

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY,
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA

The Crystal Structure of Bis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) Nitrate

BY G. G. MESSMER AND GUS J. PALENIK

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The crystal structure of bis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) nitrate has been determined by a three-dimensional X-ray crystallographic analysis using diffractometer data. The colorless, acicular crystals are monoclinic ($I2/a$) with lattice parameters $a = 22.524 \pm 0.021 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 9.197 \pm 0.009 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 15.440 \pm 0.013 \text{ \AA}$, and $\beta = 101.56 \pm 0.07^\circ$ and four molecules per unit cell. The structure was refined by least-squares methods using anisotropic thermal parameters to a final R of 0.074. All of the hydrogen atoms were located and included in the structure factor calculation but were not refined. The structure consists of $[(C_6H_5)_3P]_2CuNO_3$ molecules with symmetry C_2 separated by van der Waals distances. The copper atom is four-coordinate, the nitrate anion being bidentate. The important distances and angles are: $Cu-P = 2.256 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$, $Cu-O = 2.223 \pm 0.010 \text{ \AA}$, $Cu-N = 2.599 \pm 0.025 \text{ \AA}$, $N-O = 1.257 \pm 0.012 \text{ \AA}$, $P-Cu-P' = 131.2 \pm 0.1^\circ$, and $O-Cu-O' = 57.5 \pm 0.3^\circ$.

Introduction

During a study of complexes of the type $L_4M^+X^-$, where $L =$ triphenylphosphine $[(C_6H_5)_3P]$ or triphenylarsine $[(C_6H_5)_3As]$, $M = Cu$ or Ag , and $X^- = ClO_4^-$, BrO_4^- , or NO_3^- , Cotton and Goodgame¹ reported the preparation of bis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) nitrate. On the basis of conductivity and infrared evidence the authors suggested that the molecular structure of the complex was either a tricoordinate monomer or a nitrate-bridged dimer. The coordination mode of the nitrate ion could not be uniquely determined from the infrared spectra. Only 12 compounds containing coordinated nitrate ion have been the subject of crystal structure analyses,² and in all but one case, the nitrate is bidentate. Therefore, an X-ray structure analysis of $[(C_6H_5)_3P]_2CuNO_3$ was undertaken to determine the geometry of the compound and provide information on the coordination of the nitrate ion in $Cu(I)$ compounds.

Experimental Section

Bis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) nitrate was prepared by the method of Cotton and Goodgame.¹ Recrystallization by slowly cooling a hot, saturated ethanol solution provided clear, colorless, acicular crystals. Preliminary Weissenberg photographs taken with $Cu K\alpha$ radiation indicated that the crystals were monoclinic. The systematic absences hkl when $h + k + l$ is odd and $h0l$ when h is odd indicate the space group to be $Ia-C_2$ ⁴ or $I2/a-C_{2h}$ ⁴ (nonstandard settings of Cc or $C2/c$). A second crystal with dimensions $0.07 \times 0.07 \times 0.21 \text{ mm}^3$ was selected for intensity measurements. The crystal was mounted on a thin-glass fiber with the long axis of the crystal (the c axis) parallel to the fiber axis and dipped in liquid nitrogen to minimize extinction effects. The crystal was aligned on a General Electric single-crystal orienter mounted on a General Electric XRD-6 diffractometer automated by the Datex Corp.

The unit cell parameters were determined from least-squares refinement of the 2θ settings for 24 reflections accurately centered on the orienter using a narrow beam (1° takeoff angle) of Zr-filtered $Mo K\alpha$ ($\lambda(\alpha_1) 0.70926 \text{ \AA}$, $\lambda(\alpha_2) 0.71354 \text{ \AA}$) radiation. The α_1 - α_2 doublet could be resolved for 2θ values greater than 25° . The cell parameter values are: $a = 22.524 \pm 0.021 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 9.197 \pm 0.009 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 15.440 \pm 0.013 \text{ \AA}$, and $\beta = 101.56 \pm 0.07^\circ$.

