# An Electron Diffraction Investigation of the Molecular Structures of Silicon Tetrabromide, Tribromosilane, and Dibromodifluorosilane 

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Introduction.-The bond lengths in the halides of the fourth, fifth, and sixth group elements are in general considerably shorter than the sums of the corresponding Pauling-Huggins covalent radii. ${ }^{1}$ This discrepancy appears to be partially resolved by the introduction of a correction for the partial ionic character of the bonds ${ }^{2}$; however, large disparities remain for the second row fluorides, while for the heavier halides the agreement is not precise. For the bromosilanes considered in this paper, the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distances are found to be $2.16 \pm 0.03 \AA$., $0.06 \AA$. shorter than the distance calculated by Schomaker and Stevenson. ${ }^{2}$ The bond-angle values reported here are all approximately tetrahedral with the exception of that for $\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$ in $\mathrm{SiF}_{2} \mathrm{Br}_{2}$, which seems to be decidedly less than tetrahedral. This value may be in error, however, as noted below.

We have found approximate values for the relative amplitudes of vibration $\overline{\delta l_{i j}{ }^{2}}-\overline{\delta l_{3 i \operatorname{sim}}{ }^{2}}$ in silicon tetrabromide and tribromosilane which should be helpful in connection with the spectroscopic data for the consideration of the normal modes of vibration and vibrational potential functions of these molecules.

Experimental.-The apparatus and technique employed have been described by Brockway. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ The wave length of the electrons was determined from transmission photographs of gold foil ( $a_{0}=$ $4.070 \AA$.), and was about $0.06 \AA$.

We are indebted to Professor W. C. Schumb of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for supplying us with the samples used.

Interpretation.-In interpreting the photographs the correlation method was used in conjunction with the radial distribution method described by Schomaker. ${ }^{\text { }}$ The simplified theoretical intensity curves for the various models were calculated according to the formula

[^0]\[

$$
\begin{array}{r}
I(\mathrm{~s})=\frac{1}{\left(Z_{\mathrm{si}}-f_{\mathrm{si} i}\right)\left(Z_{\mathrm{Br}}-f_{\mathrm{Br}}\right)} \sum_{i j}^{\prime}\left(Z_{i}-f_{i}\right)\left(Z_{i}-\right. \\
\left.f_{i}\right) e^{-a_{i} i s^{2} \frac{\sin l_{i ; \mathrm{s}}}{l_{i j} \mathrm{~s}}} \tag{1}
\end{array}
$$
\]

in which account is taken of the variation with $s$ of the relative scattering powers of the various atoms and of the effect of the harmonic vibrations of the molecule. $Z_{i}$ is the atomic number of atom $i$; $f_{i}$, the atom form factor ${ }^{5}$; $l_{i j}$, the interatomic distance; $a_{i j}$, one-half the mean square amplitude of vibration of atom $i$ against atom $j$; and $s=4 \pi / \lambda \sin \varphi / 2$ where $\lambda$ is the electron wave length and $\varphi$ is the scattering angle. Since the calculation of $a_{i j}$ from spectroscopic data is not feasible at present for polyatomic molecules having large moments of inertia, an attempt was made to determine these temperature-factor constants by including them as parameters in the correlation treatment. $a_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}}$ was arbitrarily set equal to zero, so that the quantities actually determined are $a_{i j}-a_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}}$; for brevity we call these quantities $a_{i j}$. The values reported refer to the effective temperature of the scattering gas, about $25^{\circ}$ for $\mathrm{SiHBr}_{3}$ and $\mathrm{SiF}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, and about $100^{\circ}$ for $\mathrm{SiBr}_{4}$.

The radial distribution formula used was

$$
D(l)=\sum_{n} C_{n} \frac{\sin s_{n} l}{s_{n} l}
$$

with

$$
C_{n}=I_{n} s_{n} e-a s^{2}{ }_{n}
$$

and

$$
e^{-w s^{2} \max }=0.1
$$

where $I_{n}$ is a relative intensity, estimated for the various peaks so as to show no average dependence on $s$, and $s_{\text {max }}$ is for the last observable feature on the photograph.

Silicon Tetrabromide.-The two parameters to be determined were $l$, the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance, and $u$, the temperature-factor constant for $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}$ vibration. The molecule was assumed to have the symmetry of a regular tetrahedron.

