

Supporting Information for:

**Building *trans*-Philicity (*trans*-Effect/*trans*-Influence) Ladders  
for Octahedral Complexes by NMR Probe**

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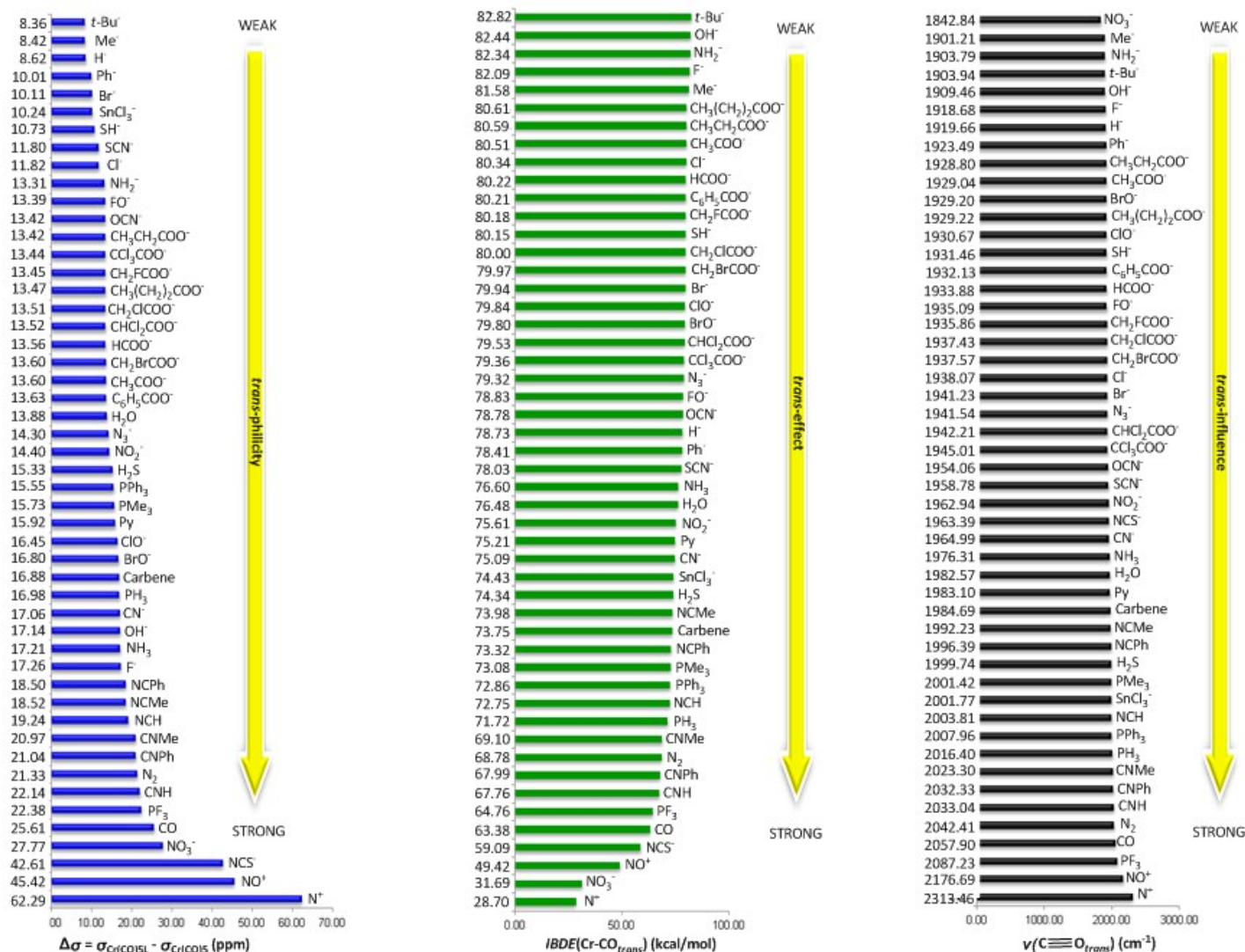
S16

**Table S1.** The isotropic  $\sigma^{13}\text{C}$  shielding tensor elements and  $R(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  bond distances for octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{-0/+}$  complexes calculated by the PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM and PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM (figures in parentheses) computational protocols along with the ligand electronic parameters  $P_L$  and  $E_L(L)$ .

