Fluxionality and Isomerism of the Bis(dihydrogen) Complex RuH$_2$(H$_2$)$_2$(PCy$_3$)$_2$: INS, NMR, and Theoretical Studies

Venancio Rodriguez, Sylviane Sabo-Etienne, and Bruno Chaudret*

Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination du CNRS, 205 Route de Narbonne, 31077 Toulouse Cedex 4, France

John Thoburn, Stefan Ulrich, and Hans-Heinrich Limbach

Institut für Organische Chemie, Fachbereich Chemie, Freie Universität Berlin, Takustrasse 3, D-14195 Berlin 33, Germany

Juergen Eckert

Manuel Lujan, Jr., Neutron Scattering Center (LANSCE), Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Jean-Claude Barthelet, Khansaa Hussein, and Colin J. Marsden

Laboratoire de Physique Quantique, UMR IRSAMC-CNRS UMR 5626, Université Paul Sabatier, 118 Route de Narbonne, 31062 Toulouse Cedex 4, France

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To study the fluxionality of the bis(dihydrogen) complex RuH$_2$(H$_2$)$_2$(PCy$_3$)$_2$ (1), NMR spectra were recorded in Freons (mixture of CDC$_3$, CDFCl$_2$, and CDF$_2$Cl). 1 was found to remain fluxional at all temperatures, but the presence of CDF$_3$ necessary for its solubilization induces its transformation into, first, RuHCl(H$_2$)$_2$(PCy$_3$)$_2$ (3) and the new ruthenium(IV) dihydride RuH$_2$Cl$_2$(PCy$_3$)$_2$ (4). 4 is produced selectively in pure CDC$_3$ but reacts further to give a mixture of chloro complexes. 4 was isolated from the reaction of 1 with aqueous HCl in Et$_2$O and shows a fluxional process attributed to the interconversion between two symmetrical isomers. The activation parameters of this process were obtained by $^1$H NMR line shape analysis, as well as those corresponding to the exchange between 3 and free dihydrogen. The fluxionality of the dihydrogen—hydride system is also evident at a much faster time scale than that of NMR studies in the inelastic neutron scattering observations of the rotation of the dihydrogen ligands. The geometries and relative energies of several isomers of complexes 1, 3, and 4 were studied using density functional theory (DFT) and MP2 methods, together with a few coupled-cluster (CCSD(T)) calculations. In contrast to what might have been expected, the two hydrides and the two H$_2$ units of 1 lie in the same plane, due to the attractive “cis effect” created by the hydrides. The two H$_2$ ligands adopt cis positions in the lowest-energy isomer. Rotation of the two dihydrogen ligands has been analyzed using DFT calculations. A slight preference for a C$_2$ conrotatory pathway has been found with a calculated barrier in good agreement with the experimental INS value. Two low-energy isomers of 4 have been characterized computationally, both of which have C$_{2v}$ symmetry, consistent with the solution NMR spectra.

1. Introduction

The discovery by Kubas of dihydrogen coordination without dissociation has opened a whole new field in inorganic chemistry$^{1-5}$ and stimulated a renewed interest in polyhydride chemistry. The complex RuH$_2$(H$_2$)$_2$(PCy$_3$)$_2$ (1)$^6$ has long been the only reported thermally stable bis(dihydrogen) complex, until the recent characterization of LRuH(H$_2$)$_2$ (L = HB(3,5-Me$_2$-pz), HB(3-Pr-4-Br-pz)$^7$ and of [OsH$_3$(H$_2$)$_2$P(P$_3$)$_2$]$^{4,5}$ respectively, by our group and Caulton and Tilsen. Other bis(dihydrogen) complexes have either been prepared in a matrix$^9$ or observed in solution.$^{10}$

A striking feature of most hydrido dihydrogen complexes is...
their fluxionality leading to the observation of a single peak in $^1$H NMR at all usual temperatures whenever a hydride is located cis to a dihydrogen ligand.\(^{2-4}\) This is in particular the case for 1. Only a few static spectra have been reported for such complexes.\(^{11}\) However, Freon solvents can give access to a much larger temperature range down to ca. 130 K. Since infrared data were clearly in agreement with a cis-dihydride structure, we have investigated the NMR properties of 1 at very low temperature.

We have studied for several years the reactivity of 1, and for example, we have previously reported the reactions of 1 with halocarbons yielding novel 16-electron dihydrogen derivatives.\(^{12}\) However, during the course of this work, we found that 1 reacts with chloroform to yield a new unstable ruthenium(IV) dihydride. A very similar complex, namely RuH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\)(P\(_3\)Cy\(_3\))\(_2\), was recently reported by Werner and co-workers.\(^{13}\)

In addition, one of us has developed the use of INS for the determination of the rotation barrier of dihydrogen ligands.\(^{14}\) This rotation barrier can provide information on the mode of coordination of dihydrogen and possible interactions with nearby hydrides.

We describe in this paper an INS study in the solid state, an NMR study of 1 in Freons, and a study of the reactivity of 1 with chloroform leading to a new ruthenium(IV) dihydride complex 4. Theoretical studies of several possible isomers of 1 are reported, and the concerted rotation of the two dihydrogen ligands is analyzed. Isomers of 4 are also studied computationally.

2. Inelastic Neutron Scattering Studies on RuH\(_2\)(H\(_2\))\(_2-\)(P\(_3\)Cy\(_3\))\(_2\)

Data collected on RuH(H\(_2\))(P\(_3\)Cy\(_3\))\(_2\) at various incident neutron wavelengths failed to reveal any low-frequency rotational tunneling transitions for the dihydrogen ligand. On the basis of the known energy resolution of the spectrometer for the longest incident wavelength used, we can place a lower limit on the barrier to rotation for H\(_2\) in this compound of approximately 2.5 kcal/mol, given that the d(HH) is 1.03 Å from X-ray diffraction.\(^{12a}\)


Figure 1. Inelastic neutron scattering spectrum of RuH\(_2\)(H\(_2\))(P\(_3\)Cy\(_3\))\(_2\) at T = 5 K collected on the INS spectrometer at ILL with an incident wavelength of 6 Å.

Figure 2. Temperature dependence of the INS spectrum of RuH\(_2\)(H\(_2\))(P\(_3\)Cy\(_3\))\(_2\): 5 K (+); 50 K (*); 75 K (Δ); 100 K (○). At temperatures below 50 K, the INS spectrum of 1, on the other hand, consists of the usual pair of bands from the rotational transitions within the librational ground state at ±4.7 cm\(^{-1}\). These can be interpreted in terms of planar rotation in a double-minimum potential well\(^{14}\) to yield a barrier to rotation of 1.1 kcal/mol. The structure which is evident in these bands (Figure 1) is noteworthy when compared with rotational tunneling lines of other dihydrogen complexes (Figure 4 in ref 14a). It may indicate that there are at least two inequivalent dihydrogen ligands in the solid or be the result of interactions between the two dihydrogen ligands. In view of fluxionality and the computational results described below, we are inclined to attribute this observation to the latter possibility.

