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Gas-Phase Reactions of Co^+ and $\text{Co}(\text{ligand})_n^+$ with Nitroalkanes

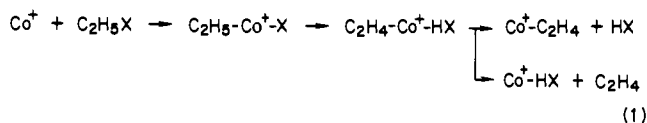
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Abstract: The gas-phase chemistry of Co^+ and ions of the type $\text{Co}(\text{ligand})_n^+$ with a series of nitroalkanes is presented. Also, for comparison, reactions of methyl nitrite and 1-butyl nitrite are included. The Co^+ ion reacts with nitroalkanes by inserting into C-H, C-C, C-N, and N-O bonds. Many nitroalkane products can be best explained via a "nitrite-like" intermediate—possibly indicating a metal-induced nitro-to-nitrite isomerization. Collision-induced dissociation analysis of (i) primary reaction products and (ii) products of subsequent reactions is used to suggest product ion structures. With ligands present on the metal, dramatic changes of reactivity are observed. While nitroalkanes react by simple ligand displacement with $\text{Co}(\text{ligand})_n^+$ typical of monofunctional alkanes, alkyl nitrites exhibit a much richer chemistry, more typical of multifunctional organic molecules.

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the study of the gas-phase reactions of atomic metal and metal-containing ions with organic molecules. Studies of these reactions using ion cyclotron resonance (ICR) spectrometry¹ and ion beam techniques² yield information on the activation of bonds in organic molecules by metal ions in the absence of complicating solvent effects. Thermodynamic, kinetic, and mechanistic information concerning the intrinsic organometallic and coordination chemistry of metal ions can be obtained from these studies. Also, the specific chemistry of metal ions with organic molecules is the basis for a new approach to chemical ionization mass spectrometry.^{3,4}

An important area of interest has been the study of the interaction of metal ions with organic molecules containing specific functional groups. In addition to studies of the reactions of a variety of metal ions with alkanes,^{2,5} the reactions of transition-metal ions with organic species such as alkyl halides,^{1b,6} alkenes,^{1c,7} alcohols,⁶ amines,³ aldehydes,^{3,9,10} ketones,^{3,9,10} carboxylic acids,^{3,10} esters,^{3,10} ethers,^{9,10} sulfides,^{11,12} and mercaptans¹² have also been studied. As an example of the types of reactions that have been observed, the reactions of Co^+ with several $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{X}$ species are given in Table I. With the exception of ethylamine, the major reaction pathway for all of these compounds involves insertion of the metal ion into the relatively weak C-X bond as the first mechanistic step. A β -H shift from the alkyl ligand may then occur, forming $\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)(\text{HX})^+$ which then dissociates by competitive ligand loss as seen in reaction 1. For the reactions of



Co^+ with complex functional groups, such as carboxylic acids,

Table I. Listing of the Neutrals and Ions Resulting from the Reactions of Co^+ with Various Monosubstituted Ethanes

$\text{Co}^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{X} \rightarrow \text{A}^+ + \text{neutral}$				
X	A ⁺	neutral	rel %	ref
H	no reaction			5d
CH ₃	CoC_2H_4^+	CH ₄	31	5d
	CoC_3H_6^+	H ₂	69	
I	CoC_2H_4^+	HI	78	6
	CoI^+	C ₂ H ₅	11	
	CoHI^+	C ₂ H ₄	11	
OH	CoH_2O^+	C ₂ H ₄	13	6
	CoC_2H_4^+	H ₂ O	87	
SH	CoC_2H_4^+	H ₂ S	70	12
	CoSH^+	C ₂ H ₅	7	
	CoH_2S^+	C ₂ H ₄	23	
NH ₂	$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_5\text{N}^+$	H ₂	15	8
	CoCH_3N^+	CH ₄	26	
	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{N}^+$	CoH	59	
$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{CCH}_3 \end{array}$	CoCO^+	C ₃ H ₈	8	10
	CoC_2H_4^+	C ₂ H ₄ O	24	
	$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}^+$	C ₂ H ₄	52	
	$\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_4\text{O}^+$	CH ₄	11	
	$\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_6\text{O}^+$	H ₂	5	
$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{COH} \end{array}$	CoH_2O^+	C ₃ H ₄ O	36	10
	CoC_2H_4^+	CH ₂ O ₂	37	
	$\text{CoCH}_2\text{O}_2^+$	C ₂ H ₄	5	
	$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}^+$	H ₂ O	21	
	$\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_4\text{O}_2^+$	H ₂	1	
$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{OCH} \end{array}$	CoC_2H_4^+	CH ₂ O ₂	36	10
	$\text{CoCH}_2\text{O}_2^+$	C ₂ H ₄	64	

insertion into the C-X bond is still a major reaction pathway, but some cleavage of bonds within the functional group also occurs.³

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Table II. Listing of Neutrals and Ions Resulting from the Primary Reactions of Co^+ with Nitromethane and Methyl Nitrite

$\text{Co}^+ + \text{reactant} \rightarrow \text{CoR}^+ + \text{neutral(s)}$					
CoR^+	neutral(s)	rel %	CH_3NO_2	CH_3ONO	
			intermediate structure	rel %	intermediate structure
CoHNO_2^+	CH_2	2	I	0	
CoH^+	CH_2ONO	2	III, E	15	C, E
CoO^+	$\text{HCN}, \text{H}_2\text{O}$	17	IV, V	0	
CoOH^+	CH_2NO	21	IV, V	0	
Co(OH)_2^+	HCN	6	IV, V	0	
CoCH_2NO^+	OH	3	IV, V	0	
CoCHNO^+	H_2O	3	IV, V	0	
CoNO^+	CH_3O	2	E	5	E
CoOCH_3^+	NO	40	E	70	E
CoOCH_2^+	HNO	2	E	5	E
CoOCH^+	H_2, NO	2	E	5	E

Table III. Listing of Ions and Neutrals Resulting from the Primary Reactions of Co^+ with Nitroethane

$\text{Co}^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CoR}^+ + \text{neutral(s)}$			
CoR^+	neutral(s)	intermediate structure	rel %
CoHNO_2^+	C_2H_4	I	12
CoC_2H_4^+	HNO_2	I	3
CoC_2H_3^+	H_2, NO_2	I, III	14
CoCH_3^+	CH_2NO_2	II	5
$\text{CoCH}_2\text{NO}_2^+$	CH_3	II	7
$\text{CoCH}_3\text{NO}_2^+$	CH_2	II	2
CoO^+	$\text{CH}_3\text{CN}, \text{H}_2\text{O}$	IV, V	2
CoOH^+	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}$	IV, V	20
Co(OH)_2^+	CH_3CN	IV, V	4
$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}^+$	OH	IV, V	5
$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_3\text{NO}^+$	H_2O	IV, V	4
CoNO^+	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}$	E	3
$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}^+$	NO	E	4
$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}^+$	HNO	E	10
$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$	H_2, NO	E	5

A logical extension of this area, which has been receiving recent interest, is the study of the effect of various ligands on metal ion reactivity. Although this work is still in its infancy, preliminary studies have shown that the presence of a ligand may lead to new reaction mechanisms as well as enhance or deactivate the bare metal ion.^{1a,4,8,13}

As a continuation of our work in this area, the results of a study of the reactions of Co^+ with some aliphatic nitro compounds are presented here. In addition, reactions involving CoL^+ generated

