lar parts at room temperature as evidenced by the line broadening of the n.m.r. signals, with average lifetimes in the neighborhood of 0.1 sec. at 35°. These systems, therefore, are quite labile, thus rendering it a hopeless task to isolate even the shorter chain molecules by ordinary separation methods under the usual Perhaps conditions. low-temperature separation methods, such as chromatography, with Dry Ice cooling, might be applied successfully. However, any isolated species when brought to room temperature undoubtedly will rearrange rapidly to the equilibrium distribution of molecules as determined by the over-all composition of the species.

Superficial inspection of the experimental data obtained on the chloro-terminated dimethylgermanium and dimethylsilicon compounds exhibiting either oxygen or sulfur bridges would indicate that the siloxanes² have a much lesser tendency to form ring structures than either the silthians¹⁴ or the equivalent oxygen-(studied here) or sulfur-bridged¹ compounds of germanium. This, however, is not true since the ringchain equilibrium constants for the oxygen-bridged molecular systems based on silicon¹⁵ have the same

(14) K. Moedritzer, J. R. Van Wazer, C. H. Dungan, J. Chem. Phys., 42, 2478 (1965).

order of magnitude as the constants obtained in this work for the equivalent germanium system. The difference lies in the fact that rapid exchange between the germanium compounds forced us to study dilute systems, where the ring-chain equilibria are shifted toward the rings. The work on the silicon systems was carried out on the neat liquids.

We conclude from the study of the siloxanes and silthians and their related germanium compounds that the major difference in behavior between the silicon and germanium systems is with respect to the rate of equilibration, which is about a million times slower for silicon than for germanium. In both cases, the sulfurbridged structures reorganize more slowly than the oxygen ones and, at equilibrium at the same dilution, exhibit a larger proportion of rings as compared to chains.

Acknowledgment.—We wish to thank Ray E. Miller for running some of the n.m.r. spectra and L. C. D. Groenweghe for assistance with the computer programs.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE RCA LABORATORIES, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

The Crystal Structure of Scandium Sesquitelluride

By J. G. WHITE AND J. P. DISMUKES

Received June 3, 1965

Scandium sesquitelluride has been prepared in single crystal form by a vapor transport technique. The crystals are rhombohedral with $a_h = 4.109 \pm 0.004$ Å., $c_h = 40.59 \pm 0.05$ Å., referred to the triply primitive hexagonal unit cell. The space group is R3m and the Te atoms are at ± 0 , 0, $\cdot 1247$ and ± 0 , 0, $\cdot 2918$ forming a 12-layer stacking sequence containing regions of both cubic and hexagonal close packing. All the Sc atoms are in octahedral sites, 2Sc in 0, 0, 0 and 0, 0, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{2}{3}$. Sc in ± 0 , 0, $\cdot 4150$. The structure may be regarded as being made up of alternate regions of NaCl and NiAs structure types, with the metal sites common to both regions being only one-third occupied. A nonstoichiometric scandium telluride of approximate composition Sc_{2.3}Te₃ has been made which also has the Sc₂Te₃ structure, presumably with a higher scandium content in the partially occupied sites.

Introduction

Men'kov, et al.,¹ have reported X-ray powder diffraction data for Sc₂Te₃. They describe the structure as being similar to that of γ' -Al₂O₃,² which is a closepacked cubic structure for the anions with the cations being distributed statistically over all the possible octahedral and tetrahedral sites in the ratio of 70% in octahedral and 30% in tetrahedral sites. During an investigation of the occurrence of the Sc₂S₃ structure³ among the higher atomic number rare earth (including Sc and Y) chalcogenides,⁴ single crystals of Sc₂Te₃ were prepared, giving the opportunity of definitive structural investigation. Our X-ray powder pattern is quite different from that published by Men'kov, *et al.*, and it is possible that these authors had a different crystalline modification, although our experimental conditions were quite similar to theirs.

