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A Neutron Diffraction Study of Uranyl Nitrate Dihydrate^{1a}

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The crystal structure of uranyl nitrate dihydrate, $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$, has been determined by neutron diffraction. The structure is monoclinic with $a = 14.124$ (13), $b = 8.432$ (8), $c = 7.028$ (7) Å, $\beta = 108.0$ (1)°, and space group $P2_1/c$ with 4 formula weights per unit cell. This is in disagreement with a previously reported X-ray study. In the present study the structure was solved with three-dimensional data by applying Patterson and Fourier techniques. The four uranium atoms per unit cell are located on special positions (a) and (b) of the space group. Each uranyl group is surrounded by a nearly perpendicular planar oxygen hexagon. This hexagon consists of two oxygen atoms from each of two equivalent bidentate nitrate groups and two oxygen atoms from equivalent water molecules. This arrangement is similar to that reported for the uranyl nitrate hexahydrate. The structural units are bound together by hydrogen bonds from the oxygen of the water molecule to the uncoordinated oxygen atom of the nitrate group and to the oxygen atom of the uranyl group.

Introduction

An X-ray diffraction study of $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$ has been reported by Vdovenko, *et al.*,² but the U–O bond lengths they reported are not in agreement with the lengths of similar bonds found in other compounds. Table I lists the U–O distances determined by Vdovenko, *et al.*,² in $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$, by Taylor and Mueller³ in a neutron investigation of $[\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and by Zachariasen and Plettinger⁴ in an X-ray study

revealed in Table I are real and (2) obtain the positions of all atoms in the complex, including hydrogen atoms, and thereby ascertain the role of the hydrogen bonding in the compound.

Experimental Section

Large flat crystals of uranyl nitrate dihydrate were grown in a uranyl nitrate–nitric acid–water solution with the following composition (by weight): 28.8% uranyl nitrate, 54.5% nitric acid, and 16.7% water. This composition is dictated by the phase diagram established by Gaunt, *et al.*⁵ Two samples were analyzed by the Karl Fischer method, which established the water content in the samples to be 8.44 and 9.20%. The analysis clearly showed the material was the dihydrate because the calculated water content is 8.34% for the dihydrate and 12.05% for the trihydrate. One of the analyzed samples was stored in a desiccator, and the other was exposed to humid air prior to the titration, which may account for the difference in percentages of water content. Therefore, some protection for the crystal was considered necessary during data collection.

A crystal, $10.5 \times 5.1 \times 4.8$ mm (approximately a parallel-piped), weighing 0.740 g, was coated with a thin layer of silicone oil, encapsulated in a vanadium can, and mounted on the Argonne automated four-circle diffractometer along a nonmajor axis. A beam of neutrons with a wavelength of 1.063 Å was produced making use of the (110) plane of a beryllium single crystal to monochromate the beam. The wavelength was obtained by measuring several known reflections of a standard sodium chloride crystal and calculating the wavelength by a least-squares technique. Preliminary investigation of the reciprocal lattice revealed monoclinic symmetry with the following systematic extinctions: $h0l$, $l = 2n + 1$, and $0k0$, $k = 2n + 1$. These data uniquely determined the space group as $P2_1/c$. Lattice parameters were obtained at the room temperature, $25 \pm 3^\circ$, from neutron diffractometer measurements of 15 reflections. Results from a least-squares refinement, using a computer program written by Heaton and Gvildys,⁶ were $a = 14.124$ (13), $b = 8.432$ (8), $c =$

TABLE I
U–O BOND DISTANCES^a FOUND IN SIXFOLD-COORDINATED
URANYL ION COMPLEXES (Å)

