

Structural Studies on the Rare Earth Carboxylates

17. The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Hexa-aquo Tris-malonato Di-neodymium(III) Dihydrate

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The crystal and molecular structure of $\text{Nd}_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_2\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been determined from three-dimensional, photographic, X-ray intensity data. The crystals are orthorhombic with $a = 11.258(3)$ Å, $b = 12.602(3)$ Å, and $c = 14.689(3)$ Å. $Z = 4$. The space group is $Pbcn$. The structure is a three-dimensional neodymium-malonate network. Each neodymium ion is coordinated by six carboxylate and three water oxygens which form a monocapped square antiprism. The Nd—O bonds are in the range 2.41–2.72 Å. There are two independent malonate ions in the structure. They are both nonplanar. One of them has strict twofold symmetry and is bonded to four neodymium ions by six Nd—O bonds, i.e. two of its oxygens form two Nd—O bonds each. The other malonate ion forms a six-membered chelate ring with neodymium and one bridge of the type Nd—OCO—Nd. The chelate ring has boat conformation. The water molecules are hydrogen bonded with O—O distances in the range 2.63–2.85 Å.

Thermodynamic studies of the lanthanoid oxalate and malonate complexes formed in solution^{1,2} show that the five-membered chelate ring of the oxalate complexes is more stable than the six-membered ring of the malonate complexes. Further a maximum of four oxalate groups are coordinated to the lanthanoids while the corresponding number of malonate groups is three. Knowledge of the structures of some related solid compounds would facilitate the understanding of these differences.

The structures of some lanthanoid oxalates, $M_2\text{ox}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (M =lanthanoid, $\text{ox}=\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$) have been reported previously.^{3,4,5} The oxalate ions form planar five-membered chelate rings with the lanthanoids with a ligand bite, i.e. intra-ring distance between the two donor atoms, of about 2.65 Å.

The ligand bite of the malonate ion depends on its conformation and with normal bond distances and angles it may range from about 2.5 Å for a completely planar ion to about 3.5 Å when the carboxylate groups are twisted 90° out of the plane of the three carbon atoms. The only X-ray study of coor-

dinated malonate ions previously reported deals with malonate complexes of Co(III) and Cr(III).⁶ The malonate ions in these complexes form six-membered chelate rings and are nonplanar with bites larger than 2.65 Å.

The compounds $M_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($\text{mal} = \text{CH}_2(\text{COO})_2^{2-}$) were chosen for a X-ray structure analysis in order to determine the conformation of the malonate ion when coordinated to the lanthanoids and to study the resulting coordination geometry around the lanthanoid ion. Azikov *et al.*⁷ have studied the IR-spectra of these solids. Their interpretation of the spectra indicates the presence of six-membered chelate rings in the complexes.

The lanthanoid malonates, $M_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, can be divided into three different isostructural groups; one with $n=8$ and $M=\text{Ce-Gd}$ (referred to as octahydrate type I below), another with $n=6$ and $M=\text{Ce-Eu}$, and a third type with $n=8$ and $M=\text{Eu-Lu}$ (octahydrate type II). This paper deals with the structure of $\text{Nd}_2(\text{CH}_2(\text{COO})_2)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (NDO). The two other structure types will be reported in following communications.

EXPERIMENTAL

Preparation. The lanthanoid malonates, $M_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, were precipitated from solutions of the various lanthanoid chlorides (10 mM) and malonic acid (15 mM) with the pH adjusted to about 5 by the addition of 0.1 M sodium hydroxide. Slow evaporation at room temperature resulted in the octahydrate type I for the elements Ce-Gd and the octahydrate type II for the elements Tb-Lu. The octahydrate type II with $M=\text{Eu}$ and Gd were obtained by evaporation under a heating lamp. The hexahydrates with $M=\text{Ce-Eu}$ form at low temperature (5°C) but also by chance at higher temperatures, *e.g.* $\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been obtained at 70°C.

The compounds $\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (type I), $\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and $\text{Eu}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (type II) were analysed for M, C, and H with the following results (%):

	M	C	H
$\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Found	39.1	14.6
	Calc.	39.0	14.6
$\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Found	41.1	15.1
	Calc.	40.9	15.3
$\text{Eu}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Found	40.5	14.9
	Calc.	40.2	14.3

The different phases of the other lanthanoid malonates were then identified by their X-ray powder patterns. When precipitated from the solutions described the crystals of the various phases are also easily recognized by their habits. The crystals of the octahydrates are orthorhombic; thick tabular (001) bounded by the faces {001}, {010}, and {110} for type I and acicular elongated *b* for type II, while the hexahydrate crystals are monoclinic and thick tabular (001) bounded by the faces {001}, {010}, and {100}.

All the hexahydrates and the octahydrates type II with $M=\text{Eu}$ and Gd are transformed to octahydrate type I when stored in the mother liquor at room temperature for a long time (sometimes more than two years). Thus the octahydrate type I is the stable phase for $M=\text{Ce-Gd}$ under these conditions.

X-Ray diffraction work. A crystal of the dimensions $0.22 \times 0.13 \times 0.13$ mm³ mounted along the 0.22 mm edge was used in recording the layers $0kl - 14kl$, with the integrated, Weissenberg, multi-film technique. Zr-filtered Mo-radiation was used. The intensities of 1876 independent reflexions were measured visually by comparison with a calibrated scale. 1390 of these reflexions were within the copper sphere representing 53 % of the possible number.

The intensities were corrected for the Lorentz, polarisation and absorption effects. The linear absorption coefficient, μ , is 50 cm^{-1} and the transmission factors, evaluated by numerical integration, were in the interval $0.54 - 0.61$.

The powder photographs were taken at room temperature in a Guinier-Hägg focusing camera with $\text{CuK}\alpha$ -radiation ($\lambda = 1.54178 \text{ \AA}$). Lead nitrate (cubic $a = 7.857 \text{ \AA}$) was used as internal standard.

UNIT CELL AND SPACE GROUP

The crystals of NDO are orthorhombic with $a = 11.258(3) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 12.602(3) \text{ \AA}$, and $c = 14.689(3) \text{ \AA}$ and $Z = 4$. The accurate values of the cell parameters were determined from powder data by least squares refinement, as described in Ref. 5. The observed values of $10^5 \sin^2 \theta$ are compared with those calculated in the last cycle of refinement in Table 1.

Table 1. Powder data for $\text{Nd}_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_2\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Observed and calculated values of $10^5 \sin^2 \theta$ are given together with the observed powder intensities.

