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Journal of Solid State Chemistry 179 (2006) 2004-2011

JOURNAL OF SOLID STATE CHEMISTRY

www.elsevier.com/locate/jssc

Synthesis and structure determination of copper perrhenate, CuReO₄

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Received 23 February 2006; received in revised form 19 March 2006; accepted 26 March 2006 Available online 1 April 2006

Abstract

Copper(I) perrhenate, CuReO₄, has been synthesized as a single-phase sample in sealed silica tubes at 500–800 °C, and its structure was determined for the first time by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. CuReO₄ forms a new structure type derived from the diamond-structure and crystallizes in space group I_1cd with lattice parameters a = 13.6965(5)Å and c = 7.7729(5)Å, Z = 16 (rotation method data acquisition using ω and φ scans, $R_1 = 0.0191$, w $R_2 = 0.0403$). Cu and Re atoms are tetrahedrally coordinated by O atoms, these tetrahedra are corner-shared, forming spirally twisted rings of 4-6-8-10- MeO_4 like Si_xO_y-rings in some silicon dioxide modifications or aluminosilicates. According to low-temperature powder X-ray diffraction and differential thermal analysis, CuReO₄ shows no phase transition down to 80 K and up to its melting point, 703 K.

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Keywords: Copper(I) perrhenate; CuReO4; Tetrahedra network; Acentric structure

1. Introduction

Up to now ternary oxides of all 3d elements with Re are known [1–9]. The oxides with Re^{7+} , the perrhenates, are easily prepared and therefore the most frequently investigated compounds. They are usually synthesized from aqueous solutions and are stable in air as hydrates. The crystal structures of all 3d metal perrhenates except Ti and Cr have been determined [1–4]. Ternary oxides with low valence Re (<+7) are usually prepared under extreme conditions (high-pressure high-temperature synthesis) [6–9]; the detailed crystal structure and magnetic properties are determined only for CoReO₄ [7], MnReO₄ [8], and V_{0.5}Re_{0.5}O₂ [9]. MnReO₄ has a monoclinic wolframite-type structure with octahedral coordination of Mn^{2+} and Re^{6+} . The same structure type was proposed by Sleight [6] for ZnReO₄. A compound CuReO₄ with Cu^{2+} is not known, but could also be expected in a wolframite-like structure due to similar Cu^{2+} and Zn^{2+} ionic radii for coordination number 6 (0.73 and 0.74 Å, respectively [10]).

In the Cu–Re–O–system the copper(II) perrhenate, $Cu(ReO_4)_2$, has been reported in the literature [5], and

the crystal structure has been solved only for the crystallohydrate $Cu(ReO_4)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$ [2]. A few studies were devoted to copper(I) perrhenate, CuReO₄ [11-13]. It was prepared for the first time as a non-single-phase sample by thermal decomposition of Cu(ReO₄)₂ in vacuum [11] at 400-500 °C, its density and melting point have been determined, but neither crystal structure nor cell parameters were examined. Other authors [12] reported the synthesis of CuReO₄ from Cu and Cu(ReO₄)₂ at $360 \,^{\circ}$ C, but no physical-chemical properties have been studied due to the presence of impurities in the sample. In this work [13] the authors used mass-spectrometric methods to measure the composition of the gaseous phase and vapor pressure over the sample containing about 80% CuReO₄, prepared from Cu(ReO₄)₂ and Cu. It was found that the vapor over CuReO₄ at 650-780 K consists of Re₂O₇ and (CuReO₄)₂ molecules. The impurity in the CuReO₄ sample was not identified. Neither crystal structure nor cell parameter were determined. From the literature it is unclear whether the authors of [11–13] have investigated the same compound CuReO₄, because two phases with nominal composition CuReO₄ and different oxidation states of metals (+1 and +7 or +2 and +6) could exist and no diffraction data have been presented. In this work we describe the synthesis of single-phase CuReO₄

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^{0022-4596/\$ -} see front matter C 2006 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. doi:10.1016/j.jssc.2006.03.039

 $(Cu^{1+}Re^{7+}O_4)$, its crystal structure and some physical-chemical properties.

