

carbon atoms), the "effective contraction" of the Fe-CO bond length, relative to the Fe-CF₂ distance, is ~ 0.15 Å.²³

Since such species as (C_nH_{2n+1})₂Fe(CO)₄ are not known, no comparison of analogous alkyl and fluoro-alkyl complexes is possible. There are, however, a number of polynuclear iron-carbonyl species which, formally at least, contain simple iron-carbon σ bonds, but a wide variety of bond lengths have been observed. For example, the ferracyclopentadiene species (CH₃C₂-OH)₂Fe₂(CO)₆,²⁴ C₆H₅C₂C₆H₅Fe₂(CO)₆,²⁵ and black (C₆-H₅C₂C₆H₅)₂Fe₃(CO)₈²⁶ have iron-carbon σ bonds ranging from 1.948 to 2.063 Å in length. The acetylene complex violet (C₆H₅C₂C₆H₅)₂Fe₃(CO)₈²⁶ has eight iron-carbon σ bonds varying from 1.954 to 2.057 Å. The heterocyclic (C₆H₅C₂H)₃CoFe₂(CO)₅²⁷ has iron-carbon σ bonds of 2.006, 2.088, and 2.097 Å, and the σ -vinyl complex, (C₆H₅C₂CO₂CH₃)₃COFe(CO)₂, has an iron-carbon distance of 1.99 Å.²⁵ In each of the above molecules there is a considerable likelihood that the iron-carbon linkage is part of a large delocalized system, rather than being an isolated σ bond.

(23) The "effective contraction" defined here is one of the few possible measures of the relative amounts of π bonding in metal-carbon linkages. A comparison with values for other molecules may be made by consulting Table V of ref 4.

(24) A. A. Hock and O. S. Mills, *Acta Cryst.*, **14**, 139 (1961).

(25) M. van Meerssche, P. Piret, J. Meunier-Piret, and Y. Degreve, *Bull. Soc. Chim. Belges*, **73**, 824 (1964).

(26) R. P. Dodge and V. Schomaker, *J. Organometal. Chem.* (Amsterdam), **3**, 274 (1965).

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However, the complex (OC)₂FeC₅H₄-CH₂Fe(CO)₄ does have a distinct Fe-CH₂ bond of length 2.123 Å,²⁹ but, since the iron atom is in a formal +1 oxidation state and the over-all configuration may well involve some strain in the Fe-CH₂ linkage, a direct comparison of this bond length with the Fe-CF₂ distance in *cis*-(HCF₂·CF₂)₂Fe(CO)₅ is not strictly valid. The crystal structure of π -C₅H₅Fe(CO)₂(σ -C₅H₅) has recently been determined;³⁰ the Fe^{II}-CH< distance is found to be 2.11 ± 0.02 Å, but the structure is of limited accuracy. Thus, although further substantiation would be welcome, it seems that the contraction in iron-carbon bond length caused by fluorinating the α -carbon atom is probably about 0.05 Å in Fe(II) complexes.

The Crystal Structure

All intermolecular contacts less than 3.5 Å are collected in Table VII. The shortest F···F contact is 2.91 Å between F₅ and F₅ ($1/2 - x, 1 - y, 1/2 - z$). There are several F···O contacts below 3.0 Å, and it is possible that these participate in distorting the iron atom coordination sphere from strict C_{2v} symmetry.

Acknowledgments.—The author is grateful to Dr. P. M. Treichel for providing the sample. This research has been generously supported by grants from the National Science Foundation (GP-4225) and the Advanced Research Projects Agency (SD-88).

(29) J. Meunier-Piret, P. Piret, and M. van Meerssche, *Acta Cryst.*, **19**, 85 (1965).