Experimental

Preparation.—Polycrystalline Sc_2Te_3 was prepared by direct reaction of the elements at 1000°, using a small amount of I_2 as a mineralizer. Single crystal plates of Sc_2Te_3 were then chemically transported with I_2 from a hot zone of 1050° to a cold zone of 950°.⁴ About a 160-mg. sample was decomposed with nitric acid, and scandium was titrated by EDTA, as in the determina-

⁽¹⁵⁾ The data of J. B. Carmichael and R. Winger, J. Polymer Sci., **3A**, 971 (1965), corresponds to the following set of ring-chain constants of the form of eq. 5: $K_8^\circ = 0.018$, $K_4^\circ = 0.75$, $K_8^\circ = 0.69$, $K_6^\circ = 0.29$, $K_7^\circ = 0.10$, and $K_8^\circ = 0.04$. These constants are consistent with the data of ref. 2.

A. A. Men'kov, L. N. Komissarova, Y. P. Simanov, and V. I. Spitsyn, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, 128, 92 (1959).

⁽²⁾ E. J. W. Verwey, Z. Krist., 91, 317 (1935).

⁽³⁾ J. P. Dismukes and J. G. White, Inorg. Chem., 3, 1220 (1984).

⁽⁴⁾ J. P. Dismukes and J. G. White, ibid., 4, 970 (1965).

CRISIAL SIRUCIURE OF SCANDIUM	SESCUTTELLURIDE	1101
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	\mathbf{T}	ABLE 1			
CALCULATE	ed and Observer (C11 K a	D LATTICE SPACE RADIATION)	NGS FOR SC2Te8		
hkl	dealed	dobsd	$I_{\rm obsd}{}^a$		
10.1	3,544)				
01.2	3.504	3.501	vw		
00.12	3.383	3.370	w+		
01.5	3.258	3.243	m+		
10.7	3.033	3.018	m+		
01.8	2.912	2.898	w		
$10 \cdot 10$	2.675	2.663	w+		
$01 \cdot 11$	2.562	2.552	vw		
10.13	2.347	2.334	vw		
$01 \cdot 14$	2.248	2.239	w+		
11.0	2.054	2.046	s		
$01 \cdot 17$	1.983	1.976	m		
10.19	1.832	1.828	w+		
$11 \cdot 12$	1.756	1.751	щ		
20.5	1.738	1.732	w		
$02 \cdot 7$	1.700	1 602	w⊥ h		
00.24	1.691∫	1.092	w⊤,∪		
$02 \cdot 10$	1.629	1.625	w		
20.14	1.517	1.513	w		
$20 \cdot 17$	1.427	1.424	w		
$02 \cdot 19$	1.368	1.365	w		
$12 \cdot 5$	1.326	1.325	w		
21.7	1.310/	1 305	m h		
$11 \cdot 24$	1.306)	1.000	III, D		

^a vw, very weak; w, weak; m, medium; s, strong; b, broad.

tion of lead in lead telluride.⁵ Anal. Calcd. for Sc₂Te₃: Sc, 19.02. Found: Sc, 18.96.

A nonstoichiometric scandium telluride was prepared by heating about 75 mg. of polycrystalline Sc_2Te_3 at 1050° in an evacuated quartz ampoule, with one end cold, for 24 hr. From the weight of tellurium lost this material has the approximate composition $Sc_{2.3}Te_3$.

Crystal platelets of Sc_2Te_3 have a bright silvery appearance, but develop a black surface layer after several days exposure to air. The crystals prepared were not suitable for accurate density determination.

Crystal Data for Sc₂Te₂.—The crystal data are: Sc₂Te₂, mol. wt. 472.75; absent spectra, hkl with $-h + k + l \neq 3n$; rhombohedral, space group R $\overline{3}$ m, $Z = 1^{1}/_{3}$; cell dimensions: $a_{\rm r} = 13.72$ ± 0.02 Å., $\alpha = 17^{\circ} 12' \pm 2'$, $a_{\rm h} = 4.109 \pm 0.004$ Å., $c_{\rm h} = 40.59$ ± 0.05 Å.; V (primitive cell) = 197.8 Å.³; $d_{\rm caled} = 5.29$ g. cm.⁻³; μ (Mo K α) = 186 cm.⁻¹.