$h k l$	obs	calc	I_{obs}	$h k l$	obs	calc	I_{obs}
1 1 0	847	843	s	1 4 2	7576	7558	w
0 0 2	1102	1102		2 4 0	7861	7863	w
1 1 1	1101	1119	vs	4 1 1		8152	
0 2 0	1499	1497	w	3 2 3	8161	8196	m
2 0 0	1880	1876	w	4 0 2	8609	8604	w
1 1 2	1948	1945	m	3 3 2	8687	8690	vw
1 2 1	2237	2241	vs	1 2 5	8885	8853	m
2 1 1	2523	2525	s	2 4 2		8965	
2 0 2	2972	2978	w	4 2 0	8990	8999	m
1 2 2	3063	3068	vvw	2 1 5	9118	9137	vvw
2 2 0	3370	3372	w	0 0 6	9923	9918	vw
2 2 1	3645	3648	w	4 1 3		10356	
0 0 4	4408	4408		1 0 6	10384	10387	m
1 2 3	4446	4445	s	0 4 4		10395	
2 2 2	4595	4594	w	1 1 6	10770	10761	w
2 1 3	4732	4729	m	4 0 4	11888	11910	vw
1 0 4	4868	4877	w	3 3 4	11992	11996	vw
1 3 2	4930	4939	w	2 3 5	12121	12131	s
1 1 4	5246	5251	s	3 2 5	12607	12604	vw
2 3 1	5514	5519	s	0 6 0		13471	
3 1 2	5699	5696	s	4 4 0	13487	13490	s
2 2 3	5846	5852	vw	5 2 1		13495	
0 4 0	5987			3 5 0	13572	13575	w
3 2 1	5994	5992	m	2 5 3	13719	13710	vw
1 4 1	6731	6732	vw	1 3 6		13755	
3 2 2	6816	6819	vw	1 6 1	14210	14216	m
0 4 2	7082	7089	s	1 5 4		14232	
4 0 0	7510	7502	w				

Weissenberg photographs show the systematic absences $0kl$: $k \neq 2n$, $h0l$: $l \neq 2n$ and $hk0$: $h+k \neq 2n$ and thus the only possible space group is $Pbcn$ (No. 60).⁸

DETERMINATION AND REFINEMENT OF THE STRUCTURE

The structure was determined by the heavy atom method. The position of neodymium was obtained from a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis and a subsequent difference electron density calculation revealed the positions of the remaining 15 non-hydrogen atoms.

The preliminary atomic coordinates and isotropic temperature factors together with the inter layer scale factors were improved by full-matrix least squares refinement. The quantity minimized was $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ with

Table 2. Analysis of the weighting scheme $w = 1/(40 + |F_o| + 0.005|F_o|^2 + 0.0001|F_o|^3)$. The averages $w\bar{A}^2$, where $\bar{A} = |F_o| - |F_c|$, are normalized.

Interval $ F_o $	Number of reflexions	$w\bar{A}^2$	Interval $\sin \theta$	Number of reflexions	$w\bar{A}^2$
0 – 40	155	0.84	0.00 – 0.28	322	0.94
40 – 46	174	0.96	0.28 – 0.35	289	0.98
46 – 49	171	0.97	0.35 – 0.40	242	0.90
49 – 54	176	0.96	0.40 – 0.44	201	0.94
54 – 61	177	1.08	0.44 – 0.48	188	0.97
61 – 71	179	0.95	0.48 – 0.51	166	0.98
71 – 85	184	0.99	0.51 – 0.53	108	0.95
85 – 103	181	0.97	0.53 – 0.56	74	0.77
103 – 140	182	1.09	0.56 – 0.58	59	1.41
140 – 423	171	1.19	0.58 – 0.60	40	1.17

Table 3. Atomic parameters with estimated standard deviations for the compound $\text{Nd}_4(\text{H}_2\text{C}_3\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Atom	Group	$x \times 10^4$	$y \times 10^4$	$z \times 10^4$	$B/\text{\AA}^2$
Nd		1491.7(6)	1134.3(5)	74.1(3)	(1.37) ^a
O(1)	COO ⁻	1038(12)	850(10)	1750(8)	2.8(2)
O(2)	COO ⁻	-167(9)	-88(8)	911(7)	2.1(2)
O(3)	COO ⁻	2199(10)	-697(9)	307(7)	2.4(2)
O(4)	COO ⁻	3147(12)	-2155(11)	752(8)	3.1(2)
O(5)	COO ⁻	3545(11)	1162(9)	604(7)	2.7(2)
O(6)	COO ⁻	5343(15)	711(13)	952(10)	4.1(3)
O(7)	H ₂ O	-515(10)	2028(9)	188(6)	2.4(2)
O(8)	H ₂ O	1368(16)	2403(11)	-1195(9)	3.7(2)
O(9)	H ₂ O	2780(12)	662(10)	-1242(8)	2.9(2)
O(10)	H ₂ O	3551(17)	2565(10)	-1958(10)	4.3(3)
C(1)		0	-527(18)	1/4	2.2(3)
C(2)		325(13)	131(11)	1675(9)	2.0(2)
C(3)		3032(12)	-1160(12)	764(8)	1.8(2)
C(4)		3855(18)	-494(16)	1362(13)	3.3(3)
C(5)		4295(17)	546(15)	966(11)	2.8(3)

^a The anisotropic thermal parameters for neodymium, calculated from the expression: $\exp(-h^2\beta_{11} + 2hk\beta_{12} + \dots)$ are $\beta_{11}=0.00269(6)$, $\beta_{22}=0.00186(5)$, $\beta_{33}=0.00185(3)$, $\beta_{12}=0.00007(4)$, $\beta_{13}=0.00005(2)$, and $\beta_{23}=-0.00000(2)$, resulting in root mean square displacements along the principal axis of the thermal ellipsoid $R_1=0.142$ (Å), $R_2=0.122$ (Å), and $R_3=0.132$ (Å).

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors in $\text{Nd}_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$. In each group the running index l , $|F_o|$, and $|F_c|$ are given. The 126 reflexions not obeying the condition $0.80 \leq |F_o|/|F_c| \leq 1.25$ are denoted by asterisks.

