

Density Functional Study on the Highest and Lowest Spin States of $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{q+}$ ($q = 0, 2, 4$)

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Internet Electronic Conference of Molecular Design 2003, November 23 – December 6

Abstract

Motivation. Water oxidation mechanism of oxygen-evolving complex (OEC) in photosystem II (PSII) has not been established yet. Recently, the X-ray structure of PSII has been reported and it has been suggested that OEC contains cubane-like Mn_3CaO_4 cluster linked to Mn by mono- μ -oxo bridge. The Mn–Mn and Mn–Ca in cubane-like cluster are connected by di- μ -oxo bridge to form a face of cubane-like structure. As the first step to examine the mechanism of dioxygen generation by OEC, the geometrical and electronic structures of model complexes $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{q+}$ ($q = 0, 2, 4$) are investigated for the highest and lowest spin configurations from theoretical viewpoint in this work.

Method. Model complexes were constructed by placing eight H_2O molecules as ligands around Mn–Mn core with di- μ -oxo bridges to form six-coordinated Mn sites. Full geometry optimizations were carried out by the hybrid-type DFT method with B3LYP functional. For Mn, the LanL2DZ basis set with double-zeta quality was used and the effective core potential was applied. The unrestricted and broken-symmetry wave functions were obtained for the highest and lowest spin states, respectively.

Results. The coordinated positions of H_2O molecules in Mn(II)–Mn(II) complex are different from those in Mn(III)–Mn(III) or Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) complex, while Mn(III)–Mn(III) and Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) complexes have similar coordination pattern. In Mn–Mn core connected by di- μ -oxo bridges, the spin densities are well localized on Mn, and the antiferromagnetic coupling is more stable than the ferromagnetic coupling by 0.46, 5.90, and 2.58 kcal/mol for Mn(II)–Mn(II), Mn(III)–Mn(III), and Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) oxidation states, respectively.

Conclusions. The two-electron or four-electron oxidations of di- μ -oxo-bridged Mn–Mn complex occur from octahedral “ e_g ” orbitals of Mn.

Keywords. photosystem II; oxygen-evolving complex; μ -oxo bridge; manganese complex; DFT; B3LYP.

1 INTRODUCTION

Photosynthetic water oxidation takes place at tetranuclear Mn cluster in photosystem II (PSII), and the functional unit including Mn cluster is referred to as oxygen-evolving complex (OEC) or water-oxidizing complex (WOC). The OEC oxidizes two water molecules to oxygen molecule at the active site of Mn cluster as $2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + 4e^- + 4\text{H}^+$. The several reaction mechanisms of water oxidation and molecular structures of OEC have been proposed by experimental and theoretical studies until now, and the many related articles have been published (for examples, see Refs. 1-17 and references are therein).

The oxidation reaction of water molecule proceeds through the S-state catalytic cycle which is the five-step oxidation from S_0 to S_4 states, and the electrons and protons are released in this cycle as shown in Figure 1 [1]. In the S-state catalytic cycle, it has been suggested that each of the S states

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contains the following oxidized Mn cluster: Mn(II), Mn(III), Mn(IV), and Mn(IV) for S_0 state; Mn(III), Mn(III), Mn(IV), and Mn(IV) for S_1 state; Mn(III), Mn(IV), Mn(IV), and Mn(IV) for S_2 state; Mn(III), Mn(IV), Mn(IV), and Mn(IV) plus μ -oxo radical for S_3 state; Mn(III), Mn(IV), Mn(IV), and Mn(IV) for S_4 state. Based on extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) and electron spin echo envelope modulation (ESEEM) spectroscopy, it has been proposed that the first shell ligands of Mn are mostly oxygens, one or two nitrogens, and possibly one Cl. From the theoretical viewpoint, several models or synthetic compounds of Mn complexes with μ -oxo bridges have been studied by quantum chemical calculations in relation to Mn cluster of OEC [18-25]. However, the details of water oxidation steps by OEC in PSII have not been established yet.

