

The crystal structure of rösslerite $\text{MgHAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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Rösslerit, $\text{MgHAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ kristallisiert in der Raumgruppe $C2/c$ mit $a = 6,687 \pm 0,003$, $b = 25,73 \pm 0,01$, $c = 11,531 \pm 0,005$ Å, $\beta = 95^\circ 7' \pm 5'$ und $Z = 8$. Die Struktur wurde mittels Patterson- und Fourier-Synthesen bestimmt und nach der Methode der kleinsten Quadrate bis $R = 11,2\%$ verfeinert. Die Struktur setzt sich zusammen aus $\text{AsO}_2(\text{OH}_{1/2})_2$ -Tetraedern, $\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ -Oktaedern in zwei unabhängigen Lagen und isolierten Wassermolekülen, die sämtlich durch Wasserstoffbindungen zusammenhängen. Die Lagen der H-Atome wurden aus stereochemischen und kristallographischen Überlegungen gefolgert. Das $\text{AsO}_2(\text{OH}_{1/2})_2$ -Tetraeder und die Oktaeder sind deformiert; die mittleren (unkorrigierten) Abstände betragen: $\text{As}-\text{O} = 1,691 \pm 0,003$ Å, $\text{Mg}-\text{O} = 2,077 \pm 0,003$ Å. Der $(\text{Mg}-\text{O})$ -Abstand ist jedoch länger, wenn das O-Atom des Wassers Rezeptoratom der Wasserstoffbindung ist. Die Wärmebewegung wurde analysiert; unter der Annahme, daß die leichteren Atome zusammen mit ihren schwereren Nachbaratomen schwingen, folgen als korrigierte Bindungslängen: $\text{As}-\text{O} = 1,695$ Å, $\text{Mg}-\text{OH}_2 = 2,086$ Å.

Abstract

Rösslerite $\text{MgHAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ crystallizes in the monoclinic system with cell dimensions $a = 6.687 \pm 0.003$, $b = 25.73 \pm 0.01$, $c = 11.531 \pm 0.005$ Å, $\beta = 95^\circ 7' \pm 5'$. The space group is $C2/c$ and there are eight molecules per unit cell. The structure has been solved from a Patterson synthesis and partially phased Fourier syntheses and least-squares refinement has been completed on three-dimensional data (2065 structure factors within the $\text{CuK}\alpha$ sphere). The final residual is 11.2%. The structure consists of $\text{AsO}_2(\text{OH}_{1/2})_2$ tetrahedra, $\text{Mg} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ octahedra in two independent positions and isolated water molecules held together by hydrogen bonds. The position of the hydrogen bonds have been inferred from stereochemical and crystallographic evidence. The $\text{AsO}_2(\text{OH}_{1/2})_2$ tetrahedron is distorted, with a mean (uncorrected) arsenic–oxygen bond length of 1.691 ± 0.003 Å and the $\text{Mg} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ octahedra are also distorted, with a mean

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(uncorrected) magnesium—water oxygen of $2.077 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$. However in this case if the water oxygen is a receptor atom for a hydrogen bond the magnesium—water oxygen bond is lengthened. The thermal vibrations have been analyzed and the mean corrected bond lengths are arsenic—oxygen 1.695, magnesium—water oxygen 2.086 (assuming riding motion in each case).

Introduction

The crystal structure of rösslerite $\text{MgHAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been determined.

Experimental

Rösslerite crystals were prepared by an analogous method to that given by MELLOR (1929) for the preparation of phosphorrösslerite; a disodium hydrogen arsenate solution replacing the disodium hydrogen phosphate solution. The crystals had acicular habit, their length being parallel to a and breadth to c .

The crystal optics, morphology and Laue symmetry confirmed PALACHE, BERMAN and FRONDEL (1951) and FISCHER (1960) in that the crystals belong to the monoclinic system.

The cell dimensions were determined by FARQUHAR and LIPSON'S (1946) method from oscillation photographs taken with copper radiation ($\text{CuK}\alpha_1 = 1.54050 \text{ \AA}$, $\text{CuK}\alpha_2 = 1.54434 \text{ \AA}$, $\text{CuK}\alpha_m = 1.54178 \text{ \AA}$, $\text{CuK}\beta = 1.39217 \text{ \AA}$) and are

$$a = 6.687 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$$

$$b = 25.73 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$$

$$c = 11.531 \pm 0.005 \text{ \AA}$$

$$\beta = 95^\circ 7' \pm 5'.$$

The measured density (by flotation) is $1.954 \pm 2 \text{ g/cm}^3$. Previous determinations are reported as 1.943 g/cm^3 . (PALACHE, BERMAN and FRONDEL, 1951) and 1.930 g/cm^3 (FISCHER, 1960), while that calculated for $Z = 8$ is $1.951 \pm 2 \text{ g/cm}^3$.

Systematic absences (hkl absent when $h + k = 2n + 1$, $h0l$ when $h = 2n + 1$ and $l = 2n + 1$, $0k0$ when $k = 2n + 1$) were determined from Weissenberg photographs and indicate the space group to be either Cc or $C2/c$. Application of the WILSON (1949a, 1949b) ratio test and the $N(z)$ test (HOWELLS, PHILLIPS and ROGERS, 1949, 1950) to the hkl , $hk0$ and $0kl$ data indicated that the probable space group was $C2/c$.

Crystals of approximately equidimensional cross-section parallel to a and c were obtained by cleaving the original crystals, the average thicknesses being 0.198 ± 0.022 mm and 0.243 ± 0.050 mm, respectively.

The intensity data were collected on multiple-film equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs taken about the a (zero to fifth layers) and c (zero to fourth layers) axes with filtered copper radiation. The peak heights of the diffraction spots were photometered. In this way the intensities of 1849 independent reflections were estimated. Those reflections too weak to measure (another 216) were given half the intensity of the weakest measurable, these reflections were then processed with the others.

The observed intensities were corrected for PHILLIPS effect (1954) absorption (assuming cylindrical specimens, linear absorption coefficient 59.8 cm^{-1}) and Lorentz and polarization factors. The two sets of photographs were correlated by the method of HAMILTON, ROLLETT and SPARKS (1965) and the scale factor and average temperature factor were obtained by Wilson's (1942) method.

Structure determination and refinement

Although the a and c axes Patterson projections clearly show the positions of the arsenic-arsenic vectors (see subsequent paper, STREET and WHITAKER, 1973), no attempt was made to solve these.

The three-dimensional Patterson synthesis gave two possible sets of position parameters for the arsenic, namely 0.05, 0.09, 0.05 or 0.05, 0.09, 0.45 (the later position corresponds to the arsenic atom being in the acute angle of the unit cell).

Three-dimensional Fourier syntheses were calculated with structure factors phased for each of these positions. The first position of the arsenic atom gave a synthesis from which it was possible to obtain the positions of the oxygen atoms in the arsenate group, two independent magnesium atoms in special positions, six water molecules (three independent positions) octahedrally arranged about one of the magnesium atoms, and two water molecules (one independent position) about the other, i.e. $\text{MgAsO}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Unfortunately four other water molecules about the second magnesium atom could not be uniquely placed, there being two possible positions for them and the seventh water molecule also could not be positioned uniquely.

The second position of the arsenic atom gave a Fourier synthesis which was stereochemically unacceptable due to many interatomic

distances less than 2 Å and impossible to interpret in terms of an AsO_4 tetrahedron and $\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedron. Hence work assuming this position of the arsenic atom was discontinued.