Bond type	Vdovenko ²	Taylor and Mueller ³	Zachariasen and Plettinger ⁴
	$\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2\text{-}$ $(\text{NO}_3)_2$	$[\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2\text{-}$ $(\text{NO}_3)_2] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Na}[\text{UO}_2\text{-}$ $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_3]$
U–O (uranyl)	1.9 (1)	1.770 (7)	1.74 (4)
		1.749 (7)	1.70 (4)
U–O (ligand)	2.0 (1)	2.504 (5)	2.47 (2)
	2.1 (1)	2.547 (6)	2.51 (2)
		2.397 (3)	

^a Values in parentheses are standard errors that occur in the last recorded decimal place. (This system will be used throughout the paper.)

of $\text{Na}[\text{UO}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_3]$. Since all three compounds exhibit sixfold oxygen coordination about the linear uranyl ion, the chemically similar bonds should be about equal in length.

The present neutron study of $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$ was instigated in order to (1) determine if the differences

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(1) (a) Research supported by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. (b) Argonne National Laboratory. (c) University of Texas.

(2) V. M. Vdovenko, E. V. Stroganov, A. P. Sokolov, and G. Lungu, *Radiokhimiya*, **4**, 59 (1962).

(3) J. C. Taylor and M. H. Mueller, *Acta Crystallogr.*, **19**, 536 (1965).

(4) W. H. Zachariasen and H. A. Plettinger, *ibid.*, **12**, 526 (1959).

(5) J. Gaunt, I. J. Bastien, and M. Adelman, *Can. J. Chem.*, **41**, 527 (1963).

(6) L. Heaton and J. Gvildys, "Orientation and Angle Setting Generation Program B101," U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill., 1965.

TABLE II
 POSITIONAL AND THERMAL^a PARAMETERS ($\times 10^4$) FOR $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$

Atom	x	y	z	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
U(1)	0	0	0	19 (1)	52 (2)	84 (2)	-1 (1)	14 (1)	-2 (2)
O(1)	-367 (1)	1994 (2)	-165 (3)	36 (1)	62 (2)	159 (4)	6 (1)	31 (1)	4 (2)
N(1)	1692 (1)	790 (1)	3546 (2)	24 (1)	72 (1)	114 (2)	-4 (1)	15 (1)	-3 (1)
O(11)	858 (1)	339 (3)	3682 (2)	27 (1)	105 (3)	105 (3)	-8 (1)	21 (1)	-8 (2)
O(12)	2369 (1)	1188 (3)	5009 (3)	30 (1)	146 (4)	130 (3)	-19 (2)	12 (1)	-29 (3)
O(13)	1755 (1)	822 (3)	1805 (3)	29 (1)	115 (3)	131 (3)	-13 (1)	25 (1)	-7 (3)
O(2)	1052 (1)	629 (2)	-2104 (2)	24 (1)	121 (3)	113 (3)	-1 (1)	24 (1)	8 (2)
H(21)	1744 (3)	341 (7)	-1680 (8)	39 (2)	203 (8)	257 (10)	17 (3)	38 (4)	22 (8)
H(22)	837 (3)	582 (8)	-3526 (6)	53 (2)	261 (11)	152 (7)	-26 (4)	30 (3)	1 (7)
U(2)	5000	5000	5000	21 (1)	52 (2)	120 (3)	-1 (1)	19 (1)	1 (2)
O(3)	5047 (1)	4958 (3)	7535 (3)	40 (1)	100 (3)	130 (3)	-3 (1)	29 (1)	5 (3)
N(2)	6872 (1)	3243 (1)	5799 (2)	26 (1)	73 (1)	225 (3)	4 (1)	24 (1)	-4 (2)
O(21)	6841 (1)	4756 (2)	5803 (4)	25 (1)	73 (2)	231 (5)	-4 (1)	26 (1)	-12 (3)
O(22)	7627 (2)	2532 (4)	5998 (7)	35 (1)	115 (4)	561 (15)	19 (2)	60 (3)	5 (6)
O(23)	6039 (1)	2574 (3)	5539 (4)	30 (1)	70 (2)	303 (7)	-2 (1)	31 (2)	-1 (3)
O(4)	4088 (1)	2485 (2)	4331 (4)	30 (1)	62 (3)	250 (5)	-7 (1)	35 (2)	-5 (3)
H(41)	3453 (3)	2201 (6)	4468 (9)	41 (2)	143 (6)	364 (14)	-16 (3)	56 (4)	-16 (8)
H(42)	4413 (4)	1536 (6)	4267 (15)	56 (3)	97 (7)	719 (33)	1 (4)	74 (8)	-14 (11)

