

H1B	0.355 (2)	0.861 (4)	0.6170 (12)	0.017 (4)
H2B	0.505 (3)	0.774 (6)	0.6082 (18)	0.051 (7)
H3B	0.407 (2)	0.711 (4)	0.5455 (13)	0.021 (4)

Table 2. Selected geometric parameters (Å, °)

O1A—C1A	1.258 (1)	O1B—C1B	1.263 (1)
O2A—C1A	1.255 (1)	O2B—C1B	1.252 (1)
N1A—C2A	1.494 (1)	N1B—C2B	1.491 (2)
N1A—H1A	0.88 (2)	N1B—H1B	0.94 (2)
N1A—H2A	0.82 (2)	N1B—H2B	0.86 (3)
N1A—H3A	0.85 (2)	N1B—H3B	0.80 (2)
C1A—C2A	1.530 (2)	C1B—C2B	1.534 (2)
C2A—C3A	1.535 (1)	C2B—C3B	1.533 (2)
C3A—C4A	1.529 (2)	C3B—C4B	1.531 (2)
C4A—C5A	1.525 (2)	C4B—C6B	1.520 (2)
C4A—C6A	1.530 (2)	C4B—C5B	1.524 (3)
O2A—C1A—O1A	124.66 (11)	O2B—C1B—O1B	125.45 (11)
O2A—C1A—C2A	118.03 (10)	O2B—C1B—C2B	117.75 (10)
O1A—C1A—C2A	117.27 (9)	O1B—C1B—C2B	116.75 (10)
N1A—C2A—C1A	109.16 (8)	N1B—C2B—C3B	107.77 (10)
N1A—C2A—C3A	107.48 (9)	N1B—C2B—C1B	109.62 (8)
C1A—C2A—C3A	111.96 (9)	C3B—C2B—C1B	111.14 (10)
C4A—C3A—C2A	116.13 (9)	C4B—C3B—C2B	115.07 (11)
C5A—C4A—C3A	111.31 (12)	C6B—C4B—C5B	110.30 (12)
C5A—C4A—C6A	109.56 (11)	C6B—C4B—C3B	109.76 (17)
C3A—C4A—C6A	109.19 (12)	C5B—C4B—C3B	110.87 (13)
O1A—C1A—C2A—N1A	−26.75 (13)		
N1A—C2A—C3A—C4A	−176.81 (10)		
C2A—C3A—C4A—C5A	64.63 (13)		
C2A—C3A—C4A—C6A	−174.29 (12)		
O1B—C1B—C2B—N1B	−32.28 (13)		
N1B—C2B—C3B—C4B	−170.01 (11)		
C2B—C3B—C4B—C5B	71.00 (15)		
C2B—C3B—C4B—C6B	−166.89 (14)		

Table 3. Hydrogen-bond parameters (Å, °)

D—H...A	H...A ^a	H...A ^b	H...A ^c	D...A	D—H...A ^d
N1A—H1A...O2A ⁱ	2.01 (2)	1.869	1.932	2.896 (1)	174 (2)
N1A—H2A...O1B ⁱⁱ	1.93 (2)	1.715	1.770	2.744 (1)	176 (2)
N1A—H3A...O1B	2.03 (2)	1.880	1.801	2.808 (1)	151 (2)
N1B—H1B...O2B ^j	1.94 (2)	1.855	1.815	2.856 (2)	164 (2)
N1B—H2B...O2A ⁱⁱⁱ	2.14 (3)	1.980	2.075	2.983 (2)	165 (3)
N1B—H2B...O1A ⁱⁱⁱ	2.32 (3)	2.201	2.139	2.993 (1)	135 (2)
N1B—H3B...O1A	1.96 (2)	1.724	1.739	2.747 (1)	174 (2)
C2B—H4B...O1A ^{iv}	2.39 (2)	2.182		3.255 (2)	166 ^d

Symmetry codes: (i) $x, y + 1, z$; (ii) $-x, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + 1$; (iii) $-x + 1, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + 1$; (iv) $-x + 1, y - \frac{1}{2}, -z + 1$.

