# **Site Preference in Vertex-Sharing Polyicosahedral Supraclusters Containing Group 10 and 11 Metals and Their Bonding Implications: Syntheses and Structures of the First Au-Ag-M (M** =  $Pt, Ni) Bicosahedral Clusters [(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>10</sub>Au<sub>12</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>PtCl<sub>7</sub>]<sub>Cl</sub> and [(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>10</sub>Au<sub>12</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>NiCl<sub>7</sub>](SbF<sub>6</sub>)$

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The syntheses and structures of the first Au-Ag-M ( $M = Pt$ , Ni) vertex-sharing biicosahedral clusters  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}$ - $Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]+$  (1), as the Cl<sup>-</sup> salt, and  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]+$  (4), as the SbF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> salt, are reported. 4 is also the first Au-Ag-Ni compound ever reported as well as the first example of a vertex-sharing polyicosahedral structure containing first, second, and third row transition metals. The title clusters were synthesized via a new synthetic strategy based **on** preformed clusters; as such, they open the door to other trimetallic polyicosahedral clusters containing group 10 and 11 metals. The title clusters crystallize in a monoclinic unit cell of  $P_2/m$  space group symmetry with lattice parameters  $a = 16.534(3)$  Å,  $b = 24.360(4)$  Å,  $c = 29.819(6)$  Å,  $\beta = 103.25(3)$ <sup>o</sup>, and  $V =$ 11690.3 Å<sup>3</sup> for **1**, as the Cl<sup>-</sup> salt, and  $a = 16.591(4)$  Å,  $b = 23.707(3)$  Å,  $c = 29.954(5)$  Å,  $\beta = 103.31(3)$ °,  $V =$ 11465.2 Å<sup>3</sup> for **4**, as the SbF<sub>6</sub>- salt, respectively, and  $Z = 2$ . The structures were refined to  $R_1 = 7.0\%$  for 3014 independent reflections ( $2\theta \le 44^{\circ}$ ) with  $I > 3\sigma$  for **1**, and  $R_1 = 6.9\%$  for 1822 independent reflections ( $2\theta \le 44^{\circ}$ ) with  $I > 3\sigma$  for 4, respectively. The metal core of both structures can be described as two  $Au_6Ag_6$  icosahedra, one M-centered (M = Pt **(l),** Ni **(4))** and one Au-centered, sharing a common Au atom. The four metal pentagons adopt the **staggered-eclipsed-staggered** (ses) configuration. The ten triphenylphosphine ligands coordinate to the 10 peripheral (surface) Au atoms in a radial fashion. There are five doubly-bridging chloride ligands connecting two Ag5 pentagons and two more chloride ligands coordinating terminally to two apical Ag atoms. The ubiquity of crystal structures with the space group  $P2_1/m$  and cell parameters of, roughly, 16, 24, and 30 Å and  $\beta = 103^{\circ}$ for the series of vertex-sharing biicosahedral supraclusters with triphenylphosphine as ligands, regardless of the types of counteranions (e.g., SbF6- vs Cl-), halide ligands (e.g., C1- vs Br-), or solvent molecules, is discussed. **On** the basis of these structures, a set of site preference rules are deduced and their bonding implications discussed. These site preference principles can be generalized to other multimetallic alloy systems and rationalized via simple bond strength vs charge accumulation (BSCA) plots. Here the metal-metal bond strengths are estimated from cohesive energy and the charge accumulation powers are based **on** electronegativity. Extended Huckel molecular orbital (EHMO) calculations were performed on the bimetallic cluster  $[(R_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}Cl_7]$ ,<sup>2+</sup> where R = H, in order to assess the electronic origins of the site preference principles. It is hoped that basic understanding of the principles governing site preference and alloy formation in multimetallic cluster systems will lead to better electronic and stereochemical controls of their structures and, ultimately, to the design and manufacture or fabrication of structurally well-defined multimetallic catalysts, ultrafine particles, nanoarchitectures, etc.

## **(I) Introduction**

High-nuclearity mixed-metal clusters<sup>1-4</sup> are important in that they may serve as structurally well-defined models for multimetallic catalysts or nanoparticles. **Our** ongoing work in this area has given rise to a unique sequence of bimetallic (Au-Ag) clusters whose metal frameworks are based **on** vertex-sharing *poly*icosahedra.<sup>5-9</sup> We refer to these high-nuclearity mixed-metal clusters as "clusters of clusters".<sup>5-7</sup> This "cluster of clusters"

series follows well-defined design rules, resulting in a novel growth sequence by successive additions of icosahedral units via vertexsharing, as exemplified by the biicosahedral<sup>8</sup>  $[(p-tol_3P)_{10}Au_{13}$ - $Ag_{12}Br_8$ <sup>+</sup>,<sup>8b</sup> the triicosahedral<sup>9</sup> [(p-tol<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>12</sub>Au<sub>18</sub>Ag<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>14</sub>],<sup>9a</sup> and the tetraicosahedral<sup>9d</sup>  $[(Ph_3P)_{12}Au_{22}Ag_{24}Cl_{10}]$  clusters. The biicosahedral 25-metal-atom cluster series<sup>8a-f</sup> of general formula  $[(R_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}X_8]^+$  (where R = phenyl or tolyl and X = Cl or Br) is particularly interesting in that they exhibit various metal configurations and bridging ligand arrangements caused by the relative rotations of the two metal icosahedra (about the shared

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#### Vertex-Sharing Polyicosahedral Supraclusters

vertex) and the satellite ring of bridging ligands, respectively (as represented by the large circles and an ellipse in Chart 1, top figures). For example, the monocationic cluster  $((Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{13}$ -Ag<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>8</sub>]<sup>+</sup>,<sup>\*</sup> with a staggered-eclipsed-staggered (ses) arrangement of four adjacent metal pentagons, has a ring of six bromides bridging the two middle silver pentagons. The dicationic cluster  $[(p\text{-tol}_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}Cl_7]$ <sup>2+</sup>,  $88$  however, with a nearly *ses* metal configuration, has five bridging halides.

Recently, we communicated a trimetallic cluster containing Au, Ag, and Pt,  $[(Ph_3P)_{10} Au_{12} Ag_{12} PtCl_7]^+ (1)$ , <sup>10</sup> as the Cl<sup>-</sup>salt. **1** represents the first example of a trimetallic polyicosahedral supracluster. Unfortunately, the location of the platinum atom in **1** cannot be ascertained because the X-ray scattering powers of Pt and Au are similar. For example, the unique platinum atom may occupy one of the two icosahedral centers or the shared vertex, as depicted in **2** and 3, respectively. In order to resolve



$$
O/O / \bullet = Au / Ag/M
$$

this site preference, we have prepared and structurally characterized the Ni analog of **1**: the  $((Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7)^+$  monocation **(4),** as the  $SbF_6$  salt, which is reported here for the first time. In **4,** the locality of the unique Ni atom can beunequivocably determined as a result of drastically different X-ray scattering powers of the three metallic constituents (Au, Ag, and Ni). **4** is the *first* Au-Ag-Ni compound ever reported.2a It is also the *first* example of a polyicosahedral structure containing first, second, and third row transition metals; as such it opens the door to other trimetallic polyicosahedral clusters containing Au, Ag, and Ni. Prior to this work, our work on polyicosahedral clusters involved only combinations of second and third row transition metals; hence, **4** represents the first example in which a first row transition metal is incorporated into a polyicosahedral cluster.

