

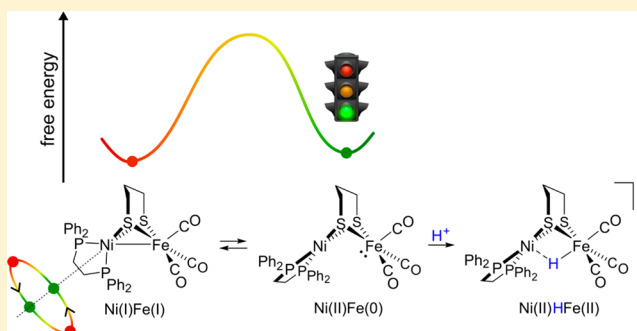
## Protonation of Nickel–Iron Hydrogenase Models Proceeds after Isomerization at Nickel

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**S** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Theory and experiment indicate that the protonation of reduced NiFe dithiolates proceeds via a previously undetected isomer with enhanced basicity. In particular, it is proposed that protonation of  $(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{-Ni}(\text{dppe})$  (**1**;  $\text{pdt}^{2-} = ^-\text{S}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{S}^-$ ;  $\text{dppe} = \text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{PPh}_2$ ) occurs at the Fe site of the two-electron mixed-valence  $\text{Fe}(0)\text{Ni}(\text{II})$  species, not the  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{-Ni}(\text{I})$  bond of the homovalence isomer of **1**. The new pathway, which may have implications for protonation of other complexes and clusters, was uncovered through studies on the homologous series  $\text{L}(\text{OC})_2\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{M}(\text{dppe})$ , where  $\text{M} = \text{Ni}, \text{Pd}$  (**2**), and  $\text{Pt}$  (**3**) and  $\text{L} = \text{CO}, \text{PCy}_3$ . Similar to **1**, complexes **2** and **3** undergo both protonation and  $1e^-$  oxidation to afford well-characterized hydrides ( $[\text{2H}]^+$  and  $[\text{3H}]^+$ ) and mixed-valence derivatives ( $[\text{2}]^+$  and  $[\text{3}]^+$ ), respectively. Whereas the Pd site is tetrahedral in **2**, the Pt site is square-planar in **3**, indicating that this complex is best described as  $\text{Fe}(0)\text{Pt}(\text{II})$ . In view of the results on **2** and **3**, the potential energy surface of **1** was reinvestigated with density functional theory. These calculations revealed the existence of an energetically accessible and more basic  $\text{Fe}(0)\text{Ni}(\text{II})$  isomer with a square-planar Ni site.



### INTRODUCTION

The protonation of metal complexes and clusters continues to attract much attention because of its relevance to catalysis involving proton and hydride transfer reactions. In organometallic and heterogeneous catalysis, protonation is a step in substrate hydrogenation and hydrogen evolution.<sup>1,2</sup> In biology, metal protonation is implicated in the reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2$ , not to mention hydrogen evolution.<sup>2,3</sup> For all of these reactions, a central question is the regiochemistry of the protonation. For compounds with metal–metal bonds, protonation can in principle occur at a single metal or at the metal–metal bond.

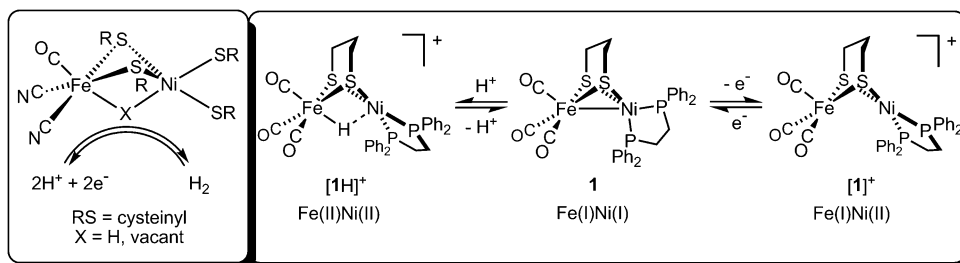
The regiochemistry of protonation is relevant to a mechanistic understanding of the  $[\text{NiFe}]$ - and  $[\text{FeFe}]$ -hydrogenases, which also feature Ni–Fe and Fe–Fe bonding interactions.<sup>4,5</sup> By proton transfer, these complexes equilibrate protons and dihydrogen, i.e.,  $2\text{H}^+ + 2e^- \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2$  in accordance with the local redox environment and activities of  $\text{H}^+$  and  $\text{H}_2$ . Functional models for the active sites of these enzymes present opportunities for translating biological insights into practical catalytic systems.<sup>6</sup> In addition to being fast and operating at low overpotentials, the hydrogenases are attractive targets for functional modeling because they utilize earth abundant metals.<sup>7</sup> For the above reasons, much effort has been directed, both computationally<sup>8</sup> and experimentally,<sup>9</sup> at understanding the details of proton transfer to and from synthetic NiFe and FeFe complexes.

While many complexes engage separately in acid–base and redox reactions, few exhibit both kinds of reactivity, providing a possible explanation for the paucity of functional hydrogenase ( $\text{H}_2$ ase) models. With respect to the  $[\text{NiFe}]\text{-H}_2$ ases (Figure 1, left), the premier example of such a model is  $(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{-Ni}(\text{dppe})$  (**1**).<sup>10</sup> Tricarbonyl **1** and analogous phosphine-substituted derivatives undergo: (i) protonation to afford rare examples of nickel–iron hydrides and (ii)  $1e^-$  oxidation to give  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Ni}(\text{II})$  derivatives (Figure 1, right). Several examples of charge-neutral  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Ni}(\text{I})$  species, as well as their related  $\text{Fe}(\text{II})\text{Ni}(\text{II})$  hydrides<sup>11–13</sup> and  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Ni}(\text{II})$  cations,<sup>14,15</sup> have been characterized.

The  $[\text{NiFe}]\text{-H}_2$ ase active site features Ni bound to four Cys ligands in a distorted tetrahedral ( $\text{SF}_4$ -like) arrangement. Two of the thiolates link to an Fe center whose coordination sphere includes the unusual CO and  $\text{CN}^-$  cofactors, the latter H-bonding to neighboring Ser and Arg residues.<sup>4</sup> In the active states of the enzyme, the FeNi core appears to be relatively conformationally rigid, with the  $\text{Fe}\cdots\text{Ni}$  distance and coordination geometry being rather insensitive both to redox state and the presence/absence of  $\text{H}^-$  substrate.<sup>16</sup> The rigidity of the active site is undoubtedly a factor in the high rates and low overpotentials at which the interconversion of  $\text{H}^+$  and  $\text{H}_2$  is mediated.

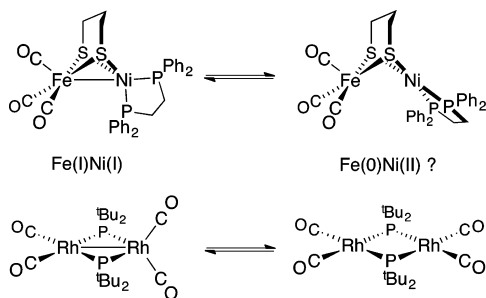
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**Figure 1.** Active site of  $[\text{NiFe}]\text{-H}_2\text{ase}$ , a bidirectional catalyst, participates in redox and acid–base chemistry (left). Similar behavior is observed for the prototypical model complex **1** (right).

### Scheme 1



In contrast to the rigid active site, small molecule mimics are conformationally dynamic. For example, **1** undergoes a tetrahedral  $\rightarrow$  square-planar twist at Ni upon oxidation or protonation (Figure 1). While the structures of **1**,  $[\mathbf{1}]^+$ , and  $[\mathbf{1H}]^+$  are established,<sup>10–15</sup> those of any intermediates are not. Such transformations may, for example, involve “pre-twisting” of the Ni coordination in **1** (Scheme 1, top).

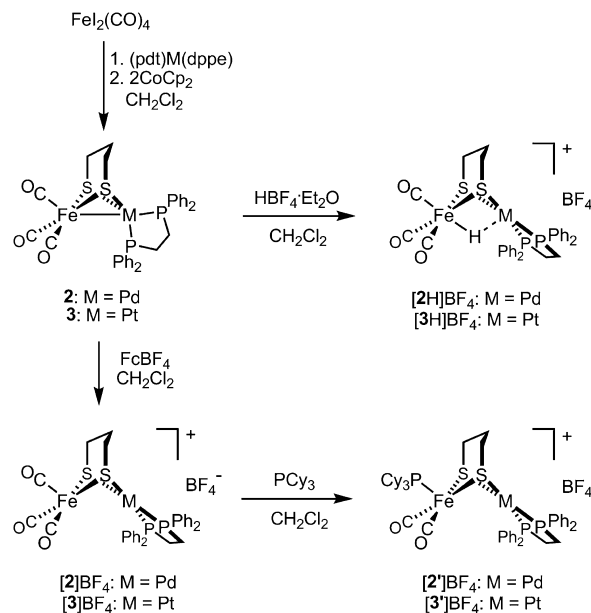
Distortion of the ground-state structure of **1** could well affect oxidation states by inducing  $2e^-$  mixed-valency.<sup>17</sup> Furthermore, the degree of Fe–Ni bonding and, most importantly, reactivity would also be perturbed. While ligand-centered isomerism is a common theme in the chemistry of multimetallic compounds, drastic differences in coordination geometry and metal–metal bonding between two (or more) interconverting species are extremely rare. They are, however, not without precedent; for example, Jones and co-workers reported X-ray structures for two complexes of formula  $(\text{OC})_2\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-PR}_2)_2\text{Rh}(\text{CO})_2$  (Scheme 1, bottom).<sup>18</sup> One species takes the form of a red compound featuring Rh–Rh bonding (2.761 Å), in which one Rh center is square-planar and the other tetrahedral. A second (orange) isomer was also observed, in which non-interacting Rh centers (3.717 Å) adopt square-planar geometries.

