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The Crystal Structure of a Complex Hydride of Platinum, $[Pt((C_2H_5)_3P)_2HBr]$

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 $[Pt((C_2H_5)_3P)_2HBr]$ is orthorhombic, space group $Pn2_1a$; the unit cell has the dimensions

$$a = 14.76 \pm 0.04, \ b = 8.92 \pm 0.03, \ c = 13.87 \pm 0.04 \text{Å},$$

and contains four molecules (density observed 1.88 g.cm.⁻³, calculated 1.86 g.cm.⁻³). The [010] and [100] projections were studied, making systematic use of difference syntheses.

The molecule has a *trans* square-planar configuration and is therefore a complex hydride of Pt(II). The Pt-P bonds (2.26 Å) are shorter than expected, probably because they have partial double-bond character. The unusual length of the Pt-Br bond (2.56 Å) is in accord with the high chemical lability of the coordinated bromide ion. It may be attributed to an electrostatic *trans*-influence of the hydride ion, or to a *cis*-influence of the phosphorus atoms operating though the d_{xy} -type orbitals of the metal, or to a combination of these two effects.

The positions of the carbon atoms were not found accurately, but they appeared in partial difference maps sufficiently clearly to show that the principal plane of the molecule containing the platinum, bromine and phosphorus atoms is not a plane of symmetry.

1. Introduction

When the existence of stable volatile platinum hydride complexes was first reported from these laboratories (Chatt, Duncanson & Shaw, 1957) their stereochemistry was entirely unknown, and both the nature of the bond between the platinum and hydrogen atoms and the oxidation state of the platinum atom were uncertain. It was decided to determine the structure of one of these compounds by X-ray methods, since although the position of the important hydrogen atom could not be found experimentally, it was expected that it could be inferred once the positions of the heavier atoms were known.

Later work (Chatt, Duncanson & Shaw, 1958) on the dipole moments of a series of these hydrides suggested that the coordination round the platinum atom might be of the square planar type, in which case the platinum atom would presumably be formally divalent with the hydrogen present as a coordinated negative ion. This evidence, however, was not conclusive, and it seemed possible that these might be compounds of zero-valent platinum with trigonal pyramidal coordination round the platinum atom, with the hydrogen present in this case as a coordinated positive ion.

2. Experimental

Crystal specimens

The most suitable compound available was bistriethylphosphine hydrobromoplatinum,

$$[Pt((C_2H_5)_3P)_2HBr],$$

which crystallized from petroleum ether in large pris-

matic colourless crystals. A crystal with dimensions of about 0.01 mm. was used for recording the data for the [100] projection; the linear absorption coefficient for Cu radiation being 193 cm.⁻¹, absorption effects could be ignored.

No small equidimensional crystal could be found to give the data for the [010] projection, and a larger crystal was therefore used. It was carefully measured and found to be nearly cylindrical, length 0.3 mm. parallel to the *b*-axis, and diameter 0.115 mm. The absorption corrections of Bradley (1935) were applied to the intensities, assuming the crystal to be exactly cylindrical.

The compound is sensitive to X-rays, and this larger crystal showed signs of decomposition after the exposure needed to record the reflections with $\sin \theta \le 0.95$ (40 hr., using a Philips sealed tube at 40 KVP and 20 m.a.). The smaller crystal was completely blackened after an exposure of 128 hr., when reflections with $\sin \theta \le 0.8$ only had been recorded and there was considerable background. In view of these practical difficulties the structure was determined from the [100] and [010] projections only.

Crystal data

The crystals are orthorhombic, with the following unit-cell parameters:

 $a = 14.76 \pm 0.04, b = 8.92 \pm 0.03, c = 13.87 \pm 0.04 \text{ Å}$.

Unit-cell volume = 1826 Å³.

Density observed = 1.88 g.cm.⁻³.

Density calculated = 1.86 g.cm.⁻³, assuming 4 molecules per unit cell.

