

ally influencing the structure determination as described in the paper, confirmed in principle that these machines may be capable of aiding the evaluation of structures with marked pseudo-symmetry (actual or in projection).

Finally, the authors wish to thank Mr E. W. Colbeck, Metallurgical Director of Messrs Hadfields Limited, for his continued interest and encouragement, and for permission to publish this communication.

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The Crystal Structure of an Unstable Form of Chloroacetamide

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Chloroacetamide, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl} \cdot \text{CONH}_2$, was found to have two modifications, both of which belong to the same space group ($P2_1/a$, 4 molecules per unit cell) and have almost the same cell dimensions. The difference is only in the value of the angle β : $102^\circ 5'$ in the unstable, and $98^\circ 49'$ in the stable form. The crystal and molecular structure of the unstable form have been determined from a study of the two-dimensional projections of ρ and $(\rho_o - \rho_c)$ along the a and b axes. Bond lengths are almost the same as those in the related molecules: C-Cl = 1.76 Å, C-C = 1.51 Å, C-O = 1.25 Å and C-N = 1.40 Å (the estimated standard deviation of each atom is about 0.03 Å). The C-Cl bond takes approximately the *cis* position to the C-N bond. An interesting rule is found in the bond lengths and bond angles of the terminal amide group. N-H \cdots O hydrogen bonds are relatively weak in this crystal, the shortest N-H \cdots O distance being 3.05 Å and others about 3.37 Å and 3.39 Å.

Introduction

For some years past the protein structure has been approached by means of detailed X-ray analysis of some amino acids and related compounds which constitute the polypeptide chain of proteins. Much information has already been obtained concerning not only the dimensions and configurations of these molecules but also the nature and strength of the forces which bind them together. The structure of the terminal amide group has been studied for oxamide (Romers, 1953; Ayerst & Duke, 1954), succinamide (Pasternak, 1953), nicotin amide (Wright & King, 1954), glycyl-L-asparagine (Pasternak, Katz & Corey, 1954), L-glutamine (Cochran & Penfold, 1952), acetamide (Senti & Harker, 1940), 6-amido-3-pyridazone (Cucka & Small, 1954), and tetradecanamide (Turner & Lingafelter, 1955), but the dimensions reported for the group are appreciably different from each other. For this reason an accurate analysis of the crystal

structure of simple amides and the comparison of the results with those already reported would be of interest.

Recently Dejace (1955) reported an X-ray analysis of the crystal structure of chloroacetamide. He prepared the crystals from alcoholic or benzene solution. The present author obtained another form of the crystal by slow evaporation of its aqueous solution; for convenience, this will be termed the unstable form in this article. An accurate analysis of the structure of this crystal and the comparison of the results with the structure of the stable form are reported here.

Crystal data and experimental measurements

Chloroacetamide, $\text{Cl}-\text{CH}_2\text{CO} \cdot \text{NH}_2$, was prepared by Dr I. Nakagawa, and its purity was examined by use of the Raman and infra-red spectra. Single crystals were obtained from aqueous solution in plate form or

needles elongated along the b axis. The (001) faces were predominant and there was cleavage parallel to the (10 $\bar{1}$).

Rotation and oscillation and Weissenberg photographs were taken with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. The cell dimensions, determined from the oscillation photographs, are

$$a = 7.45, b = 5.15, c = 10.27 \text{ \AA}, \beta = 102.5^\circ.$$

Absent spectra: ($h0l$) when h is odd, and ($0k0$) when k is odd. Space group: $C_{2h}^5-P2_1/a$. It should be noted that the length of the c axis is one-half of the value given by Groth (1906-19), and β is larger by about 4° than his value.

Dejace prepared his crystals of chloroacetamide from ethyl alcohol or benzene solution and gave the following cell dimensions: $a=7.41$, $b=5.13$, $c=10.26$ \AA, $\beta=98^\circ 49'$. The angle β is the same as the value of Groth in this case. Single crystals of the stable form were also found among our crystals prepared from aqueous solution and kept in a desiccator for a long time. Oscillation photographs of these crystals were taken around the c axis and the intensities of the (hkl) reflexions were measured. The electron density projected on (00 l), calculated with these data, gave the same structure as that obtained by Dejace, and β was found to be 98.5° by the Weissenberg photographs around the b axis.