As the temperature is increased (Figure 2), the tunneling peaks shift to lower energy and broaden in the usual manner where the width shows an Arrhenius-type temperature dependence with an apparent activation energy of about 0.4 kcal/mol. In addition, a broad quasielastic feature appears below the inelastic peaks at temperatures above 75 K. The rotational tunneling peaks coalesce into a broad quasielastic line below the elastic peak above 130 K (Figure 3). The width of this line continues to increase with temperature up to 250 K, the highest temperature reached in this experiment. The activation energy derived from the temperature dependence of the width of this quasielastic
The broad quasielastic component below the rotational tunneling dihydrogen located in their well-defined potential wells while rotational tunneling bands arise from rotational transitions of INS observations at 75 and 100 K, i.e., that the relatively sharp coordination sites. These considerations would account for the variety of environments in addition to that of the octahedral of hydride and dihydrogen ligands, the latter can occur in a molecular hydrogen exchange even though the activation energy above) is also consistent with the superposition of inhomogeneous broadening from coupling to the phonon bath and of the incoherent dihydrogen exchange processes. Moreover, it is interesting to note that, at the temperature at which the rotational motion does not split into separate signals for dihydrogen and hydride from the increase in viscosity of the solution or rapid dipole relaxation. Signal f appears at 15.1 ppm and consists of a triplet with \( J_{PH} = 11 \) Hz. It broadens slightly when the temperature is lowered, and its intensity increases with the sample storage time. It was assigned to a species \((2')\) similar to RuHCl(H\(_2\))(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\) (2), a complex previously obtained from the reaction of \(1\) with CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), but not to \(2\) itself, which resonates at \(-16.8 \) ppm and exchanges in the presence of excess dihydrogen with RuHCl(H\(_2\))(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\) (3), also present as discussed below.\(^{12b}\) Peak g, appearing at 5.3 ppm, was assigned to CDHCl\(_2\) formed during the reaction together with \(2'\) and 3.

The observed non-Arrhenius behavior (i.e., the two different activation energies for different temperature regimes reported above) is also consistent with the superposition of inhomogeneous broadening from coupling to the phonon bath and of the incoherent dihydrogen exchange processes. Moreover, it is interesting to note that, at the temperature at which the rotational tunneling lines coalesce into a quasielastic line, i.e. around 150 K, the NMR data demonstrate the existence of rapid intramolecular hydrogen exchange even though the activation energy for the latter process is much higher than those observed by INS for the rotational motions. This may suggest that the rotational motions of dihydrogen observed by INS are apparently affected by the presence of the dihydrogen—hydride exchange. One may then assume that, in the course of this interconversion of hydride and dihydrogen ligands, the latter can occur in a variety of environments in addition to that of the octahedral coordination sites. These considerations would account for the INS observations at 75 and 100 K, i.e., that the relatively sharp rotational tunneling bands arise from rotational transitions of dihydrogen located in their well-defined potential wells while the broad quasielastic component below the rotational tunneling line is about 0.25 kcal/mol, which suggests that the motion giving rise to this line may be described\(^{15}\) as weakly hindered rotational diffusion of dihydrogen. In addition, a second, more narrow quasielastic component is evident at 250 K with a fwhm of approximately 4 cm\(^{-1}\).

The increase in width of the rotational tunneling transition lines as a function of temperature is the result of inhomogeneous broadening from coupling to the phonon bath and of the incoherent dihydrogen exchange processes as we recently described.\(^{14b}\) The value of the activation energy for the inhomogeneous broadening of the tunneling line \((0.4 \) kcal/mol, or \(140 \) cm\(^{-1}\)) is expected\(^{15}\) to be similar to the librational transition (torsion) which is responsible for the coupling to the phonon bath in this model. The torsion can be calculated to be \(180 \) cm\(^{-1}\) for the present case with a simple 2-fold rotational potential. This is in fair agreement with the prediction of this model\(^{16}\) whereby the remaining discrepancy may indicate the neglect of other processes such as the incoherent dihydrogen—hydride exchange.

The 500 MHz \(^1\)H NMR spectra of \(1\) dissolved in a mixture of deuterated Freons (CDCl\(_3\):CDF\(_2\)Cl:CDF\(_2\)Cl = 1:5:5) as a function of temperature. For assignment see text.

3. NMR Studies of \(1\) in a Freon Mixture

To gain additional information on the reactivity of \(1\) with halogenated hydrocarbons and to try to freeze out the intramolecular hydrogen exchange in \(1\), we decided to prepare cold solutions of \(1\) in a mixture of deuterated Freons. \(1\) was not soluble in Freons in the absence of CDCl\(_3\). The reactions were therefore carried out in the solvent mixture (CDCl\(_3\):CDF\(_2\)Cl:CDF\(_2\)Cl = 1:5:5) described in the Experimental Section. This mixture allows liquid-state NMR measurements down to 140 K.\(^{17}\) Figure 4 shows the 500 MHz NMR spectra of a sample measured after storage at 240 K for several days. At 263 K, the highest accessible temperature in this medium, three main signals \(a/b, f, e\) are observed in the high-field spectrum characterized by different spectral changes upon lowering the temperature. The triplet \(e\) appearing at \(-8.9 \) ppm corresponds to the starting complex \(1\). The signal broadens near 143 K but does not split into separate signals for dihydrogen and hydride sites, which demonstrates the fast intramolecular hydride—dihydrogen exchange within this species. The line broadening at low temperatures could arise either from the circumstance that this exchange becomes slower or from a short \(T_2\) arising from the increase in viscosity of the solution or rapid dipole-dipole relaxation. Signal \(f\) appears near \(-15.1 \) ppm and consists of a triplet with \(J_{PH} = 11 \) Hz. It broadens slightly when the temperature is lowered, and its intensity increases with the sample storage time. It was assigned to a species \((2')\) similar to RuHCl(H\(_2\))(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\) (2), a complex previously obtained from the reaction of \(1\) with CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), but not to \(2\) itself, which resonates at \(-16.8 \) ppm and exchanges in the presence of excess dihydrogen with RuHCl(H\(_2\))(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\) (3), also present as discussed below.\(^{12b}\) Peak \(g\), appearing at 5.3 ppm, was assigned to CDHCl\(_2\) formed during the reaction together with \(2'\) and 3.