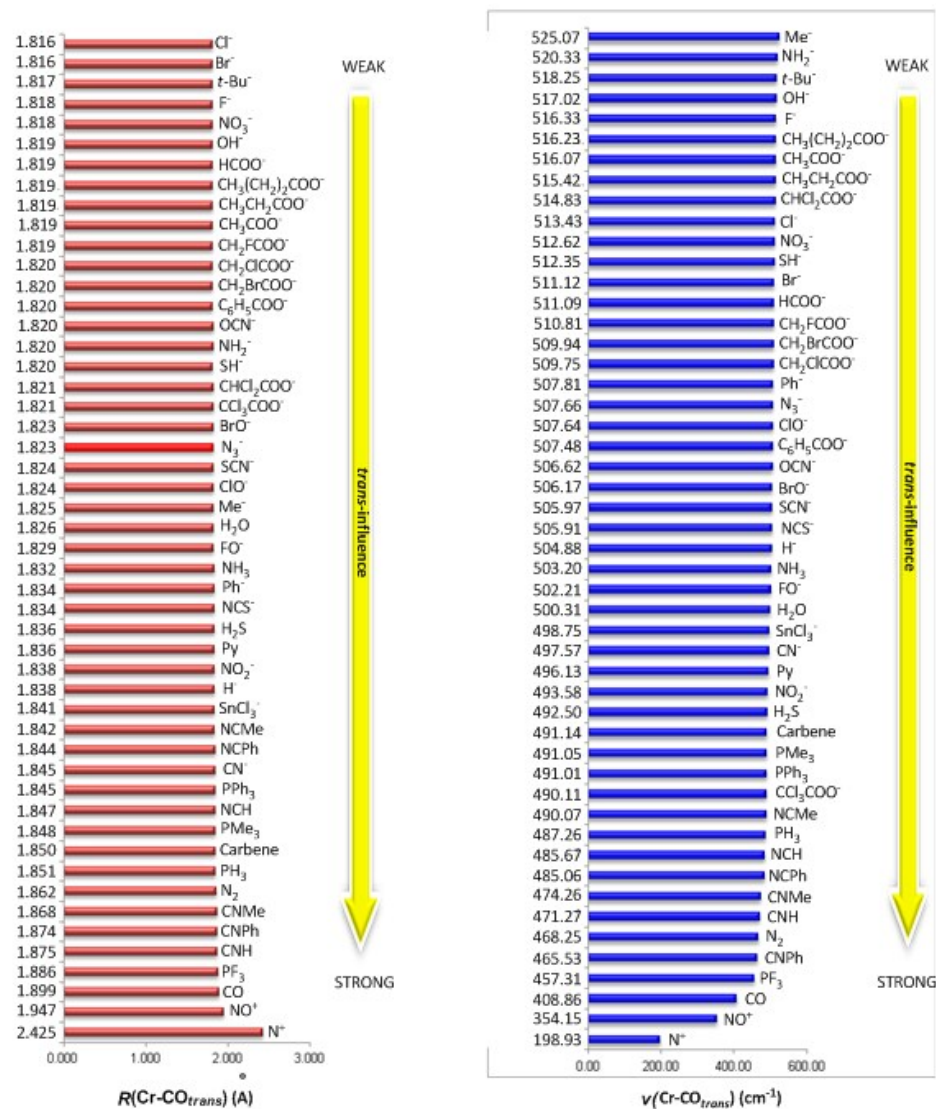
| Ligand               | $P_L$ (V) | $E_L(L)$ (V) | $R(\text{Cr-C})$ (Å) | $\sigma^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm) | Ligand                                   | $P_L$ (V) | $E_L(L)$ (V) | $R(\text{Cr-C})$ (Å) | $\sigma^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm) |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| $\text{N}^+$         | 1.46      | 1.94         | 2.412 (2.425)        | 19.41 (-0.58)               | $\text{Br}^-$                            | -1.17     | -0.22        | 1.817<br>(1.816)     | -25.07 (-52.76)             |
| $\text{NO}^+$        | 1.40      | 1.90         | 2.015 (1.947)        | 4.42 (-17.45)               | $\text{Cl}^-$                            | -1.15     | -0.24        | 1.817 (1.816)        | -23.96 (-51.05)             |
| $\text{CO}$          | 0.30      | 0.99         | 1.898 (1.899)        | -13.34 (-37.26)             | $\text{F}^-$                             | -1.38     | -0.42        | 1.822 (1.818)        | -13.59 (-45.61)             |
| $\text{N}_2$         | -0.07     | 0.68         | 1.866 (1.862)        | -15.90 (-41.54)             | $\text{H}^-$                             | -1.22     | -0.3         | 1.838 (1.838)        | -26.22 (-54.25)             |
| $\text{PH}_3$        | -0.36     | 0.43         | 1.851 (1.851)        | -20.06 (-45.85)             | $\text{N}_3^-$                           | -1.26     | -0.3         | 1.825 (1.823)        | -21.53 (-48.57)             |
| $\text{PMe}_3$       | -0.47     | 0.33         | 1.846 (1.848)        | -20.68 (-47.14)             | $\text{OH}^-$                            | -1.55     | -0.59        | 1.821 (1.819)        | -16.41 (-45.73)             |
| $\text{PPh}_3$       | -0.35     | 0.39         | 1.847 (1.845)        | -20.71 (-47.32)             | $\text{SH}^-$                            | -1.35     | -0.42        | 1.819(1.820)         | -25.11 (-52.14)             |
| $\text{PF}_3$        | 0.09      | 0.81         | 1.883 (1.886)        | -16.10 (-40.49)             | $\text{NH}_2^-$                          |           |              | 1.820 (1.820)        | -22.58 (-49.56)             |
| $\text{CNH}$         |           |              | 1.875 (1.875)        | -16.01 (-40.73)             | $\text{Me}^-$                            | -1.88     | -0.87        | 1.823 (1.825)        | -27.17 (-54.5)              |
| $\text{NCH}$         | -0.39     | 0.4          | 1.849 (1.847)        | -17.67(-43.63)              | $\text{t-Bu}^-$                          | -1.91     | -0.9         | 1.817 (1.817)        | -26.63 (-54.51)             |
| $\text{CNPh}$        | -0.38     | 0.41         | 1.874 (1.874)        | -16.76 (-41.83)             | $\text{Ph}^-$                            | -1.59     | -0.62        | 1.832 (1.834)        | -25.28(-52.86)              |
| $\text{NCPh}$        | -0.40     | 0.37         | 1.847 (1.844)        | -18.16 (-44.37)             | $\text{SnCl}_3^-$                        |           |              | 1.841 (1.841)        | -25.29 (-52.63)             |
| $\text{CNMe}$        | -0.43     | 0.37         | 1.869 (1.868)        | -17.03 (-41.90)             | $\text{FO}^-$                            |           |              | 1.832 (1.829)        | -20.70 (-49.48)             |
| $\text{NCMe}$        | -0.58     | 0.34         | 1.845 (1.842)        | -18.22 (-44.35)             | $\text{ClO}^-$                           |           |              | 1.827 (1.824)        | -18.13 (-46.42)             |
| $\text{Py}$          | -0.59     | 0.25         | 1.838 (1.836)        | -20.02 (-46.95)             | $\text{BrO}^-$                           |           |              | 1.826 (1.823)        | -17.71 (-46.07)             |
| $\text{NH}_3$        | -0.77     | 0.07         | 1.835 (1.832)        | -19.14 (-45.66)             | $\text{HCOO}^-$                          | -1.21     | -0.3         | 1.821 (1.819)        | -21.69 (-49.31)             |
| $\text{Carbene}$     | -1.16     | -0.26        | 1.851 (1.850)        | -19.95 (-45.99)             | $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$                |           |              | 1.821 (1.819)        | -21.64 (-49.27)             |
| $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | -0.81     | 0.04         | 1.830 (1.826)        | -21.33 (-48.99)             | $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{COO}^-$     |           |              | 1.821 (1.819)        | -21.91 (-49.45)             |
| $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ | -0.36     | 0.43         | 1.838 (1.836)        | -21.45 (-47.54)             | $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{COO}^-$ |           |              | 1.821 (1.819)        | -21.87 (-49.40)             |
| $\text{NO}_3^-$      | -0.99     | -0.11        | 1.826 (1.818)        | -22.69 (-35.10)             | $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{COO}^-$       |           |              | 1.822 (1.820)        | -21.73 (-49.24)             |
| $\text{NO}_2^-$      | -0.84     | 0.02         | 1.840 (1.838)        | -20.90 (-48.47)             | $\text{CH}_2\text{FCOO}^-$               |           |              | 1.822 (1.819)        | -21.61 (-49.42)             |
| $\text{NCS}^-$       | -0.88     | -0.06        | 1.834 (1.834)        | -18.13 (-20.26)             | $\text{CH}_2\text{ClCOO}^-$              |           |              | 1.822 (1.820)        | -21.87 (-49.36)             |
| $\text{SCN}^-$       | -0.88     | -0.06        | 1.824(1.824)         | -24.10(-51.07)              | $\text{CH}_2\text{BrCOO}^-$              |           |              | 1.822 (1.820)        | -21.75 (-49.27)             |
| $\text{CN}^-$        | -1.00     | 0.02         | 1.844 (1.845)        | -19.79 (-45.81)             | $\text{CHCl}_2\text{COO}^-$              |           |              | 1.823 (1.821)        | -21.74 ()                   |
| $\text{OCN}^-$       | -1.16     | -0.25        | 1.824 (1.820)        | -21.38 (-49.45)             | $\text{CCl}_3\text{COO}^-$               |           |              | 1.823 (1.821)        | -21.92(-49.43)              |
|                      |           |              |                      |                             | <b>Reference</b>                         |           |              | <b>1.825 (1.820)</b> | <b>-34.46 (-62.87)</b>      |

**Table S2.** The  $\nu(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and  $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{O}_{\text{trans}})$  (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) stretching vibrational frequencies for octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{-/0/+}$  complexes calculated by the PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM and PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM (figures in parentheses) computational protocols.

