# Neutron Diffraction Study of the Space Group and Structure of Manganese-Leonite, K<sub>2</sub>Mn(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O

BY S. SRIKANTA, A. SEQUEIRA AND R. CHIDAMBARAM Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Bombay, India

(Received 17 July 1967)

A total of 542 neutron reflexions – three-dimensional up to  $(\sin \theta)/\lambda \sim 0.40$  and in three zones, h0l, hk0and 0kl, up to  $(\sin \theta)/\lambda \sim 0.70$  – have been used to refine the structure of K<sub>2</sub>Mn(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O in the space group C2/m to an R value of 0.092. One of the two non-equivalent sulphate groups appears to be disordered. All the hydrogen atoms of the water molecules are involved in normal O-H---O hydrogen bonds. The water molecule H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>w</sub>(1) has a tetrahedral coordination; one of its lone pair orbitals is directed toward a potassium ion and the other toward a manganese ion. For the other two water molecules, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>w</sub>(2) and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>w</sub>(3), the bisectors of their lone-pair orbitals are directed toward manganese ions. In addition, O<sub>w</sub>(2) has two potassium-ion neighbours at 3.09 Å nearly normal to the plane of the water molecule leading to an approximately trigonal bipyramidal coordination for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>w</sub>(2). Refinements of the structure in the alternative space groups C2 and Cm have provided no justification for choosing either of them in preference to C2/m.

#### Introduction

The crystal structure originally proposed by Anspach (1939) for  $K_2Mn(SO_4)_2.4H_2O$  was criticized by Wyckoff (1957) for its 'improbably short K-O separations of 2.28 Å'. The problem was reinvestigated with the use of hol and hk0 X-ray data by Schneider (1961) who found a completely different but satisfactory structure for the crystal in the space group C2/m. However, in the absence of a determination of the hydrogen positions, no hydrogen-bonding scheme for the water molecules was proposed and, further, the possibility of a lower space group symmetry was suspected. A neutron-diffraction study of this structure was therefore undertaken as part of our continuing investigations of hydrogen-bonded hydrate crystals.

### Experimental

Large crystals of monoclinic  $K_2Mn(SO_4)_2$ .  $4H_2O$  could be grown by evaporating at room temperature a saturated aqueous solution containing equimolecular proportions of potassium sulphate and manganous sulphate. All the crystals obtained were twinned across the (100) plane but good single crystals could be separated out by grinding. The neutron Bragg angles recorded by us were found to be consistent with the unitcell constants given by Schneider (1961), viz.

$$a = 12.03 \pm 0.03, \ b = 9.61 \pm 0.03, \ c = 9.98 \pm 0.04 \text{ Å}, \ \beta = 95.0 \pm 0.3^{\circ},$$

which were therefore used subsequently in our bondlength and bond-angle calculations.



Fig. 1. Projection of the nuclear scattering density along [001]. The contours are at intervals of  $0.5 \times 10^{-12}$  cm.Å<sup>-2</sup>. The negative contours are shown by broken lines and the zero contour by dot-dash lines.

All the measurements were made at the Cirus reactor in Trombay. The h0l and hk0 data were collected at a wavelength of 0.953 Å up to  $(\sin \theta)/\lambda \sim 0.70$  from cylindrical crystals of diameter 1.5 mm and weights 0.082 and 0.062 g respectively in the semi-automatic diffractometer SAND (Chidambaram, Sequeira & Momin, 1967). Three-dimensional data up to  $(\sin \theta)/\lambda \sim 0.40$ were recorded at 1.031 Å on the diffractometer DCD (Chidambaram, Sequeira & Sikka, 1964) with a General Electric Single Crystal Orienter using a cylindrical sample of diameter 1.5 mm (weight 0.034 g), its length of 6 mm being parallel to the c axis of the crystal and the  $\varphi$  axis of the orienter. The latter measurements were extended for the 0kl data alone up to  $(\sin \theta)/\lambda \sim 0.70$ . A total of 542 reflexions were thus recorded.\*

The linear absorption coefficient was measured and found to be  $1.25 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the absorption corrections to the data were applied with use of the program ORABS† (Wehe, Busing & Levy, 1962).

\* About a dozen more reflexions which were later discovered to have been recorded during a short period of 'bad electronics' were omitted from the analysis.

