

## The Crystal Structures of Some Mixed Halides of Lead

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(Received 10 May 1968)

The crystal structures of PbClBr, PbClI and PbBrI, determined from Weissenberg data, have been found to be isostructural with PbCl<sub>2</sub>. For each structure the space group is *Pnam* and *Z*=4. The lattice parameters are *a*=7.80<sub>4</sub>, *b*=9.20<sub>9</sub>, *c*=4.578 Å (PbClBr); *a*=8.818<sub>8</sub>, *b*=9.64<sub>5</sub>, *c*=4.595 Å (PbClI); *a*=8.67<sub>4</sub>, *b*=10.48<sub>3</sub>, *c*=4.448 Å (PbBrI).

### Introduction

The crystal structure of PbCl<sub>2</sub> was determined by Braekken (1932) and partly refined by Sahl & Zemmann (1961). The structure is orthorhombic with 4 molecules per unit cell, each atom being situated at the equipoint 4(*c*) of the space group *Pnam*. PbBr<sub>2</sub>, α-PbF<sub>2</sub>, Pb(OH)Cl and Pb(OH)Br are known to be isostructural with PbCl<sub>2</sub> (Wyckoff, 1963).

Specimens of PbClBr, PbClI and PbBrI have recently been synthesized in this department for infrared phosphorescent study. Each material was prepared by heating to melting point a mixture, consisting of 50% by molecular weight of the two appropriate lead dihalides, in a sealed evacuated silica tube and allowing the sample to cool slowly for several days. In each case single crystals were formed which were suitable for X-ray analysis by the Weissenberg technique.

X-ray powder data for these materials were obtained with crystal monochromatized Cu *K*α radiation using a focusing camera of 22.9 cm effective diameter. The powder pattern is very similar to that of PbCl<sub>2</sub>, and each can be indexed on the basis of an orthorhombic cell with parameters close to those of PbCl<sub>2</sub>. This evidence suggested that PbCl<sub>2</sub> and the mixed halides of lead are isomorphous, and structure analyses of the latter have been carried out on this initial assumption. Lattice parameters calculated from powder data are compared with those of PbCl<sub>2</sub> in Table 1.

Table 1. *Lattice parameters*

Material	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
PbCl <sub>2</sub> *	7.62 Å	9.05 Å	4.535 Å
PbClBr	7.80 <sub>4</sub>	9.20 <sub>9</sub>	4.578
PbClI	8.18 <sub>8</sub>	9.64 <sub>5</sub>	4.595
PbBrI	8.67 <sub>4</sub>	10.48 <sub>3</sub>	4.448

\* Based on diffractometer data given by Swanson & Fuyat (1953).

The crystals used in the analyses were elongated parallel to the *c* axis. Consequently, intensity data were obtained from *c* axis equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs taken with Cu *K*α radiation. The data appropriate to each crystal were as follows:

	PbClBr	PbClI	PbBrI
Mean radius (mm)	0.032	0.048	0.025
<i>μ<sub>r</sub></i>	3.9	7.8	3.7
Macroscopic density (g.cm <sup>-3</sup> )	6.40	—	—
X-ray density (g.cm <sup>-3</sup> )	6.51	6.76	6.80
No. of observed reflexions	253	273	282
No. of possible reflexions	277	289	307

No attempt was made to measure the densities of PbClI and PbBrI as it was known that the bulk material contained significant amounts of PbI<sub>2</sub>.

For each analysis the intensities of reflexions on 3 layer lines were measured from multiple film exposures using a Joyce-Loebl flying spot microdensitometer; the intensities of weak reflexions had to be estimated visually against a calibrated scale. The systematically absent reflexions were such that *k*+*l*=2*n* for 0*kl* and *h*=2*n* for *h0l*, consistent with the space group *Pnam* (a non-standard setting of *Pnma*).

The observed reflexions were corrected for the Lorentz-polarization factor and for spot shape on upper layer lines (Phillips, 1954). Absorption corrections given by Bond (1959) were also applied assuming that each crystal was approximately of cylindrical shape.

### The determination of the structure

The atomic scattering factors used to calculate structure factors were those given in *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962) for Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup> and neutral Pb and I.

Initially atoms were located at equipoint 4(*c*) of the space group *Pnam* at positions suggested by the PbCl<sub>2</sub> structure. These preliminary structures were refined by a three-dimensional least-squares program (Daly, Stephens & Wheatley, 1963) run on an Elliott 803 computer. After a few cycles of refinement, the atomic shifts became significantly less than the standard deviations. The final *R* values were 12.9% (PbClBr), 11.5% (PbClI) and 11.6% (PbBrI).

