

Hydrogen Bond Studies. 54*. A Neutron Diffraction Study of the Ferroelectric Lithium Trihydrogen Selenite, $\text{LiH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$

ROLAND TELLGREN AND RUNE LIMINGA

Institute of Chemistry, University of Uppsala, Box 531, S-751 21 Uppsala 1, Sweden

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The crystal structure of the ferroelectric $\text{LiH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ has been studied using three-dimensional neutron diffraction data. The position of the heavy atoms are in agreement with earlier investigations, whereas the hydrogen bond network differs considerably. The present study reveals three almost linear O-H...O hydrogen bonds of length 2.518, 2.552, and 2.646 Å with O-H...O angles 176.6, 173.3, and 172.3°, respectively. The shortest bond has an O-H distance of 1.14 Å, which is longer than expected. The lithium ion is surrounded by six oxygen atoms forming an octahedron with Li-O distances in the range 2.13-2.22 Å.

Introduction

The heavy atom structure of the ferroelectric $\text{LiH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ has been determined by Vedam, Okaya, and Pepinsky (1) using X-rays. The hydrogen-bond network has been proposed from a preliminary neutron diffraction study using data obtained along the *b* and *c* axes by Van den Hende and Boutin (2). This structure is, however, in disagreement with that proposed for $\text{LiD}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ from a DMR study by Soda and Chiba (3). In no investigation has the position of the lithium atom been found. The present investigation has been undertaken to establish the hydrogen-bond network and to determine the coordinates of the lithium atoms. In so doing, it was hoped to lay the foundation for a more rigorous explanation of the ferroelectric behavior of the compound. This study is to be followed by a neutron diffraction study of the deuterated compound $\text{LiD}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$.

X-Ray studies of $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$, $\text{RbH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$, and $\text{CsH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ are also in progress at this institute. X-Ray and neutron diffraction studies of alkali trihydrogen selenites have so far been published for $\text{KH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ (4, 5) and $\text{NaH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ (6).

Space Group and Unit Cell

The diffraction symmetry and systematic absences confirmed the findings of Vedam, Okaya, and

Pepinsky (1), that $\text{LiH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ has a monoclinic unit cell, space group *Pn* [equivalent positions (*x, y, z*); ($\frac{1}{2} + x, \bar{y}, \frac{1}{2} + z$)].

The unit cell dimensions were determined from powder photographs recorded using a Guinier-Hägg XDC-700 focussing camera with $\text{CrK}\alpha_1$ radiation ($\lambda = 2.28962$ Å) and using CoP_3 ($a = 7.7073$ Å at 25°C) as an internal standard. A least-squares treatment of the observed θ -values from 38 reflexions provided the parameters given in Table I.¹ The parameters are in good agreement with those given by Berlincourt, Cook, and Rander (7).

¹ Numbers in parentheses here and throughout this paper are the estimated standard deviations in the least significant digits.

TABLE I
CRYSTAL DATA

Crystal system space group	Monoclinic <i>Pn</i>
<i>a</i>	6.2554(3) Å
<i>b</i>	7.8823(5)
<i>c</i>	5.4339(5)
β	105.325(5)°
<i>V</i>	258.404 Å ³
<i>Z</i>	2
<i>D_x</i>	3.391 g cm ⁻³
μ_{calc}	1.2 cm ⁻¹

* Part 53: Acta Crystallogr., in press.

Experimental

Lithium trihydrogen selenite was prepared from an aqueous solution of lithium carbonate and selenious acid in a stoichiometric ratio. Large single crystals were grown easily by slow evaporation at room temperature. A crystal with a volume of 130 mm³, enclosed in a thin-walled quartz tube, was used for the data collection. The crystal had six boundary planes 0 $\bar{1}$ 1, 01 $\bar{1}$, 10 $\bar{1}$, $\bar{1}$ 01, 0 $\bar{1}\bar{1}$, 011. The first two were 0.195 cm from the crystal center and the latter four 0.238 cm from the center point. It was mounted so that the χ and ϕ angles for the ($h00$), ($0k0$), and ($00l$) reflexions were -2.89 , 129.01 ; -84.94 , 4.27 ; and -4.77 , -156.14 degrees, respectively [symmetrical A setting, Arndt and Willis (8)].

