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The Crystal Structure of Picryl Chloride

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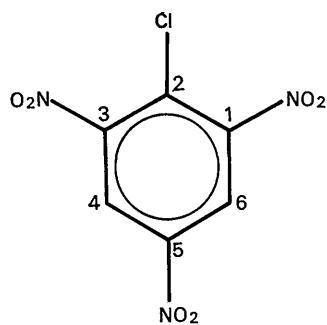
The crystal structure of picryl chloride, $C_6H_2(NO_2)_3Cl$, has been determined in separate film and diffractometer X-ray investigations. The compound crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $P2_1/a$, $Z=4$, with unit-cell dimensions $a=11.020$, $b=6.795$, $c=14.964$ Å and $\beta=124.15^\circ$; $\rho_{\text{meas}}=1.797$ g.cm $^{-3}$, $\rho_{\text{x-ray}}=1.805$ g.cm $^{-3}$ for $Z=4$. Both sets of data were refined by full-matrix least-squares methods using anisotropic temperature factors for the C, O, N and Cl atoms; H atoms were included with isotropic temperature factors in the counter data calculations. The film and diffractometer R values are 0.127 and 0.043 respectively. In most cases, the differences between the two lists of atomic parameters are less than 3σ , where σ is that of the film parameters. The two nitro groups adjacent to the chlorine atom are rotated by 33 and 81° out of the plane of the benzene ring.

Introduction

Interest in the steric interactions between nitro groups and other substituents has led to a number of structure investigations of nitro aromatics (see Holden & Dickinson, 1969, and references therein). The picryl halides (2-halo-1,3,5-trinitrobenzenes*) have been the subject of several studies during the last forty years: the structure of picryl iodide was reported by Huse & Powell (1940); Hertel & Römer (1933) proposed a packing model for picryl chloride based on a centered lattice; Kitaigorodskii (1948) reported a corrected space group and cell dimensions for the compound; and Gol'der, Zhdanov & Umanskii (1953) published a partial structure. In the latter determination, only an outline of the picryl chloride skeleton in a projection was reported and the positions of two of the oxygen atoms were not specified.

Our own work on picryl chloride, 2-chloro-1,3,5-trinitrobenzene,* has spanned a period of ten years and

the results of two separate determinations, one with film and another with counter data, are reported herein. A preliminary account of part of this work has been published (Gluyas & Harris, 1959).



Experimental

Commercially available picryl chloride (Eastman Kodak Co.) recrystallized from a chloroform–carbon tet-

* The present *Chemical Abstracts* numbering scheme for picryl halides places the halogen on C(2).

rachloride mixture as yellow plates. The preliminary diffraction survey and film study were done at The Ohio State University. The specimens examined were found to crystallize in the monoclinic system described by Kitaigorodskii (1948) and density measurements (neutral buoyancy technique in aqueous KI) indicated four molecules per unit cell. The diffraction data were recorded with Ni-filtered Cu radiation ($\lambda=1.5418 \text{ \AA}$) on equi-inclination Weissenberg films for levels $h0l-h4l$ and $0kl-3kl$, and the intensities were visually estimated and corrected for spot size by direct measurement. These films were measured twice and the data were intercorrelated to give 1097 observed reflections with a maximum $\sin \theta$ value of 0.98. Standard deviations were computed for the individual intensities using the correlation data. The structure was solved with the Patterson-heavy atom technique. Gluyas & Harris (1959) have reported the details of the film data collection, structure solution and preliminary refinement steps. The structure has been further refined* with full-matrix least squares using anisotropic temperature factors for the carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and chlorine atoms to a residual of 0.127 ($R=\sum |F_o|-|F_c| / \sum |F_o|$). Hydrogen atoms were not included.

