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Structural and Electronic Properties of Isomers of Sc₂@C₈₄(I, II, III): ¹³C NMR and IR/Raman Spectroscopic Studies

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The structures of three structural isomers of $Sc_2@C_{84}(I, II, III)$ have been determined by ^{13}C NMR and have C_s , $C_{2\nu}$, and D_{2d} point group symmetry, respectively. By IR measurements, we have determined that the peaks below 110 cm^{-1} originate from the scandium-cage vibrational modes based on temperature-dependent IR experiments. Line broadenings of the Sc-cage modes below 110 cm^{-1} are quite different from those of the C_{84} (empty) cage modes in far-IR spectra. Sc-cage vibrational modes below 300 cm^{-1} in Raman spectra are also identified. The force constants of the Sc-cage vibrations based on a linear three-mass-oscillator model indicate that the charge state of Sc atoms are close to +2.

1. Introduction

Scandium metallofullerenes are characteristic and intriguing materials as compared with other metallofullerenes because they have many structural isomers related to size of carbon cages and the number of encapsulated Sc atoms. $^{1-36}$ During the past 8 years, many scandium metallofullerenes have been produced and isolated. Scandium fullerenes such as Sc@C82, $^{27-36}$ Sc2@C2n(2n = 74, 82, 84, 86), $^{8,11-25}$ and Sc3@C82, $^{1-10}$ have been characterized in detail by various experimental techniques via 13 C NMR, 15 45 Sc NMR, 16 ESR, $^{1-8,27-33,36}$ HR-TEM, 13 UV—Vis—NIR absorption, 4,5,8,11,26,30 STM, 8,12 XPS/UPS, 14,35 X-ray diffraction, 10,19,34 and IR/Raman. $^{17,18,20-25}$ In these studies, the structures and electronic properties of Sc2@C84 isomers, in particular, have been discussed. There also have been theoretical studies for the structural and electronic properties of the Sc2@C84 isomers. $^{37-40}$

The vibrations between the metal atom and the cage are one of the characteristic properties of endohedral metallofullerenes. It is well-known that there are 24 IPR (isolated pentagon rule)⁴¹ satisfying structural isomers for the hollow C_{84} fullerenes.⁴² Experimentally, two isomers, D_2 (No. 22)⁴² and D_{2d} (No. 23),⁴² are mainly produced by arc discharge of graphite rods.^{43–45} Recently, the two main and five minor isomers of the hollow C_{84} fullerenes were isolated and characterized by ¹³C NMR.^{44–46} The vibrational properties of the empty C_{84} cages were studied via IR and Raman.^{18,23,24} A theoretical study for the empty C_{84} suggests that there should be no intramolecular vibrational modes below 200 cm⁻¹.⁴⁷ The intermolecular modes must have energy below 50 cm⁻¹, which corresponds to the energy for the highest intermolecular mode in C_{60} . The new modes from

the metal-cage vibrations are, therefore, expected to fill the energy range between inter- and intramolecular modes in the metallofullerenes. They were observed for mono-metallofullerenes based on C_{82} , 48 which was supported by a theoretical calculation. 49 The metal-cage modes were found at an energy range between 150 and 190 cm $^{-1}$. For $Sc_2@C_{84}$, two scandium atoms might be located at characteristic positions in each C_{84} cage. To elucidate systematically the structure and metal-cage vibrations, we have observed ^{13}C NMR and IR/Raman lines of three isomers of $Sc_2@C_{84}$.

In this study, the symmetry of three Sc₂@C₈₄ isomers was determined by ¹³C NMR. We measured IR spectra between 80 and 2000 cm⁻¹ and Raman spectra between 50 and 550 cm⁻¹ of Sc₂@C₈₄(I, II, III), which have symmetries of C_s (No. 10), $C_{2\nu}$ (No. 17), and D_{2d} (No. 23), respectively. The analyses of IR and Raman measurements of these isomers clarified the vibrational properties of the cages and the metal-cage bonding. We have identified several metal-cage modes around 100 cm⁻¹ and around 160 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectra. The broadening of the metal-cage modes with varying temperature shows a behavior different from that of the carbon atoms on the cage. The temperature dependence of the line widths is discussed within the framework of a rotational diffusion model. The metal-cage modes below 200 cm⁻¹ in Raman spectra are also identified. The relation between the force constants of the Sc-cage vibrations and the charge state of Sc atoms is discussed on the basis of a linear three-mass-oscillator model.

