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Regular Articles

Preparation of thin layer materials with macroporous microstructure for SOFC applications

D. Marrero-López, J.C. Ruiz-Morales, J. Peña-Martínez, J. Canales-Vázquez and P. Núñez

page 685



Thin films materials of mixed oxides with potential application in SOFC devices have been prepared with macroporous microstructure using PMMA microspheres as pore formers.

Diffusion and phase transformations in spark plasma synthesized and sintered Cu–V₂O₅ couples Jean-Philippe Monchoux and Jean Galy *page 693*



Fast diffusion of Cu into V₂O₅ is studied on Cu–V₂O₅ diffusion couples sintered by spark plasma sintering. The shape of the diffusion profiles is explained by the influence of phase transitions and by the concentration dependence of the diffusion coefficient. High value of diffusion coefficient is measured $(D \approx 3 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{s})$.

Regular Articles—Continued

Determination of A-site deficiency in lanthanum manganite by XRD intensity ratio

Yanbo Zuo, Jianheng Li, Jianxin Yi, Zhongbing Wang and Chusheng Chen

page 700



The X-ray diffraction intensity ratio of (024) and (012) reflections of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{MnO}_{3\pm\delta} I_{024}/I_{012}$ increases with x until x=0.09 as predicted by the computer simulation, and at x>0.09 the intensity ratio levels off, showing that the maximum lanthanum deficiency is around 0.09.

Phase and structural characterization of $Sr_2Nb_2O_7$ and $SrNbO_3$ thin films grown via pulsed laser ablation in O_2 or N_2 atmospheres

K.R. Balasubramaniam, Y. Cao, N. Patel, S. Havelia, P.J. Cox, E.C. Devlin, E.P. Yu, B.J. Close, P.M. Woodward and P.A. Salvador *page 705*



Phase selection of SrNbO_y films is influenced primarily by the process gas (in the 1–100 mTorr pressure range). In oxygen, films adopt the Sr₂Nb₂O₇ (110)-layered perovskite structure (left). In nitrogen, films adopt the cubic perovskite SrNbO₃ structure (right). The films' microstructure depends, however, on the substrate type and temperature.

Structure and characterization of zero- to two-dimensional compounds built up of the sandwich-type clusters and transition-metal linkers

Zhiming Zhang, Shuang Yao, Enbo Wang, Chao Qin, Yanfei Qi, Yangguang Li and Rodolphe Clérac *page 715*



Five new compounds, from zero- to two-dimensional built up of the sandwich-type clusters and transition-metal linkers, have been obtained by the routine synthetic reactions in aqueous solution. This polyoxoanion framework architecture represents the first example of the 2D structure consisting of the sandwich-type polyoxoanion $[\rm Mn_4(\rm H_2O)_2(\rm SiW_9O_{34})_2]^{12-}$ and the binuclear $\{\rm Mn_2(\rm H_2O)_6\}^{4+}$ group.

Synthesis of Gd₃PO₇:Eu³⁺ nanospheres via a facile combustion method and optical properties

Ye Jin, Weiping Qin, Jisen Zhang, Xianmin Zhang, Yan Wang and Chunyan Cao page 724



SEM image of as-prepared Gd₃PO₇:Eu³⁺ nanospheres.

Cation-dependent anomalous compression of gallosilicate zeolites with CGS topology: A high-pressure synchrotron powder diffraction study

Yongjae Lee, Hyun-Hwi Lee, Dong Ryeol Lee, Sun Jin Kim and Chi-chang Kao *page 730*



Three different cation forms of gallosilicate CGS zeolites have been investigated using synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction and a diamond-anvil cell. Under hydrostatic conditions, unit-cell lengths and volume show anomalous compression behaviours depending on the non-framework cation type and initial hydration level, which implies different modes of pressure-induced hydration and channel distortion.

Facile synthesis of iron oxide with wormlike morphology and their application in water treatment

Lijuan Wan, Keying Shi, Xiqiang Tian and Honggang Fu page 735



A novel and facile synthesis route for the manufacture of transparent and uniform nanocrystalline α -Fe₂O₃ (nc-Fe₂O₃) thin films or powders with wormlike morphology is reported, utilizing ferric nitrate as the inorganic source and triblock copolymer as the wormlike morphology–structure-directing agent through evaporation-induced assembly (EIA).