The unit-cell dimensions were obtained from rotation

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and Weissenberg photographs using Cu $K\alpha$ radiation (mean $\lambda = 1.542$ Å), and the density by flotation in cadmium borotungstate solution.

The intensities of the reflections were estimated from Weissenberg photographs by visual comparison using the multiple-film method, and after correction for absorption as described above, were modified by the usual Lorentz and polarization factors. The scale factor needed to place the structure factors on the absolute scale, together with an average temperature factor for all atoms, was estimated by Wilson's method (1942).

The systematically absent reflections were: 0kl with (k+l) odd, and hk0 with h odd. The two possible space groups are the centrosymmetric Pnma and the noncentrosymmetric $Pn2_1a$. If the structure is centrosymmetrical, each molecule must lie on one of the mirror planes at $y = \frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$. If there is no centre of symmetry and the space group is $Pn2_1a$, no molecular symmetry is required. The results of tests for piezo-electric properties were inconclusive and consequently did not assist in deciding between the two space groups.

An attempt was made to distinguish the centrosymmetrical space group Pnma from the non-centrosymmetrical $Pn2_1a$ by the statistical test of Howells, Phillips & Rogers (1950). This gave no conclusive result, no doubt because the presence of the heavy atoms invalidates the statistical basis of this method. The structure analysis subsequently showed that the space group is $Pn2_1a$.

3. Determination of the structure

The method used in finding the structure was described in general terms in an earlier paper (Alderman, Owston & Rowe, 1960). It makes use of difference syntheses to remove the effects of the dominating heavy atoms and to find the positions of the light atoms with as few assumptions as possible. The atomic scattering factors were taken from the *Internationale Tabellen* (1935); as a convenient approximation the values for oxygen and fluorine were used for the $-CH_{2-}$ and $-CH_{3}$ groups respectively.

For both possible space groups the symmetry of the [010] projection is the same, pgg. The position of the platinum atom was found from the Patterson synthesis P(U, W), computed using the 252 observed hol reflections, and an electron-density synthesis was calculated, the structure factors being given the same phases as the contribution of the platinum atom (Fig. 1(a)). A study of this map suggested a provisional structure with the platinum, bromine and phosphorus atoms in the positions shown in Fig. 1(a), and with the light atoms symmetrically arranged about a plane of symmetry perpendicular to the [010] axis, as required by the space group Pnma. This structure was used only for refining the scale factor between observed and calculated structure factors.

The parameters of the platinum and bromine atoms



Fig. 1. Electron-density distribution projected down [010], with the final non-centrosymmetrical structure. [The small peak near to the expected hydrogen atom position, trans to the bromine atom, is attributed to the C_1 atom of the neighbouring molecule with the platinum atom at $y = \frac{3}{4}$]. (a) ϱ_0 synthesis, where the observed structure factors were given the same signs as the platinum atom contributions. Contours at every 20 e.Å⁻² round platinum, 5 e.Å⁻² elsewhere; 5 e.Å⁻² contour broken. (b) $(\varrho_0 - \varrho'_0)$ synthesis, where the structure factors were given the same signs as the contributions of the platinum, bromine and phosphorus atoms, and ϱ'_0 represents the calculated electron-density distribution of these atoms. Contours at every 4 e.Å⁻², zero contour broken.

were first refined, followed by those of the phosphorus atoms. The partial difference map obtained by subtracting the heavy atoms is shown in Fig. 1(b). Several attempts were made to place carbon atoms on the composite peaks in positions which gave reasonable bond lengths and angles. This could be done for the $-CH_2$ -groups, and a further partial difference map was obtained, subtracting the heavy atoms and the six $-CH_{2-}$ groups. It was not possible, however, to find suitable positions for all six methyl groups, assuming the space group *Pnma*, since the resulting difference maps always showed negative areas round the assumed positions of at least some of the atoms.

