The Rigidity of Self-Assembled Cofacial Porphyrins Influences Selectivity and Kinetics of Oxygen Reduction Electrocatalysis

Daoyang Zhang,^a Matthew R. Crawley,^a Ming Fang,^a Lea J. Kyle,^a and Timothy R. Cook^{*, a}

^a Department of Chemistry, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Buffalo,

New York 14260, United States

Email: trcook@buffalo.edu

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Experimental Procedures:

Materials:

Chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used as received unless otherwise noted below. Solvents were purified using a solvent-drying system (Pure Process Technology). ¹H NMR spectra were acquired on Varian 300, 400, or 500 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) and referenced against the residual proton resonance of the deuterated solvent. Mass spectra were recorded using the Agilent 6530 Q-TOF mass spectrometer. No precautions were taken to exclude air (O₂ or water) from self-assembly reactions. Ag(bpy)₂OTf was synthesized by following a literature procedure.¹



Synthesis Procedure for metalloporphyrin:

5-Methyl-2,2'-bipyridine:

A solution of iodine (14.2 g, 56.0 mmol) and 2-acetylpyridine (5.6 mL, 50.0 mmol) in pyridine (60 mL) was prepared in a reaction flask equipped with a condenser and drying tube, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 6 h at 90 °C. At this time, the resulting suspension was filtered as brown solid, the crude product was used without purification. Methacrolein (3.6 mL, 44.0 mmol) and H₄NOAc (18.6 g, 240.0 mmol) were sequentially added to the solution of the brown solid (13.0 g) in formamide (100 mL). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h. At this time, the crude mixture was cooled and extracted with diethyl ether (3×200 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (200 mL), dried over MgSO4, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (5% MeOH in CH2Cl2) to yield 5-Methyl-2,2'-bipyridine (7.0 g, 82.0%) as a brown oil.

2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-carboxylic acid:

Potassium permanganate (24.6 g, 156 mmol) was added in 7 portions at 1 h intervals to a solution of 5-Methyl-2,2'-bipyridine (6.8 g, 40 mmol) in water (200 mL). The mixture was heated at 70 °C overnight until all the Potassium permanganate turn brown. The brown mixture was then filtered while hot through celite and washed with hot water (2×25 mL). The filtrate was concentrated to approximately 10 mL under reduced pressure, and then 1 M HCl was added slowly until a pH of 4 was obtained. The residue was then filtered and dried to obtain pure product (5.8 g, 73.4%) as a white solid.

Ethyl 2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-carboxylate:

Concentrated sulfuric acid (20 mL) was added to a solution of 2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-carboxylic acid (5.8 g, 29 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C, the reaction progress was monitored by LTQ-MS, after 48 hours, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and a NaHCO3 solution was added to the mixture to neutralize the acid. The product was then extracted with ethyl acetate (3×100 mL), and the combined organic fractions were washed with brine, dried over MgSO4, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain pure product (3.9 g, 59.0%) as a white solid.

2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-methanol

Sodium borohydride (1.1 g, 30 mmol) was added to ethyl 2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-carboxylate (1.37 g, 6 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for about 24 hours and monitored by LTQ-MS, then concentrated under reduced pressure. Water (50 mL) was added, and then the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain as brown oil as product quantitatively.

2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-carboxaldehyde:

To a solution of $(COCI)_2$ (0.94 mL, 12.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (14.0 mL) was added dry DMSO (1.70 mL, 24 mmol) at -78 °C. After stirring for 30 min, 2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-methanol (0.93 g, 10.0 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at the same temperature. Then, to the mixture was added triethylamine (6.4 mL, 48 mmol), and the resulting mixture was warmed to room temperature. After stirring for 1 h, the reaction was quenched by addition of water, and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The extract was washed with water and brine, dried, and concentrated to dryness to yield 0.83 g brownish yellow oil as crude product, NMR was acquired to identify the purity and the product was used without further purification.

Tetrakis(bipyridyl) porphyrin:

The purity of aldehyde was obtained by ¹H NMR, as shown is Figure S5, the peak at 10.2 ppm was attribute to the aldehyde CHO, and the peak at 4.85 ppm was attributed to the methanol CH_2 peak, based on the peak integration, the aldehyde was around 75% purity, since alcohol group doesn't involve into any reaction during the porphyrin synthesis, the crude product was directly used with further purification.

Pyrrole was distilled under reduced pressure before use. A 1 L round-bottom flask was equipped with a reflux condenser and a magnetic stirring bar. 2,2´-bipyridine-5-carbaldehyde (0.736 g, 3.0 mmol ,1.0 eq, 75% purity) and propionic acid (70 mL) to the flask were added. The mixture was heated at 140 °C. Pyrrole (0.221 g, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 eq) was then dissolved in propionic acid (5 mL) and added to the solution. The reaction mixture was heated at 140 °C for 45 min under aerobic and ambient-light conditions, cooled to room temperature and evaporate the solvent under reduced pressure. The black solid was washed by N,N-dimethylformamide and methanol to obtain the product as purple solid (136 mg, 19.6%).

