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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 150$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002$  Å  
Disorder in main residue  
 $R$  factor = 0.036  
 $wR$  factor = 0.095  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 12.7For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## Methyl acetoacetate at 150 K

The crystal structure of methyl acetoacetate,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$ , at 150 K contains discrete molecules.

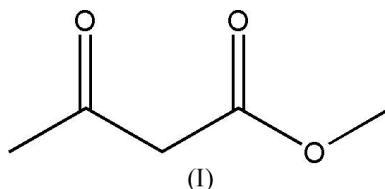
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## Comment

Many of the esters and ketones used in the flavours and fragrances industry are liquid at room temperature, meaning that in the past crystalline derivatives have had to be prepared for X-ray analysis. As part of a programme to systematize *in situ* crystal growth from liquids, we have examined a range of commercially available chemicals. Low-molecular-weight organic ketones are liquid at room temperature. Molecules of methyl acetoacetate, (I), exist as discrete entities in the crystal structure at 150 K, with no strong intermolecular interactions.



## Experimental

A 3 mm column of the title material, which is a liquid at room temperature, was sealed in a 0.3 mm Lindemann tube. The Lindemann tube was not precisely parallel to the  $\varphi$  axis. A single crystal of the compound was grown by keeping the sample under a stream of nitrogen gas (Oxford Cryostream 600) at 180 K and slowly moving a small liquid zone, created by a micro-heating coil, up and down the sample. Once a suitable approximately single-crystal specimen had been obtained, the main data collection was carried out at 150 K. Because not all the data were collected with the Lindemann tube perpendicular to the X-ray beam, the multi-scan corrections applied by *DENZO/SCALEPACK* (Otwinowski & Minor, 1997) also contain contributions due to changes in the illuminated volume of the cylindrical sample, which affects the value of  $T_{\min}/T_{\max}$ .

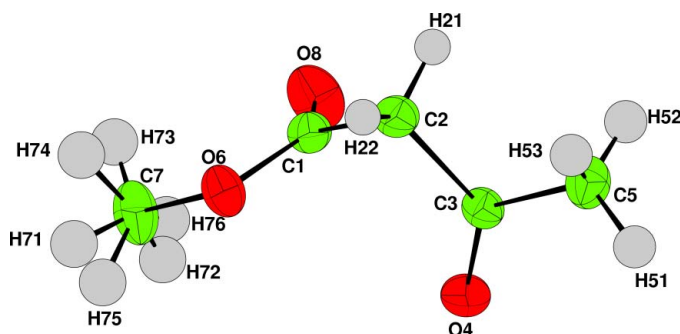


Figure 1

The title compound, with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level. H atoms are of arbitrary radii.

## Crystal data

$C_5H_8O_3$   
 $M_r = 116.12$   
 Monoclinic,  $P12_1/c1$   
 $a = 6.0018 (2) \text{ \AA}$   
 $b = 8.0384 (3) \text{ \AA}$   
 $c = 12.4802 (3) \text{ \AA}$   
 $\beta = 95.5132 (17)^\circ$   
 $V = 599.32 (3) \text{ \AA}^3$   
 $Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.287 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$   
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 Cell parameters from 1392 reflections  
 $\theta = 5\text{--}27^\circ$   
 $\mu = 0.11 \text{ mm}^{-1}$   
 $T = 150 \text{ K}$   
 Cylinder, colourless  
 $0.70 \times 0.30 \times 0.30 \text{ mm}$

## Data collection

Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan  
 (DENZO/SCALEPACK;  
 Otwinowski & Minor, 1997)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.68$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.95$   
 2531 measured reflections

1343 independent reflections  
 1184 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.022$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.5^\circ$   
 $h = -7 \rightarrow 7$   
 $k = -10 \rightarrow 10$   
 $l = -16 \rightarrow 16$

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.036$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.095$   
 $S = 1.01$   
 1343 reflections  
 106 parameters  
 Only H-atom coordinates refined

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F) + 0.04 + 0.19P]$   
 where  $P = [\max(F_o^2, 0) + 2F_c^2]/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.25 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.22 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ).

C1—C2	1.5001 (15)	C3—O4	1.2118 (13)
C1—O6	1.3328 (14)	C3—C5	1.4920 (15)
C1—O8	1.1997 (14)	O6—C7	1.4458 (14)
C2—C3	1.5191 (15)		
C2—C1—O6	111.96 (9)	C2—C3—O4	121.15 (10)
C2—C1—O8	124.51 (11)	C2—C3—C5	115.27 (9)
O6—C1—O8	123.53 (10)	O4—C3—C5	123.58 (10)
C1—C2—C3	112.28 (9)	C1—O6—C7	116.27 (9)

All H atoms were located in a difference map. Alternative positions were clearly visible for the disordered H atoms on C7, whose site occupancy factors were set to 0.5. The H atoms were then repositioned geometrically and refined with soft restraints on the bond lengths and angles to regularize their geometry, with  $C-H = 0.97\text{--}1.01 \text{ \AA}$ , and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ , after which the restraints were removed.

