

Thermal decomposition mechanism and thermodynamic properties of $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Jirong Song^{a,*}, Jie Huang^a, Haixia Ma^a, Rongzu Hu^b

^a College of Chemical Engineering, Shaanxi Key Laboratory of Physico-Inorganic Chemistry, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, PR China

^b Xi'an Modern Chemistry Research Institute, Xi'an 710065, PR China

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Abstract

The single crystal of nickel complex of 3-nitro-1,2,4-triazol-5-one (NTO), $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was prepared and the crystal structure was determined by a four-circle X-ray diffractometer. Based on the results of thermal analysis, the thermal decomposition mechanism of $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was derived. From measurements of the enthalpy of solution in water of $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at 298.15 K, the standard enthalpy of formation, lattice enthalpy and lattice energy have been determined as $-(2585.6 \pm 4.5)$, -2832.59 , and $-2797.58 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$, respectively.

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Keywords: Crystal structure; Nickel complex; NTO; Thermal decomposition mechanism; Thermodynamic properties

1. Introduction

Much attention has been paid to 3-nitro-1,2,4-triazol-5-one (NTO) as a high energy and low sensitivity energetic material [1,2]. Its metal complexes also have some potential uses in ammunition [3–7]. Therefore, the authors prepared the single crystal of the nickel complex of NTO, determined its structure, studied its thermal decomposition mechanism and thermodynamic properties.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials

$[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ used in this research work was prepared according to the following method: an appropriate amount of NTO was put into the distilled water ($M:V = 1:4$), then stirred and titrated with an aqueous solution of lithium hydroxide under 60°C until the pH value of the mixture reached a value of 6. The resulting solution

was gradually dropped into an aqueous solution of nickel sulfate at 60°C to get green precipitates. The precipitates were recrystallized with distilled water at room temperature to obtain the green single crystal for X-ray measurement. Its purity was more than 99.6%. Dimensions of the single crystal were $0.15 \text{ mm} \times 0.15 \text{ mm} \times 0.20 \text{ mm}$.

2.2. Experimental equipment and conditions

The elemental analysis was performed on a MOD1106 (Carlo Erba, Italy) elemental analysis instrument. The infrared spectra of the decomposition residues were recorded in KBr discs on a 60 SXRFT-IR (Nicolet, USA) spectrometer.

In the determination of the structure of the single crystal, X-ray intensities were recorded by a CAD4PDP 11/44 automatic diffractometer with graphite, monochromatized $\text{Mo K}\alpha$ radiation, $\lambda = 0.071073 \text{ nm}$. Cell parameters were determined from 25 reflections. Data were collected by $\theta/2\theta$, scan mode in the range of $\theta = 2\text{--}25^\circ$, $h = 0\text{--}11$, $k = 0\text{--}16$, $l = -7$ to 7, and the 1651 independent reflections were obtained, among which 1337 with $I > 3.0\sigma(I)$ were used for the determination and refinement of the crystal structure. Lorentz-polarization correction was applied but not for absorption correction. The coordinates of Ni atom were ob-

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-29-830-2899;

fax: +86-29-830-2899.

E-mail address: changma@sohu.com (J. Song).

tained by the Patterson method and those of non-hydrogen and hydrogen atoms were obtained by difference Fourier synthesis. Refinement was performed by the block-diagonal least-squares method using anisotropic thermal parameters for non-hydrogen atoms and isotropic thermal parameters for hydrogen atoms.

The thermal decomposition process was studied using a TG technique on a Delta Series TGA7 (Perkin-Elmer, USA). The conditions of TG were as follows: sample mass ca. 1 mg; heating rate $10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$; atmosphere, a flowing N_2/O_2 mixture with a ratio of 99%.

All measurements of the enthalpy of solution in deionized water were made using a Calvet microcalorimeter, type BT215 from SETARAM, France, and operated at $298.15 \pm 0.005\text{ K}$. The experimental precision and accuracy of enthalpies of solution were frequently checked by measuring the enthalpies of solution ($\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_{\infty}^{\circ}$) of crystalline KCl (NIST SRM1655) in deionized water at 298.15 K. The experimental value of $\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_{\infty}^{\circ} = 17.217 \pm 0.053\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ is in excellent agreement with that of $\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_{\infty}^{\circ} = 17.234\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ reported in the literature [8].

