Ab Initio Electronic Structure of the Rh-Rh Bond in Dirhodium Tetracarboxylate Complexes and Their Cations

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Electronic structures of dirhodium tetracarboxylate (DRTC) complexes, $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4L_2$, and their cations with L absent and $L = OH₂ NH₃$, and PH₃, have been calculated by the ab initio RHF and UHF methods. Several lower excited states *of* the cations were calculated individually by the UHF method, and the state level diagrams are reported. The electronic configuration of the ground state is calculated to be $\delta^2 \pi^4 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*2} \sigma^1$ for the DRTC cations with L = OH₂ and PH₃, while for L absent, the **6'** orbital is the singly occupied (SO) MO. The results seem to be consistent with the ESR spectra, electronic spectra, and photoelectron spectra of the related compounds. The Rh-Rh bond is a weak single σ bond. The Rh-L bond is due to an electron-transfer interaction from L to Rh. The shortness *of* the Rh-Rh bonds in the DRTC complexes may be attributed to the existence of the bridging carboxylate ligands and the weakness *of* the Rh-Rh bond.

The electronic structures of dirhodium tetracarboxylate (DRTC) complexes, $Rh_2(O_2CR)_4L_2(1)$, have been the subject

of continuing interest, particularly with respect to the nature of the metal-metal bond and the mutual interactions of metal-metal and metal-ligand bonds. The Rh-Rh bond lengths in these complexes are from 2.386 to 2.486 \AA ,¹⁻³ considerably shorter than those in ordinary dirhodium complexes, 2.7-2.8 Å.^{4,5} This abnormality was previously attributed by Cotton and co-workers^{2,5,6} to a possible Rh-Rh triple bond with the electronic configuration $\sigma^2 \pi^4 \delta^2 \delta^{*2} \sigma_n^2 \sigma_n^2$, where σ_n and σ_n' are the rhodium nonbonding orbitals arising from the 5p, orbitals on each metal center. Dubicki and Martin⁷ reported a single-bond configuration of $\pi^4 \sigma^2 \delta^2 \delta^{*2} \pi^{*4}$ by extended Hiickel calculations and interpreted, on this basis, the variations in the electronic spectra upon changing the axial ligand L from H_2O to stronger donors. Norman and Kolari⁸ carried out SCF-X α -SW calculations on $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4$ and $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4(H_2O)_2$ and obtained the electronic configuration $\sigma^2 \pi^4 \delta^2 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*2}$, which again suggests a single Rh-Rh bond. Their results for the corresponding cation radicals⁹ have shown the same MO sequence of $\sigma^2 \pi^4 \delta^2 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*1}$; the singly occupied MO (SOMO) was predicted to be of **6*** symmetry. **A** recent ESR study by Kawamura et al.1° has shown, however, that

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Introduction

the SOMO's of the DRTC cations with phosphorus-centered

ligands have σ symmetry.

In a previous preliminary paper,¹¹ we reported ab initio SCF MO calculations on the neutral DRTC complexes. The electronic configuration was calculated to be $\pi^4 \delta^2 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*2} \sigma^2$ for L absent and $\bar{L} = OH_2$ and NH_3 and $\delta^2 \pi^4 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*2} \sigma^2$ for $L =$ PH₃. The Rh-Rh bond is a single σ bond, and the HOMO is of σ symmetry. For $L = PH_3$, our results have agreed with the ESR results not only in the symmetry of the HOMO but also in the spin density distributions, i.e., a substantial Rh character of the HOMO. Bursten and Cotton¹² reported $SCF-X\alpha-SW$ calculations on the DRTC complex with L = PH₃. They also obtained a σ MO as the HOMO, but it localizes mostly on the axial phosphine ligands, in disagreement with the ESR experiment. For the DRTC complexes with L absent and $L = OH₂$, the MO sequence is different between the SCF-X α calculations⁸ and the Hartree-Fock SCF cal- $\rm{culations.}^{11}$

Thus, it seems that the single-bond nature of the Rh-Rh bond in the DRTC complexes is now well established. However, uncertainties still remain on the natures (symmetries) of the ground electronic states of the cations of the DRTC complexes.

In this paper, we study several lower electronic states of the cations of the DRTC complexes with L absent and $L = OH₂$, $NH₃$, and PH₃, by the ab initio UHF SCF MO method. We have calculated SCF solutions for each of the several lower states. We study **(1)** the symmetry of the ground electronic state of these cations, (2) the spin density distributions in these cations, (3) the electronic spectra of these cations (i.e., the transition energies and the oscillator strengths), **(4)** the ionization energies of the neutral DRTC complexes, and *(5)* the charge distributions and the natures of the Rh-Rh and Rh-L bonds in the DRTC complexes and their cations. We compare the present results with the experimental data now available. They are the spin density distributions estimated from the ESR experiments for the DRTC cations with L being the substituted phosphines PX_3 ,¹⁰ the electronic spectra of the DRTC cations with $L = OH₂^{13,14}$ and PX₃,¹⁵ and the photoelectron spectra

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Table I. SCF Energies (eV) of the Neutral and Cation Species of the DRTC Complexes $Rh_1(O_2CH)_4L_2^{a-c}$

