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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Iodocarbonylnitrosylbis(triphenylphosphine)iridium Tetrafluoroborate-Benzene, [IrI(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂][BF₄]·C₆H₆

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The crystal and molecular structure of iodocarbonylnitrosylbis(triphenylphosphine)iridium tetrafluoroborate-benzene, [IrI(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂][BF₄]·C₆H₆, has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray data collected by counter methods. The material crystallizes in space group D_{2h}¹⁵-Pbca of the orthorhombic system with eight molecules in a cell of dimensions $a = 21.397$ (7), $b = 21.086$ (7), and $c = 18.524$ (6) Å. The observed and calculated densities are 1.71 (1) and 1.704 g cm⁻³, respectively. Least-squares refinement of the structure has led to a final value of the conventional R factor (on F) of 0.059 for the 1162 independent reflections having $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$. The crystal structure consists of well-separated monomeric units. The coordination geometry around the Ir is that of a distorted tetragonal pyramid, with CO, I, and *trans*-P atoms in the basal plane and the N of the nitrosyl group at the apex; the Ir lies slightly above the basal plane. The Ir-C bond length of 1.70 (5) Å is short, but the Ir-N bond length of 1.89 (3) Å is long. The Ir-N-O angle is 125 (3)°. The geometry of the cation is very similar to that of the chloro analog, IrCl(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂⁺, and lends support to the hypothesis that NO⁺ is acting as a σ acceptor in these systems.

Introduction

Structural and theoretical investigations of metal nitrosyls have established that the nitrosyl ligand usually acts as a σ donor (Lewis base), giving rise to linear M-N-O linkages with short M-N bonds. We have recently reported the preparation of [IrCl(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂][BF₄],¹ however, and have shown that this complex contains a distinctly bent M-N-O linkage and a long M-N bond.^{1,2} We ascribed this difference in bonding to the amphoteric nature of NO⁺ and suggested that in this complex the NO⁺ acts as a σ -acceptor (Lewis acid) ligand. We also suggested that a similar explanation may account for the bent Co-N-O bond in Co(NO)(S₂CN(CH₃)₂)₂³ and that the tetrahedral geometry around sulfur in IrCl(CO)(SO₂)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂⁴ is the result of SO₂ acting as a σ acceptor.

If this explanation were correct, the Ir-N and Ir-S bonds in these systems would be largely σ in character, there being very little π back-bonding from the metal to the ligand. If, however, the bent linkage were the result of some π -type interaction between the metal and the ligand, the Ir-N and Ir-S bonds would have considerable π character. In π -bonded complexes the bonding changes markedly with chemical substitution if the electron density at the central metal atom is changed. Thus, in the molecular oxygen complexes of the type IrX(CO)(O₂)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂ the O-O bond length is 1.30 Å when X = Cl⁵ and 1.51 Å when X = I.⁶ This change is ascribed to the greater electron density at the metal in the iodo complex; the more strongly the O₂ group is

bound to the metal, the longer is the O-O bond.⁶ If the NO⁺ ligand were involved in π bonding to the Ir in the complexes IrX(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂⁺, one would expect that there would be a large change in the Ir-N-O angle as well as in the N-O bond length on replacing Cl by I. If our explanation were correct, however, and the NO⁺ ligand is σ bonded in these complexes, then little or no change in the Ir-N-O angle would be anticipated.

In order to test our hypothesis and also to further our studies of closely related five-coordinate transition metal complexes, we have undertaken the preparation and structure determination of IrI(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂⁺.

Collection and Reduction of the X-Ray Data

Violet, well-formed crystals of [IrI(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂][BF₄]·C₆H₆ were prepared by the reaction of IrI(CO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂ with NOBF₄ in the manner previously described.¹ The infrared spectrum of the complex (Nujol mull) shows strong, sharp bands at 1720 and 2070 cm⁻¹ which we ascribe to N-O and C-O stretches, respectively; these values compare with bands at 1680 and 2050 cm⁻¹ found in the chloro complex.¹ *Anal.* Calcd for [IrI(CO)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂][BF₄]·C₆H₆: C, 48.42; H, 3.40; N, 1.31. Found: C, 48.65; H, 3.36; N, 1.31.

