

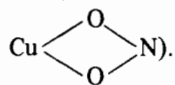
## The Crystal Structure of $K_3Cu(NO_2)_5$

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The compound crystallizes in the orthorhombic system, space group  $D_{2h}^{16}$ - $Pbnm$  with cell constants of  $a = 21.70(4)$ ,  $b = 18.94(4)$  and  $c = 10.88(2)$  Å. The unit cell volume, observed and calculated densities are, respectively,  $4471.66$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $2.46(2)$  g cm<sup>-3</sup> and  $2.44$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>. There are 16 molecules of  $K_3Cu(NO_2)_5$  in the unit cell and the anions crystallize in the lattice as four independent  $Cu(NO_2)_5^{3-}$  species located at positions (c) of the space group. Molecularly, they are identical in pairs in spite of being crystallographically independent from one another. One  $Cu(NO_2)_5^{3-}$  species is bound through the nitrogen of three  $NO_2^-$  ligands and by two in a symmetrical, bidentate fashion (i.e.,



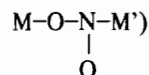
The other type of  $Cu(NO_2)_5^{3-}$  species present in the lattice contains all modes of coordination of  $NO_2^-$  when bound to a single metal center. That is, there are two monodentate  $Cu-NO_2$  bonds, two monodentate  $Cu-O-N-O$  bonds and one symmetrical, bidentate attachment of the type described above. There are eight crystallographically independent potassium ions in the lattice: four sit at general positions while the other four are found at mirror planes. The coordination around the potassium ions is irregular and determined primarily by packing considerations dictated by the anions. The coordination number of the potassiums vary considerably and the exact number of ligands around each depends on the length of the radius one is willing to consider reasonable for bonding. Details are discussed in the text.

### Introduction

The shape of the coordination sphere around a metal ion (M) in a complex with composition  $MX_5$  or  $AMX_5$  (where A = a charge compensating cation(s) and X = any potential monodentate ligand such as  $Cl^-$ ,  $SCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ , etc.) has been the object of considerable speculation and research. Two recent reviews [5, 6] summarize the results obtained up to 1972 and it is clear from these reports that chemical

composition is a poor guide for the prediction of pentacoordination in such compounds. For example,  $Cu(NO_3)_2$  [7],  $Cu(NO_3)_2(O_2N-CH_3)$  [8a] and  $Cu(O_2N-CH_3)$  [8b] contain pentacoordinated Cu(II) ions. On the other hand, the compound with composition  $(NH_4)[Cu(NH_3)_5](ClO_4)_3$  has been found to contain planar  $Cu(NH_3)_4^{2+}$  cations [9] and the compound originally formulated as  $K_3Hg(NO_2)_5$  has been found [10, 11] to contain one simple  $NO_3^-$  lattice ion and an eight-coordinated (however, see ref. 11b)  $Hg(NO_2)_4^{2-}$  anion. Finally, there are large numbers of compounds in which the central cation achieves higher coordination numbers through polymerization; a simple example of these being  $Tl_2AlF_5$  [12] in which the aluminium is six-coordinated and there are many other examples discussed in detail in standard references [13].

The  $NO_2^-$  anion can bind a metal through its nitrogen [14], through one of its oxygens [15, 16] and it can act as a bidentate ligand to a single metal ion [11, 17]. It can also act as a bidentate bridge to two metal centers and in that case the bridge can either be symmetrical (i.e.,  $M-O-N-O-M'$ ) or it can be asymmetric (i.e.,



[18, 19]. Therefore, given the variety of coordination shapes and modes of ligand binding that could, in theory, occur with a compound having composition  $K_3Cu(NO_2)_5$ , we decided to determine its crystal structure. The unexpected results are given below. In an earlier report [20] one of us (I. B.) had discussed the magnetic and spectral properties of this substance.

### Experimental

The compound was made according to the procedure of Kurtenacker [21] and its characterization by elemental analysis and other physical measurements has already been given in detail elsewhere [20]. Crystals of  $K_3Cu(NO_2)_5$  were obtained from material which had been recrystallized five times from methanol and then redissolved in meth-

anol and kept at 0 °C for many days till crystals slowly deposited at the bottom of the beaker. This procedure was found necessary to obtain suitable specimens for single crystal X-ray diffraction. The resulting green-black needles were cleaved to suitable size by slicing them in the direction perpendicular to the needle axis and the specimen used for data collection was 0.2 × 0.3 × 0.4 mm and was bound by the (110), ( $\bar{1}\bar{1}0$ ), ( $\bar{1}10$ ), ( $1\bar{1}0$ ), (001) and (00 $\bar{1}$ ) faces. Other crystallographic data of importance are: M. W. = 410.87 g mol<sup>-1</sup>; a = 21.70(4), b = 18.94(4) and c = 10.88(2) Å; V = 4471.66 Å<sup>3</sup>/unit cell, d<sub>o</sub> = 2.46(2) g cm<sup>-3</sup> (flotation in bromoform/bromobenzene) and F(000) = 2896 electrons. The density calculated for z = 16 molecules/unit cell is 2.44 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, in good agreement with the observed value. Examination of films recorded in precession and Weissenberg cameras gave the following systematic extinctions: Okl with k ≠ 2n and hOl with h + l ≠ 2n, which imply that the space group is either D<sub>2h</sub><sup>16</sup>-Pbnm or C<sub>2v</sub><sup>2</sup>-Pbn2<sub>1</sub>. The former choice leads to the result that for the asymmetric unit four coppers, four potassiums, twelve oxygens and twelve nitrogen atoms occupy the four-fold set of positions (c) in the space group Pbnm while the other 22 atoms in the asymmetric unit occupy the general eight-fold set. The choice of the acentric space group Pbn2<sub>1</sub> removes the necessity of placing atoms in special positions but requires that 228 positional parameters be specified, instead of the 130 required for the centrosymmetric choice. We decided to proceed at the beginning on the assumption that the centrosymmetric choice was the correct one, as suggested by a Wilson [22] plot and by a negative piezoelectric test.

