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Polymorphism of a widely used building block for halogen-bonded assemblies: 1,3,5-trifluoro-2,4,6-triiodobenzene

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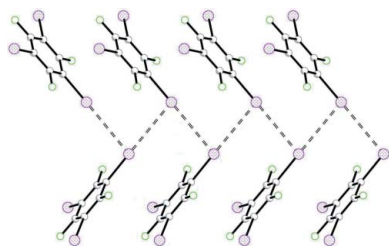
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After reporting the structure of a new polymorph of 1,3,5-trifluoro-2,4,6-triiodobenzene (denoted **BzF3I3**), $C_6F_3I_3$, (I), which crystallized in the space group $P2_1/c$, we perform a comparative analysis with the already reported $P2_1/n$ polymorph, (II) [Reddy *et al.* (2006). *Chem. Eur. J.* **12**, 2222–2234]. In polymorph (II), type-II $I \cdots I$ halogen bonds and $I \cdots \pi$ interactions connect molecules in such a way that a three-dimensional structure is formed; however, the way in which molecules are connected in polymorph (I), through type-II $I \cdots I$ halogen bonds and π – π interactions, gives rise to an exfoliable lamellar structure, which looks less tightly bound than that of (II). In agreement with this structural observation, both the melting point and the melting enthalpy of (I) are lower than those of (II).

1. Introduction

Polymorphic varieties of a given compound are of enormous interest in fields as diverse as pharmaceuticals, materials, basic crystallography and solid-state physical chemistry. Polymorphs can exhibit different physical properties, like solubility (Rajamma *et al.*, 2015; Park *et al.*, 2003), which can in turn determine their bioavailability and pharmacological efficiency (Hilfiker, 2006), melting point (Rajamma *et al.*, 2015; Baldrighi *et al.*, 2014; Thallapally *et al.*, 2004), as well as magnetic (Šalitroš *et al.*, 2016) or nonlinear optical (NLO) properties (Ruiz *et al.*, 2007), which can be of interest for materials applications. From a physicochemical viewpoint, they represent examples of ‘kinetic products’ (least stable polymorph) *versus* ‘thermodynamic products’ (most stable polymorph) (Thallapally *et al.*, 2004; Weissbuch *et al.*, 2005; Sarkar *et al.*, 2016; Resnati *et al.*, 2015). Their relative stabilities usually arise from different noncovalent interaction patterns. The way the less stable polymorphs grow during the crystallization process, although not yet firmly understood, has been the subject of remarkable studies (Weissbuch *et al.*, 2003, 2005; Torbeev *et al.*, 2005; Thallapally *et al.*, 2004). A combination of experimental and theoretical approaches sheds light on the key role the interactions of solvent molecules or other chemical species (‘additives’) with specific faces of the clusters formed during the early stages of the nucleation process play on the nature of the formed polymorph. Indeed, the widespread expressions ‘*solvent-induced polymorphism*’ and



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Table 1
Experimental details for (I) and (II).

| | (I) (this work) | (II) (Reddy <i>et al.</i> , 2006) |
|--|---|--|
| Chemical formula | C ₆ F ₃ I ₃ | C ₆ F ₃ I ₃ |
| M_r , $F(000)$ | 509.76, 888 | 509.76, 888 |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | Monoclinic |
| Space group | $P2_1/c$ | $P2_1/n$ |
| Z | 4 | 4 |
| Temperature (K) | 295 | 298 |
| a , b , c (Å) | 9.3455 (9), 13.1854 (10), 9.2185 (8) | 13.937 (4), 4.7919 (15), 15.488 (5) |
| β (°) | 118.466 (11) | 107.486 (3) |
| V (Å ³) | 998.61 (18) | 986.6 (5) |
| Calculated density (Mg m ⁻³) | 3.391 | 3.432 |
| Radiation type | Mo $K\alpha$, 0.7103 Å | Mo $K\alpha$, 0.7103 Å |
| μ (mm ⁻¹) | 9.38 | 9.49 |
| Crystal shape, colour | Plate, light brown | Plate, colourless |
| Crystal size (mm) | 0.35 × 0.30 × 0.12 | * |
| Diffractometer | Oxford Diffraction | Bruker–Nonius SMART APEX CCD |
| Absorption correction | Multi-scan (CrysAlis PRO; Oxford Diffraction, 2009) | Multi-scan |
| T_{\min} , T_{\max} | 0.12, 0.42 | * |
| Total, independent and observed reflections | 7952, 2404, 1610 | 5283, 1923, 1642 |
| R_{int} | 0.075 | 0.0241 |
| θ range (°) | 3.98, 29.33 | 1.73, 26.03 |
| $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)]$, $wR(F^2)$, S | 0.054, 0.165, 1.06 | 0.032, 0.080, 1.05 |
| No. of reflections | 2404 | 1923 |
| No. of parameters | 109 | 109 |
| $\Delta\rho_{\max}$, $\Delta\rho_{\min}$ (e Å ⁻³) | 1.26, -1.88 | * |

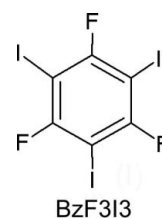
Note: (*) information not available in the original publication.

‘additive-induced polymorphism’ refer to this recognized influence, even in a more phenomenological sense.