On the basis of optical goniometry and precession photography of the $hk0$, $h0l$, and $0kl$ zones using Mo K α radiation, we established that these crystals belong to the orthorhombic system. The observed extinctions are $0kl$ for k odd, $h0l$ for l odd, and $hk0$ for h odd, which strongly suggests that the space group is D_{2h}¹⁵-Pbca. The lattice constants, obtained by the least-squares procedure described below, are $a = 21.397$ (7), $b = 21.086$ (7), and $c = 18.524$ (6) Å. The observations were made at 23° with the wavelength assumed as $\lambda(\text{Mo K}\alpha_1) 0.70930$ Å. A density of 1.704 g cm⁻³, calculated for eight molecules in the unit cell, agrees with

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(2) D. J. Hodgson and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **7**, 2345 (1968).

(3) P. R. H. Alderman and P. G. Owston, *Nature*, **178**, 1071 (1956); P. R. H. Alderman, P. G. Owston, and J. M. Rowe, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 668 (1962).

(4) S. J. La Placa and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **5**, 405 (1966).

(5) J. A. Ibers and S. J. La Placa, *Science*, **145**, 920 (1964); S. J. La Placa and J. A. Ibers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **87**, 2581 (1965).

(6) J. A. McGinnety, R. J. Doedens, and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **6**, 2243 (1967).

that of $1.71 (1) \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ measured by flotation in diiodomethane-bromoethane solution. Hence, no crystallographic symmetry need be imposed on the complex.

Diffraction data were collected from a rhombic dipyramidal crystal approximately 0.14 mm on edge. The separation of the $(\bar{1}\bar{1}\bar{1})$ and $(\bar{1}11)$ faces was 0.111 mm, that of the $(11\bar{1})$ and $(\bar{1}\bar{1}1)$ 0.149 mm, that of the (111) and $(\bar{1}\bar{1}\bar{1})$ 0.152 mm, and that of the $(\bar{1}\bar{1}1)$ and $(\bar{1}\bar{1}\bar{1})$ 0.143 mm. The estimated errors in these measurements, namely, ± 0.003 mm, result in errors in the absorption corrections which are small compared with those resulting from the numerical approximations involved. The crystal was mounted on a glass fiber normal to the $(\bar{1}11)$ face, and in this orientation intensity data were collected at room temperature on a Picker automatic four-circle diffractometer using Mo $K\alpha$ radiation. The mosaicity of the crystal was examined by means of the narrow-source, open-counter ω -scan technique. The width at half-height for a typical strong reflection was found to be approximately 0.06° , which is acceptably low.⁷ Eighteen reflections from the crystal were accurately centered through a narrow vertical slit at a takeoff angle of 0.5° . These observations formed the basis for the least-squares refinement of cell parameters and orientation; the refinement was effected in our program PICK, as previously described.⁸

Intensity data were collected at a takeoff angle of 1.2° ; at this angle the peak intensity of a typically strong reflection as a function of takeoff angle is approximately 80% of the maximum value. The receiving aperture size was approximately $4.0 \text{ mm} \times 4.0 \text{ mm}$, and the aperture was placed 29 cm from the crystal. The data were collected by the θ - 2θ scan technique at a scan rate of $1.0^\circ/\text{min}$. The scan range for all reflections was 1.5° , from -0.7 to $+0.8^\circ$ from the calculated 2θ value. Stationary-counter, stationary-crystal background counts of 10 sec were taken at each end of the scan. The Mo $K\alpha$ beam was filtered through 3.0-mil Nb foil after diffraction from the crystal. Attenuators were inserted automatically when the intensity of the diffracted beam exceeded about 7000 counts/sec during the scan; the attenuators used were Cu foils, their thicknesses being chosen to give attenuator factors of approximately 2.3. These attenuator factors were determined as previously described.⁹ The pulse height analyzer was set for approximately a 90% window, centered on the Mo $K\alpha$ peak.

