

## APPENDIX

The treatment in § 2 can be extended to allow for the change of layer spacing accompanying segregation. Let  $A_3, A_3(1+\varepsilon/2\pi), A_3(1+\varepsilon/\pi)$  be the spacings between layers with average scattering factors of  $f_1$  and  $f_1, f_1$  and  $f_2, f_2$  and  $f_2$ . It is easily shown that formula (15) for the intensity of the  $3M\pm 1$  reflexions is then modified, assuming  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ , to

$$I(h_3) = 1 + 2\alpha(1-\alpha)\beta(\beta+2) - 2S \cos(2\pi h_3 + s) + \frac{1}{2}T \cdot \frac{\cos(4\pi h_3 + t) + P \cos(2\pi h_3 + t - p)}{1 + P^2 + 2P \cos(2\pi h_3 + p)}, \quad (17)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} S \cos s &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\alpha(1-\alpha)\beta(4+\beta) \\ &\quad \pm \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3}\alpha(1-\alpha)(1-2\alpha)\beta(1+\beta)\varepsilon h_3, \\ S \sin s &= \pm \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3}(1-2\alpha)(1-\alpha\beta^2 + \alpha^2\beta^2) \\ &\quad + \alpha(1-\alpha)(1+\beta)(2+\beta)\varepsilon h_3; \\ Q \cos q &= 1 - 2\alpha + 2\alpha^2 \mp \sqrt{3}\alpha(1-\alpha)(1-2\alpha)\varepsilon h_3, \\ Q \sin q &= \pm \sqrt{3}(1-2\alpha) + \alpha(1-\alpha)\varepsilon h_3; \\ R \cos r &= -1 \mp \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3}(1-2\alpha)\varepsilon h_3, \\ R \sin r &= -\frac{3}{2}\varepsilon h_3; \\ P \cos p &= \frac{1}{2}, \\ P \sin p &= \pm \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3}(1-2\alpha) + 2\alpha(1-\alpha)\varepsilon h_3; \\ T \cos t &= Q^2 \cos 2q - 4\alpha(1-\alpha)(1+\beta)QR \cos(q+r) \\ &\quad + 4\alpha^2(1-\alpha)^2(1+\beta)^2R^2 \cos 2r, \\ T \sin t &= Q^2 \sin 2q - 4\alpha(1-\alpha)(1+\beta)QR \sin(q+r) \\ &\quad + 4\alpha^2(1-\alpha)^2(1+\beta)^2R^2 \sin 2r. \end{aligned}$$

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The Crystal Structures of PuNi<sub>3</sub> and CeNi<sub>3</sub>\*

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The structure of PuNi<sub>3</sub> and the structure and composition of CeNi<sub>3</sub> have been determined by single crystal X-ray methods. PuNi<sub>3</sub> has three formula units in a rhombohedral unit cell with  $a = 6.22 \text{ \AA}$  and  $\alpha = 33^\circ 44'$ , probable space group  $R\bar{3}m$ . CeNi<sub>3</sub> has six formula units in a hexagonal cell with  $a = 4.98$  and  $c = 16.54 \text{ \AA}$ , probable space group  $P6_3/mmc$ . These structures are both derived from stacking single layers of the MNi<sub>5</sub> structure (CaCu<sub>5</sub>-type) and double layers of the MNi<sub>2</sub> structure (Cu<sub>2</sub>Mg-type).

## Introduction

Because of the many similarities between the plutonium-nickel and cerium-nickel binary phase diagrams, structures of compounds in these two systems are simultaneously being investigated. The plutonium-

nickel phase diagram, published originally by Wensch & Whyte (1951), shows the existence of the compounds PuNi, PuNi<sub>2</sub>, PuNi<sub>3</sub>, PuNi<sub>4</sub>, PuNi<sub>5</sub> and Pu<sub>2</sub>Ni<sub>17</sub>. The structures of PuNi<sub>2</sub>, PuNi<sub>5</sub> and Pu<sub>2</sub>Ni<sub>17</sub> have been reported in a review by Coffinberry & Ellinger (1956) to be of the Cu<sub>2</sub>Mg, CaCu<sub>5</sub> and Th<sub>2</sub>Ni<sub>17</sub> structure types, respectively. Vogel (1947), in a study of the cerium-nickel phase diagram, lists the compounds Ce<sub>3</sub>Ni,

Thanks are due to Mr T. M. Valentine and Mr T. Vann for handling the bulk of the calculations.

