

The Crystal Structure of 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene; Neutron Diffraction and Constrained Refinements

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The crystal structure of 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene has been solved using neutron diffraction data. The crystal is monoclinic, $P2_1/c$ with $a=12.66$ (1), $b=8.258$ (3), $c=15.05$ (2) Å and $\beta=114.42$ (5)°. There are two symmetry-unrelated molecules in the asymmetric unit, and these were constrained during refinement to have the same shape and to have the same symmetry, $2mm$, as the molecule in the free state. Relaxing this constraint gave a significant improvement, indicating some distortion of the molecules from the free state shape. The temperature factors were also constrained, assuming the thermal motion to be predominantly of rigid-body character. When the model was extended to take account of the effect of the internal modes on the hydrogen atoms the agreement with experiment was sufficiently good that no significant improvement resulted on removing this constraint. This structure is therefore one of the best examples to date where the rigid-body model is appropriate, and has the added interest of requiring two independent sets of rigid-body motion tensors.

Introduction

At the outset we had two reasons for working on 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene. Certain dichlorobenzenes exhibit plastic crystal phase behaviour but we found no evidence for such behaviour in the present work. Our other reason for interest lies in the fact that small molecules lend themselves well to the technique of constrained refinement. Here we were particularly fortunate as the unit cell contains two sets of molecules with no symmetry relation between them. Consequently this provides a good example for constraining the independent molecules to have identical shapes. Other constraints can be imposed as the molecules have symmetry in the free state which is not used in the crystal space group, and also the molecules can be considered rigid in their thermal motion. We thus get further constraints on positional and thermal parameters.

Experimental

Although the structure had not been solved by X-ray diffraction we decided to attempt the solution using neutron diffraction data only. Large crystals were available from stock, and a sphere of diameter 5.15 mm was cut by hand.

Three-dimensional intensity data were taken from this crystal, using the Hilger and Ferranti automatic four-circle diffractometer at the Danish Atomic Energy Establishment, Risø. The moving crystal, fixed detector method was used with neutrons of wavelength 1.025 Å. The intensities obtained by this method compared well with intensities found by the moving-crystal, moving-detector method for a series of reflexions in the $\sin \theta/\lambda$

range investigated. The crystal was mounted with its b axis along the spindle axis (ϕ) of the instrument. In order to minimize the possibility of double Bragg scattering we followed the procedure of Duckworth, Willis & Pawley (1970), and rotated the crystal about the scattering vector through one of four angles ($\pm 3^\circ$, $\pm 1.5^\circ$) in sequence. This certainly avoided simultaneous reflexion from $(0k0)$ and $(h0l)$ when (hkl) was being measured.

The monochromatic neutron beam was uniform to 3% over a circle of 6 mm diameter, and the crystal was positioned within this region. 3085 measurements were taken up to $\sin \theta/\lambda=0.5$ Å⁻¹. After averaging over symmetry-related reflexions we were left with 1194 observations satisfying the condition

$$F^2 > 2\sigma_s(F^2).$$

Here the standard deviation $\sigma_s(F^2)$ is based on counting statistics.

After every ten observations a standard reflexion, 004, was measured. This varied in intensity by no more than 4%, and the slow variation was used to correct the observations for drift in the experimental conditions. Step scan measurements were used and counts for each step were recorded. The total scan interval was 3.44°, and two step sizes were employed. Within a central 2.64° the step size was 0.04°, and was 0.08° outside this region. The reflexion profiles were reduced to structure factors by the method of Lehmann & Larsen (1972), in which $\sigma_s(F^2)/F^2$ is minimized by choosing the best division between the peak region and the background.

Finally the structure factors were corrected for absorption using the table for absorption coefficients of a sphere given by Rouse, Cooper, York & Chakera (1970).

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Crystal data

The unit cell dimensions were determined from ten axial reflexions measured on the neutron diffractometer. The absent spectra were $(h0l)$, l odd and $(0k0)$, k odd.

Space group: $P2_1/c$

$a=12.66$ (1) Å

$b=8.258$ (3)

$c=15.05$ (2)

$\beta=114.42$ (5)° at 298°K

$Z=8$

Density (calculated) = 1.68 g.cm⁻³.

