

Remarkable Stability of (η^5 -C₅H₅)Re(CO)₂L (L = *n*-Heptane, Xe, and Kr): A Time-Resolved Infrared Spectroscopic Study of (η^5 -C₅H₅)Re(CO)₃ in Conventional and Supercritical Fluid Solution

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Abstract: Employing fast time-resolved infrared (TRIR) spectroscopy we have characterized CpRe(CO)₂(*n*-heptane), CpRe(CO)₂(Xe), and CpRe(CO)₂(Kr) (Cp = η^5 -C₅H₅) at or above room temperature in *n*-heptane, supercritical Xe, and Kr solution. The reactivity of CpRe(CO)₂(*n*-heptane) with CO ($k_2 = 2.1 (\pm 0.5) \times 10^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ dm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) shows this complex to be the least reactive of the reported organometallic alkane complexes. We report a trend in reactivity of the early transition metal alkane complexes. CpRe(CO)₂(Xe) and CpRe(CO)₂(Kr) are also shown to have significant stability. CpRe(CO)₂(Xe) is less reactive toward CO than all of the reported alkane complexes except CpRe(CO)₂(*n*-heptane).

Introduction

The first η^2 -H₂ complex was isolated¹ by Kubas in 1984, and since then a series of isolable dihydrogen complexes have been prepared. Although the photochemical oxidative addition of alkane C–H bonds to group 9 metal centers has been known for over a decade,² there is no comparable series of stable isolable organometallic alkane complexes.³ However, a knowledge of the reactivity of unstable alkane complexes should lead to a better understanding of the metal–alkane interaction and perhaps to the eventual isolation of an organometallic alkane complex.

Perutz and Turner⁴ used matrix isolation to show that photolysis of M(CO)₆ generates M(CO)₅ (M = Cr, Mo, and W), which is sufficiently reactive to form complexes even with methane at 10 K. Although matrix isolation gives an opportunity to characterize unstable species at low temperature, it does not provide the kinetic information needed to quantify the reactivity of these species. In solution, Cr(CO)₅(cyclohexane) formed within 50 ns following UV flash photolysis of Cr(CO)₆ in room temperature cyclohexane solution,⁵ and subsequently ultrafast transient spectroscopy has shown that the solvation process for Cr(CO)₅ occurs within the first picosecond following UV irradiation.⁶ In solution, Cr(CO)₅(cyclohexane) is moderately reactive and decays within 50 μ s.⁷

The coordination of a solvent molecule to a 16-electron intermediate has now been observed for most of the metal carbonyl compounds studied by flash photolysis, and the solvent has been considered to be a “token ligand”.^{8,9} Time-resolved IR spectroscopy (TRIR), a combination of UV flash photolysis and nanosecond IR spectroscopy, has played a major role in the study of such species. Solvated 16-electron intermediates have lifetimes in solution which can vary considerably for seemingly similar complexes. Thus, Cr(CO)₅(*n*-heptane) and Mo(CO)₅(*n*-heptane) both have lifetimes of approximately 15 μ s, while the corresponding W(CO)₅(*n*-heptane) has a lifetime more than an order of magnitude longer of ca. 200 μ s¹⁰ under similar conditions. By contrast the group 5 half-sandwich intermediates CpM(CO)₃(*n*-heptane) (M = V, Nb, and Ta) are far more reactive. CpV(CO)₃(*n*-heptane) has a lifetime in *n*-heptane solution of ca. 300 ns, while CpNb(CO)₃(*n*-heptane) and CpTa(CO)₃(*n*-heptane) have similar lifetimes (ca. 15–20 μ s).¹¹ The analogous first row early transition metal alkane complexes increase in stability in the following order, CpV(CO)₃(*n*-heptane) < (η^6 -C₆H₆)Cr(CO)₂(*n*-heptane) < CpMn(CO)₂(*n*-heptane).

