

Journal of Alloys and Compounds 320 (2001) L1–L2

Journal of ALLOYS AND COMPOUNDS

www.elsevier.com/locate/jallcom

Letter

New ternary CeScSi-type RZrSb compounds (R=Y, Gd-Tm, Lu)

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Received 23 January 2001; accepted 26 January 2001

Abstract

Investigations made by powder X-ray diffraction on eight new ternary RZrSb compounds (R=Y, Gd-Tm, Lu) are reported. The YZrSb (a=0.4245(1) nm, c=1.6306(3) nm), GdZrSb (a=0.4261(1) nm, c=1.6455(2) nm), TbZrSb (a=0.4251(1) nm, c=1.6380(2) nm), DyZrSb (a=0.4240(1) nm, c=1.6349(2) nm), HoZrSb (a=0.4201(1) nm, c=1.6143(2) nm), ErZrSb (a=0.4204(1) nm, c=1.6159(2) nm), TmZrSb (a=0.4174(1) nm, c=1.5997(2) nm) and LuZrSb (a=0.4178(1) nm, c=1.5952(3) nm) crystallize in the tetragonal CeScSi-type structure (space group 14/mmm). © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Rare earth compounds; Crystal structure; X-ray diffraction

In the present investigation the RZrSb compounds were made in an electric arc furnace under an argon atmosphere using a non-consumable tungsten electrode and watercooled copper tray. Antimony (purity: 99.99%), yttrium

Table 1

Lattice parameters a, c (nm), c/a, unit cell volume V (nm³) and atomic position parameters of RZrSb compounds (R=Y, Gd-Tm, Lu) (the reliability factors $R_{\rm E}$ are given in %)

Compound	а	С	c/a	V	$Z_{ m R}$	$Z_{\rm Sb}$	$R_{\rm F}$
YZrSb	0.4245(1)	1.6306(3)	3.8415	0.2938	0.335(2)	0.143(3)	5.3
GdZrSb	0.4261(1)	1.6455(2)	3.8618	0.2988	0.324(2)	0.134(2)	6.0
TbZrSb	0.4251(1)	1.6380(2)	3.8534	0.2960	0.325(2)	0.136(2)	4.4
DyZrSb	0.4240(1)	1.6349(2)	3.8556	0.2940	0.325(2)	0.139(2)	5.7
HoZrSb	0.4201(1)	1.6143(2)	3.8430	0.2848	0.322(2)	0.137(3)	6.8
ErZrSb	0.4204(1)	1.6159(2)	3.8435	0.2856	0.326(2)	0.141(2)	3.5
TmZrSb	0.4174(1)	1.5997(2)	3.8330	0.2787	0.322(2)	0.140(2)	3.1
LuZrSb	0.4178(1)	1.5952(3)	3.8177	0.2785	0.324(2)	0.140(2)	5.2