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CeNi, CeNi<sub>2</sub>, CeNi<sub>3</sub>(?), CeNi<sub>4</sub>(?) and CeNi<sub>5</sub>. The compounds CeNi<sub>3</sub> and CeNi<sub>4</sub> were of uncertain composition. Nowotny (1942) had previously found that CeNi<sub>2</sub> and CeNi<sub>5</sub> had the Cu<sub>2</sub>Mg and CaCu<sub>5</sub> structures. No other structure analysis of compounds in this system has been reported.

In this paper, the structure of PuNi<sub>3</sub> and the structure and verification of the composition of CeNi<sub>3</sub> are reported.

### Experimental

A plutonium-nickel alloy containing 74.3 at.% nickel (by chemical analysis) yielded good crystals of PuNi<sub>3</sub>. The alloy was prepared by vacuum induction melting of the components followed by slow cooling. The purity of the plutonium was at least 99.9 wt.%, and that of the nickel was 99.99 wt.%. Carbon and silicon were the major impurities in the plutonium, and 125 p.p.m. carbon was the principal contaminant in the nickel. The alloy specimen was crushed and, after considerable searching among the pieces, a fragment was found that produced good single crystal X-ray photographs. The crystal was of somewhat irregular shape and had the approximate average dimensions 90 × 25 × 15 microns. Weissenberg photographs were originally indexed on the basis of a monoclinic unit cell with

$$a = 8.57, \quad b = 5.00, \quad c = 8.62 \text{ \AA}; \quad \beta = 109^\circ 40'.$$

The extinctions were characteristic of space group *C2* or *C2/m*. The true, primitive unit cell is, however, rhombohedral with  $a = 6.22 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = 33^\circ 44'$  and probable group *R* $\bar{3}m$ . The non-primitive hexagonal cell has  $a = 5.00 \pm 0.02$  and  $c = 24.35 \pm 0.10 \text{ \AA}$ . The cell dimensions were measured from resolved  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$  reflections on zero-level Weissenberg photographs (Cu  $K\alpha_1$ ,  $\lambda = 1.54050 \text{ \AA}$ ). The calculated density with 3 PuNi<sub>3</sub> in the rhombohedral cell is 11.8 g.cm.<sup>-3</sup>. The measured density of the bulk specimen (by displacement of bromobenzene) was 11.8 g.cm.<sup>-3</sup>. For the intensity data, Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation and a scintillation counter attached to a Weissenberg camera were used (Evans, 1953). The crystal was rotated about the monoclinic *b* axis and intensities on the zero level were measured to  $\sin \theta/\lambda = 0.746$ . The long dimension of the crystal coincided closely with the rotation axis. Of the 122 reflections within this circle, 80 were observed to be greater than zero. No absorption corrections were made.

A cerium-nickel alloy of gross stoichiometry CeNi<sub>3</sub> was prepared by melting the elements in a helium atmosphere at 1600 °C. and cooling fairly rapidly. Cerium of 99.86 and nickel of 99.99 wt.% purity were used. A fragment of this alloy specimen was identified by its diffraction pattern as being CeNi<sub>5</sub>. The alloy was reheated in vacuum to 940 °C., held at that temperature for 72 hr., and then cooled to room temperature at the rate of 4°/min. Fragments were then examined with a precession camera. Two different crystalline species were found. Both were

