.13	$-10$	$-6$	$\overline{c}$	27.02	25.92
$-13$	- 1	- 3	0.71	0.70	$-10$	$-7$	3	6.16	3.51
$-13$	$-2$	$-2$	24.91	24.95	$-11$	$-1$	$-1$	46.79	44.27
$-13$	$-3$	$-1$	12.42	11.51	$-11$	$-2$	0	$8 - 39$	7.49
$-13$	$-4$	$\mathbf 0$	3.18	3.03	$-11$	-3	l	$21 - 05$	21.61
$-13$	$-5$	$\mathbf{1}$	11.05	10.56	$-11$	$-4$	$\overline{c}$	11.14	9.69
$-14$	$-1$	$-1$	7.30	9.37	$-11$	$-5$	3	7.65	9.02
$-14$	$-2$	0	6.97	6.19	$-11$	$-6$	$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{t}}$	22.59	23.17
$-14$	$-3$	$\mathbf 1$	3.31	3.85	$-12$	$-1$	l	12.08	12.20
$-15$	$-1$	$\bf{l}$	25.94	25.65	$-12$	$-2$	2	39.84	38.39
$-10$	$-1$	$-6$	15,07	13.98	$-12$	$-3$	3	39.30	38.46
$-10$	$-2$	$-5$	37.33	38.47	$-12$	$-4$	$4\overline{6}$	4.71	4.24
$-10$	$-3$	$-4$	7.99	7.43	$-13$	$-1$	3	16.08	16.24
$-10$	$-4$	-3	15.41	13.56	$-13$	$-2$	4 <sub>k</sub>	35.58	37.22
$-10$	$-5$	$-2$	13.61	15°15	$-8$	$-1$	$-4$	74.14	73.69
$-10$	$-6$	$-1$	9.08	9.54	$-9$	$-2$	-3	44.04	42.30
$-10$	$-7$	$\overline{O}$	1.49	4.40	$-8$	$-3$	$-2$	44.42	44.23
$-10$	$-8$	$\mathbf{1}$	2.60	3.85	$-8$	$-4$	$-1$	13.13	$12 - 02$
$-11$	$-1$	$-\ell$	43.57	44.33	$-8$	$-5$	C	35.31	34.51
$-11$	$-2$	-3	5.75	6.97	$-8$	$-6$	$\mathbf{1}$	19.37	19.42
$-11$	$-3$	$-2$	45.57	45.38	$-8$	$-7$	$\overline{c}$	20.93	20.99
$-11$	$-4$	$-1$	2.16	2.661	$-8$	$-8$	3	17.69	17.00
$-11$	$-5$	$\mathbf C$	35.43	33.51	$-8$	$-9$	$4\overline{6}$	21.44	21.12
$-11$	$-6$	1	35.41	33.94	$-9$	$-1$	$-2$	14,88	13.51
$-11$	$-7$	$\overline{c}$	7.43	9.20	$\overline{Q}$	$-2$	$-1$	10.13	3.45
$-12$	$-1$	$-2$	3,53	6.67	$-9$	$-3$	C	30.29	30.53
$-12$	$-2$	$-1$	13.40	14.07	$-9$	$-4$	$\mathbf{I}$	25.09	25.59
$-12$	$-3$	C	$36 - 43$	35.98	-9	$-5$	$\overline{c}$	28.87	29.32
$-12$	$-4$	$\mathbf{I}$	13.33	13.64	-9	-6	3	26.96	$25 - 85$
$-12$	$-5$	2	35.72	35.08	-9	$-7$	4	11.80	10.82

Table 7. Calculated and Observed Structure Factors

 $\mathbb{R}^n$  . The set of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ 



15

 $\bar{\mathbf{z}}$ 





 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ 

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18

 $\bar{\omega}$ 

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 



 $\label{eq:2.1} \begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{C}_1 & & \\ & \mathcal{C}_2 & \\ & & \mathcal{C}_3 \end{array}$ 

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

 $\sim$   $\epsilon$ 



 $\sim$ 

 $\sim 10^{-11}$ 

L.

 $\sim$ 



 $Cr(CNPh)_6$ , determined as Nujol mulls or in  $HCCl_3$  solution show a sharp band at about  $2005$   $cm^{-1}$  and an extremely broad band at 1950 cm $^{-1}$ .  $^{15}$  Thus, although the precise value of the deviation of the MCN bond angle from  $180^\circ$  may be dependent on crystal packing forces, the fact that the bend is electronic in nature seems assured by the similarity between the solution and solid state spectra. The broadening of the  $\bar{\nu}(\rm CN)$  band at 1950  $\rm cm^{-1}$  is also explainable in terms of the structure since pseudo rotations along the M-CN--C bonds should be of very low energies. In fact, a low temperature IR spectrum of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  in a KBr pellet shows the band at 1950  $cm^{-1}$ sharpening considerably. Similar arguments obtain for the Mo and W complexes. The ramifications of this bending in terms of the electronic structure of the complex will not be discussed at this time, but will appear in a later section.

By changing the steric requirements of the phenyl rings by putting large alkyl groups in the two ortho ring positions, one should be able to perturb the  $M-C-N$  bonds back toward colinearity. Strong evidence suggests that this is the case for  $Cr(CNIph)_{6}$  (CNIph = 2, 6-diisopropylphenylisocyanide). The IR spectrum of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$ shows two bands in solution and in the solid state, but the bands are considerably sharper and the higher energy band is much weaker in intensity relative to the low energy band. The spectrum of  $W(CNIph)_6$ , which is almost identical, is shown in Figure 4. Molecular models show that the bulky R groups of  $Cr(CN1ph)_6$ should tend to push the structure band to  $T_h$  via nonbonding steric

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Figure 3. IR spectra of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  as a KBr pellet. Top curve T = 14 K; bottom curve T = 310 K.



Figure 4. Upper curve, IR spectrum of  $W(CNIph)_6$  in HCCl<sub>3</sub>. Lower curve, IR spectrum of  $W(CNPh)_0$  in HCCl<sub>3</sub>.

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interactions among the i-propyl groups. The idea that  $Cr(CN1ph)_6$ is closer to  $\mathbf{T}_{\boldsymbol{\mathsf{h}}}$  symmetry is also supported by the simpler appearance of its electronic spectrum compared to  $CrCNPh$ <sub>6</sub>. Useful correlations of the appearance of the  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) region of the IR spectrum of  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  complexes with the microsymmetry at the metal are apparent.

In Figure 5, the infrared spectra of  $\mathrm{Cr(CNPh)}_6^{\mathrm{o}}, ^{+1}, ^{+2}$  are shown, and in Figure 6 are spectra for  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$ , Mn $(CNPhCH_{3})_{6}$ <sup>+</sup>, and  $\text{Mn}(\text{CNPhCH}_3)_{6}^{2+}$ . Other IR spectral data are given in Table 8. Thus it appears from the data presented that for a given metal, oxidation results in a sharpening of the  $\bar{\nu}(CN)$  stretch, an increase in energy, and a lessening of distortions away from  $T<sub>h</sub>$  symmetry. For the isoelectronic d<sup>6</sup> metals (Cr(0), Mn(I), Re(I), Mo(0), W(0),  $Fe(II)$ ) it is seen that moving to the right and down in the periodic table, the  $M(CNR)_6$  complexes tend to deviate more from  $T_h$ symmetry. This is consistent with an increasing propensity of the metal toward distortion to relieve the instability caused by increased electron density at the metal which is caused by a gradual saturation of the CNAr  $\pi^*$  orbitals' ability to accept electron density through  $\pi$  donation from the metal.



Figure 5. Curve 1: IR spectrum of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  in  $HCCl_3$ ; Curve 2: IR spectrum of  $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>$  in HCCl<sub>3</sub>; Curve 3: IR spectrum of  $Cr(CNPh)_6^{2+}$  in  $HCCl_3$ .



Figure 6. Curve 1: IR spectrum of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  in  $HCCl_3$ ; Curve 2: IR spectrum of  $Mn(pCNPhCH_3)_6$  in  $HCCl_3$ ; Curve 3: IR spectrum of  $Mn(pCNPhCH_3)_6^{2+}$  in  $HCC1_3$ .





a This work, unless otherwise noted.

 $^{\text{b}}$  M. Fremi and V. Valenti, Gazz. Chim. Ital.,  $\frac{91}{20}$ , 1352 (1961).
#### Electronic Structure

### The Electronic Structure of the Ligands

Simple molecular orbital calculations<sup>5</sup>,<sup>23</sup> have been carried out on methyl, vinyl, and phenyl isocyanides. The important aspects of the electronic structure of these molecules are that they contain a lone pair of electrons localized on the carbon atom, which can form a strong  $\sigma$  bond to a transition metal and that they all contain two CN  $\pi$ <sup>\*</sup> molecular orbitals which can be potentially useful in forming  $d\pi$ -p $\pi^*$   $\pi$  bonds. The calculations<sup>5</sup> show that for alkyl isocyanides, which have cylindrical symmetry about the  $C \equiv N$  bond, the two  $\pi^*$  levels are degenerate as in cyanide ion. In vinyl and phenyl isocyanide however, the planarity of these groups splits the degeneracy of the  $\pi^*$  levels so as to stabilize one ( $\pi^*$  vertical) through interaction with other p orbitals of  $\pi$  symmetry relative to the other  $(\pi^*$  horizontal). Thus in qualitative terms, taking phenyl isocyanide as an example,  $\pi^*_{\mathbf{v}}$  should be a much better acceptor than  $\pi_{h}^{*}$  since it should be able to allow electron density to escape into the phenyl ring. This is in agreement with Horrocks' work <sup>24</sup> which puts p-tolyl isocyanide above t-butyl isocyanide in respect to forming  $\pi$  bonds. This effect will be quite important in the discussion of the complexes which contain phenyl isocyanide.

The Electronic Spectra of the d<sup>6</sup> Systems

Each of the complexes  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  [M = Cr(0), Mo(0), W(0)] exhibits strong electronic absorption bands above 300 nm. The bands below 300 nm are attributable to  $\pi$   $\rightarrow$   $\pi$ <sup>\*</sup> transitions localized primarily in the ligand system<sup>25</sup> and are not of primary interest. Spectral data for the observed bands of  $M(CNAr)_{6}(M = Cr(0), Mo(0),$  $W(0)$ ) and  $Ar = Ph$ , 2, 6-dimethylphenyl = Dph, 2, 6-diisopropylphenyl = Iph; and 4-chlorophenyl are set out in Table 10.

In Figure 12 , a molecular orbital diagram was constructed assuming the idealized  $T<sub>h</sub>$  symmetry for  $M(CNAr)<sub>6</sub>$  complexes. This diagram was constructed by estimating the interaction *oi* the highest occupied and lowest unoccupied molecular orbitals of six CNPh ligands with the central metal.

The ground state for each complex has the  $\left({\rm t_{\sigma}}\right)^{6}$   ${\rm A}_{\sigma}$  configuration. As is the case with the related  $M(CO)_6$  complexes,  $^{26}$  the lowest energy excited states are derived from either d-d (d $\pi - d\sigma^*$ ) or metal-to-ligand charge transfer (MLCT) transitions. It can reasonably be assumed that the d-d states lie above  $25,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and transitions to them should give rise to relatively weak bands. Therefore, it is not likely that any of the intense bands in the  $M(CNPh)_{6}$  complexes are due to d-d transitions.

The situation regarding MLCT transitions is more complicated than for the  $M(CO)_6$  complexes. As has been previously discussed, molecular orbital calculations<sup>5</sup> suggest that there are two low-lying



Table 9a. Electronic Absorption Spectra<sup>2</sup> of M(CNAr)<sub>6</sub> Complexes

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Table 9a (Continued) Table 9a (Continued)



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 $^2$  Extinction coefficients measured in THF at 25°C in a 0.2 nm cell ( $\epsilon$   $\pm$  10%).  $^a$  Extinction coefficients measured in THF at 25°C in a 0.2 nm cell ( $\epsilon \pm 10\%$ ).

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reported, owing to interfering absorption of the nitric acid added to the solutions.

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Complex	$\lambda_{\text{max}}, \text{nm}$	$\bar{\nu}_{\rm max}$ , kK	Relative Absorbance
$Cr(CNPh)_{6}$	469	21.3	0.71
	420	23.8	1.00
$Mo(CNPh)_{6}$	474	21.1	0.66
	408	24.5	1.00
	385	26.0	0.87
$W(CNPh)_{6}$	540	$18.5$ (triplet)	0.08
	425 sh	21.0	0.59
	470	21.3	0.63
	459 sh	21.8	0.59
	402	24.9	1.00
	379 sh	26.4	0.92
$Cr(CNDph)_{6}$	470 sh	21.3	0.27
	410	24.4	1.00
$W(CNDph)_{6}$	510	$19.6$ (triplet)	0.05
	460	21.7	0.19
	387	25.8	1.00
$Cr(CN1ph)_{6}$	482	20.7	1.00
	422	23.7	0.57
$W(CNIph)_{6}$	508	$19.7$ (triplet)	0.35
	469 sh	21.3	0.99
	461	21.7	1.00
	432 sh	23.2	0.77
	360	27.8	0.53

Table  $9c$ . Electronic Absorption Spectra<sup>2</sup> of M(CNAr)<sub>6</sub> Complexes

### Table 9c (Continued)



Figure 7. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  in 1:1 isopentane/diethyl ether  $($  ),  $\text{Mo}(\text{CNPh})_{\text{6}}$  in  $8\!:\!2\!:\!1$ ethanol/methanol/diethyl ether (---), and  $\text{W(CNPh)}_6$ in EPA $(\cdot \cdot \cdot)$  at 77 K.



Figure 8. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$  (---),  $\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{CNPh})_{6}$  (---), and  $\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CNPh})_{6}$   $(\cdots)$  in degassed THF  $(-\cdot\!-\!\cdot\!-\!)$  at 298 K.

 $\bar{\rm Z}$ 



Figure 9. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Cr(CNDph)_6$  (---),  $\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{CNDph})_{6}$  (---), and  $\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CNDph})_{6}$  (···) in degassed THF  $(\cdot-\cdot\cdot\cdot)$  at 298 K.

 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{F}^{(1)}_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \mathcal{F}^{(1)}_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \mathcal{F}^{(1)}_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \mathcal{F}^{(1)}_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \mathcal{F}^{(1)}_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \mathcal{F}^{(1)}_{\mathcal{A}}(t)$ 

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Figure 10. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  (--),  $\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{CNIph})_{\mathbf{6}}$  (---), and  $\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CNIph})_{\mathbf{6}}$  ( $\cdots$ ) in degassed  $\left(-\cdot-\cdot\right)$  at 298 K.

Figure 11. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Cr(pCNPhCl)_{6}(\underline{\hspace{1cm}})$ , Mo(pCNPhCl) (---), and  $\text{W(pCNPhCl)}_6 \ (\cdots)$  in degassed THF  $(-,-)$  at 298 K.

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Figure 12. General classification and estimated relative energies of the molecular orbitals in  $\mathbb{M}(\text{CNPh})_{\mathfrak{s}}$  complexes;  $\mathrm{d}\pi$ and  $\sigma$ (CNPh) levels are occupied in the ground state.

 $\pi^*$  levels in CNPh. The out-of-plane  $\pi^*(\text{CN})$  function is involved in the lower level, which is designated  $\pi_{\rm v}$ <sup>\*</sup> in Figure 12. The  $\pi_{v}^{*}$  MO, therefore, is stabilized by conjugation with the  $\pi$  orbitals on the aromatic ring, whereas the in-plane orbital,  $\pi_h^*$ , is localized on the cyano group.