The film work revealed large thermal parameters for a few of the oxygen atoms and, several years later, the diffraction data were recollected at the University of Maryland to provide a check of these values. The measurements were made on a Datex automated, General Electric diffractometer with a quarter circle goniostat and with Nb-filtered Mo radiation ($\lambda=0.71069 \text{ \AA}$). The crystal specimen had approximate dimensions of $0.15 \times 0.2 \times 0.25 \text{ mm}$ and was mounted parallel to b . Unit-cell parameters were obtained by least-squares refinement based on the measured Bragg angles of 16 planes. Crystal data are reported in Table 1. The intensity data were collected using the 2θ scan method with

a scan rate of 2° min^{-1} and 20-sec background counts. Of the 2657 unique data measured to a $\sin \theta$ of 0.5 (2θ of 60°), 1310 reflections were found to be at least three standard deviations above background and were coded as 'observed'.

The data were reduced in the normal way, a scale and overall isotropic temperature factor were calculated with the *X-ray* 67 subprogram *DATFIX*, and the structure was 're-solved' using the symbolic addition procedure code *PHASE* (*X-ray* 67). The C, N, O and Cl atoms were all revealed in the first *E* map, computed with 332 terms, duplicating the film data solution and the structure was refined by full-matrix least squares using isotropic temperature factors to an *R* of 0.174. Following three cycles of anisotropic refinement, a difference synthesis was calculated and the two hydrogen atoms were located in the map. Further refinement with anisotropic thermal parameters for C, N, O and Cl and isotropic terms for H, resulted in an *R* of 0.043. The quantity minimized in the least-squares calculations was $\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2$, and the weights were computed from

$$w=[0.25/\text{MAXF}(\sigma(F_o), 0.0033|F_o|, 0.25)]^2,$$

where MAXF refers to the Fortran maximum value function and the σ values are the structure factor standard deviations which were estimated from counting statistics. The unobserved data were not used in the refinement.

Although the thermal parameters of the oxygen atoms were still rather large, approaching root-mean-square amplitudes of 0.5 \AA in a few cases, a careful examination of a difference map showed no evidence of disorder but corroborated the large anisotropy. The final difference map showed no electron density maxima greater than 0.29 e. \AA^{-3} , and the largest density in the vicinities of the oxygen atoms was 0.21 e. \AA^{-3} . The atomic form factors used were: carbon, nitrogen and oxygen (Berghuis, Haanappel, Potters, Loopstra, MacGillavry & Veenendaal, 1955); chlorine (*International Tables for X-ray Crystallography*, 1962); hydrogen (Stewart, Davidson & Simpson, 1965). The structure factor data are reported in Table 2.

Table 1. *Crystal data*

Picryl chloride: 2-chloro-1,3,5-trinitrobenzene, $C_6H_2N_3O_6Cl$

Mol.wt.: 247.6

Monoclinic crystal system, diffractometer unit-cell parameters:

$$a = 11.020 (4) \text{ \AA}$$

$$b = 6.795 (1)$$

$$c = 14.964 (4)$$

$$\beta = 124.15 (2)^\circ$$

Table 2. Structure factor listing for the diffractometer investigation

The data are listed in blocks with constant h and k . Within each block the columns are l , $10F_0$ and $10F_c$. The observed data are flagged with an *.

Table 2 (*cont.*)

Discussion

Comparison of the film and diffractometer results

The atomic coordinates and temperature factors derived from the film and diffractometer data are given in Tables 3 and 4. The precision of the determined parameters is primarily influenced by (1) the number of observations and (2) the accuracy of the measurements (Bennett, Cotton, Weaver, Williams & Watson, 1967). Clearly, the parameters obtained from the counter data gain in (1), and probably also in (2), over the film data. Estimated standard deviations in the film parameters are about three to five times larger than the corresponding counter data values. The differences between the two parameter lists are in most cases less than 1σ , where the σ values referred to are those of the film parameters, and with the exception of U_{22} for C(5), U_{12} for O(3) and U_{22} for Cl, all of the differences are less than 3σ . Two previous investigations which led to a comparison of the parameters derived from film and diffractometer studies have also found a 3σ agreement: e.g. thiourea (Truter, 1967); *trans*-dichlorobis(dimethyl sulfoxide)palladium(II) (Bennett *et al.*, 1967).