### Analysis and refinement of the structure: choice of space group

The h0l data were first reduced to absolute scale by the method of Wilson (1949). A Fourier plot of the projection of nuclear scattering density along [010] was made with the phases given by the heavy-atom positions as determined by Schneider (1961). The negative peaks in this plot could be identified as the manganese and hydrogen atoms. Analysis of the hk0 data in a similar fashion gave the x and y coordinates of the hydrogen atoms. All the 542 pieces of data were then combined and a full-matrix least-squares refinement of the structure on F was carried out with individual isotropic temperature factors and unit weights for all the reflexions by means of the program ORFLS (Busing, Martin & Levy, 1962). After several cycles, the R index,  $(\Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c||)/\Sigma |F_o|$ , converged to 0.174. It was found at this stage that the average  $\langle ||F_o| - |F_c|| \rangle$  could be represented as  $0.52 + 0.003 |F_o|^2$ . Hence a weighting scheme

$$w = (0.52 + 0.003 |F_o|^2)^{-2}$$

was used and the refinement then converged at an R value of 0.167.

Table 1. Comparison of isotropic least-squares refinements in the various space groups

Space group	Number of parameters varied, <i>m</i>	R	Ratio of R's [relative to C2/m (ord.)] th	Dimension on the hypothesis	Degrees of freedom $a^*, b  n-m$	$\mathscr{R}_{b, n-m, 0.005}$ †
C2/m (ordered) C2 Cm C2/m (disordered)	63 103 122 68	0·1673 0·1390 0·1470 0·1347	1·203 1·138 1·242	40 59 5	439 420 474	1.076 1.107 1.018

\* Notation of Hamilton (1964).

<sup>†</sup> The limiting value for the significance level of 0.5%. That is, if the ratio in column 4 exceeds this value, the space group C2/m (ord.) can be rejected in favour of the space group in column 1 at this significance level. See Hamilton (1964, 1965).

	Number of		Ratio of R's		Dimension of the	Degrees of	$\mathscr{R}_{b, n-m, \alpha}$	
_	parameters,		relative	Ratio	nypotne-	freedom	~_0.005	~-0.25
Space group	m	R	to	value	sis, <i>D</i>	n-m	a = 0.002	u = 0.25
C2/m (ordered)	134	0.0997						
$C_{2/m}$ (disordered)	146	0.0924	<i>C</i> 2/ <i>m</i> (ord.)	1.079	12	396	1.036	1.018
<i>C</i> <sup>2</sup>	230	0.0812	C2/m (disord.)	1.138	84†	312	1.190	1.141
Cm	257	0.0776	C2/m (disord.)	1.191	111†	285	1.253	1.197

Table 2. Results of anisotropic least-squares refinement\* in the various space groups

\* The weighting scheme used in the final stages of the refinement was  $w = (0.3 + 0.0009 |F_o|^2)^{-2}$ .

† Strictly speaking, comparison of C2 or Cm and C2/m (disordered) is perhaps not justified since the degrees of freedom involved in the disorder of the sulphate group in the latter are not fully available in the former. But the error in  $\mathcal{R}$  on this account is likely to be negligible for our purpose.

Table 3. Ranges of bond-length and bond-angle values in the various least-squares refinements

Parameter	C2	Ст	C2/m (disordered)
S-O	1·349–1·523 Å	1·324 – 1·538 Å	1·420−1·530 Å
/ O-S-O	103·7 – 115·8°	98·1 – 119·2°	$105 \cdot 1 - 113 \cdot 4^{\circ}$
$\overline{O}_{w}-H$	0·867—1·090 Å	0·817 – 1·053 Å	0·908 – 0·994 Å
$\angle H - O_w - H$	103·8 – 111·4°	100·9 – 108·9°	104·4 – 108·8°

<sup>†</sup> All the calculations in this article were carried out on the CDC-3600 computer in the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay.

## Table 4. Positional and thermal parameters in K<sub>2</sub>Mn(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O

The expression for the Debye-Waller factor is  $\exp \left[-(B_{11}h^2 + B_{22}k^2 + B_{33}l^2 + 2B_{13}hl + 2B_{23}kl)\right]$ . The least-squares standard errors are given in parentheses.

