

Structural Characterization of the $[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]^{6-}$ Ion: The Crystal Structure of Potassium Decacyano- μ -peroxodicobaltate Dinitrate Tetrahydrate

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The peroxo-bridged binuclear anion $[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]^{6-}$ has been crystallized as a double salt with potassium nitrate in the compound $K_8[Co_2O_2(CN)_{10}](NO_3)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$. The crystal structure of this salt has been determined using three-dimensional X-ray diffraction data measured with a computer-controlled diffractometer. Cell constants are $a = 11.605(4)$, $b = 8.383(3)$, $c = 16.639(4)$ Å, $\beta = 109.43(2)^\circ$; the space group is $P2_1/c$, with $Z = 2$. Least-squares refinement using 2114 unique data led to an unweighted R index of 0.043. The structure consists of a quite dense packing of binuclear cobalt anions, nitrate ions, potassium ions, and water molecules, in which all water molecules are hydrogen bonded to the bridging peroxo group. The binuclear anion has point symmetry $\bar{1}$, and thus contains a planar peroxo linkage, in which the Co–O–O–Co atoms are σ -bonded in a staggered arrangement. The O–O distance has a rather short value of 1.447(4) Å. Co–C distances range from 1.874 to 1.912 Å, with the shortest trans to the bridging group. The C–N distances of the cyanide ligands range from 1.136 to 1.163 Å, averaging 1.149 Å. The Co–O distance has the extremely long value of 1.985(3) Å.

Introduction

The aqueous chemistry of the cobalt(II) cyanide system is unusual in several respects and quite complex. One of the interesting aspects of this system is that the aqueous $[Co(CN)_5]^{3-}$ ion, presumed to exist as a monomer in solution, can be very rapidly oxidized by atmospheric oxygen to form the peroxo-bridged binuclear anion $[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]^{6-}$, which is reasonably stable at high pH. This ion can be further oxidized by a one electron oxidation of the bridging group to the superoxo-bridged $[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]^{5-}$ ion. While many spectroscopic and magnetic studies have been carried out, little X-ray structural work

has been reported on compounds derived from the Co(II) cyanide system, primarily due to the instability of many of the complexes and difficulty in preparing suitable crystals. Only recently has the solid-state structure of the $[Co_2(CN)_{10}]^{6-}$ dimer been reported.^{1,2} Due to our interest in characterizing bonding of cobalt to dioxygen ligands, we have undertaken structural studies of the $[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]^{6-}$ and $[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]^{5-}$ ions by single crystal X-ray diffraction techniques. Suitable single crystals containing the μ -peroxo anion have been prepared by cocrystallization of the potassium salt with KNO_3 , and the structure of the double salt is reported here.

Experimental

The procedure reported by Haim and Wilmarth³ for the preparation of the simple potassium salt $K_6[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5] \cdot H_2O$ from $Co(NO_3)_2$ was carried out. Microscopic examination of the crude product revealed primarily thin, brown flakes which apparently lost solvent and became opaque upon drying and also a few smaller, well-formed orange crystals which remained transparent upon drying. Recrystallization by adding ethanol at 0° to a 1M KCN solution of this mixture yielded the transparent, orange crystals as the major product. Peroxide analysis of the orange product yielded considerably lower values than would be expected for $K_6[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]$ or for any conceivable hydrate of this salt. Attempts to further purify the product did not substantially affect the peroxide analysis; the UV-visible spectrum of these crystals dissolved in 1M aqueous KOH was identical with that reported for $K_6[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]$.⁴ Density measurements and a preliminary survey of the reciprocal lattice by Weissenberg photography indicated a unit cell which could not contain an integral number of formulas of the simple potassium salt or any reasonable hydrate of it. Although the composition of these

crystals was unknown, it was clear that they contained the desired ion and were reasonably stable; therefore they were deemed suitable for the structural study. This orange compound was subsequently demonstrated to be $K_8[Co_2O_2(CN)_{10}](NO_3)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$ by successful solution and refinement of the crystal structure.

