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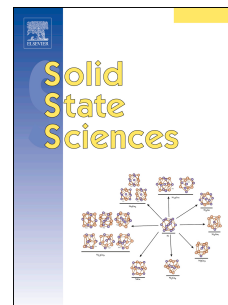
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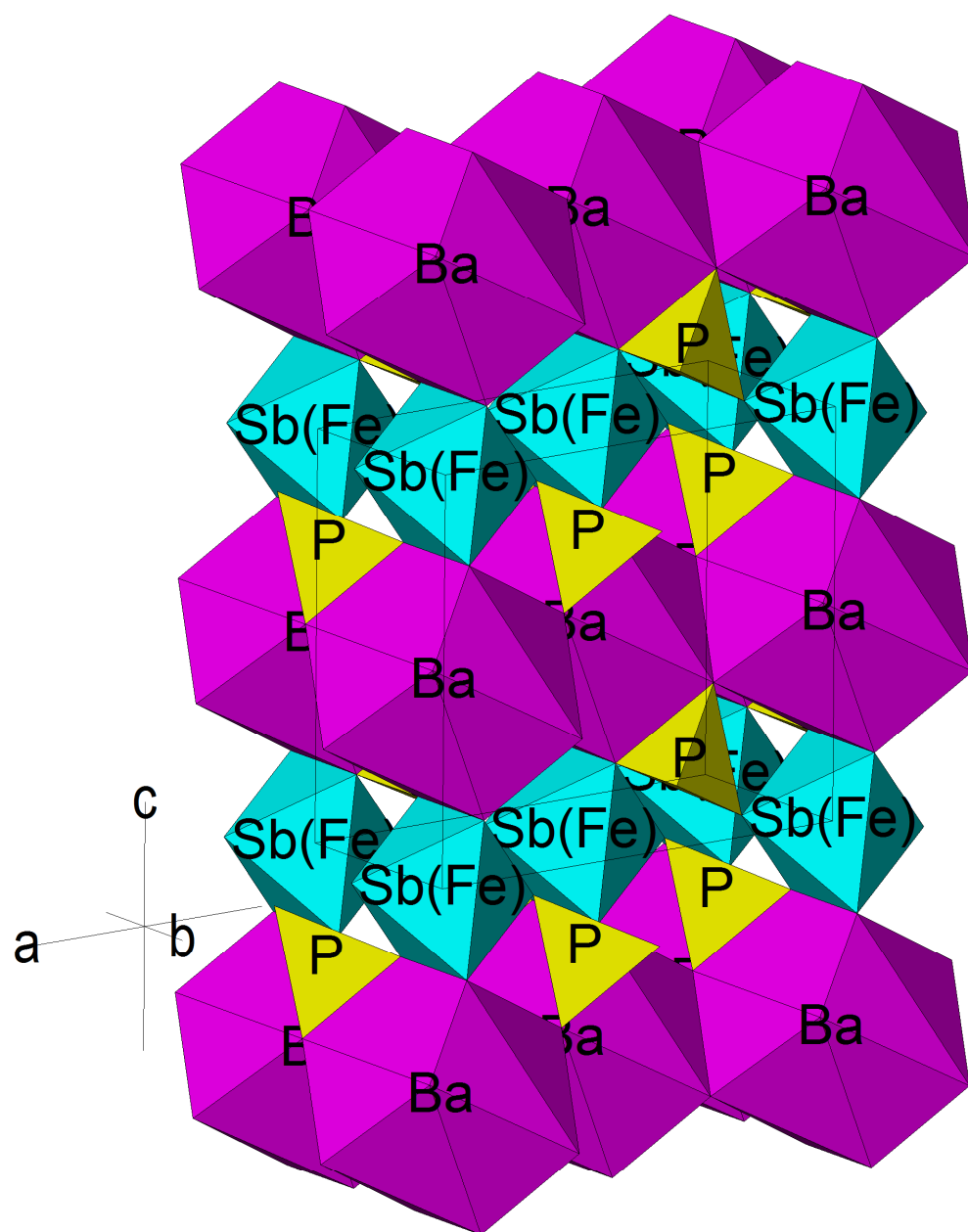
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## Structure, Infrared and Raman spectroscopic studies of newly synthetic $A^{II}(\text{Sb}^V_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{III}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ( $A = \text{Ba}, \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) phosphates with yavapaiite structure

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### Abstract

The synthesis and structural study of three new  $A^{II}(\text{Sb}^V_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{III}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Ba}, \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) phosphates belonging to the A-Sb-Fe-P-O system were reported here for the first time. Structures of [Ba], [Sr] and [Pb] compounds, obtained by solid state reaction in air atmosphere, were determined at room temperature from X-ray powder diffraction using the Rietveld method.  $\text{Ba}^{II}(\text{Sb}^V_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{III}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  [Ba] features the yavapaiite-type structure, with space group  $C2/m$ ,  $Z = 2$  and  $a = 8.1568(4) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $b = 5.1996(3) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $c = 7.8290(4) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $\beta = 94.53(1)^\circ$ .  $A^{II}(\text{Sb}^V_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{III}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) compounds have a distorted yavapaiite structure with space group  $C2/c$ ,  $Z = 4$  and  $a = 16.5215(2) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $b = 5.1891(1) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $c = 8.0489(1) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $\beta = 115.70(1)^\circ$  for [Sr];  $a = 16.6925(2) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $b = 5.1832(1) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $c = 8.1215(1) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $\beta = 115.03(1)^\circ$  for [Pb]. Raman and Infrared spectroscopic study was used to obtain further structural information about the nature of bonding in selected compositions.

**Keywords:** Antimony and Iron phosphate; yavapaiite structure; Raman and IR spectroscopy; Rietveld analysis.

**Abbreviations:**  $\text{Ba}^{II}(\text{Sb}^V_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{III}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2 = [\text{Ba}]$ ,  $\text{Sr}^{II}(\text{Sb}^V_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{III}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2 = [\text{Sr}]$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{II}(\text{Sb}^V_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{III}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2 = [\text{Pb}]$ , *TY* = True Yavapaiite, *DY* = Distorted Yavapaiite.

## Introduction

Crystal structures of  $A_{(1-x)}A'_x\text{PO}_4$  phases have been revealed in previous studies. Such materials can include a mixing of  $A^{\text{II}}/A^{\text{IV}}$  ions leading to  $(A^{\text{II}}_{0.5}A^{\text{IV}}_{0.5})\text{PO}_4$  phases [1-3] or a mixture of  $A^{\text{II}}$ ,  $A^{\text{III}}$  and  $A^{\text{IV}}$  ions as in the case of  $A^{\text{II}}_{1/3}A^{\text{III}}_{1/3}A^{\text{IV}}_{1/3}\text{PO}_4$  ( $A^{\text{II}} = \text{Mg, Ca, Cd, Sr}$ ;  $A^{\text{III}} = \text{Sm, Gd, Nd}$ ;  $A^{\text{IV}} = \text{Zr, Ce, Th}$ ) compounds [4]. As a result of various cationic substitution in A sites of  $A^{\text{III}}\text{PO}_4$  phases, new family of oxides crystallizing in several structural types as Monazite, Zircon (Xenotime), Scheelite, Cheralite, Nasicon and Yavapaiite type compounds have been synthesized and characterized [1-18]. For smaller  $M^{\text{IV}}$  ions, as in the  $\text{Ba}^{\text{II}}_{0.5}M^{\text{IV}}_{0.5}\text{PO}_4$  ( $M^{\text{IV}} = \text{Ti, Zr, Hf, Ge, Sn, Mo}$ ) series, a monoclinic structure isotypic of the  $\text{K}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{SO}_4$  yavapaiite ( $C2/m$  space group) is obtained [6-9]. Note that these phases have a structure which is made of layers of  $\text{Ba}^{\text{II}}$  cations in tenfold coordination, alternating with dense slabs built up of corner-connected of  $M^{\text{IV}}\text{O}_6$  octahedra and  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra. This structure changes into a trigonal one at high temperature ( $P-3m1$ ) through a simple mechanism involving the unfolding of the  $[\text{M}(\text{PO}_4)_2]_n^{2-}$  layers [19]. Numerous compounds among the  $A^{\text{II}}M^{\text{IV}}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Ba, Pb, Sr, Ca}$ ;  $M = \text{Ge, Ti, Mo, Zr, Sn, Pu, Np, U, Th}$ ) family have structures which are related to the yavapaiite type structure. In fact, their structure is strongly dependant to the nature and/or size of the  $A^{\text{II}}$  and  $M^{\text{IV}}$  cations. More recently the relationships between composition and crystal structure of some  $A^{\text{II}}M^{\text{IV}}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  compounds are established [20]. Thus, Morin et al. have shown that the structure of  $\text{PbSn}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  (space group  $P2_1/n$ ) is related to the yavapaiite type but the lead atoms are located in zigzag tunnels instead of layers [10]. This last structure was explained by the presence of an active  $\text{Pb}^{\text{II}}$  lone pair which has been localized from electrostatic interactions. The  $\text{AZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Ca, Sr and Ba}$ ) have a different crystal structure at room temperature. Whereas  $\text{BaZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  has a monoclinic yavapaiite structure, the  $\text{SrZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  is triclinic ( $P\bar{1}$  space group) at room temperature and during heating, the compound shows two other polymorphic forms.  $\text{SrZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  undergoes a triclinic to monoclinic transition at 405 K, and then to trigonal at 1196K [11]. Structural study of the  $\text{SrZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$ – $\text{BaZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  system reveals the occurrence of two phase transitions during heating and the space group has changed from  $P2/c$  to  $C2/m$  at 400 K followed by monoclinic-to-hexagonal (or trigonal) transition at 1060 K [21]. The  $P2/c$ – $C2/m$  phase transition can be explained by the fact that the  $P2/c$  space group is a Maximal klassengleiche subgroups of  $C2/m$  ( $n^\circ 12$ ) as a result of the loss of centring translations [22]. In the case of  $\text{CaZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$ , the structure was first shown to be orthorhombic ( $P2_12_12_1$  space group) and totally different from the yavapaiite one [12]. Recently, their crystal structure has been revised by ab initio Rietveld analysis of X-ray powder diffraction data [13]. The structure is shown to be orthorhombic with space group  $Pna2_1$ . A reversible second order transition was confirmed by high temperature XRD analysis and the space group is ( $Pnma$ ,  $Z = 4$ ). Results of single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis show that both  $\text{SrM}^{\text{IV}}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $M = \text{Ti, Sn}$ ) materials are isostructural and crystallise in a distorted yavapaiite-structure ( $DY$ ) with monoclinic  $C2/c$  space group [14]. X-ray Rietveld analysis shows also that high-temperature  $\beta$ - $\text{SrGe}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $C2/m$  space group) are isotypic with the true yavapaiite ( $TY$ ) whereas the low-temperature  $\alpha$ - $\text{SrGe}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  and the  $\text{CaGe}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $C2/c$  space group) are distorted derivatives [8]. In the same context note that the phase transition from  $C2/c$  to  $C2/m$ , which was reported for  $\text{SrGe}(\text{PO}_4)_2$ , is in good agreement with the fact that  $C2/c$  is a maximal klassengleiche subgroups of  $C2/m$  resulting from an enlargement of the unit cell [22]. Actinide barium phosphate,  $\text{BaAn}^{\text{IV}}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $An^{\text{IV}} = \text{Th, Np}$ ) can also be seen as modified yavapaiite derivatives

with increased coordination numbers for Ba (XIV) and Th/Np (VIII) [23]. On the other hand, SrNp(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> structure is more related to cheralite than to yavapaiite [24]. Recently intensive research activities, realized by some of us, are particularly focused on characterization of phosphates belonging to the A-Sb-Fe-P-O (A = Mn, Ca, Cd, Sr, Pb) systems. Results of investigations led particularly to synthesis and characterization of a series of A<sup>II</sup><sub>0.50</sub>Sb<sup>V</sup>Fe<sup>III</sup>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (A = Mn, Ca, Cd, Sr, Pb) Nasicon phases (*R* $\bar{3}$  space group). Structures of A<sup>II</sup><sub>0.50</sub>Sb<sup>V</sup>Fe<sup>III</sup>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> compounds show an ordered distribution of A<sup>II</sup> ions in M1 sites and Sb<sup>V</sup>/Fe<sup>III</sup> ions within the Nasicon framework [15-18]. In our more recently reported works the phosphate Ca<sup>II</sup><sub>1/3</sub>Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>1/2</sub>Sb<sup>V</sup><sub>1/6</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> which include a mixture of A<sup>II</sup>, A<sup>III</sup> and A<sup>V</sup> ions has been isolated [25]. It crystallizes with the high temperature BiPO<sub>4</sub> monoclinic structure variety (*P*2<sub>1</sub>/*m* space group). So, in a continuation of our scientific search for new materials likely to exhibit interesting physical properties and belonging to the A-Sb-Fe-P-O systems, synthesis and structural characterisation of the three A<sup>II</sup>(Sb<sup>V</sup><sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sup>III</sup><sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (A = Ba, Sr, Pb) compounds are undertaken. In order to obtain further structural information about the nature of bonding in the crystalline solids, a Raman and Infrared spectroscopic study of selected phases is also presented.

