

# Coordination Complexes Lectures

*what is coordination complex?*

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a central metal atom or ion to which ligands are bound by coordinate covalent bonds

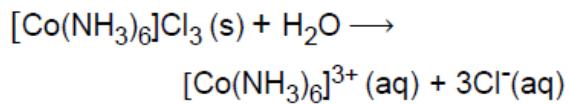
*more*

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- coordinate covalent bond:  
covalent bond where one atom contributes both electrons (in olden times called 'dative' bond)
- ligand:  
ion or molecule which binds to central atom, contributing both electrons to a covalent bond
- coordination number:  
how many coordinate covalent bonds around central atom/ion

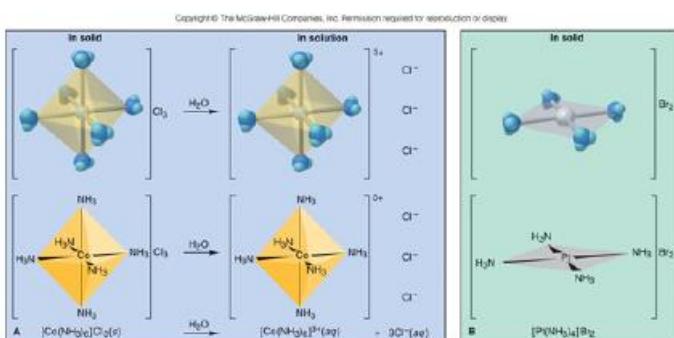
simple example (figure on p. 936)

$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6]\text{Cl}_3$  (s) salt of complex ion



$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{3+}$  complex ion denoted by [ ]'s  
6  $\text{NH}_3$  ligands  
metal ion  
 $3\text{Cl}^-$  counter ions

figure 23.9 (Silberberg)



$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6]\text{J}^{3+}$

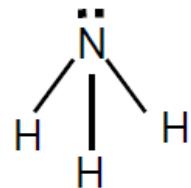
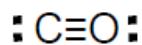
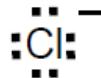
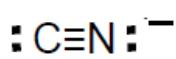
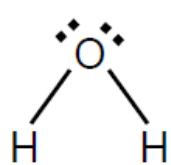
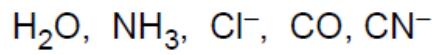
octahedral

$[\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_4]\text{J}^{2-}$

square planar

*examples of common 'simple' ligands*

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*Coordinate covalent bond: Lewis acid-Lewis base CHEM 1A nr*

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Lewis acid

Lewis base

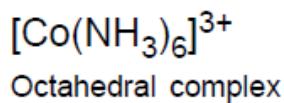
ligand

metal

$\text{L}^-$

$\text{M}^{+n}$

*coordinate covalent bonding*



coordination number = 6

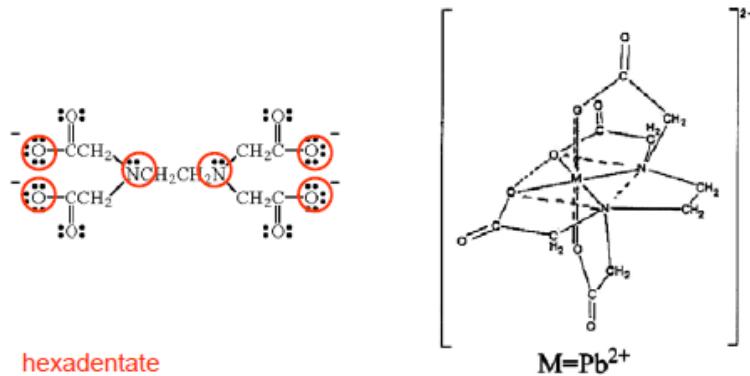
*possible geometries of coordination complexes  
(table 23.6 Silberberg) [see figure 19.6 Zumdahl]*

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**Table 23.6** Coordination Numbers and Shapes of Some Complex Ions

Coordination Number	Shape	Examples
2	Linear	$[\text{CuCl}_2]^-$ , $[\text{Ag}(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$ , $[\text{AuCl}_2]^-$
4	Square planar	$[\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_4]^{2-}$ , $[\text{PdCl}_4]^{2-}$ , $[\text{Pt}(\text{NH}_3)_4]^{2+}$ , $[\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_4]^{2+}$
4	Tetrahedral	$[\text{Cu}(\text{CN})_4]^{2-}$ , $[\text{Zn}(\text{NH}_3)_4]^{2+}$ , $[\text{CdCl}_4]^{2-}$ , $[\text{MnCl}_4]^{2-}$
6	Octahedral	$[\text{Ti}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$ , $[\text{V}(\text{CN})_6]^{4-}$ , $[\text{Cr}(\text{NH}_3)_6\text{Cl}_2]^+$ , $[\text{Mn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$ , $[\text{FeCl}_6]^{3-}$ , $[\text{Co}(\text{en})_3]^{3+}$

