

**Preparation and Crystal Structures of Tetrakis-(methyltrihydroborato)uranium(IV)bis(tetrahydrofuranate) and Tetrakis(methyltrihydroborato)-uranium(IV)tetrahydrothiophenate\***

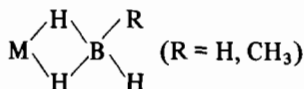
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**Summary.** The U(IV) complexes,  $U(BH_3CH_3)_4 \cdot 20C_4H_8$  and  $[U(BH_3CH_3)_4 \cdot SC_4H_8]_2$ , have been prepared and their structures determined. Crystals of  $(BH_3CH_3)_4U \cdot 20C_4H_8$  are orthorhombic, *Aba2*, with  $a = 12.911(3)$ ,  $b = 16.072(4)$ ,  $c = 10.116(4)$  Å, at 23 °C. For  $Z = 2$  the calculated density is 1.574 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Crystals of  $[(CH_3BH_3)_4U \cdot SC_4H_8]_2$  are monoclinic, *P2<sub>1</sub>/c*, with  $a = 12.054(2)$ ,  $b = 16.372(3)$ ,  $c = 18.545(3)$  Å and  $\beta = 108.82(2)^\circ$  at 23 °C. For  $Z = 4$  the calculated density is 1.694 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. The structures were refined by full-matrix least-squares to a conventional *R* factor of 0.028, [ $1378$  data,  $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$ ] for the tetrahydrofuran complex, and 0.038 [ $2732$  data,  $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$ ] for the tetrahydrothiophene complex. The tetrahydrofuran complex is monomolecular with the uranium atom on a two-fold axis and coordinated to four methyltrihydroborato and two tetrahydrofuran ligands; the U-B distances are 2.55(2) and 2.58(2) Å, and the U-O distance is 2.485(6) Å. The tetrahydrothiophene complex is a dimer in which two sulfur atoms bridge the uranium atoms of two tetra-(methyltrihydroborato)uranium(IV) molecules; the U-B distances range from 2.468(2) to 2.591(2) Å, and the U-S distances are 3.120(4) and 3.239(5) Å; the S-S and U-U distances in the bridge are 3.477(5) and 5.374(1) Å, respectively.

## Introduction

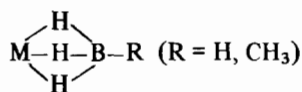
Structural studies of actinide(IV)tetrahydroborate and -methyltrihydroborate complexes have been reported [1-5]. Typically the tetrahydroborate or methyltrihydroborate group is coordinated to the metal through bidentate or tridentate ligation:



bidentate coordination

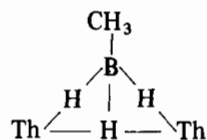
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tridentate coordination

In the case of the actinide(IV)tetrahydroborate complexes, the bidentate bridge often links two adjacent metal atoms. Examples include  $U(BH_4)_4$  [1],  $U(BH_4)_4 \cdot OMe_2$  [2a],  $U(BH_4)_4 \cdot OEt_2$  [2a], and  $U(BH_4)_4 \cdot O(n-Pr)_2$  [2c]. In the dimeric complexes,  $[Th(BH_3CH_3)_4]_2 \cdot OEt_2$  and  $[Th(BH_3CH_3)_4 \cdot THF]_2$  [5c], the methyltrihydroborate ligand serves in a unique bridging capacity since it cannot form bidentate hydrogen bridges between adjacent metal atoms as in the actinide(IV)tetrahydroborate complexes.\* The Th atoms are linked by a Th-H-BH-(CH<sub>3</sub>)-H-Th bridge, with the unique hydrogen atom directly bridging the two Th atoms:



This type of bridging is similar to that found in the complex,  $Co_6(BH_4)_2[Ph_2P(CH_2)_5PPh_2]_2 \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$  [6] and occurs when the coordination sphere about the metal ion is not saturated.

