1.72 and 2.33 Å; the lower limit is typical of those occurring in  $MoO_4$  tetrahedra but it has been reported for  $MoO_6$  octahedra in the structure of sodium dimolybdate (Lindquist, 1950*a*).

Inter-cation distances (Table 4, Fig. 3a) also show wide variation, particularly for the edge-sharing octahedra. Distances between cations in octahedra which share corners either within a chain, e.g. Co(1)-Mo(1), Mo(2)-Co(2) or between chains, e.g. Mo(1)-Co(2) and Co(1)-Mo(2), are close to those found in the complex molybdenum oxides, Mo<sub>8</sub>O<sub>23</sub> and Mo<sub>9</sub>O<sub>26</sub> (Magnéli, 1948), though less than those reported in the complex ions  $(Mo_7O_{24})^{6-}$  and  $(Mo_8O_{26})^{4-}$  (Lindquist, 1950b). On the other hand, the cation distances for the edgesharing octahedra show a very wide range of distances. Extreme values arise between like cations: e.g. Mo(2)-Mo(2) = 3.80 Å compared with Co(1)-Co(2) =3.07 Å. Other intercation distances compare favorably with those in the complex para- and tetra-molybdate ions.

Why these displacements of the cations from the centers of their octahedra occur is not known, but a study of the magnetic and electrical properties of  $CoMoO_4$  might possibly provide pertinent information. There are very few well-refined complex oxide structures reported in the literature, and we believe that the displacements found here are probably more common than one would suspect on the basis of the classic oxide structures, many of which are sorely in need of redetermination or refinement.

It has been reported (Smith, 1962) that nickel molybdate is isomorphous with cobalt molybdate and simple attempts have been made to synthesize the other molybdates of small cations such as Fe, Mg, Mn, and Zn. The X-ray powder photographs of these molybdates all gave exceedingly complex patterns all differing from each other. As the valency state of the iron and manganese in the starting materials was uncertain, the composition of the iron and manganese compounds is in doubt.

However, Young (1964) reports that at ambient pressures  $MnMoO_4$  and  $MgMoO_4$  give similar diffraction patterns but that  $ZnMoO_4$  and  $FeMoO_4$  each give unique patterns. It is also reported (Young & Schwartz, 1963) that when the small-cation molybdates are synthesized at high pressures and temperatures the stable structure is of the wolframite type with cell parameters, in each case, very close to those of the tungstate analogues; but after prolonged heating at 600° C reversion takes place to their respective structures at ordinary pressures.

The early calculations were made on a DEUCE computer, using programs written by Dr Rollett, and on an Elliott 803. Thanks are due to Mr D. J. Smith, who made the calculations, for his structure-factor program for the Elliott machine.

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# Short Communications

Contributions intended for publication under this heading should be expressly so marked; they should not exceed about 1000 words; they should be forwarded in the usual way to the appropriate Co-editor; they will be published as speedily as possible. Publication will be quicker if the contributions are without illustrations.

Acta Cryst. (1965). 19, 275

Stannides and plumbides of Sc, Y, La and Ce with D8<sub>8</sub> structure. By W. JEITSCHKO and E. PARTHÉ, Metallurgy Department, Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.

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### Introduction

In the past not much attention has been paid to the alloy formation between scandium, yttrium or rare earth elements and tin or lead as second components. AB<sub>3</sub> compounds with  $Cu_3Au$  structure type were the only compounds reported which have been analyzed structurally. Partial phase diagrams have been reported for La-Pb (Canneri, 1931) and Ce-Pb (Vogel & Heumann, 1943) based mostly on metallographic and thermal analysis studies. These two diagrams show compounds with the composition  $(RE)_2Pb$  (RE = rare earth element) as the only compound between 50 and 100 at. % RE. However, X-ray studies in related systems demonstrated that phases with composition  $(RE)_2X_3$  occur with silicides and germanides of scandium, yttrium and rare earth elements (Parthé, 1960; Arbuckle & Parthé, 1962; Baenziger & Hegenbarth, 1964) and the formation of homolog stannides and plumbides appeared likely. In view of this disagreement between structural studies on silicides and germanides and the result of the phase diagram studies of lead systems, an X-ray investigation of alloys with composition (Sc, Y, La, Ce)<sub>5</sub>(Sn, Pb)<sub>3</sub> seemed to be of interest.

