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1988

Synthesis and characterization of ternary Zintl phases

Weir-Mirn Hurng *Iowa State University*

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Synthesis and characterization of ternary Zintl phases

Hurng, Weir-Mirn, Ph.D. Iowa State University, 1988

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Synthesis and characterization of ternary Zintl phases

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by

Weir-Hirn Hurng

A Dissertation Submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Department: Chemistry
Major: Inorganic Inorganic Chemistry

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Iowa State University Ames, Iowa

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INTRODUCTION

The name "Zintl phase" was proposed by Laves¹ to recognize the contributions of Eduard Zintl in this field. The original definition of Zintl phase was limited to those compounds composed of alkali or alkaline earth elements with other main-group elements from IIIA to VIA groups. There are two common characters for the Zintl phases: a) they crystallize in "nonmetallic" and typically salt-like structures (antifluorite, anti-Mn₂O₃, anti-La₂O₃, anti-tysonite and Li₃Bi), b) they are always that phase of a binary system which contains the greatest amount of the active element. According to this definition, the upper limit of the alkali or alkaline earth metal in such a compound is determined by the maximum negative valence of the more electronegative element. However, this has proved to be inapplicable in such as NaTl or most ternary Zintl phases.

Later, Klemm and Busmann² expanded this concept to those compounds in which the active metal transfers electrons to the more noble component of the alloy, the "anion former" forming atomic arrangements that correspond to that of the element having the same number of valence electrons. The Zintl-Klemm-Busmann concept is the same as the general valence rule proposed by Pearson.3 According to this rule, phases made up of elements on opposite sides of the Zintl line comply with the condition: $(n_e+b_a-b_c)/n_a = 8$ ($n_e =$ total number of valence electrons; n_a of anions; b_a = number of electrons required for formation of anion bonds; b_c = number of electrons required for formation of cation-

cation bonds including all valence electrons of the cations not participating in a bond). For example, in KSi $(n_e = 5; n_a = 1; b_c = 0)$, a value of 3 for b_a bonding electrons is obtained, i.e., a coordination number of 3 for the anion partial lattice. Generally, the role of the (8-N) rule for a Zintl phase is equivalent to the 18-electron rule in transition metal chemistry. The source of both rules is the same and from simple valence bond concepts.

In our laboratory, the bonding and structures of Zintl anions, 4 which are always incorporated with organic ligated cations, have been studied for several years. Recently, we started to study the solid Zintl phases due to the attractiveness of the amassing data on structure variations and less known physical properties of these compounds.5»6 During the research, a couple of systems of ternary Zintl phases have also been examined and promising results found.

There were not any ternary compounds reported in K-Si-As system before we started to study it. Two compounds in the system were found and structurally characterized during the research. K_2 SiAs, is isostructural with K_2 SiP₂⁷ with infinite $[SiAs_2]^{2}$ chains parallel to the c-axis, while puckered layers of $[Si_3As_3]^-$ was observed in KSi₃As₃. Both fulfill the Zintl-Klemm-Busmann concept.

Work on interstitial elements of Zr_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃ structure) was initiated in our laboratory⁸ and showed that the properties of $Zr^2\text{Sb}^3X$ (X = interstitial elements including transition metal and main-group elemets) were quite dependent on interstitial elements.9 Thus, the study of interstitial elements in $M_S X_3$ (M = Ca, Sr, Ba, Ce, Yb; X = Sb, Bi)

which also have Mn_SSi_3 structure (except Ca_5Bi_3) was stimulated. From the result of studies, it is concluded that the pure binary M_5X_3 with $Mn₅Si₃$ structure can exist, although they violate the simple Zintl valence rule. Also, they have been speculated to contain impurity oxygen.¹⁰ When interstitial elements were introduced, they followed the valence rule strictly and only halogen can be put in successfully. Moreover, three different structures, filled-Mn₅Si₃, filled-g-Yb₅Sb₃¹¹ and anti-Th₃P₄,¹² have been observed on changing interstitial elements from CI or Br to F or I. It is believed that an anion size effect causes this.

During the study of Ca_5Sb_3X , a new compound was observed with stoichiometry of Ca/Sb close to 3/2. Since the stoichiometry of it was close to $Ca₅Sb₃$ and it sometimes was even observed in attempts to synthesize the high temperature phase of $Ca₅Sb₃$, we studied th structure of it to broaden the basis of pure binary phases in the Ca-Sb system. The structure was solved by a model based on W_5Si_3 structure. The real structure was confirmed by single crystal study and the stoichiometry turned out to be $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$. The structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ was a new member of $R_{5n^+6}T_{3n^+5}$ (R = rare earth metal; T = transition metal). 13, 14 To rationalize this series, the relationship between r_R/r_T and ΔV within the series was studied too. Based on this relationship, the $Sr^{}_{16}Bi^{}_{11}$ analogue was also synthesized.

Finally, the mixed cation effects in Zintl phases also attracted our attention, because it has been shown that mixed cations can yield unique and unusual structures such as Li_3NaSi_6 , ¹⁵ Li₈MgSi₆, ¹⁶ LiK₃Si₄, ¹⁷

 $Cs_2Na_2Ge_4$, $^{18}Na_6$, $_{25}Rb_0$, $_6Ga_{20.02}$, $^{19}Na_1sK_4Ga_{49.57}$, $^{20}Li_3Na_5Ga_{19.56}$, 21 $\text{Li}_9\text{K}_3\text{Ga}_{28.83}$,²² Li₅NaSn₄,²³ and Li₅Na₂Sn₄.²⁴ None of these phases is observed in a pure binary compound. Thus, we started the study of mixed cation in Sr-Mg-Ge system where there was only one compound reported — SrMgGe. In the research, we found two nonstoichiometric compounds — $Sr_2+xMg_{12-x}Ge_7$ and $Sr_5+yMg_{19-y}Ge_{12}$ which are isostructural with $Zr_2Fe_{12}P_7{}^{25}$ and $Ho_5Ni_{19}P_{12}.^{26}$ Also, SrMg₃Ge₃ and SrMg₂Ge₂ were discovered to be new compounds with new structure types. Based on powder patterns and reasonable postulates, the structure of $SrMg_3Ge_3$ might be related to that of $Rh_{4}P_{3}.27$

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

Most of the starting elements and reagents were from commercial sources. In some cases, they are pretreated to satisfy the experimental requirements. The sources and purities of these elements and reagents that did not need further treatments are summarized in Table 1.

Reagent-grade alkaline-earth-metal halides from commercial sources (CaCl₂ (Fisher Co.), SrCl₂ (Baker Co.), BaCl₂ (Baker Co.) and BaBr₂ (ROC/RIC Co. 99% purity)) were dried from room temperature to 200°C — 400°C under high vacuum to eliminate the absorbed moisture. The halides were stored in sealed glass ampoules outside the dry box or in glass vials with tightly fitting plastic stoppers inside the argon-filled dry box where reaction vessels were usually loaded.

Some of the halides such as CeCl₃, SbI₃ and BiBr₃ were selected from the previous products synthesized in this laboratory and kept well protected since in sealed glass ampoules.

Bil₃ and Sb₂S₃ were prepared by loading stoichiometric amounts of elements in glass ampoules, which were then sealed under vacuum and heated at 750° or 850°C for a couple of days. The high purities of them were confirmed by the Guinier powder patterns.

BaF₂ was formed by adding BaCO₃ powder to the HF aqueous solution (35%), then drying the white precipitate. The precipitate was further heated under vacuum at \sim 400°C in a glass ampoule for a couple of hours to remove the moisture. The glass tube was sealed and transferred to the dry box.

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Table 1. Source, purity of starting materials

The synthesis of BaS was made by flowing a mixture of H^2 S and H^2 gas into a fused silica jacket which contained BaCO₃ (\sim 2g) powder in a fused silica boat. The whole jacket was kept in a furnace at \sim 930°C for a couple of hours. During the cooling process, only H_2 gas flow was introduced to remove excess H_2S . The whole procedure was modified from the reaction described in Brauer's handbook.28

For alkali metals, the dirty oxides on the surface were removed with a scalpel to ensure the cleanness of the alkali metals.

General Synthetic Methods

Due to the hydroscopic and air sensitive characteristics of the reactants and products, all the transfers and manipulations were made in the dry box or on a vacuum line. The dry box was constantly purged with dry nitrogen or argon which was circulated through separate vertical columns of Molecular Sieves and the oxygen scavenger Redox. This and a tray of $P_\mu O_{10}$ in the dry box typically reduced the moisture content to 1 — 5 ppm. The amount of oxygen was not quantitatively determined, but as a regular check-up, a 60-watt light bulb without glass burned for 30 — 50 minutes. A Pyrex vacuum line with a mercury diffusion pump was used for evacuation of sample tubes, sublimation, etc.

The syntheses of the Zintl phases needs to overcome a high energy barrier, thus a high temperature reaction condition is required. The container should be inert during the reactions. Generally, Ta tubing was a good container. Sometimes, fused silica ampoules were used as the containers, when it was observed that Ta tubing was not inert to some of

the nonmetal elements, especially for As. However, the weak point of fused silica ampoules is their poor resistance to alkali and alkaline earth elements at high temperature. To compensate this, slow heating can reduce the attack of alkali and alkaline earth metals to the fused silica ampoules, because the heat released can be slowed down and the binary compounds formed instead. A better way to solve the above problem is to use a two step reaction. First, alkali or alkaline earth element was prereacted with a nonmetal which does not react with Ta tubing, then the products transferred into a fused silica ampoules for further reactions with other components.

The cleanness of the container is an important requirement, because "everything reacts with everything at high temperature". Ta tubing (5-cm \times 0.95-cm o.d.) was placed in cleaning solution (55% concentrated H_2SO_4 , 25% concentrated HNO₃, and 20% concentrated HF, by volume) for a few minutes until the tubing was judged to be sufficiently clean. The tubing was then rinsed with distilled water several times and was dried in an oven at lOO'C. A quartz ampoule connected to a ball joint at one end first was filled with 10% HF aqueous solution (by volume) for one hour. Then, it was emptied and rinsed with distilled water a couple of times and dried in an oven.

After drying, one end of Ta tubing was crimped in a vise and was then welded under helium atmosphere. The reactants were weighed in the dry box on an electronic balance $(\pm 1 \text{ mg})$ and loaded into the tube; then the open end of the tubing was crimped closed with a pair of Vice-Grip pliers. The tube was then placed into a sample bottle, which was tightly

closed and rapidly transferred to the arc-welder. After welding, the tube was subsequently sealed into the silica jacket, and the latter attached to the vacuum line, strongly flamed with a gas-oxygen torch to remove traces of water absorbed on the surface of the fused silica and was then sealed.

As mentioned, a high temperature is required for the synthesis of most Zintl phases. Five different types of furnaces were used during the research. Tube and Marshall furnaces were used for most reactions. They functioned similarly; the only difference is that the insulation of the latter is better than the former so that the temperature gradient was quite small in the latter. A Lindberg furnace was used when a temperature gradient was required such as for chemical transport reactions. An induction furnace was adopted when fast heating and quenching were needed, for such as the syntheses of $Ca₅X₃F$ (X = Sb, Bi). Also, a high temperature furnace connected with programmable temperature controller was used in attempts to grow single crystals. The temperature of reactions was monitored by attaching a chromel-alumel thermocouples on the outside of the fused silica jackets. The temperature of the reactions was regulated by a temperature controller. Both on-off and proportional controllers were used. The reaction time varied depending on demands for different reactions. Usually, two weeks was enough for most reactions.

After the reactions were completed, all the containers were opened in a dry box equipped with a nearly horizontal window that allowed for careful microscopic examination of reaction products. If appropriate size crystals (<0.3-mm) were observed, they were mounted in 0.2-mm or

0.3-mm o.d. capillaries with the aid of glass or fused silica pickers. The open end of the capillary was temporarily sealed by Vaseline or silicon grease. Once outside the dry box, the capillaries were sealed with an oxygen-gas microtorch, and both ends were covered with black wax. Samples of products were ground in a mortar and mounted between layers of Scotch brand tape for Guinier powder diffraction. The rest of the products were stored under vacuum in sealed glass ampoules.

Characterization

Powder X-ray diffraction

Powder X-ray diffraction is the main tool to characterize reaction products so that information on the identity, relative yield, and the precise lattice constants could be obtained. Two different Guinier cameras were used during the research. Although a Hagg-Guinier camera could cover wider range of $2\theta(\sim 90^\circ)$ than Enraf-Nonius (Delft) Guinier camera (<85°), the latter proved to give sharper lines in the patterns than the former. Thus, most of the patterns were collected by the latter. Both cameras have silicon monochromaters to give Cu Ka_1 radiation free of Cu Ka_2 . National Bureau of Standards silicon was added to samples as an internal standard.

Patterns were read using an Enraf-Nonius film reader. The readings from the film were converted to 2© values by applying a quadratic equation obtained from the least square fit of the five silicon lines to known diffraction angles using the program GUIN.29 The accurate lattice constants of the products could be further derived from LATT³⁰ program

after assigning the proper structure type and indices to the reflections.

PWDR³¹ is a very useful program for calculating the powder patterns of known or postulated structures. It is followed by PPPL0T32 program to generate the powder patterns with the same scale as the experimental ones. Therefore, comparison of the intensities as well as positions in the calculated with those in the experimental powder patterns allowed many products be identified. However, it should be noted that the intensities sometimes depend on either grinding damage or preferred orientation which are commonly encountered in layered compounds with weak interactions between layers. Also, the intensities of the reflections at high angles always were weaker than calculated ones. Moreover, whether a single powder pattern can represent the whole product is the important questions that needs to be considered before reaching any conclusion.

If the known compounds already have been collected on ASTM file, the calculated powder pattern can be generated by PL0T32 program directly by imputing d spacings and relative intensities of the reflections without PWDR.

The output of GUIN may also be indexed by TREOR33 program to obtain the cell constants of an unknown, single phase. For a mixture, the real cell constants sometimes could be found after carefully excluding those reflections of known phases. The reliability of the result from TREOR program are determined by how many lines are input, the accuracy of those lines, and how many lines can be indexed. The more lines input and indexed, the more the result is trustable. An accurate reading is

important since the tolerance of the program in 20 is around 0.03'. Generally, ten lines is the minimum required, and the figure of merit should be larger than 6 if the result is to be considered a reliable one.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction

The powder X-ray diffraction only serves as a preliminary identification of the products. If accurate distances and the atom positions of products are desired or if a new structure is formed, then single crystal X-ray diffraction is an invaluable tool to study the structures of the products. Especially, it is the only way to determine the compositions of compounds if they are minor products and their powder patterns can not be obtained due to the low yield.

Since all the Zintl phases are air and moisture sensitive, crystals loaded in 0.2-mm or 0.3-mm capillaries for study for single crystal X-ray diffraction. Before putting the crystals on the diffractometers, preliminary film work should be done to confirm the quality of the crystals and to provide important information on cell constants. Usually oscillation photographs were used to identify the singularity of the crystals and to derive one axis. The zeroeth and first level Weissenberg photographs can give the systematic absences and the lengths of the other two axes. Also, they can provide information on the cell such as superstructure or disordering.

In this research, the three diffractometers used were SYNTEX $P2,$, DATEX, and CAD-4. For SYNTEX $P2_1$, the software for indexing and data

collection are available from the company, but that of DATEX is provided by Dr. Jacobson's group and is called ALICE.³⁴ The software for structure determination with data collected by the SYNTEX P2, and by DATEX are provided by Dr. Jacobson's group too, namely CHESCAT. For CAD-4, it has its own software called SDP (Structure Determination Package)35 to execute the jobs.

Although three different diffractometers were used, the procedures for the data collection and structure determination are all similar. First, 15 to 25 reflections from Polaroid oscillations photographs are input to determine a cell. There is another option called SEARCH for CAD-4 which scans the reciprocal space randomly for up to 25 strong reflections.

After a cell is obtained and confirmed by axial photographs, the data collection was always of the ω -scan type, because it was much faster than other modes such as 0-20 scan and less critical of the quality of crystals, i.e., w-scan should be adopted if the crystals do not look very good. Usually, the 20(max) collected was set at $50^{\circ} - 55^{\circ}$.

To correct for absorption, ϕ -scan method was used by which diffractometers scanned a peak every 10° in ϕ to collect the intensities. The typical 20 value for the ϕ -scan was 20° - 30° and at least three ϕ -scans were carried out (one of them in the high angle range >30°). Before data reduction and averaging, an absorption correction program such as ABSN36 or EMP37 was applied.

After finishing data reduction, the Lorentz and polarization effects were corrected by REDDAT38 or DATA37 program, and redundant data averaged

according to the proper space groups by $FDATA^{39}$ or $PAINT^{37}$ program so that the data were ready for refinement.

Before proceeding with a refinement, a couple of programs can be run to derive the atom positions such as PATTERSON, SUPERPOSITION, ALCAM, MULTAN and SHELEX. The first three programs were well developed by Dr. Jacobson's group based on the Patterson method, while the last two based on direct method can give solutions after the right space groups and compositions were input. However, they always created some ghost solutions too. Therefore, the user should have some ideas about the bonding and the real components in the structure before using them, or he might be mislead by the results.

Block matrix and full matrix least-squares were both used to refine the data. Usually, a block matrix was used in the initial steps and the full matrix was executed for the final cycles, because refinement by a block matrix was less time consuming. ALLS⁴⁰ or LSFM³⁷ were the programs used to refine the structural data. The typical refinement procedures started from atom positions, then thermal parameters were varied. In some case, a secondary extinction correction was necessary if the size of crystals was very big and quite isotropic. Also, the occupancies of atom positions were sometimes varied to determine the compositions or to examine unusually high thermal parameters.

The structures were illustrated by $ORTEP⁴¹$ program. Most of atoms were represented as 90% thermal ellipsoids.

Emission spectroscopy

These spectra were measured by E. L. DeKalb in Ames Lab to qualitatively determine the compositions of samples. It was especially helpful when the components of one particular product were completely unknown. The amount of samples needed was about 100 mg. However, the result could not tell whether the appearance of oxygen was from the products or was a limitation of the instrument.

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PART I. K-Si-As TERNARY SYSTEM

Introduction

Binary compounds between silicon, germanium, etc. (A) and phosphorus, arsenic, etc., (B) have been known for a long time.¹⁻³ The most common stoichiometries are AB and $AB₂$ which at ambient temperature and pressure often exhibit layered structures. In the former GaTe type, A is bonded to three B and one A atoms in a structure of condensed tetrahedra, while in the latter, typified by GeAs₂, A is bound to four B atoms which share edges to form layers that bear some resemblance to those in the former. These are all valence or Zintl^{4,5} phases and semiconductors at room temperature.6

There are only a few known ternary phases $M_XA_VB_Z$ for these A and B elements in which M is an alkali metal.⁷⁻⁹ The structure of the $A_{\gamma}B_{Z}^{\chi-}$ anion in such ternary phases is expected to be different from that of the neutral analog $A_{v}B_{z}$. For instance, the layer structure of SiP_2 (GeAs₂ type) is broken down to chains in the formation of K_2 SiP₂.⁸ It is easy to rationalize this in terms of the reduction that accompanies the formation of SiP_2^2 . The latter is isoelectronic with SiS₂, and thus K₂SiP₂ has a structure similar to that of SiS₂. Likewise, the layered anions in the isostructural KSnAs and KSnSb phases are isoelectronic with and have a structure like that of $CaSi₂$ but with ordered tin and arsenic or antimony atoms.⁹ The anion layers in the CaSi₂¹⁰ structure can in turn be related to the puckered neutral layers found in the isoelectronic element arsenic, etc.

Recently a new composition and structure type has been discovered in our laboratory for $MSi₃As₃$ (M = K, Na). The relatively low proportion of the alkali metal also allows a clear relationship to be discerned between the $Si₃As₃$ structure and that of the binary phase SiAs (GaTe type).²

$$
MSi3As3 (M = Na, K)
$$

Synthesis

Materials utilized were purified potassium (J. T. Baker Chem. Co.) which was first trimmed of oxidation products in the dry box, arsenic lumps (99.99% total. Alpha Products) and zone-refined, electronic grade si 1 icon.

The new $KSi₃As₃$ was first encountered after a reaction of the three elements in a 1:1:1 ratio. This was carried out in a fused silica ampoule that had been sealed under vacuum and further jacketed in a second evacuated silica jacket in order to protect the products if container attack led to cracking when the reaction was cooled. The loading of the reactants and the examination of the products were carried out in a glove box flushed with nitrogen and kept at a moisture level below 5 ppm. Purple, needle-shaped crystals were found on the inner surface of the container after the reaction had been run in a vertical tube furnace at around 800°C for 5 days. X-ray emission spectroscopy confirmed the presence of all three elements in the product.

Since potassium attacks a silica container and arsenic attacks the alternative container tantalum, a two-step synthetic process was developed to avoid such side reactions. After the correct stoichiometry

of the needles had been determined from a solution of the crystal structure, KSill or "KSi₃", an intimate fused mixture of Si and KSi, were first prepared in high purity by reaction of elemental potassium and silicon in a sealed tantalum container at 800°C. Stoichiometric amounts of As were then reacted with KSi plus Si or "KSi₃ " in sealed fused silica ampoules at $910 - 950^{\circ}$ C for $4 - 5$ days according to the equation:

$$
KSi + 2Si + 3As \longrightarrow KSi3As3
$$
 (1)

This approach greatly reduced the attack of potassium and provided a high yield of the evidently single-phase product, >95% judging from Guinier powder diffraction. Large needle crystals about 8 mm long were found at the top of the ampoules where the temperature had been lower. It is presumed that a chemical transport reaction was responsible for this crystal growth, but the process has not been studied further. Iodine does not effect transport in this system, evidently because the stability of the alternate KI is too high.

Attempts at the synthesis of $KGe₃As₃$ and NaSi₃As₃ by the above method in silica and of $KGe₃As₃$ and $KSi₃P₃$ by the two-step process were without success although a few small needle crystals were seen in the first of these. However, the phase $Nasi₃As₃$ could be obtained by a cation exchange method. Equimolar amounts of $KSi₃As₃$ and Nal were ground together, pressed into a pellet, sealed in a silica tube under vacuum, and heated in a horizontal tube furnace at $\sim500^{\circ}$ C for one week. The end of the tube not containing the pellet was slightly exposed at the end of the furnace, either from the beginning or after several days. Crystals of KI were found at the cold end of the tube (as identified by X-ray

lattice constant and qual tests), while pure $NaSi₃As₃$ was left in the hot end. Cell constants for $NaSi₃As₃$, $a = 10.002(4)$, $b = 18.54(3)$ and c = 3.648(1) A, were determined by least-squares refinement of 2 Θ values for the clearest 10 of the 17 rather broad lines observed in the Guinier powder pattern.