Simpson *et al.* identified Cr(CO)₅(Xe) using FTIR spectroscopy in liquefied Xe solution (*l*Xe) at cryogenic temperature (–98 °C), providing the first evidence for the formation of rare-gas complexes with significant lifetimes in solution.¹² Weiller¹³ was able to detect M(CO)₅L (M = Cr, W; L = Xe, Kr) in *l*Xe or liquid krypton (*l*Kr) using rapid-scan FTIR. Similarly,

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Bergman and co-workers identified $\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{CO})\text{L}$ ($\text{L} = \text{Kr}, \text{Xe}$; $\text{Cp}^* = \eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5$)¹⁴ in liquefied noble gas solution at cryogenic temperatures. We have recently shown¹⁵ that rare-gas complexes can be observed in fluid solution at room temperature following irradiation of metal carbonyls in supercritical noble gas solution at room temperature. A fluid is said to be supercritical when its pressure and temperature both exceed their critical values (P_c and T_c).¹⁶ Many gases have a T_c value that is below ambient, including Xe ($P_c = 58$ atm, $T_c = 16$ °C) and Kr ($P_c = 54$ atm, $T_c = -64$ °C). We have recently reported the TRIR spectra¹⁵ in solution at room temperature of $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5$ - (Xe), $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Kr})$, and $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5(\text{CO}_2)$ ($\text{M} = \text{Cr}, \text{Mo},$ and W) generated by flash photolysis of $\text{M}(\text{CO})_6$ in supercritical Xe, Kr, or CO_2 solution. We deduced from the second order rate constants for the reaction of $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}$ with CO that the reactivity for each metal was in the order $\text{Kr} > \text{Xe} \approx \text{CO}_2$ and that for a given ligand the reactivity was in the order $\text{Cr} \approx \text{Mo} > \text{W}$.

In this paper we report data for $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in *n*-heptane solution at room temperature, and show that $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$ is the least reactive of the reported organometallic alkane complexes. We also show that $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ and $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ are significantly less reactive toward CO than the corresponding $\text{W}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Xe})$ and $\text{W}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Kr})$ complexes.

Experimental Section

The Nottingham TRIR apparatus has been described elsewhere.¹⁷ In these experiments a pulsed Nd:YAG laser (Quanta-Ray GCR-11; 266 nm or 355 nm) initiates the photochemical reactions, and a continuous wave IR source, either Mütek IR diode laser or a modified Grubb-Parsons Spectromajor spectrometer, monitors the transient IR absorptions. The change in IR transmission at one particular IR frequency is measured following excitation, and IR spectra are built up on a "point-by-point" basis by repeating this measurement at different infrared frequencies. The high-pressure cells for supercritical TRIR have been described previously.¹⁵ *n*-Heptane (Aldrich HPLC grade) was distilled from CaH_2 prior to use. $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ (Strem), Xe (BOC), and Kr (BOC) were used as supplied.

Results and Discussion

(a) Characterization and Reactivity of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$. Figure 1a shows the FTIR spectrum of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in *n*-heptane solution and Figure 1b shows the corresponding TRIR spectrum obtained 100 μs following UV (266 nm) excitation of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in *n*-heptane solution under a pressure of 2 bar of CO. It is clear that photolysis causes depletion of the bands of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ and the production of two new absorptions which can readily be assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$ by comparison with IR data from low temperature matrix isolation experiments (see Table 1)¹⁸ and can be easily distinguished from $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{H})(\text{n-heptyl})$ where the Re center would be oxidized to Re (+3) and the $\nu(\text{CO})$ bands would be shifted to higher frequency relative to the parent $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$. Figure 2 shows the TRIR kinetic traces of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$ under a range of different CO concentrations. The

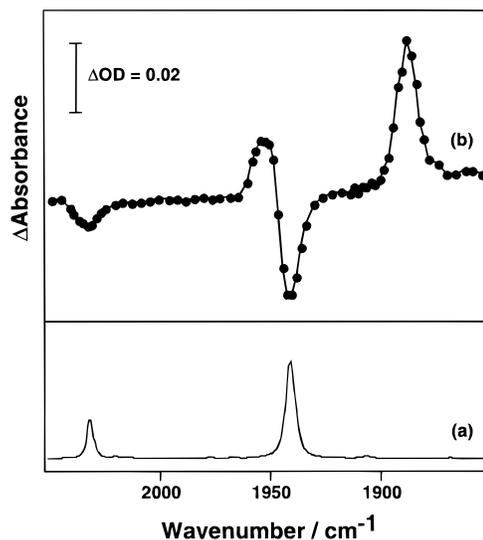


Figure 1. (a) FTIR spectrum of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in *n*-heptane solution and (b) TRIR difference spectrum at 100 μs after photolysis (266 nm) of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ (8×10^{-4} mol dm^{-3}) in *n*-heptane solution under a pressure of 2 bar of CO.

