# Exploring the Chemistry of $Re^{I}$ : Physical and Theoretical Investigations

by

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 $egin{aligned} Master \ of \ Science \ In \ Chemistry \end{aligned}$ 

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#### **Abstract**

The development of Rhenium I photocatalysts has been pursued since Lehn first showed the excellent performance of the Re<sup>I</sup> bipyridine tricarbonyl catalyst. Since then, development has modified the organic ligand to demonstrate continued or improved activity with other  $\alpha$ -diimine bidentate geometries. Geometry has been limited to  $\kappa_2$  motifs, with fac-(CO)<sub>3</sub> and axial halide. This work will demonstrate the synthesis, characterization, and testing of a new  $\kappa_3(L_3)$ -Re<sup>1</sup>-mer-(CO)<sub>2</sub>X (X = Cl, Br, CN, OTf) family of compounds for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, as well as computational investigations into the mechanism of the reduction,

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks to the members of the Richeson and Woo research groups, both past and present, for the assistance provided and for making the time spent researching and writing this thesis enjoyable. Thanks as well to Frank and Sean in the Brusso lab, for their willingness to allow use of their characterization equipment. Thanks to Jake and the Gambarotta laboratory for use of their GC, and to the Sciano Lab, especially Janice, Charles, and Deni, for the use of their photolysis equipment.

I'd like to thank Dr. Ilia Korobkov for his work measuring and solving the x-ray crystal structures of the compounds discussed. He assisted with some paper writing as well.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fianceé Leanne, and my parents for their unending support, and understanding when I came home frustrated or exhausted from work.

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# Chapter 1

### Introduction

#### 1.1 Inorganic Chemistry

Common distinctions split most chemical compounds into one of two categories: organic and inorganic. Organic molecules contain carbon and hydrogen, with or without additional nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, sulfur, and the halides. Inorganic chemistry is, therefore, considered to be the remainder of the molecules possible. While they may include come aspect of organic chemistry (especially in organometallic molecules), the main structural motif or reactive center is a non-organic feature. These inorganic compounds can range from compounds such as lithium or grignard reagents with significant organic influence, to metallic alloys or mineral compounds. With such a wide range of possibilities, inorganic chemistry has many facets. A widely active research area is the development and testing of transition metal complexes for catalytic, photo-physical, biochemical or manufacturing uses.

#### 1.2 Photochemistry & Catalysis

A report of the first synthesized organometallic complex was published by Zeise in  $1831.^1$  To form what is now known as Zeise's salt,  $K[PtCl_3(C_2H_4)] \cdot H_2O$ , he mixed platinum chloride with ethanol, followed by a reaction with potassium chloride.<sup>2</sup> After some controversy to the composition of this, it was confirmed by Griess and Martius,<sup>3</sup> and later expanded upon by Birnbaum.<sup>4</sup>

The field of organometallics was expanded greatly by Frankland,<sup>2</sup> and many of his complexes were catalytically active. Further development of this new type of chemistry quickly led to useful catalysts for the conversion of petroleum products or the production or destruction of other chemicals to be developed using nearly all of the transition metals. These catalysts take all forms, from simple olefin and halide compounds to multi-metallic complexes with large organic ligands.

Some of the most interesting organometallic catalysts since the late 1990s have been the development of earth metal pincer complexes to replace noble metal or early transition metal catalysts, which are often more toxic or expensive to produce. Brookhart and Gibson published a series of papers<sup>5–8</sup> on the use of iron and cobalt with bis(imino)pyridine ligands to perform ethylene polymerization at rates exceeding those of similar noble metal complexes and metallocenes.<sup>9</sup> The role of the ligand in the mechanism is still up for debate, but many modified systems have been synthesized and tested since the first work was published.<sup>10</sup>

Many of these types of pincer complexes are photochemically active. In transition metal complexes, the interaction between the metal atom(s) and the ligands can cause significant electron mobility upon the absorption of incident photons. The metal atom's d orbitals typically lie at or near the Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital (HOMO) energy, while the ligands often have low energy anti-bonding orbitals ( $\pi^*$ ) at the Lowest Unoc-

cupied Molecular Orbital (LUMO) levels. When a photon is absorbed and is promoted from the ground state to the excited state, that state is geographically removed from the metal centre, this motion of the electron is labelled a Metal-Ligand Charge Transfer (MLCT). Formally, the metal atom is oxidized by the photons, this oxidation allows for redox reactivity at the metal centre for as long as the electron remains removed to the ligand. Relaxation (through photon emission via fluorescence or phosphorescence, or via vibrational or other motion processes) can return the electron to the metal to reform the ground electronic state.

#### 1.3 Rhenium

Rewrite to more verbose

Rhenium compounds display a broad scope of applications ranging from catalysis<sup>11–13</sup> to radiopharmaceutical applications, <sup>14,15</sup> as well as possessing interesting fundamental photophysical properties. <sup>16</sup> Since the mid-1970's, complexes containing the  $\alpha$ -diimine Re<sup>I</sup> tricarbonyl core have attracted a great deal of attention due to their attractive photochemical properties with pseudo-octahedral fac-[L<sub>2</sub>Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>X] and fac-[L<sub>2</sub>(L')Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> complexes being the dominant species. <sup>17–27</sup> A large family of compounds with these formulations have been accessed by the addition of chelating diimine  $\sigma$ -donor ligands to [Re(CO)<sub>5</sub>X] with the quantitative replacement of two cis carbonyls in the Re<sup>I</sup> starting material. <sup>17,28–35</sup> Significantly, these reactions form only bidentate coordinated ligands with facial tricarbonyl isomers as products even when a potentially tridentate  $\sigma$ -donor, such as bis(imino)pyridine or 2,2':6',2"-terpyridine are employed in the reaction (Figure 1.1). <sup>36–38</sup> These robust species have been examined for potential applications in organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), <sup>39</sup> chemosensors and biotechnology probes, <sup>40–44</sup> fluorescence microscopy imaging of cells, <sup>40,45,46</sup> and the photochemical reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to CO. <sup>47–51</sup> Among the key photophysical features of these  $\alpha$ -diimine Re<sup>I</sup> compounds is the

electron transfer capability of this system and the interplay between the Re center and the well-known non-innocent redox-activity of the ligands.<sup>52</sup>