## II. Experimental

Syntheses of A<sup>II</sup>(Sb<sup>V</sup><sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sup>III</sup><sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (A = Ba, Sr, Pb) phases, abbreviated as [Ba], [Sr] and [Pb] respectively, were carried out using conventional solid-state reaction techniques. Powder crystalline samples were prepared from mixtures of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Prolabo, 99 %), Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Riedel-de Haën, 99.9 %), NH<sub>4</sub>H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (Riedel-de Haën, 99 %) and carbonates SrCO<sub>3</sub>, BaCO<sub>3</sub> (Riedel-de Haën, 99 %) or nitrates Pb(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Prolabo, 99 %) in stoichiometric proportions. The mixtures were heated progressively with intermittent grinding at 200 °C (12 h), 600 °C (24 h), 750 °C (24 h) and 800 °C (48 h) in air. Additional treatments up to 850°C (48 h) are necessary for obtaining a pure sample. The products of reaction were characterised by X-ray diffraction (XRD) at room temperature with a Panalytical X'Pert-PRO (θ-2θ) diffractometer; (CuKα) radiation (45 kV, 40 mA). The data were collected over 8 h from 10 to 140° (2θ), in steps of 0.01313° for [Sr] and [Pb] phases and from 5 to 100° (2θ), in steps of 0.016711° for [Ba]. The Rietveld refinement of the structure was performed using the Fullprof program [26].

The infrared spectra were recorded in the form of KBr pellets in the wave number range 1500-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> using a Bruker's VERTEX 70 spectrometer and the Raman spectra are recorded on RENISHAW 1000B spectrometer in the wave number range 50-1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>. All the spectra have been recorded at room temperature.

## 3. Results and discussion

According to the literature data, peak positions and intensities of the XRPD patterns of Ba(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> were close to those of the room temperature variety of BaZr(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (*C*2/*m* space group, Z = 2) [6], therefore its XRPD patterns can be indexed, in a first approximation, on a similar monoclinic cell. In the case of the A(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (A = Sr, Pb) monophosphates, the peak positions and relative intensities of the XRPD patterns were almost similar to those of the yavapaiite BaZr(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> type-phase; however several additional weak extra reflections were observed.

### 3.1. Rietveld refinement and structural description of Ba(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> phase

The Rietveld analysis in Le Bail's (profile matching) mode confirmed that [Ba] phase is compatible with the  $C2/m$  space group. So, initial starting parameters for the Rietveld refinement of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  were based on those already reported by Fukuda et al. for the true yavapaiite (*TY*)  $\text{BaZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  phase in the  $C2/m$  space group [6]. Soft constraints were applied to the P-O distances. This refinement leads to acceptable reliability factors. A comparison of the experimental and calculated XRD profile of [Ba] material is given in Figure 1. Results of the Rietveld refinement and selected interatomic distances are given in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. X-ray powder diffraction data, obtained from the "observed intensities" of the Rietveld refinement ( $\text{CuK}\alpha 1 : 1.540\ 56\ \text{\AA}$ ), of [Ba] phase is presented in Table 3.

Structure of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  consists of three types of polyhedra,  $\text{BaO}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PO}_4$  and  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_6$  (Fig. 2). It can also be viewed as being composed of alternating edge-sharing  $\text{BaO}_{10}$  bicapped square antiprism and  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_6$  octahedra forming chains parallel to  $c$ -axis (Fig. 2b). There are five chains per unit cell (Fig. 2a). Each  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_6$  octahedral is bound by its vertices to six  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra and shares two of its edges (i.e., O(3)-O(3) one) to two  $\text{BaO}_{10}$  polyhedra (Fig. 3a and 3b). The framework can be described as consisting of dense slabs of  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_6$  octahedra and  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra interconnected via corner-sharing, alternating along the  $c$ -axis with layers of Ba cations in ten-fold coordination (Fig. 2a and 2c). The ten oxygen atoms of each  $\text{BaO}_{10}$  polyhedron belong to six phosphate  $\text{PO}_4$  groups. Eight of the oxygen atoms come from four bidentate  $\text{PO}_4$  groups and the two other oxygens belong to the other two monodentate  $\text{PO}_4$  groups (Fig. 3a and Fig. 3b). Projection onto  $ab$  plane of the structure of [Ba] compound shows that every  $\text{BaO}_{10}$  polyhedron is connected, via its O(1)-O(1) edges, to six neighbouring  $\text{BaO}_{10}$  polyhedra (Fig. 3c). The six neighbouring Ba-Ba distances values vary between  $4.836(3)\ \text{\AA}$  and  $5.200(3)\ \text{\AA}$ . In fact, within each  $\text{BaO}_{10}$  polyhedron, the Ba-O distances values can divide to two groups (Table 2). The first group contains six relatively shortest Ba-O distances with values varying between  $2.75$  and  $2.83\ \text{\AA}$  whereas the second group is formed by four longest Ba-O distances with a value of  $3.11\ \text{\AA}$ . Therefore, the coordinence of Ba atoms in  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  can be considered as 6+4. Obtained Sb(Fe)-O interatomic distances are consistent with the crystal radii values in six coordination of  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions [27]. Note that the similarity of the crystal radii of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ( $0.785\ \text{\AA}$ , HS) and  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  ( $0.74\ \text{\AA}$ ) ions is in favor of their distribution in the same site. P-O distances values match well with those typically observed in phosphates and the O-P-O angles vary between  $105$  and  $118^\circ$ . In order to have more structural information, the bond valence sum (BVS) based on bond strength analysis [28] for  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  were also computed. As shown in Table 2, the BVS values calculated for Ba, Fe, Sb and P sites are relatively consistent with the expected formal oxidation state of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  and  $\text{P}^{5+}$  ions.

### 3.2. Rietveld refinement and structural description of $\text{A}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ (A = Sr, Pb) phases

An attempt to refine the diffraction patterns of the  $\text{A}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  (A = Sr, Pb) compounds with the known (*TY*)  $\text{BaZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  structural model ( $C2/m$  space group) yielded to anomalous high reliability factors and intensity residuals. Figure 4a gives, for example, a comparison between observed, calculated, and difference XRD patterns of [Pb] in the  $10$ - $35^\circ$  ( $2\theta$  range). Note that several small peaks which are indicated by a vertical arrow at the vicinity of  $2\theta^\circ$  equal to  $18$ ,  $25$ ,  $28$  and  $29$  remain unindexed. In fact, in the case of  $\text{PbSb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  [Pb], this last refinement gives values of the unit-cell parameters ( $a_{TY} = 8.121\ \text{\AA}$ ,  $b_{TY} = 5.181\ \text{\AA}$ ,  $c_{TY} = 7.587\ \text{\AA}$ ,



$\beta_{TY} = 94.0^\circ$  and  $V_{TY} = 319 \text{ \AA}^3$ ) which are relatively comparable to those obtained for the (TY)  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

In the following section, the indexing of the [Sr] and [Pb] XRPD patterns was performed by means of the computer program DICVOL [29]. The first 40 peak positions, with a maximal absolute error of  $0.02^\circ$  ( $2\theta$ ), were used as input data. For each phase, four monoclinic cells were found but only one result corresponding to a satisfactory figure of merit [29] is retained for the next stages of refinements. Note, for example, that in the case of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  the obtained unit-cell parameters are  $a = 8.121 \text{ \AA}$ ;  $b = 5.181 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 15.152 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 94.0^\circ$  and  $V = 636 \text{ \AA}^3$ . The corresponding figures of merit are ( $M20/F20 = 146.5/236.9(0.0013, 65)$  and ( $F(31) = 48.7(0.0015, 434)$ ). A careful analysis of this last result shows that the unit cell volume ( $V = 636 \text{ \AA}^3$ ) is doubled as result of the doubling of the lattice parameter  $c$  in the DY (Distorted Yavapaiite) (ie.:  $a_{DY} = a_{TY} = 8.121 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b_{DY} = b_{TY} = 5.181 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c_{DY} = 2 \times c_{TY} = 15.152 \text{ \AA}$ , and  $\beta_{DY} = 94.0^\circ$ ). Until this stage of refinement, we can admit the existence of a group subgroup relationship between the space group of [Pb] and that of the  $C2/m$  space group of the TY. This last group-subgroup relation is a consequence direct of the enlargement of the unit cell [22]. The Check-Group program, which is integrated within the *Fullprof-suite* program [30], has been used to obtain the ordered list of possible space groups (see details in [Pb]Cell choice 3.spg as supplementary information file). Among the thirteen possible space groups (ie.  $I12/a1(n^\circ 15)$ ,  $I1a1(n^\circ 9)$ ,  $I121(n^\circ 5)$ ,  $I1m1(n^\circ 8)$ ,  $I12/m1(n^\circ 12)$ ,  $P12_1/c1(n^\circ 14)$ ,  $P1c1(n^\circ 7)$ ,  $P12/c1(n^\circ 13)$ ,  $P12_11(n^\circ 4)$ ,  $P12_1/m1(n^\circ 11)$ ,  $P12/m1(n^\circ 10)$ ,  $P1m1(n^\circ 6)$ ,  $P121(n^\circ 3)$ ), the  $I2/a$  ( $n^\circ 15$ ) was found with the satisfactory merit factors. Given that  $I12/a1$  (cell choice 3) is not a standard space group, the cell edges of the doubled-cell DY in the standard  $C2/c$  ( $n^\circ 15$ ) space group (cell choice 1) can be deduced by the following vectorial relations ( $a_1 = -a_3 - c_3$ ,  $b_1 = b_3$ ,  $c_1 = a_3$ ) (Fig. 5) [31]. Calculated values of the derived unit-cell parameters, in the standard  $C2/c$  space group, are  $a_1 = 16.681 \text{ \AA}$ ;  $b_1 = 5.183 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c_1 = 8.121 \text{ \AA}$  and  $\beta_1 = 115.04^\circ$ . By using the following vectorial relations ( $a_2 = -a_1 - c_1$ ,  $b_2 = b_1$ ,  $c_2 = a_1$ ), values of the cell parameters in the non-standard  $A2/n$  ( $n^\circ 15$ ) space groups (cell choice 2) can also be easily deduced (Fig. 5) (ie.  $a_2 = 15.152 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b_2 = 5.181 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c_2 = 16.681 \text{ \AA}$  and  $\beta_2 = 150.96^\circ$ ). In order to reverified the correctness of the choice of the standard space group (cell choice 1), the use of Check-Group program with the unit-cell parameters of  $a_1$ ,  $b_1$ ,  $c_1$  and  $\beta_1 = 115.04^\circ$  was performed (see details in [Pb]Cell choice 1.spg as supplementary information file). The results show that among the thirteen possible space groups only the  $Cc$  ( $n^\circ 9$ ) and  $C2/c$  ( $n^\circ 15$ ) space groups were found with the satisfactory merit factors (Table 4). Results of the Le Bail fitting (profile matching) program [32], realized in both  $Cc$  and  $C2/c$  space group for the [Sr] and [Pb] materials, show comparable and lower reliability factors. Comparison between observed and calculated XRD patterns obtained from the Le Bail fitting program of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ , in the  $10\text{-}35^\circ$  ( $2\theta$  range), is given in figure 4b. As it will be shown later, the unindexed reflections in figure 4a appear as the  $h+l = 2n+1$  superstructure reflections of a  $C2/c$  doubled cell similar to that obtained by Zhao et al. for  $\text{SrTi}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  [14]. Note that among the two possible  $Cc$  and  $C2/c$  space groups, the choice of structural refinement in the high-symmetry  $C2/c$  space group seems to be the most probable.

