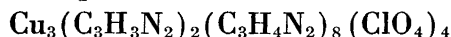


Metal Complexes with Mixed Ligands

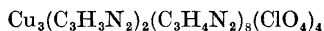
2. The Molecular and Crystal Structure of Catena-di- μ -perchlorato-[di- μ -imidazolato-diperchlorato-octa-imidazolo-tricopper(II)];



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The detailed crystal structure of catena-di- μ -perchlorato[di- μ -imidazolato-diperchlorato-octa-imidazolo-tricopper(II)],



has been determined using three-dimensional X-ray diffraction data collected with a linear diffractometer. The crystals are monoclinic, space group $P2_1/a$, with cell dimensions and the corresponding standard deviations: $a = 16.644 \pm 0.005$ Å, $b = 15.524 \pm 0.005$ Å, $c = 9.226 \pm 0.001$ Å and $\beta = 94.68 \pm 0.05^\circ$ at 25°C . There are two formula units per unit cell.

The structure is built up of tri-nuclear units, consisting of three octahedrally (distorted) coordinated Cu-atoms connected to each other through two imidazolato bridges. Each unit is centrosymmetric around the central Cu-atom. The tri-nuclear units are linked together through two perchlorate groups forming a chain running along the c -direction. The chains are held together by hydrogen and van der Waals-bonds. No hydrogen atoms could be located directly, but a reasonable hydrogen-bonding scheme was inferred from short O-N distances. The centrosymmetric copper atom (Cu_1) is coordinated to two imidazolato nitrogens (Cu-N; 1.975 Å), two imidazole nitrogens (Cu-N; 2.009 Å) and two perchlorate oxygens (Cu-O; 2.755 Å), and each of the two symmetry related copper atoms (Cu_2) to three imidazole nitrogens (Cu-N; 1.986, 1.987, 1.991 Å), one imidazolato nitrogen (Cu-N; 1.976 Å) and two perchlorate oxygens (Cu-O; 2.581, 2.930 Å).

At this institute crystal structure studies on metal imidazole complexes were started some years ago,¹⁻³ and during the same time aqueous equilibria $\text{Cu}^{2+} - \text{OH}^- - \text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2$ (imidazole) in 3.0 M NaClO_4 -medium have been extensively studied by Sjöberg.⁴ The main part of his investigation was carried out as a series of emf-titrations. In a typical set of these titrations, acid (Cu^{2+} , $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{N}_2^+$)-perchlorate solutions were titrated with OH^- , and the titrations were

mostly continued until precipitation occurred. The compositions of these precipitates were found to be different depending on the ratio C/B in the solution (B =the total copper concentration and C =the total imidazole concentration). Sjöberg found the following three phases:

Phase 1, formed by OH^- -addition to solutions where $C/B < 2$, consists of a light blue coloured microcrystalline precipitate. Attempts to obtain sharp X-ray powder photographs of this phase failed, but the composition could be determined to be $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_{1.60}(\text{ClO}_4)_{0.40}$. No imidazole could be found in the precipitate. Attempts to obtain crystals suitable for X-ray structure determinations are in progress (G. Ivarsson). The region of existence for this phase is determined by the equilibrium constant:⁴ $[\text{Cu}^{2+}]^5[\text{H}^+]^8 - [\text{ClO}_4^-]^2 = 10^{33.64 \pm 0.35} \text{ M}^{-1}$.

Phase 2 (blue-violet coloured crystals) is always formed from solutions with $C/B > 2$. In pure form phase 2 is best obtained when $4 < C/B < 8$. At higher ratios a mixture of phases 2 and 3 is formed. The formula of phase 2 was determined to be $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, and the crystals were found to be monoclinic with $a = 8.198 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 16.293 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 9.353 \text{ \AA}$ and $\beta = 125.81^\circ$. The unit cell contains two formula units and the space group is $P2_1/n$. At present we are collecting three-dimensional X-ray data for the crystal. The region of existence for this phase is determined by the equilibrium constant:⁴ $[\text{Cu}^{2+}][\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{N}_2^+]^4[\text{H}^+]^4 - [\text{ClO}_4^-]^2 = 10^{14.65 \pm 0.09} \text{ M}^3$.

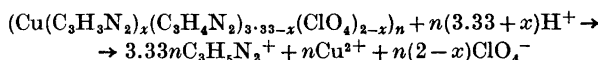
Phase 3 (violet-blue crystals) is obtained from solutions with $C/B > 8$ and $B < 1 \text{ mM}$. No solubility data for this phase could be obtained.

The aim of the present work is to present analysis results, crystal data and a complete structure determination of phase 3.

EXPERIMENTAL

Crystal preparation and analyses. The crystals used have been chosen from precipitations obtained by Sjöberg.⁴ In a typical preparation 1.40 ml of a solution with the composition: $[\text{Na}^+] = 3.495 \text{ M}$, $[\text{OH}^-] = 0.495 \text{ M}$, $[\text{ClO}_4^-] = 3.000 \text{ M}$ were added to 50.0 ml of a solution with the composition: $[\text{Na}^+] = 2.984 \text{ M}$, $[\text{ClO}_4^-] = 3.000 \text{ M}$, $[\text{Cu}^{2+}] = 0.80 \text{ mM}$, $[\text{H}^+] = 1.123 \text{ mM}$, $[\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{N}_2^+] = 12.89 \text{ mM}$. The solution was then allowed to stand in a thermostated room at 25°C . Within a few days, well defined dark violet prismatic crystals were formed.

The copper content of the crystals was determined electrolytically according to Kolthoff-Sandell.⁵ Confirmatory copper analyses were also made using atomic absorption methods. The nitrogen content was determined using the Kjeldahl⁶ method. IR-spectra indicated that the crystals contained neither H_2O nor OH^- . The Cu and N analyses gave the following results (in weight %): $\text{Cu} = 14.96 \pm 0.08$ and $\text{N} = 21.9 \pm 0.2$. This corresponds to 3.33 imidazoles ($\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2$) and (or) imidazolates ($\text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2^-$) per copper atom. In order to obtain the number of imidazolates per copper atom, we determined the uptake of protons when the crystals were dissolved in an acidic solution of known H^+ -concentration. The H^+ -concentration was chosen so that the reaction occurred according to the formula:



This determination gave a H^+ -uptake of 4 ($= 3.33 + x$) H^+ per Cu which gives $x = 0.67$. Thus the formula $\text{Cu}_3(\text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2)_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_5(\text{ClO}_4)_4$ could be established.

Crystal data and space group. From rotation photographs around the c - and b -axes and the corresponding Weissenberg photographs (zero, first and second layer lines)

taken with $\text{CuK}\alpha$ -radiation it was concluded that the crystals are monoclinic. The cell dimensions and the angle were refined from a Guinier photograph and the following parameters and their corresponding standard deviations were obtained:

$$a = 16.644 \pm 0.005 \text{ \AA}, \quad b = 15.524 \pm 0.005 \text{ \AA}, \quad c = 9.226 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}, \quad \beta = 94.68^\circ \pm 0.05^\circ, \\ V = 2375.89 \text{ \AA}^3.$$

By the flotation method (using bromoform and acetone) the density of the crystals was determined to be 1.77 g/cm^3 . With two of the above mentioned formula units in the cell the calculated density is 1.771 g/cm^3 .

