

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND THE MATERIALS RESEARCH CENTER,
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Potassium Monofluoroxenate(VI), $KXeO_3F$

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The crystal and molecular structure of potassium monofluoroxenate(VI), $KXeO_3F$, has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray data collected by counter methods. The material crystallizes in space group $C_{2v}^9-Pn2_1a$ of the orthorhombic system with four molecules in a cell of dimensions $a = 7.374$ (5), $b = 6.811$ (5), $c = 8.185$ (6) Å. The calculated density is 3.835 g cm^{-3} . Least-squares refinement of the structure has led to a final value of the conventional R factor (on F) of 0.054 for the 830 independent reflections having $F^2 \geq 3\sigma(F^2)$. The crystal structure consists of infinite chains, parallel to the b axis, of XeO_3 units linked by bridging fluorine atoms, with the potassium cations at nonbonded distances from the oxygen and fluorine atoms. The geometry of the XeO_3 moiety is very similar to that of XeO_3 itself. The Xe-O distances are 1.75 (1), 1.76 (1), and 1.79 (1) Å, and the O-Xe-O bond angles are 97.8 (7), 100.5 (1.2), and 101.1 (9)°. The two independent Xe-F distances of 2.36 (1) and 2.48 (1) Å are considerably longer than the distances reported for nonbridging Xe-F bonds but are significantly shorter than the value of 3.5 Å predicted for nonbonded interactions between Xe and F. Thus, the description of this compound as a molecular addition complex of formula $K^+F^- \cdot XeO_3$ is incorrect, the correct formulation being $nK^+(XeO_3F^-)_n$.

Introduction

The preparation of a compound of formulation $CsFXeO_3$ was accomplished by Selig,¹ who exposed $CsF \cdot XeOF_4$ to the atmosphere. He also noted that the same compound is apparently obtained on slow hydrolysis of $CsXeF_7$. A more convenient method of preparation is by the action of CsF on XeO_3 solution.² This method can also be used to prepare the analogous rubidium and potassium compounds.

Selig originally proposed that these compounds are loosely bound molecular addition complexes of the type $MF \cdot XeO_3$,¹ since no absorptions occurred in the Xe-F bond stretching region. The $MFXeO_3$ compounds, however, are much more stable than XeO_3 . XeO_3 detonates readily when subjected to physical shock and reacts explosively with methanol and other primary alcohols,³ while $KFXeO_3$ is stable to shock and does not react with methanol. This enhanced stability favors the description of these compounds as ionic salts of the type $M^+XeO_3F^-$. The simple ionic salts of Xe(VI), however, are unstable: the reaction of $NaOH$ on Xe(VI) solutions yields sodium perxenate, a salt of Xe(VIII), oxygen, and xenon.⁴ Presumably, any Xe(VI) salt originally formed disproportionates to Xe(VIII) and Xe(IV), the Xe(IV) complex rapidly decomposing to give xenon and oxygen.

The molecular structures of several Xe(VI) molecular compounds of varying stability have been elucidated from diffraction and microwave data. XeO_3 has a pyramidal structure⁵ very similar to those of IO_3^- ⁶

and NH_3 .⁷ All of these structures can be considered as distorted tetrahedra, with the lone pair of electrons on the central atom occupying the fourth coordination site. $XeOF_4$ ⁸ and XeF_5^+ ⁹ both have the square-pyramidal structure and may be considered as distorted octahedra with the lone pair on the Xe occupying the sixth coordination site. To this steric activity of the electron pair on the Xe atom may be ascribed the departure of XeF_6 from the octahedral geometry normally found in MF_6 complexes.¹⁰ It has been suggested that the fluoride ion donor properties of XeF_6 result from the special stability of the octahedral configuration in Xe(VI) compounds; on donation of a fluoride ion XeF_6 becomes XeF_5^+ and can assume the distorted octahedral configuration mentioned above.¹¹

A complete structural determination of $KFXeO_3$ was undertaken partly in the hope of resolving the problem of the two possible molecular descriptions discussed earlier and partly in order to increase our knowledge and understanding of the structures and bonding of Xe(VI) complexes in general.