A unique data set having $2\theta \leq 30^\circ$ was gathered; a total of 1703 independent intensities was recorded. The intensities of three standard reflections, measured after every 200 reflections, remained essentially constant throughout the run, showing only the deviations from the mean predicted from counting statistics. Because the crystal was rather small, there were very few reflections above background at values of $2\theta > 30^\circ$. A more accurate structure determination would have been

possible if a larger crystal had been available, but we were unable to grow crystals larger than the one used. Data of somewhat higher quality could have been obtained by using a lower scan rate and longer background counting times, but the signal-to-noise ratio increases rather slowly with time spent on each reflection.

All data processing was carried out as previously described.⁸ The value of p in the expression for $\sigma(I)$ was selected as 0.04. The values of I and $\sigma(I)$ were corrected for Lorentz-polarization effects and for absorption. The absorption coefficient μ for this compound for Mo $K\alpha$ radiation is 42.9 cm^{-1} , and for the sample chosen transmission coefficients were found to range from 0.55 to 0.64.¹⁰ Of the 1703 independent intensities, 377 were less than their estimated standard deviations, 541 were less than twice their estimated standard deviations, and 659 were less than three times their estimated standard deviations.

Solution and Refinement

The position of the Ir atom was determined from a three-dimensional Patterson function, and one cycle of least-squares refinement of this position was run. All least-squares refinements in this analysis were carried out on F , the function minimized being $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$; the weights w were taken as $4F_o^2/\sigma^2(F_o^2)$. In all calculations of F_c , the atomic scattering factors for Ir and I were taken from Cromer and Waber,¹¹ and those for hydrogen were taken from Stewart, Davidson, and Simpson,¹² scattering factors for all other atoms were from the tabulation of Ibers.¹³ The effects of anomalous dispersion were included in calculations of F_c ,¹⁴ the values of $\Delta f'$ and $\Delta f''$ being taken from the tabulation of Cromer.¹⁵ In the early stages of the refinement only the 1044 intensities greater than three times their estimated standard deviations were used.

A difference Fourier synthesis based on this first least-squares cycle revealed an approximately square-planar array around the iridium position. The highest peak was *cis* to two peaks which showed evidence of being bonded to other atoms and was *trans* to a peak which showed a tendency to split into two peaks. This highest peak was assigned to the I atom, the two *cis* peaks were assigned to P atoms, and the *trans* peak was assigned to the CO group. Positions for separate C and O atoms could not be deduced from this map but were calculated from a knowledge of the approximate Ir-C and C-O bond lengths. A least-squares refinement of the positions and isotropic thermal parameters of the six atoms was effected; the values of the agreement factors $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c||/\sum |F_o|$ and R_2 (or weighted R factor) $= (\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2/\sum w F_o^2)^{1/2}$ were 0.211 and

(10) In addition to various local programs, the programs for the CDC 6400 used in this analysis were local modifications of Hamilton's *gonob* absorption program, Busing and Levy's *ORFFE* function and error program, Zalkin's *FORDAP* Fourier program, and Johnson's *ORTEP* thermal ellipsoid plotting program.

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TABLE I
 POSITIONAL, THERMAL, AND GROUP PARAMETERS FOR $[\text{Ir}(\text{CO})(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{BF}_4] \cdot \text{C}_6\text{H}_6$

