



Synthesis, crystal structure determination and ionic properties of novel Bi Ca_{0.5}Mg_{0.5} O_{2.5} via X- ray powder diffraction data

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ABSTRACT

The crystal structure of Bi Mg_{0.5}Mg_{0.5} O_{2.5} has been determined by direct methods using integrated intensities of X-ray powder diffraction data and subsequently refined with the Rietveld technique. The titled compound was prepared from mixture of Bi₂(CO₃)₃, MgCO₃ and CaCO₃ by care full thermal decomposition at 1000°C. The metallic oxide adopts orthorhombic symmetry space group P_{NMA} with unit cell parameters A = 23.104910Å, b = 12.618820 Å, c = 3.033075Å, β = 90°, V = 884.31Å and Z = 2. D : 1.869 M₁₁ = 10, F₁₁ = 5. The final reliability indices calculated from the Rietveld refinement were R_{wp} = 0.0517, R_p = 0.022 and R_p = 0.082. The structure factors F₀ = 3073 and F_c = 3163. The morphology of the crystal has been determined by Atomic Force Microscope technique and by SEM too. The DC conductivity has been determined and showed ionic properties at different temperature.

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Introduction

Oxide ion conductors have been a subject of extensive study due to their potential application in fuel cells, oxygen sensors, oxygen pumps, dense membranes for oxygen separation and catalysis. Over the past decade, many efforts have been made to develop new materials exhibiting high oxide ion mobility at ambient temperature. In addition to the improvements of the existing materials, new class of conductors in which in which the structure plays an important role have been proposed. The present paper is part of systematic investigation on the crystal structure in the system Bi₂O₃–CaO–MgO. The triple oxides belonging to this system are of interest in both materials science and earth science and their phase relations have been studied [1]. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction is undoubtedly the most powerful and widely used technique for elucidating the structures of organic and metal-organic compounds and inorganic complexes, an intrinsic limitation of this technique is the requirement to prepare single crystal of sufficient size, quality, and stability, which are not always met for all compounds using the chosen crystal growth conditions and within a reasonable time-scale. In such circumstances, X-ray powder diffraction can be an alternate route for structural analysis. Compared with other methods, such as scanning electron microscopy, and transmission electron microscopy, atomic force microscopy has the advantage to understand the change in morphological condition with high-resolution.

Although much work has been done on physical properties of solid metal oxide [2], there are still many unanswered questions about conductivity mechanism, and structure of these materials. The present paper reports the results of d.c. and a.c. conductivity measurements in BiCa_{0.5}Mg_{0.5} O_{2.5}. The temperature dependent electrical conductivity data have been analysed with the objective of understanding the conduction mechanism. In this work a novel oxide BiCa_{0.5}Mg_{0.5} O_{2.5} which also belongs to the family of A_{0.5}Mg_{0.5}Ca_{0.5} was found through the study of Bi₂O₃–CaO–MgO ternary system. The crystal structure of

BiCa_{0.5}Mg_{0.5} O_{2.5} was determined by the Rietveld refinement method from X-ray powder diffraction data at room temperature.

Experimental Section

All chemicals used were analytical grade. A polycrystalline sample of BiCa_{0.5}Mg_{0.5} O_{2.5} was synthesized by a standard solid state reaction using a mixture of high purity reagents of MgCO₃, CaCO₃ and Bi₂(CO₃)₃ as the starting materials in the molar ratio of 2 : 1 : 1. The mixture was ground carefully, homogenized thoroughly with methanol (99%) in an agate mortar and then packed into an alumina crucible and calcined at 1000°C in air for 30h with several intermediate grindings.

Finally the product was pressed into pallets and sintered at 100 K/h. Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) data were collected at room temperature in the angular range of 2θ = 10⁰-70⁰ with scan step width of 0.02° and a fixed containing time of 15 s using Philips powder diffractometer with graphite monochromatic CuK_α radiation. The powder was rotated during the data collection to minimize preferred Orientation effect if any. The program TREOR in CRYSFIRE [6-7] was used to index the powder pattern which give orthorhombic cell system. SIRPOW92 was used to locate the positional parameters of constituent atoms. The full pattern is fitting and peak decomposition in the space group PNMA using check cell program. The structural parameters were refined by the Reitveld method using the GSAS program which gave R_{wp} = 0.0517, R_p = 0.022, R_p = 0.082. The density is determined by Archimedes principle. The morphology of titled compound was determined using AFM (Nanoscope III, Digital Instruments, Santa Barbara).

