

The Crystal Structure of KI.Hg(CN)₂*

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Crystals of KI.Hg(CN)₂ are orthorhombic:

$$a_0 = 4.412, b_0 = 16.190, c_0 = 9.690 \text{ \AA} \text{ (all } \pm 0.004 \text{ \AA)}, Z = 4.$$

Of the possible space groups, *Cmc*₂, *C2cm* and *Cmcm*, the centric group *Cmcm* was selected. The crystal structure was refined to $R = 0.097$ using Mo $K\alpha$ radiation with counter data out to 2θ of 50° .

Linear Hg(CN)₂ groups are incorporated normal to sheets consisting of iodine atoms weakly bound to the central mercury atom. The sheets are puckered at a 140° dihedral angle about the strings of iodines parallel to a_0 . Each mercury atom is coordinated to four iodine atoms and conversely each iodine atom is surrounded by four mercury atoms. Hg-I bond lengths are 3.383 Å, lying between the 2.75 Å predicted for covalent single bond radii and the 3.70 Å from van der Waals contact radii. The Hg-C distance of 2.079 Å is near the 1.986 Å measured in Hg(CN)₂ but is shorter than 2.20 Å predicted for single bond covalent radii. Adjacent sheets are held together by the K⁺ ions.

Introduction

In the system Hg(CN)₂.KI.H₂O or HgI₂.KCN.H₂O the only complex solid phase obtained is KI.Hg(CN)₂ (Aggarwal & Mehrota, 1958). Infra-red absorption spectra of the solid phase, KI.Hg(CN)₂, and of aqueous solutions of this and related mercuric cyanide complexes have been obtained at this laboratory (Penneman & Jones, 1961). The crystal structure analysis of KI.Hg(CN)₂ is the first of a series of investigations of the crystal chemistry of complex cyanides and halides.

Experimental

Potassium iododicyanomercurate(II) was prepared by evaporating at room temperature an aqueous solution containing potassium iodide and mercuric cyanide in the molar ratio 1:1. KI.Hg(CN)₂ formed from solution as colorless lath-shaped crystals. Recrystallized material kept in a closed container remains stable for long periods of time. However, KI.Hg(CN)₂ decomposed on exposure to X-rays in a photochemical process which apparently occurred over a period of four to six weeks rendering the crystals metallic black in color. It was also noticed that some samples, when left in an open dish in laboratory atmosphere, developed a crust of red HgI₂ crystals. Thermogravimetric analysis of pure, fresh KI.Hg(CN)₂ showed no composition change in the sample until the melting point was approached.

X-ray diffraction data and optical properties are given in Table 1. Partial X-ray powder diffraction

Table 1. KI.Hg(CN)₂ crystallographic data

X-Ray diffraction data

Diffraction symmetry: Includes space groups *Cmc*₂(*C*_{2h}¹²), *C2cm*(*C*_{2v}¹⁶), *Cmcm*(*D*_{2h}¹⁴). Studies suggest *Cmcm* to be the correct space group assignment.

Cell dimensions: $a_0 = 4.412$; $b_0 = 16.190$; $c_0 = 9.690$ Å.
(λ Cu $K\alpha = 1.5418$ Å).

$a_0:b_0:c_0 = 0.273:1:0.599$; cell volume = 692.2 Å³.

Formula weights per cell: 4.

Formula weight: 422.4.

Density: 3.9₄ g.cm.⁻³ (X-ray); 4.0₄ g.cm.⁻³ (pycnometric).

Optical properties

Biaxial negative.

Refractive indices (5893 Å):

$$n_x = 1.718 \pm 0.005, n_y = 1.84 \pm 0.01, n_z = 1.88 \pm 0.01;$$

geometric mean 1.81. Molecular refractivity 45.9 cm.⁻³.

Optic orientation: $X = b, Y = a, Z = c$.

Optical axial angle: $2V = 60^\circ \pm 2^\circ$, dispersion moderate $r > v$. Colorless.

data are given in Table 2. The long lath-shaped crystals will give preferred orientation effects unless the sample is very thoroughly ground.

