# Rubrofusarin: A Structure Determination Using Direct Phase Calculation 

By George H. Stout<br>Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington, U.S.A.<br>and Lyle H. Jensen<br>Department of Anatomy, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington, U.S.A.

(Received 14 February 1961 and in revised form 27 June 1961)


#### Abstract

The molecular and crystal structure of the mold metabolite rubrofusarin, $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{5}$, has been determined by application of the relationship $S_{h k} S_{h^{\prime} k^{\prime} l^{\prime}} \sim S_{h+h^{\prime}, k+k^{\prime}, l+l^{\prime}}$ followed by conventional refinement. One hundred twenty-three of the 132 strongest reflections were assigned phases by repeated application of the relationship and eighteen of the twenty atoms were found on Fourier syntheses computed using these. The final two atoms were located during the refinement.

Subsequent examination showed that, using the requirement that a reflection be indicated at least twice as strongly toward one sign rather than the alternative, phases could be determined for 198 of the 221 strongest reflections. Comparison with signs calculated on the final structure showed that all of these choices were correct.


## Introduction

Rubrofusarin is a red crystalline substance which was first isolated from the mycelium of strains of the mold Fusarium culmorum by Ashley, Hobbs \& Raistrick (1937). It was assigned the formula $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{5}$ and a number of derivatives were prepared, but no structure was proposed. Later Mull \& Nord (1944) suggested two possible structures on spectral grounds that were subsequently considered by Lund, Robertson \& Whalley (1953) to be insufficient.

Our chemical investigations (Stout, Dreyer \& Jensen, 1961) contradicted the suggestions of earlier workers and led us to propose that rubrofusarin should have one of the structures (I) or (II).

(I)

(II)

The evidence which we had was strongly suggestive but not conclusive and certainly did not distinguish between these two chemically very similar structures.

Due to the small amount of material available, we felt that it would be difficult to decide between them chemically and so turned to X-ray methods.

## Experimental

Rubrofusarin crystallizes from chloroform as well formed monoclinic needles elongated along $c$. From rotation and Weissenberg photographs taken with $\mathrm{Cu} K \alpha$ radiation ( $\lambda=1 \cdot 5418 \AA$ ) on a crystal rotated about the needle axis, the unit cell parameters were found to be

$$
a=7 \cdot 52, b=23 \cdot 14, c=7 \cdot 20 \AA ; \beta=98 \cdot 2^{\circ} .
$$

Systematic absences were $h 0 l$ for $l$ odd, $0 k 0$ for $k$ odd and the space group was therefore $P 2_{1} / c$. The density as determined by flotation in carbon tetrachloridehexane mixtures was $1 \cdot 473 \mathrm{~g} . \mathrm{cm} .^{-3}$ and led to four molecular weight (275.3) units per unit cell. Molecular weight calculated for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{5}$ is $272 \cdot 7$.
Three-dimensional integrated equi-inclination Weissenberg data were collected on a Nonius camera set to integrate in one direction only. The resulting unidimensionally integrated reflections were scanned photometrically at right angles to the direction of the first integration, and the area under the recorder tracing, as determined by a planimeter, was taken as proportional to the integrated intensity. Since the purpose of this investigation was to determine the molecular structure of rubrofusarin rather than to study exhaustively its crystal structure, the diffraction data were collected in groups of varying completeness. One hundred twenty-one $h k 0$ and $1640 k l$ reflections (including those unobserved) were collected. Threedimensional data were compiled in a short deck of 358 of the strongest reflections sampled throughout
the $\mathrm{Cu} K \alpha$ sphere, and a long deck of 1835 reflection ( $63.5 \%$ of 2890 possible) consisting of complete data for $l=1,3,4,5,6$ and partial data for $l=0$ and 2 .

