of the protons on C'(6) straddle the O(5^I)–C(5^I) bond. The other proton is located then between the methylene protons of C(5^I) and directed towards C(6^{IV}). A similar meshing of the C(6) protons with the O'(5)–C'(5) bond and the methylene protons of C'(5) is necessary to account for the short distances of 3·39 Å and 3·75 Å between C(6^{IV}) and O'(5) and C'(5). If this arrangement of the methyl protons is basically correct, then the approach distance between C'(6) and C(6^{II}), and C'(6) and C(6^{II}), should be approximately 4·4 Å and 3·7 Å, if the proton van der Waals radius is taken as 1·2 Å. The observed distances are 4·11 Å and 3·62 Å respectively.

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Crystal and Molecular Structure of L-a-Glycerylphosphorylcholin

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The crystal structure of L- α -glycerylphosphorylcholin – the basic unit of the lecithins – has been determined and refined to an R value of 0.062 by anisotropic least-squares treatment.

Introduction

Our X-ray studies of lipids in the solid state have been undertaken to contribute to the knowledge of the structure of important biological systems with partly ordered lipid molecules such as cell membranes and the myelin sheath of nerves. Phosphatides with zwitterion structure (lecithins, cephalins, sphingomyelins) are important components in such systems. In order to obtain accurate structural information on the polar regions in the lecithins, we have performed a singlecrystal analysis of the basic unit, glycerylphosphorylcholin (GPC).

Experimental

Optically active L- α -GPC ($C_8H_{20}O_6NP$) was synthesized according to Baer & Kates (1948). The compound was

purified by four recrystallizations of its $CdCl_2$ complex. GPC was recovered by dissolving the complex in water and passing the solution through an ion exchanger (Tattrie & McArthur, 1958) and finally dried in vacuum over phosphorus pentoxide.

Crystals of GPC were obtained from ethanol (99.5%). They grow in long prisms and are often twinned. As GPC is very hygroscopic the crystals had to be handled in a water-free atmosphere and mounted in glass capillaries for the X-ray work.

The crystals are monoclinic $(P2_1)$ with the following cell dimensions (Cu K α radiation): $a=10\cdot10$, $b=7\cdot71$, $c=16\cdot62$ Å, $\beta=102\cdot7^{\circ}$.

A reasonable value for the calculated density of the crystals, 1.320 g.cm^{-3} , is obtained if there are four molecules per cell. The Patterson series also conforms with two molecules per asymmetric unit.

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates with standard deviations $\times 10^5$ (within brackets) for the heavier atoms of the structure

	x	$\sigma(x)$	у	$\sigma(y)$	Z	$\sigma(z)$
P(1)	0.75618	(14)	0.50164	(45)	0.07638	(10)
N(1)	1.17855	(47)	0.46781	(95)	0.12375	(27)
O(1)	0.36688	(34)	0.91207	(84)	0.14787	(22)
O(2)	0.71364	(35)	1.02920	(85)	0.12976	(23)
0(3)	0.68363	(38)	0.68369	(80)	0.05967	(25)
O(4)	0.88628	(37)	0.53917	(84)	0.15116	(21)
O(5)	0.67329	(42)	0.37357	(92)	0.11188	(30)
O(6)	0.80209	(38)	0.45962	(77)	-0.00003	(24)
C (1)	0.49754	(54)	0.99843	(122)	0.16559	(35)
C(2)	0.58712	(50)	0.93828	(109)	0.10709	(32)
C(3)	0.61784	(54)	0.74153	(127)	0.11985	(35)
C(4)	0.98227	(58)	0.66480	(118)	0.13862	(36)
C(5)	1.12703	(53)	0.60826	(106)	0.17234	(30)
C(6)	1.11141	(62)	0.29848	(108)	0.12782	(36)
C(7)	1.16462	(64)	0.52642	(136)	0.03370	(31)
C (8)	1.32862	(54)	0.44543	(134)	0.16279	(45)
P(1')	0.78699	(14)	0.77195	(35)	0.60243	(8)
N(1')	1.20830	(45)	0.84521	(100)	0.63007	(28)
O(1')	0.39722	(39)	0.36879	(83)	0.60716	(23)
O(2')	0.74924	(37)	0.23669	(73)	0.62904	(23)
O(3')	0.71735	(37)	0.58362	(63)	0.59421	(19)
O(4')	0.92882	(36)	0.73692	(74)	0.66865	(21)
O(5')	0.71143	(38)	0.89129	(71)	0.64452	(23)
O(6')	0.81460	(35)	0.80981	(68)	0.52009	(21)
C(1')	0.51099	(35)	0.30496	(103)	0.57736	(33)
C(2')	0.63732	(52)	0.32404	(87)	0.64726	(30)
C(3')	0.68024	(50)	0.50816	(105)	0.66657	(28)
C(4')	1.02850	(56)	0.62383	(103)	0.64619	(38)
C(5')	1.17216	(53)	0.69586	(105)	0.67766	(34)
C(6')	1.12992	(65)	1.00917	(121)	0.63900	(40)
C(7′)	1.18714	(83)	0.80890	(144)	0.54095	(40)
C(8′)	1.35720	(67)	0.88858	(164)	0.66630	(55)

