

and the carboxyl group 23.4° from the aromatic plane. The exocyclic carbon atom and the nitrogen atom are displaced 0.209 and 0.160 Å respectively from the aromatic plane in opposite directions. The carbon atoms C(1) and C(2) are displaced respectively 0.013 and 0.020 Å from the least-squares plane; the displacements of these atoms are, as expected, small and in the same directions as the atoms C(7) and N respectively (Table 4). The C(1)–C(7) and C(2)–N bonds are displaced sideways as well (Fig. 2).

The dimensions of the carboxyl group and the nitro group in *o*-nitrobenzoic acid show only minor differences from those in *p*-nitrobenzoic acid (Fig. 2).

The projections of the structure along the *b* and *a* axes are shown in Figs. 3 and 4 respectively, in which the principal intermolecular distances are also shown. The *o*-nitrobenzoic acid dimers are held in a stable structure by normal van der Waals interactions. The hydrogen bonds forming dimers are 2.645 Å in length (2.653 Å in *p*-nitrobenzoic acid).

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The Crystal Structure of D-Galactono- γ -lactone

BY G. A. JEFFREY, R. D. ROSENSTEIN AND M. VLASSE

The Crystallography Laboratory, The University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213, U.S.A.

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The crystal structure of D-galactono- γ -lactone, $C_6H_{10}O_6$, has four molecules in a cell, $a=6.746$, $b=10.67$, $c=10.98$ Å, with space group $P2_12_12_1$. The structure was determined from three-dimensional photographic data by means of a resolved centrosymmetric projection and the Harker sections of the Patterson synthesis. The molecule consists of a 1,4 lactone ring to which is attached a $CHOH.CH_2OH$



chain. While the lactone group, C–C–O–C, is planar, the fifth atom of the lactone ring is 0.64 Å out of this plane, forming the puckered furan-type configuration very similar to that found in furanose sugars. The C–O bond adjacent to the carbonyl is 0.10 Å shorter than the other C–O bonds, which do not differ significantly from a mean of 1.421 Å. The intermolecular hydrogen bonding forms a three-dimensional network which includes all the hydroxyl groups as donors and acceptors, but excludes the two oxygen atoms of the lactone group.

Introduction

This crystal structure determination of D-galactono- γ -lactone forms part of a program aimed at providing data pertaining to the effects of intermolecular and intramolecular environments on the stereochemistry of groups of atoms commonly found in the carbohydrates and their derivatives. In this structure (I), and that of D-glucurono- γ -lactone (II) described in the following paper (Kim, Jeffrey, Rosenstein & Corfield, 1967), the

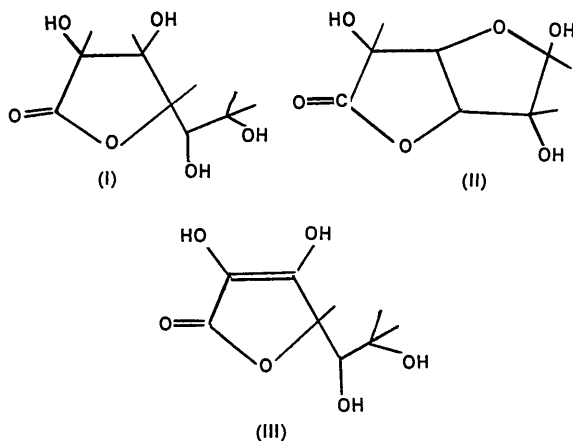
lactone group C–C–O–C is observed in a 1,4 lactone



ring, which in the former is attached to a chain and in the latter is fused to a furanose ring. Therefore, we postulate that this group is generally planar, by reason

of the valence-bond resonance form $C-C=O^+-C$ (cf. O^-)

Mathieson, 1963), can be examined in detail in these rings, one of which is much more likely to be strained than the other. This same group occurs in what is also likely to be a strained ring system in L-ascorbic acid (III), which Hvoslef (1964, 1966) is studying by X-ray and neutron diffraction.



Crystal data

The crystal data on D-galactono-1,4-lactone, $C_6H_{10}O_6$, obtained from Koch-Light Laboratories Ltd., are as follows:

$a = 6.746 \pm 0.005$, $b = 10.67 \pm 0.01$, $c = 10.98 \pm 0.01$ Å;
 Space group $P2_12_12_1$ (no. 19) from systematic extinctions: $h00$ with h odd, $0k0$ with k odd, $00l$ with l odd;
 $D_m = 1.57 \pm 0.02$ g.cm $^{-3}$, $Z = 4$, M.W. 178.14,
 $D_x = 1.56$ g.cm $^{-3}$.

