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A Tetragonal-Pyramidal Indium(III) Species. The Crystal Structure of Tetraethylammonium Pentachloroindate(III)

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The crystal structure of tetraethylammonium pentachloroindate(III), $((C_2H_5)_4N)_2InCl_5$, has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray data collected by counter methods. The structure has been refined by least-squares techniques to a conventional R factor of 9.5% for the 811 observed reflections. The salt crystallizes in the tetragonal space group $P4/n$ with two formula units in a cell of dimensions $a = 9.374$ (10) Å and $c = 14.137$ (10) Å. The calculated density of 1.48 g/cm³ is close to the measured value of 1.45 g/cm³. The pentacoordinate indium atom in the anion is bonded to five chlorines and has crystallographic fourfold symmetry. The apical In-Cl bond length is 2.415 (12) Å and the four basal bond lengths are 2.456 (7) Å. This anion is the first undistorted example of this geometry in a nontransition element.

Introduction

As with many other main group elements, the stereochemistry of indium(III) has generally been discussed in terms of either four- or six-coordinate species. There is however now considerable evidence that some at least of the addition compounds of the type InX_3L_2 ($X = Cl, Br, I$; $L =$ monodentate donor) involve five-coordination around the metal.^{1,2} Examples of this coordination number in the solid state are comparatively rare outside the transition metal series, and it was therefore of considerable interest to determine the crystal structure of the salt $((C_2H_5)_4N)_2[InCl_5]$. This is one of a series of compounds originally reported by Ekeley and Potratz³ and formulated by these authors as double salts of the type $InX_3 \cdot CX$, $InX_3 \cdot 2CX$, etc. ($X = Cl, Br, I$; $C =$ substituted ammonium or sulfonium cation). As the result of studies of the solution properties of anionic indium(III) halide complexes,⁴ it was suggested that these species should be regarded as the complex salts $CInX_4$, C_2InX_5 , etc., and a recent crystal structure investigation⁵ of $(C_2H_5)_4NInCl_4$ has shown that this interpretation is correct. Wharf and Shriver⁶ have very recently provided spectroscopic evidence which favors the formulation $((C_2H_5)_4N)_2InCl_5$.

There are at least three possible stereochemical forms for the anion in the salt $((C_2H_5)_4N)_2[InCl_5]$; the monomeric $InCl_5^{2-}$ unit may have trigonal-bipyramidal (D_{3h}) or tetragonal-pyramidal (C_{4v}) symmetry, plus the less likely dimer $In_2Cl_{10}^{4-}$, with two $InCl_6$ units sharing a common edge. The general relationship between the two MX_5 structures has been discussed by Muetterties and Schunn⁷ and others. These authors have also reviewed thoroughly the properties of the many five-coordinate species known up to 1966.

The structure of $((C_2H_5)_4N)_2[InCl_5]$ shows that the anion has a C_{4v} structure which is unique among compounds of the nontransition elements. This geometry is compared with that of other five-coordinate species and the In-Cl bond lengths are discussed in terms of other indium-chlorine compounds.

Experimental Section

Tetraethylammonium pentachloroindate was obtained by the method described by Ekeley and Potratz.³ Single crystals for X-ray work were grown by slowly evaporating a solution of this material in dichloromethane and were then sealed into thin-walled Lindemann glass capillary tubes. An investigation of twinned crystals grown from ethanol solution is in progress.⁸

Weissenberg photographs of the zones $0kl$, $1kl$, $2kl$, $3kl$, and $4kl$ using Cr $K\alpha$ radiation, together with precession photographs of the zones hkl and hhl using the Mo $K\alpha$, showed absences for only hkl with $h + k = 2n + 1$. This combined with the Laue group indicated unambiguously the space group $P4/n$.

