

The Crystal and Molecular Structure of α -Xylose

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The crystals of α -xylose belong to the orthorhombic space group $P2_12_12_1$, with unit cell dimensions $a = 9.247(12)$ Å, $b = 12.666(10)$ Å, and $c = 5.635(9)$ Å. There are four molecules per unit cell.

The structure has been refined by least squares method. The refinement comprises 796 $hk0-hk5$ reflections, including 45 unobserved.

α -Xylose occurs in the conversion form $1a2e3e4e$. The carbon-carbon bond lengths are C(1)-C(2) = 1.531(6) Å, C(2)-C(3) = 1.529(6) Å, C(3)-C(4) = 1.515(6) Å, and C(4)-C(5) = 1.503(7) Å. The lengths of the carbon-oxygen bonds in the pyranose ring, C(1)-O(5) and C(5)-O(5), are 1.428(4) and 1.449(6) Å, respectively, and the other C-O bond lengths in the molecule are C(1)-O(1) = 1.393(6) Å, C(2)-O(2) = 1.415(5) Å, C(3)-O(3) = 1.418(6) Å, and C(4)-O(4) = 1.411(5) Å. The C(1)-O(5)-C(5) angle is 112.4(3)°.

In the crystal, there is a complete set of hydrogen bonds: O₁...O₂' = 2.743(5) Å, O₂...O₄' = 2.749(5) Å, O₃...O₅' = 2.808(5) Å, and O₄...O₃' = 2.687(5) Å.

A Fourier c -projection of the molecular structure of α -xylose was reported in 1958 by Woolfson.¹ The structure had been solved by means of direct methods.

At about the same time, and independently, the present author obtained the structure solution by systematic application of Sayre's equation.² Earlier, the structure of β -arabinose had been solved in this way.^{3,4}

The author has now, in understanding with Professor Woolfson, carried out a refinement of the molecular structure of α -xylose.

EXPERIMENTAL

α -Xylose, crystallized from a water-ethanol (1 : 2) mixture as orthorhombic needles, elongated along the c -axis. The crystals belong to the space group $P2_12_12_1$ with $Z = 4$.

The unit cell dimensions were determined from high-order reflections on $0kl$ and $hk0$ Weissenberg photographs, where sodium chloride powder lines had been superimposed for reference ($a_{\text{NaCl}} = 5.6394$ Å). A least squares procedure on 25 measured 2θ -values gave $a = 9.247(12)$ Å, $b = 12.666(10)$ Å, and $c = 5.635(9)$ Å.

The intensities of the $hk0-hk5$ and $0kl$ reflections were estimated visually from Weissenberg photographs, taken with Ni-filtered $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation ($\mu = 12.1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$). $0kl$ reflections from the zero layer about a were used for scaling only.

Lp corrections and absorption corrections were applied, the latter according to a procedure of Coppens *et al.*⁵ The dimensions of the intensity crystal was $0.2 \times 0.2 \times 0.4$ mm in each of the three axial directions. A grid of $8 \times 8 \times 12$ points was used in correcting for absorption.

The scattering factors used for carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen in the structure factor calculations were those given in the *International Tables*.⁶

The structure was refined by a full-matrix least squares procedure which minimizes the function

$$r = \sum W(|F_o| - K|F_c|)^2$$

with $W = [(Ka_1)^2 + (a_2 F_o)^2 / 4W_o]^{-1}$. W_o , in the weighting scheme, is an individual weight which is estimated from the assumed reliability of the intensity measurement. The constants a_1 and a_2 were in the present case set equal to 1.0. Unobserved reflections with $K|F_c|$ greater than F_o threshold were included in the refinement with $F_o = F_o$ threshold. Anisotropic temperature factors were applied to sulphur and carbon, and a constant temperature factor $\exp(-2\sin^2\theta/\lambda^2)$ was applied to the hydrogen atoms.