$H=14$	$K=0$	$H=-13$	$K=2$	$H=-12$	$K=5$	7	87	87	$H=-10$	$K=8$	6	53	52	3	60	53	$H=-8$	$K=8$		
2	63	116*	1	29	50*	1	71	75	9	73	76	0	132	146	7	38	34	0	84	74
4	61	109*	3	35	49*	3	41	48	11	67	73	2	107	120	8	40	55*	2	68	70
6	61	5	5	37	54*	5	48	55	13	66	62	4	101	127	9	43	57	4	56	56
8	50	93	7	41	46	6	32	35	10	32	33	3	36	36	10	51	53	6	34	44*
10	78	75	9	42	42	7	57	52	$H=11$	$K=8$	6	126	126	11	37	33	3	81	76	
12	56	b3	11	33	29	8	50	52	1	73	65	7	32	27	12	46	42	5	56	65
14	47	49				9	48	46	3	74	64	8	103	103	13	37	38	7	48	59
									9	36	27	15	37	36	9	49	55	$H=-8$	$K=9$	
															6	44	43			
															1	46	58	10	59	62
															3	52	50	12	46	59
															5	51	51	14	51	58
															6	41	46	2	23	66*
															4	48	62*	18	58	58
															7	51	48	6	90	87
															8	81	79	4	38	32
															9	26	31	10	39	46
															10	71	63	12	37	31
															15	37	37	15	61	57
															16	44	39	3	120	127
															17	54	46			
															7	151	157			
															8	35	41			
															2	86	94	9	116	123
															4	72	75	10	47	44
															6	61	62	11	86	83
															12	52	52	13	58	50
															13	70	71	10	48	46
															14	62	65	12	50	49
															15	55	51	14	53	45
															16	48	54	16	50	44
															17	46	42			
															18	48	45	$H=-8$	$K=14$	
															20	47	46	2	45	39
															4	42	37			
															5	25	27	15	61	57
															6	25	27	17	54	46
															7	151	157	17	54	46
															8	35	41			
															2	86	94	9	116	123
															4	72	75	10	47	44
															6	61	62	11	86	83
															12	52	52	13	58	50
															13	70	71	10	48	46
															14	62	65	12	50	49
															15	55	51	14	53	45
															16	48	54	16	50	44
															17	46	42			
															18	48	45	$H=-8$	$K=14$	
															20	47	46	2	42	37
															4	42	37			
															5	25	27	$H=-8$	$K=15$	
															6	25	27	1	94	92
															7	33	35	3	87	98
															8	35	37	5	96	95
															9	150	157	10	48	44
															10	48	44	3	55	54
															11	122	113	5	60	56
															12	45	44	7	56	53
															13	72	79	13	50	50
															14	41	40	$H=-7$	$K=1$	
															15	90	89	12	62	62
															16	41	42	2	135	177*
															17	46	44	4	119	140
															18	48	46	5	180	133
															19	49	49	5	187	196
															20	51	51	6	187	196
															21	52	52	6	187	196
															22	53	53	6	187	196
															23	54	54	6	187	196
															24	55	55	6	187	196
															25	56	56	6	187	196
															26	57	57	6	187	196
															27	58	58	6	187	196
															28	59	59	6	187	196
															29	60	60	6	187	196
															30	61	61	6	187	196
															31	62	62	6	187	196
															32	63	63	6	187	196
															33	64	64	6	187	196
															34	65	65	6	187	196
															35	66	66	6	187	196
															36	67	67	6	187	196
															37	68	68	6	187	196
															38	69	69	6	187	196
															39	70	70	6	187	196
															40	71	71	6	187	196
															41	72	72	6	187	196
															42	73	73	6	187	196
															43	74	74	6	187	196
															44	75	75	6	187	196
															45	76	76	6	187	196
															46	77	77	6	187	196
															47	78	78	6	187	196
															48	79	79	6	187	196
															49	80	80	6	187	196
															50	81	81	6	187	196
															51	82	82	6	187	196
															52	83	83	6	187	196
															53	84	84	6	187	196
															54	85	85	6	187	196
															55	86	86	6	187	196
															56	87	87	6	187	196
															57	88	88	6	187	196
															58	89	89	6	187	196
															59	90	90	6	187	

Table 4. Continued.