In the succeeding step of Rietveld refinement, the initial starting structural parameters were based on those already reported for  $\text{SrTi}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  phase ( $C2/c$  space group). The A and Sb(Fe) atoms in  $\text{A}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  phases are supposed to occupy respectively the two special 4e (0, -y, 3/4) and 4c (1/4, 1/4, 0) Wyckoff positions whereas the P, and O atoms are located in the general 8f Wyckoff positions. During the Rietveld



refinement, a soft constraint were applied to the P-O distances and anisotropic thermal factors for Pb atoms in  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  phase are also used. For both [Sr] and [Pb] phases, the last hypothesis of structural refinement led to lower reliability factors (Tables 5 and 6). Observed, calculated, and difference XRD patterns of both compounds are shown in Figures 6 and 7. Selected interatomic distances of [Sr] and [Pb] phases are gathered in Tables 7 and 8 respectively. X-ray powder diffraction data, obtained from the ‘‘observed intensities’’ of the Rietveld refinement ( $\text{CuK}\alpha 1 : 1.540\ 56\ \text{\AA}$ ), of both phases are given in Tables 9 and 10.

Given that [Sr] and [Pb] compounds are isomorphous, only the structure of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  will be discussed in detail as a representative.  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  is a 3D diorthophosphate which crystallises in a distorted yavapaiite structure-type. In fact, although the [Sr] phase has a  $C2/c$  space group and their  $a$ -parameter is the double in comparison to that of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ , both materials have a similar 3D network. The structure of [Sr] can be described as constructed by alternating  $[(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2]^{2-}$  anionic sheets and  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  cationic sheets along the [101] direction (Fig. 8). The  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  sheets reside among those of  $[(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2]^{2-}$  sheets alternatively and join them through Coulombic action of  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  cations and  $\text{O}^{2-}$  anions to form the 3D framework of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ . The Sr atom is coordinated by ten oxygen atoms from six  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra (two of them in a unidentate fashion and four of them in edge-sharing fashion) (Fig. 8b). Careful analysis of the A-O distances ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) within  $\text{AO}_{10}$  polyhedron of [Sr] and [Pb] compounds shows that A atom is surrounded by eight oxygen atoms with ‘normal’ bond distances (2.585(2)-2.792(2)  $\text{\AA}$  for [Sr] and 2.651(3)-2.697(2)  $\text{\AA}$  for [Pb]) and two oxygen atoms with ‘abnormal’ bond distances (3.448(2)  $\text{\AA}$  for [Sr] and 3.546(3)  $\text{\AA}$  for [Pb]) (Tables 7 and 8). Therefore, the coordinance of A atoms in both  $\text{A}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) phases can be considered as 8+2. In all cases A-O distances values ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) are comparable with those of the Sr-O and Pb-O ones which are already obtained for  $\text{SrTi}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  and  $\text{PbTi}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  materials [14,33]. Within the  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  cationic sheets every  $\text{SrO}_{10}$  polyhedron is connected, via its O(4)-O(4) edges, to six neighbouring  $\text{SrO}_{10}$  polyhedra (Fig. 8c). The six neighbouring Sr-Sr distance values vary between 4.536(3)  $\text{\AA}$  and 5.189(3)  $\text{\AA}$ . In [Pb] phase, the corresponding Pb-Pb distances, within the  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  cationic sheets, are ranging between 4.510(3)  $\text{\AA}$  and 5.518(3)  $\text{\AA}$ . The dispersion of A-A distances ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) values is in close relation with the connection mode between the  $\text{AO}_{10}$  polyhedra. Every  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_6$  octahedron is interconnected *via* common corners (O(1), O(2) and O(3) atoms) to six  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra and shares two of its edges (i.e., O(1)-O(2) one) to two  $\text{SrO}_{10}$  polyhedra (Fig. 8b). Obtained  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})$ -O interatomic distances are consistent with the crystal radii values in six coordination of  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions (Tables 7 and 8) [27]. P-O distances values match well with those typically observed in orthophosphates. In order to have more structural information, the bond valence sum (BVS) [28] for  $\text{A}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) phases were also computed. As shown in Tables 7 and 8, the BVS values calculated for A, Fe, Sb and P sites are relatively consistent with the expected formal oxidation state of  $\text{A}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  and  $\text{P}^{5+}$  ions.

It is of interest to note that our attempts to synthesize  $\text{CaSb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  was not satisfactory, although identical synthesis conditions have been applied. Indeed analysis of the obtained XRD spectra shows principally the presence of a mixture of the already known  $\text{Ca}_{0.50}\text{SbFe}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  Nasicon phase and two  $\text{Ca}_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$  (PDF number 81-2257) and  $\text{SbOPO}_4$  (PDF number 84-830) phosphates which are identified as minority phases [16,34,35]. Our experimental result shows that  $[(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2]^{2-}$  yavapaiite framework appears well adapted to bigger  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  cations.

This last result agrees with the recent report by some of us about the relationships between composition and crystal structure [20]. Indeed we can conclude that for alkaline earth metal cations of smaller and/or equal size than the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions, the  $[\text{SbFe}(\text{PO}_4)_3]^-$  Nasicon framework seems to be the more stable.

### 3.3 Raman spectroscopy

Raman and Infrared spectroscopic study was undertaken in order to obtain further structural information about the nature of bonding in  $\text{A}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $\text{A} = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) phases. Given that the yavapaiite structure contains both isolated  $\text{PO}_4$  groups and isolated  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_6$  groups, the vibrational pattern is obviously typical of an orthophosphate. Note that the vibrational modes of tetrahedral  $\text{PO}_4$  molecules are well known [36]. Generally the IR and Raman spectroscopic study of orthophosphate shows that phosphate group vibrations are strong compared to the lattice modes and metal-oxygen vibrations. The IR and Raman band positions of the four ( $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$ ) modes observed in the spectra of the [Sr] and [Pb] phases (Figs. 9 and 10) are close to those expected for yavapaiite phosphate type materials [37]. Thus, the symmetric non degenerate PO stretching modes ( $\nu_1$ ) are observed in the range 920-1040  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while antisymmetric doubly degenerate PO stretching ( $\nu_2$ ) are located in the 430-480  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  range. The symmetric, triply degenerate OPO bending ( $\nu_3$ ) is observed between 1070-1170  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and the triply degenerate, antisymmetric and harmonic OPO bending ( $\nu_4$ ) is observed in the range 540-650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

The Sb-O...P bonds existing in both compounds have an average length of 2.00 Å. Their stretching vibrations are probably coupled with the O-P-O bending  $\nu_4$  mode. As was already observed for  $\text{SbOPO}_4$  phase [38], the frequencies found between 575 and 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in Raman and Infrared spectra of [Sr] and [Pb] phases can be assigned empirically to Sb-O stretching modes involving Sb-O-P linkage. In the lattice modes region, the translational modes of  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  ions as well as librational modes of  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  ions and  $\text{FeO}_6$ ,  $\text{SbO}_6$  groups should be expected. At wavenumbers below 450  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  strong coupling between the different bending vibrations O-P-O, O-Sb-O, Sb-O-P is expected [39]. The Raman bands observed at 364 and 370  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  could be assigned to  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -O stretching modes of vibrations similar to those observed in  $\text{Li}_3\text{Fe}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$  [40]. The low frequency modes observed below 270  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be easily attributed to translational modes of the  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  and  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  ions.

### Conclusion

A new family of double phosphate with general formula  $\text{A}^{\text{II}}(\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $\text{A} = \text{Ba}, \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) were prepared by solid state reaction method and characterised from X-ray powder diffraction using the Rietveld method. Note that phases with a mixing of  $\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$  ions in the octahedral M sites of the  $\text{A}^{\text{II}}\text{M}^{\text{IV}}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  yavapaiite structure-types were studied here for the first time.  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  features the yavapaiite-type structure, with space group  $C2/m$ .  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  and  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  crystallize in monoclinic system with space group  $C2/c$  (distorted yavapaiite type structure). The  $[(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2]^{2-}$  yavapaiite framework appears well adapted to bigger  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  cations. Contrary to these last results, for smaller alkaline earth metal cations as  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , the  $[\text{SbFe}(\text{PO}_4)_3]^-$  Nasicon framework seems to be the more stable. Further investigations on the relationships between composition and crystal structure, as well as research on potential application of phases of general formula  $\text{A}^{\text{II}}(\text{M}^{\text{V}}_{0.5}\text{B}^{\text{III}}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  were in progress.

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### Figures captions

**Figure 1.** Experimental (●●●) calculated (—), and difference profile of the XRD pattern of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Figure 2.** View of the structure of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  (a); rows of  $\text{BaO}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PO}_4$  and  $\text{Sb}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_6$  polyhedra along c-axis (b) and projection in the ac plane (c).

**Figure 3.** Array of  $\text{BaO}_8$  polyhedra in (a) and (b); view of  $\text{BaO}_8(\text{BaO}_8)_6$  polyhedra in (c) within the structure of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Figure 4.** Experimental (●●●) calculated (—), and difference profile of the XRD pattern, in the 10-35° (2θ range), of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  with refinement in  $C2/m$  in (a) and  $C2/c$  in (b). Unindexed peaks are indicated by a vertical arrow.

**Figure 5.** View along the b-axis of the three Monoclinic space groups  $C2/c$  (cell choice 1),  $A2/n$  (cell choice 2) and  $I2/a$  (cell choice 3). The unique b-axis points upwards from the page and the subscripts of the labels of the axes indicate the cell choice.

**Figure 6.** Experimental (●●●) calculated (—), and difference profile of the XRD pattern of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Figure 7.** Experimental (●●●) calculated (—), and difference profile of the XRD pattern of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Figure 8.** Projection of the structure of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  in the ac plane (a); rows of polyhedra along a-axis (b) and  $\text{SrO}_8(\text{SrO}_8)_6$  polyhedra (c)

**Figure 9.** Raman spectra of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  (a) and  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  (b).

