

On the Crystal Structure of $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]_3(\text{CO}_3)(\text{ClO}_4)_{10} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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The crystal structure of $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]_3(\text{CO}_3)(\text{ClO}_4)_{10} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray data. The crystals are hexagonal and the space group is $P6_3/m$. The unit cell contains two formula units (24 lead atoms) and has the dimensions: $a = b = 14.121 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 16.316 \pm 0.006 \text{ \AA}$.

The crystals contain discrete $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]^{4+}$ -units. The four lead atoms occupy the corners of a slightly distorted tetrahedron and the hydroxide groups are located outside the faces of this tetrahedron. The unit is probably closely related to one of the main species formed in hydrolyzed lead(II)perchlorate solutions.

Complex formation between Pb^{2+} and OH^- in the acid and neutral pH-range yields two main species. The composition and structure of one of these species, $[\text{Pb}_6\text{O}(\text{OH})_6]^{4+}$, is well established by the combined results from the crystal structure determinations^{1,2} of the two known polymorphs of $[\text{Pb}_6\text{O}(\text{OH})_6](\text{ClO}_4)_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and an X-ray scattering study³ on hydrolyzed lead(II)perchlorate solutions. The six lead atoms in the complex occupy the corners of three distorted tetrahedra connected by common faces. There is an oxygen atom at the center of the central tetrahedron and an hydroxide oxygen outside each of the six unshared faces of the outer tetrahedra.

The other complex formed has been shown from emf measurements⁴ to contain four lead atoms and its composition is usually written $\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4^{4+}$. X-Ray scattering measurements^{3,5} on solutions containing this complex indicate that the lead atoms are at the corners of a tetrahedron. The hydroxide groups have been assumed to be situated outside the faces of the Pb_4 -tetrahedron. Since emf measurements at constant water activity cannot differentiate between two OH^- and one O^{2-} some uncertainty exists as to the exact formula and structure of the complex.

There have been no crystal structure determinations made on solids formed from solutions containing $\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4^{4+}$. Several such solids have been described^{6,7} but the compound $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]_3(\text{CO}_3)(\text{ClO}_4)_{10} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ whose crystal structure is reported in this paper has apparently not been prepared before.

EXPERIMENTAL

Preparation, description and analysis of the crystals

Crystals of the compound $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]_3(\text{CO}_3)(\text{ClO}_4)_{10} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, henceforth for convenience called *A*, were incidently obtained in experiments which aimed at the preparation of PbOHClO_4 from hydrolyzed lead(II) perchlorate solutions. In some of these solutions, which were not sufficiently concentrated for PbOHClO_4 to crystallize, *A* was formed in small amounts on long standing. No method of preparation, which gave good yields, was found even when it later became obvious that the crystals contained carbonate. The following recipe may, however, be given. 0.2 mol of PbO is dissolved in 0.28 mol of HClO_4 and the resulting solution diluted to 50 cm^3 and filtered. No precaution should be taken to exclude the carbon dioxide of the air during these operations. On standing in a closed vessel, crystals of *A* are formed after a couple of weeks. They consist of transparent, hexagonal prisms terminated by pyramidal faces, $\{10\bar{1}1\}$, and are not changed in contact with the atmosphere.

The lead content of the compound was determined by evaporation with H_2SO_4 and weighing the residue as PbSO_4 . The number of basic groups was found by a potentiometric titration with standard HClO_4 in the following way. A known amount of the solid was added to a known volume of water. The acid was then gradually added, allowing sufficient time for it to react with the solid. The emf's beyond the equivalence point, where all the solid had disappeared, were used to determine this point by a Gran extrapolation. The analytical results obtained were: Pb 64.58 %; mol H^+ consumed/mol Pb 1.17. Calculated values for $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]_3(\text{CO}_3)(\text{ClO}_4)_{10} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$: Pb 64.54 %; mol H^+ consumed/mol Pb 1.17.

When *A* was dissolved in acid, whilst observing the process under the microscope, gas bubbles (CO_2) were seen. It was left as a matter for the structure analysis to determine how many of the basic groups that were carbonate groups.