## Structure determination

Because of uncertainty about the structure of rubrofusarin, it was felt that a direct solution would be most desirable if it could be achieved. Sayre (1952), Cochran (1952) and Zachariasen (1952) have all put forth arguments leading to the conclusion that, for reflections of suitably large unitary structure factors ( $U$ ) in centrosymmetric space groups,

$$
\begin{gathered}
U_{h k l} U_{h^{\prime} k^{\prime} v} U_{h+h^{\prime}}, k+k^{\prime}, l+l^{\prime}=\text { a positive quantity } \\
S_{n k l} S_{h^{\prime} k^{\prime} l^{\prime}}=S_{h+h^{\prime}}, k+k^{\prime}, l+l^{\prime},
\end{gathered}
$$

or
where $S_{n k l}$ is the sign of $U_{k k l}$. For convenience, we have referred to these as 'phase-determining equations' (PDE). The diffraction data indicated the presence of a subcell, presumably corresponding to the repetitious nature of the ring system. This encouraged us to attempt a direct determination of enough phases to obtain recognizable electron density maps.

As pointed out by Harker \& Kasper (1948) and discussed at some length by Karle \& Hauptman (1953) and by Lonsdale \& Grenville-Wells (1954), with certain restrictions two signs may be chosen arbitrarily for zonal and three for general data. By choosing three appropriate signs and without applying inequalities, we hoped to determine signs in a way similar to that described by Zachariasen (1952).
The first attempt was carried through on 0 kl data by hand adjustments of the signs of the strongest reflections so as to maximize the number of agreements in the PDE. This led to 34 reflections either determined absolutely or in terms of $S_{022}$. Fourier projections were calculated for $S_{022}$ both ( + ) and ( - ) and showed similar electron density, a positive ridge lying at an angle across the $c$ axis. With $S_{022}(+)$, the molecules lay across symmetry centers. Since the molecule was not expected to be centrosymmetric this sign was rejected. With $S_{022}(-)$, however, the molecules lay in reasonable positions between symmetry centers. Because of overlap, attempts to refine the projection at this stage led to no clearcut results.
Since the isolation by hand of the PDE from all possible combinations of a large number of reflections was both laborious and subject to error, a program was written for the IBM 650 which determined for a given set of monoclinic indices all the relationships in which the indices for two members of a set added to give those of a third.
Application of the program to the $h k 0$ data and solution of the resulting set of PDE as simultaneous equations (with the reservation that not all of them need be true) led to the determination of 31 signs, about half being determined absolutely, the rest in terms of $S_{280} . F_{o}$ projections with $S_{280}(+)$ and (-)
showed similar patterns of electron density with obvious six-membered rings, the two choices again differing mainly by a shift along an axis, the $b$ axis, and of magnitude about half the width of a ring.
Application of the program to the most intense general $h k l$ reflections and solution of the PDE in the usual manner led to striking results, 63 signs being determined absolutely or as before in terms of $S_{022}$ Among the signs determined was $S_{280}$ which appeared unambiguously to be (-). Since projection along [100] had suggested that the molecules were planar and that half of them lay approximately parallel to (011) (the other half, because of the glide reflection, being parallel to ( $0 \overline{1} 1$ )), it was felt clarity of interpretation would be gained in the early stages by making electron density calculations in the plane of the molecule. In the absence of a general plane program, the cell was transformed to a triclinic one with $(100) \rightarrow(100)^{*},\left(010 \rightarrow(010)^{*}\right.$, and $(011) \rightarrow(001)^{*}$. Half the molecules were now nearly parallel to the plane ( 001$)^{*}$, and only two or three sections parallel to this were needed to include an entire molecule. These showed clear atomic peaks corresponding to three rings joined as in (I). Nineteen atoms were placed and corresponded to those in the three rings and the 5 atoms directly connected to them. For the short deck, calculation of the structure factors with N atom scattering factors gave $R=46 \cdot 3 \%$. An $F_{o}$ synthesis based on the calculated phases showed the location of the remaining atom, indicated some considerable shifts and indicated which atoms were, in fact, oxygen. Recalculation of the structure factors based on 15 C and 50 atoms reduced $R$ to $29 \cdot 6 \%$. The structure appeared to be correct, but several cycles of three-dimensional $\Delta F$ syntheses reduced $R$ only to $22.9 \%$ and certain reflections remained much in error. Most important of these were 660, 5,12,0, and $5,17,0$, which were among the group signed statistically. Even use of the long deck three-dimensional data in $\Delta F$ syntheses did not greatly improve matters although coordinate shifts averaged $0.06 \AA$ in the direction of the final structure.