The two lowest bands above 300 nm in each of the  $M(CNPh)_{6}$ complexes may be assigned to allowed components of the  $t_{gr}$  – tu $\pi_{v}^*$ (CNPh) one electron transition. The fact that these transitions are substantially blue-shifted in the electronic spectrum of the  $\left(\mathrm{d}\pi\right)^{6}$ complex  $Min(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup> confirms the MLCT interpretation. The lowest$  $d\pi - \pi_v^*$  (CNPh) band, for example, is 8kK higher in Mn(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup> than in  $Cr(CNPh)_6$ . The magnitude of the shift is very nearly the same as that observed for the lowest  $A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^{1}T_{1u}$  transitions in  $Cr(CO)_6$  (35.7 kK) and  $Mn(CO)_6^+$  (44.5 kK).  $^{26}$ 

The 33 kK band present in the zero valent complexes could be assigned as a higher energy component of the  $t_g - t_u \pi_v * CN$ transition but is more logically assigned to an excitation to  $t_{\rm u}\pi_{\rm h}$ <sup>\*</sup>CN based on the following argument. Comparing the position of the lowest MLCT bands  $^8$ in Mn(CNMe) $_6^{+8}$ •to Mn(CNPh) $_6^{+}$ , one finds a red shift of about 10 kK (43.1 kK vs.  $33.0$  kK). Attributing the entire shift in the MLCT band to the position of  $\pi^*CN$  and assuming that the  $\pi^*$ CN orbitals of methylisocyanide are good models for  $\pi_h^*$ CN of phenylisocyanide, one predicts the  $t_g - t_u \pi_h^*$  transitions of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$  to be located at or above 31.8 kK, which is very close to the 33 kK band found in all the  $M(CNAr)_{\sigma}$  (M = Cr(0), Mo(0), W(0))

complexes. This view is further strengthened by the spectrum of  $Cr(CNvinyl)<sub>6</sub><sup>27</sup>$  which is similar to  $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub>$  except that the two lowest bands are shifted to higher energy while the highest band is again found at about  $33$  kK. This is exactly as expected since the stabilization of  $\pi_v^*$ CN conjugated to a vinyl group has been shown in calculations to be less than that conjugated to a phenyl  $\text{r}$  ing.

The spectra of the  $W(0)$  complexes show more complexities, containing several additional we2.k bands not found in the corresponding  $Cr(0)$  and  $Mo(0)$  complexes. It is perfectly reasonable to assign these bands to transitions which have increased in allowedness via the increase in the spin orbit coupling in  $W$  vs Mo and  $Cr$ . To call the transitions singlet triplet transitions though seems rather dangerous in view of the work of Crosby, et al.  $^{28, 29}$  on Ru(bipy)<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup>. They have developed a model which treats MLCT transitions in  $\mathsf d^{\mathsf G}$  systems by weakly coupling a  $d^{5}$  low spin core to the excited electron which is placed in the appropriate ligand orbital. In its limits, this model predicts that the singlet and triplet MLCT transitions are degenerate when  $e^2/r_{i,i}$  and  $\pi$  are zero. Crosby's analysis of the luminescence **lJ 2+**  arising from  $Ru(bipy)_3$  suggests that off-diagonal matrix elements due to spin orbit coupling are larger  $(\sim 1000 \text{ cm}^{-1})$  than those due to the  $e^2/r_{ij}$  elements (100 cm<sup>-1</sup>) involving an electron on the ligands and the d<sup>o</sup> core. Thus assigning spin labels to the various states arising from this analysis has little justification except for determining the allowedness of the transition. A more complete discussion of the comparison between the  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  (M = Cr, Mo, W)

and  $M(bipy)_3^2$ <sup>+</sup> (M = Fe, Ru, Os) is included in the section discussing the emission results.

Up to this point, the electronic structure of the  $M(CN)_{6}$ complexes has been discussed in terms of idealized  $T_h$  symmetry. Crystallographic and infrared data show however that the M-CN linkage in  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  is bent to 173° lowering the symmetry of the complex to  $S_6$  symmetry. The data suggest that the distortion is also present in solution since solid state and solution IR spectra are identical and consistent with  $S_6$  symmetry. The observed distortion can be rationalized in terms of a second order Jahn-Teller distortion  $30-32$  of the ground state which can be formulated as follows. The second order Jahn-Teller effect states that the energy of the ground electronic state is given by

$$
E = E_0 + f_{OO}Q_i^2 + f_{0k}Q_i^2
$$

where  $E_0$  is the energy of the unperturbed wavefunction  $\psi_0$ ,  $Q_i$  is the normal vibrational coordinate and  $f_{\rm oo}^{\phantom{\dag}}$  and  $f_{\rm ok}^{\phantom{\dag}}$  contribute to the force constant of the normal mode. The constant  $f_{oo}$  consists of matrix elements containing  $\psi_{\mathbf{0}}$  only, but  $\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{0}\mathbf{k}}$  is of the form

$$
\sum_{k} [ <\psi_{o} \, \big \vert \overset{\partial \, u}{\partial \mathbb{Q}_i} \, \big \vert \psi_{k} \! > \! J^{^{2}/(E_{_{O}}\, - \, E_{k})}
$$

Consequently, for matrix elements of this form to be non-zero, the direct product of  $\Gamma_{\!\mathbf{0}}^{\phantom{\dag}}\Gamma_{\!\mathbf{k}}^{\phantom{\dag}}$  must contain  $\Gamma_{\!\mathbf{Q}}^{\phantom{\dag}}\!$ . Thus a normal vibrational mode of proper symmetry  $\Gamma_{\text{Q}}$  can mix the excited state  $\psi_{\text{k}}$  into the ground state  $\psi_{0}$ , causing a ground state distortion in the normal

coordinate  $\Gamma_{\!\mathbf{Q}_\mathbf{i}}$  provided that the energy gap  $\mathrm{E}_\mathbf{o}$  -  $\mathrm{E}_\mathrm{k}$  is small  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  (less than 30,000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and that the excited state which is coupled to the ground state via this mechanism is distorted. MLCT excited states can be expected to be substantially  $v$  ia bending of the M-CN bond angle to relieve the electron density build up.

For a molecule  $M(CNPh)_{6}$  constrained to have perfect Th **symmetry, the ground state will be**  $(t_g)^6 = {}^1A_g$  **the lowest excited states are MLCT states (t) \fraction**  $\left(t_g\right)^5$  + \fraction  $\left(t_g\right)^{1/2}$  and (t) \fraction  $\left(t_g\right)^{1/2}$  and (t) \fraction  $\left(t_g\right)^{1/2}$  and (t) \fr states are MLCT states (tg) {tu) and (t ) ~: J (2 T + A + E and . g g u u u  $\frac{1}{\pi}$   $\frac{1}{\pi}$   $\frac{1}{\pi}$   $\frac{1}{\pi}$   $\frac{1}{\pi}$  $2$   $T_{\sigma}$  +  $A_{\sigma}$  +  $E_{\sigma}$ ), respectively. Since the  $(t_{\sigma})$  $(t_{\sigma})$  one electron excitation corresponds to exciting an electron from the metal  $t_{\sigma}$ orbitals (which are bonding) to the  $t_g \pi^*$  orbitals (the antibonding analog of the metal  $t_g$ ) a distortion along a  $t_g$ ,  $a_g$ , or  $e_g$  normal mode is parity allowed. The mode along which the ground state is distorted is the  $\mathfrak{t}_{\bf g}$  symmetric bending mode which simultaneously reduces all the M-C $\equiv$ N bond angles. Thus the data are clearly consistent with the operation of this mechanism.

Further evidence for the occurrence of a second order Jahn-Teller distorted ground state is obtained from the temperature dependence of the uv-vis spectra of  $M(CNIph)_6$  and  $M(CNDph)_6$  which are shovm in Figures 13-16 . The spectra of these complexes in 2 MeTHF or 2 Me pentane show drastic changes in intensity in cooling to 77 K,suggestive of some sort of gross structural changes. As has been previously noted in the systems,  $^{32, \, 33}$  changes in the

Figure 13. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  in 2-Methylpentane at 77 K (upper curve) and 298 K (lower curve).



Figure 14. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Mo(CNIph)_6$  in 2-Methylpentane at 77 K (upper curve) and  $298$  K (lower curve).



speetra with temperature such as these are also consistent with second order Jahn-Teller distorted ground state. Based on simplistic arguments from the spectra in Figure 15 it appears that the structure of the complexes containing CNDph become less distorted on cooling while those of CNIph become more distorted. Both of these cases as well as the case where no change is observed (Ar = Ph) have previously been observed in other systems.<sup>31-33</sup> Low temperature solution infrared data would be especially helpful in accessing the structural changes which are occurring on cooling in these  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  systems.

In vi ew of the complicated nature of the spectral details involved in assigning more specific labels to the various electronic transitions present in these systems it would not be warranted to pursue assignments further without data of more detailed nature. Of major importance here is that these ambiguities are recognized and could be resolved by expand mg the simplified mcdel presented. Further experiments designed to elucidate the electronic structure of these complexes are in progress.

## The Electronic Spectra of the  $\mathsf{d}^\mathbf{5}$ electronic structure of these<br>The Electronic Spectra of the Electronic Spectra of the d<sup>o</sup>Sy

The spectral data for  $Mn(CNPh)_6^{2+}$  and  $Cr(CNIph)_6^+$  are given in Table  $11$ . The ground state of both of these complexes has been shown<sup>5, 12</sup> to be low spin  $(t_g)$ . The low temperature spectrum of  $\left[\text{Mn(CNPh)}_6\right]$  (PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> exhibits a structured low energy system (18.2, 20.4 kK) attributable to the LMCT transition  $\sigma$ (CNPh) - t<sub>g</sub>. Similar



Figure 15. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Cr(CNDPh)_6$  in 2-Methylpentane at 77 K (upper curve) and 298 K (lower curve).



Figure 16. Electronic absorption spectra of  $Mo(CNDph)_6$  in 2-Methylpentane at 77 K (upper curve) and 298 K (lower curve).





a Acetonitrile.

 $^{\rm b}$  8:2:1 ethanol/methanol/diethy<br>lether.

 $\begin{array}{c} \hline \end{array}$ 

low energy LMCT bands have been observed in  $Fe(CN)_{6}^{3-}$  and *4-* 34  $Mn(CN)$ <sup>6</sup>. The two observed peaks in the  $\sigma(CNPh) \rightarrow t_{\alpha}$  system may be assigned to components of a vibrational progression in the symmetrical  $C=N$  stretching motion. The excited state value of about  $2200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for this vibration is reasonable.

The spectrum of  $Cr(CNIph)<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>$  is similar to the Mn(II) spectrum showing allowed MLCT bands at 36.2kK and 22.75 kK very close to the values for  $Cr(CNIph)_6$ . In addition the LMCT band which occurs at 18.2 and 20.4 kK in the  $Mn(II)$  system is observed at 28.2, 27.0 kK in the Cr(I) system. This substantial blue shift (8.6 kK) is in line with a net destabilization of the  $t_g$  level in Cr(I) relative to  $Mn(II)$  making the Cr(I) complex harder to reduce. Electrochemical redox potentials  $^{12, \, 35, \, 36}$  are in line with this argument predicting a shift of about 5. 5 kK in the LMCT band.

It is of some interest that the MLCT bands in the  $(d\pi)^6$  $M(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>Z</sup>$  complexes are substantially lower in energy than corresponding peaks in  $M(CO)_{6}^{Z}$  analogs (Table 12). The lower energies of  $d\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions are probably due in part to the effects of enhanced  $\sigma$  donation in the CNPh complexes, which would tend to increase the electron density on the central metal, thereby raising the energies of both dπ and dσ<sup>\*</sup> levels relative to carbonyl analogs. The splitting of  $\pi^*CN(\pi_v^* < \pi_h^*)$  by interaction with aromatic ring orbitals must also play an important role, as judged by the high energy of the observed  $d\pi - \pi^*$  band in  $\text{Min}(\text{CNMe})_6^+$ (43.1 kK). <sup>8</sup> Preferential stabilization of  $\pi_v^*$ , of course, is not

## Table 12. Energies of MLCT Transitions in  $M(CO)_{6}^{Z}$  and  $\text{M(CNPh)}_6^{\text{ Z}}$  Complexes



a Acelonitrile solution, 300 K; Ref. 34.

b This work.

available to alkylisocyanide ligands. It follows that stabilization of low-oxidation ground states of metals through  $d\pi$  back donation to  $\pi_v^*$  should be much more pronounced in aryl- than in alkylisocyanide complexes.

### Emission Proper ties

# Introduction Emis<br>Introduction

The complexes  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  where  $M = Cr$ , Mo, W and  $Ar = Ph$ , DPh, Iph, 4-CIPh were all found to show unstructured emission at 77 K in 2-MeTHF glass. The peak positions, width at half height, and excitation wavelengths are given in Table 13. Complexes of all three metals were also found to luminesce in fluid solutions of pyridine, Xylene, 2 MeTHF, 2 Me pentane, and Me cyclohexane. The emission maxima of  $W(CNPh)_6$  and  $W(CNIph)_6$  at 298 K were found to be only slightly solvent dependent (the values are given in Table 14). No emission at  $298$  K was observed from the Cr(I),  $Cr(\Pi)$ ,  $Mn(\Pi)$ ,  $Mn(\Pi)$ ,  $Mo(\Pi)$ ,  $Mo(\Pi)$ ,  $W(\Pi)$ ,  $W(\Pi)$  complexes. The emission from the  $Cr(0)$  complexes at room temperature was extremely weak. Information regarding the room temperature emission properties of the complexes in pyridine are reported in Table 13 The emission quantum yields for some selected complexes of Mo and W at 77 K are given in Table 15. The lifetimes of several of the complexes at 77 and 298 K in  $2$ -Me-pentane are given in



Table 13. Emission Data<sup>2</sup> M(CNAr)<sub>6</sub> Complexes Table 13. Emission Data<sup> $\alpha$ </sup> M(CNAr)<sub>6</sub> Complexes

energies are given in cm<sup>-1</sup> (width at half-height); excitation wavelength in nm. energies are given in cm<sup>-1</sup> (width at half-height); excitation wavelength in nm.

b Determined in pyridine solution. b Determined in pyridine solution.

63





 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$ 

 $\ddot{\phantom{0}}$ 

a In nm.

 $\alpha$ 

 $\bar{z}$
Table 15. Emission Quantum Yields<sup>a</sup> at 77 K



 $\overline{\text{a}_{\text{Excitation}} }$  wavelength 450 nm, Ru(bipyridine)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> ( $\phi = 0.376 \pm 10^{-10}$ **0.** 037) optical densities were matched under the conditions of the measurements.

---------------

Table 16. EmissionLifetime Data for Selected  $M(CNAr)_{6}$ 

Complexes



a Monitored at 580 nm.

b Measured by Steve Milder, California Institute of Technology.

c In 2-methylpentane.

Table  $16$ . Typical emission spectra at 77 K are shown for  $M(CNPh)_{6}$  (M = Cr, Mo, W) in Figures 17, 18, and 19.  $M(CNPh)_{6}$  (M =<br>Discussion<br> $M$  in view

## Discussion

In view of the similarities in the absorption spectra and the gross similarities of the emission spectra, the luminescence observed in the complexes of all three metals is reasonably assigned to a ligand to metal charge transfer. The differences in the emission properties place the Mo and W complexes together while the  $Cr$ emissions have the more unique characters. The Stoke's shifts observed for the Cr complexes are larger than in the corresponding Mo and W complexes, suggesting that the excited state geometry in the Cr complexes is more distorted relative to the ground state. The emission half-widths for the Cr complexes are about a factor of two broader than the Mo or *W* complexes. The lifetimes of the Cr complexes' emission are much shorter ( $<$  10 msec vs. 50  $\mu$  sec at 77 K) than the Mo and W complexes.

The quantum efficiency at 77 K for the Mo and W complexes measured were all quite high while the Cr complexes were estimated to be at least a factor of 10 smaller. Thus in many aspects the emission arising from the Cr complexes is significantly different from that arising from the Mo and W complexes. Any model describing the nature of the emitting excited states must be able to account for these differences.



Figure 17. Absorption spectrum (--) and emission spectrum (---) of  $\mathrm{Cr(CNPh)}_6$  at 77 K in 2-methyl<br>THF glass.

 $67\,$ 



Figure 18. Absorption spectrum  $(\longrightarrow)$  and emission spectrum  $(\text{---})$  of  $\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{CNPh})_6$  at 77 K in 2-methyl<br>THF glass.