The data crystal was mounted in a thin-walled capillary tube since the substance is sensitive to moisture and experience with film studies showed that X-ray seem to enhance this sensitivity, while X-ray by themselves (glass encased samples) do not seem to have any effect on crystal stability. Data were collected with a General Electric XRD-6 Goniostant using the θ-2θ scan technique and Mo Kα radiation (λ = 0.71069 Å). Approximately 2500 reflections were sampled in the hkl octant to a 2θ = 41°. Of these, 1225 had satisfactory peak-to-background ratio and were, thus recorded. The resulting intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects and for absorption (μ = 3.18 cm<sup>-1</sup> for Mo Kα radiation [23a]).

#### Solution and Refinement of the Structure

An absolute scale factor and a mean isotropic temperature factor were obtained by means of Wilson statistics [22]. A three dimensional sharpened, origin-removed Patterson function was then computed from the corrected intensities and which proved difficult to interpret unambiguously for the copper and potassium atom positions since it appeared that some

atoms were in special positions but it was not clear which set of special positions were involved. Several trial sets were used which gave relatively high R-factors (ca. 70% on F<sup>2</sup>) and which did not differ significantly from one another. Thus, we decided to abandon this approach and try direct methods. The programs used for the calculation of normalized structure factors and for the direct methods have been described in detail elsewhere [24]. Three reflections were assigned a positive phase, thereby fixing the origin for the space group Pbnm. Several reflections were assigned a phase on the basis of the Σ<sub>1</sub> relation and three symbolic phases, a, b and c were assigned. These data are summarized in Table I.

TABLE I. Reflections Phases.

Reflections whose Phases were Assigned by the Σ <sub>1</sub> Relation					
h	k	l	E	Phase	
0	8	4	3.3333	+	
0	8	8	3.7599	+	
8	0	4	3.1320	+	
8	8	0	3.4557	+	
8	8	8	2.6807	+	
16	0	0	3.4025	+	
Origin Defining Reflections					
2	10	5	4.2584	+	
14	3	4	2.2942	+	
15	2	4	2.1477	+	
Reflections to which Symbols a, b and c were Assigned and Eventual Sign Assigned to such Symbols					
4	4	4	4.6386	- = a	
2	6	8	3.3000	+ = b	
18	5	4	1.7727	+ = c	

Eventual assignment of signs to the symbols a, b and c gave phases for 297 of the 410 reflections for which |E| > 1.0. An E map calculated using the sign assignments for a, b and c (Table I) gave positions for the potassium and copper atoms and a difference Fourier, based on the phases determined by these atoms, gave light atoms which made chemical sense. Eventual refinement of the structure (*vide infra*) indicates that the choice of space group and the signs assigned to the symbolic phases (a, b and c) are probably the correct ones. No attempt was made to use the acentric choice of space group. The scattering curves used were those of Cromer [23d], which were modified by the effects of anomalous dispersion for the copper and potassium atom [23b]. Refinement of the positional and anisotropic thermal parameters for the four copper and eight potassium ions in the asymmetric unit plus the positional and isotropic thermal parameters of the light atoms gave residuals

$$R_1(F) = \Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \Sigma|F_o| = 0.056$$

TABLE II. Positional Parameters Multiplied by  $10^4$ . Anisotropic Thermal Parameters Multiplied by  $10^5$  and Isotropic Thermal Parameters Multiplied by 10.

	x	y	z	$\beta_{11}$ or B	$\beta_{22}$	$\beta_{33}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$	$\beta_{23}$
Cu(1)	2517(1)	1267(1)	2500(-)	76(6)	121(9)	339(34)	- 4(5)	-	-
Cu(2)	0062(1)	3685(1)	2500(-)	81(6)	154(10)	268(33)	3(6)	-	-
Cu(3)	4984(1)	3736(1)	2500(-)	- 86(6)	143(10)	381(34)	6(6)	-	-
Cu(4)	2658(1)	3868(1)	-2500(-)	- 57(6)	130(8)	428(31)	13(6)	-	-
K(1)	0079(2)	3432(3)	-2500(-)	-133(13)	206(19)	276(54)	- 6(12)	-	-
K(2)	0101(2)	1674(3)	2500(-)	-109(13)	179(17)	446(59)	- 2(11)	-	-
K(3)	2510(2)	4150(3)	2500(-)	-122(14)	215(18)	455(61)	- 7(12)	-	-
K(4)	2528(2)	0913(3)	-2500(-)	- 95(13)	161(17)	466(58)	- 2(11)	-	-
K(5)	3665(2)	2515(2)	0099(3)	-113(8)	207(11)	549(46)	-17(7)	10(17)	8(19)
K(6)	1545(2)	2642(2)	-0123(3)	-118(9)	230(11)	651(45)	21(8)	21(16)	-19(18)
K(7)	1052(2)	0078(2)	-0086(3)	-116(9)	259(12)	416(41)	32(8)	- 2(15)	41(19)
K(8)	3945(2)	0061(2)	0014(3)	- 87(8)	212(11)	877(50)	2(8)	4(15)	-94(21)
O(1)	2028(4)	1242(5)	0032(9)	- 29(2)					
O(2)	3006(4)	1149(5)	0035(9)	- 29(2)					
O(3)	2583(4)	2723(5)	1533(10)	- 29(2)					
O(4)	4574(5)	1401(5)	-0040(10)	- 27(2)					
O(5)	0557(4)	3604(5)	0031(10)	- 29(2)					
O(6)	0030(5)	4907(6)	-1519(11)	- 31(2)					
O(7)	4867(5)	2920(6)	1158(12)	43(3)					
O(8)	0414(6)	1436(7)	-0020(13)	57(3)					
O(9)	0014(6)	-0118(8)	1572(2)	60(4)					
O(10)	3769(4)	3863(5)	1523(10)	33(2)					
O(11)	2146(5)	4085(6)	-0013(9)	37(2)					
O(12)	2788(4)	4635(5)	-1113(10)	31(2)					
O(13)	2623(5)	2776(6)	-1551(12)	48(3)					
O(14)	3871(4)	3710(5)	-1517(10)	29(2)					
O(15)	3726(7)	1604(9)	2500(-)	41(4)					
O(16)	3357(9)	0582(11)	2500(-)	63(5)					
O(17)	1402(10)	1345(11)	2500(-)	65(5)					
O(18)	1805(9)	0403(11)	2500(-)	64(5)					
O(19)	1174(8)	3922(10)	2500(-)	58(4)					
O(20)	0829(8)	2909(9)	2500(-)	47(4)					
O(21)	3846(7)	1181(9)	-2500(-)	49(4)					
O(22)	4340(8)	2124(8)	-2500(-)	44(4)					
O(23)	1225(7)	0771(8)	-2500(-)	33(3)					
O(24)	1169(7)	1885(9)	-2500(-)	44(4)					
O(25)	1397(7)	3481(8)	-2500(-)	36(3)					
O(26)	1521(6)	4594(8)	-2500(-)	32(3)					
N(1)	2517(4)	1211(6)	0637(12)	20(3)					
N(2)	0071(5)	3622(6)	0660(11)	17(2)					
N(3)	0074(6)	1961(7)	-0136(15)	36(3)					
N(4)	2534(5)	4559(7)	-0076(14)	33(3)					
N(5)	1349(11)	0730(12)	2500(-)	50(5)					
N(6)	2548(7)	2370(8)	2500(-)	16(4)					
N(7)	3768(12)	0947(14)	2500(-)	68(6)					
N(8)	3865(11)	1815(13)	-2500(-)	55(6)					
N(9)	-0003(8)	4775(10)	2500(-)	37(5)					
N(10)	1282(9)	3293(10)	2500(-)	33(4)					
N(11)	0905(8)	1293(9)	-2500(-)	26(4)					
N(12)	4977(11)	5161(14)	2500(-)	63(7)					
N(13)	4058(7)	3828(9)	2500(-)	23(4)					
N(14)	1752(8)	3988(9)	-2500(-)	25(4)					
N(15)	2583(8)	2439(11)	-2500(-)	33(4)					
N(16)	3570(7)	3767(8)	-2500(-)	21(3)					

