# Theoretical Evidence for Transannular Metal-Metal Interactions in Dinuclear Coinage Metal Complexes ${ }^{\dagger}$ 

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#### Abstract

The dinuclear head-to-tail complexes $\left[\mathrm{M}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right)_{2}\right]^{2+}(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Cu}(\mathbf{1}), \mathrm{Ag}(\mathbf{2 a}, \mathbf{2 b}), \mathrm{Au}$ (4)) are obtained either by reaction of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right)_{4}\right] \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}, \mathrm{AgClO}_{4}, \mathrm{AgCF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$, with equimolecular amounts of $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}$ or of $\left[\mathrm{AuCl}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right)\right]$ (3), prepared by reaction of $[\mathrm{AuCl}($ tht $)]$ and $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}$, with $\mathrm{AgCF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$. The crystal structures of complexes 2a and $\mathbf{4}$ have been established by X-ray diffraction studies. Ab initio HF/II and MP2/II calculations have been performed on the $\left[\mathrm{M}_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{SH}\right)_{2}\right]^{2+}$ model, indicating that metallophilic attraction is indeed present for all the coinage metals as a correlation effect and is strengthened in the case of gold by relativistic effects. Since experimental and theoretically predicted geometries are in close agreement, we assume that our calculations are accurate enough to obtain valid conclusions.


## Introduction

Despite the fact that two closed-shell metal cations would normally be expected to repel each other, a large number of inorganic and organometallic compounds have been described whose structures indicate strong metal-metal attractions. ${ }^{1}$ Particular evidence has now been accumulated for an attractive interaction between two $\mathrm{d}^{10}$ ions. Ab initio calculations indicate the attraction as a correlation effect but strengthened by the large relativistic effects for heavy elements, especially in the case of $\mathrm{Au}(\mathrm{I}){ }^{2}$ Apart from its fundamental interest, this aurophilic attraction ${ }^{3}$ may play a role in the medical applications of gold compounds ${ }^{4}$ or be associated with useful optical properties. ${ }^{5}$ In contrast, the analogous cuprophilicity and argentophilicity of the lighter congeners is still a matter of controversy. Thus, the

[^0]short metal-metal distances observed for copper and silver dinuclear complexes have been attributed to the ligand architecture. ${ }^{6}$ Furthermore, the existence of a copper-copper bonding interaction to reflect the short contacts has both been supported ${ }^{7}$ and refuted ${ }^{8}$ at various levels of theory. To compare the metallophilicity of the three coinage metals, a set of complexes is required involving the same ligands, the same coordination number and geometry. ${ }^{9}$ There are few examples that would permit a clean comparison of $\mathrm{Cu} \cdots \mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Ag} \cdots \mathrm{Ag}$, and $\mathrm{Au} \cdots \mathrm{Au}$ metallophilic bonding. ${ }^{1}$ We report here the first comparative study of the transannular $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{I}} \cdots \mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{I}}$ attraction for the three coinage metals.

In the course of our work on dinuclear complexes $\left[\mathrm{M}_{2} \mathrm{~L}_{2}\right]^{2+},{ }^{10}$ we decided to concentrate on $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{S}$ donor bidentate ligands, at least in part because the majority of coinage metal compounds used in modern technology and medicine or present in biological systems are based on phosphorus and/or sulfur donor ligands. ${ }^{11-15}$ Thus we chose the potentially bidentate ligand $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}$
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and employed it in copper, silver or gold systems in order to compare the metal-metal interactions in the resulting complexes.

## Results and Discussion

Synthesis. We have synthesized the head-to-tail complexes $\left[\mathrm{M}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right)_{2}\right] \mathrm{X}_{2}\left(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}(\mathbf{1}) ; \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Ag}\right.$, $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{ClO}_{4}(\mathbf{2 a}), \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ (2b); $\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Au}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ (4)) by reaction of equimolecular amounts of the phosphinothioether ligand and the appropriate metallic precursor for Cu and Ag (eq 1).