The crystals of Sc_2Te_3 are thin (00.1) plates, frequently twinned. Single crystal X-ray measurements established that they are rhombohedral, and negative pyroelectric measurements indicated a centrosymmetric space group. Data from the Xray powder diffraction pattern are reproduced in Table I. The cell dimensions were obtained from this pattern by extrapolation.6 Since the back-reflection region contains too many overlapping lines to be indexed unequivocally, the accuracy is considerably less than can be obtained from simpler patterns. The X-ray photograph of the scandium-rich preparation is almost indistinguishable from that of Sc2Tes and cell dimensions obtained by the same procedure are $a_h = 4.113$ Å., $c_h = 40.51$ Å. While the absolute differences in the cell dimensions between the two materials are within the possible experimental errors, the difference in the c/a ratios, 9.88 for Sc₂Te₃ and 9.85 for Sc_{2.3}Te₃, is probably real as shown by the resolution in the Sc2.3Te8 pattern of the line pairs $02 \cdot 7$, $00 \cdot 24$ and $21 \cdot 7$, $11 \cdot 24$ which are overlapped in the Sc2Te3 pattern.

Three-dimensional X-ray intensity data were obtained from one crystal, a thin needle of cross section 0.028×0.032 mm., using Zr-filtered Mo K α radiation and the equi-inclination Weis-



Figure 1.—The line 0, 0, z of the three-dimensional sharpened Patterson function. Vectors between tellurium atoms are marked.



Figure 2.—The electron density line 0, 0, z computed using the phase angles determined by the tellurium atoms alone and coefficients $F_o - F_{Te}$. The octahedral and tetrahedral sites are marked O and T, respectively.

senberg technique. The intensities were estimated visually by comparison with a standard intensity scale. Approximate absorption corrections were made by treating the crystal as a cylinder of equivalent cross-sectional area.

Structure Determination and Refinement

The c/a ratio in Sc₂Te₃ is 1.647 \times 6, which is very close to that expected (1.633×6) for a close-packed tellurium sublattice with a 12-layer periodicity in the z direction. Only two 12-layer stacking sequences can give rise to a rhombohedral structure. One of these is cubic close packing repeated four times, and this structure can be ruled out immediately on consideration of the intensity data. The other sequence, actually found in Sc₂Te₃, is ACACBABACBCB..., which contains regions of both cubic and hexagonal close packing. The three-dimensional Patterson function, with the data sharpened to correspond to atoms at rest, showed that this closepacked structure is indeed present with practically no distortion. The vector concentration established that the cations also lie on the trigonal axis. The line 0, 0, zof the three-dimensional Patterson is shown in Figure 1. The cation positions were found with greater certainty by computation of the electron density along the line 0, 0, z using the phase angles calculated from the Te positions and coefficients $F_o - F_{Te}$ (Figure 2). The positions along this line corresponding to the octahedral and tetrahedral sites are marked and it is clear that

⁽⁵⁾ K. L. Cheng, Anal. Chem., 33, 761 (1961).

⁽⁶⁾ J. B. Nelson and D. P. Riley, Proc. Phys. Soc. (London), 57, 160 (1945),

there are sites of high scandium occupancy at 0, 0, 0 and 0, 0, 1/2 while weaker peaks occur at ± 0 , 0, 5/12. There is no evidence at all for any occupancy of the tetrahedral sites. The reflections due to scandium atoms alone were necessarily left out of this calculation, and since these all make negative contributions at ± 0 , 0, 5/12 the occupancy ratio is actually close to 1:1:1/8 for these positions, respectively.

