

Disordered LiZnVO₄ with a phenacite structure

Mohamed Azrou, ^{a*} Brahim Elouadi ^b and Lahcen El Ammari ^c

^aEquipe Sciences des Matériaux, Faculté des Sciences et Techniques Errachidia, Morocco, ^bLaboratoire d'Elaboration, Analyse Chimique et Ingénierie, Département de Chimie, Université de La Rochelle, Avenue Marillac, 17042 La Rochelle Cedex 01, France, and ^cLaboratoire de Chimie du Solide Appliquée, Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Avenue Ibn Battouta, BP 1014, Rabat, Morocco
Correspondence e-mail: med.azrou@gmail.com

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Key indicators: single-crystal X-ray study; $T = 298$ K; mean $\sigma(V-O) = 0.001$ Å; disorder in main residue; R factor = 0.024; wR factor = 0.055; data-to-parameter ratio = 23.5.

Single crystals of lithium zinc vanadate, LiZnVO₄, were grown by the flux method. The structural type of this vanadate is characterized by a three-dimensional arrangement of tetrahedra sharing apices in an LiZnVO₄ network. This arrangement contains three different tetrahedra, namely one [VO₄] and two disordered mixed-site [Li/ZnO₄] tetrahedra. The resulting lattice gives rise to hexagonal channels running along the [0001] direction. Both sites in the mixed-site [Li/ZnO₄] tetrahedra are occupied by a statistical mixture of lithium and zinc with a 1:1 ratio. Therefore, LiZnVO₄ appears to be the first vanadate known to crystallize with a disordered phenacite structure. Moreover, the resulting values of calculated bond valences ($Li = 1.083$, $Zn = 2.062$ and $V = 5.185$) tend to confirm the structural model.

Related literature

For related structural studies, see: Hartmann (1989); Capsoni *et al.* (2006); Zachariasen (1971). For compounds with the same structural type, see: Bu *et al.* (1996); Elammari & Elouadi (1989); Elouadi & Elammari (1990); Jensen *et al.* (1998). For bond-valence calculations, see: Brown & Altermatt (1985).

Experimental

Crystal data

LiZnVO ₄	$Z = 18$
$M_r = 187.25$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Trigonal, $R\bar{3}$	$\mu = 9.06$ mm ⁻¹
$a = 14.107$ (3) Å	$T = 298$ K
$c = 9.441$ (2) Å	$0.14 \times 0.12 \times 0.10$ mm
$V = 1627.1$ (6) Å ³	

Data collection

Bruker X8 APEXII CCD area-detector diffractometer	9709 measured reflections
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 2003)	1622 independent reflections
$T_{\min} = 0.292$, $T_{\max} = 0.404$	1213 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.070$

Refinement

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.024$	69 parameters
$wR(F^2) = 0.055$	$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.51$ e Å ⁻³
$S = 1.04$	$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.53$ e Å ⁻³
1622 reflections	

Data collection: APEX2 (Bruker, 2005); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2005); data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 2008); molecular graphics: ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997) and PLATON (Spek, 2009); software used to prepare material for publication: WinGX (Farrugia, 1999).

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Supplementary data and figures for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: FJ2291).

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supplementary materials

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Comment

Our particular interest here is to investigate the form nature of the crystallized phase and determine the structural type that could result from the association of small size cations likely to enter under normal conditions of pressure and temperature, tetrahedral cavities of oxides like in phenacite Be₂SiO₄ network (Hartmann, 1989; Zachariasen, 1971). The compounds currently known to crystallize with such structural type are LiZnPO₄ (Bu *et al.*, 1996; Elammari & Elouadi, 1989; Elouadi & Elammari, 1990) and LiZnAsO₄ (Jensen *et al.*, 1998).

The structural type of the title compound, related to the phenacite structure, could be described (Fig.1) as three dimensional arrangement of [MO₄] tetrahedra (M= Li/Zn or V) sharing apices. The arrangement concerns three different types of tetrahedra [VO₄] and two disordered sites [Li/ZnO₄] which give rise to an overall disordered phenacite structure. When viewed along the c axis, the packing of [MO₄] tetrahedra results in two types of tunnels: large hexagonal tunnels surrounded by six lozenge like channels (rings of four tetrahedra). Similar description has recently been reported by Capsoni *et al.* (2006) using a powder x-ray diffraction data of LiZnVO₄. However, a careful observation of the two models can highlight the difference between our two results. Indeed, in addition to the difference of the lengths of chemical bonds, the occupancy rate of cationic Wyckoff sites is different. Thus, in our model, there is only a disorder between Li and Zn with a statistical distribution of both ions on the two crystallographic sites, while the third site is only occupied by vanadium cation. Furthermore, A bond-valence analysis (Li <1.083>, Zn<2.062> and <V<5.185>) based on the empirical formula proposed by Brown & Altermatt (1985) is in favor of this model . The cationic disorder mentioned by Capsoni *et al.* could be seen as due to preparation methods. The powder used was slowly cooled from 853 K after 24 h sintering. Whereas, the growth of our crystal, from a flux melted at 1073 K and slowly cooled with a rate of 5 K h⁻¹. Thus the resulting sintering of our crystal was much longer. A more ordered system is then to be expected.

