

## Metal Complexes with Mixed Ligands

### 4. The Crystal Structure of Tetrakisimidazole Cu(II) Sulphate, $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{SO}_4$

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The crystal structure of  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{SO}_4$  has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray diffraction data. The crystals are monoclinic, space group  $C2/c$ , with cell dimensions and corresponding standard deviations (at 25°C).  $a = 9.224 \pm 0.001$  Å,  $b = 17.626 \pm 0.001$  Å,  $c = 10.552 \pm 0.001$  Å and  $\beta = 93.473 \pm 0.004^\circ$ . There are four formula units per unit cell. The intensities were collected and measured using the linear diffractometer PAILRED with  $\text{MoK}\alpha$ -radiation. With anisotropic thermal parameters the structure was refined to a conventional  $R$ -value = 0.050. The coordination around copper is a distorted octahedron and the ligand atoms are four imidazole nitrogens and two sulphate oxygens.  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4^{2+}$  ions are linked together by  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  ions, forming symmetry-related chains and these chains form layer parallel to the  $a-c$  plane. The bond distances are  $\text{Cu}-\text{N}$ , 2.000 Å and 2.021 Å and  $\text{Cu}-\text{O}$ , 2.574 Å. Short interatomic contacts between sulphate oxygens and imidazole nitrogens conform to reasonable hydrogen-bond lengths (2.707, 3.020, 3.153 Å).

In continuation of the studies of metal-imidazole complexes in this department crystalline Cu(II)-imidazole complexes with sulphate as anion have been prepared. Since the coordination around copper is different when the anion is chloride<sup>1</sup> compared with perchlorate<sup>2</sup> we became interested in investigating crystalline Cu(II)-imidazole complexes with a bivalent anion such as  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ . So far two crystalline complexes containing sulphate have been obtained. One of these is a hydrate having the formula  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_3\text{SO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (under investigation) and the other is  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{SO}_4$  which is the subject of the present publication.

## EXPERIMENTAL

*Crystal preparation.* In a typical preparation of the crystals, 40 ml of a 1 M  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2$  solution were added to 10 ml of a solution which was 1 M with respect to  $\text{CuSO}_4$ . The dark violet crystals in the shape of well defined rectangular prisms were obtained by slow evaporation of this solution at room-temperature.

*Analysis.* The copper content of the crystals was determined by titration with EDTA.<sup>3</sup> The found weight % was 14.3 compared with the calculated value 14.7. The content of N in C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub> was determined using the Kjeldahl method.<sup>4</sup> The found weight % was 25.7 compared with the calculated value 26.0. The absence of H<sub>2</sub>O was confirmed with the aid of IR-spectra.<sup>5</sup> The sulphate was taken as the difference.

*Unit cell data and space group.* From rotation photographs around [100], [010], and [001] and the corresponding Weissenberg photographs (zero, first and second layer) taken with CuK $\alpha$ -radiation, it was concluded that the crystals are monoclinic. The cell dimensions and the angles were refined from a Guinier photograph using Pb(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> as an internal standard. The refinement was based on 90 lines, and the following parameters and their standard deviations were obtained:  $a = 9.224 \pm 0.001$  Å;  $b = 17.626 \pm 0.001$  Å;  $c = 10.552 \pm 0.001$  Å;  $\beta = 93.473 \pm 0.004^\circ$  and  $V = 1712.42$  Å<sup>3</sup>. By the flotation method, using bromoform and xylene, the density of the crystals was determined to be 1.67 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. With four formula units Cu(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in the unit cell the calculated density is 1.68 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Systematic extinctions for  $hkl$  when  $h+k$  is odd and for  $h0l$  when  $l$  is odd indicate the space group C2/c or Cc.<sup>6</sup> The two space groups only differ in centrosymmetry.