The room temperature intensity data were collected at the Swedish Atomic Energy reactor R2 at Studsvik, using a Hilger & Watts four-circle diffractometer controlled by a PDP-8 computer. The neutron intensity at the specimen was 5×10^4 neutron cm⁻² sec⁻¹ at a wavelength of 1.097 Å. A region of reciprocal space extending out to $\sin \theta/\lambda = 0.75 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ was examined and the $\omega - 2\theta$ step scan technique was employed. Two standard reflexions were measured at regular intervals to provide a check on crystal and electronic stability. No significant changes were observed in these standards. A total of 899 independent reflexions were measured of which 815 had intensities greater than $3\sigma_{\text{count}}$. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz, absorption and secondary extinction effects (cf. computer programs).

TABLE II
ATOMIC COORDINATES ($\times 10^5$)^a

Atom	x	y	z
Se(1)	23300	39507(23)	08800
Se(2)	76690(20)	10074(21)	91095(26)
O(1)	19252(40)	22747(32)	-13341(47)
O(2)	79816(38)	27366(31)	110145(46)
O(3)	30176(43)	29114(33)	36189(49)
O(4)	70944(42)	20193(35)	61072(49)
O(5)	47888(42)	47641(32)	05452(46)
O(6)	51917(40)	02447(29)	91695(44)
Li	00241(150)	24866(146)	48066(160)
H(1)	32880(84)	14685(64)	-09938(82)
H(2)	61997(106)	38177(71)	07074(98)
H(3)	55051(60)	23084(52)	52793(75)

^a In order to define an origin the x and z coordinates of Se(1) were fixed. The values used were those given in the X-ray study (1).

The linear absorption coefficient ($\mu = 1.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) was calculated using a value of 34 barns for the incoherent scattering cross-section for hydrogen. The resulting transmission factors were in the range 0.49–0.73.

Location of the Lithium and Hydrogen Atoms

A three-dimensional difference Fourier synthesis based on the atomic positions from the X-ray work (1) readily provided the positions of the lithium and hydrogen atoms. However, the hydrogen atom positions from the map agreed neither with those reported in the earlier neutron diffraction study (2) nor with the DMR study (3). A refinement of the thermal and positional parameters of lithium and the heavy atoms was performed followed by a second three-dimensional difference synthesis. No significant changes were obtained in the hydrogen atom positions.

Refinement

The structure was refined by minimizing the function $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ using the full matrix least squares program LINUS (9). Each reflexion was assigned a weight inversely proportional to the estimated variance of the observation $w = 1/\sigma^2(F)$ where $\sigma^2(F) = \sigma^2_{\text{count}}(F^2)/4F^2 + 0.0006F^2$. The first term is based on counting statistics and the second is an empirical correction term to take account of other errors in the data.

As was pointed out in the X-ray study (1) the heavy atom structure is near centrosymmetric. It was noticed in the present study that the correlation matrix obtained had elements in the range 0.50–0.70 for the correlation between Se(1)–Se(2), O(1)–O(2), O(3)–O(4), and O(5)–O(6). The refinement was based on the 815 reflexions with intensities $>3\sigma_{\text{count}}$. The parameters refined comprised 34 positional and 72 anisotropic thermal parameters, one over-all scale factor and one isotropic extinction parameter.

The final agreement factor was

$$R = (\sum | |F_o| - |F_c| |) / \sum |F_o| = 0.029,$$

$$R_w = \{ [\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2] / \sum w F_o^2 \}^{1/2} = 0.039.$$

The standard deviation of an observation of unit weight $\sigma_1 = [\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / (m - n)]^{1/2}$ was = 1.28, where m is the total number of observations and n the number of parameters varied. The final parameters are given in Tables II and III, observed and calculated structure factors in Table IV. The

TABLE III

ANISOTROPIC THERMAL PARAMETERS ($\times 10^6$). THE FORM OF THE TEMPERATURE FACTOR IS $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$. THE ROOT-MEAN-SQUARE COMPONENTS R_i ($\times 10^3$ Å) OF THERMAL DISPLACEMENT OF THE ATOMS ALONG THE ELLIPSOID AXES ARE ALSO LISTED