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Figure 1.1 Two common fac-[L<sub>2</sub>Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>X] complexes with terdentate  $\sigma$ -donor ligands: L = bis(imino)pyridine (**A**) and 2,2':6',2"-terpyridine (**B**)

Further development of this chemistry has been restricted by the limited structural and electronic variability of the common pseudo-octahedral fac-[L<sub>2</sub>ReX(CO)<sub>3</sub>] (L<sub>2</sub> =  $\alpha$ -diimine) products. While these systems continue to receive considerable attention, studies detailing the coordination chemistry of the meridionally-coordinated tridentate triimine Re<sup>I</sup> dicarbonyl core are quite limited.<sup>53</sup> For example, while  $\kappa^3$ (terpy)Re(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl was initially reported in 1988,<sup>54</sup> closer analysis of the reported analytical data (including <sup>1</sup>H NMR) indicate that this compound is more likely  $\kappa^2$ LRe(CO)<sub>3</sub>Cl. A more recent report for this compound provides spectroscopic details of this species as well as the preliminary report for the generation of  $[\kappa^3$ (terpy)Re(CO)<sub>2</sub>L']<sup>+</sup> cations (L = PPh<sub>3</sub>, PEt<sub>3</sub>, NC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, and NCCH<sub>3</sub>).<sup>55</sup> Finally, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR data for  $\kappa^3$ (terpy)Re(CO)<sub>2</sub>Br has been reported.<sup>38</sup>

In order to fully exploit the potential of this versatile family of compounds, the limits imposed by the bidentate coordination need to be addressed. Furthermore, it would appear that, on the basis of the tridentate ligands that have been investigated, the

concerted effort to produce the tridentate species has been unsuccessful. Attracted by this challenge we sought to synthesize, crystallographically authenticate, and investigate the photophysical properties of low-valent rhenium pincer complexes displaying an N,N',N"-chelated terpyridine array.

Take out spoilers

We recently reported the conversion of bidentate bis(imino)pyridine complexes 2,6- $\{2,6\text{-Me}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CPh}\}_2(\text{NC}_5\text{H}_3)\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{X}\ (\text{X}=\text{Cl},\text{Br})\ \text{into tridentate pincer ligand compounds}, 2,6-<math>\{2,6\text{-Me}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CPh}\}_2(\text{NC}_5\text{H}_3)\text{Re}(\text{CO})_2\text{X}\ (\text{X}=\text{Cl},\text{Br}).^{53}\ \text{This transformation was performed in the solid-state by controlled heating of these bidentate species above 200°C in a tube furnace under a flow of nitrogen gas giving excellent yields (<math>\geq 95\%$ ). These compounds defined a new coordination environment for Re<sup>I</sup> carbonyl chemistry where the metal center is supported by a planar, tridentate pincer coordinated bis(imino)pyridine ligand.

Complexes of 2,2':6',2"-terpyridine (terpy) are of interest due to the conceptual relationship to established bis(imino)pyridine compounds.<sup>56,57</sup> Herein, we provide rational synthetic procedures to these novel species as well as their characterization and analysis of their visible electronic transitions. These results will broaden the accessibility of such compounds for investigation and application. This report for the unconventional but accessible synthesis of tridentate pincer complexes promises to enhance the versatile chemistry of Re<sup>I</sup> and yield new venues for exploration.

This thesis will be a discussion of the development of chemistry of Re<sup>I</sup> complexes, their characterization, and comparison of structural and photo-physical properties to computed values. Further exploration of the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by photo-catalysis of these new complexes will be analyzed. This thesis will also take a more detailed look at specifics of the mechanisms proposed for current Re<sup>I</sup> diimine catalysts, and propose new geometries for prior mechanistic steps based on experimental, computational, and

literature review work.

# Chapter 2

# New Coordination Geometries for $\mathrm{Re}^{\mathrm{I}}$

#### 2.1 Introduction

As mentioned previously in the thesis introduction,  $Re^{I}$  compounds have been typically bidentate ( $\kappa^{2}$ ) compounds, even when using a potentially terdentate ( $\kappa^{3}$ ) ligand such as bis(imino)pyridine or terpyridine (refer to Figure 1.1). The chemistry of this rhenium  $\alpha$ -imino complex has been extensively invesigated, with over 1700 references appearing in a structure search for that metal-ligand motif. The extraction of an additional carbonyl and the chelation of the pendant arm of the ligand was attempted to extend the pi system of the ligand and its interaction with the metal centre. This was first demonstrated by prior work in our group for the bis(imino)pyridine ligand.<sup>53</sup>

# 2.2 Synthesis of Bidentate and Terdentate Re<sup>I</sup> Complexes

Similar to the prior work, synthesis began with the production of the bidentate complex  $\kappa^2(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{X}$  (X = Cl, Br) by coordination of 2,2':6',2"-terpyridine (Sigma) with a  $\text{Re}(\text{CO})_5\text{X}$  (Strem) starting material in dry toluene at reflux for 4 hours, as shown in Scheme 2.1. A bright yellow powder precipitated from solution and was collected by filtration, washed with cold hexanes, and dried *in vacuo* to a good yield of 1 and 3 respectively.<sup>i</sup> These bidentate compounds were characterized fully and used without further purification to produce  $\kappa^3(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_2\text{X}$  (X = Cl, Br) via thermolysis, as well as for anion exchange reactions.