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The major signal is a triplet labeled \(a/b\), appearing at \(-12.6\) ppm \((J_{PH} = 31\) Hz), and was assigned to the new complex RuH\(_2\)-Cl\(_2\)(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\) (4), the synthesis and characterization of which will be described in section 5.

The spectra exhibited interesting changes when the sample was cooled. First, the signal due to \(c\) broadened and then split into two sharp triplets labeled as \(a/b\) in Figure 5, at \(-12.7\) ppm \((J_{PH} = 29\) Hz) and \(-13.2\) ppm \((J_{PH} = 32\) Hz). The coalescence temperature is 220 K. The intensity ratio \(I_a/I_b\) of these peaks was found to be 1.13. Therefore, the line broadening of signal \(c\) is more pronounced than that of signal \(a\) when temperature is increased, and the line shape is strongly asymmetric at the coalescence point \((~220\) K). The longitudinal relaxation times \(T_1\) were measured at 183 K and 500 MHz. We obtained a common value of 430 ms for each triplet in agreement with a classical dihydride formulation.

In addition to signals \(a\) and \(b\), two new broad peaks appeared at \(-7.9\) (signal \(e\)) and \(4.6\) ppm (signal \(d\); see Figures 4 and 6). Signal \(e\) was assigned by comparison to a preceding experiment with RuH(H\(_2\))I(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\)\(^{12}\) to RuH(H\(_2\))Cl(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\) (3), for which a \(T_1\) value of 22 ms was measured at 183 K (500 MHz). Signal \(d\) corresponds to free dihydrogen and sharpens when the temperature is lowered. Exchange between free and coordinated H\(_2\) explains the line broadening of both signals when the temperature is increased. Unfortunately, it was not possible to heat the samples in order to reach the fast exchange regime exhibiting one coalesced line. As in the case of \(I\), only one signal is observed for the metal-bound hydrogen atoms of 3, indicating a fast intramolecular hydrogen−dihydrogen conversion. Line broadening of signal \(c\) occurs at very low temperatures for the same reasons as discussed in the case of \(I\). In this Freon mixture, in the presence of excess H\(_2\) (released from reaction), we observe not the 16-electron complex 2 but the 18-electron species 3. In preceding experiments carried out in toluene-d\(_8\), we could see both the 16-electron RuH(H\(_2\))I(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\) and the 18-electron RuH(H\(_2\))Cl(PCy\(_3\))\(_2\), even under 6 bar of dihydrogen.\(^{12}\) In the present case, the exclusive observation of 3 could result from a better solubility of dihydrogen in Freons.

A line shape analysis of signals \(a−d\) was carried out in order to obtain quantitative kinetic parameters. The superposed experimental and calculated spectra are shown in Figures 5 and 6. The line shape simulations of signals \(a\) and \(b\) were based on usual two-state exchange between two unequally populated environments \(a\) and \(b\), corresponding to signals \(a\) and \(b\). The mole fraction \(x_a = 1 − x_b = 0.47\) was obtained by line shape analysis in the slow exchange region and found to be independent of temperature within the margin of error. The chemical shifts \(\delta_a\) and \(\delta_b\) were slightly temperature dependent and were extrapolated to high temperature. The agreement between the experimental and calculated spectra is excellent, as indicated in Figure 5. The rate constants obtained can be expressed as

\[
k_{ab} = 10^{14} \exp(−47 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}/RT) \quad 193 < T < 243 \text{ K},
\]

\[
k_{ab}(223 \text{ K}) = 600 \text{ s}^{-1} \quad (1)
\]

In principle, the line shape of signals \(c\) and \(d\) in Figure 6 could be described in terms of Scheme 1, which corresponds to exchange between free and coordinated H\(_2\). However, in the case of the spectra of Figure 6, the concentration of 2 is too small to be detected and does not influence the actual line shape any more. According to arguments described previously,\(^{18}\) the line shape equation can then no longer be based on Scheme 1 but must be based on Scheme 2 where 2 is a nonobserved intermediate. Scheme 2 can be abbreviated by the equation

\[
\text{Scheme 1}
\]

\[
\text{Scheme 2}
\]
Fluxionality and Isomerism of RuH₂(H₂)₂(PCy₃)₂

\[ \text{H}_2(\text{free}) + \text{H}_2^*(3) \rightleftharpoons k_{\text{ex}} c\{\text{H}_2(\text{free})\} \]

\[ k_{\text{c}} = \frac{v c\{\text{H}_2(\text{free})\}}{x_\text{c}} = \frac{v c\{\text{H}_2(3)\}}{x_\text{c}} = k_{\text{ex}} c\{\text{H}_2(\text{free})\} \]

\[ k_{\text{c}} = \frac{v c\{\text{H}_2(3)\}}{x_\text{c}} = \frac{v c\{\text{H}_2(3)\}}{x_\text{c}} = k_{\text{ex}} c\{\text{H}_2(\text{free})\} \]

where H₂(3) (signal d) corresponds to free dissolved dihydrogen and H₂(3) to dihydrogen bound to Ru in 3 (signal e). Some uncertainty is introduced because of the short T₂ of 3 at low temperatures. The quantities obtained by line shape simulations are k_{cd} and k_{cd}, where

\[ k_{cd} = \frac{v}{x_\text{c}} c\{\text{H}_2(3)\} = k_{\text{ex}} c\{\text{H}_2(\text{free})\} \]

k_{ex} is the pseudo-second-order rate constant of the reaction and v its velocity. c{i} represent the concentrations and x₁ the mole fractions. A formal kinetic analysis of the reaction network of Scheme 2 using the usual steady-state condition for the intermediate 2 shows that k_{ex} is related to k_{i} and k_{-i} as follows:

\[ k_{\text{ex}} = \frac{(k_{i}k_{-i})(k_{-i} + k_{i})}{k_{i}} = k_{i}/2 \]

The c{i} were not exactly known but were estimated to be less than 0.1 mol L⁻¹. By contrast, the mole fractions x₁ = 1 − x₂ = c(H₂(3))/(c(H₂(3)) + c(H₂(3))) = 1 − x₂ were obtained by line shape analysis and found to be independent of temperature; i.e., x₂ = 1 − x₁ = 0.6. Finally, we obtained

\[ k_{\text{ex}} c\{\text{H}_2(\text{free})\} = 1.5k_{\text{ex}} c\{\text{H}_2(3)\} = 10^{14} \exp(-47 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}/\text{RT}), 203 < T < 223 \text{ K} \]

\[ k_{\text{ex}} c\{\text{H}_2(\text{free})\}(223 \text{ K}) = 1500 \text{ s}^{-1} \]

Since c{H₂(3)} < 0.1 mol L⁻¹, it follows that the preexponential factor characterizing the exchange is larger than 10^{14} s⁻¹. However, because of the limited range where rate constants could be obtained, all kinetic parameters are only rough estimates.