The experimental density of 1.40 g/cm^3 determined by flotation in a carbon tetrachloride-*m*-xylene mixture agrees well with the density of 1.39 g/cm^3 calculated on the basis of four molecules per unit cell. The intensity measurements were made with a scintillation counter using a wide beam of molybdenum radiation (nominal takeoff angle was 3°). A linear amplifier-pulse height selector combination and a 2-mil Zr filter were used to approximate monochromatic $Mo K\alpha$ ($\lambda(\alpha) 0.7114 \text{ \AA}$) radiation. Each reflection was counted for 20 sec, with the crystal and counter stationary. Four standard reflections were counted after every 100 reflections to monitor the crystal stability and alignment and beam stability. None of the four standard reflections showed any significant variation in intensity during the measurement of the first 2600 reflections to a 2θ of approximately 40° . However, during the measurement of the last 1268 reflections all four showed a steady decrease in intensity and the measurement of data was terminated when the standards had decayed to approximately 85% of their original values. The standard reflections were used to correct the data for this drop in intensity.

Reflections required to be absent by space group symmetry were measured and used to determine a background curve as a function of 2θ . Equivalent reflections were averaged and then the background correction was made. Of the 2001 independent reflections, 1343 reflections which were greater than or equal to 1.16 times the background were considered as observed reflections. The 658 unobserved reflections were entered as minus half the minimum observable counts (-0.08 times the background). The negative F is recognized by our computer programs as an unobserved reflection which may or may not be included in the calculation. Under the conditions of the intensity measurements, the α_1 - α_2 doublet could be measured and no correction for the splitting was applied. These data were reduced to a set of observed amplitudes on an arbitrary scale following the application of Lorentz-polarization corrections. The linear absorption coefficient (μ) for this crystal with $Mo K\alpha$ radiation is 8.78 cm^{-1} . No absorption corrections were made on the data since the upper limit to the variation of intensity due to absorption is estimated to be 13% with transmission coefficients ranging from 0.94 to 0.82. It has been shown³ that atomic positions are not significantly affected by absorption corrections but our estimates of error of thermal parameters may be somewhat optimistic.

Solution and Refinement of the Structure

A statistical analysis of the distribution of intensities⁴ indicated that the probable space group was C_{2h}^6-I2/a ; the structure was solved and refined on this basis. In

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TABLE II
 Position and Thermal Parameters ($\times 10^4$) with Their Estimated Standard Deviations in Parentheses^a