The cell dimensions were measured from NaCl-calibrated zero-layer Weissenberg photographs, and the density was determined by flotation.

Experimental

Prismatic crystals of $0.2 \times 0.2 \times 0.2$ mm 3 were used to record all layers up to $\mu = 40^\circ$ about the three principal axes on multiple-film Weissenberg photographs with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. The intensities were visually estimated with the use of a standard intensity scale, and were correlated and reduced to structure amplitudes with an IBM 7090 program (Shiono, 1966), based on the method of Hamilton, Rollett & Sparks (1965). Of the 1066 reflections within the Cu $K\alpha$ sphere, 1006 were recorded, including 34 which were too weak to be estimated and were given half the minimum observed value.

The structure determination and refinement

Since the structure is centrosymmetric in projection, the IBM 1620 sign-correlation procedure of Beurskens (1964) was applied to the equatorial data taken about the shortest axis. The signs of 44 out of 136 $0kl$ struc-

ture factors were found, of which only one, of lowest probability, proved to be incorrect. The resulting E map, shown in Fig. 1(a), was readily interpreted, once the five-membered ring was recognized. The initial $(0kl)$ structure factor calculation gave an $R = 0.36$, which was reduced to 0.20 on refinement of the projection by full-matrix least squares, with Shiono's IBM 7090 version (1966) of the Busing, Martin & Levy program (1962). A model of the structure, based on the known projection [cf. Fig. 1(b)], and assuming reasonable inter- and intra-molecular distances, showed that the essentially planar lactone ring was approximately parallel to the yz plane. An x coordinate for these atoms was derived from the Harker sections at $(u, \frac{1}{2}, w)$ and $(u, v, \frac{1}{2})$ calculated on the IBM 1620 computer, and a set of x coordinates for the remaining atoms was obtained from the model. Full-matrix least-squares refinement of the resulting set of three-dimensional positional parameters, together with individual isotropic temperature factors, reduced the R index to 0.27, but there the refinement terminated owing to an incorrect x parameter of the terminal oxygen, O(6). The correction of this parameter, which corresponded to a rotation around the C(5)–C(6) bond, permitted the isotropic refinement to proceed to an $R = 0.14$. The introduction of anisotropic temperature factors then further improved the agreement to $R = 0.09$. A three-dimensional difference synthesis calculated with the Zalkin Fourier program (Shiono, 1966), using all the reflections, was then inspected for hydrogen atoms, and peaks varying from 0.8 to 0.3 e.Å $^{-3}$ were found in stereochemically reasonable positions, significantly above the background variations, which were about ± 0.05 e.Å $^{-3}$. The positional parameters of these atoms were refined by a cycle of least squares holding other parameters fixed and using as hydrogen thermal parameters those of the atoms to which they are bonded. A final cycle of refinement with the hydrogen parameters fixed gave an R value of 0.078, including all reflections. The final parameters are given in Tables 1, 2 and 3, and the corresponding structure factors in Table 4. Throughout the analysis, the atomic scattering factors used were those of Berghuis, Haanappel, Potters, Loopstra, MacGillavry & Veenendaal (1955) for carbon and oxygen and of McWeeny (1951) for hydrogen.

Discussion of the structure

The interatomic distances and angles are given in Tables 5 and 6, employing the following notation:

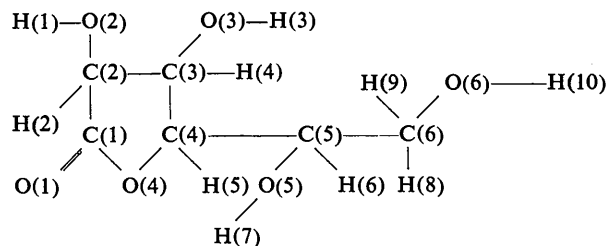


Table 1. *Fractional atomic coordinates in galactono- γ -lactone*

The estimated standard deviations in parentheses refer to the last decimal positions of respective values.

