

métal du groupe IIa (Be, Mg ou Ca), et B, un métalloïde de la colonne V (N ou P). Ces composés possèdent une structure anti- α -Mn₂O₃, dont le paramètre varie avec la grosseur de chacun des types d'atome en présence, la distorsion de la structure étant principalement due à la différence d'électroaffinité entre A et B.

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The Crystal Structure of Monomethylammonium Perchlorate*

BY P.F. ZANAZZI

Istituto di Mineralogia dell'Università di Perugia, Italy

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The crystal structure of monomethylammonium perchlorate, $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3^+\text{ClO}_4^-$ has been determined by a three-dimensional X-ray analysis. The space group is $P2_1/n$ and the cell dimensions are: $a_0=10.59$, $b_0=7.67$, $c_0=12.87 \text{ \AA}$, $\beta=101^\circ 26'$; there are two molecules per asymmetric unit. The structure has been solved by the heavy-atom technique and refined by least-squares methods. The average Cl-O and N-C bond lengths are 1.43 and 1.52 \AA respectively. Each of the nitrogen atoms has six oxygen neighbours with distances varying from 2.86 to 3.14 \AA probably forming bifurcated hydrogen bonds. Each of the two independent CH_3NH_3^+ cations in the structure is surrounded by twelve oxygen atoms with distances less than 3.5 \AA .

Introduction

Little information is available in the literature on the crystal structure of monomethylammonium salts. Only two of these compounds, namely the tetragonal monomethylammonium chloride (Hughes & Lipscomb, 1946) and the monomethylammonium aluminium sulphate alum in the room temperature cubic phase (Okaya, Ahmed, Pepinsky & Vand, 1957) and in the low temperature orthorhombic phase (Fletcher & Steeple, 1964), have been examined by X-ray methods during the last twenty years.

In the chloride, the C-N axis of the cations lies on the fourfold symmetry axis; since this is physically im-

possible with normal valences, the cations must exhibit either internal rotation or orientation disorder in the crystal. In cubic monomethylammonium alum, the CH_3NH_3^+ ions are statistically arranged around the cube body diagonal. Therefore in both structures, the exact co-ordination around the methylammonium ion is not considered, the only determination being that in orthorhombic 'alum'.

The present crystal structure determination on monomethylammonium perchlorate was undertaken with the purpose of contributing towards a better knowledge of the crystallochemistry of the CH_3NH_3^+ ion.

Experimental

Crystals of monomethylammonium perchlorate, prepared by neutralization of an alcoholic solution of methylamine with an aqueous solution of perchloric acid, were kindly supplied by Dr Marzocchi of the

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Laboratorio di Spettroscopia Molecolare of Florence University. The crystals, grown from alcoholic solution, are colourless needles elongated in the [010] direction, stable in air and in the X-ray beam.

The cell parameters determined from Weissenberg and rotation photographs were refined by a least-squares method, employing data from a powder diffractogram. The results are:

$$a_0 = 10.59 \pm 0.01, \quad b_0 = 7.67 \pm 0.01, \\ c_0 = 12.87 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}, \quad \beta = 101^\circ 26' \pm 15'.$$

From the systematically absent reflexions the space group was determined as $P2_1/n$ (C_{2h}^5). For eight unit $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3^+\text{ClO}_4^-$ in the cell the calculated density is $D_x = 1.71 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$, in agreement with the observed value of 1.69 g.cm^{-3} measured by flotation in a mixture of methylene iodide and carbon tetrachloride. The linear absorption coefficient for the $\text{Cu } K\alpha$ wave-length is $\mu = 60.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

For the collection of the intensities a crystal of prismatic shape with a cross section of $0.13 \times 0.06 \text{ mm}^2$ was used. The crystal was rotated about the b axis and equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs from $h0l$ to $h4l$ layers were taken with the use of Ni-filtered $\text{Cu } K\alpha$ radiation and the multiple film technique. In each layer, reflexions at high Bragg angles were too weak to be measured and were neglected. Of the 885 independent reflexions examined, 381 were in the observable range. Unidimensionally integrated intensities were measured with a microdensitometer and were roughly brought to a common relative scale on the basis of the exposure time of different layers. On account of the small cross section of the specimen, a sufficiently accurate correction was made for absorption by assuming the crystal to be a cylinder with a radius of 0.05 mm. Phillips's (1954) corrections for spot elongation and Lorentz-polarization factors to obtain the F^2 's were applied.