Table 1. Wavenumbers (cm^{-1}) of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2\text{L}$ Species ($\text{L} = \text{CO}, \text{n-heptane}, \text{Xe},$ and Kr)

$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2\text{L}$	wavenumber (cm^{-1})	condition	ref
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$	2029, 1934	Nujol, 77 K	18
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$	2031, 1940	<i>n</i> -heptane, 298 K	this work
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$	2035, 1946	scXe, 298 K	this work
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$	2038, 1952	scKr, 298 K	this work
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$	2038, 1951	scKr/Xe, 298 K	this work
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2$	1947, 1879	Nujol, 77 K	18
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$	1954, 1890	<i>n</i> -heptane, 298 K	this work
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$	1957, 1894	scXe, 298 K	this work
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$	1965, 1903	scKr, 298 K	this work
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$	1963, 1900	scKr, 298 K	this work

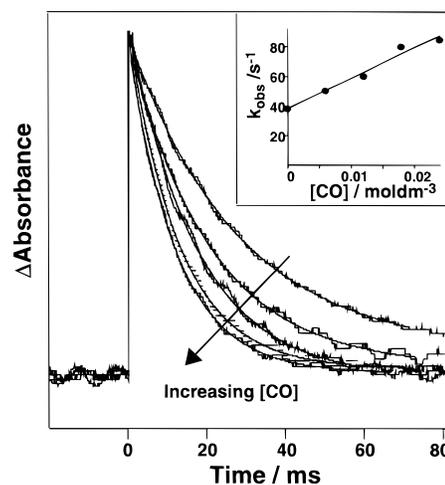


Figure 2. (a) TRIR decay traces recorded following irradiation of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in *n*-heptane solution at 1890 cm^{-1} in the presence of 2, 1.5, 1, 0.5, and 0 bar of CO. In each experiment, the total pressure above the *n*-heptane solution was maintained at 2 bar by using Ar as a buffer gas. (b) The insert shows a plot of k_{obs} versus CO concentration obtained from first order fit to the decay at 1890 cm^{-1} .

rate of decay of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$ is clearly dependent upon CO concentration. Even in the absence of CO, the decay of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$ is pseudo first order because only a small amount of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ is destroyed by the UV flash and presumably $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$ reacts with $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ (which is in excess) to form the known¹⁹ dimer $\text{Cp}_2\text{Re}_2(\text{CO})_5$. The decay of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{n-heptane})$ is also pseudo first order

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Table 2. Second-Order Rate Constants, k_2 ($\text{mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$), for the Reaction of Metal–Heptane Complexes with CO in *n*-Heptane Solution at 298 K ($s = n$ -heptane)

$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{V}(\text{CO})_3\text{s}^a$	$(\eta^6\text{-C}_6\text{H}_6)\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_2\text{s}^b$	$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_2\text{s}^c$
1×10^8	2×10^6	8×10^5
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Nb}(\text{CO})_3\text{s}^d$		
7×10^6		
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ta}(\text{CO})_3\text{s}^d$	$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Re}(\text{CO})_2\text{s}^d$	
5×10^6	2×10^3	

^a Reference 11. ^b Reference 25. ^c Reference 26. ^d This work.

in the presence of CO since the concentration of CO is significantly greater than the concentration of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$. Figure 2 also shows that the decay of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$ depends linearly on CO concentration, and from this plot we estimate the rate constant for the reaction of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$ with CO to be $2.1 (\pm 0.5) \times 10^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$. The intercept of this plot provides an estimation of the rate constant for the reaction of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$ with $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$, $4.5 (\pm 0.8) \times 10^4 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$.

$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$ is surprisingly unreactive, and the very low value of the rate constant for the reaction with CO to reform $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ underlines the stability of this complex. Table 2 summarises the rate constants for a series of early transition metal half-sandwich carbonyl *n*-heptane complexes with CO in *n*-heptane solution at room temperature. Although $\text{CpV}(\text{CO})_3(n\text{-heptane})^{11}$ has a rate constant of $1 \times 10^8 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$, this highly reactive complex must still have a significant V–heptane interaction since the rate constant is 100 times smaller than the diffusion controlled rate. Indeed the V–heptane bond strength has been estimated to be 41 kJ mol^{-1} with Photoacoustic Calorimetry (PAC).²⁰ Table 2 shows that there is a steady progression both *across* and *down* groups 5, 6, and 7 such that $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$ reacts with CO 50000 times slower than does $\text{CpV}(\text{CO})_3(n\text{-heptane})$. This suggests that the Re–heptane bond may be the strongest of the early transition metal–alkane interactions.

