

Figure 5.—Pressure-composition isotherm for the system 90.5 wt % Mg-9.5 wt % Cu-H₂.

In order to obtain a further check on the validity of eq 1 and 2, several alloys of various compositions were hydrided and dehydrided several times and then finally contacted with H₂ for several days. The H₂ pressure over the alloy was held 200 psi above the hydride dissociation pressure. These samples were analyzed for hydrogen content, and, as shown in Table I, the actual hydrogen contents are in good agreement with predicted values.

TABLE I
MAXIMUM HYDROGEN CONTENT OF Mg-Cu ALLOYS

Alloy composition, ^a wt %	Predicted value		Actual value			
	H/(Mg + Cu)	H/Mg	Wt % H	H/(Mg + Cu)	H/Mg	Wt % H
44.1 Mg	1.02	1.51	2.69	1.03	1.53	2.72
56.1 Cu						
44.1 Mg	1.02	1.51	2.69	0.96	1.42	2.53
56.2 Cu						
55.0 Mg	1.28	1.69	3.71	1.28	1.69	3.71
45.0 Cu						
52.0 Mg	1.22	1.65	3.43	1.15	1.56	3.25
48.1 Cu						
90.5 Mg	1.88	1.96	6.85	1.82	1.88	6.62
9.5 Cu						

^a By wet analysis.

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Transition Metal Borohydride Complexes. I. The Solid-State Structure of Borohydridobis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I)

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The crystal and molecular structure of borohydridobis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) has been determined by a three-dimensional X-ray crystallographic analysis. The compound crystallizes as colorless needles in space group C2/c with unit cell dimensions $a = 24.64$, $b = 9.058$, $c = 15.43$ Å, $\beta = 116.2^\circ$, $Z = 4$. From 1750 independent observable reflections collected on a full-circle automated diffractometer, the structure was solved by use of conventional Patterson, Fourier, and least-squares refinement techniques. All atoms including hydrogen were located and refined to final values of the discrepancy indices of $R_1 = 0.059$ and $R_2 = 0.044$. The coordination geometry of the copper atom is quasi-tetrahedral, with two hydrogen atoms of the borohydride group bridging the copper and boron atoms. The resultant distances—Cu-P = 2.276 ± 0.001 , Cu-B = 2.184 ± 0.009 , Cu-H = 2.02 ± 0.05 , (B-H)_{av} = 1.31 ± 0.05 Å—and angles—P-Cu-P' = 123.26 ± 0.06 , P-Cu-B = $118.4 \pm 0.1^\circ$ —suggest delocalized bonding between the copper atom and the borohydride group in which direct Cu-B overlap might be significant.

Introduction

In 1949, Hoekstra and Katz prepared the first transition metal borohydride complexes by allowing metal (Ti, Hf, Th) halides to react with lithium borohydride or aluminum borohydride.¹ Since that time, a number of workers have succeeded in isolating compounds containing BH₄⁻ bonded to a transition metal.²⁻¹³ Characteristically, these complexes are nondissociative in solution, decompose at various temperatures to form the free metal and numerous other products both in

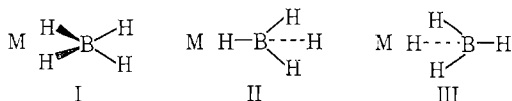
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solution and in the solid state, and show the equivalence of all four borohydride protons in their solution nmr spectra.

As with the compounds of the main group metals, particularly aluminum, there are three possible modes of attachment of the borohydride ion to the metal atom for these complexes



Until recently, structure I has generally been accepted, primarily on the basis of infrared spectral evidence. X-Ray diffraction results for $\text{Zr}(\text{BH}_4)_4$ have shown, however, that structure III can also occur.¹⁴ As part of a broad program designed to study the relationship between structure and reactivity for several transition metal borohydride complexes, we have investigated the crystal structure of $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{P}]_2\text{Cu}(\text{BH}_4)$. The results, which have been reported in a preliminary communication,¹⁵ confirm structure I for this complex and will now be presented in detail.

