

## A Second Configuration for the Octacyanide Group. The Crystal Structure of $\text{Na}_3\text{W}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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The crystal structure of the compound  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{N}_8\text{O}_4\text{Na}_3\text{W}$  has been determined by means of a three-dimensional X-ray analysis. The space group is  $P2_1/c$  ( $C_{2h}^2$ ), and the cell dimensions are  $a=6.126$ ,  $b=16.13$ ,  $c=17.42$  Å,  $\beta=94^\circ 45'$ , with 4 molecules per unit cell. The corresponding Mo compound is isomorphous with the W compound. The atoms all lie in general positions, while the  $\text{W}(\text{CN})_8^{3-}$  anion has approximate antiprismatic  $D_{4d}$  symmetry. The average distances for the octacyanide ion are:  $\text{W}-\text{C}=2.139$ ,  $\text{C}-\text{N}=1.164$ , and  $\text{W}-\text{N}=3.302$  Å. The carbon atoms form an angle of  $59.1^\circ$  with the tetragonal axis of the anion.

### Introduction

The octa-coordinated  $\text{Mo}(\text{CN})_8^{3-}$ ,  $\text{W}(\text{CN})_8^{3-}$ , and  $\text{Re}(\text{CN})_8^{2-}$  complex anions are the only transition-metal cyanide compounds with a  $d^1$ -electron configuration that have been well characterized. Since Hoard & Nordsieck (1939) determined the dodecahedral configuration of the complex  $\text{Mo}(\text{CN})_8^{4-}$  anion, it has been postulated that all Mo and W octacyano complexes have the same structural anion configuration since there is a partial correspondence of the distribution of intensities and frequencies in the infrared and Raman spectra. For further evidence in this connexion an X-ray study has been made of the pentavalent octacyanocomplexes of Mo and W.

### Experimental

$\text{K}_4\text{W}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{K}_4\text{Mo}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were prepared by the methods of Kosinska & Stasicka (1957) and of Furman & Miller (1960) respectively, and were oxidized to the pentavalent state with cerium sulphate using *N*-phenylanthranilic acid as indicator. From the insoluble  $\text{Ag}_3\text{W}(\text{CN})_8$  and  $\text{Ag}_3\text{Mo}(\text{CN})_8$  complexes which were precipitated,  $\text{Na}_3\text{W}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Na}_3\text{Mo}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were prepared by the method of Baadsgaard & Treadwell (1955). Prismatic *a*-needles of both complexes were grown from aqueous solution by evaporation over anhydrous  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  in the dark.

The crystal data (Table 1) were determined from oscillation and Weissenberg photos with  $\text{Cu } K\alpha$  radiation. The W and Mo compounds were found to be isomorphous. The camera was standardized with  $\text{NaCl}$ . Densities were determined by flotation. The isomorphous compounds showed systematic absences for  $0k0$ ,  $k \neq 2n$ ,  $h0l$ ,  $l \neq 2n$ , giving a unique determination of the space group  $P2_1/c$ .

Optical investigation in polarized light showed extinction parallel to the needle axis for both compounds. No twinning or peculiar extinction effects were observed.

Table 1. *Crystal data*

Compound	$\text{Na}_3\text{Mo}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Na}_3\text{W}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$
M.W.	445.12	533.02
<i>a</i> (Å)	6.126	6.126
<i>b</i> (Å)	16.14	16.13
<i>c</i> (Å)	17.53	17.42
$\beta$	$94^\circ 27'$	$94^\circ 45'$
<i>Z</i>	4	4
<i>V</i> (Å) <sup>3</sup>	1728	1715.4
<i>D<sub>x</sub></i> (g.cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.71	2.06
<i>D<sub>m</sub></i> (g.cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.71	2.05

It was found that the  $\text{Mo}^V$  complex decomposed more rapidly in X-radiation than the corresponding  $\text{W}^V$  compound, and thus the structure investigation was carried out on the W compound.

A suitable crystal ( $0.21 \times 0.20 \times 0.61$  mm) of  $\text{Na}_3\text{W}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was covered with Canada balsam, as it otherwise begins to lose water of crystallization after about two days. The crystal was rotated about the *a* axis. Integrated multiple-film equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs were taken for layers 0 to 5, with  $\text{Cu } K\alpha$  radiation [ $(\mu(\text{Cu } K\alpha)) = 162.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ]. The intensities of about 87% of a total of 3081 reflexions could be determined visually using a standard calibrated scale, and were corrected with the usual factors, Lorentz, polarization, spot shape,  $\alpha_1$ - $\alpha_2$  splitting, and absorption.

### Structure determination and refinement

A three-dimensional Patterson synthesis gave the coordinates of the tungsten atom. The large difference in atomic number between W and the lighter elements caused false peaks so that the other atomic coordinates could not be determined.

A Fourier synthesis was next made in three dimensions with only the W atoms placed in the general positions. The expected peaks for the lighter elements could be determined without great difficulty. The *R* value was at this stage 0.374. A second three-dimensional Fourier synthesis was carried out with all the

Table 2. Observed and calculated structure factors

The data are separated into groups having common values of  $h$  and  $k$ . The three columns in each group list values of  $l$ ,  $F_o$  and  $F_c$ , in that order.