Table 2. U_{ij} 's together with standard deviations (x10⁴) within brackets

Allowance was made for anisotropic vibration with

	$\exp - 2\pi^2 (h^2 a^{*2})$.	$U_{11} + k^2 b^{*2}$. $U_{22} + k^2 b^{*2}$	$-l^2c^{*2}$. $U_{33}+2$	$kl \cdot b^*c^* \cdot U_{23} + 2lh$	$c^*a^* \cdot U_{31} + 2hk$	a^*b^* . U_{12})
	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{23}	U_{13}	U_{12}
P(1)	0.0445 (7)	0.0352 (20)	0.0606 (8)	0.0003 (10)	0.0093 (6)	-0.0026 (10)
N(1)	0.0588 (24)	0.0381 (66)	0.0489 (23)	0.0073 (29)	0.0133 (18)	0.0079 (30)
O(1)	0.0527 (18)	0.0858 (49)	0.0571 (20)	0.0050 (25)	0.0217 (13)	0.0042 (24)
O(2)	0.0566 (19)	0.0299 (43)	0.0790 (20)	-0.0017 (25)	0.0231 (15)	-0.0025 (22)
O(3)	0.0545 (21)	0.0385 (45)	0.0709 (23)	0.0010 (24)	0.0178 (17)	0.0091 (21)
O(4)	0.0535 (19)	0.0504 (44)	0.0494 (18)	-0.0012 (24)	0.0089 (15)	-0.0003 (24)
O(5)	0.0653 (23)	0.0396 (56)	0.1084 (30)	0.0075 (32)	0.0245 (20)	0.0051 (30)
O(6)	0.0653 (21)	0.0435 (50)	0.0646 (21)	-0.0125(23)	0.0064 (16)	0.0023 (24)
C (1)	0.0584 (29)	0.0641 (71)	0.0719 (31)	0.0015 (40)	0.0234 (22)	0.0174(37)
C(2)	0.0533 (25)	0.0326 (64)	0.0590 (28)	0.0051 (35)	0.0198 (19)	-0.0060(31).
C(3)	0.0682 (28)	0.0436 (69)	0.0809(31)	0.0013(38)	0.0373(21)	-0.0073(36)
C(4)	0.0637 (32)	0.0239 (70)	0.0672(31)	-0.0137(37)	0.01/4 (24)	-0.0023(36)
C(5)	0.0593 (30)	0.0302 (67)	0.0430 (25)	-0.0114(30)	0.0063(21)	0.0019(33)
C(6)	0.0828 (34)	0.0187(66)	0.0652(31)	0.0005(36)	0.0245(24)	0.0011(36)
C(7)	0.1217(39)	0.0594 (69)	0.0417(25)	0.0015(35)	0.0319(23)	0.00/0 (45)
C(8)	0.0525 (28)	0.0772 (91)	0.0982(45)	0.0172(52)	0.0234(27)	0.0137(37)
P(1')	0.0482 (6)	0.0314(16)	0.0451(6)	0.0009(8)	0.0128(4)	-0.0023(9)
$\mathcal{H}(\Gamma)$	0.0610 (25)	0.0002 (62)	0.0201(24)	0.0165 (29)	0.0185 (19)	-0.0034(30)
0(1')) 0.0620 (22)	0.1248 (49)	0.0582 (20)	-0.0288 (26)	0.0145(15)	-0.0020(28)
O(2')) 0.0730 (20)	0.0310 (45)	0.0787 (21)	0.0061(25)	0.0334 (16)	0.0047(26)
O(3')) 0.0659 (21)	0.0357 (40)	0.0429 (16)	-0.0022(19)	0.0162(14)	-0.0122(21)
O(4′) 0.0599 (19)	0.0513 (42)	0.0510 (17)	-0.0005(22)	0.0127(14)	-0.0086(24)
O(5') 0.0813 (23)	0.0182 (44)	0.0795 (21)	-0.0024(24)	0.0320(16)	-0.0020(24)
O(6') 0.0545 (19)	0.0674 (45)	0.0587 (19)	0.0086(23)	0.0114(15)	-0.0058(22)
C(1')) 0.0664 (28)	0.0511 (64)	0.0599 (28)	-0.0117(33)	0.0187(21)	-0.0192(32)
C(2)	′ 0·0613 (29)	0.0310 (56)	0.0497 (24)	-0.0006(27)	0.0123(21)	-0.0036(28)
C(3') 0.0579 (26)	0.0481 (61)	0.0388 (22)	0.0058(31)	0.0160(18)	-0.0000(34)
C(4′) 0.0630 (30)	0.0408 (65)	0.0891 (35)	0.0215(37)	0.0131(27)	0.0028(36)