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Crystal structure

The crystal structure was found to be monoclinic, which belongs to space group $\text{P}2_1/\text{c}$ with crystallographic parameters of $a = 0.9255(2)\text{ nm}$, $b = 1.4133(2)\text{ nm}$, $c = 0.6465(1)\text{ nm}$, $\beta = 88.42(2)^{\circ}$, $V = 0.8452\text{ nm}^3$, $Z = 2$, $D_c = 1.819\text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $\mu = 12.382\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $F(000) = 480$. The final $R = 0.030$, $wR = 0.036$ (unit weight), and $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.01$.

The bond lengths and bond angles are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. The crystal structure and atom labeling are shown in Fig. 1.

The analytical results indicate that the formula of the molecule is $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. It is central symmetrical, and Ni atom is at the symmetrical center. The Ni atom and six water molecules form an octahedron. Then combining it with two NTO anions, we can get $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2$. There are two crystallization water molecules in the crystal.

The atoms in NTO anion are almost coplanar. The equation of the plane is

$$-0.047x + 0.0398y - 0.9981z + 3.6005 = 0$$

The bond distances of a five-membered ring of NTO anion tend to be equal. The bond lengths of $\text{N}_1\text{--C}_1$, $\text{N}_3\text{--C}_1$, $\text{N}_3\text{--C}_2$ and $\text{N}_1\text{--N}_2$ are almost equal, while the bond length of $\text{N}_2\text{--C}_2$ is a little shorter, which is the nearest double bond in the NTO anions, and that of $\text{N}_4\text{--C}_2$ is a little longer, which is the longest in the NTO anion. The calculated result indicates that the distance from Ni to the plane of NTO anion is 0.3299 nm . Thus the distance between two NTO anion planes is 0.6598 nm .

Table 1
Bond distances (nm)

Ni–O _{w1}	0.2080(5)
Ni–O _{w2}	0.2027(4)
Ni–O _{w3}	0.2018(5)
Ni–O' _{w1}	0.2080(5)
Ni–O' _{w2}	0.2027(4)
Ni–O' _{w3}	0.2018(5)
O–C ₁	0.1270(4)
O ₂ –N ₄	0.1209(10)
O ₃ –N ₄	0.1220(4)
N ₁ –N ₂	0.1366(4)
H ₁ –O _{w4}	0.2044(3)
H ₁ –N ₁	0.0775(4)
H _{w11} –O _{w1}	0.0530(3)
H _{w11} –O ₁	0.2580(2)
H _{w12} –O _{w1}	0.0919(15)
O _{w3} –O _{w4}	0.2771(9)
O _{w1} –O _{w4}	0.3070(2)
O _{w1} –O ₁	0.2720(3)
O _{w1} –O ₁	0.2980(5)
O _{w2} –O ₂	0.2878(12)
O _{w2} –N ₃	0.2734(14)
N ₁ –C ₁	0.1360(5)
N ₂ –C ₂	0.1298(11)
N ₃ –C ₁	0.1350(5)
N ₃ –C ₂	0.1337(8)
N ₄ –C ₂	0.1450(3)
H _{w12} –O ₁	0.1842(15)
H _{w21} –O _{w2}	0.0833(13)
H _{w21} –N ₃	0.1910(3)
H _{w22} –O _{w2}	0.0951(7)
H _{w22} –O ₂	0.1959(8)
H _{w41} –N ₂	0.1972(4)
H _{w42} –O _{w1}	0.2230(3)
H _{w31} –O _{w3}	0.0825(7)
H _{w31} –O _{w4}	0.1959(6)
O _{w3} –O ₁	0.2690(2)
O _{w4} –N ₁	0.2807(5)
O _{w4} –N ₂	0.2871(5)
O _{w3} –H _{w32}	0.0893(5)
O _{w4} –H _{w41}	0.0926(3)
O _{w4} –H _{w42}	0.0975(8)
N ₁ –H ₁	0.0775(4)
H _{w32} –O _{w3}	0.0893(5)
H _{w32} –O ₁	0.1970(2)
H _{w42} –O _{w4}	0.09750(8)

