

The Crystal Structure of Dichlorotetraaquo chromium(III) Chloride Dihydrate: Primary and Secondary Metal Ion Hydration

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trans-[CrCl₂(OH₂)₄]Cl·2H₂O crystallizes with a monoclinic unit cell, $a = 12.053$, $b = 6.840$, $c = 11.640$ Å., $\beta = 94^\circ 10'$, which contains four formula units according to the symmetry of space group C2/c. All atoms other than the hydrogen atoms have been located by X-ray methods. The octahedral complex ions are very slightly distorted from D_{4h} symmetry, with Cr-O distances 2.004 and 2.006 Å. and Cr-Cl = 2.289 Å. Hydrogen-bonded "cages" of water molecules and chloride ions link the octahedra in chains. Estimated standard deviations of metal-light atom bond lengths are *ca.* 0.005 Å.

Introduction

The coordination chemistry of a number of crystalline chloroaquo chromium(III) hydrates has been well described¹ but only one, violet hexaaquo chromium(III) chloride, has been examined crystallographically.²

The "Bjerrum-green" dichlorotetraaquo chromium(III) chloride dihydrate, presumably the *trans* isomer,^{1c} crystallizes from neutral aqueous solution and belongs to the series of crystalline hydrates [CrCl₂(OH₂)₄]Cl·0-, 2-, and 6H₂O. The crystal structure determination of this compound was motivated by an interest in the bonding geometry of water molecules in highly hydrated compounds of metal ions. The question arises whether the stability of excessively hydrated salts³ such as MgCl₂·12H₂O is primarily due to the influence of the metal ion on its second coordination sphere or to the formation of hydrogen-bonded clusters of water molecules as in the clathrate hydrates. The present compound was chosen in order to study the bonding relationships between primarily and secondarily coordinated water molecules in a system in which the other ligands and anions, being monatomic, have limited capacities as hydrogen-bond acceptors and, being non-hydrogenic, cannot be hydrogen-bond donors.

Experimental

The commercially available salt was recrystallized from water. The hygroscopic crystals were sealed into capillary tubes for the X-ray measurements. The crystals so obtained were almost invariably either multiple or so fragile that fracture during mounting was unavoidable. Only one single crystal was ever mounted, and from this three-dimensional intensity data were recorded photographically using Mo K α radiation: the (monoclinic) lattice layers $h0l$ through $h7l$ and the first four layers about the [310] axis were obtained. Very slightly fractured crystals were employed to record $0kl$ and $hk0$ data. The intensities were estimated visually. The maximum crystal dimension was 0.22 mm. and the mean dimensions were approximately 0.10 mm. Absorption corrections were considered unnecessary with Mo K α radiation.

The structure factor and Fourier calculations were made with the Silliac computer at Sydney; the least-squares refinement was

performed with the program ORXLS⁴ on an IBM 7090 computer.

Results

Unit Cell and Space Group.—The unit cell is monoclinic and contains four [CrCl₂(OH₂)₄]Cl·2H₂O units (formula weight 266.48): $a = 12.053$ Å., $b = 6.840$ Å., $c = 11.640$ Å., $\beta = 94^\circ 10'$, $V = 957.0$ Å.³, $D_x = 1.849$ g. cm.⁻³, $\sigma(a) = 0.0022$ Å., $\sigma(b) = 0.0018$ Å., $\sigma(c) = 0.0017$ Å., $\sigma(\beta) = 3'$, $Z = 4$, $D_m^5 = 1.835$ g. cm.⁻³. Systematic reflection absences are characteristic of the space groups Cc and C2/c; the latter was shown to be correct by structure solution.

Determination of the Structure.—The structure is composed of centrosymmetric [CrCl₂(OH₂)₄]⁺ units linked by Cl⁻ ions and water molecules. The non-ligand chloride ion is designated Cl(1), the chlorine coordinated to chromium as Cl(2). The oxygen atoms of the two independent ligand ("primary") water molecules are O(1) and O(2), while the uncoordinated ("secondary") water oxygen atom is O(3).

Conventional Patterson and Fourier analysis employing 1416 observed reflections yielded the chromium, chlorine, and oxygen positions. The scattering factors used for chromium, Cl(1), Cl(2), and oxygen were, respectively, those for Cr⁰ (Freeman and Watson⁶), Cl⁻ and Cl⁰ (Dawson⁷), and O⁰ (Berghuis, *et al.*⁸). Dispersion corrections were applied⁹ to the chromium and chlorine scattering factors.