The final atomic parameters are listed in Table 2 together with those of PbCl<sub>2</sub> given by Sahl & Zemmann (1961). Observed and calculated structure factors are compared in Table 3; in each analysis approximately half a dozen reflexions were found to be affected by

extinction, and the observed values for these have been obtained from powder data.

Discussion of the structure

The crystal structure of PbXY, where X and Y represent the lighter and heavier halogen ions, respectively,

Table 2. Atomic parameters (origin at  $\bar{1}$ )  
Standard deviations are given in parentheses.

	x	y	z	B (Å <sup>2</sup> )
Pb	0.2617	0.0956	$\frac{1}{4}$	2.0
Cl	0.8610	0.0742	$\frac{1}{4}$	2.0
Cl <sup>1</sup>	0.4768	0.8370	$\frac{1}{4}$	2.0
Pb	0.2462 (3)	0.1040 (3)	$\frac{1}{4}$	4.47 (06)
Cl	0.8584 (14)	0.0675 (12)	$\frac{1}{4}$	3.30 (21)
Br	0.4732 (7)	0.8322 (5)	$\frac{1}{4}$	3.44 (09)
Pb	0.2078 (3)	0.1251 (2)	$\frac{1}{4}$	4.29 (05)
Cl	0.8600 (12)	0.0620 (10)	$\frac{1}{4}$	2.18 (17)
I	0.4707 (3)	0.8307 (3)	$\frac{1}{4}$	2.31 (05)
Pb	0.1624 (2)	0.1578 (2)	$\frac{1}{4}$	3.33 (05)
Br	0.8412 (3)	0.0542 (4)	$\frac{1}{4}$	1.80 (07)
I	0.5007 (3)	0.8288 (2)	$\frac{1}{4}$	2.42 (06)

is shown diagrammatically in Fig.1 which has been drawn from the data for PbClI. The positions of the halogen ions in the mixed halides, particularly PbClBr and PbClI, are very similar to those of chlorine in PbCl<sub>2</sub>. There is, however, a prominent shift in the location of the lead ion as one progresses from the structure of PbCl<sub>2</sub> at one end of the series to that of PbBrI at the other. This shift is such as to increase the Pb-Y separation in the xy-plane; for instance in PbCl<sub>2</sub> the separation (2.86 Å) is of the same order of magnitude as the sum of the ionic radii, whereas in PbBrI it is so great (4.53 Å) that the ions can hardly be thought of as being adjacent.

Each lead ion is surrounded by 2X and 1Y in the same xy-plane and 1X and 2Y lying in each adjacent plane. The nearest halogens to X are 2Y in the same xy-plane and 1X and 2Y in the neighbouring planes. Each Y ion has a halogen coordination of ten, 2X and 2Y in the same xy-plane and 2X and 1Y in each neighbouring plane. Bond lengths for PbCl<sub>2</sub> and the mixed halides are given in Table 4. It will be seen that there is a wide range of bond lengths between any particular

Table 3. Observed and calculated structure factors for (a) PbClBr, (b) PbClI and (c) PbBrI

Reflexions too weak to be observed are allocated an intensity  $I_0 = I_{min}/2$ , where  $I_{min}$  is the smallest intensity on the scale used for visual estimates. Observed structure factors for the following reflexions were obtained from powder data: (a) 020, 120, 130, 400, 111, 122, 132, 142; (b) 400, 310, 401, 211, 312; (c) 020, 250, 310, 031.

(a)

