

High-pressure behaviour and atomic-scale deformation mechanisms in inyoite, $\text{CaB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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Abstract

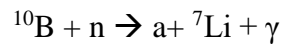
The compressional behaviour of inyoite, ideally $\text{CaB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, has been studied by an *in-situ* high-pressure single crystal X-ray experiment, at the ESRF large scale facility, up to 19.80(5) GPa. Inyoite undergoes a first-order phase transition to inyoite-II, bracketed between 8.25(5) and 8.86(5) GPa, with a large volume discontinuity ($\Delta V \sim 7.5\%$). The structure of the high-pressure polymorph has not been solved due to a significant decrease in the number of Bragg reflections. The isothermal bulk modulus ($K_{V0} = \beta^{-1}_{P0,T0}$, where $\beta_{P0,T0}$ is the volume compressibility coefficient) of inyoite was found to be $K_{V0} = 26.9(8)$ GPa, whereas in inyoite-II the K_{V0} value increases to 52(5) GPa. The increase of the bulk modulus is paired with a sharp decrease of the anisotropic compressibility, as shown by the magnitude of the Eulerian finite unit-strain ellipsoid with: $\varepsilon_1:\varepsilon_2:\varepsilon_3 = 3.5:2.1:1$ in inyoite and $\varepsilon_1:\varepsilon_2:\varepsilon_3 = 1.5:1.1:1$ in inyoite-II. The *P*-induced deformation mechanisms controlling, at the atomic scale, the bulk compression of inyoite are here described on the basis of a series of structure refinements.

1. Introduction

Boron is an important geochemical marker, especially in pegmatitic and granitic systems, for petrogenetic processes despite its low-abundance in the Earth's crust (Barth, 1998; Brenan *et al.*, 1998; Woods, 1994). Highly concentrated, economically sized deposits of boron minerals, always in the form of borates, are relatively uncommon and unevenly distributed in the world, usually in non-marine evaporites associated to hydrothermal activity, in which the most common borates are kernite, borax, colemanite and ulexite (*e.g.*, Turkey; California, USA; Argentina and Bolivia)

31 (USGS, 2020; Smith & Medrano, 1996; Morgan & Erd, 1969; Helvacı & Alonso, 2000; García-
 32 Veigas & Helvacı, 2013). Inyoite is an uncommon borate mineral ($\text{CaB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, Sp.Gr.
 33 $P2_1/n$ with $a \sim 10.53 \text{ \AA}$, $b \sim 12.07 \text{ \AA}$, $c \sim 8.41 \text{ \AA}$, $\beta \sim 112.9^\circ$ and $Z = 4$, $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \sim 37.6 \text{ wt\%}$) occurring in
 34 prismatic or tabular crystals. Inyoite was initially described by Schaller in the Kramer deposit
 35 (Kern County, California, USA) (Schaller, 1916) and its structure was first solved by (Clark, 1959)
 36 and later reinvestigated by (Rumanova & Genkina, 1981). In inyoite, the main structural units are
 37 isolated $[\text{B}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5]^{-2}$ polyions (**Fig. 1**), similarly to those of meyerhofferite
 38 ($\text{Ca}_2\text{B}_6\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_{10} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) and kurnakovite ($\text{MgB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$). Such polyion is formed by two
 39 $\text{B}\varphi_4$ tetrahedra, which share a corner with a $\text{B}\varphi_3$ unit (φ is an anion; O^{2-} or OH^-). These finite
 40 clusters of high bond-valence polyedra are usually referred to as “fundamental building blocks”
 41 (FBBs) (Hawthorne, 2012). Inyoite structure is formed by finite clusters of polyions connected to
 42 Ca-polyhedra and its descriptor, as defined by (Hawthorne, 2012), is $\langle \Delta 2 \square \rangle$, where Δ stands for
 43 $\text{B}\varphi_3$, \square represents a $\text{B}\varphi_4$. The polyions of inyoite are connected to one another through Ca-
 44 polyhedra, H_2O molecules and a complex and pervasive hydrogen bond network, which is
 45 expected to play a key role in the stability of the crystalline edifice, shown in Fig. 1. Ca is
 46 coordinated by eight oxygen atoms to form a distorted polyhedron, which is connected to the two
 47 tetrahedra of the polyion through two oxygen hinges (O2 and O7, **Fig. 1**).

48 Inyoite can be used to synthesize nanomaterials based upon polymerization of borate units, with
 49 ferroelectric, pyroelectric or piezoelectric properties (Frost *et al.*, 2015). More in general, borates
 50 can act as neutron-shielding materials, due to the isotope ^{10}B (which accounts for about 20% of
 51 natural boron) high cross section for thermal neutrons (~ 3840 barns) leading to the reaction (Carter
 52 *et al.*, 1953):



53
 54
 55 This means that enhanced neutron radiation shielding capacity is achievable by using boron-
 56 containing minerals as aggregates in concretes. This could also be the case of inyoite, given its low
 57 density (1.87 g/cm^3) and the absence of Na, which is known to induce deleterious processes in
 58 Portland concretes, because of the promotion of undesired reactions that undermine the durability
 59 of cements (*i.e.*, “alkali-silica reactions” – ASR) (Thomas, 2011). Furthermore, the use of borates,
 60 alongside with other minerals (*e.g.*, magnetite and hematite) as aggregates in concretes, was also
 61 reported to attenuate γ -radiations (Glinicki *et al.*, 2018; Amaral *et al.*, 2020; Zayed *et al.*, 2020).
 62 Notably, a comprehensive characterization of the crystal-chemistry, elastic parameters, phase-

63 stability and structural behaviour (at the atomic scale) of inyoite, at different T and P conditions,
64 is still missing. Recently, the behaviour of a series of natural borates has been studied at non-
65 ambient conditions, with the aim of improving the thermodynamic database of this class of
66 minerals (*e.g.*, Lotti *et al.*, 2017, 2018, 2019; Pagliaro *et al.* 2021). High-pressure phase transitions
67 were found in kernite ($\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$), colemanite ($\text{CaB}_3\text{O}_4(\text{OH})_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$), kurnakovite
68 ($\text{MgB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$), ulexite ($\text{NaCaB}_5\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$) and meyerhofferite
69 ($\text{CaB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$), which have structural homologies with inyoite. In particular, meyerhofferite
70 and kurnakovite undergo a phase transition respectively between 3 and 3.5 GPa and 9-11 GPa
71 (Comboni *et al.*, 2020a). Therefore, it is not unreasonable to presume that also inyoite could
72 experience a phase transition at high-pressure, considering that the major difference between
73 meyerhofferite, kurnakovite and inyoite concerns the H_2O content. The
74 thermodynamic/thermoelastic parameters could be useful to model the thermo-mechanical
75 properties of inyoite when used as an aggregate, especially in neutron-shielding concretes as a
76 low-cost alternative of other synthetic B-bearing compounds (*e.g.*, B-mullite or B_4C , Gatta *et al.*
77 2010, 2013). The characterization at high-pressure of inyoite would allow a comparison with its
78 higher- and lower- H_2O analogues kurnakovite and meyerhofferite, expanding the current
79 knowledge of the deformation mechanisms occurring at high-pressure in hydrated borates.

80

81 **2. Experimental procedures**

82 The sample of inyoite used in this study was kindly provided by the Museum of Mineralogy- Earth
83 Sciences Dept. University of Milan. A preliminary characterization of the mineral sample was
84 performed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction using a KUMA KM4 four-circle diffractometer
85 ($\text{MoK}\alpha$, point detector), collecting a series of Bragg reflections that were successfully indexed with
86 the unit-cell reported by Clark (1959) and Rumanova & Genkina (1981).