The full-matrix least-squares method, with minimization of $\sum_{hkl} w(hkl) [|F_o(hkl)| - |F_c(hkl)|]^2$, was used in the refinement of the structure. Initially, individual weights were assigned to the structure factors according to error estimates derived statistically from the relatively numerous photographic intensity data. The 510 unobserved reflections, estimated with Hamilton's¹⁰ statistics, were included with the 1416 observed reflections. After three refinement cycles with isotropic

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TABLE I
CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTORS FOR $[C_2H_2Cl_2(OH)_2]Cl \cdot H_2O^a$

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107
108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125
126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161
162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179
180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197
198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215
216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233
234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251
252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269
270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287
288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305
306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323
324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341
342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359
360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377
378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395
396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413
414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431
432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449
450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467
468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485
486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503
504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521
522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539
540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557
558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575
576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593
594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611
612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629
630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647
648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665
666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683
684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701
702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719
720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737
738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755
756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773
774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791
792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809
810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827
828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845
846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863
864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881
882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899
900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917
918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935
936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953
954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971
972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989
990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007
1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025
1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043
1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061
1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079
1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097
1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115
1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133
1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151
1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169
1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187
1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205
1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223
1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241
1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259
1260	1261	1262	1263	1264</													

TABLE II
 FRACTIONAL ATOMIC COORDINATES AND ANISOTROPIC VIBRATIONAL TENSOR COMPONENTS^a

Atom	$x (\sigma_x)$	$y (\sigma_y)$	$z (\sigma_z)$	$U_{11}, \text{Å}^2$	$U_{22}, \text{Å}^2$	$U_{33}, \text{Å}^2$	$U_{12}, \text{Å}^2$	$U_{23}, \text{Å}^2$	$U_{31}, \text{Å}^2$
Cr	0.25	0.25	0.5	0.0122 (04)	0.0142 (06)	0.0106 (04)	-0.0028 (04)	0.0021 (04)	-0.0005 (03)
Cl(1)	0.5	0.55530 (30)	0.75	0.0177 (07)	0.0262 (10)	0.0176 (06)	0.0018 (05)
Cl(2)	0.31241 (12)	0.09139 (23)	0.66545 (11)	0.0292 (06)	0.0293 (08)	0.0175 (05)	-0.0026 (05)	0.0076 (05)	-0.0045 (04)
O(1)	0.39677 (30)	0.19494 (65)	0.43577 (33)	0.0154 (14)	0.0284 (22)	0.0202 (15)	-0.0015 (14)	0.0023 (15)	0.0029 (12)
O(2)	0.30266 (33)	0.50821 (62)	0.56459 (32)	0.0251 (17)	0.0224 (21)	0.0179 (15)	-0.0072 (15)	-0.0016 (14)	-0.0037 (13)
O(3)	0.58692 (34)	0.24894 (66)	0.56947 (37)	0.0255 (18)	0.0269 (23)	0.0275 (18)	0.0001 (17)	0.0019 (17)	0.0002 (14)

^a The standard deviations (in parentheses) refer to the two least significant digits in the preceding quantities. The atomic temperature factors are $T = \exp[-2\pi^2(h^2\sigma_x^2 U_{11} + k^2\sigma_y^2 U_{22} + l^2\sigma_z^2 U_{33} + hka^*b^*U_{12} + klb^*c^*U_{23} + lhc^*a^*U_{31})]$.

temperature factors, the weighted discrepancy residual converged to 0.127.

A re-examination of the data at this stage revealed that the individual weighting factors were not nearly as reliable as the structure factors themselves. Consequently a composite weighting function in terms of F_o was applied to all reflections in the further refinement.¹¹ Some unreliable observed structure factors and all unobserved reflections occurring at $\sin \theta/\lambda > 0.6 \text{ Å}^{-1}$ were removed from the calculations. Anisotropic temperature factors were introduced for all atoms. The refinement was completed after four further cycles of least squares, with the weighted and unweighted discrepancy residuals converging to 0.096 and 0.081, respectively.