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>		<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
C(1)	0.2709 (7)	0.2345 (4)	0.0277 (4)	H(1) [O(2)]	0.381 (14)	-0.021 (7)	-0.101 (7)
C(2)	0.2728 (7)	0.0930 (4)	0.0451 (4)	H(2) [C(2)]	0.133 (14)	0.064 (8)	0.021 (7)
C(3)	0.3347 (7)	0.0803 (4)	0.1780 (3)	H(3) [O(3)]	0.339 (14)	-0.096 (7)	0.220 (7)
C(4)	0.2253 (7)	0.1963 (4)	0.2323 (4)	H(4) [C(3)]	0.499 (12)	0.084 (7)	0.199 (7)
C(5)	0.3122 (7)	0.2452 (4)	0.3537 (4)	H(5) [C(4)]	0.079 (12)	0.169 (6)	0.259 (7)
C(6)	0.1959 (8)	0.3606 (4)	0.3916 (4)	H(6) [C(5)]	0.286 (14)	0.193 (7)	0.415 (7)
O(1)	0.2989 (6)	0.2932 (3)	-0.0638 (3)	H(7) [O(5)]	0.637 (14)	0.206 (7)	0.359 (7)
O(2)	0.4060 (5)	0.0303 (3)	-0.0355 (3)	H(8) [C(6)]	0.254 (14)	0.435 (7)	0.340 (7)
O(3)	0.2627 (6)	-0.0281 (3)	0.2382 (3)	H(9) [C(6)]	0.053 (14)	0.331 (7)	0.418 (7)
O(4)	0.2535 (6)	0.2915 (3)	0.1378 (3)	H(10)[O(6)]	0.323 (17)	0.466 (9)	0.519 (8)
O(5)	0.5259 (5)	0.2725 (3)	0.3440 (3)				
O(6)	0.2300 (8)	0.3926 (4)	0.5181 (3)				

Table 2. *Anisotropic thermal parameters in galactono- γ -lactone*The temperature factor expression used was $\exp[-10^{-4}(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + 2hk\beta_{12} + 2hl\beta_{13} + 2kl\beta_{23})]$, and the estimated standard deviations in parentheses refer to the last digit of respective values.

	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
C(1)	76 (9)	26 (4)	21 (3)	4 (5)	-13 (5)	1 (3)
C(2)	72 (9)	24 (3)	14 (3)	-1 (5)	0 (5)	-1 (2)
C(3)	82 (9)	15 (3)	11 (3)	-1 (5)	-3 (4)	-1 (2)
C(4)	61 (8)	14 (3)	24 (3)	8 (4)	-9 (5)	0 (2)
C(5)	77 (9)	12 (3)	22 (3)	-6 (5)	0 (5)	-1 (3)
C(6)	79 (10)	34 (4)	29 (3)	3 (6)	7 (5)	-9 (3)
O(1)	127 (8)	38 (3)	24 (2)	4 (4)	-4 (4)	9 (2)
O(2)	100 (7)	32 (3)	18 (2)	9 (4)	-8 (4)	-5 (2)
O(3)	110 (7)	16 (2)	23 (2)	-3 (4)	16 (4)	0 (2)
O(4)	120 (8)	19 (2)	23 (2)	13 (4)	-13 (4)	0 (2)
O(5)	60 (7)	16 (2)	30 (3)	-6 (3)	-9 (4)	8 (2)
O(6)	171 (10)	41 (3)	34 (3)	-28 (5)	20 (5)	-3 (2)

Table 3. *Principal axes of thermal ellipsoids in galactono- γ -lactone*The root-mean-square displacement U_i corresponds to the i th principal axis of the ellipsoid and $\theta_{ia}, \theta_{ib}, \theta_{ic}$ are angles between the i th axis and the crystallographic axes a, b, c .

	<i>i</i>	U_i	θ_{ia}	θ_{ib}	θ_{ic}
C(1)	1	0.097 Å	54.83°	105.19°	39.25°
	2	0.124	91.23	162.12	107.83
	3	0.141	144.80	99.18	56.37
C(2)	1	0.093	88.76	84.26	5.87
	2	0.119	101.65	166.91	84.12
	3	0.125	11.72	101.72	90.04
C(3)	1	0.081	84.95	82.99	8.64
	2	0.094	90.77	172.85	82.90
	3	0.133	5.10	91.38	94.90
C(4)	1	0.079	117.34	29.44	100.07
	2	0.110	128.80	117.21	129.12
	3	0.133	129.01	100.38	40.90
C(5)	1	0.082	77.74	13.52	84.37
	2	0.116	87.09	84.88	174.11
	3	0.131	12.60	102.48	88.26
C(6)	1	0.111	119.17	57.00	46.95
	2	0.135	149.61	114.90	106.27
	3	0.156	97.74	43.49	132.45
O(1)	1	0.108	82.71	118.55	29.64
	2	0.159	81.22	148.91	119.55
	3	0.166	11.44	78.74	92.04

Table 3 (cont.)