A crystal of approximate dimensions $0.11 \times 0.44 \times 0.15$ mm, elongated along b , was chosen for intensity data collection, and mounted with its b axis inclined about $1/2$ degree from the Φ axis of a locally assembled, Syntex automated E & A full-circle diffractometer. Cell dimensions were obtained from a least-squares fit of 2θ values measured for 19 reflections, using graphite-monochromatized $MoK\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.71069 \text{ \AA}$). The density was experimentally determined by flotation in a CCl_4-CHBr_3 mixture. Systematic extinctions $h0l$ with l odd and $0k0$ with k odd uniquely determine the space group to be $P2_1/c$. Crystal data are given in Table I.

Intensity data were collected employing graphite-monochromatized $MoK\alpha$ radiation, a $\theta-2\theta$ scan technique, and a proportional counter. Measurements were made at room temperature, and all data in one quadrant with $2\theta < 50^\circ$ were measured at least once. Scan widths varied linearly with 2θ , having values of 1.9° at $2\theta = 7^\circ$ and 2.1° at $2\theta = 33^\circ$, centered on the weighted mean of the α_1 and α_2 peaks. Scan speeds also varied linearly with peak intensity between $1/2$ degree per minute at 10 cps and 4 degrees per minute at and above 1000 cps. Below this range, scans were made at 8 degrees per minute. Background counting times were equal at the two extremes of the scan and totaled the same as the scanning time. Four standard reflections were remeasured every 100 reflections throughout data collection, and a decrease in intensity of about 3% was noted during this time. Data were rescaled to correct for this decrease, and background, Lorentz, and polarization corrections were made. No absorption corrections were made; the linear absorption coefficient μ is 22.3 cm^{-1} , and the maximum value of μR is approximately 0.73. Observational

variances for observed F values were obtained from counting statistics, including an additional term of $(0.02S)^2$ to account for uncertainty due to errors other than purely statistical uncertainty. Average F 's less than 2σ above zero were set equal to zero with zero weight in subsequent calculations. Systematic absences for space group $P2_1/c$ were deleted, only 1.8% of which measured greater than 3σ above zero. Of 2806 independent reflections measured, 2114 remained to be used in the structure determination.

Structure Solution and Refinement

A Patterson map was calculated using data with $2\theta \leq 30^\circ$, from which the positions of the cobalt atom and four potassium ions were deduced. This is one more potassium ion than is required for charge balance with the binuclear anion, such that another monovalent anion was sought. A Fourier synthesis phased on the heavy atoms revealed the positions of all ligand atoms, the extra anion which was identified as a nitrate ion, and the oxygen atoms of both water molecules. A structure factors calculation using all nonhydrogen atoms yielded an R value of 0.29. Thus the previously uncharacterized compound was identified as $K_8[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5](NO_3)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$. This structure was refined by least-squares techniques. Hydrogen atoms were located by difference Fourier syntheses after partial refinement; their positions were refined, and their isotropic temperature factors were assigned values of $B = 5.0$ which were not refined. Machine calculations were carried out using the CRYM crystallographic computing system on an IBM 370/155 computer. Scattering factors for K^+ , O, C, N, and neutral cobalt were taken from the International Tables,⁵ as were $\Delta f'$ for cobalt and K^+ . Hydrogen scattering factors were those of Stewart, Davidson and Simpson.⁶ The quantity minimized in the least-squares calculations was $\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2$, where the weights are $w = 1/\sigma^2(F_o^2)$. Refinement of the full structure utilized two matrices, one containing all positional parameters, and the other containing thermal parameters and the scale factor. The total number of parameters varied in the last cycle of least squares was 215, corresponding to a data: parameter ratio of 9.80. In this cycle, no nonhydrogen atom parameter shifted more than 30% of its esd, and no hydrogen atom parameter shifted by more than 50% of its esd. The final unweighted R index ($R = \sum |F_o - |F_c|| / \sum F_o$) is 0.043, and the final "goodness of fit" ($GOF = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / (m-s)]^{1/2}$) is 1.77. A three dimensional difference synthesis calculated at the conclusion of the refinement indicated three peaks of density between $0.6-1.1 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$ in the region of the binuclear ion; however, no chemically reasonable interpretation of these peaks was apparent. The largest discrepancy between a calculated structure factor and a measured F treated as "unobserved" was slightly greater than $3\sigma(F_o)$.

TABLE I. Crystal Data.