*The intensity material.* 2026 independent reflections were collected and measured using an automatic linear diffractometer (PAILRED), with LiF-monochromator. The radiation used was MoK $\alpha$ . The integrated reflections were corrected for background in the usual way.<sup>2</sup> Reflections with a relative statistical error ( $\Delta I/I$ ) greater than 0.5 were omitted and this reduction resulted in a remaining data set of 1459 observed reflections. There could be about 1850 independent reflections in the sphere of reflection for CuK $\alpha$ -radiation in this case. As a final check when the refinement was completed the structure factors of the omitted reflections were calculated. The check confirmed that all these omitted reflections had structure factors lower than or close to the threshold value.

The intensity material was first corrected for Lorentz and polarization factors but not for absorption. The crystal size was 0.024 × 0.016 × 0.012 cm and the absorption correction was applied just before the refinement was fully completed. The linear absorption coefficient was calculated to be 14.80 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The difference in the transmission factors were up to 9 % but there were negligible differences in the parameters when comparing the refinements before and after the absorption correction.

The computer programs used were the same as those reported earlier.<sup>1</sup>

## STRUCTURE DETERMINATION AND REFINEMENT

The structure determination followed the usual routines of the heavy atom method with a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis and subsequent Fourier synthesis. There were no difficulties in finding the positions of the copper, sulphur, and oxygen atoms from the Patterson synthesis and the positions of the nitrogen and carbon atoms from the Fourier synthesis. However, to distinguish N2 from C2 and N4 from C5 all four atoms were refined as carbons and then the atoms with the lower temperature factors were labelled nitrogen. The positions of the nitrogens also seem to be in agreement with the hydrogen-bond distance to the sulphate oxygen atoms. By using the full-matrix-least-squares-method, the isotropic type of refinement of the various atomic parameters gave an  $R$ -value of 0.132. At this stage the intensity material was reduced for the ratio  $F_o/F_c$  within the limits  $0.50 \leq F_o/F_c \leq 2.00$ . The relative weighting factor used was that proposed by Cruickshank *et al.*  $w = 1/(a + |F_o| + c|F_o|^2 + d|F_o|^3)$  with  $a = 30$ ,  $c = 0.001$ , and  $d = 0$ .

The refinement was then completed by introducing anisotropic temperature factors with the same restriction of the ratio  $F_o/F_c$ . This reduced the  $R$  to a final value of 0.050, and there were only 17 reflections outside the limits,

$0.50 \leq F_o/F_c \leq 2.00$ . All of these reflections had low values of the structure factors.

Using the refined parameters a difference Fourier synthesis was calculated and the highest peak had a value of  $0.66 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^3$ . Some peaks occurring could be located to hydrogen positions but others not and no attempt was made to refine the hydrogen parameters. All parameter shifts in the final cycle were less than 10 % of the standard deviations. Atomic scattering factors for  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , S, O, N, and C were used,<sup>7</sup> where account was taken of the real part of the dispersion correction for  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and S. The final atomic coordinates and vibrational parameters are given in Table 1. A comparison between observed

Table 1. The atomic positional fractional coordinates, the anisotropic thermal parameters and their estimated standard deviations in parenthesis. All values are multiplied by  $10^4$ . Anisotropic temperature factors have been calculated according to the formula  $\exp[-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + hk\beta_{12} + hl\beta_{13} + kl\beta_{23})]$

