

Tableau 4 (*suite*)

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	F_{obs}	F_{calc}
15	6	0	30,0	+26,3
16	3	0	5,0	-7,5
12	11	0	20,0	+19,1
13	10	0	25,0	+26,9
16	4	0	5,0	+8,7
15	7	0	20,0	+22,6
14	9	0	20,0	-22,1
16	5	0	10,0	-9,1
12	12	0	49,5	+41,7
1	1	1	54,1	-33,1
2	2	1	147,2	-175,1
3	3	1	163,8	+145,7
6	6	1	103,6	-118,2
1	2	1	38,3	+35,0
1	3	1	44,3	+65,5
1	4	1	26,5	-12,2
1	6	1	41,0	+38,3
1	7	1	129,7	-172,7
2	3	1	155,7	+140,9
2	5	1	35,8	-11,3

Tableau 4 (*suite*)

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	F_{obs}	F_{calc}
2	6	1	41,8	+64,0
2	7	1	93,5	+100,5
3	4	1	142,6	+99,3
3	7	1	62,0	-63,5
3	8	1	74,8	+75,7
4	5	1	77,9	-85,3
4	8	1	77,2	+74,6
3	0	1	25,5	-2,6
7	0	1	110,6	+132,7
9	0	1	54,6	-72,4

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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Tetra(thiourea)nickel(II) Thiosulphate Monohydrate

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Tetra(thiourea)nickel(II) thiosulphate monohydrate is orthorhombic, $P2_12_12_1$: $a = 19.07(2)$, $b = 10.42(1)$, $c = 8.91(1)$ Å, $Z = 4$. The crystal structure has been determined at room temperature from three-dimensional X-ray photographic data and refined by differential methods using anisotropic thermal parameters; final $R = 8.9\%$. Ni coordinates to four sulphur atoms from four thiourea molecules, and to a sulphur and to an oxygen atom from a thiosulphate group; this represents a distorted octahedral environment, with the $S_2O_3^{2-}$ group behaving as a bidentate ligand. Coordination does not seem to influence the shape and dimensions of thiourea ligands. The water molecule is hydrogen-bonded to two oxygen atoms from two thiosulphate groups ($OH \cdots O = 2.82$ and 2.89 Å) and to two nitrogen atoms from a thiourea molecule ($NH \cdots O = 2.97$ and 2.95 Å).

Introduction

Thiourea and ethylenethiourea adducts with thiosulphates of divalent metals have been prepared and described by Nardelli & Chierici (1958). An X-ray study of these compounds should give the type of metal coordination and, in particular, should define the structural situation of the $S_2O_3^{2-}$ group, which can coordinate as a mono or bidentate ligand or can form bridges between different metal atoms. Also it should be possible to examine whether coordination influences the bond distances and angles in the molecule. In the present paper the results obtained from the crystal structure analysis of tetra(thiourea)nickel(II) thiosulphate monohydrate, $Ni(tu)_4S_2O_3 \cdot H_2O$ ($tu =$ thiourea) are reported and discussed. As already published in a short account of this study (Fava Gasparri, Musatti & Nardelli, 1966), the thiosulphate group behaves as a bidentate ligand; this is the first direct confirmation of the chelating properties of this ligand. The infrared spec-

trum, observed by Newman (1967), can be interpreted satisfactorily on the basis of this evidence. The anhydrous formula previously assigned to this compound is incorrect: the water molecule, which was overlooked in the chemical analysis, was found from the electron-density distribution, determined in the present study.

Experimental

Cell constants, refined by a least-squares analysis of powder diffractometer data, are the same as those reported by Nardelli & Chierici (1958) (standard deviations are given in parentheses):

$$Ni[SC(NH_2)_2]_4S_2O_3 \cdot H_2O. \quad M = 493.35$$

$$a = 19.07(2), \quad b = 10.42(1), \quad c = 8.98(1) \text{ \AA}$$

$$V = 1784 \text{ \AA}^3, \quad Z = 4, \quad D_m = 1.77, \quad D_x = 1.82 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$$

$$\mu = 82 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ (Cu } K\alpha\text{)},$$

$$F(000) = 1016.$$

Space group: $P2_12_12_1 (D_2^7)$ (from systematic X-ray extinctions).