C(5') 0.0607 (28)	0.0528 (64)	0.0564 (30)	0.0264(32)	0.0040 (24)	-0.0026(31)
C (6') 0.0934 (40)	0.0538 (70)	0.0836(35)	0.0105(43)	0.0364 (29)	-0.0027(46)
C(7) 0·1461 (55)	0.0648 (95)	0.0642 (32)	0.0098 (45)	0.0392(33)	0.0126(50)
C(8	r) 0.0556 (35)	0.1569 (104)	0.1489 (56)	0.0621 (69)	0.0189 (36)	-0.0116 (21)

Multiple film Weissenberg photographs were recorded for the 0–4 layers about the b axis and the 0 and 2 layers about the c axis. The intensities were measured visually and corrected for the Lorentz and polarization factors but not for absorption.

Structure determination

A three-dimensional Patterson series was calculated with coefficients sharpened to correspond to those from point atoms at rest (Abrahamsson & Maslen, 1963). The positions of the two phosphorus atoms were easily derived from the series. They have different ycoordinates, and no false symmetry is introduced in the electron density series based on the phases of the two atoms. The series in fact showed most of the other atoms in the structure but only the highest peaks were used for the following stage. After four rounds of Fourier refinement all atoms except hydrogen atoms had been located and the R value was 0.20.

The structure was further refined by anisotropic least-squares treatment using the full matrix. The progress of the refinement was checked at some stages by calculating difference syntheses. In the first of these, 13 of the hydrogen atoms showed up distinctly and were included in the following structure factor calculations. Each hydrogen atom was assigned an isotropic temperature factor calculated from the anisotropic vibration parameters of the hydrogen-carrying heavier atom. The second difference series calculated at R=0.09 gave equally clearly the positions of the remaining hydrogen atoms except H(71'), H(73') and H(81') which, however, were included in the structure factor calculations with their expected coordinates as they belonged to CH₃ groups of which the other hydrogen atoms had been located from the difference maps. After six more least-squares cycles with all atoms of the molecule included the shifts were small (one-third of the standard deviations) and the refinement was stopped. The hydrogen parameters, however, had not been refined. As 289 parameters were varied simultaneously only the right hand sides of the normal equations matrix were calculated in some of the last cycles in order to reduce the computing time and the inverse matrix of an earlier stage was used for forming the shifts.

