Handout IRTG, May 2009

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Bifunctionality in ligands and coordination compounds: application in design of new materials, catalysts and drugs.

IRTG: Spring 2009, Münster

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Lectures overview

- Introduction Ligands (general)
- Introduction Bifunctionality
- Introduction Metal-DNA binding and anticancer drugs, followed by: Bifunctionality in M-DNA binding
- Introduction Materials and Catalysis
- Bifunctionality in Molecular Materials and Homogeneous Catalysis
- Conclusions and Outlook

Introduction Ligands and Bifunctionality

- Bifunctionality has been applied in our recent work on:
- Rigid Coordination polymers (also called MOFs) and molecular materials
- Oxidation catalysts
- DNA cutting agents based on Cu and Pt
- Pt anticancer drugs (third generation)

Ligands for metals (introduction at lectures coordination chemistry)

- In coordination chemistry the metals are at the center, some 70 possibilities in the Periodic Table!
- However, with (organic) ligands the possibilities are almost unlimited!!

Ligands for metals

- Simple ligands (monodentate or bridging)
- Ligands to master the coordination geometry (pre-orientation of donor atoms, through rigid constraints in the ligand)
- Special chelate effects with rigid ligands
- Ligands to control semi-coordination
- Ligands with groups to control the second coordination sphere (solubility, stacking, recognition, surface attachment)
- Ligands with a second chemical function (metal binding, intercalator, switches, ...)

The ligand

- Monofunctionality: Monodentate, bridging
- Bi- and Trifunctionality: Metal binding with other function(s)
- Other functions may include: steric effects (bulky groups), solubilizing effect (hydrophobic, hydrophylic), H-bond donor, H-bond acceptor, intercalator/stacking ligand, bridge to another metal (flexible or rigid bridges)





Examples for control of coordination geometry

- Ligand bite angle some 120-140 degrees: tetrahedral geometry for Cu(I) and Cu(II)
- Steric bulk in cis position to force tetrahedral rather than square planer geometry
- Pre-orientation of donor atoms in chelating ligands, at rigid positions

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Reducing reactivity of small molecules by encapsulation

- EXAMPLES:
- Dioxygen binding in between 2 or more metals











Interplay of metal binding and hydrogen bonding is important

- Hydrogen-bonding effects often finetune the coordination phenomenon
- In many cases M-L binding is effected by hydrogen bonds.
- In almost all cases of metal-DNA binding, the metal alone cannot be held responsible for binding and stability;
- In very many cases Hydrogen Bonding interferes with M-DNA interactions



































Ligands to control the second coordination sphere

- Solubility (in water, or in a hydrophobic medium)
- Stacking with other species in solution, or on a reaction substrate
- Recognition site on a cell surface or a polymer
- Binding to a surface (e.g. electrode)

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Ligands with a second chemical function

- For binding of second (or third) metal,
- Intercalator attachment,
- Recognition site (e.g. at a cell surface),
- Generation of a switch (upon binding, or after an external effect, such as light or redox),
- Several functions in addition, or even in synergy.

The binding site

- **Stability**: needed to bind metal, control by chelate or macrocyclic effect, ligand type (class A or B)
- Structure: control by denticity, steric effects
- Lability: decreases with multidentate or macrocyclic ligands, rigid ligands

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The bridge

- Provides a mechanical linkage between sites
- May also provide electronic or magnetic linkage
- Must be flexible enough to allow the formation of the complex
- Must not be too flexible, or chelation may replace bridging, and stereochemical information will be lost

Ancillary groups may have:

- Structural effects: steric bulk (blocking of conformations), intramolecular attractions
- Links beyond the outer sphere: H-bonding, stacking interactions, coordination
- Solubility enhancement
- Spectroscopic probes diastereotopic protons, chromophores



May be included at any point of the structure

- Chromophores
- Luminophores
- Electrochemical centres
- Reactivity (e.g. hydronation, coordination)
- Magnetism (unpaired electrons)