$R_2(F) = [\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2 / \sum wF_o^2]^{1/2} = 0.075$   
with an error of fit =  $[\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2 / (NO - NV)]^{1/2}$   
= 1.59.

where NO and NV are the number of observations and variables, respectively and w, the weights were calculated from the expressions  $w = 4F_o^2 / \sigma^2(F_o)$  and

TABLE III. Bond Lengths in Å.

Cu 1-N 1	2.03(1)	Cu 3-N 11	2.02(2)	-O 20	3.29(1)	-O 16	3.15(1)
-N 6	2.09(2)	-N 13	2.02(2)	-O 8	3.35(1)	O 21	3.47(1)
-O 16	2.24(2)	-O 7	2.14(1)	-O 17	3.78(1)	-O 19	3.47(1)
-O 18	2.25(2)	-O 9	2.39(2)	-O 19	3.83(1)		
-O 17	2.42(2)	...N 12 <sup>a</sup>	2.70(3)	-O 7	3.96(1)		
-O 15	2.70(2)	...O 24 <sup>a</sup>	2.83(2)	K 7-O 9 <sup>e</sup>	2.82(1)	N 1-O 1	1.25(1)
...N 5 <sup>a</sup>	2.73(2)	...O 10 <sup>a</sup>	2.85(1)	-O 12	2.88(1)	-O 2	1.25(1)
...N 7	2.78(3)			-O 9 <sup>c</sup>	2.91(2)	N 2-O 4	1.27(1)
				-O 8	2.92(1)	-O 5	1.26(1)
				-O 10	2.92(1)	N 3-O 7	1.22(2)
				-O 23	2.96(1)	-O 8	1.25(2)
Cu 2-N 2	2.01(1)	Cu 4-N 14	1.98(2)	-O 14	3.03(1)		
-N 9	2.07(2)	-N 16	1.99(2)	-O 1	3.06(1)		
-O 22	2.19(2)	-O 12	2.11(1)	-O 18	3.31(1)		
-O 20	2.22(2)	-O 13	2.31(1)	-O 17	3.77(1)		
-O 19	2.45(2)	...N 15	2.71(2)				
-O 21	2.65(2)	...O 26	2.82(2)				
...N 8 <sup>a</sup>	2.76(2)	...O 14	2.86(1)				
...N 10	2.75(2)						
				O 1-N 1-O 2	117(1)	O 6-N 9-O 6	121(2)
				O 4-N 2-O 5	115(1)	O 19-N 10-O 20	115(2)
				O 7-N 3-O 8	117(2)	O 23-N 11-O 24	118(2)
				O 11-N 4-O 12	116(1)	O 9-N 12-O 9	125(3)
				O 17-N 5-O 18	116(3)	O 10-N 13-O 10	119(2)
				O 3-N 6-O 3	115(2)	O 25-N 14-O 26	118(2)
				O 15-N 7-O 16	124(3)	O 13-N 15-O 13	116(2)
				O 21-N 8-O 22	122(2)	O 14-N 16-O 14	117(2)
N 4-O 11	1.23(1)	N 10-O 19	1.21(2)				
-O 12	1.26(2)	-O 20	1.22(2)				
N 5-O 17	1.17(2)	N 11-O 23	1.21(2)				
-O 18	1.17(2)	-O 24	1.26(2)				
N 6-O 3	1.25(1)	N 12-O 9	1.14(2)				
N 7-O 16	1.13(3)	N 13-O 10	1.24(1)				
-O 15	1.25(3)	N 14-O 25	1.23(2)				
N 8-O 22	1.19(3)	-O 26	1.25(2)				
-O 21	1.20(3)	N 15-O 13	1.22(1)				
N 9-O 6	1.23(1)	N 16-O 14	1.26(1)				
K 1-O 25	2.86(2)	K 4-O 23	2.84(2)				
-O 15	2.94(2)	-O 21	2.91(2)				
-O 5	2.96(1)	-O 12	2.93(1)				
-O 7	2.98(1)	-O 2	2.98(1)				
-O 6	2.99(1)	-O 1	3.02(1)				
-O 4	2.99(1)	-O 26	3.24(2)				
-O 24	3.76(2)	-O 24	3.48(2)				
-O 26	3.83(2)	-O 13	3.68(1)				
K 2-O 22	2.81(2)	K 5-O 3	2.85(1)				
-O 20	2.82(2)	-O 4	2.89(1)				
-O 8	2.86(1)	-O 14	2.90(1)				
-O 17	2.89(2)	-O 13	2.93(1)				
-O 14	2.97(1)	-O 7	2.95(1)				
-O 9	3.56(2)	-O 2	2.96(1)				
K 3-O 18	2.80(2)	-O 10	2.99(1)				
-O 11	2.85(1)	-O 15	3.13(1)				
-O 3	2.90(1)	-O 22	3.27(1)				
-O 19	2.93(2)	-O 21	3.81(1)				
-O 10	2.98(1)						
-O 16	3.30(2)						
K 6-O 13	2.82(1)	K 8-O 6 <sup>c</sup>	2.79(1)				
-O 5	2.82(1)	-O 6 <sup>d</sup>	2.87(1)				
-O 1	2.86(1)	-O 4	2.88(1)				
-O 3	2.89(1)	-O 2	2.90(1)				
-O 11	3.03(1)	-O 5	2.95(1)				
-O 25	3.05(1)	-O 11	3.00(1)				
-O 24	3.07(1)	-O 26	3.05(1)				