In case of the gold derivative a typical reaction between the gold precursor $\left[\mathrm{Au}(\mathrm{tht})_{2}\right] \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ (tht $=$ tetrahydrothiophene) and the phosphinothioether ligand in molar ratio 1:1 does not produce the expected product; only one tht ligand is substituted. This result differs from those previously described with diphosphines and even with a similar phosphine with three thioether functions. ${ }^{16}$ An alternative pathway consists of the reaction of [ $\left.\mathrm{AuCl}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right)\right]$ (3) (see Experimental Section) and $\mathrm{AgCF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ in equimolecular amounts to give $\left[\mathrm{Au}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}-\right.\right.$ $\mathrm{SPh})] \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ "in situ", which dimerizes to the desired product in the crystallization process (eq 2). The analytical data and physical and spectroscopic properties of complexes $\mathbf{1 - 4}$ are as expected.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& {\left[\mathrm{AuCl}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right)\right]+\mathrm{AgCF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3} \longrightarrow}
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 4
\end{aligned}
$$

Crystal Structures. The crystal structure of $\left[\mathrm{Au}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}-\right.\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{SPh})_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right)_{2}(4)$ has been confirmed by X-ray diffraction studies and is shown in Figure 1. A selection of bond lengths and angles are collected in Table 1. The molecule has imposed crystallographic inversion symmetry and thus only half of it represents the asymmetric unit. Each gold atom is bonded to one sulfur and one phosphorus atom of the two different $\mathrm{PPh}_{2}-$

[^1]

Figure 1. Structure of the cation of complex 4 in the crystal. Displacement parameter ellipsoids represent $50 \%$ probability surfaces. H atoms are omitted for clarity.

Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths ( $\AA$ ) and Angles (deg) for $\mathbf{4}^{a}$

| $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{P}$ | $2.2721(11)$ | $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{S}(1) \# 1$ | $2.3619(11)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{Au} \mathrm{\# 1}$ | $2.9020(5)$ | $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $1.808(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | $1.814(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1.831(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{C}(31)$ | $1.783(5)$ | $\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1.807(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{S}(1) \# 1$ | $175.07(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{Au} \mathrm{\# 1}$ | $91.36(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{Au} \mathrm{\# 1}$ | $93.45(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | $106.8(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $107.8(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $104.8(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Au}$ | $113.77(14)$ | $\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Au}$ | $110.50(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Au}$ | $112.57(14)$ | $\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $103.7(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{Au} \# 1$ | $107.26(14)$ | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{Au} \# 1$ | $107.64(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}$ | $116.9(2)$ |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: \#1, $-x+1,-y+1,-z$.
$\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}$ ligands giving the head-to-tail isomer. The $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{P}$ distance is $2.2721(11) \AA$ and is very similar to those found in other dinuclear gold complexes with mixed sulfur-phosphorus ligands such as $\left[\mathrm{Au}_{2}\left(\mu-\mathrm{S}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{3} \mathrm{~S}\right)(\mu\right.$-dppm)] (2.259(3) and $\left.2.266(3)^{17} \AA\right)(\mathrm{dppm}=\operatorname{bis}($ diphenylphosphino)methane) or $\left[\mathrm{Au}_{2}\left(\mu-\mathrm{SCH}_{2} \mathrm{PEt}_{2}\right)_{2}\right](2.27 \AA) .{ }^{18}$ However, the $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{S}\left(1^{\mathrm{i}}\right)(\mathrm{i}=$ $-x+1,-y+1,-z$ ) distance of $2.3619(11) \AA$ is slightly longer than in the complexes mentioned above, perhaps because the uncharged sulfur donor in 4 leads to weaker $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{S}$ bonds. The $\mathrm{Au} \cdots \mathrm{Au}$ distance is $2.9020(5) \AA$, a typical value for gold-gold interactions in dinuclear gold(I) complexes. There is a weak contact from gold to an oxygen atom of the triflate ligand: $\mathrm{Au} \cdots \mathrm{O}(2), 3.093(4) \AA$.

The crystal structure of the silver complex in the perchlorate salt (complex 2a) has been confirmed by X-ray diffraction studies. The complex crystallizes with two independent molecules, each one associated with a symmetry center; the asymmetric unit thus consists of two-half molecules. One of the molecules is shown in Figure 2 and a selection of bond lengths and angles in Table 2. Each silver atom is bonded to one sulfur and one phosphorus atom of the different $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}{ }^{-}$ SPh ligands giving (as in the gold compound) the head-to-tail isomer. The two independent silver atoms have a slightly distorted linear geometry, with angles $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{S}(1)$, 172.83(4), ${ }^{\circ}$ and $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{S}(2), 173.97(4)^{\circ}$. This distortion may arise from weak $\mathrm{Ag} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ contacts with the perchlorate

[^2]

Figure 2. Perspective view of the cation of one of the molecules of complex 2a. Displacement parameter ellipsoids represent $50 \%$ probability surfaces. H atoms are omitted for clarity.

