Orgel Diagram

Orgel diagrams are correlation diagrams which show the relative energies of electronic terms in transition metal complexes, much like Tanabe–Sugano diagrams. They are named after their creator, Leslie Orgel. Orgel diagrams are restricted to only show weak field (i.e. high spin) cases, and offer no information about strong field (low spin) cases. Because Orgel diagrams are qualitative, no energy calculations can be performed from these diagrams; also, Orgel diagrams only show the symmetry states of the highest spin multiplicity instead of all possible terms, unlike Tanabe-Sugano a diagram. [1] Orgel diagrams will, however, show the number of spin allowed transitions, along with their respective symmetry designations. In an Orgel diagram, the parent term (P, D, or F) in the presence of no ligand field is located in the center of the diagram, with the terms due to that electronic configuration in a ligand field at each side. There are two Orgel diagrams, one for d¹, d⁴, d⁶, and d⁹ configurations and the other with d², d³, d⁷, and d⁸ configurations.

In an Orgel diagram, lines with the same Russell – Saunders terms will diverge due to the non-crossing rule, but all other lines will be linear. Also, for the D Orgel diagram, the left side contains d¹ and d⁶ tetrahedral and d⁴ and d⁰ octahedral complexes. The right side contains d⁴ and d⁰ tetrahedral and d¹ and d⁶ octahedral complexes. For the F Orgel diagram, the left side contains d² and d⁰ tetrahedral and d³ and d⁰ octahedral complexes. The right side contains d³ and d⁰ tetrahedral and d³ and high spin d⁰ octahedral complexes.

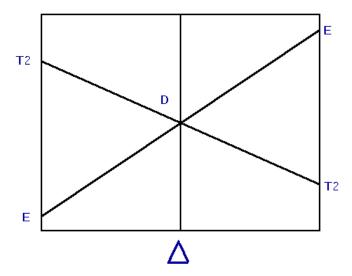


Figure 1: D Orgel Diagram

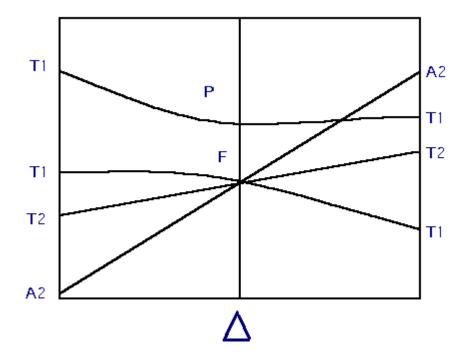


Figure 2: F and P Orgel Diagram

Uses: Orgel diagrams are useful for showing the energy levels of both high spin octahedral and tetrahedral transition metal ions. They ONLY show the spin-allowed transitions. For complexes with D ground terms only one electronic transition is expected and the transition energy corresponds directly to D.