X - Ray diffraction measurements

The space group was determined from oscillation and equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs. The unit cell dimensions were calculated from 59 indexed lines on a powder photograph taken with a Guinier-Hägg focussing camera using $\text{CrK}\alpha_1$ ($\lambda = 2.28962 \text{ \AA}$)⁸ with silicon ($a = 5.4305 \text{ \AA}$)⁹ as internal standard.

The intensity data were collected with a Stoe Weissenberg diffractometer using Ni-filtered $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation and equi-inclination geometry. The crystals were rotated about the *c*-axis. The diffractometer, which is paper-tape controlled, was programmed to collect the data as if the crystal was monoclinic ($\beta = 120^\circ$). Thus each independent reflection was recorded three times. The scan rate varied from 0.25°/min for the weakest to 4°/min for the strongest reflections. The angle scanned was 1° for the lowest values of *l* and then gradually increased to 1.4°. The background was measured for 30 sec at the beginning and at the end of the scan interval. The data were corrected for background and converted to the standard scan rate 1°/min. In the calculations of the corrected intensities, *I*, and their standard deviations, $\sigma(I)$, the expressions presented in Ref. 2 were used. 1414 independent reflections were measured from 14 layers. A new crystal was used for each layer in order to avoid the introduction of a correction for the decomposition of the crystals in the X-ray beam. Inter-layer scale factors, which should take account of the different crystal sizes, were obtained from measurements of three "standard reflections" chosen from the zero-layer. These measurements were done twice, once before and once after the data had been collected for a layer. When these experimental scale factors were refined at the end of the least squares treatment of the data, it was found that they changed by less than 5 %.

An *I*-value is generally based on the mean of the three measurements of a reflection as described above. $|F|$ - and $\sigma(F)$ -values were calculated from *I*- and $\sigma(I)$ -values by applying absorption, Lorentz and polarization corrections. The linear absorption coefficient is estimated to be 738 cm^{-1} . It was therefore necessary to use small crystals. Very small crystals, besides being difficult to handle, had less welldeveloped faces and were

unsuitable for that reason. The crystals used were ca 0.1 mm long and had a very regular hexagonal cross-section. The distance between the {10 $\bar{1}$ 0} faces was 0.04 mm.

Computation

The main programs used in this work were CELSIUS, DRF, LALS (UPALS), DISTAN, and ORTEP: The calculations have been performed on the CDC 3600, IBM 370/155 and 1800 computers in Uppsala. The atomic scattering factors were taken from Hanson *et al.*¹⁰ and the real part of the dispersion correction¹¹ was introduced.

CRYSTAL DATA

Formula unit:	[Pb ₄ (OH) ₄] ₃ (CO ₃)(ClO ₄) ₁₀ ·6H ₂ O
Diffraction symmetry:	6/m
Crystal system:	hexagonal
Lattice parameters (σ):*	$a = b = 14.121(1) \text{ \AA}$ $c = 16.316(2) \text{ \AA}$ $V = 2818 \text{ \AA}^3$
Density (measured):	4.54(2) g cm ⁻³
Number of formula units per unit cell:	2
Density (calculated):	4.541 g cm ⁻³
Linear absorption coefficient:	738 cm ⁻¹
Systematic absences:	00 <i>l</i> for $l = 2n + 1$
Space group:	$P6_3/m$ or $P6_3$
Coordinates of equivalent positions:	$P6_3$: $x, y, z; -y, x - y, z; y - x, -x, z;$ $-x, -y, 1/2 + z; y, y - x, 1/2 + z;$ $x - y, x, 1/2 + z$ $P6_3/m$: Above plus centrosymmetric positions

DETERMINATION OF THE STRUCTURE

A rather detailed description of the structure determination will be given since some uncertainty as to the correct space group arose during this part of the work. Furthermore the exact composition of the compound had to be established from the structure determination as this was not possible from the chemical analysis alone.