Crystal Data.— $((C_2H_5)_4N)_2[InCl_5]$, formula weight 552.5, is tetragonal, space group $P4/n$ (identified from Laue group and the systematic absences of X-ray reflections). $a = b = 9.374$ Å, $c = 14.137$ Å ($\sigma = 0.01$ Å) ($\lambda 0.7107$ Å for Mo $K\alpha$ radiation). $V = 1242$ Å³, $D_m = 1.45$ ($\sigma = 0.04$) g cm⁻³ (Berman density balance determination), $Z = 2$, $D_x = 1.48$ g cm⁻³, $F(000) = 568$, and $\mu(Mo K\alpha) = 14.85$ cm⁻¹.

All data were collected using a cube-shaped crystal of 0.4-mm edge, mounted with its a axis parallel to Φ . Cell dimensions were determined by extrapolation from high-angle reflections measured on a Picker four-circle diffractometer (at 25°); the errors were estimated from the internal consistency obtained.

Reflection intensities for the unique set of data were measured using zirconium-filtered Mo $K\alpha$ radiation and a scintillation detector with pulse-height analysis. Measurements were made using a 1.1° takeoff angle with a symmetrical θ - 2θ scan of 2° width (carried out at a rate of 2°/min). The detector was positioned 23 cm from the crystal and the symmetrically variable aperture device was arranged so that the detector aperture was 5.0 mm high and 4.0 mm wide. Examination of a number of reflection profiles showed isotropic mosaicity which did not warrant cooling the crystal in liquid nitrogen.

Background was estimated in five different directions in reciprocal space, and a curve as a function of θ only satisfactorily described the results obtained. Accordingly each reflection which did not count 1.2 times background was coded as unobserved (denoted by an asterisk in Table II) and assigned a value of half the local background intensity. Of the 936 intensities recorded in the range $0^\circ < 2\theta < 45^\circ$, 125 were unobserved. Four standard reflections were measured every 3 hr and retained a con-

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stancy within 1.5% over the entire data collection. Coincidence losses were carefully checked for the most intense reflections and found to be negligible. Lorentz and polarization factors were applied and the structure factors were calculated in the usual way; no correction for absorption was made since transmission factors would vary less than $\pm 10\%$ in F^2 for extreme cases.

Structure Determination

The density and space group requirements can only be met by an ordered arrangement in which one indium and one chlorine atom are on either a $\bar{4}$ site or a fourfold axis. From the unsharpened three-dimensional Patterson function it was possible to assign approximate positions on the fourfold axis to the indium atom and one chlorine atom and the remaining general chlorine atom was located. The nitrogen atoms of the tetraethylammonium groups were initially assumed to be on four of the $\bar{4}$ sites. Block-diagonal least-squares refinement of these atomic positions and of individual isotropic temperature factors was carried out, assuming initial values for the temperature factors of 3.0, 4.0, and 5.0 \AA^2 , respectively. A value of 0.18 was obtained for the agreement factor R [defined as $\Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|)/\Sigma|F_o|$] after several cycles of refinement. At this stage, the temperature factor for one of the two pairs of equivalent nitrogen atoms became unreasonably large, indicating it had been incorrectly placed. An electron density Fourier difference map revealed that this atom (N(8); see Figure 1 and Table I) should have been located on the fourfold axis, with the symmetry satisfied by disorder in the orientations of the tetraethylammonium groups centered on this axis. Further least-squares refinement and another Fourier difference map showed that a similar type of disorder was also present in the $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N}$ group (N(4)) on the $\bar{4}$ site, although this is not required by the symmetry of the position. The disorder of both of these positions is illustrated in Figure 1 by showing one type of tetraethylammonium position by solid lines and the other type by dashed lines. Throughout the refinement, the structure factor agreement was examined as a function of both $|F_o|$ and $\sin \theta$, and appropriate weighting schemes were chosen. The final scheme used was $\sqrt{w} = 1$ if $|F_o| < 25$, and $\sqrt{w} = 25/|F_o|$ if $|F_o| > 25$. The function minimized was $\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ and the standard deviation of an observation of unit weight was 0.94, confirming that reasonable weights had been assigned. Scattering factors⁹ used were those calculated on the TFD model for the indium atoms and were self-consistent-field values for the remainder. Full allowance was made for anomalous scattering by the indium atom;⁹ in the listing of structure factors, F_{calcd} is given the sign of the real component and the magnitude of the total value.