Two series of equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs (Cu $K\alpha$ radiation, multiple film technique) were taken at room temperature about [010] up to $k=8$ and about [001] up to $l=7$. 1996 independent reflexions were observed out of a possible 2283. The intensities were measured photometrically and corrected for Lorentz, polarization and spot-shape effects (Phillips, 1956). For the photographs taken around [010] the sample used was a nearly spherical fragment with a mean radius of 0.02 cm and was considered to be a sphere in calculating the absorption correction; the photographs around [001] were taken using a prism elongated along this axis, and for this set of data the cylindrical absorption correction was used, treating the sample as a cylinder with a mean radius of 0.014 cm. The data of both series were correlated and put on a common scale using the least-squares procedure of Rollett & Sparks (1960); the absolute scale determined by Wilson's (1942) method remained unchanged throughout the analysis.

Structure determination and refinement

The coordinates of Ni, S(2) and S(5) were found from a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis. A three-dimensional Fourier synthesis calculated using the phases of the contribution of these atoms to the structure factors ($R=49\%$) was used to determine the coordinates of the other sulphur atoms; the coordinates of the complete set of atoms were obtained after three further cycles of three-dimensional Fourier synthesis ($R=15.9\%$). At this stage of the analysis, the electron-density distribution showed an additional peak; from its height and environment, this peak could be inter-

preted as representing a water molecule. By including this molecule when calculating the structure factors the R value fell to 14%. Refinement was then carried out by means of four cycles of Booth's differential synthesis, two calculated with isotropic, and two with anisotropic, thermal parameters. The final residual error indices were: $R=8.9\%$, $R'=9.8\%$ (R , for observed reflexions only; R' , including $F_o = \frac{1}{2}F_{\min}$ when $F_o \geq F_{\min}$ for unobserved reflexions; multiplicities not considered). In Table 1 the final parameters with their estimated standard deviations (Cruickshank, 1949, 1956) and the ratios between the e.s.d.'s and the shifts of the coordinates are quoted. The B_{ij} 's were determined by the method of Nardelli & Fava (1960) using the second derivatives of the electron density from differential synthesis.

An $F_o - F_c$ synthesis, carried out after the refinement, showed that the positions of the H's, determined from the assumptions of bond distances N-H = 1.03; O-H = 0.95 Å, planarity for thiourea, and tetrahedral environment for H_2O , were essentially correct. The hydrogen coordinates are reported in Table 2 with the observed electron density.

In Table 3 the observed atomic peak shapes for non-hydrogen atoms are compared with the calculated values. Observed and calculated (not including H atoms) structure factors are reported in Table 4. The atomic scattering factors used are those of Thomas & Umeda (1957) for Ni^{2+} , Dawson (1960) for S and Berghuis, Haanappel, Potters, Loopstra, MacGillavry & Veenendaal (1955) for O, N and C.

All the calculations were performed on the Olivetti Elea 6001/S computer of the Centro di Calcolo Elettronico della Università di Parma, using the programs of Nardelli, Musatti, Domiano & Andreotti (1964, 1965).

Table 1. Final atomic fractional coordinates ($\times 10^4$), thermal parameters ($\times 10 \text{ \AA}^2$) with estimated standard deviations and ratios (e.s.d.)/(coordinate shift)

