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## Key indicators

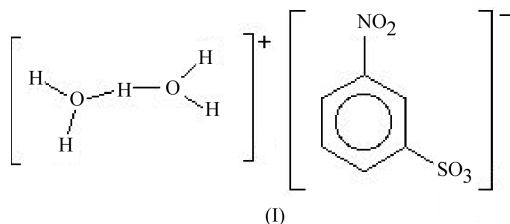
Single-crystal X-ray study  
*T* = 93 K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002 \text{ \AA}$   
*R* factor = 0.036  
*wR* factor = 0.104  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 16.1For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## Dihydronium 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate

The title compound,  $\text{H}_5\text{O}_2^+\cdot\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{NO}_5\text{S}^-$ , crystallized slowly over a period of several years. It is stable and the dihydronium cation is well determined; all of the H-atom positions in the cation were refined. The strong hydrogen bond between the O atoms is nearly linear, with the H atom near the midpoint of the two O atoms. The refined O—H distances are 1.15 (2) and 1.27 (2) Å, respectively.

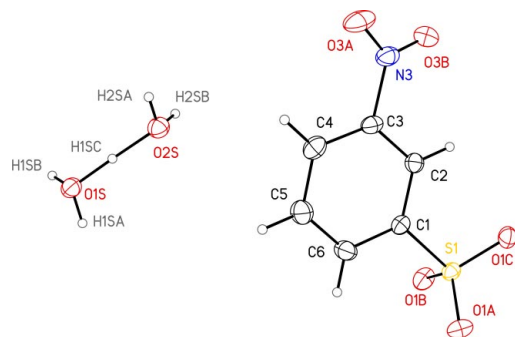
## Comment

In the title compound, dihydronium 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate, (I), two water molecules are strongly hydrogen bonded, with an O··O separation of 2.411 (2) Å, forming a dihydronium ( $\text{H}_5\text{O}_2^+$ ) cation. Each of the remaining H atoms in the cation participates in intermolecular hydrogen bonding with the sulfonate O atoms, and each sulfonate O atom acts as an acceptor, forming a three-dimensional network. There are a number of reports of dihydronium ions in the solid state. In the April 2002 release of the Cambridge Structural Database (Allen & Kennard, 1993), there are 36 occurrences in which the O··O separations are less than 2.6 Å between  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  pairs. Some early examples are: bis[chloro(1,2-propanediamine-*N,N'*)cobalt] chloride hydrochloride hydronium (Saito & Iwasaki, 1962), and hydrogen chloride dihydrate (Lundgren & Olovsson, 1967).



In the current study, the data quality is sufficient to refine the dihydronium H-atom positions. The strong hydrogen bond between the water molecules is nearly linear, with the O—H··O angle equal to 177 (2)°. The hydrogen bonds between the ions are also nearly linear, with O—H··O angles in the range 174 (2)–179 (2)°. The central H atom in the cation has O—H distances of O1S—H1C = 1.15 (2) Å and O2S—H1C = 1.27 (2) Å. The dihydronium O atoms are pyramidal, with O1S 0.28 (2) Å out of the plane formed by atoms H1A, H1B, and H1C, and O2S 0.32 (2) Å out of the plane formed by atoms H2A, H2B, and H1C. The remaining cation O—H distances are O1S—H1A = 0.86 (2) Å, O1S—H1B = 0.83 (2) Å, O2S—H2A = 0.81 (2) Å and O2S—H2B = 0.81 (2) Å. The structure of the 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate anion has been reported in guanidinium 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate (Russell & Ward, 1997) and in (2-*p*-benzoquinonediimine)decaamminediru-

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**Figure 1**  
Displacement ellipsoid plot of dihydronium 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate, drawn at the 50% probability level.

thenium(II,III) pentakis(*m*-nitrobenzenesulfonate) pentahydrate (Joss *et al.*, 1985). Here, the nitro group is twisted out of the benzene plane; the torsion angle C2–C3–N3–O3B is 20.2 (2)°. The orientation of the sulfonate is defined by the torsion angle C2–C1–S1–O1B of –104.6 (1)°. The room-temperature (295 K) cell is  $a = 7.945$  (4) Å,  $b = 8.119$  (4) Å,  $c = 9.389$  (5) Å,  $\alpha = 90.42$  (1),  $\beta = 94.70$  (1) and  $\gamma = 119.08^\circ$  (1).