^a The thermal parameters are of the form: $T = \exp[-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + 2hk\beta_{12} + 2hl\beta_{13} + 2kl\beta_{23})]$.

7.028 (7) Å, and $\beta = 108.0 (1)^\circ$. The observed density, measured by a volume displacement procedure, was 3.5 g/cm³ and the calculated density, assuming four formula weights per unit cell, was 3.6 g/cm³. Obviously this crystal was a different modification from that of Vdovenko, *et al.*,² who reported the crystal to be of space group C_m , with $a = 10.52 (3)$, $b = 5.93 (3)$, $c = 6.95 (2)$ Å, $\beta = 72.0 (5)^\circ$, and $Z = 2$ formula weights per unit cell.

Integrated intensities were measured on the automated diffractometer using a θ - 2θ step scan mode, with a step interval of 0.1° . The counting time on each step was regulated by a fission counter in order to compensate for the fluctuation of the neutron beam. The takeoff angle of 55° gave the best resolution near a 2θ angle of 55° . Reflections with 2θ values below 15° and above 90° were scanned in 50 steps or 2.5° while reflections between these limits were scanned in 40 steps or 2.0° . Scans required from 13 to 15 min. Backgrounds were measured for each reflection at both the beginning and the end of a scan with the time of each background reading being equivalent to five steps of a scan. The total background counting time for each reflection amounted to about 3 min. A 1-in. diameter Reuter-Stoakes BF₃ counter with active length of 6 in. was used as a detector. Each reflection was recorded on a strip chart and was checked to see that adequate resolution was maintained and that there were no counting irregularities. When irregularities from electronic noise were observed, the data were retaken. No resolution problems were encountered. Two standard reflections were checked every 25 reflections. No drift in the electronics or change in orientation of the crystal was observed throughout the data collection period. A total of 2050 reflections was systematically collected out to a $(\sin \theta)/\lambda$ limit of 0.67 ($d = 0.75$ Å). An additional 271 reflections were collected beyond that limit, but because the intensities were small, data collection was terminated. These 2321 independent reflections were used in the structure analysis with a resulting observation:variable parameter ratio of about 15:1. These data were scaled to nearly absolute values by comparison with the (400) reflection from a standard sodium chloride crystal. Absorption corrections were applied to the observed intensities using the ORABS program,⁷ $\mu_{\text{obsd}} = 1.08 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The calculated transmission factors varied from 0.48 to 0.63 because of the difference in path length.

Solution and Refinement of the Structure

A three-dimensional Patterson map revealed uranium

(7) D. J. Wehe, W. R. Busing, and H. A. Levy, "A Fortran Program for Calculating Single Crystal Absorption Corrections," Report No. ORNL-TM-229, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 1962.

atoms on centers of inversion at special positions (a) and (b) of space group $P2_1/c$. A molecule with the uranium atom U(1) at site (a) will be designated molecule I and a molecule with the uranium atom U(2) at site (b) will be called molecule II.

The vectors from the uranium atom to the atoms of the nitrate group of molecule I were obvious in the $y = 0$ level of the Patterson map. A peak located about 1.8 Å from the origin almost directly along the y direction was identified as a uranium-uranyl oxygen vector. The position for the uranyl oxygen of molecule II was also determined from the Patterson map.