To our knowledge, $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$ is the longest lived organometallic alkane complex yet reported in room temperature solution. There is clearly a trend in reactivity of the early transition metal alkane complexes, and it may be expected that more stabilized alkane complexes will be produced with the later transition metals. However, $\text{CpCo}(\text{CO})$ was found⁹ to have no detectable interaction with cyclohexane and $\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{CO})^{14}$ and $\text{Cp}^*\text{Ir}(\text{CO})^{2b}$ react with alkanes to form C–H activated products. Grevels has reported²¹ that $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4(\text{cyclohexane})$ has a short lifetime ($< 10 \mu\text{s}$) in CO saturated cyclohexane solution and Perutz and co-workers²² have shown that C–H activated products are generated following photolysis of either $(\eta^6\text{-C}_6\text{H}_3\text{-Me}_3)\text{Os}(\text{CO})_2$ or $(\eta^6\text{-C}_6\text{H}_3\text{Me}_3)\text{Os}(\text{CO})(\text{H})_2$ in Ar matrices doped with methane at 20 K. These results for the later transition metals indicate that the lack of reactivity of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$ is significant, and we have investigated the stability of the solvated $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2$ moiety further by studying the photochemistry in supercritical fluids.

(b) Characterization and Reactivity of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$.

Figure 3a shows the FTIR spectrum of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ dissolved in supercritical Xe (scXe) in the presence of CO. Figure 3b shows the TRIR spectrum obtained 1 μs following 266-nm

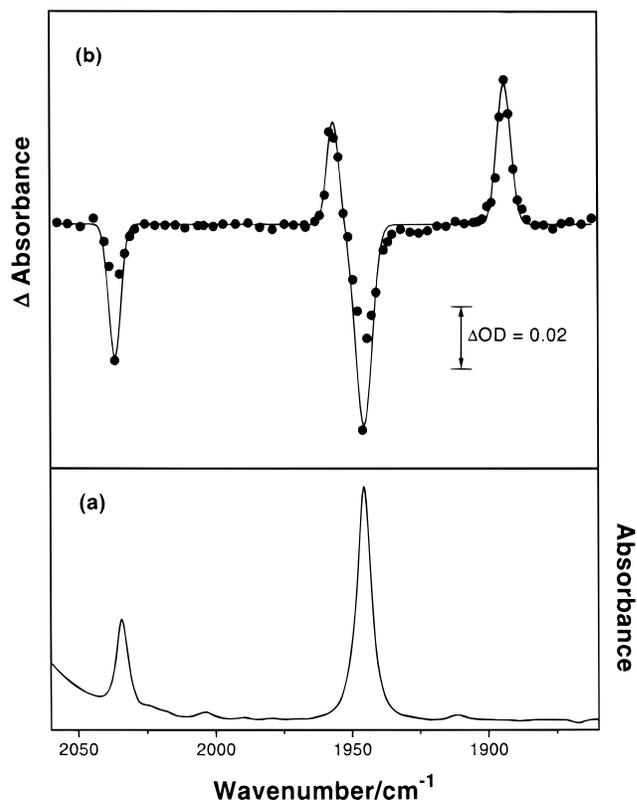


Figure 3. (a) FTIR spectrum of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in scXe (1721 psi, 25 °C) in the presence of CO (60 psi). (b) TRIR difference spectrum obtained 1 μs after photolysis (266 nm) of the same solution. The positive peaks are assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$, see text.

excitation of this solution. As with *n*-heptane, the parent absorptions are bleached and two new absorptions are produced which can be assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ by comparison with previous matrix isolation results¹⁸ together with the TRIR measurements described above. In the presence of CO, the formation of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ is completely reversible; the two bands decay fully to reform $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ with no observable secondary photoproducts. This reversibility is demonstrated more clearly in Figure 4, which shows the relevant TRIR kinetic decay traces; $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ is reformed at a rate ($k_{\text{obs}} = 2.2 (\pm 0.5) \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) that is identical within experimental error with the rate of decay of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ ($k_{\text{obs}} = 2.6 (\pm 0.5) \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$). Figure 4 also shows that the decay of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ depends linearly on CO concentration, and from this plot we estimate the second order rate constant for the reaction of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ with CO in scXe, $k_2 = 4.8 (\pm 0.3) \times 10^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$. Thus, $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ is ca. 400 times less reactive toward CO than $\text{W}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Xe})$ (see Table 3). Furthermore, apart from $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(n\text{-heptane})$, $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ is less reactive toward CO than all of the reported alkane-solvated 16-electron early transition metal intermediates! (See Table 2.) These experiments do not of course prove that Xe is coordinated to the $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2$ moiety, but evidence is provided by repeating the photolysis of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in supercritical Kr (scKr).