	$x(\sigma)$	$y(\sigma)$	$z(\sigma)$	$B_{11}(\sigma)$	$B_{22}(\sigma)$	$B_{33}(\sigma)$	$B_{12}(\sigma)$	$B_{13}(\sigma)$	$B_{23}(\sigma)$	$ r(x) $	$ r(y) $	$ r(z) $
Ni	964 (1)	783 (2)	636 (2)	30 (1)	29 (1)	30 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	6	5	2
S(1)	-151 (2)	367 (3)	1774 (4)	22 (1)	23 (1)	25 (2)	0 (2)	2 (2)	3 (2)	4	3	10
S(2)	1050 (2)	-1484 (3)	208 (4)	27 (1)	20 (1)	23 (2)	0 (2)	2 (2)	1 (2)	5	3	2
S(3)	616 (2)	1457 (3)	-1862 (4)	25 (1)	21 (1)	22 (1)	-1 (2)	-1 (2)	0 (2)	3	7	9
S(4)	1573 (2)	168 (3)	2955 (4)	23 (1)	20 (1)	21 (1)	0 (2)	0 (2)	0 (2)	2	15	∞
S(5)	2184 (2)	1843 (3)	-322 (4)	23 (1)	20 (1)	23 (1)	1 (2)	-1 (2)	0 (2)	9	5	18
S(6)	1653 (2)	3330 (3)	550 (3)	18 (1)	17 (1)	18 (1)	0 (1)	-1 (2)	0 (2)	∞	6	16
O(1)	990 (6)	2756 (9)	1144 (9)	21 (4)	18 (3)	18 (4)	2 (4)	0 (5)	-2 (5)	∞	4	4
O(2)	1497 (6)	4245 (11)	-638 (13)	30 (5)	22 (4)	28 (5)	2 (6)	0 (7)	3 (7)	8	3	32
O(3)	2046 (7)	3914 (10)	1721 (16)	26 (4)	25 (3)	28 (5)	-2 (5)	0 (6)	-1 (6)	5	5	4
O(4)	2992 (9)	6068 (12)	1437 (14)	44 (7)	34 (4)	33 (6)	-3 (8)	2 (9)	-3 (8)	12	5	5
N(1)	-1423 (7)	1323 (16)	1655 (16)	28 (5)	33 (6)	30 (7)	2 (8)	0 (8)	3 (9)	3	6	3
N(2)	-560 (9)	2693 (13)	918 (21)	32 (5)	29 (6)	40 (9)	4 (9)	1 (10)	4 (11)	4	7	2
N(3)	1662 (8)	-1039 (12)	-2391 (16)	33 (6)	32 (5)	28 (7)	-3 (8)	5 (9)	2 (9)	10	6	5
N(4)	1758 (9)	-3063 (12)	-1532 (18)	36 (7)	27 (4)	34 (8)	-2 (8)	5 (10)	1 (9)	3	∞	3
N(5)	-74 (10)	555 (13)	-4142 (12)	39 (7)	37 (5)	36 (7)	-2 (9)	-3 (9)	-4 (9)	3	3	4
N(6)	-317 (10)	-440 (12)	-1917 (15)	43 (7)	40 (6)	34 (8)	-10 (9)	2 (10)	3 (11)	8	7	2
N(7)	2065 (8)	1227 (12)	5400 (17)	29 (5)	38 (6)	30 (6)	1 (8)	-2 (8)	-2 (9)	8	60	4
N(8)	1206 (8)	2375 (12)	4288 (14)	30 (6)	25 (5)	28 (6)	3 (8)	1 (8)	0 (8)	8	∞	11
C(1)	-745 (7)	1555 (12)	1433 (13)	23 (5)	22 (4)	19 (5)	-2 (7)	0 (7)	-1 (7)	3	3	7
C(2)	1514 (8)	-1894 (11)	-1351 (16)	29 (6)	21 (4)	26 (7)	0 (8)	3 (9)	0 (9)	5	6	16
C(3)	22 (8)	479 (13)	-2693 (15)	27 (6)	29 (5)	28 (7)	-1 (8)	1 (9)	-6 (8)	19	8	76
C(4)	1609 (7)	1333 (12)	4283 (15)	22 (5)	22 (4)	21 (6)	-2 (7)	1 (7)	1 (8)	3	7	12

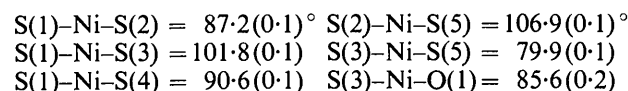
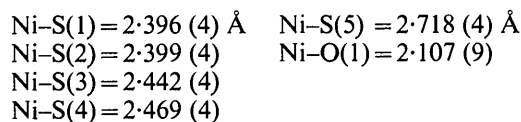
Table 2. Calculated fractional coordinates and corresponding q_{obs} values for hydrogen atoms