The structure factors from the final cycle are listed in Table I. Reflections with $|F_o| \geq 80$ show mean ratios of $|F_e|/|F_o|$ increasing to 1.12 with $|F_o|$, and this may be a manifestation of slight extinction effects (for which corrections have not been made). An attempt to locate hydrogen atoms by a difference synthesis of 289 reflections with $\sin \theta/\lambda \leq 0.45$ and $|F_o| < 80$ showed a number of features of maximum electron density $\sim +0.3 \text{ e Å}^{-3}$. None of these was at a position geometrically suitable for a hydrogen atom. It was concluded that the hydrogen atoms could not be located with the present data. In describing the structure, the existence of hydrogen bonds therefore had to be deduced from the contacts and relative orientations of suitable donor and acceptor sites. In all cases except one this could be done unambiguously.

The final positional and thermal parameters are presented in Table II. The standard deviations given in parentheses are computed assuming that the structure factor discrepancies represent random errors.

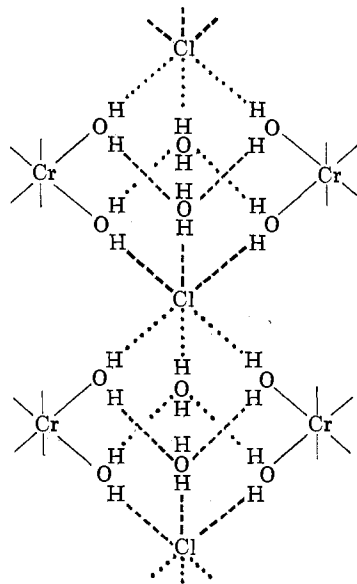
Description of the Structure

The chromium atoms lie at the centers of symmetry $(1/4, 1/4, 1/2)$, $(3/4, 1/4, 0)$, $(1/4, 3/4, 0)$, and $(3/4, 3/4, 1/2)$, and the chloride ions Cl(1) at the special positions $(1/2, y, 3/4)$, $(1/2, \bar{y}, 1/4)$, $(0, 1/2 + y, 3/4)$, and $(0, 1/2 - y, 1/4)$ on twofold axes. Atoms in asymmetric units different from that of Table II are labeled by Roman superscripts defined according to the transformations listed in Table IV.

The structure is depicted in Figure 1. The Cr atoms

are arranged in layers parallel to the ab plane and separated by $c/2 = 5.82 \text{ Å}$. Each such layer is a quasi-hexagonal array in which every Cr atom is surrounded by four others at 6.93 Å . and two at 6.84 Å . The complex ions are linked only in chains, which lie along the $[110]$ and $[1\bar{1}0]$ directions in alternate layers. Each octahedral ion is linked to its neighbors in the chain *via* two secondary water molecules, each of which is the proton acceptor in two hydrogen bonds from primary waters of two octahedra.

Every primary water molecule forms two donor hydrogen bonds, one to a secondary water molecule and the other to a chloride ion. The chloride ions are situated midway between the sheets of octahedra. Each chloride ion is almost equidistant from four octahedra, accepting one hydrogen bond from a primary water molecule of each of them.



The chloride ions not only link the octahedra in lines similarly to the secondary water molecules, but also provide connections between the lines of octahedra in adjacent sheets. In addition, two secondary water molecules form donor hydrogen bonds to each chloride ion. The hydrogen bonds to the chloride ions provide virtually the only structure linkages along the c direction, this being compatible with the well-developed $\{001\}$ habit observed during crystallization.

These links between the complexes result in the most distinctive feature of this structure—empty “cages” of water molecules and chloride ions occurring between the chromium atoms (Figure 2). Each cage consists

(11) This function was constructed from weighted means of the standard deviations $\sigma_R(F)$ and $\sigma_G(F)$, where $\sigma_R(F)$ represented random errors and was calculated from multiple observations of individual reflections and $\sigma_G(F)$ took into account systematic errors and was calculated from the values of symmetrically equivalent reflections.

