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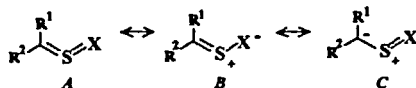
## Thiocumulenes (S-Centered 1,3-Dipoles)- a Theoretical View

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Structure and reactions parameters of sulfoxes were calculated by DFT at the B3LYP/6-311+G(3df) and by *ab initio* methods at the G2(MP2) level of theory. The particular features of the sulfoxes are discussed.

Compounds are traditionally called sulfur-centered heterocumulenes (**1**) when sulfur is twice doubly-bonded to adjacent carbon atoms or heteroatoms. According to Huisgen et al. these compounds are 1,3-dipoles.<sup>1</sup> Sulfoxes (thiocarbonyl S-oxides, **1d**) are better known than other compounds of series **1**.<sup>2,3</sup> Because of their unique structural features and their high reactivity compounds such as **1a**,<sup>4</sup> **1b**<sup>5</sup> and **1c**<sup>6</sup> have been recently studied theoretically. This study mainly deals with sulfoxes. The sulfoxes were calculated by non-parametric quantum chemical methods (DFT and *ab initio* methods) using the GAUSSIAN-94 codes of programs. Some more recent theoretical studies on sulfoxes are quoted in Ref. 7.



**1a** X = CR<sub>2</sub>, **1b** X = NR, **1c** X = S, **1d** X = O

The geometries of sulfoxes are very well reproduced by DFT calculations (cf. Figure 1, for the parent compound). The charges calculated by natural population analysis<sup>8</sup> correspond to formula **B**. This conclusion is supported by the weights of the charge-separated Lewis-type structures calculated by the natural resonance theory of Glendening and Weinhold.<sup>8</sup> The weight of the hypervalent structure **A** is remarkably high though the population of the d-orbitals is low. There is an additional long-bond (singlet biradical) Lewis-type structure structure (**D**) that one generally encounters in NRT analyses of 1,3-dipolar structures.

Molecular and electronic structure of the parent sulfoxide (Exp. cf. Ref. 3)		NPA charges (x-charges)		NRT weighting	
		C:	-0.71 (-0.14)	A:	17.1%
		O:	+1.52 (+0.82)	B:	46.0%
		S:	-0.90 (-0.68)	C:	13.9%
		$\mu = 3.12$ debye (exp. 2.99)		D:	7.9%

FIGURE 1 Molecular and electronic structure of the parent sulfoxide (Exp. cf. Ref. 3)

The functional groups of the sulfoxes of thiopropionaldehyde, thioadamantanone, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-3-thioxocyclobutanone, thiopropone and thiofluorenone are closely related

structurally to sulfine except for thiotropone with a marked CS bond lengthening (in good agreement with the X-ray structure<sup>7c</sup>).

Two types of pericyclic reactions are considered in Figure 2. Since the molecular geometries and reaction energies are sensitive to f-functions DFT B3LYP calculations were performed with the basis set 6-311+G(3df). The results of *ab initio* G2(MP2) calculations are reported for comparison. The results of the DFT and *ab initio* calculations are similar (cf. Figure 2). The ring closure reaction of the parent sulfine is endothermic in contrast to the corresponding reactions of 1a - 1c ( $R^1, R^2 = H$ ) while the activation energy is larger. The prototype sulfine-to-ethene cycloaddition reaction is less exothermic than the corresponding reactions of 1a to 1c ( $R^1, R^2 = H$ ). The results of the calculations reflect the particular position of 1c in series 1.

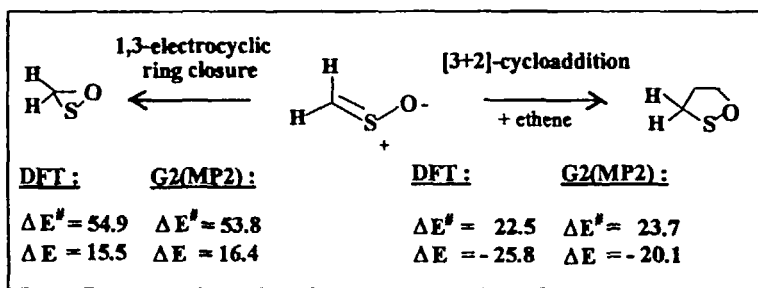


FIGURE 2 Reaction parameters of pericyclic reactions of the parent sulfine in kcal/mol (without zero point vibrational energies)

Since [2+4]-cycloaddition reactions of sulfines are encountered more frequently than 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions both the [3+2]-cycloaddition and [2+4]-cycloaddition of the parent sulfines to cyclopentadiene were calculated. The DFT activation barrier of the [2+4]- is lower by about 10 kcal/mol than the barrier of the [3+2]-cycloaddition. The reverse holds for the reactions of the parent thioformaldehyde *S*-methylide (1a,  $R^1, R^2 = H$ ).

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