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The Crystal Structure of the 2:1 Complex between Antimony Trichloride and Naphthalene

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Crystals of the 2:1 complex between antimony trichloride and naphthalene are monoclinic, a=9.154, b=9.368, c=11.989 Å, $\beta=122^{\circ}40'$, space group $P2_1/c$. The structure consists of SbCl₃ molecules stacked in the *bc* plane alternating with layers of naphthalene molecules in the plane $x=\frac{1}{2}$. The antimony atoms exist in a 4-coordinate, distorted $sp^{3}d$ trigonal bipyramidal environment, with two chlorine atoms occupying equatorial positions, 2.347 and 2.348 Å away while the third equatorial position is filled by the antimony lone electron pair. The third chlorine atom occupies one axial position 2.367 Å from antimony, while the other axial position is utilized in bonding to the π -system of the naphthalene molecule. The distances from the antimony atom to the plane of the ring is 3.2 Å. The structure has been refined using anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement, the final *R* index being 0.091 for all 2566 reflexions used, and 0.072 for the 2034 observed terms only.

Introduction

Complexes between antimony trichloride and aromatic hydrocarbons have been known for many years. In the earliest work (Smith & Davies, 1882), the complex between antimony trichloride and naphthalene was reported, and incorrectly analysed as a 3:2 adduct. Menshutkin (1911, 1912a, b), who studied the eutectic diagrams of antimony trihalides with a large number of organic compounds, defined the composition of these intermolecular compounds as maxima in the phase diagrams. He showed that a series of complexes of antimony trihalides with aromatic hydrocarbons or substituted hydrocarbons could be made, and that the most common ratios for these were 1:1, 2:1 or 4:1. He found that the melting point of the antimony trichloride-naphthalene 2:1 adduct (85°) was higher than that of antimony trichloride (73°) or of naphthalene (80°). To determine the nature of the bonding forces between the constituents, an extensive study of antimony trihalide-aromatic hydrocarbon complexes was undertaken. Preliminary reports on some of these compounds have already been published (Szymański, 1963; Hulme, 1966; Cushen, Hulme & Szymański, in press). A knowledge of the structure of these compounds is important in view of the known catalytic properties of antimony trichloride in Friedel–Crafts reactions (Olah, 1963), and the possible relation of these structures to the reaction intermediates. We here report a more detailed account of the 2:1 adduct between antimony trichloride and naphthalene, whose structure was previously solved in projection and described elsewhere (Szymański, 1963).

Experimental

Antimony trichloride and naphthalene in 2:1 molar ratio were dissolved in hot $60-80^{\circ}$ petroleum spirit The solution on cooling deposited a mass of fine crystals, which were then left to stand in the mother liquor for several weeks in a sealed flask. From the mass a number of excellently formed acicular crystals grew. The forms exhibited were {011}, {100}, and less prominently {110}. Chemical analysis, and quantitative estimation of the naphthalene ultraviolet absorption

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peak at $311m\mu$, indicated the 2:1 molar ratio which was later confirmed by the crystal structure determination.

The crystal data are as follows:

$$SbCl_{3}$$
, $\frac{1}{2}(C_{10}H_{8})$ F.W. = 292.2

Monoclinic,

a=9.154, b=9.368, c=11.989 Å, all ± 0.002 Å $\beta = 122^{\circ}40' \pm 1'$. (Cu $K\alpha_1 = 1.54051$, $K\alpha_2 = 1.54433$) $D_m = 2.22 \pm 0.02 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}, D_c = 2.24 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}.$ Z=4. U=865.5 Å³. μ (Mo K α)=45.5 cm⁻¹.

Space group $P2_1/c$ determined from systematic spectral absences.

The unit-cell dimensions were fitted by least-squares to the values of $4\sin^2\theta/\lambda^2$ of 37 0kl and 43 h0l reflexions with $56^{\circ} \le \theta \le 83^{\circ}$, with corrections for absorption and eccentricity (Buerger, 1942). The spacings were measured on Weissenberg photographs calibrated with aluminum powder lines (a = 4.04934 Å). The probable errors in the cell parameters were taken arbitrarily as three times the standard deviations calculated from the least-squares matrix. The density was determined by flotation in mixtures of methyl iodide and iodobenzene. As the crystals slowly dissolved with decomposition in this solvent, an accurate density could not be obtained.