	Fractional coordinate $\times 10^4$			Thermal parameter $\times 10^4$					
	<i>x</i>	у	z	$\overline{B_{11}}$	B <sub>22</sub>	B <sub>33</sub>	B <sub>12</sub>	B <sub>13</sub>	B <sub>23</sub>
K	1695 (5)	2632 (8)	2492 (7)	26 (3)	35 (7)	55 (6)	-8 (5)	0 (4)	-20(12)
Mn(1)	0	0	0	19 (8)	0 (11)	74 (20)	0	0 (15)	0
Mn(2)	0	5000	5000	16 (6)	31 (12)	52 (13)	0	-3(9)	0
S(1)	2065 (8)	5000	-414 (11)	14 (6)	32 (11)	21 (9)	0	7 (8)	0
S(2)	2130 (11)	0	- 4810 (15)	15 (6)	75 (20)	62 (14)	0	-10(10)	0
O(1)	1587 (3)	3750 (6)	-1136 (4)	39 (3)	52 (5)	40 (3)	-11(4)	7 (2)	-16 (6)
O(2)	1509 (13)	970 (16)	- 4005 (15)	32 (7)	64 (15)	95 (15)	13 (10)	7 (9)	-23(22)
O(2)*	1704 (13)	1442 (16)	– 4454 (17)	32 (8)	71 (17)	135 (25)	17 (9)	-1(13)	-21(22)
O(3)	1730 (5)	0 ` ´	570 (10)	13 (3)	91 (13)	110 (13)	0`´	14 (6)	0`´
O(4)	1817 (8)	5000	951 (8)	71 (6)	72 (10)	30 (6)	0	23 (5)	0
O(5)	1692 (5)	5000	4336 (8)	14 (3)	60 (9)	55 (7)	0	5 (4)	0
O(6)	1935 (6)	233 (15)	3744 (8)	39 (5)	41 (16)	42 (6)	-14 (9)	2 (5)	-39(13)
$O_w(1)$	397 (4)	3346 (6)	- 3521 (4)	28 (2)	34 (5)	34 (4)	2 (3)	7 (3)	9 (6)
$O_w(2)$	0	2277 (8)	0	44 (5)	33 (7)	129 (13)	0 )	23 (9)	0
$O_w(3)$	90 (8)	0	-2219 (8)	45 (6)	89 (14)	44 (6)	0	16 (6)	0
H(1)	779 (8)	2549 (12)	- 3845 (9)	60 (7)	63 (10)	79 (9)	8 (8)	4 (7)	-18(17)
H(2)	848 (7)	3617 (10)	- 2699 (9)	50 (5)	62 (10)	60 (7)	12 (7)	-1(6)	8 (12)
H(3)	562 (8)	2896 (13)	- 367 (10)	51 (5)	62 (13)	101 (9)	-7 (9)	1 (6)	9 (13)
H(4)	698 (16)	0 ` ´	- 2755 (23)	66 (13)	139 (28)	135 (28)	0	8 (18)	0
H(5)	554 (14)	0	2766 (15)	71 (11)	115 (23)	74 (14)	0	-2(12)	0



Fig. 2. Schematic projection of the structure along [010]. The fractional y coordinates (×103) of the atoms are given in parentheses.

Table 5.  $K_2Mn(SO_4)_2$ .  $4H_2O$ : observed and calculated structure factors

The nuclear scattering lengths used are (in units of  $10^{-12}$  cm): potassium 0.35; manganese -0.37; sulphur 0.31; oxygen 0.58; hydrogen -0.378. The four columns in each set contain respectively the Miller indices h and l, 100  $|F_o|$  and 100  $F_c$ .