The final R value for the 1597 observed reflexions is 0.062. The scattering curves given in *International*





Tables for X-ray Crystallography (1962), p.202, were used. The calculations were performed on the Datasaab D21 computer with the program system developed by Abrahamsson, Aleby, Larsson, Nilsson, Selin & Westerdahl (1965). The weight used for each observation in the least-squares refinement was (Mills & Rollett, 1960)

$$w = \frac{1}{1 + [(|F_o| - 10|F_{\min}|)/4|F_{\min}|]^2}$$

Discussion

The atomic parameters used in the final calculation of structure factors are given with standard deviations in Tables 1–3. Observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 4. The numbering of atoms in the molecule is illustrated in Fig. 1. Primed symbols refer to the second molecule of the asymmetric unit.

The two molecules of the asymmetric unit are shown in Fig.2. Their conformation and orientation in the unit cell is such that one is roughly related to the other by a *c*-glide plane at y=0.13. As the molecule is optically active this relationship is, of course, not valid at

Table 3. Parameters for the hydrogen atoms

	x	У	z	В
H(1)	0.3300	0.8600	0.1000	4·84 Å2
H(2)	0.7200	1.1550	0.1200	4.07
H(11)	0.4812	0.8620	0.1586	5.02
H(12)	0.5491	0.9694	0.2288	5.02
H(21)	0.5331	0.9603	0.0430	3.89
H(31)	0.6827	0.7191	0.1807	4.81
H(32)	0.5233	0.6684	0.1149	4.81
H(41)	0.9640	0.7839	0.1698	3.72
H(42)	0.9680	0.6884	0.0729	3.72
H(51)	1.1345	0.5587	0.2349	3.12
H(52)	1.1926	0.7200	0.1742	3.12
H(61)	1.1297	0.2558	0.1920	3.34
H(62)	1.0027	0.3120	0.1034	3.34
H(63)	1.1530	0.2038	0.0916	3.34
H(71)	1.0575	0.5516	0.0065	5.21
H(72)	1.2229	0.6438	0.0323	5.21
H(73)	1.2013	0.4240	-0.0007	5.21
H(81)	1.3817	0.5680	0.1593	5.88
H(82)	1.3413	0.4081	0.2273	5.88
H(83)	1.3718	0.3455	0.1299	5.88
H(1')	0.3200	0.4400	0.5700	5.47
H(2')	0.7500	0.1100	0.6300	4.73
H(11')	0.4958	0.1682	0.5607	4.44
H(12')	0.5241	0.3787	0.5239	4.44
H(21')	0.6153	0.2659	0.7027	3.29
H(31')	0.5966	0.5806	0.6820	3.73
H(32')	0.7671	0.5104	0.7187	3.73
H(41')	1.0081	0.6103	0.5796	5.58
H(42')	1.0215	0.4958	0.6740	5.58
H(51')	1.2447	0.5907	0.6749	4.31
H(52')	1.1829	0.7358	0.7414	4.31
H(61')	1.0211	0.9854	0.6172	5.85
H(62')	1.1498	1.0479	0.7038	5.85
H(63')	1.1608	1.1133	0.6027	5.85
H(71')	1.2519	0.6999	0.5317	6.85
H(72')	1.0821	0.7770	0.5160	6.85
H(73')	1.2159	0.9231	0.2097	6.85
H(81')	1.3701	0.9219	0.7311	8.39
H(82')	1.4202	0.7766	0.6600	8.39
H(83')	1.3876	0.9983	0.6329	8.39