A new uranyl niobate sheet in the cesium uranyl niobate $Cs_9[(UO_2)_8O_4(NbO_5)(Nb_2O_8)_2]$

S. Saad, S. Obbade, S. Yagoubi, C. Renard and F. Abraham

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View of the $^2_{\infty}$ [U₈O₃₆] uranyl infinite layer formed by association of [U₆O₃₀] and [U₂O₁₂] uranyl blocks in Cs₉[(UO₂)₈O₄(NbO₅) (Nb₂O₈)₂].

Preparation and photoluminescence properties of Mn^{2+} -activated $M_2Si_5N_8$ (M=Ca, Sr, Ba) phosphors C.J. Duan, W.M. Otten, A.C.A. Delsing and H.T. Hintzen page 751



The luminescence properties of Mn^{2+} in $M_2Si_5N_8$ (M=Ca, Sr, Ba) have been investigated. All $M_2Si_5N_8:Mn^{2+}$ phosphors show narrow symmetric bands in the wavelength range of 500–700 nm with peak center at about 599, 606 and 567 nm for M=Ca, Sr, Ba, respectively. The observed band emission is ascribed to the ${}^{4}T_1({}^{4}G) \rightarrow {}^{6}A_1({}^{6}S)$ transition of Mn^{2+} in $M_2Si_5N_8$ host lattice.

Synthesis of the titanium phosphide telluride Ti₂PTe₂: A thermochemical approach

Frauke Philipp, Peer Schmidt, Edgar Milke, Michael Binnewies and Stefan Hoffmann *page 758*



Oxygen partial pressure and electrochemical potential above the oxides of titanium, tellurium and phosphorus calculated at 1000 K, marked: level of equalisation of oxygen partial pressure.

Structure and electrical transport properties of the ordered skutterudites $MGe_{1.5}S_{1.5}$ (M = Co, Rh, Ir)

Paz Vaqueiro, Gerard G. Sobany and Martin Stindl page 768



The $MGe_{1.5}S_{1.5}$ phases exhibit an ordered skutterudite structure, in which the anions form diamond-like four-membered Ge_2S_2 rings.

Structural aspects of fast copper mobility in Cu₆PS₅Cl—The best solid electrolyte from Cu₆PS₅X series A. Gagor, A. Pietraszko and D. Kaynts *page 777*



Coordination of copper mobile ions in superionic phase of Cu_6PS_5Cl , T = 435 K.

Solid-state synthesis in the system $Na_{0.8}Nb_yW_{1-y}O_3$ with $0 \le y \le 0.4$: A new phase, $Na_{0.5}NbO_{2.75}$, with perovskite-type structure

Tapas Debnath, Claus H. Rüscher, Thorsten M. Gesing, Jürgen Koepke and Altaf Hussain page 783



Optical micrograph of a polished sample of nominal composition $Na_{0.8}Nb_{0.4}W_{0.6}O_3$ showing a mixture of three different coloured crystals: red, light blue and white. The scale bar is 30 μ m.

Linear and nonlinear optical susceptibilities for a novel borate oxide BaBiBO₄: Theory and experiment Ali Hussain Reshak, S. Auluck and I.V. Kityk page 789



A study of the phase transitions and proton dynamics of the superprotonic conductor $Cs_5H_3(SO_4)_4 \cdot 0.5H_2O$ single crystal with ¹H and ¹³³Cs nuclear magnetic resonance Ae Ran Lim

page 796



The phase transitions and proton dynamics of $Cs_5H_3(SO_4)_4 \cdot 0.5H_2O$ were studied by the spin-lattice relaxation time and the spin-spin relaxation time of the ¹H and ¹³³Cs nuclei. The "acid" and the "water" protons were distinguished. Our NMR study has provided new information about the roles of acid protons, water protons, and cesium nuclei in $Cs_5H_3(SO_4)_4 \cdot 0.5H_2O$ single crystals. Fig. Temperature dependences of T_1 and T_2 for acid and water protons in a $Cs_5H_3(SO_4)_4 \cdot H_2O$ single crystal ($\bullet: T_1$ and $\blacksquare: T_2$ for acid proton.

Structure and magnetic properties of potassium doped bismuth ferrite

Ja. Dhahri, M. Boudard, S. Zemni, H. Roussel and M. Oumezzine

page 802



 $Bi_{1-x}K_xFeO_3$ ($0 \le x \le 0.07$) are described in *R3c* space group. The average Fe (gray balls) and Bi/K (black balls) displacements decrease with K content reducing the polar character and leading to a change from rhombohedral to pseudo-cubic symmetry. Structural disorder results in strong diffuse scattering. The compounds remain antiferromagnetic at room temperature.

