# Capping and Decapping Series of Boranes 

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#### Abstract

Whereas many of the capped series of carbonyl clusters of transition metals are known, those of corresponding borane series are unknown. These include the monocapped, bicapped, tricapped, tetracapped and so on. This paper attempts to correlate selected capped series of the carbonyl series with the hypothetical corresponding ones of boranes using 14 n and 4 n rules. Some selected examples of capped and decapped borane series have been generated and tabulated. The borane clusters are found to follow a precise numerical algorithm. A comparison of selected examples of carbonyl cluster of lower series such as closo, nido and arachno with the corresponding borane clusters has been made. The popularly cited Rudolph system of deducing shapes of clusters is also discussed in terms of decapping series. The use of fragments and their corresponding fragment series enormously simplifies the categorization of molecular formulas into series from which their shapes can be predicted with or without the use of the cluster number ( k value). The fragment series vindicates the vital Hoffmann's isolobal concept very well.


Keywords: capping and decapping boranes, capping and decapping carbonyl clusters, categorization of clusters, cluster series, PSEPT, Wade-Mingos rules, Hoffmann and Isolobal concept, chemical fragments, 14n and 4n rules

## 1. Introduction

Boranes have attracted a lot of attention for a long time(Stock, 1933; Longuet-Higgins et al., 1943; Lipscomb, 1963; Mingos, 1972; Lipscomb, 1976; Wade, 1976, Rudolph, 1976; Hoffmann, 1982; Mingos, 1984; King, 1986;Greenwood and Earnshaw,1998; Shriver and Atkins, 1999;Jemmis et al, 2001; 2002; 2003; Balakrishnarajan and Hoffmann, 2004; Jemmis, 2005; Housecroft and Sharpe, 2005; Jemmis, et al., 2008; Welch, 2013;).Their fascinating structural design, chemical reactivity to form heteroboranes (Kaszynski,1999),metalloboboranes(Greenwood,1983) and potential versatile applications(Hawthorne et al., 1990, Hawthorne, 1999;Bernard, et al., 2002; Bondarev, et al.,2013; Tachikawa, et al., 2014 ) have stimulated increased research intensity and expansion of borane chemistry(Li et al, 2006; Alexandrova et al., 2006; Cerdán, et al., 2015). Previous work indicated that boranes can be arranged to form series based on cluster k value (Kiremire, 2014). In this paper, the borane series are generated much easier and more readily using the concept of capping series. Furthermore, borane and carbonyl clusters have been found to be interrelated and form parallel clusters series based upon 4 n and 14n rules respectively(Kiremire,2015a; Kiremire, 2015b).

