

# Quantum-Mechanical *ab initio* Investigation of the Transition-Metal Compounds $\text{OsO}_4$ , $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$ , $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$ , $\text{OsOF}_6$ , and $\text{OsF}_8$

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The equilibrium geometries of  $\text{OsO}_4$ ,  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$ ,  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  and  $\text{OsF}_8$  are theoretically predicted by using quantum-mechanical *ab initio* methods at the Hartree-Fock and MP2 level of theory employing quasi-relativistic pseudopotentials for Os and 3-21G and 6-31G(d) basis sets for O and F. A comparison of the calculated geometries and vibrational frequencies with available experimental results shows a good agreement. The energy minimum structure for  $\text{OsO}_4$  has  $T_d$  symmetry, for  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  it has  $D_{3h}$  symmetry, for  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$   $C_{2v}$  symmetry with

*cis*-coordinated oxygen atoms, and for  $\text{OsF}_8$  a  $D_{2d}$  symmetry with two different Os–F bond lengths is predicted.  $\text{OsOF}_6$  is not a minimum on the potential energy hypersurface. The calculation of the thermodynamic stabilities indicates that the Os–F bond in  $\text{OsF}_8$  is clearly weaker than in  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$ ,  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  and in  $\text{OsF}_6$ . It will be very difficult to observe  $\text{OsF}_8$  experimentally. The analysis of the electronic structure shows that the Os–O bond is partly covalent, while the Os–F bonds are mainly ionic.

The highest oxidation state for any chemical element in a stable molecule is +8, and the only elements for which such compounds have been synthesized are Os, Ru and Xe. The most stable compound is  $\text{OsO}_4$ , which is an experimentally well characterized molecule<sup>[1–3]</sup>. Replacement of oxygen by fluorine atoms gives the molecules  $\text{OsO}_n\text{F}_{8-2n}$  ( $n = 0–3$ ), which should also be good candidates for molecules with the oxidation state +8, because of the high oxidation strength of fluorine. The first member of this series, i. e.  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$ , is already known since 1957<sup>[4]</sup>. Although several spectroscopic studies have been reported in the meantime<sup>[5–7]</sup>, the geometry of the molecule has yet to be determined.  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  has probably  $D_{3h}$  symmetry<sup>[5–7]</sup>, although a fluorine-bridged structure was suggested to account for the fact that a permanent dipole moment was measured<sup>[8]</sup>.

$\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  has only recently been prepared by the reaction of  $\text{OsO}_4$  with  $\text{KrF}_2$ <sup>[9]</sup>. A slightly distorted octahedral geometry with *cis*-coordinated oxygen atoms was found<sup>[9]</sup>. This paper<sup>[9]</sup> corrects also a previously published study in which  $\text{OsOF}_6$  was identified as the reaction product<sup>[10]</sup>. All attempts to synthesize  $\text{OsOF}_6$  failed<sup>[11]</sup>. Also  $\text{OsF}_8$  has not been known so far. Earlier reports on the observation of  $\text{OsF}_8$ <sup>[12]</sup> have later been shown<sup>[13]</sup> to be due to  $\text{OsF}_6$ . There is some evidence, however, for the formation of  $\text{OsF}_8$  by reaction of the elements at high pressure and 600 °C<sup>[14]</sup>.

The experimental studies of the molecules  $\text{OsO}_n\text{F}_{8-2n}$  ( $n = 0–3$ ) are difficult because the compounds are either very reactive or may not even exist. Quantum-mechanical studies can assist experimental studies, if the theoretical results are reliable. Accurate *ab initio* studies have become nearly a routine for molecules containing first- and second-row elements<sup>[15]</sup> (“classical organic chemistry”), but for

heavy-atom molecules such as  $\text{OsO}_n\text{F}_{8-2n}$  ( $n = 0–3$ ) the situation is more difficult because of the large number of electrons. Pseudopotentials or effective core potential (ECP) methods could be the method of choice in this case<sup>[16]</sup>. Parameters for ECP calculations of transition-metal compounds have been developed by several groups<sup>[17–23]</sup>, but little is known about the accuracy of the calculated results. In a recent systematic study of the performance of different ECP methods using various contraction schemes for the valence basis sets we found<sup>[24]</sup> that the extended ECPs developed by Hay and Wadt<sup>[17c]</sup> including the outermost  $(n-1)s^2(n-1)p^6$  electrons in the valence space predict geometries for closed-shell transition-metal compounds in good agreement with experimental data. It was found that the (55/5/N)<sup>[25]</sup> minimal valence basis set should be split into [441/41/N-1,1] or, if possible, into [441/2111/N-1,1], in order to achieve good results<sup>[24]</sup>. An important finding was that the geometries of transition-metal compounds in *high* oxidation states could be calculated with good accuracy already at the Hartree-Fock level<sup>[24,26]</sup>, whereas the calculation of transition-metal compounds in *low* oxidation states needs the inclusion of correlation energy in order to give reliable geometries<sup>[27,28]</sup>.