 $68\,$ 



at 77 K (upper curve) and 298 K (lower curve).

Characterization of the emitting states in terms of a good working model is also important in describing their photochemical properties. Since excitation spectra are similar to the absorption spectra in all cases, rapid relaxation to the lowest emitting state(s) is suggested. This suggests that excitations into the bands at  $\lambda > 300$  nm will populate the emitting state(s) which are also responsible for the observed photochemistry. Thus by studying the nature of the emitting state(s) in these complexes, one most likely is studying the states responsible for the observed phctochemistry.

The model which best seems to explain the limited emission results here is the model of Crosby,  $^{28, 29}$  et al. which has been developed to explain the emission spectra of Ru(bipy) $_3^{2+}$  complexes. The results are so strikingly similar for the  $M(CNAr)_6$  (M = Cr, Mo, W) and  $M(bipy)_3^{2+}$  (M = Fe, Ru, Os) that a common model is literally demanded. First, a. short review of the absorption emission properties of  $M(bipy)_3^2$  complexes is in order.

The absorption spectra of the low spin  $\mathbf d^6$  complexes of the form  $M(bipy)_{3}^{2+}$  where  $M = Fe$ , Ru, Os are extremely similar to one another,  $37-43$  showing intense ( $\epsilon \sim 10,000$  - 20,000) MLCT bands of virtually identical energy and band shape. The spectrum of the Os complex, however, has some additional bands of moderate intensity ( $\epsilon \sim 4000$ ) at lower energy. Spectra are reproduced here from references 37 and 40 (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Spectral data for  $M(bipy)_3^{2+}$  (M = Fe, Ru, Os); (A) from ref. 37; (B) from ref. 40; (C) from ref. 40.



Figure 16.-Crystal thickness, 1.9 mm; approximately 4  $\times$  $10^{-3}$  mole  $\frac{C}{C}$  iron. Dotted curves are analysis of parallel spectrum only.







Figure 5. Relative quantum yield (a) and absorption spectrum (b) of tris(2.2'-bipyridine)osmium(II) iodide in an ethanol-methanol glass (4:1, v/v) at 77°K: (a) 7.2 × 10<sup>-7</sup> *M* in a 1.76-cm cell, (b)  $6.73 \times 10^{-5}$  *M* and  $1.35 \times 10^{-5}$  *M* in 1.76-cm cells.

 $\ddot{\phantom{a}}$  .

 $\bullet$ 

The gross emission characteristics of these systems are that no emission is observed for the Fe system while intense emission is observed for the  $Ru^{44}$  and  $Os^{40}$  systems.

In the case of the Os complex, the emission band is found to show good overlap with the low intensity absorption peaks, while the emission spectrum of the Ru complex barely overlaps the higher intensity absorption band.  $^{40}$  That the Fe complex shows no CT emission is supported by the work of Piper, et al.,  $37$  who have shown that a weak d-d band is probably present on the low energy absorption tail of the intense charge transfer transition.

The emission lifetimes and quantum yields (at 77 K) are similar for the Ru and Os complexes but show some differences. Both the quantum yield and the lifetime are smaller in the Os complex (discussions of this are in references 40 and 45).

In Table 17 the data available on the emission properties of the isocyanides and the bipyridine complexes are compared. The similarities are striking.

The detailed work on the emission spectrum of  $\text{Ru(bipy)}_3^{2+}$ and related complexes has led to the formulation of a weak coupling  $_{\rm model}^{28,29}$  which explains all the experimental results for the Ru complexes. In simple terms the model for MLCT transitions couples the d<sup>5</sup> low spin core levels with the excited electron placed in an appropriate ligand orbital. Since the excited electron is localized mostly on the ligands, electron repulsion terms between it and the core electron are much smaller than those found in normal d-d



 $\bar{\star}$ 

$\sim$ $\sim$ $\sim$ $\sim$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$		
	$M(CNAr)_{6}$		
	$\phi$ 77 K	$\tau$ 77 K	$\tau$ 298 K
$\operatorname{Cr}$	< 0.07	$<$ 10nsec	
Mo	$\sim 0.7$	40.2 $\mu$ sec	43 nsec
W	$\sim 0.7$	$7.6 \mu sec$	83 nsec
		$^{2+}$ $M(bipy)_{3}$	
Fe			
Ru	0.376	5.21 $\mu$ sec	$0.6$ nsec
Os	0.0348	$0.89$ $\mu$ sec	$19.2$ nsec

 $M(bipy)_{3}^{2+}$  (M = Fe, Ru, Os) Complexes

transitions (100 cm<sup>-1</sup> vs.>1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Since the spin orbit coupling in Ru is several thousand  $cm^{-1}$ , the spin orbit perturbation terms are far more important than the terms arising from the electron repulsion. Thus the emission from the lowest excited states of Ru(bipy) $_3^{2+}$  has been shown to possess both singlet and tripletcharacter. Since both types of states can be thermally populated, at appropriate temperatures, the spin allowedness of the emission is a strong function of temperature.

This model, when applied to the isocyanides of  $Cr(0)$ ,  $Mo(0)$ ,  $W(0)$  gives the following results consistent with the data. As one goes to the heavier metals, the spin orbit coupling and the crystal field splitting should increase. Thus in the Cr complexes where the spin orbit coupling and the crystal field splittings are smaller, the lowest CT excited states will have a small amount of d-d character mixed into them and the energy differences between "singlet" and "triplet" spin orbit states will be small. The emission bands arising from such a "CT singlet with some d-d character" should have: 1) a very short lifetime since it is mainly spin allowed due to the small value of  $\lambda$ ; 2) good overlap with the CT "singlet" absorption band; 3) show a fair Stoke's shift and 4) be reasonably broad. This description fits the emission spectra observed for the Cr complexes very well.

The heavier metals (Mo and W) where the spin orbit coupling is quite large and the crystal field splitting is also large, should show: 2) lessened  $d-d$  character in the emission band(s) resulting

in narrower emission band(s) and a smaller Stoke's shift; 2) longer lifetimes reflecting the increasing "forbiddeness" of the emission modified to account for the exact thermal population of the spin orbit states populated and 3) enhanced absorption due to the spin orbit allowed transitions like those seen in the low energy region of  $\text{Os(bipy)}_3^{2+}$ . (These are observed in the W spectra, see Figure 19.)

Since only detailed lifetime and quantum yield measurements as a function of temperature can sort out the exact disposition of states contributing to the emission spectra, further discussion at this time seems unwarranted. It will be interesting to see if the model (which works very well in describing the properties of  $Ru(bipy)_{3}^{2+}$ ) stands up under close scrutiny for the isocyanide complexes of Cr, Mo, W. Clearly the model should work even better for the isocyanide complexes since the absorption bands are much more intense ( $\epsilon$  = 70,000 vs. 11,000) suggesting that they are much purer MLCT in character than even the MLCT transitions in  $M\left( \text{bipy}\right) _{3}^{2+}$  .---

One other experimental result of interest is the very small shift in the emission peak in the 77 K vs. 298 K data for the complexes of CN1ph (Table 18). Usually emission maxima determined in a low temperature matrix will be at higher energy than when they are determined in fluid solution since the relaxation of the excited state geometry is not as complete in the "hard" matrix obtained in a

glassing solvent. The fact that all the complexes show a red shift in the absorption spectra at 298 K except complexes of CNIph suggests that complexes of this ligand are much less subject to excited state geometry changes probably a consequence of the increased steric requirements of the ligand.

The solution emission maximum for  $W(CNPh)_6$  and  $W(CNIph)_6$ vary only slightly with solvent (see Table 14 ) suggesting that the emitting state(s) is not perturbed to the extent of forming an exiplex in the better donor solvent. The smaller shifts found in  $W(CN1ph)_6$ compared to  $W(CNPh)_{6}$  suggest that interaction of the solvent with  $W(CNAr)_{6}$  occurs to a greater extent in the complex of the less hindered ligand.

Table 18. Shift in Emission Maxima from 77 K Measurements in 2-Methyl THF and 298 K Measurements in Pyridine



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## Photochemistry

The photochemical behavior of  $M(CNAr)_6$  complexes (M =  $Cr(0)$ , Mo $(0)$ , W $(0)$ ; Ar = Ph, IPh) has been studied. Two major reaction pathways were discovered: substitution and electron transfer.

## Substitutional Photochemistry

The Photochemistry of the  $Cr(0)$ , Mo(0), and W(0) Complexes. When  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  complexes are irradiated in neat pyridine, spectral changes occur which suggest the following reaction:

 $h\nu$  $M(CNAr)_6$  + py  $\sim M(CNAr)_{5}py + CNAr$ 

In Figures 21-23, the infrared spectral changes upon irradiating  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  are shown. The UV-VIS spectral changes are shown in Figures 24-29 . It is immediately noticed that for complexes of a given ligand, the spectral changes are very similar for all three metals. The infrared spectra show  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) for the liberated isocyanide occurring at 2115 cm<sup>-1</sup> for Ar = Iph and 2125 cm<sup>-1</sup> for Ar = Ph. Most easily interpreted is the infrared spectrum shown in Figure 22 which shows the photolysis of  $Cr(CN1ph)_6$  in neatpyridine. The two bands at 2002  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1960  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  due to  $\text{Cr}(\text{CNIph})_6$  decrease in intensity on photolysis while three major bands grow in at 1930, 2030, and 2115 cm<sup>-1</sup>. (The last of which is  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) of free CNIph.) From their relative positions and band shapes, it is likely that the 1930  $cm^{-1}$ band is due to an E stretching mode of a  $M(CN)_5L C_{4V}$  fragment, involving mainly the four planar CN groups while the  $2030$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  band

is one of the two allowed  $A_1$  modes, probably due to the unique CNR ligand. The other allowed  $A_1$  mode may be weak or obscured by the broad E mode. Spectra of the corresponding carbonyl complexes  $M(CO)_{c}L$  have been studied.<sup>46</sup> Although the spectra are similar, they differ enough that the assignments presented here should by no means be taken as conclusive. Further irradiation of this  $Cr(CMph)$ <sub>5</sub>py complex shows the 2030 cm<sup>-1</sup> band decreasing in intensity while the  $1930$   $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$  band remains virtually unchanged with (Figure 23) the peak at  $2115$  also increasing in intensity suggesting. further release of CNIph with the formation of trans  $Cr(CN1p)$  <sub>4</sub>py<sub>2</sub> which from symmetry considerations should have a single IR active E mode in nearly the same position as the E mode of  $Cr(CNiph)$ , by,

The structural information obtained from the IR of the photolys is product of  $Cr(CNPh)_{\epsilon}$  in pyridine is much harder to interpret (Figure 21). Interpretation of this spectrum is complicated by the ' ability of the M--CN linkage to be extremely bent since the ligands'steric requirements do not force linearity upon the M-CN units as does the CNiph ligand. Uv-vis spectral changes are also consistent with this notion since the spectrum of  $Cr(CNPh)$ <sub>s</sub>py consists of one peak at 410 nm with a long tail extending out to 600 nm (Figure 24). This m ght be due to gross distortion of the  $M(CNAr)$ <sub>5</sub> portion of the molecule since the  $M(CN1ph)$ <sub>5</sub>py spectra are "normal" having a low energy peak in each case in the same region where the tail for  $M(CNPh)$ <sub>5</sub>py occurs (Figure 27). Similar spectra (uv-vis and IR) are obtained in all cases for the Mo and W complexes (Table  $19$ ).



Figure 21. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub>$  in neat pyridine  $(\lambda > 313$  nm). Spectra are about 1 min. apart.



Figure 22. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  in neat pyridine  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm})$ . Spectra are about 1 min. apart.



Figure 23. Continuation of the photolysis in Figure 22.

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Figure 24. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  in neat pyridine by room light. About 10 sec. between spectra.



Figure 25. The photlysis of  $Mo(CNPh)_6$  in neat degassed pyridine  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm})$ . Spectra are ~ 30 sec. apart.

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Figure 26. The photolysis of  $W(CNPh)_6$  in neat, degassed pyridine  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm})$ . Spectra are several minutes apart.

 $\lambda$ 



Figure 27. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  in neat pyridine by room lights. About 10 sec between spectra.

 $\bar{\mathbf{z}}$ 



Figure 28. The photolysis of  $Mo(CNIph)_6$  in neat, degassed pyridine  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm})$ . About 2 min. between spectra.



Figure 29. The photolysis of  $W(CN1ph)_6$  in neat, degassed pyridine  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm})$ . About 5 min. between spectra.

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Table 19. Spectral Data for the Photochemical Substitution Reactions of  $\rm M(CNAr)_6$ 

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 $\overline{a}$  py = pyridine.

 $^{\rm b}$  benz = benzylamine.

To confirm the fact that pyridine was indeed being introduced into the coordination sphere of the metal rather than the formation of a five coordinate species such as  $M(CNAr)_{5}$ ,  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$ , and  $Cr(CN1ph)_6$  were irradiated in benzylamine. Spectral changes in these cases are shown in Figures 30-31. Comparison of the spectral data for  $Cr(CN\text{Ar})_5$ benz with  $Cr(CN\text{Ar})_5$ py show similarities since both py and benzylamine are good N donors, but the peak positions are not in precisely the same place as they would be if a common product  $M(CNAr)$ <sub>5</sub> was formed, thus further supporting the formation of  $M(CNAr)_{5}L$  rather than  $M(CNAr)_{5}$ .

Assignment of the  $M(CNAr)$ <sub>5</sub>py UV-VIS spectra at this time would be premature, but the large values of the extinction coefficients for the bands suggests that they be considered LMCT or more likely MLCT bands. Although complexes such as  $M(CO)$ <sub>5</sub>py have been made and the spectra assigned,  $47-49$  the analogous low energy peaks have been assigned as d-d transitions. Clearly, the high degree of similarity between the  $M(CNAr)_{5}$  Land  $M(CO)_{5}$ L spectra suggests that only by a careful study of both systems together can reasonable assignments be made.

Isolation of the  $M(CNAr)$ <sub>s</sub>py complexes was attempted unsuccessfully. This is probably due to the high boiling nature of the CNAr ligands so that in a solution of  $M(CNAr)$ <sub>r</sub>py in py one could pump off the pyridine but not the CNAr. (Isolation of the analogous  $M(CO)$ <sub>s</sub>py complexes is much easier since the CO released on photolysis can be easily removed from the reaction mixture.) After photolysis

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Figure 30. The photolysis of  $Cr(CMph)_6$  in neat benzylamine. Room light photolysis.

Figure 31. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  in neat benzylamine. Room light photolysis.

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of  $Cr(CN1ph)_6$  in pyridine so as to obtain the IR shown in Figure 22 a brovm solid was isolated by pumping of the excess pyridine under vacuum , This brovm solid immediately decomposed on dissolving in undegassed chloroform. Over a period of months, the brown solid sample (which smelled the unique smell of CNIph) slowly changed to the red  $Cr(CN1ph)_6$  accompanied by the distinct odor of pyridine.

## The Photochemistry of  $Mn(pCNPhCH_3)_6ClO_4$ .

The UV-VIS (Figure 32) and IR (Figure 33) spectral changes which occur when  $Min(pCNPhCH_3)_6^+$  is irradiated in neat pyridine are very similar to those found for the chromium complexes. The infrared spectrum shows a band at  $2125$   $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to released p-CNPhCH<sub>3</sub> and bands at  $2160$  and  $2075$   $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$  which are attributable to  $Min(pCNPhCH_3)$ <sub>5</sub>py<sup>+</sup>. The quantum yields for disappearance of  $Mn(pCNPhCH_3)_6^+$  are 0.22  $\pm$  0.01 and 0.21  $\pm$  0.01 at 313 and 366 nm, respectively. These quantum yields are similar to the yield found on irradiating the analogous  $Cr(CNAr)_{6}$ complexes.



Figure 32. The photolysis of  $Mn(pCNPhCH_3)_6ClO_4$  in neat pyridine ( $\lambda > 313$  nm).



