

with the possible boundary types being determined by the constraint that vacancies never exist as nearest neighbours along the tunnels (Mijlhoff *et al.*, 1985; Kesson & White, 1986a). Further experiments are being carried out to investigate the effect of annealing on the growth of these domains.

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Structure of ND₄F-II

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Abstract

The crystal structure of ND₄F-II has been determined at 4.69 kbar (4.69×10^5 kPa) at room temperature [$a_{11} = 8.508$ (1), $c_{11} = 16.337$ (2) Å, $V = 1024.1$ (2) Å³, $R_{wp} = 2.91\%$ for 250 reflections]. The structure is rhombohedral, space group $R3c$, with 24 molecules per hexagonal unit cell. Like its parent phase, ND₄F-I with the hexagonal wurtzite structure, it consists of corner-sharing tetrahedral units. However, it has a structure that is topologically distinct from that of the ND₄F-I phase and that accounts for the 28% volume collapse observed at the I–II transition. The transition is accomplished by filling the empty space in the parent structure, with reductions in the volumes of the tetrahedral units of only 2.4–5.2%. The ND₄F-II phase was found to be stable down to at least 50 K, and its

thermal expansion was determined. The anisotropic compressibility of the ND₄F-I phase at room temperature is also reported.

Introduction

Under ordinary conditions of temperature and pressure NH₄F has the wurtzite structure (Zachariasen, 1927). It is useful to visualize this structure in terms of hexagonally close-packed layers of F atoms that give rise to a network of corner-sharing tetrahedra. The NH₄⁺ ions fit nicely into alternate tetrahedra, and a nearly perfect tetrahedral arrangement of N–H–F hydrogen bonds is achieved (Adrian & Feil, 1969; Morosin, 1970). The resulting structure does not fill space very efficiently, as the fraction of space filled by

the packed tetrahedra is only 1/6. This phase is known as $\text{NH}_4\text{F-I}$.*

Stevenson (1961) discovered that $\text{NH}_4\text{F-I}$ undergoes a pressure-induced phase transformation at 3.8 kbar (1 kbar = 10^5 kPa) to a phase that has 28% less molar volume. This phase is known as $\text{NH}_4\text{F-II}$. The occurrence of this phase transition was subsequently confirmed by Swenson & Tedeschi (1964) who also determined that the transition pressure is nearly independent of temperature. Such a spectacular decrease in molar volume suggests a first-order transition involving a drastic change in crystal structure. However, the structure of $\text{NH}_4\text{F-II}$ has not been determined until now despite at least three previous attempts. Morosin & Schirber (1965) obtained X-ray powder diffraction data at high pressure and suggested a tetragonal unit cell which explained their observed d spacings. Nabor, Calvert & Whalley (1969) obtained a more extensive set of X-ray powder diffraction d spacings and intensities on a sample that was pressure quenched at low temperature. These data were sufficiently complete to disprove the tetragonal cell of Morosin & Schirber but did not suggest a new model for the structure. Finally, Smith, Schirber & Morosin (1982) performed a preliminary high-pressure time-of-flight neutron diffraction experiment on a powder sample of ND_4F . Smith *et al.* generally confirmed the data of Nabor *et al.* (1969) and demonstrated the utility of the time-of-flight diffraction technique for this problem, but their data were not of sufficient quality to allow a determination of the structure.

Nabor *et al.* (1969) also discovered and named several other phases of NH_4F : $\text{NH}_4\text{F-V}$ and $\text{NH}_4\text{F-VII}$ are stacking variants of $\text{NH}_4\text{F-I}$, $\text{NH}_4\text{F-III}$ has a structure related to that of CsCl , and the structure of $\text{NH}_4\text{F-VI}$ is still unknown. Only $\text{NH}_4\text{F-I}$ and $\text{NH}_4\text{F-II}$ will be discussed further in this paper.

The crystallographic behavior of NH_4F differs from that of both the other ammonium halides and of the alkali halides (Megaw, 1973) because of the presence of strong hydrogen bonding between nitrogen and fluorine. The occurrence of these bonds results in a marked preference for tetrahedral coordination for the ammonium ion. The compound most similar to $\text{NH}_4\text{F-I}$ is water – in the form of hexagonal ice-I (Pauling, 1960).