From a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis one set of lead atoms was found to occupy a general twelve-fold position and two other sets to occupy two special six-fold positions in the mirror plane of the assumed space group, $P6_3/m$. After refinement of these positions the chlorine atoms were next located from a ΔF synthesis. The positions found have the following notations in $P6_3/m$: 12(*i*) x, y, z ; 4(*f*) $1/3, 2/3, z$; 2(*d*) $1/3, 2/3, 3/4$, and 2(*b*) $0, 0, 0$. Thus all of the twenty chlorine atoms have been located. The last two positions are, however, not consistent with the geometry of the perchlorate group. For

* Estimated standard deviations here and elsewhere in the paper refer to the least significant digits.

instance the latter position is at a center of symmetry. This symmetry element is not present in the perchlorate ion.

The symmetry was therefore lowered and the space group was assumed to be $P6_3$, *i.e.* the center of symmetry was removed. After the lead atom positions had been refined in this space group, they were used to calculate difference syntheses from which all the lighter atoms were located. These atoms were found to take up nearly centrosymmetric positions. The light atom parameters did, however, not refine properly. The B -values of several pairs of nearly centrosymmetric atoms moved in different directions ending in one low and one high value. A few B -values even became negative. This behaviour is probably not caused by poor data, since each $|F|$ -value is based on the mean of three I -values, which very seldom differed by more than $3\sigma(I)$ or $0.05I$ from the mean. The space group $P6_3$ was abandoned and an approximate structure solution with two disordered perchlorate groups was sought in the higher space group.

From the difference syntheses calculated in $P6_3/m$ the following assignments beside the perchlorate oxygens were made. Four well-defined maxima were assigned to oxygens bound to lead. A peak in the special position $0, 0, -1/4$ was assigned to the carbon atom and an adjacent peak also on the mirror plane to an oxygen atom in a carbonate group. The two other oxygen atoms in the carbonate group are generated from this atom by the symmetry operations. There would then be two carbonate groups in the unit cell. Since the chemical analysis had shown that the number of equivalents of acid consumed per mol of Pb was $1.17 = 7/6$, the number of base equivalents per unit cell is 28. The CO_3^{2-} -groups take care of 4 of these leaving 24, which fit in if the 24 oxygens bound to lead are hydroxide oxygens.

Only one peak now remained to be assigned. It was assumed to be due to a water molecule. No chemical analysis for water has been made, but the assumption is supported by the lead analysis. The calculated lead content of the material is 66.39 % without any water included. With the amount of water of crystallization indicated by the structure analysis it is 64.58 %. The experimental value is 64.54 %, which thus is in very close agreement with the expected value for the hypothesis advanced.

The later ΔF syntheses also showed that the chlorine atom, which had originally been placed at $1/3, 2/3, 3/4$, was better approximated by two half chlorine atoms slightly off the mirror plane. The structure would then be disordered with respect to this chlorine atom and to the oxygen atoms of the perchlorate group at the origin.

In the final refinements data with $|F| < 3\sigma(F)$ were excluded and the weight, w , was calculated as $w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F) + (kF)^2$ and $w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ minimized. k was varied until $w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ did not show a systematic trend with $|F_o|$. The value of k used in the final cycles was 0.05 and the estimated standard deviation of an observation of unit weight was 1.10. No correction for extinction was introduced. The refinement was continued until the shifts, with few exceptions, were less than 0.2σ . The R -value ($R = \sum||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum|F_o|$) became 0.060 for the 1095 reflections with $|F_o| > 3\sigma(F)$. The final parameters are listed in Table 1 with the following exceptions. O(42) was found to oscillate and its z -coordinate was therefore so fixed that the Cl(4)–O(42) distance became

Table 1. Final positional and thermal parameters with standard deviations (σ) within parenthesis.