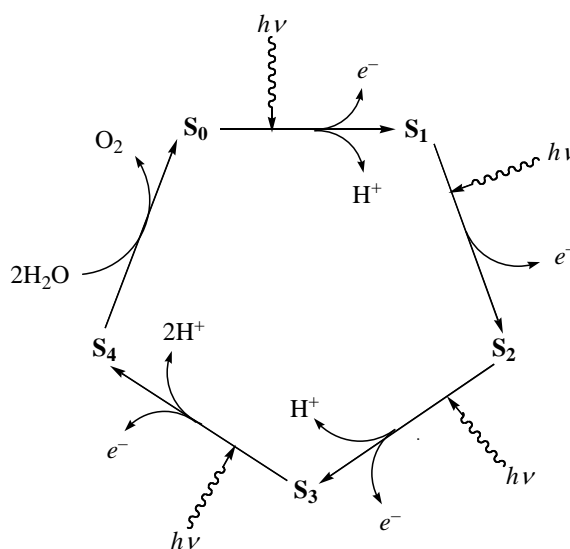


FIGURE 1. S-state catalytic cycle of water oxidation by OEC.

Recently, three X-ray crystallographic studies of PSII have been carried out and the three dimensional structures have been reported in Protein Data Bank (PDB) [26-28]. The two earlier crystal structures from *Synechococcus elongatus* at 3.8 Å resolution [26] and *Thermosynechococcus vulcanus* at 3.7 Å resolution [27] suggested the Y-shape Mn cluster, in which Ca was not detected. On the other hand, the newest crystal structure from *Thermosynechococcus elongatus* at 3.5 Å resolution [28] strongly indicates that the Mn cluster is cubane-like Mn_3CaO_4 , in which each metal ion has tri- μ -oxo bridges, linked to Mn by mono- μ -oxo bridge. The observed X-ray structure (PDB ID: 1S5L) is shown in Figure 2. The metal-to-metal distances were reported as about 2.7 Å for Mn–Mn and about 3.4 Å for Mn–Ca within cubane-like cluster and as about 3.3 Å for Mn–Mn between the fourth ion and the cubane-like cluster, and the details of surrounding coordination sphere around Mn cluster was also assigned. Thus, the water oxidation mechanism by Mn active site should be examined by using the X-ray structure of cubane-like Mn cluster in OEC.

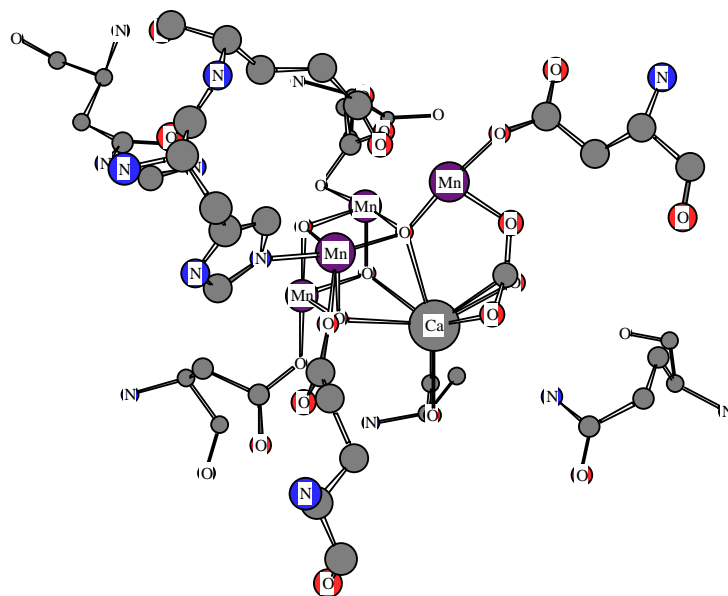


FIGURE 2. X-ray structure of cubane-like Mn cluster in OEC.