4. Theoretical Study of a Model for 1

(i) Stability of Different Isomers. Several different isomers may be envisaged for 1, depending on the relative orientations of the various ligands. As the PCy₃ ligands involved in 1 itself contain too many atoms for a reliable ab initio study with current technology, we replaced them by PH₃. This is a standard approximation, which should not significantly affect the results obtained. The most important isomers of 1 are sketched in Figure 7, which shows the atom-labeling scheme used. All may be described as essentially octahedral with two trans phosphines; the steric bulk of the PCy₃ ligands in the real complex 1 ensures that they cannot occupy cis positions.

Isomer 1a has C₂ᵥ symmetry. All six hydrogen atoms coordinated to Ru lie in a plane which contains the C₂ axis, and the two hydride ligands are cis. In the case of isomer 1b, which also has C₂ᵥ symmetry, the two H₂ ligands are perpendicular to the plane which contains the C₂ axis. A lower symmetry (C₁ᵥ) defines 1c, in which the mirror plane contains the two hydrides and just one of the dihydrogen ligands, the other H₂ unit being perpendicular to that plane. All the six hydrogen atoms coordinated to Ru again lie in a plane for isomer 1d (C₂ᵥ), but the two hydrides are now trans.

These four isomers, together with several others of lesser importance,¹⁹ were investigated theoretically using Hartree–Fock (HF), second-order Möller–Plesset perturbation theory (MP2), and density functional methods. A hybrid form of density functional theory (DFT) usually known as B3LYP was adopted.²⁰ This method has already been shown to be appropriate for the study of the electronic structures and properties of dihydrogen complexes.²¹–²³ It is now widely agreed that the MP2 method is less reliable for transition-metal complexes than


is DFT; our present results, discussed below, provide further support for this assertion.

Geometrical parameters optimized for the four isomers 1a–d at the B3LYP/basis B level of theory are presented in Table 1. The most interesting structural aspect of these complexes is probably the length of the H–H bond in the coordinated dihydrogen ligand, relative to its value in free H₂. We find an increase in bond length of 12.4% for isomer 1a at the B3LYP level of theory, with very similar changes for 1b and for 1c. MP2 theory predicts a greater lengthening of the H–H bond, by about 20%. It has already been noted that MP2 theory overemphasizes donation into the σ* H–H antibonding orbital, compared to DFT methods;23 the comparison of DFT, MP2, and CCSD(T) relative energies presented below for isomers of 1 leads us to consider the DFT results as more reliable for these nonclassical complexes.

Relative energies for the different isomers obtained at various levels of theory with bases A, B, and C are reported in Table 2. It is clear that the three isomers 1a–c, which differ only in the orientations of the dihydrogen ligands relative to the plane containing Ru and the two hydrides, are very close in energy (separations of the order of 1–2 kcal/mol), whereas isomer 1d, in which the two hydride ligands are trans, is substantially less stable (by some 10–15 kcal/mol) than the others. Isomer 1a is consistently the most stable using HF, DFT, or CCSD(T) methods, irrespective of the basis used. However, the results obtained with MP2 theory are inconsistent; basis A gives a small preference for 1c over 1a, whereas isomer 1c is no longer a stationary point on the potential surface with the more complete basis B, as the H₂ unit in the plane splits to give two hydride ligands, increasing the oxidation state of Ru to IV. If there is an inconsistency between CCSD(T) and MP2 results, we clearly prefer the far more rigorous CCSD(T) values, and since the DFT and CCSD(T) results for the energy separations between isomers are fairly similar, we believe that the DFT results should be preferred over MP2 data. Other authors previously noted that DFT theory gives results in good agreement with more elaborate (CASSPT2) methods for organometallic complexes. Even though the energetic preference for a coplanar arrangement of all six H atoms bound to Ru in 1 is slight, we believe it to be real; the consistency of the HF, DFT, and very high-level CCSD(T) results is striking.

The nature of each of these four stationary points on the potential energy surface was determined by calculation of the vibrational frequencies, using basis A. The two isomers 1a and 1b are found to be true minima, whatever level of theory is used. Isomer 1c has one imaginary vibrational frequency at the HF and DFT levels. However, it is a minimum at the MP2 level. Isomer 1d is a true minimum only at the HF level. The relatively high energy calculated for isomer 1d is consistent with the IR spectrum of 1, which was interpreted to indicate a cis-dihydride geometry. Before analyzing the cis–trans issue, we consider the preference for coplanarity of the six H atoms bound to Ru.

The electronic origins of this preference may be traced to the interaction which has been named the “cis effect”. The effect has been discussed by Eisenstein and co-workers in connection with molecule 2, RuH₂(H₂)(PCy₃)₂(24). The Ru–H σ bonding orbital can be partly delocalized into the σ* H–H antibonding orbital of a neighboring H₂ ligand, providing that all four atoms are coplanar. The effect will clearly be maximized in 1a, in which all six H atoms are coplanar, absent in 1b where symmetry prevents its operation, and partly present in 1c. Wishing to discover whether this stabilizing cis effect may be used to rationalize the structural preferences of dihydrogen complexes in general, rather than being limited just to complex 1, we have also investigated two related systems, RuH₂(H₂)(PH₃)₂ (5), sketched in Figure 8, and RuHCl(H₂)(PH₃)₂ (3).

We have undertaken B3LYP geometry optimizations (basis B) of isomers 5a and 5b, which differ only by the orientation of the dihydrogen ligand with respect to the plane containing Ru and the two hydrides. Structural parameters are reported in Table 3. 5a, in which the cis effect can operate because the H₂ unit is coplanar with the hydrides, is slightly more stable than 5b, by just 0.8 kcal/mol. The geometries of the four isomers 3a–d have been optimized at the same level of theory.