The title clusters are important in the elucidation of site preference in vertex-sharing polyicosahedral clusters containing group 10 and 1 1 metals. Such structural and bonding information are crucial in order to understand alloy formation in materials such as multimetallic catalysts, nanoparticles,<sup>12</sup> thin films, etc. Understanding of such alloy formation will allow better electronic and stereochemical controls of their structures and hence improve the design and manufacture of these materials (e.g., preparation of structurally well-defined catalysts<sup>11</sup> with tailor-made reactivities and selectivities or fabrication of quantum devices<sup>12</sup> with specific functions).

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**Chart 1** 



In this paper, we report the syntheses and structures of the title clusters **1** and **4.** On the basis of these structures, a set of site preference rules are deduced and compared with the corresponding bimetallic biicosahedral series. Extended Huckel molecular orbital **(EHMO)** calculations were performed on the bimetallic cluster  $[(R_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}Cl_7]$ ,<sup>2+</sup> where R = H, in order to assess the electronic origins of the site preference principles. These site preference principles and their bonding implications, are rationalized via simple bond strength vs charge accumulation (BSCA) plots. We note that these structural and bonding principles are applicable to other multimetallic systems, even though the terminologies may be different in different technologies. For example, terms such as site preference, interstitial vs surface sites in metallic clusters are equivalent to terms such as segregation (surface enrichment) and interior (kernel) vs exterior (mantle) often used in metal catalysts or particles.

#### **(11) Experimetal Section**

(A) Syntheses and Characterizations.  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]^+Cl^ (1)$ . 1, as the C<sub>1</sub>-salt, was prepared by reducing a mixture of  $[(Ph_3P)_8 -$ 





<sup>a</sup> The raw intensity is given as  $I_{\text{raw}} = (20.116 \times \text{ATN}) \times (C - R \times B)/NPI$ ; here  $C =$  total counts,  $R =$  ratio of scan time to background counting time,  $B =$  total background counts, NPI = ratio of fastest possible scan rate to scan rate for the measurement, and ATN = attenuator factor (10.7) for Mo in our case). And the observed structure factor amplitude is obtained as the square root of the intensity after correction for Lorentz-polarization:  $F_{obs} = (I_{raw}/Lp)^{1/2}$ . All least-squares refinements were based on the minimizations of  $\sum w_i |F_0| - |F_0|^2$  with the individual weights  $w_i = 1/\sigma(F_0)^2$ . Atomic scattering factors used for all atoms are from: Cromer, D. T.; Waber, J. T. *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography;* The Kynoch Press: Birmingham, England, 1974; Vol. IV, Table 2.2B. Cromer, D. T.; Mann, J. B. X-ray Scattering Factors Computed From Numerical Hartree-Fock Wave Functions. *Acta Crystallogr.* **1968**, *A24*, 321-324. **R**<sub>1</sub> =  $[\sum ||F_0| - |F_0|]/[\sum |F_0|] \times 100\%$  and  $R_2 = [\sum w_i ||F_0| - |F_0|]^2 / (\sum w_i |F_0|^2)^{1/2} \times 100\%$ .

 $AugPt](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>13</sup> (28 mg) and (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>4</sub>Ag<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub><sup>14</sup> (32 mg) with NaBH<sub>4</sub> (4$ mg) in 30 mL of absolute ethanol. The color of the solution turned dark brown immediately upon addition of the reducing reagent. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir overnight and filtered. The resulting dark brown-red precipitate was washed with *5* mL of ethanol and 10 mL of diethyl ether and redissolved in dichloromethane and filtered again to get rid of insoluble impurities. The filtrate was then evaporated to dryness and recrystallized from  $CH_2Cl_2/CH_3CN/C_2H_5OH$ . Yield: 18 mg (37%, basedon Pt). Crystals (parallelepiped shape) suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were grown from  $CH_2Cl_2/CH_3CN/C_2H_5OH$  (in approximately 1:1:1 ratio) via evaporation. X-ray fluorescence analysis on the single crystals confirmed the presence of Pt, Au, Ag, and C1 atoms. IR showed the presence of metal-coordinated  $Ph_3P$  and the absence of  $NO_3^-$ .

 $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]^+(SbF_6)^- (4(SbF_6))$ . 4, as the SbF<sub>6</sub>- salt, was similarly prepared by reducing a mixture of  $[(Ph_3P)_8Au_8Ni](NO_3)_2^{15}$ (39 mg) and  $(Ph_3P)_4Ag_4Cl_4^{14}$  (32 mg) with NaBH<sub>4</sub> (4 mg) in 40 mL of absolute ethanol except that NaSbF6 (26 mg) was added to the ethanol filtrate and that the final product was recrystallized from  $CH_2Cl_2/EtOH$ . Yield: 26 mg (38%, based on Ni). Crystals (parallelepiped shape) suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were grown from  $CH_2Cl_2/EtOH$  (5:1 ratio)

via evaporation. X-ray fluorescence analysis **on** the single crystals confirmed the presence of Ni, Au, Ag, and C1 atoms. IR showed the presence of metal-coordinated  $Ph_3P$  and the presence of SbF<sub>6</sub>-.

**(B) Collection and Reduction of X-ray Data.** A dark-brown parallelepiped shape crystal of  $1$ (Cl), with dimensions 0.18 mm  $\times$  0.16 mm  $\times$  0.12 mm, and a dark-red parallelepiped-shaped crystal of  $4(SbF_6)$ , with dimensions 0.14 mm **X** 0.10 mm **X** 0.08 mm, were selected and mounted in thecapillary tube with themother liquor. Room-temperature (23  $\pm$  2 °C) single-crystal X-ray diffraction data (2 <  $\theta$  < 45°) were collected on an Enraf-Nonius CAD4 diffractometer using graphitemonochromatized Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.7107$  Å). The observed intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. Details of the crystal parameters and data collection are summarized in Table 1. A Wilson plot of the data favored the centrosymmetric space group  $P2_1/m$  (No. 11). This centrosymmetric space group was later confirmed by the successful solution and refinement of the structure. Attempts to refine the structures in the acentric subgroup  $P2<sub>1</sub>$  were unsuccessful due to correlation of parameters.

**(C) Solution and Refinement of the Structure.** The crystal structures of both title compounds **1** and 4 were solved by using the SDP package.16 Positions of the metal atoms were obtained from direct methods, and the CI and P atoms were located *via* Fourier syntheses. The phenyl carbon atoms, the anions, and the solvent atoms were revealed from subsequent difference Fourier syntheses.

In the final cycles of refinement, anisotropic thermal parameters were used for heavy atoms (Pt, Au, Ag, Cl, and P for 1(Cl) and Ni, Au, Ag,

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<sup>(14)</sup> Teo, B. K.; Calabrese, J. C. *Inorg. Chem.* **1976**, *15*, 2467.<br>(15) [(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>8</sub>Au<sub>8</sub>Ni](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was prepared by reducing a mixture of Ph<sub>3</sub>-<br>PAuNO<sub>3</sub> and (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>4</sub>Ni (8:1 molar ratio) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> with NaBH<sub>4</sub> inert atmosphere.

<sup>(16)</sup> For crystallographic details, see ref 8b.

