

## Refinement of the Crystal Structure of Adenosine-5'-Phosphate

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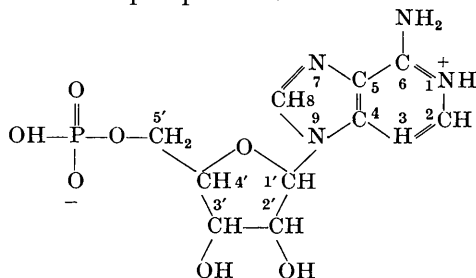
The crystal structure of adenosine-5'-phosphate has been determined by three-dimensional Patterson superposition and two-dimensional Fourier methods. It has been refined by full-matrix least-squares computations to a final  $R$  factor of 6.8% for 1197 reflections with measurable intensities. The space group is  $P2_1$ , with unit cell dimensions of  $a = 12.77$ ,  $b = 11.82$ ,  $c = 4.882$  Å and  $\beta = 92^\circ 24'$ . The locations of 11 out of 16 hydrogen atoms in the asymmetric unit have been determined by difference-Fourier syntheses and least-squares refinement.

The adenine ring is essentially unchanged from adenine hydrochloride, though it is slightly non-planar, probably owing to packing forces. The N-glycosidic bond is bent about  $8^\circ$  out of the adenine plane. Atom C3' of the ribose ring is 0.66 Å out of the plane of the remaining four atoms. The relative orientation of the adenine and ribose groups is *anti*, with  $\varphi_{CN} = -18^\circ$ . Certain generalities are suggested concerning the structure of organic phosphate groups.

### Introduction

In addition to the fundamental role they play in the various nucleic acids, adenine nucleotides also serve a variety of specialized functions. It will be recalled, for example, that adenylic acid is a coenzyme in the activation of amino acids for protein synthesis; that adenosine triphosphate (*ATP*) is the apparently universal medium for transfer of biological energy; and that the adenylic acid group occurs in a variety of ubiquitous coenzymes: diphosphopyridine nucleotide (*DPN*), flavin-adenine-dinucleotide (*FAD*) and coenzyme *A*.

The conventional formula and numbering system for adenosine-5'-phosphate is:



The same compound is also variously referred to as adenylic acid, muscle adenylic acid and adenosine monophosphate (*AMP*). Its systematic name is 9- $\beta$ -5'-phospho-D-ribofuranosyladenine. An arbitrary atom identification system will be used throughout this paper. It may be interpreted by reference to Fig. 1.

To date there has been reported only one precise three-dimensional structure determination of a nucle-

otide, that of calcium thymidylate by Trueblood, Horn & Luzzati (1961). Alver & Furberg (1959) have published the structure of cytidine-3'-phosphate based on refinement of two projections, and a single projection of adenosine-3'-phosphate has been published by Brown *et al.* (1953). A preliminary note on the crystal structure of adenylic acid has already appeared (Kraut & Jensen, 1960).

In the realm of the polynucleotides, the structure of *DNA* first proposed by Watson & Crick (1953) and Crick & Watson (1954) is now widely accepted. This has been further refined by Langridge *et al.* (1960*a, b*). *RNA* fibers on the other hand give much poorer X-ray diffraction pictures and the *RNA* structure is still unknown. That is to say, there has been no proposal of a structure with definite bond lengths and angles which may be compared with accepted values. Indeed it seems doubtful that *RNA* possesses a unique regular structure at all. Rich *et al.* (1961) have, however, assigned a definite structure to polyadenylic acid, the parameters of which are compared with the molecular parameters of adenylic acid in a subsequent section of this paper.

### Experimental

Commercial adenosine-5'-phosphate (Nutritional Biochemicals Co.) was crystallized as long thin needles by slow evaporation of an aqueous solution adjusted to pH 2-3 with a trace of HCl. These were observed to have monoclinic symmetry. Unit-cell parameters were measured on Weissenberg films obtained with Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation, using a camera calibrated against NaCl,  $a = 5.6394$  Å assumed. A wavelength of 1.5418 Å

was assumed for the mean of  $K\alpha_1$  and  $K\alpha_2$ . The unit-cell parameters were found to be

$$a = 12.77 \pm 0.02, \quad b = 11.82 \pm 0.02, \quad c = 4.882 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}; \\ \beta = 92^\circ 24' \pm 5'.$$

The uncertainties indicated are estimated standard deviations. The needle axis of the crystal habit was parallel to the unit-cell  $c$  axis.

Although experimental density data are not available (owing to our inability to reproduce this particular crystal form at a later date), a reasonable calculated density of  $1.647 \text{ g.cm.}^{-3}$  is obtained on the assumption of two molecules of the monohydrate per unit cell. Systematic absence of  $0k0$  reflections with  $k$  odd indicated  $P2_1$  or  $P2_1/m$  as the possible space groups, and  $P2_1$  was chosen as probably correct in view of the reasonableness of the calculated density and the likelihood that the unit cell contains two optically active molecules.

Unidimensionally integrated Weissenberg photographs of levels of constant  $l$ , out to  $l=4$ , and of the level  $h0l$  were taken with  $\text{Cu } K\alpha$  radiation. The crystals used were small, measuring a few hundredths of a millimeter perpendicular to the needle axis and about 0.5 mm. long. Densitometer tracings perpendicular to the direction of photographic integration were planimetered for each reflection to give integrated intensity data. Because of the small size of the crystals long exposures were necessary, and the resulting high film background somewhat impaired the accuracy of the photometric measurements. The various  $l$ -levels were placed on a common scale by means of the  $h0l$  data. No correction was made for absorption effects.

Of the total of approximately 1700 unique reflections within the  $\text{Cu } K\alpha$  limit, intensity data were obtained for 1487, or 87%. Of these 290, or 19%, were too weak to measure.

### Determination of the structure

It will be appreciated that some interesting obstacles to the solution of this crystal structure are present. A long  $b$ -axis makes it unlikely that the heavy-atom method can be applied to the centrosymmetric projection. In fact this approach was tried very early without success. In the short  $c$ -projection, on the other hand, as well as in three dimensions, the heavy-atom based Fourier synthesis would contain a spurious mirror plane. This complicating feature, added to the fact that a phosphorus atom is probably not sufficiently heavy to give good phase determination by itself, made this approach seem unpromising.

The difficulty was overcome by the application of superposition methods to the sharpened Patterson function. In essence, the solution was made possible by the remarkable clarity with which the individual atoms of a structure stand out in sharpened Patterson superpositions. Thus, although the mirror-image am-

biguity remains, exactly as in Fourier methods, one is nevertheless able to separate the two images without great difficulty. In the following paragraphs we outline the procedure that was actually followed.