R converged to a value of 0.095, with the parameter shifts less than 0.1 standard deviation in the final cycle. A final electron density difference map was computed and showed no anomalous features. The largest peak (1.5 $\text{e}/\text{\AA}^3$) appeared near the general

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

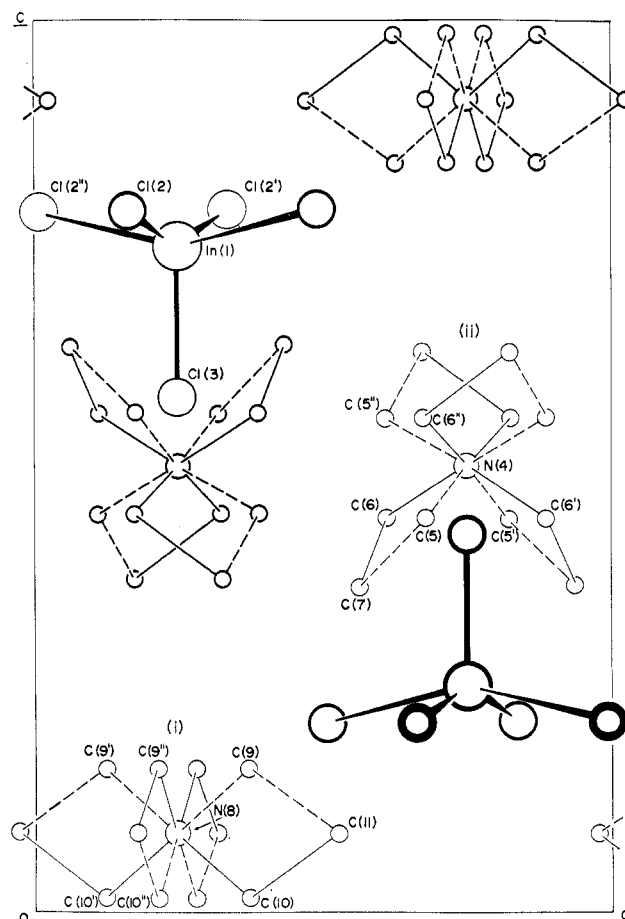


Figure 1.—The crystal structure of $((\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N})_2[\text{InCl}_5]$ projected along the b axis.

TABLE I
ATOMIC POSITIONS AND TEMPERATURE FACTORS,
WITH STANDARD ERRORS

Atom	x	y	z	$B, \text{\AA}^2$
In(1)	0.2500 (-)	0.2500 (-)	0.7444 (1)	3.2 (1)
Cl(2)	0.1637 (5)	0.4893 (5)	0.7861 (3)	5.5 (1)
Cl(3)	0.2500 (-)	0.2500 (-)	0.5736 (5)	4.5 (1)
N(4)	0.7500 (-)	0.2500 (-)	0.5000 (-)	2.8 (4)
C(5)	0.6810 (26)	0.3710 (26)	0.4397 (17)	2.9 (4)
C(6)	0.6271 (50)	0.1932 (48)	0.4392 (34)	7.7 (1.0)
C(7)	0.5682 (20)	0.3092 (20)	0.3689 (14)	6.0 (4)
N(8)	0.2500 (-)	0.2500 (-)	0.0824 (14)	3.0 (4)
C(9)	0.3742 (28)	0.2775 (29)	0.1510 (17)	3.4 (5)
C(10)	0.3742 (29)	0.2811 (29)	0.0158 (19)	3.6 (5)
C(11)	0.5201 (20)	0.3071 (20)	0.0840 (13)	6.0 (4)

chlorine atom. There were no other peaks larger than 1.0 $\text{e}/\text{\AA}^3$. The final atomic positions and their standard deviations are given in Table I, and the observed and calculated structure factors are given in Table II. (Asterisks denote unobserved reflections.)

