

# The Crystal Structure of Dibenzoyl Peroxide and the Dihedral Angle in Covalent Peroxides

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The crystals of dibenzoyl peroxide,  $C_{14}H_{10}O_4$ , have orthorhombic symmetry, space group  $P2_12_12_1$ , and the unit cell, with dimensions  $a=8.95$ ,  $b=14.24$ ,  $c=9.40 \text{ \AA}$ , contains four molecules. The crystal structure has been determined by an analysis of three-dimensional X-ray data, which were recorded photographically at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . The atomic coordinates were derived from the Patterson function and were refined anisotropically by the full-matrix least-squares method. The dihedral angle at the peroxide bond is  $91^\circ$ , which is the structural feature of principal chemical interest. The two phenyl groups of the molecule lie in planes which intersect at an angle of  $84^\circ$  along a line nearly parallel with the O–O bond. The length of the O–O bond is  $1.46 \text{ \AA} \pm 0.015 \text{ \AA}$ . In the two phenyl carboxyl groups, the average values of the bond angles and distances are the expected ones, within the standard deviations of  $1.5^\circ$  and  $0.018 \text{ \AA}$ . A quantum chemical discussion of the dihedral angle in covalent peroxides is presented which assumes  $sp^3$  hybridization for the bond-forming orbitals of oxygen and takes into account the chemical nature of the substituent groups. A value of  $94^\circ$  is predicted for the dihedral angle in dibenzoyl peroxide.

## Introduction

The crystal structure analysis of dibenzoyl peroxide was carried out because specific knowledge concerning the dihedral angle at the peroxide bond and the relative orientation of the acyl groups in this class of compound is of some importance to organic and theoretical chemistry. The detailed molecular structure of a diacyl peroxide had not been recorded previously in the literature. Penney & Sutherland (1934) in the first theoretical discussion of the conformation of molecular peroxide pointed out that if the lone-pair electrons on the adjacent oxygen atoms of  $H_2O_2$  are assumed to be in  $p$  orbitals, the exchange repulsion forces are least when the dihedral angle is  $90^\circ$ , since the overlap integral between the orbitals vanishes. When electrostatic and dispersion forces are included, the minimum in the energy is estimated to occur at  $100^\circ$ . This work has since stimulated considerable interest in this dihedral angle. Most recently, the coefficients in a three-term potential function for the rotational barrier were determined from an analysis of the far infrared spectrum of gaseous hydrogen peroxide (Hunt, 1965). The minimum in this potential function occurs at  $111.5^\circ$ . From various single-crystal analyses the molecular angle of skew in the solid state has been observed to vary from  $90$  to  $180^\circ$ . The skewed form was always found, with the single exception of the crystal structure of  $Na_2C_2O_4 \cdot H_2O_2$  (Pedersen, 1963). The broad range of observed values is a consequence of steric requirements for the formation of strong intermolecular hydrogen-bonded chains, which are surely a larger factor in determining the dihedral angle in the solid state than the exchange repulsion energy in the peroxy group. In *o*-nitroperoxybenzoic acid (Sax, Beurskens & Chu, 1965) and peroxypelargonic acid (Belitskus

& Jeffrey, 1965), the dihedral angles are  $146$  and  $132^\circ$  respectively, and in both crystal structures the hydrogen atom of the peroxy group participates in hydrogen bonding. Evidently, crystal structures in which this angle is influenced by hydrogen bonding are not best suited for demonstrating the effect of the lone-pair electrons on the molecular stereochemistry. It seems reasonable to assume that only in crystals without hydrogen bonded peroxy groups will there occur, if at all, molecules in which the substituents on the peroxy group are involved in intermolecular interactions sufficiently weak that the exchange repulsions between lone-pair electrons on adjacent oxygen atoms are the major influence governing the dihedral angle. If this is indeed the case, the angles observed in such crystal structures will fall within a narrow range about a characteristic value. Dibenzoyl peroxide is one such crystal structure, where the molecules are situated in an environment subject to van der Waals type interactions only.

## Crystal data

Benzoyl peroxide,  $C_{14}H_{10}O_4$ , M.W. 242.22, m.p.  $103.5^\circ\text{C}$ , Orthorhombic, with  $a=8.95 \pm 0.01$ ,  $b=14.24 \pm 0.01$ ,  $c=9.40 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $V=1210 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $D_m=1.33 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ,  $Z=4$ ,  $D_x=1.34 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ . Space group,  $P2_12_12_1$ , from the extinctions  $h00$  absent for  $h$  odd,  $0k0$  absent for  $k$  odd, and  $00l$  absent for  $l$  odd.

## Experimental

The crystals of dibenzoyl peroxide were supplied to us by Dr L. Silbert of the Eastern Regional Laboratories, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cell dimensions were measured on the General Electric XRD-3 diffracto-

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meter with Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation. The three-dimensional intensity data were recorded at room temperature on multifilm equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs with Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation. Layers 0 to 9 and 0 to 5 were collected about the  $b$  and  $c$  axes, respectively, with exposure times ranging from 46 to 97 hours. Photographs taken at 25°C and -100°C showed diffuse scattering which probably indicates both thermal motion and statistical disorder. Only 863 of the 1611 reflections within the limiting sphere could be recorded

at 25°C and 101 of these were unobserved above the background. The intensities were estimated visually by comparison with a standard scale. Angle and spot-shape corrections were applied but none were made for absorption or extinction. The interlayer scaling factors were determined by a least-squares method (Rollett & Sparks, 1960), in which the observed intensities were weighted in accordance with the accuracy of the part of the visual scale in which the intensity estimation was made.

Table 1. Observed and calculated structure factors for dibenzoyl peroxide

The running index  $k$  is listed at the left in each group of reflections having common  $h$  and  $l$  indices. The other columns are as they follow the  $k$  index from left to right:  $10F_o$ ,  $10|F_c|$ ,  $10A_c$  and  $10B_c$ . Those reflections marked with an asterisk were omitted from the least-squares refinement.

