

The Crystal Structure of Manganese Fluorophosphate, $Mn_2(PO_4)F$

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Manganese fluorophosphate, $Mn_2(PO_4)F$, crystallizes in the space group $C2/c$, with cell dimensions $a=13.410$ (4), $b=6.5096$ (5), $c=10.094$ (2) Å, and $\beta=119.99$ (1)° ($Z=8$). A three-dimensional structural analysis using automatic diffractometer data has been completed and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures to a residual $R=0.023$ ($R_w=0.046$). $Mn_2(PO_4)F$ is found to be isostructural with the mineral triplite, except that there is no disorder in the fluorine position. A possible explanation for the disorder in triplite is given, and the relationships between the structures of $Mn_2(PO_4)F$, triplite, triplidite, and wagnerite are discussed.

Introduction

As part of a continuing study of the crystal chemistry of halophosphates with the composition $M_2(PO_4)X$, where M is a divalent metal or metals and X is a halogen (Rea & Kostiner, 1972, and references therein), we have grown single crystals of manganese fluorophosphate $Mn_2(PO_4)F$; this paper describes its crystal structure.

Manganese fluorophosphate represents a pure end member of the phosphate mineral triplite, $(Mn,Fe)_2(PO_4)F$, whose structure was recently determined by Waldrop (1969). The materials are isotypic with an interesting difference reflected in the position of the fluorine atoms. The possible cause of this difference is discussed in detail.

Experimental

Preparation and crystal growth

Single crystals of manganese fluorophosphate were grown by standard flux melt techniques using excess manganese fluoride as the flux. Manganese(II) phosphate trihydrate was prepared in aqueous solution at 100°C by reaction of manganese(II) sulfate monohydrate and disodium hydrogen phosphate (starting materials were Analytical Reagent Grade, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works) and was then dehydrated at 750°C. Anhydrous manganese(II) fluoride (Ozark-Mahoning Co.) was used as received.

A mixture of 20 mole.% $Mn_3(PO_4)_2$ –80 mole.% MnF_2 was placed in a tightly covered 25 cm³ platinum crucible and inserted into a silicon carbide resistance-heated furnace which was brought to a temperature of 1150°C under a flowing dry nitrogen atmosphere. After soaking at this temperature for four hours, the furnace was cooled at a rate of 8°C per hour to

650°C and then shut off. The irregularly shaped crystals, up to 1 mm thick, were separated from the melt by repeated washing with hot distilled water; no attempt was made to maximize crystal size.

X-ray diffraction data

A crystal was ground to a sphere of 0.013 (2) cm; Weissenberg and precession photographs revealed monoclinic symmetry with systematic absences corresponding to the space groups $C2/c$ or Cc . No measurable piezoelectric effect could be detected using a sensitive Giebe–Scheibe detector designed by H. Diamant.

The lattice parameters were determined in a PICK II least-squares refinement program, using 48 reflections within the angular range $35^\circ < 2\theta < 54^\circ$; the reflections were automatically centered on a Picker FACS-I four-circle diffractometer using Mo $K\alpha_1$ radiation. At 22°C the lattice parameters are $a=13.410$ (4), $b=6.5096$ (5), $c=10.094$ (2) Å, and $\beta=119.99$ (1)°, where the figures in parentheses represent the standard deviations in the last reported figure. The calculated density, with $Z=8$, is 3.896 g.cm⁻³ and the measured density (buoyant force) is 3.88 (1) g.cm⁻³.

Diffraction intensities were measured using Zr filtered Mo $K\alpha$ radiation at a take-off angle of 2.5° with the diffractometer operating in the θ – 2θ scan mode. Scans were made at 1° per min over 1.5° with allowance for dispersion, and with 40-sec background counts taken at both ends of the scan. Of the 1614 independent data investigated in the angular range $2\theta < 71^\circ$, 1588 were considered observable according to the criterion $|F_o| > 0.675\sigma_F$, where σ_F is defined as $0.02|F_o| + [C + k^2B]^{1/2}/2|F_o|Lp$; the total scan count is C , k is the ratio of scanning time to the total background time, and B is the total background count. Three reflections were systematically monitored and no random variations in intensity greater than 3.5% were observed over the entire data collection period; the mean variation was very much smaller.