However, since the arrangement of the tellurium atoms is itself centrosymmetric, the electron density map must contain a center of symmetry whether this exists for the scandium atoms or not. Thus, since the negative observation of a pyroelectric effect might be due to multiple twinning, two arrangements are possible. These are: (1) with the atoms in the following positions of the space group $R\overline{3}m^7$ referred to the triply primitive hexagonal cell: 6Te in (c) ± 0 , 0, $^{3}/_{24}$, 6Te in (c) $\pm 0, 0, \frac{7}{24}$; 3Sc in (a) 0, 0, 0; 3Sc in (b) 0, 0, $\frac{1}{2}$; 2Sc in (c) ± 0 , 0, $\frac{5}{12}$, (2) with all atoms located in the corresponding positions of the space group R3m except the fractional Sc atoms, which could be located entirely in (a) 0, 0, $\frac{5}{12}$. These alternative structures are extremely difficult to distinguish since the only difference between them is the vector between the two $1/_{3}$ Sc atoms in structure (1) which is overlapped in the Patterson function by a strong Te-Te vector peak, and in fact the over-all structure factor agreement is not significantly different for the two cases. However, it was possible to make the distinction by examining a particular set of reflections. The permitted $00 \cdot l$ reflections with l odd are calculated close to zero for structure (1) and very weak but observable for structure (2). Very long exposures were taken such that if structure (2)were correct the first seven of the odd $00 \cdot l$ reflections would be clearly visible. Actually none of these was observed, and it was concluded that the centrosymmetric structure (1) is correct.

This structure was refined by three-dimensional difference synthesis using isotropic temperature factors since no pronounced anisotropic effects were observed in the residual density maps. Unfortunately, it was not possible to refine the occupancy factors of the scandium sites simultaneously with individual temperature factors since these variables are highly correlated. However, if it is assumed that the temperature factors of the scandium atoms are all equal, then refinement of the site occupancies gives differences of less than 2% from the most ordered ratio of $1:1:1/_3$. The refined atomic positions and their standard deviations⁸ are given in Table II, and the structure factors calculated using temperature factors with B = 1.50 Å.² for the Te atoms and B = 1.69 Å.² for the Sc atoms are listed in Table III. The scattering factors used are those given in the literature⁹ corrected for anomalous dispersion.¹⁰ For 131 observed reflections the reliability coefficient R is 0.063.

(10) C. H. Dauben and D. H. Templeton, Acta Cryst., 8, 841 (1955).