2. Experimental Section

Sample preparation and isolation of $Sc_2@C_{84}$ have been reported in detail previously. ¹⁵ Briefly, the DC arc-discharge method was used for the soot production. Scandium/graphite

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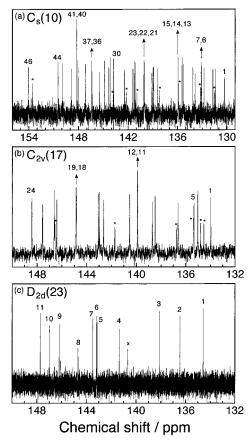


Figure 1. ¹³C NMR spectra of Sc₂@C₈₄(I, II, III) in CS₂ at room temperature. Peaks are half intensity lines.

composite rods (1.6 at. %, Toyo Tanso Co. Ltd.) were used for electrodes. The solution containing Sc₂@C₈₄ was obtained by a Soxhlet extraction with carbon disulfide (CS₂). Isolation of the Sc₂@C₈₄ isomers was achieved by the multistage recycling HPLC method^{15,26} using a Buckyprep column and a Buckyclutcher column. The purity of the samples was confirmed by laser-desorption time-of-flight (LD-TOF) mass spectrometry.

¹³C NMR spectroscopic measurements of the Sc₂@C₈₄ isomers were performed on a Varian Inova-600 spectrometer at 600 MHz (CS₂ solution, Cr(acac)₃ relaxant, C₆D₆ lock, at 298 K). All ¹³C NMR spectroscopic line positions were referenced with respect to that of C₆D₆ at 128.00. The UV-Vis-NIR spectra of the Sc₂@C₈₄ isomers were measured between 400 and 2000 nm in CS₂ solution by using a Shimadzu UV-3101PC spectrophotometer.

Details of IR and Raman measurements were reported elsewhere.²⁴ Briefly, thin films of the isolated samples for IR and Raman measurements were prepared by the drop-coating technique on gold-coated silicon substrates with condensed samples in CS2. The polycrystalline films were baked for several hours at 620 K in high vacuum (10⁻⁵ mbar) to remove residual solvent molecules and other impurities. The IR transmission spectra for the far-infrared region were taken at 2 and 0.5 cm⁻¹ resolution with both a DTGS and a liquid-helium-cooled Ge detector at temperatures from 80 to 300 K. The mid-IR transmission spectra were taken with a MCT detector at temperatures from 80 to 300 K. An Oxford cryostat with polyethylene window was used to measure the temperature dependence between 80 and 300 K. The Raman spectra were measured at 3 cm⁻¹ resolution by using a triple spectrometer XY 500 (Dilor) with an argon ion laser (514 nm) at temperatures from 80 to 300 K.

TABLE 1: ¹³C NMR Chemical Shifts (ppm) for Three Isomers of Sc2@Ce4

somers of Sc ₂ @C ₈₄	.	
C _s (No. 10)	C _{2v} (No. 17)	D _{2d} (No. 23)
131.01	134.48	134.57
132.10	135.01*	136.44
132.20*	135.28*	138.11
132.42	135.54	141.36
133.51	135.81	143.14
133.76	135.86*	143.18
133.86	137.08	143.49
133.96*	137.24*	144.67*
134.59	138.99	146.19
134.85	139.20	146.99
136.03	140.38	147.73
136.16	140.41	
136.57*	141.00	
136.64	142.23*	
136.67	143.13	
138.93*	143.45	
139.13	143.55	
139.64	145.30	
139.70	145.36	
139.83	146.90	
140.75	146.56*	
140.79	147.11	
140.82	148.06	
141.65*	148.91	
141.81	- 1417	
141.93		
142.13		
142.96*		
143.15		
144.46		
144.62*		
144.84		
145.06		
145.57		
146.21		
147.01		
147.14		
147.87		
148.80		
148.96		
148.96		
149.56		
150.68		
151.19		
154.29*		
154.83		