A further Fourier synthesis was calculated with structure factors phased for the configuration $\text{MgAsO}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ with the arsenic atom in the obtuse angle; from this synthesis the positions of the remaining water molecules were found.

The atomic scattering factors used for arsenic, magnesium and oxygen were those from the *International tables for x-ray crystallography* (1962). The factor used for magnesium was that for the neutral atom.

The structure was then refined by diagonal matrix least-squares [DIAMOND (1964), based on CRUICKSHANK's method (PEPINSKY, ROBERTSON and SPEAKMAN, 1961)] using the S.R.C. Atlas at Chilton. A weighting scheme was included in the refinement such that the weight ω of each reflection was proportional to $\frac{1}{\sigma^2}$ where σ is the estimated standard deviation of intensity (the minimized function being $\sum \omega \Delta F^2$, $\Delta F = F_{\text{obs}} - F_{\text{calc}}$). The refinement was continued for both isotropic and anisotropic temperature factors until the recommended shifts were less than one tenth of the appropriate standard deviation (MASON, 1964).

In the isotropic refinement, 53 parameters were simultaneously refined and except for the scale factor the final parameters are given in Table 1. In the case of the anisotropic refinement, the total number of parameters refined was 119 and again with the exception of the

Table 1. *Parameters and standard deviations after isotropic refinement*

	x	y	z	B
As	0.0525(2)	0.09417(3)	0.0454(1)	0.84(1) Å ²
O(1)	0.2925(11)	0.0817(2)	0.0902(5)	1.00(9)
O(2)	−0.0871(11)	0.0382(2)	0.0451(6)	1.27(10)
O(3)	−0.0486(11)	0.1344(2)	0.1433(5)	0.96(9)
O(4)	0.0225(12)	0.1227(2)	−0.0848(5)	1.21(9)
Mg(1)	0.5	0.2207(2)	0.25	0.94(6)
H ₂ O(1)	0.5612(11)	0.1616(2)	0.1309(6)	1.20(9)
H ₂ O(2)	0.2081(13)	0.2214(3)	0.1767(7)	2.03(12)
H ₂ O(3)	0.5835(14)	0.2759(3)	0.1344(7)	2.30(13)
Mg(2)	0	0.4490(1)	0.25	0.63(5)
H ₂ O(4)	−0.0492(14)	0.4434(3)	0.0713(7)	2.12(12)
H ₂ O(5)	0.2176(12)	0.3910(2)	0.2417(6)	1.36(9)
H ₂ O(6)	0.2133(13)	0.5062(3)	0.2435(7)	2.01(11)
H ₂ O(7)	−0.0080(13)	0.3044(3)	0.1035(7)	1.86(11)

Table 2. *Parameters and standard deviations after anisotropic refinement*

Positions			
	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
As	0.0527(1)	0.09417(3)	0.0454(1)
O(1)	0.2915(10)	0.0819(2)	0.0891(5)
O(2)	−0.0863(10)	0.0380(2)	0.0451(5)
O(3)	−0.0488(10)	0.1343(2)	0.1432(5)
O(4)	0.0235(10)	0.1229(2)	−0.0843(5)
Mg(1)	0.5	0.2206(1)	0.25
H ₂ O(1)	0.5603(10)	0.1612(2)	0.1307(5)
H ₂ O(2)	0.2089(11)	0.2204(2)	0.1767(7)
H ₂ O(3)	0.5838(12)	0.2762(3)	0.1343(7)
Mg(2)	0	0.4489(1)	0.25
H ₂ O(4)	−0.0475(11)	0.4442(3)	0.0718(6)
H ₂ O(5)	0.2184(11)	0.3911(2)	0.2418(6)
H ₂ O(6)	0.2120(12)	0.5064(2)	0.2428(7)
H ₂ O(7)	−0.0085(12)	0.3040(2)	0.1037(7)

Vibrations ($\times 10^4$)

	<i>B</i> ₁₁	<i>B</i> ₂₂	<i>B</i> ₃₃	<i>B</i> ₂₃	<i>B</i> ₃₁	<i>B</i> ₁₂
As	38(3)	3(0.1)	14(1)	1(0.3)	8(2)	3(1)
O(1)	22(14)	4(1)	26(4)	4(3)	7(13)	6(5)
O(2)	92(17)	1(1)	34(4)	− 1(2)	28(14)	4(5)
O(3)	51(15)	4(1)	20(3)	2(2)	12(12)	13(5)
O(4)	56(16)	5(1)	19(4)	3(3)	32(12)	−6(5)
Mg(1)	31(9)	1(0.4)	30(2)	0	17(8)	0
H ₂ O(1)	38(14)	4(1)	30(4)	−11(3)	14(13)	2(5)
H ₂ O(2)	67(17)	5(1)	65(6)	−13(4)	−29(18)	−2(6)
H ₂ O(3)	115(19)	6(1)	61(6)	16(4)	100(19)	11(6)
Mg(2)	38(9)	2(0.4)	11(2)	0	16(7)	0
H ₂ O(4)	65(17)	12(1)	22(3)	0(3)	31(14)	11(6)
H ₂ O(5)	63(16)	3(1)	32(4)	1(3)	2(14)	15(5)
H ₂ O(6)	136(20)	8(1)	42(4)	−14(4)	79(17)	−54(7)
H ₂ O(7)	119(18)	3(1)	56(5)	− 1(3)	31(18)	10(6)

The anisotropic temperature factor is defined by $\exp - [h^2B_{11} + k^2B_{22} + l^2B_{33} + klB_{23} + lhB_{31} + hkB_{12}]$.

scale factor these are listed in Table 2. The residuals for the isotropic and anisotropic temperature refinements were 12.0% and 11.2%, respectively.

Comparison of the observed and calculated structure factors (Table 3) indicates that for some intense reflections, e.g. 040, 060,