**Figure 10.** I R. Spectra of of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  (a) and  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  (b).

### Tables captions

**Table 1.** Results of the Rietveld refinement of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Table 2.** Selected interatomic distances and calculated Bond valence sum (BVS) for  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Table 3.** Powder diffraction data of  $\text{Ba}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $\text{CuK}\alpha_1$ ;  $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ )

**Table 4.** Ordered list of possible space groups obtained from the Check-Group program for  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$

**Table 5.** Results of the Rietveld refinement of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Table 6.** Results of the Rietveld refinement of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Table 7.** Selected interatomic distances and calculated Bond valence sum (BVS) for  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Table 8.** Selected interatomic distances and calculated Bond valence sum (BVS) for  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

**Table 9.** Powder diffraction data of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $\text{CuK}\alpha_1$ ;  $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ).

**Table 10.** Powder diffraction data of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $\text{CuK}\alpha_1$ ;  $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ).

Table 1. Results of the Rietveld refinement of Ba(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

**Ba(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>**  
 Space group, *C2/m* (N°12); [Z = 2; a = 8.1568(4) Å; b = 5.1996(3) Å c = 7.8290(4) Å; β = 94.53(1) °;  
 V = 331(1) Å<sup>3</sup>]  
 Profile parameters  
 Pseudo-Voigt function, PV = ηL + (1-η)G; η = 0.27(1)  
 Half-width parameters, U = 0.126(4), V = 0.012(3), and W = 0.010(1)  
 Conventional Rietveld R-factors, R<sub>WP</sub> = 9.6%; R<sub>P</sub> = 6.9%; R<sub>B</sub> = 3.9%; R<sub>F</sub> = 2.6%

Atom	Site	Atomic coordinates			B <sub>iso</sub> (Å <sup>2</sup> )	Occupancy
Ba	2c	0	0	0.5	1.3(1)	1
(Sb,Fe)	2a	0	0	0	0.5(1)	0.5/0.5
P	4i	0.3645(2)	0	0.2024(3)	0.8(1)	1
O(1)	4i	0.3111(6)	0	0.3871(4)	0.7(1)	1
O(2)	4i	0.2309(6)	0	0.0516(6)	0.7(1)	1
O(3)	8j	0.4766(5)	0.2351(5)	0.1833(5)	0.7(1)	1



Table 2. Selected interatomic distances and calculated Bond valence sum (BVS) for Ba(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

Ba(Sb <sub>0.5</sub> Fe <sub>0.5</sub> )(PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		
Sb(Fe)-O distances (Å)	P-O distances (Å)	Ba-O distances (Å)
2×Sb(Fe)-O(2) = 1.895(5)	P-O(1) = 1.543(4)	2×Ba-O(1) = 2.752(6)
4×Sb(Fe)-O(3) = 2.009 (3)	P-O(2) = 1.542(5)	4×Ba-O(3) = 2.829(4)
Aver.<Sb(Fe)-O> = 1.95(1)	2×P-O(3) = 1.541(4)	4×Ba-O(1) = 3.114(3)
	Aver. <P-O> = 1.54(1)	Aver. <Ba-O> = 2.92(1)
Bond Valence Sums (BVS)		
BVS(Sb(Fe)) = 4.7 (should be 4)	BVS (P) = 4.9	BVS (Ba) = 1.8

Table 3. Powder diffraction data of Ba(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (CuK $\alpha$ <sub>1</sub>;  $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ )

<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> <sub>obs</sub> (Å)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (obs)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (cal)	<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> <sub>obs</sub> (Å)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (obs)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (cal)
001	7.8045	4	4	132	1.5455	6	5
110	4.3805	100	90	-422	1.5150	6	5
200	4.0656	60	69	-224	1.4887	5	4
002	3.9023	33	31	-512	1.4811	3	3
-111	3.8913	30	30	314	1.4654	4	5
111	3.7524	33	33	-404	1.4667	4	4
-201	3.7284	21	21	330	1.4602	7	6
201	3.4944	3	4	422	1.4502	5	6
-112	2.9774	85	78	224	1.4271	2	1
-202	2.9334	10	10	512	1.4063	2	3
112	2.8541	50	50	-332	1.3871	1	1
202	2.7104	9	10	600	1.3552	2	2
020	2.5998	30	28	332	1.3489	1	1
310	2.4035	34	36	040	1.3000	3	3
-311	2.3437	1	1	-134	1.2902	2	2
-203	2.2744	3	2	134	1.2693	2	2
311	2.2531	2	2	-116	1.2617	5	4
220	2.1903	5	4	240	1.2382	1	1
022	2.1636	18	17	042	1.2333	1	1
-221	2.1326	7	6	206	1.2114	2	1
-312	2.1136	14	12	424	1.2017	3	3
400	2.0328	5	6	530	1.1859	1	1
312	1.9853	6	6	-316	1.1791	1	1
004	1.9511	16	14	514	1.1724	3	2
222	1.8762	9	9	043	1.1628	1	1
-402	1.8642	4	4	-425	1.1542	2	1
-313	1.8304	3	3	334	1.1459	2	2
-204	1.8159	9	9	532	1.1169	1	1
-114	1.8112	11	10	316	1.1118	2	2
114	1.7548	7	7	440	1.0951	2	2
402	1.7472	6	9	044	1.0818	1	1
130	1.6951	4	3	712	1.0668	2	1
131	1.6509	1	1	-244	1.0569	2	1
420	1.6014	2	2	-534	1.0403	3	2
-132	1.5642	8	8	800	1.0164	1	1
510	1.5521	5	5				

<sup>a</sup> Diffraction lines with *I*<sub>obs</sub> < 1 are omitted.

Table 4. Ordered list of possible space groups obtained from the Check-Group program for  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ 

Space-groups number	Hermann-Mauguin Symbol of space groups	Merit factors
9	<i>C</i> 1 <i>c</i> 1	2.70
15	<i>C</i> 1 2/ <i>c</i> 1	2.70
5	<i>C</i> 1 2 1	1.97
8	<i>C</i> 1 <i>m</i> 1	1.97
12	<i>C</i> 1 2/ <i>m</i> 1	1.97
14	<i>P</i> 1 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> 1	1.38
7	<i>P</i> 1 <i>c</i> 1	1.35
13	<i>P</i> 1 2/ <i>c</i> 1	1.35
4	<i>P</i> 1 2 <sub>1</sub> 1	1.01
11	<i>P</i> 1 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>m</i> 1	1.01
10	<i>P</i> 1 2/ <i>m</i> 1	1.00
6	<i>P</i> 1 <i>m</i> 1	1.00
3	<i>P</i> 1 2 1	1.00

Table 5. Results of the Rietveld refinement of  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

$\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$						
Space group, $C2/c$ ( $N^\circ 15$ ); $[Z = 4; a = 16.5215(2) \text{ \AA}; b = 5.1891(1) \text{ \AA}; c = 8.0489(1) \text{ \AA}; \beta = 115.70(1)^\circ; V = 622(1) \text{ \AA}^3$						
Profile parameters						
Pseudo-Voigt function, $PV = \eta L + (1-\eta)G$ ; $\eta = 0.384(3)$						
Half-width parameters, $U = 0.0122(2)$ , $V = -0.0054(2)$ , and $W = 0.0045(1)$						
Conventional Rietveld R-factors, $R_{\text{WP}} = 4.1\%$ ; $R_p = 2.8\%$ ; $R_B = 4.3\%$ ; $R_F = 2.6\%$						
Atom	Site	Atomic coordinates			$B_{\text{iso}}(\text{Å}^2)$	Occupancy
Sr	4e	0	0.2985(1)	0.75	1.0(1)	1
(Sb,Fe)	4c	0.25	0.25	0	0.14(1)	0.5/0.5
P	8f	0.1431(1)	0.7579(3)	0.7588(1)	0.45(2)	1
O(1)	8f	0.1449(2)	1.0196(5)	0.8615(5)	0.22(3)	1
O(2)	8f	0.1591(2)	0.5270(5)	0.8954(4)	0.22(3)	1
O(3)	8f	0.2219(2)	0.7647(6)	0.7067(4)	0.22(3)	1
O(4)	8f	0.0498(2)	0.7225(6)	0.6017(4)	0.22(3)	1

Table 6. Results of the Rietveld refinement of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

$\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$						
Space group, $C2/c$ ( $N^\circ 15$ ); [ $Z = 4$ ; $a = 16.6925(2) \text{ \AA}$ ; $b = 5.1832(1) \text{ \AA}$ $c = 8.1215(1) \text{ \AA}$ ; $\beta = 115.03(1)^\circ$ ; $V = 637(1) \text{ \AA}^3$ ]						
Profile parameters						
Pseudo-Voigt function, $PV = \eta L + (1-\eta)G$ ; $\eta = 0.438(4)$						
Half-width parameters, $U = 0.048(1)$ , $V = -0.008(1)$ , and $W = 0.005(1)$						
Conventional Rietveld R-factors, $R_{\text{WP}} = 4.1\%$ ; $R_p = 6.1\%$ ; $R_B = 4.5\%$ ; $R_F = 3.1\%$						
Atom	Site	Atomic coordinates			$B_{\text{iso}}(\text{Å}^2)$	Occupancy
Pb	4e	0	0.3106(7)	0.75	-----	1
(Sb,Fe)	4c	0.25	0.25	0	0.06(1)	0.5/0.5
P	8f	0.1455(3)	0.7587(6)	0.7626(2)	0.57(5)	1
O(1)	8f	0.1444(2)	1.0213(6)	0.8636(3)	0.07(1)	1
O(2)	8f	0.1612(3)	0.5326(6)	0.9013(3)	0.07(1)	1
O(3)	8f	0.2212(7)	0.7634(4)	0.7049(6)	0.07(2)	1
O(4)	8f	0.0520(2)	0.7107(5)	0.6090(5)	0.07(2)	1
Anisotropic Betas $\times 10^4$	$B_{11}$	$B_{22}$	$B_{33}$	$B_{12}$	$B_{13}$	
Pb	18.8(0.5)	76.4(3.1)	202.8(2.6)	0	35.7(0.9)	

Table 7. Selected interatomic distances and calculated Bond valence sum (BVS) for  $\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

$\text{Sr}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$		
Sb(Fe)-O distances (Å)	P-O distances (Å)	Sr-O distances (Å)
$2 \times \text{Sb(Fe)-O(1)} = 2.002(3)$	$\text{P-O(1)} = 1.583(3)$	$2 \times \text{Sr-O(1)} = 2.601(3)$
$2 \times \text{Sb(Fe)-O(2)} = 1.982(3)$	$\text{P-O(2)} = 1.569(3)$	$2 \times \text{Sr-O(2)} = 2.650(3)$
$2 \times \text{Sb(Fe)-O(3)} = 1.913(4)$	$\text{P-O(3)} = 1.532(4)$	$2 \times \text{Sr-O(4)} = 2.585(3)$
$\text{Aver.} \langle \text{Sb(Fe)-O} \rangle = 1.97(1)$	$\text{P-O(4)} = 1.522(3)$	$2 \times \text{Sr-O(4)} = 2.792(3)$
	$\text{Aver.} \langle \text{P-O} \rangle = 1.55(1)$	$2 \times \text{Sr-O(4)} = 3.448(3)$
		$\text{Aver.} \langle \text{Sr-O} \rangle = 2.65(1)$
<b>Bond Valence Sums (BVS)</b>		
$\text{BVS}(\text{Sb(Fe)}) = 4.4$ (should be 4)	$\text{BVS}(\text{P}) = 4.8$	$\text{BVS}(\text{Sr}) = 1.9$



Table 8. Selected interatomic distances and calculated Bond valence sum (BVS) for  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$ .