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Table IV. Listing of Neutrals and Ions Resulting from the Primary Reactions of Co^+ with Nitropropane

$\text{Co}^+ + \text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CoR}^+ + \text{neutral(s)}$					
$\text{Co}^+ + \text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{R}'^+ + \text{neutral(s)}$					
CoR^+ or R'^+	neutral(s)	intermediate structure	rel %		
			$\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{NO}_2$	$\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{NO}_2$	
C_3H_7^+	CoNO_2	I	12	17	
CoHNO_2^+	C_3H_6	I	21	16	
CoC_3H_6^+	HNO_2	I	4	3	
CoC_3H_5^+	H_2, NO_2	I, III	10	6	
CoCH_3^+	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_4, \text{NO}_2$	II	2	2	
$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+$	CH_3	II	8	8	
$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_3\text{NO}_2^+$	CH_2	II	2	3	
$\text{CoCH}_2\text{NO}_2^+$	C_2H_5	II	2	2	
$\text{CoCH}_3\text{NO}_2^+$	C_2H_4	II	1	2	
CoOH^+	$\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{NO}$	IV, V	15	18	
CoNO^+	$\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O}$	E	2	2	
$\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_7\text{O}^+$	NO	E	1	3	
$\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}^+$	HNO	E	6	7	
$\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}^+$	H_2, NO	E	14	11	

as primary products from the interaction of Co^+ with nitroalkanes as well as $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_x^+$ ($x = 0-2$) and $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_x\text{NO}^+$ ($x = 0-3$) generated by electron impact on $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3\text{NO}$ are presented.

Experimental Section

The experiments involving the bare metal ion, Co^+ , were carried out by using a prototype Nicolet FTMS-1000 which has been previously described in detail.¹⁴ The mass spectrometer is equipped with a 5.2-cm cubic trapping cell situated between the poles of a Varian 15-in. electromagnet maintained at 0.9 T. The cell has a 0.25-in.-diameter hole in one of the transmitter plates to allow various light sources access to the inside of the cell. Co^+ was generated by focusing the frequency-doubled beam (530 nm) of a Quanta Ray Nd:YAG laser onto a high-purity cobalt foil which was supported by the opposite transmitter plate. Details of the laser ionization experiment have been described elsewhere.^{5b,9} Laser ionization can produce ions in excited states, and while steps are taken to minimize their presence,¹⁵ the formation of minor products from excited Co^+ cannot be completely ruled out.

The distributions of primary product ions listed in Tables II-V are reproducible to within $\pm 10\%$ absolute for the major products and $\pm 5\%$ absolute for the minor products. Product distributions of subsequent reactions of the Co^+ primary reaction products were determined by using swept double resonance techniques¹⁶ to isolate the ions of interest.

The CID experiments were performed by using the FTMS. Sample pressures were on the order of 1×10^{-7} torr, and the argon target gas was on the order of 1×10^{-5} torr. Pressures were monitored with a Bayard-Alpert ionization gauge. Details of the CID experiments have been described previously.^{5c,4,14b} The collision energy can be varied

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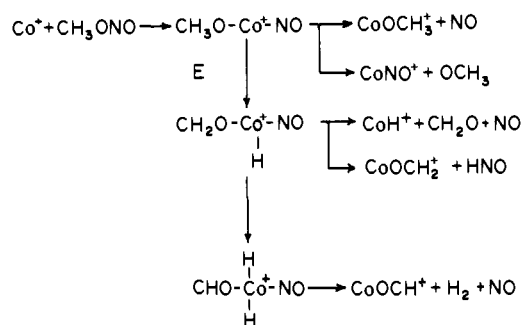
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Table V. Listing of the Neutrals and Ions Resulting from the Primary Reactions of Co⁺ with Nitrobutane and Butyl Nitrite
$$\text{Co}^+ + \text{C}_4\text{H}_9\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CoR}^+ + \text{neutral(s)}$$

$$\text{Co}^+ + \text{C}_4\text{H}_9\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{R}'^+ + \text{neutral(s)}$$

CoR ⁺ or R' ⁺	neutral(s)	intermediate (nitro)	rel %				
			1-C ₄ H ₉ NO ₂	2-C ₄ H ₉ NO ₂	(CH ₃) ₃ CNO ₂	intermediate (nitrite)	1-C ₄ H ₉ ONO
C ₄ H ₉ ⁺	CoNO ₂	I	38	30	79	A	2
CoHNO ₂ ⁺	C ₄ H ₈	I	9	13	2		0
CoC ₄ H ₈ ⁺	HNO ₂	I	1	3	1	A	1
CoC ₄ H ₇ ⁺	H ₂ , NO ₂	I, III	6	13	5		0
CoC ₄ H ₆ ⁺	H ₂ , HNO ₂	I	3	4	0	A	4
CoCH ₃ ⁺	C ₃ H ₆ NO ₂	II	0	0	2		0
CoC ₃ H ₆ NO ₂ ⁺	CH ₃	II	1	2	2		0
CoC ₂ H ₄ NO ₂ ⁺	C ₂ H ₅	II	3	5	1		0
CoC ₂ H ₅ NO ₂ ⁺	C ₂ H ₄	II	14	1	1		0
CoC ₂ H ₄ ⁺	C ₂ H ₅ NO ₂	II	2	0	0		0
CoCH ₂ NO ₂ ⁺	C ₃ H ₇	II	2	1	0	B	23
CoC ₃ H ₇ ⁺	CH ₂ NO ₂	II	2	2	0		0
CoC ₃ H ₅ ⁺	CH ₄ , NO ₂	II	2	1	0	B	6
CoOH ⁺	C ₄ H ₈ NO	IV, V	7	7	3		0
CoC ₄ H ₉ O ⁺	NO	E	1	3	1	E	2
CoC ₄ H ₈ O ⁺	HNO	E	2	4	1	E	7
CoC ₄ H ₇ O ⁺	H ₂ , NO	E	3	5	0	E	21
CoC ₄ H ₆ O ⁺	H ₂ , HNO	E	1	2	0	E	6
CoC ₄ H ₅ O ⁺	2H ₂ , NO	E	2	3	0	E	27
CoC ₃ H ₆ O ⁺	CH ₃ NO	E	1	1	2	E	1

Scheme I



typically between 0 and 100 eV. The spread in ion kinetic energies is dependent on the total average kinetic energy and is approximately 35% at 1 eV, 10% at 10 eV, and 5% at 30 eV.¹⁷

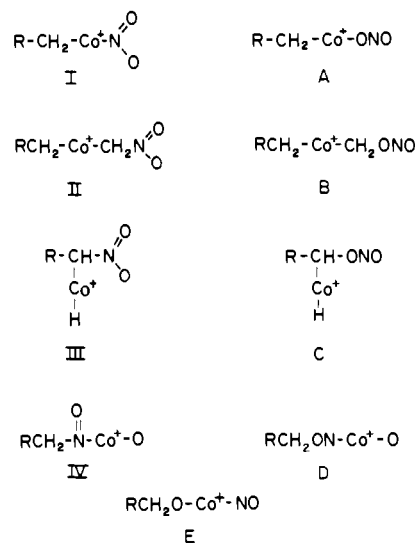
The studies of the reactions of cobalt-containing ions formed by electron impact on tricarbonylnitrosylcobalt(0) were performed on an ion cyclotron resonance spectrometer of conventional design which has previously been described in detail.⁸ Ion/molecule reactions and precursors were identified by using double resonance techniques. Reported data are results of product ions formed in a 1:1 mixture (by pressure) of Co(CO)₃NO to nitroalkane, at total pressures between 5 × 10⁻⁶ and 1 × 10⁻⁵ torr. Spectra were always taken to masses greater than 276 amu, since the sum of the mass of Co(CO)₃NO (173 amu) and the largest nitroalkane (C₄H₉NO₂, 103 amu) equals 276.

