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The Crystal Structures of Two Oxy-Acids of Iodine. II. An X-ray Diffraction Study of Anhydro-iodic Acid, HI₃O₈

BY Y. D. FEIKEMA* AND AAFJE VOS

Laboratorium voor Structuurchemie der Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Bloemsingel 10, The Netherlands

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Anhydro-iodic acid, HI₃O₈, crystallizes in the monoclinic system, space group $P2_1/n$. The cell dimensions are $a=7.55 \pm 0.01$, $b=7.68 \pm 0.01$, $c=11.40 \pm 0.015$ Å, $\beta=90.1 \pm 0.1^\circ$. There are four units of HI₃O₈ per cell.

Refinement has been carried out by the method of least squares with allowance for anisotropic vibration for the iodine atoms. R decreased to 0.056 for 2412 independent hkl reflexions obtained by X-ray diffraction. The structure consists of units HIO₃ and I₂O₅ which show a strong intermolecular interaction. Many intermolecular I...O distances are as short as 2.6 Å; the thermal motion of the atoms is small. The I₂O₅ group with structure O₂I-O*-IO₂ has four 'double' bonds of 1.79 Å and two single bonds (I-O*) of 1.96 Å, e.s.d. 0.013 Å. The length of the two 'double' bonds in the HO'-IO₂ group is 1.80 Å, the distance I-O' is 1.90 Å. Indirect evidence for the position of the hydrogen atom was obtained.

Introduction

It has been concluded from infrared spectra of HI₃O₈ and I₂O₅ that HI₃O₈ is an addition compound of I₂O₅ and HIO₃ (Dupuis & Lecomte, 1961), and that solid I₂O₅ consists of molecules O₂I-O-IO₂ (Duval & Lecomte, 1960). It was thought to be worth while to verify these conclusions and to determine bond lengths and valence angles in the I₂O₅ and HIO₃ groups by X-ray analysis. The configuration of the HIO₃ molecules in solid α -iodic acid has been determined by neutron diffraction (Garrett, 1954).

Experimental

Anhydro-iodic acid was obtained by dehydration of iodic acid at 110°C (Brauer, 1960, p. 281) and by oxida-

tion of iodine with fuming nitric acid (Moles & Parts, 1935). The acid was purified by recrystallizing it from a 55% solution of nitric acid in water. The composition HI₃O₈ was checked by chemical analysis. Crystals with diameters ≤ 0.2 mm perpendicular to the axis of rotation were used during the X-ray work.

The crystallographic data are listed in Table 1. The dimensions of the monoclinic unit cell were determined from a diffractogram of a flat powder specimen; powder lines of CaF₂ were used as a reference.

Table 1. *Crystallographic data*

Monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$
 $\lambda(\text{Cu } K\alpha) = 1.5418$ Å
 $a = 7.548 \pm 0.01$ Å
 $b = 7.680 \pm 0.01$
 $c = 11.402 \pm 0.015$
 $\beta = 90.1 \pm 0.1^\circ$
 Four units HI₃O₈ per cell
 $d(\text{calc}) = 5.04$, $d(\text{obs}) = 4.97$ g.cm⁻³.

* Present address: Koninklijke Nederlandsche Hoogovens en Staalfabrieken, N.V., Quality Department, Ymuiden, The Netherlands.

Morphological data of the crystals have been published by Garrido (1933). Garrido's axes a' , b' and c' can be obtained from our axes a , b and c by the transformation $\mathbf{a}' = -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{c}$, $\mathbf{b}' = \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{c}' = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{c}$. The axial ratio $a':b':c' = 0.896:1:0.892$ and $\beta' = 113.6^\circ$ calculated from our cell dimensions may be compared with Garrido's values, $a':b':c' = 0.901:1:0.891$, $\beta' = 112.9$.

The intensities of the reflexions hkl with $k=0$ to 13 were measured on integrated equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs about the b axis. The photographs were taken with Zr-filtered Mo radiation, and the multiple film technique with Ilford Industrial G, B and C films was used. The intensities of different k layer lines were put on the same relative scale by recording side by side on one film small parts of integrated equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs of the different layer lines. The scaling factors were checked by comparing the values obtained for $|F(0kl)|^2$ and $|F(hk0)|^2$ from the different k levels with those obtained from integrated Weissenberg photographs of the zero layer-lines about the a and c axis.