Atom	x	y	z	β_{11}^a or $B, \text{\AA}^2$	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Ir	0.12730 (8)	0.36466 (8)	0.01464 (7)	0.00145 (5)	0.00151 (5)	0.00218 (7)	-0.00024 (6)	0.00001 (6)	-0.00007 (6)
I	0.0503 (1)	0.4429 (1)	0.0845 (2)	0.0021 (1)	0.0028 (1)	0.0042 (1)	0.0000 (1)	0.0003 (1)	-0.0004 (1)
P ₁	0.0482 (5)	0.2866 (5)	0.0228 (5)	0.0021 (4)	0.0016 (4)	0.0011 (4)	0.0002 (3)	-0.0003 (4)	-0.0005 (3)
P ₂	0.2044 (5)	0.4426 (5)	0.0326 (5)	0.0017 (4)	0.0016 (4)	0.0018 (5)	0.0003 (3)	-0.0001 (4)	0.0002 (4)
C	0.182 (2)	0.307 (2)	0.004 (2)	6.1 (1.3)					
O ₁	0.223 (1)	0.268 (1)	0.000 (1)	5.5 (8)					
N	0.109 (2)	0.385 (2)	0.917 (2)	7.0 (1.1)					
O ₂	0.132 (1)	0.361 (1)	0.867 (2)	7.9 (8)					
Group	x_c^b	y_c	z_c	δ	ϵ	η	$B, \text{\AA}^2$	α^c	
R ₁ ^d	0.0860 (5)	0.1479 (8)	0.9683 (8)	2.67 (3)	-2.03 (2)	-2.22 (3)	3.5 (4)		
R ₂	0.9236 (7)	0.3094 (8)	0.9274 (7)	2.87 (2)	-2.98 (2)	-0.60 (1)	3.9 (5)		
R ₃	0.0095 (8)	0.2646 (6)	0.1859 (9)	-1.58 (2)	-2.93 (2)	1.41 (1)	4.6 (5)		
R ₄	0.3412 (8)	0.4087 (6)	0.9724 (9)	2.17 (3)	2.09 (2)	-2.29 (3)	4.6 (5)		
R ₅	0.1889 (8)	0.5749 (8)	0.9511 (7)	1.85 (2)	2.80 (1)	-0.55 (1)	3.9 (5)		
R ₆	0.2197 (6)	0.4657 (8)	0.2016 (9)	0.07 (2)	3.00 (2)	1.49 (1)	3.7 (5)		
R ₇	0.0419 (10)	0.0091 (10)	0.2208 (7)	-3.17 (4)	3.14 (2)	3.15 (2)	9.2 (7)		
BF ₄ (1)	0.240 (1)	0.230 (1)	0.255 (1)	-2.74 (6)	-2.25 (3)	1.20 (5)	9.3 (1.7)	0.49 (5)	
BF ₄ (2)	0.246 (2)	0.229 (1)	0.259 (2)	2.04 (4)	-3.00 (4)	2.95 (3)	12.5 (1.8)	0.51 (5)	

^a The form of the anisotropic thermal ellipsoid is $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$. ^b x_c , y_c , and z_c are the fractional coordinates of the group centers. The angles δ , ϵ , and η (in radians) have been defined previously.^{4,5,16} ^c α is the multiplicity of the two disordered BF₄⁻ groups, *i.e.*, we have here a 49%–51% disorder. ^d Phenyl rings R₁, R₂, and R₃ are attached to P₁; rings R₄, R₅, and R₆ are attached to P₂. Ring R₇ is the benzene molecule.

0.275, respectively. A difference Fourier map computed at this stage showed five phenyl rings and provided evidence for the NO and BF₄ locations. The parameters obtained for these rings were refined by least squares, along with the parameters of the five known atoms. The phenyl rings were treated as rigid groups and restricted to their known geometry (D_{6h} symmetry, C–C = 1.390 Å). The variable parameters for a ring included an over-all isotropic temperature factor, the coordinates of the ring center, and three orientation angles which have been defined previously.^{4,5,16} This refinement yielded values of $R_1 = 0.141$ and $R_2 = 0.202$. A further difference Fourier synthesis showed the sixth phenyl ring, the BF₄⁻ group, and the NO group. The probable location of the solvent molecule was also evident, but only three distinct peaks were present. A least-squares calculation including all non-hydrogen atoms except the solvent molecule, with anisotropic thermal parameters assigned to Ir and I, converged to values of $R_1 = 0.091$ and $R_2 = 0.129$. A difference Fourier map at this stage clearly revealed the solvent molecule and also indicated that there was disorder in the region of the BF₄⁻ group. A least-squares calculation which included hydrogen atoms in the positions calculated for D_{6h} symmetry with a C–H distance of 1.08 Å on all seven rings yielded values of $R_1 = 0.058$ and $R_2 = 0.065$. In this last calculation the BF₄⁻ group also was included as a rigid group restricted to its known geometry (T_d symmetry, B–F = 1.43 Å^{17–19}). A difference Fourier synthesis at this stage showed evidence of disorder in the region of the BF₄⁻ group, and another cycle of least squares was run with two BF₄⁻ groups given multiplicities of α and $(1 - \alpha)$, the parameter α being varied with the appropriate constraints among the derivatives being taken into account.

