



Crystal structure and thermodynamic properties of potassium antimony tungsten oxide

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ABSTRACT

In the present work potassium antimony tungsten oxide with pyrochlore structure is refined by the Rietveld method (space group $Fd\bar{3}m$, $Z=8$). The temperature dependences of heat capacity have been measured for the first time in the range from 7 to 370 K for this compound. The experimental data were used to calculate standard thermodynamic functions, namely the heat capacity $C_p^\circ(T)$, enthalpy $H^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$, entropy $S^\circ(T) - S^\circ(0)$ and Gibbs function $G^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$, for the range from $T \rightarrow 0$ to 370 K. The differential scanning calorimetry was applied to measure the incongruent melting temperature of compound under study. The high-temperature X-ray diffraction was used for the determining thermal expansion coefficients.

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1. Introduction

The mixed oxides of stoichiometry $A_2B_2O_7$ and $A_2B_2O_6$ with the pyrochlore structure (space group $Fd\bar{3}m$) attract attention of scientists as a result of their interesting structural aspects and their wide applications. The technological applications of these materials are chiefly derived from their magnetic properties, in catalysis, and their growing use in the field of electronics [1–3].

The object of our investigation is complex oxide containing antimony, tungsten and potassium. In order to understand the relations among structure and energetic in a fundamental sense, and to correlate reactivity at high temperature and materials compatibility in applications, thermodynamic data are essential. Despite the extensive interest in defect pyrochlores, there is no any thermodynamic data and other physicochemical data are presented in bare number of publications. Therefore detailed investigations of these compounds are especially important.

The goals of this work include detailed structural investigation, studies of thermal stability, calorimetric determination of the temperature dependence of the heat capacity $C_p^\circ = f(T)$ of $KSbWO_6$ from 7 to 370 K, detection of the possible phase transitions, and calculation of the standard thermodynamic functions

$C_p^\circ(T)$, $H^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$, $S^\circ(T) - S^\circ(0)$ and $G^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$ in the range from $T \rightarrow 0$ to 370 K.

2. Experimental

2.1. Sample

Sample of $KSbWO_6$ was prepared by the solid-state reaction between tungsten oxide, antimony(III) oxide and potassium nitrate. The synthesis was performed in a porcelain crucible, into which the reaction mixture with the atomic ration $1K + 1W + 1Sb$ was loaded. The mixture was calcined from 673 to 1073 K with temperature rise on 200 K and holding reaction mixture at every temperature during 3 h to prevent sublimation of components. Then the mixture was calcined at 1073 K for 20 h, undergoing regrinding every 5 h to increase crystallinity. To prove the atomic ration $1K + 1W + 1Sb$ the obtained sample was analyzed on a Shimadzu energo-dispersive roentgen fluorescent spectrometer EDX-900HS (from $_{11}Na$ to $_{92}U$) with sensitive detector without liquid nitrogen.

For structural investigations, an X-ray diffraction pattern of a $KSbWO_6$ sample was recorded on a Shimadzu X-ray diffractometer XRD-6000 (Cu $K\alpha$ radiation, geometry $\theta-2\theta$) in the 2θ range from 10° to 120° with scan increment of 0.02° . Rietveld analysis and structure refinement [4] were carried out using RIETAN-94 software [5]. The X-ray data and estimated impurity content (0.5–1 wt.%) in the substances led us to conclude that the

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Table 1
Details of the X-ray diffraction experiment and the results of the structure refinement for KSbWO_6 .

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Space group | <i>Fd3m</i> |
| Z | 8 |
| 2θ range, ° | 10–120 |
| a, Å | 10.23671(7) |
| V, Å ³ | 1072.71(1) |
| Number of reflections | 63 |
| Number of refined parameters: | 27 |
| Structural parameters | 6 |
| Others | 21 |
| R_{wp} ; R_p , % | 3.75; 2.63 |
| $R_{wp} = \{(\sum w_i [y_{iobs} - y_{icalc}]^2) / (\sum w_i [y_{iobs}]^2)\}^{1/2}$; | |
| $R_p = (\sum y_{iobs} - y_{icalc}) / (\sum y_{iobs})$. | |

studied sample was an individual crystalline compound. The high-temperature X-ray diffraction was carried out on a Shimadzu X-ray diffractometer XRD-6000 using Sample Heating Attachment HA-1001.

