

# Dihydrogen bond interactions as a result of H<sub>2</sub> cleavage at Cu, Ag and Au centres

## Supplementary Information

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### Abstract

A quantum chemical study of the H<sub>2</sub> activation at fluorides of coinage metals, MF (M = Cu, Ag and Au), and its splitting was performed. The following reaction path was analyzed: FM···H<sub>2</sub> → FH···HM → HM···FH, where both the molecular complexes and the corresponding transition states have been characterized at the CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVQZ//MP2/aug-cc-pVQZ level of theory. Further single-point CASSCF/CASPT2 calculations, including spin-orbit coupling effects, were also performed to analyze the role of non-dynamical correlation. The scalar relativistic effects are included via aug-cc-pVQZ-PP basis sets used for the metals. The dihydrogen-bonded copper (FH···HCu) and silver (FH···HAg) complexes are observed as a result of the H<sub>2</sub> cleavage, while the corresponding FH···HAu gold complex is not found but the H Au···HF arrangement is observed, instead. The energetic and geometrical parameters of the complexes have been analyzed and both the Quantum Theory of Atoms in Molecules approach and the Natural Bond Orbitals method were additionally applied to analyze the intermolecular interactions.

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Table 1SI. Geometrical parameters (Å, degrees) for the complexes linked through DHB (HAu $\cdots$ HF link, for gold complex); H $\cdots$ H intermolecular distance (H $\cdots$ Au distance, in the case of gold complex), FH $\cdots$ H angle (FH $\cdots$ Au angle for gold) and MH $\cdots$ H angle (for Au, HAu $\cdots$ H).

| Metal | H $\cdots$ H(Au) | FH $\cdots$ H(Au) | MH $\cdots$ H |
|-------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Cu    | 1.682            | 175.2             | 103.3         |
| Ag    | 1.717            | 176.5             | 103.7         |
| Au    | 2.366            | 174.3             | 72.8          |

Table 2SI. QTAIM parameters:  $\rho_{\text{BCP}}$ ,  $\nabla^2\rho_{\text{BCP}}$  and  $H_{\text{BCP}}$  (in au).

| Complex                     | BCP type          | $\rho_{\text{BCP}}$ | $\nabla^2\rho_{\text{BCP}}$ | $H_{\text{BCP}}$ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| FCu $\cdots$ H <sub>2</sub> | Cu $\cdots\sigma$ | 0.136               | 0.407                       | -0.076           |
| FAg $\cdots$ H <sub>2</sub> | Ag $\cdots\sigma$ | 0.106               | 0.320                       | -0.043           |
| FAu $\cdots$ H <sub>2</sub> | Au $\cdots\sigma$ | 0.162               | 0.170                       | -0.107           |
| CuH $\cdots$ HF             | H $\cdots$ H      | 0.025               | 0.042                       | -0.003           |
| AgH $\cdots$ HF             | H $\cdots$ H      | 0.023               | 0.037                       | -0.003           |
| HAu $\cdots$ HF             | Au $\cdots$ H     | 0.022               | 0.044                       | -0.003           |
| HCu $\cdots$ FH             | Cu $\cdots$ F     | 0.064               | 0.433                       | -0.014           |
| HAg $\cdots$ FH             | Ag $\cdots$ F     | 0.040               | 0.232                       | -0.003           |
| HAu $\cdots$ FH             | Au $\cdots$ F     | 0.049               | 0.276                       | -0.006           |

Table 3SI. Most relevant orbital-orbital overlaps for the complexes in gas phase and the corresponding interaction energies,  $E_{\text{NBO}}$  (in kcal/mol).