2. Experimental

2.1. Syntheses

Since no synthesis methods of single-phase CuReO₄ are reported in the literature, different approaches have been tried. Samples of nominal composition CuReO₄ were synthesized in a sealed silica tube using Cu and Re oxides in different oxidation states: CuO (Chempur, 99.99%) and ReO₃ (Strem Chemicals, 99.9%) (I), Cu (Alfa Aesar, 99.99%) and freshly prepared Cu(ReO₄)₂ (II), Cu₂O (Alfa Aesar, 99.9%) and Re₂O₇ (Alfa Aesar, 99.9%) (III). Before use, CuO and ReO₃ were dried in air at 110–120 °C for 2–3 h. The synthesis conditions listed below were tested to achieve the best quality of the samples:

- (I) A stoichiometric mixture of CuO and ReO₃ was ground in an agate mortar under acetone and pressed into pellets, which were placed in a quartz crucible and sealed in an evacuated silica tube.
- (II) Stoichiometric amounts of Cu(ReO₄)₂ and Cu were weighed in a glove box (<1 ppm O₂/H₂O), mixed and pressed into pellets. Cu(ReO₄)₂ was prepared from copper(II) basic carbonate (Aldrich) and HReO₄ by a standard method described elsewhere [1]. HReO₄ was obtained from Re powder (Stream, 99.99%) and 30% solution of H₂O₂ (Aldrich, p.a.). In order to dehydrate pellets of Cu(ReO₄)₂ · 4H₂O, they were held in dynamic vacuum at 140–160 °C during 2–3 h until the increase of temperature by 10° did not influence the residual pressure. Pellets of the mixture of Cu(ReO₄)₂ and Cu in a quartz crucible were placed into a silica tube, which was evacuated and sealed.
- (III) A powder mixture of Cu_2O and Re_2O_7 oxides in the molar ratio 1:1 was placed within a glove box into a silica tube using a quartz crucible. The tube was sealed under vacuum.

In all cases the reactants were heated at 500–800 $^{\circ}$ C for 20–30 h.

2.2. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction

The crystal structure of CuReO₄ was solved by singlecrystal X-ray diffraction using the Xcalibur system from Oxford Diffraction. The software packages SHELXS [14] and SHELXL [15] were used for structure solution and refinement as included in X-STEP32 [16]. A combined empirical absorption correction with frame scaling was applied, using the SCALE3 ABSPACK command in CrysalisRed [17].

2.3. X-ray powder diffraction (XPD) at room temperature and 80 K

Phase analysis and determination of cell parameters were carried out using XPD with a STOE STADI P diffractometer (MoK α_1 -radiation, $\lambda = 0.7093$ Å) in steps of 0.02° for 2θ from 3° to 45° in transmission mode for flat samples or in Debye–Scherrer mode for sealed glass capillaries. All diffraction patterns have been analyzed by full-profile Rietveld refinements, using the software package Win-PLOTR [18]. An Oxford Cryosystems Cryostream Cooler (600 Series) with nitrogen gas low temperature attachment was used for the cooling of a ground powder sample in sealed glass capillary of 0.3 mm diameter down to 80 K and stabilized for the collection of X-ray data.

2.4. EDX analysis

The cation composition was verified by EDX analysis, performed on different crystallites, using a Philips XL30 FEG microscope.

2.5. Differential thermal analysis (DTA-TG)

A simultaneous thermal analyzer NETZSCH STA 429 (CD) operated with dry and purified Ar was used to register mass loss and thermal flux curves. About 70 mg of CuReO₄ were heated in a Pt–Ir-crucible with a rate of $10 \,^{\circ}C/min$ from 20 up to $1070 \,^{\circ}C$.

2.6. Infrared spectroscopy (IRS)

The infrared absorbtion spectrum of $CuReO_4$ was obtained on a PERKIN ELMER FTIR 1750-spectrometer. Samples were pressed into pellets, diluted with KBr. Pellets of pure KBr were used as negative control.

