Crystal Structure of BaNaZr₂F₁₁: A Phase Recrystallizing from Fluorozirconate Glasses

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 $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$, prepared by recrystallization of the fluoride glass of the same composition, was obtained as very small single crystals. It crystallizes with tetragonal symmetry, the $I4_1/a$ space group, and the parameters a = 8.223(5) Å; c = 23.610 Å (Z = 8). Its crystal structure was determined (R = 0.055) on the basis of data recorded on a four-circle diffractometer. This structure results from the stacking, on the one hand, of $[ZrF_{5,5}]_n$ sheets composed of edge- and corner-shared $[ZrF_{8}]^{4-}$ square antiprisms and, on the other hand, of 4⁴ sheets containing alternate rows of Ba^{2+} and Na^+ . $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$, by the presence of 3².4.3.4. Zr plane nets, can be compared to several fluorozirconates like α - and β LnZr₃F₁₅, $PrZr_2F_{11}$, and LiTlZr₅F₂₂. However, it is better related, by a simple mechanism of rotation of [Na₂ Zr₄F₂₈₊₄]¹⁴ units, to KY₃F₁₀. Therefore, it can be linked to the well-known structural family of "anionexcess fluorite-related superstructures." © 1992 Academic Press, Inc.

Introduction

In the recent years, several crystal structures of fluorozirconates of composition close to that of corresponding glasses, or directly recrystallizing from them, were determined: SmZrF₇ (1), α - and β -BaZrF₆ (2, 3), β -BaZr₂F₁₀, (4), α - and β -LnZr₃F₁₅ (5-7), and $PrZr_2F_{11}$ (8). After recrystallization of glasses prepared from ternary mixtures, ZrF₄-BaF₂-NaF, a new crystalline phase, formulated $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$, was identified by Parker et al. (9). Owing to the need for structural information concerning fluoride glasses and related phases, the existence of this phase was verified by direct synthesis in a Pt sealed tube and its structure

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solved from single crystal data obtained on a X-ray four-circle diffractometer.

Experimental

 $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$ was prepared in the best way by a slow cooling from 500 to 450°C and a 3-day annealing at this last temperature of the corresponding melted mixture of binary fluorides (melting point = 490° C). Very small size single crystals were grown under these conditions and a small platelet was selected for X-ray study. The integrated intensities of the diffraction pattern were measured on a AED2-SIEMENS four-circle diffractometer. Table I reports structural information about BaNaZr₂F₁₁ and recording conditions.

The structure of BaNaZr₂F₁₁ was solved

TABLE I

DATA COLLECTION PARAMETERS

with the program SHELX76 (10). Atomic scattering factors and anomalous dispersion corrections were taken from the "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography" (11). Starting coordinates for cations were deduced from a Patterson function calculation. After alternate series of refinement cycles and Fourier-difference calculations, the respective distributions of Zr, Ba, and Na on three cationic sites and of F on six anionic ones were determined and refined to R = 5.5%. Anisotropic thermal factors were used only for cations in order to decrease the number of refined variables, owing to the limited number of experimental reflections resulting from the low size of the crystal. The corresponding parameters are listed in Table II. All calculated interatomic distances correspond to the ones generally observed in related structures and are gathered in Table III.

Structure Description

1. Anionic Polyhedra

Three different kinds of anionic polyhedra are present in the structure:

— A $[ZrF_8]^{4-}$ square antiprism (S.A.), drawn in Fig. 1a; it is composed of two opposite square faces whose distance to Zr^{4+} is rather dissymetrical: the $F_1-F_2-F_4-F_6$ face is much closer to $Zr (d_{Zr-F} = 2.01-2.10 \text{ Å})$ than the $F_3-F_5-F_{31}-F_{51}$ one $(d_{Zr-F} =$ 2.15-2.23 Å). Like in many S.A., F-F distances are shorter in square faces (2.37-2.56 Å) than between opposite ones (2.61-2.77 Å). The average <Zr-F> value, 2.12 Å, matches the generally observed ones for