hexagonal with  $a = 4.98 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$  but one had  $c = 16.54 \pm 0.06$  and the other had  $c = 24.52 \pm 0.08 \text{ \AA}$ . Both crystals showed the following systematic extinctions: The classes of reflections 00*l*, *hhl* and *hkl* with  $h - k = 3n$  were absent with *l* odd. These extinctions are characteristic of certain special positions of space group *P6<sub>3</sub>/mmc* or the non-centric space group *P6<sub>2</sub>c*. By determining its structure, the smaller of these cells was identified as CeNi<sub>3</sub>. The calculated density, with 6 formula units per unit cell is 8.87 g.cm.<sup>-3</sup>. The measured density of the bulk specimen was 8.48 g.cm.<sup>-3</sup>. It is worth noting that the cell constants of the larger cell are close to those reported by Florio *et al.* (1956) for ThFe<sub>3</sub> and ThCo<sub>2-3</sub>. A crystal of CeNi<sub>3</sub> with the approximate average dimensions of 40 × 20 × 15 microns was mounted on the *a* axis and intensity data for  $h = 0$  to 5 were obtained with a scintillation counter on a Weissenberg camera. The long dimension of the crystal was approximately parallel to *a*\*. There were 389 out of approximately 775 non-equivalent reflections within a sphere of radius  $\sin \theta/\lambda \approx 1.078$  that were observed to be greater than zero. No absorption corrections were made.

### Determination of the structure of PuNi<sub>3</sub>

The *xz* parameters of the trial structure were deduced from inspection of the Patterson projection of the monoclinic, non-primitive cell on (010). The intensity distributions on the odd *k* layers were essentially identical. The zero and the 4th layers were the same but the 2nd layer was different. The relationship of these layers indicated that atoms were at  $y = 0, \frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  and hence the *y* parameters of the various atoms could be determined.

This trial structure had such marked threefold symmetry, with the threefold axis coinciding with *c*\*, that it prompted further investigation of the crystal with a precession camera, and the true rhombohedral cell was quickly revealed. The probable space group is *R* $\bar{3}m$  with

$$\begin{aligned} &1 \text{ Pu in } 1a (0, 0, 0), \quad 2 \text{ Pu in } 2c (x, x, x) \text{ with } x \approx \frac{1}{7}; \\ &1 \text{ Ni in } 1b (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}); \quad 2 \text{ Ni in } 2c (x, x, x) \text{ with } x \approx \frac{1}{3}; \\ &\text{and } 6 \text{ Ni in } 6h (x, x, z) \text{ with } x \approx \frac{7}{12} \text{ and } z \approx \frac{1}{12}. \end{aligned}$$

The exact location of the sixfold set of nickel atoms assigned to positions *xxz* determines whether the space group is *R* $\bar{3}$  or *R* $\bar{3}m$ . If they are not in positions where  $x = y$ , the space group is *R* $\bar{3}$ . Within the accuracy of our data, these nickel atoms are in set 6*h* of *R* $\bar{3}m$ .

In order to somewhat simplify the calculations, all further work was done using the non-primitive hexagonal cell. A least-squares refinement was made. All non-zero  $F_o(h0l)$  (hexagonal indices) were equally weighted and the zero  $F_o$  were omitted. Off-diagonal terms of the normal equations were omitted. Usually, this omission is not possible with two-dimensional data, but in this case the structure is well resolved in

projection. Individual isotropic temperature factors were assigned to each crystallographically different atom and these parameters were refined simultaneously with the atomic positions and the scale factor. The Thomas-Fermi form factor was used for plutonium, and the form factor of Viervoll & Øgrim (1949) was used for nickel.

The refinement of the atomic positions proceeded satisfactorily. The  $x$  parameter of the nickel atoms in  $18h$  did not change significantly from  $\frac{1}{2}$ . The positions of these nickel atoms are analogous to the positions of the threefold set of nickel atoms in the  $\text{PuNi}_5$  structure and these atoms are ideally arranged in a sheet of regular hexagons, a condition realized only if  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ . However, the temperature parameters of  $\text{Ni}_1$  and  $\text{Ni}_2$  would have become negative had the program allowed this to happen. This situation can be explained by saying that the nickel form factor should have been much larger or that the plutonium form factor should have been much smaller. There is no physical reason for the former case but there is for the latter. The wavelength of  $\text{Mo } K\alpha$  radiation is just on the long wavelength side of the  $L_{\text{III}}$  absorption edge of plutonium and hence there should be a large anomalous dispersion correction to the form factor. Methods for calculating this correction are only approximate. By the method of Parratt & Hempstead (1954), a value of  $\Delta f = -10$  electrons was calculated, but this procedure gives results admittedly on the low side.