Experimental Procedures and Results

Collection and Reduction of X-Ray Data.—The compound was prepared by the method of Cariati and Naldini⁹ and recrystallized from chloroform-ethanol. Whereas colorless needles were commonly precipitated from such solutions, better developed crystals exhibiting several forms could be obtained by very slow growth. One such crystal of approximate dimensions $0.18 \times 0.18 \times 0.22$ mm was obtained, mounted with hard shellac on the end of a glass fiber along the *b* axis, and used in all X-ray studies reported here. After an approximate optical alignment, the crystal was transferred to the precession camera where the space group and unit cell dimensions were determined using Zr-filtered $\text{Mo K}\alpha$ radiation (λ 0.7107 Å). The density was measured by flotation in an aqueous solution of potassium iodide.

Intensity data were first collected on the Weissenberg camera using molybdenum radiation and estimating the intensities visually. Although these data were sufficient for the determination of all heavy atoms in the structure, they did not appear to be accurate enough for the location of the hydrogen atoms. A second set of data was therefore collected on a Picker four-circle automated X-ray diffractometer using $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ radiation (λ 1.5418 Å). Fortunately, these data were sufficient for the determination of all hydrogen atoms (*vide infra*).

Since this structure represents the first one to have been carried out on our Picker diffractometer, we report here the pertinent experimental details and computational procedures used in data collection and processing. Alignment of the diffractometer was achieved using a standard beryllium acetate crystal and was subsequently checked with the borohydride crystal. Room-temperature intensity data were taken at a takeoff angle of 2.5° , a value which was found to afford sufficient intensity, resolution, and a relatively small scan range consistent with the low mosaic spread of the crystal. A symmetrically varying receiving aperture, positioned on the diffractometer dovetail track in front of the counter, was set to a 3.5×3.5 mm opening to minimize extraneous background. Each reflection was filtered through 0.001-in. Ni foil after diffraction from the crystal. The detector, positioned approximately 23 cm from the crystal, was a scintillation counter employing a thallium-activated sodium iodide crystal. The pulse height analyzer was adjusted to accept 95% of the peak while eliminating 78% of unwanted background. Integrated intensities were collected by the θ - 2θ scan technique.

(14) P. H. Bird and M. R. Churchill, *Chem. Commun.*, 403 (1967).

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The diffractometer settings were computed from the cell constants and crystal orientation matrix using Prewitt's program, CSET-4. The scan range for all reflections was 1.5° in 2θ plus an allowance for the $\text{K}\alpha_1$ - $\text{K}\alpha_2$ separation which became important at high 2θ values. The scan rate was $1^\circ/\text{min}$ and was symmetric with respect to the Bragg position. Each reflection was scanned once, and 10-sec background counts were taken at each end of the scan. For reflections having count rates in excess of 10,000 cps, copper foil attenuators were automatically inserted into the diffracted beam path until the intensity was reduced to less than that value. All data were displayed on the chart recorder to provide a visual check on peak shapes, printed out on paper tape as a check on the diffractometer settings, and punched on IBM cards for further processing. To monitor crystal stability and alignment, a standard reflection was measured after every 100 reflections. The integrated intensity of this standard showed no systematic variation and was always within 2% of the mean value for the entire run. For maximum efficiency, data were collected with the indices of the shortest reciprocal axes varying fastest ($h > l > k$ in this case). The resultant over-all efficiency, including the time spent recording the standard reflection, was 71%. Approximately 1800 crystallographically independent reflections within the sphere $\theta < 53^\circ$ were collected in a period of 4.5 days.

The raw data, I, were corrected for background, use of attenuators, absorption, and Lorentz-polarization effects using a local modification (S. J. L.) of Prewitt's program, ACAC. The background correction assumes that the background for each reflection can be approximated by the average of the background readings on either side of the peak in counts per second multiplied by the time required to scan through the peak. Absorption corrections ($\mu = 21.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) obtained from the program were checked against an experimental measure of the change in peak intensity with ϕ for several reflections at $\chi = 90^\circ$ and found to agree well. The data were then placed on an approximate common scale through a modification of Wilson's method.¹⁶ From the resultant values for $|F_o|$ and $|F_o|^2$, the structure was solved by the usual Patterson, Fourier, and least-square refinement processes (see below). Scattering factor tables, appropriately corrected for anomalous dispersion ($f = f^0 + \Delta f' + i\Delta f''$) for the copper and phosphorus atoms, were obtained from the "International Tables."¹⁷ Form factors used were for the neutral atoms. Weights were assigned to each reflection in the least-squares process according to a scheme written into Prewitt's program, ACAC, which is based on counting statistics and the direct beam stability. Of the 1800 measured reflections, only 50 had intensities less than their standard deviations. These were excluded from the refinement.