SCF energies are given relative to that of the neutral ground state. The double-f, single-f energies are as follows (au): **-10040.326 10,** Note that the principal symmetry axis is parallel to the Rh-Rh bond for the **-10 036.560 08** for **L** absent, -10 **190.366 92, -10 186.609 54** for **L= OH,,** -, **-10 147.606 24** for **L** = NH,;-10 **717.28049, -10 713.70242** for $L = PH_3$ (1 au = 627.5 kcal/mol). $b = 1$ eV = 23.06 kcal/mol. DRTC complex with L absent but perpendicular to the Rh-Rh bond for the DRTC complexes with $L = OH_2$, NH₃, and PH₃. letter shown in the parentheses denotes the symmetry of the singly occupied MO. *e* Note that this is a quartet spin state. *f* The energies of the ${}^{2}A_{g}(\sigma)$ state calculated with the geometries of the neutral² and cation^{18c} species are -10 190.147 93 and -10 190.169 29 au, respectively. Similar values for the ${}^{2}B_{11}(\delta^{*})$ state are -10 190.130 13 and -10 190.154 21 au, respectively. The greek

of the related compound $Rh_2(mhp)_4$ (2), where Hmhp is 6methyl-2-hydroxypyridine.¹⁶

In the next section, we briefly explain the calculational details of the present ab initio **SCF-MO** studies. We then give the results related to the spectroscopic observables such as the ESR, UV, and photoelectron spectra and compare them with the experimental results now available. We study the charge distributions and the natures of the **Rh-Rh** and Rh-L bonds in the **DRTC** complexes and their cations. Conclusions of the present study are given in the last section.

Calculational Details

Several lower electronic **states** of the cations of the DRTC complexes with L absent and $L = OH_2$, NH₃, and PH₃, were calculated by the unrestricted Hartree-Fock (UHF) method. Independent SCF **solu**tions were determined for several lower electronic states. For the neutral DRTC complexes, we have carried out the closed-shell restricted Hartree-Fock (RHF) calculations. The calculations were carried out with the use of a slightly modified version of the HONDOG program originally by King, Dupuis, and Rys."

The geometries of the DRTC complexes are based on the experimental ones reported by Christoph and Koh;¹ the Rh-Rh, Rh-L lengths (in \hat{A}) are as follows for L absent and $L = OH_2$, NH₃, and PH3, respectively: **2.39,** -; **2.39, 2.310; 2.403, 2.308; 2.449, 2.479.** The geometry of the carboxylate ligand is from the X-ray structure of $Rh_2(O_2CCH_3)_4(H_2O)_2$ ² The geometries of the axial ligands, OH₂, NH₃, and PH₃, were taken from the experimental data for the corresponding free molecules.18 A *D4h* symmetry was assumed for the

Figure 1. State level diagrams of the cations $[Rh_2(O_2CH)_4L_2]^+$ with L absent and $L = OH_2$ and PH₃ calculated with the double- ζ set. In parentheses is given the symmetry of the **SOMO.**

 $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4$ fragment. The DRTC with $L = OH_2$ was idealized to have a D_{2h} symmetry while the DRTC's with $L = NH_3$ and PH₃ were idealized to have a C_{2h} symmetry with the two $NH₃$ and $PH₃$ groups in an axially staggered form. The geometries were assumed to be the same for both neutral molecules and cations and for all of the lower electronic states of the cations. For the DRTC cations with $L = OH₂$, we have also calculated some lower electronic states using the geometry reported for the cation itself.^{18c} The purpose is to check the effect of geometrical change on the ordering of the σ and δ^* states.

Two kinds of basis sets were used. One is the minimal STO-3G level of basis set. For rhodium we have considered the inner-shell, **4d, Ss,** and 5p **AOs** with the Slater exponents reported by Clementi et al.¹⁹ The exponent of the 5p AO was assumed to be the same as that of the **5s AO.** For the first-row atoms, the exponents are those reported by Stewart,²⁰ and for phosphorus, they are those of Roos et al.,' In the second basis set, we have used double-{ **bases** for the valence AO's of rhodium, i.e., 4d, 5s, and 5p AO's. They are those

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Since the double- ζ set is more reliable, especially for the energetic arguments, than the single- ζ set, we have based our energetic discussions **on** the results of the double-{ set. The calculations with the single- ζ set were used for the analysis of charge distributions.

Results on the Spectroscopic Observables

In this section we first show the results related to the spectroscopic observables and compare them with the experimental results now available. They are the results of the ESR, UV, and photoelectron spectra.

Table I shows the SCF energies of the neutral and cationic species of the DRTC complexes. The energy of each state of the cation was calculated independently by the UHF method. Figure 1 shows the state-level diagram of the DRTC cations. It shows the energy of the cation relative to the RHF energy of the corresponding neutral species. The symmetry of the singly occupied *(SO)* MO is shown in parentheses. Since the energy calculated by the double- ζ set seems to be more reliable than that of the single- ζ set, as seen from the ionization potential data shown below, we have selected only the results of the double- ζ set from Table I.