2.7. Magnetic susceptibility

The magnetic properties of $CuReO_4$ have been studied with a superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) from quantum design. Measurements were performed in the temperature range from 1.8 to 250 K and field strength 50 and 500 Oe.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Synthesis and characterization of CuReO₄ samples

The CuReO₄ samples were synthesized in the interval of temperature 500-800 °C by three methods according to reactions:

$$CuO + ReO_3 = CuReO_4, \tag{1}$$

$$Cu + Cu(ReO_4)_2 = 2CuReO_4,$$
(2)



Fig. 1. The observed and fitted profiles for CuReO₄, together with the corresponding difference curve (Mo- $K\alpha_1$). (a) The sample was measured in a capillary, (b) the sample was measured during 3 hours in air, (c) the sample was left one month in air before measuring, the fitted profiles belong to the phases CuReO₄, Cu(ReO₄)₂ · 4H₂O, Cu and Cu₂O (from top to bottom, respectively).

$$Cu_2O + Re_2O_7 = 2CuReO_4.$$
(3)

They appeared as dark-brown cakes, which indicated the occurrence of melting during syntheses. The breaking of these cakes yielded orange-red crystals. All samples gave similar XPD patterns, and all reflections were explained based on a tetragonal unit cell with lattice parameters a = 13.69 Å and c = 7.77 Å. Fig. 1(a) shows the diffraction pattern of the sample prepared by reaction (3).

The Re₂O₇ partial pressure over CuReO₄ calculated from the equation $\lg p(\text{Re}_2\text{O}_7, \text{Pa}) = -9561/\text{T} + 11.82$ [13], is 8×10^{-3} atm at 800 °C, corresponding to $\sim 6 \times 10^{-7}$ mol Re₂O₇ or 0.1 wt% Re of the overall Re mass in the reaction tube. At 500 °C it is ~ 0.00005 wt% Re. The EDX analysis of some thin CuReO₄ fragments of the sample, prepared at 800 °C, indicated that the average metal ratio Cu:Re is 1:1, in agreement with nominal composition (data not shown). The compound appears to be diamagnetic, because no distinct magnetic signal from CuReO₄ was registered at SQUID at field strengths 50 and 500 Oe. The reaction with water was used to proof the oxidation states of Cu and Re, since the precipitate of a compound, containing Cu^{2+} and Re^{6+} would consist of ReO_2 , because all compounds with Re^{6+} disproportionate in aqueous solution in ReO_4^- and ReO_2 . On the other hand, Cu is expected to precipitate in the solution of a Cu^{1+} containing compound [19]. CuReO₄ decomposes in water immediately forming a precipitate of Cu₂O and Cu, according to the X-ray diffraction, and Cu(ReO₄)₂ in solution. Therefore, the oxidation states Cu^{1+}/Re^{7+} were assigned in agreement with no detectable paramagnetic moment.

Note that CuReO₄ is unstable to oxygen and moisture, and 15–20 wt% of Cu(ReO₄)₂ as impurity were present in XPD patterns of samples, which have been measured in air during 2–3 h (Fig. 1(b)). A sample of CuReO₄ kept one month in air (Fig. 1(c)) contained more than 90% Cu(ReO₄)₂ · 4H₂O, only 2% CuReO₄, 4%Cu₂O and less than 1% Cu. No degradation was observed for a sample, measured in a glass capillary sealed under argon atmosphere (i.e. 100% CuReO₄) (Fig. 1(a)). The behavior of



Fig. 2. The infrared spectrum of CuReO₄.



Fig. 3. TGA data of CuReO₄.

copper(I) perrhenate in air differs from copper(I) halides CuX (X = Cl, Br, I), which are more stable and oxidize according to the reaction $2CuX + H_2O + 1/2O_2 = 2Cu(OH)$ X [19].

The IR-spectrum of CuReO₄ in the interval of 4000- $500 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ contains only one peak at $\sim 920 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ (Fig. 2), which corresponds to the v3-vibration of the tetrahedral ion ReO_4^- [20] (Figs. 2 and 6).