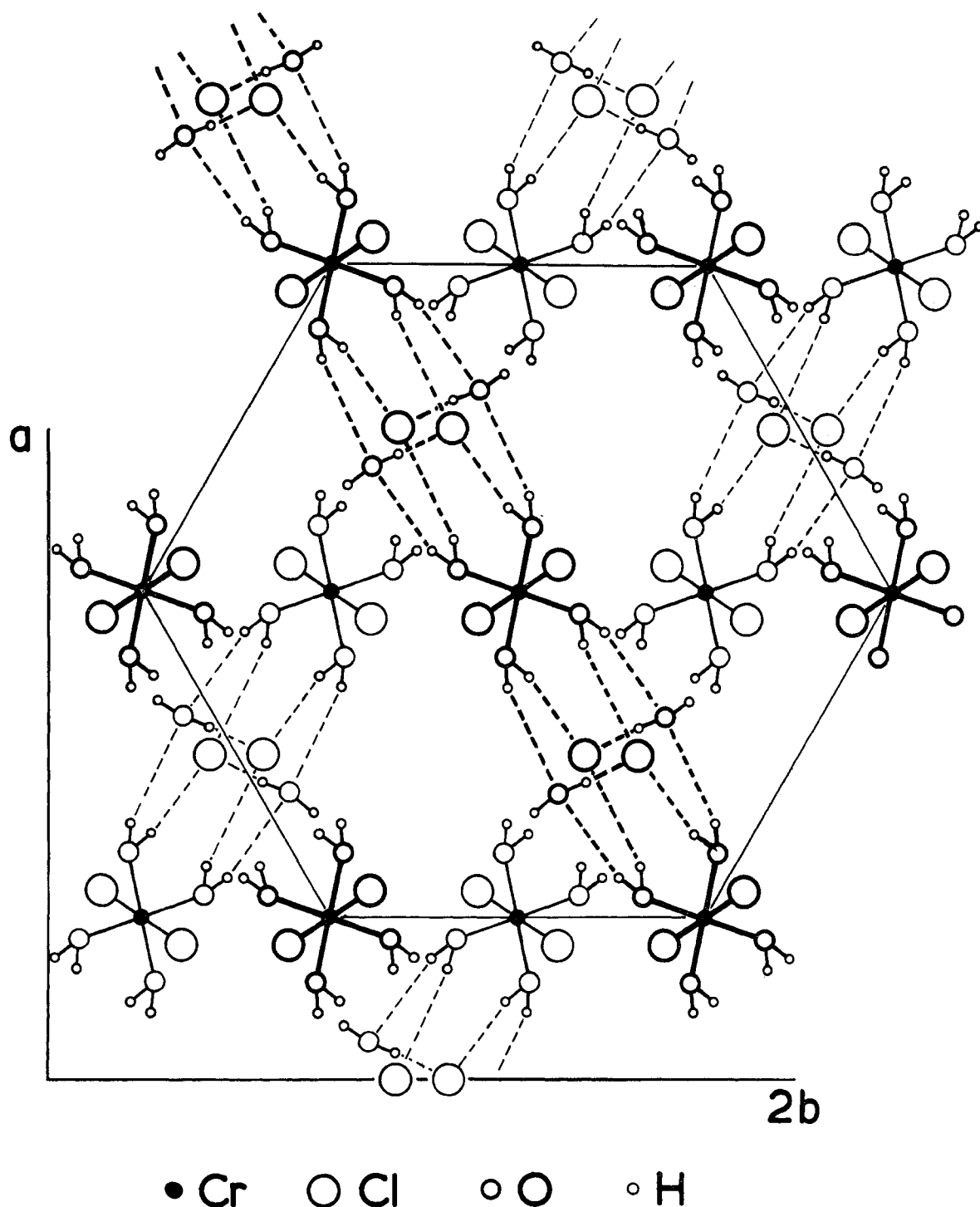


Figure 1.—Projection along the z axis. Broken lines are hydrogen bonds. The thickness of the line is proportional to the distance above the xy plane. The diagram is *not* to scale: the octahedra have been contracted for clarity.

of two atoms of each of the types O(1), O(2), O(3), and Cl(1), arranged in a centrosymmetric and approximately cubic form in which ten of the edges are hydrogen bonds and the other two are O(1)–O(2) edges of coordination octahedra. Each chloride ion is a common vertex for two cages in two different layers of octahedra.

Dimensions of Complex Ion.—The present analysis has confirmed the conclusions of King, Woods, and Gates^{1c} that it is the *trans* coordination isomer which

crystallizes first from solution. The sole, strictly crystallographic, symmetry element of the coordination octahedron is a center. The deviations from D_{4h} symmetry are small, being 2.5° from orthogonality in the Cr–O bonds and 2° in the inclination of the Cr–Cl bond from the normal to the plane of the oxygen atoms. Interatomic distances and angles are listed in Table III.