The present study involves parallel experimental and density functional theory (DFT) investigations to obtain a complete structural, energetic, and mechanistic picture of complexes derived from FeNi complex **1**. This work was extended to FePd and FePt species such that a homologous series can be interrogated for information regarding conformational motions and metal–metal bonding.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The major routes to low-valent FeNi complexes of type  $(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{diphosphine})$  involve treatment of  $(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{diphosphine})$  with either (i)  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_9$ , or (ii)  $\text{FeI}_2(\text{CO})_4/\text{CoCp}_2$ . As applied to the Pd and Pt derivatives, the second route proved more attractive, giving the diamagnetic hetero-

### Scheme 2



bimetallics  $(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pd}(\text{dppe})$  (**2**) and  $(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})$  (**3**) (Scheme 2).<sup>19</sup>

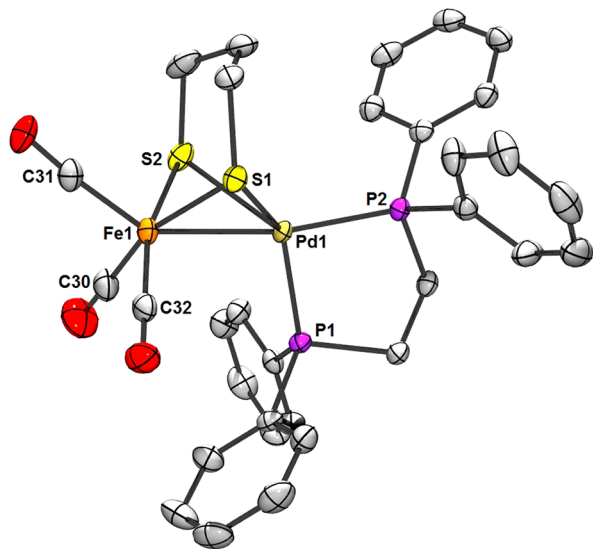
Isolated as dark-green needles, **2** is sensitive to  $\text{O}_2$  (decomposing to CO-free paramagnetic species) but is thermally stable in the solid state under  $\text{N}_2$ . The energies of the two  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands (A + E modes) compare well with those observed for **1** (Table 1).

The FePd species **2** is similar to **1** in that its room temperature  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum features a broad singlet resonance ( $\delta$  51.3) for the dppe ligand. At lower temperature, the resonance for **1** decoalesces into two peaks (well-resolved at  $-68^\circ\text{C}$ ), consistent with a dynamic process that interconverts the  $^{31}\text{P}$  sites. The previously reported coalescence temperature ( $-30^\circ\text{C}$ )<sup>12</sup> corresponds to a free energy barrier of 9.5 kcal/mol for the FeNi species **1**. This process presumably occurs via an intermediate or transition state with square-planar Ni. No decoalescence was observed for **2** even at  $-85^\circ\text{C}$ , behavior suggestive of either: (i) a tetrahedral Pd ground state with a particularly low rotational barrier or (ii) a square-planar Pd ground state. The second possibility is ruled out based on the similarity of the IR data for **1** and **2**. The structure of **2** in the solid state was confirmed crystallographically (Figure 2).

Given the covalent radii of Pd (1.39 Å) and low-spin Fe (1.32 Å),<sup>21</sup> the Fe–Pd distance of 2.561 Å suggests the presence of bonding between the metal centers in **2**. The intermetallic separation is somewhat shorter in **1** (2.467 Å). Metal–metal interactions aside, the Pd and Fe centers in **2** exist

Table 1. IR Data ( $\nu_{\text{CO}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for FeM (M = Ni, Pd, Pt) Compounds in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  Solution

compound	FeNi	FePd	FePt
$(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{M}(\text{dppe})$	2028, 1952 <sup>20</sup>	2024, 1955	1962, 1883, 1870
$[(\text{OC})_3\text{FeH}(\text{pdt})\text{M}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$	2082, 2024 <sup>20</sup>	2081, 2020	2081, 2022
$[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{M}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$	2057, 1986 <sup>13</sup>	2058, 1986	2058, 1987
$[\text{C}_y\text{P}(\text{OC})_2\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{M}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$	1966, 1899 <sup>12</sup>	1964, 1900	1966, 1900

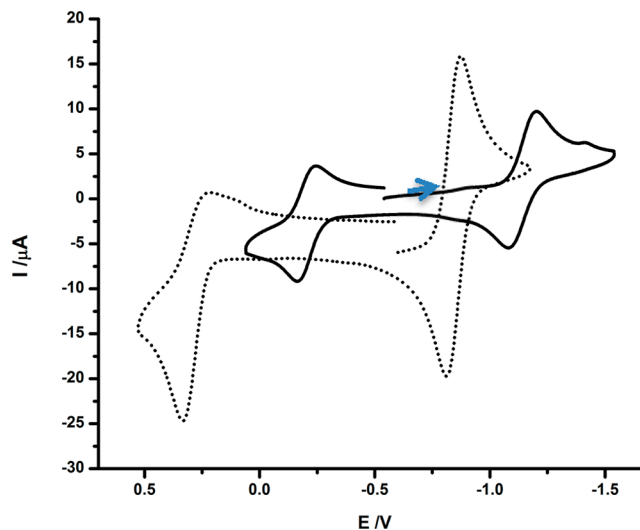


**Figure 2.** ORTEP of **2** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms omitted for clarity. Selected distances (Å) (mean DFT values in parentheses): Pd1–Fe1, 2.561 (2.56); Pd1–P1, 2.249; Pd1–P2, 2.271 (2.26); Pd1–S1, 2.573; Pd1–S2, 2.402 (2.49); Fe1–S1, 2.299; Fe1–S2, 2.275 (2.30); Fe1–C30, 1.795; Fe1–C31, 1.793; Fe1–C32, 1.798 (1.77). Selected angles (deg) (mean DFT values in parentheses): P1–Pd1–S1, 135.2; P1–Pd1–S2, 118.83; P2–Pd1–S1, 115.7; P2–Pd1–S2, 122.5 (135.1); S1–Fe1–C30, 162.2; S2–Fe1–C32, 163.1 (161.1).

in roughly tetrahedral and square-pyramidal ( $\tau = 0.01$  indicates a low degree of trigonality)<sup>22</sup> coordination geometries, respectively. The complex is isostructural to its Fe(I)Ni(I) congener, and it is expected that an Fe(I)Pd(I) description is appropriate, particularly considering the tetrahedral Pd coordination, as such a geometry is unlikely for Pd(II).

The structures of several complexes reported here were calculated using DFT, and the optimized structures were in excellent agreement with available crystal structures (selected metrics are presented in Tables S3 and S4). In the case of **2**, calculations accurately predicted the geometry of Pd, as well as its proximity to Fe. Additional isomers characterized as minima with DFT will be discussed below. NBO (natural bond orbital)<sup>23</sup> analysis revealed the Fe–Pd bond to arise from overlap of an Fe-centered  $d(z^2)$  orbital with a Pd-centered orbital with  $d$  character (Figure S56b). NBO analysis of FeNi congener **1** also revealed metal–metal bonding (Figure S56a) consistent with previous DFT analyses of this system.<sup>10</sup> NBO analysis of other Fe–M complexes discussed herein did not indicate mixing of metal  $d$  orbitals; hence, no Fe–M bonding is expected for these species.

**Mixed-Valence Derivatives.** The cyclic voltammogram of **2** features reversible and quasi-reversible oxidations at  $E_{1/2} = -0.87$  and  $+0.26$  V, respectively (vs ferrocene/ferrocenium,  $\text{Fc}^{0/+}$ ; Figure 3). The reversible wave, assigned to the  $[\mathbf{2}]^{0/+}$  couple, is 300 mV more negative than the wave for  $[\mathbf{1}]^{0/+}$ ,<sup>15</sup> a



**Figure 3.** Cyclic voltammograms of **2** (dotted trace) and  $[\mathbf{2}]^+\text{BF}_4^-$  (solid trace) acquired in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with 100 mM  $\text{NBu}_4\text{PF}_6$ . Potentials (V vs  $\text{Fc}^{0/+}$ ) were swept at  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .

result reflective of the more reducing nature of the heavier group 10 metal.

DFT was used to calculate the potentials associated with the two couples for each  $[\text{L}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{M}(\text{dppe})]^{0/+2+}$  (L = CO, PCy<sub>3</sub>; M = Ni, Pd, Pt) system. The calculated potentials are in excellent agreement with the experimental values for the neutral/monocation couples, while the values for the monocation/dication couples are in qualitative but not quantitative agreement. The latter discrepancies are mainly a result of these more anodic couples being only partially reversible, the associated potentials being less thermodynamically reliable.