Notes: (a) experimental H-atom positions; (b) normalized (Taylor & Kennard, 1983) hydrogen bonds with N—H = 1.030 Å and C—H = 1.100 Å; (c) Coll *et al.* (1986) (with normalized N—H = 1.030 Å, published with N—H = 1.080 Å); (d) e.s.d. meaningless due to constrained refinement of H atom.

The structure was solved using *SIR92* (Altomare *et al.*, 1994) and refined with *SHELXL93* (Sheldrick, 1993). Amino H atoms were refined isotropically, while other H atoms were kept in idealized positions. Only the C—H distances were free to refine, with identical shifts for all H atoms connected to the same C atom. The U_{iso} values were fixed at $1.2U_{eq}$ of the bonded atom, except that a free variable for U_{iso} was refined for each of the four methyl groups.

Lists of structure factors, anisotropic displacement parameters, H-atom coordinates, complete geometry and torsion angles have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: PA1221). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

References

- Altomare, A., Cascarano, G., Giacovazzo, C., Guagliardi, A., Burla, M. C., Polidori, G. & Camalli, M. (1994). *J. Appl. Cryst.* **27**, 435.
- Coll, M., Solans, X., Font-Alba, M. & Subirana, J. A. (1986). *Acta Cryst.* **C42**, 599–601.
- Dalhus, B. & Görbitz, C. H. (1996). *Acta Chem. Scand.* **50**. In the press.
- Görbitz, C. H. & Dalhus, B. (1996). *Acta Cryst.* **C52**, 1464–1466.
- Harding, M. M. & Howieson, R. M. (1976). *Acta Cryst.* **B32**, 633–634.
- Johnson, C. K. (1976). *ORTEP*. Report ORNL-5138. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, USA.
- Sheldrick, G. M. (1993). *SHELXL93. Program for the Refinement of Crystal Structures*. University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Taylor, R. & Kennard, O. (1983). *Acta Cryst.* **B39**, 133–138.

Acta Cryst. (1996). **C52**, 1756–1759

L-Cysteine, Monoclinic Form, Redetermination at 120 K

CARL HENRIK GÖRBITZ AND BJØRN DALHUS

Department of Chemistry, University of Oslo, PO Box 1033 Blindern, N-0315 Oslo, Norway. E-mail: c.h.gorbitz@kjemi.uio.no

(Received 24 January 1996; accepted 20 March 1996)

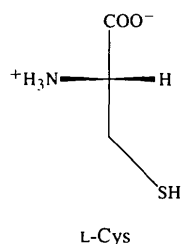
Abstract

This redetermination of the structure of L-cysteine, C₃H₇NO₂S, forms part IV in a series of crystal structures of hydrophobic amino acids. The thiol groups of the two molecules in the asymmetric unit are involved in S—H...O and S—H...S interactions. The associated C—S bond lengths are significantly different. The absolute structure could be determined from the X-ray data.

Comment

L-Cysteine crystallizes in two polymorphs: a monoclinic form (Harding & Long, 1968) and an orthorhombic form [Kerr & Ashmore, 1973; Kerr, Ashmore & Koetzle, 1975 (neutron diffraction study)]. Even though side-chain thiol groups may form weak hydrogen bonds, the basic crystal packing and hydrogen-bond pattern of the monoclinic form are shared by a number of hydrophobic amino acids. We intend to use this group of compounds for detailed studies of hydrogen-bonding interactions, and thus require high-precision structure determinations. As part of this programme, the X-ray crystal structures of L-Val and L-Met (Dalhus & Görbitz, 1996), L-Ile (Görbitz & Dalhus, 1996a) and L-Leu (Görbitz & Dalhus, 1996b) have been redetermined

at low temperature. The current paper describes a similar investigation for monoclinic L-Cys.



