Electronic Supplementary Information

Dynamics of H-atom exchange in stable *cis*-dihydrogen/hydride complexes of ruthenium(II) bearing phosphine and N–N bidentate ligands

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Calculation of ΔG^{\neq} of the exchange process in **1a** and **2a**

Figure 26. $\ln (W_{\frac{1}{2}} - 30)$ vs 1/T plot of **1a**

Figure 27. ln ($W_{\frac{1}{2}}$ – 30) vs 1/*T* plot of **2a**

Calculation of $T_1(\min)$ of the H₂ ligand of **1a** and **2a**



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Calculation of ΔG^{\neq} of the exchange process in 1a and 2a

Rate constant of the exchange process above $T_{\rm C}$ is written as

$$K_{\rm a} = [\pi (\Delta v)^2] / 2 (W_{\frac{1}{2}} - W^0_{\frac{1}{2}})$$

Ref: Belci, M. Basic ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectroscopy, Elsevier 2005, p213.

where,

K = Rate constant of the scrambling process

 Δv = Chemical shift difference between dihydrogen and hydride in Hz

 $W_{\frac{1}{2}}$ = Full width at half maxima of the scrambling system

 $W_{\frac{1}{2}}^{0} = W_{\frac{1}{2}}$ when there is no scrambling (reference)

 $T_{\rm C}$ = Coalescence temperature

 $K_{\rm a} = [\pi (\Delta v)^2] / 2 (W_{\frac{1}{2}} - W_{\frac{1}{2}}^0)$

=
$$A e^{-(\Delta G^{\mp})/RT}$$
 [Arrhenius equation, A = Frequency factor]

Simplification gives

ln $(W_{\frac{1}{2}} - W^{0}_{\frac{1}{2}}) = (\Delta G^{\neq}/R)(1/T) + C$ [C = Constant]

We assume that $W_{1/2}^0$ of the hydride signal of **1a** and **2a** are same as that of **1** and **2** respectively in their ¹H NMR spectrum.

 $W_{\frac{1}{2}}^{0}$ = 30 Hz (FWHM of hydride signal of 1 or 2)

The above assumption is required since we did not observe decoalescence of the RuH_3 signal of **1a** and **2a**.

 $\ln (W_{\frac{1}{2}} - 30) = [\Delta G^{\neq} (\text{approx})/R][1/T] + C$

Slope of ln $(W_{\frac{1}{2}} - 30)$ vs 1/T plot will give ΔG^{\neq} (approx)

Assumptions:

- 1. Free energy of activation does not change with temperature
- 2. Change in line broadening is a measure of change in rate of the exchange process



Figure 26. ln ($W_{\frac{1}{2}}$ - 30) vs 1/*T* plot of **1a**



Figure 27. ln ($W_{\frac{1}{2}}$ - 30) vs 1/*T* plot of **2a**

Calculation of $T_1(\min)$ of the H₂ ligand of 1a and 2a

The relaxation rate (R_{H3}) of the RuH₃ moieties of complexes **1a** and **2a** could be written as the weighted average of that of the individual hydride and η^2 -H₂ ligands i.e.,

$$R_{\rm H3} = (R_{\rm H} + 2R_{\rm H2})/3$$

where, $R_{\rm H}$ = relaxation rate of the hydride ligand caused by rest of the molecule, and $R_{\rm H2}$ = relaxation rate of the η^2 -H₂ ligand. $R_{\rm H2}$ has two components: (i) $R_{\rm M}$ i.e., mutual relaxation of the two H-atoms of the η^2 -H₂ ligand and (ii) $R_{\rm R}$ i.e., relaxation of the η^2 -H₂ ligand caused by rest of the molecule. Among these two components, $R_{\rm M}$ is actually related to T_1 (min) of the η^2 -H₂ ligand, i.e., T_1 (H₂).

Therefore, $R_{\rm H3} = \{R_{\rm H} + 2(R_{\rm M} + R_{\rm R})\}/3$

Or, $R_{\rm H3} = (3R_{\rm H} + 2R_{\rm M})/3$ [since, $R_{\rm R} \sim R_{\rm H}$]

Now, we know that $T_1 = (1/R)$, therefore, the above equation can be written in terms of $T_1(\min)$ of the η^2 -H₂ ligand as,

 $1/T_1(H_2) = (3/2) \{ 1/T_1(RuH_3) - 1/T_1(RuH_2) \}$

where, $T_1(\text{RuH}_3)$ is the $T_1(\text{min})$ of complexes **1a** and **2a**, $T_1(\text{RuH}_2)$ is the T_1 of complexes **1** and **2** at respective temperatures (183 K for **1a** and 191 K for **2a**).