Table 3. Observed and calculated structure factors

h	k	l	F_o	F_c	h	k	l	F_o	F_c	h	k	l	F_o	F_c	h	k	l	F_o	F_c	h	k	l	F_o	F_c	h	k	l	F_o	F_c				
0	0	1			0	12	1			0	26	1			1	5	1			1	11	1			1	17	1			1	27	1	
2	2257	2770	7	-2772	-2796	4	-1232	-1113	-10	2556	2508	-3	2094	2040	11	-1216	-765	-7	-464	-626	-9	2060	1829										
4	575	508	8	-1237	-1247	5	-168	-78	-9	-533	-18	-2	2773	2783	12	1395	1394	-6	-884	-748	-8	620	598										
6	-4806	-5158	9	-918	-946	6	-268	-194	-8	1410	1108	-1	285	238				-5	177	414	-7	3853	4011										
8	-716	-427	10	-808	-976	7	-687	-617	-7	464	310	0	2099	2208				1	19	1													
10	-4516	-5004	11	185	19	8	1313	1337	-6	503	516	1	-661	-606	-12	-379	-806	-3	-1338	-1049	-5	958	769										
12	-1204	-1197	12	-2000	-1997	9	-687	-711	-5	3539	3222	2	1531	1365	-11	-800	-630	-2	-1663	-1456	-4	-1769	-1957										
14	-1836	-1801	13	1221	1197	10	28	1	-4	-3466	-4444	3	-1423	-1324	-10	177	268	-1	-244	-185	-3	1008	1013										
0	2	1				0	28	1	-3	3748	3627	4	1991	1867	-9	-2387	-2212	0	-2126	-1771	-2	-2163	-2542										
2	3038	3203	0	-340	-105	1	148	265	1	983	740	6	-2895	-2807	-7	-1720	-1755	2	-1792	-1399	0	-3385	-3829										
3	-4161	-5031	1	-4080	-4414	2	-1831	-1715	0	-4511	-7521	7	-1035	-900	-6	1043	1112	3	1267	1079	1	-1001	-1065										
4	4578	4533	2	-2841	-2939	3	1868	1696	1	-1746	-1523	8	-2418	-2318	-5	-3693	-3838	4	-177	-134	2	-2748	-2666										
5	-1333	-1613	3	-3491	-3662	4	202	474	2	-3241	-3260	9	-533	-516	-4	202	251	5	177	371	3	-3683	-3582										
6	-2018	-2806	4	-1016	-1776	5	853	837	3	-1518	-1317	10	-2634	-3071	-3	-2681	-2510	6	1387	1365	4	3330	3288										
7	-4497	-4901	5	-4746	-5457	6	714	613	4	1950	1804	11	-426	-448	-2	1355	1300	7	664	587	5	-1261	-1177										
8	-1920	-1676	6	451	584	7	1265	1294	5	-3382	-2839	12	-1287	-1217	-1	-1893	-1888	8	1294	1311	6	1942	1522										
9	-2523	-2517	7	-827	-806	8	30	1	6	3463	3199	13	752	763	0	-1641	-1596	1	29	1	7	-2587	-2599										
10	-1706	-1808	8	1402	1339	9	666	602	7	-1363	-1052				1	13	1	1	3576	3657													
11	-418	-573	9	-947	-1078	10	666	602	6	1975	1757							2	1499	1421	-7	-177	-1503										
12	-383	-470	10	823	962	1	625	557	9	224	202	-13	-306	-491	3	3690	3862	-6	-682	-627	10	2160	1869										
13	1909	1874	11	698	786	2	1458	1566	10	2638	2891	-12	-177	-289	4	296	306	-5	-1780	-1717	11	202	204										
14	-635	-638	12	1356	1368	3	358	343	11	224	213	-11	1403	1166	5	1554	1317	-4	224	379	12	1378	1196										
0	4	1				13	168	55	4	-148	-160	12	1959	1765	-10	-209	-273	6	340	270	-3	-575	-632										
0	-2861	-4234	0	16	1	5	1462	1469	13	158	177	-9	1959	1923	7	1088	1171	-2	-1420	-1299	5	1433	1383										
1	960	810	0	-4129	-4766	0	32	1	14	735	919	-8	177	80	8	-1924	-1888	-1	-202	-434	2	6											
2	-3798	-4988	1	-2285	-2008	0	2305	2393	1	7	1	-6	868	791	10	597	512	1	1452	1327	-13	-487	-419										
3	-4455	-6240	2	-2730	-2858	1	-857	-794	-14	696	609	-5	4367	4437	11	-920	-848	2	-158	-127	-12	2034	1841										
4	1326	946	3	1182	1147	2	1555	1641	-3	127	119	-4	512	374	5	2319	2264	4	519	454	-5	-454	-541										
5	-2681	-2734	4	-1567	-1518	3	237	183	-12	2837	2663	-3	1395	1168	1	21	1	4	589	556	-10	2250	2228										
6	718	635	5	-842	-866	4	454	547	-11	-1405	-1471	-2	913	1458	-10	-1946	-1911	5	2217	2195	-9	-2177	-2140										
7	-3075	-3192	6	-770	-796	1	1	1	-10	1317	1212	-1	-1903	-1763	-9	-379	-616	6	-362	-391	-8	-729	-599										
8	1932	1851	7	1426	1415	2	-2610	-2578	0	-216	69	-8	-924	875				1	31	1	-7	-705	-659										
9	-244	-338	8	1622	1749	-14	-1207	-1190	9	1352	1193	-3	-1873	-1651	-7	-2193	-1997																
10	1513	1570	9	-301	-421	-13	-185	-463	-7	-4622	-4780	2	-1750	-1662	-6	950	1042	-4	1032	1051	-5	-729	-625										
11	-1356	-1254	10	2947	2899	-12	-2714	-2510	-6	-2711	-2549	3	-3479	-3435	-5	418	243	-3	-230	-201	-4	-4728	-5419										
12	1853	1776	11	935	927	-11	177	4	-5	-998	-989	4	-800	-746	-4	2456	2465	-2	1609	1504	-3	903	644										
13	1108	1087	12	2457	2657	-10	-2712	-2760	-4	-792	-1033	5	-3434	-3403	-5	-640	716	-1	882	883	-2	-2855	-3131										
14	112	244	0	18	1	-9	1620	1248	-3	-112	-249	6	-158	-176	-2	2785	2808	0	2040	1985	-1	-2298	-1784										
0	6	1				0	1401	1231	-7	4359	4109	-1	3376	3425	8	177	49	0	2485	2601	2	1213	1197	1	4671	5453							
0	-3933	-6519	1	875	865	-6	2304	1984	0	209	78	9	-530	-396	1	-158	-182	3	553	363	2	-1231	-1131										
1	335	355	2	-3475	-3812	-5	1844	1726	1	2620	2669	10	209	127	2	2098	2103	4	689	771	3	2514	2424										
2	-3603	-4398	3	3874	4085	-4	1668	2739	2	2379	1545	11	575	636	3	158	291																
3	3853	3898	4	1369	1305	-3	1791	2084	3	1736	1922	12	-484	-328	4	168	105	1	33	1	5	125	296										
4	-2429	-2359	5	2834	3166	-2	4497	7043	4	-97	-154	13	1088	1182	5	-610	-710	0	1160	1769	6	3556	3351										
5	-1213	-962	6	-952	-929	-1	-729	-777	5	1167	1172				1	15	1	6	-474	-405	2	0	1	7	680	138							
6	1910	1755	7	2626	3174	0	2576	3894	6	-2073	-1606							7	1155	1164				8	3156	3580							
7	536	605	8	1536	1771	1	-1378	-1422	7	2549	2257	-13	-345	-288	-12	-1928	-1708	-14	-1947	-2012				9	451	492							
8	2967	2922	9	1015	882	2	3840	4391	8	1676	1602	-12	1995	2015	9	494	523	-12	-2802	-2407	10	3493	3067										
9	1326	1240	10	-415	-486	3	-2503	-2662	9	1152	1090	-11	533	528	10	-2423	-2551	-10	-1981	-1912	11	-1312	-1262										
10	2373	2616	11	279	280	4	-1459	-1260	10	1104	1044	-10	1678	1667	11	746	832	-8	1184	1010	12	1125	1062										
11	158	113	12	1358	1392	5	-3710	-3320	11	-209	-358	-9	224	292				1	23	1	-6	-584	-242	13	-1208	-1063							
12	1476	1428	0	20	1	5	966	599	2	-2778	-2019	-8	144	144																			
13	-1143	-1113	0	20	1	7	-1789	-1610	13	-1851	-1838	-7	3274	3366	-10	-868	-852	-2	5176	7178				2	8	1							
14	1355	1427	0	2116	2156	8	-3258	-3181	14	387	600	-6	158	290	-9	1636	1562	0	5319	840													