Experimental procedure

High-pressure neutron powder diffraction data were obtained of a sample of ND_4F using the 90° detector banks of the Special Environment Powder Diffractometer (SEPD). This instrument operates at the

* As explained in the subsequent text, deuterated ammonium fluoride was used for the experimental work described in this paper. We will use the formula NH_4F for non-isotope-specific references to the ammonium fluoride compound and reserve the formula ND_4F for specific references to the deuterated form.

Intense Pulsed Neutron Source (IPNS) at Argonne National Laboratory. The diffractometer (Jorgensen & Faber, 1982) and the high-pressure technique (Worlton, Decker, Jorgensen & Kleb, 1986) have been previously described. The diffractometer was calibrated with a standard silicon sample, for which the lattice constant was taken to be 5.4307 Å. For powder diffraction work, the choice of a deuterated sample is dictated by the unfavorably high incoherent neutron-scattering cross section of the protium hydrogen isotope. The ND_4F sample was prepared by repeated recrystallization in D_2O . The high pressure was transmitted to the sample by means of helium gas, so that the pressure was always hydrostatic provided that the temperature did not fall below the freezing point of helium. Low temperatures were obtained by the use of a closed-cycle helium refrigerator. All sample handling procedures were carried out in a helium-filled glove-bag to prevent absorption of water by the extremely hygroscopic ND_4F powder; the importance of careful sample handling has been detailed by Swenson & Tedeschi (1964).

For use in subsequent Rietveld analysis, an effective incident neutron intensity *versus* wavelength spectrum valid down to d spacings of 0.8 Å was determined for the sample inside the high-pressure cell. This was accomplished by measuring the transmitted beam with a detector whose efficiency matches the detectors in the scattered flightpath. The method works because it avoids the multiple-scattering problems that would be present in any attempt to determine the incident spectrum by placing vanadium in the pressure cell.

Seven neutron powder diffraction data sets were collected using the time-of-flight method: two on $\text{ND}_4\text{F-I}$ and five on $\text{ND}_4\text{F-II}$. For indexing purposes a preliminary analysis of the $\text{ND}_4\text{F-II}$ data was made with the *TOFMANY* individual peak-fitting code (Faber & Hitterman, 1986). The data were further analyzed and refined using the Rietveld profile-analysis method as implemented in the *Generalized Crystal Structure Analysis System (GSAS)* (Larson & Von Dreele, 1986). The average for the z coordinates of all the atoms was held constant during the refinement. In the case of $\text{ND}_4\text{F-I}$, the origin was shifted to place the F atom at $z=0$. The thermal parameters were assumed to be isotropic and were constrained to be equal for all atoms of each element. Trial refinements using anisotropic thermal parameters did not produce significantly better results.

Experimental results

Stevenson (1961) and Swenson & Tedeschi (1964) both observed the transition at 3.8 kbar, while Morosin & Schirber observed it at 3.64 kbar. We observed a transition at room temperature at 4.69 (1) kbar, a pressure somewhat higher than that reported earlier.

The transition pressure of our neutron sample was subsequently redetermined on a second apparatus at Sandia, and good agreement was found with the results obtained at Argonne (4.76 kbar compared to 4.69 kbar.) The pressure calibration of the Sandia system was checked by measurement of the transition pressure of a sample of NH₄F. The transition pressure was within 2% of the result of the 1965 measurement in which the Heise gauge was standardized to a Harwood dead-weight gauge.

The lattice constants of our sample as determined by Rietveld analysis are at slight variance with those reported by Morosin & Schirber (1965). After the completion of the neutron measurements, we found that infrared spectra taken on our sample show the presence of unidentified impurities at the level of a few percent. These impurities were not detected in the neutron measurements, and we do not believe that they affect the structural results reported here. However, such a

large elevation of the transition pressure by a few percent of impurities is surprising.

Two data sets were obtained on ND₄F-I at room temperature (300 K) in the pressure cell, at ambient pressure and 4.60 kbar (just *below* the transition). These figures show the observations, the Rietveld fit to the wurtzite-structure model, and the difference between the observed and calculated profiles. The weighted-profile *R* value for this fit is 6.17%, and the reduced χ -squared value (the ratio of the observed *R* value to that expected on the basis of statistics) is 1.79. The fit for the 4.60 kbar data is of the same quality.

