



Programme and Book of Abstracts

Fifth Meeting of the Italian (AIC) and
Spanish Crystallographic (GE3C)
Associations (MISCA V)



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MS2 – P2: Compressibility of hibonite (CA6): a single crystal synchrotron radiation high-pressure study.

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The elasticity of hibonite (ideally CaAl_2O_9 , space group $P6_3/mmc$) has been investigated by synchrotron radiation high-pressure single crystal X-ray diffraction, using a membrane-driven diamond anvil cell mounting Bohler-Almax design diamonds and methanol:ethanol:water (16:3:1) and helium as pressure-transmitting fluids, at the ID15B beamline of ESRF, Grenoble, ($\lambda = 0.4111 \text{ \AA}$) up to 19.5 GPa. We collected 26 pressure data points. On compressing, no displacive phase transition has been observed. We have fitted lattice volume data with a $BM2$ EoS, using EosFit7c [1], and obtain zero-pressure isothermal bulk modulus (K_{0T}) of 204(1) GPa and a unit-cell volume of 590.44(14) \AA^3 . Linearized EoS were fitted using cubed lattice parameters [1] and obtained zero-pressure isothermal bulk modulus (K_{0T}) of 256(3) GPa for a lattice parameter and of 141(1) GPa for c lattice parameter. Therefore, the structure is significantly stiff, and strain develops predominantly on the c direction. Hibonite structure is based on the periodic repetition along [0001] of ten layers of approximately closest-packed oxygen atoms. The sequence can be expressed as $(chhhcchhhc)$, where c and h symbolize cubic and hexagonal closest-packed layers, respectively. The cubic close-packed layers constitute blocks that have the spinel structure ($S = [M_6O_8]^{2+}$) and are interlayered between blocks having the hexagonal close-packed character $R (= [AM_6O_{11}]^{2-})$, resulting in a staking with a $S'RSR'S'$ sequence, where R' and S' are rotated 180° around c relative to R and S . Hibonite has the structural formula $A^{[XII]}M1^{[VI]}M2^{[VI]}M3_2^{[IV]}M4_2^{[VI]}M5_6^{[VI]}O_{19}$, where Ca is 12-fold coordinated at site A and Al^{3+} ions are distributed over three distinct octahedra [$M1$, $M4$ and $M5$], the $M3$ tetrahedron, and the unusual fivefold coordinated trigonal bipyramid $M2$. The hibonite sample comes from Sierra de Comechingones (Argentina) and has composition $(\text{Ca}_{1.01}\text{Na}_{0.01})_{1.02}(\text{Al}_{11.58}\text{V}_{0.33}\text{Ti}_{0.02}\text{Mg}_{0.06}\text{Si}_{0.01})_{1.00}\text{O}_{19}$. Structure refinements yields V ordered in $M2^{[VI]}$ $M4_2^{[VI]}$ sites with composition $M2^{[VI]}(\text{Al}_{0.94}\text{V}_{0.06})$ and $M4_2^{[VI]}(\text{Al}_{1.73}\text{V}_{0.27})_2$ whereas Mg orders in $M3_2^{[IV]}$ (with composition $M3_2^{[IV]}(\text{Al}_{1.94}\text{Mg}_{0.06})_2$). Evolution of polyhedral volumes show that $M2^{[VI]}$ $M4_2^{[VI]}$ and A show a decrease of ca. 10% whereas it is lesser for the rest of the sites. The $M2^{[VI]}$ $M4_2^{[VI]}$ and A sites belong to the R -block, whereas $M1^{[VI]}$ $M3_2^{[IV]}$ $M5_6^{[VI]}$ constitute the S -block. Therefore, there is a heterogeneity of the strain along [0001], which alternates between the S -blocks and the more compliant R -block. Congruently, high- T studies [2] have observed that the R -block expands more than the S -block. It remains uncertain if this heterogeneity is due to compositional stain (V ordered at the R -block) or to intrinsic behavior of the hibonite structure.

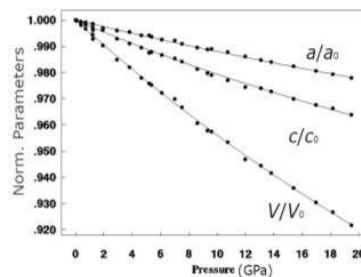


Figure 1. Normalized parameters versus pressure (in GPa).

[1] R.J. Angel, J. Gonzalez-Platas, M. Alvaro Z. *Kristallogr.* **2014**, 229, 405.

[2] M. Nagashima, T. Armbruster, T. Hainschwang *Min. Mag.* **2010**, 74, 871