When the reaction product was prepared as a solid and then dissolved in acetonitrile, the major absorption was found at -54 ppm. These results indicate that 2 and 3 are in equilibrium in acetonitrile, but the equilibrium lies far toward 3 which is of course in agreement with the conductivity data.12

# Stereochemically Nonrigid Organometallic Molecules. The Crystal and Molecular Structure of XVII.<sup>1</sup> Bis(cyclooctatetraene)triruthenium Tetracarbonyl<sup>2</sup>

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Abstract: The crystal and molecular structures of the fluxional molecule bis(cyclooctatetraene)triruthenium tetracarbonyl,  $(C_8H_8)_2Ru_3(CO)_4$ , have been determined from 1056 independent, nonzero reflections collected with a counter diffractometer. The compound crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group  $P2_12_12_1$  with four molecules in a unit cell of dimensions a = 9.737 Å, b = 12.591 Å, and c = 15.268 Å ( $\rho_{obsd} = 2.18$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>;  $\rho_{calcd} = 2.21$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>). The structure, excluding hydrogen atoms, was solved from Patterson and electron density maps and refined by least-squares methods to a conventional unweighted R factor of 4.07%. The molecules are dissymmetric; by taking into account anomalous dispersion by the ruthenium atoms, the correct enantiomorph has been selected for the crystal studied. Each molecule contains a triangle of Ru atoms (metal-metal distances of 2.782 (2), 2.928 (2), and 2.947 (2) Å), similar to that in  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ , and two cyclooctatetraene rings, each bound to a pair of ruthenium atoms. The structure is in accord with the mass spectral evidence for the existence of a metal atom cluster and accounts for the observed characteristic infrared spectrum in the CO stretching region. The bonding of the rings to pairs of metal atoms is extraordinary and cannot be related to any single type of olefin-metal interaction known. Instead it may be described as about halfway between two known and more-or-less symmetrical orientations for a  $(C_8H_8)M_2$  system. Thus the exceptional deformability which might be expected for a fluxional molecule along the reaction coordinate of its rearrangement pathway is strikingly illustrated.

A mong the various products that have been isolated and characterized from the reaction of  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ with cyclooctatetraene(COT), 4-7 there is one which is produced exclusively when the process is carried out in refluxing octane. The crystalline substance so obtained is shown by elemental analysis and mass spectrum to be C16H16Ru3(CO)4, and its proton nmr spectrum at room temperature consists of one sharp peak. Consequently, the compound was expected to contain a metal atom cluster and is also a fluxional organometallic molecule, with the fluxional behavior implying retention of C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub> monocycles. It was obviously of interest to elucidate the structure of  $(COT)_2 Ru_3(CO)_4$  in the solid state, and a single-crystal X-ray study was undertaken. The results of this study, which have previously been briefly communicated,<sup>8</sup> are reported here in full.

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#### **Experimental Procedure**

Crystalline C16H16Ru3(CO)4 was prepared by the reaction of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> with cyclooctatetraene in refluxing octane as described previously.6 Optical examination showed the lustrous, red, airstable crystals to be orthorhombic prisms, and preliminary Weissenberg (0kl and 1kl levels) and precession (h0l, h1l, hk0, and hk1 levels) photographs indicated Laue symmetry mmm, with slight deviations from this symmetry attributable to anomalous dispersion effects and suggesting crystal point group 222. The observed systematic absences (h00 for  $h \neq 2n$ , 0k0 for  $k \neq 2n$ , and 00l for  $l \neq$ 2n) indicated the unique choice of the orthorhombic space group P2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>. The unit cell dimensions, determined with copper radiation ( $\lambda$  K $\alpha_1$  1.5405 Å,  $\lambda$  K $\alpha_2$  1.5443 Å) by a method described elsewhere,  $a = 9.737 \pm 0.005$  Å,  $b = 12.591 \pm 0.007$  Å, and c = 0.007 $15.268\,\pm\,0.008$  Å. The observed density of 2.18 g cm^-3, determined by flotation, agrees with the calculated density of 2.21 g  $cm^{-3}$  for a formula weight of 623.6, Z = 4, and a unit cell volume of 1871.8 Å<sup>3</sup>.