87 A single crystal of inyoite ($\sim 20 \times 15 \times 10 \mu\text{m}$) was selected for the *in-situ* high-pressure single-crystal
88 synchrotron X-ray diffraction experiment, performed at the ID15b beamline, at the ESRF,
89 Grenoble (France). A convergent monochromatic beam ($E \sim 30 \text{ keV}$, $\lambda \sim 0.4107 \text{ \AA}$) was used for
90 the diffraction experiment. The diffraction patterns were collected by an *Eiger2 9M CdTe* detector,
91 positioned at about 180 mm from the sample position. Sample-to-detector distance was calibrated
92 using a Si standard and a vanadinite ($\text{Pb}_5(\text{VO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$) crystal. Further details on the beamline setup
93 are reported in (Merlini & Hanfland, 2013). The crystal was loaded in a membrane-driven diamond

94 anvil cell (DAC), with 600 μm culet Boehler-Almax design anvils, along with a few ruby
95 microspheres as pressure calibrant (pressure uncertainty ± 0.05 GPa (Mao *et al.*, 1986)). A
96 stainless-steel foil (with thickness ~ 250 μm) was pre-indented to 80 μm and then drilled by spark-
97 erosion, leading to a P -chamber of ~ 300 μm in diameter. Helium was used as hydrostatic pressure-
98 transmitting fluid (Klotz *et al.*, 2009). The adopted data collection strategy consisted in a pure ω -
99 scan ($-32 < \omega < +32$), with 0.5° step width and 0.25 s exposure time per step. High-pressure data
100 were collected up to about 19 GPa.

101 3. Data analysis

102 Indexing of the diffraction peaks and integration of their intensities (corrected for Lorentz-
103 polarization effects) were performed using the *CrysAlisPro* package (Rigaku Oxford Diffraction,
104 2018). Corrections for X-ray absorption effects (caused by the DAC components) were applied
105 using the semi-empirical *ABSPACK* routine implemented in *CrysAlisPro* (Rigaku Oxford
106 Diffraction, 2018). The structure refinements were performed using the package JANA2006
107 (Petríček *et al.*, 2014), in the space group $P2_1/n$, using the atomic coordinates from (Rumanova &
108 Genkina, 1981) as starting model. As common for high-pressure structure refinements, the
109 displacement parameter (D.P.) of all sites was refined as isotropic, in order to decrease the number
110 of variables. No H-sites were located and refined, due to the poor X-ray scattering of H that hinders
111 a reliable evaluation of the positions and displacement parameters of the protons based on high- P
112 data. No restraint on bond distances or angles was used.

113 The unit-cell parameters at high-pressure are listed in Table 1 and their evolution with P is shown
114 in Fig. 2, whereas selected diffraction patterns are shown in Fig. 3. The principal statistical
115 parameters of the refinements are listed in Table S1 (deposited as supplementary materials, SM);
116 CIFs (crystallographic information files) have been deposited as Supplementary materials.

117 Between 8.25(5) and 8.86(5) GPa, inyoite experienced a first-order phase transition to the inyoite-
118 II polymorph, which is metrically monoclinic. As Fig. 3 shows, the Bragg peaks do not violate the
119 reflections conditions dictated by the space group $P2_1/n$, which, therefore, is likely preserved in
120 the inyoite-inyoite-II phase transition. Inyoite-II was found to be stable up to the maximum
121 pressure achieved in this experiment (18.9 GPa). Unfortunately, an abrupt drop in intensity and
122 number of observed reflections (*i.e.*, with $F_o^2 > 3\sigma(F_o^2)$) hindered and ultimately prevented the
123 structure solution of the inyoite-II polymorph: only 110 reflections were detected at 8.86(5) GPa

124 with respect to the 1658 reflections detected at 8.25(5) GPa. Although enough to obtain, with a
125 reasonable accuracy, the unit cell parameters of inyoite-II, the lack of reflections hindered the
126 solution of the crystal structure of the high-pressure polymorph.

127 Relevant interatomic distances, average bond lengths, angles, polyhedral volumes, distortion index
128 (defined as $D = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{|l_i - l_{av}|}{l_{av}}$, where l_i is the distance from the central atom to the i^{th} coordinating
129 atom, and l_{av} is the average bond length, Baur, 1974) and quadratic elongation (defined as $\langle \lambda \rangle =$
130 $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{l_i}{l_0} \right)^2$, where l_0 is the center-to-vertex distance of a regular polyhedron of the same volume
131 and l_i is the actual center-to-vertex length, Robinson *et al.*, 1971) have been calculated using the
132 tools implemented in the VESTA software (Momma & Izumi, 2008), and are listed in Table 2 and
133 3.

134 The (isothermal) compressional behaviour of the two polymorphs was described using a III- and
135 II- Birch-Murnaghan Equations of State, respectively for inyoite and inyoite-II (BM-EoS; (Birch,
136 1947)). The BM-EoS allows to refine the bulk modulus (K_{V0} or $K_{P0,TO}$, defined as $-V_0(\partial P/\partial V)_{T0} =$
137 $\beta^{-1}_{P0,TO}$, where $\beta_{P0,TO}$ is the volume compressibility coefficient at room conditions) and its P -
138 derivatives ($K' = \partial K_{P0,TO}/\partial P$ and $K'' = \partial^2 K_{P0,TO}/\partial P^2$). Truncated to the second order in energy, *i.e.*
139 with $K' = \partial K_{P0,TO}/\partial P = 4$, the EoS transforms to: $P(fe) = 3K_{P0,TO} fe (1 + 2fe)^{5/2}$. The BM-EoS
140 parameters (listed in Table 4), were refined minimizing the differences between the EoS curves
141 and the experimental data (weighted by their uncertainties in P and V), using the *EOS-FIT7-GUI*
142 software (Gonzalez-Platas *et al.*, 2016; Angel *et al.*, 2014). Data were fitted considering an
143 estimated uncertainty of ± 0.05 GPa for pressure (Mao *et al.*, 1986).

144 4. Results and discussion

145 The evolution with pressure of the unit-cell parameters of inyoite (shown in Fig. 2 and
146 listed in Table 1) appears to be monotonic up to about 8.25 GPa. At higher pressure, a phase
147 transition (inyoite-to-inyoite-II) occurs. Comparing the unit-cell volume of the low- P polymorph
148 at 8.25(5) GPa and that of inyoite-II at 8.86(5) GPa, a difference of about 7.6% is observed (*i.e.*,
149 $\Delta V \sim 63 \text{ \AA}^3$). This is an abrupt decrease of volume, though larger ΔV were detected in other borates
150 (*e.g.*, meyerhofferite, $\Delta V \sim 10\%$, Comboni *et al.* 2020a). Inyoite-II is metrically monoclinic and
151 appears to preserve the space group $P2_1/n$ (Fig. 3). In response to the phase transition, the unit-cell
152 edges a , b and c decrease by about 6.2, 1 and 0.7%, respectively. In the low- P polymorph, the β