TABLE II

ATOMIC PARAMETERS AND	ISOTROPIC AND	Anisotropic	TEMPERATURE	FACTORS	FOR	BaNaZr ₂ F ₁₁
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Atom	Site	x		У	Z.	B or B_{eq} (Å ²)
Zr	16 <i>f</i>	0.1391(2)	0.03	54(2)	0.8747(1)	0.52(6)
Ba	8e	0.	0.25	5	0.5359(1)	0.74(8)
Na	8e	0.	0.25	0.25		1.7(7)
Fl	8e	0.	0.25	5	0.3771(8)	1.4(3)
F2	16 <i>f</i>	0.1880(19)	0.13	83(20)	0.7962(6)	0.9(2)
F3	16 <i>f</i>	0.0713(21)	0.03	97(21)	0.1773(7)	1.2(3)
F4	16 <i>f</i>	0.1164(15)	0.44	29(15)	0.6251(7)	0.8(2)
F5	16 <i>f</i>	0.2038(18)	0.31	67(19)	0.1732(6)	0.7(3)
F6	16 <i>f</i>	0.1810(21)	0.63	343(21)	0.0489(7)	1.3(3)
	$m{U}_{11}$	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{12}	U_{13}	U_{23}
Zr	0.0038(8)	0.0039(8)	0.0120(8)	-0.0015(10)	0.0016(10)	0.0010(6)
Ba	0.0073(12)	0.0077(12)	0.0130(8)	0.	0.	0.0008(10)
Na	0.016(9)	0.029(10)	0.018(6)	+ 0.	0.	0.017(8)

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Intercationic distances		Cation-anion distances			
		About Zr (Fig. 1a)			
Zr-Zr (edge-sharing)	: 3.692(4) Å *2	$F_1 : 2.103(7) \text{ Å}$			
(corner-sharing)	: 4.206(4)	$F_2 : 2.077(16)$			
Zr-Na (edge-sharing)	: 3.784(5)	$F_1 : 2.210(17)$			
(edge-sharing)	: 3.774(5)	F_{31} : 2.233(17)			
(edge-sharing)	: 3.811(5)	$F_4 : 2.018(14)$			
Zr–Ba	: 4.039(2)	$F_5: 2.151(15)$			
	: 4.047(2)	F_{51} : 2.190(15)			
	: 4.336(2)	$F_6: 2.008(17)$			
		$+(F_4:3.052(14))$			
		<Zr-F = 2.124 Å> >			
		About Na (Fig. 1b)			
		F ₃ : 2.361(18) Å *2			
		$F_5: 2.377(16) *2$			
		$F_6: 2.238(18) *2$			
		<na-f 2.325="" =="" å=""> ></na-f>			
		About Ba (Fig. 1c)			
		F ₂ : 2.736(15) Å *2			
		F_{21} : 2.644(15) *2			
		$F_3: 3.549(17) *2$			
		$F_4: 2.801(14) *2$			
		F_{41} : 2.805(14) *2			
		$F_6: 2.807(17) *2$			
		<Ba-F = 2.890 Å> >			

TABLE III Main Interatomic Distances in $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$

eightfold coordinated Zr (2.09<Zr-F<2.13 Å) (12).

 $-A [NaF_6]^{5-}$ very irregular trigonal Å) prism (Fig. 1b): Na⁺ is coordinated on one side

side by four anions forming a square $F_3-F_5-F_{31}-F_{51}$ face $(d_{Na-F} = 2.36 \text{ and } 2.38 \text{ Å})$ parallel to the *xOy* plane and on the other side by two F_6 anions, closer to Na⁺ (2.24



FIG. 1. Perspective drawing of (a) a $[ZrF_8]^{4-}$ square antiprism (S.A.), (b) a $[NaF_6]^{5-}$ irregular trigonal prism, (c) a $[BaF_{12}]^{10-}$ distorted cuboctahedron.



FIG. 2. (010) projection of the unit cell content of $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$, with representation of Zr-F bonds, in order to emphasize layer stacking along the [001] axis.