## 2. Results and Discussion

### 2.1 Capping Borane Series and Osmium Carbonyl Cluster Cousins

In order for us to reflect upon capping in borane series, it is important to review capping in carbonyl clusters first. Work on capping carbonyl series has recently been published (Kiremire, 2015b). The osmium carbonyl clusters were used as a case study of the capping series (Kiremire, 2015b). It was discovered that the osmium fragment $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ of 12 valence electron content and a family member of $14 \mathrm{n}-2$ series is a the capping fragment whereas $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ fragment with 14 valence electron content and a member of 14 n series is the fragment for extending the same type of series (Kiremire, 2015b). Furthermore, the carbonyl cluster series obey the $14 \mathrm{n}+\mathrm{q}$ rule whereas the main group element clusters follow the $4 \mathrm{n}+\mathrm{q}$ rule where q is the cluster variable that normally takes even numbers (Kiremire, 2015b) for ordinary series. The cluster series variable q can have negative or positive values including zero. For instance, $q$ can cover the range such as $(-10,-8,-6,-4,-2,0,2,4,6,8,10)$. Of great importance is the cluster number $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n} \pm \mathrm{q} / 2$. The cluster value k for $14 \mathrm{n}+\mathrm{q}$ of carbonyl cluster is the same as that of $4 \mathrm{n}+\mathrm{q}$ of the corresponding main group element. In some cases especially organic compounds k value
corresponds to the number of bonds or linkages of skeletal atoms (Kiremire, 2007). Take the examples of $\mathrm{C}_{2} ; \mathrm{S}=$ $2[C]=2[4]=2[4 n]=4 n$ (mono-capped series), $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}=2 \mathrm{x} 2=4$ (quadruple bond) that has been discovered recently(Shaik, et al., 2012) $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2}=(\mathrm{CH})_{2} ; \mathrm{S}=2[4 \mathrm{n}+1]=4 \mathrm{n}+2$ (closo), $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-1=2 \times 2-1=3$ (triple bond), $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{4}=$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{2} ; \mathrm{S}=2[4 \mathrm{n}+2]=4 \mathrm{n}+4$ (nido), $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-2=2 \times 2-2=2$ (double bond), $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{6}=\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2} ; \mathrm{S}=2[4 \mathrm{n}+3]=$ $4 \mathrm{n}+6$ (arachno), $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-3=2 \times 2-3=1$ (single bond).
With the above background information, let us illustrate the capping concept with the octahedral carbonyl cluster $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{18}{ }^{2-}$. For the purposes of our illustration, $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{18}{ }^{2-}$ may be regarded as $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ (equivalent number of valence electrons). Capping the cluster, simply means successive additions of $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ fragment. Since the fragment $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ belongs to $14 \mathrm{n}-2$ series, its k -value is given by $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}+1=2 \mathrm{x} 1+1=3$. This means when capping or decapping takes place the cluster $k$ value changes by 3. This is shown in Scheme 1. As can be discerned from Scheme 1, the number of osmium atoms increases by one for every step while the number of carbonyl ligands increase by two. When a cluster is decapped, the opposite happens. The $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ carbonyl cluster has a total of 86 valence electrons ( $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}$ ) and belongs to $14 \mathrm{n}+2$ closo series. Since the method of using series to classify a cluster is not common, it is important to briefly demonstrate it. The $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ carbonyl cluster may be expressed in fragments as $\mathrm{F}=\left[\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]_{6}(\mathrm{CO})$. The corresponding cluster series can then be calculated from the fragments as $\mathrm{S}=6\left[\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]+\mathrm{CO}$. The fragment $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ has a content of $8+3 \times 2=14$ valence electrons. Applying the 14 n rule utilized in our earlier work (Kiremire, 2015b), the fragment belongs to $\mathrm{S}=14 \mathrm{n}(\mathrm{n}=1)$ series. Hence all the fragments are then converted into valence electron equivalents. Thus, $\mathrm{S}=$ $6[8+3 \times 2]+2=6[14]+2=6[14 \mathrm{n}]+2$. The interesting aspect about the algebra of series, it is found that the multiplier does not affect the value of 14 n in case of transition carbonyl clusters or 4 n in the case of the main group elements. What matters is the value of $n$ of the fragment under consideration. In this regard, $6[14 \mathrm{n}]=14 \mathrm{n}$ (where $n=6$ ) in this case. Therefore the overall value of the cluster series $S=6[14 n]+2=14 n+2$. Hence, this cluster is a member of closo series. Its valence content is also obtained from the series $S=14 n+2$. THUS, when $\mathrm{n}=6, \mathrm{~S}=14(6)+2=86$. This value is the same as the valence electrons obtained from the formula $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ $=8 \times 6+19 \times 2=86$. A paper explaining using series to categorize clusters into series and predicting their possible shapes is in press (Kiremire, 2015). Since $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ is a closo cluster of six skeletal elements (6 Os) we can look for its corresponding borane (cousin) closo cluster of $4 n+2$ series. In order to do that we must convert $14 n+2$ to $4 n+2$ by removing 10 n electrons. Since we are considering an octahedral cluster of 6 skeletal atoms, $n=6$. Hence, $10 \mathrm{n}=10 \times 6=60$. Therefore, the borane cluster valence electrons $\left(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{BC}}\right)=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}-60=86-60=26$. The valence electrons of the borane cluster will include those of 6 boron skeletal atoms and the accompanying hydrogen atoms. Let the valence electrons of boron skeletal atoms be $V_{B}=6 \times 3=18$. Hence the remaining valence electrons will be for the hydrogen atoms. Thus, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{H}}=26-18=8$. Hence, the number of the hydrogen atoms expected to combine with the 6 boron atoms will be 8 . Therefore the corresponding borane cluster formula will be given by $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$. We can verify to see if $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ cluster is also closo as follows $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}=(\mathrm{BH})_{6} \mathrm{H}_{2}$. For this cluster $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{F}}=6[\mathrm{BH}]+2[\mathrm{H}]=6[3+1]+2[1]=6[4]+2=6[4 \mathrm{n}]+2=4 \mathrm{n}+2$. If we put $\mathrm{n}=6$ into the cluster formula we get $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{F}}=4(6)+2=26$. Also the k value is given by $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-1=2(6)-1=11$. The number of valence electrons for the cluster $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}, \mathrm{~V}=3 \times 6+8=26$. However, we know that the closo boranes occur as negatively charged species and so $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ does exist as $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}$ (Cotton and Wilkinson, 1980). The addition of $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ capping fragment to $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ carbonyl cluster produces $\mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{21}$-a mono-capped closo cluster $\left(\mathrm{C}^{1} \mathrm{C}\right)$. Its cluster series is readily determined from $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{21}=\left[\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]_{7} ; \mathrm{S}=7[14 \mathrm{n}]=14 \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}=2 \mathrm{x} 7=14$. Clearly the capping of $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ to form $\mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{21}$ the k value has changed from 11 to 14 by a value of 3 as expected. The borane cluster corresponding to $\mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{21}$ is deduced as explained for $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ cluster. The borane cluster deduced is $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}$. The cluster series for $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}=(\mathrm{BH})_{7} ; \mathrm{S}=7[4 \mathrm{n}]=4 \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}=7 \mathrm{x} 2=14$. The k value for $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ is the same as that of $\mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{21}$ carbonyl cluster. What is clearly seen is that the octahedral closo cluster $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ has been transformed into a hypothetical mono-capped borane $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}$. The analysis of the transformation shows clearly that one of the hydrogen atoms in $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ has been converted into a boron atom or removed and replaced with a boron atom during the capping process. The successive conversion of hydrogen atoms into B atoms gives the borane products $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}(7,7) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{21}, \mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{6}(8,6) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{8}(\mathrm{CO})_{23}, \mathrm{~B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{5}(9,5) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{9}(\mathrm{CO})_{25}, \mathrm{~B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{4}(10,4) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{10}(\mathrm{CO})_{27}$, $\mathrm{B}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{3}(11,3) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{11}(\mathrm{CO})_{29}, \mathrm{~B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{2}(12,2) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{12}(\mathrm{CO})_{31}, \mathrm{~B}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{1}(13,1) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{13}(\mathrm{CO})_{33}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{0}(14,0)=\mathrm{B}_{14} \Xi$ $\mathrm{Os}_{14}(\mathrm{CO})_{35}$. The capping sequence can numerically be expressed as $(6,8) \rightarrow(7,7) \rightarrow(8,6) \rightarrow(9,5) \rightarrow(10,4) \rightarrow(11,3) \rightarrow(12,2) \rightarrow(13,1) \rightarrow(14,0)$. We can also work out the k values of the corresponding series of the capped boranes in order to be more familiar with the method of using fragments. Starting with $\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ as an example, $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{6}=(\mathrm{BH})_{6}(\mathrm{~B})_{2}$. In this form, we can convert it the series fragments as $S=6[\mathrm{BH}]+2[\mathrm{~B}]$. The fragment, $[\mathrm{BH}]=[3+1]=[4]$ in terms of valence electrons. Since the fragment has only one skeletal atom, the fragment belongs to the series $S=4 n$. However the fragment $[B]=[3]$ valence electrons is short of one to become $4 n$. Hence, its series is given by $S=[3]=[4-1]=[4 n-1]$. We can therefore determine the
