

$\text{PFe}_3(\text{CO})_{11}$  (average Fe-C(bridging), 2.04 and 1.87 Å).<sup>7</sup> As Dahm and Jacobson pointed out,<sup>7</sup> this asymmetry need not be the result of crystal packing forces but could be inherent in the bonding of the parent  $\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$ , in which there is some evidence for unsymmetrical bridging carbonyl groups.<sup>5</sup> The C-O bond lengths average 1.17 Å, and the distances in the bridging carbonyl groups are not significantly longer than the average.

All the other bond lengths and valency angles (Table IV) are quite similar to those in related molecules. The angles in the  $\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_{10}$  moiety are similar to those in  $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{PFe}_3(\text{CO})_{11}$ ,<sup>7</sup> and the dimensions of the diarsine ligand are quite close to those in  $\text{LFe}_2(\text{CO})_6$ ,<sup>8</sup> apart from the differences caused by the nonplanarity of the ligand in the latter compound. The valency angles at arsenic show deviations from the exact tetrahedral value, the Fe-As-C angles (113–121°) being larger than the C-As-C angles (99–104°).

The magnitudes of the principal axes of the thermal vibration ellipsoids of the iron and arsenic atoms are given in Table V. The largest vibrations are approximately perpendicular to the plane of the iron triangle.

All the intermolecular distances correspond to nor-

TABLE V  
MAGNITUDES (Å,  $\sigma = 0.005\text{--}0.008$  Å) OF THE PRINCIPAL AXES OF THE THERMAL VIBRATION ELLIPSOIDS OF THE IRON AND ARSENIC ATOMS

	Molecule 1			Molecule 2		
	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3
Fe(1)	0.186	0.233	0.235	0.179	0.249	0.292
Fe(2)	0.165	0.175	0.277	0.195	0.223	0.298
Fe(3)	0.190	0.192	0.261	0.190	0.222	0.273
As(4)	0.177	0.179	0.249	0.194	0.212	0.243
As(5)	0.166	0.218	0.260	0.193	0.232	0.240

mal van der Waals interactions, the closest approaches being about 3.1 Å. The molecules are arranged (Figure 2) so that an oxygen atom of a bridging carbonyl group of each molecule in the asymmetric unit is approximately equidistant from three of the four terminal carbonyl groups of the unique iron atom of the other molecule. Another, simplified view of the molecular packing is shown in Figure 3.

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## Some Reactions of the Octahalodirhenate(III) Ions. VIII. Definitive Structural Characterization of the Octabromodirhenate(III) Ion<sup>1</sup>

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The compound  $\text{Cs}_2\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8$  has been prepared and its structure investigated by single-crystal X-ray diffractometry. The existence of the  $\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8^{2-}$  ion with virtual  $D_{4h}$  symmetry is confirmed. The Re-Re bond has a length of 2.228 (4) Å, very similar to that found in related compounds. The Re-Br bonds have an average length of  $2.478 \pm 0.006$  Å. The set of eight bromine atoms defines a right, square parallelepiped with mean basal edge  $3.39 \pm 0.02$  Å and mean vertical edge  $3.48 \pm 0.04$  Å. Each cesium ion is surrounded by 11 bromine atoms ( $\text{Cs} \cdots \text{Br}$  distances in the range 3.63–4.17 Å), while each  $\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8^{2-}$  ion has a cesium ion in approximately symmetrical contact with each of its four vertical faces. The space group is  $Pbca$  with  $a = 12.625 \pm 0.004$  Å,  $b = 12.953 \pm 0.004$  Å, and  $c = 10.141 \pm 0.003$  Å. For  $Z = 4$ ,  $d(\text{calcd}) = 5.11$  g  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  ( $d(\text{measd}) = 5.10$  g  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) and the  $\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8^{2-}$  units are required to have  $\bar{1}$  symmetry. The structure was solved using 770 reflections within the sphere bounded by  $2\theta = 40^\circ$  (Mo  $K\alpha$ ) collected with a counter diffractometer and refined by full-matrix least-squares methods with anisotropic temperature parameters to a conventional  $R$  factor of 7.1% and a weighted  $R$  of 5.4%.

