

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF CHEMISTRY, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201, AND UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY, CHRISTCHURCH 1, NEW ZEALAND

The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Iodomethylnitrosylbis(triphenylphosphine)iridium, $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$

By D. M. P. MINGOS,^{1a} WARD T. ROBINSON,^{1b} AND JAMES A. IBERS*^{1a}

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The structure of iodomethylnitrosylbis(triphenylphosphine)iridium, $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray data collected by counter methods. The compound crystallizes in the space group C_{2h}^2-I2/a of the monoclinic system with four molecules in a unit cell of dimensions $a = 16.011$ (11) Å, $b = 9.817$ (9) Å, $c = 22.445$ (16) Å, $\beta = 105.2$ (2)°. The observed and calculated densities are 1.74 (± 0.02) and 1.73 g/cm³, respectively. Least-squares refinement of the structure has led to a final value of the conventional R factor (on F) of 0.033 for the 1304 independent reflections having $F^2 > 3\sigma(F^2)$. There is a crystallographic twofold axis imposed on the molecule. The immediate coordination around the iridium is approximately square pyramidal with the nitrogen atom of the nitrosyl group occupying the apical position and the other ligands lying in the basal plane. The twofold axis leads to a disorder of the mutually trans iodo and methyl ligands and also to a disorder of the nitrosyl group. Despite this disorder an iridium–nitrogen–oxygen bond angle of 120 (2)° may be derived from the data. Therefore this complex provides another example of the nitrosyl ligand coordinated as NO^- to a transition metal. Important bond lengths in the molecule are as follows: Ir–N, 1.91 (2) Å; Ir–P, 2.348 (3) Å; Ir–I, 2.726 (2) Å; Ir–C, 2.05 (4) Å; N–O, 1.23 (2) Å. This compound provides the first example of a five-coordinate complex in which a methyl group is trans to another ligand. The iridium–iodine bond length is approximately 0.06 Å longer than that found in related complexes, which is indicative of the trans bond weakening effect of the methyl group.

Introduction

The structures of the square-pyramidal complexes $[\text{IrX}(\text{NO})(\text{CO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{BF}_4]$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}^-$ or I^-) and $\text{IrCl}_2(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ ⁴ have been determined and have provided examples of the nitrosyl ligand coordinated formally as NO^- . This type of geometry is characterized by an Ir–N–O bond angle of approximately 120°, which contrasts with the approximately 180° bond angle found for complexes where the ligand is coordinated formally as NO^+ .⁵ We have determined the structure of $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, which is closely related to the compounds mentioned above, in order to evaluate the effect of the strong electron-releasing methyl group on the metal–nitrosyl geometry and on the coordination around the iridium atom. This compound was prepared by Reed and Roper⁶ from the oxidative addition reaction of methyl iodide with the tetrahedral iridium(–I) complex $\text{Ir}(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_3$.⁷ It was noted by these authors⁶ that the iodo ligand in $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ is very labile and they ascribed this to the strong trans effect of the methyl group. We were interested to see if this lability was a result of a long Ir–I bond resulting from the trans bond weakening effect of the methyl group. This is particularly pertinent because although there is evidence for bond lengthening of the trans bond by alkyl and aryl groups in octahedral complexes,⁸ there is no structural evidence for the effect in five-coordinate complexes.

Collection and Reduction of Intensity Data

Brown, well-formed crystals of $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ were kindly supplied by Dr. Roper. On the basis of Weissenberg and precession photography

using $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ radiation we established that the crystals belong to the monoclinic system. The extinctions observed, $h + k + l = 2n + 1$ for hkl and $h = 2n + 1$ for $h0l$, suggest the space groups C_{2h}^2-I2/a or C_2^2-Ia . On the basis of optical goniometry, the eight crystal faces were identified as belonging to the forms $\{\bar{1}10\}$, $\{100\}$, and $\{001\}$. The lattice constants at 23°, which were determined from a least-squares refinement of the setting angles of 12 strong reflections which had been centered on a Picker four-circle automatic diffractometer⁹ using $\text{Mo K}\alpha_1$ radiation (λ 0.70930 Å), are $a = 16.011$ (11), $b = 9.817$ (9), $c = 22.445$ (16) Å, $\beta = 105.2$ (2)°. The density calculated for four formula weights per unit cell is 1.73 g/cm³, which agrees well with that of 1.74 (± 0.02) g/cm³ measured by the gradient tube method. With four formula weights per unit cell either a twofold axis or a center of symmetry is imposed on the molecule in the space group $I2/a$ but no symmetry is imposed in the noncentric space group Ia .