Formula:	$K_8[Co_2O_2(CN)_{10}](NO_3)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$
Formula Weight:	919.0
Space Group:	$P2_1/c, C_{2h}^5$
a :	11.605(4) \AA
b :	8.383(3) \AA
c :	16.639(4) \AA
β :	$109.43(2)^\circ$
V :	$1526(1) \text{ \AA}^3$
ρ_o :	$1.98(1) \text{ g/cm}^3$
ρ_c :	$2.000(2) \text{ g/cm}^3$
$\lambda(MoK\alpha)$	0.71069 \AA
$\mu(MoK\alpha)$	22.3 cm^{-1}
Habit:	{101}, $\{101\}$, {111}

TABLE II. Observed and Calculated Structure Factors. (Columns are, in order, $10F_{obs}$, $10F_{calc}$. An asterisk (*) after $10F_{calc}$ indicates that the reflection was not used in the refinement).

Table with multiple columns containing numerical data for structure factors. The columns are organized into groups, with the first group containing indices (h, k, l) and the second group containing observed (10F_obs) and calculated (10F_calc) values. The table is very dense and spans the entire page.

Results and Discussion

This structure is composed of discrete potassium ions, binuclear anions of charge (-6), nitrate anions, and neutral water molecules, packed efficiently into a quite dense arrangement. Positional and thermal parameters obtained for all atoms in the structure are presented in Table III.

The Binuclear Anion

The $[(\text{CN})_5\text{CoO}_2\text{Co}(\text{CN})_5]^{6-}$ anion, the geometry of which is of primary interest in this investigation, is found to contain a planar CoOCo linkage with the dioxygen group in the same sort of staggered configuration seen in the μ -peroxodicobalt decammines.^{7,8,9} Bonding distances in this ion are illustrated in Figure 1, and important angles are given in Table IV.

The Co-O distance determined in this structure, 1.985(3) Å, is quite long, and is the subject of some surprise. The distance found in singly-bridged μ -dioxy-

gen dicobalt complexes with nitrogen donor ligands is reasonably constant with an average value (5 structures) of 1.889(7) Å, which is almost 0.1 Å shorter than the present value (see Table V). This is a very large, highly significant difference, which may be due in part to the distortions imposed upon the ion by water molecules hydrogen bonded to the bridging group, as will be discussed later. Evidence that this long Co-O distance may be caused by electronic effects is seen in the Co-C distances. The average value of the equatorial Co-C distances is 1.900(4) Å, which agrees well with the value of 1.890 Å observed in cobalt pentacyanides and hexacyanides (average of 9 structures, see Table V). The *trans* distance, however, is 1.875(4) Å, almost 4σ shorter than the equatorial average; this difference is considered significant. That a long Co-O distance is associated with a short Co-C distance *trans* to the bridging group is suggestive of electronic effects. This shortening is in sharp contrast to the *trans*-lengthening which has been observed in

