

## The Crystal Structure of Mercury(I) Hexafluorosilicate Dihydrate \*

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The structure of mercury(I) hexafluorosilicate dihydrate is monoclinic with the unit cell dimensions  $a = 5.642 \pm 1$ ,  $b = 8.601 \pm 2$ ,  $c = 8.822 \pm 2$ ,  $\beta = 123.76 \pm 0.02^\circ$ . The cell contains 2 formula units, and the space group is  $P2_1/c$ . The structure contains  $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$  groups with an  $\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}$  distance of  $2.495 \pm 3$  Å, and equivalent  $\text{Hg}-\text{O}$  distances of  $2.20 \pm 3$  Å. The angle  $\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{O}$  is  $170.9 \pm 0.9^\circ$ . No deviation from a normal  $\text{SiF}_6$  anion could be detected. The mean  $\text{Si}-\text{F}$  distance is  $1.70 \pm 2$  Å. The distances from the water molecules to two neighbouring fluorine atoms are  $2.58 \pm 4$  Å, and  $2.65 \pm 4$  Å indicating hydrogen bonding.

The occurrence of complexes of the type  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}]^{2+}$  and  $\text{Hg}_2\text{OH}^+$  in water solutions of mercurous salts has been established;<sup>1,2</sup> the former complex has also been found in solid perchlorate<sup>2</sup> and nitrate.<sup>3</sup> These compounds,  $\text{Hg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Hg}_2(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were, however, determined with relatively low accuracy, especially in the  $\text{Hg}-\text{O}$  distances. The present investigation was undertaken in order to provide data concerning the dimensions of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$  group suitable for comparison with results obtained by the present author for some salts containing  $\text{O}-\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{O}$  elements.

### EXPERIMENTAL

$\text{Hg}_2\text{SiF}_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was easily prepared by use of the equilibrium  $\text{Hg}^{2+} + \text{Hg} \rightleftharpoons \text{Hg}_2^{2+}$ .<sup>4</sup>  $\text{HgO}$  was dissolved in  $\text{H}_2\text{SiF}_6$  (~40%), and a drop of mercury was placed in the solution. The compound crystallized during slow evaporation, as large prismatic colourless crystals. The density was calculated from the loss of weight in benzene after a careful separation from excess mercury. The density of  $\text{Hg}_2\text{SiF}_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as well as the solubility of the compound is not in agreement with values for a compound with the same formula given in *Handbook of Physics and Chemistry*, 46th Ed. Since the result of the structure determination was unambiguous, an analysis of the compound was regarded as unnecessary.

The very strong tendency of the  $\text{Hg}_2^{2+}$  ion to coordinate water molecules in the presence of the  $\text{SiF}_6$  anion was strikingly demonstrated, when attempts were made to

\* Structural Studies on Mercury(I) Compounds VII.

prepare the anhydrous compound, which should contain Hg–F contacts. Reactions between  $\text{Hg}_2\text{F}_2(\text{s})$  and  $\text{SiF}_4(\text{g})$  were carried out both at room temperature and at liquid air temperature. In both cases, slight impurities of water gave the dihydrate compound.

X-Ray data collection was carried out, using an integrating single crystal Weissenberg camera and Ni-filtered  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  radiation. A crystal of approximate size  $0.07 \times 0.05 \times 0.03$  mm<sup>3</sup> was rotated around the *b* axis, and altogether 341 independent reflections,  $h0l - h5l$ , were registered. The multiple film technique was applied. An overexposed recording of the  $0kl$  reflections was then made to establish the non-existence of reflections  $0k0$  with  $k = 2n + 1$ . The intensities were measured with a photometric SAAB Abrahamsson type film scanner<sup>5</sup> on line with an IBM 1800 process controller.<sup>6</sup> Correction for absorption was included in the data processing.

#### DETERMINATION OF THE STRUCTURE

The Weissenberg photographs showed monoclinic symmetry with the extinctions characteristic for the unambiguously determined space group  $P2_1/c$  (No. 14 of the *International Tables*), *i.e.*  $h0l$  with  $l = 2n + 1$ , and  $0k0$  with  $k = 2n + 1$ .

