

kcal/mol, a value in good agreement with those found for comparable processes involving the triphenylphosphine ligand.<sup>18</sup>

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**Supplementary Material Available:** Text describing X-ray procedures and tables listing refinement parameters, atomic coordinates, isotropic thermal parameters, anisotropic thermal parameters, H atom coordinates and isotropic displacement parameters, and all bond distances and bond angles (18 pages); a listing of observed and calculated structure factors (27 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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### Reaction Enthalpies of Atom Transfer to Electronically Excited Tetrakis(pyrophosphito)diplatinate(II)

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The photochemistry of  $d^8-d^8$  binuclear complexes ( $M_2$ ;  $M = \text{Pt, Rh, Ir}$ ) has been an extremely active area of research.<sup>1</sup> These complexes possess  $d\sigma^*p\sigma$  triplet states ( $M_2^*$ ) that are sufficiently long-lived to undergo bimolecular reactions, such as electron and atom transfer.<sup>1-3</sup> In particular, excited-state atom transfer of these complexes can be an important step in catalytic photo-reactions.<sup>1</sup> For example, the tetrakis(pyrophosphito)diplatinate(II) complex,  $\text{Pt}_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4-}$ , catalyzes the photochemical conversion of isopropyl alcohol into hydrogen and acetone.<sup>4</sup>

Although the kinetic behavior of the excited states of these binuclear complexes toward atom and electron transfer has been examined,<sup>1-3</sup> little is known about the thermochemistry of such processes. Herein, we report on the reaction enthalpies of hydrogen and halogen transfer to the excited and ground states of  $\text{Pt}_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4-}$  ( $\text{Pt}_2$ ). These enthalpies are useful in understanding the atom-transfer reactivity of the excited state of  $\text{Pt}_2$  and comparing it to other reactive transition-metal complexes and radicals.

#### Experimental Section

**Materials.**  $(n\text{-Bu}_4\text{N})_4[\text{Pt}_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4]$  was prepared from the potassium salt as described previously.<sup>5</sup> Methanol,  $\text{CCl}_4$ , and benzene were obtained from J. T. Baker Inc. and used as received. Iodobenzene, benzyl alcohol, isopropyl bromide, and *tert*-butyl bromide were obtained from Aldrich and distilled before use. 2-Hydroxybenzophenone (Aldrich) was recrystallized.

**Photoacoustic Calorimetry.** The PAC experiment has been previously described.<sup>6</sup> Photoexcitation was conducted at 365 nm (78.4 kcal/mol)

**Table I.** Experimental PAC Heats of Reaction and Calculated Bond Dissociation Energies of  $\text{Pt}_2\text{X}^{\alpha\alpha}$

RX	$k_q^d$ $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$\Delta H_1 + \Delta H_2$	$\Delta H_2$	$D_0(\text{RX})^e$	$D_0(\text{Pt}_2\text{X})$
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ (1.5 M)	$2.5 \times 10^6$	32.9 (4.7) <sup>f</sup>	-23.6	81.2 (1.5)	48.3 (4.9)
$(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_3\text{SnH}$ (0.2 M) <sup>g</sup>	$1.2 \times 10^7$	28.2 (1.8)	-28.3	74.0 (2.0)	45.8 (2.7)
$\text{CCl}_4$ (0.05 M)	$2.0 \times 10^9$	23.5 (1.6)	-33.0	73.1 (1.8)	49.6 (2.4)
$(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CBr}$ (0.05 M)	$>10^9$	36.9 (1.3)	-19.6	67.3 (1.7)	31.3 (2.1)
$(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHBr}$ (10.6 M)	$1.7 \times 10^{10}$ <sup>h</sup>	35.3 (3.9)	-21.2	68.4 (1.2)	33.1 (4.1)
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{I}$ (0.063 M) <sup>i</sup>	$1.6 \times 10^9$	31.4 (3.5)	-25.1	65.4 (2.0)	34.0 (4.0)

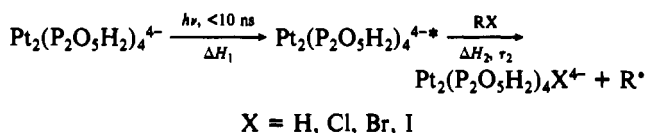
<sup>a</sup> In  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  with added substrate RX, at 298 °C. <sup>b</sup> Values are the average of at least five measurements. <sup>c</sup>  $\Delta H$  and  $D_0$  values in kcal/mol. <sup>d</sup> Values from refs 2 and 3. <sup>e</sup> Values from ref 11. <sup>f</sup> Errors in parentheses are  $\pm 1\sigma$ . <sup>g</sup> In 1:1  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}/\text{benzene}$ . <sup>h</sup> Value for  $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{Br}$ . <sup>i</sup> See ref 12.