1

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors (x100) with phase angles (as fractions of one revolution)

	# L POBS	PCALC	71	н	K L	POBS	PCALC	*1	* • *	L	POBS	PCALC	P 1		н	× 1	P083	PCALO	PI
00000	0 3 2051 0 4 20710 0 6 4388 0 7 289 0 8 3983	19439 19439 1973	1,0000 1,0000 1,0000 1,0000	777	0000	530 681 290 670 1165	261 661 275 766 1201	1.3000 0.5000 0.5000 0.5000	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-12 -13 -15 -15	2728 353 682 782 1339	2868 536 762 849 1435	0.9577 0.7959 0.1788 0.8894 0.5453			-15	203 1042 635 1206	280 1037 606 1129	0.2977 0.5630 0.6865 0.7116
00000	0 9 798 0 10 778 0 11 1237 0 12 945 0 13 887	814 753 1233 1002 904	0,5000 0,5000 1,0000 1,0000	7 8 8	0 -16 0 0 0 1 0 2	477 475 1561 597 1470	506 476 1585 759 1472	1.0000 1.0000 0.5000 0.5000		-17 -18 -19 -20	428 525 501 687 1897	485 406 458 647	0.9456 0.6292 0.3225 0.1115 0.3262		·>>>0	7	349 584 555 791	415 494 470	0.8550 0.6836 0.9500 0.6451
0001	0 15 1462 0 16 370 0 17 898 0 1 1819	1485 492 516	0,0000 0,5000 0,0000 0,5000	5 5 8	50000	631 459 403 605	634 466 523 570	0.5000			2354 1640 3637 3421	2358 1601 3411 3221	0.4184 0.0063 0.5898 0.7588		10	4444	717 623 623	640 530 631 1215	0.5555 0.6305 0.7530 0.6535
1	0 3 2616 0 4 7499 0 5 2761 0 6 101	2880 6864 2897 575	1.0000 1.0000 1.0000	8 8 8	0000	1497 570 1146 808	1540 667 1194 781	0.5000 0.5000 1.0000 1.0000		7678 y	2975 1378 1294 1115	2755	0.5988 0.1168 0.1616 0.3625		10 10 10 10	1 -7	799 798 1306	729 747 400 1211	0.9548 0.5456 0.1275 0.1354
1	0 7 822 0 8 2106 0 9 825 0 10 1215 0 11 1085	717 2161 922 1247 1157	0.5000 0.5000 0.5000	888	0 -10 0 -12 0 -12	949 1008 1181 799 1415	987 989 1229 879	0.5000 0.5000 1.0000 1.0000		10	2037 569 260 444	2044 968 237 419 898	0.0820 0.6808 0.2089 0.5994		10 10 10	-11 -12 1 -13 1 -16	821 376 538 235	745	0.0923 0.6132 0.6455
1	0 13 1105 0 14 808 0 16 364 0 17 538 0 17 538	1154 949 377 637	0.5000 0.0000 1.0000 0.0000	8 9 9	0 -16	437 413 706 534	427 324 708 474	0.5000 1.0000 1.0000 0.0000 0.5000		16 17 -1	933 663 1830 350	810 565 1365 259	0.6844 0.9129 0.7711 0.9620		0 0 0 0		658 741 638	628 621 516 153	0.1501 0.3433 0.0746 0.6762
1	0 -2 7549 0 -3 329 0 -4 3287 0 -5 3798	6561 248 3446 3718	0.5000 0.9999 0.5000 0.5000	9990	00000	750 315 532 1045	710 423 465 1072	0.5000		11-507	2037 761 798 1355	1976 833 673 1453	0.5920				314 504 455 790	268 474 409 710	0.568