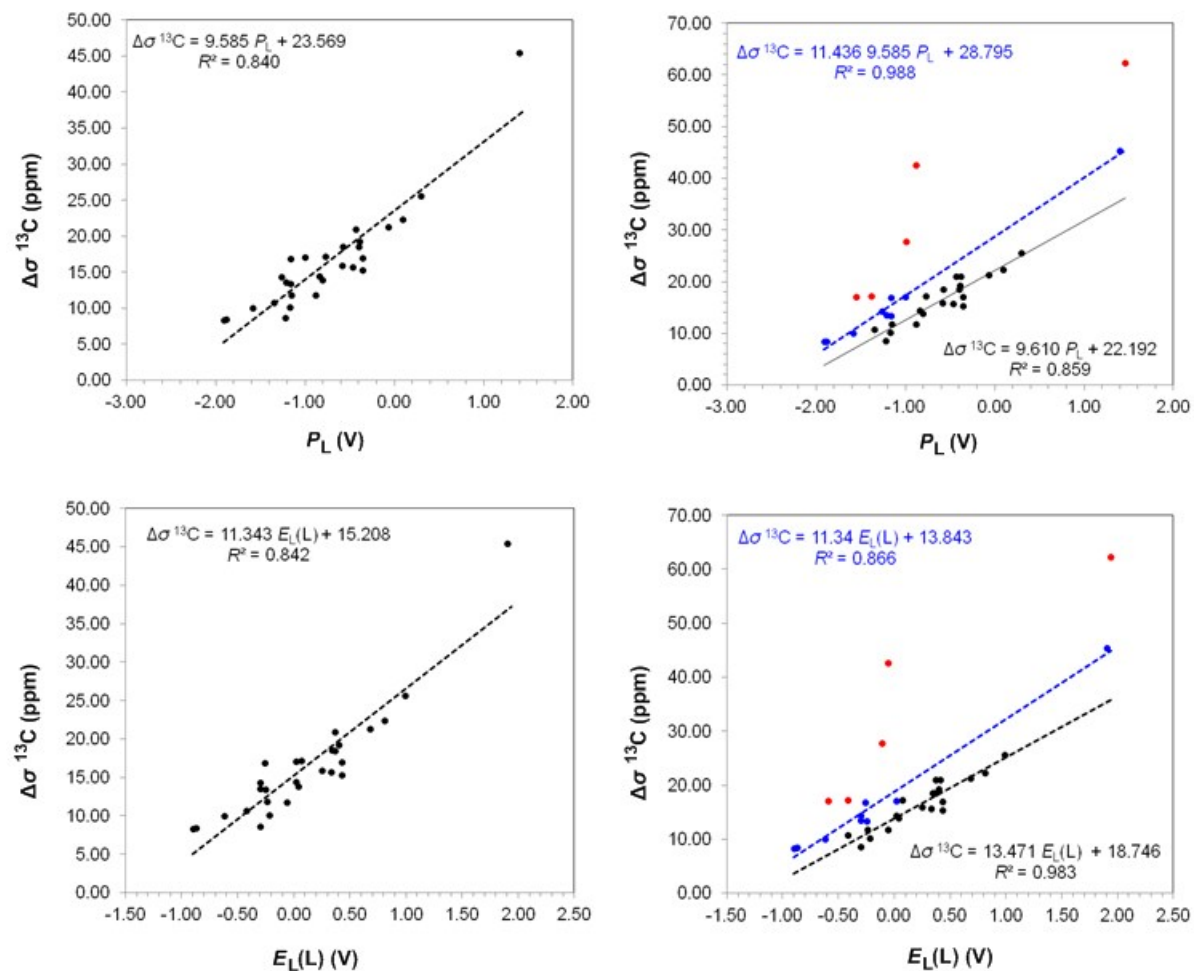
| Ligand                         | $\nu(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$ | Ligand                         | $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{O}_{\text{trans}})$ | Ligand                                                           | $\nu(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$ | Ligand                                                           | $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{O}_{\text{trans}})$ |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| N <sup>+</sup>                 | 204.31 (198.93)                    | N <sup>+</sup>                 | 2315.37 (2313.46)                            | N <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                      | 511.79 (507.66)                    | N <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                      | 1974.27 (1941.54)                            |
| NO <sup>+</sup>                | 332.26 (354.15)                    | NO <sup>+</sup>                | 2239.43 (2176.69)                            | BrO <sup>-</sup>                                                 | 510.61 (506.17)                    | BrO <sup>-</sup>                                                 | 1963.26 (1929.20)                            |
| CO                             | 410.84 (408.86)                    | CO                             | 2113.94 (2057.90)                            | Br <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 517.89 (511.12)                    | Br <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 1971.71 (1941.23)                            |
| PF <sub>3</sub>                | 464.45 (457.31)                    | PF <sub>3</sub>                | 2095.58 (2087.23)                            | Cl <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 516.84 (513.43)                    | Cl <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 1970.06 (1938.07)                            |
| N <sub>2</sub>                 | 470.25 (468.25)                    | N <sub>2</sub>                 | 2068.05 (2042.41)                            | H <sup>-</sup>                                                   | 510.73 (504.88)                    | H <sup>-</sup>                                                   | 1960.37 (1919.66)                            |
| CNH                            | 477.83 (471.27)                    | CNH                            | 2058.10 (2033.04)                            | ClO <sup>-</sup>                                                 | 511.46 (507.64)                    | ClO <sup>-</sup>                                                 | 1963.64 (1930.67)                            |
| CNPh                           | 469.65 (465.53)                    | CNPh                           | 2056.51 (2032.33)                            | Ph <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 513.87 (507.81)                    | Ph <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 1957.05 (1923.49)                            |
| CNMe                           | 478.42 (474.26)                    | CNMe                           | 2049.22 (2023.30)                            | SH <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 517.65 (512.35)                    | SH <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 1964.19 (1931.46)                            |
| NCPH                           | 487.44 (485.06)                    | NCPH                           | 2026.62 (1996.39)                            | t-Bu <sup>-</sup>                                                | 522.59 (518.25)                    | t-Bu <sup>-</sup>                                                | 1937.26 (1903.94)                            |
| NCH                            | 488.83 (485.67)                    | NCH                            | 2032.23 (2003.81)                            | OH <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 526.22 (517.02)                    | OH <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 1944.46(1909.46)                             |
| NCMe                           | 492.58 (490.07)                    | NCMe                           | 2023.54 (1992.23)                            | F <sup>-</sup>                                                   | 527.74 (516.33)                    | F <sup>-</sup>                                                   | 1951.31 (1918.69)                            |
| PH <sub>3</sub>                | 490.83 (487.19)                    | PH <sub>3</sub>                | 2040.33 (2016.37)                            | NH <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                     | 528.28 (520.33)                    | NH <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                     | 1940.38 (1903.79)                            |
| PPh <sub>3</sub>               | 496.08 (491.01)                    | PPh <sub>3</sub>               | 2029.25 (2007.96)                            | Me <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 533.58 (525.07)                    | Me <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 1938.57 (1901.21)                            |
| PMe <sub>3</sub>               | 496.29 (491.05)                    | PMe <sub>3</sub>               | 2025.41 (2001.42)                            | NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                     | 597.77 (512.64)                    | NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                     | 1987.36 (1842.64)                            |
| H <sub>2</sub> S               | 495.03 (492.50)                    | H <sub>2</sub> S               | 2026.96(1999.74)                             | CH <sub>2</sub> FCOO <sup>-</sup>                                | 514.90 (510.81)                    | CH <sub>2</sub> FCOO <sup>-</sup>                                | 1967.07 (1935.86)                            |
| Carbene                        | 495.20 (491.14)                    | Carbene                        | 2013.16 (1984.69)                            | CH <sub>2</sub> ClCOO <sup>-</sup>                               | 512.87 (509.75)                    | CH <sub>2</sub> ClCOO <sup>-</sup>                               | 1969.33 (1937.43)                            |
| Py                             | 498.78 (496.13)                    | Py                             | 2011.10 (1983.10)                            | CH <sub>2</sub> BrCOO <sup>-</sup>                               | 513.07 (509.94)                    | CH <sub>2</sub> BrCOO <sup>-</sup>                               | 1969.40 (1937.57)                            |
| SnCl <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> | 499.35 (498.75)                    | SnCl <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> | 2026.35 (2001.77)                            | CHCl <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                               | 488.88 (514.83)                    | CHCl <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                               | 1974.22 (1942.21)                            |
| H <sub>2</sub> O               | 501.95 (500.31)                    | H <sub>2</sub> O               | 2012.21 (1982.57)                            | CCl <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                                | 491.84 (490.11)                    | CCl <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                                | 1977.46 (1945.01)                            |
| NH <sub>3</sub>                | 505.71 (503.20)                    | NH <sub>3</sub>                | 2006.41 (1976.31)                            | HCOO <sup>-</sup>                                                | 515.36 (511.09)                    | HCOO <sup>-</sup>                                                | 1965.14 (1933.88)                            |
| CN <sup>-</sup>                | 505.36(497.57)                     | CN <sup>-</sup>                | 1994.51(1964.99)                             | CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                                 | 518.61 (516.07)                    | CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                                 | 1961.18 (1929.04)                            |
| NCS <sup>-</sup>               | 505.60 (505.91)                    | NCS <sup>-</sup>               | 1992.09 (1963.39)                            | CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                 | 518.29 (515.42)                    | CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                 | 1961.50 (1928.80)                            |
| NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>   | 499.77 (493.58)                    | NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>   | 1992.14 (1962.94)                            | CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> | 518.61 (516.23)                    | CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> | 1961.65 (1929.22)                            |
| FO <sup>-</sup>                | 508.83 (502.21)                    | FO <sup>-</sup>                | 1965.27 (1935.09)                            | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                   | 510.42 (507.48))                   | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                   | 1964.94 (1932.13)                            |
| OCN <sup>-</sup>               | 509.76 (506.62)                    | OCN <sup>-</sup>               | 1981.49 (1954.06)                            |                                                                  |                                    |                                                                  |                                              |
| SCN <sup>-</sup>               | 510.18 (505.97)                    | SCN <sup>-</sup>               | 1984.08 (1958.78)                            |                                                                  |                                    |                                                                  |                                              |