Chemical oxidation of **2** with  $\text{FcBF}_4$  afforded  $[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pd}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$  ( $[\mathbf{2}]^+\text{BF}_4^-$ ), isolated as an olive-brown powder. Positive ion ESI-MS analysis ( $m/z$  749.8) was consistent with the formula, and the lability of  $[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pd}(\text{dppe})]^+$  was evidenced by observation of CO dissociation products ( $m/z$  721.8, 693.8). The  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands for  $[\mathbf{2}]^+$  (2058, 1986  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) are only modestly shifted from those of **2**, implicating oxidation at the Pd center. EPR measurements also indicated an Fe(I)Pd(II) description for  $[\mathbf{2}]^+$ , the assignment being based on the magnitude of the  $g$  shifts and the absence of <sup>31</sup>P hyperfine coupling (Figure 4, top; for simulated EPR spectra and parameters see Figure S23 and Table S1, respectively). The data are similar to those for Fe(I)Ni(II) complexes, for which theory indicated an Fe-centered  $d(z^2)$  doublet ground-state singly occupied molecular orbital (SOMO).<sup>15</sup> These computational results, as well as the implied absence of spin–orbit coupling expected for a  $d(z^2)$  ground state, are consistent with a resonance in the vicinity of  $g_e$ . Owing to the inversion of the  $\text{pdt}^{2-}$  ring, the  $[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{M}(\text{dppe})]^+$  radicals exist as two conformers, one giving rise to an axial pattern and the other to a rhombic pattern.

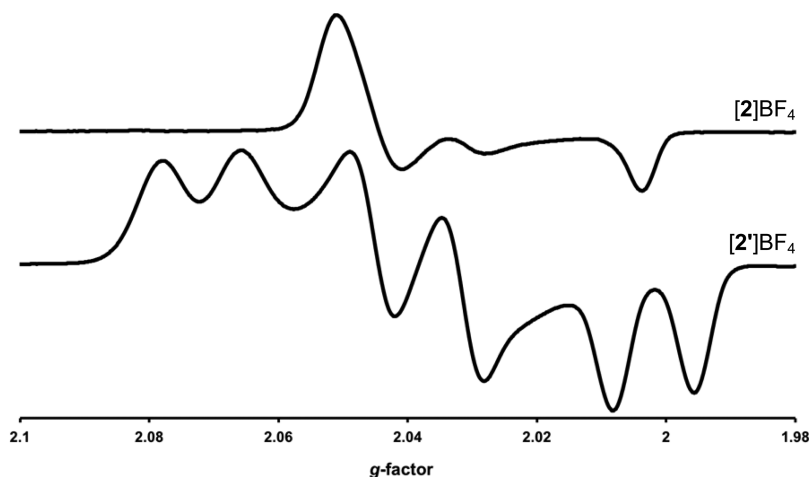


Figure 4. X-band EPR spectra ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{PhMe}$ , 110 K) of  $[2]\text{BF}_4$  and  $[2']\text{BF}_4$ .

Table 2. Redox Potentials (V vs  $\text{Fc}^{0/+}$ , Experimental and DFT-Calculated) and Associated Electrochemical Data (Recorded at 0.1  $\text{Vs}^{-1}$ ) for FeNi, FePd, and FePt Complexes (1 mM) in  $\text{NBu}_4\text{PF}_6$  Electrolyte (100 mM  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  Solution)

	$E_{1/2}$ ( $\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}\text{M}^{\text{II}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}\text{M}^{\text{II}}$ ) ( $i_{\text{pc}}/i_{\text{pa}}$ , $ \Delta E_p $ )	$E^\circ$ ( $\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}\text{M}^{\text{II}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}\text{M}^{\text{II}}$ ) DFT	$E_{1/2}$ ( $\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}\text{M}^{\text{I}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}\text{M}^{\text{II}}$ ) ( $i_{\text{pa}}/i_{\text{pc}}$ , $ \Delta E_p $ ) <sup>a</sup>	$E^\circ$ ( $\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}\text{M}^{\text{I}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}\text{M}^{\text{II}}$ ) DFT
<b>1</b>	+0.34 <sup>b</sup>	+0.52	−0.59 (0.90, 0.059)	−0.62
$[1']\text{BF}_4$	−0.14 (0.68, 0.076) <sup>b</sup>	−0.14 <sup>d</sup>	−0.92 (1.00, 0.072) <sup>c</sup>	−0.92 <sup>d</sup>
<b>2</b>	+0.26 (0.29, 0.115)	+0.39	−0.87 (0.98, 0.061)	−0.92
$[2']\text{BF}_4$	−0.20 (0.67, 0.080)	−0.20 <sup>e</sup>	−1.14 (0.83, 0.122)	−1.14 <sup>e</sup>
<b>3</b>	+0.33 (0.49, 0.168)	ND <sup>f</sup>	−0.93 (0.97, 0.105) <sup>g</sup>	−0.91 <sup>g</sup>
$[3']\text{BF}_4$	−0.19 (0.50, 0.076)	−0.24	−1.37 (0.66, 0.067) <sup>g</sup>	−1.38

<sup>a</sup> $\Delta E_p(\text{Fc}^{0/+}) = 0.064$  V under these conditions. <sup>b</sup>Anodic potential for irreversible oxidation. <sup>c</sup>Data from ref 15. <sup>d</sup>Calculated and experimental values for  $[1']\text{BF}_4$  agree by construction and were used as references for the corresponding  $[1]$  waves. <sup>e</sup>Calculated and experimental values for  $[2']\text{BF}_4$  agree by construction and were used as references for the corresponding  $[2]$ ,  $[3]$ , and  $[3']$  waves. <sup>f</sup>This value was not determined as difficulties arising from local minima led to inconclusive results. <sup>g</sup>This wave is assigned to a  $\text{Fe}^0\text{Pt}^{\text{II}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}\text{Pt}^{\text{II}}$  couple (*vide infra*).

DFT analysis of spin densities was used to determine the localization of the unpaired electron in  $[2]^+$  as well as all other mixed-valence bimetallics (Table 3). In each case, the spin is entirely Fe-centered, consistent with the  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{M}(\text{II})$  assignments from EPR analyses. The spin density distribution is unaffected by inversion of the  $\text{pdt}^{2-}$  ring, as observed for related FeNi complexes.<sup>14,15</sup>

Cation  $[2]^+$  undergoes substitution with  $\text{PCy}_3$  to afford  $[\text{Cy}_3\text{P}(\text{OC})_2\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pd}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$  ( $[2']\text{BF}_4$ ) as a yellow-brown solid. Similar to its tricarbonyl precursor,  $[2']^+$  is also described as an  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Pd}(\text{II})$  compound, the rhombic signals split by interaction of the SOMO with  $^{31}\text{PCy}_3$  ( $A(^{31}\text{P}) = 54, 61, 57$  MHz). The data are distinct from those of the green  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Ni}(\text{II})$  analog  $[1']^+$ , which show  $^{31}\text{P}$  hyperfine to be absent due to structural distortions at Fe.

As with **2**, the cyclic voltammogram of  $[2']\text{BF}_4$  features two waves, the events at  $E_{1/2} = -1.14$  and  $-0.20$  V being assigned to  $[2']^{0/+}$  and  $[2']^{+/2+}$  couples, respectively. The waves are cathodically shifted relative to the tricarbonyl parent, with a smaller shift in the first wave ( $\Delta E_{1/2} = -0.27$  V) than in the second ( $\Delta E_{1/2} = -0.46$  V). These trends were also reproduced by DFT calculations (Table 2). The fact that ligand substitution at Fe perturbs the anodic wave to a greater degree points to this redox event being Fe-centered. These data are consistent with the sequence:  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Pd}(\text{I}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Pd}(\text{II}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Fe}(\text{II})\text{Pd}(\text{II})$ . The reversibility of the  $\text{Fe}(\text{I})\text{Pd}(\text{II})/\text{Fe}(\text{II})\text{Pd}(\text{II})$  ( $[2']^{+/2+}$ ) couple is greater than that of  $[2]^{+/2+}$ , the ligands in the former case being better suited to stabilize the ferrous state.

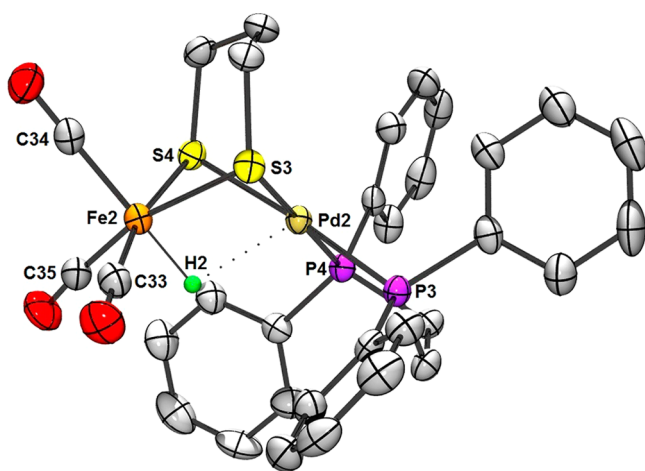
**Palladium–Iron Hydride.** The protonation of **2** with  $\text{HBF}_4$  affords the hydride salt  $[2\text{H}]\text{BF}_4$ , the formation of which

is signaled by the appearance of high energy  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands (2081, 2020  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) suggestive of an  $\text{Fe}(\text{II})\text{HPd}(\text{II})$  product. A high-field  $^1\text{H}$  NMR signal ( $\delta -4.3$ ) and a single downfield  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR resonance ( $\delta 62.8$ ) are consistent with  $[2\text{H}]^+$  adopting a  $C_s$ -symmetric structure in solution. When the acidification of **2** was performed in the presence of  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , ESI-MS and  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy confirmed formation of the deuterio isotopologue  $[2\text{D}]^+$ . The evidence for the solution structure of  $[2\text{H}]^+$  is complemented by crystallographic analysis (Figure 5).