Collection and Reduction of the X-Ray Data

Crystals of $KXeO_3F$ were generously supplied by Professors B. Jaselskis and T. M. Spittler and were loaded into quartz capillaries in a drybox. The capillaries had been evacuated for 2 days at 10^{-6} mm and 200° in order to ensure that they were free from

(1) H. Selig, *Inorg. Chem.*, **5**, 183 (1966).

(2) T. M. Spittler, B. Jaselskis, and J. L. Huston, presented at the 153rd National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Miami Beach, Fla., April 1967.

(3) D. F. Smith, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **85**, 816 (1963); N. Bartlett and P. Rao, *Science*, **139**, 506 (1963); S. M. Williamson and C. W. Koch, *ibid.*, **139**, 1046 (1963).

(4) J. G. Malm, B. D. Holt, and R. W. Bane in "Noble Gas Compounds," H. H. Hyman, Ed., University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1963, p 167.

(5) D. H. Templeton, A. Zalkin, J. D. Forrester, and S. M. Williamson, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **85**, 817 (1963).(6) J. A. Ibers, *Acta Cryst.*, **9**, 225 (1956).(7) A. Almendinger and O. Bastiansen, *Acta Chem. Scand.*, **9**, 815 (1955); I. Olovsson and D. H. Templeton, *Acta Cryst.*, **12**, 832 (1959).(8) J. Martins and E. B. Wilson, Jr., *J. Chem. Phys.*, **41**, 570 (1964).(9) N. Bartlett, F. Einstein, D. F. Stewart, and J. Trotter, *J. Chem. Soc., A*, 1190 (1967).(10) B. Weinstock, E. E. Weaver, and C. P. Knop, *Inorg. Chem.*, **5**, 2189 (1966); L. S. Bartell, R. M. Gavin, Jr., H. B. Thompson, and C. L. Chernick, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **43**, 2547 (1965); K. Hedberg, S. H. Peterson, R. R. Ryan, and B. Weinstock, *ibid.*, **44**, 1726 (1966).(11) N. Bartlett and F. O. Sladky, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **90**, 5316 (1968).

moisture. On the basis of precession and Weissenberg photography using Mo K α radiation we established that these crystals belong to the orthorhombic system. The observed extinctions are $0kl$ for $(k + l)$ odd and $h k 0$ for h odd, which suggests that the space group is either D_{2h}^{16} -Pnma or C_{2v}^9 -Pn2 $_1$ a. The former space group was initially chosen, but subsequent refinement of the data demonstrated that the acentric space group Pn2 $_1$ a is correct. The equivalent positions in Pn2 $_1$ a, an alternative setting of Pna2 $_1$,¹² are: $x, y, z; \bar{x}, 1/2 + y, \bar{z}; 1/2 - x, 1/2 + y, 1/2 + z; 1/2 + x, y, 1/2 - z$.

The lattice constants, obtained by the least-squares procedure described below, are $a = 7.374$ (5), $b = 6.811$ (5), and $c = 8.185$ (6) Å. The observations were made at 23° with the wavelength of Mo K α_1 radiation taken as 0.70930 Å. The density calculated for four molecules in the unit cell is 3.835 g cm $^{-3}$. Because of the high sensitivity of the compound to air, it was not possible to measure the density very accurately, but a pycnometric measurement with mercury as the liquid gave a value of 3.7 (3) g cm $^{-3}$, which is in agreement with the calculated value. Hence, if the correct space group assignment were Pnma, the K, Xe, and F atoms, plus at least one of the O atoms, would be constrained to lie on either the mirror plane or an inversion center. If, however, Pn2 $_1$ a were the correct space group, no crystallographic symmetry conditions would be imposed on the molecule.