The original crystal structure (Harding & Long, 1968) was refined to $R = 0.127$ with estimated standard deviations for bond lengths between heavy atoms in the range 0.012–0.014 Å. The e.s.d.'s have now been reduced to about 0.0015 Å with $R = 0.031$. The new diffraction data permitted determination of the absolute structure by calculating the Flack parameter, $x = -0.01(5)$ (Flack, 1983), thus confirming the presence of the L enantiomer.

The asymmetric unit of monoclinic L-Cys, with two crystallographically independent molecules L-Cys(A) and L-Cys(B), is shown in Fig. 1. Harding & Long (1968) noted a particularly large difference between the C—S bond lengths in the structure, from 1.86(1) Å for L-Cys(A) to 1.77(1) Å for L-Cys(B). In our study, the difference is much smaller, from 1.8189(14) Å for L-Cys(A) to 1.8070(14) Å for L-Cys(B), but may be significant. The thermal motion of S1B is larger than for S1A, but hardly enough to cause a librational shortening of this magnitude. The two molecules differ in their side-chain orientation at the C^α — C^β bond, with N1—C2—C3—S1 (χ^1) being *gauche*⁺ for L-Cys(A) and *trans* for L-Cys(B). As shown by Görbitz (1990), L-Cys displays a significant preference for the *gauche*⁺ conformation in the crystal structures of small molecules. A search of the Cambridge Structural Database (October 1995 release, Allen *et al.*, 1991) revealed that L-Cys(B) provides the only example of a *trans* conformation, with a total of ten other occurrences all *gauche*⁺ [including L-Cys(A)]. The database entry for *N*- γ -L-glutamyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester (Takimoto-Kamimura, Koyano, Kithara & Fujii, 1990) actually describes the D-enantiomer and thus gives a *gauche*⁻ orientation for χ^1 , which has then been inverted.

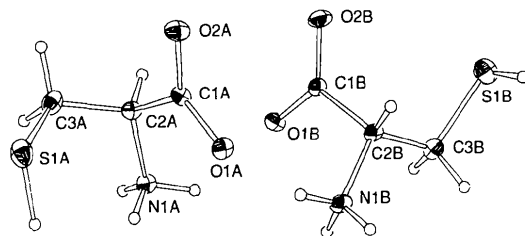


Fig. 1. The asymmetric unit with atomic numbering (ORTEP; Johnson, 1976). Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level. H atoms are shown as spheres of arbitrary size.

The unit cell and crystal packing are shown in Fig. 2. The main chains generate a double-sheet structure with N—H...O hydrogen bonds (Table 3) similar to those observed for hydrophobic amino acids. The side chains, on the other hand, form pseudo-hydrophobic layers which include additional hydrogen bonds involving the thiol groups (Fig. 3). In the orthorhombic form of L-Cys (Kerr, Ashmore & Koetzle, 1975), the thiol H atom is disordered over two sites, forming alternate interactions with either a carboxylate O atom or the S atom of another thiol group. Two refinement models, with an ordered or disordered S atom, yield hydrogen-bond lengths $d(H \cdots O) = 2.40(2)/d(H \cdots S) = 2.75(2)$ Å and $d(H \cdots O) = 2.40(2)/d(H \cdots S) = 2.63(2)$ Å, respectively. In the monoclinic form there is a reasonably strong S1A—H...O2Aⁱ [(i) = x, y - 1, z] hydrogen bond with $d(H \cdots O) = 2.183$ Å (normalized length, Table 3). This value compares favourably with S—H...O hydrogen bonds in glutathione (Görbitz, 1987), *N*- γ -L-glutamyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester (Takimoto-Kamimura, Koyano, Kithara & Fujii, 1990) and *N*-acetyl-L-cysteine (neutron diffraction study at 16 K; Takusagawa, Koetzle, Kou & Parthasarathy, 1981) (Table 3). S1A also acts as acceptor in a weak S1B—H...S1A interaction with $d(H \cdots S) = 2.801$ Å. This is the first direct observation of such a hydrogen bond in crystal structures with fully ordered L-cysteine residues. $d(S \cdots S)$ for S1B—

