The crystal structure of anthropogenic $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$, and a review of Pb-(O,OH) clusters and lead nitrates

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ABSTRACT

The previously unknown crystal structure of the basic lead nitrate $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ has been determined using single-crystal X-ray diffraction data (Mo-K α radiation, CCD area detector). The compound is orthorhombic, space group *Immm*, with a = 8.314(2), b = 8.545(2), c = 17.210(3) Å (R1 = 2.78% for 940 'observed' reflections with $F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$). The layered structure contains a previously unknown cuboid [Pb₈(OH)₁₂]⁴⁺ cluster and NO₃ groups. The study used crystals formed by anthropogenic processes on a medieval mine dump, probably involving black gunpowder used in the blasting of ore. Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) is associated with a second nitrate, Pb₁₃O₈(OH)₆(NO₃)₄, which was previously designated as "Pb₆O₃(OH)₄(NO₃)₂" or "Pb₃(OH)₅(NO₃)". It is rhombohedral, space group $R\overline{3}$, with a =10.263(1), c = 25.454(5) Å, and a structure solution is in complete agreement with an independent single-crystal study by Li *et al.* (2001). Probable hydrogen bonds in Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) are indicated. Reported data on [Pb²⁺₂(O,OH)₂]ⁿ⁺ clusters and lead hydroxide and oxide nitrates are summarized and discussed critically. The probable conditions of formation of the studied samples are evaluated.

Keywords: Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃), lead nitrates, crystal structure, cluster, review.

Introduction

RECENTLY, crystals of two Pb-rich basic lead nitrates, Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) (elongated tabular habit) and Pb₆O₃(NO₃)₂(OH)₄ (pseudocubic to pseudocuboctahedral habit), were described briefly by Walenta (1998) from the Alternannfels dump of the medieval Pb-Zn-Ag mining district Badenweiler, Black Forest, Germany (Schlomann and Steen, 1990). The identification of the crystals was based on X-ray powder patterns and microchemical spot test analyses which agreed with published data for $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ (Kwestroo *et al.*, 1967 and ICDD 22-661) and Pb₆O₃(NO₃)₂(OH)₄ (ICDD 23-1558, unindexed). The overall appearance of the matrix of the specimens carrying these crystals strongly suggested that (post?-)medieval fire-setting methods of ore extraction had subjected the ore-bearing matrix to elevated

* E-mail: uwe.kolitsch@univie.ac.at DOI: 10.1180/0026461036710086 temperatures (Walenta, 1998; *cf.* also Wittern, 1994; Kolitsch, 1997). Several other oxide, carbonate and sulphate minerals occurring at the Altemannfels locality are known to have formed either directly by these processes or in their aftermath, e.g. elyite, hydrocerussite, shannonite, litharge, massicot, minium, tenorite and possibly lanarkite and chenite (Schlomann and Steen, 1990). The origin of the two Pb nitrates was considered anthropogenic by Walenta (1998); he suggested that either black gunpowder (i.e. a nitrate explosive) or a nitrate fertilizer would be the most probable nitrogen source.

The pseudocubic lead nitrate compound has also been described as an unidentified compound from fire-setting assemblages in dump material of an old Pb-Zn mine at Bleialf, Eifel area, Germany (Graf, 1991) and of the Pb-Zn mine Churfürst Ernst near Bönkhausen, Sauerland, Germany (H.-W. Graf, pers. comm., 2000; see also Stieglitz and Metz, 1989). The occurrence of the compound in all these old mining districts strongly suggests that the use of a nitrate explosive is indirectly responsible for the occurrence of these nitrates. The use of explosives in the mining districts of the Black Forest was introduced soon after 1623, when this technique was first used in the mines of the Harz mountains in northern Germany.

The Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) compound was characterized in some detail by Kwestroo et al. (1967) during a laboratory study of the system Pb(NO₃)₂-Pb(OH)₂, in which four phases with Pb(NO₃)₂:Pb(OH)₂ ratios of 1:1, 2:5, 1:3 and 1:5 were detected. The 1:3 compound, i.e. Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃), only crystallized from dilute solutions and was found to be insoluble in hot water. Its X-ray powder pattern was initially indexed with the orthorhombic cell a = 4.310, b =4.286, c = 4.164 Å, but Kwestroo *et al.* (1967) noted that this cell indexes only the strong reflections and assumed the presence of a superstructure caused by the specific arrangement of non-Pb atoms. Several other hydrated Pb nitrates have been reported subsequently (see Discussion), but the atomic arrangement has been reported for only two of them before the present work was started: monoclinic [Pb₄(OH)₄](NO₃)₄ (Grimes et al., 1995; formula in previous publications generally given as Pb₂(OH)₂(NO₃)₂ or $Pb(OH)(NO_3)$) and orthorhombic $Pb_3O_2(OH)(NO_3)$ (Krivovichev et al., 2001). The structure of a related Pb carbonate-nitrate, $[Pb_6O_4](OH)(NO_3)(CO_3)$, was recently reported by Li et al. (2001).

The present work reports and discusses the previously unknown crystal structure of $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$, based on single-crystal studies of the anthropogenic samples from the Black Forest (Walenta, 1998). The crystal structure of the pseudocubic lead nitrate described by Walenta (1998) was also solved during the present study $(Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$, space group $R\overline{3}$, a =10.263(1), c = 25.454(5) Å, V = 2321.9(6) Å³, R1 = 4.38%), but the results will not be reported here since they show complete agreement with those of a very recent, independent structure determination using a hydrothermally synthesized crystal (Li *et al.*, 2001; a = 10.283(1), c =25.471(4) Å, V = 2331.6(5) Å³). However, some physical properties of anthropogenic $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$ will be described, and comments will be made on the fact that the compound is identical to " $Pb_6O_3(OH)_4(NO_3)_2$ " and "Pb₃(OH)₅(NO₃)" reported in the literature, a point not addressed by Li et al. (2001). Pb13O8(OH)6(NO3)4 contains a unique, ballshaped [Pb₁₃O₈(OH)₆]⁴⁺ cluster previously

unknown from oxidic Pb compounds; this cluster is characterized by a near-icosahedral arrangement of two non-equivalent Pb atoms around a third Pb atom at the centre of the cluster. In the present contribution, comparisons are drawn between the atomic arrangement in Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) and in related structures, and the published reports on $[Pb_x^{2+}(O,OH)_y]^{n+}$ clusters and Pb nitrate compounds are summarized and discussed critically. The probable conditions of formation of the anthropogenic samples studied are also addressed.

