

Some Molecular Hydrogen Complexes of Iridium

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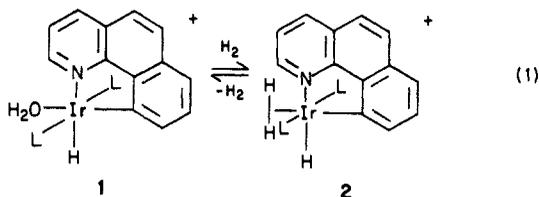
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Abstract: The new molecular hydrogen complexes $[\text{IrH}(\text{H}_2)(\text{bq})\text{L}_2]^+$ ($\text{bq} = 7,8\text{-benzoquinolate}$, $\text{L} = \text{PPh}_3$ or PCy_3) and $[\text{IrH}_2(\text{H}_2)_2(\text{PCy}_3)_2]^+$ are described. A ^1H NMR T_1 criterion is proposed for detecting such complexes. Deprotonation of the coordinated H_2 is described. The mechanism of hydrogenolysis of d^0 alkyls is discussed and a dihydrogen complex proposed as intermediate.

The purpose of this paper is to report several new examples and a new way of detecting molecular hydrogen complexes. We also discuss their structure, bonding, spectra, and relevance to hydrogen activation. The first recognized example of a stable, isolable dihydrogen complex, $[\text{W}(\text{H}_2)(\text{CO})_3(\text{PR}_3)_2]^+$,¹ together with its crystal structure by X-ray and neutron diffraction was reported in 1984. Photolysis of $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_6$ in an H_2 -containing matrix has been shown to give species such as $[\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2)(\text{CO})_5]^2$ which has even been shown to have a fleeting existence in alkane solution at ambient temperature. Our own complexes have also been reported in preliminary form.³ Morris et al.^{4a} have more recently characterized *trans*- $[\text{M}(\text{H}_2)\text{H}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2)_2]\text{BF}_4$ ($\text{M} = \text{Fe}$ or Ru), including an X-ray structure in the iron case ($\text{H}-\text{H} = 0.89$ Å). They observed exchange between the (H_2) and $\text{M}-\text{H}$ groups on the NMR time scale as we had also done.³ In all these cases, H_2 binds in the nonclassical undissociated $\text{M}(\text{H}_2)$ form rather than in the classical dissociated MH_2 form.^{4b} There is an analogy between these two binding modes for H_2 and the agostic ($\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{M}$) and cyclometalated ($\text{C}-\text{M}-\text{H}$)⁵ forms known in the case of $\text{C}-\text{H}$ binding to metal complexes.

Results and Discussion

We have previously described the cyclometalation of 7,8-benzoquinoline (bqH) in its reaction with $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})\text{L}_2]\text{SbF}_6$ ($\text{L} = \text{PPh}_3$) in moist CH_2Cl_2 at 0°C under H_2 to give the crystallographically characterized aquo complex **1**.⁶ We imagined that a precursor to **1** in this synthesis might be an Ir(V) trihydride $[\text{IrH}_3(\text{bq})\text{L}_2]^+$ which could lose H_2 and pick up H_2O . We therefore tried to obtain it by reaction of H_2 with **1**. H_2 does indeed rapidly replace the aquo ligand in **1**, but to our surprise, rather than the expected classical trihydride we obtained the dihydrogen hydride **2**.



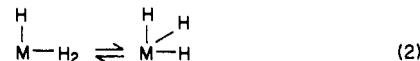
Passing N_2 through the solution rapidly reverses the equilibrium by entraining and removing the H_2 in equilibrium with the complex, and **2** reverts to the aquo complex **1**. On the other hand, chemically removing the water present by adding solid CaH_2 to the mixture shifts the equilibrium essentially completely over to the dihydrogen complex **2**. This complex is thermally stable under H_2 , and the binding-release cycle can be repeated apparently without limit in solution or in the solid state.

The identity of **2** was determined by ^1H NMR methods. The H ligands exchange at room temperature, and only an averaged resonance is observed. Below 260 K two separate resonances are visible. One, at $\delta -2.9$ and of intensity 2 is assigned to the coordinated H_2 molecule. The other at $\delta -15.3$ and of unit intensity

is assigned to the classical hydride. The value of its chemical shift, by analogy with previous work,⁷ suggests that this $\text{Ir}-\text{H}$ is *trans* to the nitrogen rather than the carbon of the cyclometalated bq ligand. The resonance at $\delta -15.2$ shows a normal *cis* coupling of 11.4 Hz to the two equivalent PPh_3 groups at 220 K. The $\text{Ir}(\text{H}_2)$ resonance shows no resolvable coupling but remains rather broad ($\omega_{1/2} = 160$ Hz) even at 180 K (broadening is also observed for $\text{W}(\text{H}_2)(\text{PCy}_3)_2(\text{CO})_3$). The width of the resonance does not arise from exchange with free H_2 at 180 K but from relaxation effects (see below).

In order to distinguish between the nonclassical dihydrogen hydride formulation $\text{M}(\text{H}_2)\text{H}$ and the classical trihydride structure MH_3 for **2**, we looked at the corresponding HD complex. In the range 187–220 K we were able to see reproducible and well-resolved $^1\text{J}(\text{H,D})$ coupling of 29.5 Hz in the form of a ca. 1:1:1 triplet in the ^1H NMR in the position we had previously identified with the dihydrogen resonance. This value is close to that reported by Kubas et al. for their HD complex (33.5 Hz). It is less than the value for free HD (43.2 Hz) but much larger than would be expected for a classical trihydride (1 Hz). Confirmatory evidence is discussed in a later section. No IR bands were observed that we could assign to the $\text{M}(\text{H}_2)$ unit. Even the terminal $\text{Ir}-\text{H}$ vibration is weak, so they may be too weak to be seen. Raman studies were precluded by the strong luminescence of the compound at all accessible wavelengths. We were unable to obtain crystals of **2** suitable for X-ray diffraction, perhaps because the H_2 dissociates at 25°C even in the solid state (see below).

