INFRARED SPECTRA OF THE  $Pd_nCO$  (n=2-5) MOLECULES ISOLATED IN SOLID ARGON AND NEON BETWEEN 100 AND 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>

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The Pd+CO reaction has been reinvestigated using deposition of ground state reagents in solid argon and neon and the formation of Pd<sub>n</sub>CO (n=2-5) is evidenced by strong absorption in the range 2015-1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Various isotopic data ( $^{12}$ C/ $^{13}$ C, $^{16}$ O / $^{18}$ O, natural isotopes for the palladium) and number of two quantum transitions have been measured in the near- and far-infrared regions. In argon, selective irradiation in visible leads to conversion between two Pd<sub>2</sub>CO isomers distinguished by the stretching frequency of the diatomic CO: bridged T-shaped ( $\nu_{CO}$ = 1856 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and side on ( $\nu_{CO}$ = 2015 cm<sup>-1</sup>). DFT calculations of the geometrical and electronic properties of Pd<sub>n</sub>CO complexes are also presented and compared to the experimental values.