By single crystal X-ray diffraction, two structurally similar FePd hydrides were found in the asymmetric unit of  $[2\text{H}]\text{BF}_4$ , in each case with the Fe–Pd distance (2.845, 2.918 Å) being greater than the sum of the covalent radii (2.71 Å).<sup>21</sup> Protonation at Fe is accompanied by rotation of the  $\text{Pd}(\text{dppe})$  center, affording square-planar Pd linked by the  $\text{pdt}^{2-}$  group to octahedral Fe. Indeed, the arrangement of metal centers in  $[2\text{H}]^+$  is analogous to that in  $[(\text{OC})_3\text{FeH}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{dppe})]^+$  ( $[1\text{H}]^+$ ). The  $\text{H}^-$  ligand in  $[2\text{H}]^+$  was located in the difference map and allowed to refine; its final location was significantly closer to the Fe center. Considering the covalent radius of H (0.31 Å),<sup>21</sup> the  $\text{H}^-$  ligand in  $[2\text{H}]^+$  is formally bonded to Fe (1.469 Å), whereas its interaction with Pd is weak (2.168 Å). DFT calculations also predict unsymmetrical binding of the hydride ligand, which, despite being poised between the metals, can be viewed as a terminal ligand.

**Platinum–Iron Complexes.** The first indication of the unusual structure of  $(\text{CO})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})$  (**3**), which is red-brown, is that its UV–vis spectrum features two absorptions (480, 360 nm), whereas single bands were observed for the green complexes **1** (398 nm) and **2** (376 nm). The IR spectrum

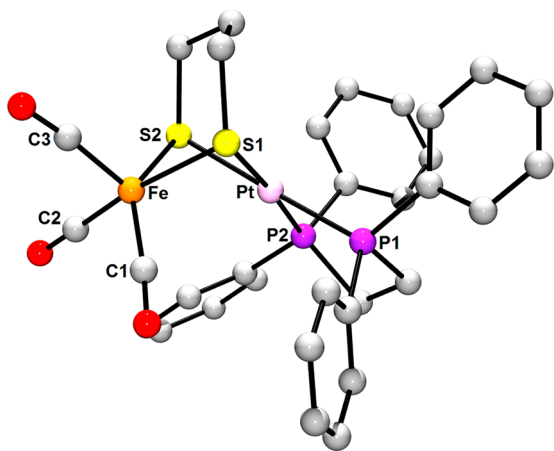




**Figure 5.** ORTEP of one of two independent complexes in  $[2\text{H}]\text{BF}_4 \cdot \text{THF} \cdot 0.5\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  with ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level. The solvate molecules,  $\text{BF}_4^-$  anion and H atoms (except the  $\text{H}^-$  ligand) are omitted for clarity. Mean distances in the complexes (Å) (mean DFT values in parentheses): Pd2–Fe2, 2.882 (2.92); Pd2–H2, 2.173 (2.19); Pd2–P3, 2.253; Pd2–P4, 2.270 (2.30); Pd2–S3, 2.367; Pd2–S4, 2.363 (2.39); Fe2–S3, 2.330; Fe2–S4, 2.338 (2.34); Fe2–H2, 1.483 (1.54). Mean angles in the complexes (deg) (mean DFT values in parentheses): Pd2–H2–Fe2, 102.4 (101.2); P3–Pd2–S4, 171.5; P4–Pd2–S3, 177.7 (177.6); S3–Fe2–C35, 165.4; S4–Fe2–C33, 167.1 (165.8).

of **3** is also distinctive, with the  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands (1962, 1883, 1870  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) observed at energies  $\sim 70 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  lower than those for Fe(I)Ni(I) and Fe(I)Pd(I) analogs. The  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for **3** consists of a singlet (and  $^{195}\text{Pt}$ -coupled doublet) and is temperature-invariant down to  $-85 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The chemical shift ( $\delta$  44.1) and  $^1J_{\text{PPt}}$  (3277 Hz) are close to those of the (pdt)Pt<sup>II</sup>(dppe) precursor ( $\delta$  44.5,  $^1J_{\text{PPt}} = 2717 \text{ Hz}$ ). While NMR data are in line with Pt coordination being either (i) highly fluxional tetrahedral or (ii) square-planar, the latter is most consistent with low-energy  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands. Square planarity at Pt is corroborated by DFT geometry optimization (Figure 6).

Indeed, rather than being isostructural to **1** and **2**, **3** is predicted to feature a square-planar Pt site, with the angle



**Figure 6.** Energy-minimized structure of **3** obtained with DFT. Selected distances (Å): Fe–Pt, 2.87; Fe–C1, 1.75; Fe–C2, 1.75; Fe–C3, 1.76; Fe–S1, 2.34; Fe–S2, 2.37; Pt–S1, 2.37; Pt–S2, 2.38; Pt–P1, 2.28; Pt–P2, 2.28. Selected angles (deg): C1–Fe–S2, 136.8; C2–Fe–S1, 169.4; S1–Pt–P2, 176.1; S2–Pt–P1, 177.7.

between the PtP<sub>2</sub> and PtS<sub>2</sub> planes being  $4^\circ$ . The calculated Fe–Pt distance (2.87 Å) exceeds the sum of the covalent radii (2.68 Å),<sup>21</sup> suggesting an absence of Fe–Pt bonding and a purely pentacoordinate Fe. This site, in contrast to the square-pyramidal Fe(I) in **2**, is distorted trigonal bipyramidal ( $\tau = 0.54$ ). As mentioned previously, NBO analysis did not reveal *d* orbital mixing, which was observed in **1** and **2**. Overall, the coordination geometries are consistent with an Fe(0)Pt(II) description for **3**.

Quasi-reversible oxidations for  $(\text{CO})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})$  were observed at  $-0.93$  and  $+0.33 \text{ V}$  (Figure S29), potentials similar to those for the FePd analog **2**. The proposed sequence of  $1e^-$  events: Fe(0)Pt(II)  $\rightleftharpoons$  Fe(I)Pt(II)  $\rightleftharpoons$  Fe(II)Pt(II). This sequence is supported by the IR spectrum for  $[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$  ( $[\text{3}]\text{BF}_4$ , prepared from **3** and  $\text{FcBF}_4$ ), in which the  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands (2058, 1987  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) are at virtually identical energies to the *bona fide* Fe(I)M(II) species  $[\text{1}]^+$  and  $[\text{2}]^+$ . While the EPR spectrum of  $[\text{3}]^+$  indicates some unpaired spin resides on Pt ( $A(^{195}\text{Pt}) \approx 97 \text{ MHz}$ ,  $A(^{31}\text{P}) \approx 11 \text{ MHz}$ ), the *g*-shifts suggest an Fe(I)Pt(II) description to be appropriate, as mirrored in the spin density calculations (Table 3). The

**Table 3.** Calculated Spin Densities on Metal Centers in Mixed-Valence Fe(I)M(II) Species

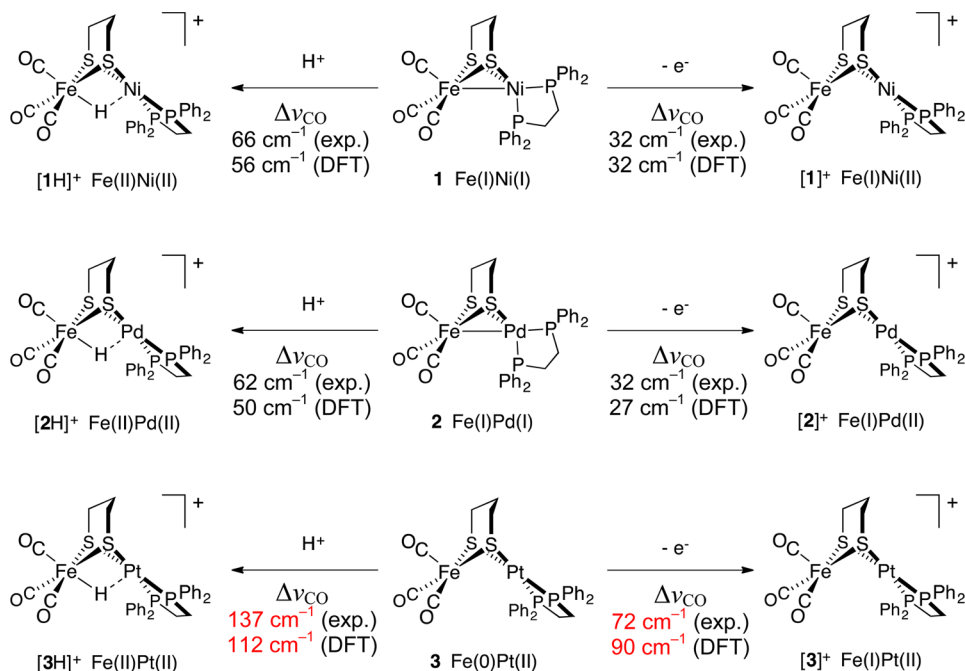
complex	$\rho(\text{M})$	$\rho(\text{Fe})$
$[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{dppe})]^+ ([\text{1}]^+)$	0.04	1.03
$[\text{C}_3\text{P}(\text{OC})_2\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{dppe})]^+ ([\text{1}']^+)$	0.01	1.14
$[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pd}(\text{dppe})]^+ ([\text{2}]^+)$	0.03	1.04
$[\text{C}_3\text{P}(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pd}(\text{dppe})]^+ ([\text{2}']^+)$	0.03	1.06
$[(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})]^+ ([\text{3}]^+)$	0.03	1.03
$[\text{C}_3\text{P}(\text{OC})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})]^+ ([\text{3}']^+)$	0.04	1.05