Table 2. Selected Bond Lengths ( $\AA$ ) and Angles (deg) for $\mathbf{2 a} \mathbf{a}^{a}$

| $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)$ | $2.3896(12)$ | $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{S}(1)$ | $2.4406(12)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1) \# 1$ | $2.9501(8)$ | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $1.807(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | $1.824(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $1.831(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1.781(5)$ | $\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{C}(10) \# 1$ | $1.807(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | $2.3931(13)$ | $\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{S}(2)$ | $2.4519(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2) \# 2$ | $2.9732(9)$ | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(41)$ | $1.805(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(51)$ | $1.821(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(40)$ | $1.838(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(2)-\mathrm{C}(31)$ | $1.790(4)$ | $\mathrm{S}(2)-\mathrm{C}(40) \# 2$ | $1.809(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{S}(1)$ | $172.83(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1) \# 1$ | $86.37(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1) \# 1$ | $96.58(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | $105.1(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $107.9(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $100.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)$ | $11.01(14) \mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)$ | $113.8(2)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)$ | $117.68(14) \mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{C}(10) \# 1$ | $103.8(2)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)$ | $107.1(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(10) \# 1-\mathrm{S}(1)-\mathrm{Ag}(1)$ | $109.23(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{S}(2)$ | $173.97(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2) \# 2$ | $86.75(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2) \# 2$ | $96.02(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(41)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(51)$ | $106.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(41)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(40)$ | $107.7(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(51)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(40)$ | $100.7(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)$ | $113.7(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(51)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)$ | $109.4(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(40)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)$ | $117.7(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{S}(2)-\mathrm{C}(40) \# 2$ | $103.3(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{S}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)$ | $111.3(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(40) \# 2-\mathrm{S}(2)-\mathrm{Ag}(2)$ | $105.9(2)$ |
|  |  |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: \#1, $-x+1,-y,-z+1 ; \# 2,-x+2,-y,-z+1$.
anion: $\operatorname{Ag}(2) \cdots \mathrm{O}(7), 2.640(3) \AA ; \operatorname{Ag}(1) \cdots \mathrm{O}(5), 2.851(5) \AA$; and $\mathrm{Ag} 1 \cdots \mathrm{O} 3,2.988(4) \AA$ (see Figure 3). The $\mathrm{Ag}-\mathrm{P}$ distances are $2.3895(12)$ and $2.3932(13) \AA$, and the $\mathrm{Ag}-\mathrm{S}$ bond lengths are $2.4406(12)$ and $2.4519(13) \AA$; these values are similar to those obtained in the complex $\left[\mathrm{Ag}\left\{\mathrm{PPh}_{2}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SEt}\right\}\right] \mathrm{ClO}_{4} .{ }^{19}$ It is noteworthy to mention that both $\mathrm{Ag}-\mathrm{P}$ and $\mathrm{Ag}-\mathrm{S}$ distances are longer than the corresponding $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{P}$ and $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{S}$ distances, thus corroborating the observations made by Schmidbaur that the covalent radius of $\operatorname{gold}(\mathrm{I})$ is smaller than that of silver(I). ${ }^{9}$ Both dimers display $\mathrm{Ag} \cdots \mathrm{Ag}$ contacts of $2.9501(8)$ and $2.9732(9) \AA$, which are values close to the $\mathrm{Ag}-\mathrm{Ag}$ distance in metallic silver, $2.89 \AA$, or in many silver(I) oxides. ${ }^{20}$

The analogous complex of Cu was unfortunately too unstable to provide suitable single crystals for an X-ray structure determination.