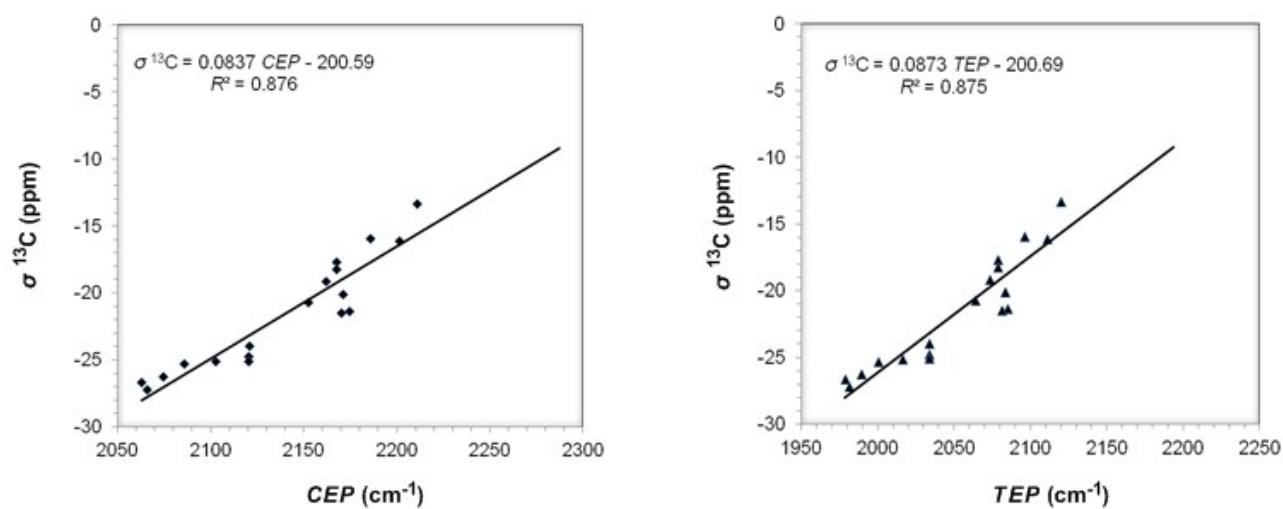
**Chart S1.** *Trans*-philicity, *trans*-effect and *trans*-influence ladders for octahedral [Cr(CO)<sub>5</sub>L]<sup>-/+</sup> complexes quantified by  $\Delta\sigma$  <sup>13</sup>C NMR, intrinsic bond dissociation energy of the Cr-CO<sub>trans</sub> bond, IBDE(Cr-CO<sub>trans</sub>) and the stretching vibrational frequency,  $\nu(C\equiv O_{trans})$  probes respectively calculated by the PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr) ∪ 6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol in dichloromethane solution.



**Chart S2.** *Trans*-Influence ladders for octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{-0/+}$  complexes quantified by the  $R(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  bond lengths and  $\nu(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  vibrational frequencies calculated by the PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol in dichloromethane solution.



**Figure S1.** Linear relationships between  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13\text{C}}$  shielding tensor elements of octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{-/0/+}$  complexes calculated by the GIAO/PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol and the  $P_L$  and  $E_L(L)$  ligand electronic parameters.



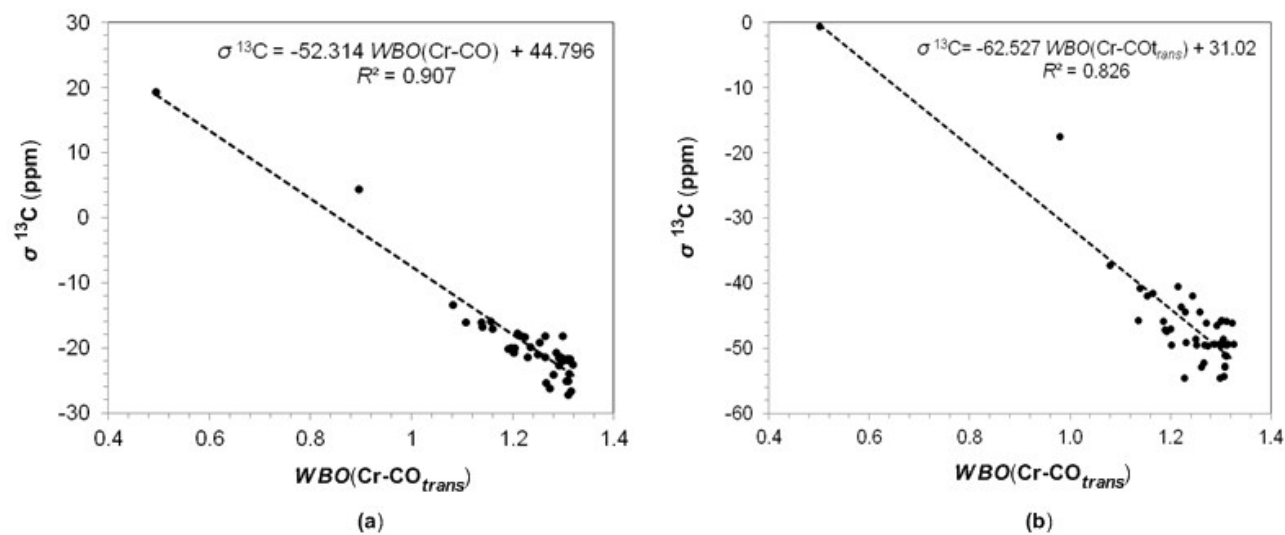
**Figure S2.** Linear relationships between  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13}\text{C}$  shielding tensor elements of octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{+/0/-}$  complexes calculated by the GIAO/PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol and the CEP and TEP ligand electronic parameters.