cluster series of the molecular formula $\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ as $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{F}}=6[4 \mathrm{n}]+2[4 \mathrm{n}-1]=[4 n]+[4 n-2]$. As stated earlier, the multiplier does not change $4 n$ except the integer associated with it. Hence, $S_{F}=4 n+4 n-2=4 n-2(4 n+4 n$ is simply $=4 n)$. If $\mathrm{n}=8$, then the value of $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{F}}=4(8)-2=30$ which is the same as the valence electrons given by $\mathrm{V}=\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{6}=8 \mathrm{x} 3+6=30$. This tells us that the series formula makes sense. We can try one more borane cluster $\mathrm{B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{5}$. The order of formulating fragments to determine molecular formula series does not matter. The borane formula $\mathrm{B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ can be broken into $\mathrm{F}=9[\mathrm{~B}]+5[\mathrm{H}]$ fragments. By inserting in the respective valence electrons we can derive the series $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{F}}$ $=9[3]+5=9[4-1]+5=9[4 n-1]+5=4 n-9+5=4 n-4$ ( again according to the algebra of these series, $9 x 4 n=4 n$ ). To verify that the series formula is correct, insert $\mathrm{n}=9$ into the formula then, $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{F}}=4(9)-4=32$. The number of valence electrons of $\mathrm{B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{5}=9 \times 3+5=32$. Since the series of the cluster is given by $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{F}}=4 \mathrm{n}-4$, the k value of the borane cluster is obtained from $k=2 n+2=2(9)+2=20$. The $k$ values for the remaining capped boranes, $B_{10} H_{4}, B_{11} \mathrm{H}_{3}$, $\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{2}, \mathrm{~B}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{14}$ can be worked out in the same way. Starting with the k value of $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$, they are $\mathrm{k}=$ $11,14,17,20,23,26,29,32$ and 35 respectively. The last k value $=35$ is for the $\mathrm{B}_{14}$ cluster, the final capping product of the $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}$ series. The $\mathrm{B}_{14}$ cluster belongs to the series $\mathrm{S}=(\mathrm{B})_{14} ; \mathrm{S}=14[3]=14[4-1]=14[4 \mathrm{n}-1]=4 \mathrm{n}-14$. The k value for $\mathrm{B}_{14}$ can be calculated from $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}+7=2(14)+7=35$. The capping term is given by $\mathrm{Cp}=\mathrm{C}^{1}+\mathrm{C}^{7}=$ $\mathrm{C}^{8} \mathrm{C}[\mathrm{M}-6]$ is shown in Scheme 1. The capping expression is derived from the knowledge of the series. For instance, if we write the series $S=4 n-14$ as $S=1(4 n)+7(-2)$, then the (4n) represents a mono-capped term while every ( -2 ) after ( 4 n ) represents an additional capping. Hence, the total cappings after the inner core octahedral closo cluster will be $1+7=8$. That is what the symbol $C_{p}=C^{1}+C^{7}=C^{8} C[M-6]$ stands for. The [M-6] means the inner core comprises of six skeletal atoms which constitute an octahedral closo fragment and the $\mathrm{C}^{8}$ symbol means that eight atoms surround the six atoms as capping elements. This may be viewed as a cluster within a cluster. That is, a nucleus of six surrounded by other eight atoms and the total number of atoms for the whole cluster is 14 . The fascinating immense power of fragments and series can be illustrated by deducing the series of the giant carbonyl cluster $\mathrm{Ni}_{38} \mathrm{Pt}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{48}(\mathrm{H})^{5-}$ complex. We can split the cluster into the following fragments $\mathrm{S}=38[\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{CO})]+6[\mathrm{Pt}(\mathrm{CO})]+4 \mathrm{CO}+\mathrm{H}+5=38[10+2]+6[10+2]+4 \times 2+1+5=44[10+2]+14=44[12]+14=44[14 \mathrm{n}-2]+14$ $=14 n-88+14=14 n-74$. This means the cluster belongs to $S=14 n-74$ series. For $S=14 n-74=1(14 n)+37(-2)$, $C_{P}=C^{1}+C^{37}=C^{38} C[M-6]$. This symbol implies there are six atoms forming an octahedral cluster nucleus surrounded by 38 other capping atoms. Indeed, it is amazing that the x-ray crystal structure showed six platinum atoms constituting an octahedral nucleus in the center surrounded by 38 nickel atoms in the giant cluster (Rossi and Zanello, 2011) of 44 skeletal atoms. The number of skeletal atoms in the complex is 44 . Inserting $n=44$ into $S=14 n-74$ gives $S=14(44)-74=542$. The sum of valence electrons of the complex $V=44 \times 10+2 \times 48+1+5=542$. Therefore, the series can be viewed to represent the valence content of the cluster or fragment. The capping formulation was explained in our earlier work (Kiremire, 2015b). The geometries of the possible isomers of carbonyl clusters $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}(\mathrm{f}-1), \mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{21}(\mathrm{f}-2), \mathrm{Os}_{8}(\mathrm{CO})_{23}(\mathrm{f}-3), \mathrm{Os}_{9}(\mathrm{CO})_{25}(\mathrm{f}-4), \mathrm{Os}_{10}(\mathrm{CO})_{27}(\mathrm{f}-5)$, $\mathrm{Os}_{11}(\mathrm{CO})_{29}(\mathrm{f}-6)$, and $\mathrm{Os}_{12}(\mathrm{CO})_{31}(\mathrm{f}-7)$ are given in Figure 1. On the basis of the capping principle of the boranes, we can deduce the final capping clusters derived from the selected closo boranes as follows and is indicated in brackets: $\mathrm{BH}_{3}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{4}\right), \mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{4}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{6}\right), \mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{5}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{8}\right), \mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{6}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{10}\right), \mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{12}\right), \mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{14}\right), \mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{9}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{16}\right), \mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{10}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{18}\right), \mathrm{B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{11}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{20}\right)$, $\mathrm{B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{12}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{22}\right), \mathrm{B}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{13}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{24}\right)$ and $\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{14}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{26}\right)$. Theoretical studies of the cluster $\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ have recently been conducted (Ohishi,et al., 2009; Szwacki, et al., 2009). This cluster is predicted to be stable with aromatic properties. This cluster may be regarded as a tetracapped derivative of $\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{10}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{8}{ }^{2-}\right)$ closo borane. Also the naturally occuring boron cluster $\mathrm{B}_{12}$ (Higoshi and Ishii, 2001) may be regarded as the final capping member of the closo series based on $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}\right)$. Furthermore, a fullerene-type boron cluster $\mathrm{B}_{40}$ has been discovered by laser-vaporization experiments (Zhai et al., 2014). This may be considered to belong to a series given by $\mathrm{S}=$ $40[B]=40[3]=40[4-1]=40[4 n-1]=4 n-40$, and the capping series $C_{P}=C^{1}+C^{20}=C^{21} C[M-19]$ where [M-19] $=\mathrm{B}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{19}{ }^{2-}\left(\mathrm{B}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{21}\right)$. In other words, it may be regarded as a derivative of $\mathrm{B}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{21}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{19}{ }^{2-}\right)$ closo borane. Among boron clusters which are being studied theoretically (Zhai, et al., 2003) include $\mathrm{B}_{36}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{42}$. The two clusters may be considered to belong to the capped series $\mathrm{C}^{19} \mathrm{C}[\mathrm{M}-17]$ and $\mathrm{C}^{22} \mathrm{C}[\mathrm{M}-20]$ where $[\mathrm{M}-17]=\mathrm{B}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{17}{ }^{2-}\left(\mathrm{B}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{19}\right)$ and $[M-20]=\mathrm{B}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{20}{ }^{2-}\left(\mathrm{B}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{22}\right)$ respectively. The capped series of selected boranes $\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ to $\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{12}{ }^{2-}\left(\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{14}\right)$ are shown in Table 1. The table could be expanded if necessary.