153 angle decreases from $\sim 112.9^\circ$ at ambient pressure to $\sim 110^\circ$ at 8.25(5) GPa. In response to the phase
 154 transition, β decreases only slightly to 109.4° (Fig. 2, Tab. 1). In inyoite-II, the behavior of β is
 155 not well describable, as the data points suffer of a significant scattering with P , though an average
 156 horizontal trend can be considered (Fig. 2). The determination of the unit-cell parameters of the
 157 high- P polymorph is somehow hindered by the low number of observed reflections (110 at 8.86(5)
 158 GPa). The elastic parameters, calculated and refined with the *EOS-FIT7-GUI* software revealed
 159 that inyoite is a relatively soft mineral, with a bulk modulus of 26.9(8) GPa, whereas inyoite-II is
 160 relatively stiffer ($K_{VO} \sim 52(5)$ GPa). Similar decrease in the bulk compressibility was observed in
 161 other borates *e.g.*, kernite (Comboni *et al.* 2020b) and meyerhofferite (Comboni *et al.* 2020a).
 162 From Table 4, it seems that the increase of the bulk modulus is paired with an increase of the
 163 anisotropic compressional pattern, being the ratio of the linearized bulk moduli along the principal
 164 crystallographic directions $K_a:K_b:K_c \sim 1:1:1$ in inyoite and 1.5:2.5:1 in inyoite-II. However, since
 165 inyoite is a monoclinic mineral, the unit-cell parameter β is not forced to assume any fixed value
 166 and it is free to vary with pressure, meaning that the linear bulk moduli along the principal
 167 crystallographic directions (listed in Tab. 4) do not allow an exhaustive description of its
 168 compressional anisotropy. Thus, the Eulerian finite-strain analysis was performed with the
 169 *Win_Strain* software (Angel, 2011), in order to describe magnitude and orientation of the unit-
 170 strain ellipsoids for both the polymorphs. The geometrical relationships between the strain
 171 ellipsoid and the crystallographic axes of inyoite and inyoite-II can be described by the following
 172 matrixes (with $\varepsilon_1 > \varepsilon_2 > \varepsilon_3$):

$$173 \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \varepsilon_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 161.2(1)^\circ & 90^\circ & 51.1(1)^\circ \\ 90^\circ & 180^\circ & 90^\circ \\ 71.2(1)^\circ & 90^\circ & 38.9(1)^\circ \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix}$$

174 for inyoite between 0.0001 and 8.25(5) GPa with $\varepsilon_1:\varepsilon_2:\varepsilon_3 = 3.5: 2.1: 1$, and

$$175 \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \varepsilon_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 75(7)^\circ & 90^\circ & 35(7)^\circ \\ 14.7(1)^\circ & 90^\circ & 124.5(1)^\circ \\ 90(2)^\circ & 0(7)^\circ & 90(5)^\circ \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix}$$

176 for inyoite-II between 8.86(5) and 18.91(5) GPa, with $\varepsilon_1:\varepsilon_2:\varepsilon_3 = 1.5: 1.1: 1$. This analysis reverses
 177 what otherwise could have been assumed by considering only the linear bulk moduli along the
 178 principal crystallographic directions. Overall, the abrupt decrease of the elastic anisotropy is rather
 179 impressive. The compressional changes induced by the phase transition resemble the ones

180 occurring in meyerhofferite (*i.e.*, dramatic decrease of its anisotropic elastic pattern), with which
181 inyoite shares the same framework building units (FBBs) (Comboni *et al.* 2020a).
182 In order to describe the structure deformation mechanisms occurring in inyoite, an analysis of its
183 hydrogen bond network would be advisable, as it plays a paramount role in the stability of the
184 crystalline edifice. In high-pressure X-ray studies, it is not possible to locate hydrogen atoms,
185 however (Clark, 1959) provides a list of the oxygen-oxygen distances which are entangled *via*
186 hydrogen bonds. On this basis, some conclusions can be drawn by analyzing their evolution with
187 pressure. All the oxygen-oxygen distances decrease steadily with pressure, with only minor
188 differences. The average difference, between the ambient-pressure value and that at 8.25(5) GPa,
189 is $\sim 0.18(6)$ Å (Table 5). Such a decrease is obviously higher, as expected, with respect to the (very
190 minor) shortening of the cation-anion distances (displayed in Table 2). The volumes of the Ca-
191 polyhedra and B-tetrahedra were calculated with the software *VESTA* (Table 2) and their evolution
192 with *P* have been modelled with a second-order Birch-Murnaghan Equation of State (Birch, 1947).
193 Notably, the obtained bulk modulus for the Ca-polyhedra (54(8) GPa, $V_0 = 25.6(2)$) is virtually
194 identical to what calculated in meyerhofferite (55(5) GPa, (Comboni *et al.* 2020a) and double than
195 the bulk modulus of inyoite (Table 4). As the B-tetrahedra are substantially incompressible (Tab.
196 2), this leads to the conclusion that the deformation induced by the applied pressure is
197 accommodated, in part by the compression of the Ca-coordination environment and, mainly,
198 through the tilting of the Ca-polyhedra and $B\phi_x$ units around the oxygen hinges and shortening of
199 the H-bonds (Fig. 4). Table 3 reports the most relevant distances and angles of the complex groups
200 formed by Ca polyhedra and the isolated $[B_3O_3(OH)_5]^{-2}$ polyions (Fig.1). Similarly to the oxygen-
201 oxygen distances of the twelve hydrogen bonds, also the selected O-O-O angles display a modest
202 and steady evolution (Table 3, Fig. 4). All the angles reported in Table 3 do not deform
203 dramatically: the difference between the values at ambient pressure and those immediately before
204 the phase transition does not exceed $\pm 2.5^\circ$. Also, the length of selected O-O interatomic distances,
205 displayed in Table 3, do not show any major alteration (the maximum Δ is around 0.2 Å). It follows
206 that, as could have been expected, the shortening of the cation-anion distances is only secondary
207 in accommodating the structure deformation, which is mainly governed by deforming the isolated
208 $Ca_2B_6(OH)_{10}(H_2O)_6$ groups (formed by 2 Ca-polyhedra and 2 $[B_3O_3(OH)_5]^{-2}$ polyions) and the
209 hydrogen bond network (Fig. 4). Several attempts were made to collect data at ambient pressure
210 after decompression but, unfortunately, no reflections were found.

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212 5. Concluding remarks and comparison with previous studies

213 As all the hydrous borates investigated so far at high pressure (Pagliaro et al. 2021, Comboni et al.
214 2020a, Comboni et al. 2021a, Lotti et al. 2017), even inyoite experiences a *P*-induced phase
215 transition. In inyoite, the transition at high pressure (between 8.3-8.9 GPa) is a first-order and iso-
216 symmetric transformation, which leads to a less compressible high-pressure polymorph (*i.e.*, K_{V0}
217 =26.9(8) GPa for inyoite and 52(5) GPa for inyoite-II). The high-pressure polymorph is less
218 anisotropic if compared to the low-pressure one (*i.e.*, $\varepsilon_1:\varepsilon_2:\varepsilon_3 = 3.5: 2.1: 1$ for inyoite and $\varepsilon_1:\varepsilon_2:\varepsilon_3$
219 =1.5: 1.1: 1 for inyoite-II).