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$\beta_{11}$	$\beta_{22}$	$\beta_{33}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$	$\beta_{23}$
Cu	2500(0)	2500(0)	500(0)	96 (1)	20(0)	80(1)	9(1)	76 (1)	22(1)
S	0(0)	1396(1)	2500(0)	58 (2)	14(0)	79(1)	—	17 (2)	—
O1	550(6)	906(3)	1522(4)	258 (9)	69(2)	154(5)	172(7)	-118(11)	-117(6)
O2	1182(5)	1838(2)	3084(4)	218 (8)	51(2)	126(4)	-148(6)	-5 (9)	-19(4)
N1	2835(4)	3344(2)	3784(3)	86 (5)	23(1)	72(3)	0(3)	36 (5)	10(3)
N2	3402(4)	4482(2)	3123(4)	124 (6)	24(1)	103(4)	-10(4)	45 (7)	28(3)
C1	3624(5)	3961(2)	4034(4)	103 (7)	27(1)	89(4)	-16(4)	23 (8)	18(4)
C2	2427(6)	4188(3)	2235(5)	159 (9)	28(2)	95(5)	9(5)	7(10)	22(4)
C3	2079(5)	3477(2)	2643(4)	117 (7)	27(1)	77(4)	4(4)	20 (7)	6(4)
N3	4314(4)	1956(2)	4515(3)	106 (5)	26(1)	74(3)	12(4)	52 (6)	9(3)
N4	6425(5)	1707(3)	3734(5)	98 (7)	52(2)	145(6)	40(6)	30 (9)	-11(6)
C4	5475(6)	2240(3)	4049(6)	87 (8)	43(2)	17(8)	7(6)	87(11)	-3(7)
C5	5805(8)	1028(4)	4002(6)	185(11)	50(2)	116(6)	90(8)	97(12)	23(6)
C6	4511(7)	1182(3)	4481(6)	220(11)	51(2)	129(6)	59(7)	163(13)	21(5)

and calculated structure factors is given in Table 3. The reflections which are out of the range  $0.50 \leq F_o/F_c \leq 2.00$  are marked with an asterisk. The acentric space group  $Cc$  was ruled out because the refinement in the centrosymmetric space group gave on the one hand somewhat better  $R$ -values and on the other more probable temperature factors for the oxygen and nitrogen atoms. Furthermore, refinement in the acentric space group gave very high correlation coefficients (of the order of  $\pm 0.9$ ) between the positional parameters of atoms which could be symmetry related. This was also a strong indication of centrosymmetry.<sup>8</sup>

#### DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION OF THE STRUCTURE

The coordination around the copper atoms is a distorted octahedron with the two apical bonds to the oxygens in the sulfate groups a little longer than the four equatorial bonds to the nitrogens in the imidazole rings. The configuration around copper is shown in Fig. 1.

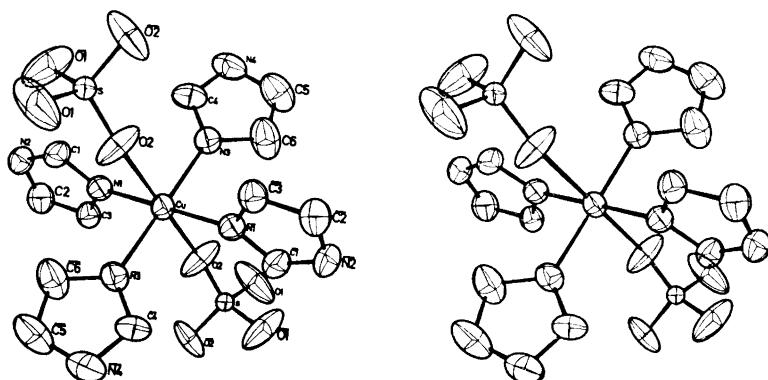


Fig. 1. Stereoscopic diagram (viewed along the negative direction of the *c*-axis) of the Cu-coordination. Thermal ellipsoids are scaled to enclose 50 % probability.

The arrangement of the imidazole rings around copper gives rise to  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4^{2+}$  ions which are linked together by  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  ions, forming symmetry related chains directed along the *a*–*c* diagonal. The chains are held together through hydrogen bonds and van der Waals forces forming layers parallel to the *a*–*c* plane. The layers repeat themselves for  $y = \frac{1}{4} + N \times \frac{1}{2}$  ( $N = \text{integer}$ ).