Experimental

Characterization of the samples

The present study used several samples from the Alternannfels dump (see introduction), kindly provided by Mr R. Bayerl of Stuttgart, Germany and Mr. H.-W. Graf of Niederzier-Ellen, Germany. The first compound, Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃), appears as colourless to whitish, transparent to translucent, approximately ruler-shaped crystals. They are up to 1 mm long. Optically, $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ is biaxial positive, with small 2V, relatively high birefringence and no discernible dispersion of the optical axes. The crystals show straight extinction and negative elongation. Based on the orthorhombic description (see below), the tabular form is $\{001\}$ and the crystals are elongated along [100]. On {001} a weak striation parallel to [100] is seen. Cleavages were observed parallel to $\{010\}$, $\{100\}$ and $\{001\}(?)$. The optical orientation is X = a, Y = b, Z = c(orientation of crystal axes were derived from single-crystal X-ray studies – see below). The second, pseudocubic to pseudo-cuboctahedral compound, designated as $Pb_6O_3(NO_3)_2(OH)_4$ (Walenta, 1998), but found to be $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$ in the present study, forms sharp, transparent colourless to pale yellowish crystals up to ~0.3 mm in size. Morphological studies showed that the pseudo-cuboctahedral habit of the crystals is the result of a combination of one positive rhombohedron and its negative counterpart, and generally small, triangular {001} faces. No distinct cleavage was observed. Optically, Pb₁₃O₈(OH)₆(NO₃)₄ is uniaxial negative, with medium-strong birefringence. The latter is explained by the orientation of both NO₃ groups parallel to (001) (Li et al., 2001 and present study). No recognizable twinning features were present in either compound. Semi-quantitative energy-dispersive X-ray analyses of both compounds showed only Pb to be present; no other elements with Z > 10 were detectable.

Both nitrates are grown on quartz or within the hollow centres of strongly corroded galena blebs in a quartz matrix. The major phases accompanying the two nitrates are acicular violet elyite, $Pb_4Cu(SO_4)O_2(OH)_4$ ·H₂O (Kolitsch and Giester, 2000), and scaly whitish hydrocerussite, $Pb_3(CO_3)_2(OH)_2$. On one specimen, an acicular elyite pierces crystals of the pseudocubic compound, indicating more or less simultaneous growth. The samples studied here also contain some massive reddish Pb oxides (not X-rayed) forming pseudomorphs after unidentified precursor phases grown within the quartz matrix, and rarely greenish pyromorphite.

X-ray crystallography

Several small fragments of tabular $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ crystals were mounted on a

Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer equipped with a 300 µm diameter capillary-optics collimator to provide increased resolution. Preliminary studies showed a high crystal quality and consistently yielded an *I*-centred orthorhombic cell with a =8.31, b = 8.55, c = 17.2 Å. For the intensity data collection, a full sphere of reciprocal space was measured from a suitably sized fragment (see Table 1 for details). The measured intensity data were processed with the Nonius program suite DENZO-SMN and corrected for Lorentz, polarization, background and absorption effects. Because the structure solution soon proved to be a challenge, two additional crystal fragments of different scattering volumes were also measured but gave comparable datasets.

The crystal structure was solved by direct methods (SHELXS-97, Sheldrick, 1997*a*) and subsequent Fourier and difference Fourier syntheses, followed by full-matrix least-squares refinements on F^2 (SHELXL-97, Sheldrick, 1997*b*) (see

TABLE 1. Crystal data, data collection information and refinement details for Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃).

Crystal data Formula Space group <i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å) V (Å ³), <i>Z</i> $F(000)$, ρ_{calc} (g cm ⁻³) μ (mm ⁻¹) Absorption correction Crystal dimensions (mm)	Pb ₂ (OH) ₃ (NO ₃) Immm 8.314(2), 8.545(2), 17.210(3) 1222.7(5), 8 1776, 5.73 54.97 multi-scan* 0.03 × 0.05 × 0.07
Data Collection Diffractometer T (K), λ (Mo- $K\alpha$) (Å) Crystal-detector dist. (mm) Rotation axis; rot. width (°) Total no. of frames Collect. time per frame (s) Collection mode; $2\theta_{max}$ h, k, l ranges Total reflections measured Unique reflections	Nonius KappaCCD system 293, 0.71073 28 $\varphi, \omega; 2.0$ 461 125 triclinic, sphere; 60 -11 \Rightarrow 11, -12 \Rightarrow 12, -24 \Rightarrow 24 7077 1032 (R_{int} 5.48%)
Refinement $R1(F)$, $wR2(F^2)**$ 'Observed' reflections Extinct. coefficient No. of refined parameters GoF; $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max}$ $\Delta\rho_{min}$, $\Delta\rho_{max}$ (e/Å ³)	2.78%, 7.45% 940 $[F_{o} > 4\sigma(F_{o})]$ 0.00138(7) 57 1.230; 0.001 -3.05, 2.38

* Otwinowski and Minor (1997)

** w = $1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.03P)^2 + 11.4P]$, where P = ([max of (0 or $F_o^2)] + 2F_c^2)/3$

U. KOLITSCH AND E. TILLMANNS

Atom	x	У	Z	$U_{ m eq}$
Pb	-0.24201(3)	0.23782(3)	0.376017(9)	0.01715(14)
N(1)	-0.5	0.5	0.2720(5)	0.0203(18)
N(2)	0.0	0.5	0.2789(6)	0.024(2)
O(1)	-0.6310(7)	0.5	0.2360(3)	0.0300(13)
O(2)	-0.5	0.5	0.3451(5)	0.032(2)
O(3)	0.0	0.3740(7)	0.2440(3)	0.0312(14)
O(4)	0.0	0.5	0.3530(5)	0.039(2)
OH(5)	0.0	0.1592(6)	0.4231(3)	0.0188(10)
OH(6)	-0.3325(6)	0.0	0.4197(3)	0.0180(10)
OH(7)	-0.3109(7)	0.3277(6)	0.5	0.0229(11)

TABLE 2. Fractional atomic coordinates and displacement parameters for Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃).