### Introduction

A number of molecules and ions containing a quadruple Re-Re bond are known<sup>2</sup> and several have been structurally characterized with high accuracy by X-ray crystallography. Among these are the  $\text{Re}_2\text{Cl}_8^{2-}$  ion<sup>3–5</sup> in which the Re-Re distance is 2.241 (7) Å, the  $\text{Re}_2\text{Cl}_6\text{[P(C}_2\text{H}_5)_3]_2$  molecule<sup>6</sup> in which Re-Re = 2.222 (3) Å, and the  $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{CO}_2)_4\text{Re}_2(\text{ReO}_4)_2$  and  $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CO}_2)_4\text{Re}_2\text{Cl}_2$

molecules<sup>7</sup> in which the Re-Re distances are 2.251 (2) and 2.235 (2) Å, respectively. In  $\text{Re}_2\text{Cl}_4(\text{O}_2\text{CCH}_3)_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_2$ , where the four oxygen atoms of the bridging acetato groups lie on one vertical face of the  $\text{Re}_2\text{X}_8$  parallelepiped and the four Cl atoms define the opposite, parallel vertical face, with approximately the same nonbonded distances as in the  $\text{Re}_2\text{Cl}_8^{2-}$  ion itself, the Re-Re distance is reported<sup>8</sup> to be 2.224 (5) Å. In these species, then, the bond length is relatively in-

(7) (a) C. Calvo, N. C. Jayadevan, C. J. L. Lock, and R. Restivo, *Can. J. Chem.*, **48**, 219 (1970); (b) M. J. Bennett, W. K. Bratton, F. A. Cotton, and W. R. Robinson, *Inorg. Chem.*, **7**, 1570 (1968).

(8) N. A. Porai-Koshits, presenting the paper of V. G. Kuznetsov, P. A. Koz'min, and M. D. Suraxskaya, Eighth Congress of the International Union of Crystallography, Stony Brook, N. Y., Aug 1969.

(1) Supported in part by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

(2) F. A. Cotton, *Accounts Chem. Res.*, **2**, 240 (1969).

(3) V. G. Kuznetsov and P. A. Koz'min, *Zh. Strukt. Khim.*, **4**, 55 (1965).

(4) F. A. Cotton and C. B. Harris, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 330 (1965).

(5) W. K. Bratton and F. A. Cotton, *ibid.*, **8**, 1299 (1969), where footnote 19 pertains to the  $\text{Re}_2\text{Cl}_8^{2-}$  structure.

(6) F. A. Cotton and B. M. Foxman, *ibid.*, **7**, 2135 (1968).

variant, as might be expected for a very strong bond under roughly similar sets of steric constraints. In the case of the  $(C_6H_5CO_2)_2Re_2I_4$  molecule,<sup>5</sup> where the coordination about the rhenium atoms differs significantly from that in the other three molecules the Re-Re distance is appreciably shorter, *viz.*, 2.198 (1) Å.

In connection with studies of the vibrational spectra and other properties of species containing quadruply bonded rhenium atoms the structure of the  $Re_2Br_8^{2-}$  ion took on special interest. While it was expected to be isostructural with the  $Re_2Cl_8^{2-}$  ion, the exact dimensions, especially the length of the Re-Re bond, were required. Two previously reported structures<sup>9</sup> only served to increase the uncertainty concerning the exact value. The two substances studied were crystallographically different forms of  $(C_5H_6N)_2Re_2Br_8$  (incorrectly formulated as  $(C_5H_6N)_2H_2Re_2Br_8$ ). For one, where the structure was said to have been refined by least squares (to  $R = 14.2\%$ ), the distance was reported as  $2.207 \pm 0.003$  Å while for the other form, which was not refined, the distance was reported as 2.27 Å with no stated uncertainty interval. The first of these distances seemed unreasonably short; the second seemed unreasonably long though of such dubious accuracy that it could not in any case be taken seriously. A new, accurate investigation was considered necessary.

We report here the preparation of  $Cs_2Re_2Br_8$ , which is a new compound and the first one, to our knowledge, in which an  $Re_2X_8^{2-}$  ion occurs in a crystal containing only a monatomic counterion and no additional molecules such as  $H_2O$ . The virtue of such a substance is that it makes possible the computation of a lattice energy which in turn may be introduced into a thermodynamic cycle involving the energy of the metal-to-metal bond. The results of an accurate single crystal study of the structure of this substance are reported here.