The lath-like crystals could be easily cleaved and the chunky pieces were shaped to ellipsoids in a Bond sphere grinder. Specimens used for the collection of intensity data were ellipsoids with no axial ratio greater than two. An ellipsoid was prepared and the data were collected over a short period of time (four days) using Mo $K\alpha$ radiation and a proportional counter on the G. E. goniostat. Four monitor spots were used throughout the run to insure that no decomposition had occurred. Intensities for a total of 380 unique reflections were obtained by averaging equivalent reflections from a total of 775 measured and of the 380 examined, 306 were above background.

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Table 2. KI.Hg(CN)₂. *Partial powder diffraction data*

<i>hkl</i>	<i>I</i>		<i>d</i> _o	<i>d</i> _c	sin ² <i>θ</i> _c
	obs.	calc.			
020	95	100	8.071	8.095	0.0091
021	25	9	6.166	6.212	0.0154
002	4	2	4.841	4.845	0.0253
110	40	10	4.251	4.257	0.0328
022	50	13	4.145	4.157	0.0344
040	70	22	4.034	4.048	0.0363
111	—	1	—	3.897	0.0391
041	45	10	3.724	3.735	0.0426
130	4	2	3.412	3.416	0.0509
131	} 100	{ 17	—	3.221	0.0573
112			{ 88	3.196	3.198
042	15	4	3.098	3.106	0.0616
023	20	5	2.995	3.000	0.0660
132	80	34	2.787	2.791	0.0763
060	10	2	2.692	2.698	0.0816
150	50	11	2.605	2.610	0.0872
061	—	4	—	2.599	0.0880
113	—	1	—	2.573	0.0898
043	} 20	{ 2	2.517	2.525	0.0932
151				{ 3	2.521
004	35	11	2.418	2.422	0.1013
062	} 60	{ 13	2.352	2.357	0.1069
133				{ 6	2.347
024	45	11	2.319	2.321	0.1103
152	40	8	2.296	2.298	0.1125
200	35	10	2.204	2.206	0.1221

*I*_o: Relative peak intensities, from diffractometer measurements.

*I*_c: Final atomic parameters (Table 3), average overall temperature factor, *B* = 3.2, not absorption corrected.

*d*_o: Philips 114.6 mm. powder camera, Straumanis mounting λ(Cu Kα) = 1.5418 Å.

Prior to averaging the equivalent reflections, an empirical absorption correction was applied. For KI.Hg(CN)₂ the μ(Mo Kα) = 311 cm.⁻¹ and the average 0.04 mm. specimen diameter gave μ_r = 0.6. The absorption correction was made up of a spherical absorption effect modified for the ellipsoidal specimen shape by coefficients from an empirical curve obtained from measurements on the crystal itself. Though this constituted an improvement in the data, the non-spherical absorption effect proved to be the largest source of error in the refinement of the structure. Corrections for the usual Lorentz-polarization factors were applied to the unique reflections.

Structure determination

The systematic absences (*hkl*: *h* + *k* odd and *h0l*: (*h* odd) *l* odd) were characteristic of three space groups, *Cmc*2₁, *C2cm* and *Cmcm*. Throughout the experimental phase of this investigation there was no indication of non-centric symmetry. Also, since a Wilson plot indicated a centric space group, *Cmcm* was chosen as the most probable space group. An *Ok**l* Patterson projection revealed the *y* and *z* parameters of the Hg, I and K⁺ atoms. Then a full *hkl* Patterson function was computed for *x* sections at 0, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ and from it were deduced approximate *x*, *y*, *z* parameters for the three heavier atoms. Mercury was placed at

the origin and a few least-squares cycles were computed in order to obtain better *y* parameters for I and K⁺ as well as approximate scale and isotropic temperature factors. Following this, a full *F*_o(*hkl*) Fourier was computed using phases from the last least-squares cycle. The C and N peaks appeared near the Hg on a line nearly parallel to the *y* axis. Polarized infrared spectra from a single crystal confirmed this orientation of the cyanides.