(c) Characterization and Reactivity of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$.

Figure 5a shows the FTIR spectrum of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ dissolved in supercritical krypton (scKr) in the presence of CO. It should be noted that IR $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ absorptions of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ dissolved in scKr are shifted relative to the IR bands in scXe (see Table 2). Figure 5b shows the TRIR spectrum obtained 100 ns following 266-nm excitation of this solution. The two transient absorptions are shifted to higher wavenumber relative to the absorptions assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ and are assigned tentatively to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$. $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ is far more

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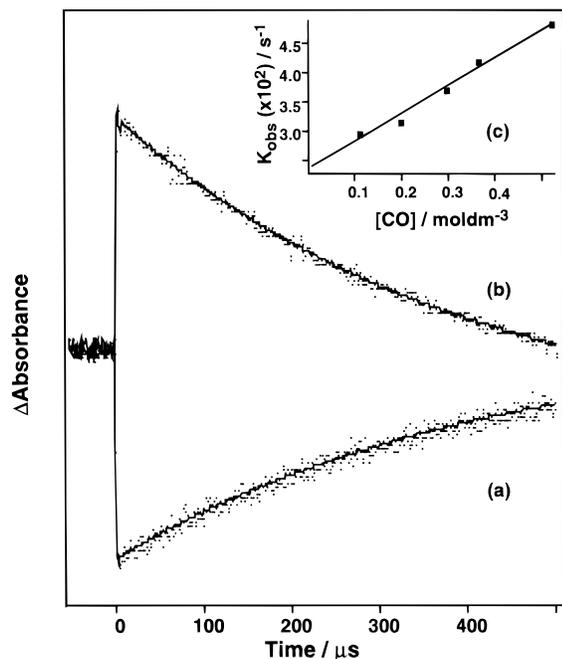


Figure 4. TRIR decay traces recorded following irradiation (266 nm) of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in scXe (1552 psi, 25 °C) in the presence of CO (60 psi) at (a) 1950 and (b) 1958 cm^{-1} . The two traces have been normalized in intensity. (c) Plot of k_{obs} versus CO concentration obtained from first order fit to the decay at 1894 cm^{-1} .

Table 3. Second-Order Rate Constants, k_2 ($\text{mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$), for the Reaction of Metal–L Complexes with CO in scL Solution (L = Xe, Kr)

$\text{M}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}$	temp/°C	$k_2/\text{mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$
$\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Xe})$	25	8.4×10^6
$\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Kr})$	32	4.7×10^8
$\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Xe})$	25	1.1×10^7
$\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Kr})$	30	4.3×10^8
$\text{W}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Xe})$	25	2.0×10^6
$\text{W}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Kr})$	25	7.5×10^7
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$	25	4.8×10^3
$\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$	25	8.1×10^6

reactive than $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$, decaying within 5 μs , and the lifetime of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ depends linearly on the concentration of CO in scKr (see Figure 6). We estimate the second order rate constant for the reaction of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ with CO in scKr to be $k_2 = 8.1 (\pm 0.3) \times 10^6 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{dm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$. As remarked above, the $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ bands assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ in scKr are shifted to higher wavenumber relative to those assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ in scXe. Although this shift in itself does not prove Xe or Kr is coordinating to the metal center, it does allow the coordination of Xe to the metal center to be investigated further. Thus, further confirmation of the coordination of Xe to the metal center can be achieved by repeating the TRIR experiment in scKr doped with a small amount of Xe.