A sharpened, origin-removed three-dimensional Patterson synthesis was computed and the approximate  $x$  and  $z$  coordinates of the phosphorus atom determined by assuming that the highest peak of the Harker section represented the phosphorus-phosphorus interaction. A twofold minimum-function superposition was computed on the basis of these phosphorus coordinates, resulting in a function with the symmetry of space group  $P2_1/m$ . Theoretically this map contained the desired structure, but accompanied as well by a reflection of the molecule in the set of mirror planes perpendicular to the  $b$ -axis. The mirror planes, in fact, must pass through each of two symmetry-related phosphorus atoms.

A three-dimensional model of the superposition map was next constructed, in which each of the 24 highest peaks in the asymmetric unit was simply represented by a clay ball. The phosphate group, practically coincident with its own mirror image, and much of the adenine ring were immediately obvious. The rest of the molecule was eventually found by working back and forth between successive Fourier  $c$ -projections and the model of the superposition map.

When the complete structure was assembled, it was realized in retrospect that the molecule could have been picked out entirely from the superposition map model without recourse to Fourier methods. However, since this was one of our earliest experiments with the technique, we probably lacked sufficient confidence in its power to make the necessary effort.

### Refinement

The following atomic scattering factors were used in the refinement: hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen of McWeeny (1951); phosphorus from *Internationale Tabellen* (1935).

The first stage of refinement was carried out by means of difference-Fourier syntheses in the  $b$ - and  $c$ -projections. Coordinates were adjusted, maintaining a constant overall isotropic temperature factor, until no further corrections other than individual temperature factor adjustments were indicated. At this point the discrepancy factor,  $R$ , was 13% for the  $hk0$  zone and 14% for the  $h0l$  zone. Further work on the structure was suspended until eighteen months later when, with an IBM-709 and the program of Busing & Levy (1959) available to us, the refinement was completed by the full-matrix least-squares method in three dimensions.

In the least-squares computations a weighting scheme similar to Hughes' (1941) was employed. The initial  $R$  factor was 25% for three dimensional data, using the coordinates previously obtained by refinement in two projections. Two least-squares refinement

cycles on positions and isotropic temperature factors, followed by one cycle on anisotropic temperature factors alone, resulted in a reduction of  $R$  to 7.6%. A difference-Fourier synthesis was computed at this stage to locate hydrogen atoms. Of a total of 16 hydrogen atoms in the asymmetric unit, only 10 were actually located unambiguously. These had an average peak height of 0.42 e.Å<sup>-3</sup> and a range of 0.28 to 0.57 e.Å<sup>-3</sup>. Since each of these hydrogen atom locations is geometrically reasonable, and since the estimated standard deviation of the electron density at this stage was only 0.13 e.Å<sup>-3</sup> as calculated from the formula  $\sigma(\rho) = (1/V)[\sum(\Delta|F|)^2]^{1/2}$  (Cruickshank, 1949), it is very likely that there actually are hydrogen atoms in these positions. The missing hydrogen atoms were the two on the water molecule, one on the phosphate group and one each on C6, C9 and C15.

Table 1. *Positional parameters of non-hydrogen atoms, in fractional coordinates  $\times 10^4$ , and their estimated standard deviations*

	$x/a$	$y/b$	$z/c$
P1	1866 ± 2	8000 ± 0	10263 ± 5
O2	2503 ± 5	9025 ± 5	11165 ± 15
O3	1255 ± 5	8057 ± 7	7586 ± 14
O4	1073 ± 6	7680 ± 7	12498 ± 16
O5	2645 ± 5	6937 ± 5	10014 ± 14
C6	3361 ± 8	6756 ± 7	12423 ± 21
C7	3997 ± 6	5691 ± 7	11899 ± 19
C8	4388 ± 6	5481 ± 7	9046 ± 18
C9	4591 ± 6	4195 ± 7	9219 ± 20
C10	3640 ± 6	3788 ± 7	10667 ± 19
O11	3325 ± 5	4704 ± 5	12411 ± 14
O12	5246 ± 5	6138 ± 6	8324 ± 14
O13	5488 ± 5	3972 ± 6	11017 ± 15
N14	2735 ± 5	3534 ± 6	8732 ± 16
C15	1924 ± 7	4253 ± 7	7819 ± 22
N16	1339 ± 5	3789 ± 6	5805 ± 17
C17	1755 ± 6	2737 ± 6	5479 ± 18
C18	2643 ± 6	2554 ± 7	7214 ± 19
N19	3249 ± 6	1629 ± 6	7429 ± 18
C20	2970 ± 6	850 ± 7	5629 ± 23
N21	2170 ± 6	939 ± 6	3689 ± 17
C22	1501 ± 7	1837 ± 7	3553 ± 21
N23	722 ± 6	1885 ± 7	1718 ± 19
O24	263 ± 7	228 ± 7	-2322 ± 20

The ten hydrogen atoms whose locations were now established were next introduced into the structure and given the temperature factors of the atoms to which they were covalently bonded. Least-squares refinement was then continued with the following parameters being adjusted in subsequent cycles; non-hydrogen atom positions, non-hydrogen atom temperature factors, non-hydrogen atom positions (final positional adjustment, cycle 6), non-hydrogen atom temperature factors (final temperature factor adjustment, cycle 7) and finally three cycles (8 through 10) of hydrogen atom positions. The mean final adjustment in each type of parameter, in terms of their standard deviations, was 0.12 $\sigma$  for cycle 6, 0.07 $\sigma$  for cycle 7 and 0.19 $\sigma$  for cycle 10. The maximum adjustment in each case was 0.45 $\sigma$ , 0.28 $\sigma$  and 0.74 $\sigma$ .

