# organic compounds

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# 2,6-Diiodopyridine

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The title compound,  $C_5H_3I_2N$ , crystallizes in the polar space group *Fmm2*, with crystallographic *mm2* symmetry imposed on the molecule. Molecules are linked through  $C-H\cdots N$ hydrogen bonding to form chains which are, in turn, joined through weak  $I\cdots I$  halogen-bonding interactions to form layers. The pyridine ring lies parallel to the polar *z* axis and has the N atom pointing in the +*z* direction. The layers stack in a polar fashion normal to the *a* axis and the absolute structure has been determined.

# Comment

Haloaromatic compounds are important for synthetic purposes, especially cross-coupling reactions with organometallic reagents (Li & Gribble, 2000; Finet, 1998). Iodoaromatics typically display increased reactivity compared with their bromo and chloro counterparts. Disubstituted iodoheteroaromatic compounds are useful for the preparation of multifunctional ligands, but few are available due to the difficulty of their formation (Smith & Ho, 1990; Yang *et al.*, 1986).

This paper reports the preparation and crystal structure of 2,6-diiodopyridine, (I), which will be used as a more reactive base unit in an alternate synthesis of acetylene-expanded tridentate ligands (Holmes *et al.*, 2002). This appears to be only the second reported structure analysis of an iodopyridine, and the first of a diiodo derivative. Similar to the first reported example, 4-iodopyridine (Ahrens & Jones, 1999), (I) crystal-lizes in a polar space group, *viz. Fmm*2 for (I) *versus Fdd*2 for 4-iodopyridine.



The molecule of (I) lies on a crystallographic *mm*<sup>2</sup> site (Fig. 1), with the molecular plane coincident with one mirror and the molecule bisected by the other. Atoms N1 and C3 lie

on the twofold rotational axis at the intersection of the mirrors.

The geometric parameters for (I) (Table 1) are somewhat distorted relative to those found in both pyridine (Mootz & Wussow, 1981) and 4-iodopyridine, with expansion of the ring angle at atoms C1 and C3 and contraction at atoms N1 and C2. This could be due to steric and electronic factors associated with the large electron-dense substituents, but may also be the result of low precision in the positional parameters of the light atoms (which comprise only 27% of the scattering power of the unit cell).

The molecules of (I) form linear chains along the *c* axis through  $C-H\cdots N$  hydrogen-bonding interactions (Table 2). These chains are linked through weak halogen bonding between I atoms (Walsh *et al.*, 2001; Bailey *et al.*, 2000; Bosch & Barnes, 2002) to form planar layers normal to the *a* axis (Fig. 2). The I $\cdots$ I distance (Table 1) is at the limit of the van der Waals contact distance, which has been estimated to be



# Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I). Displacement ellipsoids are at the 50% probability level and H atoms are of arbitrary radii. [Symmetry code: (i) -x, 1 - y, z.]



# Figure 2

The molecular packing in (I), viewed down the *a* axis. Atoms are shown with arbitrary radii. Thick dashed lines represent  $C-H\cdots N$  hydrogen bonds, while thin dashed lines represent  $I\cdots I$  halogen-bonding contacts.

4.30 Å by Pauling (1960), 3.96 Å by Bondi (1964) and 4.00 Å by Rowland & Taylor (1996), but the angular orientation of the interactions fits the standard description of a type-II interaction quite well (Desiraju & Parthasarathy, 1989). Each I atom undergoes two close contacts with neighboring I atoms within the layer, with one being nearly linear with respect to the C1–I1 bond and the other being closer to a tetrahedral angle (Table 1). The layers are parallel to each other, with all of the N atoms aligned in the same absolute direction. Alternating layers are staggered by one half translation along the *c* axis. The absolute direction of the polar axis has been determined successfully.

# Experimental

2,6-Diiodopyridine was synthesized by reacting commercially available 2,6-dibromopyridine with six equivalents of ethylmagnesium bromide in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting pyridyl dimagnesium bromide was quenched with iodine to afford the desired white solid in 42% yield following purification by chromatography on silica (hexane/dichloromethane) and recrystallization (hexane/chloroform). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $\delta$ , CDCl<sub>3</sub>, p.p.m.): 7.67 (*d*, *J* = 7.88 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (*t*, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,  $\delta$ , CDCl<sub>3</sub>, p.p.m.): 138.36 (CH), 134.19 (CH), 116.21. Diffraction-quality crystals of 2,6-diiodopyridine were obtained by slow evaporation of a xylene solution at room temperature.

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation Cell parameters from 1322

reflections

 $\mu = 8.67 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ T = 148 K Prism, colorless  $0.17 \times 0.05 \times 0.05 \text{ mm}$ 

 $\theta = 4.6 - 26.4^{\circ}$ 

Crystal data

# Data collection

Mercury AFC-8S diffractometer	405 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
$\omega$ scans	$R_{\rm int} = 0.032$
Absorption correction: multi-scan	$\theta_{\rm max} = 26.3^{\circ}$
(REQAB; Jacobson, 1998)	$h = -8 \rightarrow 8$
$T_{\min} = 0.300, T_{\max} = 0.660$	$k = -20 \rightarrow 20$
1721 measured reflections	$l = -7 \rightarrow 7$
406 independent reflections	

# Refinement

 Refinement on  $F^2$   $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0341P)^2]$  

 R(F) = 0.020 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ 
 $wR(F^2) = 0.050$   $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$  

 S = 1.11  $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.67 \text{ e Å}^{-3}$  

 406 reflections
  $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.58 \text{ e Å}^{-3}$  

 27 parameters
 Absolute structure: Flack (1983),

 H-atom parameters constrained
 180 Friedel pairs

 Flack parameter = 0.00 (8)
 Flack parameter = 0.00 (8)

Data collection: *CrystalClear* (Rigaku/MSC, 2001); cell refinement: *CrystalClear*; data reduction: *CrystalClear*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXTL-Plus* (Sheldrick, 2000); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXTL-Plus*; molecular graphics: *SHELXTL*-

# Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

I1-C1	2.112 (5)	C1-C2	1.388 (8)
11-11'	4.1038 (7)	$C_2 - C_3$	1.383 (19)
N1-C1	1.319 (7)		
C1-I1-I1 <sup>i</sup>	98.84 (17)	N1-C1-I1	115.9 (4)
C1-I1-I1 <sup>ii</sup>	163.13 (18)	C2-C1-I1	118.5 (4)
$I1^{i} - I1 - I1^{ii}$	98.03 (2)	C3-C2-C1	115.5 (14)
C1-N1-C1 <sup>iii</sup>	116.1 (7)	$C2^{iii} - C3 - C2$	122 (3)
N1-C1-C2	125.7 (5)		

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

#### Table 2

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$C3-H3A\cdots N1^{i}$ 0.93 2.51 3.44 (4) 180	$D-\mathrm{H}\cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - H \cdots A$
	$C3-H3A\cdots N1^{i}$	0.93	2.51	3.44 (4)	180

Symmetry code: (i) x, y, z - 1.

*Plus*; software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL-Plus*.

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: LN1141). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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