An acicular crystal of square cross section (9.04 mm²) was cut into several pieces in a dry box to give approximate cubes of side 0.2 mm. Two of these were mounted about the a axis (the needle axis) and a third about the b axis. Equi-inclination Weissenberg data were collected for the layers 0kl to 7kl and h0l to h10lusing Zr filtered molybdenum $K\alpha$ radiation and the multiple film technique with sheets of tin foil, 0.001" thick, between the films. Of the 2566 independant reflexions which were measured, 532 were considered unobservably weak. These were allotted a value of one third of the locally observable minimum intensity (I_{\min}) together with a standard deviation of $I_{\min}/\frac{4}{45}$ (Hamilton, 1955).

A standard deviation was estimated for each observed unscaled intensity by considering its magnitude relative to the standard intensity scale used, and from other contributory factors such as spot-extension effects, the presence of Laue streaks and the local background intensity of the film. The intensity data were then correlated and reduced to structure amplitudes with standard deviations using the least-squares procedure of Hamilton, Rollett & Sparks (1965). No absorption or extinction corrections were applied.

Solution of the structure

The structure was solved from the Patterson function by routine application of the heavy atom technique. Antimony trichloride molecules lie in general fourfold positions, while the centre of the naphthalene molecule occupies the $(\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})$ special position. The programs

used for the least-squares refinement and molecular geometry calculations were ORFLS and ORFFE (Busing, Martin & Levy, 1962a, b). Standard scattering factors were used for carbon (International Tables for X-ray Crystallography, 1962a), for C1^o (International Tables, 1962b) and for Sb⁰ (International Tables, 1962c). The chlorine and antimony curves were adjusted for the real part of the anomalous dispersion correction: 0.1e was added to the Cl⁰ curve over the whole $\sin \theta$ range while for antimony a correction which varied linearly from 0.6e at $\sin \theta/\lambda = 0$ to 0.8e. at $\sin \theta/\lambda = 0.9$ was subtracted.

Two cycles of least-squares refinement using isotropic temperature factors, and two with anisotropic lowered the residual to 0.11. At this point, thirteen low angle reflexions which were calculated to be very much larger than they had been observed, and were suspected of being affected by extinction, were excluded from the refinement. Six further cycles of least-squares lowered the residual for all data to 0.097 and for observed reflexions only to 0.077. The data were examined and a further twelve reflexions were removed as being probably extinction affected. Three further cycles of leastsquares refinement lowered the overall R to 0.091 and R for observed reflexions only to 0.072. The weighted residuals for all data, and observed data only were 0.084 and 0.081 respectively. In the last cycle, the suggested shifts in all parameters were less than 0.01 of a standard deviation. Despite this, an $(F_o - F_c)$ synthesis calculated at the end of the refinement showed excursions which were above the level of significance. $[\sigma(\varrho_{xyz})$ was about 0.4 e.Å⁻³]. A negative shell of depth $2.0 \text{ e.}\text{\AA}^{-3}$ and radius 0.4\AA was centred on the antimony position. In addition, some ripple was observed in the vicinity of the antimony position. All three chlorine atoms lay on negative holes of about 1.0 e.Å⁻³. Carbon atom positions corresponded to featureless areas of the map. Despite the fact that the probable hydrogen atom positions were found to be in positive areas of the map, no significance was attached to these, and hydrogen atoms were not included in the refinement.

The final value of $[\Sigma w_{hkl} \Delta^2_{hkl} / (m-n)]^{1/2}$ was 1.10. The atomic coordinates, thermal parameters and all standard deviations as obtained from the least-squares refinement are listed in Tables 1 and 2. Observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 3.

Table 1. The atomic positional fractional coordinates (with their standard deviations in parentheses)

	$10^{5}x(10^{5}\sigma_{x})$	$10^{5}y(10^{5}\sigma_{y})$	$10^{5}z(10^{5}\sigma_{z})$
Sb	04381 (06)	06638 (05)	32478 (05)
Cl(1)	-11029 (32)	16384 (24)	11042 (21)
Cl(2)	08961 (31)	29346 (23)	42098 (23)
Cl(3)	-20673(31)	01884 (27)	32956 (29)
C(1)	37389 (128)	12487 (143)	28295 (116)
C(2)	44411 (107)	17142 (089)	40483 (109)
C(3)	50422 (097)	07480 (076)	51223 (084)
C(4)	57938 (106)	12059 (110)	64724 (097)
C(5)	64211 (130)	01452 (180)	74760 (099)

