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ELECTRON DONOR-ACCEPTOR ASPECT OF SUPERCONDUCTIVITY IN METAL-C₆₀ COMPLEXES

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Abstract The electron donor-acceptor aspect applies to the bonds in metal-doped fullerene M₃C₆₀. The superconductivity in M₃C₆₀ may be assumed to be related to the electron accepting property ϵ_i of alkali-metal ion M. The value of transition temperature T_c in M₃C₆₀ quoted from the literature showed a good linear relation with the sum of ϵ_i for M₃.

INTRODUCTION

The superconductivity in potassium-doped fullerene had been found by Hebard et al at 1991¹ and that in the other metal-doped fullerene was also published within one year by some groups. But, after that there was no novelty concerning the superconductivity in the fullerene complex and the highest transition temperature T_c still remained about 33 K for RbCs₂C₆₀ which was quoted from a series of works done at 1991–1992, except for 48 K for RbTl₂C₆₀.

On the other hand, the electron accepting property ϵ_i of a mono-atomic cation i could be determined on the basis of an empirical rule concerning the solvation energies in various solvents.² It has been known that this property was very useful for estimating quantitatively the bond energies of various dative bonds in metal-organic complexes, metal-halides in a gas phase, and the catalytic activities of metal-cations in homogeneous and heterogeneous systems and so forth.³

In this paper the electron donor-acceptor aspect applies to the bonds in the complex M₃C₆₀ of alkali-metals and fullerene. The superconductivity may be assumed to be related to the electron accepting property of the alkali-metal ions M₃. A good linear relationship is shown between T_c in M₃C₆₀ and the sum of ϵ_i for M₃, with a few exceptions. The former values used in this work have been determined by Tanigaki et al⁴ and Fleming et al⁵ The linear relationship will be useful for obtaining some information on the further findings of new superconductors of metal-fullerene complexes.

First, this paper describes the electron donor-acceptor concept briefly and then the relation of the sum of ϵ_i for M₃ on the basis of this concept with T_c in M₃C₆₀.

ELECTRON DONOR ACCEPTOR CONCEPT

The absolute values of the donating and accepting properties of monoatomic ions were determined by Notoya et al.¹ on the basis of an empirical rule concerning the solvation energy of a monoatomic ion and the dissociation energy of halides. Then we found also that the electron donor-acceptor aspect could be applicable to the interactions between solute-solvent, in concentrated solution³ and in fused salts,⁶ and interactions between cation-substrate in organometallic compounds³ and in biologically important substances,⁷ and to various types of catalysis,³ in the last decade.

The solvation of an ion is one of the most difficult problems remained unsolved still now, because the electrostatic energy involved in the real free energy of solvation of an ion can not be determined as the concrete quantity even for some of the most popular solvents, which Schwabe et al. mentioned.⁸ Strictly speaking at a thermodynamic point of view, we can not split the real free energy of solvation of an individual ion into the chemical and the electrostatic terms, as pointed out by Guggenheim at 1929. However, we found out that the difference in the standard chemical or real free energy of solvation between two different ions in the same solvent, with each divided by the valence, is a quantity calculable by a thermodynamic cycle.

The standard real or chemical free energy of solvation of ion i for solvent s may be defined by the free energy change for a transfer to the gas phase g from solution, $\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_{i, g \leftarrow s}$ or $\Delta G^{\circ}_{i, g \leftarrow s}$, which may be given by the difference in the electrochemical or chemical potential of the ion between the two phases,

$$\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_{i, g \leftarrow s} = \bar{\mu}^{\circ}_{i, g} - \bar{\mu}^{\circ}_{i, s} \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta G^{\circ}_{i, g \leftarrow s} = \mu^{\circ}_{i, g} - \mu^{\circ}_{i, s} \quad (2)$$

where the superscript \circ denotes the standard state. The surface potential χ_s of the solvent may be given by

$$\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_{i, g \leftarrow s} = \Delta G^{\circ}_{i, g \leftarrow s} - z_i F \chi_s \quad (3)$$

where z_i is the valence of ion i and F the Faraday.

The relative standard free energy of solvation of ion i in solvent s , ${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{g \leftarrow s}/z\}$ can be defined as following, at a given temperature as referred to a definite reference ion j in the same solvent

$${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{g \leftarrow s}/z\} = \{\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_{i, g \leftarrow s}/z_i\} - \{\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_{j, g \leftarrow s}/z_j\}$$

$$=\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{i,g\leftarrow s}/z_i\}-\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{j,g\leftarrow s}/z_j\} \quad (4)$$

with each divided by the valence of the ion.