Bond lengths obtained from the two determinations are given in Table 5. The differences between the two

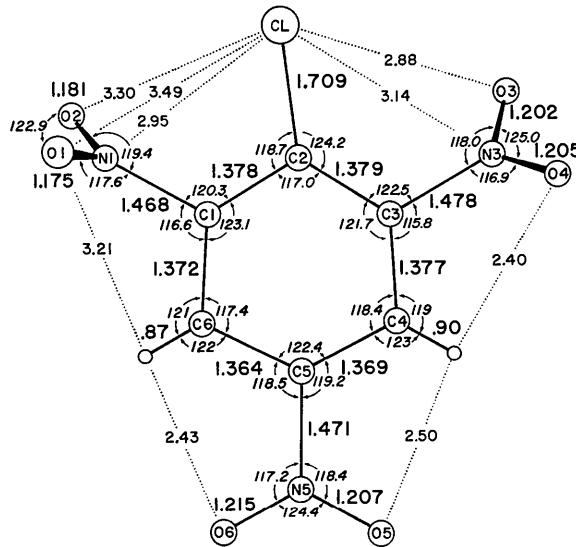


Fig. 1. Bond lengths (\AA) and angles ($^\circ$) for picryl chloride determined from the diffractometer study.

THE CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF PICRYL CHLORIDE

Table 3. Fractional coordinates and temperature factors (\AA^2) from the film study of picryl chloride*Estimated standard deviations are given in parentheses and the temperature factors are in the form $\exp[-2\pi^2(h^2a^*U_{11} + \dots + 2klb^*c^*U_{23})]$.

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{12}	U_{13}	U_{23}
Cl	0.0938 (4)	0.0526 (6)	0.1811 (4)	0.069 (2)	0.034 (2)	0.096 (3)	-0.021 (2)	0.050 (2)	-0.028 (3)
C(1)	0.2147 (13)	0.3721 (20)	0.1572 (10)	0.051 (7)	0.030 (8)	0.047 (7)	-0.014 (6)	0.031 (6)	-0.027 (9)
C(2)	0.1828 (13)	0.2740 (20)	0.2235 (11)	0.042 (7)	0.029 (8)	0.061 (8)	-0.011 (6)	0.029 (6)	-0.023 (9)
C(3)	0.2243 (14)	0.3640 (20)	0.3211 (10)	0.056 (8)	0.023 (7)	0.050 (7)	-0.009 (7)	0.035 (6)	-0.002 (9)
C(4)	0.3011 (13)	0.5346 (21)	0.3548 (10)	0.047 (7)	0.041 (9)	0.040 (7)	0.011 (7)	0.025 (6)	0.008 (9)
C(5)	0.3316 (12)	0.6277 (17)	0.2846 (9)	0.046 (6)	0.013 (7)	0.038 (6)	-0.009 (6)	0.024 (5)	-0.006 (7)
C(6)	0.2899 (13)	0.5492 (21)	0.1839 (10)	0.050 (7)	0.048 (9)	0.041 (7)	-0.003 (7)	0.023 (6)	-0.011 (9)
N(1)	0.1740 (16)	0.2863 (21)	0.0523 (10)	0.085 (9)	0.060 (9)	0.044 (8)	-0.022 (8)	0.028 (7)	-0.022 (9)
N(3)	0.1934 (15)	0.2817 (19)	0.3980 (11)	0.081 (9)	0.042 (8)	0.074 (9)	-0.004 (7)	0.056 (8)	0.000 (10)
N(5)	0.4120 (14)	0.8119 (19)	0.3187 (11)	0.077 (8)	0.048 (9)	0.071 (8)	-0.030 (7)	0.040 (7)	-0.022 (10)
O(1)	0.2691 (18)	0.1979 (28)	0.0511 (12)	0.132 (12)	0.195 (18)	0.108 (12)	0.036 (13)	0.072 (11)	-0.081 (16)
O(2)	0.0513 (16)	0.3060 (23)	-0.0265 (10)	0.136 (12)	0.122 (13)	0.049 (7)	-0.004 (10)	0.007 (8)	-0.044 (11)
O(3)	0.0800 (13)	0.1887 (18)	0.3597 (10)	0.089 (9)	0.073 (9)	0.111 (9)	-0.025 (7)	0.064 (8)	0.000 (10)
O(4)	0.2815 (14)	0.3099 (19)	0.4942 (10)	0.122 (10)	0.099 (10)	0.061 (7)	-0.032 (8)	0.063 (7)	0.000 (10)
O(5)	0.4262 (14)	0.9040 (18)	0.3961 (10)	0.124 (10)	0.068 (9)	0.081 (8)	-0.054 (8)	0.065 (8)	-0.073 (10)
O(6)	0.4598 (13)	0.8705 (17)	0.2632 (10)	0.120 (9)	0.053 (8)	0.107 (9)	-0.048 (7)	0.082 (8)	-0.015 (9)