Intensity data were collected on a General Electric quarter-circle automated XRD-6 diffractometer equipped with a Datex control unit. A crystal of approximate dimensions  $0.2 \times 0.2 \times 0.3$  mm was so aligned that its a axis coincided with the  $\varphi$  axis of the instrument. The distances from the crystal to the source and from the crystal to the circular screening aperture (2°) were 5.73 and 7.05 in., respectively. Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation, filtered by zirconium foil, was used to measure 1165 independent reflections lying within one octant of a sphere in reciprocal space corresponding to d spacings  $\ge 1$  A. The intensities were measured with a scintillation counter with the pulse height discriminator set to receive 95% of the Mo K $\alpha$  radiation with the window centered on the Mo K $\alpha$  peak. The data were collected using a coupled  $\omega/2\theta$  scan technique at a  $2\theta$  scan rate of 2°/min. The peak counts, P, were obtained from a  $2\theta$  scan of 1.33°

<sup>(1)</sup> Part XVI: F. A. Cotton and M. D. LaPrade, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 90, 5418 (1968).

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<sup>(3)</sup> J. F. Norris Predoctoral Fellow, 1967-1968.

<sup>(4)</sup> M. I. Bruce, M. Cooke, M. Green, and F. G. A. Stone, *Chem. Commun.*, 523 (1967).
(5) W. K. Bratton, F. A. Cotton, A. Davison, J. W. Faller, and A. Musco, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S.*, 58, 1324 (1967).

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Figure 1. The molecular structure projected on the *ab* plane.

from  $2\theta_{calcd} - 0.67^{\circ}$  to  $2\theta_{calcd} + 0.66^{\circ}$ . Stationary background counts,  $B_1$ ,  $B_2$ , of 10 sec were taken at each of the limits of the scan. From these readings the intensity, I, assuming a linear change in background (or its equivalent) between the two limits of the scan, is given by  $I = P - 2(B_1 + B_2)$ . Periodic checks of three standard reflections, having no  $2\theta$  dependence, showed variations in intensities  $(\pm 2\%)$  which were random with time and could be attributed to fluctuations in electronic circuits rather than to crystal decomposition. No appreciable variations in the intensities of the h00 reflections were observed as a function of crystal orientation. Moreover, an absorption calculation involving a representative portion of the data showed the transmission factors to range from 0.865 to 0.900, and absorption corrections ( $\mu = 17.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) were therefore not applied.

Four strong reflections which exceeded the linear response range of the counter were discarded, and statistically insignificant reflections (105) were rejected using the criteria (1)  $I \leq 0$  and (2) I < 3 $(P + [T_P/T_B]^2[B_1 + B_2])^{1/2}$ , where  $T_P$  is the peak counting time and  $T_{\rm B}$  is the background counting time. The remaining 1056 reflections were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects and a set of  $|F_{\circ}|^2$  and  $|F_{\circ}|$  values (on a relative scale) was thus obtained.

### Solution and Refinement of the Structure

A three-dimensional Patterson map revealed the expected triangle of ruthenium atoms, and the rest of the structure was solved by conventional least-squares and Fourier calculations. The atomic scattering factors used during this analysis were those of Cromer and Waber,<sup>10</sup> and the anomalous dispersion corrections, both real ( $\Delta f' = -1.37$  e) and imaginary ( $\Delta f'' = 1.09$ e) parts, which were applied to ruthenium scattering factors, were those given by Cromer.<sup>11</sup> The function minimized during the least-squares refinement was  $\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$  where  $|F_o|$  is the observed structure amplitude,  $|F_c|$  is the calculated structure amplitude, and w is the weighting factor.

Four cycles of full matrix least-squares refinement of scale factor, atomic coordinates, and isotropic thermal parameters for all atoms led to a discrepancy index of  $R_1 = \Sigma |F_o| - |F_c||/\Sigma |F_o| = 0.053$ . The weighted residual,  $R_2 = \{\Sigma w [|F_o| - |F_c|]^2 / \Sigma w |F_o|^2\}^{1/2}$ , using unit weights was 0.073. At this point an experimental weighting scheme similar to that of Doedens and Ibers<sup>12</sup>  $(w = [\sigma(F)]^{-2})$  was introduced, and the ruthenium atoms were assigned anisotropic temperature factors of the form  $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk +$  $2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl$ ]. Two final cycles of refinement of positional and thermal parameters for all atoms resulted in convergence with  $R_1 = 0.041$  and  $R_2 = 0.058$ .

