

## SHORT STRUCTURAL PAPER

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Structure of Strontium Hydroxide Phosphate,  $\text{Sr}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$ 

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**Abstract.** Hexagonal,  $P6_3/m$ ,  $a=9.745$  (1) Å,  $c=7.265$  (1) Å, ideal formula  $\text{Sr}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$ ,  $Z=2$ , density not measured. The crystals were prepared hydrothermally by Schnell, Kiesewetter, Kim & Hayek [*Mh. Chem.* (1971) **102**, 1327]. The phosphate tetrahedra are less distorted than in the isostructural hydroxyapatite,  $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$ . Both substances are OH-deficient, with charge balance apparently maintained by Sr and Ca vacancies.

**Introduction.** Strontium hydroxide phosphate is closely related to hydroxyapatite and, as such, has the possibility of being incorporated into bony tissue and dental enamel. In particular, Sr is known to substitute for Ca in these tissues. Strontium has also been suggested as a caries inhibitor (Curzon, Adkins, Bibby & Losee, 1970). The fact that octastrontium phosphate does not form under conditions suitable for the formation of octacalcium phosphate (Schnell, Kiesewetter, Kim & Hayek, 1971) shows a difference between strontium phosphates and calcium phosphates in crystallization properties. It has, therefore, become increasingly important that the atomic scale structural differences between 'Sr apatites' and 'Ca apatites' be determined.

The general structural features of the isostructural calcium hydroxide phosphate, hydroxyapatite, have been described by Beevers & McIntyre (1946). Kay, Young & Posner (1964), using neutron-diffraction data, located the hydroxyl group. A subsequent, detailed structure refinement with X-ray data was carried out by Sudarsanan & Young (1969). No structural studies have been so far carried out on 'strontium apatites'. Hence, a refinement of the structure of strontium hydroxide phosphate was undertaken in order to elucidate the atomic-scale modifications introduced when Sr is substituted for Ca in hydroxyapatite.

A single-crystal fragment approximating to a cube 0.21 mm on a side was used for measurement of intensities of 1130 independent reflections (out of a possible 1475 in the range  $0 < \sin \theta / \lambda \leq 0.76$ ) with a computer-controlled four-circle diffractometer. A balanced-filter (Zr and Y)  $\omega$ -scan technique with Mo  $K$  radiation was used for the low-angle reflections for which the absorption edge of Zr fell within the scanning range for peak

plus background. Zr-filtered Mo  $K$  radiation and the  $2\theta$ -scan method were employed for other reflections. Simultaneous diffraction effects were assessed by re-measurement of each reflection intensity after the specimen was rotated about the diffraction vector by one degree (no  $hk.0$  reflections were measured because, with the four-circle geometry used, it is not possible to produce rotation about the diffraction vector when the  $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  axes are parallel). The two measures differed by more than three times the expected standard deviation in 47 cases and those reflections were not used in the refinements. For the stronger reflections,  $\sim 40\%$ , the net intensities were measured to 1% statistical precision; the remaining  $\sim 60\%$  were measured with statistical error  $< 0.06\%$  of the strongest reflection intensity. The basic experimental conditions are described in detail elsewhere (Mackie, 1972). Absorption corrections were based on the tabular data in *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1959) for a spherical specimen ( $\mu R = 2.5$ ).

A full-matrix least-squares refinement of all variable positional and temperature parameters was made, starting from the hydroxyapatite parameters (Sudarsanan & Young, 1969). Busing, Martin & Levy's (1962) *ORFLS* program modified by Johnson (1966) and called *XFLS* was used. The sources of the atomic scattering factors used were: for  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  and P, Cromer & Waber (1965); for hydroxyl oxygen ( $\text{O}^-$ ), *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962); and for phosphate oxygens ( $\text{O}^{2-}$ ), Tokonami (1965). Anomalous dispersion corrections were made with values of  $\Delta f'$

Table 1. Comparison of unit cell dimensions of  $\text{Sr}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$  and  $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$

Crystal	$a$ (Å)	$c$ (Å)
$\text{Sr}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$	9.745 (1)	7.265 (1)
$\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$	9.423 (1)*	6.875 (1)*
	9.418 (1)†	6.880 (1)†

\* Values redetermined, as part of the present work, by least-squares refinement with the angular readings of 12 independent reflections obtained with crystal X-23-4 described by Sudarsanan & Young (1969).

† Current results with powder specimen of synthetic hydroxyapatite prepared by precipitation according to the method described by Elliott (1964).

and  $\Delta f''$  calculated by Cromer (1965). The observed structure factors were corrected for secondary extinction (Zachariasen, 1963). The final cycles of least-squares refinement were done with hydrogen also in-

cluded in the model at its probable position calculated on the assumption that the O-H distance is 0.992 Å. The final values of the reliability factors are  $R_1 = 0.053$ ,  $R_2 = 0.062$ , and  $wR_2 = 0.073$  where

Table 2. Positional and thermal parameters of strontium hydroxide phosphate and hydroxyapatite

All values are multiplied by 10<sup>4</sup>, except for fractions; standard deviations are given within parentheses for parameters varied.

A. Strontium hydroxide phosphate

Table with columns: Multiplier\*, x, y, z, beta11, beta22, beta33, beta12, beta13, beta23. Rows include O(1), O(2), O(3), P, Sr(1), Sr(2), O(OH).