Oxygens of hydroxyl groups are designated as OH.

Table 1 for details). Analysis of the measured data of the tabular Pb nitrate indicated the centrosymmetric space group Immm. However, a solution of the structure in space group Immm was only partially successful; although all Pb atoms could be found, not all N and O atoms were located, high residual electron densities were present close to some Pb positions, some unreasonably short O-O distances were obtained, anisotropic refinement was impossible and severe damping was necessary. The R1 value was always >8%. After similarly unsatisfactory trial solutions in Imm2, 1222, 1212121, C2/m, Cm and C2 (Ccentred monoclinic cell with a = 19.113(4), b =8.545(2), c = 8.314(2) Å, $\beta = 115.79(3)^{\circ}$, equivalent to the orthorhombic cell), and, finally, in $P\overline{1}$ (triclinic cell with a = 8.314(2), b = 8.545(2), c = 10.467(2) Å, $\alpha = 114.08(3), \beta =$ 113.40(3), $\gamma = 90.00(3)^{\circ}$, representing the cell with the lowest possible Bravais symmetry), the structure could be solved and smoothly refined in

space group P1 to R1 = 3.95%. However, a search for higher symmetry with the ADDSYM module in the PLATON program suite (Spek, 2001) again indicated the space group Immm. Furthermore, the value of the refined Flack parameter, 0.49(2), pointed to the possibility of a centrosymmetric structure although no clear indication for the presence or absence of a centre of symmetry was obtainable from intensity statistics (these are known to be inconclusive especially in the presence of heavy atoms). At last, after some considerations of allowed space-group symmetries it was concluded that the two special 8-fold Pb positions detected in the initial trial solution in Immm were in fact representing only one general 16-fold Pb position, and subsequent manual recalculations of the atomic coordinates, involving an origin shift, provided a correct set of atoms. In the last step of refinement in Immm, all atoms were treated anisotropically and the final residuals were R1 = 2.78% and wR2 = 7.45% for

TABLE 3. Anisotropic displacement parameters for Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃).

Atom	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{23}	U_{13}	U_{12}
Pb	0.01703(19)	0.01762(19)	0.0168(2)	0.00281(6)	-0.00137(6)	0.00121(6)
N(1)	0.015(4)	0.030(5)	0.016(4)	0.0	0.0	0.0
N(2)	0.018(4)	0.024(5)	0.032(5)	0.0	0.0	0.0
O(1)	0.026(3)	0.031(3)	0.033(3)	0.0	-0.007(3)	0.0
O(2)	0.033(5)	0.047(6)	0.017(4)	0.0	0.0	0.0
O(3)	0.034(3)	0.027(3)	0.033(3)	-0.009(3)	0.0	0.0
O(4)	0.062(7)	0.024(5)	0.029(4)	0.0	0.0	0.0
OH(5)	0.017(2)	0.021(3)	0.019(2)	0.003(2)	0.0	0.0
OH(6)	0.018(2)	0.015(2)	0.021(2)	0.0	0.001(2)	0.0
OH(7)	0.032(3)	0.018(3)	0.018(2)	0.0	0.0	0.003(2)

940 reflections with $F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$ and 57 parameters (Table 1). Hydrogen atoms could not be located. All the largest residual peaks in the final electron density map were close to Pb atoms. The final positional and displacement parameters are given in Tables 2 and 3. Selected bond lengths, angles, calculated bond-valences and probable hydrogen bonds are presented in Table 4. A list of observed and calculated structure factors (Table 5) has been deposited with the Principal Editor of *Mineralogical Magazine* and is available upon request from him or from the Mineralogical Society website (http://www.minersoc.org/pages/e_journals/ dep mat.htp).

As a footnote, we point out that, after data collection of the $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$ crystal, the originally pale yellowish crystal colour had turned into a brownish orange, without loss of transparency. However, no decay of the crystal quality during the measurement was noted. The brownish orange colour did not change within a period of several months. In contrast, in the case of

 $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$, the colours of the three measured crystal fragments were unchanged after the respective data collections. Identical unit cells were obtained from the measured, brownish orange $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$ crystal and from other, colourless or pale yellowish crystals removed from additional specimens from the same locality (Alternannfels dump) and from two other localities [Bleialf and Bönkhausen (see introduction)].

Results and discussion

The structure of Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃)

The crystal structure of $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ contains one Pb atom, two non-equivalent N atoms, seven non-equivalent O atoms and three H atoms, which could not be located in the asymmetric unit. All atoms except Pb are in special positions, a fact that certainly explains the difficulties encountered during the structure solution. As calculated bondvalence sums for the three O atoms OH(5), OH(6) and OH(7) amount to 1.07, 1.02 and 0.92 v.u.

TABLE 4. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°), calculated bond valence sums (v.u.) and probable hydrogen bonds for the coordination polyhedra in $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$.

