

Table 6. Comparison of trihalide ions

Compound	Ion	Bond lengths		Elongation*		Sum (Å)
		(Å)		(Å)		
See footnote†	I-I-I	2.92	2.92	0.26	0.26	0.52
CsI ₃	I-I-I	2.83	3.03	0.17	0.37	0.54
CsI ₂ Br	I-I-Br	2.78	2.91	0.12	0.43	0.55
NH ₄ BrICl	Br-I-Cl	2.51	2.91	0.03	0.59	0.62‡

* Relative to the bond lengths of gaseous molecules I₂, IBr and ICl.

† Average values from As(C₆H₅)₄I₃, N(C₂H₅)₄I₇ and N(C₂H₅)₄I₃ (Rundle, 1961; Migchelsen & Vos, 1967).

‡ Values are approximate because of disorder.

that of chlorine. The bond lengths listed for ion *A* in Fig. 3(a) are compared with those of other trihalide ions in Table 6. The (BrICl)⁻ ion in NH₄BrICl fits well in the series. The present results suggest that the I-Cl bond in NH₄BrICl (*A*) has a smaller bond order than the I-Br bond in the isomorphous compound CsI₂Br (Carpenter, 1966).

We are grateful to Professor E. H. Wiebenga for many valuable discussions and to Mr F. van Bolhuis and Mr J. Y. Talstra for their assistance during the experimental work. Calculations were done at the Groningen University Computing Centre. The work was supported by the Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of Pure Research (Z.W.O.).

References

- BUSING, W. R. & LEVY, H. A. (1957). *Acta Cryst.* **10**, 180.
 CARPENTER, G. B. (1966). *Acta Cryst.* **20**, 330.
 CRUICKSHANK, D. W. J. (1961). In *Computing Methods and the Phase Problem in X-ray Crystal Analysis*. Oxford: Pergamon Press.
 ELEMA, R. J., DE BOER, J. L. & VOS, A. (1963). *Acta Cryst.* **16**, 243.
 HACH, R. J. & RUNDLE, R. E. (1951). *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* **73**, 4321.
 MIGCHELSEN, T. & VOS, A. (1967). To be published.
 MOONEY, R. C. L. (1937). *Z. Kristallogr.* **98**, 324.
 MOORE, F. H. (1963). *Acta Cryst.* **16**, 1169.
 PIMENTEL, G. C. (1951). *J. Chem. Phys.* **19**, 446.
 RUNDLE, R. E. (1961). *Acta Cryst.* **14**, 585.
 TASMAN, H. A. & BOSWIJK, K. H. (1955). *Acta Cryst.* **8**, 59.
 VISSER, G. J. & VOS, A. (1964). *Acta Cryst.* **17**, 1336.

Acta Cryst. (1967), **22**, 815

The Crystal Structure of Sodium Tetraborate

BY A. HYMAN*, A. PERLOFF, F. MAUER AND S. BLOCK

National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234, U.S.A.

(Received 6 September 1966)

Single crystals of the high-temperature form of sodium tetraborate, Na₂O·4B₂O₃, have been synthesized and studied. The structure has been determined by the method of symbolic addition. The space group is *P*2₁/*a* with unit-cell dimensions $a = 6.507 \pm 0.001$, $b = 17.796 \pm 0.002$, $c = 8.377 \pm 0.001$ Å; $\beta = 96^\circ 34' \pm 2'$; $Z = 4$. The structure consists of two infinite, independent, and interlinking boron-oxygen networks, each containing alternating single and double rings. The sodium atoms serve to hold the networks together through coordination with oxygen atoms.

Introduction

This study has been made as part of a program designed for a better understanding of the structural principles underlying borate chemistry. There is additional interest in anhydrous borates with greater than 50 mole % B₂O₃ since these compounds readily form glasses. Several laboratories have been investigating these structures. Krogh-Moe (1959, 1960, 1962, 1965)

* Present address: University of Maryland, B.C., Baltimore, Maryland.