1	2790	-1143	2	704	474	15	2361	2171	-5	9668	7613	-6	6579	-7519	1	8267	-9130
2	2315	7564	3	3922	1314	2	9238	9174	-6	6939	-8420	-7	1022	1276	2	1943	-2548
3	15120	-11091	4	4600	-1903	4	2149	2083	-7	1102	429	-8	1102	429	3	4801	760
4	4750	-4743	5	1079	-181	3	1701	7372	1	1909	1813	-9	2967	2368	4	826	809
5	761	4420	6	3768	5929	6	6846	6846	2	2874	2545	-10	518	-756	5	10175	-8897
6	7055	7425	7	1268	46	4	781	46	4	2650	2609	-11	2196	-2427	6	3736	1615
7	1209	751	8	1768	171	5	1957	184	5	4329	1368	-12	2484	-11	1179	1970	
8	4935	-5550	9	1501	-471	6	2982	2086	6	2870	2437	-13	1072	16	4098	-12	
9	1117	-5107	10	6784	-3590	7	4875	5544	7	1108	5220	-14	4705	1050	8	645	499
10	1842	2084	11	4441	-744	8	4092	207	8	1721	-1302	-15	1274	-3200	9	1507	714
11	4895	4285	12	4527	5829	9	1294	960	9	1101	-2441	1	3912	-3557	10	1482	-1849
12	472	-532	13	1515	729	10	1188	117	10	1515	1212	2	7394	1262	11	1507	1319
13	1745	1379	14	1748	1430	11	4495	3495	12	715	-24	3	6265	-5844	12	1500	1026
14	2095	-17348	15	2052	2013	12	5112	5112	13	16480	1644	4	10680	-17723	13	10680	-17723
15	361	231	16	1022	779	13	677	409	14	1540	1464	5	4895	3873	14	1029	1195
16	6117	-5931	17	1761	1111	14	4405	4415	15	4635	4484	6	1482	-1302	15	1482	-1302
17	789	-1761	18	4684	-4884	15	1809	1815	16	1244	7994	7	7854	7994	16	1244	7994
18	9232	4729	19	2457	2726	16	2895	2601	17	11291	-9979	8	6092	9520	17	492	500
19	412	1049	20	1256	8294	17	1448	1404	18	1021	1216	9	8763	6260	18	2937	4475
20	1142	-1049	21	4720	7668	18	4004	8505	19	1210	1406	10	2950	-9211	19	4784	-3719
21	9232	4729	22	1049	1959	19	1393	1849	20	7182	-2175	11	6477	6447	20	4416	-4444
22	9232	4729	23	1049	1959	20	1393	1849	21	6187	6447	12	4416	-4444	21	6187	6447
23	9232	4729	24	1049	1959	21	1393	1849	22	6187	6447	13	4416	-4444	22	6187	6447
24	9232	4729	25	1049	1959	22	1393	1849	23	6187	6447	14	4416	-4444	23	6187	6447
25	9232	4729	26	1049	1959	23	1393	1849	24	6187	6447	15	4416	-4444	24	6187	6447
26	9232	4729	27	1049	1959	24	1393	1849	25	6187	6447	16	4416	-4444	25	6187	6447
27	9232	4729	28	1049	1959	25	1393	1849	26	6187	6447	17	4416	-4444	26	6187	6447
28	9232	4729	29	1049	1959	26	1393	1849	27	6187	6447	18	4416	-4444	27	6187	6447
29	9232	4729	30	1049	1959	27	1393	1849	28	6187	6447	19	4416	-4444	28	6187	6447
30	9232	4729	31	1049	1959	28	1393	1849	29	6187	6447	20	4416	-4444	29	6187	6447
31	9232	4729	32	1049	1959	29	1393	1849	30	6187	6447	21	4416	-4444	30	6187	6447
32	9232	4729	33	1049	1959	30	1393	1849	31	6187	6447	22	4416	-4444	31	6187	6447
33	9232	4729	34	1049	1959	31	1393	1849	32	6187	6447	23	4416	-4444	32	6187	6447
34	9232	4729	35	1049	1959	32	1393	1849	33	6187	6447	24	4416	-4444	33	6187	6447
35	9232	4729	36	1049	1959	33	1393	1849	34	6187	6447	25	4416	-4444	34	6187	6447
36	9232	4729	37	1049	1959	34	1393	1849	35	6187	6447	26	4416	-4444	35	6187	6447
37	9232	4729	38	1049	1959	35	1393	1849	36	6187	6447	27	4416	-4444	36	6187	6447
38	9232	4729	39	1049	1959	36	1393	1849	37	6187	6447	28	4416	-4444	37	6187	6447
39	9232	4729	40	1049	1959	37	1393	1849	38	6187	6447	29	4416	-4444	38	6187	6447
40	9232	4729	41	1049	1959	38	1393	1849	39	6187	6447	30	4416	-4444	39	6187	6447
41	9232	4729	42	1049	1959	39	1393	1849	40	6187	6447	31	4416	-4444	40	6187	6447
42	9232	4729	43	1049	1959	40	1393	1849	41	6187	6447	32	4416	-4444	41	6187	6447
43	9232	4729	44	1049	1959	41	1393	1849	42	6187	6447	33	4416	-4444	42	6187	6447
44	9232	4729	45	1049	1959	42	1393	1849	43	6187	6447	34	4416	-4444	43	6187	6447
45	9232	4729	46	1049	1959	43	1393	1849	44	6187	6447	35	4416	-4444	44	6187	6447
46	9232	4729	47	1049	1959	44	1393	1849	45	6187	6447	36	4416	-4444	45	6187	6447
47	9232	4729	48	1049	1959	45	1393	1849	46	6187	6447	37	4416	-4444	46	6187	6447
48	9232	4729	49	1049	1959	46	1393	1849	47	6187	6447	38	4416	-4444	47	6187	6447
49	9232	4729	50	1049	1959	47	1393	1849	48	6187	6447	39	4416	-4444	48	6187	6447
50	9232	4729	51	1049	1959	48	1393	1849	49	6187	6447	40	4416	-4444	49	6187	6447
51	9232	4729	52	1049	1959	49	1393	1849	50	6187	6447	41	4416	-4444	50	6187	6447
52	9232	4729	53	1049	1959	50	1393	1849	51	6187	6447	42	4416	-4444	51	6187	6447
53	9232	4729	54	1049	1959	51	1393	1849	52	6187	6447	43	4416	-4444	52	6187	6447
54	9232	4729	55	1049	1959	52	1393	1849	53	6187	6447	44	4416	-4444	53	6187	6447
55	9232	4729	56	1049	1959	53	1393	1849	54	6187	6447	45	4416	-4444	54	6187	6447
56	9232	4729	57	1049	1959	54	1393	1849	55	6187	6447	46	4416	-4444	55	6187	6447
57	9232	4729	58	1049	1959	55	1393	1849	56	6187	6447	47	4416	-4444	56	6187	6447
58	9232	4729	59	1049	1959	56	1393	1849	57	6187	6447	48	4416	-4444	57	6187	6447
59	9232	4729	60	1049	1959	57	1393	1849	58	6187	6447	49	4416	-4444	58	6187	6447
60	9232	4729	61	1049	1959	58	1393	1849	59	6187	6447	50	4416	-4444	59	6187	6447
61	9232	4729	62	1049	1959	59	1393	1849	60	6187	6447	51	4416	-4444	60	6187	6447
62	9232	4729	63	1049	1959	60	1393	1849	61	6187	6447	52	4416	-4444	61	6187	6447
63	9232	4729	64	1049	1959	61	1393	1849	62	6187	6447	53	4416	-4444	62	6187	6447
64	9232	4729	65	1049	1959	62	1393	1849	63	6187	6447	54	4416	-4444	63	6187	6447
65	9232	4729	66	1049	1959	63	1393	1849	64	6187	6447	55	4416	-4444	64	6187	6447
66	9232	4729	67	1049	1959	64	1393	1849	65	6187	6447	56	4416	-4444	65	6187	6447
67	9232	4729	68	1049	1959	65	1393	1849	66	6187	6447	57	4416	-4444	66	6187	6447
68	9232	4729	69	1049	1959	66	1393	1849	67	6187	6447	58	4416	-4444	67	6187	6447
69	9232	4729	70	1049	1959	67	1393	1849	68	6187	6447	59	4416	-4444	68	6187	6447
70	9232	4729	71	1049	1959	68	1393	1849	69	6187	6447	60	4416	-4444	69	6187	6447
71	9232	4729	72	1049	1959	69	1393	1849	70	6187	6447	61	4416	-4444	70	6187	6447
72	9232	4729	73	1049	1959	70	1393	1849	71	6187	6447	62	4416	-4444	71	6187	6447
73	9232	4729	74	1049	1959	71	1393	1849	72	6187	6447	63	4416	-4444	72	6187	6447
74	9232	4729	75	1049	1959	72	1393	1849	73	6187	6447	64	4416	-4444	73	6187	6447
75	9232	4729	76	1049	1959	73	1393	1849	74	6187	6447	65	4416	-4444	74	6187	6447
76	9232	4729	77	1049	1959	74	1393	1849	75	6187	6447	66	4416	-4444	75	6187	6447
77	9232	4729	78	1049	1959	75	1393	1849	76	6187	6447	67	4416	-4444	76	6187	6447
78	9232	4729	79	1049	1959	76	1393										