1,3,5-Trifluoro-2,4,6-triiodobenzene (**BzF3I3**) is a widely used building block in the crystal engineering of mixed assemblies based on donor–acceptor halogen bonds (Lucassen *et al.*, 2007; Metrangolo *et al.*, 2008; Aakeröy *et al.*, 2014; Hidalgo *et al.*, 2016). Indeed, the C–I bonds in this molecule are subjected to strong polarization due to the presence of fluorine substituents, thus giving rise to a depletion of the electron density in the region of the I atom opposite to the C–I bond. This electropositive region is called the ‘ σ -hole’ (Politzer *et al.*, 2013), and acts as the electrophile when interacting with nucleophiles like nitrogenated bases (pyridine derivatives, *etc.*). This kind of interaction belongs to the ‘traditional’ donor–acceptor halogen bonds (Cavallo *et al.*, 2016). In recent years, type-II $X \cdots X$ contacts ($X = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) have been accepted as donor–acceptor halogen bonds; the electron-rich ‘belt’ around one X atom acts as the nucleophile toward the σ -hole of the other X atom (Metrangolo & Resnati, 2014). **BzF3I3** can thus exhibit halogen bonds not only in cocrystals with nitrogenated bases, but also in its own crystalline structure. Indeed, the already reported $P2_1/n$ polymorph of **BzF3I3** exhibits such interactions, with a ladder pattern also being found in compounds like bromobenzamide, bromobenzoic acids, *etc.*

During the course of our studies aimed at cocrystallizing **BzF3I3** with amines bearing mid-length aliphatic chains, as a step toward halogen-bound discotic supramolecular liquid crystals, we fortuitously obtained a new polymorph of **BzF3I3** (space group $P2_1/c$). We describe herein the structure of the new polymorph, (I), and perform a comparative analysis with the $P2_1/n$ polymorph, (II). We shall discuss differences and

similarities, and the role fulfilled in the packing arrangement by the profuse set of π – π , C– $X \cdots \pi$ and C– $X \cdots X' - C'$ ($X = \text{F}, \text{I}$) noncovalent interactions present. In addition, we shall discuss the latter at the light of Bader’s theory of Atoms In Molecules (AIM) and computational estimations of the respective cohesion energies, and compare this analysis with experimental measurements related to structure cohesion, like melting points and enthalpies.



2. Experimental

2.1. Synthesis and crystallization

BzF3I3 was synthesized from 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene (Aldrich, used without further purification) according to the method of Raffo *et al.* (2015), which involves slight modifications to the Sander’s method (Wenk & Sander, 2002). It has been characterized by ¹³C NMR [δ 63.9 (*dt*) and 162.4 (*dt*)], FT–IR [ν in cm⁻¹: 1564 (*s*), 1406 (*s*), 1326 (*m*), 1050 (*s*), 705 (*m*) and 654 (*s*)] and elemental analysis [C%, found (calculated): 14.1 (14.14)]. Single crystals of polymorph (I) were obtained by dissolving **BzF3I3** (50.2 mg, 0.098 mmol) and di-*n*-butylamine (0.140 ml) in tetrahydrofuran (THF; 2.0 ml), then allowing the solvent to evaporate slowly by diffusion in liquid paraffin. Plate-like single crystals were collected after complete THF evaporation (*ca* two months).

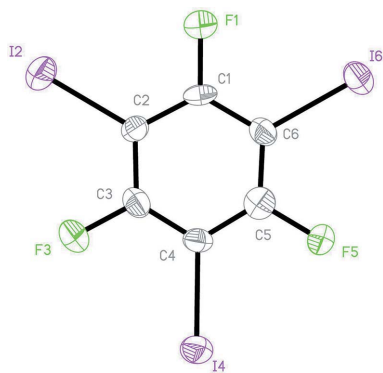


Figure 1
A displacement ellipsoid plot of (I) (50% probability level), showing the (common) labelling scheme used.

2.2. Physicochemical measurements

Elemental analysis was carried out at Servicio a Terceros of INQUIMAE on a Carlo Erba CHNS-O EA1108 analyzer. ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured at UMYMFOR on a Bruker AM500 spectrometer, using CDCl_3 as solvent and its peak as internal reference [77.2 (t) ppm for ^{13}C]. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was performed with a Shimadzu DSC-50 apparatus.

2.3. Resolution, refinement and analysis

Comparative crystal data, data collection and structure refinement details for (I) and (II) are summarized in Table 1. The computer programs used were *CrysAlis PRO* (Oxford Diffraction, 2009) for data collection and data reduction, *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 2008) for structure resolution, *SHELXL2014* (Sheldrick, 2015) for structure refinement, *XP* in *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2008) for molecular graphics and *PLATON* (Spek, 2009) for structural analysis. Full use was made of the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD, Version 5.38 and upgrades; Groom *et al.*, 2016). It is worth noting that the present structure, albeit being eminently ‘organic’, does not include any H atoms.