Methyl nitrite and methyl-*d*₃ nitrite were prepared according to the literature.¹⁸ All other chemicals were high-purity commercial samples which were used as supplied except for multiple freeze-pump-thaw cycles to remove noncondensable gases.

Results and Discussion

Primary Reactions. The primary products for the reactions of Co⁺ with nitroalkanes are listed in Tables II–V. As an aid in elucidating reaction mechanisms, the reactions of Co⁺ with methyl nitrite and 1-butyl nitrite were also studied, with their reaction products being given in Tables II and V, respectively. In the experiments with nitromethane and methyl nitrite, the empirical formulas of all the products were confirmed by using both deuterated and undeuterated reagents. For several products from the larger nitroalkanes, empirical formulas other than those listed

may also be possible for the products. On the basis of a consideration of all of the data, however, including (i) subsequent ion/molecule reactions of the primary products with the nitroalkanes, (ii) collision-induced dissociation results, (iii) the reactions of Co⁺ with other nitroalkanes, and (iv) the reactions of other metal ions with nitroalkanes,¹⁵ we believe the formulas listed are the most reasonable. Also listed in the tables is the probable structure of the reaction intermediate that leads to the formation of each product. Structure I results from Co⁺ insertion into the C–NO₂ bond. Structures II and III (which are possible inter-



mediates suggested by the observed reactions of Co⁺ with amines⁸) are products of metal insertion into the C–C and C–H bonds, respectively. Insertion of Co⁺ into the N–O bond, which has a bond strength¹⁹ of 75 kcal/mol, leads to intermediate IV. An analogous set of insertion isomers for Co⁺ with alkyl nitrites are also given (structures A–E). Throughout this paper, intermediates which follow from nitroalkanes will be labeled by I–V, and intermediates from alkyl nitrites will be labeled A–E.

As will be discussed below, some products from the reaction of nitroalkanes with Co⁺ can be most easily explained via intermediates A–E, suggesting that either a nitro-to-nitrite isomeri-

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zation occurs or, in some other mechanistic step, a "nitro intermediate" is converted to a "nitrite intermediate".

Nitromethane and Methyl Nitrite. From the data in Table II, two interesting points are evident about the reactions of Co^+ with nitromethane. First, in comparison with the reactions of Co^+ with other monosubstituted methanes, nitromethane chemistry is considerably richer, having a large number of products. Methane², methyl alcohol,⁶ and methylamine⁸ have been found to be unreactive with Co^+ , while methyl bromide,⁶ methyl chloride,⁶ and methyl mercaptan¹² each give only one to two products, in contrast to the reaction with nitromethane which yields three major products and seven minor products. Second, the products are not those that might be expected on the basis of C-N bond insertion, but appear to result primarily from insertion into the N-O bond.

In order to explain the reaction products, it is useful to compare the results for nitromethane with those for methyl nitrite. Both compounds are observed to yield the same major primary product, CoOCH_3^+ , as well as having four minor products in common.

There is one distinguishing feature of methyl nitrite chemistry that affects both its solution and gas-phase chemistry. This is a very weak $\text{CH}_3\text{O}-\text{NO}$ bond. With a bond-dissociation energy of 42 kcal/mol,²⁰ this bond is considerably weaker than the typical C-C bond (ca. 88 kcal/mol²¹), the C-H bond (ca. 97 kcal/mol²¹), the nitromethane C-N bond (61 kcal/mol²²), or the N-O bond (75 kcal/mol¹⁹). Thus, one would expect that the reactions of Co^+ with methyl nitrite would involve oxidative addition into the weak O-N bond, giving the insertion intermediate E. As shown in Scheme I, the formation of E followed by a β -H shift onto the metal can explain all of the products of the methyl nitrite reaction. Products resulting from the possible intermediates A and D are not observed, possibly due to the relatively strong bonds which would have to be broken. It is interesting that the NO group, which is a three-electron donor²³ and has been found to bond strongly to Co^+ in the gas phase,²⁴ is lost preferentially to the OCH_3 group. Since the initial insertion into the O-N bond leads to an NO group which donates only one electron, the lifetime of the intermediate may not be sufficient to allow rearrangement to the linear three-electron donor complex geometry. Of relevance is a study of Walton et al.²⁵ using secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) on $[\text{Cr}(\text{NO})(\text{CNCMe}_3)_5]\text{PF}_6$ and several other similar complexes. It was found that while initial fragmentation occurs via loss of isocyanide ligands, after the third isocyanide ligand is lost, the fourth ligand lost is exclusively NO. No ions corresponding to $\text{Cr}(\text{NO})(\text{CNCMe}_3)^+$ or $\text{Cr}(\text{NO})^+$ were observed. Their rationale for this observation was that while initial ligand loss from large ions is determined by relative bond strengths, in smaller ions the ability of a ligand to delocalize charge becomes an important factor in ligand loss. Other factors such as synergistic ligand effects and the ability of a ligand to carry away excess energy may also play a role in ligand loss.

In the reactions of Co^+ with nitromethane, products are observed due to intermediates predicted from both the nitro and nitrite functional groups. An intramolecular RNO_2 to RONO isomerization is observed in the electron impact (EI) mass spectra of many aromatic nitro compounds²⁶ and in a few aliphatic nitro compounds.²⁷ Such an isomerization can also occur thermally²⁸

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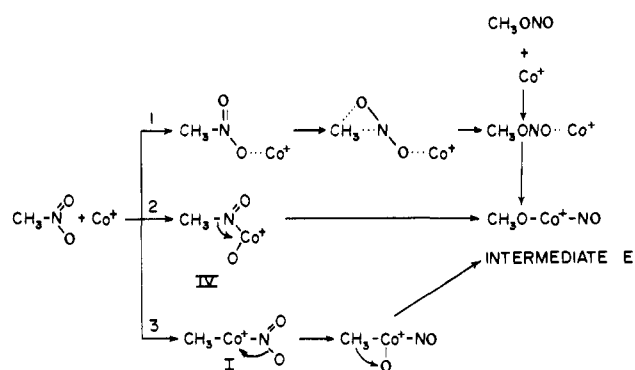
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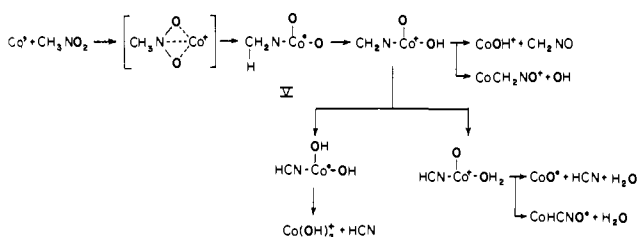
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(27) Nibbering, N. M. M.; deBoer, Th. J. *Org. Mass Spectrom.* **1970**, *3*, 487.