Unit Cell and Space Group.—Borohydridobis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) crystallizes in the monoclinic system with $a = 24.64 \pm 0.02$, $b = 9.058 \pm 0.006$, $c = 15.43 \pm 0.01$ Å, $\beta = 116.2 \pm 0.1^\circ$. The cell volume ($V = 3091 \text{ Å}^3$) and density ($\rho = 1.295 \pm 0.005 \text{ g/cc}$) require four molecules per unit cell. The calculated density, $\rho = 1.297 \text{ g/cc}$, agrees well with that observed. From the observed extinctions, hkl , $h + k \neq 2n$, and $h0l$, $l \neq 2n$, the space group was ascertained to be Cc (No. 9) or $\text{C}2/c$ (No. 15).¹⁸

Determination of the Structure.—Using the corrected data, an origin-removed, sharpened Patterson map was computed¹⁶ and solved for the positions of the copper and phosphorus atoms. From a careful inspection of the map, we decided that the space group was probably the centrosymmetric $\text{C}2/c$, a choice which appears to be justified by the successful refinement of the struc-

(16) In addition to those mentioned in the text, programs for the IBM 7094 used in this work include local versions of the Zalkin Fourier program, FORDAP, the Busing-Martin-Levy structure factor calculation and least-squares refinement program, OR-FLS, the Busing-Martin-Levy error function program, OR-PFE, the Wood molecular geometry program, MGROM, and XDATA, the Brookhaven data reduction program.

(17) "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. III, The Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1962, pp 202, 210, 214.

(18) See ref 17, Vol. I, p 101.

TABLE II
 FINAL POSITIONAL AND ISOTROPIC THERMAL PARAMETERS FOR $[(C_6H_5)_3P]_2Cu(BH_4)^{a,b}$

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	β_{11}^c	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Cu	0.0	0.1149 (1)	0.25	14.3 (2)	74 (1)	362 (6)	0.0	10.4 (3)	0.0
P	0.08998 (5)	-0.0045 (1)	0.29861 (9)	14.3 (3)	89 (2)	45.8 (8)	-2.1 (6)	11.7 (4)	-1 (1)
B	0.0	0.356 (1)	0.25	38 (3)	60 (10)	110 (8)	0.0	20 (4)	0.0
CA1	0.1539 (2)	0.1137 (5)	0.3188 (3)	14 (1)	103 (7)	49 (3)	4 (3)	9 (2)	-7 (4)
CA2	0.2032 (2)	0.0668 (6)	0.3039 (4)	15 (1)	160 (10)	63 (4)	-11 (3)	13 (2)	-6 (5)
CA3	0.2524 (2)	0.1597 (8)	0.3259 (4)	19 (1)	250 (10)	71 (4)	-3 (4)	18 (2)	24 (6)
CA4	0.2531 (3)	0.2984 (7)	0.3636 (4)	28 (2)	200 (10)	77 (5)	29 (4)	15 (2)	-12 (6)
CA5	0.2045 (3)	0.3450 (7)	0.3778 (5)	24 (2)	160 (10)	108 (5)	18 (3)	19 (2)	-2 (6)
CA6	0.1561 (2)	0.2526 (6)	0.3567 (4)	19 (1)	118 (8)	81 (4)	-14 (3)	16 (2)	-17 (5)
CB1	0.3836 (2)	0.3843 (5)	0.0914 (3)	13 (1)	89 (7)	41 (3)	2 (2)	9 (2)	-1 (4)
CB2	0.4246 (2)	0.3058 (6)	0.0725 (4)	16 (1)	127 (8)	71 (4)	-1 (3)	14 (2)	-14 (5)
CB3	0.4078 (2)	0.2190 (6)	-0.0095 (4)	22 (1)	140 (9)	64 (4)	-16 (3)	14 (2)	-35 (5)
CB4	0.3495 (3)	0.2126 (6)	-0.0732 (4)	30 (2)	136 (9)	59 (4)	-3 (3)	20 (2)	-18 (5)
CB5	0.3053 (3)	0.2903 (7)	-0.0591 (4)	24 (2)	190 (10)	60 (4)	1 (3)	9 (2)	-18 (5)
CB6	0.3235 (2)	0.3756 (6)	0.0260 (4)	22 (1)	154 (9)	55 (4)	3 (3)	12 (2)	-17 (5)
CC1	0.4122 (2)	0.3660 (5)	0.2928 (3)	18 (1)	83 (7)	47 (3)	1 (2)	13 (2)	9 (4)
CC2	0.4229 (2)	0.4270 (6)	0.3837 (4)	26 (1)	152 (9)	53 (4)	12 (3)	19 (2)	1 (5)
CC3	0.4298 (2)	0.3296 (6)	0.4600 (4)	29 (2)	170 (10)	50 (4)	13 (3)	20 (2)	11 (5)
CC4	0.4275 (2)	0.1800 (6)	0.4460 (4)	32 (2)	149 (9)	65 (4)	-1 (3)	27 (2)	18 (5)
CC5	0.4178 (3)	0.1213 (7)	0.3579 (4)	38 (2)	117 (9)	68 (4)	-1 (3)	26 (2)	15 (5)
CC6	0.4107 (2)	0.2153 (5)	0.2822 (4)	30 (2)	101 (8)	49 (4)	-7 (3)	17 (2)	-2 (5)
H _b	0.018 (2)	0.299 (6)	0.193 (3)	5.3 (1.5) ^d					
H _t	0.053 (2)	0.430 (6)	0.303 (4)	5.4 (1.4)					

