

## The Structure of L-Valine Hydrochloride

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The crystal structure of L-valine hydrochloride,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}(\text{NH}_2)\text{COOH} \cdot \text{HCl}$ , has been determined and refined by analysis of complete three-dimensional diffraction data from copper X-radiation. The crystals are monoclinic with space group  $P2_1$ ; the unit-cell dimensions are  $a = 10.38$ ,  $b = 7.08$ ,  $c = 5.46$  Å,  $\beta = 91^\circ 30'$ . Refinement of the positional parameters and the individual anisotropic temperature factors for the nine atoms was carried out by the method of least squares. The final  $R$  index for the observed reflexions of non-zero weight is 0.13.

The dimensions of the amino acid group are, in general, similar to those reported recently. There are some significant differences, however.

### Introduction

Valine,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}(\text{NH}_2)\text{COOH}$ , is one of the amino acids essential for animal growth. The detailed crystal structure analysis of L-valine hydrochloride is one of a series of X-ray studies on the structure of amino acids undertaken at Madras. This paper reports the detailed investigation and the three-dimensional refinement of the positions of the atoms and the results obtained.

### Experimental

#### Crystallization

L-Valine was dissolved in dilute hydrochloric acid and, by rapidly evaporating the solution in a desiccator, crystals of L-valine hydrochloride were obtained. Almost all the crystals were slightly elongated along [001]. The crystals were soft, unstable and highly hygroscopic. The freshly prepared crystals were immediately dried and sealed in Lindemann-glass capillaries. Crystals of L-valine hydrobromide also have similar properties, and, in fact, the two crystals are isomorphous (Table 1).

Table 1. Crystallographic data for L-valine hydrohalides ( $\lambda$  Cu  $K\alpha = 1.5418$  Å)

L-Valine hydrochloride		L-Valine hydrobromide	
Space group $P2_1$		Space group $P2_1$	
Number of molecules per unit cell, $Z=2$		Number of molecules per unit cell, $Z=2$	
$a = 10.38$ Å		$a = 10.18$ Å	
$b = 7.08$		$b = 7.34$	
$c = 5.46$		$c = 5.55$	
$\beta = 91^\circ 30'$		$\beta = 90^\circ 15'$	
$V = 400.8$ Å <sup>3</sup>		$V = 414.4$ Å <sup>3</sup>	
$\rho$ obs = $1.28$ g.cm <sup>-3</sup>		$\rho$ obs = $1.56$ g.cm <sup>-3</sup>	
Molecular weight (calculated)	306	Molecular weight (calculated)	396
Molecular weight (observed)	308.8	Molecular weight (observed)	388.6

#### Unit cell and space group

The unit-cell dimensions and other crystal data are given in Table 1. The values of  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and  $\beta$  were obtained directly from measurements made on precession photographs. Standard deviations are less than  $0.01$  Å for cell edges and  $0.1^\circ$  for  $\beta$ . A study of the Weissenberg and Buerger precession photographs of these crystals revealed that the compounds are isomorphous and the only observed absences were those for  $k$  odd in the  $0k0$  reflexions. This information and the fact that the compounds are optically active indicated that they belong to the space group  $P2_1$ . The density was determined by the flotation method. It indicated that there are two molecules in the unit cell and that there is no water of hydration.

#### Intensity measurements

The intensity data were collected by the multiple-film equi-inclination Weissenberg technique and 690 reflexions out of a possible total of 950 in the Cu  $K\alpha$  sphere were recorded (Table 2). To minimize any intensity measurement errors due to contraction and elongation of the higher level spots, the film cassette was shifted periodically. The intensities were estimated visually using a standard set of spots, and no absorption corrections were applied ( $\mu r < 1$ ). The inter-layer scaling was carried out by collecting data by rotation of crystals about the  $c$  and  $b$  axes. The usual corrections were applied, and the data placed on an absolute scale by Wilson's method.