Table 2. *Thermal parameters of non-hydrogen atoms and their estimated standard deviations*

$\beta$  as given here is defined by:

$$T = \exp \{-10^{-4}(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)\}$$

	$\beta_{11}$	$\beta_{22}$	$\beta_{33}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$	$\beta_{23}$
P 1	20 ± 1	33 ± 1	134 ± 11	1 ± 1	-6 ± 3	-14 ± 3
O 2	42 ± 5	35 ± 5	305 ± 40	-2 ± 4	4 ± 10	-40 ± 10
O 3	37 ± 4	69 ± 6	184 ± 34	18 ± 5	-14 ± 9	-2 ± 12
O 4	44 ± 5	89 ± 8	260 ± 41	-30 ± 4	-6 ± 11	-29 ± 12
O 5	42 ± 5	22 ± 4	261 ± 38	6 ± 3	-38 ± 10	-27 ± 9
C 6	46 ± 7	37 ± 7	226 ± 55	-3 ± 5	-44 ± 15	4 ± 13
C 7	23 ± 5	33 ± 6	165 ± 49	2 ± 4	-6 ± 11	-9 ± 12
C 8	19 ± 4	30 ± 6	150 ± 47	0 ± 4	-11 ± 11	-11 ± 11
C 9	18 ± 5	49 ± 7	199 ± 48	1 ± 4	-14 ± 11	-38 ± 13
C10	28 ± 5	28 ± 6	207 ± 50	-2 ± 4	-16 ± 12	-24 ± 12
O11	35 ± 4	34 ± 5	224 ± 37	-11 ± 3	9 ± 9	-14 ± 9
O12	38 ± 5	55 ± 5	184 ± 37	-14 ± 4	-13 ± 10	17 ± 10
O13	21 ± 4	57 ± 6	312 ± 39	10 ± 4	-31 ± 10	2 ± 11
N14	22 ± 4	29 ± 5	201 ± 44	-2 ± 3	2 ± 10	-23 ± 10
C15	28 ± 6	38 ± 7	325 ± 57	-2 ± 5	-28 ± 14	-8 ± 14
N16	24 ± 4	29 ± 5	335 ± 49	7 ± 4	-30 ± 11	-10 ± 12
C17	27 ± 5	31 ± 6	125 ± 43	1 ± 4	-11 ± 11	-10 ± 11
C18	28 ± 5	36 ± 6	158 ± 47	6 ± 4	-1 ± 12	-16 ± 12
N19	28 ± 5	30 ± 5	313 ± 47	4 ± 4	-7 ± 11	10 ± 12
C20	27 ± 5	22 ± 6	415 ± 60	5 ± 5	-5 ± 15	3 ± 14
N21	27 ± 5	36 ± 5	271 ± 48	-2 ± 4	2 ± 12	-14 ± 12
C22	25 ± 5	43 ± 7	209 ± 51	-4 ± 4	-18 ± 13	-9 ± 13
N23	31 ± 5	55 ± 7	269 ± 48	6 ± 4	-23 ± 12	-45 ± 13
O24	80 ± 8	72 ± 7	521 ± 58	-14 ± 6	-94 ± 17	-53 ± 15

Table 3. *Positional parameters of hydrogen atoms, in fractional coordinates  $\times 10^3$ , and their estimated standard deviations*

	$x/a$	$y/b$	$z/c$
H25	379 ± 10	752 ± 10	1276 ± 26
H26	454 ± 9	560 ± 9	1338 ± 27
H27	386 ± 8	572 ± 9	734 ± 24
H28	386 ± 8	291 ± 10	1134 ± 23
H29	559 ± 9	616 ± 10	976 ± 26
H30	610 ± 9	406 ± 10	1006 ± 27
H31	322 ± 9	16 ± 10	599 ± 29
H32	193 ± 9	24 ± 9	267 ± 27
H33	18 ± 10	234 ± 10	233 ± 26
H34	40 ± 9	124 ± 10	28 ± 27
H35	468	390	715

A single scale factor was included throughout the refinement as an adjustable parameter.

A concluding round of structure factor calculations resulted in an  $R$  factor of 6.8% for the 1197 reflections with measurable intensities. The refined atomic parameters are given in Tables 1, 2 and 3. Observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 4.

A final difference-Fourier synthesis was computed from these structure factors in an attempt to locate the six missing hydrogen atoms. A well defined positive region, of peak height 0.36 e.Å<sup>-3</sup> was found at the position expected for the hydrogen atom attached to C9. Its parameters are listed opposite H35 in Table 3. No other prominent peaks in stereochemically plausible locations could be found, although several others of about the same height as H35 were present.

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors

Within each group of constant  $k$  and  $l$ , the columns contain from left to right:  $h$ ,  $10F_o$ ,  $10F_c$  and the phase angle in millicycle.

An asterisk indicates the estimated minimum observable  $10F_o$  for reflections which were too weak to be measured