For the DRTC cation with L absent, the ground state was calculated to be of δ^* symmetry. The energy difference between the δ^* and σ states was calculated to be 0.57 eV (13.1) kcal/mol). However, for the cations with $L = OH₂$ and PH₃, the state of σ symmetry was calculated to be the ground state. From the state-level diagram, the ground electronic configuration may be written as $\delta^2 \pi^4 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*2} \sigma^1$. For the DRTC cation with $L = OH_2$, the energy of the ² $B_{1u}(\delta^*)$ state was calculated to be higher than that of the ${}^{2}A_{g}(\sigma)$ state by 0.48 eV (11.2) kcal/mol). Comparisons with the spectroscopic data shown below seem also to support this result. Note, however, that the present result for $L = OH_2$ is different from that of the $X\alpha$ -SW calculations, which showed the electronic configuration to be $\sigma^2 \pi^4 \delta^2 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*1}$, predicting the SOMO to be of δ^* symmetry. For the DRTC cation with $L = PH_3$, the ${}^2A_u(\delta^*)$ state was calculated to be higher than the ${}^{2}A_{g}(\sigma)$ state by 1.54 eV (35.5 kcal/mol), so that the SOMO of the ground state is predicted unambiguously to be of σ symmetry. A recent ESR study by Kawamura et al.1° has shown that the SOMO of the DRTC cations with phosphorus-centered ligands have **u** symmetry. Our result is consistent with this observation.

For the DRTC cation with $L = OH_2$, we have examined further the state ordering by ab initio calculations based on the geometry observed for the *cation itself.1sc* The resultant ordering was however the same; the ${}^{2}A_{g}(\sigma)$ state was calculated to be lower than the ${}^{2}B_{1u}(\sigma^*)$ state by 0.41 eV (9.5 kcal/mol). Thus, a possibility of level crossing during the relaxation of the geometry from the vertical ionized state is negated. **As** shown in footnote f of Table I, the energy of the geometrical relaxation from the vertical state was calculated to be 0.60 eV (14 kcal/mol) and 0.66 eV (15 kcal/mol) for the ${}^{2}A_{g}(\sigma)$ and ${}^{2}B_{1}$ _{1u}(δ *) states, respectively.

The experimental geometry of the DRTC cation with $L =$ $OH₂$ is different from that of the neutral species in especially the $\bar{R}h-Rh$ and $Rh-OH_2$ lengths.^{18c} The $\bar{R}h-Rh$ and $\bar{R}h-OH_2$ lengths of the cation are shorter by 0.069 and 0.089 **A,** respectively, than those of the neutral species. The *6** MO of the DRTC with $L = OH_2$ is weakly antibonding between the two Rh atoms and nonbonding between the Rh and OH₂. Thus, the shortening of the Rh-Rh bond seems to agree with the assignment of the δ^* MO as the SOMO of the cation, but the shortening of the Rh-OH2 bond is not explained. Though a contraction of atomic radius of Rh is expected due to an

^{*a*} The ESR data were obtained for $Rh_2(O_2CR)_4(PY_2)_2^+ (R =$ C_2H_s , CF_3 ; $PY_3 = PPh_3$, $P(OPh)_3$, $P(OCH_2)_3$, CC_2H_s).¹⁰ b Data obtained with the single-y calculations.

increased positive charge on Rh, a larger change in the Rh- $OH₂$ length than in the Rh-Rh length seems to be difficult to be explained, though Norman et al. has given some account for that.⁹ On the other hand, the σ MO is bonding between the two Rh atoms but antibonding between the Rh and $OH₂$ (see Figure 6 below). Thus, the observed shortening of the Rh-Rh length seems not to agree with the present assignment of the σ MO as the SOMO, but the shortening of the Rh-OH₂ length *does support* the present result. As Norman et al.⁸ and our results¹¹ indicate, the Rh-Rh bond is a weak single bond *so* that its length depends rather sensitively on the environment, especially the nature of the ligands. Therefore, we believe that a large change in Rh - OH ₂ distance is a more direct indicator of the electronic state of the cation than a change in the **Rh-Rh** length. Though an ab initio *full* geometry optimization of the cation in the σ and δ^* states would resolve this problem, it is too time consuming to be realistic.

In Figure 1, the shift of the energy level of the cation with changing L absent and $L = OH_2$ and PH_3 reflects the natures and the strength of the interaction between the Rh-Rh bond and the ligand. As shown previously^{8,11} and will be described below, the interaction between Rh and L is mainly the donation of the σ -lone-pair electrons of L to the vacant $n\sigma$ and $n\sigma^*$ MO's of Rh. Since both σ and σ^* MO's are antibonding between Rh and L, the stronger the Rh-L interaction is, the higher are the σ and σ^* MO levels. Thus, in the order of L absent, $L = OH_2$, and $L = PH_3$, the levels of the σ and σ^* states of the cation are lowered. Between L absent and $L =$ OH₂, a crossing of σ and δ^* levels occurs. Since the interactions between the MO's of the DRTC and L with the symmetries other than σ are weak, the δ , δ^* , π , and π^* states are not affected as much as the σ and σ^* states.