paramagnetic salt  $[\text{3}]\text{BF}_4$  undergoes ligand substitution with  $\text{PCy}_3$  to afford dicarbonyl  $[\text{C}_3\text{P}(\text{OC})_2\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$  ( $[\text{3}']\text{BF}_4$ ), the characterization for which mirrors that for  $[\text{2}']\text{BF}_4$ .

As expected, reaction of low-valent **3** with  $\text{HBF}_4$  furnished the hydride salt  $[(\text{OC})_3\text{FeH}(\text{pdt})\text{Pt}(\text{dppe})]\text{BF}_4$  ( $[\text{3H}]\text{BF}_4$ ), for which a  $^1\text{H}$  NMR resonance at  $\delta -3.57$  is particularly diagnostic. The small coupling observed for the satellites ( $^1J_{\text{HPt}} = 173 \text{ Hz}$ ) indicates that the  $\text{H}\cdots\text{Pt}$  interactions are rather weak. For comparison, square-planar platinum hydrides exhibit  $^1J_{\text{HPt}}$  from  $\sim 650$  to  $1700 \text{ Hz}$ ,<sup>24</sup> with  $^1J_{\text{HPt}}$  being at the low end of this range for five-coordinate complexes of the type  $[\text{Pt}(\text{PR}_3)_4\text{H}]^+$ .<sup>25</sup> Thus,  $[\text{3H}]^+$  is similar to its FePd analog in that the  $\text{H}^-$  ligand can be considered terminally Fe-bound, as also supported by the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR resonances for **3** being insensitive to protonation at Fe (for  $[\text{3H}]^+$   $\delta$  46.4,  $^1J_{\text{PPt}} = 3220 \text{ Hz}$ ). In contrast, the energies of the  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands for the FePt conjugate acid and base species are very different—those for  $[\text{3H}]^+$  (2081, 2022  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) are greatly shifted relative to those for **3** (the average shift, taking into account the A + E patterns was  $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}} = 137 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). A similar shift (139  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) was observed by Angelici and co-workers upon protonation of the Fe(0) species  $\text{Fe}(\text{dppe})(\text{CO})_3$  to give the ferrous hydride  $[\text{FeH}(\text{dppe})(\text{CO})_3]^+$ .<sup>26</sup> Taken together, these data are consistent with Fe(0)Pt(II), Fe(I)Pt(II), and Fe(II)HPt(II) assignments for **3**,  $[\text{3}]\text{BF}_4$ , and  $[\text{3H}]\text{BF}_4$ , respectively.

While only a handful of FePt complexes bearing  $\text{H}^-$  and CO ligands exist, the compounds  $(\text{CO})_3\text{FeH}(\mu\text{-PR}_2)\text{Pt}(\text{PR}'_3)_2$  are particularly pertinent.<sup>27</sup> These complexes interconvert between isomers with terminal  $(\text{H})\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}\text{Pt}_0$  and bridging  $(\text{Fe}_0\mu\text{-}$

Scheme 3



H)Pt<sup>II</sup>) hydride ligands. When these FePt species feature the substituents R = Ph, R' = OPh, a non-fluxional terminal hydride results ( $^1J_{HPt} = 28$  Hz), whereas when R = Cy, R' = Et the hydride is evenly shared ( $^1J_{HPt} = 520$  Hz). One would expect values double the latter ( $\sim 1000$  Hz) for purely terminal Pt–H moieties.<sup>28</sup>

**Comparison of CO Frequencies.** Good agreement was found between experimental and calculated shifts in weighted average CO vibrational frequency ( $\Delta\nu_{CO}$ ) induced by protonation and oxidation of bimetallics 1–3 (Scheme 3). Protonation of the FeNi and FePd complexes is predicted to shift  $\nu_{CO}$  by  $\sim 50$   $cm^{-1}$ . In contrast, the shift induced by protonation of the FePt analog is much greater, with  $\Delta\nu_{CO} \sim 110$   $cm^{-1}$ . These  $\Delta\nu_{CO}$  values correlate with the formal changes in Fe oxidation state: from +I to +II upon protonation of 1 and 2 as well as from 0 to +II upon protonation of 3. Trends in  $\Delta\nu_{CO}$  for the couples  $[1]^{0/+}$ ,  $[2]^{0/+}$ , and  $[3]^{0/+}$  are similar to those seen for protonation, the effects again being greater for the Pt case. The  $\Delta\nu_{CO}$  values for these oxidations are consistent with their occurring remote from the Fe(CO)<sub>3</sub> center in [1] and [2] but directly at this center in [3].

**Stereochemical Non-Rigidity.** As discussed above, the fluxionality of 1 and 2, evidenced by the broad singlet in their  $^{31}P\{^1H\}$  NMR spectra, implicate the presence of a transient or intermediate species featuring square-planar Ni/Pd centers (Scheme 1, top). This conformational motion is likely to perturb both the oxidation states and intermetallic bonding of the Fe and M centers. Two optimized DFT structures characterized as minima were calculated for each bimetallic 1–3: one in which the (pdt)M(dppe) fragment is tetrahedral, and one in which it is square-planar. Selected bond lengths and angles are provided in Table S5. In each case, the Fe center is within bonding distance of M when the latter adopts a tetrahedral geometry, while the Fe–M distance is elongated when M is planar. The Fe–M elongation is subtle in the FeNi case (0.13 Å) but more pronounced for FePd and FePt ( $\sim 0.30$  Å). The relative stability of the two isomers was computed, and

**Table 4. Calculated Reaction Free Energies and Free Energy Barriers (kcal/mol) for Rotation from Tetrahedral to Square-Planar Geometry at the M(dppe) Site in Compounds 1–3**

complex	$\Delta G^\circ$ DFT	$\Delta G^\ddagger$ DFT <sup>a</sup>	$\Delta G^\ddagger$ expt <sup>c</sup>
(OC) <sub>3</sub> Fe(pdt)Ni(dppe) (1)	−0.67	6.66	9.5
(OC) <sub>3</sub> Fe(pdt)Pd(dppe) (2)	+0.99	3.29	<7.2
(OC) <sub>3</sub> Fe(pdt)Pt(dppe) (3)	−30.42	ND <sup>b</sup>	ND

<sup>a</sup>The potential energy surface was found to be extremely flat along the isomerization pathway. As a result, the single imaginary frequency for the transition state (TS) was  $<20$   $cm^{-1}$  for the two barriers given in this table. Each TS was verified to lead to the relevant tetrahedral and square-planar geometries by following the intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) for 4 or 5 steps in both directions and subsequently optimizing the geometries. As the imaginary frequencies may be below the numerical accuracy of the methodology, and the complete IRC was not obtained, the free energy barriers should be viewed with caution. Moreover, multiple TSs were found for 1, suggesting a ruffled potential energy surface connecting the two isomers, and only the highest free energy barrier is reported. <sup>b</sup>The TS was not determined for 3 as the isomerization was found to be significantly exergonic. <sup>c</sup>Estimated according to the Gutowsky–Holm relation using the coalescence temperature of 243 K (detailed in SI), but the DFT free energies were calculated at 298 K for consistency with other experiments. Note that the calculated and experimental free energy barriers are not exactly equivalent.

the reaction free energies ( $\Delta G^\circ$ ) and free energy barriers ( $\Delta G^\ddagger$ ) associated with tetrahedral to square-planar isomerization are presented in Table 4.