Table 2 (cont.)

H = 2, K = 8	H = 3, K = 18	1414	1737	-12	4407	4111	306	-1174	2937	-3031	1127	2828
0 3446 3550	0 1375 1511	477	564	-12	1871	1729	4749	-4317	3017	3260	1010	-1561
H = 2, K = 9	H = 3, K = 19	1245	1326	-15	1447	-1129	4672	-4113	474	482	1065	-1117
0 2228 -2519	0 1226 -1477	1245	1326	-15	1447	-1129	4672	-4113	474	482	1065	-1117
H = 2, K = 10	H = 4, K = 0	1414	1737	-12	4407	4111	306	-1174	2937	-3031	1127	2828
0 1350 -1432	2 4021 -4130	1350	1432	-12	4021	4130	1350	1432	-12	4021	4130	1350
H = 2, K = 11	H = 4, K = 1	1245	1326	-15	1447	-1129	4672	-4113	474	482	1065	-1117
0 575 -315	4 4551 5672	1245	1326	-15	1447	-1129	4672	-4113	474	482	1065	-1117
H = 2, K = 12	H = 4, K = 2	1071	1514	-11	1423	-1261	4717	-4046	478	478	1010	-1010
0 1022 -1541	12 1071 1514	1071	1514	-11	1423	-1261	4717	-4046	478	478	1010	-1010
H = 2, K = 13	H = 4, K = 3	843	1447	-10	1407	-1343	4762	-3975	472	472	955	-955
0 1057 485	14 843 1447	843	1447	-10	1407	-1343	4762	-3975	472	472	955	-955
H = 2, K = 14	H = 4, K = 4	615	1380	-9	1392	-1429	4807	-3908	473	473	900	-900
0 1743 -1778	16 615 1380	615	1380	-9	1392	-1429	4807	-3908	473	473	900	-900
H = 2, K = 15	H = 4, K = 5	387	1313	-8	1375	-1515	4852	-3841	474	474	845	-845
0 3086 2723	18 387 1313	387	1313	-8	1375	-1515	4852	-3841	474	474	845	-845
H = 2, K = 16	H = 4, K = 6	159	1246	-7	1368	-1608	4907	-3774	475	475	790	-790
0 1256 1350	20 159 1246	159	1246	-7	1368	-1608	4907	-3774	475	475	790	-790
H = 2, K = 17	H = 4, K = 7	93	1179	-6	1361	-1701	4962	-3707	476	476	735	-735
0 1893 1843	22 93 1179	93	1179	-6	1361	-1701	4962	-3707	476	476	735	-735
H = 2, K = 18	H = 4, K = 8	27	1112	-5	1354	-1794	5017	-3640	477	477	680	-680
0 1064 -1095	24 27 1112	27	1112	-5	1354	-1794	5017	-3640	477	477	680	-680
H = 2, K = 19	H = 4, K = 9	11	1045	-4	1347	-1887	5072	-3573	478	478	625	-625
0 1289 -1341	26 11 1045	11	1045	-4	1347	-1887	5072	-3573	478	478	625	-625
H = 2, K = 20	H = 4, K = 10	5	978	-3	1340	-1980	5127	-3506	479	479	570	-570
0 5179 4585	28 5 978	5	978	-3	1340	-1980	5127	-3506	479	479	570	-570
H = 3, K = 2	H = 4, K = 11	415	1313	-10	1407	-1343	4762	-3975	472	472	955	-955
0 6928 6342	30 415 1313	415	1313	-10	1407	-1343	4762	-3975	472	472	955	-955
H = 3, K = 3	H = 4, K = 12	279	1246	-9	1392	-1429	4807	-3908	473	473	900	-900
0 4549 4474	32 279 1246	279	1246	-9	1392	-1429	4807	-3908	473	473	900	-900
H = 3, K = 4	H = 4, K = 13	141	1179	-8	1375	-1515	4852	-3841	474	474	845	-845
0 4580 4359	34 141 1179	141	1179	-8	1375	-1515	4852	-3841	474	474	845	-845
H = 3, K = 5	H = 4, K = 14	85	1112	-7	1368	-1608	4907	-3774	475	475	790	-790
0 3742 3981	36 85 1112	85	1112	-7	1368	-1608	4907	-3774	475	475	790	-790
H = 3, K = 6	H = 4, K = 15	49	1045	-6	1361	-1701	4962	-3707	476	476	735	-735
0 2978 3390	38 49 1045	49	1045	-6	1361	-1701	4962	-3707	476	476	735	-735
H = 3, K = 7	H = 4, K = 16	33	978	-5	1354	-1794	5017	-3640	477	477	680	-680
0 1827 2521	40 33 978	33	978	-5	1354	-1794	5017	-3640	477	477	680	-680