by a nitrogen-pumped dye laser on argon-degassed samples at room temperature. The acoustic waves were detected by a PZT transducer ( $\sim 0.5$  MHz). The signal was amplified (Panametrics preamp, Model 5676), digitized (LeCroy 9400), and transferred to a laboratory computer for data analysis. The wave forms were the average of 60–80 laser pulses ( $< 20 \mu\text{s}$ ). The transducer response function was obtained from photoexcitation of 2-hydroxybenzophenone. The optical densities of the calibration and sample compounds were  $\sim 0.8$  and were adjusted to be within 1% of each other. Sample absorbances did not change significantly during the experiment. The time resolution of the transducer is approximately 10 ns–5  $\mu\text{s}$ . Heat depositions that occur faster than 10 ns will not be differentiated, whereas those slower than 5  $\mu\text{s}$  will not be detected.

Under reaction conditions where only one heat deposition was observed,  $\Delta H = (1 - \alpha)E_{hp}$ , where  $E_{hp}$  is the incident laser energy and  $\alpha$  is the fraction of the incident photon energy released as heat. In the described experiments,  $\Delta H = \Delta H_1$  in the absence of substrate RX and  $\Delta H = \Delta H_1 + \Delta H_2$  in the presence of substrate RX. Under reaction conditions where two heat depositions were observed,  $\Delta H_a = (1 - \alpha_a)E_{hp}$  and  $\Delta H_b = -\alpha_b E_{hp}$ , where  $\alpha_a$  and  $\alpha_b$  are the fractions of the incident photon energy released as heat in the depositions. The experimental enthalpic,  $\alpha_a$  and  $\alpha_b$ , and kinetic,  $\tau_a \leq 10$  ns and  $\tau_b$ , values were determined by deconvolution of the first 400 points of the acoustic wave forms.<sup>6</sup> In the experiments where  $10 \mu\text{s} \geq 1/(k_q[\text{RX}]) \geq 10$  ns,  $\Delta H_a = \Delta H_1$  and  $\Delta H_b = \Delta H_2$ .

#### Results and Discussion

Photoexcitation (365 nm) of  $\text{Pt}_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4-}$  ( $\text{Pt}_2$ ) produces the triplet ( $^3A_{2g}$ ) excited state  $\text{Pt}_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4-*}$  ( $\text{Pt}_2^*$ ) with unit efficiency.<sup>2,3</sup> This highly reactive, long-lived ( $\sim 10 \mu\text{s}$ ) state undergoes hydrogen and halogen atom transfer reactions with substrates, RX, to yield the radicals  $\text{Pt}_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{X}^{\alpha}$  ( $\text{Pt}_2\text{X}$ ) and  $\text{R}^{\bullet}$ , shown as follows:



The triplet state  $\text{Pt}_2^*$  and the radicals  $\text{Pt}_2\text{X}$  have been identified and characterized by transient absorption, resonance Raman, and infrared spectroscopies.<sup>2,3</sup> In addition, the bimolecular rate constants,  $k_q$ , for the hydrogen and halogen atom transfer reactions with various substrates RX have also been measured. The radicals  $\text{Pt}_2\text{X}$  are also long-lived ( $\geq 10 \mu\text{s}$ ) under the flash photolysis conditions and either disproportionate, atom-abtract from RX, or couple with  $\text{R}^{\bullet}$ .

The heats of these atom-transfer reaction reactions are determined by time-resolved photoacoustic calorimetry (PAC). PAC measures the volume changes of the system that result primarily from the thermal expansion of the solvent following photoexcitation.