† Estimated uncertainty.

has reported structures of anhydrous borates of K and Rb, Cs, Li, and Ag. The structures of strontium 1:2 borate (Krogh-Moe, 1964; Perloff & Block, 1966), lead 1:2 borate (Perloff & Block, 1966), barium 1:2 borate (Block & Perloff, 1965) and cadmium 1:2 borate (Ihara & Krogh-Moe, 1966) have also been determined. The structure of Na₂O·4B₂O₃ and its relation to several other borates are discussed here.

Na₂O·4B₂O₃ has been reported (Morey & Merwin, 1936) to exist in two forms. The present work refers to the high-temperature stable form which is usually obtained by crystallization from a melt.

Experimental

Single crystals of sodium 1:4 borate were grown from a stoichiometric melt on a hot wire loop. Precession photographs showed systematic extinctions occurring only in the $h0l$ ($h=2n+1$) and $0k0$ ($k=2n+1$) reflections. This confirmed Krogh-Moe's (1965) space group determination as $P2_1/a$. Intensity data were collected with the aid of a General Electric single-crystal orienter and diffractometer, used in conjunction with a scintillation counter, and pulse height analyzer. Using Cu $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda=1.54051 \text{ \AA}$), the positions of high angle reflections were observed, yielding the following unit cell parameters:*

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 6.507 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA} \\ b &= 17.796 \pm 0.002 \\ c &= 8.377 \pm 0.001 \\ \beta &= 96^\circ 34' \pm 2' \end{aligned}$$

$Z=4$ (derived from density of 2.32 g.cm^{-3} measured by Krogh-Moe, 1957).

Mo $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda=0.710688 \text{ \AA}$) was used to collect intensity data. For each reflection, fixed time (10 s) measurements were made of the peak height and background intensities. The peak heights were later converted to integrated intensities by preparing an empirical calibration curve of the ratio of peak height to integrated intensity as a function of the scattering angle.

Structure determination

Because of the small size of the particular crystal studied no absorption corrections were deemed neces-

* The uncertainties quoted on all the cell dimensions are estimates based on past experience with the experimental apparatus. In the authors' opinion a conservative estimate of error will be obtained if these uncertainties are treated as standard deviations.

sary ($0.01 < \mu R < 0.015$). The set of intensities were corrected by the appropriate Lorentz and polarization factors, and reduced to scaled values of normalized structure factors, *i.e.* E_{hkl} (Hauptman & Karle, 1953).

The symbolic addition method of Karle & Karle (1963) was used to assign phases to the E_{hkl} . The quantities E_{214} , E_{175} and E_{172} were arbitrarily chosen as positive. This fixed the origin and provided a starting point for the generation of more signs *via* Hauptman & Karle's (1953) Σ_2 relation. (*i.e.* $sE_h = s \sum_k E_k E_{h-k}$ in which s is read *sign of*). Using the formula

$$P_{\pm}(E_h) = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \tanh [\sigma_3/\sigma_2^{3/2} \Sigma |E_h| E_{h-k} E_k],$$

twenty-two of the first twenty-three signs generated had probabilities greater than 0.95 of being correct, the remaining phase being assigned with an associated probability of 0.90. Thereafter a criterion was established such that no new sign was accepted as 'known' unless it had an associated probability of being correct ≥ 0.989 . When during the course of this sign generating procedure a probability fell below this level, the corresponding phase was deleted from the 'known' list. In this way the list of phases was built up, without using any letters, to include 181 of the 209 E_{hkl} with magnitudes ≥ 1.8 .

This procedure, however, led to a false set of signs. This was revealed by an E map which contained too many peaks, not the expected distribution of peak magnitudes, and no chemically sensible structure could be derived from the map. An examination of the mechanism through which the signs were being generated revealed that E_{200} entered into more contributing pairs *via* Σ_2 than any other reflection. In addition, E_{200} had been assigned a negative value very early in the procedure. An application of the Σ_1 relation of Karle & Hauptman to this reflection gave an indication that the sign is positive. The original assignment of E_{200} as negative was traced back through several steps to