It was therefore necessary to reconsider the symmetry. The platinum, bromine and phosphorus atoms in a given molecule must lie in or near a plane parallel to the (010) plane, since the Pt-Br and Pt-P distances in the projection are close to the expected bond lengths as given by the sums of the atomic radii. If the molecule is not exactly symmetrical about a plane parallel to the (010) plane, as is suggested by the difficulty in finding the positions of the light atoms, the symmetry *Pnma* is only a pseudo-symmetry, and the true space group is $Pn2_1a$. It was found necessary to study the two projections simultaneously to decide whether or not this is so.

The Patterson projection P(V, W), computed using the 59 observed 0kl reflections, showed a concentration



Fig. 2. Electron-density distribution projected down [100] with the heavy atom positions marked. The mirror planes at $y = \frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ arise from the phases which were assumed; they are not required by the space group $Pn2_{1a}$. (a) ϱ_o synthesis, where the observed structure factors were given the same phases as the platinum atom contributions. Contours at every 25 e.Å⁻² round platinum, 10 e.Å⁻² elsewhere; 5 e.Å⁻² contour broken. (b) $(\varrho_o - \varrho'_o)$ synthesis, where the observed structure factors were given the same phases as the contributions of the platinum, bromine and phosphorus atoms, and ϱ'_o represents the calculated electron density of these atoms. Contours at every 4 e.Å⁻², zero contour broken.

of vectors along $V=0, \frac{1}{2}$, implying that the structure consists of planar molecules separated by a distance of b/2. A possible platinum-platinum vector was confirmed by the z-coordinate already found for the platinum atom from the [010] projection. The ycoordinate of the platinum atom was assumed to be $\frac{1}{4}$, since this is required by the space group *Pnma* and is permitted by $Pn2_1a$, in which the y-coordinate of any one atom can be chosen arbitrarily. The electron-density map (Fig. 2(a)) was calculated and a provisional structure was deduced compatible with that for the [010] projection and having the plane-group symmetry *cmm* as required by the space group *Pnma*. The parameters of the four heavy atoms were refined, and it was confirmed that they are coplanar.

The partial difference map after subtracting these heavy atoms (Fig. 2(b)) represents the electron density of the six ethyl groups, with the mirror plane of symmetry imposed by the special positions of the heavy atoms. As in the [010] projection, positions could be found on this map for some of the $-CH_{2-}$ groups but not for the terminal methyl groups, strengthening the probability that the space group is $Pn2_1a$. The interpretation of the maps in Figs. 1(b) and 2(b) was therefore attempted, assuming this space group, and with the aid of models reasonable positions



Fig. 3. Electron-density distribution projected down [100]. The phases were calculated from the final non-centrosymmetrical structure shown. The space group is $Pn2_1a$: the planes at $y=\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ are no longer symmetry planes. (a) ϱ_o synthesis. Contours at every 25 e.Å⁻² round platinum, 10 e.Å⁻² elsewhere; 5 e.Å⁻² contour broken. (b) ($\varrho_o - \varrho'_c$) synthesis, where ϱ'_c represents the calculated electron density of the platinum, bromine and phosphorus atoms. Contours at every 4 e.Å⁻², zero contour broken.

Table 1. Final atomic coordinates (decimal) and standard deviations (in Å)