<sup>a</sup>... denotes an intramolecular, non-bonded contact. <sup>b</sup>Nitrogen atoms for which only one N-O distance is quoted lie on mirror planes and, therefore, there is only one independent N-O distance for those NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> ions. <sup>c</sup>At x, y, z. <sup>d</sup>At 1 - x, -y, -z. <sup>e</sup>At -x, -y, -z.

$$\sigma(F_o^2) = 1/Lp[(I + B)^2 + (0.051)^2]^{1/2}$$

with Lp = the Lorentz and polarization factors, I is the total integrated intensity of the peak and B is the time-scaled background [25]. The final values of the positional and thermal parameters are listed in Table II and the distances and angles are listed in Table III. A table of structure amplitudes, their estimated standard deviations and the values of the calculated structure amplitudes is reproduced in Table IV. The shapes of the molecular species present in the lattice of K<sub>3</sub>Cu(NO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub> are shown in Figures 1-10 and a packing diagram is shown in Fig. 11.

## Description of the Structure

### The Environment of the Cu<sup>2+</sup> Ions

Although there are four structurally independent copper species in the asymmetric unit, there are only two molecularly different entities occurring in pairs. Thus, Cu1 and Cu2 form a pair as do Cu3 and Cu4. The members of this pair have qualitative shapes which are identical to the eye; furthermore, the differences in bond lengths and angles for chemically related pairs in species 1 and 2 or 3 and 4 are of doubtful statistical significance. As a result, we felt it was unnecessary to depict the members of the pair as separate figures; instead, we labelled the central ions



TABLE IV. (continued)

Table with 5 columns of data, containing numerical values ranging from 7 to 16 in the first column and 1 to 10 in the second column.

Main data table with 5 columns of data, containing numerical values ranging from 14 to 17 in the first column and 1 to 17 in the second column.

Table with 5 columns of data, containing numerical values ranging from 4 to 5 in the first column and 6 to 16 in the second column.

(All columns continued on opposite page)

5	16	959	41	988	1	17	369	30	407	1	4	455	24	495	2	7	361	26	414	3	3	467	31	494
5	18	965	41	905	1	18	507	28	451	1	5	600	27	560	2	10	1408	57	1343	3	11	722	33	709
6	1	296	21	244	2	2	3045	132	2875	1	6	1042	43	996	2	12	422	28	412	4	0	310	25	375
6	2	3446	133	3693	2	6	590	27	724	1	7	1075	44	994	2	16	359	29	476	4	4	461	31	451
6	4	411	23	449	2	7	591	27	594	1	8	359	24	384	2	15	486	28	519	4	8	639	31	601
6	5	661	31	693	2	10	2273	91	2243	1	10	861	37	832	2	16	422	28	435	5	3	496	29	564
6	10	2682	103	2716	2	11	282	28	246	1	11	522	27	467	3	1	570	26	471	5	6	484	28	445
6	11	743	34	787	2	12	399	25	331	1	12	1056	44	1032	3	2	435	27	447	5	7	385	32	358
6	13	302	34	371	2	14	733	53	444	1	14	594	29	611	3	3	311	35	329	6	2	1294	53	1307
6	14	430	31	701	2	14	437	27	441	1	16	980	41	942	3	5	561	28	536	6	3	444	28	452
6	15	680	34	831	2	18	944	40	935	2	1	605	27	551	3	6	470	27	501	6	6	1333	55	1335
6	18	1449	60	1397	3	3	492	27	462	2	2	2122	86	1904	3	7	655	31	472	7	2	384	28	397
7	2	501	24	491	3	5	427	25	407	2	6	892	38	974	3	8	422	27	456	7	7	420	34	476
7	3	609	27	609	3	7	474	25	532	2	7	1496	69	1701	3	9	673	31	660	8	0	591	28	564
7	5	661	30	715	3	9	494	26	478	2	9	543	27	518	3	12	370	28	333	8	4	560	29	512
7	5	356	25	310	3	11	474	41	947	2	10	2743	110	2664	4	4	1074	45	1009	10	1	424	28	445
7	7	497	27	508	3	11	715	32	710	2	11	1059	44	1043	4	5	312	30	331	10	0	2475	100	2170
7	6	381	28	454	3	13	492	27	424	2	14	809	35	813	4	8	748	34	752	0	4	3094	124	2925
7	10	1308	54	1404	4	13	327	20	254	2	15	1275	53	1181	4	9	415	28	467	0	4	3094	124	2925
7	12	502	23	453	4	1	433	22	421	3	1	406	23	380	4	12	502	29	494	2	3	381	31	330
7	13	935	41	981	4	4	1334	55	1244	3	6	582	28	515	5	1	547	26	514	2	6	1116	47	968
7	14	323	34	315	4	5	489	26	557	3	7	448	26	511	5	2	277	28	260	2	7	462	28	393
7	15	481	30	509	4	8	1022	43	971	3	8	1324	54	1341	5	10	752	36	729	4	0	2894	116	3055
7	17	380	32	371	4	9	566	28	460	3	9	753	34	767	5	14	539	29	504	6	2	956	41	958
7	18	971	42	1060	4	12	590	29	556	3	10	967	41	981	6	1	359	24	381	6	2	956	41	958
8	0	5016	211	5158	4	13	1235	51	1135	3	12	1020	43	979	6	2	1477	60	1626	6	2	1477	60	1626
8	1	936	37	829	4	16	374	29	391	3	15	436	29	480	6	6	1422	58	1445	6	7	412	29	410
8	3	334	23	319	4	17	513	29	570	3	16	489	28	447	6	7	412	29	410	6	10	1841	75	1767
8	4	451	25	496	5	1	238	23	187	4	0	5511	221	5980	6	11	323	33	330	6	11	323	33	330
8	5	335	26	331	5	3	694	31	773	4	1	529	25	574	6	14	844	38	843	6	14	844	38	843
8	8	2032	82	1939	5	4	497	25	450	4	4	1208	50	1194	7	2	432	26	455	7	2	432	26	455
8	9	383	27	357	5	6	508	27	524	4	7	619	30	566	7	3	826	36	889	7	3	826	36	889
8	10	421	23	377	5	7	475	27	463	4	8	5473	219	5482	7	5	332	29	288	7	5	332	29	288
8	12	865	36	765	5	10	666	32	657	4	10	410	27	420	7	5	332	29	288	7	5	332	29	288