In order to further test the performance of the ECP method for the theoretical study of transition-metal compounds, we calculated the geometries and the vibrational spectra of the compounds  $\text{OsO}_n\text{F}_{8-2n}$  ( $n = 0–3$ ) using the quasi-relativistic ECP of Hay and Wadt<sup>[17c]</sup> for Os. The thermodynamic stability of the molecules is estimated by using appropriate model reactions. In order to gain insight into the electronic structure, we analyzed the computed wave function using the topological analysis developed by Bader and co-workers<sup>[29,30]</sup>

## Theoretical Details

The geometry optimizations and calculations of the vibrational frequencies have been carried out at different levels of theory by using the program package GAUSSIAN90<sup>[31]</sup>. First, we optimized the geometries and calculated the vibrational frequencies at the Hartree-Fock (HF) level using the quasi-relativistic ECP developed by Hay and Wadt<sup>[17c]</sup> with a split valence basis set [441/41/21] for Os and the all-electron 3-21G basis set for O and F<sup>[32]</sup>. The ECP for Os incorporates the mass-velocity and Darwin relativistic effects into the potential<sup>[17c]</sup>. This level of theory is denoted HF/I. As a next step, we optimized the geometry using the same ECP for Os<sup>[17c]</sup> but with a less contracted valence basis set [441/2111/21] in conjunction with the 6-31G(d) basis set for O and F<sup>[33]</sup>. This level of theory is denoted HF/II. The same basis sets and ECP were employed for optimizing the geometry with inclusion of correlation energy by using Møller-Plesset perturbation theory<sup>[34]</sup> terminated at second order (MP2). This is denoted MP2/II. The vibrational frequencies have been calculated at the HF/I level by using numerical second derivatives.

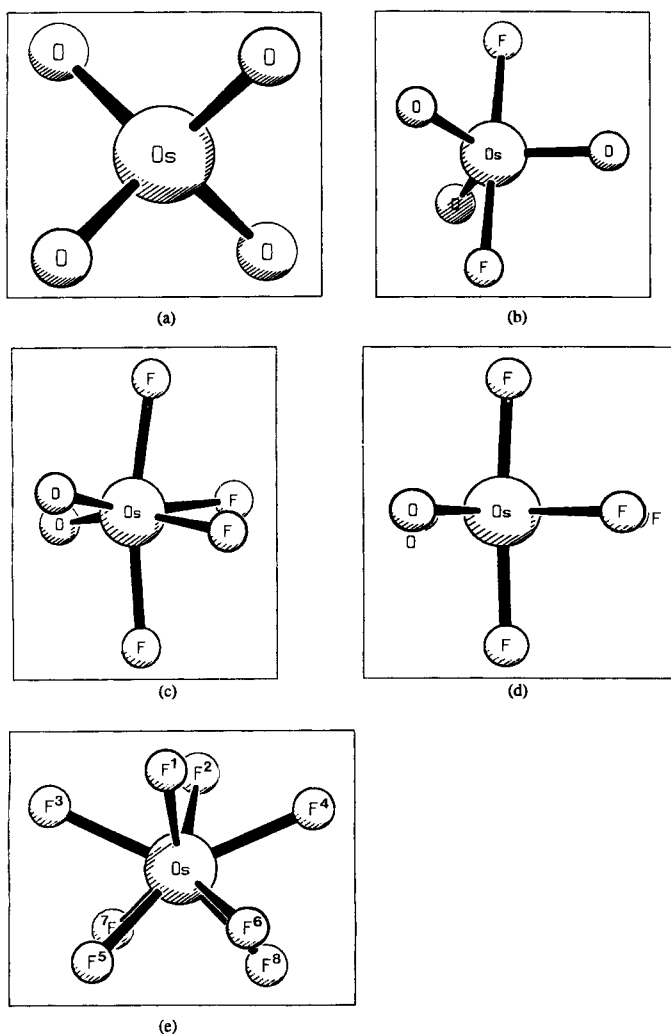


Figure 1. Optimized structures of OsO<sub>4</sub> (a), OsO<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (b), OsO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub> at HF/I (c), OsO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub> at MP2/II (d), OsF<sub>8</sub> at MP2/II (e)

For the calculation of the electron density distribution  $\rho(r)$ , the gradient vector field  $\Delta\rho(r)$ , and its associated Laplacian  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  the programs PROAIM, SADDLE, GRID, and GRDVEC were used<sup>[35]</sup>.

## Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows the optimized geometries for the calculated molecules OsO<sub>n</sub>F<sub>8-2n</sub> ( $n = 0-4$ ). The theoretically predicted bond lengths and angles are shown in Table 1. The calculated vibrational frequencies are listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Theoretically predicted and experimentally observed bond lengths A-B [ $\text{\AA}$ ] and bond angles A-B-C [ $^\circ$ ]

	HF/I	HF/II	MP2/II	Exp. <sup>[a]</sup>
OsO <sub>4</sub> :				
Symmetry	$T_d$	$T_d$	$T_d$	
Os-O	1.686	1.669	1.785	1.711
OsO <sub>3</sub> F <sub>2</sub> :				
Symmetry	$D_{3h}$	$D_{3h}$	$D_{3h}$	
Os-O	1.680	1.657	1.793	
Os-F	1.853	1.877	1.887	
OsO <sub>2</sub> F <sub>4</sub> :				
Symmetry	$C_2$	$C_{2v}$	$C_{2v}$	
Os-O	1.681	1.648	1.741	1.80, 1.83
Os-F <sub>eq</sub>	1.829	1.848	1.927	1.79, 1.92
Os-F <sub>ax</sub>	1.843	1.848	1.786	1.86, 1.88
$\alpha(\text{O}-\text{Os}-\text{O})$	100.9	100.0	103.8	102
$\alpha(\text{F}_{\text{eq}}-\text{Os}-\text{F}_{\text{eq}})$	80.2	80.5	77.9	81
$\alpha(\text{F}_{\text{ax}}-\text{Os}-\text{F}_{\text{ax}})$	167.9	165.7	176.0	172
OsF <sub>8</sub> :				
Symmetry	$C_2$	$C_{2v}$	$D_{2d}$	
Os-F <sup>1</sup>	1.827	1.820	1.869	
Os-F <sup>3</sup>	1.883	1.877	1.916	
Os-F <sup>5</sup>	1.826	1.835		
$\alpha(\text{F}^1-\text{Os}-\text{F}^2)$	86.0	95.2	95.0	
$\alpha(\text{F}^3-\text{Os}-\text{F}^4)$	127.9	126.8	130.8	
$\alpha(\text{F}^1-\text{Os}-\text{F}^5)$	85.0	83.9	76.2	

<sup>[a]</sup> OsO<sub>4</sub>: Ref. <sup>[2a]</sup>; OsO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub>: Ref. <sup>[9]</sup>.

OsO<sub>4</sub> ( $T_d$ ) is calculated at HF/I with an Os-O bond length of 1.686  $\text{\AA}$ , slightly shorter than the experimentally observed<sup>[2a]</sup> gas-phase value of 1.711  $\text{\AA}$ . The OsO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron is slightly distorted in the solid state with two different Os-O distances of 1.684  $\text{\AA}$  and 1.710  $\text{\AA}$ <sup>[2c]</sup>. The calculated Os-O bond distance becomes even shorter (1.669  $\text{\AA}$ ) when a better basis set is used at HF/II. With inclusion of correlation energy at MP2/II the Os-O bond length is too long (1.785  $\text{\AA}$ ). This is in opposition to the theoretical results obtained for transition-metal compounds in low oxidation states. For example, the M-CO bond lengths in transition-metal carbonyl complexes are too long at the HF level and become even longer when the basis set is improved<sup>[28,36]</sup>. The M-CO distances become shorter and are in good agreement with experiment at the MP2 level<sup>[28]</sup>. It should be mentioned that the trend of the calculated Os-O distances, i.e. that the bond length is too short at the HF level and too long at the MP2 level, is the same as for multiple bonds of main-group elements by using standard all-electron methods<sup>[15]</sup>.