Mg substitution effect on the hydrogenation behaviour, thermodynamic and structural properties of the La_2Ni_7 -H(D)₂ system

R.V. Denys, A.B. Riabov, V.A. Yartys, Masashi Sato and R.G. Delaplane

page 812



Substitution of La by Mg in La₂Ni₇ occurs only in the Laves-type parts of the crystal structure to form LaMgNi₄ slabs within the La_{1.5}Mg_{0.5}Ni₇ crystal. Subsequent hydrogenation forms La_{1.5}Mg_{0.5}Ni₇D_{9.1} with a nearly isotropic expansion of the unit cell that is in contrast to the large unilateral anisotropic expansion that takes place on hydrogenation of La₂Ni₇. Contrary to La₂Ni₇D_{6.5} where only LaNi₂ layers absorb hydrogen atoms leaving LaNi₅ slabs unmodified, in La_{1.5}Mg_{0.5}Ni₇D_{9.1} both LaNi₅ and LaMgNi₄ layers become occupied; the effect of Mg substitution is the increase of the reversible hydrogenation storage capacity. Within the hydrogen sublattice inside the LaMgNi₄D_{7.56} slab local ordering of Mg and La in the layer gives a packing of the MgD₆ octahedra and LaD₁₆ polyhedra as shown.

Controlled modification of multiwalled carbon nanotubes with Zno nanostructures

Xiuying Wang, Baiying Xia, Xingfu Zhu, Jiesheng Chen, Shilun Qiu and Jixue Li

page 822



Multiwalled carbon nanotube (MWNT)/flower-like ZnO heterojunctions and MWNT/ZnO nanoparticle composites were prepared by zinc–ammonitum complex ion covalently attached to the MWNTs through the C–N bonds via adjusting the reaction time. A growth mechanism has been proposed in which the soaking time plays a key role in controlling the size, morphology, and site of ZnO nanostructures. **Topologically novel copper molybdate phases based on** 3,4'-dipyridylketone: Hydrothermal synthesis, structural characterization, and magnetic properties Matthew R. Montney and Robert L. LaDuca

page 828



 $[Cu_2(MoO_4)_2(3,4'-dpk)(H_2O)]$ (1, 3,4'-dpk = 3,4'-dipyridylketone) and $[Cu_4(3,4'-dpk)_4(Mo_8O_{26})]$ (2) have been prepared by hydrothermal methods. 1 possesses 1-D $[Cu_2(MoO_4)_2(H_2O)]_n$ ribbons containing magnetically interacting { Cu_4O_6 } tetramers. The ribbons are connected into 2-D by 3,4'-dpk ligands. The reduced phase 2 manifests an unprecedented 1-D "X-rail" chain motif.

Synthesis, structure, and ionic conductivity of Na₅Li₃Ti₂S₈ Fu Qiang Huang, Jiyong Yao, Zhanqiang Liu, Jianghua Yang and James A. Ibers *page 837*



The structure of $Na_5Li_3Ti_2S_8$ viewed down [010]. For the sake of clarity, the Na–S and Li(2)–S interactions are omitted.

$(2,2'-bipy)[In_2(OH)_2(H_2O)](SO_4)_2$: The first indium sulfate with a layer structure

Zhenfen Tian, Li Wang, Tianyou Song, Ying Wang, Liangliang Huang, Lirong Zhang and Suhua Shi *page 842*



The two-dimensional layer structure of $(2,2'-bipy)[In_2(OH)_2(H_2O)](SO_4)_2$ along [001].

Organically modified porous hydroxyapatites: A comparison between alkylphosphonate grafting and citrate chelation

L. El-Hammari, H. Marroun, A. Laghzizil, A. Saoiabi, C. Roux, J. Livage and T. Coradin *page 848*



Evolution of pore size distribution of hydroxyapatite (HAp) after alkylphosphonate grafting (20% TPOH) or citrate addition c-HAp) demonstrates the formation of organically modified mesoporous materials.

Hydrothermal synthesis and luminescence of CaMO₄:RE³⁺ (M=W, Mo; RE=Eu, Tb) submicro-phosphors Fang Lei and Bing Yan *page 855*



Submicro-crystalline Eu^{3+} -activated tungstate $CaWO_4$: RE^{3+} phosphors with a sheelite structure have been synthesized via the hydrothermal process; the morphology was determined from the hydrothermal temperature. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images show that $CaWO_4$: Eu^{3+} exhibits spherical particles, which can be controlled by the reaction parameters.