The layers are held together with hydrogen bonds between the nitrogen N2 to the oxygen O1 and the nitrogen N2 in a symmetry related ring to another oxygen O1. These two distances are equal to 2.707(6) Å. The packing of the structure is shown in Fig. 2.

*The coordination around copper.* The copper atom is lying in the center of symmetry and the ligand atoms around Cu form a distorted octahedron. Four nitrogen atoms from the imidazole rings (N1, N3, and the symmetry related N̄1 and N̄3) laying at the corners of a rather distorted square have the shortest bond distances. The calculated Cu–N distances are 2.000(5) Å

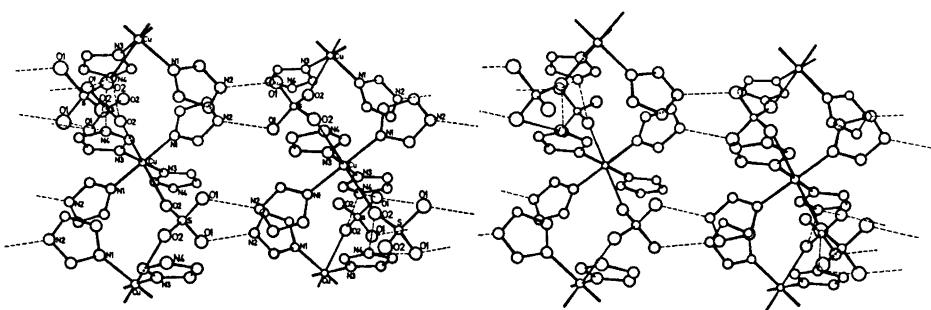


Fig. 2. Stereoscopic illustration of the molecular packing of  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{SO}_4$  (viewed along the *a*-axis).

(Cu—N1) and 2.021(5) Å (Cu—N3). Because of the symmetry the Cu atom lies in the same plane as the four N atoms and the sides of the squares are 2.883(5) Å and 2.803(5) Å. The angle between the coordination directions N1—Cu—N3 is 91.6(2)° and between N1—Cu—N1 it is 88.4(2)°. The oxygen atoms in the symmetry related sulphate groups lying on either side of the plane at a distance of 2.574(4) Å complete the distorted octahedron. The angles in the octahedron are O2—Cu—N1 = 85.2(2)° and O2—Cu—N3 = 86.9(2)°. In most structures with octahedral coordination around Cu(II) the octahedron is distorted due to the  $d^9$  configuration of Cu(II). The distortion is generally explained by the Jahn-Teller theorem.<sup>9</sup> The average copper-nitrogen bond length (2.011 Å) is in good agreement with many other determinations.<sup>2</sup> The calculated copper-oxygen distance (2.574 Å) is a little longer than the copper-sulphate oxygen distance 2.41 Å in CuSO<sub>4</sub>.5H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>10</sup> where the coordination around Cu(II) also forms an octahedron with two sulphate oxygens in the apical positions.

*The imidazole rings.* Two of the imidazole rings in the formula unit are unique and the other two are symmetry related. The interatomic distances and angles in the imidazole rings are listed in Table 2 and they are all within

Table 2. Bond lengths and bond angles in the imidazole rings. (Standard deviations for the last significant figure are shown in parentheses.)

	Bond length (Å)		Angle(°)
N1—C1	1.326 (6)	C1—N1—C3	106.1(4)
N1—C3	1.374 (6)	N1—C1—N2	111.2(4)
N2—C1	1.337 (6)	C1—N2—C3	107.4(4)
N2—C2	1.362 (7)	N2—C2—C3	106.8(5)
C2—C3	1.370 (7)	C2—C3—N1	108.4(4)
N3—C4	1.305 (7)	C4—N3—C6	104.9(5)
N3—C6	1.377 (6)	N3—C4—N4	112.9(5)
N4—C4	1.340 (8)	C4—N4—C6	106.0(5)
N4—C5	1.365 (8)	N4—C5—C6	106.9(6)
C5—C6	1.352(10)	C5—C6—N3	109.3(6)