#### Determination of the structure

The positions of the Cl atoms were readily deduced from the Patterson projections along  $b$  and  $c$ . The structure of the isomorphous hydrobromide had been approximately solved earlier from the data for the two projections. Since the chlorine positions were close to the corresponding bromine positions in the hydrobromide, the coordinates of the other light atoms were taken to be the same as in the hydrobromide for a trial structure. A structure factor calculation gave  $R_{hol} =$

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Table 2. The observed and calculated structure factors

FOBS=10|F<sub>o</sub>|, FCAL=10|F<sub>c</sub>|. Reflexions too weak to be recorded were given zero weight in the least-squares calculation and were omitted from the R index.

H	K	L	FOBS	FCAL	H	K	L	FOBS	FCAL	H	K	L	FOBS	FCAL	H	K	L	FOBS	FCAL	H	K	L	FOBS	FCAL	H	K	L	FOBS	FCAL					
0	0	1	147	181	-1	6	1	125	125	2	8	2	0	30	4	1	4	51	59	-5	4	3	58	64	6	8	1	0	15	8	5	0	50	43
0	0	2	195	226	1	6	2	0	31	2	9	0	29	33	-4	1	4	54	41	5	4	3	32	38	7	0	0	98	94	8	5	1	49	23
0	0	3	82	81	-1	6	2	0	11	3	0	0	478	444	4	2	0	205	204	-5	4	4	58	60	7	0	1	31	26	-8	5	1	0	33
0	0	4	23	13	1	6	3	52	54	3	0	1	123	173	-4	2	1	65	67	5	4	4	37	39	-7	0	1	0	9	-8	5	3	31	34
0	0	5	109	104	-1	6	3	63	50	-3	0	1	70	34	4	2	1	0	24	5	5	0	105	104	7	0	2	37	37	8	5	3	0	4
0	0	6	39	35	1	6	4	26	36	3	0	2	70	73	4	2	2	32	33	5	5	1	27	37	-7	0	2	62	65	8	6	0	30	23
0	1	1	527	462	-1	6	4	0	46	-3	0	2	267	250	-4	2	2	0	22	-5	5	1	0	20	7	0	3	26	31	8	6	1	19	20
0	1	2	249	230	1	7	0	86	84	3	0	3	28	29	-4	2	3	57	57	-5	5	2	86	93	-7	0	3	0	5	-8	6	1	0	28
0	1	3	110	132	1	7	1	25	25	-3	0	3	15	27	4	2	3	62	55	-5	5	2	0	50	7	0	4	26	35	-8	7	1	20	18
0	1	4	78	102	-1	7	1	0	16	3	0	4	87	84	4	2	4	38	34	-5	5	3	82	82	-7	0	4	0	3	8	7	1	0	6
0	2	0	233	287	1	7	2	41	49	-3	0	4	0	12	-4	2	4	19	15	5	5	3	36	29	7	0	5	24	26	9	0	0	0	9
0	2	1	167	159	-1	7	2	0	29	3	0	5	68	66	4	3	0	36	35	5	5	4	25	35	-7	0	5	0	0	9	0	1	64	77
0	2	2	136	148	1	7	3	31	33	-3	0	5	44	46	-4	3	1	93	88	-5	5	4	0	27	7	1	0	34	31	-9	0	1	82	84
0	2	3	83	90	-1	7	3	63	59	-3	0	5	49	42	4	3	1	114	104	-5	6	0	38	24	-7	1	1	59	68	-9	0	2	23	26
0	2	4	21	22	1	8	0	40	34	-3	0	6	0	4	-4	3	2	121	109	-5	6	1	93	97	-7	1	1	69	73	-9	0	2	0	2
0	3	1	80	78	-1	8	1	39	38	3	1	0	263	223	-4	3	2	87	105	-5	6	1	44	47	7	1	2	41	50	-9	0	3	44	38
0	3	2	157	156	1	8	1	35	35	3	1	1	251	225	4	3	3	56	53	5	6	2	0	30	-7	1	2	63	55	9	0	3	0	1
0	3	3	104	100	1	8	2	39	38	-3	1	1	279	245	-4	3	3	65	56	-5	6	2	0	16	-7	1	3	41	38	9	0	4	24	30
0	3	4	35	39	-1	8	2	31	34	3	1	2	26	40	4	3	4	40	38	5	6	3	39	35	-7	1	3	55	53	-9	0	4	0	7
0	4	0	326	323	1	9	0	19	20	-3	1	2	156	158	-4	3	4	28	23	-5	6	3	0	34	-7	1	4	28	31	-9	1	0	85	78
0	4	1	67	74	1	9	1	28	27	-3	1	3	56	49	4	4	0	175	173	5	7	0	48	36	7	1	4	0	13	-9	1	1	27	21