### 2.2 Decapping Borane Series and the Corresponding Osmium Carbonyl Cluster Series

As mentioned earlier, the fragment $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ with a content of 12 valence electrons and a member of the series $14 \mathrm{n}-2$ was used in the capping series of an octahedral osmium cluster complex, $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$. If we do the reverse, instead of successively adding the capping fragment to the cluster, we can successively remove the fragment from the initial closo cluster. The new cluster species generated constitute the decapping osmium series. The corresponding cousin boranes may be produced in the same manner to generate decapping borane series. For instance, the removal of $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ from $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ produces $\mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{CO})_{17}$ cluster. Its series can be derived as follows: $\mathrm{S}=5\left[\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]+2 \mathrm{CO}=5[8+3 \times 2]+4=5[14]+4=5[14 \mathrm{n}]+4=14 \mathrm{n}+4$. Hence, this cluster with a valence
electron content of 74 , is member of nido series $(14 n+4)$. In order to get its corresponding borane cousin cluster we must remove the 10 n electrons. The corresponding borane cluster will have 5 skeletal atoms and so $\mathrm{n}=5$. Therefore the number of valence electrons to be removed $=10 \mathrm{n}=10 \times 5=50$. Thus the required borane cluster will have $74-50=24$ valence electrons. These electrons have to be distributed among a borane cluster with 5 boron skeletal toms and the accompanying hydrogen atoms. Thus, applying the same approach used above in the octahedral cluster $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{BC}}=24, \mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{B}}=3 \times 5=15$ and $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{H}}=24-15=9$. Therefore the corresponding borane cluster cousin is given by $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}$. The decapping series of $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}$ are summarized in Scheme 2. The corresponding k value decreases by 3. The negative k values imply that the existence of such species is quite remote. The series are quite precise. Whereas the capping ones terminated at $\mathrm{B}_{14}$ [with 42 valence electrons]and $\mathrm{Os}_{14}(\mathrm{CO})_{35}[182$ ], the decapping process ends at $7(\mathrm{CO})[14]$ and $14 \mathrm{H}[14]$ and the figures in brackets indicate the total valence electron content. The former termination shows the production of 14 borons and the later shows the production of 7 carbonyls with 14 valence electrons and no cluster atom and 14 hydrogen atoms with 14 valence electrons. It is important to note that the capping fragments also follow the law of parallel series. For instance $\operatorname{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ fragment is a member of $14 n-2$ with 12 electrons, while the $(B,-H)$ fragment with its electron content of 2 follows the $4 n-2$ rule. There is a difference of $10(10 \mathrm{n}=10 \mathrm{x} 1)$ valence electrons between 12 and 2.

### 2.3 Numerical Generation of Capping and Decapping Borane Series

When the structures of boranes are scrutinized, an interesting numerical sequence is discerned. Let $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}\right)$ be represented by $(5,7)$ numbers. The closo cluster $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}\{\mathrm{~S}=5[\mathrm{BH}]+2 \mathrm{H}=\{5[3+1]+2=5[4]+2=5[4 \mathrm{n}]+2=4 \mathrm{n}+2\}$ belongs to $4 \mathrm{n}+2$ closo series. In order to find a cousin carbonyl cluster say that of osmium, we must add 10 n electrons to elevate it to $14 \mathrm{n}+2$ series. The cluster $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ with 5 skeletal atoms has a content of 22 total valence electrons. The 10 n electrons to be added $=10 \mathrm{n}=10 \times 5=50$. Therefore the carbonyl cluster cousin of the borane cluster will have $22+50=72$ total valence electrons $\left(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}\right)$. These electrons must be distributed among 5 osmium skeletal atoms and the carbonyl ligands. The 5 osmium atoms will need $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{os}}=5 \times 8=40$. This leaves the electrons for the CO ligands $\left(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CO}}\right)=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{cc}}=72-40=32$. Hence, the number of carbonyl ligands needed $\left(\mathrm{N}_{\mathrm{CO}}\right)=32 / 2=16$. Therefore osmium carbonyl cluster cousin complex is given by $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{CO})_{16}$. Regarding $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ cluster $(5,7)$, the first number represents the boron atoms and the second one the hydrogen atoms. For this series, the mono-capped cluster will be $(6,6)=\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}($ mono-capped $)$. This runs parallel to $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{18}$ which is obtained by adding $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ capping fragment to $\mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{CO})_{16}$.The set $(7,5)=\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{5}($ bicapped $) \Xi \mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{20}$, $(8,4)=\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ (tricapped) $\Xi \mathrm{Os}_{8}(\mathrm{CO})_{22},(9,3)=\mathrm{B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{3}$ (tetracapped) $\Xi \mathrm{Os}_{9}(\mathrm{CO})_{24},(10,2)=\mathrm{B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{2}$ (pentacapped) $\Xi$ $\mathrm{Os}_{10}(\mathrm{CO})_{26},(11,1)=\mathrm{B}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{1}$ (hexacapped) $\Xi \mathrm{Os}_{11}(\mathrm{CO})_{28},(12,0)=\mathrm{B}_{12}$ (heptacapped) $\Xi \mathrm{Os}_{12}(\mathrm{CO})_{30}$. In these series, $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}\right)$ is an $\mathrm{D}_{3 \mathrm{~h}}$ (trigonal bipyramid) closo cluster. The rest are capping borane clusters based on the trigonal bipyramid geometry. The $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ capping ends in $\mathrm{B}_{12}$. In the 4 n series, the number of electrons required is 2. This is equivalent to adding a boron atom $(+3 \mathrm{e})$ and removing a hydrogen atom $(-1 \mathrm{e})$ or converting a H atom into a B atom. As can be seen from a series of numbers, $(5,7) \rightarrow(6,6) \rightarrow(7,5) \rightarrow(8,4) \rightarrow(9,3) \rightarrow(10,2) \rightarrow(11,1)$ and $(12,0)$ follow a precise natural numerical sequence. The sum of each set of numbers is a constant 12 . Illustrations of numerical generation of capping and decapping series of borane clusters based on $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}\left(\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}\right)$ and $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}\left(\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right)$ closo boranes are shown in Schemes 3 and 4.


Scheme 1. Capping Series based on Closo Octahedral Geometry.

| 14n+2: Closo | 14n+4 :Nido | 14n+6: Arachno | 14n+8: Hypho | 14n+10 : Klapo | 14n+12 : Klapo |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{19}[86$ | $\mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{CO})_{17}[74]$ | $\mathrm{Os}_{4}(\mathrm{CO})_{15}[62] ~ \rightarrow$ | $\rightarrow \xrightarrow[{\mathrm{Os}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{13}[50}]]{\longrightarrow} \mathrm{Os}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{11}[38] \rightarrow \mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{9}[26]$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}[26]$ | $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}[24]$ | $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10}[22]$ | $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{11}[20]$ | $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{12}$ [18] | $\mathrm{BH}_{13}$ [16] |
| $4 \mathrm{n}+2$ $\mathrm{k}=11$ | $4 n+4$ $k=8$ | $4 n+6$ $k=5$ | $4 \mathrm{n}+8$ $\mathrm{k}=2$ | $4 \mathrm{n}+10$ | $4 \mathrm{n}+12, \mathrm{k}=-4$ |
| $\mathrm{k}=11$ | $\mathrm{k}=8$ | $\mathrm{k}=5$ | $\mathrm{k}=2$ | $\mathrm{k}=-1$ | $(\mathrm{CO})_{7}[14] 14 \mathrm{n}+14$ <br> $\mathrm{H}_{14}$ [14] 4n+14 |