Zn(II) tetrakis(bipyridyl) porphyrin:

Free-base porphyrin (50 mg, 0.054 mmol, 1.0 eq), $CHCl_3$ (30 mL) and CH_3OH (5 mL) were placed in a 50 mL round-bottom flask. To the clear, red solution was added zinc acetate dihydrate (50 mg 0.27 mmol, 5.0 eq) dissolved in CH_3OH (3 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 16 h under the dark to give clear, purple solution. The solution was transferred to separating funnel, washed with 50 mM EDTA·2Na aqueous solution (20 mL × 3) and with H_2O (20 mL × 3). The combined organic phase was dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and evaporated to obtain crude 1 as a reddish purple solid (44 mg, 81%).

Zn₂Ag₄ prism:

To a solution of Co-porphyrin (75 mg, 0.076 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in a mixture of $CHCl_3$ (20 mL) and CH_3OH (20 mL) was added a solution of Ag(OTf) (38.9 mg, 0.15 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in a round bottom flask, diethyl ether was carefully layered. Let the reaction sited overnight, and the solid was collected by centrifuge, the washed with diethyl ether, (113 mg, quant.).

Elemental Analysis (%) calcd for C₁₂₄H₇₂Ag₄Zn₂F₁₂N₂₄O₁₂S₄•3CHCl₃: C 45.31, H 2.25, N 9.99; found: C 44.76, H 2.42, N 9.74.

Co(II) tetrakis(bipyridyl) porphyrin:

Free-base porphyrin (50 mg, 0.054 mmol, 1.0 eq), $CHCI_3$ (30 mL) and CH_3OH (5 mL) were placed in a 50 mL round-bottom flask. To the clear, red solution was added cobalt acetate tetrahydrate (67 mg 0.27 mmol, 5.0 eq) dissolved in CH_3OH (3 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 16 h under the dark to give clear, purple solution. The solution was transferred to separating funnel, washed with 50 mM EDTA·2Na aqueous solution (20 mL × 3) and with H_2O (20 mL × 3). The combined organic phase was dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and evaporated to obtain crude 1 as a reddish purple solid (48 mg, 89%).

LTQ-MS: m/z = 984.621, corresponding to $[M+H^+]^{1+}$, m/z = 492.995, corresponding to $[M+2H^+]^{2+}$,

Co₂Ag₄ prism:

To a solution of Co-porphyrin (22.4 mg, 0.024 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in a mixture of CH_2Cl_2 (5.0 mL) and CH_3OH (5.0 mL) was added a solution of Ag(OTf) (12.3 mg, 0.048 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in a 20 mL vial, diethyl ether was carefully layered. Let the reaction sited overnight, and the solid was collected by centrifuge, the washed with diethyl ether, (34.5 mg, quant.).

Elemental Analysis (%) calcd for C₁₂₄H₇₂Ag₄Co₂F₁₂N₂₄O₁₂S₄•12CH₂Cl₂: C 40.69, H 2.41, N 8.37; found: C 40.60, H 2.36, N 8.82.

HR-MS: m/z = 1348.9965, corresponding to $[M-2OTf^{-}]^{2+}$, m/z = 1369.0182, corresponding to $[M-2OTf^{-} + ACN]^{2+}$, and m/z = 863.0297, corresponding to $[M-3OTf^{-} + ACN]^{3+}$

UV-Vis (ACN): soret band λ_{max} = 433 nm, Q bands λ_{max} = 531, 587 nm.

Spectroscopic characterization: ¹H NMR spectroscopy



Figure S1 ¹H NMR spectrum of 5-Methyl-2,2'-bipyridine (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum of 2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-carboxylic acid (DMSO, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of Ethyl 2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-carboxylate (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S4. ¹H NMR spectrum of 2,2'-Bipyridinyl-5-methanol (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of 2,2'-bipyridine-5-carbaldehyde (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of tetrakis(bipyridyl) porphyrin (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of Zn tetrakis(bipyridyl) porphyrin (DMSO, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of Zn₂Ag₄ prism (DMSO, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of Co₂Ag₄ prism (CD₃CN, 500 MHz, 298 K).



Figure S10. LTQ-MS of Co tetrakis(bipyridyl) porphyrin, m/z = 984.621 was attributed to the $M+H^+$.



Figure S11. Mass spectrometry of Co₂Ag₄ prism



Figure S12. The 2+ base peak for Co_2Ag_4 prism in Figure 11 corresponding (top) Experimental data, (bottom) simulated spectrum with loss of 2 OTf⁻ counterions and addition of an acetonitrile [M-2OTf⁻+ACN]²⁺.