Similar exchange reactions with Rbl, Csl were also tried but without success. Exchange reactions at 500°C employing equimolar amounts of Li I and KSi₃As₃ either as a pressed pellet in SiO₂ under a temperature gradient or as the mixed powders in sealed Ta isothermally likewise produced pure KI judging from the lattice constant. However, the presumed LiSi₃As₃ product has a different and unknown crystal structure; the pattern could also result from a mixture.

The potassium phase is not oxidized by benzophenone in THF at $\sim86^{\circ}$ C, contrary to the observations for Li_7Ge_{12} , 11 presumably because of either a low potassium mobility or an insufficient reducing power. The lithium product gives only a faint yellow color under the same conditions so the latter explanation is more likely. $KSi₃As₃$ is not very sensitive to moist air but reacts with water or dilute HCl with vigorous evolution of hydrogen and the formation of a black amorphous product. The lithium product is quite air-sensitive.

Structural studies

A suitable needle crystal (about 0.02 x 0.02 x 0.8 mm) of what turned out to be $KSi₃As₃$ was mounted and sealed in a 0.2-mm diameter, thin-walled capillary. Oscillation and zero- and first-level Weissenberg

photographs showed that the cell was orthorhombic with a \approx 10.1, b \approx 19.1, $c \approx 3.65$ A and that the diffraction data exhibited the nonextinction conditions: $h0\ell$, $h = 2n$; $0k\ell$, $k = 2n$; $h00$, $h = 2n$; $0k0$, $k = 2n$. Only two space groups, Pbam and Pba2, satisfy these, and the structural refinement proved that the centric Pbam was correct.

Diffraction data were collected from the same crystal at room temperature and to 20 = 55° with the aid of graphite-monochromated Mo K_{α} radiation $(\lambda = 0.71069 \text{ A})$ and a DATEX four-circle diffractometer. No decay of the standard reflections was observed.

The positions of the three heavier arsenic atoms were first determined with the aid of a Patterson map, and those of the other atoms were then deduced from Fourier F-synthesis maps. It turned out that all atoms occupy the $4(q)$ $(x,y,0)$ or $4(h)$ $(x,y,1/2)$ positions of m symmetry. The data were corrected for absorption by the psi-scan method together with the program ABSN. This program as well as ALLS for structure factor calculations and least-squares refinement, FOUR for Fourier syntheses, and ORTEP for drawings have been referenced before.¹² Scattering factors included the real and imaginary part of anomalous dispersion.13 A difference map computed after the final cycle showed maximum residual densities between +1.9 and +1.5 e/ A^3 . These were all located 0.8 - 1.4 A from the As(1), As(2), As(3) or Si(1) positions, generally in outward directions from the layers as might be produced by a small amount of cation defects. Details of crystal data collection and refinement parameters are given in Table 1. Lattice parameters calculated from Guinier powder

Space group	Pbam (No. 55)
Z	4
Cell param. $(A)^d$	
$\mathbf a$	10.010(4)
$\mathbf b$	19.139(8)
\mathbf{C}	3.664(1)
Size of crystal (mm)	$0.05 \times 0.05 \times 0.8$
Octants collected	$h, k, \ell; -h, -k, \ell$
Scan type	ω
2Θ -max, deg. (Mo K α)	- 55
μ (Mo Ka), cm ⁻¹	112.9
Transm. coeff. range	$0.87 - 1.00$
Number of reflections	
meas.	2405
obs. $($ >3 $\sigma(1)$)	1551
indep.	674
R(ave)	0.038
R _p	0.044
R_{W}	0.050

Table 1. Diffraction and refinement data of $KSi₃As₃$

aThe cell dimensions calculated from 21 lines of the Guinier powder pattern, Cu Ka₁, λ = 1.54056 A.

 $R = \sum ||F_0| - |F_C||/\sum |F_0|$, $R_W = [\sum w(|F_0| - |F_C|)^2/\sum w|F_0|^2]^{1/2}$.
pattern data with Si as an internal standard¹³ were used for distance calculations.

Results and Discussion

The positional parameters for $KSi₃As₃$ are listed in Table 2 and some important distances and angles are given in Table 3.

Structure description

The unit cell of $KSi₃As₃$ is depicted in Figure 1 while a portion of the anion layer therein along with some bond distances is shown in Figure 2, both in perspective views down the short c axis. The layers can be seen to consist of puckered rings of the metalloid element condensed into chains and then into sheets, or vice versa. Thus, nonplanar fivemembered rings consisting of $-Si(1,2)As(2)Si(3)As(3)$ — are condensed into columns or tubes through sharing the last four atoms while the remaining Si(l) atoms are bridged by the exocyclic As(l) atoms. These groups are then joined head-to-head and tail-to-tail into sheets via Si(3)—Si(3) and Si(2)-Si(2) bridges. The last are easiest to see in the Figures as the centers of these bonds lie at points of 2/m symmetry with the rotation axis normal to the figure. If the construction is instead centered on these Si-Si bonds, $Si(3)_{4/2}As(2)_{4/2}As(3)_{2}$ and

 $\text{Si(2)}_{2}\text{As(2)}_{4/2}\text{Si(1)}_{2}\text{[As(1)}_{4/2}\text{]As(3)}_{2}$ units of C_{2h} symmetry are joined into strings parallel to [100] via their common As(2) and As(3) atoms, and then condensed into sheets along \tilde{c} . The structural arrangement is very reasonable as it makes all silicon atoms four-bonded and two of the arsenic atoms three-bonded, while the terminal As(l) atoms are only

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Atom	x	у	z	Bp
As(1)	0.4000(1)	0.19698(6)	0.0	1.38(3)
As(2)	0.7191(1)	0.04102(5)	0.0	1.17(3)
As(3)	0.5861(1)	0.38496(6)	0.5	1.23(3)
$K^{\mathbf{C}}$	0.1962(3)	0.3048(2)	0.5	2.63(8)
Si(1)	0.3251(3)	0.1320(1)	0.5	1.24(7)
Si(2)	0.1126(3)	0.5147(1)	0.5	1.00(7)
Si(3)	0.4072(3)	0.5365(1)	0.0	1.02(7)

Table 2. Positional and isotropic thermal parameters for KSi_{-AS-}^a

aSpace group Pbam, $Z = 4$, all atoms in 4h or 4g positions.

bAverage of anisotropic values, A^2 .

CRefined occupancy = $0.98(1)$.

 $Si(2) - Si(1)$ 2.331(4) $As(2) - Si(2) - Si(1)$ 108.2(1) $Si(2) - 2 As(2)$ 2.372(2) $As(2) - Si(2) - Si(2)$ 109.1(1) $Si(2) - 2 Si(3)$ 3.497(4) $Si(1) - Si(2) - Si(2)$ 119.4(2) $Si(3)$ $Si(3)$ $2.325(6)$ $As(2)$ $Si(3)$ $As(3)$ $114.47(9)$ $Si(3) - 2 As(3)$ 2.370(2) $As(2) - Si(3) - Si(3)$ 104.8(2) $Si(3)$ $-$ As(2) 2.399(3) As(2) $-$ Si(3) $-$ As(3) 101.3(1) $Si(3) - 2 Si(1)$ $3.480(4)$ $As(3) - Si(3) - Si(3)$ $111.0(1)$

Table 3. Distances (A) and angles (deg) in $KSi₃As₃$

 $a_{x+1/2}$, $1/2-y$, z.

 $Si(3) - 2 Si(2)$ 3.497(4)

 κ

Figure 1. A $[001]$ perspective of the unit cell of $KSi₃As₃$ (space group Pbam) with all atoms at $z = 0$ or $1/2$. Open atoms: Si (in chain) and K; shaded atoms: As. (90% probability thermal ellipsoids.)

Figure 2. A perspective view of a portion of the 2^{S} Si₃As₃] layers in KSi₃As₃. Arsenic atoms are shaded

 $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$

two-bonded. The last are then formally $As¹$, isoelectronic with selenium. Formulation of the dark-purple compound as $K^+Si_3As_3^-$ gives the anion the electron count of a valence (Zintl⁶) compound, and conventional two-center bonding should apply.

Bond distances

Important distances and angles are listed in Table 3, and some distances are marked on Figure 2. Several general points are observed. First, all Si—Si distances are almost the same, the average 2.326 A being close to those in many silanes, \sim 2.34 A¹⁴ consistent with the simple bonding expected. All bonds formed by three-bonded arsenic atoms (2) and (3) connect to one end of an Si_2 group, and for most of these the bonds lengths cluster around 2.38 A. Different values occur around the silicon (1). The latter atoms are bridged by the unique, two-bonded As(l) at a shorter 2.337 A, a normal contraction, while the neighboring Si(1)- As(3) bonds are a somewhat longer 2.416 β . We suspect that the latter may be induced by strain as the interior angle at Si(l) is only 97.8°. Effects of the polar $(K^+)_{h/k}(As(1)^-)_{h/k}$ interactions (below) may also be important.

Two-bonded arsenic also occurs in the Zintl phases $(M^{II})_3Si_2As_{4}$, M^{II} = Sr, Ba, where the anion chains contain Si(As)As₂Si(As) units, four-membered rings condensed at silicon with a terminal arsenic on each.^{15,16} Bond distances therein vary in a consistent manner but are uniformly larger than reported here, perhaps because of strain or the larger polarity. The bonds between silicon and the terminal (one-bonded)

As²⁻ are now $0.06 - 0.08$ A less than to bridging As⁻¹ but the latter average 2.40 A vs 2.33 A in $KSi₃As₃$. The Si-Si bonds at 2.36 and 2.39 A ($\sigma \sim 0.01$ A) likewise average 0.05 A greater than those in KSi₃As₃. Similarly, SiAs₄8- tetrahedra with only terminal arsenic atoms that occur in $Ba_{\mu}SiAs_{\mu}^{17}$ have the Si-As distances increased to 2.40 A, ¹⁷ perhaps because of the high charge on the anion groups. These data on Si—As distances are summarized in Table 4.

The potassium atoms in $KSi₃As₃$ are coordinated by two pair of the unique As**{l)** atoms as well as two As(2) atoms from two different layers to give a rather distorted trigonal prismatic environment but one with fairly uniform K—As distances of 3.43 — 3.49 A. This unit, as shown in Figure 3, shares both As**(l**)-As**(l)** vertical edges and the top and bottom faces with other like prisms so each As**(l)** has four potassium neighbors and As(2), two. The next nearest neighbors, As(3) atoms in the plane of the potassium at 4.22 and 4.37 A, are disposed on the more open faces of the prism, and their secondary interactions with the cation may be the source of the shortening of two of four of the K-As**(l)** distances to 3.43 A.

Cation exchange

The potassium ions may be readily exchanged by sodium or lithium on reaction with the stoichiometric amount of MI at 500°C. The crystal ionic radius of sodium is 0.34 A less than that of potassium, 18 and the decreases observed in a, b and c on the formation of the sodium derivative, ~ 0.008 (4), 0.60 (3) and 0.016 (1) A, respectively, are consistent

Compounds	$Si-As(3ba)$	$Si-As^-(2b)$	$Si-As2(1b)$	Ref.
KSi ₃ As ₃	2.372(2), 2.370(2) 2.399(3), 2.416(3)	2.337(2)		this work
$Sr3Si2As4$		2.40, 2.39,	2.32 ₀	16 ^b
$Ba3Si2As4$		2.396(8), 2.416(8)	2.350(8)	17
$Ba_{\mu}SiAs_{\mu}$			2.407(5), 2.393(5)	18 ^b

Table 4. Silicon $-$ arsenic bond lengths (A) in different ternary compounds

 \cdot

^aThree-bonded, etc.

 \bar{a}

^bRefined with isotropic thermal parameters and a limited absorption correction.

with the layered nature of the structure, Figure 1. The lithium product has a different, unknown structure. The exchange behavior with Nal and LiI, and the absence of reaction with RbI and CsI, are unusual with regard to the usual course of such reactions which form the small cation — small anion and large cation — large anion pairs. The problem here is somewhat different, however, in that the arsenic "anion" separations within the layers are fixed in position. Improved nesting of the sheets and polarization of the arsenic atoms may be involved.

Figure 3. The arsenic environment about potassium in $KSi₃As₃$. The cation lies on a horizontal mirror plane normal to the figure

Relationship with Li₃NaSi₆

We have very recently become aware of the existence of a remarkably similar layered anion structure in Li_gNaSi₆.¹⁹ The isoelectronic layers there contain the same columns or tubes of shared, five-membered rings, but their interconnection is slightly different. The relative positions of one half of the exocylic bridges are altered in Li_3NaSi_6 as would be accomplished by inverting alternate columns (Figure 4). Thus, the central ring system seen in Figure 2 becomes related to those on both sides by a horizontal screw axis or glide plane centered on the $Si(3)$ -Si(3) connection rather than by the normal two-fold axis found at that point with $KSi₃As₃$. The altered arrangement appears to generate much better cavities along the chain for lithium.

Relationship with SIAs

The structure determined by Wadsten³ for SiAs in space group C2/m is closely and logically related to that of $KSi₃As₃$. The former is shown in Figure 5 in the [010] projection. The tricyclic units can be derived from $Si₃As₂As rings in $KSi₃As₃$ by joining these in pairs at the exocyclic$ As(l) atoms. This generates a pair of puckered five-member rings condensed onto a central six-membered ring at the disilicon edges in the latter. Such a member is centered about a screw axis at $1/4$, y, 0 in Figure 5. These ring systems are then linked into strings in the plane of the Figure through $Si(3)$ - $Si(3)$ bonds and condensed along \bar{b} to form layers as before. Two-fold axes are again found normal to the centers of the Si(3)—Si(3) bonds.

Figure 4. The structure of Li₃NaSi₆ projected along $[010]$ (quoted from ref. 19)

Figure 5. A [010] view of the structure of SiAs, space group C2/m (ref. 3). Arsenic atoms are shaded. The changes necessary to convert these layers to those in KSi $_3$ As $_3$ on reduction are depicted in the unit centered around $1/4, 1/2, 0$

The chemical and structural conversion

$$
6SiAs + 2K \longrightarrow 2KSi3As3
$$
 (2)

within one layer of SiAs can be achieved by (1) cleavage of opposite As(l)—Si(2) edges of the six-membered rings to form chains of dibonded As(l) atoms. Figure 1 and 2, and (2), displacement of one-half of the result by b/2 with respect to the other and rotation to allow formation of the Si(2)-Si(2) bonds in KSi₃As₃. The change is depicted symbolically on the same tricyclic unit around 1/4,1/2,0 in Figure 5. The direction of opening of these six-membered rings in the conversion to $KSi₃As₃$ alternates between layers in order to provide good interlayer bonding sites for potassium. It is not obvious, however, that such a reduction (or oxidation) process could actually be achieved in a truly concerted manner. Not surprisingly, $KSi₃As₃$ and SiAs exhibit very comparable distances as well as similar distributions of angles about equivalent atoms, the latter suggesting somewhat similar strain problems in both structures. The same may pertain to the closely related GeAs₂⁴ as well.

Further reduction of the anion layers in $KSi₃As₃$ leads to the chain structure noted before in $Sr^3_3Si^2As^+$ where the connectivity is $\frac{1}{\infty}$ Si₂(As₂)As_{4/2}] via four-membered Si₂As₂ rings. It is interesting that in the related $Sr^3Ge_2As^{\dagger}$, five-membered $Ge_{1/2}$ -Ge- (As^{\dagger}_2) -As-Ge $^{1/2}$ -Asrings analogous to those found condensed in $KSi₃As₃$ occur in chains, but with one germanium now common to two rings. The anion structure of KSigAsg was presumably not found during earlier studies with alkaline earth metal cations because half as many cations of higher field would not support a stable layered structure.

$K₂$ SiAs₂

In the study of K-Si-As system, some needle crystals were found with a needle axis ~5.3 A, based on oscillation photographs, much longer than that of $KSi₃As₃$ which is only 3.664 (1) A. In reviewing literature, K_2 SiP₂⁹ was found to have a needle-like habit with an axis of 6.107 (4) A. Therefore, it was quite possible that the needle crystals were K_2 SiAs₂. To confirm that, rxn. $Q137$ was run by loading stoichiometric amounts of elementary starting materials into a fused silica ampoule which was sealed under Ar and then loaded into another larger fused silica jacket. To prevent the attack by moisture and oxygen, the whole loading process was carried out in a dry box flushed with nitrogen gas. After slowly heating the contents from room temperature to 750'C in 8 hrs. and maintaining the temperature there for 6 hrs., then furnace cooling, some light brown needle crystals were found at the top of the residue. The residue also contained unreacted silicon and arsenic elements as confirmed by the Guinier powder pattern. Since the yield of the needle crystals was not very high, the attempt to take a powder pattern of the crystals was not very successful, as all the lines of the powder pattern were very weak and diffuse. However, several crystals were mounted into 0.2-mm capillaries. From the oscillation and Weissenberg photographs, the lattice constants were derived: $a = 13.22(2)$, $b =$ 7.02(2) and c = 6.33(2) A, $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^{\circ}$. Compared with lattice constants of K₂SiP₂: a = 12.926(6), b = 6.687(4) and c = 6.107(4) A, α = $\beta = \gamma = 90.0^{\circ}$, the needle crystals could be K₂SiAs₂ and isostructural

with K_2 SiP₂. Moreover, the systematic absences for the needle crystals derived from the zeroth and first level Weissenberg photographs are: hke:h+k+e = 2n; Oke:k,e = 2n; hOe:h,e = 2n; all consistent with the space group of K_2 SiP₂: Ibam.

Structure solution

One of the needle crystals with suitable size $(0.04 \times 0.04 \times 0.75$ mm) was indexed and data collected by the four-circle DATEX diffractometer. A total of 1361 reflections data were collected from two octants $(\pm h, \pm k, \ell)$ with 2 Θ (max) equal to 50°. The details of data collection and structure solution was summarized in Table 5. After finishing data collection, the lattice constants were accurately derived from 30 reflections of the single crystal: $a = 6.336(6)$, $b = 13.219(3)$ and $c = 6.977(2)$ A. After finishing absorption correction, data reduction and averaging, the coordinates of K_2 SiP₂ were used as a starting point in refinement of the data since the preliminary examinations already confirmed it to be isostructural with K₂SiP₂. After a couple of cycles including anisotropic temperature factors refinements, the R and R_w dropped to 0.022 and 0.026, respectively. The final difference map did not show any residual peaks greater than 1.0 e/A^3 . The positional and thermal parameters are listed in Table 6.

Description of the structure

The K_2 SiAs₂ has the infinite [SiAs₂]⁻² chains parallel to the caxis and perpendicular to [001] plane (Figure 6) with potassium cations packed between those chains. The chemical environment of potassium

Table 5. Uiffraction and refinement data of K_2 SiAs₂

single crystal Mo K_{α_1} , $\lambda = 0.71034$ A. $P = \sum |F_0| - |F_C| / \sum |F_0|$, $R_w = [\sum w(|F_0| |F_c|)^2/\sum w|F_0|^2]^{1/2}$, $w = 1/\sigma_F^2$.

 \bar{z}

Si	As	К
$x = 0$	$x = -0.09880(4)$	$x = 0.1445(1)$
$y = 1/2$	$y = 0.33229(9)$	$y = 0.1617(2)$
$z = 1/4$	$z = 0$ $z = 0$	
$B_{11} = 1.27(4)$	$B_{11} = 1.50(3)$	$B_{11} = 1.99(6)$
$B_{22} = 1.39(7)$	$B_{22} = 1.94(3)$	$B_{22} = 2.27(6)$
$B_{33} = 1.26(8)$	$B_{33} = 1.43(3)$	$B_{33} = 2.68(6)$
$B_{12} = B_{13} = B_{23} = 0$	$B_{12} = -0.54(2)$	$B_{12} = 0.31(5)$
	$B_{13} = B_{23} = 0$	$B_{13} = B_{23} = 0$

Table 6. Positional and thermal parameters of K_2 SiAs₂^{a,b}

aSpace group Ibam (No. 72).

 $^{\text{b}}$ The needle axis is consistent with the c=axis.

Figure 6. The unit cell of K.SiAs, viewed along $[001]$. Open atoms: K; shaded atoms: Si (4 bonded) and As (2 bonded). **90%** probability thermal ellipsoids

 \sim

cations is quite different from that in $KSi₃As₃$. The potassium cations are in the rather distorted octahedral sites (Figure 7) while those in $KSi₃As₃$ are located in trigonal prism sites. All the arsenic atoms are bridging between two adjacent silicon atoms similar to the selenium atoms in SiSe₂ which is isoelectronic with $[SiAs₂]⁻²$ (Figure 8). The bonding distances between Si and As is 2.370 (1) A, but the angles of As-Si-As are in the range from 96.14 (3) ° to 120.84 (4) °. The details of the distances and angles in K_2 SiAs₂ are listed in Table 7.

Comparisons of S1-As~(2b) distances In different ternary compounds

The distances of Si-As⁻(2b) in K₂SiAs₂ (2.370 (1) A) is longer than that of $KSi₃As₃$ which is only 2.337 (2) A. This might be caused by the high strain in $KSi₃As₃$, because the As(2b) atoms are bridging between Si(1) atoms to form sheets in $KSi₃As₃$. However, compared with $(M^{III})_3$ Si₂As₄, M^{III} = Sr, Ba, the Si-As⁻(2b) of K₂SiAs₂ is shorter (see Table 4). Again, the strain or the polarity might play an important role. Also, the chain in $(M^{II})_3$ Si₂As₄ is puckered while that of K_2 SiAs₂ is linear. That might cause different strain for them.

Conclusion

In the study of K—Si—As system, two structure type compounds were found. One of the $KSi₃As₃$ — is a new structure type with puckered layer. For them, the ratios of Si/As are equal to those of molecular compounds. In $KSi₃As₃$, due to the low proportion of cation, the structure can be related to SiAs, while K_2 SiAs₂ is completely different from SiAs₂,

Figure 7. The arsenic environment about potassium in K_2 SiAs₂

Figure 8. A perspective view of a portion of the $\frac{1}{\infty}$ [SiAs₂] chains in K₂SiAs₂

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Atom 1	Atom 2	Distance	Atom 1	Atom 2	Atom 3	Angle
Si	4 As	2.370(1)	As	Si	As	96.14(3)
Si	2 Si	3.168(1)	As	Si	As	120.84(4)
Si	4 K	3.425(1)	As	Si	As	112.36(4)
As	2 Si	2.370(1)				
As	K	3.380(2)	Si	As	Si	83.86(3)
As	2 K	3.435(1)				
As	K	3.442(2)				
As	$\sf K$	3.497(2)				
As	As	3.527(2)				
As	$\mathsf K$	3.579(2)				
$\sf K$	As	3.380(2)				
K	2 Si	3.425(1)				
Κ	2 As	3.435(1)				
K	As	3.442(2)				
K	As	3.497(2)				
K	As	3.579(2)				

Table 7. Bonding distances (A) and angles (deg) in K_2 SiAs₂

because all the arsenic atoms accepted one charge from potassium atoms to form arsenic anions. Therefore, the structure of K_2 SiAs₂ is more like SiSe₂ which is isoelectronic with $[SiAs₂]^{-2}$. The sodium analogue of $KSi₃As₃$ can be generated through cation exchange reaction.

