Table 2. *Selected bond distances* (Å) *and angles* (°) *with e.s.d.'s in parentheses*

Ni1—Br1	2.339 (2)	Ni2—P3	2.313 (3)
Ni1—P1	2.306 (3)	P2—C15	1.823 (10)
P1—C1	1.824 (11)	P2—C21	1.830 (10)
P1—C7	1.792 (10)	P2—C27	1.843 (11)
P1—C13	1.833 (11)	C27—C28	1.509 (15)
C13—C14	1.518 (16)	P3—C29	1.809 (10)
Ni2—Br2	2.350 (2)	P3—C35	1.823 (10)
Ni2—Br3	2.362 (2)	P3—C41	1.848 (10)
Ni2—P2	2.316 (3)	C41—C42	1.529 (15)
Br1—Ni1—Br1^{i}	122.68 (11)	Br3—Ni2—P3	112.81 (10)
P1—Ni1—P1^{i}	102.94 (16)	Ni2—P2—C15	111.5 (3)
Br1—Ni1—P1	104.98 (9)	Ni2—P2—C21	112.0 (3)
Ni1—P1—C1	113.3 (3)	Ni2—P2—C27	120.1 (3)
Ni1—P1—C7	112.3 (3)	C15—P2—C21	104.6 (5)
Ni1—P1—C13	117.7 (4)	C15—P2—C27	104.1 (5)
C1—P1—C7	104.2 (4)	C21—P2—C27	103.1 (5)
C1—P1—C13	104.4 (5)	Ni2—P3—C29	111.8 (3)
C7—P1—C13	103.6 (5)	Ni2—P3—C35	112.8 (3)
Br2—Ni2—Br3	114.86 (7)	Ni2—P3—C41	119.2 (3)
P2—Ni2—P3	98.73 (12)	C29—P3—C35	105.0 (5)
Br2—Ni2—P2	113.43 (9)	C29—P3—C41	102.7 (4)
Br2—Ni2—P3	108.15 (10)	C35—P3—C41	104.0 (5)
Br3—Ni2—P2	107.80 (10)		

Symmetry code: (i) $-x, y, \frac{1}{2}-z$.

is missing since only a unique data set was collected. The structure was solved by direct methods (*MULTAN*80: Main, Fiske, Hull, Lessinger, Germain, Declercq & Woolfson, 1980) and subsequent $\Delta\rho$ maps. The hydrogen positions in the CH_3 groups were located in $\Delta\rho$ maps while those in the CH and CH_2 groups were calculated. Nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atoms were assigned the fixed isotropic displacement parameter 0.070 Å^2; no hydrogen parameter was refined. Atomic scattering factors were taken from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1974, Vol. IV). The system of computer programs is described by Lundgren (1982).

Anisotropic displacement factors, H-atom positions and lists of observed and calculated structure factors with e.s.d.'s have been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 54656 (25 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [CIF reference: AL1000]

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Automatic retrieval of CIF-related software

An information server has been established at the IUCr Editorial Office to permit automatic retrieval of programs and documentation useful in handling Crystallographic Information Files. Files are sent by e-mail in response to incoming e-mail requests.

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A list of example requests and their result is given below.

Request	Result
`index`	Get the list of the files (sizes, and dates of last modification) available to be retrieved.
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Multiple requests may appear on the same line, *e.g.*

```
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```

is equivalent to

```
send cifdic.c91
send cyclops.src
send quasar.src
```

Note that requests are not case-sensitive. Note also that if the size of the requested file(s) exceeds an internal limit (currently 75 000 characters), the reply is automatically broken up into pieces, a message is mailed to the requestor informing him or her of that, and the pieces sent with the header 'Part *n* of *m*' for identification purposes. A script is also sent that can be used to automatically rejoin these pieces into the original file. This script will only work on Unix, or Unix-like systems, but should provide a lead for users of other operating systems.

The files currently available, with approximate sizes, are:

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