Theoretical Calculations. The short distances observed for the Ag and Au derivatives indicate a feasible $\mathrm{M} \cdots \mathrm{M}$ interaction of great theoretical interest. The size of the molecule under

[^3]

Figure 3. Structure of complex $\mathbf{2 a}$ in the crystal. $H$ atoms are omitted for clarity. There are no further contacts from the depicted perchlorates to other silver atoms.
study necessitates the use of $\left[\mathrm{M}_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{SH}\right)_{2}\right]^{2+}$ as a model for the ab initio calculations. Any effect of the weak $\mathrm{M} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ contacts, which we assume to be minimal, is neglected. All calculations were carried out using the Gaussian94 program package. ${ }^{21}$ The molecular geometries were initially optimized, within appropriate molecular symmetry constraints $\left(C_{i}\right)$, at the Hartree-Fock self-consistent field (HF) level of theory, and electron correlation, keeping the core orbitals frozen, was included in further optimizations by using Møller-Plesset perturbation theory ${ }^{22}$ with second-order corrections (MP2) employing Schlegel's analytical gradient procedure. ${ }^{23}$

The following basis set combination was employed. For C, S, P, and H, the standard split-valence $6-31 \mathrm{G}(\mathrm{d})$ basis set, ${ }^{24,25}$ and for $\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Ag}$ and Au , the pseudorelativistic Hay-Wadt smallcore effective core potential, ${ }^{26}$ where the minimal basis set has been split to [341/2111/41], [341/3111/31], and [341/3111/21], respectively. ${ }^{27}$ This basis set combination will be hereafter referred to as II. The HF/II and MP2/II levels of theory have demonstrated their ability to calculate optimized geometries of transition metal complexes with good accuracy. ${ }^{28}$

The absolute energies and the most relevant geometrical parameters of the $\left[\mathrm{CH}_{2}\left(\mathrm{SHMPH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right]^{2+}$ optimized structures with the HF/II wave function are given in Figure 2. Several features are noteworthy. At this level of theory, the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$

[^4]

| M | Cu | Ag | Au |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Energy | -1947.572192 | -1847.342735 | -1826.626241 |
| M-M | 3.612 | 4.017 | 3.345 |
| P-S | 3.135 | 3.138 | 3.157 |
| M-S | 2.440 | 2.734 | 2.503 |
| M-P | 2.433 | 2.665 | 2.386 |
| S-C | 1.824 | 1.823 | 1.825 |
| P-C | 1.855 | 1.857 | 1.852 |
| P-M-S | 167.8 | 160.4 | 174.9 |
| P-C-S | 116.9 | 117.0 | 118.3 |



| M | Cu | Ag | Au |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Energy | -1948.901446 | -1848.295437 | -1827.588416 |
| M-M | 3.089 | 3.200 | 3.030 |
| P-S | 3.096 | 3.111 | 3.123 |
| M-S | 2.279 | 2.557 | 2.427 |
| M-P | 2.259 | 2.510 | 2.315 |
| S-C | 1.822 | 1.821 | 1.825 |
| P-C | 1.850 | 1.853 | 1.849 |
| P-M-S | 179.7 | 174.3 | 176.5 |
| P-C-S | 115.0 | 115.8 | 116.5 |

Figure 4. $\mathrm{HF} / \mathrm{II} / / \mathrm{HF} / \mathrm{II}$ absolute energies [hartrees] and optimized structural parameters $\left[\AA\right.$, deg calculated for $\left[\mathrm{M}_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{SH}\right)_{2}\right]^{2+}$.
interatomic distances (3.612, 4.017, and $3.345 \AA$ for $\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Ag}$, and Au , respectively) are far removed from the experimental values ( 2.950 and 2.973 for Ag and $2.902 \AA$ for Au ). In contrast, the experimental radii observed for two- and fourcoordinate $\mathrm{M}(\mathrm{I})$ compounds ${ }^{9}$ suggest that the calculated $\mathrm{Au}-$ Au distance should be intermediate between that of $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{Cu}$ and $\mathrm{Ag}-\mathrm{Ag}$ when no interaction is present. However, the relatively short distance obtained at the HF/II level for the gold complex indicates an attraction that should be inherently relativistic since correlation is not included at the Hartree-Fock level. The same conclusion can be derived from the $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{S}$ angle (167.8, 160.4 , and $174.9^{\circ}$ for $\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Ag}$, and Au , respectively).