Atom	x	y	z	B (Å ²)
Pb(1)	0.22033(14)	0.22285(14)	-0.13474(10)	
Pb(2)	0.44783(12)	0.21413(13)	-1/4	See below
Pb(3)	0.42327(13)	0.47349(13)	-1/4	
O(1)	0.2611(18)	0.1460(19)	-1/4	2.8(4)
O(2)	0.2427(17)	0.3329(17)	-1/4	2.0(4)
O(3)	0.4191(14)	0.3282(14)	-0.1668(11)	3.3(3)
O(4)	0.1309(22)	0.6696(22)	-0.0978(16)	7.0(6)
C(1)	0	0	-1/4	2.1(9)
O(5)	0.0422(25)	0.1099(24)	-1/4	4.5(6)
Cl(1)	0.3335(5)	0.3272(5)	0.0928(5)	2.8(1)
O(11)	0.3233(40)	0.2559(40)	0.1530(28)	13.8(13)
O(12)	0.2358(25)	0.3288(25)	0.0803(18)	8.3(7)
O(13)	0.4098(50)	0.4277(47)	0.1168(34)	16.3(17)
O(14)	0.3713(38)	0.3093(38)	0.0195(27)	13.3(13)
Cl(2)	1/3	2/3	0.0632(7)	2.7(2)
O(21)	0.4242(19)	0.6631(20)	0.0346(13)	5.9(5)
O(22)	1/3	2/3	0.1519(22)	5.2(8)
Cl(3)	0	0	0	3.7(3)
O(31)	0.0946(42)	0.0017(41)	-0.0376(29)	6.6(11)
O(32)	0	0	0.090(-)	10.5(32)
Cl(4)	1/3	2/3	-0.2296(12)	2.9(4)
O(41)	0.4462(25)	0.7119(24)	-1/4	4.7(6)
O(42)	1/3	2/3	-0.141(-)	8.9(23)

Coefficients ($\times 10^4$) in the expression $\exp - (B_{11}hh + \dots + 2B_{12}hk + \dots)$ for the anisotropic temperature factors for lead.

Atom	B_{11}	B_{22}	B_{33}	B_{12}	B_{13}	B_{23}
Pb(1)	118(1)	123(2)	43(3)	92(1)	45(1)	42(1)
Pb(2)	44(1)	52(1)	44(3)	31(1)	0	0
Pb(3)	48(1)	34(1)	61(3)	13(1)	0	0

1.45 Å. One of the perchlorate oxygens, O(32), with a bond length differing by more than 0.1 Å from the expected value was moved to the positions indicated by the ΔF map. The C-O bond length in the carbonate group was 1.36 Å ($3\sigma = 0.08$ Å) with the oxygen position obtained from the least squares treatment. With the oxygen atom coordinates from the ΔF synthesis it was 1.31 Å. Since this value is closer to the value (1.294 Å)¹³ expected for a free carbonate ion, the latter set of coordinates was accepted. The R -value was unaffected by these changes. The observed and with the parameters in Table 1 calculated structure factors are given in Table 2. The final ΔF synthesis showed 25 peaks with heights greater than $1 \text{ e}^-/\text{Å}^3$. The largest values, slightly less than $2 \text{ e}^-/\text{Å}^3$, were found close to the lead and one of the oxygen atoms. The last atom, O(13), was originally located from a rather broad peak with a peak height of *ca.* $4 \text{ e}^-/\text{Å}^3$.

Table 2. Observed and calculated structure factors. Columns are in order *h*, *k*, 10*F*_o, 10*F*_c. Reflexions with |*F*_o| < 3σ(*F*) are not included. Reflexions with 0.5 < *F*_o/*F*_c > 1.5 are marked with an asterisk.

Table with columns for h, k, 10Fo, 10Fc and multiple columns of structure factor values. The table is organized into sections labeled H,K,0, H,K,3, H,K,2, H,K,1, H,K,4, H,K,6, H,K,5, and H,K,H. Each section contains rows of data points corresponding to different reflections.