In order to explore further the coordination geometry of the  $BH_3CH_3^-$  ligand, we have prepared several other mono-base adducts of  $Th(BH_3CH_3)_4$  and  $U(BH_3CH_3)_4$  as well as some bis-base adducts [5d]. In this paper we report the synthesis and crystal structures of two uranium(IV)methyltrihydroborate complexes,  $U(BH_3CH_3)_4 \cdot 2THF$  and  $[U(BH_3CH_3)_4 \cdot THT]_2$ .

## Experimental

All preparations were carried out under an atmosphere of argon or under high vacuum. Toluene was dried over Na and distilled under argon before use. Diethyl ether and THF were distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl under argon. Tetrahydrothiophene was dried over  $CaH_2$  and distilled under argon before use. Benzene-d<sub>6</sub> and toluene-d<sub>8</sub> were degassed and dried over Na. Melting points (m.p.) were determined in sealed argon-filled capillaries and

\*Me = CH<sub>3</sub>, Et = C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, Pr = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, THF = OC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>, THT = SC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>.

are uncorrected.  $\text{LiBH}_3\text{CH}_3$  was prepared according to the procedure of Wartik and Schlesinger [7].  $\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4$  was prepared as described earlier [5a].

#### Preparation of $\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot 2\text{THF}$

To 0.75 g (2.0 mmol)  $\text{UCl}_4$  and 0.30 g (8.4 mmol)  $\text{LiBH}_3\text{CH}_3$ , about 5 ml of THF were added and stirred for 12 h. The THF was pumped off and the yellow-brown residue sublimed at 75 °C. A yield of 0.17 g (17%) of emerald green crystals was obtained. Its elemental analysis and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR were consistent with the formula  $\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot 2\text{THF}$ . Crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were grown from a toluene solution at -20 °C. m.p. = 95–98 °C. *Anal.* Calc. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{40}\text{B}_4\text{O}_2\text{U}$ : C, 28.96; H, 8.10. Found: C, 28.92; H, 7.87%.

#### Preparation of $[\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot \text{THT}]_2$

$\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4$  (0.32 g, 0.91 mmol) was dissolved in toluene; 0.16 ml (1.8 mmol) THT was added and stirred for about 2 h; the solution was filtered, concentrated to 3 ml and cooled to -20 °C. Dark green crystals were obtained, which were washed with cold (-78 °C) hexene. A yield of 0.08 g (20%) was obtained. Its elemental analysis and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR indicate it has the empirical formula,  $\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot \text{THT}$ . m.p. = 92–94 °C. *Anal.* Calc. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{64}\text{B}_8\text{S}_2\text{U}_2$ : C, 21.76; H, 7.30; S, 7.26. Found: C, 21.76; H, 7.17; S, 6.89%.

Infrared and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are given in Tables I–III.

#### X-ray Diffraction

The air-sensitive crystals were sealed in quartz capillaries inside a dry box. A modified FACS-I Picker diffractometer was used to collect  $\theta$ - $2\theta$  scanned single crystal X-ray diffraction data using graphite monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation. For the orthorhombic tetrahydrofuran structure a quadrant of data was collected to a  $2\theta$  angle of 60°; for the monoclinic thiophenate half a sphere of data was collected to a  $2\theta$  value of 50°. The data were corrected for absorption effects. The Friedel pairs in the non-centric orthorhombic structure were treated

TABLE I. Infrared Spectroscopic Data

Compound				
$\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot 2\text{THF}$				
2950m,	2230m,	2140s,	2080s,	1340m,
1300s,	1225s,	1100m,	1065m,	1040m,
1010s,	950m,	925m,	850s,	835m,
735m,	670m			
$[\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot \text{THT}]_2$				
2950m,	2160s,	2080s,	1300s,	1240s,
1070m,	1030w,	960w,	890w,	800m,
725m,	665w			