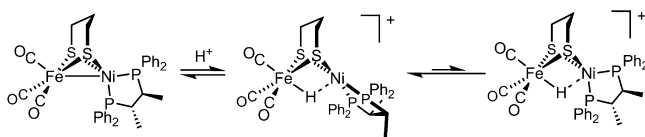
For the FeNi and FePd congeners, the isomerization is close to thermoneutral ( $\Delta G^\circ = -0.67$  and  $+0.99$  kcal/mol, respectively). Given the error associated with the calculations, it is not possible to determine a thermodynamic preference for the coordination geometry at Ni/Pd. The reaction free energies calculated using various other density functionals and basis sets with geometry optimization in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solvent are qualitatively consistent with the results presented here, although certain

levels of theory do not predict a stable square-planar intermediate for geometry optimizations in the gas phase (see Tables S6–S8). The calculated free energy barriers are relatively low, consistent with the fluxionality of **1** and **2** observed in their room temperature NMR spectra. Because the potential energy surfaces for **1** and **2** were found to be extremely flat along the isomerization pathway, the calculated free energy barriers may not be quantitatively accurate and can be analyzed only qualitatively. The calculated free energy barrier of 6.66 kcal/mol for **1** is qualitatively consistent with, although somewhat lower than, the free energy barrier of 9.5 kcal/mol estimated from the coalescence temperature in the NMR measurement. Moreover, the lower calculated free energy barrier of 3.29 kcal/mol for **2** is consistent with the lack of decoalescence observed in the NMR experiments for **2**. The observation of a particularly flat potential energy surface along the isomerization pathway has implications for the enzymatic system, where the geometry at the Ni site is between tetrahedral and square-planar.

The similarity in free energies and the relatively low free energy barriers suggest that the two isomers of **1** and **2** may interconvert. In addition, the free energy change associated with oxidation of **1** and **2** is similar for the two different isomers, with the calculated reduction potentials of the square-planar and tetrahedral isomers differing by only  $\sim 0.03$  V, which is within the estimated error of the methodology. It is thus a distinct possibility that the Ni/Pd centers in **1** and **2** “preorganize” into square-planar geometries prior to  $1e^-$  loss. In the case of FePt complex **3**, the square-planar isomer is overwhelmingly favored, consistent with the high stability characteristic of square-planar Pt(II) centers. Calculations indicate that  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  energies for the tetrahedral isomer of **3**, which was found to be a local minimum, are within  $10\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of those for **1** and **2**. Square-planar isomers of **1** and **2**, while not observed experimentally, have calculated  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands  $55\text{--}65\text{ cm}^{-1}$  lower in energy than the respective tetrahedral conformers. This  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  shift is consistent with the change in conformation inducing a change in oxidation state.

Given the dynamics in the neutral species **1** (as well as **2**), we set about investigating hydride  $[\text{1H}]^+$  to yield further insight into the mechanism of protonation. At room temperature,  $[(\text{CO})_3\text{FeH}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{dppe})]^+$  displays a single  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR peak owing to its  $C_s$ -symmetry. In view of the difficulty with determining whether or not Ni(dppe) twisting is occurring here, we interrogated an analogous hydride of lower symmetry, which entailed preparation of the new bimetallic  $(\text{CO})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{S,S-chiraphos})$  (S,S-chiraphos = 2S,3S-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane, Scheme 4). Analogous to **1**, this

Scheme 4

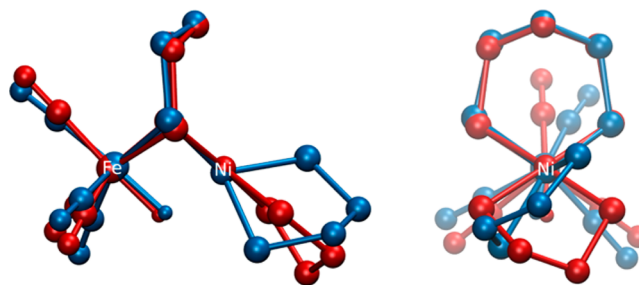


species gave rise to a single  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR resonance at room temperature, with decoalescence observed on cooling to  $-90\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , at which temperature Ni(S,S-chiraphos) twisting is slowed (Figure S49).

While  $(\text{CO})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}(\text{S,S-chiraphos})$  twists rapidly at room temperature, its conjugate acid does not; the *non-equivalent*  $^{31}\text{P}$  nuclei in the chiral hydride  $[(\text{CO})_3\text{FeH}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}$

(S,S-chiraphos)] $^+$  (Scheme 4, center) give rise to two broad signals (resolved into two  $^{31}\text{P}$ -coupled doublets at  $-70\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ). If twisting and equivalencing of the  $^{31}\text{P}$  sites were to be facile, it would be necessary for a tetrahedral hydride (Scheme 4, right) to be energetically accessible, which appears not to be the case. In general, it is proposed that twisting of neutral species is associated with “on/off” switching of Fe–M bonding in the FeNi and FePd (but not FePt) complexes. It is now evident that the twisting of hydride species is slower, perhaps reflecting the rigidifying influence of the  $\text{H}\cdots\text{M}$  interactions (despite their weakness).

These observations are supported by computational work: the twisting of hydride  $[\text{1H}]^+$  was investigated, and two optimized DFT structures characterized as minima were calculated for the isomers of  $[\text{1H}]^+$ . The relative free energies of the structures, which feature either square-planar or tetrahedral (pdt)Ni(dppe) fragments (Figure 7), were also calculated.



**Figure 7.** Energy-minimized structures obtained with DFT for  $[\text{1H}]^+$  with the (pdt)Ni(dppe) moiety either square-planar (red) or distorted tetrahedral (blue). The optimized geometries are superimposed and presented in two views. Other (higher energy) isomers/tautomers proposed can be found in Figure S57.

Twisting of the square-planar (pdt)Ni(dppe) site in  $[\text{1H}]^+$  to adopt a tetrahedral geometry was calculated to be significantly endergonic ( $\Delta G^\circ = +11.47\text{ kcal/mol}$ ). The tetrahedral conformer is predicted by DFT to be far ( $\sim 10^8\times$ ) more acidic than the square-planar state (the experimental  $\text{p}K_a(\text{MeCN})$  for  $[\text{1H}]^+$  is 10.7).<sup>11</sup> Considering the conjugate bases for the two isomers of  $[\text{1H}]^+$ , these results suggest that **1** has greatly enhanced basicity when in the square-planar form, consistent with its description as Fe(0)Ni(II) (Scheme 1). Thus, it is reasonable that this isomer is responsible for the rich acid–base and redox chemistry exhibited by **1** and related complexes.

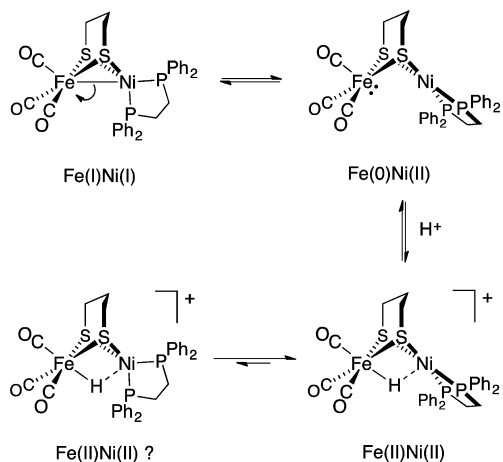
## CONCLUSIONS

Numerous studies have examined the protonation and  $1e^-$  oxidation of complexes of the type  $(\text{CO})_3\text{Fe}(\text{pdt})\text{Ni}$  (diphosphine) and substituted derivatives thereof. This paper presents evidence that the protonations, and possibly the oxidations, proceed via a latent  $2e^-$  mixed-valence intermediate (Scheme 5).

Despite previous computational analyses,<sup>10,13,15</sup> this key square-planar species had not been identified as an energetically accessible isomer of **1**. The first clue for this unsuspected structure was provided by the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR properties of **1**, which implicate a transient or intermediate square-planar species that interconverts the  $^{31}\text{P}$  sites. The new and compelling evidence for the intermediate comes from (i) DFT calculations that suggested thermodynamically accessible rotation at the non-Fe



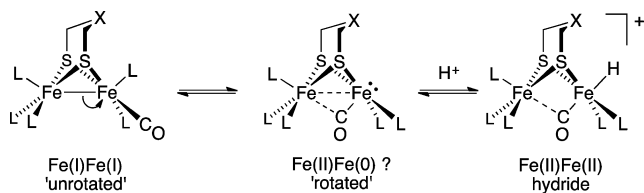
Scheme 5



center and (ii) spectroscopic and electrochemical properties of the FePt complex, the protonation and redox behavior of which mirrors that of Fe(0) diphosphines.<sup>26,29</sup> The  $2e^-$  mixed valency of **1** contrast with that for (cymene)Ru(pdt)Ni(dppe), which features a rigidly tetrahedral Ni(0) center.<sup>30</sup>

The rotation-induced  $2e^-$  mixed-valence behavior also has implications for understanding active site mimics of the [FeFe]-H<sub>2</sub>ases. Prior to protonation, model complexes almost invariably feature Fe<sub>2</sub>(SR)<sub>2</sub>L<sub>6</sub> cores wherein terminal coordination sites are *unavailable* for H<sup>+</sup> binding. Protonation of these Fe(I)Fe(I) complexes has been proposed to proceed via a “rotated intermediate” (Scheme 6).<sup>31</sup> Models for this rotated

Scheme 6



state have been crystallized, revealing that Fe–Fe bonding is weakened and a terminal site on one Fe center is vacant.<sup>32</sup> By analogy to the results in this paper, such rotated diiron complexes should perhaps be described as Fe(II)Fe(0), thus underlining the role of latent, but highly reactive intermediates.