Figure S13. The 3+ base peak Co_2Ag_4 prism in Figure S11 corresponding (top) Experimental data, (bottom) simulated spectrum with loss of 2 OTf- counterions and addition of an acetonitrile [M-3OTf-+ACN]³⁺.

Electrochemical Experiments:

The CVs of **Co₂Ag₄ prism** and **Zn₂Ag₄ prism** show an irreversible oxidization wave at ~0 V vs Fc⁺/Fc. The CV of [Ag(bpy)₂]OTf has a similar oxidation feature at the same potential, thus we ascribe this redox event to the Ag nodes. Although the current response is weak, the **Co₂Ag₄ prism** shows a reduction at ca. –1.3 V vs Fc⁺/Fc that is not present in the **Zn₂Ag₄ prism** which we attribute to the Co(II)/Co(I) couple. This cobalt centered reduction is seen in our other cofacial porphyrin prisms.²



Figure S14. CV of Co₂Ag₄ prism and Zn₂Ag₄ prism under Nitrogen. Conditions: 100 mM TBAPF₆ in dry acetonitrile, glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode, scan rate: 100 mV/sec, scan direction: reduction first.



Figure S15. CV of Ag(bpy)₂OTf under Nitrogen. Conditions: 100 mM TBAPF₆ in dry acetonitrile, glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode, scan rate: 100 mV/sec, scan direction: reduction first.



Figure S16. CV of Co₂Ag₄ Prism under Nitrogen and TFA. Conditions: 100 mM TBAPF₆ in dry acetonitrile, glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode, scan rate: 100 mV/sec, scan direction: reduction first.



Figure S17. Controlled potential electrolysis (CPE) of Co_2Ag_4 prism under heterogeneous condition. Conditions: potential held at 0 V, in 0.5 M H₂SO₄ aqueous solution, with saturated oxygen, glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode. Reference electrode: AgCl in 3 M KCl. Plot Current with time.



Figure S 18. Controlled potential electrolysis (CPE) of Co_2Ag_4 prism under heterogeneous condition. Conditions potential held at 0 V, in 0.5 M H₂SO₄ aqueous solution, with saturated oxygen, glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode. Reference electrode: AgCl in 3 M KCl. Plot Charge with time.



Figure S 19. CV before and after the electrolysis in 0.5 M H₂SO₄, in 0.5 M H₂SO₄ aqueous solution, with saturated oxygen, glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode. Reference electrode: AgCl in 3 M KCl.

UV-vis study:



Figure S20. Normalized UV-Vis spectra of monomeric Co porphyrin and Co₂Ag₄ prism.



Figure S 21. Normalized UV-Vis spectra of Co₂Ag₄ prism in acetonitrile before and after addition of TFA.



KL-analysis:

Figure S22. Koutecký-Levich plots of Co₂Ag₄ prism

Figure S23. Plot of $ln(k_{het})$ vs. overpotential for the Co_2Ag_4 prism. The y-intercept of this plot is ln(ks)

KL analysis detail:

The rotating disk data for the catalyst was plotted at various overpotentials using the KL equation in which, i_{lim} is the limiting current (A), B is the Levich constant, ω is the rotation rate (rad/s), and $i_{\rm K}$ is the kinetically limited current, select five different data at different overpotential from the LSV data (Figure 4.) at different rotation rate, plot ω versus 1/A to obtain KL plot as shown in Figure S22. Koutecký-Levich plots of Co2Ag4 prism. Extracted the Y intercept as $1/i_{\rm k}$, then use Equation S2 to obtain the value $k_{\rm het}$. Finally, plot the ln($k_{\rm het}$) with overpotential as shown in Figure S23. Plot of ln(khet) vs. overpotential for the Co2Ag4 prism. The y-intercept of this plot is ln(ks)Figure S23. to obtain the y intercept as the standard rate constant values $k_{\rm s}$.

$\frac{1}{i_{1}} = \omega^{-1/2} + \frac{i}{i_{1}}$	Equation S1.
$i_k = nFAk_{het}[O_2]\Gamma_{cat}$	Equation S2.
$k_{het} = k_s e^{\frac{-a\eta}{RT}}$	Equation S3.
$n = 4 - a(\frac{{}^{6}H_2O_2}{100})$	Equation S4.

Equation S5.

$$\%H_2O_2 = \frac{\frac{2i_{ring}}{N}}{i_{disk} + \frac{i_{ring}}{N}} \times 100$$

Computational Details:

The structure of Zn₂Ag₄ and Co₂Ag₄ prisms were optimized using ORCA 5.0.3 with the B97-3c functional and def2-mTZVP basis set. A frequency calculation was performed at the same level of theory/basis set and was analyzed for imaginary frequencies. After several optimizations from various displaced geometries the imaginary frequency remained.