References

 $\sim 10^6$

PART II. M₅X₃ BINARY SYSTEM

Introduction

There are two structure types reported for M_5X_3 (M = Ca, Sr, Ba; X = Sb, Bi).¹ One is Mn₅Si₃ type (hexagonal cell),² the other is β -Yb₅Sb₃³ (orthorhombic cell) (see Table 1). For Ca_5Sb_3 and Sr_5Bi_3 , these two types were reported¹ to both exist with Mn₅Si₃ as the high temperature form. The original motive to study these M_5X_3 systems was based on a curiosity about the nature of these two phases, whether they are really binary phases or one of them belongs to the class of interstitially stabilized phases.

This kind of phenomenon was already observed in a couple of cases. For example, M_2X (M = alkaline earth metal; X = group VA nonmetal)⁴ and M_3 Y (M = alkaline earth metal; Y = group IVA nonmetal)⁵ have all been proven to be oxygen-stabilized compounds, and the right stoichiometries for them are $M_u X_2O$ and M_3YO , respectively. They all satisfy the simple valence rule. Apparently, the above M_5X_3 phases all have one extra electron available according to the simple valence counting rule. This further supports the suspicion about M_5X_3 perhaps being halides. Also, it was speculated that the might be oxygen-stabilized $M_{10}X_6O$.⁶,⁷ In the research, not only Ca_5Sb_3 and Sr_5Bi_3 but also Yb₅Sb₃ were studied (Table 2).

CdgSbg

It was reported that Ca_5Sb_3 with $\beta-\gamma b_5Sb_3$ structure forms by a peritectic reaction at 825° C.⁸ Thus, rxn. $5-3$ and rxn 243 were started at

	Ca ₅ Sb ₃		Sr ₅ Sb ₃		Ba ₅ Sb ₃	
Structure Type	(Mn_5Si_3) $(\beta - Yb_5Sb_3)$	ref. 9 ref. 10	(Mn_5Si_3)	ref. 12	(Mn_5Si_3)	ref. 13
r_M/r_X	1.257		1.369		1.423	
	Ca ₅ Bi ₃		Sr ₅ Bi ₃		Ba ₅ Bi ₃	
Structure type	$(\beta - Yb_5Sb_3)$	ref. 11	(Mn_5Si_3) $(6 - Yb5 Sb3)$	ref. 13 ref. 9	(Mn_5Si_3)	ref. 13
r_M/r_X	1.169		1.274		1.324	

Table 1. Reported structure types of $M_c X_a^1$ ($M = Ca$, Sr, Ba; $X = Sb$, Bi)

 $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$ and $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$

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$rxn.$ #	reaction conditions ^a	products ^b			
	Ca ₅ Sb ₃				
$5 - 3$	850° C - 2.5 wks, 600° C - 3 days	hex. 40%; ortho. 60%			
243	850° C - 4 days, water quenching	hex. 40%; ortho. 60%			
292	1100° C - 2 days, 850° C - 5 days	hex. 60%; ortho. 40%			
293 ^C	same as 292	same as 292			
373	$950^{\circ}C - 1$ day, $810^{\circ}C - 1$ day, $760^{\circ}C$ -2 days, 700° C -8 hrs., 650° C -1 day	hex. 70%; ortho. 30%			
376	$950^{\circ}C - 12$ hrs., air quenching 820° C - 4 weeks	hex. 70%; ortho. 30%			
454	induction heating $(\sim 1200^{\circ}$ C) air quenching	$Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$, 90%; unidentified?			
459	$970^{\circ}C - 4$ days, water quenching	hex. 80%; ortho. 20%			
	Sr ₅ Bi ₃				
480	970° C - 3 days, 730° C - 5 days, 650° C -5 days, 450° C -1 day	hex. 30%; ortho. 40% $Sr_{16}Bi_{11}$, 20%; ?			
	Yb_5Sb_3				
515	Induction heating -4 hrs. (\sim 1300°C) air quenching	hex. 99%			
509	900° C - 22 days	$Ybu Sb3$ 65%; ortho. 35%			
511	800° C - 22 days	$Ybu Sb3$ 40%; ortho. 60%			
512	700° C $-$ 3 months	$\overline{\mathbf{r}}$			

Table 2. Reaction conditions and products of stoichiometric $M^S_S X^G$ reactions

&A11 reactions were furnace cooled unless specified.

 $^{\text{b}}$ The relative yields were estimated from the powder patterns; hex. and ortho. represented $Mn₅Si₃$ type and β -Yb₅Sb₃ type, respectively.

CThe Ca was exposed in the air for 4 hours before loading in Ta tubing.

~850°C then annealed and water quenched, respectively. Both contained about 40% Mn₅Si₃ type and 60% β -Yb₅Sb₃. To ensure the cleanness of Ca metal, distilled Ca metal from Dr. Peterson's group was used in the reactions thereafter. Rxn. 292 and rxn. 293 were used to test a possible source of impurity; the Ca used in rxn. 293 was exposed to the air for 4 hours before it was loaded in Ta tubing. Both reactions were heated at llOO'C to get better homogeneity then annealed at 850°C. However, both reactions gave the similar relative yields of $Mn_SSi_3/β-Yb_SSb_3$ of 60:40. Apparently, if there is an impurity to stabilize the hexagonal phase, it was not from the air.

Rxn. 373 and rxn. 376 were designed to synthesize single phase of Ca_5Sb_3 (β -Yb₅Sb₃) and Ca_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃), respectively, by carefully controlling the reaction conditions. In principle, rxn. 373 should give high yield of β-Yb_sSb₃ type while the rxn. 376 should produce high yield of Mn_sSi₃ type product because the former adopted annealing while the latter adopted quenching from 950°C. However, the relative yields of the two phases was the same with Ca_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃)/Ca₅Sb₃ (g-Yb₅Sb₃) close to 70:30. That strongly suggested that the transition temperature between these two phases was above 820°C, also the annealing time should be longer than 4 weeks to complete the phase transition.

Rxn. 454 was carried out using induction furnace; the temperature was set ~1300°C. The cooling rate should have been fast, the identified product was $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ plus a couple of unidentified lines. Apparently, $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ is the high temperature peritectic product and with a

stoichiometry close to 5/3; thus, as the reaction cooled from 1300'C, the product formed mainly was $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ not $Ca_{5}Sb_{3}$.

When the reaction temperature set at 970°C in rxn. 459, 80% $Ca₅Sb₃$ (Mn_SSi_3) and 20% Ca₅Sb₃ (β -Yb₅Sb₃) were found. Although water quenching was adopted, the single phase of $Ca₅Sb₃$ (Mn₅Si₃) still could not be reached. That suggested the transition was very fast, because the only time to form Ca_5Sb_3 (β -Yb₅Sb₃) was a couple of seconds when the container was first exposed to the air.

It was also tried to add CaO as the impurity source. The product indicated that the $Ca_{4}Sb_{2}$ O and $Ca_{11}Sb_{10}$ were the major products. That excluded the possibility of a CaO impurity.

From this study, a couple of points could be made. When reaction temperature at ~970°C, the yield of Ca_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃) can be as high as \sim 80%, while for a temperature set at \sim 850°C the yield would drop to 40%. Thus, it was clear that the $Ca₅Sb₃$ (Mn_SSi₃) was the high temperature phase. However, the transition temperature could not have been told because the reactions probably have not reached equilibria.

$Sr₅Bi₃$

 $Sr₅Bi₃$ is the only other compound reported with two structures of $Mn₅Si₃$ and β -Yb₅Sb₃. Therefore, rxn. 480 was run to explore the relationship between these two phases. It was reported $Sr₅Bi₃¹⁴$ was a congruently melting compound with melting point at 945°C. Thus, rxn. 480 started with temperature at 970°C, then annealed at 730°C, 650°C and 450°C, successively. The products contained: 40% Sr₅Bi₃ (β -Yb₅Sb₃), 30% $Sr₅Bi₃$ (Mn₅Si₃) and 20% $Sr₁₆Bi₁₁$ (isostructural with Ca₁₆Sb₁₁) judging by the powder pattern only. From this it was proven that $Sr₅Bi₃$ could exist with Mn_SSi_3 and $B-Yb_SSb_3$ structure types. However, some of the lines (mostly are from β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure) in the powder pattern were broad and blurred, indicating equilibrium was not reached or some kind of solid solution occurred during the annealing, i.e., the annealing temperature chosen might not have been proper to observe the phase transition.

Other M₅X₃ Phases

The structures of other M_5X_3 also have been tested by following proper reaction conditions.¹¹⁻¹³ It turned out that Ca₅Bi₃ only has $B-Yb_5Sb_3$ type structure, while Sr_5Sb_3 , Ba_5Sb_3 and Ba_5Bi_3 only adopt $Mn₅Si₃$ type. The lattice constants of these compounds and those of $Ca₅$ Sb₃ are summarized in Table 3.

Also, single crystal study of $Sr_SSB₃$ was carried out. The results confirm the literature about the structure of $Sr₅Sh₃^{12}$ and clearly indicate the $Sr₅SB₃$ is an interstitial free pure binary compound without anything in the octahedral sites (see report $10/1/86 = 12/31/86$).

Yb_5Sb_3

It was reported that Yb_5Sb_3 with the Mn₅Si₃ structure was the high temperature phase.¹⁵ To check that, rxn. 515 was run in the induction furnace at \sim 1400°C. The product was a single hexagonal phase with a = b $= 9.0344(2)$ and $c = 6.9112(4)$ A (from 35 lines). That proved the hexagonal phase of Yb_5Sb_3 is the pure binary phase and the high temperature phase.

Compounds	a (A)	b(A)	$C(\lambda)$	c/a	b/a	source
Ca ₅ Sb ₃	9.0321(3)		7.0280(8)	0.778		rxn. 231
Ca ₅ Sb ₃	9.024		7.057	0.782		ref. 9
Ca ₅ Sb ₃ C1	9.0805(3)		7.0898(6)	0.781		rxn. 296
Sr ₅ Sb ₃	9.5037(5)		7.4095(8)	0.780		rxn. 368
Sr ₅ Sb ₃	9.496(5)		7.422(5)	0.782		ref. 12
Sr ₅ Sb ₃ C1	9.5541(4)		7.4328(7)	0.778		rxn. 398
Sr ₅ Bi ₃	9.63(1)		7.63(2)	0.792		ref. 13
Ba ₅ Sb ₃	9.964(3)		7.694(4)	0.772		rxn. 305
Ba ₅ Sb ₃	9.97(1)		7.73(2)	0.775		ref. 13
Ba ₅ Bi ₃	10.098(2)		7.768(3)	0.769		rxn. 308
Ba ₅ Bi ₃	10.13(1)		7.79(2)	0.769		ref. 13
Ba ₅ Bi ₃ Cl	10.188(3)		7.837(4)	0.769		rxn. 307
Ca ₅ Sb ₃	12.537(4)	9.555(2)	8.296(2)	0.662	0.762	rxn. 231
Ca ₅ Sb ₃	12.502(8)	9.512(7)	8.287(7)	0.663	0.761	ref. 10
Ca ₅ Sb ₃ F	12.442(2)	9.653(2)	8.381(2)	0.674	0.776	rxn. 364
Ca ₅ Bi ₃	12.766(1)	9.706(2)	8.437(2)	0.661	0.760	rxn. 408
Ca ₅ Bi ₃	12.722(8)	9.666(6)	8.432(6)	0.663	0.760	ref. 11
Ca ₅ Bi ₃ F	12.602(2)	9.771(2)	8.501(2)	0.675	0.775	rxn. 407
Sr ₅ Bi ₃	12.37 ₀	10.23_3	8.89 ₀	0.665	0.765	ref. 9

Table 3. Lattice constants^d of $M_S X^3$ binary compounds

^aThe lattice constants calculated from Guinier powder patterns, Cu K α_1 ($\lambda = 1.540562$ A).

The product of rxn. 515 was further divided into three parts for further studies and loaded as rxn. 509, 511 and 512. These three reactions were annealed at 900 °C. 800"C and 700°C, respectively (see Table 2). The products of rxn. 509 and 511 were the same and contained Yb_4 Sb₃ (anti-Th₃P₄)¹⁵ and β -Yb₅Sb₃, but the relative yields were different. The relative yield of $Yb_4Sb_3/g-Yb_5Sb_3$ in rxn. 509 was around 2/1, while that in rxn. 511 was 2/3. In other words, the low temperature annealing favors the formation of β -Yb₅Sb₃. It was suspected that these two reactions have not reached equilibria even after 22 days annealing. Also the composition is not balanced, and there may be some Yb rich phases such as Yb₂Sb not detected on the powder pattern. Another possibility is that the Yb₄Sb₃ might be a nonstoichiometric phase such as Yb_4 Sb₂.₄ = Yb₅Sb₃, then the Yb₄Sb₂.₄ would be an intermediate phase between the hexagonal and the orthorhombic phase.

The reaction time for rxn. 512 was 3 months. The product did not contain any known binary Yb—Sb or Ta-Sb phases. Also, the lines of the powder pattern were broad and could not be indexed by the TREOR program. That suggested they might be a mixture of the decomposition products. From this study, the existence of the pure binary hexagonal and orthorhombic phase was confirmed. However, $Yb_4Sb_2A_4$ might exist as the intermediate phases and the product decomposed to unidentified mixture after a long time of annealing at 700°C.

Discussion

Structure relationship between β -Yb₅Sb₃ and Mn₅Si₃

Since β -Yb₅Sb₃ type and Mn₅Si₃ type coexist in some M₅X₃ compounds, close relationship between these two structures is expected. Wang et al.16 has already discussed the relationship by using different arrangements of the M-centered (M = transition metal) trigonal prisms. Here, we provide another way, which seems much easier to recognize, to rationalize the relationship.

Figure 1 shows the unit cell of Ca_5Sb_3 ($\beta-\gamma b_5Sb_3$) projected on [010] plane. There are two differently oriented hexagonal nets composed of Ca trigonal prisms sharing corners and filled by Sb atoms. Inside the hexagonal nets, two Sb and two Ca atoms form zig-zag, ribbon-like parallelograms along b-axis (Figure 2). One of the nets is along the c-axis while the other one is almost perpendicular to the a-axis. The angle between the orientations of these two nets is almost 37°.

The structure of Ca_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃) can be represented as the same way. There are three differently oriented hexagonal nets on the unit cell. To illustrate the orientation of nets, Figure $3(a)$, $3(b)$ and $3(c)$ only show each of them, respectively. In the figures, the dotted lines connect Ca atoms at $z = 1/4$; solid lines connect Ca atoms at $z = 3/4$; double lines connect Ca atoms from $z = 1/4$ or $z = 3/4$ to $z = 0$ or $z = 1/2$. Clearly, Figure $3(a)$, $3(b)$ and $3(c)$ show the orientation of the nets along a-axis, b-axis and (110), respectively. Therefore, the angle between the last two nets is 30° smaller than that of $Ca₅Sb₃$ (g-Yb₅Sb₃).

Figure 1. The unit cell of Ca_5Sb_3 (g-Yb $_5Sb_3$) projected on [010] plane. Open ellipsoids: Ca atoms; shaded ellipsoids: Sb atoms. The dotted lines connect Ca atoms at $y = 1/4$; the solid lines connect Ca atoms at $y = 3/4$

Figure 2. The hexagonal net in β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure extended along the b-axis. The ribbons form a zig-zag chain inside the net

Figure 3. The unit cell of Ca_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃) projected on [001] plane (a), (b) show different hexagonal nets along a- and b-axis

Figure 3. (continued)

(c) The hexagonal net extends along (110) direction. Dotted lines connect Ca atoms at $z = 1/4$; solid lines connect Ca atoms at $z = 3/4$; double lines connect Ca atoms from $z = 1/4$ or $3/4$ to $z = 0$, or $z = 1/2$. (d) Shows the hexagonal nets penetrating together. To clarify the overlapping, the areas of the hexagonal nets are shaded

These three hexagonal nets are not shared by corners at those of β -Yb₅Sb₃ type but are penetrated and overlapped together such as Figure 3(d). In the figure, the overlapping areas are easily distinguished by shading the original hexagonal nets.

Another main difference between these two types is that the hexagonal nets in Mn₅Si₃ type are puckered ones while those in β -Yb₅Sb₃ type are almost flat. To illustrate this point, Figure $4(a)$ and $4(b)$ are drawn for the cross sections of the hexagonal nets in these two types parallel to the (402) and (010) directions. From these figures, it becomes clear that the hexagonal nets for $M_{\rm B}Si_{\rm A}$ are puckered and centered with a Ca atom in the ribbon due to the puckering, while the nets in β -Yb₅Sb₃ are much flatter without anything in the center of the ribbon. Three pairs of different hexagonal nets are fused together to form the octahedral sites on the origin in Mn_SSi_3 structure.

Using the resemblance and the difference between these two structures, we can explain the sizes of the lattice constants of these two types for Ca_5Sb_3 . Since the hexagonal nets is the same size as c-axis in β -Yb₅Sb₃ type but smaller than the b-axis in Mn₅Si₃ type, the size of c-axis in β -Yb₅Sb₃ type $(8.296(2)$ A) is smaller than that of b-axis in $Mn_sSi₃$ type (9.0321(3) A). On the other hand, the size of a-axis in β -Yb₅Sb₃ type (12.537(4) A) across two different hexagonal nets by sharing corners is expected to be larger than that of a-axis in $Mn₅Si₃$ type (9.0321(3) A) which is composed by two penetrated nets. Finally, half the size of the b-axis $(4.7775(1)$ A) is smaller than that of the c-axis in Mn₅Si₃ type (7.0280(8) A), because the hexagonal nets are not

Figure 4. The cross sections of the hexagonal nets in the two structures are drawn (a) parallel to (402) direction for $\beta-\gamma b_5Sb_3$ type; (b) parallel to (010) direction for $Mn_{\rm s}Si^{\dagger}$ type. The solid lines outline the hexagonal nets. The ribbons are outlined by the double lines.

only puckered but also centered by a Ca atom in Mn^S si₃ type to cause the expansion along the c-axis.

Also, using the resemblance a phase transition between these two types can be imagined. As temperature is raised, the corner-shared hexagonal nets in $\beta-\gamma b_5Sb_3$ type become mobile to interpenetrate to form Mn^S si₃ type. Of course, the centered Ca in the ribbon in Mn₅Si₃ type is generated during the penetration process.

Comparisons between our M₅X₃ and reported M₅X₃ phases

The possibility of M_5X_3 filled with Y (Y = halogen) to form M_5X_3Y with the same structures as those of M_5X_3 will be demonstrated in part III. Some structures of M_5X_3 such as Ca_5Sb_3 ($\beta-\gamma b_5Sb_3$),⁹ Ca₅Bi₃¹⁰ and $Sr₅Sh₃¹²$ have been well investigated by single crystals studies. In these studies, the intensities of reflections were corrected for Lorenz and polarization effects.¹² Sr₅Bi₃ (β -Yb₅Sb₃) and Ca₅Sb₃ (Mn₅Si₃)⁹ were investigated by powder patterns only. For Sr_5Bi_3 (Mn₅Si₃), Ba₅Sb₃ and $Ba₅Bi₃$, ¹³ authors did not report the refined isotropic temperature parameters, although they did single crystal studies. Since these works were done in the '70s, the possibility of interstitials might have been neglected. Therefore, we compare their data with ours which are listed in Table 3. For easy comparison, the lattice constants of M_5X_3Y from part III are listed together too.

From the table, it is clear that all the lattice constants of M_5X_3 with the Mn₅Si₃ structure are different from ours. Some of them such as Ba_5Sb_3 and $Ba_5Bi_3^{13}$ have larger lattice constants while Ca_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃)⁹

and $Sr_{5}Sb_{3}^{12}$ have smaller a-axes but larger c-axes than ours. Presumably, that is caused by different methods used to derive the lattice constants. Also, the ratios of the lattice constants (c/a) are not comparable (Table 3). Thus, telling whether the reported M_fX_3 are interstitial free can not be made by comparison of the lattice constants or c/a ratio directly.

However, as discussed in Part III, the introduction of interstitials effects the local bonding significantly. For instance, the distances between intratrigonal M(2) atoms in M_3X_3Y with the filled-Mn₅Si₃ type become longer while the interactions between intertrigonal M(2) atoms are about the same compared to those of the M_5X_3 . So the ratio between the distances of intertrigonal M{2) atoms and that of intratrigonal M(2) atoms can be used to distinguish whether they are interstitial-free. For example, from our single crystal study the ratio of $Sr₅Sh₃$ is 1.063 very close to the data (1.061) reported in literature.¹² Thus, the reported $Sr₅Sh₃$ is confirmed to be a pure binary phase. Using the same way, the ratio reported for $Ba_5Sb_3^{13}$ is 1.065 larger than that (1.040) derived from Ba_5Sb_3C1 and 1.050 for Ca_5Sb_3C1 (see Part III). Again, that appears to have been a pure binary phase too. The ratios of $Sr_SBi₃$ (Mn₅Si₃)¹³ and $Ba₅Bi₃¹³$ are 1.081 and 1.064 indicate that they could be pure binary phases, because they are larger or close to that of $Ba_5Sb_3^{13}$ (1.065).

For M_5X_3 with the β -Yb₅Sb₃ type, the reported lattice constants¹⁰,¹¹ all smaller than ours (Table 3), but the c/a or b/a ratios are very close to each other and quite different from those of M_5X_3Y . Therefore, the c/a or b/a ratio alreay indicates that $Ca₅Sb₃10$ and

 $Ca_5Bi_3^{-11}$ were truly binary phases. The c/a or b/a of $Sr_5Bi_3^9$ is close to that of Ca_5X_3 (X = Sb, Bi). Thus, it might be also a pure binary phase.

Using our data, we confirm that the reported $Sr₅Sb₃,¹² Ba₅Sb₃,¹³$ Ca_5Sb_3 (β -Yb₅Sb₃)¹⁰ and Ca_5Bi_3 ¹¹ were probably all binary phases without any interstitials inside of them. Also, the reported $Sr₅Bi₃$ (Mn₅Si₃), $Ba_5Bi_3^{13}$ and Sr_5Bi_3 (β -Yb₅Sb₃)⁹ could be pure binary phases too. The only unconfirmed compound is $Ca₅Sb₃$ (Mn₅Si₃); because no single crystal study has been done on it.