Overall, the work reported here shows that the geometry at Ni decisively influences the reactivity of a neighboring Fe site. For small molecule [NiFe]-H<sub>2</sub>ase mimics, it has been demonstrated that perturbation of the Ni site greatly alters the acid–base properties of these complexes. With respect to the hydrogenases themselves, the results suggest that the distorted nature of the Ni(Cys)<sub>4</sub> site is likely an important factor in tuning basicity and redox potentials, thereby enabling their remarkable activity.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Unless otherwise stated, chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. Chromatography was performed using SiO<sub>2</sub> (40–63 μm, 230–400 mesh) as the stationary phase. CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub>. The complexes **1**,<sup>20</sup> FeI<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Ni(S,S-chiraphos),<sup>33</sup> (pdt)Pd(dppe), and (pdt)Pt(dppe)<sup>34</sup> were prepared according to the literature methods. All reactions and purifications were conducted in an MBraun glovebox equipped with a solvent

purification system; the concentrations of O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O in the N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere were typically no higher than 2 and 0.2 ppm, respectively. Glassware used in the preparation of deuteride [2D]BF<sub>4</sub> was washed with D<sub>2</sub>O and dried prior to use. Solution IR spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum 100 FTIR spectrometer. A Waters Micromass Quattro II spectrometer was used to acquire ESI-MS data for analytes in dilute CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution. Analytical data were acquired using an Exeter Analytical CE-440 elemental analyzer. Unless otherwise stated, NMR data were acquired at room temperature, with samples under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian VXR500 or U500 spectrometer at 500 and 202 MHz, respectively. <sup>2</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian UI 500NB spectrometer at 77 MHz. Chemical shifts (δ/ppm) are referenced to CHDCl<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.32 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H) and external 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0 ppm for <sup>31</sup>P). Cyclic voltammetry was carried out in a single compartment glass cell using a CH Instruments CHI630D electrochemical analyzer. The working, counter, and pseudoreference electrodes were glassy C, Pt, and Ag, respectively. The analyte (1 mM) and NBu<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (100 mM) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and potentials (reported here relative to internal Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>) were swept at 0.1 V s<sup>-1</sup>. Crystallographic data were collected using a Siemens SMART diffractometer equipped with a Mo K<sub>α</sub> source (λ = 0.71073 Å) and an Apex II detector. EPR spectra of complexes (~1 mM in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/PhMe, 1:1) were recorded on a Varian E-line 12” Century Series X-band CW spectrometer.

**(OC)<sub>3</sub>Fe(pdt)Pd(dppe) (2).** At –28 °C, a mixture of FeI<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub> (29.5 mg, 70 μmol) and (pdt)Pd(dppe) (42.8 mg, 70 μmol) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) with stirring. After 1 min, the solution was treated with CoCp<sub>2</sub> (26.5 mg, 140 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) and allowed to warm to room temperature, before it was concentrated to ~0.5 mL and chromatographed (~10 cm SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> eluent). The fourth band, deep green in color, was concentrated to ~2 mL, layered with pentane (~20 mL), and allowed to stand overnight at –28 °C. The solids that formed were isolated by filtration, washed with pentane (2 × 1 mL), and dried briefly to afford the title compound as dark-green plates (9.0 mg, 12 μmol, 17%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 7.74 (m, 8H, *o*-Ph), 7.43 (m, 8H, *m*-Ph), 7.42 (m, 4H, *p*-Ph), 2.59 (ddd, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.5 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 5.8 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.3 Hz, 2H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.35 (m, 2H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), 2.22 (m, 2H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), 1.94 (m, 2H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 51.3. ESI-MS: *m/z* 749.8 [M]<sup>+</sup>, 721.8 [M – CO]<sup>+</sup>, 693.8 [M – 2CO]<sup>+</sup> (ionization induced by addition of Fc[B(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>-3,5-(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]). Anal. calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>NiPd·0.2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 50.36; H, 3.99; N, 0.00. Found: C, 50.35; H, 3.57; N, 0.00. Green plates of **2** formed upon slow diffusion of pentane layered onto a concentrated CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of the title compound at –28 °C. One crystal (0.377 × 0.232 × 0.058 mm<sup>3</sup>) was subjected to X-ray diffraction at 168 K. Its space group was determined to be triclinic *P*-1 with cell parameters: *a* 8.900 Å, *b* 12.883 Å, *c* 14.778 Å, α 104.64°, β 106.73°, γ 90.98°. Integration of 6798 reflections and solution by direct methods using SHELXTL V6.12 afforded a model with R1 = 0.0285 and wR2 = 0.0684.

**[(OC)<sub>3</sub>Fe(pdt)Pd(dppe)]BF<sub>4</sub> ([2]BF<sub>4</sub>).** A stirred solution of **2** (11.3 mg, 15 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) was treated with FcBF<sub>4</sub> (4.1 mg, 15 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL). After 1 min, pentane (20 mL) was added, and the mixture allowed to stand overnight at –28 °C. The solids were isolated by filtration, washed with pentane (2 × 1 mL), and dried briefly to afford the title compound as an olive-brown powder (3.5 mg, 4.2 μmol, 28%). ESI-MS: *m/z* 749.8 [M – BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 721.8 [M – CO – BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 693.8 [M – 2CO – BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>30</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PdS<sub>2</sub>BF<sub>4</sub>·0.5CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 44.35; H, 3.55; N, 0.00. Found: C, 44.26; H, 3.19; N, 0.54.

**[(OC)<sub>3</sub>FeH(pdt)Pd(dppe)]BF<sub>4</sub> ([2H]BF<sub>4</sub>).** A solution of **2** (22.5 mg, 30 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) was treated with HBF<sub>4</sub> (54% Et<sub>2</sub>O solution, 14.6 mg, 90 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL). The solution was evaporated to dryness, and the oily residue triturated with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 mL). The resulting solid was isolated by filtration, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 1 mL), and dried briefly to afford the title compound as an orange powder (21.1 mg, 25 μmol, 84%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 7.70 (m, 8H, *o*-Ph), 7.64 (t, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.7 Hz, 4H, *p*-Ph), 7.57 (m, 8H, *m*-Ph),



2.87 (m, 4H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), 2.63 (m, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.30 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29 (m, 1H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), -4.3 (s, 1H, FeH). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 62.8. ESI-MS: *m/z* 750.8 [M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. Orange blocks of [2H]BF<sub>4</sub>·THF·0.5Et<sub>2</sub>O formed upon slow diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O vapor into a THF solution of the title compound at -28 °C. One crystal (0.377 × 0.232 × 0.058 mm<sup>3</sup>) was subjected to X-ray diffraction at 178 K. Its space group was determined to be monoclinic *P*<sub>2</sub>/*n* with cell parameters: *a* 11.466 Å, *b* 20.692 Å, *c* 34.720 Å, α 90.00°, β 97.41°, γ 90.00°. Integration of 9965 reflections and solution by direct methods using SHELXTL V6.12 afforded a model with *R*<sub>1</sub> = 0.0369 and *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.0754.

[(OC)<sub>3</sub>FeD(pdt)Pd(dppe)]BF<sub>4</sub> ([2D]BF<sub>4</sub>). A solution of 2 (22.5 mg, 30 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) and CD<sub>3</sub>OD (0.1 mL) was treated with HBF<sub>4</sub> (54% Et<sub>2</sub>O solution, 14.6 mg, 90 μmol) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (0.3 mL). The solution was evaporated to dryness, and the oily residue triturated with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 mL). The resulting solid was isolated by filtration, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 1 mL), and dried briefly to afford the title compound as an orange powder (19.6 mg, 23 μmol, 78%). <sup>2</sup>H NMR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ -4.3 (m). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 64.3. ESI-MS: *m/z* 751.9 [M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>30</sub>DFeO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PdS<sub>2</sub>BF<sub>4</sub>·0.25CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 44.99; H, 3.69; N, 0.00. Found: C, 45.03; H, 3.82; N, 0.00.

[C<sub>3</sub>P(OC)<sub>2</sub>Fe(pdt)Pd(dppe)]BF<sub>4</sub> ([2']BF<sub>4</sub>). Compound 2 (15.0 mg, 20 μmol) and FcBF<sub>4</sub> (5.4 mg, 20 μmol) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) with rapid stirring. After 1 min the solution was added dropwise to PCy<sub>3</sub> (28.0 mg, 100 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL). The solution was stirred for a further 0.5 min, and pentane (-28 °C, 15 mL) was added and the mixture allowed to stand overnight at -28 °C. The solids were isolated by filtration, washed with pentane (-28 °C, 2 × 2 mL), and dried briefly to afford the title compound as a yellow-brown powder (5.9 mg, 5.4 μmol, 27%). ESI-MS: *m/z* 1002.4 [M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 974.3 [M - CO - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>49</sub>H<sub>63</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>PdS<sub>2</sub>BF<sub>4</sub>·0.25CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 53.23; H, 5.76; N, 0.00. Found: C, 53.16; H, 5.82; N, 0.20.