The intensities of more than 2500 independent reflexions were measured. They were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects and for absorption (absorption coefficient 141 cm^{-1}). The latter corrections were calculated on the Mercury computer at Kjeller (Norway). Use was made of Holte's absorption correction program devised for zero-layer line reflexions from crystals with a uniform cross section perpendicular to the rotation axis (Holte, 1961). For the reflexions $h0l$ the program could be used without modification. For the upper layer-line reflexions about the b axis the crystal measuring $0.2 \times 0.5 \times 0.2 \text{ mm}$ was assumed to be infinitely long; the increase in path length due to increasing values of the inclination angle μ was taken into account by multiplying the absorption coefficient by $\sec \mu$ (Bond, 1959). For the reflexions $0kl$ and $hk0$ which were obtained from crystals with non-uniform cross sections, Holte's program was modified so that the integration could be done for the whole volume of the crystal.

Determination of the structure

Approximate positions of the three independent iodine atoms could easily be determined from the Patterson syntheses of the three projections. The signs of nearly all reflexions were obtained from the contribution $F_{c,I}$ of the iodine atoms to the calculated structure factors. The positions of the eight independent oxygen atoms were obtained by trial and error, use being made of F_{o-} and $F_{o-F_{c,I}}$ syntheses of the $[010]$ and $[100]$ projections.

The interpretation of the Fourier maps was severely hampered by the presence of spurious maxima. In the F_o synthesis these maxima arise from series termination effects. Series termination also affected the first few difference maps where $F_{c,I}$ was based on too large a value for the thermal parameter B , 0.80 \AA^2 instead of the final value 0.55 \AA^2 ; moreover the initial values obtained for the scale factor by comparison of observed and calculated structure factors were incorrect because of the large errors in B and the strong extinction of some low-order reflexions.

When approximate positions for most of the oxygen atoms had been obtained, the parameters of the iodine atoms could be refined by isotropic least-squares analysis with fixed oxygen positions. The final difference maps in Fig. 1 clearly show the positions of the oxygen atoms. Final R values for the observed reflexions are 0.078 for $h0l$, 0.086 for $0kl$ and 0.099 for $hk0$.

For the three-dimensional refinement 2412 independent reflexions with accurately measured intensities were available. The least-squares analysis started with some isotropic cycles on the electronic computer Zebra (Schoone, 1961). Refinement proceeded by five cycles on the Pegasus computer at Leeds. Cruickshank's program (Cruickshank & Pilling, 1961) was used with anisotropic thermal parameters for iodine and isotropic parameters for oxygen. The weighting scheme was $w = \text{constant}/|F_o|$; $\langle w(F_o - F_c)^2 \rangle$ appeared to be reasonably constant for different values of $\sin \theta/\lambda$ and $|F|$. The scattering factors used were those recommended in *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962). The residual R decreased to 0.056. The final parameters are listed in Tables 2 and 3; in Table 4 the calculated and observed structure factors are compared.

The thermal motion of the atoms is exceedingly low; average values are $B(\text{I}) = 0.55 \text{ \AA}^2$ and $B(\text{O}) = 1.09 \text{ \AA}^2$.

Accuracy

The standard deviations as estimated from the least-squares residuals are listed in Table 5; inaccuracies in

Table 2. Final coordinates and thermal parameters for the oxygen atoms

| Atom | x | y | z | $B(\text{\AA}^2)$ |
|------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| I(1) | 0.2415 | 0.2274 | 0.0953 | |
| I(2) | 0.3376 | 0.7362 | 0.1035 | |
| I(3) | 0.7558 | 0.0473 | 0.1915 | |
| O(1) | 0.4585 | 0.3023 | 0.0532 | 1.25 |
| O(2) | 0.1291 | 0.4303 | 0.0872 | 0.92 |
| O(3) | 0.1737 | 0.8232 | 0.0076 | 1.20 |
| O(4) | 0.4406 | 0.9404 | 0.1375 | 1.11 |
| O(5) | 0.1822 | 0.7453 | 0.2397 | 0.88 |
| O(6) | 0.7870 | 0.4550 | 0.1566 | 1.24 |
| O(7) | 0.8031 | 0.8411 | 0.1246 | 1.19 |
| O(8) | 0.9797 | 0.1147 | 0.2253 | 0.87 |