The intensity data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects, and absorption corrections (*Inter-*

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Table 1. Observed and calculated structure factor

Table with 4 columns of header groups: 'M K L FOBS FCAL', 'H K L FOBS FCAL', 'H K L FOBS FCAL', and 'H K L FOBS FCAL'. The table contains a dense grid of numerical data for various hkl reflections, comparing observed and calculated structure factors.

Table 2. Fractional atomic coordinates and anisotropic thermal parameters

Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations in the last significant figure.

	$10^4 x$	$10^4 y$	$10^4 z$	B_{11}	B_{22}	B_{33}	B_{12}	B_{13}	B_{23}
Mn(1)	558.2 (2)	2666.0 (5)	9951.5 (4)	0.57 (1)	0.85 (1)	0.60 (1)	0.20 (1)	0.29 (1)	0.13 (1)
Mn(2)	3442.1 (3)	3957.0 (5)	6486.0 (4)	0.67 (1)	0.45 (1)	0.68 (1)	-0.05 (1)	0.37 (1)	0.02 (1)
P	1757.1 (4)	4058.2 (8)	8060.1 (6)	0.34 (2)	0.34 (2)	0.40 (2)	-0.03 (1)	0.14 (1)	-0.01 (1)
O(1)	3069 (1)	816 (2)	5828 (2)	0.86 (5)	0.56 (4)	0.59 (5)	-0.07 (4)	0.23 (4)	0.19 (4)
O(2)	2101 (1)	1441 (3)	1880 (2)	0.55 (5)	1.04 (5)	0.93 (6)	0.15 (4)	0.51 (4)	0.12 (4)
O(3)	4157 (1)	367 (2)	3582 (2)	0.67 (5)	0.72 (5)	0.46 (5)	-0.14 (4)	0.01 (4)	0.11 (4)
O(4)	3677 (1)	2825 (2)	1451 (2)	0.81 (5)	0.41 (4)	0.94 (6)	-0.09 (4)	0.55 (4)	0.01 (4)
F	140 (1)	970 (2)	3918 (2)	0.91 (5)	1.34 (5)	1.64 (6)	-0.03 (4)	0.79 (4)	-0.52 (4)

national Tables for X-ray Crystallography, 1968) were applied for a spherical crystal with $\mu R=0.94$; the maximum absorption correction applied was 5.0% of $|F_0|$.

Determination and refinement of the structure

A straightforward analysis of the Patterson map revealed the positions of the three heavy atoms in the asymmetric unit. A least-squares refinement in the centric space group $C2/c$ and a difference Fourier synthesis were then calculated, using manganese atoms in the two positions which contributed most strongly to the Patterson map and a phosphorus atom in the other position. Of the five most intense image peaks in the difference Fourier map, four were within 1.6 Å of the phosphorus and were assigned to oxygen atoms. The fifth was assigned to a fluorine atom.

Three cycles of least-squares refinement (Busing, Martin & Levy, 1962a) of these positions, using a $1/\sigma^2$ weighting scheme, zerovalent scattering factors for Mn, P, F and O (Cromer & Mann, 1968), isotropic

temperature factors, and corrections for secondary extinction and anomalous dispersion, yielded a residual $R=0.044$ and a weighted residual $R_w=0.072$. The anisotropic refinement, based on a data to parameter ratio of 21 to 1 with 74 independently varied parameters, yielded a final $R=0.023$ and $R_w=0.046$ for the observed data. Calculated and observed structure factors are listed in Table 1. In the final refinement, the maximum extinction correction (Zachariasen, 1968) was 42% of $|F_c|$ for the 604 reflection.

Table 2 presents the final atomic coordinates and anisotropic thermal parameters.