Data collection: COLLECT (Nonius, 1997); cell refinement: DENZO/SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor, 1997); data reduction: DENZO/SCALEPACK; program(s) used to solve structure:

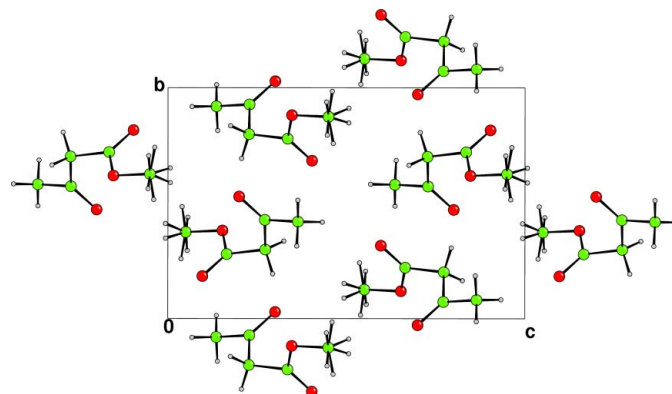


Figure 2

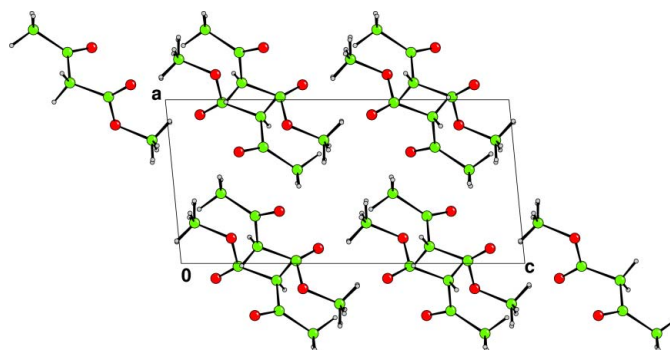
The crystal structure, viewed down the  $a$  axis.

Figure 3

The crystal structure, viewed down the  $b$  axis.

SIR92 (Altomare *et al.*, 1994); program(s) used to refine structure: CRYSTALS (Betteridge *et al.*, 2003); molecular graphics: CAMERON (Watkin *et al.*, 1996); software used to prepare material for publication: CRYSTALS.

## References

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 Otwinowski, Z. & Minor, W. (1997). *Methods in Enzymology*, Vol. 276, *Macromolecular Crystallography*, Part A, edited by C. W. Carter Jr & R. M. Sweet, pp. 307–326. New York: Academic Press.  
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## supporting information

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## Methyl acetoacetate at 150 K

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(I)

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Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$

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$b = 8.0384$  (3) Å

$c = 12.4802$  (3) Å

$\beta = 95.5132$  (17)°

$V = 599.32$  (3) Å<sup>3</sup>

$Z = 4$

$F(000) = 248$

$D_x = 1.287$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å

Cell parameters from 1392 reflections

$\theta = 5$ –27°

$\mu = 0.11$  mm<sup>-1</sup>

$T = 150$  K

Cylinder, colourless

$0.70 \times 0.30 \times 0.30 \times 0.30$  (radius) mm

## Data collection

Nonius KappaCCD

diffractometer

Graphite monochromator

$\omega$  scans

Absorption correction: multi-scan

(DENZO/SCALEPACK; Otwinowski & Minor, 1997)

$T_{\min} = 0.68$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.95$

2531 measured reflections

1343 independent reflections

1184 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.022$

$\theta_{\max} = 27.5^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{\min} = 5.5^\circ$

$h = -7 \rightarrow 7$

$k = -10 \rightarrow 10$

$l = -16 \rightarrow 16$

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$

Least-squares matrix: full

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.036$

$wR(F^2) = 0.095$

$S = 1.01$

1343 reflections

106 parameters

34 restraints

Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods

Hydrogen site location: inferred from neighbouring sites

Only H-atom coordinates refined

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F) + 0.04 + 0.19P]$

where  $P = (\max(F_o^2, 0) + 2F_c^2)/3$

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} = 0.000179$

$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.25$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.22$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>)

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$U_{\text{iso}}^*/U_{\text{eq}}$	Occ. (<1)
C1	0.98275 (18)	0.27935 (14)	0.16468 (9)	0.0295	
C2	0.8961 (2)	0.29879 (15)	0.27279 (9)	0.0326	
C3	0.71045 (17)	0.42745 (13)	0.27155 (8)	0.0266	
O4	0.68130 (14)	0.52847 (11)	0.19950 (7)	0.0377	