*	-8 6 249 209	9 0 525 538	-7 3 108 -70 -7 4 250 231	12 Q 325 -338 14 0 486 -505
E O L	-8 6 524 576	-9 1 337 -510 -9 2 265 -223	9 0 150 123 11 0 508 -541	16 0 210 -186
c 1 0 -9	-8 10 304 501	-9 7 186 -117 11 0 426 385	13 0 321 -510 15 0 241 -224	X 7 L
0 2 636 656 0 3 278 -260	-8 12 502 -523	13 0 203 157	17 0 127 -157	1 0 520 -536
3 4 937 -987 3 5 160 156	10 0 304 -297	17 0 75 59 19 0 83 -94	<b>1</b> 4 5	-1 1 529 -263
0 6 379 -367 0 7 735 -718	10 2 239 -190	.,	0 0 179 109	3 0 180 -201
0 8 257 272 0 9 1189 119"	10 4 856 874		0 1 429 436 0 2 187 -179	-51 0 68
0 10 254 -239 0 11 0 65	10 6 628 587	0 0 789 838 0 1 61 44	0 3 95	7 0 57 -41
0 12 14 -31 0 13 236 -246	10 8 230 -195	0 2 840 823 0 5 180 -112	0 5 203 194 0 6 418 -471	9 0 405 589 11 0 406 397
0 14 16 -46 2 0 1246 -1351	10 9 43 38	0 4 766 -774 0 5 362 408	0 9 191 -146 2 0 747 -771	15 0 150 52 15 0 113 -43
2 1 543 -363 2 2 598 -410	10 11 376 -373 -10 1 412 -368	0 6 467 -591 0 7 460 -539	2 2 169 -197 2 3 1762 -1764	17 0 40 38
2 3 447 491 2 4 449 -469	-10 2 595 569 -10 3 39 65	0 8 323 -384 0 9 248 -241	2 4 262 220 2 5 114 105	
2 5 263 -296 2 6 420 391	-10 4 334 363 -10 5 228 -134	0 11 243 -309 0 13 99 172	-2 1 1176 1229 -2 2 560 -400	. 0 836 804 0 1 673 668
2 7 192 -229 2 8 664 -632	-10 6 343 -383 -10 7 21 56	2 0 733 -762 2 1 169 138	-2 3 852 817 -2 4 150 116	0 2 560 569
2 9 689 596 2 10 219 224	-10 8 204 -197 -10 9 484 -520	2 2 741 -750 2 3 920 -915	-2 6 0 33 4 0 373 359	0 5 190 -131
2 11 240 2 4	-10 10 270 294 -10 12 372 -340	2 4 0 70	4 1 1009 941 4 2 450 585	0 8 155 -139
2 15 34 61 2 14 127 131	12 0 306 342 12 1 316 512	2 6 0 -141 2 7 146 -178	4 3 165 2 4 4 473 -444	0 10 96 122
-2 1 394 382	12 2 247 203 12 3 748 -754	-2 1 155 -93	4 5 871 816	4 0 225 -207
-2 3 200 -226	12 4 168 151 12 5 132 137	-2 3 25 67	-4 2 136 -141	8 0 328 -316
-2 5 1232 1274	12 6 519 -515 12 7 745 773	-2 5 174 109	-4 4 157 -144	10 0 118 -150 12 0 317 352
-2 7 603 -601	12 • 212 -232 12 9	-2 7 84 66	-4 5 55 64?	14 0 159 -177 16 0 200 -188
-2 9 617 668	-12 1 751 772 -12 2 360 300	4 0 386 -331 4 1 349 236	6 2 250 239	8 9 L
-2 11 390 -315	-12 3 125 -65	4 2 605 -590 4 3 560 532	-6 1 316 359	1 0 470 450
-2 12 99 108 -2 13 243 205	-12 5 41 -26	4 4 340 342 4 5 0 60	-6 5 776 609 -6 4 550 560	3 0 1024 951
-214 696 810 40 0 6	-12 7 68 74	4 6 21 -18 -4 1 281 -293	8 0 139 -90 10 0 1055 1057	7 0 44 -47
4 1 165 72	14 0 645 -461	-4 2 623 -592 -4 4 139 175	12 0 203 186 14 0 216 -227	9 0 506 503 11 0 254 -247
4 3 235 260	14 2 340 317 14 3 71 55	-4 5 383 -344 -4 6 496 -522	16 0 100 143 18 0 121 103	13 0 107 -185 13 0 81 72
4 5 25 14 4 6 806 831	14 4 68 43 14 5 266	-4 7 0 -102 6 0 53 17	1 5 1	E 10 L
4 7 497 -475 4 8 539 -560	14 6 140 125	6 1 175 -164 6 2 259 209		0 0 201 190
4 9 122105 4 10 444398	-14 2 219 -195	6 3 555 -505 6 4 447 -386	1 1 491 697	0 3 274 -240 0 4 369 -344
4 11 460539 4 12 100 96	-14 4 358 328	6 5 333 380 -6 1 167 112	1 2 936 946	0 5 180 184 0 6 505 -525