The cell constants were obtained from a Guinier powder photograph ( $\text{CuK}\alpha_1$  radiation). Refinement gave the following cell dimensions (based on comparison with the internal standard KCl;  $a = 6.2919 \text{ \AA}$ <sup>7</sup>):  $a = 5.642 \pm 1 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 8.601 \pm 2 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 8.822 \pm 2 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 123.76 \pm 0.02^\circ$ .

With a cell content of 2 formula units, the calculated density is  $5.41 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , in good agreement with the observed density, which is  $5.37 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

A Patterson projection along  $[010]$  showed, as in many other mercury(I) compounds, a mercury doublet lying approximately parallel to the plane of projection. The mercury atoms were tentatively placed in the point position  $4(e)$  of space group  $P2_1/c$ , *i.e.*  $\pm(x, y, z)$ ,  $\pm(x, \frac{1}{2} - y, \frac{1}{2} + z)$ , with *x* and *z* parameters estimated from the Patterson projection. A Fourier projection with the structure factor signs thus obtained showed minor peaks. These could be interpreted as caused by the silicon and several of the other non-hydrogen atoms. Assuming the centre of an undistorted  $\text{SiF}_6$  octahedron to be located  $b/2$  above the mercury doublet with Si atoms in point position  $2(a)$ ,  $(0, 0, 0)$ ,  $(0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ , and the F atoms occupying  $4(e)$  positions, *y* parameters for all "visible" atoms were roughly calculated. The minor peaks were thereby interpreted as being due to fluorine atoms. In the calculations, Hg–Hg and Si–F distances of  $2.50 \text{ \AA}$  and  $1.65 \text{ \AA}$ , respectively, were postulated. In this way, essentially two sets of parameters were obtained, corresponding to two possible ways of tilting the  $\text{SiF}_6$  octahedron with respect to the mercury doublet. Both arrangements were tested by a three-dimensional least squares refinement. As a result, one model could be discarded.

The position of the water molecule came out very clearly when a three-dimensional difference Fourier map was calculated. The scale factors and parameters of all atoms were then refined, assuming isotropic thermal motion of all atoms. The *R* factor was then 0.085. As in all Hg(I) structures previously studied by the present author, the total difference Fourier after refinement showed a tendency towards anisotropic vibration of the mercury atoms. A refinement including anisotropic temperature factors for Hg was carried out, keeping the scale factors mutually fixed. The *R* factor came out slightly lower – 0.076 – and the standard deviations decreased by  $\sim 10\%$ . The

improvement in accuracy is rather low in comparison with that obtained for other Hg(I) compounds. This may have two reasons: (1) the contribution of the non-metal atoms to the structure factors is comparatively large in the fluorosilicate, and (2) the orientation of the rotational axis with respect to the mercury doublet is unfavourable for anisotropic refinement.

Table 1. Final parameters obtained, refining with anisotropic temperature factors for Hg. The temperature factor expression used is  $\exp - (\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + \beta_{12}hk + \beta_{13}hl + \beta_{23}kl)$ .

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>B</i> Å <sup>2</sup>
4( <i>e</i> ) Hg	0.20340 ± 31	0.08321 ± 25	0.03073 ± 21	<sup>a</sup>
2( <i>a</i> ) Si	0	1/2	0	1.55 ± 23
4( <i>e</i> ) F <sub>1</sub>	0.0446 ± 41	0.1317 ± 31	0.3732 ± 26	2.01 ± 39
4( <i>e</i> ) F <sub>2</sub>	0.1174 ± 46	0.3631 ± 32	0.1661 ± 30	2.45 ± 41
4( <i>e</i> ) F <sub>3</sub>	0.3347 ± 46	0.5662 ± 32	0.0919 ± 28	2.31 ± 40
4( <i>e</i> ) O	0.4215 ± 62	0.6991 ± 43	0.4335 ± 35	2.63 ± 55

<sup>a</sup>		$\beta_{ij} \times 10^4$ for Hg				
ij=	11	22	33	12	13	23
	209 ± 7	68 ± 6	105 ± 3	-42 ± 9	176 ± 7	-10 ± 5

In all, 27 parameters were refined and 341 structure factors used. Parameters from the last cycle of refinement are listed in Table 1, and observed and calculated structure factors in Table 4. An attempt to refine the structure assuming the less symmetrical space group *Pc* gave no improvement.