Four data sets were obtained on ND₄F-II at a constant pressure of 4.60 kbar and various temperatures between 300 and 50 K. Figs. 3 and 4 show the Rietveld fit to a model that will be described presently for the data obtained at 300 K and 4.69 kbar (just *above* the transition).* Again the fit is excellent. A seventh data set was obtained at 50 K upon the release

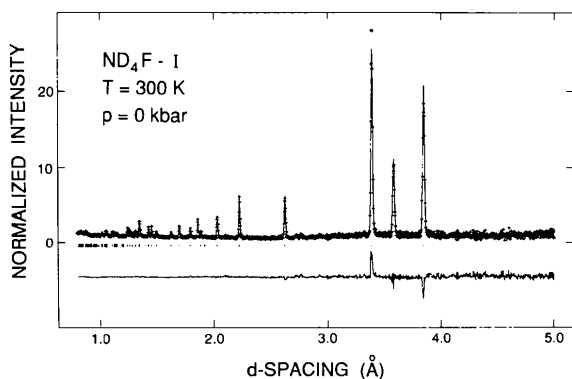


Fig. 1. Time-of-flight neutron powder diffraction data for ND₄F-I for $0.8 < d < 5.0$ Å. The crosses are the observed intensities normalized by the incident spectrum and the line is the Rietveld fit. The small vertical bars indicate the positions of allowed *hkl* reflections. The difference between the observed and calculated profiles is plotted below the diffraction pattern. The data were taken on the Special Environment Powder Diffractometer (SEPD) at the Intense Pulsed Neutron Source (IPNS) at Argonne National Laboratory.

* A list of numerical values corresponding to Figs. 1 and 2 has been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 51552 (13 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

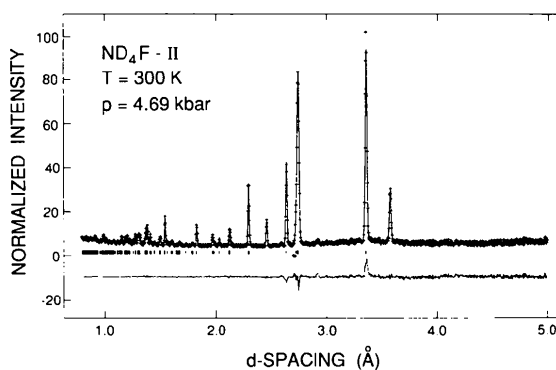


Fig. 3. Time-of-flight neutron powder diffraction data for ND₄F-II for $0.8 < d < 5.0$ Å. See caption of Fig. 1 for details.

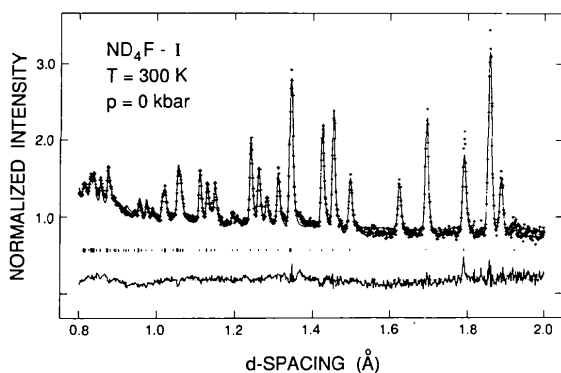


Fig. 2. Time-of-flight neutron powder diffraction data for ND₄F-I for $0.8 < d < 2.0$ Å. See caption of Fig. 1 for details.

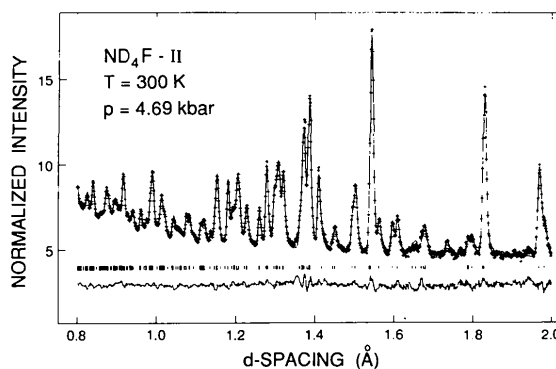


Fig. 4. Time-of-flight neutron powder diffraction data for ND₄F-II for $0.8 < d < 2.0$ Å. See caption of Fig. 1 for details.