TABLE III. Positional and Thermal Parameters.^{a, b, c, d}

	x	y	z	U ₁₁	U ₂₂	U ₃₃	U ₁₂	U ₁₃	U ₂₃
Co	81870(4)	12434(5)	1256(3)	184(2)	177(2)	183(3)	11(2)	93(2)	2(2)
K(1)	34325(8)	14834(12)	46478(7)	327(5)	606(7)	663(7)	36(4)	172(5)	-280(6)
K(2)	60061(8)	19597(12)	19228(6)	329(5)	654(6)	365(6)	47(5)	106(4)	62(5)
K(3)	182(8)	20309(10)	28758(6)	386(5)	348(5)	315(5)	-24(4)	180(4)	-3(4)
K(4)	23515(7)	34397(9)	17297(6)	368(5)	335(5)	345(5)	1(4)	172(4)	-64(4)
O(1)	96233(22)	-1493(32)	2620(19)	398(16)	379(16)	609(21)	60(13)	354(15)	69(15)
C(1)	68013(30)	23998(40)	1199(22)	285(19)	268(20)	219(21)	21(17)	129(17)	-1(16)
N(1)	59570(29)	30809(41)	1457(22)	391(19)	501(21)	416(23)	151(17)	199(18)	42(18)
C(2)	91572(30)	28795(40)	8352(22)	252(18)	241(21)	241(21)	19(16)	81(17)	71(17)
N(2)	96767(28)	38967(35)	12678(21)	404(19)	267(18)	398(21)	-50(15)	49(17)	-15(16)
C(3)	71073(30)	-2723(38)	-5907(21)	291(19)	207(19)	200(21)	35(15)	118(17)	34(16)
N(3)	64249(28)	-11697(36)	-9938(21)	401(19)	333(18)	353(20)	-11(15)	101(16)	-65(17)
C(4)	80897(28)	1554(38)	10959(23)	214(18)	185(19)	273(22)	12(14)	77(17)	-4(16)
N(4)	79843(27)	-5010(37)	16833(20)	375(19)	370(19)	317(20)	4(16)	137(16)	34(17)
C(5)	81683(27)	23996(38)	-8574(22)	177(17)	206(19)	268(21)	-20(14)	93(16)	-42(17)
N(5)	80888(28)	31091(36)	-14652(20)	396(18)	348(18)	328(21)	-13(15)	189(16)	85(17)
N(6)	44787(31)	7957(44)	30990(21)	437(21)	640(26)	282(20)	45(19)	152(17)	0(19)
O(2)	45540(30)	22437(37)	29864(20)	785(23)	507(21)	502(21)	139(17)	227(19)	84(17)
O(3)	53605(25)	-989(38)	31687(23)	422(18)	536(20)	1035(31)	130(15)	320(19)	-51(20)
O(4)	35005(26)	2164(43)	31404(20)	400(17)	1025(26)	492(21)	-8(18)	232(16)	14(20)
O(5)	12264(25)	18507(34)	48235(21)	335(14)	275(15)	598(21)	-38(13)	196(14)	-62(14)
O(6)	10887(25)	4526(37)	19111(19)	376(16)	557(18)	316(18)	176(15)	89(14)	-38(15)

	x	y	z	B
H(1)	717(42)	1248(53)	4752(29)	5.0
H(2)	926(40)	2624(53)	4859(29)	5.0
H(3)	731(37)	344(49)	1345(28)	5.0
H(4)	1741(39)	30(51)	2068(29)	5.0

^a All coordinates have been multiplied by 10^5 . ^b Temperature factor is of the form $\exp[-2\pi^2(U_{11}h^2a^{*2} + U_{22}k^2b^{*2} + U_{33}l^2c^{*2} + 2U_{12}hka^{*}b^{*} + 2U_{13}hla^{*}c^{*} + 2U_{23}klb^{*}c^{*})]$. ^c All U's have been multiplied by 10^4 . ^d Estimated standard deviations are given in parentheses.

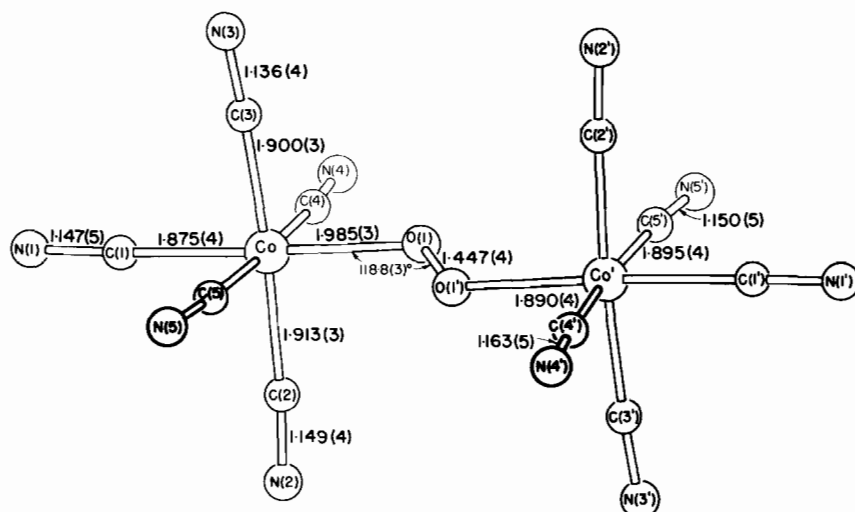


Figure 1. Interatomic distances within the $[(CN)_5CoO_2Co(CN)_5]^{6-}$ anion. Esd's are given in parentheses.