**Table S3.** Isotropic  $\sigma$   $^{13}\text{C}$  shielding tensor elements, Wiberg Bond orders,  $WBO(\text{Cr-C})$ , occupation of  $\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  and natural atomic charges  $Q_{\text{Cr}}$  and  $Q_{\text{C}}$  for octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{-10/+}$  complexes calculated by the PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol.

| Ligand                                   | $WBO(\text{Cr-C})$ | Occupation<br>$\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$ | $Q_{\text{Cr}}$ | $Q_{\text{C}}$ | $\sigma$ $^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm) | Ligand                             | $WBO(\text{Cr-C})$ | Occupation<br>$\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$ | $Q_{\text{Cr}}$ | $Q_{\text{C}}$ | $\sigma$ $^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm) |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| $\text{N}^+$                             | 0.4946             | 1.94517                                             | -1.97947        | 0.72128        | 19.41                          | $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{COO}^-$ | 1.3086             | 1.92859                                             | -2.66102        | 0.91379        | -21.73                         |
| $\text{NO}^+$                            | 0.8942             | 1.92516                                             | -2.59868        | 0.94166        | 4.42                           | $\text{CH}_2\text{FCOO}^-$         | 1.3074             | 1.89355                                             | -2.664          | 0.91400        | -21.61                         |
| $\text{CO}$                              | 1.0806             | 1.91268                                             | -3.21695        | 0.97011        | -13.34                         | $\text{CH}_2\text{ClCOO}^-$        | 1.3058             | 1.89367                                             | -2.654          | 0.91500        | -21.87                         |
| $\text{N}_2$                             | 1.1554             | 1.90437                                             | -2.88373        | 0.95996        | -15.90                         | $\text{CH}_2\text{BrCOO}^-$        | 1.3053             | 1.89361                                             | -2.65500        | 0.91500        | -21.75                         |
| $\text{PH}_3$                            | 1.1896             | 1.91137                                             | -3.21842        | 0.96912        | -20.06                         | $\text{CCl}_3\text{COO}^-$         | 1.3000             | 1.89355                                             | -2.63800        | 0.91700        | -21.92                         |
| $\text{PMe}_3$                           | 1.2019             | 1.91050                                             | -3.24197        | 0.96252        | -20.68                         | $\text{NCS}^-$                     | 1.2642             | 1.89953                                             | -2.83262        | 0.93463        | -18.13                         |
| $\text{PPh}_3$                           | 1.2019             | 1.90227                                             | -3.11676        | 0.96054        | -20.71                         | $\text{SCN}^-$                     | 1.2797             | 1.90604                                             | -2.94001        | 0.94149        | -24.10                         |
| $\text{CNH}$                             | 1.1374             | 1.90876                                             | -3.17012        | 0.96294        | -16.01                         | $\text{CN}^-$                      | 1.2338             | 1.91938                                             | -3.16034        | 0.94451        | -19.79                         |
| $\text{NCH}$                             | 1.2078             | 1.90081                                             | -2.84534        | 0.94900        | -17.67                         | $\text{OCN}^-$                     | 1.2945             | 1.89026                                             | -2.60536        | 0.91708        | -21.38                         |
| $\text{CNPh}$                            | 1.1398             | 1.90855                                             | -3.16103        | 0.96137        | -15.89                         | $\text{Br}^-$                      | 1.3097             | 1.90896                                             | -2.88623        | 0.93448        | -25.07                         |
| $\text{NCPH}$                            | 1.2159             | 1.90029                                             | -2.83827        | 0.94652        | -18.16                         | $\text{Cl}^-$                      | 1.3108             | 1.90694                                             | -2.81871        | 0.92829        | -23.96                         |
| $\text{CNMe}$                            | 1.1591             | 1.90817                                             | -3.16099        | 0.96083        | -17.03                         | $\text{F}^-$                       | 1.3192             | 1.88890                                             | -2.61600        | 0.88800        | -13.59                         |
| $\text{NCMe}$                            | 1.2226             | 1.90023                                             | -2.83534        | 0.94604        | -18.22                         | $\text{H}^-$                       | 1.2725             | 1.91790                                             | -3.26664        | 0.91956        | -26.22                         |
| $\text{Py}$                              | 1.2025             | 1.89119                                             | -2.73555        | 0.93793        | -20.02                         | $\text{N}_3^-$                     | 1.2907             | 1.90763                                             | -2.80259        | 0.92428        | -21.53                         |
| $\text{NH}_3$                            | 1.2527             | 1.89426                                             | -2.75059        | 0.93505        | -19.14                         | $\text{OH}^-$                      | 1.3212             | 1.89255                                             | -2.73601        | 0.90118        | -16.41                         |
| Carbene                                  | 1.1958             | 1.89968                                             | -3.056          | 0.94600        | -19.95                         | $\text{FO}^-$                      | 1.2857             | 1.89521                                             | -2.71457        | 0.90365        | -20.70                         |
| $\text{H}_2\text{O}$                     | 1.2633             | 1.89614                                             | -2.58419        | 0.92609        | -21.39                         | $\text{ClO}^-$                     | 1.2980             | 1.89497                                             | -2.68067        | 0.90667        | -18.13                         |
| $\text{H}_2\text{S}$                     | 1.2283             | 1.90657                                             | -2.95736        | 0.95477        | -21.45                         | $\text{BrO}^-$                     | 1.2996             | 1.89479                                             | -2.68059        | 0.90752        | -17.71                         |
| $\text{PF}_3$                            | 1.1056             | 1.91607                                             | -3.47176        | 0.98343        | -16.15                         | $\text{SH}^-$                      | 1.3044             | 1.90949                                             | -2.98265        | 0.93524        | -25.11                         |
| $\text{NO}_3^-$                          | 1.2902             | 1.89680                                             | -2.66073        | 0.91927        | -22.69                         | $\text{Ph}^-$                      | 1.2646             | 1.89529                                             | -3.00402        | 0.92107        | -25.28                         |
| $\text{NO}_2^-$                          | 1.2489             | 1.90086                                             | -2.86156        | 0.92801        | -20.90                         | $\text{Me}^-$                      | 1.3095             | 1.90829                                             | -3.04513        | 0.92409        | -27.17                         |
| $\text{HCOO}^-$                          | 1.3097             | 1.89429                                             | -2.67107        | 0.91399        | -21.69                         | $t\text{-Bu}^-$                    | 1.3147             | 1.99686                                             | -2.96384        | 0.92441        | -26.63                         |
| $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{COO}^-$     | 1.3125             | 1.89379                                             | -2.666          | 0.91300        | -21.91                         | $\text{NH}_2^-$                    | 1.3188             | 1.91815                                             | -2.87548        | 0.91466        | -22.58                         |
| $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{COO}^-$ | 1.3122             | 1.89375                                             | -2.6654         | 0.91290        | -21.87                         | $\text{SnCl}_3^-$                  | 1.2087             | 1.91802                                             | -3.42068        | 0.97586        | -25.29                         |
| $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$                | 1.3123             | 1.89378                                             | -2.669          | 0.91400        | -21.64                         |                                    |                    |                                                     |                 |                |                                |

**Table S4.** Wiberg Bond orders,  $WBO(\text{Cr-C})$ , occupation of  $\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  and natural atomic charges  $Q_{\text{Cr}}$  and  $Q_{\text{C}}$  for octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{-0/+}$  complexes calculated by the PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol.