^a See Figure 1 for atom-labeling scheme. ^b Standard deviations, in parentheses beside each entry, occur in the last significant figure for each parameter. ^c The form of the anisotropic ellipsoid is $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$. Values reported are $\times 10^4$. ^d $\beta_{11} = B, A^2$, since hydrogen atoms were only refined isotropically.

ture. In C2/c, the molecule is required to have a twofold symmetry axis with the copper and boron atoms on the special positions (4e): $\pm(0, y, 1/4)$; $\pm(1/2, 1/2 + y, 1/4)$, and the remaining atoms on the general eightfold positions (8f): $\pm(x, y, z)$; $\pm(1/2 + x, 1/2 + y, z)$; $\pm(x, \bar{y}, 1/2 + z)$; $\pm(1/2 + x, 1/2 - y, 1/2 + z)$.¹⁸

After a cycle of least-squares refinement of the over-all scale factor and heavy-atom positional parameters, the latter were used to determine the signs of the structure factors for a difference Fourier synthesis. The Fourier map revealed the locations of the 19 remaining nonhydrogen atoms in the asymmetric unit. Four cycles of least-squares refinement of the scale factor, atomic positional parameters, and isotropic thermal parameters converged to values of 0.094 and 0.077 for the discrepancy factors $R_1 = \Sigma ||F_o - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|$ and $R_2 = (\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \Sigma w|F_o|^2)^{1/2}$, respectively. Examination of a difference Fourier map at this stage revealed several possible hydrogen atom peaks as well as anisotropic thermal motion for the other atoms. Additional refinement was therefore carried out in which all atoms were assigned anisotropic thermal parameters of the form $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$. This led to values of $R_1 = 0.077$ and $R_2 = 0.062$ for the discrepancy indices. A difference Fourier map was then prepared from which all 17 crystallographically independent hydrogen atoms were located. The peak heights for these atoms ranged from 0.606 to 0.350 e/A³ on a scale where the average value for a carbon atom was 2.250 e/A³. No other major peaks (>0.350 e/A³) appeared on this Fourier, indicating the probable correctness of the structure. Least-squares refinement of all atoms, with isotropic hydrogen atom thermal parameters and anisotropic thermal parameters for all other atoms, converged to final values of 0.059 and 0.044 for R_1 and R_2 .

Hamilton's test¹⁹ was carried out to discover whether the reduction of R_2 from 0.062 to 0.044 on addition of hydrogen atoms resulted merely from an increase in the number of parameters. The ratio of weighted R factors is 1.41; if it were only 1.29 the probability that the extra parameters were meaningless would be 0.005. Thus, assuming there are only random errors in the data, the hydrogen atoms appear to be statistically significant at the

0.5% confidence level. A similar test showed the assumption of anisotropic temperature parameters to be significantly better than the isotropic model at the 0.5% confidence level.