TABLE IV. Angles in the Binuclear Anion.

Atoms	Angle (Degrees)	Atoms	Angle (Degrees)
Co-C(1)-N(1)	177.4(4)	O(1)-Co-C(2)	93.0(1)
Co-C(2)-N(2)	175.9(3)	O(1)-Co-C(3)	91.8(1)
Co-C(3)-N(3)	176.5(4)	O(1)-Co-C(4)	84.5(2)
Co-C(4)-N(4)	177.5(4)	O(1)-Co-C(5)	99.6(2)
Co-C(5)-N(5)	176.3(3)	C(2)-Co-C(3)	175.2(2)
C(1)-Co-O(1)	172.2(2)	C(2)-Co-C(4)	90.5(2)
C(1)-Co-C(2)	87.7(2)	C(2)-Co-C(5)	90.1(2)
C(1)-Co-C(3)	87.6(2)	C(3)-Co-C(4)	89.9(2)
C(1)-Co-C(4)	87.7(2)	C(3)-Co-C(5)	89.1(2)
C(1)-Co-C(5)	88.1(2)	C(4)-Co-C(5)	175.7(2)

Geometry of the nitrate ion

Atoms	Distance or Angle
N(6)-O(2)	1.236(5) Å
N(6)-O(3)	1.243(5)
N(6)-O(4)	1.258(5)
O(2)-N(6)-O(3)	120.6(4)°
O(2)-N(6)-O(4)	119.9(4)
O(3)-N(6)-O(4)	119.5(4)

μ -peroxodicobalt amines,^{7,9} and closely resembles the effect observed upon the *trans* Co-C distance caused by N-bonded cyanide in $(NH_3)_5CoCNC(CN)_5$.¹⁰

The O-O distance of 1.447(4) Å is slightly shorter than the 1.471 Å found in the analogous decaammine complex,^{7,8} but is sufficiently longer than the distance of about 1.31 Å expected for a superoxo bridge such

that it may be definitely described as a peroxide. The most precise determination of the solid phase structure of H_2O_2 , a neutron diffraction study,¹¹ places the O-O distance at 1.453(7) Å, in excellent agreement with the value found here. It appears that there may be a correlation between Co-O and O-O distances in peroxo-bridged dicobalt complexes. The dicobalt amines appear to have O-O distances slightly longer than that found in H_2O_2 and short Co-O distances, while this complex has weaker bonding between the cobalt atom and the bridging group, resulting in an O-O distance which looks more like that in hydrogen peroxide. Since this is the first structure reported for a $\mu-O_2^{2-}$ cyanide, and there appear to be several possible causes for the Co-O lengthening, more structural data must be awaited to determine if the correlation is real.

The C-N distances of the cyanide ligands range from 1.136 Å to 1.163 Å and average 1.149(6) Å. This distance is very nearly the value of the average C-N distance found in binuclear cobalt cyanides and mononuclear cobalt hexacyanides, 1.147 Å (9 structures, see Table V). The Co-Co distance, always a subject of interest in binuclear structures, is 4.899(2) Å.

Examination of Figures 1 and 2 and of the angles given in Table IV makes it clear that the equatorial cyanide ligands are bent outward from the central portion of the ion. The cobalt atom lies about 0.07 Å out of the best plane of the four equatorial carbon atoms and about 0.20 Å out of the best plane of the four equatorial nitrogen atoms. Deviations from these planes of the atoms comprising the planes are about 0.005 Å and 0.01 Å, respectively. The obvious cause for this outward bending is the four water molecules hydrogen bonded to the bridging group. Figure 2 illustrates that these water molecules complete a roughly tetrahedral coordi-

TABLE V. Summary of Geometries of Related Complexes.