A final refinement cycle was carried out by Shiono's version of the full-matrix least-squares IBM 7090 program by Busing *et al.*,⁸ Hughes' weighting scheme with $F_{\min} = 1.0$ was used.⁷ All parameter shifts were negligible in this refinement cycle. The final R factor is 7.5% when unobserved reflections are included, and 7.2% when they are omitted.

Final atomic coordinates from the least squares refinement are listed in Table 1, and the temperature parameters in Table 2. The final list of structure factors is given in, Table 6.

Table 1. Atomic coordinates in fractions of corresponding cell edges. Standard deviations, referring to last digits, are given in parentheses.

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
C(1)	0.56916(48)	0.48652(33)	0.43950(92)
C(2)	0.64051(44)	0.39827(31)	0.29548(84)
C(3)	0.54617(46)	0.29911(30)	0.29027(78)
C(4)	0.39646(50)	0.32798(31)	0.20255(83)
C(5)	0.33537(51)	0.41665(36)	0.34888(102)
O(1)	0.56098(46)	0.45744(29)	0.67751(68)
O(2)	0.78339(35)	0.38082(26)	0.37632(71)
O(3)	0.61647(44)	0.22720(26)	0.13574(88)
O(4)	0.30547(33)	0.23878(25)	0.21814(67)
O(5)	0.42928(34)	0.50823(23)	0.34366(79)
H(1)	0.607(7)	0.560(5)	0.405(11)
H(2)	0.637(6)	0.429(5)	0.127(13)
H(3)	0.536(7)	0.269(5)	0.446(12)
H(4)	0.391(7)	0.346(5)	0.060(14)
H(5)	0.317(7)	0.406(5)	0.509(13)
H(6)	0.242(7)	0.450(5)	0.261(12)
H(7)	0.577(7)	0.531(5)	0.776(12)
H(8)	0.758(7)	0.369(5)	0.532(13)
H(9)	0.612(8)	0.187(6)	0.145(14)
H(10)	0.240(6)	0.231(5)	0.085(11)

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

It is found (*cf.* Fig. 1a) that α -xylose in the crystalline state has the conformation $1a2e3e4e$, which from Reeves' stability scheme⁹ possesses one instability unit against 4.5 for the alternative form $1e2a3a4a$.

Table 2. Temperature parameters β_{ij} for carbon and oxygen. The expression used is $\exp[-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + 2hk\beta_{12} + 2hl\beta_{13} + 2kl\beta_{23})]$. The standard deviations in parentheses refer to the last digits of respective values. All values are multiplied by 10^4 . For the hydrogen atoms, a temperature factor $\exp[-2(\sin^2\theta/\lambda^2)]$ was used.

	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
C(1)	97(5)	38(2)	193(17)	- 6(3)	-19(7)	3(4)
C(2)	77(4)	43(2)	175(16)	- 4(3)	4(6)	12(4)
C(3)	83(4)	35(2)	169(15)	- 3(2)	17(6)	5(4)
C(4)	98(5)	38(2)	151(15)	-15(3)	-17(7)	13(5)
C(5)	94(5)	48(3)	234(18)	1(3)	-19(8)	-15(5)
O(1)	148(5)	57(2)	204(14)	-28(3)	-19(6)	- 3(4)
O(2)	76(3)	57(2)	247(13)	- 6(2)	- 8(5)	40(4)
O(3)	120(4)	35(2)	403(16)	- 2(2)	95(7)	-20(5)
O(4)	95(4)	46(2)	259(13)	-26(2)	-37(6)	21(4)
O(5)	102(4)	32(2)	356(15)	9(2)	-44(6)	- 5(4)

Table 3. Bond lengths $D(ij)$ in α -xylose. The standard deviations given in parentheses refer to the last digits of the respective values.