Results and Discussion

The synthesized BiO_{2.5}Ca_{0.5}Mg_{0.5} compound is shining white in colour, in contrast to the pale cream observed for bismuth oxide. XRD suggested that the product was single phase with the orthorhombic (Pmmm) super structure exhibited by Bi₂Ca₂Mg₂O₁₀. The synthesis conditions ultimately form stable Bi(III) rather than higher valent ions. Infra-red spectroscopy, revealed bands of metal carbonates (Calcium and magnesium) in

the starting materials in the range of $1510\text{--}700\text{cm}^{-1}$ are disappeared in the solid product. Indexing Bragg reflections in the XRD data indicated that $\text{BiO}_{2.5}\text{Ca}_0.5\text{Mg}$ crystalline in the orthorhombic system. The figure of merit for assessing the quality of the solution are $M_{11} = 10$, $F_{11} = 5$ and $\text{Av. Eps} = 0.0000673$ crystallographic and experimental parameters are given in Table 1, final positional bond lengths, bond angles dihedral angles and torsion angles are given in table 2, and their fraction coordinates are discussed in table 4. We found that $\text{BiO}_{2.5}\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}$ displays a spiral chain structure viewed along the c-axis [3-5].

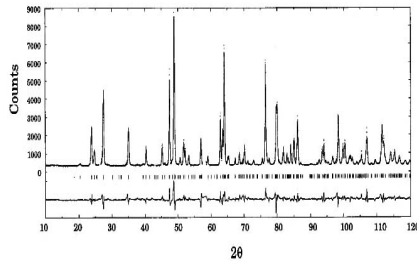


Fig.1: Observed, calculated and difference X-ray diffraction pattern of $\text{BiO}_{2.5}\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}$.

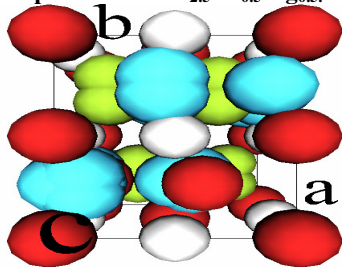


Fig.2. Closed-packed structure of oxide.

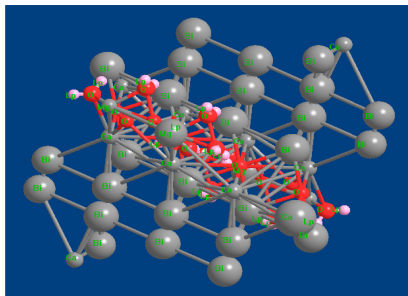


Fig3: Three dimensional structure of $\text{BiCa}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.5}$

The observed, difference and calculated patterns of the newly synthesized novel oxide obtained by Rietveld refinement has been shown in Fig. 1. The structure in packing from shown in Fig. 2. In the structure Bi(1) is bonded with Mg(15), Bi(2) bonded with O(13), Bi(2)-Bi(12), Bi(2)-Bi(12), Bi(II)-O(4), Bi(1)-O(9), Bi(2)-O(9) each forming closed type structure. The bonding between different constituent atoms has been discussed in more details in table 2.

In conclusion, the structure of $\text{BiCa}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.5}$ has been solved by the *ab initio* approach using powder X-ray diffraction data. $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CaO}\cdot\text{MgO}$ was found to crystalline in orthorhombic system with space group PNMA, which displays an unusual spiral chain structure along the c-axis and packing form on three-dimensional axis.

AFM investigation of $\text{BiCa}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.5}$ compound

Topography of $\text{BiCa}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.5}$ was carried out by AFM technique. It was prepared by the hydrothermal air oxidation crystallization method on a large scale ($5.6\times 5.6\ \mu\text{m}$) is shown

ion Fig. 3a, which gives the morphology of titled compound powder in a large area. The image was golden scale – encoded. That is darker regions are deeper than lighter ones and same brightness corresponding to the lights ones is not homogeneous and some powder aggregated lightly. Further information can be obtained from fig. 3b ($200\times 200\ \text{nm}$), which shows the size and microstructure of $\text{BiO}_{2.5}\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{MgO}$ aggregates. The size of the aggregates is neither the range of 2.23 nm and the shapes of the aggregates are irregular [11-12].