This least-squares calculation yielded values of $R_1 = 0.052$ and $R_2 = 0.057$ and a value of $\alpha = 0.51$ (4). At this stage we attempted to refine the structure with anisotropic thermal parameters assigned to all the non-group atoms, which gave a total of 137 variable parameters; because of this increase in the number of variables we decided to increase the number of observations by including the 118 reflections which had $2\sigma(F_o^2) < F_o^2 < 3\sigma(F_o^2)$ in the refinement. Unfortunately, the parameters for the carbonyl C atom obtained from this refinement were nonpositive definite by an insignificant amount. It may be that the number and quality of data available is insufficient for the refinement of these 137 parameters. Two final cycles were run, therefore, with the atoms of the carbonyl and nitrosyl groups refined isotropically and the Ir, I, and P atoms refined anisotropically, using the data greater than twice their estimated standard deviations. This yielded final values of $R_1 = 0.059$ and $R_2 = 0.059$ and a value of $\alpha = 0.49$ (5); *i.e.*, we have approximately a 50% disorder in the BF₄⁻ group. In this final cycle no parameter exhibited a shift of more than 0.2 times its estimated standard deviation. The estimated error in an observation of unit weight is 1.50.

The value of R_2 obtained from the final cycle of least-squares refinement shows no dependence on $|F_o|$ or $\sin \theta$, which indicates that our choice of $p = 0.04$ is essentially correct. Comparison of the final values of $|F_o|$ and $|F_c|$ suggests to us that no correction for secondary extinction is necessary. A final difference map shows no peak higher than 0.9 e Å⁻³, the average C atom having an electron density of approximately 4 e Å⁻³; $\sigma(\Delta\rho)$ for this synthesis is 0.16 e Å⁻³. Most of the 11 peaks greater than 0.5 e Å⁻³ are in the regions of the rings and the BF₄⁻ groups and are presumably due to anisotropy of thermal motion of these groups.

The positional, thermal, and group parameters derived

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from the final cycle of least-squares refinement are presented in Table I, along with the associated standard deviations of these parameters as estimated from the inverse matrix. The positional parameters of the ring carbon atoms and of the disordered boron and fluorine atoms which may be derived from the data in Table I are presented in Table II. The final values of $10|F_o|$

and $10|F_c|$ (in electrons) are given in Table III; only the 1162 reflections which were used in the refinement are included in Table III. The reflections for which $F_o^2 \leq 2\sigma(F_o^2)$ all have $|F_c| < 3\sigma(F_o)$.

Description of the Structure

The structure consists of discrete, monomeric ions well separated from the solvent molecule and from each other. The inner coordination geometry is shown in Figure 1, and the whole cation is shown in Figure 2.