2.2. Apparatus and measurement procedure

To measure the heat capacity C_p° of the tested substance in the range from 7 to 370 K a BKT-3.0 automatic precision adiabatic vacuum calorimeter with discrete heating was used. The calorimeter design and the operation procedure were described earlier [6,7]. The calorimeter was tested by measuring the heat capacity of high-purity copper and reference samples of synthetic corundum and K-2 benzoic acid. The analysis of the results showed that measurement error of the heat capacity of the substance at helium temperature was within $\pm 2\%$ ($5 < T < 20$ K), then it decreased to $\pm 0.5\%$ as the temperature was rising to 40 K, and was equal to $\pm 0.2\%$ at $T > 40$ K. Temperatures of phase transitions can be determined with the error of ± 0.02 K. Thermal behavior was carried out with DSC Labsys from Setaram in a platinum crucible ranging from 298 to 1420 K (heating rate 0.167 K/s).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Crystal structure

The structure of KSbWO_6 was refined assuming space group *Fd3m*. The initial model included the atomic coordinates in the structure of KNbWO_6 [8]. The details of the X-ray diffraction experiment and structure refinement data are listed in Table 1.

Fig. 1 represents the measured, simulated, and difference X-ray diffraction patterns for KSbWO_6 , as well as a pattern of lines

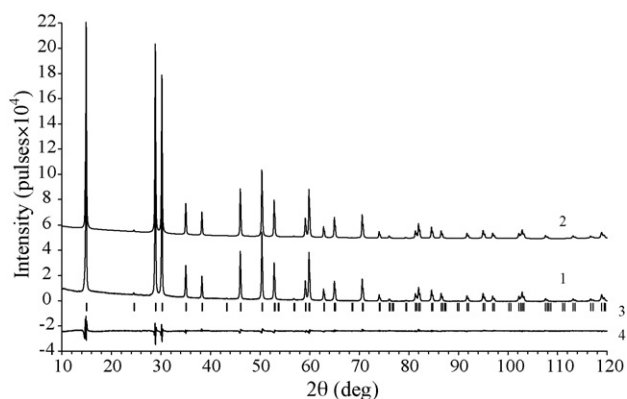


Fig. 1. Fragments of (1) observed, (2) simulated, and (4) difference X-ray diffraction patterns for KSbWO_6 . (3) Bragg reflections. The simulated pattern is shifted relative to the observed pattern.

Table 2
Coordinates and isotropic thermal parameters of atoms in the structure of KSbWO_6 .

| Atom | Site | x | y | z | Occ | B (Å ²) |
|------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|---------------------|
| K | 32e | 0.4010(5) | 0.4010(5) | 0.4010(5) | 0.25 | 2.0(3) |
| Sb | 16c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.85(2) |
| W | 16c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.85(2) |
| O | 48f | 0.3206(3) | 0.125 | 0.125 | | 0.9(1) |

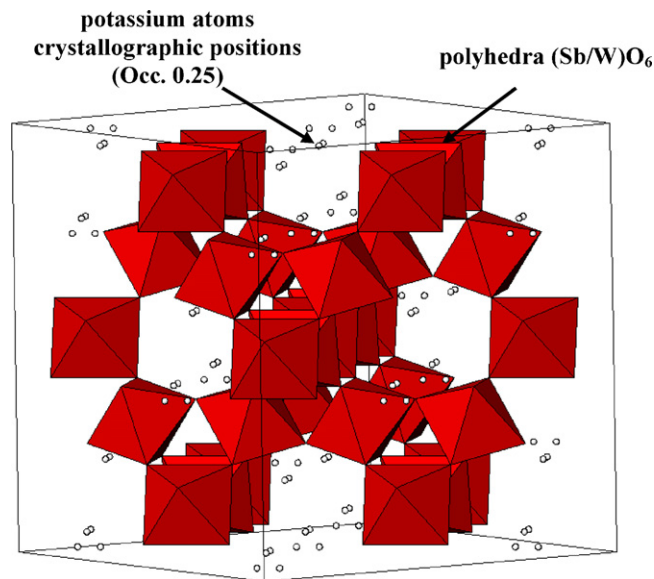


Fig. 2. Fragment of KSbWO_6 structure.

corresponding to reflection maxima. There is a good agreement between the measured and simulated patterns. Table 2 lists the coordinates of the atoms and their isotropic thermal parameters. The refined model yielded positive isotropic thermal parameters *B* for all atoms. The Sb/W–O bond lengths are 1.949 ± 0.001 Å, and K–O bond lengths are 2.874 ± 0.005 Å and 3.346 ± 0.005 Å (Table 3).