Scheme 2.1 Synthesis of 1 and 2

Conversion of compounds 1 and 3 to the  $\kappa^3$  moiety required the release of CO and the subsequent coordination of the free pendant arm. Prior work had identified the thermal lability of the carbonyl, based on a method first described by Buckingham with a osmium complexes.<sup>58</sup> In this method, a ceramic sample boat was placed in a tube furnace at elevated temperature, under a flowing atmosphere of  $N_2$ . After some time, the sample

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup>Experimental details for all compounds can be seen in Appendix A Experimental Procedures

is removed and collected at nearly quantitative yield. Determination of the appropriate thermolysis temperature was performed by Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) of the sample. A 6-8 % mass loss (dependant on sample) indicated the departure of one carbonyl group from the complex. Results of TGA on 1 and 3 is shown in Figure 2.1. For 1, thermolysis was performed at 240°C, and for 3 thermolysis was performed at 260°C, yielding 2 and 4 respectively, at quantitative yields.

check that value

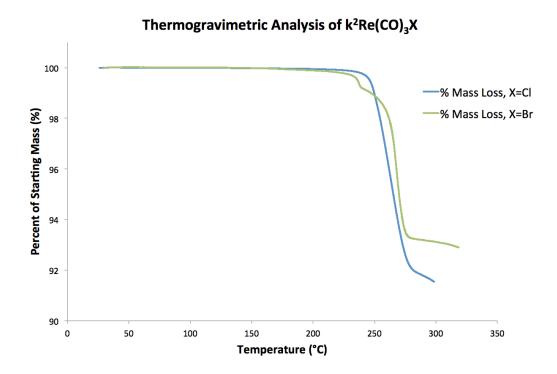
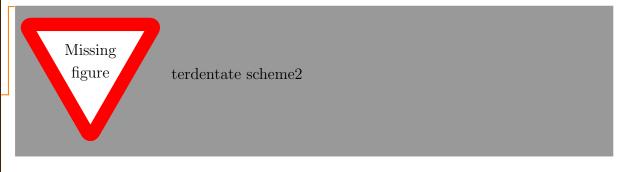
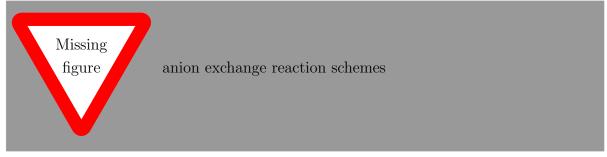


Figure 2.1 Results of TGA analysis on 1 and 3

Further discuss TGA
& terdentate rxn to
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to put in
scheme2



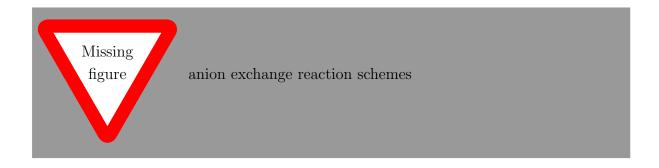
Further reactions were carried out on the above products to yield triflate and cyano complexes of bidentate and terdentate geometries. These anion exchange reactions were performed by the addition of the silver salt to 1 or 2, to precipitate AgCl, leaving  $\kappa^2(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{CN}$  (5),  $\kappa^3(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_2\text{CN}$  (6),  $\kappa^2(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{OTf}$  (7a) and  $\kappa^3(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_2\text{OTf}$  (8a), as shown in Scheme 2.2. Resulting in only moderate yields, 7b and 8b were synthesized by the direct addition of neat triflic acid (CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H) to 1 and 2 respectively. HCl was released, the solutions were quenched by addition of aqueous NaCO<sub>3</sub>, and product was collected, again at moderate yield.



Scheme 2.2 Anion exchange pathways to synthesize 3 - 88

A pseudo-tridentate complex was targeted to compare  $CO_2$  photoreduction performace with the previously prepared catalysts. Typical  $[L_2L'Re(CO)_n]^+$  (n = 2, 3) targets exchange the halide for a neutral phosphine or imine type ligand, resulting in a cationic species with weakly coordinated anion (typically  $BF_4^-$ ,  $OTf^-$ ,  $BArF^-$  or other anion). Instead, we targeted the  $L_2L'Re(CO)_2Cl$  (L = bipy, L' = 4-t-butylpyridine) compound (9) via two similar methods (Scheme 2.3).

ref



**Scheme 2.3** Synthesis of  $L_2L'Re(CO)_2Cl$  (L = bipy, L' = 4-t-butylpyridine) (9)

#### 2.3 Characterization

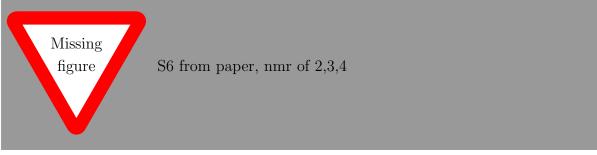
Characterization was performed on each of the products synthesized as discussed above. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) analysis, x-ray crystallography, as well as UV-Vis and IR spectroscopy was performed. Computational Density Functional Theorem (DFT) methods were used to solve the geometries, and Time Dependant Density Functional Theorem (TD-DFT) was performed to predict UV-Vis spectra and identify electronic transitions.

#### 2.3.1 NMR Analysis

Proton NMR was performed on each of the samples. Each sample was dissolved completely in deuteroacetonitrile ( $\mathrm{CD_3CN}$ ) and analysis was performed on a Bruker AVANCE 400 MHz spectrometer. Data was processed from the FID signal via the TopSpin program, and spectra were analyzed using ACD NMR Processor v12.0.