				[010] pr	ojection	[100] projection
	\boldsymbol{x}	\boldsymbol{y}	z	$\sigma(ax)$	$\sigma(cz)$	$\sigma(cz)$
\mathbf{Pt}	0.1420	0.2500	0.0602	0.0046	0.0047	
\mathbf{Br}	0.2255	0.2500	0.2221	0.0155	0.0145	0.0292
P_1	0.003	0.250	0.128	0.034	0.030	0.056
P_2	0.271	0.250	-0.021	0.034	0.037	0.052
C ₁	-0.094	0.233	0.040	0.121	0.103	0.223
C ₂	-0.162	0.333	0.083	0.120	0.112	0.339
$\overline{C_3}$	0.017	0.133	0.242	0.133	0.099	0.643
C ₄	0.008	-0.012	0.225	0.127	0.094	0.209
C_5	-0.033	0.450	0.167	0.113	0.110	0.257
C ₆	0.025	0.516	0.258	0.116	0.100	0.140
C_7	0.269	0.350	-0.154	0.119	0.106	0.337
C_8	0.200	0.250	-0.212	0.125	0.103	0.223
C ₉	0.355	0.383	0.020	0.108	0.118	0.301
C ₁₀	0.355	0.533	0.020	0.109	0.123	0.251
C_{11}	0.325	0.067	-0.058	0.126	0.100	0.444
$C_{12}^{}$	0.393	0.017	0.025	0.120	0.116	0.225
Mean C				0.120	0.107	0.300

 Table 2. Temperature factors

	:	Projection
Atom	[100]	[010]
\mathbf{Pt}	$\exp - [0.0183k^2 + 0.0046l^2]$	$\exp - [0.0055h^2 + 0.0066l^2 + 0.0003hl]$
Br	$\exp - [0.0361k^2 + 0.0088l^2]$	$\exp - [0.0062h^2 + 0.0067l^2 - 0.0054hl]$
Р	$\exp -[3.54 (\sin^2 \theta)/\lambda^2]$	$\exp - [5.00 (\sin^2 \theta) / \lambda^2]$
-CH ₂	exp –	$[9.00 (\sin^2 \theta)/\lambda^2]$
$-CH_3$	$\exp -$	$[11.00 (\sin^2 \theta)/\lambda^2]$

Table 3. Bond lengths an	ind anales.	with	standard	deviations
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Bond	d	$\sigma(d)$	Angle	θ	$\sigma(\theta)$
Pt–Br	$2{\cdot}56$ Å	0·04 Å	Br-Pt-P,	94·1°	2.0°
			Br–Pt–P	93.7	2.0
Pt-P,	$2 \cdot 26$	0.07	-		
$Pt-P_2$	$2 \cdot 26$	0.07	$Pt-P_1-C_1$	112.5	9.0
			$Pt-P_1-C_3$	$104 \cdot 1$	20.2
$P_1 - C_1$	1.89	0.28	$Pt-P_1-C_5$	111.4	9.4
$P_1 - C_3$	1.91	0.67	$Pt-P_{9}-C_{7}$	117.6	11.3
$P_1 - C_5$	1.94	0.31	$Pt - P_{g} - C_{g}$	$135 \cdot 8$	11.4
$P_2 - C_7$	1.97	0.38	$Pt-P_{9}-C_{11}$	119.9	14.9
$P_2 - C_9$	1.84	0.35	Mean Pt-P-C	116.9	12.7
$P_{2} - C_{11}$	1.87	0.48			
Mean P–C	1.90	0.41	$P_1 - C_1 - C_2$	101.9	21.0
			$P_1 - C_3 - C_4$	112.5	41.6
$C_1 - C_2$	1.47	0.47	$P_1 - C_5 - C_6$	113.8	18.0
$C_3 - C_4$	1.37	0.71	$P_{2} - C_{2} - C_{2}$	103.6	21.5
$C_5 - C_6$	1.63	0.37	$P_{0} - C_{0} - C_{10}$	130.1	26.7
$C_7 - C_8$	1.61	0.46	$P_{0} - C_{1,1} - C_{1,2}$	110.6	27.9
$C_{9} - C_{10}$	1.34	0.46	Mean P-C-C	$112 \cdot 1$	$26 \cdot 1$
$C_{11} - C_{12}$	1.59	0.55			
Mean CC	1.50	0.50			

were found for some of the $-CH_2$ - groups. Difference maps with these atoms subtracted were then calculated for both projections, any necessary changes in their positions made, and the positions of further atoms deduced. Repeated application of this trial-anderror process, checked at every stage by difference maps, led to the structure shown in Figs. 1(b) and 3(b), in which the heavy atoms remain in the plane $y=\frac{1}{4}$ but the ethyl groups are not symmetrically disposed about the plane.