Least-squares refinement with all five atoms and isotropic temperature factors essentially completed the refinement with an *R* factor of 0.120. Further least-squares runs were made using anisotropic thermal parameters and the additional variables helped bring the *R* factor to below 0.100, but with little change in position parameters of the atoms. Both an *F*_o Fourier and a Δ*F* Fourier were computed using the final parameters. No false or spurious peaks were observed.

All computational work was performed on an IBM 704 using codes prepared at Los Alamos by A. C. Larson, D. T. Cromer, and F. H. Kruse. Scattering factor values were generated within the computer using the exponential expression of Forsyth & Wells (1959). In the final stages of refinement, possible anomalous dispersion effects in mercury were examined by carrying out least-squares calculations using an *f*_{Hg} expression successively reduced by one electron increments. The resulting *R* factors and sums of residuals squared indicated no improvement in the structure and thus no anomalous dispersion effects from mercury.

Most least-squares calculations were made with unit weight for the *F*_o(*hkl*). When an experimentally determined standard deviation of *I*_o(*hkl*) was properly modified and applied to the least-squares calculation, no improvement in the structure was observed. It appears that the main limiting factor in this refinement was the X-ray absorption effect and possibly the chemical stability of the crystal.

Table 3. KI.Hg(CN)₂. *Final atomic parameters at R = 0.097*

	(0, 0, 0; $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0$) +
Hg (a)	0, 0, 0; 0, 0, $\frac{1}{2}$
I (c)	0, <i>y</i> , $\frac{1}{2}$; 0, \bar{y} , $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>y</i> = 0.4450 ± 0.0004
K ⁺ (c)	<i>y</i> = 0.7641 ± 0.0013
C (f)	0, <i>y</i> , <i>z</i> ; 0, \bar{y} , <i>z</i> ; 0, <i>y</i> , $\frac{1}{2} - z$; 0, \bar{y} , $\frac{1}{2} + z$ <i>y</i> = 0.1253 ± 0.0033 <i>z</i> = 0.0468 ± 0.0059
N (f)	<i>y</i> = 0.1854 ± 0.0030 <i>z</i> = 0.0863 ± 0.0068

The final parameters are given in Table 3. The observed and calculated structure factors are presented in Table 4.

Discussion of the structure

Pertinent bond lengths, contact distances and bond angles are recorded in Table 5. Diagrammatic pictures

Table 4. *Final observed and calculated structure factors for KI₂Hg(CN)₂*

The column headings are k , F_o and F_c .
If $F_o < 0$ it was unobserved and the minus sign should be interpreted as 'less than'