220 From a structural point of view, the $B\phi_x$ polyhedra in inyoite are organized in finite clusters (Fig.
221 1 and 4), therefore it is useful to make some comparisons with other borate structures with the
222 same topological features, as *e.g.* kurnakovite, ulexite and meyerhofferite (Fig. 5). In detail,
223 meyerhofferite, inyoite and kurnakovite display the same $\langle\Delta 2\phi\rangle$ finite clusters (Fig. 5), whereas
224 the descriptor of ulexite is $\langle\Delta 2\phi\rangle - \langle\Delta 2\phi\rangle$. As inyoite shares the same alkali-earth cation of
225 meyerhofferite (*i.e.*, Ca), it is reasonable to assume that the inyoite-to-inyoite-II phase transition
226 is driven by the same high-pressure mechanisms observed in meyerhofferite (Comboni et al.
227 2021b), *i.e.* the increase in the coordination number of the only boron B site in planar trigonal
228 coordination from III to IV. Such an increase in the B coordination number was observed also in
229 kurnakovite (Pagliaro et al. 2021) and ulexite (Comboni et al. 2021a). Moreover, considering the
230 phase-transition pressure in meyerhofferite (~3.3 GPa), inyoite (~8.6 GPa) and kurnakovite (~10.2
231 GPa), and their H₂O content (~28, 42 and 49 wt% respectively), it appears that the higher the H₂O
232 content, the higher the pressure at which the phase transition takes place. In fact, it is known that
233 the Lewis acid strength for Ca (0.27 v.u. at ambient conditions) increases with pressure, as it
234 incorporates more electron-donating partners in its first coordination shell. This must be followed
235 by a change of the H₂O and B (0.33 v.u. at ambient conditions) coordination sphere, as differences
236 between Lewis acid and basic strengths are minimized in the most stable structure (Brown 2002,
237 2009). In this regard, the role of H₂O molecules can be seen as a bond-valence moderator (or bond-
238 strength transformer) (Hawthorne, 2012). Thus, as pressure increases, along with the Lewis acidity
239 of the cation, the number of bonded H₂O has to increase. A good illustration of this phenomenon
240 are the stereochemical differences in H₂O content between inderite $[Mg(H_2O)_4]^{2+}$ (Mg: 0.33 v.u.),
241 inderborite $[CaMg(H_2O)_2]^{4+}$ and meyerhofferite $[Ca(H_2O)]^{2+}$ (Hawthorne, 2012). Furthermore, the

242 drastic decrease of the observed reflections for the HP-polymorph was already observed in
243 meyerhofferite (Comboni et al. 2020b), with which inyoite shares the same FBBs, as a
244 consequence of a first order phase transition, preventing the resolution of the high-pressure
245 polymorph (that was eventually solved by Comboni et al. (2021b) in a further experiment). These
246 considerations lead to the hypothesis that in the inyoite-to-inyoite-II phase transition, the sudden
247 decrease of the unit cell volume is likely ascribable to a change in the coordination environments
248 of the B sites (*i.e.*, CN from 3 to 4).

249 The *P*-stability of the inyoite, observed in this study, far exceeds the typical working conditions of
250 any concrete. Its bulk modulus (~27 GPa) is lower than what experimentally reported for other
251 hydrated borates used as aggregates (*e.g.*, colemanite ~67 GPa, ulexite ~37 GPa) or of other
252 aggregates usually used in Portland concretes (*e.g.*, calcite ~76 GPa, quartz ~37 GPa). Inyoite is
253 elastically anisotropic, and this is not a positive prerequisite for any potential aggregate. Despite
254 this does imply a preclusion for the utilization of inyoite as a B-bearing aggregate, other more
255 isotropic borates would be preferred.

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Table 1. Evolution, with pressure, of the unit-cell parameters in inyoite

Table 2: Ca-O and B-O interatomic distances (in Å) and other relevant structural parameters in inyoite.

Table 3: Relevant distances and angles in inyoite (angles in °, distances in Å)

Table 4: Refined elastic parameters pertaining to the different polymorphs of inyoite based on the isothermal III- and II-BM Equation of State fits (*fixed parameter).

Table 5: Oxygen-oxygen distances of the twelve hydrogen bonds as indicated in (Clark, 1959), distances in Å

Table S1 (deposited): Statistical parameters pertaining to the structure refinements of inyoite at different pressures.

Figure 1: The crystal structure of inyoite (Ca-polyhedra in *blue*, B-units in *green*, oxygen atoms in *red* spheres)

Figure 2: Evolution with pressure of the normalized unit-cell parameters and unit-cell volume of inyoite (unit-cell volume in *black* squares, *a* in *blue* circles, *b* in *red* diamonds and *c* in upward *green* triangles). Dashed lines represent the Equation of State (EoS) fits (see text for details). Error bars are smaller than symbols.

Figure 3: Reconstruction, based on the experimental data, of the *Okland hk0* reciprocal lattice planes of inyoite at ambient pressure (*left side*) and in inyoite-II, at 8.86 GPa (*right side*). Although in inyoite-II the number of observed reflections drastically decreases, the systematic extinctions suggest that the space group $P2_1/n$ is preserved.

Figure 4: Evolution, with pressure, of the $\langle \text{Ca-O} \rangle$, $\langle \text{B-O} \rangle$ and $\langle \text{O} \cdots \text{O} \rangle$ distances (Ca-O in *blue* spheres, B1-O in *red* diamonds, B2-O in *black* squares and O \cdots O in *green* triangles)

Figure 5: Comparison between the crystal structure of inyoite $\text{CaB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, kurnakovite $\text{MgB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and meyerhofferite $\text{Ca}_2\text{B}_6\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_{10} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ as viewed along *c* (BO_x units in *green*, Ca-polyhedra in *blue*, Mg-polyhedra in *orange*)

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Figure 1: The crystal structure of inyoite (Ca-polyhedra in *blue*, B-units in *green*, oxygen atoms in *red* spheres)

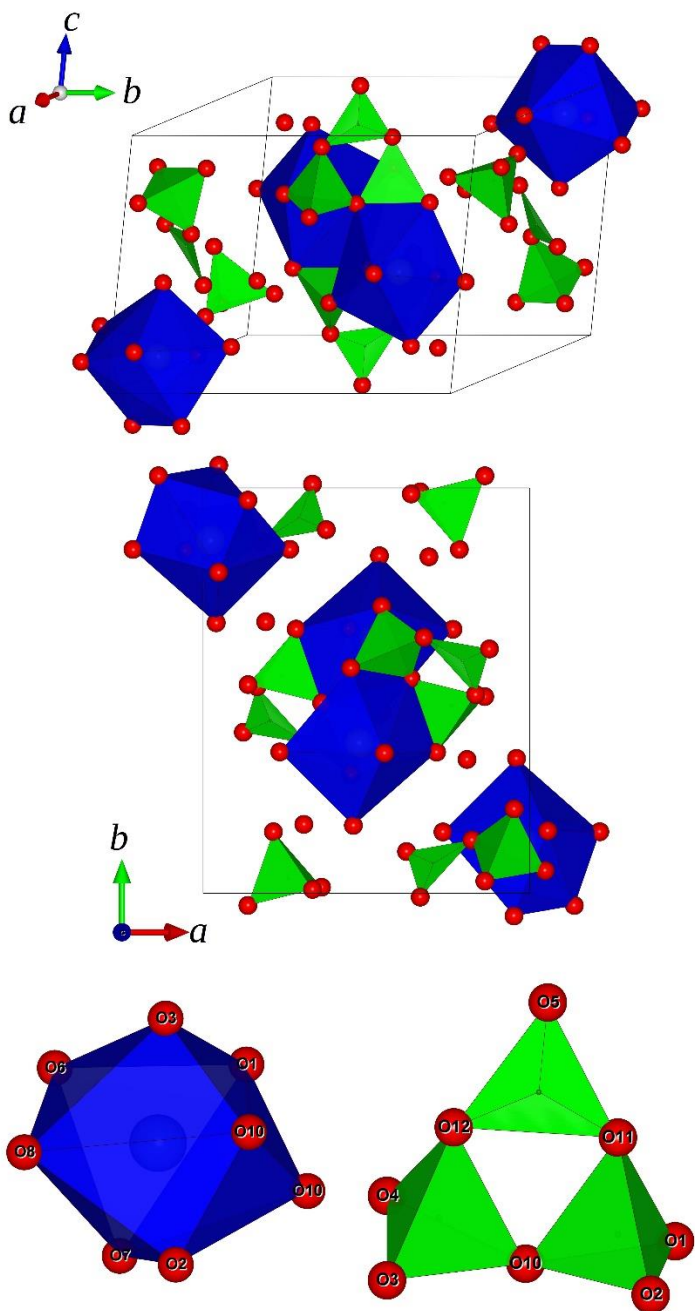


Figure 2: Evolution, with pressure, of the normalized unit-cell parameters and unit-cell volume of inyoite (unit-cell volume in *black squares*, *a* in *blue circles*, *b* in *red diamonds* and *c* in *upward green triangles*). **Dashed lines** represent the Equation of State (EoS) fits (see text for details). Error bars are smaller than symbols.

