

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CENTRO NAZIONALE DI CHIMICA DELLE MACROMOLECOLE DEL C.N.R.,
SEZIONE VII, ISTITUTO CHIMICO DELL'UNIVERSITA DI NAPOLI, NAPLES, ITALY

X-Ray Structure Analysis of $[(C_5H_5)_2TiAl(C_2H_5)_2]_2$

BY P. CORRADINI AND A. SIRIGU

Received May 23, 1966

The structure of $[(C_5H_5)_2TiAl(C_2H_5)_2]_2$ has been determined from a three-dimensional X-ray analysis. The molecular crystals contain four dimeric molecules in a unit cell of symmetry Pbcn and dimensions $a = 9.50 \pm 0.02$ Å, $b = 14.60 \pm 0.03$ Å, and $c = 19.40 \pm 0.03$ Å. Each dimeric molecule consists of two units of $(C_5H_5)_2TiAl(C_2H_5)_2$ linked through a Ti-Ti bond which intersects a twofold symmetry axis. Each Ti atom is also coordinated to two π -cyclopentadienyl rings and to an Al atom. Furthermore, both Ti and Al atoms of one unit $(C_5H_5)_2TiAl(C_2H_5)_2$ are at bonding distance from one carbon atom of one of the two π -cyclopentadienyl rings of the other unit related by a twofold symmetry axis. The structure of the molecule and the nature of bonding are discussed.

Introduction

The study of the structure of complexes containing Al and Ti atoms is of great interest in order to elucidate the mechanisms of stereospecific polymerization.

In this work we have examined by three-dimensional X-ray methods the structure of $[(C_5H_5)_2TiAl(C_2H_5)_2]_2$ prepared first by Natta, *et al.*¹

Experimental Data

Lattice parameters and space group were determined from Weissenberg photographs taken with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation: $a = 9.50 \pm 0.02$ Å, $b = 14.60 \pm 0.03$ Å, and $c = 19.40 \pm 0.03$ Å. The observed systematic absences uniquely defined the centrosymmetric space group Pbcn (D_{2h}^{14}), which was subsequently verified by the structural analysis.

Three-dimensional intensity data were recorded from multifilm-equiinclination Weissenberg photographs. In order to reduce the absorption effects Mo $K\alpha$ radiation was used ($\mu/\rho(Ti) = 24.2$ for Mo $K\alpha$, 208 for Cu $K\alpha$).²

The intensities of 744 nonzero reflections ($0kl-5kl$, $h0l-h6l$) were measured by visual comparison with a standard scale. Some low-angle reflections (starred in Table I) that were not accessible with Mo $K\alpha$ radiation were obtained with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. A correction for absorption was made for these reflections assuming cylindrical shape for a prismatic crystal of 0.3×0.2 mm cross section.

After the usual corrections were applied the reflections were put into a common scale following the method of Rollet and Sparks.³

Determination and Refinement of the Structure

Preliminary atomic coordinates were obtained from a previous Patterson analysis and successive two-dimensional Fourier syntheses.⁴

A structure factor calculation made with these original coordinates yielded an R factor of 0.21 for the 744 observed reflections.

A three-dimensional Fourier synthesis was then computed from which new atomic coordinates were obtained which decreased R to 0.19. Refinement of the structure was carried out by means of differential synthesis calculations. After four cycles of refinement, the R factor was 0.145. Although the shifts in the

coordinates of some carbon atoms in the last cycle were still of the same order of magnitude as the corresponding standard deviations, their changes did not lead to a further significant lowering of the R factor. Hence, refinement was terminated at this point.

Anisotropic treatment of the temperature factors was made for the Ti and Al atoms only, since such a treatment proved to be statistically insignificant for the carbon atoms. Hydrogen atoms were included in the final structure factor calculation. Their positions were calculated from stereochemical considerations, and no attempt was made to locate them by a difference Fourier synthesis calculation. The final R factor was 0.140. Observed and calculated structure factors at the final stage are reported in Table I. For all calculations an IBM 1620 computer was used. Programs were kindly supplied by Giglio and Damiani.⁵

Final atomic coordinates and the relative standard deviations are given in Table II.⁶ In the same table the isotropic temperature factors of the carbon atoms and the anisotropic ones of Ti and Al atoms are reported. No physical significance should be attached to the thermal parameters since they are seriously influenced by any systematic errors in the experimental intensities.