2.4. Computational calculations

Quantum-mechanical calculations were performed at the PBEPBE-D/DGDZVP level of theory using the crystallographic coordinates (single-point calculations) within the *GAUSSIAN09* program (Frisch *et al.*, 2009). This level of theory includes available dispersion correction (D3) and diffuse functions in the basis set and is adequate for studying noncovalent interactions dominated by dispersion effects, like, for instance, π -stacking (Foi *et al.*, 2014; Wang *et al.*, 2016). The basis set superposition error (BSSE) for the calculation of

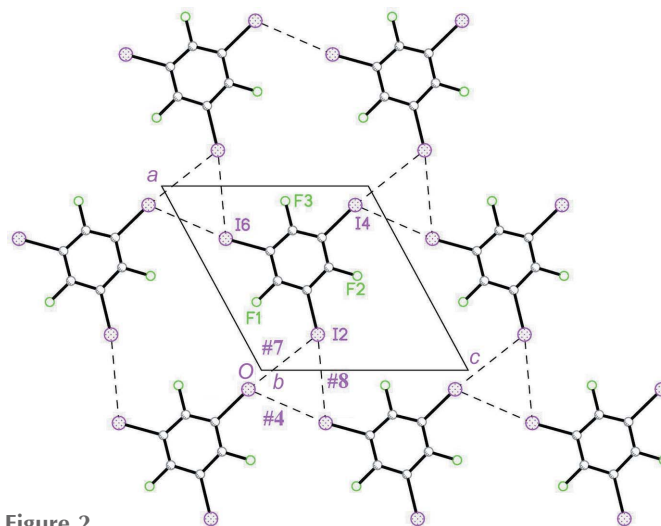


Figure 2
View of the (010) plane in (I). Interaction codes are as in Table 4.

interaction energies was corrected using the counterpoise method (estimated relative error for the energies < 5%) (Liu & McLean, 1973; Jansen & Ros, 1969; van Duijneveldt *et al.*, 1994). In addition, AIM analysis of the electron density has been performed at the same level of theory using the *Multiwfn* program (Lu & Chen, 2012).

Periodic calculations were carried out with the *CRYSTAL14* package (Dovesi *et al.*, 2014) using the B3LYP hybrid functional, 6-31G** or TZVP (Peintinger *et al.*, 2012) basis sets for C and F atoms, and the Doll's (Doll & Stoll, 1998) or HAYWLC (Prencipe, 1990) basis sets for I atoms. The basis set 6-31G** proved adequate for exploring other related systems exhibiting halogen bonds (Ellman, 2006; Raffo *et al.*, 2016; Rosokha *et al.*, 2013) and was found to yield cohesion energies very similar to those obtained through the use of other basis sets like TZP (Civalleri *et al.*, 2008). With I atoms, bigger basis sets were required, so the Doll's (Pham *et al.*, 2014) or HAYWLC basis sets were used. Long-range dispersion contributions were taken into account by including a London-type pairwise empirical correction (Civalleri *et al.*, 2008). A BSSE correction was used in the calculation of lattice energies.

3. Results and discussion

Fig. 1 shows a displacement ellipsoid plot for (I), disclosing the atom-labelling scheme used (common to both structures). Tables 2, 3 and 4 show the π - π , $\text{C}-\text{X}\cdots\pi$ and $\text{C}-\text{X}\cdots\text{X}'-\text{C}'$ ($\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{I}$) interactions for the new polymorph (I), while Tables 5 and 6, in turn, show the $\text{C}-\text{X}\cdots\pi$ and $\text{C}-\text{X}\cdots\text{X}'-\text{C}'$ contacts for already reported polymorph (II). The first column

Table 2
 π - π interaction for (I).

| Code | Type | $\text{Cg}\cdots\text{Cg}$ | $\text{Cg}\cdots\text{Cg}$ (Å) | da (°) | d/perp (Å) | Shift (Å) | $100*\rho(r_{\text{CP}})$ (a.u.) | $100*\nabla^2\rho(r_{\text{CP}})$ (a.u.) |
|------|------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--|
| #1 | A-A | $\text{Cg1}\cdots\text{Cg1}^i$ | 3.859 (7) | 0.0 (5) | 3.531 (4) | 1.557 | 0.40 | 0.13 |

Notes: da is the dihedral angle between planes; d/perp is the perpendicular distances of Cg to the opposite plane; ‘Shift’ is the parallel shift between planes; r_{CP} is the position of the critical point. Type code: A-A = linking faces type A. Symmetry code: (i) $-x + 1, -y + 2, -z + 1$.

Table 3

C—X··· π interactions for (I) ($X = \text{F, I}$).

| Code | Type | C—X···Cg | X···Cg (Å) | X/perp (Å) | X···Cg/perp (°) | C—X/perp (°) | 100* $\rho(r_{\text{CP}})$ (a.u.) | 100* $\nabla^2\rho(r_{\text{CP}})$ (a.u.) |
|------|------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| #2 | B–B | C6—I6···Cg1 ⁱⁱⁱ | 4.308 (3) | 3.797 (3) | 28.1 (2) | 69.8 (2) | 0.50 | 0.14 |
| #3 | B–B | C3—F3···Cg1 ⁱⁱⁱ | 3.663 (6) | 3.109 (7) | 30.8 (2) | 111.3 (3) | 0.49 | 0.20 |

Notes: X/perp is the perpendicular distances of X to the plane; X···Cg/perp is the angle between the X···Cg vector and the plane normal; C—X/perp is the angle between the C—X vector and the plane normal; r_{CP} is the position of the critical point. Type code: **B–B** = linking faces type **B**. Symmetry codes: (ii) $x, -y + \frac{3}{2}, z - \frac{1}{2}$; (iii) $x, -y + \frac{3}{2}, z + \frac{1}{2}$.