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12.12.45.-- U43.048 PP SEC
12.12.45.-- 000.292 EC SEC
12.12.45.-- 000.013 HOURS
12.12.45.-- 000.990 KWH
12.12.45.-- 001.822 CCU AT $1.15/CCU (+0.45/CCU LAB OVHD)
12.12.45.-- 000.000 NTAPES
12.12.45.-- 001.000 LTAPES
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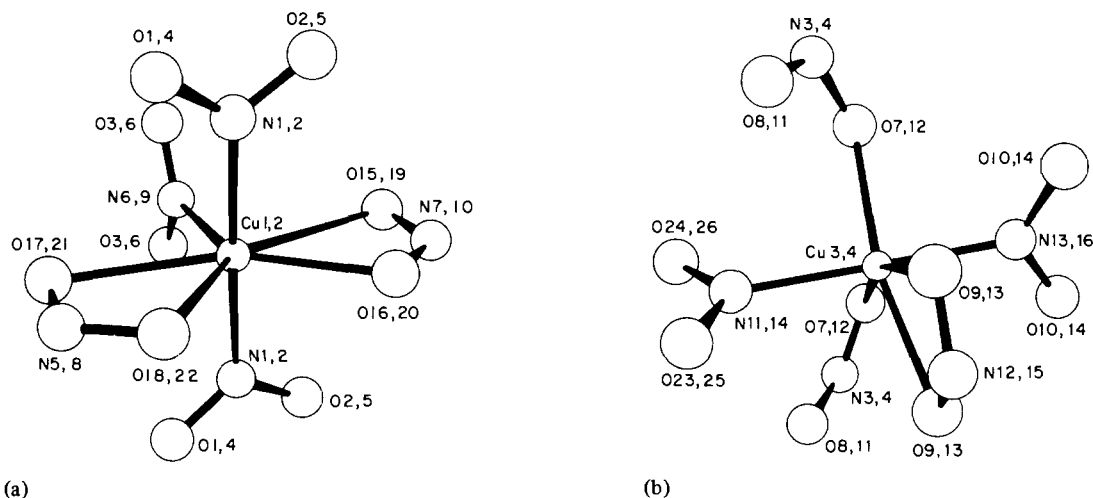
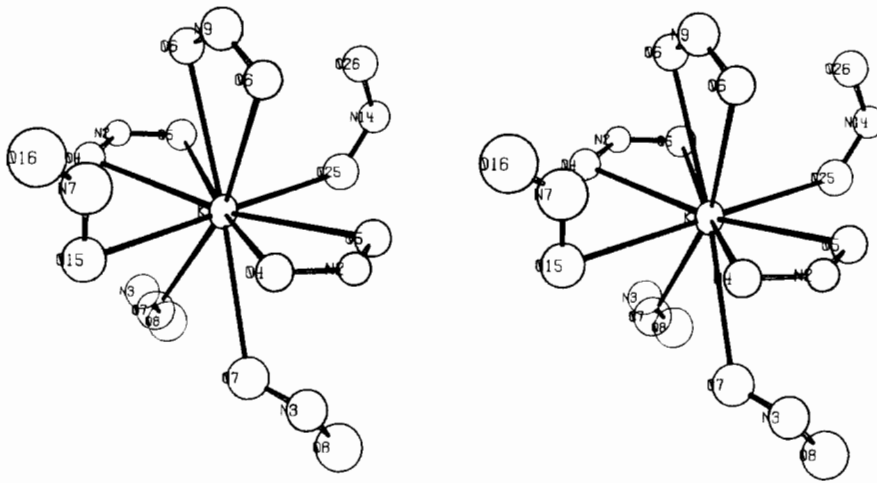
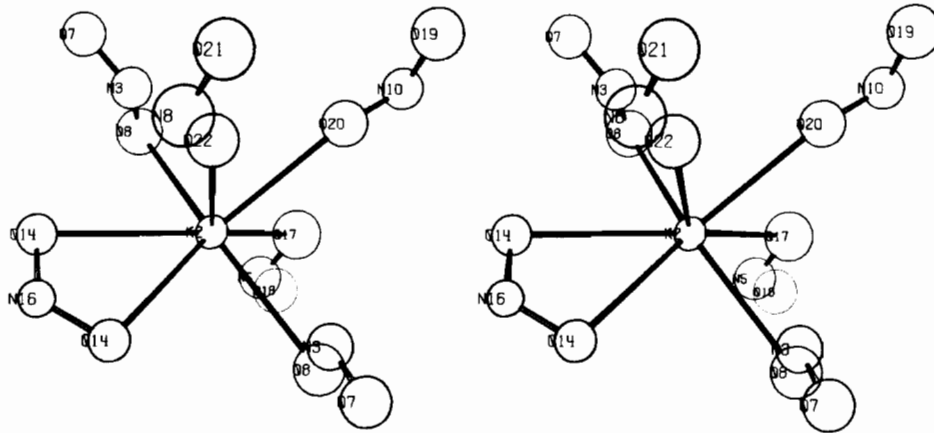