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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Azulene Diiron Pentacarbonyl

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Azulene diiron pentacarbonyl, C₁₀H₈Fe₂(CO)₅, crystallizes in the triclinic space group C $\bar{1}$ (no. 2) with $a = 7.32 \pm 0.01$ Å, $b = 14.48 \pm 0.02$ Å, $c = 14.76 \pm 0.02$ Å, $\alpha = 116.2 \pm 0.2^\circ$, $\beta = 92.3 \pm 0.2^\circ$, $\gamma = 93.0 \pm 0.2^\circ$, $Z = 4$. A three-dimensional single-crystal X-ray analysis, based on 2579 independent nonzero reflections collected with an automated diffractometer, has been completed ($R_F = 10.75\%$). The carbon atoms from the five-membered ring of the azulene form a π -cyclopentadienyl system which is bonded to an Fe(CO)₂ group, while three atoms of the seven-membered ring participate in a π -allyl linkage to an Fe(CO)₃ group. Unequal Fe-C(allyl) bond lengths, a distortion of the azulene ligand from planarity, and a rather long iron-iron bond of 2.782 Å indicate that the molecule may be rather strained.

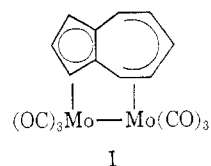
Introduction

The preparation of molybdenum- and iron-azulene complexes such as C₁₀H₈Mo₂(CO)₆¹ and C₁₀H₈Fe₂(CO)₅² was reported in 1958. An investigation of their proton magnetic resonance spectra led to the suggestion of a number of structures, each involving metal-diene or metal-triene bonding, but no unique formulation was possible.³ King and Bisnette⁴ have pointed out that

(1) R. Burton and G. Wilkinson, *Chem. Ind.* (London), 1205 (1958).

(2) R. Burton, M. L. H. Green, E. W. Abel, and G. Wilkinson, *ibid.*, 1592 (1958).

recent developments make it likely that C₁₀H₈Mo₂(CO)₆ is represented as in I, with a π -cyclopentadienyl-metal



(3) R. Burton, L. Pratt, and G. Wilkinson, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 4290 (1960).

(4) R. B. King and M. B. Bisnette, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 475 (1965).

linkage. A comparison of $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3]_2^3$ and $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{V}(\text{CO})_4]_2^5$ with related mononuclear complexes has indicated that in these systems, as well as in $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Mo}_2(\text{CO})_6$, the five-membered ring of the azulene may function as a π -cyclopentadienyl ligand.⁴ Although mass spectral studies have confirmed⁶ the stoichiometry of $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5$, no unambiguous suggestion of its structure has been made. (However, a number of other possible structures have been considered.⁷)

In an attempt to clarify this situation, a single-crystal X-ray structural analysis of $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5$ was undertaken. A preliminary account of this work has been published.⁸

Collection and Reduction of X-Ray Data

The compound was prepared from the reaction of azulene with diiron enneacarbonyl, $\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_9$, in refluxing pentane⁹ and shown to be identical with the product obtained by using iron pentacarbonyl.³

The crystal used in the analysis was needlelike, with dimensions $0.30 \times 0.13 \times 0.12$ mm. It was mounted along its needle axis, a , and inserted in a 0.2-mm diameter thin-walled capillary tube. The absorption coefficient, μ , is 21.5 cm^{-1} . If the specimen is regarded as approximating to a cylinder of radius 0.063 mm, then $\mu R = 0.135 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and the variation of absorption with θ is negligible.¹⁰ Data were collected using a 0.01° -incrementing Buerger automated diffractometer (which uses Weissenberg geometry), in conjunction with a Phillips transistorized scintillation counter and a Phillips electronics panel. The scintillation counter was adjusted to receive Mo $K\alpha$ radiation, the Mo $K\beta$ component being eliminated by a zirconium filter, 0.003 mm in thickness. The diffractometer was programmed to collect all data in a given Weissenberg zone, using a stationary-background, ω -scan, stationary-background counting sequence.¹¹ The angle scanned, ω , is given by $\omega = (2.0 + 1.0/L)$ degrees where $1/L$ is the Lorentz factor. (This allows for divergence of the X-ray beam usually associated with distorted low-order reflections on upper level data.¹²)