In this work, we investigate the geometrical and electronic structures of model complexes $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{q+}$ ($q = 0, 2, 4$) by density functional theory (DFT) as the first step toward the theoretical examination of reaction mechanism for the water oxidation by OEC, because μ -oxo-bridged Mn_2O_2 forms a face of cubane-like Mn cluster in OEC and it has been considered that only two of the four Mn sites may be sensitive to photooxidation reaction of water molecule in many of earlier models. The geometries of the highest and lowest spin states are fully optimized and the relative stability is examined. It is shown that the coordination pattern of H_2O molecules changes according to the oxidation states of Mn–Mn core and the antiferromagnetic coupling is energetically more stable than the ferromagnetic coupling.

2 MODELS AND METHODS

2.1 Model Complex

We study the binuclear Mn complexes bridged by di- μ -oxo $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{q+}$ ($q = 0, 2, 4$) shown in Figure 3 as a simplified model of tetranuclear Mn cluster in OEC. Eight H_2O molecules were placed around Mn as ligands to form six-coordinated Mn sites. Formal charges of Mn and O are respectively taken as 2+, 3+, and 4+ and as 2–, and total charge q is 0 for Mn(II)–Mn(II) (**1**), 2 for Mn(III)–Mn(III) (**2**), and 4 for Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) (**3**) complexes. The mixed-valence states such as Mn(II)–Mn(III) or Mn(III)–Mn(IV) with $q = 1$ or 3 are possible in Mn complexes, and we will report the results of mixed-valence complexes elsewhere. In this paper, we take the Mn–Mn and O–O axes as the z and x axes, respectively.

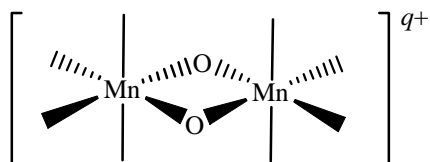


FIGURE 3. Model complex of Mn cluster in OEC.

We consider the equivalent oxidation of two Mn sites to satisfy the highest and lowest spin coupling with locally parallel alignment at each Mn. The 3d electron occupation is thus open shell as $(3d)^5$ for Mn(II), $(3d)^4$ for Mn(III), and $(3d)^3$ for Mn(IV), and the parallel spins on each Mn are ferromagnetically and antiferromagnetically coupled, respectively, in the highest and lowest spin states. The model complexes have total spin S of $10/2$ for **1**, $8/2$ for **2**, and $6/2$ for **3** in the highest spin states while total spin is $0/2$ in all of the lowest spin states.

2.2 Computational Method

The electronic structure calculations were carried out at the unrestricted hybrid-type DFT level with B3LYP exchange-correlation functional [29, 30] (UB3LYP), and the molecular geometries were fully optimized without any spatial symmetry constraints. We employed LanL2DZ [31] and 6-31G(d) [32] as the basis set for Mn and for O and H, respectively, and the corresponding effective core potential (ECP) calculations were performed. The lowest spin states ($S = 0/2$) were obtained as the broken-symmetry solutions. All results given in this work were calculated by using Gaussian 98 program package [33].

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We show the optimized geometries of the lowest spin states in Figures 4(a) for **1**, 4(b) for **2**, and 4(c) for **3**. It is noted that the shape of Mn_2O_2 cluster and the position of H_2O molecules are similar in the highest and lowest spin states. The stable structures of **1**, **2**, and **3** satisfy C_2 symmetry around each of the x , y , or z axis approximately. As seen in Figures 4(a)-4(c), the coordinated positions of H_2O molecules are significantly different between **1** and **2** or **3**. As for **1**, O atom in H_2O molecule coordinates to Mn while one of H atoms in H_2O molecule makes hydrogen bonding with μ -oxo, and H_2O molecules seem to coordinate to μ -oxo rather than Mn by hydrogen bondings. On the other hand, H_2O molecule coordinates to Mn without hydrogen bonding with μ -oxo as for **2** and **3**.