Structure factors were calculated with the Busing, Martin, and Levy least-squares program⁸ with the positional parameters found in the Patterson map for the uranium, uranyl oxygen, and the atoms of the nitrate group of molecule I, and, in addition, the uranium and uranyl oxygen atoms of molecule II. Isotropic temperature factors similar to those found in the hexahydrate study³ were assigned. The neutron scattering amplitudes used were as follows: $b_N = 0.94$, $b_U = 0.85$, $b_O = 0.577$, and $b_H = -0.37$ (all $\times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3/\text{atom}$).⁹ An F_o Fourier map phased by these atoms revealed the positions of the remainder of the nonhydrogen atoms. The next Fourier map revealed the positions of the hydrogen atoms.

Refinement was carried out with unit weights and isotropic temperature factors by using the full-matrix least-squares program of Busing, *et al.*, to an R value of 15% where

$$R = \frac{\sum |F_o - s_q F_c|}{\sum |F_o|}$$

where s_q is the scale factor. By including anisotropic temperature factors and a weighting scheme similar to

(8) W. R. Busing, K. O. Martin, and H. A. Levy, "A Fortran Crystallographic Least-Squares Program," Report No. ORNL-TM-305, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 1962.

(9) "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. III, Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1962, p 229.

that used by Corfield, Doedens, and Ibers¹⁰ ($p = 0.03$) an R value of 8.1% and R_w of 6.4% was obtained where

$$R_w = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (wF_o - s_a F_o)^2}{\sum wF_o^2}}$$

A total of 145 reflections, with $|F_o| < \sigma|F_o|$, were not used in the refinement. Only one of these reflections had an F_o greater than $2\sigma|F_o|$. Approximately 37 reflections appeared to be strongly affected by extinction. An additional two cycles were carried out including an isotropic extinction parameter with the LINUS program.¹¹ The following results were obtained: $R = 6.6\%$; $R_w = 7.4\%$; $g' = 0.35(2)$; $\eta = 16.6''$. All shifts in positional parameters were considerably less than one standard deviation. At the conclusion of the refinement a unit weight of 0.2 was obtained, which suggested a slightly smaller p value possibly should have been used in the weighting. The final parameters are listed in Table II. A difference Fourier map calculated using these parameters was featureless, which substantiated the model. Bond lengths and angles calculated with the ORFFE program¹² are listed in Table III, and

TABLE III
INTERATOMIC DISTANCES (Å) AND ANGLES (DEG)
IN $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$

Distances	
—U—O (Uranyl)—	
U(1)—O(1)	1.754 (4)
U(2)—O(3)	1.763 (5)
—U—O (Coordination)—	
U(1)—O(2)	2.457 (4)
U(1)—O(11)	2.513 (5)
U(1)—O(13)	2.508 (4)
U(2)—O(4)	2.446 (4)
U(2)—O(21)	2.491 (5)
U(2)—O(23)	2.477 (5)
O—O (Contacts in Hexagon)	
O(11)—O(13)	2.131 (5)
O(13)—O(2)	2.621 (6)
O(11)—O(2)	2.710 (5)
O(21)—O(23)	2.132 (5)
O(21)—O(4)	2.654 (6)
O(23)—O(4)	2.625 (6)
—N—O (Nitrate Groups)—	
N(1)—O(11)	1.269 (4)
N(1)—O(12)	1.213 (4)
N(1)—O(13)	1.253 (4)
N(2)—O(21)	1.275 (5)
N(2)—O(22)	1.190 (5)
N(2)—O(23)	1.262 (4)
—O—H (Water)—	
O(2)—H(21)	0.957 (8)
O(2)—H(22)	0.956 (8)
O(4)—H(41)	0.960 (8)
O(4)—H(42)	0.931 (10)
—O—O (Possible H Bonds)—	
O(4)—O(12)	2.833 (6)
O(4)—O(3)	2.959 (6)
O(2)—O(22)	3.160 (7)
O(2)—O(1)	3.164 (6)
Angles	
—In Nitrate Groups—	
O(13)—N(1)—O(12)	123.0 (3)
O(12)—N(1)—O(11)	121.7 (3)
O(11)—N(1)—O(13)	115.3 (3)
O(23)—N(2)—O(22)	123.5 (4)
O(22)—N(2)—O(21)	122.1 (4)
O(21)—N(2)—O(23)	114.4 (3)
—In Water—	
H(21)—O(2)—H(22)	105.4 (8)
H(41)—O(4)—H(42)	106.0 (9)
In Possible Hydrogen Bonds	
O(2)—H(21)···O(22)	124.7 (8)
O(2)—H(22)···O(1)	111.5 (8)
O(4)—H(41)···O(12)	166.2 (8)
O(4)—H(42)···O(3)	146.3 (1.4)