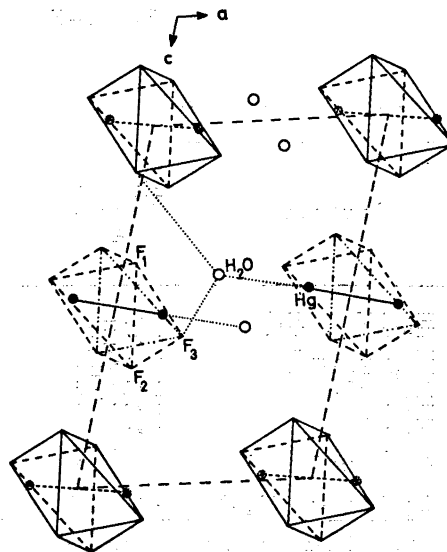


Fig. 1. One unit cell of  $\text{Hg}_2\text{SiF}_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Mercury doublets and octahedra drawn with mainly full lines have their centres in the plane  $b=0.5$ , those drawn with broken lines have their centres in the plane  $b=0$ .

The resulting structure, illustrated in Fig. 1, consists of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{SiF}_6$  groups. The bonding distance within the mercury doublet is  $2.495 \pm 3$  Å, and the distance  $\text{Hg}-\text{O}$  is  $2.20 \pm 3$  Å. The angle  $\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{O}$  is  $170.9 \pm 0.9^\circ$ . The  $\text{SiF}_6$  anion is undistorted, all  $\text{Si}-\text{F}$  distances are equal within one standard deviation, with a mean value of  $1.70 \pm 2$  Å, and symmetry independent angles within the group very close to ideal values (*cf.* Table 2). The mercury atom

Table 2. Interatomic distances and angles calculated with parameters shown in Table 1.

Distances, Å

	Hg	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{F}_1$	$\text{F}_2$	$\text{F}_3$
Hg	$2.495 \pm 3$	$2.199 \pm 31$	$2.713 \pm 25$	$\begin{cases} 2.847 \pm 26 \\ 3.011 \pm 22 \end{cases}$	$2.874 \pm 21$
Si			$1.706 \pm 22$	$1.701 \pm 25$	$1.688 \pm 22$
$\text{H}_2\text{O}$			$\begin{cases} 2.583 \pm 34 \\ 2.898 \pm 38 \end{cases}$	$> 3.00$	$\begin{cases} 2.651 \pm 41 \\ 2.999 \pm 35 \end{cases}$
F (within the $\text{SiF}_6$ group)			Mean distance value $2.40 \pm 4$		
$\text{F}_1$ (between $\text{SiF}_6$ groups)			$> 3.40$	$2.833 \pm 34$	$3.390 \pm 29$
$\text{F}_2, \text{F}_3$			$> 3.40$	$> 3.40$	$> 3.40$

Rmsd's for Hg (Å):  $r_1 0.138 \pm 9$ ,  $r_2 0.165 \pm 30$ ,  $r_3 0.172 \pm 13$ .

Selected angles, degrees

$\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{O}$	$170.9 \pm 0.9$
$\text{F}_1-\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{F}_3$	$110.2 \pm 1.3$
$\text{F}_1-\text{Si}-\text{F}_2$	$\begin{cases} 91.4 \\ 88.6 \pm 1.1 \end{cases}$
$\text{F}_1-\text{Si}-\text{F}_3$	$\begin{cases} 90.3 \\ 89.7 \pm 1.1 \end{cases}$
$\text{F}_2-\text{Si}-\text{F}_3$	$\begin{cases} 91.3 \\ 88.7 \pm 1.1 \end{cases}$

Table 3. Comparison of distances found in Hg(I) compounds with close  $\text{Hg}-\text{O}$  contacts.