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Structures of the Three Sc₂@C₈₄ Isomers. Figure 1 shows high-resolution ¹³C NMR spectra of three isomers of Sc₂@C₈₄. All the observed NMR lines appear in the chemical shift range between 130 and 155 ppm (Table 1). The ¹³C NMR spectrum of isomer I exhibits 38 distinct lines of near-equal intensity and 8 additional lines at half the intensity (star marked lines). Isomer II shows 18 distinct lines with 6 half-intensity lines, whereas isomer III, as we already reported, ¹⁵ shows 10 lines and one additional line at half intensity. From these NMR patterns we can unambiguously assign the molecular symmetry of the three isomers of Sc₂@C₈₄. The molecular structures of Sc₂@C₈₄(I, II, III), which are consistent with the present NMR results, are depicted in Figure 2a-c, respectively. The theoretical calculation³⁸ is adopted for the most probable position of Sc atoms in Sc₂@C₈₄(I). The structure of Sc₂@C₈₄(III) was already confirmed by a synchrotron X-ray diffraction study.¹⁹

The UV-Vis-NIR absorption spectra of isolated Sc₂@C₈₄-(I, II, III) in CS₂ solution are presented in Figure 3a-c, respectively. The overall spectral features of Sc₂@C₈₄(I, II, III) are different from each other. Several features of Sc2@C84(I)

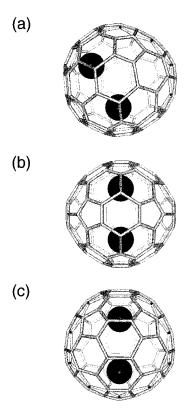


Figure 2. Molecular structures for $Sc_2@C_{84}(I, II, III)$ consistent with the ^{13}C NMR results.

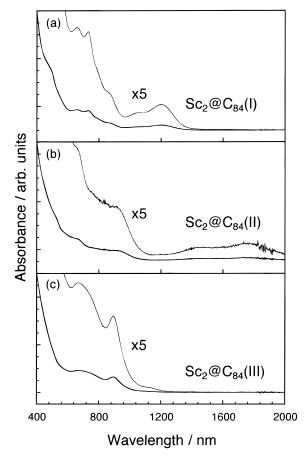


Figure 3. UV-Vis-NIR absorption spectra of $Sc_2@C_{84}(I, II, III)$ in CS_2 solution.

appear at 660, 730, 862, 1045, and 1204 nm. Characteristic features for $Sc_2@C_{84}(II)$ are broad absorptions at 1425 and 1770

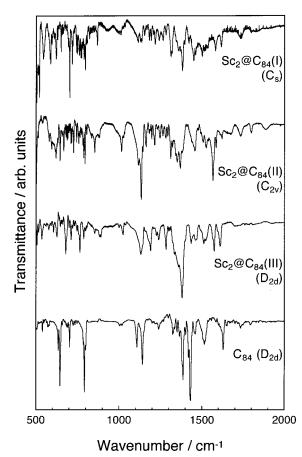


Figure 4. MIR spectra of $Sc_2@C_{84}(I,\ II,\ III)$ and C_{84} at room temperature.

nm. There is no absorption below 1300 nm in the $Sc_2@C_{84}(III)$ spectrum. The observed difference in spectral onsets of $Sc_2@C_{84}$ isomers can be ascribed to the difference in their HOMO–LUMO gaps. The absorption onset of $Sc_2@C_{84}(II)$ is similar to these metallofullerenes with open-shell electronic structures, such as $Sc@C_{82}$, 30,36 $Y@C_{82}$, 30,50 and $La@C_{82}$. $^{51-53}$ These mono-metallofullerenes also show absorption bands down to 2000 nm, indicating small HOMO–LUMO gaps. The absorption onset of $Sc_2@C_{84}(II)$ is strongly red-shifted as compared to the absorption of isomers I and III. This is consistent with the observation that the production efficiency and stability of $Sc_2@C_{84}(II)$ are much lower than those of isomers I and III.