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	q_{obs} (e.Å ⁻³)
H(1)	-0.158	0.044	0.205	1.0
H(2)	-0.178	0.204	0.145	0.9
H(3)	-0.004	0.290	0.073	0.8
H(4)	-0.093	0.339	0.072	0.7
H(5)	0.149	-0.011	-0.229	0.8
H(6)	0.194	-0.131	-0.332	0.7
H(7)	0.165	-0.377	-0.075	0.5
H(8)	0.203	-0.330	-0.248	0.7
H(9)	-0.043	-0.004	-0.465	0.9
H(10)	0.019	0.125	-0.475	0.6
H(11)	-0.024	-0.052	-0.078	0.8
H(12)	-0.067	-0.103	-0.244	0.9
H(13)	0.209	0.193	0.621	0.5
H(14)	0.239	0.044	0.546	0.7
H(15)	0.125	0.305	0.513	0.5
H(16)	0.084	0.252	0.345	0.7
H(17)	0.271	0.533	0.132	0.7
H(18)	0.331	0.587	0.220	0.6

Discussion

The structure consists of complex molecules in which a nickel atom is octahedrally surrounded by four sulphur atoms from thiourea molecules and by one sulphur and one oxygen atom from a thiosulphate group. The H₂O molecule acts as a bridge connecting three different complexes as shown in Fig. 1.

Distances and angles in the coordination polyhedron are:

Table 3. Atomic peak heights (e.Å⁻³), curvatures (e.Å⁻⁵) and e.s.d.'s

		<i>q</i>	$-A_{hh}$	$-A_{kk}$	$-A_{ll}$	A_{kl}	A_{hl}	A_{hk}
Ni	obs	64.8	644	641	690	3	-1	4
	calc	65.9	651	648	616	2	1	2
S(1)	obs	39.4	416	400	375	13	3	3
	calc	39.0	412	399	380	4	-4	3
S(2)	obs	38.1	374	395	376	13	20	-2
	calc	38.3	388	385	376	10	11	-1
S(3)	obs	39.6	396	422	387	3	-9	-11
	calc	39.1	402	416	382	2	-4	-6
S(4)	obs	40.4	420	426	400	7	5	0
	calc	40.2	424	420	399	6	7	-1
S(5)	obs	40.4	433	433	400	-7	6	8
	calc	40.4	433	427	400	-6	8	5
S(6)	obs	43.6	465	474	433	-10	0	2
	calc	43.2	462	465	431	-11	3	4
O(1)	obs	15.3	129	148	144	-7	-7	13
	calc	15.1	125	139	136	-4	-6	10
O(2)	obs	13.7	127	113	109	-8	-1	6
	calc	13.8	129	109	110	-10	-1	4
O(3)	obs	14.1	118	144	108	3	14	7
	calc	14.5	120	146	112	5	15	10
O(4)	obs	11.8	87	96	108	-7	4	-1
	calc	12.3	97	98	110	-4	1	1
N(1)	obs	11.0	108	79	92	-2	-3	4
	calc	11.0	108	82	94	-5	-3	2
N(2)	obs	11.6	106	124	85	5	7	13
	calc	11.6	108	124	95	2	7	9
N(3)	obs	11.5	114	98	107	-3	15	-3
	calc	11.6	117	102	106	-5	10	0
N(4)	obs	10.9	92	96	89	-5	6	2
	calc	11.0	99	95	95	-6	2	4
N(5)	obs	9.9	76	82	98	-9	-4	-3
	calc	10.0	77	81	97	-6	-2	-1
N(6)	obs	10.3	87	88	93	0	-6	-21
	calc	10.5	93	93	95	-2	-9	-14
N(7)	obs	11.1	98	97	90	-4	7	0
	calc	10.9	95	102	89	-3	9	-1
N(8)	obs	11.7	97	115	110	-2	2	7
	calc	11.8	100	113	112	-2	2	4
C(1)	obs	11.2	106	98	111	-3	3	-2
	calc	11.1	108	100	110	-2	2	-1
C(2)	obs	10.2	97	104	92	1	0	-1
	calc	10.3	99	100	93	1	-3	-1
C(3)	obs	9.7	90	86	84	-8	-4	0
	calc	9.7	91	87	85	-3	-5	0
C(4)	obs	10.7	108	99	102	6	3	-7
	calc	10.7	107	98	100	5	4	-5
	e.s.d.	0.4	7	6	7	4	4	4

xanthate (Franzini, 1963), 2.16 in bis(thiosemicarbazido)nickel (Cavalca, Nardelli & Fava, 1962) and 2.15 Å in nickel bis(methylthiohydroxamate) (Sato, Nagata, Shiro & Koyama, 1966) for Ni-S; 1.83 in nickel salicylaldehyde (Merritt, Guare & Lessor, 1956)

and 1.84 Å in bis(salicylaldehyde)nickel (Stewart & Lingafelter, 1959) for Ni-O].

