imbricate so as to approximate the efficient hexagonal close-packing, which is here roughly indicated by the cell dimensions in (010), $a \sim c$, $\beta \sim 120°$. The hexagonal c/a ratio of 1·63, of the ideal hexagonal close-packing, is however replaced by a ratio of 2·33, which is far from the required value.

The only information given by Illuminati & Rundle about their $P(XY)$ projection is that 2·83 Å (2·82 kX) constitutes an important interatomic distance, parallel to b. If we assume it to be the Pt–I distance in the tetramer, a reasonable trial structure can be obtained (Table 1), with acceptable interatomic distances and angles (Table 2). The distance between adjacent Pt–I layers of neighboring tetramers along b is 6·86 Å, which is reasonable considering the fact that the $Pt(CH_3)_3$ group has a radius of about 4·0 Å and the I^- radius is 2·2 Å. How the columns of tetramers separated by $c/2$ are displaced relative to each other cannot be ascertained from Illuminati & Rundle's data. The minimum distance between tetramers in the (010) projection is 5·7 Å, less than the predicted minimum distance, so that y' and y must differ.

Table 2. *Interatomic distances and interbond angles in the proposed tetramer* $[Pt(CH_3)_3I]_4$ *with number of occurrences*

Pt_I –I_{II}	2·88 Å	4*x*	Pt_I–I_{II} —Pt_{III}	86°40′	4*x*
Pt_{II}–Pt_{III}	2·77	4*x*	I_{II} –Pt_{III}–I_{IV}	93 20	4*x*
Pt_I –I_I	2·83	4*x*	Pt_I–I_{II} —Pt_{II}	90 0	16*x*
Average Pt–I 2·83					

A comparison of $Pt(CH_3)_3Cl$ (Rundle & Sturdivant, 1947) and $Pt(CH_3)_3I$ shows a strong similarity of individual tetramers. The point-group symmetry of the chloride tetramer is $\bar{4}3m$; that of the iodide is 2 with pseudosymmetry $\bar{4}3m$. The Pt–Cl distance is 2·48 Å, as compared with an average of 2·83 Å for the iodide. The difference of 0·35 Å is a normal one between M–Cl and M–I values in the literature (*International Tables for X-ray Crystallography*, 1962). The angle Pt–Cl–Pt is 99° and thus differs more from 90° than the four nonright angles in the iodide tetramer. The difference in the packing of the tetramers which is responsible for the difference in their crystal systems remains baffling. No further work on this compound is contemplated by us.

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Notes and News

Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. The notes (in duplicate) should be sent to the General Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (G. Boom, Department of Metallurgy, University of Oxford, Parks Road, Oxford, England). Publication of an item in a particular issue cannot be guaranteed unless the draft is received 8 weeks before the date of publication.

International Union of Crystallography Inter-Congress Meeting, 1968

The Commission on Crystallographic Apparatus of the International Union of Crystallography is organizing a meeting on *Accurate Determination of X-ray Intensities and Structure Factors*, to take place in Churchill College, Cambridge, England, from 24 to 28 June 1968.

The meeting will provide a forum for the assessment of measurement of X-ray structure-factor (F) values derived from small and large single crystals and powders by conventional procedures, and from perfect crystals by the Pendellösung technique. The various sources of error in the different procedures, and their correction or elimination will be considered. Comparison of experimental values with those based on theoretical calculations should provide a valuable commentary on the current state of solid-state studies, particularly in relation to features of structure studies dependent on the absolute accuracy of experimentally determined structure factors.

As the meeting is organized as one of specialists, with restricted attendance, participation is by invitation only. Any crystallographer who could contribute to the discussion and wishes to be considered by the Organizing Committee should apply to the Chairman, Dr A. McL. Mathieson, Division of Chemical Physics, C.S.I.R.O., P.O. Box 160, CLAYTON, Victoria 3168, Australia.

As a record of the meeting for future reference, it is proposed to publish the (invited) lectures plus discussion in an issue of *Acta Crystallographica* Section A.