Fluxionality of the $\text{MH}(\text{H}_2)$ Unit. At ambient temperature the $\text{Ir}(\text{H}_2)$ and IrH protons give a single resonance in the ^1H NMR. When the sample is cooled, the resonances for the IrH and $\text{Ir}(\text{H}_2)$ protons become clearly separate by 240 K; at 280 K we see coalescence. Several exchange mechanisms are possible, one is shown in eq 2. The H_2 could undergo classical "oxidative"



addition and the resulting iridium(V) trihydride, being seven-

(1) (a) Kubas, G. J.; Ryan, R. R.; Swanson, B. I.; Vergamini, P. J.; Wasserman, J. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 451–452. (b) Wasserman, H. J.; Kubas, G. J.; Ryan, R. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 2294–2301.

(2) Upmakis, R. R.; Gadd, G. E.; Poliakov, M.; Simpson, M. B.; Turner, J. J.; Wyman, R.; Simpson, A. F. *Chem. Commun.* **1985**, 27–30. Church, S. P.; Grevels, F.-W.; Herman, H.; Schaffner, K. *Chem. Commun.* **1985**, 30–32. Sweany, R. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1985**, *107*, 2374–2379.

(3) Crabtree, R. H.; Lavin, M. *Chem. Commun.* **1985**, 794–795, 1661–1662.

(4) (a) Morris, R. H.; Sawyer, J. F.; Shiralian, M.; Zubkowski, J. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1985**, *107*, 5581–5582. (b) Ashworth and Singleton^{4c} had suggested this possibility for $\text{RuH}_4(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ in 1976; we have recently confirmed their hypothesis from T_1 measurements.^{4d} (c) Ashworth, T. V.; Singleton, E. *Chem. Commun.* **1976**, 705. (d) Crabtree, R. H.; Hamilton, D. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, in press.

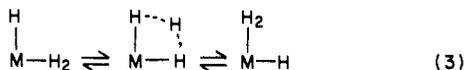
(5) (a) Brookhart, M.; Green, M. L. H. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1983**, *250*, 395–408. (b) We do not believe that nonclassical hydrides should be called "agostic" because this term is reserved for ligated $\text{C}-\text{H}$ bonds, and if extended to H_2 , there would be no clear reason not to extend it to all three-center, two-electron bonds such as $\text{M}-\text{H}-\text{M}$, $\text{M}-\text{H}-\text{B}$, etc.

(6) Crabtree, R. H.; Holt, E. M.; Lavin, M. *Inorg. Chem.*, in preparation. (7) Chatt, J. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1965**, 6789–6796, 7391–7405. Crabtree, R. H.; Demou, P. C.; Eden, D.; Mihelcic, J. M.; Parnell, C. A.; Quirk, J. M.; Morris, G. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *104*, 6994–7001.

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coordinate, then give rapid permutation of the hydrogens. In view of the acidic character of the H₂ ligand in this system (see below), proton transfer between the H₂ ligand and Ir-H group (eq 3) is also very reasonable. The intermediacy of a complex containing



a triangular H₃⁺ ligand cannot be excluded. Line-shape analysis of the spectra has not allowed us to distinguish between the possible mechanisms because of the presence of large contributions to the line width that do not arise from fluxionality (see below), but the exchange rate is ca. 350–500 s⁻¹ at 260 K.

Structures of the M(H₂) Unit. We studied the ¹H NMR spectrum of the HD complex of type **2** at 180–220 K, where both high-field resonances can be clearly seen. The chemical shift for the HD ligand did not vary significantly with temperature nor was the position significantly different from that observed for the H₂ complex. This observation provides strong evidence that the H₂ ligand is bound in a symmetrically side-on structure, rather than asymmetrically (e.g., end-on). Isotopic perturbation of resonance,⁸ usually amounting to 0.1–1 ppm, would be observed in an HD complex if the proton were rapidly exchanging, by rotation of the HD ligand, between two sites that (a) differ in chemical shift and (b) show an isotope effect in the percent occupancy by H over D. The second factor relies on zero-point energy differences and therefore on differing vibrational frequencies associated with the two sites of the system. Based on our observations, an asymmetrical M-(H₂) system is an unlikely structure for **2** because it would almost certainly show isotopic perturbation of resonance. At the high-temperature limit, in contrast, isotopic perturbation is observed, as a result of the exchange between classical and nonclassical sites.

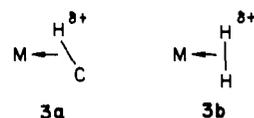
This result is consistent with the X-ray and neutron structures of [W(H₂)(CO)₃(PCy₃)₂] which show that the H₂ is bound approximately side-on. Disorder problems reduced the reliability of these structures, however. The iron compound shows a similar structure by X-ray.^{4a}

Cyclohexylphosphine Series. We wished to make the PCy₃ analogue of **2** to see if the coordinated H₂ molecule would be affected by the higher electron density at the metal compared to the PPh₃ case. Since the [Ir(cod)L₂]⁺ cation does not exist in this series, we started from the pentahydride [IrH₃L₂]. Protonation with a noncoordinating acid such as PhCH(SO₂CF₃)₂ at -80 °C, followed by adding 7,8-benzoquinoline and warming to room temperature, gave the aquo complex **1** (L = PCy₃). This was spectroscopically very similar to the PPh₃ complex (values for the PPh₃ complex are given in parentheses). In particular Ir-H absorbed in the ¹H NMR at δ -15.4 (-16.1). The Ir(OH₂) resonance was obscured by PCy₃ resonances. The ν(OH) of the aquo ligand appears in the IR at 3528 and 3404 cm⁻¹ (3555 cm⁻¹).