H	K	L	F <sub>o</sub>	F <sub>c</sub>	H	K	L	F <sub>o</sub>	F <sub>c</sub>	H	K	L	F <sub>o</sub>	F <sub>c</sub>	H	K	L	F <sub>o</sub>	F <sub>c</sub>
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	30	26	4	4	4	16	16	4	4	4	24	24
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	11	11	4	4	4	12	12	4	4	4	14	14
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	17	17	4	4	4	22	22	4	4	4	20	20
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	22	22	4	4	4	27	27	4	4	4	25	25
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	27	27	4	4	4	32	32	4	4	4	29	29
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	32	32	4	4	4	37	37	4	4	4	33	33
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	37	37	4	4	4	42	42	4	4	4	37	37
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	42	42	4	4	4	47	47	4	4	4	41	41
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	47	47	4	4	4	52	52	4	4	4	45	45
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	52	52	4	4	4	57	57	4	4	4	49	49
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	57	57	4	4	4	62	62	4	4	4	53	53
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	62	62	4	4	4	67	67	4	4	4	57	57
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	67	67	4	4	4	72	72	4	4	4	61	61
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	72	72	4	4	4	77	77	4	4	4	65	65
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	77	77	4	4	4	82	82	4	4	4	69	69
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	82	82	4	4	4	87	87	4	4	4	73	73
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	87	87	4	4	4	92	92	4	4	4	77	77
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	92	92	4	4	4	97	97	4	4	4	81	81
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	97	97	4	4	4	102	102	4	4	4	85	85
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	102	102	4	4	4	107	107	4	4	4	89	89
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	107	107	4	4	4	112	112	4	4	4	93	93
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	112	112	4	4	4	117	117	4	4	4	97	97
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	117	117	4	4	4	122	122	4	4	4	101	101
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	122	122	4	4	4	127	127	4	4	4	105	105
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	127	127	4	4	4	132	132	4	4	4	109	109
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	132	132	4	4	4	137	137	4	4	4	113	113
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	137	137	4	4	4	142	142	4	4	4	117	117
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	142	142	4	4	4	147	147	4	4	4	121	121
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	147	147	4	4	4	152	152	4	4	4	125	125
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	152	152	4	4	4	157	157	4	4	4	129	129
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	157	157	4	4	4	162	162	4	4	4	133	133
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	162	162	4	4	4	167	167	4	4	4	137	137
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	167	167	4	4	4	172	172	4	4	4	141	141
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	172	172	4	4	4	177	177	4	4	4	145	145
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	177	177	4	4	4	182	182	4	4	4	149	149
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	182	182	4	4	4	187	187	4	4	4	153	153
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	187	187	4	4	4	192	192	4	4	4	157	157
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	192	192	4	4	4	197	197	4	4	4	161	161
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	197	197	4	4	4	202	202	4	4	4	165	165
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	202	202	4	4	4	207	207	4	4	4	169	169
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	207	207	4	4	4	212	212	4	4	4	173	173
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	212	212	4	4	4	217	217	4	4	4	177	177
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	217	217	4	4	4	222	222	4	4	4	181	181
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	222	222	4	4	4	227	227	4	4	4	185	185
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	227	227	4	4	4	232	232	4	4	4	189	189
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	232	232	4	4	4	237	237	4	4	4	193	193
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	237	237	4	4	4	242	242	4	4	4	197	197
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	242	242	4	4	4	247	247	4	4	4	201	201
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	247	247	4	4	4	252	252	4	4	4	205	205
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	252	252	4	4	4	257	257	4	4	4	209	209
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	257	257	4	4	4	262	262	4	4	4	213	213
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	262	262	4	4	4	267	267	4	4	4	217	217
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	267	267	4	4	4	272	272	4	4	4	221	221
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	272	272	4	4	4	277	277	4	4	4	225	225
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	277	277	4	4	4	282	282	4	4	4	229	229
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	282	282	4	4	4	287	287	4	4	4	233	233
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	287	287	4	4	4	292	292	4	4	4	237	237
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	292	292	4	4	4	297	297	4	4	4	241	241
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	297	297	4	4	4	302	302	4	4	4	245	245
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	302	302	4	4	4	307	307	4	4	4	249	249
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	307	307	4	4	4	312	312	4	4	4	253	253
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	312	312	4	4	4	317	317	4	4	4	257	257
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	317	317	4	4	4	322	322	4	4	4	261	261
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	322	322	4	4	4	327	327	4	4	4	265	265
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	327	327	4	4	4	332	332	4	4	4	269	269
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	332	332	4	4	4	337	337	4	4	4	273	273
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	337	337	4	4	4	342	342	4	4	4	277	277
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	342	342	4	4	4	347	347	4	4	4	281	281
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	347	347	4	4	4	352	352	4	4	4	285	285
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	352	352	4	4	4	357	357	4	4	4	289	289
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	357	357	4	4	4	362	362	4	4	4	293	293
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	362	362	4	4	4	367	367	4	4	4	297	297
0	0	0	47	228	7	6	6	367	367	4	4	4	372	372	4	4	4	301	301
0	0	0	228	47	7	6	6	372	372	4	4	4	377	377	4	4	4	305	



Table 3 (cont.)