For an acentric space group  $|F(hkl)| \neq |F(h\bar{k}l)|$ when the effects of anomalous dispersion are important (*i.e.*, when  $\Delta f''$  is appreciable). In particular, for  $P2_12_12_1, \{|F(hkl)| = |F(h\bar{k}l)| = |F(h\bar{k}l)| = |F(h\bar{k}l)|\}$  $\neq$  { $|F(\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l})| = |F(\bar{h}kl)| = |F(h\bar{k}l)| = |F(hk\bar{l})|$ } under such conditions, and it was thus necessary to test both enantiomeric structural solutions. In the absence of a complete data set the Hamilton R-factor test<sup>13a</sup> may be employed for the determination of absolute configuration on the basis of refinement of both structural models. Therefore, the structural solution A (the one just discussed, having atom positional coordinates x, y, z) and one of the alternative solutions, **B** (with positional coordinates -x, y, z, resulting from reflection of the original structure in the (100) plane), were each refined in the same manner. The latter structure was accepted as the correct configuration because it converged to discrepancy indices  $R_1$  = 0.0407 and  $R_2 = 0.057$ . If these discrepancy indices for the two structures are used to evaluate the structures as hypotheses of one degree of freedom using the Rfactor test, then structure **B** is validated at the 99.5%confidence level. In the nonpolar space group  $P2_12_12_1$ , no first-order errors should occur in the coordinates of the incorrect structural solution,<sup>13b</sup> and in this case none were found; no criterion of correctness is provided by molecular dimensions. Thus, by taking into account anomalous dispersion by the ruthenium atoms, the absolute configuration of the (COT)<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub> molecule has been determined for the crystal studied. All subsequent discussion pertains to structure B.

During the final cycle of refinement, no parameter shifted more than one-eighth of its estimated standard deviation. The principal features of a final difference Fourier map computed at this point were (1) peaks of 0.88 and 0.86 e/Å<sup>3</sup> in the vicinity of oxygen atoms  $O_{1B}$  and  $O_{2B}$  (Figure 1), (2) peaks of 0.72–0.55 e/Å<sup>3</sup> which could be attributed to anisotropic motion of other atoms in the carbonyl moieties, and (3) peaks less than 0.50 e/Å<sup>3</sup> which seemed indicative of unassigned electron density in the regions of the COT rings. Although some definite indications of the H atoms were present, these positions did not seem reliable enough to form a basis for refinement. The error introduced into the model by our neglect of the light atom anisotropic vibration was also reflected by the final standard deviation for an observation of unit weight being 1.591, instead of the expected value of unity. The experimental weighting scheme satisfied, within acceptable limits, Cruickshank's criterion,<sup>14</sup> and a comparison of the observed and final calculated structure amplitudes did not suggest that a correction for extinction was necessary.

The following programs for the IBM 7094 and 360 computers were used in the structure analysis and interpretation: (1) a modified version of "M.I.T. X-Ray Goniometer Package-MIXG-2," 1962, by D. P. Shoemaker; (2) general data reduction program, PMMO, by M. J. Bennett; (3) a modified version of Fourier analysis program, FORDAP, by A. Zalkin; (4) "Full-Matrix Crystallographic Least-Squares," SFLS5, 1966, by C. T. Prewitt; (5) "Molecular Geometry with Esti-

<sup>(10)</sup> D. T. Cromer and J. T. Waber, Acta Cryst., 18, 104 (1965).

<sup>(11)</sup> D. T. Cromer, *ibid.*, 18, 17 (1965).
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<sup>(13) (</sup>a) W. C. Hamilton, Acta Cryst., 18, 502 (1965); (b) D. W. J Cruickshank and W. S. McDonald, ibid., 23, 9 (1967).

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mated Standard Deviations," MGEOM, 1964, by J. S. Wood; (6) crystallographic bond distance, bond angle, and dihedral angle program, DISTAN, 1963, by D. P. Shoemaker; (7) data presentation program, PUBTAB, by R. C. Elder.

# Results

The observed structure amplitudes,  $|F_o|$ , and the final calculated structure factors,  $F_c$ , in units of 0.1 electron are listed in Table I. The final fractional coordinates and thermal parameters are given in Table II. The standard deviations, reported in parentheses, are derived from the inverse matrix in the final cycle of leastsquares refinement. Pertinent molecular dimensions are given in Tables III and IV.

Figure 1 shows the molecule projected on the (001) plane and indicates the numbering scheme. Note that the C and O atoms of the same CO group carry the same number. Another view of the molecule, a projection on the (010) plane, is presented in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows a composite picture of the two C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub> moieties; these are crystallographically independent, but nearly isostructural. Thus, Figure 3 presents



Figure 2. The molecular structure projected on the ac plane.

average values of what are in effect chemically identical bond lengths.