Group	$h$	$10F_o$	$10F_c$	Phase angle (millicycle)		
H+0,0	1	97	130	500		
	2	529	500	500		
	3	313	297	500		
	4	122	144	500		
	5	110	114	500		
	6	110	106	500		
	7	82	100	500		
	8	193	190	500		
	9	178	169	500		
	10	118	109	500		
	11	124	116	500		
	12	64	70	500		
	H+9,0	1	232	271	506	
		2	102	107	508	
		3	120	101	508	
		4	144	161	504	
5		108	109	631		
6		108	109	631		
7		118	118	491		
8		64	64	508		
H+10,0		1	302	314	382	
		2	176	171	383	
		3	112	107	383	
		4	93	98	633	
		5	72	72	400	
		6	64	64	508	
		H+11,0	1	213	218	102
			2	112	112	526
	3		101	92	526	
	4		67	66	961	
	5		67	66	961	
	6		64	64	508	
	H+12,0		1	73	73	769
			2	43	43	737
			3	33	33	424
			4	26	26	424
5			26	26	424	
6			26	26	424	
H+13,0			1	44	44	427
			2	38	38	711
			3	30	30	660
			4	23	23	660
		5	18	18	660	
		6	18	18	660	
		H+14,0	1	67	58	734
			2	58	58	991
			3	44	44	991
			4	33	33	991
	5		26	26	991	
	6		26	26	991	
	H+15,0		1	111	116	300
			2	67	67	500
			3	58	58	500
			4	44	44	500
5			33	33	500	
6			26	26	500	
H+16,0			1	144	150	147
			2	108	108	147
			3	82	82	147
			4	64	64	147
		5	44	44	147	
		6	33	33	147	
		H+17,0	1	228	226	309
			2	127	126	309
			3	82	82	309
			4	64	64	309
	5		44	44	309	
	6		33	33	309	
	H+18,0		1	297	291	352
			2	176	176	352
			3	112	112	352
			4	93	93	670
5			72	72	670	
6			64	64	670	
H+19,0			1	366	366	424
			2	213	213	424
			3	144	144	424
			4	108	108	424
		5	82	82	424	
		6	64	64	424	
		H+20,0	1	436	436	500
			2	271	271	500
			3	182	182	500
			4	130	130	500
	5		97	97	500	
	6		73	73	500	
	H+21,0		1	506	506	631
			2	314	314	631
			3	213	213	631
			4	152	152	631
5			112	112	631	
6			82	82	631	
H+22,0			1	576	576	769
			2	366	366	769
			3	244	244	769
			4	182	182	769
		5	130	130	769	
		6	97	97	769	
		H+23,0	1	646	646	991
			2	400	400	991
			3	271	271	991
			4	182	182	991
	5		130	130	991	
	6		97	97	991	
	H+24,0		1	711	711	1270
			2	444	444	1270
			3	297	297	1270
			4	213	213	1270
5			152	152	1270	
6			112	112	1270	
H+25,0			1	784	784	1660
			2	499	499	1660
			3	333	333	1660
			4	244	244	1660
		5	182	182	1660	
		6	130	130	1660	
		H+26,0	1	854	854	2130
			2	526	526	2130
			3	352	352	2130
			4	252	252	2130
	5		182	182	2130	
	6		130	130	2130	
	H+27,0		1	924	924	2690
			2	576	576	2690
			3	396	396	2690
			4	297	297	2690
5			213	213	2690	
6			152	152	2690	
H+28,0			1	991	991	3360
			2	646	646	3360
			3	436	436	3360
			4	314	314	3360
		5	228	228	3360	
		6	166	166	3360	
		H+29,0	1	1060	1060	4000
			2	691	691	4000
			3	460	460	4000
			4	333	333	4000
	5		244	244	4000	
	6		182	182	4000	
	H+30,0		1	1127	1127	4760
			2	734	734	4760
			3	499	499	4760
			4	366	366	4760
5			271	271	4760	
6			200	200	4760	
H+31,0			1	1196	1196	5560
			2	784	784	5560
			3	526	526	5560
			4	396	396	5560
		5	297	297	5560	
		6	228	228	5560	
		H+32,0	1	1266	1266	6360
			2	834	834	6360
			3	576	576	6360
			4	436	436	6360
	5		333	333	6360	
	6		252	252	6360	
	H+33,0		1	1336	1336	7160
			2	891	891	7160
			3	614	614	7160
			4	460	460	7160
5			352	352	7160	
6			271	271	7160	
H+34,0			1	1406	1406	7960
			2	936	936	7960
			3	646	646	7960
			4	499	499	7960
		5	396	396	7960	
		6	300	300	7960	
		H+35,0	1	1476	1476	8760
			2	991	991	8760
			3	691	691	8760
			4	526	526	8760
	5		400	400	8760	
	6		300	300	8760	
	H+36,0		1	1546	1546	9560
			2	1036	1036	9560
			3	734	734	9560
			4	576	576	9560
5			444	444	9560	
6			333	333	9560	
H+37,0			1	1616	1616	10360
			2	1096	1096	10360
			3	796	796	10360
			4	614	614	10360
		5	499	499	10360	
		6	396	396	10360	
		H+38,0	1	1686	1686	11160
			2	1136	1136	11160
			3	834	834	11160
			4	646	646	11160
	5		526	526	11160	
	6		400	400	11160	
	H+39,0		1	1756	1756	11960
			2	1196	1196	11960
			3	891	891	11960
			4	691	691	11960
5			576	576	11960	
6			444	444	11960	
H+40,0			1	1826	1826	12760
			2	1246	1246	12760
			3	936	936	12760
			4	734	734	12760
		5	614	614	12760	
		6	499	499	12760	
		H+41,0	1	1896	1896	13560
			2	1296	1296	13560
			3	991	991	13560
			4	796	796	13560
	5		676	676	13560	
	6		526	526	13560	
	H+42,0		1	1966	1966	14360
			2	1346	1346	14360
			3	1036	1036	14360
			4	834	834	14360
5			716	716	14360	
6			576	576	14360	
H+43,0			1	2036	2036	15160
			2	1406	1406	15160
			3	1106	1106	15160
			4	906	906	15160
		5	786	786	15160	
		6	646	646	15160	
		H+44,0	1	2106	2106	15960
			2	1476	1476	15960
			3	1176	1176	15960
			4	976	976	15960
	5		856	856	15960	
	6		716	716	15960	
	H+45,0		1	2176	2176	16760
			2	1546	1546	16760
			3	1246	1246	16760
			4	1046	1046	16760
5			926	926	16760	
6			786	786	16760	
H+46,0			1	2246	2246	17560
			2	1616	1616	17560
			3	1316	1316	17560
			4	1116	1116	17560
		5	996	996	17560	
		6	856	856	17560	
		H+47,0	1	2316	2316	18360
			2	1686	1686	18360
			3	1386	1386	18360
			4	1186	1186	18360
	5		1066	1066	18360	
	6		926	926	18360	
	H+48,0		1	2386	2386	19160
			2	1756	1756	19160
			3	1456	1456	19160
			4	1256	1256	19160
5			1136	1136	19160	
6			996	996	19160	
H+49,0			1	2456	2456	19960
			2	1826	1826	19960
			3	1526	1526	19960
			4	1326	1326	19960
		5	1206	1206	19960	
		6	1066	1066	19960	
		H+50,0	1	2526	2526	20760
			2	1896	1896	20760
			3	1596	1596	20760
			4	1396	1396	20760
	5		1276	1276	20760	
	6		1136	1136	20760	
	H+51,0		1	2596	2596	21560
			2	1966	1966	21560
			3	1666	1666	21560
			4	1466	1466	21560
5			1346			

Table 4 (cont.) contains multiple columns of data, likely representing Fourier map coefficients or phase values. The data is organized into several groups, each with a header such as H.11.3, H.12.3, H.13.3, H.10.3, H.11.4, H.11.5, H.11.6, H.11.7, H.11.8, H.11.9, H.11.10, H.11.11, H.11.12, H.11.13, H.11.14, H.11.15, H.11.16, H.11.17, H.11.18, H.11.19, H.11.20, H.11.21, H.11.22, H.11.23, H.11.24, H.11.25, H.11.26, H.11.27, H.11.28, H.11.29, H.11.30, H.11.31, H.11.32, H.11.33, H.11.34, H.11.35, H.11.36, H.11.37, H.11.38, H.11.39, H.11.40, H.11.41, H.11.42, H.11.43, H.11.44, H.11.45, H.11.46, H.11.47, H.11.48, H.11.49, H.11.50, H.11.51, H.11.52, H.11.53, H.11.54, H.11.55, H.11.56, H.11.57, H.11.58, H.11.59, H.11.60, H.11.61, H.11.62, H.11.63, H.11.64, H.11.65, H.11.66, H.11.67, H.11.68, H.11.69, H.11.70, H.11.71, H.11.72, H.11.73, H.11.74, H.11.75, H.11.76, H.11.77, H.11.78, H.11.79, H.11.80, H.11.81, H.11.82, H.11.83, H.11.84, H.11.85, H.11.86, H.11.87, H.11.88, H.11.89, H.11.90, H.11.91, H.11.92, H.11.93, H.11.94, H.11.95, H.11.96, H.11.97, H.11.98, H.11.99, H.11.100. Each group contains a list of numbers, some with asterisks, representing the values for that specific hkl reflection.