Relationship between r_M/r_X and structure type

In Table 1, it seems that there is a clear boundary that separates these two structure types. Furthermore, $Ca₅Sb₃$ and $Sr₅Bi₃$ are located on the boundary line. Therefore, the r_M/r_X (using metallic radii for coordination number 121?) were calculated and listed in Table 1. Comparing the values of r_M/r_X , it becomes clear that those with $r_M/r_X > 1.3$ form Mn_5Si_3 structure, and with $r_M/r_X < 1.2$, β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure is adopted. When r_M/r_X at \sim 1.25 both structures can exist. So the structure types might be dependent on the relative size of the M and X atoms.

Conclusion

From the study, the coexistences of hexagonal and orthorhombic phases of Ca_5Sb_3 , Sr_5Bi_3 and Yb_5Sb_3 were confirmed, although the transition temperature and the nature of the phase transitions were still not clear. Furthermore, the hexagonal phase is the high temperature phase. From the results, it seems that the time needed to reach equilibria could be longer than 1 month.

The relationship between these two types are discussed using hexagonal nets to reveal the resemblance and differences. Also, the structure type might be determined by the ratio of r_M/r_X .

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Reference

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PART III. M₅X₃Y TERNARY SYSTEM

Introduction

Recently, it was found in our laboratory that $2r₅Sb₃¹$ with the $Mn₅Si₃$ structure, which has octahedral holes surrounded by zirconium atoms, could take up to fourteen different elements in this position including transition metal and main group elements. The physical properties of $2r_S Sb₃X$ (X = interstitial element) also varied dramatically on changing different interstitial elements. For instance, $2r^2Sb^3Fe^2$ showed strong ferromagnetism.

The M_5X_3 (M = Ca, Sr, Ba; X = Sb, Bi) phases all have the Mn_5Si_3 structure except Ca_5Bi_3 which belongs to β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure (see Part II). Therefore, a couple of interstitial elements were tried to expand knowledge from Zr_SSb_3X to the M_SX_3Y (Y = interstitial element) systems.

M_5X_3 with C_5 0

The studies of M_5X_3Y were started by adding C and O as the interstitial sources, because these are the most common source for the interstitials. Instead of the desired products, M_5X_3Y , the reactions seemed to proceed as follows:

5 Ca + 3 Sb + C
$$
\frac{870^{\circ}C}{1}
$$
 1/2 CaC₂ + 3/2 "Ca₃Sb₂"
4 Ca + 3 Sb + Ca0 $\frac{900^{\circ}C}{1}$ Ca₄Sb₂0 + 1/11 Ca₁₁Sb₁₀³ + ...

In the carbon reaction, the product " $Ca₃Sb₂$ " turned out to be a new phase and will be discussed in Part IV. Although these two reactions did not give the positive results, they all strongly suggested that the products followed simple valence rules. There are five M atoms to furnish ten electrons, while the three Sb or Bi atoms, will each accept three electrons. The total amounts of electrons accepted is nine. There should be one electron available for the interstitial elements. Therefore, halogen was tried as the interstitial elements.

M_5X_3 with C₁

MCl₂ (M = Ca, Sr, Ba) and CeCl₃ were used as the source for M_S^X ^Y reactions. They were all loaded with the right stoichiometries into tantalum containers, sealed and reacted at 850°C — 950°C, which is above the melting points of all of the chlorides, for $1 - 2$ weeks in tube or Marshall furnaces to give M_5X_3Y products with the filled- Mn_5Si_3 structure. The reactions can be represented by the following equations:

9/2 M + 1/2 MCl₂ + 3 X
$$
\frac{850^{\circ}C - 950^{\circ}C}{1 - 2 \text{ weeks}}
$$
 M₅X₃Cl, M = Ca, Sr and Ba

14/3 Ce + 1/3 CeCl₃ + 3 X
$$
\frac{850^{\circ}C - 950^{\circ}C}{1 - 2}
$$
 Ce₅X₃Cl, X = Sb and Bi

The products of the listed reactions were all obtained in quantitative yield (Table 1) and also with good crystallinity judging by the powder patterns of the products. They were chunk-like mixed with a few spherical crystals together and all showed dark gray or black luster. The lattice constants of these compounds were refined by the LATT4 program and listed in Table 1. Two of them, $Ca_{5}Sb_{3}Cl$ and $Ba_{5}Sb_{3}Cl$, were further studied by single crystal diffraction.

Compounds	a	p	c/a	source
Ca ₅ Sb ₃	9.0321(3)	7.0280(8)	0.778	rxn. 231
Ca ₅ Sb ₃ C1	9.0805(3)	7.0898(6)	0.781	rxn. 296
Ca ₅ Bi ₃ C1	9.220(1)	7.166(1)	0.777	rxn. 300
Ca ₅ Bi ₃ Br	9.2743(5)	7.2832(8)	0.785	rxn. 331
Sr ₅ Sb ₃	9.5037(5)	7.4095(8)	0.780	rxn. 368
Sr ₅ Sb ₃ C1	9.5541(4)	7.4328(7)	0.778	rxn. 398
$Ba5$ Sb ₃	9.964(3)	7.694(4)	0.772	rxn. 305
Ba ₅ Sb ₃ C1	10.062(4)	7.770(6)	0.772	rxn. 306
Ba ₅ Sb ₃ Br	10.1213(9)	7.852(2)	0.776	rxn. 525
Ba ₅ Bi ₃	10.098(2)	7.768(3)	0.769	rxn. 308
Ba ₅ Bi ₃ C1	10.188(3)	7.837(4)	0.769	rxn. 307
Ba ₅ Bi ₃ Br	10.251(2)	7.918(2)	0.772	rxn. 531
Ce ₅ Sb ₃	9.30 ₂	6.514	0.700	ref. 5
Ce ₅ Sb ₃ C1	9.4416(9)	6.568(4)	0.696	rxn. 333
Ce ₅ Bi ₃	9.531	6.587	0.691	ref. 5
Ce ₅ Bi ₃ C1	9.5812(5)	6.6334(6)	0.692	rxn. 334
Ce ₅ Bi ₃ Br	9.6252(5)	6.6974(6)	0.696	rxn. 340

Table 1. Lattice constants^a (A) of $M_5X_3^b$ (Mn₅Si₃) and $M_5X_3Y^b$

^aThe lattice constants were calculated from as many sharp lines as possible in the powder patterns. Usually, $10-20$ lines were used for M_5X_3 while 20 - 30 lines were used for M_5X_3Y during the calculations.

 b All the M₅X₃ and M₅X₃Y are single products from the reactions except Ca_5Sb_3 (see Part II).

The structures of Ca_SSb₃Cl and Ba_SSb₃Cl

Suitable spherical crystals of $Ca₅Si₃Cl$ (0.10 x 0.10 x 0.10 mm) from rxn. 296 and Ba_5Sb_3C1 (0.08 x 0.08 x 0.08 mm) from rxn. 306 were mounted into 0.2-mm capillaries. The singularities and qualities of the crystals were investigated by unaligned oscillation photographs only. No Weissenberg photographs were taken owing to the difficulties of the alignment of crystals without regular shapes. Before collecting the reflection data of the crystals, their singularities were further checked by taking axial photographs on the diffractometer where the lattice constants of $Ca₅Sb₃Cl$ and Ba₅Sb₃Cl were: $a = 9.114(2)$, $b = 9.108(2)$, $c = 7.113(4)$ A; $\alpha =$ 90.02(4)°, β = 90.08(4)°, γ = 120.05(2)° and a = 10.096(6), b = 10.072(7), $c = 7.762(1)$ A, $\alpha = 90.01(6)$ °, $\beta = 90.01(6)$ °, $\gamma = 120.06(5)$ °, respectively, after indexing 12 and 9 reflections for each crystal from a SYNTEX P2₁ diffractometer. Those lattice constants are fairly consistent with the constants indexed from Guinier powder patterns (see Table 2).

All single crystals data sets were collected with monochromatic K_{α} radiation ($\lambda = 0.71034$ A) on the SYNTEX P2, four-circle diffractometer. No evidence of decay was noted after checking standard reflections every 75 reflections. Details regarding the data collections and structure solution are summarized in Table 2. Both data sets were corrected for absorption using a psi-scan method with the reflections turned every 10° in ϕ and the program ABSN⁶ (2 Θ = 23.07° and 47.16° for Ba₅Sb₃Cl; 2 Θ = 18.84° and 23.36° for $Ca₅sb₃C1$. Two octants of data collected with no restrictions yielded an independent data set with no reflections eliminated by a cutoff of 6σ from the average. Structure factors calculations

	Ba ₅ Sb ₃ C1	Ca ₅ Sb ₃ C1
Space group	$P6_3/mcm$ (No. 193) $P6_3/mcm$ (No. 193)	
\mathbf{Z}	\overline{c}	\overline{c}
Cell dimensions, a_{A}		
a	10.062(4)	9.0805(3)
$\mathbf c$	7.770(6)	7.0898(6)
Size of crystal (mm)	$0.10 \times 0.10 \times 0.10$	$0.08 \times 0.08 \times 0.08$
Octants measured	$h, k, \pm \ell$	$h, k, \pm \ell$
Scan type	ω	ω
2Θ -max, deg. (Mo Ka)	50	50
$\mu(Mo K\alpha)$, cm ⁻¹	206.6	105.8
Transm. coeff. range	$0.52 - 1.00$	$0.32 - 1.00$
Number of reflections		
meas.	945	737
obs. $($ >3 σ (I))	756	571
indep.	248	190
R(ave)	0.028	0.035
Structure solution		
Rp	0.051	0.038
R_{W}	0.089	0.059

Table 2. Diffraction and refinement data of M_SSB^c Cl (M = Ca, Ba)

aThe cell dimensions calculated from 9 and 15 lines of the Guinier powder pattern of Ba_sSb₃Cl and Ca_sSb₃Cl, respectively, Cu K_{α_1}, λ = 1.54056 A.

 $b_R = \frac{1}{2} |F_0| - |F_c| / \frac{1}{2} |F_0|$, $R_w = [\frac{1}{2}w(|F_0| - |F_c|)^2 / \frac{1}{2}w |F_0|^2]^{1/2}$.

 $\bar{\beta}$

and full-matrix least-square refinements were carried out with the program ALLS? while Fourier series calculations were done with FOUR.8

The refinement of the structures of Ca_5Sb_3Cl and Ba_5Sb_3Cl were carried out on the space group $P6_3/mcm$. The initial step used the parameters of Ba_5Sb_3 ,⁹ then added the Cl positions at $(0,0,0)$ and 0,0,1/2). Before doing anisotropic temperature factor refinements, the R values were 0.058 anbd 0.062 for Ca_5Sb_3Cl and Ba_5Sb_3Cl , respectively. The R's and R_W's for Ca_sSb₃Cl and Ba_sSb₃Cl ended with 0.038, 0.059 and 0.051, 0.089, respectively, after refining the anisotropic temperature factors. The occupancies of the chlorine atom positions were refined to be fully occupied. The stoichiometries turned out to be $Ca_5Sb_3Cl_{1,00}(\omega)$ and $Ba_5Sb_3Cl_{1,10}(6)$. The final atom positions and temperature factors are listed in Table 3.

The most significant features are the anisotropic "motion" of the \ldots Ca(2), Ba(2) and Cl atoms parallel to the c-axis with $B_{33}/B_{11} \leq 2.2$. Similar phenomena have also been noted in $Eu₅As₃$.¹⁰ It has the same $Mn₅Si₃$ structure, the B_{33} of Eu(2) is much larger (about 10 times) compared with B_{11} and B_{22} . To overcome this problem, lower symmetry space groups (P $\bar{6}$ 2c, P $\bar{6}$ c2, P $6₃$ cm and P $\bar{3}c₁$) were tried for averaging and refinements. The R_{ave} 's and R's were all about the same for those space groups. Since the CI atom is located in the octahedral site composed by Ca(2) or Ba(2) atoms, these phenomena might be caused by the correlation effect between CI and Ca(2) or Ba(2).

The final difference map of $Ca₅Sh₃Cl$ showed two independent residual densities smaller than 1.2 e/ A^3 . The first (~1.0 e A^3) was located not

 \mathcal{A}

Table 3. The atomic and thermal^a parameters of M₅Sb₃Cl (M = Ca,Ba)

 $^{a}B_{12}$ = 1/2B₁₁ and B₁₃ = B₂₃ = 0 for all atoms.

only close to Sb $(\sim1.3 \text{ A})$ but also close to Ca(2) $(\sim1.9 \text{ A})$. The second $(\sim 0.9 \text{ e/A}^3)$ was close to Sb atoms $(\sim 2.1 \text{ A})$. For $Ba_S Sb_3 Cl$, there were three independent residual densities in the final difference map with values smaller than 1.2 e/A³. The first (~1.1 e/A³) was very close to Ba(2) $(\sim 0.1 \text{ A})$. The second one $(\sim 0.8 \text{ e/A}^3)$ was also close to Ba(2) (~ 2.0 A), while third one $({\sim}0.9 \text{ e/A}^3)$ was close to Sb $({\sim}0.8 \text{ A})$.

Description of the structure

Figure 1 shows a projection of the structure of $M^S_SSD^C_3Cl$ (M = Ca and Ba) on the [001] plane. The alkaline earth metals occupy two different crystallographic sites corresponding to the point symmetries mm for M(l) forming infinite linear chains parallel to the c-axis and 32 for M(2) which forms trigonal antiprismatic infinite chains also parallel to the c-axis. There is one crystallographic type of Sb atom at the point symmetry mm which is located between those infinite trigonal prisms. Finally, the CI atom at a point of symmetry of 3m occupies the trigonal antiprism sites generated in the trigonal antiprism chains.

To illustrate the trigonal antiprism chains further, Figure 2 shows the chain extended along the c-axis. The CI atoms are centered at the octahedral sites formed by six alkaline earth metals. The Sb atoms are outside the chain with the same z coordinates as those of alkaline earth metals M(2).

The crystal structure of M^S Sb₃Cl can also be described in terms of SbM_q units.⁹,¹¹ Each one of these units contains four $M(1)$ and five

 $\frac{1}{4}$

Figure 1. The projection of $[001]$ plane of M_5 Sb $_3$ Cl (M = Ca, Ba). Open ellipsoids = Ca or Ba atoms; shaded ellipsoids = Sb atoms; crossed ellipsoids = Cl atoms

Figure 2. The antiprismatic chain extending along the c-axis in M_r Sb, Cl. The representations of the ellipsoids are the same as Figure

M(2) (antiprism) atoms. These nine M atoms are arranged at the corners of a very distorted tetrakaidecahedron centered by a Sb atom. Such a unit is shown in Figure 3. Each SbM_a group shares its nine M atoms with other groups but not all the M atoms are equally shared. The M(l) atoms are common to six groups. The M(2) atoms, on the other hand, are shared among five SbM_a groups only. So the stoichiometry of the combined tetrakaidecahedral is $M(1)_{4/6}M(2)_{5/5}Sb = M(1)_{2}Ma(2)_{3}Sb_{3} = M_{5}Sb_{3}$. Figure 4(a), (b) show the structure of $M₅ Sb₃$ around Sb at z = 0.25 and z = 0.75, respectively, while (c) is composed by superimposing (a) and (b). The octahedral sites of CI atoms are located at the center of (c).

Comparisons of the bond distances

The main difference of bond distances between $Ba_5Sb_3^9$ and Ba_5Sb_3C1 is the distances between trigonally related Ba(2) atoms. It expands from 4.32 A in Ba_5Sb_3 to 4.493(5) A in Ba_5Sb_3Cl . This is due to the insertion of CI in the latter causing such expansion. However, the distances between intertrigonal Ba(2) atoms did not change very much from 4.60 A in $Ba₅Sh₃$ to 4.672(3) A in $Ba₅Sh₃Cl$. These indicate that the interaction between intratrigonal Ba(2) atoms becomes weaker as CI is added into the octahedral sites while the interactions between intertrigonal Ba(2) is the same or even less than that of Ba_5Sb_3 . All the distances (<4.8 A) are listed in Table 4. The distances in $Ca₅Sb₃Cl$ are also summarized in Table 4. Since no single crystal study of Ca_5Sb_3 (Mn₅Si₃) has been reported, no further comparison between Ca_5Sb_3 and Ca_5Sb_3Cl can be made.

Figure 3. Arrangements of $[ShMg]$ in M_SSh_G1 . Two minor planes pass through Sb, containing the two M_2 and two M_2 ' atoms, respectively

Figure 4. The linkage of $[SbMg]$ in M_SSb_G Cl (a) projection on $[001]$ plane at $z = 0.25$ for Sb atoms (b) at $z = 0.75$ for Sb atoms. To illustrate the units of [SbMg], some of them are shaded

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Table 4. Distances (A) of Ba_5Sb_3 , Ba_5Sb_3C1 and Ca_5Sb_3C1

aThese values adopted from ref. 9.

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The distances between M and CI are around the order of the sum of the ionic radii,¹² e.g., the sum of the ionic radius of $Ca⁺²$ and $Cl⁻$ is 2.81 A, while the distance between Ca and Cl in $Ca₅Sh₃Cl$ is 2.939(2) A. The same thing is observed in Ba_sSb₃Cl. The sum of ionic radii¹² of Ba²⁺ and Cl^- is 3.16 A is a little bit shorter than the distance $(3.241(2)$ A) between Ba and Cl in Ba_5Sb_3C1 too. Probably, the same conclusion can be applied to other M_5X_3C1 and M_5X_3Br phases.

M5X3 With Br

The syntheses of Ca_5Bi_3Br , Ce_5Bi_3Br , Ba_5Sb_3Br and Ba_5Bi_3Br were all from the elementary starting materials of Ca, Ce, Ba and Bi or Sb plus the appropriate amount of BiBr₃ or BaBr₂. The reactions were run at \sim 890°C for a couple days. The reactions can be represented as the following equation:

> 5 Ca + 8/3 Bi + 1/3 BiBr₃ \longrightarrow Ca₅Bi₃Br 5 Ce + 8/3 Bi + 1/3 BiBr₃ \longrightarrow Ce₅Bi₃Br

9/2 Ba + 1/2 BaBr₂ + 3 Bi \longrightarrow Ba₅Bi₃Br 9/2 Ba + 1/2 BaBr₂ + 3 Sb \longrightarrow Ba₅Sb₃Br.

The structures of M_5X_3Br are the same with M_5X_3Cl . Most of the products are dark gray with metallic luster. The lattice constants of them are also listed in Table 1. Compared with M_5X_3C1 , the lattice constants of $M^S_S X^3$ Br are much larger.

M5X3 With F

Syntheses of Ca₅Sb₃F and Ca₅Bi₃F

The first attempt to make Ca_5Sb_3F at 900°C by loading stoichiometric amounts of elementary calcium, antimony and calcium fluoride (Fisher Co.) did not work. Since the melting point of CaF₂ (1403°C) is very high compared to the reaction temperature tried, the reaction was repeated by induction heating (~1250°C) for a couple of hours. The powder pattern of the product did not show the presence of $CaF₂$. It also showed the expansion of the lattice constants of the β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure along b and c axes and shrinkage at a direction (see Table 5). Using the similar condition, the analogue $Ca₅Bi₃F$ also was synthesized. The lattice constants of Ca_5Bi_3F calculated by LATT program also showed the same trends as $Ca₅Sh₃F$ (Table 5). Also, the powder patterns indicated that the yields were very high (>95%) in both reactions. Both products also show gray metallic luster. However, it was observed that the annealing of the product at 850°C after quenching from the high temperature in induction furnace did help the growth of the single crystals and improve the crystal 1inity of the products.

Structure determinations

A suitable size crystal of $Ca₅ Sb₃F$ (0.225 x 0.175 x 0.10 mm) was mounted into 0.2-mm capillary and used for X-ray measurement. The cell indexing and data collection were done on an automatic four-circle diffractometer UATEX. A total of 2386 intensity data were collected with $2\Theta(\text{max}) = 55^{\circ}$ (Mo K α radiation, ω -scan mode). After correction for

			J J		
	$Ca5 Sb3$ ^a	Ca ₅ Sb ₃ F	$Ca5Bi3$ ^a	Ca ₅ Bi ₃ F	
a	12.537(4)	12.442(2)	12,766(1)	12,602(2)	
b	9.555(2)	9.653(2)	9.706(2)	9.771(2)	
$\mathbf c$	8.296(2)	8.381(2)	8.437(2)	8.501(2)	
No. lines	(14/14)	(38/40)	(20/20)	(18/19)	
V	993.9(5)	1006.6(3)	1045.3(3)	1046.8(3)	
$rxn.$ #	231	364	408	407	

Table 5. Orthorhombic lattice constants of Ca_5X_3 (β -Yb₅Sb₃) and Ca_5X_3F

^aThe reaction conditions and yields of Ca_sSb_a and Ca_sBi_g in this structure have already been discussed in Part II.

Lorentz, polarization and absorption effects 2147 reflections with $I >$ $3\sigma(I)$ were used for the structure determination. The systematic absence led to the space group Pnma (No. 62) which is the same as $Ca₅Sb₃$ $(\beta-\gamma b_5Sb_3).$ ¹³ Since the lattice constants of Ca_5Sb_3F are close to those of Ca_5Sb_3 , the refinement of the structure started with the atom positions of Ca_5Sb_3 .¹³ After two antimony and four calcium atom positions were refined, K and R_W were 0.108 and 0.143. The isotropic temperature parameter refinement led to R and R_W of 0.089 and 0.122. From the difference map, the fluorine position was derived. After adding the fluorine atom and doing anisotropic temperature parameter refinement, the R and R_w turned out to be 0.050 and 0.064. The occupancy of the fluorine position also refined to be fully occupied. Finally, the secondary extinction correction led to 0.025 and 0.033 for R and R_w , respectively. The final difference map did not show any peak greater than 1.2 e/A^3 . The maximum residual density group was located at (0.156, 0.906, 0.0625) which is close to the Sb(1) atoms (0.95 A) . The refinement data and atom and temperature parameters are listed in Tables 6 and 7, respectively.