H= -7 K= 4	7	155	163	*	61	77	18	75	78	H= -5 K= 24	HE -4 K= 7	6	328	267	H= +3 K= 9
1 35 47	9	156	169	5	74	70	20	67	72	1 56 53	1 159 147	7	58	196	2 196 179
3 48 47	11	153	169	6	74	65	22	51	55	3 47 48	3 137 136	8	228	196	2 246 223
4 42 36	12	149	149	8	65	72				5 107 111	10 161 172	4	246	228	
5 30 25	13	140	37	9	36	37	H= -5 K= 5	H= -4 K= 0	7 117 120	11 55 46	6	265	228		
14 64 55	10	68	71	0	65	50*	4 297 254	9 109 101	12 107 107	8 225 210					
14 64 55	10	68	71	4	32	34	6 282 287	11 88 83	13 72 69	10 135 141					
14 64 55	10	68	71	8	215	168*	13 70 77	14 111 84*	12 102 98	14 80 90					
HE -7 K= 5	5	16	45	46	12	51	60	4 282 285	12 116	16 69 66	16 76 86				
0 205 194	H= -6 K= 2	14	50	50	H= -6 K= 11	1 201 209	16 106 109	0 260 219	18 55 58	17 84 85	18 52 58				
2 225 208	H= -6 K= 2	13	44	39	H= -6 K= 11	1 201 209	16 106 109	2 242 188*	19 44 44	H= -3 K= 10					
4 205 210	3	36	45	46	H= -6 K= 11	1 201 209	16 106 109	4 193 177	1 66 65	5 33 41					
8 190 183	5	53	55	55	H= -6 K= 11	1 201 209	16 106 109	5 131 125	3 139 125	7 36 36					
9 46 7	7	73	67	3	107	118	7 199 171	8 73 74	9 138 141	8 138 141	9 41 44				
10 146 143	9	85	87	5	129	119	8 44 40	20 57 46	6 131 125	7 136 128	13 42 34				
12 125 125	11	86	82	7	102	97	9 152 151	H= -4 K= 0	10 107 107	12 67 68	17 66 68				
14 101 96	12	38	34	9	90	91	11 139 139	H= -4 K= 0	10 107 107	12 67 68	17 66 68				
16 80 75	13	52	55	11	79	71	13 120 120	H= -4 K= 0	10 107 107	12 67 68	17 66 68				
17 45 31*	15	55	55	13	50	54	11 112 112	H= -4 K= 0	10 107 107	12 67 68	17 66 68				
18 40 52*	17	67	62	15	48	44	17 93 75	7 98 95	19 38 33	7 47 47	10 47 50	H= -3 K= 11			
	19	66	56	19	52	55	8 50 49	13 38 33	7 47 47	10 47 50	H= -3 K= 11				
HE -7 K= 6	21	55	50	H= -6 K= 12	9	102	95	14 60 68	9 31 32	5 47 51					
1 81 73	H= -6 K= 3	0	84	88	H= -5 K= 7	10	112 100	14 60 68	9 31 32	5 47 51					
3 77 78	H= -6 K= 3	2	84	85	H= -5 K= 7	11	91 83	14 60 68	9 31 32	5 47 51					
4 25 35*	1	151	151	4	94	86	4 53 45	16 68 65	18 49 42	13 58 54	11 63 65				
5 58 54	2	32	34	6	89	72	13 85 76	H= -4 K= 9	1 43 43	1 43 43	1 43 43				
7 44 42	3	111	113	8	55	57	H= -5 K= 8	14 45 43	6 31 34	1 43 43	1 43 43	1 43 43			
9 44 45	5	169	172	12	51	50	1 193 196	15 55 58	10 54 57	2 133 116	17 66 68	17 66 68			
	12	23	132	3	139	132	16 49 45	12 49 45	3 92 83	19 47 50	19 47 50				
HE -7 K= 7	8	88	54	H= -6 K= 13	4	67	70	14 44 46	6 133 127	6 190 166	H= -3 K= 12				
0 62 61	9	81	94	10	46	38	5 121 118	H= -4 K= 2	2 16 43	3 167 153	1 43 43	1 43 43	1 43 43		
2 75 81	10	35	35	6	70	68	3 70 64	H= -4 K= 10	9 105 106	7 45 49					
4 87 78	11	84	75	H= -6 K= 14	7	131 116	4 80 85	H= -4 K= 10	9 105 106	7 45 49					
5 40 40	13	48	54	0	106	99	8 48 53	6 88 89	9 96 101	10 118 115	H= -3 K= 13				
6 63 65	15	57	53	2	101	93	9 98 94	6 80 73	2 119 117	11 97 100	H= -3 K= 13				
7 66 62	17	84	72	4	87	92	10 94 51	7 103 107	4 131 122	12 104 92	0 120 141				
9 34 37	H= -6 K= 4	6	89	87	7	81	80	9 83 83	5 51 49	13 102 104	2 155 151				
9 73 69	0	196	175	8	84	73	12 55 56	11 85 74	6 106 101	14 52 53	4 172 147				
10 36 40	2	238	235	10	62	60	13 71 62	9 83 84	8 87 87	10 70 78	6 149 143				
11 86 77	3	36	42	12	45	48	15 49 56	15 61 67	10 52 64	16 47 45	8 129 130				
13 82 77	7	249	220	H= -6 K= 15	15	47 42	16 49 160	12 60 65	17 83 76	10 123 113					
15 62 67	6	162	177	H= -6 K= 15	16	63 60	17 72 75	13 37 39	16 47 40	12 83 93					
17 67 65	7	26	24	1	81	74	17 42 36	19 65 68	14 41 46	19 58 64	14 57 51				
19 55 50	8	179	159	3	64	63	18 48 49	21 54 54	15 42 49	21 46 52	16 46 46				
21 57 49	9	36	50	5	50	51	10 54 57	16 46 47	23 47 45	18 46 46					
	10	122	116	6	67	68	H= -5 K= 9	H= -4 K= 3	12 37 40	H= -3 K= 16					
HE -7 K= 8	12	101	101	0	34	26	2 41 41	H= -5 K= 11	1 172 145	1 83 73	H= -3 K= 15				
3 58 45*	14	102	96	11	50	47	3 189 174*	2 51 46	6 37 36						
5 33 31	16	66	71	H= -6 K= 18	1	130 152	5 185 154	5 113 106	3 110 86*	7 45 40					
18 10	50	53	H= -6 K= 10	4	38	36	3 124 124	5 103 109	8 42 42	8 42 42					
HE -7 K= 9	9	82	72	H= -6 K= 18	2	34	33	6 32 34	8 39 35	9 42 46	9 42 46				
0 205 191	H= -6 K= 5	2	66	72	3	161 154	7 97 108	9 89 87	6 30 35	8 42 46					
4 216 216	5	59	66	4	72	69	9 83 83	8 30 25	13 45 49	13 45 49					
6 135 165	5	75	78	6	67	60	5 156 132	9 106 109	13 49 57	13 49 57					
8 123 130	6	24	24	10	54	47	7 133 131	11 87 95	12 32 44	12 32 44					
10 113 130	8	44	48	8	37	36	12 37 36	H= -4 K= 12	1 58 55	1 58 55	H= -3 K= 5	1 40 42			
12 109 106	9	32	39	H= -6 K= 19	9	117 118	13 70 77	0 99 108	1 365 307	1 365 307	H= -3 K= 17				
14 82 86	11	54	61	3	52	43	10 51 49	2 111 113	2 111 113	2 111 113	H= -3 K= 17				
16 67 67	12	40	40	5	49	41	11 56 58	3 264 244	4 274 254	4 274 254	H= -3 K= 17				
18 46 44	14	48	44	H= -6 K= 22	13	75 73	0 305 279	6 215 201	4 107 98	4 107 98					
HE -7 K= 10	1	60	62	0	52	48	14 48 50	1 42 41	10 56 61	12 59 53	6 95 94				
1 32 41*	2	69	67	2	52	47	15 64 70	2 311 285	9 51 46	11 43 46	11 43 46				
HE -7 K= 11	3	49	47	H= -5 K= 0	17	44 53	4 286 247	15 41 42	12 181 165	13 33 40	14 49 45				
9 59 52	4	100	96	4	151	157	5 35 36	5 151 157	13 37 43	14 49 45					
11 62 57	5	74	69	6	82	79	H= -5 K= 12	6 225 199	12 40 40	13 33 40	14 49 45				
13 42 31	6	59	53	4	149	147	7 138 134	7 138 132	10 56 61	12 59 53	6 95 94				
15 44 45	7	57	41	10	94	94	8 138 134	9 140 136	10 56 61	12 59 53	6 95 94				
17 51 49	8	66	62	12	86	86	5 142 121	9 43 42	10 141 140	0 141 135	20 47 43	4 50 46	6 51 47		
19 49 48	9	37	48*	14	103	103	7 123 107	10 170 156	12 170 155	12 170 155	6 51 47				
10 49 50	16	112	105	7	123	105	7 123 107	10 170 156	12 170 155	12 170 155	6 51 47				
HE -7 K= 13	11	47	52	18	87	91	8 53 48	14 93 96	4 66 93	8 75 76	H= -3 K= 6	H= -3 K= 21			
0 125 128	13	66	67	20	66	67	9 59 59	14 93 96	4 66 93	11 119 119	0 48 48				
2 149 137	14	66	58	42	59	58	11 62 78*	20 49 43	10 73 75	5 83 87	2 49 50				
6 122 120	17	50	54	11	62	78*	20 49 43	10 73 75	5 83 87	4 53 52					
8 111 104	19	49	46	H= -5 K= 2	13	65 67	12 45 38	12 44 31*	7 85 87	4 53 52	6 49 48				
10 100 90	4	21	15*	14	47	37*	H= -4 K= 5	14 47 37*	11 41 40	11 41 40					
12 81 81	H= -6 K= 7	5	310	302	15	57	62	1 94 99	1 81 82	13 37 43	H= -3 K= 23				
14 65 62	1	119	120	6	35	32	3 58 48	3 63 66	15 41 47	2 46 46					
16 52 47	3	115	121	7	257	236	H= -5 K= 14	5 88 83	5 50 55	H= -3 K= 7	H= -2 K= 0				
9 50 45	5	135	127	9	192	199	1 85 85	6 25 25	7 55 55	7 55 55	12 121 122	12 121 122			
11 50 45	9	109	102	13	92	139*	5 85 85	6 49 50	9 48 50	2 62 62	6 108 99				
13 52 43	10	47	35*	15	111	107	6 43 48	9 51 47	11 50 55	4 94 95	8 65 66	10 31 30			
11 97 88	17	88	84	6	43	42	10 43 53	H= -5 K= 16	5 44 48	10 31 30					
13 65 63	19	53	63	8	53	47	12 43 41	2 46 39	6 54 54	7 94 104	16 49 49				
0 102 95	21	49	42	9	42	48	14 40 39	7 94 77	8 75 76	8 75 76					
2 85 84	H= -6 K= 8	4	21	15*	9	45 48	14 40 37*	H= -4 K= 18	8 75 76	9 63 61	H= -2 K= 1				
4 83 76	0	237	214	H= -5 K= 4	1	98 109	4 65 62	10 45 58	8 48 64*	14 43 43	8 130 108				
6 71 71	2	171	167	2	24	21	14 50 43	14 50 59	8 48 64*	14 43 43	8 130 108				

Table 4. Continued.

