In general, X-ray photographs were recorded for several specimens about at least two crystallographic axes for each compound. For 2-methyltriphenylene, however, the thin acicular habit of the crystals allowed them to be mounted only about the c axis. Since precession photographs were too weak to confirm the presence or absence of odd 00/ reflexions, a space-group ambiguity remains for this compound. The monoclinic form of what is designated 1,3-dimethyltriphenylene was recognized in only one small specimen and it is possible that this was an isolated crystal of another dimethyltriphenylene.

Table 1 also includes a calculated volume per additional methyl group derived, by comparison with triphenylene itself, from the expression

$$v = n^{-1} [(V/Z) - (1159/4)] Å^3.$$

Here V is the cell volume of the substituted triphenylene and 1159 Å that of triphenylene; n is the degree of methylsubstitution; Z is the number of molecules per unit cell. Although there is a small tendency for V to decrease with increasing substitution, its near constancy implies a remarkable similarity in efficiency of packing for these substituted triphenylenes.

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Refinement of the structure of magnesium thiosulphate hexahydrate, MgS<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O. By S. BAGGIO, L. M. AMZEL\* and L. N. BECKA,\* Escuela de Quimica, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela

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The structure of MgS<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O, determined by Nardelli, Fava & Giraldi (*Acta Cryst.* (1962), **15**, 225) has been refined with the use of more extensive data. The refinement by the full-matrix least-squares method with anisotropic temperature factors gives the dimensions of the thiosulphate ion as: S-S distance =  $2\cdot013$  Å, S-O distance =  $1\cdot468$  Å, O-S-O angle =  $110\cdot1^{\circ}$ . Hydrogen atoms have been located in the three-dimensional difference Fourier synthesis.

The most accurate dimensions of the thiosulphate ion reported so far are those published by Nardelli *et al.* (1962) in their paper on the structure of MgS<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. $6H_2O$ . However, since the reported estimated standard deviations are too high to establish whether there is a significant change in dimensions of the thiosulphate moiety when it coordinates to a transition metal, we decided to refine that structure with more data. We also wanted to locate the positions of the hydrogen atoms to confirm the hydrogen bonding scheme predicted by Nardelli *et al.* (1962) and supported by the nuclear magnetic resonance studies of El Saffar (1968, 1969), the latter being in conflict with the n.m.r. results reported by Visweswaramurthy (1963).

The cell data are:  $a=9.397\pm0.010$ ,  $b=14.455\pm0.015$ ,  $c=6.864\pm0.009$  Å; V=932.4 Å<sup>3</sup>;  $D_c=1.740$  (Z=4),  $D_o=1.730$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup> (by flotation);  $\mu=7.0$  cm<sup>-1</sup> for Mo Ka radiation; space group=*Pnma*. We determined the unitcell dimensions from the  $Ka_{I}-Ka_{II}$  splitting of 89 independent high angle reflexions (recorded on levels *hk*0 to *hk5* by the equi-inclination Weissenberg method with Cu Ka radiation) by the least-squares procedure proposed by Alcock & Sheldrick (1967). Intensity data were collected with Zr-filtered Mo radiation on a cylinder shaped crystal of 0.9 mm length  $\times 0.25$  mm diameter. Absorption corrections were neglected. We obtained 1589 independent reflexions of measurable intensity (70% of the reflexion sphere of sin  $\theta/\lambda = 0.90$ ) from mechanically integrated Weissenberg and precession photographs. The intensities were measured with a microdensitometer, and the different layers put on the same scale using the method of Hamilton, Rollett & Sparks (1965). The ratio of maximum observable intensity was 2500:1, and the discrepancy index  $(R = \Sigma |\Delta| | \Sigma F_0)$  for equivalent reflexions measured on diferent layers is 0.06.

The observed and calculated structure factors are given in Table 1.

The final parameters for the non-hydrogen atoms were obtained by full-matrix least-squares refinement of the observed reflexions, minimizing  $\Sigma w ||F_o| - |F_c||^2$ . The weights, w, are chosen to make  $w\Delta^2$  approximately constant in the range of  $F_o$  and  $\sin \theta / \lambda$ . The form factors for S, O, Mg<sup>2+</sup> and H are from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962); the oxygen atoms of the S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> ion were given a fractional charge of  $-\frac{2}{3}$  each and their form factor was

<sup>\*</sup> Present address: Department of Biophysics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. 21205, U.S.A.

# SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

# Table 1. Observed and calculated structure factors

Values listed are h,  $10F_o$ , and  $10F_c$ . Intensities that could not be distinguished from the background are indicated by the letter U following h. The values of  $F_c$  correspond to the parameters listed in the text with the origin shifted by  $\frac{1}{2}$  along z.

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Table 1 (cont.)

Table 2. Final positional parameters (×104), and coefficients  $B_y$ (×104) in the expression exp [-( $B_{11}h^2 + B_{22}k^2 + B_{33}l^2 + 2B_{12}hk + 2B_{13}hl + 2B_{23}kl$ ], all with their standard deviations in parentheses

	x/a	y/b	z/c	$B_{11}$	$B_{22}$	B <sub>33</sub>	$B_{12}$	B <sub>13</sub>	B <sub>33</sub>
Mg	0	0	0	31 (2)	11 (1)	58 (5)	0 (1)	-7(3)	-6(2)
S(1)	0411 (2)	2500	4406 (2)	57 (2)	11 (1)	43 (4)	0	-8(3)	0)
S(2)	2149 (2)	2500	6118 (2)	52 (2)	19 (1)	77 (5)	0	2 (3)	0
O(1)	- 0421 (5)	1662 (3)	4778 (5)	96 (8)	29 (2)	106 (12)	-5 (4)	-4(9)	-5 (5)
O(2)	0904 (7)	2500	2372 (7)	124 (13)	17 (2)	43 (13)	0	-12(12)	0
O(W1)	-1545 (3)	0807 (2)	1469 (4)	45 (5)	16 (1)	66 (10)	-2 (2)	-2(6)	2 (3)
O(W2)	1270 (4)	1141 (2)	-0295 (5)	74 (6)	17 (1)	95 (11)	-7 (3)	-6(7)	-6(4)
O(W3)	-0982 (4)	0270 (2)	-2592 (5)	65 (6)	22 (2)	81 (11)	-3 (3)	5 (8)	-2(4)

obtained by interpolation. After two cycles of refinement with isotropic temperature factors followed by three cycles with anisotropic temperature factors, no parameter shifted by more than 1/10 of the e.s.d. The final residual was R=0.091 and  $R'(\Sigma w |F_c|) = 0.105$ . We applied the secondary extinction correction given by Zachariasen (1963) in the last two cycles of refinement, refining the parameter C together with the atomic parameters (C converged to a value of 0.032). With the final set of calculated structure factors we computed a three-dimensional difference Fourier synthesis on a mesh of  $0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1$  Å using reflexions with  $\sin \theta / \lambda < 0.40 \text{ Å}^{-1}$ . This map showed six peaks, of  $0.5 \text{ e.}^{-3}$ , in the asymmetric unit. These peaks clearly correspond to hydrogen atoms since: (a) they are 5 times larger than the e.s.d. of the electron density and 3 times larger than the next highest peaks; (b) the positions are compatible with the hydrogen bonding scheme proposed by Nardelli et al. (1962) and less than twice the e.s.d. away from the positions calculated by El Saffar (1969) from his n.m.r. results; (c) when hydrogen atoms at these positions are included in the structure factor calculation Rdrops to 0.085 and R' to 0.101. The positional and thermal parameters used in the last cycle of least-squares refinement are shown in Table 2, the hydrogen atom coordinates formed in the difference Fourier synthesis are given in Table 3, and the interatomic distances and angles in Table 4. The atoms are named as in the paper by El Saffar (1969), which uses practically the same assignment as Nardelli et al. (1962).