In addition to the Ni-O(1) and Ni-S(5) interactions, the orientation of the $S_2O_3^{2-}$ group is determined by the hydrogen bonding involving the free thiosulphate

Table 5. Bond lengths and angles in $S_2O_3^{2-}$ group

	Ni t_u_4 S $_2$ O $_3$ · H $_2$ O (*)	BaS $_2$ O $_3$ · H $_2$ O (**)	Na $_2$ S $_2$ O $_3$ · 5H $_2$ O (***)	Na $_2$ S $_2$ O $_3$ (****)	Mg(OH) $_2$ $_6$ S $_2$ O $_3$ (*****)
S(6)-S(5)	2.01 (1) Å	1.96 (1) Å	1.97 Å	2.01 (2) Å	2.02 (1) Å
S(6)-O(1)	1.50 (1)	1.57 (4)	1.59 $\sigma < 0.06$ Å	1.52 (3)	1.48 (1)
S(6)-O(2)	1.46 (1)	1.52 (3)	1.46	1.46 (3)	1.48 (4)
S(6)-O(3)	1.43 (1)	1.44 (3)	1.40	1.40 (3)	
O(1)-S(6)-O(2)	110.7 (0.6)°	105.3 (2.3)°		109.4 (3.6)°	110.9 (1.1)°
O(1)-S(6)-O(3)	110.4 (0.7)	104.3 (1.9)		107.9 (3.6)	110.0 (1.1)
O(2)-S(6)-O(3)	111.6 (0.7)	116.3 (1.4)	104-115° $\sigma < 5$ °	114.4 (3.6)	
S(5)-S(6)-O(1)	104.8 (0.4)	109.7 (1.3)		108.3 (2.4)	107.6 (0.8)
S(5)-S(6)-O(2)	108.6 (0.5)	112.0 (0.8)		109.3 (2.4)	108.5 (0.8)
S(5)-S(6)-O(3)	110.6 (0.5)	108.7 (1.3)		107.6 (2.4)	

(*) Present paper.

(**) Nardelli & Fava (1962).

(***) Taylor & Beevers (1952).

(****) Sándor & Csordás (1961).

(*****) Nardelli, Fava & Giraldi (1962).

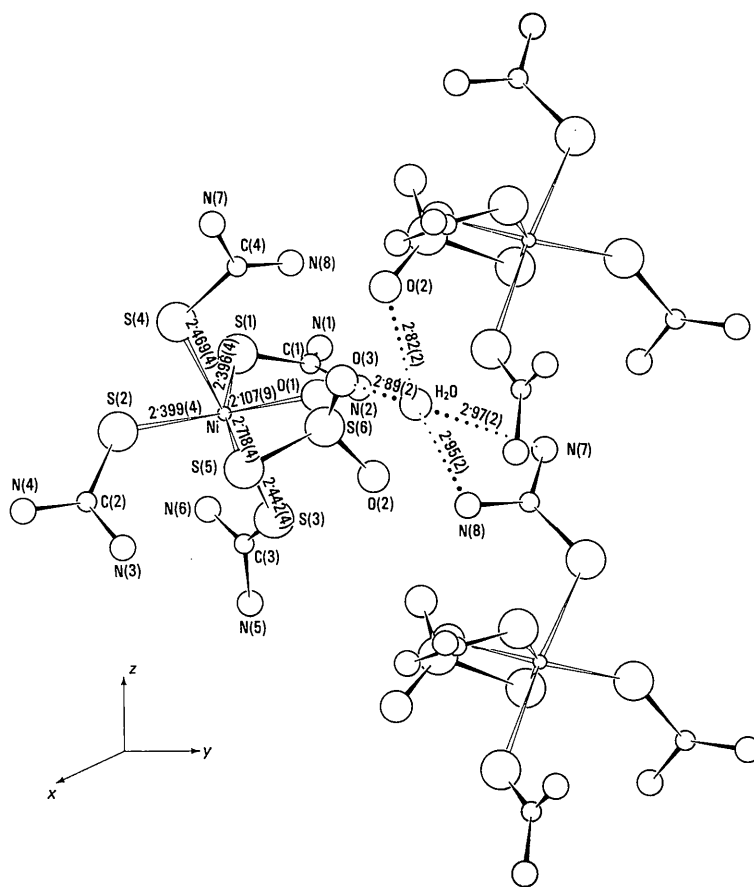
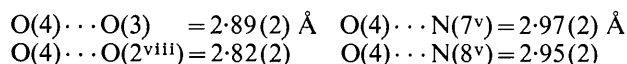