Absorption coefficient for neutrons (calculated using 40 barns for the incoherent scattering cross-section for hydrogen) = 1.03 cm⁻¹ for $\lambda=1.025$ Å.

Crystals colourless.

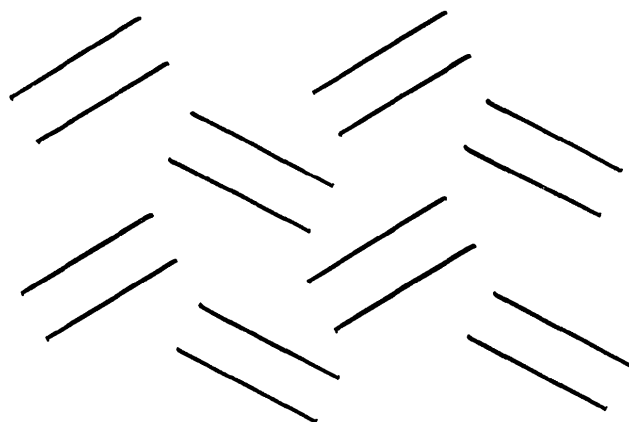


Fig. 1. Schematic arrangement of the molecules as seen in the (001) plane.

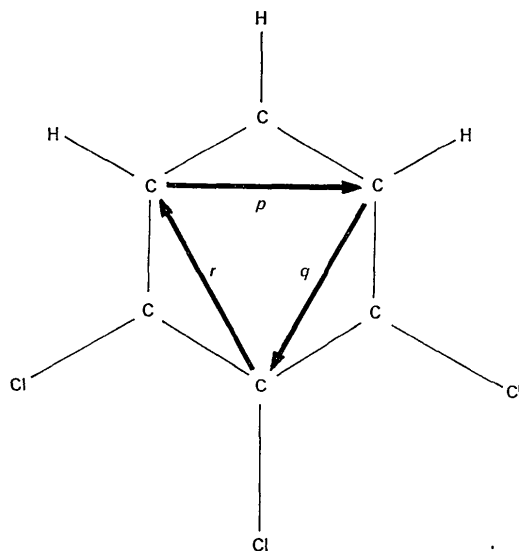


Fig. 2. Interatomic vectors within a molecule.

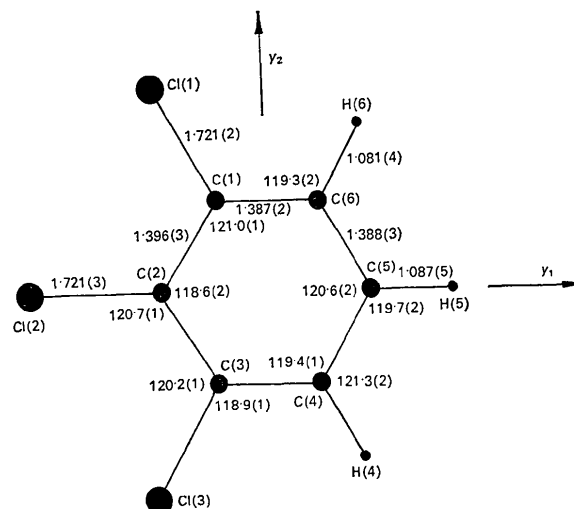


Fig. 3. Molecular parameters for the constrained refinements.

Solution of the structure

The structure was determined by means of the Patterson method, combined with packing considerations and constrained refinements using low-angle reflexions. Model building indicated a packing as shown schematically in Fig. 1 for a layer parallel to the (001) plane, and this gave approximate coordinates for the centres of the rings.

The negative scattering lengths of the hydrogen nuclei cause Patterson peaks corresponding to intermolecular vectors to be difficult to interpret. However the intramolecular vector pattern is easily recognized. A regular hexagon is expected about the origin with peaks all of the same height, caused by vectors p , q and r of Fig. 2. Further out the Cl-Cl vector parallel to p would give positive peaks defined by $2.4 p$, whereas vectors parallel to q and r would give negative regions. The Patterson function showed the two inner hexagons corresponding to the two independent molecules but only one definite Cl-Cl vector. This sufficed to orient one molecule, but two attempts were necessary to orient the other.