Table II Coordinates of the Atoms in Sc_2Te_3 with Free z Parameter

Atom	z	σ_z , Å.
Te_{I}	0.1247	0.001
Te_{II}	0.2918	0.001
ScIII	0.4150	0.008

kf F 00.3 3 00.12 -1 00.12 -1 00.13 0.24 00.24 1 00.33 0.36 00.342 0.33 00.342 0.42 00.42 1 10.35 -1 10.42 1 10.33 0.36 0.42 0.42 0.42 1 0.42 1 11.5 -1 10.5 -1 1.8 0.10 0.11.8 0.10 0.11.3 -1	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	hkg 01-35 10-37 01-38 10-40 01-41 10-43 01-44 10-46 01-47 10-49 01-50 11-0 11-9 11-12 11-12 11-18	F - 19 -19 -25 24 64 -529 -15 0 14 -13 176 15 -19 -19 17	F_0 26 25 44 42 62 48 415 14 √13 11 9 171 √18 19 98 √23	FOF hkg 20.17 02.19 20.20 20.22 20.25 20.25 20.26 02.21 20.32 02.31 20.35 02.34 20.35 02.36 02.34 20.35 02.34 02.35 02.34 02.35 02.34 02.35 02.55	SC F - - - - - - - - - - - - -	2 Le3 2 1.e3 103 81 < 19 26 66 64 44 < 19 20 66 64 30 44 < 19 20 66 61 30 10 10 27 < 20 66 61 30 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	hkg 21:31 12:32 21:34 12:35 21:37 12:38 21:40 12:41 30:0 30:6 30:9 30:6 30:9 30:12 30:15 30:18 30:21	Fc 60 28 40 -14 -18 32 18 47 113 9 0 -70 11 -1	F 0 60 26 41 17 33 15 48 102 V 17 V 17 V 16 V 16 V 16	hks 13:13 31:14 13:16 31:17 13:19 31:20 13:22 31:23 31:25 31:26 13:28 31:29 13:31 40:1 04:2 40:4	Fc -19 41 24 59 -50 -16 9 13 -15 -62 43 12 -16 -8	F_0 19 45 21 46 46 46 45 15 40 45 40 40 45 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40
kt F 00.3 0 00.12 0 00.12 0 00.12 0 00.12 0 00.12 0 00.21 0 00.221 0 00.230 0 00.333 0 00.42 0 00.42 0 00.42 0 00.45 0 01.5 -1 10.5 -1 1.8 0 0.10.1 1 1.1.8 0	$\begin{array}{c c} & & & \\ \hline \hline & & \\ \hline \hline \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \hline & & \\ \hline \hline \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \hline \hline \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline$	hkg 01.35 10.37 01.38 10.40 01.41 10.43 01.44 10.43 01.47 10.49 01.50 11.0 11.0 11.9 11.12 11.12 11.18	P -19 -25 24 64 -52 -9 -15 0 14 -13 176 0 15 -1 -99 1	F_0 26 25 44 422 62 48 <15 14 <13 11 9 171 <18 19 98 <22 23	hkg 20:17 02:19 20:22 20:23 20:25 20:26 02:28 20:29 02:31 20:32 02:34 20:32 02:34 20:32 02:34 20:32 02:34 20:38 02:41	F -0 -84 -12 -25 14 -23 -10 -67 -69 -33 -16 -21 -21 -28 -21 -21 -25 -25 -25 -25 -25 -25 -25 -25	<pre> 2 103 81 19 27 19 26 27 20 66 64 30 44 19 20 36 17 </pre>	hkg 21: 31 12: 32 21: 34 12: 35 21: 37 12: 35 21: 37 12: 40 12: 41 30: 0 30: 3 30: 6 30: 9 30: 12 30: 15 30: 18 30: 21	Fc 60 28 40 -14 -18 32 18 47 113 0 9 0 -70 1 11 -1	F_0 60 26 41 18 17 33 15 48 102 ¥17 ¥17 ¥17 ¥17 ¥17 ¥16 ¥16	hks 13:13 31:14 13:16 31:17 13:19 31:20 13:22 31:23 31:26 13:28 31:29 13:31 40:1 04:2 40:4	Fc -19 41 249 -50 -9 -16 9 13 -15 -6 -42 43 12 -16 -8	F_0 19 45 21 64 46 45 15 15 41 45 46 415 15 41 45 40 415 40 415 40 415 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40
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0.27 0.30 0.33 0.36 0.39 0.42 0.45 0.45 0.44 0.1 1.5 -1 0.7 1.5 -1 0.10 1.5 -1 0.10 1.5 -1 0.10 1.5 -1 0.10 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1	2 <20 7 <22 -2 <23 -70 63 2 <24 13 <23 -1 <21 69 63 30 30 -37 32	01-47 10-49 01-50 11-0 11-3 11-6 11-9 11-12 11-15 11-18	-13 0 14 -13 176 0 15 -1 -99 1 17	<pre></pre>	20, 29 02, 31 20, 32 02, 34 20, 35 02, 37 20, 38 02, 40 20, 41	-67 69 33 48 -16 -21 38 21	<pre></pre>	30: 0 30: 3 30: 6 30: 9 30: 12 30: 15 30: 18 30: 21	113 0 9 0 -70 1 11 -1	40 102 <17 <17 <17 70 <16 <16 <16	13·25 31·26 13·28 31·29 13·31 40·1 04·2 40·4	13 -15 -6 -42 43 12 -16 -8	13 16 411 45 40 418 418 418 418 417
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1.5-1 0.71 1.8 0.101 1.11- 0.13-	-12 12	11.51	-1	< 24	21.1	19	27	30 * 30	3	<12	04 8	24	20
0.71 1.8 0.101 1.11 - 0.13 -	134 129	11.24	125	125	12 2	-26	30	30.33	-1	<11	40.10	38	37
1.8 0.10 1 1.11 - 0.13 -	149 139	11.27	1	₹ 26	21 • 4	-11	<25	30 • 36	-44	53	04.11	-15	<15
0.10 1 1.11 - 0.13 -	69 65	11.30	5	< 26	12 5	-82	79	22 • 0	94	103	40.13	-17	<15
0.13 -	107 105	11-33	-1	< 26	21 7	91	93	22.3	<u> </u>	< 20	04.14	35	33
0.13 -	-41 40	11-36	- 50	22	12. 8	40	43	22.6		< 19	40.15	20	10
	-44 40	11.09	· . ·	224	12.31	25	01	22.9	50	4,19	40+10	31	21
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1.17 1	126 129	11.49	40	- 10	12:1/	- 40	50	22119	å	217	40122	-14	11
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1.20	-14 418	20.2	- 30	31	12.17	82	79	22.24	75	84	23. 2	-14	17
0.22 -	-29 30	02.4	-13	< 18	21 19	-70	65	13.1	14	<21	32.4	-7	<13
1.23	17 23	20.5	-102	102	12.20	-11	< 26	31 2	-19	25	23.5	-43	46
0.25	25 26	02.7	113	112	21.22	-21	27	13 4	-9	≤20	32 7	47	60
1.26 -	-27 28	20 - 8	51	49	12.23	10	<26	31 5	- 58	56	23 8	20	18
0-28 -	-11 < 22	02.10	80	80	21.25	18	25	13 - 7	64	57	32.10	33	41
1.29 -	-81 80	20-11	-32	36	12.26	-20	22	31 . 8	28	29	23.11	-13	17
0 • 31	83 80	02.13	- 34	35	21.28	-9	≤24	13.10	44	45	32.13	-14	15
1.32		20.14	72	73	12.29	- 58	61	31 • 11	-18	22	23'14	30	29