B. Hydroxyapatite (Sudarsanan & Young, 1969)

Table with columns: Multiplier\*, x, y, z, beta11, beta22, beta33, beta12, beta13, beta23. Rows include O(1), O(2), O(3), P, Ca(1), Ca(2), O(OH).

\* Multiplier x site multiplicity (arising because one or more symmetry elements act at the site) = site occupancy factor (ideally = 1).

Table 3. Squares of observed and calculated structure factors for Sr5(PO4)3OH

Large table with columns for h, k, l and observed (|Fo|²) and calculated (|Fc|²) structure factor squares. Includes a list of hkl values on the left side.

$$R_1 = \sum (|F_o| - |F_c|) / \sum |F_o|,$$

$$R_2 = \sum (|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2) / \sum |F_o|^2,$$

$$wR_2 = \left\{ \sum w(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2 / \sum w|F_o|^4 \right\}^{1/2},$$

and  $w$  is the reciprocal of the variance estimated from counting statistics.

**Results and discussion.** Table 1 gives the lattice parameters obtained for strontium hydroxide phosphate by least-squares refinement with the angular readings of twelve independent reflections obtained from the diffractometer. As the ionic radius of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  is 1.00 Å and that of  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  is 1.16 Å (Shannon & Prewitt, 1969), a larger cell in the Sr case is to be expected. As expected, strontium hydroxide phosphate is isostructural with hydroxyapatite (space group  $P6_3/m$ ). The positional and temperature factors, with their standard deviations, are given in Table 2. Structure factors are given in Table 3. The site-occupancy factors (multipliers) indicate obvious OH deficiencies in both the strontium and the calcium hydroxide phosphates (Table 2). Compared with the  $\text{PO}_4$  present, Sr and Ca appear to be deficient in approximately the amounts required to explain the OH deficiencies in terms of loss of  $\text{Sr}(\text{OH})_2$  and  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  respectively.

A comparison of the bond angles and interatomic distances with those of hydroxyapatite is presented in Table 4. Some small differences are noted. The phosphate tetrahedron is similarly but less distorted in this strontium analog than it is in hydroxyapatite itself ( $\pm 1.4^\circ$  vs.  $\pm 2.0^\circ$ , respectively, departure from the tetrahedral angle). The hydroxyl oxygen is farther away from the mirror planes at  $z = \frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  (0.46 Å vs. 0.37 Å in hydroxyapatite), increasing the Sr(2)–O distance to 2.50 Å (vs. 2.39 Å for hydroxyapatite). No significant differences appear in the thermal parameters (Table 2). Thus, the differences in crystal-chemical properties mentioned in the introduction can only be correlated with the seemingly subtle differences in  $\text{PO}_4$ -tetrahedron distortion and in OH displacement from the mirror plane.

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Table 4. A comparison of bond angles and interatomic distances with those of hydroxyapatite†

Standard deviation, in units of the last significant figure, is given in parentheses.

	$\text{Sr}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$	$\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$
1. $\text{PO}_4$ Tetrahedra		
(a) Bond angles ( $^\circ$ )		
O(1)–P–O(2)	110.5 (3)	111.13 (1)
O(1)–P–O(3)	110.9 (2)	111.41 (4)
O(2)–P–O(3)	108.1 (2)	107.47 (5)
O(3)–P–O'(3)	108.2 (2)	107.76 (8)
(b) Interatomic distances (Å)		
O(1)–P	1.539 (4)	1.539 (1)
O(2)–P	1.546 (4)	1.539 (1)
O(3)–P	1.537 (4)*	1.532 (1)*
O(1)–O(2)	2.535 (5)	2.538 (2)
O(2)–O(3)	2.495 (5)*	2.476 (1)*
O(1)–O(3)	2.535 (5)*	2.537 (1)
O(3)–O'(3)	2.489 (5)‡	2.475 (2)
2. Environment of metallic atoms		
Interatomic distances (Å)		
M(1)–O(1)	2.561 (3)**	2.405 (1)**
M(1)–O(2)	2.565 (3)**	2.454 (1)**
M(1)–O(3)	2.901 (4)**	2.802 (1)**
M(2)–O(1)	2.757 (5)	2.710 (1)
M(2)–O(2)	2.476 (4)	2.357 (1)
M(2)–O(3)	2.661 (3)*	2.511 (1)*
M(2)–O'(3)	2.512 (3)*	2.345 (2)*
M(2)–O(OH)	2.498 (2)	2.389 (1)
M(2)–M₂''(2)	4.248 (2)	4.084 (1)

† The Function and Error Program of Busing, Martin & Levy (1964) was used for the calculations. The values for hydroxyapatite were calculated from the results for the crystal X-23-4 of Sudarsanan & Young (1969). M represents Sr or Ca, as appropriate. O'(3) is related to O(3) by reflection in  $m$  at  $z = \frac{1}{4}$ . A doubly primed symbol O''(3) designates an atom with coordinates  $y, y-x, z + \frac{1}{2}$  where  $x, y, z$  are those of the atom designated by O(3).

\* The number of asterisks indicates the number of times the distance is repeated for symmetry-related sites of the second atom.

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