Figure 7 shows kinetic traces recorded in scKr doped with Xe. The two traces were recorded at wavenumbers corresponding to the $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ bands of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ and $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$, respectively, see Figures 3 and 5. It is clear that the lifetime of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ is somewhat shorter than in undoped scKr, Figure 6, even though the concentration of CO was the same in the two experiments. At the same time, the formation of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ is not instantaneous, occurring on a time scale that is much longer than the rise time of the IR detector (ca. 25 ns), which matches exactly the decay of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$, $k_{\text{obs}} = 2 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$. Thus the traces are consistent with the kinetic formation of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$, followed by the slower

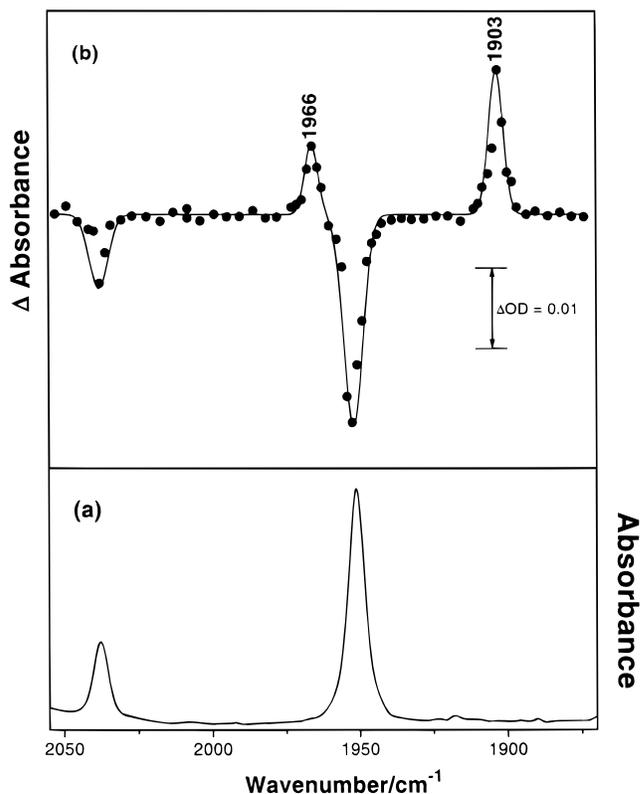


Figure 5. (a) FTIR spectrum of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in scKr (3410 psi, 25 °C) in the presence of CO (30 psi). (b) TRIR difference spectrum obtained 100 ns after photolysis (266 nm) of the same solution. The positive peaks are assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$, see text.

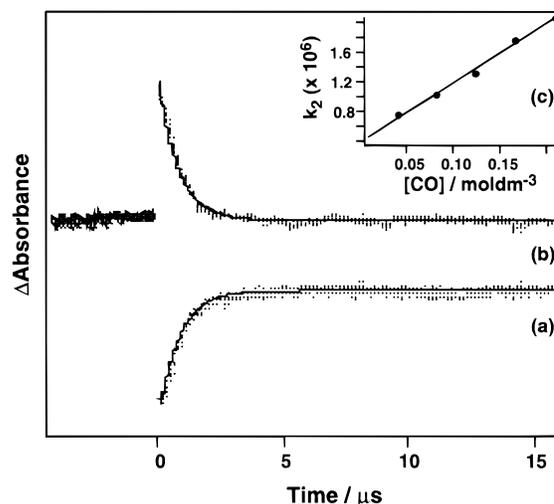


Figure 6. TRIR decay traces recorded following irradiation (266 nm) of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in scKr (3410 psi, 25 °C) in the presence of CO (30 psi) at (a) 2038 and (b) 1903 cm^{-1} . The two traces have been normalized in intensity. (c) Plot of k_{obs} versus CO concentration obtained from first order fit to the decay at 1903 cm^{-1} .

formation of the thermodynamically preferred $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$, eq 3.



This interpretation is supported by the full TRIR spectra shown in Figure 8, which shows the TRIR spectrum obtained 100 ns

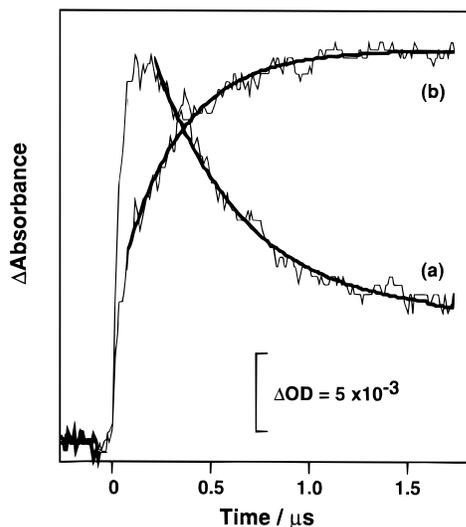


Figure 7. TRIR decay traces recorded following irradiation (266 nm) of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in scKr (3414 psi, 25 °C) in the presence of CO (30 psi) and Xe (50 psi) at (a) 1967 and (b) 1962 cm^{-1} . The two traces have been normalized in intensity.