The most significant interatomic distances, bond angles, and internal rotation angles are given in Table III. Atoms are numbered according to Figure 1 where a molecular model of $[(C_5H_5)_2TiAl(C_2H_5)_2]_2$ projected along the b axis is shown.

Description and Discussion of the Molecular Structure

The dimeric molecule formed by two formula units of $(C_5H_5)_2TiAl(C_2H_5)_2$ is linked through a Ti-Ti bond which intersects a twofold symmetry axis. A system of four metal atoms Al-Ti-Ti-Al bonded in sequence is thus observed.

The results of least-square planes calculation show

(5) For differential synthesis calculations see: A. Damiani, P. De Santis, E. Giglio, and A. Ripamonti, *Ric. Sci., Ser. II-A*, **33**, 965 (1963). Other programs are not published.

(6) The refinement of this structure was carried out on our data by a referee with a full-matrix, least-squares program. The results of this refinement corroborate our structural analysis. The standard deviations on the coordinates listed in Table II come from that least-squares refinement, and they are considerably higher than those estimated from differential synthesis refinement.

(1) G. Natta, G. Mazzanti, P. Corradini, U. Giannini, and S. Cesca, *Atti Accad. Nazl. Lincei, Rend., Classe Sci., Fis., Mat. Nat.*, **26**, 150 (1959).

(2) "International Tables for X-ray Crystallography," Vol. II, The Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1959.

(3) J. G. Rollet and R. A. Sparks, *Acta Cryst.*, **13**, 273 (1960).

(4) Unpublished data, but see: G. Natta and P. Corradini, *Angew. Chem.*, **72**, 39 (1960).