The intensities of the ($h00$) and ($0k0$) reflexions were found to be almost the same in crystals of both forms, except the (200) reflexion: for the stable form this was nearly zero and hard to observe, while for the unstable form it was very strong.

Debye-Scherrer patterns of the crystals prepared from water and chloroform solutions were also examined with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. There seem to exist slight differences in the scattering angles and a large difference in relative intensities. Some of the samples prepared from aqueous solution showed double peaks at the scattering angles of about 27° and 24° , while the others have only single peaks at these angles. This seems to indicate that the former was a mixture of the stable and unstable forms. If we assume that the crystals prepared from aqueous solution are ready to change to the stable form, it can be easily understood why the reflexions of the mixture were observed and why the patterns of the stable form were found with the lapse of time. Of course, there is also a possibility that under certain conditions both forms appear simultaneously on crystallization from aqueous solution.

As the unstable crystals sublimed easily at ordinary temperature and pressure, they had to be coated with paraffin. The crystals used for the b -axis photographs were 0.2 mm. in diameter. Those for the a -axis photographs were cut from larger crystals, the dimensions of the section being about 0.25×0.4 mm.². Special care was taken to secure specimens of approximately square cross-section. This attempt, however, was un-

successful in the case of the crystal for the a -axis photographs.

The intensity data used in the present analysis were confined to a complete survey of the ($h0l$) and ($0kl$) reflexions. They were estimated visually, using the multiple-film technique to correlate strong and weak reflections.

Structure determination

Structure determination using Harker-Kasper inequalities was found to be unsuccessful; it gave the signs of only a few structure factors. Since the molecule has one heavy atom (chlorine), the position of this atom is relatively easily determined by the method of Patterson projection. Thus the approximate position of the chlorine atom was found to be $x \approx \frac{1}{3}$, $y \approx \frac{1}{4}$, and $z \approx \frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ from Patterson projections upon (010) and (100). It is now possible to assume the crystal structure from the known bond lengths and angles by packing atoms in a unit cell. Starting from this trial structure, improved parameters of all atoms were obtained by trial and error. The signs of the majority of ($h0l$) and ($0kl$) structure factors were obtained and used with suitable temperature factors to evaluate electron-density projections. The final electron-density projection on (100) is shown in Fig. 1. At this stage

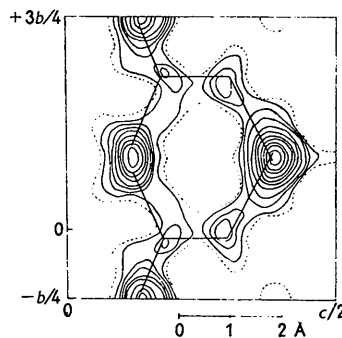


Fig. 1. Electron density projected on (100). Contours at every 2 e.\AA^{-2} for C, O, N atoms and at 4 e.\AA^{-2} for Cl atom. Broken lines represent 1 e.\AA^{-2} .

the percentage discrepancies ($100 \sum |F_o - F_c| \div \sum |F_o|$) were 25% for ($0kl$) and 23% for ($h0l$).

Refinement of structure and estimation of accuracy

Further refinement of this projection of the structure was carried out by evaluating successive Fourier difference synthesis with ($F_o - F_c$) as coefficients. Coordinate adjustments were first made until the electron-density slope at the atomic centres became zero. Next the temperature factors were adjusted, assuming that they are isotropic. The coordinates of the atoms (except the four hydrogen atoms) and their isotropic temperature factors are shown in Table I. At this stage the percentage discrepancies were 17.8% for ($0kl$) and 15.2% for ($h0l$).

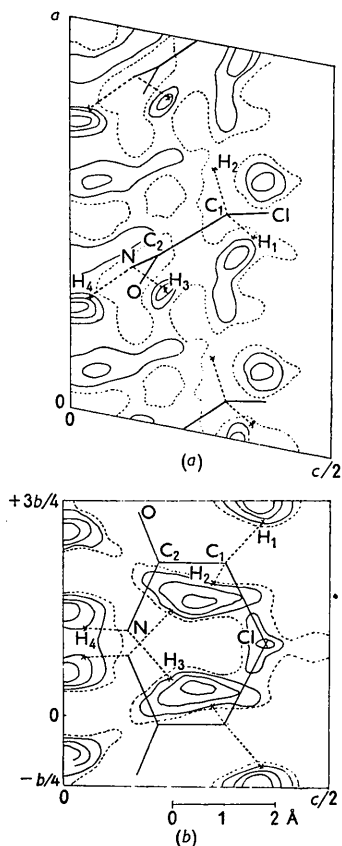


Fig. 2. $(\rho_o - \rho_c)$ projection (a) on (010), (b) on (100). Contours at every $0.3 \text{ e.}\text{\AA}^{-2}$, zero contour being broken.