TABLE II
DERIVED PARAMETERS FOR GROUP ATOMS^a

Atom	x	y	z
R ₁ C ₁	0.072 (3)	0.208 (1)	-0.005 (1)
R ₁ C ₂	0.090 (2)	0.200 (1)	-0.077 (1)
R ₁ C ₃	0.104 (1)	0.140 (1)	-0.103 (1)
R ₁ C ₄	0.100 (3)	0.088 (1)	-0.058 (1)
R ₁ C ₅	0.082 (2)	0.095 (1)	0.013 (1)
R ₁ C ₆	0.068 (1)	0.155 (1)	0.040 (1)
R ₂ C ₁	0.977 (1)	0.300 (1)	0.969 (1)
R ₂ C ₂	0.965 (1)	0.359 (1)	0.938 (1)
R ₂ C ₃	0.912 (1)	0.368 (1)	0.896 (1)
R ₂ C ₄	0.870 (1)	0.318 (1)	0.886 (1)
R ₂ C ₅	0.882 (1)	0.260 (1)	0.917 (1)
R ₂ C ₆	0.935 (1)	0.251 (1)	0.959 (1)
R ₃ C ₁	0.023 (2)	0.275 (1)	0.113 (1)
R ₃ C ₂	-0.039 (1)	0.270 (1)	0.136 (1)
R ₃ C ₃	-0.052 (1)	0.260 (1)	0.209 (2)
R ₃ C ₄	-0.004 (2)	0.254 (1)	0.258 (1)
R ₃ C ₅	0.058 (1)	0.259 (1)	0.236 (1)
R ₃ C ₆	0.071 (1)	0.270 (1)	0.163 (2)
R ₄ C ₁	0.282 (1)	0.420 (3)	0.001 (1)
R ₄ C ₂	0.335 (1)	0.431 (1)	0.043 (1)
R ₄ C ₃	0.394 (1)	0.419 (2)	0.015 (1)
R ₄ C ₄	0.400 (1)	0.397 (3)	-0.056 (1)
R ₄ C ₅	0.348 (1)	0.387 (1)	-0.098 (1)
R ₄ C ₆	0.288 (1)	0.398 (2)	-0.070 (1)
R ₅ C ₁	0.193 (1)	0.518 (1)	0.988 (1)
R ₅ C ₂	0.242 (1)	0.561 (1)	0.991 (1)
R ₅ C ₃	0.238 (1)	0.618 (1)	0.955 (1)
R ₅ C ₄	0.185 (1)	0.632 (1)	0.914 (1)
R ₅ C ₅	0.136 (1)	0.589 (1)	0.911 (1)
R ₅ C ₆	0.140 (1)	0.531 (1)	0.948 (1)
R ₆ C ₁	0.215 (1)	0.456 (1)	0.128 (1)
R ₆ C ₂	0.222 (1)	0.405 (1)	0.174 (2)
R ₆ C ₃	0.226 (1)	0.414 (1)	0.248 (1)
R ₆ C ₄	0.224 (1)	0.475 (1)	0.276 (1)
R ₆ C ₅	0.218 (1)	0.527 (1)	0.230 (2)
R ₆ C ₆	0.213 (1)	0.517 (1)	0.156 (1)
R ₇ C ₁	-0.023 (1)	0.011 (3)	0.222 (2)
R ₇ C ₂	0.011 (2)	0.067 (2)	0.222 (1)
R ₇ C ₃	0.076 (2)	0.065 (2)	0.221 (1)
R ₇ C ₄	0.107 (1)	0.007 (3)	0.220 (2)
R ₇ C ₅	0.073 (2)	-0.049 (1)	0.220 (1)
R ₇ C ₆	0.008 (2)	-0.047 (1)	0.221 (1)
B(1)	0.240 (1)	0.230 (1)	0.255 (1)
F ₁ (1)	0.199 (3)	0.266 (4)	0.300 (2)
F ₂ (1)	0.238 (2)	0.255 (2)	0.183 (2)
F ₃ (1)	0.220 (5)	0.165 (2)	0.254 (2)
F ₄ (1)	0.302 (2)	0.234 (4)	0.283 (2)
B(2)	0.246 (2)	0.229 (1)	0.259 (2)
F ₁ (2)	0.278 (3)	0.171 (2)	0.274 (2)
F ₂ (2)	0.291 (2)	0.278 (2)	0.244 (3)
F ₃ (2)	0.210 (3)	0.247 (3)	0.321 (2)
F ₄ (2)	0.206 (2)	0.222 (3)	0.198 (2)

^a C₁ is attached to P; other C atoms are numbered in succession so that C₄ is *para* to C₁.

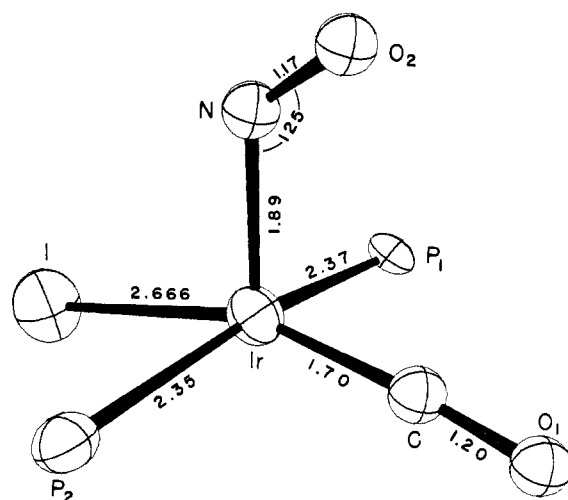


Figure 1.—Inner coordination sphere around Ir in the $\text{IrI}(\text{CO})(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2^+$ cation.