Atom ^b	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Cu	2500 ^c	1587 (2)	0 ^c	26 (1)	137 (3)	56 (1)	0 ^c	19 (1)	0 ^c
O1	2500 ^c	-2488 (19)	0 ^c	65 (7)	175 (27)	166 (17)	0 ^c	-32 (17)	0 ^c
N	2500 ^c	-1228 (16)	0 ^c	32 (4)	104 (22)	83 (12)	0 ^c	-2 (10)	0 ^c
P	3426 (1)	2602 (3)	405 (2)	24 (1)	113 (4)	49 (1)	0 (2)	17 (2)	1 (4)
O2	2505 (4)	-531 (11)	694 (6)	40 (3)	196 (15)	65 (5)	8 (10)	32 (6)	66 (15)
CA1	4046 (5)	1371 (12)	811 (6)	27 (3)	122 (15)	45 (5)	16 (10)	18 (6)	19 (15)
CA2	4543 (5)	1756 (14)	1439 (7)	27 (3)	190 (20)	55 (6)	22 (13)	22 (7)	8 (19)
CA3	5020 (5)	734 (20)	1692 (9)	22 (3)	291 (29)	70 (8)	-6 (16)	21 (8)	28 (26)
CA4	4996 (6)	-585 (18)	1342 (10)	33 (4)	214 (25)	82 (9)	66 (16)	41 (10)	83 (25)
CA5	4486 (6)	-1003 (15)	707 (11)	26 (3)	181 (21)	114 (11)	56 (13)	39 (10)	92 (24)
CA6	4020 (6)	-25 (14)	449 (8)	33 (3)	177 (19)	63 (7)	7 (13)	36 (8)	-5 (18)
CB1	3416 (4)	3851 (11)	1312 (6)	16 (2)	128 (15)	46 (5)	9 (8)	15 (5)	12 (13)
CB2	3304 (5)	3275 (13)	2101 (7)	25 (3)	185 (19)	51 (6)	16 (12)	17 (6)	2 (18)
CB3	3230 (6)	4240 (16)	2777 (8)	33 (3)	218 (24)	48 (6)	29 (15)	30 (7)	-5 (20)
CB4	3241 (6)	5693 (15)	2670 (8)	29 (3)	170 (20)	62 (7)	16 (13)	19 (7)	-22 (19)
CB5	3351 (6)	6288 (13)	1881 (8)	36 (3)	145 (17)	54 (6)	-17 (12)	13 (7)	-30 (18)
CB6	3447 (5)	5356 (11)	1213 (7)	30 (3)	113 (16)	53 (6)	-35 (10)	22 (7)	-24 (15)
CC1	3695 (5)	3707 (10)	-422 (6)	24 (3)	107 (14)	41 (5)	7 (9)	8 (5)	-3 (13)
CC2	3265 (5)	4423 (13)	-1023 (7)	27 (3)	157 (18)	56 (6)	-17 (12)	10 (7)	46 (17)
CC3	3424 (6)	5280 (15)	-1688 (9)	33 (4)	218 (24)	74 (8)	10 (14)	28 (9)	76 (22)
CC4	4008 (7)	5331 (14)	-1767 (10)	45 (5)	153 (20)	81 (9)	19 (15)	36 (10)	72 (21)
CC5	4450 (5)	4587 (14)	-1183 (9)	24 (3)	197 (21)	83 (8)	-4 (13)	34 (8)	5 (22)
CC6	4296 (5)	3790 (13)	-505 (9)	27 (3)	143 (17)	84 (8)	16 (11)	43 (8)	49 (18)

Probable Hydrogen Positions ($\times 10^3$)

Atom ^d	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	Atom ^d	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
HA2	456	275	184	HB5	343	745	186
HA3	523	117	211	HB6	347	593	056
HA4	530	-117	141	HC2	275	438	-108
HA5	454	-235	077	HC3	312	573	-221
HA6	369	000	-024	HC4	400	610	-211
HB2	323	196	207	HC5	597	471	-122
HB3	311	394	342	HC6	449	301	-026
HB4	314	659	331				

^a The temperature factor is of the form: $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + \beta_{12}hk + \beta_{13}hl + \beta_{23}kl)]$. ^b See Figure 1 for the atom-labeling scheme. ^c Parameter determined by space group symmetry. ^d An isotropic B of 6.0 Å² was used in the structure factor calculation.

space group I2/a there is an eightfold set of general positions $(0, 0, 0; 1/2, 1/2, 1/2) \pm (x, y, z; 1/2 - x, y, \bar{z})$, one fourfold set of special positions with symmetry C_2 $(0, 0, 0; 1/2, 1/2, 1/2) \pm (1/4, y, 0)$, and four fourfold sets of special positions of point symmetry C_1 . With four nondisordered molecules of the complex in the unit cell, the space group symmetry requires the Cu, N, and at least one O atom to lie on the twofold rotation axis. A sharpened three-dimensional Patterson function with the origin removed yielded positional parameters for the above atoms along with the P atom. The remainder of the structure was solved and refined by use of three-dimensional electron density maps to a conventional R of 0.19 ($R = \Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|)/\Sigma|F_o|$). The structure was refined by full-matrix least-squares methods on an IBM 360/75 computer including anisotropic thermal parameters to an R of 0.084. The weighting scheme used was $\sqrt{w} = 1$ if $F_o \leq 42.4$ and $\sqrt{w} = 42.4/F_o$ if $F_o > 42.4$, where F_o is on the same scale as in Table I. A difference electron density function calculated at this point indicated reasonable position parameters for the 15 phenyl H atoms. An additional two cycles of least-squares refinement, in which the hydrogen atoms were included in the structure factor calculation but were not refined, gave a final R of 0.074. Atomic parameter shifts for the