The mosaicity of the crystal was measured 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 0.18°, which is acceptable.¹⁰ The intensity data were collected as previously described⁹ using a crystal of approximate dimensions $0.2 \times 0.1 \times 0.05$ mm. The crystal was mounted on the diffractometer with the $[212]$ reciprocal lattice vector roughly coincident with the spindle axis.

For data collection $\text{Mo K}\alpha$ radiation was used and the diffracted beams were filtered through 3.0 mils of niobium foil. The intensities were measured by the θ - 2θ technique at a takeoff angle of 1.5°. At this angle the intensity of a reflection was about 80% of the maximum value as a function of takeoff angle. A receiving counter aperture 4×4 mm was used and was positioned 30 cm from the crystal. A nonsymmetric scan range from -0.65 to $+0.85^\circ$ from the $\text{K}\alpha_1$ peak was used. Stationary-counter, stationary-crystal background counts of 10 sec were measured at each end of

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(10) T. C. Furnas, "Single Crystal Orienter Instruction Manual," General Electric Co., Milwaukee, Wis., 1957.

the scan. Attenuators were inserted automatically if the intensity of the diffracted beam exceeded about 7000 counts/sec during the scan; the attenuators used were Cu foils, whose thickness had been chosen to give attenuator factors of approximately 2.3. The pulse height analyzer was set for approximately a 90% window, centered on the Mo K α peak.

The hkl and $\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l}$ members of the form $\{hkl\}$ having $2\theta < 41^\circ$ were gathered; the intensities of a total of 3362 reflections were measured. The intensities of three standard reflections, measured after every 100 observations, remained essentially constant throughout the run showing only the deviations $\pm 1\%$. There were very few reflections above background at values of $2\theta > 41^\circ$.

All data processing was carried out as previously described.⁹ The value of p was selected as 0.04. The values of I and $\sigma(I)$ were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. Of the 3362 reflections, 303 had intensities which were less than their standard deviations. The linear absorption coefficient for this compound using Mo K α radiation is 52.2 cm⁻¹. The data were corrected for absorption¹¹ and the transmission coefficients ranged from 0.814 to 0.683.

No significant variations in F^2 among possibly non-equivalent hkl and $\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l}$ reflections were observed; therefore the space group was assumed to be $I2/a$ and the data were averaged to give 1711 independent reflections.

Solution and Refinement

In the least-squares refinements¹¹ the function minimized was $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ where $|F_o|$ and $|F_c|$ are the observed and calculated structure amplitudes, respectively, and where the weight w is $4F_o^2/\sigma^2(F_o^2)$. The agreement factors R_1 and R_2 are defined as $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c||/\sum |F_o|$ and $R_2 = (\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2/\sum w \cdot F_o^2)^{1/2}$. The scattering factors used for P, N, C, and O were taken from the usual tabulation,¹² and those for Ir and I were calculated by Cromer and Waber.¹³ The hydrogen scattering factors were those of Stewart, *et al.*¹⁴ The effects of anomalous dispersion were taken into account in the structure factor calculations.¹⁵ The values of $\Delta f'$ and $\Delta f''$ for Ir, P, and I were those given by Cromer.¹⁶

The structure of the compound $\text{IrCl}_2(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, which crystallizes in the same space group and has cell constants almost identical with those of $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, had been solved previously.⁴ The coordinates of the atoms are also very similar for the two compounds. The procedure for solving the structure of $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ is so similar to that previously described for $\text{IrCl}_2(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ that only the differences will be emphasized here. The iridium and iodine atoms were located from a three-dimensional Patterson function and the remaining nonhydrogen atoms were located from subsequent difference Fourier