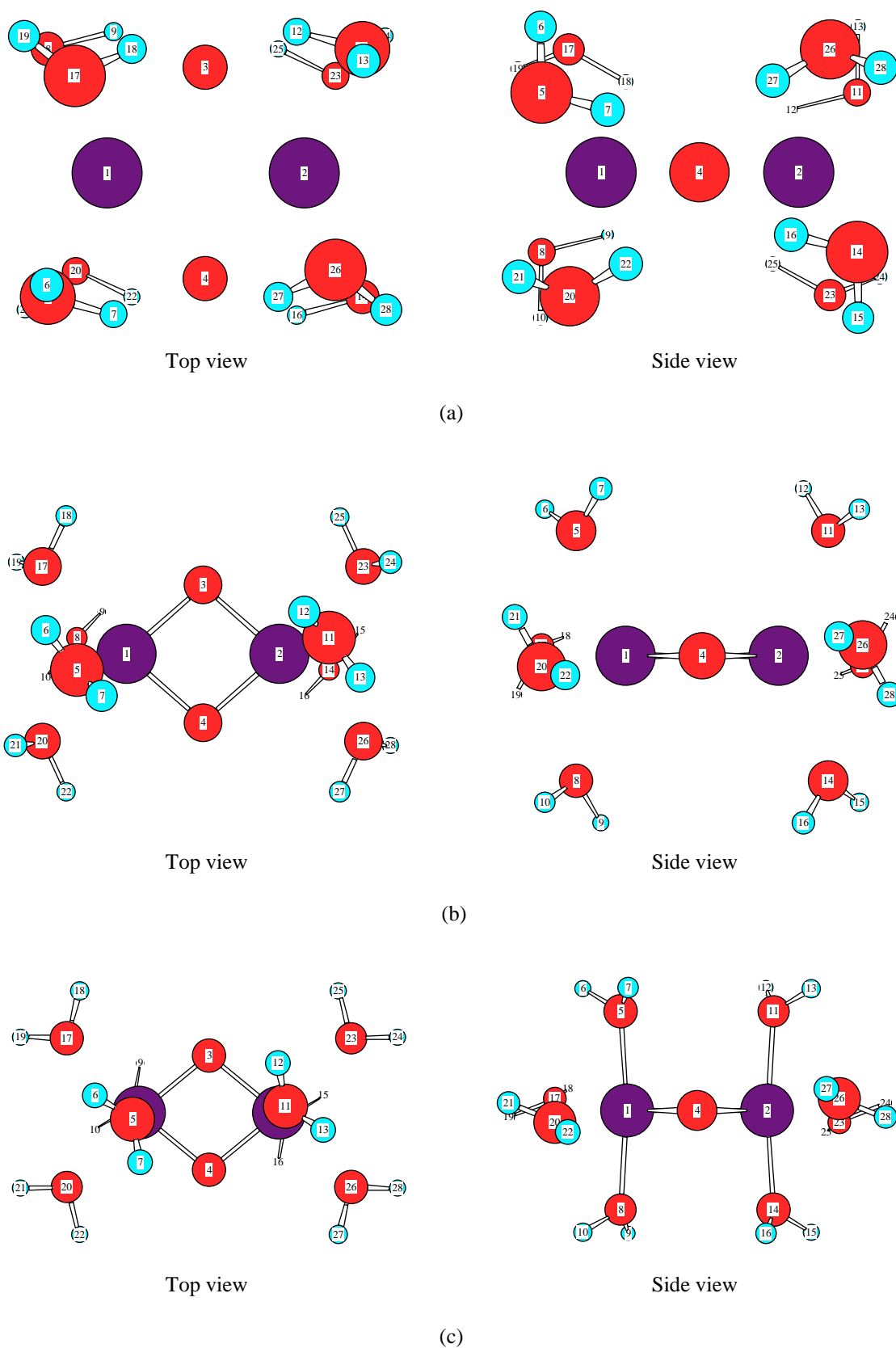


FIGURE 4. Optimized geometries of $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{q+}$ for (a) **1**, (b) **2**, and (c) **3** with numbering of atoms.

Tables 1-3 summarize the optimized geometrical parameters for Mn_2O_2 (Tables 1 and 2) and $\text{Mn}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8$ (Table 3) parts in model complexes. We note that the optimized molecular plane formed by Mn and μ -oxo is kept to be planar.