μ -dioxygen Dicobalt Complexes:						
Compound	Co-O	O-O	O-O Torsion	Average Equatorial Co-N	Average Axial Co-N	Ref.
$[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_2(\text{NH}_3)_{10}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	1.882 Å	1.473 Å	146°	1.957	1.983	7
$[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_2(\text{NH}_3)_{10}(\text{SCN})_4]$	1.879	1.469	180	1.955	1.971	8
$[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_2(\text{en})_2(\text{dien})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_4]$	1.896	1.488	180	1.952	1.998	9
$\text{K}_8[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_2(\text{CN})_{10}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	1.985	1.447	180	—	—	This work
$[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_2(\text{NH}_3)_{10}(\text{SO}_4)(\text{HSO}_4)_3]$	1.894	1.312	175	1.943	1.958	12
$[\text{Co}_2\text{O}_2(\text{NH}_3)_{10}(\text{NO}_3)_5]$	1.895	1.317	180	1.957	1.955	13
Binuclear Cobalt Cyanides and Cobalt Hexacyanides:						
Compound	Average Equatorial Co-C	Average C-N	Reference			
$(\text{NH}_3)_3\text{CoNCCo}(\text{CN})_5 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.893 Å	1.144 Å	14			
$(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{CoCNC}(\text{CN})_5 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.908	1.125	11			
$(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{CoNCSCo}(\text{CN})_5 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.884	1.143	15			
$\text{Ba}_3[\text{Co}_2(\text{CN})_{10}] \cdot 13\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.885	1.153	1,2			
$\text{D}_3[\text{Co}(\text{CN})_6]$	1.883	1.147	16			
$\text{Cd}_3[\text{Co}(\text{CN})_6]_2$	1.893	1.151	17			
$\text{H}_3[\text{Co}(\text{CN})_6]$	1.885	1.154	18			
$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6][\text{Co}(\text{CN})_6]$	1.894	1.157	19			
$\text{Cs}_2\text{Li}[\text{Co}(\text{CN})_6]$	1.886	1.148	20			
Averages:	1.890 Å	1.147 Å				

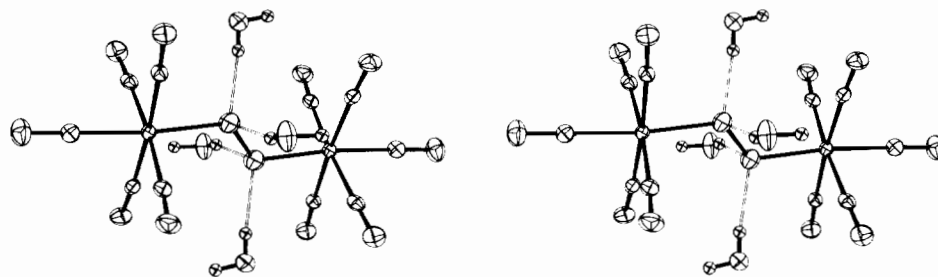


Figure 2. ORTEP stereopair illustrating the binuclear anion and hydrogen bonding to it. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 40% probability level.

nation for each of the peroxy oxygen atoms, and Figure 3 indicates the manner in which these molecules lie staggered between the equatorial cyanide ligands. These hydrogen bonds are strong. The hydrogen bond involving O(5) has an $\text{O} \cdots \text{O}$ distance of 2.69 Å, an $\text{H} \cdots \text{O}$ distance of 1.95 Å, and an $\text{O}-\text{H} \cdots \text{O}$ angle of 165°. The hydrogen bond involving O(6) has an $\text{O} \cdots \text{O}$ distance of 2.75 Å, an $\text{H} \cdots \text{O}$ distance of 1.83 Å, and an $\text{O}-\text{H} \cdots \text{O}$ angle of 165°. Hydrogen bonding to the bridging group of this highly charged ion by water molecules is apparently quite favorable, as it presumably removes negative charge from the ion even at the expense of water-cyanide repulsion.

The abnormally long Co-O bond, which is certainly caused at least in part by distortions due to the water,

is further evidence of the desirability of hydrogen bonding. Although hydrogen bonding to the bridging group has been observed before, all previous examples have involved intraionic bonds from ammine or substituted ammine ligands of the same ion.^{9,12} The less bulky cyanide ligands apparently shield the bridging peroxide more poorly than do ammines, and allow the approach of water molecules with a small amount of distortion of the binuclear ion.