Discussion

The manganese atoms lie at the centers of highly distorted octahedra. Mn(1) is coordinated by four oxygen atoms at an average distance of 2.158 Å and two fluorine atoms at 2.113 and 2.534 Å. Mn(2) is coordinated by four oxygen atoms at an average distance of 2.145 Å and two fluorine atoms at 2.135 and 2.372 Å. The fluorine atoms are *cis* in both cases. Table 3 lists angles and distances for the manganese polyhedra.

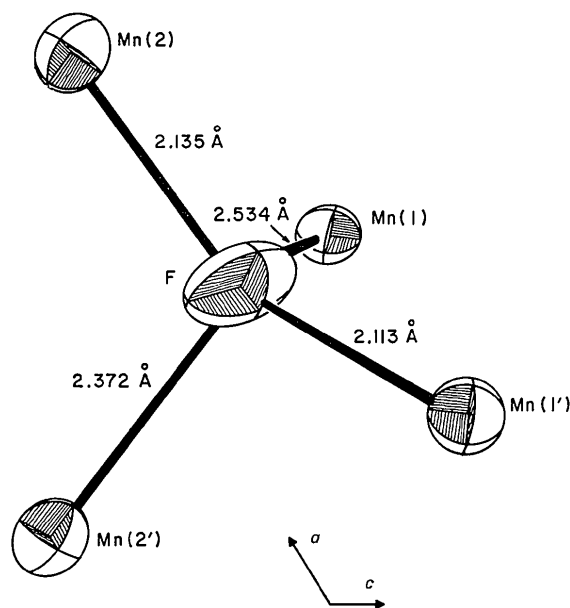


Fig. 1. The fluorine environment in $Mn_2(PO_4)F$ viewed down the b axis. 98% probability ellipsoids are shown.

Table 3. Bond distances, polyhedral edge lengths, and bond angles for manganese polyhedra

Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations in the last significant figure.

(i) Interatomic distances

Mn(1)-O(2)	2.163 (2) Å	Mn(2)-O(1)	2.131 (2) Å
Mn(1)-O(3)	2.205 (2)	Mn(2)-O(1')	2.202 (2)
Mn(1)-O(3')	2.117 (2)	Mn(2)-O(2)	2.126 (2)
Mn(1)-O(4)	2.147 (2)	Mn(2)-O(4)	2.121 (2)
Mn(1)-F	2.113 (2)	Mn(2)-F	2.135 (2)
Mn(1)-F'	2.534 (2)	Mn(2)-F'	2.372 (2)

Mn(1) octahedron		Mn(2) octahedron	
O(2)-O(3)	2.968 (2) Å	O(1)-O(1')	2.716 (3) Å
O(2)-O(4)	3.019 (3)	O(1)-O(2)	3.020 (3)
O(2)-F	2.713 (3)	O(1)-F	3.097 (2)
O(2)-F'	3.234 (3)	O(1)-F'	3.628 (3)
O(3)-O(3')	2.657 (3)	O(1')-O(2)	3.544 (3)
O(3)-O(4)	3.870 (3)	O(1')-O(4)	3.030 (3)
O(3)-F	3.098 (2)	O(1')-F	3.402 (3)
O(3')-O(4)	3.331 (2)	O(2)-O(4)	3.351 (2)
O(3')-F	3.250 (2)	O(2)-F'	2.713 (3)
O(3')-F'	3.836 (2)	O(4)-F	2.727 (2)
O(4)-F'	2.727 (2)	O(4)-F'	3.059 (2)
F-F'	2.707 (4)	F-F'	2.695 (4)

Table 3 (*cont.*)