$h = 0$	$0$	$0$	$0$	$H = 10$	$L = 0$	$0$	$0$	$7$	$41$	$35$	$33$	$11$	$10$	$170$	$185$	$147$	$112$	$13$	$63$	$66$	$64$	$15$				
2	94	94	94	0	0	68	75	0	8	42	40	37	16	11	68	97	5-	97	11	166	169	42	164			
4	175	163	163	-	0	143	449	0	449	10	56	51	36	37	13	45	44	39	20	13	41	36	4-			
6	46	45	45	0	0	126	156	197	0	11	75	79	73	14	23	39	29	4	14	27*	7	3				
8	156	146	146	-	0	143	429	0	60	12	31	35	30	17	0	79	75	75	0	16	22	17	0			
10	30	29	29	-	0	143	429	0	60	12	31	35	30	17	0	79	75	75	0	17	26	33	27			
14	171	176	176	0	0	70	78	78	0	1	33*	8	6	4	1	74	49	57	0	0	31	35	0			
1	596	595	0	0	595	6	25	24	0	2	43	41	21	35	2	61	59	33	48	0	31	35	0			
2	23	19	19	-	0	7	499	617	0	637	8	73	71	19	3	68	70	58	38	1	63	65	58			
3	20	20	20	-	0	100	150	106	0	1	31	31	31	36	0	209	223	187	100	2	33	33	8			
4	440	411	0	0	321	9	47	51	0	5	26	21	2	29	5	27	24	19	14	3	293	299	181			
5	314	271	0	0	271	10	36	33	0	6	13	27	27	0	6	60	57	57	4	72	74	70	23			
6	440	453	0	0	453	11	80	78	0	74	7	32	21	15	8	48	50	46	18	5	86	91	11			
7	61*	26	0	0	26	13	27	29	0	29	8	27	28	24	14	9	72	79	19	77	6	112	112	9		
8	71	63	0	0	63	14	31	32	0	9	24	33	29	16	10	147	164	141	83	7	108	103	64			
9	90	100	0	0	100	3	10	10	0	10	31	32	13	29	11	40	39	5	8	122	122	45	12			
10	143	137	0	0	137	1	367	381	353	0	165	121	121	27	0	59*	64	61	0	10	42	43	38			
11	76	77	0	0	77	2	137	134	131	0	12	23	26	29	16	0	59*	64	61	0	11	134	137	53		
14	59	58	0	0	58	3	274	314	207	236	0	8	24	21	8	1	69	72	72	0	11	134	137	126		
0	479	507	507	-	0	4	161	161	16	160	0	24	32	0	32	2	32	23	13	20	0	62	62	0		
1	109	109	109	109	0	6	33	39	39	30	1	36	34	24	24	3	65	72	45	55	0	29	27	25		
2	134	134	134	134	0	7	239	240	240	240	0	19*	1	0	0	5	25	19	17	0	2	152	158	110		
3	234	233	233	233	0	8	151	165	155	0	4	18	16	11	9	6	41	46	39	3	145	139	36	134		
4	102	99	99	99	0	9	151	177	177	17	7	36	29	28	28	0	123	20	27	19	4	141	148	120		
5	186	164	164	164	0	10	77	81	68	45	0	16	29	30	31	9	5	35	29	3	29	29	29	29		
6	134	164	164	164	0	11	30	27	27	0	2	19	15	9	11	10	105	118	45	109	6	103	103	32		
7	45	45	45	45	0	12	36	37	4	4	18*	25	15	11	32	0	38	36	16	34	7	103	103	45		
8	96	90	90	90	0	13	24	24	16	0	1	24	27	27	7	27	1	49	42	41	6	9	25*	32	13	
9	46	33	33	33	0	14	33	28	28	4	1	24	27	27	7	27	1	49	42	41	6	9	25*	32	13	
10	141	127	127	127	0	15	24	21	1	21	0	2	22	26	23	11	2	32	32	33	13	27	10	58	62	
11	71	66	66	66	0	16	24	21	1	21	0	1	31	45	45	34	0	77	81	0	81	13	41	41	40	
13	63	58	58	58	0	17	1	1	1	0	207*	267	267	9	4	24	18	16	7	13	41	41	40	8		
15	42	37	37	37	0	18	1	2	190	196	196	0	354	363	C	32	0	45	45	35	31	0	0	0	0	
1	43	37	0	0	0	19	23	23	23	0	3	151	165	165	0	0	5	25	19	17	0	107	101	101	6	
2	77	77	0	0	0	20	73	68	68	33	3	153	174	174	0	179	7	34	39	37	3	2	42	40	3	
3	20	21	0	0	0	21	26	25	25	0	4	16	16	16	0	0	9	76	80	80	26	3	60	54	10	
4	59*	22	0	0	0	22	7	363	362	164	164	0	12	21	23	23	0	3	37	31	29	25	3	60	54	10
5	206	203	204	204	0	23	1	1	1	0	251	258	112	233	0	5	21	27	22	2	7	61	58	11	57	
6	69	70	70	70	0	7	132	123	7	122	0	10	149	161	5	161	4	23	22	2	7	8	23	19	16	
7	18	20	20	20	0	8	72	72	70	0	12	24	71	72	12	70	7	22	26	5	5	40	36	25	26	
8	35	25	25	25	0	9	32	32	32	0	13	42	42	42	0	0	22	22	11	11	13	13	13	13		
9	129	128	128	128	0	10	89	94	67	66	0	14	52	51	49	15	9	27	26	12	23	0	0	0	0	
10	254	248	248	248	0	11	75	67	65	65	0	34	39	39	30	25	1	48	53	53	53	0	0	0	0	
1	69*	71	0	0	71	12	68	72	66	66	0	1307*	1635	1635	0	0	2	161	175	175	0	2	64	60	34	48
3	165	173	0	0	173	16	23	19	11	15	0	11	121	121	0	0	60	63	63	3	27*	1	6-	9		
4	54	59	0	0	59	14	62	60	0	0	102	106	65	33	0	0	22	22	0	0	16*	22	9	23		
5	79	71	0	0	71	6	118	113	9	113	0	4	235	242	240	28	6	39	34	34	0	6	21	16	3	
7	66	59	0	0	59	11	100	66	75	56	0	5	196	215	207	55	7	51	49	49	0	7	28	30	22	
8	95	86	0	0	86	2	156	164	164	3	6	252	275	275	273	8	77	83	83	0	8	30	31	30		
9	121	117	0	0	117	3	249	234	58	228	0	46	42	21	39	9	42	43	43	0	9	20	18	13		
10	43	43	0	0	43	43	43	43	43	43	0	34	34	34	34	10	12	11	11	10	10	27	24	15		
11	176	169	0	0	169	5	33	26	26	1	9	94	106	74	67	11	89	120	0	103	11	22	11	19		
12	28	31	0	0	31	6	82	79	79	0	10	254	278	259	100	12	22	17	17	0	0	25*	0	0		
0	166	167	167	167	0	7	143	130	118	53	53	11	48	40	10	39	16	36	38	38	0	0	25*	0	0	
1	97	93	0	0	93	0	8	71	61	24	24	12	44	42	14	17	4	36	35	35	0	1	34	37	31	
3	119	133	133	133	0	10	30	28	28	28	0	28	28	28	28	0	1	23	26	28	28	0	2	36	28	28
4	148	163	163	163	0	11	152	144	4	144	0	453*	503	503	0	1	264	279	260	101	0	5	21	15	15	
5	57	50	50	50	0	12	43	42	39	15	0	189	217	217	314	2	129	127	98	81	8	30	32	0		
6	24*	2	2	2	0	13	37	37	13	34	0	2	66	61	53	0	3	161	173	173	28	0	0	24*	21	25
9	36	36	36	36	0	14	54	53	23	47	0	3	25	23	16	17	5	52	51	52	0	2	34	42	22	