Table I1 shows the diagonal elements of the spin density matrices obtained for the ground Σ -state of the DRTC cations. The ESR data may be compared with the present result for $L = PH₃$. The present results agree well with the ESR estimates, though the 3s component of the phosphorus is smaller. The SCF-X α -SW calculation¹² on the neutral DRTC complex with $L = PH_3$ also predicted the SOMO of σ symmetry for its cation radical. However, the spin density distribution due to this SOMO lies 65% on PH₃, 31% on Rh, and 4% on $(O_2CH)_4$; that is, it is largely localized on PH_3 in disagreement with experiment. **In** Table **I1** we have also shown the spin density matrices of the cations with $L = OH_2$ and NH_3 . Though these numbers were all obtained from the single- ζ calculations, the results of the double- ζ basis were parallel to these. Note that, in the δ^* state, the hfs constants are due to a spin-polarization mechanism.23

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Table III. Electronic Spectrum of $Rh_1(O_2CR)_4(H_2O)_2^+$

The results of the double- ζ set are shown. ^b In 1 M CF₃SO₃H.¹³ ^c Calculated from the experimental data.¹³ ^d In 0.02 M Cl⁻ in 1 M $HClO_a$.¹⁴

In Figure 2, we have shown the contour maps of the σ MO's of the DRTC cations $\text{[Rh}_2\text{(O}_2\text{CH})_4\text{(H}_2\text{O})_2\text{]}^+$ and [Rh_2 - $(O_2CH)_4 (PH_3)_2$ ⁺ in the ground state. We see that, though the **MO's** extend over all the molecules, the dominant parts are largely localized near the regions of the Rh-Rh and Rh-L bonds. They show a typical bonding pattern between the two Rh atoms and an antibonding pattern between Rh and ligand L.

Tables I11 and IV show the transition energies and the oscillator strengths for the electronic spectra of the DRTC cations with $L = OH₂$ and PH₃, respectively. The theoretical transition energy is the so-called ASCF value, i.e., the difference of the SCF energy for each state. The transition moment was calculated with the use of the corresponding orbital transformation²⁴ of the orbitals to minimize the number of overlaps between the MO's of different UHF solutions. The experimental transition energies are those of Wilson et al.,¹³ Cannon et al.,¹⁴ and Kawamura et al.¹⁵ The experimental values of the oscillator strengths were calculated from the spectra given in the literature by using the approximation $\int \epsilon(\tilde{v})$ $d\tilde{v} = \epsilon_{\text{max}} \tilde{v}_{1/2}$, where $\tilde{v}_{1/2}$ is the half-width of the band.

For the DRTC cation with $L = OH_2$, we have examined two different assignments of the spectra, one based on the ²A_g(σ) ground state and the other on the ²B_{1u}(δ ^{*}) ground state, in order to see which assignment simulates more naturally the experimental spectra. In Table 111, the results based on the ${}^{2}A_{\alpha}(\sigma)$ ground state are given in the top section and the results based on the ²B_{1u}(δ *) ground state in the bottom section. A weak band at 1.64 eV appears only in the spectrum of the cation and not in the spectrum of the neutral species, so it is regarded as the transition from the doubly occupied orbital to the SOMO. We assign this band to the $\pi^* \rightarrow \sigma$ transition. Norman et al.⁹ assigned this band to the $\sigma \rightarrow \delta^*$ transition in which the δ^* MO is the SOMO in their X α –SW calculation.
The observed transition at 2.41 eV may be assigned to the $x-y$ -polarized $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$ trnsition. This is supported by the good The observed transition at 2.41 eV may be assigned to the $x \rightarrow y$ -polarized $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$ trnsition. This is supported by the good agreements with the experiments in both the transition energy and the oscillator strength. From the existence of the analogous band at 2.1 eV in the spectrum of the neutral species, $13,25$ and the oscillator strength. From the existence of the analogous band at 2.1 eV in the spectrum of the neutral species,^{13,25}
Norman et al. assigned this band to the transition $\pi^* \to \sigma^*$
(u unplating) as fact the numb $(x-y)$ polarized) as for the neutral species. In the present study,

Figure 2. Contour maps of the σ MO of $\left[Rh_2(O_2CH)_4(H_2O)_2\right]^+$ and $[Rh_2(O_2CH)_4(PH_3)_2]^+$ in the ground state (Σ state) calculated with the double- ζ set. The numbers $1-7$ on contours correspond to the contour values 0.001,0.005,0.01,0.02,0.05,0.1, and 0.14, respectively. The solid and broken lines correspond to the positive and negative signs of the MO, respectively.

we did not calculate the SCF solution for the $\pi^* \rightarrow \sigma^*$ state, since it involves the multideterminantal open-shell configuration. The observed band at \sim 3.1 eV seems doubtful because it appears only in solvents containing excess Cl⁻¹⁴ So, no attempt was made to assign this band. The strong band at 5.72 eV is assigned to the $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition. This assignment is confident from both the transition energy and its large absorptivity. (The experimental oscillator strength could not be estimated because of the lack of the spectrum in the literature). As shown later in Table IV, the $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition

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Table **IV.** Electronic Spectrum of $Rh_2(O_2CR)_4(PY_3)_2^+$

a The results of the double-f set are shown. ^b In CH₂Cl₂ containing 0.1 M n-Bu₄NClO₄ at room temperature.¹⁵ A different peak at 2.38 eV with oscillator strength 0.3 (molar absorptivity 20 000) was also observed. $\,^c$ Cy = cyclohexyl. $\,^d$ Calculated from the experimental data.' $\,^s$