Table 3. Some distances and angles in the $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]^{4+}$ -unit.^a

A. Distances (Å). Standard deviations (σ) within parenthesis.			
Atoms	Distance	Atoms	Distance
Pb(1)–Pb(1)'	3.761(3)	Pb(2)–Pb(3)	3.848(2)
–Pb(2)	3.777(2)	–O(1)	2.311(22)
–Pb(3)	3.759(2)	–O(3)	2.293(17)
–O(1)	2.381(14)	Pb(3)–O(2)	2.319(20)
–O(2)	2.358(16)	–O(3)	2.436(17)
–O(3)	2.488(16)		
B. Angles (°). The estimated standard deviation of a Pb–Pb–Pb angle is $\pm 0.1^\circ$ and $\pm 2^\circ$ of a Pb–O–Pb or O–Pb–O angle.			
Atoms	Angle	Atoms	Angle
Pb(1)'–Pb(1)–Pb(2)	60.1	Pb(1)–O(1)–Pb(1)'	104
Pb(1)'–Pb(3)	60.0	Pb(1)–Pb(2)	107
Pb(2)–Pb(3)	61.4		
O(1)–O(2)	72		
O(1)–O(3)	69		
O(2)–O(3)	73		
Pb(1)–Pb(2)–Pb(1)'	59.7	Pb(1)–O(2)–Pb(1)'	106
Pb(1)–Pb(3)	59.1	Pb(1)–Pb(3)	107
O(1)–O(3)	74		
O(3)–O(3)'	73		
Pb(1)–Pb(3)–Pb(1)'	60.0	Pb(1)–O(3)–Pb(2)	104
Pb(1)–Pb(2)	59.5	Pb(1)–Pb(3)	100
O(2)–O(3)	74	Pb(2)–Pb(3)	109
O(3)–O(3)'	68		

^a Atoms with primed and unprimed symbols are related by the mirror plane at $z = -1/4$.

distance is *ca.* 0.1 Å longer. These values fall within the rather broad range of Pb–Pb distances found in the lead(II) oxides^{14,15} and in α - and β - $[\text{Pb}_6\text{O}(\text{OH})_6]-(\text{ClO}_4)_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$.^{1,2} There are four hydroxide oxygens, O(1)–O(3), associated with the Pb_4 -unit. They are situated outside the four faces of the lead tetrahedron and the whole unit can be written $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]^{4+}$, Fig. 1. The lead-oxygen distances are less regular than the Pb–Pb distances and vary between 2.29 and 2.49 Å; see Table 3. Each oxygen atom coordinates three lead atoms and neighbouring lead atoms in the Pb_4 -cluster can be considered held together by two hydroxide bridges. It should, however, be noted that each hydroxide group is involved in three bridges. The cluster may be further stabilised by metal-metal bonds as discussed by Maroni and Spiro.¹⁶ The hydroxide oxygens form a somewhat distorted tetrahedron. The six oxygen-oxygen distances lie between 2.72 and 2.87 Å (mean 2.80 Å) indicating van der Waals contacts between these atoms.

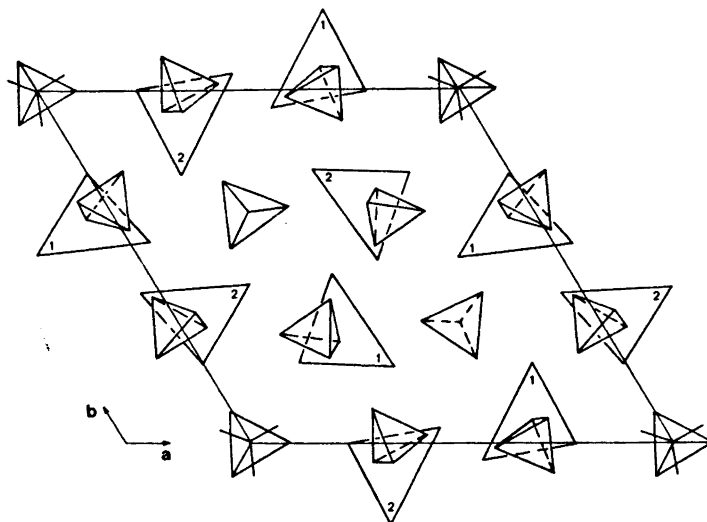


Fig. 2. Projection of the structure of $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]_3(\text{CO}_3)(\text{ClO}_4)_{10} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ along the c -axis. For clarity some of the CO_3^{2-} and ClO_4^- -groups along the symmetry axes as well as the OH^- -groups in the $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]^{4+}$ -units have been excluded. The Pb_4 -units appear as triangles and the units on and around the mirror planes at $z = -1/4$ and $1/4$ are marked with 1 and 2, respectively.