At this point it was felt that the chemical structure (I) for rubrofusarin indicated by these Fourier syntheses was probably correct, but that the molecule was incorrectly located in the cell. Accordingly the phase determining procedure for the general $h k l$ data was systematically reexamined. Approximate values of $U$ were calculated for all reflections, taking into account the variation in the atomic scattering factors due to finite size of the atoms but omitting that due to thermal motion. This procedure restricts the possible $U$ 's of significant magnitude to a finite number while not neglecting the reflections at high Bragg angle. The reflections were arranged in order of decreasing $U$, the maximum being about $0 \cdot 3$, and comparison with the signs originally determined showed that almost all reflections with $U>0.17 \mathrm{had}$ been signed correctly. However, those reflections with
large discrepancies in the $F_{c}$ calculation (e.g. $F_{660}$ ) were just the ones whose signs rested on the least evidence, one or two PDE.

Signs which were deduced from four or more agreeing PDE were accepted as correct and used as input to a new program which computed $\left(S_{h k l}\right)\left(S_{h^{\prime} k^{\prime} l^{\prime}}\right)$ and assigned the product to $U_{h+h^{\prime}, k+k^{\prime}, l+l^{\prime}}$ if of unknown sign. With this program and the requirement of a least four agreeing PDE, it was possible to determine signs for all reflections of $U>0 \cdot 17$ except those which had given trouble before. Incorporation of the newly determined signs and repetition of the method extended the list to include most reflections of $U>0 \cdot 15$. All reflections for which a number of PDE were obtained showed high consistency in their PDE.

Those reflections for which few or no relationships could be found were classed as undetermined. Examination of this group revealed that combinations of two of its members could be related in PDE with one reflection of known sign, i.e. they formed a subgroup only weakly connected with the main body of strong reflections. On this basis it was possible to determine the signs of all reflections in the subgroup in terms of $S_{660}$. Using this sign as a variable, the calculations were extended to $U \sim 0 \cdot 12$. At this point 103 signs had been determined absolutely, and an additional 20 in terms of $S_{660}$.

Sections from the reindexed triclinic cell were calculated for $S_{660}(+)$ and ( - ). Both choices showed essentially the same pattern of electron density; small displacements of the atomic centers were the only differences. The atomic positions implied by the sections with $S_{660}(-)$ were virtually identical to those found in the earlier work. This was not surprising since the original choice of phases had included $S_{660}(-)$ and a few other related phases based on this value.

Evidence that the proper choice for $S_{660}$ was ( + ) came with the calculation of $F_{h k 0}$. Eighteen maxima could definitely be located in the sections from either of the above three-dimensional $F_{o}$ syntheses and were


Fig. I. Composite projection on (001). Section contours ca. I e. $\AA^{-3}$ starting at 2 e. $\AA^{-3}$.
taken as C atoms (nos. 1-18). For $S_{660}(+), R=40.9 \%$, $R^{\prime}=47.7 \%$ ( $R^{\prime}$ is the residual index with unobserved reflections taken as half the minimum observable value), while for $S_{660}(-) . R=45 \cdot 9 \%, R^{\prime}=54 \cdot 9 \%$. An $F_{o}$ synthesis projected along [001] with $S_{660}(+)$ allowed the identification of atoms 19 and 20 from among several possible peaks on the sections and suggested that atoms $1,8,13$ and 18 were oxygen. With these additions and changes and a temperature factor of 2.5 instead of $2.0, R$ dropped to $23.5 \%$ ( $R^{\prime}=25 \cdot 6 \%$ ). Three cycles of $\Delta F$ syntheses along [001] and two along [100] showed atom 14 to be oxygen and reduced $R_{h k 0}$ to $13 \cdot 6 \% ~\left(R^{\prime}=15 \cdot 6 \%\right)$ and $R_{0 k l}$ to $13 \cdot 2 \%$ ( $R^{\prime}=15 \cdot 5 \%$ ). $R_{h k l}$ was $11 \cdot 3 \%$ for the short deck three-dimensional data. Fig. 1 shows a composite molecule as viewed down [001] on the basis of an $F_{o}$ synthesis calculated at this point using the short $h k l$ deck. The electron density around the individual atomic centers is plotted from sections taken through the three dimensional atom at the point of greatest density.