1	0 -8 3806 0 -9 1808 0 -11 1225 0 -12 155	3635 1765 1180 583	1.0000	9999	-7-6	573	465 467 716	0.5000 1.0000 1.0000		-10	1377 1537 1996	1486 1552 2016 599	0.6568 0.9336 0.7557 0.5967			767-80	350 769 751	334 10 727 701 407	0.2138 0.1510 0.1545 0.4521 0.4521
1	0 -14 1051 0 -15 745 0 -17 1070 0 -19 1070	1116 704 1154 432	0.5000	9 10 10	0 -16	656 254 256	592 614 198 606	0.5000		-15	1070 689 562 646	1129 665 555 586	0.6434 0.1961 0.3796 0.4576			-12 -13 -14	245 224 265 307	252 147 236 237	0.0542 0.335E 0.5355 0.1072
2222	0 1 440 0 2 9210 0 3 7461 0 4 1803	311 8525 7094 1627	0.5000 0.5000 0.5000 1.0000	10 10 10	00000	628 601 804 978	650 556 970	0.0000	5 1	-19 -20 0	634 334 1133 1651	601 404 586 1435	0.0862 0.5475 0.5235 0.5115 0.2216		2 1	2019	552 541 230 241 557	475 537 245 155	0.3664 0.3556 0.3581 0.5167 0.1150
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	0 6 2116 0 7 4082 0 8 1492 0 9 2033	2239 4221 1420 2191	1,0000 1,0000 0,5000 1,0000	10 10 10	50000 50000	976 738 815 1298 592	810 874 1360 645	1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 0.5000	5 1 5 1 5 1	2 34 56	3177 1779 1744 1609	3182 1809 1654 1673	0.0718 0.6097 0.0547 0.5973 0.6115		2 1 2 2 2 1	2444	355 314 7C1 473	292 26,4 603 472	0.25 2
2222	0 10 1889 0 11 2229 0 13 1684 0 14 755 0 -1 1020	1987 2360 1859 991	0.5000 0.5000 0.0000 1.0000	10 10 10	0 -10 0 -12 0 -13 0 -14	645 318 299 435 349	696 413 521 521	1,0000 0,5000 1,0000 0,5000 0,5000	5 1	78	717 555 511 581	572 565 512 571	0.5958 0.7360 0.7944 0.0293		2 1	-10	445 225 147 341	256	0.755E 0.933
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66666	0 8 52 0 10 62 0 11 57 0 12 49 0 13 45	61 66 60 50	5 0.5000 9 0.5000 0 0.5000 7 0.0000 4 0.5000		1 -17 1 -19 1 0 1 1 1 2	496 409 2107 662 3678	565 463 2072 565 3590	0.6895 0.0451 0.6216 0.2610 0.7827	8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1		1349 443 1389 1800 452	1955 473 1334 1729 446	0.0968 0.1057 0.7259 0.6385 0.0368		****	10 11 12	571 2260 1207 1034	652 2261 1255 1073 454	0.1007 0.04-5 0.5816 0.75-6
6666	0 -1 41 0 -2 149 0 -3 114 0 -4 65 0 -5 30	107	9 1.0000 2 1.0000 6 0.5000 5 1.0000 0 0.5000	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	1 567	1628 1882 2530 2930 1144	1837 1730 2205 2622 1056	0.0552 0.8846 0.5993 0.3004 0.2629	8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1	-11 -12 -13 -15	1326 364 251 463 510	1162 371 259 509 501	0.6197 0.0454 0.2344 0.5247 0.0966		****	14 15 16 17	63 689 615 5101	510 2 1 10	0.4451 0.1550 0.4515 0.36-2 0.1969
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## SIXTEN ABRAHAMSSON AND IRMIN PASCHER