Description of the structure

The structure consists of layers of antimony trichloride molecules near the plane x=0, alternating with layers of naphthalene molecules near the plane $x=\frac{1}{2}$. The latter are nearly normal to the *a* axis (see Fig. 1). Two



Fig. 1. The structure projected on the *ac* plane. The antimony trichloride molecule related to the asymmetric molecule by the symmetry operation $-x, \frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$ has been omitted to aid clarity.

antimony-chlorine distances are equal within experimental error [Sb-Cl(1) = 2.348, Sb-Cl(2) = $2.347 \pm$ 0.002 Å] while the third is significantly longer [Sb-Cl(3) $=2.367\pm0.002$ Å]. The angles Cl(1)-Sb-Cl(3) and Cl(2)-Sb-Cl(3) are also equal within experimental error (94.42°, 94.71°, $\sigma = 0.09°$) while the angle opposite the longer antimony-chlorine bond, Cl(1)-Sb-Cl(2) is considerably smaller (91.59°). The antimony atom, and atoms Cl(1) and Cl(2) of one SbCl₃ molecule lie in a plane which is only 6.8° away from the plane of the naphthalene molecule. The antimony atom is only 3.2 Å away from this latter plane. The distances from the nearer 6-membered ring to antimony range from 3.36 to 3.73 Å. As the centre of the naphthalene molecule lies on a centre of symmetry $(\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})$, there is a second antimony trichloride molecule related by the same centre of symmetry on the other side of the naphthalene molecule. Atom Cl(3), which points away from one naphthalene molecule, is directed towards another naphthalene molecule related to the first by the translation x = -1. Its distance from the plane of this second molecule is 3.54 Å and though it points towards the C(4')-C(5') bond this longer distance indicates that this is merely a packing arrangement and not an interaction. The projection of the antimony trichloride molecule onto the plane of the first naphthalene is shown in Fig. 2(a) while the projection of the structure on the plane normal to the Cl(3)-Sb bond is shown in Fig. 2(*b*).

The naphthalene bond distances and angles are considerably distorted from those in free naphthalene (Cruickshank, 1957), and are shown in Fig.3 and Table 4. Fig. 3 also shows the method of numbering of the carbon atoms used. None of the bond lengths quoted have been corrected for rotational effects. The most significant change in the naphthalene bonding is that two adjacent bonds are very short, [C(2)-C(1) =1.313 Å, C(1)-C(5')=1.343 Å], and these are the twobonds which are closest to the antimony atom. With increasing distance from antimony, the carbon-carbon bond lengths increase in a systematic manner up to the bond furthest away from antimony [C(3')-C(4')=1.440 Å] which is the longest in the molecule. This pattern of bond lengths is completely different from that in free naphthalene, where there is an alternation of shorter and longer bonds. In addition, bonds pie-

Table 2. Anisotropic temperature factors and their standard deviations (in parentheses) all $\times 10^{5}$ T.F. = exp - $[h^{2}\beta_{11} + k^{2}\beta_{22} + l^{2}\beta_{33} + 2hk\beta_{12} + 2hl\beta_{13} + 2kl\beta_{23}]$.

	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Sb	1164 (10)	0866 (07)	0872 (06)	0111 (05)	0611 (06)	0104 (05)
$\tilde{\mathbf{C}}(1)$	2135 (43)	1369 (27)	0771 (21)	0239 (28)	0726 (26)	0096 (20)
$\tilde{C}(2)$	2111 (45)	1199 (25)	0975 (24)	-0069 (27)	0798 (28)	-0211 (20)
Cla	1615 (41)	1590 (31)	1553 (34)	- 0002 (29)	1053 (32)	0379 (27)
C	1383 (167)	2280 (179)	1033 (119)	0082 (146)	0535 (116)	0492 (126)
$\tilde{C}(\tilde{2})$	1279 (146)	1061 (099)	1615 (139)	0130 (095)	0868 (121)	0448 (096)
$\tilde{C}(3)$	0997 (111)	0948 (088)	0942 (086)	0056 (082)	0524 (082)	- 0016 (070)
C(4)	1332 (149)	1693 (127)	1165 (115)	-0331 (115)	0838 (111)	-0610 (101)
Č(5)	1330 (168)	4094 (295)	0703 (094)	- 1044 (190)	0624 (109)	-0597 (146)

Table 3. Observed and calculated structure factors

The columns refer to the running index l, $10F_o$ and $10F_c$. Reflexions marked with an X were excluded from the refinement. Reflexions marked with an asterisk were unobserved, and are included here at the statistically probable value used in the refinement.