As a further test of this structure, an electrondensity map was calculated for the [100] projection (Fig. 3(a)), the phases given to the coefficients being those calculated from the structure of Fig. 3(b).

4. Results

The values found for the atomic parameters are listed in Tables 1 and 2, and the bond lengths and bond angles in Table 3 and Fig. 4. The standard deviations for the [010] projection were calculated from the diagonal elements only of the least-squares matrix, using the same system of weighting as in the previous paper (Alderman et al., 1960). The standard deviations of the z-coordinates in the [100] projection were calculated in the same way, the values being approximately twice those found for the [010] projection because of the smaller number of reflections involved. The estimation of the standard deviations of the y-coordinates is less straightforward. For the atoms with a y-coordinate of $\frac{1}{4}$ the first derivative $(\partial A/\partial y)$ is zero for all 0kl reflections, and the first-order approximations used in the least-squares method are inadequate. It has been assumed therefore, as the best available approximation, that for the [100] projection



Fig. 4. Molecular configuration, with bond lengths (in Å) and angles.

the standard deviations of the y-coordinates are the same as for the z-coordinates (expressed in Ångström units). The values obtained by the least-squares method agree well with those estimated from Cruick-shank's formulae (1949, 1954).

The final discrepancy factor $R = \Sigma |\Delta F| / \Sigma |F_o|$ was 0.126 for the $\hbar 0l$ and 0.112 for the 0kl reflections. The root-mean-square electron density in the final difference maps was 1.60 e.Å⁻² for the [010] and 1.75 e.Å⁻² for the [100] projection.

5. Discussion

The bromine and phosphorus atoms are, within experimental error, coplanar with the platinum atom, with P-Pt-Br angles of 94° . This excludes any type of trigonal pyramidal coordination round the platinum atom, and when considered together with the bond lengths and angles leaves little doubt that the four atoms, one bromine, two phosphorus and one hydrogen, are bound to platinum in a *trans* square-planar configuration (Fig. 4). It is then reasonable to conclude that the platinum atom is in the divalent state, with the hydrogen and bromine atoms present as coordinated hydride and bromide ions.

The Pt–P bonds are short (2.26 Å) compared with the sum of the atomic radii (2.42 Å), presumably because they have some double-bond character. The Pt–Br bond, on the other hand, is longer than expected (2.56 Å, compared with the radius sum, 2.43 Å), suggesting that the bond is more ionic than usual: this would agree with the high chemical lability of the bromine atom. There are two possible causes of the unusual length of the Pt–Br bond, and their relative importance cannot at present be decided.

Table 4.	Observed	and	calculated	structure	factors
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(a) [100] projection

				(u)	[100] br	ojection					
h k l	$ F_{o} $	$ F_c $	α°	h k l	$ F_{o} $	$ F_c $	α°	h k l	$ F_o $	$ F_c $	α°
0 0 0		492	0	12	47	47	357	9	29	23	4
000 9	164	148	õ	14	47	39	182	11	50	57	3
2	203	197	õ					13	50	64	0
Â	171	159	180	0.3.1	187	168	350				
8	199	121	180	3	160	170	8	060	146	169	176
10	102	120	180	5	174	179	3	2	72	86	165
10	50	45	180	7	<23	26	0	4	26	17	159
14	54	42	0	9	43	35	195	6	57	51	4
17	01		· ·	11	79	80	175	8	66	57	0
011	945	953	182	13	76	93	180	10	49	48	0
2 2	166	200	102					12	31	24	357
3 5	995	203	183	040	333	339	4				
7	~ 20	241	204		113	103	$1\overline{5}$	071	56	53	7
6	51	38	4	4	56	68	1	3	57	61	359
11	04	92	ĩ	6	113	95	185	5	49	54	359
12	84	106	359	8	83	88	181	7	35	7	8
10	04	100	000	10	89	73	180	9	34	11	176
0 2 0	416	397	183	12	35	36	180				
020	143	126	184					080	82	97	359
<u>,</u>	55	48	139	051	99	90	182	2	45	44	2
6	146	146	350	3	104	110	171	4	38	11	19
8	116	128	2	5	90	73	176				
10	84	94	357	7	27	26	159	091	34	23	177
10	01	•		1							