£ 13 £1 -49 £ 1£ 571 410	16 0 546 -509	-6 2 507 -517 -6 3 109 -65	1 4 120 45 1 5 267 211	0 8 285 -131 2 0 444 -467
-4 1 212 -220 -4 2 171 -137	16 2 91 105	-6 4 455 -413	-1 1 507 527 -1 2 75 -29	4 0 323 -320 6 0 64 -72
-4 3 822 777 -4 4 204 209	-16 1 109 120	-6 6 530 -511	-1 3 346 -314 -1 4 381 370	800 -54 100 177 206
-4 5 771 730 -4 6 144 109	18 0 399 451	8 1 384 -391	-1 5 147 52 3 0 329 330	12 0 105 106 14 0 278 266
-4 7 291 -544 -4 8 865 840	E 1 L	-8 1 366 -352	3 1 160 -169 3 2 442 424	2 11 L
-4 9 66 -51 -4 10 65 -59	1 0 43 -33 1 1 125 -142	-8 5 294 290	3 3 74 58 3 5 675 650	1 0 394 -5%
-4 11 861 831 -4 12 354 -338	1 2 301 -317 1 3 330 -307	10 0 204 234	-3 1 61 -48 -3 2 131 -09	3 0 390 -388 5 0 121 24
-4 13 354 238 6 0 2597 2757	1 4 215151 1 5 915 894	14 0 68 70	-3 3 324 -328 -3 4 393 402	7 0 292 350 9 0 107 -101
6 1 158 187 6 2 443 -400	1 6 664 -584 1 7 325 -274	18 0 0 -36	-3 5 278 311 5 0 254 283	11 0 161 -142
6 3 19188 6 4 3757	-1 1 103 -127 -1 2 507 469	H 3 L	4 1 508 -363 5 2 284 -296	,
6 5 65 -63 6 6 1207 -1149	-1 3 201 -167 -1 4 1054 1060	10 70 -67	-5 1 148 110 -5 2 74 -48	8 . 12 L
6 7 663 686 6 8 91 76	-1 5 68 -36 -1 6 285 392	1 2 63 70	-5 5 134 -108 -5 4 269 500	0 0 440 481
6 9 385 429 6 10 133	-1 7 115 -256 3 0 57 53	1 4 922 -907 1 5 164 -378	7 0 182 154 9 0 578 374	2 0 36 -12
6 11 60 -74 .6 12 49 -62	3 1 745 785 3 2 118 -87	1 6 241 -215	11 0 159 159 13 0 151 130	6 0 43 37
6 13 273304 6 14 396424	5 5 922888 3 4 90 153	-1 2 616 -408	15 0 255 261 17 0 127 167	10 0 70 -91
-6 1 159 102 -6 2 409 375	3 5 19663 3 6 180185	-1 4 689 -649	8 6 L	
-6 3 750 781 -6 4 145 -138	5 7 0 25 -3 1 450 484	3 0 196 176	0 0 M0 M1	H 13 L
-6 5 581 544 -6 6 1171 -1243	-5 2 53 -24 -5 5 648 -631	3 2 350 -367	0 1 408 -198	1 0 75 -23 3 0 112 143
-6 7 281 -240 -6 8 945 836	-3 4 0 -8 -3 5 695 -718	3 4 96 -78	0 3 179 117	5 0 83118 7 0 196 180
-6 9 65 -78 -6 10 25 35	-3 6 634 -628 5 0 196 127	3 6 388 333	0 7 1020 -970	9 0 238 272
-6 11 578 567 -6 12 518 -517	5 1 373 -427 5 2 732 730	-3 2 197 163	0 8 364 301 0 9 285 289	<b>2</b> 14 L
-6 13 11 24 8 0 278 -291	5 5 471 -440 5 5 306 258	-3 3 531 -495 -3 4 169 -170	0 10 284 -256 0 11 100 110	0 0 61 -62 2 0 351 -122
8 1 1134 1085 8 2 844	5 6 0 49 -5 1 501 -500	-3 5 733 763 -3 6 423 -501	0 12 222 -290 2 0 283 -300	4 0 56 -50 6 0 90 mi
8 3 472 491	-5 2 754 -875 -5 3 0 81	5 0 589 586 5 1 190 -192	2 1 273 -209 2 2 1079 -1057	
8 5 498 -521	-5 4 201 -166	5 2 1374 -1340 5 3 143 -150	2 4 549 -494 -2 1 501 -492	
8 7 258 -255	-5 6 282 521	5 4 110 73 5 5 496 -476	-2 2 597 -577 -2 3 505 448	1 0 69 80
-0 0 297 -243 8 9 41 -64	7 0 132 91 7 1 218 -185	-5 1 491 -496 -5 2 111 59	-2 4 614 -565 4 0 265 221	, , 206 224
8 10 153 126 8 11 78 91	7 2 283 -246 7 3 106 65	-5 5 274 217 -5 4 120 108	4 1 163 158 4 2 1134 -1108	
-8 1 437 -437 -8 2 113 141	-7 1 80 120 -7 2 189 -157	-5 5 167 182 -5 6 513 -575	-4 1 697 -704 -4 2 0 -105	
-8 3 134 -25 -8 4 502 507	-7 3 229 192 -7 4 960 886	7 0 411 485	-4 3 916 -912 6 0 222 197	
-8 5 1191 1258	-7 5 345 -234	7 2 662 -679	8 0 837 -759	
		-7 2 574 -521		