Scheme 2. Decapping Series based on Closo Octahedral Geometry

## Decapping Series



Scheme 3. Numerical Generation of Capping and Decapping Boranes based on $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$
Decapping Series


Scheme 4. Numerical Generation of Capping and Decapping Borane Series based on $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}$

### 2.4 Capping and Decapping Borane Series

We have demonstrated the concept of numerical generation of capping and decapping borane series for closo $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}$ clusters. The results of these are given in Schemes 3 and 4 . Starting with any member of the closo series $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{n}}{ }^{2-}$, borane molecules and fragments can be derived by the applying the numerical method illustrated in Schemes 3 and 4. This has been done for the series, $n=1$ to $n=12$. The results are given in Tables 1 and 2.

### 2.5 Finding a Borane Fragment or Cluster in Tables 1 and 2

It is quite easy to find a given borane molecule or fragment if the sum of the atoms in the given formula including any charge if present add up to the value on the top of Table 1 or 2 . Take the following examples for illustrations. First, $\mathrm{BH}_{3}(1+3=4)$, the sum of the atoms is 4 . When we look at Table 1 and identify the column headed by 4 , it seen that $\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ is a member of the closo series. Next, $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{6}(2+6=8)$, this is found in the column headed by 8 in Table 2 and belongs to Nido series. Consider $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10}(4+10=14)$. Again, we follow the procedure and check at the column headed by 14. The molecule belongs to arachno series in Table 2. Let us consider $\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{12}$ $(8+12=20)$. This is found in Table 2 and is a member of Nido series. It is observed the when $B_{m} H_{n}(m=n)$, the cluster belongs to Mono-capped series 4 n . When $\mathrm{m}<\mathrm{n}$, the cluster is in Table 2 of Decapping Series and when $\mathrm{m}>\mathrm{n}$ the cluster is in Table 1 of Capping Series. Consider $\mathrm{B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{1}(9+1=10, \mathrm{~m}>\mathrm{n})$, the cluster will be found in

Table 1 in the column headed by 10 . The cluster is a member of penta-capped series. For clusters such as $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{7}(4+7=11)$ in which the sum of m and n is an odd number are not considered in this paper as they are not linked to $4 \mathrm{n}+2$ series. Also for $\mathrm{m}+\mathrm{n}$ (even number) $>26$ will lie outside the range of Tables 1 and 2 . Just to test the importance of Tables 1 and 2, we looked at some of the boranes mentioned in Lipscomb's Nobel Prize Lecture of 1976. They are listed according to the increasing sum of $m+n$ value as follows $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ [8], $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}[12]$, $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10}[14], \mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}[14], \mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}[14], \mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{16}[20], \mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{14}[22], \mathrm{B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{14}[24]$, and $\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{14}[26]$. All these boranes are found in Tables 1 and 2 under the column headed by the number indicated in the bracket after the formula. Tables 1 and 2 may be expanded as required.

### 2.6 Shapes of Borane and Corresponding Carbonyl Clusters

The shapes of the borane closo $(4 n+2)$ clusters $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{n}}{ }^{2-}$ for $\mathrm{n}=5-12$ are well known (Cotton and Wilkinson ,1980). They are used as a basis on which the shapes of other borane clusters below them such as Nido ( $4 \mathrm{n}+4$ ), Arachno $(4 n+6)$, and Hypho ( $4 n+8$ ) series are determined using Wade's rules (Welch, 2013). Take the example of $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}\left(\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right)$ of $4 \mathrm{n}+2$ closo series with 26 valence electrons as a basis to deduce the shapes of related clusters. The cluster has an ideal $\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{h}}$ geometry (Greenwood and Earnshaw, 1998) (see Fig. 1, f-1). The corresponding carbonyl closo cluster of $14 n+2$ series will have $26+6 \times 10=86$ valence electrons. Many carbonyl clusters with 6 skeletal atoms and 86 valence electrons also possess an ideal $\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{h}}$ geometry. Among many carbonyl cousins, these include $\mathrm{Rh}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{16}, \mathrm{Ru}_{6}(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{CO})_{17}, \mathrm{Co}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{14}{ }^{4-}, \mathrm{Ru}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{18}{ }^{2-}, \mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{18}{ }^{2-}, \mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{H})(\mathrm{CO})_{18}{ }^{-}, \mathrm{Co}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{15}{ }^{2-}$, $\mathrm{Rh}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{15} \mathrm{I}^{-}$, and $\mathrm{Re}_{6}(\mathrm{H})_{2}(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{CO})_{18}{ }^{2-}$. The closo $(4 \mathrm{n}+2)$ borane cluster $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$ has an ideal trigonal bipyramid shape $\left(D_{3 h}\right.$, see Fig. $\left.2: f-1\right)$. It has 22 valence electrons. Therefore, its cousin carbonyl clusters ( $14 n+2$ ) will have $22+50=72$ valence electrons. These carbonyl clusters include, $\mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{CO})_{16}, \mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{CO})_{15}{ }^{2-}, \mathrm{PtRh}_{4}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}{ }^{2-}$, and $\mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{H})(\mathrm{CO})_{15}{ }^{-}$. Let us consider another borane cluster $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}(4 \mathrm{n}+4)$ nido series. It has an ideal square pyramid geometry ( $\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{v}$, see Fig.2: f-2) with 24 valence electrons. Its carbonyl cluster cousins will have $24+50=74$ valence electrons and will belong to $14 n+4$ nido series. Some examples of carbonyl clusters of this series are $\mathrm{Fe}_{5}(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{CO})_{15}, \quad \mathrm{Ru}_{5}(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{CO})_{15}, \quad \mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{CO})_{15}, \quad \mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{CO})_{14}{ }^{2-}, \quad \mathrm{Ru}_{5}(\mathrm{~N})(\mathrm{CO})_{14}{ }^{-}, \quad \mathrm{Fe}_{5}(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{CO})_{14}{ }^{2-}$, and $\mathrm{Fe}_{5}(\mathrm{~N})(\mathrm{CO})_{14}-$. These selected examples bring out some similarities between $14 \mathrm{n}+\mathrm{q}$ series of the carbonyl clusters and the corresponding $4 \mathrm{n}+\mathrm{q}$ borane clusters.