Determination and refinement of the structure

A three-dimensional Patterson synthesis was first calculated. The $(\frac{1}{2}, v, \frac{1}{2})$ Harker line showed only a relevant peak, and this allowed the assignment of the same y coordinate to the two independent chlorine atoms in the structure. The sets of x and z coordinates obtained from the $(u, \frac{1}{2}, w)$ Harker plane were then correctly correlated with the positions of the peaks due to the Cl(1)-Cl(2) vectors. The approximate coordinates of remaining non-hydrogen atoms were found from a three-dimensional 'heavy-atom' Fourier synthesis calculated without the coefficients whose signs had a low probability of being correct. The atomic coordinates were improved by a second electron density map and the discrepancy index $R = \sum ||F_o - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ for all the observed structure factors was at this stage 0.20.

A first refinement of the structure was performed with a least-squares program written by Albano, Bellon, Pompa & Scatturin (1963) for the IBM 1620 computer, using the block diagonal approximation and

individual isotropic thermal parameters. The weighting scheme suggested by Cruickshank (1961), $\sqrt{w} = 1/(a + F_o + cF_o^2)$ with $a \approx 2F_{\min}$ and $c \approx 2/F_{\max}$, was employed for the structure factors and the unobserved reflexions were not included in the calculations. After three cycles the R index dropped to 0.14. At this stage the full-matrix least-squares refinement was undertaken with the program of Busing & Levy, adapted for the IBM 7090 computer by Stewart (1964). For the observed planes a weighting scheme like that specified by Hughes (1941) was used, with $\sqrt{w} = 1$ for reflexions with $F_o \leq 4F_{\min}$; $\sqrt{w} = 4F_{\min}/F_o$ for $F_o > 4F_{\min}$. To provide additional data in this new series of calculations the 'accidentally absent' reflexions were included with a value just below the lowest intensity observed in that part of the spectrum. These reflexions were weighted as follows: $\sqrt{w} = 1$ for reflexions with $F_o > F_{\min}$, and $\sqrt{w} = 0$ when $F_o \leq F_{\min}$. Ten intense low order reflexions suspected to be affected by secondary extinction were excluded from the last cycle of refinement; they are marked by an E in Table 1. After one isotropic and three anisotropic cycles, each followed by a proper rescaling of F_o 's, the R index for all observed structure factors reached the final value of 0.09.

The observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 1. For the calculations the scattering factor values from the self-consistent model as listed in *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962) for Cl, O, N and C were used.

Discussion of the structure

The atomic coordinates and anisotropic temperature factors, as from the last cycle of refinement, are given in Tables 2 and 3 with their standard deviations, estimated by the least-squares program using the formula:

$$\sigma_j = \sqrt{\frac{a^{jj} \sum w \Delta F^2}{m-n}},$$

where m is the number of reflexions, n is the number of parameters and a^{jj} is the jj element of the inverse matrix.

The high values reached by the temperature factors should indicate that in the structure the thermal motion is relevant and this fact may be responsible for the weakness of the diffraction effects at high Bragg angles.

The atomic arrangement projected along the b axis is shown in Fig. 1. The lists of bond lengths and bond angles with their standard deviations are included in Tables 4 and 5.