(c)

H	K	L	F <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	H	K	L	F <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	H	K	L	F <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	H	K	L	F <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>
0	0	0	-125	125	0	0	0	-125	125	0	0	0	234	221	1	1	11	54	47
0	0	0	-203	213	0	0	0	-112	121	0	0	0	-112	121	0	0	0	-5	-5
0	0	0	-251	224	0	0	0	-74	59	0	0	0	-74	59	0	0	0	124	122
0	0	0	-131	121	0	0	0	-103	114	0	0	0	-103	114	0	0	0	65	74
0	0	0	-66	66	0	0	0	-120	125	0	0	0	-120	125	0	0	0	-37	41
0	0	0	-69	62	0	0	0	-146	141	0	0	0	-146	141	0	0	0	0	6
0	0	0	-163	151	0	0	0	-33	31	0	0	0	-33	31	0	0	0	-47	47
0	0	0	-236	243	0	0	0	-10	10	0	0	0	-10	10	0	0	0	26	24
0	0	0	-65	66	0	0	0	-76	70	0	0	0	-76	70	0	0	0	26	25
0	0	0	-113	103	0	0	0	-17	17	0	0	0	-17	17	0	0	0	-33	27
0	0	0	-3	77	0	0	0	-164	150	0	0	0	-164	150	0	0	0	-31	25
0	0	0	-15	6	0	0	0	-191	204	0	0	0	-191	204	0	0	0	21	232
0	0	0	-26	24	0	0	0	-113	134	0	0	0	-113	134	0	0	0	-7	7
0	0	0	-84	59	0	0	0	-39	40	0	0	0	-39	40	0	0	0	-44	242
0	0	0	-174	155	0	0	0	-14	16	0	0	0	-14	16	0	0	0	-11	7
0	0	0	-83	79	0	0	0	-112	124	0	0	0	-112	124	0	0	0	-11	7
0	0	0	-46	57	0	0	0	-34	32	0	0	0	-34	32	0	0	0	-6	72
0	0	0	-2	2	0	0	0	-20	21	0	0	0	-20	21	0	0	0	6	72
0	0	0	-251	261	0	0	0	-104	112	0	0	0	-104	112	0	0	0	-15	164
0	0	0	-55	51	0	0	0	-6	6	0	0	0	-6	6	0	0	0	-2	2
0	0	0	-32	33	0	0	0	101	114	0	0	0	101	114	0	0	0	-2	43
0	0	0	-41	33	0	0	0	-36	33	0	0	0	-36	33	0	0	0	-4	19
0	0	0	-49	30	0	0	0	-35	44	0	0	0	-35	44	0	0	0	-3	6
0	0	0	-31	30	0	0	0	-17	33	0	0	0	-17	33	0	0	0	25	3
0	0	0	-10	26	0	0	0	-26	29	0	0	0	-26	29	0	0	0	18	15
0	0	0	-316	293	0	0	0	-32	34	0	0	0	-32	34	0	0	0	-33	31
0	0	0	-10	6	0	0	0	-12	12	0	0	0	-12	12	0	0	0	-22	31
0	0	0	-316	293	0	0	0	-147	142	0	0	0	-147	142	0	0	0	-10	15
0	0	0	-10	2	0	0	0	-43	42	0	0	0	-43	42	0	0	0	-25	10
0	0	0	-14	1	0	0	0	-74	61	0	0	0	-74	61	0	0	0	-172	3
0	0	0	-7	8	0	0	0	-22	24	0	0	0	-22	24	0	0	0	-74	3
0	0	0	-205	132	0	0	0	-51	45	0	0	0	-51	45	0	0	0	-50	65
0	0	0	-2	2	0	0	0	-167	169	0	0	0	-167	169	0	0	0	-40	44
0	0	0	-48	57	0	0	0	-50	59	0	0	0	-50	59	0	0	0	-74	74
0	0	0	-126	123	0	0	0	-42	27	0	0	0	-42	27	0	0	0	-95	95
0	0	0	-79	35	0	0	0	-142	113	0	0	0	-142	113	0	0	0	-61	63
0	0	0	-2	1	0	0	0	-23	23	0	0	0	-23	23	0	0	0	-260	240
0	0	0	-13	1	0	0	0	-17	17	0	0	0	-17	17	0	0	0	-12	17
0	0	0	-133	133	0	0	0	-23	13	0	0	0	-23	13	0	0	0	-11	62
0	0	0	-3	34	0	0	0	-134	145	0	0	0	-134	145	0	0	0	-11	7
0	0	0	-13	30	0	0	0	-361	233	0	0	0	-361	233	0	0	0	-6	105
0	0	0	-31	30	0	0	0	-164	167	0	0	0	-164	167	0	0	0	-39	36
0	0	0	-52	50	0	0	0	-44	45	0	0	0	-44	45	0	0	0	-117	142
0	0	0	-115	115	0	0	0	-144	144	0	0	0	-144	144	0	0	0	-72	77
0	0	0	-19	65	0	0	0	-145	122	0	0	0	-145	122	0	0	0	-3	45
0	0	0	-4	103	0	0	0	-170	136	0	0	0	-170	136	0	0	0	-27	27
0	0	0	-64	70	0	0	0	-150	124	0	0	0	-150	124	0	0	0	-71	74
0	0	0	-21	4	0	0	0	-41	35	0	0	0	-41	35	0	0	0	-40	43
0	0	0	-19	56	0	0	0	5	21	0	0	0	5	21	0	0	0	-32	33
0	0	0	-4	11	0	0	0	-74	66	0	0	0	-74	66	0	0	0	-45	30
0	0	0	-3	103	0	0	0	-56	46	0	0	0	-56	46	0	0	0	-29	17
0	0	0	-63	70	0	0	0	-142	153	0	0	0	-142	153	0	0	0	-26	24
0	0	0	-17	21	0	0	0	24	31	0	0	0	24	31	0	0	0	-23	23
0	0	0	-41	23	0	0	0	-53	57	0	0	0	-53	57	0	0	0	-32	33
0	0	0	-325	234	0	0	0	-4	6	0	0	0	-4	6	0	0	0	-32	23
0	0	0	-16	16	0	0	0	-15	16	0	0	0	-15	16	0	0	0	-17	17
0	0	0	-61	74	0	0	0	-75	69	0	0	0	-75	69	0	0	0	-32	33
0	0	0	-19	126	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	-5	61
0	0	0	-37	37	0	0	0	-13	6	0	0	0	-13	6	0	0	0	-32	22
0	0	0	-146	153	0	0	0	-6	96	0	0	0	-6	96	0	0	0	-25	22