Table 4. Standard deviations of atomic coordinates, assuming constant $\sigma(F_o) = 3.2$, and the probable errors of bond lengths

Atom	Cl	C ₁	C ₂	O	N
$\sigma(r)$ (Å)	0.025	0.027	0.027	0.033	0.023
Bond	C-Cl	C-C	C-O	C-N	
δr (Å)	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	

Discussion of structure and molecular dimensions

The dimensions of the molecule are shown in Fig. 3(a). The values in parentheses are those obtained by electron diffraction experiments by Kimura, Aoki & Kurita (1954) in which only the C-Cl and Cl...N lengths and the angle C₂-C₁-Cl were obtained by assuming other bond lengths and angles. It is, therefore, clear that the values obtained by X-rays are more reliable than those by electron diffraction. The largest discrepancy was found in the N-C₂ distance: 1.40 Å by X-rays and 1.32 Å by electron diffraction. This disagreement is probably due to the difference in the experimental conditions: the electron diffraction observations were made in the gaseous state, while the X-ray diffraction observations were made in the crystalline state.

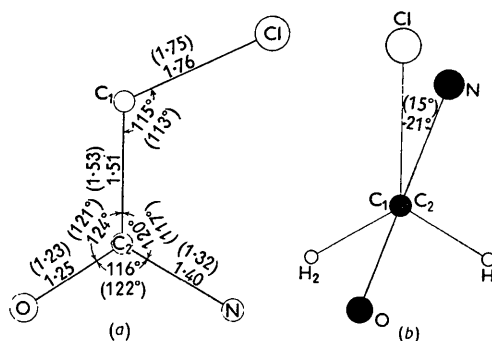


Fig. 3. (a) Bond lengths and angles of chloroacetamide. The values obtained by electron diffraction are written in parentheses. (b) The molecule viewed in the direction of the C₁-C₂ bond. The angle of twist from the *cis* form determined by electron diffraction is written in parenthesis.

The difference of molecular structures between the stable and unstable crystals is relatively large. In the stable crystals C₁-Cl is 1.81 Å and C₁-C₂ is 1.47 Å, values which differ considerably from those found in the unstable crystals. The dimensions of the amide group also show large difference (Table 5). Coincidence was found only in the angles C₂-C₁-Cl and C₁-C₂-N.

The C₁-Cl length (1.76 Å) is in satisfactory agreement with the accepted value in other molecules. The C₁-C₂ length (1.51 Å) is a little shorter than the standard single-bond value of 1.54 Å. A shorter distance, however, has frequently been found in crystals of amino acids and other related compounds. It would be reasonable for this molecule to have such a length because the conjugation effect of π -electrons in the adjacent C₂-O double bond would reduce the length of the C₁-C₂ bond. The bond angle C₂-C₁-Cl (115°) is larger than the tetrahedral angle because of the strong repulsive force between Cl and C₂ and other atoms. It may be said that the atoms C₁, C₂, O and N are in the same plane, since the deviation of the C₂ atom from the plane C₁-O-N is only about 0.02 Å.

The projection of the molecule along the C₁-C₂ bond is shown in Fig. 3(b). The angle of twist from the *cis* configuration is about 21°, '*cis*' denoting the configuration in which C₁-Cl and C₂-N bonds take the *cis* position. This angle is in good agreement with the value of 15° obtained by electron diffraction, and the value of about 14° calculated from the atomic coordinates determined in the stable crystal. This indicates that the angle of twist is fixed mainly by the intramolecular forces. Kimura *et al.* suggested that the hydrogen bond N-H...Cl makes this position stable. It should, however, be mentioned that we have no definite evidence of the existence of a hydrogen bond between N-H...Cl. Even if a hydrogen bond exists, it is not a simple linear one because it is clearly shown in the $(\rho_o - \rho_c)$ projection that the hydrogen atom deviates distinctly from the line of N...Cl.