Table **2.** Atomic Positional Parameters and Equivalent Isotropic Displacement Parameters and Their Estimated Standard Deviations for the Clusters

atom	x	у	z	$B,^a \AA^2$	atom	x	у	z	$B,^a \AA^2$			
(a) $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]Cl(1)$												
Aul	0.0932(2)	0.4086(2)	0.1856(1)	3.48(8)	Cl11	0.134(2)	0.577(1)	0.269(1)	7.7(9)			
Au2	0.2656(2)	0.4163(2)	0.2354(1)	3.41(8)	C11	0.232(2)	0.250	0.135(1)	4.8(9)			
Au3	0.2715(2)	0.4100(2)	0.3328(1)	3.42(8)	Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.421(2)	0.250	0.286(1)	6(1)			
Au4	0.1033(2)	0.4092(2)	0.3434(1)	3.25(8)	C13	0.270(2)	0.250	0.419(1)	4.0(9)			
Au5	$-0.0086(2)$	0.4091(2)	0.2527(1)	3.73(9)	C14	$-0.055(2)$	0.250	0.347(1)	6(1)			
AP11	0.1472(2)	0.3659(2)	0.2698(1)	2.44(7)	C15	$-0.094(2)$	0.250	0.166(1)	6(1)			
Aul <sub>3</sub>	0.1494(3)	0.250	0.2696(2)	4.4(1)	P1	0.052(2)	0.445(1)	0.1129(8)	4.5(7)			
Ag11	0.1414(4)	0.4794(3)	0.2706(3)	4.5(2)	P <sub>2</sub>	0.359(1)	0.465(1)	0.2068(8)	3.7(6)			
Agl	0.1890(4)	0.3114(3)	0.1947(2)	4.1(2)	P3	0.375(1)	0.445(1)	0.3920(9)	4.5(7)			
Ag2	0.3006(3)	0.3129(3)	0.2823(2)	3.3(2)	P4	0.065(1)	0.446(1)	0.4050(8)	3.6(6)			
Ag3	0.2063(4)	0.3093(3)	0.3536(2)	3.7(2)	P5	$-0.142(1)$	0.445(1)	0.2381(8)	5.4(8)			
Ag4	0.0301(4)	0.3091(4)	0.3071(2)	3.8(2)	C1	0.661(2)	0.750	0.357(1)	5(1)			
Ag5	0.0192(4)	0.3099(3)	0.2090(2)	3.8(2)								
				(b) $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]SbF_6$ (4)								
Au1	0.4091(3)	0.0878(3)	0.3138(2)	3.7(1)	Cl1	0.265(4)	0.250	0.362(2)	6(2)			
Au2	0.2388(3)	0.0802(3)	0.2650(2)	3.9(1)	C12	0.083(2)	0.250	0.218(1)	3(1)			
Au3	0.2308(3)	0.0862(3)	0.1674(2)	3.8(1)	C13	0.222(4)	0.250	0.083(2)	7(2)			
Au4	0.3988(3)	0.0875(3)	0.1572(2)	3.5(1)	C14	0.548(4)	0.250	0.148(2)	7(2)			
Au5	0.5096(3)	0.0870(3)	0.2466(2)	4.2(1)	C15	0.601(4)	0.250	0.331(3)	10(2)			
Au13	0.3527(5)	0.250	0.2312(3)	4.7(2)	C111	0.371(2)	$-0.084(2)$	0.230(1)	9(1)			
AN11	0.3556(5)	0.1317(3)	0.2304(3)	1.8(2)	P1	0.451(2)	0.055(2)	0.387(1)	4(1)			
Ag1	0.3143(6)	0.1876(6)	0.3047(4)	4.8(3)	P <sub>2</sub>	0.142(2)	0.029(1)	0.291(1)	3.3(9)			
Ag2	0.2029(6)	0.1860(5)	0.2174(3)	3.9(3)	P3	0.132(2)	0.052(1)	0.111(1)	3.2(9)			
Ag3	0.2970(6)	0.1894(6)	0.1470(4)	4.5(3)	P4	0.438(2)	0.054(2)	0.094(1)	3.6(9)			
Ag4	0.4717(5)	0.1890(5)	0.1940(3)	3.9(3)	P5	0.644(2)	0.052(2)	0.263(1)	5(1)			
Ag5	0.4840(6)	0.1881(5)	0.2904(3)	3.4(2)	Sb	0.156(1)	0.250	0.8623(7)	7.7(6)			
Ag11	0.3600(6)	0.0149(4)	0.2299(4)	4.5(3)								

<sup>a</sup> Values for anisotropically refined atoms are given in the form of the isotropic equivalent displacement parameter defined as:  $(4/3)$  [ $a^2B(1,1)$  +  $b^2B(2,2) + c^2B(3,3) + ab(\cos \gamma)B(1,2) + ac(\cos \beta)B(1,3) + bc(\cos \alpha)B(2,3)$ .

CI, P, and Sb for  $4(SbF_6)$ , and all phenyl groups were refined using the rigid-body constraint as described previously.<sup>9a</sup> The occupancies of the solvent atoms were obtained by refining their multiplicities with a fixed isotropic thermal parameter of 8 Å.<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, the solvent atoms were refined isotropically (at fixed multiplicities). Due to the liquidlike nature of the solvent molecules, **no** attempts were made to assign individual solvent atoms to solvent molecules or to differentiate between ethanol and acetonitrile. Final  $R_1 = \left[\sum (|F_0| - |F_c|/|F_0|\right] \times 100\%$  and  $R_2 = \left[\sum w(|F_0| - |F_c|)/|F_0|\right]$  $-|F_c|$ <sup>2</sup>/ $\sum w|F_0|^2$ <sup>1/2</sup> values were 7.0% and 8.5% for 3014 unique reflections with  $I > 3\sigma(I)$  for 1(Cl) and 6.9% and 8.8% for 1822 unique reflections with  $I > 3\sigma(I)$  for  $4(SbF_6)$ , respectively. The final difference map showed no peaks greater than  $1.0 e/\text{\AA}^3$  except those close (<1.5 Å) to the heavy atoms. Final atomic coordinates and thermal parameters with the estimated standard deviations are presented in Tables 2, and A (supplementary material), respectively. The phenyl groups are numbered as PhiA, PhiB, and PhiC, indicating that the rings A, B, and Care bonded to the ith phosphine, respectively. The final positional and thermal parameters for each group  $(x, y, z, \phi, \theta, \rho, \text{and } B)$  are listed in Table B of the supplementary material. The final positional and thermal parameters of the solvent atoms are summarized in Table C of the supplementary material. Selected interatomic distances and bond angles, together with the estimated standard deviations, are given in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

#### **(111) Results and Discussion**

**(A) Description of the Structures.** Parts a and b of Figure 1 depict the  $Au_{12}Ag_{12}Pt$  core and  $[P_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]$  framework of 1, whereas parts a and b of Figure 2 portray the  $Au_{12}Ag_{12}Ni$ core and  $[P_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]$  framework of 4, respectively. Under space group  $P2_1/m$ , each cluster conforms to crystallographic *C<sub>s</sub>-m* site symmetry (with the mirror plane passing through Au 13 and Cll-Cl5). Consequently, the metal core of an individual cluster can be described as two  $Au<sub>6</sub>Ag<sub>6</sub>$  icosahedra, one Mcentered  $(M = Pt, Ni)$  and one Au-centered, sharing a common Au atom, as depicted schematically in **2.** The crystallographically imposed mirror plane symmetry necessitates a crystal-disorder of the M center ( $M = Pt(1)$ , Ni $(4)$ ) and the Au center, designated as AP11 and AN1 1 in Figure la and Figure **2a,** respectively, each representing an equal admixture of Au and M  $(M = Pt,$ Ni).<sup>17</sup> The arrangement of the four metal pentagons has an exact **ses (staggered-eclipsed-staggered)** configuration. The 10 Ph3P groups coordinate to 10 peripheral Au atoms in a radial fashion. Of the seven chloride ligands, five are doubly bridging (Cll-CIS) which symmetrically connect the two middle  $Ag<sub>5</sub>$  pentagons (Figures lcand 2c) and two are terminal (C111 and C111') which coordinate to the two apical Ag atoms (Agll and Agll').