| Complex                     | Orbital-orbital overlap                                | $E_{\text{NBO}}$ |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| FCu $\cdots$ H <sub>2</sub> | $\sigma_{\text{HH}} \rightarrow n_{\text{Cu}}^*$       | 100.9            |
| FAg $\cdots$ H <sub>2</sub> | $\sigma_{\text{HH}} \rightarrow n_{\text{Ag}}^*$       | 57.4             |
| FAu $\cdots$ H <sub>2</sub> | $\sigma_{\text{HH}} \rightarrow n_{\text{Au}}^*$       | 319.8            |
| CuH $\cdots$ HF             | $\sigma_{\text{CuH}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{HF}}^*$ | 11.8             |
| AgH $\cdots$ HF             | $\sigma_{\text{AgH}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{HF}}^*$ | 11.3             |
| HAu $\cdots$ HF             | $\sigma_{\text{AuH}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{HF}}^*$ | 2.7              |
|                             | $n_{\text{Au}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{HF}}^*$       | 6.2              |
| HCu $\cdots$ FH             | $\sigma_{\text{HF}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{CuH}}^*$ | 2.5              |
|                             | $n_{\text{F}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{CuH}}^*$       | 22.7             |
|                             | $n_{\text{F}} \rightarrow n_{\text{Cu}}^*$             | 16.2             |
| HAg $\cdots$ FH             | $\sigma_{\text{FH}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{AgH}}^*$ | 1.1              |
|                             | $n_{\text{F}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{AgH}}^*$       | 15.0             |
|                             | $n_{\text{F}} \rightarrow n_{\text{Ag}}^*$             | 4.3              |
| HAu $\cdots$ FH             | $\sigma_{\text{FH}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{AuH}}^*$ | 1.3              |
|                             | $n_{\text{F}} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{AuH}}^*$       | 22.8             |
|                             | $n_{\text{F}} \rightarrow n_{\text{Au}}^*$             | 2.3              |

## MP2/aug-cc-pVQZ-PP geometries of complexes analyzed here

### F-Cu...H<sub>2</sub>

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| 1                | 29               | 0              | -0.311181               | -0.000023 | -0.000009 |
| 2                | 9                | 0              | 1.392322                | 0.000031  | 0.000013  |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -1.753229               | 0.418378  | 0.000071  |
| 4                | 1                | 0              | -1.753420               | -0.417994 | 0.000071  |

### F-Ag...H<sub>2</sub>

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| 1                | 47               | 0              | -0.241500               | -0.000003 | 0.000011  |
| 2                | 9                | 0              | 1.691399                | 0.000007  | -0.000078 |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -1.936044               | 0.398749  | 0.000086  |
| 4                | 1                | 0              | -1.936046               | -0.398682 | 0.000093  |

### F-Au...H<sub>2</sub>

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| 1                | 79               | 0              | 0.155783                | 0.000000  | 0.000006  |
| 2                | 9                | 0              | -1.737230               | 0.000001  | -0.000068 |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | 1.664108                | -0.477565 | 0.000061  |
| 4                | 1                | 0              | 1.664104                | 0.477577  | 0.000070  |

### Cu-H...H-F

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |          |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z        |
| 1                | 29               | 0              | 0.036208                | -0.824214 | 0.000000 |
| 2                | 1                | 0              | -1.064958               | 0.097618  | 0.000000 |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -0.310963               | 1.601211  | 0.000000 |
| 4                | 9                | 0              | 0.036208                | 2.467041  | 0.000000 |

### Ag-H...H-F

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |          |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z        |
| 1                | 47               | 0              | 0.027290                | -0.595144 | 0.000000 |
| 2                | 1                | 0              | -1.167985               | 0.471515  | 0.000000 |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -0.360244               | 1.986572  | 0.000000 |
| 4                | 9                | 0              | 0.027290                | 2.834854  | 0.000000 |

**H-Au...H-F**

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |          |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z        |
| 1                | 79               | 0              | 0.016684                | -0.359987 | 0.000000 |
| 2                | 1                | 0              | -1.418730               | 0.041582  | 0.000000 |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -0.049437               | 2.005555  | 0.000000 |
| 4                | 9                | 0              | 0.016684                | 2.932422  | 0.000000 |

**H-Cu...F-H**

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| 1                | 29               | 0              | -0.470162               | -0.000857 | -0.000078 |
| 2                | 9                | 0              | 1.513030                | -0.091516 | 0.000257  |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -1.889195               | 0.100973  | -0.000343 |
| 4                | 1                | 0              | 1.906615                | 0.747536  | 0.000305  |

**H-Ag...F-H**

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| 1                | 47               | 0              | -0.379925               | -0.001533 | -0.000066 |
| 2                | 9                | 0              | 1.935738                | -0.086294 | 0.000338  |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -1.947275               | 0.126049  | -0.000342 |
| 4                | 1                | 0              | 2.382127                | 0.722658  | 0.000391  |

**H-Au...F-H**

| Center<br>Number | Atomic<br>Number | Atomic<br>Type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |                  |                | X                       | Y         | Z         |
| 1                | 79               | 0              | -0.241108               | -0.000636 | -0.000042 |
| 2                | 9                | 0              | 2.045358                | -0.091299 | 0.000358  |
| 3                | 1                | 0              | -1.734749               | 0.097722  | -0.000305 |
| 4                | 1                | 0              | 2.374065                | 0.774225  | 0.000392  |