syntheses. The assumption of the space group $I2/a$ requires that the molecule possess C_2 symmetry and that the iodine, methyl carbon, and oxygen atoms be disordered. Although the methyl group and iodine atom are disordered, the difference Fourier synthesis indicated that the carbon and iodine atoms were sufficiently resolved to permit individual refinement in the least-squares program. The phenyl ring carbon atoms were refined as rigid groups of D_{6h} symmetry with $d(\text{C-H}) = 1.390 \text{ \AA}$, as previously described.^{17,18} The agreement factors with all nonhydrogen atoms included with isotropic thermal parameters were $R_1 = 0.048$ and $R_2 = 0.058$ for the 1304 reflections which had $F^2 > 3\sigma(F^2)$. Addition of variable anisotropic thermal parameters for the nongroup atoms and individual isotropic thermal parameters for the group atoms led to the agreement factors $R_1 = 0.041$ and $R_2 = 0.051$ after one cycle of least-squares refinement. A difference Fourier synthesis at this point revealed the positions of the phenyl and methyl hydrogen atoms. These positions were idealized ($d(\text{C-H}) = 1.08 \text{ \AA}$, $\angle \text{HCH} = 109.5^\circ$ for methyl). The fixed contributions of these hydrogen atoms to F_o were included in subsequent cycles of refinement ($B = 4.0 \text{ \AA}^2$). The refinement converged to give the final agreement factors $R_1 = 0.03260$ and $R_2 = 0.03882$. (These agreement factors are given to more than the usual number of figures to facilitate comparison of various models.) The location of the hydrogen atoms supports the assumption of the space group $I2/a$.

Examination of the thermal ellipsoids and N-O bond length (1.04 (2) \AA) suggested at this point that the nitrogen atom of the nitrosyl group might also be disordered about the twofold axis in a manner similar to that observed for $\text{IrCl}_2(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$.⁴ This disorder was treated as previously described by considering the nitrosyl group as a diatomic group with two orientation angles, three positional parameters, and a variable N-O distance. The nitrogen atom was assigned an isotropic thermal parameter and the oxygen was refined anisotropically. This refinement converged to give the agreement factors $R_1 = 0.03261$ and $R_2 = 0.03882$, an N-O bond length of 1.23 (2) \AA , and an Ir-N-O bond angle of 120 (2) $^\circ$.

A final difference Fourier synthesis over the asymmetric unit showed no peaks of height greater than 0.84 (6) $e^-/\text{\AA}^3$, which is approximately 15% the height of an average carbon atom peak in earlier difference syntheses.

Inspection of the data showed that no correction for secondary extinction was necessary, and a comparison of $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ as a function of $|F_o|$, Miller indices, and the scattering angle showed only a slight dependence on $|F_o|$ and scattering angle. Thus the relative weighting scheme is a reasonable one. The error of an observation of unit weight is 1.08 electrons. Of the 407 reflections omitted from the refinement for which $F_o^2 < 3\sigma(F_o^2)$ none had $|F_o^2 - F_c^2| > 3\sigma(F_o^2)$.

The final least-squares parameters are given in Table I along with the standard deviations of these parameters as derived from the inverse matrix. The positional parameters of the ring carbon atoms and the nitrosyl group which may be derived from the data in Table I

(11) In addition to various local programs, the programs used in this structure determination were local modifications of Hamilton's GONOR absorption correction program, Busing and Levy's ORFFE function and error program, Johnson's ORTEP thermal ellipsoid plotting program, and Zalkin's FORDAP program. Our local least-squares program NUCLS in its nongroup form closely resembles the Busing-Levy ORFLS program.

(12) J. A. Ibers in "International Tables of X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. 3, Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, Table 3.3.1.A.

(13) D. T. Cromer and J. A. Waber, *Acta Crystallogr.*, **18**, 104 (1965).

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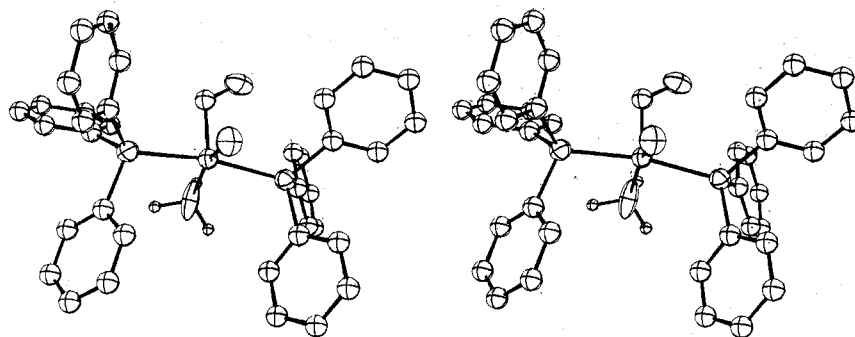


Figure 1.—A stereoscopic view of the molecule $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$. Hydrogen atoms on the phenyl groups have been omitted for the sake of clarity. Also the disorder in the molecule as a result of the crystallographically imposed twofold axis is not illustrated.