last cycle of refinement were less than 1×10^{-5} of a cell edge. A final three-dimensional difference electron density map was essentially featureless. Atomic scattering factors for Cu, P, O, N, C, and H used in all of the calculations were taken from ref 5. The Cu and P scattering factors were corrected for the real part of the anomalous dispersion.⁶ Final observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table I. Table II contains the final position and thermal parameters of all atoms along with the estimated standard deviations. Intramolecular distances, angles, and their standard deviations were calculated from the refined parameters⁷ and are listed in Tables III and IV. Table IV also contains the least-squares planes through the carbon atoms of the benzene rings. All intermolecular distances are greater than or equal to the sum of their van der Waals radii and are not included in the tabulation. The C-H distances (average value 1.1 ± 0.2 Å) and the C-C-H angles (average value $119 \pm 2^\circ$) are not listed.

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TABLE III
INTRAMOLECULAR DISTANCES (Å) AND ANGLES (DEG)
FOR THE COPPER AND NITROGEN ATOMS^{a-c}

Atoms	Distance	Atoms	Angle
Cu-P	2.256 (3)	P-Cu-P'	131.2 (1)
Cu-O2	2.22 (1)	P-Cu-O2	114.3 (3)
Cu-N	2.59 (2)	O2-Cu-O2'	57.5 (3)
N-O1	1.16 (2)	P-Cu-O2'	108.3 (3)
N-O2	1.25 (1)	O2-N-O2'	118.2 (4)
O2-O2'	2.14 (1)	O2-N-O1	121 (1)
		Cu-O2-N	92.2 (6)

^a See Figure 1 for the atom-labeling scheme. ^b Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations. ^c Primed atoms are related by a twofold axis to unprimed atoms.

TABLE IV
DIMENSIONS OF THE TRIPHENYLPHOSPHINE GROUP^{a-c}

Atoms	Length, Å	Atoms	Angle, deg	Atoms	Angle, deg
P-CA1	1.81 (1)	Cu-P-CA1	116.4 (4)	CA1-P-CB1	104.9 (5)
P-CB1	1.82 (1)	Cu-P-CB1	108.8 (3)	CA1-P-CC1	104.4 (5)
P-CC1	1.83 (1)	Cu-P-CC1	117.0 (3)	CB1-P-CC1	104.1 (5)

Best Plane Equation through Ring A

$$-0.6018X - 0.3383Y + 0.7234Z = -4.868$$

Distances (Å) of carbon atoms from plane

CA1	-0.005	CA3	0.001	CA5	0.004
CA2	0.004	CA4	-0.005	CA6	0.001

Atoms	Length, Å	Atoms	Angle, deg
CA1-CA2	1.37 (2)	P-CA1-CA2	123.2 (8)
CA2-CA3	1.42 (2)	CA1-CA2-CA3	119 (1)
CA3-CA4	1.32 (2)	CA2-CA3-CA4	122 (1)
CA4-CA5	1.41 (2)	CA3-CA4-CA5	120 (1)
CA5-CA6	1.38 (2)	CA4-CA5-CA6	120 (1)
CA6-CA1	1.40 (2)	CA5-CA6-CA1	121 (1)
		CA6-CA1-CA2	119 (1)
		CA6-CA1-P	118.0 (8)

Best Plane Equation through Ring B

$$0.9265X - 0.0124Y + 0.3760Z - 7.460$$

Distances (Å) of carbon atoms from plane

CB1	-0.005	CB3	0.016	CB5	-0.008
CB2	-0.010	CB4	-0.008	CB6	0.014

Atoms	Length, Å	Atoms	Angle, deg
CB1-CB2	1.40 (2)	P-CB1-CB2	117.7 (8)
CB2-CB3	1.41 (2)	CB1-CB2-CB3	118 (1)
CB3-CB4	1.35 (2)	CB2-CB3-CB4	122 (1)
CB4-CB5	1.40 (2)	CB3-CB4-CB5	120 (1)
CB5-CB6	1.39 (2)	CB4-CB5-CB6	119 (1)
CB6-CB1	1.40 (1)	CB5-CB6-CB1	121 (1)
		CB6-CB1-CB2	120 (1)
		CB6-CB1-P	122.4 (8)