Both ClO_4^- tetrahedra in the structure are slightly distorted. The O-Cl-O angles range from 105 to 112° . The average Cl-O distances are 1.44 and 1.42 \AA respectively for Cl(1) and Cl(2) tetrahedra. These values are in agreement with those reported in the literature for Cl-O distances in perchlorates (Truter, Cruickshank & Jeffrey, 1960; Truter, 1961; Coulter, Gantzel & McCullough, 1963).

Table 1. Observed and calculated structure factors ($\times 10$) for $[\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3]^+\text{ClO}_4^-$

Unobserved reflexions were assigned F_{obs} values corresponding to the minimum possible observable value and are designated with an asterisk. E signifies apparent extinction effect on F^2_{obs} .

H	K	L	FC	FC	H	K	L	FC	FC	H	K	L	FC	FC	H	K	L	FC	FC	H	K	L	FC	FC
0	0	2	79	-113	10	0	-4	145*	168	5	1	6	133*	-23	1	2	7	112*	64	6	2	-11	135*	-25
		1282	-1395			6	4	114*	23			-6	147*	7	-120	-1	117*	-168	7	2	0	123*	217	
		650	-535			6	5	35	26			-7	164*	143	-8	122*	-83			-1	123*	142		
		869	376			10	10	-10	163	-146			-8	143*	47	9	159	-148			-1	123*	40	
		1359	-121			12	145*	-60	94	52			-8	131*	47	6	10	402	-20			-2	123*	19
		145*	-4			1	11	0	-12	9			-9	129*	47	6	10	136*	47			-1	123*	19
		873	968			11	0	-1	136*	149			-9	268	-261	-10	134*	1			3	209	-193	
		659	77			3	1	-1	136*	47			-10	138*	13	-11	277	-302			-3	123	46	
		230	207			3	2	-1	136*	149			-11	142*	-12	-12	122*	217			4	352	-360	
		283	-183			5	5	-1	136*	47			-12	132*	13	-13	135*	-77			5	314*	-313	
		525	-525			7	7	-1	126*	39			-11	144*	75	-12	135*	14			6	29	-29	
		316	-373			7	9	-1	112*	0	6	1	-11	144*	75	-13	122*	58			9	164*	-136	
		197*	13			7	11	-1	116	-104			-1	116*	-15	-10	183	214			-6	137*	135	
		287	287			9	2	-1	121	21			-1	114*	47	-2	2	402	172			5	10	164*
		864	864			9	12	0	-1	110*	8		-2	266	89	-1	109	106			6	136*	147	
		535	599			11	1	-1	136*	149			-2	140	-122	-1	169	179			7	160*	-38	
		144*	-6			11	1	0	-1	136*	47		-3	120	109	-2	717	-58			4	413	-46	
		134*	-1			13	1	-1	136*	149			-4	109	-12	-12	123*	42			7	336	-335	
		303	-433			13	2	-1	955*	1357			-5	118*	70	-1	701	747			8	520	-495	
		94*	-109			15	4	-1	352	390			-6	136*	91	-3	91	93			9	164*	-136	
		105*	-6			15	10	-1	140	-131			-5	136*	47	-4	485	-92			8	2	111*	
		106*	-6			15	10	-1	140	-57			-4	109*	74	-8	0	133*	-46			4	554	-507
		152*	152			16	6	-1	129	131			-5	129*	77	-6	236	242			2	132*	131	
		1572*	-719			17	7	-1	125	241			-6	125*	96	-5	192	188			3	137*	135	
		181	171			18	8	-1	120*	120			-6	125*	16	-6	108*	147			6	136*	147	
		307	-307			19	9	-1	120*	120			-7	143*	88	-6	99	147			7	145*	89	
		98	36			20	10	-1	120*	120			-8	143*	88	-7	137*	132			8	145*	85	
		829	240			21	11	-1	141	177			-7	162	669	-8	186	-187			3	2	230	
		118*	-108			22	7	-1	141	169			-8	140*	19	-8	247	-209			4	2	118*	
		315	300			23	8	-1	140	156			-9	140*	63	-9	118*	104			5	355	305	
		136*	74			24	9	-1	140	-189			-10	124*	236	-9	234	-258			6	204	189	
		12	139*	-112		25	10	-1	140	-189			-11	143*	9	-10	137*	196			7	183	-215	
		145*	77			26	11	-1	140*	-133			-12	143*	9	-10	134*	-53			8	140*	167	
		145*	77			27	12	-1	140*	-133			-13	143*	9	-10	134*	-53			9	164*	100	
		14*	128*			28	13	-1	140*	-133			-14	143*	9	-10	134*	-53			10	164*	100	
		642	474			29	14	-1	140*	-133			-15	143*	9	-10	134*	-53			11	164*	100	
		709	679			30	15	-1	140*	-133			-16	143*	9	-10	134*	-53			12	164*	100	
		88*	88*			31	16	-1	140*	-133			-17	143*	9	-10	134*	-53			13	164*	100	