Fig. 1. Clinographic view of metal coordination and hydrogen bonding involving H $_2$ O.

oxygen atoms, the water molecule and the $-\text{NH}_2$ groups from adjacent thiourea molecules. The distances and angles in the $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ group agree fairly well with those generally observed in other thiosulphates, as shown in Table 5.

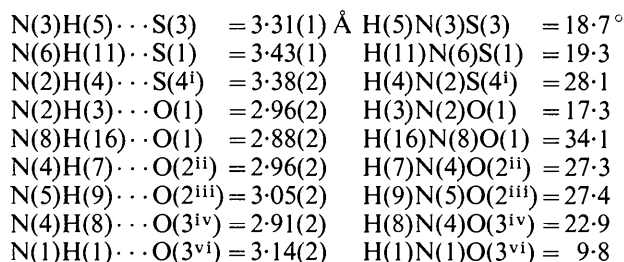
The four independent thiourea molecules are planar; their least-squares planes are quoted in Table 6, in which bond distances and angles are compared with corresponding values for the uncomplexed molecule (Truter, 1967). From this comparison, it appears that the coordination does not significantly influence the dimensions of the ligand as observed in other metal thiourea complexes [e.g.: bis(thiourea)zinc acetate (Cavalca, Fava Gasparri, Andreotti & Domiano, 1967) and tris(thiourea)zinc sulphate (Andreotti, Cavalca & Musatti, in press)]. The four thiourea molecules are tilted with respect to the Ni-S bonds by the angles $\text{Ni-S}(1)\text{-C}(1) = 112.4(0.5)^\circ$, $\text{Ni-S}(2)\text{-C}(2) = 114.3(0.4)^\circ$, $\text{Ni-S}(3)\text{-C}(3) = 106.6(0.3)^\circ$, $\text{Ni-S}(4)\text{-C}(4) = 115.2(0.5)^\circ$, and the tilting is of the same kind of that found in other thiourea complexes [e.g.: $100.6(0.3)^\circ$ and $101.2(0.3)^\circ$ in bis(thiourea)zinc acetate (Cavalca, Fava Gasparri, Andreotti & Domiano, 1967); 113° in bis(thiourea)cadmium chloride (Nardelli, Cavalca & Braibanti, 1957); 108.6° in bis(thiourea)zinc chloride (Kunchur & Truter, 1958); 105° , 108° and 113° in tris(thiourea)copper(I) chloride (Okaya & Knobler, 1964); $101.9(0.4)^\circ$, $107.7(0.4)^\circ$ and $107.0(0.5)^\circ$ in tris(thiourea)zinc sulphate (Andreotti, Cavalca & Musatti, 1968)].

The H_2O molecule forms four contacts, which can be considered as hydrogen bonds, with two oxygen atoms from two $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ groups and two nitrogen atoms from the same $tu(4)$ thiourea molecule in a distorted tetrahedral environment:



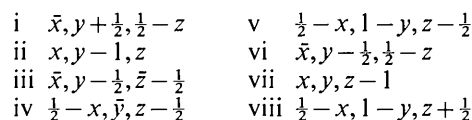
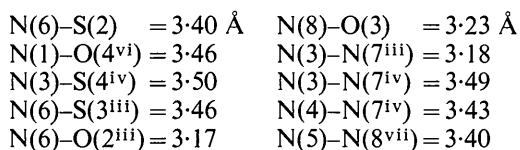
The water H(17) and H(18) hydrogen atoms are close to the lines connecting two oxygen atoms as indicated also by the value (92.5°) of the $\text{O}(3)\text{-O}(4)\text{-O}(2^{\text{viii}})$ angle.