The Patterson projection has a number of well resolved peaks. Inspection of the relative magnitudes of these peaks suggested that  $\Delta f \approx -16$  to  $-20$  electrons, depending on which peaks were compared.

The least-squares calculations were repeated with various values of  $\Delta f$  applied to the plutonium form factor. The sum of the squares of the residuals became a minimum with  $\Delta f = -20$  electrons. A curve of the residuals *vs.*  $\Delta f$  is shown in Fig. 1. The slope of the curve is small in the region of the minimum so that

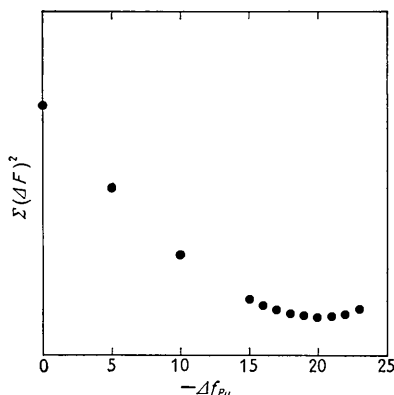


Fig. 1. A plot of the sum of the squares of residuals from the least-squares refinement of  $\text{PuNi}_3$  *vs.* the anomalous dispersion correction applied to the Thomas-Fermi form factor of plutonium.

values of  $\Delta f$  from  $-17$  to  $-23$  electrons give essentially the same results.

In all these calculations, the positional parameters changed very little and therefore the derived structure is independent of the plutonium form factor over fairly wide limits. The final results with  $\Delta f_{\text{Pu}} = -20$  electrons are given in Table 1. The corresponding structure factors are listed in Table 2. The reliability

Table 1. Results of the least-squares refinement of  $\text{PuNi}_3$  with  $\Delta f_{\text{Pu}} = -20$  electrons

Atom	$x$	$y$	$z$	$B$ ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )
$\text{Pu}_1$	0	0	0	$0.37 \pm 0.11$
$\text{Pu}_2$	0	0	$0.1414 \pm 0.0002$	$0.59 \pm 0.08$
$\text{Ni}_1$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$0.58 \pm 0.30$
$\text{Ni}_2$	0	0	$0.3336 \pm 0.0005$	$0.45 \pm 0.20$
$\text{Ni}_3$	$0.5002 \pm 0.0013$	$-x$	$0.0829 \pm 0.0002$	$1.10 \pm 0.11$

Table 2. Observed and calculated structure factors for  $\text{PuNi}_3$  with  $\Delta f_{\text{Pu}} = -20$  electrons

$h$	$k$	$F_o$	$F_c$	$h$	$k$	$F_o$	$F_c$	$h$	$k$	$F_o$	$F_c$	$h$	$k$	$F_o$	$F_c$
0	3	0	-81	1	23	0	-22	3	-21	258	269	4	11	0	8
0	6	239	215	1	26	0	-13	3	-18	0	81	4	14	312	322
0	9	213	185	1	29	142	170	3	-15	266	272	4	17	-205	-216
0	12	603	573	1	32	0	-30	3	-12	87	87	4	20	0	68
0	15	449	402	1	35	114	92	3	-9	126	129	4	23	125	111
0	18	235	-217	2	-32	130	-105	3	-6	485	474	4	26	0	68
0	21	350	337	2	-29	0	29	3	-3	0	7	5	-20	132	128
0	24	270	231	2	-26	96	92	3	0	456	432	5	-17	0	-46
0	27	192	189	2	-23	156	158	3	0	-47	5	-14	168	172	
0	30	0	34	2	-20	139	85	3	6	471	474	5	-11	102	-138
0	33	0	21	2	-17	-341	-319	3	9	130	129	5	-8	172	191
0	36	301	292	2	-14	524	451	3	12	87	87	5	-5	0	23
1	-34	0	82	2	-11	0	24	3	15	255	272	5	-2	0	25
1	-31	0	-41	2	-8	197	186	3	18	0	81	5	1	0	74
1	-28	209	233	2	-5	332	-322	3	21	262	269	5	4	0	-33
1	-25	190	-189	2	-2	263	277	3	24	0	4	5	7	178	200
1	-22	217	214	2	1	521	554	3	27	134	141	5	10	0	-64
1	-19	0	11	2	4	-257	-256	3	30	150	164	5	13	0	51
1	-16	156	146	2	7	86	62	4	-28	126	132	5	16	0	71
1	-13	88	100	2	10	0	38	4	-25	0	-2	3	19	0	3
1	-10	197	-171	2	13	390	389	4	-22	243	232	6	-12	146	175
1	-7	500	516	2	16	0	-8	4	-19	148	-148	6	-9	0	65
1	-4	75	-93	2	19	223	-223	4	-16	0	1	6	-6	0	92
1	-1	125	180	2	22	296	295	4	-13	249	246	6	-3	0	-12
1	2	44	46	2	25	0	4	-10	0	22	6	0	340	341	
1	5	80	69	2	28	144	145	4	-7	0	51	6	3	0	-12
1	8	402	474	2	31	182	-166	4	-4	168	-165	6	6	0	92
1	11	344	-338	2	34	115	126	4	-1	321	312	6	9	0	65
1	14	345	360	3	-30	181	164	4	2	354	355	6	12	155	175
1	17	72	-91	3	-27	134	141	4	5	182	-179				
1	20	234	246	3	-24	0	4	4	8	128	124				