### Experimental Section

**Preparation.**—Ten grams of  $KReO_4$ , 10 ml of 50% aqueous  $H_3PO_4$ , and 20 ml of 48%  $HBr$  were refluxed for 2 hr under prepurified nitrogen. Then 8.0 g of  $CsBr$  was added; the mixture was stirred for a few minutes and allowed to cool. The resulting brown precipitate was filtered off and washed with ethanol. This crude product was stirred with 6 *M*  $HBr$  at  $\sim 80^\circ$ ; the brownish green solution was filtered from the much less soluble yellow  $Cs_2ReBr_6$  and slowly cooled to produce tabular black crystals of  $Cs_2Re_2Br_8$ . This recrystallization was repeated to give samples for elemental analysis and the crystallographic examination. *Anal.* Calcd for  $Cs_2Re_2Br_8$ : Re, 29.15; Br, 50.09. Found: Re, 29.2; Br, 49.9.

**Collection of X-Ray Data.**—A single crystal was examined by Weissenberg and precession photography. It was found to belong to the orthorhombic system with the following systematic absences:  $0kl$ ,  $k = 2n + 1$ ;  $h0l$ ,  $l = 2n + 1$ ;  $hk0$ ,  $h = 2n + 1$ . The space group uniquely indicated is  $Pbca$  ( $D_{2h}^{16}$ , no. 61).<sup>10</sup> The unit cell dimensions were derived from values of  $2\theta$  for the  $h00$ ,  $0k0$ , and  $00l$  sets of reflections which were carefully measured on a manually operated General Electric XRD-5 quarter-circle diffractometer using  $Mo K\alpha$  radiation  $\lambda(K\alpha_1)$  0.70926;  $\lambda(K\alpha_2)$  0.71354 Å). The measurements extended to at least the 14th

order on all three axes, and the  $\alpha$  doublet was resolved at the higher angles. Measurements on two crystals were in good agreement giving  $a = 12.625 \pm 0.004$  Å,  $b = 12.953 \pm 0.004$  Å, and  $c = 10.141 \pm 0.003$  Å, where the standard deviations are the authors' estimates and exceed the average deviations of the individual measurements. The density calculated with these dimensions and assuming  $Z = 4$  with a formula weight of 1277.48 is  $5.11$  g  $cm^{-3}$ . The density measured pycnometrically was  $5.10$  g  $cm^{-3}$ . Since the general position in the space group  $Pbca$  has a multiplicity of 8, it is required that  $Re_2Br_8^{2-}$  units lie on centers of symmetry.

The crystal, glued to the end of a glass fiber, was so aligned that the  $b$  axis was coincident with the  $\phi$  axis of the goniometer. This crystal was a rhombic tablet 0.018 mm thick (between principal (100) and  $(\bar{1}00)$  faces) whose periphery was bounded by approximately equally developed  $\{111\}$  faces and smaller  $\{010\}$  faces. The two greatest thicknesses of the crystal, parallel to the  $b$  and  $c$  axes and to the diagonals of the rhombus, were both 0.06 mm. This morphology is typical of the crystals obtained.

The intensities of 770 reflections within one octant of the sphere bounded by  $2\theta = 40^\circ$  were measured by a coupled  $\theta$ - $2\theta$  scan technique. The diffractometer was operated with a zirconium foil filter between the crystal and scintillation detector, a pulse height discriminator set to accept  $\sim 95\%$  of the  $Mo K\alpha$  peak, and a takeoff angle of  $\sim 2^\circ$  to the molybdenum X-ray tube anode. Each reflection was measured by performing a  $1.33^\circ$  ( $2\theta$ ) scan, centered on the peak, at a rate of  $2^\circ/min$ , accumulating  $P$  counts in 40 sec. Twenty-second background counts,  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ , were taken at each end of the scan range. Four strong reflections which were remeasured at regular intervals showed only random fluctuations in the range  $\pm 2\%$ . All of the systematic absences in the region of the data set were also measured and found to confirm the extinction rules previously observed on films.

Values for the magnitudes of the observed structure factors,  $|F_o|$ , and their standard deviations,  $\sigma(|F_o|)$ , were calculated from the experimental data as  $|F_o| = (I/Lp)^{1/2}$  and  $\sigma(|F_o|) = (P + B_1 + B_2 + (0.04I)^{1/2}/2Lp|F_o|)$ , where  $I = P - B_1 - B_2$  (if  $P - B_1 - B_2 \leq 0$ ,  $I = 0.5(P + B_1 + B_2)^{1/2}$ ) and  $Lp$  is the Lorentz-polarization factor.