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Table 3 (cont.)

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viously equivalent in the D_{2h} symmetry, are now markedly different [C(1)-C(2)=1.313 Å, C(4)-C(5)= 1.421 Å, C(1)-C(2) in naphthalene=1.364 Å]. Although the standard deviations of these bond lengths are fairly large (0.012-0.018 Å) this is not unexpected in view of the small percentage of scattering from carbon atoms in the structure, especially at high Bragg angles. However, the distortion of the naphthalene molecule as a whole is very significant and leads directly to an interpretation of the intermolecular bonding in the structure.

Discussion of structure

The bonding in Group V trihalides is believed to involve sp^3 -hybridization, though the interbond angles at the central atom are much less than the tetrahedral angle (Gillespie & Nyholm, 1957), because of lone-pair bond-pair electron repulsions. The crystal structure analysis of antimony trichloride (Lindqvist & Niggli, 1956) confirms this. The structure shows discrete SbCl₃ molecules located on mirror planes, with a mean Sb–Cl bond length of $2\cdot36\pm0\cdot03$ Å (two at $2\cdot37$ and one at $2\cdot35$ Å) and a mean interbond angle of $95\cdot2^\circ$. The lone electron pair presumably occupies the fourth vertex of a distorted tetrahedron.

The present structure shows a similar SbCl₃ molecule again with approximate mirror symmetry [through Sb, Cl(3) and the bisector of angle Cl(1)–Sb–Cl(2)], though there are significant differences from Lindqvist & Niggli's result. The two mirror-related Sb–Cl bonds which lie in a plane nearly parallel to the naphthalene molecule, are significantly *shorter* than the Sb-Cl(3) bond.

As already mentioned above (see *Description of the structure*), the naphthalene molecule is considerably distorted from the D_{2h} symmetry found in free naphthalene. The two bonds closest to antimony have total bond orders of about 2.25 and 1.90 (Pauling, 1960), and the bond furthest from antimony has a bond order of only 1.25.

The longest bond in the SbCl₃ molecule, Cl(3)–Sb, points directly at this concentration of higher elec-



Fig.2. (a) The projection of the antimony trichloride molecule onto the napthalene plane. (b) The structure projected onto the plane normal to the Cl(3)-Sb bond. In both drawings the position of Cl(3) related by the translation x=1 is marked by the broken circle.

Table 4(<i>a</i>). Interatomi	c distances and	their standara	deviations
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	Length l	$\sigma(l)$		Length <i>l</i>	$\sigma(l)$
SbCl(1)	2·348 Å	0∙002 Å	C(1)-C(2)	1·313 Å	0·016 Å
SbCl(2)	2.347	0.002	C(2) - C(3)	1.420	0.012
SbCl(3)	2.367	0.002	C(3) - C(3')	1.425	0.014
Sb - C(1)	3.364	0.010	C(3) - C(4)	1.440	0.012
Sb - C(2)	3.394	0.008	C(4) - C(5)	1.421	0.017
SbC(3)	3.549	0.008	C(1) - C(5')	1.343	0.018
SbC(3')	3.736	0.008	Sb	3.832	0.002
SbC(4')	2.719	0.008	Sb - Cl(2'')	3.581	0.002
SbC(5')	3.505	0.011	Sb —Cl(3''')	3.656	0.002
Cl(1) - Cl(2'')	3.506	0.003			

Table 4(b). Bond angles and their standard deviations

	θ	$\sigma(\theta)$		θ	$\sigma(\theta)$
Cl(1)-Sb - Cl(2)	91.593°	0.084°	C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	123·06°	0∙79°
Cl(2)-Sb - Cl(3)	94·41 ₇	0.090	C(4) - C(3) - C(3')	117.64	0.97
Cl(1)-SbCl(3)	94·70 ₈	0.094	C(3) - C(4) - C(5)	118.22	0.88
C(1) - C(2) - C(3)	120.98	0.86	C(2)-C(1)-C(5')	122.84	0.99
C(2) - C(3) - C(3')	119· 2 7	0.98	C(4) - C(5) - C(1')	120.96	0.90

Code for symmetry related atoms.