Å) but rather distant from each other (F_6 - $F_6 = 3.53$ Å) and also from F_3 and F_5 of the square face (respectively, 3.27 and 3.20 Å). —A [BaF₁₂]¹⁰⁻ distorted cuboctahedron (Fig. 1c): 10 of the 12 Ba–F bonds are distributed between 2.64 and 2.81 Å and two F_3 anions are much more distant (3.55 Å). The true coordination of Ba²⁺ is then [10 + 2] rather than [12].



FIG. 3. Representation of a sheet, perpendicular to the [001] axis, associating parallel rows of $[NaF_6]^{5-}$ and $[BaF_{12}]^{10-}$ polyhedra. Ba: large black spheres, Na: large stippled spheres, F: small white spheres.

2. Structure Organization

The projection of the unit cell onto the xOz plane is represented in Fig. 2. Ba $NaZr_{2}F_{11}$ is a layer structure, based on the stacking perpendicular to the [001] axis of quasi-planar sheets of $[ZrF_8]^{4-}$ S.A. and of rippled sheets containing alternating Ba²⁺ and Na⁺ rows lined up along [010] or [100] axes. Figures 3 and 4 give a polyhedral representation of such sheets, showing, respectively, edge-sharing $[NaF_6]^{5-}$ and $[BaF_{12}]^{10-}$ polyhedra on the one hand and corner and edge-sharing $[ZrF_8]^{4-}$ S.A. on the other hand. In a Zr sheet, four $[ZrF_8]^{4-}$ S.A. are connected by edge-sharing about a cubic empty cavity, forming a [Zr₄F₂₄]⁸⁻ structural unit. Neighboring units share F1 corners to give complete $[ZrF_{5,5}]_n$ sheets. Two Na cations, located exactly up and down each cubic empty hole (e.g., in z = 0.01 and 0.24) are linked to four Zr cations (in z =0.12 and 0.13) of the same unit by F_5-F_3 edges. These six polyhedra form in this way three-dimensional $[Na_2Zr_4F_{28}]^{10-1}$ units, reminiscent of the $[Y_6F_{32}]^{14-}$ groups of six $[YF_8]^{5-}$ S.A. about a cubic empty hole described in KY_3F_{10} (13), an anion-excess fluorite-related superstructure (see next paragraph). Each Ba cation (e.g., in z = 0.21) is also located above or under an anionic



FIG. 4. $[ZrF_{5.5}]_n$ sheet, perpendicular to the [001] axis (z = 0.12-0.13 for $Zr^{4+})$. Some of the Ba and Na cations of the adjacent sheets are also represented except Ba in z = 0.29 and Na in z = 0.26 hiding F anions (refer to Fig. 3). The z values for all cations are reported in Fig. 6. Zr: large white spheres. Other symbols are the same as those in Fig. 3.

 $F_4-F_4-F_4-F_4$ square face of a Zr sheet (e.g., in z = 0.12, 0.13). It is also connected to the same Zr sheet by two F_2 and two F_6 anions at the same level (z = 0.20) and to four anions of the adjacent Zr sheet (two close F_2 and two distant F_3 ones at, respectively, z = 0.30 and 0.32) forming a distorted square face.

Stacked $[ZrF_{5,5}]_n$ sheets along the [001] axis are successively shifted from x/2, y/2, -x/2, and -y/2 and so the unit cell is composed of four Zr sheets (Fig. 2). On the contrary, Ba and Na cations are perfectly lined up along the Oz axis with sequences-[Na-Na-Ba-Ba]-.