### 2.7 Rudolph Decapping Series of Clusters

In order to understand the Rudolph system of correlating shapes of clusters, we need to briefly interpret the numbers in Table 3. Let us take a few examples. Consider the row beginning with the set $(6,8)$. This set represents a borane of formula $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$. This borane is a member of the closo series which exist in ionic form in this case $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}$. The next set $(5,9)$ which is derived by rearranging $(6,8)$ by removing one from 6 leaving 5 and adding it to 8 giving us 9 represents $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}$ which is a nido cluster. Doing the same rearrangement on $(5,9)$ produces the set $(4,10)$. This set represents the borane $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ which is an arachno cluster. The remaining sets of numbers $(3,11)$, $(2,12)$, $(1,13)$ and $(0,14)$ represent $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{11}, \mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{12}, \mathrm{BH}_{13}$, and $\mathrm{H}_{14}$ respectively. Some of the fragments represented by numbers are just of academic interest as they may not exist. The first column of numbers represent some members of closo series. These are $(1,3) \rightarrow \mathrm{BH}_{3},(2,4) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{4},(3,5) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{5}$, $(4,6) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{4}, \mathrm{H}_{6},(5,7) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7},(6,8) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$, and so on. The next column represents members of the nido series and so on. Rudolph analyzed the structures of boranes and identified the geometrical relationship linking the closo $(4 n+2)$ geometry with the corresponding nido $(4 n+4)$ and hypho $(4 n+6)$ geometries. This relationship is now well known (Rudolph, 1976). However, with our knowledge of series, this geometrical relationship of boranes and other clusters is part of the Decapping Series. The Rudolph decapping series has been represented numerically in Table 3. The numbers shown in Table 3 can be translated into borane clusters and fragments. Let us consider some of the numbers in the first column. Take $(5,7) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$. Thus, $(5,7)$ represents the closo ion $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$ which belongs to $(4 \mathrm{n}+2)$ series. Similarly, $(6,8) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-} ;(7,9) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{9} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}{ }^{2-} ;(8,10) \rightarrow$ $\mathrm{B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{10} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{8}{ }^{2-} ;(9,11) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{11} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{9}{ }^{2-} ;(10,12) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{12} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{10}{ }^{2-} ;(11,13) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{13} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{11}{ }^{2-} ;$ and $(12,14) \rightarrow \mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{14} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{12}{ }^{2-}$. The horizontal movement in Table 3 gives the decapped members derived from the corresponding closo series. The set of numbers $(5,7) \rightarrow(4,8) \rightarrow(3,9)$ represent $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{~B}_{7}, \mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{~B}_{9}$ respectively; $(6,8) \rightarrow(5,9) \rightarrow(4,10)$ represent $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ (shape Fig. 1: f-1), $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}$ (shape Figure 2: f-2), and $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ (shape Figure 2:f-3)respectively. Let us consider the series $(7,9) \rightarrow(6,10) \rightarrow(5,11)$. These numbers correspond to $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{9}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}{ }^{2-}\right), \mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ borane clusters which form part of Rudolph decapping series(Cotton and Wilkinson, 1980). Applying the concept of fragments and their series the $k$-values corresponding to the formulas of the clusters can be calculated as follows.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{9}=(\mathrm{BH})_{7} \mathrm{H}_{2} ; \mathrm{S}=7[4 \mathrm{n}]+2=4 \mathrm{n}+2 \text { (Closo Series), } \mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-1=2 \times 7-1=13 \\
& \mathrm{~F}=\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{10}=(\mathrm{BH})_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4} ; \mathrm{S}=6[4 \mathrm{n}]+4=4 \mathrm{n}+4 \text { (Nido Series), } \mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-2=2 \times 6-2=10
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{11}=(\mathrm{BH})_{5} \mathrm{H}_{6} ; \mathrm{S}=5[4 \mathrm{n}]+6=4 \mathrm{n}+6 \text { (Arachno Series), } \mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-3=2 \times 5-3=7
$$

The skeletal shapes of the $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}{ }^{2-}, \mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ are shown in Figure 3. The other sets of numbers can be translated into formulas in the same manner.

### 2.8 Applying Isolobal Fragments to Deduce Cluster Series and Predict Possible Cluster Shapes

Take $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$ as an example. The method has been developed for categorization (Kiremire, 2015) of clusters using 4 n or 14 n rule and will be applied here. We can write the formula as $(\mathrm{BH})_{5}{ }^{2-}$. The series can be derived from $S=5[B H]+2=5[3+1]+2=5[4]+2=5[4 n]+2=4 n+2$. Since $B_{5} H_{5}{ }^{2-}$ belongs to $4 n+2$ series, it is a closo cluster. The cluster k-value $=2 n-1=2 \times 5-1=9$ based on the cluster series $(4 n+2)$. This k-value is characteristic of a trigonal bipyramid geometry (Figure 2:f-1). Consider a carborane $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{5}$. We can write the formula as $(\mathrm{CH})_{2}(\mathrm{BH})_{3}$. The series of the molecula formula can be derived from $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{T}}=2[\mathrm{CH}]+3[\mathrm{BH}]=2[4+1]+3[3+1]=$ $2[5]+3[4]=2[4 n+1]+3[4 n]=4 n+2+4 n=4 n+2$. This means that the cluster belongs to the closo series with k -value $=2 \mathrm{n}-1=2 \times 5-1=9$. This implies the cluster will have an ideal skeletal shape of a trigonal bipyramid (Figure 2:f-1). Another example $\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$. The cluster formula can be decomposed into the fragments F $=\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]+4[\mathrm{CH}]$ and the corresponding cluster series can be derived from the valence electrons of the fragments as follows $S=1[8+3 \times 2]+4[4+1]=1[14]+4[5]=1[14]+4[5]=1[14 n]+4[4 n+1]=1[4 n]+4[4 n+1]=$ $4 n+4 n+4=4 n+4$. Hence, the cluster $\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ is a member of $\mathrm{S}=4 \mathrm{n}+4$ (nido) series.To simplify the analysis of the series for structural identification, 14 n has been taken to be similar to 4 n and the additions or multiples of $4 n$ do not affect it and it remains as $4 n$. In other words, in series, $y(4 n)$ or $y(14 n)=4 n$ or $14 n$ where $y=$ is an integer, $1,2,3$, and son. Therefore the cluster belongs to nido series $(4 n+4)$ with $k$-value of $2 n-2=$ $2 x 5-2=8$. This $k$ value of 8 is a characteristic of a square pyramid geometry(see Figure $2: f-2$ ). Thus, all the 4 carbon atoms are bonded to Fe and agrees with $\left(\eta^{4}-\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ formulation. Let us consider the metalloborane $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8} \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$. Using the same approach, $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{T}}=\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]+4\left[\mathrm{BH}_{2}\right]=[14 \mathrm{n}]+4[4 \mathrm{n}+1]=4 \mathrm{n}+4 \mathrm{n}+4=$ $4 n+4$. This is also a nido cluster with $\mathrm{k}=8$. It will have a similar geometry as $\left.\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$. The cobalt complex $\left(\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right) \mathrm{Co}\left(\eta^{5}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right.$ can be analyzed using the same approach. $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}=(\mathrm{BH})_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} ; \mathrm{S}=5[4 \mathrm{n}]+4=$ $4 \mathrm{n}+4$ (Nido) series; $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}-2=2 \times 5-2=8$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{F}=\left(\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right) \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}=\left(\mathrm{BH}_{2}\right)_{4} \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3} ; \mathrm{S}=4[4 \mathrm{n}+1]+[14 \mathrm{n}]=4 \mathrm{n}+4+4 \mathrm{n}=4 \mathrm{n}+4(\text { Nido series, } \mathrm{k}=8 . \\
&\left.\mathrm{F}=\left(\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right) \mathrm{Co}\left(\eta^{5}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)=\mathrm{BH}_{2}\right)_{4} \mathrm{Co}\left(\eta^{5}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)=\left(\mathrm{BH}_{2}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{CoC}_{\mathrm{P}}\right) ; \mathrm{S}=4[4 \mathrm{n}+1]+[14 \mathrm{n}]=4 \mathrm{n}+4+4 \mathrm{n}=4 \mathrm{n}+4 \\
&(\text { Nido series, } \mathrm{k}=8 .
\end{aligned} \quad \begin{array}{r}
\mathrm{F}=\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}=(\mathrm{CH})_{4}\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right] ; \mathrm{S}=4[4 \mathrm{n}+1]+[14 \mathrm{n}]=4 \mathrm{n}+4+4 \mathrm{n}=4 \mathrm{n}+4(\text { Nido series, } \mathrm{k}=8
\end{array}
$$