Fig. 2 represents a fragment of the KSbWO_6 structure. The $(\text{Sb/W})\text{O}_6$ octahedra share corners to form a three-dimensional framework possessing tunnels running down the *c*-axis in which the potassium cations are located. The Sb/W cation is located in the 16c Wyckoff position (0, 0, 0) and the oxygen is in 48f sites (*x*, 1/8, 1/8). The location of the potassium is in the 32e site (*x*, *x*, *x*) (Table 2).

3.2. Heat capacity

The C_p° measurements were carried out between 7 and 370 K. The mass of the sample loaded in the calorimetric ampoule of the BKT-3.0 calorimeter was 1.4196 g. There was obtained 191 experimental C_p° values in two series of experiments. The heat capacity of the sample varied from 30% to 70% of the total heat capacity of calorimetric ampoule + substance over the range between 7 and 370 K. The experimental points of C_p° in the temperature interval between $T = (7 \text{ and } 370)$ K were fitted by means of the least-squares method and polynomial equations (Eqs. (1) and (2)) of the C_p° vs. temperature have been obtained. The corresponding coefficients

Table 3
Interatomic distances and valence angles in the structure of KSbWO_6 .

| Bond | <i>d</i> (Å) | Angle | ω (°) |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Sb/W–O (6×) | 1.949(1) | O–Sb/W–O (3×) | 86.8 |
| K–O (3×) | 2.874(5) | O–Sb/W–O (3×) | 93.2 |
| K–O (3×) | 3.346(5) | | |

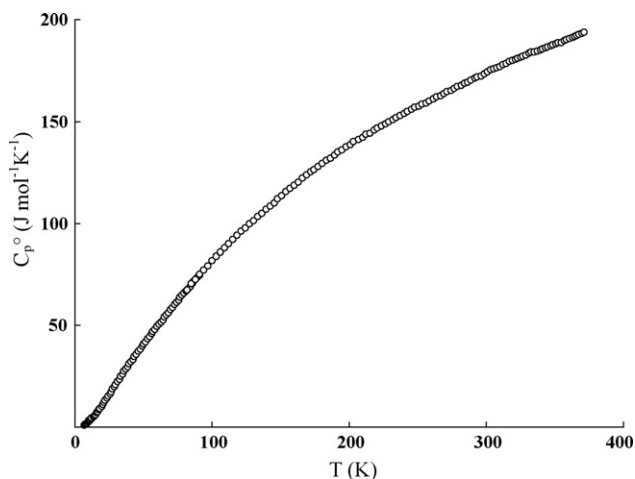


Fig. 3. Temperature dependences of heat capacity of K_2SbWO_6 .

(A, B, C, etc.) are given in Table S2.

$$C_p^\circ(T) = A + B \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right) + C \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^2 + D \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^3 + E \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^4 + F \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^5 + G \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^6 + H \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^7 + I \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^8 + J \cdot \left(\frac{T}{30}\right)^9 \quad (1)$$

$$\ln C_p^\circ(T) = A + B \cdot \ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right) + C \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^2 + D \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^3 + E \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^4 + F \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^5 + G \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^6 + H \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^7 + I \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^8 + J \cdot \left\{\ln\left(\frac{T}{30}\right)\right\}^9 \quad (2)$$

Their root mean square deviation from the averaging $C_p^\circ = f(T)$ curve was $\pm 0.15\%$ in the range $T=(6-30)\text{K}$, $\pm 0.075\%$ from $T=(25-150)\text{K}$, $\pm 0.15\%$ between $T=(130 \text{ and } 370)\text{K}$.

The experimental values of the molar heat capacity of K_2SbWO_6 over the range from 7 to 370 K and the averaging $C_p^\circ = f(T)$ plot are presented in Fig. 3 and Table S1. The heat capacity C_p° of this substance gradually increases with rising temperature and does not show any peculiarities until 370 K.

3.3. Standard thermodynamic functions

To calculate the standard thermodynamic functions (Table 4) of potassium antimony tungsten oxide, its C_p° values were extrapolated from the starting temperature of the measurement beginning at approximately 7–0 K by Debye's function of heat capacity:

$$C_p^\circ = nD\left(\frac{\theta_D}{T}\right), \quad (3)$$

where D is the symbol of Debye's function, $n=3$ and $\theta_D(\text{K}_2\text{SbWO}_6)=87.5\text{K}$ are specially selected parameters. Eq. (3) with the above parameters describes the experimental C_p° values of the compound between 7 and 13 K with the error of $\pm 1.67\%$.