Systematic extinctions were found for $h0l$, $h = 2n + 1$ and $0k0$, $k = 2n + 1$. This is characteristic for the space group $P2_1/a$ (No. 14).

Collection and reduction of intensity data. Single-crystal intensity data were collected and measured using an automatic linear diffractometer (PAILRED). The radiation was $\text{MoK}\alpha$ with a LiF -monochromator. The crystal used was an approximately rectangular prism with dimensions of $0.024 \times 0.018 \times 0.017 \text{ cm}$. It was rotated around the c -axis (parallel to the 0.024 -edge of the crystal) and intensities for $hk0 - hk8$ were measured ($\sin \theta \leq 0.58$). The half scan-intervals were: for all $hk0 - hk3 = 1.0^\circ$ and for $hk4 - hk8$ with $\theta > 22^\circ = 1.0^\circ$ and with $\theta \leq 22^\circ = 2.0^\circ$. Scan speed used was 0.5 degrees/min . Each reflection was measured only once. Background intensities, B_1 and B_2 , were measured during 20 sec (t_b) before and after each scan. The intensity, I_{obs} , for a reflection was calculated from the measured total intensity T (peak + background) by subtracting for the background counts B_1 and B_2 according to the relation:

$$I_{\text{obs}} = T - \frac{t_T}{2t_b} (B_1 + B_2)$$

where t_T stands for the total scanning time. Relative counting statistical error of each reflection, $\Delta I/I$, was calculated using the formula:

$$\frac{\Delta I}{I} = \frac{[T + t^2(B_1 + B_2)]^{1/2}}{T - t(B_1 + B_2)}$$

where $t = t_T/2t_b$.

A total of 5597 independent reflections were measured. Of these all with $\Delta I/I > 0.5$ were omitted. This reduction resulted in a final data set of 2674 observed reflections used in the refinement. When the refinement was completed the structure factors for the "unobserved reflections" were calculated as a check which confirmed that they all had low values. The intensity data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization factors and for absorption, the linear absorption coefficient was calculated to be 16.965 cm^{-1} . The absorption correction gave differences in the transmission factors of up to 6 %.

Computer programs used. The diffractometer data correction was made by a program written by the authors. The computer programs for Lorentz and polarization corrections, Fourier summations, and for the calculation of distances and angles were originally written by A. Zalkin. A modified version of a program written by Gantzel, Sparks and Trueblood was used for structure factor calculation and refinement of the structural parameters. Correction for absorption was made by a program originally written by P. Coppens, L. Leiserowitz and D. Rabinovich revised by Olle Olofsson and Mats Elfström. The computer program ORTEP⁷ was used to produce the stereoscopic figures. The computers used were CD 3600 and CD 3200.

STRUCTURE DETERMINATION AND REFINEMENT

The copper and chlorine atoms were located from a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis, and the other atoms were found by standard Fourier methods. The structure was refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques. Throughout the refinement the observed reflections were weighted with $\omega = 1$. The weighting schemes of Hughes and of Cruickshank⁸ were also tested but without improvements. The atomic scattering factors for Cu^{2+} , Cl^- , O, N,

and C were used.¹⁸ With individual isotropic temperature factors the refinement converged to a conventional R -value of 0.121. The refinement was then completed with anisotropic temperature factors for all atoms. This reduced R to a final value of 0.050. All parameter shifts in the final cycle were less than 10 % of the estimated standard deviation. A final difference Fourier synthesis was calculated in which no abnormalities could be detected. No hydrogen atoms could be located with certainty. The final atomic coordinates and vibrational parameters are given in Tables 1 and 2. A comparison between observed and calculated structure factors is reported in Table 3.

Table 1. The atomic positional fractional coordinates and their estimated standard deviations ($10^4 \times \sigma$ in parenthesis).

	x	y	z
Cu ₁	0.0000(0)	0.0000(0)	0.0000(0)
Cu ₂	0.8530(0)	0.2591(0)	0.3793(1)
Cl ₁	0.8170(1)	0.1386(1)	0.7772(2)
Cl ₂	0.9034(1)	0.4038(1)	0.0631(2)
O ₁	0.8743(4)	0.0789(4)	0.8385(8)
O ₂	0.8279(4)	0.2205(4)	0.8451(7)
O ₃	0.7389(4)	0.1050(6)	0.7944(13)
O ₄	0.8250(6)	0.1459(4)	0.6242(8)
O ₅	0.8566(5)	0.3444(5)	0.1397(8)
O ₆	0.8579(5)	0.4197(5)	0.9275(8)
O ₇	0.9747(5)	0.3609(7)	0.0242(12)
O ₈	0.9154(6)	0.4811(6)	0.1364(11)
N ₁	0.6897(4)	0.3387(4)	0.9180(8)
N ₂	0.5766(3)	0.4093(4)	0.9397(7)
N ₃	0.9268(5)	0.1721(5)	0.3073(9)
N ₄	0.9768(4)	0.0718(4)	0.1682(6)
N ₅	0.9412(3)	0.3164(4)	0.5024(7)
N ₆	0.0042(5)	0.3911(5)	0.6780(9)
N ₇	0.7783(4)	0.3471(4)	0.4484(9)
N ₈	0.7113(5)	0.4678(5)	0.4693(9)
N ₉	0.7596(4)	0.1971(4)	0.2805(7)
N ₁₀	0.6820(7)	0.0982(8)	0.1724(13)
C ₁	0.6580(5)	0.4142(5)	0.9625(9)
C ₂	0.5569(5)	0.3300(5)	0.8766(10)
C ₃	0.6285(5)	0.2858(6)	0.8618(11)
C ₄	0.9340(5)	0.1452(5)	0.1747(9)
C ₅	0.9990(6)	0.0527(7)	0.3080(11)
C ₆	0.9693(6)	0.1123(7)	0.3995(10)
C ₇	0.9355(5)	0.3508(5)	0.6297(10)
C ₈	0.0179(5)	0.3327(8)	0.4589(12)
C ₉	0.0556(6)	0.3816(8)	0.5720(14)
C ₁₀	0.7681(5)	0.4276(5)	0.3997(10)
C ₁₁	0.7206(5)	0.3336(5)	0.5437(10)
C ₁₂	0.6791(5)	0.4101(6)	0.5607(11)
C ₁₃	0.7579(7)	0.1126(7)	0.2463(14)
C ₁₄	0.6856(6)	0.2343(8)	0.2318(11)
C ₁₅	0.6371(6)	0.1704(10)	0.1673(12)