Compound	$\text{Hg}-\text{Hg}$ distance (Å)	$\text{Hg}-\text{O}$ shortest distance (Å)	$\angle \text{Hg}-\text{Hg}-\text{O}$ degrees	Reference
$\text{Hg}_2(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$2.54 \pm 1$	$2.15 \pm 10$	$\sim 160$	3
$\text{Hg}_2(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$2.50 \pm 1$	$2.14 \pm 10$	180	2
$\text{Hg}_2\text{SiF}_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$2.495 \pm 3$	$2.20 \pm 3$	$171 \pm 1$	
$\text{Hg}_2(\text{BrO}_3)_2$	$2.507 \pm 6$	$2.16 \pm 3$	$174 \pm 1$	9
$\text{Hg}_2\text{SO}_4$	$2.500 \pm 3$	$2.24 \pm 2$	$165 \pm 1$	10
$\text{Hg}_2\text{SeO}_4$	$2.51 \pm 1$	$2.21 \pm 5$	$160 \pm 1$	10
$\text{Hg}(\text{I})\text{-}o\text{-phthalate}$	$2.519 \pm 4$	$\begin{cases} 2.16 \pm 5 \\ 2.08 \pm 5 \end{cases}$	$\begin{cases} 172 \pm 2 \\ 174 \pm 2 \end{cases}$	11
$\text{Hg}_2(\text{I})(\text{phen})(\text{NO}_3)_2^a$	$2.516 \pm 7$	$2.22 \pm 4$	$171 \pm 1$	12

<sup>a</sup> 1,10-Phenanthroline Hg(I)nitrate.

Table 4.  $hkl$ ,  $F_{\text{obs}}$  and  $F_{\text{calc}}$  for  $\text{Hg}_2\text{SiF}_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