6	104	96	9	253	201*	13	53	68*	14	48	66	17	49	46	6	103	93	3	36	*1	17	44	50													
8	61	55	11	186	33	15	46	58*	15	44	57	21	47	34*	10	65	71	6	306	285	19	51	50													
12	38	41	11	186	165	13	128	122	H ² -2 K ²	17	17	50	45	H ² -1 K ²	8	12	46	55	8	223	216	H ²	0 K ²	12												
						15	74	66	1	45	52	19	50	51	1	104	106	14	48	48	9	71	72													
H ² -2 K ²	3	15	74	66	1	45	52	19	50	51	1	104	106	14	48	48	9	71	72	H ²	0 K ²	12														
1	186	205*	17	86	73	3	45	51	H ² -2 K ²	19	2	116	105	H ² -1 K ²	14	12	49	55	10	171	165	9	130	120												
2	57	5	19	55	50	46	47	H ² -2 K ²	19	2	116	105	H ² -1 K ²	14	12	49	55	12	129	163	4	144	132													
3	293	246*	H ² -2 K ²	8	H ² -2 K ²	19	2	116	105	6	29	34	3	73	71	14	157	142	6	94	92	H ²	127	137												
7	274	243	H ² -2 K ²	8	H ² -2 K ²	19	2	116	105	7	111	120	5	65	61	16	115	110	7	56	60	H ²	105	100												
8	44	42	0	79	66	1	75	76	3	26	30	8	47	44	7	48	53	18	78	79	9	90	80	H ²	9	90	80									
9	165	177	2	66	65	3	75	74	10	70	58	9	82	88	9	45	52	20	52	50	10	60	73	H ²	10	60	73									
10	76	66	4	85	81	5	59	69	5	46	49	9	82	88	9	45	52	11	47	40	H ²	11	51	53												
11	159	188	6	33	40	7	54	61	6	101	100	10	46	46	11	47	40	12	30	31	H ²	12	92	73												
12	71	59	8	46	46	9	56	57	7	49	52	11	52	60	13	41	33	H ²	0 K ²	6	H ²	11	45	50												
13	117	130	10	53	49	11	57	52	8	67	75	12	35	42	11	55	59	7	59	61	H ²	11	51	53												
14	55	H ² -2 K ²	4	9	35	41	222	189	16	75	76	H ² -1 K ²	9	13	48	8	93	101	H ²	0 K ²	14	H ²	12	92	73											
15	101	94	H ² -2 K ²	9	H ² -2 K ²	21	1	88	75	16	62	73	H ² -1 K ²	15	1	46	51	13	42	51	H ²	14	72	74	H ²	14	72	74								
16	46	47	3	47	52	1	51	47	11	55	56	1	106	103	12	134	101	10	63	90	2	122	120	H ²	14	72	74									
17	64	68	6	42	36	3	56	47	12	99	69	17	46	43	5	92	91	4	90	89	16	45	51	H ²	14	72	74									
19	47	48	7	51	51	13	36	42	18	47	58	7	83	82	5	78	73	17	46	51	H ²	14	72	74												
			8	76	79	H ² -1 K ²	0	14	68	70	20	46	49	9	75	74	6	122	116	19	45	50	H ²	14	72	74										
H ² -2 K ²	4	9	35	41	222	189	16	75	76	H ² -1 K ²	9	13	48	8	93	101	H ²	0 K ²	14	H ²	12	92	73													
0	217	191	10	76	84	6	211	179	18	62	73	H ² -1 K ²	15	0	226	200	9	91	106	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74									
1	4	7	12	87	83	8	157	121*	52	60	60	H ² -1 K ²	17	0	226	200	10	83	90	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74									
2	167	142*	12	81	81	12	72	65	22	46	48	H ² -1 K ²	17	0	226	200	11	76	74	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74									
3	56	59	16	67	66	19	111	112	24	45	39	H ² -1 K ²	17	0	200	101	11	76	74	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74									
4	63	83	19	55	58	16	68	68	6	141	136	H ² -1 K ²	17	0	200	101	12	33	42*	H ²	6	135	120	H ²	14	72	74									
5	35	42	20	49	55	18	79	75	H ² -1 K ²	5	8	108	127	4	52	60	13	53	59	8	106	103	H ²	14	72	74										
6	78	70	22	47	51	20	66	60	0	64	73	10	118	122	6	48	52	14	47	42	10	74	88	H ²	14	72	74									
8	64	68	H ² -2 K ²	10	H ² -1 K ²	1	3	61	60	14	50	55	H ² -1 K ²	12	10	47	44	16	60	56	12	57	74*	H ²	14	72	74									
10	60	62	H ² -2 K ²	10	H ² -1 K ²	1	3	61	60	14	50	55	H ² -1 K ²	12	10	47	44	17	61	84	13	53	31*	H ²	14	72	74									
12	76	70	2	32	35	4	51	53	H ² -2 K ²	10	4	231	196	H ² -1 K ²	9	5	50	53	15	75	67	11	47	42	H ²	14	72	74								
			4	43	45	5	53	55	H ² -2 K ²	10	4	231	196	H ² -1 K ²	9	5	50	53	16	67	67	11	47	42	H ²	14	72	74								
H ² -2 K ²	5	9	253	221	188	185	1	153	142	H ² -1 K ²	20	1	68	66	H ² -1 K ²	20	12	60	58	16	47	59	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74						
1	101	102	H ² -2 K ²	11	9	123	115	7	39	47	2	33	40	1	68	66	23	53	49	17	48	25*	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74						
2	79	73	1	225	201	8	129	110	8	136	124	3	176	164	3	57	65	25	51	41	18	49	41	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
3	165	155	2	40	36	9	36	42	10	91	90	5	166	140	5	63	64	H ²	0 K ²	8	H ²	0 K ²	16	H ²	0 K ²	16	H ²	0 K ²	16							
4	33	32	3	143	190*	10	100	98	11	37	36	6	32	33	7	54	60	H ²	0 K ²	8	H ²	0 K ²	16	H ²	0 K ²	16	H ²	0 K ²	16							
5	186	162	5	147	185	11	44	51	12	88	76	7	113	122	9	50	53	0	250	222	0	89	78	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
6	72	67	9	158	154	12	121	111	13	34	46*	9	107	98	7	52	52	2	237	212	2	63	52	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
7	69	65	9	141	148	13	134	124	14	71	71	11	107	98	7	52	52	4	214	204	4	42	33	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
8	102	88	11	138	129	16	40	43	16	59	66	16	60	59	4	239	222	6	194	175	6	43	38	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
9	98	97	13	109	103	18	56	54	18	41	42	14	40	33	6	271	274	7	60	58	6	44	46	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
10	89	99	15	78	78	17	45	49	15	41	45	8	316	258	8	115	121	10	45	39	10	267	269	9	56	53	H ²	14	72	74						
11	71	83	17	43	54*	18	39	38	17	41	39	10	45	42	12	239	212	10	151	149	13	44	46	H ²	14	72	74									
12	116	117	19	46	46	19	58	65	H ² -2 K ²	13	207	195	11	123	122	17	41	39	12	126	130	11	57	56	H ²	14	72	74								
13	42	51	H ² -2 K ²	13	41	42	19	56	37	37	34	8	56	55	0	156	168	H ²	0 K ²	22	H ²	0 K ²	22	H ²	0 K ²	22	H ²	0 K ²	22							
14	96	96	H ² -2 K ²	12	37	61	13	126	117	15	62	84	1	124	128	7	180	167	H ²	0 K ²	10	H ²	0 K ²	10	H ²	0 K ²	10	H ²	0 K ²	10						
15	29	30	14	46	55	15	118	103	17	52	59	3	126	130	9	74	68	2	205	187	0	89	76	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
16	73	74	16	53	54	17	63	95	19	47	45	3	126	130	7	95	79	8	80	86	10	48	48	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74					
17	75	69	14	51	46	19	58	65	H ² -2 K ²	14	5	90	74	5	41	44	13	59	60	19	90	89	9	90	93	12	48	41	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74
18	121	126	7	68	64	8	35	31	16	45	40	25	46	53	1	63	61	11	67	70	H ²	0 K ²	26	H ²	0 K ²	26	H ²	0 K ²	26	H ²	0 K ²	26				
19	316	284	5	120	118	9	75	61	11	46	50	H ² -1 K ²	13	50	48	14	73	74	13	50	48	2	48	41	H ²	0	125	119	H ²	14	72	74				
20	297	285	7	142	120	10	76	70	12	37	40	0	89	86	14																					

The final atomic parameters with their estimated standard deviations are given in Table 3. The electron density maps of a difference synthesis based upon these parameters showed a peak of about $4.5 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$ at the position of neodymium, and only spurious peaks less than $2 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$ in the other regions. The observed and calculated structure factors are compared in Table 4.