Table 2. The final vibrational parameters and their estimated standard deviations ($10^4 \times \sigma$ in parenthesis). Anisotropic temperature factors have been calculated according to the formula

$$\exp[-(h^2B_{11} + k^2B_{22} + l^2B_{33} + hkB_{12} + hlB_{13} + klB_{23})].$$

	B_{11}	B_{22}	B_{33}	B_{12}	B_{13}	B_{23}
Cu ₁	0.0023(0)	0.0024(0)	0.0063(3)	-0.0005(1)	0.0026(1)	-0.0020(1)
Cu ₂	0.0026(0)	0.0029(0)	0.0060(3)	0.0000(0)	0.0003(1)	-0.0031(1)
Cl ₁	0.0028(0)	0.0026(1)	0.0065(3)	0.0009(3)	-0.0003(2)	-0.0012(2)
Cl ₂	0.0035(1)	0.0044(1)	0.0076(3)	-0.0012(1)	0.0013(2)	-0.0014(2)
O ₁	0.0066(4)	0.0050(3)	0.0203(14)	0.0064(6)	-0.0074(10)	0.0004(10)
O ₂	0.0055(3)	0.0032(3)	0.0166(11)	0.0002(5)	-0.0013(8)	-0.0058(8)
O ₃	0.0038(3)	0.0096(6)	0.0480(26)	-0.0049(7)	0.0136(14)	-0.0188(19)
O ₄	0.0158(7)	0.0050(3)	0.0066(11)	-0.0013(8)	0.0059(12)	-0.0007(9)
O ₅	0.0085(4)	0.0073(4)	0.0143(13)	-0.0036(7)	0.0088(11)	0.0038(11)
O ₆	0.0087(4)	0.0070(4)	0.0124(12)	-0.0007(7)	-0.0031(11)	0.0039(10)
O ₇	0.0049(4)	0.0152(8)	0.0320(22)	0.0037(9)	0.0075(13)	-0.0071(21)
O ₈	0.0124(6)	0.0086(6)	0.0273(19)	-0.0108(10)	0.0046(17)	-0.0193(16)
N ₁	0.0035(3)	0.0048(4)	0.0131(12)	0.0026(5)	0.0038(9)	-0.0016(9)
N ₂	0.0031(2)	0.0029(3)	0.0094(10)	0.0010(4)	0.0021(7)	0.0011(7)
N ₃	0.0038(3)	0.0030(3)	0.0090(12)	0.0024(5)	0.0001(9)	-0.0035(10)
N ₄	0.0033(2)	0.0037(3)	0.0042(9)	-0.0002(4)	0.0015(7)	-0.0012(7)
N ₅	0.0028(2)	0.0039(3)	0.0080(10)	-0.0013(4)	0.0014(7)	-0.0052(8)
N ₆	0.0052(4)	0.0058(4)	0.0133(12)	-0.0015(6)	-0.0030(10)	-0.0065(11)
N ₇	0.0030(3)	0.0029(3)	0.0087(12)	0.0000(5)	0.0021(9)	-0.0011(9)
N ₈	0.0064(4)	0.0047(4)	0.0152(14)	0.0051(6)	0.0067(12)	0.0047(11)
N ₉	0.0040(3)	0.0043(3)	0.0066(10)	-0.0026(5)	0.0017(7)	-0.0032(8)
N ₁₀	0.0095(6)	0.0136(9)	0.0234(21)	-0.0135(12)	0.0122(18)	-0.0184(22)
C ₁	0.0031(3)	0.0048(4)	0.0115(14)	0.0011(6)	0.0043(10)	0.0018(11)
C ₂	0.0041(4)	0.0039(4)	0.0122(14)	0.0005(6)	0.0045(11)	-0.0016(11)
C ₃	0.0040(4)	0.0048(4)	0.0145(16)	0.0019(6)	0.0039(11)	-0.0022(12)
C ₄	0.0046(4)	0.0035(4)	0.0061(12)	0.0016(6)	-0.0002(9)	-0.0040(9)
C ₅	0.0068(5)	0.0067(6)	0.0088(14)	0.0075(9)	0.0010(13)	-0.0020(13)
C ₆	0.0071(6)	0.0070(6)	0.0071(14)	0.0069(9)	-0.0011(12)	-0.0037(13)
C ₇	0.0046(4)	0.0044(4)	0.0106(14)	0.0002(6)	0.0005(11)	-0.0057(11)
C ₈	0.0037(4)	0.0092(7)	0.0179(20)	-0.0041(9)	0.0027(13)	-0.0048(18)
C ₉	0.0049(5)	0.0083(7)	0.0244(24)	-0.0060(10)	-0.0036(16)	-0.0034(20)
C ₁₀	0.0047(4)	0.0039(4)	0.0122(14)	0.0011(6)	0.0043(11)	0.0005(11)
C ₁₁	0.0039(4)	0.0048(4)	0.0109(14)	0.0019(6)	0.0047(10)	0.0028(11)
C ₁₂	0.0048(4)	0.0058(5)	0.0150(17)	0.0035(8)	0.0058(13)	0.0038(14)
C ₁₃	0.0067(6)	0.0072(7)	0.0208(22)	-0.0059(10)	0.0003(17)	-0.0082(18)
C ₁₄	0.0041(4)	0.0107(8)	0.0125(16)	-0.0052(10)	-0.0015(12)	0.0016(17)
C ₁₅	0.0047(5)	0.0161(11)	0.0127(18)	-0.0113(12)	0.0052(13)	-0.0136(22)

DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION OF THE STRUCTURE

The structure is built up from coupled tri-nuclear Cu-units (complexes) which are connected through perchlorate bridges forming symmetry related chains directed along the *c*-axis. They are parallel per half unit lengths in *a*- and *b*-directions related with a mirror plane with glide *a*/2. Schematically

Table 3. Continued.

Table with columns labeled M, K and rows of numerical data. The table is organized into several vertical sections, each starting with a label 'L = 2' or 'L = 3'. Each row contains a sequence of numbers representing data points for different complexes.

Table 3. Continued.