In collecting data for the reflection hkl , having vertical and horizontal Weissenberg components $\Upsilon(hkl)$ and $\Phi(hkl)$,¹³ the counter was first positioned to $\Upsilon(hkl)$ where it remained stationary. The crystal was then rotated to an angle $\phi_1 = \Phi(hkl) - \omega(hkl)/2$ where the first background (B_1) was counted for t seconds. Then the angle ϕ was increased by $\omega(hkl)$ degrees to $\phi_2 = \Phi(hkl) + \omega(hkl)/2$ in $2t$ seconds at a constant rate of $2^\circ/\text{min}$, the integrated count being C . The second background,

B_2 , was then counted for t seconds. Data for which the corrected intensity, $I = C - (B_1 + B_2)$, was less than, or equal to, zero were discarded. The reflections were weighted as follows: $\sigma = 50$ for $I \leq 500$; $\sigma = 0.1I$ for $I \geq 500$.

Using the equiinclination method, data were collected for the zones $0kl$ through $8kl$, representing complete data to $\sin \theta = 0.45$. Data for the zones $h0l$ and $h1l$, taken with a cleaved portion of the previous crystal ($0.17 \times 0.13 \times 0.12$ mm), were used to place the nine

TABLE I
FINAL ATOMIC COORDINATES^a FOR $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5$

Atom	x/a	y/b	z/c
Fe ₁	0.18189 (12)	0.81231 (7)	0.29587 (7)
Fe ₂	0.36439 (12)	0.65087 (7)	0.15788 (7)
C ₁	0.5315 (10)	0.7566 (6)	0.1307 (6)
C ₂	0.6112 (10)	0.6609 (6)	0.0939 (6)
C ₃	0.6454 (10)	0.6379 (6)	0.1767 (6)
C ₄	0.5797 (9)	0.7181 (6)	0.3636 (5)
C ₅	0.4713 (11)	0.7736 (7)	0.4342 (6)
C ₆	0.3508 (10)	0.8501 (6)	0.4362 (5)
C ₇	0.3782 (11)	0.9207 (6)	0.3933 (6)
C ₈	0.4383 (10)	0.8912 (6)	0.2968 (6)
C ₉	0.5127 (8)	0.7942 (5)	0.2364 (5)
C ₁₀	0.5847 (9)	0.7190 (6)	0.2657 (6)
C ₁₁	0.0831 (9)	0.6950 (6)	0.2917 (6)
C ₁₂	0.0956 (10)	0.8105 (6)	0.1808 (6)
C ₁₃	0.0037 (9)	0.8895 (6)	0.3601 (6)
C ₁₄	0.2196 (11)	0.6081 (6)	0.0483 (6)
C ₁₅	0.2996 (10)	0.5447 (6)	0.1807 (6)
O ₁	0.0052 (7)	0.6310 (5)	0.3012 (5)
O ₂	0.0415 (10)	0.8129 (6)	0.1090 (5)
O ₃	-0.1140 (9)	0.9349 (5)	0.3987 (5)
O ₄	0.1310 (9)	0.5763 (5)	-0.0257 (5)
O ₅	0.2647 (9)	0.4714 (5)	0.1910 (6)

^a Numbers in parentheses are the estimated standard deviations of the coordinates and refer to the last significant digit of the preceding number.

TABLE II
FINAL ANISOTROPIC THERMAL PARAMETERS ($\times 10^4$)
FOR $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5$

Atom	b_{11}	b_{22}	b_{33}	b_{12}	b_{13}	b_{23}	$B,^a$ A ²
Fe ₁	165.9	46.5	40.4	8.8	13.8	14.5	3.158
Fe ₂	162.0	43.3	46.3	9.9	11.0	17.5	3.197
C ₁	184	68	60	-17	18	26	4.22
C ₂	198	67	66	10	23	27	4.45
C ₃	187	67	67	17	20	21	4.39
C ₄	172	95	47	8	0	28	4.44
C ₅	223	85	54	-13	1	31	4.76
C ₆	219	82	36	-2	11	7	4.22
C ₇	211	72	58	-8	4	19	4.47
C ₈	184	61	61	1	8	29	4.09
C ₉	154	55	49	-11	15	19	3.47
C ₁₀	144	66	58	15	8	27	3.85
C ₁₁	159	56	58	5	3	29	3.72
C ₁₂	192	72	51	29	19	28	4.17
C ₁₃	160	76	57	33	24	10	4.16
C ₁₄	225	54	56	4	-5	16	4.12
C ₁₅	215	51	57	6	13	24	3.98
O ₁	204	77	92	3	30	45	5.33
O ₂	372	140	67	94	21	54	7.33
O ₃	289	106	76	70	22	1	6.20
O ₄	357	90	76	4	-36	27	6.31
O ₅	331	80	128	22	56	57	7.13