TABLE I
POSITIONAL, THERMAL, AND GROUP PARAMETERS FOR $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	β_{11}^a	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Ir	1/4	0.22068 (7) ^b	0	0.00310 (3)	0.00738 (9)	0.00143 (2)	0	0.00053 (2)	0
I	0.3731 (2)	0.1616 (3)	-0.0600 (1)	0.0043 (1)	0.0124 (3)	0.0020 (1)	0.0008 (1)	0.0011 (1)	-0.0004 (1)
P	0.3569 (2)	0.1981 (3)	0.0937 (1)	0.0032 (1)	0.0078 (4)	0.0018 (1)	-0.0001 (2)	0.0005 (1)	0.0002 (1)
C	0.1612 (27)	0.1594 (50)	0.0458 (18)	0.0064 (29)	0.0304 (70)	0.0012 (10)	0.0017 (36)	-0.0000 (12)	-0.0027 (18)
Group	x_0^c	y_0	z_0	δ	ϵ	η			
NO	0.2621 (12)	0.4523 (13)	0.0088 (8)	0.814 (23)	0	-0.568 (23)			
R1	0.5471 (4)	0.2933 (6)	0.0886 (2)	0.379 (5)	-3.234 (5)	-0.313 (5)			
R2	0.3396 (4)	0.3696 (6)	0.2125 (3)	-1.952 (5)	-2.843 (5)	2.049 (5)			
R3	0.3666 (3)	-0.1197 (6)	0.1326 (3)	3.084 (7)	-2.391 (5)	-1.750 (7)			

^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 Standard deviations of the least significant figures are given in parentheses here and in subsequent tables. ^c x_0 , y_0 , and z_0 are the fractional coordinates of the rigid-group centers. The angles δ , ϵ , and η (in radians) have been defined previously.^{17,18}

TABLE IIa
DERIVED PARAMETERS FOR GROUP CARBON ATOMS^a

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>B</i> , Å ²
Ring 1				
R1C1	0.4666 (4)	0.2471 (7)	0.0925 (4)	3.7 (2)
R1C2	0.5356 (5)	0.1567 (6)	0.1009 (4)	4.4 (3)
R1C3	0.6160 (4)	0.2029 (8)	0.0970 (4)	5.9 (3)
R1C4	0.6275 (4)	0.3394 (9)	0.0847 (4)	5.5 (3)
R1C5	0.5586 (6)	0.4298 (6)	0.0763 (4)	6.1 (3)
R1C6	0.4781 (5)	0.3836 (7)	0.0802 (4)	6.3 (3)
Ring 2				
R2C1	0.3461 (5)	0.2953 (8)	0.1612 (3)	3.7 (2)
R2C2	0.2737 (4)	0.3760 (8)	0.1581 (3)	3.9 (2)
R2C3	0.2673 (5)	0.4503 (8)	0.2094 (4)	5.2 (3)
R2C4	0.3332 (6)	0.4439 (9)	0.2638 (3)	6.3 (3)
R2C5	0.4055 (5)	0.3632 (10)	0.2669 (3)	7.2 (4)
R2C6	0.4120 (4)	0.2889 (9)	0.2156 (4)	6.0 (3)
Ring 3				
R3C1	0.3636 (5)	0.0180 (6)	0.1177 (4)	3.6 (2)
R3C2	0.3761 (5)	-0.0784 (9)	0.0755 (3)	5.9 (3)
R3C3	0.3791 (6)	-0.2161 (8)	0.0904 (4)	7.0 (3)
R3C4	0.3695 (6)	-0.2574 (5)	0.1475 (4)	6.0 (3)
R3C5	0.3570 (6)	-0.1611 (8)	0.1897 (3)	6.3 (3)
R3C6	0.3540 (5)	-0.0234 (8)	0.1748 (3)	5.0 (3)