Scheme II

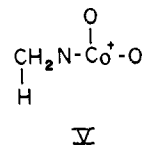


Scheme III



or photochemically.²⁹ However, EI-induced isomerizations arise due to charge/radical sites in the molecule, and thermal and photochemical isomerizations are believed to occur by an NO_2 dissociation from the alkyl group followed by a recombination. It seems likely in the case of Co^+ reacting with nitromethane that the metal assists in such a nitro-to-nitrite isomerization. Possible mechanisms for the nitro-to-nitrite conversion are presented in Scheme II. There are two general pathways in which this conversion may occur. The first involves the coordination of Co^+ to an oxygen while the molecule isomerizes (reaction 1 in Scheme II). Once the nitrite isomer is formed, Co^+ inserts into the O-N bond to give intermediate E. The other possibilities involve participation of the metal (reactions 2 and 3 in Scheme II) by initial N-O or C-N insertion. Note that the actual nitrite isomer is not formed in these mechanisms, but only the metal-insertion intermediate (E) typical of nitrites is formed.

Two major products, CoO^+ and CoOH^+ , and several minor products are seen in the nitromethane reactions which are not present in the methyl nitrite reactions. The most probable mechanism for the formation of these products, Scheme III, involves an intermediate with two oxygen atoms bound to the metal, intermediate V. One fact suggesting the formation of this



intermediate as opposed to a species with only one oxygen bound to the metal, intermediate IV, is that CoO^+ formation from IV would involve loss of CH_3NO . This process would be approximately 30 kcal/mol endothermic.³⁰ The formation of CoO^+ from V with loss of HCN and H_2O is 13 kcal/mol exothermic. Also, the formation of the minor product $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2^+$ (or $\text{Co}(\text{O})(\text{H}_2\text{O})^+$) indicates that, at some point, two oxygen atoms must be bound to the metal.

Collision-induced dissociation experiments were performed on the major primary reaction products of Co^+ with nitromethane. As expected, the products CoO^+ and CoOH^+ lost O and OH,

(28) Reference 20, Part I, pp 434-441 and references therein.

(29) Reference 20, Part I, pp 214-216 and references therein.

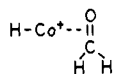
(30) Thermochemical information is taken from ref 20 and Rosenstock et al.: Rosenstock, H. M.; Draxl, K.; Steiner, B. W.; Herron, J. T. *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, Suppl.* **1977**, *1*, 6.

Table VI. Ions and Neutrals Formed in Subsequent Reactions of the Primary Products of the [Co⁺ + CH₃NO₂] Reaction (P = CH₃NO₂)

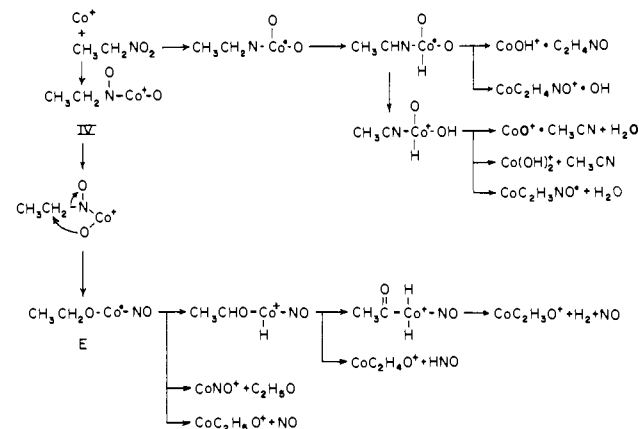
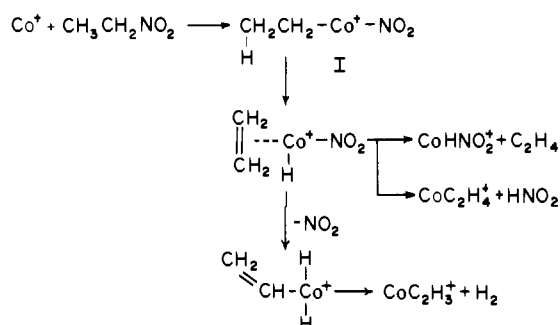
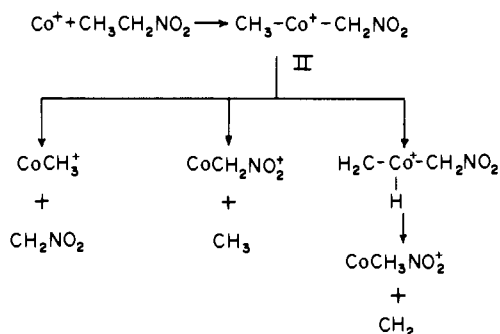
CoR ⁺ + CH ₃ NO ₂ → CoR' ⁺ + neutral				
CoR ⁺	CoR' ⁺	neutral	rel %	
CoO ⁺	Co(OH) ₂ ⁺	HCNO	40	
	Co(CH ₂ NO ₂) ⁺	OH	30	
	CoP ⁺	O	15	
	CoOP ⁺		15	
CoOH ⁺	Co(OH)(H ₂ O) ⁺	HCNO	10	
	Co(CH ₂ NO ₂) ⁺	H ₂ O	40	
	CoP ⁺	OH	20	
	CoHP ⁺	O	10	
	Co(OH)P ⁺		20	
CoOCH ⁺	<i>a</i>			
CoH ⁺	<i>a</i>			
CoNO ⁺	NR ^b			
CoOCH ₂ ⁺	CoP ⁺	CH ₂ O	100	
CoOCH ₃ ⁺	CoHP ⁺	CH ₂ O	100	
Co(OH) ₂ ⁺	CoOP ⁺	H ₂ O	75	
	Co(OH)P ⁺	OH	25	
CoCHNO ⁺	CoOP ⁺	HCN	100	
CoCH ₂ NO ⁺	Co(OH)P ⁺	HCN	100	
CoHNO ₂ ⁺	Co(OH)P ⁺	NO	100	
3rd Generation (Subsequent Reactions of Products Listed Above)				
Co(OH)(H ₂ O) ⁺	Co(OH)P ⁺	H ₂ O	100	
CoCH ₂ NO ₂ ⁺	Co(NO)P ⁺	CH ₂ O	100	
CoP ⁺	CoOP ⁺	CH ₃ NO	10	
	Co(OH)P ⁺	CH ₂ NO	70	
	CoHP ⁺	CH ₂ NO ₂	20	
CoHP ⁺	Co(OH)P ⁺	CH ₃ NO	100	
CoOP ⁺	Co(OH)P ⁺	CH ₂ NO ₂	70	
	Co(OCH ₂)P ⁺	HNO ₂	10	
	Co(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ⁺	OH	5	
	CoP ₂ ⁺	O	15	
Co(OH)P ⁺	Co(OCH ₃)P ⁺	HNO ₂	10	
	Co(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ⁺	H ₂ O	80	
	Co(OH)P ₂ ⁺		10	
4th Generation (Subsequent Reactions of 3rd Generation Reactions)				
Co(OCH ₂)P ⁺	<i>a</i>			
Co(OCH ₃)P ⁺	Co(OCH ₃)(CH ₂)P ⁺	HNO ₂	100	
Co(NO)P ⁺	Co(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ⁺	HNO	30	
	CoP ₂ ⁺	NO	30	
	Co(NO)P ₂ ⁺		40	
Co(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ⁺	Co(CH ₂)(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ⁺	HNO ₂	50	
	Co(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ₂ ⁺		50	
CoP ₂ ⁺	Co(CH ₂)P ₂ ⁺	HNO ₂	50	
	CoP ₃ ⁺		50	
Co(OH)P ₂ ⁺	Co(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ₂ ⁺	H ₂ O	100	
5th Generation (Subsequent Reactions of 4th Generation Reactions)				
Co(OCH ₃)(CH ₂)P ⁺	<i>a</i>			
Co(NO)P ₂ ⁺	<i>a</i>			
Co(CH ₂)(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ⁺	<i>a</i>			
Co(CH ₂)P ₂ ⁺	<i>a</i>			
Co(CH ₂ NO ₂)P ⁺	NR			
CoP ₃ ⁺	NR			