Detailed peak analysis comparing bidentate samples 1, 3, 5, and 7 or terdentate 2, 4, 6, and 8 show little difference between samples. This is due to the distance between

the anion and any protons on the ligand. While anions with different  $\sigma$  donor strength marginally impact the metal-ligand interactions, these have only small effect on the location of peaks, shifting between samples by typically less than 0.1 ppm. As is shown in Figure 2.2, the characteristic shape of each spectra remains constant, only exact peak locations and some peak order varies with anion choice.



**Figure 2.2** The aromatic region of the <sup>1</sup>HNMR spectra for compounds (red), (green), and (blue)

The characteristic feature in the NMR spectra after the transformation from bidentate

check compounds & spectra

to terdentate (e.g. sample 1 to 2) is the simplification of the signals in the aromatic region (between 7 and 9 ppm). This simplification is due to the increased symmetrization of the ligand, while the  $\kappa^2$  bidentate ligand has a freely rotating pendant group, the  $\kappa^3$  terdentate ligand is in a more rigidly fixed geometry. Prior work in literature and in our groupshows the temperature dependence of the rate of rotation of this pendant arm for

various ligand species.



Titel's Thesis citation



Figure 2.3 The aromatic region of the <sup>1</sup>HNMR spectra for compounds (red) and (blue), shoing the simplification of the spectra upon the conversion from bidentate to terdentate

The simplification of peaks due to the symmetrization of the ligand results in the peaks from () and () aligning with their mirror peaks at () and (). ?? shows the proton expanded ligand, the peaks at () and () correspond with the protons () and ().



Figure 2.4 Proton-explicit skeletal drawing of 2,2':6',2"-terpyridine

Carbon NMR (<sup>13</sup>C) was attempted on the complexes as well. Unfortunately, Re<sup>I</sup> complexes perform poorly in <sup>13</sup>C NMR experiments, the signal to noise ratio is incredibly poor (if a signal is even visible). The effect of this is a lack of <sup>13</sup>C NMR analysis of these compounds in literature, with a very few exceptions.

# why poor, show an ok result & dis-

check com-

pounds &

Put in nmr

peak values

spectra

the rest of structures

cuss

#### 2.3.2 X-Ray Crystallography

Single crystal analysis by x-ray crystallography yielded good structures of compounds 1, 2, 3, 4, . These are the first reported crystal structures of the  $\kappa^3$  terdentate Re<sup>I</sup> compounds. A number of structural characteristics are common between the various bidentate or terdentate complexes. Much analysis has been done on the structures of bidentate

complexes in literature, the notable characteristic within terpyridine compounds is the rotation of the pendant arm pushing the nitrogen atom away from the plane of the metal-ligand bonds by approximately 100°. Cell parameters and other collection data for compounds 1, 3, 5, and 7 are located in Table 2.1.

#### fix column widths

ref

Sample 3's crystal structure had a higher symmetry than the other samples. Details on the exact methods used for structure elucidation are available in section A.3, but all of the structures found are of high quality.

Specific geometric discussion of these bidentate complexes must first look at the similarities. While the complexes are typically described in literature as pseudo-octahedral, bond angles around the Re centre show a significant deviation of up to 15° from the ideal for all samples analyzed. The typical N-Re-N bond angle of 75° is due to the atomic size of rhenium, while typical

#### 2.3.3 Spectroscopy

Base writing off of paper.

I made some UVVIS!

Missing figure anion exchange reaction schemes

Figure 2.5 UV-Vis1

Table 2.1 Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds  $1,\,3,\,5,\,$  and 7

Compound	1	3	5	7
Empirical formula	$\overline{\mathrm{C_{19}H_{11}N_3O_3ReCl}}$	$C_{19}H_{11}N_3O_3ReBr$	$C_{20}H_{11}N_4O_3Re$	$C_{22}H_{14}N_4O_6F_3SRe$
Formula weight (g/mol)	538.96	583.41	530.04	693.63
Temperature (K)	200(2)	200	200	200
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal System	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic	
Space Group	P-1	C2/c	P-1	
a (Å)	9.8736(4)	31.1537(7)	9.9196(9)	
b (Å)	14.8202(4)	7.1176(2)	14.9902(14)	
c (Å)	16.3472(4)	16.8519(4)	16.5187(15)	
$\alpha \text{ (deg)}$	69.2890(10)	90.000	68.363(2)	
$\beta$ (deg)	80.801(2)	111.0230(10)	80.929(2)	
$\gamma \; (\mathrm{deg})$	79.836(2)	90.000	79.975(2)	
Volume ( $Å^3$ )	2190.00(12)	3488.00	2236.6(4)	
$Z, r (calc) (Mg/m^3)$	2, 1.997	8, 2.222	2, 1.927	
Absorption coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	6.063	9.282	5.821	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents			
Final R indices $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	R1 = 0.0397,	R1 = 0.0232,	R1 = 0.0390,	
	wR2 = 0.0839	wR2 = 0.0614	wR2 = 0.0921	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0604,	R1 = 0.0285,	R1 = 0.0500,	
	wR2 = 0.0951	wR2 = 0.0642	wR2 = 0.0961	

More UVVIS discussion.

#### Infrared Spectroscopy

This can be short... discuss triplet to doublet

# Missing figure anion exchange reaction schemes

**Figure 2.6** IR 1

But I guess I can use it.