H = 3, K = 8	H = 4, K = 17	19	911	-4	1347	-1887	5072	-3573	478	478	625	-625
0 1344 1742	42 19 911	19	911	-4	1347	-1887	5072	-3573	478	478	625	-625
H = 3, K = 9	H = 4, K = 18	13	844	-3	1340	-1980	5127	-3506	479	479	570	-570
0 1010 -202	44 13 844	13	844	-3	1340	-1980	5127	-3506	479	479	570	-570
H = 3, K = 10	H = 4, K = 19	8	777	-2	1333	-2073	5182	-3439	480	480	515	-515
0 404 174	46 8 777	8	777	-2	1333	-2073	5182	-3439	480	480	515	-515
H = 3, K = 11	H = 4, K = 20	5	710	-1	1326	-2166	5237	-3372	481	481	460	-460
0 619 -312	48 5 710	5	710	-1	1326	-2166	5237	-3372	481	481	460	-460
H = 3, K = 12	H = 4, K = 21	3	643	0	1319	-2259	5292	-3305	482	482	405	-405
0 425 -211	50 3 643	3	643	0	1319	-2259	5292	-3305	482	482	405	-405
H = 3, K = 13	H = 4, K = 22	2	576	1	1312	-2352	5347	-3238	483	483	350	-350
0 3522 1897	52 2 576	2	576	1	1312	-2352	5347	-3238	483	483	350	-350
H = 3, K = 14	H = 4, K = 23	1	509	2	1305	-2445	5402	-3171	484	484	295	-295
0 2094 8218	54 1 509	1	509	2	1305	-2445	5402	-3171	484	484	295	-295
H = 3, K = 15	H = 4, K = 24	1	442	3	1298	-2538	5457	-3104	485	485	240	-240
0 1726 -1748	56 1 442	1	442	3	1298	-2538	5457	-3104	485	485	240	-240
H = 3, K = 16	H = 4, K = 25	1	375	4	1291	-2631	5512	-3037	486	486	185	-185
0 1835 -1890	58 1 375	1	375	4	1291	-2631	5512	-3037	486	486	185	-185
H = 3, K = 17	H = 4, K = 26	1	308	5	1284	-2724	5567	-2970	487	487	130	-130
0 2007 2027	60 1 308	1	308	5	1284	-2724	5567	-2970	487	487	130	-130

Table 2 (cont.)

H = 5, K = 16	332	-333	4833	-3324	12	1544	1802	4	947	-850	4	355	175
0 326 -346	101	101	4833	-3324	12	1544	1802	4	947	-850	4	355	175
H = 5, K = 17	218	-219	3541	-2182	11	1417	1654	3	820	-729	3	228	62
0 326 -346	101	101	3541	-2182	11	1417	1654	3	820	-729	3	228	62
H = 5, K = 18	105	-106	2250	-1051	10	1290	1506	2	693	-602	2	101	-10
0 455 263	101	101	2250	-1051	10	1290	1506	2	693	-602	2	101	-10
H = 5, K = 19	45	-46	959	-450	9	1163	1358	1	566	-475	1	-19	-19
0 3419 -3134	101	101	959	-450	9	1163	1358	1	566	-475	1	-19	-19
H = 5, K = 20	33	-34	668	-329	8	1036	1210	0	439	-344	0	-128	-128
0 359 950	101	101	668	-329	8	1036	1210	0	439	-344	0	-128	-128
H = 5, K = 21	22	-23	377	-228	7	909	1062	-1	312	-253	-1	-197	-197
0 4581 3854	101	101	377	-228	7	909	1062	-1	312	-253	-1	-197	-197
H = 5, K = 22	11	-12	88	-79	6	782	914	-2	185	-162	-2	-286	-286
0 639 256	101	101	88	-79	6	782	914	-2	185	-162	-2	-286	-286
H = 5, K = 23	7	-8	42	-33	5	655	766	-3	58	-111	-3	-375	-375
0 1029 1029	101	101	42	-33	5	655	766	-3	58	-111	-3	-375	-375
H = 5, K = 24	5	-6	21	-18	4	528	618	-4	29	-60	-4	-464	-464
0 1726 -1748	101	101	21	-18	4	528	618	-4	29	-60	-4	-464	-464
H = 5, K = 25	4	-5	10	-9	3	401	470	-5	10	-49	-5	-553	-553
0 1835 -1890	101	101	10	-9	3	401	470	-5	10	-49	-5	-553	-553
H = 5, K = 26	3	-4	5	-4	2	274	322	-6	1	-38	-6	-642	-642
0 1795 2637	101	101	5	-4	2	274	322	-6	1	-38	-6	-642	-642
H = 5, K = 27	2	-3	2	-3	1	147	174	-7	0	-47	-7	-731	-731
0 2007 2027	101	101	2	-3	1	147	174	-7	0	-47	-7	-731	-731