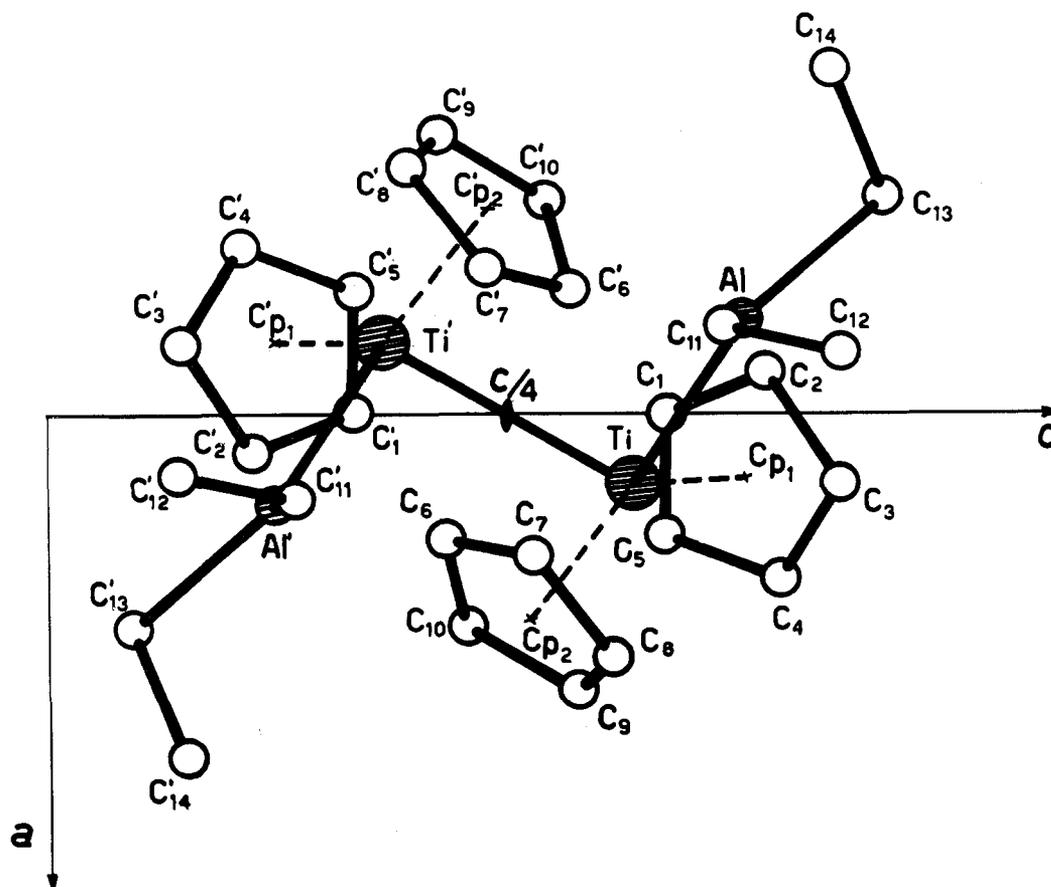


Figure 1.—[010] projection of the molecule.

TABLE III
BOND LENGTHS, BOND ANGLES, AND
RELATIVE STANDARD DEVIATIONS

Bond, A	Dev, A		Angle, deg	Dev, deg	
Ti-Ti	3.110	0.007	Ti'TiAl	91.8	0.3
Ti-Al	2.792	0.011	Cp ₁ TiCp ₂	136.2	
C(1)-C(2)	1.45	0.04	C(1)C(2)C(3)	108.4	2.6
C(2)-C(3)	1.48	0.04	C(2)C(3)C(4)	106.0	2.7
C(3)-C(4)	1.36	0.05	C(3)C(4)C(5)	109.0	2.9
C(4)-C(5)	1.51	0.05	C(4)C(5)C(1)	108.3	2.8
C(5)-C(1)	1.34	0.04	C(5)C(1)C(2)	108.0	2.8
Ti-C(1)	2.37	0.03			
Ti-C(2)	2.34	0.03			
Ti-C(3)	2.37	0.03			
Ti-C(4)	2.35	0.04			
Ti-C(5)	2.31	0.03			
Ti-Cp ₁	2.01				
C(6)-C(7)	1.46	0.04	C(6)C(7)C(8)	107.8	2.7
C(7)-C(8)	1.43	0.04	C(7)C(8)C(9)	105.4	2.6
C(8)-C(9)	1.37	0.05	C(8)C(9)C(10)	112.0	2.8
C(9)-C(10)	1.38	0.04	C(9)C(10)C(6)	107.6	2.8
C(10)-C(6)	1.40	0.04	C(10)C(6)C(7)	106.2	2.4
Ti-C(6)	2.25	0.03	TiAlC(11)	126.5	1.0
Ti-C(7)	2.35	0.03	TiAlC(13)	122.3	1.0
Ti-C(8)	2.48	0.03	TiC(6)'Al	77.0	1.4
Ti-C(9)	2.34	0.03	C(11)AlC(13)	110.0	1.4
Ti-C(10)	2.34	0.03	C(6)'AlC(13)	112.0	1.3
			C(6)'AlC(11)	114.4	1.4
Ti-Cp ₂	2.02		AlC(11)C(12)	116.8	2.2
Ti-C(6)'	2.38	0.03	AlC(13)C(14)	105.7	2.3
Al-C(11)	1.89	0.03	Al'Ti'TiTi'TiAl	97.7	0.5
C(11)-C(12)	1.50	0.05			
Al-C(13)	2.11	0.03			
C(13)-C(14)	1.55	0.05			
Al-C(6)	2.11	0.03			

that both cyclopentadienyl rings (which are indicated together with their center as Cp₁ and Cp₂) are essentially planar.

The calculated least-square planes are $X + 19.639Y - 13.040Z + 91.641 = 0$ for Cp₁ with a maximum deviation of 0.029 Å for C(5) and $X + 0.6213Y - 0.9688Z + 1.0249 = 0$ for Cp₂ with a maximum deviation of 0.046 Å for C(10).

Although a lack of fivefold symmetry is indicated for Cp₁, the differences between carbon-carbon bond lengths are on the borderline of statistical significance.

The Ti-Cp₁ axis is normal to the plane containing the cyclopentadienyl ring. The carbon-carbon bond lengths found for the Cp₂ ring are all equal within the errors. However, the observable differences between Ti-C bond distances (see Table III) appear significant. The Ti-Cp₂ axis makes an angle of 8° with the normal to the plane containing the ring. The direction of the observed distortion in favor of a positioning of C(6) closer to the Ti'-Al' bond is consistent with some other structural features peculiar to this compound as discussed below.