Table 3. Thermal parameters U_{ij} (\AA^2) for the iodine atoms

| Atom | U_{11} | U_{22} | U_{33} | U_{12} | U_{23} | U_{13} |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| I(1) | 0.0070 | 0.0075 | 0.0067 | -0.0013 | 0.0004 | 0.0034 |
| I(2) | 0.0082 | 0.0057 | 0.0064 | -0.0007 | 0.0007 | 0.0016 |
| I(3) | 0.0061 | 0.0074 | 0.0081 | -0.0022 | -0.0007 | 0.0014 |

Description of the structure

The HIO₃ and I₂O₅ groups

The present investigation confirms that HI₃O₈ is an addition compound of HIO₃ and I₂O₅. In Fig. 2, which shows the structure in [100] projection, the units HIO₃ and I₂O₅ are easily recognized. The bond lengths and valence angles are shown in Fig. 3 and Table 6 respectively.

Table 6. Valence angles

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------------|--------|
| O(5)–I(1)–O(2) | 97.3° | I(1)–O(5)–I(2) | 125.8° |
| O(5)–I(1)–O(1) | 88.1 | O(6)–I(3)–O(7) | 95.4 |
| O(2)–I(1)–O(1) | 98.1 | O(6)–I(3)–O(8) | 94.2 |
| O(5)–I(2)–O(3) | 93.3 | O(7)–I(3)–O(8) | 99.0 |
| O(5)–I(2)–O(4) | 93.3 | I(1)–O(2)···O(6) | 120.1 |
| O(3)–I(2)–O(4) | 96.0 | I(3)–O(6)···O(2) | 117.1 |

tively. In agreement with the infrared work by Duval & Lecomte (1960) the units I₂O₅ consist of two IO₃ pyramids which have one oxygen atom in common: O₂I–O–IO₂. The relative orientation of the pyramids is such that the oxygen atoms O(1), O(2), O(3) and O(4) are at the same side of the plane through I(1), O(5) and I(2). Inspection of Fig. 2 shows that the distance to this plane is much smaller for O(1) and O(3) than for O(2) and O(4). This implies that the group I₂O₅ in HI₃O₈ does not have the symmetry C_{2v} deduced from the infrared spectrum of solid I₂O₅ by Duval & Lecomte (1960). In HI₃O₈ the orientation of the pyramids as well as the values of the angles at iodine may be affected by the strong intermolecular interaction to be described in the next section. The angles O–I–O(5) which are expected to be equal in a free I₂O₅ group, are 97.3 and 88.1° respectively at I(1), whereas at I(2) equal values of 93.3° have been observed.

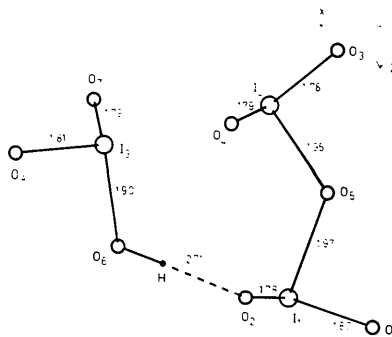
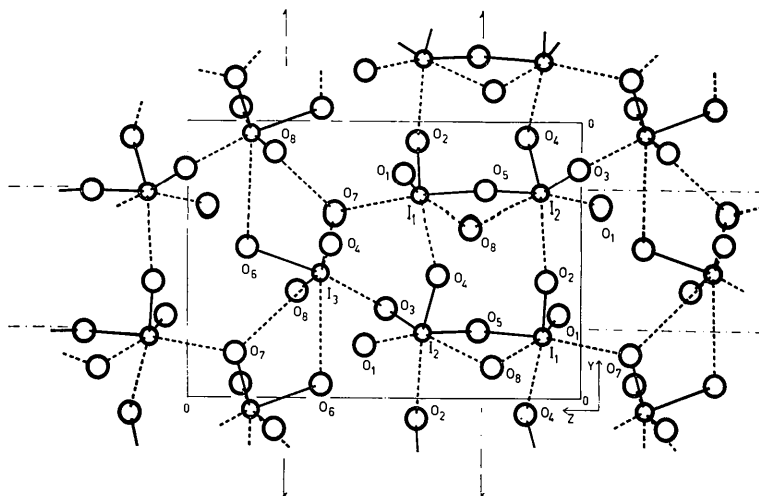
The large value of the angle I(1)–O(5)–I(2) may be due to repulsion of the iodine atoms, the distance I(1)···I(2) being only 3.49 Å, *i.e.* 0.75 Å shorter than the van der Waals distance.

The bond lengths and angles will be discussed further in the next section.