A typical image of sample powders, which are prepared by supercritical fluid drying, is shown in Fig. 3b ($1.2\times 1.2\ \mu\text{m}$ image). Some cone like and special particles can be seen individually in the image; the diameters of the particles is roughly 200 nm ~200 nm. It should be noted here that in imaging, rotation of the scan direction and changes of the scan frequency did not affect the structure of $\text{BiO}_{2.5}\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}$ particles, ruling out the possibility that scanning influenced the shapes of these particles or caused some imaging artifact. Moreover, we also found clusters of $\text{BiO}_{2.5}\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}$ in figure 3b. The three-dimensional figure can be seen in Fig. 3c [13, 19]. The histogram (volume, area, perimeter vs. Z(nm)) of the desired compound $\text{BiO}_{2.5}\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}$ has been discussed in fig. 3d.

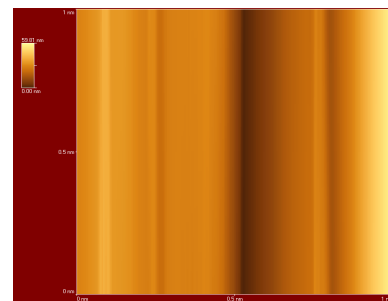


Fig.3. $1\times 1\ \text{nm}$ AFM picture showing a rather uniform step bunching (not typical)

SEM

The SEM observation as shown in figure 4 reveals that the products consist of a large quantity of oxide with typical lengths in the wide range. The magnification SEM (500) images further verified the uniform in width and thickness.

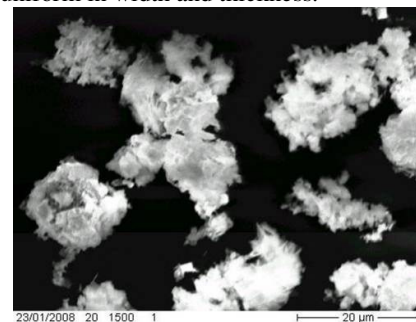


Fig 4. SEM micrograph of $\text{BiCa}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.5}$.

Temperature dependence of the dc conductivity

The temperature dependence of the dc electrical conductivity of metal oxide was analyzed by complex independence method at different frequencies and in a temperature range from 20 to 110°C in inert atmosphere.

It is observed that increase the temperature decrease the conductivity of investigated oxide due to Bi—O bond protrudes into the higher thermal parameter of O suggests a possible mode of ionic conductivity in this structure. The energy of activation was calculated by fitting the curve for the following equation

$$\sigma_{dc} = \sigma_0 \exp[-\Delta E/k T]$$

where σ_0 is constant, K is the Boltzman constant and ΔE is the dc conduction activation energy. Value of ΔE was calculated from the slopes of the obtained straight lines indicating one conduction mechanism in the whole studied range of temperature. The value of ΔE is 0.356 eV.

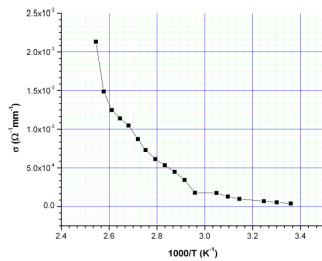


Fig. 5. The D.C. Conductivity versus temperature.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the structure of Bi₂O₃ MgO. CaO has been solved by the ab initio approach the using powder X-ray diffraction data.

The structure depicts, for the first time, features which are not common to the Aurivillius family of compounds.

The usual arrangements of BiO₄ units forming (Bi₂O₂)²⁺ sheets in two dimensional in the Aurivillius families is restricted to a one dimensional chains in Bi₂Ca_{0.5}Mg_{0.5}O_{2.5}.

The dc and ac conductivity are studied for the oxide compositions.

The ac conductivity of the studied compositions seems likely to be both frequency and temperature dependent.

The values of the frequency exponent s and its temperature dependence confirm the applicability of the investigated composition [20-22].