The coordination around the Al atom is particularly interesting. Atoms C(11), C(13), and Ti are trigonally disposed around Al (with angles C(11)AlC(13) = 110.0°, C(11)AlTi = 126.5°, and C(13)AlTi = 122.3°) which departs from the plane of the former three by 0.12 Å in the direction of C(6)'. On the other hand, quite short distances occur between Al and C(6)' and Ti and C(6)'; the Al-C(6)', distance of 2.11 Å closely

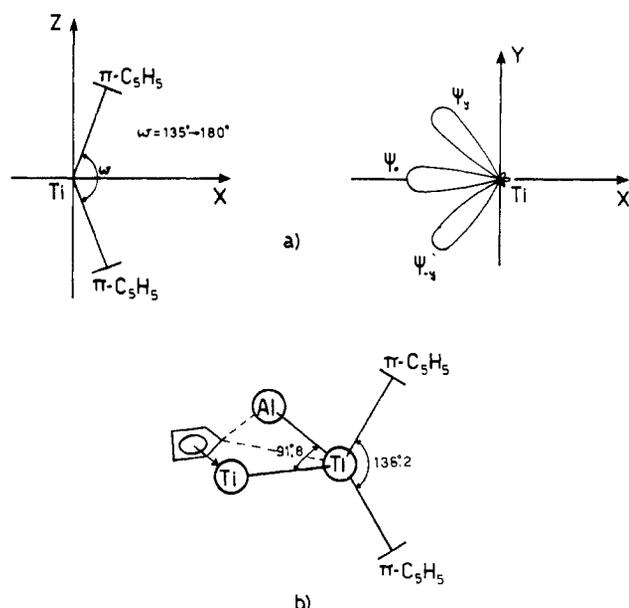


Figure 2.—Coordination around the Ti atom: (a) theoretical model,⁹ (b) scheme of the coordination actually found.

with the over-all structure of the molecule may be understood on the basis of the theoretical model proposed by Ballhausen and Dahl⁷ for protonated sandwich compounds or for such compounds as $(C_5H_5)_2-TiCl_2Al(C_2H_5)_2$.⁸

Figure 2 shows schematically the proposed model (a) and how it applies to the present case (b). It is assumed, therefore, that ψ_y and ψ_{-y} are utilized for bonding with a Ti and an Al atom. Moreover, a bridge could be formed between Al and Ti through the interaction of an appropriate filled Cp_2 ring orbital both with the empty ψ_0 Ti orbital and an empty Al orbital of prevailing p character. This additional bonding function of the Cp_2 rings justifies the above referred distortion of the plane of the ring with respect to the Ti- Cp_2 axis. It also explains a departure from the theoretical dihedral angle between the planes containing the Al-Ti-Ti' and Cp_1 -Ti- Cp_2 systems which should be 90° . The observed angle is 75° . This distortion appears to be a consequence of the translation of the Cp_2 ring toward the ψ_0 Ti orbital.