### Sample preparation

The starting materials used were 99.9% cerium, 99.9% lanthanum, 99 % scandium, 99.99 % lead and 99.9 % tin. The alloy specimens were prepared by arc melting stoichiometric mixtures of the metals. On first sight this method might not seem appropriate since the melting points, for example, of scandium (1539°C) and lead (327°C) are more than 1000° apart; however, the boiling point of the lower melting metal (lead 1725°C, tin 2270°C) was always above the melting point of scandium, yttrium or cerium and lanthanum. Purgon (purified argon) was used as inert atmosphere during the melting process, and a titanium button was melted prior to each melt. After remelting every sample twice, some specimens were annealed for homogenizing in evacuated quarts tubes for 400 hours at 600 °C. However, it was found that the last step was not really necessary as the samples were found to be homogeneous, even with the arc melting alone.

All samples investigated were rapidly attacked by the water vapor of the air. Therefore, it was necessary to keep the samples in a desiccator. The specimens were ground under ligroin which had been dried with metallic sodium. For the X-ray diffraction experiments, the ground material was put into capillaries and X-rayed while still under dried ligroin. When exposed to moist air, the alloy powder reacts rapidly with the formation of hydrogen. The hydrolysis reaction in the case of  $La_{S}Pb_{3}$  is probably as follows:

## La<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub>+15H<sub>2</sub>O $\rightarrow$ 5La(OH)<sub>3</sub>+3Pb+ $\frac{15}{2}$ H<sub>2</sub>

Only diffraction lines of hexagonal La(OH)<sub>3</sub> (Roy& McKinstry, 1953) and elementary Pb were observed in the reaction product of La<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub>. In the case of  $Y_5Sn_3$  and  $Y_5Pb_3$ , only Sn and Pb lines were observed and the hydroxide of Y was present in an amorphous form. Interestingly enough, no oxide lines of lead or tin could be observed in any of these films.

#### Structure of Sc<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub>

A powder diffraction pattern of Sc<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> could be indexed with a hexagonal unit cell of:

$$a = 8.467 \pm 0.004$$
,  $c = 6.158 \pm 0.003$  Å.

The extinctions for h0hl with l = 2n + 1 lead to possible space groups  $P6_3/mcm$   $(D_{5h}^3)$ , P6c2  $(D_{3h}^2)$ ,  $P6_3cm$   $(C_{6v}^3)$ , P3c1 $(D_{3d}^4)$  and P3c1  $(C_{3v}^3)$ . The pattern of Sc<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> resembles the pattern for (Ti, Zr)<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> which has been reported to crystallize with the  $D8_8$  structure (Nowotny, Auer-Welsbach, Bruss & Kohl, 1959). Therefore, in the first trial space group  $P6_3/mcm$   $(D_{6h}^3)$  was chosen and 4Sc atoms were placed in position 4(d), 6Sc in  $6(g)_I$  with  $x_I = 0.25$  and 6 Pb in  $6(g)_{II}$  with  $x_{II} = 0.61$ . The calculated intensities agreed rather well with the observed intensities which showed that the structure of  $Sc_5Pb_3$  is of the  $D8_8$  structure type. However, efforts were made to change the adjustable parameters in order to improve the agreement. The intensities of a powder film were measured and corrected for absorption (Bradley, 1935). An absorption correction was necessary here, since – as described above – capillaries had to be used for the powder photograph. The best fit between observed and calculated values was obtained for an  $x_1$  value of  $0.24 \pm 0.01$  for the Sc atoms in position  $6(g)_1$  and an  $x_{11}$  value of  $0.606 \pm 0.002$  for the Pb atoms in postisions  $6(g)_{11}$ . Owing to the larger scattering power of lead, the parameter value of the latter could be determined more accurately than that for scandium. Table 1 shows the intensity calculation for Sc<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> with these parameters.

