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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.003 Å R factor = 0.036 wR factor = 0.084 Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.3

For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e.

# 2,7-Bis(3,4-dicyanophenoxy)naphthalene

The molecule of the title compound, 4,4'-naphthalene-2,7dioxydibenzene-1,2-dicarbonitrile,  $C_{26}H_{12}N_4O_2$ , has an asymmetric conformation, with the two benzene rings approximately orthogonal to each other [dihedral angle = 77.18 (5)°] and forming unequal dihedral angles of 55.14 (5) and 67.62 (5)° with the naphthalene plane. The structure is stabilized by relatively weak C-H···N interactions, linking the molecules into infinite chains running along the diagonal of the *ac* plane of the unit cell.

## Comment

The title compound, (I), belongs to the family of diphthalonitrile derivatives, which are used as starting materials for network polymeric phthalocyanines and high-performance aromatic polymers (McKeown, 1998; Takekoshi, 1987). Phthalocyanines represent an interesting class of compounds with increasingly diverse industrial and biomedical applications including photosensitization, linear optics, catalysis, liquid crystals and gas sensing (McKeown, 1998; Leznoff & Lever, 1989–1996). Polymeric phthalocyanines have been reported to be used as dyes and industrial high-technology materials and are also of interest because of their high thermostability (Leznoff & Lever, 1989–1996).



An ORTEPIII (Burnett & Johnson, 1996) plot of the molecule of (I) is shown in Fig. 1. Considering its two-



#### Figure 1

An *ORTEP*III (Burnett & Johnson, 1996) drawing of the title compound, showing the atomic numbering. Displacement ellipsoids of non-H atoms are drawn at the 50% probability level.

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dimensional representation, the molecule could have had  $C_{2\nu}$ symmetry. This is certainly not the case in practice, as the naphthalene moiety is planar to within 0.03 Å and forms dihedral angles of 55.14 (5) and 67.62 (5) $^{\circ}$  with the planes of aromatic rings C3-C8 and C19-C24, respectively; the benzene rings form a dihedral angle of  $77.18(5)^{\circ}$  with each other.

The crystal structure of (I) is stabilized by  $C-H\cdots N$ intermolecular interactions, namely C16-H16...N4<sup>i</sup> and C7-H7···N3<sup>ii</sup> [symmetry codes: (i) 1 - x, -y, -z; (ii)  $x + \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $-y - \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $z + \frac{1}{2}$ , which link the molecules into infinite chains stretching along the diagonal of the ac plane of the unit cell (Fig. 2 and Table 2).

## **Experimental**

2,7-Naphthalenediol (0.46 g, 2.88 mmol) and 4-nitrophthalodinitrile were dissolved in dry dimethylsulfoxide (40 ml) with stirring under N<sub>2</sub>. Dry fine-powdered potassium carbonate (1.0 g, 7.24 mmol) was added in portions ( $10 \times 1$  mmol) every 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at room temperature and poured into ice-water (150 g). The product was filtered off and washed with NaOH solution (10% w/w) and water until the filtrate was neutral. The product was then refluxed in ethanol, filtered and dried (yield 1.08 g, 91.01%). Single crystals were obtained from dimethylformamide at room temperature by slow evaporation (m.p. 464 K). Elemental analysis calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 75.72, H 2.93, N 13.56%; found: C 75.60, H 2.86, N 13.60%; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3093–3041 (Ar-CH<sub>2</sub>), 2229 (CN), 1631, 1595, 1562, 1483, 1458, 1435, 1415, 1369, 1277, 1244, 1203, 1165, 1138, 1086, 964, 903, 870, 839, 725.

Crystal data

$C_{26}H_{12}N_4O_2$	$D_x = 1.399 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
$M_r = 412.40$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Monoclinic, $P2_1/n$	Cell parameters from 88
$a = 8.3592 (10) \text{\AA}$	reflections
b = 7.5300 (5)  Å	$\theta = 2.0-25.7^{\circ}$
c = 31.368 (3)  Å	$\mu = 0.09 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\beta = 97.400 \ (9)^{\circ}$	T = 293 (2) K
V = 1958.0 (3) Å <sup>3</sup>	Prism, colourless
Z = 4	$0.50 \times 0.31 \times 0.07 \text{ mm}$
Data collection	

#### Stoe IPDS-2 diffractometer $\omega$ scans Absorption correction: none 21357 measured reflections 3856 independent reflections 1929 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$  $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.036$  $wR(F^2) = 0.084$ S = 0.773856 reflections 290 parameters H-atom parameters constrained .8

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.064$  $\theta_{\rm max} = 26.0^\circ$  $h = -10 \rightarrow 10$  $k=-9\rightarrow 9$  $l = -38 \rightarrow 38$ 

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0424P)^2]$ where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.13 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.13 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ Extinction correction: SHELXL97 Extinction coefficient: 0.0097 (8)



#### Figure 2

The crystal packing of the title compound, with the C-H···N interactions shown as dashed lines.

#### Table 1

Selected bond lengths (Å).

O1-C5	1.376 (2)	N1-C1	1.142 (2)
O1-C9	1.405 (2)	N2-C2	1.139 (2)
O2-C15	1.3961 (19)	N3-C25	1.144 (2)
O2-C19	1.3730 (19)	N4-C26	1.136 (2)

## Table 2

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	D-H	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - H \cdots A$
C16-H16···N4 <sup>i</sup>	0.93	2.56	3.397 (2)	151
C7−H7···N3 <sup>ii</sup>	0.93	2.62	3.486 (3)	155

The H atoms were positioned geometrically and included in the refinement in a riding-model approximation, with aromatic C-H

distances fixed at 0.93 Å and  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ .

Data collection: X-AREA (Stoe & Cie, 2002); cell refinement: X-AREA; data reduction: X-RED32 (Stoe & Cie, 2002); program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: ORTEPIII (Burnett & Johnson, 1996); software used to prepare material for publication: WinGX (Farrugia, 1999) and PARST (Nardelli, 1995).

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