In calculating the functions it was assumed that Eq. (3) reproduces the C_p° values of K_2SbWO_6 at $T < 7\text{K}$ with the same error. The calculations of $H^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$ and $S^\circ(T) - S^\circ(0)$ were made by the numerical integration of $C_p^\circ = f(T)$ and $C_p^\circ = f(\ln T)$ curves, respectively, and the Gibbs function $G^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$ was estimated from the enthalpies and entropies at the corresponding temperatures [9]. It was suggested that the error of the function values was $\pm 1\%$ at $T < 40\text{K}$, $\pm 0.5\%$ between 40 and 80 K, $\pm 0.2\%$ in the range from 80 to 350 K.

The absolute entropies of K_2SbWO_6 (Table 4) and the corresponding simple substances W (cr), Sb (cr), K (cr) [10] and O_2 (g) [11] were used to calculate the standard entropy of formation of the compound under study at 298.15 K, $\Delta_f S^\circ(298.15, \text{K}_2\text{SbWO}_6, \text{cr}) = -552.6 \pm 1.7\text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$.

In order to correlate obtained thermodynamic and structural data it is important to apply to the fractal version of Debye's theory. The values of the fractal dimension D – the most significant parameter of the fractal version of Debye's theory of heat capacity of solids [12,13] – were determined from the experimental data on the heat capacity of compounds under investigation. The values of D were estimated using the technique described in works [14,15]

Table 4

Thermodynamic functions of crystalline K_2SbWO_6 ; $M(\text{K}_2\text{SbWO}_6) = 440.6947\text{g mol}^{-1}$, $p^\circ = 0.1\text{MPa}$.

| T (K) | $C_p^\circ(T)$ ($\text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$) | $H^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$ (kJ mol^{-1}) | $S^\circ(T)$ ($\text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$) | $-[G^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)]$ (kJ mol^{-1}) |
|--------|---|---|---|--|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 0.3625 | 0.0005 | 0.1208 | 0.000151 |
| 10 | 2.726 | 0.0072 | 0.9538 | 0.002369 |
| 15 | 6.395 | 0.0298 | 2.743 | 0.01134 |
| 20 | 10.83 | 0.0725 | 5.164 | 0.03083 |
| 25 | 15.96 | 0.1393 | 8.123 | 0.06377 |
| 30 | 21.26 | 0.2323 | 11.50 | 0.1128 |
| 35 | 26.50 | 0.3518 | 15.18 | 0.1794 |
| 40 | 31.29 | 0.4965 | 19.03 | 0.2649 |
| 45 | 36.00 | 0.6647 | 22.99 | 0.3699 |
| 50 | 40.69 | 0.8565 | 27.03 | 0.4950 |
| 60 | 49.51 | 1.308 | 35.24 | 0.8062 |
| 70 | 57.93 | 1.845 | 43.50 | 1.200 |
| 80 | 66.30 | 2.467 | 51.79 | 1.676 |
| 90 | 74.51 | 3.172 | 60.09 | 2.236 |
| 100 | 81.69 | 3.953 | 68.31 | 2.878 |
| 110 | 88.71 | 4.805 | 76.43 | 3.602 |
| 120 | 95.28 | 5.726 | 84.43 | 4.406 |
| 130 | 101.4 | 6.709 | 92.30 | 5.290 |
| 140 | 107.3 | 7.753 | 100.0 | 6.252 |
| 150 | 113.0 | 8.854 | 107.6 | 7.290 |
| 160 | 118.7 | 10.01 | 115.1 | 8.404 |
| 170 | 124.2 | 11.23 | 122.5 | 9.592 |
| 180 | 129.4 | 12.50 | 129.7 | 10.85 |
| 190 | 134.1 | 13.81 | 136.8 | 12.19 |
| 200 | 138.4 | 15.18 | 143.8 | 13.59 |
| 210 | 142.5 | 16.58 | 150.7 | 15.06 |
| 220 | 146.5 | 18.03 | 157.4 | 16.60 |
| 230 | 150.2 | 19.51 | 164.0 | 18.21 |
| 240 | 154.0 | 21.03 | 170.5 | 19.88 |
| 250 | 157.5 | 22.59 | 176.8 | 21.62 |
| 260 | 160.7 | 24.18 | 183.1 | 23.42 |
| 270 | 163.9 | 25.80 | 189.2 | 25.28 |
| 273.15 | 165.0 | 26.32 | 191.1 | 25.88 |
| 280 | 167.2 | 27.46 | 195.2 | 27.20 |
| 290 | 170.6 | 29.15 | 201.1 | 29.18 |
| 298.15 | 173.4 | 30.55 | 205.9 | 30.84 |
| 300 | 174.1 | 30.87 | 207.0 | 31.22 |
| 310 | 177.4 | 32.63 | 212.8 | 33.32 |
| 320 | 180.4 | 34.42 | 218.4 | 35.48 |
| 330 | 183.1 | 36.24 | 224.0 | 37.69 |
| 340 | 185.5 | 38.08 | 229.5 | 39.96 |
| 350 | 187.9 | 39.95 | 234.9 | 42.28 |
| 360 | 190.6 | 41.84 | 240.3 | 44.66 |
| 370 | 193.4 | 43.76 | 245.5 | 47.09 |