Table 4 (cont.)

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the asymmetric glycerol carbon atom. The differences in conformation are illustrated in Fig.3 showing projections down the C(2)–C(3) and C(2')–C(3') bonds. The indicated dihedral angles  $\varphi_{O(2)O(3)}$  and  $\varphi_{O(2)C(1)}$  for one molecule are 71° and 179° respectively. The corresponding angles for the other GPC molecule of the asymmetric unit are 61° and 63°. In the first case a *gauche-trans* conformation has thus been adopted and a *gauche-gauche* conformation in the latter case. These arrangements also make possible an effective hydrogen bond system similar for both independent molecules.

As observed in 2-aminoethanol phosphate (Kraut, 1961) a *gauche* conformation is adopted about the bond between the two ethyl carbon atoms of the nitrogen



Fig.2. Spatial drawings of the two GPC molecules of the asymmetric unit. All atoms except hydrogen atoms of one of the two molecules are marked with double contours.



Fig. 3. Conformation of the independent GPC molecules as seen along the C(3)-C(2) and C(3')-C(2') bonds. C(2) and C(2') represent the asymmetric carbon atoms of the molecules.



Fig.4. Conformation of the two GPC molecules of the asymmetric unit as seen along the C(4)-C(5) and C(4')-C(5') bonds.



Fig. 5. Illustration of the molecular packing of GPC as seen along the b axis. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds. For key to atoms see Fig. 2.

base. The dihedral angles  $\varphi_{O(4)N(1)}$  and  $\varphi_{O(4')N(1')}$  as seen along the C(4)–C(5) and C(4')–C(5') bonds (Fig. 4) are 72° and 75° respectively.

Bond distances and angles for the two independent molecules of the asymmetric unit are given in Tables 5 and 6. Standard deviations in distances and angles are also listed. They were calculated according to Ahmed & Cruickshank (1953) and Darlow (1960). The maximum deviations from the mean values of identical bonds of the two molecules of the asymmetric unit are, except in a few cases, smaller than  $3\sigma$ . The standard deviations are, however, slightly underestimated as they have been calculated from the diagonal elements of the inverse least-squares matrix.

The distances in the phosphate group agree well with the recent analyses of adenosine-5'-phosphate (Kraut & Jensen, 1963) and di-*p*-chlorophenyl hydrogen phosphate (DPDPHP) (Calleri & Speakman, 1964). In their paper, Calleri & Speakman surveyed the P–O distances in sixteen earlier accurate structure determinations and calculated that the mean value of the sum of the four P–O distances of the phosphate group was  $6 \cdot 177 \pm 0.030$  Å. This sum should also be almost constant according to Cruickshank (1961). The value for adenosine 5'-phosphate is  $6 \cdot 185$  Å, for DPCPHP  $6 \cdot 151$  Å, and for the two GPC molecules  $6 \cdot 196$  Å and  $6 \cdot 184$  Å.

It is often stated in the literature that each molecule of GPC is associated with a molecule of water. This is obviously not the case in this structure. The zwitterion character of the molecule is evident from the two equivalent short distances between the phosphorus atom and the unsubstituted oxygen atoms [O(5) and O(6)]. The corresponding O-P-O angle is larger in GPC (mean value  $121.6^{\circ}$ ) than adenosine 5'-phosphate (118°). The charge distribution is also different



Fig.6. Molecular packing of GPC as seen along the *a* axis. The hydrogen bonds forming the double layers are indicated as well as some of the shorter contacts between these layers. For key to atoms see Fig.2.

	Mole	cule 1	Mole	cule 1'
Bond	Length	σ	Length	$\sigma$
P(1) -O(3)	1·580 Å	0∙0065 Å	1·606 Å	0∙0053 Å
-O(4)	1.624	0.0037	1.626	0.0035
-O(5)	1.497	0.0065	1.467	0.0052
-O(6)	1.496	0.0047	1.484	0.0041
N(1)-C(5)	1.510	0.0095	1.487	0.0100
-C(6)	1.480	0.0105	1.516	0.0111
-C(7)	1.540	0.0076	1.476	0.0083
-C(8)	1.522	0.0069	1.529	0.0082
O(1)-C(1)	1.449	0.0077	1.435	0.0077
O(2) - C(2)	1.433	0.0073	1.405	0.0073
O(3) - C(3)	1.390	0.0082	1.457	0.0068
O(4) - C(4)	1.418	0.0093	1.442	0.0083
C(1)-C(2)	1.538	0.0089	1.532	0.0067
C(2) - C(3)	1.553	0.0127	1.498	0.0102
C(4) - C(5)	1.510	0.0080	1.534	0.0080