Comparisons between surfactant-templated mesoporous and conventional sol-gel-derived CaO-B₂O₃-SiO₂ glasses: Compositional, textural and in vitro bioactive properties Tongping Xiu, Qian Liu and Jiacheng Wang *page 863*



Surfactant-templated mesoporous $CaO-B_2O_3-SiO_2$ glasses (MCBS) are superior to conventional sol-gel-derived $CaO-B_2O_3-SiO_2$ glasses (CBS) in compositional homogeneity, textural properties and in vitro bioactivity.

Er₁₇Ru₆Te₃: A highly condensed metal-rich ternary telluride Akash Mehta and John D. Corbett *page 871*



A 3D structure built of bi- and tricapped trigonal prisms centered by Ru or Te.

Rare earth-nickel-indides $Dy_5Ni_2In_4$ and $RE_4Ni_{11}In_{20}$ (RE = Gd, Tb, Dy)

Yuriy B. Tyvanchuk, Ute Ch. Rodewald, Yaroslav M. Kalychak and Rainer Pöttgen *page 878*



Crystal structure of Dy₅Ni₂In₄.

Hydrothermal synthesis, crystal structure, thermal behavior and spectroscopic and magnetic properties of two new organically templated fluoro-vanadyl-hydrogenarsenates: $(R)_{0.5}[(VO)(HAsO_4)F]$ (*R*: Ethylenediammonium and piperazinium)

Teresa Berrocal, José L. Mesa, José L. Pizarro, Luis Lezama, Begoña Bazán, María I. Arriortua and Teófilo Rojo *page 884*



Polyhedral view of the layered crystal structure of $(C_2H_{10}N_2)_{0.5}$ [(VO)(HAsO_4)F].

Structure, microstructure and magnetic properties of $Sr_{1-x}Ca_xCrO_3$ ($0 \le x \le 1$)

E. Castillo-Martínez, A. Durán and M.Á. Alario-Franco page 895



HRTEM image of a crystal of $Sr_{0.5}Ca_{0.5}CrO_3$ showing a random distribution of $2a_p \approx 7.6$ Å all along the crystal that lacks long range order. Inset shows the FFT of the area of the image and of a tenth of that area showing the influence of the coherence length.

Surface properties and performance for VOCs combustion of LaFe_{1-v}Ni_vO₃ perovskite oxides

G. Pecchi, P. Reyes, R. Zamora, L.E. Cadús and J.L.G. Fierro

page 905



LaFeO₃, LaNiO₃ and substituted LaFe_{1-y}Ni_yO₃ (y=0.1, 0.2 and 0.3) perovskite-type oxides have been investigated as catalysts in the total combustion of ethanol and acetylacetate. The characterization indicate variation in specific surface area, crystal structure, reducibility and surface composition. The catalytic activity expressed as intrinsic activity (mol m⁻² h⁻¹) increases with nickel substitution. A synergy between Ni³⁺ and Fe³⁺ cations at the B position of the LaFe_{1-y}Ni_yO₃ perovskite for VOCs combustion was observed.

Characterization and activity of visible-light-driven TiO₂ photocatalyst codoped with nitrogen and cerium

Chao Liu, Xinhu Tang, Cehui Mo and Zhimin Qiang page 913



A novel TiO_2 photocatalyst codoped with nitrogen and cerium was synthesized and characterized. An enhanced visible light activity was achieved. UV–vis DRS results indicated that the optical absorption edge of the N–Ce codoped TiO_2 was obviously shifted to the visible light range as the Ce/Ti doping ratio increased.

Crystal structure of the new compound

 $Pb_{3+x}Sb_{3-x}S_{7-x}Cl_{1+x}(x \sim 0.45)$: The homologous series $Pb_{(2+2N)}(Sb,Pb)_{(2+2N)}S_{(2+2N)}(S,Cl)_{(4+2N)}Cl_N$ and its polychalcogenide derivatives (N=1-3) Charlotte Doussier, Yves Moëlo, Alain Meerschaut,

Philippe Léone and Catherine Guillot-Deudon *page 920*



The title compound, $Pb_{3+x}Sb_{3-x}S_{7-x}Cl_{1+x}$, is derived from the homeotypic persulfide $Pb_6Sb_6S_{14}(S_3)$ by substituting two chlorine atoms for the S_3 trimer. This change is quite isovolumic.