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23. Yuan Chunbo, Yang Xiaomim, Fu Degang Lu Zuhong and Liu Juzheng Atomic Force Microscopic Characterization of Ultrafine Fe₃O₄, *J. Solid State Chemistry*, 1996, 121, 492-494.

Table 1 Crystallographic Data of $\text{BiCa}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.5}$

Formula	$\text{BiCa}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.5}$
FW	281.17
Crystal System	Orthorhombic
Crystal Colour	White
Space Group	PNMA
Temperature : K	298
Cell parameters	
a(Å)	23.104910
b(Å)	12.618820
c(Å)	3.033075
α (deg)	90°
β (deg)	90°
γ (deg)	90°
Volume (Å ³)	884.31
Av. Eps	0.0000673
Z	2
Density	1.869 g/cm ³
Limiting indices	0 ≤ h ≤ 11 1 ≤ k ≤ 6 0 ≤ l ≤ 1
Reflection collected	1884
R indices (all data)	0.022
R ₁	0.0511
wR _p	0.0159
R _p	0.01271
wR _p	0.01035
M(11)	10
F(11)	5
Particle size	2.23 nm
F(000)	3063
Fc	3158

Table 2 Bond angles and bond lengths

BOND ANGLES			Bond length		
S.N.	Atoms	Actual	S.N.	Atoms	actual
1	O(7)-Ca(5)	2.3800	1	O(7)-Ca(5)	2.3800
2	Mg(6)-Ca(5)	5.6080	2	Mg(6)-Ca(5)	5.6080
3	O(3)-Bi(2)	2.6085	3	O(3)-Bi(2)	2.6085
4	O(3)-Bi(1)	2.1000	4	O(3)-Bi(1)	2.1000
5	Bi(11)-O(17)	2.1000	5	Bi(11)-O(17)	2.1000
6	O(15)-Ca(13)	2.3800	6	O(15)-Ca(13)	2.3800
7	Mg(14)-Ca(13)	3.1000	7	Mg(14)-Ca(13)	3.1000
8	Mg(14)-O(12)	2.5378	8	Mg(14)-O(12)	2.5378
9	Ca(13)-O(12)	1.5098	9	Ca(13)-O(12)	1.5098
10	Bi(11)-O(16)	2.1000	10	Bi(11)-O(16)	2.1000
11	O(16)-Bi(10)	5.0009	11	O(16)-Bi(10)	5.0009
12	Mg(14)-Bi(10)	2.8200	12	Mg(14)-Bi(10)	2.8200
13	O(12)-Bi(10)	2.1000	13	O(12)-Bi(10)	2.1000
14	Bi(11)-Bi(10)	2.9200	14	Bi(11)-Bi(10)	2.9200
15	O(15)-O(9)	2.3800	15	O(15)-O(9)	2.3800
16	Ca(13)-O(9)	2.3800	16	Ca(13)-O(9)	2.3800
17	Bi(11)-O(8)	5.0902	17	Bi(11)-O(8)	5.0902
18	Mg(6)-Bi(2)	2.8200	18	Mg(6)-Bi(2)	2.8200
19	Mg(14)-O(4)	1.5787	19	Mg(14)-O(4)	1.5787
20	Bi(10)-O(4)	2.1000	20	Bi(10)-O(4)	2.1000
21	Bi(11)-Bi(2)	2.9200	21	Bi(11)-Bi(2)	2.9200
22	O(8)-Bi(2)	2.6085	22	O(8)-Bi(2)	2.6085
23	Ca(5)-O(3)	2.3800	23	Ca(5)-O(3)	2.3800
24	Bi(11)-O(18)	1.7314	24	Bi(11)-O(18)	1.7314
25	O(8)-Bi(1)	2.1000	25	O(8)-Bi(1)	2.1000
26	Mg(6)-O(18)	2.0000	26	Mg(6)-O(18)	2.0000
27	Bi(2)-Bi(1)	2.9200	27	Bi(2)-Bi(1)	2.9200
28	Bi(11)-O(16)-Bi(10)	5.9018			
29	Ca(13)-O(15)-O(9)	60.0000			
30	O(4)-Mg(14)-Bi(10)	47.3313			
31	O(4)-Mg(14)-O(12)	89.1934			
32	O(4)-Mg(14)-Ca(13)	40.0000			
33	Bi(10)-Mg(14)-O(12)	45.7767			
34	Bi(10)-Mg(14)-Ca(13)	0.5000			
35	O(12)-Mg(14)-Ca(13)	8.9286			
36	Mg(14)-Ca(13)-O(15)	8.9227			
37	Mg(14)-Ca(13)-O(12)	4.3999			
38	Mg(14)-Ca(13)-O(9)	09.5000			
39	O(15)-Ca(13)-O(12)	109.5000			
40	O(15)-Ca(13)-O(9)	60.0000			