Table 1 (cont.)

2	103	107	64-	85	10	25	22	20-	8-	1	100	105	82-	66	3	55	40	38	47-	9	50	48	0	48-											
4	132	146	30	142	0	198	210	210-	0	3	95	95	65-	69	5	29	25	21-	14	1	51	48	1-	48-											
5	158	175	161-	69	1	145	156	155	0-	4	56	52	50	14-	6	31	24	6	23-	3	55*	55	48-	26-											
7	34	33	13-	30-	2	47	54	37-	39	5	56	53	17-	50-	7	31	26	20-	15	8	36	33	23-	26-											
8	40	40	29-	28	5	54	53	38-	37	7	75	58	8-	68	9	59	44	44-	37-	0	35	5	0	5-											
9	98	108	98	44	6	31	33	30-	14-	8	39	32	28-	15-	0	87	92	92-	0	2	63	48	43	21-											
10	157	185	54-	177-	7	26	18	0	15	9	39	32	28-	15-	1	100	108	103-	31-	7	56	55	21	51-											
11	111	133	25-	130-	8	37	37	33-	15	1	H <sup>a</sup> 4 L <sup>b</sup> 5	0	2	25	22	21	4-	H <sup>a</sup> 6 L <sup>b</sup> 7	1	39	33	28-	17-												
12	33	27	1-	25-	0	67	58	50-	0	0	15	12	52	50-	0	18	4	40	38	32-	20-	1	14	11	5	9-									
15	16	16	H <sup>c</sup> 2 L <sup>d</sup> 4	5	1	61	66	33-	57-	0	7	73	68	36-	57-	0	21	9	8-	7	H <sup>c</sup> 7 L <sup>d</sup> 4	1	31*	24	24-	1									
0	194	205	205-	0	3	26	23	0	23-	1	4	36	26	24	11-	9	22	20	2	20	2	34	25	23	9-										
1	194	210	178-	111	4	30	32	32	5-	5	41	39	13	36	9	74	72	71	11	3	31	10	9-	2											
2	24	24	20-	19	5	30	31	30-	8-	6	67	59	15-	57	0	H <sup>a</sup> 4 L <sup>b</sup> 6	0	119	126	126	0	H <sup>a</sup> 6 L <sup>b</sup> 7	1	21	22	22	1-								
3	128	149	149-	64-	6	44	47	17-	43-	8	40	33	32-	4-	2	37	31	31-	31	3	H <sup>a</sup> 6 L <sup>b</sup> 7	1	24	22	22	1-									
4	158	181	124-	124-	8	31	30	17-	30-	0	H <sup>a</sup> 4 L <sup>b</sup> 5	0	32	22	22	4-	44	44	29-	34	4	128	119	119	3	3-									
5	92	80	80-	2	0	H <sup>a</sup> 8 L <sup>b</sup> 4	0	0	0	0	40	43	43-	0	1	44	33	0	33	6	39	32	28	28-											
6	87	96	61-	74-	0	40	43	43-	0	1	44	33	0	33	6	39	32	25	35	4	34	28	28	3	3-										
7	43	39	17-	11	1	38	35	33-	12-	2	89	87	60-	62-	7	37	38	25	28-	7	28	28	0	28-											
10	131	131	131-	131	0	2	25	22	22-	0	3	43	40	37	16-	8	44	40	38-	13	H <sup>a</sup> 4 L <sup>b</sup> 8	0	51	45	45	0									
10	151	161	130-	95-	3	18	17	17-	21	0	2	40	36	30-	30-	6	36	34	30	30	9	39*	46	42-	18										
11	69	79	0	79-	2	28	33	33-	5-	5	29	25	7	24-	6	24-	2	26	26	0	1	52*	54	38	38										
12	36*	11	7	9-	5	18	21	19	9-	7	86	85	19-	82-	1	67	65	64-	7	4	32	26	23-	13-											
13	30	21	8	19	0	H <sup>a</sup> 9 L <sup>b</sup> 4	8	50	41	34	24	5	55	54	50-	21-	5	31	15	8-	12-	H <sup>a</sup> 2 L <sup>b</sup> 8	0												
14	25	20	16-	12-	0	22	17	17	0	0	41	33	33	3-	7	26*	7	0	7	0	77	77	77-	0											
15	30	23	23-	9	0	H <sup>a</sup> 9 L <sup>b</sup> 5	0	0	0	45	33	33	3-	7	26*	7	0	7	1	54	47	31	31-												
0	468	514	514-	0	1	71	70	70-	0	2	40	31	22-	22	0	60	61	61-	0	4	32	23	20	12-											
1	192	218	216-	24-	3	282*	362	31-	362-	3	43	40	30	26-	20	1	78	79	41	67	9	39*	46	42-	18										
2	49	52	37-	37-	4	118	121	121-	121-	4	27	22	22	2-	0	36	38	25-	28	H <sup>a</sup> 3 L <sup>b</sup> 8	0	127	130	130-	0										
3	62	62	31-	53-	5	42	42	40-	40-	5	25*	25	3-	3-	8	36	34	8	33	1	24	7	5	3-											
5	130	143	135-	59-	6	40	36	36-	32	6	56	58	35	46	0	H <sup>a</sup> 6 L <sup>b</sup> 6	1	68	67	67	2	6	28	33	9	32-									
6	65	52	51-	51-	7	28	26	13	13-	0	7	67	54	21-	51	1	68	67	67	2	30	33	32-	8	H <sup>a</sup> 4 L <sup>b</sup> 8	0									
7	63	66	20-	62-	9	51	47	0	47	0	H <sup>a</sup> 7 L <sup>b</sup> 5	3	34*	35	3-	4	0	47	49	49-	0	1	46	38	27-	26-									
