

Cl⁻ ions seems possible on the basis of D_{6h}^1 , chiefly because of the 6-fold axis which forces cesium and chlorine, whose diameters are approximately equal to half the cell edge, to lie either directly on the axis or at a distance of half a lattice length away. The non-centrosymmetrical space groups, D_6^1 and C_{6v}^1 , because of their 6-fold axes, are subject to the same difficulty. Only on the basis of D_{3h}^1 could chemically reasonable packings of the cesium and chloride ions be obtained. For at least two of these arrangements, positions could be found for the copper atoms which explained the intensities of the various orders of (0001) fairly satisfactorily. For other types of planes agreement with the observed intensities was unsatisfactory.

It seems probable that the difficulties encountered in this structure study may arise from some unknown and very perfect twinning. Hoard and Goldstein observed a case of this kind in their study of $Cs_2Ti_2Cl_6$,⁵ and were fortunate in finding untwinned individuals. In this study no crystals were found whose diffraction effects showed different symmetry. In view of these results it has seemed unprofitable to pursue the study further at this time.

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Structure of Polyvinyl Alcohol

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In connection with certain analytical procedures, it was necessary to look for possible existence of a small amount of 1,2-glycol structure in polyvinyl alcohol. Several investigators^{1,2,3} have advanced evidence for a preponderance of 1,3-glycol structure in polyvinyl alcohol. The existence of some 1,2-glycol structure is indicated by the work of Staudinger² and of Nord,⁴ but is doubted by Marvel and Denoon.³ Reduction of periodic acid is considered specific for 1,2-glycol configuration. The latter authors found that polyvinyl alcohol was not appreciably oxidized by periodic acid at 0° in thirteen hours. We have reinvestigated the action of periodic acid upon polyvinyl alcohol.

Using polyvinyl alcohol⁵ containing 0.31% residual vinyl acetate and yielding 0.39% of ash, oxidations with periodic acid were carried out as described previously³ and at 25°. Results of a typical case using 25-cc. aliquots from a mixture of 150 cc. of 0.511% polyvinyl alcohol in water and 30 cc. of 1.2% periodic acid, at 25°, are given in Table I.

(1) Staudinger, *Ber.*, **59**, 3019 (1926).

(2) Staudinger, Frey and Stark, *ibid.*, **60**, 1782 (1927).

(3) Marvel and Denoon, *THIS JOURNAL*, **60**, 1045 (1938).

(4) Nord, *Naturwissenschaften*, **24**, 763 (1936).

(5) Osmotic molecular weight 30,000, courtesy of Dr. G. F. Lanzl.

TABLE I

OXIDATION OF POLYVINYL ALCOHOL WITH PERIODIC ACID

Time, hours	Cc. 0.1 N Na ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (for 0.511% alcohol)	Specific viscosity (for 0.4% alcohol)
0	0	0.065
1.0	0.1	.062
3.25	.15	.055
6.0	.17	...
18.0	.35	...
24.0	..	.051
48.0	.36	...

Viscosity data for a similar run, utilizing 10 cc. of 0.4% polyvinyl alcohol and 2 cc. of aqueous periodic acid, are also given in Table I.

These results indicate that oxidation takes place at an appreciable rate at 25° and is essentially complete in from six to eighteen hours for low concentrations of the polymer (up to 1%). The reaction proceeds at a very slow rate at 0° and is only about half complete in forty-eight hours. Execution of the periodic acid oxidation at 25° is not considered to modify the specificity of this test.⁵

For polyvinyl alcohol solutions ranging in concentration from 0.1-1.0%, the average titer corresponding to the periodic acid reaction with twenty-five cc. of 0.1% solution of the alcohol was 0.11 cc. of 0.1 N thiosulfate solution. This figure indicates that the fraction of vinyl alcohol residues united in 1,2-glycol configuration is 0.019 = 0.007.

For some unknown reason, polymer solutions in the range of 2% or greater continue to react with periodic acid at room temperature, even after forty-eight hours have elapsed. This may, in part, be the result of cross-linkage with the periodic acid or oxidative side reactions.⁶

If actual cleavage of the polyvinyl alcohol molecule is expected to take place between 1,2-glycol carbon atoms,⁵ a decrease in viscosity of aqueous solutions would be expected. Viscosity measurements were conducted with polyvinyl alcohol solutions containing periodic acid and it was observed that the specific viscosity of these mixtures fell off to a constant value after eight to twelve hours had elapsed. This approach to constancy of specific viscosity with time was anticipated since, for solutions of comparable concentration, the periodic acid uptake also ceases at about this time interval. In order to be certain that these viscosity decreases had probably no connection with acetal formation, similar observations were made with polymer solutions containing an equivalent normality of hydrochloric acid. The addition of hydrochloric acid caused an immediate rise in viscosity in accordance with previous findings.⁷

It is interesting to note that the small amount

(6) A general discussion of this test is presented by Jackson, "Organic Reactions," Vol. II, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1944, p. 341.

(7) Marvel and Inskeep, *THIS JOURNAL*, **65**, 1710 (1943).