The three-dimensional network

Most of the I···O distances indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2 are approximately 2.6 Å, *i.e.* about 1 Å shorter than the sum of the van der Waals radii, 3.55 Å. Just as in the alkali iodates the iodine atoms, I(1) and I(2), of the I₂O₅ groups are pseudo-octahedrally surrounded by six oxygen atoms at short distances. Opposite to three oxygen atoms of the I₂O₅ group each iodine atom has three oxygen atoms of neighbouring groups at larger distances. The distances and angles in the pseudo-octahedra are listed in Table 7. The coordination of the iodine atom I(3) of the HIO₃ group is somewhat different. Here one corner of the octahedron is shared by two oxygen atoms, O(6) and O(7), which are at a distance of approximately 3.15 Å from I(3).

Owing to the strong intermolecular interaction between neighbouring HIO₃ and I₂O₅ groups a firm three-dimensional network is formed. Fig. 2 shows the network in approximately half the unit cell in the *x* direction; the *x* coordinates of the iodine atoms shown are between 1.9 and 2.5 Å. The next layer of atoms is generated by the diagonal glide plane (for O(8) all equivalent positions in the unit cell are drawn). The strong three-dimensional network accounts for the small thermal motion of the atoms.

Fig. 3. Molecule of HI₃O₈ with bond lengths (Å).Fig. 2. The structure viewed along the *a* axis.

The arrangement of the IO_3 groups in HI_3O_8 shown in Fig. 4 may be compared with the arrangement of the HIO_3 molecules in α -iodic acid illustrated in Fig. 5. The lower parts of both figures show that all iodine atoms and two of the oxygen atoms of each IO_3 group are almost located in a plane perpendicular to this part of the figure. In HI_3O_8 the IO_3 groups are, however, at larger distances from each other in the y direction than in HIO_3 . The translation $\frac{1}{2}b$ along the screw axis is 3.84 \AA for HI_3O_8 and only 2.944 \AA for α -iodic acid.

Location of the hydrogen atom

Although no direct information on the position of the hydrogen atom is available, the bond lengths in

Fig. 3 indicate that the hydrogen atom is linked to O(6) of the HIO_3 group. To obtain further information on the position of this atom the distances of O(6) to the oxygen atoms of neighbouring molecules were calculated. As the observed value is shortest for $\text{O}(6) \cdots \text{O}(2)$ it is tentatively assumed that O(6) of the HIO_3 group is hydrogen bonded to O(2) of the I_2O_5 group (Fig. 3). The distance $\text{O}(6) \cdots \text{O}(2)$ is 2.71 \AA , the angles $\text{I}(3)-\text{O}(6) \cdots \text{O}(2)$ and $\text{O}(6) \cdots \text{O}(2)-\text{I}(1)$ are 117 and 120° respectively. The assumed hydrogen bond is shorter than the hydrogen bond $\text{O}(6)-\text{H} \cdots \text{O}(7)$ (2.99 \AA) which would be formed if the hydrogen atom were located between neighbouring HIO_3 molecules such as shown for α -iodic acid in Fig. 5 [hydrogen bond $\text{O}(2)-\text{H} \cdots \text{O}(1)$].