Figure 33. The photolysis of  $\rm Mn(pCNPhCH_3)_6ClO_4$  in neat pyridine  $(\lambda > 313$  nm).

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# Mechanistic Mechanistic Considerations

Of primary interest is the large variation in the photochemical quantum yield of  $M(CNAr)$ <sub>5</sub> py obtained with changes in • both the metal and the aryl group. Appearance quantum yields at 436 and 313 nm are given in Table 20 for  $M = Cr(0)$ ,  $Mo(0)$ ,  $W(0)$  and  $Ar = Ph$  and Iph. The mechanics of measuring the quantum yields are discussed in detail in the experimental section, At a given wavelength, the substitution quantum yield shows a large decrease in going to the heavier metals  $(Cr > Mo > W)$  and in the heavier metals, the complex of the more hindered ligand has a lower quantum yield. The substitution quantum yield is moderately wavelength dependent only for  $Cr(CNPh)_6$ ,  $Cr(CNPh)_6$ , and  $Mo(CNPh)_6$  the values being about a factor of two larger at  $313 \text{ nm}$  than at  $436 \text{ nm}$ .

The identical values for the quantum yields of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$  and  $Cr(CNIph)_6$ , and their identical wavelength dependences suggest that these two complexes both substitute by the same mechanism. Since the complex with the hindered ligand has just as high a quantum yield as the unhindered complex, a standard dissociative mechanism is suggested, such as follows:



Table 20. Quantum Yields for the Reaction ML<sub>6</sub>  $\rightarrow$ in Neat Pyridine  $ML_5py + L$ 



step (1) involves excitation of the complex to some reactive excited state either by direct irradiation or by some internal relaxation process from a higher excited state. Step (2) is a purely dissociative process which does not depend on the nature or concentration of the incoming ligand  $L'$  (pyridine). Step (3) is a rapid step in which the coordinatively unsaturated five coordinate intermediate is trapped by L' producing a product molecule of  $ML<sub>s</sub>L'$ . Step (4) should also be a fast step but since the concentration of L' is at least 10 $^{\rm 6}$  times greater than L should be negligible. A few words should be said about step (5), which is the rapid recombination in the solvent cage of the  $ML<sub>5</sub>$  species and L. This step could be an important one and tends to decrease the overall quantum yield for the reaction. Since all of the complexes are very similar in electronic properties and the solvent is the same in all cases, this process, if important, should tend to reduce the quantum yield of all the complexes reacting via a dissociative mechanism.

The quantum yields for the W complexes, however, show a marked dependence on the steric requirements of the isocyanide, decreasing by more than a factor of 100 in going from  $L = CNPh$  to  $L = C M$ <sub>ph</sub>. This behavior suggests that the substitution mechanism for the W complexes shows some associative character. Several mechanisms could be envisioned:

Scheme 1: Nucleophilic attack on the excited state forming an electronically excited seven coordinate intermediate

$$
WL_{6} \stackrel{h\nu}{\rightarrow} WL_{6}^{*}
$$
  

$$
WL_{6}^{*} + L' \rightarrow [WL_{6}L']^{*}
$$
  

$$
WL_{6}L^{*} \rightarrow WL_{5}L' + L
$$

Scheme 2: Similar to Scheme 1 except the seven coordinate intermediate has no excess electronic energy.

$$
WL_{6}^{*} + L' \rightarrow [WL_{6}L']^{\frac{1}{4}}
$$
  

$$
[WL_{6}L']^{\frac{1}{4}} \rightarrow WL_{5}L' + L
$$

Scheme 3: Weak nucleophilic attack on the excited state by L', helping L to leave.

$$
WL_{6} \quad \xrightarrow{\quad h\nu} \quad WL_{6}^{*}
$$
\n
$$
WL_{6}^{*} \quad \xrightarrow{\quad} \quad WL_{6}^{*}
$$
\n
$$
WL_{7}^{*} \quad \xrightarrow{\quad} \quad WL_{8}^{*}
$$

The mechanism in Scheme 1 involves the formation of an exiplex with the incoming ligand  $L'$ . This type of intermediate with the seventh ligand bound only in the excited state might show up in an emission experiment as a very red shifted emission.  $50$ Experimentally, if the emission is shifted very much, it would occur in a spectral region ( $\lambda$  em  $\geq$  700 nm) which is very hard to

observe with a typical phototube. As previously discussed, the emission maxima of the W complexes are only slightly shifted in nucleophilic solvents (pyridine) from their position in p-xylene. Although exiplex formation might be occurring, it was not observed spectroscopically.

Schemes 2 and 3 are very similar, varying only in the lifetime of the seven coordinate intermediate. In Scheme 2, the seven coordinate intermediate is formed by attack of L' on the exc ited state of  $WL_{6}$ , but the seven coordinate intermediate has lost its excess electronic energy. Thus, it finds itself unstable with respect to both  $WL_6 + L'$  and  $WL_5L' + L$  but in a shallow potential well. This intermediate would be similar to one which could be envisioned in a thermal substitution reaction occurring via attack of  $L'$  on a  $ML_6$ species. A species of this nature, seven coordinate,  $d^{6}$  seems unlikely to have any sort of minimum in its potential surface since the only empty metal acceptor orbitals in a  $\text{ML}_6$  low spin  $d^{6}$ molecule are very high in energy.

Scheme 3, which is the most likely mechanism, is conceptually analogous to Scheme 2 except there is no minimum along the energy surface. The incoming nucleophile attacks the excited state causing a M--L bond to be broken as the nucleophile forms a bond to the excited state of  $ML<sub>6</sub>$ . This mechanism extrapolates to a dissociative mechanism when the bond formation between the nucleo- $\sim$ phile and the electronically excited  $ML<sub>6</sub>$  molecule does not occur.

### Electron Transfer Photochemistry

#### Characterization of Products

When  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  complexes are photolyzed in chloroform, net oxidation of the metal occurs with concomitant formation of *CC.*  The extent of oxidation depends on the nature of the aryl group. In Figures 34-36, the spectral changes (UV-VIS and IR) are shown when  $M(CNJph)_6$  complexes  $(M = Cr(0), Mo(0), W(0))$  are irradiated. Irradiation of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  in  $CCl_4$  produces a yellow solid which analyzes for  $Cr(CN1ph)_6Cl$  and has similar spectral properties to all the  $M(CN1ph)_6 /$ HCC13 products generated photochemically in solution. The IR data for the M(CNIph)<sub>6</sub> products show single  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) stretches at 2065 cm<sup>-1</sup>. 2050 and 2040  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for M = Cr, Mo, and W, respectively. All the data,  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) positions and UV-VIS spectra suggest the common,  $M(CNiph)_6^+$ , formulation for these photoproducts (Table 21).

Further support of this formulation is the work of Triechel, et al.<sup>12</sup> in which complexes of the form  $Cr(CNAr)_{6}PF_{6}$  have been synthesized from  $Cr(CNAr)_6$  and  $AgPF_6$ . These complexes have been formulated as low spin  $d^{5}$  systems on the basis of their magnetic moments. Since the crystal field splitting is usually much larger for the second and third row metal ions than for the analogous first row metal, it seems reasonable to also formulate the M(CNIph) $_6^+$  (M = . Mo, W) complexes as low spin d<sup>5</sup>. The IR spectral data in the  $\bar{\nu}(\text{CN})$ region for all the  $M(CNJph)_c^+$  complexes are quite similar to the IR spectra of Triechel for the  $Cr(CNAr)_6^+$  complexes.

If  $M(CNPh)_{6}(M = Mo, W)$  complexes are photolyzed in degassed chloroform, the spectral changes shown in Figures 37-38 are observed.

Figure 34. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  in neat chloroform. Room light photolysis with about 5 sec. between spectra.

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Figure 35. The photolysis of  $W(CNIph)_6$  in degassed chloroform  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm})$ . About 2 min. between spectra.

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 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{0}^{\sqrt{2}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2}d\mu_{\rm{eff}}\,.$ 

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Figure 36. The photolysis of  $\rm W(CNIph)_6$  in undegassed  $\rm CH_2Cl_2$  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm})$ . 10 sec between spectra.

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Table 21. Spectral Data for the Oxidation Products of  $M(CNAr)_{6}$ Complexes

Complex	UV-VIS nm ( $\epsilon \times 10^{-3}$ )	$\bar{\nu}$ (CN) in cm <sup>-1</sup>
$Cr(CNPh)6$ <sup>+</sup>	350 (44.5)	2065, 1985
	438 (34.0)	
$"[Cr(CNPh)6Cl]+"$		2115, 2125
$[Mo(CNPh)6Cl]$ <sup>+</sup>	332(43.8)	2100, 2130
$[\text{Mo}(\text{CNPh})_6I]$ BPh <sub>4</sub>		2100, 2125
$Mo(CNPh)_{6}(PF_6)_2$		2135
$[\text{W}(\text{CNPh})_6\text{I}]$ $\text{BPh}_4$		2100, 2122
$Cr(CNIph)_6^+$	321 $(49.6)$	2065
	358 (46.4)	
	373(44.0)	
	444 (45.6)	
$Mo(CNIph)6$ <sup>+</sup>	380 (48.7)	2050
	430 (19.5)	
	465 (48.0)	
	480 (5.0)	
$W(CN1ph)_{6}^+$	388	2040
	430 sh, wk	
	470 sh, wk	

Figure 37. The photolysis of  $W(CNPh)_6$  in degassed chloroform  $(\lambda\,>\,313$  nm).

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Figure 38. The photolysis of  $Mo(CNPh)<sub>6</sub>$  in degassed chloroform  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm}).$ 

New  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) stretches grow in at 2130 and 2100 cm<sup>-1</sup> for complexes of both metals, consistent with oxidation of the metal to the divalent state.

By adding  $\mathrm{AgPF}_6$  to a solution of Mo(CNPh) $_6,$   $^{51}$  in acetone the only product obtained analyzed correctly for  $Mo(CNPh)_{6} (PF_{6})_{2}$ . This product shows a single  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) band at 2100 cm<sup>-1</sup>. When Cl<sup>-</sup> is added to a chloroform solution of Mo(CNPh) $_6^{2+}$  (Figure 39), an additional  $\overline{\nu}$ (CN) band is observed at 2130 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The spectrum so obtained is very similar to the photolysis product obtained in chloroform, suggesting they are the same.

If  $I_2$  is added to a dichloromethane solution of  $M(CNPh)_{6}$ ( $M = Mo$ , W) and then Na  $BPh<sub>4</sub>$  is added, crystals which analyze correctly for  $[M(CNph)_6I]BPh_4$  (M = Mo, W) are obtained. IR spectra of solutions of these complexes again show  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) stretches at 2100 and  $2130\ \mathrm{cm}^{-1}$  similar to the chloride containing photoproducts. By adding  $N$ a $PF_6$  to a  $HCl_3$  solution of  $Mo(CNPh)_6$  which has been photolyzed until the peaks at  $2100$  and  $2130$   $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$  appear, a solid which has the same  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) region IR as Mo(CNPh)<sub>6</sub> (PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> is obtained.

The above sequence of experiments is consistent with the existence of cations of the form  $[M(CNPh)_6X]^+$  (M = Mo, W; X<sup>-</sup> =  $I^{\dagger}$ ,  $Cl^{\dagger}$ ) which contain the divalent metal with seven ligands in the coordination sphere. A variety of seven coordinate complexes of Mo(II) containing isocyanide and halides are known.<sup>51-55</sup> The seven coordinate  $W(II)$  complexes have not previously been reported but the evidence suggests these should be formulated analogously to the Mo(II) compounds.



Figure 39. Curve 1: the  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) IR spectral region of Mo(CNPh)<sub>6</sub>- $(\rm{P\,F_6})_{2}$  in chloroform.

Curve2: after addition of  $Et<sub>4</sub>NCl$ .

The experiments also suggest that the halide ion can be removed from the seven coordinate cation by addition of a suitable halide scavenger,

$$
[M(CNPh)_{0}X]^{+} + AgPF_{6} - M(CNPh)_{6}^{2+} + PF_{6}^{-}
$$
  
+ AgX $\downarrow$ 

• **2+** • generating the six coordinate  $M(CNPh)_6$  cations analogous to the  $Cr(CNAr)_{6}PF_{6}$  compounds isolated by Triechel, et al.  $^{12}$ 

Photolysis of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  in degassed chloroform also leads to net oxidation, but the nature of the product formed is not as clear as in the Mo and W cases. Following the photolysis by IR (Figure 40) shows formation of a product which has  $\tilde{\nu}$  (CN) at 2115 cm<sup>-1</sup> and a shoulder at 2130 cm<sup>-1</sup>.  $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>+1</sup>$  and  $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>2+</sup>$  are reported to have  $\overline{\nu}$ (CN)'s at 2065 cm<sup>-1</sup>;1985 and 2161 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The shoulder at 2130 cm<sup>-1</sup> is in the precise position of the  $\bar{\nu}$  (CN) stretch of free CNPh, suggesting that this Cr photoproduct has lost at least one ligand. Most likely is the following thermal reaction which follows the photochemical reactions which generate the  $\mathrm{Cr(CNPh)}_6^{2+}$ cation:

 $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>2+</sup> + Cl<sup>-</sup> \Rightarrow Cr(CNPh)<sub>5</sub>Cl<sup>+</sup> + CNph$ 

Addition of a large excess of Cl<sup>-</sup> to a light yellow solution of  $\operatorname{Cr(CNPh)}_6^{2+}$  (Figure 41) results in formation of a transient brown color (similar to the color of  $[M(CNPh)_{c1}]^{+}$  (M = Mo, W)) with immediate bleaching to a colorless solution which shows only the



Figure 40. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$  in degassed chloroform  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm}).$ 



Figure 41. (---) spectrum of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}(PF_6)_2$  in chloroform;  $(\longrightarrow)$  same sample after addition of Et<sub>4</sub>NCl.

 $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) of free CNPh. This experiment is explained nicely by postulating unstable seven coordinate intermediates of the form  $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub>Cl<sup>+</sup>$ or  $Cr(CNP\mathfrak{h}_5Cl_2$  which lose CNPhin a stepwise fashion.

Further characterization of the solid and chloroform solutions of ' $Cr(CNPh)_{6}Cl_{2}$ ' by magnetic susceptibility could determine the presence of  $\mathrm{Cr(CNPh)}_6^{-2+}$ ,  $\mathrm{Cr(CNPh)}_5\mathrm{Cl}^+$  and  $\mathrm{Cr(CNPh)}_6\mathrm{Cl}^+$ , the first two of these being paramagnetic with two unpaired electrons, while the third should be diamagnetic. The UV-VIS spectra of  $\mathrm{Cr(CNPh)}^{0,+1,+2}$  are shown in Figure  $42$ . Quantum Yields being paramagnetic with<br>diamagnetic. The UV-<br>Quantum Yields<br>The quantum y

The quantum yields for formation of  $M(CNIph)_6^+$  from  $M(CNiph)_6$  by photolysis at 436 nm in degassed chloroform were found to be  $0.19 \pm 0.01$  for  $M = Cr$ , Mo, W (see Table 22). In airsaturated chloroform, the quantum yield for formation of  $Cr(CNIph)_6^+$ was highly reproducible and considerably larger than that obtained under anaerobic conditions  $\phi_\mathrm{OX}$  = 0.70 ± .01. The formation of  $[\text{Mo(CNPh}_{6}Cl]^{+}$  and  $[\text{W(CNPh}_{6}Cl]^{+}$  in degassed chloroform were  $\phi = 0.11 \pm 0.01$  and  $\phi = 0.28 \pm 0.02$ , respectively, at 436 nm. In degassed chloroform  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  is smoothly converted to a  $Cr(II)$ species (see preceding discussion) while in oxygenated chloroform,  $Cr(CNP)_{6}$ <sup>+</sup> is formed.

### Mechanistic Considerations

The best mechanisms for the photochemical oxidation reactions of  $M(CNAr)_6$  complexes which one could write should be able to explain the differences in the products  $M(CN1ph)_6^+$  vs.