*EDTA a chelate (claw!!)*



*determining: num ligands charge oxidation state d-electrons*

given  $[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_n] \text{Cl}_3$  is salt of octahedral complex

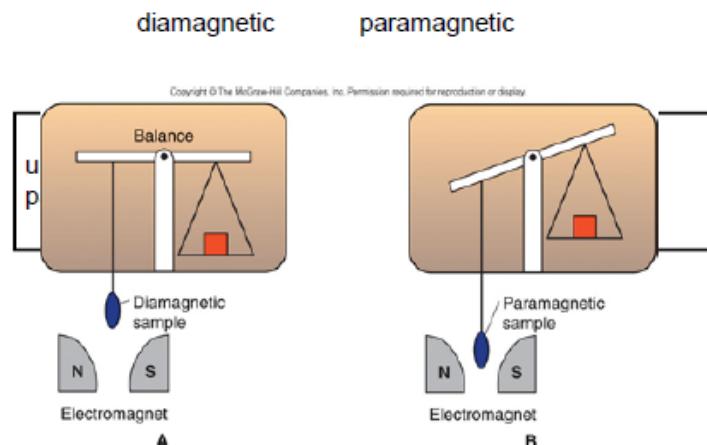
- **coordination number=6** since octahedral
- **n=6** since  $\text{NH}_3$  is monodentate ligand
- **3<sup>+</sup>** charge on complex from counterion:  $3 \text{Cl}^-$
- **$\text{Co}^{3+}$**  oxidation state of metal from charge on complex and zero charge on  $\text{NH}_3$  ligands
- **$\text{d}^6$**  d-electrons from aufbau principle FOR CATIONS



*crystal field theory (pp 959-955)*

- How are the magnetic properties of transition metal complexes related to the shape of d-orbitals?
- Why are transition metal complexes colored?

*paramagnetism vs diamagnetism (Gouy balance)*



*strength of paramagnetism depends on  
number of unpaired electrons*

*not now*

*crystal field theory and color*

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- most electronic excitations in UV  
(H 1s → H 2p  $\lambda=121 \times 10^{-9}$  m)
- $\text{Co}^{3+}$  [Ar]3d<sup>6</sup> →  $\text{Co}^{3+}$  [Ar]3d<sup>5</sup>4s<sup>1</sup> ( $\lambda=75.3 \times 10^{-9}$  m) UV  
 $\text{NH}_3 \rightarrow \text{NH}_3^*$  (excited state) ( $\lambda=216 \times 10^{-9}$  m) UV  
 **$\text{Co}^{3+}$  and  $\text{NH}_3$  are colorless !!!**  
**but in coordination complex**
- $[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{3+} \rightarrow$  excited state\* ( $\lambda=430 \times 10^{-9}$  m,  
absorbs 'indigo')  
 **$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{3+}$  appears yellow !!**

*crystal field theory and magnetic properties*

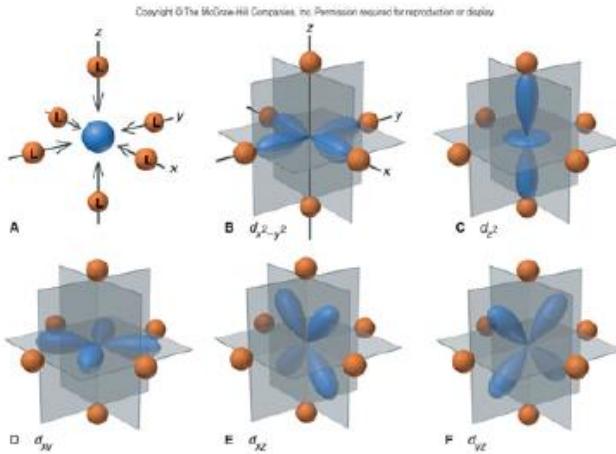
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$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{3+}$  is diamagnetic