Structure Description and Discussion

The structure is made up of tetragonal-pyramidal pentachloroindate(III) ions and tetraethylammonium ions, packed together in an electrostatically favorable manner. The cations are of two crystallographically independent types, one of which (i) is interleaved with the pentachloroindate(III) ions along the fourfold axis, while the other (ii) occupies sites of $\bar{4}$ symmetry

TABLE II
MEASURED AND CALCULATED STRUCTURE FACTORS FOR ((C₂H₅)₄N)₂[InCl₆]

h	k	l	F _o	F _c	h	k	l	F _o	F _c	h	k	l	F _o	F _c	h	k	l	F _o	F _c	h	k	l	F _o	F _c
0	0	0	1258	1249	0	0	0	1258	1249	0	0	0	1258	1249	0	0	0	1258	1249	0	0	0	1258	1249
0	0	1	1258	1249	0	0	1	1258	1249	0	0	1	1258	1249	0	0	1	1258	1249	0	0	1	1258	1249
0	1	0	1258	1249	0	1	0	1258	1249	0	1	0	1258	1249	0	1	0	1258	1249	0	1	0	1258	1249
1	0	0	1258	1249	1	0	0	1258	1249	1	0	0	1258	1249	1	0	0	1258	1249	1	0	0	1258	1249
1	0	1	1258	1249	1	0	1	1258	1249	1	0	1	1258	1249	1	0	1	1258	1249	1	0	1	1258	1249
1	1	0	1258	1249	1	1	0	1258	1249	1	1	0	1258	1249	1	1	0	1258	1249	1	1	0	1258	1249
1	1	1	1258	1249	1	1	1	1258	1249	1	1	1	1258	1249	1	1	1	1258	1249	1	1	1	1258	1249
2	0	0	1258	1249	2	0	0	1258	1249	2	0	0	1258	1249	2	0	0	1258	1249	2	0	0	1258	1249
2	0	1	1258	1249	2	0	1	1258	1249	2	0	1	1258	1249	2	0	1	1258	1249	2	0	1	1258	1249
2	1	0	1258	1249	2	1	0	1258	1249	2	1	0	1258	1249	2	1	0	1258	1249	2	1	0	1258	1249
2	1	1	1258	1249	2	1	1	1258	1249	2	1	1	1258	1249	2	1	1	1258	1249	2	1	1	1258	1249
3	0	0	1258	1249	3	0	0	1258	1249	3	0	0	1258	1249	3	0	0	1258	1249	3	0	0	1258	1249
3	0	1	1258	1249	3	0	1	1258	1249	3	0	1	1258	1249	3	0	1	1258	1249	3	0	1	1258	1249
3	1	0	1258	1249	3	1	0	1258	1249	3	1	0	1258	1249	3	1	0	1258	1249	3	1	0	1258	1249
3	1	1	1258	1249	3	1	1	1258	1249	3	1	1	1258	1249	3	1	1	1258	1249	3	1	1	1258	1249
4	0	0	1258	1249	4	0	0	1258	1249	4	0	0	1258	1249	4	0	0	1258	1249	4	0	0	1258	1249
4	0	1	1258	1249	4	0	1	1258	1249	4	0	1	1258	1249	4	0	1	1258	1249	4	0	1	1258	1249
4	1	0	1258	1249	4	1	0	1258	1249	4	1	0	1258	1249	4	1	0	1258	1249	4	1	0	1258	1249
4	1	1	1258	1249	4	1	1	1258	1249	4	1	1	1258	1249	4	1	1	1258	1249	4	1	1	1258	1249
5	0	0	1258	1249	5	0	0	1258	1249	5	0	0	1258	1249	5	0	0	1258	1249	5	0	0	1258	1249
5	0	1	1258	1249	5	0	1	1258	1249	5	0	1	1258	1249	5	0	1	1258	1249	5	0	1	1258	1249
5	1	0	1258	1249	5	1	0	1258	1249	5	1	0	1258	1249	5	1	0	1258	1249	5	1	0	1258	1249
5	1	1	1258	1249	5	1	1	1258	1249	5	1	1	1258	1249	5	1	1	1258	1249	5	1	1	1258	1249

