A One-Slide Summary of Quantum Mechanics



What if I can't converge E?

Test your oracle with a question to which you already know the right answer...



ligand with attached photoaffinity label in enzyme active site singlet nitrene covalently modifies enzyme — active site can be identified by sequencing of protein

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binder

Attractive features of aromatic nitrenes as photoaffinity labels: 1) Generated with light outside of protein absorption bands

- 2) Highly reactive singlets
- 3) N_2 is an innocuous byproduct of activation







Platz et al.

A Plea for Help from Quantum Mechanics

High level ab initio calculations of 2,6difluorophenyl-nitrene and 3,7-difluoro-[1,2]didehydroazepine (and their 3,5-disubstituted isomers, where there is no fluorine effect) would be most welcome and instructive!

M. S. Platz, Accounts of Chemical Research, 1995, 28, 487.

Configuration Cartoons













 $2^{1}A_{1}(S3)$

Relative E (kcal/mol) for PhN



Kim, S.-J.; Hamilton, T. P.; Schaefer, H. F. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1992**, 114, 5349; Hrovat, D. A.; Waali, E. E.; Borden, W. T. *ibid*. **1992**, 114, 8698; Smith, B. A.; Cramer, C. J. *ibid*. **1996**, 118, 5490; Travers, M. J.; Cowles, D. C.; Clifford, E. P.; Ellison, G. B. *ibid*. **1992**, 114, 8699.

Ring Expansion Mechanism



Wagner-Meerwein shift of CH to aligned in-plane (empty) N p orbital The electronic configuration of the didehydroazepine correlates with the S3 nitrene

Avoided Crossing



Phenylnitrene Energies With 32 Different meta and para Substituents





"Measured" $E_a = 5.7 \pm 0.4$ kcal/mol in every case For R = I, OCH₃, N(CH₃)₂, ISC too fast to measure k_3

Gritsan, N. P.; Tigelaar, D.; Platz, M. S. J. Phys. Chem. A 1999, 103, 4465.

Actual Ring Expansion Reaction Coordinate



Substituent Effects on Ring Expansion Coordinate

Relative 298 K enthalpies in kcal/mol



Substituent Effects Rationalized





Karney, W. L.; Borden, W. T. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1997, 119, 3347.

Theoretical Recommendation

Optimal photoaffinity labels will be aromatic azides combining steric bulk at *ortho* positions with strong electron-donating group at *para* position

Activation of O_2 by Cu^{II}?



UV–vis



Second–step (t = 0.04 ~ 10 s)

Shinobu Itoh



Are the Spectral Data Consistent?

ESR



?

What Does Theory Have to Say?



ESR spectral predictions for all 3 cases are consistent with most spin being on oxygen (which is inconsistent with the experimental spectrum)



Time to Make Some Predictions



Experiment

$$v_{OO} = 900 \text{ cm}^{-1} ({}^{18}\Delta v = 51)$$

 $v_{CuO} = 582 \text{ cm}^{-1} ({}^{18}\Delta v = 23)$

 $A_{||} = 168.2 \text{ G}$

Is that sufficient proof?

Theory predicts a shift in v_{OO} of 5 cm⁻¹ for the -OO<u>D</u> isotopomer. A straightforward experiment (in progress) to run the stop-flow with DOOD instead of HOOH and check this *prediction*.

What About Cu^{II}?