0	4	2	83	79	-1	9	1	0	25	-3	1	3	153	155	-4	4	1	29	30	-5	7	1	32	34	-7	2	0	141	129	9	1	1	0	60
0	4	3	0	14	2	0	0	287	299	3	1	4	40	42	-4	4	1	64	77	5	7	1	41	44	-7	2	1	41	44	9	1	3	25	23
0	4	4	19	18	-2	0	1	134	179	-3	1	4	149	132	-4	4	2	56	54	-5	7	2	37	38	7	2	1	42	50	-9	1	3	54	44
0	5	1	84	87	2	0	1	343	352	3	2	0	349	282	-4	4	2	96	99	5	7	2	0	23	-7	2	2	120	132	-9	1	4	20	39
0	5	2	50	45	-2	0	2	18	0	-3	2	1	144	125	4	4	3	98	83	5	7	3	33	31	7	2	2	0	24	9	1	4	0	4
0	5	3	44	45	2	0	2	92	135	3	2	1	148	172	-4	4	3	89	81	-5	7	3	55	21	7	2	3	62	54	9	2	0	67	54
0	5	4	28	35	-2	0	3	57	43	3	2	2	46	77	-4	4	4	26	40	5	8	0	29	29	-7	2	3	0	19	9	2	1	82	47
0	5	5	91	81	1	0	4	65	59	-3	2	2	144	148	-4	4	5	49	45	-5	8	1	41	36	-7	3	0	70	73	-9	2	1	72	72
0	6	1	39	48	2	0	4	56	49	-3	2	3	165	143	4	5	0	53	48	5	8	2	58	57	-7	3	1	135	124	-9	2	2	0	48
0	6	2	30	40	-2	0	4	49	38	3	2	3	44	33	4	5	1	40	57	6	0	0	97	74	-7	3	1	45	53	-9	2	2	0	13
0	6	3	37	28	2	0	5	59	44	3	2	4	66	58	-4	5	1	65	62	6	0	1	70	87	-7	3	2	52	54	-9	2	3	34	37
0	6	4	0	6	-2	0	5	91	37	-3	2	4	24	29	4	5	2	105	119	-6	0	1	156	166	7	3	2	74	72	9	2	3	0	18
0	7	1	36	42	2	0	6	56	46	3	3	0	186	173	-4	5	2	0	11	-6	0	2	141	148	-7	3	3	32	43	9	3	0	54	42
0	7	2	57	65	-2	0	6	55	44	3	3	1	201	163	4	5	3	84	79	6	0	2	37	58	7	3	3	26	29	9	3	1	48	64
0	7	3	71	58	2	0	7	237	173	-3	3	1	147	130	-4	5	3	0	27	6	0	3	84	90	-7	3	4	27	34	-9	3	1	32	31
0	8	0	75	66	1	0	1	485	430	3	3	2	33	26	-4	5	4	57	53	-6	0	4	70	71	-7	4	0	0	26	-9	3	3	23	28
0	8	1	0	14	-2	1	1	111	101	-3	3	2	158	159	-4	5	4	0	18	6	0	4	70	71	7	4	0	112	88	-9	3	3	35	34
0	8	2	50	54	2	1	2	281	255	3	3	3	125	116	4	6	0	77	70	-6	0	4	0	8	-7	4	1	28	44	-9	3	4	37	41
0	9	1	36	35	-2	1	3	126	155	-3	3	3	42	37	4	6	1	54	57	6	0	5	27	25	7	4	1	70	73	9	3	4	0	13
1	0	0	277	292	-2	1	3	90	68	3	3	4	19	31	-4	6	1	55	51	-6	0	5	45	49	-7	4	2	96	88	9	4	0	36	26
1	0	1	229	211	2	1	3	147	142	-3	3	4	113	113	-4	6	2	60	51	6	0	6	28	16	7	4	2	0	28	9	4	1	22	29
-1	0	1	0	21	2	1	4	48	41	3	4	0	228	208	4	6	2	0	18	-6	0	6	15	34	7	4	3	50	51	-9	4	1	55	55
-1	0	2	132	128	-2	1	4	151	148	-3	4	1	147	130	-6	6	3	24	26	6	1	0	91	86	-7	4	0	0	31	-9	4	2	37	13
-1	0	3	200	275	2	2	0	36	37	-3	4	1	80	90	4	6	3	54	40	6	0	4	70	81	-7	5	0	66	77	-9	4	2	0	47
-1	0	3	81	104	2	2	1	322	286	3	4	2	66	71	4	7	0	82	66	6	1	1	164	161	-7	5	1	40	43	-9	4	3	51	45
-1	0	3	91	117	-2	2	1	370	369	-3	4	2	137	147	4	7	1	40	54	-6	1	2	85	77	7	5	1	27	52	9	4	3	0	32
-1	0	4	30	26	-2	2	2	96	83	3	4	3	58	56	-4	7	1	35	45	6	1	2	37	65	7	5	2	40	46	9	5	1	0	13
-1	0	4	35	46	2	2	2	135	117	-3	4	3	25	38	4	7	2	43	49	6	1	3	94	88	-7	5	2	0	14	-9	5	1	0	17
-1	0	5	54	59	-2	2	3	156	133	3	4	4	20	40	-4	7	2	0	23	-6	1	3	20	21	7	5	3	22	20	9	5	3	0	10
-1	0	5	17	27	2	2	1	97	71	-3	4	4	0	18	4	7	3	18	19	6	1	4	28	26	-7	5	4	43	43	-9	5	3	0	16
-1	0	6	47	38	2	2	4	56	52	3	5	0	36	32	-4	7	4	5	7	6	1	132	121	7	6	0	75	58	-9</					