Table 1. Crystal data for ND₄F-I

Pressure (kbar)	0		4.60 (1)	
Space group	<i>P6₃mc</i>		<i>P6₃mc</i>	
Lattice constants				
<i>a</i> ₁ (Å)	4.436 (1)		4.436 (1)	
<i>c</i> ₁ (Å)	7.158 (1)		7.090 (2)	
Cell volume (Å ³)	121.99 (4)		120.81 (5)	
Volume per formula unit (Å ³)	60.99 (2)		60.40 (3)	
Atomic positions				
N(1)	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
F(1)	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
D(1)	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
D(2)	0.4583 (3)	-0.4583	0.4572 (5)	-0.4572
		0.4214 (4)		0.4231 (6)
Isotropic <i>U</i> 's				
<i>U</i> _N (Å ²)	0.026 (1)		0.024 (2)	
<i>U</i> _F (Å ²)	0.030 (2)		0.031 (3)	
<i>U</i> _D (Å ²)	0.040 (1)		0.040 (2)	
Weighted profile <i>R</i> (%)	6.17		9.46	
Reduced χ -squared	1.79		1.28	
No. of variables	24		24	

Table 2. Bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for ND₄F-I

	0 kbar	4.60 kbar
Tetrahedral lengths		
F(1a)-F(1b)	4.401 (1)	4.373 (2)
F(1a)-F(1b)	4.436 (1)	4.436 (3)
Tetrahedral angles		
F(1a)-F(1b)-F(1b)	59.74 (1)	59.52 (2)
F(1b)-F(1a)-F(1b)	60	60
Tetrahedral volume (Å ³)	10.166 (5)	10.067 (5)
Chemical lengths (Å)		
N-F(1a)	2.672 (7)	2.666 (10)
N-F(1b)	2.717 (2)	2.707 (4)
N-D(1)	1.025 (5)	1.020 (7)
N-D(2)	1.025 (3)	1.018 (5)
D1-F(1a)	1.647 (7)	1.647 (11)
D2-F(1b)	1.692 (4)	1.690 (6)
Chemical angles (°)		
D(2)-N-D(2)	108.8 (8)	109.6 (4)
D(1)-N-D(2)	110.5 (5)	109.6 (4)
N-D(1)-F(1a)	180	180
N-D(2)-F(1b)	179.758 (1)	179.294 (6)

of pressure. The data showed that the ND₄F-II structure was maintained upon the release of pressure at low temperature, just as observed by Nabor *et al.* (1969). Upon warming to room temperature, however, the sample transformed back to the ND₄F-I structure.

Description of the structures

We confirmed the wurtzite structure for ND₄F-I, with *a*₁ = 4.436 (1) and *c*₁ = 7.158 (1) Å. [Morosin & Schirber observed *a*₁ = 4.4378 (4) and *c*₁ = 7.1635 (4) Å.] Structural data for this phase are given in Table 4 for both 0 and 4.60 kbar at 300 K. The derived bond lengths and angles are given in Table 2. [The total number of refined variables exceeds the number given in Tables 1 and 3 because it is necessary to refine certain 'instrumental' variables (*e.g.*, scale factors, background and peak-width parameters) that are of no structural interest.]

Table 2 gives two types of data: 'tetrahedral' and 'chemical.' Tetrahedral lengths and angles refer to the size and shape of the corner-sharing fluorine tetrahedra and have geometrical significance only. Chemical lengths and angles describe the bonding of atoms within each tetrahedron. Fig. 5 shows the layers of tetrahedra which constitute the structure, and Fig. 6 shows two tetrahedra of the structure in detail and provides a key to Table 2. The structural data cannot be compared directly with those of Adrian & Feil (1969) because their study was performed at 77 K; however, the agreement with their results seems reasonable. For our sample, the compressibility of the ND₄F-I phase is anisotropic with nearly all of the compression along the crystallographic *c* axis. As explained earlier, this discrepancy with earlier measurements (Morosin, 1970) may be the result of impurities.