Table 7. Distances and angles in the coordination polyhedra

| | | Distances and angles at I(1) | | | |
|--------------------|--------|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| I(1)–O(1) | 1.80 Å | O(1)–I(1)–O(2) | 98.1° | O(5)–I(1) \cdots O(8) | 72.7° |
| I(1)–O(2) | 1.78 | O(1)–I(1)–O(5) | 88.1 | O(4) \cdots I(1) \cdots O(7) | 94.5 |
| I(1)–O(5) | 1.97 | O(2)–I(1)–O(5) | 97.3 | O(4) \cdots I(1) \cdots O(8) | 92.8 |
| I(1) \cdots O(4) | 2.71 | O(1)–I(1) \cdots O(4) | 78.6 | O(7) \cdots I(1) \cdots O(8) | 112.6 |
| I(1) \cdots O(7) | 2.58 | O(1)–I(1) \cdots O(7) | 85.6 | O(1)–I(1) \cdots O(7) | 160.6 |
| I(1) \cdots O(8) | 2.62 | O(2)–I(1) \cdots O(7) | 93.8 | O(2)–I(1) \cdots O(4) | 170.8 |
| | | O(2)–I(1) \cdots O(8) | 87.6 | O(5)–I(1) \cdots O(7) | 167.9 |
| | | O(5)–I(1) \cdots O(4) | 74.1 | | |
| | | Distances and angles at I(2) | | | |
| I(2)–O(3) | 1.78 Å | O(3)–I(2)–O(4) | 96.0° | O(5)–I(2) \cdots O(8) | 74.4° |
| I(2)–O(4) | 1.79 | O(3)–I(2)–O(5) | 93.3 | O(1) \cdots I(2) \cdots O(2) | 102.0 |
| I(2)–O(5) | 1.95 | O(4)–I(2)–O(5) | 93.3 | O(1) \cdots I(2) \cdots O(8) | 100.3 |
| I(2) \cdots O(1) | 2.38 | O(3)–I(2) \cdots O(1) | 92.0 | O(2) \cdots I(2) \cdots O(8) | 92.7 |
| I(2) \cdots O(2) | 2.83 | O(3)–I(2) \cdots O(2) | 83.4 | O(3)–I(2) \cdots O(8) | 167.6 |
| I(2) \cdots O(8) | 2.56 | O(4)–I(2) \cdots O(1) | 89.5 | O(4)–I(2) \cdots O(2) | 168.6 |
| | | O(4)–I(2) \cdots O(8) | 83.5 | O(5)–I(2) \cdots O(1) | 173.7 |
| | | O(5)–I(2) \cdots O(2) | 75.3 | | |
| | | Distances and angles at I(3) | | | |
| I(3)–O(6) | 1.90 Å | O(6)–I(3)–O(7) | 95.4° | O(3) \cdots I(3) \cdots O(4) | 96.1° |
| I(3)–O(7) | 1.79 | O(6)–I(3)–O(8) | 94.2 | O(3) \cdots I(3) \cdots O(6) | 58.9 |
| I(3)–O(8) | 1.81 | O(7)–I(3)–O(8) | 99.0 | O(3) \cdots I(3) \cdots O(7) | 110.4 |
| I(3) \cdots O(3) | 2.54 | O(6)–I(3) \cdots O(4) | 86.6 | O(4) \cdots I(3) \cdots O(6) | 110.6 |
| I(3) \cdots O(4) | 2.59 | O(6)–I(3) \cdots O(6) | 119.8 | O(4) \cdots I(3) \cdots O(7) | 104.9 |
| I(3) \cdots O(6) | 3.17 | O(6)–I(3) \cdots O(7) | 68.4 | O(6) \cdots I(3) \cdots O(7) | 51.5 |
| I(3) \cdots O(7) | 3.11 | O(7)–I(3) \cdots O(3) | 85.6 | O(6)–I(3) \cdots O(3) | 177.3 |
| | | O(7)–I(3) \cdots O(4) | 78.6 | O(7)–I(3) \cdots O(6) | 143.6 |
| | | O(8)–I(3) \cdots O(3) | 83.2 | O(7)–I(3) \cdots O(7) | 162.8 |
| | | O(8)–I(3) \cdots O(6) | 71.0 | O(8)–I(3) \cdots O(4) | 177.6 |
| | | O(8)–I(3) \cdots O(7) | 77.5 | | |

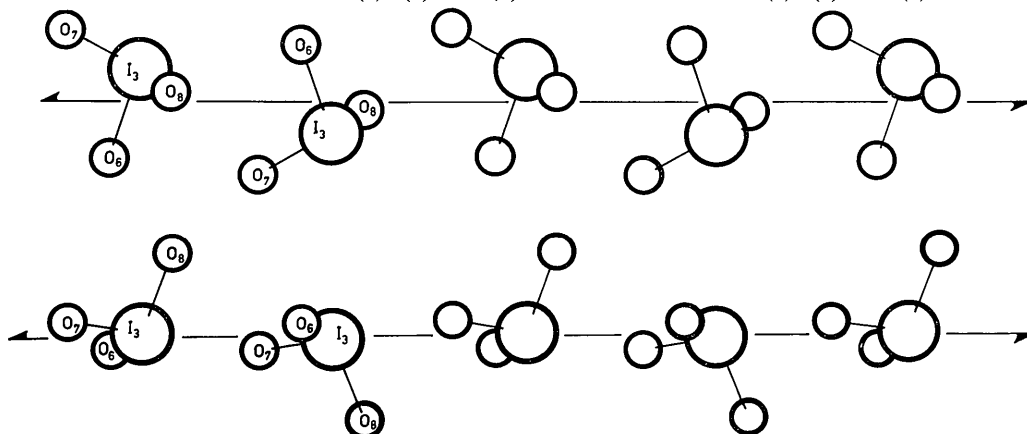
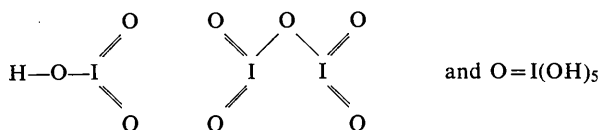


Fig. 4. Arrangement of the IO_3 groups in HI_3O_8 in $[100]$ projection (above) and in $[001]$ projection (below).