The correlation was accounted for at the MP2/II level. Figure 5 shows the absolute energies and the most relevant geometrical parameters of the $\left[\mathrm{CH}_{2}\left(\mathrm{SHMPH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right]^{2+}$ optimized structures at this level. As can be observed, the calculated metal-metal interatomic distances are reduced to $3.089,3.200$, and $3.030 \AA$ for $\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Ag}$, and Au , respectively, which indicates that correlation effects are attractive in all coinage metals and that MP2 captures most of the physics of the $\mathrm{Cu}^{\mathrm{I}} \cdots \mathrm{Cu}^{\mathrm{I}}$ and $\mathrm{Ag}^{\mathrm{I}} \cdots \mathrm{Ag}^{\mathrm{I}}$ attraction. The $\mathrm{Au}-\mathrm{Au}$ distance is still slightly shorter than $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{Cu}$, which confirms the presence of both relativistic and correlation effects in the gold dimer. As expected from their experimental radii, ${ }^{9}$ the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ distance is larger for silver than for copper or gold. The role of the correlation may also be deduced by the dramatic reduction of the $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{S}$ angle (from inner $167.8^{\circ}$ to outer $179.7^{\circ}$, from $160.4^{\circ}$ to $174.3^{\circ}$, and from inner $174.9^{\circ}$ to outer $176.5^{\circ}$ for $\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Ag}$, and Au , respectively).

In summary, our calculations indicate that metallophilic attraction is indeed present for all the coinage metals as a correlation effect and that it is strengthened by the relativistic effect for gold. Since theoretically predicted geometries are in close agreement with the experimental ones, we can assume that our calculations are accurate enough to obtain valid conclusions.

Figure 5. MP2/II//MP2/II absolute energies [hartrees] and optimized structural parameters $\left[\AA\right.$, deg] calculated for $\left[\mathrm{M}_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{SH}\right)_{2}\right]^{2+}$.

## Experimental Section

Instrumentation. Infrared spectra were recorded in the range 4000-200 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ on a Perkin-Elmer 883 spectrophotometer and on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR Spectrum 1000 spectrophotometer using Nujol mulls between polyethylene sheets. C, H, and S analyses were carried out with a Perkin-Elmer 240C microanalyzer. Mass spectra were recorded on a VG Autospec using the LSIMS techniques and nitrobenzyl alcohol as matrix and on a HP59987 A Electrospray. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H},{ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$, and ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ARX 300 in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ and $\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}$ solutions. Chemical shifts are quoted relative to $\mathrm{SiMe}_{4}\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right.$, external), $\mathrm{CFCl}_{3}\left({ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}\right.$, external), and $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(85 \%)$ ( ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$, external).

Solvent and Reagent Pretreatment. Dichloromethane and hexane were distilled from $\mathrm{CaH}_{2}$ and diethyl ether from sodium, under nitrogen atmosphere. $\left[\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right)_{4}\right] \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ was prepared as described ${ }^{28}$ using triflic acid instead of tetrafluoroboric acid or perchloric acid; [AuCl(tht)] ${ }^{29}$ and $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}^{30}$ were prepared by reported literature methods.

Caution! Perchlorate salts with organic cations may be explosive.
Synthetic Procedures. Preparation of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{\mathbf{2}}\left(\mathbf{P P h}_{2} \mathbf{C H}_{2} \mathbf{S P h}\right)_{2}\right]$ $\left(\mathbf{C F}_{3} \mathbf{S O}_{3}\right)_{2}$ (1). To a solution of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right)_{4}\right] \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}(0.122 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}(0.100 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32$ mmol ). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature, and then the solvent was removed by reduced pressure to leave $\mathbf{1}$ as a white solid. Yield: $90 \%$. Mass spectra: $\left[\mathrm{CuPPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right]^{+}$at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ 371 (100\%); [ $\left.\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right]^{+}$at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 893$ (7\%). Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{34}{ }^{-}$ $\mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{4}, \mathbf{1}: \mathrm{C}, 46.1 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.3: \mathrm{S}, 12.3$. Found: C, 45.8; H, 3.2; S, 11.8. ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \operatorname{NMR}\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right), \delta:-8.7$ (s). ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F} \operatorname{NMR}\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right), \delta:$ $-77.97(\mathrm{~s}) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right), \delta: 7.62-7.19(\mathrm{~m}, 30 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ph}), 3.99(\mathrm{~m}$, $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ).