		106*	173			32	17	-1	140*	-133			-18	143*	9	-10	134*	-53			14	164*	100	
		106*	108			33	18	-1	181	181			-19	139*	113	-1	647	-696			15	164*	111	
		150*	150			34	19	-1	233	237			-20	127*	97	-2	362	-331			16	164*	111	
		14*	164			35	20	-1	140	-189			-21	140*	98	-9	245	-236			17	164*	111	
		14*	178			36	21	-1	140*	-133			-22	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			18	164*	111	
		14*	178			37	22	-1	140*	-133			-23	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			19	164*	111	
		14*	178			38	23	-1	140*	-133			-24	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			20	164*	111	
		14*	178			39	24	-1	140*	-133			-25	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			21	164*	111	
		14*	178			40	25	-1	140*	-133			-26	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			22	164*	111	
		14*	178			41	26	-1	140*	-133			-27	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			23	164*	111	
		14*	178			42	27	-1	140*	-133			-28	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			24	164*	111	
		14*	178			43	28	-1	140*	-133			-29	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			25	164*	111	
		14*	178			44	29	-1	140*	-133			-30	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			26	164*	111	
		14*	178			45	30	-1	140*	-133			-31	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			27	164*	111	
		14*	178			46	31	-1	140*	-133			-32	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			28	164*	111	
		14*	178			47	32	-1	140*	-133			-33	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			29	164*	111	
		14*	178			48	33	-1	140*	-133			-34	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			30	164*	111	
		14*	178			49	34	-1	140*	-133			-35	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			31	164*	111	
		14*	178			50	35	-1	140*	-133			-36	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			32	164*	111	
		14*	178			51	36	-1	140*	-133			-37	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			33	164*	111	
		14*	178			52	37	-1	140*	-133			-38	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			34	164*	111	
		14*	178			53	38	-1	140*	-133			-39	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			35	164*	111	
		14*	178			54	39	-1	140*	-133			-40	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			36	164*	111	
		14*	178			55	40	-1	140*	-133			-41	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			37	164*	111	
		14*	178			56	41	-1	140*	-133			-42	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			38	164*	111	
		14*	178			57	42	-1	140*	-133			-43	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			39	164*	111	
		14*	178			58	43	-1	140*	-133			-44	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			40	164*	111	
		14*	178			59	44	-1	140*	-133			-45	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			41	164*	111	
		14*	178			60	45	-1	140*	-133			-46	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			42	164*	111	
		14*	178			61	46	-1	140*	-133			-47	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			43	164*	111	
		14*	178			62	47	-1	140*	-133			-48	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			44	164*	111	
		14*	178			63	48	-1	140*	-133			-49	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			45	164*	111	
		14*	178			64	49	-1	140*	-133			-50	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			46	164*	111	
		14*	178			65	50	-1	140*	-133			-51	140*	98	-10	137*	-196			47	164*	111	