TABLE II. Proton Magnetic Resonance Data<sup>a</sup>

Compound	
$\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot 2\text{THF}^b$	
+5.51 (8H, s),	+10.63 (12H, s)
+11.08 (8H, s),	+127.34 (12H, doub)
$[\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot \text{THT}]_2^c$	
+3.45 (8H, s),	+8.77 (8H, s)
+13.81 (24H, s),	+145.17 (24H, doub)

<sup>a</sup>Shifts in ppm from tetramethylsilane. Positive sign indicates downfield shift. All values at 30 °C. <sup>b</sup>Concentration =  $1.2 \times 10^{-3}$  g/ml benzene- $d_6$ . <sup>c</sup>Concentration =  $1.2 \times 10^{-2}$  g/ml toluene- $d_8$ .

TABLE III.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Data for  $[\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot \text{THT}]_2^{a,b,c}$

T (°C)	$\text{BH}_3$	$\text{CH}_3$	THT
-90	-105.68 (12H, s)	-43.23 (12H, s)	-47.23 (8H, s)
	d	104.82 (12H, s)	-23.52 (8H, s)
-72	e	f	-30.75 (8H, s)
			-11.94 (8H, s)
-54	e	20.41 (24H, s) <sup>g</sup>	-10.79 (8H, s)
			-3.25 (8H, s)
30	145.17 (24H, s) <sup>h</sup>	13.81 (24H, s) <sup>g</sup>	3.45 (8H, s)
			8.77 (8H, s)

<sup>a</sup>In toluene- $d_8$ . <sup>b</sup>Shifts in ppm from  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$ . Positive sign indicates downfield shift. <sup>c</sup>Concentration = 0.012 g/ml. <sup>d</sup>Other  $\text{BH}_3$  peak too far downfield to be observed. <sup>e</sup> $\text{BH}_3$  broadened into baseline due to rapid exchange of  $\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3$  sites. <sup>f</sup> $\text{CH}_3$  peak broadened into baseline due to rapid exchange of  $\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3$  sites. <sup>g</sup>Averaged  $\text{CH}_3$  peak. <sup>h</sup>Averaged  $\text{BH}_3$  peak.

as independent reflections; the centric monoclinic equivalent reflections were averaged. Experimental details of the data collection and the results of the least-squares refinements are tabulated in the Supplementary Material. The structures were solved by Patterson and Fourier methods. The positional and anisotropic thermal parameters of the non-hydrogen atoms were refined by full-matrix least-squares. Hydrogen atoms were not included. Some of the difference Fourier peaks were identified as possible hydrogen atoms, but attempts to process them as hydrogen atoms in the least-squares refinements failed. The absolute configuration of the tetrahydrofuran complex was determined by comparing the results of the refinements of the enantiomorphic structure using  $hkl$  and  $h\bar{k}l$  data (Friedel pairs); the structure reported here resulted in an *R* factor of 0.028 versus 0.032 for the inverted structure. Neutral atomic scattering factors were used [8] with the corrections for anomalous scattering applied. Positional parameters are given in Table IV. ORTEP structures are shown in Figs. 1 and 2 [9].