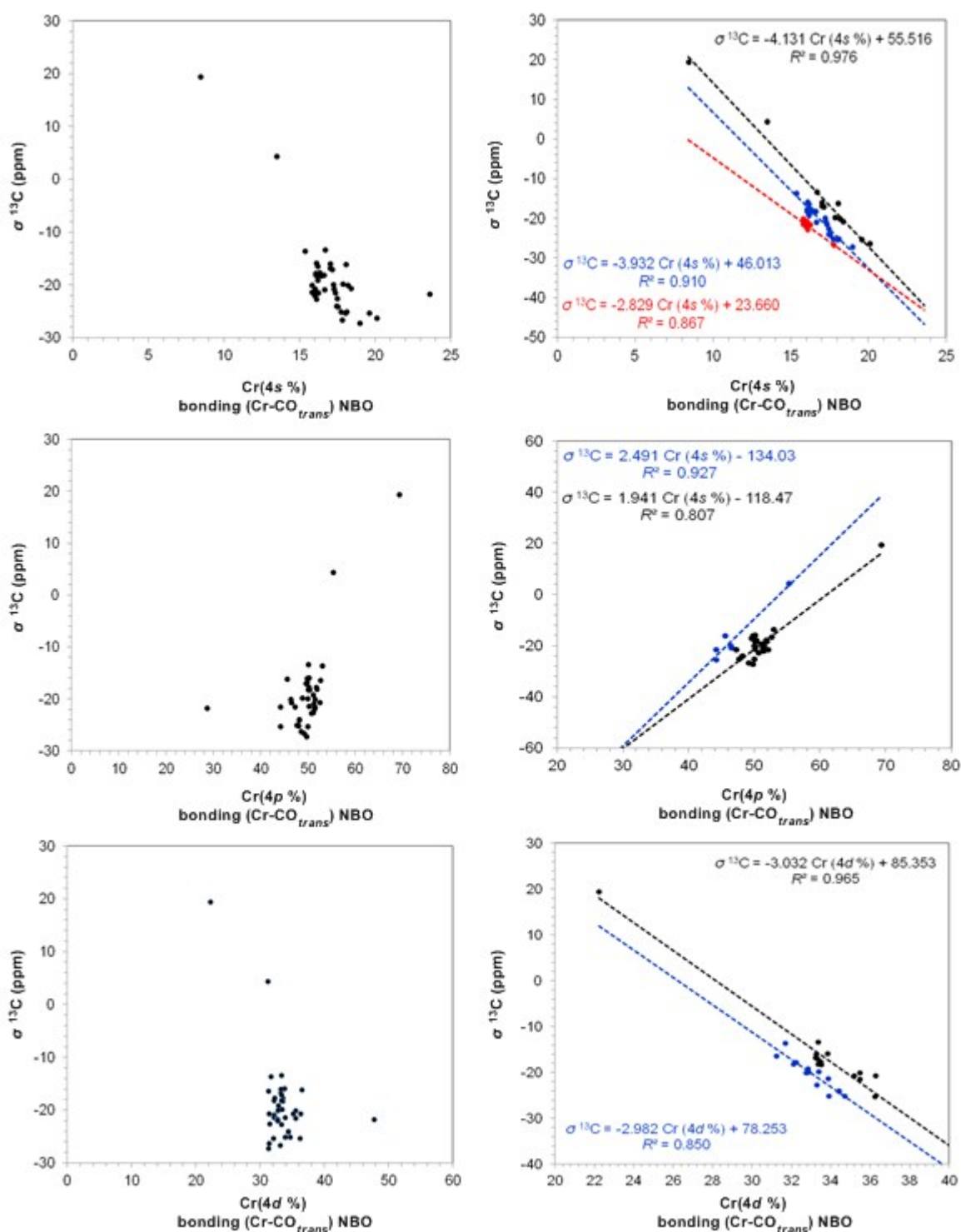
| Ligand                                                           | $WBO(\text{Cr-C})$ | Occupation<br>$\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$ | $Q_{\text{Cr}}$ | $Q_{\text{C}}$ | Ligand                                         | $WBO(\text{Cr-C})$ | Occupation<br>$\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$ | $Q_{\text{Cr}}$ | $Q_{\text{C}}$ |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| N <sup>+</sup>                                                   | 0.50100            | 1.9473                                              | -2.00749        | 0.7069         | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> | 1.30800            | 1.92207                                             | -2.69534        | 0.93664        |
| NO <sup>+</sup>                                                  | 0.97830            | 1.92249                                             | -2.64463        | 0.9624         | CH <sub>2</sub> FCOO <sup>-</sup>              | 1.30680            | 1.88786                                             | -2.69178        | 0.93745        |
| CO                                                               | 1.07850            | 1.90638                                             | -3.28233        | 0.98794        | CHCl <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>             | 1.30040            | 1.88806                                             | -2.68539        | 0.93889        |
| N <sub>2</sub>                                                   | 1.16450            | 1.89948                                             | -2.9304         | 0.97831        | CH <sub>2</sub> ClCOO <sup>-</sup>             | 1.30540            | 1.8879                                              | -2.68943        | 0.93751        |
| PH <sub>3</sub>                                                  | 1.18550            | 1.90335                                             | -3.27093        | 0.99006        | CH <sub>2</sub> BrCOO <sup>-</sup>             | 1.30490            | 1.88788                                             | -2.68912        | 0.93754        |
| PMe <sub>3</sub>                                                 | 1.18890            | 1.89766                                             | -3.30925        | 0.98561        | CCl <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>              | 1.29930            | 1.88791                                             | -2.67697        | 0.9392         |
| PPh <sub>3</sub>                                                 | 1.19100            | 1.89127                                             | -3.22832        | 0.98643        | NCS <sup>-</sup>                               | 1.26580            | 1.89534                                             | -2.83783        | 0.9496         |
| CNH                                                              | 1.21330            | 1.89718                                             | -2.8946         | 0.96772        | SCN <sup>-</sup>                               | 1.27440            | 1.89805                                             | -2.99321        | 0.96421        |
| NCH                                                              | 1.13790            | 1.90195                                             | -3.22518        | 0.98036        | CN <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.22640            | 1.90045                                             | -3.22775        | 0.96811        |
| CNPh                                                             | 1.22080            | 1.89616                                             | -2.88598        | 0.96518        | OCN <sup>-</sup>                               | 1.29700            | 1.88549                                             | -2.63031        | 0.93847        |
| NCPh                                                             | 1.15340            | 1.90103                                             | -3.22391        | 0.98007        | Br <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.26030            | 1.90365                                             | -2.91505        | 0.95585        |
| CNMe                                                             | 1.22820            | 1.89584                                             | -2.88321        | 0.96482        | Cl <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.30800            | 1.90124                                             | -2.86732        | 0.9504         |
| NCMe                                                             | 1.24240            | 1.88486                                             | -2.78843        | 0.95825        | H <sup>-</sup>                                 | 1.26670            | 1.90837                                             | -3.35687        | 0.94653        |
| Py                                                               | 1.25680            | 1.88848                                             | -2.79518        | 0.95517        | N <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                    | 1.29130            | 1.90041                                             | -2.84124        | 0.94727        |
| NH <sub>3</sub>                                                  | 1.19930            | 1.88983                                             | -3.12026        | 0.96747        | OH <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.32250            | 1.89052                                             | -2.73279        | 0.92499        |
| Carbene                                                          | 1.13520            | 1.9027                                              | -3.23846        | 0.98205        | F <sup>-</sup>                                 | 1.32540            | 1.88975                                             | -2.58986        | 0.91473        |
| H <sub>2</sub> O                                                 | 1.26990            | 1.89194                                             | -2.61012        | 0.94466        | FO <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.28590            | 1.89046                                             | -2.73271        | 0.92943        |
| H <sub>2</sub> S                                                 | 1.22960            | 1.89938                                             | -3.00979        | 0.97485        | ClO <sup>-</sup>                               | 1.30010            | 1.88994                                             | -2.7027         | 0.93041        |
| PF <sub>3</sub>                                                  | 1.08880            | 1.90525                                             | -3.50402        | 1.00291        | BrO <sup>-</sup>                               | 1.30130            | 1.8903                                              | -2.69746        | 0.9304         |
| NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                     | 1.30180            | 1.88803                                             | -2.58683        | 0.90168        | SH <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.29680            | 1.90211                                             | -3.04599        | 0.95935        |
| NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                     | 1.25010            | 1.89374                                             | -2.89765        | 0.9525         | Ph <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.25060            | 1.88461                                             | -3.06829        | 0.9452         |
| HCOO <sup>-</sup>                                                | 1.30860            | 1.88832                                             | -2.70152        | 0.93725        | Me <sup>-</sup>                                | 1.29820            | 1.90045                                             | -3.10566        | 0.9498         |
| CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                 | 1.31110            | 1.88781                                             | -2.70029        | 0.93597        | <i>t</i> -Bu <sup>-</sup>                      | 1.29720            | 1.87921                                             | -3.03078        | 0.95323        |
| CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> | 1.31100            | 1.88782                                             | -2.69896        | 0.93576        | NH <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>                   | 1.31360            | 1.89359                                             | -2.90623        | 0.93727        |
| CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                                 | 1.31110            | 1.88781                                             | -2.70043        | 0.9359         | SnCl <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                 | 1.20080            | 1.90714                                             | -3.48697        | 0.99588        |