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

TABLE IIb
DERIVED PARAMETERS FOR NITROSYL GROUP ATOMS

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>B</i> , Å ²
N	0.2391 (16)	0.4140 (18)	-0.0102 (11)	2.9 (5)
O	0.2850 (11)	0.4905 (14)	0.0278 (8)	<i>a</i>

^a Oxygen anisotropic thermal parameters: β_{11} , 0.0065 (12); β_{22} , 0.0070 (23); β_{33} , 0.0032 (6); β_{12} , -0.0002 (12); β_{13} , 0.0016 (16); β_{23} , -0.0005 (9).

are presented in Tables IIa and IIb. The idealized positions of the hydrogen atoms are given in Table IIc. The final values of $10|F_o|$ and $10|F_c|$ (in electrons) are given in Table III; only the 1304 reflections which were

TABLE IIc
PARAMETERS FOR THE HYDROGEN ATOMS

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Methyl Group			
H1	0.124	0.079	0.023
H2	0.197	0.129	0.093
H3	0.121	0.247	0.050
Ring 1			
H2 ^a	0.527	0.051	0.110
H3	0.670	0.133	0.103
H4	0.690	0.375	0.082
H5	0.568	0.536	0.067
H6	0.425	0.454	0.074
Ring 2			
H2	0.223	0.381	0.116
H3	0.211	0.513	0.207
H4	0.328	0.502	0.304
H5	0.457	0.358	0.309
H6	0.468	0.226	0.218
Ring 3			
H2	0.362	-0.046	0.031
H3	0.389	-0.291	0.058
H4	0.372	-0.364	0.159
H5	0.350	-0.193	0.234
H6	0.344	0.052	0.208

^a Atom H*n* is attached to carbon atom C*n*.

used in the refinement are included in Table III.

Results and Discussion

The crystal structure consists of loosely packed monomeric units of $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$. In Figure 1 a stereoscopic view of the overall molecular geometry is shown and in Figure 2 only the inner coordination sphere about the iridium atom is shown. Principal intermolecular distances and angles and their standard deviations are given in Table IV. The standard devia-

TABLE III
OBSERVED AND CALCULATED STRUCTURE AMPLITUDES ($\times 10$) IN ELECTRONS FOR $\text{Ir}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$

Table with columns for h, k, l, F_o, F_c, and multiple columns of structure amplitudes. The table contains a large amount of numerical data representing observed and calculated structure amplitudes for the compound Ir(CH₃)(NO)(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂.

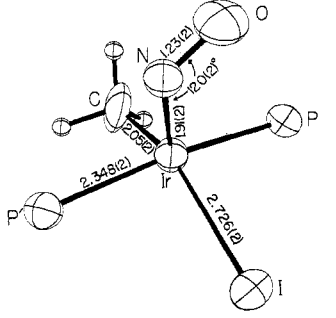


Figure 2.—Inner coordination sphere of $\text{Ir}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$. The 50% probability ellipsoids are shown.

tions of the bond lengths and angles involving the group atoms were calculated from the formulas of Ahmed and Cruickshank.¹⁹ The root-mean-square amplitudes of vibration along the principal axis of thermal motion

TABLE IV
SELECTED DISTANCES AND ANGLES

—Intramolecular distances, Å—		—Angles, deg—	
Ir-I	2.726 (2)	Ir-N-O	120 (2)
Ir-P	2.348 (3)	N-Ir-P	103 (1)
Ir-C	2.05 (4)	N-Ir-P'	88 (1)
Ir-N	1.91 (2)	N-Ir-I	102 (1)
Ir-O	2.745 (15)	N-Ir-I'	102 (1)
P-P ^a	4.675 (6)	P-Ir-P	169.2 (2)
I-I'	5.326 (5)	I-Ir-C	151 (1)
C-C'	3.92 (7)	P-Ir-I	88.3 (1)
N-O	1.23 (2)	P'-Ir-I	89.4 (1)
P-C	3.059 (42)	P-Ir-C	88 (1)
P-C'	3.091 (39)	P'-Ir-C	89 (1)
P-N	3.34 (3)	C-Ir-N	107 (2)
P-N'	2.98 (2)	R1C1-P-R2C1	100 (1)
I-N'	3.65 (2)	R1C1-P-R3C1	106 (1)
I-C	4.624 (38)	R2C1-P-R3C1	106 (1)
I-P	3.545 (4)		
I-P'	3.578 (4)		
P-RC1	1.836 (8)		

(19) F. R. Ahmed and D. W. J. Cruickshank, *Acta Crystallogr.*, **6**, 385 (1953).