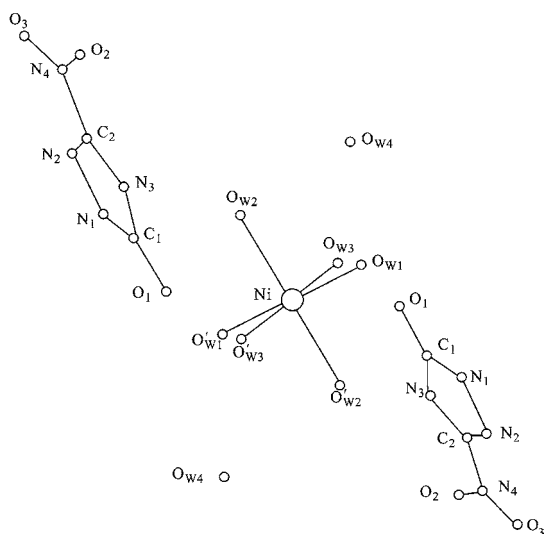
3.2. Thermal decomposition mechanism of $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

The typical TG–DTG curve of $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is shown in Fig. 2. The DTG curve shows that the thermal decomposition process of the title compound can be divided into three stages. The first mass loss is 30.3% between 62.0 and 161.5 °C, which roughly coincides with the calculated value (31.3%) of losing eight water molecules from the complex. The IR spectrum of the residue at 170 °C shows the absorption peak at 3519 cm^{-1} was absent, which denotes that the complex has been dehydrated. This process can also be confirmed by the single crystal structure. The hydrogen bonds between water molecules and the Ni atom are easy

Table 2
Bond angles (°)

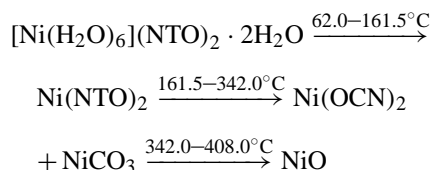
O _{w1} –Ni–O _{w2}	91.2(5)
O _{w1} –Ni–O _{w3}	89.3(7)
O _{w2} –Ni–O _{w3}	90.9(3)
N ₂ –N ₁ –C ₁	111.0(2)
N ₁ –N ₂ –C ₂	100.1(5)
C ₁ –N ₃ –C ₂	102.0(1)
O ₂ –N ₄ –O ₃	124.0(3)
O _{w4} –H ₁ –N ₁	168.2(3)
O _{w1} –H _{w11} –O ₁	135.0(5)
O ₂ –N ₄ –C ₂	118.0(3)
O ₃ –N ₄ –C ₂	118.2(7)
O ₁ –C ₁ –N ₁	124.0(4)
O ₁ –C ₁ –N ₃	128.0(4)
N ₁ –C ₁ –N ₃	108.0(5)
N ₂ –C ₂ –N ₃	119.1(6)
N ₂ –C ₂ –N ₄	119.0(1)
O _{w1} –H _{w12} –O ₁	159.0(2)
O _{w2} –H _{w21} –N ₃	170.0(4)
O _{w2} –H _{w22} –O ₂	162.1(8)
O _{w2} –H _{w22} –N ₄	141.0(1)
N ₃ –C ₂ –N ₄	122.0(1)
H _{w11} –O _{w1} –H _{w12}	110.0(3)
H _{w21} –O _{w2} –H _{w22}	93.2(5)
H _{w31} –O _{w3} –H _{w32}	106.5(6)
H _{w41} –O _{w4} –H _{w42}	106.4(8)
O _{w3} –H _{w31} –O _{w4}	167.9(4)
O _{w3} –H _{w32} –O ₁	137.3(3)
O _{w4} –H _{w41} –N ₂	162.9(3)
O _{w1} –H _{w42} –O _{w4}	144.1(8)

to be broken. The second process occurs between 161.5 and 342.0 °C, corresponding to the further decomposition of the dehydrated salt. The IR spectrum of the residue shows the absorption peak of –NO₂ has disappeared and the characteristic absorption peaks of Ni(OCN)₂ and NiCO₃ have formed after the decomposition peak appear at 2178, 1203, 1435 and 761 cm⁻¹, respectively. These observations indicate that the decomposition residue of this stage is a mixture. The amount

Fig. 1. Molecular structure of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O.

of each component cannot be determined from the present experiment and it is impossible to determine the decomposition change stoichiometrically. The third process is between 342.0 and 408.0 °C. The IR spectrum of the residue at 342.0 °C shows that a strong absorption peak at 443 cm⁻¹ is assigned to NiO. At the end of this stage, the residue amount is in good agreement with the calculated amount of 16.2%.