## Experimental

A Friedel–Crafts substitution on PhCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br with *m*-ClSO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, AlCl<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was worked-up by hydrolysis, drying of the organic layer, and distillation. The yellow distillate (383 K, vacuum) contained several products, from which dihydronium 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate, (I), crystallized over a period of several years. Apparently, (I) was formed from the hydrolysis of unreacted sulfonyl chloride.

### Crystal data

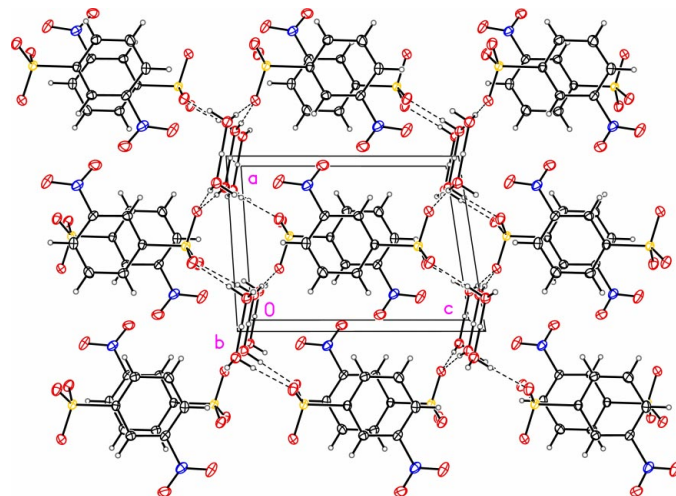
H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> ·C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> NO <sub>5</sub> S <sup>–</sup>	$Z = 2$
$M_r = 239.20$	$D_x = 1.540$ Mg m <sup>–3</sup>
Triclinic, $P\bar{1}$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$a = 7.872$ (2) Å	Cell parameters from 3195 reflections
$b = 7.986$ (2) Å	$\theta = 3.0$ – $27.9^\circ$
$c = 9.414$ (2) Å	$\mu = 0.33$ mm <sup>–1</sup>
$\alpha = 90.456$ (5)°	$T = 93$ (2) K
$\beta = 95.284$ (5)°	Plate, yellow
$\gamma = 118.701$ (5)°	$0.52 \times 0.43 \times 0.18$ mm
$V = 516.0$ (1) Å <sup>3</sup>	

### Data collection

Bruker SMART 1K CCD area-detector diffractometer	2433 independent reflections
$\varphi$ and $\omega$ scans	2086 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 2001)	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.017$
$T_{\text{min}} = 0.845$ , $T_{\text{max}} = 0.943$	$\theta_{\text{max}} = 28.2^\circ$
4192 measured reflections	$h = -9 \rightarrow 10$
	$k = -9 \rightarrow 10$
	$l = -12 \rightarrow 12$

### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0655P)^2 + 0.0567P]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.036$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
$wR(F^2) = 0.104$	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.003$
$S = 1.08$	$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.47$ e Å <sup>–3</sup>
2433 reflections	$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.44$ e Å <sup>–3</sup>
151 parameters	
H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement	



**Figure 2**  
Packing diagram, viewed down the  $b$  axis. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds.

**Table 1**

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$D-H \cdots A$	$D-H$	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D-H \cdots A$
O1S–H1SC <sup>i</sup> ···O2S	1.15 (2)	1.27 (2)	2.411 (2)	177 (2)
O1S–H1SA···O1A <sup>i</sup>	0.86 (2)	1.79 (2)	2.643 (2)	177 (2)
O1S–H1SB···O1C <sup>ii</sup>	0.83 (2)	1.87 (2)	2.696 (2)	174 (2)
O2S–H2SA···O1B <sup>iii</sup>	0.81 (2)	1.85 (2)	2.656 (2)	177 (2)
O2S–H2SB···O1C <sup>iv</sup>	0.81 (2)	1.85 (2)	2.663 (2)	179 (2)

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x, 1-y, 1-z$ ; (ii)  $x-1, y-1, z-1$ ; (iii)  $x, y, z-1$ ; (iv)  $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ .

Only the dihydronium H-atom positions were refined.

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2001); cell refinement: SMART; data reduction: SAINT (Bruker, 2001); program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1990); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: SHELXTL (Sheldrick, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL.

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