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### Table 2. Relative Energies (kcal/mol) of the Optimized Stationary Points in the RuH₂(H₂)(PH₃)₂ Model Complex

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Isomer</th>
<th>HF//HF</th>
<th>MP2/MP2</th>
<th>DFT//DFT</th>
<th>MP2//DFT</th>
<th>MP4SDQ//DFT/B</th>
<th>CCSD(T)//DFT/B</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>A 0.0</td>
<td>B 0.0</td>
<td>A 0.45</td>
<td>B 0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1d</td>
<td>6.52</td>
<td>5.32</td>
<td>15.33</td>
<td>12.59</td>
<td>11.64</td>
<td>10.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Table 3. Relative Energies (kcal/mol) and Selected Geometrical Parameters (Å and deg) of DFT/B3LYP Optimized Stationary Points in the RuH₂(H₂)(PH₃)₂ Model Complex (Basis Set B)

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5a</td>
<td>1.767</td>
<td>1.800</td>
<td>1.635</td>
<td>1.565</td>
<td>2.303</td>
<td>2.303</td>
<td>0.860</td>
<td>164.9</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>170.3</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5b</td>
<td>1.804</td>
<td>1.804</td>
<td>1.563</td>
<td>1.630</td>
<td>2.300</td>
<td>2.300</td>
<td>0.850</td>
<td>157.9</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>166.4</td>
<td>89.2</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
They are sketched in Figure 9. If the cis effect operates for the Ru−H bond, the dihydrogen close to the hydride will lie in the equatorial plane. Since Cl is more electronegative than H, one does not anticipate that there will be a significant tendency of the Ru−Cl bonding orbital to delocalize. In the absence of any cis effect involving the Ru−Cl bond, the H$_2$ unit adjacent to Cl may be expected to lie perpendicular to the other H$_2$, to allow maximal interaction with the Ru d orbitals; if the two dihydrogens are coplanar, they are effectively competing for the same d orbitals on Ru. We note that the two H$_2$ units in Co(H$_2$)$_2$ are indeed perpendicular, as are the two ethylene ligands in Ni(C$_5$H$_4$)$_2$.

The lowest-energy isomer of 3 is 3a, which follows exactly the predictions based on the cis effect. It has $C_s$ symmetry and is a minimum on the potential energy surface. Isomers 3b and 3c both contradict the predictions of the cis effect rule, in one respect, because the H$_2$ unit cis to Cl lies in the plane for 3b, whereas the H$_2$ cis to H is perpendicular to the plane for 3c. One imaginary vibrational frequency is found for both isomers, and in each case, that motion corresponds to the H$_2$ rotation which leads to isomer 3a. The relative energies of these isomers are given in Table 4; the differences are small, as are those of the isomers 1a–c. We note that the orientational preference (rotation barrier) is nearly twice as great for the H$_2$ adjacent to H (isomer 3c) as for that adjacent to Cl (isomer 3b), showing the importance of the cis effect. The least stable isomer is 3d, for which both H$_2$ orientations contradict the cis effect rule; two imaginary vibrational frequencies are found for this isomer, corresponding to the two H$_2$ rotations needed to return to isomer 3a. While we do not wish to overinterpret rather small energy differences, we note that the energy separation between 3a and 3d is close to that obtained simply by adding the relative energies of 3b and 3c, suggesting a weak coupling between the rotational motions of the two H$_2$ ligands. This comparison of three different systems reveals a consistent picture; the most stable isomer in each case is that which would be predicted by the cis effect, an effect already analyzed in the literature.

The low stability of 1d compared to 1a could be anticipated, given the generally accepted high “trans influence” of the hydride ligand. From an orbital point of view, we find that the preference for a cis orientation of the two hydrides in 1 may be traced to the nature of the two MOs which are primarily responsible for Ru−H bonding. Bonding between Ru and dihydrogen does not give rise to any particular preferred orientation of these ligands. Both Ru−H bonding MOs involve Ru d orbitals for 1a, but only one MO with good Ru−H bonding overlap can be constructed using Ru d orbitals if the two hydrides are trans, the other MO involving a 5p orbital on Ru which is at substantially higher energy than the 4d set. As a consequence of these orbital differences, we note that the Ru−hydride bond lengths in 1a are substantially shorter than the distances between Ru and the H atoms of the dihydrogen ligands, by 0.18 Å on average, whereas in 1d, with weak Ru−H bonds, the difference is only 0.027 Å.

The IR spectrum of 1 provides valuable information on the nature and strength of the Ru−H and Ru−(H$_2$) interactions; as the spectrum has been recorded and partially assigned, a comparison with the calculated values provides a stringent test of the quality of the computed data. Two very intense bands are seen at 1927 and 1890 cm$^{-1}$, assigned to Ru−H stretching motions; however, no absorption was observed which could be attributed to stretching either of the H$_2$ units or of the Ru−(H$_2$) bonds. The calculated harmonic wavenumbers (B3LYP/basis B) for the two Ru−H stretching vibrations in 1a are 2031 (a$_1$) and 1995 (b$_2$) cm$^{-1}$; both modes are indeed intense, with absolute intensities of 112 and 134 km/mol, respectively. While the calculated harmonic frequencies are therefore some 5.5% higher than the observed fundamentals, a typical margin of error, we note that the difference in frequency between the two modes is very well reproduced. The stretching motions of the two H$_2$ units are predicted at 3038 (a$_1$) and 3017 (b$_2$) cm$^{-1}$, with high absolute intensities of 112 and 140 km/mol, respectively. This result is surprising, given the known low intensity of H−H stretches which have been detected, and one might

### Table 4. Relative Energies (kcal/mol) and Selected Geometrical Parameters (Å and deg) of DFT/B3LYP Optimized Stationary Points in the RuHCl(H$_2$)(PH$_3$)$_2$ Model Complex (Basis Set B)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3a ($C_s$)</th>
<th>3b ($C_s$)</th>
<th>3c ($C_s$)</th>
<th>3d ($C_s$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ru−H1</td>
<td>1.658</td>
<td>1.633</td>
<td>1.699</td>
<td>1.695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ru−H2</td>
<td>1.681</td>
<td>1.691</td>
<td>1.699</td>
<td>1.695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ru−H3</td>
<td>1.868</td>
<td>1.923</td>
<td>1.865</td>
<td>1.892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ru−H4</td>
<td>1.868</td>
<td>1.913</td>
<td>1.865</td>
<td>1.881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ru−H5</td>
<td>1.597</td>
<td>1.591</td>
<td>1.600</td>
<td>1.596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ru−Cl</td>
<td>2.463</td>
<td>2.465</td>
<td>2.461</td>
<td>2.468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ru−P1</td>
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<td>2.337</td>
<td>2.340</td>
<td>2.341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ru−P2</td>
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<td>2.337</td>
<td>2.340</td>
<td>2.341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1−H2</td>
<td>0.945</td>
<td>0.938</td>
<td>0.899</td>
<td>0.904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3−H4</td>
<td>0.820</td>
<td>0.802</td>
<td>0.821</td>
<td>0.810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P1−Ru−P2</td>
<td>162.9</td>
<td>166.5</td>
<td>156.7</td>
<td>161.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1−Ru−H2</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2−Ru−H3</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3−Ru−H4</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H4−Ru−Cl</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>76.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl−Ru−H5</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>87.</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>88.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H5−Ru−H1</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>71.</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$\Delta E$ 0.0 1.33 2.25 3.13


