

A new cation ordering pattern in amesite- $2H_2$

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Abstract

The crystal structure of amesite- $2H_2$ from the Saranovskoye chromite deposit, North Urals Mountains, USSR, was refined in space group $C1$ to a residual of 5.7% with 1719 independent reflections. The study was undertaken to resolve conflicting interpretations of the optics, twinning, and infrared spectra of amesite from the Urals relative to data reported previously for amesite from Antarctica. There is nearly complete ordering of tetrahedral and octahedral cations in the Urals specimen, but the pattern of ordering differs from that found for the same polytype of amesite from Antarctica. Tetrahedral ordering of Si,Al in the Urals specimen preserves the identity of the ideal space group $P6_3$, but octahedral ordering of Mg,Al lowers the symmetry to $P1$. Tetrahedra lying on the pseudo- 6_3 axis are all Si-rich. Octahedral Al is in the B site of each layer, but the degree of octahedral order is slightly different in the two layers. Local charge balance between adjacent layers is achieved by localization of all tetrahedral and octahedral Al in spirals around lines that parallel the Z axis and are spaced at intervals of $(a + b)/2$. We postulate that the presence, pattern, and degree of ordering can account for the observed sector and polysynthetic twinning, for differences in the bonding and geometry at the two interlayer junctions, and for the slightly triclinic shape of the unit cell. The possibility of other ordering patterns is examined. The normal assumption that all crystals of the same mineral or the same polytype have the same ordering pattern, crystallization conditions being similar, is not necessarily valid.

Introduction

This study was undertaken because of conflicting evidence as to the likelihood of cation ordering in amesite- $2H_2$ from the Saranovskoye chromite deposit in the North Urals Mountains, USSR. Hall and Bailey (1979) cite the biaxial optical nature and sector twinning of the Urals amesite as evidence of lower symmetry than the ideal space group of $P6_3$. They attribute this reduction in symmetry to cation ordering by analogy with amesite- $2H_2$ from Antarctica, which they determined by structural refinement to have nearly complete ordering of tetrahedral and octahedral cations. Serna *et al.* (1977), however, concluded that the Urals amesite was disordered on the basis of their study of the infrared patterns of a series of synthetic and natural amesites. Hall and Bailey point out one difference in the two samples that may be significant. The Urals crystals are twinned in more complex patterns than the Antarctic crystals, in that polysynthetic twin lamellae parallel to the (010) prism edges are present in some crystals in addition to the ubiquitous 6-fold sector twins on (001). They

suggest that the difference in twinning may result from a difference in ordering patterns in the two samples, rather than from the presence or absence of ordering.

Preliminary examination of 30 crystals from the Urals sample (NMNH #103312) indicates that several polytypes are present. The $2H_2$ polytype is most abundant, but $6R_2$, $6R_1$, and $2H_1$ polytypes also are present (terminology of Bailey, 1969, and of Hall *et al.*, 1976). X-ray photographs reveal that some crystals have a disordered stacking of layers, in that the $k \neq 3n$ reflections appear as coalesced streaks and not as individual spots. All crystals examined with crossed nicols under the petrographic microscope are noticeably biaxial and twinned.

The $2H_2$ polytype has alternating interlayer shifts of $-b/3$ and $+b/3$ and alternating occupancy of the I and II sets of octahedral positions in successive layers (equivalent to 180° rotations). Steinfink and Brunton (1956) studied amesite- $2H_2$ from Saranovskoye. They attributed the biaxial nature to strain, and assumed the ideal hexagonal symmetry of $P6_3$ in their refinement. With this assumption, they determined the cat-