TABLE III

INTERATOMIC DISTANCES AND ANGLES, WITH STANDARD ERRORS

Distance, Å	Angle, deg
I. InCl ₆ ²⁻ Anion	
In(1)-Cl(2) (basal)	2.456 (0.007)
In(1)-Cl(3) (apical)	2.415 (0.012)
II. (C ₂ H ₅) ₄ N ⁺ Cation i, Centered on Fourfold Axis	
N(8)-C(9)	1.53 (6)
N(8)-C(10)	1.52 (6)
C(9)-C(10)	1.91 (7) ^a
C(9)-C(11)	1.69 (6)
C(10)-C(11)	1.69 (6)
III. (C ₂ H ₅) ₄ N ⁺ Cation ii, Centered on the $\bar{4}$ Site	
N(4)-C(5)	1.56 (5)
N(4)-C(6)	1.53 (9)
C(5)-C(6)	1.74 (10) ^a
C(5)-C(7)	1.57 (8)
C(6)-C(7)	1.57 (10)
N(8)-C(9)-C(11)	106.7 (3.4)
N(8)-C(10)-C(11)	107.1 (3.4)
C(9)-N(8)-C(9')	101.7 (3.0)
C(9)-N(8)-C(10'')	113.9 (3.0)
C(10)-N(8)-C(10')	103.8 (3.2)
C(10)-N(8)-C(9'')	111.9 (3.2)
N(4)-C(5)-C(7)	111.1 (3.2)
N(4)-C(6)-C(7)	112.2 (6.0)
C(5)-N(4)-C(5'')	107.4 (2.6)
C(5)-N(4)-C(5')	113.7 (2.6)
C(6)-N(4)-C(6')	111.8 (5.0)
C(6)-N(4)-C(6'')	108.3 (5.0)

^a Nonbonded contacts.

equidistant from four adjacent pentachloroindate(III) ions. Table III shows the important interatomic distances and angles in the structure.

The main interest is obviously in the structure of the pentachloroindate(III) anion, which is the first example of a compound of a main group element with an

undistorted tetragonal-pyramidal structure. Muetterties and Schunn⁷ have pointed out that in penta-coordinate species with five identical ligands, the differences in the M-X bond lengths are small or undetectable within the experimental error. In the present case, we find that the apical In-Cl bond length

of 2.415 Å is different from those at the base of the square pyramid (2.456 Å) (1% level). The indium atom is 0.59 Å above the base of the pyramid, leading to an angle of 103.9° between apical and basal bonds; this is very close to the theoretically required value for a system which minimizes the interatomic Cl-Cl repulsions while retaining C_{4v} symmetry (103.6°, calculated on the basis of a simple inverse-square law of repulsion between ligands).