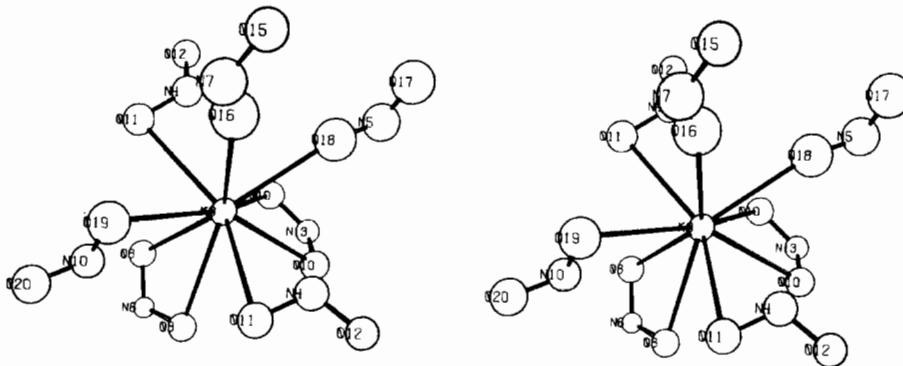
Figure 1. The shape of the coordination sphere around (a) Cu1,2 and (b) Cu3,4 and the numbering system used in labelling atoms in the crystallographic study.



(a)



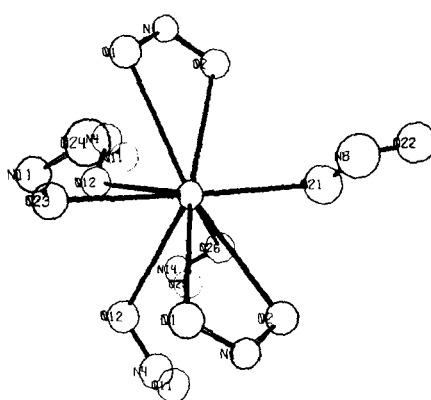
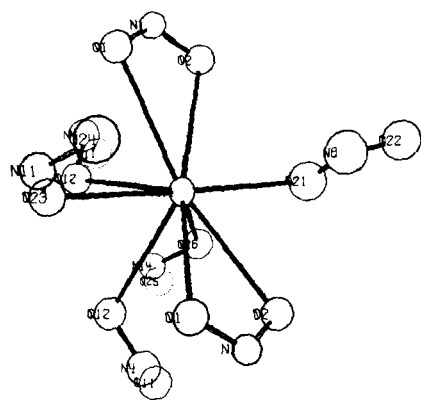
(b)



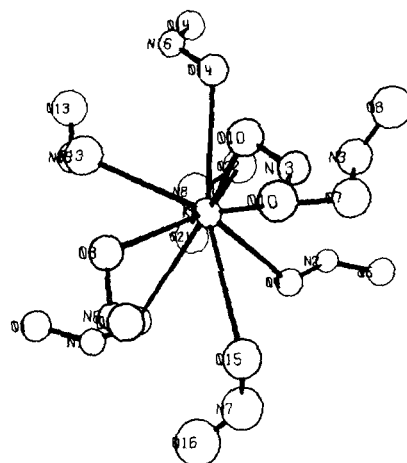
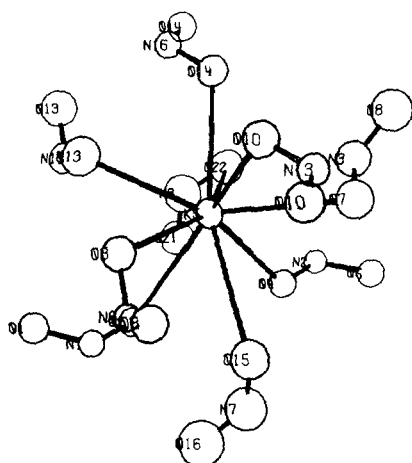
(c)

Fig. 2(a)–(c). (For caption see page 126)

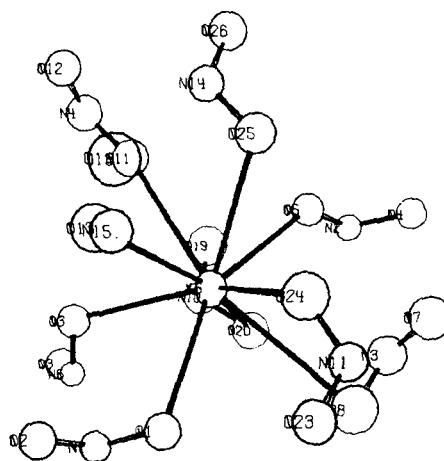
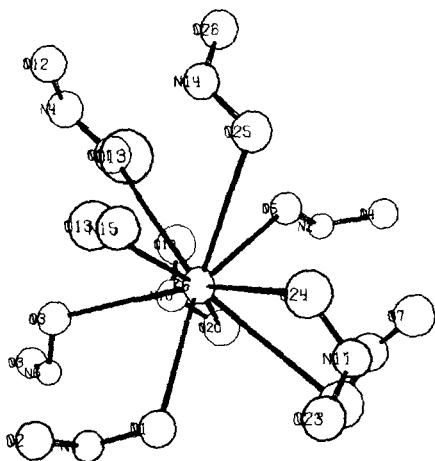




(d)

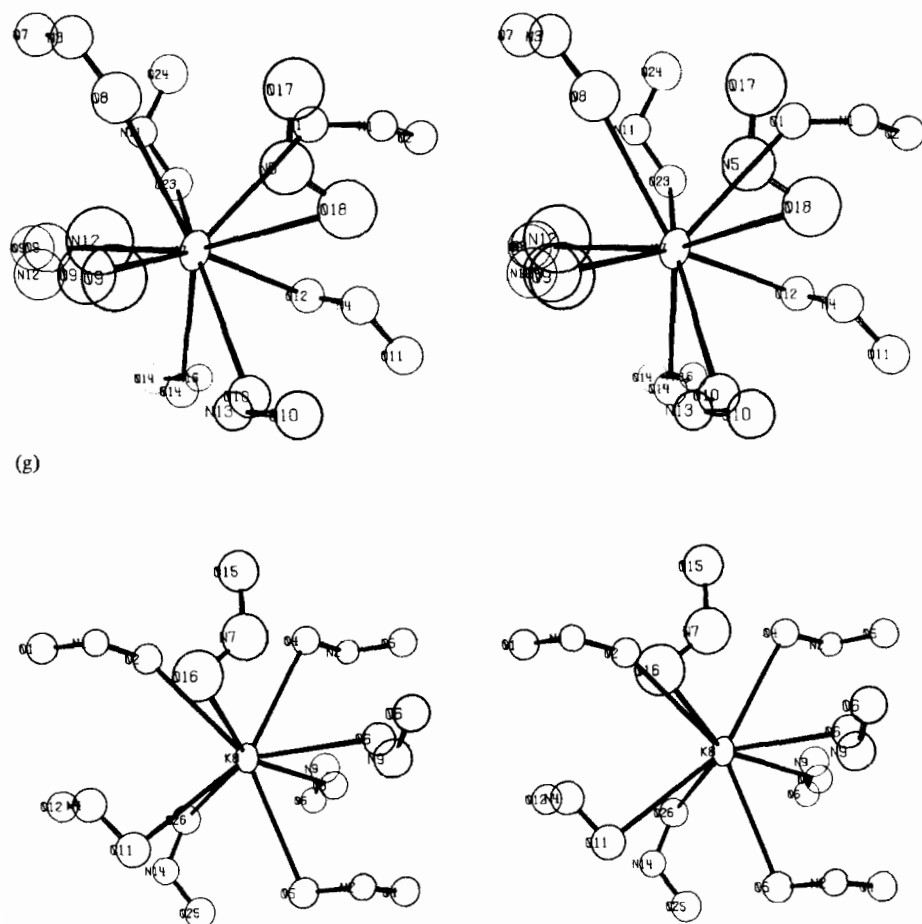


(e)



(f)

Fig. 2(a)–(f). (For caption see page 126.)



(g)

Figure 2 (a)-(h). The coordination sphere around potassium atom K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7, K8 (according to the figure in question) and the numbering of the atoms binding the potassium atom.

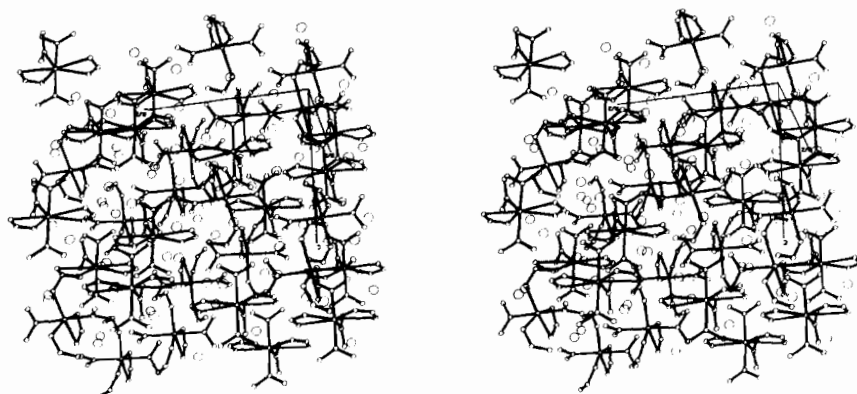


Figure 3. The packing of the cations and anions in the unit cell.

as Cu1,2 and Cu3,4. The ligands are labelled in the same way; *i.e.*, in Fig. 1, the ligands around Cu1 are O15, O16, O18, O21, N1, N6, *etc.* that is, they are

the ligands with numbers between the atomic symbol and the comma separating the two sets of numbers. The two species labelled 1 and 2 (see Fig. 1) have

seven ligands irregularly distributed about them [26]. The two N ligands (N1 and N2, respectively for Cu1 and Cu2) are within 2.02(1) Å of their respective Cu while the other independent nitrogen (N6, 9) is 2.08(1) Å away. The small, but significant, difference is probably due to a larger metal to ligand repulsion in the basal plane of the quasi-trigonal bipyramidal Cu moiety, as was found to be the case with  $CuCl_3^{3-}$  and with  $CdCl_3^{3-}$  ions [27]. Since the plane of the nitro ligands belonging to N6 and N9 (the plane of the basal nitro ligands) is nearly normal to the plane containing the Cu and the two bidentate basal ligands, the amount of ligand–ligand repulsion in the trigonal plane must be nil. Therefore, we attribute the difference in axial and equatorial Cu–N distance to an increased Coulomb repulsion between metal electrons and ligand electrons and not to either steric hindrance nor to interligand repulsions in the basal plane [27].

The oxygen ligands (O16 and O18 for Cu1) are, within experimental error, at the same bonding distance to their respective copper atoms (*i.e.*, 2.32(2) Å). The sixth and seventh ligands (O15 and O17 for Cu1) are, respectively, 2.70(2) and 2.42(2) Å away from the central ion. Similar “long bonds” were found by Wallwork and Addison [7], Duffin and Wallwork [8a] and by Duffin [8b] in anhydrous copper nitrate and other related substances. It would be easy in our case to attribute these “long bonds” to attempts by the  $NO_2^-$  ligands to relieve the electronic strain imposed on the central ion by the formation of four-membered rings,  $CuO_2N$ , with very small O–Cu–O angles of approximately  $50^\circ$ ; however, this is an unlikely explanation since copper species 3 and 4 contain  $NO_2^-$  ligands (O9–N12–O9 for Cu3 and O13–N15–O13 for Cu4) for which the O–Cu–O angles are  $51^\circ$  and the two Cu–O distances are identical (by symmetry requirements) and equal to 2.35(6) Å, a value which is shorter than either of the two Cu–O bonds under consideration.