i	j	$D(ij)$	i	j	$D(ij)$
C(1)	C(2)	1.531(6) Å	C(1)	H(1)	1.01(6) Å
C(2)	C(3)	1.529(6)	C(2)	H(2)	1.03(7)
C(3)	C(4)	1.515(6)	C(3)	H(3)	0.96(7)
C(4)	C(5)	1.503(7)	C(4)	H(4)	0.84(8)
C(1)	O(1)	1.393(6)	C(5)	H(5)	0.93(7)
C(2)	O(2)	1.415(5)	C(5)	H(6)	1.08(7)
C(3)	O(3)	1.418(6)	O(1)	H(7)	1.09(6)
C(4)	O(4)	1.411(5)	O(2)	H(8)	0.92(5)
C(5)	O(5)	1.449(6)	O(3)	H(9)	0.81(7)
C(1)	O(5)	1.428(4)	O(4)	H(10)	0.97(6)

Table 4. Bond angles $\angle(ijk)$ in α -xylose. The standard deviations given in parentheses refer to the last digits of the respective values.

i	j	k	$\angle(ijk)$	i	j	k	$\angle(ijk)$
C(1)	C(2)	C(3)	111.3(3)	O(5)	C(1)	H(1)	93(4)
C(2)	C(3)	C(4)	109.2(3)	O(1)	C(1)	H(1)	117(4)
C(3)	C(4)	C(5)	110.2(4)	C(2)	C(1)	H(1)	115(4)
C(4)	C(5)	O(5)	111.2(4)	C(1)	C(2)	H(2)	102(4)
C(5)	O(5)	C(1)	112.4(3)	C(3)	C(2)	H(2)	106(3)
O(5)	C(1)	C(2)	109.3(4)	O(2)	C(2)	H(2)	113(3)
O(5)	C(1)	O(1)	111.5(3)	C(2)	C(3)	H(3)	111(4)
C(2)	C(1)	O(1)	109.9(3)	C(4)	C(3)	H(3)	108(4)
C(1)	C(2)	O(2)	110.2(3)	O(3)	C(3)	H(3)	111(4)
C(3)	C(2)	O(2)	114.2(3)	C(3)	C(4)	H(4)	116(4)
C(2)	C(3)	O(3)	106.1(3)	C(5)	C(4)	H(4)	107(4)
C(4)	C(3)	O(3)	111.9(4)	O(4)	C(4)	H(4)	104(4)
C(3)	C(4)	O(4)	109.3(3)	C(4)	C(5)	H(5)	120(4)
C(5)	C(4)	O(4)	109.9(4)	O(5)	C(5)	H(5)	104(4)
C(1)	O(1)	H(7)	105(3)	C(4)	C(5)	H(6)	110(4)
C(2)	O(2)	H(8)	95(4)	O(5)	C(5)	H(6)	99(3)
C(3)	O(3)	H(9)	123(9)	H(5)	C(5)	H(6)	111(5)
C(4)	O(4)	H(10)	114(4)				

Bond lengths and angles for the α -xylose molecule, as derived from the coordinates in Table 1, are listed in Tables 3 and 4, and are, apart from those involving hydrogen, shown in Figs. 1a and 1b. The carbon-carbon bond lengths are in the range 1.503 to 1.531 ± 0.007 Å, and the cyclic C–O bonds, C(1)–O(5) and C(5)–O(5), are 1.428(4) and 1.449(6) Å, respectively. The anomeric C–O bond, C(1)–O(1), is 1.393(6) Å, and the C–O(hydroxyl) bonds vary from 1.411 to 1.418 ± 0.006 Å.

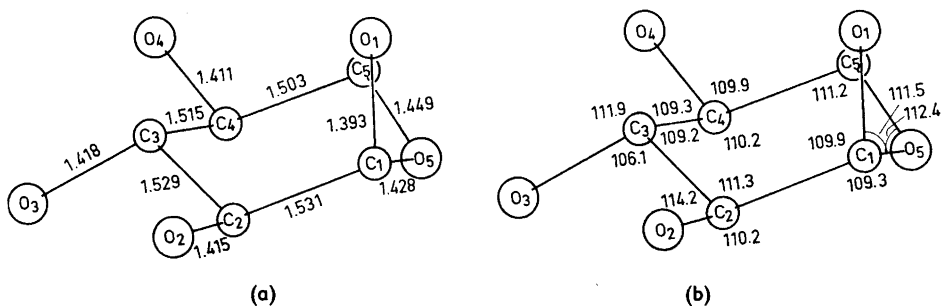


Fig. 1. (a) Bond lengths (Å) in the α -xylose molecule. (b) Bond angles (°).