Figure 42. The visible spectra of  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$  (--),  $Cr(CNPh)_{6}$ - $\mbox{P\,F}_6~(\mbox{---}),~\mbox{and}~\mbox{CrCNPh)}_6(\mbox{P\,F}_6)_2~(\mbox{---})~\mbox{in}~\mbox{CH}_2\mbox{Cl}_2.$ 

Table 22. The Quantum Yields for the Reaction of  $M(CNAr)_6$ with Neat Chloroform



 $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ 

 $[M(\text{CNPh})_{\text{o}}Cl]^+$ . Two mechanisms are reasonable, both having common inte rmediates for complexes of the hindered and unhindered ligands.

Mechanism l: Charge transfer to solvent.

1)  $M(CNAr)_{6} + HCC1_{3} \stackrel{h\nu}{\rightarrow} [M(CNAr)_{6}^{+}--HCC1_{3}^{+}]$ 2a)  $\left[\text{M(CNAr)}_6^+ \text{---} \text{HC} \ddot{\text{C}} \text{I}_3\right] \rightarrow \text{M(CNAr)}_6^+ + \text{Cl}^- + \text{HCCl}_2$ 2b)  $[M(CNAr)_{6}^{+---H\bar{C}Cl_{3}] \rightarrow M(CNAr)_{6} + HCCl_{3}$ if  $Ar = Ibh$ 3a)  $M(CN1ph)_6^+ + HCC1_2 \times - [M(CN1ph)_6Cl]^+$ 4a)  $HCCl_2 + HCCl_2 - C_2H_2Cl_4$ if  $Ar = Ph$ 3b)  $[M(CNPh)<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>---H\dot{C}Cl<sub>3</sub>]$   $- [M(CNPh)<sub>6</sub>Cl]<sup>+</sup> + H\dot{C}Cl<sub>2</sub>$ 4b)  $\text{H}\text{CCl}_2 + \text{H}\text{CCl}_3 - \text{Cl}^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{Cl}_4$ Mechanism 2:  $S_n^2$  attack of excited state on HCCl<sub>3</sub> hv 1)  $M(CNAr)_6$   $\Rightarrow$   $M(CNAr)_6^*$ hv or  $\Delta$ 2)  $M(CNAr)_{6}^{*} + HCCl_{3} - [M(CNAr)_{6}^{+}---HCCl_{3}]$ 

from this step on the two mechanisms are identical.

## Discussion

Me chanism 1 involves excitation of an electron from the metal to an orbital mostly based on a solvent molecule. This intermediate can then thermally return to reactants or can split out a chloride ion and a  $HCC1<sub>2</sub>$  radical. The following thermal reactions depend on the steric requirements of the ligands. If the complex is unhindered, the H $\overline{\text{CC}}l_3$  radical anion can transfer a chlorine radical to the metal via an inner sphere attack on the M(CNPh) $_6^+$  species.<br>If the complex is hindered, the HCC1<sub>3</sub> radical anion cannot oxidize  $M(CNIph)_6^+$  and is destroyed.

Mechanism 2 involves excitation of an electron in a MLCT transition. This excited state has a long enough lifetime to then reduce a chloroform molecule to  $\text{HCC1}_3$ . This  $\text{HCC1}_3$  radical anion can then either reduce  $M(CNAr)_{6}^{+}$  back to  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  or can difuse into the solvent, just as in Mechanism 1. From this point on, the two mechanisms are identical.

An example of Mechanism  $(1)$  is the photochemical oxidation of ferrocene by carbon tetrachloride:  $56, 57$ 

 $\text{FeCp}_2 + \text{CCl}_4 \rightarrow [\text{FeCp}_2^+ - \text{CCl}_4] \rightarrow$ Experimental data suggest that a new absorption band grows into the spectrum of ferrocene at 307 nm in chlorinated solvents which is not present in ethanol or hydrocarbons. This peak was suggested by 56 Brand and Snedden to be due to a metal to solvent cha.rge transfer band.

hv products

Mechanism (2) has recently come into vogue with the everexpanding amount of work on  $\text{Ru(bipy)}_3^{2+}$ , which in its lowest MLCT state has been shown to transfer an electron to suitable acceptor molecules. $^{45, 58-63}$  This electron transfer mechanism has also been shown to be facile in the quenching of the emission fromthe lowest excited state.

Recently, work on  $Ru(bipy)_3^2+64$  and the ferrocene/CCl<sub>4</sub> systems  $57$  have hinted that in neither case is the mechanism purely (2) (for Ru) or (1) (for ferrocene). This suggests that *I\f[* echanisms (1) and (2) are the two limiting mechanisms, while real systems seem to be best described by a mixture of the two, with one dominating.

In the case at hand, the absorption spectra of the  $M(CNAr)_{6}$ complexes in chlorinated solvents show no obvious new absorption bands which could be assigned to metal to solvent charge transfer bands. This suggests but does not prove that Mechanism (2) is the more plausible. Gross similarities between the Ru(bipy) $_3^{2+}$  and the  $M(CNAr)_6$  complexes also suggest that a mechanism similar to that found for excited state electron transfer in Ru(bipy ) $_3^{2+}$  is also operative in the  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  systems.

The constant value for the quantum yield for  $M(CNIph)_6^+$  $(M = Cr, Mo, W)$  even though there are large differences in the lifetimes of the lowest emitting states suggest that the actual electron transfer step is very fast, with the quantum yield being determined by either the diffusion rate of  $HCC1<sub>3</sub>$  or its decomposition rate. Emission at room temperature in air-saturated chloroform solution

was not observed. Emission does occur in other undeoxygenate solvents, suggesting that the emitting state in each case is efficiently quenched by chloroform.

The large increase in the quantum yield for formation of  $Cr(CN1ph)_6^+$  found in oxygenated chloroform(0.70 vs. 0.19) also fits in with a fast electron transfer step followed by another reaction which determines the actual quantum yield since  $O<sub>2</sub>$  may be the acceptor. The  $O_2$ <sup>-</sup> formed being able to diffuse away before the back reaction can occur. Net oxidation of  $Cr(CNPh_6$  to  $Cr(CNPh_6^+$  has been observed in undegassed isooctane.

Although  $O_2$  has been shown to thermally oxidize  $Cr(CNAr)_6$ complexes to the analogous  $Cr(CNAr)<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>$  complexes, the thermal reaction with  $O<sub>2</sub>$  was slow enough so that the small amounts of  $Cr(CNAr)_{6}^{+}$  formed thermally could be adequately corrected for.

Of interest is the fact that when  $Cr(CNPl)_6$  is irradiated in undegassed chloroform (Figure 43),  $Cr(CNPh)<sub>6</sub>$  is formed while under anaerobic photolysis,  $Cr(II)$  products result. This suggests that  $O_2$  acts as the acceptor when it is present rather than  $HCC1<sub>3</sub>$ ; termination of the oxidation at the  $Cr(I)$  stage is easily explained since  $O_2$ <sup>-</sup> is not able to oxidize  $Cr(CNPh)_6^+$  by transferring a chlorine atom in a subsequent oxidation step.

The quantum yields for formation of  $\mathrm{[Mo(CNPh)}_{6}\mathrm{Cl]}^{+}$  and  $[W(CNPN_eCl]^+$  are 0.11  $\pm$  0.01 and 0.28  $\pm$  0.02, respectively. The difference in these two values- may be a consequence of slightly

Figure 43. The photolysis of  $Cr(CNPh)_6$  in undegassed chloroform  $(\lambda > 313 \text{ nm}).$ 



 $\langle \hat{S} \rangle$ 

 $\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{y}_i$  .

#### Synthesis

## Ligand Synthesis Ligand Synthesis

The method of Ugi, et al.  $65$  was selected as the most convenient in terms of availability of starting materials and ease of workup. The method gives about a 50--70% yield of product depending on the particular isocyanide. The general procedure is as follows:

In a. five liter, three-necked flask equipped with an overhead paddle stirrer and two efficient condensers were placed 500 ml dichloromethane, 1.1 moles of chloroform, 300 ml of saturated NaOH,  $1$  mole of the appropriate primary amine, and approximately 1 gram of the catalyst, benzyltriethylammoniumchloride. The resulting two-phase system was stirred vigorously. The exothermic reaction can be monitored by the dichloromethane reflux rate, which is maintained just into the condenser by adjusting the stirring rate. The use of the large flask is somewhat critical in that it allows good heat dissipation without which extremely strong pressure explosions result. The reaction, which makes NaCl in the form of a white precipitate, is usually over in 4 to 12 hours. The layers are then separated and the organic layer is washed with water several times and dri ed over  $CaSO<sub>4</sub>$ . The dichloromethane is then pulled off under vacuum. The product can be distilled (phenyl,  $2, 6$ -diisopropylphenyl), recrystallized (2, 6- dimethyl), or sublimed (4-chlorophenyl). The yield seems to be least for the 4-chloro substituted compound and best for the 2, 6-diisopropyl phenyl. Characterization was by IR and NMR.

## Synthesis of Metal Complexes

## $Cr(CNR)_6$

The general method of synthesis used for these compounds was first described by Malatesta,  $^{14}$  using  $\rm Cr_2(C_2H_3O_2)_4\cdot 2H_2O.$   $^{66}$ It was observed, however, that better yields were obtained if the reaction vessel was heated to  $40^{\circ}$ C. The complexes were recrystallized from hot toluene/ethanol in the dark. Crystals were obtained in all cases (Table 23).

## $Mo(CNR)_6$

These compounds were obtained in about 30% yield as follows: To a stirred slurry of  $\mathrm{Mo}_{2}(\mathrm{C}_{2}\mathrm{H}_{3}\mathrm{O}_{2})_{4}$   $^{67}$  in methanol under argon, an excess  $(10:1)$  of the appropriate isocyanide was added. The solution immediately turned red-brown and was warmed to  $40^{\circ}$ C on a hot plate for one hour. Upon cooling, filtration afforded the crude product which was recrystallized from hot toluene/ethanol. The compounds are slightly air sensitive, much more so in room lights. Solutions should be degassed and kept in the dark during recrystallization to avoid decomposition (Table 23).

## $W(CNR)_{\alpha}$

These compounds were prepared with difficulty in small yield (5-10%) by the following method (modification of Malatesta and Sacco<sup>16</sup>). A degassed slurry of absolute ethanol (80 ml) and magnesium powder (4g) in a three-necked flask (of at least 300 ml capacity) was prepared and cooled to  $0^{\circ}$ C with an ice bath. To this mixture 0.12 moles of isocyanide was added. Next 8g ( $\sim 0.02$  moles) of WCl<sub>6</sub> was added slowly along with 2 drops of acetic acid. Much heat is generated.

A large number of color changes occur during the reaction. After the reaction has proceeded to the point of controlled but sustained ethanol reflux, the ice bath is removed. As the reaction cools down, the product as red crystals is sometimes deposited. This procedure is rather tricky and at times the yield is zero. Variation of parameters such as temperature, solvent and reagent purification, and scale seemed to have a random effect on the yield. The perfect starting material for this reaction would be  $W_2(C_2H_3O_4)$  4 which has not been made. The product is recrystallized from hot toluene/ethanol., preferably nitrogen, in the dark to minimize losses due to air oxidation (Table 23).

## $[M(CNPh)_{\alpha}I]$  BPh<sub>4</sub> (M = Mo, W)

Complexes of this general form were obtained by adding an excess toluene solution of  $I_2$  to  $M(CNPh)_{6}$ . The resulting precipitate was filtered and dissolved in dichloromethane. Excess solid  $NaBPh_4$  was added and the resulting slurry was warmed, filtered, and diethylether was added. This crude product was recrystallized several times from dichloromethane/ether (Table 23).

## $Cr(CNR)_6PF_6$

Complexes of this type were obtained as above, substituting  $KPF_6$  for NaBPh<sub>4</sub>. The BPh<sub>4</sub> salt was also made by this method. These Cr(I) compounds, as well as the compounds containing  $\mathrm{Cr(CNR)}_6^{2+}$ have also been synthesized by the oxidation of  $\mathrm{Cr(CNR)_{\text{\tiny G}}}$  by  $\mathrm{AgP}\,\mathrm{F_{\text{\tiny G}}}$   $^{12}$ (Table 23).
#### $[M(CNR)_6]$  Cl

Complexes of this type were prepared from  $MnI<sub>2</sub>$  by the method of Sacco<sup>17</sup> (Table 23).

#### $[Mn(CNR)_6] (PF_6)_2$

These complexes were obtained by oxidation of  $Mn(CNR)_6Cl$ in glacial acetic acid with an equal volume of concentrated nitric acid. Addition of this solution to a saturated aqueous solution of  $NaPF_6$  gave a red precipitate. The product can be recrystallized from hot ethanol (Table 23).

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## Table 23. Analytical Data for  $M(CNR)_6$  Complexes





 $\frac{3}{2}$ 

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#### Experimental Section

## ${\rm Spectral}$ ~~ Experimen<br>\*<br>\$pectral Measurements<br>\*

#### Infrared Spectra

Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 225 spectrometer as Nujol mulls. KBr pellets, or in 0.1 mm KBr solution cells. Spectra in pyridine and benzylamine were taken in a variable pathlength cell with neat solvent in the reference beam. Degassing of IR solutions was accomplished by bubbling argon through the compound dissolved in a small amount (1 ml) of the solvent. Standard syringe techniques were then used to fill the previously degassed cell.

#### Electronic Absorption Spectra

Electronic absorption spectra were measured using a Cary 17 spectrophotometer. Room temperature solution spectra were obtained in a 1 cm quartz cell with a quartz insert designed to decrease the pathlength to either 0. 02 or 0. 05 cm. This cell was  $68 \t 2^{-2}$ calibrated by using  $\text{CrO}_4^{\pi}$  . Spectra at liquid nitrogen solution were obtained using a low temperature dewar fitted with Suprasil quartz windows and modified to hold a 0.1 cm cell. Solvents used in general were Spectro grade except for THF, 2-methylTHF, and  $Et<sub>2</sub>O$ , 2-methyl pentane, which were reagent grade. Low temperature glasses used were EPA,  $8:2:1$  ethanol/methanol/diethylether, 1:1 isopentane/diethyl ether, 2 methylpentane, and 2 methyl THF. For the ionic compounds solutions were obtained by first dissolving the compound in a few drops of  $CH_2Cl_2$  and then adding the glassing solvent. All solutions were made up in a dark room because of their extreme sensitivity to

light using solvent degassed by bubbling with argon. The solutions were either used immediately or frozen at liquid nitrogen temperature where photochemisfry was observed to be slow. A few drops of nitric acid were added to each of the  $\text{Mn}(\text{CNAr})_6^{2+}$  solutions to prevent slow reduction to the Mn(I) complex.

#### Emission Spectra

#### §pectra

Emission spectra were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer MPF-3A fluroescence spectrometer. Low temperature measurements were made using an optical dewar. Samples were prepared by dissolving the appropriate compound in the solvent of choice spectrograde pyridine,p-xylene, or 2-methylTHFpreviously degassed by bubbling with argon. These solutions were then placed in Pyrex test tubes and freeze-thaw degassed on a vacuum line at least four cycles. The tubes were then sealed with a torch and kept at liquid . nitrogen temperature until use. All the above operations were carried out under red light  $(\lambda > 630 \text{ nm})$ . Room temperature spectra were measured (on concentrated solutions  $(10^{-3}$  M)) off the front face of the sample tube. Low temperature spectra were measured by the standard 90° to incidence technique.

#### Correction for Phototube and Monochrometer Response

All spectra in this thesis were corrected for phototube and monochrometer response in the following manner.

The intensity vs. wavelength response of a tungsten/halogen lamp was obtained by measuring the potential generated by directing the beam of the lamp through a 0. 5 meter Jarrel-Ash monochrometer light onto a thermopile. Data points were taken every 10 nanometers from 300 to 800 nm. Then the same lamp was directed into the emission monochrometer and the lamp spectral output curve as a function of wavelength was obtained. Dividing this second curve by

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the first curve in a point by point manner generates the correction curve. This smooth set of points was then fit to an eleventh order polynomial via computer fit.