(OC)<sub>3</sub>Fe(pdt)Pt(dppe) (3). A mixture of solid Fe<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub> (25.3 mg, 60 μmol) and (pdt)Pt(dppe) (42.0 mg, 60 μmol) was cooled to -28 °C and dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) with stirring. After 1 min, the solution was treated with CoCp<sub>2</sub> (22.7 mg, 120 μmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) and allowed to warm to room temperature before it was concentrated to ~0.5 mL and chromatographed (~10 cm SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> eluent). The olive-brown band (following the rapidly eluting orange band containing Fe<sub>2</sub>(pdt)(CO)<sub>6</sub>) was concentrated to ~2 mL, layered with pentane (~20 mL), and allowed to stand overnight at -28 °C. The supernatant was removed, the dark residue triturated with pentane (2 × 5 mL), and dried briefly to afford the title compound as a brown powder (17.0 mg, 20.2 μmol, 34%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 7.86 (m, 8H, *o*-Ph), 7.48 (m, 8H, *m*-Ph), 7.46 (m, 4H, *p*-Ph), 2.57 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.22 (m, 4H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), 1.58 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 44.1 (s, d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>Pt</sub> = 3280 Hz). ESI-MS: *m/z* 838.9 [M]<sup>+</sup> (ionization induced by addition of Fc[B(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>-3,5-(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]). Anal. calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>30</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PtS<sub>2</sub>: C, 45.78; H, 3.60; N, 0.00. Found: C, 46.36; H, 3.22; N, 0.05.

[(OC)<sub>3</sub>Fe(pdt)Pt(dppe)]BF<sub>4</sub> ([3]BF<sub>4</sub>). This compound was prepared analogously to [2]BF<sub>4</sub>, instead using 3 as the precursor. Yield: 81%, yellow-green powder. ESI-MS: *m/z* 838.9 [M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.

[(OC)<sub>3</sub>FeH(pdt)Pt(dppe)]BF<sub>4</sub> ([3H]BF<sub>4</sub>). This compound was prepared analogously to [2H]BF<sub>4</sub>, instead using 3 as the precursor. Yield: 69%, orange powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 7.70 (m, 8H, *o*-Ph), 7.64-7.54 (m, 12H, *m,p*-Ph), 2.88 (m, 2H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), 2.7 (m, 2H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), 2.59 (m, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.43 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29 (m, 1H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), -3.57 (s, d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>HPt</sub> = 173 Hz, 1H, FeH). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 46.4 (s, d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>Pt</sub> = 3220 Hz). ESI-MS: *m/z* 839.9 [M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PtS<sub>2</sub>BF<sub>4</sub>·0.5CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 40.25; H, 3.33; N, 0.00. Found: C, 40.10; H, 2.93; N, 0.04.

[C<sub>3</sub>P(OC)<sub>2</sub>Fe(pdt)Pt(dppe)]BF<sub>4</sub> ([3']BF<sub>4</sub>). This compound was prepared analogously to [2']BF<sub>4</sub>, instead using 3 as the precursor. Yield: 72%, yellow powder. ESI-MS: *m/z* 1091.7 [M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>49</sub>H<sub>63</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>PtS<sub>2</sub>BF<sub>4</sub>·0.75CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 48.09; H, 5.23; N, 0.00. Found: C, 48.06; H, 5.42; N, 0.52.

(pdt)Ni(*S,S*-chiraphos). This compound was prepared analogously to (pdt)Ni(dppe), instead using Cl<sub>2</sub>Ni(*S,S*-chiraphos) as the precursor.<sup>33</sup> Yield: 95%, orange powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 8.15 (m, 4H, *p*-Ph), 7.63-7.47 (m, 16H, *o,m*-Ph), 2.19 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.03 (m, 2H, CH), 1.81 (qu, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.3 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.96 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 10.6 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 56.1. ESI-MS: *m/z* 590.4 [M]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>34</sub>S<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Ni: C, 62.96; H, 5.79; N, 0.00. Found: C, 62.22; H, 5.69; N, 0.41.

(CO)<sub>3</sub>Fe(pdt)Ni(*S,S*-chiraphos). The complexes (pdt)Ni(*S,S*-chiraphos) (118.3 mg, 200 μmol) and Fe<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub> (72.8 mg, 200 μmol) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) with stirring. After 18 h, the deep green solution was concentrated to ~0.5 mL and chromatographed (~10 cm SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> eluent). An olive-green band was collected, treated with MeCN (~5 mL), concentrated to ~1 mL and cooled to -28 °C. The solids were isolated by filtration, washed with MeCN (-28 °C, 2 mL) and pentane (-28 °C, 2 × 2 mL), and dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) and MeCN (5 mL). The solution was concentrated to ~1 mL and cooled to -28 °C. The crystals that formed were isolated by filtration, washed with MeCN (-28 °C, 2 mL) and pentane (-28 °C, 2 × 2 mL), and dried to afford the title complex as dark green crystals (46.9 mg, 64.1 μmol, 32%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 8.11 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.62 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.52-7.39 (m, 12H, Ph), 2.57 (ddd, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.1 Hz, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.17 (ddd, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.1 Hz, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.98 (m, 2H, CH), 1.91 (m, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.82 (m, 2H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.31 (m, 1H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.87 (m, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 63.8. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -90 °C): δ 75.0, 52.6. FTIR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): ν<sub>CO</sub> = 2026, 1953 cm<sup>-1</sup>. ESI-MS: *m/z* 729.3 [M]<sup>+</sup> (ionization induced by addition of Fc[B(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>-3,5-(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]). Anal. calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>NiFe: C, 55.84; H, 4.69; N, 0.00. Found: C, 55.15; H, 4.53; N, 0.57.

[(CO)<sub>3</sub>FeH(pdt)Ni(*S,S*-chiraphos)]BF<sub>4</sub>. This compound was prepared analogously to [2H]BF<sub>4</sub>, instead using (CO)<sub>3</sub>Fe(pdt)Ni(*S,S*-chiraphos) as the precursor. Yield: 82%, orange-brown powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 7.89 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 10.8 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz, 4H, *p*-Ph), 7.80-7.57 (m, 16H, *o,m*-Ph), 2.60 (m, 2H, CH), 2.37 (ddd, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 14.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.9 Hz, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.29 (dm, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.8 Hz, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.15 (dm, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.7 Hz, 1H, equatorial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.91 (m, 1H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.82 (ddd, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.7 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.7 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.0 Hz, 1H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.30 (m, 1H, axial CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.87 (m, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>)-3.57 (t, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 4.8 Hz, 1H, FeH). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 71.7, 67.9. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -70 °C): δ 72.6 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 67 Hz), 67.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 67 Hz). FTIR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): ν<sub>CO</sub> = 2082, 2022 cm<sup>-1</sup>. ESI-MS: *m/z* 730.4 [M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>35</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>FeNiBF<sub>4</sub>·0.5CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 48.10; H, 4.21; N, 0.00. Found: C, 48.12; H, 4.11; N, 0.40.

**Calculations.** DFT calculations were performed using the B3P86 density functional with the SDD pseudopotential and basis set<sup>35</sup> for the Fe, Ni, Pd, and Pt atoms, the 6-31G\*\* basis set<sup>36</sup> for μ-H ligands, and the 6-31G\* basis set<sup>37,38</sup> for all other atoms. The starting geometries for 1,<sup>10</sup> [1H]<sup>+</sup>,<sup>20</sup> 2, and [2H]<sup>+</sup> were obtained from crystal structures. The starting coordinates for atoms in 3 and [3H]<sup>+</sup> were obtained from the crystal structure of [2H]<sup>+</sup>, where the metal center and hydride were manually altered prior to optimization. Solvation effects were included using the conductor-like polarizable continuum model<sup>39,40</sup> with Bondi atomic radii<sup>41</sup> and included the non-electrostatic contributions of dispersion,<sup>42,43</sup> repulsion,<sup>42,43</sup> and cavitation energies.<sup>44</sup>

For the results presented in the main paper, the geometry optimizations were performed in the gas phase. Geometry optimizations were also performed in solution and were found to be consistent with the gas phase optimizations; these results are provided in the Supporting Information. In all cases, the minimum-energy structures were confirmed to have no imaginary frequencies. The ν<sub>CO</sub> values were calculated with DFT and were scaled by the standard factor of 0.9850.<sup>45</sup> The transition states (TSs) for the tetrahedral to

square-planar isomerization were identified using the synchronous transit-guided quasi-Newton method,<sup>46,47</sup> and the resulting structures were confirmed to have only a single imaginary frequency. Each TS was verified to lead to the relevant tetrahedral and square-planar geometries by following the IRC using the local quadratic approximation<sup>48</sup> for 4 or 5 steps in both directions and subsequently optimizing the geometries. Because the potential energy surface was found to be very flat, the single imaginary frequencies were small, and the complete IRC connecting the two isomers through the TS could not be obtained.

Thermochemical data were calculated at  $T = 298.15$  K. The reaction free energies ( $\Delta G^\circ$ ) and free energy barriers ( $\Delta G^\ddagger$ ) associated with the tetrahedral to square-planar isomerization in solution included zero-point energy, entropic contributions, and solvation effects. The relative reduction potentials and  $pK_a$ 's were calculated from the corresponding reaction free energies using methodology described elsewhere.<sup>49</sup> Chemical bonding analysis was performed using NBO.<sup>23</sup> All calculations were performed using the Gaussian 09 electronic structure program.<sup>50</sup> Structures and energies of the systems studied herein are provided in the Supporting Information.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

Supporting Information: experimental and computational data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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