There are two obvious comparisons that can be made between this structure and those of the corresponding isoelectronic molecules SnCl_5^- and SbCl_5 . Antimony pentachloride has been studied in the solid state at -30° , at which temperature it has a regular trigonal-bipyramidal structure, with bond lengths of 2.34 Å (apical) and 2.29 Å (equatorial).¹⁰ Earlier Raman and electron diffraction studies¹¹⁻¹³ have shown that this symmetry is maintained in the liquid and gaseous states. The pentachlorostannate anion has the same D_{3h} structure,¹⁴ although the only information refers to a salt with the unusual 3-chloro-1,2,3,4-tetraphenylcyclobutenium cation; the Sn-Cl bond lengths in this compound are all the same within experimental error (2.37 Å). There is no immediately obvious reason for the difference between these two systems and the pentachloroindate(III) structure in terms of bonding interactions. It should be emphasized, however, that the energy difference between the trigonal-bipyramidal and the tetragonal-pyramidal structures is small and that environmental effects may cause one form or the other to be favored (*cf.* ref 7). Thus, for example, there may be symmetry or crystal packing factors in the lattice energy term which favor the tetragonal-pyramidal form in the crystal system studied, and it is always possible that with some other cation the anion might adopt a different stereochemistry. Thus the symmetrical fourfold inversion symmetry of the cations in the $((\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N})_2[\text{InCl}_5]$ may well provide sufficient interionic energy to offset any small differences between the ground states of the D_{3h} and C_{4v} configurations.

In this latter connection, it is worth pointing out that the pentachloroindate(III) anion, in common with many other indium(III) species, readily undergoes rearrangement. For example, the salt $((\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N})_2[\text{InCl}_5]$ is obtained from the reaction of InCl_3 with the corresponding tetraalkylammonium halide in ethanol, from which the complex is precipitated almost immediately on mixing the reagents. If one attempts to recrystallize the salt from this solvent under ordinary conditions, the product is $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{NInCl}_4$ and the starting material is only obtained chemically unchanged if excess $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{NCl}$ is added to the solution.¹⁵ From dichloromethane solution, on the other hand, $((\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N})_2[\text{InCl}_5]$ recrystallizes without change. Similar examples have been reported previously for other indium(III) complexes.¹⁶ It is clear therefore that the factors involved in the preference of one stereochemistry over another involve a number of factors which are not fully understood.

One further series of five-coordinate compounds which should be discussed in relation to the present work is that of the group V species $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{P}$, $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{As}$, and $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Sb}$.⁷ The first two of these have the trigonal-bipyramidal structure, while the stereochemistry of the $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Sb}$ has been described in terms of a distorted tetragonal-pyramidal arrangement of phenyl groups around the antimony. This then is the only compound outside the transition metal series which resembles the InCl_5^{2-} anion stereochemically. The comparison is less useful than one could wish because of the distortion, which has been ascribed to the bulky phenyl groups,¹⁷ although it is not easy to see why this effect should occur with antimony and not with the other elements of this group.

The indium-chloride bond length in InCl_5^{2-} is compared with other known values in Table IV. The values found for the three anions show the lengthening to be expected both as a function of increasing charge and of increasing coordination number. In view of the experimental errors in each determination, no discussion of the differences in the In-Cl bond lengths can be undertaken at present.

TABLE IV
METAL-CHLORINE BOND LENGTHS IN SOME
INDIUM(III) AND TIN(IV) COMPLEXES

Species	Coordn no.	Bond length, Å	Ref
InCl_4^-	4	2.33	a
In_2Cl_6	4	2.46 (av)	b
InCl_5^{2-}	5	2.42 (apical) 2.46 (basal)	c
$\text{InCl}_5 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}^{2-}$	6	2.58 (av)	d
SnCl_4	4	2.33	e
SnCl_5^-	5	2.37	f
$(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SnCl}_3^-$	5	2.35 (equatorial) 2.54 (axial)	g
SnCl_6^{2-}	6	2.43 (av)	e

^a See ref 5. ^b "Interatomic Distances," Special Publication No. 11, The Chemical Society, London, 1958, p M30. ^c Present work. ^d H. P. Klug, E. Kummer, and L. A. Alexander, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **70**, 3064 (1948). ^e See footnote b, p M41. ^f See ref 14. ^g F. W. B. Einstein and B. R. Penfold, *Chem. Commun.*, 780 (1966).