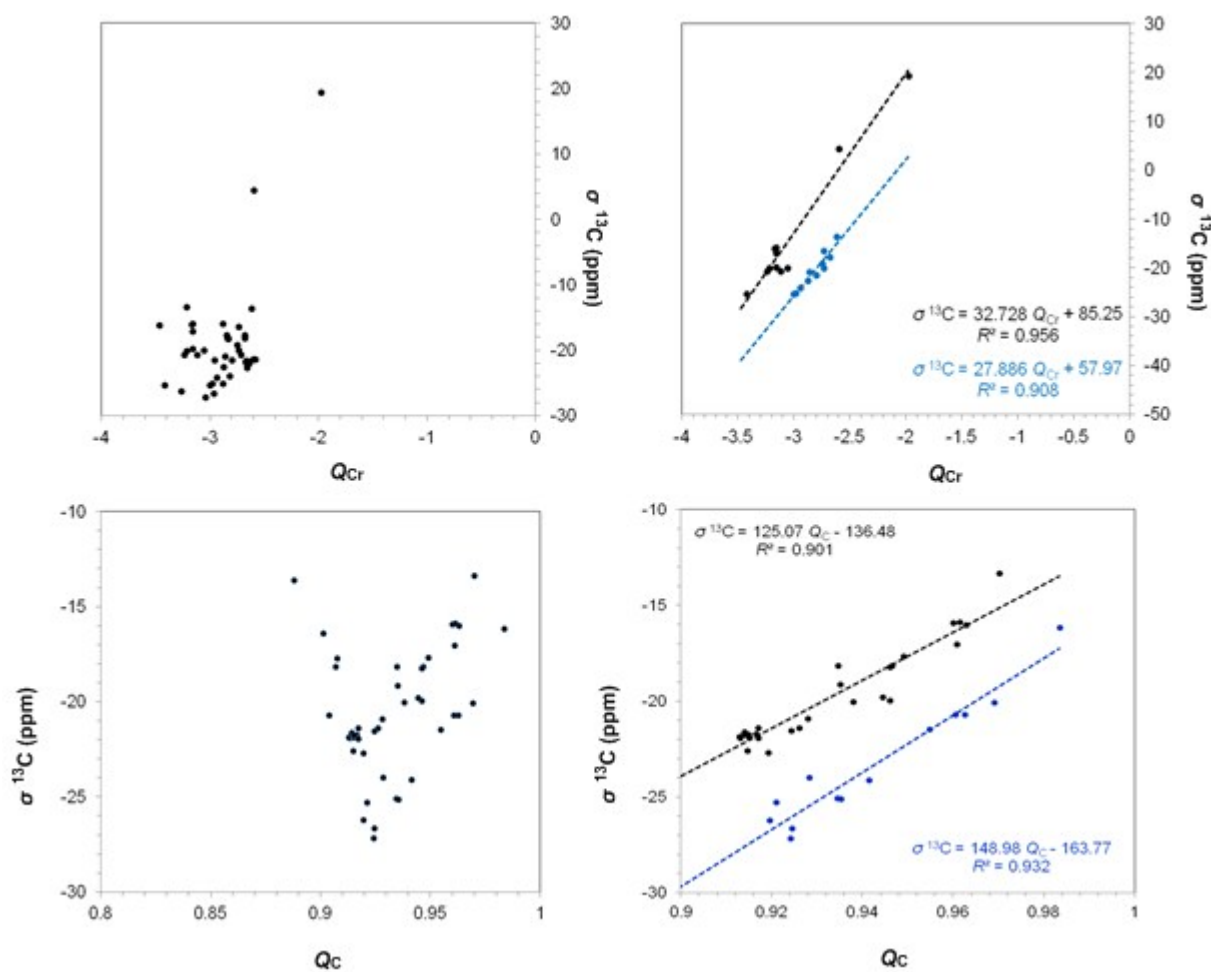
**Figure S3.** Linear plot of  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13}\text{C}$  vs  $\text{WBO}(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  of octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{-/0/+}$  complexes calculated by the GIAO/PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM (a) and GIAO/PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM (b) computational protocols.

**Table S5.** The 4s(%), 4p(%) and 3d(%) character of the *spd* hybridized orbitals of the Cr metal center used in the Cr-CO<sub>trans</sub> bonding calculated by the PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr) ∪ 6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM and PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr) ∪ 6-311++G(d,p)(E)/PCM (figures in parentheses) computational protocols.