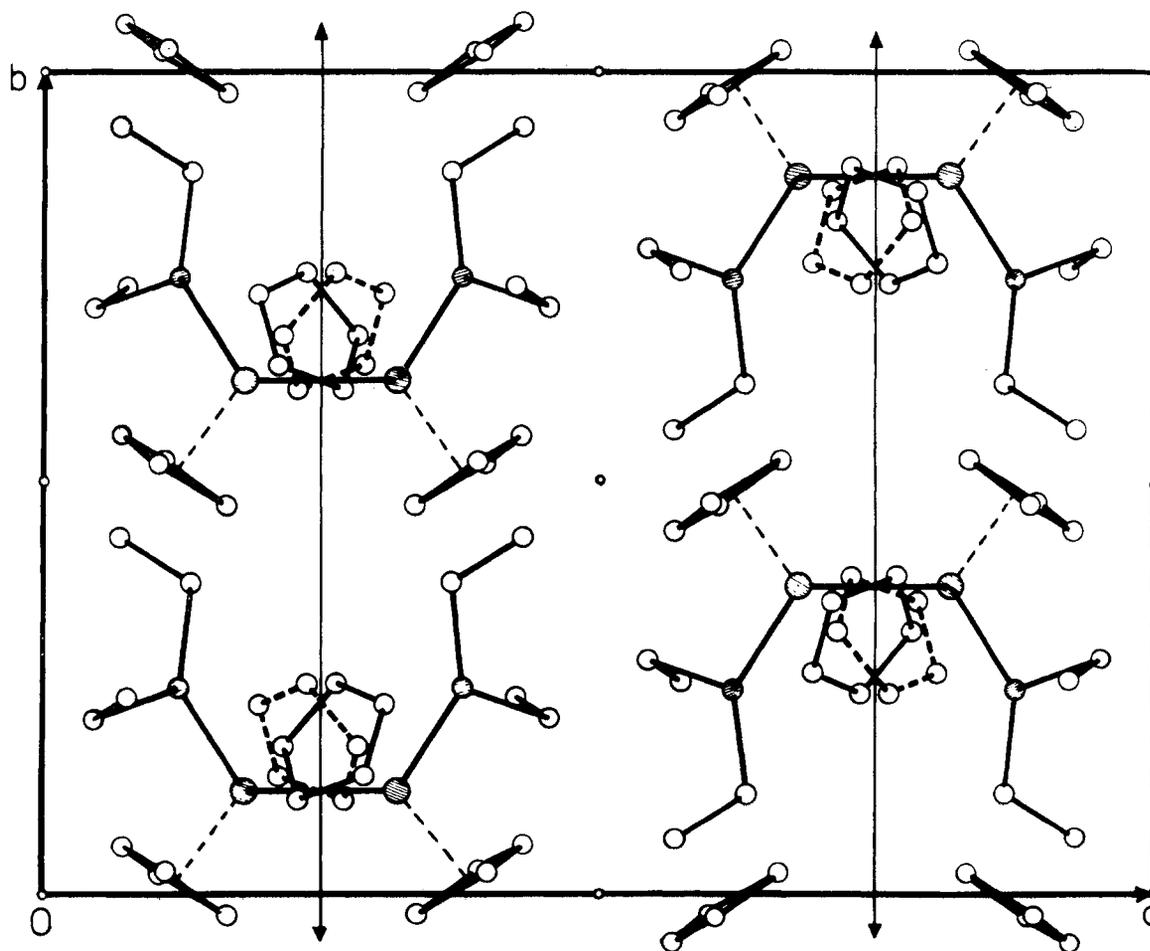


Figure 3.—[100] projection of the content of the unit cell.

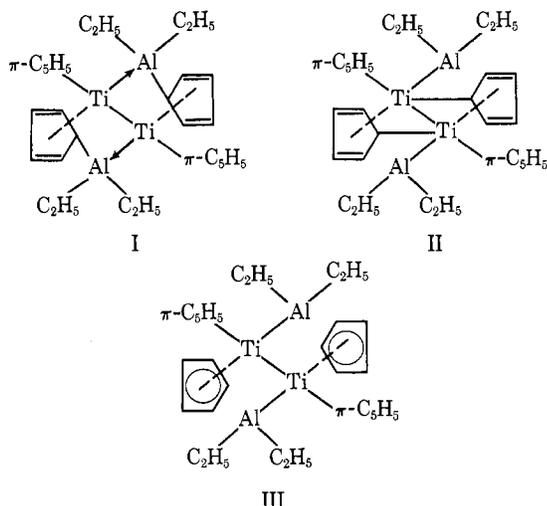
corresponds to a σ Al-C bond length while the Ti-C(6)' distance of 2.38 Å is practically equal to the mean Ti-C distance found in the Ti- Cp_1 system. The TiC(6)'Al angle is 77.0° , typical of a bridging carbon atom.

The coordination around each Ti atom together

An alternative description of the structure in terms of valence bonds involving resonance among extreme forms is schematically shown below.

(7) C. J. Ballhausen and J. P. Dahl, *Acta Chem. Scand.*, **15**, 1333 (1961).

(8) G. Natta, P. Corradini, and I. W. Bassi, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **80**, 755 (1958).