$\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$		
Sb(Fe)-O distances (Å)	P-O distances (Å)	Pb-O distances (Å)
$2 \times \text{Sb(Fe)-O(1)} = 2.022(5)$	$\text{P-O(1)} = 1.593(6)$	$2 \times \text{Pb-O(1)} = 2.651(6)$
$2 \times \text{Sb(Fe)-O(2)} = 1.995(5)$	$\text{P-O(2)} = 1.569(6)$	$2 \times \text{Pb-O(2)} = 2.697(6)$
$2 \times \text{Sb(Fe)-O(3)} = 1.920(8)$	$\text{P-O(3)} = 1.522(9)$	$2 \times \text{Pb-O(4)} = 2.684(6)$
$\text{Aver.} \langle \text{Sb(Fe)-O} \rangle = 1.98(1)$	$\text{P-O(4)} = 1.552(5)$	$2 \times \text{Pb-O(4)} = 2.669(5)$
	$\text{Aver.} \langle \text{P-O} \rangle = 1.55(1)$	$2 \times \text{Pb-O(4)} = 3.546(6)$
		$\text{Aver.} \langle \text{Pb-O} \rangle = 2.67(1)$
Bond Valence Sums (BVS)		
$\text{BVS}(\text{Sb(Fe)}) = 4.3$ (should be 4)	$\text{BVS}(\text{P}) = 4.8$	$\text{BVS}(\text{Pb}) = 1.8$

Table 9. Powder diffraction data of Sr(Sb<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (CuK $\alpha$ <sub>1</sub>;  $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ )

<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> <sub>obs</sub> (Å)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (obs)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (cal)	<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> <sub>obs</sub> (Å)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (obs)	100 <i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub> (cal)
200	7.4435	10	9	-912	1.7301	4	4
110	4.9000	4	4	602	1.7280	19	16
-111	4.3591	58	56	-804	1.7254	14	15
-202	4.0174	54	53	-623	1.7214	1	1
111	3.8154	28	26	130	1.7182	2	1
400	3.7217	19	18	-911	1.6919	15	14
-311	3.7099	19	17	-131	1.6910	5	5
002	3.6263	11	10	-913	1.6741	1	1
310	3.5864	3	3	422	1.6642	3	2
-402	3.4509	16	17	131	1.6534	6	5
-312	3.0774	2	2	-10 02	1.6516	3	3
311	2.8765	100	100	330	1.6333	2	2
202	2.8146	6	7	114	1.6266	1	1
-511	2.7865	74	75	223	1.6098	1	2
-602	2.6529	10	11	-821	1.5970	1	1
020	2.5946	39	40	-424	1.5883	3	2
510	2.5825	3	3	-132	1.5837	1	1
600	2.4812	4	3	-332	1.5759	1	1
021	2.4430	3	3	-224	1.5684	2	1
-313	2.3799	67	69	331	1.5468	11	10
221	2.2268	4	4	-515	1.5350	8	9
312	2.2250	3	3	-531	1.5323	7	7
-421	2.1946	5	5	132	1.5235	1	1
511	2.1868	3	3	820	1.5122	8	7
-222	2.1795	1	1	513	1.5049	5	4
420	2.1284	32	30	-532	1.5029	1	1
-711	2.1271	6	6	530	1.4956	1	1
-712	2.1233	2	2	10 00	1.4887	3	3
002	2.1101	4	3	-715	1.4868	3	3
-422	2.0738	2	2	024	1.4862	18	16
-802	2.0572	3	3	-333	1.4530	10	9
113	2.0548	17	16	-115	1.4483	4	4
-404	2.0087	14	15	622	1.4382	11	11
-713	1.9588	9	9	-824	1.4367	15	15
421	1.9178	1	1	-11 13	1.4299	10	10
222	1.9077	22	19	332	1.4155	1	1
-621	1.8838	2	2	404	1.4073	2	2
800	1.8609	13	12	531	1.4055	1	1
-223	1.8586	2	2	-11 11	1.3952	2	1
-622	1.8549	18	16	-10 22	1.3933	3	2
-514	1.8460	1	1	-915	1.3916	4	4
-423	1.8398	1	1	-731	1.3893	1	1
004	1.8131	8	7	133	1.3685	2	2
620	1.7932	2	1	224	1.3671	2	2
023	1.7687	3	3	-10 21	1.3628	1	1
313	1.7646	3	3	730	1.3419	1	1
711	1.7317	9	8	115	1.3398	1	1
-606	1.3391	4	4	-12 24	1.1811	3	3
-12 04	1.3265	1	2	-535	1.1773	3	3
-10 24	1.3101	3	3	-641	1.1725	1	1
-534	1.3013	1	1	-243	1.1663	1	1
040	1.2973	4	4	-14 02	1.1660	5	5
713	1.2931	1	1	-642	1.1654	1	1
532	1.2873	1	1	533	1.1634	1	1
-206	1.2845	1	1	-735	1.1551	1	1
240	1.2780	1	1	-13 15	1.1525	2	2
041	1.2770	1	1	-226	1.1512	5	5

-241	1.2750	1	1	-11 33	1.1278	3	3
731	1.2593	1	1	913	1.1246	2	2
-931	1.2438	2	2	206	1.1188	1	1
12 00	1.2406	1	1	-935	1.1087	1	1
-242	1.2345	1	1	10 22	1.0934	1	1
-13 13	1.2333	1	1	-841	1.0926	1	1
315	1.2185	8	7	-317	1.0907	1	1
-442	1.2143	2	2	-444	1.0898	1	1
10 02	1.2057	1	1	804	1.0846	1	1
11 11	1.2034	6	6	-15 13	1.0771	1	1
-626	1.1900	2	2	840	1.0642	2	1
-13 11	1.1832	1	1	-14 22	1.0636	3	3

<sup>a</sup> Diffraction lines with  $I_{\text{obs}} < 1$  are omitted.

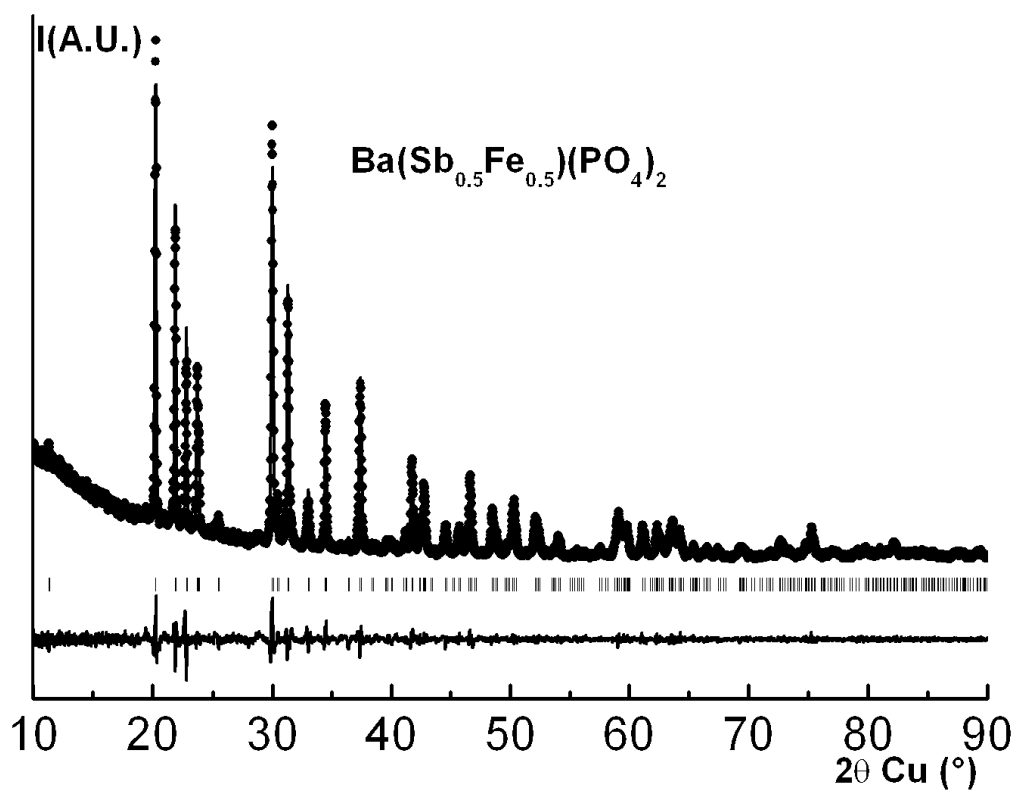
Table 10. Powder diffraction data of  $\text{Pb}(\text{Sb}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $\text{CuK}\alpha_1$ ;  $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ )

$hkl$	$d_{\text{obs}}$ (Å)	100 $I/I_0$ (obs)	100 $I/I_0$ (cal)	$hkl$	$d_{\text{obs}}$ (Å)	100 $I/I_0$ (obs)	100 $I/I_0$ (cal)
200	7.5625	5	5	-804	1.7357	7	9
110	4.9033	13	13	-623	1.7262	3	2
-111	4.3661	99	92	130	1.7166	5	5
-202	4.0508	61	69	-911	1.7116	12	11
400	3.7812	37	34	-131	1.6897	3	2
-311	3.7210	49	44	-10 02	1.6691	3	3
002	3.6795	29	22	131	1.6542	1	1
310	3.6140	11	9	114	1.6497	1	1
-112	3.1583	3	3	-331	1.6440	2	2
-312	3.0888	4	5	330	1.6344	4	4
311	2.9131	100	100	223	1.6261	1	1
202	2.8658	14	14	-821	1.6089	2	2
-511	2.8065	77	78	-424	1.5959	2	2
112	2.7665	2	2	-132	1.5850	3	3
-602	2.6726	14	18	-332	1.5760	3	2
-512	2.6321	2	3	-823	1.5572	2	2
510	2.6126	5	5	331	1.5511	6	5
020	2.5916	26	30	-515	1.5465	6	6
600	2.5208	10	9	-521	1.5344	4	3
021	2.4444	8	8	-10 04	1.5277	9	7
-221	2.4279	7	7	-532	1.5039	3	2
-313	2.3950	51	56	530	1.5003	11	9
-113	2.3251	3	2	-115	1.4661	3	3
312	2.2585	5	4	622	1.4566	9	8
-513	2.2436	5	5	-11 13	1.4412	11	12
221	2.2358	8	7	404	1.4329	1	1
402	2.2107	3	2	332	1.4230	2	2
-421	2.1985	11	10	-11 11	1.4128	2	2
-222	2.1831	5	4	821	1.4031	4	3
-711	2.1483	2	2	-915	1.3991	2	3
420	2.1377	28	25	-732	1.3913	2	1
022	2.1188	6	5	133	1.5757	2	2
113	2.0825	16	15	730	1.3494	3	3
-802	2.0762	7	10	-12 04	1.3363	1	1
-404	2.0254	10	11	-334	1.3147	1	1
710	1.9944	1	1	-534	1.3044	1	1
-713	1.9689	10	10	-206	1.3007	1	1
421	1.9327	4	3	040	1.2958	2	2
222	1.9222	17	13	-134	1.2863	1	1
800	1.8906	12	12	-11 15	1.2807	1	1
-223	1.8668	3	3	041	1.2762	2	2
-622	1.8605	16	13	-241	1.2738	2	2
-423	1.8449	4	3	-932	1.2638	1	1
004	1.8397	6	5	12 00	1.2604	1	1
313	1.7927	4	4	-734	1.2581	1	1
023	1.7815	5	4	-931	1.2509	1	1
602	1.7610	17	16	-735	1.1587	1	1
241	1.2435	1	1	-11 32	1.1392	1	1
-441	1.2370	4	4	12 20	1.1335	2	1
11 11	1.2233	4	3	-643	1.1306	1	1
-442	1.2140	1	1	641	1.1063	1	1
930	1.2047	1	1	-11 34	1.1010	1	1
-626	1.1975	1	1	-841	1.0957	1	1
-934	1.1861	2	2	-15 13	1.0879	1	1
-535	1.1819	2	2	-843	1.0789	1	1
-14 02	1.1803	2	2	-14 22	1.0742	2	1
-641	1.1738	1	1	733	1.0690	1	1