H	K	H	K	H	K	H	K	H	K	H	K	H	K	H	K	H	K	H	K							
L*	5	7	1	344	342	-14	9	224	271	-7	3	285	233	-12	10	251	236	14	4	242	236	-2	9	242	236	
		6	1	369	348	-8	8	199	240	-8	3	145	147	-11	10	160	102	10	4	189	105	0	9	213	131	
		4	1	957	137	-17	8	229	195	-9	3	225	234	-8	10	191	172	16	3	213	226	-12	9	241	249	
		-8	6	163	114	2	1	455	455	-12	8	509	524	-10	3	596	553	-6	10	719	728	12	3	312	309	
		-7	6	125	108	-5	1	630	576	-11	3	176	201	-11	3	256	227	-4	10	246	238	11	3	314	336	
		-4	4	763	819	-8	1	589	595	-7	8	124	294	-14	3	309	349	-3	10	320	347	6	9	302	293	
		-3	6	332	344	-7	1	524	491	-6	8	366	401	-15	3	166	225	0	10	239	294	9	3	177	175	
		-2	6	569	562	-8	1	648	598	-5	5	254	181	-12	3	161	149	-2	10	154	193	6	3	254	322	
		0	6	461	376	-10	1	637	410	-4	8	250	272	-16	2	296	310	3	10	198	188	6	3	416	408	
		0	6	810	822	-11	1	672	645	-3	8	257	220	-15	2	186	173	6	10	176	132	5	3	610	634	
		2	6	335	341	-13	1	224	168	1	8	457	419	-14	2	252	236	8	16	195	211	-4	3	356	370	
		3	6	462	414	-14	1	181	188	2	8	401	368	-11	2	299	311	9	10	175	165	0	5	512	553	
		4	6	161	96	14	0	233	239	4	0	288	256	-10	2	339	302	15	10	118	78	-1	3	330	348	
		7	6	137	69	12	0	153	221	5	8	369	342	-8	2	901	888	-8	9	152	114	-2	3	110	111	
		8	6	404	413	10	0	215	211	6	8	163	162	-7	2	221	185	-4	9	118	46	-4	3	357	328	
		10	6	752	773	8	0	402	429	8	8	379	377	-4	2	258	247	-1	9	292	247	-4	3	428	413	
		13	6	162	137	6	0	1152	1116	10	8	316	327	2	2	128	121	-1	9	309	278	-6	3	162	173	
		15	6	143	244	2	0	292	258	12	8	192	198	4	2	629	604	-2	9	232	232	-7	3	434	435	
		-16	6	209	222	-8	0	927	914	13	8	312	291	-5	2	631	618	-3	8	192	133	-8	3	237	318	
		14	5	330	352	-8	0	1041	1014	15	7	234	250	7	2	230	219	-4	9	473	459	-10	3	166	161	
		13	5	264	268	15	7	226	210	8	2	176	219	-5	9	317	288	-11	3	311	299	-8	8	201	171	
		12	5	431	391	L*	6	7	291	293	11	2	291	317	-6	9	281	267	-9	1	155	160	-6	9	160	609
		11	5	204	133	9	7	343	356	12	2	360	382	-7	9	340	331	-13	3	304	331	-13	3	304	331	
		8	5	560	486	2	19	60	165	8	7	181	213	18	1	210	168	-8	9	395	392	-14	3	149	104	
		-7	5	154	127	8	18	141	64	7	7	209	303	14	1	291	312	-9	9	155	160	-9	9	155	160	
		6	5	369	364	-6	18	169	172	6	7	184	178	10	1	199	198	-10	9	244	221	-18	2	194	190	
		5	5	253	219	-3	18	160	64	7	7	582	609	9	1	476	444	-11	9	203	197	-15	2	187	223	
		3	5	649	616	0	18	207	192	2	7	286	277	8	1	275	286	-13	9	199	237	-12	2	338	368	
		2	5	544	529	7	18	172	135	1	7	140	98	7	1	199	219	-16	8	201	195	-8	2	267	492	
		0	5	193	208	11	17	226	178	10	7	228	244	-8	7	232	244	-6	8	198	216	-4	2	322	496	
		0	5	197	198	0	5	177	197	-3	7	261	302	3	1	368	355	-11	8	236	246	-6	2	448	924	
		-5	5	215	221	-1	17	184	165	-4	7	468	478	2	1	91	133	-10	8	291	299	-5	2	324	352	
		-5	5	439	452	-6	18	191	64	-1	6	191	704	-7	1	535	282	-14	7	164	231	-12	2	578	238	
		-1	5	282	248	2	16	207	194	-6	7	209	211	-7	1	267	268	-7	8	148	146	2	2	578	509	
		-6	5	591	586	-16	17	170	167	-7	7	410	392	-8	7	417	374	-6	8	207	176	3	6	417	426	
		-7	5	138	146	7	16	131	166	-8	7	161	166	-9	7	386	354	-7	6	236	219	-7	6	236	219	
		-9	5	532	334	10	16	182	164	-9	7	146	102	-10	1	347	470	-3	8	315	283	2	8	484	490	
		-10	5	513	517	-11	16	182	164	-10	7	185	411	-11	1	285	411	-12	7	236	219	-7	6	236	219	
		-12	5	474	496	3	15	301	345	-14	7	201	140	-12	1	131	115	-1	6	325	333	16	2	170	170	
		-15	5	158	116	-1	15	159	177	-16	7	149	139	-13	1	464	440	0	8	215	218	17	2	167	80	
		-16	5	306	313	5	13	238	229	-17	6	166	165	-16	6	174	162	1	7	158	132	1	6	158	132	
		-17	5	203	232	-5	15	208	227	-19	6	183	184	-20	2	242	209	2	8	151	152	10	1	183	200	
		-20	5	158	86	-6	15	251	181	-18	6	207	151	-18	0	374	431	4	8	358	339	9	1	249	284	
		-10	4	189	213	-7	15	208	217	-14	6	407	441	-12	0	317	219	5	8	257	233	1	1	257	233	
		-15	4	185	185	-8	14	286	293	-13	6	153	142	-10	0	169	149	6	8	137	154	6	1	473	459	
		-10	4	615	655	-9	14	277	277	-14	6	151	141	-11	0	151	141	7	4	151	141	7	4	151	141	
		-10	4	138	135	-4	14	138	139	-11	6	319	319	-4	0	299	273	9	8	132	76	4	1	190	149	
		-9	4	262	187	-2	14	491	471	-8	6	347	360	4	0	553	518	12	8	213	173	3	1	362	346	
		-8	4	486	496	4	14	486	496	4	6	565	624	6	0	650	624	6	7	226	68	-4	2	322	496	
		-7	4	538	523	1	14	229	241	-4	6	186	219	10	0	255	275	16	7	159	73	-8	1	483	491	
		-6	4	305	295	4	14	193	207	-3	6	233	232	12	0	199	201	10	7	240	223	-9	1	337	325	
		-5	4	377	348	8	14	146	166	8	6	232	244	16	0	275	325	3	7	184	214	-6	2	448	496	
		-4	4	309	286	12	14	163	62	0	6	576	541	6	3	668	696	-11	5	259	265	-11	5	259	265	
		-3	4	186	213	14	14	169	66	2	6	536	548	L*	7	2	381	374	-13	1	199	177	-10	5	137	85
		-2	4	1063	1052	6	13	123	165	-17	6	269	257	-3	19	197	99	0	7	537	552	-18	1	168	165	
		-1	4	291	289	5	13	286	319	7	6	259	257	-3	19	197	99	0	7	537	552	-18	1	168	165	
		-1	4	291	289	5	13	286	319	7	6	259	257	-3	19	197	99	0	7	537	552	-18	1	168	165	
		1	4	291	306	12	13	282	289	12	6	395	400	0	18	195	175	-3	7	700	643	-14	0	259	272	
		2	4	339	332	-1	13	352	368	13	6	256	221	2	18	175	95	-4	7	299	316	-14	0	259	272	
		3	4	96	86	-2	13	277	270	13	6	256	221	2	18	175	95	-4	7	299	316	-14	0	259	272	
		4	4	214	219	-3	13	242	265	11	5	353	355	9	17	176	31	-10	7	301	275	-10	3	301	275	
		5	4	116	168	-4	13	205	210	10	5	232	234	-12	7	158	45	-14	7	262	266	-8	0	864	869	
		6	4	682	688	-6	13	205	210	10	5	232	234	-12	7	158	45	-14	7	262	266	-8	0	864	869	
		8	4	607	583	-7	13	194	198	6	5	374	342	0	17	158	113	-17	6	152	224	2	0	116	180	
		9	4	155	125	-8	13	194	198	6	5	374	342	0	17	158	113	-17	6	152	224	2	0	116	180	
		10	4	165	172	-10	12	144	123	4	5	373	372	-5	17	223	174	-6	6	506	494	6</				