suppose that such intense bands would be readily detectable; unfortunately, they are likely to be masked in the real system by the many C-H stretching modes within the PCy 3 ligands. Two twisting motions of the H 2 units in the RuH 2 (H 2 ) 2 plane are predicted at 1640 and 1635 cm⁻¹, with moderate to low intensity (44 and 4 km/mol, respectively), while the vibrations best described as Ru−H(H 2 ) stretches are predicted at 997 (a 1 ) and 925 (b 2 ) cm⁻¹, but these are both weak with intensities of only 2 and 7 km/mol. The vibrational wavenumbers were also obtained for 1a at the MP2 level of theory using basis A. For the two Ru−H stretching motions, the values are 2123 (a 1 ) and 2116 (b 2 ) cm⁻¹; these are substantially poorer than those obtained using DFT methods, both for the absolute values of the wavenumbers, in error here by some 10−11%, and for the separation between the two modes (only 7 cm⁻¹, compared to 37 cm⁻¹ experimentally or 34 cm⁻¹ with B3LYP theory). These results provide another indication that the B3LYP method is more successful than low-order perturbation theory for the study of organometallic complexes. It is encouraging to note that extension of the basis from A to B increases the RHF barrier to H 2 rotation by no more than 4 cm⁻¹.

(ii) Rotation of Dihydrogen Ligands in 1. Since the INS spectra described above (section 2) have shown that rotation of the dihydrogen ligands in 1 is facile, there is an obvious interest in a theoretical study of the potential function for H 2 rotation in 1. As there are two equivalent dihydrogen ligands, both must participate in the process detected by INS, but it is not clear a priori whether the two ligands rotate in the same or in opposite directions or, indeed, whether the coupling between the motion of the two H 2 units is sufficiently strong for a perceptible difference to exist between the two possibilities. The two possible pathways from 1a to 1b are sketched in Figure 10; if the two ligands rotate in opposite senses, a C 3 surface is followed, whereas rotation of the two H 2 units in the same senses generates a C 2 pathway. Our most important findings are displayed in Figure 11, which shows that the calculated rotation barriers are very small.

We initially scanned the whole of both the C 2 and C 3 surfaces, at the RHF level of theory using basis A. While the results obtained at this level may not be quantitatively reliable, the qualitative features should be informative. Fixed angles of rotation of the H 2 units were adopted, with respect to the plane containing the Ru and the two hydride ligands, and the remaining independent geometrical parameters (19 for the C 2 pathway, 21 for the C 3 ) were optimized. It may be seen from Figure 11 that the C 2 pathway is consistently preferred over the C 3 , and that the maximum along the pathway is closer to 1b, consistent with the greater stability of 1a than of 1b. In view of the substantial computational effort needed to scan the entire C 2 and C 3 surfaces at higher levels of theory, we concentrated our attention on those parts of the surfaces near the higher-energy isomer 1b, i.e. Θ angles near 90°. Extension of the basis from A to B increases the RHF barrier to H 2 rotation somewhat, from 0.9 to 1.3 kcal/mol, and moves the transition state closer to 1b; that isomer remains a true minimum, though the magnitude of its lowest vibrational frequency drops sharply. When electron correlation effects are included at the B3LYP level of theory with basis B, the barrier increases again, from 1.3 to 2.0 kcal/mol; more importantly, 1b now becomes a transition state, as it is a local maximum on the C 2 surface. Thus as the level of theory adopted is improved, the derived potential governing H 2 rotation becomes progressively closer to the simple 2-fold cosine function used in analysis of the INS data. In particular, we may take the energy difference between 1a and 1b to represent the potential barrier. Our B3LYP/basis B value of 2.0 kcal/mol for this barrier agrees remarkably well with the result inferred from the INS data (2.2 kcal/mol, assuming uncoupled rotation of the two H 2 molecules). However, the presumably more reliable CCSD(T) value for the barrier obtained with basis C is a little smaller, at 1.4 kcal/mol, so the particularly good agreement at the DFT/basis B level is probably fortuitous. The qualitatively important point is that the calculated barrier height agrees rather well with that derived from experiment with the use of a simplified model. We may also note that the barrier to rotation along the C 2 pathway is only slightly higher, by some 0.1 kcal/mol, than that for coupled C 2 rotation, so at most temperatures both pathways will in fact be followed. The effects of basis extension on the calculated barrier are not large; we note in particular that the DFT result with basis C differs from that with basis B by an utterly trivial amount (0.02 kcal/mol). This agreement for the barrier therefore suggests that the other calculated results are also reliable.
5. NMR Studies of 1 in CDCl₃: Synthesis and Theoretical Studies of RuH₂Cl₂(PCy₃)₂ (4)

(i) Synthesis and NMR Studies. Since we suspected that 4 resulted from the reaction of 1 with the chloroform present in Freon, the direct reaction of 1 with CDCl₃ was carried out in an NMR tube. Vigorous H₂ evolution was immediately observed, and only one triplet signal at -12.38 ppm (J_P-H = 31.5 Hz) was detected in the high-field region which corresponded to 4. When the sample was cooled to 233 K, the signal broadened and split into two broad triplets, well resolved in Freon (vide supra) or in a mixture of CDCl₃/CD₂Cl₂ at 183 K. The ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum in CDCl₃ at 297 K presents a singlet at 91.3 ppm split into a triplet with J_{P-D} = 31.7 Hz after decoupling of the protons of the cyclohexyl groups. This is demonstrative of the presence of two hydrides bound to the ruthenium. At 208 K, the ¹H NMR spectrum in CDCl₃ consists of two broad singlets at 97.1 and 83.1 ppm (integration ratio 1.1:1) in agreement with the observations recorded in ¹H NMR. Interestingly, the appearance of 4 is not accompanied by the formation of CDHCl₂ as monitored by ¹H NMR. However, as the signal characteristic for 4 disappears, a new signal appears at +5.28 ppm (1:1:1 triplet, J_H-D = 0.9 Hz) attributed to CDHCl₂ formed during the decomposition. The chloride ruthenium compounds then formed were not characterized.