Table 3. *Final atomic coordinates and respective isotropic thermal parameters*

Estimated standard deviations of the last two figures are given in parentheses.

	<i>x/a</i> ( $\times 10^4$ )	<i>y/b</i> ( $\times 10^4$ )	<i>z/c</i> ( $\times 10^4$ )	<i>B</i> ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )
W	424 (2)	2263 (1)	1036 (1)	3.47 (4)
C(1)	2519 (42)	1825 (14)	1987 (14)	3.58 (51)
C(2)	2100 (46)	1226 (16)	572 (15)	4.53 (60)
C(3)	2216 (47)	2736 (17)	135 (16)	3.69 (62)
C(4)	2108 (44)	3352 (15)	1485 (15)	3.68 (55)
C(5)	-1260 (40)	2685 (14)	1975 (13)	2.62 (49)
C(6)	-1455 (46)	3311 (16)	590 (15)	4.11 (59)
C(7)	-1570 (46)	1854 (16)	57 (15)	3.87 (59)
C(8)	-1234 (69)	1179 (26)	1432 (24)	4.48 (110)
N(1)	3635 (39)	1629 (14)	2514 (13)	4.38 (53)
N(2)	3116 (41)	677 (15)	347 (14)	4.41 (57)
N(3)	3110 (40)	2956 (14)	-418 (13)	4.48 (54)
N(4)	3065 (43)	3918 (16)	1728 (15)	5.02 (62)
N(5)	-2075 (41)	2895 (15)	2550 (14)	4.71 (56)
N(6)	-2467 (43)	3858 (16)	398 (15)	5.26 (61)
N(7)	-2605 (46)	1603 (17)	-481 (16)	5.40 (67)
N(8)	-2170 (39)	605 (14)	1649 (13)	4.31 (52)
Na(1)	4811 (17)	4534 (6)	4070 (6)	4.07 (23)
Na(2)	-4541 (19)	299 (7)	2920 (6)	4.58 (25)
Na(3)	-4331 (18)	2351 (6)	3573 (6)	4.19 (24)
O(1)	2725 (49)	410 (19)	3875 (17)	9.40 (84)
O(2)	2738 (36)	3477 (13)	3403 (12)	5.96 (53)
O(3)	-2840 (35)	4631 (13)	2956 (12)	5.56 (51)
O(4)	-1941 (45)	1111 (17)	3676 (16)	8.32 (75)

nitrogen and two oxygen atoms of the water molecules for Na(1) and Na(3), and three nitrogen and three oxygen atoms for Na(2). The mean separations for Na(1), Na(2), and Na(3) in each octahedron are 2.495, 2.493 and 2.499 Å respectively. All the octahedra are regular within the accuracy of the structure, and adjacent ones are linked by a common edge comprising a nitrogen and an oxygen atom. (Fig. 1.). The sodium atoms all occur at about the same height in the [100] direction (Fig. 2). Na(1) and Na(3) link four square antiprisms in the [010] and [001] directions respectively by means of one nitrogen atom on the square face of each polyhedron, the four nitrogen atoms being part

of the octahedron. Na(2), with one extra oxygen atom incorporated in the octahedron, connects three different antiprisms in the above-mentioned way. The oxygen atoms occupy two different planes in pairs on both sides of the sodium atoms and occur approximately at the same height as the four nitrogen atoms of each of the two adjacent antiprisms in the [100] direction. No atoms occupy positions directly above or below the square face of the antiprism. The closest nitrogen-oxygen separations are N(3)···O(1) (2.910 Å), N(5)···O(3) (2.936 Å) and N(6)···O(1) (2.817 Å). All the nitrogen atoms of one square antiprism are part of an octahedron around the sodium atoms, excepting N(6). The N(6)···O(1) distance is less than the sum of the van der Waals radii of the two atoms, and suggests a weak hydrogen bond to stabilize this nitrogen atom.

Table 3 shows relatively high *B* factors of 9.40 and 8.32 Å<sup>2</sup> for O(1) and O(4) respectively. Although these atoms are subjected to electrostatic interactions with the sodium atoms (being part of the octahedra) their positions are not so uniquely fixed relative to the remaining oxygen atoms considering the packing of the structure as a whole. Their thermal movement in the [001] direction might be appreciably larger, since they occupy the brim of a hole between adjacent antiprisms in the [010] direction.

Blight & Kepert (1968) stress the point that factors like ligand-ligand repulsion, crystal field stabilization, bond strength,  $\pi$ -bonding, and solvation energies could not be successfully correlated to the preferred stereochemistry of eight-coordinated compounds, and that the lattice energy in the solid state appears to be the most important factor in deciding the configurational type. Hoard & Silverton (1963) stated that the shape of a complex is affected to some degree by the packing relations. Such is the case for Na<sub>3</sub>TaF<sub>8</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>TaF<sub>7</sub> and CsTaF<sub>6</sub>, where the configurational type and even the chemical constitution minimizes the crystal energy and the structure is mainly determined by the choice of the cation.