Table 2

Interatomic distances in RZrSb compounds $D \pm 10^{-4} - 10^{-3}$ nm

	Y	Gd	Tb	Dy	Но	Er	Tm	Lu				
-4Sb	0.302	0.309	0.307	0.306	0.304	0.302	0.301	0.301				
-1Sb	0.313	0.313	0.310	0.304	0.299	0.299	0.291	0.294				
-4Zr	0.343	0.360	0.357	0.356	0.356	0.351	0.353	0.350				
-4R	0.409	0.387	0.388	0.387	0.377	0.386	0.374	0.378				
-4Zr	0.300	0.301	0.301	0.300	0.297	0.297	0.295	0.296				
-4Sb	0.315	0.307	0.308	0.311	0.305	0.310	0.306	0.306				
-4R	0.343	0.360	0.357	0.356	0.356	0.351	0.353	0.350				
-4Zr	0.315	0.307	0.308	0.304	0.305	0.310	0.350	0.306				
-4R	0.302	0.309	0.307	0.306	0.304	0.302	0.301	0.301				
-1R	0.313	0.313	0.310	0.311	0.299	0.299	0.293	0.294				
	-4Sb -1Sb -4Zr -4R -4Zr -4Sb -4R -4Zr -4R -1R	$\begin{array}{c c} & Y \\ \hline -4Sb & 0.302 \\ -1Sb & 0.313 \\ -4Zr & 0.343 \\ -4R & 0.409 \\ \hline -4Zr & 0.300 \\ -4Sb & 0.315 \\ -4R & 0.343 \\ \hline -4Zr & 0.315 \\ -4R & 0.302 \\ -1R & 0.313 \\ \hline \end{array}$	Y Gd -4Sb 0.302 0.309 -1Sb 0.313 0.313 -4Zr 0.343 0.360 -4R 0.409 0.387 -4Zr 0.300 0.301 -4Sb 0.315 0.307 -4R 0.343 0.360 -4R 0.343 0.360 -4R 0.343 0.307 -4R 0.315 0.307 -4R 0.313 0.313	Y Gd Tb -4Sb 0.302 0.309 0.307 -1Sb 0.313 0.313 0.310 -4Zr 0.343 0.360 0.357 -4R 0.409 0.387 0.388 -4Zr 0.300 0.301 0.301 -4R 0.302 0.307 0.308 -4R 0.343 0.360 0.357 -4R 0.343 0.360 0.357 -4R 0.343 0.360 0.357 -4R 0.343 0.360 0.357 -4R 0.315 0.307 0.308 -4R 0.315 0.307 0.308 -4R 0.302 0.309 0.307 -1R 0.313 0.313 0.310	Y Gd Tb Dy -4Sb 0.302 0.309 0.307 0.306 -1Sb 0.313 0.313 0.310 0.304 -4Zr 0.343 0.360 0.357 0.356 -4R 0.409 0.387 0.388 0.387 -4Zr 0.300 0.301 0.301 0.300 -4R 0.409 0.387 0.308 0.311 -4R 0.300 0.301 0.301 0.300 -4R 0.343 0.360 0.357 0.356 -4R 0.302 0.307 0.308 0.304 -4R 0.302 0.309 0.307 0.306 -1R 0.313 0.313 0.310 0.311	YGdTbDyHo-4Sb0.3020.3090.3070.3060.304-1Sb0.3130.3130.3100.3040.299-4Zr0.3430.3600.3570.3560.356-4R0.4090.3870.3880.3870.377-4Zr0.3000.3010.3010.3000.297-4Sb0.3150.3070.3080.3110.305-4R0.3430.3600.3570.3560.356-4R0.3150.3070.3080.3040.305-4R0.3020.3090.3070.3060.304-1R0.3130.3130.3100.3110.299	YGdTbDyHoEr-4Sb0.3020.3090.3070.3060.3040.302-1Sb0.3130.3130.3100.3040.2990.299-4Zr0.3430.3600.3570.3560.3560.351-4R0.4090.3870.3010.3000.2970.297-4Sb0.3150.3070.3080.3110.3050.310-4R0.3020.3070.3080.3110.3050.310-4R0.3430.3600.3570.3560.3560.351-4Zr0.3150.3070.3080.3040.3050.310-4R0.3020.3090.3070.3060.3040.302-1R0.3130.3130.3100.3110.2990.299	YGdTbDyHoErTm-4Sb0.3020.3090.3070.3060.3040.3020.301-1Sb0.3130.3130.3100.3040.2990.2990.291-4Zr0.3430.3600.3570.3560.3560.3510.353-4R0.4090.3870.3010.3000.2970.2970.295-4Sb0.3150.3070.3080.3110.3050.3100.306-4R0.3430.3600.3570.3560.3560.3510.306-4R0.3430.3600.3770.3060.3050.3100.353-4R0.3020.3070.3080.3040.3050.3100.350-4R0.3020.3090.3070.3060.3040.3020.301-1R0.3130.3130.3100.3110.2990.2990.293				

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Fig. 1. The lattice parameters of RZrSb compounds vs. the atomic radii of the rare earths.

(purity: 99.98%), gadolinium (purity: 99.98%), terbium (purity: 99.99%), dysprosium (purity: 99.99%), holmium (purity: 99.98%), erbium (purity: 99.99%), thulium (purity: 99.99%), lutetium (purity: 99.99%) and zirconium (purity: 99.99%) were used as the starting components. Titanium was used as a getter during melting.

X-ray powder diffraction analyses were obtained on an DRON-3.0 (Cu K α radiation, 2θ =20–70°, step: 0.05°, 1002 points). The obtained diffractograms were identified and intensity calculations were made in the isotropic approximation using the Rietan programs [1].

Analysis of the powder X-ray diffractograms shows that the new ternary RZrSb compounds (R=Y, Gd-Tm, Lu) crystallize in the tetragonal CeScSi-type structure (*I4/ mmm*). In the CeScSi-type structure the rare-earth and antimony atoms occupy the 4(e) site (0, 0, z) and the Zr atoms occupy the special position 4(c) (0, 1/2, 0) [2]. The lattice parameters of the compounds, refined at room temperature, the atomic position parameters of the compounds and the reliability factors R_F resulting from the refinements are given in Table 1. Interatomic distances in RZrSb compounds are given in Table 2.

The cell parameters of RZrSb compounds are proportional to the rare earths atomic radii [3], as a rule, excepting the YZrSb compound (Fig. 1).

Acknowledgements

This work has been financially supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, Grant N 01-99-01197.

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