^a Further reactions of this ion could not be determined. ^b NR indicates that this ion did not undergo any further reactions within the time scale (10 s) of this experiment.

respectively, to form Co⁺ as the only CID product. CoOCH₃⁺ lost CH₂O to form CoH⁺ exclusively with high-CID efficiency. Deuterium exchange experiments to probe for metal hydride character, i.e., a structure such as



proved inconclusive. No deuterium exchange was observed. Lack of deuterium exchange yields no information since FeH⁺, an ion of obvious metal hydride character, does not undergo deuterium exchange. CoH⁺, however, undergoes deuterium exchange slowly, and NiH⁺ exchanges with deuterium readily.³¹ Although

Scheme IV**Scheme V****Scheme VI**







CoOCH₃⁺ does not react with D₂, NiOCH₃⁺, formed in the reaction of Ni⁺ with methyl nitrite, was found to undergo one deuterium exchange.¹⁵ This indicates that NiOCH₃⁺ has a hydride structure and most probably CoOCH₃⁺ has a similar structure based on the facile loss of CH₂O when activated, as well as the displacement of CH₂O when CoOCH₃⁺ reacts with CH₃NO₂ (Table VI) and other Lewis bases.

Nitroethane. For the reaction of Co⁺ with nitroethane (Table III), the majority (57%) of the primary products are analogous to those present in nitromethane (note that, as in the case of nitromethane, some products are best explained via the "nitrite-like" intermediate, E). Scheme IV suggests a mechanism for forming these products starting with intermediate IV.

Carbon-nitrogen bond insertion (intermediate I) is also an important process in the nitroethane reaction. In Scheme V, a mechanism is proposed that includes insertion of Co⁺ into the C-N bond followed by a β-H shift onto the metal. This mechanism could account for the formation of CoC₂H₄⁺ and CoHNO₂⁺, which are 15% of the total primary product intensity.

Carbon-carbon bond insertion (intermediate II) also appears to occur and results in 14% of the products, including CoCH₃⁺, CoCH₂NO₂⁺, and CoCH₃NO₂⁺. The proposed C-C bond in-

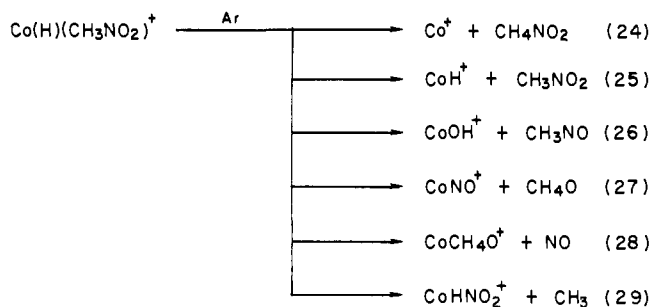
Table VII. Reaction Products of CoL_n^+ with Nitroalkanes and Alkyl Nitrites

reactant	P (parent)			
	CH_3NO_2	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NO}_2$		
CoCO^+	$\text{CoP}^+ + \text{CO}$	$\text{CoP}^+ + \text{CO}$	$\text{CoCOHNO}_2^+ + \text{C}_3\text{H}_6$ (0.10) $\text{CoCOC}_2\text{H}_5^+ + \text{H}_2 + \text{CH}_2\text{NO}_2$ (0.12) $\text{Co}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O})^+ + \text{NO} + \text{CO}$ (0.09) $\text{CoP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.69)	$\text{CoCOHNO}_2^+ + \text{C}_3\text{H}_6$ (0.25) $\text{CoHNO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{C}_3\text{H}_6$ (0.10) $\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_7\text{O}^+ + \text{NO} + \text{CO}$ (0.30) $\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CH}_3 + \text{CO}$ (0.15) $\text{CoP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.20)
$\text{Co}(\text{CO})_2^+$	$\text{CoCOP}^+ + \text{CO}$	$\text{CoCOP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.75) $\text{CoP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$ (0.25)	NR	NR
CoNO^+	NR	NR	NR	NR
CoCONO^+	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + \text{CO}$	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + \text{CO}$	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + \text{CO}$	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + \text{CO}$
$\text{Co}(\text{CO})_2\text{NO}^+$	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$ (0.66) $\text{CoCONOP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.34)	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$ (0.74) $\text{CoCONOP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.26)	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$	$\text{CoNOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$
$\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3\text{NO}^+$	$\text{CoCONOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$	$\text{CoCONOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$	$\text{CoCONOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$	$\text{CoCONOP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$
reactant	P (parent)			
				
CoCO^+	$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 + \text{CO}$ (0.18) $\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_3\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{CO}$ (0.35) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_9\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO}$ (0.05) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO} + \text{H}_2$ (0.03) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_5\text{O}^+ + \text{NO} + 2\text{H}_2 + \text{CO}$ and/or $\text{CoCOC}_3\text{H}_5^+ + \text{CH}_2\text{NO}_2 + \text{H}_2$ (0.04) $\text{CoP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.35)	$\text{CoCOC}_4\text{H}_8^+ + \text{HNO}_2$ (0.04) $\text{CoHNO}_2^+ + \text{C}_4\text{H}_8 + \text{CO}$ (0.11) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_7^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO}_2 + \text{H}_2$ (0.07) $\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 + \text{CO}$ (0.16) $\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_3\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{CO}$ (0.12) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_9\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO}$ (0.12) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO} + \text{H}_2$ (0.05) $\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_6\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{CH}_3$ (0.18) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{HNO}$ (0.05) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{H}$ and/or $\text{CoCOC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ (0.05) $\text{CoP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.05)	$\text{CoHNO}_2^+ + \text{C}_4\text{H}_8 + \text{CO}$ (0.12) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_9\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO}$ (0.22) $\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_6\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{CH}_3$ (0.47) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{H}$ and/or $\text{CoCOC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ (0.19)	$\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 + \text{CO}$ (0.07) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_9\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO}$ (0.07) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO} + \text{H}_2$ (0.29) $\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_6\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{CH}_3$ (0.12) $\text{CoCH}_2\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ (0.20) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{HNO}$ (0.11) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{H}$ and/or $\text{CoCOC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ (0.06) $\text{CoCOC}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{H}$ (0.04) $\text{CoP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.04)
$\text{Co}(\text{CO})_2^+$	$\text{CoCOP}^+ + \text{CO}$	$\text{CoCOC}_4\text{H}_8^+ + \text{CO} + \text{HNO}_2$ (0.13) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_9\text{O}^+ + \text{NO} + 2\text{CO}$ (0.25) $\text{CoC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + 2\text{CO} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ (0.06) $\text{CoCOP}^+ + \text{CO}$ (0.56)	$\text{CoC}_3\text{H}_6\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CH}_3 + 2\text{CO}$ (0.75) $\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2^+ + 2\text{CO} + \text{H}$ and/or $\text{CoCOC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 + \text{CO}$ (0.25)	$\text{CoC}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2^+ + 2\text{CO} + \text{H}$ and/or $\text{CoCOC}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 + \text{CO}$ (0.13) $\text{CoCOC}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO} + \text{H}_2$ (0.11) $\text{CoCOC}_4\text{H}_9\text{O}^+ + \text{CO} + \text{NO}$ (0.53) $\text{CoCOC}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{CO} + \text{H}$ and/or $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{NO}_2^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ (0.18) $\text{CoP}^+ + 2\text{CO}$ (0.05)

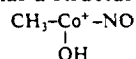
It is also interesting that the other major nitromethane products (CoO⁺ and CoOH⁺) do not react with nitromethane to form "nitrite-like" rearrangement products. Other than reactions to form CoOP⁺ and CoOHP⁺ (P = CH₃NO₂), the only reactions of these ions involve either the gain of H₂O (loss of HCNO) or the loss of H₂O, OH, or O. These products could result from an initial insertion of CoOH⁺ and CoO⁺ into the N–O bond of nitromethane. Again, the loss of radicals, as opposed to stable neutral molecules, is observed in many of the subsequent reactions of the primary products.