Pb - OH(5)	2.271(2)	0.533	N(1) - O(1)	$\times 2$	1.253(7)	1.622×2
-OH(6)	2.294(2)	0.509	-O(2)		1.258(11)	1.600
-OH(7)	2.339(2)	0.464	<n(1)-o></n(1)-o>		1.255	4.84 v.u.
-O(1)	2.950(4)	0.133				
-O(4)	3.0371(13)	0.112	N(2) - O(3)	$\times 2$	1.233(7)	1.712×2
-O(3)	3.127(4)	0.093	-O(4)		1.276(13)	1.524
-O(2)	3.1468(15)	0.089	<n(2)-o></n(2)-o>		1.247	4.95 v.u.
-O(3)	3.251(5)	0.072				
<pb-o></pb-o>	2.30 ± 3.10	2.01 v.u.				
	([3+5]-coord.)					
Bond-valence su	ms for O atoms O	–OH7 are 1.62,	1.60, 1.71, 1.52,	1.07, 1	.02 and 0.92 v.u	i., respectively

O(1) - N(1) - O(1)	120.7(9)	O(3) - N(2) - O(3)	121.7(10)
$O(1) - N(1) - O(2) \times 2$	119.6(5)	$O(2) - N(2) - O(4) \times 2$	119.2(5)
<o-n(1)-o></o-n(1)-o>	120	<o-n(2)-o></o-n(2)-o>	120

	Probab	ole hydrogen bonds		
Intracluster bonds		Intercluster bonds		
$OH(5) \cdots OH(5)$	2.647(9)*	bonds along a		
$OH(5) \cdots OH(5)$	2.722(10)**	$OH(6) \cdots OH(6)$	2.785(10)	
$OH(5)\cdots OH(6)$	3.082(5)	$OH(7) \cdots OH(7)$	3.144(11)	
$OH(6) \cdots OH(6)$	2.763(9)			
OH(6)····OH(7)	3.128(5)	bonds along b		
		OH(7)···OH(7)	2.945(10)	

The bond-valence parameters used are from Brese and O'Keeffe (1991) (for N^{5+} –O bonds) and from Krivovichev and Brown (2001) (for Pb^{2+} –O bonds).

* bond along [001]; ** bond along [010]

(valence units), respectively, they all represent OH groups. The dominant component in the structure is a previously unknown $[Pb_8(OH)_{12}]^{4+}$ cluster which has eight equivalent Pb atoms at the corners of a fairly regular "Pb₈" cube (Fig. 1). The OH groups forming part of the cluster can be considered as the centres of kinked Pb-OH-Pb struts connecting the eight Pb atoms along the edges of the "Pb₈" cube (Fig. 1). Thus, each Pb atom is strongly bonded to three OH groups, OH(5), OH(6) and OH(7), at distances within a narrow range from 2.271(2) to 2.339(2) Å (Table 4).

The Pb atom also has five more remote O neighbours within 3.26 Å (Table 4). This coordination demonstrates that the $6s^2$ lone electron pair on the Pb atom is stereochemically active. The lone pairs of electrons all point away from the corners of the cuboid cluster, approximately in the direction of the adjacent layers of NO₃ groups (see below). The calculated bond-valence sum for the [8]-coordinated Pb atom is 2.16 v.u., if the bond-valence parameters of Brese and O'Keeffe (1991) are used, and 2.01 v.u., if the new bond-valence parameters for Pb²⁺–O bonds suggested by Krivovichev and Brown (2001) are used. Each O atom involved in the cluster is only bonded to three cations: two Pb²⁺ and one H⁺. Strong to



FIG. 1. The cuboid $[Pb_8(OH)_{12}]^{4+}$ cluster in $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$. Pb atoms are shown as large spheres, O atoms of OH groups as small dark spheres. All drawings were created using ATOMS (Shape Software, 1999).

weak hydrogen bonds within the cluster provide considerable internal stability: intracluster $OH \cdots OH$ distances range from 2.647(9) to 3.128(5) Å (Table 4). Both of the strongest bonds involve $OH(5) \cdots OH(5)$ interactions along [001] and [010], respectively. Each $[Pb_8(OH)_{12}]^{4+}$ cluster is surrounded within a plane parallel to (001) by eight other clusters to form Pb-OH 'layers' (Figs 2, 3). The clusters are connected to each other by weak to very weak hydrogen bonds within the Pb-OH 'layer', the bonds being directed approximately along the a and b axes (Figs 2, 3); intercluster OH...OH distances show a range from 2.785(10) to 3.144(11) Å (Table 4). Additional weak bonding contributions may be effected by van der Waals interactions between lone-pair orbitals on the Pb atoms (e.g. Pyykkö, 1997). Furthermore, there is evidence that the lone electron pair of Pb^{2+} cations can act as a hydrogen-bond acceptor (Lutz et al., 1995, 1996; Lutz and Jung, 1997).

The Pb-OH 'layers' parallel to (001) are separated by layers of NO₃ groups (Figs 2, 3), in which the planes of the NO₃ triangles are oriented perpendicular to the (100) and (010) planes in an alternating manner. There are weak to very weak bonds between the Pb atoms and the O atoms of the nitrate triangles (Table 4). The NO₃ groups are only slightly distorted, as seen from the narrow range of N-O bond lengths, 1.253(7) to 1.276(13) Å, and O-N-O angles, 119.2(5) to 121.7(10)° (average 120°, indicating no aplanarity; see Table 4). Considerably more distorted NO₃ groups were observed in [Pb₄(OH)₄](NO₃)₄ (Grimes et al., 1995) and [Pb₆O₄](OH)(NO₃)(CO₃) (Li et al., 2000). The calculated bond-valence sums of the two N atoms are 4.84 and 4.95 v.u. for N(1) and N(2)respectively, i.e. close to the ideal value. Bondvalence sums for the O ligands O(1)-O(4) of the two different NO₃ groups show a range of values from 1.52 to 1.71 v.u. Although O(1) and O(4) might obtain some bond strength contributions from possible hydrogen bonds, the distances between these two O acceptor atoms and suitable donor atoms, OH(5) and OH(6), are >3.15 Å, thus indicating only very weak, if any, hydrogen bonding.

The location of NO₃ (and CO₃) groups between Pb–(O,OH) layers has also been observed in the structure of [Pb₆O₄](OH)(NO₃)(CO₃) (Li *et al.*, 2000). The strongly pronounced subcell of Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃), previously noted by Kwestroo *et al.* (1967), is caused by the orthorhombic



FIG. 2. The structure of Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) in two perspective views: (a) along [100], (b) along [010]; unit cells are also shown. (001) layers composed of cuboid [Pb₈(OH)₁₂]⁴⁺ clusters, which are weakly hydrogen-bonded to each other, are separated by layers of NO₃ groups (striped triangles). Only the strong Pb–O bonds within 2.35 Å are shown. The remaining, very weak Pb–O bonds (2.95–3.26 Å long), which are only between the Pb atoms and the O atoms of the NO₃ groups, have been omitted for clarity.



