

The Crystal Structure of Phosphoric Acid Hemihydrate, $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$

BY ALAN D. MIGHELL

Institute for Materials Research, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234, U.S.A.

JAMES P. SMITH*

National Fertilizer Development Center, Tennessee Valley Authority, Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35660, U.S.A.

AND WALTER E. BROWN†

Institute for Materials Research, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234, U.S.A.

(Received 2 May 1968)

The crystal structure of phosphoric acid hemihydrate, $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$, was determined from three-dimensional Weissenberg data. Its crystals are monoclinic, with $a = 7.922 \pm 0.010$, $b = 12.987 \pm 0.020$, $c = 7.470 \pm 0.010$ Å, $\beta = 109.9 \pm 0.1^\circ$, space group $P2_1/a$, and $Z = 8$. The structure was solved by vector methods and was then refined by full-matrix least-squares analysis. The two crystallographically independent phosphoric acid molecules are geometrically very similar to each other. Each is approximately tetrahedral with the P–O bond length significantly shorter than the P–OH bonds. Each phosphoryl oxygen atom, moreover, is the acceptor in two strong hydrogen bonds. The phosphoric acid and water molecules are linked into a three-dimensional network by hydrogen bonding, with each oxygen atom participating in at least one relatively strong intermolecular hydrogen bond.

Experimental

Orthophosphoric acid crystallizes in an anhydrous form, H_3PO_4 , and as a hemihydrate, $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The crystal structure of the anhydrous form has been reported by Furberg (1955) and by Smith, Brown & Lehr (1955). Orthophosphoric acid is commercially important and the orthophosphate ion is of great biological significance. Thus the crystal structure of the hemihydrate was determined to provide more information about hydrogen bonding in orthophosphates and to learn more about the bond lengths in the PO_4 group. Crystallographic data extant on $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$ are the unit-cell constants and morphological and optical properties reported by Smith, Brown & Lehr (1955) and the X-ray powder pattern by Lehr, Brown, Frazier, Smith & Thrasher (1967).

Introduction

Phosphoric acid hemihydrate was triply crystallized from reagent-grade phosphoric acid. Because of its chemical reactivity and hygroscopic character, the X-ray data were collected from a single crystal grown in a thin-walled glass capillary. The space group and preliminary unit-cell dimensions were determined from a set of Weissenberg photographs. The final cell dimensions were calculated by least-squares refinement of powder pattern data ($\lambda = 1.5418$). The powder pattern was taken on a powder diffractometer and the sample

was enclosed in an air-tight water-free container. The density was determined by flotation in a mixture of ethylene dibromide and chloroform. These data are reported in Table 1.

Table 1. *Crystal data for $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$*

$a = 7.922 \pm 0.010$ Å*	Space group $P2_1/a$
$b = 12.987 \pm 0.020$	$Z = 8$
$c = 7.470 \pm 0.010$	$\rho_c = 1.97$ g.cm ⁻³
$\beta = 109.9 \pm 0.10^\circ$	$\rho_o = 1.99$ g.cm ⁻³

* The errors in the cell parameter are the standard errors obtained from a least-square refinement of these parameters using twenty experimental 2θ values.

For intensity data, a crystal was grown from its melt in a capillary of diameter 0.30 mm. The a axis of the crystal was parallel to both the length of the capillary and to the rotation axis of the camera. Eight levels of integrated data, with three films per level, were collected (using Cu $K\alpha$ radiation) by the equi-inclination Weissenberg method. The intensities were measured on a densitometer; however, those too weak to be accurately measured were estimated by the eye against a standard strip. The data were corrected for absorption (cylindrical correction), spot extension, Lorentz and polarization factors. Equivalent spots were averaged. Of 1390 unique reflections on the films, 1085 were considered to be observed. Reflections which were difficult to determine accurately were considered as unobserved and are indicated by an asterisk in Table 4.

Determination and refinement

A three-dimensional Patterson map was calculated from the observed data. Analysis of the large peaks in

* James P. Smith, deceased.