Table 4

C—X···X'—C' interactions for (I) ($X = \text{F, I}$).

| Code | Type | C—X···(X—C') | X···X' (Å) | <C—X···X'> (°) | <X···X'—C'> (°) | 100* $\rho(r_{\text{CP}})$ (a.u.) | 100* $\nabla^2\rho(r_{\text{CP}})$ (a.u.) |
|------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| #4 | X | C4—I4···(I6—C6) ^{iv} | 3.8341 (15) | 111.3 (3) | 157.4 (3) | 0.93 | 0.22 |
| #5 | B–B | C2—I2···(I4—C4) ^v | 3.9264 (14) | 143.3 (3) | 100.3 (3) | 0.86 | 0.20 |
| #6 | A–A | C4—I4···(I4—C4) ^{vi} | 4.0610 (12) | 118.1 (3) | 118.1 (3) | 0.73 | 0.17 |
| #7 | X | C2—I2···(I4—C4) ^{vii} | 3.9617 (11) | 113.0 (3) | 176.6 (3) | 0.70 | 0.18 |
| #8 | X | C2—I2···(I6—C6) ^{viii} | 4.1271 (15) | 152.3 (4) | 106.5 (4) | 0.42 | 0.11 |
| #9 | B–B | C2—I2···(F1—C1) ⁱⁱⁱ | 3.7852 (13) | 83.2 (4) | 126.1 (4) | 0.38 | 0.12 |
| #10 | B–B | C4—I4···(F5—C5) ⁱⁱⁱ | 3.8683 (14) | 109.6 (3) | 86.9 (3) | 0.36 | 0.12 |

Notes: <C—X···X'> is the angle between the C—X and X···X' vectors; <X···X'—C'> is the angle between the X···X' and X'—C' vectors; r_{CP} is the position of the critical point. Type codes: **X** = interplane, **A–A** = linking faces type **A** and **B–B** = linking faces type **B**. Symmetry codes: (iii) $x, -y + \frac{3}{2}, z + \frac{1}{2}$; (iv) $x, y, z + 1$; (v) $x - 1, -y + \frac{3}{2}, z - \frac{1}{2}$; (vi) $-x + 2, -y + 2, -z + 2$; (vii) $x - 1, y, z - 1$; (viii) $x - 1, y, z$.

in these tables includes a sequence interaction number, for convenience of description, and the last two columns, include relevant parameters from AIM calculations.¹

The elemental structural unit in new polymorph (I) appears to be the two-dimensional substructure parallel to (010), shown in Fig. 2. The two-dimensional substructure is stabilized by three 'in-plane' C—I···I'—C' interactions, labelled as #4 (the most relevant, according to AIM parameters), #7 and #8 in Table 4, which can be considered type-II I···I halogen bonds building up a cyclic I3 synthon (Bui *et al.*, 2009).

These planes pile up along the *b* axis in an antiparallel fashion, neighbouring planes being generated by the inversion centres (thus confronting faces labelled **A** in Fig. 3) or the glide plane (thus confronting faces labelled **B** in Fig. 3). The set of **A–A** and **B–B** interactions are different, as are their effect in defining the least-squares interplanar distances

[**A–A** = 3.212 (2) Å and **B–B** = 3.381 (2) Å]. In the first group appear interactions #1 and #6 (Tables 2 and 4), and in the second, interactions #2, #3, #5, #9 and #10 (Tables 3 and 4, and Fig. 2).

In turn, the more striking building blocks in the structure of polymorph (II) are the columns shown in Fig. 4, running along the *b* axis and built up by parallel molecules shifted by a [010] vector, and oriented at a rather large angle ($\sim 41.1^\circ$) to the columnar axis. Even if the interplanar distance [3.604 (3) Å] is compatible with the existence of stacking interactions, this is disrupted by the almost 'one-molecule-wide' slippage (3.160 Å) due to the large slanting angle. But, on the other hand, this very tilted orientation favours the occurrence of two different C—X··· π contacts (interactions #1 and #2 in Table 5). Note the rather 'straight' X··· π vectors (departures from the vertical by $\sim 12^\circ$), as well as the almost 'horizontal'

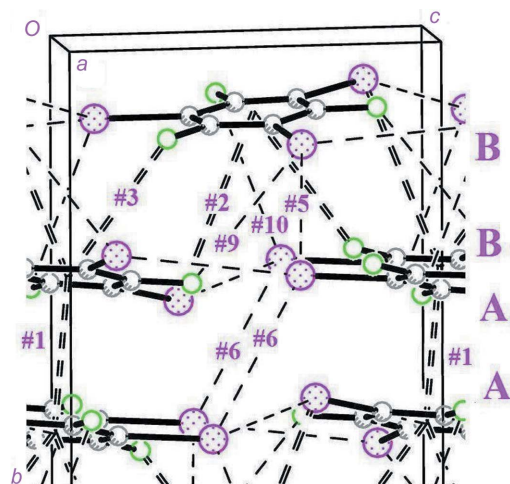


Figure 3

The stacking of planes in polymorph (I) in a detailed view showing labelled interactions. Interaction codes are as in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