C5	0.5717 (2)	0.41962 (18)	0.36442 (10)	0.0374	
O6	1.15380 (13)	0.38125 (11)	0.15274 (6)	0.0336	
C7	1.2470 (2)	0.3743 (2)	0.05022 (10)	0.0447	
O8	0.90835 (17)	0.18382 (13)	0.09654 (8)	0.0499	
H21	0.839 (2)	0.1936 (17)	0.2936 (10)	0.0468*	
H22	1.014 (2)	0.3354 (17)	0.3247 (11)	0.0469*	
H51	0.472 (3)	0.5128 (19)	0.3641 (12)	0.0651*	
H52	0.489 (3)	0.3144 (18)	0.3609 (12)	0.0660*	
H53	0.669 (2)	0.418 (2)	0.4325 (11)	0.0652*	
H71	1.382 (4)	0.438 (4)	0.056 (2)	0.0803*	0.5000
H72	1.138 (4)	0.411 (4)	-0.0067 (17)	0.0792*	0.5000
H73	1.281 (5)	0.259 (2)	0.037 (2)	0.0794*	0.5000
H74	1.366 (4)	0.295 (3)	0.054 (2)	0.0796*	0.5000
H75	1.307 (5)	0.485 (3)	0.040 (2)	0.0798*	0.5000
H76	1.131 (4)	0.348 (4)	-0.0065 (17)	0.0794*	0.5000

*Atomic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>)*

	$U^{11}$	$U^{22}$	$U^{33}$	$U^{12}$	$U^{13}$	$U^{23}$
C1	0.0310 (5)	0.0281 (5)	0.0297 (5)	0.0021 (4)	0.0038 (4)	0.0019 (4)
C2	0.0367 (6)	0.0318 (6)	0.0303 (6)	0.0053 (5)	0.0082 (4)	0.0072 (4)
C3	0.0264 (5)	0.0263 (5)	0.0266 (5)	-0.0032 (4)	0.0006 (4)	0.0000 (4)
O4	0.0381 (5)	0.0357 (5)	0.0392 (5)	0.0039 (4)	0.0035 (3)	0.0119 (4)
C5	0.0353 (6)	0.0451 (7)	0.0326 (6)	0.0034 (5)	0.0082 (5)	0.0002 (5)
O6	0.0342 (4)	0.0409 (5)	0.0266 (4)	-0.0062 (3)	0.0067 (3)	-0.0018 (3)
C7	0.0391 (7)	0.0651 (9)	0.0316 (6)	-0.0047 (6)	0.0119 (5)	-0.0002 (6)
O8	0.0563 (6)	0.0516 (6)	0.0426 (5)	-0.0191 (5)	0.0090 (4)	-0.0136 (4)

*Geometric parameters (Å, °)*

C1—C2	1.5001 (15)	C5—H52	0.978 (14)
C1—O6	1.3328 (14)	C5—H53	0.983 (13)
C1—O8	1.1997 (14)	O6—C7	1.4458 (14)
C2—C3	1.5191 (15)	C7—H71	0.958 (18)
C2—H21	0.957 (13)	C7—H72	0.965 (18)
C2—H22	0.960 (13)	C7—H73	0.970 (18)
C3—O4	1.2118 (13)	C7—H74	0.957 (18)
C3—C5	1.4920 (15)	C7—H75	0.973 (18)
C5—H51	0.958 (14)	C7—H76	0.969 (18)
C2—C1—O6	111.96 (9)	H51—C5—H53	109.4 (12)
C2—C1—O8	124.51 (11)	H52—C5—H53	106.4 (12)
O6—C1—O8	123.53 (10)	C1—O6—C7	116.27 (9)
C1—C2—C3	112.28 (9)	O6—C7—H71	108.2 (14)
C1—C2—H21	108.4 (8)	O6—C7—H72	110.3 (15)
C3—C2—H21	108.9 (8)	H71—C7—H72	113.4 (16)
C1—C2—H22	110.0 (8)	O6—C7—H73	107.2 (14)
C3—C2—H22	107.0 (8)	H71—C7—H73	109.5 (16)

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H21—C2—H22	110.4 (11)	H72—C7—H73	108.0 (16)
C2—C3—O4	121.15 (10)	O6—C7—H74	109.6 (15)
C2—C3—C5	115.27 (9)	O6—C7—H75	105.2 (15)
O4—C3—C5	123.58 (10)	H74—C7—H75	109.3 (16)
C3—C5—H51	111.0 (9)	O6—C7—H76	110.0 (15)
C3—C5—H52	108.6 (9)	H74—C7—H76	111.9 (16)
H51—C5—H52	111.2 (11)	H75—C7—H76	110.6 (16)
C3—C5—H53	110.0 (9)		

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