732	1.1708	1	1	12 21	1.0612	1	1
-243	1.1675	1	1				
-443	1.1621	2	2				

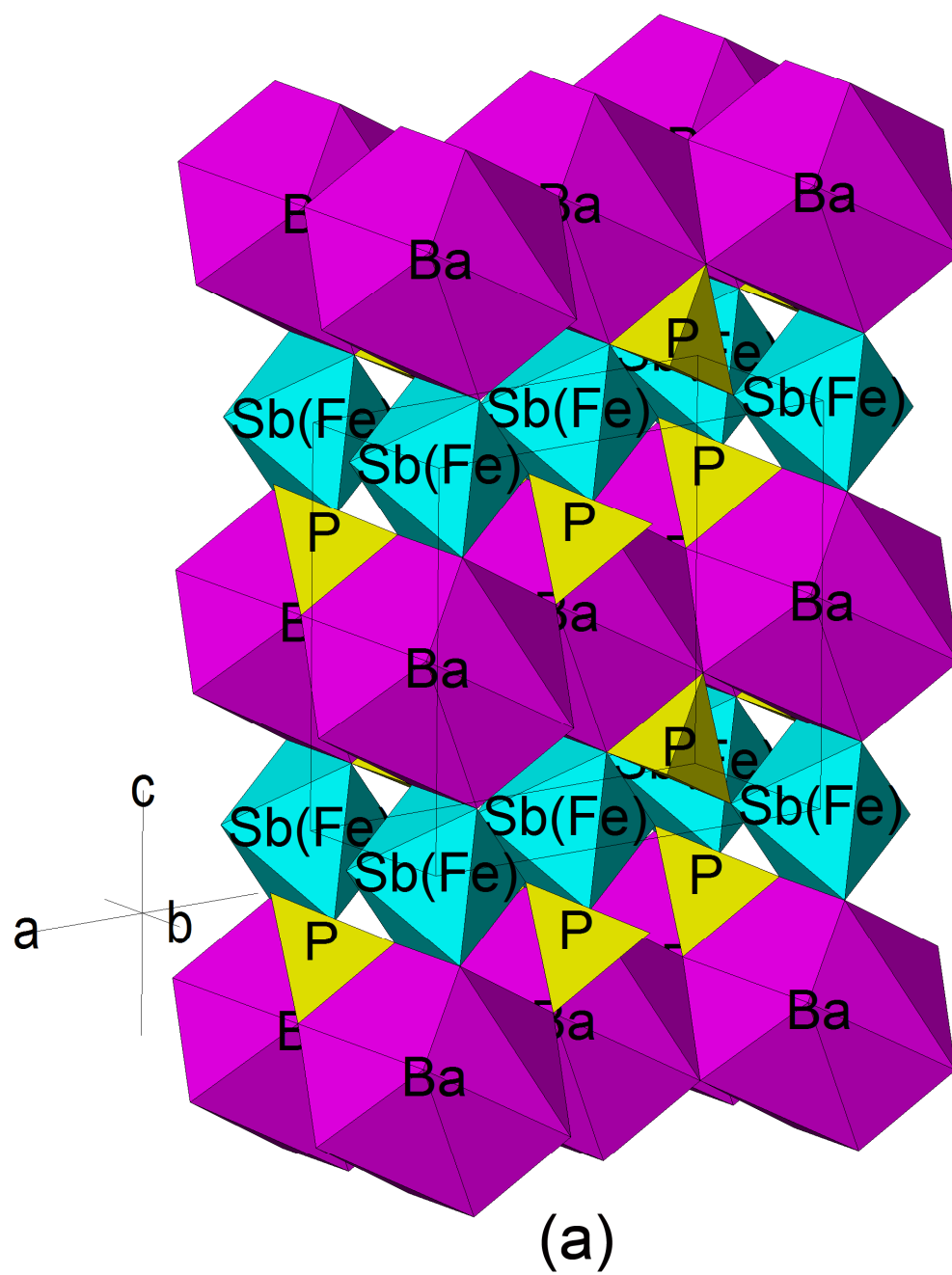
<sup>a</sup> Diffraction lines with  $I_{\text{obs}} < 1$  are omitted.

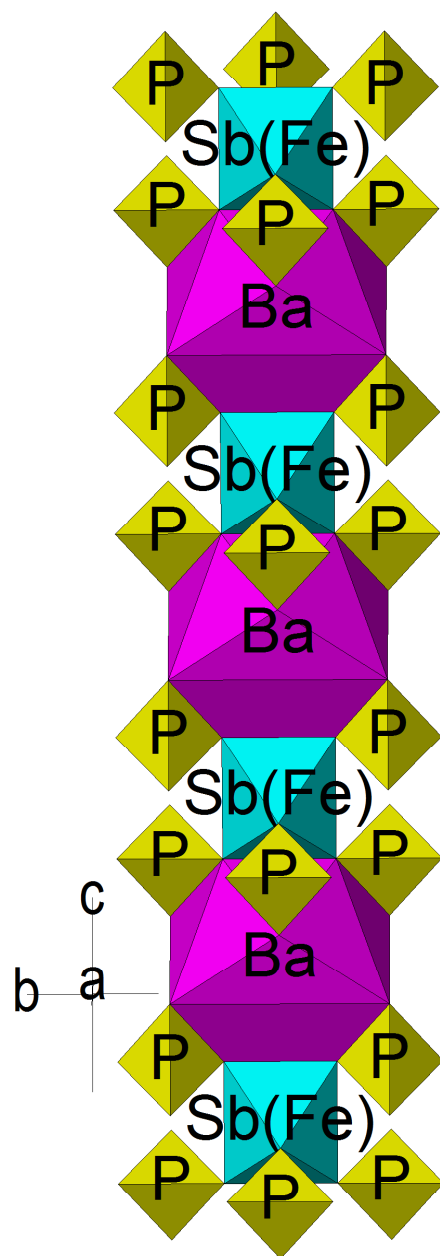
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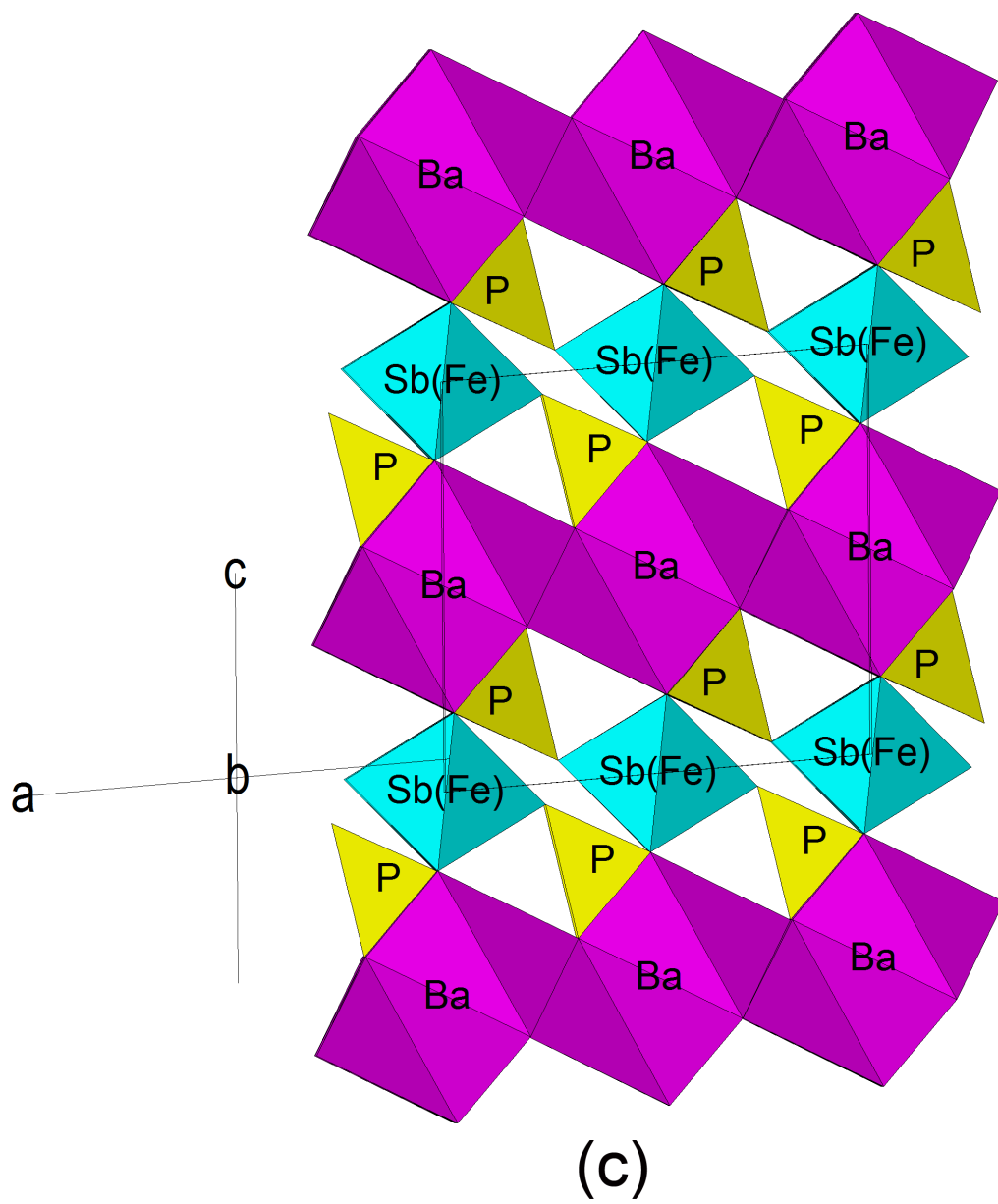
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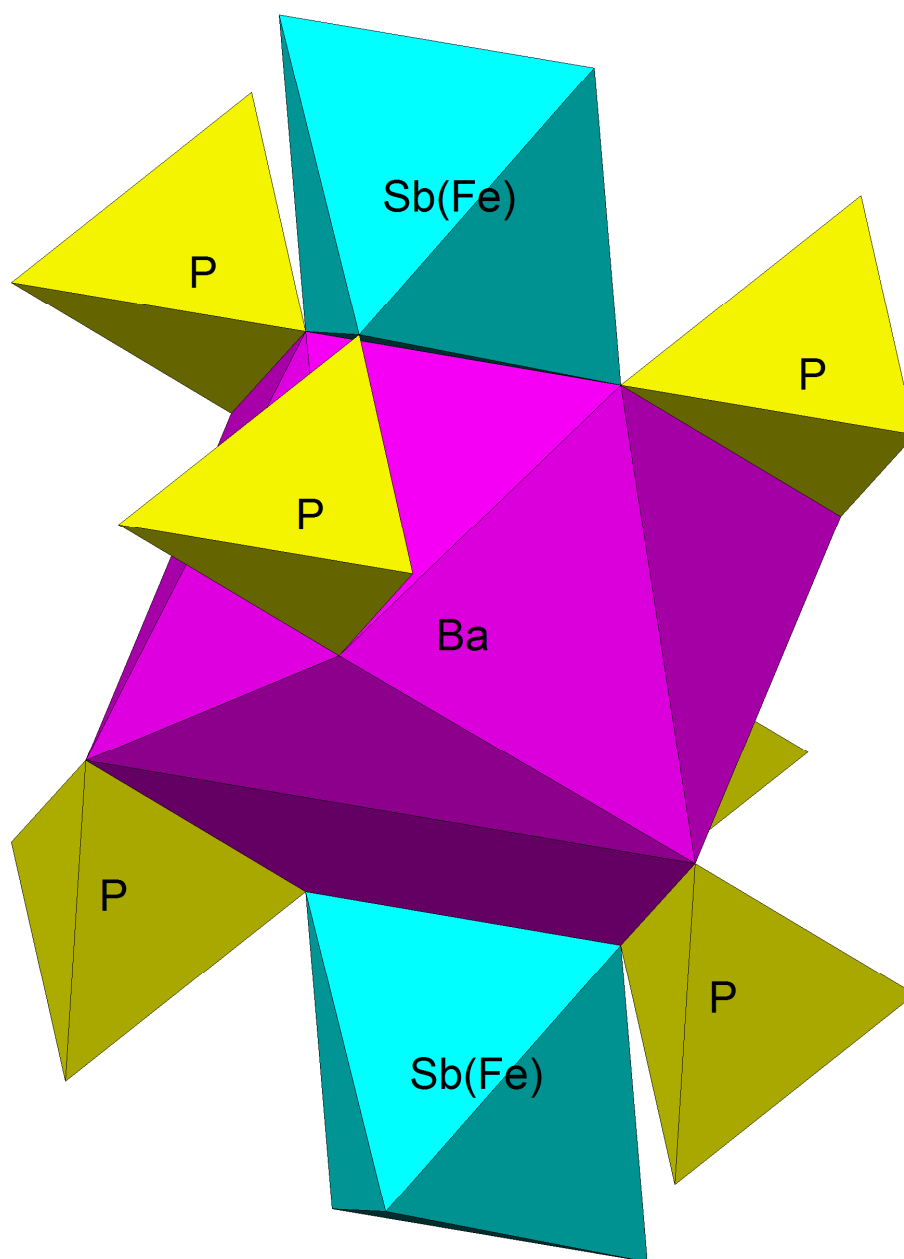