† Walter E. Brown, Research Associate from the American Dental Association at the National Bureau of Standards, 1962 to date.

the Patterson map revealed the electron-density coordinates for the two independent phosphorus atoms. Vector techniques, similar to those outlined in a paper on vector verification (Mighell & Jacobson, 1964) were then used to locate the remaining nine oxygen atoms in the asymmetric unit.

Full-matrix isotropic least-squares refinement on all atoms except the hydrogen atoms was carried out on the trial model using scattering factors for neutral phosphorus, and singly negative oxygen from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962). The quantity minimized was $\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2$ with the following weighting scheme: $w=1$ for $|F_o| < 26$ and $w=26/F_o$ for $|F_o| > 26$. Unobserved reflections were given zero weight in the refinement unless the value of F_c exceeded that of F_o . The reflections for which this occurred were given unit weight. The trial model refined readily.

As a result of this refinement the agreement factor

$$R = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|},$$

based on 1074 observed reflections, was 8.7%. The resulting atomic positional and thermal parameters are given in Table 2. The thermal parameters are unexpectedly low, as the intensity data were taken at room temperature which is only slightly below the melting point of this compound (29.3°C). The explanation for this fact is probably related to the strong hydrogen bonding discussed later.

In general, the R values for the various subsets of reflections were low. However, a number of F_o 's (with large I_o 's, low $\sin \theta/\lambda$, and occurring near the rotation axis) were considerably lower in magnitude than the corresponding calculated structure factors. This effect is almost certainly caused by extinction. Two additional cycles of refinement were carried out excluding these reflections (marked by an 'E' in Table 4). Although the R value decreased to 7.5%, no significant changes in atomic parameters were noted.

After the isotropic refinement, a difference-Fourier ($F_o - F_c$) synthesis was calculated. Analysis of the resultant map revealed tentative positions for two of the three OH-hydrogen atoms for each crystallographically independent H_3PO_4 molecule. All four of these hydrogen atoms are involved in strong hydrogen bonding (average $-O \dots O-$ separation of 2.58 Å) to the phosphoryl type oxygen atoms (*i.e.* oxygen atoms without hydrogens) of neighboring molecules. Selection of atoms O(1) and O(5) as the phosphoryl oxygens is based primarily on their short P-O bond distances (Table 3) and is substantiated by the locations of these four hydrogen atoms.

The hydrogen atoms near the water oxygen atom were obscured by a few spurious peaks and by poor resolution. In part, this lack of resolution may be attributable to the extinction in some low order reflections and to errors in the absorption correction introduced by the assumption of a cylindrical crystal. However, the approximate locations of two hydrogen atoms

Table 2. Atomic parameters for phosphoric acid hemihydrate

	<i>X/a</i>	<i>Y/b</i>	<i>Z/c</i>	<i>B</i>
P(1)	0.44526 (20)*	0.39800 (10)	0.25203 (18)	0.86 (3)
O(1)	0.59475 (60)	0.36947 (31)	0.43166 (58)	1.72 (7)
O(2)	0.44726 (61)	0.33646 (34)	0.07428 (60)	2.03 (8)
O(3)	0.25746 (68)	0.38271 (34)	0.26803 (64)	2.18 (8)
O(4)	0.45885 (58)	0.51288 (29)	0.19678 (56)	1.53 (7)
P(2)	0.58025 (19)	0.13649 (9)	0.64062 (18)	0.80 (3)
O(5)	0.74440 (58)	0.10139 (32)	0.60719 (57)	1.69 (7)
O(6)	0.54629 (58)	0.07118 (30)	0.79738 (58)	1.60 (7)
O(7)	0.42137 (61)	0.12621 (31)	0.44902 (60)	1.82 (8)
O(8)	0.58611 (56)	0.24968 (31)	0.71008 (56)	1.55 (7)
O(9)	0.86427 (60)	0.36588 (32)	0.01954 (58)	1.81 (8)

* The numbers in parentheses are standard errors (from least-squares) in the last significant figures.