FIG. 3. The structure of Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) in a perspective view along [001]. Note that the NO₃ groups are arranged in layers parallel to (010) (compare the layering in Fig. 2).

arrangement of the Pb atoms in its structure. This is especially evident in the views shown in Figs 2 and 3. The X-ray powder diffraction data for Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) given by Kwestroo et al. (1967) (ICDD 22-661) and Michell (1974) (ICDD 27-273), which are identical to data calculated from the present results, were indexed by Kwestroo et al. (1967) on an orthorhombic subcell with $a_{sub} =$ 4.31, $b_{sub} = 4.286$, $c_{sub} = 4.164$ Å, $V_{sub} = 76.9$ Å³. This subcell is obviously related to the orthorhombic cell found in the present work, a =8.314(2), b = 8.545(2), c = 17.210(3) Å, V =1222.7(5) Å³, as follows: $a \approx 2c_{sub}, b \approx 2b_{sub}, c$ = $4a_{\rm sub}$, $V \approx 16V_{\rm sub}$. The conclusions of Kwestroo et al. (1967) that the subcell dimensions are caused by the arrangement of the Pb atoms, are confirmed by the present structure determination. The Pb-Pb-Pb angles within the $[Pb_8(OH)_{12}]^{4+}$ cluster are all 90.0°, and the atomic arrangement of the Pb atoms in the cluster is in accordance with mmm symmetry. The three intracluster Pb-Pb distances are 4.0241(11), 4.0643(11) and 4.2675(8) Å, while

the two shortest intercluster Pb–Pb distances are 4.2899(11) and 4.4807(12) Å. Not surprisingly, these distances are similar to the unit-cell parameters of the orthorhombic subcell reported by Kwestroo *et al.* (1967). X-ray single-crystal studies of the crystal morphology showed that the compound is tabular on {001} and elongated along [100], i.e. along the direction of the strongest intercluster hydrogen bond (Table 4). Observed orthorhombic forms are {001}, {010} and {100}.

Relationship with other compounds, and a review of $[Pb_x^{2+}(O,OH)_y]^{n+}$ clusters

As already mentioned above, the $[Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6]^{4+}$ cluster in $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$ is unique. The $[Pb_8(OH)_{12}]^{4+}$ cluster found in $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ has also not been previously identified in inorganic Pb compounds. However, a discrete unit $Pb_8(OH)_{12}Cl_4$ was characterized by Raman spectroscopy in studies of basic Pb^{2+} chloride solutions (Tsai and Cooney, 1976); the four Cl^- anions in this unit compensate for the four positive charges on the core cluster $[Pb_8(OH)_{12}]^{4+}$.

A cluster consisting also of eight Pb atoms but only four O atoms, [Pb₈O₄]⁸⁺, occurs in the structure of Pb₉O₄Br₁₀ (Keller, 1983) and TlPb₈O₄Br₉ (Keller, 1982). This cluster can be conveniently described considering the presence of oxocentred OPb4 groups [see O'Keeffe and Hyde (1985), Hyde and Andersson (1989), Krivovichev et al. (1998) and Krivovichev and Filatov (1999a,b) for the high usability of the concept of oxocentred $[OM_4]$ groups in the description of inorganic crystal structures]: four OPb₄ tetrahedra share edges to form a polytetrahedral $[Pb_8O_4]^{8+}$ cluster. A comparable $[Sn_8^{2+}O_4]^{8+}$ cluster occurs in $Sn_2^{2+}OSO_4$ (Lundgren et al., 1982). In large cavities in Pbexchanged, vacuum-dehydrated (at 380°C) variants of zeolite X, the occurrence of $[Pb_4O_4(Pb^{2+},Pb^{4+})_4]$ clusters has been reported (Yeom et al., 1997, 1999). These are also topologically identical to the [Pb₈O₄]⁸⁺ cluster. The cited authors assumed the presence of Pb⁴⁺ within the cluster because of the observation of small Pb-O bond lengths, which range from 2.24(2) to 2.32(2) Å (Yeom et al., 1997) and from 2.11(7) to 2.23(2) Å (Yeom *et al.*, 1999). However, they neglect the stereochemical activity of the $6s^2$ lone electron pair on Pb²⁺, and the observation that M-O bonds in oxocentred OM_4 groups are always shorter than in non-oxocentred groups (Krivovichev et al., 1998). In $[Pb_4(OH)_4](NO_3)_4$ (Grimes *et al.*, 1995), one Pb-O distance is also extremely short, 1.97 Å, but no indication for the presence of tetravalent Pb is present.