All computations were performed on the UNIVAC 1108 computer at Lund, Sweden, using the programs DRF, LALS, DISTAN, PLANE, CELSIUS, and ORTEP.¹²

DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

The general features of the structure of NDO are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Interatomic distances and angles are given in Table 5; some of them are also indicated in Figs. 4 and 5. The numbering of the atoms constituting the two

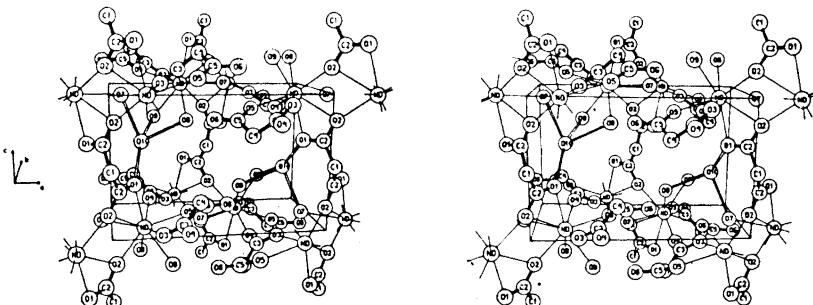


Fig. 1. A stereoscopic pair of drawings showing part of two adjacent neodymium-malonate networks and the bonding between them. Bonds within the malonate ions are filled, hydrogen bonds are open, and Nd–O bonds are single lines. The intra-network hydrogen bonds are omitted for clarity. The box outlined is $0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1/2$, $0 \leq z \leq 1/2$.

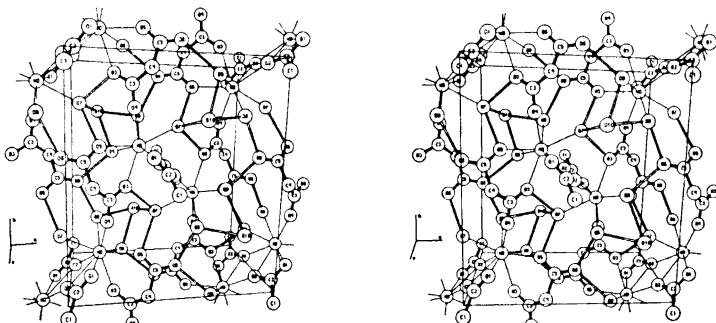


Fig. 2. A stereoscopic pair of drawings illustrating the neodymium-malonate network around $z=0$. The bonds are indicated in the same way as in Fig. 1. The box outlined is $0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$, $-1/4 \leq z \leq 1/4$.

Table 5. Selected distances (\AA) and angles ($^\circ$) with their estimated standard deviations.

A. The coordination polyhedron

Nd—O(1)	2.54(1)	O(2 ⁱ)—O(7)	3.03(2)
Nd—O(2 ⁱ)	2.46(1)	O(2 ⁱ)—O(8)	3.24(2)
Nd—O(3)	2.47(1)	O(2 ⁱ)—O(9)	3.07(2)
Nd—O(4 ^{vii})	2.41(1)	O(2 ⁱ)—O(2)	2.71(2)
Nd—O(5)	2.43(1)	O(3)—O(5)	2.83(2)
Nd—O(7)	2.53(1)	O(3)—O(9)	2.92(2)
Nd—O(8)	2.46(1)	O(3)—O(2)	2.91(2)
Nd—O(9)	2.49(1)	O(4 ^{vii})—O(5)	2.86(2)
Nd—O(2)	2.72(1)	O(4 ^{vii})—O(7)	2.97(2)
O(1)—O(3)	3.16(2)	O(4 ^{vii})—O(8)	2.97(2)
O(1)—O(4 ^{vii})	3.05(2)	O(5)—O(8)	3.93(2)
O(1)—O(5)	3.31(2)	O(5)—O(9)	2.92(2)
O(1)—O(7)	3.24(2)	O(7)—O(8)	2.97(2)
O(1)—O(2)	2.18(2)	O(7)—O(2)	2.90(2)
O(2 ⁱ)—O(3)	3.07(2)	O(8)—O(9)	2.71(2)

B. Ligand 1

C(1)—C(2)	1.51(2)	$\angle C(2)—C(1)—C(2^{ii})$	113(2)
C(2)—O(1)	1.22(2)	$\angle O(1)—C(2)—O(2)$	122(1)
C(2)—O(2)	1.28(2)	$\angle C(1)—C(2)—O(1)$	120(1)
		$\angle C(1)—C(2)—O(2)$	119(1)

C. Ligand 2

C(4)—C(3)	1.53(2)	$\angle C(3)—C(4)—C(5)$	117(1)
C(4)—C(5)	1.52(3)	$\angle O(3)—C(3)—O(4)$	121(1)
C(3)—O(3)	1.29(2)	$\angle C(4)—C(3)—O(3)$	119(1)
C(3)—O(4)	1.26(2)	$\angle C(4)—C(3)—O(4)$	120(1)
C(5)—O(5)	1.26(2)	$\angle O(5)—C(5)—O(6)$	123(2)
C(5)—O(6)	1.20(3)	$\angle C(4)—C(5)—O(5)$	118(2)
		$\angle C(4)—C(5)—O(6)$	119(2)

D. Possible hydrogen bonds

O(7)—O(3 ⁱ)	2.63(2)	O(8)—O(10)	2.71(2)
O(7)—O(5 ^v)	2.77(2)	O(9)—O(6 ⁱⁱⁱ)	2.76(2)
O(7)—O(10 ^v)	2.85(2)	O(9)—O(10)	2.76(2)
O(8)—O(6 ^v)	2.67(2)	O(10)—O(1 ^{viii})	2.79(2)

structurally independent malonate ions, referred to as ligand 1 and ligand 2, is shown in Fig. 4. The superscripts (i)–(x) refer to the following equivalent sites in the structure:

(i)	x, y, z	(iv)	$1/2 + x, 1/2 - y, \bar{z}$	(viii)	$1/2 - x, 1/2 - y, z - 1/2$
(ii)	$\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}$	(v)	$x - 1/2, 1/2 - y, \bar{z}$	(ix)	$x, \bar{y}, 1/2 + z$
(iii)	$\bar{x}, y, 1/2 - z$	(vi)	$1/2 - x, 1/2 + y, z$	(x)	$1/2 - x, y - 1/2, z$
(iv)	$1 - x, \bar{y}, \bar{z}$	(vii)	$1/2 - x, 1/2 - y, 1/2 + z$		

where x, y, z are the atomic coordinates given in Table 3.