Table 4. *Dimensions (Å) of the W-C≡N chains within the anion*

Estimated standard deviations of bond lengths in parentheses.

W-C(1)	2.129 (0.026)	C(1)-N(1)	1.144 (0.035)	W-N(1)	3.271 (0.024)
W-C(2)	2.154 (0.028)	C(2)-N(2)	1.169 (0.038)	W-N(2)	3.321 (0.025)
W-C(3)	2.129 (0.029)	C(3)-N(3)	1.201 (0.038)	W-N(3)	3.326 (0.024)
W-C(4)	2.151 (0.027)	C(4)-N(4)	1.147 (0.038)	W-N(4)	3.297 (0.026)
W-C(5)	2.118 (0.025)	C(5)-N(5)	1.205 (0.035)	W-N(5)	3.320 (0.025)
W-C(6)	2.154 (0.028)	C(6)-N(6)	1.114 (0.038)	W-N(6)	3.267 (0.026)
W-C(7)	2.119 (0.028)	C(7)-N(7)	1.160 (0.040)	W-N(7)	3.279 (0.028)
W-C(8)	2.163 (0.042)	C(8)-N(8)	1.168 (0.048)	W-N(8)	3.332 (0.024)
Averaged distances (Å)					
W-C	2.139	C-N	1.164	W-N	3.302
Bond angle (degrees) at carbon atoms in the chains					
W-C(1)-N(1)	176.5	W-C(5)-N(5)	174.3		
W-C(2)-N(2)	176.1	W-C(6)-N(6)	176.3		
W-C(3)-N(3)	174.0	W-C(7)-N(7)	177.2		
W-C(4)-N(4)	177.8	W-C(8)-N(8)	178.4		
Averaged value	176.3				

$\text{Na}_3\text{W}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in the solid state can be described as a salt-like structure consisting of almost parallel sheets normal to (100) containing atoms in the

order W, O, Na, O, W, the coordination polyhedra being linked by highly electrostatic interactions with sodium ions, thus maximizing the crystal energy.

Table 5. *Dimensions of the coordination polyhedron*

Edge length		Edges of <i>s</i> type	
C(1)–C(2)	2.640 Å	C(5)–C(6)	2.608 Å
C(2)–C(3)	2.554	C(6)–C(7)	2.526
C(3)–C(4)	2.558	C(7)–C(8)	2.623
C(4)–C(1)	2.618	C(8)–C(5)	2.608
Mean	2.592		
		Edges of <i>l</i> type	
C(1)–C(5)	2.697 Å	C(3)–C(7)	2.715 Å
C(5)–C(4)	2.537	C(7)–C(2)	2.559
C(4)–C(6)	2.575	C(2)–C(8)	2.632
C(6)–C(3)	2.615	C(8)–C(1)	2.634
Mean	2.620		
Angles			
C(1)–W–C(2)	76.1°	C(2)–C(1)–C(4)	91.9°
C(2)–W–C(3)	73.2	C(3)–C(2)–C(1)	85.7
C(3)–W–C(4)	73.4	C(4)–C(3)–C(2)	95.4
C(4)–W–C(1)	75.4	C(1)–C(4)–C(3)	86.1
C(5)–W–C(6)	75.3	C(6)–C(5)–C(8)	91.5
C(6)–W–C(7)	72.5	C(7)–C(6)–C(5)	88.7
C(7)–W–C(8)	75.5	C(8)–C(7)–C(6)	93.0
C(8)–W–C(5)	75.1	C(5)–C(8)–C(7)	86.7
Mean	74.6	Mean	89.9
C(5)–C(1)–C(4)	57.0	C(7)–C(3)–C(2)	58.0
C(1)–C(5)–C(4)	59.9	C(3)–C(7)–C(2)	57.8
C(4)–C(5)–C(6)	60.0	C(2)–C(7)–C(8)	61.0
C(5)–C(4)–C(6)	61.4	C(7)–C(2)–C(8)	60.7
C(6)–C(4)–C(3)	61.3	C(8)–C(2)–C(1)	60.0
C(4)–C(6)–C(3)	59.0	C(2)–C(8)–C(1)	60.2
C(7)–C(6)–C(3)	63.7	C(1)–C(8)–C(5)	61.9
C(6)–C(3)–C(7)	56.5	C(8)–C(1)–C(5)	58.6
		Mean	59.8

Table 6. *Analysis of the planarity of the  $\text{W}(\text{CN})_8^{3-}$  ion*

Equation of plane referring to orthogonal axes:  $Ax + By + Cz = D$ .

Atoms in plane	Coefficients				Deviation
	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	
C(1)					0.077 Å
C(2)	0.9992	0.0213	0.0336	1.3573	–0.079
C(3)					0.082
C(4)					–0.079
W*					–1.109
N(1)					0.085
N(2)	0.9991	0.0294	0.0321	1.9944	–0.086
N(3)					0.086
N(4)					–0.086
W*					–1.719
C(5)					–0.021
C(6)	0.9997	0.0132	0.0209	–0.9064	0.022
C(7)					–0.022
C(8)					0.021
W*					1.102
N(5)					–0.007
N(6)	0.9998	0.0079	0.0183	–1.5139	0.007
N(7)					–0.007
N(8)					0.007
W*					1.686

\* These atoms were not included in the calculation of the plane.