(ii) Angles		Mn(1) octahedron		Mn(2) octahedron	
O(2)–Mn(1)–O(3)	85.59 (6)°	O(1)–Mn(2)–O(1')	77.60 (7)°	O(1)–Mn(2)–O(2)	90.38 (7)
O(2)–Mn(1)–O(4)	88.93 (6)	O(1)–Mn(2)–F	93.13 (6)	O(1)–Mn(2)–F'	107.24 (6)
O(2)–Mn(1)–F	78.72 (7)	O(1')–Mn(2)–O(2)	109.91 (7)	O(1')–Mn(2)–O(4)	88.95 (6)
O(2)–Mn(1)–F'	86.64 (6)	O(1')–Mn(2)–F	103.34 (7)	O(2)–Mn(2)–O(4)	104.17 (7)
O(3)–Mn(1)–O(3')	75.84 (7)	O(2)–Mn(2)–F'	73.95 (7)	O(4)–Mn(2)–F	79.69 (6)
O(3)–Mn(1)–O(4)	125.57 (6)	O(4)–Mn(2)–F'	88.62 (6)	F—Mn(2)–F'	73.23 (8)
O(3)–Mn(1)–F	91.66 (7)	O(1)–Mn(2)–O(4)	162.96 (7)	O(1')–Mn(2)–F'	174.03 (9)
O(3')–Mn(1)–O(4)	102.72 (7)	O(2)–Mn(2)–F	146.53 (6)		
O(3')–Mn(1)–F	100.36 (7)				
O(3')–Mn(1)–F'	110.77 (6)				
O(4)–Mn(1)–F'	70.72 (5)				
F—Mn(1)–F'	70.60 (7)				
O(2)–Mn(1)–O(3')	161.39 (9)				
O(3)–Mn(1)–F'	161.73 (7)				
O(4)–Mn(1)–F	139.91 (7)				

The phosphate tetrahedra are very regular with an average bond length of 1.537 Å (+0.003, –0.001 Å) and an average angle of 109.5° (+1.3, –1.9°). Table 4 lists the tetrahedral bond angles and distances. The standard deviations for all bond lengths and angles were computed by the function and error program (ORFFE) of Busing, Martin & Levy (1962b).

Table 4. Bond distances, polyhedral edge lengths, and bond angles for the phosphate tetrahedron

Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations in the last significant figure.

(i) Interatomic distances

P–O(1)	1.537 (2) Å	O(1)–O(2)	2.520 (3) Å
P–O(2)	1.536 (2)	O(1)–O(3)	2.529 (2)
P–O(3)	1.536 (2)	O(1)–O(4)	2.483 (3)
P–O(4)	1.540 (2)	O(2)–O(3)	2.511 (2)
		O(2)–O(4)	2.526 (2)
		O(3)–O(4)	2.494 (2)

(ii) Angles

O(1)–P–O(2)	110.1 (1)°
O(1)–P–O(3)	110.8 (1)
O(1)–P–O(4)	107.6 (1)
O(2)–P–O(3)	109.6 (1)
O(2)–P–O(4)	110.4 (1)
O(3)–P–O(4)	108.3 (1)

$Mn_2(PO_4)F$ is isostructural with the mineral triplite, $(Mn, Fe)_2(PO_4)F$ (Waldrop, 1969), except that there is no disorder in the fluorine site as in triplite (*vide infra*). The Mn(2) octahedra are linked by edge sharing to form zigzag chains which run perpendicular to the *b* axis; the Mn(1) octahedra are linked by edge sharing to form chains which run parallel to the *b* axis; the Mn(1) and Mn(2) chains are connected by edge sharing (see Waldrop, 1969). The phosphate tetrahedra share only corners with other polyhedra.

It is possible to transform the atomic coordinates reported for triplite to coordinates referred to the conventional C-centered cell by using the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned}x_C &= x_I - 0.25 \\ y_C &= y_I + 0.25 \\ z_C &= z_I - 0.50\end{aligned}$$

The subscripts *C* and *I* refer to the C-centered and I-centered unit cells of the equivalent space groups *C2/c* and *I2/a* respectively.