Superscript	Ро	sition	
none	х,	у,	Ζ
,	1 - x,	-y, 1	— <i>z</i>
"	-x, -	$\frac{1}{2} + y, \frac{1}{2}$	— z
///	-x,	$-y, \bar{1}$	— z

tron density on the naphthalene molecule (as implied by the shorter bond lengths in this region), (see Figs. 2(b) and 4). The donation of electrons from the



Fig. 4. Pictorial view of the structure illustrating the proposed bonding. The lobes on the napthalene molecule represent the areas of *highest* π -electron density. The broken lobe from antimony to naphthalene indicates the partially filled axial sp^3d orbital.

tion of the antimony electrons. The equatorial plane is then made up of Cl(1), Cl(2) and the antimony lone electron pair. Cl(3) and the electrons donated from the π -system fill the axial positions of a distorted trigonal bipyramid. The antimony lone electron pair points over the centre of the aromatic ring, and is ideally situated for back-bonding to the π -system.

The structure can be described as a pseudo π -allene complex (Green & Nagy, 1964) in which C(2), C(1) and C(5') behave as a π -allene-like complexing agent.

The best least-squares plane through all ten carbon atoms (plane 1), and the deviations of atoms from this plane, are given in Table 5. More significant, however, is the plane through atoms C(3), C(4), C(5), C(3'), C(4'), C(5') (plane 2). These atoms are very nearly coplanar, (maximum deviation 0.003 Å), but C(1) and C(2) are significantly displaced from this plane in the direction away from the nearly antimony atom. The plane through C(1), C(2) and their respective adjacent carbon atoms C(5') and C(3), (plane 3) is tilted $2\cdot 3^{\circ}$ away from plane 2 in such a way as to increase the angle of tilt of this section to the vector Cl(3)-Sb, and hence presumably to the direction of the antimony d_{z^2} orbital. The angle of tilt of plane 3 to this direction (103.6°) is very similar to that found in a number of π -allyltransition metal complexes (Churchill & Mason, 1967).

It should be pointed out that the proposed structure involves a very long bond of 3.2 Å from the π -system to antimony. This is much longer than is found in π -bond transition metal complexes, *e.g.* in the structure of naphthalenechromium tricarbonyl (Kunz & Nowacki, 1967) the distance from chromium to the plane of the naphthalene ring is 1.75 Å. This seems to indicate that in the present structure, the antimony-naphthalene bond is not a very strong interaction, though it is strong enough to produce considerable π -electron localization in naphthalene. The bond proposed is best envisaged as an only partial filling of the axial sp^3d antimony orbital from the naphthalene π -system.

Pauling (1960) gives 2.2 Å and 1.80 Å as the van der Waals radii of antimony and chlorine, and 1.70 Å as the half-thickness of the aromatic molecule. In the present structure there are three non-bonded antimonychlorine contacts (3.58, 3.66, 3.83 Å) at less than the sum of the radii. The closest non-bonded chlorine-aromatic contact found here is 3.54 Å and the closest chlorine-chlorine distance is 3.51 Å. These latter distances are approximately consistent with Pauling's values for the van der Waals radius for chlorine, and the half-thickness of the aromatic ring. As there appears to be no simple explanation of the short antimony-chlorine contacts in terms of SbCl₃-dimer or -polymer formation, we must conclude that the van der Waals radius for antimony is not 2.2 but about 1.8 Å in this particular coordination. Based on this lower value, the expected non-bonded antimony-naphthalene distance would then be about 3.5 Å, and the fact that we find 3.2 Å in this structure is indicative of the presence of bonding.

It is worth noting that from a study of the Raman spectra of this complex and of the constituents in the crystalline state, Raskin (1958) claimed that the π electron system of the naphthalene ring was involved in bonding to the antimony trichloride molecule. The spectrum of the complex differs from the spectra of the components by a 'significant redistribution of the intensities and a shift in the frequencies'. New bands were observed in some parts of the spectrum, and some previously single bands were found split. The decrease in C-C frequencies and the appearance of new lines in this region was attributed to the fact that these complexes are formed by means of the π -electrons. The new lines observed in the regions of the valence vibrations of SbCl₃ were attributed to the formation of bonds between the SbCl₃ molecule and the complexing agent.