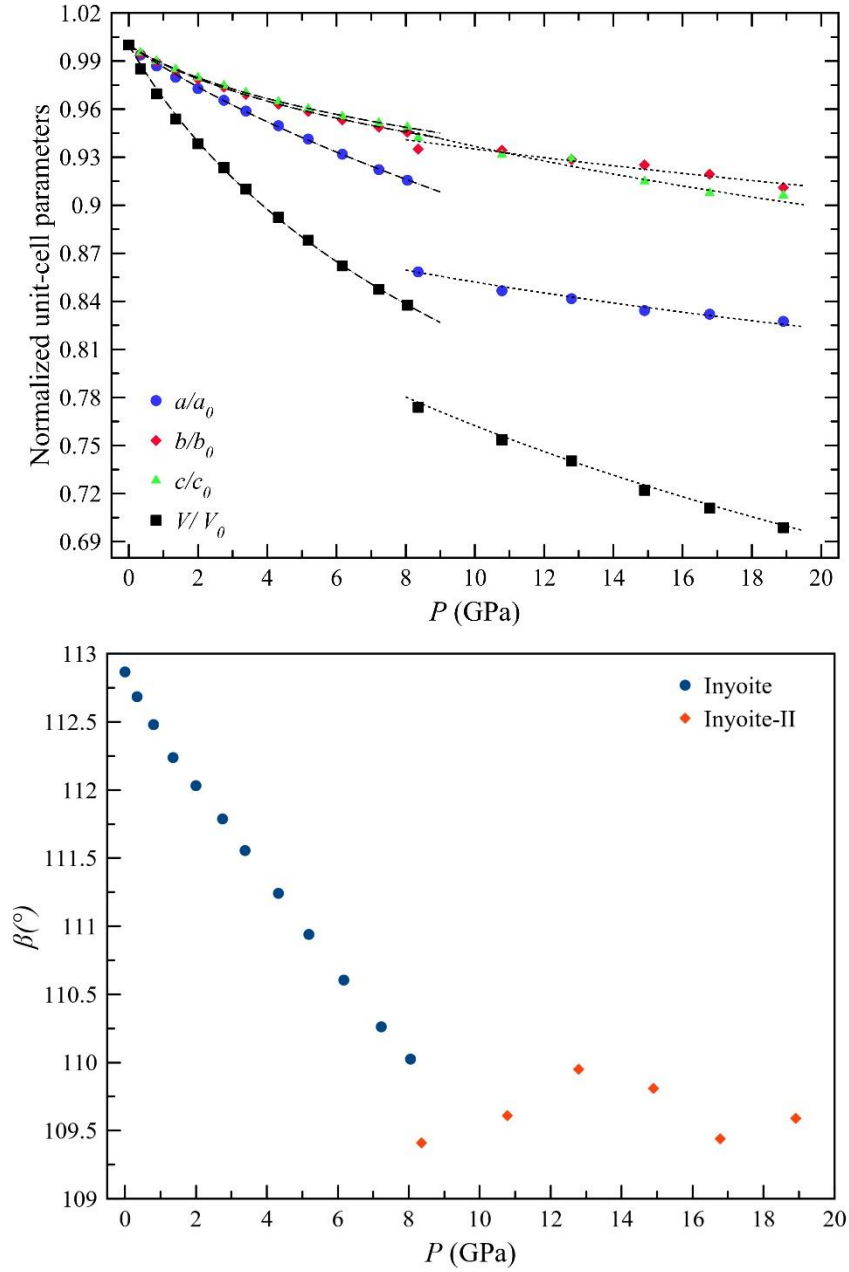


Figure 3: Reconstruction, based on the experimental data, of the $0kl^*$ and $hk0^*$ reciprocal lattice planes of inyoite at ambient pressure (*left side*) and in inyoite-II, at 8.86 GPa (*right side*). Although in inyoite-II the number of observed reflections drastically decreases, the systematic extinctions suggest that the space group $P2_1/n$ is preserved.