¹ AIM (an acronym for the 'Atoms In Molecules' theory; Bader, 1990, 2009) interprets chemical bonding in terms of shared or closed-shell interactions, characterized by the electron density [$\rho(r)$], its gradient vector [$\nabla\rho(r)$] and its Laplacian [$\nabla^2\rho(r)$] at particular points termed 'bond critical points', where the sign and magnitude of $\rho(r)$ and $\nabla^2\rho(r)$ define the interaction type. AIM has been a matter of debate on theoretical grounds [viz. Haaland *et al.*, (2004), Poater *et al.*, (2006) and Krapp & Frenking (2007) versus Bader (2009)] and continues to be a controversial issue [Dunitz (2015) versus Thakur *et al.* (2015) and Lecomte *et al.* (2015)]. Even if now accepted as an extremely valuable means of disclosing and characterizing interactions, some critical viewpoints concerning the application of the method (when 'absolute' AIM values are analyzed) have been raised (Spackman, 2015), but its use as a tool for 'relative' comparisons is steadily gaining general acceptability (Wang *et al.*, 2016, *etc.*). In the present case, we established a well-defined correlation between the AIM parameters and the interaction energies. Indeed, we calculated the energy of several 'dimers' found in the structures (as the difference between the energy of the dimer and twice that of the isolated molecules) and used these results in order to identify the critical points. The results of these calculations are presented for both polymorphs in Fig. S1 of the supporting information. In each of these dimers, one or more interactions might be involved; nevertheless, one of them can be often considered as predominant. The excellent correlation between the calculated energy of such dimeric units and the corresponding AIM parameters can be assessed in Fig. S2 of the supporting information.

Table 5
C—X... π interactions for (II) (X = F, I).

| Code | Type | C—X...Cg | X...Cg (Å) | X/perp (Å) | X...Cg/perp (°) | C—X/perp (°) | 100* $\rho(r_{CP})$ (a.u.) | 100* $\nabla^2\rho(r_{CP})$ (a.u.) |
|------|------|---------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| #1 | X | C2—I2...Cg1 ⁱ | 3.728 (3) | 3.642 | 12.29 | 83.1 (2) | 0.69 | 0.21 |
| #2 | X | C5—F5...Cg1 ⁱⁱ | 3.663 (6) | 3.575 | 12.66 | 82.7 (4) | 0.48 | 0.19 |

Notes: X/perp is the perpendicular distances of X to the plane; X...Cg/perp is the angle between the X...Cg vector and the plane normal; C—X/perp is the angle between the C—X vector and the plane normal; r_{CP} is the position of the critical point. Type code: X = intra-column. Symmetry codes: (i) x, y + 1, z; (ii) x, y - 1, z.

Table 6
C—X...X'—C' interactions for (II) (X = F, I).

| Code | Type | C—X...X'—C' | X...X' | <C—X...X'> (°) | <X...X'—C'> (°) | 100* $\rho(r_{CP})$ (a.u.) | 100* $\nabla^2\rho(r_{CP})$ (a.u.) |
|------|------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| #3 | Y | C2—I2...I2—C2 ⁱⁱⁱ | 3.774 (2) | 171.1 (2) | 100.7 (2) | 1.02 | 0.24 |
| #4 | Z | C4—I4...I6—C6 ^{iv} | 3.957 (2) | 80.5 (5) | 146.8 (5) | 0.80 | 0.19 |
| #5 | Z | C6—I6...I6—C6 ^v | 4.101 (2) | 138.4 (2) | 138.4 (2) | 0.57 | 0.14 |
| #6 | Z | C2—I2...I4—C4 ^{vi} | 4.241 (5) | 126.9 (4) | 123.2 (4) | 0.55 | 0.13 |
| #7 | X | C1—F1...I6—C6 ⁱ | 3.656 (5) | 87.3 (4) | 90.4 (4) | 0.53 | 0.17 |
| #8 | Z | C3—F3...F3—C3 ^{vii} | 2.851 (8) | 157.4 (5) | 157.4 (5) | 0.52 | 0.28 |
| #9 | Z | C1—F1...I4—C4 ^{vii} | 3.584 (5) | 145.5 (4) | 126.1 (4) | 0.49 | 0.17 |
| #10 | Z | C5—F5...I6—C6 ^{viii} | 3.530 (5) | 167.3 (4) | 74.2 (4) | 0.41 | 0.13 |
| #11 | Z | C3—F3...I4—C4 ^{vi} | 3.979 (6) | 111.9 (5) | 79.0 (5) | 0.35 | 0.11 |
| #12 | Z | C2—I2...I4—C4 ^{vii} | 4.044 (2) | 105.6 (2) | 157.5 (2) | 0.24 | 0.06 |

Notes: <C—X...X'> is the angle between the C—X and X...X' vectors; <X...X'—C'> is the angle between the X...X' and X'—C' vectors; r_{CP} is the position of the critical point. Type codes: X = intra-column, Y = intra-bicolumn and Z = inter-bicolumn. Symmetry codes: (iii) $-x - \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$; (iv) $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$; (v) $-x, -y - 1, -z$; (vi) $-x, -y, -z + 1$; (vii) $x - \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{1}{2}, z - \frac{1}{2}$; (viii) $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$.