Atom	Axis	rms (\AA) displacement	Angle ($^{\circ}$) with respect to		
			X	Y	Z
T(1)	r1	0.110(4)	112(6)	52(12)	46(14)
	r2	0.122(4)	106(8)	50(12)	136(15)
	r3	0.145(3)	28(5)	62(6)	86(6)
T(2)	r1	0.109(4)	115(6)	35(9)	66(8)
	r2	0.128(4)	69(16)	57(9)	139(14)
	r3	0.138(3)	33(12)	80(10)	59(15)
T(11)	r1	0.108(4)	112(4)	28(7)	74(9)
	r2	0.128(4)	87(9)	71(9)	161(9)
	r3	0.144(3)	23(5)	70(5)	81(9)
T(22)	r1	0.112(4)	99(7)	54(29)	38(30)
	r2	0.118(4)	99(8)	39(28)	128(30)
	r3	0.142(4)	13(6)	77(6)	89(6)
M(1)	r1	0.116(4)	117(26)	35(57)	69(52)
	r2	0.119(4)	68(33)	58(60)	140(35)
	r3	0.133(4)	36(12)	78(11)	57(13)
M(2)	r1	0.124(4)	119(8)	33(9)	75(13)
	r2	0.137(4)	92(21)	74(16)	164(15)
	r3	0.143(3)	29(8)	62(10)	84(23)
M(3)	r1	0.105(4)	117(6)	37(9)	67(11)
	r2	0.123(4)	91(15)	65(12)	155(12)
	r3	0.134(4)	27(6)	65(9)	80(15)
M(11)	r1	0.109(4)	108(7)	31(7)	66(9)
	r2	0.130(4)	111(22)	73(13)	153(13)
	r3	0.137(4)	28(18)	65(9)	103(21)
M(22)	r1	0.112(4)	98(6)	9(6)	93(14)
	r2	0.123(4)	76(10)	91(14)	167(11)
	r3	0.138(3)	16(9)	82(6)	77(10)
M(33)	r1	0.110(4)	115(6)	29(7)	76(10)
	r2	0.128(4)	92(13)	76(11)	165(11)
	r3	0.141(4)	25(6)	66(6)	86(13)
O(1)	r1	0.119(9)	89(7)	84(10)	6(9)
	r2	0.150(7)	62(9)	151(9)	85(11)
	r3	0.186(7)	29(9)	62(9)	94(5)
O(2)	r1	0.121(8)	120(17)	36(46)	72(94)
	r2	0.125(9)	97(48)	74(80)	162(93)
	r3	0.153(7)	31(10)	59(10)	88(12)
O(3)	r1	0.119(8)	105(8)	29(12)	66(10)
	r2	0.149(7)	64(19)	61(12)	139(17)
	r3	0.166(7)	31(18)	89(11)	59(18)
O(4)	r1	0.13 ^o (8)	91(8)	33(12)	123(10)
	r2	0.13 ^o (8)	177(19)	90(12)	87(17)
	r3	0.154(7)	87(22)	57(21)	33(21)

Atom	Axis	rms (\AA) displacement	Angle ($^{\circ}$) with respect to		
			X	Y	Z
O(5)	r1	0.112(8)	123(11)	33(10)	83(10)
	r2	0.142(8)	135(21)	112(17)	127(29)
	r3	0.153(7)	117(24)	114(14)	37(29)
O(11)	r1	0.119(8)	99(16)	91(25)	9(13)
	r2	0.131(8)	62(13)	152(12)	87(28)
	r3	0.158(7)	30(11)	62(12)	82(9)
O(22)	r1	0.121(9)	99(12)	74(34)	18(32)
	r2	0.132(8)	88(19)	163(34)	73(34)
	r3	0.149(7)	9(13)	86(18)	83(13)
O(33)	r1	0.116(9)	104(13)	40(7)	53(8)
	r2	0.144(8)	164(14)	96(14)	104(15)
	r3	0.164(7)	97(15)	130(7)	40(9)
O(44)	r1	0.113(8)	114(7)	30(11)	107(11)
	r2	0.144(8)	108(13)	115(12)	149(13)
	r3	0.169(7)	150(10)	105(8)	64(13)
O(55)	r1	0.109(9)	126(7)	39(8)	78(9)
	r2	0.146(7)	71(16)	62(12)	145(18)
	r3	0.163(7)	43(11)	65(11)	58(18)
OH(1)	r1	0.116(10)	95(5)	84(5)	8(5)
	r2	0.183(7)	97(74)	171(54)	84(9)
	r3	0.188(7)	9(61)	97(74)	85(9)
OH(2)	r1	0.120(10)	98(9)	83(12)	10(5)
	r2	0.149(8)	127(7)	143(7)	89(14)
	r3	0.200(7)	142(6)	54(6)	100(5)
OH(3)	r1	0.119(10)	87(8)	110(30)	20(31)
	r2	0.133(8)	79(6)	157(27)	110(31)
	r3	0.188(7)	11(6)	79(6)	90(6)
OH(4)	r1	0.114(10)	112(15)	91(6)	22(15)
	r2	0.140(8)	153(13)	73(5)	110(16)
	r3	0.213(7)	74(4)	17(5)	83(4)
OH(11)	r1	0.119(9)	89(8)	98(14)	8(14)
	r2	0.144(8)	68(11)	156(11)	97(15)
	r3	0.174(7)	22(11)	68(11)	88(7)
OH(22)	r1	0.116(10)	102(10)	64(10)	29(10)
	r2	0.153(8)	163(13)	107(24)	94(25)
	r3	0.154(7)	102(11)	32(13)	119(27)
OH(33)	r1	0.120(10)	86(9)	111(25)	22(25)
	r2	0.136(8)	87(13)	158(24)	111(25)
	r3	0.162(7)	5(11)	85(13)	93(10)
OH(44)	r1	0.108(10)	103(6)	58(13)	35(14)
	r2	0.136(8)	104(8)	38(13)	125(14)
	r3	0.179(7)	19(7)	71(7)	88(6)