TABLE IV. Positional Parameters with Estimated Standard Deviations<sup>a</sup>

Atom	x	y	z
<b>(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>U·2(OC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>)</b>			
U	0.0	0.0	0.0
O	-0.1732(5)	0.0674(4)	-0.0070(22)
B(1)	0.0384(13)	0.1097(10)	-0.1800(17)
B(2)	0.0849(11)	0.0903(10)	0.1773(15)
C(1)	0.0739(10)	0.1738(9)	-0.2940(14)
C(2)	0.1287(10)	0.1504(9)	0.2945(15)
C(3)	-0.2699(10)	0.0277(9)	0.026(6)
C(4)	-0.3554(9)	0.0915(11)	0.018(4)
C(5)	-0.3068(11)	0.1704(10)	0.015(5)
C(6)	-0.1922(11)	0.1544(8)	-0.023(5)
<b>[(CH<sub>3</sub>BH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>U·SC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>]<sub>2</sub></b>			
U(1)	0.21704(6)	0.20201(4)	-0.30664(4)
U(2)	0.27555(6)	-0.09460(4)	0.20013(4)
S(1)	0.3126(3)	0.10326(25)	0.19534(22)
S(2)	0.1840(3)	0.00630(28)	0.31517(23)
B(1)	0.1187(18)	0.1958(15)	0.4083(12)
B(2)	0.4320(15)	0.1723(11)	0.3856(11)
B(3)	0.2561(19)	0.3498(12)	0.2890(15)
B(4)	0.0398(17)	0.1933(13)	0.1876(12)
B(5)	0.0593(19)	-0.0632(14)	0.1264(13)
B(6)	0.4585(18)	-0.0821(13)	0.3205(12)
B(7)	0.2412(18)	-0.2406(13)	0.2185(14)
B(8)	0.3633(19)	-0.0935(13)	0.0944(14)
C(1)	0.0576(19)	0.1946(14)	0.4732(12)
C(2)	0.5670(15)	0.1593(12)	0.4342(11)
C(3)	0.2853(16)	0.4445(11)	0.2798(12)
C(4)	-0.0740(15)	0.1844(13)	0.1078(12)
C(5)	-0.0755(14)	-0.0427(12)	0.0826(11)
C(6)	0.5686(18)	-0.0786(12)	0.3957(12)
C(7)	0.2177(15)	-0.3373(12)	0.2252(13)
C(8)	0.4115(18)	-0.0980(12)	0.0230(12)
C(9)	0.4687(13)	0.1227(10)	0.2057(11)
C(10)	0.4670(19)	0.1660(17)	0.1324(13)
C(11)	0.3568(23)	0.1623(19)	0.0731(13)
C(12)	0.2513(15)	0.1381(12)	0.0956(9)
C(13)	0.0291(13)	-0.0181(11)	0.3090(10)
C(14)	0.0345(19)	-0.0569(18)	0.3823(14)
C(15)	0.1433(23)	-0.0566(20)	0.4386(15)
C(16)	0.2479(16)	-0.0280(12)	0.4165(9)

<sup>a</sup>Estimated standard deviations in this and subsequent tables are indicated in parentheses.

## Discussion

The crystal structure of U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·2THF is very similar to that of U(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·2THF [2b]. The four BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> groups and two THF groups form a distorted octahedron about the uranium (Fig. 1). The THF groups are *trans* to each other. The U–B–C angles are close to 180°, indicative of tridentate ligation to the metal. The average U–B distance (2.57 ± 0.02 Å) compares favorably with the tridentate U–B distance found in U(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·2THF (2.56(4) Å) [2b]. It is larger than that found for

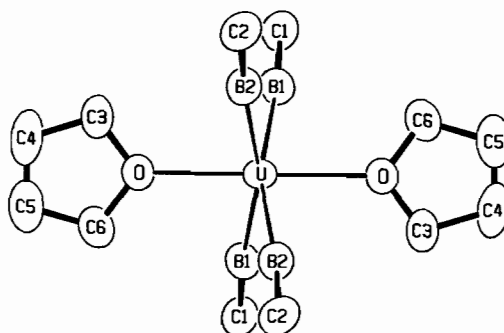


Fig. 1. ORTEP drawing of U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·2(OC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>); thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level.

U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (2.48 ± 0.03 Å) [5a], presumably due to its larger coordination number (14 vs. 12). The U–O bond distance (2.485(6) Å) is also close to that of U(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·2THF (2.47(1) Å) [2b]. Selected bond distances and angles are given in Table V.