Table 3. Bond distances and angles

H_3PO_4 (A)		H_3PO_4 (B)	
P(1)-O(1)	1.503 (4) Å	P(2)-O(5)	1.477 (5) Å
P(1)-O(2)	1.554 (5)	P(2)-O(6)	1.542 (5)
P(1)-O(3)	1.545 (6)	P(2)-O(7)	1.557 (5)
P(1)-O(4)	1.561 (5)	P(2)-O(8)	1.554 (5)
O(1)-P(1)-O(2)	113.7 (3) °	O(5)-P(2)-O(6)	110.5 (3) °
O(1)-P(1)-O(3)	112.7 (3)	O(5)-P(2)-O(7)	107.5 (3)
O(1)-P(1)-O(4)	111.6 (2)	O(5)-P(2)-O(8)	114.9 (3)
O(2)-P(1)-O(3)	106.9 (3)	O(6)-P(2)-O(7)	110.8 (3)
O(2)-P(1)-O(4)	104.1 (3)	O(6)-P(2)-O(8)	105.0 (3)
O(3)-P(1)-O(4)	107.3 (3)	O(7)-P(2)-O(8)	108.1 (2)

The numbers in parentheses are the standard errors in the last significant figure.

STRUCTURE OF PHOSPHORIC ACID HEMIHYDRATE, H₃PO₄·½H₂O

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors for H₃PO₄·½H₂O

The columns are I, 10F_o and 10F_c, respectively. Unobserved reflections are indicated with * and reflections affected by extinction are indicated by E.

Table with multiple columns containing numerical data for structure factors. The table is organized into rows and columns, with some cells containing asterisks (*) or 'E' to denote unobserved or extinct reflections. The data includes values for I, 10F_o, and 10F_c across various indices.

in the vicinity of the water oxygen are strongly indicated by two short separations (2.71 and 2.67 Å) from phosphate OH-oxygen atoms O(2) and O(6) to the water oxygen O(9). The phosphate OH-oxygen atoms are believed to be the donors in these two hydrogen bonds because (1) the water protons are needed to account for the closeness of approach of the five additional oxygens (each at a distance of ≈ 3 Å) in the immediate environment of the water molecule, and (2) the $-\text{O}\cdots\text{O}-$ separation tends to be shorter when the hydroxyl group, rather than water molecule, is the donor in a hydrogen bond (Baur, 1965).

Description of the structure

The asymmetric unit in phosphoric acid hemihydrate contains one water and two phosphoric acid molecules. In the following discussion, the two independent phosphoric acid molecules are referred to as $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(A)$ and $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(B)$; where the phosphorus atoms P(1) and P(2) are in $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(A)$ and $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(B)$ respectively.

The H_3PO_4 molecules

The two crystallographically independent phosphoric acid molecules are geometrically very similar to each other. Each is approximately tetrahedral, but in each the P-O bond is significantly shorter than the P-OH bonds. Considering both $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(A)$ and

$\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(B)$, the average P-O and P-OH bond lengths are 1.490 and 1.552 Å, respectively. The bond angles show small deviations from the tetrahedral angle. Bond angles and distances are listed in Table 3.

The three-dimensional structure

The phosphoric acid and water molecules are linked together into a three-dimensional network by hydrogen bonding. Each of the nine oxygen atoms is involved in at least one relatively strong intermolecular hydrogen bond. Fig. 1 shows a projection of the structure along the c axis; the intermolecular ($-\text{O}\cdots\text{O}-$) distances less than 2.72 Å are also shown.

Each $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(A)$ molecule is connected by hydrogen bonding with one water and four $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(B)$ molecules (Fig. 1). Specifically, the phosphoryl oxygen atom, O(1), of $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(A)$ is the focus of the strongest hydrogen bonding; it is the acceptor and is linked to OH-oxygen atoms, O(7) and O(8), from two separate $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(B)$ molecules with ($-\text{O}\cdots\text{O}-$) distances of 2.55 and 2.62 Å, respectively. The angle formed by these three oxygen atoms, with O(1) at the apex is 106° . In contrast to the phosphoryl oxygen atom, each of the three OH-oxygen atoms in $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(A)$ is involved in only one strong hydrogen bond (*i.e.* $-\text{O}\cdots\text{O}-$ less than 2.72 Å). Thus OH-oxygen atoms O(3) and O(4) are linked to the phosphoryl type oxygen atoms, O(5) of two separate $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(B)$ molecules, each with an