8	46	46	4-	46-	0	10	110	127	127-	0	0	45	46	0	46-	0	H <sup>a</sup> 8 L <sup>b</sup> 6	0	4	42	35	31-	17-												
9	69	66	11-	65-	11	17	239	29-	0	1	74	71	65	27	0	22*	3	3	0	4	34	36	36-	0											
10	173	191	134-	135-	0	86	132	100	103	3	26*	24	16-	16-	2	32	26	22-	12-	H <sup>a</sup> 5 L <sup>b</sup> 8	0	34	36	36-	0										
12	19	16	1-	14-	1	1	96	96-	92-	0	3	24	22	22	2-	3	24	17	0	17	1	23	21	14-	18-										
13	24	20	19-	6-	2	50	47	7-	47-	4	H <sup>a</sup> 8 L <sup>b</sup> 5	0	4	45	42	42-	0	1	22*	21	20-	2-	H <sup>a</sup> 6 L <sup>b</sup> 8	0											
14	43	48	49-	27	3	163	175	111	133-	9	18*	2	0	2	5	27	30	0	30	1	22	21	19-	1-											
0	447*	513	513	0	4	126	151	141	141-	1	36*	32	31	31-	7	36	30	0	30-	3	33	26	26-	3	H <sup>a</sup> 7 L <sup>b</sup> 7	0									
1	114	131	113-	9-	3	52	29	20-	20-	0	H <sup>a</sup> 12 L <sup>b</sup> 12	0	0	38	33	0	33-	H <sup>a</sup> 0 L <sup>b</sup> 9	7	35	40	0	40-												
2	41	41	41-	41-	5	85	100	84-	84-	0	123	124	124-	124-	0	38	37	36	0	3	H <sup>a</sup> 1 L <sup>b</sup> 9	0	40	47	46-	8									
3	35	34	26-	22-	8	37	32	9-	9-	1	54	53	50	53-	1	38	37	36	0	3	H <sup>a</sup> 1 L <sup>b</sup> 9	0	40	47	46-	8									
4	93	87	49-	72-	9	69	68	40-	56	2	41	40	40	40-	0	3109	119	61-	102-	1	45	47	47-	46-	8										
5	25	19	15-	11-	10	53	55	52-	57-	3	91	98	98	98	4	33	37	10-	36	7	35	39	10	38-											
6	103	94	57-	74-	11	84	94	31	89	4	91	100	100-	100-	5	27	19	19-	1-	1	37	42	0	42-											
7	24	24	19-	13-	13	38	26	22-	24-	24	5	27	26	22-	22-	5	22	19	19-	11-	H <sup>a</sup> 7 L <sup>b</sup> 9	0	34	36	36-	26-									
8	39	34	23-	24-	0	86	90	0	90-	7	21	22	0	22	2	43	44	43	7	1	30	28	28	5	H <sup>a</sup> 2 L <sup>b</sup> 8	0									
9	83	75	73-	20-	1	20	20	1-	20-	9	70	68	0	68-	3	70	66	42	51	1	26*	28	22	17	H <sup>a</sup> 4 L <sup>b</sup> 7	1	17	3	2-	1-					
10	91	88	58-	88-	1	20	20	1-	20-	9	70	68	0	68-	4	34	27	23	14-	1	31	28	28	5	H <sup>a</sup> 5 L <sup>b</sup> 7	0	34	36	36-	26-					
12	26	24	24-	24-	2	106	111	84	60-	0	H <sup>a</sup> 1 L <sup>b</sup> 6	0	105	100	100-	0	7	47	51	51	51	1	34	9	1-	8-	H <sup>a</sup> 0 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	40	39	39	2			
0	96	105	105-	0	5	21	23	22	0-	3	16	13	6-	11-	4	115	114	114-	6-	0	37	37	7	8-	0	40	39	39	2	H <sup>a</sup> 0 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	37	42	0	
1	81	75	19-	73-	6	19	13	13-	9-	3	115	114	114-	6-	0	77	77	77	7-	1	23	21	20-	2-	H <sup>a</sup> 1 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	37	42	0	42-					
2	52	50	49-	11-	7	34	30	24	17-	5	59	60	59	59-	0	1	77	77	77	7-	1	37	42	0	42-	H <sup>a</sup> 1 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	37	42	0	42-				
3	36	29	29-	4-	8	30	25	9	23	6	27	25	14-	20-	2	62	69	27	63	1	37	42	0	42-	H <sup>a</sup> 1 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	37	42	0	42-					
4	35	28	19-	21-	9	27	21	15	15-	7	20	18	7-	10-	3	29*	13	7-	11-	1	37	42	0	42-	H <sup>a</sup> 1 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	37	42	0	42-					
5	24	22	22-	20-	10	53	55	23-	24-	9	89	89	7-	20-	7	37	37	20-	31-	0	41	46	62-	62-	0	41	46	62-	62-	H <sup>a</sup> 5 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	37	42	0	42-
6	25	20	10-	17	11	63	66	61-	61-	0	127	122	122-	0	0	57	61	3	61	1	37	42	0	42-	H <sup>a</sup> 5 L <sup>b</sup> 10	0	37	42	0	42-					
7	23	16	16-	0	12	40	32	6-	31	0</																									

