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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 100$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.029  
 $wR$  factor = 0.081  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.6

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

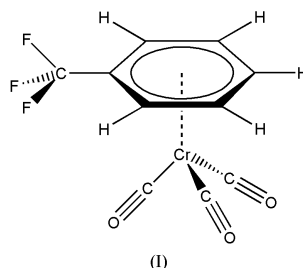
## Tricarbonyl( $\eta^6$ -trifluoromethylbenzene)- chromium(0)

The title compound,  $[\text{Cr}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CF}_3)(\text{CO})_3]$ , exhibits the three-legged piano-stool structure expected for a tricarbonylmetal complex with an  $\eta^6$ -coordinated arene. The trifluoromethyl functional group is tilted towards the  $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_3$  center.

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#### Comment

In the course of our work on the preparation and property exploration of substituted arenes coordinated to chromium carbonyls, we isolated and structurally characterized the title compound, (I).



Compound (I) crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $P2_1/n$  with  $Z = 4$  (Fig. 1 and Table 1). The trifluoromethyl functional group is tilted out of the least squares plane defined by the atoms C1/C2/C3/C4/C5/C6. The trifluoromethyl atom C7 is bent by  $0.024(4)$  Å towards the Cr atom. This distortion is consistent with an earlier structure–property relationship study of ( $\eta^6$ -arene)tricarbonylchromium complexes (Hunter, Shilliday *et al.*, 1992), which revealed that  $\pi$ -accepting groups on the arene remain in the plane of the arene or are bent slightly towards the tricarbonylchromium fragments while  $\pi$ -donor substituents bend away from the chromium fragments. The degree of bending was shown to be strongly correlated with the  $\pi$ -donor/acceptor strength of the substituents (Hunter, Mozol & Tsai, 1992). It is therefore not surprising that the observed structural distortion for this  $\text{CF}_3$  derivative is similar to that observed for other moderately strong  $\pi$ -accepting substituents such as  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me}$ , and  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  (Hunter, Shilliday *et al.*, 1992, and references therein).

#### Experimental

The title compound, (I), was prepared from hexacarbonylchromium(0) and trifluoromethylbenzene in dibutyl ether as described previously (Hunter *et al.*, 1998). Pale-yellow single crystals of (I) were grown by the slow diffusion of a layer of hexane into a methylene chloride solution.

## Crystal data

[Cr(C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F<sub>3</sub>)(CO)<sub>3</sub>]  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 282.14  
 Monoclinic, *P*2<sub>1</sub>/*n*  
*a* = 6.401 (2) Å  
*b* = 11.500 (4) Å  
*c* = 13.932 (4) Å  
 $\beta$  = 91.908 (5)°  
*V* = 1024.9 (6) Å<sup>3</sup>  
*Z* = 4

*D<sub>x</sub>* = 1.828 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo *K*α radiation  
 Cell parameters from 7855  
 reflections  
 $\theta$  = 2.3–28.3°  
 $\mu$  = 1.15 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
*T* = 100 (2) K  
 Plate, yellow  
 0.60 × 0.42 × 0.14 mm

## Data collection

Bruker SMART APEX CCD  
 diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi scan  
 (SADABS in *SAINTE-Plus*;  
 Bruker, 1997–1999)  
*T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.568, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.851  
 9901 measured reflections

2532 independent reflections  
 2328 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.035  
 $\theta_{\max}$  = 28.3°  
*h* = −8 → 8  
*k* = −15 → 15  
*l* = −18 → 18

## Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R* [*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.029  
*wR* (*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.081  
*S* = 1.09  
 2532 reflections  
 174 parameters  
 All H-atom parameters refined

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.044P)^2 + 0.3633P]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.55 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.31 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Cr—C13	1.8513 (16)	F3—C7	1.3372 (19)
Cr—C12	1.8560 (15)	C1—C6	1.404 (2)
Cr—C11	1.8588 (16)	C1—C2	1.416 (2)
Cr—C1	2.1867 (15)	C1—C7	1.502 (2)
Cr—C6	2.1898 (16)	C2—C3	1.404 (2)
Cr—C2	2.2154 (15)	C3—C4	1.420 (2)
Cr—C4	2.2177 (16)	C4—C5	1.397 (2)
Cr—C5	2.2203 (16)	C5—C6	1.420 (2)
Cr—C3	2.2238 (16)	C11—O11	1.146 (2)
F1—C7	1.336 (2)	C12—O12	1.1478 (18)
F2—C7	1.336 (2)	C13—O13	1.1527 (19)
C13—Cr—C12	88.40 (7)	C1—C6—C5	119.95 (14)
C13—Cr—C11	88.67 (7)	F2—C7—F1	106.95 (13)
C12—Cr—C11	89.12 (7)	F2—C7—F3	106.80 (14)
C6—C1—C2	120.20 (13)	F1—C7—F3	106.93 (13)
C6—C1—C7	119.31 (13)	F2—C7—C1	112.26 (13)
C2—C1—C7	120.49 (13)	F1—C7—C1	111.37 (14)
C3—C2—C1	119.82 (13)	F3—C7—C1	112.19 (13)
C2—C3—C4	119.86 (14)	O11—C11—Cr	178.77 (14)
C5—C4—C3	120.37 (14)	O12—C12—Cr	179.71 (14)
C4—C5—C6	119.77 (13)	O13—C13—Cr	178.99 (13)

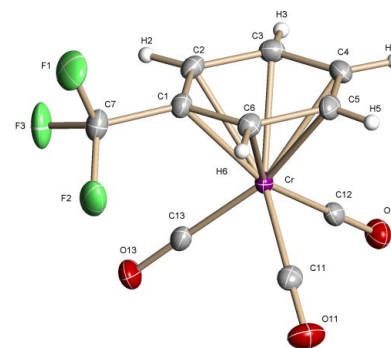


Figure 1

View of (I), showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids.

All H atoms were located in an electron difference map and were refined isotropically. The s.u. values of the cell parameters are taken from the software recognizing that the values are unreasonably small (Herbstein, 2000).

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1997–2000); cell refinement: *SAINTE-Plus* (Bruker, 1997–1999); data reduction: *SAINTE-Plus*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2000); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXTL*; molecular graphics: *SHELXTL*; software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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