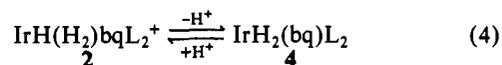
Like the PPh₃ analogue, this aquo complex reacts with H₂ to give a species we identify as [Ir(H₂)H(bq)(PCy₃)₂]⁺. At room temperature a broad resonance is observed at ca. δ -10.34 (C-D₂Cl₂). On cooling below -15 °C, two resonances are seen, one, broad, at δ -4.64 (-2.9), the other at δ -17.5 (-15.3). The latter shows a ²J(P,H) at 215 K of 13 Hz and (in the HD complex), the dihydrogen resonance shows a ¹J(H,D) of 29 Hz. Additional confirmation that these complexes are indeed dihydrogen hydrides comes from the new T₁ method, described later.

The classical dihydride [IrH₂(bq)L₂] was formed in the same way we used for the PPh₃ analogue, viz., by deprotonation of the nonclassical trihydride **2** or by treatment of the aquo complex with Li[BEt₃H].

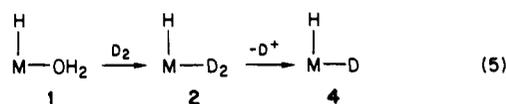
Deprotonation of the Coordinated H₂ Ligand. C-H...M systems are known to be more easily deprotonated than the parent C-H groups.⁴ The most likely reason is that donation from the C-H bond to the metal leaves the C-H with a partial positive charge (**3a**).



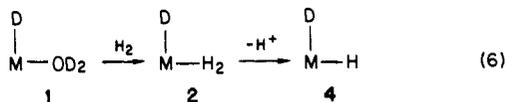
A very similar bonding picture (**3b**) seems to hold for coordinated H₂. Saillard and Hoffmann⁹ have commented that σ(H₂) → M electron transfer dominates the early stages of H₂ activation by oxidative addition. This suggests that coordinated H₂, which might be considered as an isolable intermediate on the way to oxidative addition, might also be readily deprotonated. In accord with this picture, we find that bases such as MeLi and *t*-BuLi do indeed deprotonate the complex to give the neutral dihydride **4**.



Deprotonation might have taken place directly from the nonclassical trihydride or via a classical trihydride which, if the mechanism of eq 2 were valid, would be in equilibrium with the observed nonclassical form. In order to throw some light on the mechanism, we undertook isotopic labeling experiments, shown in eq 5 and 6. It is important to note that the two hydridic sites in **4** are inequivalent and easily distinguished by ¹H NMR.



Unfortunately, there is H/D exchange between the Ir-H and Ir(H₂) groups in **2** and also between the Ir-H and H₂O groups in **1**. We were able to mitigate the effects of the first process by running the reactions at -80 °C and by bubbling H₂ (or D₂) through the aquo complexes **1** to form **2** in situ and then rapidly adding *t*-BuLi to deprotonate the intermediates. To combat the second exchange process, we started with [IrD(D₂O)(bq)L₂]⁺ rather than [IrD(H₂O)(bq)L₂]⁺ (eq 6).



In the reaction involving unlabeled **1** and D₂, the deprotonation product had more protium (80%) trans to the bq nitrogen than to carbon (20%). This is consistent with deprotonation of the coordinated D₂ ligand, but if a seven-coordinate classical trihydride had been formed as an intermediate, a ca. 50:50 distribution would have been expected as a result of (i) the rapid scrambling likely for such an intermediate and (ii) the similar pK_a's expected for each of the three protons. These results also rule out deprotonation of the terminal H in **2** which should give a 50:50 distribution of protium between the two sites. To make sure the observed isotopic distribution in the product was not due to a thermodynamic isotopic preference for protium being trans to N, we also looked at the complementary experiment involving [IrD(D₂O)(bq)L₂]⁺ and H₂ followed by deprotonation. This gave more protium trans to C (60%) than to N (40%). These results are consistent with the deprotonation of the dihydrogen, rather than the terminal hydride in **2**.

The same complex **4** is also formed by the reaction of **1** with LiBEt₃H, in which H⁻ replaces H₂O in the aquo complex **1**. This material is clearly a conventional dihydride because the inequivalent (and nonexchanging) hydrides each give sharp NMR spectra and show a mutual ²J(H,H) of 4 Hz. Such a value corresponds to a ²J(H,D) coupling of 0.8 Hz as appropriate for a classical dihydride. The hydride resonance positions δ -10.2 and -18.3 are appropriate for IrH trans to the carbon and nitrogen atoms, respectively, of the bq ligand, and each shows a cis coupling to phosphorus.

Reprotonation of the conventional dihydride **4** to give back the dihydrogen hydride **2** is most conveniently done with PhCH-

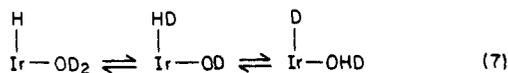
(8) Saunders, M.; Jaffee, M. H.; Vogel, P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1971**, *93*, 2558–2562.

(9) Saillard, J.-Y.; Hoffmann, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 2006–2026.

(SO₂CF₃)₂.¹⁰ The reaction is rapid and quantitative.

In the labeling experiments described above, we saw that exchange takes place between H₂O and the Ir–H site. Attempts to prepare [IrD(H₂O)(bq)L₂]⁺ always led to rapid loss of the label from the hydridic site. The addition of D₂O to the sample, however, rapidly restores D to the hydridic site. Most likely, free and coordinated H₂O are in equilibrium, and exchange between coordinated water and the hydridic site occurs subsequently. [IrH(MeCN)(bq)L₂]⁺, a complex to which we imagine that D₂O cannot coordinate, does not exchange significantly with D₂O under the same conditions, showing that the D₂O only exchanges efficiently when coordinated. Since separate resonances are observed for the Ir–H and Ir(H₂O) protons of **1**, exchange is not rapid on the NMR time scale, but it was complete in ca. 30 min.