Trial structures using molecular centres obtained by packing considerations and the orientations from Patterson maps were the starting points of some constrained refinements. Only the 68 innermost reflexions were used. Besides the overall scale factor only the molecular centres and orientations were allowed to vary. The correct structure refined from $R=0.6$ to $R=0.07$ in six cycles, whereas a trial structure with one molecule misoriented by 60° in its plane refined to $R=0.29$. Poorer trial structures resulted with $R\sim 0.4$ to 0.6. The procedure is clearly unable to refine past a false minimum such as occurs for every 60° turn in the molecular plane, although the molecule centres moved by up to 0.9 Å.

Refinement

A number of constrained refinements and a final unconstrained refinement were done on the full data set of 1194 observations. As the course of refinement is not of general interest only the results will be presented.

The philosophy of constrained refinement has been discussed by Pawley (1971a), and we follow the procedure there described. First we dispense with crystal fractional coordinates (x) by transforming to orthogonal Å coordinates (x_i) using equation (P1) (*i.e.* equation (1) from Pawley, 1971a). The index i ranges over the atoms.

$$x_i = A x_i^c \quad (\text{P1})$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 12.66 & 0 & -6.217 \\ 0 & 8.258 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 13.706 \end{pmatrix}$$

The arrangement of the new axes is shown in Fig. 4. The least-squares program uses this coordinate system for both atomic positions and temperature factors, and so the latter appear in Å² units.

The crystal is composed of molecules which in the free state have symmetry $2mm$.^{*} It is standard practice to refine all the atomic positions and end with a discussion of the molecular symmetry. This would require averaging over bonds related by the molecular symmetry. In our procedure, however, the molecules are constrained to this symmetry and to being identical. The best molecule which results is that of Fig. 3. In this figure the bond lengths and angles have been corrected for the effects of libration.

To construct the crystal structure we proceed as follows. The atomic positions of Table 1 are used to generate the positions of C(3), C(4), Cl(3) and H(4), thus giving coordinates for all atoms of one molecule. Let us call these coordinates y_i . We now rotate these coordinates using a matrix R , which is determined by the Euler angles ϕ , θ , ψ [see equation (P21)], and translate by a vector x_o . We therefore get the coordinates of one molecule,

$$x_i = R y_i + x_o$$

in the crystal (orthogonal) coordinates. A similar transformation positions the second molecule, and the final refined values of the necessary parameters are given in Table 2. Tables 1 and 2 involve 24 parameters which determine the positions of 24 atoms. It is clear that there is one redundancy in these parameters, for if all the y_1 coordinates are allowed to vary the molecule can then move along the y_1 axis, and this variation is already allowed for by having all the molecular positions coordinates variable. Thus we allow only 23 of the parameters to be varied in a least-squares fit of the observations. The molecule is allowed to alter its shape as

^{*} $2mm$ may not be the standard orientation, but is used here because of the choice of axes for Fig. 3.

the data demand, but the crystallographically independent molecules have the same shape and retain full $2mm$ symmetry. We therefore call this the identical symmetric molecule constraint, (ISM, in Table 5).

Table 1. The final coordinates necessary to define the molecule, uncorrected for the effects of libration

	y_1	y_2
C(1)	-0.700 (*) Å	1.196 (1) Å
C(2)	-1.411 (2)	0
C(5)	1.367 (3)	0
C(6)	0.682 (2)	1.202 (2)
Cl(1)	-1.534 (2)	2.695 (1)
Cl(2)	-3.126 (2)	0
H(5)	2.450 (5)	0
H(6)	1.205 (4)	2.144 (4)

^{*} This parameter was kept fixed during refinement to avoid least-squares matrix singularity. All y_3 coordinates were zero.