Table 1. Atomic parameters

	x	$\sigma_x \times 10^5$	y	$\sigma_y \times 10^5$	z	$\sigma_z \times 10^5$	B	$\sigma_B \times 10^3$
Na(1)	0.40913	32	0.36344	12	0.02913	25	1.492	35
Na(2)	0.04214	32	0.40039	11	0.57361	25	1.396	35
O(1)	0.28617	48	0.56295	18	0.85698	37	0.870	46
O(2)	0.62003	51	0.53402	18	0.81618	39	0.994	48
O(3)	0.95484	47	0.52147	18	0.72816	37	0.791	45
O(4)	0.71036	48	0.42652	18	0.67233	37	0.862	46
O(5)	0.36111	49	0.44174	18	0.74677	37	0.901	46
O(6)	0.41744	49	0.36845	18	0.52297	39	0.915	47
O(7)	0.51672	50	0.24090	18	0.57164	39	1.008	48
O(8)	0.54274	47	0.18998	18	0.82597	37	0.794	45
O(9)	0.53633	48	0.32488	18	0.79325	37	0.835	46
O(10)	0.39526	53	0.28356	19	0.30888	40	1.131	50
O(11)	0.40497	49	0.22939	18	0.06349	38	0.904	46
O(12)	0.51686	48	0.10347	17	0.03420	37	0.812	46
O(13)	0.43583	47	0.14858	17	0.29426	36	0.808	46
B(1)	0.41418	71	0.51139	26	0.80289	54	0.771	62
B(2)	0.76351	73	0.49430	27	0.74188	56	0.870	63
B(3)	0.51060	69	0.39208	26	0.68252	53	0.676	59
B(4)	0.44396	73	0.29906	27	0.46961	57	0.888	64
B(5)	0.53140	69	0.25489	25	0.73447	54	0.691	60
B(6)	0.41239	71	0.21720	26	0.22871	54	0.745	60
B(7)	0.48233	70	0.17267	25	0.97369	54	0.739	61
B(8)	0.43147	66	0.08211	25	0.18553	52	0.588	57

$E_{4,14,\bar{4}}$ which was judged positive with an associated probability of 0.974. Despite this strong indication, the positive sign proved false. By fixing $E_{4,14,\bar{4}}$ as negative through one cycle of Σ_2 and repeating the sign determining procedure a set of signs was produced which yielded an E map which clearly indicated the structure. Of the 209 measured reflections with $|E_{hkl}| \geq 1.8$, 207 met the criterion of $p \geq 0.989$. These were assigned phases accordingly and all proved to be correct. The remaining two phases had associated probabilities of 0.822 and 0.985 and these proved correct as well.

The structure was refined on F_{hkl} 's by a full-matrix least-squares analysis. The complete data were included in this procedure (2091 observed and 894 unobserved reflections). Reflections were given unit weight for scaled $F_o \leq 20$; reflections with scaled $F_o > 20$ received the weight $20/(\text{scaled } F_o)$. Sixty-nine positional parameters, twenty-three isotropic temperature factors and a scale constant were varied. The refinement was terminated when both R and $\Sigma w(F_o - F_c)^2$ ceased to change significantly. The largest value of the ratio of shift to standard deviation, for any parameter, was 0.0033. At this time R had a value of 0.089. The final values of the parameters are listed in Table 1. The final observed and calculated structure factors are given in Table 2.

Atomic scattering factors used were for O^- , B and Na^+ (*International Tables for X-ray Crystallography*, 1962).

Discussion of the structure

It is of interest to describe this structure by comparing it with previously reported borate structures. Crystalline $Na_2O \cdot 4B_2O_3$ resembles, in some characteristic respects, $Ag_2O \cdot 4B_2O_3$ (Krogh-Moe, 1965) and $BaO \cdot 2B_2O_3$ (Block & Perloff, 1965). All three compounds consist of six-membered rings of alternating boron and oxygen atoms. Some of the rings share a tetrahedral boron atom and thus form double rings, to the extent that single and double rings exist in equal number. Additional oxygen atoms are bonded to the boron atoms so that each boron atom has either a triangular or tetrahedral configuration of neighboring oxygen. These non-ring oxygen atoms also serve as bridges between rings. In this manner three-dimensional networks are formed.