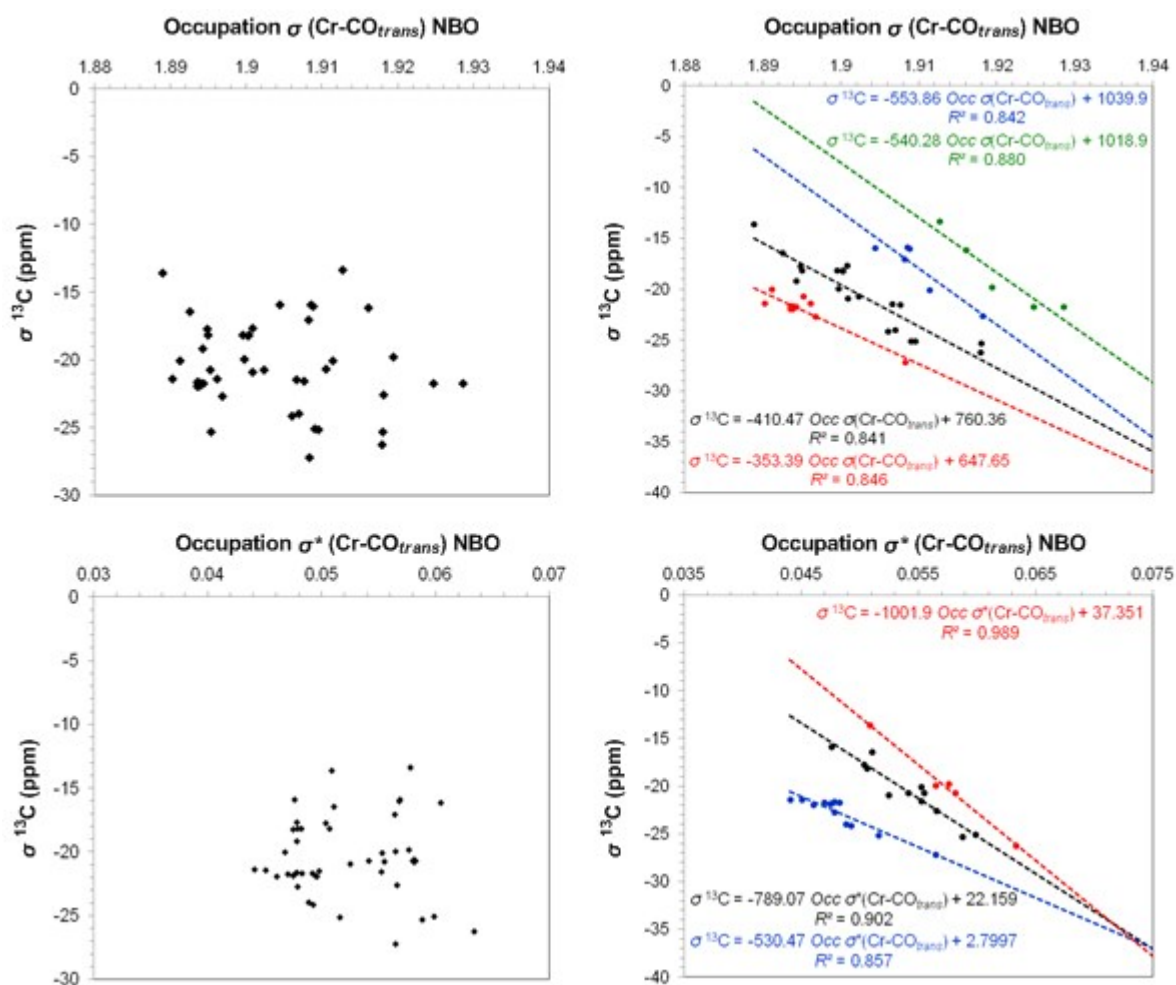
| Ligand                       | 4s%           | 4p%            | 3d%           | Ligand                                                           | 4s%           | 4p%           | 3d%           |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| N <sup>+</sup>               | 8.41 (9.10)   | 69.33 (68.96)  | 22.23 (21.92) | Br <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 17.72 (17.88) | 47.59 (47.54) | 34.68 (34.58) |
| NO <sup>+</sup>              | 13.48 (17.54) | 55.27 (48.46)) | 31.23 (34.00) | Cl <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 17.43 (17.57) | 48.17 (48.15) | 34.39 (34.27) |
| CO                           | 16.67 (16.67) | 49.99 (49.99)  | 33.33 (33.33) | F <sup>-</sup>                                                   | 15.35 (16.16) | 52.95 (52.29) | 31.68 (31.54) |
| N <sub>2</sub>               | 16.07 (16.19) | 50.11 (49.5)   | 33.81 (34.05) | H <sup>-</sup>                                                   | 20.09 (20.07) | 48.5 (48.57)  | 31.40 (31.35) |
| PH <sub>3</sub>              | 18.18 (18.12) | 46.34(46.63)   | 35.47(35.25)  | N <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                      | 16.22 (17.48) | 44.17 (47.13) | 35.54 (35.38) |
| PMe <sub>3</sub>             | 18.38 (18.11) | 46.45 (46.72)  | 35.16 (35.16) | OH <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 16.17 (16.64) | 52.58 (52.11) | 31.24 (31.24) |
| PPh <sub>3</sub>             | 17.25(17.27)  | 46.49 (46.79)  | 36.26 (35.93) | SH <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 18.08 (18.15) | 48.02 (48.19) | 33.89 (33.66) |
| PF <sub>3</sub>              | 18.04 (17.78) | 45.52 (45.60)  | 36.43 (36.61) | NH <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                     | 17.45 (17.75) | 51.02 (51.24) | 31.51 (31.00) |
| CNH                          | 17.01 (17.07) | 49.73 (49.75)  | 33.25 (33.18) | Me <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 18.96 (19.14) | 49.72 (49.98) | 31.32 (30.87) |
| NCH                          | 16.29 (16.52) | 50.23 (49.83)  | 33.48 (33.64) | t-Bu <sup>-</sup>                                                | 17.78 (17.69) | 49.12 (50.26) | 33.09(32.04)  |
| CNPh                         | 17.01 (17.04) | 49.79 (49.81)  | 33.20 (33.14) | Ph <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 17.99 (18.01) | 49.94(50.11)  | 32.06 (31.87) |
| NCPH                         | 16.29 (16.50) | 50.27 (49.94)  | 33.42 (33.55) | OF <sup>-</sup>                                                  | 16.02 (16.27) | 52.54 (52.32) | 31.42 (31.41) |
| CNMe                         | 17.13 (17.13) | 49.55 (49.59)  | 33.31 (33.27) | ClO <sup>-</sup>                                                 | 16.05 (16.29) | 51.84 (51.55) | 32.10 (32.15) |
| NCMe                         | 16.42 (16.55) | 50.06 (49.82)  | 33.51 (33.63) | BrO <sup>-</sup>                                                 | 16.04 (16.27) | 51.72 (51.36) | 32.23 (32.37) |
| Py                           | 15.79 (15.92) | 51.45 (51.32)  | 32.75 (32.75) | HCOO <sup>-</sup>                                                | 16.05 (16.24) | 51.29 (51.16) | 32.65 (32.59) |
| NH <sub>3</sub>              | 16.16 (16.26) | 51.01 (50.87)  | 32.82 (32.86) | CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                                 | 16.02 (16.28) | 51.39 (51.26) | 32.57 (32.45) |
| Carbene                      | 17.21 (17.09) | 49.94 (50.07)  | 32.85 (32.84) | CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                 | 16.02 (16.29) | 51.36 (51.21) | 32.60 (32.49) |
| H <sub>2</sub> O             | 16.00 (16.23) | 50.12 (49.93)  | 33.87 (33.83) | CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> | 16.01 (16.28) | 51.36 (51.23) | 32.61 (32.48) |
| H <sub>2</sub> S             | 17.32 (17.23) | 47.19 (47.51)  | 35.47 (35.25) | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                   | 23.58 (23.70) | 28.66 (29.06) | 47.76 (47.23) |
| NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> | 16.07 (16.24) | 50.64 (50.45)  | 33.28 (33.29) | CH <sub>2</sub> FCOO <sup>-</sup>                                | 16.00 (16.24) | 51.43 (51.17) | 32.56 (32.58) |
| NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> | 16.63 (16.61) | 51.23 (50.89)  | 32.13 (32.49) | CH <sub>2</sub> ClCOO <sup>-</sup>                               | 15.99 (16.23) | 51.35 (51.15) | 32.65 (32.61) |
| NCS <sup>-</sup>             | 16.59 (16.86) | 50.05(49.86)   | 33.34 (33.27) | CH <sub>2</sub> BrCOO <sup>-</sup>                               | 15.98 (16.23) | 51.37 (51.15) | 32.64 (32.61) |
| SCN <sup>-</sup>             | 17.51 (17.46) | 48.09 (48.39)  | 34.39 (34.14) | CHCl <sub>2</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                               | 15.96 (16.21) | 51.32 (51.14) | 32.71 (32.64) |
| CN <sup>-</sup>              | 17.84 (17.94) | 48.75 (48.86)  | 33.39 (33.20) | CCl <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>                                | 15.95 (16.18) | 51.34 (51.14) | 32.69 (32.67) |
| OCN <sup>-</sup>             | 15.81 (16.02) | 52.04 (51.87)  | 32.14 (32.10) | SnCl <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                                   | 19.57 (19.20) | 44.20 (44.65) | 36.22 (36.14) |



**Figure S4.** Plots of  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13\text{C}}$  vs Cr(4s%),  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13\text{C}}$  vs Cr(4p%) and  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13\text{C}}$  vs Cr(4d%) character of the bonding  $\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  natural bond orbital of octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{+/0/-}$  complexes calculated by the GIAO/PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol.



**Figure S5.** Plots of  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13}\text{C}$  vs  $Q_{\text{Cr}}$  and  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13}\text{C}$  vs  $Q_{\text{C}}$  of octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^{0/+}$  complexes calculated by the GIAO/PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol.



**Figure S6.** Plots of  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13}\text{C}$  vs Occupation of  $\sigma(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  and  $\sigma_{\text{calcd}}^{13}\text{C}$  vs Occupation of  $\sigma^*(\text{Cr-CO}_{\text{trans}})$  NBOs of octahedral  $[\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}]^+$  complexes calculated by the GIAO/PBE0/Def2-TZVP(Cr)  $\cup$  6-31G(d,p)(E)/PCM computational protocol.