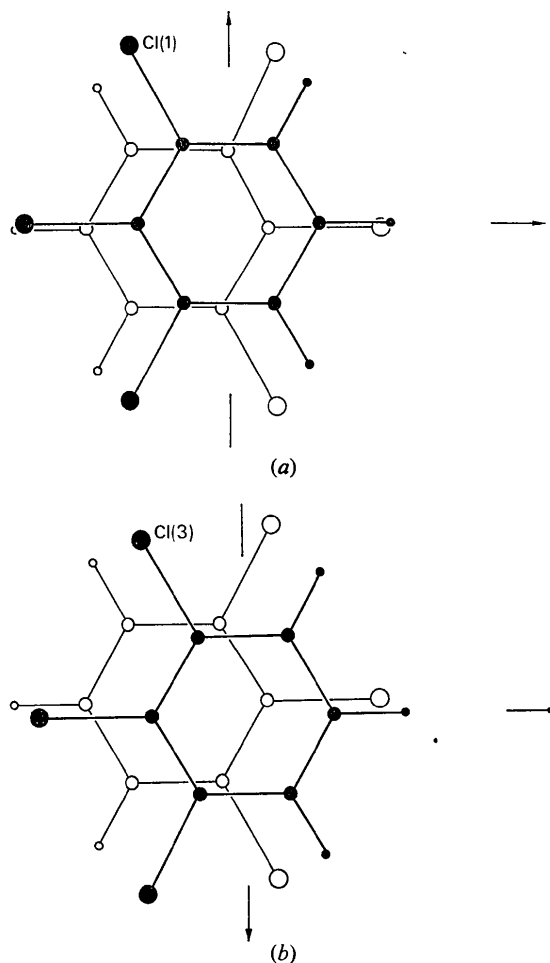


Fig. 4. The arrangement of the molecules about the centres of symmetry, (a) type 1, (b) type 2. The viewpoint is from perpendicular to the molecular planes, and the heavily outlined molecules are uppermost. The axes indicated are for these upper molecules, and correspond to Fig. 3.

Table 2. Euler angles, in radians, and positions for the origins of the molecules in the crystal structure, in Å

	Molecule 1	Molecule 2
φ	3.9323 (4)	2.3988 (4)
θ	1.7526 (6)	1.7343 (6)
ψ	-2.4765 (6)	-3.8112 (6)
$(x_o)_1$	5.535 (1)	-0.796 (1)
$(x_o)_2$	2.607 (1)	1.504 (1)
$(x_o)_3$	-0.573 (1)	0.710 (1)

The other major constraint we apply involves the anisotropic temperature factors. For small molecules the assumption that the thermal motion is predominantly of the rigid-body type is very good. We therefore assume that the anisotropic temperature factors for each crystallographically independent molecule are determined by two sets of three tensors, **T**, **L** and **S**. These give respectively the mean-square translational displacement, the mean-square librational displacement, and the screw rotation correlation (Schomaker & Trueblood, 1968). In each set of **T**, **L** and **S** there are 20 parameters, determining the 72 anisotropic temperature factors for each molecule through equation (P31). We call this the TLS constraint.

It has recently been shown that a great improvement in the rigid-body motion model is obtained by giving extra consideration to the hydrogen atoms. These atoms suffer the most displacement in the internal vibrational modes, and although we may neglect the effect of these modes on the heavier atoms we approximate too much by neglecting them altogether. Pawley (1971*a*) shows how effective an extra isotropic temperature factor contribution for the hydrogen atoms is when the TLS constraint is used. An extra anisotropic contribution is significantly more effective (Pawley, 1971*b*). Only three extra parameters are needed for the whole of the structure, for we assume that the effect of internal modes is the same for all hydrogen atoms in both molecules. We call this extended model the TLS⁺ constraint, and the values we find for the extra three parameters are: extra mean-square displacement along the C-H bond=0.006 (2) Å², extra mean-square displacement across the C-H bond in the molecular plane = 0.012 (2) Å², extra mean-square displacement out of the molecular plane=0.020 (3) Å². These agree very well with the results previously published.