the calculated and observed structure factors are given in Table IV.

Discussion of the Structure

The coordination of the uranium atom is shown in

(10) P. W. R. Corfield, R. J. Doedens, and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **6**, 197 (1967).

(11) P. Coppens and W. C. Hamilton, *Acta Crystallogr., Sect. A*, **26**, 71 (1970).

(12) R. Busing, K. O. Martin, and H. A. Levy, "A Fortran Crystallographic Function and Error Program," Report No. ORNL-TM-306, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 1964.

Figure 1. Two uranyl oxygen atoms together with the uranium atom form a linear group that is perpendicular to the nearly planar hexagon formed by the six other oxygen atoms. The hexagon is composed of four

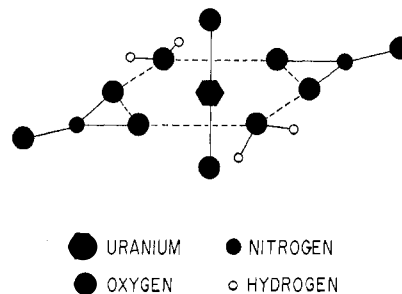


Figure 1.—The coordination of the uranium atom in $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$.

oxygen atoms from the two equivalent bidentate nitrate groups and two oxygen atoms from the equivalent water molecules. Such a coordination was proposed by Jezowska-Trzebiatowska, *et al.*,¹³ from their infrared investigation of uranyl nitrate dihydrate and is identical to the basic coordination found in the hexahydrate. The infrared study also indicated that no evidence existed for loosely bound water molecules outside the first coordination sphere and that the nitrate groups were bidentate since their symmetry was C_{2v} . Both structural features were substantiated by our diffraction study.

The U—O bond lengths of the crystallographic nonequivalent molecules I and II are listed in Table IV; there is good agreement between these values and similar U—O bond lengths determined by Taylor and Mueller³ and by Zachariasen and Plettinger,⁴ as listed in Table I. The bond lengths reported by Vdovenko, *et al.*,² are very different from those found in the present investigation.

The hexagonal planes of the oxygen atoms in molecules I and II are nearly perpendicular to each other. Equations of least-squares planes for the hexagons and the deviations of the atoms from these planes are listed in Table V. These results were calculated by using the program of Norment.¹⁴ The dihedral angle between the planes is 85° .

The O(4)—H(42) bond length in Table III appears to be unusually short. This is most likely caused by the large thermal motion of the H(42) atom¹⁵ (see Table II). When corrections for thermal motion were made using the riding model the following bond lengths (Å) were calculated: O(2)—H(21), 0.992 (9); O(2)—H(22), 0.997 (9); O(4)—H(41), 0.993 (14); O(4)—H(42), 0.988 (10).

Nitrate Groups.—Bond lengths and angles found in the nitrate groups are shown in Table III. In both nonequivalent nitrate groups, the nitrogen-uncoordinated oxygen bonds are considerably shorter

(13) B. Jezowska-Trzebiatowska and B. Kedzia, *Bull. Acad. Polon. Sci. Ser. Sci. Chim.*, **12**, 251 (1964).

(14) H. G. Norment, "A Collection of Fortran Programs for Crystal Structure Analysis," Report No. NRL-5885, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C., 1963.