**In** comparison with the bimetallic (Au-Ag) biicosahedral clusters,8 the most significant structural feature of 1 and 4 is that one of the two icosahedral centers in an individual cluster is occupied by the unique  $M = Pt (1)$  or Ni (4) atom (instead of Au) as depicted in **2. In** fact, one of the motivations of the present work was to determine whether the M atom  $(M = Pt, Ni)$  is either at one of the two icosahedral centers, or at the shared vertex, as illustrated schematically in **2** and **3,** respectively. **In**  1,lO the location of the unique platinum atom (i.e., **2** or **3)** cannot be discerned with certainty due **to** the similar X-ray scattering power of Pt and Au.<sup>18</sup> In 4, on the other hand, the location of the unique Ni atom can be determined unambiguously owing to very different X-ray scattering powers<sup>17</sup> of the three metallic constituents (Au, Ag, and Ni). Hence, the structure of 4 unequivocably establishes the site preference for the group 10 metals (to be at the center(s) of the icosahedra, as in **2,** rather than at the shared vertex, as in **3,** in a polyicosahedral cluster containing both group 10 and group 11 metals.

<sup>(17)</sup> This crystal-disorder model is based **on** the marked differences in X-ray scattering power of Au, Ag, and Ni. The fact that the refined equivalent isotropic temperature factor of 1.8(2)  $\mathbf{A}^2$  for AN11 and AN11' (an equal admixture of Au and Ni) is less than the average value of 3.8(1) **A2** for Aul to AuS is in complete accord with corresponding equivalent isotropic temperature factors observed for other vertex-sharing biicosahedral supraclusters in which the centers of icosahedra tend to have significantly smaller temperature factors. Refinements under *P2l/m*  symmetry of the centroids of the two icosahedra either as pure Au or as pure Ni led to unreasonable temperature factors (B) of 7.0 and **-3.5** 

**A<sup>2</sup>, respectively.**<br>(18) Since the publication of ref 10 and the submission of this paper, a related cluster [(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>10</sub>Au<sub>10</sub>Ag<sub>13</sub>Pt<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>7</sub>] has appeared: (Kappen, T. G. M.<br>M.; Schlebos, P. P. J.; Bour, J. J.; Bosman, W. P.; Smits, J. M. M.;<br>Beurskens, P. T.; Steggerda, J. J. *Inorg. Chem.* 1994, 33, 754. This latter cluster has the same problem as 1 in that Pt and Au cannot **be**  distinguished crystallographically.



**Figure 1.** Molecular architecture of the 25-metal-atom cluster  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]^+$  (1), as the Cl<sup>-</sup> salt: (a) the metal core,  $Au_{12}Ag_{12}Pt$ ; (b) the metal-ligand framework, P<sub>10</sub>Au<sub>12</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>PtCl<sub>7</sub>; (c) projection of the two silver pentagons onto the crystallographic mirror which passes through Au13 and the five doubly bridging chloride ligands Cl1-Cl5. With the exception of AP11 and AP11', the entire monocation (including the triphenylphosphine and the halide ligands) conforms to crystallographically imposed  $C<sub>s</sub>$ -m site symmetry. Atoms related by the mirror symmetry are designated as primes. All radial bonds (12 each) from AP11 and AP11' have been omitted for clarity. Some important distances are as follows (A): AP11-Au(n), 2.687 (average); APll-Ag(n), 2.810 (average); AP1 1-Agll, 2.767(2); APll-Au13,2.824(7); Aul3-Ag(n), 2.873 (average); intrapentagonal, Au(n)-Au(n + l), 2.888 (average); Ag(n)-Ag(n + l), 2.898 (average); interpentagonal, Ag(n)-Ag(n '), 2.949 (average) where *n* = 1-5; Au-P, 2.30 (average); Ag11-Cl11, 2.389(5); Ag(n)-Cl(n), 2.50 (average) where  $n = 1-5$ . The five doubly bridging chloride ligands form a slightly distorted pentagon with nonbonding distances (A) of C11...-Cl2, 4.87; Cl2...-Cl3, 5.15; Cl3...-Cl4, 5.31; C14...-Cl5, 5.28; and C11...-Cl5, 5.69.



**Figure 2.** Molecular architecture of the 25-metal-atom cluster  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]^+$  (4), as the SbF<sub>6</sub>- salt: (a) the metal core,  $Au_{12}Ag_{12}Ni$ ; (b) the metal-ligand framework, P<sub>10</sub>Au<sub>12</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>NiCl<sub>7</sub>; (c) projection of the two silver pentagons onto the crystallographic mirror which passes through Au13 and the five doubly bridging chloride ligands Cll-C15. Atoms AN1 1 and AN1 1' (centers of icosahedra) represent an equal admixture of Au and Ni due to the crystallographically imposed mirror  $(C_5-m)$  symmetry. With the exception of AN11 and AN11', the entire monocation (including the triphenylphosphine and the halide ligands) conforms to crystallographically imposed *C,-m* site symmetry. Atoms related by the mirror symmetry are not labeled. All radial bonds (12 each) from AN11 and AN11' have been omitted for clarity. Some important distances are as follows (A): AN11-Au(n), 2.683 (average); AN1 1-Ag(n), 2.80 (average); AN1 1-Agll, 2.77(1); AN1 1-Au13, 2.806(8); Aul3-Ag(n), 2.86 (average); intrapentagonal, Au- (n)-Au(n + l), 2.884 (average); Ag(n)-Ag(n + l), 2.89 (average); interpentagonal, Ag(n)-Ag(n '), 2.94 (average) where *n* = 1-5; Au-P, 2.28 (average); Agl 1-C111,2.35(5); Ag(n)-Cl(n), 2.52 (average) where *n* = 1-5. The five doubly bridging chloride ligands form a slightly distorted pentagon with nonbonding distances (A) of C11...Cl2, 4.67; C12...Cl3, 5.10; C13...Cl4, 5.31; C14...Cl5, 5.34; and C11...Cl5, 5.87.