In using the TLS⁺ constraint we have to decide where to place the origin of coordinates, as the values of **T** and **S** depend on this choice. The most convenient origin is the centre of mass of the molecule, because the components of **S** will then be small. We can therefore start refinement with all the coefficients of **S** zero, and refinement is smooth. If on the other hand we choose the origin of the unit cell, zero coefficients of **S** may well not give positive definite temperature factors and refinement may be unstable. The final values for **T**, **L** and **S** and the centres of mass from the fully constrained refinement are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Final values of **T**, **L** and **S** for the TLS⁺ model

The origins chosen for the calculations were the centres of mass.

T, **L** and **S** for molecule type 1

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.0408 & -0.0062 & 0.0029 \\ & 0.0412 & -0.0064 \\ & & 0.0376 \end{pmatrix} \text{ \AA}^2$$

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 22.7 & 0.0 & -1.2 \\ & 23.7 & 1.5 \\ & & 22.5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ (deg)}^2$$

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} * & -0.24 & 0.17 \\ 0.03 & * & 0.03 \\ -0.09 & -0.10 & * \end{pmatrix} \text{ \AA} \cdot \text{deg}$$

* $S_{33}-S_{22} = -0.03$ (2), $S_{11}-S_{33} = -0.02$ (2).
Centre of mass: 4.783, 3.003, 0.259 Å.

T, **L** and **S** for molecule type 2

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.0399 & 0.0077 & 0.0010 \\ & 0.0434 & -0.0038 \\ & & 0.0399 \end{pmatrix} \text{ \AA}^2$$

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 25.6 & 0.2 & 0.2 \\ & 16.2 & 2.8 \\ & & 24.8 \end{pmatrix} \text{ (deg)}^2$$

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} * & 0.23 & -0.06 \\ -0.04 & * & -0.00 \\ 0.09 & -0.18 & * \end{pmatrix} \text{ \AA} \cdot \text{deg}$$

* $S_{33}-S_{22} = 0.07$ (2), $S_{11}-S_{33} = 0.05$ (2).
Centre of mass: -1.565, 1.064, -0.083 Å.

Besides the overall scale factor one other parameter is used, namely an extinction parameter. We follow Zachariasen's (1967) method, but can take the simple equation (P26) for a spherical sample. The value of the coefficient, appropriate to the scale of the list of F_{obs} in Table 4, is $2.0(3) \times 10^{-8}$.

Discussion

The value of a constrained refinement lies in the ability to make conclusions, either physical or chemical, using a proper statistical test. Hamilton (1965) has discussed the *R* value ratio test, and gives the statistical distribution for

$$\mathcal{H} = \left[\frac{R_w(\text{constrained})}{R_w(\text{unconstrained})} \right]^{1/2}$$

where R_w is the weighted sum of squared deviations. Percentage points of this distribution appropriate to our refinements are given in Table 5, calculated by the approximation given by Pawley (1970). In this same Table we present the results of the constrained refinements and the final completely unconstrained refinement. The values of the conventional *R* value $\sum |F_{\text{obs}}| - |F_{\text{calc}}| / \sum |F_{\text{obs}}|$, and R_w for the four refinements considered are:

	ISM & TLS ⁺	ISM	TLS ⁺	Unconstrained
<i>R</i>	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9
R_w	3860	3470	3410	3030

Table 4. *Observed and calculated structure factors* $\times 100$ and the standard deviations used in the weighting scheme The model used for the calculated values was the TLS* model, without any positional constraint. The scattering lengths used were 0.66 for C, 0.96 for Cl and -0.374 for H.

Table with 5 columns: Observed structure factor (h k l F_o), Calculated structure factor (h k l F_c), Standard deviation (σ), and another calculated value (h k l F_c). The table contains multiple rows of data, each representing a different reflection (h, k, l) and its corresponding structure factor values.

The weighting scheme used estimated standard deviations,

$$\sigma(F) = [\sigma_s(F^2) + 1.025 F^2]^{1/2} - |F|$$

where $\sigma_s(F^2)$ is derived from counting statistics. This gave values of $||F_{\text{obs}}| - |F_{\text{calc}}||/\sigma^2(F)$ which were independent of F when divided into classes of F , as expected for a proper weighting scheme.