The standard real free energy of formation of ion i and the electron in the gas phase from its pure substance $\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_i$ can be expressed by use of $\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_{i,g\leftarrow s}$ and the absolute standard electromotive force $\Phi^{\circ}_{i,s}$ of the ion/pure substance of electrode in solvent s ,

$$\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_i = \Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_{i,g\leftarrow s} + z_i F \Phi^{\circ}_{i,s} \quad (5)$$

where $\Phi^{\circ}_{i,s}$ is given by the difference in electrochemical potential of the electron in the gas phase and in the electrode m as

$$F \Phi^{\circ}_{i,s} = \bar{\mu}^{\circ}_{e,g} - \bar{\mu}^{\circ}_{e,m} \quad (6)$$

Using Equations(5) and (6) for ions i and j , we obtain

$${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{g\leftarrow s}/z\} = \{\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_i/z_i\} - \{\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_j/z_j\} - F E^{\circ}_{ij,s} \quad (7)$$

where $F E^{\circ}_{ij,s} = \Phi^{\circ}_{i,s} - \Phi^{\circ}_{j,s}$. In this way ${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{g\leftarrow s}/z\}$ can be expressed in terms of the well-defined measurable thermodynamic quantities $\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_i, \Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_j$, and $F E^{\circ}_{ij,s}$. The numerical values for $\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_i$ and $\Delta \bar{G}^{\circ}_j$ can be calculated by use of the free energy of atomization of the pure substance and the ionization potential for the cations or the electron affinity for the anions, and $F E^{\circ}_{ij,s}$ obtained from the literatures, for example, the thermodynamic tables compiled by National Bureau of Standard⁹ and Samsonov¹⁰ etc. and the electrochemical data books compiled by Bard¹¹ and Dobos¹² etc., for a variety of ionic species and solvents.

On the basis of Equation(7), we found the very good linear relations between ${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{g\leftarrow w}/z\}$ in water and I_i/z_i for the cations of each group which is given by the regression line as shown in FIGURE 1

$${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{g\leftarrow w}/z\} = \rho_w (I_i/z_i) - A_{jw} \quad (8)$$

where ρ_w for each straight line is a constant characteristic of water and $-A_{jw}$ equals ${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G^{\circ}_{g\leftarrow w}/z\}$ for an ideal ion whose ionization energy equals zero.

In this way for any solvent available the same type of linear relation as Equation(8) is obtained for the cations of each group, which is given by the regression line

$${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G_{g\leftarrow s}^*/z\} = \rho_s(I_i/z_i) - A_{js} \tag{9}$$

where ρ_s is a constant characteristic of solvent s and $-A_{js}$ equals ${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G_{g\leftarrow s}^*/z\}$ for an ideal ion of $I_i = 0$. Equation (9) will be called hereafter rule II for the solvation of mono-atomic cations, because another linear relation had been found by us and called as rule I.

The cations of the three groups can be classified by four criteria², one of which is concerning the periodic table of the elements represented in FIGURE 2.