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tation.<sup>6,7</sup> The amplitude and time evolution of these changes are determined by deconvolution of the experimental acoustic wave forms, as previously described,<sup>6</sup> and yield enthalpic and kinetic information.<sup>8</sup>

Irradiation of Pt<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>3</sub>OH results in a single heat deposition, which reflects the rapid formation of the triplet state Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup>, ΔH<sub>1</sub>. The triplet energy of Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> determined by PAC is 56.5 ± 1.6 kcal/mol, which is in good agreement with previous estimates of 57–58 kcal/mol.<sup>1,6a,9</sup> Irradiation of Pt<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>3</sub>OH with added substrate RX also results in a single heat deposition when 1/(k<sub>q</sub>[RX]) ≤ 10 ns. This deposition reflects both the formation of Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> and the subsequent atom-transfer reaction and yields the atom-transfer-reaction enthalpy from ground state Pt<sub>2</sub> (ΔH<sub>1</sub> + ΔH<sub>2</sub>). The difference in these values, ΔH<sub>2</sub>, is the atom-transfer-reaction enthalpy from the triplet state Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup>. The reaction enthalpies obtained by PAC are given in Table I and, importantly, assume that the radicals Pt<sub>2</sub>X and R<sup>\*</sup> are formed with unit efficiency.<sup>10</sup>

Alternatively, the heat deposition associated with the atom transfer from RX to Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup>, ΔH<sub>2</sub>, can be determined directly if the rate of heat deposition is time-resolved by PAC, i.e. 1/(k<sub>q</sub>[RX]) ≥ 10 ns. The lifetimes of Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup>, τ<sub>2</sub>, determined by PAC, in the presence of several substrates (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH (1.5 M), 660 ns; (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SnH (0.2 M), 350 ns; CCl<sub>4</sub> (3 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M), 305 ns) are in reasonable agreement with those calculated by using the substrate concentrations and literature k<sub>q</sub> values.<sup>2,3</sup> τ<sub>2</sub>(calc) = 1/k<sub>q</sub>[RX]. This suggests that the same reaction is being monitored by both flash photolysis and PAC.

The bond dissociation energies of Pt<sub>2</sub>X to yield ground-state Pt<sub>2</sub> and X<sup>\*</sup> radicals, D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X), are calculated (Table I) from the experimental (ΔH<sub>1</sub> + ΔH<sub>2</sub>) values, the known bond dissociation energies of RX, D<sub>0</sub>(RX),<sup>11</sup> and the relationship

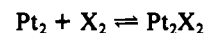
$$D_0(\text{Pt}_2\text{X}) = D_0(\text{RX}) - (\Delta H_1 + \Delta H_2)$$

The calculated D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) values are the consequence of two major

structural changes associated with the bond dissociation of Pt<sub>2</sub>X: the breaking of both the axial Pt–X bond and the Pt–Pt “single” bond, which is present in Pt<sub>2</sub>X but not in Pt<sub>2</sub>.<sup>1–3</sup> Assuming the Pt–Pt bond has a “negative” bond dissociation energy of 56.5 kcal/mol, i.e. the triplet energy of Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup>, the energetic consequences of breaking the axial Pt–X bond can be calculated by adding the triplet energy of Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> to the D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) values.<sup>13</sup> The bond dissociation energies for Pt<sub>2</sub>X to yield X<sup>\*</sup> and Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup>, with its intact Pt–Pt “single” bond, are 103, 106, 88.5, and 90.5 kcal/mol, for X = H, Cl, Br, and I, respectively.

The homolytic metal–hydrogen bond energies for a number of transition-metal hydrogen complexes are in the 50–75 kcal/mol range.<sup>14</sup> The M–H bond energies for the HMn(CO)<sub>5</sub>, HCo(CO)<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>W(Cp)<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>IrCl(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> complexes are reportedly 65, 57, 72.9 (mean), and 60 (mean) kcal/mol, respectively.<sup>14</sup> The D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>H) value, ~47 kcal/mol, is somewhat lower than for other complexes, but it also includes the “negative” bond dissociation energy of the Pt–Pt “single” bond, which is not the case for the other complexes. In this regard, the bond dissociation of Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> to Pt<sub>2</sub>H and H<sup>\*</sup>, D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub>), might serve as a better comparison in that both Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and Pt<sub>2</sub>H have Pt–Pt “single” bonds. Unfortunately, neither this bond dissociation energy nor the heat of hydrogenation of Pt<sub>2</sub> to Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> has been measured. However, indirect experiments suggest that bond dissociation of Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> is greater than 47 kcal/mol.<sup>15</sup>

It has been previously reported that Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> (X = Cl, Br, I) complexes are easily formed from dihalogen addition to Pt<sub>2</sub> and are quite thermally stable. In contrast, Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> appears to be significantly less stable. The D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) values may provide a thermodynamic explanation. Consider the dihalogen or dihydrogen addition reaction to Pt<sub>2</sub>