Table V. Ionization Energies for $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4L_2$ with L Absent and L = OH, and PH, Compared with the Experimental Values for $Rh_2(mhp)_4$ (Hmhp = 6-Methyl-2-hydroxypyridine)

peak	$exptl,^a eV$ $Rh_2(mhp)_4$	assignt of Berry et al. ^{a}	calcd from $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4L_2$						
			L absent		$L = OH$,		$L = PH$,		
			assignt	\triangle SCF, eV	assignt	\triangle SCF, eV	assignt	Δ SCF, eV	
A	6.49	δ *	* ه	7.75	σ	5.96	σ	4.72	
B	7.25	π^*	π^*		π^*	7.27	π^*	7.18	
	7.64	mhp π							
	8.00	δ	σ	8.32	δ^*	6.44	δ^*	6.26	
E	8.37	mhp π							
	8.53	π	π		π	8.60	π	8.22	
envelope		σ	δ		δ	8.82	δ	8.62	

a Reference 16. *b* The results of the double-*f* set are shown.

of the DRTC cation with $L = PX_3$ also has a very large absorptivity.

In the bottom section of Table 111, we have calculated the transition energies and the oscillator strengths, assuming the ${}^{2}B_{1n}(\delta^*)$ state to be the ground state. In this case, a very strong band (oscillator strength 0.928) is expected theoretically at 2.37 eV, but such an absorption does not appear in the experimental spectrum. The strong band observed at 5.72 eV 2.37 eV, but such an absorption does not appear in the ex-
perimental spectrum. The strong band observed at 5.72 eV
would again be assigned to the $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition; the $\delta^* \rightarrow$
 σ^* transition colourated at 4.06 e *u** transition calcuated at 4.96 eV is forbidden by symmetry. would again be assigned to the $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition; the $\delta^* \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition calcuated at 4.96 eV is forbidden by symmetry.
The $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition would show a large absorbance, though we could not obtain the corresponding SCF solution because this state involves multideterminants when the ground state is the ²B_{lu}(δ *) state. Thus, when we assume the ²B_{lu}(δ *) state as the ground state, we cannot explain the absence of a very strong band near 2.37 eV. The assignment of the ${}^{2}A_{\alpha}(\sigma)$ state to the ground state seems to be more natural.

For the cations of $Rh_2(O_2CR)_4(PR'_3)_2$, Kawamura et al.¹⁵ observed two strong peaks, band I at 1.77-2.44 eV and band II at 2.14-2.89 eV. For the complex with $R = \text{ethyl and } R'$ = cyclohexyl, which is most similar to the DRTC complex with = cyclohexyl, which is most similar to the DRTC complex with
L = PH₃, bands I and II have maxima at 2.38 and 2.89 eV,
respectively. The band at 2.89 eV was assigned to the $\sigma \rightarrow$ *u** transition from its dependence **on** ligands and from the similarity to the spectra of the neutral species. For the band at 2.38 eV, **no** assignment was reported. Table IV shows the present result for the DRTC cation with $L = PH_3$. The asat 2.38 eV, no assignment was reported. Table IV shows the present result for the DRTC cation with $L = PH_3$. The assignment of the $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition seems reasonable because of the good agreement in the oscillator strength, though the calculated transition energy is larger than the observed value. The peak at 2.38 eV with the oscillator strength 0.3 (ϵ = 20 000) seems not to be included in the transitions calculated here. The transitions calculated here are all weak except for the $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition. Therefore, it will be the transition involving the ligand.

Table V shows the calculated ionization potentials of the DRTC complexes with L absent and $L = OH₂$ and PH₃, compared with the photoelectron data reported by Berry et al.¹⁶ for the bridged dirhodium complex $Rh_2(mhp)_4$ (2), where Hmhp is 6-methyl-2-hydroxypyridine. For the DRTC com-

Figure 3. Ionization energies calculated from the Koopmans relaxation and the \triangle SCF method for $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4(H_2O)_2$ and $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4$ - $(PH₃)₂$ (results of the double- ζ set).

plexes themselves, **no** photoelectron spectra are available. From spectral intensities, Berry assigned peaks B and F to the degenerate orbitals and peaks C and E to the π orbitals of the mhp ligand. Their further assignments were carried out with particular reference to the photoelectron spectrum of Mo₂- $(mhp)₄$. The present results of the ionization potential shown in Table V are the Δ SCF values due to the double- ζ basis. Those due to the single- ζ basis are too small, as seen from Table I, to compare with experiments. The values obtained from the Koopmans approximation are generally too high (see Figure 2). In Table IV, the agreements between the experimental and theoretical values are good except for the peaks **A** and D. From the present calculation, the peaks **A** and D are assigned to the ionizations from eiether the **6*** MO or the *u* MO. The peaks B and F and the shoulder of the peak F are assigned to the ionizations from the π^* , π , and δ MO's, respectively. It is rather surprising that the ionization potentials calculated for $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4L_2$ show reasonable correspondence with those observed for $Rh_2(mhp)_4$ despite a large difference in the bridging ligands. This fact may be understood to suggest a similarity of the Rh-Rh bond between these complexes. The experiments for the DRTC complexes themselves are strongly expected.

Figure 4. Correlation between the relaxation energy and the weight of the **AO's on** Rh in the **SOMO.**

Figure 5. Net gross atomic charge for the Σ state of the DRTC cations calculated by the single- ζ basis. Those of the neutral species are given in parentheses.