(15) W. C. Hamilton, *Ann. Rev. Phys. Chem.*, **13**, 19 (1962).

TABLE V
LEAST-SQUARES PLANES OF URANIUM AND
THE HEXAGONS OF MOLECULES I AND II

Equations of Planes	
Molecule I	$-4.0957x + 7.9902y - 0.2610z = 3.8646$
Molecule II	$-3.5230x + 0.2918y - 7.0094z = 1.5973$

Deviations from Planes			
Molecule I		Molecule II	
Atom	Dist from plane, ^a Å	Atom	Dist from plane, ^a Å
U(1)	0.0000	U(2)	0.0000
O(11)	0.0200	O(21)	0.0768
O(13)	0.0196	O(23)	0.0775
O(2)	0.0171	O(4)	0.0670

^a Deviations stated in absolute values because U is at the center of inversion.

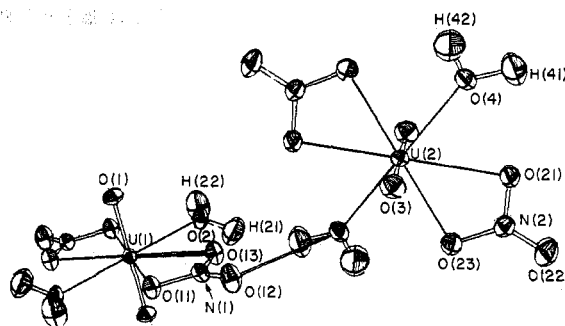


Figure 2.—Thermal motion and atom designations by means of the ORTEP program of Johnson.¹⁶ This view is looking down the *c* axis.

TABLE VI
INTERATOMIC DISTANCES AND ANGLES^a FOUND IN OTHER BIDENTATE NITRATE GROUPS

Compound	Distances, Å			Angles, deg		
	<i>r</i> ₁	<i>r</i> ₂	<i>r</i> ₃	α_1	α_2	α_3
Uranyl nitrate dihydrate, NO ₃ (1)	1.269 (4)	1.253 (4)	1.213 (4)	121.7 (3)	123.0 (3)	115.3 (3)
NO ₃ (2)	1.275 (5)	1.262 (4)	1.190 (5)	122.1 (4)	123.5 (4)	114.4 (3)
Thorium nitrate pentahydrate, ^b NO ₃ (1)	1.250 (3)	1.270 (3)	1.202 (3)	123.2 (2)	121.7 (2)	115.2 (2)
NO ₃ (2)	1.264 (3)	1.275 (3)	1.206 (3)	123.0 (2)	122.5 (2)	114.5 (2)
Uranyl nitrate hexahydrate, ^c NO ₃ (1)	1.271 (4)	1.271 (4)	1.208 (8)	122.7 (2)	122.7 (2)	114.6 (5)
NO ₃ (2)	1.260 (4)	1.260 (4)	1.231 (7)	122.2 (2)	122.2 (2)	115.6 (5)
Rubidium uranyl nitrate, ^d NO ₃ (1)	1.26	1.26	1.21	121.2	121.2	117.5
Cerium magnesium nitrate hydrate, ^e NO ₃ (1)	1.259	1.268	1.220	122.8	121.2	116.1
NO ₃ (2)	1.262	1.257	1.225	120.8	121.8	117.4

^a *r*_{*i*} and α_i are the distances and angles formed by the NO₃ group. The distances *r*₁ and *r*₂ and the included angle, α_3 , are associated with the metal-oxygen bond. ^b J. C. Taylor, M. H. Mueller, and R. L. Hitterman, *Acta Crystallogr.*, **20**, 842 (1966). ^c J. C. Taylor and M. H. Mueller, *ibid.*, **19**, 536 (1965). ^d G. A. Barclay, T. M. Sabine, and J. C. Taylor, *ibid.*, **19**, 205 (1965). ^e A. Zalkin, J. D. Forrester, and D. H. Templeton, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **39**, 2881 (1963).