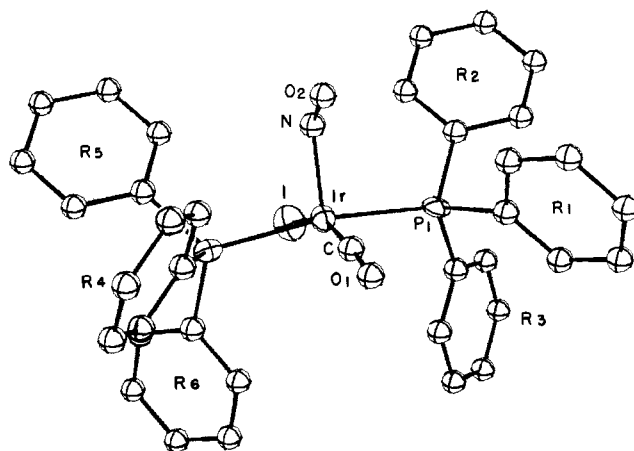


Figure 2.—View of the $\text{IrI}(\text{CO})(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2^+$ cation. Phenyl hydrogen atoms are not shown. Phenyl carbon atoms are shown with $B = 2.5 \text{ \AA}^2$.

The coordination polyhedron about the Ir is a distorted tetragonal pyramid, with *trans* P, I, and CO in the base and the N of NO at the apex. The Ir atom lies above the basal plane, the N-Ir-I, N-Ir-P₁, N-Ir-P₂, and N-Ir-C angles being 101 (1), 94 (1), 97 (1), and 101 (2)°, respectively. If the best weighted least-squares plane is determined using the coordinates of I, P₁, P₂, and C, then I, P₁, and P₂ do not deviate significantly from this plane, C lies 0.28 (4) Å below the plane, and Ir is 0.23 Å above the plane. The BF₄⁻ group occupies roughly the sixth coordination site, the closest Ir-B approach being 5.72 Å while the shortest Ir-F separa-

TABLE IV
SELECTED INTRAMOLECULAR DISTANCES AND ANGLES
IN $\text{IrX}(\text{CO})(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2^+$

	Intramolecular dist, Å		Angle, deg		
	X = I	X = Cl ^a	X = I	X = Cl ^a	
Ir-N	1.89 (3)	1.97 (1)	N-Ir-P ₁	94 (1)	90.1 (3)
Ir-P ₁	2.37 (1)	2.408 (3)	N-Ir-P ₂	97 (1)	91.3 (3)
Ir-P ₂	2.35 (1)	2.407 (3)	N-Ir-X	101 (1)	101.3 (3)
Ir-X	2.666 (3)	2.343 (3)	N-Ir-C	101 (2)	97.4 (5)
Ir-C	1.70 (5)	1.86 (1)	P ₁ -Ir-P ₂	168.2 (3)	175.7 (1)
Ir-O ₁	2.89 (3)	3.02 (1)	P ₁ -Ir-X	87.6 (3)	88.9 (1)
Ir-O ₂	2.74 (3)	2.79 (1)	P ₁ -Ir-C	90 (1)	91.2 (3)
N-O ₂	1.17 (4)	1.16 (1)	P ₂ -Ir-X	86.1 (3)	86.8 (1)
C-O ₁	1.20 (4)	1.16 (1)	P ₂ -Ir-C	91 (1)	92.7 (3)
N-P ₁	3.13 (4)	3.11 (1)	X-Ir-C	158 (1)	161.3 (3)
N-P ₂	3.20 (3)	3.15 (1)	Ir-C-O ₁	176 (4)	178.1 (9)
N-X	3.56 (3)	3.35 (1)	Ir-N-O ₂	125 (3)	124.1 (9)
N-C	2.78 (6)	2.88 (2)	C ₁ ^b -P-C ₁ ^b	104.5	105.9
P ₁ -P ₂	4.70 (2)	4.811 (4)	(av of 6)		
P ₁ -X	3.49 (1)	3.328 (4)			
P ₁ -C	2.92 (5)	3.07 (1)			
P ₂ -X	3.44 (1)	3.265 (4)			
P ₂ -C	2.94 (5)	3.11 (1)			
X-C	4.28 (3)	4.15 (1)			
P-C ₁ ^b	1.81	1.81			
(av of 6)					