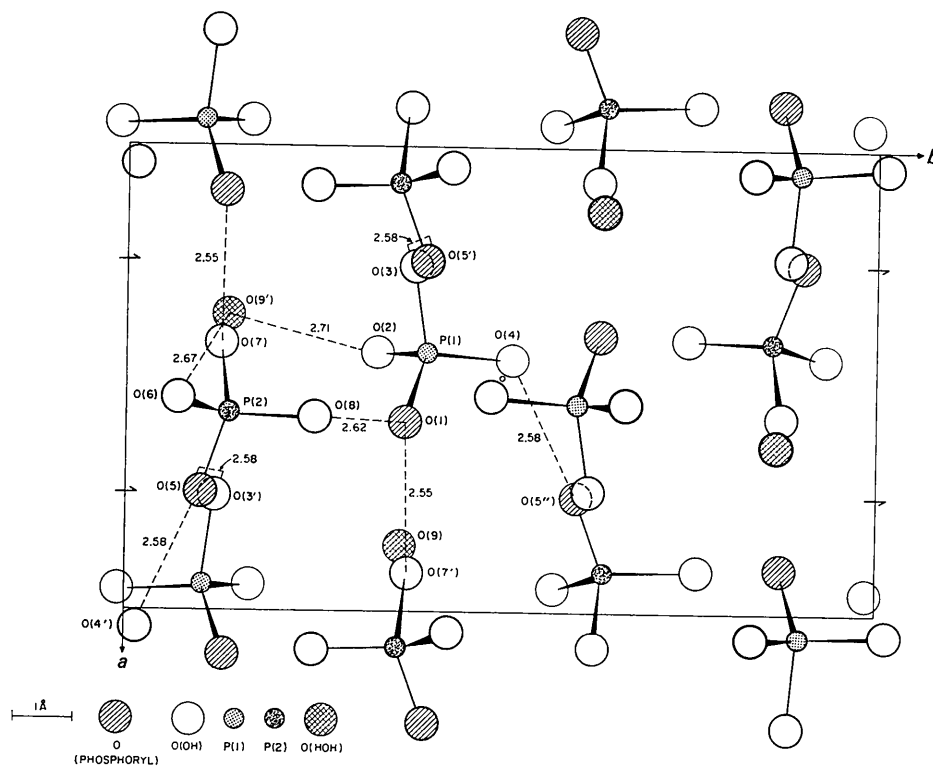


Fig. 1. Projection of the structure $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$ along the c axis. Oxygen atoms which are hydrogen bonded are connected by dashed lines.

$-\text{O} \cdots \text{O}-$ separation of 2.58 Å. A total of four H_3PO_4 (B) molecules are hydrogen bonded to one H_3PO_4 (A). The third P-OH oxygen atom, O(2), is hydrogen bonded to the water oxygen atom, O(9), at a distance of 2.71 Å.

Each H_3PO_4 (B), in an analogous manner, is hydrogen bonded to one water and four H_3PO_4 (A) molecules (Fig. 1). Thus the phosphoryl oxygen O(5) is linked to the OH-oxygen atoms O(3) and O(4) from two H_3PO_4 (A) molecules. The phosphoryl oxygen is the acceptor in the formation of two hydrogen bonds, both having an $(-\text{O} \cdots \text{O}-)$ separation of 2.58 Å; the angle formed by these three oxygen atoms with O(5) at the apex is 105° . Each of the three OH-oxygen atoms in H_3PO_4 (B) is involved in only one relatively strong hydrogen bond (*i.e.* less than 2.68 Å). As noted above, the oxygen atoms O(7) and O(8) are linked (as donors) to the phosphoryl type O(1) oxygen atoms of two separate H_3PO_4 (A) molecules with $-\text{O} \cdots \text{O}-$ distances of 2.55 and 2.62 Å, respectively. The third OH-oxygen atom, O(6), is hydrogen-bonded to the water oxygen atom, O(9), at a distance of 2.67 Å.

Environment about the water molecule

As indicated above, the water oxygen atom, O(9), is hydrogen bonded to OH-oxygen atoms O(2) in H_3PO_4 (A) and O(6) in H_3PO_4 (B) at distances of 2.71 and 2.67 Å, respectively. The angle involving these three oxygen atoms, with O(9) at the apex, is 104° . For reasons given above, the P-OH type oxygen atoms

are tentatively assigned as the donors in these two hydrogen bonds.