We found that ND₄F-II crystallizes in the non-centrosymmetric group *R3c*, with 24 molecules per hexagonal unit cell. The unit cell is large, with *a*₁₁ = 8.508 (1) and *c*₁₁ = 16.337 (2) Å. Although the correspondences 2*a*₁ → *a*₁₁ and 3*c*₁ → *c*₁₁ hold between the lattice constants of the two phases, the 28% volume collapse is accomplished with compression almost entirely along the *c* axis. Hence, the structure is

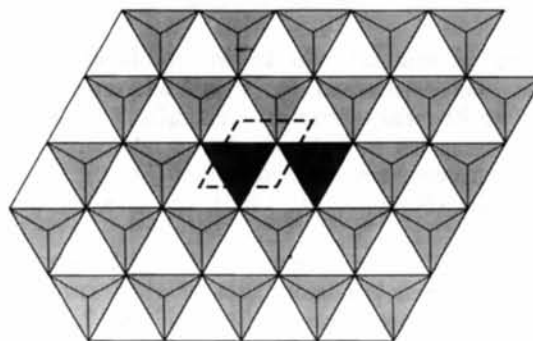


Fig. 5. (0001)-Projection of a single layer of the ND₄F-I structure. The dotted line indicates a unit cell, and the darker tetrahedra are shown in the next figure.

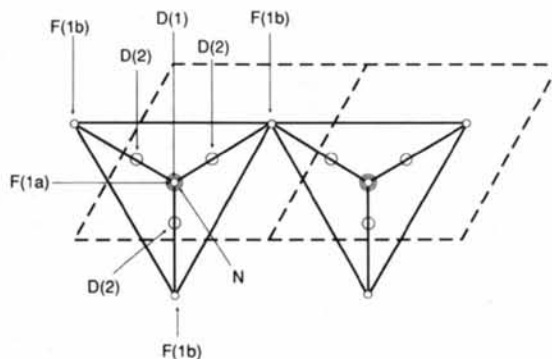


Fig. 6. Detail of the ND₄F-I structure in (0001)-projection. Two unit cells containing corner-linked tetrahedra are shown.

Table 3. Crystal data for ND₄F-II

Space group	R3c		
Lattice constants			
a_{II} (Å)	8.508 (1)		
c_{II} (Å)	16.337 (2)		
Cell volume (Å ³)	1024.1 (2)		
Volume per formula unit (Å ³)	42.672 (8)		
Atomic positions			
	x	y	z
N(1)	↓	↓	0.5738 (3)
N(2)	0.7013 (4)	0.7863 (4)	0.5143 (2)
F(1)	↓	↓	0.7512 (3)
F(2)	0.4521 (6)	0.4249 (8)	0.4934 (2)
D(1)	↓	↓	0.6362 (3)
D(2)	0.5777 (7)	0.3672 (6)	0.5517 (2)
D(3)	0.6425 (6)	0.8632 (6)	0.5137 (3)
D(4)	0.6130 (7)	0.6628 (8)	0.4992 (3)
D(5)	0.8155 (5)	0.8532 (6)	0.4744 (3)
D(6)	0.7444 (5)	0.7753 (6)	0.5699 (3)
Isotropic U 's			
U_N (Å ²)	0.0169 (5)		
U_F (Å ²)	0.0092 (9)		
U_D (Å ²)	0.0246 (7)		
Weighted profile R (%)	2.91		
Reduced χ -squared	2.45		
No. of variables	43		

completely reorganized and cannot be considered as a multicell of the ambient phase. Indeed, the structural significance of these metric relationships was recognized only after the structure of ND₄F-II was solved.

Once the unit cell was known, the location of the atoms was determined by a trial-and-error method using the Rietveld refinement technique. The structural details are given in Table 3. As an additional check, calculated intensities were compared with the available X-ray data (Nabor *et al.*, 1969), and good agreement was found.