	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}	R_1	R_2	R_3
Se(1)	562(30)	479(21)	793(34)	083(19)	118(26)	033(21)	096(3)	109(2)	126(3)
Se(2)	478(30)	418(19)	915(36)	-018(19)	070(25)	027(21)	092(3)	113(2)	120(2)
O(1)	917(43)	682(30)	1015(51)	-014(35)	060(40)	-195(38)	107(4)	137(3)	155(3)
O(2)	777(44)	602(29)	1221(54)	013(34)	065(40)	-206(36)	111(4)	126(4)	155(3)
O(3)	747(42)	823(35)	1017(47)	062(32)	146(39)	260(36)	107(4)	123(3)	168(3)
O(4)	797(46)	924(38)	1093(54)	-053(31)	161(42)	266(37)	115(3)	122(3)	178(3)
O(5)	774(44)	684(35)	1646(70)	-119(34)	373(48)	117(38)	110(4)	144(4)	159(3)
O(6)	756(43)	555(31)	1621(67)	-131(31)	392(47)	-17(37)	107(4)	138(4)	150(3)
Li	1207(112)	921(68)	1245(138)	33(62)	355(96)	28(78)	131(8)	149(7)	171(6)
H(1)	1903(104)	910(55)	1833(108)	-153(58)	350(83)	-139(62)	153(5)	173(5)	194(5)
H(2)	2771(150)	1408(88)	2187(126)	-1046(99)	732(111)	-187(86)	149(6)	173(5)	271(7)
H(3)	1097(85)	1270(59)	1967(114)	-025(53)	249(73)	129(65)	141(5)	168(5)	202(5)

observed F_o values are corrected for extinction using the expression

$$|F_o|_{\text{corr}} = |F_o| \times [1 + (\bar{T} \cdot 2 \cdot |F_c|^2 \cdot g \cdot \lambda^3 / V^2 \cdot \sin 2\theta)]^{1/4},$$

where λ is in Å and V is the unit cell volume in Å³ (9).

The mean path length through the crystal for a particular reflexion is given by \bar{T} , calculated using the expression $\bar{T} \approx -\ln A^* / \mu$, where $\ln A^*$ is the natural logarithm of the transmission factor, and μ is the linear absorption coefficient in cm⁻¹. The refined value of the isotropic extinction parameter is $g = 7556(287)$. This corresponds to a mosaic spread parameter of approximately 8 sec or a domain size of 0.8 μm depending upon whether a Zachariasen (10) Type I or Type II description is assumed.

The extinction correction factors as given above were for the majority of the reflexions in the range 1.00–1.20 but were higher in a few cases. The maximum value was 1.77.

An anisotropic extinction correction was also attempted but gave no further improvement. The coherent scattering amplitudes used were $\bar{b}_{\text{Se}} = 0.780$, $\bar{b}_0 = 0.577$, $\bar{b}_{\text{Li}} = -0.194$, and $\bar{b}_{\text{H}} = -0.372 \times 10^{-12}$ cm (11). As there has been some discussion about the scattering amplitude for selenium (5, 6), a refinement including also the scattering amplitudes for the two selenium atoms was performed. It gave a mean value $\bar{b}_{\text{Se}} = 0.794(6) \times 10^{-12}$ cm. No change in the R value or significant change in any parameter was observed.

Computer Programs

The calculations were all performed on the CDC 3600 computer in Uppsala using programs briefly described by Jönsson and Liminga (12).

Description and Discussion of the Structure

General

The structure is illustrated in Figs. 1–4. Bond distances and angles are listed in Tables V and VI, some of them are also shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The atomic arrangement in the asymmetric unit is illustrated in Fig. 1. It can be described formally as consisting of a Li⁺ ion, a HSeO₃⁻ ion, and a H₂SeO₃ molecule. The HSeO₃⁻ and H₂SeO₃ groups are connected via hydrogen bonds (Fig. 2) to form S-shaped chains running in the direction of the c axis (Figs. 3 and 4). These chains are held together by Li⁺···O bonds. The ferroelectric axis is nearly perpendicular to the (001) plane (7) (cf. Fig. 4).

The Lithium Ion

The lithium ion is surrounded by six oxygen atoms arranged in a nearly perfect octahedron with Li–O distances between 2.13–2.22 Å (Figs. 3 and 4, Table V). As can be seen in Fig. 3 the lithium ions form Li⁺···O bonds with four different chains thus creating a three-dimensional network.