The equivalence of the cluster k value implies that there is a similarity of the symmetries of the skeletal shapes of the clusters and these are shown in Figure 4. It is found that the cobalt cluster has two isomers(Greenwood and Earnshaw, 1998). What is also interesting is that if we regard the borane cluster $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}$ as $\left(\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right)(\mathrm{BH})$ and compare this with $\left(\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right)\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right],\left(\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right)\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\eta^{5}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)\right]$ and $\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right)\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]$, it is observed that the fragment $[\mathrm{BH}]$ belongs to 4 n series while $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\eta^{5}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)\right] \rightarrow 14 \mathrm{n}$, and $\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]$ also belong to the 14 n series. We also now know that 14 n is similar to 4 n , meaning that these fragments are isolobal.


Fiigure 1. Sketches of Selected Possible Capping Series of Oh Geometry


Figure 2. Possible Skeletal Shapes of M-5 and M-4 Clusters


Figure 3. The Skeltal Shapes of $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}{ }^{2}, \mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{11}$


Figure . Skeletal shapes of some $4 n+4$ Clusters

Table 1. The Capping Series of Closo ( $4 \mathrm{n}+2$ ) Fragments from $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{14}$


Table 2. Decapping Series of Closo (4n+2) Fragments from $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{14}$.

|  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 8 |  | 10 |  | 12 |  | 14 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Closo(4n+2) | 1,3 | $\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ | 2,4 | $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 3,5 | $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | 4,6 | $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ | 5,7 | $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ | 6,8 | $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ |
| Nido(4n+4) | 0,4 | $\mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 1,5 | $\mathrm{B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | 2,6 | $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ | 3,7 | $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ | 4,8 | $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ | 5,9 | $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9}$ |
| Arachno(4n+6) |  |  | 0,6 | $\mathrm{H}_{6}$ | 1,7 | $\mathrm{B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ | 2,8 | $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ | 3,9 | $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{9}$ | 4,10 | $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ |
| Hypho(4n+8) |  |  |  |  | 0,8 | $\mathrm{H}_{8}$ | 1,9, | $\mathrm{B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{9}$ | 2,10 | $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ | 3,11 | $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0,10 | $\mathrm{H}_{10}$ | 1,11 | $\mathrm{B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ | 2,12 | $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{12}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0,12 | $\mathrm{H}_{12}$ | 1,13 | $\mathrm{B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{13}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0,14 | $\mathrm{H}_{14}$ |


|  | 16 |  | 18 |  | 20 |  | 22 |  | 24 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Closo(4n+2) | 7,9 | $\mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{9}$ | 8,10 | $\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ | 9,11 | $\mathrm{~B}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ | 10,12 | $\mathrm{~B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{12}$ | 11,13 | $\mathrm{~B}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{13}$ | 12,14 | $\mathrm{~B}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{14}$ |
| Nido(4n+4) | 6,10 | $\mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{10}$ | 7,11 | $\mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ | 8,12 | $\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{12}$ | 9,13 | $\mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{13}$ | 10,14 | $\mathrm{~B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{14}$ | 11,15 | $\mathrm{~B}_{\mathrm{B}_{12}} \mathrm{H}_{15}$ |
| Arachno(4n+6) | 5,11 | $\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ | 6,12 | $\mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{12}$ | 7,13 | $\mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{13}$ | 8,14 | $\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{14}$ | 9,15 | $\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{15}$ | 10,16 | $\mathrm{~B}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{16}$ |
| Hypho $(4 \mathrm{n}+8)$ | 4,12 | $\mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{12}$ | 5,13 | $\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{13}$ | 6,14 | $\mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{14}$ | 7,15 | $\mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{15}$ | 8,16 | $\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{16}$ | 9,17 | $\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{17}$ |
|  | 3,13 | $\mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{13}$ | 4,14 | $\mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{14}$ | 5,15 | $\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{15}$ | 6,16 | $\mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{16}$ | 7,17 | $\mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{17}$ | 8,18 | $\mathrm{~B}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{18}$ |
|  | 2,14 | $\mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{14}$ | 3,15 | $\mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{15}$ | 4,16 | $\mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{16}$ | 5,17 | $\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{17}$ | 6,18 | $\mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{18}$ | 7,19 | $\mathrm{~B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{19}$ |
|  | 1,15 | $\mathrm{~B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{15}$ | 2,16 | $\mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{16}$ | 3,17 | $\mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{17}$ | 4,18 | $\mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{18}$ | 5,19 | $\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{19}$ | 6,20 | $\mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{20}$ |
|  | 0,16 | $\mathrm{H}_{16}$ | 1,17 | $\mathrm{~B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{17}$ | 2,18 | $\mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{18}$ | 3,19 | $\mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{19}$ | 4,20 | $\mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{20}$ | 5,21 | $\mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{21}$ |
|  |  |  | 0,18 | $\mathrm{H}_{18}$ | 1,19 | $\mathrm{~B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{19}$ | 2,20 | $\mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{20}$ | 3,21 | $\mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{21}$ | 4,22 | $\mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{22}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0,20 | $\mathrm{H}_{20}$ | 1,21 | $\mathrm{~B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{21}$ | 2,22 | $\mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{22}$ | 3,23 | $\mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{23}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0,22 | $\mathrm{H}_{22}$ | 1,23 | $\mathrm{~B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{23}$ | 2,24 | $\mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{24}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0,24 | $\mathrm{H}_{24}$ | 1,25 | $\mathrm{~B}_{1} \mathrm{H}_{25}$ |