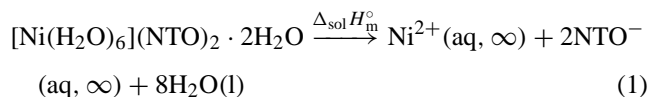
On the basis of the experimental and calculated results, the thermal decomposition mechanisms of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O can be expressed as



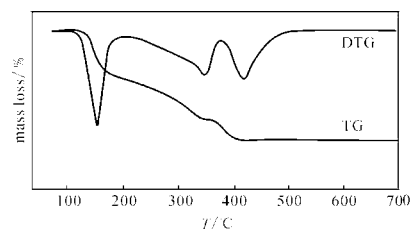
3.3. Thermodynamic properties of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O

Results for the enthalpy of solution of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O in deionized water at 298.15 K are listed in Table 3.

Because [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O is completely ionized in aqueous solution, its ionization can be represented as



In the above process, the greater values of *r* were used. Therefore, the mean of Δ_{sol}H_m^o in Table 3 can be considered at infinite dilution.

Fig. 2. TG–DTG curve of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O.Table 3
Enthalpy of solution in water of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O (cr) at 298.15 K

<i>m</i> (mg)	<i>r</i>	Δ _{sol} H _m ^o (kJ mol ⁻¹)
3.870	59502	56.04
3.900	59044	56.30
4.100	56164	56.01
4.340	53058	56.24
4.860	47381	56.70
5.240	43945	56.35
5.700	40399	56.74
7.093	32465	56.71
Mean		56.39 ± 0.32

Note: Δ_{sol}H_m^o denotes the enthalpy of solution in water of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O, where *m* is the mass of [Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O, and *r* the molar ratio *n*(H₂O)/*n*{[Ni(H₂O)₆](NTO)₂·2H₂O}.

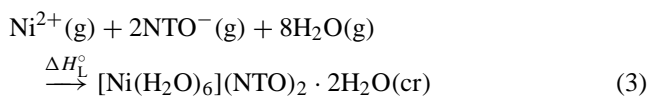
By substituting the mean of $\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}$ listed in Table 3 and the reported values of $\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{Ni}^{2+}, \text{aq}, \infty) = -53.97 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ [9]; $\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{NTO}^{-}, \text{aq}, \infty) = -(94.3 \pm 2.1) \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ [10]; and $\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{l}) = -285.83 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ [9], into Eq. (2),

$$\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ} = \Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{Ni}^{2+}, \text{aq}, \infty) + 2\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{NTO}^{-}, \text{aq}, \infty) + 8\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{aq}, \infty) - \Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}, 298.15 \text{ K}\} \quad (2)$$

The following value is obtained:

$$\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\} = -(2585.6 \pm 4.5) \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}.$$

Setting $\Delta H_{\text{L}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\}$ as the lattice enthalpy and $\Delta U_{\text{L}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\}$ as the crystal lattice energy



$$\Delta H_{\text{L}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\} = \Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}, 298.15 \text{ K}\} - \Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{Ni}^{2+}, \text{g}) - 2\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{NTO}^{-}, \text{g}) - 8\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{g}) \quad (4)$$

$$\Delta U_{\text{L}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\} = \Delta H_{\text{L}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\} - \Delta n RT \quad (5)$$

where $\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{Ni}^{2+}, \text{g}) = 2930.14 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ [9], $\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{NTO}^{-}, \text{g}) = -374.3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ [11], $\Delta_{\text{f}}H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{g}) = -241.82 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ [9], $\Delta n = -14$, $RT = 2.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$.

By substituting the above-mentioned data into Eqs. (4) and (5), the following values are obtained:

$$\Delta H_{\text{L}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\} = -2832.59 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1},$$

$$\Delta U_{\text{L}}^{\circ}\{[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{NTO})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{cr}\} = -2797.58 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

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