The most notable feature of the final difference-Fourier map is a positive peak of height 0.75 e.Å<sup>-3</sup> located exactly halfway between pairs of phosphorus atoms related by the *c* translation. This is most probably a result of diffraction effects caused by truncation of the data beyond *l*=4.

**Results and discussion**

The crystal structure of adenosine-5'-phosphate, viewed in orthographic projection along the *c*-axis, is illustrated in Fig. 1. The ten hydrogen atoms H25-H34 located in the first difference-Fourier synthesis are shown with their final coordinates as computed by the least-squares refinement. Hydrogen atom H35 is shown according to its location in the final difference map. Hydrogen atoms not actually found are omitted. Presumed hydrogen bonds are indicated by dashed lines.

In Fig. 2 a single molecule is shown in projection along the glycosidic bond C10-N14. The unit cell *b*-axis is horizontal to the left in this drawing. Hydrogen bonded atoms of neighboring molecules are indicated by light circles. These atoms are also labelled with atom identification numbers in Fig. 1. Bond lengths and angles for covalent bonds not

involving hydrogen atoms are given in Tables 5 and 6. Hydrogen-bond lengths and angles are listed in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5. Bond lengths of covalent bonds not involving hydrogen atoms, and their estimated standard deviations

Bond	Length
P1-O2	1.514 ± 0.008 Å
P1-O3	1.495 ± 0.008
P1-O4	1.566 ± 0.008
P1-O5	1.610 ± 0.007
O5-C6	1.475 ± 0.012
C6-C7	1.525 ± 0.013
C7-C8	1.520 ± 0.012
C8-C9	1.544 ± 0.012
C8-O12	1.400 ± 0.011
C9-C10	1.509 ± 0.013
C9-O13	1.438 ± 0.011
C10-O11	1.445 ± 0.011
C7-O11	1.476 ± 0.011
C10-N14	1.492 ± 0.012
N14-C15	1.398 ± 0.012
N14-C18	1.377 ± 0.012
C15-N16	1.328 ± 0.012
N16-C17	1.364 ± 0.011
C17-C18	1.403 ± 0.012
C18-N19	1.341 ± 0.012
N19-C20	1.312 ± 0.012
C20-N21	1.368 ± 0.012
N21-C22	1.362 ± 0.012
C22-C17	1.448 ± 0.013
C22-N23	1.312 ± 0.013

Table 6. Bond angles for covalent bonds not involving hydrogen atoms, and their estimated standard deviations

Angle	Degrees
O2-P1-O3	118.2 ± 0.4°
O2-P1-O4	110.2 ± 0.4
O2-P1-O5	108.7 ± 0.4
O3-P1-O4	106.9 ± 0.4
O3-P1-O5	105.7 ± 0.4
O4-P1-O5	106.5 ± 0.4
P1-O5-C6	114.7 ± 0.5
O5-C6-C7	107.6 ± 0.7
C6-C7-C8	119.1 ± 0.7
C6-C7-O11	107.9 ± 0.7
C8-C7-O11	104.0 ± 0.6
C7-C8-C9	99.9 ± 0.7
C7-C8-O12	115.5 ± 0.7
C9-C8-O12	115.4 ± 0.7
C8-C9-C10	101.7 ± 0.6
C8-C9-O13	110.0 ± 0.6
C10-C9-O13	107.0 ± 0.6
C9-C10-O11	106.7 ± 0.6
C9-C10-N14	112.6 ± 0.7
O11-C10-N14	107.2 ± 0.7
C7-O11-C10	108.3 ± 0.7
C10-N14-C15	128.6 ± 0.7
C10-N14-C18	123.8 ± 0.7
C15-N14-C18	107.1 ± 0.7
N14-C15-C16	111.8 ± 0.8
C15-N16-C17	104.7 ± 0.7
N16-C17-C18	112.3 ± 0.7
N16-C17-C22	131.9 ± 0.8
C18-C17-C22	115.6 ± 0.7
N14-C18-C17	104.1 ± 0.7
N14-C18-N19	127.4 ± 0.8
C17-C18-N19	128.5 ± 0.8
C18-N19-C20	112.3 ± 0.8
N19-C20-N21	125.7 ± 0.8
C20-N21-C22	122.8 ± 0.8
C17-C22-N21	114.7 ± 0.8
C17-C22-N23	123.7 ± 0.8
N21-C22-N23	121.5 ± 0.8

Table 8. Hydrogen-bond angles and their estimated standard deviations

Angle	Degrees
P1-O2-O13'	111.0 ± 0.4°
P1-O2-N21''	137.1 ± 0.4
O13'-O2-N21''	111.4 ± 0.3
P1-O3-O4'	151.1 ± 0.5
P1-O3-N23'	107.4 ± 0.4
P1-O3-O24'	104.0 ± 0.4
O4'-O3-N23'	89.2 ± 0.3
O4'-O3-O24'	98.7 ± 0.3
N23'-O3-O24'	92.2 ± 0.3
P1-O4-O3'''	127.4 ± 0.4
C8-O12-N19'	116.4 ± 0.5
H29-O12-N19'	15.0 ± 5.0
C9-O13-O2'	118.7 ± 0.5
H30-O13-O2'	9.0 ± 5.0
C18-N19-O12'	126.7 ± 0.6
C20-N19-O12'	120.3 ± 0.6
C20-N21-O2''	97.4 ± 0.6
C22-N21-O2''	139.8 ± 0.6
H32-N21-O2''	27.0 ± 5.0
C22-N23-O3'	125.2 ± 0.6
O24-N23-O3'	104.9 ± 0.4
C22-N23-O24	125.2 ± 0.7
H33-N23-O3'	15.0 ± 5.0
H34-N23-O24	10.0 ± 5.0
N23-O24-O3''	123.6 ± 0.4

Table 9. Bond lengths of covalent bonds involving hydrogen atoms

Standard deviations are approximately 0.1 Å

Bond	Length
C6-H25	1.1 Å
C7-H26	1.0
C8-H27	1.1
C9-H35	1.1
C10-H28	1.1
O12-H29	0.8
O13-H30	0.9
C20-H31	0.9
N21-H32	1.0
N23-H33	0.9
N23-H34	1.1

7 and 8. Table 9 contains the bond lengths of covalent bonds involving hydrogen atoms.