These observations are in agreement with the structure proposed. The changes in frequency of the Sb–Cl bonds can be explained by the change in hybridization or coordination, and the changes in frequencies of C–C bonds are accounted for by the changes in π -bond order in the naphthalene bonds.

Comparison with related structures

The present structure is one member of a series of related antimony trihalide structures, (see Fig. 5). In free antimony trichloride, the three chlorine atoms and the antimony lone electron pair have a distorted tetrahedral distribution around antimony, [Fig. 5(a)]. In the presence of one electron donor source, (present structure), the distribution is now a distorted trigonal bipyramid [Fig. 5(b)]. The bond opposite the newly filled orbital is lengthened by 0.02 Å relative to the other antimony chlorine bonds. The structure of the 2:1 adduct between antimony triiodide and 1:4 dithiane (Bjorvatten, 1966), illustrates the situation when two electron donors approach an antimony trihalide molecule [Fig. 5(c)]. Here the distribution is distorted octahedral, and both antimony-iodine bonds opposite the newly filled orbitals are again longer than the third antimony iodine bond by about 0.02 Å. Finally, the SbBr₆³⁻ ion in the structure of ammonium hexabromoantimonate (Lawton & Jacobson, 1966) affords an example of the extreme case of electron donation to an antimony trihalide system. The structure is a regular

Table 5. Planes of best fit (least squares)

(a) Coefficients.

Each plane is represented by AX+BY+CZ=D where X, Y, Z are orthogonal coordinates obtained from the fractional coordinates x, y, z by the transformations:

$X=ax+cz\cos\beta, Y=by, Z=cz\sin\beta$.

Plane	Description	A	В	С	D
1	Whole naphthalene molecule	0.9920	0.0201	0.1246	1.9597
2	Part of naphthalene molecule	0.9922	0.0415	0.1179	1.9258
3	Rest of naphthalene molecule	0.9920	0.0022	0.1265	1.9587
4	Antimony and two chlorines	0.9962	0.0840	0.0246	-1.5612

(b) Deviations from planes (Å)

Atoms in parentheses were not included in the calculation of the plane.

Plane	1	2	3	4
Sb	(3.223)	(3.201)	(3.220)	0.0
Cl(1)	(3.500)	(3.441)	(3.515)	0.0
Cl(2)	(3.264)	(3.200)	(3.294)	0.0
Cl(3)		. ,		(2.352)
C(Ì)	0.001	(-0.039)	0.006	
C(2)	-0.016	(-0.057)	-0.006	
C(3)	0.011	-0.003	0.003	
C(4)	0.016	0.002		
C(5)	-0.012	-0.001		•
C(5')	0.015	0.001	-0.003	
Cl(3'')	(-3.546)	(-3.562)		

In the case planes 1 and 2, the carbon atoms related to the above by the centre of symmetry were included in the calculation. Cl(3') is related to Cl(3) by the translation x=1.

	(c) Angles b	etween normals	s to planes (deg	rees)	
Plane	1	2	3	4	
1	0.0	1.29	1.03	6.81	
2		0.0	2.30	5.88	
3			0.0	7.49	
(d) Angl	es between Cl	(3)-Sb vector a	nd normals to p	olanes (degree	s)
			•		

Plane	1	2	3	4
Angle	12.76	11.58	13.62	6.55





Fig. 5. Spatial distribution of bonds in some antimony trihalide complexes or ions. All bond lengths quoted are in Ångstrom units. (a) Free SbCl₃ (distorted tetrahedron). (b) 2SbCl₃.C₁₀H₈, present structure (distorted trigonal bipyramid). (c) 2Sbl₃.C₄H₈S₂ (distorted octahedron). (d) [SbBr₆]³⁻ (regular octahedron).

octahedron, and the presence of a triple negative charge and a lone electron pair in the molecule, result in a lengthening of the antimony-bromine bond to 2.795 Å from the mean value of 2.50 Å found in free SbBr₃ (Cushen & Hulme, 1962; 1963).

Electron donation into one of the hybrid orbitals of antimony has the effect of lengthening, and hence presumably weakening, the antimony-halogen bond opposite it. This can be compared with the well-known *trans* effect found in transition metal complexes.

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