The photographs showed a rather heavy background which tended to make the measurements less precise than usual. The difficulty of meas-

[^1]urement was enhanced by the slight, but deceptive, asymmetry of some of the peaks. In all, twenty-six features were measured and used in the radial distribution curve; of these, the first five and last six were rejected in the quantitative comparison with theoretical intensity functions since it was felt that these measurements were less reliable than the others. The observed values of $s$ are given in Table I, together with values of $I_{n}$

Table I

| Max. | Min. | $I_{n}$ | $C_{n}$ | so | $s_{\text {caled }}$. | $s / s_{0}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | $-3$ | -2 | 1.54 |  |  |
| 1 |  | 2 | 2 | 2.39 |  |  |
|  | 2 | $-2$ | $-2$ | 3.25 |  |  |
| 2 |  | 7 | 10 | 4.11 |  |  |
|  | 3 | $-10$ | $-17$ | 5.00 | 4.94 | (0.988) |
| 3 |  | 5 | 10 | 5.99 | 5.91 | . 987 |
|  | 4 | -5 | $-10$ | 6.78 | 6.75 | . 996 |
| 4 |  | 4 | 9 | 7.63 | 7.54 | . 988 |
|  | 5 | $-10$ | -23 | 8.53 | 8.42 | 987 |
| 5 |  | 10 | 24 | 9.45 | 9.42 | . 997 |
|  | 6 | $-7$ | -17 | 10.37 | 10.39 | 1.002 |
| 6 |  | 4 | 10 | 11.19 | 11.31 | 1.011 |
|  | 7 | $-3$ | $-7$ | 12.08 | 11.95 | 0.989 |
| 7 |  | 6 | 14 | 12.71 | 12.89 | 1.014 |
|  | 8 | $-10$ | -22 | 13.84 | 13.90 | 1.005 |
| 8 |  | 10 | 21 | 14.68 | 14.87 | 1.014 |
|  | 9 | $-3$ | $-6$ | 15.65 | 15.76 | 1.007 |
| 9 |  | 4 | 7 | 16.49 | 16.41 | 0.995 |
|  | 10 | $-7$ | -11 | 17.26 | 17.34 | 1.005 |
| 10 |  | 10 | 15 | 18.23 | 18.35 | 1.007 |
|  | 11 | $-10$ | -13 | 19.41 | 19.44 | $(1.002)^{a}$ |
| 11 |  | 5 | 6 | 20.19 | 20.24 | (1.002) |
|  | 12 | - 1 | - 1 | 21.05 | 21.05 | (1.000) |
| 12 |  | 5 | 5 | 21.60 | 21.70 | (1.005) |
|  | 13 | -6 | $-5$ | 22.85 | 22.77 | (0.996) |
| 13 |  | 9 | 7 | 23.71 | 23.97 | (1.011) |
|  |  |  |  | Average |  | 1.000 |
|  |  |  |  | Average | deviati | 0.008 |
|  |  |  |  | $l_{\text {Si- }-\mathrm{Br}}$ |  | $2.145 \AA$ |

${ }^{a}$ Ratios enclosed in parentheses were not used in the quantitative comparison.
and $C_{n}$ used in the radial distribution function, and values of $s_{\text {calcd. }} s_{0}$. The curves were calculated for $l_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}}$ equal to $2.145 \AA$.
The curves D, E and F (Fig. 1) correspond to $a$ $=0,0.001$ and 0.003 , respectively. None of the curves shows marked disagreement with the photographs; the best correlation would be attained with some curve between B and C. This fixes the value of $a$ between 0.001 and 0.003 . Figure la shows the radial distribution curve for silicon tetrabromide.
The average value for the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance obtained from fifteen features by the correlation method was $2.145 \AA$. with an average deviation


Fig. 1.-Radial distribution functions: simplified theoretical intensity curves for $\mathrm{SiBr}_{4}$.
of 0.9 per cent. This gives $3.50 \AA$. for the $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance. The radial distribution function (Fig. 1) gives

$$
l_{\mathrm{si}-\mathrm{Br}}=2.16 \AA ., l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}=3.51 \AA .
$$