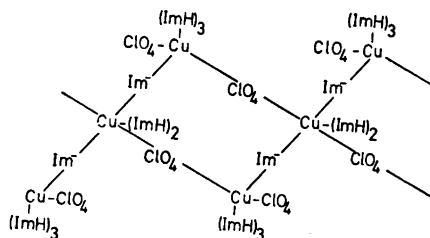


Fig. 1.

The symmetry related strings are held together by hydrogen and van der Waals' bonds. The molecular packing is illustrated in Fig. 2. In one formula

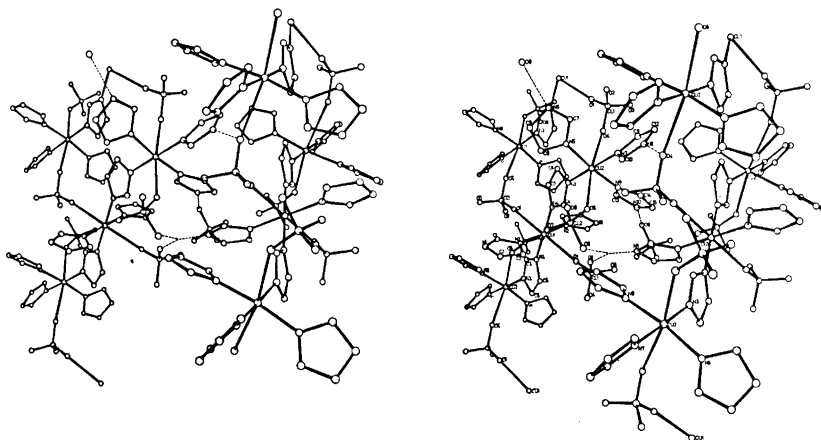


Fig. 2. Stereoscopic illustration of the molecular packing of $\text{Cu}_3(\text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2)_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_8(\text{ClO}_4)_4$ viewed along the *b*-axis. The labels C2 and C3 should be interchanged in the figure.

unit one copper atom (Cu_1) is placed in the center of symmetry. The other two copper atoms (Cu_2 and $\bar{\text{Cu}}_2$) are related to one another by this center of symmetry and each one is connected to Cu_1 through an imidazolate bridge. The other ligands, imidazole nitrogens, and perchlorate oxygens, give a distorted octahedral coordination around the copper atoms. The arrangements around Cu_1 and Cu_2 are shown in Figs. 3a and 3b, respectively.

The coordination around Cu_1 . The Cu_1 -atoms are surrounded by two imidazole nitrogens (N_2 and $\bar{\text{N}}_2$) and two imidazolate nitrogens (N_4 and $\bar{\text{N}}_4$) in an angular distorted square with sides 2.804(9) and 2.830(9) Å. Considering the symmetry the copper atom must be lying in the plane formed by these four nitrogen atoms; and the calculated copper-nitrogen distances are 2.009(6) Å (Cu_1-N_2) and 1.975(6) Å (Cu_1-N_4). The angles between coordinating directions are $89.48(25)^\circ$ ($\text{N}_2-\text{Cu}_1-\text{N}_4$) and $90.52(25)^\circ$ ($\text{N}_4-\text{Cu}_1-\bar{\text{N}}_2$). At a distance of 2.755(6) Å below and above this plane oxygen atoms (O_1 and $\bar{\text{O}}_1$)

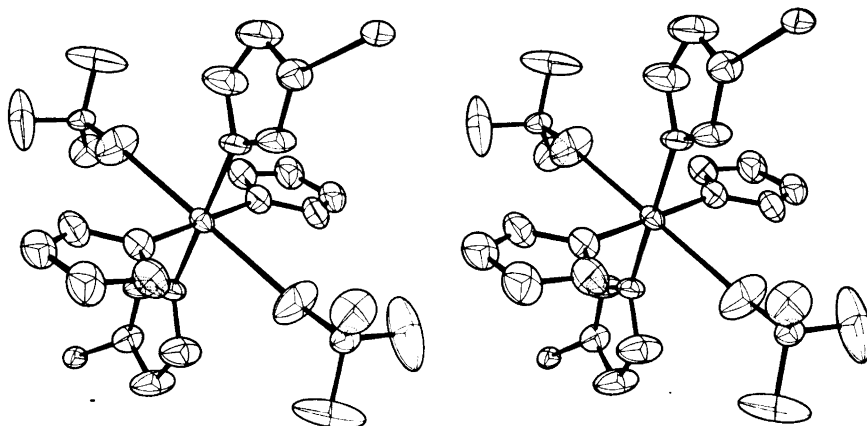


Fig. 3a. Stereoscopic diagram (viewed along the *b*-axis) of the Cu₁-coordination with thermal ellipsoids scaled to enclose 50 % probability.

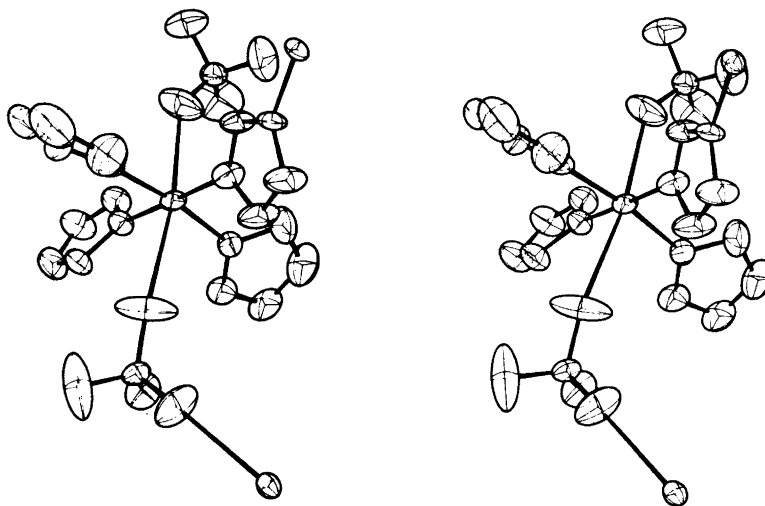


Fig. 3b. Stereoscopic diagram (viewed along the *b*-axis) of the Cu₂-coordination with thermal ellipsoids scaled to enclose 50 % probability.

from perchlorate groups are situated completing the octahedral coordination. The angles are: $O_1-Cu_1-\bar{O}_1=180^\circ$, $O_1-Cu_1-N_2=90.57^\circ \pm 0.23$ and $O_1-Cu_1-N_4=89.17^\circ \pm 0.24$, which means that the coordination directions from the copper atom are very close to those in a regular octahedron (Fig. 3a).