O(2)–O(1) and O(2)–O(22) are each at a distance of 3.162 (9) Å and their O–H–O angles deviate considerably from 180° (namely, 124 (1) and 111 (1)°). These values are highly unfavorable for hydrogen bonding.

The hydrogen atoms of molecule II, that is the hydrogen atoms of O(4), shown in Figure 3, participate in two distinctly different types of hydrogen bonds. The O(4)–H(41)···O(12) interaction involves the uncoordinated nitrate oxygen O(12) of molecule I. This is a medium-strength hydrogen bond as indicated by the O(4)–O(12) distance of 2.833 (6) Å. The O(4)–H(42)···O(3) bond of 2.959 (6) Å is weaker and involves the uranyl oxygen atom of molecule II, O(3). The stronger bond links a molecule I to a molecule II while the weaker bond joins a molecule II to a molecule II, as shown in Figure 3. In this manner the basic structural units are held together. The fact that neither of the hydrogen bonds is very strong probably accounts for the instability of the compound.

It is interesting to note in Figure 2 that the N–O bond of the uncoordinated oxygen of molecule II, N(2)–O(22), is shorter than the corresponding bond N(1)–O(12) of molecule I by 0.023 Å, which is approximately 4 times the standard error. The difference in the N–O distances perhaps can be correlated with the fact that O(12) is involved in hydrogen bonding while the O(22) is not. An alternative explanation is that the larger thermal motion (see Table VII) of the O(22) atom, which is partially a result of not being involved in

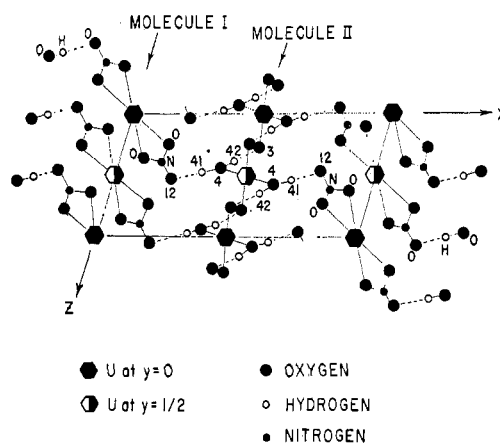


Figure 3.—The hydrogen-bonding network linking molecules I and II. Atoms not involved in the network are not shown.

hydrogen bonding, causes the N–O distance to appear shorter.¹⁵

Thermal Motion

The rms radial displacement and the rms components of displacement along the principal axes of the vibrational ellipsoids are listed in Table VII. The anisotropic motion of the atoms is also illustrated in Figure 2. The motion of the uranium atom is the smallest, and the motion of the other atoms is a function of their role in the intra- and intermolecular bonding, as expected. The thermal motion also illustrates that O(22) does not

TABLE VII
RMS RADIAL THERMAL DISPLACEMENTS AND COMPONENTS
ALONG THE PRINCIPAL AXES R_1 , R_2 , AND R_3
OF THE VIBRATIONAL ELLIPSOIDS

Atom	Rms radial displacements, Å	Principal axes, Å		
		R_1	R_2	R_3
U(1)	0.228	0.124	0.132	0.138
U(2)	0.245	0.156	0.137	0.159
O(1)	0.293	0.136	0.174	0.193
O(3)	0.311	0.160	0.185	0.192
N(1)	0.263	0.138	0.155	0.162
O(11)	0.284	0.140	0.153	0.194
O(12)	0.327	0.140	0.179	0.235
O(13)	0.299	0.142	0.163	0.207
N(2)	0.311	0.145	0.164	0.222
O(21)	0.309	0.138	0.156	0.229
O(22)	0.440	0.142	0.213	0.358
O(23)	0.343	0.152	0.160	0.262
O(2)	0.291	0.131	0.159	0.205
H(21)	0.400	0.180	0.237	0.268
H(22)	0.413	0.180	0.206	0.310
O(4)	0.314	0.131	0.166	0.233
H(41)	0.401	0.172	0.226	0.283
H(42)	0.493	0.182	0.212	0.406

participate in hydrogen bonding since it is much larger than the motion of the corresponding oxygen of the other molecule.