Several $[Pb_x^{2+}(O,OH)_v]^{n+}$ clusters with fewer than eight Pb atoms (x < 8) have been found in the crystal structures of other lead oxide hydroxide nitrates and lead oxysalts. Isolated [Pb₄O] clusters (i.e. isolated OPb₄ tetrahedra) were found in $Pb_4O(Pb_2(BO_3)_3C1)$ (Behm, 1983), $Pb_8Bi_2(PO_4)_6O_2$ (Moore *et al.*, 1982) and Pb₆Re₆O₁₉ (Abakumov et al., 1998). A simple linear [Pb₂(OH)]³⁺ unit occurs in NaPb₂(OH)(CO₃)₂ (Krivovichev and Burns, 2000c). A disordered $[Pb_2(OH)(H_2O)_3]^{3+}$ cluster has been observed in lead hydro sodalite, $[Pb_2(OH)(H_2O)_3]_2[Al_3Si_3O_{12}]_2$ (Eiden-Assmann et al., 2000). A cluster with four Pb atoms, $[Pb_4(OH)_4]^{4+}$, occupies the sodalite cage in another variant of zeolite X (Nardin et al., 1995) and is present in maricopaite, $(Pb_7Ca_2)[Al_{12}Si_{36}(O,OH)_{100}] \cdot n(H_2O,OH), n \approx$ 32 (Rouse and Peacor, 1994) and in $[Pb_4(OH)_4](NO_3)_4$ (Grimes *et al.*, 1995). Such a cluster also forms part of the structures of $[Pb_4(OH)_4]_3(CO_3)(ClO_4)_{10} \cdot 6H_2O$ (Hong and Olin, 1973) and $[Pb_4(OH)_4](ClO_4)_4 \cdot 2H_2O$ (Hong and Olin, 1974). In fact, the $[Pb_4(OH)_4]^{4+}$ unit represents the predominant Pb-containing species in non-dilute aqueous solutions of Pb²⁺ salts (Johansson and Olin, 1968; Baes and Mesmer, 1976; Grimes et al, 1995). A related unit, $[Pb_4(OH)_2F_2]^{4+}$, was recently detected in the structure of bideauxite, $Pb_2^{2+}Ag^+Cl_3F(OH)$ (Cooper et al., 1999). Hydrogen-free varieties of the $[Pb_4(OH)_4]^{4+}$ cluster occur as "electrically neutral" [Pb₄O₄] units in the structure of fluxgrown aluminate sodalites $Ln_4[Al_{12}O_{24}](Pb_4O_4)_2$ (Ln = Nd, Sm) (Werner and Müller-Buschbaum, 1997); however, these [Pb₄O₄] units cannot be considered as independent clusters, since their O atoms are also closely bonded (2.33 Å) to Nd atoms to form OPb₃Ln tetrahedra linked into a three-dimensional framework (Krivovichev et al., 1998).

Clusters with composition $[Pb_6O(OH)_6]^{4+}$ were found in both polymorphs of [Pb₆O(OH)₆] (ClO₄)₄·H₂O (Spiro et al., 1969; Olin and Söderquist, 1972) and in $[Pb_6O(OH)_6]$ (ReO₄)₄·H₂O (Haag-Bruhl et al., 1988). The six Pb atoms in $[Pb_6O(OH)_6]^{4+}$ occupy the corners of three distorted Pb₄ tetrahedra connected by common faces. In Pb₃O₂(OH)₂, a topologically different and electrostatically neutral cluster, $[Pb_6O_4(OH)_4]$, was found (Hill, 1985); it can be described as an almost regular Pb₆ octahedron whose eight triangular faces are 'topped' by O atoms or OH groups. Isolated [Pb₆O₂] clusters occur in Pb₃UO₆ (Sterns et al., 1986). A $[Pb_7O(OH)_3]^{9+}$ cluster is present in a Pbexchanged variety of zeolite A (Ronay and Seff, 1993) and in synthetic 'plumbonacrite', Pb₅O(OH)₂(CO₃)₃ (Krivovichev and Burns, 2000b; see also Brooker et al., 1983).

Most of the above clusters have also been identified in aqueous solutions by various methods; additional discrete $[Pb_{2}^{2+}(O,OH)_{y}]^{n+}$ units found are as follows: $[Pb(OH)]^{+}$, $[Pb_{3}(OH)_{4}]^{2+}$, $[Pb_{3}(OH)_{5}]^{+}$ and $[Pb_{6}(OH)_{8}]^{4+}$ (e.g. Johansson and Olin, 1968; Baes and Mesmer 1976; Gyunner *et al.*, 1978; Cruywagen and van de Water, 1993; Arbatskii *et al.*, 1995; Grimes *et al.*, 1995 and references cited therein). Most of these results were obtained by analysing products of the reaction of aqueous lead nitrate

solutions with NaOH or concentrated NH₃. In molten NH₄NO₃ + 1.5H₂O mixtures and in waterbearing (K,Na)NO₃ melts, the species [Pb(OH)]⁺, [Pb₂(OH)₃]⁺ and [Pb₂(OH)₂]²⁺ have been detected (Bengtsson and Holmberg, 1990; Frostemark *et al.*, 1994).

Summarizing the data available on these clusters, it is seen that discrete units containing 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 13 Pb atoms are known. It seems probable that ongoing research on the crystallography of Pb oxysalts will lead to the detection of further, possibly larger $[Pb_x^{2+}(O,OH)_{\nu}]^{n+}$ clusters with unusual configurations. A cluster containing three Pb atoms has seemingly not been found vet in crystalline Pb oxysalts, although the $[Pb_7O(OH)_3]^{9+}$ cluster described by Ronay and Seff (1993) can be visualized as a central $[Pb_3O(OH)_3]^+$ cluster surrounded by four Pb atoms. The configuration of the central cluster is basically identical to that of $[Sn_3^{2+}(OH)_4]^{2+}$ in $[Sn_3^{2+}(OH)_4](NO_3)_2$ (Donaldson et al., 1995).

The crystal structures of other structurally characterized lead oxide hydroxide nitrates are based on O–Pb chains. For instance, orthorhombic Pb₃O₂(OH)(NO₃) is based on $[O_2Pb_3]$ chains of edge-sharing OPb₄ tetrahedra which are linked by (OH)Pb₂ dimers into $[Pb_3O_2](OH)$ sheets (Krivovichev *et al.*, 2001). The structure of Pb₃O₂(OH)(NO₃) is closely related to that of $[Pb_6O_4](OH)(NO_3)(CO_3)$ (Li *et al.*, 2000). Both O–Pb chains and Pb-based sheets also occur in structurally related, basic lead carbonates (e.g. Krivovichev and Burns, 2000*a,b,c* and references cited therein).