Table 4. Bond lengths

Standard deviations are given in parentheses. Identification of atoms as in Fig. 1.

Bond	PbClBr	PbClI	PbBrI	PbCl <sub>2</sub>
Pb(1)-X(1)	3·044 (10) Å	2·913 (8) Å	2·990 (4) Å	3·06 Å
-X(2)	3·151 (10)	3·265 (8)	3·393 (4)	3·08
-X(3)	2·898 (10) 2 ×	2·974 (8) 2 ×	3·145 (4) 2 ×	2·90 2 ×
-Y(1)	3·065 (5)	3·565 (3)	4·529 (3)	2·86
-Y(3)	3·223 (5) 2 ×	3·520 (3) 2 ×	3·675 (3) 2 ×	3·08 2 ×
-Y(4)	3·548 (5) 2 ×	3·367 (3) 2 ×	3·188 (3) 2 ×	3·64 2 ×
X(1)-X(3)	3·416 (14) 2 ×	3·459 (12) 2 ×	3·719 (5) 2 ×	3·38 2 ×
-Y(1)	3·706 (10)	3·890 (8)	3·783 (4)	3·63
X(1)-Y(2) Y(1)-X(2)	3·788 (10)	3·894 (8)	4·247 (4)	3·82
-Y(3) -X(3)	3·575 (10) 2 ×	3·699 (8) 2 ×	3·905 (4) 2 ×	3·52 2 ×
-Y(4) -X(4)	3·594 (10) 2 ×	3·730 (8) 2 ×	3·887 (4) 2 ×	3·51 2 ×
Y(1)-Y(2)	4·186 (6) 2 ×	4·379 (3) 2 ×	4·641 (4) 2 ×	4·12 2 ×
-Y(3)	3·869 (6) 2 ×	4·022 (3) 2 ×	4·223 (4) 2 ×	3·74 2 ×

pair of ions, showing that the arrangement of the halogen ions departs considerably from a close-packed array. In each structure the shortest bond length between any two halogen ions is less than the sum of the ionic radii as given by Clark (1955).

We wish to thank Dr I.S. Robertson for making specimens available to us for analysis. We are grateful

to Dr P.J. Wheatley of Monsanto Research S.A. and Dr H.H. Sutherland of this department for permitting us to use the computer programs used in this investigation. One of us (S.A.D.A.) is indebted to the University of Damascus for the award of a research studentship. Finally, we wish to thank the Science Research Council for a grant which enabled us to purchase the flying spot microdensitometer used to measure intensities.