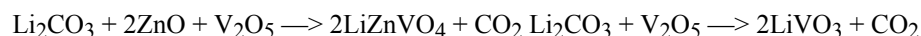
When such structural type is seen as a close packing of oxygen anions, it appears as a lacunar hexagonal close packing of O²⁻ ions. Fig.2 shows a typical oxygen layer and the elevation of such oxygen plans as successively stacked (ABAB···) along [0001]. The coordination sphere of all cations is of tetrahedral type. The analysis of oxygen environment shows a regular triangular cavity for O²⁻ anions with an average edge length of <V—Li/Zn> = 3.240 Å.

In the case of the present form of LiZnVO₄, the disordered phenacite structure was attributed to the existence of a mixed tetrahedral site [Li/ZnO₄] occupied by both Li and Zn. The resulting space group is R-3. LiZnVO₄ is probably the first vanadate known to crystallize with a disordered phenacite structure.

Experimental

Prior to the crystal growth, pulverulent samples of the compound LiZnVO₄ and the flux LiVO₃ are synthesized by the regular solid state reaction according to the following reactions:

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Single crystal of the monovanadate LiZnVO_4 were grown from a bath of equimolar mixture of freshly prepared powders of LiZnVO_4 and LiVO_3 . The starting mixture was thoroughly ground before to be melted at 1073 K in a platinum crucible and slowly cooled with a rate of 5 K h⁻¹ to 773 K. The furnace was then switched off and the whole system naturally cooled down to room temperature. Single crystals were collected from the crucible after dissolving the flux in warmed water.

Figures

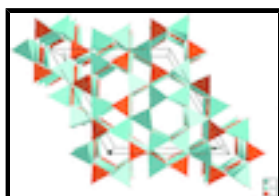


Fig. 1. : A three-dimensional view of LiZnVO_4 crystal structure, showing tunnels running along the c axis.

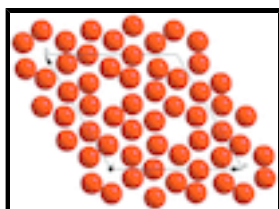


Fig. 2. : Partial projection of the crystal structure on (0 0 1), showing lacunar hexagonal close packing of O^{2-} ions.

lithium zinc vanadate

Crystal data

LiZnVO_4

$M_r = 187.25$

Trigonal, $R\bar{3}$

Hall symbol: -R 3

$a = 14.107(3) \text{ \AA}$

$c = 9.441(2) \text{ \AA}$

$V = 1627.1(6) \text{ \AA}^3$

$Z = 18$

$F(000) = 1584$

$D_x = 3.440 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$

Mo $K\alpha$ radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$

Cell parameters from 9709 reflections

$\theta = 10\text{--}30^\circ$

$\mu = 9.06 \text{ mm}^{-1}$

$T = 298 \text{ K}$

Prism, pale yellow

$0.14 \times 0.12 \times 0.10 \text{ mm}$

Data collection

Bruker X8 APEXII CCD area-detector diffractometer

Radiation source: fine-focus sealed tube graphite

φ and ω scans

Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 2003)

$T_{\min} = 0.292$, $T_{\max} = 0.404$

9709 measured reflections

1622 independent reflections

1213 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.070$

$\theta_{\max} = 35.2^\circ$, $\theta_{\min} = 4.0^\circ$

$h = -22 \rightarrow 22$

$k = -22 \rightarrow 22$

$l = -15 \rightarrow 15$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2	Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods
Least-squares matrix: full	Secondary atom site location: difference Fourier map
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.024$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0124P)^2 + 2.5069P]$
$wR(F^2) = 0.055$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
$S = 1.04$	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} = 0.001$
1622 reflections	$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.51 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
69 parameters	$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.53 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
0 restraints	Extinction correction: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 2008), $F_c^* = kF_c[1+0.001xF_c^2\lambda^3/\sin(2\theta)]^{-1/4}$
	Extinction coefficient: 0.0088 (2)

Special details

Geometry. All esds (except the esd in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell esds are taken into account individually in the estimation of esds in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between esds in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell esds is used for estimating esds involving l.s. planes.