^a The atom X' is related to atom X by the twofold axis.

for the atoms which were refined anisotropically are given in Table V. The directions of the principal axes

TABLE V

Atom	ROOT-MEAN-SQUARE AMPLITUDES OF VIBRATION (Å) ^a		
	Min	Intermed	Max
Ir	0.184 (1)	0.190 (1)	0.194 (1)
I	0.194 (4)	0.233 (3)	0.253 (3)
P	0.191 (5)	0.198 (5)	0.212 (4)
C	0.15 (7)	0.28 (6)	0.40 (5)
O	0.18 (4)	0.26 (3)	0.28 (3)

^a Measured along the principal axes of the thermal ellipsoids.

can be discerned at least approximately from the figures. The large anisotropy of the methyl carbon atom may possibly be the result of the iodine-methyl disorder.

The packing is largely dictated by intermolecular contacts between the bulky phosphine ligands. This can be seen by comparing this structure with that of $\text{ReNCl}_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, $\text{OsCl}_3(\text{NH}_3)(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, and $\text{IrCl}_2(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, which crystallize in the same space group, $I2/a$, with very similar cell dimensions (see Table VI in ref 4). The orientations of the phenyl rings in these compounds are only slightly different, and the volume per triphenylphosphine group for $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$, 426 Å³, is only slightly larger than those found for the other complexes (404–412 Å³).

There is a crystallographic twofold axis imposed on the molecule which results in the disorder of the methyl group and iodine atom and of the nitrosyl group. The disorder of the nitrosyl group is very similar to that observed previously for $\text{IrCl}_2(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ ⁴ and results in the displacement of the nitrogen atom approximately 0.25 Å from the twofold axis.

In the compound $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ the geometry around the iridium atom is approximately square pyramidal and the Ir–N–O bond angle is 120 (2)°. Therefore the geometry closely resembles that found for the other iridium NO⁻ complexes which have been studied.^{1–4} This complex provides another example of the nitrosyl ligand coordinating formally to iridium(III) as NO⁻.

The Ir–N bond length in this complex (1.91 (2) Å) is similar to that found for the other iridium NO⁻ complexes (that is, 1.97 (1) Å for $[\text{IrCl}(\text{NO})(\text{CO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{BF}_4]$,² 1.94 (2) Å for $\text{IrCl}_2(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$,⁴ and 1.89 (3) Å for $[\text{IrI}(\text{NO})(\text{CO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{BF}_4]$ ⁸) and quite different from the Ir–N bond lengths found for the NO⁺ complexes ($\text{Ir}(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_3$,⁷ 1.67 (2) Å, and $[\text{Ir}_2\text{O}(\text{NO})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{ClO}_4]$,²⁰ 1.76 (2) Å). For the NO⁻ complexes the differences between the Ir–N bond lengths are of the same order as the standard deviations and therefore a discussion of electronic effects of the different basal ligands on these bond lengths would not be meaningful.

It has been suggested that the nitrosyl ligand will coordinate with an M–N–O bond angle of approximately 120° for certain iridium complexes if the electronic configuration (d_{xy})²(d_{xz})²(d_{yz})²($\pi^*(\text{NO})$)² (formally Ir(III) and NO⁻) is of lower energy than the configuration (d_{xy})²(d_{xz})²(d_{yz})²($\pi^*(\text{NO})$)⁰(d_z)² (formally Ir(I) and NO⁺).⁴ With the two possible extreme formulations of NO⁺ and NO⁻ one may rationalize the geometries of most nitrosyl complexes provided one accepts that

deviations as large as 20° from 180° for NO⁺ complexes can occur either because of asymmetric π interactions between the metal and the nitrosyl ligand or because of the steric requirements of the other ligands. Bond angles for NO⁻ complexes should not deviate from 120° as a result of asymmetric π -bonding effects because the NO⁻ ligand has only one π^* orbital.