C—X... π ones (angles of $\sim 83^\circ$), an arrangement which approaches that expected for a donor–acceptor C—X... π interaction, with the negative ‘belt’ around X pointing to the positively charged zone at the ring centre. There is a further C—F...I—C interaction (#7 in Table 6) reinforcing the columnar strength. AIM calculations ascribe these three interactions a ‘medium-strength’ character (Wang *et al.*, 2016; Di Paolo *et al.*, 2016).

The strongest linkage in structure (II) is found between neighbouring columns related by the 2_1 axis, through a single zigzag C—I...I—C interaction (#3 in Table 6 and Figs. 5 and 6). This type of contact has already been observed in halogenated aromatic compounds as Br–benzamide (Tothadi *et al.*, 2013), Br–benzoic acids (Ohkura *et al.*, 1972; Raffo *et al.*, 2016), *etc.* In the present case, the effect is that of ‘threading’ parallel columns into a strongly bound ‘bi-columnar’ unit. Due to the 2_1 relationship between the two columns, with a 41.1° slanting angle to the *b* axis, molecules in each end up being almost perpendicular ($2 \times 41.1^\circ = 82.2^\circ$). These one-dimensional structures along the *b* axis are finally interlinked with their parallel neighbours by a plethora of C—X...X'—C' noncovalent bonds of different types and strengths, presented

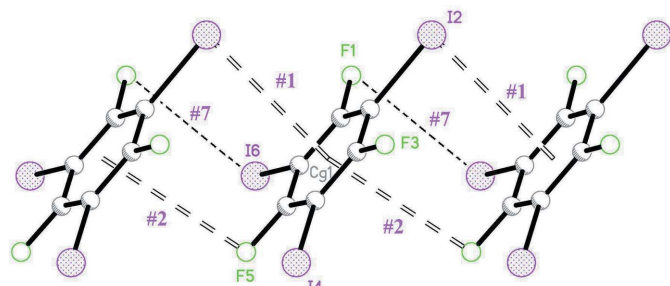


Figure 4
The columnar array in (II). Interaction codes are as in Tables 5 and 6.

in Table 6. Fig. 6 displays in projection one central column (in strong black lining), emphasizing the lateral interactions which link it to six different neighbouring columns in a strongly linked three-dimensional structure.

In their detailed study on the structures of hexahalogenated benzenes, Desiraju and co-workers (Reddy *et al.*, 2006) found layered structures similar to that exhibited by polymorph (I) for the triclinic forms of some derivatives, such as 1,3,5-tri-bromotriiodobenzene (**BzB3I3**); they pointed out that these structures were based on strong triangular I3 synthons exhibiting very short I...I distances (3.75–3.80 Å). For **BzF3I3**, they only found the already analysed three-dimensional monoclinic (II) polymorph, and predicted that the F...F distances in an eventual layered structure should amount to 5.01 Å. Certainly, polymorph (I) grew in our experiments due to the presence of dibutylamine, which acted as a ‘nontaylored’ additive–inductor of polymorphism. It exhibits the same

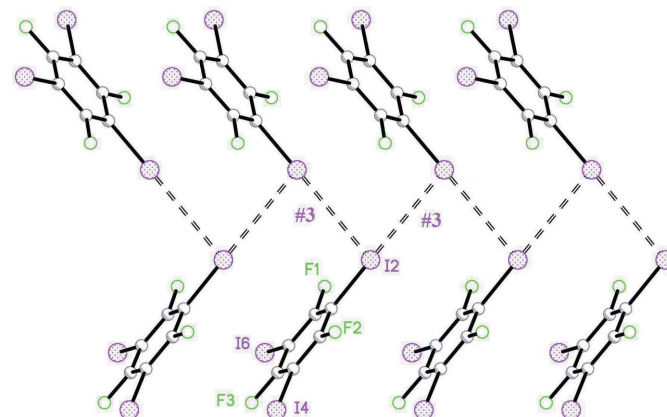


Figure 5
The linkage between neighbouring columns in (II), forming a ‘bi-columnar’ unit. Interaction codes are as in Table 6.