Table 2. The atomic parameters

	Fractional coordinates $\times 10^4$ e.s.d. $\times 10^4$			Anisotropic temperature coefficients* $\times 10^2$ e.s.d. $\times 10^2$ ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )					
	$x/a$	$y/b$	$z/c$	$B_{11}$	$B_{22}$	$B_{33}$	$B_{12}$	$B_{13}$	$B_{23}$
C(1)	1227	-2761	3772	264	175	417	-31	10	26
	12	6	13	15	13	24	14	23	15
C(2)	2133	-2311	4703	310	180	340	21	-47	44
	13	6	13	17	13	20	14	22	15
C(3)	2279	-1350	4749	341	195	299	-92	-97	-5
	13	7	12	19	12	20	14	23	15
C(4)	1472	-828	3788	262	168	196	26	-2	30
	10	6	9	15	11	14	11	18	11
C(5)	537	-1284	2808	266	208	301	6	-31	-19
	12	7	12	15	13	17	13	19	15
C(6)	460	-2231	2808	301	184	341	-3	-13	-55
	12	6	12	17	14	20	14	21	15
C(7)	1568	209	3695	240	167	252	7	66	-12
	10	6	11	15	11	16	11	19	14
C(8)	3585	1893	3937	249	176	301	5	-44	-5
	11	6	11	16	12	18	12	20	13
C(9)	4565	4339	2917	314	243	415	-32	11	8
	13	8	15	20	19	22	17	26	19
C(10)	4507	3370	2982	311	169	402	-32	46	16
	12	6	14	18	13	22	13	24	15
C(11)	3585	2921	3918	197	187	287	10	-18	6
	9	6	10	13	12	18	10	18	13
C(12)	2664	3453	4844	281	283	320	-10	-69	-41
	12	8	13	18	19	20	15	22	16
C(13)	2767	4427	4741	393	179	405	7	25	-71
	14	7	15	24	15	24	16	28	15
C(14)	3654	4849	3789	280	165	422	-18	-158	40
	12	6	13	17	12	24	14	25	16
O(15)	2454	535	4780	442	123	346	-67	-42	8
	9	4	8	16	8	14	10	17	8
O(16)	0973	698	2868	277	197	341	12	-21	66
	8	4	8	11	10	13	9	13	10
O(17)	2444	1553	4750	391	191	340	-57	68	-23
	9	4	9	16	11	14	10	17	10
O(18)	4394	1391	3289	278	187	483	20	57	-33
	8	5	10	11	10	18	10	16	11
H(1)	1139	-3457	3774	* In the form $f^\circ \exp [-\frac{1}{2}(B_{11}h^2a^{*2} + \dots + 2B_{23}h_1h_2a^{*2})]$					
H(2)	2701	-2677	5378						
H(3)	2937	-1033	5459						
H(5)	-33	-919	2140						
H(6)	-195	-2549	2105						
H(9)	5253	4660	2219						
H(10)	5136	2993	2342						
H(12)	1985	3131	5534						
H(13)	2138	4804	5374						
H(14)	3682	5543	3743						

\* In the form  $f^\circ \exp[-\frac{1}{4}(B_{11}h^2a^{*2} + \dots + 2B_{23}klb^*c^*)]$ .

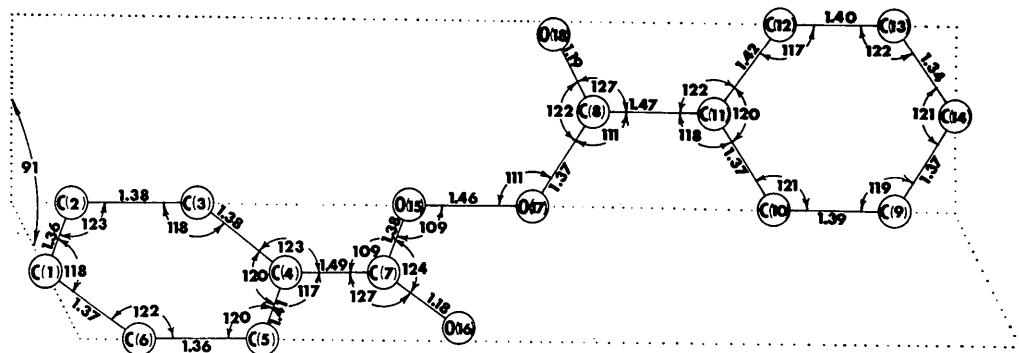


Fig. 1. Some interatomic distances and angles in dibenzoyl peroxide.