It is interesting to examine the correspondence between the state level diagram of the cation and the MO level sequence of the neutral species. If the Koopmans relation is valid, the two levels should be identical. The difference between the Koopmans and **ASCF** values is referred to as relaxation energy. Figure 3 shows the ionization energies obtained from the Koopmans relation and from the Δ SCF method for L = OH₂ and PH_3 . Though the HOMO is δ^* for the neutral DRTC complex with $L = OH_2$, the ground state of the cation has the **SOMO** of σ symmetry rather than δ^* symmetry. This inversion is caused by the greater orbital relaxation in the σ MO than in the δ^* MO. For the DRTC with $L = PH_3$, the HOMO of the neutral species is already of σ symmetry. As seen in Figure 2, the level sequence is the same from both the Koopmans relation and the ASCF method.

It is generally **recognized** for transition-metal complexes that the orbital relaxation energy is larger for the ionization from the **MO** having larger metal character than from the MO largely localized on the ligands.²⁶ In Figure 4, we have plotted the relaxation energy vs. the weight of the metal AO's in the **SOMO.** We *see* a good parallelism between the two quantities for both the DRTC cations with $L = OH₂$ and PH₃.

Results on the General Electronic Structure

In this section, we want to clarify the nature of the Rh-Rh bond from some analyses of the electronic structures of the

Figure 6. Nature of the charge-transfer interaction in DRTC complexes.

 a Calculated with the single- ζ basis.

DRTC cations and their neutral species. In Figure 5, we have shown the net atomic charges of the DRTC cations having σ symmetry. They are the ground state except for the DRTC cation with L absent, for which the δ^* state is calculated to be the ground state. The values in parentheses show the charges of the neutral species. These values were obtained from the single- ζ calculations. The charges of Rh in the Σ cations (neutral species) are +0.99 **(+0.70),** +0.84 (+0.58), $+0.82$ ($+0.57$), and $+0.63$ ($+0.41$) for L absent and L = OH₂, $NH₃$, and $PH₃$, respectively, showing that the extent of the charge transfer is in the order of OH₂, NH₃, and PH₃. The charge, 1+, of the cation is distributed over all the molecules, especially to Rh and H of the carboxylate ligand. This is also seen from the contour maps of the σ orbitals shown in Figure **2.** The MO's extend from Rh to all over the carboxylate ligands. On the other hand, Figure 5 shows that the charge on the carboxylate ligand is hardly affected by a change in the axial ligand.

We note that the net atomic charges of the Δ , state (ground state) of the DRTC cation with L absent are very similar to those of the Σ state. Actually, the atomic charges on the carboxylate ligands are just the same as those of the Σ state, and the charge on Rh is $+0.94$ in the Δ _u state instead of $+0.99$ in the Σ state.

In Figure 6, we have illustrated the orbital correlation diagram which explains the formation of the Rh-L bond. In the formation of the Rh-L bond, the charge transfer occurs from the lone pair of the axial ligand to the vacant nonbonding $n\sigma^*$ (mainly composed of the 5p, and 4d, 2 AO's of Rh) and no (mainly composed of the 5s and $5p_z$ AO's of Rh) MO's of the DRTC. The occupied σ MO of the DRTC also interacts with the lone-pair MO's of the ligands, and the resultant Rh-Rh σ MO of the complex is antibonding between the Rh and the axial ligand. This is seen from Figure **2** and also from Table VI, where the MO coefficients of the SOMO of the Σ states are shown for various cations. Namely, the origin of the Rh-L bond is the σ transfer of the lone-pair electrons of L to the vacant MO's of Rh. The π -back-transfer interaction seems to be weak. The interaction increases in the order L $= OH₂$, NH₃, and PH₃ with decreasing order of the ionization

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Table VII. Change in the Valence A0 Population of **the Ground** Ligand Addition^{a, b} Σ State of the Cations of $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4L_2$ by Axial

		axial ligand L			
site	AO	OH,	NH.	PH,	
Rh	$4d_{x}^{2}$, $4d_{y}^{2}$, $4d_{x}^{2}$	-0.015	-0.044	-0.040	
	$4d_{z}$ ²	-0.009	-0.001	$+0.029$	
	$4d_{xz}$, $4d_{yz}$	0.000	-0.001	-0.022	
	5s	-0.036	-0.041	-0.058	
	$5p2$, $5pv$	$+0.006$	0.000	$+0.023$	
	5p ₂	$+0.202$	$+0.249$	$+0.412$	
axial ligand L	ns	-0.057	-0.007	-0.184	
	np_z	-0.053	-0.208	-0.179	
	np_x, np_y	$+0.041$	$+0.207$	$+0.163$	
	$\mathrm{nd}_{x^2},,\mathrm{nd}_{xz}$			$+0.059$	
	ls(H)	-0.098	-0.087	-0.093	
maximum in		$+0.017$	$+0.051$	$+0.040$	

carboxylate

a Relative to the cation of $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4$. **b** Calculated with the single- ζ basis.