index with  $F_o = 0$  excluded is 6.4%. Work is underway in this laboratory to experimentally measure the plutonium form factor on an absolute scale.

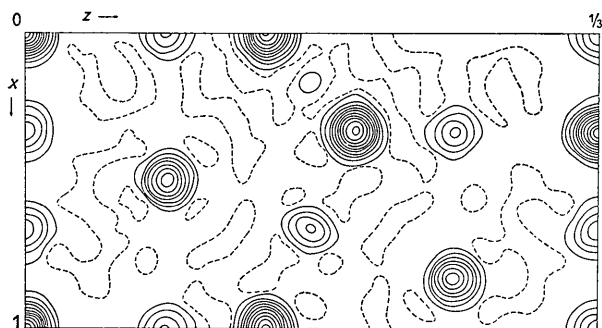


Fig. 2. Fourier projection of  $\text{PuNi}_3$  on a plane normal to the hexagonal  $b$  axis. The zero contour is dashed. The contour interval is  $20 \text{ e.}\text{\AA}^{-2}$ .

Fig. 2 shows a Fourier projection of the hexagonal cell of PuNi<sub>3</sub>. The scaling of this Fourier was derived from the least-squares results with  $\Delta f_{\text{Pu}} = -20$  electrons.

### Determination of the structure of CeNi<sub>3</sub>

Two different crystalline species were obtained from the cerium-nickel alloy, but the amount of either compound available in pure form was far too small for chemical analysis or density measurement. Speculations as to the identities of these crystals had to be based on their unit-cell volumes and the published phase diagram, which, in this composition region, indicated the uncertain existence of CeNi<sub>3</sub> and CeNi<sub>4</sub>.

Knowing the volumes of CeNi<sub>2</sub> and CeNi<sub>5</sub> one can calculate atomic volumes for cerium and nickel and hence compute the approximate volume of any other cerium-nickel compound. The cerium and nickel atomic volumes are 22.6 and 12.0 Å<sup>3</sup>. The volumes of the two unknown compounds are 355 and 524 Å<sup>3</sup>.

At first, the assumption was made that the compounds listed by Vogel (1947) were correct. Of these compounds, 6 CeNi<sub>3</sub> (352 Å<sup>3</sup>) or 5 CeNi<sub>4</sub> (353 Å<sup>3</sup>) fit the smaller cell and only 9 CeNi<sub>3</sub> (527 Å<sup>3</sup>) fit the larger cell. Structures for the compositions 5 CeNi<sub>4</sub> and 9 CeNi<sub>3</sub> were extensively studied. Even though the space groups indicated by the systematic extinctions do not permit odd numbers of atoms, arrangements could be found that made the 'extinct' reflections uniformly weak because  $2f_{\text{Ni}} \approx f_{\text{Ce}}$ .