	<i>i</i>	U_i	θ_{ia}	θ_{ib}	θ_{ic}
O(2)	1	0.100	80.50	74.87	17.98
	2	0.128	53.80	142.99	83.29
	3	0.158	37.81	57.15	106.60
O(3)	1	0.097	82.58	12.43	99.92
	2	0.107	66.22	102.14	152.94
	3	0.163	25.04	92.60	65.11
O(4)	1	0.097	110.07	28.51	109.38
	2	0.114	100.75	114.20	153.22
	3	0.169	22.99	75.84	107.74
O(5)	1	0.086	81.37	21.57	109.61
	2	0.106	154.84	90.42	115.15
	3	0.149	113.44	68.43	32.79
O(6)	1	0.129	120.96	123.07	48.59
	2	0.144	97.45	135.46	133.57
	3	0.211	32.05	116.13	72.78

The C-C bond lengths vary from 1.501 to 1.546 Å and are not significantly different from the mean value of 1.525 Å. The C-O bond lengths other than those in the lactone ring vary from 1.405 to 1.447 with a mean value of 1.430 Å. There is a suggestion that the $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ (1.447 Å) may be longer than the $>\text{CH-OH}$ (mean 1.411 Å), but the difference is barely significant and requires verification from other structures. In the lactone ring, the two C-O bond lengths, C(1)-O(4) and O(4)-C(4) differ by 0.106 Å, which is nine times 2σ .

Table 4 (cont.)

Table with multiple columns of numerical data, including integers and some negative values, organized in a grid-like structure.

Table 4 (cont.)

0	K= 1 H= 7	5	61	59	37	46	1	28	27	16	21	3	80	81	0	81-		K= 1 H= 8	0			
1	62 7- C	70-	6	35	31	7-	30	2	62	51	3-	51	1	44	48	46	11-	C	73	58	58-	0
2	54 47 C	47	7	68	74	17-	72-	3	71	63	60	20-	2	39	39	15	36	1	44	42	17	39
3	39 32 12-	30-						4	90	82	56-	59	3	54	55	2	55-	2	89	91	86-	29-
4	63 6- 57	18	0	62	68	0	68-	5	65	57	47-	32-	4	73	85	80-	27-	3	55	60	2-	60-
5	80 70 27-	71-	1	125	138	73	117-	6	53	55	18-	52-	0					0				
6	13 v j	8	2	18*	11	3-	10						0	97	99	0	99-	0	23	31	31	0
7	96 94 33	88	3	24	19	15-	11-	0	36	37	C	37-	1	14	3	C	3-	1	18	24	10	22
C	27 34 21-	26	4	35	43	38-	20-	1	33	20	13-	15-	2	63	65	27	59	2	11	9	2	9
1	K= 2 H= 7	5	18*	9	9-			2	32	37	37	0						3	41	43	33-	31-
2	45 3d c	38	6	65	55	12	53-	3	57	57	19	54	C	25*	21	21	C	C	80	91	91	0
3	60 67 35	56	7	56	50	29-	46-	4	121	126	4-	126-	1	1.7	12-	0	120	C	80	91	91	0
4	134 139 61-	112						5	43	46	36	29-	2	11	25	20-	C	C	45	50	47-	16-
3	106 104 95	42-	0	66	63	C	63						3	158	190	0	140	2	46*	55	12-	53
4	39 43 42-	4-																				

Table 5. Intramolecular bond distances and angles involving only carbon and oxygen atoms in galactono- γ -lactone

The estimated standard deviations given in parentheses refer to the last decimal positions of respective values.