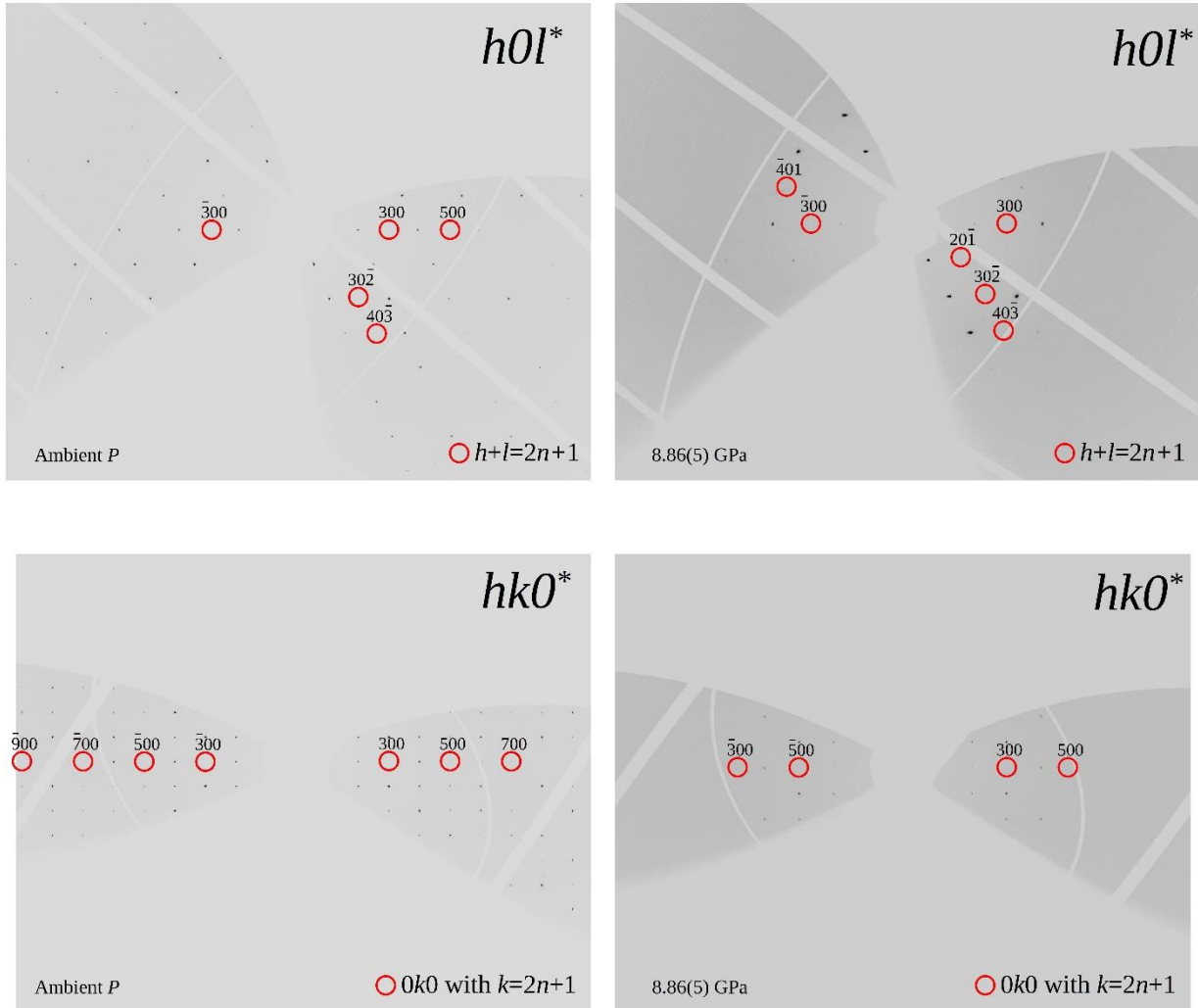


Figure 5: Comparison between the crystal structure of inyoite $\text{CaB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, kurnakovite $\text{MgB}_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_5 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and meyerhofferite $\text{Ca}_2\text{B}_6\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_{10} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ as viewed along c (BO_x units in green, Ca-polyhedra in blue, Mg-polyhedra in orange)

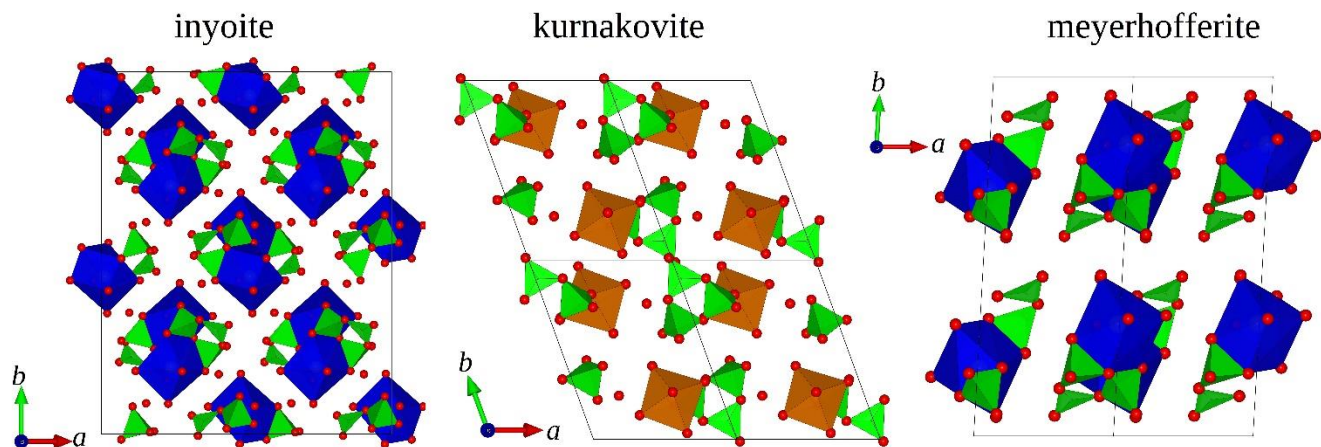


Figure 4: Evolution, with pressure, of the $\langle \text{Ca-O} \rangle$, $\langle \text{B-O} \rangle$ and $\langle \text{O} \cdots \text{O} \rangle$ distances (Ca-O in blue spheres, B1-O in red diamonds, B2-O in black squares and $\text{O} \cdots \text{O}$ in green triangles, σ are smaller than the symbols).

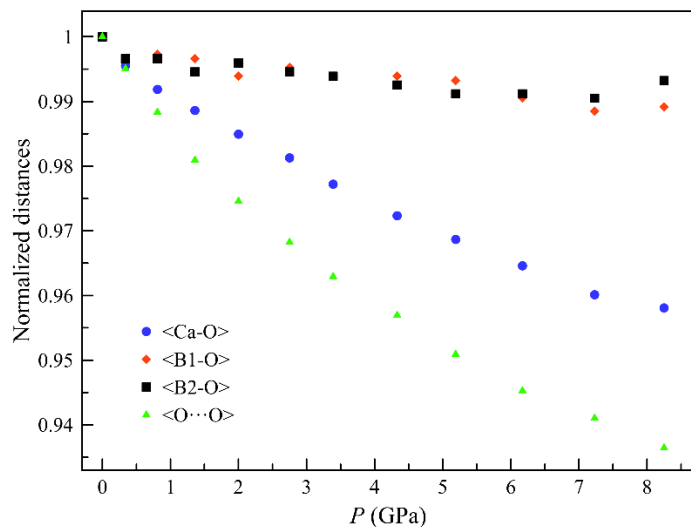


Table 1. Evolution with pressure of the unit-cell parameters in inyoite.

P (GPa)	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	β (°)	V (Å ³)
0.0001	10.5257(4)	12.0742(3)	8.4083(2)	112.867(4)	984.62(6)
0.34(5)	10.4602(5)	12.011(1)	8.3680(3)	112.685(5)	970.0(1)
0.81(5)	10.3878(5)	11.948(1)	8.3236(3)	112.480(5)	954.6(1)
1.36(5)	10.3135(6)	11.879(1)	8.2811(3)	112.238(6)	939.1(1)
2.00(5)	10.2390(5)	11.817(1)	8.2381(3)	112.032(5)	924.0(1)
2.75(5)	10.1622(6)	11.758(1)	8.1958(3)	111.788(6)	909.3(1)
3.39(5)	10.0916(6)	11.702(1)	8.1589(3)	111.556(5)	896.1(1)
4.33(5)	9.9953(5)	11.628(1)	8.1113(3)	111.242(5)	878.7(1)
5.19(5)	9.9077(5)	11.573(1)	8.0737(3)	110.940(5)	864.6(1)
6.17(5)	9.8080(5)	11.511(1)	8.0333(3)	110.605(5)	848.9(1)
7.23(5)	9.7067(5)	11.455(1)	7.9994(3)	110.262(5)	834.4(1)
8.25(5)	9.6368(6)	11.4171(2)	7.9784(2)	110.025(4)	824.75(6)
8.86(5)	9.035(6)	11.29(3)	7.92(1)	109.4(1)	762(2)
10.78(5)	8.911(6)	11.28(5)	7.832(8)	109.5(1)	742(3)
12.79(5)	8.859(4)	11.21(3)	7.81(1)	109.95(9)	729(2)
14.90(5)	8.781(5)	11.17(3)	7.693(6)	109.50(7)	711(2)
16.78(5)	8.757(4)	11.10(2)	7.632(6)	109.44(9)	700(2)
18.91(5)	8.772(9)	11.01(2)	7.64(1)	109.8(1)	694(2)

Table S1 (deposited): Statistical parameters pertaining to the structure refinements of inyoite