No structures for 5 CeNi<sub>4</sub> or 9 CeNi<sub>3</sub> could be found that satisfactorily accounted for all of the observed intensities. Finally, a three-dimensional Patterson was computed for the smaller cell. Inspection of the Patterson quickly showed that this cell contained 6 CeNi<sub>3</sub> in space group  $P6_3/mmc$  with

$$2 \text{Ce}_1 \text{ in } 2c, 4 \text{Ce}_2 \text{ in } 4f \text{ with } z \approx 0.042, 2 \text{Ni}_1 \text{ in } 2a, \\ 2 \text{Ni}_2 \text{ in } 2b, 2 \text{Ni}_3 \text{ in } 2d \text{ and } 12 \text{Ni}_4 \text{ in } 12k \text{ with} \\ x \approx \frac{2}{3} \text{ and } z \approx \frac{1}{8}.$$

The least-squares refinement of all data yielded the results shown in Table 3. The cerium form factors

Table 3. Results of the least-squares refinement of CeNi<sub>3</sub>

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>B</i> (Å <sup>2</sup> )
Ce <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0.45 ± 0.03
Ce <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	0.04178 ± 0.00004	0.58 ± 0.02
Ni <sub>1</sub>	0	0	0	0.83 ± 0.08
Ni <sub>2</sub>	0	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	0.38 ± 0.06
Ni <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	0.57 ± 0.07
Ni <sub>4</sub>	0.8334 ± 0.0002		0.12715 ± 0.00005	0.54 ± 0.02

were taken from *Internationale Tabellen* (1935). The other features of the least-squares calculations were as described in the section on PuNi<sub>3</sub>. The complete set of observed and calculated structure factors is given in Table 4. With the  $F_o = 0$  omitted, the reliability index is 6.6%. This excellent agreement is

convincing evidence for both the structure and composition of this compound. The twelffold set of nickel atoms is analogous to the threefold set in CeNi<sub>5</sub> and their position determines whether the space group is  $P6_3/mmc$  or  $P\bar{6}2c$ . The fact that these nickel atoms ideally form a regular hexagonal network, a condition realized if they are in set  $12k$  of space group  $P6_3/mmc$  with  $x = \frac{2}{3}$ , and also the structure factor agreement indicates that  $P6_3/mmc$  is the most probable space group. A Fourier projection of CeNi<sub>3</sub> is shown in Fig. 3.

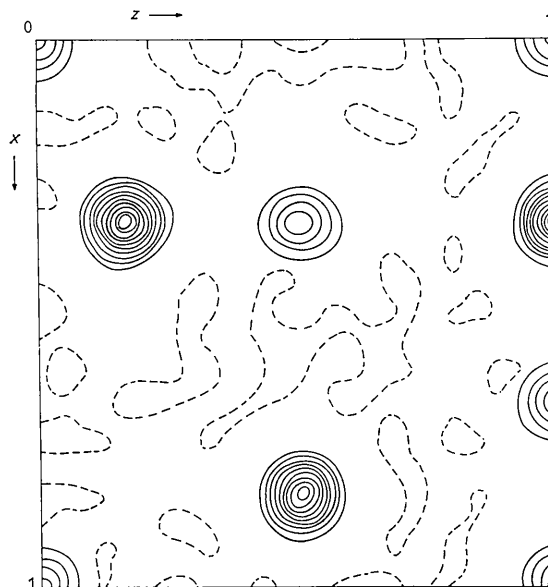


Fig. 3. Fourier projection of CeNi<sub>3</sub> on a plane normal to the *b* axis. The zero contour is dashed. The contour interval is 25 e.Å<sup>-2</sup>.

At this writing, the composition and structure of the larger cell have not been definitely established.

### Discussion of the structure

These structures represent two new structure types for  $MX_3$  compounds. They are a combination of the Cu<sub>2</sub>Mg and CaCu<sub>5</sub> structures. In CeNi<sub>3</sub>, the Ce<sub>1</sub> atoms have surroundings identical to those of the cerium atoms in CeNi<sub>5</sub>. The Ce<sub>2</sub> atoms have surroundings identical to those of the cerium atoms in CeNi<sub>2</sub>. The structure is built up of alternating single layers of CeNi<sub>5</sub> and double layers of CeNi<sub>2</sub>. A drawing of the CeNi<sub>3</sub> structure is shown in Fig. 4.