The electrostatic force between the two large dipoles of the C=O and C-Cl bonds would bring the molecule

to the *cis* position, but the steric repulsion between the chlorine and nitrogen atoms would prevent it assuming the exact *cis* position. The net result would produce the angle of twist of 21° for the most stable configuration.

The bond lengths and angles of the terminal amide group of various compounds are listed in Table 5 from

Table 5. Bond lengths and angles for amide group

	C-O (Å)	C-N (Å)	C-C-O (°)	C-C-N (°)	O-C-N (°)
Chloroacetamide (unstable form)	1.25	1.40	124	120	116
Acetamide	1.28	1.38	129	109	122
Glycyl-n- asparagine	1.22	1.39	125	115	120
Succinamide	1.22	1.40	123	114	123
Oxamide	1.25	1.31	120	115	126
Nicotin amide	1.22	1.34	118	117	125
L-Glutamine	1.27	1.28	118	118	123
6-Amido-3- pyridazone	1.25	1.33	119	118	123
Tetradecanamide	1.23	1.26	130	113	116
Chloroacetamide (stable form)	1.23	1.33	111	119	130

which we find an interesting correlation of the bond lengths with the bond angles. The first four molecules, which have larger C-N lengths of about 1.38 \AA , have the angles C-C-O larger than the angles O-C-N and C-C-N, while the remaining molecules, which have shorter C-N lengths of about 1.30 \AA , have the largest angles O-C-N, except in the case of tetradecanamide. The same relation was found by the author in carboxyl groups (to be published). These relations may be explained simply by the existence of repulsion between the non-bonded atoms. The change of the bond lengths of the amide group is due to the conjugation effect of π -electrons and the effect is smaller in the former group than in the latter. Three molecules of the latter six have conjugated groups in the neighbouring bond of the amide group. These have large resonance effect and, hence, the bond lengths and angles would be remarkably affected. The other three are L-glutamine, tetradecanamide, and the stable form of chloroacetamide. The molecule of L-glutamine has a very short C-C length of about 1.47 \AA in the next neighbour of the amide group, and tetradecanamide has short C-C bonds and normal C-C bonds alternately. The molecule of chloroacetamide of the stable crystal has also a very short C-C length of 1.47 \AA . Thus strong resonance effect is brought about in these molecules. This is the reason why the molecules in the latter part in Table 5 have shorter C-N lengths and the largest O-C-N angles. No relation is found between the structure of amide group and N-H...O hydrogen bond distances.

The packing of the molecules in the lattice is shown in Fig. 4. The distances Cl...Cl and Cl...C₂ between the neighbouring molecules are nearly equal to the sum of the van der Waals radii. The hydrogen bonds formed between amide groups are relatively

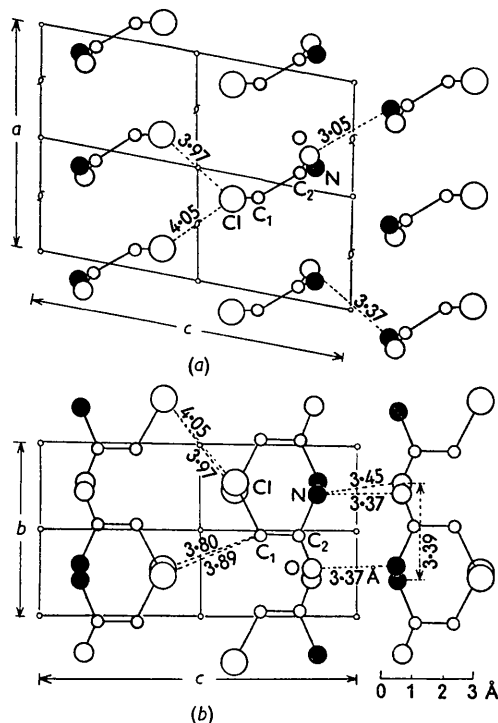


Fig. 4. A view of chloroacetamide structure (a) down the *b* axis, (b) down the *a* axis.

weak, as is easily seen from the N-H...O bond length of 3.05 \AA and the other N...O lengths of 3.37 and 3.39 \AA . The weakness of the hydrogen bonds may be the reason why the crystal sublimates easily.