^a B is the "equivalent isotropic temperature factor," obtained by averaging $4b_{11}/a^2$, $4b_{22}/b^2$, and $4b_{33}/c^2$.

(5) E. O. Fischer, Abstracts, Organometallic Chemical Symposium, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 1963, p 66.

(6) R. B. King, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **88**, 2075 (1966).

(7) M. L. Maddox, S. L. Stafford, and H. D. Kaesz, *Advan. Organometal. Chem.*, **3**, 107 (1965).

(8) M. R. Churchill, *Chem. Commun.*, 450 (1966).

(9) P. W. Jolly, personal communication.

(10) "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. 2, The Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1959; Table 5.3.5B, pp 295-297.

(11) Drive tapes for the diffractometer were prepared using the IBM 7094 program PREPAR by G. N. Reeke.

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(13) C. T. Prewitt, *Z. Krist.*, **13**, 355 (1960).

TABLE III

OBSERVED AND CALCULATED STRUCTURE FACTORS FOR C10H8Fe2(CO)8 (h, l, F0, and Fc IN BLOCKS OF CONSTANT h)

Table with columns for h, l, F0, and Fc, containing observed and calculated structure factors for C10H8Fe2(CO)8. The table is organized into blocks of constant h values, with sub-headers for each block. The data is presented in a grid format with multiple columns for each parameter.

rameters are collected in Table II; observed and calculated structure factors are shown in Table III.

The Molecular Structure

Intramolecular distances are shown in Table IV and bond angles in Table V. The over-all geometry and the system of numbering atoms can clearly be seen in Figures 1 and 2. The molecule consists of an $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2$ group and an $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3$ group bonded to an azulene molecule. As predicted by dipole moment measurements,³ the two iron atoms are on the same side of the azulene system (*i.e.*, the molecule has an over-all *cis* configuration). The $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2$ group is associated symmetrically with all carbon atoms in the five-membered ring, which behaves as a substituted π -cyclopentadienyl ligand. Only three carbon atoms (C_6 , C_7 , C_8) of the seven-membered ring are associated with the $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3$ group in forming a π -allyl-metal bond. The donation of six electrons from the π -cyclopentadienyl anion, four from the π -allyl anion, and two from each carbonyl ligand gives each of the d^7 $\text{Fe}(\text{I})$ ions a configuration one electron short of the closed shell; the observed Fe_1 - Fe_2 distance of 2.782 Å indicates

TABLE IV
INTRAMOLECULAR DISTANCES^{a,b} FOR $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5$

Atoms	Distance, Å	Atoms	Distance, Å
Fe_1 — Fe_2	2.782		
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_1$	3.482	Fe_2 — C_1	2.094
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_2$	4.391	Fe_2 — C_2	2.100
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_3$	4.294	Fe_2 — C_3	2.094
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_4$	3.567	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_4$	3.082
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_5$	3.124	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_5$	3.689
Fe_1 — C_6	2.200	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_6$	3.848
Fe_1 — C_7	2.050	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_7$	3.911
Fe_1 — C_8	2.142	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_8$	3.166
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_9$	2.596	Fe_2 — C_9	2.090
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_{10}$	3.272	Fe_2 — C_{10}	2.086
Fe_1 — C_{11}	1.785	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_{11}$	2.811
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_{12}$	1.776	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_{12}$	3.028
Fe_1 — C_{13}	1.779	$\text{Fe}_2 \cdots \text{C}_{13}$	4.506
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_{14}$	3.578	Fe_2 — C_{14}	1.741
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{C}_{15}$	3.648	Fe_2 — C_{15}	1.761
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{O}_1$	2.900	$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{O}_4$	2.877
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{O}_2$	2.908	$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{O}_5$	2.911
$\text{Fe}_1 \cdots \text{O}_3$	2.904		
C_{11} — O_1	1.127	C_{14} — O_4	1.137
C_{12} — O_2	1.132	C_{15} — O_5	1.153
C_{13} — O_3	1.125		
C_1 — C_2	1.415	C_{10} — C_4	1.453
C_2 — C_3	1.418	C_4 — C_5	1.325
C_3 — C_{10}	1.430	C_5 — C_6	1.443
C_{10} — C_9	1.452	C_6 — C_7	1.432
C_9 — C_1	1.422	C_7 — C_8	1.391
		C_8 — C_9	1.441
Av	1.427		