* The reduction and refinement of the film data were done using the cell parameters determined at The Ohio State University: $a=11.07$, $b=6.83$, $c=14.72 \text{ \AA}$, $\beta=124.2^\circ$.Table 4. Fractional coordinates and temperature factors (\AA^2) from the diffractometer study of picryl chlorideEstimated standard deviations are given in parentheses and the temperature factors are in the form $\exp[-2\pi^2(h^2a^*U_{11} + \dots + 2klb^*c^*U_{23})]$.

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	U or U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{12}	U_{13}	U_{23}
Cl	0.0956 (1)	0.0524 (1)	0.1810 (1)	0.0729 (6)	0.0418 (4)	0.1021 (7)	-0.0188 (5)	0.0529 (6)	-0.0205 (5)
C(1)	0.2150 (3)	0.3716 (4)	0.1570 (2)	0.047 (2)	0.046 (2)	0.039 (2)	-0.002 (1)	0.025 (2)	-0.010 (1)
C(2)	0.1813 (3)	0.2738 (4)	0.2227 (2)	0.042 (2)	0.033 (1)	0.054 (2)	0.000 (1)	0.027 (1)	-0.005 (1)
C(3)	0.2247 (3)	0.3638 (4)	0.3209 (2)	0.044 (2)	0.040 (2)	0.046 (2)	0.004 (1)	0.030 (1)	0.005 (1)
C(4)	0.2998 (3)	0.5405 (5)	0.3529 (3)	0.048 (2)	0.045 (2)	0.039 (2)	-0.002 (2)	0.026 (2)	-0.007 (2)
C(5)	0.3304 (3)	0.6279 (4)	0.2840 (2)	0.041 (2)	0.038 (1)	0.041 (2)	-0.006 (1)	0.025 (1)	-0.007 (1)
C(6)	0.2886 (3)	0.5477 (5)	0.1853 (3)	0.051 (2)	0.044 (2)	0.044 (2)	0.000 (2)	0.032 (2)	-0.007 (2)
N(1)	0.1741 (4)	0.2851 (5)	0.0518 (3)	0.077 (2)	0.064 (2)	0.056 (2)	-0.011 (2)	0.034 (2)	-0.024 (2)
N(3)	0.1927 (3)	0.2797 (4)	0.3979 (3)	0.073 (2)	0.051 (2)	0.069 (2)	0.003 (2)	0.049 (2)	0.011 (2)
N(5)	0.4115 (3)	0.8151 (4)	0.3170 (2)	0.068 (2)	0.055 (2)	0.061 (2)	-0.023 (2)	0.039 (2)	-0.016 (2)
O(1)	0.2647 (4)	0.1973 (7)	0.0501 (3)	0.135 (3)	0.230 (4)	0.101 (2)	0.030 (3)	0.065 (2)	-0.076 (3)
O(2)	0.0533 (4)	0.3051 (5)	-0.0265 (2)	0.122 (3)	0.132 (3)	0.059 (2)	0.007 (2)	0.014 (2)	-0.037 (2)
O(3)	0.0805 (3)	0.1891 (4)	0.3598 (2)	0.086 (2)	0.085 (2)	0.104 (2)	-0.018 (2)	0.066 (2)	0.012 (2)
O(4)	0.2808 (3)	0.3101 (4)	0.4944 (2)	0.120 (2)	0.106 (2)	0.057 (2)	-0.024 (2)	0.056 (2)	0.002 (2)
O(5)	0.4260 (3)	0.9035 (4)	0.3938 (2)	0.126 (2)	0.077 (2)	0.088 (2)	-0.050 (2)	0.071 (2)	-0.048 (2)
O(6)	0.4585 (3)	0.8709 (4)	0.2639 (2)	0.112 (2)	0.077 (2)	0.096 (2)	-0.042 (2)	0.075 (2)	-0.018 (2)
H(4)	0.3228 (3)	0.591 (4)	0.418 (2)	0.040 (8)	0.141 (2)	0.052 (9)	-0.015 (9)		