Table 2. Fractional atomic coordinates with their standard deviations

	x	$10^4\sigma(x)$	y	$10^4\sigma(y)$	z	$10^4\sigma(z)$
Cl(1)	0.3818	4	0.6895	8	0.1503	3
Cl(2)	0.5469	5	0.3037	9	0.3911	4
O(1)	0.3866	13	0.8086	21	0.2403	9
O(2)	0.3539	12	0.7916	21	0.0533	10
O(3)	0.2847	15	0.5603	19	0.1493	14
O(4)	0.5023	13	0.6110	18	0.1556	12
O(5)	0.5764	13	0.1911	20	0.4844	11
O(6)	0.4278	15	0.3859	20	0.3910	13
O(7)	0.5383	14	0.1864	23	0.3014	12
O(8)	0.6416	13	0.4265	22	0.3906	12
N(1)	0.1883	15	0.6663	23	0.3615	11
N(2)	0.8715	12	0.3280	29	0.1068	12
C(1)	0.1016	20	0.7075	38	0.4410	16
C(2)	0.7744	22	0.3547	38	0.1766	18

The two independent N-C distances in the methylammonium ions are 1.54 and 1.51 Å. These values are somewhat larger than the expected normal single-bond lengths between carbon and quaternary nitrogen atoms: 1.49, 1.50 and 1.51 Å in spermine phosphate (Itaya & Huse, 1965), 1.47 Å in tetramethylammonium perchlorate (McCullough, 1964), 1.47 Å in monomethylammonium chloride (Hughes & Lipscomb, 1946), 1.51 Å in monomethylammonium alum (Fletcher & Steeple, 1964); but the difference seems not to be significant considering their standard deviations.

The shortest distances among the nitrogen atoms of the methylammonium ions and oxygen atoms of ClO_4 tetrahedra are listed in Table 6. The directions of the N-H···O bonds cannot be deduced simply, but it

Table 3. Anisotropic thermal parameters

$$\exp [-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + 2hk\beta_{12} + 2hl\beta_{13} + 2kl\beta_{23})].$$

(σ) applies to the rightmost digit of the quantity in question.

	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Cl(1)	0.0063 (6)	0.0161 (16)	0.0058 (4)	0.0012 (8)	0.0002 (3)	-0.0010 (7)
Cl(2)	0.0060 (5)	0.0217 (16)	0.0050 (4)	0.0005 (9)	-0.0004 (3)	0.0006 (8)
O(1)	0.0131 (17)	0.0223 (45)	0.0047 (10)	-0.0007 (21)	-0.0006 (10)	-0.0030 (17)
O(2)	0.0130 (16)	0.0370 (48)	0.0028 (10)	-0.0004 (22)	0.0001 (10)	0.0053 (19)
O(3)	0.0124 (19)	0.0170 (44)	0.0117 (15)	-0.0043 (25)	-0.0012 (14)	-0.0015 (20)
O(4)	0.0098 (18)	0.0199 (43)	0.0103 (15)	0.0019 (19)	0.0009 (14)	-0.0039 (18)
O(5)	0.0102 (16)	0.0272 (40)	0.0083 (13)	0.0003 (21)	-0.0002 (11)	0.0025 (22)
O(6)	0.0093 (16)	0.0272 (49)	0.0154 (16)	0.0058 (22)	0.0011 (13)	0.0017 (22)
O(7)	0.0152 (19)	0.0330 (49)	0.0060 (14)	0.0027 (26)	0.0002 (13)	-0.0038 (25)
O(8)	0.0072 (19)	0.0467 (57)	0.0085 (13)	-0.0035 (27)	0.0000 (13)	-0.0001 (19)
N(1)	0.0117 (19)	0.0238 (50)	0.0031 (10)	-0.0025 (31)	0.0019 (10)	0.0030 (22)
N(2)	0.0058 (16)	0.0502 (56)	0.0055 (12)	-0.0052 (29)	-0.0001 (11)	-0.0008 (25)
C(1)	0.0085 (22)	0.0660 (88)	0.0058 (16)	0.0068 (36)	0.0006 (14)	-0.0060 (32)
C(2)	0.0106 (22)	0.0415 (77)	0.0110 (22)	0.0032 (36)	0.0065 (17)	0.0009 (30)