Coordinates of Zn₂Ag₄ Optimized Structure:

Ag	-6.333178000	-6.004808000	2.187593000
Ag	-6.287246000	6.087647000	2.213068000
Zn	-0.022453000	0.014979000	0.005125000
Ν	2.026159000	0.006493000	0.017918000
Ν	-0.023513000	2.064481000	-0.009945000
Ν	-0.039919000	-2.034275000	-0.021071000
Ν	-2.070251000	0.023544000	-0.052485000
Ν	-5.647866000	-4.801240000	4.060254000
Ν	-6.811601000	-7.303241000	4.029590000
Ν	-7.428269000	-6.409383000	0.248663000
Ν	-4.939812000	-5.198991000	0.421210000
Ν	-5.594513000	4.893650000	4.082287000
Ν	-6.743224000	7.401743000	4.055501000
Ν	-7.373009000	6.502370000	0.276259000
Ν	-4.891283000	5.273350000	0.440583000
С	2.832061000	-1.099641000	-0.092941000
С	1.083822000	2.871837000	-0.060777000
С	0.665801000	4.248906000	-0.099543000
С	-1.123196000	2.886907000	-0.061009000
С	-0.690770000	4.256462000	-0.116605000
С	-2.452667000	2.461718000	-0.118074000
С	-2.881623000	1.129919000	-0.066421000
С	-4.257195000	0.710724000	-0.047141000
С	-4.262533000	-0.646494000	-0.050278000
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С	-1.146228000	-2.847519000	-0.073951000
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С	4.198657000	-0.679656000	-0.254432000
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С	2.840914000	1.106752000	-0.087151000
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С	-5.679967000	-5.533685000	5.188411000
С	-4.847254000	-5.227200000	6.261130000
С	-6.578273000	-6.703139000	5.211143000
С	-7.140878000	-7.182244000	6.390074000
С	-7.941395000	-8.311010000	6.349758000

С	-7.578181000	-8.396634000	3.999449000
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С	-7.055463000	7.289494000	6.418674000
С	-5.556138000	5.288673000	-0.728157000
С	-5.209462000	4.420250000	-1.759973000
С	-6.699152000	6.213269000	-0.852693000
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С	-8.449154000	7.292651000	0.205154000
С	-8.898902000	7.842926000	-0.981816000
С	-8.193927000	7.572030000	-2.143666000
Н	1.317214000	5.104481000	-0.120698000
Н	-1.333826000	5.117146000	-0.172501000
Н	-5.112714000	1.362575000	-0.023350000
Н	-5.123081000	-1.291822000	-0.029755000
Н	-1.375395000	-5.075594000	-0.191401000
Н	1.275889000	-5.084765000	-0.140848000
Н	5.043795000	-1.331188000	-0.391716000
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Н	-4.872932000	-5.821471000	7.161959000
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Н	-8.392684000	-8.692043000	7.254579000
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Н	-8.764017000	-9.829548000	5.060574000
Н	-3.418977000	-4.390397000	1.546976000
Н	-3.943455000	-2.744408000	-2.361606000
Н	-5.785836000	-4.343865000	-2.712606000
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Н	-3.374246000	4.450115000	1.560644000
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Н	-4.799056000	5.906978000	7.180826000
Н	-7.644534000	8.957818000	3.058490000
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Н	-8.289892000	8.810553000	7.288366000
Н	-6.889590000	6.775818000	7.353858000
Н	-5.758269000	4.425038000	-2.689533000
Н	-6.510448000	6.541706000	-2.969861000
Н	-8.969887000	7.473719000	1.135183000
Н	-9.778327000	8.469625000	-0.990275000
Н	-8.500912000	7.999990000	-3.087141000
Ag	5.905190000	6.030676000	2.453603000
Ag	5.845283000	-6.055052000	2.439629000
Zn	-0.416236000	0.017345000	4.637445000
Ν	-2.464497000	0.030077000	4.625789000
Ν	-0.419613000	-2.032360000	4.652350000
Ν	-0.393775000	2.066298000	4.663581000
Ν	1.631783000	0.004104000	4.695729000
Ν	5.203777000	4.839310000	0.580846000
Ν	6.373146000	7.337869000	0.613847000
Ν	7.004384000	6.423577000	4.390210000
Ν	4.510953000	5.222030000	4.222315000
Ν	5.165613000	-4.850280000	0.566455000
Ν	6.311557000	-7.359938000	0.599653000
Ν	6.935743000	-6.465312000	4.378864000
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С	2.440508000	-1.104161000	4.711553000
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С	-2.857645000	-2.399416000	4.767707000
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Н	13.74282511276592	21.29721592486025	-11.47254224686844

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