Diffraction data were collected from a nearly spherical crystal of radius 0.025 cm enclosed in a quartz capillary. The intensity data were collected on a Picker four-circle automatic X-ray diffractometer, using Mo K α radiation. The mosaicity of the crystal was examined by means of the narrow-source, open-counter, ω -scan technique. The width at half-height for a typical strong reflection was found to be approximately 0.15°. This value is rather larger than we would normally consider acceptable, but in view of the instability of the compound and the difficulty of obtaining good crystals, we were forced to use this crystal. The general shape of the ω scans was symmetric and not split, which indicates that, while the mosaicity is rather high, this is a single crystal.¹³ Twelve high-angle reflections from the crystal were accurately centered through a narrow vertical slit at a takeoff angle of 0.5°. These observations formed the basis for the least-squares refinement of cell parameters and crystal orientation; the refinement was effected in our program PICK as previously described.¹⁴

Intensity data were collected at a takeoff angle of 1.4°; at this angle the peak intensity of a typical strong reflection is about 75% of the maximum value as a function of the takeoff angle. The receiving aperture

was 4.0 mm high by 4.0 mm wide and was placed 29 cm from the crystal. The data were collected by the θ - 2θ scan technique at a scan rate of 2.0°/min. The scan range for all reflections was 2.0° in 2θ , from -0.90 to +1.10° from the calculated value of 2θ . Stationary-counter, stationary-crystal background counts of 4 sec were taken at the end of each scan. The relatively large scan range was necessitated by the high mosaicity of the crystal. The relatively high scan rate and short background counting time were used in order to minimize exposure of the crystal to radiation, since preliminary indications were that slow decomposition occurs when the compound is subjected to X-rays. The diffracted Mo K α beam was filtered through 4.5-mil Zr foil. Automatic attenuators were inserted when the intensity of the beam exceeded about 7000 counts/sec. The pulse height analyzer was set for approximately a 90% window, centered on the Mo K α peak.

A unique data set having $2\theta \leq 70^\circ$ was gathered; a total of 956 independent intensities were recorded. No data were collected at values of $2\theta > 70^\circ$, since very few reflections were above background in this range. The intensities of three standard reflections, measured after every 50 reflections, steadily diminished throughout the run. This diminution of intensity, presumably due to partial crystal decomposition in the X-ray beam, was plotted against cumulative X-ray exposure, and a least-squares fit was made. The observed intensities of all reflections were appropriately scaled upward to take into account this attenuation, which was such that the intensity of a typical standard reflection at the end of the run was only 75% of its original value.

All data processing was carried out as previously described.¹⁴ The value of p in the expression

$$\sigma(I) = [C + 0.25(t_o/t_b)^2(B_1 + B_2) + (pI)^2]^{1/2}$$

was taken as 0.06. The values of I and $\sigma(I)$ were corrected for Lorentz-polarization factors, and a spherical absorption correction was applied. The linear absorption coefficient, μ , for this compound for Mo K α radiation is 94.7 cm $^{-1}$, and for the sample chosen the spherical absorption correction factor A^* at $\theta = 0^\circ$ is 21.5.¹⁵ Of the 956 independent reflections which were processed, 46 were less than their estimated standard deviations.

Solution and Refinement

The positions of the Xe and K atoms were determined from the three-dimensional Patterson function,¹⁶ and these coordinates were refined by least-squares procedures. All least-squares refinements were carried out on F , the function minimized being $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$; the weights w were taken as $4F_o^2/\sigma^2(F_o^2)$.

(12) "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. I, The Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1952, p 119.

(13) T. C. Furnas, "Single Crystal Orienter Instruction Manual," General Electric Co., Milwaukee, Wis., 1957.

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

(15) See ref 12, Vol. II, p 302.

(16) In addition to various local programs, programs for the CDC 6400 used in this analysis were local modifications of Zalkin's FORDAP Fourier program, Busing and Levy's ORFFE function and error and ORFLS least-squares programs, and Johnson's ORTEP thermal ellipsoid plotting program.