Formulae for presently and previously studied lead nitrates

The structure solution of the pseudocubic compound (Li et al., 2001 and present study) shows that the previously reported formulae for this phase, "Pb₆O₃(OH)₄(NO₃)₂" (ICDD 23-1558) and "Pb₃(OH)₅(NO₃)" (ICDD 23-1558; Kwestroo *et al.*, 1967, and ICDD 22-659; Gyunner et al., 1978; Narita et al., 1984; Arbatskii et al., 1995; Uchida et al., 1997; Sugiyama et al., 1999) both need to be revised. The correct formula, Pb13O8(OH)6(NO3)4, contains more Pb by comparison [Pb:(NO₃) ratio = 3.25:1 and also fewer OH groups. The identity of $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$ with "Pb₆O₃(NO₃)₂(OH)₄" and "Pb₃(OH)₅(NO₃)" was not discussed by Li et al. (2001). The formula reported for the tabular Pb nitrate,

 $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$, originally proposed by Kwestroo *et al.* (1967) and reproduced by later authors (Michell, 1974, and ICDD 27-273; Cram and Davies, 1976; Narita *et al.*, 1984; Garcia-Clavel *et al.*, 1985; Arbatskii *et al.*, 1995; Uchida *et al.*, 1997; Sugiyama *et al.*, 1999), was confirmed by the present structure determination.

Table 6 provides an overdue critical compilation on the confusing variety of reported lead nitrate compounds, the formulae of some of which are now known to be erroneous (see previous paragraph) or may be considered doubtful (see bottom of Table). The data in Table 6 show that none of the crystal structures are known for any of the H-free Pb oxide nitrates such as $Pb_6O_5(NO_3)_2$ and $Pb_3O_2(NO_3)_2$. The structures of the following two hydrous Pb nitrate compounds are also still undetermined: Pb₃O₂(NO₃)₂·1.5H₂O (also described as Pb₅O₃(NO₃)₄·xH₂O, see Table 6), and Pb₂(OH)₂(NO₃)₂·H₂O. The Pb:(NO₃) ratio of 1.5:1 characteristic of Pb₃O₂(NO₃)₂·1.5H₂O suggests that it may be isostructural with $[Sn_3^{2+}(OH)_4](NO_3)_2$ (Donaldson *et al.*, 1995). On the other hand, it was suggested that $Pb_3O_2(NO_3)_2 \cdot 1.5H_2O$ contains $[Pb_6O(OH)_6]^{4+}$ clusters and probably has the formula Pb₆O(OH)₆(NO₃)₄ (Grimes et al., 1995). The existence of the four basic compounds described by Kwestroo et al. (1967) can be considered as established, as their occurrence was later reported by several workers (e.g. Narita et al., 1984; Arbatskii et al., 1995; Uchida et al., 1997; Sugiyama et al., 1999). Clearly, more crystallographic work is necessary to obtain correct formulae for all of the reported Pb hydroxide and oxide nitrates.

Conditions of formation of the studied samples

The probable conditions of formation of the two Pb nitrates on the mine dump may be deduced by comparison to data on their syntheses (Pauley and Testerman, 1954; Kwestroo *et al.*, 1967; Michell, 1974; Narita *et al.*, 1984; Arbatskii *et al.*, 1995; Grimes *et al.*, 1995; Uchida *et al.*, 1997; Sugiyama *et al.*, 1999). The formation of "Pb₃(OH)₅(NO₃)" (= Pb₁₃O₈(OH)₆(NO₃)₄) at comparatively high pH values and high Pb:(NO₃) ratios was reported by Kwestroo *et al.* (1967), who concluded that this compound is fairly stable. According to Kwestroo *et al.* (1967), Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) crystallizes only from dilute solutions, unlike the other nitrates characterized by them, i.e. Pb(OH)(NO₃), Pb₇(OH)₁₀(NO₃)₄ and "Pb₃(OH)₅(NO₃)" (=

CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF PB2(OH)3(NO3)

Compound	Pb:(NO ₃)	References
Pb ₁₃ O ₈ (OH) ₆ (NO ₃) ₄	3.25:1	This work; Li et al. (2001)
previously described as "Pb ₆ O ₃ (OH) ₄ (NO ₃) ₂ " or "Pb ₃ (OH) ₅ (NO ₃)"	"3:1" "3:1"	ICDD 23-1558 (unindexed) Pauley and Testerman (1954); Kwestroo et al. (1967), ICDD 22-659; Gyunner et al. (1978); Narita et al. (1984); Arbatskii et al. (1995); Uchida et al. (1997); Sugiyama et al. (1999)
Pb ₃ O ₂ (OH)(NO ₃)	3:1	Krivovichev et al. (2001)
Pb ₆ O ₅ (NO ₃) ₂ *	3:1	Brusset <i>et al.</i> (1967), ICDD 22-390; Kwestroo <i>et al.</i> (1967); Newkirk and Hughes (1970), ICDD 23-1159; Martin <i>et al.</i> (1972 <i>a,b</i>); Garcia-Clavel <i>et al.</i> (1985, 1986 <i>a</i>); Sugiyama <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Pb ₂ (OH) ₃ (NO ₃)	2:1	This work; Kwestroo <i>et al.</i> (1967), ICDD 22-661; Michell (1974), ICDD 27-273; Cram and Davies (1976); Narita <i>et al.</i> (1984); Garcia-Clavel <i>et al.</i> (1985); Uchida <i>et al.</i> (1997); Arbatskii <i>et al.</i> (1995)
Pb ₄ O ₃ (NO ₃) ₂ *	2:1	Garcia-Clavel et al. (1985), ICDD 39-543
Pb ₇ (OH) ₁₀ (NO ₃) ₄ * ^a	1.75:1	Kwestroo et al. (1967), ICDD 23-461; Narita et al. (1984); Uchida et al. (1997); Sugiyama et al. (1999)
Pb _{3.2} O _{2.2} (NO ₃) ₂ * ^b	1.6:1	Garcia-Clavel et al. (1986c), ICDD 40-553
$Pb_{3}O_{2}(NO_{3})_{2} \cdot 1.5H_{2}O$ = $Pb_{6}O(OH)_{6}(NO_{3})_{4}*$	1.5:1	Garcia-Clavel <i>et al.</i> (1986 <i>a,b</i>), ICDD 39-635; Grimes <i>et al.</i> (1995)
also described as Pb ₅ O ₃ (NO ₃) ₄ . <i>x</i> H ₂ O		Brusset et al. (1967), ICDD 22-667
Pb ₃ O ₂ (NO ₃) ₂ *	1.5:1	Brusset et al. (1967), ICDD 22-666; Garcia-Clavel et al. (1986a), ICDD 40-614
also described as $Pb_{10}O_7(NO_3)_6$	1.66:1	Martin et al. (1972a)
Pb _{2.4} O _{1.4} (NO ₃) ₂ *	1.2:1	Garcia-Clavel et al. (1986c), ICDD 40-552
$[Pb_4(OH)_4][NO_3]_4 = Pb_2(OH)_2(NO_3)_2 = Pb(OH)(NO_3)$	1:1	Pauley and Testerman (1954); Kwestroo <i>et al.</i> (1967), ICDD 22-388; Michell (1974), ICDD 27-272; Gyunner <i>et al.</i> (1978); Narita <i>et al.</i> (1984); Garcia-Clavel <i>et al.</i> (1986c), ICDD 40-550; Arbatskii <i>et al.</i> (1995); Grimes <i>et al.</i> (1995), ICDD 83-1100
$Pb_2(OH)_2(NO_3)_2 \cdot H_2O*$ $Pb_2O(NO_3)_2*$	$1:1 \\ 1:1$	Michell (1974), ICDD 27-274; Cram and Davies (1976) Garcia-Clavel <i>et al.</i> (1986 <i>c</i>), ICDD 40-551