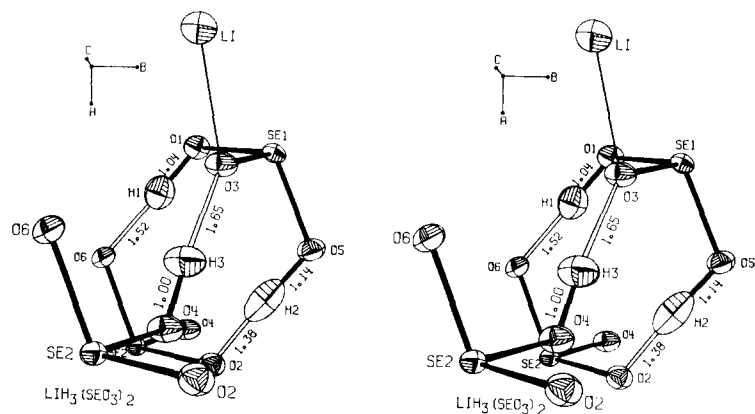


FIG. 2. A stereoscopic pair of drawings showing the hydrogen-bond scheme.

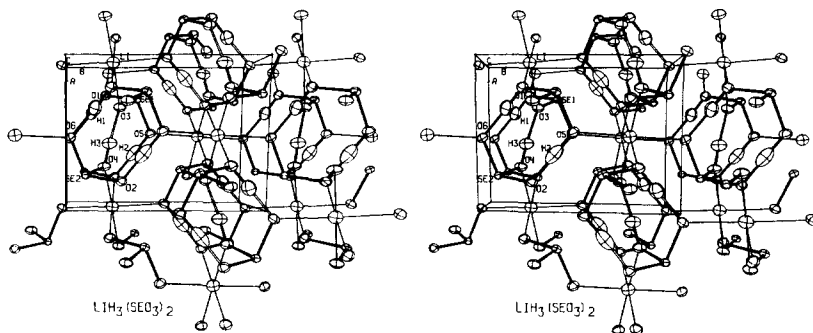


FIG. 3. A stereoscopic view of the structure seen in the direction of the chains.

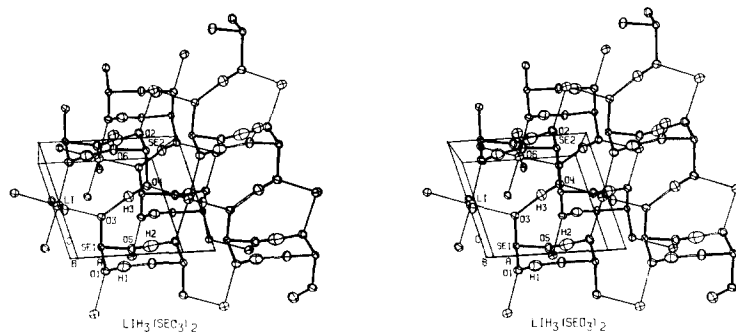


FIG. 4. A stereoscopic view of the structure showing the chains as seen from the side. The ferroelectric axis is nearly perpendicular to the ab plane.

The Selenium and Oxygen Atoms

Two independent selenium atoms are present in the structure but with very similar surroundings. Both form covalent bonds with three oxygen atoms

so forming a pyramid (Fig. 1). The angles O–Se–O are between 99 and 105° (Table V). The Se–O distances vary from 1.65 to 1.77 Å (Fig. 1 and Table V), which is in good agreement with values reported

TABLE V
INTERATOMIC DISTANCES AND ANGLES
IN $\text{LiH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$