Corr  $(\lambda) = a + bx + Cx^2$ .... where



By digitalizing the experimental emission trace obtained from the instrument and then evaluating the above function at each data point, the corrected spectra were obtained by the use of eq.  $(1)$ . These spectra were then plotted as desired.

eq. (1). Spectrum correct( $\lambda$ ) = Corr ( $\lambda$ ). Spectrum uncorrected  $(\lambda)$ .

#### Quantum yields

Low temperature emission quantum yields for the  $M(CNAr)_{6}$ compounds in 2-methylTHF were obtained as follows: Dilute solutions of the complexes in 2-methylTHF were prepared as described, degassed by freeze-thaw degassing  $(4 \text{ cycles})$ . Next reference solutions of  $Ru(bipy)_{3}Cl_{2}$  which emits in the same general spectral region as the  $M(CNAr)_{6}$  compounds were made up in EPA. The o.d. of each sample ( $\approx 0.2$  absorbance units) was matched at liquid

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nitrogen temperature as closely as possible to a reference solution. Emission spectra were then obtained for both sample and reference under precisely the same conditions. These spectra were corrected as above, plotted as a function of wavenumber, the area under the two peaks determined, and the ratio between them computed. The equation of Crosby, et al., <sup>69</sup> was then used to compute  $\phi$  sample assuming  $n_x = n_c$ . At least three determinations of each compound were made., the average taken as the quantum yield.

In Appendices 1 and 2 two computer programs are presented. The first OPTSPEC, written by Jeff Hare and modified by K.M., takes raw emission spectral data which has been converted to digital form , corrects the spectra for monochrometer response, and then plots it in terms of wavelength or energy. The second program (AREA KT) computes the area under a curve using the trapezoidal approximation for the area.

General Photochemical Measurements and Measurement of Quantum Yields

All actinometry was done using Ferrioxatate actinometry.  $^{70-72}$ The yield for a 0. 06 M solution at 436 nm was taken as 1.11. Irradiations were carried out in a block thermostatted with a large  $(\sim 30 \text{ l})$ amount of distilled water.

The irradiation source was a 450 watt medium pressure Hanovia mercury lamp. The 436, 366, and 313 nm mercury lines were isolated using 5-74, 7-83, and 7-54 Corning filters, respectively. In addition to the glass filter for the 313 nm line, a 0. 7 cm pathlength solution of 4.5 g  $K_2CrO_4$  and 2.376 g  $K_2CO_3$  in 4.5 1 of water was used.<sup>73</sup> 3 ml aliquots of actinometer solution were irradiated under the same conditions as the samples. As a check, the quantum yield for aquation of  $Cr(NH_3)_2 (SCN)_4$  was checked at 436 nm against the ferrioxalate actinometer. Agreement at this wavelength with the literature value  $^{74}$  was excellent.

Substitution Quantum Yields

Substitution quantum yields for the following reaction were measured in neat pyridine.

 $\begin{array}{ccc} & & h\nu & \\ \mathrm{ML}_6 & + \mathrm{py} & \rightarrow & \mathrm{ML}_5\mathrm{py} & + \mathrm{L} \end{array}$ 

In every case, a long wavelength absorption band grew in for the ML<sub>5</sub>py species. The appearance quantum yield was measured by measuring the increase in this longwavelength absorption absorption band as a function of irradiation time on a Beckmann D. U.

In Table  $24$  the wavelength monitored and the extinction coefficient of that wavelength for each complex are given. These extinction coefficients were measured by photolyzing solutions of each complex in pyridine to complete conversion. The extinction coefficients of the product was then obtained from the ratio of the absorbance of the reactant peak to the absorbance of the product peak assuming complete conversion. Due to slight photolysis of the product, $\epsilon$ 's measured in this way are always slightly lower than the true value. Repeated measurements, however, gave highly reproducible values. The values given in Table 24 are at worst 10% low.

#### Sample Preparation

The compounds were all recrystallized at least twice before use. A small amount of complex (so that O.D. at  $\lambda$  ex  $\gg$  2) was placed in the mixing chamber of a cell which could be degassed on a vacuum line and then 3 ml of dry, spectrograde pyridine was pipetted in. This solution was then degassed by at least 3 freeze-thaw degassing cycles. All the above operations were carefully carried out in a dark room. Samples prepared in this manner were then photolyzed. Three independent determinations of each quantum yield were made, with at least 5 data points taken for each run. These values were then averaged. The precision of each quantum yield was very good, varying in some cases by less than  $\pm 2\%$ . Due to the large extinction coefficients at the monitoring wavelengths, conversion to products was on the order of 0.2%, thus avoiding problems caused by secondary photolysis and internal filtering effects. <sup>75</sup> All the quantum



yields measured were reproducible only under rigorously deoxygenated conditions. The products generated are very air sensitive. Oxidation Quantum Yields

The quantum yields for the oxidation reaction

 $M(CNiph)_{6} + HCCl_{3} - M(CNiph)_{6} + CI^{-} + organics$ were measured by following the disappearance of  $M(CNIph)_6$  on the tail of the lowest energy absorption. A carefully weighted amount of complex (about 10 mg) was placed into the degassable cell described above. Then exactly 3 ml of carefully freeze-thaw degassed chloroform were distilled into the cell. These operations were carried out in the dark. The disappearance of absorbance was foilowed as a function of irradiation time, usually taking five or six points. Plots of A vs. irradiation time were linear out to  $15\%$ conversion. The quantum yield was then obtained directly from the slope. These yields were highly reproducible.

For  $M(CNPh)_{6}$  (M = Mo, W), the absorbance was found to increase on the low energy tail so that these quantum yields were .obtained by the same method as for the pyridine substitution reaction, product extinction coefficients again being determined in a separate experiment.

The quantum yield data for  $Cr(CNiph)_6$  in chloroform need some further discussion. Initial irradiation at 436 nm in chloroform causes the absorbancc at 571 nm to increase rapidly and then decrease linearly with time. A typical plot of  $A_{574}$  vs. irradiation

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time at  $436$  nm in shown in Figure  $44$ . Analysis of the linear decay

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portion of the data (after 9 minutes) is very reproducible and gives  $\phi_{\text{disappearance}} = 0.19 \pm 0.01$ . A likely cause of the initial increase in absorbance at 574 nm is photolysis of  $Cr(CNIph)_6$  to a species of the form  $Cr(CNIph)_5L$  where L is an amine impurity in the Cr(CNIph)<sub>6</sub>. Assuming an  $\epsilon$  of 19,000 for Cr(CNIph)<sub>5</sub>L, the maximum amount of amine impurity is  $A = 0.275$ ,  $A/\epsilon =$ concentration  $\times 10^{-5}$ M of Cr(CNIph)<sub>5</sub>L = 1.45  $\times 10^{-5}$ M,  $\left[\text{Cr(CNIph)}_{5}\text{L}\right]/\text{Cr(CNIph)}_{6}=0.44\%.$ 





### Appendix 1

Modified Version of OPTSPEC (original version written by Jeff Hare)

 $\tilde{\gamma}$ 



152

 $\mathcal{A}$ 

 $\langle \hat{a}_1 \rangle$ 



 $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}$ 





 $\omega$ 

 $\hat{\bf r}$ 

 $\hat{\kappa}$ 

 $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}$ 



 $\sim$   $\mu$ 

 $\label{eq:1.1} \langle \mathbf{0}\mathbf{0}\rangle = \langle \mathbf{0}\mathbf{0}\rangle$ 

 $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ 

 $\tilde{\epsilon}$ 

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ 

 $\sim$   $\sim$ 



 $\tilde{\mathcal{X}}$ 



l,



 $\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}$ 

 $\lambda$ 

Appendix 2 AREAKT

 $\frac{R}{\sqrt{2}}$ 

 $\bar{\alpha}$ 



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# CHAPTER 2

SPECTRAL CHARACTERIZATION OF Rh(I) ISOCYANIDE COMPLEXES

There has been considerable recent interest in the optical spectra and electrical conductivities of platinum compounds in which direct metal-metal interactions are present.  $1-6$  Perhaps the best known examples are the double salts, such as  $[Pt(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]$  - $[$  PtCl<sub>4</sub> $]$  (Magnus' green salt or MGS).<sup>1</sup> Low solubility of the double salts has generally restricted study to solid samples, although it should be noted that Isci and Mason have obtained electronic spectra for certain  $[Pt(CNR)_4][Pt(CN)_4]$  complexes in ethanol solution. 6

Many simple platinum salts also possess unusual properties.<sup>2, 3</sup> The planar ions in these compounds, as in MGS, stack face-to-face in infinite columns. However, with the exception of one or two l,6nmixed-valence aggregates, notably  $[\mathrm{Pt(C_2O_4)_2}]_n$  , complete dissociation to monomeric fragments occurs in so lutim . Even the copper-colored, mixed-valence Krogmann's salt,  $K_2Pt(CN)_4Cl_{0.3}$ .  $3H<sub>2</sub>O$ , forms a nearly colorless solution containing discrete Pt $(II)$ and Pt(IV) complex ions.<sup>2</sup>

We have begun a systematic investigation of metal  $(\underline{d}^8)$ metal ( $\text{d}^\text{s}$ ) interactions in solution. Systems that appear to be highly promising are based on planar  $Rh(I)$  and  $Ir(I)$  arylisocyanides.<sup>7</sup> Here we report an electronic spectroscopic characterization of the oligomers formed in solutions of  $Rh(I)$  isocyanide complexes. Experimen hl

The starting material  $[Rh(COD)Cl]_2$  was prepared by the method of Chatt.  $8$  The isocyanides were prepared via the Hoffmann Carbylamine reaction $^{9}$  and were purified by vacuum distillation.

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## Table 1. Analytical Data



 $^*$  Contaminated with  $\text{KPF}_6.$ 

Spectrograde solvents (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) were used for recrystalization and spectral measurements.

Synthesis

 $Rh(CNR)_4Cl$ .  $10, 11$  An excess of the desired isocyanide was added slowly to a warm benzene solution of  $[Rh(COD)Cl]_2$ . The immediate precipitate was filtered, washed with cold benzene, ether and air dried. Complexes of phenyl, cyclohexyl, isopropyl, tertbutyl, p-'methoxyphenyl, and p-chlorophenyl isocyanide were synthesized by this method.

 $Rh(CNR)_4BF_4$ . Crude  $Rh(CNR)_4Cl$  obtained above was dissolved in the minimum amount of water, filtered and the resulting solution was then added to a saturated water solution of  $NABF_4$ . The resulting precipitate was then recrystallized from acetonitrile. Similar methods were used to synthesize  $BPh_4^-$  and  $PF_6^-$  salts using Na $BPh_4^$ and KPF<sub>6</sub>, respectively.

Spectral Data

Absorption spectra were measured using a Cary 17 spectrophotometer. Spectra were obtained in 1.00, 0.1, and 0.006 cm cells, all of which were calibrated with  $K_2CrO_4$  solutions.<sup>12</sup> Infrared spectra were measured using a Perkin-Elmer 257 infrared spectrometer. Emission and excitation spectra were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer  $MPF-3A$  fluorescence spectrometer equipped with a standard accessory which corrects excitation spectra for varying lamp intensity and monochromator efficiency from 200-600 nm and corrects emission spectra for varying photomultiplier tube response and monochromator

efficiency from 400 - 700 nm. The spectra reported here are corrected. Measurements at 77 K were performed using a specially constructed low temperature quartz dewar.

The absorption spectra for  $\rm Rh(CNPh)_4\rm PF_6$  in  $0.1$  M  $\rm TBA^+PF_6/$ acetonitrile at  $25^{\circ}$ C and Rh(CNt-butyl)<sub>4</sub>Cl in 0.1 M NaCl/water at 25 °C were obtained as a function of monomer concentration,  $C^{\circ}$ . The collected data at selected wavelengths are given in Tables 2 and 3.  $A_3$  was taken at 750 nm rather than at the peak position, 727 nm, to avoid overlap with the tail of the 568 nm absorption.

## Table 2. Absorption Spectra as a Function of Concentration for  $Rh(CNPh)_{4}PF_{6}$  in 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>


# Table 3. Absorption Spectra as a Function of Concentration for  $\mathop{\mathrm{Rh}}\nolimits(\mathop{\mathrm{CNt-Butyl}}\nolimits_4 \mathop{\mathrm{Cl}}\nolimits$  in  $0.1$  M  $\mathop{\mathrm{NaCl}}\nolimits/\mathop{\mathrm{water}}\nolimits$



### Results and Discussion

A simplified energy level diagram for a monomeric  $\frac{d}{dt}$ complex of the form  $Rh(CNR)_4^+$  is shown in Figure 1. The level  $\rm{ordering}\ b_{2g}(xy) < \ e_{\alpha}(xz,yz) < \ a_{1g}(z^2) <\!\!< a_{2u}\pi < \ b_{1g}(x^2-y^2) \ \ \rm{is}$ based on that found for alkyl isocyanide complexes of square planar  $d^{^8}$  metal ions which have been recently studied $^{13}$  in detail. Ignoring spin orbit coupling, we expect three spin allowed and three spin forbidden transitions from the  $\mathrm{^{1}A_{1g}}$  ground state.

Spectra of dilute solutions of  $Rh(CNAlkyl)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>$  are all very similar and agree with the spectrum of  $Rh(CNEthyl)_4$ . The band positions and the extinction coefficients depend only slightly on the nature of the alkyl group (Table 4).

Absorption, emission, and excitation spectra of  $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub>$ <sup>+</sup> monomer are shown in Figure 2. Band positions and assignments are given in Table 5.

It is interesting to note that all MLCT transitions in  $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub>$ <sup>+</sup> are red shifted relative to those found in the  $Rh(CNA1kyl)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>$  ions.



Figure 1. Molecular orbital diagram for  $Rh(CNR)_4^+$  showing the spectroscopically important levels.



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a n<br/>m $(\epsilon \times 10^{-3})$  .  $\displaystyle{\frac{\text{a}}{\text{nm}}}$  (e  $\times$  10<sup>-3</sup>

 $\rm{b}$ Taken from reference 13. b Taken from reference 13.

 $\rm c$  Determined at room temperature in  $\rm CH_2Cl_2.$  $c$  Determined at room temperature in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.



Figure 2. Curve A is the absorption spectrum at room temperature of Rh $(CNPh)_4BPh_4$  in acetonitrile, C =  $7.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M, 1 cm cell; Curve B is the excitation spectrum of  $Rh(CNPh)_{4}BPh_{4}$ in an EPA glass at '77 K; Curve C is the emission spectrum of  $Rh(CNPh)_{3}BPh_{4}$  in an EPA glass at 77 K.

Cation				
Compound <sup>a</sup>	Intraligand $A_{1g} - E_{u}$		$A_{1g} - A_{2u}$ $A_{1g} - A_{2u}$	
$Rh(CNPh)_{4}BPh_{4}$	241(60.5)	335(40, 2)	411(5.00)	463(0.63)
$Rh(CNPh)_4PF_6$	241(59.2)	335(49.1)	411(5.94)	462 (0.67)
$Rh(CNPh)_{4}BF_{4}$	241(59.4)	335(41,7)	411(5.71)	463(0.66)

Table 5. Absorption Spectra of Different Salts of the  $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub>$ <sup>+</sup>

a Determined at room temperature in acetonitrile solution.

This shift is in line with the stabilization of the  $a_{2u}\pi^*$  acceptor orbital via conjugation with the phenyl ring  $\pi$  system. This effect has previously been found to be important in other complexes of  $aromatic$  isocyanides.<sup>14</sup>

The shift for each band in  $Rh(CNPh)_4^+$  relative to its counterpart in  $Rh(CNAlkyl)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>$  is not constant from band to band, suggesting that slight energy shifts in the positions of the filled  $e_g(d_{xy}, d_{yz})$  relative to the  $a_{1g}(d_{z2})$  orbital also occur.

The positions of the lowest spin allowed monomer band  $\mathbf{A}_{1g}$  +  $\mathbf{A}_{2u}$  in complexes of p-ClPhNC, p-MePhNC, and p-MeOPhNC are very close to those found for  $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>$ , suggesting a very slight dependence of the band positions on phenyl ring substituents. This fact suggests that de localization of the excited electron onto the phenyl ring is not a very important effect in these complexes.