Refinement. Refinement on F^2 for ALL reflections except for 0 with very negative F^2 or flagged by the user for potential systematic errors. Weighted R -factors wR and all goodnesses of fit S are based on F^2 , conventional R -factors R are based on F , with F set to zero for negative F^2 . The observed criterion of $F^2 > \sigma(F^2)$ is used only for calculating $-R$ -factor-obs etc. and is not relevant to the choice of reflections for refinement. R -factors based on F^2 are statistically about twice as large as those based on F , and R -factors based on ALL data will be even larger.

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

	x	y	z	$U_{\text{iso}}^*/U_{\text{eq}}$	Occ. (<1)
V1	0.454581 (17)	0.138171 (16)	0.08352 (2)	0.00790 (7)	
Zn1	0.45273 (2)	0.14015 (2)	-0.24915 (3)	0.01132 (7)	0.50
Li1	0.45273 (2)	0.14015 (2)	-0.24915 (3)	0.01132 (7)	0.50
Zn2	0.64622 (2)	0.12175 (3)	0.24882 (3)	0.01150 (7)	0.50
Li2	0.64622 (2)	0.12175 (3)	0.24882 (3)	0.01150 (7)	0.50
O1	0.34102 (7)	0.01142 (7)	0.08427 (11)	0.01335 (17)	
O2	0.56475 (8)	0.11882 (9)	0.08215 (10)	0.01353 (17)	
O3	0.45578 (8)	0.20780 (8)	-0.06565 (10)	0.01419 (18)	
O4	0.45936 (8)	0.20728 (8)	0.23409 (10)	0.01377 (17)	

Atomic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

	U^{11}	U^{22}	U^{33}	U^{12}	U^{13}	U^{23}
V1	0.00918 (10)	0.00812 (10)	0.00692 (9)	0.00472 (8)	-0.00012 (6)	-0.00004 (6)
Zn1	0.01190 (12)	0.01217 (13)	0.01038 (12)	0.00637 (10)	0.00052 (9)	0.00069 (9)
Li1	0.01190 (12)	0.01217 (13)	0.01038 (12)	0.00637 (10)	0.00052 (9)	0.00069 (9)

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Zn2	0.01159 (13)	0.01368 (13)	0.01016 (12)	0.00701 (10)	0.00005 (9)	0.00037 (9)
Li2	0.01159 (13)	0.01368 (13)	0.01016 (12)	0.00701 (10)	0.00005 (9)	0.00037 (9)
O1	0.0109 (4)	0.0102 (4)	0.0180 (4)	0.0046 (3)	-0.0010 (3)	0.0000 (3)
O2	0.0121 (4)	0.0198 (4)	0.0115 (3)	0.0101 (3)	-0.0005 (3)	-0.0005 (3)
O3	0.0219 (5)	0.0120 (4)	0.0103 (3)	0.0096 (3)	-0.0007 (3)	0.0009 (3)
O4	0.0209 (4)	0.0125 (4)	0.0104 (4)	0.0102 (4)	0.0003 (3)	-0.0004 (3)

Geometric parameters (Å, °)