Attempts at isolating 4 by reacting 1 with CHCl₃ using different experimental procedures (2-fold or excess CHCl₃ in pentane or THF, pure CHCl₃) failed because of the lack of stability of 4 in the presence of CHCl₃. For example, the beige solid obtained from pure chloroform after evaporation and washing in pentane is a mixture of unidentified chloride ruthenium complexes and the dihydride complex 4. Similar results were obtained when 1 was reacted with CCl₄, CCl₃ or HCl (either gas or aqueous solution) in THF. Nevertheless, addition of aqueous HCl to a suspension of 1 in Et₂O yielded a pink suspension which after filtration and washing with pentane was identified by ¹H and ³¹P NMR as pure 4 (yield 60%). All data were then consistent with the formulation RuH₂Cl₂(PCy₃)₂. 4 is therefore a 16 electron complex and a rare example of a ruthenium(IV) polyhydride. During the preparation of this paper, Werner et al. reported the preparation of the very similar complex RuH₂Cl₂(PP₃)₂ (4-Pr) identified by an X-ray crystal structure. Several ruthenium(IV) hydrido derivatives have been described and we reported a few years ago the synthesis of a similar but 18-electron complex RuH₂(OCOCF₃)₂(PCy₃)₂. Interestingly, the latter compound, although electronically saturated, was shown to be thermally unstable and to lose H₂ slowly in solution. A similar pathway is probably responsible for the degradation of 4 in solution. 4 is also analogous to the osmium derivative OsH₂Cl₂(PCy₃)₂ (4-Os), prepared and studied by Berke and Caulton. The spectroscopic properties of both compounds are very similar, but as expected, the osmium complex is more stable. A fluxional process is present in both compounds, and a decoalescence into two sets of signals corresponding to two interconverting isomers is apparent at low temperature. That the different signals observed for 4 below 203 K correspond to two isomers rather than to one asymmetric complex results from the integration ratio in ¹H and ³¹P NMR which give reproducibly a 1.1:1 ratio and from asymmetry in the coalescence spectrum as evidenced by line shape analysis (vide supra). However, although 4-Os is shown to consist of a mixture of a symmetric (minor) and an asymmetric (major) complex, the structures of which have been proposed after ab initio calculations, complex 4 exists as two symmetric interconverting isomers. It is not possible to rule out the possibility for each triplet to result from the presence of fast interconverting asymmetric isomers even at very low temperature in Freons. This would however contradict the results of the theoretical calculations (vide infra).

4 does not react with H₂ in benzene but does react with CO to give RuHCl(CO)₃(PCy₃)₂, identified by comparison with an authentic sample. The reaction proceeds through selective reductive elimination of HCl rather than that of H₂ or Cl₂ which is rather surprising.

(ii) Theoretical Study of a Model for 4. To make feasible a computational study of the structures and energies of possible isomers of 4, we adopted the “standard” approximation of replacing the PCy₃ phosphines by PH₃, to give 4, whose formula is thus RuH₂Cl₂(PH₃)₂. Geometries were optimized using B3LYP theory and basis B. Several isomers were studied, of which the four most important are sketched in Figure 12, which also indicates the atomic numbering scheme. Optimized structural parameters and relative energies are reported in Table 5.

Although the coordination about Ru in 4 might be regarded as octahedral, there are substantial deviations from the idealized values of 90 or 180° for some bond angles in each of 4a-d, so much so that the octahedral paradigm is misleading. Isomer
The structure frequencies, we would expect both to be present in detectable small, with difference between energy differences of only 2 kcal/mol. Because the energy which we have calculated to be slightly less stable than the feature of coordination sphere, making an angle H ligands; they are decidedly on the phosphine side of the occupy the same plane, is the position of the two hydride 4a steric repulsion between them, since in 4b, which also has C2v symmetry, the Cl–Ru–Cl angle is only 90.2° and the Ru–Cl distances in 4a and 4b are almost identical. The most striking feature of 4b, for which the two chloride and phosphine ligands occupy the same plane, is the position of the two hydride ligands; they are decidedly on the phosphine side of the coordination sphere, making an angle H–Ru–H of only 115.8°. A related isomer in which the two hydride ligands are in analogous positions but on the chloride side was also characterized computationally, but it is much less stable than 4b, by 31 kcal/mol, and so it is not discussed further here. The structure of RuH2Cl2(PPh3)2, a complex which is closely related to 4, was recently determined by X-ray diffraction, the coordination about Ru in the solid state was described as a distorted square antiprism with two vacant sites in alternate positions in one square base. It is similar to that of 4b, with P–Ru–P and Cl–Ru–Cl angles of 111.7 (calculated 112.3) and 84.3° (calculated 90.2°), respectively. However, there is a significant structural difference between 4b and RuH2Cl2(PPh3)2; while the dihedral angle between the RuPP and RuClCl planes is 48° in RuH2Cl2(PPh3)2, those groups are coplanar in 4b. As the steric bulk of the phosphine ligands in the experimental system is far greater than that of the simple model employed computationally, some structural differences might well be anticipated; Eisenstein and co-workers have reported that steric effects in the analogous Os system favor a twisting of the OsPP plane relative to the OsClCl unit. Isomer 4c is related to 4a in that the two chloride and two hydride ligands are coplanar but differs in that the P–Ru–P angle is only 103.9°. We calculate the energy difference between 4a and 4b to be small, with 4a more stable by 2.3 kcal/mol. We see no real contradiction in the detection in the solid state of an isomer which we have calculated to be slightly less stable than the global minimum, as packing effects could easily outweigh energy differences of only 2 kcal/mol. Because the energy difference between 4a and 4b is so small and because both were shown to be true minima by calculation of their vibrational frequencies, we would expect both to be present in detectable amounts in solution, consistent with the NMR behavior of 4 described above. We were not able to find computationally any other low-energy isomers of 4. Isomer 4c is sufficiently high in energy (19.3 kcal/mol above 4a) that we do not expect it to be detectable by NMR spectroscopy in solution at room temperature. A non-symmetric isomer 4d was located (C1 point group), which may be thought of as having essentially trans orientations of the hydride, chloride, and phosphine ligands, but it is substantially higher in energy than either 4a or 4b (15.2 kcal/mol above 4a) and therefore unlikely to be present in detectable amounts in solution.

It is intriguing that the relative DFT energies of the isomers of 4 described here are rather different from those of the analogous Os system studied by Eisenstein, Caulton, and co-workers at the MP2 level of theory. However, the differences may be more apparent than real; when MP2 energies are obtained for 4a and 4b, 4b is slightly more stable, by 2.5 kcal/mol, i.e., just the reverse of the DFT result, even though the differences between DFT and MP2 geometrical parameters are insignificant. Since we have argued above that DFT results are more reliable than are the MP2 values for 1, we presume that the same preference will still apply for 4.