The TGA data of CuReO₄ are presented in Fig. 3. The DTA-curve shows two endothermic peaks, the one at 430 °C is due to the melting of CuReO₄ and the other above 850 °C corresponds to an evaporation of CuReO₄ and in part to the decomposition of the sample to Cu₂O and $\text{Re}_2O_7(g)$. The residue after the measurement consisted only of CuReO₄. This indicates an evaporation of CuReO₄ according to the reaction $2CuReO_4(s) = (CuReO_4)_2(g)$, which is known for alkali-metal perrhenates [21]. This result does not confirm previous findings [13], who reported the presence of Re₂O₇ in significant amount in the gas phase over CuReO₄ according to the reaction

Table 1 Details of X-ray single-crystal data collection and structure refinement of CuReO₄

Crystal data	
Chemical formula	CuO ₄ Re
Formula weight	313.74
Crystal system	Tetragonal
Space group	I4 ₁ cd
Unit-cell dimensions	a = 13.6965(5) Å, $c = 7.7729(5)$ Å
Cell volume	$1458.15(12) \text{ Å}^3$
Ζ	16
Calculated density (g/cm ³)	5.716
Temperature	293(2) K
Crystal form, color	Prism, red
Crystal size (mm)	$0.05\times0.05\times0.18$
Data collection	
Diffractometer	Oxford diffraction Xcalibur (TM); single-crystal X-ray diffractometer
Data collection method	Rotation method data acquisition using ω and ω scans(s)
Radiation type	$M_0 K \alpha \ (\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å})$
No. of reflections for cell	1309
parameters	
Absorption coefficient	$38.855 \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$
F(000)	2176
θ range for data collection	2.97 to 26.36°
Range of h, k, l	$-16 \le h \le 16, -17 \le k \le 16, -9 \le l \le 9$
Reflections collected/unique	$2084/662 [R_{int} = 0.0199]$
Completeness to $\theta = 26.36^{\circ}$	99.3%
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data/restraints/parameters	662/1/55
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.104
Final R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0180, wR_2 = 0.0400$
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0191, \text{ w}R_2 = 0.0403$
Absolute structure parameter	-0.01(2)
Largest diff. peak and hole	$1.165 \text{ and } -0.814 \text{ e/Å}^3$

 $2CuReO_4(s) = Cu_2O(s) + Re_2O_7(g)$. Our value of the melting point is 56° higher than the value obtained in the work [11]. This may be due to impurities in the sample of [11]. In contrast to Cu(I) halides CuReO₄ has no phase transition before the melting point [22].

3.2. Crystal structure of $CuReO_4$

A tetragonal unit cell with a = 13.6965(5) Å and c = 7.7729(5) Å was determined by X-ray single-crystal structure analysis for the sample synthesized at 800 °C and slowly cooled in the furnace. The structure was solved and refined in space group $I4_1cd$ (see Table 1). Positional parameters and selected interatomic distances for CuReO₄ are listed in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

Since no data regarding compounds with analogous parameters were found in the ICSD [23], a new crystal structure type, the CuReO₄-type is established. Its structure represents a three-dimensional framework formed by tetrahedra of CuO₄ and ReO₄ connected by corner-sharing (Fig. 4). There is a number of large channels with an

Table 2 Positional and thermal displacement parameters $({\rm \AA}^2)$ for $CuReO_4$

Atom	Site	x		У	Ζ	Occup.
Re	16b	0.90191(2))	0.35603(2)	0.25138(11)	1
Cu	16 <i>b</i>	0.1671(1)		0.3809(1)	0.3179(2)	1
O(1)	16 <i>b</i>	0.8756(5)		0.2617(5)	0.3888(9)	1
O(2)	16 <i>b</i>	0.0253(5)		0.3615(5)	0.2151(14)	1
O(3)	16 <i>b</i>	0.8441(6)		0.3373(6)	0.0553(9)	1
O(4)	16 <i>b</i>	0.8610(5)		0.4632(5)	0.3435(12)	1
Atom	U_{11}	U ₂₂	U_{33}	U_{12}	U_{13}	U_{23}
Re	0.0246(2)	0.0199(2)	0.0251(2)	-0.0004(1)	-0.0004(2)	0.0022(2)
Cu	0.0498(8)	0.0529(8)	0.0376(8)	-0.0037(7)	0.0182(7)	0.0034(7)
O(1)	0.057(5)	0.026(3)	0.030(4)	0.004(4)	0.003(4)	0.000(3)
O(2)	0.018(4)	0.069(5)	0.077(7)	-0.002(3)	0.000(4)	-0.009(5)
O(3)	0.048(4)	0.047(4)	0.025(5)	-0.003(4)	-0.005(3)	0.006(3)
O(4)	0.059(5)	0.023(4)	0.063(5)	0.000(3)	0.008(4)	-0.001(4)