The lengths for the chlorine–chromium(III) (2.289 Å.) and water–chromium(III) bonds (2.004, 2.006 Å.) appear to be the most accurate values yet recorded.

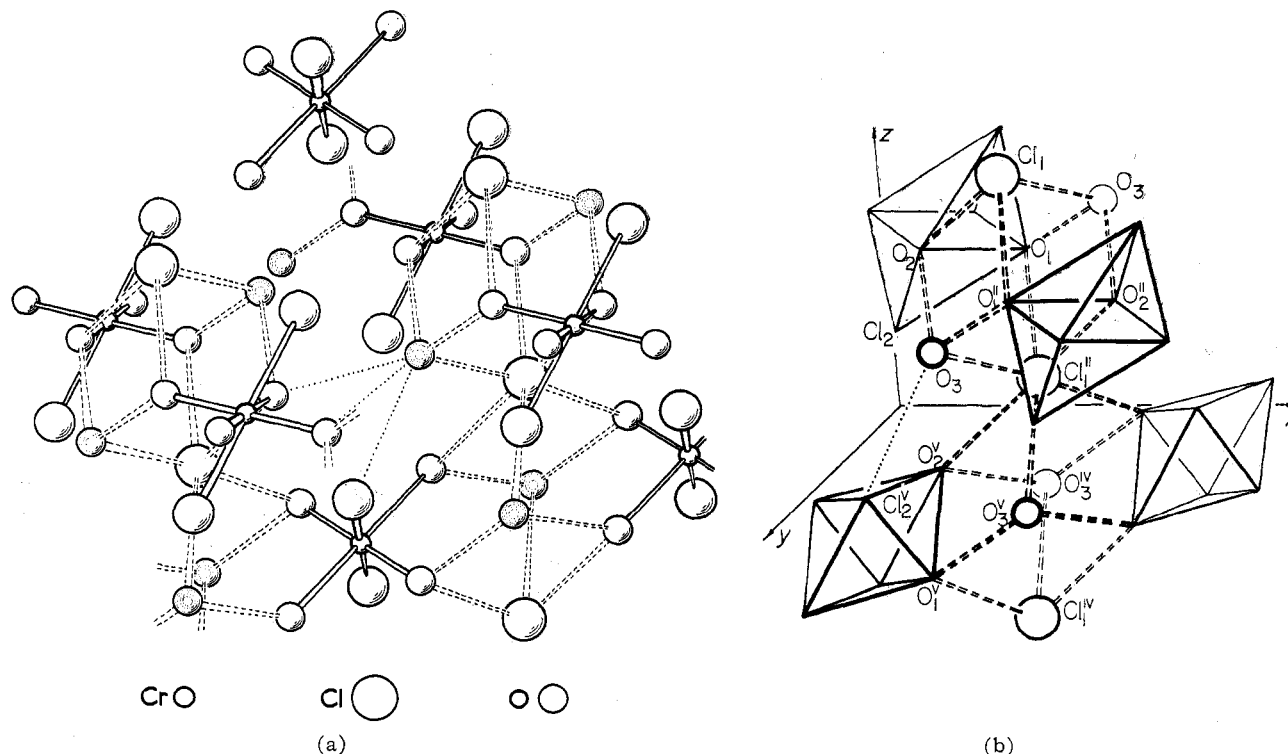


Figure 2.—Atomic arrangement of $[\text{CrCl}_2(\text{OH}_2)_4]\text{Cl}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. (a) Secondary water molecules O(3) are shaded. Broken double lines represent hydrogen bonds, broken single lines are close contacts with secondary water molecules. (b) Key to atoms involved in "cage" formation.

TABLE III
INTERATOMIC DISTANCES AND BOND ANGLES IN THE
 $[\text{CrCl}_2(\text{OH}_2)_4] + \text{CATION}^a$

Atoms	Distance <i>l</i> , Å.	$\sigma(l)$, ^b Å.
Cr—Cl(2)	2.289	0.0014
Cr—O(1)	2.006	0.004
Cr—O(2)	2.004	0.004
Cl(2)···O(1)	3.013	0.004
Cl(2)···O(2)	3.082	0.004
O(1)···O(2)	2.894	0.006
Cl(2)···O(1') ^c	3.074	0.004
Cl(2)···O(2') ^c	3.003	0.004
O(1)···O(2') ^c	2.776	0.006
Atoms	Angle θ , deg.	$\sigma(\theta)$, deg.
Cl(2)—Cr—O(1)	88.8	0.2
Cl(2)—Cr—O(2)	91.5	0.2
O(1)—Cr—O(2)	92.4	0.2

^a Calculated without taking into account the differential thermal motion of the atoms. ^b Standard deviations calculated by assuming r.m.s. isotropic errors for atomic positions [D. W. J. Cruickshank and A. P. Robertson, *Acta Cryst.*, **6**, 698 (1953)]. ^c Atoms ' at $1/2 - x, 1/2 - y, 1 - z$.