The theoretically predicted vibrational frequencies at HF/I are too high, particularly for the Os-O stretching

Table 2. Theoretical predicted (at HF/I) and experimentally observed vibrational frequencies [cm<sup>-1</sup>]; the calculated IR intensities [km mol<sup>-1</sup>] are given in parentheses

	Mode	Frequency	Frequency × 0.8	Exp. <sup>[a]</sup>
OsO <sub>4</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>	342 (24.6)	274	329
	E	347 (0.0)	278	333
	T <sub>2</sub>	1151 (140.0)	921	961
	A <sub>1</sub>	1174 (0.0)	965	965
OsO <sub>3</sub> F <sub>2</sub>	E'	205 (15.2)	164	206
	A <sub>2</sub> '	349 (66.6)	279	258
	E'	355 (8.8)	284	317
	E''	384 (0.0)	307	348
	A <sub>1</sub> '	774 (0.0)	619	619
	A <sub>2</sub> '	808 (198.7)	649	646
	E'	1158 (36.1)	926	929
	A <sub>1</sub> '	1168 (0.0)	934	947
OsO <sub>2</sub> F <sub>4</sub>	B	97 (19.4)	78	
	A	137 (9.0)	110	
	B	157 (3.5)	126	
	A	211 (0.1)	169	
	B	297 (33.2)	238	
	A	322 (14.0)	258	
	B	394 (0.1)	315	
	A	396 (0.9)	317	
	A	443 (0.2)	354	
	B	582 (128.7)	465	
	A	765 (4.1)	612	
	B	798 (27.4)	638	
	B	836 (160.7)	669	
	A	850 (90.1)	680	
	A	1121 (14.0)	897	
	OsF <sub>8</sub>	A	107 (0.0)	86
B		177 (10.5)	142	
A		213 (2.5)	170	
B		229 (0.1)	183	
A		320 (8.3)	256	
A		335 (1.3)	268	
B		374 (0.4)	299	
B		401 (2.5)	321	
A		440 (0.9)	352	
B		529 (0.6)	423	
A		553 (0.0)	442	
B		554 (0.0)	443	
A		564 (0.0)	451	
A		707 (0.5)	566	
B		717 (2.9)	574	
A		743 (0.0)	594	
B	751 (0.8)	601		
A	831 (37.6)	665		
B	840 (30.1)	672		
A	859 (27.4)	687		
B	864 (70.6)	691		

<sup>[a]</sup> Ref. [7].

frequencies (Table 2). This is a well-known result from calculated harmonic frequencies of main-group elements by using various basis sets<sup>[15]</sup>. With a scaling factor of 0.8 the calculated vibrational frequencies are in reasonable agreement with the experimental values<sup>[3]</sup>.

The energy-minimum geometry of OsO<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub> is theoretically predicted to have D<sub>3h</sub> symmetry (Figure 1, Table 1). This is in agreement with the structural assignment based on the infrared and Raman spectrum of OsO<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub><sup>[5-7]</sup>. There are no experimental values for the geometry available. The Os–O distance in OsO<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub> is calculated to be very similar to OsO<sub>4</sub> (Table 1). The Os–F interatomic distance becomes slightly longer from HF/I to HF/II and MP2/II. The theoretically

predicted Os–F bond lengths are longer than the experimentally observed Os–F distance in OsF<sub>6</sub> (1.831 Å). The calculated vibrational frequencies are in good agreement after scaling by 0.8 with the experimental results<sup>[7]</sup>.

The geometry optimization of OsO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub> at HF/I yields a distorted octahedral structure with C<sub>2</sub> symmetry and a *cis* position of the oxygen atoms (Figure 1). The isomeric form with a *trans* position of the oxygen atoms is not a minimum on the potential energy surface, the geometry optimization gives only the structure shown in Figure 1 as an energy minimum. A *trans* position of the Os–O double bond appears not to be a stable entity. The O–Os–O plane is twisted at HF/I by 20.0° from the F–Os–F plane of the equatorial F atoms (Figure 1), and the axial fluorine atoms are slightly tilted towards the equatorial fluorine atoms with a F–Os–F bond angle of 167.9°. Reoptimization of OsO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub> at HF/II and MP2/II gives a geometry with C<sub>2v</sub> symmetry. A nearly perfect octahedral geometry with a bond angle F–Os–F of 176.0° for the axial fluorine atoms is predicted at MP2/II (Table 1). The experimentally observed<sup>[9]</sup> bond angles agree quite well with the calculated values. The interatomic distances show greater variations. However, the X-ray structure analysis was hampered by the poor quality of the crystals, and it was noted that rather large uncertainties remain concerning the bond lengths<sup>[9]</sup>. Also, the crystal structure of OsO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub> shows a sixfold arrangement of OsO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub> with a helix form which indicates that intermolecular interactions may distort the geometry of the monomer<sup>[9]</sup>.