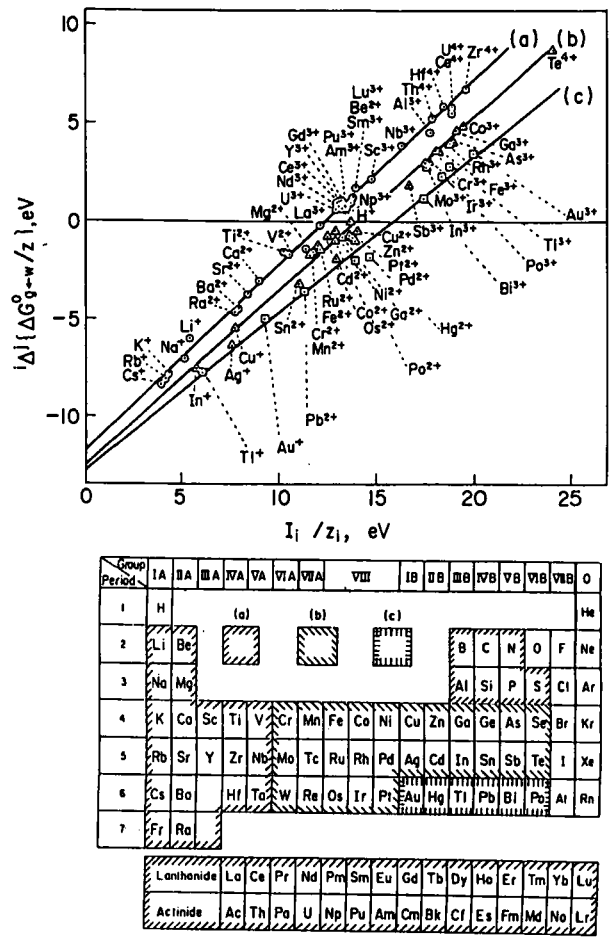


FIGURE 1 Relation between ${}^i\Delta^j\{\Delta G_{g\leftarrow w}^*/z\}$ and I_i/z_i at 25°C for (a,b or c)group cations with $j=H^+$; \bigcirc, Δ or \square .

FIGURE 2 Classification of monoatomic cations into (a),(b) and (c)groups in the periodic table.

In order to estimate the value of $\Delta G^*_{i,g \leftarrow s}$ for an individual ion, we introduced an extrathermodynamic assumption that the ideal ion of the rare gas type, (a) group, has no chemical interaction with any solvent, i.e.

$$(\Delta G^*_{i,g \leftarrow s} / z_i)_{I_i=0} = 0 \quad (10)$$

Then we obtain from Equation(8)

$$\Delta G^*_{i,g \leftarrow s} / z_i = \varepsilon_i \rho_s^a \quad (11)$$

for an individual ion in any group, where

$$\varepsilon_i = I_i^a / z_i \quad (12a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_i &= (\rho_w^b / \rho_w^a) [(I_i^b / z_i) + \{ (A_{jw}^a - A_{jw}^b) / \rho_w^b \}] \\ &= 0.936 \{ (I_i^b / z_i) - 0.94 \}, \text{ eV} \end{aligned} \quad (12b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_i &= (\rho_w^c / \rho_w^a) [(I_i^c / z_i) + \{ (A_{jw}^a - A_{jw}^c) / \rho_w^c \}] \\ &= 0.862 \{ (I_i^c / z_i) - 1.43 \}, \text{ eV} \end{aligned} \quad (12c)$$

for the ions of the respective group.

The density functional theory developed by Parr et al.¹³ gives us the expression of the chemical potential of electron in a particle. By use of this theory, the extrathermodynamic assumption that the ionization energy of an ideal ion equals zero, was verified by Matsuda et al.¹⁴

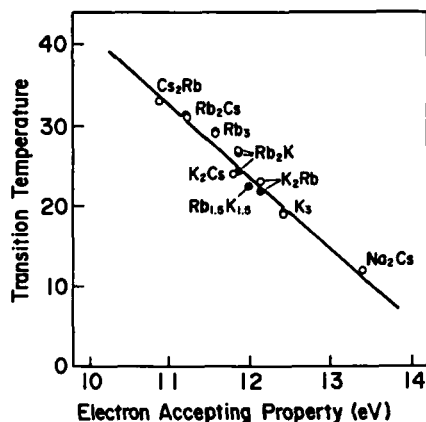


FIGURE 3 Relation between sum of ε_i for M_3 and Tc in M_3C_{60} quoted from refs.4 and 5; ○ and ●.

LINEAR RELATION BETWEEN ε_i AND T_c

FIGURE 3 shows a good linear relation between the totals of ε_i for M_3 and T_c values in M_3C_{60} , which were reported by Tanigaki et al.⁴ Excepting the three cases of Li_2CsC_{60} , Na_2RbC_{60} and Na_2KC_{60} , the linear relation can be expressed with the regression coefficient ≥ 0.982 as follows,

$$T_c = 137 - 9.45 \varepsilon_i \quad (13)$$

The above three compounds have only less than 2% of face-centred cubic phases according to the result showned by Tanigaki et al.⁴ The linearity was almost unchanged by exchanging the T_c values for those determined by Fleming et al.⁵ in some compounds. It is remarkable that the line includes even the point for Na_2Cs_{60} having only 8% f.c.c. structure.

Conclusively, ε_i proved to be very useful parameter for obtaining information on superconductivity in metal- C_{60} complexes.

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