The Ir–NO⁻ complexes studied in this laboratory and the cobalt complexes $[\text{Co}(\text{NO})(\text{NH}_3)_5]\text{Cl}_2$ ²¹ and $[\text{CoCl}(\text{NO})(\text{en})_2][\text{ClO}_4]$ ²² (en = ethylenediamine) all have bond angles close to 120°. The complex $[\text{RuCl}(\text{NO})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{PF}_6]$ ²³ has an Ru–N–O angle of 135°, but this may result, as the authors have suggested, from the interaction of the two nitrosyl group oxygen atoms.

The bonding in certain nitrosyl complexes is difficult to rationalize within the formal framework of NO⁺ and NO⁻ coordination. For example, how is the complex $[\text{Ir}(\text{NO})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{ClO}_4]$,²⁴ which has an Ir–N–O bond angle of 164 (1)° and a very distorted tetrahedral geometry around the metal (N–Ir–N = 154.2 (7)°), best formulated? A structural study of the isoelectronic complex $\text{Pt}(\text{CO})_2[\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2]_2$ has shown that the geometry around the platinum atom is very close to tetrahedral and the Pt–C–O bond angle is almost linear.²⁵ Because these two complexes are so similar, the large distortions for the iridium complex cannot result from steric repulsions and must arise from electronic factors. These large distortions from the ideal for the Ir–N–O and N–Ir–N angles cannot be explained in terms of coordination as NO⁺ or NO⁻, which are extreme formulations and do not take into account the influence of the metal on ligand orbitals. Further, rationalization of this intermediate type of geometry in terms of coordination as NO would also be a simplification and in addition spin coupling would have to be invoked for this type of complex to explain the observed diamagnetism.

Table VI compares some of the important bond

TABLE VI

IMPORTANT BOND DISTANCES AND ANGLES FOR SOME SQUARE-PYRAMIDAL TRIPHENYLPHOSPHINE COMPLEXES $\text{MBAI}(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ (M = Rh, Ir; B = BASAL LIGAND = I, CO, CH₃; A = AXIAL LIGAND = NO, CH₃)

	$[\text{IrI}(\text{NO})(\text{CO})-\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3]_2[\text{BF}_4]$ ^a	$\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})-\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3$ ^b	$\text{RhI}_2(\text{CH}_3)-\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3$ ^c
M	Ir	Ir	Rh
A	NO	NO	CH ₃
B	CO	CH ₃	I
M–I, Å	2.668 (3)	2.726 (2)	2.643 (3)
M–N, Å	1.89 (3)	1.91 (2)	
M–C (methyl), Å		2.05 (4)	2.083 (7)
M–P, Å	2.36 (1)	2.348 (3)	2.350 (4)
P–M–P, deg	168.2 (3)	169.2 (2)	167.69 (5)
I–M–B, deg	158 (1)	151 (1)	169.69 (2)
M–N–O, deg	125 (3)	120 (2)	

^a Reference 3. ^b Present work. ^c A. C. Skapski, personal communication.

lengths and angles for three closely related square-pyramidal iodotriphenylphosphine complexes. It is interesting that the metal–phosphorus bond lengths are