#### **UV-Vis Spectroscopy**

This will be longer. Should be lots of discussion about results differences. I need to a)highlight the importance of anion exchange, and then b) highlight the importance of bidentate vs. terdentate

#### 2.3.4 Conclusions

Conclusion shows that manipulations can be done, this affects the photophysical properties of the compounds and may affect the photochemical

# Chapter 3

# Photocatalysis of CO<sub>2</sub>

#### 3.1 Introduction

check ref

a few references

refer to these as well. Red Light paper?

references,
Morris, JACS
dimer, mech.
basis

Only 6 years after Re<sup>I</sup> complexes using 2,2'-bipyridine were characterized, Hawecker, Ziessel, and Lehn showed the effectiveness of the compound for the catalytic photoreduction of  $CO_2$ .<sup>47</sup> Since then, many have shown the efficacy of a wide range of  $\alpha$ -diimino complexes for the reaction, and expansion of the systems to dimetallic complexes with ruthenium and osmium as electron transfer agents has produced a wide range of results. The mechanism of reduction has been subject of some debate, while mechanisms have been proposed since Lehn et. al. soon after their original publication, <sup>48</sup> modifications have been submitted routinely over the past decades. Further discussion and a proposal of a new mechanism geometry based on computational and experimental data can be read in chapter 4.

#### 3.2 Photocatalytic Reactions with New Compounds

The photocatalytic cycle is, simply, a photon-induced MLCT, followed by the extraction of an electron from a sacrificial reductant. This radical, negatively charged species sheds the anion, opening up a reaction site. Reaction between a  $CO_2$ , a proton (from the decomposition of the reductant or elsewhere), and the catalyst yields any number of  $CO_3$ , formate  $(HCO_2^-)$ , or carbonate  $(CO_3H^-)$ , depending on the mechanistic pathway.

#### 3.2.1 Conditions

Reaction conditions in use in literature have remained typically unchanged since the original papers. A mixture of N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) with either Triethanolamine (TEOA) or Triethylamine (TEA) at a 5:1 ratio is used to make a 1.0 mM solution of catalyst, with 'excess' (a 1.1 to 25 molar ratio) electrolyte salt (typically  $Et_4NX$  or  $t-Bu_4NX$ , where X= halide in catalyst) added as a stabilizer. Solutions are degassed by bubbling of  $CO_2$  and a consistent headspace is left to form over the solution. The reaction is monitored via Gas Chromatography (GC) analysis of the headspace, using a HP gas chromatograph with a 15 m CARBONPLOT column with 0.320 mm inner diameter and 1.50  $\mu$ m film in a 40°C oven. The instrument is fitted with a Thermal Conductivity Detector (TCD), and, while using He as a carrier gas, is able to resolve CO and  $CO_2$  completely.

#### 3.2.2 Experimental Results

Both bidentate and terdentate  $\kappa^{n}(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_{5-n}X$  (n=2,3) complexes show no activity for  $\text{CO}_{2}$  reduction. Modification of testing time, light source, product analysis methods, solvent, sacrificial reductant, pH, presence of electrolyte, presence of  $\text{H}_{2}\text{O}$ , or

Photocatalysis of CO<sub>2</sub>

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variation of anion (X=Cl, Br, OTf, CN) shows no change of this inactivity. Testing of  $\kappa^2(\text{bipy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}$  under the same reaction conditions shows production of approximately 6 mL CO from CO<sub>2</sub> (20% conversion) in 1 hour of photolysis with visible ( $\lambda$  ; 400nm) light.

 ${\bf SubSubSection}$ 

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#### 3.3 Section

#### 3.4 Section

#### 3.4.1 Subsection

# Chapter 4

# Mechanism of CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

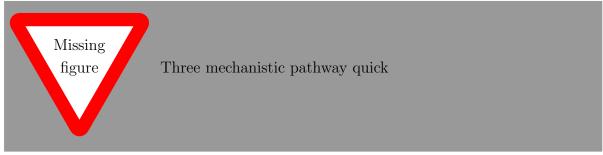
#### 4.1 Introduction

Within three years of the originally reported bipyridine rhenium I catalyst, experimental studies on the mechanism of the photocatalytic reduction of  ${\rm CO_2}$  were available in the literature. Studies continue on the mechanism up to the present day 59,60, utilizing new investigative techniques as they become available, this includes the use of DFT methods to elucidate geometries of intermediates and transition states for of the multi-step cycle. Transition metal catalysis is a non-trivial problem computationally, especially when considering a metal from the lower period. These elements contain a large amount of electrons, many of which can be involved in non-covalent interactions with the ligands and catalyzed products. Solving for this complex system becomes non-trivial and computationally expensive. For this reason, no overview of the mechanism as investigated by DFT methods has ever been made available in the literature.

more

#### 4.2 Literature Mechanisms

Prior work in the literature has proposed three general mechanistic pathways for the photoreduction of  $CO_2$ . In general, as seen in Figure 4.1, these pathways result in the formation of CO and  $CO_2$ , formate  $CO_2$ , or carbonate  $CO_3$  and  $CO_2$  anions. The formation of carbonate proceeds via the formation of a catalyst dimer over a molecule of  $CO_2$ , with the insertion of a second molecule of  $CO_2$  to produce the carbonate and a molecule of  $CO_2$ . Formation of formate occurs via insertion of  $CO_2$  to a rhenium hydride bond. The formation of  $CO_2$  without carbonate or formate by-products occurs via the coordination of  $CO_2$  to an open site on the metal, followed by a double proton addition and the release of a molecule of  $CO_2$  prior to the loss of one of the four carbonyl groups to open up the axial site for halide re-coordination. The activation of the catalyst with respect to radicalization, electron abstraction from the sacrificial reductant, and anion disassociation is well studied, the character of the  $CO_2$  adduct is less well known.



Make mechanism (or get morris?)