Both $Na_2O \cdot 4B_2O_3$ and $Ag_2O \cdot 4B_2O_3$ have a ratio of triangular to tetrahedral boron of 3:1. A 1:1 ratio is found in $BaO \cdot 2B_2O_3$. Both the sodium and silver compounds consist of two symmetry-related independent networks whereas the barium compound exists as a

Table 3. Boron-oxygen bond lengths and angles

Triangularly coordinated boron:			Angles		
Distances		$\sigma \times 10^3$			σ
B(1)-O(1)	1.352 Å	6 Å	O(1)-B(1)-O(2)	113.66°	0.37°
O(2)	1.391	6	O(1)-B(1)-O(5)	126.46	0.40
O(5)	1.356	6	O(2)-B(1)-O(5)	119.81	0.39
B(2)-O(2)	1.375	6	O(2)-B(2)-O(3)	122.26	0.40
O(3)	1.353	6	O(2)-B(2)-O(4)	119.65	0.40
O(4)	1.367	6	O(3)-B(2)-O(4)	118.02	0.41
B(4)-O(6)	1.331	6	O(6)-B(4)-O(7)	122.15	0.40
O(7)	1.390	6	O(6)-B(4)-O(10)	119.37	0.39
O(10)	1.375	6	O(7)-B(4)-O(10)	118.46	0.40
B(5)-O(7)	1.379	6	O(7)-B(5)-O(8)	112.93	0.36
O(8)	1.383	6	O(7)-B(5)-O(9)	121.87	0.38
O(9)	1.338	6	O(8)-B(5)-O(9)	125.20	0.38
B(6)-O(10)	1.369	6	O(10)-B(6)-O(11)	110.89	0.37
O(11)	1.396	6	O(10)-B(6)-O(13)	126.62	0.39
O(13)	1.340	6	O(11)-B(6)-O(13)	122.48	0.39
B(7)-O(8')	1.377	6	O(8')-B(7)-O(11)	118.93	0.37
O(11)	1.387	6	O(8')-B(7)-O(12)	119.53	0.39
O(12)	1.341	5	O(11)-B(7)-O(12)	121.25	0.39
Average	1.367			119.97	
Tetrahedrally coordinated boron			Angles		
Distances		$\sigma \times 10^3$			σ
B(3)-O(4)	1.448 Å	6 Å	O(4)-B(3)-O(5)	113.91	0.35°
O(5)	1.462	6	O(4)-B(3)-O(6)	110.39	0.35
O(6)	1.465	5	O(4)-B(3)-O(9)	109.50	0.32
O(9)	1.511	5	O(5)-B(3)-O(6)	106.63	0.32
			O(5)-B(3)-O(9)	106.51	0.34
			O(6)-B(3)-O(9)	109.77	0.33
B(8)-O(1')	1.461	5	O(1')-B(8)-O(3')	111.85	0.34
O(3')	1.453	5	O(1')-B(8)-O(12)	107.31	0.31
O(12)	1.490	6	O(1')-B(8)-O(13)	106.52	0.33
O(13)	1.491	5	O(3')-B(8)-O(12)	113.23	0.34
			O(3')-B(8)-O(13)	108.18	0.31
			O(12)-B(8)-O(13)	109.53	0.33
Average	1.473			109.44	

single network. The two networks of $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 4\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ are shown in Fig. 1, projected down the [100] direction. $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 4\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\text{BaO} \cdot 2\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ are also similar in that in each of these compounds single rings are linked only to double rings, double rings being linked only to single rings. (These two structures are compared in Fig. 2.) This ring sequence is not followed, however, in the silver compound. There, single and double rings are each linked to two single and two double rings. One half of a double ring is linked to single rings, the other half to double rings.

The cations in $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 4\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ appear in two crystallographically different environments. They apparently serve to hold the two independent networks together. Na(1) has eight nearest neighbor oxygen atoms; Na(2) has seven. The Na–O distances, which are listed in Table 4, show a considerable variation, ranging from 2.259 to 2.926 Å, with a mean distance of 2.563 Å. B–O bond distances and O–B–O angles are listed in Table 3. The B–O distances are fairly regular with mean values for triangular and tetrahedral boron atoms being respectively 1.367 and 1.473 Å. The mean O–B–O angles are 119.97 and 109.44° respectively for the triangular and tetrahedral boron atoms. These distances and angles are in agreement with those found in other borates.