80 224

Since this R value looked rather high, it was considered worth while to try the alternative space groups C2 and Cm. Full-matrix least-squares refinements were therefore carried out in the latter two space groups with the above weighting scheme, and the results are given in Table 1. It appears from the Table that at the significance level of 0.5%, the space group C2/mshould be rejected in favour of both C2 and Cm! Since both the latter space groups could not be simultaneously correct, a careful analysis of the positional and thermal parameters obtained for the three space groups was carried out and the following points were noted:

(i) One of the sulphate oxygen atoms O(2) had a conspicuously high temperature factor of  $5.85 \text{ Å}^2$  in the space group C2/m. (Also in all the three principal projections of nuclear scattering density, the peaks corresponding to O(2) were low in height and highly distorted; see *e.g.* Fig. 1).

(ii) When an atom A in a general position in the space group C2/m was split into two in the space group C2, the pair –  $A_1$  and (the mirror image of)  $A_2$  – moved away almost equally on either side of A. The 'pair-splitting' was generally small except for the atom O(2), being 0.21, 0.37 and 0.44 Å for the three coordinates of the latter. A similar effect was found in the space group Cm.

(a) The Mn octahedra

(iii) Atoms on the mirror plane in the space group C2/m moved out of it in C2 only by small amounts, ranging from 0.004 to 0.186 Å – the latter value being for O(6).

Now, both O(2) and O(6) belong to the sulphate group containing S(2); in the space group C2/m, S(2), O(5) and O(6) are on the mirror plane which also relates the other two oxygen atoms O(2). It was therefore suspected at this stage that this sulphate group was disordered. Hence, in the space group C2/m, the atom O(2) was first split into two half-atoms, O(2) and O(2)\*, and least-squares refinement continued with isotropic temperature factors. The R value fell quickly to 0.143 and when (in view of point (iii) above) the atom O(6) was also split into two half-atoms by moving it out of the mirror plane, R fell further to 0.135. This R value for C2/m (disordered) corresponding to only 68 variable parameters is superior to the best R value for either C2 or Cm with more than 100 variable parameters. The disorder involves the addition of only 5 parameters to C2/m (ordered); from Table 1 it can be confidently asserted that the postulated disorder\* is highly significant (Hamilton, 1964, 1965).

However, refinement of the data with anisotropic temperature factors was continued for all the four structures and the results are given in Table 2. This Table

### Table 6. Interatomic distances and bond angles

The standard deviations are given in parentheses and do not include cell-parameter errors.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
$2 \times Mn(1)-O(3)$ $2 \times Mn(1)-O_w(2)$ $2 \times Mn(1)-O_w(3)$	2·109 (6) Å 2·188 (8) 2·227 (8)	$4 \times Mn(2) - O_w(1)$ 2 × Mn(2) - O(5)	2·193 (5) Å 2·195
(b) The $SO_1$ groups			
$1 \times S(1) - O(4)$	1·420 (13) Å	$1 \times S(2) - O(5)$	1·455 (14) Å
$1 \times S(1) - O(3)$	1.472 (12)	$1 \times S(2) - O(6)$	1.459 (16)
$2 \times S(1) - O(1)$	1.490 (8)	$1 \times S(2) - O(2)$ $1 \times S(2) - O(2)*$	1·475 (19) 1·530 (17)
(c) The water molec	ules and the hydrogen bo	onds	
$O_w(1) - H(1)$	0·964† (12) Å	$H(1) - O_w(1) - H(2)$	104·4 (0·6)°
	0.991‡ (13)	$O(2)^* - O_w(1) - O(1)$	97.2 (0.4)
$O_w(1) - H(2)$	0·978† (9)	$O(2) O_w(1) O(1)$	92.7 (0.4)
	0.995‡ (10)	$O_w(1) - H(1) - O(2)*$	165.7 (1.1)
$O_w(1) O(2)^*$	2.635 (17)	$O_w(1) - H(1) - O(2)$	165·5 (1·0)
$O_w(1) - O(2)$	2.711 (16)	$O_w(1) - H(2) - O(1)$	168.1 (0.9)
$O_w(1) O(1)$	2.697 (6)		
$2 \times O_w(2) - H(3)$	0·994† (11) Å	$H(3) - O_w(2) - H(3)$	106·5 (1·5)°
	0.994‡ (13)	$O(1) - O_w(2) - O(1)$	116.8 (0.4)
$2 \times O_w(2) \cdots O(1)$	2.704 (6)	$O_w(2) - H(3) - O(1)$	171.4 (1.1)
$O_w(3)H(4)$	0.942† (23)	$H(4) - O_w(3) - H(5)$	108.8 (1.8)
	0.970‡ (25)	$O(2) - O_w(3) - O(6)$	103.8 (0.4)
<b>0</b> ( <b>0</b> ) <b></b> ( <b>0</b> )			100.6 (0.4)
$O_w(3) - H(5)$	0.908† (18)	$O_w(3) - H(4) - O(2)$	147.5 (0.9)
	0.931 <sup>+</sup> (20)	$O_w(3) - H(5) - O(6)$	171.4 (1.0)
$O_w(3) O(2)$	2.738 (18)		
$O_w(3) O(6)$	2.767 (12)		

† Uncorrected for thermal motion.