the range of 1.305 Å – 1.377 Å and 104.9° – 112.9°. These interatomic distances and angles in the imidazole rings are about the same as found in other structure determinations.<sup>2</sup> Two planes based on the positions of the carbon and nitrogen atoms in the imidazole rings were calculated by a method described by Blow.<sup>11</sup> The equations for the planes are: 1st ring  $0.7822x - 0.3879y - 0.4875z - 2.3691 = 0$ , and 2nd ring  $-0.3868x - 0.0324y - 0.9216z - 5.9172 = 0$ . The maximum atomic positional deviations from the planes are for the first imidazole ring 0.004 Å and for the second imidazole ring 0.006 Å. The distance from the copper atom to the first plane is 0.354 Å and to the second plane 0.153 Å.

*The sulphate group.* In the sulphate group there are two unique and two symmetry related oxygen atoms. The arrangement around sulphur is a some-



Table 1. Continued.

	K L	K L	K L	K L	K L	K L	K L	K L	
H# 5	1 5 94	8 2 273	10 5 243	2 5 243	9 5 6 86	4 11 12	6 7 14	88	
11 9	152 146	1 3 935	10 -2 540	2 7 256	9 5 225	2 1 12	77 55	66	
11 10	152 126	1 2 97	10 -1 68	2 8 82	6 1 9	150 153	8 4	178 174	
9 11	144 144	1 -3 725	10 -2 570	2 10 111	9 2 192	1 7 135	8 2	151 151	
9 9	132 115	1 -4 65	65	2 10 73	1 135	6 7 135	6 1	243 353	
9 5	229 159	1 -5 97	99	10 4 154	9 1 225	6 2 129	8 0	394 350	
9 4	256 271	1 -7 350	341	10 8 88	1 135	6 8 192	8 -1	324 313	
9 3	619 599	1 -8 140	130	10 10 115	1 9 95	1 3 239	8 -2	311 304	
9 2	377 359	1 -9 358	368	10 11 92	1 9 96	1 4 246	8 -3	236 238	
9 0	132 115	1 -11 41	10 12 145	10 14 141	2 0 95	1 4 247	8 -4	177 166	
9 -1	872 864	1 -13 186	170	8 9 81	0 -6 448	1 5 115	8 -5	141 128	
9 -1	71 79	H# 6	8 7 153	10 8 82	0 -8 72	9 7 429	1 6 -147	123 135	
9 -5	601 597	8 9 147	8 10 346	2 0 10 231	2 3 4	9 9 118	8 -12	395 527	
9 -5	601 597	8 9 197	10 12 103	8 1 103	9 1 170	1 9 209	8 -13	640 625	
H# 6	171	22 0 218	222	8 4 106	10 3	9 10 83	8 -11	260 274	
9 -8	95 95	20 -6 159	159	8 3 77	8 1 103	9 11 213	8 -12	220 227	
9 -9	442 409	20 0 3	16	2 0 205	2 0 209	8 1 129	8 -13	129 129	
9 -11	121 119	20 -2 257	263	8 1 231	2 1 3 163	9 -10 76	8 -11	201 165	
7 -12	89 65	20 0 137	124	8 4 290	2 1 2 116	7 1 136	8 -12	220 237	
7 -12	305 287	20 1 88	90	8 -1 289	3 1 177	7 -1 11	8 -13	195 195	
7 -9	109 109	20 -2 266	266	8 -1 289	3 1 177	7 -1 11	8 -13	195 195	
7 -8	178 178	20 2 158	158	8 -3 94	129	7 -7 319	8 -14	207 232	
7 -7	203 209	20 4 103	97	8 -4 65	71	7 -5 178	8 -15	149 111	
7 -7	746 746	20 6 235	235	8 -6 470	480	7 -6 303	8 -16	651 611	
7 -4	209 197	20 7 146	146	8 -7 124	146	7 -7 139	8 -17	130 199	
7 -3	695 700	10 8 140	135	8 -10 301	372	7 -8 2 111	8 -18	205 205	
7 -2	249 295	10 8 -2 235	235	8 -12 138	128	7 -9 5 89	8 -19	180 193	
7 -1	208 221	10 8 -2 232	232	6 -1 266	269	7 -10 5 180	8 -20	200 198	
7 -2	241 239	10 8 -2 232	232	6 -1 266	272	7 -11 5 181	8 -21	212 214	
7 -2	241 239	10 -6 93	130	6 -3 380	384	7 -12 5 181	8 -22	113 93	
7 -3	4 466 461	10 -7 110	110	6 -7 110	106	7 -13 5 181	8 -23	212 214	
7 -4	466 461	10 -8 130	130	6 -8 117	107	7 -14 5 181	8 -24	212 214	
7 -6	623 623	10 -9 130	130	6 -9 105	410	7 -15 5 181	8 -25	212 214	