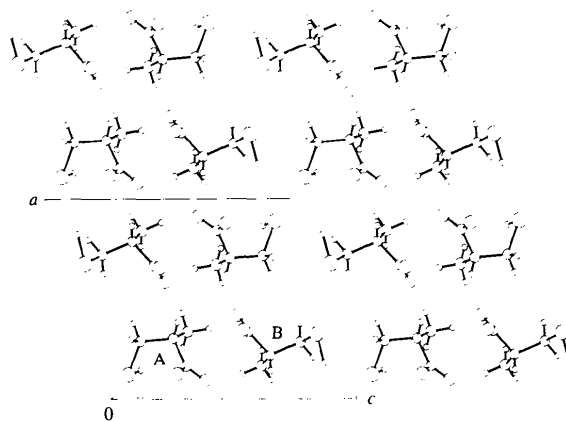


Fig. 2. The unit cell and crystal packing viewed along the b axis.

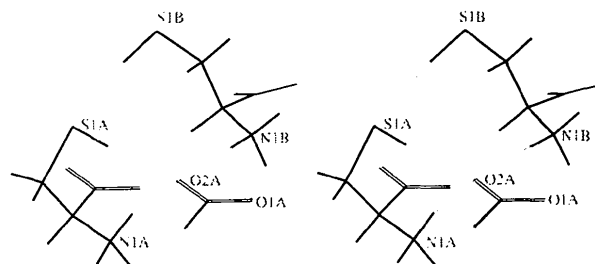


Fig. 3. Stereodiagram illustrating hydrogen bonds for the thiol group. Only the carboxylate group is shown for the third amino acid involved.

H...S1A is 4.080(1) Å, which is not the shortest intermolecular S...S distance in the crystal. L-Cys(A) molecules related by the twofold screw axis have $d(\text{S1A}\cdots\text{S1A}) = 3.589(1)$ Å and a second S1B...S1A distance of 3.839(1) Å is also found. As is evident from Fig. 2, however, neither contact is a hydrogen bond.

Experimental

The crystals were grown by slow cooling of a warm saturated aqueous solution.

Crystal data

C₃H₇NO₂S
M_r = 121.16
 Monoclinic
*P*2₁
a = 9.441(2) Å
b = 5.222(1) Å
c = 11.337(4) Å
 β = 109.00(2)°
V = 528.5(2) Å³
Z = 4
D_x = 1.523 Mg m⁻³

Mo *K*α radiation
 λ = 0.71069 Å
 Cell parameters from 25 reflections
 θ = 15.0–20.0°
 μ = 0.496 mm⁻¹
T = 120(2) K
 Block
 0.95 × 0.50 × 0.35 mm
 Colourless

Data collection

Nicolet P3 diffractometer
 2θ scans
 Absorption correction:
 refined from ΔF
 (DIFABS; Walker &
 Stuart, 1983)
T_{min} = 0.954, *T_{max}* =
 0.983
 3094 measured reflections
 3000 independent reflections

2896 observed reflections
 $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$
R_{int} = 0.0249
 θ_{max} = 37.5°
 h = -16 → 15
 k = -8 → 0
 l = 0 → 19
 3 standard reflections
 monitored every 96
 reflections
 intensity decay: none

Refinement

Refinement on *F*²
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.0311$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.0836$
S = 1.066
 3000 reflections
 161 parameters
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0552P)^2 + 0.0609P]$
 where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = -0.061$

$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.365 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.717 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
 Extinction correction: none
 Atomic scattering factors
 from *International Tables for Crystallography* (1992, Vol. C, Tables 4.2.6.8 and 6.1.1.4)
 Absolute configuration:
 Flack (1983) parameter
 = -0.01(5)

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å²)

