

The Crystal Structure of $\text{NaIn}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$

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Sodium indium silicate, $\text{NaIn}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$, was obtained as an impurity by hydrothermal preparation of rhombohedral indium oxide. The crystal structure was determined from three dimensional Patterson and Fourier functions and was refined to a conventional R -value of 4.9 %. The compound has a diopside structure. The space group is $C2/c$, with $a = 9.916 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 9.132 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 5.371 \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 107.0^\circ$, and the cell contains four formula units.

A hydrothermal investigation of the system $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3\text{--D}_2\text{O--Na}_2\text{O}$ yielded, in one experiment, the rhombohedral modification of indium oxide which contained as an impurity a few single crystals of a phase of unknown composition. A three-dimensional single crystal X-ray analysis proved that the impurity had the formula $\text{NaIn}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$.

EXPERIMENTAL

Chemistry. The hydrothermal experiment was performed in a pressure bomb lined with pure gold. Freshly precipitated $\text{In}(\text{OD})_3$ was treated with 99.7 % D_2O at 390°C , and 435 atm. for 95 h. The NaOD solution used in the precipitation of In^{3+} was obtained by dissolving Na in D_2O kept in a beaker of pyrex glass. The indium ion solution was prepared by dissolving $\text{In}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ in D_2O . All manipulations with compounds containing deuterium were performed in a glove box under dry nitrogen.

It is assumed that the silicon of the compound $\text{NaIn}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$ comes from the pyrex glass beaker used in the preparation of NaOD . The amount of the compound in the sample is probably less than 0.1 %.

X-Ray technique. A single crystal of dimensions $0.06 \times 0.06 \times 0.3 \text{ mm}^3$ was investigated by precession methods using $\text{MoK}\alpha$ -radiation, $\lambda = 0.7107 \text{ \AA}$. Photographs were taken of $0kl$, $1kl$, $2kl$, $3kl$, $h0l$, $h1l$, and $h2l$.

A total of 694 independent hkl reflections were measured with an automatic diffractometer (Arndt-Phillips design)¹ using Mo radiation and balanced filter techniques with a scintillation counter. The usual Lorentz-polarisation corrections were applied, but no absorption correction was made. Only 534 reflections with $I > 2\sigma I$ were used in the structure determination.

STRUCTURE DETERMINATION

Conditions limiting possible reflections hkl were $h + k = 2n$. The space group is $C2/c$, No. 15, or Cc , No. 9. A three-dimensional Patterson function $P(u,v,w)$ gave a possible solution with a heavy atom (In) in a special position (0,0.1,0.25) in $C2/c$. The three-dimensional difference Fourier map based on this assumption showed four peaks in general positions, the biggest of these being tetrahedrally surrounded by four of the smaller peaks at distances of 1.6–1.7 Å. The tetrahedra share corners to form infinite chains. From this it was deduced that the central atoms in the tetrahedra were silicon atoms. The difference Fourier map also showed a peak at the special position (0,0.7, 0.25) of height intermediate between that of the silicon peak and those of oxygen. This was assumed to be a sodium atom thus leading to the formula $\text{NaIn}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$ for the compound.

Refinement proceeded by the method of least squares giving an R -value of 5.5 % at the end of isotropic refinement and 4.9 % after additional anisotropic refinement. A final difference Fourier map showed no significant detail and as all distances and temperature factors are reasonable we assume that the given formula is correct.

CRYSTAL DATA

The formula of the compound is $\text{NaIn}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$ and the unit cell contains four formula units. Crystal system: monoclinic (b unique), $a = 9.916$ Å, $b = 9.132$ Å, $c = 5.371$ Å, $\beta = 107.0^\circ$. Systematic absences: hkl : $h + k \neq 2n$, $h0l$: $l \neq 2n$. Possible space groups: $C2/c$ and Cc ; density calculated for four formula units per cell is 4.13 g/cm³, and the absorption coefficient for Mo-radiation is 56 cm⁻¹, ($\lambda = 0.7107$ Å). The structure factors were calculated using the atomic scattering factors from Vol. III of *International Tables of X-ray Crystallography*, approximated by Bassi polynomials.²

Final atomic coordinates and temperature factor parameters are given in Table 1 and interatomic distances and bond angles in Table 2. A list of observed and calculated structure factors is given in Table 3.

Table 1. Atomic coordinates and temperature factors. Diffractometer data, 534 reflections, anisotropic refinement, $R = 4.9$ %.

| Atom | x | σx | y | σy | z | σz |
|----------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| Na | 0.5 | 0 | 0.1966 | 0.0008 | 0.25 | 0 |
| In | 0 | 0 | 0.1052 | 0.0001 | 0.25 | 0 |
| Si | 0.2922 | 0.0003 | 0.0869 | 0.0003 | 0.7477 | 0.0005 |
| O ₁ | 0.1194 | 0.0007 | 0.0800 | 0.0007 | 0.6538 | 0.0013 |
| O ₂ | 0.1422 | 0.0008 | 0.2533 | 0.0008 | 0.1851 | 0.0012 |
| O ₃ | 0.3472 | 0.0007 | 0.0112 | 0.0008 | 0.5195 | 0.0011 |

Table 1. Continued.