Table I contains the final list of calculated and observed structure factors. The atomic positional and isotropic thermal parameters, along with their standard deviations as derived from the inverse matrix of the final least-squares refinement cycle, are given in Table II. The root-mean-square amplitudes of vibration derived from the thermal parameters are presented in Table III. The magnitudes of these values are reasonable. Entries are not shown in Tables II and III for the 15 phenyl hydrogen atoms, as these had their well-known spatial relationship to the

 TABLE III
 ROOT-MEAN-SQUARE AMPLITUDES OF VIBRATION (IN Å)^a

Atom	Minimum	Intermediate	Maximum
Cu	0.176	0.185	0.189
P	0.183	0.195	0.212
B	0.163	0.299	0.355
CA1	0.184	0.200	0.236
CA2	0.180	0.250	0.264
CA3	0.203	0.251	0.334
CA4	0.208	0.267	0.348
CA5	0.208	0.285	0.338
CA6	0.183	0.245	0.289
CB1	0.178	0.192	0.210
CB2	0.200	0.221	0.275
CB3	0.185	0.252	0.287
CB4	0.210	0.259	0.275
CB5	0.222	0.261	0.301
CB6	0.216	0.231	0.276
CC1	0.178	0.209	0.219
CC2	0.206	0.233	0.275
CC3	0.211	0.240	0.290
CC4	0.206	0.264	0.286
CC5	0.205	0.259	0.306
CC6	0.201	0.215	0.277

^a Taken along the principal axes of the thermal ellipsoids. The orientations of these axes may be worked out from the data of Table II and the unit cell parameters.

carbon skeleton of the benzene rings. A perspective drawing of the molecule showing the atom-labeling scheme appears in Figure 1.

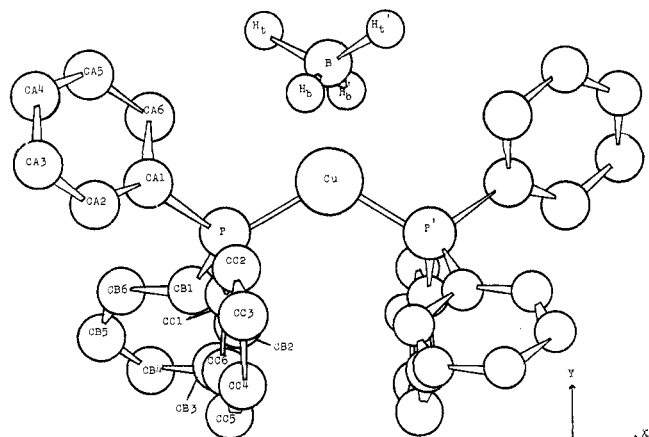


Figure 1.—Projection of borohydobis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) showing the molecular structure. Phenyl hydrogen atoms are not shown.

Discussion

The crystal structure defined by the unit cell dimensions, symmetry operations, and parameters of Table II consists of loosely packed monomolecular units. The pertinent intramolecular distances and angles and their standard deviations are summarized in Table IV for all bonds to the copper and boron atoms. Table V contains similar information for the triphenylphosphine ligand, as well as the best least-squares planes through the carbon atoms of the benzene rings.

TABLE IV

INTERATOMIC DISTANCES (Å) AND ANGLES (DEGREES) FOR ALL BONDS TO THE COPPER AND BORON ATOMS^{a,b}

Interatomic distance		Angle	
Cu-P	2.276 (1)	P-Cu-P'	123.26 (6)
Cu-B	2.184 (9)	P-Cu-B	118.4 (1)
Cu-H _b	2.02 (5)	H _b -Cu-H _b '	69 (3)
B-H _b	1.26 (4)	P-Cu-H _b	100 (4)
B-H _t	1.37 (5)	P-Cu-H _b '	128 (4)
		H _b -B-H _b '	132 (5)
		H _t -B-H _t '	121 (5)
		H _b -B-H _t	95 (3)
		H _b -B-H _t '	109 (3)

^a See Figure 1 for atom-labeling scheme. ^b Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations.