All three resonance forms are consistent with the diamagnetism of the compound. Forms I and II show clearly the half-bridge nature of the bonding between Ti and Al. Form I involves some Lewis basicity of the Ti atoms toward the Al atoms. This was suggested

in the earlier study of this compound.³ Recently, other examples of Lewis basicity of metals have been reported.⁹⁻¹¹

The Crystal Structure

Figure 3 shows the content of the unit cell projected on the *bc* plane. Ethyl groups and cyclopentadienyl rings clustered about axes parallel to the *a* axis and containing centers of symmetry exhibit the closest packing distances. Minimum carbon-carbon distances of 3.52 Å between centrosymmetrically related methyl groups and of 3.48 Å for similarly related cyclopentadienyl rings are observed. No H-H contact distances less than 2.24 Å have been calculated with the hydrogen atoms in the positions listed in Table II.

Acknowledgments.—The authors are grateful to Professor G. Paiaro, who furnished the compound, and to Dr. G. Diana and Mr. M. Perego for their cooperation in the first part of the work.

(9) D. F. Shriver, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **85**, 3509 (1963).

(10) G. W. Parshall, *ibid.*, **86**, 361 (1964).

(11) M. P. Johnson and D. F. Shriver, *ibid.*, **88**, 301 (1966).

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE METCALF CHEMICAL LABORATORIES,
BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02912

X-Ray Analyses of the Structures of Two Crystalline Forms of *trans*-Dichlorotetrakis(ethylenethiourea)nickel(II)¹

BY WARD T. ROBINSON,² SMITH L. HOLT, JR., AND GENE B. CARPENTER

Received September 19, 1966

trans-Dichlorotetrakis(ethylenethiourea)nickel(II), Ni[SC(NHCH₂)₂]₄Cl₂, is polymorphous, crystallizing in the triclinic system with one molecule in the unit cell (space group $\bar{P}1$) and in the monoclinic system with four molecules in the unit cell (space group C2/c). Both structures have the same NiS₄ skeleton, including two unequal independent Ni-S bonds, but differ in the orientation and length of the Ni-Cl bonds and also in the orientation of the ethylenethiourea ligands. There is no clear evidence for intermolecular or intramolecular hydrogen bonding in these crystals.

Introduction

The structure of dichlorotetrakis(ethylenethiourea)-nickel(II) [Ni(etu)₄Cl₂] was first investigated by Nardelli, Chierici, and Braibanti.³ Weissenberg photographs were obtained by rotating small yellow crystals about the *z* axis. Crystallographic data were reported as *a* = 8.42, *b* = 8.44, *c* = 8.82 Å; α = 107.0°, β = 117.5°, γ = 90.2°; *V* = 524 Å³; *Z* = 1; *D_m* = 1.67; *D_c* = 1.70. A qualitative comparison of *hk0* Weissenberg photographs⁴ from this crystal and from the corresponding thiourea complex,⁵ [Ni(tu)₄Cl₂], led these authors to deduce that there must be marked

structural analogies between the compounds. In particular they concluded that the coordination of the four sulfur atoms of the ethylenethiourea molecules around the nickel atom must take place in one plane, chlorine atoms completing an octahedron in *trans* positions. This conclusion has, essentially, been confirmed by the present work.

Both yellow and orange crystalline forms of [Ni(etu)₄Cl₂] were subsequently studied by Holt and Carlin.⁶ The yellow form was assumed to be identical with the compound reported by Nardelli, *et al.*, and their conclusion that this was a *trans* complex was accepted. Indeed this conclusion was further supported by an examination of reflectance spectra. The splitting of spectral bands of the yellow compound was observed to be twice that of the orange compound, and it had been shown theoretically and experimentally

(1) Research supported by Advanced Research Projects Agency Contract SD-86.

(2) To whom inquiries should be directed at the Department of Chemistry, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

(3) M. Nardelli, I. Chierici, and A. Braibanti, *Gazz. Chim. Ital.*, **88**, 37 (1958).

(4) M. Nardelli, private communication, 1966.

(5) M. Nardelli, L. Cavalca, and A. Braibanti, *Gazz. Chim. Ital.*, **86**, 942 (1956).

(6) S. L. Holt, Jr., and R. L. Carlin, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **86**, 3017 (1964).