H	0 L=0	H=0 L=0	H=5 L=1	H=5 L=2	H=0 L=4	H=0 L=5	H=1 L=6	H=2 L=7	H=1 L=9
2	270 363	0 28 -0	5 35 -31	3 72 69	2 363 319	10 25 7	7 84 87	12 45 51	7 50 -43
4	297 349	2 111 101	H=0 L=2	H=0 L=3	4 321 284	12 51 -55	9 31 36	H=3 L=7	9 -30 0
6	177 177	0 130 90	0 39 -0	0 39 -0	6 124 107	14 -23 -17	11 51 55	1 -30 8	11 -30 23
8	138 130	6 162 165	2 218 182	2 203-161	8 125 119	16 30 -39	13 63 60	3 83 64	H=2 L=9
10	85 74	8 49 36	4 155 142	4 117 -96	10 45 46	H=1 L=5	15 84 89	5 48 57	0 -30 0
12	103 95	10 -16 19	6 311 339	6 150-141	12 83 79	1 26 -26	H=2 L=6	7 48 62	2 54 45
14	100 99	12 78 -82	8 263 282	8 30 -32	14 91 97	3 149-137	0 -26 2	9 -30 5	4 53 60
16	149 148	14 40 -35	10 279 295	10 -19 0	16 102 110	5 70 -68	2 66 80	H=4 L=7	6 61 72
18	122 111	16 51 -53	12 177 178	12 69 66	18 94 105	7 82 -83	4 74 83	0 -32 -0	8 -30 30
H=1 L=0	18 -23 -7	14 62 64	H=1 L=4	9 -23 3	6 142 154	2 -32 -33	H=3 L=9	4 -32 -41	1 -32 -9
1	166 154	H=1 L=1	16 80 86	16 66 60	1 83 82	11 23 20	8 145 159	H=0 L=8	3 -32 -53
3	106 94	1 31 -26	18 43 45	18 31 -3	3 134 126	13 70 72	10 147 161	0 260 230	H=0 L=10
5	283 285	3 199-194	H=1 L=2	H=1 L=3	5 198 197	15 53 58	12 102 112	2 205 184	0 -30 -4
7	286 280	5 95 -91	1 395 445	1 45 -39	7 232 228	H=2 L=5	14 76 79	4 184 165	2 -31 38
9	322 311	7 139-136	3 311 321	3 168 169	9 263 266	0 -25 -0	H=3 L=6	6 66 65	4 69 62
11	230 216	9 -16 9	5 208 197	5 126 125	11 157 171	2 53 55	1 127 160	8 49 46	6 111 112
13	167 159	11 -19 21	7 147 148	7 124 114	13 148 151	4 90 95	3 118 140	10 -26 22	8 99 106
15	90 90	13 73 69	9 61 58	9 21 12	15 63 71	6 99 106	5 58 72	12 49 55	H=1 L=10
17	76 80	15 58 57	11 88 93	11 -19 -24	17 56 58	H=2 L=4	9 -26 15	H=1 L=8	1 135 144
H=2 L=0	17 -23 24	13 71 64	13 57 -56	13 19 -26	0 284 311	12 36 -45	11 32 30	1 -28 27	3 113 124
0	438 441	H=2 L=1	15 129 133	15 28 -26	2 208 230	14 -23 -16	H=4 L=6	5 116 121	5 69 74
2	272 257	0 -21 -0	17 105 107	17 -23 -32	4 192 205	H=3 L=5	0 -31 -7	7 133 136	H=2 L=10
4	263 243	2 82 76	H=2 L=2	H=2 L=3	6 77 79	1 -28 -16	2 40 29	9 149 159	0 -32 -7
6	125 118	4 133 120	2 112 121	2 105-104	8 82 82	3 72 -83	4 -30 37	11 110 124	2 -32 27
8	105 92	6 128 120	4 103 104	4 71 -80	10 -23 31	5 42 -48	6 63 77	H=2 L=8	4 40 48
10	54 49	8 39 30	0 50 50	0 -21 -0	6 77 79	7 44 -53	H=0 L=7	13 91 101	6 72 89
12	69 70	10 -19 12	6 246 239	6 102-104	12 66 59	9 30 -0	0 -25 -0	0 165 182	H=0 L=11
14	82 77	12 66 -64	8 216 212	8 23 -26	14 67 75	11 -23 15	2 81 -72	2 121 145	0 -32 0
16	119 116	14 31 -30	10 228 224	10 -19 -1	16 85 88	13 56 48	4 102 -90	4 117 129	2 41 -37
H=3 L=0	16 43 -44	12 145 139	12 54 55	H=3 L=4	1 -26 36	H=4 L=5	6 85 -74	6 40 49	4 64 -54
1	58 59	H=3 L=1	14 104 102	14 58 51	3 44 62	0 -30 -0	8 -26 -17	10 -30 14	H=1 L=11
3	62 57	1 -23 -13	16 56 65	16 49 49	5 97 112	2 46 32	10 -23 -5	H=3 L=8	3 54 60
5	149 143	3 112-102	H=3 L=2	H=3 L=3	7 125 135	4 41 52	12 71 63	10 -30 14	1 -32 14
7	173 158	5 66 -61	1 214 229	1 -26 -6	9 164 162	6 59 58	14 51 53	H=1 L=9	3 54 60
9	204 184	7 87 -77	3 168 175	3 86 94	11 112 109	8 -26 20	H=1 L=7	3 60 37	7 61 87
11	145 130	9 -19 2	5 110 104	5 71 74	13 93 94	H=0 L=6	1 -26 10	5 54 75	H=0 L=9
13	107 100	11 28 16	7 79 75	7 75 70	0 131 148	0 48 6	3 108 97	7 61 87	2 75 55
15	55 54	13 54 47	9 26 26	11 -21 -16	H=4 L=4	0 164 162	5 82 83	2 121 145	4 82 71
H=4 L=0	15 37 38	13 44 48	13 35 -38	H=4 L=3	2 99 109	4 128 113	7 101 95	H=0 L=9	6 94 88
0	212 182	H=4 L=1	13 44 37	0 -28 -0	4 84 94	6 229 199	9 -23 6	0 56 0	8 46 37
2	142 120	0 -28 -0	15 85 83	2 52 -48	6 40 34	8 217 204	11 31 -15	2 75 55	10 -30 4
4	125 106	2 52 40	H=4 L=2	4 49 -48	8 31 31	10 199 202	13 -26 -30	4 82 71	H=1 L=9
6	48 45	4 70 59	0 -28 8	6 54 -54	10 31 8	12 140 141	H=2 L=7	6 94 88	8 46 37
8	36 36	6 72 62	2 32 43	4 46 44	H=0 L=5	14 101 101	0 -28 -0	8 46 37	10 -30 4
10	-23 14	8 -21 18	4 46 44	8 -23 -16	0 56 -0	16 45 46	2 48 -58	H=1 L=8	1 44 -10
12	32 29	10 -23 4	6 118 108	10 -23 -1	2 84 67	H=1 L=6	4 61 -73	H=1 L=9	3 82 -78
H=5 L=0	12 41 -34	8 116 105	H=5 L=3	H=5 L=4	4 154 124	3 267 261	6 58 -61	1 44 -10	5 62 -56
1	-25 11	H=5 L=1	10 125 111	1 -32 2	6 161 136	3 257 238	8 -26 -15	3 82 -78	
3	-25 17	1 -30 -7	H=5 L=2	H=5 L=4	8 58 43	5 112 121	10 43 -3		
5	65 51	3 52 -45	1 89 91	0 464 433					