**Solution and Refinement.**<sup>11</sup>—A three-dimensional Patterson function was calculated. From it and the assumption of  $4/mmm$  ( $D_{4h}$ ) symmetry in the  $Re_2Br_8^{2-}$  ion, the positions of all atoms were found. After four cycles of least-squares refinement<sup>12</sup> with all atoms assigned isotropic temperature factors, the residuals  $R_1 = \Sigma||F_o| - |F_c||/\Sigma|F_o|$  and  $R_2 = [\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2/\Sigma w|F_o|^2]^{1/2}$  were 0.14 and 0.12, respectively. Scattering factors employed in these and all subsequent cycles were those of Cromer and Waber<sup>13</sup> for neutral Cs, Re, and Br atoms and included anomalous dispersion corrections as given by Cromer.<sup>14</sup>

Before proceeding with the refinement, an absorption correction was applied to the data using the measured dimensions of the crystal and the absorption coefficient of  $402$   $cm^{-1}$ . Calculated transmission factors ranged from 0.271 to 0.542. The ratio of  $|F_o|_{max}^2$  to  $|F_o|_{min}^2$  for the 020 and 040 reflections over  $0^\circ \leq \phi \leq 360^\circ$  at  $\chi = 90^\circ$  was 2.6; the absorption correction reduced this to 1.3. No attempt was made to modify the calculation in order to reduce the ratio further. Four more cycles of least-squares refinement on the corrected data in which all atoms were allowed anisotropic temperature factors converged to  $R_1 = 0.071$  and  $R_2 = 0.054$ . In the last cycle, no parameter shifted by more than 3% of its estimated standard deviation. The standard deviation of an observation of unit weight was 1.13, average  $w(F_o -$

(11) Local, modified versions of the following programs were used: (1) MIXG2, D. P. Shoemaker, diffractometer settings; (2) FORDAP, A. Zalkin, Fourier syntheses; (3) GON09, W. C. Hamilton, absorption corrections; (4) SFUS5, C. T. Prewitt, least-squares refinements; (5) MGEOM, J. S. Wood, and DSTAN, D. P. Shoemaker, interatomic distances and angles; (6) ORTEP, C. Johnson, thermal ellipsoid drawings.

(12) The function minimized was  $\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ , where the weights,  $w$ , were the reciprocals of  $\sigma^2(|F_o|)$ .

(13) D. T. Cromer and J. T. Waber, *Acta Crystallogr.*, **18**, 104 (1965).

(14) D. T. Cromer, *ibid.*, **18**, 17 (1965).

(9) P. A. Koz'min, V. G. Kuznetsov, and Z. V. Popova, *Zh. Strukt. Khim.*, **6**, 651 (1965).

(10) "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. I, Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1962.



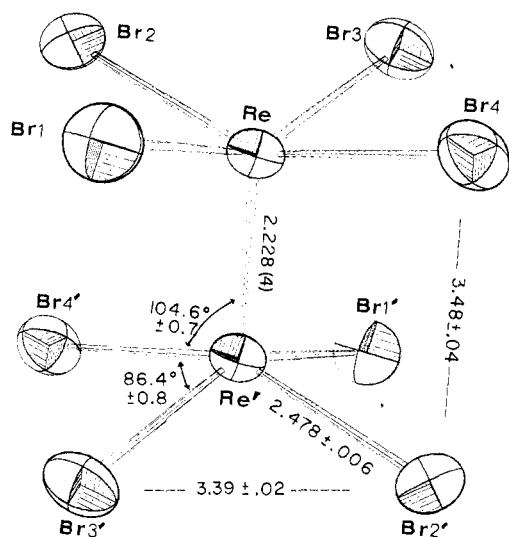


Figure 1.—The  $\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8^{2-}$  ion showing the atom numbering scheme and mean dimensions. Intervals indicated with  $\pm$  are root-mean-square deviations from the mean and exceed the standard deviations of individual values used to compute the mean. Primed atoms are related by the center of symmetry to unprimed atoms with the same number.

mensions and the atom numbering scheme. The individual dimensions are given in Table IV. The  $\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8^{2-}$  ion lies at a crystallographic center of symmetry. Its dimensions are such, however, that it is more chemically meaningful to think of it as having virtual  $D_{4h}$  symmetry. The eclipsed configuration and short Re-Re distance are diagnostic<sup>2</sup> of the quadruple Re-Re bond.