TABLE 6. Reported Pb hydroxide and oxide nitrates, arranged according to their Pb:(NO₃) elemental ratio*.

The Pb oxide nitrates are mainly prepared by dehydration of the Pb hydroxide nitrates at elevated temperatures. Complete pyrolysis leads to the formation of PbO.

* An asterisk after the formula signifies unknown symmetry and/or crystal structure. The formulae of most of these compounds probably need confirmation.

^a According to Grimes et al. (1995), "Pb₇(OH)₁₀(NO₃)₄" is more likely to be [Pb₃(OH)₄](NO₃)₂.

^b see also $Pb_3O_2(NO_3)_2$, which has $Pb:(NO_3) = 1.5:1$.

 $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4)$, and is insoluble in hot water. This agrees qualitatively with the observation of Arbatskii *et al.* (1995) that titration of a 0.005 M solution of PbNO₃ with NaOH gave the precipitates Pb(OH)(NO₃) and "Pb₃(OH)₅(NO₃)"

(= $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$), whereas titration of a 0.05 M solution (which may still be considered "dilute") yielded $Pb(OH)(NO_3)$ and $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$. Michell (1974) observed that $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ formed from PbO and cold

aqueous Pb(NO₃)₂ solutions in the molar range of 3:1 at all temperatures between 15 and 30°C, whereas Pb₂(OH)₂(NO₃)₂·H₂O and Pb(OH)₃(NO₃) crystallized from solutions with a molar range from 1:3 to 1:1. Pb₂(OH)₂(NO₃)₂·H₂O was found to be stable only at <20°C, while Pb(OH)₃(NO₃) was stable at 25–30°C.

The above data suggest that $Pb_{13}O_8(OH)_6(NO_3)_4$, which contains relatively more Pb than Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃), has crystallized from comparatively Pb-rich, concentrated and fairly basic aqueous nitrate solutions, possibly at somewhat elevated temperatures. Pb₂(OH)₃(NO₃) then must have crystallized either after the solution was depleted in Pb, or at a greater distance from the primary source of the Pb^{2+} ions. Intergrowth of both nitrates on the studied samples are very rare, but provide no clear indication on which crystallized first. The suggested conditions of crystallization are consistent with formation associated with fire-setting and/or gun-powder blast mining. The association with elvite and hydrocerussite, typical indicator phases for the use of fire-setting methods, confirms this scenario. Pb13O8(OH)6(NO3)4 is the most basic Pb hydroxide nitrate known and addition of NaOH to Pb13O8(OH)6(NO3)4 results in the formation of Pb(OH)₂ or polymorphs of PbO (Kwestroo et al., 1967; Gyunner et al., 1978; Narita et al., 1984; Grimes et al., 1995). Pb-O phases such as litharge, massicot or minium are in fact often identified from fire-setting dump material at the mine localities mentioned in the introduction. The majority of the Pb-O phases has, however, formed due to the dehydration and/ or decarbonization of naturally crystallized lead oxysalts such as cerussite (with shannonite, $Pb_2O(CO_3)$, as an intermediate product) or anglesite (Wittern, 1994). Interaction of the Pb-O phases with water subsequently produced high-pH solutions and caused the crystallization of basic lead oxysalts such as elvite, hydrocerussite and lanarkite [compare also the observation of the direct influence of concrete on recentlymined ore at the operational Clara baryte and fluorite mine, Black Forest, Germany, which led to the crystallization of elvite, hydrocerussite, plumbonacrite, massicot, 3PbO·PbSO₄·H₂O, ettringite and calcite from high-pH solutions (Kolitsch, 2000)]. Only if nitrate ions were also present in the solutions, were Pb₁₃O₈(OH)₆(NO₃)₄ and $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ able to crystallize.

The fact that $Pb(OH)(NO_3)$ is not observed in the anthropogenic Pb nitrate assemblage is

probably explained by its formation at comparatively low pH (5-7 according to Pauley andTesterman, 1954, and 5.3 according to Grimes et al., 1995) and its solubility in water (Kwestroo et al., 1967). Thus, Pb(OH)(NO₃) may have formed initially during the interaction of Pb- and nitratebearing solutions, but was later dissolved. Similarly, Pb7(OH)10(NO3)4 (Table 6) has probably not been found because it decomposes in larger amounts of water to (unstable) $Pb(OH)(NO_3)$ and (stable) $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$ (Kwestroo et al., 1967). The compounds found on the dumps, Pb₁₃O₈(OH)₆(NO₃)₄ and $Pb_2(OH)_3(NO_3)$, are both insoluble in (hot) water (Kwestroo et al., 1967) and therefore obviously have survived weathering solutions for more than 100 years.

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