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>U_{eq}</i>
S1A	0.11263(4)	0.82302(8)	0.09326(3)	0.02145(7)
O1A	0.08519(9)	0.9939(2)	0.39891(8)	0.01471(14)
O2A	0.12029(10)	1.3406(2)	0.29716(9)	0.01687(15)
N1A	0.33018(10)	0.7544(2)	0.39478(9)	0.01266(14)

C1A	0.15624(10)	1.1219(2)	0.34317(10)	0.01158(15)
C2A	0.29769(11)	1.0033(2)	0.32817(10)	0.01188(15)
C3A	0.28458(13)	0.9734(3)	0.19096(11)	0.0174(2)
S1B	0.32276(5)	1.41241(8)	0.92329(4)	0.02765(9)
O1B	0.41579(10)	1.0490(2)	0.62518(9)	0.01519(14)
O2B	0.34280(11)	1.4559(2)	0.62690(10)	0.0181(2)
N1B	0.15813(11)	0.8770(2)	0.64868(10)	0.0142(2)
C1B	0.33335(11)	1.2229(2)	0.64556(10)	0.01153(15)
C2B	0.21423(11)	1.1327(2)	0.70159(10)	0.01188(15)
C3B	0.27882(14)	1.1084(3)	0.84356(11)	0.0171(2)

Table 2. Selected geometric parameters (Å, °)

S1A—C3A	1.8189(14)	S1B—C3B	1.8070(14)
S1A—H7A	1.34(4)	S1B—H7B	1.35(3)
O1A—C1A	1.2539(14)	O1B—C1B	1.2650(14)
O2A—C1A	1.2551(15)	O2B—C1B	1.2435(15)
N1A—C2A	1.4839(15)	N1B—C2B	1.489(2)
C1A—C2A	1.5312(14)	C1B—C2B	1.5345(14)
C2A—C3A	1.528(2)	C2B—C3B	1.530(2)
C3A—S1A—H7A	98.1(14)	C3B—S1B—H7B	90.6(20)
O1A—C1A—O2A	125.30(10)	O2B—C1B—O1B	126.06(10)
O1A—C1A—C2A	117.98(10)	O2B—C1B—C2B	118.26(10)
O2A—C1A—C2A	116.72(10)	O1B—C1B—C2B	115.66(10)
N1A—C2A—C3A	111.32(9)	N1B—C2B—C3B	108.49(9)
N1A—C2A—C1A	109.94(8)	N1B—C2B—C1B	108.72(9)
C3A—C2A—C1A	111.71(9)	C3B—C2B—C1B	111.48(9)
C2A—C3A—S1A	115.12(8)	C2B—C3B—S1B	113.66(9)
O1A—C1A—C2A—N1A			-4.47(14)
N1A—C2A—C3A—S1A			74.39(10)
C2A—C3A—S1A—H7A			-64.6(14)
O1B—C1B—C2B—N1B			-35.30(13)
N1B—C2B—C3B—S1B			-170.15(7)
C2B—C3B—S1B—H7B			80.8(16)

Table 3. Hydrogen-bond parameters (Å, °) and comparison with other L-Cys structures

<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H	H... <i>A</i> ^a	H... <i>A</i> ^b	<i>D</i> ... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i> ^d
N1A—H1A...O2A ⁱ	0.93(3)	2.00(3)	1.899	2.897(2)	163(2)
N1A—H2A...O1B ⁱⁱ	0.95(3)	1.77(3)	1.685	2.703(1)	169(2)
N1A—H3A...O1B	0.99(3)	2.12(3)	2.089	2.910(2)	136(3)
N1A—H3A...O2B ⁱⁱ	0.99(3)	2.28(3)	2.251	3.027(2)	132(3)
N1B—H1B...O2B ⁱⁱ	0.97(3)	2.00(3)	1.943	2.866(2)	149(2)
N1B—H2B...O2A ⁱⁱⁱ	0.84(3)	2.09(3)	1.914	2.894(1)	160(3)
N1B—H2B...O1A ⁱⁱⁱ	0.84(3)	2.35(3)	2.225	2.960(1)	131(3)
N1B—H3B...O1A	0.98(3)	1.82(3)	1.767	2.756(2)	160(4)
C2B—H4B...O1A ^{iv}	0.94 ^c	2.35	2.210	3.279(1)	170
S1A—H7A...O2A ⁱ	1.34(4)	2.18(3)	2.183	3.404(1)	149(2)
S1B—H7B...S1A ⁱⁱ	1.35(3)	2.79(3)	2.801	4.080(1)	159(3)
S—H...O ^d	1.338(2)	2.216(2)	2.216	3.404(2)	149.2(2)
S—H...O ^e	1.21(5)	2.33(5)	2.217	3.499(5)	161(4)
S—H...O ^f	1.26	2.20(6)	2.153	3.479(5)	171