<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>D_{ij}</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>k</i>	Angle <i>ijk</i>
C(1)	O(1)	1.198 (5) Å	O(1)	C(1)	C(2)	128.5 (4)°
C(1)	C(2)	1.522 (6)	O(1)	C(1)	O(4)	121.6 (4)
C(1)	O(4)	1.358 (5)	C(2)	C(1)	O(4)	109.5 (4)
C(2)	O(2)	1.405 (5)	C(1)	C(2)	O(2)	113.5 (4)
C(2)	C(3)	1.519 (6)	C(1)	C(2)	C(3)	102.2 (3)
C(3)	O(3)	1.411 (5)	O(2)	C(2)	C(3)	113.6 (4)
C(3)	C(4)	1.546 (6)	C(2)	C(3)	O(3)	115.9 (3)
C(4)	O(4)	1.464 (5)	O(3)	C(3)	C(4)	108.9 (3)
C(4)	C(5)	1.538 (6)	C(1)	O(4)	C(4)	109.3 (3)
C(5)	O(5)	1.418 (6)	C(2)	C(3)	C(4)	100.3 (3)
C(5)	C(6)	1.502 (6)	C(3)	C(4)	O(4)	103.0 (3)
C(6)	O(6)	1.447 (6)	O(3)	C(4)	C(5)	116.0 (4)
			O(4)	C(4)	C(5)	109.4 (3)
			C(4)	C(5)	O(5)	111.2 (4)
			C(4)	C(5)	C(6)	109.6 (4)
			O(5)	C(5)	C(6)	110.0 (4)
			C(5)	C(6)	O(6)	112.5 (4)

Table 6. Intermolecular distances and angles in galactono- γ -lactone

The estimated standard deviations in parentheses refer to the last decimal positions of respective values.

Hydrogen-bond distances (Å) and angles(°)

<i>g</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>D(hi)</i>	<i>D(ij)</i>	<i>D(hj)</i>	Angle (<i>ghj</i>)	Angle (<i>hjk</i>)	Angle (<i>ihj</i>)	Angle (<i>ijh</i>)
C(2)	O(2)	H(1)	O(3c)	C(3c)	0.92 (8)	2.06 (8)	2.714 (5)	109.5 (3)	124.7 (3)	38 (5)	16 (2)
C(2)	O(2)	H(10a)	O(6a)	C(6a)	1.89 (10)	0.99 (10)	2.784 (6)	136.7 (3)	108.7 (3)	11 (3)	21 (6)
C(3)	O(3)	H(3)	O(5a)	C(5a)	0.90 (8)	1.80 (8)	2.686 (5)	108.9 (3)	133.3 (3)	7 (5)	4 (3)
C(5)	O(5)	H(7)	O(6b)	C(6b)	1.02 (8)	1.81 (8)	2.673 (5)	107.7 (3)	108.2 (3)	26 (4)	14 (3)

Non-bonded distances less than 2.5 Å

<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>D(ij)</i> (Å)	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>D(ij)</i> (Å)
C(1)	O(1e)	3.311 (6)	C(5)	O(2f)	3.481 (5)
C(1)	O(1d)	3.096 (6)	C(5)	O(6b)	3.386 (7)
C(1)	O(2e)	3.448 (5)	C(6)	O(5g)	3.414 (6)
C(2)	O(1e)	3.307 (6)	O(1)	O(2d)	3.348 (5)
C(2)	O(3c)	3.448 (5)	O(1)	O(4e)	3.185 (5)
C(3)	O(5a)	3.415 (5)	O(1)	O(6h)	3.476 (6)
C(4)	O(1d)	3.326 (6)	O(2)	O(5a)	3.490 (5)

Symmetry code

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
<i>a</i>	1-x	- $\frac{1}{2}$ +y	$\frac{1}{2}$ -z
<i>b</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ +x	$\frac{1}{2}$ -y	1-z
<i>c</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ -x	-y	- $\frac{1}{2}$ +z
<i>d</i>	- $\frac{1}{2}$ +x	$\frac{1}{2}$ -y	-z
<i>e</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ +x	$\frac{1}{2}$ -y	-z
<i>f</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ -x	-y	$\frac{1}{2}$ +z
<i>g</i>	- $\frac{1}{2}$ +x	$\frac{1}{2}$ -y	1-z
<i>h</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ -x	1-y	- $\frac{1}{2}$ +z

Similar differences of about 0.1 Å have been observed in other lactones and are associated with a planar or nearly planar lactone group, $-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}$,



& Taylor, 1961; Fridrichsons & Mathieson, 1962; Kim, Jeffrey, Rosenstein & Corfield, 1967). In this structure, the atoms C(2), C(1), O(1), O(4) and C(4) lie in a plane such that the largest deviation is 0.031 Å for C(1). This deviation is probably not significant. The fifth atom of the lactone ring, C(3) is 0.64 Å out of this plane, forming the puckered furan-type ring invariably found in furanose sugars (*cf.* Spencer, 1959; Sundaralingam, 1965). The internal angles of the lactone ring are similar to those found recently in furanose rings, with a mean value of 104.8° (Furberg, Petersen & Rømming, 1965; Watson, Sutor & Tollin, 1965). It is interesting to note that the two larger angles of 109° occur at the carbonyl carbon and at the ring oxygen.