Many of the subsequent reactions involve formal extraction of O, OH, or H₂O from nitromethane. Even the CoHP⁺ ion (P = CH₃NO₂) formed from reaction 23 rapidly reacts with nitromethane to form Co(OH)P⁺. The ion Co(OH)P⁺ also comes from several other sources and dominates the mass spectrum after trapping times of about 1 s. This ion then reacts away slowly with the dominant process being the loss of H₂O. The loss of OH from all of the ions is less favorable than the loss of H₂O, while the loss of O is even more unfavorable than the loss of OH.

Collision-induced dissociation experiments were performed on the two major secondary reaction products of the nitromethane reactions, CoHP⁺ and Co(OH)P⁺. For CoHP⁺, reactions 24–29 were observed, with reaction 26 dominating at low energy and reaction 24 dominating at higher energies. Reactions 27–29 are

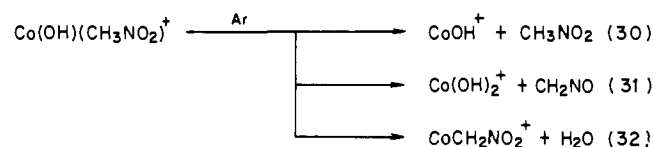


only minor pathways at all energies. Although these CID data do not confirm a structure for the ion, they do leave open the possibility that CoHP⁺ has a structure such as



This structure is also consistent with the further reactions of the CoHP⁺ ion (Table VI), which imply the presence of an OH group in the ion.

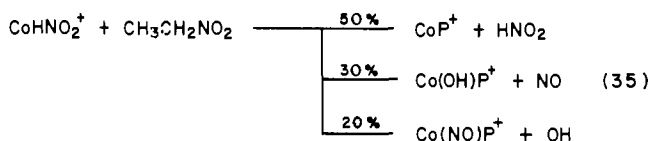
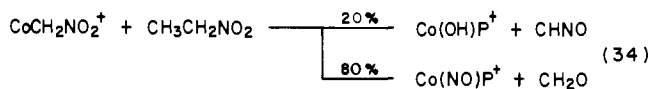
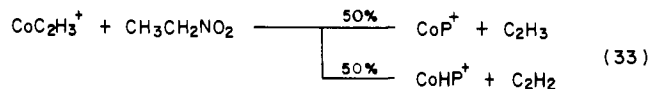
For the dissociation of the major secondary product, Co(OH)P⁺, three products were observed, as shown in reactions 30–32. By



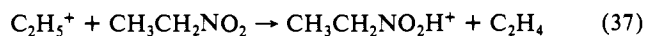
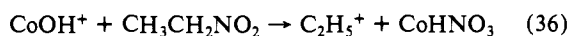
far the dominant product at all energies was CoOH⁺, and this is an indication of the strength of the Co⁺–OH bond.

The subsequent reactions observed with nitroethane parallel those discussed above for nitromethane (with the exception of CoOH⁺, discussed below). The ion Co(OH)P⁺ (P = CH₃CH₂NO₂) is still dominant at trapping times around 1 s. Other major ions are CoP⁺, Co(NO)P⁺, Co(C₂H₄NO₂)P⁺, CoP₂⁺, Co(OH)P₂⁺, and Co(NO)P₂⁺. At trapping times of 5 s and longer Co(C₂H₄NO₂)P₂⁺ and CoP₃⁺ are essentially the only ions present. The reactions of the ions CoC₂H₃⁺ and CoCH₂NO₂⁺, which do not have analogues in the nitromethane reactions, are given in (33) and (34). Reaction 35 gives the subsequent reactions of CoHNO₂⁺ which is only a minor product in the nitromethane reactions.

For the CoOH⁺ ions formed from nitroethane and the large nitroalkanes, only approximately 20% of the secondary reaction products can be obtained from N–O insertion similar to that observed for the reaction of CoOH⁺ with nitromethane. Instead, the major reaction pathway for the reaction of CoOH⁺ with larger



nitroalkanes is the formation of alkyl ions, apparently the result of insertion into the C–N bond. These ions then react rapidly with the nitroalkane to form protonated nitroalkane ions, as shown in reactions 36 and 37. In reaction 36, the neutrals formed are



not Co and HNO₃ since this reaction would be 93 kcal/mol endothermic.³⁵ Due to the lack of heat of formation values, no other thermodynamic calculations could be made regarding other possible neutral loss products. The ion CoCH₃⁺ is also observed to react with larger nitroalkanes to form primarily alkyl ions, while several other ions do so to a limited extent.

Collision-induced dissociation experiments were carried out on CoP⁺ and Co(OH)P⁺ (P = nitroethane). For the CID of CoP⁺, the two major products were CoOH⁺ and Co⁺, while CoC₂H₃⁺, CoNO⁺, CoHNO₂⁺, and CoC₂H₄O⁺ were minor products. This formation of CoOH⁺ again indicates the strength of the Co⁺–OH bond. While the CID spectrum provides little definitive structural information, the fragments do resemble the primary reaction products of Co⁺ with nitroethane. CID spectra of Co(OH)P⁺ from nitroethane yield the major products Co(OH)₂⁺ and Co(OH)₂(NO)⁺ and the minor products Co⁺, CoNO⁺, Co(C₂H₃)(OH)⁺, CoCH₃⁺, CoOH⁺, CoHNO₂⁺, CoC₂H₅O⁺, CoC₂H₄NO₂⁺, and CoP⁺.

The further reactions of the primary products of the nitropropane and nitrobutane reactions with the neutral are again similar to those observed for nitromethane. The same major reaction channels occur. CID experiments on secondary ions from nitropropane gave an assortment of products similar to those in the nitroethane CID experiments.

Ligand Effects. Table VII lists the products observed for the reactions of the electron-impact fragments of Co(CO)₃NO with the series of nitroalkanes and 1-butyl nitrite. The results in Table VII can be evaluated in a number of ways to supply information concerning "ligand effects". These include (1) identification of changes in the chemistry of a metal center when *one* ligand is added (i.e., compare the chemistry of Co⁺ with CoL⁺), (2) identification of "vertical trends" in the table (i.e., mechanistic changes due to the *number* of ligands on the metal), and (3) identification of "horizontal trends" (i.e., changes in the chemistry related to increases in the alkyl chain length of the organic reactant).