Table 5
Structural and thermodynamic parameters of compounds with common formula $M^I A^V W O_6$ [18–20].

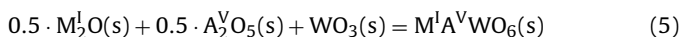
| $M^I A^V W O_6$ | $r(M^I)$ CN = VI (Å) | Distance (M^I-O) (Å) | T_{dec} (K) | $\Delta_f S^\circ$ (298.15 K) ($J K^{-1} mol^{-1}$) | $\Delta_{f-ox} S^\circ$ (298.15 K) ($J K^{-1} mol^{-1}$) | $\Delta(\nu_{c_p})$, (298.15 K) ($J K^{-1} mol^{-1}$) |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--|---|---|
| LiVWO ₆ | 0.76 | 1.995(9) (2×) 2.467(8) (4×) | 1022 | -532.1 ± 1.6 | 14.1 | 1.2 |
| NaVWO ₆ | 1.02 | 2.343(8) (2×) 2.403(6) (4×) | 1031 | -543.6 ± 1.6 | 6.1 | -2.0 |
| KSbWO ₆ | 1.38 | 2.874(5) (3×) 3.346(5) (3×) | 1361 | -552.6 ± 1.7 | 19.3 | 4.8 |
| RbNbWO ₆ | 1.52 | 3.250(6×) | 1465 | -538.5 ± 1.6 | 15.6 | 4.5 |
| CsTaWO ₆ | 1.67 | 3.186(4) (6×) | 1588 | -553.2 ± 1.7 | 0.9 | -3.9 |

with the use of Eq. (4):

$$C_v = 3D(D+1)kN\gamma(D+1)\xi(D+1)\left(\frac{T}{\theta_{max}}\right)^D, \quad (4)$$

where N is the number of atoms in a formula unit, k the Boltzmann constant, $\gamma(D+1)$ the γ -function, $\xi(D+1)$ the Riemann ξ -function, and θ_{max} is the characteristic temperature. According to Ref. [16], $D=1$ corresponds to the solids with chain structure, $D=2$ to those with a layered structure, and $D=3$ [17] to those with a spatial structure. For the tested compound $D=3$ at $T > 30$ K correspond to the frame structure, that good coordinates with our X-ray diffraction data.

For the purpose of analyzing chemical thermodynamics data of triple oxides containing tungsten with common formula $M^I A^V W O_6$ we calculated entropies of formation from the oxides [10,11] for five compounds under study [18–20] (Eqs. (5) and (6), Table 5).



$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{f-ox} S^\circ(298.15) = & S^\circ(M^I A^V W O_6, s, 298.15) \\ & - 0.5 \cdot S^\circ(M_2^I O, s, 298.15) \\ & - 0.5 \cdot S^\circ(A_2^V O_5, s, 298.15) \\ & - S^\circ(WO_3, s, 298.15) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Our studies show that $\Delta_{f-ox} S^\circ$ values depend on structural type and structural peculiarities of compounds. The represented compounds crystallize in two structural types: brannerite (LiVWO₆, NaVWO₆) and defect pyrochlore (KSbWO₆, RbNbWO₆, CsTaWO₆). Therefore it is reasonable to analyze thermodynamic data within the bounds of each structural type. However, we could observe common tendency to decreasing entropies of formation from the