3.2. Vibrational Properties of Three Isomers of Sc₂@ C_{84} . The molecule of Sc₂@ C_{84} isomers has 252 vibrational degrees of freedom distributed on the irreducible representations of the symmetry group,

(I):
$$\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = 131\text{A}'(\text{IR},\text{Ra}) + 121\text{A}''(\text{IR},\text{Ra})$$

(II): $\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = 67\text{A}_1(\text{IR},\text{Ra}) + 60\text{A}_2(\text{Ra}) + 64\text{B}_1(\text{IR},\text{Ra}) + 61\text{B}_2(\text{IR},\text{Ra})$
(III): $\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = 33\text{A}_1(\text{Ra}) + 30\text{A}_2 + 31\text{B}_1(\text{Ra}) +$

 $32B_{2}(IR,Ra) + 63E(IR,Ra)$

Mid-IR spectra of three isomers of $Sc_2@C_{84}(I, II, III)$ are shown in Figure 4. The IR spectrum of $C_{84}(D_{2d})$, whose cage structure is identical to the cage structure of $Sc_2@C_{84}(III)$, is also shown for comparison. The intramolecular modes of $Sc_2@C_{84}$ appear mostly in this mid-IR region. There is a gap between 800 and 1100 cm^{-1} , separating radial and tangential vibrational modes

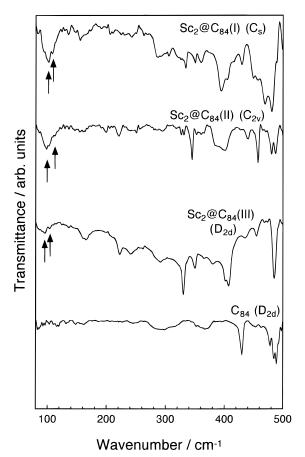


Figure 5. Far-IR spectra of Sc₂@C₈₄(I, II, III) and C₈₄ at room temperature. The metal-cage modes are indicated by arrows.

for all the $Sc_2@C_{84}$ isomers and $C_{84}(D_{2d})$. Strongly enhanced lines are observed in $Sc_2@C_{84}(III)$ compared to the $C_{84}(D_{2d})$ spectrum in the radial part below 800 cm⁻¹. Some of the lines in $Sc_2@C_{84}(III)$ are shifted with respect to $C_{84}(D_{2d})$ because of a charge transfer from the Sc atoms to the carbon cage.²⁴

Far-IR spectra of three isomers of Sc₂@C₈₄(I, II, III) are shown in Figure 5 together with that of $C_{84}(D_{2d})$. The overall peak positions are equal within a few wavenumbers, indicating that the symmetry of the cage affects the vibrational energy only weakly. The most important parts of the spectra are the broad peak around 100 cm⁻¹ and a weak peak around 160-165 cm⁻¹. A group theoretical analysis suggests that there are three additional IR-active modes in $Sc_2@C_{84}$ (III) (D_{2d}) as compared to C_{84} (D_{2d}). In detail we have found three distinct modes at 98, 107, and 158 cm⁻¹, 99, 110, and 157 cm⁻¹, and 90, 102, and 166 cm⁻¹ for isomers I-III, respectively, after deconvoluting the bands into Lorentzian lines.

From an analysis based on temperature-dependent IR experiments and from a quantum chemical calculation, the peaks below 200 cm⁻¹ originate from scandium-cage vibrations. The results of the temperature measurements are shown in Figure 6. An Arrhenius plot (Figure 6a) shows that the line widths of the peaks of the Sc-cage modes (90, 102 cm⁻¹) become narrower with increasing temperature, whereas that of the intramolecular cage mode (1286 cm⁻¹) becomes much broader (Figure 6b). The line width of the cage mode changes around 1/T = 0.00625 $(T \approx 160 \text{ K})$. The observed change can be ascribed to a phase transition of the crystal structure, as reported in the X-ray diffraction measurement of the empty C₈₄.⁵⁴

The temperature dependence of the cage modes below 1/T = 0.00625 (T > 160 K) may be caused by a coupling with

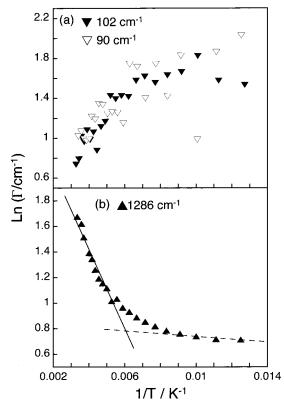


Figure 6. Arrhenius plot for the peak line width of the cage and the metal-cage modes.

a thermally activated rotational motion of the molecules. Assuming that τ is a characteristic correlation time for a molecular reorientation, the line width Γ is expressed as Γ = $\tau^{-1} = \exp(-E_a/k_BT)$ in the rotational diffusion model, where E_a is an activation energy for the reorientation. ^{18,21} We have obtained the activation energy of Sc₂@C₈₄(III) for the reorientation (26.1 meV) by fitting the slope below 1/T = 0.00625 (T >160 K) (Figure 6b). The temperature independence of the line widths at lower temperatures suggests a supression of molecular rotations.