Ref. Sullivan and Gilbert

refs

Figure 4.1 An overview of the mechanistic pathways of photochemical  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  reduction

Many of the intermediates have been synthesized in various studies, indicating their reasonable stability. While individual portions of the mechanism have been studied computationally in the past, no over-arching study has compared methods relative to each other. Furthermore, while the formation of CO with H<sub>2</sub>O is the most anticipated

pathway (due to the lack of formation of carbonate or formate in most studies), no literature pathway exists to explain the addition of  $\rm CO_2$  to the open site of the radical catalytic species without a three body reaction step (catalyst,  $\rm CO_2$  and  $\rm H^+$  together) or without formate reorganization. Furthermore, no mechanism proposed thus far explains the  $^{12}\rm CO$  to  $^{13}\rm CO$  isotopic exchange demonstrated by Lehn's group in 1986.<sup>48</sup>

# 4.3 Consequences From $\kappa^2$ Terpyridine Complex Inactivity

The lack of reactivity of the  $\kappa^2(\text{terpy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{X}$  motif of complexes contrasting to the activity of the originally published  $\kappa^2(\text{bipy})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{X}$  indicates some influence of the ligand on the mechanism. While the terdentate complex can be rationalized to be inactive due to its short-lived excited state (as seen in the lack of fluorescence), this explanation does not suffice for the fluorescing bidentate complex. Other substituted bipyridine ligands are known to be active for photocatalytic reduction, identifying the most likely conflicting feature of the terpyridine ligand to be the pendant arm, and its availability for chelation to the metal centre. While in the radical eximer form, the chelation site is sterically blocked by one of the three carbonyl groups. However, reorganization of the substituent carbonyls from a facial orientation to a meridional could allow for the free pyridine to form the metal-ligand bond, resulting in compound (X).

Due to the ease of migration of the carbonyl groups, it is proposed that the mechanism that follows pathway Xdoes not occur entirely axial to the ligand, but begins with coordination of a  $CO_2$  molecule in between the *facial-CO* ligands, forcing a carbonyl to the axial position. This  $CO_2$  bound in the plane of the lignad then undergoes hydrogenation to produce a molecule of  $H_2O$ . After the departure of the water molecule,

fluorescence tests on 1,2

ref lehn88?

Set up a detailed naming scheme that will work for the entire chapter, likely having to start with

the catalyst is left as a tetracarbonyl cation. While any of the carbonyl groups could be labile, the carbonyl at the axial position is replaced by the halide to return to the starting catalyst.<sup>61</sup>

#### 4.4 Comparison Between Mechanistic Pathways

The overall energies for each of the mechanistic pathways shown in Figure 4.1 are shown in Figure 4.2.

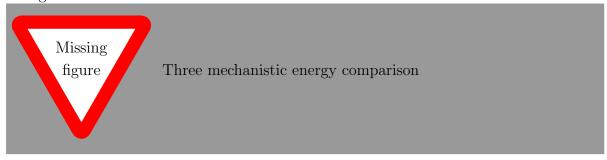


Figure 4.2 An overview of the energies of the three mechanistic pathways of photochemical  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  reduction



#### 4.4.1 Subsection

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# Chapter 5

# Conclusions

The target  $\mathrm{Re^I}$  terdentate terpyridine compounds were successfully synthesized, characterized, and tested for photocatalytic  $\mathrm{CO_2}$  reduction. The catalysts show no activity for the reduction, in contrast to the known excellent bipyridine compounds.

The reaction mechanisms were studied successfully with DFT methods, resulting in the proposed new geometry for the production of CO with no carbonate or formate anions. This new geometry does not conflict with known experimental studies, yet avoids three-body mechanistic steps.

# Appendix A

# Experimental Procedures

Experimental synthesis and characterization data for the compounds discussed in this thesis are shown below by compound number:

#### A.1 General Methods

Reactions were performed in a glovebox under a nitrogen atmosphere. Solvents were sparged with nitrogen and then dried by passage through a column of activated alumina using an apparatus purchased from Anhydrous Engineering. Deuterated chloroform and deuterated acetonitrile was dried using activated molecular sieves. Rhenium starting materials were purchased from Strem Chemicals and used as received. All other chemicals were purchased from Aldrich and used without further purification. NMR spectra were run on Bruker Avance 400MHz spectrometers with CD<sub>3</sub>CN or CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent and internal standard. Elemental analyses were performed by Midwest Microlab LLC, Indianapolis IN. Solid state reactions were carried out in a Lindberg Blue M Mini-Mite Tube Furnace (model TF55035A-1). Infrared spectra were collected using an Agilent Technologies Cary FT-IR spectrometer using a diamond ATR attachment. UV-Vis spectra

were collected using a Agilent Technologies Cary 5000 UV-Vis spectrometer. TGA was performed on a TA Q5000 IR instrument: approximately 10-15 mg of each sample was placed in a ceramic sample pan which was heated at a rate of 5°C/min up to 150°CC, followed by a rate of 2°CC/min to 300°C while being purged with  $N_2$  at a flow rate of 25 mL/min. GC was performed using a HP gas chromatograph with a 15 m CARBON-PLOT column with 0.320 mm inner diameter and 1.50  $\mu$ m film in a 40°C oven. The instrument is fitted with a TCD at 220°C.

#### A.2 Computational Methods

For the UV-Vis and experimental correlation study, the structures of all species were optimized using Gaussian 09<sup>62</sup> employing the B3LYP<sup>63,64</sup> exchange-correlation (XC) functional. The LanL2DZ basis set/effective core potential<sup>65</sup> was used on Re and, the all-electron TZVP basis set<sup>schaefer1994</sup> for the remaining lighter atoms. Frequency analysis of all structures was used to confirm the nature of the stationary points. Solvent effects were computed using the integral equation formalism variant of the PCM solvation model within Gaussian 09 for both the ground state and excited state TD-DFT calculations with DMSO as the solvent.<sup>66,67</sup> The UV-Vis absorption spectra were simulated using the Chemissian software.<sup>68</sup> In these calculations, a pseudo-Voigt band shape was employed with a default average band width at half-height of 2000cm<sup>-1</sup>.