0.34 and  $R_{hk0}=0.21$ , indicating that the structure proposed was reasonable. After nine cycles of least-squares refinement the  $R$  value, taking both the  $hk0$  and  $h0l$  reflexions together, dropped to 0.15 ( $F_{\text{obs}}=0$  not included).

The structure, now essentially determined, was refined by a series of least-squares analyses of the 3-D data. Six cycles of three-dimensional least-squares refinement with individual isotropic temperature factors were carried out on an IBM 7090. The final  $R$  values for all the observed reflexions fell to 0.16. Another five cycles of refinement, with individual anisotropic temperature factors and the block-diagonal matrix approximation, reduced  $R$  to 0.13 ( $F_{\text{obs}}=0$  not included). A  $1/f$  weighting with  $f$  corresponding to the scattering factor of the nitrogen atom was adopted in the final stages of the least-squares analysis. This weighting is approximately equivalent to the differential synthesis weighting and was adopted for convenience. Atomic scattering factors were those reported in *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962). None of the shifts in the final cycle were greater than one-quarter of the standard deviation, and refinement was considered to be complete. A difference electron density map was calculated, but it was not possible to fix the positions of the hydrogen atoms with certainty. The final atomic and thermal parameters are those of the final least-squares cycle and are given in Table 3. The averages of the estimated accuracies of the bond distances and angles are 0.020 Å for C-C bonds, 0.018 Å for C-N bonds, 0.017 Å for C-O bonds, and  $1^\circ 30'$  for the bond angles. The maximum mean square amplitudes of thermal motion of the various atoms range from 0.149 Å<sup>2</sup> for C(3) to 0.067 Å<sup>2</sup> for Cl; the minimum amplitudes range from 0.038 Å<sup>2</sup> for C(2) to 0.013 Å<sup>2</sup> for C(4). Any detailed explanation of magnitudes and orientations of the thermal ellipsoids in terms of the structure is not obvious.