Our results give essentially the same coordinates for the

# Table 3. Coordinates (×103) and isotropic temperature factors of hydrogen atoms

#### Standard deviations are given in parentheses.

	x/a	y/b	<i>z/c</i>	В
H(1a)	877 (15)	99 (9)	232 (21)	1·3 (1·2) Å <sup>2</sup>
H(1b)	814 (14)	122 (9)	80 (21)	1.1 (0.9)
H(2a)	127 (14)	150 (9)	62 (20)	2.2 (0.5)
H(2b)	142 (15)	142 (10)	874 (21)	2.2 (2.0)
H(3a)	898 (15)	74 (9)	655 (20)	3.5 (3.3)
H(3b)	825 (15)	985 (9)	708 (20)	2.7 (2.4)

non-hydrogen atoms as those reported by Nardelli et al. (1962), and the hydrogen coordinates seen in the difference Fourier synthesis do not differ significantly from those obtained by El Saffar (1969). The agreement between these independent studies provides reliable additional structural data on the OH---S hydrogen bond, which has not been studied in detail so far. The dimensions of the S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> group have been determined by us with sufficient accuracy to ascertain that there is a significant lengthening of the S-S bond when the  $S_2O_3^{2-}$  ion coordinates through its terminal S atom. This lengthening is about 10 times the e.s.d. in the compound Na<sub>4n</sub>[Cu(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]<sub>n</sub>[Cu<sub>n</sub>(S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2n</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (Ferrari, Braibanti & Tiripichio, 1966) where each terminal S atom bridges two Cu atoms; and about 7 times the e.s.d. in the compound [Pd(en)<sub>2</sub>] [Pd(en) (S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (Baggio, Amzel & Becka, 1969) where each terminal S atom is bonded to a Pd atom. In the compound Ni[SC(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O (Fava Gasparri, Musatti & Nardelli, 1966), the S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> group

# Table 4. Distances and angles in MgS<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O

E.s.d.'s are given in parentheses; these estimates take into account correlation and unit-cell errors.

Code for superscripts:

		Atom at					
	(None) x	y z					
	$1 x - \frac{1}{2}$	$y \qquad \frac{1}{2} - z$					
	$\begin{array}{ccc} 11 & x \\ 111 & -\frac{1}{2} - x \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} y & z-1 \\ -y & \frac{1}{2}+z \end{array}$					
(a) Dimensions of the $S_2O_3$	<sup>2–</sup> group:						
S(1)—S(2)	2·013 (3) Å	S(2) –S(1)–O(1)	109·3 (4)°				
S(1)O(2)	1.471 (5)	S(2) - S(1) - O(2)	107.4 (4)				
S(1)O(1)	1.465 (5)	O(2)-S(1)-O(1)	109.5 (6)				
O(1)O(2)	2.398 (7)	O(1)-S(1)-O(1)	111.5 (6)				
(b) Dimensions of the $Mg(H_2O_6)^{2+}$ group:							
Mg-O(W1)	2·118 (4) Å	O(W1)-Mg-O(W2)	89.8 (4)				
Mg-O(W2)	2.046 (4)	O(W1) - Mg - O(W3)	90.0 (4)				
Mg-O(W3)	2.042 (4)	O(W2)-Mg-O(W3)	88.6 (4)				
(c) Hydrogen bonds:							
O(W1) S(2')	3·263 (5) Å	O(W1) - H S(2')	178°				
O(W1) O(1)	2.793 (6)	O(W1)-HO(1)	174				
$O(W_2) S(2'')$	3.255 (5)	$O(W_2) - H_{}S(2'')$	169				
$O(W_2) O(2)$	2.707 (6)	O(W2)-HO(2)	165				
$O(W_3) O(1'')$	2.753 (6)	O(W3)-HO(1'')	160				
O(W3)O(W1''')	2.870 (6)	O(W3)-HO(W1''')	171				

coordinates as a bidentate ligand through S and O, there being no significant difference in the S–S bond distance with respect to the  $S_2O_3^{--}$  ion. A comparison of the S–O distances determined in all the above mentioned thiosulphate complexes with the S–O distance determined in the ionic thiosulphate shows that the largest difference is less than 3 times the e.s.d. of the bond distance (e.s.d. 0·01 Å in all the complexes). The S–O distances and O–S–O angles of the thiosulphate ion are significantly different (about 10 times the e.s.d.) from those determined in ionic sulphites (see Baggio & Becka, 1969 and references therein) and practically the same as those determined in ionic sulphates (see Baur (1965) and references therein).

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