Table 5. KI.Hg(CN)₂. Distances and angles

Bond lengths		Contact distances	
Hg-I	3.383 ± 0.011 Å	N-N	3.172 ± 0.142
Hg-C	2.079 ± 0.096	N-N	3.470 ± 0.142
C-N	1.046 ± 0.139	I-C	3.814 ± 0.097
		I-I	4.412 ± 0.010
K ⁺ coordination			
K ⁺ -N	3.001 ± 0.107		
K ⁺ -N	3.360 ± 0.107		
K ⁺ -I	3.706 ± 0.039		
Angles			
I-I-I dihedral angle		139.0 ± 1.5°	
I-Hg-I (in rectangular plane)	{	81.4 ± 1.5	
		98.6 ± 1.5	
C-Hg-N (versus 180° expected)		176.5 ± 2.5	
Hg-C-N (versus 180° expected)		171.0 ± 8.0	
C-Hg-I (versus 90° expected)	{	85.0 ± 2.5	
		95.0 ± 2.5	

of the structure are presented in Figs. 1 and 2. This structure can be described as consisting of corrugated sheets of I atoms loosely held together by coordination with the mercury atoms of the Hg(CN)₂ groups. The Hg(CN)₂ portion of the structure is nearly linear and is normal to the plane of I atoms coordinated

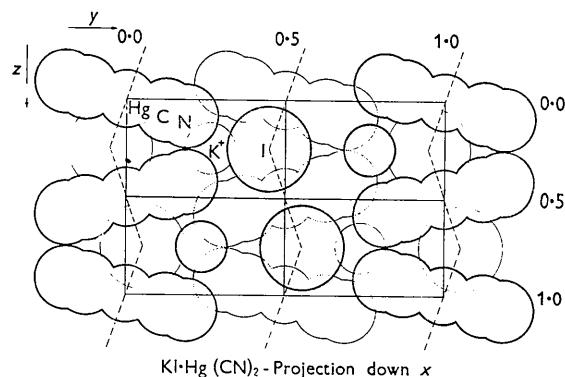


Fig. 1. Structure of KI.Hg(CN)₂ viewed down X axis. Dashed lines trace corrugated sheets of iodine atoms.