The conformation about the chain bonds, C(4)–C(5) and C(5)–C(6) is shown in Fig. 2. In both cases it is 'staggered', with O(5) lying between C(3) and O(4) and O(6) lying between O(5) and H(6). Within 3σ, which

is about 1.5° for angles involving carbon and oxygen and 15° for those involving hydrogen atoms, the angles about C(4)C(5) approach closely to the ideal staggered arrangement with conformational angles of 60°. As can be seen from Fig. 2, the chain atoms C(3)C(4)–C(5)C(6) are planar and O(6) is twisted out of this plane so that the dihedral angle between C(4)C(5)C(6) and C(5)C(6)O(6) is 16°.

The molecular arrangement is shown in Fig. 3. The hydrogen bonding is entirely intermolecular, linking the molecules into a three-dimensional net as illustrated in Fig. 4. Each of the four hydroxyl groups participates as donor and acceptor. Thus there are four hydrogen bonds per asymmetric unit with O...O distances between 2.673 and 2.784 Å (Table 6). These hydrogen bonds form infinite chains in the donor-acceptor sequence $\rightarrow\text{O}(3)\rightarrow\text{O}(5)\rightarrow\text{O}(6)\rightarrow\text{O}(2)\rightarrow\text{O}(3)\rightarrow$ which extends throughout the structure in the general direction of the [010] axis. Two such chains running through the unit cell linking six molecules are shown in projection in Fig. 4.

The two oxygen atoms of the lactone group, O(1) and O(4), are not hydrogen-bond acceptors and do not participate in the hydrogen-bond structure. In consequence the hydrogen-bonding occurs at the ends and on one side of the molecule only (Figs. 3 and 4). The

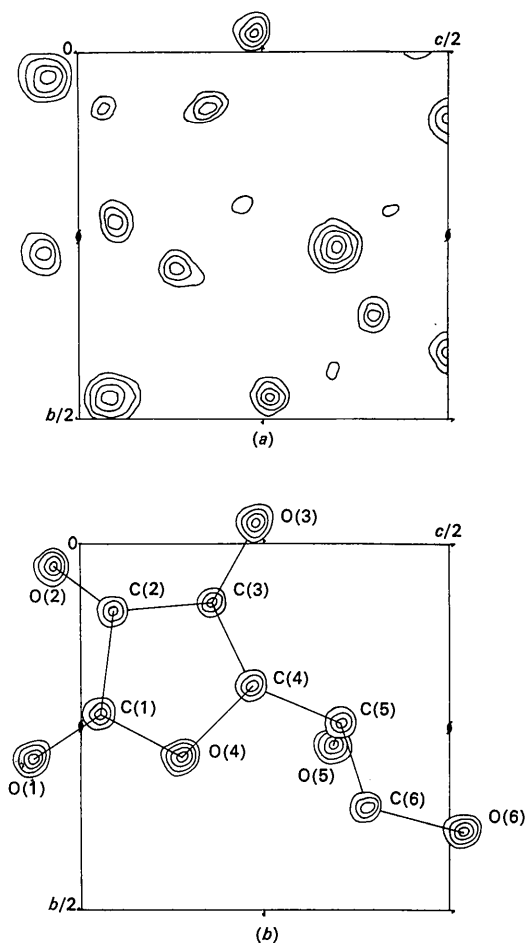


Fig. 1. (a) Three-dimensional *E* Fourier synthesis. (b) Corresponding final three-dimensional *F* synthesis viewed along [a].