The results from the present study may be compared with those from the studies of β -arabinose^{4,10} and β -lyxose.¹¹ So far, the structures of these three aldopentoses only have been investigated. A comparison of bond lengths in β -arabinose, α -xylose, and β -lyxose is given in Table 5. Two sets of bond lengths for β -arabinose are given. They are from the present author's investigation of β -arabinose by two-dimensional methods,⁴ and from Kim and Jeffrey's

Table 5. Comparison of bond lengths in α -xylose with bond lengths in β -arabinose, β -lyxose, and α -glucose.

		X-Ray diffraction			Neutron diffraction	
		β -Arabinose DL	α -Xylose	β -Lyxose	α -Glucose	
Anomeric C–O bond	C(1)–O(1)	1.382(12)	1.392(4)	1.393(6)	1.364(6)	1.389(6)
C–O(hydroxyl) bonds	C(2)–O(2)	1.454(8)	1.417(4)	1.415(5)	1.399(6)	1.415(3)
	C(3)–O(3)	1.426(9)	1.432(4)	1.418(6)	1.430(5)	1.415(3)
	C(4)–O(4)	1.431(12)	1.425(4)	1.411(5)	1.405(6)	1.425(3)
Cyclic C–O bonds	C(1)–O(5)	1.421(8)	1.434(4)	1.428(4)	1.435(6)	1.426(3)
	C(5)–O(5)	1.440(8)	1.447(4)	1.449(6)	1.422(6)	1.427(3)
C–C bonds	C(1)–C(2)	1.529(9)	1.532(4)	1.531(6)	1.538(7)	1.534(3)
	C(2)–C(3)	1.523(9)	1.528(4)	1.529(6)	1.528(7)	1.525(3)
	C(3)–C(4)	1.554(9)	1.533(4)	1.515(5)	1.509(7)	1.519(3)
	C(4)–C(5)	1.537(10)	1.515(4)	1.503(7)	1.525(6)	1.528(3)

in α -glucose (Table 5). The difference between the latter and the C(1)–O(1) bond length in β -lyxose is 0.025 Å, or 4σ . It has been suggested elsewhere,¹¹ that this difference may be related to hybridization effects.¹³ One should, in this context, also be aware that the anomeric C–O bond in β -lyxose is equatorial, while in β -arabinose, α -xylose, and α -glucose, it is axial.

The C–O(hydroxyl) bonds. The average length of the C–O(hydroxyl) bonds in β -arabinose, α -xylose, and β -lyxose, is 1.421 Å, as compared with the value 1.418 Å for the average length of equivalent bonds in α -glucose. The C(2)–O(2) bond length in β -arabinose, 1.454(8) Å from the two-dimensional study, and the C(2)–O(2) bond length in β -lyxose, differ by more than three standard deviations from the average length.

The cyclic C–O bonds are somewhat longer than the C–O(hydroxyl) bonds. From the X-ray studies (Table 5), the average length of the former bonds is 1.435 Å, and from the neutron study, it is 1.427 Å. There are no deviations greater than 3σ from the respective average lengths.