Since the $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance is the more reliable, we base our value of $l$ on it. The estimated best values are

$$
\begin{aligned}
l_{\mathrm{B}-}-\mathrm{Br} & =3.51 \pm 0.03 \AA . \\
l_{\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Br}} & =2.15=0.02 \AA . \\
a & =0.002
\end{aligned}
$$

Tribromosilane.-Thirty features were measured, of which twenty were used for the quantitative comparison with the theoretical curves. The photographs were better than those for silicon tetrabromide. The values assumed for the $\mathrm{Br}-$ $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ angle $\vartheta$ were $113^{\circ}$ (curve A), $111^{\circ}$ (B), $109.28^{\prime}$ (C), and $107^{\circ}$ (D). The $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance was set at $2.15 \AA$. in the calculations. The curves in Fig. 2 are divided into three groups-curves $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{D}$, with $a=0, \mathrm{~A}^{\prime}, \mathrm{B}^{\prime}, \mathrm{C}^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{D}^{\prime}$ with $a$ $=0.001$ and $\mathrm{A}^{\prime \prime}, \mathrm{B}^{\prime \prime}, \mathrm{C}^{\prime \prime}, \mathrm{D}^{\prime \prime}$ with $a=0.003$.
In this molecule, as in silicon tetrabromide, it may be seen that the effect of changing the tem-


Fig. 2.-Simplified theoretical intensity curves for $\mathrm{SiHBr}_{3}$.
perature factor is quite distinct from the effect of changing the model. This is not true in general; for example, in difluorodibromosilane it is difficult to decide on a model because the application of the temperature factor produces changes in the curves that cannot be distinguished from changes brought about by varying the structural parameters slightly.

The singly primed curves show the best agreement with the photographs with respect to the effect of the temperature factor, in that the doubly primed group loses too much detail beyond $s=$ 20 , and the unprimed group shows many features too sharply. This indicates that $a=0.001$ is approximately correct. The singly primed curves are not shown below $s=14$ because small differences in the temperature factor have virtually no effect in this region. The curve $\mathrm{C}^{\prime}$ represents the appearance of the photographs quite adequately.

The curves $\mathrm{D}, \mathrm{D}^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{D}^{\prime \prime}$ for $\vartheta=107^{\circ}$ can be eliminated because they show minimum 9 deeper than 10 , maximum 11 higher than 12 , and minimum 6 deeper than 8 . These difficulties persist for all values of $a$.

The curves $A$, for $\vartheta=113^{\circ}$, are unsatisfactory because they show minima 6 and 7 with the same
depth, maximum 6 too low compared with 7 , maxima 8 and 9 too nearly equal, and minimum 12 too deep compared with 11 and 13.

The curves C for $\vartheta=109^{\circ} 28^{\prime}$, and B for $\vartheta=111^{\circ}$ are almost identical. The only respect in which curves C disagree with the photographs is that they show minimum 8 slightly shallower than 6.

Table II gives $s_{\text {obs. }} / s_{\text {calcd. }}$ for models $B$ and $C$. In both cases, the $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance agrees well with the radial distribution value of $3.55 \AA$., but the tetrahedral model gives a long value for the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance- $2.18 \AA$. compared with the radial distribution value of $2.16 \AA$. The peaks of the radial distribution curve lead to the value $110^{1 / 2}{ }^{\circ}$ for $\vartheta$. For this reason, as well as the slight qualitative superiority of C , we choose our final model closer to $C$ than B, but assign limits of error which
include both. The best values are

$$
\begin{aligned}
l_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}} & =2.16 \pm 0.03 \AA \\
\angle \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br} & =110^{1} / 2 \pm 1 / 2^{\circ} \\
l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}} & =3.55 \pm 0.02 \AA \\
a_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}} & =0.001
\end{aligned}
$$

Difluorodibromosilane.-The photographs showed eleven measurable rings. The pattern is well represented by curve J (Fig. 3) except for peaks $3-4$ and 9 . The exact nature of these features is doubtful. The maximum labeled $3-4$ is quite broad and appeared at first glance to be rather more flat-topped than the figure indicates. For this reason two terms, numbers 3 and 4, were put into the radial distribution function to represent the extra width. The appearance of the ninth maximum and adjacent minima was also uncertain; hence $s$ values for these features were not used in the quantitative comparison.

Fourteen theoretical curves (Fig. 3) were calculated for symmetrical ( $C_{2 v}$ ) tetrahedral models with $l_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}}=2.16 \AA ., l_{\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Br}}$ ranging from 3.01 to $3.11 \AA$. and $l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}$ from 3.49-3.61 $\AA$. as suggested by the radial distribution function peaks (Fig. 1c) at $2.15,3.07$ and $3.56 \AA$. Because the appearance of the theoretical curves is insensitive to variations in the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$ distance, and the radial distribu-

| Table II |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Max. | Min. | $1 n$ | $C_{n}$ | so | $s_{\text {c }}{ }^{\text {a }}$ | sc/so | $s_{B}{ }^{\text {b }}$ | $s_{B} / s_{0}$ |
|  | 1 | $-3$ | $-1$ | 1.64 |  |  |  |  |
| 1 |  | 4 | 2 | 2.35 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 | -6 | $-3$ | 3.06 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  | 10 | 7 | 3.97 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3 | $-10$ | $-9$ | 4.92 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  | 6 | 6 | 5.97 | 5.91 | (0.990) | 5.93 | (0.993) |
|  | 4 | - 4 | $-5$ | 6.68 | 6.78 | 1.015 | 6.70 | 1.003 |
| 4 |  | 4 | 5 | 7.42 | 7.52 | 1.013 | 7.58 | 0.999 |
|  | 5 | $-9$ | -12 | 8.45 | 8.38 | 0.992 | 8.31 | . 983 |
| 5 |  | 10 | 14 | 9.37 | 9.47 | 1.011 | 9.36 | . 999 |
|  | 6 | $-7$ | $-10$ | 10.31 | 10.45 | 1.014 | 10.38 | 1.007 |
| 6 |  | 4 | 6 | 11.18 | 11.33 | 1.013 | 11.18 | 1.000 |
|  | 7 | -3 | $-5$ | 11.88 | 11.92 | 1.003 | 11.72 | 0.987 |
| 7 |  | 7 | 10 | 12.77 | 12.85 | 1.006 | 12.75 | . 998 |
|  | 8 | $-10$ | $-15$ | 13.83 | 13.89 | 1.004 | 13.79 | . 997 |
| 8 |  | 10 | 14 | 14.80 | 14.92 | 1.008 | 14.83 | 1.002 |
|  | 9 | $-7$ | $-3$ | 15.58 | 15.86 | 1.026 | 15.55 | 0.998 |
| 9 |  | 2 | 3 | 16.25 | 16.51 | 1.016 | 16.31 | 1.004 |
|  | 10 | $-10$ | $-13$ | 17.24 | 17.31 | 1.004 | 17.15 | 0.995 |
| 10 |  | 10 | 12 | 18.19 | 18.38 | 1.011 | 18.23 | 1.002 |
|  | 11 | -8 | -9 | 19.25 | 19.42 | 1.009 | 19.22 | 0.998 |
| 11 |  | 4 | 4 | 20.00 | 20.39 | 1.020 | 20.09 | 1.005 |
|  | 12 | $-1$ | $-1$ | 20.70 | 21.04 | 1.017 | 20.69 | 1.000 |
| 12 |  | 6 | 5 | 21.43 | 21.84 | 1.019 | 21.63 | 1.009 |
|  | 13 | - 9 | $-7$ | 22.59 | 22.85 | 1.012 | 22.69 | 1.005 |
| 13 |  | 5 | 4 | 23.44 | 23.87 | 1.019 | 23.75 | 1.013 |
|  | 14 | $-1$ | $-1$ | 24.05 | 24.89 | (1.035) | 24.61 | (1.023) |
| 14 |  | 6 | 4 | 24.57 | 25.65 | (1.043) | 25.08 | (1.021) |
|  | 15 | $-10$ | -6 | 25.55 | 26.21 | (1.027) | 25.98 | (1.017) |
| 15 |  | 7 | 3 | 27.01 |  | (1.008) | (27.19) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Average | 1.012 |  | 1.000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.006 |  | 0.005 |
|  |  |  |  |  | $l \mathrm{lsi}-\mathrm{Br}$ | 2.175 |  | 2.15 |
|  |  |  |  |  | $l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}$ | 3.55 |  | 3.54 |

${ }^{a} \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}=109^{\circ} 28^{\prime} .{ }^{b} \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}=111^{\circ}$.
tion function does not show a corresponding, well resolved peak, the value $1.545 \AA$. was assumed, in agreement with the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$ distance found in silicon tetrafluoride. ${ }^{6}$ This assumption may be partially justified by analogy with $\mathrm{CF}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{CF}_{4},{ }^{7}$ in both of which the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{F}$ distance is the same. It should be borne in mind that the reported values of the $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$ and $\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$ angles are also essentially assumed values inasmuch as they depend on the assumed $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$ distance.

The models investigated were systematized by locating them on a two-dimensional map of $l_{\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Br}}$ against $l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}$. All models lying outside a closed curve corresponding to the assigned limits of error are inacceptable, and, in general, become progressively worse as their distance from the selected points increases in any direction. Since it was impossible, as discussed above, to determine

[^2]the temperature factor experimentally, the value $a_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}=0.001$, which is approximately equal to that obtained for the $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}$ vibration in $\mathrm{SiBr}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{SiHBr}_{3}$, was adopted here for both $a_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}$ and $a_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{F}} . \quad a_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}}, a_{\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{F}}$, and $a_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}}$ were all arbitrarily set at zero.

The curves disagreed with the photographs as follows: (a) Curves A, B and D show minimum 7 too deep, relative to minima 6 and 8 . Curve $D$ also reverses the relative depths of minima 3 and 5, and makes maximum 3 too high compared with
5. (b) In curves K and N , minimum 5 is deeper than 6 , contrary to the appearance of the photographs. K also shows the fifth maximum higher than the second. C and G are also unsatisfactory in the latter respect. (c) L and H give maximum 3 too high relative to 5 , and minimum 3 deeper than 5.
None of the group E, F, I, J or M is definitely inacceptable, hence the assigned limit of error


Fig. 3.-Simplified theoretical intensity functions for $\mathrm{SiF}_{2} \mathrm{Br}_{2}$. The models are described by the following parameters:

|  | $l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}$ | $l_{\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Br}}$ | $l_{\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{F}}$ | $\angle \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ | $\angle \mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ | $\angle \mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| A | 3.53 | 3.05 | 2.07 | $114^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $113^{\circ} 55^{\prime}$ | $93^{\circ} 50^{\prime}$ |
| B | 3.63 | 3.09 | 2.23 | $114^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $112^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ | $92^{\circ} 25^{\prime}$ |
| C | 3.63 | 3.06 | 2.37 | $114^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $110^{\circ} 20^{\prime}$ | $100^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ |
| D | 3.59 | 3.12 | 2.13 | $112^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $113^{\circ} 55^{\prime}$ | $87^{\circ} 5^{\prime}$ |
| F | 3.59 | 3.09 | 2.29 | $112^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $112^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ | $95^{\circ} 15^{\prime}$ |
| F | 3.59 | 3.06 | 2.41 | $112^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $110^{\circ} 20^{\prime}$ | $102^{\circ} 40^{\prime}$ |
| G | 3.59 | 3.02 | 2.55 | $112^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $108^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $112^{\circ} 5^{\prime}$ |
| H | 3.55 | 3.12 | 2.19 | $110^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $113^{\circ} 55^{\prime}$ | $90^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ |
| I | 3.55 | 3.09 | 2.33 | $110^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $112^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ | $97^{\circ} 40^{\prime}$ |
| J | 3.55 | 3.06 | 2.45 | $110^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ | $110^{\circ} 20^{\prime}$ | $104^{\circ} 50^{\prime}$ |
| K | 3.55 | 3.02 | 2.59 | $110^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $108^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $114^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ |
| L | 3.51 | 3.09 | 2.37 | $108^{\circ} 30^{\prime}$ | $112^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ | $99^{\circ} 50^{\prime}$ |
| M | 3.51 | 3.06 | 2.48 | $108^{\circ} 0^{\prime}$ | $110^{\circ} 20^{\prime}$ | $106^{\circ} 45^{\prime}$ |
| N | 3.51 | 3.02 | 2.61 | $108^{\circ} 30^{\prime}$ | $108^{\circ} 10^{\prime}$ | $115^{\circ} 30^{\prime}$ |

$l_{\mathrm{El}-\mathrm{Br}}=2.16 \AA ., l_{\mathrm{si}-\mathrm{F}}=1.547 \AA$. for all models.
allows the range of parameters covered by these models. The values of $s_{\text {calcd } . ~} s_{\text {obs. }}$, which vary little from one curve to another, are given in Table III for curve J.
Curve O , which includes only $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ and $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}$
interactions, shows the effect of an infinite temperature effect on the $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}$ and $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{F}$ vibrations.
The selected best values are

$$
\begin{aligned}
l_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}}= & 2.16 \pm 0.02 \AA . \\
l_{\mathrm{si}-\mathrm{F}}= & 1.55 \AA .(\text { assumed }) \\
& \angle \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}=110^{\circ} 50^{\prime} \pm 3^{\circ} \\
l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}= & 3.56 \pm 0.05 \AA . \\
& \angle \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}=111^{\circ} 20^{\prime}=3^{\circ} \\
l_{\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Br}}= & 3.08 \pm 0.04 \AA . \\
& \angle \mathrm{F}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{F}=99^{\circ} \pm 10^{\circ} \\
l_{\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{F}}= & 2.35 \pm 0.15 \AA .
\end{aligned}
$$

Previous Work.-Wouters, De Hemptinne and Capron ${ }^{8}$ have used the electron diffraction method to determine the structure of $\mathrm{SiHBr}_{3}$. They obtain the results

$$
\begin{aligned}
& l_{\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}}=2.19 \pm 0.05 \AA . \\
& l_{\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}}=3.63 \AA . \\
& \quad \angle \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}=110^{\circ}
\end{aligned}
$$

These values for the $\mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance and the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance are significantly higher than ours although the bond angle values agree well. We believe the present determination to be the more reliable because Wouters and coworkers measured only the first five maxima, whereas we measured fifteen maxima and fifteen minima. It has been our experience that determinations based on a few measurements extending to only relatively small values of $s$ are likely to be inaccurate, particularly if the minima are neglected. Moreover, it may be significant that the above authors have reported several other interatomic distances which appear to be too high by about their assigned experimental error. Their determination of the size of the $\mathrm{SiHCl}_{3}{ }^{9}$ molecule gives a result 2 to $3 \%$ higher than that obtained by Brockway ${ }^{3}$ and by Pirenne. ${ }^{10}$ For $\mathrm{SiBrCl}_{3}{ }^{\text {ab }} \mathrm{De}$ Hemptinne and Wouters again report $2.19 \AA$, for the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance, and give $2.0 \bar{\AA} \AA$.

[^3]|  |  | Table III |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Max. | Min. | $I_{n}$ | $C_{n}$ | $s_{0}$ | $s_{J}$ | $s_{J} / s_{0}$ |  |
|  | 1 | -5 | -4 | 1.61 |  |  |  |
| 1 |  | 6 | 4 | 2.49 | 2.45 | $(0.984)$ |  |
|  | 2 | -8 | -6 | 3.20 | 3.22 | 1.005 |  |
| 2 |  | 10 | 9 | 4.21 | 4.18 | 0.993 |  |
|  | 3 | -7 | -8 | 5.14 | 5.28 | 1.027 |  |
| 3 |  | 5 | 7 | 6.23 | $6.47^{a}$ | $(0.972)$ |  |
| 4 |  | 5 | 7 | 7.08 |  |  |  |
|  | 5 | -11 | -17 | 7.89 | 7.87 | .997 |  |
| 5 |  | 10 | 16 | 9.03 | 9.07 | 1.003 |  |
|  | 6 | -5 | -8 | 10.10 | 10.19 | 1.010 |  |
| 6 |  | 3 | 4 | 10.91 | 10.90 | 0.999 |  |
|  | 7 | -7 | -11 | 11.74 | 11.75 | 1.000 |  |
| 7 |  | 10 | 16 | 12.78 | 12.75 | 0.998 |  |
|  | 8 | -10 | -16 | 13.74 | 13.84 | 1.008 |  |
| 8 |  | 6 | 9 | 14.90 | 14.86 | 0.999 |  |
|  | 9 | -2 | -3 | 15.33 | 15.74 | $(1.027)$ |  |
| 9 |  | 2 | 3 | 16.72 | 16.71 | $(1.000)$ |  |
|  | 10 | -6 | -8 | 17.12 | 17.27 | $(1.009)$ |  |
| 10 |  | 10 | 12 | 18.18 | 18.13 | 0.997 |  |
|  | 11 | -8 | -8 | 19.67 | 19.62 | .997 |  |
| 11 |  | 8 | 7 | 21.25 | 21.24 | 1.000 |  |
|  | 12 | -10 | -7 | 22.71 | 22.61 | 0.996 |  |