The interatomic distances of Mn_2O_2 , especially O–O distances, are longer in **1** than in **2** or **3** as 2.924 and 2.861 Å for Mn–Mn, 3.027 and 3.064 Å for O–O, and 2.105 and 2.096 Å for Mn–O in **1**, 2.711 and 2.696 Å for Mn–Mn, 2.416 and 2.397 Å for O–O, and 1.816 and 1.804 Å for Mn–O in **2**, and 2.766 and 2.776 Å for Mn–Mn, 2.307 and 2.255 Å for O–O, and 1.800 and 1.788 Å for Mn–O in **3**. The Mn–Mn, O–O, and Mn–O bonds are thus respectively elongated by about 0.2, 0.6–0.7, and 0.3 Å in **1** than in **2** or **3**. The Mn–O–Mn angles (88.0 and 86.0 °) are slightly smaller than the O–Mn–O angles (92.0 and 93.9 °) in **1** while the Mn–O–Mn angles (96.6 and 96.7 ° for **2** or 100.3 and 101.8 ° for **3**) are larger than the O–Mn–O angles (83.4 and 83.3 ° for **2** or 79.7 and 78.2 ° for **3**) in **2** or **3**. These results indicate that the Mn_2O_2 core forms nearly square in **1** and rhombus in **2** or **3**.

Model complexes $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{NH}_3)_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{q+}$ have been calculated by using DFT method [22, 25], and the only interatomic distances of Mn_2O_2 have been reported as follows: Mn–Mn = 2.810 [22] and 2.747 Å [25], O–O = 2.452 [22] and 2.474 Å [25], and Mn–O = 1.865 [22], 1.831 and 1.866 Å [25] for the highest spin state of Mn(III)–Mn(III) complex; Mn–Mn = 2.791 [22] and 2.710 Å [25], O–O = 2.433 [22] and 2.441 Å [25], and Mn–O = 1.852 [22], 1.804 and 1.843 Å [25] for the broken-symmetry lowest spin state of Mn(III)–Mn(III) complex; Mn–Mn = 2.941 [22] and 2.806 Å [25], O–O = 2.318 [22] and 2.371 Å [25], and Mn–O = 1.873 [22], 1.805 and 1.868 Å [25] for the highest spin state of Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) complex; Mn–Mn = 2.902 [22] and 2.834 Å [25], O–O = 2.283 [22] and 2.272 Å [25], and Mn–O = 1.846 [22], 1.789 and 1.842 Å [25] for the broken-symmetry lowest spin state of Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) complex. From the comparison of our results with earlier results [22, 25], it is found that the interatomic distances of Mn_2O_2 become slightly shorter in $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]$ than in $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{NH}_3)_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$.

The distances between Mn_2O_2 core and H_2O molecules are 2.296–2.324 Å for **1**, 2.366–2.371 and 2.118–2.124 Å for **2**, and 1.973–2.058 Å for **3**, indicating that the H_2O molecules at axial positions (O5, O8, O11, and O14) are somewhat apart from Mn than the H_2O molecules at equatorial positions (O17, O20, O23, and O26) in **2** while all of the H_2O molecules are nearly equidistant from Mn in **1** or **3**.

TABLE 1. Optimized interatomic distances for Mn₂O₂ in model complexes.

Complex	Mn core	Total spin	Interatomic distance (Å)					
			Mn1–Mn2	O3–O4	Mn1–O3	Mn1–O4	Mn2–O3	Mn2–O4
1	II–II	$S = 10/2$	2.924	3.027	2.105	2.104	2.103	2.105
		$S = 0/2$	2.861	3.064	2.095	2.096	2.097	2.096
2	III–III	$S = 8/2$	2.711	2.416	1.816	1.816	1.816	1.816
		$S = 0/2$	2.696	2.397	1.804	1.804	1.804	1.804
3	IV–IV	$S = 6/2$	2.766	2.307	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.800
		$S = 0/2$	2.776	2.255	1.788	1.788	1.788	1.788

TABLE 2. Optimized bond angles for Mn₂O₂ in model complexes.