## Discussion

### Intramolecular features

The bond lengths and angles for the valine molecule are illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. The C-C bonds are normal with lengths ranging between 1.501 Å and

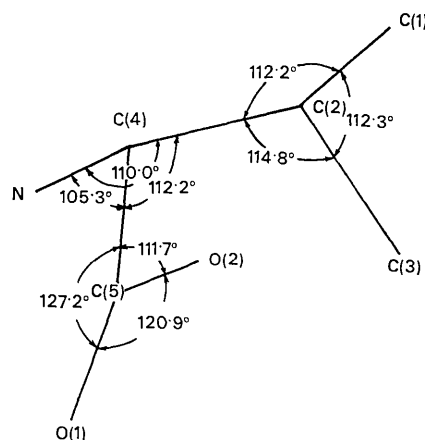


Fig. 2. The bond angles as observed in the valine molecule.

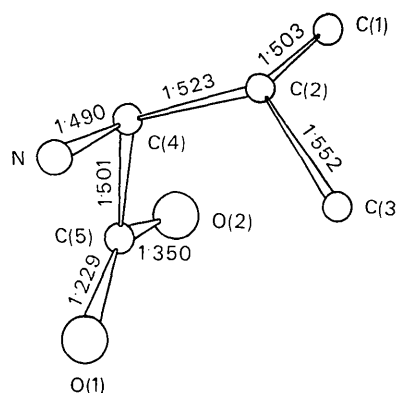


Fig. 1. The bond distances as observed in the valine molecule.

Table 3. Final atomic and thermal parameters and the average estimated accuracy of the coordinates

$$\text{Temperature factor} = \exp\{-\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + \beta_{12}hk + \beta_{13}hl + \beta_{23}kl\}$$

Atom	$x$	$y$	$z$	$\beta_{11}$	$\beta_{22}$	$\beta_{33}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$	$\beta_{23}$	$\sigma(x)^*$
Cl	0.149	0.750	0.283	0.011	0.016	0.039	-0.002	0.005	0.012	0.003 Å
O(1)	0.118	0.234	1.120	0.016	0.015	0.033	-0.002	0.005	0.017	0.014
O(2)	0.229	0.028	0.895	0.015	0.015	0.065	0.003	0.017	0.001	0.011
N	0.109	0.495	0.764	0.014	0.011	0.052	0.007	0.003	0.027	0.014
C(1)	0.409	0.228	0.572	0.012	0.025	0.049	-0.012	0.016	0.019	0.012
C(2)	0.331	0.384	0.683	0.008	0.019	0.044	0.004	-0.003	-0.002	0.011
C(3)	0.398	0.470	0.914	0.006	0.047	0.056	-0.006	0.002	0.044	0.009
C(4)	0.191	0.327	0.715	0.012	0.017	0.041	-0.015	0.002	0.026	0.009
C(5)	0.175	0.199	0.930	0.010	0.013	0.021	-0.005	-0.001	0.011	0.011

\* Averaged over the  $x, y, z$  coordinates.

Table 4. Hydrogen bond distances and angles

NH...Cl	3.222 Å	Cl...N...Cl'	111.5°	C(5)-O(2)...Cl'	129.0°
NH...Cl'	3.379	Cl...N...Cl''	111.3	C(4)-N...Cl	102.4
NH...Cl''	3.200	Cl'...N...Cl'''	116.1	C(4)-N...Cl'	121.2
NH-O(1'')	2.990	O(1'')...N...Cl	88.5	C(4)-N...Cl''	91.9
O(2)H...Cl'	3.027	O(1'')...N...Cl'	66.4	C(4)-N...O(1'')	161.5
		O(1'')...N...Cl'''	69.9	C(5)-O(1'')...N''	117.3