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	52
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85															

112, 150, 200 and 400, the observed structure factors are considerably smaller than the calculated ones. This is probably due to extinction. No corrections were applied to these reflections and they were included

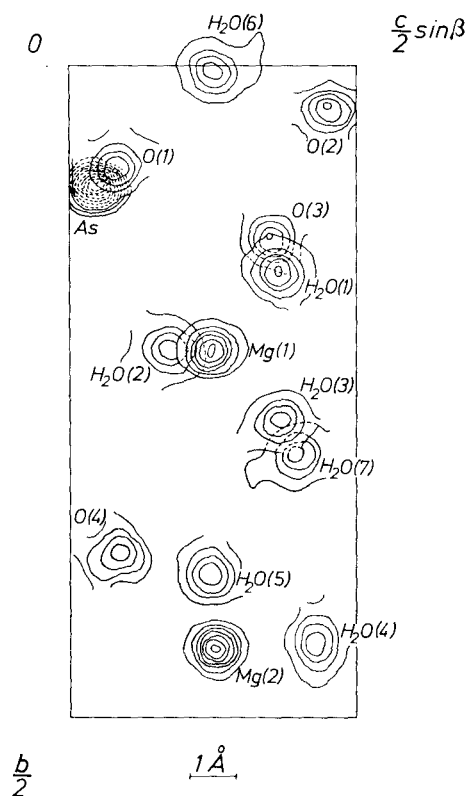


Fig. 1. A composite electron-density map of the asymmetric unit calculated on sections through the atomic peaks. The contouring is at intervals of $10 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ around the arsenic atom, $6 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ around the magnesium atoms and $4 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ around the other atoms. The first contour is at zero, but this contour is not always completely indicated to avoid confusion with spurious peaks

in the refinement. The structure factors in Table 3 are the absolute values multiplied by 25. A composite electron-density map of an asymmetric unit is given in Fig. 1. In this map the largest spurious peaks are of height $6.3 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ in the ripple around the arsenic atom and $3.4 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ in the remainder of the synthesis.

Discussion of the structure

General

The structure consists of HAsO_4 distorted tetrahedra, two crystallographically independent $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedra and isolated water molecules, held together by hydrogen bonds. These bonds are predo-

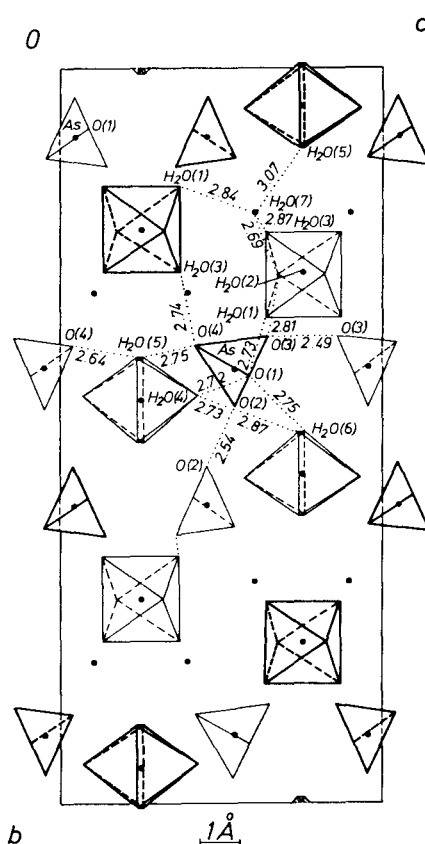


Fig. 2. The a -axis projection of the complete cell. Those groupings associated with arsenic or magnesium atoms or isolated water molecules with x coordinate equal to or greater than 0.5 are drawn with bold lines. One independent set of proposed hydrogen bonds is indicated by broken lines

minantly electrostatic in character (MOELLER, 1952; SMITH, 1955; PAULING, 1960) and so the bonding may also be thought of as ionic. Figure 2 shows the relationship between the units of which the structure is composed.

Bond lengths and angles uncorrected for thermal vibration

HAsO_4 tetrahedron

The individual values of the arsenic-oxygen and oxygen-oxygen distances are given in Table 4. The weighted mean values are:

arsenic—oxygen	$1.691 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$
oxygen—oxygen	$2.754 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$

In this and subsequent tables, atoms in equivalent positions are represented by superscripts

for general positions

I	$\bar{x},$	$\bar{y},$	$\bar{z}$
II	$\bar{x},$	$y,$	$\frac{1}{2} - z$
III	$x,$	$\bar{y},$	$\frac{1}{2} + z$
IV	$\frac{1}{2} + x,$	$\frac{1}{2} + y,$	$\frac{1}{2} + z$
V	$\frac{1}{2} - x,$	$\frac{1}{2} - y,$	$\frac{1}{2} - z$
VI	$\frac{1}{2} - x,$	$\frac{1}{2} + y,$	$\bar{z}$
VII	$\frac{1}{2} + x,$	$\frac{1}{2} - y,$	z

while for special positions

I	0,	$\bar{y},$	$\frac{3}{4}$
II	$\frac{1}{2},$	$\frac{1}{2} + y,$	$\frac{1}{4}$
III	$\frac{1}{2},$	$\frac{1}{2} - y,$	$\frac{3}{4}$

The mean value for the arsenic-oxygen bond is in reasonable agreement (within three times the larger standard deviation) with the average result of most other investigations (Table 5). There are, however, two exceptions, the results of BAUR and KHAN (1970) and TILLMANN and BAUR (1971), both of which are considerably smaller than the present one. In the case of the first of these (BAUR and KHAN, 1970), the structure determined, $\text{Na}_2\text{HAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, had been solved by FERRARIS and CHIARI (1970b) who obtained a significantly longer mean As—O bond, so much so that BAUR and KHAN (1970) concluded “that systematic errors in the measurement of one or both data sets played a larger role than we might have wished”. In view of the general agreement of FERRARIS and CHIARI’s (1970b) result with those found from other structures it would appear more probable that BAUR and KHAN’s (1970) data contains the systematic error. In the case of the result of TILLMANN and BAUR (1971), it would appear from the published work that the experimental procedure was the same as for BAUR and KHAN (1970), in which case the same unknown systematic error may have re-occurred. Whatever the reason these are the two results which are significantly low. Incidentally, in Table 5 not all authors gave the errors in the mean, some have been calculated from the errors in the individual distances.

The HAsO_4 tetrahedron is very distorted, two bonds are significantly (greater than three times the standard deviation) larger than the mean while the other two are significantly shorter, the long ones are equal within experimental error and so are the two short ones.