‡ Corrected for thermal motion, assuming that the hydrogen atom 'rides' on the water oxygen atom (Busing & Levy, 1964). This correction is somewhat uncertain since there might be some small residual disorder in parts of the structure other than the sulphate group and this would affect the anisotropic thermal parameters of the atoms. This point is perhaps valid in particular for  $O_w(2)$ -H(3) (See Table 4).

shows that while C2/m (ordered) can be rejected in favour of C2/m (disordered) at a significance level lower than 0.5%, the latter cannot be rejected in favour of either C2 or Cm even at a significance level of 25%, † Further, an examination revealed some poor bond-length and bond-angle values for both C2 and Cm, as shown in Table 3. Therefore, it was concluded that the space group C2/m represents the true symmetry of the structure, which contains a disordered sulphate group.<sup>‡</sup> The complete list of positional and thermal parameters is given in Table 4. The stretchedout contours enveloping O(2) and  $O(2)^*$  in the projection of nuclear scattering density along the c axis (Fig. 1) vividly illustrate the disorder of the sulphate group. [It is worth noting that in the X-ray Fourier maps given in Figs.1 and 3 of Schneider's paper as well as in the other projections of nuclear scattering density calculated by us, the peaks for O(2) are much more diffuse and distorted than for, say, O(1)]. The observed and calculated structure factors are compared in Table 5 and the bond lengths and bond angles, calculated using the program ORFFE (Busing, Martin & Levy, 1964), are given in Table 6.

### Discussion

A schematic projection of the structure along [010] is shown in Fig.2. The heavy-atom positions are in generally good agreement with those in Schneider's (1961) structure, except for the disordered sulphate oxygen atoms. The two manganese ions are octahedrally co-

<sup>†</sup> For a discussion regarding a choice between C2/m, C2 and Cm for the structure of thortveitite (Cruickshank, Lynton & Barclay, 1962), see Hamilton (1965).

<sup>‡</sup> The disorder seems to correspond very roughly to a rotation of the sulphate group by about 20° around the S(2)O(5) line – O(2) going into  $O(2)^*$  and vice versa and O(6) going into its mirror image. Recently, Cromer, Kay & Larson (1967) have interpreted the large anisotropic thermal motion of sulphate oxygen atoms observed in NaAl(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O in terms of coupled translational and rotational oscillations. A similar interpretation of the present results on K<sub>2</sub>Mn(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. 4H<sub>2</sub>O (in lieu of the disorder) seems to be ruled out by the significance tests described above.

\* It was suggested by the referee that it might be worth while to consider a model in the space group C2 in which the sulphate group which appears to be disordered in the space group C2/m is 'frozen' into one of the two possible orientations while the other atoms are allowed to be in the positions corresponding to the holosymmetric space group (of course, such a model is not rigorously valid because the sulphate group alone cannot have a symmetry lower than the symmetry of the crystalline field surrounding it; however, one can conceive of small shifts of the other atoms enough to destroy the mirror symmetry and to make one of the sulphate orientations energetically more favoured). Isotropic least-squares refinement of 16 parameters in this way in the space group C2 - 4 scale factors and the positional parameters and isotropic temperature factors of O(2),  $O(2)^*$  and O(6) - reduced the R value to 0.1482, starting from 0.1492. A comparison with the R indices given in Table 1 clearly shows that this 'hybrid' model can be rejected. It may be mentioned that the few parameters refined here converged close to the values found in our earlier more complete refinement in the space group C2 referred to in the text.

ordinated by sulphate and water oxygen atoms and the Mn–O distances are in agreement with those found in Mn(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O (Montgomery, Chastain & Lingafelter, 1966) and MnCl<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O (Zalkin, Forrester & Templeton, 1964). The potassium ion has nine neighbours at distances ranging from 2.63 to 3.26 Å, the average being 2.96 Å. The (weighted) mean S–O distance of 1.478 Å in this structure compares well with the value of 1.473 Å given by Baur (1964) after examination of a large number of sulphate structures.

All the three non-equivalent water molecules are involved in normal O-H---O hydrogen bonds. It is interesting to note that in C2/m (ordered), the hydrogen H(4) attached to  $O_w(3)$  would be perforce involved in a bifurcated hydrogen-bond interaction of the type O(2)

$$O_w(3)-H(4)$$
, the two  $O_w$ --- $O(2)$  distances being

3.04 Å and the two  $O_w(3)$ -H(4)---O(2) angles 145.2°. But the disordering of the sulphate groups has reduced one of the distances  $O_w(3)$ ---O(2) to 2.74 Å while  $O_w(3)$ ---O(2)\* has increased to 3.38 Å, thus eliminating the possibility of a bifurcated hydrogen bond. However, this disordering leads to two alternative hydrogen bonds involving H(1), viz.  $O_w(1)$ -H(1)---O(2) and  $O_w(1)$ -H(1)---O(2)\*, both of which are seen to be satisfactory from Table 6.