Preparation of $\left[\mathrm{Ag}_{2}\left(\mathbf{P P h}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathbf{S P h}\right)_{2}\right](\mathrm{X})_{2}\left(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{ClO}_{4}(\mathbf{2 a}), \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right.$ (2b)). $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}(0.100 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a solution of $\mathrm{AgClO}_{4}(0.067 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32 \mathrm{mmol}$ of $\mathbf{2 a})$ or $\mathrm{AgCF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}(0.083 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32 \mathrm{mmol}$ of $\mathbf{2 b}$ ) in 20 mL of $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$. After stirring for 1 h a white precipitate of 2a or 2b was filtered off. Yield: $83 \%$ 2a, $70 \% \mathbf{2 b}$. Mass spectra: $\left[\mathrm{AgPPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right]^{+}$at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 417(100 \%, 2 \mathbf{2 a}, \mathbf{2 b}) ;\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right]^{+}$at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ $930(6 \%, 2 \mathbf{a}) ;\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right]^{+}$at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 981(15 \%, 2 b)$. Anal. Calcd

[^5]Table 3. Details of Data Collection and Structure Refinement for Complexes 2a and 4

|  | 2 a | 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{Ag}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{Au}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{4}$ |
| crystal size/mm | $0.75 \times 0.50 \times 0.40$ | colorless prism $0.30 \times 0.30 \times 0.20$ |
| crystal system | monoclinic | triclinic |
| space group | $P 2_{1} / n$ | $P \overline{1}$ |
| $a / \mathrm{A}$ | 16.801(3) | 9.5174(14) |
| b/A | 15.618(4) | 10.2427(8) |
| $c / \AA$ | 16.994(4) | 11.8853(14) |
| $\alpha /$ deg | 90 | 79.785(8) |
| $\beta /$ deg | 119.08(2) | 75.068(10) |
| $\gamma / \mathrm{deg}$ | 90 | 80.246(8) |
| $U / \AA^{3}$ | 3897.0(15) | 1092.4(2) |
| Z | 4 | 1 |
| $D_{\mathrm{c}} / \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$ | 1.758 | 1.917 |
| $M$ | 1031.36 | 1260.79 |
| $F(000)$ | 2064 | 604 |
| $T /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | -130 | -100 |
| $2 \theta_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{deg}$ | 50 | 50 |
| $\mu\left(\mathrm{Mo} \mathrm{K} \alpha\right.$ ) $/ \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 1.383 | 7.034 |
| transmission | 0.839-0.956 | 0.784-0.963 |
| no. of reflens measd | 9549 | 4081 |
| no. of unique reflens | 6876 | 3832 |
| $R_{\text {int }}$ | 0.0215 | 0.0139 |
| $\mathrm{R}(F, F>4 \sigma(F))^{a}$ | 0.0391 | 0.0233 |
| $w R\left(F^{2}\right.$, all reflcns) ${ }^{b}$ | 0.0959 | 0.0534 |
| no. of reflens used | 6876 | 3832 |
| no. of params | 487 | 271 |
| no. of restraints | 0 | 204 |
| $S^{c}$ | 1.054 | 0.991 |
| max. $\Delta \rho \mathrm{e}^{-3}$ | 1.781 | 0.792 |

${ }^{a} R(F)=\sum| | F_{\mathrm{o}}\left|-\left|F_{\mathrm{c}}\right|\right| \sum\left|F_{\mathrm{o}}\right| \cdot{ }^{b} w R\left(F^{2}\right)=\left[\sum\left\{w\left(F_{\mathrm{o}}{ }^{2}-F_{\mathrm{c}}{ }^{2}\right) 2\right\} /\right.$ $\left.\sum\left\{w\left(F_{0}{ }^{2}\right)^{2}\right\}\right]^{0.5} ; w^{-1}=\sigma^{2}\left(F_{0}{ }^{2}\right)+(a P)^{2}+b P$, where $P=\left[F_{0}{ }^{2}+2 F_{c}^{2}\right] /$ 3 and $a$ and $b$ are constants adjusted by the program. ${ }^{c} S=\left[\sum\left\{w\left(F_{0}{ }^{2}\right.\right.\right.$ $\left.\left.\left.-F_{\mathrm{c}}{ }^{2}\right)^{2}\right\} /(n-p)\right]^{0.5}$, where $n$ is the number of data and $p$ the number of parameters.
for $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{Ag}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$, 2a: C, 44.2; H, 3.3: S, 6.2. Found: C, 43.9; H, 3.3; S, 5.9. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{Ag}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{4}$, 2b: C, 42.5 ; H, 3.0: S, 11.3. Found: C, 42.1; H, 3.1; S, 11.6. ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left\{\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}\right.$, $\left.-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right\}, \delta: 9.4\left[\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{br}, J_{\mathrm{av}}(\mathrm{AgP})=637 \mathrm{~Hz}\right](2 \mathrm{a}) ; 9.2\left[\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{br}, J_{\mathrm{av}}(\mathrm{AgP})\right.$ $=625 \mathrm{~Hz}](\mathbf{2 b}) .{ }^{19} \mathrm{~F} \operatorname{NMR}\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right), \delta:-77.58(\mathbf{2 b}) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right), \delta: 7.70-7.25(\mathrm{~m}, 30 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ph}), 4.34\left(\mathrm{~d}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)(\mathbf{2 a}) ; 7.71-$ 7.00 (m, 30H, Ph), 4.16 (d, 4H, $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ) (2b).