A. Distances (Å)	
Se(1)–O(1)	1.760(3)
–O(3)	1.653(3)
–O(5)	1.720(3)
–O(2)	2.903(2)
–O(4)	3.184(3)
–O(5)	3.086(3)
–Li	3.097(9)
Se(2)–O(2)	1.691(3)
–O(4)	1.765(3)
–O(6)	1.670(3)
–O(1)	2.913(3)
–O(3)	3.113(3)
–O(6)	2.955(3)
Li–O(1)	2.126(9)
–O(2)	2.127(9)
–O(3)	2.162(9)
–O(4)	2.163(9)
–O(5)	2.216(12)
–O(6)	2.187(12)
B. Angles (degrees)	
O(1)–Se(1)–O(3)	101.52(15)
O(1)–Se(1)–O(5)	100.29(12)
O(3)–Se(1)–O(5)	104.64(12)
Se(1)–O(1)–H(1)	111.97(31)
Se(1)–O(5)–H(2)	116.31(35)
Se(1)–O(3)···H(3)	128.23(21)
O(2)–Se(2)–O(4)	99.43(15)
O(2)–Se(2)–O(6)	103.64(13)
O(4)–Se(2)–O(6)	102.55(13)
Se(2)–O(6)···H(1)	119.21(24)
Se(2)–O(2)···H(2)	117.74(28)
Se(2)–O(4)–H(3)	116.92(30)
O(1)–Li–O(3)	90.22(35)
O(1)–Li–O(4)	88.03(33)
O(1)–Li–O(5)	86.84(37)
O(1)–Li–O(6)	92.36(41)
O(2)–Li–O(3)	92.43(34)
O(2)–Li–O(4)	89.34(35)
O(2)–Li–O(5)	91.90(41)
O(2)–Li–O(6)	88.83(38)
O(3)–Li–O(5)	90.39(41)
O(3)–Li–O(6)	91.36(38)
O(4)–Li–O(5)	90.27(38)
O(4)–Li–O(6)	87.95(40)

in $\text{KH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$ (5). As is to be expected, the Se–O distances are dependent upon whether or not a hydrogen atom is covalently bonded to the oxygen atom. This will be discussed further in the next section.

TABLE VI
HYDROGEN-BOND DISTANCES (Å) AND ANGLES (DEGREES) IN
 $\text{LiH}_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2$

X	H	Y	X–H	H···Y	X···Y \wedge X–H···Y
O(1)–H(1)···O(6)	1.040(6)	1.517(6)	2.552(3)	173.25(43)	
O(5)–H(2)···O(2)	1.141(7)	1.378(7)	2.518(3)	176.56(54)	
O(4)–H(3)···O(3)	1.003(4)	1.649(5)	2.646(4)	172.27(40)	

Further oxygen atoms and one lithium ion appear in the vicinity of the selenium atoms (2.90–3.20 Å), but these are not arranged in any regular way (Table V).

The Hydrogen-bond Network

The hydrogen-bond network is shown in detail in Fig. 2 and can also be seen in Figs. 3 and 4. Distances and angles are listed in Table VI. There occur three almost linear O–H···O bonds of length 2.553, 2.518, and 2.646 Å, with O–H···O angles of 173.3, 176.6, and 172.3°, respectively.

Two of these hydrogen bonds, namely O(1)–H(1)···O(6) and O(5)–H(2)···O(2) are approximately parallel to the (001) plane and linking two SeO_3 groups. These double groups are connected by means of the third hydrogen bond O(4)–H(3)···O(3) to form S-shaped chains running in the *c* direction (Fig. 4).

The O(1)–H(1) distance (1.04 Å) and the O(4)–H(3) distance (1.00 Å) are the expected values for hydrogen bonds of length 2.55 and 2.65 Å. The O(5)–H(2) distance of 1.14 Å is about 0.1 Å longer than that expected for a hydrogen bond of length 2.52 Å (13). As can be seen in Fig. 2 and Table III, the hydrogen atom H(2) is also found to have a strongly prolate “thermal” ellipsoid with the longest axis directed along the O–H···O bond. From the present study it is impossible to ascertain whether this should be attributed to a large thermal vibration along the bond or to some disorder effect.

A comparison of the Se–O distances also indicates that this bond is different from the other two. As can be seen in Fig. 1 and Table V, the Se–O distances in the two normal bonds are 1.76 and 1.77 Å when the oxygen atom acts as a donor atom, and 1.65 and 1.67 Å when it acts as an acceptor atom in a hydrogen bond. In the case of the bond O(5)–H(2)···O(2) the Se–O distances are 1.72 and 1.69 Å, respectively. A further discussion of this matter will be made when the result from the neutron diffraction study of the deuterated compound is available.

It is not possible to make a comparison with the crystal structure of the paraelectric phase since, at atmospheric pressure, the compound is ferroelectric from -196°C up to the melting point (14, 15).

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