Figure 3. A composite picture of the two  $C_8H_8Ru_2$  moieties, giving mean values of the chemically equivalent bond lengths. For each of the atoms except Ru(3), the use of a pair of numbers, say (1,2), implies either 1 or 2. No superposition of atoms is implied. The numbers given to two decimal places are internuclear distances in Å and the remaining three-digit numbers are C-C-C angles.

### Discussion

The crystal structure of  $(C_3H_3)_2Ru_3(CO)_4$  consists of the packing of discrete molecular units separated by normal intermolecular contact distances. Each mo-

Table II. Final Atomic Positional and Thermal Parameters<sup>a</sup>

Atom	x	У	Z	<i>B</i> , Å <sup>2</sup>
Ru <sub>1</sub>	-0.66267 (13)	0.35439 (10)	0.88661 (8)	2.46
$Ru_2$	-0.61212(14)	0.56985 (10)	0.86235 (9)	3.05
Ru₃	-0.89698 (12)	0.49256 (9)	0.84821 (7)	2.05
$C_1$	-1.0242(17)	0.6327 (14)	0.8718 (11)	3.8(4)
$C_2$	-0.9821 (18)	0.5931 (15)	0.9545 (11)	3.9(4)
C3	-0.8445 (17)	0.5773 (13)	0.9829 (10)	3.2(3)
C₄	-0.7198 (19)	9.6371 (16)	0.9848 (12)	4.4(4)
C i	-0.6671 (21)	0.7195 (15)	0.9296 (12)	4.8(4)
$C_6$	-0.6942 (19)	0.7299 (14)	0.8379 (12)	4.1 (4)
C7	-0.7947 (18)	0.6672 (14)	0.7856 (12)	3.8(4)
$C_8$	-0.9369 (15)	0.6483 (13)	0.7973 (10)	2.7(3)
$\mathbf{C}_9$	-1.0556 (15)	0.3902(11)	0.7979 (9)	2.3 (3)
$C_{10}$	-1.0199 (17)	0.3568 (15)	0.8817(11)	3.8(4)
$C_{11}$	-0.8968 (17)	0.3081 (12)	0.9179 (10)	2.8(3)
$C_{12}$	-0.8099 (19)	0.2241 (14)	0.8857 (12)	4.2 (4)
$C_{13}$	-0.7446 (19)	0.2210(15)	0.8070(12)	4.2 (4)
$C_{14}$	-0.7268 (17)	0.3075 (13)	0.7456 (11)	3.4(4)
$C_{15}$	-0.8155 (17)	0.3963 (13)	0.7268 (10)	3.1(3)
$C_{16}$	-0.9631 (18)	0.4112 (14)	0.7307(11)	3.8(4)
$C_{1A}$	-0.6338 (16)	0.3854 (12)	1.0013 (10)	3.2(3)
$O_{1A}$	-0.6174 (13)	0.3986 (10)	1.0771 (8)	5.1(3)
$C_{1B}$	-0.4836 (16)	0.3203 (12)	0.8749(11)	2.9(3)
$O_{1B}$	-0.3654 (14)	0.2961 (11)	0.8726 (9)	5.9(3)
$C_{2A}$	-0.5430 (20)	0.5229 (15)	0.7582 (13)	4.7(4)
$O_{2A}$	-0.4890 (15)	0.4983 (12)	0.6895 (9)	6.3(3)
$C_{2B}$	-0.4774 (21)	0.5628 (16)	0.9135 (13)	5.0(3)
$O_{2B}$	-0.3323 (18)	0.5570 (13)	0.9471 (11)	7.6(4)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations occurring in the last digits listed. <sup>b</sup> These values of *B* are the equivalent isotropic thermal parameters corresponding to the anisotropic thermal vibration tensors having the following components ( $\times 10^{5}$ ).

Atom	$\beta_{11}$	$\beta_{22}$	$\beta_{33}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$	$\beta_{23}$
$\mathbf{R}u_1$	599 (14)	387 (9)	265 (6)	46 (10)	-25 (9)	-12(6)
$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{u}_2$	848 (17)	476 (10)	302 (7)	-221 (12)	-34(10)	-4(7)
Ru₃	563 (15)	298 (9)	220 (6)	16 (10)	-6(8)	2 (6)

lecular unit, shown in Figures 1 and 2, is crystallographically asymmetric but has approximate  $C_2$  symmetry with the twofold axis bisecting the  $Ru_1-Ru_2$ line and passing through  $Ru_3$ .