Table 4. Sodium–oxygen distances*

Na(1)–O(1)	2.475 Å	Na(2)–O(3)	2.887 Å
O(2)	2.259	O(4)	2.443
O(5)	2.732	O(5)	2.503
O(8)	2.926	O(6)	2.589
O(9)	2.331	O(7)	2.520
O(10)	2.751	O(8)	2.655
O(11)	2.403	O(13)	2.519
O(12)	2.625		
Average	2.563		2.588

* All standard deviations from these distances have a value of 0.004 Å.

Boron coordination

The determination of the relative numbers of triangularly and tetrahedrally coordinated boron atoms as a function of composition has been discussed previously by Edwards & Ross (1960), Krogh-Moe (1962) and by Block & Piermarini (1964). It has been observed in all the borates of known structure that boron atoms are in either three- or four-fold coordination with respect to oxygen. Likewise it is seen that in most of the borates with more than 50 mole% B_2O_3 , each oxygen atom is linked to two boron atoms. Under these conditions the ratio of triangular to tetrahedral boron is determined by the stoichiometry. To each triangular boron atom, $3/2$ oxygen atoms may be assigned uniquely, two oxygen atoms being assigned uniquely to each tetrahedral boron. The ratio of oxygen to boron may be written as: $(\frac{3}{2}N_3 + 2N_4)/(N_3 + N_4)$, where N_3 and N_4 are respectively the numbers of triangular and tetrahedral boron atoms per some arbitrary amount of

compound. If the stoichiometric formula of a borate is written as $\text{M}_x\text{O} \cdot n\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$, the oxygen to boron ratio is given by $(3n + 1)/2n$. Equating these expressions and rearranging yields for the triangular to tetrahedral boron ratio: $N_3/N_4 = n - 1$. Krogh-Moe (1962) obtained this result by considering a particular reaction scheme between an oxide and a borate network. The rule will

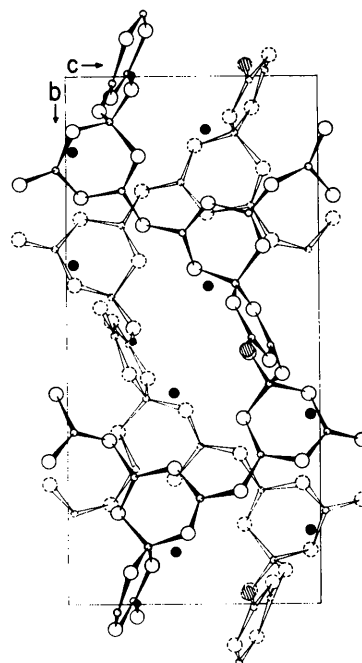


Fig. 1. The two networks of $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 4\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$, projected along a. The large open circles represent oxygen atoms. The small open circles represent boron atoms. One network is indicated by dashed circles and open links, the other by unbroken circles and filled links. The solid circles represent sodium atoms. The shaded circles represent atoms from the next unit cell along a. These have been displaced slightly for clarity.

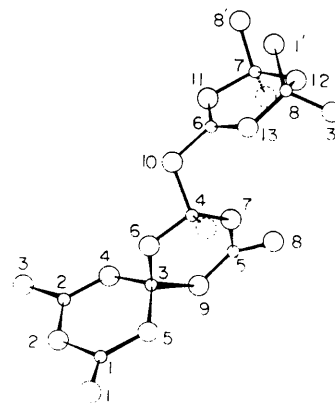


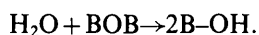
Fig. 2. Diagrammatic comparison of the boron–oxygen networks of $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 4\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\text{BaO} \cdot 2\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$. The large and small circles represent respectively oxygen and boron atoms. The dotted circles belong only to the Ba compound. All other circles are common to both structures. The numbering used in the figure is consistent with that used in Table 1.