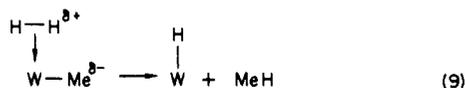
The most reasonable mechanism for the process is that shown below, in which proton transfer takes place between the Ir(H₂O) and Ir–H sites (eq 7) or, less efficiently, between free water and Ir–H. Rotation of the H₂ ligand then ensures the scrambling of the label.



Heterolytic Activation of H₂. The possibility that the H₂ in a dihydrogen complex may be readily deprotonated suggests that such complexes may be important in the heterolytic activation of hydrogen.¹¹ The clearest cases of heterolytic H₂ activation are those in which d⁰ metal complexes are hydrogenolyzed (e.g., eq 8). Here, oxidative addition is forbidden because the metal



is in its highest valence state. The metal is still expected to be a Lewis acid and is not prohibited from binding H₂ as an intact molecule. This would lead to the situation shown in eq 9. The



H₂ molecule acquires δ⁺ character by binding as an undissociated molecule. It then protonates the δ⁻ alkyl group leading to loss of the alkane. The same mechanism could also apply to lanthanide and actinide alkyls. Previously,^{11b} it had been proposed that H₂ was bound in such a way as to induce a charge separation of the H^{δ+}–H^{δ-} type. Methane activation by lanthanide and actinide compounds might, by analogy, go via a transient methane complex.^{11c}

Bis(dihydrogen) Dihydride Complex. As early in 1978 we had observed¹² that IrH₅(PCy₃)₂ (**5**) protonated readily but without H₂ evolution at –80 °C in CH₂Cl₂ containing a noncoordinating acid such as HBF₄ to give a new species, **6**, that we suspected was the “iridium(VII)” hydride IrH₆(PCy₃)₂⁺. Treatment with base, such as NEt₃, gave back IrH₅(PCy₃)₂ and with MeCN gave the well-known [IrH₂(MeCN)₂(PCy₃)₂]⁺.¹³ The nature of [IrH₆(PCy₃)₂]⁺ was never satisfactorily determined, however, and we did not report the results. The hydride resonance in the ¹H NMR was broad, and an off-resonance decoupled ³¹P NMR experiment, to try to determine the number of hydrides present, showed only a broad and indistinct feature,¹³ not the expected septet.¹⁴ The work described in this paper led us to reexamine **6**. In this new investigation, we protonated the pentahydride with PhCH(SO₂CF₃)₂ in CH₂Cl₂ at –80 °C and obtained the corresponding salt of the same cationic species **6**. At room temperature the ¹H

NMR showed a broad resonance at ca. δ –8.3 due to the fluxional iridium hydrides. When the mixture cooled, two features, one at δ –5.05 (ω_{1/2} ≈ 175 Hz) and the other at δ –15.25 (ω_{1/2} ≈ 154 Hz), and in an intensity ratio of ca. 2:1, were seen at 188 K. This ratio is confirmed by the fact that the original broad feature at δ –8.3 has a chemical shift which is very close to the 2:1 weighted average of the two shifts observed at 180 K. Unfortunately, **6** is more fluxional than **2**, and under HD, neither the ²J(P,H) couplings nor the ¹J(HD) couplings are resolved even at 180 K. No low-temperature solvents other than CD₂Cl₂ proved satisfactory, not even CD₂Cl₂–CHCl₂F, because **6** is essentially insoluble in these media.

The width of the resonances we assign to the dihydrogen molecule suggested that the T₁ for these protons might be unusually short.¹ We therefore looked at the T₁ values¹⁵ for **2** (L = PPh₃ and PCy₃), **5**, and **6** to see if we could obtain further information. We had already determined^{15b} that T₁ values for a range of classical phosphine-substituted hydrides lie in the range 0.35 to more than 2 s. Dipole–dipole interaction with the ligand protons was proposed as the likely predominant mechanism for M–H relaxation. The rate of relaxation of a given proton by this mechanism depends on r⁻⁶ (see eq 10), where r is the distance between the proton under consideration and a neighboring proton.^{15a,c} A dihydrogen complex might therefore show unusually

$$\frac{1}{T_1(\text{DD})} = \frac{2}{5} \frac{\hbar^2 \gamma_X^2 \gamma_Y^2 I(I+1)}{r^6} \left(\frac{\tau_c}{1 + \omega^2 \tau_c^2} + \frac{4\tau_c}{1 + 4\omega^2 \tau_c^2} \right) \quad (10)$$

rapid relaxation in view of the very short value of r appropriate to an H₂ complex (ca. 0.8 Å). In such a system each hydrogen of the H₂ ligand would be relaxed by interaction with the other. For **2**, T₁'s were measured by the inversion–recovery method at 500 MHz and –85 °C (Figure 1). While the T₁ value for the terminal Ir–H is normal (390 ms), the value for the Ir(H₂) group, 30 ms, is extremely short, implying exceptionally rapid relaxation. When the mixture warms, the T₁'s begin to average as soon as the exchange time becomes less than the T₁ of a given state, while chemical shifts remain resolved longer, until the exchange times become comparable with (Δν)⁻¹.^{15a} The PCy₃ analogue was also studied and showed T₁'s of 730 ms (Ir–H) and 65 ms (Ir(H₂)), respectively. In the much more fluxional case of **6**, the T₁ values for the Ir(H₂) (48 ms) and Ir–H (73 ms) resonances are both short. Here the fluxionality is faster. These figures should be compared with the observed value of T₁ in the parent classical pentahydride **5** (780 ms). To eliminate the remote possibility that the unusual T₁ might be due to some artifact, we measured T₁ for the residual nonclassical protons of the deuterated species. The dipole–dipole contribution of nucleus X on the relaxation of nucleus Y, given in eq 10, depends on γ_X². In the case where X = D, relaxation of Y (= ¹H) should be slower. The predicted effect is indeed observed. The relaxation time for the dihydrogen resonance of **2** lengthens to 240 ms and of **6** to 180 (Ir(H₂)) and 210 ms (Ir–H). Quantitative interpretation of these changes is hampered by the possible additional contributions to the relaxation. Nevertheless the evidence for a nonclassical structure for **6** is greatly strengthened.