Like ND₄F-I, the structure of ND₄F-II consists of layers of fluorine tetrahedra each of which contains an ND₄⁺ ion. A single layer is shown in Fig. 7, and Fig. 8 shows the structure in detail. Two kinds of tetrahedra are present in each layer; one tetrahedron sits on a threefold axis and has that symmetry, while the other is nonsymmetric. The two tetrahedra occur in the structure in the ratio 1:3. A comparison of Figs. 5 and 7 shows that the main difference between the structure of the layers in the two phases is that a considerable orientational distortion exists in the ND₄F-II layers as compared with those of ND₄F-I. However, this distortion is accompanied by almost no change in the basal plane area per tetrahedron.

Three distinct structural features with threefold symmetry are found in the unit cell. One of these features (*A* in Fig. 7) is the axis of the threefold tetrahedron. The second (*B*) is a hole surrounded by edges of nonsymmetric tetrahedra. The third (*C*) is the vertex formed by the junction of three nonsymmetric tetrahedra. In three dimensions, these features are stacked alternately along the threefold axis.

The principal difference between the three-dimensional structures of NH₄F-I and NH₄F-II is the nature of the interlayer connection. In NH₄F-II, the nonsymmetric tetrahedra are connected by corner-shared fluorine atoms to layers directly above them, just as in ND₄F-I. However, the threefold tetrahedra are connected not to the layer directly above, but to the next higher layer, *via* the threefold hole in the intervening layer. This unusual connectivity is accompanied by a 30% decrease of the c lattice constant. Much more efficient use of space is achieved, while still allowing tetrahedral coordination of the ND₄⁺ ions.

The tetrahedral lengths and angles for ND₄F-II are given in Table 4. The entries in this table do not represent chemical bonds, but rather show the geometrical deviation of the tetrahedra from the ideal. The distortion is extremely large for both types of tetrahedra but does not necessarily have chemical significance. In the high-pressure structure, the tetrahedral volumes are 2.4–5.2% smaller than that of ND₄F-I at 4.69 kbar (Table 2). This shows directly that

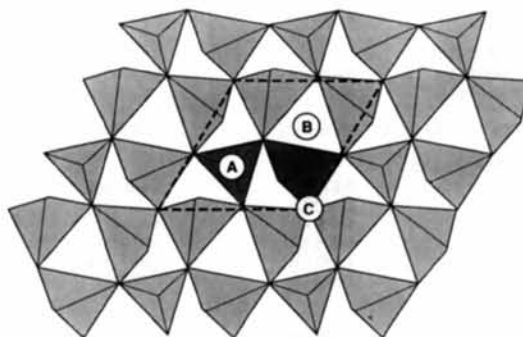


Fig. 7. (0001)-Projection of a single layer of the ND₄F-II structure. Two types of tetrahedra are present. *A*, *B* and *C* denote structural features with threefold symmetry. The dotted line indicates a unit cell, and the darker tetrahedra are shown in the next figure.

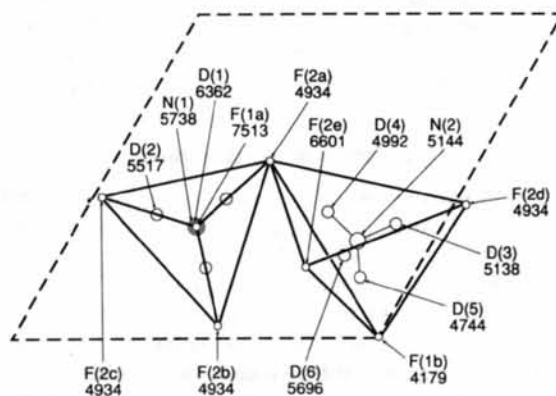


Fig. 8. Detail of the ND₄F-II structure in (0001)-projection. A single unit cell containing two corner-linked tetrahedra is shown. The numbers below the atom labels are the z coordinates of the atoms in units of $c/10\,000$.