Symmetry codes: (i) *x*, *y* - 1, *z*; (ii) -*x* + 1, *y* - 1/2, -*z* + 1; (iii) -*x*, *y* - 1/2, -*z* + 1; (iv) -*x*, *y* + 1/2, -*z* + 1.

Notes: (a) experimental H-atom positions; (b) normalized (Taylor & Kennard, 1983) hydrogen bonds with N—H = 1.030, C—H = 1.100 Å (Allen *et al.*, 1987) and S—H = 1.338 Å (Takusagawa, Koetzle, Kou & Parthasarathy, 1981); (c) e.s.d. meaningless due to constrained refinement of H atom; (d) *N*-acetyl-L-cysteine (Takusagawa, Koetzle, Kou & Parthasarathy, 1981); (e) glutathione (Görbitz, 1987); (f) *N*-γ-L-glutamyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester (Takimoto-Kamimura, Koyano, Kithara & Fujii, 1990).

Amino-group H atoms were refined isotropically. Only positional parameters were refined for the thiol H atoms, with fixed $U_{\text{iso}} = 2.0U_{\text{eq}}$ of the bonded atom. Other H atoms were kept in idealized positions, but with the C—H distance free to refine. All H atoms connected to the same C atom were given the same shifts. The U_{iso} values were fixed at $1.2U_{\text{eq}}$ of the bonded atom.

The structure was solved using *SIR92* (Altomare *et al.*, 1994) and refined with *SHELXL93* (Sheldrick, 1993). Molecular graphics were obtained using *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976).

Lists of structure factors, anisotropic displacement parameters, H-atom coordinates and complete geometry have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: NA1229). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

References

- Allen, F. H., Davies, J. E., Galloy, J. J., Johnson, O., Kennard, O., Macrae, C. F., Mitchell, E. M., Mitchell, G. F., Smith, J. M. & Watson, D. G. (1991). *J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci.* **31**, 187–204.
- Allen, F. H., Kennard, O., Watson, D. G., Brammer, L., Orpen, G. & Taylor, R. (1987). *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2*, pp. S1–S19.
- Altomare, A., Cascarano, G., Giacovazzo, C., Guagliardi, A., Burla, M. C., Polidori, G. & Camalli, M. (1994). *J. Appl. Cryst.* **27**, 435.
- Dalhus, B. & Görbitz, C. H. (1996). *Acta Chem. Scand.* **50**. In the press.
- Flack, H. D. (1983). *Acta Cryst.* **A39**, 876–881.
- Görbitz, C. H. (1987). *Acta Chem. Scand. Ser. B*, **41**, 362–366.
- Görbitz, C. H. (1990). *Acta Chem. Scand.* **44**, 584–590.
- Görbitz, C. H. & Dalhus, B. (1996a). *Acta Cryst.* **C52**, 1464–1466.
- Görbitz, C. H. & Dalhus, B. (1996b). *Acta Cryst.* **C52**, 1754–1756.
- Harding, M. M. & Long, H. A. (1968). *Acta Cryst.* **B24**, 1096–1102.
- Johnson, C. K. (1976). *ORTEPII*. Report ORNL-5138. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, USA.
- Kerr, K. A. & Ashmore, J. P. (1973). *Acta Cryst.* **B29**, 2124–2127.
- Kerr, K. A., Ashmore, J. P. & Koetzle, T. F. (1975). *Acta Cryst.* **B31**, 2022–2026.
- Sheldrick, G. M. (1993). *SHELXL93. Program for the Refinement of Crystal Structures*. University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Takimoto-Kamimura, M., Koyano, K., Kithara, S. & Fujii, K. (1990). *Acta Cryst.* **C46**, 2247–2249.
- Takusagawa, F., Koetzle, T. F., Kou, W. W. H. & Parthasarathy, R. (1981). *Acta Cryst.* **C37**, 1591–1596.
- Taylor, R. & Kennard, O. (1983). *Acta Cryst.* **B39**, 133–138.
- Walker, N. & Stuart, D. (1983). *Acta Cryst.* **A39**, 158–166.