International Union of Crystallography Eighth General Assembly and International Congress of Crystallography

The Eighth General Assembly and International Congress of Crystallography of the International Union of Crystallography will be held in the United States of America in August 1969. The provisional time table is as follows.

From August 7 to 11 inclusive, a Topical Meeting on *The Crystallography of Biologically Important Substances* will be held at the Center for Crystallographic Research, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York. From August 13 to 21 inclusive, the General Assembly and International Congress, comprising the principal scientific sessions and the work of the Union's Commissions, will take

place at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Long Island, New York. From August 23 to 27 inclusive, there will be Topical Meetings of crystallographic interest at Stony Brook, and on *The Chemical and Physical Aspects of Neutron Scattering* at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Long Island, New York. A programme of visits to scientific laboratories and cultural attractions in Washington, D.C., will be arranged for the period 25–27 August, in connexion with the Congress.

A preliminary announcement will be mailed to all known crystallographers in the Spring of 1968.

Inquiries should be addressed to:

International Union of Crystallography
Congress Headquarters
State University of New York at Stony Brook
STONY BROOK, New York 11790
U.S.A.

Microsymposium on the Structure of Organic Solids Prague, Czechoslovakia, 16-19 September 1968

A Microsymposium on *The Structure of Organic Solids*, organized by the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, will be held in Prague, from 16 to 19 September 1968.

The primary emphasis will be placed on the structure of macromolecular substances, of low-molecular oligomers, and of more complicated organic compounds, the structure of which is of interest in connexion with the knowledge of macromolecular substances. The scope of the Microsymposium is restricted by the choice of diffraction methods as source of information on the structure of organic solids, but papers on crystal-chemical subjects are also welcome.

The Microsymposium will consist of five sessions on the following topics: low-molecular organic compounds, fibres, amorphous solids, instrumentation, methods, and computations. Each session will have an (invited) introductory lecture followed by contributions of 10–15 minutes. Authors are recommended to use English.

The following speakers have agreed to give invited lectures: W. Hoppe, J. S. Rollett, W. O. Ruland, C. A. Taylor, and B. K. Vainshtein.

Registration forms and further information may be obtained from Dr K. Toman, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Petřiny 1888, Prague 6, Czechoslovakia. The closing date for registration is 31 March 1968.

Associazione Italiana di Cristallografia

Recently the *Associazione Italiana di Cristallografia* was established in Italy, a country adhering to the International Union of Crystallography. The objects of the *Associazione* are to promote the development of crystallography in its scientific, technical, and teaching aspects. Membership is also open to crystallographers from foreign countries.

The membership of the Presidential Board for 1967–68 is as follows:

President:
F. Mazzi (Pavia)

Vice-President:
L. Cavalca (Parma)

Secretary:
V. Scatturin (Milan)

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G. Allegra (Milan)
G. Cocco (Perugia)
P. Corradini (Naples)
M. Nardelli (Parma)
G. Rigault (Turin)

The *Associazione* will hold its first meeting in Perugia on 11–13 January 1968, which will be devoted to automatic diffractometry.

First International CODATA Conference 30 June – 5 July 1968

The First International CODATA Conference will be held at Arnoldshain near Frankfurt/Main, Germany, from 30 June to 5 July 1968, under the auspices of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) of the International Council of Scientific Unions. CODATA was established in 1966 to stimulate and coordinate informally on a world-wide basis the rapidly growing effort to collect, evaluate, compile and publish numerical data for science and technology. Six countries (France, Germany, Japan, U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R.) and eleven International Unions are represented on the Committee.

The object of the Conference will be exchange of information and discussion of common problems by compilers of evaluated data and by other who provide support, encouragement, and standards for the systematic evaluation and publication of numerical data. A programme will be published at a later stage.

Information and application forms may be obtained from Dr G. Waddington, Central Office CODATA, c/o National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418, U.S.A.