Table 4. Tetrahedral lengths (Å) and angles (°) for ND₄F-II

Threefold tetrahedron			
F(1a)–F(2a)	4.807 (6)	F(1a)–F(2a)–F(2b)	65.35 (5)
F(2a)–F(2b)	4.010 (7)	F(2a)–F(1a)–F(2b)	49.31 (10)
		F(2a)–F(2b)–F(2c)	60
Volume (Å ³)	9.539		
Irregular tetrahedron			
F(1b)–F(2a)	4.938 (5)	F(2a)–F(2e)–F(1b)	71.73
F(1b)–F(2d)	3.935 (5)	F(2e)–F(1b)–F(2a)	46.45 (5)
F(1b)–F(2e)	4.584 (7)	F(1b)–F(2a)–F(2e)	61.82 (9)
F(2a)–F(2d)	4.690 (7)	F(2d)–F(2e)–F(1b)	49.06
F(2a)–F(2e)	3.769 (2)	F(2e)–F(1b)–F(2d)	69.29 (12)
F(2d)–F(2e)	4.872 (6)	F(1b)–F(2d)–F(2e)	61.65 (14)
		F(2d)–F(2e)–F(2a)	64.26
		F(2e)–F(2a)–F(2d)	69.36 (16)
		F(2a)–F(2d)–F(2e)	46.38 (4)
		F(2d)–F(2a)–F(1b)	44.16
		F(2a)–F(1b)–F(2d)	62.62 (11)
		F(1b)–F(2d)–F(2a)	69.22 (12)
Volume (Å ³)	9.816		

Table 5. Chemical bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for ND₄F-II

Threefold tetrahedron			
N(1)–F(1)	2.899 (7)	N(1)–D(1)–F(1)	180
N(1)–F(2)	2.622 (5)	N(1)–D(2)–F(2)	166.4 (5)
N(1)–D(1)	1.019 (6)	D(2)–N(1)–D(2)	107.8 (4)
N(1)–D(2)	1.002 (4)	D(1)–N(1)–D(2)	111.1 (4)
D(1)–F(1)	1.880 (9)		
D(1)–F(2)	1.677 (6)		
Irregular tetrahedron			
N(2)–F(2d)	2.770 (6)	N(2)–D(3)–F(2d)	166.4 (4)
N(2)–F(2a)	2.748 (6)	N(2)–D(4)–F(2a)	168.0 (5)
N(2)–F(1b)	2.761 (5)	N(2)–D(5)–F(1b)	168.1 (5)
N(2)–F(2e)	2.713 (5)	N(2)–D(6)–F(2e)	164.5 (4)
N(2)–D(3)	1.003 (5)	D(3)–N(2)–D(4)	109.6 (4)
N(2)–D(4)	0.970 (6)	D(3)–N(2)–D(5)	105.3 (4)
N(2)–D(5)	1.068 (5)	D(3)–N(2)–D(6)	113.4 (5)
N(2)–D(6)	1.000 (5)	D(4)–N(2)–D(5)	115.2 (5)
D(3)–F(2d)	1.785 (7)	D(4)–N(2)–D(6)	104.5 (5)
D(4)–F(2a)	1.791 (6)	D(5)–N(2)–D(6)	109.0 (4)
D(5)–F(1b)	1.707 (6)		
D(6)–F(2e)	1.736 (6)		

most of the observed volume change at the transition is at the expense of empty space.

The chemical lengths and angles for ND₄F-II are given in Table 5. The coordination of the D atoms around their respective N atoms remains essentially tetrahedral despite the large geometric distortions. In comparison to ND₄F-I, the N–D bonds are about the same, the D–F bonds are about 5% longer, and the N–D–F angles are bent by a little over 10°. The net result of the bond bending is that the lengths of the N–D–F bonds in ND₄F-II are 0–3.7% longer than in ND₄F-I. The short N(2)–D(4) bond length of 0.970 Å is somewhat less than that usually encountered in ammonium compounds. This should not cast doubt on the correctness of the structure in view of the reasonable values obtained for the remaining distances.