Comparable values for Cr(III)—OH₂ are 2.02 Å. in potassium *trans*-bis(oxalato)diaquochromate(III) trihydrate¹² and 1.94 Å. in potassium chrome alum, $\text{K}(\text{OH}_2)_6 \cdot \text{Cr}(\text{OH}_2)_6 \cdot (\text{SO}_4)_2$.¹³ In chromous acid, HCrO_2 or DCrO_2 ,¹⁴ the Cr—O distance is (1.979 ± 0.005) Å. For Cr(III)—Cl, the value 2.32 Å. has been reported in CrOCl ¹⁵ and distances of 2.347, 2.342, and 2.340 (s.d.

~ 0.002 Å.) occur in anhydrous CrCl_3 .¹⁶ The chlorine atoms Cl(2) in the present structure are each bonded to only one chromium atom. This explains why these bonds are significantly shorter than the corresponding ones in CrCl_3 , where the number of chlorine-neighbor interactions is larger.

Details of Hydrogen-Bond System

Table IV is a list of all hydrogen bonds and the shortest nonbonded contacts in the structure. For reasons to be discussed later (see Related Structures), corresponding data for $\text{CoCl}_2(\text{OH}_2)_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ are also shown.

Bonding of Ligand Water Molecules.—Two pseudomirror planes are associated with each complex and its environment. They are normal to the CrO_4 plane and bisect the O—Cr—O angles. The angles and distances about the primary water molecules O(1) and O(2) are therefore remarkably similar.

The angle between the two hydrogen bonds formed by each primary water molecule is small (O(1), 88°; O(2), 87°). If the H—O—H angles are about 105–110°, then the hydrogen bonds must be considerably bent, as is common in the hydrogen bonds of metal salt hydrates.¹⁷ The three atoms to which each primary water molecule is bonded have a flattened pyramidal, but not a planar, arrangement. The angle between the water-chromium bond and the plane of the two hydrogen bonds is 42° for O(1) and 44° for O(2).

Environment of Secondary Water Molecule.—The

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TABLE IV
 HYDROGEN BONDS AND SHORT CONTACTS

[CrCl ₂ (OH ₂) ₄]Cl·2H ₂ O			[CoCl ₂ (OH ₂) ₄]·2H ₂ O		
Atoms	Distance l, Å.	σ(l), Å.	Atoms ^a	Distance Å.	
Hydrogen Bonds					
O(1)—H···O(3)	2.701	0.006			
O(2)—H···O(3'')	2.696	0.006	O _p ···O _s	2.69	
O(1)—H···Cl(1'')	3.088	0.004			
O(2)—H···Cl(1)	3.110	0.004	O _p ···Cl	3.18	
O(3)—H···Cl(1)	3.198	0.005	O _s ···Cl	3.31	
Bifurcated Hydrogen Bond					
O(3'')—H···O(1 ^{vi})	3.043	0.006			
O(3'')—H···O(2 ^{vii})	3.082	0.006	O _s ···O _p	3.12	
Shortest Nonbonded Contacts					
O(3'')···Cl(2 ^v)	3.407				
O(2 ^v)···Cl(2')	3.57				
O(3)···Cl(2''')	3.70				
O(3)···Cl(2)	3.73				
O(3'')···O(1)	3.81				
Angles at Hydrogen-Bonded Atoms					
Atoms		Angle, ^b deg.	Atoms		Angle, deg.
Cr—O(1)···O(3)		119.6	Co—O _p —O _s		115
Cr—O(2)···O(3'')		118.8			
Cr—O(1)···Cl(1'')		124.6	Co—O _p ···Cl		124
Cr—O(2)···Cl(1)		123.9			
O(3)···O(1)···Cl(1'')		87.7	O _s ···O _p ···Cl		89
O(3'')···O(2)···Cl(1)		87.3			
O(1)···O(3)···O(2'')		100.6	O _p ···O _s ···O _p		100
O(1)···O(3)···Cl(1)		99.4	O _p ···O _s ···Cl		106
O(2'')···O(3)···Cl(1)		100.1			
O(2)···Cl···O(1'')		84.1			
O(2)···Cl···O(3)		75.3			
O(1'')···Cl···O(3)		74.6			
Angles at Atoms in Bifurcated Hydrogen Bond					
Cl(1'')···O(3'')···O(1 ^{vi})		134	Cl···O _s ···O _p		119
Cl(1'')···O(3'')···O(2 ^{vii})		133			
O(1'')···O(3'')···O(1 ^{vi})		85	O _p ···O _s ···O _p		86
O(2)···O(3'')···O(2 ^{vii})		82			
O(1'')···O(3'')···O(2 ^{vii})		127	O _p ···O _s ···O _p		131
O(2)···O(3'')···O(1 ^{vi})		125			
Cr—O(1')···O(3 ^{viii})		105	Co—O _p ···O _s		97
Cr—O(2)···O(3 ^{viii})		104			
Cl(1 ^{ix})···O(1')···O(3 ^{viii})		121	Cl···O _p ···O _s		132
Cl(1)···O(2)···O(3 ^{viii})		122			
O(3')···O(1')···O(3 ^{viii})		95	O _s ···O _p ···O _s		94
O(3'')···O(2)···O(3 ^{viii})		98			