3. Comparison with Other Structure Types

a. Fluorite and KY_3F_{10} . The presence in the BaNaZr₂F₁₁ structure of $[Na_2Zr_4F_{28}]^{10-}$ groups, analogous to $[Y_6F_{32}]^{14-}$ ones described in the fluorite-related KY_3F_{10} superstructure (13), strongly suggests a close relationship between both phases. KY_3F_{10} is one of the most important members of a family of compounds deriving from the fluorite type by ordered insertion of anionic excess (MF₂ \rightarrow $MF_{2.50}$) into so-called "cuboctahedral clusters." These clusters are created via a cooperative mechanism of 45° rotation of the six faces of empty anionic cubes of fluorite about the fourfold axis, which transforms these cubes into cuboctahedra and the six MX_8 filled cubes capping each empty cube into MX₈ square antiprisms. This operation creates four excess anionic sites for each cluster $(M_6X_{32} \rightarrow M_6X_{36})$ without any high distortion of the fluorite structure. KY_3F_{10} (Fig. 5c) is constituted by the regular formation of such edge-sharing $[Y_6F_{36}]^{18-}$ clusters along the three main axes of the fluorite subcell. From a purely descriptive point of view, it is strictly equivalent to describe the KY_3F_{10} structure as an ordered distribution of corner-sharing $[Y_6F_{32}]^{14-}$ units corresponding to six S.A. capping an empty anionic cube and deriving from M_6X_{32} fluorite units by 45° rotation of the outer faces of the six MX₈ filled cubes.

These last units are very similar to the $[Na_2Zr_4F_{28}]^{10-}$ ones described above and all the more so because two F_5 anions at 3.22 Å about each Na cation form with two F_6 anions at 2.24 Å a very distorted square face which transforms the $[NaF_6]^{5-}$ trigonal prisms to $[NaF_{6+2}]^{7-}$ S.A. and therefore $[Na_2Zr_4F_{28}]^{10-}$ units to $[Na_2Zr_4F_{32}]^{14-}$ ones (Fig. 5a).

Figures 5b and 5c show how $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$ and KY_3F_{10} are derived from each other by a $\approx 20^\circ$ rotation of the $[M_6X_{32}]^{14-}$ units about axes getting over the center of these units and parallel to the [001] direction.

Both structures mainly differ by the connections between adjacent $[M_6X_{32}]^{14-}$ units, performed by two shared corners in KY_3F_{10} and only by one F_1 corner in $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$. The sheet formula is $[YF_5]_n$ in KY_3F_{10} and $[ZrF_{5.5}]_n$ in $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$. The rotation of these S.A. groups is then a structural means





FIG. 5. (a) Representation of a $[Na_2Zr_4F_{28+4}]^{14-}$ structural unit of $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$, homologous to the $[Y_6F_{32}]^{14-}$ one in the anion-excess fluorite superstructure KY_3F_{10} . The anions of the outer distorted square faces of $[NaF_{6+2}]^{7-}$ polyhedra are represented by small black spheres. The anions of the upper face are connected by dashed lines. (b) Representation of a $[ZrF_{5,5}]_n$ sheet with $[ZrF_8]^{4-}$ S.A. sharing edges to form $[Zr_4F_{24}]^{8-}$ planar units which each associate with two $[NaF_{6+2}]^{7-}$ polyhedra to give the structural units of Fig. 5a. These units share corners and their cooperative rotation from $\approx 20^{\circ}$, as shown by arrows, transforms the structure of $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$ in structure type KY_3F_{10} , represented in Fig. 5c. (c) (001) projection of KY_3F_{10} : this structure can be described as a regular association of $[Y_6F_{32}]^{14-}$ fluorite-related units and of $[Y_6F_{36}]^{18-}$ anion-excess fluorite units called "cuboctahedral clusters."

to add even more excess anions in the anionexcess fluorite-related KY₃F₁₀ superstructure, from MX_{2.50} to MX_{2.75}. It does not modify Ba and Na cation planc nets which resquare ones. Emphasizing the main similarity between $BaNaZr_2F_{11}$ and KY_3F_{10} , Ba and Na cations play a double structural role: half Ba^{2+} and Na^+ are situated as Y^{3+} and the other half as K^+ in KY_3F_{10} , justifying the structural formula (Ba_{0.5}Na_{0.5}) $(Ba_{0.5}Na_{0.5}Zr_2)F_{10+1}$. This relationship explains why Ba2+ and Na+ environments are not fundamentally different (Fig. 3), with respect to the relative size of these cations.