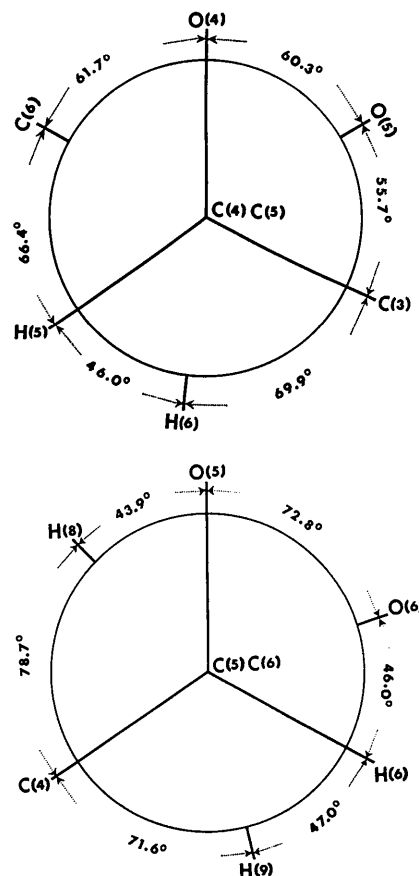
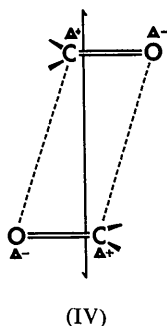


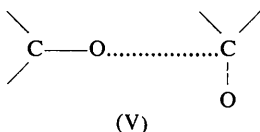
Fig. 2. Newman projections showing conformation about C(4)–C(5) and C(5)–C(6) bonds.

closest intermolecular approaches to these atoms are $O(1)\cdots C(1)=3.096\text{ \AA}$ and $O(1)\cdots O(4)=3.185\text{ \AA}$. These are the shortest non-bonding intermolecular contacts, as shown in Table 6. That involving the carbonyl group is particularly interesting because it corresponds to a dipolar alignment about the screw axes parallel to the a axis, as shown in (IV).



Similar parallel alignment of oppositely oriented carbonyl groups has been observed in the crystal structures of two pyrimidine derivatives, violuric acid monohydrate (Craven & Mascarenhas, 1964) with $C\cdots O=3.14$ and 3.15 \AA , and diluric acid trihydrate (Craven, Martinez-Carrera & Jeffrey, 1964) with $C\cdots O=3.21\text{ \AA}$, and in tetrahydroxy- p -benzoquinone dihydrate (Klug, 1965) with $C\cdots O=3.09\text{ \AA}$. In the quinone structure, it is suggested that these interactions form part of a self-complexing charge transfer system which gives rise to the black color of the crystals.

A related interaction between carbonyl groups on adjacent molecules in crystals has recently been discussed by Bolton (1964). In these cases the molecular packing is generally of the herring-bone type leading to the geometry in (V) and much shorter $C\cdots O$ distances in the range of 2.77 \AA (for parabanic acid; Davies & Blum, 1955) to 2.90 \AA (for barbituric acid; Bolton, 1963).



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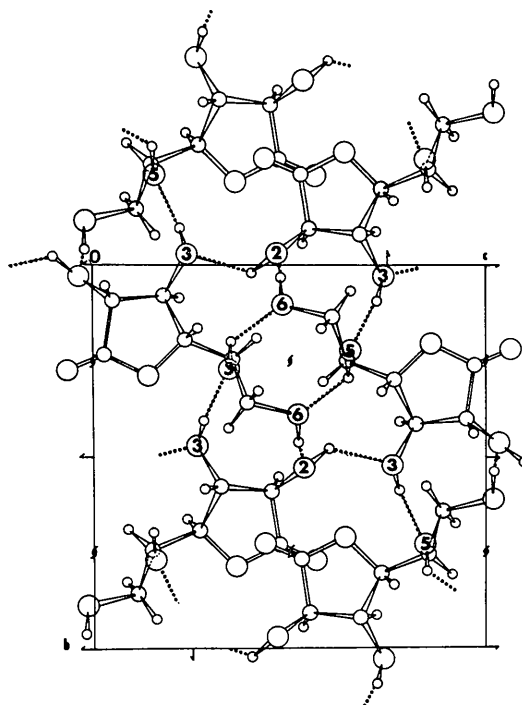


Fig. 3. Molecular arrangement in galactono- γ -lactone. Dotted lines are hydrogen bonds.