-6	0	10	74	70	4	1	-5	91	88	5	2	-5	68	63	1	4	2	32	29
-4	0	8	107	92	4	1	-4	100	90	-5	2	-4	64	62	1	4	3	118	125
-3	0	10	99	83	4	1	-3	43	45	5	2	-3	46	49	1	4	4	50	49
-3	0	8	54	53	4	1	-2	68	65	5	2	-2	66	62	1	4	5	69	69
-2	0	6	70	63	4	1	0	53	51	5	2	0	49	51	1	4	6	40	38
-2	0	8	104	87	4	1	1	62	51	6	2	-1	16	16	1	4	7	30	29
-2	0	10	58	54	4	1	3	50	51	6	2	-8	45	47	2	4	-5	132	154
-1	0	4	151	180	5	1	-5	47	56	6	2	-6	42	47	2	4	-4	56	57
-1	0	6	179	187	5	1	-3	91	94	6	2	-5	34	40	2	4	-3	138	156
-1	0	8	117	114	5	1	-1	92	98	6	2	-4	38	41	2	4	-2	72	67
0	0	2	231	280	5	1	1	68	60	6	2	-2	30	30	2	4	-1	114	104
0	0	4	100	112	6	1	-7	71	80	6	2	-1	54	58	2	4	0	86	73
0	0	6	64	59	6	1	-5	58	71	-3	3	10	67	67	2	4	2	85	80
1	0	-2	152	185	6	1	-3	53	50	-3	3	10	84	75	2	4	2	85	85
1	0	2	145	120	6	1	-2	36	42	-3	3	10	63	64	2	4	3	20	14
1	0	4	54	48	-5	2	9	88	84	-2	3	6	135	142	2	4	4	60	61
1	0	6	73	71	-4	2	8	53	46	-2	3	8	93	92	2	4	5	26	25
1	0	8	55	57	-4	2	10	29	25	-2	3	10	46	43	2	4	6	38	38
1	0	10	48	49	-3	2	7	77	71	-1	3	4	82	87	3	4	-6	68	66
2	0	-4	64	61	-3	2	8	36	31	-1	3	4	29	24	3	4	-5	30	22
2	0	-2	129	118	-3	2	9	85	74	0	3	1	22	15	3	4	-4	101	102
2	0	2	162	162	-2	2	6	36	31	0	3	2	52	51	3	4	-3	37	33
2	0	4	108	112	-2	2	8	103	100	0	3	3	47	47	3	4	-2	96	94
2	0	6	63	66	-2	2	9	51	49	0	3	4	85	96	3	4	-1	72	62
3	0	-6	148	147	-2	2	10	37	37	0	3	8	82	83	3	4	0	78	69
3	0	-4	202	227	-1	2	4	106	129	1	3	-4	84	87	3	4	2	42	39
3	0	-2	189	180	-1	2	5	43	45	1	3	-3	42	42	3	4	3	69	76
3	0	0	126	108	-1	2	6	82	82	1	3	-2	128	158	4	4	-7	61	57
3	0	2	44	40	-1	2	8	69	47	1	3	0	220	221	4	4	-6	56	56
4	0	-6	84	80	-1	2	9	31	30	1	3	2	179	198	4	4	-5	102	107
4	0	-4	26	26	0	2	1	56	58	1	3	3	35	31	4	4	-4	45	43
4	0	0	57	51	0	2	2	118	131	1	3	3	129	136	4	4	-3	117	119
4	0	4	79	77	0	2	3	157	143	2	3	0	144	146	4	4	-1	107	98
4	0	6	64	65	0	2	4	74	76	1	3	6	75	74	4	4	1	71	71
5	0	-6	77	74	0	2	5	110	118	2	3	-5	36	33	4	4	2	27	25
5	0	-4	110	113	0	2	6	37	32	2	3	-4	147	164	4	4	3	36	35
5	0	-2	110	110	0	2	7	67	71	2	3	-3	48	44	5	4	-7	77	79
5	0	0	108	103	0	2	8	114	129	2	3	-2	173	177	5	4	-4	40	35
5	0	2	80	82	1	2	-2	121	148	2	3	4	32	29	5	4	-3	30	30
6	0	-8	92	94	1	2	-1	178	202	2	3	6	41	39	5	4	-2	34	31
6	0	-6	96	109	1	2	0	79	57	3	3	-6	64	58	5	4	0	30	31