Assuming that D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) = D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub>), then the above reaction enthalpy, ΔH<sub>r</sub>, is given by

$$\Delta H_r = 2(D_0(\text{Pt}_2\text{X})) - D_0(\text{X}_2)$$

where D<sub>0</sub>(X<sub>2</sub>) is the bond dissociation energy of the dihalogen or dihydrogen.<sup>16</sup> The calculated ΔH<sub>r</sub> values are 10, –41, –15, and –32 kcal/mol for X = H, Cl, Br, and I. Although the absolute magnitude of these values depends on D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub>),<sup>16</sup> the incremental difference between D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) and D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub>) should be essentially

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- (8) In fact, the volume changes result from both the thermal expansion of the solvent and photochemical reaction volume changes.<sup>6</sup> These two contributions can be separated and analyzed to yield both reaction enthalpy and volume information. In these studies, the contribution from photochemical reaction volume changes is considered to be negligible for two reasons: (1) the thermal expansion coefficient of CH<sub>3</sub>OH is significant such that this volume contribution should dominate over that from reaction volume changes, and (2) previous work has shown that the formation of Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> has only a small reaction volume change, and the volume changes of the subsequent atom abstraction reactions should also be small.<sup>6a,22</sup>
- (9) Heuer, W. B.; Totten, M. D.; Rodman, G. S.; Hebert, E. J.; Tracy, H. J.; Nagle, J. K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 1163.
- (10) (a) The PAC-determined reaction enthalpies for atom abstraction by Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> assume a quantum yield of unity for the production of the radicals, Φ<sub>r</sub> = 1. If Φ<sub>r</sub> < 1, then other decay pathways of Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> need be considered in the reaction enthalpy calculations. (b) The subsequent reactions of the radicals Pt<sub>2</sub>X and R<sup>\*</sup> (atom abstraction, disproportionation, and coupling) are not detected because they occur on a time scale that is slower than the response time of the calorimeter, ~5 μs.<sup>13</sup> (c) A possible excited-state decay pathway is electron transfer from Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> to RX and subsequent rapid back electron transfer within the ion-pair complex, i.e. nonradiative decay. This pathway is reasonable for the more easily reduced substrates, in particular iodobenzene. In this situation, ΔH<sub>1</sub> + ΔH<sub>2</sub> = (1 – α)E<sub>00</sub>/Φ<sub>r</sub>, so if Φ<sub>r</sub> < 1, ΔH<sub>1</sub> + ΔH<sub>2</sub> will be greater than the listed value and the calculated bond strength reduced.
- (11) (a) McMillen, D. F.; Golden, D. M. *Annu. Rev. Phys. Chem.* **1982**, *33*, 493. (b) Nicholas, A. M. d. P.; Arnold, D. R. *Can. J. Chem.* **1984**, *62*, 1850. (c) Jackson, R. A. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1979**, *166*, 17.
- (12) In the iodine abstraction from iodobenzene (0.0625 M) by Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> in CH<sub>3</sub>OH, a slower additional reaction, ΔH = –20.4 kcal/mol, was observed, τ = 330 ns. This reaction may involve the α-hydrogen atom abstraction from CH<sub>3</sub>OH by the highly reactive phenyl radical. This reaction is calculated to be exothermic by 17 kcal/mol<sup>11</sup> and estimated to occur with τ ≥ 30 ns, which is based on a hydrogen abstraction rate constant, which presumably is lower than that for (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHOH, 1.4 × 10<sup>6</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>23</sup>

- (13) Clearly, the assumption of a “negative” bond dissociation energy of 56.5 kcal/mol is questionable and probably an overestimate. In fact, a better estimate may be the difference between D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) and D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub>), which assumes the two axial Pt–X bond strengths are equal. However, neither the heats of hydrogenation or halogenation of Pt<sub>2</sub> to Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> nor the D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) values are currently available. The “negative” bond dissociation energy of 56.5 kcal/mol is used because it provides a simple enthalpic comparison of the Pt–X bond formed to R–X bond being broken, which has obvious kinetic consequences.