Other contacts could be considered as hydrogen bonds, with the following distances and angles:



Some of these contacts are indicated in Fig. 2, which shows a diagrammatic projection of the structure on (001).

The other distances less than 3.5 Å are:



A recent study of the infrared spectrum of crystals of $\text{Ni}tu_4\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ by Newman (1967) has shown that ν_4 (S-O asymmetric stretching vibration), which is doubly degenerate [1123 cm^{-1} , Siebert (1954)] in the $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ ion owing to the C_{3v} symmetry of the $-\text{SO}_3$ group, is split into two peaks at 1153 and 1092 cm^{-1} in the nickel-thiourea complex. Thus the degeneracy is removed by chelation.

The authors are very grateful to Dr G.A. Newman (Kodak Research Laboratories, Middlesex, England), who kindly provided the results of his infrared study; they are indebted too to the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Roma, for financial support.

Table 6. Least-squares planes, bond distances and angles for the thiourea molecules

	X, Y, Z are the coordinates in Å.			
$tu(1)$: S(1)C(1)N(1)N(2)	$0.0952X + 0.3289Y + 0.9395Z = 1.5972$			
$tu(2)$: S(2)C(2)N(3)N(4)	$0.8478X + 0.2411Y + 0.4723Z = 1.4109$			
$tu(3)$: S(3)C(3)N(5)N(6)	$-0.7320X + 0.6585Y + 0.1745Z = -0.1508$			
$tu(4)$: S(4)C(4)N(7)N(8)	$0.7861X + 0.4891Y - 0.5386Z = 0.7148$			
	S-C	C-N*	S-C-N*	N-C-N
$tu(1)$	1.71 (1) Å	1.33 (2)–1.32 (2) Å	119.3 (1.1)–122.3 (1.2)°	118.3 (1.4)°
$tu(2)$	1.71 (2)	1.32 (2)–1.32 (2)	121.7 (1.0)–121.2 (1.1)	117.1 (1.4)
$tu(3)$	1.69 (2)	1.32 (2)–1.35 (2)	119.8 (1.2)–121.1 (1.1)	119.0 (1.4)
$tu(4)$	1.70 (1)	1.33 (2)–1.33 (2)	119.7 (1.0)–124.0 (1.1)	116.3 (1.2)
tu^\dagger	1.720 (9)	1.340 (6)	120.5 (0.5)	119.0 (0.5)

* The first value gives the bond or the angle involving the N atom with the lower-numbered label.

† Uncomplexed (Truter, 1967).

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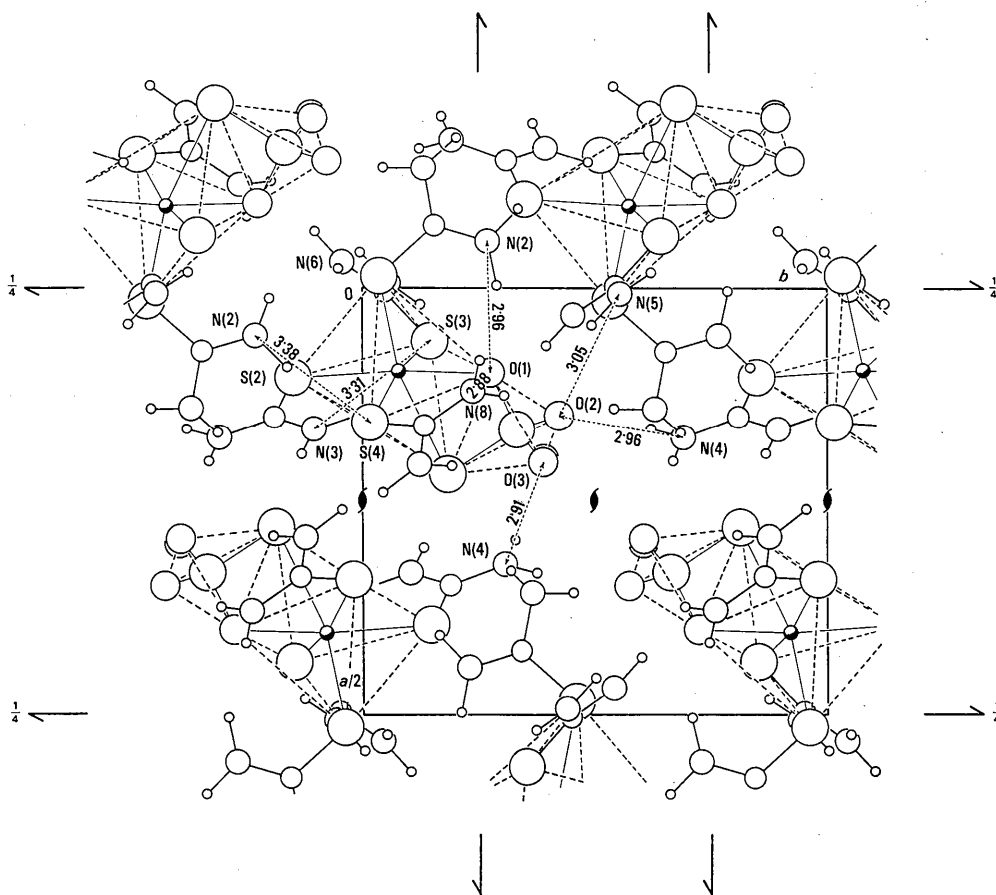