(b) [010] projection

h k l	$ F_{o} $ F_{c}	h k l	$ F_o = F_c$	$h k l F_0 F_c$	h k l	$ F_0 = F_c$
0 0 0	- 492	004	179 192	10 14 - 13	8	43 47
2	122 - 148	1	125 - 114	11 90 86	9	$\frac{10}{24}$ - 15
4	59 - 62	2	115 - 89	12 34 33	10 <	(12)
6	121 146	3	164 - 167	13 $38 - 36$	ĩ	21 21
8	190 184	4	27 20	14 < 12 2	12	$\frac{1}{22}$ - 20
10	106 - 93	5	207 220	15 < 10 - 9	13	17 15
12	37 - 16	6	45 - 39	16 < 9 - 10		
14	88 80	7	36 - 14	17 16 16	0 0 12	49 - 36
16	20 - 13	8	12 21		1	73 74
18	11 - 13	9	114 - 121	0 0 8 111 - 104	2 <	< 14 8
		10	16 - 16	1 67 47	3 <	< 14 7
101	164 192	11	41 31	$2 ext{ } 60 ext{ } 54$	4 <	< 14 – 7
2	117 - 118	12	24 - 18	3 83 - 72	5	41 - 37
3	103 - 118	13	62 51	4 152 155	6 <	< 14 – 3
4	92 75	14	13 5	5 80 78	7 <	<13 -11
5	70 - 32	15	30 - 25	6 49 - 53	8	18 16
6	22 - 25	16	16 - 12	7 33 - 24	9	34 43
7	184 185	17	20 - 20	8 40 - 34	10	11 - 1
8	< 12 2	18	< 7 1	9 < 14 - 1	11 <	< 10 - 11
9	24 - 20			10 83 70	12 <	< 9 0
10	88 - 78	105	60 - 62	11 < 14 3	13	18 - 21
11	81 - 63	2	177 - 188	12 < 13 20		
12	69 55	3	55 60	13 < 12 1	1013 <	<14 7
13	42 37	4	112 92	14 27 -29	2	52 60
14	27 - 20	5	38 45	15 < 10 4	3	24 - 21
15	38 40	6	70 53	16 < 8 6	4	25 - 24
10	< 12 - 9		90 - 97		5 <	<13 6
17	28 - 20	8	70 - 76		6	29 - 35
18	< 8 - 1	9	34 20 91 76		7 <	< 12 - 3
0 0 9	191 147	10	$\frac{81}{14} - \frac{70}{9}$		8	26 28
002	121 147	11	<14 9	4 < 13 - 4	9	
9	120 - 103	12	~ 14 13		10	20 10
2	53 - 58 73 - 79	14	< 14 - 13		11	12 - 13
3 4	73 - 79 974 - 359	14	< 13 - 7 24 - 14	1 102 - 101	12	18 - 21
5	159 145	16	24 - 14 24 - 24		0 0 14	95 91
6	98 90	17	< 8 6	10 < 14 = 5	1	55 51 93 97
7	< 11 23	18	< 6 5		9	13 - 10
8	74 65			12 < 12 - 7	3	10 - 10 19 18
9	105 - 97	006	147 - 152	13 < 11 - 8	4 <	(10 - 16)
10	95 - 89	1	150 - 153	14 < 10 - 5	5	29 - 31
11	37 21	2	41 29	15 19 - 20	6 <	< 12 13
12	<14 - 8	3	11 - 39	16 < 6 7	7 <	<11 - 1
13	44 43	4	85 70		8	14 11
14	40 - 35	5	103 106	$0 \ 0 \ 10 \ 97 \ -98$	9	19 24
15	34 - 28	6	58 - 71	1 24 23	10	8 -11
16	<11 0	7	30 23	2 < 14 4		
17	16 11	8	51 - 43	3 49 32	$1 \ 0 \ 15$	22 23
18	19 - 20	9	90 - 88	4 63 61	2	18 19
100	10 51	10	50 45	5 73 - 55	3	22 - 22
103	43 - 51		33 21	6 45 - 41	4 <	< 11 - 3
2	155 - 159	12		1 7 < 14 - 1	5 <	< 10 - 2
3	77 - 58	13	44 42	8 36 - 38	6	20 - 20
4	83 88	14	30 - 30		7	23 25
0	112 - 100	10	20 - 23		8	16 17
7	109 100	10	<10 5	11 19 - 15	0 0 10	90 99
0	120 120	17	< 0 - 1	12 < 12 8	0 0 16	20 22
0	139 - 120 64 54	107	101 107	13 16 - 14	1 <	10 8
10	$\frac{04}{29} - \frac{17}{17}$. 9	74 - 107	14 19 - 22	2 9	- 0 - V
11	14 - 10	2		1011 48 46	ۍ د ۱	ູອ — 1 93 97
12	63 56	4	46 56		±	- 8 - 9
13	< 14 - 10	5	< 12 4	3 44 34	6	, 0 — 3 10 99
14		6	55 48	4 21 - 91	v	19 42
15	22 18	7	53 - 56	5 14 - 10	1017	14 16
16	${37}$ - 36	8	34 - 25	6 54 - 60	2 -	< 7 _ 9
17	21 - 18	9	< 14 - 12	7 28 - 28	3	14 - 19
18	7 8				-	