Table 4. *Bond length and angle*

	Distance		Distance		Angle
HAsO ₄ tetrahedron					
As—O(1)	1.661(7) Å	O(1)—O(2)	2.773(9) Å	O(1)—As—O(2)	110.3(3)°
As—O(2)	1.718(6)	O(1)—O(3)	2.764(9)	O(1)—As—O(3)	110.0(3)
As—O(3)	1.713(6)	O(1)—O(4)	2.772(9)	O(1)—As—O(4)	112.9(3)
As—O(4)	1.665(5)	O(2)—O(3)	2.724(7)	O(2)—As—O(3)	105.2(3)
Mean	1.691(3)	O(2)—O(4)	2.781(7)	O(2)—As—O(4)	110.6(3)
		O(3)—O(4)	2.726(8)	O(3)—As—O(4)	107.6(3)
		Mean	2.754(3)		
Mg · 6H ₂ O octahedra					
Mg(1)—H ₂ O(1)	2.120(6) Å	H ₂ O(1)—HO(1 ^{II})	2.935(8) Å	H ₂ O(1)—Mg(1)—H ₂ O(1 ^{II})	87.6(2)°
Mg(1)—H ₂ O(2)	2.052(8)	H ₂ O(1)—H ₂ O(2)	2.889(9)	H ₂ O(1)—Mg(1)—H ₂ O(2)	87.6(2)
Mg(1)—H ₂ O(3)	2.067(8)	H ₂ O(1)—H ₂ O(2 ^{II})	3.004(10)	H ₂ O(1)—Mg(1)—H ₂ O(2 ^{II})	92.1(3)
Mg(2)—H ₂ O(4)	2.055(6)	H ₂ O(1)—H ₂ O(3)	2.964(8)	H ₂ O(1)—Mg(1)—H ₂ O(3)	90.1(3)
Mg(2)—H ₂ O(5)	2.093(7)	H ₂ O(2)—H ₂ O(3)	2.967(10)	H ₂ O(2)—Mg(1)—H ₂ O(3)	92.2(3)
Mg(2)—H ₂ O(6)	2.057(7)	H ₂ O(2)—H ₂ O(3 ^{II})	2.863(11)	H ₂ O(2)—Mg(1)—H ₂ O(3 ^{II})	88.1(3)
Mean	2.077(3)	H ₂ O(3)—H ₂ O(3 ^{II})	2.984(12)	H ₂ O(3)—Mg(1)—H ₂ O(3 ^{II})	92.4(3)
		H ₂ O(4)—H ₂ O(5)	2.873(10)	H ₂ O(4)—Mg(2)—H ₂ O(5)	87.7(3)
		H ₂ O(4)—H ₂ O(5 ^{II})	2.869(9)	H ₂ O(4)—Mg(2)—H ₂ O(5 ^{II})	87.5(3)
		H ₂ O(4)—H ₂ O(6)	2.976(10)	H ₂ O(4)—Mg(2)—H ₂ O(6)	92.7(3)
		H ₂ O(4)—H ₂ O(6 ^{II})	2.960(10)	H ₂ O(4)—Mg(2)—H ₂ O(6 ^{II})	92.1(3)
		H ₂ O(5)—H ₂ O(5 ^{II})	2.944(10)	H ₂ O(5)—Mg(2)—H ₂ O(5 ^{II})	89.4(3)
		H ₂ O(5)—H ₂ O(6)	2.969(8)	H ₂ O(5)—Mg(2)—H ₂ O(6)	91.4(3)
		H ₂ O(6)—H ₂ O(6 ^{II})	2.855(11)	H ₂ O(6)—Mg(2)—H ₂ O(6 ^{II})	87.9(3)
		Mean	2.935(3)		

However, distortion of arsenate and HAsO_4 tetrahedra is very common, it occurs in all except two of the compounds listed in Table 5, the exceptions being pharmacosiderite (BUERGER, DOLLASE and GARAYCOCHEA-WITTKKE, 1967) and $\text{Na}_3\text{AsO}_4(\text{NaOH})_{0-0.25} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (TILLMANNs and BAUR, 1971).

In all cases of distorted arsenate tetrahedra reported, oxygen atoms of the tetrahedron are involved in coordination to the cation and it has been pointed out (CALVO and LEUNG, 1969) that the shortest arsenic-oxygen bond distance involves the oxygen with the lowest coordination number. The effect of this can be appreciable, FINNEY (1966) found individual arsenic-oxygen bonds in the range 1.615 Å to 1.773 Å. However in rösslerite none of the HAsO_4 oxygen atoms is coordinated to the magnesium atom and this effect must be absent.

CRUICKSHANK (1961) pointed out that for HSO_4 and HPO_4 the

Table 5. *Comparison of observed bond lengths*
Arsenic—oxygen

Reference	Compound	As—O
GHOSE, FEHLMANN and SUNDARALINGAM (1965)	$\text{Cu}_3\text{AsO}_4(\text{OH})_3$	1.704(14) Å
FINNEY (1966)	$\text{Cu}_2(\text{AsO}_4)\text{OH} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.683(6)
JOST, WORZALA and THILO (1966)	$\text{As}_2\text{O}_5 \cdot \frac{5}{3}\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.693(12)
CALLERI and FERRARIS (1967)	$\text{CaH}(\text{AsO}_4) \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.682(3)
BUERGER, DOLLASE and GARAYCOCHEA- WITTKKE (1967)	Pharmacosiderite	1.69(1)
*POULSEN and CALVO (1968)	$\text{Cu}_3(\text{AsO}_4)_2$	1.684(7)
CALVO and LEUNG (1969)	$\text{Zn}_2\text{Cu}(\text{AsO}_4)_2$	1.678(7)
FERRARIS (1969)	$\text{CaH}(\text{AsO}_4) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.686(4)
*FERRARIS and CHIARI (1970a)	CaHAsO_4	1.685(3)
FERRARIS and CHIARI (1970b)	$\text{Na}_2\text{HAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.688(2)
BAUR and KHAN (1970)	$\text{Na}_2\text{HAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.678(2)
KHAN, STRAUMANIS and JAMES (1970)	$(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HAsO}_4$	1.695(4)
CHIARI and FERRARIS (1971)	$\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{AsO}_4)_2$	1.686(3)
TILLMANNs and BAUR (1971)	$\text{Na}_3\text{AsO}_4 \cdot (\text{NaOH})_{0-0.25} \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.669(4)
This work	$\text{MgHAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.691(3)

* Two independent tetrahedra investigated.

Table 5. (*Continued*)

Magnesium—oxygen

Reference	Compound	Mg—O
MARGULIS and TEMPLETON (1962)	$\text{Mg}(\text{NH}_4)_2(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.064(3) Å
NARDELLI, FAVA and GIRALDI (1962)	$\text{MgS}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.083(6)
ZALKIN, RUBEN and TEMPLETON (1964)	$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.066(1)
**BAUR (1964a)	$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.077(2)
BAUR (1964b)	$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.065(2)
JOHNSON (1965)	$[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6][\text{MgC}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}_7 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}]_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.074(1)
SASVARI and JEFFREY (1966)	$\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.062(4)
SUTOR (1967)	$\text{MgHPO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.083(3)
BAGGIO, AMZEL and BECKA (1969)	$\text{MgS}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.068(2)
WHITAKER and JEFFERY (1970)	$\text{MgNH}_4\text{PO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.071(1)
STEPHAN, MACGILLAVRY and KOCH (1972)	$\text{KHCO}_3 \cdot \text{MgCO}_3 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.072(2)
STEPHAN and MACGILLAVRY (1972)	$\text{MgCO}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.082(3)
BAUR and ROLIN (1972)	$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.063(2)
This work	$\text{MgHASO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.077(3)

** Neutron diffraction study.

bond S—O(H) or P—O(H) is longer than those of the type S—O or P—O . A similar effect has been found in HAsO_4 groups by CALLERI and FERRARIS (1967), FERRARIS (1969), FERRARIS and CHIARI (1970a,b), BAUR and KHAN (1970) and KHAN, STRAUMANIS and JAMES (1970), all of whom found the phenomena of one long bond (in the range 1.721 Å to 1.767 Å) and three shorter ones.