It is very interesting to compare the packing arrangements of molecules in the stable and unstable crystals. In the latter the chains of molecules are formed in the direction of the *b* axis by weak hydrogen bonds (N-H...O length 3.05 \AA). In the stable form these hydrogen bonds are broken and the atom pairs of longer N...O lengths (3.37 and 3.39 \AA) in the unstable form become shorter (2.82 \AA and 3.01 \AA) to form new hydrogen bonds. This is an essential feature in the mechanism of the transformation from the unstable to the stable crystal.

In conclusion, the author desires to express his sincere thanks, to Prof. T. Ito for the use of the Weissenberg camera, to Prof. Y. Morino for his encouragement and valuable discussions, and to Mr H. Komooka and Mr K. Ukei for their help in the structure determination. This work was supported by a grant from the Ministry of Education of Japan.

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Acta Cryst. (1956). **9**, 991

The Crystal Structure of Magnesium Phosphite Hexahydrate, $\text{MgHPO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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The crystal structure of magnesium phosphite hexahydrate, $\text{MgHPO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, has been determined by Fourier methods. The lattice is rhombohedral, with unit-cell dimensions $a_R = 5.96 \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 96^\circ 24'$. The space group is $R3$ and the Mg, P and H atoms lie on the unique axis. The structure is built from discrete tetrahedral $[\text{HPO}_3]^{2-}$ ions and octahedral $\text{Mg}^{2+}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ groups, which are linked together in three dimensions by a continuous system of hydrogen bonds. The crystals are isomorphous with those of magnesium sulphite hexahydrate, $\text{MgSO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which probably contain an isostructural arrangement.

Introduction

Phosphorous acid, H_3PO_3 , is dibasic, and its crystalline salts are usually assumed to contain discrete tetrahedral $[\text{HPO}_3]^{2-}$ ions in which the hydrogen atom is linked directly to phosphorus. Evidence for this configuration is provided by infra-red spectra (Corbridge & Lowe, 1954) and Raman spectra (Simon & Fehér, 1937), but no detailed X-ray studies of crystalline phosphites have been reported. The existence of approximately tetrahedral $[\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2]^-$ ions in hypophosphites has been demonstrated in the crystal structures of ammonium hypophosphite ($\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2$) (Zachariasen & Mooney, 1934) and magnesium hypophosphite $\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2)_2$ (Pedrazuela, Garcia-Blanco & Rivoir, 1953).

Unit cell and space group

Small, hemimorphic, trigonal pyramidal crystals were obtained by evaporation of an aqueous solution of the salt. The dimensions of the hexagonal unit cell, determined from rotation photographs, were

$$[a] = 8.88, [c] = 9.10 \text{ \AA}.$$

The corresponding rhombohedral constants are

$$[a_R] = 5.96 \text{ \AA}, \alpha = 96^\circ 24'.$$

The density, determined by flotation, was 1.708 g.cm.^{-3} , while that calculated for the hexagonal cell,

assuming 3 units of $\text{MgHPO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, was 1.703 g.cm.^{-3} .

The symmetry of $[c]$ -axis Weissenberg and oscillation photographs indicated a rhombohedral lattice. Indexing of zero and 1st layer $[c]$ - and $[a]$ -axis Weissenberg photographs revealed that reflexions were absent for $-h+k+l = 3n$, and the intensities of spots on the $[c]$ -axis zero-layer-line photograph were such that $I_{hki0} \neq I_{khi0}$. The crystals were found to be strongly pyroelectric and space group $R3$ was adopted.

Intensity data

Experimental intensity data were obtained from zero-layer-line $[c]$ - and $[a]$ -axis Weissenberg photographs taken with $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ radiation. A multiple-film technique employing six films for each layer line was used. The intensities were estimated visually, and Lorentz and polarization corrections were made in the usual way. Absorption effects were minimized by using small equant crystals $\sim 0.3 \text{ mm}$. The structure amplitudes were put on an absolute scale by comparison with the calculated values during later stages of the analysis. A total of 180 different spots were estimated, giving a final list of 74 non-equivalent $\{hki0\}$ - and $\{0kil\}$ -type reflexions.

Structure determination

In space group $R3$ the special and general positions in the hexagonal cell are: