

408. *The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Pentaphenylphosphorus.*

By P. J. WHEATLEY.

The structure of pentaphenylphosphorus, $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_5$, has been elucidated by three-dimensional *X*-ray diffraction methods. Unlike pentaphenylantimony which has a square pyramidal structure, pentaphenylphosphorus (and, presumably, the isomorphous pentaphenylarsenic) has a trigonal bipyramidal configuration. The molecule itself has no symmetry because of the asymmetric orientation of the benzene rings, which no doubt accounts for the finite dipole moment. The mean length of the two axial $\text{P}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ bonds is 1.987 Å, and of the three equatorial $\text{P}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ bonds 1.850 Å.

A recent communication listed the crystallographic constants and some of the physical properties of the pentaphenyls of phosphorus, arsenic, and antimony.¹ It was stated that the structure of pentaphenylantimony is based on a square pyramid and, from the regular trend in the dipole moments, it was concluded that the two lower homologues,

¹ Wheatley and Wittig, *Proc. Chem. Soc.*, 1962, 251.

which are isomorphous, would have similar structures. Although it has now been demonstrated that the structure of pentaphenylantimony is indeed square pyramidal,² the extrapolation to the lower homologues, which has been questioned in the meantime,³ is invalid. The present analysis shows that pentaphenylphosphorus (and, presumably the isomorphous pentaphenylarsenic) has a trigonal bipyramidal structure with only slight distortions.

EXPERIMENTAL

$C_{30}H_{25}P$. $M = 416.5$. Monoclinic. $a = 10.029 \pm 0.015$, $b = 17.215 \pm 0.018$, $c = 14.170 \pm 0.017$ Å, $\beta = 112^\circ 03' \pm 30'$. $U = 2267.5$ Å³. $D_m = 1.22$. $Z = 4$. $D_c = 1.220$. $F(000) = 880$. Space group Cc (C_2^2 , No. 9). Cu- $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 1.542$ Å). Single crystal rotation and Weissenberg photographs.

The crystals, m. p. 124.5° , are initially white, but are photosensitive. When exposed in air to the X-ray beam they rapidly turn black, but the effect seems to be only a surface one since there is no observable change in the quality of the photographs nor in the intensities of the diffracted beams. Multiple-film Weissenberg photographs were taken round the three principal axes. Relative intensities were estimated visually by comparison with standard charts. All layer lines were brought to the same relative scale by correlation through common reflexions. 2140 independent reflexions were observed to be non-zero. No correction was made for absorption ($\mu = 12.5$ cm.⁻¹). The following systematic absences were observed: hkl reflexions, absent for $h + k$ odd: $h0l$ reflexions, absent for h odd and l odd: $0k0$ reflexions, absent for k odd. These absences are consistent with either the centrosymmetric space group $C2/c$ or the non-centrosymmetric space group Cc . The general distribution of the intensities of the diffracted spectra suggested that the space group was non-centrosymmetric, and this conclusion was confirmed by applying the Wilson statistical test⁴ to the $hk0$ and $0kl$ reflexions. Moreover, a test for pyroelectricity showed distinct positive results. The test was performed by a method which differs slightly from those usually used⁵ and, since it is easy to carry out and the effects are very marked, will be briefly described.

A quantity (50–100 mg.) of the substance consisting of small crystals of approximately similar dimensions (0.05–0.3 mm.) is placed in a spoon made of anodized aluminium. The lip of the spoon is dipped below the surface of some liquid nitrogen so that about 0.5 c.c. runs on to the crystals. The spoon is lifted out and held firmly on a steady surface. As the liquid nitrogen evaporates, a circular motion sets in which rolls the crystals together into a sphere. When the last trace of liquid nitrogen has disappeared, the sphere comes to rest at the centre of the spoon. If the sample is centrosymmetric, the sphere suddenly collapses within one or two seconds. On the other hand, if the crystals possess no symmetry centre, the sphere will remain intact apparently indefinitely. This technique has been applied to a number of samples of known and of unknown structure, and appears to yield very satisfactory results. It has the great merit that a number of samples can be tried one after another, and the results compared.

The solution of the crystal structure has a rather curious history. The y co-ordinate of the phosphorus atom was obtained from a sharpened Patterson synthesis calculated with the $0kl$ reflexions, and confirmed from the $hk0$ projection. Attempts were then made to solve the $0kl$ projection with only the phosphorus phases, and on the assumption that the molecule had a trigonal bipyramidal structure. These attempts were unsuccessful, partly because of the large amount of hand calculations that were necessary. At this stage crystals of pentaphenylantimony became available, and the structure of the antimony compound was shown to be based on a square pyramid. Attention was then turned again to the phosphorus compound, and immediately an adequate trial solution was found for the $0kl$ projection on the assumption that the molecule was a square pyramid. Although the R factor was 35%, the agreement amongst the low order planes left no doubt that the solution was essentially correct. At this stage, an Elliott 803B computer became available, and all subsequent work was carried out with the programming system devised by Daly, Stephens, and Wheatley.⁶ Firstly the $0kl$

² Wheatley, *J.*, in the press.

³ Muettterties, Mahler, and Schmutzler, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1963, **2**, 613.

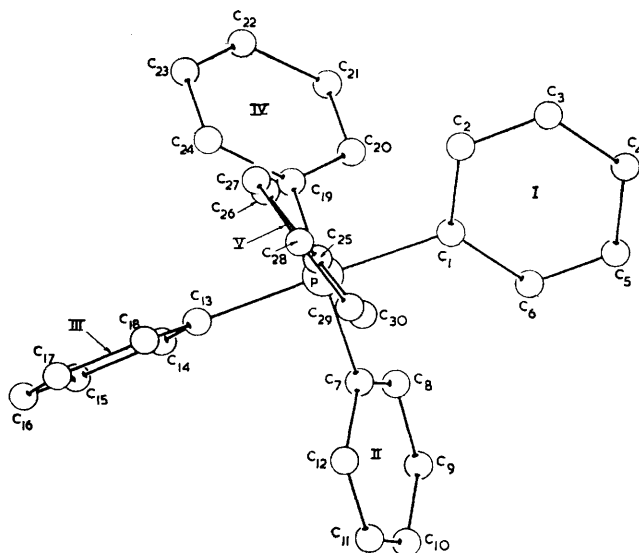
⁴ Wilson, *Acta Cryst.*, 1949, **2**, 318.

⁵ Bunn, "Chemical Crystallography," Clarendon Press, 1st Edn., p. 292.

⁶ Daly, Stephens, and Wheatley, MRS A Final Report No. 52.

projection was refined to an R of 17% by means of successive difference maps. During this stage it became clear that the molecule was not a square pyramid, but a trigonal bipyramid. With the known y co-ordinates and a molecular model, a set of x co-ordinates were estimated and used to compute structure factors for the $hk0$ reflexions. The R factor was 32%. A three-dimensional Fourier synthesis was then calculated with the 1139 reflexions that had a value of $\sin \theta/\lambda$ less than 0.5. The co-ordinates obtained from the Fourier synthesis were then used for two least-squares cycles on the 398 planes with $\sin \theta/\lambda$ less than 0.35. For these planes R fell to 18%. The structure was then refined, all 2140 reflexions being used. Four cycles of least-squares analysis with isotropic temperature factors, and five cycles with anisotropic temperature factors were carried out. The final R factor for all observed reflexions was 8.7%.

Three planes (marked by asterisks in Table 3) were omitted from the refinement as the calculated values were less than 0.3 of the observed. The scattering factors were taken from International Tables.



Pentaphenylphosphorus as it appears when viewed down an axis normal to the yz plane, and the labelling of the atoms.

RESULTS

The final atomic co-ordinates, and the orthogonal co-ordinates referred to a set of axes in which $[b']$ coincides with the original $[b]$, $[a']$ is the projection of the monoclinic axis $[a]$ on to the plane perpendicular to $[b]$, and $[c']$ is perpendicular to $[a']$ and $[b']$, are given in Table 1. Standard deviations are given in parentheses after each co-ordinate, expressed as units in the last place. Thus 1.4638 (105) means 1.4638 ± 0.0105 . The thermal factors and their standard deviations are given in Table 2. The observed and calculated structure factors, obtained from the co-ordinates listed in Table 1, are shown in Table 3. Table 4 shows the bond lengths and angles with their standard deviations. The Figure shows the molecule as it appears when projected down an axis normal to the yz plane, and also the labelling of the atoms.

The two axial P-C₆H₅ bonds have a mean length of 1.987 Å, and the three equatorial bonds a length of 1.850 Å. The difference between these is highly significant, and is the same as found in phosphorus pentachloride by electron diffraction.⁷ It is also in the sense predicted on theoretical grounds.⁸ The length of the equatorial bonds does not differ significantly from the P-C₆H₅ distance found in triphenylphosphorus.⁹ The mean C-C distance is 1.390 Å and there are no significant departures from this mean, except for the

⁷ Rouault, *Ann. physique*, 1940, **14**, 78.

⁸ Cotton, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1961, **35**, 228.

⁹ Daly, private communication.

TABLE 1.

Atomic co-ordinates and orthogonal atomic co-ordinates in Å.

	X	Y	Z	X'	Y'	Z'
P	-0.0128 (19)	1.9392 (12)	0.0267 (19)	-0.0228	1.9392	0.0247
C(1)	-0.1037 (66)	3.8384 (62)	-0.5911 (62)	0.1182	3.8384	-0.5479
C(2)	-0.1331 (76)	4.0547 (64)	-1.9717 (65)	0.6071	4.0547	-1.8275
C(3)	0.0072 (81)	5.3482 (73)	-2.4481 (72)	0.9262	5.3482	-2.2690
C(4)	0.1901 (86)	6.4436 (73)	-1.5348 (87)	0.7663	6.4436	-1.4225
C(5)	0.2216 (105)	6.2437 (78)	-0.1669 (95)	0.2843	6.2437	-0.1547
C(6)	0.0892 (74)	4.9497 (60)	0.3185 (59)	-0.0304	4.9497	0.2952
C(7)	-0.1245 (62)	2.3965 (60)	1.7902 (60)	-0.7966	2.3965	1.6593
C(8)	-1.3679 (66)	2.9578 (66)	1.8468 (71)	-2.0612	2.9578	1.7117
C(9)	-1.4603 (88)	3.2184 (76)	3.1827 (85)	-2.6551	3.2184	2.9499
C(10)	-0.2799 (91)	3.0048 (80)	4.4534 (81)	-1.9518	3.0048	4.1277
C(11)	0.9870 (90)	2.4636 (75)	4.3744 (76)	-0.6552	2.4636	4.0545
C(12)	1.0469 (72)	2.1496 (68)	3.0646 (68)	-0.1036	2.1496	2.8405
C(13)	0.1902 (60)	0.0583 (58)	0.7103 (61)	-0.0765	0.0583	0.6583
C(14)	-0.9565 (77)	-0.4959 (75)	1.0041 (88)	-1.3334	-0.4959	0.9307
C(15)	-0.8806 (101)	-1.7787 (83)	1.5713 (102)	-1.4705	-1.7787	1.4564
C(16)	0.3650 (100)	-2.5497 (82)	1.8099 (93)	-0.3145	-2.5497	1.6775
C(17)	1.4633 (100)	-2.0401 (77)	1.5111 (98)	0.8965	-2.0401	1.4006
C(18)	1.4051 (77)	-0.7353 (65)	0.9824 (76)	1.0363	-0.7353	0.9105
C(19)	-1.6854 (59)	1.5211 (60)	-1.5293 (61)	-1.1113	1.5211	-1.4174
C(20)	-2.8349 (63)	2.4387 (67)	-1.9738 (68)	-2.0939	2.4387	-1.8294
C(21)	-4.0997 (72)	2.0968 (80)	-3.1098 (76)	-2.9322	2.0968	-2.8823
C(22)	-4.2290 (72)	0.9014 (80)	-3.8305 (71)	-2.7910	0.9014	-3.5503
C(23)	-3.0784 (74)	0.0160 (73)	-3.4159 (73)	-1.7960	0.0160	-3.1661
C(24)	-1.8197 (68)	0.3247 (62)	-2.2638 (67)	-0.9698	0.3247	-2.0982
C(25)	1.6993 (64)	1.8556 (59)	-0.2380 (68)	1.7886	1.8556	-0.2206
C(26)	1.8263 (72)	1.1316 (74)	-1.3808 (66)	2.3447	1.1316	-1.2798
C(27)	3.1353 (81)	1.0105 (87)	-1.5654 (83)	3.7230	1.0105	-1.4509
C(28)	4.3795 (75)	1.5989 (104)	-0.5307 (94)	4.5787	1.5989	-0.4919
C(29)	4.2443 (74)	2.3132 (100)	0.5643 (93)	4.0325	2.3132	0.5230
C(30)	2.9215 (69)	2.4918 (78)	0.7057 (75)	2.6566	2.4918	0.6541

TABLE 2.

Thermal parameters in Å².

	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	$2U_{12}$	$2U_{23}$	$2U_{13}$
P	0.0377 (5)	0.0483 (5)	0.0388 (5)	0.0044 (11)	0.0038 (11)	0.0244 (9)
C(1)	0.0485 (27)	0.0556 (28)	0.0428 (25)	-0.0058 (46)	0.0072 (44)	0.0286 (47)
C(2)	0.0619 (33)	0.0597 (31)	0.0437 (28)	0.0015 (53)	0.0079 (48)	0.0396 (52)
C(3)	0.0639 (35)	0.0733 (37)	0.0511 (30)	0.0000 (61)	0.0148 (56)	0.0563 (58)
C(4)	0.0668 (39)	0.0636 (33)	0.0705 (41)	-0.0050 (60)	0.0197 (63)	0.0638 (69)
C(5)	0.0876 (51)	0.0620 (33)	0.0715 (44)	-0.0096 (71)	-0.0124 (65)	0.0630 (79)
C(6)	0.0635 (34)	0.0550 (26)	0.0415 (28)	-0.0080 (53)	0.0001 (41)	0.0381 (54)
C(7)	0.0458 (26)	0.0567 (27)	0.0406 (24)	0.0071 (44)	0.0123 (43)	0.0319 (44)
C(8)	0.0475 (28)	0.0619 (31)	0.0570 (30)	0.0018 (49)	0.0048 (54)	0.0483 (52)
C(9)	0.0737 (42)	0.0688 (36)	0.0680 (40)	-0.0110 (67)	0.0011 (63)	0.0840 (71)
C(10)	0.0800 (46)	0.0761 (39)	0.0606 (37)	-0.0030 (74)	0.0096 (66)	0.0788 (73)
C(11)	0.0803 (46)	0.0694 (38)	0.0480 (30)	0.0003 (71)	0.0004 (59)	0.0327 (65)
C(12)	0.0521 (31)	0.0642 (31)	0.0465 (29)	0.0083 (51)	0.0135 (51)	0.0229 (50)
C(13)	0.0412 (25)	0.0552 (28)	0.0448 (27)	0.0088 (43)	0.0088 (44)	0.0215 (44)
C(14)	0.0549 (32)	0.0668 (35)	0.0753 (43)	-0.0061 (59)	0.0273 (64)	0.0473 (65)
C(15)	0.0787 (50)	0.0662 (38)	0.0774 (50)	0.0008 (70)	0.0237 (72)	0.0450 (83)
C(16)	0.0824 (49)	0.0660 (37)	0.0694 (43)	0.0091 (72)	0.0207 (66)	0.0428 (79)
C(17)	0.0769 (47)	0.0687 (42)	0.0691 (44)	0.0327 (70)	0.0308 (67)	0.0405 (77)
C(18)	0.0581 (34)	0.0571 (31)	0.0612 (35)	0.0210 (57)	0.0144 (56)	0.0332 (57)
C(19)	0.0392 (23)	0.0582 (28)	0.0433 (25)	0.0045 (43)	0.0091 (47)	0.0253 (42)
C(20)	0.0420 (26)	0.0629 (32)	0.0507 (29)	0.0151 (47)	0.0051 (51)	0.0225 (48)
C(21)	0.0476 (32)	0.0847 (44)	0.0518 (33)	0.0106 (60)	0.0205 (62)	0.0143 (54)
C(22)	0.0484 (31)	0.0859 (43)	0.0480 (29)	-0.0157 (60)	0.0186 (63)	0.0133 (50)
C(23)	0.0574 (35)	0.0717 (37)	0.0517 (33)	-0.0225 (59)	-0.0070 (55)	0.0294 (57)
C(24)	0.0512 (28)	0.0559 (29)	0.0484 (27)	-0.0030 (49)	-0.0008 (49)	0.0262 (49)
C(25)	0.0405 (24)	0.0561 (28)	0.0502 (29)	-0.0038 (43)	-0.0011 (46)	0.0224 (44)
C(26)	0.0538 (31)	0.0766 (39)	0.0490 (30)	0.0039 (56)	-0.0153 (54)	0.0472 (53)
C(27)	0.0570 (36)	0.0921 (48)	0.0660 (37)	0.0082 (68)	-0.0091 (76)	0.0675 (64)
C(28)	0.0460 (35)	0.1081 (56)	0.0755 (45)	-0.0020 (70)	-0.0005 (84)	0.0663 (68)
C(29)	0.0462 (34)	0.1035 (53)	0.0712 (45)	-0.0210 (70)	-0.0178 (84)	0.0341 (66)
C(30)	0.0428 (27)	0.0826 (41)	0.0586 (35)	-0.0201 (57)	-0.0300 (64)	0.0322 (52)

TABLE 4.

Bond lengths (Å) and angles (°).

P-C(1)	1.989 (7)	C(7)-C(8)	1.385 (9)	C(19)-C(20)	1.406 (9)
P-C(13)	1.986 (6)	C(7)-C(12)	1.392 (9)	C(19)-C(24)	1.384 (9)
P-C(7)	1.865 (6)	C(8)-C(9)	1.398 (11)	C(20)-C(21)	1.389 (10)
P-C(19)	1.855 (6)	C(9)-C(10)	1.388 (12)	C(21)-C(22)	1.377 (11)
P-C(25)	1.830 (7)	C(10)-C(11)	1.407 (12)	C(22)-C(23)	1.386 (10)
C(1)-C(2)	1.387 (9)	C(11)-C(12)	1.370 (11)	C(23)-C(24)	1.385 (10)
C(1)-C(6)	1.403 (9)	C(13)-C(14)	1.401 (10)	C(25)-C(26)	1.398 (10)
C(2)-C(3)	1.404 (10)	C(13)-C(18)	1.390 (9)	C(25)-C(30)	1.386 (10)
C(3)-C(4)	1.394 (11)	C(14)-C(15)	1.393 (13)	C(26)-C(27)	1.394 (11)
C(4)-C(5)	1.371 (12)	C(15)-C(16)	1.407 (13)	C(27)-C(28)	1.414 (12)
C(5)-C(6)	1.406 (11)	C(16)-C(17)	1.343 (13)	C(28)-C(29)	1.536 (13)
		C(17)-C(18)	1.401 (12)	C(29)-C(30)	1.394 (12)
C(1)PC(7)	92.7 (3)	PC(25)C(26)	121.3 (5)	C(13)C(18)C(17) ...	121.0 (7)
C(1)PC(19)	91.9 (3)	PC(25)C(30)	120.9 (5)	C(14)C(15)C(16) ...	118.9 (8)
C(1)PC(25)	86.3 (3)	C(2)C(1)C(6)	117.9 (6)	C(15)C(16)C(17) ...	120.0 (9)
C(7)PC(13)	86.6 (3)	C(1)C(2)C(3)	120.9 (6)	C(16)C(17)C(18) ...	121.0 (8)
C(13)PC(19)	91.1 (3)	C(1)C(6)C(5)	120.9 (7)	C(20)C(19)C(24) ...	119.4 (6)
C(13)PC(25)	91.5 (3)	C(2)C(3)C(4)	120.5 (7)	C(19)C(20)C(21) ...	118.9 (6)
C(7)P(C19)	119.6 (3)	C(3)C(4)C(5)	119.2 (8)	C(19)C(24)C(23) ...	120.7 (6)
C(7)PC(25)	122.6 (3)	C(4)C(5)C(6)	120.6 (8)	C(20)C(21)C(22) ...	121.3 (7)
C(19)PC(25)	117.8 (3)	C(8)C(7)C(12)	119.6 (6)	C(21)C(22)C(23) ...	119.6 (7)
PC(1)C(2)	116.1 (5)	C(7)C(8)C(9)	119.8 (6)	C(22)C(23)C(24) ...	120.0 (7)
PC(1)C(6)	125.2 (5)	C(7)C(12)C(11)	120.7 (7)	C(26)C(25)C(30) ...	117.8 (6)
PC(7)C(8)	120.8 (5)	C(8)C(9)C(10)	120.5 (7)	C(25)C(26)C(27) ...	122.1 (7)
PC(7)C(12)	119.6 (5)	C(9)C(10)C(11)	118.8 (8)	C(25)C(30)C(29) ...	120.0 (7)
PC(13)C(14)	117.5 (5)	C(10)C(11)C(12) ...	120.4 (7)	C(26)C(27)C(28) ...	118.6 (8)
PC(13)C(18)	125.3 (5)	C(14)C(13)C(18) ...	117.2 (6)	C(27)C(28)C(29) ...	118.9 (8)
PC(19)C(20)	119.4 (5)	C(13)C(14)C(15) ...	121.7 (7)	C(28)C(29)C(30) ...	122.4 (8)
PC(19)C(24)	121.2 (5)				

The angles between equatorial bonds have a mean value of 120.0° with again some significant departures. The mean PCC angle is 120.7°, and there are some highly significant distortions, particularly for the angles PC(13)C(18) and PC(1)C(6). The mean CCC angle is 120.0°. There are three angles that differ significantly from this mean, and they are all at atoms that are joined to the phosphorus atom.

The molecule has no symmetry. This is due to the different orientations of the benzene rings. The mean planes through the rings are given, in terms of the orthogonal axes, by the equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{I} & -0.9355X' + 0.1189Y' - 0.3327Z' = 0.5239 \\
 \text{II} & 0.3873X' + 0.9208Y' - 0.0470Z' = 1.8174 \\
 \text{III} & 0.0530X' + 0.3595Y' + 0.9317Z' = 0.6293 \\
 \text{IV} & 0.6433X' + 0.4300Y' - 0.6334Z' = 0.8468 \\
 \text{V} & 0.0231X' + 0.8242Y' - 0.5659Z' = 1.7160
 \end{aligned}$$

None of the carbon atoms departs significantly from its mean plane. On the other hand, the departure from these planes of the phosphorus atom is sometimes very significant, being -0.280, -0.042, +0.090, -0.043, and -0.132 Å, respectively. These departures serve to emphasise the distortions that do occur in this molecule.

The angle between the two axial rings, defined as the angle between their outward normals, is 108.5°. In order to define the positions of the equatorial rings, it is convenient to consider the angle of rotation round the P-C₆H₅ bond from a position in the equatorial plane through the atoms P, C(7), C(19), and C(25). The equation for the weighted mean plane through these four atoms is

$$0.0020X' + 0.9617Y' - 0.2740Z' = 1.8530$$

None of the atoms departs significantly from this plane. With respect to this plane, and looking towards the phosphorus atom, ring II must be rotated 25.9° anticlockwise, ring IV 53.9° clockwise, and ring V 18.6° anticlockwise. It will be seen that the normal "paddle-wheel" arrangement of benzene rings round a central atom is not adopted in the molecule, presumably because of interference from the axial rings.

The shortest intramolecular contacts between non-bonded atoms, apart from distances across a benzene ring, are all between carbon atoms which are attached to the phosphorus atom in the axial position and carbon atoms that are attached to the phosphorus atom in the equatorial position. These distances are: C(1)–C(7), 2·791; C(1)–C(19), 2·764; C(1)–C(25), 2·613; C(13)–C(7), 2·643; C(13)–C(19), 2·742; C(13)–C(19), 2·735 Å. The next shortest set of non-bonded intramolecular contacts are between the phosphorus atom and the *ortho* carbon atoms. These distances range from 2·824 to 3·023 Å. The shortest intramolecular contact not in the above groups is between C(13) and C(24), 2·910 Å.

All intermolecular contacts are between benzene rings. There are 34 such contacts less than 4·0 Å, the lowest being 3·498 Å.

I thank Professor G. Wittig of the University of Heidelberg who kindly supplied the sample.

MONSANTO RESEARCH S.A., ZURICH 3/45, SWITZERLAND.

[Received, November 13th, 1963.]