The coordination around Cu₂. The Cu₂-atoms are surrounded by three different imidazole nitrogens (N₅, N₇, N₉) and one imidazolate nitrogen (N₃) at distances 1.991(6) Å, 1.987(7) Å, 1.986(7) Å, and 1.976(8) Å, respectively. When the positions of these four nitrogen atoms are used to calculate a plane

of best fit (least squares) it is found that N_5 and N_9 are below and N_3 and N_7 are above the plane, all at a distance of 0.067 Å from the plane. The copper atom which is 0.053 Å above this plane is furthermore coordinated to two oxygen atoms O_4 and O_5 from perchlorate groups, the distance Cu_2-O_5 (O_5 above the plane) = 2.581(8) Å being much shorter than the distance Cu_2-O_4 (O_4 below the plane) which is 2.930(7) Å. The calculated bond angles (Table 4b) show considerable distortion from a regular octahedral coordination figure around Cu_2 . For example, the angles $O_4-Cu_2-O_5 = 169.83^\circ$, $N_9-Cu_2-O_4 = 84.00^\circ$, and $N_9-Cu_2-O_5 = 85.84^\circ$ which means that both the Cu_2-O_4 and Cu_2-O_5 bonds are bent towards the Cu_2-N_9 bond direction (Fig. 3b).

Cu-N bond length discussion. If we compare the distances from copper to imidazole nitrogens in the two types of octahedrons we find that the three distances Cu_2-N are all within less than one standard deviation from the mean value 1.988 Å and this mean value differs from the Cu_1-N distance of 2.009(6) Å by almost three standard deviations. Comparing the distances from copper to imidazolate nitrogens we find that the distances in the two octahedrons are almost equal namely 1.976(8) Å and 1.975(6) Å. The imidazolate nitrogens seem to be more strongly attached to the Cu atoms and the Cu-N distance is significantly different from at least the Cu_1 -imidazole nitrogen distance of 2.009(6) Å. This is also shown in catena- μ -imidazolato-chloro-diimidazole copper(II), $Cu(C_3H_3N_2)(C_3H_4N_2)_2Cl$ ³ where the imidazolate nitrogens bind to copper forming an infinite chain with $Cu-N(Im^-) = 1.963(5)$ Å and $1.986(5)$ Å and the distance $Cu-N(ImH) = 2.058(4)$ Å. If Cu-N(ImH) bond lengths are compared with Cu-N(amino) and Cu-N(peptide) bond lengths previously reported,¹⁶ the shortest distances are found for Cu-N(peptide) with an average of 1.92 Å. The average for the Cu-N(amino) bond distance is 2.00 Å while the Cu-N(imidazole) bond lengths range from 1.95 Å to 2.01 Å.

These differences may reflect the differences in coordination brought about in some complexes when the ligands are multidentate and in others when there are mixed ligands. In bisimidazolato-copper(II)¹⁰ the reported Cu-N distances range from 1.96 Å to 2.00 Å. In (glycyl-L-histidinato)copper(II) sesquihydrate¹¹ the distance Cu-N is 1.98 Å where N is the imidazole nitrogen in the dipeptide molecule which is chelating the copper atom. The distance Cu-N is 2.011(7) Å in (β -alanyl-L-histidinato)copper(II) dihydrate¹² where N belongs to the imidazole-ring of the peptide, which is chelating another copper atom. In dihistamino-copper(II) perchlorate¹³ the Cu-N(imidazole) distance is 1.985(9) Å and the histamine molecule forms a chelate with copper. Cu-N(imidazole) distances reported in three complexes of copper(II) with mixed imidazole and glycine peptide ligands¹⁴ range from 1.95(1) Å to 1.96(1) Å which are somewhat shorter than distances in the present work and the other comparisons (Table 4a). In the complexes given above it can be seen that the Cu-N(imidazole) distances can vary from about 1.95 Å to about 2.01 Å. It is reasonable to suggest that these variations depend on the differences in the surroundings of a copper-N(imidazole) bond and corresponding imidazole ring from one coordination situation to another, and general rules for the variations are difficult to find.

Table 4. Bond lengths and bond angles around the copper atoms.

(a) Bond lengths					
Bond-type	Present work $l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3)$, Å	Bond-type	Comparison values l , Å	Bond-type l , Å	
Cu ₁ -N ₄ (Im ⁻)	1.975(6)	Cu-N(Im ⁻) ¹⁰	1.96-2.00		
Cu ₂ -N ₃ (Im ⁻)	1.976(8)	Cu-N(Im ⁻) ³	1.986, 1.963		
Cu ₁ -N ₂ (ImH)	2.009(6)	Cu-N(ImH) ³	2.058		
Cu ₂ -N ₅ (ImH)	1.991(6)	Cu-N(ImH) ¹¹	1.977		
Cu ₂ -N ₇ (ImH)	1.987(7)	Cu-N(ImH) ¹²	2.011		
Cu ₂ -N ₉ (ImH)	1.986(7)	Cu-N(ImH) ¹³	1.985		
		Cu-N(ImH) ¹⁴	1.95, 1.96		
		Cu-N ¹³	1.95-1.98		
Cu ₁ -O ₁ (ClO ₄ ⁻)	2.755(6)	Cu-O(ClO ₄ ⁻) ¹³	2.617	Cu-OH ₂ ¹¹	2.458
Cu ₂ -O ₄ (ClO ₄ ⁻)	2.930(7)	Cu-O(ClO ₄ ⁻) ¹⁴	2.97	Cu-OH ₂ ¹²	2.483
Cu ₂ -O ₅ (ClO ₄ ⁻)	2.581(8)	Cu-O= ¹¹	2.943	Cu-OH ₂ ¹⁴	2.36-2.40
		Cu-O= ¹⁴	2.36	Cu-OH ₂ ¹⁵	2.461, 2.778