For the mechanism study, the structures and energies of all species were obtained by using TurboMole 6.5 software<sup>69,70</sup> with the TPSS meta-GGA XC functional.<sup>71</sup> The def2-TZVP basis set was used for all atoms.<sup>72,73</sup> The TurboMole program contains a number of optimizations to the original DFT algorithms,<sup>74–82</sup> decreasing the calculation time without compromising accuracy. Grimme's dispersion correction (version 3) was included in the calculations.<sup>83</sup> Intermediates and transition states were verified by frequency anal-

ysis. dieglmann 2004, 84,85 The effects of solvation was calculated using the Conductor-like Screening Model (COSMO) implemented in TurboMole, 86 which is a continuum solvation model implicitly surrounding the solute molecule.

#### A.3 X-ray Crystallography

Crystals were mounted on thin glass fibers using paraffin oil. Prior to data collection crystals were cooled to 200.15K. Data were collected on a Bruker AXS SMART single crystal diffractometer equipped with a sealed Mo tube source (wavelength 0.71073 Å) APEX II CCD detector. Raw data collection and processing were performed with APEX II software package from BRUKER AXS53. Diffraction data for sample 3 was collected with a sequence of  $0.5^{\circ}$   $\omega$  scans at 0, 120, and 240° in  $\phi$ . Due to lower unit cell symmetry in order to ensure adequate data redundancy, diffraction data for 1, 2 and 8 were collected with a sequence of  $0.5^{\circ}$   $\omega$  scans at 0, 90, 180 and 270° in  $\phi$ . Initial unit cell parameters were determined from 60 data frames with  $0.3^{\circ}$   $\omega$  scan each collected at the different sections of the Ewald sphere. Semi-empirical absorption corrections based on equivalent reflections were applied.<sup>87</sup> Systematic absences in the diffraction data-set and unit-cell parameters were consistent with triclinic  $P\overline{1}$  ( $\mathcal{N}^{\mathcal{O}}2$ ) for compounds 1, 2 and 8, monoclinic  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{C}$  ( $\mathcal{N}^{\mathcal{O}}$ 15) for compound 3. Solutions in the centrosymmetric space groups for all compounds yielded chemically reasonable and computationally stable results of refinement. The structures were solved by direct methods, completed with difference Fourier synthesis, and refined with full-matrix least-squares procedures based on  $F^2$ .

Solutions for 1 and 2 revealed that both these structures contain two compound molecules per asymmetric unit.

Initial refinement results for the compound 1 suggested presence of two non-merohedrally

twinned domains. Two independent orientation matrices were found using CELL\_NOW software.<sup>88</sup> Data set was re-integrated with two independent orientation matrices and consecutive model refinement was performed using HKLF5 format reflection data file. Twinning domain ratio coefficient (BASF) was successfully refined to 0.3794.

On the final model refinement stage for compound 2 thermal motion parameters for coordinated CO (-C(33)=O(3)) and Cl (Cl(2)) moieties as well as presence of unusually strong residual electron density peaks in one of the compound molecules suggested a positional CO / Cl disorder not related by symmetry. Disorder was successfully modeled with refined occupation ratio at one position CO / Cl = 70%:30%. Disorder of the second position was inversed in such way that overall occupancy summed up to one full CO and one full Cl ligands in the first coordination sphere of Re metal center. Set of geometrical (SADI) and thermal motion (SIMU, DELU) restrains were applied to achieve acceptable molecular fragment geometries and thermal motion parameter values.

For all the compounds hydrogen atoms positions were initially assigned from the residual electron density peaks coordinates. However, after initial placement all hydrogen atoms were treated as idealized contributions during the refinement. All scattering factors are contained in several versions of the SHELXTL program library, with the latest version used being v.6.12.89

# A.4 $(\text{terpy-}\kappa^2-N,N')\text{Re}(CO)_3\text{Cl}(1)$

 ${\rm Re(CO)_5Cl}$  (201 mg, 0.556 mmol) and 2,2:6,2 terpyridine (129 mg, 0.553 mmol) were mixed in 60 mL of toluene. The reaction mixture was heated to 100C for 1 hour under N2. During this time the solution turned a bright red. Upon cooling a yellow precipitate was formed. The solution was filtered, and the solid was washed with diethyl ether, and dried under vacuum. Compound **1** is a bright yellow powder that was isolated in 70 %

yield (208 mg). Crystals were obtained from chloroform with addition of a small amount of hexanes as counter solvent. TGA: 8 % mass loss from 240-280°C. FTIR: 2019, 1981, 1889 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  9.06 (ddd, J=5.6, 1.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.77 (ddd, J=4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (tt, J=8.2, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (t, J=7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (td, J=8.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (td, J=7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dt, J=7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, J=7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (ddd, J=7.6, 5.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, J=7.6, 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H). Elemental analysis calculated (%) for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ReClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]: C 40.11, H 2.06, N 7.80, found C 39.96, H 2.09, N 7.69.

## A.5 $(\text{terpy-}\kappa^3\text{-N,N',N'})\text{Re(CO)}_2\text{Cl (2)}$

Compound 1 (101 mg, 0.187 mmol) was placed in a tube furnace and heated to  $240^circ$ C under N<sub>2</sub> flow for 60 minutes. A black solid was collected (90 mg) at 94 % yield based on the formula for 2. Crystals were obtained from chloroform with addition of a small amount of hexanes as counter solvent. FTIR: 1872, 1788 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.93 (ddd, J=5.6, 1.7, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 8.22 (d, J=8.2, 2H), 8.21 (dt, J=8.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (dd, J=8.4, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (t, J=8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 2H). Elemental analysis calculated (%) for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ReClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: C 39.96, H 2.17, N 8.22, found C 39.62, H 2.09, N 7.99.