In addition, five phosphate oxygen atoms, all of the OH type, and all from different phosphate groups are between 2.96 and 3.09 Å away from the water oxygen (Fig. 2). To explain the closeness of these five oxygen atoms, it is reasonable to assume that the water protons are involved in a type of 'multiple' hydrogen bond.

Comparison with anhydrous H_3PO_4

The crystal structure of anhydrous H_3PO_4 (Furberg, 1955) is similar in several ways to the one described above for the hemihydrate. Again, hydrogen bonding plays an important role in the crystal structure; each H_3PO_4 is associated with five neighboring molecules. As in the hemihydrate, the P-O bond is significantly shorter than the P-OH bonds. The phosphoryl oxygen atom, moreover, is again the focus of the strongest hydrogen bond formation. This oxygen atom is attached to two OH-oxygen atoms from separated H_3PO_4 molecules by strong hydrogen bonds with distances of 2.52 and 2.53 Å. The angle, involving these three oxygen atoms, with the phosphoryl oxygen at the apex is 95° . The average corresponding angle in the hemihydrate is 105° .

Many of the computer calculations on this structure were performed using the X-ray 63 system of programs developed at the University of Maryland and at the

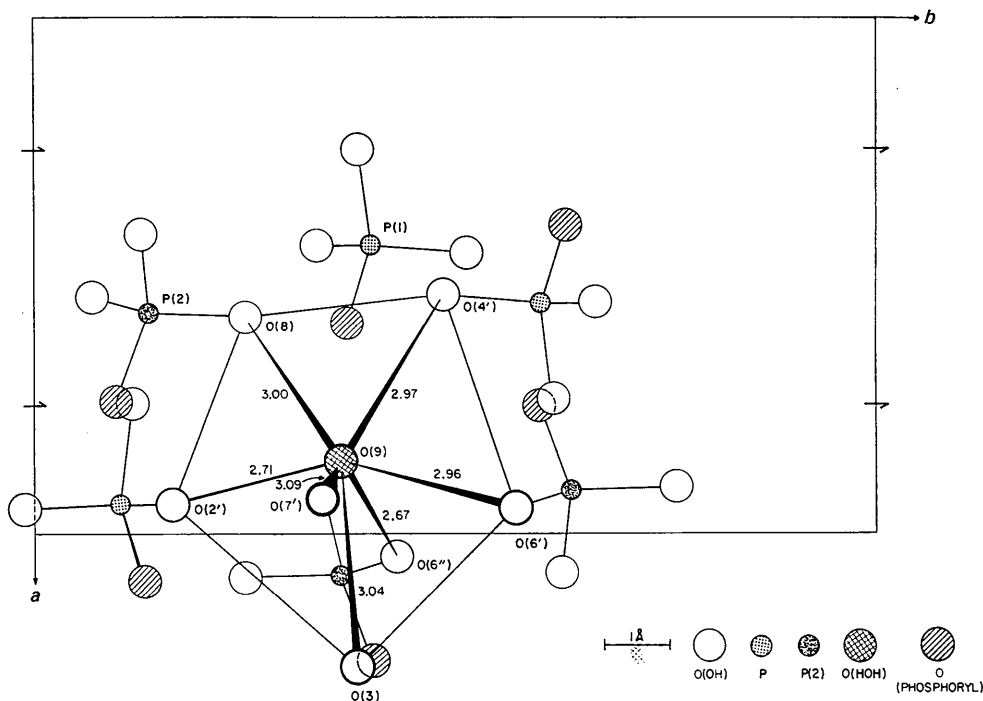


Fig. 2. The water oxygen atom [O(9)] in $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The seven oxygen atoms which are between 2.67 and 3.09 Å distant from O(9) are connected to this water oxygen atom by heavy solid lines. For clarity, O(7') has been moved slightly to the viewer's left.

University of Washington. This investigation was supported in part by research grant DE-00572 to the American Dental Association from the National Institute of Dental Research.

References

BAUR, W. H. (1965). *Acta Cryst.* **19**, 909.
 FURBERG, S. (1955). *Acta Chem. Scand.* **9**, 1557.