Figure 3.—The structure of Se₂Te₃ viewed in the $[11\cdot0]$ direction. Full circles indicate atoms lying in the $(11\cdot0)$ plane, dotted circles are tellurium atoms located a distance a/2 behind and in front of this plane.

Discussion

A diagram of the structure is shown in Figure 3, where the full circles represent atoms within the $(11 \cdot 0)$ plane. The broken circles represent Te atoms behind and in front of this plane. For simplicity Sc atoms outside the $(11 \cdot 0)$ plane have been omitted.

⁽⁷⁾ International Tables for X-ray Crystallography, Kynoch Press, Birmingham, Vol. I, 1952, p. 273.

⁽⁸⁾ D. W. J. Cruickshank, Acta Cryst., 2, 65 (1949).

⁽⁹⁾ International Tables for X-ray Crystallography, Kynoch Press, Birmingham, Vol. III, 1962.

The 12-layer rhombohedral anion stacking sequence has been described in detail for In₂ZnS₄.¹¹ The anion arrangement may be divided into overlapping regions of cubic and hexagonal close packing as shown on the left-hand side of Figure 3. On the basis of the distribution of the cations among the octahedral sites of the close-packed anion structure, the unit cell may be divided into alternate layers, in the z direction, of cation-deficient B1 (NaCl) and B8 (NiAs) structure types as shown on the right-hand side of Figure 3. The cation layers at the boundaries of the B1 and B8 regions are only one-third occupied. Since the configuration of the scandium atoms around each tellurium atom in the B8-type regions is that of a trigonal prism, the Sc centered octahedra in these regions are linked along c by sharing faces. In other directions in these regions, and in all directions of the B1 type regions, the octahedra share edges only. A rather similar situation has been found in the system Ti_{2+x}S₄,¹² where the structure is based on the simpler anion stacking sequence ABAC... The Ti atoms are all in octahedral sites while half the S atoms are in octahedral coordination and half have the trigonal prism configuration.