Table 3 Characteristic geometric parameters (Å, deg) for $CuReO_4$

Re-O(1)	1.715(7)	O(1)-Re-O(2)	110.0(3)	O(3)-Cu-O(2)	104.3(4)
Re-O(2)	1.715(7)	O(1)–Re–O(4)	108.3(3)	O(1)–Cu–O(4)	100.9(2)
Re-O(3)	1.727(7)	O(2)-Re- $O(4)$	110.5(3)	O(3)–Cu–O(4)	101.5(3)
Re-O(4)	1.737(7)	O(1)-Re-O(3)	109.9(3)	O(2)–Cu–O(4)	89.7(3)
Cu-O(1)	1.903(7)	O(2)–Re–O(3)	108.2(4)	Re–O(1)–Cu	163.9(4)
Cu–O(2)	2.117(8)	O(4)–Re–O(3)	110.0(4)	Re–O(2)–Cu	147.9(4)
Cu–O(3)	1.945(7)	O(1)–Cu–O(3)	99.5(3)	Re–O(3)–Cu	145.4(4)
Cu–O(4)	2.179(7)	O(1)-Cu-O(2)	151.4(2)	Re-O(4)-Cu	148.5(4)



Fig. 4. The crystal structure of CuReO₄. Dark gray tetrahedra are occupied by Re atoms, light gray by Cu atoms.



Fig. 5. 4-6-8-10-membered-rings in the framework of MO₄-tetrahedra in CuReO₄.

average diameter of 3.1 Å between these tetrahedra. It can be suggested that these large channels in the structure facilitate the degradation of CuReO₄ in air.

The structure of CuReO₄ can be considered as derived from the diamond-structure and is similar to structures of some silicon dioxides and aluminosilicates [19,24]: the CuO₄- and ReO₄-tetrahedra form spirally twisted rings of 4-6-8-10-*Me*O₄-tetrahedra (Fig. 5) like 6-silica–rings in β crystobalite or 4-6-8-10-alumo-silica-rings in feldspar R^+ [AlSi₃O₈] or R^{2+} [Al₂Si₂O₈] [24].

All atoms in the structure occupy the same site symmetry (16b); each ReO_4 -tetrahedron is surrounded by 4 CuO_4 tetrahedra, and vice versa. This sequence of tetrahedra is subjected to the Loewenstein-rule, which has been found for aluminosilicates: ReO₄-tetrahedra are never bounded with each other, the structural fragment Re-O-Re is avoided [25]. Some interatomic distances and bond angles are listed in Table 3. ReO₄-tetrahedra are practically undistorted: $d_{\text{Re}-\text{O}} = 1.715 - 1.737 \text{ Å}$, the angles O-Re-O = 108.15-110.54°. The average Re–O distance $(d_{Re-O} = 1.724 \text{ \AA})$ is in very good agreement with Re-O-distances for Re⁷⁺ located in a tetrahedron of oxygen atoms in Re₂O₇ (1.70-1.80 Å) [26], in alkali-metal perrhenates MReO₄ $(M = K, d_{Re-O} = 1.736 \text{ Å} [27], M = Rb, d_{Re-O} = 1.722 \text{ Å}$ [28]), in vanadyl perrhenate VO(ReO₄)₂ (1.69–1.75 Å) [29] or in Cu(ReO₄)₂ (1.69–1.74 Å) [2] (Fig. 6).

The coordination environment of Cu is moderately distorted from ideal tetrahedral symmetry with O–Cu–O bond angles (Table 3) ranging from 90° to 151° and bond lengths $d_{Cu-O} = 1.903-2.179$ Å. The average distance ($d_{Cu-O} =$ 2.036 Å) is significantly larger than $d_{Cu-O} = 1.85$ Å in cuprite Cu₂O (linear oxygen coordination of Cu atoms) and similar to the distance Cu–O (1.993 and 2.031 Å) in NaCuO (linear oxygen coordination of Cu atoms, too) [30].