Discussion of the oxy-acids of iodine with known crystal structure

Comparison of the I-O bond lengths

The lengths of the I-O bonds in the oxy-acids of iodine are listed in Table 8. The short bonds in the last column of the table correspond to the double bonds in the structural formulae



for HIO_3 , I_2O_5 and H_5IO_6 respectively. It may be seen that the lengths of the 'double' bonds are equal within experimental error. The 'single' bonds in I_2O_5 are only slightly shorter than the value 1.98 Å estimated for the length of a single I-O bond from the sum of the covalent radii and the difference in electronegativity of oxygen and iodine (Pauling, 1960, p.229). Lengths which are approximately 0.1 Å shorter than the value 1.98 Å are found for the bonds I-OH.

Table 8. I-O bond lengths (Å) in the oxy-acids of iodine with known crystal structure

| Group | Compound | I-O 'single' | I-O 'in I-OH' | I-O 'double' |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| HIO_3 | $\alpha\text{-HIO}_3$ | | 1.90 | 1.80 |
| HIO_3 | HI_3O_8 | | 1.90 | 1.80 |
| I_2O_5 | HI_3O_8 | 1.96 | | 1.79 |
| H_5IO_6 | H_5IO_6 | | 1.89 | 1.78 |

The coordination of the iodine atoms

The configurations of the HIO_3 groups in HI_3O_8 and in α -iodic acid show small differences only. Table 8 has illustrated that the corresponding bond lengths are equal within experimental error. In both cases a

pyramidal configuration is observed with angles O-I-O of 94, 98 and 101° for α -iodic acid and 94, 95 and 99° for HIO_3 in HI_3O_8 .

In all oxy-iodic acids investigated the iodine atoms have a tendency to be surrounded by six oxygen atoms. In the iodine(VII) acid H_5IO_6 the six oxygen atoms are directly linked to the iodine atom and give a slightly irregular octahedron in which the angles O-I-O range from 87 to 95°. Apart from the iodine atom of the HIO_3 group in HI_3O_8 which is surrounded by seven oxygen atoms, the iodine atoms of the iodine(V) acids HI_3O_8 and $\alpha\text{-HIO}_3$ are pseudo-octahedrally coordinated to six oxygen atoms. Opposite to three short I-O distances, approximately 1.9 Å, three longer I-O distances, approximately 2.6 Å in HI_3O_8 , are observed. A similar pseudo-octahedral coordination has also been found in several iodates (NaIO_3 , MacGillavry & Panthaleon van Eck, 1943; $\text{Ce}(\text{IO}_3)_4$, Cromer & Larson, 1956; $\text{Ce}(\text{IO}_3)_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, Ibers, 1956; Ibers & Cromer, 1958). LiIO_3 , for which six equal I-O distances are reported (Zachariasen & Basta, 1931) has been investigated rather early, and an attempt will be made to determine its crystal structure more accurately. Table 7 shows that in HI_3O_8 the O-I-O angles in the pseudo-octahedra around I(1) and I(2) show quite large deviations from 90 and 180°, the values range from 74 to 113° and from 160 to 174° respectively.

Description of the bonds

In the previous paper (Feikema, 1966) a covalent description of the bonds in H_5IO_6 has been given: $(\text{HO})_5\text{I}=\text{O}$. In an analogous way the bonds in the iodine(V) oxy-compounds, e.g. HIO_3 , may be described as covalent. In HIO_3 five outer p electrons of iodine are available for the formation of one single bond with OH and two coordinate bonds with the remaining oxygen atoms so as to form $\text{HO}-\text{I}^2+(\text{O}^-)_2$. The pyramidal configuration at the iodine atom is easily