Table 1. Final atomic coordinates and isotropic temperature factors for rubrofusarin

|  | $x / a$ | $y / b$ | $z / c$ | $B\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ol | $0 \cdot 4077$ | $-0.2 \mathrm{Il3}$ | 0.4669 | 3.134 |
| O8 | 0.8971 | $-0.0892$ | $0 \cdot 4270$ | 3•189 |
| 013 | 0.8370 | 0.0173 | $0 \cdot 3059$ | $2 \cdot 519$ |
| O14 | 0.2318 | 0.0778 | $0 \cdot 1098$ | $2 \cdot 124$ |
| O18 | $0 \cdot 7682$ | $0 \cdot 1172$ | 0.1820 | $2 \cdot 860$ |
| C2 | $0 \cdot 4582$ | $-0.1573$ | 0.4158 | $2 \cdot 298$ |
| C3 | 0.3377 | $-0.1153$ | $0 \cdot 3423$ | $2 \cdot 439$ |
| C4 | $0 \cdot 4053$ | $-0.0606$ | $0 \cdot 2922$ | I. 855 |
| C5 | $0 \cdot 5989$ | $-0.0496$ | $0 \cdot 3214$ | I. 502 |
| C6 | 0.7113 | -0.0962 | 0.3948 | $2 \cdot 290$ |
| C7 | $0 \cdot 6448$ | -0.1494 | $0 \cdot 4403$ | $2 \cdot 417$ |
| C9 | $0 \cdot 2866$ | -0.0167 | $0 \cdot 2198$ | 1.955 |
| Cl0 | $0 \cdot 3548$ | 0.0368 | $0 \cdot 1786$ | 1.946 |
| Cll | 0.5402 | $0 \cdot 0492$ | $0 \cdot 2055$ | 1.831 |
| C12 | $0 \cdot 6580$ | 0.0061 | 0.2780 | 1.612 |
| Cl5 | $0 \cdot 2936$ | $0 \cdot 1315$ | $0 \cdot 070$ ] | $2 \cdot 691$ |
| C16 | $0 \cdot 4630$ | $0 \cdot 1479$ | 0.0912 | $2 \cdot 687$ |
| C17 | $0 \cdot 6040$ | $0 \cdot 1053$ | $0 \cdot 1580$ | $2 \cdot 248$ |
| C19 | $0 \cdot 1335$ | $0 \cdot 1721$ | $0 \cdot 0008$ | $3 \cdot 925$ |
| C20 | $0 \cdot 2211$ | -0.2220 | 0.4616 | $3 \cdot 400$ |

Further refinement was obtained on an IBM 709 using the full matrix least squares program of Busing \& Levy (1959). Three cycles with individual isotropic temperature factors reduced $R$ to $8 \cdot 2 \%$ for the short deck. At this point the standard errors in coordinates were calculated to be $\pm 0.016 \AA$ for oxygen and $\pm 0.025 \AA$ for carbon. Starting from these coordinates, one cycle reduced $R$ for the long deck to $11.4 \%$ ( $R^{\prime}=15 \cdot 0 \%$ ) and gave the coordinates and isotropic temperature factors listed in Table 1. Of the 60 positional parameters varied in this last refinement, $52(87 \%)$ shifted less than their previously estimated standard errors and of the remaining 8 none changed by more than twice the standard error. Thus the assumptions made as to the accuracy of the intensity data used appear to be justified. Structure factor

Table 2. Observed and calculated structure factors

calculations for the long deck $h k l$ reflections are shown in Table 2. The reflections whose phases could be determined from the PDE (see below) are starred.