Figure 4. Idealized symmetrical bonding schemes for a  $(C_8H_8)M_2$  system.

The molecular structure may be thought of as derived from that of  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  with the  $\pi$ -electron density of the cyclooctatetraene rings replacing that of eight CO groups. The  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  molecule<sup>15</sup> is isostructural with

Table III. Intramolecular Distances<sup>a</sup> in (COT)<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>8</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub>

Atoms	Distance, Å	Atoms	Distance, Å
Ru <sub>1</sub> –Ru <sub>2</sub>	2.782 (2)	$Ru_1-C_{11}$	2.40(2)
$Ru_1 - Ru_3$	2.928 (2)	$Ru_1 - C_{12}$	2.18(2)
Ru <sub>2</sub> –Ru <sub>3</sub>	2.947 (2)	$Ru_{1}-C_{13}$	2.22 (2)
		$Ru_{1}-C_{14}$	2.32(2)
$C_{1}-C_{2}$	1.42(2)	$Ru_1 - C_{13}$	2.91 (2)
$C_2 - C_3$	1.42(2)		
C₃C₄	1.43 (2)	$Ru_2-C_3$	2.92(2)
$C_4 - C_5$	1.43 (3)	Ru <sub>2</sub> –C <sub>4</sub>	2.30(2)
C5-C6	1.43 (3)	$Ru_2-C_3$	2.21 (2)
C <sub>6</sub> C <sub>7</sub>	1.49(3)	$Ru_2-C_6$	2.20(2)
$C_{7}-C_{8}$	1.42(2)	$Ru_2-C_7$	2.46(2)
$C_{8}-C_{1}$	1.43 (2)		,
		Ru <sub>3</sub> –C <sub>3</sub>	2.37(2)
$C_{9}-C_{10}$	1.39(2)	$Ru_3-C_2$	2.22 (2)
$C_{10}-C_{11}$	1.45(2)	$Ru_3-C_1$	2.19(2)
$C_{11} - C_{12}$	1.44 (2)	Ru₃–C <sub>8</sub>	2.14(2)
$C_{12} - C_{13}$	1.36(2)	Ru <sub>3</sub> –C <sub>7</sub>	2.60(2)
$C_{13}-C_{14}$	1.45 (3)		
$C_{14} - C_{15}$	1.44 (2)	$Ru_{3}-C_{15}$	2.35(2)
$C_{15}-C_{17}$	1.45(2)	$Ru_3-C_{16}$	2.16(2)
$C_{16} - C_{9}$	1.39(2)	$Ru_3-C_9$	2.15(2)
		$Ru_{3}-C_{10}$	2.15(2)
		$Ru_{3}-C_{11}$	2.56(2)
$Ru_1-C_{1A}$	1.82 (2)	$C_{1A} - O_{1A}$	1.18 (2)
$Ru_1-C_{1B}$	1.80(2)	$C_{1B} - O_{1B}$	1.19(2)
$Ru_2 - C_{2A}$	1.83 (2)	$C_{2A} - O_{2A}$	1.21 (2)
$Ru_2-C_{2B}$	1.79 (2)		1.23 (3)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations occurring in the last digit listed.

Os<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub><sup>16</sup> and has Ru-Ru distances of 2.855, 2.844, and 2.851 Å. In the present instance, the metal-metal bond distances (Ru<sub>1</sub>-Ru<sub>2</sub> = 2.782 (2) Å, Ru<sub>1</sub>-Ru<sub>3</sub> = 2.928 (2) Å, and Ru<sub>2</sub>-Ru<sub>3</sub> = 2.947 (2) Å)° reflect both in magnitude and variation the inferior ability of C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub> in comparison with CO to remove  $\pi$ -antibonding electrons from the triangular metal atom cluster. Thus, the Ru-Ru bonds involving the Ru atom which has no CO groups are the longer ones.

The most important and interesting features of the molecular structure have to do with the mode of attachment of the  $C_8H_8$  rings to the  $Ru_3$  cluster, particularly because the rings execute some reorientation (presumably an internal rotation) so rapidly in solution at room

(15) E. R. Corey and L. F. Dahl, submitted for publication.

<sup>(16)</sup> E. R. Corey and L. F. Dahl, Inorg. Chem., 1, 521 (1962).

