

**Electronic supplementary material for:
What is the nature of bonding in $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3(\text{NO})]^-$ and $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4]^{2-}$?**

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Table S1 Energy Decomposition Analysis of $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-} \text{--} \text{CO}$ at SR-ZORA-BP86-D4/TZP and SR-ZORA-BHandHLYP/TZP level of theory; energy components are given in kcal/mol relative to the chosen fragments; ΔQ is Hirshfeld charge, transferred between fragments; $E = E_{\text{int}} + E_{\text{prep}}$.

		E_{Pauli}	E_{elst}	E_{orb}	E_{disp}	E_{int}	E_{prep}	E	ΔQ
BP86-D4	$[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-}$ -- CO	135.45	-108.00	-114.70	-3.00	-90.25	20.77	-69.48	0.46 ^a
BHandHLYP	$[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-}$ -- CO	109.36	-97.48	-92.39	--	-80.50	11.12	-69.38	0.45 ^a

^a charge is transferred from $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-}$ fragment to CO fragment

Table S2 Energy Decomposition Analysis of $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3\text{--NO}]^-$ for different fragmentation patterns, i), ii) and iii) at SR-ZORA-BP86-D4/TZP level of theory; energy components are given in kcal/mol relative to the chosen fragments; $E_{\text{rel}} = E_{\text{int}} + E_{\text{prep}}$ relative to the relaxed $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^-/\text{NO}$ pair; ΔQ is Hirshfeld charge, transferred between fragments.

		E_{Pauli}	E_{elst}	E_{orb}	E_{disp}	E_{int}	E_{prep}	E_{rel}	ΔQ
i)	$[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-} \text{--} \text{NO}^+$	126.23	-215.90	-356.01	-2.07	-447.74	57.14	-94.61	1.21 ^a
ii)	$^2[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^- \text{--} ^2\text{NO}$	172.73	-91.94	-124.72	-2.67	-46.59	17.69	-28.92	0.46 ^b
iii)	$^3[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^- \text{--} ^3\text{NO}^-$	196.67	-177.83	-94.16	-3.13	-78.46	5.6	-28.92	0.29 ^c

i) closed-shell singlet $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3\text{NO}]^-$ ii) and iii) open-shell singlet with “non-aufbau” occupation of KS-MOs $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3\text{--NO}]^-$

^a charge is transferred from $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-}$ fragment to NO^+ fragment

^b charge is transferred from $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^-$ fragment to NO fragment

^c charge is transferred from NO^- fragment to $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]$

Table S3 Energy Decomposition Analysis of $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3\text{-NO}]^-$ for different fragmentation patterns, i), ii) and iii) at SR-ZORA-BHandHLYP/TZP level of theory; energy components are given in kcal/mol relative to the chosen fragments; $E_{\text{rel}}=E_{\text{int}}+E_{\text{prep}}$ relative to the relaxed $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^-/\text{NO}$ pair; ΔQ is Hirshfeld charge, transferred between fragments.

		E_{Pauli}	E_{elst}	E_{orb}	E_{int}	E_{prep}	E_{rel}	ΔQ
i)	$[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-}\text{-NO}^+$	92.11	-204.08	-333.58	-445.45	61.54	-31.54	1.29 ^a
ii)	$^2[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^- \text{-} ^2\text{NO}$	158.09	-86.58	-161.75	-90.24	40.65	-49.55	0.52 ^b
iii)	$^3[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^- \text{-} ^3\text{NO}^-$	188.12	-172.09	-98.52	-82.50	9.1	-49.55	0.23 ^c

i) closed-shell singlet $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3\text{NO}]^-$ ii) and iii) open-shell singlet $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3\text{-NO}]^-$

^a charge is transferred from $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^{2-}$ fragment to NO^+ fragment

^b charge is transferred from $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]^-$ fragment to NO fragment

^c charge is transferred from NO^- fragment to $[\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3]$