Table 5. Film and diffractometer bond lengths

Estimated standard deviations are in parentheses.

	Film*	Diffractometer	Corrected diffractom- eter†
Cl—C(2)	1.703 (13) Å	1.709 (3) Å	
C(1)—C(2)	1.379 (24)	1.378 (5)	
C(1)—C(6)	1.387 (19)	1.372 (4)	
C(2)—C(3)	1.379 (21)	1.379 (5)	
C(3)—C(4)	1.366 (19)	1.377 (4)	
C(4)—C(5)	1.398 (23)	1.369 (6)	
C(5)—C(6)	1.384 (19)	1.364 (5)	
C(1)—N(1)	1.463 (21)	1.468 (5)	
C(3)—N(3)	1.462 (26)	1.478 (6)	
C(5)—N(5)	1.450 (17)	1.471 (4)	
N(1)—O(1)	1.217 (28)	1.175 (6)	1.286 Å
N(1)—O(2)	1.195 (16)	1.181 (4)	1.250
N(3)—O(3)	1.220 (19)	1.202 (4)	1.235
N(3)—O(4)	1.199 (17)	1.205 (4)	1.249
N(5)—O(5)	1.229 (22)	1.207 (5)	1.248
N(5)—O(6)	1.258 (26)	1.215 (6)	1.248
C(4)—H(4)		0.90 (3)	
C(6)—H(6)		0.87 (4)	

* Calculated using the diffractometer cell parameters.

† Bond length corrections using the riding motion model described by Busing & Levy (1964). The corrections were evaluated in terms of the principal axes displacements shown in Table 7.

Description of the structure

Fig. 1 gives the values of the intramolecular bond lengths and angles and also some of the close nonbonded approaches which were determined from the diffractometer study. The benzene ring is planar within experimental error and the maximum deviation of the Cl atom and three N atoms from the ring plane is 0.08 Å (Table 6). The molecule shows several features which are characteristic of other nitro-aromatics (Holden & Dickinson, 1969; Cady, 1967): (1) O—N—O angles of about 124°; (2) enlarged interior angles in the benzene ring at the nitro group carbon atoms (Carter, McPhail & Sim, 1966); (3) foreshortened aromatic C—C distances (average 1.373 Å; 1.378 Å in 2,4,6-trinitrophenetole, Gramaccioli, Destro & Simonetta, 1968). The N—O, C—N and C—Cl distances are normal.

Table 6. Least-squares planes and deviations (Å)

	Plane 1	Plane 2	Plane 3	Plane 4
C(1)	0.001	0.000		
C(2)	0.003			
C(3)	-0.004		0.002	
C(4)	0.001			
C(5)	0.004			-0.001
C(6)	-0.005			
Cl	0.078*			
N(1)	0.026*	-0.002		
N(3)	-0.031*		-0.007	
N(5)	0.019*			0.003
O(1)	-0.980*	0.001		
O(2)	1.064*	0.001		
O(3)	-0.622*		0.002	
O(4)	0.525*		0.002	
O(5)	-0.209*			-0.001
O(6)	0.252*			-0.001

Table 6 (cont.)