^a Average estimated standard deviations are: $\sigma(\text{Fe}-\text{Fe}) = 0.0013$ Å, $\sigma(\text{Fe}-\text{O}) = 0.007$ Å, $\sigma(\text{Fe}-\text{C}) = 0.008$ Å, $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{O}) = 0.011$ Å, and $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.012$ Å; these values do not include any contribution in unit-cell errors, which are less than 1 part in 700. Allowing for unit-cell errors means that the probable error in the $\text{Fe}-\text{Fe}$ distance is 0.004 Å, but errors in other distances are not so drastically affected. ^b Distances have not been corrected for librational motion.

TABLE V
BOND ANGLES FOR $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5$

Atoms	Angle, deg	Atoms	Angle, deg
Fe_1 - C_{11} - O_1	169.0	C_9 - C_1 - C_2	109.3
Fe_1 - C_{12} - O_2	177.7	C_1 - C_2 - C_3	107.8
Fe_1 - C_{13} - O_3	177.2	C_2 - C_3 - C_{10}	108.7
		C_3 - C_{10} - C_9	107.2
Fe_2 - C_{14} - O_4	176.5	C_{10} - C_9 - C_1	106.9
Fe_2 - C_{15} - O_5	175.5		
		C_{10} - C_4 - C_5	123.7
C_{14} - Fe_2 - C_{15}	94.0	C_4 - C_5 - C_6	129.7
C_{14} - Fe_2 - Fe_1	102.1	C_5 - C_6 - C_7	127.2
C_{15} - Fe_2 - Fe_1	104.6	C_6 - C_7 - C_8	122.8
		C_7 - C_8 - C_9	125.0
Fe_2 - Fe_1 - C_{11}	72.2	C_8 - C_9 - C_{10}	130.1
Fe_2 - Fe_1 - C_{12}	79.9	C_9 - C_{10} - C_4	127.6
Fe_2 - Fe_1 - C_{13}	161.7		
C_{11} - Fe_1 - C_{12}	104.2	C_2 - C_{10} - C_4	124.9
C_{11} - Fe_1 - C_{13}	95.8	C_1 - C_9 - C_8	123.0
C_{12} - Fe_1 - C_{13}	90.0		
		C_1 - Fe_2 - C_2	39.4
C_6 - Fe_1 - C_7	39.2	C_2 - Fe_2 - C_3	39.5
C_7 - Fe_1 - C_8	38.7	C_3 - Fe_2 - C_{10}	40.0
C_8 - Fe_1 - C_9	69.6	C_{10} - Fe_2 - C_9	40.7
		C_9 - Fe_2 - C_1	39.7

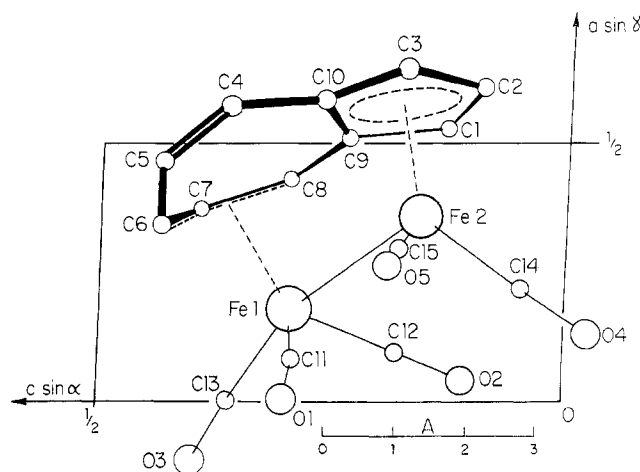
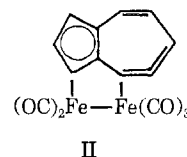