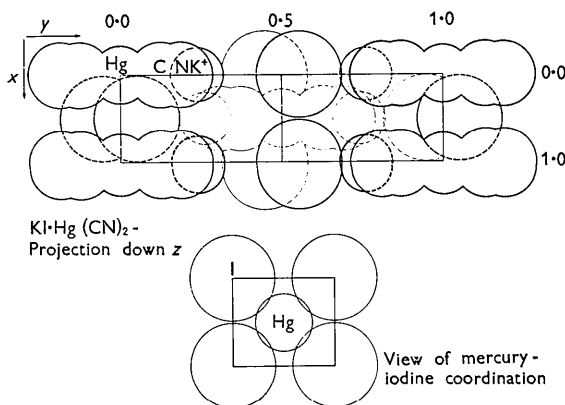


Fig. 2. Structure of KI.Hg(CN)₂ viewed down Z axis. In the view of Hg-I coordination X is vertical and Z is the projected horizontal axis.

to it. The 139° dihedral angle in the folds of the sheets comes about from the K⁺ ion's influence in binding the sheets together. Notice in Fig. 1 that the K⁺ ion lies between two N atoms in the same yz plane and this K⁺ ion is near the I atoms above and below it. Also, there are at about 3.2 Å two N atoms above and two below the K⁺ ion. The projection down z (Fig. 2) shows the N atoms above and below the K⁺ ion, actually closer than the two in the yz plane of the K⁺ ion. Thus, the K⁺ ion can be said to exist in an 8-fold coordination with 6 N atoms and 2 I atoms.

In the lower portion of Fig. 2 is a view down the Hg(CN)₂ axis normal to the rectangular (nearly square) plane of four I atoms nearest the Hg atom. The Hg-I bond length of 3.38 Å lies between the tetrahedral covalent Hg-I single bond length of 2.75 Å and van der Waals contact distance of 3.70 Å. This kind of weak 'equatorial' bonding to mercury has been observed before, as described in review by Wells (1962). Closer approach of iodine to mercury is also prevented by contact between the cyanide carbon and iodine.

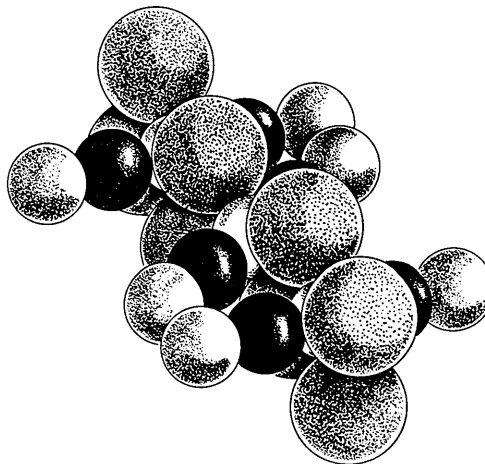


Fig. 3. Sketch of the Hg(CN)₂I⁻ portion of the KI.Hg(CN)₂ structure. Large spheres represent iodine atoms; N-C-Hg-C-N groups are apparent.

In KI.Hg(CN)₂ the Hg-C bond is 2.079 ± 0.096 Å while in Hg(CN)₂ Hvoslef (1958) reports 1.986 ± 0.016 Å and summation of single covalent bond lengths predicts 2.25 Å. Our X-ray diffraction data do not allow resolution of the light atoms as well as in Hvoslef's neutron diffraction experiment. Thus, we found C≡N = 1.046 ± 0.139 Å while Hvoslef obtained 1.186 ± 0.024 Å.