Plane 1:	$8.1966x - 3.3552y - 0.6574z = 0.4110$
Plane 2:	$-5.3889x - 5.7193y + 6.8196z = -2.2138$
Plane 3:	$-5.9507x + 5.7050y + 3.7290z = 1.9391$
Plane 4:	$6.7269x - 3.3386y + 2.5192z = 0.8425$

* These atoms were not included in the definition of the plane.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the structure is the orientation of the nitro groups relative to the benzene ring. The angle between the plane of the nitro group on C(1) and that of the benzene ring is 81°, a position in which both Cl...O distances exceed the sum of the respective van der Waals radii (3.2 Å; Pauling, 1960). Thus the 2.95 Å N(1)...Cl separation represent the major interaction between this nitro group and the chlorine atom. In contrast to this, the C(3) nitro group–benzene angle is only 33° and now the atom closest to the chlorine atom is O(3) at 2.88 Å. The N(3)...Cl distances is 3.14 Å. The third nitro group, on C(5), lies at an angle of 13° to the benzene ring plane, a value which is typical of aromatic nitro groups with no *ortho* substituents (Holden & Dickinson, 1969; Holden, 1969).

The Cl atom does not occupy a symmetrical position between the C(1) and C(3) nitro groups, a situation which can be readily appreciated by considering the Cl—C(2)—C(1) and Cl—C(2)—C(3) angles of 118.7 and 124.2°. Similar relative displacements have been found for C(2) substituents in other 1,3-dinitro-aromatics, e.g. 2,4,6-trinitrophenetole (Gramaccioli, Destro & Simonetta, 1968); 2,4-dichloro-1,3,5-trinitrobenzene (Holden & Dickinson, 1967); 4-methyl-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (Grant & Richards, 1969). In all of these examples, as in picryl chloride, the two *ortho* nitro groups are rotated by different amounts out of the benzene ring plane and the interposed substituent is displaced toward the group with the largest rotation.

It does not seem possible to rationalize the unsymmetrical disposition of the C(1) and C(3) nitro groups in picryl chloride on the basis of molecular packing arguments. The only intermolecular distance shorter than the sum of the appropriate van der Waals radii is the 3.09 Å Cl...O separation. This distance, which is between molecules related by a center of symmetry (see Fig. 2), involves the nitro group on C(1). It is unlikely, however, that the interaction is responsible for the large out-of-plane rotation of this nitro group, since a smaller angle would actually increase the Cl...O distance.

The orientation of an aromatic nitro group is probably determined by a balance between (1) steric interactions with *ortho* substituents and (2) mesomeric interactions with the aromatic nucleus. Extremes are represented by (1) picryl iodide where steric effects predominate and both *ortho* nitro groups are 80° to the ring plane (Huse & Powell, 1940), and (2) nitro-aromatics with no *ortho* substituents in which resonance effects predominate (Holden & Dickinson (1969) have

found an average value of 6° for this arrangement). In cases where the nitro group has an *ortho* substituent of intermediate size the situation is not clear, but Holden & Dickinson (1969) have reported an average rotation of 40° . With chlorine as the substituent, angles close to this mean have been found in: picryl chloride, $C(1)-NO_2=33^\circ$, 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene, $C(2)-NO_2=39^\circ$ (Watson, 1960); and 2,4-dichloro-1,3,5-trinitrobenzene, $C(1)-NO_2=C(5)-NO_2=37^\circ$ (Holden & Dickinson, 1967). In two of these compounds, the chlorine atom is adjacent to a second nitro group and this group is almost normal to the benzene ring plane: $C(3)-NO_2=81^\circ$ in picryl chloride and $C(3)-NO_2=75^\circ$ in 2,4-dichloro-1,3,5-trinitrobenzene. Thus it would appear that an energy minimum is achieved in picryl chloride by (1) a normal (30 – 40°) rotation of one nitro group, (2) a displacement of the chlorine atom away from this group, and (3) a large rotation of the second nitro group. This is in contrast to the more symmetrical case in which the chlorine atom would be equidistant from both nitro groups, and the two groups would be rotated by equal amounts (presumably greater than 40°) out of the benzene ring plane.

The magnitudes of the principal axes of the thermal ellipsoids are given in Table 7. In the case of each oxygen

atom, the direction of principal vibration is almost perpendicular to the respective $C-NO_2$ plane, suggesting that an important component of the motions of the nitro groups is an oscillation about the $C-N$ bond. The largest displacements are shown by the two oxygen atoms on $C(1)-NO_2$, the 81° nitro group, and may arise from the relative absence of steric interactions involving these atoms.