An important point concerns the relative bond lengths of the axial and equatorial Os–F bonds. At HF/I, the latter are slightly shorter than the former (Table 1). At HF/II, the two types of Os–F bonds are predicted with the same bond length. At MP2/II, the equatorial Os–F bonds are calculated significantly longer (1.928 Å) than the axial Os–F bonds (1.786 Å). Although we believe that the results obtained at MP2/II are probably correct, uncertainties remain because the experimental are not conclusive.

All attempts to find an energy minimum geometry for OsOF<sub>6</sub> failed. The molecule dissociates during the geometry optimization by using different starting geometries. We conclude that OsOF<sub>6</sub> is at best a very shallow minimum on the potential energy hypersurface, and it will be very difficult to observe it experimentally.

Unlike OsOF<sub>6</sub>, osmium octafluoride OsF<sub>8</sub> is clearly a minimum on the potential energy hypersurface. The optimization of OsF<sub>8</sub> at the Hartree-Fock level using basis set I gives a distorted quadratic antiprism with C<sub>2</sub> symmetry as an energy-minimum structure with three different Os–F bond lengths (Figure 1). A C<sub>2v</sub> structure with three different Os–F distances is predicted at HF/II. Optimization at MP2/II leads also to a distorted quadratic antiprism, but with D<sub>2d</sub> symmetry and two rather long and significantly different Os–F interatomic distances of 1.916 and 1.869 Å. This is clearly longer than the Os–F bond length in OsF<sub>6</sub> which has experimentally been determined as 1.831 Å<sup>[37]</sup>. The calculated geometry for OsF<sub>8</sub> may be compared with isoelectronic [TaF<sub>8</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>, which has experimentally been

studied<sup>[38]</sup>. The X-ray structure analysis of the sodium salt of  $[\text{TaF}_8]^{3-}$  also shows a distorted square antiprism with Ta–F bond distances ranging from 1.93 to 2.01 Å<sup>[38]</sup>. It was concluded that the departure from the ideal shape is probably caused by packing forces and the limited accuracy of the X-ray structure determination, and that the  $[\text{TaF}_8]^{3-}$  ion could have  $D_{4d}$  symmetry. The theoretical results presented here suggest that the departure from  $D_{4d}$  symmetry, which could be caused by a second-order Jahn-Teller distortion, may already be present in the isolated molecule.

In order to estimate the thermodynamic stability of  $\text{OsF}_8$  and the other investigated compounds, we calculated the heats of reaction  $\Delta H_R$  of the fluorination reactions (1)–(3) shown in Scheme 1.

Scheme 1. Calculated reaction enthalpies [kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>] at MP2/II + ZPE; the values in parentheses are corrected by the difference in  $D_0$  values for  $\text{F}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$  [reactions (1)–(3)] and HF and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [reactions (4)–(6)]

(1)	$\text{OsO}_4$	+ $\text{F}_2$	→ $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$	+ 0.5 $\text{O}_2$	-55.4 (-33.7)
(2)	$\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$	+ $\text{F}_2$	→ $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$	+ 0.5 $\text{O}_2$	-41.5 (-19.8)
(3)	$\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$	+ 2 $\text{F}_2$	→ $\text{OsF}_8$	+ $\text{O}_2$	-23.2 (+20.2)
(4)	$\text{OsO}_4$	+ 2 HF	→ $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$	+ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	+14.8 (-36.6)
(5)	$\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$	+ 2 HF	→ $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$	+ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	+27.4 (-24.0)
(6)	$\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$	+ 4 HF	→ $\text{OsF}_8$	+ 2 $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	+114.5 (+11.7)

The fluorination of  $\text{OsO}_4$  yielding  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  is exothermic by 55.4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. This is partly due to the formation of  $\text{O}_2$  at the expense of  $\text{F}_2$ , the bond energy of  $\text{O}_2$  in the  $^3\Sigma_g^-$  ground state is much higher ( $D_0 = 119.0$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>[39]</sup> than the bond energy of  $\text{F}_2$  ( $D_0 = 37.8$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>[39]</sup>. If this is accounted for in reaction (1), the replacement of one Os–O double bond in  $\text{OsO}_4$  by two Os–F single bonds increases the bond energy by 33.7 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> (Scheme 1). On the assumption that the average bond energy for the Os–O double bond in  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  is the same as in  $\text{OsO}_4$  (127 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>[40]</sup> the Os–F bond strength in  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  can be estimated as 80.4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Further fluorination of  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  yielding  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  is also exothermic, albeit to a less extent. The theoretically predicted reaction enthalpy of reaction (2) is -41.5 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> (Scheme 1). This gives an increase in bond energy for  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  of 19.8 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, when the difference in the dissociation energies of  $\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{F}_2$  is taken into account. Using the calculated reaction energies for reactions (1) and (2) and the Os–O bond energy<sup>[40]</sup> of  $\text{OsO}_4$  (127 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>), we estimated the average Os–F bond strength in  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  as 76.9 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, less than in  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$ .