TABLE I
 POSITIONAL AND THERMAL PARAMETERS FOR $KXeO_3F$

Atom	x	y	z	β_{11}^a	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Xe	0.09468 (7) ^b	0.25 ^c	0.15235 (7)	0.00782 (9)	0.0101 (1)	0.00981 (9)	-0.0006 (1)	-0.00001 (6)	0.0020 (1)
K	0.3802 (4)	0.7182 (5)	0.1465 (4)	0.0119 (4)	0.0147 (11)	0.0132 (4)	-0.0015 (4)	-0.0011 (3)	0.0024 (4)
F	0.045 (1)	0.597 (1)	0.073 (1)	0.017 (1)	0.016 (2)	0.013 (1)	-0.001 (1)	-0.003 (1)	0.001 (1)
O ₁	0.290 (2)	0.254 (5)	0.032 (2)	0.021 (3)	0.031 (4)	0.034 (3)	-0.009 (5)	0.017 (3)	-0.008 (6)
O ₂	0.170 (2)	0.382 (3)	0.329 (1)	0.030 (4)	0.025 (4)	0.010 (2)	-0.010 (3)	-0.010 (2)	0.005 (2)
O ₃	0.109 (2)	0.011 (2)	0.235 (2)	0.015 (2)	0.015 (2)	0.019 (2)	-0.001 (2)	-0.002 (2)	0.007 (2)

^a The form of the anisotropic thermal ellipsoid is $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$. ^b Figures in parentheses here and elsewhere in this paper are the estimated standard deviations of the least significant digits. ^c Polar space group Pn2₁a requires one y parameter to be fixed.

In all calculations of F_o , the atomic scattering factor for Xe was taken from Cromer and Waber,¹⁷ scattering factors for all other atoms were taken from the tabulation of Ibers.¹⁸ The effects of anomalous dispersion were included in calculations of F_o ,¹⁹ the values of $\Delta f'$ and $\Delta f''$ being taken from Cromer.²⁰ Of the 956 independent reflections, 830 were greater than three times their estimated standard deviations. Only these reflections were used in the refinement of the structure.

Initially, the Xe and K atoms were assigned fixed isotropic thermal parameters. After two cycles of least-squares refinement in space group Pnma, with the atoms constrained to lie on the mirror plane, the agreement factors $R_1 = \Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|$ and R_2 (or weighted R factor) $= (\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \Sigma wF_o^2)^{1/2}$ were 0.159 and 0.227, respectively. A difference Fourier synthesis at this stage showed the presence of light atoms in three apparently general positions and one apparently special position of space group Pnma. Examination of the difference map also suggested that the K atom was not located exactly on the mirror plane. From this combination of evidence, we deduced that the correct space group must be Pn2₁a, in which all fourfold positions are general. Two cycles of least-squares refinement of the Xe and K parameters, with anisotropic thermal parameters assigned to both atoms, yielded values of R_1 and R_2 of 0.107 and 0.165, respectively.

A difference Fourier synthesis run at this time was complicated by the presence of a false mirror plane which arises because the y coordinates of the Xe and K atoms differ by approximately 0.5. The positions of the light atoms were found to be at the four highest independent peaks in the map; these peaks were all found to be approximately $1 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ larger than their mirror-related peaks. Two cycles of least-squares calculation, with anisotropic thermal parameters assigned to all atoms, and with all four light atoms assumed to be oxygen atoms, led to values of R_1 and R_2 of 0.055 and 0.071, respectively. Three of these light atoms were found to lie between 1.72 and 1.82 Å from the Xe atom, while the fourth was more than

2.3 Å from the Xe. It was decided that this distant atom must be the F atom; one cycle of least-squares refinement with this atom as F instead of O gave values of R_1 and R_2 of 0.054 and 0.0693, respectively. This significant improvement in R_2 supports our choice of this atom as F. Attempts to distinguish between these two models by examination of the root-mean-square amplitudes of vibration of the atom under consideration^{21,22} were inconclusive. It would appear that this method is only successful when the data are relatively free from systematic errors; in the present study there are errors due to the approximate nature of the absorption correction.