Complex	Mn core	Total spin	Bond angle (°)			
			Mn1–O3–Mn2	Mn1–O4–Mn2	O3–Mn1–O4	O3–Mn2–O4
1	II–II	$S = 10/2$	88.0	88.0	92.0	92.0
		$S = 0/2$	86.0	86.0	93.9	93.9
2	III–III	$S = 8/2$	96.6	96.6	83.4	83.4
		$S = 0/2$	96.7	96.7	83.3	83.3
3	IV–IV	$S = 6/2$	100.3	100.3	79.7	79.7
		$S = 0/2$	101.8	101.8	78.2	78.2

TABLE 3. Optimized interatomic distances for Mn₂(H₂O)₈ in model complexes.

Complex	Mn core	Total spin	Interatomic distance (Å)			
			Mn1–O5, –O8	Mn1–O17, –O20	Mn2–O11, –O14	Mn2–O23, –O26
1	II–II	$S = 10/2$	2.296, 2.297	2.318, 2.315	2.297, 2.297	2.315, 2.318
		$S = 0/2$	2.300, 2.302	2.324, 2.322	2.300, 2.302	2.321, 2.324
2	III–III	$S = 8/2$	2.371, 2.371	2.118, 2.118	2.371, 2.371	2.118, 2.118
		$S = 0/2$	2.366, 2.367	2.124, 2.124	2.367, 2.367	2.124, 2.124
3	IV–IV	$S = 6/2$	1.974, 1.974	2.058, 2.058	1.974, 1.974	2.058, 2.058
		$S = 0/2$	1.973, 1.973	2.055, 2.055	1.973, 1.973	2.055, 2.055

The relative energies of model complexes are given in Table 4 and the charge and spin densities on Mn₂O₂ core are listed in Table 5. The expectation values of spin angular momentum for the lowest spin states as 5 for **1**, 4 for **2**, and 3 for **3** indicate that these states are obtained as the broken-symmetry solutions. The relative energies between the highest and lowest spin states show that the

antiferromagnetic spin coupling of Mn–Mn is energetically more stable than the ferromagnetic spin coupling of Mn–Mn by 0.46 kcal/mol for **1**, 5.90 kcal/mol for **2**, and 2.58 kcal/mol for **3**. However, the energy difference becomes small for **1**, because longer Mn–Mn distance than **2** or **3** causes the weak interactions between spins on each Mn. The charge densities on Mn are respectively given as 0.590 and 0.582 for **1**, 1.025 and 1.015 for **2**, and 1.322 and 1.315 for **3**. These values of atomic charges seem to be too small for oxidized Mn ions, and the ECP calculations may affect the charge distributions of complexes. On the other hand, the spin densities are almost localized on Mn reasonably as 4.756 and 4.807 for **1**, 3.890 and 3.850 for **2**, and 3.014 and 2.853 for **3**.

TABLE 4. Total and relative energies of model complexes.

Complex	Mn core	Total spin	$\langle S^2 \rangle$	Total energy (a.u.)	Relative energy (kcal/mol)
1	II–II	$S = 10/2$	30.006	-969.87018	0.46
		$S = 0/2$	4.988	-969.87091	0.00
2	III–III	$S = 8/2$	20.117	-969.35464	5.90
		$S = 0/2$	4.043	-969.36404	0.00
3	IV–IV	$S = 6/2$	12.213	-968.08829	2.58
		$S = 0/2$	3.041	-968.09241	0.00

TABLE 5. Mulliken charge and spin densities of model complexes.