<i>P</i> (GPa)	min≤ <i>h</i> ≤max	min≤ <i>k</i> ≤max	min≤ <i>l</i> ≤max	Reflections: total number	Unique reflections	<i>R</i> ₁ (obs)	<i>R</i> ₁ (all)	<i>wR</i> ₁ (obs)	<i>wR</i> ₁ (all)	Residuals (<i>e</i> ⁻ /Å ³)
0.0001	-10 < <i>h</i> < +11	-18 < <i>k</i> < +17	-11 < <i>l</i> < +10	2048	1242	0.0643	0.0733	0.0861	0.0881	+0.61;-0.44
0.34(5)	-15 < <i>h</i> < +14	-11 < <i>k</i> < +13	-15 < <i>l</i> < +14	2198	1431	0.0802	0.099	0.1096	0.1158	+0.72;-0.49
0.81(5)	-15 < <i>h</i> < +14	-11 < <i>k</i> < +13	-15 < <i>l</i> < +14	2028	1339	0.0719	0.0903	0.1085	0.1198	+0.88;-0.51
1.36(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +14	-11 < <i>k</i> < +13	-14 < <i>l</i> < +14	2128	1390	0.0643	0.0753	0.0929	0.0966	+0.71;-0.50
2.00(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +14	-11 < <i>k</i> < +13	-14 < <i>l</i> < +14	2099	1364	0.0674	0.0795	0.0953	0.0986	+0.72;-0.55
2.75(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +14	-11 < <i>k</i> < +13	-14 < <i>l</i> < +14	2066	1345	0.0633	0.0777	0.0856	0.0891	+0.78;-0.41
3.39(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +14	-11 < <i>k</i> < +12	-14 < <i>l</i> < +14	2134	1356	0.0689	0.0858	0.0965	0.0999	+0.90;-0.43
4.33(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +13	-11 < <i>k</i> < +12	-14 < <i>l</i> < +14	1985	1288	0.0629	0.0764	0.0813	0.0843	+0.81;-0.46
5.19(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +13	-11 < <i>k</i> < +12	-14 < <i>l</i> < +14	2070	1306	0.0612	0.0769	0.0796	0.0823	+0.68;-0.56
6.17(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +13	-11 < <i>k</i> < +12	-14 < <i>l</i> < +13	2053	1294	0.0636	0.0794	0.0824	0.085	+0.80;-0.43
7.23(5)	-14 < <i>h</i> < +13	-11 < <i>k</i> < +12	-14 < <i>l</i> < +13	1998	1269	0.0637	0.0762	0.0831	0.0851	+0.69;-0.52
8.25(5)	-7 < <i>h</i> < +7	-16 < <i>k</i> < +17	-10 < <i>l</i> < +9	1658	1093	0.062	0.067	0.087	0.088	+0.58;-0.53

Table 2: Ca-O and B-O interatomic distances (in Å) and other relevant structural parameters in inyoite.

<i>P</i> (GPa)	0.0001	0.34(5)	0.81(5)	1.36(5)	2.00(5)	2.75(5)	3.39(5)	4.33(5)	5.19(5)	6.17(5)	7.23(5)	8.25(5)
Ca1-O8	2.388(5)	2.377(5)	2.374(4)	2.363(4)	2.357(4)	2.346(4)	2.337(4)	2.333(4)	2.328(4)	2.320(4)	2.314(4)	2.311(4)
Ca1-O3	2.343(5)	2.340(5)	2.331(5)	2.335(4)	2.327(4)	2.329(4)	2.316(5)	2.317(4)	2.311(4)	2.303(4)	2.290(4)	2.285(5)
Ca1-O10	2.516(4)	2.505(5)	2.502(5)	2.490(4)	2.482(4)	2.473(4)	2.466(5)	2.446(4)	2.429(4)	2.436(3)	2.413(4)	2.401(4)
Ca1-O6	2.491(4)	2.464(7)	2.442(7)	2.426(5)	2.415(5)	2.396(5)	2.390(5)	2.366(5)	2.354(5)	2.339(5)	2.328(5)	2.323(3)
Ca1-O1	2.415(4)	2.412(4)	2.414(5)	2.409(4)	2.405(4)	2.404(4)	2.394(4)	2.391(4)	2.393(3)	2.387(4)	2.384(4)	2.383(4)
Ca1-O10	2.557(3)	2.549(4)	2.535(4)	2.529(3)	2.511(3)	2.496(3)	2.481(4)	2.466(3)	2.450(3)	2.420(4)	2.413(3)	2.405(3)
Ca1-O2	2.492(4)	2.480(5)	2.466(5)	2.465(4)	2.457(5)	2.448(5)	2.435(5)	2.421(5)	2.412(4)	2.399(5)	2.382(5)	2.387(4)
Ca1-O7	2.449(5)	2.442(5)	2.434(5)	2.419(4)	2.408(4)	2.394(4)	2.387(4)	2.372(4)	2.360(4)	2.357(4)	2.344(4)	2.335(6)
<Ca-O>	2.457(4)	2.446(5)	2.437(5)	2.429(4)	2.420(4)	2.411(4)	2.401(5)	2.389(4)	2.380(4)	2.370(4)	2.359(4)	2.354(4)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	25.7(4)	25.4(4)	25.2(4)	25.0(4)	24.7(4)	24.4(4)	24.1(4)	23.8(4)	23.6(4)	23.3(4)	23.0(4)	22.8(4)
<i>D</i>	0.024	0.022	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017
B2-O10	1.457(7)	1.453(7)	1.446(7)	1.437(6)	1.442(6)	1.452(6)	1.443(7)	1.452(6)	1.452(6)	1.442(6)	1.453(6)	1.448(8)
B2-O3	1.458(7)	1.454(11)	1.465(10)	1.447(8)	1.451(9)	1.438(8)	1.444(9)	1.440(8)	1.434(8)	1.440(8)	1.429(8)	1.449(5)
B2-O4	1.491(9)	1.488(8)	1.480(8)	1.495(6)	1.492(6)	1.486(6)	1.489(7)	1.483(6)	1.484(6)	1.489(6)	1.487(6)	1.478(11)
B2-O12	1.488(6)	1.482(6)	1.486(6)	1.486(4)	1.485(5)	1.486(5)	1.483(5)	1.476(5)	1.474(5)	1.473(5)	1.473(5)	1.481(6)
<B2-O>	1.474(7)	1.469(8)	1.469(8)	1.466(6)	1.468(7)	1.466(6)	1.465(7)	1.463(6)	1.461(6)	1.461(6)	1.460(6)	1.464(7)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	1.64(2)	1.62(2)	1.62(2)	1.61(2)	1.62(2)	1.61(2)	1.61(2)	1.60(2)	1.60(2)	1.60(2)	1.59(2)	1.61(2)
<i>D</i>	0.011	0.011	0.010	0.017	0.014	0.014	0.015	0.012	0.012	0.014	0.013	0.011
< λ >	1.003	1.003	1.003	1.003	1.003	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002
B1-O11	1.495(6)	1.479(6)	1.476(6)	1.485(4)	1.479(5)	1.482(5)	1.475(5)	1.486(5)	1.479(5)	1.475(5)	1.468(5)	1.477(6)
B1-O10	1.469(8)	1.472(9)	1.477(9)	1.474(7)	1.465(7)	1.459(7)	1.463(8)	1.467(7)	1.470(7)	1.466(7)	1.460(7)	1.473(8)
B1-O1	1.471(6)	1.464(9)	1.462(10)	1.464(7)	1.462(8)	1.464(8)	1.458(8)	1.456(7)	1.456(7)	1.454(7)	1.456(7)	1.460(5)
B1-O2	1.480(8)	1.482(8)	1.486(8)	1.474(6)	1.476(7)	1.485(7)	1.483(7)	1.472(6)	1.470(7)	1.467(7)	1.462(7)	1.444(10)
<B1-O>	1.479(7)	1.474(8)	1.475(8)	1.474(6)	1.470(7)	1.472(7)	1.470(7)	1.470(6)	1.469(7)	1.465(7)	1.462(7)	1.463(6)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	1.65(2)	1.64(2)	1.64(2)	1.64(2)	1.63(2)	1.63(2)	1.62(2)	1.63(2)	1.62(2)	1.61(2)	1.60(2)	1.60(2)
<i>D</i>	0.006	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.007	0.006	0.006	0.004	0.004	0.002	0.008
< λ >	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.002	1.001	1.002	1.002