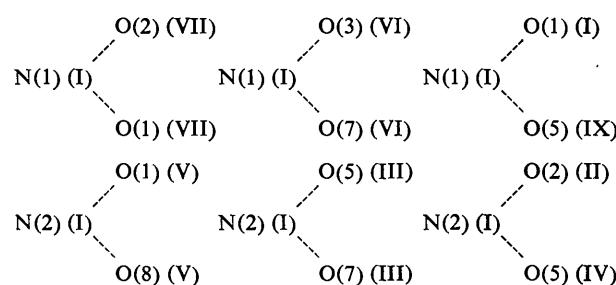
Table 4. Bond lengths with standard deviations

(I) x, y, z	(VI) $\frac{1}{2}-x, \frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$
(II) $1-x, 1-y, -z$	(VII) $\frac{1}{2}-x, y-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}-z$
(III) $\frac{3}{2}-x, \frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$	(VIII) $x-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}-y, \frac{1}{2}+z$
(IV) $\frac{1}{2}+x, \frac{1}{2}-y, -\frac{1}{2}+z$	(IX) $1-x, \frac{1}{2}-y, 1-z$
(V) $\frac{3}{2}-x, -\frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$	
Cl(1)(I) - O(1)(I)	1.47 ± 0.01 Å
- O(2)(I)	1.45 0.01
- O(3)(I)	1.43 0.02
- O(4)(I)	1.40 0.01
N(1)(I) - C(1)(I)	1.54 ± 0.02
Cl(2)(I) - O(5)(I)	1.46 ± 0.01 Å
- O(6)(I)	1.41 0.02
- O(7)(I)	1.45 0.02
- O(8)(I)	1.38 0.02
N(2)(I) - C(2)(I)	1.51 ± 0.02

Table 5. Bond angles in ClO_4 tetrahedra and their standard deviations

O(1) (I) - Cl(1) (I) - O(2) (I)	$108.2 \pm 0.9^\circ$
- O(3) (I)	110.5 0.8
- O(4) (I)	109.9 0.8
O(2) (I) - Cl(1) (I) - O(3) (I)	110.1 0.8
- O(4) (I)	107.6 0.8
O(3) (I) - Cl(1) (I) - O(4) (I)	110.5 0.9
O(5) (I) - Cl(2) (I) - O(6) (I)	108.1 ± 0.8
- O(7) (I)	104.9 0.9
- O(8) (I)	111.8 0.8
O(6) (I) - Cl(2) (I) - O(7) (I)	111.2 0.9
- O(8) (I)	110.3 1.0
O(7) (I) - Cl(2) (I) - O(8) (I)	110.6 0.9

seems likely from stereochemical considerations that there are bifurcated hydrogen bonds in the following manner:



The resultant system of hydrogen bonding is rather complex.

Table 6. N-O distances less than 3.5 Å

N(1) (I) - O(1) (I)	3.06 Å	N(2) (I) - O(1) (V)	2.91 Å
- O(1) (VII)	3.08	- O(2) (II)	2.97
- O(2) (VII)	3.14	- O(5) (IV)	2.93
- O(3) (VI)	3.04	- O(5) (III)	3.11
- O(5) (IX)	3.06	- O(7) (III)	3.07
- O(7) (VI)	2.86	- O(8) (V)	3.08
- O(3) (I)	3.20	- O(3) (II)	3.49
- O(6) (I)	3.29	- O(6) (IV)	3.38
- O(8) (IX)	3.41		

The interatomic distances less than 3.5 Å among methyl carbon atoms and the neighbours oxygen atoms are listed in Table 7. These distances appear to be normal, although C(1)(I) shows five contacts [with O(2)(VII), O(2)(VIII), O(8)(IX), O(7)(VI) and O(3)(VI)] and C(2)(I) two contacts [with O(2)(II) and O(7)(III)], which are slightly less than the sum of the van der Waals radii for a methyl group and oxygen, *i.e.* 3.4 Å. The environments of the two non-equivalent CH_3NH_3^+ ions are shown in Fig. 2. Each of them is surrounded by twelve oxygen atoms at distances less than 3.5 Å.

