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Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study
 T = 120 K
 Mean $\sigma(I-Mg)$ = 0.001 Å
 R factor = 0.035
 wR factor = 0.068
 Data-to-parameter ratio = 11.4

For details of how these key indicators were
 automatically derived from the article, see
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

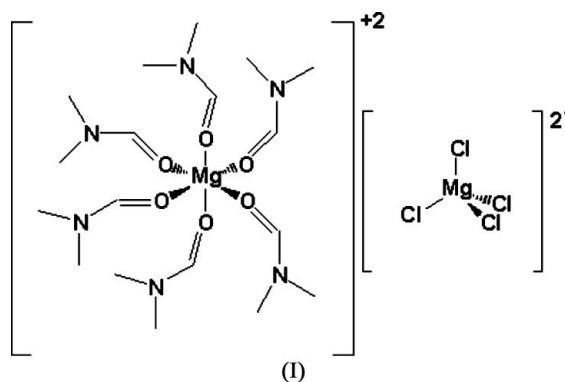
**Hexakis(*N,N*-dimethylformamide- κ O)-
 magnesium tetrachloromagnesate**

The crystallographically independent unit of the title compound, $[Mg(C_3H_7NO)_6][MgCl_4]$, consists of two six-coordinate magnesium dications and two four-coordinate magnesium dianions. The two cations are quasi-octahedral and statistically equivalent [average Mg–O = 2.07 (3) Å] and the anions are quasi-tetrahedral and statistically equivalent [average Mg–Cl = 2.334 (11) Å].

Received 14 March 2006
 Accepted 27 March 2006

Comment

The asymmetric unit of the title compound consists of two cations and two anions. Equivalent bond lengths and bond angles of the metal-bonded *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMFA) ligands are statistically equal to one another and are consistent with values reported for the $[(DMFA)_6Mg]^{2+}$ dication by Krautscheid & Vielsack (1999). Other DMFA–Mg complexes have been reported by Hollander *et al.* (1973) and Adams *et al.* (2005). The bond lengths and angles in the $[MgCl_4]^{2-}$ dianion do not differ significantly from the values reported by Sobota *et al.* (1986), Sobota & Szafert (1996), and Pavanello *et al.* (1994).



Experimental

Crystals of the title compound were grown from dimethylformamide solution. Their preparation is discussed by Barker (2005).

Crystal data

$[Mg(C_3H_7NO)_6][MgCl_4]$
 $M_r = 629$
 Monoclinic, $P2_1$
 $a = 13.905$ (2) Å
 $b = 12.108$ (3) Å
 $c = 19.079$ (3) Å
 $\beta = 90.717$ (15)°
 $V = 3211.9$ (10) Å³
 $Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.301$ Mg m⁻³
 Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
 Cell parameters from 7510 reflections
 $\theta = 2.5$ – 27.5°
 $\mu = 0.45$ mm⁻¹
 T = 120 K
 Fragment, colorless
 0.35 × 0.25 × 0.1 mm

Data collection

Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer
with an Oxford Cryosystems
Cryostream cooler
 ω scans with κ offsets
Absorption correction: multi-scan
(SCALEPACK; Otwinowski &
Minor 1997)
 $T_{\min} = 0.929$, $T_{\max} = 0.956$

45159 measured reflections
7677 independent reflections
5986 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.036$
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.5^\circ$
 $h = -18 \rightarrow 18$
 $k = -15 \rightarrow 15$
 $l = -24 \rightarrow 24$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.035$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.068$
 $S = 1.02$
7677 reflections
673 parameters
H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0276P)^2 + 0.1249P]$
where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.26 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.23 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (\AA , $^\circ$).