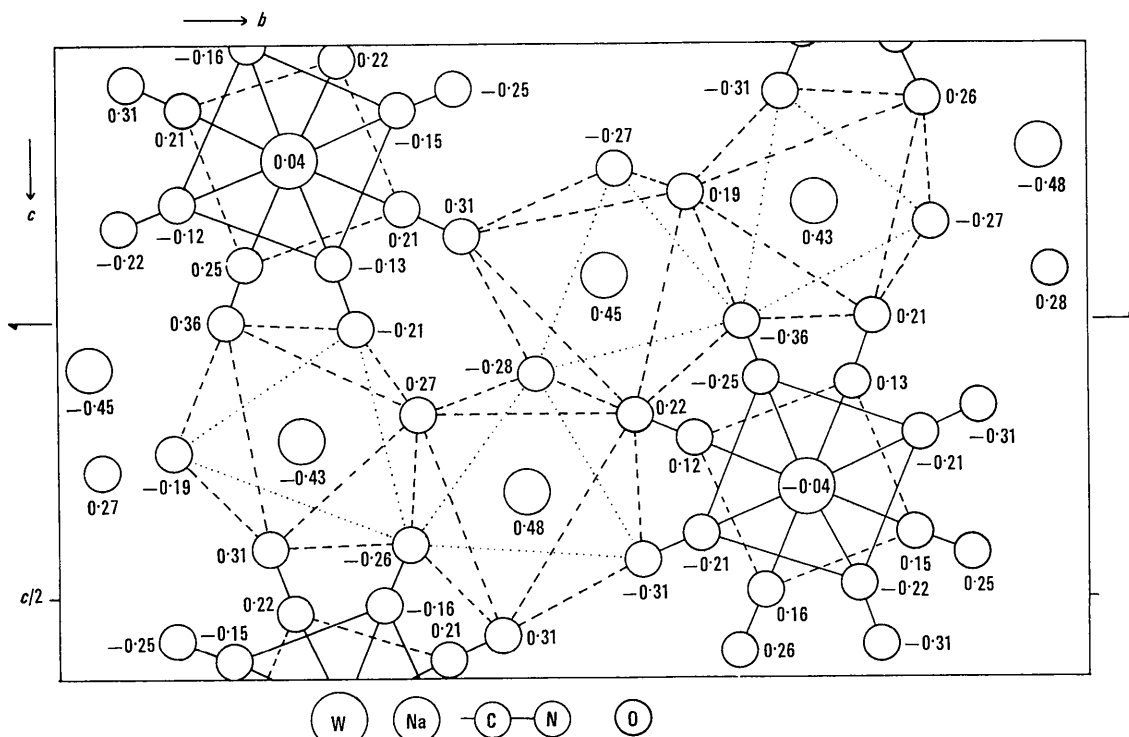


Fig. 1. The structure of  $\text{Na}_3\text{W}(\text{CN})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  viewed along the  $a$  axis showing the link up of the different polyhedra. The figures in each circle represent the fractional  $x$  coordinate of the atom.

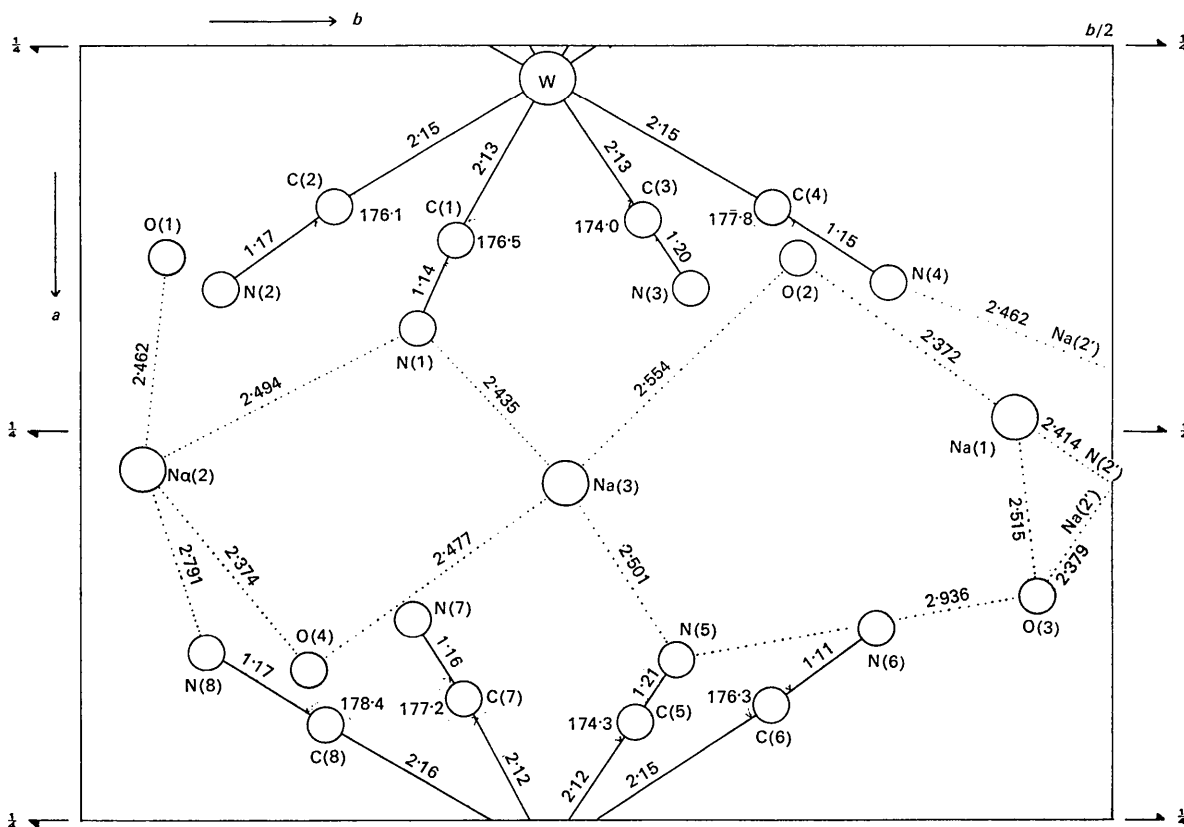


Fig. 2. The structure viewed along half of the unit-cell in the  $z$  direction. Bond lengths and angles are indicated.