Several novel structural features of **1** and **4** are noteworthy. First, the most significant structural characteristic is that one of the two icosahedral centers is occupied by the unique group 10 metal atom. Second, the shared vertex is Au as in the majority of the biicosahedral Au-Ag supraclusters.8 Third, the observed metal configuration is exactly **ses** instead of nearly **ses** as in  $[p$ -tol<sub>3</sub> $P_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}Cl_7]^{2+}$  (5).<sup>8g</sup> Fourth, there are *five* symmetrical-bridging chloride ligands in **1** and **4** instead of *six,* as in  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}Br_8]^+$  (6).<sup>8c</sup> Finally, while 6 is a *monocation* and *5* is a *dication,* the two title clusters, **1** and **4,** with a group 10 metal atom replacing one of the Au atoms, are *monocations*  (vide infra).

**(B) The Ubiquitous** *P&/m* **Crystal Structure.** Under the  $P2_1/m$  space group, both the cationic clusters and the counteranions in **1** and **4** are located **on** the crystallographic mirror *(m)* planes. The centroids of the clusters (Au13) have fractional coordinates of (0.15, 0.25, 0.27) while the anions (Cl- in **1** and  $SbF_6$ <sup>-</sup> in **4**) are at, approximately,  $(0.66, 0.75, 0.36)$  (note that the choices of origin of the two title structures differ by  $\left(\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2},\right)$  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). Crystallographically, it is interesting to note that, despite the difference in the counteranions (Cl<sup>-</sup> in 1 vs  $SbF_6$ <sup>-</sup> in 4), the two title clusters **1** and **4** are isomorphous and isostructural with similar molecular parameters. Even more surprising is the fact that both **1** and **4** are isomorphous, though not isostructural, with

Table 3. Selected Interatomic Distances **(A)** and Their Estimated Standard Deviations for the Clusters"

(a) $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]Cl(1)$											
$Au1-Au2$	2.887(4)	$Au4-Ag4$	2.825(9)	$Au4-Ag3$	2.946(9)	$Ag1-Ag5$	2.93(1)				
Aul-Au5	2.895(5)	Au5-AP11	2.720(5)	$Ag2-Ag3$	2.91(1)	$P2 - Au2$	2.28(3)				
Aul-AP11	2.675(5)	Au5-Ag11	2.960(8)	$Ag3-Ag4$	2.925(8)	$P2-C2A1$	1.82(2)				
$Au1-Ag11$	3.018(8)	Au5-Ag4	2.915(9)	$Ag4 - Ag5$	2.890(9)	$P2 - C2B1$	1.95(3)				
$Au1-Agl$	2.827(9)	Au5-Ag5	2.833(9)	$Agl-Agl'$	2.99(1)	$P2-C2C1$	1.94(2)				
$Au1-Ag5$	2.854(9)	AP11-Au13	2.824(4)	$Cl1-Agl$	2.55(3)	$P3 - Au3$	2.32(2)				
$Au2-Au3$	2.885(5)	$AP11-Ag11$	2.767(8)	$Ag2-Ag2'$	3.06(1)	$P3 - C3A1$	1.78(3)				
$Au2-API1$	2.691(5)	$AP11-Ag1$	2.823(8)	$Cl2-Ag2$	2.50(3)	$P3 - C3B1$	1.76(2)				
Au2-Ag11	2.932(9)	$AP11-Ag2$	2.794(7)	$Ag3-Ag3'$	2.89(1)	$P3-C3Cl$	1.75(3)				
$Au2-Ag1$	2.977(9)	AP11-Ag3	2.823(7)	$Cl3-Ag3$	2.47(2)	$P4 - Au4$	2.26(3)				
$Au2-Ag2$	2.875(8)	$AP11-Ag4$	2.807(8)	$Ag4-Ag4'$	2.88(1)	$P4-C4A1$	1.87(2)				
Au3-Au4	2.870(5)	AP11-Ag5	2.805(7)	$Cl4-Ag4$	2.49(3)	P4-C4B1	1.79(3)				
Au3-AP11	2.672(4)	$Au13-Ag1$	2.885(9)	Ag5-Ag5'	2.92(1)	<b>P4-C4Cl</b>	1.91(2)				
$Au3-Ag11$	3.017(8)	$Au13-Ag2$	2.884(8)	$Cl5-Ag5$	2.49(3)	$P5 - Au5$	2.32(3)				
$Au3-Ag2$	2.903(9)	$Au13-Ag3$	2.858(8)	$P1 - Au1$	2.29(2)	$P5 - C5A1$	1.85(3)				
Au3-Ag3	2.804(9)	$Au13-Ag4$	2.867(9)	$P1 - C1A1$	1.79(3)	P5-C5B1	1.86(2)				
Au4-Au5	2.904(4)	$Au13-Ag5$	2.869(8)	$P1 - C1B1$	1.80(3)	P5-C5Cl	1.76(3)				
Au4-AP11	2.679(5)	$Agl1-Cl11$	2.39(3)	$P1 - C1C1$	1.75(3)						
Au4-Ag11	2.942(9)	$Agl-Ag2$	2.830(8)								
				(b) $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]SbF_6(4)$							
Aul-Au2	2.873(7)	Au4-Ag11	2.96(1)	$Au3-P3$	2.21(3)	Agl-Ag5	2.94(1)				
Aul-Au5	2.896(8)	$Au4-P4$	2.29(4)	$Au4 - Au5$	2.878(7)	$Agl-Cl1$	2.55(5)				
$Au1-AN11$	2.664(9)	$Au5 - AN11$	2.704(9)	$Au4 - AN11$	2.67(1)	$Ag2-Ag3$	2.90(2)				
Aul-Agl	2.82(1)	$Au5-Ag4$	2.88(1)	$Au4-Ag3$	2.92(1)	$Ag3-Ag4$	2.92(1)				
$Au1-Ag5$	2.85(1)	Au5-Ag5	2.81(1)	$Au4-Ag4$	2.80(1)	$Ag4 - Ag5$	2.85(1)				
Aul-Agll	3.00(1)	$Au5-Ag11$	2.96(1)	$Ag2-C12$	2.50(3)	$Ag5-C15$	2.51(5)				
$Au1-P1$	2.27(3)	$Au5-P5$	2.33(4)	$Ag3-C13$	2.49(5)	$Agl-Agl'$	2.96(2)				
$Au2-Au3$	2.898(8)	Au13-AN11	2.806(8)	Ag4-Cl4	2.53(6)	$Ag2-Ag2'$	3.03(2)				
$Au2-AN11$	2.69(1)	$Au13-Ag1$	2.84(1)	Ag11-C111	2.35(5)	$Ag3-Ag3'$	2.87(2)				
$Au2-Ag1$	2.96(1)	$Au13-Ag2$	2.86(1)	$P1 - C1B1$	1.75(4)	$Ag4 - Ag4'$	2.89(2)				
$Au2-Ag2$	2.88(1)	$Au13-Ag3$	2.86(1)	$P2-C2A1$	1.82(3)	$Ag5-Ag5'$	2.93(2)				
$Au2-Ag11$	2.92(1)	Au13-Ag4	2.87(1)	$P2-C2Cl$	1.70(3)	$P1 - C1A1$	1.84(3)				
$Au2-P2$	2.30(4)	$Au13-Ag5$	2.88(1)	$P3-C3B1$	1.71(3)	$P1 - C1C1$	1.80(4)				
Au3-Au4	2.874(7)	$AN11-Ag1$	2.81(1)	$P4-C4A1$	1.71(4)	$P2-C2B1$	1.87(4)				
$Au3-ANI1$	2.685(9)	$AN11-Ag2$	2.79(1)	<b>P4-C4C1</b>	1.86(3)	$P3 - C3A1$	2.02(3)				
$Au3-Ag2$	2.89(1)	$AN11-Ag3$	2.82(1)	<b>P5-C5B1</b>	1.85(4)	$P3-C3C1$	1.95(4)				
Au3-Ag3	2.81(1)	$AN11-Ag4$	2.78(1)	$Sb-F1$	2.012(3)	$P4 - C4B1$	1.99(4)				
Au3-Ag11	3.02(1)	$AN11-Ag5$	2.79(1)	$Sb-F5$	1.63(2)	$P5 - C5A1$	1.75(4)				
$Sb-F3$	1.79(2)	$Sb-F4$	1.86(2)	$AN11-Ag11$	2.77(1)	$P5 - C5C1$	1.81(3)				
				$Ar1-AR2$	2.83(1)	$Sb-F2$	1.63(2)				

<sup>*a*</sup> Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations in the least significant digits.

