STRUCTURAL RELATIONS IN THE ADELITE- AND DESCLOIZITE-STRUCTURE TYPE

H. Effenberger

Universitaet Wien Institut Fuer Mineralogie Und Kristallographie Althanstrasse 14 WIEN OESTERREICH 1090 AUSTRIA

More than a dozen minerals and some synthetic compounds (arsenates, vanadates, silicates, and molybdates) are known to belong to the adelitedescloizite structure type. The double salts are formed by two cations featuring distinct environments. The cation A is in a [7]- or [8]-coordination (Na, Ca, Pb atoms) whereas the cation B is octahedrally [6] or tetragonal bipyramidally [4 plus 2] coordinated to O atoms (Mg, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn atoms). All compounds crystallize orthorhombic. The parental structure is centrosymmetric and exhibits a mono-capped trigonal prism for the coordination polyhedron around the A atoms (descloizite type). An acentric structure variant is known (adelite type); the main difference is the [8] coordination of the A atoms in form of a square antiprism. Further deviations from the centrosymmetric parental structure are moderate. A tendency is observed that the centrosymmetric symmetry goes along with lead-vanadates whereas calcium, arsenate and silicate favour the acentric symmetry. The system Cd(II)-Cu(II)arsenate(V) system was investigated under hydrothermal conditions; as a result, a new Cd-member was synthesized. Single-crystal X-ray structure investigations proved that this compound is a centrosymmetric Pnam member of the adelite-descloizite group: a = 7.415(1), b = 9.016(2), c = 5.890(1) Å; NONIUS four-circle diffractometer, CCD detector, capillary-optics collimator, Mo tube, graphite monochromator; R1 = 0.020, wR2 = 0.046, total 772 reflections (689 observed reflections); for non-hydrogen atoms anisotropic displacement parameters were refined; the H atom was found from a difference Fourier map and refined isotropically. The [4 plus 2] coordinated Cu atoms are located in an inversion centre; they are linked by O-O edges to chains parallel to [001]: Cu-O = 1.8967(14), 2x / 2.0533(16), 2x / 2.3083(16) Å, 2x. Each of the arsenate tetrahedra link two such chains to a three-dimensional net-work, the average As-O bond distance is 1.6908 Å. Cavities house the A = Cd atoms: Cd-O is 2.224(2) to 2.542(3) Å. The hydrogen bond O-H.^{..}O is 2.622(4) Å. Despite similar ionic radii of Ca and Cd atoms, the Ca compound crystallizes acentric

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THE DISPLACIVE PHASE TRANSFORMATION IN THE BINARY SYSTEM Sn-Sb

M. Ellner E. J. Mittemeijer

Max Planck Institute for Metals Research Heisenbergstraße 3 STUTTGART D-70569 GERMANY

The significant berthollidic phase of the binary system Sn-Sb is stistaite (SnSb, β phase), stable in the composition range 0.43 < xSb < 0.61 and at temperatures below 698 K [1]. The structure of SnSb is of the rhomboedrically deformed NaCl type: hR8, *R*-3*m*, 1Sn (a), 3 Sn (e), 1 Sb (b), 3 Sb (d), a = 0.6123 nm,

 $\alpha = 89.38^{\circ}$ [2]. For compositions xSb < 0.5, the atomic positions of antimony are substituted by tin and vice versa for the compositions xSb > 0.5. The rhomboedric angle of SnSb decreases and the unit cell volume increases with increasing valence electron concentration. In the temperature range 523 K < T < 597 K, another intermediate phase - Sn₃Sb₂ - exists; this high-temperature phase of fixed stoichiometry can be retained neither by quenching of the heattreated alloys nor by means of the liquid-quenching technique. *In situ* investigation of alloys in the composition range 0.39 < xSb < 0.41 (at temperatures 530 K < T < 580 K) in a modified Guinier-Simon hightemperature X-ray camera with CuKa₁ radiation showded that the hightemperature phase Sn₃Sb₂ has a non-deformed NaCl structure: cF8, *Fm*-3*m*,

a=0.6192(2) nm. The symmetry relationship for this displacive phase transformation can be characterized by the equation: Sn_3Sb_2 (cF8, *Fm-3m*) (R) SnSb (hR8, *R-3m*) (+ α -Sn(Sb), tl4, *I*41/*amd*). In the binary and ternary systems containing the 4d/5d elements of the B12 to B16 groups and showing the similar valence electron concentration (4.50 < VEC < 4.75), high-pressure phases isotypical with the NaCl structure also occur: Cd_{0.25}Sn_{0.75}Te, Cd_{0.25}Pb_{0.75}Te, Cd_{0.52}Pb_{0.75}Te, Cd_{0.52}Pb_{0.75}Te, Cd_{0.55}Pb_{0.57}E [3].