 
 Table 5. Bond distances with standard deviations for the two independent molecules of the asymmetric unit

Table 6. Bond angles with standard deviations in degrees for the two independent molecules of the asymmetric unit

	Moleci	ule 1	Molecu	cule 1'		
Angle	$\theta$	$\sigma(\theta)$	$\theta$	$\sigma(\theta)$		
O(3)-P(1) -O(4)	104·02°	0·32°	102·22°	0·27°		
-O(5)	112.17	0.30	110.09	0.26		
-O(6)	105.68	0.30	105.48	0.25		
O(4) - P(1) - O(5)	104.15	0.27	104.75	0.23		
-O(6)	109.01	0.22	109.91	0.21		
O(5)-P(1)-O(6)	120.62	0.38	122.62	0.31		
C(5) - N(1) - C(6)	113.14	0.50	113.52	0.51		
-C(7)	109.92	0.60	112.86	0.66		
-C(8)	106.34	0.20	107.16	0.56		
C(6) - N(1) - C(7)	111.01	0.52	107.03	0.57		
-C(8)	107.70	0.61	105.58	0.67		
C(7) - N(1) - C(8)	108.50	0·49	110.46	0.58		
P(1) - O(3) - C(3)	115.80	0.49	118.56	0.37		
P(1) - O(4) - C(4)	118-27	0.37	119.13	0.34		
O(1)-C(1)-C(2)	111.65	0.26	107.58	0.45		
O(2)-C(2)-C(1)	107.50	0.53	111.47	0.46		
-C(3)	107.57	0.47	106.96	0.46		
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	109.62	0.28	114.01	0.51		
O(3)-C(3)-C(2)	109.13	0.28	108.44	0.45		
O(4) - C(4) - C(5)	112.69	0.65	110.78	0.57		
N(1)-C(5)-C(4)	115.33	0.47	115.04	0.47		

in the phosphate groups of the two compounds as one of the remaining oxygen atoms in adenosine 5'-phosphate is bonded to a hydrogen atom.

The molecular packing is illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6. There are no intramolecular hydrogen bonds. In both independent molecules the glycerol oxygen atom O(1)forms a hydrogen bond of 2.70 Å with O(6) of the phosphate group of a symmetry-related molecule. The other hydroxyl oxygen atom O(2) of the two glycerol residues takes part in a hydrogen bond (2.70 Å) almost parallel to the b axis with O(5) of a b-translated molecule. These hydrogen bonds link together equivalent molecules into infinite spirals in the **b** direction. This also conforms with **b** being the needle direction. There are no hydrogen bonds between the two molecules constituting the asymmetric unit.

The structure can also be described as being built up of bimolecular layers parallel to the *ab* plane of one type of molecule alternating with double layers of molecules of the other type. These layers show fairly smooth boundary surfaces towards each other. Some of the shorter interlayer distances are indicated in Fig. 6.

The positively charged nitrogen atom is roughly tetrahedrally surrounded by oxygen atoms. The two shortest N–O distances are between N(1) and the negatively charged oxygen atoms O(6) and O(5') ( $3\cdot81$  Å and  $3\cdot88$  Å). These atoms lie very close to triad axes of the tetramethylammonium tetrahedron. One hydroxyl oxygen atom O(1) is also fairly close to N(1) ( $3\cdot90$  Å), whereas the fourth oxygen atom O(6) of a symmetry-related molecule is further away ( $4\cdot44$  Å). The packing around N(1') seems less effective as the corresponding shortest N–O distances are about 0·3 Å longer here.

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