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very similar for the three compounds, as are the P–M–P bond angles. The I–M–B bond angles (M = Rh or Ir; B = basal ligand) show a wider variation for the three compounds (151–170°). We have noted previously that the phosphine ligands are less sensitive to the steric requirements of the axial ligand in square-pyramidal complexes. The Ir–C(methyl) and Rh–C(methyl) bond lengths are also very similar. Other Ir–C distances which have been reported are 2.16 (2) Å for $\text{IrCl}_2[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5(\text{CHCH}_2\text{CO})\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)][(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SO}]_2$,²⁶ 2.10 (2) Å for $[\text{IrCl}_2(\text{CH}_3)(\text{CO})_2]_2$,²⁷ and 2.05 (2) Å for $\text{IrI}_2(\text{COOCH}_3)(\text{CO})(\text{bipy})$ (bipy = 2,2'-bipyridine).²⁸ The average of these bond lengths (2.10 (2) Å) is larger than that found for the present iridium–nitrosyl complex. However it must be remembered that the standard deviation on the Ir–C bond length in this complex is rather large, 0.04 Å, because of the disorder of the iodine atom with the methyl group. Table VI also shows that the Ir–I bond length is 0.06 Å longer for $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ than for $[\text{IrI}(\text{NO})(\text{CO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2][\text{BF}_4]$. In the latter complex the Ir–I bond length is very similar to those found for the trans iodine atoms in $\text{IrI}_2(\text{COOCH}_3)(\text{CO})(\text{bipy})$, 2.672 (2) and 2.684 (2) Å.²⁸ We think that the lengthening of the Ir–I bond length for the methyl–iodo complex is a result of the trans bond weakening effect of the methyl group which is trans to the iodo ligand. Similar bond lengthening effects have been observed for halide ligands trans to alkyl and aryl groups in square-planar and octahedral complexes of the platinum metals, but this is the first reported example of a square-pyramidal complex where bond lengthening from an alkyl group has been observed. Unfortunately none of the square-planar and octahedral complexes^{8,29} studied previously had an iodo ligand trans to the alkyl or aryl group, and therefore no direct comparison of the relative lengthenings for four-, five-, and six-coordinate complexes can be made. For octahedral complexes, where a chloride ligand is trans to the alkyl group, a lengthening of approximately 0.15–0.19 Å is observed compared with the metal–chlorine bond length found for two trans chloride ligands.^{8,29} In the octahedral complex $\text{PtBr}_3[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{AsC}_6\text{H}_4\text{C}_2\text{H}_5][(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{AsC}_6\text{H}_4\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5]$ ³⁰ the Pt–Br bond trans to the alkyl group is 0.10 Å longer than the average of the two trans Pt–Br bonds. Therefore on the basis of the limited data available a lengthening of the Ir–I bond by 0.06 Å for $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ seems quite reasonable.

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It has been shown that the square-planar and octahedral complexes which show the greatest trans bond weakening effects are those which have a ligand (L) with good σ -donor properties and weak π -accepting properties trans to a ligand (X) which is a poor σ donor and π acceptor. Gray and Langford³¹ and Mason and his coworkers^{29,32} have argued, on the basis of simple molecular orbital considerations, that the σ orbital of the less electronegative ligand L overlaps more effectively than the X σ orbital with the metal σ orbital. This leads to a strengthening of the M–L bond at the expense of the M–X bond. These calculations lead to the following bond weakening order for the ligands L: $\text{Si} \approx \text{H}$, $\text{C} \approx \text{P} > \text{Cl} > \text{N} > \text{O}$, which qualitatively agrees with the observed Pt–Cl bond lengthening for a series of square-planar platinum(II) complexes. Similar arguments would suggest that for a given ligand, L, the M–X (X = Cl, Br, or I) bond would be weakened more for the more electronegative ligands, *i.e.*, $\delta(\text{M–Cl}) > \delta(\text{M–Br}) > \delta(\text{M–I})$, where $\delta(\text{M–X})$ is the difference in bond lengths between X trans to L and X trans to X. Therefore the fact that the Ir–I bond length is only 0.06 Å longer than anticipated may be rationalized within the framework of current theories. Another factor which may diminish the weakening of the Ir–I bond by the methyl group is the fact that the C–Ir–I bond angle is 151 (1)°. The molecular orbital description given above suggests that the bond weakening effect will be at a maximum when the L–M–X angle is 180° (because the ligands are competing for the same σ orbital) and will be zero when the L–M–X angle is 90° (when the ligands overlap with two orthogonal p σ orbitals). It is interesting to note that for the complex $\text{RhI}_2(\text{CH}_3)(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ where the methyl ligand occupies the apical position of the square pyramid and the C–Rh–I bond angle is 95.16 (1)°, the Rh–I bond length is no longer than anticipated.³³ In fact, it is 0.01 Å shorter than that found for $\text{RhI}(\text{C}_2\text{F}_5)(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CO})$ (Rh–I = 2.653 (3) Å).³⁴

Reed and Roper⁸ noted that the iodo ligand in $\text{IrI}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ was labile to nucleophilic attack and suggested that it might be a result of the trans bond weakening effect of the methyl group. The structural evidence presented above verifies their suggestion.

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