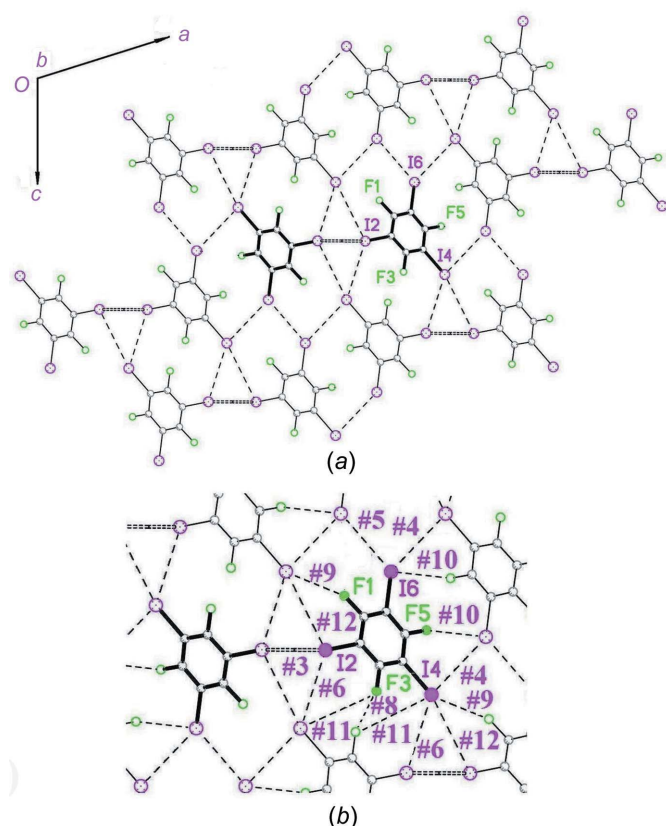


Figure 6
(a) A [010] view of (II), showing a 'bi-column' (in heavy lining) surrounded by its six neighbouring equivalents. For the sake of clarity, C–F...I/F–C interactions are not shown. (b) The central 'bi-column' above (in heavy lining), with the full set of interactions labelled using the codes shown in Table 6. Only contacts where the reference atoms take part (acting either as donors or acceptors) are shown.

kind of I3 synthon, although with longer I...I distances (range 3.83–4.13 Å). Interestingly, the experimental F...F distances we found in the layered structure of (I) are 5.099 (11) (F3...F5), 5.095 (10) (F1...F5) and 4.900 (12) Å (F1...F3), in excellent agreement with Desiraju's prediction.

An examination of the global structure (three-dimensional versus two-dimensional), as well as the geometrical aspects of the main interactions found for both polymorphs [θ_1 and θ_2 values closer to the values of 180 and 90° expected for type-II halogen bonds, as well as shorter I...I distances for polymorph (II)] suggests cohesion in polymorph (II) is higher than in (I). AIM analysis also points to the I...I interactions being stronger in polymorph (II) than in (I). Although the comparison in the present terms is restricted to the stated directional interactions, many other directional and nondirectional interactions also play a role in the structure cohesion (as also evidenced by the AIM parameters).

In an attempt to validate this qualitative analysis, we performed quantum calculations of the respective cohesion energies for polymorphs (I) and (II) using the *CRYSTAL14* package (Dovesi *et al.*, 2014). These calculations provide cohesion energies quite similar for (I) and (II), independently of the basis sets used and in all cases within the range –94 to 105 kJ mol^{–1} (see Table S1 of the supporting information for

individual values). Nevertheless, differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) provided experimental support for the stated relative stabilities. Indeed, DSC runs conducted on powdered samples of (II) and individual single crystals of (I) showed polymorph (II) melts at 428 (1) K, with $\Delta H = 19$ (2) kJ mol^{–1}, whereas polymorph (I) melts at 413 (2) K, with $\Delta H = 11$ (4) kJ mol^{–1} (uncertainties quoted on the basis of the dispersion observed in different experiments). Both the melting point and the melting enthalpies indicate that polymorph (II) exhibits a more tightly organized structure than (I), in line with both our calculations and our crystallographic analysis of both structures.

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supporting information

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Polymorphism of a widely used building block for halogen-bonded assemblies: 1,3,5-trifluoro-2,4,6-triiodobenzene

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Computing details

Data collection: *CrysAlis PRO* (Oxford Diffraction, 2009); cell refinement: *CrysAlis PRO* (Oxford Diffraction, 2009); data reduction: *CrysAlis PRO* (Oxford Diffraction, 2009); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL2014* (Sheldrick, 2015); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2008); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*, *PLATON* (Spek, 2009).

1,3,5-Trifluoro-2,4,6-triiodobenzene

Crystal data

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| $\text{C}_6\text{F}_3\text{I}_3$ | $F(000) = 888$ |
| $M_r = 509.76$ | $D_x = 3.391 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ |
| Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$ | Mo $K\alpha$ radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ |
| $a = 9.3455 (9) \text{ \AA}$ | Cell parameters from 1826 reflections |
| $b = 13.1854 (10) \text{ \AA}$ | $\theta = 4.0\text{--}25.5^\circ$ |
| $c = 9.2185 (8) \text{ \AA}$ | $\mu = 9.38 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ |
| $\beta = 118.466 (11)^\circ$ | $T = 295 \text{ K}$ |
| $V = 998.61 (18) \text{ \AA}^3$ | Plates, light brown |
| $Z = 4$ | $0.35 \times 0.30 \times 0.12 \text{ mm}$ |

Data collection

| | |
|---|--|
| CCD Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur, Eos, Gemini diffractometer | 2404 independent reflections |
| Radiation source: Enhance (Mo) X-ray Source | 1610 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ |
| thick slices scans | $R_{\text{int}} = 0.075$ |
| Absorption correction: multi-scan | $\theta_{\text{max}} = 29.3^\circ$, $\theta_{\text{min}} = 4.0^\circ$ |
| CrysAlisPro (Oxford Diffraction, 2009) | $h = -12 \rightarrow 12$ |
| $T_{\text{min}} = 0.12$, $T_{\text{max}} = 0.42$ | $k = -17 \rightarrow 17$ |
| 7952 measured reflections | $l = -11 \rightarrow 11$ |

Refinement

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Refinement on F^2 | 0 restraints |
| Least-squares matrix: full | $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0769P)^2 + 0.0712P]$ |
| $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.054$ | where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ |
| $wR(F^2) = 0.165$ | $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$ |
| $S = 1.06$ | $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 1.26 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$ |
| 2404 reflections | $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -1.89 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$ |
| 109 parameters | |

Special details

Geometry. All esds (except the esd in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell esds are taken into account individually in the estimation of esds in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between esds in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell esds is used for estimating esds involving l.s. planes.