Fluorination of  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  yielding  $\text{OsF}_8$  is still exothermic by 23.2 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> (Scheme 1). However, this comes only from the formation of the oxygen molecule, the total bond energy of  $\text{OsF}_8$  is less than in  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$ . If reaction (3) is corrected by the difference in the dissociation energies of  $\text{F}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$ , the formation of  $\text{OsF}_8$  is endothermic by 20.2 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. This gives together with the calculated results for reactions (1) and (2) and the Os–O bond strength<sup>[40]</sup> in  $\text{OsO}_4$  of 127 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> a theoretically predicted Os–F bond energy of 67.7 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, which is significantly lower

than in  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  and  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$ . It is also much lower than the average Os–F bond energy in  $\text{OsF}_6$  which is estimated<sup>[41]</sup> by using the results of thermodynamic measurements as 86.5 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. The low binding energy calculated for  $\text{OsF}_8$  may explain why this molecule could not be isolated so far.

We also calculated the formation of the fluoride oxides and  $\text{OsF}_8$  by reaction of the precursors with HF giving the product molecules and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Scheme 1). Reactions (4)–(6) are endothermic, because in these reactions one molecule of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is formed for two molecules of HF. The dissociation energy of HF is  $D_0 = 136.2$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, and that of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is  $D_0 = 221$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup><sup>[39]</sup>. If the calculated reaction enthalpies for reactions (4)–(6) are corrected by the different dissociation energies of HF and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , similar values are predicted for the formation of the Os–F bonds (Scheme 1). That is, the replacement of one Os–O double bond by two Os–F bonds yielding  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  and  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  gives a gain in bond energy, while the formation of  $\text{OsF}_8$  reduces the bond energy. The two sets of reactions (1)–(3) and (4)–(6) may be used to estimate the heats of formation of  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$ ,  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  and  $\text{OsF}_8$ . Table 3 shows the theoretically predicted<sup>[42]</sup>  $\Delta H_f^\circ$  values for  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$ ,  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  and  $\text{OsF}_8$ , which have been calculated by using the experimentally observed<sup>[43]</sup> value of  $\Delta H_f^\circ$  ( $\text{OsO}_4$ ) = -80.6 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. The heat of formation of  $\text{OsF}_8$  is calculated as -200.7 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> and -210.3 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. The experimentally observed<sup>[41]</sup> heat of formation for  $\text{OsF}_6$  is lower ( $\Delta H_f^\circ = -216$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) which means that the dissociation of  $\text{OsF}_8$  into  $\text{OsF}_6$  and  $\text{F}_2$  is probably exothermic.

In order to analyze the electronic structure of the investigated molecules, we calculated the Laplacian of the elec-

Table 3. Theoretically predicted heats of formation  $\Delta H_f^\circ$  [kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>] at MP2/II + ZPE using reactions (1)–(3) and (4)–(6)

	$\Delta H_f^\circ$ Reaction (1)–(3)	$\Delta H_f^\circ$ Reaction (4)–(6)
$\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$	-136.0	-137.4
$\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$	-177.5	-181.6
$\text{OsF}_8$	-200.7	-210.3

Table 4. Characterization of bonds A–B with the aid of the local properties of energy and electron density calculated at MP2/II; shift of the bond critical point  $\Delta r_{ab}$  [Å] relative to the "nonpolar" midpoint of the bond A–B; electron density  $\rho_b$  [ $\text{e} \text{Å}^{-3}$ ], Laplacian concentration  $\nabla^2 \rho(r_b)$  [ $\text{e} \text{Å}^{-5}$ ] and energy density  $H_b$  [Hartree  $\text{Å}^{-3}$ ] calculated at the bond critical point  $r_b$