Table 7. The root-mean-square amplitudes of the principal axes of the thermal ellipsoids for the diffractometric data

R.m.s. displacement (\AA)

	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3
Cl	0.181	0.263	0.329
C(1)	0.173	0.219	0.233
C(2)	0.178	0.203	0.239
C(3)	0.187	0.193	0.226
C(4)	0.177	0.217	0.223
C(5)	0.179	0.191	0.217
C(6)	0.182	0.211	0.228
N(1)	0.188	0.286	0.289
N(3)	0.199	0.241	0.281
N(5)	0.193	0.238	0.292

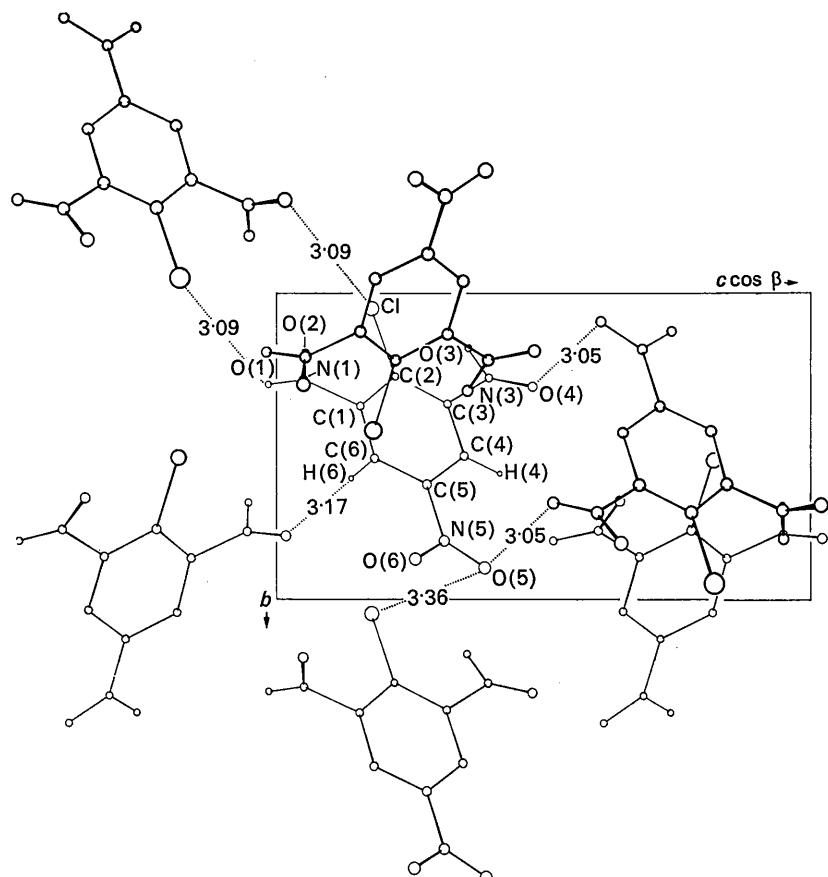


Fig. 2. Picryl chloride packing diagram viewed along [100] showing the shortest intermolecular distances (\AA).

Table 7 (cont.)

Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3	Plane normal*
O(1)	0.193	0.359	0.548
O(2)	0.208	0.348	0.434
O(3)	0.201	0.320	0.325
O(4)	0.205	0.298	0.369
O(5)	0.185	0.283	0.398
O(6)	0.203	0.274	0.375

* R.m.s. displacement normal to the respective C-NO₂ plane.

Corrections have been applied to the six N-O distances using the riding motion algorithm of Busing & Levy (1964) (Table 5). An over-correction in the case of N(1)-O(1) may be indicated.

The two hydrogen atoms do not appear to be involved in intermolecular hydrogen bond formation since the shortest distance is 3.17 Å between H(6) and O(1) (Fig. 2). The closest H...O approaches are of the intramolecular type and are between H(4) and C(3)-NO₂ and C(5)-NO₂, and between H(6) and C(5)-NO₂. These contacts are shown in Fig. 1.

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