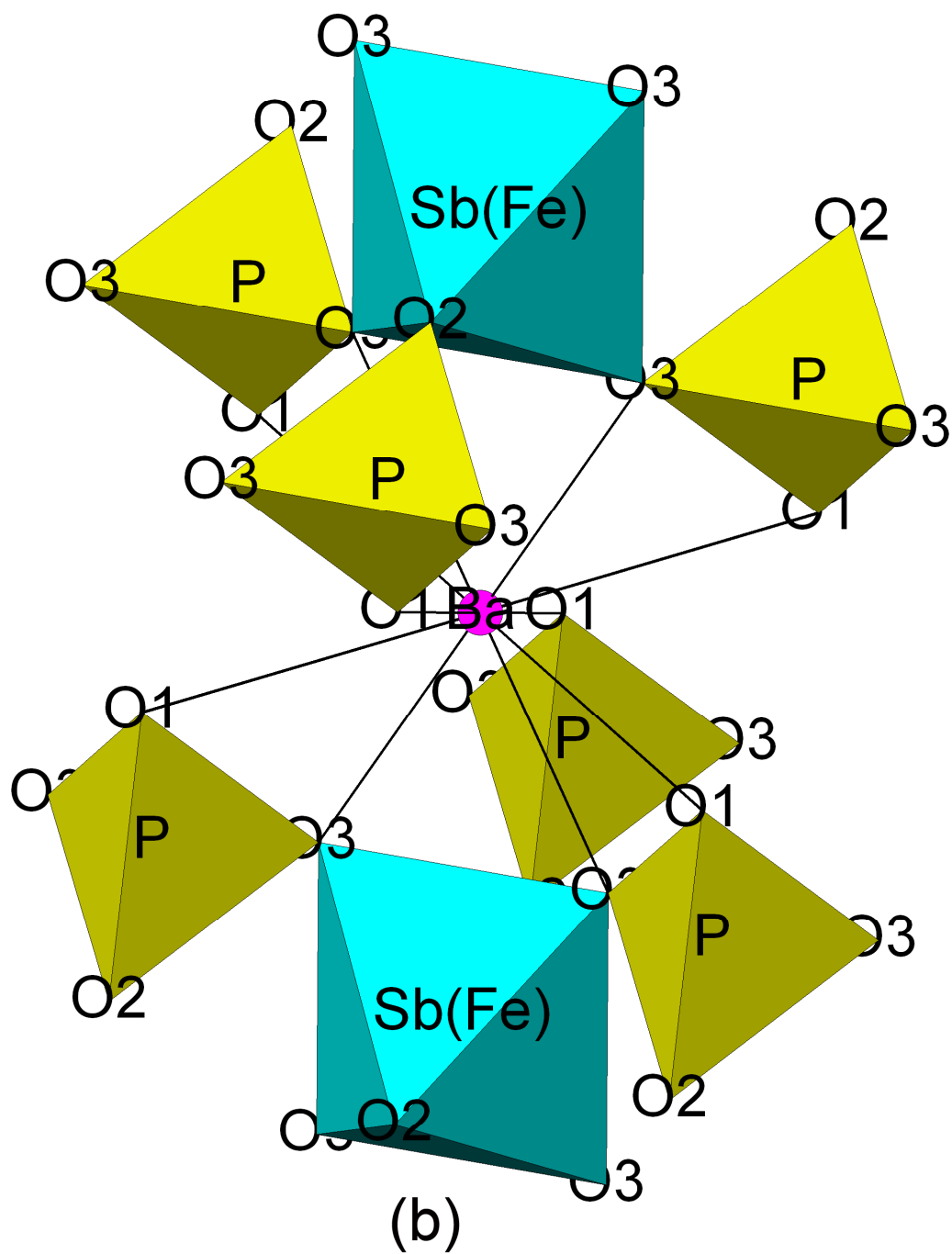


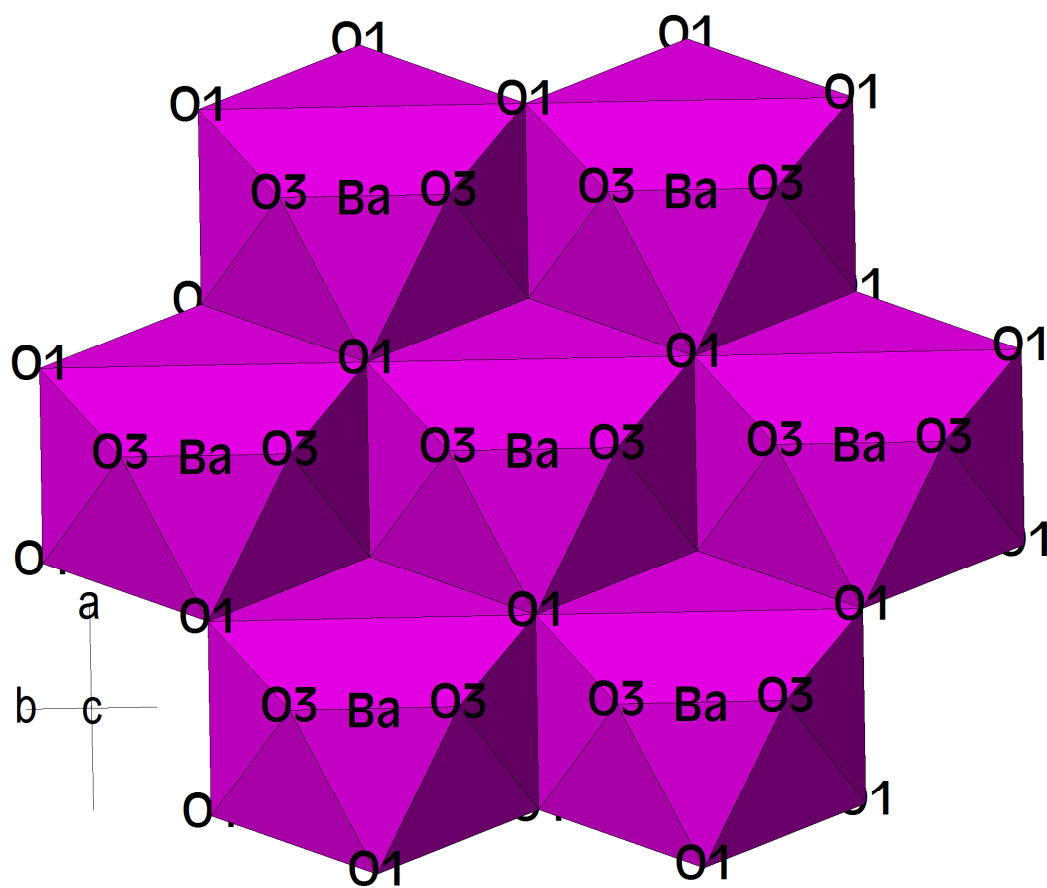
(b)





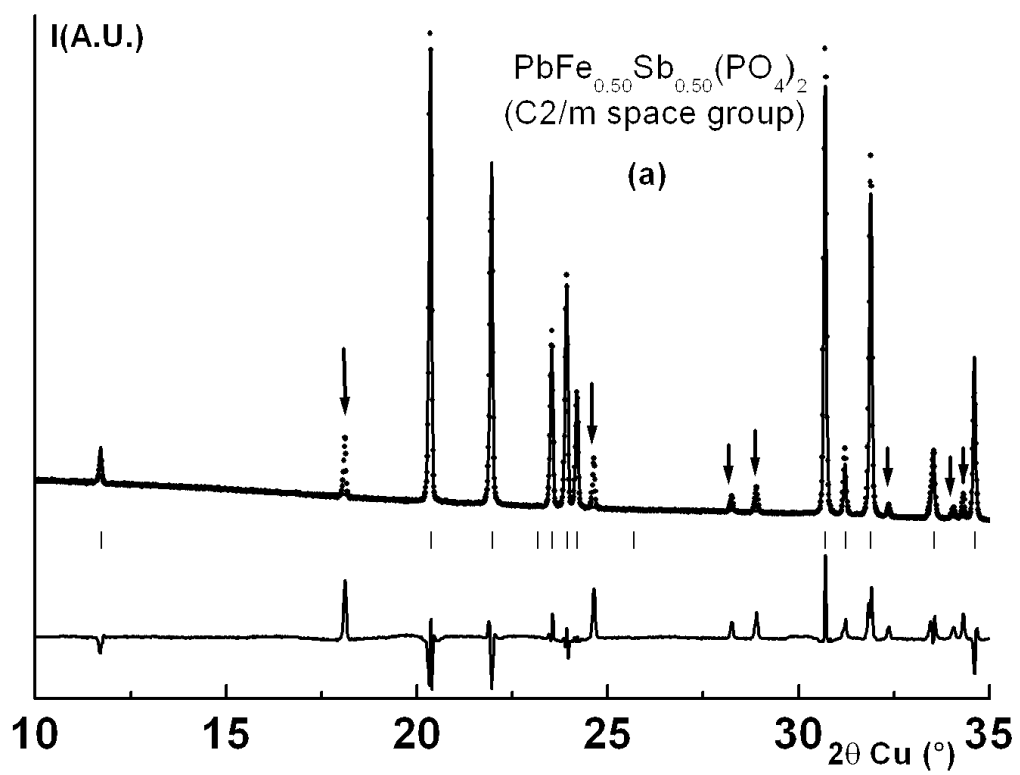
(a)