That there exist only these four hydrogen bonds, and no others, to this anion which contains a planar Co-O-O-Co linkage, strengthens our ideas about hydrogen bonding and the planarity of peroxides. As was the case in the structures of $[(\text{en})(\text{dien})\text{CoO}_2\text{Co}(\text{en})(\text{dien})](\text{ClO}_4)_4$ and $[(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{CoO}_2\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_5]$

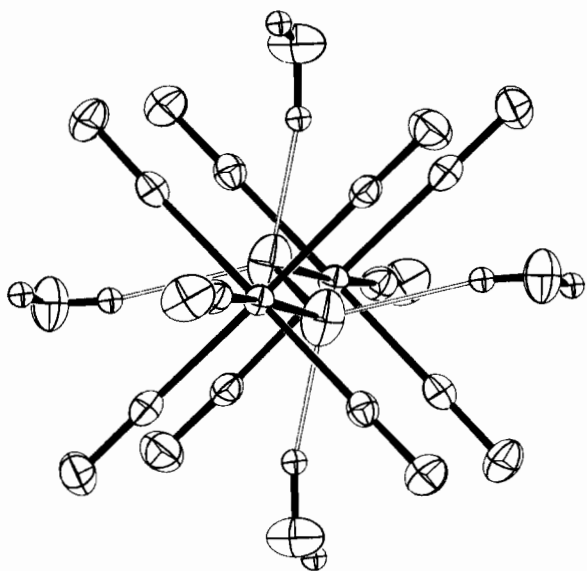


Figure 3. An ORTEP drawing of the binuclear anion illustrating the eclipsed conformation of the equatorial ligands and the staggering of the water molecules between them. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 40% probability level; hydrogen atoms are represented by spheres of arbitrary radius.

(SCN)₄, there exists here a highly charged ion without an extensive system of hydrogen bonding to distribute this charge away from the cobalt centers, and the resulting Coulombic repulsion forces the ion to be planar.

Comparison of this structure with that of the corresponding μ -peroxo decaammine compound reveals the result of "replacing" the ammine ligands with cyanides. Although the details of the two ions are differ-

ent, they are qualitatively the same; in each the two cobalt atoms are identical, the bridging ligand is a peroxide, and it is arranged in a σ -bonded configuration rather than the π -bonded perpendicular arrangement.

The Nitrate Ion

The nitrate ion and its surroundings are shown in Figure 4; distances and angles within the ion are given in Table 4. Within the precision of this experiment, the ion is perfectly planar and the oxygen atoms form a perfect equilateral triangle, the nonbonded O–O distance in the triangle being 2.157(3) Å. The nitrogen atom is slightly removed within the plane from the center of the triangle, causing the N–O(4) distance to be longer than the two other N–O distances by an amount of borderline statistical significance. It is perhaps worthy of note that O(4) differs from the other two oxygen atoms in being hydrogen bonded to a water molecule [O(6)] rather than having a close contact to another NO_3^- ion. This hydrogen bond is rather strong, with an O···O distance of 2.87 Å, an H···O distance of 2.22 Å, and an O–H···O angle of 137°. The apparent thermal amplitudes of the atoms of the nitrate ion, while the largest in the structure, are of reasonable magnitude and orientation to be interpreted as real thermal vibrations of an ordered group. This thermal motion is primarily of a rotational nature around the pseudo-threefold axis of the ion, as shown in Figure 4.

The Potassium Ions

The four independent potassium ions of the structure have irregular coordination spheres, and any attempt to classify them as distorted forms of idealized polyhedra would be pointless. Closest contacts to the K^+ ions are listed in Table VI. These ions are aniso-