Table IV. Intramolecular Angles<sup>a</sup> in (COT)<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub>

Atoms	Angle, deg	Atoms	Angle, deg
Ru <sub>1</sub> -Ru <sub>2</sub> -Ru <sub>3</sub>	61.39(4)	$C_{11}-Ru_1-C_{12}$	36.3 (6)
$Ru_2 - Ru_1 - Ru_3$	62.09(4)	$C_{12}$ - $Ru_1$ - $C_{13}$	36.0(7)
$Ru_1 - Ru_3 - Ru_2$	56.52(4)	$C_{13}$ - $Ru_1$ - $C_{14}$	37.1 (6)
		$C_{14}$ - $Ru_1$ - $C_{15}$	29.4 (5)
$C_1 - C_2 - C_3$	126 (1.5)	$C_{11} - Ru_1 - C_{15}$	74.1 (5)
$C_2 - C_3 - C_4$	137 (1.6)		
C3-C4-C5	132 (1.7)	$C_3 - Ru_2 - C_4$	28.8(6)
$C_{4}-C_{5}-C_{6}$	125 (1.7)	$C_4 - Ru_2 - C_5$	36.9 (7)
$C_{5}-C_{6}-C_{7}$	127 (1.7)	$C_5-Ru_2-C_6$	37.9(7)
$C_{6}-C_{7}-C_{8}$	132 (1.6)	$C_6-Ru_2-C_7$	36.8(6)
$C_7 - C_8 - C_1$	135 (1.6)	$C_7 - Ru_2 - C_3$	74.0(5)
$C_{8}-C_{1}-C_{2}$	126 (1.5)		
		$C_3 - Ru_3 - C_2$	35.9(6)
$C_9 - C_{10} - C_{11}$	133 (1.5)	$C_2 - Ru_3 - C_1$	37.6(6)
$C_{10} - C_{11} - C_{12}$	132 (1.5)	$C_1 - Ru_3 - C_8$	38.6(6)
$C_{11} - C_{12} - C_{13}$	127 (1.7)	$C_8 - Ru_3 - C_7$	33.0(6)
$C_{12}-C_{13}-C_{14}$	127 (1.7)	$C_7 - Ru_3 - C_3$	81.7(6)
$C_{13} - C_{14} - C_{15}$	130 (1.6)		
$C_{14} - C_{15} - C_{16}$	133 (1.5)	$C_{11}$ - $Ru_{3}$ - $C_{10}$	34.7(6)
$C_{15}-C_{16}-C_{9}$	130 (1.6)	$C_{10} - Ru_3 - C_9$	37.8 (6)
$C_{16}-C_{9}-C_{10}$	125 (1.5)	$C_9 - Ru_3 - C_{16}$	37.6(6)
		$C_{16}$ - $Ru_{3}$ - $C_{15}$	37.2(6)
		$C_{11}$ - $Ru_{3}$ - $C_{15}$	81.9(5)
$O_{1A} - C_{1A} - Ru_1$	176 (1.4)	$C_{1A} - Ru_1 - C_{1B}$	89.8(7)
$O_{1B}-C_{1B}-Ru_1$	176 (1.4)	$C_{1A}$ - $Ru_1$ - $Ru_2$	83.8 (5)
$O_{2B}-C_{2B}-Ru_2$	179 (1.8)	$C_{1B} - Ru_1 - Ru_2$	92.8 (5)
$O_{2A}-C_{2A}-Ru_2$	175 (1.7)	$C_{2A}$ - $Ru_2$ - $C_{2B}$	91.9 (9)
		$C_{2A}$ – $Ru_2$ – $Ru_1$	82.3 (6)
		$C_{2B}$ - $Ru_2$ - $Ru_1$	93.0 (6)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations occurring in the last digit listed.

temperature that only one signal is observed for all 16 protons in the molecule. This ring-to-metal bonding can be conveniently discussed in comparison with the two symmetrical arrangements shown schematically in Figure 4.

The arrangement shown in Figure 4A involves a pair of (1,3-diene)-metal interactions. While this exact situation has not as yet been observed in a molecule with a metal-metal bond, it has been seen,<sup>17</sup> for example, in the solid-state configurations of (COT)Fe- $(CO)_3$  and  $(COT)Fe_2(CO)_6$ . The relevant  $(C_4H_4)Fe_2$ (CO)<sub>3</sub> residues have the same geometry in both molecules and pertinent average dimensions are M-A =M-D = 2.14 Å, M-B = M-C = 2.06 Å, A-B = C-D= 1.44 Å, B-C = 1.40 Å, and  $\angle B = \angle C = 120^{\circ}$ ,  $\angle A = \angle D = 130^{\circ}.$ 