The Re-Re bond length,  $2.228(4) \text{ \AA}$ , is near the middle of the range, roughly  $2.22\text{--}2.25 \text{ \AA}$ , covered by other Re-Re quadruple bonds. This is significant since it shows that the quadruple bond distance is rela-

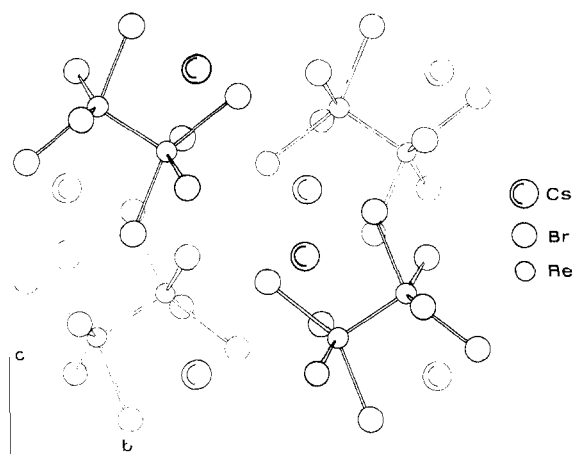


Figure 2.—The  $\text{Cs}_2\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8$  structure projected down  $a$ .

tively constant,  $2.235 \pm 0.015 \text{ \AA}$ , provided general stereochemistry remains essentially the same. The increase to  $2.29 \text{ \AA}$  in the case of  $\text{Re}_2\text{Cl}_5(\text{CH}_3\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SCH}_3)_2$  becomes meaningful and supports the view that the latter compound contains only a triple bond.<sup>15</sup>

The crystal packing, shown in Figure 2, is not particularly remarkable. Each  $\text{Re}_2\text{Br}_8^{2-}$  ion is surrounded by four  $\text{Cs}^+$  ions, each in approximately symmetrical contact with one of the vertical faces of the right square parallelepiped which it forms. Each  $\text{Cs}^+$  ion is surrounded by 11 bromine atoms, four from each of two anions, two from a basal edge of another, and one corner of a fourth. This array of bromine atoms does not approximate to any particular symmetric polyhedron. Eight of the Cs-Br distances are in the range  $3.63\text{--}3.80 \text{ \AA}$ , while the other three are appreciably longer, *viz.*,  $3.90, 4.11,$  and  $4.17 \text{ \AA}$ .

(15) M. J. Bennett, F. A. Cotton, and R. A. Walton, *Proc. Roy. Soc., Ser. A*, **303**, 175 (1968).

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## Synthesis of Sodium Cyanotrihydroborate and Sodium Isocyanotrihydroborate

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A convenient synthetic procedure for sodium cyanotrihydroborate ( $\text{NaBH}_3\text{CN}$ ) is reported. Sodium isocyanotrihydroborate has also been isolated in mixtures with the normal salt and characterized. The isomerization of  $\text{NaBH}_3\text{NC}$  to  $\text{NaBH}_3\text{CN}$  has been investigated and is found to be  $\text{H}^+$  and  $\text{CN}^-$  catalyzed. Boron nmr data are reported for  $\text{BH}_3\text{CN}^-$ ,  $\text{BH}_3\text{NC}^-$ , and  $\text{BH}_3\text{CNBH}_3^-$ . The infrared spectra of  $\text{NaBH}_3\text{NC}$ ,  $\text{NaBD}_3\text{NC}$ , and  $\text{NaBH}_3\text{CNBH}_3$  have been recorded and the fundamental vibrations assigned and compared with those reported earlier for  $\text{NaBH}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{NaBD}_3\text{CN}$ .

### Introduction

Wittig and Raff reported the first synthesis of a cyanotrihydroborate in 1951.<sup>2</sup> They prepared the lithium salt by allowing lithium borohydride to react

(1) (a) PRF Graduate Fellowship 1969–1970; abstracted in part from the Ph.D. thesis of J. R. Berschied, Kansas State University, 1970. (b) To whom inquiries should be addressed. (c) Kansas State University. (d) Ventron Corp.

(2) G. Wittig and P. Raff, *Z. Naturforsch. B*, **6**, 225 (1951).

with excess HCN in diethyl ether at  $100^\circ$  under pressure. These authors noted the unusual hydrolytic stability of the product toward acids. Thereafter, only one brief publication appeared on the reducing power of  $\text{LiBH}_3\text{CN}$ , and that report indicates limited applicability.<sup>3</sup>

(3) G. Drefahl and E. Keil, *J. Prakt. Chem.*, **6**, 80 (1958).