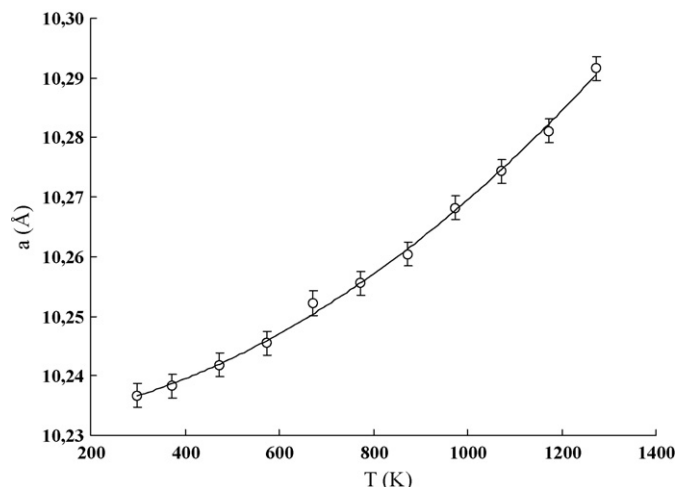


Fig. 4. Plot of unit cell parameter vs. temperature for KSbWO₆.

Table 6
Parameters of unit cells and thermal expansion coefficients temperature for KSbWO₆.

| T (K) | a (Å) | V (Å ³) | Density (g cm ⁻³) | $\alpha \times 10^6$ (K ⁻¹) |
|-------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 298 | 10.23671(7) | 1072.71(1) | 5.46 | 2.47 |
| 373 | 10.2383(8) | 1073.2(2) | 5.45 | 2.92 |
| 473 | 10.2418(8) | 1074.3(2) | 5.45 | 3.52 |
| 573 | 10.2455(7) | 1075.5(1) | 5.44 | 4.12 |
| 673 | 10.2522(6) | 1077.6(1) | 5.43 | 4.72 |
| 773 | 10.2556(9) | 1078.7(3) | 5.43 | 5.31 |
| 873 | 10.2604(8) | 1080.2(2) | 5.42 | 5.91 |
| 973 | 10.2682(8) | 1082.6(2) | 5.41 | 6.50 |
| 1073 | 10.2743(9) | 1084.6(3) | 5.40 | 7.09 |
| 1173 | 10.2811(9) | 1086.7(3) | 5.39 | 7.69 |
| 1273 | 10.2916(8) | 1090.1(2) | 5.37 | 8.28 |

oxides with increasing degree of atomic packing in the structure. Cations have octahedral environment in all compounds under study, but bond distances in alkali metal coordination polyhedra are the most variable in the network of each structural type. For example, in LiVWO₆ there is a big distortion LiO₆-octahedra due to unusual coordination for lithium. This leads to greater value of $\Delta_{f-ox} S^\circ$ in comparison with sodium counterpart. For pyrochlores bond distance M^I-O (see Table 5) decreases in row KSbWO₆-RbNbWO₆-CsTaWO₆ in spite of increasing alkali metal ionic radius, last fact leads to more close-packed structure and small values $\Delta_{f-ox} S^\circ$. It is interesting to notice that there is the reverse tendency of decomposition temperatures change in comparison with entropies of formation from the oxides in studied compounds row.

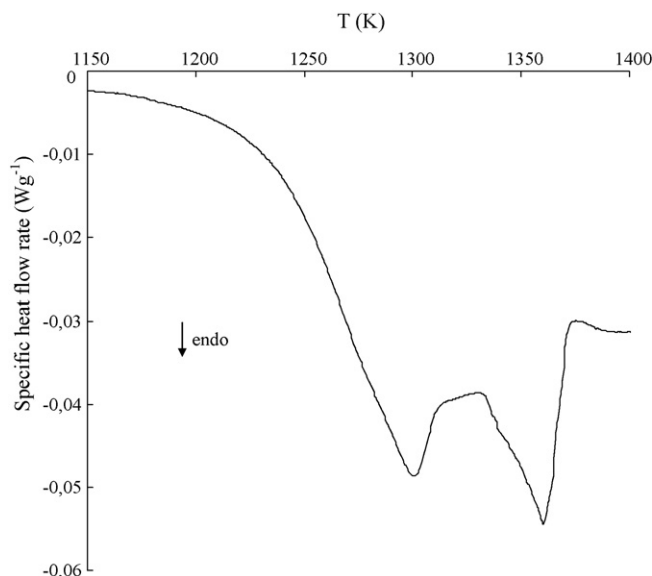


Fig. 5. Plot of the DTA-signal against temperature for KSbWO₆.