General Trends

Small Nitroalkanes. The reactions observed for the C₁–C₃ nitroalkanes are typical for metal-containing ions, ML_n⁺, in their chemistry with monofunctional organic compounds in the following ways: (1) The bare metal ion reacts to form the largest variety of products.⁸ (2) The organic rearrangement processes observed for CoCO⁺ are similar to those observed for Co⁺.^{1a,4,8,13} (3) In direct contrast with the carbonyl ligand, an NO ligand *deactivates* the metal center.^{1a,4,8,13} (note that no products are observed for

(35) Calculated from thermochemical information obtained in ref 30 and 32.

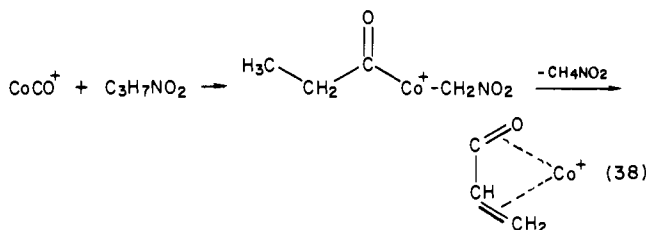
CoNO⁺ except with 1-butyl nitrite). (4) As the number of ligands present on the metal ion increases, ligand-substitution reactions predominate.⁸ In substitution processes, nitroalkanes displace two carbonyls from Co(CO)₃NO⁺, while 1-butyl nitrite displaces up to three carbonyls. The implication is that $D(\text{Co}^+-\text{RONO}) > D(\text{Co}^+-\text{RNO}_2)$.

Larger Nitroalkanes. In contrast to the smaller nitroalkanes, the larger nitroalkanes react with CoL_n⁺ not only by substitution but by bond cleavage processes. In this trend, butyl nitrite bond cleavages/rearrangements occur for all CoL_n⁺ ions, even Co(CO)_{2,3}NO⁺. Such reactivity is typically observed for multifunctional organic molecules.^{1a,13,14}

Also, a "horizontal trend" can be seen. As the length of the alkyl chain increases (C₁ → C₄), more reactions involving C-C insertions (intermediate II) are observed. Previous work suggests that the probability of reactions involving intermediate I should be greater for secondary and tertiary nitroalkanes than for primary nitroalkanes.^{2a} This is apparently the case as shown in Tables V and VII.

The reactions discussed in this work tend to involve intermediates in which two orbitals are required on the metal (e.g., reaction 21) or reactions which require three orbitals on the metal (e.g., reactions 1 and 22). It is no surprise that such reaction products disappear when ligands are added to the metal. Reactions requiring three metal orbitals occur for Co⁺, in some cases for CoCO⁺, and rarely for the other metal-containing species in Table VII. Reactions requiring two orbitals on the metal (as opposed to three orbitals) seem to dominate (in addition to substitution reactions) when the reactant metal center has two or more ligands present, as would be expected.

Nitropropanes. There are many similarities in the reactions observed for Co⁺ and CoCO⁺ with nitropropane, and some major differences as well. The products CoHNO₂⁺ (loss of C₃H₆ through intermediate I) and CoC₃H₇O⁺ are formed from both Co⁺ and CoCO⁺. Both Co⁺ and CoCO⁺ insert into C-C bonds; however, CoCO⁺ preferentially attacks the C₂H₅-CH₂NO₂ bond. Following this insertion, Co⁺ loses the C₂ fragment while CoCO⁺ retains the C₂ fragment. This may imply active participation in the reaction by the carbonyl group leading *not* to a type II intermediate but to the CoCO⁺ insertion intermediate shown in (38).⁸ There



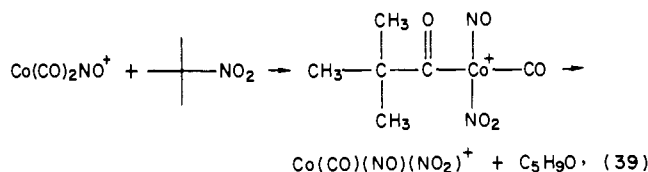
are a number of possible neutral losses, (CH₃NO₂ + H) or (CH₂NO₂ + H₂), which would generate the butadiene-like metal complex. Thus, one effect of the CO ligand appears to be an active involvement of the ligand in the reaction.⁸

In most cases, CO is not involved in the reaction directly but appears to be a "spectator" on the metal.^{13b} Even spectator ligands can influence product distributions, in cases where cleavage of the M⁺-CO bond competes with processes involving eliminations from the organic species. An example of this is seen in the case of 2-nitropropane. The Co⁺ ion reacts to form CoC₃H₇O⁺ by elimination of NO and H₂. This reaction also occurs for CoCO⁺; however, there appears to be two possible processes following NO elimination: loss of H₂ from C₃H₇O or loss of CO from the metal. In the case of CoCO⁺ with 2-nitropropane, the loss of NO followed by the loss of CO (to form CoC₃H₇O⁺) predominates; however, H₂ vs. CO eliminations frequently appear to be competitive processes.

Nitrobutanes. The outstanding feature in Table VII regarding the nitrobutanes is the "vertical trends"—i.e., changes in the chemistry of the metal center as the number of ligands on the metal increases, in particular for 2-nitrobutane and 2-methyl-2-nitropropane.

For 2-nitrobutane, the predominant reaction intermediate changes as the number of ligands increases. Co⁺ reacts through intermediates I, II, IV, and E. With one or two carbonyls present on the metal, reactions are observed via intermediates analogous to I, II, and E; CoCONO⁺ only induces organic bond cleavage through an intermediate analogous to II. Note that only *one* C-C bond is attacked by CoCONO⁺. This may correspond to attack of the weakest bond (since in the corresponding alkane, isopentane, the weakest C-C bond³⁶ is the C₂H₅-C₃H₇ bond). Presumably, there are not a sufficient number of orbitals available on the metal following C-C insertion of CoCONO⁺ to assist in a β-H shift; thus, C₂H₅· is lost. Similar studies with amines show analogous results.⁸

The 2-methyl-2-nitropropane reactions also show a variety of interesting changes as the number of ligands increases. Intermediate structures I, II, III, and E lead to the products observed for 2-methyl-2-nitropropane. Structures II and III predominate when more ligands are present on the metal (e.g., Co(CO)₂⁺). Insertion into the C-NO₂ bond (structure I) appears to be inhibited due to steric effects of the ligands present on the metal and the bulky 2-methyl-2-propyl group. Thus, the remaining options for the metal are insertion *only* into bonds such as C-C and C-H. The loss of H (from C-H insertion) is more prominent when the number of ligands present on the metal ion increases. The reaction of Co(CO)₂NO⁺ produces CoCONO(NO₂)⁺ with a loss of CO and C₄H₉. At first, one may predict a Co⁺ insertion into the C-N bond (structure I) as the intermediate. This intermediate is not possible for several reasons. The cobalt ion already has three ligands present, which does not leave enough empty metal orbitals for metal insertion to occur. If the insertion *did* occur, there are many β-H's available to shift and produce a strong HNO₂ ligand. No products, however, are observed resulting from a β-H shift. A possible intermediate structure leading to the product ion CoCONO(NO₂)⁺ is shown in the structure below.



The suggested intermediate corresponds to insertion of the CoCO⁺ group into the C-NO₂ bond of the nitroalkane. In this intermediate there are no H atoms which are on a carbon which is β to the metal that could shift to produce the HNO₂ ligand. Also, there are no empty orbitals on the metal to assist in any rearrangement of the molecule. Thus, the only product ion observed is CoCONO(NO₂)⁺ with the loss of C₄H₉CO as one ligand.