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Table 3. Rudolph Decapping Series in Numbers
\(\begin{array}{ll}0,2 & \\ 1,3 & 0,4\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{llll}2,4 & 1,5 & 0,6 & \\ 3,5 & 2,6 & 1,7 & 0,8\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{lllll}4,6 & 3,7 & 2,8 & 1,9 & 0,10\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{llllll}5,7 & 4,8 & 3,9 & 2,10 & 1,11 & 0,12\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{lllllll}6,8 & 5,9 & 4,10 & 3,11 & 2,12 & 1,13 & 0,14\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{lllllll}7,9 & 6,10 & 5,11 & 4,12 & 3,13 & 2,14 & 1,15\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{lllllll}8,10 & 7,11 & 6,12 & 5,13 & 4,14 & 3,15 & 2,16\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{lllllll}9,11 & 8,12 & 7,13 & 6,14 & 5,15 & 4,16 & 3,17\end{array}\)
\(10,12 \quad 9,13 \quad 8,14 \quad 7,15 \quad 6,16 \quad 5,17 \quad 4,18\)
\(\begin{array}{llllllllllll}11,13 & 10,14 & 9,15 & 8,16 & 7,17 & 6,18 & 5,19 & 4,20 & 3,21 & 2,22 & 1,23 & 0,24\end{array}\)
\(\begin{array}{lllllllllllll}12,14 & 11,15 & 10,16 & 9,17 & 8,18 & 7,19 & 6,20 & 5,21 & 4,22 & 3,23 & 2,24 & 1,25 & 0,26\end{array}\)
Closo Nido Arachno Hypho Klapo
\(4 n+2 \quad 4 n+4 \quad 4 n+6 \quad 4 n+84 \quad n+10\)
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## 3. Conclusion

A close analysis of carbonyl clusters series based on 14 n rule and boranes based on 4 n rule, shows that the carbonyl clusters and fragments have corresponding boranes and fragments. For instance, $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{5}(\mathrm{~S}=14 \mathrm{n}+4)$ has a corresponding borane cluster fragment $\mathrm{BH}_{5}(\mathrm{~S}=4 \mathrm{n}+4)$ while $\mathrm{Fe}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{9}(\mathrm{~S}=14 \mathrm{n}+6)$ has a corresponding $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{8}(\mathrm{~S}=4 \mathrm{n}+6)$ cluster, $\mathrm{Mo}_{2}\left(\eta^{5}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)(\mathrm{CO})_{4}(\mathrm{~S}=14 \mathrm{n}+2)$ has a cousin borane $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{4}(\mathrm{~S}=4 \mathrm{n}+2)$. The $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ closo cluster may be regarded to exist as ionic species $\mathrm{B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2}{ }^{2-}$. Furthermore, the carbonyl clusters $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}(\mathrm{~S}=14 \mathrm{n}+6)$ and $\operatorname{Ir}_{4}(C O)_{12}(S=14 n+4)$ have the corresponding borane relatives with the formula $B_{3} H_{9}(S=4 n+6)$ and $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8}(\mathrm{~S}$ $=4 n+4)$ respectively. The inter-conversion from a borane to carbonyl cluster and vice versa was explained earlier.

A number of carbonyl clusters have well documented known capped closo clusters with known shapes. For instance, $\mathrm{O}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{18}$ is a mono-capped(mono-capped trigonal bipyramid) cluster of $\mathrm{Os}_{5}(\mathrm{CO})_{16}($ trigonal bipyramid $)$. These have corresponding borane clusters with formulas $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ or $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$. Similarly $\mathrm{Os}_{7}(\mathrm{CO})_{2 \mid}$ is a mono-capped closo cluster of $\mathrm{Os}_{6}(\mathrm{CO})_{18}{ }^{2-}$ and both have well documented structures. Their counterpart borane cousins are $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ or $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}$. However, the shapes of $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}$ and $\mathrm{B}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ are not known. The osmium carbonyl capping fragment $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}$ belong to the series $\mathrm{S}=14 \mathrm{n}-2$ with k value of $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}+1=3$ since $\mathrm{n}=1$ while the borane capping fragment $\mathrm{F}=[+\mathrm{B},-\mathrm{H}]$; and $\mathrm{S}=[3,-1]=[2]=[4 \mathrm{n}-2]$ and $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}+1=3$. The difference in k value between one cluster to the next in the capping series is 3 whereas in the normal series the value is 2 . The series $\mathrm{S}=14 \mathrm{n}-2$ and $\mathrm{S}=4 \mathrm{n}-2$ differ by $10 \mathrm{n}=10 \mathrm{x} 1=10$. This also applies to the capping fragments $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}[12]$ and $[+\mathrm{B},-\mathrm{H}]=[2]$ which differ by 10 units. The change within the same type of series involves the fragment $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}[14]$ with 14 electron content and it belongs to the series $\mathrm{S}=14 \mathrm{n}$, and $\mathrm{k}=2 \mathrm{n}=2 \times 1=2$. Addition of $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ is similar to adding 14 n or 4 n in similar series. The series remain unaffected by addition of $\mathrm{Os}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ fragment. Selected hypothetical capped closo boranes have been generated and these are shown in Table 1. For completeness, the corresponding decapped series have been produced as well. Close analysis of the series indicates that Rudolph's system of correlating clusters is part of the decapping series. What is also intereting is the fact that the boranes are formed according to the mathematical precision of the generating numerical series. The capping series in Table I end with $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{n}}$ clusters where n is an even number while the decapping series in Table 2 end with $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{n}}$ where n is an even number. This implies that the well known boron clusters such as $\mathrm{B}_{12}$ may be regarded as the last member of capping series of $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ or $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{2-}$. The isolobal fragments and their corresponding series are extremely useful in categorizing clusters and fragments very rapidly. In addition, geometries of clusters may readily be deduced using the series of fragments of given molecular formulas. Can the series imply or reveal the mystery or mechanism in which the clusters are formed? For example, does the formation of $\mathrm{B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}\left(\mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}{ }^{2-}\right)$ go through $\mathrm{BH}_{13} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{12} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{11} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{9} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ capping process or does it go via the alternative closo series route of $\mathrm{BH}_{3} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{4} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{5} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{6} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{7} \rightarrow \mathrm{~B}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ ? What is clear and certain as deduced from the series in the Tables 1 and 2 is that the borane clusters are formed according to mathematical numerical precision many of which are still unknown.

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