Table 6 shows the lattice constants and thermal factors for ND₄F-II at various temperatures. The linear thermal-expansion coefficients were calculated from the data at 100 K and above. We obtained the values $\alpha_a = 22 (5) \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$ and $\alpha_c = 24 (3) \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$, so

Table 6. Temperature dependence of lattice constants and thermal factors of ND₄F-II

P (kbar)	T (K)	a ₁₁ (Å)	c ₁₁ (Å)	U _N (Å ²)	U _F (Å ²)	U _D (Å ²)
4.69	300	8.508 (8)	16.337 (2)	0.0169 (5)	0.0092 (9)	0.0247 (7)
4.69	200	8.486 (1)	16.293 (2)	0.0096 (5)	0.0063 (10)	0.0184 (7)
4.69	100	8.471 (1)	16.259 (2)	0.0049 (4)	0.0028 (9)	0.0138 (7)
4.69	50	8.469 (1)	16.246 (2)	0.0022 (5)	–0.0014 (8)	0.0103 (6)
0.0	50	8.508 (1)	16.297 (2)	0.0022 (4)	0.0011 (7)	0.0111 (6)

that the thermal expansion is isotropic within experimental error. The thermal factors were used to calculate a Debye temperature for each atom type under the crude assumption that each element can be treated independently. We obtained the values 386 (5), 392 (12) and 860 (12) K for the N, F and D atoms, respectively. Because of the limited *d* range (> 0.8 Å) and the primitive model used for the Debye temperatures, the numbers have a comparative significance only.

To summarize, our model for the structure of ND₄F-II has a novel type of tetrahedral packing which satisfactorily explains the 28% volume collapse observed at the I–II transition of ND₄F. The model exhibits reasonable values for the bond lengths, bond angles, thermal expansions and Debye temperatures.

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Crystal Symmetry and Coherent Twin Structure of Calcium Zirconate

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Abstract

CaZrO_3 has been investigated at room temperature using a variety of electron microscopy techniques. Conventional transmission electron microscopy and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy revealed a characteristic coherent twin structure in CaZrO_3 . In order to interpret the occurrence of the twin structure and the associated crystallography, the cell parameters and space-group symmetry of CaZrO_3 have been determined independently using convergent-beam electron diffraction. The results are consistent with those previously obtained by neutron diffraction. Both the crystal symmetry and lattice-parameter data have been used to explain the details of the twin structure in CaZrO_3 .

Introduction

CaZrO_3 is a member of the large family of ABO_3 perovskite compounds. An ideal perovskite structure contains one formula unit and has a primitive cubic unit cell as shown in Fig. 1. Considerable attention has been given to the symmetry aspects of ABO_3 compounds and their close relationship with many engineering properties of these materials.

Structural studies of ABO_3 compounds are usually hampered by the difficulty of growing defect-free large single crystals. Furthermore, several ABO_3 compounds go through displacive and/or disorder-order phase transitions during cooling giving rise to domain structures. Therefore, there have been continual refinements of the crystal structure data of several ABO_3 compounds. (Tanaka, Saito & Tsuzuki, 1982; Vegas, Vallet-Regi, Gonzalez-Calbet & Alario-Franco, 1986).

CaZrO_3 , in particular, has been the focus of only a small number of investigations (see Table 1). The first major study of ABO_3 compounds was conducted by Megaw (1946). She deduced from her powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) results that CaZrO_3 possessed orthorhombic symmetry at room temperature with cell parameters $a = 1.1152$, $b = 0.7994$ and $c = 1.1492$ nm. The second major study was carried out by Coughanour, Roth, Marzullo & Sennett (1955) using powder XRD. They determined the room-temperature form of CaZrO_3 to be orthorhombic with lattice parameters $a = 0.5587$, $b = 0.8008$ and $c = 0.5758$ nm. In addition, they mentioned that the CaTiO_3 (and CaZrO_3)-type orthorhombic modification of ABO_3 compounds may not possess space group $Pcmn$, based upon their XRD intensity measurements. The most recent study is attributed to Koopmans, Van de Velde & Gellings (1983). They resorted to powder neutron diffraction for crystal structure and lattice-parameter determination of CaZrO_3 and CaTiO_3 . They preferred the orthorhombic space group $Pcmn$ over $Pc2_1a$ and $Amm2$, for both CaZrO_3 and CaTiO_3 . The unit-cell parameters for CaZrO_3 were determined as:

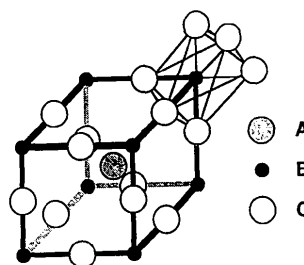


Fig. 1. Ideal perovskite structure of ABO_3 -type compounds. Only one oxygen octahedron is emphasized.