PuNi<sub>3</sub> is similar to CeNi<sub>3</sub> except that the third PuNi<sub>5</sub>-type layer, rather than being directly above the first is displaced from it by  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\frac{3}{8}$ , and thus PuNi<sub>3</sub> has a rhombohedral lattice.

Table 5 lists the various interatomic distances. The estimated error for any of these distances is ± 0.01 Å, and results almost entirely from errors in the cell dimensions. All distances are close to the corresponding ones in CeNi<sub>2</sub>, CeNi<sub>5</sub>, PuNi<sub>2</sub> and PuNi<sub>5</sub>

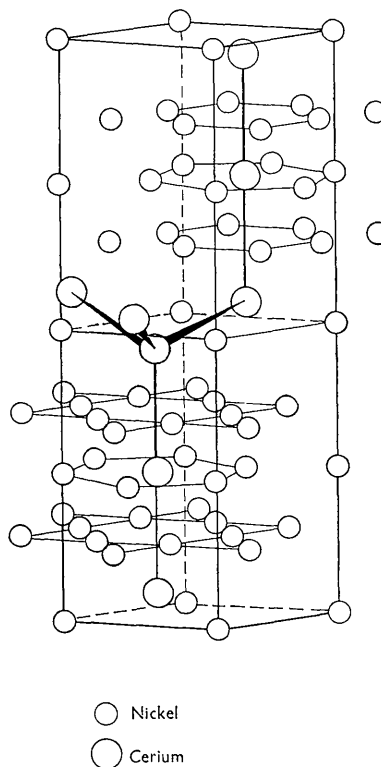


Table 5. *Interatomic distances in CeNi<sub>3</sub> and PuNi<sub>3</sub>*

CeNi <sub>3</sub>			
Atom	Neighbor	Number	Distance
Ce <sub>1</sub>	Ce <sub>2</sub>	2	3.44 Å
	Ni <sub>2</sub>	3	2.88
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	3	2.88
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	12	3.22
Ce <sub>2</sub>	Ce <sub>1</sub>	1	3.44
	Ce <sub>2</sub>	3	3.19
	Ni <sub>1</sub>	3	2.96
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	3	3.14
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	6	2.86
Ni <sub>1</sub>	Ce <sub>2</sub>	6	2.96
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	6	2.55
Ni <sub>2</sub>	Ce <sub>1</sub>	3	2.88
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	3	2.88
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	6	2.49
Ni <sub>3</sub>	Ce <sub>1</sub>	3	2.88
	Ni <sub>2</sub>	3	2.88
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	6	2.49
Ni <sub>4</sub>	Ce <sub>1</sub>	2	3.22
	Ce <sub>2</sub>	1	3.14
	Ce <sub>2</sub>	2	2.86
	Ni <sub>1</sub>	1	2.55
	Ni <sub>2</sub>	1	2.49
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	1	2.49
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	1	2.49
	Ni <sub>4</sub>	4	2.49

PuNi <sub>3</sub>			
Atom	Neighbor	Number	Distance
Pu <sub>1</sub>	Pu <sub>2</sub>	2	3.44 Å
	Ni <sub>2</sub>	6	2.89
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	12	3.21
Pu <sub>2</sub>	Pu <sub>1</sub>	1	3.44
	Pu <sub>2</sub>	3	3.14
	Ni <sub>1</sub>	3	2.95
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	3	3.02
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	6	2.88
Ni <sub>1</sub>	Pu <sub>2</sub>	6	2.95
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	6	2.50
Ni <sub>2</sub>	Pu <sub>1</sub>	3	2.89
	Ni <sub>2</sub>	3	2.89
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	6	2.50
Ni <sub>3</sub>	Pu <sub>1</sub>	2	3.21
	Pu <sub>2</sub>	1	3.02
	Pu <sub>2</sub>	2	2.88
	Ni <sub>1</sub>	1	2.50
	Ni <sub>2</sub>	2	2.50
	Ni <sub>3</sub>	4	2.50

except for the Ce<sub>1</sub>-Ce<sub>2</sub> and Pu<sub>1</sub>-Pu<sub>2</sub> distances which are 3.44 Å in these compounds and about 4 Å in the MNi<sub>5</sub> structures.

Fig. 4. Drawing of the CeNi<sub>3</sub> structure.

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