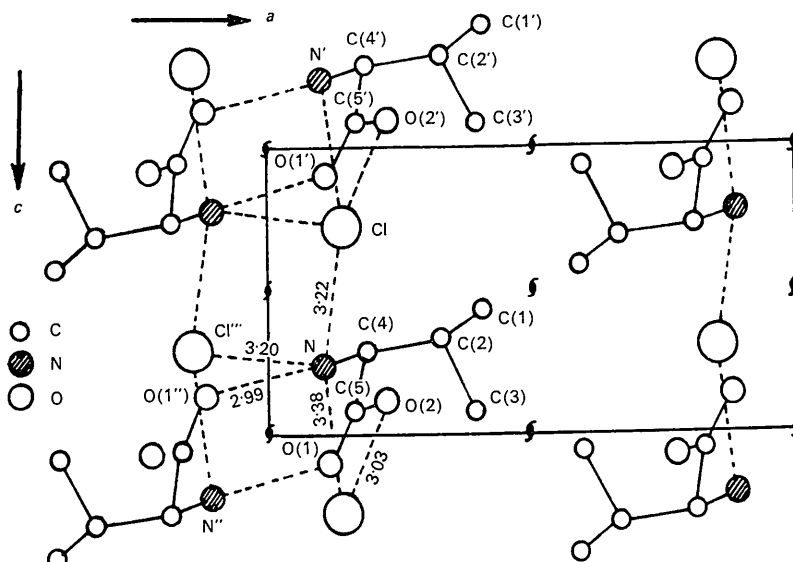


Fig. 3. The intermolecular packing arrangement. The hydrogen bonds are indicated by dashed lines.

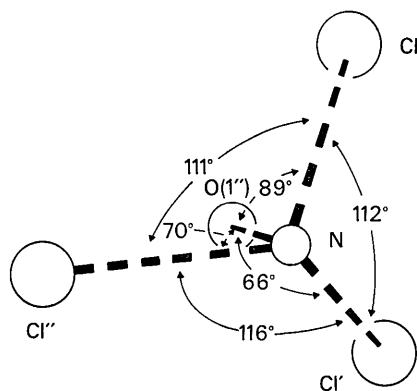


Fig. 4. The environment of the nitrogen atom viewed along the C(4)-N bond. The deviation of O(1'') from the plane passing through C(4), N and Cl'' is exaggerated in the Figure.

1.552 Å and averaging 1.520 Å. The C-C-C angles are also normal and range between 111° and 114°. The bond distance between C(4) and N is 1.490 Å.

The dimensions of the amino acid group are, in general, similar to those reported recently. The two C-O bond lengths are not equal [C(5)-O(1) = 1.229 Å, C(5)-O(2) = 1.350 Å], and the difference is quite significant. The carboxyl group in valine hydrochloride is closely similar to the un-ionized carboxyl group (-COOH) (Nardelli, Fava & Giraldi, 1962).

The atoms O(1), O(2), C(4), and C(5) are closely coplanar and all lie within 0.003 Å of the plane  $0.8515X + 0.3412Y + 0.3982Z = 4.005$  Å where the coefficients are the direction cosines relative to *a*, *b*, and *c*\*. The deviations of the individual atoms from the plane are -0.001 Å for O(1), O(2) and C(4) and 0.003 Å for C(5). The N atom lies 0.210 Å out of this plane; some values exceeding 0.20 Å in other cases are: 0.446 Å in

lysine (Wright & Marsh, 1962), 0.31 Å in  $\alpha$ -glycine (Marsh, 1958), 0.280 Å in arginine (Karle & Karle, 1964).

#### Intermolecular features and hydrogen bonds

The structure projected on (010) is shown in Fig. 3. The hydrogen bonds are shown by dashed lines. The hydrogen bond distances and angles are listed in Table 4.

There are four hydrogen atoms in the molecule of L-valine hydrochloride which can be expected to take part in hydrogen bond formation. The nitrogen is at hydrogen bonding distances from four atoms - three chloride ions (Cl, Cl' and Cl'') and one oxygen atom, O(1''). It forms two normal hydrogen bonds, one to Cl and another to Cl', which would orient the third proton in a direction approximately half-way between the other two atoms Cl'' and O(1''). The distance NH...O(1'') (2.985 Å) is slightly longer than the normal distance of 2.9 Å for the NH...O bond. Such long bonds have been often found in various structures, however. Some examples from the recent literature (1963-64) are: 2.97 Å in cytosine monohydrate (Jeffrey & Kinoshita, 1963); 2.99 Å, 3.01 Å in urea (Caron & Donohue, 1964); 2.97 Å in glycylglycylglycine copper(II) chloride sesquihydrate (Freeman, Robinson & Schoone, 1964); 3.01, 3.03, 3.04, 3.08 Å in bisethylenediaminecopper(II) nitrate (Komiya & Lingafelter, 1964). Thus, the third hydrogen bond from the nitrogen seems to be a 'bifurcated hydrogen bond'. A similar hydrogen bond has been proposed in the case of L-lysine monohydrochloride dihydrate by Wright & Marsh (1962). The environment of the nitrogen atom is shown in Fig. 4.