Temperature factor parameters with standard deviations ($\times 10^5$).

| | b_{11} | σb_{11} | b_{22} | σb_{22} | b_{33} | σb_{33} | b_{12} | σb_{12} | b_{13} | σb_{13} | b_{23} | σb_{23} |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Na | 627 | 84 | 398 | 79 | 1328 | 218 | 0 | 0 | -545 | 242 | 0 | 0 |
| In | 159 | 8 | 238 | 9 | 866 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 109 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Si | 105 | 26 | 175 | 29 | 534 | 80 | -56 | 44 | 81 | 79 | 54 | 85 |
| O ₁ | 121 | 69 | 129 | 74 | 827 | 230 | -210 | 118 | -350 | 219 | 75 | 239 |
| O ₂ | 293 | 77 | 200 | 78 | 650 | 221 | -107 | 123 | 139 | 231 | -162 | 235 |
| O ₃ | 295 | 71 | 327 | 82 | 111 | 184 | -48 | 126 | 100 | 211 | 172 | 220 |

Table 2.

| Interatomic distances (Å) with standard deviations. | | | | | |
|---|--------|------|-------------------------|--------|------|
| In—O ₁ | 2.158 | (6) | Na—O ₁ | 2.487 | (9) |
| In—O ₁ ' | 2.211 | (7) | Na—O ₂ | 2.394 | (6) |
| In—O ₂ | 2.056 | (8) | Na—O ₃ | 2.517 | (9) |
| | | | Na—O ₃ ' | 2.922 | (9) |
| Si—O ₁ | 1.641 | (7) | | | |
| Si—O ₂ | 1.595 | (8) | | | |
| Si—O ₃ | 1.633 | (8) | | | |
| Si—O ₃ ' | 1.664 | (7) | | | |
| Bond angles (degrees) with standard deviations. | | | | | |
| O ₁ —In—O ₁ | 167.74 | (25) | Si—O ₁ —In | 121.45 | (44) |
| O ₁ —In—O ₁ ' | 88.82 | (25) | Si—O ₁ —In' | 122.71 | (49) |
| O ₁ —In—O ₁ '' | 81.78 | (25) | Si—O ₁ —Na | 114.97 | (34) |
| O ₁ —In—O ₂ | 92.22 | (26) | In—O ₁ —In' | 98.20 | (45) |
| O ₁ —In—O ₂ ' | 95.84 | (26) | In—O ₁ —Na | 88.10 | (22) |
| O ₁ '—In—O ₁ '' | 80.15 | (28) | In'—O ₁ —Na | 105.01 | (30) |
| O ₁ '—In—O ₂ | 91.33 | (29) | Si—O ₂ —In | 144.89 | (44) |
| O ₁ '—In—O ₂ ' | 169.63 | (26) | Si—O ₂ —Na | 97.53 | (35) |
| O ₁ —Si—O ₂ | 115.17 | (39) | In—O ₂ —Na | 93.08 | (31) |
| O ₁ —Si—O ₃ | 107.51 | (37) | Si—O ₃ —Si' | 142.24 | (40) |
| O ₁ —Si—O ₃ ' | 107.10 | (40) | Si—O ₃ —Na | 117.51 | (41) |
| O ₂ —Si—O ₃ | 110.68 | (44) | Si—O ₃ —Na' | 103.59 | (30) |
| O ₂ —Si—O ₃ ' | 106.70 | (36) | Si'—O ₃ —Na | 91.21 | (45) |
| O ₃ —Si—O ₃ ' | 109.55 | (40) | Si'—O ₃ —Na' | 92.18 | (35) |
| | | | Na—O ₃ —Na' | 110.84 | (29) |

DISCUSSION

The crystal structure is isostructural to that of diopside reported by Warren and Bragg³ with indium instead of magnesium and sodium in the place of calcium. The SiO₄ tetrahedra are fairly regular (see Table 2). They form chains along the [001] direction. Indium atoms are octahedrally coordinated; one pair of In—O distances is short (2.06 Å) compared to most other In—O distances (*e.g.* 2.15 Å and 2.20 Å in InOOH,⁴ and 2.17 Å in In(OH)₃⁵), but is comparable with a short In—O distance (2.07 Å) in rhombohedral In₂O₃.⁵ The oxygen atom (O₂) is coordinated to only two other atoms, whereas the

other oxygen atoms are four coordinated. O_1 is coordinated with two indium atoms, one silicon, and one sodium atom. O_3 is coordinated with two silicon atoms and two sodium atoms. O_2 is coordinated with one indium, one silicon, and one sodium atom, and these three distances are significantly shorter than the corresponding distances from O_1 and O_3 . The sodium atoms are eight coordinated although two of the surrounding oxygen atoms are much further away than the others. The coordination is best described as a very distorted tetragonal antiprism.

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