The $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]^{4+}$ -units are arranged in a pattern resembling hexagonal close-packing, Fig. 2. The shortest Pb–Pb and Pb–OH distances between atoms belonging to different units but in the same layer are 4.40 and 4.51 Å, respectively. The corresponding distances between atoms belonging to different layers exceed 5 Å. Thus, since there is no extended Pb–OH–Pb network in the structure the group $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4]^{4+}$ definitely occurs as a discrete unit.

The arrangement of the above units leads to “channels” in the structure centered around the axes of symmetry. The unit cell contains two carbonate and twenty perchlorate groups. Of these anions, eight of the perchlorates, $\text{ClO}_4(2)$ – $\text{ClO}_4(4)$, and the two carbonates are found in these channels with the chlorine and carbon atoms situated on the axes. The arrangement of the various groups is indicated in Fig. 2 which is supplemented by Fig. 3, which gives the heights of the atoms along the c -axis.

The Cl–O bond lengths in the perchlorate groups are within 2σ ($\sigma_{\text{max}} = 0.05$ Å) equal to the expected value 1.45 Å.¹⁷ The closest distance between a lead atom and a perchlorate oxygen is 2.96 Å. If oxygens closer than 3.25 Å are considered coordinated, the coordination numbers towards the perchlorate oxygens are five, four, and four for Pb(1), Pb(2), and Pb(3), respectively. The perchlorate group in general position, $\text{ClO}_4(1)$, is situated in a “tetrahedral hole” in the arrangement of the Pb_4 -groups and is coordinated to the four surrounding Pb_4 -groups. $\text{ClO}_4(3)$, which is in an “octahedral hole”, is coordinated to six such groups. $\text{ClO}_4(2)$ and (4) are coordinated to only three

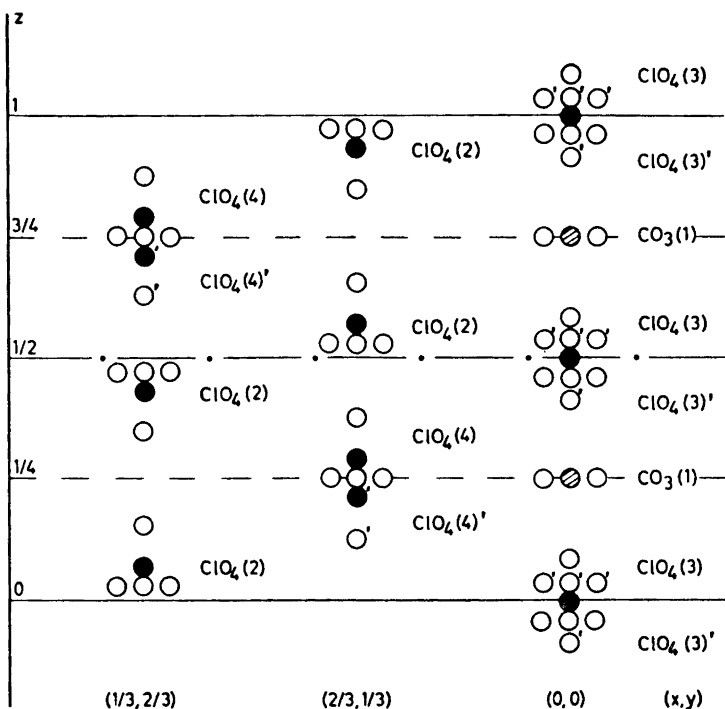


Fig. 3. Arrangement of the anions along the symmetry axes. Alternative positions are primed. O oxygen, ● chlorine, ⊙ carbon.

groups and here O(21) and O(42) are uncoordinated. The closest distances between the hydroxide and perchlorate oxygens range between 2.88 and 3.14 Å. Although the shortest distance may indicate some hydrogen bonding from one of the hydroxide oxygens no definite conclusion can be drawn, partly because of the uncertainties in the bond lengths (σ ca. 0.05 Å). The observed atomic distances between the perchlorate groups and the $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4^{4+}]$ -groups fall in the same ranges as was found for α - and β - $[\text{Pb}_6\text{O}(\text{OH})_6](\text{ClO}_4)_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. These distances indicate that the interactions between these groups are weak.