Thus in the present case one expects one long and three short bonds of approximately equal length. However, instead, two long bonds of equal length are obtained together with two short ones of equal length. This can only be explained by the hydrogen being connected to two oxygen atoms, O(2) and O(3), the true configuration being $\text{AsO}_2(\text{OH}_{1/2})_2$. Further evidence for this configuration is obtained when considering the distances of the neighbouring oxygen atoms to this tetrahedron.

As already mentioned, with the exception of two results (BAUR and KHAN, 1970; TILLMANN and BAUR, 1971), the mean arsenic-oxygen distances are in good agreement with each other regardless of whether

Table 6. *Comparison of observed angles in hydrogen arsenate ions*

Reference		Mean angles		
		O—As—O	O—As—O(H)	O(H)—As—O(H)
CALLERI and FERRARIS (1967)	CaH(AsO ₄) · H ₂ O	111.3°	107.7°	
FERRARIS (1969)	CaH(AsO ₄) · 2H ₂ O	112.2	106.6	
FERRARIS and CHIARI (1970a)*	CaHAsO ₄	109.8	109.1	
FERRARIS and CHIARI (1970b)	Na ₂ HAsO ₄ · 7H ₂ O	112.8	105.9	
BAUR and KHAN (1970)	Na ₂ HAsO ₄ · 7H ₂ O	112.9	105.8	
KHAN, STRAUMANIS and JAMES (1970)	(NH ₄) ₂ HAsO ₄	111.9	106.9	
CHIARI and FERRARIS (1971)**	Ca(H ₂ AsO ₄) ₂	118.4	108.7 113.6	102.2° 105.6
This work		112.9	109.6	105.2

* Two independent tetrahedra investigated, but only one included because the hydrogen bonding about the other could not be determined.

** Two independent tetrahedra investigated, results given for both.

the group is an arsenate or HAsO₄ group. This suggests that individual bond lengths alter to achieve electrostatic balance irrespective of the individual bonding.

In addition to distortion of the HAsO₄ tetrahedron due to different bond lengths, there is also angular distortion. The smallest O—As—O is that involving O(2) and O(3), i.e. between the (OH_{1/2}) groups, while the largest is that involving O(1) and O(4). This is to be expected; there will be mutual repulsion between the oxygen atoms and this will be dependent on the distance between them. For the same O—As—O, the repulsion between oxygen atoms further away from the arsenic will be less than for oxygen atoms closer to the arsenic and in the absence of outside forces the angles subtended at the arsenic would alter so that the repulsions would become equal. Thus one would expect O—As—O to be greater than O—As—O(H), which in turn would be greater than O(H)—As—O(H) and this is obtained in the present case. Examination of the mean angles for other HAsO₄ and H₂AsO₄ ions shows the same effect (Table 6). However, in general the effect is less obvious, detailed examination of individual angles indicates, with the exception of one compound Na₂HAsO₄ · 7H₂O (FERRARIS and CHIARI, 1970b; BAUR and KHAN, 1970) that the

ranges of angles about the mean are so large that there are considerable overlaps of individual groups. This is probably due to many of the oxygen atoms being simultaneously coordinated to the cation and being subjected to further distortion due to this. In the present case and that of $\text{Na}_2\text{HAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (FERRARIS and CHIARI, 1970b; BAUR and KHAN, 1970), none of the arsenate oxygen atoms is coordinated to the cation and thus there can be no distortion from this cause.

$\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedron

The individual values of the magnesium-oxygen and oxygen-oxygen distances are given in Table 4. The weighted mean values are:

$$\text{magnesium—oxygen} \quad 2.077 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$$

$$\text{oxygen—oxygen} \quad 2.935 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$$

There are two independent octahedra in the structure, but neither of the means of each of these is significantly different from the mean of both.

Detailed examination of the individual values indicates that the octahedron is very distorted, the range of magnesium-oxygen distances being 11σ , where σ is the individual standard deviation. In addition the "right angles" vary between $87.5 \pm 0.3^\circ$ and $92.7 \pm 0.3^\circ$, i.e. differences of 8σ and 9σ from the regular value. Some of this distortion may be due to thermal vibration. The average value for the magnesium-oxygen distance is compared with those obtained by other investigators (Table 5); the agreement is reasonable. It is interesting to note that some distortion of the $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedron occurs in every compound in this table.

A detailed examination of the hydrogen bonding of this compound, see below, indicates that, very probably, the water molecules $\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)$, $\text{H}_2\text{O}(3)$, $\text{H}_2\text{O}(4)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(6)$ are each bonded to three atoms; electrostatically to a magnesium and hydrogen-bonded to two oxygen atoms, which may be either an arsenate oxygen or an isolated water molecule. However, water molecules $\text{H}_2\text{O}(1)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$ are associated with four bonds; three of these are the same as for the other water molecules but in addition they are both acceptor atoms for hydrogen bonds from the isolated water molecule $\text{H}_2\text{O}(7)$. It is interesting to note that both these water molecules are considerably further away from the

magnesium atom than the others, the mean distance for these two is 2.109 ± 0.005 Å compared with the mean for the other four of 2.057 ± 0.004 Å. This phenomena has been noticed previously. In the case of magnesium sulfate heptahydrate BAUR (1964b) found that the average magnesium-oxygen (water) bond length was 2.096 Å when the oxygen atom was an acceptor atom for a hydrogen bond. On the other hand, in the cases of the oxygen atom not being an acceptor for a hydrogen bond, the mean magnesium-oxygen (water) bond length was 2.050 Å. He suggests that for acceptor atoms the sum of the electrostatic bonds is increased and the magnesium-oxygen (water) distance lengths to achieve electrostatic balance. The present structure is in excellent agreement with this idea, but the distortion may be due to other factors in addition. Considerable variation, 2.046 to 2.108 Å, of the magnesium-water distance occurs in magnesium ammonium phosphate hexahydrate (WHITAKER and JEFFERY, 1970) in which there are no inter-water hydrogen bonds.

Consider now the sum of the angles $\text{Mg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{O}_a$, $\text{Mg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{O}_b$ and $\text{O}_a-\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{O}_b$ about each of the six water molecules (Table 7). These sums are $348.4 \pm 0.5^\circ$, $360.0 \pm 0.6^\circ$, $348.2 \pm 0.6^\circ$, $360.1 \pm 0.6^\circ$, $341.1 \pm 0.5^\circ$ and $356.5 \pm 0.5^\circ$ for the water molecules designated one to six, respectively, i.e. each group of magnesium, water and two bound oxygen atoms and/or water molecules is approximately coplanar. This has already been noted before by WHITAKER and JEFFERY (1970) who found an average value of 356° in struvite compared with an average of 352° in the present substance. However, in the present case, two water molecules, $\text{H}_2\text{O}(1)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$, are acceptor atoms for hydrogen bonds and this would presumably distort the atomic configuration. This is borne out by the results, the deviation from planar is larger for these two atoms. Moreover the directions of the deviations are such that they could be due to mutual repulsion by the charge in the acceptor bond. If these two are excluded from

Table 7. *Angles around each water molecule in the $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedra*

O_a	H_2O	O_b	$\text{Mg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{O}_a$	$\text{Mg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{O}_b$	$\text{O}_a-\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{O}_b$	Sum
O(1)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(1)$	O(3)	$119.5(3)^\circ$	$113.0(3)^\circ$	$115.9(3)^\circ$	$348.4(5)^\circ$
O(3)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(7)$	$127.3(4)$	$126.4(4)$	$106.3(3)$	$360.0(6)$
O(4 ^v)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(3)$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(7)$	$135.3(4)$	$124.5(3)$	$88.4(3)$	$348.2(6)$
O(1 ^v)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(4)$	O(2)	$130.3(4)$	$122.5(3)$	$107.3(3)$	$360.1(6)$
O(4 ^v)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$	O(4 ^{vii})	$129.0(3)$	$122.3(3)$	$89.8(3)$	$341.1(5)$
O(1 ^{vi})	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(6)$	O(2 ^{iv})	$115.6(3)$	$127.6(3)$	$113.3(3)$	$356.5(5)$

consideration the average sum about the other four water molecules becomes 356° in even better agreement with coplanarity and the case of struvite (WHITAKER and JEFFERY, 1970).