	$\Delta r_{ab}$	$\rho_b$	$H_b$	$\nabla^2 \rho(r_b)$
$\text{OsO}_4$				
Os–O	+0.549	1.3592	-0.6574	24.645
$\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$				
Os–O	+0.567	1.3889	-0.7356	21.165
Os–F	+0.565	0.9833	-0.2484	18.286
$\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$				
Os–O	+0.563	1.6906	-1.2070	17.045
Os–F <sub>eq</sub>	+0.591	0.9138	-0.2166	17.681
Os–F <sub>ax</sub>	+0.540	1.2681	-0.4454	24.705
$\text{OsF}_8$				
Os–F <sup>1</sup>	+0.583	0.9698	-0.2612	13.784
Os–F <sup>3</sup>	+0.566	1.0522	-0.2956	18.211

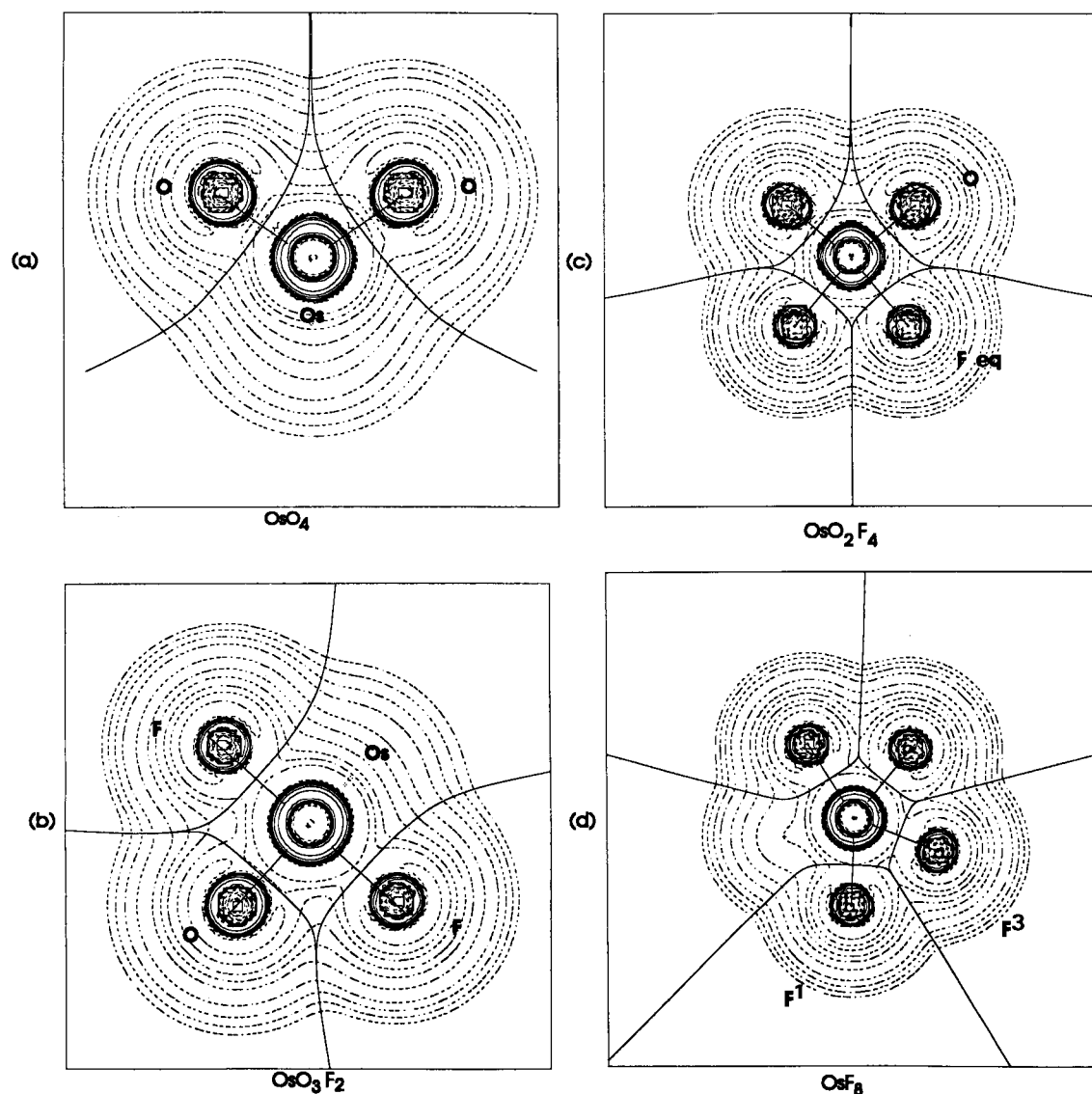


Figure 2. Contour line diagrams of the Laplacian distribution  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  at MP2/II of  $\text{OsO}_4$  (a),  $\text{OsO}_3\text{F}_2$  (b),  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$  (c),  $\text{OsF}_8$  (d); dashed lines indicate charge depletion [ $\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$ ], solid lines indicate charge concentration [ $\nabla^2\rho(r) < 0$ ]; the solid lines connecting the atomic nuclei are the bond paths, the solid lines separating the atomic nuclei indicate the zero-flux surfaces in the molecular plane

tron density distribution  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  at MP2/II. Figure 2 shows the contour diagrams of the Laplacian fields, Table 4 shows the calculated results of the topological analysis of the wave function.

Inspection of the calculated contour line diagrams of the four molecules exhibited in Figure 2 shows regions of electron depletion [ $\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$ , dashed lines] and electron concentration [ $\nabla^2\rho(r) < 0$ , solid lines]. The solid lines connecting the atomic nuclei are the bond paths. The solid lines separating the nuclei indicate the zero-flux surfaces in the molecular plane. The points where the solid lines are crossing between the atoms are the bond critical points  $r_b$ , which are minima of the electron density along the bond path and maxima in the two orthogonal directions<sup>[29]</sup>.

Figure 2 shows that there are nearly spherical Laplace concentrations of the atoms with only small distortions caused by the electronic interactions. The calculated values