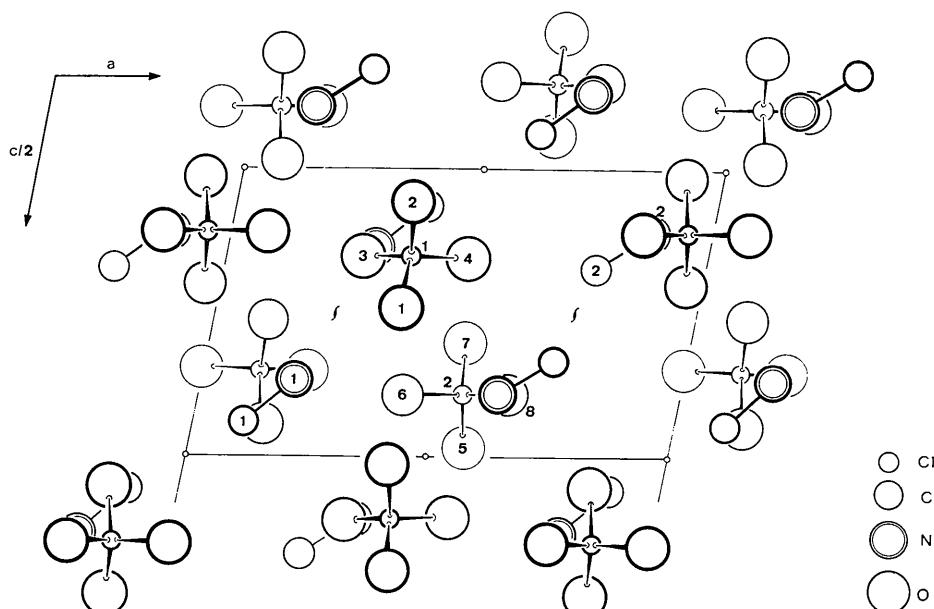


Fig. 1. Projection of the structure along the *b* axis.