$\frac{1}{2}\sigma$  (0.01 Å). Neither the O(16)C(7)O(15)O(17) nor the O(18)C(8)O(17)O(15) group is planar, but they exhibit a slight torsional displacement of 2.5° and 4.2° respectively about the C(7)–O(15) and C(8)–O(17) bonds (Table 3). In *o*-nitroperoxybenzoic acid, the corresponding displacement is 5°. The equations to some of the atomic planes in the molecule are given in Table 3, together with the angles subtended at their lines of intersection. The most interesting of these is the dihedral angle of 91° at the peroxide bond. Although this value agrees with the theoretical estimate of the angle in the isolated molecule, the question of the extent to which it may have been perturbed by the lattice forces cannot be ascertained from a single analysis alone. Supporting evidence that this perturbation is small is provided by the work of Caticha-Ellis & Abrahams (1965), who have found a dihedral angle of approximately 90° in 4,4'-dichlorodibenzoyl peroxide, although the molecular packing in the two crystal structures is different. The conformation of these two molecules also differs at single bonds other than the peroxide bond owing to variations in certain other dihedral angles. However, structure analyses of molecular peroxides of more diverse geometry are needed to determine how sensitive is the dihedral angle to molecular environment. The molecular packing, the dihedral angle at the peroxide bond and the two dihedral angles between the phenyl groups and the carboxyl groups to which they are bonded are shown in Fig. 2. The closest contacts between molecules are the expected van der Waals interactions. In view of the mode of molecular packing and qualitative observations on the distribution of the X-ray diffuse scattering at different temperatures, the suggestion is made that this

crystal may contain both D and L molecules and is composed of micro-domains, each containing molecules of the same sense and separated by stacking faults. The enantiomorphism of organic peroxides has been discussed recently (Jeffrey, 1964).

The bond lengths and valence angles with their standard deviations are shown in Fig. 1, where the  $\sigma$ 's are 0.02 Å in the bond lengths and 2.0° in the valence angles. The C–C distances in the benzene rings vary from 1.34 to 1.42 Å, but do not differ by more than 3σ from the mean of 1.379 Å. The C–C distances external to the ring are 1.49 and 1.47 Å. The C=O distances are 1.18 and 1.19 Å, the C–O distances are 1.38 and 1.37 Å and the O–O distance is 1.46 Å. The angles in the benzene rings average 119.4°. The three angles at carboxyl carbon atom (7) are 109, 127 and 124°, and the corresponding angles at atom (8) are 111, 127 and 122°. The average C–O–O angle is 110°, implying that the bonding orbitals on the oxygen atoms are  $sp^3$  hybrids. Within the accuracy of the analysis these values are in agreement with comparable parameters reported for *o*-nitroperoxybenzoic acid. The rather large standard deviations in the parameters are a consequence of the cut-off in the data, which, in view of the comparatively high melting point, is only partially due to thermal motion. Since some preliminary calculations indicated that the rigid-body approximation was not applicable to this molecule, no correction to the bond lengths for the thermal motion was attempted. However, the directions and magnitudes of the principal axes of the apparent vibration ellipsoids of the atoms as given by the least-squares refinement are shown in Table 4.

#### The dihedral angle in covalent peroxides

The Penney–Sutherland discussion of the dihedral angle in the peroxide groups is limited specifically to the  $H_2O_2$  molecule and makes the assumption that the oxygen 2s orbital is not used in bonding. A more general theoretical treatment is needed as a basis for discussing the other covalent peroxide structures. Essentially this must show how the exchange repulsion energy changes in its dependence upon the dihedral angle as the chemical nature of the substituent atoms on the peroxide group is varied. For this purpose the exchange integrals between the electrons in filled orbitals must be evaluated as functions of the dihedral angle and the bonding parameters. If, for simplicity, the overlap rather than the exchange integrals is used in the evaluation, comparative estimates of the configurational energy of the molecule can be deduced, the stable configurations being those for which the overlapping is a minimum. It is the latter method which is followed here.

In these calculations, the bonding electrons of oxygen are assumed to be in  $sp^3$  orbitals, whereas the lone-pair electrons are assigned to  $sp$  and  $p$  orbitals. In order to define the dihedral angle  $\theta$ , the orbital directions of

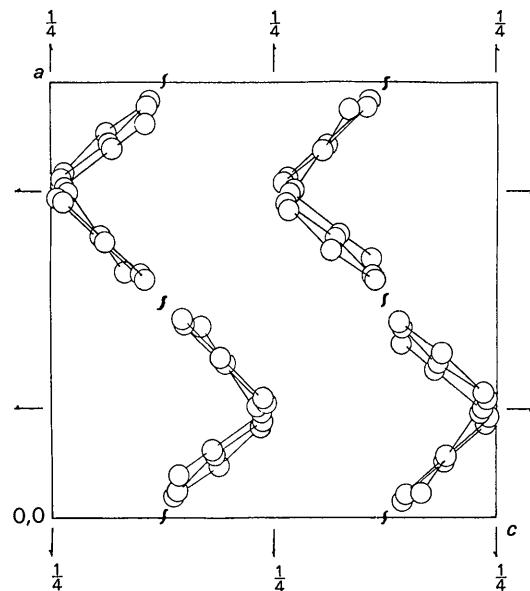


Fig. 2. The (010) projection of dibenzoyl peroxide showing the molecular packing, the dihedral angle at the peroxide bond, and the angle of torsion at the single bonds between the phenyl and carboxy groups.

oxygen atom 1 are fixed while those of atom 2 are rotated about the O–O bond, where  $\theta=0^\circ$  is taken to be the *cis* conformation. The *x* axis is chosen to coincide with the peroxide bond with the positive sense from O(1) to O(2). The subscript on  $\psi$  designates the oxygen atom; the Roman numerals (I) and (II) indicate atomic orbitals used respectively in the peroxide bond and in the bond to the substituent atom; numerals (III) and (IV) indicate orbitals of the lone-pairs.