The Cl ion, in addition to being hydrogen bonded to the three nitrogen atoms (N, N', N''), is also at a distance of 3.028 Å from O(2') which is of the right

order for hydrogen bond formation. This Cl-O(2') distance is shorter than the normal value of 3.2 Å and indicates that the bond is comparatively strong. The non-bonding interatomic distances less than 4 Å are Cl-C(2), 3.867 Å; Cl-C(3)', 3.837 Å; Cl-C(4'), 3.572 Å; and Cl-C(5'), 3.563 Å. The observed distances are all larger than the sum of the radii of the corresponding atoms. It is seen from Fig. 3 that the molecules are packed in such a way that the non-polar groups face each other across planes and similarly for the polar groups.

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## The Crystal Structure of CeFe<sub>7</sub>, PrFe<sub>7</sub>, NdFe<sub>7</sub>, and SmFe<sub>7</sub>\*

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The isostructural phases CeFe<sub>7</sub>, PrFe<sub>7</sub>, NdFe<sub>7</sub>, and SmFe<sub>7</sub> are rhombohedral; the probable space group is  $R\bar{3}m$ . The lattice constants for the triply primitive hexagonal unit cells are:

	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c/a</i>
CeFe <sub>7</sub>	8.488 ± 0.003 Å	12.402 ± 0.007 Å	1.461
PrFe <sub>7</sub>	8.582 ± 0.003	12.462 ± 0.007	1.452
NdFe <sub>7</sub>	8.578 ± 0.003	12.462 ± 0.007	1.453
SmFe <sub>7</sub>	8.554 ± 0.003	12.441 ± 0.007	1.454

The hexagonal unit cells contain seven rare earth and forty-nine iron atoms. The atomic arrangements are intermediate between those of the  $D2_d$ -CaCu<sub>5</sub> and Th<sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>17</sub> structural types. A statistical occupancy of one set of positions has been proposed to account for the observed rhombohedral symmetry.

### Introduction

Nassau, Cherry & Wallace (1960) have reported a phase corresponding to the formula CeFe<sub>5</sub> as having the  $D2_d$ -CaCu<sub>5</sub> structure. Jepson & Duwez (1955) also reported CeFe<sub>5</sub> but observed that only 32 of 39 lines on their powder pattern could be accounted for by the CaCu<sub>5</sub> structure and that the intensity match was poor. Zarechnyuk & Kripyakevich (1963) reported the phase Ce<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>17</sub> ( $a=8.47$ ,  $c=12.41$  Å) to be isostructural with Th<sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>17</sub> (Markarov & Vinogradov, 1956). Kripyakevich, Terekhova, Zarechnyuk & Burov (1963) reported

a Nd-Fe phase, in equilibrium with  $\alpha$ -Fe, to be isostructural with Th<sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>17</sub>. Savitskii, Terekhova, Burov, Naumkin & Markova (1965) have indicated that this Nd-Fe phase corresponds to the composition Nd<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>17</sub> ( $a=8.59$ ,  $c=12.47$  Å). Kripyakevich & Frankevich (1966) have recently reported the phase Pr<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>17</sub> ( $a=8.58$ ,  $c=12.47$  Å) to have the Th<sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>17</sub> structure.

Ray, Strnat & Feldmann (1964) have reported the preparation and magnetic properties of isostructural intermediate phases having the approximate compositions RFe<sub>7</sub> (R=Ce, Pr, Nd). They have shown these RFe<sub>7</sub> phases to form peritectically and that each represents the most iron-rich intermediate phase existing in its alloy system. The powder X-ray diffraction patterns of the RFe<sub>7</sub> phases have been indexed on the

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