7 -6	319 325	16 -4 154	179	6 -6 673	647	7 -16 5 184	8 -26	197 175	
7 -7	221 221	16 -5 152	152	6 -5 316	311	7 -17 5 184	8 -27	254 308	
7 -8	120 125	16 -6 152	152	6 -6 152	152	7 -18 5 184	8 -28	131 132	
7 -9	118 118	16 -7 200	195	6 -7 158	171	7 -19 5 185	8 -29	131 135	
7 -10	89 91	16 0 180	180	6 -8 701	710	7 -20 5 185	8 -30	173 173	
5 -9	232 221	16 -8 211	221	6 -1 436	398	15 -5 229	8 -31	222 219	
5 -9	232 221	16 -9 211	221	6 -1 436	398	15 -5 229	8 -32	222 221	
5 -9	57 57	16 -10 186	186	6 -10 233	233	15 -6 233	8 -33	222 221	
5 -5	719 711	16 -3 90	101	6 -3 251	217	15 -1 209	8 -34	212 214	
5 -4	110 104	16 -4 106	106	6 -4 316	328	15 -1 209	8 -35	195 195	
5 -3	95 95	16 -5 146	145	6 -5 316	328	15 -1 209	8 -36	195 195	
5 -4	204 256	16 -6 146	146	6 -6 227	227	15 -1 209	8 -37	195 195	
5 -1	486 523	16 -7 77	53	8 -6 281	287	15 -1 209	8 -38	195 195	
5 -1	486 523	16 -8 77	53	8 -6 281	287	15 -1 209	8 -39	195 195	
5 -1	90 94	18 6 174	160	6 -9 121	118	15 -6 145	8 -40	195 195	
5 -2	256 271	18 7 174	177	33*	17 7 108	111	15 -7 192	8 -41	192 193
5 -3	1275 1275	18 7 252	242	6 -1 247	247	15 -8 192	8 -42	190 190	
5 -4	136 113	18 7 253	242	6 -1 247	247	15 -9 192	8 -43	130 136	
5 -5	218 218	18 7 177	186	4 -5 179	192	15 -10 192	8 -44	222 219	
5 -5	218 218	18 7 177	186	4 -5 179	192	15 -10 192	8 -45	222 219	
5 -7	609 633	18 7 198	198	6 -6 198	190	15 -11 193	8 -46	206 208	
5 -8	213 210	18 -4 186	186	6 -8 253	253	15 -12 193	8 -47	212 214	
5 -9	170 170	18 -4 240	240	6 -9 270	64	15 -13 193	8 -48	206 208	
5 -11	411 409	18 -4 240	240	6 -9 270	64	15 -13 193	8 -49	206 208	
5 -13	98 98	18 -6 272	272	4 -1 245	269	15 -14 194	8 -50	206 208	
3 -11	258 271	12 -11 105	84	-2 577	560	13 -4 217	8 -51	122 92	
3 -10	146 134	12 -10 105	84	-3 76	122	13 -5 217	8 -52	134 322	
3 -9	259 259	12 -10 105	84	-3 76	122	13 -5 217	8 -53	134 322	
3 -8	89 89	9 -7 -2 182	180	-4 -5 370	346	13 -9 242	8 -54	358 359	
3 -7	607 619	12 -6 198	198	-4 -6 198	190	13 -10 242	8 -55	358 359	
3 -4	248 271	12 -6 198	198	-4 -7 198	190	13 -11 242	8 -56	227 222	
3 -3	540 539	12 -6 540	526	-4 -8 -67	51	13 -12 242	8 -57	217 220	
3 -4	392 354	12 -7 408	422	-4 -12 247	231	11 -6 85	8 -58	314	
3 -3	412 412	12 0 416	416	-4 -12 247	231	11 -6 85	8 -59	206 208	
3 -1	368 368	12 0 416	416	-4 -12 247	231	11 -6 85	8 -60	206 208	
3 -1	555 559	12 1 416	416	-4 -12 247	231	11 -6 85	8 -61	206 208	
3 -3	0 253	12 3 96	61	-2 -8 165	153	11 -2 275	243	3 -1 493 500	
3 -1	1156 1147	12 -10 105	264	-2 -7 109	135	11 -3 275	290	3 -1 204 202	
3 -2	180 180	12 -10 105	264	-2 -7 109	135	11 -3 275	290	10 -3 229 228	
3 -4	288 264	12 -7 111	115	-4 -9 87	81	13 -9 370	367	12 -6 256 267	
3 -5	582 582	12 -8 174	186	-6 -2 524	537	11 -2 260	241	12 -7 116 119	
3 -6	186 181	12 -10 84	63	-2 -3 355	359	11 -3 250	253	12 -8 141 147	
3 -7	150 147	12 -10 84	63	-2 -3 355	359	11 -3 250	253	12 -9 134 137	
3 -8	208 234	10 -8 313	63	-2 -3 355	359	11 -3 250	253	12 -10 123 113	
3 -9	203 194	10 -6 555	572	-2 -4 295	365	9 9 159	162	3 10 164 97	
1 11	110 121	10 -5 194	201	2 4 295	365	9 9 159	162	8 8 131 147	