The evidence points strongly to [IrH₂(H₂)₂(PCy₃)₂]⁺ as the structure for **5**. This would make it the first nonclassical poly-

(15) (a) Blombergen, N.; Purcell, E. M.; Pound, R. V. *Phys. Rev.* **1948**, *73*, 679–684. Pople, J. A.; Schneider, W. G.; Bernstein, H. J. *High Resolution NMR*; McGraw-Hill: New York, 1959. (b) Crabtree, R. H.; Segmuller, B. E.; Uriarte, R. J. *Inorg. Chem.* **1984**, *24*, 1949–1950. These T₁ values were determined at 30 °C and therefore are not strictly comparable with those determined here at –80 °C. (c) The symbols in eq 10 have the following meanings: T₁(DD) = dipole–dipole contribution to relaxation; γ_X = gyromagnetic ratio of nucleus X; r = distance between the nuclei of interest. τ_c = rotational correlation time associated with the local Brownian motion; ω = Larmor frequency; I = spin of the second nucleus. In the heteronuclear case an extra factor of 3/2 also enters into the right-hand side of the equation: Abragam, A. *The Principles of Nuclear Magnetism*; Oxford University: London, 1961; Chapter 8. (d) Bloom, M. *MTP Int. Rev. Sci.: Phys. Chem., Ser. One* **1972**, *4*, 1.

(10) Siedle, A. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 1510–1511.

(11) (a) Brothers, P. *Prog. Inorg. Chem.* **1981**, *28*, 1–61. (b) Bell, K. I.; Posin, B.; Schwartz, J.; Williams, G. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *104*, 1846–1855. (c) Watson, P. L. *Ibid.* **1983**, *105*, 6491–6493.

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(14) Mann, B. E.; Masters, C. J.; Shaw, B. L. *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.* **1971**, *33*, 2195–2199.

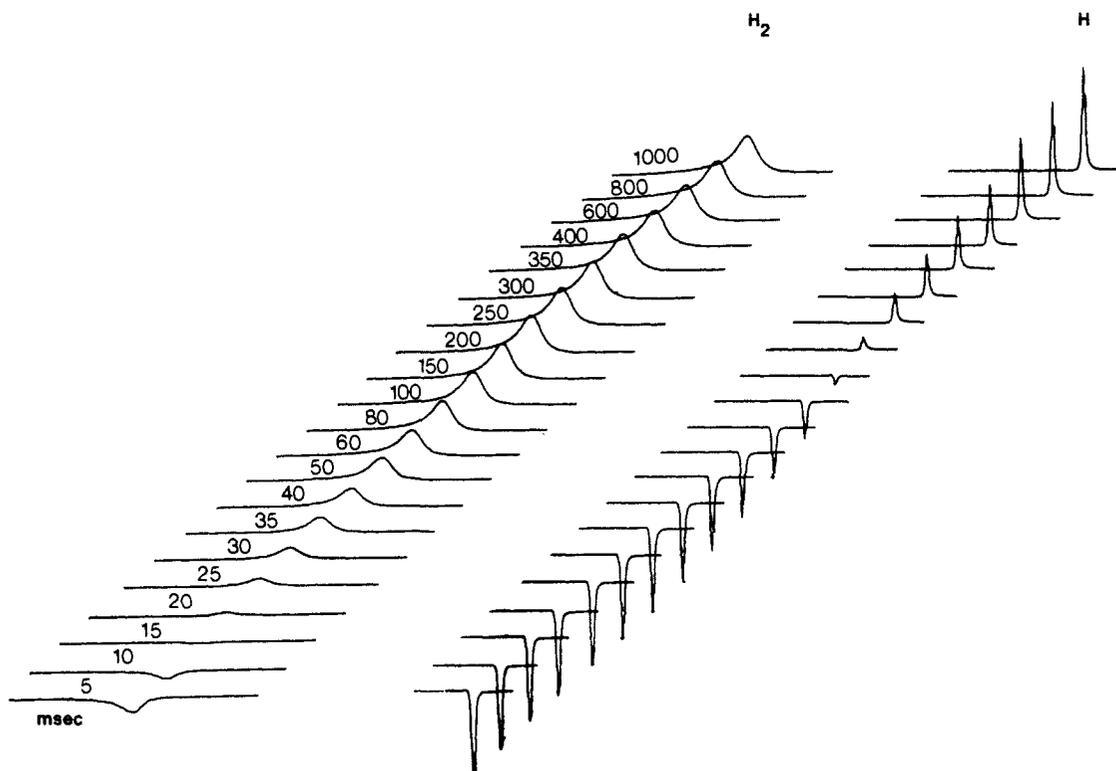
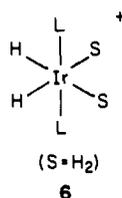


Figure 1. Inversion-recovery spectra of $[\text{IrH}(\text{H}_2)(\text{bq})(\text{PPh}_3)_2]\text{SbF}_6$ at -85°C and 500 MHz. Showing the low-field dihydrogen resonance (broad) and the high-field terminal hydride resonance. The dihydrogen protons clearly relax much faster than the terminal hydride. The delay times shown are in milliseconds.