3.3. Electron Transfers and the Charge State of the Sc₂@C₈₄ Isomers. We have also identified the metal-cage vibrational modes below 300 cm⁻¹ in Raman spectra of the $Sc_2@C_{84}$ isomers, which are shown by arrows in Figure 7. In the Sc₂@C₈₄(III) spectrum, there are at least 9 additional lines with respect to the empty case, which is more than expected from the degrees of freedom originating from encaged Sc atoms.²⁴ A detailed analysis of the metal-cage vibrational modes shows that the crystal fields affect and split these vibrational modes.24

The metal-cage vibration of several mono-metallofullerenes has been discussed within the framework of the charge state and the weight of the metal atom. 48,55,56 We can also derive the information on the charge state of the current discandium metallofullerenes based on a similar analysis. For example, the highest metal-cage modes observed at 245 and 259 cm⁻¹ are strong in Raman and weak in IR spectra. These modes are thus assigned to symmetric stretching modes of the two scandium atoms along the S_4 axis of the $C_{84}(D_{2d})$ cage.⁵⁷

The force constant of the metal-cage vibrations can be derived on the basis of a linear three-mass-oscillator model, as we described previously (Figure 8).²⁴ The obtained force constant $f_{XY}(Sc-C_{84})$, 1.19 N/cm, is similar to those of Tm@C₈₂ and Eu@ $C_{74}^{25,48,58}$ in which the encapsulated atom has a ± 2

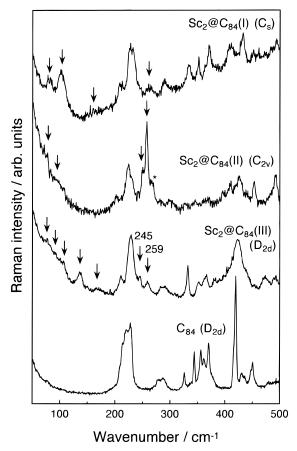


Figure 7. Raman spectra of $Sc_2@C_{84}(I, II, III)$ and C_{84} at room temperature. The metal-cage modes are indicated by arrows. * marked lines are from a C_{60} contamination.

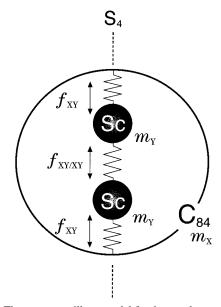


Figure 8. Three mass oscillator model for the metal-cage vibration of a $Sc_2@C_{84}(III)$ molecule. The scandium ions of mass m_Y are bonded to the rigid C_{84} cage of mass m_X by a valence force constant f_{XY} . $f_{XY/XY}$ is a coupling constant of both oscillators.

oxidation state (Table 2). The obtained force constant $f_{\rm XY}({\rm Sc-C_{84}})$, therefore, strongly suggests that the charge state of Sc atoms is close to +2, which is consistent with the previous reports based on synchrotron X-ray diffraction, ¹⁹ UPS, ¹⁴ and theoretical calculations. ^{37–39} Detailed analyses for the low energy vibrations of the other two isomers of Sc₂@C₈₄ (I, II) will be reported elsewhere. ²⁵

TABLE 2: Force Constants for the Metal-Cage Mode of Metallofullerenes

substance	wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)	force constant (N cm ⁻¹)
Sc ₂ @ _{C84} (III)	245, 259	1.19
$Tm@C_{82}(A)$	118^{a}	1.18
Eu@C ₇₄	123^{a}	1.16
$Y@C_{82}$	179, ^a 183 ^b	1.50, 1.61
$La@C_{82}$	160, ^a 163 ^b	1.88, 1.90
$Gd@C_{82}$	$151,^a 155^b$	1.80, 1.91
$Ce@C_{82}$	162^{b}	1.89

 a Data are taken from refs 25, 55, and 56. b Data are taken from ref 48.

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