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*Acta Cryst.* (1969). B25, 800

## The Crystal Structure of Copper Mercury Oxynitrate Trihydrate, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot \text{HgO} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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(Received 19 April 1968)

The crystal structure of copper(II) mercury(II) oxynitrate trihydrate has been determined by single-crystal three-dimensional X-ray analysis. There are two formula units in the monoclinic unit cell of dimensions  $a=7.33$ ,  $b=8.87$ ,  $c=6.75$  Å,  $\beta=112^\circ 32'$  and space group  $P2_1/c$ . The copper ion is coordinated by two oxygen atoms from two nitrate ions at 2.14 Å, two oxygen atoms from two hydroxide ions at 2.15 Å and two oxygen atoms from two water molecules at 2.02 Å in an octahedron. Both hydroxide ions and both water molecules belong simultaneously to the mercury ion, at 2.30 and 2.54 Å respectively, whose octahedral coordination is completed with nitrate-oxygen atoms at 2.78 Å. The octahedra about copper and mercury are linked alternately by sharing two opposite edges along the  $c$  axis as well as two opposite corners along the  $b$  axis. The solution of the structure shows that the best definition of the chemical formula of this compound is  $\text{HgCu}(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

### Introduction

Among various basic salts there is a large group of those with the general formula  $m\text{MX}_2 \cdot n\text{HgO} \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  where  $M=\text{Ca}$ ,  $\text{Sr}$ ,  $\text{Ba}$ ,  $\text{Mn}$ ,  $\text{Co}$ ,  $\text{Ni}$ ,  $\text{Cu}$ ,  $\text{Zn}$ ,  $\text{Cd}$ ,  $\text{Hg}$ , and  $X=\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{Br}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{ClO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{BrO}_3^-$ . (André, 1887; Maihle, 1902; Finzi, 1913; Denk & Dewald, 1951; Denk, Leschhorn & Rosmer, 1962; Denk & Leschhorn, 1966). With the exception of mercury oxihalides, basic mercuric sulphates, chlorate and bromate where  $M=\text{Hg}$ , the structures of other salts are still unknown (Grdenić, 1965).

We have undertaken the crystal-structure investigation of the basic nitrate  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot \text{HgO} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in order to establish to which structural type it belongs (Basset, 1947). It was particularly interesting to find out the coordination about mercury in the presence of another metal. At the same time, in spite of many solved structures, the stereochemistry of copper still attracts attention. Not of less interest have been also the ligand properties of the nitrate ion, particularly since Wallwork & Addison (1965) proposed its bidentate character in the structure of anhydrous  $\alpha$ -copper(II) nitrate.

### Experimental

$(\text{NO}_3)_2\text{Hg} \cdot \text{CuO} \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is reported to have been obtained by dissolving mercuric oxide in an aqueous so-

lution of cupric nitrate (Maihle, 1902). By the same method  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot \text{HgO} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was prepared in the form of pale blue needle-shaped crystals (Finzi, 1913). All our attempts to prepare both compounds have always resulted in the trihydrate.

The crystal data are as follows:

$a=7.33 \pm 0.02$ Å	Formula weight 458.2
$b=8.87 \pm 0.02$	$V=405.3$ Å <sup>3</sup>
$c=6.75 \pm 0.02$	$\rho_m=3.74$ g.cm <sup>-3</sup>
$\beta=112^\circ 32' \pm 15'$	$\rho_x=3.75$ g.cm <sup>-3</sup>
Space group $P2_1/c$	$Z=2$

The cell parameters were measured from oscillation and Weissenberg photographs. Density was determined pycnometrically. The systematic absence of reflexions  $h0l$  for  $l$  odd and  $0k0$  for  $k$  odd uniquely determined the space group as  $P2_1/c$ . Except for some weak reflexions, all  $hkl$  reflexions fulfil the condition  $k+l=2n$  required by the special positions of the heavy atoms. Three-dimensional intensity data ( $h0l \dots h6l$ ,  $hk0 \dots hk6$ ) were recorded on integrated equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs with multiple films with  $\text{Cu } K\alpha$  radiation and determined photometrically. Within the limiting sphere 526 independent reflexions were strong enough to be observed. After correction for Lorentz and polarization factors, the intensities were placed on the same