The neodymium ions are situated at $z \approx 0$ and $z \approx 1/2$. Those at the same z -level are coupled in pairs by oxygen bridges $\text{Nd} - \text{O}(2) - \text{Nd}$, where $\text{O}(2)$ is a carboxylate oxygen of ligand 1, as shown in Fig. 1. The methylene carbon of this ligand is situated on the twofold axis $x = 0$, $z = 1/4$, and hence ligand 1 connects the neodymium pairs in the z -direction. Ligand 2 links the neodymium pairs in layers parallel to (001) by bridges of the type $\text{Nd} - \text{OCO} - \text{Nd}$. As illustrated in Fig. 2, each neodymium pair is bonded in this way to four adjacent pairs.

There is a system of hydrogen bonds within the layer, formed by the coordinated water molecules $\text{O}(7)$, $\text{O}(8)$, and $\text{O}(9)$ with the carboxylate oxygens of ligand 2 as acceptors. The uncoordinated water molecule $\text{O}(10)$ is situated between the layers at $z \approx 1/4$ (see Fig. 1). It is hydrogen bonded to the coordinated water molecules in one layer and to the carboxylate oxygen $\text{O}(1)$ in an adjacent layer. The layers are thus held together by ligand 1 as described above and by hydrogen bonds via $\text{O}(10)$.

The coordination polyhedron. The coordination around the pair of neodymium ions is shown in Fig. 3, and the dimensions of the coordination poly-

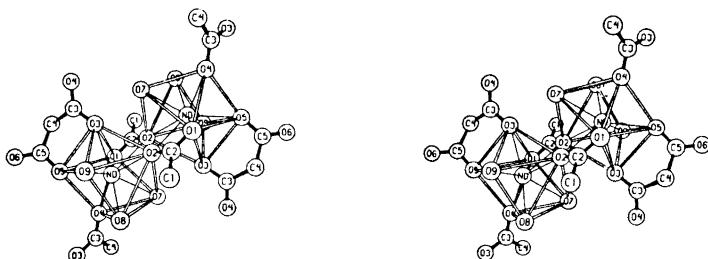


Fig. 3. A stereoscopic pair of drawings showing the coordination polyhedra around the neodymium ions Nd and Nd^i . $\text{Nd} - \text{O}$ bonds are single lines, the bonds within the malonate ions are filled and the edges of the square antiprism are open.

hedron are given in Table 5 A. Each neodymium ion is coordinated by six carboxylate oxygens, from four malonate ions, and by three water oxygens. These nine oxygens form a distorted monocapped square antiprism.

The carboxylate oxygens $\text{O}(2)$ and $\text{O}(2^i)$ form asymmetric oxygen bridges between the two neodymium ions; the distances $\text{Nd} - \text{O}(2)$ and $\text{Nd} - \text{O}(2^i)$ are 2.72 Å and 2.46 Å, respectively. The other $\text{Nd} - \text{O}$ bond distances are in the range 2.41–2.54 Å and the average of the nine $\text{Nd} - \text{O}$ distances, 2.50 Å, is compatible with those found in other structures containing neodymium coordinated by nine oxygens.¹³

The “square” faces of the coordination polyhedron are $\text{O}(8) - \text{O}(4^{vi}) - \text{O}(5) - \text{O}(9)$ and $\text{O}(7) - \text{O}(1) - \text{O}(3) - \text{O}(2^i)$. The distant oxygen $\text{O}(2)$ caps the latter square, which is larger than the first one, the edge lengths being in the intervals 2.71–2.97 Å and 3.02–3.24 Å, respectively. The “square” faces are approximately planar (see Table 6) and the least-squares planes through the atoms forming the “squares” are parallel. The neodymium ion is 0.2 Å closer to the capped square than to the uncapped one. The mean “contact”

Table 6. Deviations in Å from least squares planes within the malonate ions and the coordination polyhedron. The atoms defining the plane are in each case given above the asterisk.

A. The malonate ions

Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance
C(1)	-0.00	C(4)	-0.00	C(4)	0.01	C(3)	-0.03
C(2)	0.00	C(3)	0.01	C(5)	-0.03	C(5)	0.03
O(1)	-0.00	O(3)	-0.01	O(5)	0.01	O(3)	0.03
O(2)	-0.00	O(4)	*	O(6)	0.01	O(5)	-0.03
Nd	0.67	Nd	-0.03	Nd	0.49	Nd	-0.42
Nd	0.03	Nd ^x	0.82			C(4)	-0.50

B. The coordination polyhedron

Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance
O(3)	0.22	O(8)	0.08
O(1)	-0.20	O(4 ^{vi})	-0.08
O(7)	0.21	O(5)	0.08
O(2 ⁱ)	-0.23	O(9)	-0.08
Nd	1.19	Nd	-1.38

distance between oxygens not belonging to the same malonate ion is 3.00 Å as compared to 2.98 Å in Nd₂(C₂O₄)₃·10.5H₂O.² Only two of the O—O distances are shorter than 2.8 Å, *viz.* O(2)—O(2ⁱ) and O(8)—O(9), both being 2.71 Å.

Ligand 2 forms a six-membered chelate ring with neodymium. Its bite is 2.83 Å. The ring has a boat conformation with the four atoms O(3), C(3), C(5), and O(5) coplanar within ± 0.03 Å and the atoms Nd and C(4) situated 0.42 and 0.50 Å at the same side of this plane (Table 6). A similar conformation is found for the two structurally independent malonate rings of the complex Comal₂en⁻ (en = H₂NCH₂CH₂NH₂), while the three equivalent rings of Crmal₃³⁻ have the methylene carbon 0.69 Å out of the plane formed by the other five atoms.⁵

The polyhedra around Nd and Ndⁱ share the edge O(2)...O(2ⁱ) and the distance Nd...Ndⁱ is relatively short, 4.42 Å. The carboxylate group C(2)O(1)O(2) may be described as bridging-chelating, *i.e.* both oxygens are bonded to the same metal ion in a four-membered ring and one of them, O(2), forms an additional bond to the second metal ion. This type of bridge is not uncommon in lanthanoid carboxylate structures. It is found, *e.g.*, in Nd(OOCCH₂NHCH₂OCO)Cl·3H₂O,¹⁴ K₂Ce(CH₃COO)₅·H₂O,¹⁵ and Ce(CH₃COO)₃·0.7H₂O.¹⁶ The next shortest Nd...Nd distance, 6.70 Å, is between the neodymium ions Nd and Nd^{vii} which are connected by the bridging carboxylate group O(3)C(3)O(4) (see Fig. 2).