Fig. 6. Oxygen coordination around Cu and Re atoms

A tetrahedral coordination is not unusual for Re(VII) and Cu(I) cations (for instance, CuX, where X = Cl, Br, J [19,22]), but there are no examples of CuO₄ tetrahedra for simple copper(I) compounds [22]. It is interesting to see, how the relative size of cations M^+ in $MReO_4$ influences the structural chemistry of perrhenates of monovalent metals (Table 4). For example, perrhenates of alkali metals $(M = Na^+, K^+, Rb^+)$ and the silver perrhenate AgReO₄ crystallize in a scheelite-type tetragonal structure, in which M atoms occupy dodecahedra of O atoms connected by edge-sharing [27,28,31,32]. The thallium(I) and cesium perrhenates, TlReO₄ [33] and CsReO₄ [34], crystallize at ambient pressure in a scheelite-like orthorhombic structure with dodecahedric coordination of Tl and Cs. LiReO4 and CuReO₄ are the exception from this row due to their small radii, but they have different structures despite their similar

Table 4 Ionic radii and crystal structure types of some monovalent perrhenates, $MReO_4$

Ion	Ionic radius for coordination number 6 (Å) [10]	Structural type at room temperature	Coordination polyhedron	Space group	Average M–O bond length (Å)
Li ⁺	0.76	LiReO ₄	Trigonal bipyramid and trigonal pyramid	<i>P</i> -1	2.090
					2.065
Cu^+	0.77	CuReO ₄	Tetrahedron	$I4_1cd$	2.025
Na ⁺	1.02	Scheelite	Dodecahedron	$I4_1/a$	2.582
Ag^+	1.15	Scheelite	Dodecahedron	$I4_1/a$	2.591
К ⁺	1.38	Scheelite	Dodecahedron	$I4_1/a$	2.802
Tl^+	1.50	Scheelite-like	Dodecahedron	Pnma	2.936
Rb ⁺	1.52	Scheelite	Dodecahedron	$I4_1/a$	2.960
Cs^+	1.67	Scheelite-like	Dodecahedron	Pnma	3.184



Fig. 7. Selected fragments of the X-ray pattern of $CuReO_4$ at different temperatures. The symbol * indicates the contributions from the impurity $Cu(ReO_4)_2$ formed due to sample handling in air.

sizes: Li⁺ ions occupy in the structure three different crystallographic positions with a distorted trigonal bipyramid and distorted trigonal pyramid from oxygen atoms [35]. Re atoms are tetrahedrically surrounded by O in all these cases. The critical average bond length M-O to stabilize the scheelite-type structure seems to be more than 2.5 Å, which corresponds to an ionic radius of more than 1 Å. Note that all these structures exept CuReO₄ are centric structures.

3.3. X-ray diffraction of CuReO₄ at low temperature

A sample for X-ray diffraction at 80 K was prepared from CuO and ReO₃ at $600 \degree$ C with quenching after the

synthesis. The diffraction pattern showed no additional peaks in comparison with the pattern at 293 K. In both cases there is a small quantity of $Cu(ReO_4)_2$ in the sample due to sample preparation for analysis in air. Fig. 7 shows two fragments of two diffraction patterns of the same sample $CuReO_4$ measured at 293 and 80 K. A distinct peak shift can be seen with decrease of temperature, which indicates a temperature-dependent change of unit cell parameters.

Applying the structure of $CuReO_4$ at room temperature as a starting model, a Rietveld refinement of all atomic positions at 80 K was performed with an isotropic approximation for the thermal displacement parameters. The z-coordinate of Re as the heaviest atom in the structure was fixed at 0.00. Thermal displacement parameters for all oxygen atoms were fixed at 1.0 Å² and thermal parameters for the cations were refined separately. After the final refinement good values for the reliability factors were obtained: $R_p = 2.81\%$, $R_{wp} = 3.60\%$, $\chi^2 = 1.70$. The parameters "a" and "b" and the cell volume decrease with decreasing temperature whereas the "c" parameter increases: a = 13.6812(4) Å, c = 7.7615(3) Å, V = 1452.76(7) Å³ (293K) and a = 13.5118(3) Å, c = 7.8782(2) Å, V = 1438.31(5) Å³ (80 K). The average Re–O-distance increases from 1.743 to 1.843 Å, whereas the average Cu–O-distance decreases from 2.025 to 1.969 Å.

Further details of the crystal structure investigation can be obtained from the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany, (fax: +497247808666; *e-mail*: crysdata@fiz.karlsruhe.de) on quoting the depository number CSD 416510.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG FU125/42).

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