Table 3: Relevant distances and angles in inyoite (angles in °, distances in Å)

<i>P</i> (GPa)	O11-O10-O12	O10-O12-O11	O10-O11-O12	O2-O10-O3	O2-O10-O3
0.0001	58.5(1)	61.1(1)	60.4(1)	81.2(1)	108.9(2)
0.34(5)	58.6(2)	61.3(2)	60.2(2)	81.0(2)	109.2(2)
0.81(5)	58.4(2)	61.0(2)	60.6(2)	81.0(2)	108.7(2)
1.36(5)	58.6(1)	61.2(1)	60.2(1)	80.6(1)	109.4(2)
2.00(5)	58.8(1)	60.9(1)	60.3(1)	80.1(1)	109.4(2)
2.75(5)	58.7(1)	60.9(1)	60.4(1)	80.1(2)	109.4(2)
3.39(5)	58.7(1)	60.8(1)	60.5(1)	79.8(2)	109.2(2)
4.33(5)	58.7(1)	61.0(1)	60.3(1)	79.7(1)	109.5(2)
5.19(5)	58.8(1)	60.9(1)	60.3(1)	79.6(1)	109.8(2)
6.17(5)	59.1(1)	60.7(1)	60.2(1)	79.2(1)	109.7(2)
7.23(5)	59.1(1)	60.5(1)	60.4(1)	79.1(1)	109.2(2)
8.25(5)	59.2(2)	60.5(2)	60.3(2)	78.7(1)	109.5(2)

<i>P</i> (GPa)	O1-O10-O10	O1-O2-O10	O1-O10-O4	O10...O10	O1...O10
0.0001	86.8(1)	80.3(1)	125.5(2)	3.116(4)	3.326(5)
0.34(5)	86.7(2)	80.4(2)	125.6(3)	3.101(4)	3.306(5)
0.81(5)	86.9(2)	80.7(2)	126.0(3)	3.090(4)	3.288(5)
1.36(5)	86.8(1)	80.8(1)	125.7(2)	3.079(3)	3.277(4)
2.00(5)	87.1(1)	81.0(1)	126.0(2)	3.062(3)	3.259(4)
2.75(5)	87.3(1)	81.0(1)	125.9(2)	3.042(3)	3.240(4)
3.39(5)	87.4(1)	81.1(1)	126.2(2)	3.031(3)	3.224(4)
4.33(5)	87.3(1)	81.2(1)	126.2(2)	3.006(3)	3.199(4)
5.19(5)	87.5(1)	81.5(1)	126.1(2)	2.981(3)	3.176(4)
6.17(5)	87.4(1)	81.5(1)	126.5(2)	2.971(3)	3.161(4)
7.23(5)	87.9(1)	81.9(1)	126.8(2)	2.951(3)	3.138(4)
8.25(5)	87.9(2)	81.9(1)	126.5(2)	2.939(5)	3.132(4)

Table 4: Refined elastic parameters of inyoite and inyoite-II, based on the isothermal III- and II-BM Equation of State fits, respectively.

Inyoite	V_0, x_0 ($\text{\AA}^3, \text{\AA}$)	K_{V_0, x_0} (GPa)	K'	β_{V_0, x_0} (GPa^{-1})
V	984.6(1)	26.9(8)	6.6(5)	0.037(1)
a	10.5256(9)	22.4(5)	2.7(2)	0.0149(3)
b	12.07313(8)	23.1(9)	9.7(8)	0.0144(7)
c	8.40819(4)	23(1)	12(1)	0.0145(6)

III-BM EoS, $P < 8.25$ (5) GPa

Inyoite-II	V_0, x_0 ($\text{\AA}^3, \text{\AA}$)	K_{V_0, x_0} (GPa)	K'	β_{V_0, x_0} (GPa^{-1})
V	866(11)	52(5)	4*	0.019(2)
a	9.5(1)	43(12)	4*	0.008(2)
b	11.71(8)	73(11)	4*	0.0046(8)
c	8.5(1)	29(8)	4*	0.011(3)

II-BM EoS, $P > 8.86$ (5) GPa

Table 5: Oxygen-oxygen distances of the twelve hydrogen bonds as indicated in (Clark, 1959), distances in Å.

<i>P</i> (GPa)	O4...O6	O6...O12	O2...O8	O4...O7	O5...O7	O9...O11
0.0001	2.891(5)	2.777(4)	2.871(6)	2.753(5)	2.802(6)	2.834(5)
0.34(5)	2.880(7)	2.772(6)	2.868(6)	2.730(6)	2.789(6)	2.805(7)
0.81(5)	2.863(7)	2.766(6)	2.843(6)	2.725(6)	2.758(6)	2.804(7)
1.36(5)	2.835(5)	2.742(5)	2.821(5)	2.700(5)	2.740(5)	2.783(6)
2.00(5)	2.813(5)	2.725(5)	2.804(5)	2.694(5)	2.719(5)	2.771(6)
2.75(5)	2.798(5)	2.707(5)	2.793(5)	2.680(5)	2.693(5)	2.757(6)
3.39(5)	2.774(6)	2.694(5)	2.778(5)	2.667(6)	2.678(5)	2.754(6)
4.33(5)	2.760(5)	2.680(5)	2.766(5)	2.665(5)	2.651(5)	2.729(6)
5.19(5)	2.744(5)	2.668(5)	2.752(4)	2.649(5)	2.635(5)	2.711(6)
6.17(5)	2.729(5)	2.651(5)	2.741(5)	2.641(5)	2.604(5)	2.713(6)
7.23(5)	2.719(5)	2.638(5)	2.737(5)	2.625(5)	2.589(5)	2.694(6)
8.25(5)	2.706(4)	2.618(4)	2.721(5)	2.618(4)	2.600(6)	2.685(4)
<i>P</i> (GPa)	O6...O9	O4...O9	O2...O9	O4...O5	O1...O3	O2...O8
0.0001	2.887(7)	2.761(5)	2.881(6)	2.779(5)	2.880(5)	2.871(6)
0.34(5)	2.879(7)	2.730(7)	2.869(6)	2.759(5)	2.872(6)	2.868(6)
0.81(5)	2.846(7)	2.711(7)	2.839(6)	2.740(5)	2.852(6)	2.843(6)
1.36(5)	2.820(5)	2.704(5)	2.827(5)	2.723(4)	2.821(5)	2.821(5)
2.00(5)	2.795(5)	2.682(5)	2.808(5)	2.699(4)	2.802(5)	2.804(5)
2.75(5)	2.769(5)	2.669(5)	2.789(5)	2.687(4)	2.773(5)	2.793(5)
3.39(5)	2.744(6)	2.654(6)	2.776(5)	2.664(4)	2.768(5)	2.778(5)
4.33(5)	2.717(5)	2.638(5)	2.762(5)	2.644(4)	2.737(5)	2.766(5)
5.19(5)	2.693(5)	2.626(5)	2.746(5)	2.628(4)	2.716(4)	2.752(4)
6.17(5)	2.673(5)	2.601(5)	2.724(5)	2.606(4)	2.701(5)	2.741(5)
7.23(5)	2.654(5)	2.593(5)	2.714(5)	2.591(4)	2.688(5)	2.737(5)
8.25(5)	2.631(7)	2.597(4)	2.691(6)	2.565(6)	2.667(6)	2.721(5)