6	0	-2	87	94	1	2	1	200	191	3	3	-4	20	8	6	4	-5	36	38
-6	1	9	68	46	1	2	3	34	31	3	3	-2	40	29	6	4	-4	27	28
-4	1	9	93	86	1	2	4	72	75	3	3	2	120	123	6	4	-3	43	46
-3	1	7	128	111	1	2	5	30	32	3	3	4	89	92	-3	5	7	69	64
-1	1	4	71	68	1	2	6	22	25	4	3	-6	91	87	-2	5	6	58	53
-1	1	6	69	68	1	2	7	144	170	4	3	-4	140	150	-1	5	5	106	120
-1	1	8	121	132	2	2	-4	20	16	4	3	-2	121	117	0	5	1	129	144
-1	1	7	80	89	2	2	-3	168	203	4	3	0	157	149	0	5	3	131	138
0	1	9	61	59	2	2	-4	98	82	4	3	2	69	69	0	5	3	131	138
0	1	1	143	165	2	2	-2	125	104	5	3	-8	85	87	0	5	5	75	79
0	1	2	64	51	2	2	-1	105	91	5	3	-6	101	106	1	5	-3	119	138
0	1	3	171	180	2	2	1	66	61	5	3	-4	86	85	1	5	-2	59	60
0	1	4	53	63	2	2	0	29	26	6	3	-2	68	71	1	5	-1	95	92
0	1	5	76	78	2	2	2	42	39	-6	4	8	27	26	1	5	0	76	62
0	1	6	74	73	2	2	4	32	31	-5	4	9	71	72	1	5	2	86	87
0	1	8	42	46	2	2	6	22	21	-4	4	8	50	48	1	5	4	69	68
1	1	-3	131	143	2	2	4	70	71	-3	4	8	63	63	2	5	-4	73	75
1	1	-2	99	99	2	2	5	65	61	-2	4	7	34	30	2	5	-3	39	37
1	1	-1	62	44	2	2	6	80	74	-3	4	7	100	100	2	5	-2	70	63
1	1	0	145	125	3	2	-7	24	16	-2	4	8	29	28	2	5	-1	110	97
1	1	2	90	83	3	2	-6	65	61	-2	4	9	45	45	2	5	1	110	109
1	1	4	54	56	3	2	-5	62	59	-1	4	9	30	34	2	5	3	85	87
1	1	5	86	84	3	2	-4	80	74	-1	4	8	22	23	2	5	5	54	54
1	1	7	79	77	3	2	-3	76	73	-1	4	6	60	60	3	5	-5	88	85
2	1	-4	71	70	3	2	-2	74	64	-1	4	8	39	38	3	5	-1	102	99
2	1	-3	65	56	3	2	-1	135	119	0	4	1	24	26	3	5	0	69	60
2	1	-2	120	108	4	2	-7	89	83	0	4	2	64	65	3	5	1	73	64
2	1	-1	183	161	4	2	-6	40	38	0	4	3	84	89	3	5	2	43	45
2	1	0	128	114	4	2	-5	98	96	0	4	4	27	23	3	5	4	32	37
2	1	1	193	184	4	2	-3	125	121	0	4	5	79	91	4	5	-7	62	67
2	1	3	150	154	4	2	5	62	66	0	4	6	65	72	4	5	-5	56	56
2	1	5	104	96	4	2	-7	89	83	0	4	7	22	22	4	5	-4	45	45
3	1	-7	117	111	4	2	-6	40	38	1	4	-3	91	102	4	5	-2	78	74
3	1	-6	37	44	4	2	-5	98	96	1	4	-2	50	52	4	5	1	54	55
3	1	-5	139	145	4	2	-3	125	121	1	4	-1	175	186	4	5	-5	59	62
3	1	-3	176	187	4	2	-1	128	129	1	4	0	65	53	5	5	-3	86	86
3	1	-1	190	182	4	2	0	76	75	1	4	1	183	192	5	5	-1	84	84
3	1	0	49	48	4	2	1	45	43	1	4	-2	50	52					
3	1	1	116	108	4	2	3	37	37	1	4	-1	175	186					
3	1	2	86	80	5	2	-7	96	97	1	4	0	65	53					
3	1	4	49	51	5	2	-6	51	50	1	4	1	183	192					
4	1	-7	100	103															
4	1	-6	48	53															