## The structure

The molecular structure as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 confirms completely the chemical suggestion of struc-
ture (I). Within the limits of experimental error, the atoms in the two aromatic rings and those joined directly to them are co-planar. The standard deviation of these atoms from the least squares plane is $0.021 \AA$, maximum deviation is $0.037 \AA$. The heterocyclic ring does not appear to be planar since atoms 15,16 and 19 are $-0.051,-0.077$ and $-0.107 \AA$ out of the plane calculated for the rest of the molecule.

Table 2 (cont.)


The standard error of the final coordinates given in Table 1 was calculated by the least squares program to be $0.007 \AA$ for the oxygen and $0.01 \AA$ for the carbon atoms. These values suggest that the standard errors for the bond lengths in Table 3 should be $0.01-0.02 \AA$. On this basis, the chemically most significant bonds are C15-C16 and C17-O18, whose lengths correspond to normal carbon-carbon and
carbon-oxygen double bonds respectively. These values serve to further identify the ring with which they are associated as the heterocyclic one and confirm the non-aromatic nature of the pyrone system.

That the bonds $\mathrm{C} 20-\mathrm{Ol}$ and $\mathrm{C} 15-\mathrm{C} 19$ are longer than customary for single bonds of their respective types, is best explained as a result of the omission of hydrogen atoms from the refinement calculations. Failure to


Fig. 2. Molecular structure.
provide sufficient electron density around the two methyl groups has presumably caused the carbon atom to shift outward in an attempt to compensate. No such explanation can be advanced for the abnormal length of C4-C5 and no reasonable alternative has yet presented itself.

Table 3. Bond lengths and angles for rubrofusarin

| $\mathrm{C} 20-\mathrm{O}$ | $1.42 \AA$ | C10-C11 | $1.41 \AA$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| O1-C2 | 1.37 | $\mathrm{Cl1-Cl2}$ | 1.39 |
| C2-C3 | 1.38 | C12-C5 | $1 \cdot 41$ |
| C3 -C4 | 1-43 | C12-O13 | $1 \cdot 36$ |
| C4-C5 | $1 \cdot 46$ | Cl0-014 | $1 \cdot 37$ |
| C5 -C6 | $1 \cdot 42$ | O14-Cl5 | $1 \cdot 37$ |
| C6-C7 | 1.39 | C15-C16 | 1.32 |
| C6 --08 | 1.39 | Cl5-C19 | 1.55 |
| C7-C2 | $1 \cdot 40$ | C16-C17 | 1.48 |
| C4-C9 | $1 \cdot 40$ | C17-Cl1 | 1-44 |
| C9 -Cl0 | 1.39 | C17-O18 | $1 \cdot 25$ |
| C20-OI-C2 | $118^{\circ}$ | Cl0-Cl1-Cl2 | $118^{\circ}$ |
| O1-C2-C3 | 124 | Cl1-C12-C5 | 122 |
| C2 -C3 -C4 | 119 | Cl1-Cl2-O13 | 119 |
| C3 -C4 -C5 | 120 | C12-C5-C4 | 118 |
| C4-C5-C6 | 117 | Cll-Cl0-O14 | 121 |
| C5 -C6-C7 | 123 | C10-014-Cl5 | 118 |
| C5 -C6-08 | 120 | O14-Cl5-Cl6 | 126 |
| C6-C7 -C2 | 118 | O14-Cl5-C19 | 110 |
| C7 -C2 -C3 | 123 | Cl5-C16-Cl7 | 119 |
| C5 -C4 -C9 | 120 | C16-C17-Cl1 | 116 |
| $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 9-\mathrm{Cl} 0$ | 119 | C16-C17-O18 | 123 |
| C9-C10-Cl1 | 123 | C17-C11-Cl0 | 120 |