^a (See section on Related Structures.) The octahedral [CoCl₂(OH₂)₄] complex possesses C_{2h} symmetry. The four equivalent primary oxygen atoms are here labeled O_p and the secondary water molecules O_s. ^b Standard deviations of all angles are 0.3°. Code for symmetry-related atoms:

Super-script	Position	Super-script	Position
None	x, y, z	v	x, 1 - y, -1/2 + z
'	1/2 - x, 1/2 - y, 1 - z	vi	x, 1 + y, z
''	1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z	vii	1/2 - x, 1/2 - y, 1 - z
'''	1/2 + x, 1/2 + y, z	viii	-1/2 + x, 1/2 + y, z
iv	1 - x, y, 1/2 - z	ix	-1/2 + x, -1/2 + y, z

secondary water molecule participates in two acceptor hydrogen bonds of moderate strength from primary water molecules (2.701, 2.696 Å.) and one slightly weaker donor hydrogen bond to a chloride ion (3.198 Å.). The environment of O(3) is unusual in that the directions of the three hydrogen bonds are half-way between being mutually orthogonal and tetrahedral,

as is indicated by the inter-hydrogen-bond angles of 99, 100, and 101°. Substantial bending of all O(3)—H bonds from the direct lines between the hydrogen-bonded atoms must therefore be expected.

Participation of the other hydrogen atom of the secondary water molecule in a donor hydrogen bond is not clearly apparent from the heavy-atom geometrical relationships. The three possible contacts (marked as single broken lines in Figure 1) are to primary water molecules O(1) (3.04 Å. distant) and O(2) (3.08 Å.), and chromium-coordinated chlorine Cl(2) (3.41 Å.). These distances are at the upper limits for O—H···O and O—H···Cl hydrogen-bond interactions.^{17,18} The bond angles reveal that the Cl(2) is geometrically quite unsuitable as a hydrogen-bond acceptor. The atoms O(1) and O(2) of a neighboring complex are virtually equivalent as acceptors. If the O—H bond of the secondary water molecule is directed midway between O(1) and O(2) in a weak bifurcated hydrogen bond, then the water molecule is almost regularly tetrahedral. The water O(3) in the present structure is analogous to the noncoordinated water molecule W4 in the structure of [Mg(OH₂)₆]₃[Ce(NO₃)₆]₂·6H₂O.¹⁹ In the presence of the large oxyanion, W4 accepts two hydrogen bonds from water molecules coordinated to magnesium and donates a weaker hydrogen bond to a nitrate group. Its second hydrogen atom is located symmetrically with respect to two nitrate oxygens too distant for hydrogen bonding. Baur,²⁰ however, concludes that no hydrogen bond exists in a similar situation in MgSO₄·4H₂O, where the hydrogen atom has been located by neutron diffraction.