The crystal structure shows that [U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·THT]<sub>2</sub> is dimeric, but with a different structure than [Th(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·THT]<sub>2</sub> [5c]. The two U atoms are bridged by the sulfur atoms of the THT groups (see Fig. 2). The plane of the two bridging THT groups is perpendicular to the plane containing the U(1), U(2), S(1), S(2) atoms. Selected bond distances and angles are given in Table V. All of the BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> groups are tridentate. The average U–B distance is 2.54 ± 0.04 Å, which is comparable with the average U–B(tridentate) bond length of 2.57 ± 0.04 Å found in U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·2THF. The two average U–S bond lengths are 3.14 ± 0.03 and 3.26 ± 0.03 Å. There are two different BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> sites of equal population, those that are pointed towards the THT groups and those that are pointed away from them. These two different sites are observed in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum. IR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral data are presented in Tables I–III. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·THT]<sub>2</sub>, we see one BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> site, which coalesces and then splits into two different BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> sites of equal population at -90 °C (see Table III). The mono-THT adduct of U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> is probably not a monomer in solution like U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·THF, since equivalent BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> sites were observed in the NMR spectrum at low temperatures for the latter [5c].

Geometric calculations using the cone angle model of Bagnall and Li [10] do not indicate any major steric factors in the coordination geometry of the [U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)·THT]<sub>2</sub> complex with bridging THT groups or an assumed structure based on the geometry of [Th(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·THT]<sub>2</sub> with bridging methyltrihydroborate groups. Thus electronic effects may be the reason for the preferred dimeric geometry in [U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)·THT]<sub>2</sub>.

Comparison of the Lewis base adducts Th(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> and U(BH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> is instructive. The Th(IV)

TABLE V. Selected Bond Distances and Angles

$(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4\text{U} \cdot 2(\text{OC}_4\text{H}_8)^{\text{a}}$		$[(\text{CH}_3\text{BH}_3)_4\text{U} \cdot \text{SC}_4\text{H}_8]_2$			
<b>Distances (Å)</b>					
U–B(1)	2.583(17)	U(1)–B(1)	2.533(17)	U(2)–B(5)	2.574(22)
		U(1)–B(2)	2.578(18)	U(2)–B(6)	2.591(22)
U–B(2)	2.554(15)	U(1)–B(3)	2.506(20)	U(2)–B(7)	2.468(21)
		U(1)–B(4)	2.532(22)	U(2)–B(8)	2.511(20)
U–O	2.485(6)	U(1)–S(1)	3.120(4)	U(2)–S(1)	3.275(4)
		U(1)–S(2)	3.239(5)	U(2)–S(2)	3.165(4)
B(1)–C(1)	1.613(21)	B(1)–C(1)	1.600(22)	B(5)–C(5)	1.601(26)
B(2)–C(2)	1.630(19)	B(2)–C(2)	1.600(23)	B(6)–C(6)	1.585(27)
		B(3)–C(3)	1.611(24)	B(7)–C(7)	1.621(27)
		B(4)–C(4)	1.669(28)	B(8)–C(8)	1.610(25)
		S(1)–S(2)	3.477(5)	U(1)–U(2)	5.374(1)
<b>Angles (°)</b>					
O–U–O	176.7(10)	S(1)–U(1)–S(2)	66.3(1)	S(1)–U(2)–S(2)	65.3(1)
O–U–B(1)	81.6(5)	S(1)–U(1)–B(1)	146.4(6)	S(1)–U(2)–B(5)	84.9(5)
O–U–B(1)	96.0(5)	S(1)–U(1)–B(2)	76.1(4)	S(1)–U(2)–B(6)	81.9(5)
O–U–B(2)	99.1(5)	S(1)–U(1)–B(3)	106.8(5)	S(1)–U(2)–B(7)	172.7(6)
O–U–B(2)	83.2(5)	S(1)–U(1)–B(4)	77.4(4)	S(1)–U(2)–B(8)	82.9(5)
B(1)–U–B(1)'	90.3(8)	S(2)–U(1)–B(1)	80.2(6)	S(2)–U(2)–B(5)	74.9(5)
B(1)–U–B(2)	91.4(4)	S(2)–U(1)–B(2)	84.4(4)	S(2)–U(2)–B(6)	76.3(5)
B(1)–U–B(2)'	164.9(4)	S(2)–U(1)–B(3)	173.0(5)	S(2)–U(2)–B(7)	107.6(6)
B(2)–U–B(2)'	90.8(7)	S(2)–U(1)–B(4)	84.5(5)	S(2)–U(2)–B(8)	148.1(5)
U–B(1)–C(1)	174.0(11)	B(1)–U(1)–B(2)	101.3(7)	B(5)–U(2)–B(6)	151.2(6)
O–B(1)–C(1)	138.0(10)	B(1)–U(1)–B(3)	106.8(8)	B(5)–U(2)–B(7)	94.6(7)
U–B(2)–C(2)	174.9(11)	B(1)–U(1)–B(4)	100.4(7)	B(5)–U(2)–B(8)	101.2(7)
O–B(2)–C(2)	137.4(11)	B(2)–U(1)–B(3)	93.4(7)	B(6)–U(2)–B(7)	95.3(7)
		B(2)–U(1)–B(4)	153.5(6)	B(6)–U(2)–B(8)	102.5(7)
		B(3)–U(1)–B(4)	94.7(8)	B(7)–U(2)–B(8)	104.3(7)
		U(1)–S(1)–U(2)	114.3(1)	U(1)–S(2)–U(2)	114.09(1)
		U(1)–B(1)–C(1)	178.3(16)	U(2)–B(5)–C(5)	178.5(14)
		U(1)–B(2)–C(2)	176.7(13)	U(2)–B(6)–C(6)	177.1(14)
		U(1)–B(3)–C(3)	178.1(17)	U(2)–B(7)–C(7)	176.5(18)
		U(1)–B(4)–C(4)	177.5(14)	U(2)–B(8)–C(8)	175.4(15)