## A.6 $(\text{terpy-}\kappa^2\text{-N,N'})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3\text{Br}$ (3)

Re(CO)<sub>5</sub>Br (191 mg, 470 mmol) and 2,2:62 terpyridine (129 mg, 0.553 mmol) were allowed to react under conditions analogous to the preparation of **1**. A bright yellow powder was obtained, 0.223 g (0.382 mmol, 81 %). FTIR: 2012, 1910, 1886 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  9.07 (ddd, J=5.6, 1.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.77 (ddd,

J=4.6, 1.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.52 8.48 (m, 2H), 8.28 (t, J=7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (td, J=8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (td, J=7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 7.75(m, 2H), 7.63 (ddd, J=7.6, 5.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, J=7.7, 4.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H). Elemental analysis calculated (%) for  $[C_{18}H_{11}ReBrN_3O_3]$ : C 37.06, H 1.90, N 7.20, found C 36.94, H 1.92, N 7.00.

## A.7 $(\text{terpy-}\kappa^3-N,N',N'')\text{Re}(CO)_2\text{Br}$ (4)

Compound 3 (182 mg, 0.312 mmol) was placed in an tube furnace and heated to 230°C under  $N_2$  flow for 60 minutes. A black solid was collected, 0.155 mg (0.279 mmol, 89 % yield). Crystals were obtained from chloroform with addition of a small amount of hexanes as counter solvent. FTIR: 1873, 1794 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.95 (d, J=5.4 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (t, J = 8.1Hz, 4H), 8.05 (dd, J=8.2, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90(td, J=7.9, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (ddd, J=7.3, 5.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H) Elemental analysis calculated (%) for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ReBrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: C 36.76, H 2.00, N 7.57, found C 36.66, H 2.00, N 7.50.

# A.8 $(\text{terpy-}\kappa^2\text{-N,N'})\text{Re(CO)}_3\text{OTf}$ (7)

To 1 (80 mg, 0.148 mmol), AgCF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (46 mg, 0.179 mmol) was added in 10 mL CH<sub>3</sub>CN. The reaction was stirred 24 h and kept dark. Solution was filtered to remove salts, then reduced in volume. Cold diethyl ether was used to precipitate product. Yellow-grey powder (7a) was collected by filtration, yielding 38mg (40 %). Crystals were grown from saturated chloroform with hexanes as countersolvent for X-ray crystallography. FTIR: 2030, 1895, 1890 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v C=O), 1280, 1228, 1204 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v SO<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  9.05 (ddd, J=5.5, 1.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (ddd, J=4.9, 1.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (dd, J=8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (dt, J=8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (t, J=7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (td,

J=8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (td, J=7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, J=7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dt, J=7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (ddd, J=7.4, 5.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (ddt, J=7.7, 4.8, 0.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H). Elemental analysis calculated (%) for  $[C_{19}H_{11}ReN_3O_6F_3S]$ : C 34.97, H 1.70, N 6.44, found C 31.80, H 1.73, N 5.33.

Alternately, to 1 (72 mg, 0.134 mmol) was added 10 mL CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H (excess) and temperature was increased to for 20 minutes. A black solution was neutralized with addition of 5% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>O. Product was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>, then dried under vacuum to yield a brown solid (7b) (47 mg, 54 %).

## A.9 $(\text{terpy-}\kappa^3-N,N',N'')\text{Re}(CO)_2\text{OTf}$ (8)

To 2 (77 mg, 0.143 mmol), AgSO<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>3</sub> (47 mg, 0.183 mmol) was added in 15 mL CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Solution was refluxed for 6 h in the dark under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Solution was filtered, then reduced to minimal volume. Cold diethyl ether was added dropwise to precipitate product. Collected by filtration and washed with additional cold ether, yielding 75 mg (120 mmol, 80 %). Crystals grown from saturated methylene chloride, with hexanes as countersolvent for x-ray crystallography. FTIR: 1910, 1829 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v C=O), 1259, 1224, 1143 cm<sup>-1</sup> (v SO<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.91(ddd, J=5.6, 1.6, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 8.32 (d, J=8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (ddd, J=8.1, 1.4, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (dd, J=8.8, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (td, J=7.9, 1.5 Hz, 2H) 7.46 (ddd J=7.6, 5.6, 1.3 Hz, 2H). EA Elemental analysis calculated (%) for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ReF<sub>3</sub>SN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub>]: C 34.62, H 1.78, N 6.37, found C 31.02, H 1.82, N 7.11.

get temp

# Glossary of Terms

**DFT** Density Functional Theorem.

**DMF** N,N-dimethylformamide.

**GC** Gas Chromatography.

**HOMO** Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital.

LUMO Lowest Unoccupied Molecular Orbital.

MLCT Metal-Ligand Charge Transfer.

NMR Nuclear Magnetic Resonance.

**TCD** Thermal Conductivity Detector.

**TD-DFT** Time Dependant Density Functional Theorem.

**TEA** Triethylamine.

**TEOA** Triethanolamine.

 $\mathbf{TGA}$  Thermogravimetric Analysis.

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Figure: anion exchange reaction schemes	10
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Get paper citation	12
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Figure: S5 from paper, showing bi-terdentate	12
check compounds & spectra	13
Put in nmr peak values	13
Figure: expanded terpy	13
why poor, show an ok result & discuss	13
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Base writing off of paper	14
Figure: anion exchange reaction schemes	14
This can be short discuss triplet to doublet	16
Figure: anion exchange reaction schemes	16
This will be longer. Should be lots of discussion about results differences. I need	
to a)highlight the importance of anion exchange, and then b) highlight the	
importance of bidentate vs. terdentate	16
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Set up a detailed naming scheme that will work for the entire chapter, likely having	
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