Hydrogen bonding

No attempt was made to determine the positions of the hydrogen atoms due to insufficient accuracy of the data. However, the position of the hydrogen bonds could be inferred.

HAsO_4 tetrahedron

As already mentioned, the arsenic-oxygen bond lengths suggest a configuration of $\text{AsO}_2(\text{OH}_{1/2})_2$ and this configuration is confirmed by finding two very short inter-tetrahedra bonds. These bonds are

$$\text{O}(2)\text{—O}(2^{\text{I}}) = 2.541 \pm 0.008 \text{ \AA}$$

$$\text{O}(3)\text{—O}(3^{\text{II}}) = 2.490 \pm 0.008 \text{ \AA}$$

and if the space group is correct, the position of the symmetry elements demand that these hydrogen bonds must either be symmetrical or, in each bond, the hydrogen atom must be at random in one of two positions, in either case the atomic configuration becomes $\text{AsO}_2(\text{OH}_{1/2})_2$ in agreement with the bonding inferred from the arsenic-oxygen-bonds. The fact that the inter-oxygen distance in both these hydrogen bonded pairs is so short suggests the possibility that both these bonds are symmetrical (PIMENTEL and McCLELLAN, 1960a).

Water molecules

As already mentioned the position of the hydrogen bonds could be obtained by making certain assumptions:

a) there is no hydrogen bonding between water molecules within the same $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedron. On those occasions where the hydrogen atoms in this octahedron have been determined directly from difference Fourier syntheses, no hydrogen bonding has been observed between water molecules in the same octahedron (ZALKIN, RUBEN and TEMPLETON, 1964; WHITAKER and JEFFERY, 1970)

b) hydrogen bonds will be, in general, shorter than contacts not involving hydrogen bonding

Table 8. *Oxygen-oxygen distances involved in hydrogen bonding*See Table 4 for oxygen-oxygen distances within the $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedra

O_a	H_2O	O_b	$\text{O}_a\text{--H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{H}_2\text{O--O}_b$	$\text{O}_a\text{--H}_2\text{O--O}_b$
O(1)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(1)$	O(3)	2.733(8) Å	2.696(9) Å	115.9(3)°
O(3)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(7)$	2.813(9)	2.689(9)	106.3(3)
O(4 ^v)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(3)$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(7)$	2.740(9)	2.871(11)	88.4(3)
O(1 ^v)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(4)$	O(2 ^v)	2.717(9)	2.727(10)	107.3(3)
O(4 ^v)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$	O(4 ^{vii})	2.639(9)	2.754(9)	89.8(3)
O(1 ^{vi})	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(6)$	O(2 ^{iv})	2.746(9)	2.868(10)	113.3(3)
$\text{H}_2\text{O}(1^v)$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(7)$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$	2.839(10)	3.070(9)	106.1(3)

c) water molecules cannot donate more than two hydrogen atoms to the bonding scheme and the two receptor atoms subtend an angle of about 109° at the donator.

Based upon these three assumptions it was possible to infer a system of hydrogen bonds which involved the fourteen shortest oxygen-oxygen distances [excluding those in the same $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedron]. A list of these hydrogen-bonded distances and the angle $\text{O}_a\text{--H}_2\text{O--O}_b$ is given in Table 8 and the proposed bonding scheme given diagrammatically in Fig. 3. The bond lengths involved in hydrogen bonding vary from 2.639 ± 0.009 Å to 3.070 ± 0.009 Å; these lengths are reasonable when compared with hydrogen bonding in other inorganic crystals (PIMENTAL and McCLELLAN, 1960 b). The

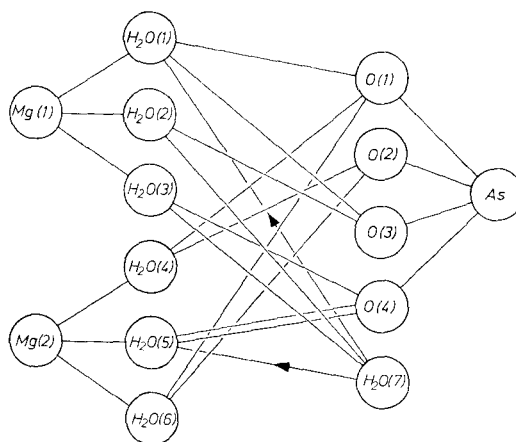


Fig. 3. Schematic diagram of proposed bonding

shortest distance not involved in this bonding scheme is considerably longer, $3.256 \pm 0.009 \text{ \AA}$ between $\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(7\text{II})$. The angles subtended by the receptor atoms at the donator vary considerably (Table 8) from the tetrahedral angle. This is not unusual. In oxalic acid dihydrate GARRETT (1954) found a value of this angle as low as 84° , while in copper sulfate pentahydrate BACON and CURRY (1962) found values in the range 105° to 130° . In both cases neutron-diffraction techniques were used and it was found that the hydrogen bond was non-collinear so that the hydrogen atoms subtended an angle of 109° at the water oxygen although the acceptor atoms did not. The same effect has also been found in cupric chloride dihydrate (PETERSON and LEVY, 1957) and chromium potassium alum (BACON and GARDNER, 1958). Thus it can be seen that the distances and angles in the present scheme are not unreasonable.

Analyses of thermal vibrations

The root-mean-square displacements and the direction cosines of the axes of the thermal-vibration ellipsoids with respect to orthogonal axes are given in Table 9. The errors in the displacements were obtained by calculating the vibration ellipsoids for the values in Table 2 plus the standard deviation, and minus the standard deviation and averaging over similar atoms.

In the case of the arsenic atom, the vibration ellipsoid is a prolate sphere with its unique axis 27° from the direction of $\text{O}(2)$; however, the distortion from isotropic is small. For the arsenate oxygen atoms the vibration ellipsoids approximate to oblate spheres, the shortest axes of which make angles of 14° , 39° , 44° and 48° with the respective arsenic-oxygen bond, while the longest axes make angles of 77° , 71° , 67° and 64° , respectively.

The magnesium atoms have very dissimilar vibration ellipsoids, the first is very eccentric, the longest axis is inclined at almost equal angles to directions of $\text{H}_2\text{O}(1)$, $\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(3)$; 52° , 59° and 53° respectively while the shortest axis is almost equally inclined to $\text{H}_2\text{O}(1)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(3)$, 44° and 46° respectively and almost perpendicular to $\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)$, 88° . For the second magnesium atom, the vibration ellipsoid is a prolate sphere within experimental error. Again the longest axis is almost equally inclined to the directions of the three water molecules, the angles between this axis and the three directions being 47° , 59° and 59° respectively for $\text{H}_2\text{O}(4)$, $\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(6)$.