In summary, several typical ligand effects have been observed in reactions of nitroalkanes. Products which require three or more empty orbitals on the metal are seen to be repressed or disappear as the number of ligands on the metal increases. Reactions occurring at branched sites are favored over unbranched sites. Steric effects were observed with 2-methyl-2-nitropropane when ligands were added to the metal ion. Intermediates in which the ligands must be actively involved in the insertion are seen. Also, when a ligand is present on the metal, several options for reaction mechanisms (such as competition between loss of CO and H₂) are available.

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(36) Bond strengths in isopentane may be calculated from data obtained in Cox and Pilcher and McMillen and Golden: (a) Cox, J. D.; Pilcher, G. "Thermochemistry of Organic and Organometallic Compounds"; Academic Press: New York, 1970. (b) McMillen, D. F.; Golden, D. M. *Annu. Rev. Phys. Chem.* **1982**, *33*, 493.

(CHE-8023704) and the Dow Chemical Company Foundation for support of this work. Also, one of us (C.J.C.) thanks Phillips Petroleum for Fellowship Support.

Registry No. CH₃NO₂, 75-52-5; CH₃ONO, 624-91-9; C₂H₅NO₂, 79-

24-3; C₃H₇NO₂, 108-03-2; 1-C₄H₉NO₂, 627-05-4; 1-C₄H₉ONO, 544-16-1; 2-C₃H₇NO₂, 79-46-9; 2-C₄H₉NO₂, 600-24-8; 2-CH₃CCH₃NO₂CH₃, 594-70-7; Co⁺, 16610-75-6; CoCO⁺, 28963-35-1; Co(CO)₂⁺, 28963-34-0; CoNO⁺, 87616-10-2; CoCONO⁺, 61816-95-3; Co(CO)₂NO⁺, 61816-96-4; Co(CO)₃NO⁺, 52309-13-4.

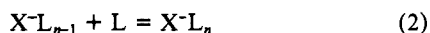
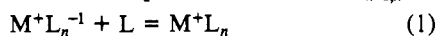
Ion-Solvent Molecule Interactions in the Gas Phase. The Potassium Ion and Me₂SO, DMA, DMF, and Acetone

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Abstract: Measurements of the gas-phase equilibria $K^+(L)_{n-1} + L = K^+(L)_n$ where K^+ is the potassium ion and L = dimethyl sulfoxide, *N,N*-dimethylacetamide, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, and acetone with a high-pressure mass spectrometer lead to the corresponding thermomechanical data $\Delta H^\circ_{n-1,n}$, $\Delta G^\circ_{n-1,n}$, and $\Delta S^\circ_{n-1,n}$. The observed stability order of the 1:1 complexes K^+L is the following: Me₂SO (25), DMA (24), DMF (23), MeOC₂H₄OMe (23), NH₂C₂H₄NH₂ (19), Me₂CO (19), MeCN (18), C₆H₅NH₂ (16), Et₂O (15), pyridine (15), Me₂O (13), Me₃N (13), MeNH₂ (13), C₆H₆ (12), NH₃ (12), H₂O (11), where the numbers give the value for $-\Delta G^\circ_{0,1}$ in kcal/mol. Ab initio (4-31G) calculations were performed for the complex K^+Me_2SO . These show that the bonding is largely electrostatic. The major contribution to this bonding is due to the large S-O bond dipole. K^+ lines up with the S-O bond (dipole) in the most stable structure. The higher solvation ($n-1, n$) steps for Me₂SO, DMA, and DMF are quite similar. These compounds form a much more strongly bonded inner shell with K^+ than H₂O; however, the solvation of the inner-shell cluster $K^+(L)_i$ in these solvents is much less favorable than that for $K^+(H_2O)_i$ in water. This compensating effect leads to only slightly higher single-ion solvation K^+ energies in Me₂SO, DMA, and DMF than in H₂O. The gas-phase equilibria measurements for DMA and DMF led to somewhat curved van't Hoff plots for the higher ($n-1, n$) equilibria. A theoretical analysis shows that this is probably due to unimolecular dissociation of the corresponding clusters in the vacuum of the mass analysis system. This effect reduces the accuracy of the data.

Measurements of the gas-phase equilibria 1 and 2 for $M^+ =$ alkali cations and $X^- =$ halide anions and the solvent molecules $L = H_2O$ and acetonitrile were reported earlier from this laboratory.¹⁻⁴ Measurements of the equilibrium constants $K_{n-1,n}$ for



(1) and (2) at different temperatures with a pulsed electron beam high pressure mass spectrometer lead via van't Hoff plots to the corresponding stepwise solvation energies $\Delta H^\circ_{n-1,n}$ and $\Delta G^\circ_{n-1,n}$. These data provide useful insights into the solvation of the above ions in liquid solutions of the solvents.

Dimethyl sulfoxide (Me₂SO), *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (DMA), *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), and acetone are important dipolar aprotic solvents much used in laboratory and industrial synthetic practice. The study of these solvents represents a natural extension of our previous work. The $\Delta G^\circ_{0,1}$ and the $\Delta H^\circ_{0,1}$ energies represent the binding energies in the 1:1 complexes between the ion K^+ and the ligand L . Comparison with data for various other ligands measured earlier^{5,6} establishes useful Lewis basicity orders in the absence of a solvent. In this respect DMA and DMF are particularly interesting since they contain elements of peptide-type bonding which is of interest in biophysical chemistry⁷ and design of ion-selective electrodes.⁸

The present paper deals only with the results for positive ions. The companion paper⁹ which gives results for the negative halide ions deals also with the relative solvation of positive and negative ions in protic and aprotic solvents and the synthetic utility of dipolar aprotic solvents for reactions involving negative ions.

Experimental Section

Apparatus. The apparatus was essentially the same as that used earlier.³ The potassium ions were produced by thermionic emission from a filament painted with potassium salt. The filament is inside the ion source which contains gas, generally in the 0.5-3-torr range. The gas may be the neat solvent vapor or a mixture of a major, buffer gas (CH₄) containing a small fraction of the solvent vapor. The ions drift under the influence of electric fields into the field-free reaction chamber. At the bottom of the reaction chamber there is a narrow slit $\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$ by 1 mm through which gas and ions escape into the evacuated mass analysis region. The ions are separated with a magnetic field and detected with an ion-counting system.

Results and Effects due to Unimolecular Decomposition of Ions. Equilibrium constants were determined from expression 3 where I_n are the detected counts/time of ions, K^+L_n , and P_L is the known partial pressure of the solvent vapor. The equilibrium constants were measured

$$K_{n-1,n} = \frac{I_n}{I_{n-1}} P_L \quad (3)$$

at different constant temperatures. For any given temperature, measurements at different ligand pressures were performed. Typically the pressure ratio of CH₄-to-ligand vapor was equal to 10, and the pressure of the ligand was changed from 0.05 to 0.3 torr. At very low ligand concentrations the observed $K_{n-1,n}$ tended to decrease, particularly for low n cluster equilibria. In special experiments the K^+ supply to the reaction chamber was pulsed, so that the residence time of the ions could be determined. These experiments showed that the low-pressure falloff of the equilibrium constants was due to slow kinetics in the approach to equilibrium. Selecting only ions with long residence time one observed no falloff for $K_{n-1,n}$ at low P_L . Typical results for the pulsed and unpulsed experiments are given in Figure 1. A gradual falloff of K with an

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