Figure 1.—The molecule $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5$ viewed along b .

a metal-metal bond, each iron atom thus obtaining a krypton configuration, in keeping with the observed diamagnetism³ of the complex. The molecule may formally be written as in II.



The Azulene Ligand

The bonding scheme within the azulene ligand is not grossly rearranged from that in the parent hydrocarbon. Within the limits of experimental error, the π -cyclopentadienyl ring defined by C_1 , C_2 , C_3 , C_{10} , and C_9 has precise D_{5h} symmetry. The carbon-carbon bond lengths range from 1.414 to 1.452 Å (esd 0.012 Å), averaging 1.427 Å. Bond angles are found to be from 106.9 to 109.3°, averaging 108.0°. The five carbon

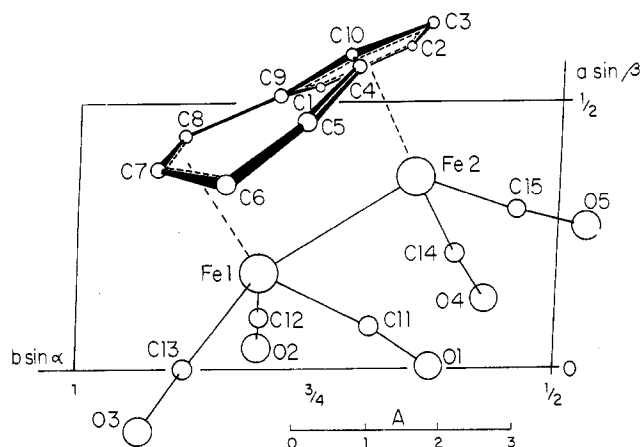
Figure 2.—The molecule $C_{10}H_8Fe_2(CO)_5$ viewed along c .

TABLE VI

DISTANCES OF ATOMS FROM PLANE OF π -CYCLOPENTADIENYL RING FOR $C_{10}H_8Fe_2(CO)_5$

Plane^a: $0.8375X + 0.7555Y - 0.1249Z = 1$

Atom	Dev, Å	Atom	Dev, Å
C ₁	+0.003	C ₄	-0.133
C ₂	-0.004	C ₅	-0.576
C ₃	+0.004	C ₆	-0.908
C ₉	-0.001	C ₇	-0.282
C ₁₀	-0.002	C ₈	+0.026
Fe ₂	-1.708	Fe ₁	-2.077
C ₁₄	-2.780	C ₁₁	-3.386
C ₁₅	-2.761	C ₁₂	-2.531
O ₄	-3.463	C ₁₃	-2.836
O ₅	-3.419	O ₁	-4.267
		O ₂	-2.796
		O ₃	-3.365

^a The equation for the plane is expressed in triclinic coordinates.

atoms have a root-mean-square deviation from planarity of only 0.003 Å (see Table VI). The associated iron atom, Fe₂, is 1.708 Å below this plane, the iron-carbon bond lengths ranging from 2.088 to 2.100 Å (esd 0.008 Å) and averaging 2.093 Å.