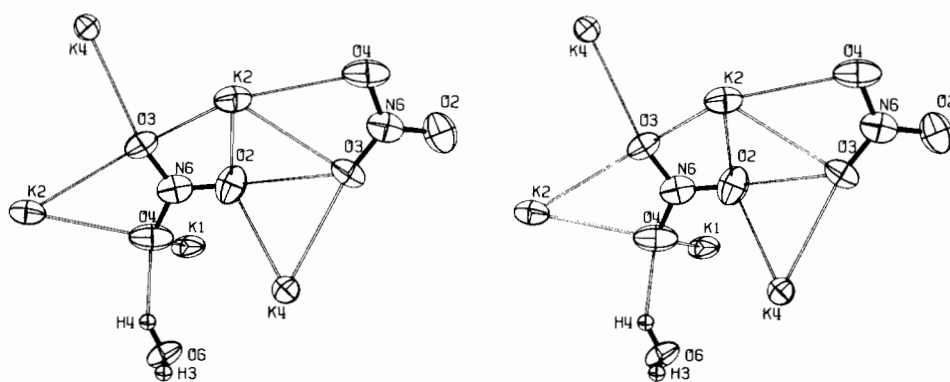


Figure 4. The nitrate ion and its surroundings. The two nitrate ions shown are related by a 2_1 axis at $1/2, y, 1/4$, and the length of the interionic contact O(2)···O(3) is 2.97 Å. Other contacts are listed in Table VI or the text. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level, and hydrogen atoms are represented by spheres of arbitrary radius.

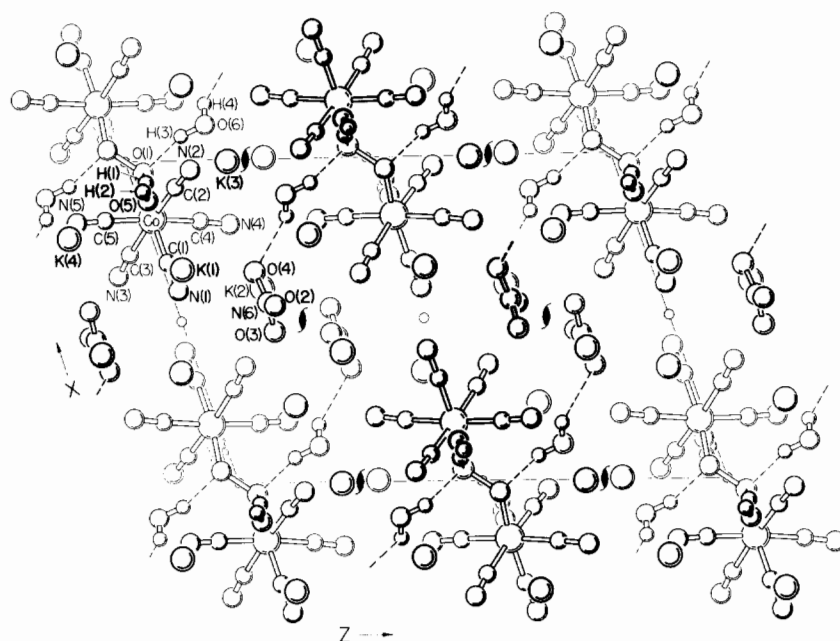


Figure 5. The crystal packing, viewed in projection down the b axis.

TABLE VI. Closest Contacts (Less than 3.3 Å) to the Potassium Ions.

Contact	Distance (Å)	Contact	Distance (Å)
K(1)···O(4)	2.75	K(3)···O(5)	3.08
K(1)···O(5)	2.69	K(3)···O(6)	2.68
K(1)···N(1)	2.79	K(3)···O(6')	3.21
K(1)···N(1')	2.93	K(3)···N(2)	2.95
		K(3)···N(2')	3.01
K(2)···O(2)	2.83	K(3)···N(4)	3.01
K(2)···O(3)	2.91	K(3)···N(5)	2.80
K(2)···O(3')	2.98		
K(2)···O(4)	2.80	K(4)···O(2)	2.89
K(2)···N(1)	3.09	K(4)···O(3)	2.88
K(2)···N(3)	2.81	K(4)···O(5)	3.01
K(2)···N(4)	3.21	K(4)···O(6)	2.97
K(2)···N(5)	2.95	K(4)···N(2)	2.96
K(2)···N(6)	3.20	K(4)···N(3)	2.88
K(2)···N(6')	3.26	K(4)···N(4)	2.93
		K(4)···N(5)	2.94

tropic to varying degrees; however, their thermal amplitudes are by no means extreme.

The Water Molecules

The water molecules have quite normal geometries. That containing O(5) has O–H distances of 0.73(5) and 0.76(5) Å, with an H–O–H angle of 106(3)°

That containing O(6) has O–H distances of 0.80(4) and 0.90(4) Å, with an H–O–H angle of 111(3)°. In both cases, the principal axis of thermal motion of the oxygen atom is essentially normal to the molecular plane.

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