neighbours are, besides the closely associated water molecule, three fluorine atoms at  $2.71 \pm 3 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $2.85 \pm 3 \text{ \AA}$ , and  $2.87 \pm 3 \text{ \AA}$ , from two  $\text{SiF}_6$  groups. There are no other atoms closer than  $3.0 \text{ \AA}$ . The distances  $\text{F}_1 - \text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{F}_3 - \text{H}_2\text{O}$  are  $2.58 \pm 4 \text{ \AA}$ , and  $2.65 \pm 4 \text{ \AA}$ , respectively, probably depending on hydrogen bonding. The angle  $\text{F}_1 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{F}_3$  is  $110 \pm 1^\circ$ , close to the tetrahedral angle.

*Table 5.* Computer programs used for the crystallographic calculations. All programs written in FORTRAN IV.

No.	Program name and function. Computer.	Authors
1	DATAP2. Lp and absorption corrections. Preparative calculations for extinction correction according to Zachariasen's 1963-formula. IBM 360/751.	P. Coppens, L. Leiserowitz and D. Rabinovich, Rehovoth, Israel. Modified by O. Olofsson and M. Elfström, Uppsala, Sweden. Inclusion of calculations for extinction correction by B. G. Brandt and S. Åsbrink, Stockholm, Sweden. Further modifications by B. G. Brandt and A. G. Nord, Stockholm, Sweden.
2	DRF. Fourier summations and structure factor calculations. IBM 360/75.	A. Zalkin, Berkeley, USA. Modified by R. Liminga and J.-O. Lundgren, Uppsala, Sweden. Further modified by O. Lindgren, Göteborg, and by A. G. Nord and B. G. Brandt, Stockholm, Sweden.
3	LALS. Full matrix least squares refinement of positional and thermal parameters and of scale factors. IBM 360/75.	P. K. Gantzel, R. A. Sparks and K. N. Trueblood, Los Angeles, USA. Modified by A. Zalkin, Berkeley, USA, and by J.-O. Lundgren, R. Liminga and C.-I. Brändén, Uppsala, Sweden. Further modified by O. Lindgren, Göteborg, and by B. G. Brandt and A. G. Nord, Stockholm, Sweden.
4	DISTAN. Calculation of inter-atomic distances and bond angles with estimated standard deviations. IBM 360/75.	A. Zalkin, Berkeley, USA. Modified by A. G. Nord and B. G. Brandt, Stockholm, Sweden.
5	ORTEP. Thermal-ellipsoid plot. For crystal structure illustrations. IBM 360/75.	C. K. Johnson, Oak Ridge, USA. Modified by, I. Carlbon, Stockholm, Sweden.
6	PWF. Evaluation of intensities and indexing from film scanner output for Weissenberg and precession geometries. IBM 1800.	P.-E. Werner, Stockholm, Sweden.
7	ANP. Indexing refinement from film scanner output for Weissenberg and precession geometries. IBM 1800.	P.-E. Werner, Stockholm, Sweden.
8	SFALE. Film factors from common reflections. IBM 1800.	M. Leijonmarck, Stockholm, Sweden.
9	PIRUM. Indexing of powder photographs and least squares refinement of unit cell parameters. IBM 1800.	P.-E. Werner, Stockholm, Sweden.

Table 6. The first 25 lines in a Guinier powder photograph of  $\text{Hg}_2\text{SiF}_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{CuK}\alpha_1$  radiation).

<i>I</i>	<i>h k l</i>	$\sin^2\theta_{\text{obs}} \times 10^5$	$\sin^2\theta_{\text{calc}} \times 10^5$
v st	0 1 1	1905	1904
m	{ -1 1 1	2684	{ 2684
m	{ 1 0 0	3203	{ 2696
m	0 2 0	3264	3207
m	-1 0 2	3489	3274
st	1 1 0	4069	3498
w	-1 1 2	4300	4076
v w	0 2 1	4404	4310
st	0 0 2	5096	4411
st	-1 2 1	5210	5090
v w	0 1 2	6479	5213
m	-1 2 2	7532	6482
v w	-2 0 2	7614	7529
m	0 2 2	7667	7619
w	-1 1 3	8325	7674
m	{ 0 3 1	8843	{ 8320
st	{ -2 1 2	8914	{ 8331
st	-2 1 1	9905	8856
st	1 2 1	10080	8923
st	1 3 0	10492	9913
m	-1 2 3	10725	10080
m	-1 3 2	11266	10492
m	{ 0 1 3	11586	{ 10728
w	{ -2 2 2	11746	{ 10737
w	-2 2 1	12414	11261
w	2 1 0		11586
v w	1 1 2		11743
m	-2 2 3		12418

F—F distances within the  $\text{SiF}_6$  group are  $2.40 \pm 4$  Å. The shortest distance between the groups is  $2.88 \pm 4$  Å.

A comparison between bonding distances in the present structure and those investigated earlier (*cf.* Table 3) shows a good agreement in mercury-mercury bond length for compounds containing Hg—O contacts. The Hg—O distances and Hg—Hg—O angles found show that the size and shape of the nearly linear O—Hg—Hg—O group are independent of the character of the oxygen-containing ligand. Assuming the van der Waals radius of mercury to be 1.50 Å (half the shortest bonding distance in the metal) and that of fluorine to be 1.36 Å, the interaction between the mercury doublet and the  $\text{SiF}_6$  anion is weak. On the other hand, the Hg—O bond distance, although not as short as in  $\text{HgO}$ ,<sup>8</sup> is well below the sum of  $r(\text{Hg}^{2+})$  and  $r(\text{O}^{2-})$ , which is 2.44 Å (if  $r(\text{Hg}^{2+})$  is assumed to be 1.04 Å).

Thus,  $\text{Hg}_2\text{SiF}_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and the other mercurous compounds containing crystal water should be looked upon as ionic structures with an  $(\text{HgH}_2\text{O})_2^{2+}$  cation.

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