High surface area V-Mo-N materials synthesized from amine intercalated foams

Piotr Krawiec, Rabi Narayan Panda, Emanuel Kockrick, Dorin Geiger and Stefan Kaskel page 935



Nanocrystalline ternary V–Mo nitrides were prepared via nitridation of amine intercalated oxide foams or bulk ternary oxides. Foamed precursors were favorable for vanadium rich materials, while for molybdenum rich samples bulk ternary oxides resulted in higher specific surface areas.

Syntheses, structures and magnetic properties of two new one-dimensional cobalt (II) phosphites with organic amines acting as ligands

Gaijuan Li, Yan Xing and Shuyan Song *page 943*



Two new 1D inorganic–organic hybrid cobalt (II) phosphites have been prepared under solvothermal conditions in the presence of pyridine. Co(HPO₃) (py) possesses a 1D ladder-like framework constructed from CoO₃N tetrahedral, HPO₃ pseudo-pyramids and pyridine ligands (left); 1D-chain structure of [Co(OH)(py)₃][Co (py)₂][HPO₂(OH)]₃ consists of corner-shared six-membered rings (right).

Size-tunable synthesis of tetrapod-like ZnS nanopods by seed-epitaxial metal-organic chemical vapor deposition Tianyou Zhai, Yang Dong, Yaobing Wang, Zongwei Cao, Ying Ma, Hongbing Fu and Jiannian Yao page 950



Single-crystalline tetrapod-like ZnS nanopods were synthesized by a one-step seed-epitaxial metal-organic chemical vapor deposition approach using cubic CdSe nanocrystals as the seeds. The diameters of the ZnS tetrapods can be easily tuned by changing the distances between the substrates and precursors.

Microwave-induced synthesis of highly dispersed gold nanoparticles within the pore channels of mesoporous silica Jinlou Gu, Wei Fan, Atsushi Shimojima and Tatsuya Okubo page 957



A facile and novel strategy has been developed to incorporate gold nanoparticles into the pore channels of mesoporous SBA-15 assisted by microwave radiation (MR) with mild reaction condition and rapid reaction speed. Due to the rapid and homogeneous nucleation, simultaneous propagation and termination by MR, the size of gold nanoparticles are effectively controlled.

Synthesis, crystal structure, and photocatalytic activity of a new two-layer Ruddlesden–Popper phase, Li₂CaTa₂O₇ Zhenhua Liang, Kaibin Tang, Qian Shao, Guocan Li, Suyuan Zeng and Huagui Zheng *page 964*



Crystal structure of a two-layer Ruddlesden–Popper phase $Li_2CaTa_2O_7$. A new two-layer Ruddlesden–Popper phase $Li_2CaTa_2O_7$ has been synthesized for the first time. $Li_2CaTa_2O_7$ crystallizes in the space group *Fmmm* determined by powder X-ray and electron diffraction. UV–visible diffuse reflection spectra and the photocatalytic degradation of RhB molecules in water under ultra visible light irradiation show that $Li_2CaTa_2O_7$ is a potential material in photocatalysis.

Twinned tetragonal structure and equation of state of $NaTh_2F_9$

Andrzej Grzechnik, Wolfgang Morgenroth and Karen Friese

page 971



Crystal structure of NaTh₂F₉ ($I\overline{4}2m$, Z=4) at ambient conditions. The polyhedra around the Th atoms are drawn.

Topotactic insertion of lithium in the layered structure $Li_4VO(PO_4)_2$: The tunnel structure $Li_5VO(PO_4)_2$ M. Satya Kishore, V. Pralong, V. Caignaert, S. Malo, S. Hebert, U.V. Varadaraju and B. Raveau *page 976*



Electrochemical synthesis of a new 3D V(III) lithium phosphate, $Li_5VO(PO_4)_2$. Starting from the 2D $Li_4VO(PO_4)_2$, the topotactic reaction that take place during lithium intercalation is explained on the basis of the flexible coordinations of V^{4+} and V^{3+} species.

Atomistic simulation on the site preference and mechanical properties of $Th_3Co_{4+x}Al_{12-x}$ and $U_3Co_{4+x}Al_{12-x}$ Ping Qian, Hui-Jun Tian, Nan-Xian Chen and Jiang Shen *page 983*



It is seen from figure that the substitution of Co for Al at all the four sites 2b, 4f, 6h and 12k decrease the cohesive energy of $U_3Co_{4+x}Al_{12-x}$, which means that the Co atoms can play a role in stabilizing the structure. The Co atoms strongly prefer 6h sites.

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