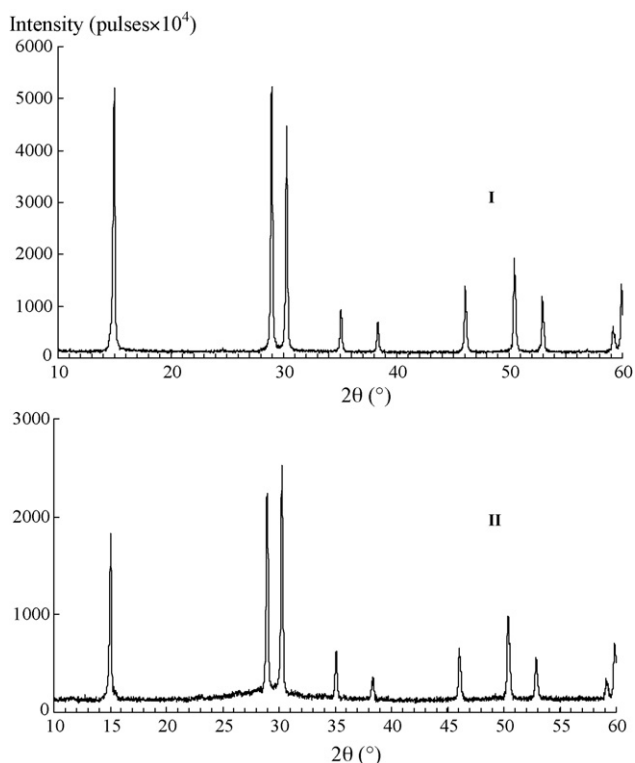


Fig. 6. X-ray diffraction patterns for KSbWO_6 (I) recorded at room temperature, (II) recorded at room temperature after heating up to 1315 K.

We would like to emphasize that the mean change of heat capacity in reactions of synthesis from oxides (5) for all compounds with common formula $\text{M}^{\text{I}}\text{A}^{\text{V}}\text{WO}_6$ is small enough and equal to $0.9 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$. Therefore in concordance with Kirchhoff law reaction (5) enthalpies do not depend on temperature and hereupon $\Delta_{\text{f-ox}}G^\circ$ is determined only entropy summand.

Thus represented analysis allows revealing some patterns of relationship in classical triad composition-structure-property.

3.4. High-temperature X-ray diffraction

The temperature dependence of the unit cell parameter is plotted in Fig. 4 and Table 6, and it is described by the following square polynomial:

$$a = 3.07 \times 10^{-8} \cdot T^2 + 7.01 \times 10^{-5} \cdot T + 10.2318 (298 \leq T \leq 1273 \text{ K}) \quad (5')$$

The average thermal expansion coefficient $\alpha_{\text{av}} = 5.32 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$ obtained for the potassium antimony tungsten oxide under investigation allows us to assign this pyrochlore to the class of medium-expansion compounds. The unit cell parameter a of this substance gradually increases with rising temperature and does not show any anomalies until 1273 K. This fact authenticates about lack of any transition at this temperature interval.

3.5. Differential scanning calorimetry

Joint application of the high-temperature X-ray diffraction and thermal analysis (TG–DTA) made it possible to establish some peculiarities of processes taking place in the compounds under investigation during heating. Fig. 5 represents DTA curves of KSbWO_6 , where we can see two endothermic effects at 1302 and 1361 K. It was not observed any mass changes on TG curve during experiment, so we can draw a conclusion that the stoichiometric composition of system did not change. The first effect is connected with irreversible polymorphic transition cubic I ($a = 10.23671(7) \text{ \AA}$) \rightarrow cubic II ($a = 10.2338(9) \text{ \AA}$) without change of crystal system, which can be confirmed by X-ray diffraction data. Fig. 6 represents two X-ray diffraction patterns: the first was recorded at room temperature, the second – at room temperature after heating up to 1315 K. As we can see from Fig. 6 there are significant changes of the first three peaks intensity concerning each other. The second effect is connected with incongruent melting. After the second effect parent phase was not detected. Melting products, found out by XRD analysis, were not identified due to complexity their compositions and lack in PDF 4 and FindIt XRD databases.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.tca.2009.12.002.

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