### The adenine ring

As in adenine hydrochloride (Cochran, 1951), the adenine ring is protonated at N21. Bond lengths and angles also agree in general with those found in adenine hydrochloride. Possibly significant bond-

Table 7. Hydrogen-bond lengths and their estimated standard deviations

Bond	Length
O3-O4'	2.525 ± 0.011 Å
O12-N19'	2.828 ± 0.012
H29-N19'	2.1 ± 0.1
O13-O2'	2.819 ± 0.011
H30-O2'	1.9 ± 0.1
N21-O2''	2.619 ± 0.011
H32-O2''	1.8 ± 0.1
N23-O3'	2.901 ± 0.012
H33-O3'	2.0 ± 0.1
N23-O24	2.824 ± 0.014
H34-O24	1.7 ± 0.1
O24-O3''	2.863 ± 0.013

length discrepancies, however, are in N14-C15, where we find  $1.398 \pm 0.012$  Å in comparison with Cochran's  $1.33 \pm 0.01$  Å, and in C22-C17 where our length is  $1.448 \pm 0.013$  Å whereas Cochran finds  $1.40 \pm 0.01$  Å. Other differences are 0.03 Å or less. The greatest discrepancy in bond angles is at N14-C15-N16 for which we obtain  $111.8 \pm 0.8^\circ$  as against  $115^\circ$  found in adenine hydrochloride. Possibly even these differences would be still smaller had not Cochran assumed exact planarity of the adenine ring in computing atomic *y*-coordinates.

Interestingly, we find small but probably significant deviations from exact planarity in the adenine ring of this structure. The nine ring atoms have an r.m.s. deviation of 0.026 Å from the least-squares plane through them; in particular C17 is 0.043 Å below this plane and N21 is 0.051 Å above it. It is evident from Fig. 2 that this distortion must be due to the  $25^\circ$

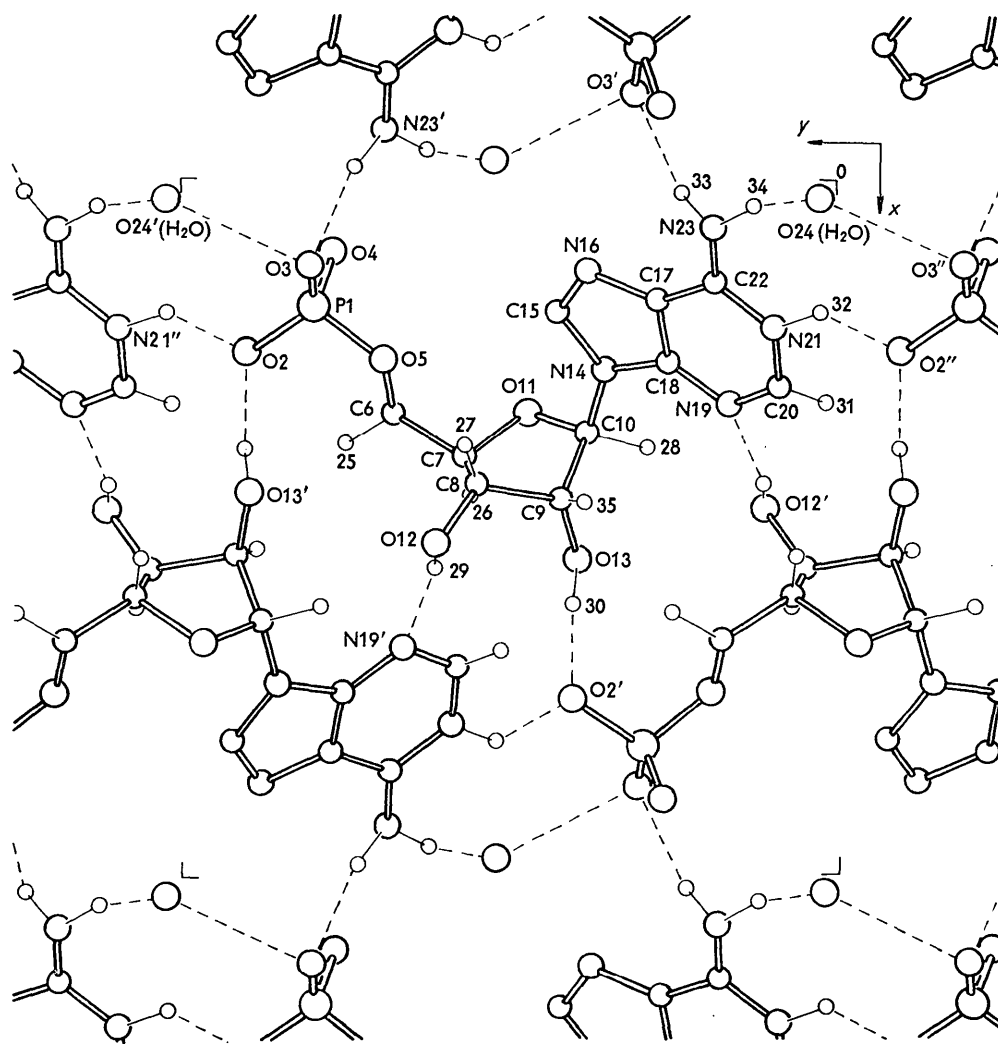


Fig. 1. Orthographic projection along the *c*-axis of the crystal structure of adenosine-5'-phosphate.

rotation from the adenine plane experienced by the plane of the hydrogen-bond pair formed by N23.

Even more drastic is the deviation of the glycosidic bond C10-N14 from the plane of the adenine ring, with C10 lying 0.211 Å above and forming an angle of 8° with the least-squares plane. This is clearly seen in Fig. 2. The effect is much greater than in calcium thymidylate (Trueblood, Horn & Luzzati, 1961) where the displacement of the C1' atom of the ribose ring (corresponding to our C10) from the plane of the thymine ring was 0.050 Å. It is not clear whether forces arising out of the requirement for efficient hydrogen bonding and molecular packing would be sufficient to account for this deformation, but that is the most likely explanation. The glycosidic bond has a length of  $1.492 \pm 0.012$  Å, in reasonable agreement with  $1.466 \pm 0.018$  Å for the corresponding bond in calcium thymidylate and with the standard C-N single bond length of 1.47 Å.

#### *The ribose ring*

The ribose ring is best described as puckered in such a way that atom C8 (C3' in the usual terminology) lies 0.66 Å above the approximate plane formed by the remaining four ring atoms. These four atoms have an r.m.s. deviation of 0.022 Å from the least-squares plane through them. When planes are fitted to any of the other four groups of four ring atoms the corresponding r.m.s. deviation is always 0.1-0.2 Å.