### Isotypic stannides and plumbides

The powder patterns of  $Sc_5Sn_3$ ,  $Y_5Sn_3$ ,  $Y_5Pb_3$ ,  $La_5Pb_3$ , and  $Ce_5Pb_3$  could be indexed with similar hexagonal unit cells. The lattice constants, axial ratios and calculated densities are given in Table 2. The intensities of the diffraction lines of  $Y_5Sn_3$ ,  $La_5Pb_3$  and  $Ce_5Pb_3$  agreed very well with those

Table 1. Intensity calculation for Sc <sub>5</sub> Pb <sub>3</sub>	with
$D8_8$ structure (Cr Ka radiation)	

hki l	ط <sub>د</sub> (Å)	10 <sup>3</sup> . sin <sup>2</sup> 80	$10^3 \sin^2\theta_0$	1 <sub>c</sub>	I o
1010	7 333	2.4.4	*)	2.66	*)
1120	4.233	73.2	73.8	2.95	2.5
2020	3 667	97.6	97.9	1.81	2
1121	3 488	107.8	107.8	10.00	10
0002	3 079	138.4	138.1	3.94	4
1012	2 839	162.8		0.16	-
2130	2.771	170.8	171.2	0.63	0.5
2131	2. 528	205.4	205.6	7.77	8
1122	2.490	211.6	211.4	4.82	4
3030	2.444	219.6	219.3	3.41	3.5
2022	2.358	236.0	236.6	2,32	2,5
2240	2.117	292.8	-	0.02	-
2132	2.060	309.2	-	0.04	-
3140	2,034	317.2	317.5	1.14	1
2241	2,002	327.4	327.4	1.65	1.5
3141	1,931	351.8	351,5	4.39	4.5
3032	1.914	358.0	358.4	1.36	1
1123	1.847	384.6	384.4	1.76	2
4040	1,833	390.4	-	0.04	-
2242	1,780	431.2	431.9	0.48	0.5
3142	1,697	455.6	455.8	0.66	0.6
3250	1.682	463.6	463.4	0.65	0.6
2133	1.650	482,2	482.8	2.29	2.5
3251	1.623	498.Z	497.8	0.19	0.2
4150	1.600	512.4	-	0.00	-
4042	1.575	528.8	-	0.00	
4151	1.549	547.0	547.2	0.11	0.2
0004	1.539	553,6	553.6	0.95	0.8
1014	1.507	578.0	578.3	0.11	0. Z
3252	1,476	602.0	603.1	1.91	2.5
2243	1.474	604.2		0.871	
5050	1.467	610.0	610.4	1.65	1.5
1124	1.447	626.87	628.1	0.43	3.5
3143	1.445	628.6J		2.59]	
4152	1.420	650.8)		0.47]	
2024	1.419	651.2	651.4	0.417	1
3360	1.411	658.8	-	0.02	-
4260	1.386	683.2	683.4	1.01	1
3361	1.376	693.4	693.4	0.83	0.9
4261	1,352	717.8	717,2	3,20	3
2134	1.346	724.4	725.0	0.22	0.2
5052	1.324	748.4	748.1	4.61	4.5
5160	1,317	756.4	756.3	0.23	0.2
3034	1,303	773.2]		2.18]	
3253	1.301	775.0}	773.6	0,18}	2, 5
5161	1.288	791.0	790.8	0.33	0.4
3362	1.283	797,2	-	0.09	-
4262	1,264	821.6]	922 1	1.52]	1 6
4153	1.262	823.8	822.1	0.13	1.5
2244	1.245	846.4	-	0.03	-
3144	1,227	870.8	870.8	1.77	2
6060	1.222	878.4	-	0.00	-
51 <u>6</u> 2	1.211	894.8	-	0.17	-
4370	1.206	902.8	-	0.18	-
4371	1,183	937.4	937.9	3, 50	8
1125	1.183	938.2		2.70	
4044	1.179	944.0		0.14	-
5270	1,174	951.6	951.0	1.84	4
3363	1.163	9/0.2	970.1	2, 58	- 1