## Discussion

To our knowledge, rubrofusarin represents the largest molecule for which the crystal structure has been solved directly from the relation

$$
S_{h k l} S_{h^{\prime} k^{\prime} l^{\prime}} \sim S_{h+h^{\prime}, k+k^{\prime}, l+l^{\prime}} .
$$

It is probable that the solution was facilitated by the high degree of structure repetition within the molecule. Nonetheless, these results indicate that the method merits wider application, particularly for three-dimensional studies.

Of the 300 PDE used to phase reflections with $U>0 \cdot 15$, only eight were found to indicate incorrect signs. None of these led to any uncertainty in the sign of a reflection for which four or more PDE were
obtained. Extension to include all reflections with $U>0 \cdot 12$ resulted in a few more disagreements but assignment of phases was still easy and unambiguous.

After the structure of rubrofusarin had been solved, an IBM 709 was programmed to calculate the PDE and the investigation was extended to smaller values of $U$. As expected from the full Sayre expression, many more cases of disagreement within the set of PDE for any reflection appeared. An arbitrary absolute standard for the acceptance of a phase was devised by requiring that,

$$
\left|n_{P}-n_{m}\right| /\left(n_{P}+n_{m}\right) \geq 0.35 \text { and }\left|n_{P}-n_{m}\right| \geq 4,
$$

where $n_{P}$ is the number of PDE indicating a plus sign and $n_{m}$ the number indicating minus. These conditions require a more than 2:1 bias of the PDE and a significant number of agreements for acceptance. Using these criteria the signs of 69 of the 88 reflections with $0 \cdot 118>U>0.09$ could be determined using the 123 previously found, with $S_{660}$ still as a variable, and some of the missing signs for $U>0 \cdot 12$ could be found. During these calculations, it became apparent that the internal agreement of the PDE was better with $S_{660}(+)$ and it would have been chosen as the preferred value if Fourier calculations had been begun at this stage. After the acceptable phases had been determined on the bases given above, comparison with those calculated from the final structure showed that all of the 198 judged reliable enough for use were correct. Of the remaining 23 reflections in the range investigated, 19 were correctly indicated by the PDE but had been rejected for ambiguity by the above requirements.

Solving this structure has emphasized the tendency for reflections to cluster in groups with strong intragroup phase relations but only weak inter-group relations. Major groups of this sort are easily identified and cause major molecular shifts when their phases are changed. Minor groups, however, may not appear until late in the sign determining procedure and may be missed entirely unless a systematic effort is made to examine all reflections of magnitude greater than some chosen $U$. As in rubrofusarin the accidental choice of the wrong sign for such a subgroup may lead to a structure which is incorrectly placed although the internal relationships of the atoms are reasonable, and from which it is difficult or impossible to achieve the true answer by normal methods of refinement. The average atomic shift in going from the false structure to the true was only $0.24 \AA(0 \cdot 1$ to $0.38 \AA$ range) and resulted from positive shifts along $a$ and $c$ and negative shifts along $b$. Despite the apparent closeness of the two structures, refinement of the false coordinates by difference syntheses showed little promise of leading to the true values.

Further studies are in progress on direct structure determination based in the relation

$$
S_{h k l} S_{h^{\prime} k^{\prime} l^{\prime}} \sim S_{h+h^{\prime}, k+k^{\prime}, l+l^{\prime}}
$$

The authors wish to acknowledge financial support from the National Institute of Health under Grants A-858 and CY-4082 and to thank the University of Washington Research Computer Laboratory for the gift of unsupported computer time.