 $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}X_8]^+$ , as  $SbF_6$  salt, where  $X = Cl<sub>1</sub>$ <sup>8f</sup> Br.<sup>8c</sup> In the latter clusters, there are six (instead of five) bridging halide ligands in the equatorial plane of the cluster. The ubiquity of the space group  $P2_1/m$  (with cell parameters of, roughly, 16, 24, and 30 Å and  $\beta = 103^{\circ}$ ) for the series of vertex-sharing biicosahedral supraclusters with triphenylphosphine as ligands, regardless of the types of counteranions (e.g.,  $SbF_6$ <sup>-</sup> vs Cl<sup>-</sup>), halide ligands (e.g., C1- vs Br), or solvent molecules, is rather interesting. We believe that this is attributable to three important factors (among others). First, the large metal clusters, with triphenylphosphines as a sheathing, pack in a similar fashion in space group  $P2<sub>1</sub>/m$ , regardless of the type(s) of metal atoms (Pt, Ni, Au, Ag, etc) in the metal core. Second, a detailed examination of the surface of the clusters revealed that there are "corridors" along the idealized 5-fold axis of the cluster as well as "cracks" in the equatorial plane. These are the localities where the terminal and bridging halideligands aresituated (or buried). Hence, the crystal structure is more or less independent of the size (C1 vs Br) or the number (five or six), of the bridging halide ligands. Third, the sheer size of the metal cluster, in comparison to the solvent molecules or the counteranions, dictates the crystal packing and the crystal symmetry. The much smaller solvent molecules or the counteranions then occupy the intercluster voids. As a result, the crystal lattice is more or less indifferent to the solvent molecules and/or the anions.

**In** the above discussion, we assume that there are 10 triphenylphosphines coordinated to the 10 gold atoms in a way similar to that observed in the title clusters. Also implicit in the discussion is the assumption that the bonding and stereochemistry of the metal cores (with **ses** configuration) are similar even though the metal or halide ligand types or individual molecular parameters may vary. Substantial deviations from these assumptions will alter the crystal structure and symmetry. One obvious example is the observed cluster isomerization of  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}Br_8]^+$ from the ses to the **sss** metal configuration which results in a change of the crystal symmetry from  $P2_1/m$  (as the SbF<sub>6</sub>-salt)<sup>8c</sup> to  $C2/c$  (as the Br salt)<sup>8e</sup> with different cell parameters.

**(C) Site Preference in Mixed-Metal Vertex-Sharing Polyicosahedral Clusters.** Site preference is of prime importance in the understanding of structures and reactivities of mixed-metal clusters which may serve as structurally well-defined models for heterometallic catalysts<sup>11</sup> or nanoparticles.<sup>12</sup> Site preference in mixed-metal clusters is a manisfestation of the various and often competing bonding effects. **In** the following discussions, we shall assume that thermodynamic factors outweigh kinetic pathways in dictating the site preference.

**(1) Bimetallic Au-Ag Supraclusters.** For the bimetallic polyicosahedral Au-Ag supraclusters,<sup>8,9</sup> six empirical structural rules have been established:19 (1) the centers of the icosahedra are gold atoms, (2) the "shared" vertices are most likely to be gold atoms, (3) phosphine ligands prefer coordination with surface gold atoms, (4) silver atoms prefer surface sites, especially those at the boundary of neighboring icosahedra, *(5)* the capping atoms are most likely to be silver atoms, and **(6)** halide ligands prefer coordination with silver atoms. As pointed out previously, $19,20$ these structural rulescan be rationalized in terms of the disparities

**<sup>(19)</sup>** Teo, **B. K.; Shi, X.; Zhang, H.** *Inorg. Chem.* **1993, 32, 3987.** 

**<sup>(20)</sup> Teo,B.K.;Zhang,H.;Kean,Y.;Dang,H.;Shi,X.J.Chem.Phys.1993, 99, 2929.** 



**Tnble 4** (Continued)



**Table IV** (Continued)



in *metal-metal* and *metal-ligand* interactions, as well as in the electronegativity of the constituents. In terms of metal-metal interactions, which is related to the cohesive energy (368 for Au vs 285 for Ag, in kJ/mol), gold atoms tend to prefer interstitial sites such as the centers of icosahedra (rule 1) or the shared vertices (rule 2). As far as the metal-ligand bonding isconcerned, the more electron-donating phosphine ligands prefer to coordinate to the more electronegative Au atoms (rule 3), whereas the more electron-withdrawing halide ligands prefer to interact with the more electropositive Ag atoms (rule 6). In terms of electronegativity, which is related to relativistic effects,  $2^{1,22}$  the more electronegative gold atoms (2.54 for Au vs 1.93 for Ag) prefer sites of high electron densities (such as the centers of icosahedra or the shared vertices) whereas the more electropositive silver atoms tend to occupy either surface sites (at the boundary of

(21) (a) Pyykko, P.; Desclaux, J. *Acc. Chem. Res.* 1979, J2,276. (b) Pitzer, K. *S. ibid.* 1979, J2, 271.

adjacent icosahedra) bridged by halide ligands (rule **4)** or capping positions with high halide coordination (rule 5).

**(2) Trimetallic Au-Ag-M (M** = **Group 10 Metals) Supraclusters.** For mixed group 10 (M)-group 11 clusters such as the trimetallic Au-Ag-M supraclusters considered here, the site preference (summarized in Chart 2) can be attributed to the relative strengths of *metal-metal* and *metal-ligand* interactions as well as disparities in electronegativity: (1) group 10 metals prefer interstitial sites such **as** the centroids of icosahedra due to their high cohesive energies (M > Au > **Ag)** that lead to stronger metal-metal bonds;20 (2) among the group 11 metals, Au prefers the interstitial sites such as the centers of icosahedra or the shared

<sup>(22) (</sup>a) Grohmann, A.; Riede, J.; Schmidbaur, H. Nature 1990, 345, 140.<br>
(b) Scherbaum, F.; Grohmann, A.; Muller, G.; Schmidbaur, H. Angew.<br>
Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1989, 28, 463. (c) Schmidbaur, H.; Graf, W.; Muller, G. An H.; Scherbaum, **F.; Huber, B.;** Muller, G. *Angew. Chem., Inf. Ed. Engl.*  **1988,** 27, 419.