Figure 7. Density difference maps of **the neutral molecule and cation** of $\text{Rh}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CH})_4(\text{PH}_3)_2$. The numbers 1-10 on contours correspond **to the contour values 0.001,0.002,0.005,0.01,0.02,0.03,0.04,0.1,** 0.2, and 0.5, respectively. The solid and broken lines correspond to **an increase and decrease, respectively, from the density of the reference molecules (see** *eq* **1).**

potential of the lone-pair electrons: 12.6 eV for OH_2 , 10.9 eV for NH₃, and 9.9 eV for PH₃.²⁷ As seen in Table \tilde{V} I, the coefficients of the axial ligand orbitals in the **SOMO** also increase in the same order. A decrease in the Rh-Rh bonding overlap when L is changed from $OH₂$ to $PH₃$ is seen in Figure 2. This is because an electron transfer from the lone pair of L into the Rh-Rh σ^* MO is larger for $L = PH_3$ than for L = OH_2 . The elongation of the Rh-Rh bond¹ in the order L $= OH_2$, NH₃, and PH₃ reflects this effect.

Table VI1 shows the change in the valence A0 population of the ground state of the cation due to the axial ligand addition. The density increases largely in the 5p, A0 of Rh and decreases in the ns and np, AO's of the ligands as expected from the scheme of the charge-transfer interaction shown in Figure 6. Again the change **is** particularly large for the DRTC with $L = PH₃$. A smaller amount of back-transfer is seen in the $2p_x$ and $2p_y$ AO's of OH₂ and NH₃. For PH₃ it occurs in the $3p_x$, $3p_y$, and $3d_z$. AO's of phosphorus.

In Figure **7** we have shown the contour maps of the density differences of $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4(PH_3)_2$ and its cation defined by $\Delta\rho =$

$$
\rho(\text{complex}) - \sum_{i}^{2} \rho_i(\text{Rh}^{2+}) - \sum_{i}^{4} \rho_i(\text{O}_2\text{CH}^{-}) - \sum_{i}^{2} \rho_i(\text{PH}_3)
$$
 (1)

The densities were calculated by the double- ζ set. The electronic configuration of the Rh cation was chosen as $(d_{xy})^2$ - $(d_{xz})^2(d_{yz})^2(d_{z^2})^1(d_{x^2-y^2})^0$ with the *z* axis along the two Rh atoms

and the *x, y* axes along the Rh-0 bonds. The densities of the carboxylate anion and phosphine were calculated for the isolated molecules. The left-hand side of the figure is for the neutral species and the right-hand side for the cation. An accumulation of electron density near the center of the two Rh atoms shows the existence of the direct Rh-Rh bond. An electron transfer is seen from the σ lone pairs of the oxygens of the carboxylate anion to mainly the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ AO's of Rh. This is an origin of the coordination of the carboxylate ligand to Rh atoms. The maps also show a transfer of the $n\sigma$ lone-pair electrons of PH_3 to the regions of the Rh-Rh bond. This is an origin of the coordination of PH, to the DRTC complex as explained from the correlation diagram (Figure *6).* Comparing the density for the cation with that of the neutral molecule, we see that an electron is ionized mostly from the region of the two Rh atoms. The decrease in the bond electron density due to the ionization suggests a weakening of the Rh-Rh bond in the cation.

The results of the present study seem to suggest that the Rh-Rh bonds in the DRTC complexes and their cations are weak, though there is certainly a direct Rh-Rh *σ* bond. That the σ MO lies at the HOMO or next to the HOMO means that the Rh-Rh bond is weak. For a stronger bond the σ MO should lie lower than the π , π^* , δ , and δ^* MO's. The contour map of the localized σ orbital shown previously¹¹ had also suggested a weakness of the Rh-Rh bond.

Now a question still remains. Why are the Rh-Rh bonds in the DRTC complexes *so* short? We *guess* that this is mainly due to the bridging carboxylate ligands. Since the Rh-Rh bond is weak as discussed above, the Rh-Rh distance can be changed by a relatively small perturbation. Experimental facts that seem to support this consideration are as follows: (1) The **Rh-Rh** distance in the DRTC complex is longer than the *O.-O* distance of the carboxylate ligand. This is as if the two Rh atoms are pulled by the oxygens of the carboxylate ligands. (2) In the structures of the series of complexes $Rh_2(OAc)₄$. $(PPh_3)_2$,^{5,29} where dmg is dimethylglyoximate, the Rh-Rh distance increases drastically as the bridging acetate ligands are replaced by the nonbridging dmg ligands, viz., 2.45, 2.62, According to Christoph et al., 30 the repulsive steric effects of dmg ligands must also be borne in mind. $(PPh_3)_2$, $Rh_2(OAc)_2(dmg)_2(PPh_3)_2$, a and $Rh_2(dmg)_4$ -2.94 Å. Norman and Kolari⁸ have given a similar opinion.