(hydride)¹⁶ complex to be characterized. We prefer the stereochemistry shown below by analogy with the many $[\text{IrH}_2\text{S}_2(\text{PR}_3)_2]^+$ complexes that are known ($\text{S} = \text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{NH}_3, \text{MeI}, \text{MeCN}, 1/2\text{cod}$, and now H_2).



It is not yet clear whether, at -80°C in CD_2Cl_2 , **2** is in the extreme narrowing limit, where $\omega^2\tau_c^2 \ll 1$, or if the molecules are tumbling sufficiently slowly for $\omega^2\tau_c^2 \gg 1$, the slow-motion limit, to apply. In the latter case, eq 10 reduces to eq 11. In

$$\frac{1}{T_1(\text{DD})} = 0.8 \frac{\hbar^2 \gamma_x^2 \gamma_y^2 I(I+1)}{r^6} \left(\frac{1}{\omega^2 \tau_c} \right) \quad (11)$$

the slow-motion regime, T_1 becomes proportional to the square of the magnetic field, and preliminary measurements at 250 and 500 MHz tend to support this picture. The key point is that the T_1 can depend on the solvent, the temperature, and, in principle, the magnetic field, so it is important that measurements be made under the same conditions in order to be able to compare the T_1 values obtained. Fortunately, the difference between the T_1 's of classical and nonclassical hydrides is usually greater than a factor of 10, and this ratio should be preserved under different conditions. It is important to take account of such effects in interpreting any results.

The observations show that the line width of the dihydrogen resonances in our compounds is larger than can be accounted for by the short T_1 alone. This may be a result of being in the slow-motion regime, where $T_1 \neq T_2$,^{15a} or there may be some further exchange process taking place. The important points are

(i) that we cannot estimate T_1 simply by measuring the line width, and (ii) that nonclassical hydrides may not always have the large line widths we see here.

One circumstance under which a classical hydride might show a short apparent T_1 is if rapid exchange with free H_2 occurs. This is ruled out by a number of considerations. The appearance of the spectrum is independent of the partial pressure of free H_2 and unaffected by irradiation of the resonance of free H_2 at δ 4.54 in CD_2Cl_2 at 180 K, which can be observed when excess H_2 is present. If exchange were taking place, spin saturation transfer would be expected to alter the intensity of the bound H_2 resonance. The T_1 of the dissolved free H_2 is ~ 1600 ms at 180 K. This value is long probably because the H_2 is tumbling so fast compared to complexed H_2 that the dipole-dipole process becomes relatively inefficient by eq 10 (i.e., $\tau_c(\text{free H}_2) \ll \tau_c(\text{complexed H}_2)$). Any exchange would therefore lengthen the apparent T_1 of the complexed H_2 , not shorten it. Our measurements were made at low temperature to minimize exchange.

It is conceivable that classical and nonclassical tautomers are in rapid equilibrium in MH_2 systems, such as the ones studied here. This could lead to a short T_1 if enough of the nonclassical form were present. Since such a complex would be expected to show the reactivity of a dihydrogen complex, it is probably better to consider such systems as nonclassical until the details are worked out. In this way it should be possible to avoid the controversy that surrounds the nonclassical carbonium ion. In the cases studied here, there are both $\text{M}(\text{H}_2)$ and $\text{M}-\text{H}$ groups in the same molecule. The observation of distinct resonances for two different types of proton at -80°C argues that the nonclassical structures proposed above are the ground states for the systems. If the opposite were true, then the number of resonances observed in the low-temperature limit might well be different (e.g., three for a dodecahedral classical $[\text{IrH}_6\text{L}_2]^+$ with L in the B sites and three for a pentagonal bipyramidal $[\text{IrH}_3\text{L}_2(\text{bq})]^+$).

H_2 Absorption Isotherms for **2.** The aquo complexes **1** can easily be obtained as solids by crystallization from CH_2Cl_2 with Et_2O . Pure **2** can best be obtained as a solid by placing microcrystalline samples of **1** in vacuo (10^{-6} torr, 18 h) and then treating with dry H_2 . A hydrogen absorption and release cycle can then be con-

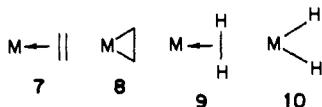
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tinued without apparent limit by simply evacuating and adding H_2 . The system takes only a few minutes to come to equilibrium at room temperature and much of the reaction takes place in the first few seconds. The hydrogen complex **2** is the species present under H_2 , but in vacuo **1** is probably no longer present since the H_2O , unless it is tenaciously held by the crystal lattice, would be expected to be pumped away during the evacuation step. Given the pronounced tendency of these species to form C-H...Ir bridges, it is likely that, as is the case^{1b} for $[W(CO)_3(PCy_3)_2]$, a C-H bond of the ligand, either PPh_3 or PCy_3 , binds to the sixth site in the absence of either H_2 or H_2O . Alternatively, the sixth site may remain open; only a crystal structure would be able to distinguish for certain. We shall use the symbol Ir-□ to signify the structure of this sixth site in vacuo.



The Langmuir isotherms of these materials show that the pressure of hydrogen needed to establish 50% loading of the material is 11.8 (L = PPh_3) and 10.3 torr (L = PCy_3). This data led directly to values of ΔG for eq 12 of -2.43 (L = PPh_3 , 297 K) and -2.47 kcal/mol (PCy_3 , 295 K). Carrying out these measurements at 273 and 313 K allowed us to obtain an estimate of ΔH (-3.16 kcal/mol) and ΔS (-2.3 eu) as well.