The same conformation is also observed for 2'-deoxyribose in calcium thymidylate as well as for the unphosphorylated ribose of cytidine (Furberg, 1950). However in cytidylic acid-*b*, where the 3' oxygen rather than the 5' oxygen carries the phosphate group, Alver & Furberg (1959) report the C2' atom to be 0.5 Å out of the plane. Spencer (1959*a*) has reviewed the question of puckering in the furanose ring.

Bond lengths and angles in the ribose ring have their expected values; there is also excellent agreement

with the lengths and angles reported for the deoxy-ribose of calcium thymidylate, showing that the replacement of an OH group by a hydrogen atom at position 2' has essentially no effect upon the structure. In fact, the r.m.s. deviation among corresponding interatomic distances in the two sugars is 0.019 Å, or about the same as the estimated standard deviations of these quantities reported by Trueblood, Horn & Luzatti, with the greatest difference amounting to about  $2\sigma$ . A similar assertion may be made about the bond angles.

#### The phosphate group

Bond lengths and angles of the phosphate group fall within the expected range. Since we have not unequivocally located the required hydrogen atom, some uncertainty remains concerning which oxygen atom belongs to the unionized OH function. In fact, a small peak of height 0.27 e.Å<sup>-3</sup> is actually observed in the final difference-Fourier map at a distance of 0.9 Å from atom O4, but it is 24° away from the line joining the presumably hydrogen bonded atoms O4 and O3''' (in the molecule below) and therefore we did not feel confident in identifying it as a hydrogen atom covalently bonded to O4. Nevertheless, as the following discussion will bring out, it is likely that the oxygen atom of the unionized OH function is indeed O4.

There have been to date only three precise determinations of structures containing the organic phosphate group: dibenzyl phosphoric acid by Dunitz & Rollett (1956), calcium thymidylate by Trueblood, Horn & Luzzati (1961) and 2-amino-ethanol phosphate by Kraut (1961). Comparison of bond lengths and angles in these structures leads to these conclusions: (1) the P-OR distance (where R is an organic residue or a hydrogen atom) is 1.565 Å, with an r.m.s. deviation among six reported values of 0.018 Å, whereas the P-O distance when no other atom is covalently bonded to the oxygen is 1.490 Å, with an r.m.s. deviation of 0.016 Å among six reported values; (2) the shorter the P-O bonds the stronger their mutual repulsion, so that an O-P-O angle of about 117° is to be expected between the two shortest bonds; (3) the oxygen atom of a P-OR group does not act as a hydrogen bond acceptor whereas the P-O oxygen atom may accept one, two or even three hydrogen bonds. The provisional nature of these conclusions should be emphasized, particularly (2) and (3), for they are based on a minimum of experimental data and must await the availability of much more information about organic phosphate structures for their verification. However, the assumption that O4 belongs to the unionized OH group is then in complete accord with each of these hypotheses and further strengthens them.

The question of hydrogen bonding at the phosphate group will be further discussed below.

#### Conformation of the molecule

In describing the molecular conformation of nucleotides it is useful to have a standard way of referring to the relative orientation of heterocyclic base and ribose moiety about the glycosidic bond. For this reason Donohue & Trueblood (1960) have introduced the torsion angle  $\varphi_{CN}$ , defined as the angle formed by the trace of the plane of the base with the projection of the C1'-O bond when the projection is taken along the glycosidic bond itself. This projection is shown for adenosine-5'-phosphate in Fig. 2. It may be compared with Fig. 2 of Donohue & Trueblood (1960) where similar projections are shown for thymidylic acid residues in two proposed DNA structures and for the thymidylate ion. It has been pointed out by Spencer (1959b), by Donohue & Trueblood (1960) and by Trueblood, Horn & Luzzati (1961) that thus far only pyrimidine nucleosides and nucleotides have been studied, and that these all fall in the *anti* range of conformation—that is, with  $\varphi_{CN}$  in the neighborhood of  $-30^\circ$  (as contrasted with  $\varphi_{CN} = ca. 150^\circ$  for the *syn* conformation). As seen in Fig. 2,  $\varphi_{CN}$  in adenosine-5'-phosphate is about  $-18^\circ$ ; it is thus in the *anti* conformation and suggests that purine nucleotides may also prefer this conformation.

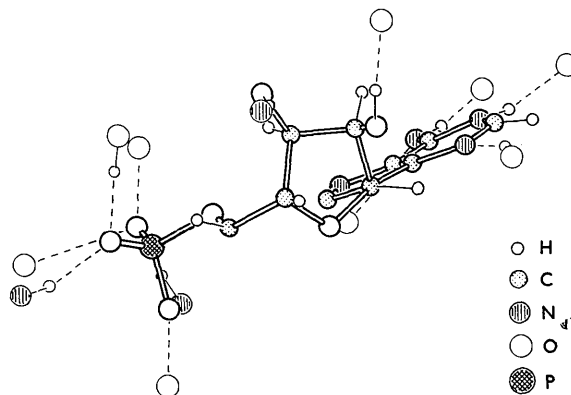


Fig. 2. Orthographic projection along the glycosidic bond C10-N14 of a single molecule of adenosine-5'-phosphate.

The plane of the ribose ring is at a dihedral angle of  $76^\circ$  to the adenine plane, in agreement with the corresponding angle of  $76^\circ$  in cytidine and  $75^\circ$  in calcium thymidylate. It differs appreciably, however, from the dihedral angle in cytidylic acid-*b*, which we have computed to be  $62^\circ$  from the positional parameters given by Alver & Furberg (1959). This disagreement is not surprising in view of the differing ribose conformations in the two compounds.

Rich *et al.* (1961) have recently proposed a structure for fibers of polyadenylic acid and have published details of the bond lengths and angles assumed in their model. We have compared these with the parameters of adenosine-5'-phosphate and observe generally good agreement. The largest and possibly



significant discrepancies are found for the bond lengths C8–O12 (+0.07 Å), N14–C15 (–0.07 Å) and C22–C17 (–0.06 Å), and for the angles C6–C7–C8 (–7°), C9–C10–N14 (–7°) and P1–O5–C6 (+6°).

### Hydrogen bonds

Presumed hydrogen bonds are shown by dashed lines in Figs. 1 and 2. Where the location of the hydrogen atom within a hydrogen bond is not clear in the difference-Fourier maps, the dashed line is simply drawn between two hydrogen bonded atoms and the hydrogen atom is omitted. In Fig. 1 the hydrogen bonds are not shown between atoms O4 and O3''' in the molecule below, or between O3 and O4' in the molecule above, since they lie almost perpendicular to the plane of projection. They are shown, however, in Fig. 2.