**but**

$[\text{Co}(\text{F})_6]^{3-}$  is paramagnetic

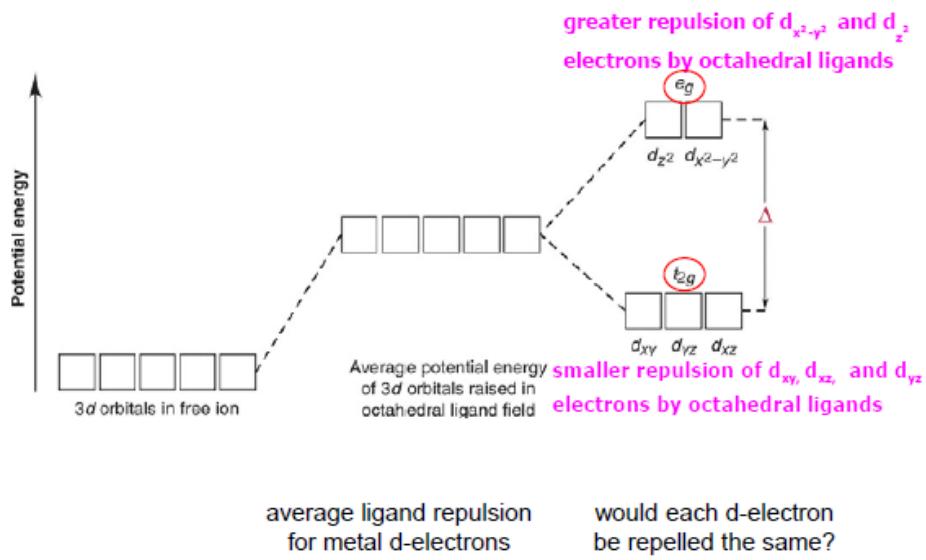
metal ion d-orbitals in octahedral complex  
(Silberberg fig. 23.17; Zumdahl fig. 19.21 )



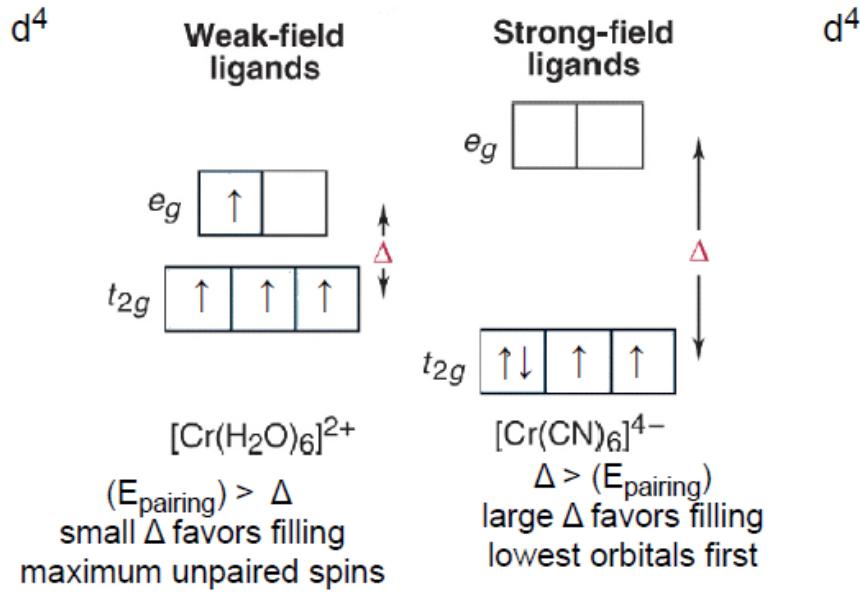
[http://switkes.chemistry.ucsc.edu/teaching/CHEM1B/Jmol/CrystalField/CFT\\_OrbtsOctahedral.html](http://switkes.chemistry.ucsc.edu/teaching/CHEM1B/Jmol/CrystalField/CFT_OrbtsOctahedral.html)



what happens to energies of d-orbitals when ligands bind to metal ion? (fig 23.18)



*strong and weak field ligands: lowest orbitals vs unpaired spins  
 $\Delta$  vs ( $E_{pairing}$ ) (Silberberg fig 23.18)*



$[Cr(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$  vs  $[Cr(CN)_6]^{4-}$

- $[Cr(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ ,  $d^4$ , weak-field  $\equiv$  high spin,  
4 unpaired electrons, paramagnetic
- $[Cr(CN)_6]^{4-}$ ,  $d^4$ , strong-field  $\equiv$  low spin,  
2 unpaired electrons, paramagnetic

*other examples (do in section)*

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$[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$  , d<sup>6</sup> , weak field, 4 unpaired e's,  
paramagnetic

$[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{4-}$  , d<sup>6</sup> , strong field, 0 unpaired e's,  
diamagnetic

*paramagnetism*

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- each electron behaves as tiny magnet ↑ or ↓ (Stern-Gerlach experiment)
- when electrons in a molecule have paired spins the individual magnets cancel one another ↑↓
- when an atom or molecule has **unpaired** electrons there is a resulting “net-magnetic moment” ↑↑↑
- atoms with unpaired electrons are attracted by an [inhomogeneous] magnetic field
- atoms with unpaired electrons are **paramagnetic**