ScTe has been prepared by Men'kov, *et al.*,¹³ and is reported to have a B8-type structure with a = 4.122 Å. and c = 6.753 Å. It would appear that in the nonstoichiometric material Sc_{2.3}Te₃ some filling of the partially occupied metal sites has occurred, but this cannot be established by direct comparison of the X-ray powder photographs since the intensity differences would be quite small. On further increasing the scandium proportion it is to be expected that at some point a phase transition will occur to a scandium-deficient B8-type structure.

(11) F. Lappe, A. Niggli, R. Nitsche, and J. G. White, Z. Krist., 117, 146 (1962).

(12) A. D. Wadsley, Acta Cryst., 10, 715 (1957).

(13) A. A. Men'kov, L. N. Komissarova, Y. P. Simanov, and V. I. Spitsyn, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, 141, 364 (1961).

The interatomic distances in Sc₂Te₃ are given in Table IV. The Sc-Te distances are all close to the value 2.88 Å. calculated from the ionic radii 0.731 Å. for Sc^{3+} and 2.151 Å. for Te^{2-} used in comparing the rare earth sesquichalcogenides.⁴ However, the occurrence of NiAs-like regions in the structure suggests that a high proportion of covalent bonding is actually present. From the cell dimensions quoted for ScTe the distances may be calculated as 2.92 Å. for Sc-Te and 3.37 Å. for Sc–Sc in this compound. If the Sc_2Te_3 structure were undistorted the Sc-Sc distance would be almost identical with that in ScTe. However, the fractional Sc atoms at ± 0 , 0, $\frac{5}{12}$ are distorted away from the atom at 0, 0, 1/2 so that the Sc–Sc distance is increased to 3.45 Å. The average first neighbor distance in scandium metal is 3.28 Å.

TABLE IV	
INTERATOMIC DISTANCES IN	Sc_2Te_3
Atoms	d, Å.
Sc_{I} - Te_{II}	2.91
Sc _{II} -Te _I	2.92
Sc_{III} -Te _I	2.94
Sc ₁₁₁ -Te ₁₁	2.88
Sc11-Sc111	3.45

The rather complex structure found in Sc_2Te_3 is clearly an intermediate one between a B1 (or a disordered Sc_2S_3) structure and a B8 structure. In such cases the arrangement adopted is probably a consequence of a small energy minimization with respect to alternative arrangements and is not easily predictable. However, the fact that the $Sc_{2+x}Te_3$ structure occurs over the range $2 \le x \le 2.3$ suggests that it is a particularly stable one.

Acknowledgments.—We thank K. L. Cheng for chemical analysis and R. J. Paff for X-ray powder diffraction photographs.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

The Acid-Catalyzed Hydrolysis of Pyrophosphoric Acid¹

By C. A. BUNTON AND HERNAN CHAIMOVICH²

Received July 15, 1965

The hydrolysis of undissociated pyrophosphoric acid in water is catalyzed by strong acids. Plots of the first-order rate constant against acid concentration curve upward slightly, but are very similar for hydrochloric, perchloric, and sulfuric acids. Added salts slightly increase the reaction rate. The kinetic form of the hydrolysis, and the values of the Arrhenius parameters, suggest that the mechanism falls into the A2 category. Experiments in aqueous methanol, in acid and at pH 4, show that no methyl phosphate is formed, suggesting that metaphosphate ion is not a reaction intermediate, or more probably is not partitioned indiscriminately between methanol and water.

The hydrolysis of inorganic pyrophosphate has been studied very extensively in the pH region $1-10^{3-5}$ and (1) This work was supported by the National Science Foundation under GP 2889. This support is gratefully acknowledged.

(2) Scholar of the Rockefeller Foundation on leave of absence from Facultad de Quimica y Farmacia, Universidad de Chile. This support is gratefully acknowledged. the over-all rate constants have been dissected into the individual rate constants relating to the undissociated

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