41	O(12)-Ca(13)-O(9)109.5000	
42	Bi(10)-O(12)-Mg(14)4.2233	
43	Bi(10)-O(12)-Ca(13)42.5912	
54	Mg(14)-O(12)-(13)6.6715	
55	O(17)-Bi(11)-O(18)106.6785	
56	O(17)-Bi(11)-Bi(2)158.7787	
57	O(17)-Bi(11)-O(8)162.3174	
58	O(17)-Bi(11)-Bi(10)107.6480	
59	O(17)-Bi(11)-O(16)82.3262	
60	O(18)-Bi(11)-Bi(2)92.4270	
61	O(18)-Bi(11)-O(8)86.8702	
62	O(18)-Bi(11)-Bi(10)42.8362	
63	O(18)-Bi(11)-O(16)137.0709	
64	Bi(2)-Bi(11)-O(8)21.6363	
65	Bi(2)-Bi(11)-Bi(10)80.0000	
66	Bi(2)-Bi(11)-O(16)90.0000	
67	O(8)-Bi(11)-Bi(10)90.0000	
68	O(8)-Bi(11)-O(16)80.0000	
69	Bi(10)-Bi(11)-O(16)169.8574	
70	Bi(11)-Bi(10)-O(12)120.0000	
71	Bi(11)-Bi(10)-Mg(14)119.9988	
72	Bi(11)-Bi(10)-O(16) 4.2408	
73	Bi(11)-Bi(10)-O(4)119.9988	
74	O(12)-Bi(10)-Mg(14)60.0000	
75	O(12)-Bi(10)-O(16)117.2394	
76	O(12)-Bi(10)-O(4)90.0000	
77	Mg(14)-Bi(10)-O(16)16.0099	
78	Mg(14)-Bi(10)-O(4)33.5573	
79	O(16)-Bi(10)-O(4)117.7625	
80	O(15)-O(9)-Ca(13)60.0000	
81	Bi(1)-O(8)-Bi(2)75.7975	
82	Bi(1)-O(8)-Bi(11)51.6403	
83	Bi(2)-O(8)-Bi(11)24.3771	
84	O(7)-Ca(5)-Mg(6)163.4406	
85	O(7)-Ca(5)-O(3)163.4406	
86	Mg(6)-Ca(5)-O(3)33.1189	
87	Bi(1)-O(3)-Bi(2)75.7975	
88	Bi(1)-O(3)-Ca(5)104.0000	
89	Bi(2)-O(3)-Ca(5)90.0000	
90	Bi(2)-Mg(6)-Ca(5)31.6209	
91	Bi(2)-Mg(6)-O(18)90.0000	
92	Ca(5)-Mg(6)-O(18)109.5000	
93	Mg(14)-O(4)-Bi(10)99.1114	
94	Bi(11)-O(18)-Mg(6)20.2368	
95	Bi(1)-Bi(2)-O(8)44.2025	
96	Bi(1)-Bi(2)-Bi(11)90.0000	

Table3.Fraction coordinate.

Atomic parameters

Atom	Ox.	Wyck.	Site	S.O.F.	x/a	y/b	z/c	U [Å ²]
Bi		8d	1	0	0.05920	0.19990	0.45150	
O		8d	1	0	-0.30410	-0.11130	0.27600	
Bi		8d	1		-0.03790	-0.09450	0.52700	0.1267
O		8d	1	0	0.60230	-2.18500	1.40950	0.1267
Ca		8d	1		0.06700	0.03670	-0.38990	
O		8d	1		0.10100	-0.05700	0.24400	0.0063
Mg		8d	1	0	0.13330	9.60360	1.37280	
O		4c	.m.	0	-0.11(5)	0.1(3)	-0.8(6)	0.0(7)
O		4a	-1		0	0	0	0.0063