Complex	Mn core	Total spin	Charge density				Spin density			
			Mn1	Mn2	O3	O4	Mn1	Mn2	O3	O4
1	II–II	$S = 10/2$	0.590	0.590	-0.943	-0.943	4.756	4.756	0.151	0.151
		$S = 0/2$	0.582	0.582	-0.944	-0.944	4.807	-4.807	0.000	-0.000
2	III–III	$S = 8/2$	1.025	1.025	-0.749	-0.750	3.890	3.890	0.061	0.061
		$S = 0/2$	1.015	1.015	-0.733	-0.733	3.850	-3.850	-0.000	0.000
3	IV–IV	$S = 6/2$	1.322	1.322	-0.579	-0.579	3.014	3.014	-0.042	-0.042
		$S = 0/2$	1.315	1.315	-0.576	-0.576	2.853	-2.853	0.000	-0.000

The main 3d electron configurations of singly-occupied natural orbitals, which make singlet biradical pair with 2.0 as the sum of occupation numbers, are summarized for the lowest spin states of model complexes in Table 6. It is found from Table 6 that the broken-symmetry orbitals are constructed by the in-phase or out-of-phase mixing of 3d orbitals on two Mn sites. All of the 3d orbitals in **1** with Mn(II)–Mn(II) core are occupied while 3d_{xz} orbitals in **2** with Mn(III)–Mn(III) core or 3d_{xz} and 3d_{x²-y²} orbitals in **3** with Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) core are unoccupied, indicating that the electrons of octahedral “e_g” orbitals are removed in Mn–Mn oxidation states.

TABLE 6. Main 3d electron configurations for singly-occupied natural orbitals of model complexes.

Complex	Mn core	Total spin	Occupation	Configuration ^a	Occupation	Configuration ^a
1	II-II	$S = 0/2$	1.112	dx^2-y^2 (1) + dx^2-y^2 (2)	0.888	$-dx^2-y^2$ (1) + dx^2-y^2 (2)
			1.074	dxz (1) + dxz (2)	0.926	$-dxz$ (1) + dxz (2)
			1.026	$-dxy$ (1) + dxy (2)	0.974	dxy (1) + dxy (2)
			1.013	dyz (1) - dyz (2)	0.987	dyz (1) + dyz (2)
			1.007	dz^2 (1) + dz^2 (2)	0.993	dz^2 (1) - dz^2 (2)
2	III-III	$S = 0/2$	1.200	$-dxy$ (1) + dxy (2)	0.800	dxy (1) + dxy (2)
			1.146	dx^2-y^2 (1) + dx^2-y^2 (2)	0.854	dx^2-y^2 (1) - dx^2-y^2 (2)
			1.135	dyz (1) + dyz (2)	0.865	$-dyz$ (1) + dyz (2)
			1.125	dz^2 (1) - dz^2 (2)	0.875	dz^2 (1) + dz^2 (2)
3	IV-IV	$S = 0/2$	1.227	$-dxy$ (1) + dxy (2)	0.773	dxy (1) + dxy (2)
			1.227	dyz (1) + dyz (2)	0.773	$-dyz$ (1) + dyz (2)
			1.129	$-dz^2$ (1) + dz^2 (2)	0.871	dz^2 (1) + dz^2 (2)

^aNumber in parenthesis indicates the numbering of Mn.

We show octahedral “ e_g ” natural orbitals ($3dx^2-y^2$ and $3dxz$ orbitals) of the lowest spin states in Figures 5-7 for **1**, **2**, and **3**, and the number in parenthesis denotes the numbering of Mn. The $3dxz$ orbitals with in-phase or out-of-phase coupling between Mn-Mn are respectively interacting with $2p_x$ or $2p_z$ orbitals of μ -oxo, which have the antibonding character as for Mn-O bonds, especially for **1**. These orbitals are occupied orbitals in **1** and unoccupied orbitals in **2** or **3**, and which may cause the long interatomic distances between Mn and μ -oxo in **1**.