## References

Ashley, J. N., Hobbs, B. C. \& Raistrick, H. (1937). Biochem. J. 31, 385.
Busing, W. R. \& Levy, H. A. (1959). A Crystallographic Least Squares Refinement Program for the IBM 709, Oak Ridge National Laboratories.
Cochran, W. (1952). Acta Cryst. 5, 65.

Harker, D. \& Kasper, J. S. (1948). Acta Cryst. 1, 70.
Hauptman, H. \& Karle, J. (1953). Solution of the Phase Problem. I. The Centrosymmetric Crystal. A. C. A. Monograph No. 3. Brooklyn: Polycrystal Book Service.
Lonsdale, K. \& Grenville-Wells, H. J. (1954). Actu Cryst. 7, 490.
Lund, N. A., Robertson, A. \& Whalley, W. B. (1953). J. Chem. Soc., p. 2434.

Mull, R. R. \& Nord, F. F. (1944). Arch. Biochem. 4. 419.

Sayre, D. (1952). Acta Cryst. 5, 60.
Stout, G. H., Dreyer, D. \& Jensen, L. H. (1961). Chem. and Ind., p. 289.
Zachariasen, W. H. (1952). Acta Cryst. 5, 69.

# Principle of Maximum Superposition. A Method for Determining the Positions of replaceable Atoms in Isomorphous Crystals 

By V. Raghupathy Sarma and R. Srinivasan<br>Department of Physics, University of Madras, Madras-25, India

(Received 24 April 1961 and in revised form 28 July 1961)


#### Abstract

This paper describes a new method for the location of replaceable atoms in a pair of isomorphous crystals and is useful when the replaceable atoms are of low atomic number. The method uses what is known as the principle of maximum superposition in the difference-Patterson diagram of the two compounds. The application of the method to an actual case is also given.


## 1. Introduction

As is well known the use of the technique of isomorphous replacement requires first the determination of the position of the replaceable atoms. The problem is comparatively simple if the replaceable atoms happen to be heavy, since the peaks corresponding to the vectors between them would then stand out prominently in the individual Patterson diagrams. It becomes even easier if the difference Patterson (D.P.) is used. (Kartha \& Ramachandran, 1955).

However, the problem becomes rather difficult if the contribution of the replaceable atoms to the intensity is only a small fraction of the total intensity scattered by the whole structure, as, for example, for compounds in which the difference in the scattering factors of the replaceable atoms is of the same order as those of the other atoms in the structure; or the molecule in one crystal may have an atom more than in the other, this additional atom having nearly the same scattering factor as the other atoms in the molecule. An example of the latter type would be the pair morellin ( $\mathrm{C}_{33} \mathrm{H}_{38} \mathrm{O}_{7}$ ) and its monomethyl ether $\left(\mathrm{C}_{34} \mathrm{H}_{39} \mathrm{O}_{7}\right)$ which are at present under investigation in this laboratory.

The determination of the replaceable atom position also becomes difficult when the replaceable atom,
although 'heavy', occurs in a structure of high molecular weight, as in the complexes of heavy metals with proteins which are often isomorphous with the free compound. Perutz (1956) has suggested a method for the determination of the replaceable-atom positions in such crystals, making use of the possibility of preparing isomorphous specimens with partial replacement of the heavy atoms. Such a method obviously cannot be used with just a pair of crystals. However, there is a simple and very general method which can be used for the location of the replaceable atom in a pair of isomorphous crystals and the present paper deals essentially with this method, which makes use of what may be called the 'Principle of Maximum Superposition' applied to the difference-Patterson (D.-P.) diagram. The principle is described in the next section and it is applied to an actual case in section 3.

## 2. The principle of maximum superposition

Let $P$ and $Q$ denote respectively the number of replaceable and the remaining non-replaceable atoms in the unit cell, the total number of atoms being $P+Q=N$. We shall also use indices $P$ and $Q$ to indicate the two types of atoms. Let $f_{P}^{(1)}$ and $f_{P}^{(2)}$ be the scattering factors of the replaceable atoms in the two structures and $f_{Q}$ that of the non-replaceable atoms, which,