Though the carbon and nitrogen were not located with great precision, the bond angles in the Hg(CN)₂ group deviate only slightly from an ideal 180°. In the structure analysis of crystalline Hg(CN)₂ Hvoslef (1958) found bond angles which were less than 180° by a number of standard deviations (C-Hg-C = 171 ± 2°, Hg-C-N = 173 ± 2°). Interactions between mercury and nitrogen in Hg(CN)₂ account for some

Table 6. KI.Hg(CN)₂. *Thermal parameters*1. Anisotropic thermal parameters, $\times 10^4$ ($\pm 5\%$)

	B_{11}	B_{22}	B_{33}	B_{23}
Hg	491	22	70	-14
I	329	33	38	—
K ⁺	452	29	104	—
C	510	19	58	54
N	812	13	153	-40

2. Magnitudes and direction cosines of the principal axes of the vibration ellipsoids

	Axis	R.m.s.	B_i	C_{ia}	C_{ib}	C_{ic}
		amplitude				
Hg	1	0.22	3.82	1.00	0.0	0.0
	2	0.16	2.01	0.0	0.82	0.58
	3	0.19	2.96	0.0	-0.58	0.82
I	1	0.18	2.56	1.00	0.0	0.0
	2	0.21	3.43	0.0	1.00	0.0
	3	0.13	1.41	0.0	0.0	1.00
K ⁺	1	0.21	3.52	1.00	0.0	0.0
	2	0.20	3.09	0.0	1.00	0.0
	3	0.22	3.91	0.0	0.0	1.00
C	1	0.22	3.97	1.00	0.0	0.0
	2	0.07	0.41	0.0	0.72	-0.69
	3	0.22	3.78	0.0	0.69	0.72
N	1	0.28	6.32	1.00	0.0	0.0
	2	0.11	1.01	0.0	0.97	0.25
	3	0.28	6.08	0.0	-0.25	0.97

of the non-linearity while in KI.Hg(CN)₂ the iodine atoms prevent this kind of interaction. Infrared studies of the crystals indicate that the Hg(CN)₂ group is linear or nearly linear, ruling out pronounced departure from 180°. Obviously, more precise carbon and nitrogen parameters are needed to resolve this problem conclusively.

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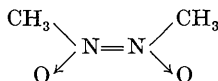
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Structure du Di-Nitrosométhane Cis

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(Reçu le 21 mai 1962)

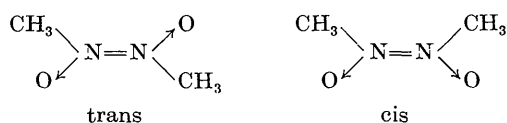


crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group $P2_12_12_1$.

The unit-cell dimensions are: $a = 6.03$, $b = 12.81$, $c = 5.41$ Å; $Z = 4$. The crystal structure was solved by the interpretation of the three-dimensional Patterson function and refined by Fourier and least-squares methods down to a final R value of 0.156 for the 538 observed reflections. The molecule is planar within the experimental errors. The bond lengths and angles are: C-N = 1.47 ± 0.03 ; N-N = 1.31 ± 0.02 ; N-O = 1.31 ± 0.02 Å; C-N-O = 120.0 ± 1.5 ; C-N-N = 121.5 ± 1.5 ; O-N-N = $119.0 \pm 1.5^\circ$.

Introduction

Gowenlock & Trotman (1955) ont mis en évidence l'existence de deux isomères géométriques dans le di-nitrosométhane (CH₃NO)₂:



La structure de l'isomère trans a déjà été déterminée par diffraction des R.X. (Van Meerssche & Germain, 1959). La structure électronique de ce composé a été également étudiée par la méthode des orbitales moléculaires (Van Meerssche & Leroy, 1960). La détermination de la structure de l'isomère cis fait l'objet du présent travail.

Partie expérimentale

Le monomère CH₃NO se forme lors de l'irradiation du nitrite de butyle tertiaire par les rayons U.V. (Coe & Doumani, 1948):

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