**Conclusion**

We describe in this paper the high fluxionality of the bis(dihydrogen) complex RuH2(H2)(PCy3)2 (1). The origin of this fluxionality is both a rapid hydride–dihydrogen interconversion which cannot be blocked in Freons down to 143 K and a low barrier to rotation of coordinated dihydrogen (1.1 kcal/mol) as demonstrated by INS and studied computationally. Theoretical studies have shown that the bis(dihydrogen) complex 1 has three isomeric structures within an energy range of only 2 kcal/mol1 in agreement with the high fluxionality of this molecule. The geometry of the lowest energy isomer for 1 is unusual, since the two H2 units and the hydride ligands are located in the same plane. Analysis of several dihydrogen complexes shows that the attractive cis effect controls the geometrical preference. The barrier to rotation of dihydrogen is higher in the 16 electron iodo complex RuHI(H2)(PCy3)2 (> ca. 3.5 kcal/mol–1), but the interconversion on the NMR time scale remains also rapid at all accessible temperatures. For the corresponding chloro complex, we could demonstrate both the rapid equilibrium between the mono- and bisis(dihydrogen) complexes RuHCl(H2)(PCy3)2 and RuHClI(H2)(PCy3)2 and the exchange between free and coordinated dihydrogen in RuHCl(H2)(PCy3)2 which could be blocked at low temperature.

**Experimental Section**

**General Considerations.** Microanalyses were performed at our laboratory’s microanalyses service. Infrared spectra were obtained as Nujol mulls on a Perkin-Elmer 1725 FT-IR spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC200 (at 200.13 MHz for 1H and at 81.015 MHz for 31P), while variable-temperature proton spectra were obtained using Bruker AM250 (at 250 MHz for 1H and at 101.202 MHz for 31P) and AMX 500 (500 MHz; Freon experiments) spectrometers, all of these spectrometers operating on the Fourier transform mode. All manipulations were carried out in argon atmosphere by use of Schlenk techniques. Solvents were dried and distilled under dinitrogen and thoroughly degassed under argon before use. For the low-temperature NMR experiments, a mixture of deuterated Freons was synthesized by the literature methods. According to the 1H and 13C NMR spectra, the mixture contained 9% CDCl3, 45% CDF2Cl, and 45% CDF2Cl. The solvent was stored in a stainless steel lecture bottle over basic alumina in order to remove water and acid impurities. The NMR

| Table 5. Relative Energies (kcal/mol) and Selected Geometrical Parameters (Å and deg) for the DFT/B3LYP Optimized Stationary Points in the RuH2Cl2(PH3)2 Model Complex (Basis Set B) |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 4a (C2v)       | 4b (C2v) | 4c (C2v) | 4d (C2v) |
| Ru–H1          | 1.560  | 1.567  | 1.602  | 1.554  |
| Ru–H2          | 1.560  | 1.567  | 1.602  | 1.604  |
| Ru–Cl1         | 2.379  | 2.387  | 2.393  | 2.410  |
| Ru–Cl2         | 2.379  | 2.387  | 2.393  | 2.396  |
| Ru–P1          | 2.357  | 2.303  | 2.236  | 2.469  |
| Ru–P2          | 2.357  | 2.303  | 2.236  | 2.227  |
| H1–H2          | 1.414  | 2.655  | 2.811  | 2.567  |
| P1–Ru–P2       | 179.6  | 112.3  | 103.3  | 140.2  |
| H1–Ru–H2       | 53.9   | 115.8  | 122.6  | 108.8  |
| Cl1–Ru–Cl2     | 149.0  | 90.2   | 87.9   | 158.1  |
| H1–Ru–Cl2      | 78.5   | 112.0  | 74.7   | 79.5   |
| H2–Ru–Cl1      | 78.5   | 112.0  | 74.7   | 106.6  |
| ΔE             | 0.0    | 2.32   | 19.28  | 15.18  |
samples were prepared using vacuum methods as described previously. In particular, pressure/vacuum valve NMR tubes (Wilmad, Buena, NY) were employed, which could easily be attached or removed from the vacuum line where they were filled with the solvent by vacuum transfer. The tubes were stored below 240 K. NMR line shape analyses were carried out using known methods.18

Inelastic Neutron Scattering. Inelastic neutron scattering studies were carried out on \( \text{I} \) and on \( \text{RuH}_2\text{(H}_2\text{)}\text{(PCy}_3\text{)}_2 \) using the cold neutron time-of-flight spectrometers MIBEMOL and IN5 of the Laboratoire Léon Brillouin (CE Saclay, France) and Institut Laue-Langevin (Grenoble, France), respectively. Data were collected from 1.5 to 250 K using \( ~0.8 \) g of sample in which the PCy\(_3\) ligands were deuterated for the ILL experiment.

Theoretical Calculations. The core electrons for both Ru and P were represented by pseudopotentials developed in Toulouse.33 Sixteen electrons were treated explicitly for Ru (those corresponding to the atomic levels 4s, 4p, 5s, and 4d) and the five valence electrons for P. The basis used for Ru is of approximately triple-\( \zeta \) quality, being specified as (8s,6p,6d)/[5s,5p,3d]. A double-\( \zeta \) plus polarization basis was employed for P and Cl (d-type exponents 0.45 and 0.65, respectively). The spherical-harmonic representation of d-type functions was adopted. In our initial studies, a standard double-\( \zeta \) basis was adopted for all hydrogen atoms; the resulting basis is indicated as “basis A”. Most of the results we present were obtained with a larger basis “B”, in which we added a p-type polarization function (exponent 0.9) to the six hydrogen atoms directly bound to ruthenium. Our best estimates of some relative energies were obtained with a still larger basis “C”, in which a set of f-type functions (exponent 1.2) was added to the Ru basis. These single-point calculations were performed at higher levels of theory, such as Möller–Plesset perturbation theory to fourth order, treating single, double, and quadruple excitations (MP4SDQ), or coupled-cluster theory, treating explicitly single and double excitations together with a perturbative estimate of triple excitations (CCSD(T)), adopting geometries already obtained at a lower level of theory. All calculations were performed with the Gaussian 94 series of programs.34

Materials. \( \text{RuH}_2\text{(H}_2\text{)}\text{(PCy}_3\text{)}_2 \) (I) was prepared according to published methods.6 \( \text{RuCl}_3\cdot3\text{H}_2\text{O} \) was purchased from Johnson Matthey Ltd.; PCy\(_3\) was purchased from Aldrich.

Preparation of \( \text{RuH}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{(PCy}_3\text{)}_2 \) (4). To a suspension of \( \text{RuH}_2\text{(H}_2\text{)}\text{(PCy}_3\text{)}_2 \) (250 mg; 0.38 mmol) in 10 mL of diethyl ether was added HCl(aq) (67 \( \mu \)L, 0.76 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature, during which a pink-red solid precipitated. This was filtered off, washed with ether (8 \( \times \) 4 mL), and dried in vacuo. Yield: 60%. Anal. Caled for RuC\(_6\)H\(_{13}\)Cl\(_2\)P\(_2\): C, 58.33; H, 9.34. Found: C, 58.51; H, 9.37.

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