The malonate ions. The dimensions of the malonate ions are given in Table 5 B,C and in Fig. 4. The corresponding bond distances and angles in the two ions are equal within the limits of errors. There are no previous reports giving the

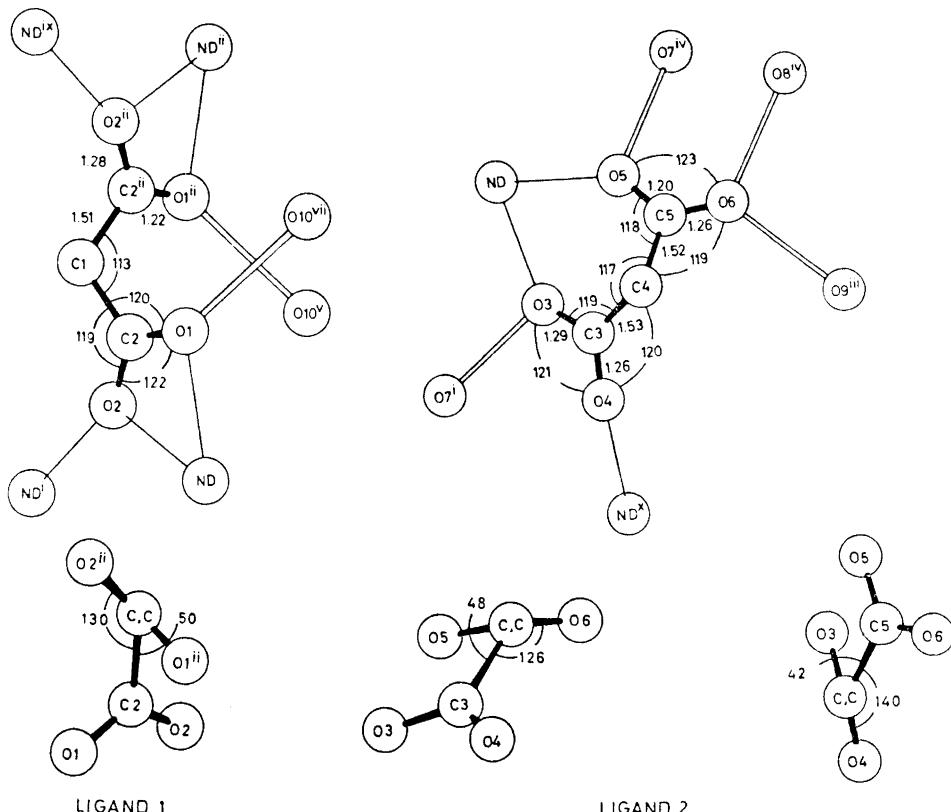


Fig. 4. The two malonate ions and their immediate surroundings, together with projections of each malonate ion along its C–C bonds. The angles indicated in the projections are the dihedral angles C–C–C–O.

dimensions of malonate ions. (The report of $\text{Comal}_2\text{en}^-$ and Crmal_3^{3-} referred to above is only preliminary and contains no distances or atomic coordinates.) A comparison with the malonate residue in the compound $\text{KOOCH}_2\text{COOH}$ ¹⁷ shows significant differences in the C–C–O bond angles attributable to the non-equivalence of the two C–O bonds in the hydrogen malonate ion, but otherwise the dimensions of the ions are compatible.

The three independent C–COO groups are planar within the limits of errors (Table 6) while the malonate ions are both nonplanar. In ligand 1 the dihedral angle $\text{C}(2'') - \text{C}(1) - \text{C}(2) - \text{O}(2)$ is 130° . Since the methylene carbon is situated on a two-fold axis, this means that the two COO-groups are twisted 50° in opposite directions out of the plane of the three central carbon atoms. Thus the two C–COO-planes are almost perpendicular to each other and the oxygens of the two COO-groups are well separated; the shortest distances are $\text{O}(1)\dots\text{O}(1'')$: 3.24 Å and $\text{O}(1)\dots\text{O}(2'')$: 3.78 Å.

In ligand 2, which forms the six-membered chelate ring, the dihedral angles $O(3) - C(3) - C(4) - C(5)$ and $C(3) - C(4) - C(5) - O(5)$ are 42° and 48° , respectively, *i.e.* the two COO-groups are twisted in the same direction out of the plane of the carbon atoms by about 45° . This twist results in one short O—O distance, *viz.* the ligand bite $O(3)\cdots O(5)$ which is 2.83 \AA .

The conformations of the malonate ions may be compared with those found for the malonate residues in malonic acid¹⁸ and potassium hydrogen malonate.¹⁷ In malonic acid one COO-group but not the other is twisted about 90° out of the plane of the carbon atoms while the atoms of the malonate group in potassium hydrogen malonate are almost coplanar. In the latter compound, the shortest intramolecular separation of oxygens belonging to different COO-groups is 2.80 \AA .

The hydrogen bonds. The possible hydrogen bond distances, *i.e.* the $(\text{H}_2\text{O})\text{O} - \text{O}$ distances shorter than 3.20 \AA , between oxygens not belonging to the same coordination polyhedron¹⁹ are given in Table 5 D. There is just one suitable distance for each of the active hydrogen atoms, and the longest of these distances is 2.85 \AA . Thus the choice of a probable hydrogen bond system seems to be unequivocal even though the positions of the hydrogen atoms have not been located. The hydrogen bond system is illustrated in Fig. 5.

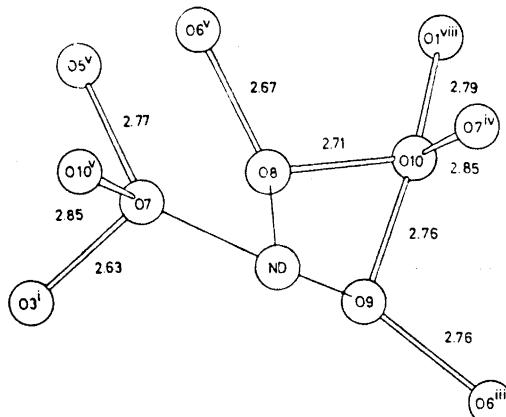


Fig. 5. The immediate surroundings of the four water molecules. Hydrogen bonds are open and Nd—O bonds are single lines.

The water molecule O(7) forms two hydrogen bonds to carboxylic oxygens within the neodymium malonate layer, *viz.* O(7)...O(3ⁱ) and O(7)...O(5^v), and accepts one hydrogen bond from the uncoordinated water molecule O(10). The donor angle O(5^v)—O(7)—O(3ⁱ) is 98° . The three hydrogen bonds and the bond Nd—O(7) are approximately tetrahedrally arranged around O(7) and the “tetrahedral” angles are in the range $95 - 133^\circ$. The oxygens O(7) and O(3ⁱ) belong to different coordination polyhedra of an edge-sharing pair and thus the bond O(7)...O(3ⁱ) constitutes an additional link between these polyhedra.

The water molecules O(8) and O(9) each form one intra-layer hydrogen bond to a carboxylic oxygen, *viz.* O(8)...O(6") and O(9)...O(6""), and one to the water molecule O(10). The donor angles O(6")-O(8)-O(10) and O(6"")-O(9)-O(10) are 111° and 112° respectively and the sum of the three bond angles is 341° around O(8) and 335° around O(9).

The uncoordinated water molecule O(10) is situated between the neodymium malonate layers and forms the only inter layer hydrogen bonds. It is bonded to the water oxygens O(8), O(9) and O(7") of one layer and to the carboxylic oxygen O(1"") of an adjacent layer (see Fig. 1). These four oxygens form a distorted tetrahedron around O(10) with the "tetrahedral" angles in the range 59–159°. The donor angle O(1"")-O(10)-O(7") is 116°.

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