The tetraethylammonium ions in the present structure are of two types, i and ii, both of some stereochemical interest. Each type shows disorder in that the ions are distributed between two alternative configurations; in each case these configurations differ significantly only in the positions of the methylene carbon atoms. For type i, which lies on the fourfold axis, crystallographic considerations require that both

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configurations should be equally occupied; this is consistent with our observation that the refined temperature parameters for the alternative methylene sites are very nearly equal. For type ii, which lies on the $\bar{4}$ site, there is evidence from the thermal parameters that the two configurations may not be equally occupied. In the absence of crystal forces, type ii represents a more energetically favorable state for the tetra-

ethylammonium ion than type i, in that the average distance between methyl groups is the greater.

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The Crystal Structure of Aluminum Hydride¹

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X-Ray and neutron powder diffraction data for aluminum hydride, AlH_3 , and aluminum deuteride, AlD_3 , were used to solve this structure. Both compounds crystallize in the trigonal space group $R\bar{3}c$ with six molecules in a hexagonal unit cell of dimensions $a = 4.449 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 11.804 \text{ \AA}$ for the hydride and $a = 4.431 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 11.774 \text{ \AA}$ for the deuteride. Least-squares refinement of this three-parameter problem using seven unique AlD_3 neutron powder diffraction peaks gave a final R_1 of 0.026. The refined parameters gave $R_1 = 0.040$ for 29 AlH_3 X-ray powder diffraction peaks. Columns of Al atoms and spirals of H atoms are parallel with the c axis and are packed so that the Al has octahedral coordination symmetry. The final $\text{Al}\cdots\text{H}$ distance of 1.72 \AA , the participation of each Al in six bridges, and the equivalence of all $\text{Al}\cdots\text{H}$ distances suggest that 3c–2e bonding occurs. The closest Al–Al distance is 3.24 \AA . The alternating planes of Al and H atoms, perpendicular to the c axis, result in a stable structure which is a three-dimensional network of $\text{Al}\cdots\text{H}\cdots\text{Al}$ bridges and is consistent with the observed high density of the crystal.

The existence of four aluminum hydrides has been reported in the literature. AlH is a short-lived species produced by an electrical discharge between electrodes² and has been used to provide a measurement of the Al–H bond length (1.648 \AA). The preparation of a polymerized hydride $(\text{AlH}_3)_n$ has been claimed by Stecher and Wiberg,³ but Finholt, Bond, and Schlesinger⁴ reported that method to be difficult, giving a somewhat impure product. Their preparation used LiAlH_4 and AlCl_3 in ether to give a pure product but one from which the ether could not be removed without causing decomposition. Some recent work here at Dow has resulted in five crystalline forms of nonsolvated aluminum hydride.⁵ One of these, designated as pattern 1433 in our files, has been reported by two other groups of workers—Rice and Chizinsky,⁶ who precipitated it from pentane, and Appel and Frankel,⁷ who produced it by bombarding an ultrapure aluminum target with hydrogen ions. However, the X-ray data

taken by this second group were of too poor a quality to make the identification unique. In particular, the least-squares fit to a hexagonal unit cell seems to indicate the possibility that their product corresponds to our pattern 1451. Finally, Breisacher and Siegel⁸ prepared gaseous AlH_3 and its dimer in a flow system by evaporating aluminum from a hot tungsten filament into hydrogen at low pressure. In a similar experiment, using a static system, the product was trapped out at -195° .⁹

Aluminum does not form a low molecular weight hydride analogous to the simple dimeric hydrides of boron and gallium, and there has been speculation^{3,10,11} on the molecular structure of $(\text{AlH}_3)_n$ since its first preparation, with all of the proposed structures suggesting that hydrogen bridging is required. Some extended Hückel calculations done by Kato, *et al.*,¹² using a symmetry of C_{3v} and a bond distance of 1.65 \AA for AlH_3 , lead to an interpretation of the bonding in the structure as having partial ionic character which might be represented as $\text{Al}^{+\delta}\cdots\text{H}^{-\delta}$. Infrared spectroscopy studies¹³ led Roszinski, *et al.*, to describe $(\text{AlH}_3)_n$ as having a branched and cross-linked structure with

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