International Tables for X-ray Crystallography (1962). Vol. III. Birmingham: Kynoch Press.
 LEHR, R., BROWN, E. H., FRAZIER, A. W., SMITH, J. P. & THRASHER, R. D. (1967). *Crystallographic Properties of Fertilizer Compounds*. TVA Chem. Engr. Bull. No. 6.
 MIGHELL, A. D. & JACOBSON, R. A. (1964). *Acta Cryst.* **17**, 1554.
 SMITH, J. P., BROWN, W. E. & LEHR, J. R. (1955). *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* **77**, 2728.

Acta Cryst. (1969). B25, 781

Preparation, Properties and Crystal Structure of Barium Vanadium Sulfide, BaVS₃*

BY RICHARD A. GARDNER, MARCUS VLASSE AND AARON WOLD

Department of Chemistry and the Division of Engineering, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912, U.S.A.

(Received 25 April 1968)

Barium vanadium sulfide, BaVS₃, has been prepared and single crystals have been grown from a barium chloride flux. The crystal structure of BaVS₃ at room temperature has been determined by single-crystal analysis and the space group is *P6₃/mmc* with two formula units per unit cell. The hexagonal cell dimensions are $a = 6.724 \pm 0.005$ Å and $c = 5.610 \pm 0.005$ Å. The calculated density is 4.30 g.cm^{-3} and the observed density is 4.22 g.cm^{-3} . The structure has been refined by least-squares techniques to a final *R* value on *F* of 7.5% for 192 independent reflections above background. The structure is based on hexagonal close-packed BaS₃ layers with the vanadium cations occupying one quarter of the octahedral voids between these layers. These are all the voids that are bounded exclusively by anions. The vanadium cations form chains parallel to the *c* axis with a V-V distance of 2.805 ± 0.002 Å. Low temperature powder X-ray studies indicate that a crystallographic distortion begins to occur near 185°K and this distortion gradually increases as the temperature is decreased. At liquid nitrogen temperature the distortion is considerable, but its exact nature is unknown. A plot of resistivity as a function of temperature indicates a change in the slope at approximately 130°K. This change is associated with a transition from the metallic to the semiconducting state. The electrical properties of BaVS₃, in the metallic state, are discussed in terms of direct interactions between the vanadium cations.

Introduction

Katz & Ward (1964) have recently described the structures of a number of mixed metal oxides in terms of the stacking sequence of essentially close-packed metal-oxygen layers. The concept of structure in terms of stacking sequences permits the correlation of a large number of structure types. In addition, it is possible to utilize these ideas in order to predict the existence of new compounds.

Compounds of the type ABX₃ where A is a large cation, B a small cation, and X is an anion, can be described as an essentially close-packed array of A and X ions, provided A and X are approximately the same size. In such an array, one quarter of the octahedral voids are bounded exclusively by the anions; these are the octahedra occupied by the B cations. The well known perovskite-type structure may be described in terms of cubic close-packing of the AX₃ layers. If the stacking sequence of the close-packed layers is hexa-

gonal, then a different structure-type results. In addition, other structure-types can be described in terms of different sequences of hexagonal and cubic layers. The structure of compounds with a common packing sequence has usually been classified according to the crystal structures of minerals or specific compounds, e.g. perovskite, spinel, nickel arsenide, etc. This may at times lead to confusion because many such compounds often show marked differences in their crystallographic properties; a common packing sequence does not necessarily imply a common crystal structure. In this study it is preferred to designate the compounds according to the packing sequence rather than by association with the structure of a particular class of minerals or compounds.

In ABX₃ compounds with a cubic close-packed arrangement of ions, the octahedra occupied by B cations share corners; in the hexagonal close-packed structure these octahedra share faces and form continuous chains parallel to the *c* axis of the crystal. The ternary transition metal sulfides and selenides BaTiS₃ (Hahn & Mutschke, 1956; Clearfield, 1963; Aslanov & Kovba, 1964), BaTiSe₃ (Aslanov, 1964), SrTiS₃ (Hahn &

* This work has been supported by A.R.P.A. and U.S. Army Research office, Durham.