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STRUCTURAL STUDY OF A GRAPHITE-LITHIUM-CALCIUM INTERCALATION COMPOUND

<u>P. Lagrange</u> S. Pruvost C. Herold J.F. Mareche A. Herold Laboratoire De Chimie Du Solide Mineral (Umr Cnrs 7555) Universite Henri Poincare Nancy I B.P. 239 Vandoeuvre-Les-Nancy Cedex 54506 France

Lithium is able to intercalate by itself into graphite. This vapour solid reaction leads to a first stage compound, for which the formula is LiC6. All the graphitic intervals are spread apart and are occupied by a monoatomic metal layer. This latter is commensurate with respect to the graphene layers. Calcium leads to a similar intercalation reaction, and the synthesized compound is CaC₆. The 2D structure of the intercalated metal layers are exactly the same for both MC_6 compounds. But, the graphene interplanar distance is weak for LiC₆ (370 pm) and larger for CaC₆ (455 pm), according to the size of the corresponding cations. Some lithium-calcium liquid alloys are also able to intercalate into graphite. But the first stage ternary compound, that is obtained, is strongly different from LiC₆ (or CaC₆). Indeed, this compound exhibits five-layered intercalated sheets, according to the Li-Ca-Ca-Li c-axis sequence, and its graphene interplanar distance is strongly larger than the former (776 pm). These crystallographic data were obtained of course by X-ray diffraction, but also by neutron diffraction, because lithium is a very light element, so that it is quasi-invisible for the X-rays. The chemical formula of the ternary compound is LiCa₃C₈ ; consequently, its metal content is particularly high, since the carbon/metal ratio comes down to 2. Intercalated lithium graphite is very interesting, due to its largely expanded use as negative electrode material in the Li-ion batteries.

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AB INITIO INVESTIGATIONS OF β-Ba(OH)₂ AND ITS HIGH PRESSURE PHASE β-II-Ba(OH)₂

<u>U. Hantsch</u>¹M. Hytha¹ A. Friedrich² B. Winkler¹ V. Milman³ ¹CAU Kiel Institut Fuer Geowissenschaften / Kristallographie Olshausenstrasse 40 KIEL 24098 GERMANY ²Laboratorium f. Kristallographie, ETH Zuerich ³Accelrys Inc., Cambridge

The pressure dependence of the structural parameters and bonding characteristics of β -Ba(OH)₂ and its high pressure modification β -II-Ba(OH)₂ have been investigated up to 20 GPa by density functional theory (DFT) calculations using the generalized gradient approximation and a plane wave basis set in conjunction with ultrasoft pseudopotentials [1]. The agreement between the structural parameters obtained from theory (a=9.459 Å, b=7.939 Å, c=6.811 Å, β =95.6°, SG= $P2_1/n$ and experiment [2] for the ground state structure is well within the usual limits of DFT-based calculations. Within the calculated pressure range no additional hydrogen bonding is induced whereas the coordination numbers of the atoms Ba1 and Ba2 change from 8 to 9 and 7 to 8, respectively. For β -II-Ba(OH)₂, the positions of the hydrogen atoms have been predicted. For β -Ba(OH)₂, the elastic stiffness coefficients have been determined by finite strain calculations. From these data and from the calculated compression behaviour, the bulk modulus of β -Ba(OH)₂ has been obtained. The finite strain calculation yields B = 48.1(4) GPa, while the equation of state gives B = 40.7(1.5) GPa and a pressure derivative of B, B = 4.9. The agreement with the experimental value (B=39.5(1.3)) [2] obtained by fixing B to a value of 6 and fitting only data points below the expected phase transition is satisfactory.

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