A comparison of atomic coordinates for triplite and $Mn_2(PO_4)F$ show the atomic positions to be virtually identical except in the case of fluorine. The fluorine in $Mn_2(PO_4)F$ occupies a position between the half-occupied fluorine sites in triplite; this position is designated by Waldrop as F(av). Although the fluorine in $Mn_2(PO_4)F$ is anisotropic in the direction of the splitting in triplite (the root-mean-square displacement in this direction is approximately twice that of the shortest direction), the corresponding isotropic thermal parameter ($B = 1.07 \text{ \AA}^2$) is far less than the isotropic thermal parameter for a fluorine at the F(av) site in triplite (4.2 \AA^2). This fact and the very low *R* for the $Mn_2(PO_4)F$ structure as described indicate that there is only one fluorine position present in this structure. The fluorine environment is shown in Fig. 1, which is a view of the thermal ellipsoids (98%) down the *b* axis. The pertinent angles and distances are given in Table 5.

Table 5. Bond distances and angles for the fluorine environment

Numbers in parentheses are estimated standard deviations in the last significant figure.

(i) Interatomic distances

F–Mn(1)	2.534 (2) Å
F–Mn(1')	2.113 (2)
F–Mn(2)	2.135 (2)
F–Mn(2')	2.372 (2)

(ii) Angles

Mn(1)–F–Mn(1')	109.40 (7)°
Mn(1)–F–Mn(2)	93.70 (6)
Mn(1)–F–Mn(2')	110.18 (6)
Mn(1')–F–Mn(2)	140.26 (7)
Mn(1')–F–Mn(2')	95.34 (6)
Mn(2)–F–Mn(2')	106.72 (8)

The relationship among the structures of $Mn_2(PO_4)F$ triplite, triploidite, and wagnerite (Coda, Giuseppetti & Tadini, 1967) is interesting. The space groups and

compositions of these materials are given in Table 6. As pointed out by Waldrop (1970) and Engel (1970), the structures in the two space groups differ only in the positions of the fluorine (or hydroxyl group). For triploidite and wagnerite the fluorine position of triplite has completely split so that F (or OH) occupies one site in the lower part of the doubled cell and the other site in the upper part, giving rise to five- and six-coordinated metals and lower symmetry.

Table 6. *Space groups and compositions of the related structures*

	Composition		Space group
	Cations	Anion	
Mn ₂ (PO ₄)F	Mn ₂	F	C2/c
Triplite	Mn _{0.95} Fe _{0.25} Mg _{0.7} Ca _{0.1}	F	C2/c
Triploidite	Mn _{1.5} Fe _{0.5}	OH	P2 ₁ /c
Wagnerite	Mg ₂	F	P2 ₁ /c

The driving force for this situation in wagnerite is probably the smaller size of the Mg²⁺ cation relative to Mn²⁺ in the Mn₂(PO₄)F. In triploidite a contribution to the effect by the large amount of Fe²⁺ present (slightly smaller in ionic radius than Mn²⁺) must be ruled out, since the iron-rich triplite, zwieselite, (Fe,Mn)₂PO₄F falls into the space group C2/c and seems to be isotypic with triplite. Therefore the effect must be due to the dipolar anion OH⁻. Waldrop (1970) postulates that the hydroxyl group moves into the nearest face of the distorted tetrahedron, reducing the repulsion between the hydrogen, which is probably out of the plane, and the far manganese.

It is possible that the site splitting in triplite is caused by the presence of different sizes of metal cations. It seems that the predominant metals manganese and iron cause the basic structure to be the same as the end-member Mn₂(PO₄)F, but there are large amounts of the smaller Mg²⁺ and a significant amount of the

larger Ca²⁺ (see Table 5). Different arrangements of the different sized metal cations about the fluorine site may lead the fluorine to prefer slightly different positions. Mössbauer effect measurements on triplite (Kostiner, 1972) indicate a high degree of disorder about the metal sites.

Engel (1970) has reported that Cd₂(PO₄)F has cell constants similar to Mn₂(PO₄)F and crystallizes in the space group C2/c. They are most probably isotypic, but some minor differences might be expected, since Cd²⁺ is larger than Mn²⁺. It would be very interesting to see if the fluorine position in this compound is single (as expected) and, further, if the unusually long metal-fluorine distances for one of the two fluorines in each of the octahedra are shortened.

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