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1(\text{I}) &= \frac{1}{2}s + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}p_x \\ \psi_1(\text{II}) &= \frac{1}{2}s - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}p_x + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}p_y \\ \psi_1(\text{III}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}s - \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}p_x - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}p_y \\ \psi_1(\text{IV}) &= p_z\end{aligned}$$

Table 3. Some planes of atoms in dibenzoyl peroxide

Atomic planes Coefficients in  $AX+BY+CZ+D=0$

	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>
Phenyl C(1) to (6)	0.7603	-0.0531	-0.6474	-1.244
Phenyl C(9) to (14)	0.7285	0.0096	0.6849	4.923
C(7), O(15), O(17)	0.7905	-0.0065	-0.6124	-1.024
O(15), O(17), C(8)	0.5934	0.0192	0.8047	4.951
C(7), O(15), O(16)	0.8007	-0.0560	-0.5973	-0.96876
C(8), O(17), O(18)	0.6135	-0.0498	0.7881	4.768

## Dihedral angles in dibenzoyl peroxide

Planes	Dihedral angle
C(7)–O(15)–O(17) and C(8)–O(15)–O(17)	91°22'
Phenyl group [C(1) to C(6)] and O(15)–C(7)–O(16)	3 42
Phenyl group [C(9) to C(14)] and O(17)–C(8)–O(18)	9 30
C(7)–O(15)–O(17) and C(7)–O(15)–O(16)	2 26
C(8)–O(17)–O(18) and C(8)–O(15)–O(17)	4 14

Table 4. R.M.S. displacements and directions of principal axes of vibration\*

	$U(i) \times 10^2$	$\theta(i,a)$	$\theta(i,b)$	$\theta(i,c)$		$U(i) \times 10^2$	$\theta(i,a)$	$\theta(i,b)$	$\theta(i,c)$
C(1)	22 Å	74°	17°	85°	C(10)	22	77	14	96
	29	163	74	84		30	157	76	72
	36	86	97	8		35	71	89	19
C(2)	22	102	20	106	C(11)	23	123	34	97
	30	148	108	116		25	146	124	96
	33	120	82	31		30	99	87	9
C(3)	21	61	33	75	C(12)	26	50	60	55
	29	109	63	146		30	53	143	89
	36	36	109	119		33	118	110	36
C(4)	21	101	32	120	C(13)	22	91	16	74
	25	78	117	150		34	155	98	66
	28	16	74	85		36	65	104	29
C(5)	25	92	11	80	C(14)	22	91	9	99
	28	154	87	116		25	150	96	119
	31	116	100	29		39	120	83	31
C(6)	22	88	18	72	O(15)	18	79	11	90
	30	171	85	97		32	106	87	164
	33	99	107	19		37	20	101	106
C(7)	22	106	23	74	O(16)	23	99	24	111
	24	134	113	53		29	168	101	93
	30	48	92	42		33	97	70	22
C(8)	23	93	3	89	O(17)	23	76	14	87
	26	153	92	117		30	60	95	149
	31	117	93	27		36	34	104	60
C(9)	26	69	21	93	O(18)	23	105	17	82
	31	159	69	87		29	161	106	80
	35	86	88	5		39	79	95	13

\* The r.m.s. displacement  $U(i)$  is directed along the *i*th axis of the ellipsoid, where  $\theta(i,a)$ ,  $\theta(i,b)$  and  $\theta(i,c)$  are angles between the *i*th axis and crystallographic axes *a*, *b*, *c*.

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_2(\text{I}) &= \frac{1}{2}s - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}p_x \\ \psi_2(\text{II}) &= \frac{1}{2}s + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}p_x + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}(p_z \sin \theta + p_y \cos \theta) \\ \psi_2(\text{III}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}s + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}p_x - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}(p_z \sin \theta + p_y \cos \theta) \\ \psi_2(\text{IV}) &= p_z \cos \theta - p_y \sin \theta\end{aligned}$$

The localized m.o.'s for the  $\sigma$  bonds are

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(\text{O-O}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[\psi_1(\text{I}) + \psi_2(\text{I})] \\ \psi[\text{O}(1)-\text{R}(1)] &= \lambda_1 \psi_1(\text{II}) + (1 - \lambda_1^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \psi[\text{R}(1)] \\ \psi[\text{O}(2)-\text{R}(2)] &= \lambda_2 \psi_2(\text{II}) + (1 - \lambda_2^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \psi[\text{R}(2)]\end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{R}(1)$  and  $\text{R}(2)$  are atoms bonded to  $\text{O}(1)$  and  $\text{O}(2)$  respectively. The values for  $\lambda$  are estimated from bond moments (Coulson, 1952). The other bonding parameters  $\lambda_{\pi}$  are estimated from bond orders (Pauling, 1960) and are defined by the relation

$$\lambda_{\pi}^2 = C_1^2 + \dots + C_n^2$$

where the  $C_i^2$  are the coefficients of  $\psi(\text{IV})$  in the filled orbitals of a  $\pi$  electron system involving oxygen and a substituent group. The overlap integrals can now be expressed as functions of the dihedral angle, the bonding parameters, and overlap integrals between the atomic basis functions, as in the integral

$$\langle \lambda_1 \psi_1(\text{II}) | \lambda_{\pi_2} | \psi_2(\text{IV}) \rangle = -\lambda_1 \lambda_{\pi_2} \langle p_{1y} p_{2y} \rangle \sin \theta.$$

The values used for these integrals are listed in Table 5 and are taken from tables of normalized Slater A-O overlap integrals by Mulliken, Rieke, Orloff & Orloff (1949). Overlap between non-bonded atoms is neglected. The sum of the squares of the  $\theta$ -dependent overlap integrals are then examined for minima and these are expressible as functions of the  $\lambda$ 's.\*

Table 5. Overlap integrals between peroxide oxygen atoms separated by 1.48 Å

Atomic orbitals	$S_{ij}$
$2s\sigma, 2s\sigma$	0.157
$2s\sigma, 2p\sigma$	0.193
$2p\sigma, 2p\sigma$	0.22
$2p\pi, 2p\pi$	0.071

The  $sp^3$  hybridization of the oxygen bonding orbitals increases the angle of minimum overlap over the value calculated by Penney & Sutherland assuming  $p$  bonding, as shown by the first entry in Table 6. The effect