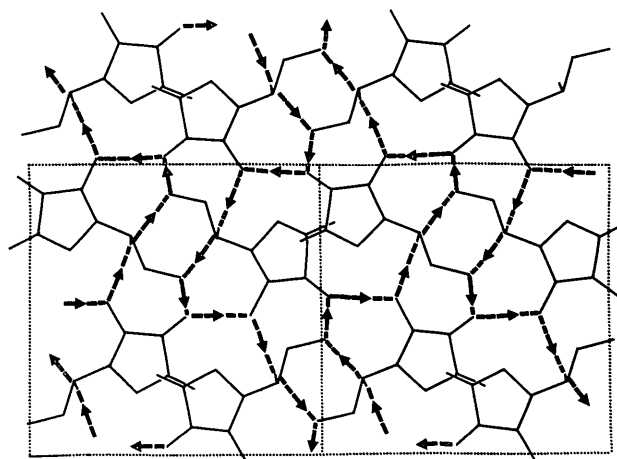


Fig. 4. Hydrogen-bond structure in galactono- γ -lactone, showing chains extending through the structure in the [010] direction.

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The Crystal Structure of β -D-Glucurono- γ -lactone

BY S. H. KIM, G. A. JEFFREY, R. D. ROSENSTEIN AND P. W. R. CORFIELD

The Crystallography Laboratory, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213, U.S.A.

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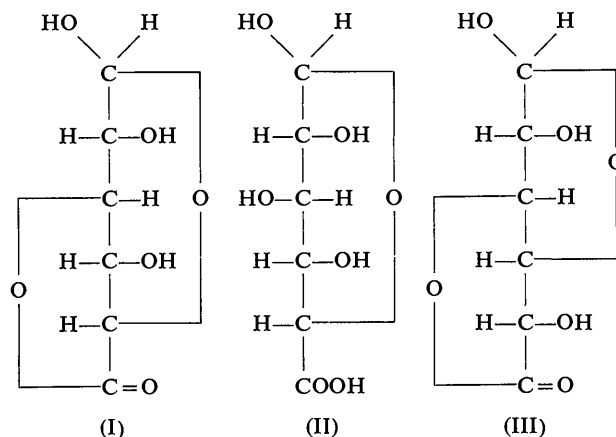
The crystal structure of β -D-glucurono- γ -lactone, $C_6H_8O_6$, has two molecules in a cell with $a=6.753$, $b=7.488$, $c=6.608$ Å, $\beta=93.18^\circ$, space group $P2_1$. The structure was solved from the three-dimensional sharpened Patterson function using multiple minimum function and convolution methods on an IBM 1620 computer. Both photographic and automatic diffractometer data were measured. The former gave a terminal R index of 10% and the latter 4%. The molecule was found to have fused five-membered lactone and furanose rings, in agreement with an earlier deduction from chemical evidence. The rings, neither of which is planar, are inclined to each other so that the best planes containing four atoms in each make a dihedral angle of 111.3° . The lactone group is not planar, having a carbon atom 0.26 Å

out of the plane of the C-C-O group, which is planar. The C-O bond adjacent to the carbonyl group is 0.10 Å shorter than the other formal single C-O bonds in the molecule. The molecules are associated in the crystal by a very simple system of hydrogen bonding, which excludes one hydroxyl group and the ring oxygen atoms.

Introduction

Glucurono- γ -lactone (also called glucurone or glycurone) is of biochemical interest. It is converted into L-ascorbic acid in animals (Chatterjee, Chatterjee, Ghosh, Ghosh & Guha, 1960) and in the human body (Baker, Bierman & Plough, 1960), and has been shown to have an antihypnotic action against sodium 5,5-diethylbarbiturate (Tamura, Tsutsumi & Kizu, 1962). The molecule was originally believed to contain a six-membered pyranose and a five-membered lactone ring as shown in (I), since it is derived from glucuronic acid, which has the pyranose structure (II) like the anion in potassium glucuronate (Gurr, 1963; Furberg, Hammer & Mostad, 1963). However, on the basis of chemical experiments with trimethylglucurono-lactone by Reeves (1940) and Smith (1944), Smith proposed the structure (III) containing two five-membered rings, which is confirmed by this structure determination.

Of the eight stereo-isomers that can be formed by different configurations of the secondary alcohol groups at the three positions in this lactone/furanose ring system, only two can be derived from glucuronic



acid by ring closure without inversion. These two configurations are $1n2x5n$ and $1x2x5n$, where *endo*, n , and *exo*, x , refer to substituents directed towards and away, respectively, from the dihedral angle between the two rings. The β form (IV), which has been found in the crystals studied, is the former conformation, with two *endo* substituents; this is contrary to a rule that the stable derivatives of two fused five-membered ring