The hydrogen-bond distribution about the phosphate group presents some interesting features which were touched upon in the above discussion. Atom O2 is the acceptor of two hydrogen bonds which are in an approximately planar trigonal arrangement with its covalent bond to atom P1. This implies a large degree of double-bond character in the P1–O2 bond, in agreement with the observation that its length of 1.514 Å is much less than the expected P–O single-bond length of 1.73 Å (Pauling, 1960). A similar planar trigonal arrangement about the oxygen atom was found for the two short P–O bonds in 2-amino-ethanol phosphate (Kraut, 1961). About atom O3, on the other hand, which acts as hydrogen bond acceptor toward atoms O4', O24' and N23', we find a roughly tetrahedral arrangement of bonds; yet the bond length P1–O3 is only 1.495 Å. A similar arrangement is seen about O<sub>III</sub> in calcium thymidylate. If it is assumed that hydrogen bonds tend to lie in the direction of orbitals on the acceptor atom containing unshared electron pairs, one must conclude that there is something rather unusual about the hybridization of orbitals around an oxygen atom in a P–O bond.

It is noteworthy that several hydrogen bonds of the structure are appreciably non-linear. In particular H32 is 27° away from the line joining N21 with O2''. In spite of this the short H32–O2'' contact of 1.8 Å as well as the geometrical reasonableness of the entire arrangement leaves little doubt as to the reality of this non-linear hydrogen bond. Hamilton (1961) has recently emphasized that the assumption of strict linearity in hydrogen bonds may not always be justified.

Hydrogen bonding at the water molecule represents something of a problem since we have failed to locate either of its hydrogen atoms. Evidently one of them must be pointing in the direction of atom O3'', but there is no other atom sufficiently close to the water oxygen, O24, to provide a second obvious hydrogen bond acceptor. The closest non-bonded atom is N16 in the adjacent unit cell, at a distance of 3.11 Å.

### Thermal parameters

The magnitudes and direction cosines of the principal axes of the ellipsoids of thermal vibration are given in Table 10 for those atoms which are significantly anisotropic. The quantities  $C_{ia}$ ,  $C_{ib}$  and  $C_{ic}$  are cosines of the angles between the  $i$ th principal axis and the  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  axes of the unit cell. The  $B_i$  are given in Å<sup>2</sup>. The criterion for significant anisotropy was arbitrarily chosen to be that at least one of the  $\beta_{ij}$  for the atom

Table 10. Magnitudes and direction cosines of the principal axes of thermal vibration ellipsoids

	Axis $i$	$B_i$	$C_{ia}$	$C_{ib}$	$C_{ic}$
P1	1	2.03	–0.247	–0.867	0.442
	2	1.39	0.832	–0.418	–0.398
	3	1.04	0.496	0.270	0.804
O2	1	3.47	0.030	–0.521	0.851
	2	2.76	0.999	–0.020	–0.089
	3	1.39	0.042	0.854	0.517
O3	1	4.49	–0.486	–0.870	0.109
	2	2.15	0.650	–0.428	–0.654
	3	1.45	0.584	–0.247	0.748
O4	1	6.04	0.473	–0.872	0.107
	2	2.75	0.513	0.156	–0.865
	3	1.53	0.716	0.464	0.490
O5	1	3.91	–0.721	–0.251	0.676
	2	1.66	–0.692	0.311	–0.622
	3	0.95	0.037	0.917	0.396
C6	1	3.86	–0.814	0.125	0.601
	2	2.07	0.059	0.989	–0.136
	3	1.32	0.578	0.075	0.788
C9	1	3.32	–0.146	–0.826	0.551
	2	1.56	0.567	–0.521	–0.661
	3	0.91	0.811	0.216	0.510
O11	1	2.87	0.721	–0.583	0.345
	2	2.06	0.444	–0.028	–0.914
	3	1.36	0.533	0.812	0.216
O12	1	3.84	–0.584	0.770	0.281
	2	1.89	0.713	0.638	–0.321
	3	1.58	0.388	–0.012	0.905
O13	1	3.55	–0.439	–0.652	0.635
	2	3.16	0.108	–0.721	–0.689
	3	0.89	0.892	–0.234	0.350
N14	1	2.30	0.033	–0.603	0.795
	2	1.44	0.948	–0.233	–0.256
	3	1.20	0.316	0.763	0.550
C15	1	3.53	–0.447	–0.090	0.908
	2	2.18	–0.264	0.964	–0.024
	3	1.44	0.855	0.251	0.418
N16	1	3.66	–0.425	–0.186	0.903
	2	1.73	–0.391	–0.845	–0.348
	3	1.04	0.817	–0.501	0.252
C20	1	3.99	–0.135	0.012	0.996
	2	1.91	–0.892	–0.438	–0.078
	3	1.08	0.432	–0.899	0.051
N23	1	4.12	–0.334	–0.716	0.627
	2	2.07	0.703	–0.622	–0.373
	3	1.51	0.628	0.316	0.684
O24	1	7.78	–0.724	–0.077	0.715
	2	4.88	–0.417	0.840	–0.329
	3	1.75	0.549	0.537	0.617

in question should differ by more than  $2\sigma$  (see Table 2) from the value it would have if the atom were actually vibrating isotropically with  $B$  equal to the mean principal axis  $B_i$ . For those atoms which do not meet this requirement only the mean of the principal axis  $B_i$  is given in Table 11.

Table 11. Mean thermal parameters for atoms which are not significantly anisotropic

Atom	$B$	Atom	$B$
C7	1.6 Å <sup>2</sup>	C18	1.8 Å <sup>2</sup>
C8	1.4	N19	2.2
C10	1.8	N21	2.1
C17	1.6	C22	2.0

It should be emphasized that the physical significance of anisotropic thermal parameters obtained by least-squares refinement must be interpreted with care. For example if the  $\beta_{ij}$  of atom C10 are reduced to principal axes one obtains  $B_i$  values of 2.57, 1.82 and 1.03 Å<sup>2</sup>. Seemingly C10 is undergoing highly anisotropic thermal vibration. But compare the observed  $\beta_{ij}$  with those equivalent to strictly isotropic vibration with a  $B$  value of 1.8 Å<sup>2</sup>:  $\beta_{ij}$ =28, 32, 189, 0, 3 and 0 (in the same order as in Table 2). The largest difference is in  $\beta_{23}$ , and this amounts to only twice the estimated standard deviation of the parameter. Other differences are still less significant. It must be concluded therefore that in spite of the apparently appreciable spread in the  $B_i$  of atom C10 obtained from least-squares refinement, the thermal motion of this atom cannot be said to show significant anisotropy.

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