V1—O1	1.7027 (10)	Zn2—O2	1.9368 (10)
V1—O4	1.7059 (10)	Zn2—O4 ^x	1.9495 (10)
V1—O2	1.7071 (10)	Zn2—O4 ^{xi}	1.9676 (11)
V1—O3	1.7123 (10)	Zn2—Li1 ^{iv}	3.1441 (8)
V1—Li2 ⁱ	3.1568 (7)	Zn2—Zn1 ^{iv}	3.1441 (8)
V1—Li1 ⁱⁱ	3.1719 (8)	Zn2—Li1 ^{viii}	3.2314 (8)
V1—Li2 ⁱⁱⁱ	3.2409 (8)	Zn2—Li2 ⁱ	3.2675 (7)
V1—Li1 ^{iv}	3.2523 (6)	Zn2—Li2 ^x	3.2676 (7)
V1—Li2 ^v	3.2978 (7)	O1—Li2 ⁱⁱⁱ	1.9294 (11)
V1—Li1 ^{vi}	3.3232 (7)	O1—Zn2 ⁱⁱⁱ	1.9294 (11)
Zn1—O2 ^{vi}	1.9410 (10)	O1—Zn1 ⁱⁱ	1.9442 (11)
Zn1—O1 ^{vii}	1.9441 (11)	O1—Li1 ⁱⁱ	1.9442 (11)
Zn1—O3 ^{iv}	1.9588 (11)	O2—Li1 ^{iv}	1.9411 (10)
Zn1—O3	1.9679 (11)	O2—Zn1 ^{iv}	1.9411 (10)
Zn1—Zn2 ^{vi}	3.1441 (8)	O3—Li1 ^{vi}	1.9587 (11)
Zn1—Li2 ^{vi}	3.1441 (8)	O3—Zn1 ^{vi}	1.9587 (11)
Zn1—Li2 ^{viii}	3.2314 (8)	O4—Li2 ⁱ	1.9496 (10)
Zn1—Li1 ^{vi}	3.2765 (7)	O4—Zn2 ⁱ	1.9496 (10)
Zn1—Li1 ^{iv}	3.2766 (7)	O4—Li2 ^v	1.9676 (11)
Zn2—O1 ^{ix}	1.9294 (11)	O4—Zn2 ^v	1.9676 (11)
O1—V1—O4	110.14 (5)	O2 ^{vi} —Zn1—O3	115.71 (4)
O1—V1—O2	106.61 (5)	O1 ^{vii} —Zn1—O3	106.57 (4)
O4—V1—O2	108.58 (5)	O3 ^{iv} —Zn1—O3	110.08 (5)
O1—V1—O3	109.88 (5)	O1 ^{ix} —Zn2—O2	111.98 (5)
O4—V1—O3	111.80 (5)	O1 ^{ix} —Zn2—O4 ^x	108.76 (4)
O2—V1—O3	109.69 (5)	O2—Zn2—O4 ^x	117.26 (4)
O2 ^{vi} —Zn1—O1 ^{vii}	109.39 (5)	O1 ^{ix} —Zn2—O4 ^{xi}	102.55 (4)
O2 ^{vi} —Zn1—O3 ^{iv}	106.12 (4)	O2—Zn2—O4 ^{xi}	107.30 (4)
O1 ^{vii} —Zn1—O3 ^{iv}	108.84 (4)	O4 ^x —Zn2—O4 ^{xi}	107.87 (5)

Symmetry codes: (i) $y+1/3, -x+y+2/3, -z+2/3$; (ii) $-x+y+2/3, -x+1/3, z+1/3$; (iii) $x-y-1/3, x-2/3, -z+1/3$; (iv) $x-y+1/3, x-1/3, -z-1/3$; (v) $-x+y+1, -x+1, z$; (vi) $y+1/3, -x+y+2/3, -z-1/3$; (vii) $-y+1/3, x-y-1/3, z-1/3$; (viii) $-x+1, -y, -z$; (ix) $y+2/3, -x+y+1/3, -z+1/3$; (x) $x-y+1/3, x-1/3, -z+2/3$; (xi) $-y+1, x-y, z$.

Fig. 1

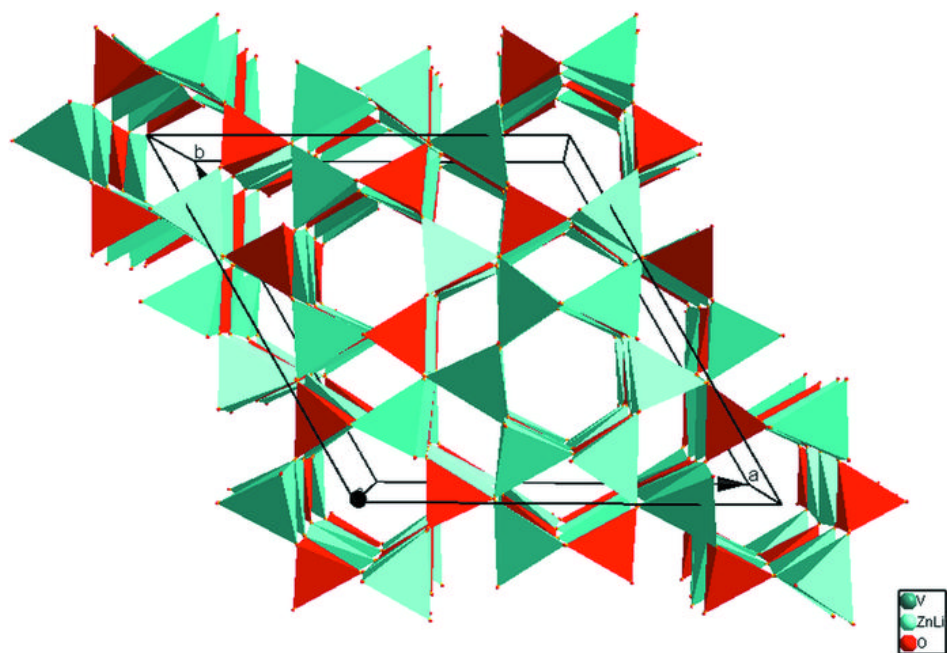


Fig. 2