The most important feature of the structure is the two-point attachment of the borohydride group to the copper atom (Figure 1), a result which is in agreement with both solution¹⁸ and solid state^{5,6} infrared spectral studies of the molecule. The coordination geometry of the copper atom may be described as quasi-tetrahedral, although a detailed examination of Table IV reveals significant departures from this idealized configuration. In particular, the angles about the copper atom deviate markedly from the tetrahedral value of 109.47°. These deviations result primarily from two effects (see Figure 1): (1) an opening up of the P-Cu-P' angle which is due at least in part to steric interactions

TABLE V

DIMENSIONS OF THE TRIPHENYLPHOSPHINE GROUP^{a,b}

Bond	Length, Å	Angle	Deg	Angle	Deg
P-CA1	1.814 (5)	Cu-P-CA1	115.0 (2)	CA1-P-CB1	103.8 (2)
P-CB1	1.829 (4)	Cu-P-CB1	117.6 (1)	CA1-P-CC1	103.9 (2)
P-CC1	1.817 (4)	Cu-P-CC1	111.1 (2)	CB1-P-CC1	104.0 (2)

Best Plane Equation through Ring A
 $(0.0280)^{-1}X - (0.3751)^{-1}Y + (0.9266)^{-1}Z = 3.753$

Distances (in Å) of carbon atoms from plane		
CA1	-0.003	CA3 -0.002
CA2	0.002	CA4 0.004
CA5	-0.008	CA6 0.006

Bond	Length, Å	Angle	Deg
CA1-CA2	1.398 (6)	P-CA1-CA2	122.9 (4)
CA2-CA3	1.389 (7)	CA1-CA2-CA3	120.2 (5)
CA3-CA4	1.381 (9)	CA2-CA3-CA4	120.1 (5)
CA4-CA5	1.375 (9)	CA3-CA4-CA5	119.7 (5)
CA5-CA6	1.373 (8)	CA4-CA5-CA6	120.1 (6)
CA6-CA1	1.378 (7)	CA5-CA6-CA1	121.6 (5)
		CA6-CA1-P	118.7 (3)

Best Plane Equation through Ring B
 $-(0.3787)^{-1}X + (0.7860)^{-1}Y + (0.4887)^{-1}Z = 1.906$

Distances (in Å) of carbon atoms from plane		
CB1	0.003	CB3 -0.006
CB2	0.003	CB4 0.000
CB5	0.009	CB6 -0.009

Bond	Length, Å	Angle	Deg
CB1-CB2	1.368 (7)	P-CB1-CB2	119.3 (4)
CB2-CB3	1.389 (8)	CB1-CB2-CB3	122.5 (5)
CB3-CB4	1.337 (8)	CB2-CB3-CB4	119.1 (5)
CB4-CB5	1.392 (9)	CB3-CB4-CB5	121.6 (5)
CB5-CB6	1.415 (8)	CB4-CB5-CB6	118.1 (5)
CB6-CB1	1.378 (6)	CB5-CB6-CB1	120.6 (5)
		CB6-CB1-P	122.6 (4)

Best Plane Equation through Ring C
 $(0.9568)^{-1}X + (0.0165)^{-1}Y + (0.2903)^{-1}Z = 1.526$

Distances (in Å) of carbon atoms from plane		
CC1	0.008	CC3 0.004
CC2	-0.009	CC4 0.001
CC5	0.002	CC6 -0.006

Bond	Length, Å	Angle	Deg
CC1-CC2	1.420 (7)	P-CC1-CC2	116.4 (3)
CC2-CC3	1.420 (8)	CC1-CC2-CC3	118.6 (4)
CC3-CC4	1.369 (8)	CC2-CC3-CC4	120.2 (5)
CC4-CC5	1.379 (8)	CC3-CC4-CC5	120.9 (5)
CC5-CC6	1.393 (8)	CC4-CC5-CC6	119.6 (5)
CC6-CC1	1.373 (6)	CC5-CC6-CC1	121.4 (5)
		CC6-CC1-P	124.0 (4)

^a See Figure 1 for atom-labeling scheme; numbers given in parentheses refer to the standard deviation in the last significant figure listed. ^b Weighted least-squares planes were calculated with reference to an orthogonal coordinate system in which the Y axis is taken to be coincident with the cell b axis, the Z axis is in the direction $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$, and the X axis is chosen according to the right-hand rule.

between the two phenyl rings B and C; (2) a rotation of the BH₄⁻ group about the crystallographic twofold axis passing through the copper and boron atoms. The second effect may originate in a steric interaction between the bridging hydrogen atoms and the protons on CA6 and CA6'. Calculations show the observed H-H distances to average 3.0 Å, whereas a shorter H-H distance of 2.6 Å would occur if the dihedral angle between the planes defined by P-Cu-P' and H_b-B-H_b' were 90°. The observed value for this angle is 115°. Rotation of the BH₄⁻ group in the direction opposite that shown in Figure 1 would only increase the H-H repulsive interaction. No indication of disorder in the BH₄⁻ group appeared on the Fourier maps.