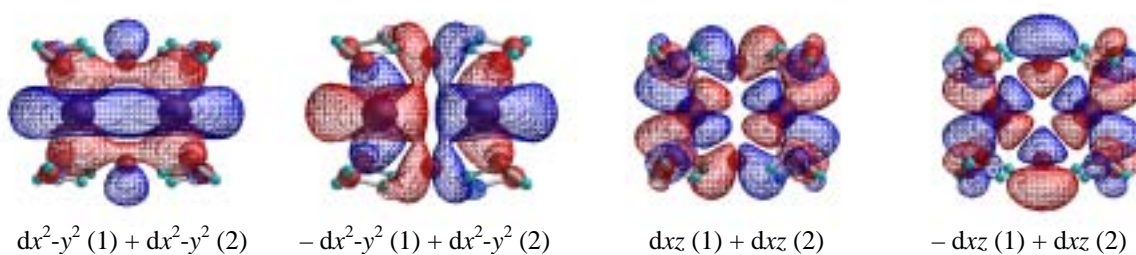
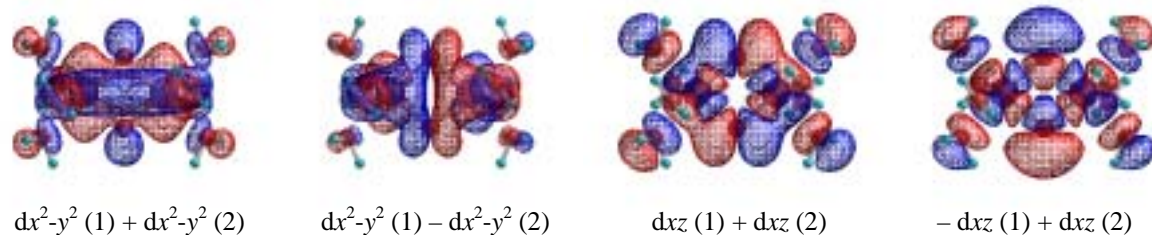
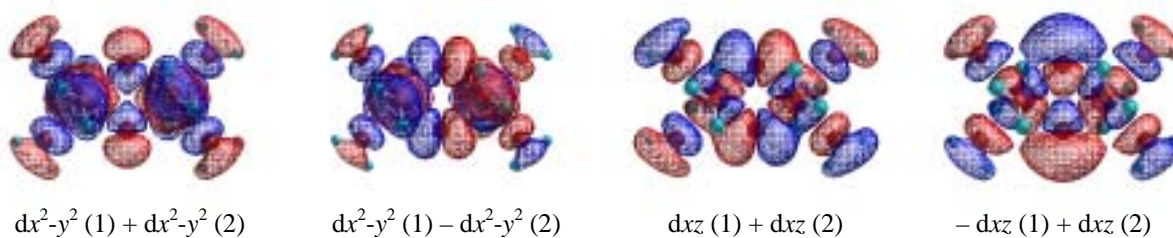


FIGURE 5. Octahedral “ e_g ” orbitals of model complex **1**.

FIGURE 6. Octahedral “e_g” orbitals of model complex 2.FIGURE 7. Octahedral “e_g” orbitals of model complex 3.

4 CONCLUSIONS

We studied the stable geometries and electronic structures of model complexes $[\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{q+}$ ($q = 0, 2, 4$) with Mn(II)–Mn(II), Mn(III)–Mn(III), and Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) cores linked by di- μ -oxo bridges. The coordinated positions of H₂O molecules are largely different between Mn(II)–Mn(II) and Mn(III)–Mn(III) or Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) complex. The structure of Mn₂O₂ cluster changes from nearly square to rhombus shape according to the oxidation states of Mn–Mn from Mn(II)–Mn(II) to Mn(IV)–Mn(IV). The antiferromagnetically-coupled lowest spin states are more stable than the ferromagnetically-coupled highest spin states in oxidized Mn(III)–Mn(III) and Mn(IV)–Mn(IV) cores, and the spin densities are well localized on Mn in all of the Mn(II)–Mn(II), Mn(III)–Mn(III), and Mn(IV)Mn(IV) oxidation states. In the two-electron and four-electron oxidations of Mn₂O₂ cluster from Mn(II)–Mn(II) to Mn(III)–Mn(III) and Mn(IV)–Mn(IV), the electrons which occupy the 3dxz and 3dx²-y² orbitals (octahedral “e_g” orbitals) are oxidized primary and secondary.

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