\*) not observed

# SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Table 2. Lattice constants and theoretical densities of  $D8_8$  phases

Compound	а	с	c/a	Q
Sc <sub>5</sub> Sn <sub>3</sub>	8·408±0·004 Å	6·081 ± 0·003 Å	$0.7232 \pm 0.0005$	4.65 g.cm <sup>-3</sup>
Sc <sub>5</sub> Pb <sub>3</sub>	$8.467 \pm 0.004$	$6.158 \pm 0.003$	0.7273 + 0.0005	6.45
$Y_5Sn_3$	$8.878 \pm 0.005$	$6.516 \pm 0.004$	$0.7339 \pm 0.0005$	5.53
Y <sub>5</sub> Pb <sub>3</sub>	$8.971 \pm 0.004$	$6.614 \pm 0.003$	$0.7373 \pm 0.0003$	6.93
La <sub>5</sub> Pb <sub>3</sub>	$9.528 \pm 0.005$	$6.993 \pm 0.003$	$0.7339 \pm 0.0006$	7.32
Ce <sub>5</sub> Pb <sub>3</sub>	$9.473 \pm 0.004$	$6.825 \pm 0.002$	$0.7204 \pm 0.0004$	7.63

for Sc<sub>5</sub>Ga<sub>3</sub> (Schob & Parthé, 1964) and the intensities of Sc<sub>5</sub>Sn<sub>3</sub> and Y<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> were similar to those of Zr<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> (Nowotny & Schachner, 1953). All five compounds, therefore, crystallize with the  $D8_8$  structure type. The *d* values and the intensities observed with chromium  $K\alpha$  radiation for the five compounds are listed in Table 3\*.

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Conclusion

The X-ray study has demonstrated that the published phase diagrams for La–Pb and Ce–Pb are not complete, since the phases La<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> and Ce<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> do not appear in the diagrams. An additional correction is necessary for the diagram Ce–Pb, since it was shown recently that a compound Ce<sub>3</sub>Pb exists which crystallizes with a Cu<sub>3</sub>Au structure (Jeitschko, Nowotny & Benesovsky, 1964). Therefore, in the system Ce–Pb there occur two compounds with the Cu<sub>3</sub>Au structure, one having composition Ce<sub>3</sub>Pb, the second CePb<sub>3</sub>. (Zintl & Neumayr, 1933).

The six new compounds reported here increase the number of known  $D8_8$  phases to more than fifty. The available results indicate that the  $D8_8$  structure occurs with transition metals of the third to the eighth group as one partner and B elements of the third, fourth and fifth group as the second component. The structure can accommodate a very wide range of size differences of the participating atoms. The size ratio varies from 0.83 for Ti<sub>5</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub> to 1.35 for Y<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>. A more detailed study on the characteristics of the  $D8_8$  structure type and its variations will appear in the near future.

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Table 3. d values and observed intensities (Cr K $\alpha$  radiation) for new compounds with D8<sub>8</sub> structures

			( · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·····
Sc5Sn3	Y <sub>5</sub> Sn <sub>3</sub>	Y5Pb3	La <sub>5</sub> Pb <sub>3</sub>	CesPba
hkid <sub>e</sub> (Å) i <sub>o</sub>	ស⊾ា ៤ (Å) រួ	hkid <sub>c</sub> (Å) i <sub>o</sub>	hkid <sub>c</sub> (Å) I	hki d <sub>e</sub> (Å) i
100 7 281 *) 110 4.204 · 111 4.204 · 112 4.204 · 113 1.459 w 102 1.240 w 102 1.240 w 102 1.240 w 102 1.240 w 102 1.240 w 102 1.240 · 112 2.464 m 102 1.240 · 112 2.464 m 102 1.252 · 112 2.464 m 102 1.252 · 112 2.464 m 113 1.820 w 113 1.820 w 113 1.820 w 114 1.857 · 115 1.671 w 121 1.527 · 121 1.682 · 122 1.685 · 122 1.685 · 122 1.685 · 122 1.685 · 123 1.671 w 123 1.671 w 124 1.682 · 125 1.671 · 125 1.671 · 125 1.671 · 124 1.682 · 125 1.671 · 126 1.671 · 127 · 131 1.174	.     .       100     7.689       110     4.41       200     3.645       111     3.669       102     3.000       210     2.965       112     2.654       200     2.563       202     2.485       202     2.485       202     2.485       202     2.485       202     2.485       202     2.485       202     2.485       202     2.485       202     2.487       202     2.487       202     2.487       202     2.487       202     2.487       202     2.487       202     2.132       201     2.132       202     2.21       213     1.740       212     1.768       212     1.767       213     1.740       214     1.768       212     1.552       700	c     0       100     7.769     *)       110     4.485     ·.       111     3.713     ·.       102     3.043     ·.       102     3.043     ·.       102     3.043     ·.       102     3.043     ·.       112     2.664     ms       300     2.590     ms       202     2.518     ·.       202     2.518     ·.       202     2.516     ·.       202     2.518     ·.       202     2.518     ·.       202     2.516     ·.       202     2.518     ·.       202     2.518     ·.       202     2.518     ·.       202     2.517     ms       301     2.157     ms       302     1.721     ·.       301     1.721     ·.       302     1.572     ms       311     1.521     ·. <	c '0 100 8.251 *) 110 4.766 - 111 3.938 v. 102 3.219 - 102 3.219 v. 102 3.219 ms 103 2.751 ms 210 3.120 v. 211 2.248 ms 100 2.751 ms 202 2.667 mw 202 2.92 - 112 2.489 ms 202 2.667 mw 202 2.957 ms 212 2.187 ms 113 2.497 ws 212 2.187 ms 113 2.497 ws 212 2.187 ms 113 2.497 ws 213 1.487 ms 113 2.498 ms 114 1.641 ms 118 1.648 m 114 1.641 - 113 1.645 m 114 1.641 - 113 1.645 m 114 1.641 - 113 1.645 ms 201 1.557 ws 214 1.525 ms 214 1.525 ms 215 1.645 ms 216 1.777 ms 217 1.748 ms 218 1.525 ms 218 1.545 ws 214 1.525 ms 214 1.525 ms 214 1.525 ms 214 1.525 ms 215 1.645 ms 226 1.657 ms 227 1.645 ms 228 1.645 ms 228 1.645 ms 229 1.645 ms 220 1.657 vw 224 1.525 ms 224 1.525 ms 225 1.645 ms 226 1.657 vw 226 1.657 vw 226 1.657 vw 227 1.55 vw 228 1.655 vw 229 1.315 vw 229 1.315 vw 231 1.315 vw 231 1.257 vw 231 1.257 vw 233 1.255 vw 234 1.257 vw 234 1.257 vw 235 1.256 vw 235 1.2	c     i       100     6.204     e)       110     4.734     e)       200     4.101     -       111     3.891     w)       102     3.150     e)       112     2.769     e)       210     3.160     e)       211     2.824     e)       212     2.295     -       310     2.275     rw       3112     1.945     rw       312     1.945     rw       312     1.945     rw       312     1.945     rw       312     1.844     rww       313     1.640     rw       314     1.755     rww       312     1.641     rm.d       313     1.640     rww </td
•) not observed Intensities were not corrected for absorption		612 1.191 - 612 1.184 w 700 1.179 530 1.179	12     1.170       700     1.172       530     1.172       315     1.170	

<sup>\*</sup> Note added in proof. – The compound  $Y_5Sn_3$  has been found recently also by Holmen (1964), who reports the same structure type but slightly larger unit-cell constants.