Of the six water molecules coordinated to a magnesium atom, the vibration ellipsoids of five approximate to prolate spheres while that of the sixth, H₂O(5), approximates to an oblate sphere. It is noticeable that the longest axes of vibration are approximately perpendicular to relevant magnesium-water bond, the angles being 80°, 83°, 81°, 84°, 84° and 90° for the water molecules numbered one to six, respectively. The shortest axes of vibration are in general approximately parallel to the magnesium-water bond, the angles being 22°, 46°, 13°, 54°, 11° and 0°, respectively; however, due to most of the vibration ellipsoids approximating to prolate spheres, the latter angles probably contain large errors.

Table 9. *Root-mean-square displacements and orientation with respect to orthogonal axes. (I parallel to a, J parallel to b, K perpendicular to a and b)*

	Root-mean-square displacement	Direction cosines with respect to		
		<i>I</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>K</i>
As	0.109 ± 2	−0.332	−0.847	−0.414
	0.095 ± 2	0.129	−0.476	0.870
	0.084 ± 2	0.935	−0.235	−0.267
O(1)	0.139 ± 11	0.075	0.559	0.826
	0.113 ± 11	−0.221	−0.798	0.560
	0.066 ± 11	0.972	−0.224	0.064
O(2)	0.159 ± 11	−0.561	−0.026	−0.827
	0.134 ± 11	0.820	0.123	−0.560
	0.059 ± 11	0.116	−0.992	−0.047
O(3)	0.135 ± 11	−0.607	−0.704	−0.368
	0.112 ± 11	−0.264	−0.256	0.929
	0.081 ± 11	0.749	−0.662	0.032
O(4)	0.137 ± 11	−0.373	0.928	−0.013
	0.131 ± 11	0.595	0.250	0.764
	0.078 ± 11	0.712	0.277	−0.645
Mg(1)	0.142 ± 10	0.117	0.000	0.993
	0.079 ± 10	0.993	0.000	−0.117
	0.041 ± 10	0.000	1.000	0.000
H ₂ O(1)	0.157 ± 11	−0.003	−0.522	0.853
	0.099 ± 11	0.819	0.488	0.302
	0.074 ± 11	0.574	−0.699	−0.426

Table 9. (*Continued*)

	Root-mean-square displacement	Direction cosines with respect to		
		<i>I</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>K</i>
$\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)$	0.221 ± 11	-0.271	-0.275	0.923
	0.126 ± 11	0.778	-0.627	0.041
	0.102 ± 11	0.567	0.729	0.384
$\text{H}_2\text{O}(3)$	0.233 ± 11	-0.457	-0.328	-0.827
	0.129 ± 11	0.713	-0.691	-0.119
	0.105 ± 11	-0.532	-0.644	0.550
$\text{Mg}(2)$	0.101 ± 10	0.773	0.000	0.634
	0.078 ± 10	0.000	1.000	0.000
	0.072 ± 10	-0.634	0.000	0.773
$\text{H}_2\text{O}(4)$	0.199 ± 11	-0.180	-0.983	-0.035
	0.137 ± 11	0.620	-0.141	0.772
	0.096 ± 11	0.763	-0.118	-0.635
$\text{H}_2\text{O}(5)$	0.148 ± 11	-0.256	-0.058	0.965
	0.139 ± 11	0.741	0.630	0.234
	0.078 ± 11	0.621	-0.775	0.118
$\text{H}_2\text{O}(6)$	0.242 ± 11	0.647	-0.592	0.480
	0.138 ± 11	-0.317	0.364	0.876
	0.064 ± 11	0.694	0.719	-0.048
$\text{H}_2\text{O}(7)$	0.195 ± 11	0.220	0.015	0.975
	0.164 ± 11	0.940	0.265	-0.216
	0.094 ± 11	0.262	-0.964	-0.044

Bond lengths corrected for thermal vibration

BUSING and LEVY (1964) have pointed out that one of the effects of thermal vibration is to alter the apparent bond lengths and showed how to correct for these effects. Corrected bond lengths have been calculated for arsenic-oxygen and magnesium-oxygen for three cases; (A) atoms are vibrating in phase, (B) the lighter atoms are riding on the inner ones, and (C) the atoms are moving independently of each other. The values are given in Table 10.

In the case of arsenic-oxygen bond lengths one would expect that the oxygen atoms would ride on the arsenic, in which case the vibrations parallel to the bond would be the same for both arsenic and oxygen, while the largest vibrations of the oxygen atoms would be

Table 10. *Bond lengths corrected for thermal vibrations*

	Uncorrected bond length	Standard deviation	Corrected bond lengths		
			<i>A</i> (in phase)	<i>B</i> (riding)	<i>C</i> (independent)
As—O(1)	1.661 Å	0.007 Å	1.662 Å	1.665 Å	1.677 Å
As—O(2)	1.718	0.006	1.719	1.723	1.734
As—O(3)	1.713	0.006	1.713	1.715	1.726
As—O(4)	1.665	0.005	1.665	1.668	1.680
Mean	1.691	0.003	1.691	1.695	1.706
Mg(1)—H ₂ O(1)	2.120	0.006	2.120	2.123	2.132
Mg(1)—H ₂ O(2)	2.052	0.008	2.055	2.063	2.072
Mg(1)—H ₂ O(3)	2.067	0.008	2.070	2.079	2.088
Mg(2)—H ₂ O(4)	2.055	0.006	2.058	2.064	2.071
Mg(2)—H ₂ O(5)	2.093	0.007	2.094	2.099	2.106
Mg(2)—H ₂ O(6)	2.057	0.007	2.063	2.072	2.079
Mean	2.077	0.003	2.080	2.086	2.094

perpendicular to the relevant bond. Examination of the vibration ellipsoids indicates that this is only approximately correct, this suggests that some other factors are influencing the vibration ellipsoids and thus some evidence for the independent model. However, for this model, the axes of the vibration ellipsoids would be randomly oriented with respect to the bonds. This is not so and because of this the riding corrected value would appear to be the best; thus

$$\text{arsenic—oxygen} = 1.695 \pm 0.003 \text{ Å}.$$

In the case of the $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedra the shortest r.m.s. displacements of the oxygen atoms are along the bonds, except for $\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}(4)$. However, as most of the vibration ellipsoids approximate to prolate spheres this is probably not very significant, probably more important is that the longest axes are approximately perpendicular to the appropriate Mg—O bond. The value of the smallest displacement is approximately the same as that for the magnesium atom; thus again the riding model would appear to be the best; thus

$$\text{magnesium—oxygen} = 2.086 \pm 0.003 \text{ Å}.$$

MARGULIS and TEMPLETON (1962), BAUR (1964a) and WHITAKER and JEFFERY (1970) have all taken the riding model to be the best for the $\text{Mg} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ octahedron. The values obtained are 2.075

$\pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$, $2.081 \pm 0.002 \text{ \AA}$ and $2.081 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$, respectively; the present value is in good agreement with these. On the other hand ZALKIN, RUBEN and TEMPLETON (1964) have taken the thermal motion in this octahedron to be "in-phase". Values for both types of motion are given in the present case.

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