Conclusion

All attempts to resolve the differences between this study and the X-ray study of Vdovenko, *et al.*,² have failed. The neutron study does indicate a face-centered symmetry with respect to the uranium atoms, and the β angles are similar when the usual convention is applied to the X-ray results, but the large differences with respect to the unique "b" axis cannot be reconciled. Also, the bond lengths are considerably different. It must be concluded, in light of the neutron study, that the abnormal U-O distances found by Vdovenko, *et al.*,² are in error and that the correct distances for such a structure are near those predicted by Zachariasen and Plettinger.⁴

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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of the Polymeric Complex Mercuric O,O' -Diisopropylphosphorodithioate, $\text{Hg}[(i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O})_2\text{PS}_2]_2$

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Mercuric O,O' -diisopropylphosphorodithioate, $\text{Hg}[(i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O})_2\text{PS}_2]_2$, crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $C2/c$ with unit cell parameters $a = 31.70 \pm 0.02$, $b = 8.66 \pm 0.01$, $c = 22.34 \pm 0.01$ Å, and $\beta = 129.34 \pm 0.02^\circ$. The observed and calculated densities are 1.74 ± 0.02 and 1.758 ± 0.004 g/cm³ (for $Z = 8$ molecules/unit cell), respectively. The structure was refined by least-squares methods to a final conventional R index of 0.057 using three-dimensional X-ray diffraction counter data. Unlike the zinc(II) and cadmium(II) O,O' -diisopropylphosphorodithioate complexes which exist as dimers, this complex polymerizes into helical chains around the unit cell twofold screw axis aligned parallel with the crystal needle axis. One of the $(\text{RO})_2\text{PS}_2$ groups functions as a chelating group and the other as a bridging group linking two mercury atoms together. Each mercury atom is surrounded by five sulfur atoms: two at relatively short distances of 2.388 ± 0.005 and 2.391 ± 0.006 Å, two at intermediate distances of 2.748 ± 0.005 (the polymeric bridge) and 2.888 ± 0.005 Å, and one making a van der Waals contact at 3.408 ± 0.006 Å. The $-\text{S}-\text{Hg}-\text{S}-$ angle involving the two short Hg-S bonds is $149.7 \pm 0.2^\circ$. There are no Hg-S interactions with neighboring chains. The P-S bonds within each ligand are unequal in length, averaging 2.01 ± 0.01 and 1.94 ± 0.01 Å; sulfur atoms forming the shorter bonds are associated with the longer (and weaker) Hg-S interactions. The P-O bonds within the nonbridging ligand average 1.62 ± 0.03 Å and those within the bridging ligand average 1.54 ± 0.02 Å.

Introduction

Recently the structures of zinc O,O' -diisopropylphosphorodithioate, $\text{Zn}_2[(i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O})_2\text{PS}_2]_4$, and of cadmium O,O' -diisopropylphosphorodithioate, $\text{Cd}_2[(i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O})_2\text{PS}_2]_4$, were reported.¹ These two complexes were found to exist in the crystalline state as isomorphous dimers in which each metal atom is coordinated with four sulfur

atoms in a somewhat distorted tetrahedral environment. The two phosphorodithioate groups per metal were found to serve two independent functions: one acting as a chelating group and the other as a bridging group linking two metal atoms together to form the dimer. The four phosphorus-sulfur bonds were found to be essentially equivalent.

It is well known that mercury, the third member of

(1) S. L. Lawton and G. T. Kokotailo, *Inorg. Chem.*, **8**, 2410 (1969).