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

| | <i>x</i> | <i>y</i> | <i>z</i> | $U_{\text{iso}}^*/U_{\text{eq}}$ |
|----|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| F1 | 0.3706 (9) | 0.8880 (5) | 0.1550 (8) | 0.0477 (17) |
| F3 | 0.5120 (9) | 0.8418 (5) | 0.7112 (8) | 0.0454 (16) |
| F5 | 0.9181 (8) | 0.9031 (6) | 0.5590 (8) | 0.0468 (17) |
| I2 | 0.19358 (10) | 0.83570 (7) | 0.36597 (10) | 0.0513 (3) |
| I4 | 0.89656 (9) | 0.86728 (6) | 0.88692 (8) | 0.0414 (3) |
| I6 | 0.71380 (11) | 0.92451 (7) | 0.17247 (9) | 0.0504 (3) |
| C1 | 0.4848 (13) | 0.8838 (7) | 0.3127 (12) | 0.030 (2) |
| C2 | 0.4352 (13) | 0.8629 (7) | 0.4307 (13) | 0.031 (2) |
| C3 | 0.5582 (15) | 0.8611 (7) | 0.5956 (13) | 0.033 (2) |
| C4 | 0.7199 (13) | 0.8721 (7) | 0.6403 (11) | 0.029 (2) |
| C5 | 0.7587 (15) | 0.8916 (7) | 0.5171 (13) | 0.034 (2) |
| C6 | 0.6472 (15) | 0.8977 (9) | 0.3549 (13) | 0.037 (3) |

Atomic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

| | U^{11} | U^{22} | U^{33} | U^{12} | U^{13} | U^{23} |
|----|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| F1 | 0.034 (4) | 0.069 (5) | 0.033 (3) | 0.000 (3) | 0.011 (3) | 0.008 (3) |
| F3 | 0.046 (4) | 0.061 (4) | 0.035 (3) | 0.001 (3) | 0.024 (3) | 0.008 (3) |
| F5 | 0.028 (4) | 0.078 (5) | 0.036 (3) | −0.005 (3) | 0.017 (3) | −0.002 (3) |
| I2 | 0.0323 (5) | 0.0693 (6) | 0.0482 (5) | −0.0118 (4) | 0.0159 (4) | 0.0070 (4) |
| I4 | 0.0357 (5) | 0.0575 (5) | 0.0285 (4) | 0.0021 (4) | 0.0133 (4) | −0.0048 (3) |
| I6 | 0.0451 (6) | 0.0762 (6) | 0.0369 (5) | 0.0089 (4) | 0.0252 (4) | 0.0140 (4) |
| C1 | 0.025 (6) | 0.029 (5) | 0.022 (5) | 0.006 (5) | 0.001 (4) | 0.004 (4) |
| C2 | 0.024 (5) | 0.037 (5) | 0.029 (5) | −0.003 (5) | 0.009 (5) | 0.006 (4) |
| C3 | 0.038 (6) | 0.036 (6) | 0.031 (5) | 0.005 (5) | 0.021 (5) | 0.003 (4) |
| C4 | 0.030 (6) | 0.032 (5) | 0.021 (5) | 0.000 (5) | 0.008 (4) | 0.002 (4) |
| C5 | 0.038 (6) | 0.027 (5) | 0.039 (6) | 0.001 (5) | 0.020 (5) | −0.007 (4) |
| C6 | 0.038 (7) | 0.050 (6) | 0.025 (5) | −0.011 (5) | 0.017 (5) | −0.006 (4) |

Geometric parameters (\AA , $^\circ$)

| | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| F1—C1 | 1.333 (11) | C1—C2 | 1.398 (14) |
| F3—C3 | 1.351 (11) | C1—C6 | 1.387 (15) |
| F5—C5 | 1.358 (14) | C2—C3 | 1.402 (14) |
| I2—C2 | 2.074 (11) | C3—C4 | 1.371 (15) |
| I4—C4 | 2.079 (10) | C4—C5 | 1.371 (14) |
| I6—C6 | 2.083 (10) | C5—C6 | 1.358 (15) |
| F1—C1—C2 | 117.8 (10) | C5—C4—C3 | 117.4 (10) |

| | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| F1—C1—C6 | 120.1 (9) | C5—C4—I4 | 121.7 (8) |
| C2—C1—C6 | 122.1 (9) | C3—C4—I4 | 120.8 (7) |
| C1—C2—C3 | 116.3 (10) | C6—C5—C4 | 123.8 (11) |
| C1—C2—I2 | 122.0 (8) | C6—C5—F5 | 118.0 (9) |
| C3—C2—I2 | 121.8 (7) | C4—C5—F5 | 118.2 (10) |
| F3—C3—C4 | 120.2 (10) | C5—C6—C1 | 117.6 (9) |
| F3—C3—C2 | 117.0 (10) | C5—C6—I6 | 122.1 (9) |
| C4—C3—C2 | 122.7 (9) | C1—C6—I6 | 120.3 (8) |