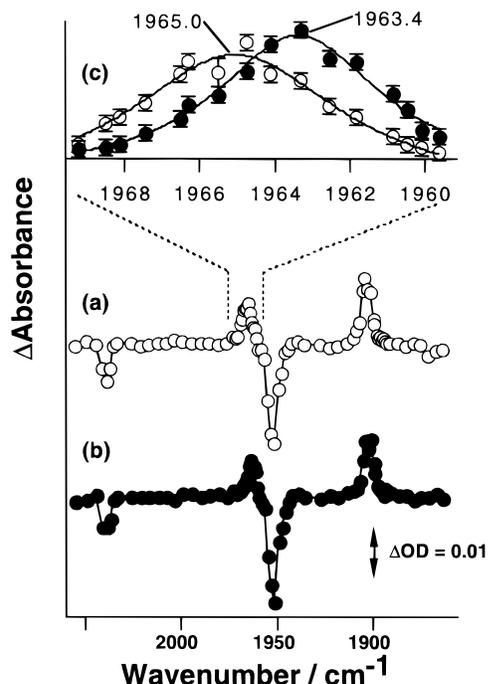


Figure 8. TRIR difference spectrum of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in scKr (3414 psi, 25 °C) in the presence of CO (30 psi) and Xe (50 psi) obtained (a) 100 ns (○), and (b) 2 μs (●) after excitation (266 nm). (c) Expanded spectrum around 1965 cm^{-1} , recorded in a separate experiment, where the IR frequency of each data point was determined with a high resolution FTIR spectrometer and the uncertainty in each data point ($\pm 0.05 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) is less than the size of the points as printed on the spectrum.

following photolysis of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ dissolved in scKr doped with Xe and CO. It is clear that parent absorptions are bleached (note that the $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ absorptions of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ are *not* significantly changed when the scKr is doped with Xe). The new $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ absorptions at 1966 and 1904 cm^{-1} are identical, within the experimental error of the TRIR spectrometer, with

those observed for $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ in undoped scKr and can be assigned to this complex. Within 2 μs , however, the two absorptions have both shifted to lower wavenumber at 1963 and 1900 cm^{-1} . These shifted $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ absorptions are virtually coincident²³ with those observed for $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ in scXe and are assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ in scKr. The bands assigned to $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ in scKr have a lifetime that is significantly longer than the lifetime of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ in pure scKr (Figure 6) and similar to the lifetime of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ in scXe (see Figure 4). This behavior should be contrasted with analogous experiments¹⁵ where $\text{W}(\text{CO})_6$ was photolyzed in scKr doped with Xe, and preferential coordination of Xe was observed to occur very rapidly (<50 ns). The present data suggest that $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ has significant stability, and the rate constants for the reaction of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ and $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Kr})$ with CO shows these complexes to be less reactive than the corresponding $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Xe})$ and $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5(\text{Kr})$ complexes, Table 3.

Conclusions

The experiments described in this paper show that the $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2$ moiety interacts even more strongly with inert ligands than might be predicted from trends in reactivity across the Periodic Table. Indeed, as far as we are aware, this is the first occasion that the formation of a Xe complex has been slow enough to be followed in real time, as a result presumably of a significant Re–Kr interaction in scKr. Noble gas ligands such as Kr and Xe are perhaps the ultimate σ donor with little possibility of acting as electron acceptors. Our observations should therefore be taken as confirmation of the excellent acceptor properties of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2$. Of course $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2$ is known to have good electron donor properties, as shown, for example, in the oxidative addition of H_2 in scXe, to form *cis*- $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{H})_2$.²⁴ Preliminary TRIR data on $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_3$ in scCO₂ suggest that interaction of CO₂ with Re can lead to transient oxidation of the metal center even though there is no overall chemical reaction. This system is now being investigated further.

There is clearly still much to learn about organometallic alkane and noble gas complexes, and it is likely that TRIR spectroscopy will prove increasingly useful for this purpose.

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(23) Although the wavenumbers do not appear to be coincident with those of $\text{CpRe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Xe})$ in scXe, they are if the solvent shift of the parent bands from scKr to scXe are taken into account, see Table 1.

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