The other mode of ring attachment involves the ringmetal orientation shown in Figure 4B. In such a complex the bonding can be crudely formulated as follows. Each metal atom is bound to three ring carbon atoms in a kind of  $(\pi$ -allyl)metal complex, thereby leaving two carbon atoms of the ring (designated as A and E) each with a half-occupied orbital. After allowance for metal-metal and metal-CO bonds, each metal atom also has a half-occupied orbital remaining in its valence shell. Consequently, four atoms (M, M, A, and E), four orbitals, and four electrons combine to produce a four-center, four-electron delocalized bonding system. This type of bonding has been invoked to account for the molecular structure of  $(COT)Fe_2(CO)_5^{18}$  and  $(TMCOT)Fe_2(CO)_{5}$ ,<sup>19</sup> where TMCOT represents

1.3.5.7-tetramethylcyclooctatetraene. The pertinent average geometrical features of these structures are  $M-B \simeq M-C \simeq M-D \simeq 2.12$  Å,  $M-E \simeq M-A \simeq$ 2.50 Å, B-C  $\simeq$  C-D  $\simeq$  1.38 Å, A-B  $\simeq$  D-E  $\simeq$  1.45 Å, and  $\angle C = 127^{\circ}$ .

Both of the molecules for which a structure of type 4B has been found are fluxional; there is time-average equivalence of all ring protons. It seems entirely reasonable to suppose that the rearrangement pathway by which the ring passes from one to another of the equivalent configurations of type 4B carries it through structures of type 4A. Since the rearrangement processes are rapid, it follows that structure 4A must be only a little less stable (perhaps 5-15 kcal/mole) than 4**B**.

To facilitate discussion of the ring-to-metal interactions in  $(C_8H_8)_2Ru_3(CO)_4$ , we show in Figure 3 a composite picture of the two crystallographically independent  $(C_8H_8)Ru_2$  moieties, which would be rigorously equivalent under strict C<sub>2</sub> symmetry. The view given is a projection of each ring upon a plane perpendicular to a line joining the midpoint of the Ru-Ru axis with the midpoint of the  $C_3-C_7$  or  $C_{11}-C_{15}$  axes. The distances shown are the averages of corresponding distances in the two separate  $(C_8H_8)Ru_2$  portions of the molecule.

It is clear from Figure 3 that the configuration in this compound is neither 4A nor 4B but is approximately halfway between the two. The rotation of the M-M line about its perpendicular bisector which would convert orientation 4A into orientation 4B, assuming the ring to remain fixed, is 22.5°. In fact, the Ru-Ru line is rotated 9.5° away from orientation 4B. Moreover, the C-C distances in the rings do not differ from one another significantly, as Figure 3 shows. The ring conformation is also intermediate, but distinctly closer to what one might expect for structure 4A. Thus the ring fragments (4,14), (5,13), (6,12), (7,11) and (8,10), (1,9), (2,16), (3,15) are each essentially planar, whereas the five-carbon sequences from (3, 15) to (7, 11) inclusive in either direction are noticeably kinked.

The fact that the  $(C_8H_8)M_2$  configuration is intermediate between 4A and 4B makes it difficult to give any simple description of the bonding, and we shall not attempt to rationalize the structure in this way. Instead, it seems more interesting and enlightening to note that, since structures 4A and 4B presumably do not differ very much in stability, one of them (4A) probably corresponding to the activated complex for interchange among the several equivalent forms of the other (4B). the configurations lying between 4A and 4B must also be easily accessible.<sup>20</sup> It may be that only under the influence of intermolecular forces in the crystal does the observed configuration become fixed, whereas in solution configuration 4B (or, less likely, 4A) is adopted as the instantaneous structure. Because of the overall low symmetry, this will be a difficult point to establish, however, even if a limiting low-temperature solution nmr spectrum can be obtained.

With regard to the carbonyl portion of the molecule, we note that the structure found is entirely consistent with the observed infrared spectrum in the CO stretch-

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(18) E. B. Fleisher, A. L. Stone, R. B. K. Dewar, J. E. Wright, C. E.

Keller, and R. Pettit, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 88, 3158 (1966).

<sup>(19)</sup> F. A. Cotton and M. D. LaPrade, ibid., 90, 2026 (1968).