Analogies to Other Ligands. The measurements described above show that the dihydrogen ligand is held more tightly by the PCy_3 complex than by the PPh_3 species. This in turn suggests that the greater electron density at the metal in the former case may be influencing the binding by increased back-donation into the H_2 σ^* orbital. There is an interesting analogy between the binding of H_2 and of olefins to transition metals. The binding of olefins has conventionally been seen as lying between two extreme formulations shown in their valence bond representations as **7** and **8**.¹⁷ Going from **7** to **8** involves breaking a C-C π bond and



making two M-C bonds or in MO terms as increasing the degree of M (d_{π}) to (C=C) π^* back-donation. Going from $M(H_2)$ to MH_2 involves a similar transformation but now involves an H-H σ bond going to two M-H bonds. It will be interesting to see how far the factors that favor **7** (e.g., strong σ acidity and low π -basicity of the metal) will also favor **9**.

There is also an analogy between the $M(H_2)$ group and the agostic C-H-M bridge. In both cases, an undissociated σ bond acts as a ligand to a transition metal. It is notable that the Ir system readily forms both H_2 complexes and agostic structures.³ It is likely that those systems that tend to bind aliphatic C-H bonds nondissociatively will also bind H_2 in the same way.

It is not yet clear whether there will be a continuum of structures between the extremes of **9** and **10** (as is true for **7** and **8**) or whether there will be two distinct structural groups, as appears to be the case for the C-H-M system.¹⁸ Only if the latter is true will it be possible to decide unambiguously between structures **9** and **10** by using structural criteria and the NMR method described here.

Thermodynamic Stability of $M(H_2)$ vs. MH_2 . What is it about $W(H_2)(CO)_3(PCy_3)_2$, $Cr(H_2)(CO)_5$, **2**, and **6** that makes the nondissociated $M(H_2)$ form favored over the dissociated MH_2 structure? Presumably the combined bond strengths of the two M-H bonds that would be formed on dissociative binding are insufficient to compensate for the breaking of the H-H bond. One factor common to all four molecules is the presence, trans to the (H_2) ligand, of a high trans effect ligand: CO in the group 6 complexes, an aryl carbon in **2**, and hydride in **6**, all of which are known to weaken metal-ligand bonds in the trans position. All

the complexes have modestly electron-withdrawing ligands or a positive charge that might be expected to favor H_2 (σ) to M (d_{π}) electron donation. All are octahedral, although this may have no special significance. In the case of **2** and **6** the classical MH_2 form would be Ir(V), a rare oxidation state, but there is no reason to doubt that $IrH_5(PCy_3)_2$, for example, is an authentic classical iridium(V) polyhydride; in particular the T_1 of this compound is normal for a classical polyhydride (780 ms). Instead of H_2 , the group 6 species can also bind N_2 , a ligand that also requires good σ acidity but in addition requires good π donor character for the metal. We find that the Ir complexes do not bind N_2 , perhaps because the π basicity of the site is too low in these cases. This suggests that σ acidity of the metal site is an important property in binding H_2 in the molecular form.

Existence of Other $M(H_2)$ Complexes. It seems likely that numerous dihydrogen complexes may well lie unrecognized in the literature. Our work suggests that the neutral and protonated forms of the well-known polyhydride complexes may repay reexamination in this connection. The existence of dihydrogen complexes also raises the interesting question of the possible existence of polyhydrides $MH_xL_y^{n+}$ for which the value of ($x + n$) exceeds the maximum valency of the metal. It is probably more reasonable to regard these as having a lower oxidation state. For example, $IrH_2(H_2)_2L_2^+$ (**6**) is probably best regarded as Ir(III) rather than Ir(VII), an otherwise unknown oxidation state for this metal. It would also be worthwhile to reexamine hydrides which bind N_2 with loss of H_2 .

Conclusion

We hope to have shown how T_1 measurements can be useful in detecting nonclassical hydrides. This is a more convenient method than neutron crystallography, and it can be applied easily to a wide range of compounds, even ones which are unstable at ambient temperatures. $M(H_2)$ structures may also be important in the interaction of metalloenzymes, notably hydrogenases, with H_2 . Like **2** these also catalyze H/D exchange between H_2O and H_2 .¹⁹ We also suggest that, far from being rare, nonclassical hydrides may be widespread, especially amongst polyhydrides. They may well be involved in hydrogenolysis processes of d^0 alkyls.

Experimental Section

NMR spectra were obtained on Bruker 250- and 500-MHz instruments, and IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 7000 instrument. Starting materials were prepared by published procedures,^{6,7} and the ligands were obtained from Aldrich Co.

(η^2 -7,8-Benzoquinolino)(η^2 -dihydrogen)hydridobis(triphenylphosphine)iridium(III) Salts. Method A. To $[Ir(cod)(PPh_3)_2]SbF_6$ (433 mg, 0.41 mmol) in moist CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added 7,8-benzoquinoline (73 mg, 0.41 mmol) and dihydrogen gas bubbled through the mixture at 0 °C for 30 min during which time the color changed from red to light yellow. The product was crystallized with Et_2O -heptanes and recrystallized from CH_2Cl_2/Et_2O -heptanes to give the cream-colored $[Ir(H_2O)H(bq)L_2]SbF_6$ (**1**). Yield 375 mg (88%). The complex was characterized crystallographically as well as by the usual spectral means [1H NMR (reported as position in ppm (multiplicity, coupling constant in hertz, assignment)): -16.1 (t, $J = 14$, Ir-H), 2.54 (s, (H_2O)Ir), 7.2-7.9 (c, Ar)]. Complex **1** (20 mg) was dissolved in CD_2Cl_2 (ca. 0.5 mL), and H_2 was passed for ca. 2 min at -80 °C. The dihydrogen complex is formed in solution in equilibrium with the aquo complex **1**. Essentially complete conversion was achieved by adding a small piece of CaH_2 (1 mg) to the NMR sample to remove the adventitious water. The CaH_2 can be removed from the sample by inverting the tube before recording the NMR spectra in the normal way. 1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , -80 °C): -15.3 (t, $J = 11.4$, Ir-H), -2.9 (br, Ir(H_2)), 7.02-7.84 (complex, aromatic). 1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 20 °C): -7.1 (br, Ir(H_2)).