**Chart 2** 



**Chart 3** 



vertices due to its high cohesive energy and high electronegativity  $(Au > Ag)$ ; and (3) as far as the metal-ligand bonding is concerned, the more electronegative Au prefers phosphine coordination while the more electropositive Ag prefers halide coordination or halide bridging.

**(3) Molecular Orbital Calculations: Preliminary Results.** To further assess the electronic origins of the site preference, we have performed extended Huckel molecular orbital (EHMO) calculations<sup>23</sup> on the bimetallic cluster  $[(R_3P)_{10}Au_{13}Ag_{12}Cl_7]$ <sup>2+</sup> where  $R = H$ . Preliminary results show that the *overall* metalmetal-bonding strength follows the trend24 of centers of icosahedra > shared vertices > surface sites. In other words, the strong preference for the group 10 (e.g., Ni) metal to occupy the center position stems from the fact that the sum (1 2 each) of the overlap populations (op) of the metal-metal bonds emanating from the center is substantially larger than that emanating from the shared vertex; in turn, both of these values are significantly greater than the corresponding values calculated for the various surface sites (excluding metal-ligand bonds). The same argument applies to Au vs Ag within the group 11 metals with Au preferring the interstitial sites. In terms of metal-ligand bonding, the average overlap population **per** bond follows the trend of Au-P > terminal  $Ag-Cl$  > bridging Ag-Cl. In terms of electronegativity, the observed site preference is in accord with the calculated charge distribution depicted in Chart 3. Here, metal atoms of relatively high electronegativity  $(Au > Ag)$  prefer sites of high electron density (which follow the trend of centers of icosahedra > shared vertices  $>$  phosphine-coordinated  $>$  halide-coordinated).

The average overlap populations per metal-metal (M-M) bond calculated for the different pairs of the metal sites follow these trends: (1) (radial)  $M_c-M_s > M_s-M_s$  (tangential) within each icosahedron and  $(2)$  intraicosahedral  $\gg$  intericosahedral. Here the subscripts c, v, and s denote centers of icosahedra, the shared vertex, and "surface" metal atoms, respectively. These trends correlate nicely with the relative orderings of the observed intermetallic distances: (1)  $M-Au < M-Ag < Au-Au \le Au-Ag$ correlate nicely with the relative orderings of the observed

 $<$ Ag-Ag (M = group 10 metals); (2)  $M_c$ -M,  $< M_c$ -M,  $< M_v$  $M_s < M_s$ - $M_s$ ; (3) intraicosahedral < intericosahedral.

#### **(IV) Site Preference in Metal Alloy Systems: Generalizations**

**(A) Metal-Metal Interactions: Bond Strength vs Charge Accumulation (BSCA) Plots.** The general principles developed in the previous section can be extended to other mixed-metal clusters. In fact, if we focus our attention on the *metal-metal interactions only,* the site preference of any metal alloy systems can be inferred from a plot of bond strengths vs charge (electron densities) accumulation of the constituents as exemplified by Figure 3a-c for a bi-, a tri-, and a tetrametallic alloy system, respectively. In Figure 3, the metal-metal bond strength is represented by the bond energy, estimated from the cohesive energy, whereas the ability of the constituent metals to accumulate negative charges (i.e., electron densities) is based on Pauling's electronegativity. We shall refer to these figures as bond strength vs charge accumulation (BSCA) plots. The bond energy per metal-metal bond  $(E_b)$  in bulk metal can be calculated from the heat of formation,  $\Delta H^{\circ}$ <sub>f</sub>, as follows:

$$
E_{\rm b} = 2\Delta H^{\rm o}{}_l/N \tag{1}
$$

Here,  $N$  is the coordination number. For face-centered cubic metals,  $N = 12$ . We shall take this as a measure of the relative bond strength for a homonuclear metal-metal bond. For a heteronuclear metal-metal bond, we shall use the arithmatic mean of the bond energies of the constituents:

$$
E_{b12} = (E_{b1} + E_{b2})/2
$$
 (2)

In Figure 3, the locations of the metal constituents indicate their homonuclear bond strengths (ordinate) and charge accumulation (abscissa) capabilities whereas the lines connecting them designate variations of these two properties for the heteronuclear bonds. (For a mixed-metal system containing *n*  different types of metals, we should have a  $n$ -sided polygon with  $C_{\alpha_1} = n(n-1)/2$  lines connecting the *n* vertices.) The bond energies for homonuclear metal-metal bonds (calculated on the basis of eq 1) can be read from the ordinate; the corresponding bond energies for heteronuclear metal-metal bonds (calculated via eq 2) can be determined from the ordinate of the midpoints of the lines connecting the two metals.

The site preference for a metal alloy system can now be predicted from the BSCA plot. Before we do that, however, we must first discuss the differences between interstitial vs surface sites and their bonding consequences. If we ignore metal-ligand bonding (which will be discussed later) and focus our attention on metal-metal bonding only, there are two characteristics that distinguish interstitial sites from surface sites. First is the large number of nearest neighbors and hence the large number of metalmetal bonds. In the case of an icosahedral cluster, the 12 radial bonds emanating from the interstitial atom are also among the shortest in thecluster. The combination of numerous and stronger bonds associated with the interstitial atom in a cluster<sup>20</sup> implies that metals with stronger bond strengths tend to occupy the interstitial sites due to the greater gain in stabilization energy, both in number and in magnitude. The second characteristic is the accumulation of electron densities at the center of a cluster. As a result, the more electronegative metal atoms tend to occupy the interstitial sites whereas metals at the lower left corner tend to be on the surface of the cluster. For example, for the Au-Ag system, the BSCA plot (Figure 3a) predicts that Au should occupy the interstitial sites such as the centers of the icosahedra.

The wide ranges of bond strength and electronegativity of transition metals imply that both factors are important in determining the site preference in mixed-metal clusters. In fact, four cases can be distinguished. The first case involves metals with similar electronegativities but different bonding strengths

**<sup>(23)</sup>** Teo, **B. K.;** Zhang, H. **To** be published.

**<sup>(24)</sup>** Similar trends were obtained from calculations performed on the pure gold analog  $[(R_3P)_{10}Au_{25}Cl_7]^2$ <sup>+</sup> dication  $(R = H)$ .



Figure 3. Bond strengths vs charge (electron density) accumulation (BSCA) plots for (a) bimetallic Au-Ag, (b) trimetallic Au-Ag-Pt, and (c) tetrametallic Au-Ag-Pt-Ni systems. Here the metal-metal bond strength is represented by the bond energy  $(E_b)$ , estimated from the cohesive energy whereas the ability of the constitutent metals to accumulate negative charge (i.e., electron densities) is estimated by using Pauling's electronegativity  $(\chi)$ . The bond energies for homonuclear metal-metal bonds (calculated on the basis of eq 1) can be read from the ordinate while the corresponding bond energies for heteronuclear metal-metal bonds (calculated via eq 2) can be determined from the ordinate of the midpoints of the lines connecting the two metals.



**Figure 4.** BSCA plot of a trimetallic Au-Ag-Pt system (same as Figure 3b). As shown in the left margin, the five observed average metal-metal distances (in **A)** in **1** follow a trend which is opposite to the corresponding trend of the bond energies  $(E_b)$  (in kJ/mol).