what distorted tetrahedron. The sulphur-oxygen distances are S-O1=1.460(5) Å and S-O2=1.448(5) Å and the angles are O1-S-O2=109.6(3)°; O1-S- $\bar{O}$ 2=107.6(3)°C; O1-S- $\bar{O}$ 1=107.5(4)° and O2-S- $\bar{O}$ 2=114.8(4)°.

The interatomic distances and angles in the sulphate group are in good agreement with those in a recent tabulation<sup>12</sup> except for the angle O2-S- $\bar{O}$ 2 which differs from the tetrahedral angle by 5.3°. This difference is probably due to the coordination of O2 and  $\bar{O}$ 2 to the copper atoms.

**Hydrogen bonds.** The interatomic distances in the layers between the nitrogen N4 and the oxygen O1 and between the same nitrogen N4 and the oxygen O2 are 3.153(7) Å and 3.020(6) Å, respectively. These distances indicate a bifurcated hydrogen bond holding the chains together. Between the layers the earlier mentioned hydrogen bonds (N2-H...O1) are stronger and have the distance 2.707(6) Å. These hydrogen bonds can cause the imidazole rings involved to bend towards the oxygen atoms and owing to that the copper

atom lies further out of the plane defined by the atoms in the mentioned imidazole ring than from the other plane. The hydrogen bond distances are all within the range given by International Tables.<sup>7</sup>

*Acknowledgements.* The authors thank Professor Nils Ingri for his interest and for the facilities placed at our disposal. This work forms part of a program supported by *Statens Naturvetenskapliga Forskningsråd*.

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Received May 3, 1972.