Fig. 2. Diagrammatic projection of the structure of $Ni_{tet}S_2O_3 \cdot H_2O$ on (001).

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The Crystal Structure of Ninhydrin

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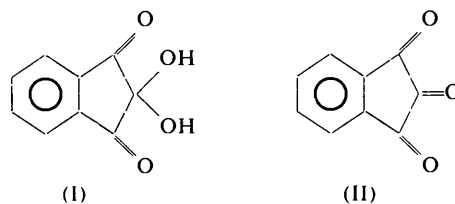
The crystal structure of ninhydrin, $C_9H_6O_4$, has been determined using filtered $Cu K\alpha$ radiation and a Nonius integrating Weissenberg camera. The crystals are monoclinic, $P2_1$, with $a=11.24$, $b=6.06$, $c=5.77$ Å, $\beta=99.1^\circ$, and $Z=2$. The intensities of 849 independent reflections were measured with a densitometer. The structure was solved using Patterson and Fourier methods and refined by the anisotropic full-matrix least-squares method to an R value of 0.062. The molecules are connected in layers parallel to (100) by two types of hydrogen bonds. Each molecule is linked along c by two hydroxyl-carbonyl bonds and about a screw axis in the b direction by two hydroxyl-hydroxyl bonds. The oxygen-oxygen distance is 2.80 Å for both types. One carbonyl oxygen is not involved in the hydrogen bonding scheme.

Introduction

Interest in ninhydrin, $C_9H_6O_4$, was originally stimulated by its rather high melting point and its resistance to dehydration in air which is unusual for a *gem*-dihydroxy compound; that is, a compound with two hydroxyl groups attached to the same carbon atom. It is a valuable reagent in the qualitative and quantitative determination of α -amino acids, proteins, and some of their degradation products because the reaction produces a deep blue color and also causes a stoichiometric amount of carbon dioxide to be evolved. Since this work began, reference has been made (Tollin & Cochran, 1964) to an unpublished thesis (Tollin, 1963) concerning this crystal structure. An account of the initial synthesis of ninhydrin by Ruhemann in 1910 and his subsequent study of its reactions, including the one cited above, has recently appeared (West, 1965).

Ninhydrin(I) is also referred to as triketoindane monohydrate or 1,2,3-indantrione monohydrate, which are, as are chloral hydrate and alloxan monohydrate, misnomers because there are no water molecules as

such in any of the structures. The structure of the anhydrous form of ninhydrin, triketoindane(II), has also been reported (Bolton, 1965).



Other structure determinations of *gem*-dihydroxy compounds are chloral hydrate (Brown & Levy, 1962), alloxan monohydrate or 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid (Singh, 1965), alloxan tetrahydrate or 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid trihydrate (Mootz & Jeffrey, 1965), and 3,3,4,4-tetrahydrofuran-tetrol (Mighell & Jacobson, 1964). In these structures all groups of the type OH, NH, or CO, when present, form at least one hydrogen bond.

Experimental

Crystals of commercially obtained ninhydrin were grown by slow cooling of an aqueous solution which had been saturated at a temperature slightly above am-

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