The structure of $Ca₅Bi₃F$ also was solved by using the DATEX diffractometer and following a similar procedure to that described for Ca_5Sb_3F case. The occupancy of the fluorine position refined to be fully occupied too. However, the peak profiles of the reflections collected indicated how the crystal might be out of center or be cracked. Thus, the final R and R_w were only lowered to 0.060 and 0.058. The refinement data and thermal, and positional parameters for Ca_5Bi_3F also listed in

	Ca ₅ Sb ₃ F	Ca ₅ Bi ₃ F
Space group	Pnma (No. 62)	Pnma $(No. 62)$
Z	4	4
Cell dimensions, \overline{D} A		
a	12.442(2)	12.602(2)
b	9.653(2)	9.771(2)
$\mathbf c$	8.381(2)	8.501(2)
Size of crystal (mm)	$0.23 \times 0.18 \times 0.10$	$0.13 \times 0.18 \times 0.03$
Octants measured	$\pm h$, $\pm k$, ℓ	$\pm h$, $\pm k$, ℓ
Scan type	ω	ω
2Θ -max, deg. (Mo K α)	55	55
μ (Mo Ka), cm ⁻¹	105.3	530.13
Transm. coeff. range	$0.15 - 0.17$	$0.05 - 0.40$
Number of reflections		
meas.	2386	2072
obs. $($ >3 σ (I))	2147	1769
indep.	1127	974
R(ave)	0.019	0.037
Structure solution		
RC	0.025	0.060
R_{W}	0.033	0.058

Table 6. Diffraction and refinement data of $Ca_5Sb_3F^a$ and $Ca_5Bi_3F^a$

 $AThree$ ϕ -scans were applied for each.

 $^{\text{b}}$ The celldimensions indexed from 38 and 18 lines of the Guinier powder patterns of Ca_5Sb_3F and Ca_5Bi_3F , respectively, Cu Ka₁, $\lambda = 1.54056$ A.

 $CR = \frac{1}{2}||F_0| - |F_C||/\frac{1}{2}|F_0|$, $R_W = [\frac{1}{2}w(|F_0| - |F_C|)^2/\frac{1}{2}w|F_0|^2]^{1/2}$.

				э
Atom	X	y	Z	B_{11}
Sb(1)	0.17037(3)	$-0.01878(4)$	0.07525(4)	1.34(2)
Sb(2)	$-0.01841(4)$	1/4	0.41771(5)	1.33(2)
Ca(1)	0.07273(9)	0.0422(1)	0.6933(1)	1.94(4)
Ca(2)	0.2290(1)	1/4	0.3229(2)	1.38(5)
Ca(3)	0.2855(1)	1/4	0.8561(2)	1.24(5)
Ca(4)	0.5074(1)	1/4	0.4556(2)	1.33(5)
Fa	0.6036(3)	1/4	0.6971(5)	1.7(2)
Bi(1)	0.17092(7)	$-0.01882(8)$	0.0766(1)	0.93(4)
Bi(2)	$-0.0188(1)$	1/4	0.4171(2)	0.95(5)
Ca(1)	0.0722(4)	0.0443(4)	0.6939(6)	1.5(2)
Ca(2)	0.2300(6)	1/4	0.3209(8)	1.2(3)
Ca(3)	0.2835(6)	1/4	0.8583(9)	1.0(3)
Ca(4)	0.5077(6)	1/4	0.4683(9)	0.8(3)
F _p	0.605(2)	1/4	0.697(3)	1.7(3)

Table 7. Positional and thermal parameters of Ca_eSb_gF and Ca_eBi_gF

 $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$

 a Refined occupancy = 1.01(1).

 $\Delta \mathbf{r}$ and \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{r}

 $^{\text{b}}$ Isotropic temperature factor only and refined occupancy 0.98(5).

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Tables 6 and 7, respectively. The poorer refinement could be seen in the form of the thermal parameters. For instance, the B_{11} of F atom was 2.7 (12). However, it should be noted the absorption coefficient was unusually high 530.1 cm^{-1} due to the heavy Bi atoms, and the crystal was a good diffractor while the 20 collected only set at 55'. To further investigate the refinement, the final difference map was carefully checked. The difference map showed no peaks (or positions) with densities greater than 1.5 e/ A^3 . Most of them were found around Bi(1), Bi(2), $Ca(1)$ and $Ca(2)$ atoms at distances from 0.16 A to 2.26 A. The result confirmed that the data collection was not done well, because it always showed the streaking along the b-axis on the map.

Description of the structure¹⁴

 $Ca₅ Sb₃F$ or $Ca₅ Bi₃F$ has a double layer structure (Figure 5). Layers of Ca atoms in the special positions $4(c)$ with atoms at $y = 1/4$ and $3/4$ (open ellipsoids) that are almost superimposed form trigonal-hexagonal network (Figure 5), then Sb (or Bi) atoms also at $y = 1/4$ and $y = 3/4$ almost center the hexagons but are displaced to opposite ends on alternate layers. These successive layers at Ca atoms thus form slightly skewed hexagonal and trigonal prisms. The Sb or Bi and Ca atoms in the general positions 8(d) with $y = 0$ or 1/2 (shaded ellipsoids) form a puckered diamond-pentagon network (not shown). These Sb or Bi atoms center the trigonal prisms while pairs of Ca atoms center the hexagonal prism.

Figure 5. The unit cell of Ca_5Sb_3F projected on $[010]$ plane. Open ellipsoids: Ca atoms; shaded ellipsoids: Sb atoms; cross ellipsoids: F atoms. Dashed lines connect Ca atoms at y $= 1/4$ while solid lines connect Ca atoms at $y = 3/4$

The F atoms (crossed ellipsoids) are located at two opposite ends of the hexagon with $y = 1/4$ and 3/4. Thus, the structure of $Ca₅Sb₃F$ or $Ca₅Bi₃F$ is composed of columns of $[ShCa₆]$ or $[BiCa₆]$ trigonal prisms stacked on their triangular faces parallel to b-axis and sharing edges to form hexagonal channels of Ca atoms (Figure 6) occupied by $\lceil Ca_2Sb_2\rceil$ or [Ca₂Bi₂] parallelograms sharing Sb corners to form a slightly twisted ribbon. The F atoms occupy the rather distorted tetrahedral sites formed by two Ca atoms in the ribbon and two Ca atoms from the hexagonal channels (Figure 7).

Comparisons between Ca_5X_3 and Ca_5X_3F (X = Sb and 8i)

 $\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$.

In contrast to M_5X_3 and Ca_5X_3F (X = Sb and Bi), the lattice constants of $Ca_{5}X_{3}F$ have not expanded along three axes compared with those of Ca_5X_3 $(β-Pb_5Sb_3)$, 13, 15 but only along b and c axes. This reflects to the atom-atom distances (Table 8). Not all the distances became longer after F was inserted. To rationalize this, the environment around F needs to be considered. The F is located at a distorted tetrahedral sites which is composed of two $Ca(1)$, one $Ca(3)$ and one $Ca(4)$ atoms (Figure 7). The distances between F and Ca atoms in $Ca₅ Sb₅F$ are not equal ranging from $2.237(2)$ A to $2.301(5)$ A and one of the angles (127.2(2)') deviates well from the ideal tetrahedral angle 109.5° (Table 9). Since the distances of F to Ca(4) and Ca(3) are the longer two, the expansion caused by inserting F might not be as significant as the coulomb interaction of the oppositely charged calcium cations and fluoride. Therefore, the a-axis of $Ca₅X₃F$ are smaller than those of $Ca₅X₃$.

Figure 6. The same projection of Ca₅Sb₃F as in Figure 5 except the shortest distances between F and the four neighboring Ca atoms are drawn in

Figure 7. The chemical environment around F in Ca_5Sb_3F

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Table 8. Comparisons of bonding distandes between $Ca_{5}X_{3}^{13}$, 15 and $Ca_{5}X_{3}F(X = Sb, Bi)$

 $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$

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Table 8. (continued)

Atom $1 -$	Atom 2	$Ca5$ Sb ₃	Ca ₅ Sb ₃ F	Ca ₅ Bi ₃	Ca ₅ Bi ₃ F
$Ca(4)$ — $Ca(4)$ - $Ca(4)$ — $Ca(4)$ - $Ca(4)$ — $Ca(4)$ – $Ca(4)$ — $Ca(4)$ – $Ca(4)$ —	X(2) (x1) X(1) (x2) X(1) (x2) Ca(1) (x2) Ca(2) (x1) Ca(2) (x1) Ca(1) (x2) Ca(3) (x1) Ca(3) (x1)	3.212(2) 3.258(2) 3.258(2) 3.564(2) 3.641(2) 3.682(2) 3.721(2) 3.854(2) 4.200(2)	3.226(2) 3.268(1) 3.305(1) 3.582(2) 3.656(2) 3.661(2) 3.759(2) 3.761(2) 4.274(2)	3.255(8) 3.304(8) 3.324(8) 3.631(8) 3.697(8) 3.746(8) 3.804(8) 3.947(8) >4.5	3.293(8) 3.320(5) 3.358(4) 3.599(8) 3.718(11) 3.727(10) 3.837(7) 3.775(10) 4.356(11)
X(1) - X(1) — X(1) - X(1) $\qquad \qquad$ X(1) $\overline{}$ X(1) $\frac{1}{2}$ X(1) $\qquad \qquad -$ X(1) $\overline{}$ X(1) $\qquad \qquad$ X(1) $\qquad \qquad -$ X(1) $\overline{}$	Ca(4) (x1) Ca(4) (x1) Ca(2) (x1) Ca(3) (x1) Ca(1) (x1) (x1) Ca(2) Ca(1) (x1) (x1) Ca(3) Ca(1) (x1) X(1) (x1) X(1) (x1)	3.258(2) 3.258(2) 3.283(2) 3.291(2) 3.357(2) 3.360(2) 3.362(2) 3.425(2) 3.670(2) 4.412(2) 4.478(2)	3.268(1) 3.286(1) 3.305(1) 3.316(1) 3.345(1) 3.398(1) 3.471(1) 3.483(1) 3.593(1) 4.427(1) 4.459(1)	3.304(8) 3.324(8) 3.340(8) 3.349(8) 3.409(8) 3.412(8) 3.427(8) 3.484(8) 3.757(8) 4.492(8) >4.5	3.320(5) 3.358(6) 3.379(4) 3.342(6) 3.396(6) 3.430(5) 3.537(5) 3.515(5) 3.641(5) >4.5 >4.5
X(2) $\overline{}$ X(2) X(2) - X(2) X(2) — X(2) $\overline{}$	Ca(1) (x2) Ca(3) (x1) Ca(2) (x1) Ca(1) (x2) Ca(4) (x1) (x1) Ca(2)	3.029(2) 3.068(2) 3.164(2) 3.206(2) 3.212(2) 3.778(2)	3.042(1) 3.084(2) 3.171(2) 3.226(2) 3.259(1) 3.727(2)	3.093(8) 3.118(8) 3,218(8) 3.244(8) 3.255(8) 3.840(8)	3.100(4) 3.140(8) 3.240(8) 3.300(5) 3.293(8) 3.758(8)
F F F F F F - F F F $\qquad \qquad \qquad$	Ca(1) (x2) Ca(4) (x1) Ca(3) (x1) $\chi(1)$ (x2) (x1) X(2) X(1) (x2) (x1) Ca(3) X(1) (x2) (x1) Ca(2)		2.237(2) 2.276(5) 2.301(5) 3.550(3) 3.564(4) 4.059(4) 4.166(5) 4.192(4) 4.311(5)		2.25(1) 2.30(2) 2,29(3) 3.61(1) 3.63(2) 4.09(2) 4.28(2) 4.28(3) 4.39(2)

	Atom $1 -$ Atom 2	Atom $1 -$ Atom $2 -$ Atom 3		
	$F - Ca(1) (x2)$ 2.237(2)			$Ca(1) - F - Ca(1)$ 127.2(2)
F	\sim Ca(4) (x1) 2.276(5)			$Ca(1) - F - Ca(3)$ 104.3(1)
	$F = Ca(3) (x1) 2.301(5)$			$Ca(1) - F - Ca(4)$ 105.0(1)
		$Ca(3) - F - Ca(4)$ 110.5(2)		

Table 9. Bonding distances (A) and angles (°) of $[FGa_4]$ in Ca_5Sb_3F

The distances between Ca and F in $Ca_{5}X_{3}F$ are from 2.237 A to 2.301 A, slightly shorter than that in $CaF₂$ ¹⁶ which is 2.36573 (1) A while the distances between F and X atoms range from 3.350 A to 4.09 A, quite a bit longer than those of $XF_{3}^{17,18}$ which are from 2.1 A - 2.8 A, and the former apparently belong to nonbonding distances.

In an attempt to synthesize $Ba_{5}X_{3}F$, BaF_{2} , from drying the precipitate formed between BaCO₃ and HF solution, was used as the source of F together with similar reaction conditions as those for $Ca_{5}X_{3}F$. This did not give promising results. The gray BaF₂ powder was the only recognized product in the powder pattern of the product.

M_5X_3 With S

Since the formation of $Ca₅Sb₃C1$ had been confirmed by powder pattern and the single crystal studies, it was thought that the sites of CI positions might be occupied by other nonmetal elements. Thus, rxn. 320 was run to make $Ca_5Sb_3S_{1/2}$. The products are chunk-like with dark gray luster. The powder pattern of the products was complicated and completely different from any M_5X_3 phases.¹⁹ The cell constants determined by TREOR²⁰ program (19 lines used) indicated a cubic cell with a = 9.6508(3) A, meaning it was also a pure single phase. After reviewing the literature, it was concluded the product's composition should be $Ca₄sb_{2.4}S_{0.4}$ which stoichiometry is exactly equal to that of $Ca_5Sb_3S_{1/2}$. The structure of $Ca_4Sb_2A_4S_0A_4$ belongs to the anti- and defect-Th₃P₄²¹ type structure. The calculated and observed intensities from the powder pattern are listed in Table 10. In the structure, Sb or S are surrounded by eight Ca atoms forming an octaverticon (Figure 8(b)) while Ca atoms are at distorted octahedral sites composed of six S and/or Sb atoms (Figure $8(a)$) if the vacancies are neglected. In $Ca_{4}Sb_{2,4}S_{0,4}$, one half of the distorted octahedral CaX_g (X = Sb, S) groups share two faces (and three edges) and the others share three faces (and one edge) with other octahedra meeting at the common (Figure 8(a)).

Since Ca₄Sb₂.₄S₀.₄ has a defect structure, it was thought a range of $Ca_{4}Sb_{X}S_{Y}$ might exist. Playing a simple mathematical game and assuming $3x + 2y = 8$ and $x + y \le 3$, the possible range of x and y would be $0 \le y \le 1$ and $2 \le y \le 8/3$. The two extreme cases are $Ca_{4}Sb_{2}S$

h	k	$\pmb{\mathfrak{L}}$					d_{calc}	$d_{\rm obs}$	I_{calc}	I_{obs}
\overline{c}	$\mathbf 1$	$\overline{1}$					3.9399	3.941(4)	42	50
\overline{c}	\overline{c}	$\bf{0}$					3.4121	3.413(3)	$\mathbf{1}$	$\overline{\mathbf{3}}$
3	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf 0$					3.0519	3.052(3)	100	100
3	\overline{c}	$\mathbf{1}$					2.5793	2.579(2)	62	60
4	$\mathbf 0$	$\bf{0}$					2.4127	2.413(2)	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$
4	$\mathbf{2}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$					2.1580	2.158(1)	29	35
3	$\overline{3}$	$\mathbf{2}$					2.0576	2.058(1)	19	25
4	\overline{c}	\overline{c}					1.9700	1.970(1)	10	12
4	$\mathbf{3}$	1, 5	1	$\boldsymbol{0}$			1.8923	1.8930(9)	22	30
5	\overline{c}	$\mathbf{1}$					1.7620	1.7621(8)	5	10
4	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	$\bf{0}$					1.7060	1.7060(7)	\overline{c}	\overline{c}
5	3	2, 6	1	$\mathbf{1}$			1.5656	1.5656(6)	36	40
6	\overline{c}	0					1.5259	1.5259(6)	19	20
5	4	$\mathbf{1}$					1.4892	1.4894(5)	15	20
6	3	$\mathbf{1}$					1.4229	1.4227(5)	4	\overline{c}
4	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$					1.3930	1.3927(4)	8	13
5	4	3					1.3648		$\mathbf{1}$	Ξ.
6	$\overline{4}$	0					1.3883	1.3385(4)	8	15
$\overline{7}$	\overline{c}	1, 6	3	3, 5	5	\overline{c}	1.3133	1.3133(4)	31	40
$\boldsymbol{6}$	4	\overline{c}					1.2896	1.2895(4)	6	$\overline{7}$
$\overline{7}$	3	0					1.2672	1.2668(4)	$\mathbf{1}$	\overline{c}
6	5	1, 7	$\mathbf{3}$	$\overline{2}$			1.2257	1.2257(3)	6	8
8	$\mathbf 0$	0					1,2064	1.2065(3)	$\mathbf{1}$	\overline{c}
6	5	3					1.1535	1.1535(3)	$\overline{}$	10
8	\overline{c}	\overline{c}					1.1374	1.1370(3)	3	$\overline{3}$
$\overline{7}$	$\overline{\mathbf{r}}$	3, $\overline{7}$	5	0, 8	$\mathbf{3}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1.1219	1.1219(3)	16	20
$\overline{\mathcal{L}}$	5	\overline{c}					1.0927	1.0930(2)	6	5

Table 10. The calculated^a and observed powder patterns for $Ca_{4}Sb_{2.4}S_{0.4}$

^aThe lattice constants used is a = 9.6508(3) A and x(Ca) = 0.083, Cu Ka , radiation $\lambda = 1.54056$ A.

Figure 8. The unit cell of $M_{\mu}(Sb_XY_Z)_{\beta}$ (M = Ca, Ba,; Y = S, I) projected on [001] plane. Open ellipsoids: Ca or Ba atoms; shaded ellipsoids: Sb/S or Sb/I. (a) shows the arrangement of distorted $[M(Sb/Y)_{6}]$ octahedra

Figure 8. (continued) (b) Shows the arrangement of [(Sb/Y**)Mg]** octaverticons

 \mathcal{L}

 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$

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and $Ca_4S_{8/3}$ = Ca_3Sb_2 ; the latter will be proven in Part IV to belong to a different structure, so the range becomes $0 \le y \le 1$ and $2 \le x \le 8/3$.

In an attempt to synthesize $Ca_{4}Sb_{2}S$ with an anti-Th₃P₄ structure, the product went the other way. The powder pattern showed not only CaS (NaCl-type) but also a hexagonal phase (indexed from 12 lines) with a = 9.044(1) and $c = 7.170(3)$ A compared with the lattice constants of $Ca₅Sh₃Cl$ and $Ca₅Sh₃$ (Mn₅Si₃) which are a = 9.0805(3), c = 7.0898(6) A and $a = 9.0321(3)$, $c = 7.0280(8)$ A, respectively. Apparently, the value of a-axis is between these two limits, but the value of c-axis is larger than either of them. That excludes the possibility of $Ca_5Sb_{3-x}S_y$ (Mn_SSi_3), since the cell of it should be smaller than that of Ca_5Sb_3 $(Mn₅Si₃)$. All the lines in the powder pattern can be assigned to either CaS or the hexagonal phase. The possible product can be derived from the following reaction to gain "Ca₅Sb₃S_{1/2}":

4 Ca + 2 Sb + S \longrightarrow 2/3 CaS + 2/3 Ca_SSb₃S_{1/2}

However, a previous rxn. 320 to make $Ca₅sb₃S_{1/2}$ was without success and formed $Ca_{4}Sb_{2,4}S_{0,4}$ instead. The comparisons between these two reaction conditions revealed that the reaction temperature for the former was slightly higher than the latter (see Table 11). Even assuming formation of $Ca_5Sb_3S_{1/2}$, the unusual c-axis size still could not be rationalized by a Mn₅Si₃²² structure. There is another structure type Ca₅Pb₃²³ which is just a distorted Mn_SSi_3 type. The space group of Mn_SSi_3 is $P6₃$ /mcm while that of $Ca₅Pb₃$ is P6₃mc (acentric). The relationship of lattice constants between Ca_5Pb_3 and Mn_5Si_3 is: a(Ca_5Pb_3) = $\sqrt{3}a(Mn_5Si_3)$ and $c(Ca_5Pb_3) = c(Mn_5Si_3)$. Using the following lattice constants a = $\sqrt{3}$

$rxn.$ #	stoichiometry	rxn. conditions ^a	products
479	Cau Sb ₂ S	900° C - 19 days	CaS, $Ca5Sb3S1/2$
		$750^{\circ}C - 2$ days	
		$550^{\circ}C - 1$ day	
		$350^{\circ}C - 4$ hrs	
320	$Ca_{5}Sb_{3}S_{1/2}$	870° C - 5 days	$Ca4Sb2+4S0+4$
		640° C - 4 days	

Table 11. Comparisons of rxn. conditions between rxn. 479 and 320

^aFurnace cooling.

x 9.044 A = 15.666(2) and c = 7.170 A and the atom positions from Ca_5Pb_3 , the calculated powder pattern is indistinguishable from not only the experimental one but also the calculated one based on Mn_SSi_3 structure for the same dimensions, even in the low angle lines. Although the structure of Ca_5Pb_3 actually is not a superstructure of Mn_5Si_3 , the structure has a very similar arrangement of atoms as that of Mn_SSi_3 . If "Ca₅Sb₃S_{1/2}" adopted Ca₅Pb₃, then the odd behavior of c-axis was not surprising, because they were not the same structure type any more. It was noted that the c-axis of α -Eu₅As₃ (Ca₅Pb₃) (7.2517(2) A) is greater

than that of β -Eu₅As₃ (Mn₅Si₃) (7.0811(4) A).¹⁰ This phenomenon, also observed in La₅Ge₃X (X = Fe, Co)²⁴ system is consistent with the observation in " $Ca₅ S₈ S_{1/2}$ ".

H5X3 With I

Rxn. 322 was loaded for Ba_5Sb_3I according to the following equation 5 Ba + 8/2 Sb + 1/3 Sb I₃ \longrightarrow "Ba₅Sb₃I" and was heated at 870°C for 6 days then annealed successively at 770°C, 670°C, and 470°C for a couple of days. The powder pattern of the product did not contain the expected hexagonal phase such as Ba_5Sb_3Cl . It was concluded to be a mixture, but not all the lines could be indexed by TREOR program. The products were later proven to be $Ba₄sb_{2.5}I_{0.5}$ and Ba₂SbI from single crystal studies and subsequent calculations of the powder patterns. So the reaction should be rewritten as the following equation:

5 Ba + 8/3 Sb + 1/3 SbI₃ - \longrightarrow Ba₄Sb₂.₅I_{0.5} + 1/2 Ba₂SbI. Also, these two products were further confirmed in rxn. 477 and rxn. 478 which were loaded with the right stoichiometries of starting materials and followed by similar reaction conditions to that of rxn. 322.