Best Plane Equation through Ring C

$$0.0116X + 0.8011Y + 0.5984Z = 2.440$$

Distances (Å) of carbon atoms from plane

CC1	0.007	CC3	0.017	CC5	-0.011
CC2	-0.019	CC4	-0.002	CC6	0.009

Atoms	Length, Å	Atoms	Angle, deg
CC1-CC2	1.37 (2)	P-CC1-CC2	116.9 (8)
CC2-CC3	1.40 (2)	CC1-CC2-CC3	121 (1)
CC3-CC4	1.35 (2)	CC2-CC3-CC4	119 (1)
CC4-CC5	1.38 (2)	CC3-CC4-CC5	121 (1)
CC5-CC6	1.38 (2)	CC4-CC5-CC6	120 (1)
CC6-CC1	1.39 (2)	CC5-CC6-CC1	120 (1)
		CC6-CC1-CC2	119 (1)
		CC6-CC1-P	124.1 (8)

^a See Figure 1 for the atom-labeling scheme. ^b Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations. ^c Least-squares planes were calculated with reference to an orthogonal coordinate system where X, Y, Z refer to a, b, c*.

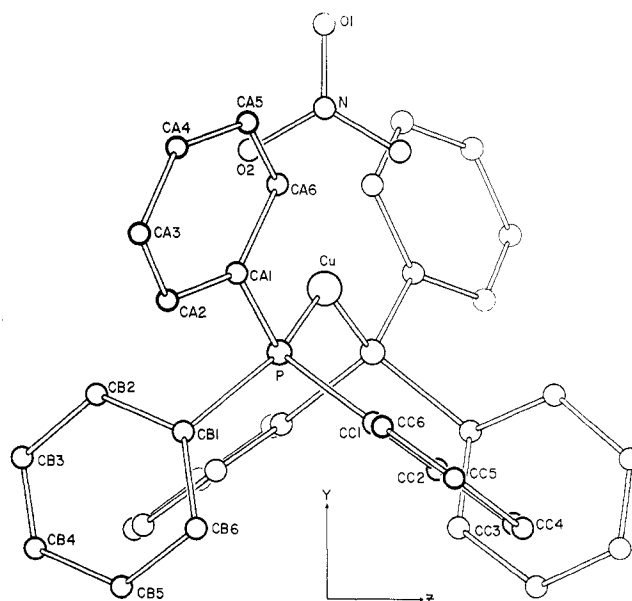


Figure 1.—A view of bis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) nitrate showing the molecular geometry and atomic numbering. The O1, N, and Cu atoms lie on a twofold axis passing through the molecule. The phenyl hydrogens are not shown.

Results and Discussion

The crystal structure consists of discrete molecules of bis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) nitrate separated by van der Waals distances. A view of the molecule is given in Figure 1 which shows the coordination geometry of the copper atom. The Cu-O2 distance of 2.22 ± 0.01 Å is longer than 1.83 Å which is the sum of the covalent radii of 1.17 Å for Cu(I)⁸ and 0.66 Å for O.⁹ The long Cu-N distance of 2.59 ± 0.02 Å precludes any significant bonding between these two atoms. These distances indicate the poor coordinating properties of the NO₃⁻ ion, a fact that has been mentioned by others.^{1,2}