The Xe-O bond lengths obtained from this latest least-squares calculation were 1.73 (1), 1.75 (1), and 1.81 (1) Å, which is a surprisingly large range for three apparently equivalent bonds. The standard deviation of the Xe-O length calculated from the spread of these three distances is 0.044 Å, as compared with values of approximately 0.012 Å estimated from the least-squares refinement; these two estimates of the standard deviation of an Xe-O bond length would be expected to be approximately equal, and this large difference between the two values would normally be disturbing. At this stage, however, we did not know if the form which we had collected was $\{hkl\}$ or $\{\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l}\}$; these two forms are not equivalent in the acentric space group Pn2₁a. Two cycles of least-squares refinement were run with the substitution of $\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l}$ for hkl . The values of R_1 and R_2 obtained were 0.054 and 0.0691, respectively, a slight improvement in R_2 . The range of Xe-O distances was greatly reduced, the values being 1.75 (1), 1.76 (1), and 1.79 (1) Å. The standard deviation calculated from the spread of these Xe-O distances is 0.019 Å, which is in fairly good agreement with the value of 0.012 Å estimated from the least-squares refinement. The changes in the individual Xe-O bond lengths were in excellent agreement with those calculated from the polar dispersion error model of Ueki, Zalkin, and Templeton.²³ This reversed-polarity model was accepted as being the correct description of this particular crystal because of the more reasonable chemical model which it provides. The slight im-

(17) D. T. Cromer and J. T. Waber, *Acta Cryst.*, **18**, 104 (1965).

(18) See ref 12, Vol. III, Table 3.3.1.

(19) J. A. Ibers and W. C. Hamilton, *ibid.*, **17**, 781 (1964).

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

(21) J. H. Enemark and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **6**, 1575 (1967).

(22) D. J. Hodgson and J. A. Ibers, *ibid.*, **7**, 2345 (1968).

(23) T. Ueki, A. Zalkin, and D. H. Templeton, *Acta Cryst.*, **20**, 836 (1966); D. W. J. Cruickshank and W. S. McDonald, *ibid.*, **23**, 9 (1967).

TABLE II
OBSERVED AND CALCULATED STRUCTURE AMPLITUDES (X10) IN ELECTRONS FOR KXEO3F

Table with 20 columns and multiple rows of numerical data, organized into several sections with headings like '*** K = +10', '*** K = -10', etc. Each section contains observed and calculated structure amplitudes.

provement in R2 is not taken as support, since there remain systematic errors in the data. It should be stressed, however, that the possible ambiguity is of no significance to the chemical interpretation of the structure. It was not possible to check the polarity directly at this stage by collection of Friedel-related reflections because the crystal used had decomposed, and a cursory examination of a different crystal would not provide with any useful information about the polarity of the original crystal.

The value of R2 obtained from this final least-squares refinement shows no dependence on |F0| or on sin theta, which indicates that our choice of p = 0.06 is essentially correct. Comparison of the final values of |F0| and |Fc| suggests to us that no correction for secondary extinction is necessary. A final difference Fourier map shows peaks in the range -4.0 to +4.4 e A^-3; the estimated standard deviation, sigma(Delta rho), is 0.4 e A^-3. An observed Fourier calculation shows the Xe atom to have an electron density of 230 e A^-3, and the average oxygen atom to have electron density of 11.3 e A^-3. The final difference Fourier map shows two peaks greater than 1.4 e A^-3 (i.e., greater than about 0.1 of an O atom); these are of 4.4 and 4.1 e A^-3 and are located on either side of the Xe atom in the z direction at a distance of approximately 0.5 A. This residual

electron density in the difference map is not chemically significant.

The positional and thermal parameters derived from the last cycle of least-squares refinement are presented in Table I, along with the associated standard deviations in these parameters as estimated from the inverse matrix. The final values of |F0| and |Fc| (in electrons) are presented in Table II; only the 830 reflections for which F0^2 > 3sigma(F0^2) were used in the refinement, and so only these reflections are listed in Table II. Those reflections for which F0^2 <= 3sigma(F0^2) all have |F0|/|Fc| < 3.0. The estimated error in an observation of unit weight is 1.88. In the final cycle of least-squares calculations the largest shift of any parameter was exhibited by the y coordinate of the F atom; this parameter shifted by 0.65 sigma.