Structure of $Ba_4Sb_2.5I_0.5$

Suitable crystals of $Ba₄sb_{2.5}I_{0.5}$ were mounted from rxn. 322 and loaded into 0.2-mm capillaries. After indexing one of them on OATEX diffractometer, ALICE'S PREDICTION²⁵ gave a rhombohedral cell with a \simeq 9.08 A and $\alpha \approx 109.3^{\circ}$. At this stage, there were two choices to transform the cell. One was a body centered cubic cell with $a \approx 10.49$ Å, the

other was a primitive hexagonal cell with a \approx 14.84 and c \approx 9.05 A. Since Ba_5Sb_3C1 has a hexagonal cell, the hexagonal cell was chosen for the data collection. Lots of effort was used to solve the structure without any success until the structure of $Ca₄sb_{2.4}S_{0.4}$ was confirmed.

The closeness of the cubic cell size of "Ba₅Sb₃I" to that of $Ca_{4}Sb_{2.4}S_{0.4}$ raised the thought that the real composition of the crystal might be $Ba_{4}Sb_{X}I_{y}$, isostructural with $Ca_{4}Sb_{2.4}S_{0.4}$. Before redoing the absorption correction, data reduction and data averaging, the data set was transformed by using the UTILITY26 program from the hexagonal to the cubic cell. The details of the data collection and structure solution are summarized in Table 12. After anisotropic temperature parameter refinement, the R is 0.088 and R_w is 0.102, assuming the stoichiometry $Ba_{4}Sb_{2.5}I_{0.5}$. The final atom positions and temperature factors are listed in Table 13. Figure 8(a) and (b) represent the polyhedra around Ba or Sb/I projected on [001] plane.

Determination of the composition of $Ba_{L}Sb_{X}I_{V}$ was tried by refining the relative occupancy of Sb and I. Owing to the close atomic numbers of Sb (51) and I (53), the standard deviation was too large. So the real composition of $Ba_u Sb_XI_V$ was derived by assuming 3x + y = 8 and x + y = 3, i.e., that it was a valence compound with anti-Th₃P₄ structure. However, the composition of $Ba_LSh_XI_y$ was confirmed in the later rxn. 477 which was loaded as $Ba_{4}Sb_{2.5}I_{0.5}$ and gave the same powder pattern (80% yield) as that of rxn. 322. Also, $Ba_4P_2.5I_0.5^{27}$ has been reported to adopt anti-Th₃P₄ structure.

Space group	$I\bar{4}3d$ (No. 220)
Z	4
Cell dimensions, ^a A	
a	10.475(7)
Size of crystal (mm)	$0.15 \times 0.12 \times 0.08$
Octants measured	$\pm h$, $\pm k$, ℓ
Scan type	ω
2Θ -max, deg. (Mo K α)	55
μ (Mo Ka), cm ⁻¹	205.0
Transm. coeff. range	$0.35 - 0.47$
Number of reflections	
meas.	722
obs. $($ >3 σ (I))	653
indep.	197
R(ave)	0.030
Structure solution	
Rp	0.088
R_{W}	0.100

Table 12. Diffraction and refinement data of $Ba_4Sb_2.5I_0.5$

®The cell dimensions indexed from 11 lines of the Guinier powder pattern, Cu K_{α_1} , $\lambda = 1.54056$ A.

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 $\mathbb{E} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum |F_0| - |F_C| \right] / \sum |F_0|$, $R_W = [\sum w(|F_0| - |F_C|)^2 / \sum w |F_0|^2]^{1/2}$.

Atom		X and X and X are X and X and		$y \quad z \quad B_{11}$	B_{22}	B_{12}
Ba		16(c) 0.0713(2) x x 2.2(1) B_{11} 0.16(8)				
	Sb, I $12(a)^b$ $3/8$				0 $1/4$ 2.1(3) $1.6(2)$ 0	
		,如果是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的人,就是一个人的				

Table 13. Atomic and thermal parameters^a of $Ba_{\mu}Sb_{2.5}I_{0.5}$

 $B_{22} = B_{33}$ and $B_{12} = B_{13} = B_{23}$.

^bThe position assigned as $5/6$ Sb and $1/6$ I.

After the structure solved, the cell constants of $Ba_4Sb_2.5I_0.5$ were accurately determined by LATT program to be $a = 10.475(7)$ A (use 11 of 12 lines). Before leaving this topic, it should be mentioned that there was not any peak greater than 0.57 e/A^3 on the difference map, although the R value was only 0.088.

Structure of Ba₂SbI

In reviewing the literature, Ca_2PI^{28} and Ba_2PI^{27} were found to adopt the anti- α -NaFeO₂ structure. The structure of Ba₂PI is composed of cubic close packing of Ba with P and I filling alternate octahedral sites. The packing sequence can be expressed as: Ac'BaCb'AcBa'C where a',b' and c' represent P and a,c, represent I layers. However, the powder pattern of rxn. 322 had only four lines left after excluding those lines belonging to $Ba_{4}Sb_{2.5}I_{0.5}$, and they did not match the calculated powder pattern

based on anti- α -NaFeO₂ structure. However, they could be indexed to be a cubic cell with $a = 3.5485$ (3) A. As mentioned before, the atomic number of Sb is close to I and the size of Sb should be about the same order as that of I. It might be possible that Ba₂SbI adopts a simple cubic structure, but the CsCl structure had been tested and excluded. After doubling a-axis (i.e., a = 7.097 A) and NaCl model was tried, and the calculated powder pattern matched with the experimental one very well (see Table 14), proving that Ba₂SbI adopted NaCl structure. When the size of anions are close to each other, the NaCl structure is formed for MgXY (M = Ca, Sr, Ba; X = N, P, As; Y = F, Cl, Br, **I).**29-33 For instance, M₂NF (M = Ca, Sr and Ba)²⁹ all adopt the NaCl structure. To illustrate this relationship. Table 15 lists all the structure types of $M₂XY$.

M5X3 With Cu

So far in M_5X_3Y , Y has been restricted in main group elements only. To expand the system further, Cu was tried as the atom in the interstitial sites. Rxn. 449 was run at ~920°C without success. The powder pattern indicated the product was $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ and $CaCu_{5}$ (?). The identification of CaCu_s was not quite sure, because most lines of CaCu_s overlap those of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$. However, it is a plausible remainder according to the following equation

5 Ca + 3 Sb + Cu \longrightarrow 3 Ca_{1.6}Sb (~Ca₁₆Sb₁₁) + 1/5 CaCu₅.

h k e	d_{cal} .	d_{obs} .	I_{cal} . ^a	$I_{obs.}$
200	3.549	3.547(4)	100.0	$\mathsf S$
220	2,509	2.548(4)	79.3	M
222	2.049	2.042(3)	30.0	Wp
400	1,774	1.774(3)	15.0	W
4 2 0	1.587	1.586(3)	43.9	M
4 2 2	1.449	1.449(3)	34.5	M
4 4 0	1.255	1.253(2)	12.5	

Table 14. Comparisons between the calculated and observed powder patterns of Ba₂SbI

 \overline{a}

^aThe lines with I_{cal} <5.0 are not listed.

^bThe line is superimposed by one of the lines from $Ba_{4}Sb_{2.5}I_{0.5}$.

NaCl type	ref.	anti- α -NaFeO ₂ type	ref.
Ca ₂ NF	29	Ca ₂ NC1	30
Sr ₂ NF	29	Ca ₂ NBr	30
Ba ₂ NF	29	Ca ₂ PI	28
Ca ₂ PBr	33	Ca ₂ AsI	28,31
Ca ₂ PC1	32	Ba ₂ PI	27
Sr ₂ PC1	32	Ba ₂ PC1	27
Sr ₂ AsCl	31	Ba ₂ PBr	27
Ca ₂ AsBr	31	Sr ₂ PBr	33

Table 15. Structure types of M_2XY (M = Ca, Sr, Ba; X = N, P, As; $Y = F$, Cl , Br , I)

Conclusion

From the studies of M_5X_3Y , it seems that they all follow the simple valence rule quite well, but the structures change with different interstitial elements. That is due to the different environments created around interstitial elements in different structures and the fact that only particular sites can be fitted with the particular interstitial elements.

For instance, fluoride favors the tetrahedral sites so they form filled- β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure for Ca₅Sb₃F and Ca₅Bi₃F, while chloride and bromide prefer the octahedral sites to generate filled-Mn₅Si₃ structure. The large iodide can not be put into the six-coordinate octahedral sites so it adopts the anti-Th₃P_{$_h$} structure in which the iodide is eight coor-</sub> dinate by calcium cations. Although only one of the rare-earths metals have been tried in M_5X_3Y studies, it is believed that most of them should behave like alkaline earth metals to form ternary but metallic halides. For the sulfur reactions, there are two structures observed. They might be the low and high temperature forms. However, the hexagonal phase of "Ca₅Sb₃S_{1/2}" needs further study to confirm whether it is the Mn₅Si₃ or $Ca₅Pb₃$ structure.

The unsuccessful reactions such as Ba_5Sb_3F might be due to the high r_{Ba}/r_{Sb} ratio. As discussed in Part II, the ratio might be the indication of which structure is stable and possible. However, it can not explain the formations of Ca_5Bi_3C1 and Ca_5Bi_3Br with Mn₅Si₃ structure.

So far, only one transition metal element, Cu, has been tried in the interstitial sites without success. That can be interpreted by the low electronegativity of Cu. Owing to that, Cu can not act as the electron acceptor like the halogen atoms. This might also apply to other transition metal elements.

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PART IV. Ca₁₆Sb₁₁ AND Sr₁₆Bi₁₁

Introduction

In the studies of Ca_5Sb_3X (X = nonmetal element), it was found that there always were similar patterns in the unsuccessful reactions with the stoichiometry of Ca/Sb close to 3/2. For instance, the pattern occurred for the reaction

5 Ca + 3 Sb + C \longrightarrow 1/2 CaC₂ + 3/2 "Ca₃Sb₂"

Since the reproducibility of "Ca₃Sb₂" was quite good, it raised a question about the nature of "Ca₃Sb₂". In reviewing the literature¹⁻⁴ and the phase diagram of Ca-Sb,⁵ the only phase ever reported as $Ca_3Sb_2^5$ had the lattice constants of $Ca₅Sb₃$ with the β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure,³ suggesting that no Ca_3Sb_2 existed. In this report, we describe the synthesis and identification of a "Ca₃Sb₂" which was later confirmed to be $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$. The close relationship between $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ and $R_{5n^+6}T_{3n.5}$ $(R = rare earth element; T = transition metal)$ series compounds will also be discussed.

Experimental Section

Two reactions were loaded with Ca/Sb equal to 3/2. The powder patterns of products indicated the products were the same, although the heat treatments were quite different (see Table 1). The lattice constants of two products were: $a = b = 12.237(1)$ A, c = 11.325(3) A, $\alpha = \beta$ $= \gamma = 90^{\circ}$ for rxn. 337; a = b = 12.2453(5) A, c = 11.323(1) A, $\alpha = \beta = \gamma$ = 90° for rxn. 444 from powder data indexed by the TREOR program⁶ using the sharpest 20 and 46 lines, respectively. The indices of the lines

Rxn. No.		Ca/Sb		Rxn. Conditions ^a T, °C	Time, (d)	Productsb
377	3.00		/2.00	930	4	
444	3.03		/2.00	920	6	
				850	2.5	
				750	2 hrs	
453	3.03	$\sqrt{2}$	2.00	1200	$\mathbf{1}$	
					(induction heating)	
				700	19	
473	3.00		/ 2.00		r.t. \longrightarrow 1100, 10 hrs ^C	
				1100	hrs $\mathbf{3}$	
				$1100 \rightarrow r.t.$	$\mathbf{3}$ hrs	
483	16.00	\prime	11.00	940	6	a few plate
				840	$\mathbf{1}$	crystals
				800	3	
				750	3	
				700	2 weeks	
				650	\overline{c}	

Table 1. Different conditions for the syntheses of "Ca₃Sb₂"

a_{Furnace} cooling.

 b Polycrystals of $Ca^{\dagger}_{16}Sb^{\dagger}_{11}$ unless specified.

Cprogram heating and cooling.

also indicated it was a primitive cell. Apparently, the products were the same; the singularity of the phase was also confirmed by finding no line that could not be indexed. Lots of efforts to grow single crystals were not successful (see Table 1) until the ideal model was built up, and the right stoichiometry of " $Ca_{3}Sb_{2}$ " was obtained. Then a few plate crystals were found in rxn. 483 after adjusting the stoichiometry and modifying the reaction conditions. They seemed to be formed from a peritectic reaction. Before describing the structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$, we will describe the building of the ideal model of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ first.

Model of Ca₁₆Sb₁₁

The ideal model of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ was derived from the powder pattern and the cell constants. It was observed that doubling the c-axis of a comparable W_5Si_3 structure⁷ gave similar lattice constants to those of "Ca_gSb₂". More importantly, the lines in the calculated powder pattern based on the atom positions of W_5Si_3 with a doubled c-axis and a change of the space group from I4/mcm to its primitive equivalent P4/mbm fit the experimental one. So the basic building blocks of W_5Si_3 might also coexist in " $Ca₃Sb₂$ ".

In reviewing the literature, two series of compounds $R_{5}n+_{6}T_{3}n+_{5}^{8}$ (R = rare earth metal; T = transition metal or $Ca_{31}Sn_{20}$) and R_{12} m+₁₀n+₁₀p^T₆m+₈n+₆p⁹ were found that all had similar building blocks as W_5Si_3 . They can be described in terms of the stacking of certain polyhedron units.⁸ For instance, W_5Si_3 is composed of Si-centered square antiprisms of W atoms and Si-centered ten-atom W polyhedra (see Figure

Figure 1. The arrangements of coordination polyhedra in W_SSi₃, Pu₃₁Pt₂₀ and Y₃Rh₂ structure types: open circles represent R atoms; closed circles represent T atoms. The plane of projection is [110]. Quoted from ref. 8

1(a)). In both $Y_3Rh_2^9$ and $Pu_{31}Pt_{20}^{10}$ (or $Ca_{31}Sn_{20}^{11}$) structures, a slab formed from Rh- or Pt- centered Y or Pu cubes and centered square antiprisms is followed by slabs similar to those in $W_{S}Si_{a}$ (five in $Pu_{31}Pt_{20}$ but only three in Y_3Rh_2), and finally a slab similar to the bottom one but displaced sideways (Figure $1(b)$, $1(c)$). A closer study revealed that the W_5Si_3 slabs directly joining a cube slab are distorted. In particular, the coordination polyhedron between the square antiprisms is completed within the cubic slab in a different way, and the resulting eight-atom coordination polyhedron is a new type. The drawings in Figure 1(a)–(c) makes it clear that the W_5Si_3 , Y_3Rh_2 , and $Pu_{31}Pt_{20}$ structure types belong to a structural series with formula $R_{5}n_{+6}T_{3}n_{+5}$ in which the structures are built up of one slab of R_6T_5 followed by n slabs of R_5T_3 and where n has the values ∞ , 3, and 5, respectively.⁸⁻¹¹

However, this kind of classification already makes an approximation. As pointed out above, not all the W^S sig slabs in the series are the same. The slab next to the bottom slab should be represented as $R_{10}T_g = R_S T_{4}$ instead of R_5T_3 . Then the bottom slab should be changed to $R_{12}T_6$. So there is another representation for the same series: R_{12} m₊₁₀n₊₁₀p^T₆m₊₆n₊₆p, where m, n, and p are the numbers of R_{12} ^T₆ (bottom slab), $R_{10}T_8$ (the W_5Si^3 slabs next to the bottom slab), and $R_{10}T_6$ fragments in a unit cell, respectively.⁹ According to this classification, if $R_{12}T_6$ is called I, $R_{10}T_8$ called II and $R_{10}T_6$ called III, then this series can be represented as as in Figure 2. It should be noted the projection of Figure 2 is along [010] plane, different from Figure 1 which is along $[110]$. Thus, for W_5Si_3 , m = 0, n = 0, p = 2; for Y₃Rh₂,

Figure 2. Structures in the series $R^{\,}_{1\,2}$ m+ $^{\,}_{1\,0}$ n+ $^{\,}_{1\,0}$ p $^{\,}$ ₆m+ $^{\,}_{8}$ n+ $^{\,}_{6}$ p: W_5 Si₃; b) Sm₂₆(Ga₀₊₃₅Co₀₊₆₅)₁₇; c) Y₃Rh₂; d) Pu₃₁Pt₃₀; I-III, fragments of types of R_2^T , R_5^T , R_5^T , R_5^T (W₅Si₃)

 $m = 2$, $n = 4$, $p = 2$; for $Sm_{26}(Ga_{0.35}Co_{0.65})_{17}$,⁹ $m = 1$, $n = 2$, $p = 2$; for Pu₃₁Pt₂₀, $m = 2$, $n = 4$, $p = 6$, where n values are always twice m. It is useful to convert this classification into the former one. Since n is always twice m, R_{12} m+₁₀n+₁₀P₆m+₈n+₆p = R_6 m+sn+sp^T3m+4n+3p can be further converted to R_6 m+sn+sp^T3m+2m+3n+3p = $R_{6m+5(n+p)}T_{5m+3(n+p)}$. With n+p = n', then $R_{6m+5(n+p)}T_{5m+3(n+p)}$ becomes $R_{6}+_{5}n^{*}T_{5}+_{3}n^{*}$. There are some common features in this series of compounds. $R_{12}T_6$ (I) is built first followed by $R_{10}T_8$ (II) then by $R_{10}T_6$ (III). Also, all the compounds are centrosymmetric.

In the same reference,⁹ there is the note that "Structures formed only from two types of fragments are possible only in the series $nR_{10}T_8 \cdot pR_{10}T_6$ and $nR_{10}T_8 \cdot mR_{12}T_6$. Combination of $R_{12}T_6$ and $R_{10}T_6$ fragments is impossible, owing to the absence of planes with the same locations of atoms. Structures of the $nR_{10}T_{g}P_{10}T_{g}$ series are represented by the same symmetry as the ternary hybrids (five possible space groups including I4/mcm, P4/mbm, P4/nbm, P4bm and I4cm); structures of $nR_{10}T_8* mR_{12}T_6$ series belong only to the two space groups P4/mbm and P4bm".

The cell constants of "Ca₃Sb₂" are a = b = 12.2453(3) and c = 11.323(1) A. The value of the a-axis is very close to the a-axes of this series of compounds, especially close to that of $Ca_{3,1}Sn_{2,0}^{1,2}$ (Table 2). Considering the c-axis of "Ca₃Sb₂" and assuming the packing of "Ca₃Sb₂" follows the same order as $R_{6+5}n^{4}T_{5+3}n^{4}$, the only possible packing or combination is n' = 2 for R_{6+5n} ' T_{5+3n} ', i.e., $R_{16}T_{11}$. Since the model is only composed by $R^{}_{12}T^{}_6$ and $R^{}_{10}T^{}_8$ fragments, the space group

Compounds	n	space group	a(A)	c(A)
Y_3 Rh ₂	3	I4/mcm	11.232(2)	25.16(1)
Gd_3Rh_2	3	I4/mcm	11.27(1)	25.32(2)
Tb_3Rh_2	3	I4/mcm	11.25(1)	25.20(2)
Dy_3Rh_2	3	I4/mcm	11.16(1)	25.07(2)
Ho_3Rh_2	$\mathbf{3}$	I4/mcm	11.11(1)	24.99(2)
Er ₃ Rh ₂	$\mathbf{3}$	I4/mcm	11.09(1)	24.88(2)
La_{26} (Ga _{0,40} Co _{0,60}) ₁₇	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	P4/mbm	12.28(6)	15.38(9)
$Ce26(Ga0.35Co0.65)17$	4	P4/mbm	11.99(6)	14.44(9)
$Pr_{26}(Ga_{0.35}Co_{0.65})_{17}$	4	P4/mbm	11.87(6)	15.22(9)
Nb_{26} (Ga _{0 - 40} Co _{0 - 60}) ₁₇	4	P4/mbm	11.88(6)	15.24(9)
$Sm_{26}(Ga_{0.35}Co_{0.35})_{17}$	4	P4/mbm	11.713(4)	15.171(7)
$Pu_{31}Pt_{20}$	5	14/mcm	11.302(5)	37.388(23)
$Pu_{31}Rh_{20}$	5	I4/mcm	11.076(4)	36.933(12)
$Ca_{31}Sn_{20}$	5	I4/mcm	12.542	40.00
W_5Si_3	∞	I4/mcm	9.605	4.964
$Sm5$ T1 ₃	∞	I4/mcm	12.346	6.140
Pr_{5} $T1_{3}$	∞	I4/mcm	12.553	6.172
Pu ₅ Si ₃	∞	14/mcm	11.409	5.448
Pu ₅ Pb ₃	∞	I4/mcm	12.310	6.084
V_5Si_3	∞	I4/mcm	9.429	4.756
Gd_5 In ₃	∞	14/mcm	12.340	6.048

Table 2. Some examples of $R_{5n+6}T_{3n+5}$ compounds

 \mathcal{A}

 \cdot

 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$

should be either P4/mbm or P4bm according to the above note. The indices of the reflections derived from TREOR program are all consistent with the systematic absence $0 \lt k$ ℓ : $k = 2n$ except for one medium intense reflections. The x,y coordinates of $Ca_{31}Sn_{20}$ were selected for the ideal model owing to the closeness of radii for Sn and Sb atoms and the z coordinates were rescaled. The detail of the atom positions for the model are listed in Table 3. Although the calculated powder pattern based on the model did fit most lines in the experimental ones, still a few lines could not be fitted. This was proven to be caused by the inaccuracy of atom postions and a wrong space group from the predicted model when extended to the Ca-Sb system. However, the model did reveal the real stoichiometry of "Ca₃Sb₂" could be $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ and provided the preliminary information on atom positions.

The structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$

A couple of the plate crystals found in rxn. 483 were mounted in 0.2-mm capillaries and sealed off for further structure determination. One of them of suitable size $(0.15 \times 0.17 \times 0.08$ mm) was indexed and diffraction data collected with CAD-4 diffractometer. During the indexing, the right cell could not be found owing to a twinning problem which was later confirmed by taking axial photographs. However, the six strong reflections did give the expected cell. Using these six reflections to get a rough orientation matrix, a couple of hundred reflections were scanned at a high scan rate. This added nineteen more good reflections to the original six, and these gave the following triclinic cell constants a = 12.237(5) A, b = 12.242(3) A, c = 11.305(6) A, α =

	Ideal Model ^a					Real Structure	
	P4/mbm	(S.G. 127)				$P\bar{4}2$ ₁ m (S.G. 113)	
	\overline{x}	Y	\overline{z}		$\frac{\mathsf{x}}{\mathsf{y}}$	Y	\overline{z}
Ca(1) 4(g)	0.3405	$1/2+x$	$\bf{0}$	Ca(3) 4(e)	0.3683(5)	$1/2+x$	$-0.0012(7)$
Ca(2) 16(1)	0.2103	0.0519	0.1872	Ca(5) 8(f)	0.2032(5)	0.0711(5)	0.1855(6)
				Ca(4) 8(f)	0.2100(5)	0.0752(5)	0.7812(4)
Ca(3) 4(f)	$\pmb{0}$	1/2	0.2543	Ca(1) 2(c)	$\mathbf 0$	1/2	0.287(1)
				Ca(6) 2(c)	$\bf{0}$	1/2	0.639(1)
Ca(4) 8(j)	0.0808	0.2161	1/2	Ca(2) 8(f)	0.0884(4)	0.2074(4)	0.4994(5)
Sb(1) 2(a)	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$	Sb(6) 2(a)	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$
Sb(2) 4(g)	0.0859	$1/2+x$	$\bf{0}$	Sb(4) 4(e)	0.1267(1)	$1/2+x$	0.0135(2)
Sb(3) 8(k)	0.3019	$1/2+x$	0.2649	Sb(2) 4(e)	0.3364(1)	$1/2+x$	0.2636(2)
				Sb(3) 4(e)	0.3208(1)	$1/2+x$	0.7382(2)
Sb(4) 40e)	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$	0.3357	Sb(1) 4(d)	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$	0.3490(2)
$Sb(5)$ 4(h)	0.1617	$1/2+x$	1/2	Sb(5) 4(e)	0.1450(1)	$1/2+x$	0.4618(2)

Table 3. Comparisons in atom positions between ideal model and real structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$

 $\overline{a_{\text{From Ca}_{16}Sn}_{11}}$ (ref. 12) x + y coordinates.

89.98(3)°, β = 90.09(4)°, γ = 90.03(3)°. Six ϕ scans were collected for absorption corrections. The details of data collection are listed in Table 4. The space group was derived to be $P\bar{4}2$, m (No. 113) from the systematic absence $0k0$, $k = 2n$. Five Sb and five Ca atom positions derived from the SHELEX program 76 were matched with the model positions. The last Ca position was determined from the model. After refining with isotropic thermal parameters, the R was 0.071 and R_W was 0.092 . The final R was 0.032 and R_W 0.034 after finishing the anisotropic thermal parameter refinement. The occupancies of the Sb atoms were refined to be unity $(1.008(8)$ for $\text{Sb}(6)$; $0.978(6)$ for $\text{Sb}(5)$; $1.002(6)$ for $\text{Sb}(4)$; $0.998(6)$ for Sb (3) ; $0.992(6)$ for Sb (2) ; $1.004(4)$ for Sb (1)). The maximum residual density 1.79 e/ A^3 in the difference map is 0.64 A away from Sb(6) atom positions.

Results and Discussion

The positional and thermal parameters are summarized and listed in Table 5.

Comparisons between the model and the structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$

In Table 3, the positions for the model and the structure were listed together. From the Table, it is clear that most of the atom positions in the structure are quite close to the positions in the model. The positions of $Ca(2)$, $Ca(3)$ and $Sb(3)$ in the model are split into two positions Ca(4) and Ca(5); Ca(l) and Ca(6); Sb(2) and Sb(3) in the real structure, respectively. The common difference of the structure is the z-coordinate that deviates from the ideal $z = 0$ and $z = 1/2$ positions

	ΤO . .
Space group	$P\bar{4}2$, m (No. 113)
Z	\overline{c}
Cell dimensions, A, a	
$a = b$	12.2453(5)
C	11.323(1)
Size of crystal (mm)	$0.15 \times 0.17 \times 0.08$
Octants measured	$h, k, \ell; h, k, -\ell$
Scan type	$\pmb{\omega}$
2Θ -max, deg. (Mo K α)	55
μ (Mo Ka), cm ⁻¹	221.1
Transm. coeff. range	$0.49 - 0.99$
Number of reflections	
meas.	3280
obs. $($ >3 $\sigma(1)$)	1911
indep.	493
R(ave)	0.022
No. of parameters refined	78
Structure solution	
Rp	0.031
R_{W}	0.038

Table 4. Diffraction and refinement data of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$

aThe cell dimensions calculated from 46 lines of the Guinier powder pattern, Cu K_{α_1} , $\lambda = 1.54056$ A.

 $b_R = \sum ||F_0| - |F_C||/\sum |F_0|$. $R_W = [\sum w(|F_0| - |F_C|)^2/\sum w|F_0|^2]^{1/2}$.

Atom	$\pmb{\mathsf{X}}$	У	\pmb{Z}	B_{11}
Sb(1)	0.000	0.000	0.3490(2)	1.05(8)
Sb(2)	0.3364(1)	0.8364(1)	0.2636(2)	1.26(5)
Sb(3)	0.3208(1)	0.8208(1)	0.7382(2)	1.21(5)
Sb(4)	0.1267(1)	0.6267(1)	0.0135(2)	1.69(5)
Sb(5)	0.1450(1)	0.6450(1)	0.4681(2)	1.21(5)
Sb(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.4(1)
Ca(1)	0.000	0.500	0.287(1)	1.0(2)
Ca(2)	0.0844(4)	0.2074(4)	0.4994(5)	1.8(2)
Ca(3)	0.3683(5)	0.8683(5)	$-0.0012(7)$	2.8(2)
Ca(4)	0.2100(5)	0.0752(5)	0.7812(4)	1.9(2)
Ca(5)	0.2032(5)	0.0711(5)	0.1855(6)	3.3(3)
Ca(6)	0.000	0.500	0.639(1)	1.1(2)

Table 5. Positional and thermal parameters^a and their estimated standard deviations

^Anistropically refined atoms are given in the form of the isotropic equivalent displacement parameter defined as: (4/3) *[a2*B(l,l) $+ b²*B(2,2) + c²*B(3,3) + ab(cos_Y)*B(1,2) + ac(cos_B)*B(1,3) +$ **bc(cosa**)*B**(2,3)].**

except for $\text{Sb}(6)$ which has the same positions as the ideal $\text{Sb}(1)$ positions at (0,0,0) and (1/2,1/2,0). The intrinsic reason for lowering space group from centric P4/mbm to acentric $P\bar{4}2$ ₁m might be because of the splitting of the positions of Ca(3) in the model. The split positions shift the atoms along z-axis about 0.05 c which is the most significant deviation from the ideal model. The unusual high B_{33} of Sb(6) might be caused by twinning problem or disorder.

Structure of Ca₁₆Sb₁₁

The atom positions of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ are close to the model built in the previous section. Thus, the structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ can be described as the linkage of different polyhedra. There are four different polyhedra coexisting in the unit cell including $Sb(6)$ centered cubes, $Sb(2)$, $Sb(3)$ and Sb(4) centered trigonal prisms, Sb(l) centered square antiprisms and Sb(5) centered eight-atom polyhedra. The linkage of the polyhedra is exactly the same as the model proposed. $Sh(6)$ centered cubes and $Sh(4)$ trigonal prisms form the bottom slab, then come the Sb(2) centered trigonal prisms, Sb(4) centered square antiprisms and Sb(5) centered eightatom polyhedra. Finally, stacked are Sb(3) centered trigonal prisms, Sb(4) centered square antiprisms and Sb(5) centered eight-atom polyhedra. The detailed coordination around each Sb atom are represented in Figure $3(a)$ -(f). The cube around Sb(6) actually is distorted so that Sb(6) lies in the center of two different sized tetrahedra penetrating with two different Ca-Sb distances $(d_{(Sb(6)-Ca(4)) = 3.632(5)}$ A and $d(Sb(6)-Ca(5)) = 3.367(7)A$. The polyhedron around Sb(5) can be

(a)

(b)

- Figure 3. Different polyhedra around Sb atoms in $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$
	- (a) Square antiprism coordination around $\delta\breve{\mathbf{b}}(1)$;

أحسا الشمال الدراري

(b) Trigonal prism coordination around Sb(2)

(e)

Figure 3. (continued)

- (e) Polyhedra coordination around Sb{5);
- (f) Cube coordination around Sb(6)
described as a pentagon with three pairs of Ca atoms on three apex positions perpendicular to the plane of the paper.

A closer look at the cube around Sb{6) reveals that the cube is distorted along the c-axis. The lengths of each edge and diagonal are drawn on Figure 4. In the figure, the faces of the top and the bottom are looked at as pseudo squares. One pair of the edges is equal to 3.801(8) A while the other is equal to 3.829(8) A. The two diagonal lengths are about the same order with one equal to 5.272(7) A and the other equal to 5.463(7) A on the pseudo planes. The other four faces which are around the waist of the cube are all elongated along the c-axis with edges equal to 4.579(8) A and distorted very much so that one of the diagonal lengths is $5.617(7)$ A shorter than the other one which is $6.283(7)$ A.

As mentioned before, the cube might be considered as two penetrated tetrahedra composed of Ca(4) and Ca(5) atoms, respectively. In the tetrahedron composed of Ca(4) atoms, one pair of edges is 5.272(7) A not very deviated from the other pair which is 5.617(7) A. For the other tetrahedron composed of Ca(5) atoms, the long pair of edges is 6.283(7) A longer than the other pair which is 5.463(7) A. This kind of distortion of cube or tetrahedra might be the cause of unusually high B_{33} of Sb(6). To illustrate the linkage between these polyhedra, Figure $5(a)$, (b) and (c) are plotted as the projection on $z = 0$ ($\pm 0.22z$), $z = 0.35$ ($\pm 0.39z$) and $z = 0.65$ ($\pm 0.39z$), respectively. It is clear that the structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ is pseudocentric judged from 5(b) and (c). If the structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ is projected as ref. 8 and ref. 9, they are represented as Figure b and Figure 7, respectively.

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Figure 4. The lengths of the edges and diagonals of the cube around Sb(6) are shown in the figure. Two different dashed lines outline the tetrahedron. The Sb(6) atom is located at $\bar{4}$ position

Three different cross sections of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ are drawn.
(a) The unit cell of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ on $Z = 0$ (±0.22 Z).
Open figures: Sb atom; crossed ellipsoids: Ca atoms **Figure 5.**

Figure 5. (continued) (b) The cross section of the unit cell of $Ca_{1,6}Sb_{1,1}$ on $z = 0.35$ (±0.39z). Open figures: Sb atoms; crossed ellipsoids: Ca atoms

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Figure 5. (continued)
(c) The cross section of the unit cell of Ca₁₆Sb_{11.}on Z = 0.65(±0.39z). Open figures: Sb atoms; crossed ellipsoids: Ca atoms

Figure 6. The structure of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ projected on $[110]$ plane and represented as Figure 1. The structure of ca₁₆3b₁₁ projected on [---];
Open ellipsoids = Sb atoms; crossed ellipsoids = Ca atoms

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Figure 7, The structure of Ca_{l6}Sb₁₁ projected on $[010]$ plane as represented as Figure 2. Open ellipsoids = Sb atoms; crossed ellipsoids = Ca atoms

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Comparisons between Ca₁₆Sb₁₁ and other Ca-Sb binary compounds

In comparing $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ with other Ca-Sb binary compounds, it is found there are similar trigonal prisms in $Ca₅Sb₃$ with the β -Yb₅Sb₃ structure; also square antiprisms and eight-atom polyhedra observed in $Ca_{11}Sb_{10}$. To illustrate the similarity, the distances between Sb and Ca atoms for $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$, Ca_5Sb_3 and $Ca_{11}Sb_{10}$ are listed together in Table 6. The distances between Ca and Sb in the trigonal prism from 3.283(2) A to 3.670(2) A in Ca₅Sb₃ are longer than those of Ca₁₆Sb₁₁ which are from 3.041(4) A to 3.444(6) A. In general, the distances between Ca and Sb atoms in $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ range from 3.041 A to 3.504 A which belong to nonbonding distances. Thus, the Sb's in $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ seem to be all isolated. According to the simple valence electron counting, there is one negative charge excess from Sb available. Therefore, the electric property of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ should be metallic or paramagnetic.

Existence of Sr₁₆Bi₁₁

Recently, a reaction with similar reaction conditions to rxn. 483 for $Sr_{16}Bi_{11}$ was run to synthesize the analogue of $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ based on the close metallic radius ratio for Ca/Sb and Sr/Bi. The powder pattern seemed to contain the same phase as $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ with a = 13.137(1) A and c = 11.594(2) A. However, the calculated powder pattern only matched most of the experimental one in some reflections' intensities. Further single crystal studies might be needed to confirm the structure of $Sr^1_{16}Bi^1_{11}$.

In square antiprism	$Sb(1) = 4Ca(2)$ $Sb(1) - 2Ca(4)$ $Sb(1) - 2Ca(5)$	3.249(5) 3.140(6) 3.218(7)
In trigonal prism	$Sb(2) - 2Ca(2)$ $Sb(2) - Ca(3)$ $Sb(2) - 2Ca(4)$ $Sb(2) - 2Ca(5)$ $Sb(2) - Ca(6)$	3.243(6) 3.044(8) 3,299(6) 3.420(6) 3.041(4)
In trigonal prism	$Sb(3) - Ca(1)$ $Sb(3) - 2Ca(2)$ $Sb(3) - Ca(3)$ $Sb(3) - 2Ca(4)$ $Sb(3) - 2Ca(5)$	3.117(2) 3.221(6) 3.058(8) 3.444(6) 3.189(6)
In trigonal prism	$Sb(4) - 2Ca(2)$ $Sb(4) - 2Ca(2)$ $Sb(4) - 2Ca(2)$	3.176(6) 3.069(6) 3.140(7)
In 8-atom polyhedron	$Sb(5) - Ca(1)$ $Sb(5) - 2Ca(2)$ $Sb(5) - 2Ca(2)$ $Sb(5) - 2Ca(4)$ $Sb(5) - Ca(6)$	3.236(8) 3.373(5) 3.398(5) 3.504(6) 3.165(7)
In cube	$Sb(6) - 4Ca(4)$ $Sb(6) - 4Ca(5)$	3.632(5) 3.367(7)

Table 6. Comparisons in Ca-Sb distances between $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ and other Ca-Sb binary compounds

 $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$

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in $Ca_{11}Sb_{10}$ $(ref. '2)$

Relationships within R₅n+₆^T₃n+₅

It is difficult to give a general interpretation about the occurrence of this series of compounds, since R and T elements vary through a large range of dimension, electronegativity, valence, etc. However, the investigation of radius ratio r_R/r_T (using the metallic radii for coordination number 12)¹³ reveals the relationship between r_R/r_T and R_5n+6T_3n+5 . Figure 8 shows the distribution of R_5n+6T_3n+5 against r_R/r_T . It is clear that there is a wide range of r_R/r_T for R_5T_3 from $\sim 0.9 - \sim 1.2$ (except for Ca_5Pt_3 which r_R/r_T is ~ 1.4), while the r_R/r_T 's for the rest of $R_{5n^+6}T_{3n^+5}$ are all limited in narrow ranges: $R_{31}T_{20}$, $r_{R}/r_{T} \sim1.2$; $R_{26}T_{17}$, $r_{R}/r_{T} \sim1.4$; $R_{21}T_{14}$ (R_3T_2) , $r_R/r_T \sim 1.3$, and $R_{16}T_{11}$, $r_R/r_T \sim 1.3$. From this observation, the r_R/r_T seems to be a good standard classifying the structures within $R_{5n+6}T_{3n+5}$.

The further comparisons in volume percent contraction ΔV (calculated based on the elemental atomic volumes) in $R_{s0}+ {}_{6}T_{30}+{}_{5}$ give more understanding about the structures of the compounds. Figure 9 represents the ΔV vs r_R/r_T of $R_{5n+6}T_{3n+5}$. Apparently, $R_{21}T_{14}$ and $R_{26}T_{17}$ which are all composed of rare earth and transition metals show little volume contraction in a narrow range from 9% - 2% , while R^{T}_{16} which is composed of alkaline earth and main group elements show large volume contraction around 20%. In $R_{31}T_{20}$, both compounds with Pu element have unusual volume expansion around 10%, while $Ca_{31}Sb_{20}$ has the similar volume contraction as $R_{16}T_{11}$.

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Figure 8. The distribution of $R_{5n^+6}T_{3n^+5}$ vs the ratios of r_R/r_T

Figure 9. The ΔV (%) of $R_{5n+6}T_{3n+5}$ ($n \neq \infty$) vs the ratios of r_R/r_T

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For R_5T_3 with W_5Si_3 structure (R including rare earth, transition metal and alkaline earth; T including transition metal and main group elements), they show a wide range of volume contraction from -10% to 27%. However, a couple of conclusive points can be reached after classifying the R_5T_3 compounds into subgroups. Figure 10 shows the ΔV vs r_R/r_T of R_5T_3 which are divided into eight subgroups: T_5Ga^3 , R_5In^3 , R_5 Tl₃, T₅Si₃, T₅Ge₃, R₅Sn₃, Pu₅T₃ and others. From this Figure, the range of ΔV of R₅Si₃ and R₅Ge₃ are about the same, from 14% - 19%, while T_5 Ga₃ had the wide AV range from 10% - 17%. Again, R_5 In₃ and R_5 Tl₃ have very narrow ΔV ranges from 6% - 7%, while the narrow ΔV of R₅Sn₃ is from 11% - 13%. Two of $Pu₅T₃$ show expansion while the other one almost no contraction at all. In the rest of the R_5T_3 compounds, Pu_5Pb_3 and Eu_5Pb_3 all expand relative to their elemental volumes. The ΔV of γ -V₅As₃ is similar to those of T^S_5 sig and T^S_5 Ge₃. The ΔV 's of Zr₅Al₃, Cd₅Au₃ and $Pu_{S1₃}$ are all in the range from $1%$ - 5% despite that they are quite different in r_R/r_T . Finally, Ca₅Pt₃, which is the only R_5T_3 with $r_{\mathsf{R}}/r_{\mathsf{T}}$ larger than 1.24, shows the highest ΔV (27%).

For R_5T_3 , although the wide range of r_R/r_T exists in each subgroup, the AV seems to be in a narrow range for a particular subgroup except for T_5Ga_3 . Despite the electronic reasons, this might be used to predict the possibility of unknown R_5T_3 phases with the W_5Si_3 structure.

Figure 10. The ΔV (%) of R_5T_3 vs the ratios or r_R/r_T

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PART V. Sr_xMg_yGe_z TERNARY SYSTEM

Introduction

The replacement of some cations by different size but the same charge cations often not only changes the structure types, but also creates unique structure types which are not observed in pure binary compounds. In $M_XM'_{Y}X_Z$ (M, M' = alkaline earth metals; X = Si, Ge, Sn, Pb), three combinations have been well studied including: $MBe_0.75X_1.25$, $MM'_{2}X_{2}$, $MM'X$ and $MSrSi_{\mu}$.

In $MBe_0.75X_1.25$,¹ a AlB₂ type structure is found with M from Ca, Sr to Ba and X from Si to Ge. There are two structure types found in MM'₂X₂ which are both derived from BaAl₄. For CaM'₂Ge₂ (M' = Be, Mg),² they form a CaBe₂Ge₂-type structure, while BaMg₂X₂ (X = Si, Ge, Pb) form ThCr₂Si₂-type.³ In MM'X, two very similar structures, anti-PbCl₂ and anti-PbFCl, are observed. For BaMgX $(X = Si, Ge, Sn, Pb),$ ^{4,5} they form the anti-PbFCl structure, while BaCaX, ⁶ CaMgX and SrMgX⁷ adopt an anti-PbCl₂ structure. In MSrSi₄ (M = Ca, Ba), the BaSi₂ structure is formed for the Ca analogue,⁸ while SrSi₂ structure is adopted by the Ba analogue.⁹ Apparently, the structures of $M_XM'_{Y}X_Z$ are quite dependent on the relative size between M and M'. For example, the combination of Ba and Mg always seems to yield different structures from other combinations of the alkaline earth metals.

In the Sr-Mg-Ge system, SrMgGe is the only known compound and it has the Co₂Si structure, which is the same for the binary compound Sr₂Ge.¹⁰ In this structure, there are Ge-centered trigonal prisms linked by common

Figure 1. Unit cell of SrMgGe projected on [001] plane. The large shaded circles represent Sr atoms; medium circles represent Mg atoms; small open circles represent Ge atoms. The Sr/Mg atoms are different from the central Ge at z coordinate by 1/2

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Sr atoms to form infinite zig-zag chains parallel to the a -axis (Figure 1). In the present study of the Sr-Mg-Ge system, four new compounds were found with similar prisms as that of SrMgGe, but linked and arranged in different ways in SrMg₃Ge₃, SrMg₂Ge₂, Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-x}Ge₇ and Sr_{5+y} Mg_{19-y}Ge₁₂.

SrMg₃Ge₃

Due to the similar size of Sr and Eu, synthesis of SrMg₃Ge₃ was tried as an analogue of $EUMg_3Ge_3$.¹¹ Stoichiometric elementary starting materials were loaded into a Ta tubing. These were first heated to 900°C for 2 days, then annealed at 750°C for 2 weeks. The product looked like a homogeneous phase with gray metallic luster. The powder pattern indicated that it is not an analogue of EuMg₃Ge₃ (space group Cmcm and a = 4.485, $b = 30.60$, $c = 4.485$ A). Moreover, the cell was determined to be a primitive orthorhombic structure with $a = 14.628(2)$ A, $b = 12.669(2)$ A and $c = 4.4272$ (5) A, by the TREOR program (31 sharp lines used).

The size of the c -axis of SrMg₃Ge₃ is about the same as the b -axis of SrMgGe which is 4.56 A. That indicated the cell of SrMg₃Ge₃ might contain trigonal prisms also with z-coordinates of 1/4, 3/4 or 0, 1/2. In reviewing the literature,¹² Rh_uP₃¹³ was found to have a primitive orthorhombic cell with $a = 11.662$ A, $b = 3.317$ A and $c = 9.994$ A which are close to those of $SrMg_3Ge_3$ if the b and c axes are reversed. In Rh_uP₃, all the atoms are on 4(c) positions, i.e., $y = 1/4$ and 3/4, which is consistent with the expected structure of $SrMg_{3}Ge_{3}$. More importantly, the calculated powder pattern based on the atom coordinates of $Rh_{4}P_{3}$ and lattice constants of S^{mg} ₃ Ge₃ was similar to the experimental one.