Using the significance tests suggested by Cruickshank and Robertson,¹⁰ the Cu-P distance of 2.256 ± 0.003 Å is significantly shorter than the Cu-P distance of 2.276 ± 0.001 Å found in borohydridobis(triphenylphosphine)copper(I) by Lippard and Melmed.¹¹ Both Cu-P distances are significantly longer than the distances of 2.238 and 2.222 Å (both ± 0.005 Å) found in phenylethynyl(trimethylphosphine)copper(I) by Corfield and Shearer.¹² The P-Cu-P angle of $131.2 \pm 0.1^\circ$ in the nitrate differs greatly from the tetrahedral value of 109.47° and is the largest angle yet observed in formally tetrahedral Cu(I) compounds. Truter and Rutherford¹³ had attributed the large S-Cu-S angle of $112.3 \pm 0.1^\circ$ found in tetrakis(thioacetamide)copper(I) chloride to hydrogen bonding, unlikely in our structure. Furthermore, Lippard and Melmed¹¹ observed

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(9) L. Pauling, "The Nature of the Chemical Bond," 3rd ed, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., 1960, p 246.

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a P-Cu-P' angle of $123.26 \pm 0.06^\circ$ in the borohydrido complex and suggested that the distortion may be due to a combination of steric repulsions and Cu-B bonding. Corfield and Shearer,¹² however, found a P-Cu-P' angle of $123.8 \pm 0.2^\circ$ with a significantly shorter Cu-P bond length and suggested that the shortening may have been due to Cu-P π bonding. In phenylethynyl(trimethylphosphine)silver(I)¹⁴ the Ag-P bond length of $2.490 \pm 0.004 \text{ \AA}$ is considerably shorter than the sum of the covalent radii (2.62 \AA);⁹ however, the P-Ag-P angle is only $118.4 \pm 0.2^\circ$ which is smaller than that in either the nitrate or the borohydrido complex. By comparison the P-Ni-P angle in dibromobis(triphenylphosphine)nickel(II)¹⁵ is $110.4 \pm 0.2^\circ$, with an Ni-P bond length of $2.333 \pm 0.005 \text{ \AA}$ which is similar to the Cu-P bond lengths, indicating that smaller P-M-P angles are possible at the observed M-P distances.

The large P-Cu-P angles in the three complexes cannot be rationalized on the basis of steric repulsions, although it is difficult to separate steric effects from σ - or π -bonding effects. Moreover, a comparison of the borohydrido and nitrate complexes suggests that the anion has an important role in determining the Cu-P distance and the P-Cu-P angles. The dependence of the Cu-P distance and P-Cu-P angle on the anion may be related to the geometry or the donor properties of the anion. Both NO_3^- and BH_4^- have a relatively small "bite," with the O-Cu-O' angle of $57.5 \pm 0.3^\circ$ in the present structure being a result of the constrained geometry of the nitrate ion. The better donor properties of NO_3^- relative to BH_4^-

may increase the back-bonding with a resulting decrease in the Cu-P distance and an increase in the P-Cu-P angle. Further studies on copper(I)-phosphine complexes are in progress in an attempt to distinguish between the steric and electronic effects in Cu(I)-P bonds.

The geometry of the coordinated nitrate anion is given in Table III. The N-O2 bond length of $1.25 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$ agrees well with the value of $1.241 \pm 0.002 \text{ \AA}$ reported by Cherin, Hamilton, and Post¹⁶ and the average of 1.263 \AA for coordinated nitrate reported by Taylor, Mueller, and Hitterman.¹⁷ The N-O1 bond distance of $1.16 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$ has not been corrected for significant thermal motion. An approximate thermal correction of 0.07 \AA was computed by the method of Leung and Marsh.¹⁸ However, in the absence of absorption corrections we do not feel justified in an extensive discussion of the thermal parameters or the corrections calculated from these parameters. The corrected N-O1 bond distance of 1.23 \AA is reasonable but presented with the above reservations. The O-N-O angles are close to the expected value of 120° . The dihedral angle between the P-Cu-P' and NO_3^- plane is 96° which indicates a slight rotation of the nitrate ion with respect to the idealized geometry. A similar effect was observed in the BH_4^- complex.¹¹ All of the intermolecular distances less than 4.0 \AA were calculated. Because of the bulky triphenylphosphine groups, the majority of the intermolecular contacts involve the hydrogen atoms. In no case were any short intermolecular contacts found.

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