The values found for the C(1)–O(5)–C(5) angle in the different compounds may be mentioned in this connection. They are 112.4(3) in α -xylose, 113.8(4) in β -lyxose, 112.7(6) in β -arabinose, and 113.4(3)° in β -DL-arabinose. The average of these values, with weights inversely proportional to the respective standard deviations, is 113.1°, as compared with the value 113.8(2)° found for the C(1)–O(5)–C(5) angle in α -glucose.¹²

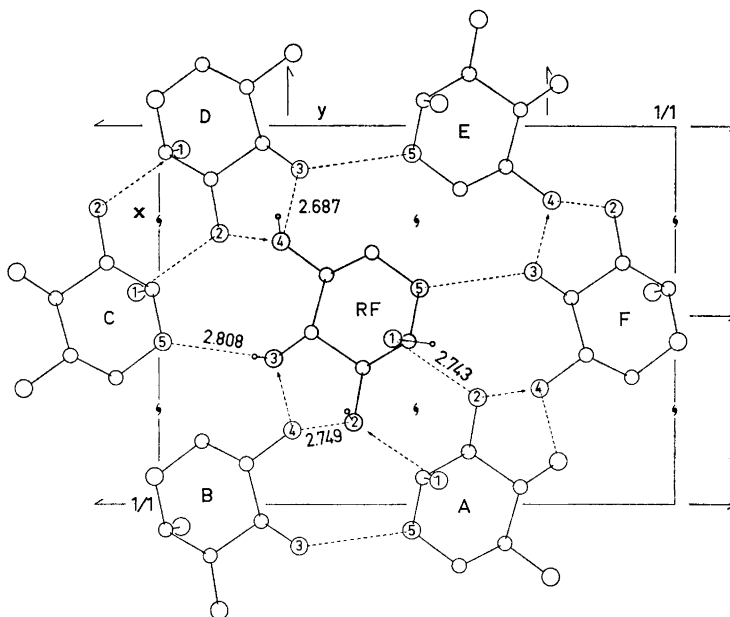


Fig. 2. The arrangement of α -xylose molecules in the crystal, as seen along the c -axis. The small circles indicate hydrogen atoms, and the arrows indicate that the atoms pointed at are situated one cell above or below. Atomic distances are given in Å units.

The C—C bonds in β -arabinose, β -xylose, and α -lyxose range from 1.503 to 1.554 Å (cf. Table 5). Their average length is 1.526 Å as compared with the average length, 1.527 Å, for the equivalent bonds in α -glucose. A C(sp³)—C(sp³) bond length of 1.526(2) Å has been proposed by Lide.¹⁴

The crystal structure. The arrangement of α -xylose molecules in the crystal, as seen along the *c*-axis, is shown in Fig. 2. Intermolecular O···O distances which correspond to hydrogen bonds are shown in the figure. The positions of the molecules *A*—*F* relative to the position (*x*, *y*, *z*) of the reference molecule *RF* are the following:

<i>A</i>	1.5— <i>x</i>	1.0— <i>y</i>	0.5+ <i>z</i>
<i>B</i>	0.5+ <i>x</i>	0.5— <i>y</i>	1.0— <i>z</i>
<i>C</i>	1.0— <i>x</i>	—0.5+ <i>y</i>	0.5— <i>z</i>
<i>D</i>	—0.5— <i>x</i>	0.5— <i>y</i>	— <i>z</i>
<i>E</i>	0.5— <i>x</i>	1.0— <i>y</i>	—0.5+ <i>z</i>
<i>F</i>	1.0— <i>x</i>	1.5— <i>y</i>	0.5— <i>z</i>

There is a hydrogen bond, 2.743(5) Å, between O(1) of the reference molecule and O(2) of molecule *A* (Fig. 2). O(1) of *A*, in turn, forms a hydrogen bond to O(2) of the molecule one cell above *RF*, thus giving rise to a helix of molecules about the screw axis in $x = \frac{3}{4}$, $y = \frac{1}{2}$. An equivalent helix is found about the screw axis in $x = \frac{1}{4}$, $y = 0$.

O(2) of the reference molecule forms a hydrogen bond, 2.749(5) Å, to O(4) of molecule *B*, O(3) forms one of 2.808(5) Å to O(5) of molecule *C*, and O(4) forms one of 2.687(5) Å to O(3) of molecule *D*. Thus, each of the atoms O(2), O(3), and O(4), accepts and donates a hydrogen bond (Fig. 2). O(5) accepts a hydrogen bond, and O(1) donates one.

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