Table 7. *Shape parameters for the square antiprism*

HSM	MFP	Na <sub>3</sub> W(CN) <sub>8</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O
$l=s=1.215$	$l=1.258, s=1.190$	$l=2.620, s=2.592$
$l/s=1.00$	$l/s=1.057$	$l/s=1.011$
$\theta=59.25^\circ$	$\theta=57.3^\circ$	$\theta=59.1^\circ$

Table 8. *Bond lengths and angles at the sodium atoms*

N(2)—Na(1) <sup>a</sup>	2.414	N(1)—Na(3)	2.435	N(1)—Na(2)	2.494
N(2)—Na(1) <sup>b</sup>	2.554	N(3)—Na(3) <sup>b</sup>	2.500	N(4)—Na(2) <sup>a</sup>	2.462
N(7)—Na(1) <sup>b</sup>	2.505	N(5)—Na(3)	2.501	N(8)—Na(2)	2.791
N(8)—Na(1) <sup>a</sup>	2.615	N(7)—Na(3) <sup>b</sup>	2.528	O(1)—Na(2)	2.462
O(2)—Na(1)	2.372	O(2)—Na(3)	2.554	O(3) <sup>a</sup> —Na(2)	2.379
O(3)—Na(1)	2.515	O(4)—Na(3)	2.477	O(4)—Na(2)	2.374
N(7) <sup>b</sup> —Na(1)—N(8) <sup>a</sup>	169.5	N(2) <sup>b</sup> —Na(1)—O(2)	95.2		
N(7) <sup>b</sup> —Na(1)—O(2)	85.7	N(2) <sup>b</sup> —Na(1)—O(3)	168.6		
N(7) <sup>b</sup> —Na(1)—O(3)	84.2	O(2)—Na(1)—O(3)	89.1		
N(8) <sup>a</sup> —Na(1)—O(2)	87.4	N(1)—Na(3)—N(3) <sup>b</sup>	97.3		
N(8) <sup>a</sup> —Na(1)—O(3)	87.7	N(1)—Na(3)—N(5)	84.6		
N(1)—Na(2)—N(4) <sup>a</sup>	174.5	N(1)—Na(3)—N(7) <sup>b</sup>	166.7		
N(1)—Na(2)—N(8)	82.7	N(1)—Na(3)—O(2)	86.7		
N(1)—Na(2)—O(1)	79.4	N(1)—Na(3)—O(4)	86.0		
N(1)—Na(2)—O(3) <sup>a</sup>	86.9	N(3) <sup>b</sup> —Na(3)—N(5)	170.3		
N(1)—Na(2)—O(4)	87.0	N(3) <sup>b</sup> —Na(3)—N(7) <sup>b</sup>	85.8		
N(4) <sup>a</sup> —Na(2)—N(8)	98.8	N(3) <sup>b</sup> —Na(3)—O(2)	75.3		
N(4) <sup>a</sup> —Na(2)—O(1)	98.9	N(3) <sup>b</sup> —Na(3)—O(4)	101.0		
N(4) <sup>a</sup> —Na(2)—O(3) <sup>a</sup>	88.0	N(5)—Na(3)—N(7) <sup>b</sup>	90.3		
N(4) <sup>a</sup> —Na(2)—O(4)	98.4	N(5)—Na(3)—O(2)	95.3		
N(8)—Na(2)—O(1)	161.9	N(8)—Na(2)—O(4)	88.4		
N(8)—Na(2)—O(3) <sup>a</sup>	86.5	O(1)—Na(2)—O(3) <sup>a</sup>	90.3		
N(2) <sup>a</sup> —Na(1)—N(2) <sup>b</sup>	88.4	O(1)—Na(2)—O(4)	92.8		
N(2) <sup>a</sup> —Na(1)—N(7) <sup>b</sup>	97.5	O(3) <sup>a</sup> —Na(2)—O(4)	172.5		
N(2) <sup>a</sup> —Na(1)—N(8) <sup>a</sup>	88.9	N(5)—Na(3)—O(4)	88.7		
N(2) <sup>a</sup> —Na(1)—O(2)	175.3	N(7) <sup>b</sup> —Na(3)—O(2)	81.6		
N(2) <sup>a</sup> —Na(1)—O(3)	87.9	N(7) <sup>b</sup> —Na(3)—O(4)	106.2		
N(2) <sup>b</sup> —Na(1)—N(7) <sup>b</sup>	85.6	O(2)—Na(3)—O(4)	171.3		
N(2) <sup>b</sup> —Na(1)—N(8) <sup>a</sup>	103.0				

<sup>a, b</sup> The general positions  $\bar{x}, \frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$  and  $x, \frac{1}{2}-y, \frac{1}{2}+z$  respectively.

Considering the prediction of Hoard *et al.* (1968), it seems that one of the decisive factors in determining the stereochemical form of an octacyanide group (or groups containing monodentate ligands) must be sought in the particular physical environment, in which the water molecules seem to play a dominant part, whether in solution or in the solid state. In Na<sub>3</sub>W(CN)<sub>8</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O they have the ability [unlike the case in K<sub>4</sub>Mo(CN)<sub>8</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O] to fill the vacant positions of the polyhedra around the cation, thus completing its normal ligancy. The small cation can then undergo strong interaction with the ligand atoms of the anion situated or orientated in favourable positions forming part of the octahedra, resulting in a tighter packing.

Calculations until completion of the first two refinement cycles were carried out on an IBM 360 computer, and further refinements on the KDF9 computer.

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