The boron atom may also be described as roughly tetrahedral, but again deviations occur (Table IV). Because of the large uncertainties in the hydrogen atom

coordinates, however, it is difficult to attach much significance to the variations. The calculated dihedral angle between the planes defined by H_b-B-H_b' and H_t-B-H_t' is 98° . The average B-H distance is 1.31 ± 0.05 Å which may be compared to values of 1.2 ± 0.2 Å found for $Zr(BH_4)_4$ ¹⁴ and 1.31 Å (average) found for $(CH_3)_3Al(BH_4)_3$.²⁰

While it is difficult to assess the quantitative effects of intramolecular steric interactions on the observed geometry, qualitative arguments are sometimes sufficient. In the present case, the best defined deviation of the structure from the idealized tetrahedral configurations discussed above is the P-Cu-P' angle of 123.26° . In certain other compounds containing *cis*-triphenylphosphine groups with metal-phosphorus distances comparable to that found here, considerably smaller P-M-P angles have been observed. For example, in $[(C_6H_5)_3P]_2Pt(CO)_3$, where the Pt-P bond lengths are 2.24 Å, the P-Pt-P angle is 98.2° .²¹ It is therefore tempting to suggest that, in $[(C_6H_5)_3P]_2Cu(BH_4)$, intramolecular steric interactions between the triphenylphosphine groups are not the sole cause of the large P-Cu-P' angle. In particular, one might consider a delocalized bonding scheme in which direct Cu-B overlap might be significant. Such a description would require a greater fractional contribution of the copper 4s orbital to the bonding σ molecular orbitals than would a more conventional description in which two sp^3 orbitals from the copper atom would participate in two three-center, two-electron bonds with the borohydride group. Consistent with this proposal are the nearly trigonal P-Cu-P' and P-Cu-B angles (Table IV) and the Cu-B distance of 2.184 Å, which is not a great deal larger than the Cu-H distance of 2.02 Å.²² Cu-B distances of 2.1–2.3 Å were also found in the crystal structure of $Cu_2B_{10}H_{10}$, in which "essentially covalent" Cu-B

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(22) A referee has pointed out that in diatomic Cu-H, the Cu-H distance is 1.46 Å (G. Herzberg, "Molecular Spectra and Molecular Structure," 2nd ed, D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., p 526), to which our Cu-H distance of 2.02 Å may be compared. The longer distance found in our complex is consistent with the multicenter bonding suggested for the Cu-BH₄ linkage.

bonding interactions were suggested.²³ Further experimental work is currently in progress in an attempt to obtain a more definitive assessment of the bonding between the metal and the borohydride group.

Although a brief search of the literature did not reveal any other structurally characterized copper phosphine complexes, the value of 2.276 Å for the Cu-P distance in the present compound seems reasonable. From the Cu(I)-Cl distance (2.16 Å) found in $(CuCl)_3$ ²⁴ and from the difference (0.11 Å) between the single-bond radii for chlorine and phosphorus,²⁵ we compute a Cu(I)-P distance of 2.27 Å, in good agreement with the observed value. Table V contains detailed information about the geometry of the triphenylphosphine ligand. The average P-C bond length is 1.820 Å. The individual carbon-carbon bond distances range from 1.337 to 1.420 Å, with a mean value of 1.385 Å. Although there appears to be no systematic variation in these distances, bond CB3-CB4 is unusually short. Excluding this distance from the averaging leads to a mean C-C bond length of 1.388 Å, with a computed standard deviation from the mean of 0.017 Å. The value of 1.337 Å for the CB3-CB4 distance, therefore, lies just within the range of statistical significance (3σ). Best plane calculations through the phenyl rings show them to be planar as expected, the maximum deviation of any one carbon atom from the best plane being 0.009 Å. The average values for the various angles within the ligand agree well with values found in other triphenylphosphine complexes.²⁶ Not reported in the table are the average (of 15 values) C-H distance, 1.04 ± 0.04 Å, and H-C-C angle, $121 \pm 2^\circ$.

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(26) Cf. S. J. La Placa and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 778 (1965), and references contained therein.