\* The sum of the squares of the  $\theta$ -dependent overlap integrals is given by the expression

$$S^2 = \sum_X \sum_Y \sum_{i,j} \langle \psi_i(X) \psi_j(Y) \rangle^2 \lambda_i^2 \lambda_j^2 \beta_{ij},$$

where  $i$  and  $j$  assume the values 1 and 2;  $X$  and  $Y$  assume values II to IV; and either  $\lambda\alpha$  or  $\lambda\beta$  can be  $\lambda_{\pi}\lambda_{\Sigma}$  or 1 depending upon the wave functions in the overlap integral.

of altering the electronegativity of the substituent atom in the absence of either  $\pi$  bonding or interfering steric groups is illustrated by the first four entries of Table 6. If the substituent is more electronegative than oxygen, the angle decreases and moves closer to  $90^\circ$ , because the centroid of charge distribution in the  $\sigma$  bond is shifted away from the oxygen atom which diminishes the magnitudes of the overlap integrals that contain this  $\sigma$  bonding orbital. These are the overlap integrals that are sensitive to  $sp^3$  hybridization of the bonding orbital and as they are necessarily decreased, the effectiveness of hybridization for increasing the angle is reduced. As the last three entries in the table show, the largest effect on the angle is produced when the lone pair electrons engage in  $\pi$  bonding with a substituent group, which obviously lowers the overlap between the lone pair  $p$  electrons.

Table 6. The dihedral angle of minimum overlap and its dependence upon the chemical bonding parameters  $\lambda_{\Sigma}$ ,  $\lambda_{\pi_1}$  and  $\lambda_{\pi_2}$

$\theta_0$	$\lambda_{\Sigma}^2$	$\lambda_{\pi_1}^2$	$\lambda_{\pi_2}^2$	$\mu_{\text{bond}}$ *	Type O-R
92°37'	0.5	1	1	0	Non-polar
92 44	0.55	1	1	0.7	O-C
93 08	0.65	1	1	1.5	O-H
92 34	0.47	1	1	0.4	F-O
95 22	0.50	0.83	1	0	
101	0.50	0.83	0.83	0	
93 50	0.55	0.95	0.95	0.7	(O-C=O) $\Phi$

\* Bond moments of the  $\Sigma$  bonds in Debye units. The O-F moment was calculated from electronegativities by the method of Pauling (1960). The others were taken from Table 10-7 of Barrow (1961). In this calculation  $\lambda_{\Sigma}$  was assumed to be the same for both substituents and to apply to symmetrical peroxides such as ROOR, with the exception of the fifth case which refers to an unsymmetrical peroxide where one of the oxygen atoms is involved in  $\pi$  bonding.

These results permit a qualitative estimate to be made of the relative magnitudes of the dihedral angles in different covalent peroxides, if it is possible in addition to predict the relative effect of the electrostatic, van der Waals, and steric interactions upon the angle. As an example, a larger angle would be estimated for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  than for  $\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$  because (1) from the preceding discussion the more electronegative F leads to an angle closer to  $90^\circ$ ; (2) the electrostatic repulsion between the OH bonds is greater than in the case of OF bonds; (3)  $\pi$  bonding between the substituents and the peroxide group is not a factor; and (4) steric effects are negligible at the interatomic distances between the substituents at values of the angle being considered. In  $\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$  the angle is  $87^\circ 30'$  (Jackson, 1962). These results emphasize the potential importance of the electrochemical nature of the substituent groups upon the stereochemistry of the covalent peroxides. In particular the last entry in the table refers to a dicarboxylic substituent on the peroxide moiety as for example in dibenzoyl peroxide and predicts a dihedral angle near  $94^\circ$ .

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## Structure des Deux Formes Cristallines de l'Acide Azélaïque, COOH[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>7</sub>COOH

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(Reçu le 4 juillet 1966)

The structure of the two polymorphic modifications of azelaic acid has been determinated by least-squares refinement on three-dimensional data. Bond lengths and angles are calculated and discussed. A study of the bond distances and angles indicated that the two carboxylic groups of the same molecule are very different.

Les diacides aliphatiques saturés à chaîne normale et à nombre impair d'atomes de carbone présentent un dimorphisme avec un point de transition situé entre 70 et 90°C (Caspari, 1928-1929; Dupré La Tour, 1932). On obtient des plaquettes de la forme  $\beta$  par évaporation lente à température ordinaire d'une solution d'acide azélaïque dans l'acétone. Par clivage on peut avoir des prismes allongés suivant la direction [010]. Nous avons employé la technique de Bridgman pour cristalliser, à partir du produit fondu, de fines aiguilles cylindriques de forme  $\alpha$ , allongées suivant [001]. On a pu facilement réaliser tous les clichés de diffraction de cette forme, sa stabilité étant suffisante à température ordinaire.

#### Données cristallographiques

##### Maille et groupe spatial

Tous les clichés ont été réalisés avec la radiation  $K\alpha$  du cuivre. Nous avons rapporté dans le Tableau 1 les données cristallographiques caractéristiques des deux formes:

Tableau 1. Données cristallographiques des deux formes de l'acide azélaïque

	Forme $\alpha$	Forme $\beta$
Maille	$a = 5,67 \pm 0,01 \text{ \AA}$ $b = 9,61 \pm 0,02$ $c = 27,39 \pm 0,05$ $\beta = 136^\circ 50'$	$a = 22,75 \pm 0,02 \text{ \AA}$ $b = 4,78 \pm 0,01$ $c = 9,83 \pm 0,02$ $\beta = 111^\circ 50'$
Densité mesurée calculée	$1,235 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ $1,255$	$1,245 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ $1,260$
Z	4	4
Groupe spatial	$P2_1/c$	$C2/c$

##### Mesure des intensités

Pour la forme  $\alpha$ , les intensités des taches de diffraction sont obtenues directement par comptage à l'aide d'un diffractomètre automatique à monocristal.

Pour la forme  $\beta$ , nous avons employé une méthode de comparaison visuelle des taches de diffraction obtenues sur un rétigraphe avec les taches d'une échelle d'intensité.