 $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>$  was found to show strong emission in an EPA glass at  $77^{\circ}$ K. Rh(CNAlkyl)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> complexes also emit under these conditions but were not studied.

The position of the emission which occurs at 580 nm in EPA glass at  $77^\circ K$  in Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> is consistent with its assignment as  $A_{2u}$   $\rightarrow$   $A_{1g}$ . The red shift of the emission and the increase in the half width of the band relative to the corresponding spin forbidden absorbance band implies that the emitting state is somewhat distorted from the ground state's square planar geometry.  $^{15}$  These effects have also been observed <sup>16</sup> in  $\lceil \text{Rh}(2-\text{phos})_2 \rceil$  Cl and  $\lceil \text{Rh}(2-\text{phos})_2 \rceil$  Cl.

Such an effect may be caused by admixture of d-d states into the charge transfer excited state. The excitation spectrum in EPA at 77 °K is very similar to the absorption spectrum revealing that relaxation processes from upper excited states to the  $\mathrm{^{3}A_{2u}}$  state \_are facile.

Representative absorption spectra for three different concentrations of  $\lceil \text{Rh}(\text{CNPh})_4 \rceil(\text{PF}_6)$  in acetonitrile solution are shown in Figure 3. The bands at  $361$ ,  $411$ , and  $468$  nm dominate the low-concentration spectra and are logically due to monomeric  $\lceil \text{Rh(CNPh)}_4 \rceil^+$  as discussed previously. As the total Rh(I) concentration is increased, two new bands grow in, first at 568, then at 727 nm, while the higher energy bands decrease in relative intensity. Similar concentration dependences of the spectral charges are obtained with the  $BPh_4^-$  and  $BF_4^-$  salts (Figure 4), suggesting that the spectral changes are a property of the cation only. This behavior is interpreted in terms of an oligomerization equilibrium:

$$
2M \stackrel{K_1}{\rightleftharpoons} D
$$
  

$$
D + M \stackrel{K_2}{\rightleftharpoons} T
$$

where  $M =$  concentration of monomers,  $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>$ ,

D = concentration of dimers,  $(Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>)<sub>2</sub>$ ,

 $T =$  concentration of trimers,  $(Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>)<sub>3</sub>$ .

Using the above equilibria expressions and the fact that the total concentration in terms of monomers must equal the weighted sum of all the species present, the following equations can be derived:



Figure 3. Absorption spectra of  $Rh(CNPh)_4PF_6$  in acetonitrile at 25 °C. A;  $C = 5.7 \times 10^{-2}$  M, path length = 0.06 mm;  $B, C = 2.7 \times 10^{-2}$  M, pathlength = 0.06 mm, C, C =  $6.3 \times 10^{-4}$  M, pathlength = 0.75 mm.





1) 
$$
\frac{c}{\sqrt{A_2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_2 K_1}} + \frac{2\sqrt{A_2}}{\epsilon_2} + \frac{3K_1K_2A_2}{\sqrt{\epsilon_2 K_1} \epsilon_2}
$$
  
2) 
$$
A_3 = \frac{\epsilon_3 K_2 \sqrt{K_1} A_1^{3/2}}{\epsilon_2^{3/2}}
$$

where c is the total Rh concentration in terms of monomer,  $A_2, A_3$ are the absorbances due to only dimers and trimers; and  $\epsilon_2$ ,  $\epsilon_3$  are their corresponding extinction coefficients.

The band at 568 nm is logically assigned to the dimer  $(A_2)$ and the band which grows in more highly concentration solutions at 727 nm is assigned to a trimer absorption  $(A_3)$ . These assignments are supported below.

A plot of  $c/\sqrt{A_2}$  *vs.*  $\sqrt{A_2}$  over the concentration range  $5\times{10}^{-2}$  M  $\rm >\ c>\ 5\times{10}^{-4}$  M in 0.1 M  $[$  (n-Butyl)<sub>4</sub>N][PF<sub>6</sub>] gives a straight line (Figure 5).

At the higher concentrations where the band at 727 nm (trimers) is present, this line still shows no deviation from linearity suggesting that the third term in equation (1) is much smaller than the first two terms. From the intercept  $(1/\sqrt{\epsilon_2}K_1)$  and the slope  $(\frac{2}{\epsilon_2})$ values for K<sub>1</sub> and  $\epsilon_2$ , K<sub>1</sub> = 35 M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\epsilon_2$  = 10, 500 are obtained. A plot of  $A_3$  <u>vs</u>  $A_2^{3/2}$  (eqn. (2)) (Figure 6) also gives a straight line with the slope equal to  $\epsilon_{3}\rm{K}_{1}\rm{K}_{2}/\sqrt{\epsilon_{2}\rm{K}_{1}}$   $\epsilon_{2} = 2.92 \times 10^{-2}$ . Substituting in the values of  $K_1$  and  $\epsilon_2$  from eqn (2) give  $\epsilon_3K_2 = 183,000$ . Thus a value of  $\epsilon_3$  of 18,300 (a quite reasonable value) will give K<sub>2</sub> of  $10 \, \text{M}^{-1}$ .

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Figure 5. A plot of  $C/\sqrt{A_2}$  vs.  $\sqrt{A_2}$  for  $Rh(CNPh)_4PF_6$  over the range  $5\times{10}^{-2}$  M  $>\,$  C  $>$   $\,5\times{10}^{-4}$  M in 0.01 M  $\left[\text{(n-Butyl)}_4\text{N}\right]\left[\text{PF}_6\right]\text{/CH}_3\text{CN}\,.$ 



Figure 6. A plot of  $A_3$  vs.  $A_2^{3/2}$  for  $Rh(CNPh)_4PF_6$  in 0.1 M  $\bigl[\bigl(\text{n-Butyl})_4\text{N}\bigr]\bigl[\text{ PF}_6\bigr]\big/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}.$ 

The important information obtained from this equilibrium data is that it appears the equilibrium constant for adding another monomer unit to a dimer is similar to that for the initial formation of the dimer. Thus the interaction between two monomers and a monomer and a dimer appear to be of comparable magnitude. The nature of the interaction of the monomer units will be discussed in a later section.

Although 110 evidence for oligomerization of alkyl isocyanide complexes of Rh(I) in acetonitrile was found,  $Rh(CNt$ -butyl)<sub>4</sub>Cl was found to oligomerize in water solution. The absorption spectra show similar concentration effects.

The absorption due to the dimer was found at 490 nm with a band at 622 nm being assigned to a trimeric species. The band at 622 nm is present in solution only near the solubility limit of the complex. Concentration dependence data were not obtained for this absorption band. Data obtained in 0. 1 M NaCl in water at 25 °C were obtained over the range  $3 \times 10^{-2}$  M  $> C > 1.6 \times 10^{-4}$  M. A plot of  $c/\sqrt{\mathcal{A}_2}$  vs.  $\sqrt{\mathcal{A}_2}$  (neglecting the third term in equation (1)) gives a straight line with  $\epsilon_2 = 16$ , 900 and  $K_1 = 251 \text{ M}^{-1}$  (Figure 7).

Since the data were not obtained in the same solvent, a direct comparison of the two equilibrium constants for  $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub>$ <sup>+</sup> and Rh- $CNt$ -butyl)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> cannot be made. The fact that dimer formation occurs in water but not in acetonitrile for  $Rh(CNt$ -butyl)<sup>+</sup> suggests that hydrophobic interactions of the lar ge alkyl groups serve as part of the driving force for dimer formation in water. Also of importance



Figure 7. A plot of  $C/\sqrt{A_2}$  vs.  $\sqrt{A_2}$  for  $Rh(CNt$ -butyl)<sub>4</sub>Cl over the concentration range  $3\times{10}^{-2}$  M  $>\,$  C  $>$   $1.6\times$   $10^{-4}$  M in  $0.1$  M in  $0.1$  M NaCl/H<sub>2</sub>O.

must be the ability of the higher dielectric medium, water  $(>85)$ vs. acetonitrile (36. 2) to stabilize the increase in charge density in going from two monopositive ions to one dipositive ion.

The electronic spectral properties of  $\left[\,\mathrm{Rh(CNR)}_{4}\right]_{2}^{2+}$  may be understood in terms of the orbital interactions diagrammed in Figure 8. As infrared spectral evidence rules out the involvement of bridging isocyanides,  $17$  the dimer is very probably bound through direct Rh---Rh interactions. These bonding interactions apparently are substantial, as they must overcome unfavorable coulombic forces between the cationic units. The orbitals that will interact most strongly are those that extend perpendicular to the molecular plane, namely the  $a_{1g}(d_{Z^2})$  and  $a_{2u}[p_{Z}, \pi^*$  (CNR) ] functions. It is also important to note that  $a_{1g}$  is likely to be the HOMO, and  $a_{2u}$  the LUMO, in the monomeric units, as previously discussed.

It is not likely that there will be a significant energy difference between  $\rm{D_{4h}}$  (eclipsed) and  $\rm{D_{4d}}$  (staggered)rotameric configurations for the dimeric molecules where  $R = Ph$ , but the staggered configuration is much more likely for the dimer when  $R = t$ -butyl. The MO level scheme in Figure 2 gives symmetry labels for both possibilities. In both cases the upper and lower sets contain orbitals of the same symmetry, and as a result there will be considerable mixing, stabilizing the lower set  $(1a_{1g}, 1a_{2u}, \text{or } 1a_1, 1b_2)$  and destabilizing the upper set  $(2a_{1g}, 2a_{2y}, \text{or } 2a_1, 2b_2)$ . As the lower set is filled, this stabilization must be the source of the intermonomer binding forces.

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Figure 8. Relative energies of the molecular orbitals derived from  $a_{1g}(d_{Z^2})$  and  $a_{2u}$  monomer functions in  $D_{4h}$ (or  $D_{4d}$ )  $[Rh(CNPh)_4]_2^{2+}$ .

Two allowed electronic transitions are predicted for the dimer, one higher  $(1a_{1g} - 2a_{2g}$  or  $1a_1 - 2b_2)$  and one lower  $(1a_{2u} - 2a_{1g}$  or  $1b_2 - 2a_1)$  than the  $a_{1g} - a_{2u}$  excitation in the monomer. Thus the bands at 568 nm in  $\left[\mathrm{Rh(CNPh)}_4\right]_2^{2^+}$  and at 490 nm in [Rh(CNt-Butyl)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> are assigned to  $1a_{2u} - 2a_{1g}$  (or  $1a_1 - 2b_2$ .

A similar analysis for a trimeric molecule predicts five allowed transitions, the lowest of which  $(2a_{1g} - 2a_{2u})$  is assigned to the 727 nm band in  $[ Rh(CNPh)_4]_3^{3^+}$ . The trimer band is observed for  $Rh(CNt-Butyl)_4Cl$  at 622 nm.

In Table 6 are the locations of the lowest energy bands for the monomers, dimers, and trimer  $\delta$  of several Rh(I) isocyanide complexes. According to simple Hückel theory, the dimer  $(E_D)$  and trimer (E<sub>T</sub>) transition energies are given by: E<sub>D</sub> = E<sub>M</sub> +  $\beta$ ;  $E_T$  =  $E_M$  +  $\sqrt{2\beta}$ ;  $E_M$  =  $E(a_{1g} - a_{2u})$  in the monomer, and  $\beta$  =  $p_{a_{1g}} + p_{a_{2u}}.$ 

The results for two of the complexes for which absorption data for monomers, dimers, and trimers are available  $(R = Ph and$ i-propyl) are given in Table 7.

The decreased value of  $\beta$  for the alkyl isocyanide vs. the aromatic isocyanide suggests a smaller interaction between the monomeric units.

# Table 6. Band Positions for the Lowest Spin Allowed Band for Monomeric, Dimeric, and Trimeric Rh(I) Isocyanide Complexes



 $^{\rm a}$  Peak maxima in nm.

 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 

Table 7. Hückel analysis of  $(Rh(CNPh)_4^+)$  and  $(Rh(CNi-preopyl)_4^+)$ 



 $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}$ 

a Values expressed in kK.

b Experimentally observed values.

<sup>c</sup> Calculated values taking  $\beta = 7100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

 $^{\text{d}}$  Calculated values taking  $\beta$  = 6500 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

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- 17. Solid samples of the  $PF_6^-$  and  $BPh_4^-$  salts of  $[Rh(CNPh)_4]^+$ exhibit a single  $\bar{\nu}$ (C=N) ir absorption at 2150 cm<sup>-1</sup>. A yellow  $CH_2Cl_2$  solution of the PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> salt which contains monomeric  $[\text{Rh(CNPh)}_{4}]^{+}$ , has  $\bar{\nu}$  (C=N) at 2160 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Concentrated, blue solutions of the  $\Pr_6^-$  salt in acetonitrile also display a single  $\bar{\nu}$ (C=N) band at 2160 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Neither the solids nor concentrated acetonitrile solutions exhibit any ir absorptions attributable to bridging isocyanides.

## CHAPTER 3

THE PREPARATION, SPECTRAL PROPERTIES AND OXIDATIVE ADDITION REACTIONS OF A  $\label{eq:DMERIC-Rh(I) ISOCYANIDE} \text{COMPL EX Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4^{2+}$ 

 $\label{eq:3.1} \begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{a} & & & \mathbf{a} & & \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{$ 

### Introduction

We have shown previously that cationic arylisocyanide complexes of rhodium(I) aggregate in solution through formulation of metal-metal bonds.<sup>1</sup> The chemical behavior of these oligomeric species should be quite interesting, as the opportunity for coupled electron transfer exists. In order to explore this possibility in a simple case, we have synthesized and characterized a dimeric  $Rh(I)$  complex containing four 1, 3-diisocyanopropane (bridge) ligands. We have found that this dimer aggregates still further in solution to form higher oligomers, and that it undergoes two-center oxidative addition reactions with several substrates.

Exper imental

 $\lceil \mathit{Rh(COD|Cl)} \rceil_2$  was synthesized by the method of Chatt, et al.<sup>2</sup> Solvents were spectrograde (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, CH<sub>3</sub>CN).

1, 3-diisocyanopropane, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>, bridge. This ligand was synth esized using the method of Ugi,  $\mathrm{et} \, \mathrm{al.}$  ,  $^3$  and was purified by vacuum distillation. The PMR spectrum showed a complex multiplet at 3.68 6 and a broad peak at 1.98 6 which integrated in the ratio of 2:1. The infrared spectrum shows a very strong, narrow  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) stretch at  $2140 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Other prominent peaks are located at 2930 m, 1 GGO m, and 1490 s.

 $[Rh_2 (bridge)_4 ]Cl_2$ . This compound was obtained as a blue powder by adding a stoichiometric amount of bridge to a chloroform solution of  $\lceil \text{Rh(COD)Cl} \rceil_2$ .

 $Rh_2(bridge)_4(BPh_4)_2 \cdot 2CH_3CN$ . A stoichiometric amount of NaBPh<sub>4</sub> in methanol was added to a methanol solution of  $Rh_2(bridge)_4Cl_2$ . The purple solid was then recrystallized from acetonitrile. Calc: C, 66.37; H, 5.41; N, 10.75. Found: C, 65.59; H, 5.49; N, 10.24.  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) 2172 cm<sup>-1</sup> KBr pellet. PMR spectrum: broad singlets at  $3.78^{\delta}$  and  $1.98^{\delta}$  in 2:1 ratio in  $d^{\delta}$ DMSO. The peak due to acetonitrile was also observed.

 $[\text{Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4I_2][I_3]_2$ . Synthesis was accomplished by addition of I<sub>2</sub> to a warm acetonitrile solution of  $Rh_2$ (bridge)<sub>4</sub>(BPh<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. The product crystallized as red crystals on cooling. Cale: C, 15. O; H, 1.50; N, 7.05; I, 63.5. Found: C, 15.8; H, 1.65; N, 7.0G; I, 62.2.  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) 2227 cm<sup>-1</sup> KBr pellet.