In the seven-membered ring, two carbon atoms (C₉ and C₁₀) are already incorporated in the π -cyclopentadienyl-Fe(CO)₂ bonding, two (C₄ and C₅) are linked by a simple, uncoordinated ethylenic bond of length 1.325 ± 0.012 Å, and the remaining three (C₆, C₇, and C₈) are within bonding distance of Fe₁. This group of three atoms makes a dihedral angle of 171.9° with the carbon atoms of the Fe(CO)₃ group and participates in a π -allyl-iron linkage. The value of 122.8° for the apical angle C₆-C₇-C₈ and the carbon-carbon bond lengths (1.432 ± 0.012 , 1.391 ± 0.012 Å) are in the range expected from crystallographic studies on π -allyl-palladium species.^{19,20} The iron-carbon distances observed in the π -allyl-iron species $C_8H_8Fe_2(CO)_5$ are 2.136, 2.113, and 2.123 (± 0.013) Å.²¹ The values obtained in the present azulene complex (2.200, 2.050, and 2.142 Å, each ± 0.008 Å) as well as those determined in $Fe_2(CO)_6(C_6H_5C_2H)_3$ (1.975, 2.108, and 2.203 Å,

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TABLE VII

IRON-IRON DISTANCES IN SOME ORGANOMETALLIC MOLECULES

Molecule	—Fe-Fe distance(s), Å—	Ref
<i>Black</i> $Fe_3(CO)_8(C_6H_5C_2C_6H_5)_2$	2.428, 2.435 (± 0.003)	25
<i>Violet</i> $Fe_3(CO)_8(C_6H_5C_2C_6H_5)_2$	2.457, 2.469, 2.592	25
	(± 0.005)	
$Fe_2(CO)_9$	2.46	26
$Fe_3(CO)_8(C_6H_5C_2C_6H_5)$	2.480, 2.501, 2.579	<i>a</i>
	(± 0.010)	
$[\pi-C_6H_5Fe(CO)_2]_2$	2.49 (± 0.02)	27
$Fe_2(CO)_6(HOC \cdot CCH_3)_2$	2.493 (± 0.002)	<i>b</i>
$Fe_2(CO)_6(C_6H_5C_2H)_3$	2.501 (± 0.003)	22
$Fe_2(CO)_6(C_6H_5C_2C_6H_5)$	2.51	<i>c</i>
$Fe_2(CO)_6(C_2H_2)_3$	2.527 (± 0.006)	<i>d</i>
$(\pi-C_6H_5)_2Fe_2(CO)_6(CNC_6H_5)$	2.53	<i>e</i>
$[C_2H_5SFe(CO)_3]_2$	2.537	<i>f</i>
$[SFe(CO)_3]_2 \cdot [S_2Fe_3(CO)_9]$	2.545, 2.582, 2.606	<i>g</i>
	(± 0.010)	
$Fe_3(CO)_{12}$	2.55, 2.68, 2.69	28
	(± 0.01)	
$[SFe(CO)_3]_2$	2.552 (± 0.002)	<i>h</i>
$[(C_2H_5)_3NH][Fe_3(CO)_{11}H]$	2.577, 2.685, 2.696	29
	(± 0.003)	
$Fe_3(CO)_{16}C$	2.587, 2.600, 2.636,	<i>i</i>
	2.650, 2.652, 2.666,	
	2.667, 2.675	
	(± 0.007)	
ortho- $[\pi-C_6H_5FeS]_4$	2.618, 2.644 (± 0.002)	<i>j</i>
$Se_2Fe_3(CO)_9$	2.64, 2.66 (± 0.017)	<i>k</i>
mono- $[\pi-C_6H_5FeS]_4$	2.650 (± 0.006)	<i>l</i>
$Fe_2(CO)_6(C_3H_4 \cdot CH_2)$	2.679 (± 0.003)	<i>m</i>
$C_8Fe_4S_3(NO)_7 \cdot H_2O$	2.691, 2.702, 2.736	<i>n</i>
	(± 0.010)	
$[C_2H_5SFe(NO)_2]_2$	2.720 (± 0.003)	<i>o</i>
$C_8H_8Fe_2(CO)_5$	2.742 (± 0.003)	21
$C_{10}H_8Fe_2(CO)_5$	2.782 (± 0.004)	This work
$[Fe_2(CO)_9]^{2-}$	2.88	25b