Related Structures.—The recently determined crystal structures of the isomorphous *trans*-[CoCl₂(OH₂)₄·2H₂O]²¹ and *trans*-[NiCl₂(OH₂)₄·2H₂O]²² are, in spite of the stoichiometric difference, remarkably closely related to that of [CrCl₂(OH₂)₄]Cl·2H₂O. In [CoCl₂(OH₂)₄]·2H₂O the coordination octahedra are linked in sheets by hydrogen-bonded cages of distorted cubic shape. These cages consist of two pairs of primary water molecules, two secondary water molecules, and—in place of the chloride ions of [CrCl₂(OH₂)₄]Cl·2H₂O—two metal-coordinated atoms of nearby octahedra. The corresponding geometrical features are compared in Table IV.

The close resemblance between the cages in the two structures extends to the hydrogen-bond schemes for the secondary water molecules. In complete analogy with the proposed bifurcated hydrogen bond in [CrCl₂(OH₂)₄]Cl·2H₂O, a weak bifurcated hydrogen bond from the secondary to two primary water molecules is postulated in [CoCl₂(OH₂)₄]·2H₂O. There it provides the only binding between adjacent sheets of cage-linked octahedra.

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Conclusion.—The features of secondary hydration which the structure of this compound has in common with those of two compounds $[MCl_2(OH_2)_4] \cdot 2H_2O$ are (i) the strong hydrogen bonding with the primary hydration sphere, and (ii) the ion-water association in cage formation. The secondary water-chloride ion hydrogen bonds appear to be relatively weak links in this structure. Continued existence of such cages when the solid is dissolved in water would provide a mechanism for the $[CrCl_2(OH_2)_4]^+ \cdot Cl^-$ ion-pair association suspected to occur in aqueous hydrochloric acid solution.²³

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Configurational and Vicinal Contributions to the Optical Activity of the Isomers of Tris(alaninato)cobalt(III)¹

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Four isomers of $[Co(L-ala)_3]$ (and the corresponding isomers of the D-alanine complex) have been isolated and characterized using circular dichroism (CD) data. Lifschitz's original assignment of the α' isomer as the opposite configuration to that of the α isomer (Δ) has been confirmed. The new β' isomer has been assigned as the opposite spiral configuration (Δ) to that of the β isomer (Δ). The vicinal and configurational contributions to the CD have been separated and demonstrated to be additive.

Introduction

Lifschitz² isolated three isomers from the reaction of $Co(OH)_3$ with D-alanine.³ He designated the red isomer as β and the two violet isomers α and α' . He believed α and β to be geometrical isomers. The α and α' isomers were believed to represent the two spiral configurations (right and left) of the chelate rings. This was supported by the optical rotatory dispersion (ORD) curves of these isomers which indicated opposite configurations, although the ORD curves were not quite mirror images, as indeed, the isomers are not mirror images since the ligands are all D. He believed the β isomer to be a racemic mixture, unresolved because of its very low solubility.

The assignments of α -tris(glycinato)cobalt(III) as the 1,2,6 (peripheral) isomer and the β complex as the 1,2,3 (facial) isomer have been made based on absorption spectra,^{4,5} infrared spectra,⁶ and the study of model compounds.^{7,8} Corresponding assignments were made of the α and β isomers of tris(alaninato)cobalt(III).⁹

Lifschitz's assumption concerning the configuration of α' -tris(alaninato)cobalt(III) seemed uncertain because this isomer, unlike the α and β isomers, is very soluble in water. This seemed inconsistent with the formulation of this as a neutral complex. He found that a cryoscopic molecular weight in water indicated that α' was a monomer. Swift¹⁰ found the conductivity of the α' isomer to be low enough for a neutral complex, but it was still possible that one chelate ring was opened with another group, e.g., H_2O , coordinated.

It has now been possible to isolate these three isomers (α , α' , and β) as well as a fourth isomer, β' , for the cobalt(III) complexes of D- and L-alanine. The study of the circular dichroism (CD) of these complexes makes it possible to assign their configurations and to separate the configurational and vicinal contributions to the optical activity as for other amino acid complexes.¹¹

Experimental

The L- and D-alanine were purchased from Nutritional Biochemicals Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio. All other chemicals were reagent grade.

α - and β -Tris(glycinato)cobalt(III).— α - and β - $[Co(gly)_3]$ were

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