The difference between constrained and unconstrained models in row (a) of Table 5 is simply that the TLS⁺ model has been relaxed. This is true also for row (d). In both cases the value for \mathcal{R} lies between the 25% point and the 10% point in the \mathcal{R} -distribution. We conclude that the improvement obtained on removing the constraints is not statistically significant. It is therefore probably safe to state that the improvement is not physically significant. If we follow Pawley (1971a), equation (P52), and calculate

$$\mathcal{S}^{\text{TLS}^+} = (\mathcal{R} - 1) / [\mathcal{R}(1\%) - 1]$$

we get a value 0.88, which is smaller than all the values listed by Pawley (1971a) for molecules such as naphthalene and hexamethylenetetramine. However we must remember that the TLS⁺ model is a great improvement over the TLS model, and the comparisons cited used the TLS model alone. Nevertheless we can conclude that the present structure is served better by the rigid-

body motion than any considered heretofore. Consequently, we do not present the individual atomic anisotropic temperature factors from the unconstrained refinement as these contain no information not included in the TLS⁺ model parameters. The anisotropic temperature factors corresponding to TLS⁺ are given in Table 6.

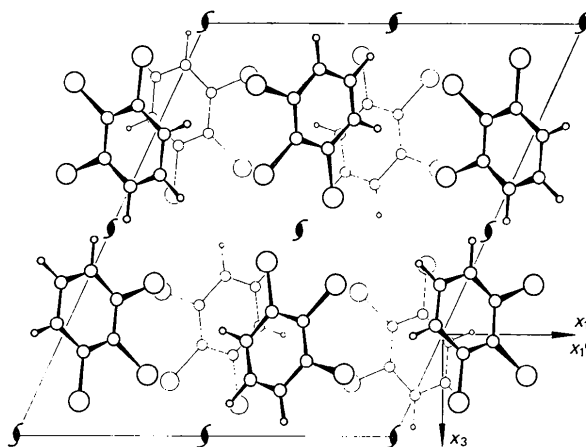


Fig. 5. Projection of the structure down the diad axis. One unit cell is depicted. The origin for all calculations is at a centre of symmetry, and the arrows indicating the directions for the orthogonal coordinates point from this origin.

Table 5. Comparison of the ratio \mathcal{R} with the percentage points of the \mathcal{R} -distribution

N and n are the number of parameters in the unconstrained and constrained models respectively.

Constraint used	Model with less constraints	n	N	\mathcal{R}	Percentage points of \mathcal{R}				
					25%	10%	1%	0.1%	
(a) ISM & TLS ⁺	ISM	68	169	1.055	1.053	1.057	1.066	1.073	
(b) ISM	unconstrained	169	218	1.070	1.028	1.032	1.038	1.044	
(c) ISM & TLS ⁺	TLS ⁺	68	117	1.064	1.025	1.029	1.035	1.040	
(d) TLS ⁺	unconstrained	117	218	1.061	1.055	1.060	1.069	1.076	
(e) ISM & TLS ⁺	unconstrained	68	218	1.129	1.080	1.086	1.097	1.105	

Table 6. The anisotropic temperature factors in Å² scaled by 10³, in the crystal orthogonal coordinate system, as derived from the TLS⁺ model parameters of Table 3 and nuclear positions from Table 7

The first entry for the hydrogen atoms is without, the second with the extra anisotropic temperature factor.

Molecule 1						Molecule 2					
u_{11}	u_{22}	u_{33}	u_{23}	u_{31}	u_{12}	u_{11}	u_{22}	u_{33}	u_{23}	u_{31}	u_{12}
45	49	42	-2	0	-3	C(1)	49	47	43	0	2
41	43	38	-7	3	-6	C(2)	41	46	40	-5	1
53	42	43	-1	0	-5	C(3)	45	50	47	2	5
71	54	40	0	11	-10	C(4)	48	54	66	-2	2
63	58	55	-10	22	-5	C(5)	53	62	58	-11	-10
48	53	62	-5	8	3	C(6)	59	60	42	-2	-5
86	95	50	12	-12	4	Cl(1)	79	78	71	9	13
60	79	56	-19	16	3	Cl(2)	54	86	53	-18	-8
82	69	82	10	-16	16	Cl(3)	79	100	54	21	15
112	82	42	9	12	-11	H(4)	63	76	97	1	8
88	88	76	-18	42	1	H(5)	70	96	78	-23	-22
60	75	97	-3	5	20	H(6)	87	94	42	4	-8
128	99	48	12	12	-8	H(4)	75	90	110	4	9
101	104	86	-19	46	5	H(5)	82	112	88	-24	-26
72	89	110	-1	4	26	H(6)	103	111	49	7	-8