^a Reference 2. ^b Phenyl C atom.

the value of 0.34 Å calculated for the difference between the single-bond covalent radii of I and Cl.²⁰ The Ir-P lengths of 2.35 (1) and 2.37 (1) Å found in the iodo complex are normal, being similar to the values of 2.33 (1) and 2.36 (1) Å in the SO₂ complex⁴ and the values of 2.36 (1) and 2.38 (1) Å in the chloro-oxygen complex;⁵ the lengths of 2.407 (3) and 2.408 (3) Å found in the chloro complex² are slightly longer than normal. The Ir-C and Ir-N lengths show a significant shortening on substitution of I for Cl, the Ir-N being shortened by 0.08 (3) Å and the Ir-C by 0.16 (5) Å; this is because in both bonds the metal donates electrons to the ligand, and the increased electron density at the metal in the iodo complex makes it a better donor. On this basis we might have expected the Ir-P distances to be longer in the iodo complex; yet they appear to be slightly, but significantly, shorter. The high standard deviations on the Ir-C and Ir-N bond lengths preclude any quantitative discussion of this bond shortening. The M-C bond lengths which have been determined for the 14 second- and third-row transition metal carbonyls which could be found in the literature fall in the range 1.81–2.08 Å; it is apparent that the Ir-C length of 1.86 (1) Å in the chloronitrosyl complex is normal but that of 1.70 (5) Å in the iodo complex is short.

The increase in the N-Ir-P angles in the iodo complex is presumably the result of the shortening of the Ir-N bond. If the N-Ir-P₁ angle were 90° in the iodo complex (as it is in the chloro complex), the N-P separation would be only 3.06 Å as compared with 3.11 Å in the chloro complex. It has been shown²¹ that in a

series of closely related complexes of Re and Os containing M-P and M-N bonds, the N···P interaction is remarkably constant. Accordingly, it is not surprising that the N···P interactions should be constant in the present two compounds, and that N-Ir-P angles should be different.

The Ir-N bond length in the iodo complex is significantly longer than the Ir-C bond length, the difference being 0.19 (6) Å; this difference is probably not significantly different from the value of 0.11 (2) Å found in the chloro complex. This lack of any significant difference is a good indication that the mode of attachment of the NO group is the same in both complexes. It is important to note that this difference in bond lengths is not a steric factor; the van der Waals radius of nitrogen is about 0.04 Å less than the van der Waals radius of carbon, and so on steric grounds one would expect the Ir-C bond to be slightly longer than the Ir-N bond. The shortness of the Ir-C bond relative to the Ir-N bond is taken as evidence for much less π contribution in the Ir-N bond than in the Ir-C bond, the metal being a π donor to the carbonyl group and a σ donor to the nitrosyl group.

There is further evidence for this belief that the nitrosyl group is acting as a Lewis acid ligand in these systems. Large changes in the bonding at the nitrogen would have been expected if the NO moiety were involved in π bonding with the metal, as is found in the molecular oxygen complexes $\text{IrX}(\text{CO})(\text{O}_2)(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$,^{5,6} where the O-O length changes from 1.30 to 1.51 Å on substitution of Cl for I. In the nitrosyl case, however, the N-O bond length is unchanged, and, more significantly, the Ir-N-O angle of 125 (3)° found in the iodo complex is essentially the same as the value of 124 (1)° found in the chloro analog.² This lack of any real change in the bonding at the nitrogen, plus the continued shortness of the Ir-C bond as compared with the Ir-N bond, is excellent support for our hypothesis that in these systems the NO⁺ ligand is acting as a σ acceptor (Lewis acid) and is involved in σ bonding to the Ir, the hybridization at the N being sp². This is in agreement with the finding²² that $\text{IrCl}(\text{CO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ will serve as a Lewis base toward boron-containing Lewis acids.

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