| 12 | 10 | 6 | 23.96 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | Average | $(0.969)$ |
|  |  | Av. dev. | 1.002 |
|  |  | $l_{\text {si- }}$ | 0.003 |
|  |  | 2.16 |  |

for the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Cl}$ distance, a value $2 \%$ higher than that ( $2.01 \AA$.) which has been reported for the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Cl}$ bond in other molecules. ${ }^{11}$

| Summary |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| The molecular structures of $\mathrm{SiBr}_{4}, \mathrm{SiHBr}_{3}$ and |  |
| $\mathrm{SiF}_{2} \mathrm{Br}_{2}$ have been studied by the electron diffrac- |  |
| tion method. In all of these molecules the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ |  |
| are but little distorted from the tetrahedral value. |  |
| The relative temperature factors have been estimated for $\mathrm{SiBr}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{SiHBr}_{4}$ from the appearance |  |
| of the electron diffraction photographs. |  |
| report from an electron diffraction study that the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance in silicon tetrabromide is $2.14=0.02 \AA$., in substantial agreement with our value. |  |
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| adena, California | A Received September 13, |

## Summary

The molecular structures of $\mathrm{SiBr}_{4}, \mathrm{SiHBr}_{3}$ and $\mathrm{SiF}_{2} \mathrm{Br}_{2}$ have been studied by the electron diffraction method. In all of these molecules the $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Br}$ distance is $2.16 \pm 0.03 \AA$., and the valence angles are but little distorted from the tetrahedral value. The relative temperature factors have been estimated for $\mathrm{SiBr}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{SiHBr}_{4}$ from the appearance of the electron diffraction photographs.
(11) Lister and Sutton [Trans. Faraday Soc., 37, 393 (1941)] silicon tetrabromide is $2.14 \neq 0.02 \AA$., in substantial agreement with our value.
Pasadena, California Received September 13, 1941
[Contribution from the Department of Biological Chemistry, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louls, Missouri]

## Preparation of Tetrahydroxyquinone and Rhodizonic Acid Salts from the Product of the Oxidation of Inositol with Nitric Acid*

By Paul W. Preisler and Louis Berger

Some confusion exists in the literature concerning the identification of the salts of rhodizonic acid (dihydroxy-diquinone) and of tetrahydroxyquinone. The quantitative analytical procedures usually employed for this purpose do not distinguish with certainty between substances of such close elementary composition, especially when they are hydrated or cannot be properly dried. ${ }^{1}$ These materials have now been conclusively identified by application of electrometric oxidationreduction potential measurements.

Modification of the methods for the preparation of these substances from the products of the oxidation of inositol (cyclohexanehexol) by nitric acid have been devised and crystalline materials of high purity have been prepared. The quantities of rhodizonate or of tetrahydroxyquinone salt

[^4]have been found to be affected by the rate of the addition and the basic properties of the salt added to the oxidized inositol, and by the degree of agitation with air or oxygen of the mixture so formed. When potassium acetate is used, pure potassium rhodizonate is obtained, whereas with potassium carbonate mixtures with tetrahydroxyquinone, salts usually result.

Salts of rhodizonic acid and of tetrahydroxyquinone are utilized as indicators in the volumetric determination of sulfates with barium salt solution. ${ }^{2}$ A comparison of the properties of the pure substances indicates that the color changes when used as indicators are probably due to salts of rhodizonic acid rather than of tetrahydroxyquinone.

Preparation of Oxidation Products of Inositol.-To ensure uniform reproducible results the procedure is given in

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