The first is the *trans*-influence of the hydrogen atom, which must be electrostatic in nature and operate by electrically polarizing the molecule (Grinberg, 1955). The second is the *cis*-influence of the phosphorus atoms. If the *d*-orbitals of the platinum atom are partly involved in double bonds between platinum and phosphorus, as our results suggest, they will be less readily available for double-bond formation between platinum and bromine. The Pt-Br bond would thus have less double-bond character than usual and so would be longer. This is similar to the explanation of the lengthening of the *trans*-Pt-Br bond in $[Pt(C_2H_4)Br_3]^-$ by the *trans*-effect of the ethylene molecule (Alderman *et al.*, 1960).

There appear to be no published determinations of the Pt-P bond length in other compounds, whilst the published values of the Pt-Br bond length are of doubtful reliability. In some cases no errors are stated, and in others different bond lengths in the same molecule differ inexplicably, or the bonds are not typical as a result of some unusual interaction within or between the molecules (Brosset, 1948; Hall & Williams, 1958; Bokii & Kukina, 1957; Harris, Livingstone & Stephenson, 1958). This discussion of the relationship between bond length and bond order can therefore at present be only tentative.

The positions of the carbon atoms were found only



Fig. 5. [010] projection showing distances between atoms which are not bonded to each other, assuming the Pt-H bond length to be 1.62 Å. All other intra- and inter-molecular distances (apart from those within each phosphine group) are greater than 3.9 Å. approximately using trial-and-error methods with little refinement, and no discussion of the bond lengths or bond angles which involve the carbon atoms is therefore possible. The positions quoted appear to be approximately correct, since when different positions were assumed deep negative areas appeared on the difference maps. This effect was so marked that it could confidently be used to make the choice between the two possible space groups.

The distances between non-bonded atoms in the same molecule (Fig. 5) or different molecules all indicate only normal van der Waals interactions. The increase of the two P-Pt-Br bond-angles from the ideal value of 90° to 94°, these four heavier atoms remaining coplanar, is probably caused by slight 'molecular overcrowding' between the bromine atom and the ethyl groups.

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