Description of the Structure

The structure consists of infinite chains of XeO3 units linked by bridging fluorine atoms; these chains are deposited about the twofold screw axes parallel to the b axis. The potassium cations are at nonbonding distances from the other atoms, as expected. The inner coordination geometry is shown in Figure 1, and a view of the polymeric linking is shown in Figure 2. The Xe is five-coordinated, the coordination being

best described as a distorted tetragonal pyramid with *cis* F and *cis* O atoms in the base and the other O atom at the apex.

A selection of intramolecular and intermolecular distances and angles is given in Table III. The root-mean-square amplitudes of vibration of the atoms are given in Table IV. The values shown in Table IV are consistent with what one would expect for a compound of this type, which suggests that any errors due to the approximate nature of the absorption correction are small. The bond distances shown in Table III can be "corrected" for thermal motion using the "riding" and "independent" models of Busing and Levy.²⁴ The differences between the various bond lengths remain essentially the same when either of these "corrections" is applied.

TABLE III
SELECTED INTRAMOLECULAR AND INTERMOLECULAR DISTANCES AND ANGLES

Distance, Å			
Xe-O ₁	1.75 (1)	O ₃ -F ₁	4.23 (2)
Xe-O ₂	1.79 (1)	O ₃ -F ₂	2.82 (2)
Xe-O ₃	1.76 (1)	F ₁ -F ₂	3.669 (7)
Xe-F ₁	2.48 (1)	Xe-Xe' ^b	4.446 (2)
Xe-F ₂ ^a	2.36 (1)	Xe-O	1.767 ^b
O ₁ -O ₂	2.73 (2)	K-O ₁ ' ^c	2.84 (1)
O ₁ -O ₃	2.70 (3)	K-F ₁	2.67 (1)
O ₁ -F ₁	2.98 (3)	K-F' ^d	2.73 (1)
O ₁ -F ₂	2.83 (2)	K-O ₃ ' ^e	2.92 (1)
O ₂ -O ₃	2.68 (2)	K-O ₃ '' ^f	2.79 (1)
O ₂ -F ₁	2.72 (2)	K-O ₂ ' ^g	2.85 (1)
O ₂ -F ₂	4.13 (2)		
Angle, deg			
O ₁ -Xe-O ₂	101.1 (8)	O ₂ -Xe-F ₂	171.8 (7)
O ₁ -Xe-O ₃	100.5 (1.2)	O ₂ -Xe-F ₁	171.2 (5)
O ₂ -Xe-O ₃	97.8 (7)	O ₃ -Xe-F ₂	85.3 (5)
O ₁ -Xe-F ₁	87.6 (1.1)	F ₁ -Xe-F ₂	98.7 (2)
O ₁ -Xe-F ₂	85.8 (7)	Xe-F-Xe' ^b	133.7 (4)
O ₂ -Xe-F ₁	77.2 (6)	O-Xe-O	99.8 ^h

^a F₂ is related to F₁ by the twofold screw axis. ^b Xe' is related to Xe by the twofold screw axis. ^c O₁' is related to O₁ by the twofold screw axis. ^d F' is related to F₁ by the *a* glide plane. ^e O₃' is related to O₃ by a translation along the *b* axis. ^f O₃'' is related to O₃ by the *a* glide plane. ^g O₂' is related to O₂ by the *n* glide plane. ^h Average of three.

TABLE IV
ROOT-MEAN-SQUARE AMPLITUDES^a OF VIBRATION (Å)

Atom	Min	Intermed	Max
Xe	0.141 (1)	0.150 (1)	0.190 (1)
K	0.171 (5)	0.182 (3)	0.222 (4)
F	0.186 (11)	0.195 (11)	0.235 (11)
O ₁	0.161 (15)	0.251 (21)	0.398 (28)
O ₂	0.142 (14)	0.205 (17)	0.337 (20)
O ₃	0.161 (14)	0.201 (13)	0.273 (16)

^a Measured along the principal axes of the thermal ellipsoids.