The coordination of the three water molecules is shown in Fig. 3.  $H_2O_w(3)$  has a trigonal coordination; the bisector of its lone pair orbitals is directed toward the manganese ion Mn(1) and, therefore, it belongs to Type D of our classification (Chidambaram, Sequeira & Sikka, 1964).  $H_2O_w(1)$  has a tetrahedral coordination; one of its lone pair orbitals is directed toward the potassium ion and the other toward the manganese ion Mn(2). The bisector of the lone pair orbitals of  $H_2O_w(2)$  is directed toward the manganese ion Mn(1); but  $O_w(2)$  has, in addition, two potassium neighbours at 3.09 Å nearly normal to the plane of the molecule leading to an approximately trigonal bipyramidal coordination for  $H_2O_w(2)$ . Somewhat similar coordinations, though with different types of neighbours, have been observed recently in sodium perxenate octahydrate (Ibers, Hamilton & Mackenzie, 1964). The coordination types of  $H_2O_w(1)$  and  $H_2O_w(2)$  are relatively rare and no examples of these were known to us at the time of our classification referred to above.

While we have introduced disordering in only two of the sulphate oxygen atoms, it is inconceivable that this disorder is not propagated to other atoms in the structure to a small extent. For example, S(2) might be slightly off the mirror plane but attempts to move S(2) from the mirror plane led to a negative temperature factor for it and hence were dropped. Similarly, an inspection of the thermal parameters in Table 4 indicates that  $O_w(2)$  is probably a little off the twofold axis and that the atoms O(3) and O(4), as well as the water molecule  $H(4)O_w(3)H(5)$  are a little off the mirror plane. But it does not seem possible to isolate these displacements from the thermal parameters in a significant manner. It may also be mentioned that some of the strongest reflexions are affected by secondary extinction; but omission of twelve of the former from the least-squares refinement did not lead to any significant improvement in the thermal parameters like  $B_{22}$ of Mn(1). It is probably the small unallowed residual disorder in the structure discussed above that accounts for the unsatisfactory thermal parameters.

We are grateful to Shri S.N. Momin and Shri H. Rajagopal for experimental assistance.

### References

- ANSPACH, H. (1939). Z. Kristallogr. A101, 39.
- BAUR, W. H. (1964). Acta Cryst. 17, 1361.
- BUSING, W. R. & LEVY, H. A. (1964). Acta Cryst. 17, 142.
- BUSING, W. R., MARTIN, K. O. & LEVY, H. A. (1962). ORFLS, A Fortran Crystallographic Least Squares Program. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Report ORNL-TM-305. The version incorporates modifications by W. C. Hamilton, J. A. Ibers and C. K. Johnson.
- BUSING, W. R., MARTIN, K. O. & LEVY, H. A. (1964). ORFFE, A Fortran Crystallographic Function and Error Program. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Report ORNL-TM-306. The version used incorporates modifications by C. K. Johnson.
- CHIDAMBARAM, R., SEQUEIRA, A. & MOMIN, S. N. (1967). To be published.
- CHIDAMBARAM, R., SEQUEIRA, A. & SIKKA, S. K. (1964). J. Chem. Phys. 41, 3616.
- CROMER, D. T., KAY, M. I. & LARSON, A. C. (1967). Acta Cryst. 22, 182.
- CRUICKSHANK, D. W. J., LYNTON, H. & BARCLAY, G. A. (1962). Acta Cryst. 15, 491.
- HAMILTON, W. C. (1964). Statistics in Physical Science. New York: The Ronald Press Co.
- HAMILTON, W. C. (1965). Acta Cryst. 18, 502.
- IBERS, J. A., HAMILTON, W. C. & MACKENZIE, D. R. (1964). Inorg. Chem. 3, 1412.
- MONTGOMERY, H., CHASTAIN, R. V. & LINGAFELTER, E. C. (1966). Acta Cryst. 20, 731.
- SCHNEIDER, W. (1961). Acta Cryst. 14, 784.



Fig.3. Coordination of the water molecules in the structure. Note that H(1) is *not* participating in a bifurcated hydrogen bond but is bonded at any instant to *either* (O2) or O(2)\* only.

- WEHE, D. J., BUSING, W. R. & LEVY, H. A. (1962). A Fortran Program for calculating Single Crystal Absorption Corrections. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Report ORNL-TM-229.
- WILSON, A. J. C. (1949). Acta Cryst. 2, 318.
- WYCKOFF, R. W. G. (1957). Crystal Structures, Vol.II, New York: Interscience Publishers.
- ZALKIN, A., FORRESTER, J. D. & TEMPLETON, D. H. (1964). Inorg. Chem. 3, 529.

1182