Acta Cryst. (1996). **C52**, 1759–1761

Triclinic Form of DL-Valine

BJØRN DALHUS AND CARL HENRIK GÖRBITZ

Department of Chemistry, University of Oslo, PO Box 1033
Blindern, N-0315 Oslo, Norway. E-mail: bjonnda@kjemi.
uio.no

(Received 17 January 1996; accepted 19 February 1996)

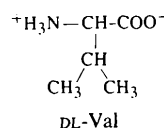
Abstract

The crystal structure of DL-valine, $C_5H_{11}NO_2$, has been refined in the space group $P\bar{1}$ for data collected at 120 K. Estimated standard deviations on bonds between all heavy atoms are less than 0.001 Å. This paper forms

part V in a series on the crystal structures of hydrophobic amino acids.

Comment

The structure of DL-valine (DL-Val) was solved and refined in the monoclinic space group $P2_1/c$ by Mallikarjunan & Thyagaraja Rao (1969). Standard deviations on bond lengths between heavy atoms were in the range 0.006–0.007 Å and the *R* factor was 0.101. As part of our program aimed at providing accurate H-atom positions in crystal structures of hydrophobic amino acids (Dalhus & Görbitz, 1996; Görbitz & Dalhus, 1996a,b,c), we decided to redetermine the structure at liquid-nitrogen temperature, *i.e.* 120 K. Preliminary investigations of cell parameters for the selected crystal, however, indicated a triclinic rather than a monoclinic space group. Cell parameters for a triclinic form have previously been given by Dawson & Mathieson (1951). The crystal structure was solved in the centrosymmetric space group $P\bar{1}$.



The atomic numbering scheme for DL-Val is depicted in Fig. 1. The asymmetric units of both the monoclinic and triclinic forms of DL-Val contain one amino acid zwitterion, compared to two molecules in the asymmetric unit of L-valine (L-Val) (Dalhus & Görbitz, 1996). The L isomer adopts a molecular conformation with $\chi^{1,1} = gauche^+$ in all three structures. In L-Val, the second molecule has $\chi^{1,1} = trans$.

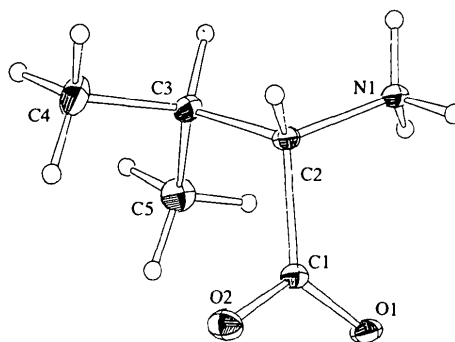


Fig. 1. *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976) drawing of the L isomer in the DL-Val racemate. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are arbitrarily scaled.

It is interesting to note that the carboxylate groups in the two different structures of DL-Val are symmetrical within experimental error. Mean values for the C—O distances are 1.257 and 1.249 Å for the triclinic and monoclinic forms, respectively. In the L-Val crystal,