In the carbonate group both the bond lengths (1.31 Å) and the bond angles (120°) are equal by symmetry. The carbonate oxygen, O(5), coordinates two Pb(1) atoms at 2.91 Å. This distance is appreciably longer than the values found in $2\text{PbCO}_3 \cdot \text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ (2.75 Å)¹⁸ and in $\text{PbCO}_3 \cdot \text{PbO} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (2.65 Å)¹⁹ from electron diffraction studies. Probably, the interaction is weak between the $[\text{Pb}_4(\text{OH})_4^{4+}]$ -unit and the carbonate ion.

The water molecule, O(4), may be considered attached to the Pb_4 -cluster through interactions with Pb(3) and Pb(1), which are 2.78 and 2.98 Å distant, respectively. Its nearest oxygen neighbours are O(2), O(3), and O(42), which all are at a distance of ca. 2.96 Å from O(4).

The positional disorder of ClO₄(3) and ClO₄(4) may be explained by the fact that the interatomic distances are the same for the two alternative ways to place each of them; see Fig. 3. The suggested arrangement of anions along the symmetry axes results in a rather loose packing. The largest distance between two levels of oxygen atoms is *ca.* 3.6 Å along the screw axis and *ca.* 4.6 Å along the three-fold axes. If the disorder is static rather than dynamic, the holes on the latter axes are just big enough to have room for a water molecule. The presence of this water molecule cannot be decided upon from the *F* map, since its location can be expected to be close to an O(42) position in the centrosymmetric approach. Its presence should add extra electron density to this position and be reflected in the *B*-value of O(42). The temperature factor of O(42) is, however, not low compared to those of O(22) and O(32). When the electron densities are compared one finds for the not disordered O(22) 4.0 e⁻/Å³ and for O(32) 1.9 e⁻/Å³ and for O(42) 2.1 e⁻/Å³. There is thus no extra electron density at the O(42) position. The lead analysis, which should be quite accurate, does not either suggest that two additional water molecules should be included in the unit cell.

The general features of the arrangement of the atoms in the [Pb₄(OH)₄]⁴⁺-unit are the same as those suggested for this unit in aqueous solution. The Pb–Pb distances are, however, significantly different in the two cases. In solution, where the diffraction data have been interpreted on the assumption of a regular Pb₄-tetrahedron, the Pb–Pb distance is 3.85 Å. This is 0.07 Å longer than the mean distance found in the solid. The Pb–O distance can be determined with much less accuracy and in Ref. 3 only a mean value of *ca.* 2.6 Å was reported for this distance in solution. The radial distribution curve, in fact, shows two peaks at 2.4 and 2.9 Å, respectively. These peaks can now be interpreted as arising from Pb–O interactions within the tetramer and between the tetramer and water and perchlorate oxygens. The mean Pb–O distance in the solid for the [Pb₄(OH)₄]⁴⁺-unit is 2.38 Å. The [Pb₆O(OH)₆]⁴⁺-unit in the structure of α- and β-[Pb₆O(OH)₆](ClO₄)₄·H₂O may be considered as built from two [Pb₄(OH)₄]⁴⁺-units with two lead and one oxygen atom in common. In it the Pb–Pb and Pb–O distances are quite varied and somewhat different in the two structures. The observed differences in bond lengths for [Pb₄(OH)₄]⁴⁺ in the solid and in solution may thus be due to the difference in environment and the less regular Pb₄-unit in the solid caused by the unequal sets of nearest neighbours of the lead atoms.

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