It is clear from the data given in Table III that the molecular addition complex description, K⁺F⁻·XeO₃, is inappropriate. If this were an addition complex, with no bonding between Xe and F atoms, we would expect the closest Xe-F contact to be approximately

(24) W. R. Busing and H. A. Levy, *Acta Cryst.*, **17**, 142 (1964).

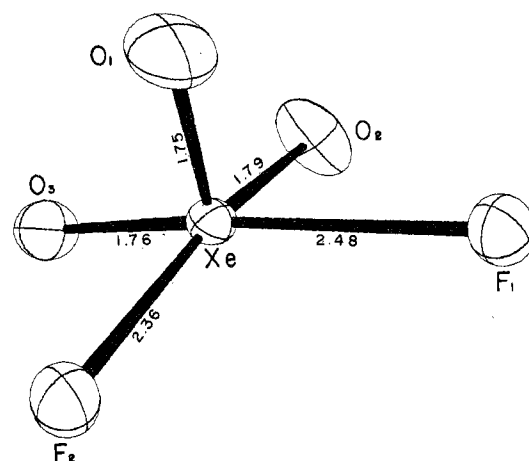


Figure 1.—The inner coordination geometry around Xe in KXeO₃F.

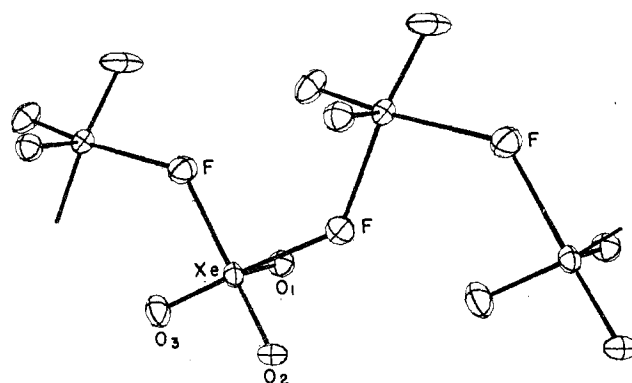


Figure 2.—A view of the XeO₃F⁻ anion showing the bridged Xe-F-Xe bonds and the polymeric nature of the ion. The infinite chains are parallel to the *b* axis, which is horizontal in the figure. Atom O₁ has been given an artificial spherical thermal parameter of 3.0 Å² for clarity.

equal to the sum of the van der Waals radius of Xe and the ionic radius of F⁻. The van der Waals radius of Xe is approximately 2.18 Å,²⁵ and the ionic radius of F⁻ is approximately 1.36 Å.²⁶ Thus, for a non-bonded Xe-F contact we would expect a minimum separation of approximately 3.5 Å; the Xe-F distances of 2.36 (1) and 2.48 (1) Å are significantly shorter than this calculated value. They are also significantly shorter than the values of about 3.2 Å found for non-bonded Xe-F distances in XeF₄.²⁷ Evidently, the correct description of this substance is as an ionic polymer of formula *n*K⁺[XeO₃F⁻]_{*n*}. The Xe-F bond lengths are longer than the values of 1.953 (2) and 2.00 (1) Å found for XeF₄²⁷ and XeF₂,²⁸ respectively, which is to be expected since the fluorine atoms are terminal in the binary fluorides and bridging here. They are, however, shorter than the values reported for bridging fluorines in xenon compounds which are

(25) G. Natta and A. G. Nasini, *Nature*, **125**, 457 (1930).

(26) L. Pauling, "The Nature of the Chemical Bond," 3rd ed, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., 1960, p 514.