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- (15) The Pt–H bond dissociation energy of Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and consequently the mean bond dissociation energy of Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> are probably significantly larger than 47 kcal/mol, as indicated below. Flash photolysis studies have shown that Pt<sub>2</sub>H radicals rapidly disproportionate to yield Pt and Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>,<sup>3a</sup> which indicates ΔH ≥ 0 for (2), assuming ΔS is negligible. However,



the Pt–H bond dissociation of Pt<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> is probably significantly less than that observed for Pt<sub>2</sub>H to give Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup> and H<sup>\*</sup>, 103 kcal/mol. Flash photolysis studies indicate that Pt<sub>2</sub><sup>\*</sup>, not Pt<sub>2</sub>H, readily abstracts hydrogen atoms from donors such as isopropyl alcohol.<sup>3b</sup> However, Pt<sub>2</sub>H does apparently abstract hydrogen atoms from (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SnH at an appreciable rate,<sup>2c</sup> which suggests that the Pt–H bond strength may be greater than or similar to that of (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Sn–H, ~74 kcal/mol.<sup>11c</sup>

(16) D<sub>0</sub>(X<sub>2</sub>) = 104, 58, 49.3, 36.5 for X = H, Cl, Br, I. (a) *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*, 53rd ed.; Weast, R. C., Ed.; CRC Press: Cleveland, OH, 1972. (b) Presumably, D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X) ≤ D<sub>0</sub>(Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub>), with the difference being the Pt–Pt “single” bond strength. Consequently, the heats of halogenation or hydrogenation of Pt<sub>2</sub> to Pt<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> will probably be more exothermic than indicated.

independent of X. Consequently, the relative differences between the  $\Delta H_f$  values should be meaningful and clearly indicate that the dihalogen adducts should be thermodynamically more stable than the dihydrogen adduct.<sup>17</sup>

Structural data for  $Pt_2X$ , as well as for  $Pt_2X_2$  species, indicate that both the Pt-Pt and the Pt-X bond lengths increase in the order  $Cl < Br < I$ .<sup>18</sup> Resonance Raman spectral measurements on  $Pt_2X$  ( $\sigma^2\sigma^*1$ ) and  $Pt_2X_2$  ( $\sigma^2$ ) indicate a decrease in the Pt-Pt and Pt-X vibrational frequencies in the order  $Cl > Br > I$ ,<sup>18</sup> a trend ascribed to differences in electron donation from the axial ligand X<sup>-</sup> in  $Pt_2X$  (or  $Pt_2X_2$ ) into the Pt-Pt  $d\sigma^*$  orbital. These results suggest that  $D_0(Pt_2X)$  should decrease in the order  $Cl > Br > I$ . The experimental PAC results indicate a similar ordering for  $D_0(Pt_2X)$ ,  $Cl > Br \sim I$ . The similar calculated bond dissociation energies of  $Pt_2Br$  and  $Pt_2I$  are somewhat unexpected but perhaps can be explained by competing excited-state processes of  $Pt_2^*$ .<sup>10</sup>

The  $Pt_2^*$  excited triplet state is one of the most reactive metal-centered radicals toward atom-transfer reactions.<sup>1</sup> The reactions of  $Pt_2^*$  are highly exothermic ( $\Delta H_2$ , Table I), in part because of the extremely strong Pt-X bonds that are formed by  $Pt_2^*$ , as indicated earlier. Although factors other than reaction exothermicity are important in determining the absolute rates of atom abstraction, several observations can perhaps be made.

First,  $Pt_2^*$ , with its  $d\sigma^*$  electron, is electronically similar to alkyl, hydroxyl, or other metal-centered radicals such as  $Mn(CO)_5$ . However, the reactivities of these species toward atom abstraction can be quite different. These differences can potentially be related to reaction enthalpy or bond strength differences. For example, whereas the rates of hydrogen atom abstraction by  $Pt_2^*$ , *t*-BuO<sup>•</sup> radical, and also  $n\pi^*$  excited states of ketones are similar, those of other metal-centered radicals are somewhat slower.<sup>1b,19</sup> As indicated earlier, these metal-hydrogen bonds are considerably weaker than the Pt-H and RO-H hydrogen bonds,  $\sim 103$  kcal/mol.<sup>11,14,20</sup> The significantly faster rate of Cl abstraction from  $CCl_4$  by  $Pt_2^*$ ,  $2 \times 10^9$  M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>2b</sup> than by  $CH_3^*$ ,  $\sim 10^3$  M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>21</sup> is possibly related to the difference between the Pt-Cl and the C-Cl bond strengths, 106 and 84.6 kcal/mol, respectively.

Second, halogen atom abstraction is apparently faster than hydrogen atom abstraction for a given reaction exothermicity. For example, iodine abstraction from  $C_6H_5I$  occurs significantly faster than hydrogen abstraction from  $C_6H_5CH_2OH$ , although both have similar  $\Delta H_2$  values. The faster rates for halogen abstraction may possibly indicate some charge-transfer character in the transition state.