(such as in the case of Cu vs Ag). **In** this case, the metal with a larger metal-metal bonding strength (in this example, Cu) tends to occupy the interstitial sites. The second case involves metals which have similar metal-metal bonding strengths but different electronegativities, as exemplified by Au vs Cu. **In** this case, the metal with a larger electronegativity (Au) will have a greater tendency to occupy the interstitial sites. The third case involves metals whose differences in both bonding strength and electronegativity are large and follow the same trend (e.g., Au vs Ag); then the metal with the larger metal-metal bonding strength and the larger electronegativity (i.e., Au) will occupy the interstitial sites. Finally, the fourth case, which is more difficult to ascertain, involves metals whose differences in bonding strength and in electronegativity follow opposite trends as in the case of Ni vs Au where metal-metal-bonding strength alone predicts that Ni will occupy the interstitial sites and electronegativity consideration alone favors Au as the interstitial atom. Obviously in this case the site preference depends **on** the relative energy stabilizations of both factors. **In** most cases, however, for transition metals, the former effect dominates (which predicts that Ni prefers the interstitial sites).

Finally, though difficult to quantify, we can use the bond energies calculated via eq 1 and shown in the BSCA plots (Figure 3) to predict the average metal-metal distances since the trends of these two variables are inversely related. For example, as shown in Figure **4** (which corresponds to Figure 3b), the five observed average metal-metal distances (in **A)** in **1** follow the trend of Pt-Au  $(2.69)$  < Pt-Ag  $(2.81)$  < Au-Au  $(2.88)$  ~ Au-Ag  $(2.88)$  < Ag-Ag  $(2.90, 2.95)$  which correlates (in reverse order) with the corresponding trend of the bond energies (in kJ/mol): Pt-Au (77.83) > Pt-Ag (70.88) > Au-Au (61.37) >  $Au-Ag(54.43)$  > Ag-Ag(47.48). Similar correlations can also

be obtained for the trimetallic Au-Ag-Ni clusters (note, however, Ni-Ag and Au-Au are similar in energies and hence have similar distances).

**(B) Metal-Ligand Interactions: Bulk-to-Surface and Surfaceto-Surface Segregations.** It is well-known that the surface of bimetallic particles often has a different composition than its interior. Thermodynamic causes for this "surface enrichment" have been discussed in the literature.<sup>11</sup> There are also kinetic factors which favor certain arrangementsof metal atoms in mixedmetal clusters. Metal-ligand interactions play an important role in dictating the surface composition of a multimetallic clusters. Here we may distinguish between two kinds of surface enrichment and/or segregation processes. The first type is analogous to the so-called "chemisorption-induced surface segregation"<sup>25</sup> whereby strong metal-ligand interactions cause a surface enrichment of metal atoms which would otherwise prefer interstitial (bulk) sites. For example, **on** the basis of the BSCA plot discussed in the previous section, Au-Pt alloy particles should have a Pt-rich core (kernel) and a Au-rich surface (mantle) due to the high cohesive energy of Pt vs Au. Exposure to a CO atmosphere, however, causes an enrichment of platinum atoms at the surface as a result of the strong and selective interactions between CO and the Pt atoms (and not to Au atoms). This results in a Au-rich core and a Pt-rich surface. $25a$ 

The second type of "surface segregation" is exemplified by the two title structures **1** and **4.** As discussed in section III(C), the more electronegative surface Au atoms prefer the more electrondonating phosphines as ligands whereas the less electronegative surface Ag atoms prefer coordination with the more electronegative halide ligands. In other words, selective metal-ligand bindings may cause segregation of Au and Ag atomson the surface of a cluster.

**In** short, strong, selective metal-ligand bonding can cause either a "bulk-to-surface" inversion (first type) or a "surface-to-surface" segregation (second type).

## **(V) Conclusions**

In conclusion,  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]^+(1),^{10}$  as the Cl-salt, represents the first example of a trimetallic polyicosahedral supracluster.  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]^+$  (4), as the SbF<sub>6</sub>- salt, represents the first Au-Ag-Ni compound ever reported as well as the first example of a vertex-sharing polyicosahedral cluster containing first, second, and third row transition metals. As such, they pave the way to other interesting trimetallic Au-Ag-M clusters (where  $M =$  group 10 metals such as Pt, Pd, Ni),<sup>26</sup> especially those of catalytic<sup>11</sup> and nanotechnological<sup>12</sup> importance.

**<sup>(25)</sup>** (a) Bouwman, R.; Sachtler, W. M. H. *J. Carol.* **1970,** *19,* **127.** (b) Sinfelt, J. H. *Acc.* Chem. Res. **1987,20,134.** (c) Williams, F. L.; Boudart, M. *J. Coral.* **1973, 30, 438.** 

**<sup>(26)</sup> Work** in progress.

# Vertex-Sharing Polyicosahedral Supraclusters

Specifically, the new synthetic strategy (reductive addition of a third metal to a preformed bimetallic cluster) reported here, in combination with that already developed for the bimetallic (Au-Ag) system<sup>5-9</sup> ("cluster of clusters" approach), should allow a systematic design and preparation of various series of trimetallic  $Au-Ag-M$  (M = Pt, Pd, Ni)<sup>26</sup> clusters.

The bi- and trimetallic vertex-sharing biicosahedral sequences are depicted in Chart 1. The successful syntheses of **1** and **4**  reported here suggest the existence of a parallel sequence of trimetallic (Au-Ag-M where M is a group 10 metal) vertexsharing polyicosahedral supraclusters, from a single icosahedron of 13 metal atoms to an icosahedron of icosahedra of 127 metal atoms, in analogy to the bimetallic (Au-Ag) vertex-sharing polyicosahedral clusters.5-9

The observed site preference in **1** and **4** can be rationalized in terms of the disparities in metal-metal- vs metal-ligand-bonding strengths. As far as metal-metal bonding is concerned, the site preference rules established for these vertex-sharing polvicosahedral supraclusters can be understood with the aid of bond strength vs charge accumulation (BSCA) plots. Here the metalmetal-bonding strengths are estimated from the cohesive energy whereas the charge accumulation powers are based on Pauling's electronegativity. The site preferences, as indicated by the BSCA plots, can be extended to multimetallic phases. Here, in a general sense, each line connecting two metals in a BSCA plot represents variations of these two parameters (bond energy and electronegativity) for an admixture of the two metal constituents. The importance of metal-ligand bonding in dictating surface segregation and/or enrichment is also discussed. These qualitative pictures are supported by EHMO calculations. It is hoped that basic understanding of stereochemical and bonding principles governing site preference in multimetallic clusters will lead to better electronic and stereochemical controls of their structures and reactivities and, ultimately, to better design and manufacture or fabrication of structurally well-defined and functionally optimized multimetallic catalysts,<sup>11</sup> ultrafine particles, nanoarchitecture,<sup>12</sup> etc.

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**Supplementary Material Available:** For  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]Cl$ and  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}NiCl_7]SbF_6$ , full listings of anisotropic thermal parameters (Table **A),** positional and thermal parameters for phenyl groups (Table B), and positional and thermal parameters for solvent atoms (TableC) for  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}PtCl_7]Cl$  and  $[(Ph_3P)_{10}Au_{12}Ag_{12}$ -NiC171SbF6 **(14** pages). Ordering information is given **on** any current masthead page.