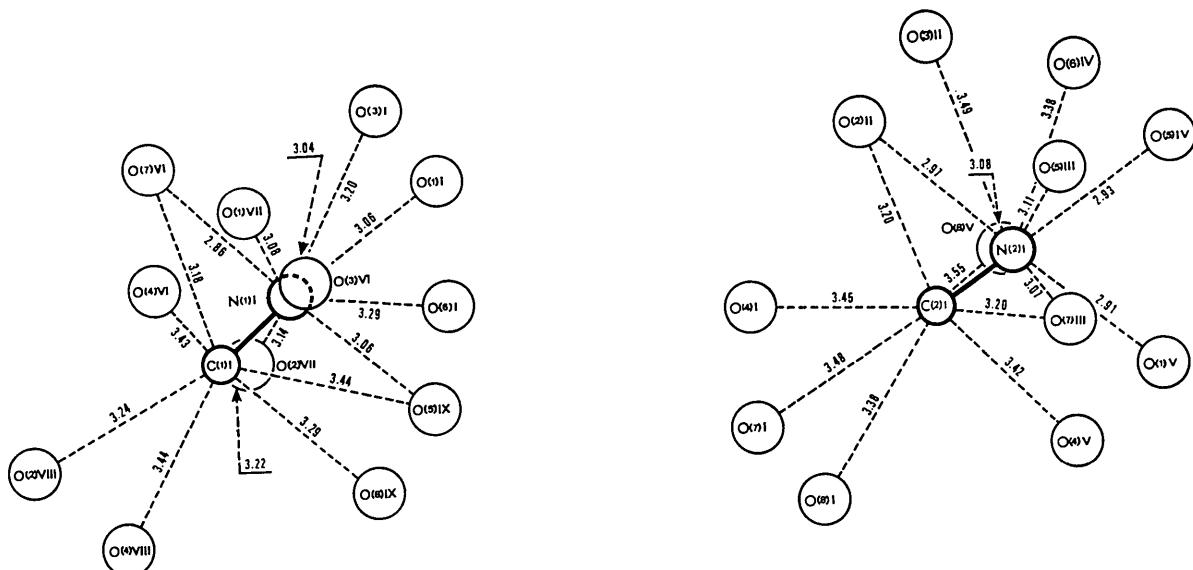


Fig. 2. The environments of the two non-equivalent $[\text{NH}_3\text{CH}_3]^+$ ions projected along the *b* axis. Distances in Å.

Table 7. Distances less than 3.5 Å between methyl carbon atoms and neighbouring atoms

C(1) (I) - O(2) (VII)	3.22 Å	C(2) (I) - O(2) (II)	3.20 Å
- O(2) (VIII)	3.24	- O(4) (V)	3.42
- O(3) (VI)	3.27	- O(4) (I)	3.45
- O(4) (VI)	3.43	- O(7) (III)	3.20
- O(4) (VIII)	3.44	- O(7) (I)	3.48
- O(5) (IX)	3.44	- O(8) (I)	3.38
- O(7) (VI)	3.18		
- O(8) (IX)	3.29		

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A New Method of Locating Heavy Atoms Bound to Protein Crystals

BY THOMAS A. STEITZ*

Department of Chemistry, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, U.S.A.

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It is shown that heavy atoms bound isomorphously to protein crystals can be located by using a direct method (Sayre's equation) to phase X-ray diffraction reflections in centrosymmetric projections. This method has been tested successfully with three derivatives of carboxypeptidase A, one of which contains four heavy atoms per protein molecule. Quite possibly several heavy atoms can be located in this manner with greater ease and assurance than by difference Patterson methods alone and thus the method may be especially useful in the X-ray study of proteins larger than 125,000 molecular weight, where binding of more than one or two heavy atoms will probably be both common and necessary.

Multiple isomorphous replacement phasing of X-ray diffraction data is the method which has proven most useful for determining protein structures. Its application requires the preparation of several isomorphous heavy atom derivatives of the native protein and the determination of the positions of these heavy atoms in the derivative crystals. The difference Patterson synthesis (Green, Ingram & Perutz, 1954), which is used to locate heavy atoms when no estimate of the protein phases is available, is quite adequate if only one or two heavy atoms are bound per asymmetric unit. However, by this method the location of larger numbers of heavy atoms becomes increasingly difficult.

It is shown here that a direct phase determination using Sayre's equation may be applied to reflections in centrosymmetric zones to locate heavy atoms bound isomorphously to protein crystals. The method has

been successfully tested with three heavy atom derivatives of carboxypeptidase A_α (CPA_α), one of which contains eight mercury atoms per unit cell (four per molecule), and hence may prove to be a useful and powerful alternative to the difference Patterson syntheses for locating large numbers of heavy atoms.

The method

Sayre's (1952) equation expresses a relationship between the signs (phases) of certain structure factors for centrosymmetric structures of non-overlapping atoms:

$$s(F_{\mathbf{h}}) = s \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (F_{\mathbf{k}} F_{\mathbf{h}-\mathbf{k}}),$$

where $s()$ means 'sign of' and $F_{\mathbf{h}}$, $F_{\mathbf{k}}$ and $F_{\mathbf{h}-\mathbf{k}}$ are the structure factors of reflections $\mathbf{h} = hkl$, \mathbf{k} , and $\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{k}$. Using this equation, and assuming the signs of a few structure factors, the signs of other structure factors can be predicted and these in turn can be used to pre-

* Present address: Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Hills Road, Cambridge, England.