Third, the rate constants for quenching of  $Pt_2^*$  by aryl halides (ArX) in methanol are in the order  $I > Br > Cl$ .<sup>2b</sup> Although this trend may follow ArX bond strengths as previously suggested, it apparently does not simply follow the reaction exothermicities. The  $\Delta H_2$  values for the reaction of  $Pt_2^*$  with chloro-, bromo-, and iodobenzene are -10.6, -9.0, and -25.1 kcal/mol, on the basis of the appropriate  $D_0(Pt_2X)$  values and the  $D_0(RX)$  values of the aryl halides, 95.5 (Cl), 80.6 (Br), and 65.4 (I) kcal/mol.<sup>11</sup>

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- (17) Alternatively, the instability of  $Pt_2H_2$  relative to  $Pt_2X_2$  may rather be kinetic in nature. In fact, the hydrogen and halogen adducts may decompose by quite different mechanistic pathways.
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### Electrochemical Reduction of Dioxygen in Room-Temperature Imidazolium Chloride-Aluminum Chloride Molten Salts

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#### Introduction

We report here the voltammetric behavior of dioxygen in a basic, room-temperature chloroaluminate molten salt, 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium chloride (ImCl) mixed with  $AlCl_3$ . Melts composed of mixtures of ImCl and  $AlCl_3$  are basic, neutral, or acidic, depending on whether the mole ratio,  $AlCl_3:ImCl$ , is less than, equal to, or greater than 1, respectively. These melts and the closely related 1-*n*-butylpyridinium chloride- $AlCl_3$  systems have found wide application in studies of the electrochemistry of organic and inorganic species.<sup>1-3</sup> The electrochemistry of  $O_2$  reduction has been the subject of numerous studies in aqueous, nonaqueous, and high-temperature molten salt systems. These have been reviewed in detail by Hoare.<sup>4</sup> To our knowledge, this is the first report of the electrochemistry of  $O_2$  in room-temperature melts.

#### Experimental Section

ImCl was prepared by a modification of a previously reported procedure.<sup>5</sup>  $AlCl_3$  (Fluka) was purified by sublimation. Anhydrous  $FeCl_2$  (Alfa Products) was used as received. Melts were prepared by mixing appropriate quantities of ImCl and  $AlCl_3$ . All manipulations (e.g., preparation of melts, assembling of electrochemical cells) were performed inside a Vacuum Atmospheres Co. drybox, under an atmosphere of purified He.

All electrochemical experiments were performed outside of the drybox, in a gastight, single-compartment cell. The volume of melt used for electrochemical measurements was typically 20 mL.  $O_2$  and Ar were passed through a drying column composed of molecular sieves and Drierite, before entering the cell. Gases were introduced into the melt via a gas dispersion tube immersed in the melt and were continuously passed over the melt during measurements.

The working electrodes were glassy carbon (geometric area = 0.071 cm<sup>2</sup>) and Pt (geometric area = 0.025 cm<sup>2</sup>) disks, obtained from Bioanalytical Systems. The electrodes were polished with 0.25- $\mu$ m diamond paste (Buehler, Ltd.) on a Nylon buffing pad and were cleaned ultrasonically in 95% ethanol prior to use. The counter electrode was a Pt wire. All potentials were measured with respect to an Al wire immersed in 1.5:1 (mole ratio of  $AlCl_3:ImCl$ ) melt, denoted Al/Al(III). The reference electrode was separated from the working solution by a Vycor frit. All measurements were conducted at the ambient temperature of the laboratory (25  $\pm$  1 °C).

A Princeton Applied Research Model 273 potentiostat controlled by a Digital Equipment Corp. Model PDP-8/e computer was used in all experiments.

#### Results and Discussion

A typical cyclic staircase voltammogram (CSV), at a glassy-carbon disk electrode, of an  $O_2$ -saturated 0.95:1 melt is shown in Figure 1A. Saturation of the melt, as indicated by the constancy of the cathodic peak height ( $i_{pc}$ ) of the reduction wave with time, required ca. 30 min of vigorous bubbling with dry  $O_2$ .  $O_2$  is reduced in a single voltammetric wave with cathodic peak potential  $E_{pc} = -0.7$  V vs Al/Al(III). No other redox processes are observed within the electrochemical window of the 0.95:1 melt (+1.0 to -1.8 V). The reduction wave could be eliminated by purging with dry Ar (Figure 1B). No reverse current was observed, following reduction, for sweep rates,  $v$ ,  $5 \leq v \leq 200$  mV/s. The peak current was a linear function of  $v^{1/2}$  but with a positive

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