<sup>a</sup>Primed atoms are in position  $-x, -y, z$ .

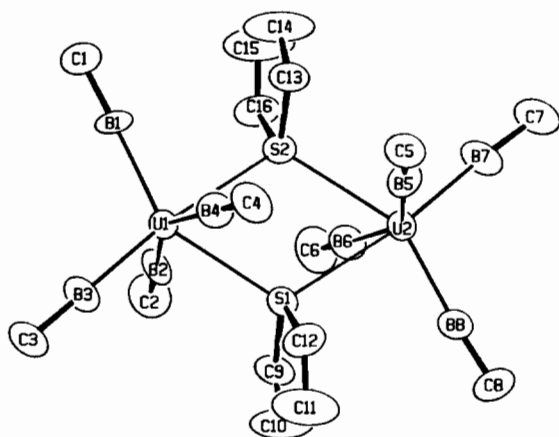


Fig. 2. ORTEP drawing of  $[(\text{CH}_3\text{BH}_3)_4\text{U} \cdot \text{S}_4\text{H}_8]_2$ ; thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level.

ion appears to require a larger coordination number which results in the formation of the unusual dimers  $[\text{Th}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4]_2 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  and  $[\text{Th}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4]_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$ . The analogous  $\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4$  compounds have not been isolated.  $\text{Th}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4$  forms a bis-THF complex, a bis-THT complex and a mono-THT complex. On the other hand, we have only been able to isolate for  $\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4$  the bis-THF complex and the dimeric-THT complex,  $[\text{U}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4 \cdot \text{THT}]_2$ . Clearly, the larger ionic radius of Th(IV) plays a major role in the unusual coordination chemistry of ether adducts of  $\text{Th}(\text{BH}_3\text{CH}_3)_4$ .

#### Supplementary Material

Listings of thermal parameters, additional distances and angles, and observed structure factors have been deposited with the Editor-in-Chief.

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