Conclusion

Electronic structures of the dirhodium tetracarboxylate (DRTC) complexes $Rh_2(O_2CH)_4L_2$ and their cations with L absent and $L = OH_2$, NH_3 , and PH_3 have been calculated by the ab initio RHF and UHF methods. Several lower excited states of the cations were also calculated individually by the UHF method, and the state level diagram is reported. The electronic configuration of the ground state was predicted to be $\delta^2 \pi^4 \pi^{*4} \delta^{*2} \sigma^1$ for the DRTC cations with L = OH₂ and PH₃, while for L absent, the **6*** orbital was calculated to be the SOMO. For the DRTC cation with $L = OH₂$, we have further considered the effect of the geometrical relaxation but obtained the same result. The change of the σ level with the change in the axial ligand is explained from the nature of the interaction between the DRTC complex and the axial ligand. We have examined our theoretical results by comparing with the **ESR,** UV, and photoelectron spectra of the related compounds. The spin density distribution calculated for the DRTC cation with $L = PH₃$ agrees well with the ESR estimates of the related compounds. The electronic spectra of the cations

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 $[Rh_2(O_2CCH_3)_4(H_2O)_2]^+$ and $[Rh_2(O_2CC_2H_5)_4(PCy_3)_2]^+$ (where Cy = cyclohexyl) are consistent with the present results for $L = OH_2$ and PH₃, respectively. The assignments are different from those due to the $X\alpha$ -SW calculation. The photoelectron spectra of Rh₂(mhp)₄, with Hmhp being 6methyl-2-hydroxypyridine, were also compared with the present result.

We have investigated the charge distributions and the natures of the Rh-Rh and Rh-L bonds. The origin of the Rh-L bond is mainly the transfer of the lone-pair electrons of the axial ligands to the empty nonbonding orbital on the Rh of the DRTC complex. The back-transfer interaction is small. The Rh-Rh bond is a weak single σ bond. This is reflected in the fact that the Σ level is the ground state or next to the ground state in the cations. We guess that the reason of the shortness of the Rh-Rh bond in the DRTC complexes is due to the existence of the bridging carboxylate ligand. As the Rh-Rh bond is weak, the distance is chiefly determined by the coordination distance of the carboxylate cage.

Finally, let us consider the role of electron correlation. Benard³¹ has studied the effect of electron correlation for

molecules including a metal-metal bond, through the instability of a Hartree-Fock solution. He concluded that, though the electron correlation is very important for the description of a multiple metal-metal bond, it is less important for binuclear complexes that are without a metal-metal interaction or that display a single metal-metal bond.

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Circular Dichroism Study of the Chiral Interaction between Tartrate Ions and Trigonal $[Co(N)₆]$ ³⁺ Complexes in Solution¹

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The effect of d- and *l*-tartrate ions upon the circular dichroism (CD) spectra of some trigonal $[Co(N)_6]$ ³⁺ complexes has been investigated. The association constants with d- and l-tartrates, K_d and K_h for Δ -[Co(en)₃]³⁺, Δ -[Co(sen)]³⁺, Δ -[Co(sep)]³⁺, Δ -[Co(sep)]³⁺, Δ -[Co(1-pn)₃]³⁺, and Δ -[Co(1-chxn)₃]³⁺ \pm 1.0, 71.7 \pm 1.0; 38.3 \pm 0.3, 39.3 \pm 1.0; 22.5 \pm 0.5, 30.3 \pm 0.3; 21.2 \pm 1.1, 26.7 \pm 0.7; 15.4 \pm 0.4, 21.4 \pm 0.4 (25 °C, μ = 0.1 with sodium perchlorate, en = ethylenediamine, sen = 1,1,1-tris((2-aminoethyl)aminomethyl)ethane, sep = **1,3,6,8,10,13,16,19-octaazabicyclo[6.6.6]eicosane,** 1-pn = (-)-1,2-propanediamine, and 1-chxn = (-)-truns-1,2-cyclohexanediamine). Raising the temperature from 288 to 318 K has little effect on K_l values for Δ -[Co(en)₃]³⁺ and Δ -[Co(sep)]³⁺ but causes a significant decrease in the CD intensity of the ion pair formed between Δ -[Co(en)₃]³⁺ and *l*-tartrate. The degrees of chiral discrimination of these systems, as well as the CD spectra of ion pairs and the direction of CD changes due to tartrates, are consistent with the proposition that the access of tartrate ions to the cation along the C_3 axis enhances the A_2 rotational strength, while that along the C_2 axis enhances the E_a rotational strength.

Introduction

It has long been known that the circular dichroism (CD) spectra of metal complexes in solution change upon addition of electrolytes. Since the pioneering works of Douglas, Mason, and their co-workers,^{2,3} many studies have been done to correlate the observed CD change with the mode of interaction of optically active metal complexes with added ions.⁴

However, no definite conclusion appears to have been reached on the relationship between the CD change and the mode of interaction. If such a relationship is established, the utility of CD spectra should become invaluable in deducing the stereochemistry of weakly interacting species in solution. The results of our recent experiments seemed to imply that the principal effect of ion association upon the CD spectra of metal complexes is to alter the rotational strength of that transition which is polarized along the direction of access of the anion toward the cation.⁶ As part of our program to test this hypothesis, we have studied the chiral interaction of tartrate ions with several $[Co(N)₆]$ ³⁺ complexes of trigonal symmetry in solution. If we note that the first ligand field band of the CD spectra of trigonal $[Co(N)_{6}]^{3+}$ complexes comprises only two transitions, A_2 and E_a , which are polarized along the C_3 and C_2 axes, respectively, the problem here is to confirm which rotational strength, $R(A_2)$ or $R(E_a)$, changes primarily by tartrate ions, providing that the anions approach the cation

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