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each ± 0.011 Å)²² might be construed as indicative of some degree of σ - π bonding, as has been claimed for $[CH_2 \cdot C(CH_3) \cdot CH_2]Pd[(C_6H_5)_3P]Cl$.²³ However, the author believes that the variation of Fe-C(allyl) bond lengths in the present complex is best explained as part of a general pattern of strain in the molecule. The positioning of iron atoms vertically below the center of gravity of the π -cyclopentadienyl and π -allyl portions of a regular, planar azulene ligand would satisfy the bonding requirements of the unsaturated ligands but

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would leave an iron-iron distance of ~ 3.3 Å (at which distance, of course, no appreciable metal-metal overlap would be possible). In order to accommodate simultaneous π -cyclopentadienyl-metal, π -allyl-metal, and metal-metal bonding, the molecule must distort. The observed stereochemistry has three anomalous features in keeping with this proposal.

(i) **The Azulene Ligand Is Nonplanar.**—This is easily shown by the dihedral angles (ϕ) between the five- and seven-membered rings: $\phi(C_2-C_1-C_9/C_9-C_8-C_7) = 16.1^\circ$; $\phi(C_2-C_3-C_{10}/C_{10}-C_4-C_5) = 20.3^\circ$. Although C_8 is approximately (+0.026 Å) in the same plane as the π -cyclopentadienyl system, the remaining nonfused atoms of the seven-membered ring are all displaced in the direction of the metal atoms (see Table VI), the maximum displacement being that of C_6 , which is 0.908 Å below the plane of the π -cyclopentadienyl system. (Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the nonplanarity of the azulene ligand fairly clearly.)

(ii) **The Iron- π -Allyl Linkage Is Not Strictly Symmetrical.**—Since C_6 is the atom most displaced from the "plane of the undistorted azulene molecule," it is not surprising that the Fe- C_6 distance is still the longest of the three metal-carbon distances observed.

(iii) **The Iron-Iron Bond Is One of the Longest Yet Observed in Organometallic Complexes.**—Although the π -allyl group is pulled down from the π -cyclopentadienyl plane (the dihedral angle between the two planes being 25.5°) by a sufficient amount to allow simultaneous π -allyl-iron and iron-iron interaction, it is probable that the resulting metal-metal bond is still relatively weak.

The Carbonyl Ligands

Within the $Fe(CO)_2$ group the mean dimensions are: Fe-C = 1.751 Å, C-O = 1.145 Å, Fe-C-O = 176.0° ; the $Fe(CO)_3$ group shows average distances of 1.780 Å for Fe-C and 1.128 Å for C-O. The Fe-C-O angles in the iron tricarbonyl residue are 169.0, 177.7, and

177.2°. Since this group is in a rather asymmetric environment, it is probable that the distortions of the Fe-C-O angles from linearity derive from an electronic origin²⁴ rather than from the van der Waals repulsive forces.

The Iron-Iron Bond

During recent years, crystallographic examination of organoiron complexes has revealed iron-iron bond lengths ranging from 2.43 Å in *black* $Fe_3(CO)_9(C_6H_5-C_2C_6H_5)^{25a}$ to 2.88 Å in the $[Fe_2(CO)_8]^{2-}$ ion^{25b} (see Table VII). In general, complexes with bridging sulfur atoms tend to have long Fe-Fe bonds; however, there is a distinct tendency for molecules with bridging carbonyl groups (*e.g.*, $Fe_2(CO)_9$ ²⁶ and $[\pi-C_5H_5Fe(CO)_2]_2$ ²⁷) to have Fe-Fe bonds rather shorter than those found in nonbridged complexes. For example, the structures of $Fe_3(CO)_{12}$ ²⁸ and $[(C_2H_5)_3NH][Fe_3(CO)_{11}H]$ ²⁹ show the *nonbridged* Fe-Fe bonds to be more than 0.1 Å longer than the bridged Fe-Fe bonds. An apparent exception to this rule is the complex $C_8H_8Fe_2(CO)_5$, a molecule with a bridging carbonyl group and an Fe-Fe distance of 2.74 Å; however, this molecule is electron deficient.²¹ The long internuclear distance of 2.78 Å for the present complex is attributed partly to its nonbridged nature and partly to strain (*vide supra*).

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