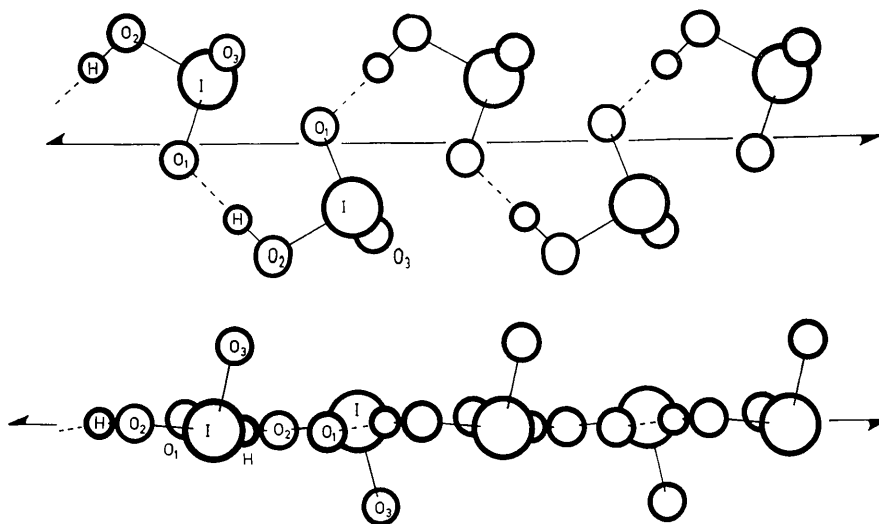
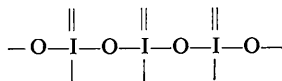


Fig. 5. Arrangement of the molecules of HIO_3 in α -iodic acid (Garrett, 1954). The upper and lower parts represent views differing by 90°. The figure is on the same scale as Fig. 4.

explained from the location of the three iodine orbitals used for the bonding: $5p$, possibly mixed with some $5s$. Just as in H_5IO_6 the short lengths of the coordinate bonds indicate, however, a substantial amount of π -bonding due to partial occupation of the iodine $5d$ orbitals by lone pairs of the O^- ions. HIO_3 and I_2O_5 are therefore represented best by the formulae with the double bonds shown before. It should be noted that corresponding bonds in HI_3O_8 and in H_5IO_6 (Table 8) have equal lengths, although different orbitals are assumed to be used for the σ bonds in the iodine(V) and iodine(VII) compounds.

In addition to the covalent character mentioned above, the I-O bonds will have some ionic character, the electronegativities of oxygen and iodine being 3.5 and 2.5 respectively (Pauling, 1960, p.90). The short intermolecular $I \cdots O$ distances have not been explained yet. Contributions of covalent structures like



may play a part, in addition to dipole interaction, polarization effects and London dispersion forces.

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The Crystal Structure of Methylcyanarsine

BY E. O. SCHLEMPER AND DOYLE BRITTON

Department of Chemistry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, U.S.A.

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Methylcyanarsine, $CH_3As(CN)_2$, is monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$, $a=6.28$, $b=8.19$, $c=11.73$ Å, $\beta=121.9^\circ$, with four molecules in the unit cell. The molecules have approximate C_m symmetry with angles: As-C(1)-N(1) 177° , As-C(2)-N(2) 173° , C(1)-As-C(2) 89.4° , C(2)-As-C(3) 93.5° , C(3)-As-C(1) 98.3° , and bond lengths: As-C(1) 1.97 , As-C(2) 1.99 , As-C(3) 2.00 , C(1)-N(1) 1.09 , C(2)-N(2) 1.15 Å. An intermolecular interaction is apparent in a 2.94 Å As-N distance, which is considerably below the expected van der Waals distance of 3.5 Å. This distance is intermediate between the corresponding short distances observed in $As(CN)_3$, 2.74 Å and $(CH_3)_2AsCN$, 3.18 Å. A further refinement of the structure of $As(CN)_3$ (Emerson & Britton, 1963) is also reported.

In both cadodil cyanide, $(CH_3)_2AsCN$ (Camerman & Trotter, 1963), and arsenic tricyanide, $As(CN)_3$, (Emerson & Britton, 1963. See also the Appendix to this paper), intermolecular As-N interactions are a recognizable feature of the crystal structure. However, the

As-N distance in $As(CN)_3$ is significantly shorter than in $(CH_3)_2AsCN$. We report here the crystal structure of $CH_3As(CN)_2$, which has been determined to see whether the shortening represents a real trend. A comparison of the melting points of $CH_3As(CN)_2$, $126-$