Preparation of $\left[\mathbf{A u C l}\left(\mathbf{P P h}_{2} \mathbf{C H}_{2} \mathbf{S P h}\right)\right]$ (3). $\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}(0.100 \mathrm{~g}$, $0.32 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a solution of $[\mathrm{AuCl}(\mathrm{tht})](0.104 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32 \mathrm{mmol})$
in 20 mL of $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h . The solvent was evaporated to ca. 5 mL , and addition of 20 mL of hexane gave 3 as a white solid. Yield: $70 \%$. Mass spectra: $[\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{Cl}]^{+}$at $m / z 505(100 \%)$. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{AuClPS}, 3: \mathrm{C}, 42.2 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.2$; S, 5.9. Found: C, 41.9; H, 2.7; S, 5.9. ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right), \delta$ : 27.1 (s). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right), \delta: 7.72-7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 15 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ph}), 3.83(\mathrm{~d}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ).

Preparation of $\left[\mathrm{Au}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathbf{S P h}\right)_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right)_{2}$ (4). To a solution of $3(0.175 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added $\mathrm{AgCF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ ( $0.083 \mathrm{~g}, 0.32 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h . The AgCl was filtered off, and the solution was layered with hexane. Crystals of 4 were obtained within 3 days. Yield: $50 \%$. Mass spectra: $\left[\mathrm{AuPPh}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SPh}\right]^{+}$at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 505(100 \%) ;\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right]^{+}$at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 1159$ (5\%). Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{Au}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{4}, 4$ : $\mathrm{C}, 36.7 ; \mathrm{H}, 2.6 ; \mathrm{S}, 9.8$. Found: C, 36.6; H, 2.4; S, 9.8. ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}\right), \delta: 34.5$ (s). ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$ NMR $\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}\right), \delta:-77.98 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}\right), \delta: 8.10-$ $7.52(\mathrm{~m}, 30 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ph}), 5.58\left(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$.

Crystal Structure Determinations. Crystals were mounted in inert oil on glass fibers. Data were collected using monochromated Mo K $\alpha$ radiation $(\lambda=0.71073 \AA)$ on a Siemens P4 diffractometer (4) or a Stoe STADI-4 (2a), both with Siemens LT-2 low-temperature attachment (scan type $\omega$ or $\omega / \theta$ ). Cell constants were refined from setting angles of ca. 60 reflections in the $2 \theta$ range $7-25^{\circ}(\mathbf{4})$ or $\pm \omega$ angles of 56 reflections in the $2 \theta$ range $20-23^{\circ} \mathbf{( 2 a )}$. Absorption corrections were applied on the basis of $\psi$ scans. Structures were solved by the heavy atom method (4) or direct methods (2a) and refined anisotropically on $F^{2}$ (program SHELXL-93). ${ }^{31}$ Hydrogen atoms were included using a riding model. To improve refinement stability, a range of restraints to local ring symmetry and light atom displacement parameters were employed for complex 4. Complex 2a showed a marked tendency to crystallize as interpenetrating twins; despite careful selection of the crystal using polarized light, the residual electron density is higher than expected for a silver compound and may be attributed to a small twin component. Further details are given in Table 3.

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Supporting Information Available: X-ray crystallographic information about $\mathbf{2 a}$ and $\mathbf{b}$ in CIF format, is available (9 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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