The second type of copper ion in the lattice (Cu3,4) contain two nitro ligands with Cu–N(av) distances of 2.00(2) Å which, within the stated e.s.d.’s are identical in length with those of the first pair of copper species (Cu1,2) despite the differences in the shapes of the coordination spheres. The two monodentate nitrito ligands (see Fig. 2) are related by a mirror plane and the unique Cu–O distance is 2.12(2) Å, which is somewhat shorter than the Cu–O distances found for the bidentate  $NO_2^-$  species shown in Fig. 1. The bidentate nitrito ligand shown in Fig. 2 has two symmetrical Cu–O distances whose average value is 2.35(6) Å, which is 0.23 Å longer than those for the monodentate nitrito ligand, as expected. It is interesting to note at this point that the copper complex shown in Fig. 2 contains all the possible binding modes that an  $NO_2^-$  ligand can exhibit when bound to a single central metal ion.

### The Coordination Sphere Around the K Ions

There are eight crystallographically independent potassium ions in the asymmetric unit and the shape of the coordination sphere around each depends on the size of the radius we consider reasonable to accept as being within “bonding distance”. The results are summarized in Table V. The results of

TABLE V. Number of Ligands about Potassium in a Sphere of Given Radius.

	Radius		
	3.2 Å	3.4 Å	3.8 Å
K(1)	10	10	11
K(2)	7	7	9
K(3)	8	9	9
K(4)	8	9	12
K(5)	8	9	9
K(6)	7	9	10
K(7)	8	9	10
K(8)	8	8	10

using a cut-off radius of 3.2 Å is shown in Figs. 3–10 where the eight potassiums are shown together with their ligands and enough other atoms (N or O) to identify the  $NO_2^-$  ligand in question, unless these extra atoms made the drawing too heavily overlapped. The eight independent potassiums fall into two categories depending on whether they lie at symmetry positions (mirror planes) or whether they occupy general positions of the space group. K1 through K4 lie on mirror planes and also contain one or more bidentate  $NO_2^-$  ligands in their coordination sphere whereas K5 through K8 are found at general positions and are never coordinated by more than one oxygen of the  $NO_2^-$  ligands. The problem in describing the coordination number and the shape of the polyhedron around each of the potassium ions is that the distances of *all* the “neighboring” oxygens for a given potassium range from 2.80 to 3.80 Å. In many ways this problem is similar to that encountered by crystallographers attempting to describe the coordination polyhedra found in alloys such as  $Pu_2Zn_{19}$  in which Larsson and Cromer [28] state, for example, that the nearest neighbors to one of the Zn atoms (Zn(12)) are located at distances ranging from 2.546(10) Å to 3.830(10) Å. As a result, we have calculated the number of ligand atoms which are found around each potassium and present the results on Table V. As can be seen from Figs. 3 to 10, the coordination polyhedra around the potassiums do not exhibit the shapes of any of the classical polyhedra. These problems seem to be common in potassium stereochemistry; for example, Hall and Holland [10] and Power, *et al.* [11] found that the two potassiums in  $K_3K_8(NO_2)_4(NO_3)$  also have irregular coordination

spheres with "neighboring" atom distances ranging 2.68 to 3.58 Å, values which are close to those found in this study and which present many close parallels as far as the nature of the ions and ligands concerned. Again, Larsson and Nahringerbauer [29] found that the crystallographically independent potassium ion in  $\text{KH}(\text{HCO}_2)_2$  contains eight oxygen nearest neighbors arranged in the form of a distorted square antiprism with K-O distances ranging from 2.773(4) to 3.059(4) Å. However, because of symmetry requirements, the potassiums in compounds of the composition  $\text{K}_2\text{BaCo}(\text{NO}_2)_6$  [14] and  $\text{K}_2\text{PbCu}(\text{NO}_2)_6$  [30] contain symmetrically distributed oxygen ligands. Consequently, the shape of the polyhedra around potassium ions seem to be determined primarily by packing considerations dictated by the requirements of the anions with which they are associated.

#### *The Packing of the $\text{K}^+$ and $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_2)_3^{3-}$ Ions in the Lattice*

As shown above, the distribution of the individual nearest neighbor atoms to the potassiums is fairly complex; however, if one visualizes the potassium ions and the  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_2)_3^{3-}$  anions as spheres, the packing in the lattice becomes fairly simple. In the pseudo-cubic lattice defined by  $1/2a$ ,  $1/2b$  and  $c$ , the packing is very close to a face-centered(F) cubic lattice in which the potassiums in general positions occupy tetrahedral holes between the  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_2)_3^{3-}$  anions while those potassiums in special positions are octahedrally surrounded by the same anions. There is a simple packing relationship between Cu1 and Cu2 ions; namely, they are related by a two-fold axis with a translation of  $1/4y$ . This pseudo-symmetry element lies approximately at  $x = 1/8$  and  $z = 1/4$ . The stereo pair showing the packing (Fig. 11) shows reasonably clearly the packing features described in this section.

#### *A Comment on the Electron Spin Resonance Spectrum of $\text{K}_3\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_2)_5$*

Attempts to study the esr spectrum of this substance at room temperature [20] gave very distorted, broad lines which were barely above the natural noise level of the Varian 4502 spectrometer. This was true irrespective of the solvent (or solvent mixture) used in the experiment although this choice was somewhat limited by the ionic nature of the compound. However, it is sufficiently soluble in methanol, DMF, diethyl ether and mixtures of these to allow preparation of solutions with concentrations normally expected to give strong signals (*i.e.*, 0.001 to 0.050 *M*). However, it was noted [20] that the esr spectra are temperature dependent in such a way as to suggest an equilibrium between two or more species and/or fluxionally equilibrated isomers. We can now easily understand the nature of this phenomenon by observing the structural details of Cu1,2 and Cu3,4. For example, if bond Cu3-O9 is broken while

forming the bond Cu3-O8 (see Fig. 2), we obtain a species identical with the parent one. The reader can readily convince himself (herself) that there are four such possible pathways. Also, if we form bond Cu3-O8 (Fig. 2) while breaking bond Cu3-O7 and forming a Cu3-N3 we get the same molecule as that shown in Fig. 1. This is not unreasonable since the breaking of Cu3-O7 while forming a Cu3-N3 bond can be a simple shift of atomic positions involving no real bond breaking at that region of the molecule. The reader can easily work out a number of such rearrangements and become convinced that there is a sufficiently large number of *inter* and *intra* molecular rearrangements possible in solution to readily account for the high distortion and broadening of the solution esr spectrum.

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