C11—Mg3	2.3392 (12)	Mg1—O1	2.047 (2)
C12—Mg3	2.3167 (14)	Mg1—O3	2.058 (2)
C13—Mg3	2.3374 (14)	Mg1—O5	2.060 (2)
C14—Mg3	2.3274 (13)	Mg1—O4	2.080 (2)
C15—Mg4	2.3467 (13)	Mg2—O12	2.046 (2)
C16—Mg4	2.3248 (15)	Mg2—O11	2.054 (2)
C17—Mg4	2.3330 (13)	Mg2—O9	2.057 (2)
C18—Mg4	2.3460 (13)	Mg2—O7	2.080 (2)
Mg1—O2	2.035 (2)	Mg2—O8	2.098 (2)
Mg1—O6	2.042 (2)	Mg2—O10	2.123 (2)
O2—Mg1—O6	91.03 (10)	O12—Mg2—O8	91.20 (9)
O2—Mg1—O1	91.54 (9)	O11—Mg2—O8	88.33 (9)
O6—Mg1—O1	91.79 (9)	O9—Mg2—O8	95.95 (9)
O2—Mg1—O3	87.90 (9)	O7—Mg2—O8	87.38 (9)
O6—Mg1—O3	91.77 (9)	O12—Mg2—O10	89.81 (9)
O1—Mg1—O3	176.40 (11)	O11—Mg2—O10	90.87 (9)
O2—Mg1—O5	94.07 (10)	O9—Mg2—O10	89.10 (9)
O6—Mg1—O5	174.78 (11)	O7—Mg2—O10	87.58 (9)
O1—Mg1—O5	86.96 (9)	O8—Mg2—O10	174.87 (10)
O3—Mg1—O5	89.53 (9)	C12—Mg3—C14	109.97 (5)
O2—Mg1—O4	174.92 (9)	C12—Mg3—C13	107.74 (5)
O6—Mg1—O4	87.90 (10)	C14—Mg3—C13	109.80 (5)
O1—Mg1—O4	93.46 (9)	C12—Mg3—C11	109.47 (5)
O3—Mg1—O4	87.17 (9)	C14—Mg3—C11	108.84 (5)
O5—Mg1—O4	87.12 (9)	C13—Mg3—C11	111.01 (5)
O12—Mg2—O11	177.49 (10)	C16—Mg4—C17	111.91 (5)
O12—Mg2—O9	88.60 (9)	C16—Mg4—C18	108.60 (5)
O11—Mg2—O9	89.00 (9)	C17—Mg4—C18	108.18 (5)
O12—Mg2—O7	90.82 (9)	C16—Mg4—C15	109.11 (5)
O11—Mg2—O7	91.62 (9)	C17—Mg4—C15	109.12 (5)
O9—Mg2—O7	176.63 (9)	C18—Mg4—C15	109.91 (5)

Refinement of the Flack (1983) parameter with 6646 Friedel pairs led to a value of 0.49 (3); the crystal was thus assumed to be an inversion twin with equal components. Friedel pairs were averaged in the final refinement, and the absolute structure chosen was arbitrary. All H atoms were placed in calculated positions, with C—H distances of 0.93 \AA and $U_{\text{iso}} = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}$ of the attached C atom, and thereafter treated as riding. A torsional parameter was refined for each methyl group.

Data collection: COLLECT (Nonius, 2000); cell refinement: DENZO and SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor, 1997); data reduction: DENZO and SCALEPACK; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics:

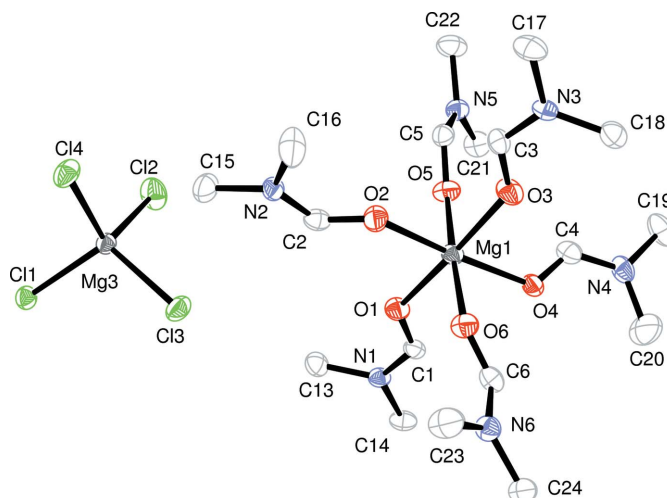


Figure 1

The atom-numbering scheme for cation-anion pair 1, with displacement ellipsoids shown at the 50% probability level. H atoms are not shown.

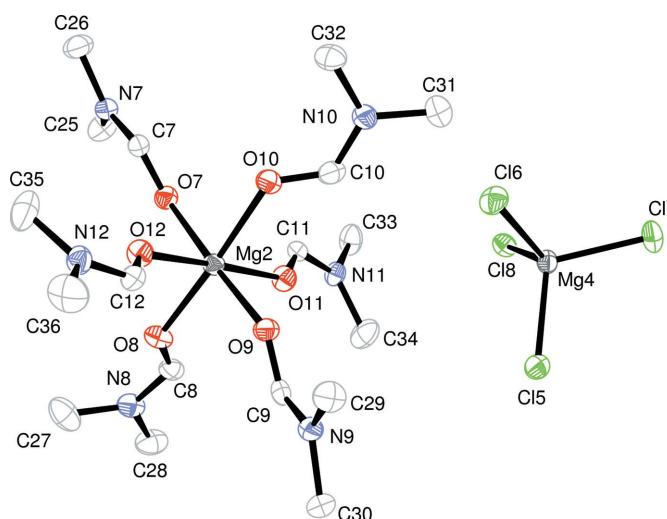


Figure 2

The atom-numbering scheme for cation-anion pair 2, with displacement ellipsoids shown at the 50% probability level. H atoms are not shown.

ORTEP-3 (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL97.

The purchase of the diffractometer was made possible by grant No. LEQSF(1999–2000)-ESH-TR-13, administered by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

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