Now we turn to rows (*b*) and (*c*) of Table 5, where we have an assessment of the ISM model. Calculating \mathcal{S}^{ISM} as we did above for \mathcal{S}^{TLS+} we obtain from row (*b*) a value 1·84. The improvement is clearly statistically significant but let us compare this improvement with other examples. It is less than that for anthracene, pyrene and ovalene, but more than that for naphthalene (Pawley, 1971*a*). We therefore surmise that the distortion is more important than in the case of the bigger molecule of naphthalene, and if this distortion is physically significant we would expect to find a plausible explanation. The nuclear positions obtained from the unconstrained refinement are listed in Table 7.

Table 7. *Final unconstrained positions of the nuclei in crystal orthogonal Å coordinates*

The standard deviations are 0·0026 for C(1), C(2) and C(3); 0·0033 for C(4), C(5) and C(6); 0·0023 for all Cl; 0·0078 for all H.

Molecule 1			
<i>i</i>	$(x_i)_1$	$(x_i)_2$	$(x_i)_3$
C(1)	5·669	2·194	0·739
C(2)	4·641	3·077	0·415
C(3)	4·517	3·485	-0·909
C(4)	5·391	3·025	-1·877
C(5)	6·399	2·149	-1·527
C(6)	6·547	1·732	-0·211
Cl(1)	5·863	1·663	2·363
Cl(2)	3·556	3·650	1·610
Cl(3)	3·265	4·569	-1·362
H(4)	5·272	3·366	-2·897
H(5)	7·081	1·786	-2·292
H(6)	7·328	1·063	0·068
Molecule 2			
C(1)	-1·789	0·626	1·110
C(2)	-1·699	0·969	-0·232
C(3)	-0·697	1·855	-0·631
C(4)	0·199	2·375	0·292
C(5)	0·083	2·019	1·624
C(6)	-0·908	1·146	2·039
Cl(1)	-3·018	-0·450	1·643
Cl(2)	-2·822	0·347	-1·370
Cl(3)	-0·556	2·328	-2·270
H(4)	0·965	3·042	-0·048
H(5)	0·771	2·427	2·353
H(6)	-1·004	0·866	3·082

The main difference between the constrained and the unconstrained results came from the shifts of two atoms, C(2) and Cl(2) of molecule type 2. All the molecules are arranged pairwise in centrosymmetrical motifs

and Fig. 4(*a*) and (*b*) show this arrangement for molecules of type 1 and 2 respectively. The molecules in heavy outline are the uppermost, and we view each pair at right angles to the molecular plane. Molecules of type 1 are situated 3·528(2) Å apart whereas those of type 2 are slightly further separated, the distance being 3·534(2) Å. This we would expect from the diagrams as we see that atoms C(1) and C(3) nearly overlap C(3) and C(1) for molecules of type 2. The distortion apparent after lifting the constraints is mainly the movement of C(2) by 0·011 Å towards the neighbouring molecule and into the space provided by the ring, and the movement of Cl(2) by 0·007 Å in the opposite direction. All other shifts are by less than three (least-squares) standard deviations. It is surprising that about 80% of the improvement in *R* on removing the constraint is due to the variation in the second molecule, whereas the variation in the first molecule is not of statistical significance. The projection of the structure down the diad axis is shown in Fig. 5. No intermolecular contacts have been given as there were none which were surprisingly short.

Conclusion

The best average geometry of the molecules of 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene has been found by constrained refinement. Of the two molecules of independent orientation, one has been shown to be significantly distorted, whereas the other closely retains the free-state symmetry. The thermal motion is excellently described by rigid-body molecular motion, when account is taken of the effect of the internal modes on the hydrogen atoms.

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