(b) Bond angles					
Angle	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$	Angle	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$	Angle	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$
N ₂ -Cu ₁ -N ₄	89.5(3)	\bar{O}_1 -Cu ₁ -N ₄	89.2(3)	O ₄ -Cu ₂ -O ₅	169.9(3)
N ₄ -Cu ₁ -N ₂	90.6(3)	O ₁ -Cu ₁ -N ₂	90.6(3)	O ₅ -Cu ₂ -N ₃	90.3(3)
N ₃ -Cu ₂ -N ₅	92.7(3)	O ₄ -Cu ₂ -N ₃	89.5(3)	O ₅ -Cu ₂ -N ₅	101.1(3)
N ₅ -Cu ₂ -N ₇	87.9(3)	O ₄ -Cu ₂ -N ₅	89.1(3)	O ₅ -Cu ₂ -N ₇	88.9(3)
N ₇ -Cu ₂ -N ₉	89.7(3)	O ₄ -Cu ₂ -N ₇	91.3(3)	O ₅ -Cu ₂ -N ₉	85.9(3)
N ₉ -Cu ₂ -N ₃	89.9(3)	O ₄ -Cu ₂ -N ₉	84.0(3)		
Cu ₁ -N ₂ -(C ₁ -N)	124.5(6)	Cu ₂ -N ₃ -C ₄ =	129.8(7)	Cu ₂ -N ₇ -C ₁₀ =	127.0(7)
Cu ₁ -N ₂ -(C ₂ =C)	127.1(6)	Cu ₂ -N ₃ -C ₆ =	122.9(7)	Cu ₂ -N ₇ -C ₁₁ =	126.3(6)
Cu ₁ -N ₄ -C ₄ =	130.6(6)	Cu ₂ -N ₅ -C ₇ =	126.4(6)	Cu ₂ -N ₉ -C ₁₃ =	125.5(7)
Cu ₁ -N ₄ -C ₅ =	125.0(6)	Cu ₂ -N ₅ -C ₈ =	124.7(7)	Cu ₂ -N ₉ -C ₁₄ =	125.7(7)

Comparisons			
Angle	Range	Mean value	No. in sample
Cu-N-(C=C) (present work)	122.8-127.0	125	6
Cu-N-(C=C) ¹⁸	121-129	125	14
Cu-N-(C-N) (present work)	124.5-130.5	127	6
Cu-N-(C-N) ¹⁸	121-131	126	14

Symmetry and bond lengths in the ligands imidazolate and imidazole. The dimensions of the imidazole rings are about the same as those found in other publications (see Table 5). In the imidazole ring N^a (symbols given in Table 5) should be chemically equivalent to N^b and C^a to C^b which gives a symmetry where we should have equal distances between C^c-N^a and C^c-N^b as well as between N^a-C^a and N^b-C^b. This is not found in the present work where the distances are significantly different: C₄-N₃=1.308(11) Å, C₄-N₄=1.348(10) Å and N₃-C₆=1.410(13) Å, N₄-C₅=1.346(12) Å.

Table 5. Dimensions of the imidazolate (Im⁻) and imidazole (ImH) rings.

Designation for the atoms in the ring
Corresponding atoms (see Fig. 2) in ring



	N ^a	N ^b	C ^a	C ^b	C ^c
1	N ₂	N ₁	C ₂	C ₃	C ₁
2	N ₃	N ₄	C ₄	C ₅	C ₄
3	N ₅	N ₆	C ₈	C ₉	C ₇
4	N ₇	N ₈	C ₁₁	C ₁₂	C ₁₀
5	N ₉	N ₁₀	C ₁₄	C ₁₅	C ₁₃

(a) Bond lengths

Bond-type:	C ^a - N ^a	N ^a - C ^c	C ^c - N ^b	N ^b - C ^b	C ^b - C ^a
Present work, ring	$l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3)$, Å	$l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3)$, Å	$l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3)$, Å	$l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3)$, Å	$l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3)$, Å
1(ImH)	1.389(11)	1.356(11)	1.362(11)	1.378(10)	1.392(12)
2(Im ⁻)	1.410(13)	1.308(11)	1.348(10)	1.346(12)	1.372(14)
3(ImH)	1.391(11)	1.301(11)	1.347(12)	1.359(15)	1.397(17)
4(ImH)	1.370(12)	1.334(11)	1.339(12)	1.369(13)	1.389(13)
5(ImH)	1.401(12)	1.349(14)	1.403(17)	1.346(19)	1.381(18)
Mean values	1.39	1.33	1.36	1.36	1.39
Comparison values					
Range in 15 samples ¹⁶	1.32 - 1.44	1.29 - 1.39	1.32 - 1.40	1.33 - 1.41	1.36 - 1.49
Mean values ¹⁶	1.37	1.33	1.35	1.37	1.39
Cu(Im) ₂ ¹⁰	1.370, 1.375	1.33	1.33	1.370, 1.375	1.39, 1.36
Cu(Im)(ImH) ₂ Cl; ³ (ImH)	1.401(7)	1.325(8)	1.375(9)	1.364(10)	1.385(9)
(Im ⁻)	1.402(12)	1.329(9)	1.333(9)	1.360(10)	1.365(11)
Free imidazole ¹⁷	1.38	1.33	1.35	1.37	1.36

(b) Angles

Angle type:	C ^a - N ^a - C ^c	N ^a - C ^c - N ^b	C ^c - N ^b - C ^b	N ^b - C ^b - C ^a	C ^b - C ^a - N ^a
Present work, ring	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$
1(ImH)	108.4(7)	108.2(7)	109.5(7)	106.5(8)	107.7(8)
2(Im ⁻)	105.9(8)	113.7(7)	104.5(7)	110.9(9)	105.2(9)
3(ImH)	108.8(8)	111.5(8)	106.3(9)	109.0(10)	104.6(10)
4(ImH)	106.5(8)	110.6(8)	108.6(7)	105.4(9)	108.9(8)
5(ImH)	109.0(9)	105.6(10)	111.1(12)	106.3(10)	108.1(10)
Mean values	107.6	110	108	107.5	107
Comparison values					
Range in 15 samples ¹⁶	105 - 113	107 - 114	105 - 109	104 - 110	106 - 111
Mean values ¹⁶	108	111	108	106	108
Cu(Im) ₂ ¹⁰	105, 106	114, 112	105, 106	108, 108	108, 108
Cu(Im)(ImH) ₂ Cl; ³ (ImH)	107.1	109.6	108.7	106.3	108.3
(Im ⁻)	104.9	112.9	106.3	108.4	107.6
Free imidazole ¹⁷	105	111	107	106	110

A reasonable explanation is that the perchlorate oxygens are bonded to Cu₁ and Cu₂ at different distances and impose a certain distortion to the imidazolate rings especially to the carbon atoms (steric hindrance). The planarity of the imidazole rings is shown in Table 6 where the planes of best fit are given. The distances of the copper atoms from the planes show that the

Table 6 (a). Planes of best fit (least squares).

Plane	Description	
1	Four donor atoms (N ₃ , N ₅ , N ₇ , and N ₉)	$0.1994x + 0.5706y - 0.7966z + 2.2371 = 0$
2	Imidazole ring 1	$0.1299x + 0.3963y - 0.9089z - 4.1761 = 0$
3	3	$-0.3076x + 0.8444y - 0.4386z - 2.5857 = 0$
4	4	$-0.6131x - 0.2861y - 0.7364z - 12.2853 = 0$
5	5	$0.4294x + 0.2193y - 0.8761z + 3.7478 = 0$
6	Imidazolate ring 2	$0.8403x + 0.5406y - 0.3972z + 14.1028 = 0$

(b). Deviations in Å from planes (max. standard deviation of the atomic positional fractional coordinates $xyz \times 10^4$ in parentheses).