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A closer look at the structure of $Rh_{\mu}P_{g}$ revealed further relationship between them, Figure 2(a) show the unit cell of Rh_nP_n projected on the [010] plane, all the P atoms are in trigonal prisms. Two-thirds of the P atoms are in more regular prisms than the other one-third. If the latter one-third P atoms all are shifted to the neighboring empty regular trigonal prism sites, then the representation of the unit cell become Figure 2(b). In this figure, three trigonal prisms fused together to form corrugated fragments which are connected by common Sr atoms of $SrMg₃Ge₃$. The common Rh atoms are replaced by Sr atoms like the common Sr atoms in SrMgGe. The three Ge atoms in the fragments should form $[Ge-Ge-Ge]^{8}$ finite fragment. The central Ge atom in the fragment should have 2 e⁻ and the terminal Ge atoms should have 3 e⁻, consistent with the valence rule, because the central Ge atom is two bonded while the terminal Ge atoms are only one bonded.

However, there are still a couple of lines in the calculated powder pattern not matched with the experimental one. This might be caused by inaccuracy of atom coordinates, because the positions of the shifted P atoms were only estimated from the distances; also the fusing of the prisms might effect the geometries of the original prisms. On the other hand, the space group of $Rh_{\mu}P_{\alpha}$ might be changed because a couple of reflections of $SrMg_3Ge_3$ violate the extinctions of the space group of $Rh_{\mu}P_{3}$ (Pnma). It is necessary to grow the single crystals before we can further characterize this new compound which is also a new structure type. Although a couple of different reaction conditions have been tried (Table 1), no single crystals have been obtained yet. Most of the

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Figure 2. The structure relationship between $Rh_{\mu}P_{\alpha}$ and SrMg_aGe_a is shown. (a) Unit cell of Rh_LP₃ projected on $\overline{010}$ plane. Circles represent Rh atoms; small circles represent P atoms; open circles indicate atoms at $y = 1/4$ and closed circles indicate atoms at $y = 3/4$. (b) Approximate unit cell of SrMg₃Ge₃ derived from $Rh_{\mu}P_3$ and projected on [001] plane. Circles represent Mg atoms except those linked between two fragments are Sr atoms; small circles represents Ge atoms. Open circles indicate the atoms at $z = 0$ or $1/4$ and closed circles indicate the atoms at $z = 1/2$ or 3/4 coordinate

Rxn no.	Sr/Mg/Ge	Rxn. Conditions	Products ^a
468	1,00/3,00/3,00	900° C 4 days 700°C 2 weeks	"SrMg ₃ Ge ₃ "
497	2,00/3,00/3,00	800° C 4 days 950°C 2 days 880°C 4 days 820° C 1 day 750° C l day 650° C 1 day	"SrMg ₃ Ge ₃ "
523	1.00/2.99/2.99	1200°C 12 hrs (induction heating) quenching	"SrMg ₃ Ge ₃ "
514	1.00/5.01/3.00 (2.33/11.69/7.00)	900°C 5 days 700°C 6 days	$Sr_{2}+xMg_{12}-xGe_7$
499	1.00/2.00/2.00	the same as rxn. 514	?
538	2.21/11.79/7.00	910°C 2 weeks 840°C 5 days 740°C 28 days	$Sr_{2}+xMg_{12}-xGe_{7}$
537	6.86/17.13/12.00	the same as rxn. 538	$Sr_{5} + yMg_{19} - yGe_{12}$
532	5.54/18.37/12.00	the same as rxn. 538	$Sr_{5} + yMg_{19} - yGe_{12}$
536	5.58/18.42/12.00	the same as rxn. 538	$Sr_{5} + yMg_{19} - yGe_{12}$
535	5.00/19.00/12.00	910°C 2 days 850° C 2 weeks	$Sr_{5}+y^{Mg}$ _{19-y} Ge ₁₂ $(80\% \dot{y}ie1d)$ $Sr_{2}+xMg_{12}-xGe_{7}$ $(20\% \text{ yield})$
548	5.00/19.00/12.00	940°C 10 days, 840°C 2 weeks	$Sr5Mg19Ge12$

Table 1. Reaction conditions of Sr-Mg-Ge systems

^aAll the products were single phases in each reactions except for 535.

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products looked like plates formed by needles and it was very difficult to separate them. However, the morphology of the products also supports the postulation of the expected structure, because low dimension compounds always show plate or needle-like appearances.

SrMg₂Ge₂

A stoichiometry of $SrMg₂Ge₂$ was loaded for rxn. 499 (Table 1). The product did not contain any one of the known binary Sr-Ge or Mg-Ge phases judging from the powder pattern. The possibilities of ternary compounds such as SrMgGe, $SrMg_3Ge_3$, $Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-X}Ge_7$ and $Sr_{5+Y}Mg_{19-y}Ge_{12}$ also have been checked and excluded. Surprisingly, it did not form ThCr₂Si₂ or CaBe₂Ge₂ structures which are very common in MM'₂X₂ (M = Ca or Ba; $M' = Be$ or Mg; $X = Si$, Ge, Sn, Ph). However, the cell constants of the products could not be derived by using the TREOR program. That indicated that a mixture can not be ignored or that it is a monoclinic or triclinic cell, because sometimes TREOR program can not give a right cell for a monoclinic or a triclinic cell.

$Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-x}Ge_7$

The title compound was first obtained from rxn. 514 loaded with Sr/Mg/Ge equal to 1.00/5.01/3.00 (Table 1). The structure of the product was confirmed to be isostructural with $2r_2Fe_{12}P_7^{14}$ by indexing the powder pattern by TREOR program. Total 23 lines (all the sharp lines) were used to derive the hexagonal cell with $a = 11.0728(7)$ A and $c = 4.3626(5)$ A. Since the loaded stoichiometry was deviated from that of the $2r_2Fe_{12}P_7$, this phase was represented as $Sr_{2+x}Mg_{12-x}Ge_7$. The atom positions

of ideal Sr₂Mg₁₂Ge₇ are close to those of $Zr_2Fe_{12}P_7$ (space group P6) judging from the comparison between the calculated and experimental powder patterns (Table 2). Both Sr atoms are in the special positions $1(c)$ and $1(f)$. In the four Mg atom positions, half of them are in $3(j)$ positions, while half of them are located in 3(k) positions. One of three Ge atoms is in the origin, while the other two are in $3(j)$ or $3(k)$ position. The details of the assumed atom positions of $Sr_2Mg_{12}Ge_7$ are listed in Table 3.

The unit cell of ideal $Sr₂Mg₁₂Ge₇$ is represented in Figure 3. Three Ge-centered trigonal prisms are fused together on the common Sr atoms and one Ge atom is located on the origin position. To illustrate the coordination around the Ge atom on the origin. Figure 4 represents the unit cell expanded on an ab plane. The chemical environment of the Ge atom becomes clear on a triangular plane or tricapped trigonal prisms. This is the first Zintl phase adopted this type structure. The electron counting of the ideal compound indicated it is a valence compound, because two Sr and twelve Mg atoms would provide 28 e" to the seven Ge atoms to form isolated $Ge⁴⁻$ anions.

The same phase also observed in rxn. 538. The stoichiometry of starting material was Sr/Mg/Ge equal to 1.21/11.81/7.00. The lattice constants of the products also different from those of the previous one (see Table 4). Also, as the amount of Sr relative to Mg increased then the lattice constants increased too. This further confirmed it was a nonstoichiometric phase.

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Table 2. Observed and calculated^a powder patterns for Sr₂+xMg₁₂-xGe₇

^aThe lattice constants adopted from rxn. 538 and assumed 0.21 Sr substituted in 3(j) positions.

 $^{\text{b}}$ Cu Ka₁ radiation, $\lambda = 1.540562$ A.

^These reflections were observed but with low intensities and broad or blurred lines.

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Atom	Position		$\pmb{\mathsf{x}}$	y	\mathbf{z}
Sr(1)	1(c)	6	1/3	2/3	$\bf{0}$
Sr(2)	1(f)	6	2/3	1/3	1/2
Mg(1)	3(j)	m	0.4309	0.0590	$\mathbf 0$
Mg(2)	3(j)	m	0.1583	0.2772	$\pmb{0}$
Mg(3)	3(k)	$\mathsf m$	0.3864	0.4359	1/2
Mg(4)	3(k)	m	0.2232	0.0992	1/2
Ge(1)	1(a)	6	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$
Ge(2)	3(j)	$\mathfrak m$	0.4163	0.2959	$\bf{0}$
Ge(3)	3(k)	m	0.1207	0.4096	1/2

Table 3. Atom positions of $Sr_2Mg_{12}Ge_7^d$

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 $^{\texttt{a}}$ Space group P $\bar{6}$ (No. 174); the atom positions are quoted from réf. 14,

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Figure 3. Unit cell of ideal Sr₂Mg₁₂Ge₇ based on Zr₂Fe₁₂P₇ projected on [001] plane. Circles represent Sr atoms; medium circles represent Mg atoms and small circles represent Ge atoms. Open circles indicate atoms at $z = 0$; shaded circles indicate atoms at z =1/2. To illustrate the linkage of trigonal prisms, those cations with same z coordinate are connected together

Figure 4. The unit cell of ideal $Sr_2Mg_{12}Ge_7$ expanded along ab plane, so that the relationship between two different fan like fragments become clear. Symbols are the same as Figure 3

Rxn No.	$Sr%$ (mole)	Lattice Constants	# Lines indexed ^b	c/a
538	0.158	$a = 11.063(1)$ $c = 4.3572(8)$	24	2.539
514	0.166	$a = 11.0728(7)$ $c = 4.3626(5)$	23	2.538
535	0.208	$a = 11.094(1)$ $c = 4.3510(9)$	8	2.550
		$a = 14.718(2)$ $c = 4.431(2)$	26	3.314
548	0,208	$a = 14,720(1)$ $c = 4.437(1)$		
532	0.231	$a = 14.7602(5)$ $c = 4.4539(3)$	56	3.314
536	0.232	$a = 14.7292(9)$ $c = 4.4435(2)$	56	3.314
537	0.286	$a = 14.791(2)$ $c = 4.4666(9)$	19	3.311

Table 4. Lattice constants for $Sr_{2}+xMg_{12}-xGe_{7}^{\alpha}$ and $Sr_{5}+yMg_{19}-yGe_{12}^{\alpha}$

 A_{AS} x = y = 0, the Sr fractions for Sr₂+_vMg₁₂-vGe₇ and $Sr_{5}+\sqrt{M}g_{19}-\sqrt{G}e_{12}$ are 0.143 and 0.208 .

bAlthough not all lines in powder patterns were used for the calculations of lattice constants, they all seemed to belong to a single phase for each reactions except for rxn. 535.

Sr_{5+} Mg_{19-y}Ge₁₂

In rxns. 537, 532 and 536, another hexagonal phase was confirmed as the ratios of Sr:Mg were varied (Table 1) while the ratio of (Sr,Mg)/Ge was kept to 2/1. The powder patterns of the reactions were very similar with high yield (>95%) of the products. The size of c-axis is the same as that of SrMg₃Ge₃ or Sr_{2+x}Mg_{12-x}Ge₇. This suggests that the structure of this phase should be composed of linked trigonal prisms too.

After carefully comparing different calculated powder patterns which were based on possible compounds, and the dimensions of cell and atom ratio, the structure type of this phase was determined to be that of $H_0 \nvert^{2}$ $\left(\nvert^{2} \right)$ (Table 5). The different lattice constant of the products in rxns. 532 or 536 (Table 4) show a nonstoichiometric character. The lattice constants of rxns. 537 and 532 show the tendency of increasing lattice constants as the relative amount of Sr increases but not for lattice constants of rxn. 536. The odd lattice constants of rxn. 536 might be caused from the dirty surface of Sr metal.

The atom positions of ideal $Sr_SMg₁₉Ge₁₂$ is listed in Table 6. Figure 5 shows the cell projected in a [001] plane. In the unit cell, Sr(2) is located at 2(c) position at $z = 0$, while Sr(1) sits on 3(g) position to form a triangle centered by Ge(4) atom. There are five Mg positions, Mg(1) and Mg(3) are located at $6(h)$ and $3(g)$ positions at $z =$ 1/2 and linked with Sr(l) atom to form a big fragment fused by seven Gecentered trigonal prism, while Mg(2) and Mg(4) are at $6(j)$ and $3(f)$ positions at $z = 0$ and linked with a $Sr(2)$ atom to form the same fragment as

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Table 5. Observed and calculated powder patterns^a for Sr_s+y^{Mg}₁₉-yGe₁₂

^aThe lattice constants adopted from rxn. 532 and assumed 0.54 Sr substituted in 3(f) positions.

 $^{\text{D}}$ Cu K α_1 radiation, λ = 1.540562 A.

Atom	Position	$\pmb{\mathsf{X}}$	y	\pmb{z}		
Sr(1)	3(g)	0.8167(2)	0	1/2		
Sr(2)	2(c)	1/3	2/3	0		
Mg(1)	6(h)	0.8720(4)	0.5146(4)	1/2		
Mg(2)	6(j)	0.8152(4)	0.1899(4)	0		
Mg(3)	3(g)	0.2862(6)	$\bf{0}$	1/2		
Mg(4)	3(f)	0.4397(5)	$\bf{0}$	0		
Mg(5)	1(a)	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\bf{0}$	$\bf{0}$		
Ge(1)	6(k)	0.5174(8)	0.6859(7)	1/2		
Ge(2)	3(f)	0.6420(10)	$\bf{0}$	0		
Ge(3)	3(f)	0.1730(10)	$\bf{0}$	$\mathbf 0$		

Table 6. Atom positions of $Sr₅Mg₁₉Ge₁₂^a$

a_{Space} group P62m (No. 189); the atom positions quoted from ref. 15.

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Figure 5. The unit of ideal $Sr₅Mg₁₉Ge₁₂$ based on Ho₅Ni₁₉R₂ projected on the [001] plane. Circles represent Sr atoms; medium circles represent Mg atoms and small circles stand for Ge atoms. Open circles indicate atoms at $z = 0$; shaded circles indicate atoms at $z = 1/2$ coordinate. To illustrate the linkage of trigonal prisms, those cations with same z coordinate are connected together. Also, the unit cell expanded along ab plane to show the two different fragments

that of $Sr_7Mg_{12}Ge_7$ and shared by Mg(4) atom to surround the big fragment. The charge of this phase also shows that it is a Zintl phase.

Discussion

Since $Sr_{2+x}Mg_{12-x}Ge_7$ and $Sr_{5+y}Mg_{19-y}Ge_{12}$ are all belonging to Sr_ZMg_{2-z} Ge, the close structure relationship between them is expected.

Relationship between $Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-X}Ge_{7}$ and $Sr_{5+Y}Mg_{19-Y}Ge_{12}$

From a structural point of view, these two ideal structures are built of the similar building blocks of Ge-centered trigonal prism. In $Sr₂ Mg₁₂Ge₇$, three of Ge-centered trigonal prisms are linked together to form $[SrMg_6Ge_3]$ fragments. There are two such fragments and one isolated Ge atom in origin in the unit cell. For $Sr₅Mg₁₉Ge₁₂$, there are two similar fragments but shared corners with neighboring fragment and represented as $[SrMg_3Mg_3/gGe_3]$. There is one other type of fragment which is formed by further fusing three fragments of $\left[\text{SrMg}_{6}\text{Ge}_{3}\right]$ and centered with one Mg atom, i.e., $3 \left[\text{SrMg}_2 \text{Mg}_{2/2} \text{Mg}_{1/3} \text{GeGe}_{2/2} \right]$.

It is important to determine the location of the excess Sr and determine the ranges of these nonstoichiometric phases. The structure of SrMgGe provides valuable information that suggests the positions of the extra Sr. In SrMgGe, the Sr atoms are in the common position shared by two trigonal prisms. Also, Sr is in the center of the trigonal prisms composed by 2Sr and 4Mg atoms with coordination number 6. The structures of Sr-Mg binary phases always show the Sr at the octahedral sites with six coordination number too.^{16,17} Based on the above facts, the excess Sr probably substitutes at Mg(2) position for $Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-X}Ge_7$ and Mg(4)

for $Sr_{5+V}Mg_{19-V}Ge_{12}$, respectively. Furthermore, single crystal studies of $Mg_2.5Ni_{11.5}P_7$, $Ca_2.1Ni_{11.9}P_7$ and $Ca_2.3Ni_{11.7}P_7$ ¹⁸ which all adopt $2r_2Fe_{12}P_7$ structure provide direct evidence about the above proposal. In these compounds, the occupancy refinements revealed that the excess Mg or Ca was mixed with Ni atoms to filled 3(j) position which is the same as Mg(2) position in $Sr₂Mg₁₂Ge₇$. Therefore, the excess Sr in $Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-X}Ge_7$ should be mixed with Mg atoms to fill the Mg(2) position, and the excess Sr in $Sr_{5+Y}Mg_{19-Y}Ge_{12}$ should fill the Mg(4) position and be mixed with Mg atoms too.

In principle, these two positions could be filled up completely, then the range of $Sr_{2+x}Mg_{12-x}Ge_7$ is from $Sr_{2}Mg_{12}Ge_7$ to $Sr_{5}Mg_{9}Ge_7$ (the range of Sr would be from 0.143 to 0.357 atom fraction, if the total Sr and Mg is fixed at 1), while the range of $Sr_{5+y}Mg_{19-y}Ge_{12}$ is from $Sr₅Mg₁₉Ge₁₂$ to $Sr₈Mg₁₆Ge₁₂$ (Sr fraction is ranged from 0.208 to 0.333). Apparently, there would be an overlapping range between these two.

Rxn. 535 was tried to synthesize the ideal $Sr₅Mg₁₉Ge₁₂$. The product did contain 80% desired product and 20% $Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-x}Ge_7$. The lattice constants of the major product are the smallest ones compared with other products in $Sr_{5+}y^{Mg}1g-yGe_{12}$ while those of the minor product have the largest value of the a-axis for $Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-x}Ge_7*$ Therefore, the two products might be corresponding to the two extreme cases for both phases, i.e., the phase of $Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-X}Ge_{7}$ with maximum content of Sr and the phase of $Sr^{}_{5}+\sqrt{M}g^{}_{19}-\sqrt{G}e^{}_{12}$ with minimum content of Sr coexisted in the product of rxn. 535. If that is true,
then the boundary for these two phases is at ~ 0.208 for Sr fraction. The linear relationship between the lattice constants and the Sr fraction could not be derived even when the odd lattice constants of rxn. 536 were excluded. However, the c/a ratio for both phases are very uniform with \sim 2.539 for Sr_{2+X}Mg_{12-x}Ge₇ and with \sim 3.314 for Sr_{5+y}Mg_{19-y}Ge₁₂ except for that of rxn. 535 (Table 4).

To confirm that, rxn. 548 was repeated by using new clean Sr to synthesize $Sr₅Mg₁₉Ge₁₂$. The powder pattern indicated that it was a single phase with lattice constants close to the major phase of rxn. 535 (see Table 4). Therefore, the boundary might be at 0.208 for Sr fraction.

Conclusion

In the study of mixed cation effect in Sr-Mg-Ge system, a couple of promising results have been reached. The existence of SrMg₃Ge₃ was confirmed by the powder pattern. It is believed to be related to the structure of $Rh_{4}P_{3}$ after the similarities between the experimental powder patterns and the calculated powder pattern based on the structure of $Rh_{4}P_{3}$ being revealed. In the expected structure of SrMg₃Ge₃, Ge₃⁻⁸ would would be expected and could be rationalized by the valence rule. However, the single crystal study is necessary before making any conclusion.

The existence of SrMg₂Ge₂ is still doubtful since the cell constants could not be obtained from TREOR program, although it is clear that the

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powder pattern did not contain any known binary on ternary phases of Sr-Mg-Ge. Therefore, more reactions are required to prove that.

Two nonstoichiometric phases were found in $Sr_ZMg_{2-z}Ge$, $Sr_{2+x}Mg_{12-x}Ge_7$ and $Sr_{5+y}Mg_{19-y}Ge_{12}$. The structures of both phases contain similar building blocks of Ge-centered trigonal prisms but with different aggregation types or fusing patterns. From the results, it is clear that there are some Sr:Mg ranges for both phases. Generally, the lattice constants increase as the content of Sr increases but not with a linear relationship. The boundary between these two phases might be at 0.208 for Sr fraction assuming the total mole of Sr and Mg equal to 1.

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FUTURE WORK

After the research, there are still some questions that need to be answered. First, the results of "Ca₅Sb₃S_{1/2}" are quite ambiguous. The hexagonal phase of "Ca₅Sb₃S_{1/2}" might be related to the Ca₅Pb₃ structure. Recently, in the study of La_sGe₃M (M = transition metal) in our laboratory, $La_5Ge_3Fe_{1/3}$ and $La_5Ge_3Co_{1/3}$ were found to be isostructural with Ca_5Pb_3 . Possibly, " $Ca_5Sb_3S_{1/2}$ " can exist with similarly half filled octahedral sites. To answer the question the single crystal study is necessary.

Second, the discrepancy between the calculated and observed powder patterns suggests the deviation of atom positions or a different space group between Sr^16Br^11 and Ca^16Br^1 . The confirmation needs a single crystal study too.

Third, the real structures of SrMg₃Ge₃ and SrMg₂Ge₂ have not been solved. This must be done so that more bonding information in Sr—Mg-Ge system can be obtained. The positions of excess Sr and accurate distances in $Sr_2+xMg_{12}-xGe_7$ and $Sr_{5+X}Mg_{19-x}Ge_{12}$ are needed in order to further study the bonding in these compounds.

Two other mixed cation systems, Ca-Mg—Ge and Ba-Mg-Ge, might be worth investigation since they are both isoelectronic with Sr-Mg-Ge. However, the different cation size ratios among these three might lead to unexpected results.

Mixed cation reactions demonstrated in part V here already proven to be a good way to generate new Zintl phases. The reverse direction, mixed anion reactions, might be another way to create unpredictable compounds.

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So far no physical properties of any of the synthesized compounds have been measured. Although they all satisfy simple valence rule and are expected to be insulators or semiconductors, they all show dark gray or gray appearance with a metallic luster. Therefore, the electric properties of these compounds are interesting, especially for the comparisons between M_5X_3Y and M_5X_3 which are expected to be metallic.

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APPENDIX A: CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTOR AMPLITUDES FOR KSi₃As₃

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2127 \overline{a} APPENDIX B: CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTOR AMPLITUDES FOR K_2 SiAs₂ \sim \sim $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}})$.

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APPENDIX C: CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTOR AMPLITUDES FOR $Ca₅Sb₃C1$

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APPENDIX D: CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTOR AMPLITUDES FOR BagSbjCl $\sim 10^7$

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APPENDIX F: CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTOR AMPLITUDES FOR CagBigF

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APPENDIX G: CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTOR AMPLITUDES FOR $Ba_4Sb_2.5I_0.5$

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APPENDIX H: CALCULATED AND OBSERVED STRUCTURE FACTOR AMPLITUDES FOR $Ca_{16}Sb_{11}$ $\mathcal{L}^{(1)}$.

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