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known to contain fluorine bridges; in $[\text{XeF}_5^+][\text{PtF}_6^-]$, which contains Xe-F-Pt bridges, the bridging Xe-F distances are 2.52, 2.65, and 2.95 Å,⁹ and in $(\text{XeF}_6)_4$, which contains Xe-F-Xe bridges, the bridging Xe-F distances are approximately 2.5 Å.²⁹ The Xe-F distances found in KXeO_3F , therefore, are certainly indicative of covalent bonding between Xe and F. Moreover, if this were an addition complex involving XeO_3 , one would expect the K^+ ions to interact with the lone pairs on the Xe atoms. The K^+ ions, however, are located on the same side of the Xe atoms as the oxygen atoms—it is the fluorine atoms which are in the appropriate location to interact with the lone pairs on Xe. Evidently, therefore, it is very unlikely that the Xe lone pair is in the same location as in XeO_3 .

The geometry of the XeO_3 moiety is very similar to that found for XeO_3 itself. In XeO_3 the Xe-O bond lengths and O-Xe-O bond angles are 1.74 (3), 1.76 (3), and 1.77 (3) Å and 100 (2), 101 (2), and 108 (2)°,⁵ the average values being 1.76 Å and 103°; these compare with the values of 1.75 (1), 1.76 (1), and 1.79 (1) Å and 97.8 (7), 100.5 (1.2), and 101 (9)° found in KXeO_3F , the average values being 1.767 Å and 100°. In each case the geometry is similar to that of the IO_3^- ion, which has an average I-O bond length of 1.823 (6) Å and an average O-I-O bond angle of 97.1 (3)°.⁶

The K^+ ions have nonbonded contacts of 2.67 (1) and 2.73 (1) Å with the F atoms and of 2.79 (1), 2.84 (1), 2.85 (1), and 2.92 (1) Å with the O atoms. The geometry around the K^+ ions is best described as a distorted trigonal antiprism. The nonbonded distances found are in good agreement with the values of 2.68 and 2.73 Å calculated from the sums of the ionic radius of K^+ (1.33 Å)²⁶ and the van der Waals radii of F (1.35 Å) and O (1.40 Å),³⁰ respectively.

The Xe-F-Xe moiety has a bond angle of 133.7 (4)°, which is considerably less than the value of approximately 151° found in Xe_2F_3^+ .³¹ In Xe_2F_3^+ , however, the bridging Xe-F distances are only 2.14 Å;³¹ this gives rise to an Xe-Xe separation of 4.13 Å,

slightly smaller than the value of 4.36 Å calculated for a nonbonded contact. If the F-Xe-F angle in Xe_2F_3^+ were 134°, the Xe-Xe separation would be only 3.94 Å, and, obviously, nonbonded contacts cause a larger angle. In KXeO_3F , the Xe-Xe separation is 4.446 (2) Å, slightly larger than the calculated value.

This structure analysis explains both the unusual stability of KXeO_3F and the apparent absence of Xe-F stretching modes in the infrared spectrum. The coordination around the Xe is analogous to that found in XeF_5^+ ⁹ and XeOF_4 ⁸ and may be considered to be a distorted octahedron with the Xe lone pair occupying the sixth coordination site. This would put the electron pair in the right region to interact with the neighboring K^+ ions in the crystal. It would appear, therefore, that this is further evidence for the special stability of octahedral coordination in Xe(VI) compounds. The XeO_3 moiety is stabilized by entering into bonding with the fluorine atoms. The Xe-F bonds, however, are considerably longer than those found in the binary fluorides, and, consequently, the Xe-F stretching modes would be expected to occur at much lower frequencies. The Xe-F stretching frequency decreases rapidly with increased bond length. Thus, it is at 576 cm^{-1} in XeOF_4 ³² (Xe-F = 1.95 (5) Å⁸), at 543 cm^{-1} in XeF_4 ³³ (Xe-F = 1.953 (2) Å²⁷), and at 497 cm^{-1} in XeF_2 ³⁴ (Xe-F = 2.00 (1) Å²⁸). For an Xe-F separation of 2.36 Å, as found in KXeO_3F , therefore, we would expect the Xe-F stretch to be at or below 400 cm^{-1} .

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