b. Anion-excess ReO₃ type. The rotation of $\approx 20^{\circ}$ of $[Na_2Zr_4F_{28+4}]^{14-}$ units in Ba NaZr₂F₁₁, compared to the homologous units in KY_3F_{10} , corresponds to the transformation of cationic Y^{3+} square nets to 3².4.3.4. semiregular ones, intermediate between 4⁴ square and 3⁶ triangular nets. This transformation and analogous ones, thoroughly studied by O'Keeffe and Hyde (14), were recently considered (7) a consequence of F-bridging between two M cations situated at two opposite corners of a square face of a ReO₃-related network, shortening then the M-M distance and changing this square face into two triangular ones. In Ba NaZr₂ F_{11} , the characterization of 3^2 .4.3.4. Zr plane nets, easier to describe in also considering anions directly connecting these cations as in Fig. 6, involves a ninth Zr-F weak bond ($Zr-F_4 = 3.05 \text{ \AA}$), represented as dashed lines. Indeed, Zr-Zr distances about large-size Ba cations are stretched to such an extent that the 3^2 .4.3.4. plane nets are not regular and tend to break in partly isolated $[Zr_4F_{22}]^{6-}$ units.

The presence of such $3^2.4.3.4$. plane nets establishes a link between BaNaZr₂F₁₁ and fluoride phases like β PrZr₃F₁₅, YZr₃F₁₅, PrZr₂F₁₁, and LiTlZr₅F₂₂(15), whose structure was previously discussed as a stacking of these (or of similar) plane nets, either directly connected to each other (e.g., in



FIG. 6. 3^2 .4.3.4. Zr plane net (with F anions directly connecting Zr⁴⁺). The "broken" Zr-F₄ bonds (d = 3.05 Å), represented as dashed lines, are correlated to a dilatation of the cationic Zr net about high size Ba cations.

 β PrZr₃F₁₅) or separated by sheets of a different nature (e.g., Pr sheets in PrZr₂F₁₁, Li–Tl sheets in LiTlZr₅F₂₂). Some analogies are to be noted between the respective situation of Tl⁺–Li⁺ sheets in LiTlZr₅F₂₂ and Ba²⁺ – Na⁺ ones in BaNaZr₂F₁₁, with respect to 3².4.3.4. Zr plane nets but, on the one hand, the cationic order is not the same between Tl⁺ and Li⁺ as that between Ba²⁺ and Na⁺ and, on the other hand, layer stacking is rather different. A more detailed study of such relationships will be developed in a forthcoming work.

In fact, BaNaZr₂ F_{11} , although containing cationic Zr plane nets similar to those present in the above quoted phases, has specific structural characteristics resulting from its relationship with the KY₃ F_{10} fluorite superstructure (distorted f.c.c. cationic network) and from the presence of large-size Ba²⁺ cations which tend to break the $[ZrF_{5.5}]_n$ layers into smaller units. Therefore Ba NaZr₂F₁₁ seems to be intermediate between anion-excess fluorite-related superstructures like KY_3F_{10} , BaCaLu₂F₁₀ (16), PbZr₃F₆O₄ (17) ... and phases related more or less closely to the anion-excess ReO₃ type, like α - and β LnZr₃F₁₅, PrZr₂F₁₁, LiTlZr₅F₂₂...

Conclusion

The structure of BaNaZr₂F₁₁ is a new original layer structure based on the stacking along the Oz axis of $[ZrF_{5.5}]_n$ sheets of edgeand corner-shared $[ZrF_8]^{4-}$ S.A. alternating with other sheets containing rows of Ba²⁺ and Na⁺ cations parallel to the Oy or to the Ox axes and forming ordered 4⁴ square planes. The presence of Ba²⁺ rows leads to a weakening of $[ZrF_{5.5}]_n$ layers, emphasizing the presence of stable $[Na_2Zr_4F_{28+4}]^{14-}$ units which relate this phase to the well-known "anion-excess fluorite type," characterized by large-size anionic clusters.

BaNaZr₂F₁₁ appears, like β BaZr₂F₁₀, PrZr₂F₁₁, and some other phases recrystallizing from fluorozirconate glasses, to be a key structure in helping to understand short- and medium-range order in these glasses. The amount of structural information already gathered concerning these last phases suggests the possibility of correlating the structural information available on both kinds of materials.

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