Method B. Complex **1** (100 mg) prepared as above was exposed to a high vacuum (10^{-6} torr) for 18 h in the solid state as a powder. When dry H_2 (1 atm) was added the sample absorbed H_2 mostly in the first few seconds, but complete reaction takes 10 min. No color change took place during this procedure.

Method C. $[IrH_2(bq)L_2]$ (20 mg, 0.021 mmol), synthesized by the method discussed below, was dissolved in PhMe (1 mL) and $PhCH(SO_2CF_3)_2$ (7.63 mg, 0.021 mmol) added at -80 °C under H_2 . The 1H

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NMR spectra of the product are identical with those obtained from methods A and B, except that the anion now also contains protons.

The corresponding aquo complex **1** can be fully analyzed, but the dihydrogen complex **2** loses H₂ in the solid state at 25 °C, so it cannot be analyzed.

(η^2 -7,8-Benzoquinolato)(η^2 -dihydrogen)hydridobis(tricyclohexylphosphine)iridium(III) Salts. To [IrH₅(PCy₃)₂] (410 mg, 0.54 mmol) in 15 mL of moist CH₂Cl₂ was added PhCH(SO₂CF₃)₂ (192 mg, 0.54 mmol) at -80 °C under H₂. After the solution stirred for 10 min, 7,8-benzoquinoline (97 mg, 0.54 mmol) was added, and at -80 °C Et₂O was added to crystallize the dihydrogen complex **2** (L = PCy₃) as a white solid. ¹H NMR: (-80 °C CD₂Cl₂): -4.64 (br, Ir(H₂)), -17.5 (br, Ir-H), 0.9-2.1 (c, PCy₃), 7.2-7.9 (Ar). ¹H NMR (20 °C, CD₂Cl₂): -10.34 (br, IrH₃). Carrying out the same synthetic procedure at 20 °C but with bubbling N₂ through the solution or pumping gently on it gives the corresponding aquo complex.

Bis(dihydrogen)dihydridobis(tricyclohexylphosphine)iridium(III) Salts. To [IrH₅(PCy₃)₂] (20 mg, 2.64 × 10⁻⁵ mol) in CD₂Cl₂ (0.5 mL) at -80 °C was added PhCH(SO₂CF₃)₂ (9.4 mg, 2.6 × 10⁻⁵ mol). The resulting solution gave the following ¹H NMR spectrum. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 188 K): -5.04 (v br, Ir(H₂)), -15.26 (br, Ir-H), 0.9-2.1 (c, PCy₃). ¹H NMR

(CD₂Cl₂, 25 °C): -8.33 (v br, IrH₃). The complex was characterized by T₁ measurements described in the text.

Apparent T₁ Measurements. These were obtained by inversion-recovery at -80 °C in CD₂Cl₂ at 500 MHz with a 180°-t-90° pulse sequence. We also looked at **2** (L = PPh₃) at 250 MHz.

Isotherm Measurements. These were determined on a vacuum line by comparing the pressure change in the vessel containing the complex, on admitting a fixed volume of H₂ to the sample, compared to admitting the same volume of He. The H₂ was passed through a Pd membrane to purify it. We thank Prof. Kurt Zilm for suggesting these measurements, which were carried out in the Chemical Engineering Department with the help of Dr. L. Bonneviot.

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Kinetics of Disproportionation of Tricarbonylbis(phosphine)iron(I) Cation Radicals Probed by Double Potential Step Chronocoulometry

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Abstract: Rates of substitution of carbon monoxide in a series of iron(I) radical complexes were measured by using double potential step chronocoulometry, a transient electrochemical technique. Carbon monoxide substitution in Fe(CO)₃L₂⁺ (L = a phosphine) radicals proceeds solely by a second-order process that is first order in both the metal radical and the entering pyridine nucleophile. The rate of substitution depends on the basicity and size of the Lewis base, as seen in the L = PPh₃ system, where k₁ varies over 400-fold from 0.27 to 1.01 × 10² M⁻¹ s⁻¹. Hammett analysis of the rate data shows that log k₁ correlates well with the σ-meta and σ-para values for nine 3- and 4-substituted pyridines. Nucleophilic attack of pyridine at Fe(CO)₃(PCy₃)₂⁺ is 10⁶ times slower than at Fe(CO)₃(PMe₃)₂⁺, presumably because increased phosphine ligand size inhibits the associative pathway. Activation parameters further support the proposed associative mechanism: for L = PPh₃, nucleophile = pyridine, ΔH[‡] = 9.8 ± 0.3 kcal mol⁻¹ and ΔS[‡] = -21 ± 1 cal mol⁻¹ K⁻¹; for L = PCy₃, nucleophile = 3,4-dimethylpyridine, ΔH[‡] = 14 ± 1.5 kcal mol⁻¹ and ΔS[‡] = -27 ± 5 cal mol⁻¹ K⁻¹. After substitution of carbon monoxide by a nitrogen Lewis base, these complexes disproportionate via an outer-sphere electron-transfer process to yield Fe(II) and Fe(0) products. Comparison of the reactivities of Fe(CO)₃(PPh₃)₂ and its 17-electron analogue, Fe(CO)₃(PPh₃)₂⁺, shows that the cation radical is about 10⁹ more reactive toward pyridine than its 18-electron precursor.

Because of their role in catalytic and stoichiometric transformations,² there has been interest in reaction mechanisms of organometallic radicals. Studies of electrocatalysis of ligand substitution³⁻⁶ and migratory insertion reactions,⁷ of the lability of

17e species toward isomerization,⁸ of radicals as oxidizing and reducing agents,⁹ and of substitution labilities of stable organometallic radicals¹⁰⁻¹³ illustrate the roles assumed by radicals in organotransition metal chemistry. Kinetic studies of simple organometallic radicals of the first transition series have been limited

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