for  $\nabla^2\rho(r_b)$  are always large and positive. This suggests that the Os–O and Os–F bonds should be considered as ionic. However, it has been shown that the characterization of a bond by the calculated Laplace concentration is not sufficient<sup>[44]</sup>. For example, the F–F bond in  $\text{F}_2$  has also a positive value of  $\nabla^2\rho(r_b)$ , although it is clearly a covalent bond<sup>[44a]</sup>. A better indication whether a bond is more covalent or more ionic is the energy density at the bond critical point  $H_b$ . Negative values for  $H_b$  have been shown to be a necessary and sufficient condition to characterize a bond as covalent, with typical values between  $-1$  and  $-3$ <sup>[44,45]</sup>. The data in Table 4 show that the Os–O bond has significant covalent contributions which increase from  $\text{OsO}_4$  to  $\text{OsO}_2\text{F}_4$ . In contrast, the Os–F bonds are largely ionic.

The shift of  $r_b$  from the “non-polar” midpoint of a bond A–B may be used as a measure of the effective electronegativity of the atoms<sup>[46]</sup>. If A and B are identical, the mid-

point is simply the half of the calculated interatomic distance. If A and B are different as in the case of the Os—O and Os—F bond, the sum of the ionic radii<sup>[47]</sup>  $a_{\text{Os}}$  and  $a_{\text{X}}$ , corrected by the actual interatomic distance  $r_{\text{OsX}}$ , may be used to define the “non-polar” midpoint of the Os—X bond  $m_{\text{OsX}}$ . If the latter is given by the distance to the osmium atom  $m_{\text{Os}}$ , we define  $m_{\text{Os}}$  as.

$$m_{\text{Os}} = a_{\text{Os}} \times r_{\text{OsX}} \times (a_{\text{Os}} + a_{\text{X}})^{-1}$$

$m_{\text{Os}}$  = distance of the “non-polar” midpoint from Os

$a_{\text{Os}}$  = ionic radius of  $\text{Os}^{8+}$

$a_{\text{X}}$  = ionic radius of X (X =  $\text{O}^{2-}$ ,  $\text{F}^{-}$ )

$r_{\text{OsX}}$  = calculated interatomic distance Os—X

The shift in the bond critical point  $\Delta r_{\text{b}}$  is then given by the distance between  $r_{\text{b}}$  and  $m_{\text{Os}}$  for the Os—X bond, with negative (positive) values indicating that  $r_{\text{b}}$  is shifted towards the Os (X) atom. The results in Table 4 clearly show that the bond critical point  $r_{\text{b}}$  is always significantly shifted towards the oxygen or fluorine atom. The position of the bond critical point  $r_{\text{b}}$  suggests that the electronegativity of  $\text{Os}^{8+}$  is higher<sup>[45]</sup> than of  $\text{O}^{2-}$  and  $\text{F}^{-}$ , which is in agreement with chemical intuition.

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