<sup>(20)</sup> Fluxional molecules should, naturally and in general, be the most easily distortable molecules, in a sense or direction corresponding to the pathway of their intramolecular rearrangement.

ing region. Four bands were observed, one of which is very weak. For the  $Ru_2(CO)_4$  group found, with  $C_2$ symmetry, four infrared-active CO stretching modes would be expected. One of these would likely be essentially the antisymmetrically coupled stretching of the two CO groups (1A and 2A) which are approximately perpendicular to the plane of the Ru<sub>3</sub> triangle. This mode would have only a slight dipolar transition moment, thus accounting for the one extremely weak band.

Lastly, it may be noted that the  $(C_8H_8)_2Ru_3(CO)_4$ molecule is dissymmetric in its idealized C<sub>2</sub> symmetry. Since it crystallizes in enantiomeric crystals, it would perhaps be feasible to study the rate of racemization, or at least to set a lower limit on it, by preparing solutions from individual single crystals. Racemization may well be a very rapid process, since it could readily be accomplished in the following way. The CO(1A)

and CO(2A) groups could swing toward the center of the Ru(1)-Ru(2) bond and become bridging CO groups. This sort of interconversion of terminal with bridging systems is well known, for example, in  $[(\pi - C_5H_5)Fe$ - $(CO)_{2}_{2}^{2}, {}^{21}$  [( $\pi$ -C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)Ru(CO)\_{2}\_{2}^{2}, {}^{21} and Co<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>8</sub>.  ${}^{22}$  If, at the same time as the bridges form, the C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub> rings move slightly so that the plane of the Ru<sub>3</sub> triangle becomes a bisector of the mean plane of each ring, an intermediate without chirality will be formed, which may then return to either enantiomer of the chiral structure with equal probability, thereby accomplishing racemization. Thus, a study of the rate of racemization of the  $(C_8H_8)_2Ru_3(CO)_4$  molecule would be equivalent to a study of the rate of interconversion of the bridged and nonbridged Ru<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub> systems, and would therefore be of fundamental interest.

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#### Transition Metal Carbonyl Anions. The Course of the I. Reduction of Chromium Hexacarbonyl<sup>1</sup>

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Abstract: In order to reveal the chemical and physical properties of group VI transition metal carbonyl anions, a study of the chromium hexacarbonyl reduction has been undertaken. Chromium hexacarbonyl was reduced in tetrahydrofuran and hexamethylphosphoramide with sodium, potassium, and cesium amalgam, phenanthrenesodium, and trimesitylboron sodium. An extensive comparison of infrared spectra suggests the formation of  $[Cr_2(CO)_{10}]^{2-}$ ,  $[Cr(CO)_5]^{2-}$ ,  $[Cr(CO)_5HMPT]^{2-}$ , and  $[Cr_2(CO)_6]^{4-}$  ions. The conditions for isolation and purification of the ions are discussed.

The carbonylmetallate ions of group VI<sup>2</sup> transition I metal elements and their organometallic derivatives are potentially useful in the synthesis of metal-metal and metal-metalloid bonds.<sup>3</sup> With a combination of suitable ligands these materials are intriguing starting points toward the synthesis of catenated transition metal compounds, or "synthetic metals" as they might be called. These, in turn, offer the possibility of studying solid-state physical and chemical properties such as magnetic behavior and heterogeneous catalysis.

In other instances, the carbonylmetallate ions may be valuable in the preparation of organometallic compounds. Such a case in particular has been the eminently successful role of these ions in the synthesis of cyclobutadiene-metal carbonyl complexes.<sup>4</sup>

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From another aspect the anions are of interest because they are isoelectronic with known metal carbonyls. For example,  $[Cr_2(CO)_{10}]^{2-5}$  is isoelectronic with Mn<sub>2</sub>- $(CO)_{10}$ ;  $[Cr(CO)_5]^{2-}$  is related to the unstable species  $Mn(CO)_5$  and to the known  $Fe(CO)_5$  molecule. Other ions such as  $[Cr_2(CO)_9]^{2-}$  and  $[Re_2(CO)_9]^{-6,7}$  are related and  $[Cr_2(CO)_9]^{4-}$  is isoelectronic with  $Fe_2(CO)_9$ .

Behrens and his coworkers<sup>8-11</sup> have reported no less than five different carbonylmetallate ions of group VI from various synthetic routes. Some of these ions are  $[Cr(CO)_{5}]^{2-}, [Cr_{2}(CO)_{10}]^{2-}, [Mo_{2}(CO)_{9}]^{4-}, [Cr_{3}(CO)_{14}]^{2-},$ and  $[Cr_2H(CO)_{10}]^{-}$ .

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