Plane 1	2	3	4	5	6
Cu ₂ (1) 0.053	Cu ₁ (0) -0.122	Cu ₂ (1) 0.174	Cu ₂ (1) 0.037	Cu ₂ (1) 0.053	Cu ₁ (0) -0.117
N ₃ (9) 0.067	N ₁ (8) -0.010	N ₅ (9) 0.004	N ₇ (9) -0.027	N ₉ (7) 0.002	Cu ₂ (1) -0.376
N ₅ (7) -0.067	N ₂ (7) -0.005	N ₆ (9) -0.007	N ₈ (9) -0.013	N ₁₀ (13) 0.017	N ₃ (9) -0.002
N ₇ (9) 0.067	C ₁ (9) 0.009	C ₇ (10) 0.001	C ₁₁ (10) 0.025	C ₁₃ (14) -0.012	N ₄ (6) -0.006
N ₉ (7) -0.067	C ₂ (11) 0.007	C ₅ (12) -0.008	C ₁₁ (10) 0.019	C ₁₄ (11) 0.008	C ₄ (9) 0.005
	C ₃ (10) -0.001	C ₅ (14) 0.009	C ₁₂ (11) -0.004	C ₁₅ (12) -0.015	C ₅ (11) 0.005
					C ₆ (10) -0.001

copper atoms do not lie in any of the planes calculated. The way the planes are packed in the space is best shown in the stereoscopic drawings (Figs. 3a and 3b).

The surroundings of the nitrogens (hydrogen bonds). There are six different Cu-bonded nitrogens in one formula unit. These nitrogens are all surrounded by three neighbours, one copper and two carbons which form a nearly planar triangular arrangement (sp^2 -hybrid). The sum of the three coordination angles are for all nitrogens close to 360° .

N ₂	N ₄	N ₃	N ₅	N ₇	N ₉
359.90	359.92	358.45	359.87	359.62	359.98

The nitrogens at the other end of the imidazole rings are within hydrogen bond distances from perchlorate oxygens in symmetry related chains^{15,18} (Table 8, Fig. 2). A bifurcated hydrogen bond from N₁ to O₂ and O₆ seems very possible. The oxygen atoms which are in hydrogen bond contact to imidazole nitrogens are lying close to the plane of the corresponding imidazole rings. There are some short distances from copper-coordinating nitrogens to the

Table 7. Angles in the perchlorate groups.

Angles	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$	Angles	$\theta(10\sigma(\theta))^\circ$
O ₁ -Cl ₁ -O ₂	110.7(4)	O ₅ -Cl ₂ -O ₆	105.9(5)
O ₁ -Cl ₁ -O ₃	108.0(5)	O ₅ -Cl ₂ -O ₇	108.8(6)
O ₁ -Cl ₁ -O ₄	109.5(5)	O ₅ -Cl ₂ -O ₈	112.4(6)
O ₂ -Cl ₁ -O ₃	111.3(5)	O ₆ -Cl ₂ -O ₇	104.7(6)
O ₂ -Cl ₁ -O ₄	110.2(4)	O ₆ -Cl ₂ -O ₈	108.8(6)
O ₃ -Cl ₁ -O ₄	107.4(7)	O ₇ -Cl ₂ -O ₈	115.9(7)

Table 8. Hydrogen bonds.

Bond	$l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3), \text{Å}$	Bond	$l(\sigma(l) \times 10^3), \text{Å}$
$\text{N}_6-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}_8$	2.877(13)	$\text{N}_1-\text{H}\cdots\begin{matrix} \cdot\text{O}_3 \\ \cdot\text{O}_6 \end{matrix}$	3.059(9)
$\text{N}_8-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}_4$	2.944(11)		3.062(11)
$\text{N}_{10}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}_8$	2.978(15)		

Table 9. Short distances from copper bonded nitrogens to the carbon atoms of adjacent imidazole rings.

$l, \text{Å}$		$l, \text{Å}$		$l, \text{Å}$	
$\text{N}_3, \text{C}_{13}$	2.969	$\text{N}_7, \text{C}_{14}$	2.990	N_2, C_4	3.448
N_3, C_8	3.182	N_7, C_7	2.989	N_3, C_6	3.362
N_5, C_6	3.350	$\text{N}_9, \text{C}_{11}$	3.327	N_4, C_2	3.452
$\text{N}_5, \text{C}_{10}$	3.425			N_4, C_1	3.469

carbon atoms of adjacent imidazole rings (Table 9). These contacts may be formed through limited rotation of the imidazole ligands around a Cu–N bond to give a configuration of lowest energy.

The perchlorate groups and Cu–O bond discussion. There are two different perchlorate groups. One (I) is connected to both Cu₁ and Cu₂ and the other (II) only to Cu₂. The only significant difference between them is that one O–Cl bond distance in group II is 1.385(10) Å which is shorter than the other three 1.432(9) Å, 1.431(8) Å, 1.430(8) Å. This oxygen has the shortest of all hydrogen bond (O...H–N) distances to a nitrogen, 2.877 Å. In the perchlorate group I the O–Cl distances are 1.433(7) Å, 1.413(7) Å, 1.422(8) Å, and 1.423(6) Å (International tables¹⁸ 1.41–1.48 Å; Bonnet et Jeannin¹³ 1.40–1.44 Å). The angles are given in Table 7. Three of the four oxygens in both groups are involved in bonds stronger than van der Waals forces with other atoms but O₃ and O₇ are not.

There are three different Cu–O distances. The shortest distance 2.581(8) Å corresponds to a situation where the oxygen belongs to an unshared perchlorate group (II) and the distances 2.755(7) Å and 2.930(7) Å to situations where the oxygens belong to shared perchlorate groups (I). The difference between the last two values is due to the fact that the value 2.93 Å refers to the Cu₂-octahedron, where one perchlorate group is shared and one unshared, while 2.755 Å refers to the Cu₁-octahedron where both the perchlorate groups are shared. If the distances between the oxygens coordinating on either side of a copper atom are compared we find that (Cu₁–O₁) + (Cu₁–O₁) and (Cu₂–O₄) + (Cu₂–O₅) are both approximately equal to 5.510 Å.

The distorted octahedral configuration around a copper atom (mostly 4 short bonds and 2 long bonds) is in agreement with what is found in many other determinations and this behaviour is theoretically discussed by Orgel.⁹

Differences between the two longer distances within the same octahedron have also been reported^{11,12,14} (Table 4). The tendency towards a five-coordinated Cu(II) atom can be noticed for Cu₂ but the distance 2.93 Å is not long enough to omit a Cu₂-O₄ interaction.

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