Table 5. *The ratio of triangular to tetrahedral boron as a function of volume/atom*

Compound	Reference	Volume/atom	Ratio of triangular to tetrahedral boron
PbO.2B ₂ O ₃	Perloff & Block (1966)	13.406	0
SrO.2B ₂ O ₃	Perloff & Block (1966)	12.482	0
	Krogh-Moe (1964)		
BaO.2B ₂ O ₃	Block & Perloff (1965)	17.227	1
CdO.2B ₂ O ₃	Ihara & Krogh-Moe (1966)	17.266	1
Li ₂ O.2B ₂ O ₃	Krogh-Moe (1962)	16.070	1
Cs ₂ O.3B ₂ O ₃	Krogh-Moe (1960)	17.775	2
Ag ₂ O.4B ₂ O ₃	Krogh-Moe (1965)	17.197	3
Na ₂ O.4B ₂ O ₃	This paper	17.780	3
K ₂ O.5B ₂ O ₃	Krogh-Moe (1959)	18.019	4
Rb ₂ O.5B ₂ O ₃	Krogh-Moe (1959)	17.893	4

* The volume/atom is calculated as $V/[N_o + N_c(r_c/1.4)^3]$, where V is the volume per unit mass, N_o and N_c are respectively the number of oxygen atoms and cations per unit mass, and r_c is the radius of the cation in Å. The term $(r_c/1.4)^3$ accounts for the volume occupied by a cation relative to that occupied by an oxygen atom.

hold for hydrated borates as well, provided that water enters the structure *via* the scheme:



The rule will not hold in the event of some unusual coordination, such as is found in SrO.2B₂O₃, where some of the oxygen is coordinated to three boron atoms.

It may be useful to establish techniques for determining *a priori* whether or not such unusual bonding exists. In this connection it is observed that in borates with more than 50 mole% B₂O₃, calculated values of the volume per atom (excluding boron) indicate the presence or absence of unusual coordination. Table 5 lists the volume per atom for a number of anhydrous borates. SrO.2B₂O₃ and its isomorph PbO.2B₂O₃ have values of this quantity less than 14 Å³, whereas in all other compounds the volume per atom lies between 16 Å³ and 19 Å³. Thus on the basis of density measurements the existence of unusual coordination may be inferred.

With the exceptions of a program which edits the paper tape output of the diffractometer, and a Σ₂ sign generating program, computations were made with the aid of programs incorporated into the X-ray 63 system developed at the University of Maryland Computer

Science Center (1964) and the University of Washington. The paper tape editing program has since been made a part of the system.

References

- BLOCK, S. & PERLOFF, A. (1965). *Acta Cryst.* **19**, 297.
 BLOCK, S. & PIERMARINI, G. J. (1964). *Phys. Chem. Glasses*, **5**, 138.
 EDWARDS, J. O. & ROSS, V. (1960). *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.* **15**, 329.
 HAUPTMAN, H. & KARLE, J. (1953). *Solution of the Phase Problem. I. The Centrosymmetric Crystal*. A.C.A. Monograph No.3.
 IHARA, M. & KROGH-MOE, J. (1966). *Acta Cryst.* **20**, 132. *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962). Vol. III. Birmingham: Kynoch Press.
 KARLE, I. L. & KARLE, J. (1963). *Acta Cryst.* **16**, 969.
 KROGH-MOE, J. (1957). *Acta Cryst.* **10**, 435.
 KROGH-MOE, J. (1959). *Ark. Kem.* **14**, 439.
 KROGH-MOE, J. (1960). *Acta Cryst.* **13**, 889.
 KROGH-MOE, J. (1962). *Acta Cryst.* **15**, 190.
 KROGH-MOE, J. (1964). *Acta Cryst. Scand.* **18**, 2055.
 KROGH-MOE, J. (1965). *Acta Cryst.* **18**, 77.
 MOREY, G. W. & MERWIN, H. E. (1936). *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* **58**, 2248.
 PERLOFF, A. & BLOCK, S. (1966). *Acta Cryst.* **19**, 297. University of Maryland Computer Science Center (1964). Technical Report TR-64-6.