 $[\text{Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4\text{Br}_2](\text{Br}_3)$ , Synthesis was similar to I<sub>2</sub> adduct above. Cooling the solution gave yellow crystals. Cale: C, 19. 67; H, 1.98; N, 9.17. Found: C, 19.97; H, 1.93; N, 9.06.  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN)  $2230 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  KBr pellet.

 $\lceil Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4(\text{CH}_3)(I) \rceil (BPh_4)_2 \cdot 2CH_3CN$ . A stoichiometric amount of CH<sub>3</sub>I was added to a solution of  $Rh_2(bridge)_4(BPh_4)_2 \cdot 2CH_3CN$ in acetonitrile. On slow addition of diethyl ether, reddish brown crystals were obtained. Cale: C, 60. 66; H, 5. 09; N, 9. 69. Found: C, 58.74; H, 5.08; N, 9.29.  $\bar{\nu}$ (CN) 2183 and 2212  $\rm cm^{-1}$ (KBr pellet). PMR in d<sup>6</sup>DMSO broad singlets at 4.088 (terminal CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.186 (central CH<sub>2</sub>), and a doublet at  $1.38$   $\delta$  (CH<sub>3</sub>). Peaks were also observed for the acetonitrile protons and the tetraphenylborate protons.

Infrared spectra were obtained as KBr pellets on a Perkin-Elmer 225 spectrophotometer . Electronic absorption spectra were measured using a Cary 17 spectrophotometer. PMR spectra were recorded on a Varian A-60 spectrometer.

Absorption spectral data for different concentrations of  $Rh_2(bridge)_4Cl_2$  were obtained in  $CH_3OH$  using a short pathlength cell calibrated $\rm{^4}$  with  $\rm{CrO_4}^2$ 

#### Supplementary Data

Absorption at 555, 778 and 990 nm as a function of  $Rh_2(bridge)_{4}$ - $Cl<sub>2</sub>$  concentration in  $CH<sub>3</sub>OH$ .



### Results and Discussion

The chloride salt of the dimer,  $[\text{Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4] \text{Cl}_2$ , was obtained by addition of bridge to a stoichiometric amount of  $[Rh(C_8 H_{12})Cl]_2$  in chloroform solution. A blue precipitate was isolated and converted to a purple tetraphenylborate salt by metathesis in methanol. The  $BPh_4^$ salt was recrystallized from acetonitrile. The infrared spectrum of a KBr pellet of the dimer exhibits one C=N stretch at  $2172\ \mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ . There are no bands in the IR attributable to bridging isocyanides. The

# PMR spectrum of the dimer in DMSO displays broad singlets at 3, 7  $\delta$  (terminal CH<sub>2</sub>) and 1.9  $\delta$  (central CH<sub>2</sub>). As steric considerations rule out bidentate coordination by bridge at a single Rh(I) center, we assume that the structure of  $[\ Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4]^{\text{2+}}$  is as shown in (I):



Electronic absorption spectra for three different concentrations of  $[Rh_2 (bridge)_4 ]Cl_2$  in methanol are shown in Figure 2. Absorptions at 318, 342, and 555 nm are the only bands observed at low concentrations of  $[ Rh_2 (bridge)_4] Cl_2$ , and are logically assigned to the dimer  $[\ Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4]^{\text{2+}}$ , or D, itself. This assignment is supported by the





observation that absorptions owing to  $\left[\,\mathrm{Rh(CNPh)}_{4}\right]_{2}^{2+}$  and  $Rh(CNPh)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>$  are reported, respectively, at 568 and 411 nm in acetonitrile solution.<sup>1</sup> As the solution becomes increasingly concentrated, principal low energy bands appear at 778, 990, 1140, and 1735 nm. The concentration dependence of the absorption spectra may be interpreted in terms of the following equilibria:

 $ZD$   $\stackrel{K_1}{=}$   $D_2$ ;  $D_2 + D$   $\stackrel{K_2}{=}$   $D_3$ ;  $D_n + D$   $\stackrel{K_n}{=}$   $D_{n+1}$ A plot of  $(A_{555})$  <u>vs</u>.  $\sqrt[2]{A_{778}}$  is a straight line, as is  $A_{555}$  <u>vs</u>.  $\sqrt[3]{A_{990}}$ , indicating that the bands at 778 and 990 nm be assigned to tetrameric and hexameric Rh(I) species. The bands at  $1140$  and  $1735$  nm are present only in the most concentrated solutions, and are logically attributable to higher oligomers  $(n > 3)$ .

The observed spectroscopic behavior of the  $[\ Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4]^{\text{2+}}$ oligomers accords with simple MO theory (Figure 3). The 555 nm absorption may be assigned to the fully allowed  $1a_{2u} - 2a_{1g}$  transition, by analogy to the 568 nm band observed<sup>1</sup> in  $\left[\text{Rh(CNPh)}_4\right]_2^{2^+}$ . Similar analysis of the tetrameric Rh(I) units suggests that the 778 nm bands be assigned to  $2a_{2u} - 3a_{1g}$ , and the hexameric Rh(I) absorption at 990 nm be assigned to  $3a_{2u} - 4a_{1g}$ . The band at 1140 nm is attributed to  $4a_{2u} - 5a_{1g}$  in an octameric species  $(n = 4)$ .

The straight lines obtained for  $(A_{555})$  <u>vs</u>.  $\sqrt[2]{A_{778}}$  and  $(A_{555})$  $\mathrm{vs.}\stackrel{3}{\sqrt{\mathrm{A_{990}}}}$  (Figures 2 and 3) have slopes of 3.72 and 7.96, respectively, where the slope of the first line is equal to  $\epsilon_{555}/\sqrt{K_1} \epsilon_2$  and the second equals  $\epsilon_{555} / \sqrt[3]{K_1K_2 \epsilon_3}$ .  $\epsilon_{555}$  is equal to 14,500 from measurements on dilute solutions of  $Rh_2(bridge)_4BPh_4 \cdot 2CH_3CN$  in  $CH_3CN$ . Thus  $K_1 \epsilon_2 =$ 

 $1.52 \times 10^7$  and  $K_1K_2\epsilon_3 = 6.04 \times 10^9$ . Assuming reasonable values for  $\epsilon_2$  (29,000) and  $\epsilon_3$  (43,500) gives K<sub>1</sub> = 524 M<sup>-1</sup> and K<sub>2</sub> = 265 M<sup>-1</sup>. These estimated values for  $\epsilon_2$  and  $\epsilon_3$  are reasonable since work on other similar systems<sup>1,5</sup> show that the extinction coefficient for the lowest band in the dimer is approximately the sum of the extinction coefficients for the monomers.

Because of the empirical nature of this approximation, these values should be viewed with caution. However, they are probably within  $\pm$  50% of the correct values. The equilibrium constants are also similar to those found in other  $Rh(I)$  systems where they have been measured.<sup>6</sup>

According to simple Hückel theory, the tetramer, hexamer, and actamer transition energies are given by:  $E_{D_2}$  =  $E_{D}$  +  $\beta$ ;  $E_{D_3} = E_D + \sqrt{2\beta}$ ;  $E_{D_4} = E_D + \sqrt{5 + 1}/2$ ;  $E_D = E(1a_{2u} 2a_{1g}$  and  $\beta = \beta_1 a_{2g} + \beta_2 a_{1g}$ . Theory and experiment accord closely for  $\beta = 550 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ :  $E_{D_2}$  (calcd) = 12,500,  $E_{D_2}$  (obsd) = 12,820;  $E_{D_3}$  (calcd) = 10, 220,  $E_{D_3}$  (obsd) = 10, 080,  $E_{D_4}$  (calcd) = 9100,  $E_D$  (obsd) = 8770 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The broad absorption system centered at 4 about 1735 nm  $(5760 \text{ cm}^{-1})$  probably represents overlapping bands owing to oligomers with  $n > 4$ . For  $N = \infty$ , the calculated limit is  $E_D + 2\beta$ , or 7000 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

The  $\beta$  internal ( $\beta$  between the two Rh atoms of the dimer) can be calculated from  $E_D = E_M + \beta_{int}$ , where  $E_M$  can be estimated from the monomer transition in  $Rh(CNi-propyl)_4^+(E_M = 26, 100 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ . Since  $E_D$  = 18,000 cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $\beta_{int}$  = 8100 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Comparing this value

with the  $\beta$  between dimers (5500 cm<sup>-1</sup>) suggests that the Rh atom interaction is stronger in the dimer unit than that between the units.

#### Oxidative Addition Reactions

Upon addition of  $I_2$  to dilute acetonitrile solutions of  $\left[\, \mathrm{Rh}_2(\mathrm{bridge})_{_4}\right] (\mathrm{BPh}_4)_2,$  oxidation to a diiodo adduct,  $\left[\, \mathrm{Rh}_2(\mathrm{bridge})_{_4\!} \mathrm{I}_2 \right]^{2+},$ takes place immediately. The product was isolated as a red triiodide salt. This oxidative addition product presumably contains two  $Rh(II)$ -1 units connected by a single metal-metal bond. In terms of the  $\rm MO$  formulation of the metal-metal interaction in  $\left[\, \mathrm{Rh}_{2}\mathrm{(bridge)}_{4} \right]^{2+},$ the two electrons in the  $1a_{20}$  orbital are transferred to the two I atoms to give two I<sup>-</sup> groups and a Rh(II)-Rh(II) bond  $(1a_{1g})^2$ . The infrared spectrum of a KBr pellet of  $\left[\text{Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4\text{I}_2\right]$   $\text{(I}_3)_2$  exhibits a single C=N stretching frequency at 2227  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , indicating trans I-Rh(II)- $Rh(II)$ -(I) stereochemistry, as would be expected. The higher C=N  $\operatorname{frequency}$  observed for  $\left[\,\operatorname{Rh}_\mathrm{2}(\mathrm{bridge})_\mathrm{4} \mathrm{I}_\mathrm{2}\right]^\mathrm{2+}$  as compared to that for  $\left[\,\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{bridge})_{4}\right]^{2+}$  is consistent with the Rh(II) formulation of the diiodo adducts.

When the  $I_2$  oxidation was performed at high concentrations of  $\left[\,\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{bridge})_{4}\right]^{2+}$ , a green intermediate species was observed  $\left(\lambda_{\mathrm{max}}\right)$  = 626 nm). The concentration of this intermediate was maximal for the stoichiometric ratio  $2[\text{ Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_4]^{\text{2+}}$ : I<sub>2</sub>. Furthermore, the concentration of the intermediate was found to be proportional to  $\left[\, \left[\, \mathrm{Rh}_2(\mathrm{bridge})_{\scriptscriptstyle{4}} \right]^{2+} \right]^2$ . The green species is formulated as  $\left[\text{I}-\text{D}-\text{D}-\text{I} \right]^{4+}$ .

Similar chemistry was observed when  $Br<sub>2</sub>$  was used as the oxidant yielding  $\lceil Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4\text{Br}_2\rceil$   $(\text{Br}_3)_2$ . Interestingly, the  $\text{Br}_2$ oxidative addition is thermally reversible in either acetonitrile or DMF-water solutions, and is thermally reversible in either acetonitrile or DMF-water solutions, and blue  $\left[\right.$   $\mathrm{Rh}_2(\mathrm{bridge})_4\right]^{2+}$ may be recovered or may be reoxidized with the addition of further bromine. A green species similar to that observed for the  $I_2$ oxidation was also observed ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 595$  nm in DMF) but no concentration dependence data were obtained. Addition of methyl iodide to  $\lceil Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4 \rceil(BPh_4)_2$  in acetonitrile solution, yields a yellow solution containing <u>trans-[Rh<sub>2</sub>(bridge)<sub>4</sub>-(CH<sub>3</sub>)(I)]<sup>2+</sup>. The</u> CH<sub>3</sub>I adduct was isolated as reddish brown crystals of a tetraphenylborate salt by slow addition of diethyl ether. The infrared spectrum of the <u>trans-[Rh<sub>2</sub>(bridge)<sub>4</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)(I)]<sup>2+</sup> exhibits C=N stretches at 2183,</u> and  $2212 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which is consistent with the structural formulation The PMR spectrum of the adduct exhibits broad singlets at 4.0, 2.1, and 1.3  $\delta$ . As the resonance at 1.3  $\delta$  does not correspond to any feature in unoxidized  $[Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4]^2$ ; it is therefore attributed to a methyl group bonded directly to rhodium. The observation of a 1-2 Hz splitting of the 1. 3 ·6 resonance owing to coupling to the  $\frac{103}{R}$ h nucleus confirms the assignment. Integration of the spectrum indicates that the compound contains only one methyl group per dimer, which is consistent with the proposed trans - $\left[\ \text{Rh}_2(\text{bridge})_{4}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{I})\right]^{2^+}$  structure.

The electronic absorption spectrum of  $[\ Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4I_2]^2$ <sup>+</sup> in acetonitrile solution exhibits intense bands at 465 ( $\epsilon$  23, 200) and 397 nm ( $\epsilon$  62,000). The very intense 397 nm band is logically attributable to the  $\sigma \to \sigma^*$  transition  $(1a_{1g} - 1a_{2u})$  in the Rh(II)-Rh(II) single-bonded species. Similarly intense  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$  bands in this energy region have been observed for  $\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$  as well as numerous other  $\underline{d}^7$  - $\underline{d}^7$  metal-metal bonded complexes. The band at 465 nm could be due to one or more  $d\pi - \sigma^*(1a_{2u})$  transitions, again by analogy to  $Mn_2(CO)_{10}$ . Intense bands at 438 and 373 nm in  $\left[\, \mathrm{Rh}_2(\mathrm{bridge})_4\mathrm{Br}_2 \right]^{2+}$  and 470 and 397 nm in  $\left[\, \mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{bridge})_4(\mathrm{CH}_3)(\mathrm{I}) \right]^{2+}$  $\phi$  (acetonitrile solution) presumably represent the  $d\pi - \sigma^*$  and  $\sigma - \sigma^*$ transitions, respectively, in these adducts. It is reasonable to expect that the  $1a_{1g}$  orbital will be delocalized to some extent over the X-Rh-Rh-X unit, and as a result the  $1a_{1g} - 1a_{2u}$  in the [Rh<sub>2</sub>- $(\mathrm{bridge})_4\mathrm{Br}_2\big]^{\text{2+}}$  complex is consistent with the proposed fractional charge transfer character.

The mechanism of oxidative addition to  $\left[\, \text{Rh}_{\text{2}}(\text{bridge})_{4} \right]^{2+}$  is under study. We have found that the rate of  $C_2H_5I$  addition to  $\left[\mathrm{Rh}_2(\mathrm{bridge})_4\right]^{2+}$  is comparable to that of CH<sub>3</sub>I, and that  $\mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{OTS}$ reacts extremely slowly. We suspect from these results that the initial step involves Rh(l) attack on a heavy atom in the substrate, yielding  $\mathrm{[Rh_{2}(bridge)_{4}I]}^{2^{+}}$  and methyl radical in the case of  $\mathrm{CH_{3}I_{\ast}}$ 

#### References and Notes

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- 8. Complexes of the type  $[Rh_2(CNR)_2X_2]^{2^+}$  obtained by mixing solutions of  $[Rh(CNR)_4]^+$  and trans- $[Rh(CNR)_4X_2]^+$   $(R = alkyl;$  $X =$  halide) have been reported  $[A, L, B]$ alch and M. M. Olmstead, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 98, 2354 (1976)]. These adducts exhibit electronic spectral properties that are very similar to those of analogous  $[\ Rh_2(\text{bridge})_4\text{X}_2]^{\text{2+}}$  complexes. Of the two structures for  $\left[\,\mathrm{Rh}_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}(\mathrm{CNR})_{\scriptscriptstyle 8} \mathrm{X}_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}\right]^{2+}$  species suggested by Balch and Olmstead our results favor the one containing a direct  $Rh(II)$ - $Rh(II)$  bond in preference to the Rh-X-Rh-X alignment. Balch and Olmstead also argued that their spectral data were more consistent with a  $Rh(II)$ - $Rh(II)$  bonded species.