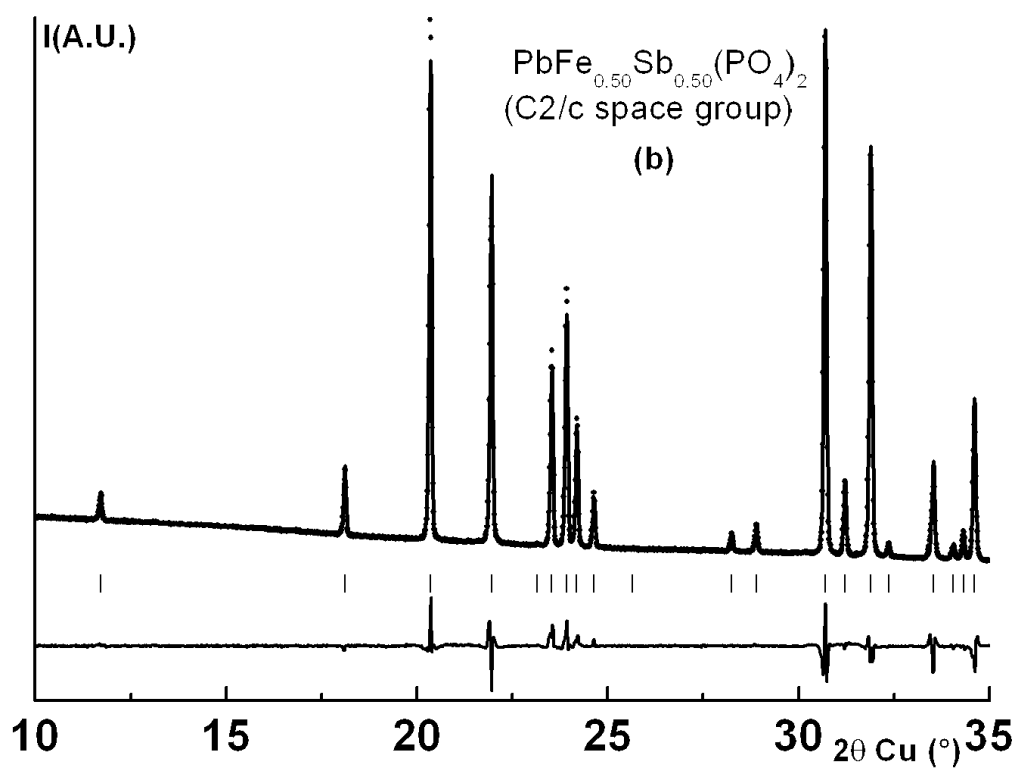


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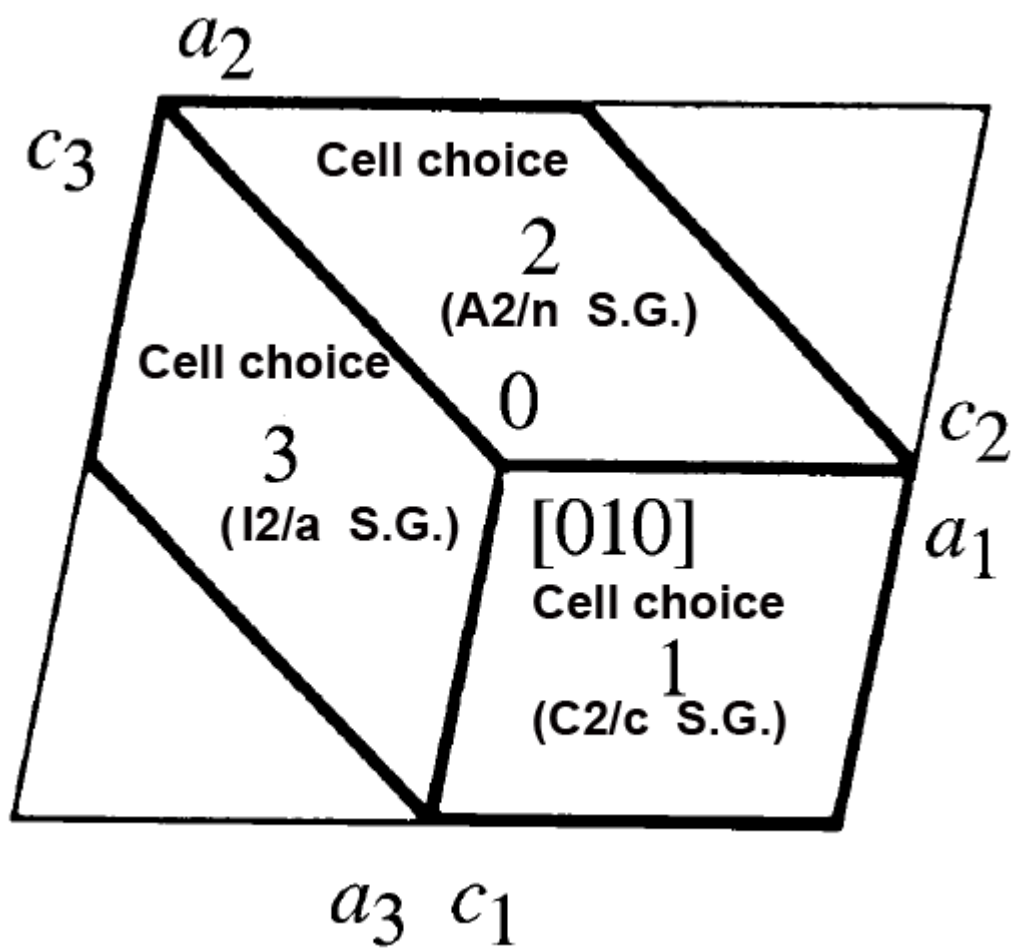


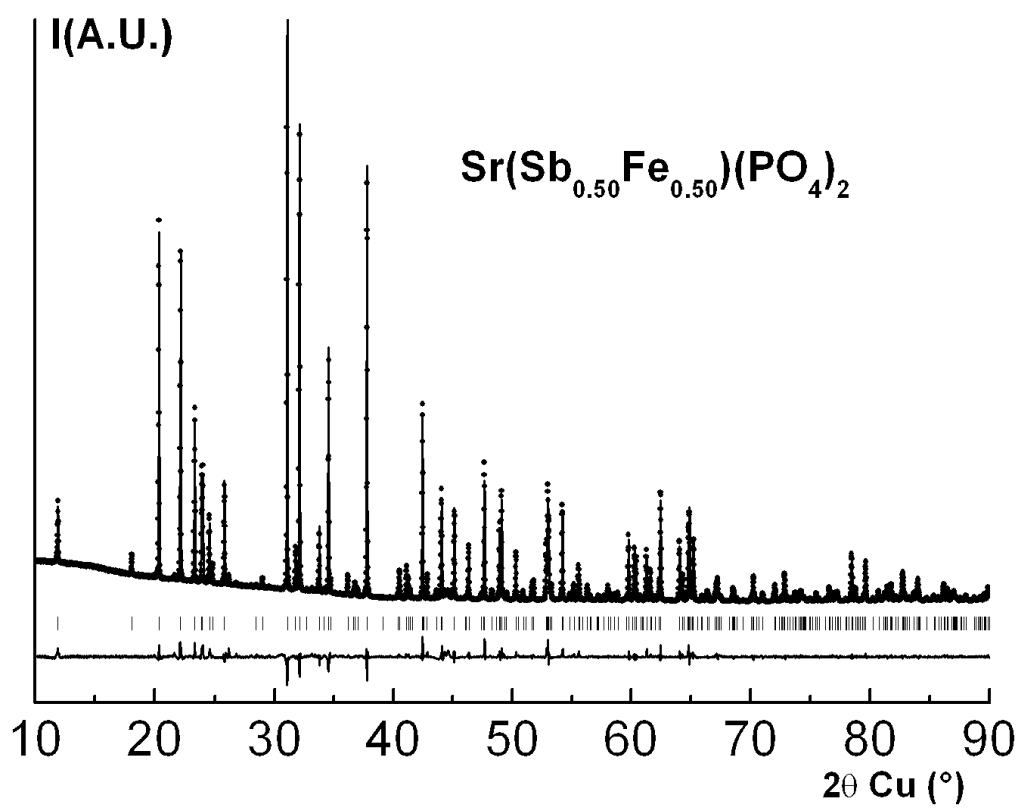


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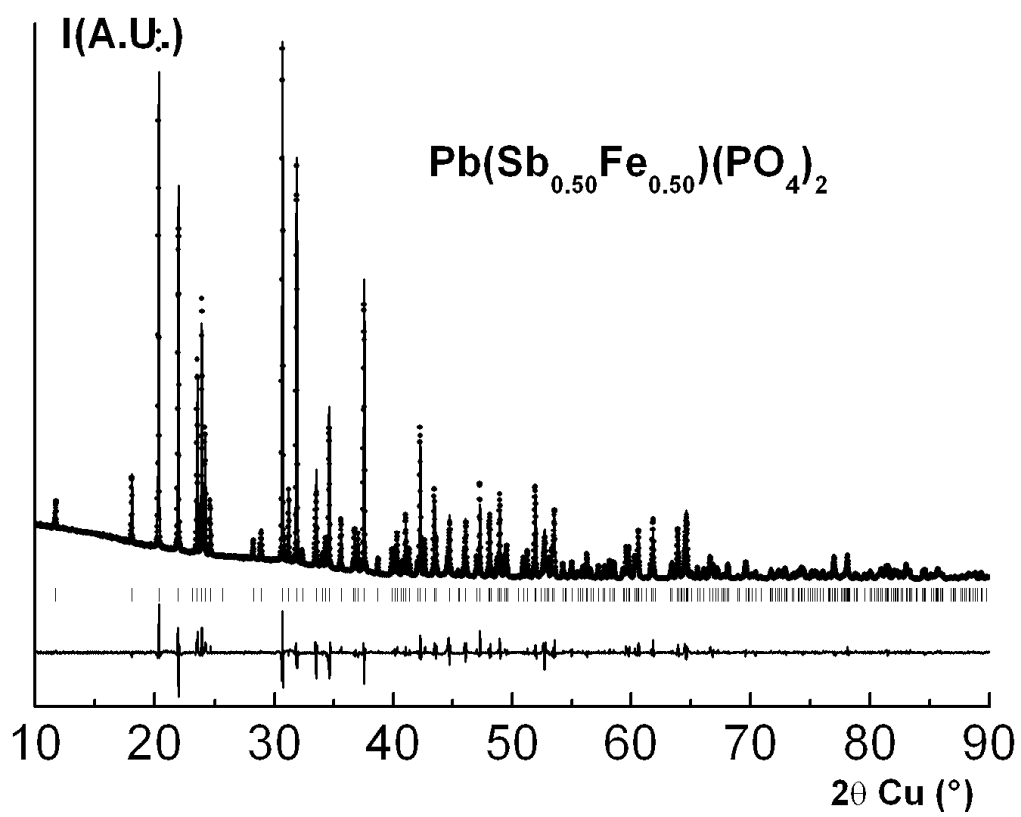


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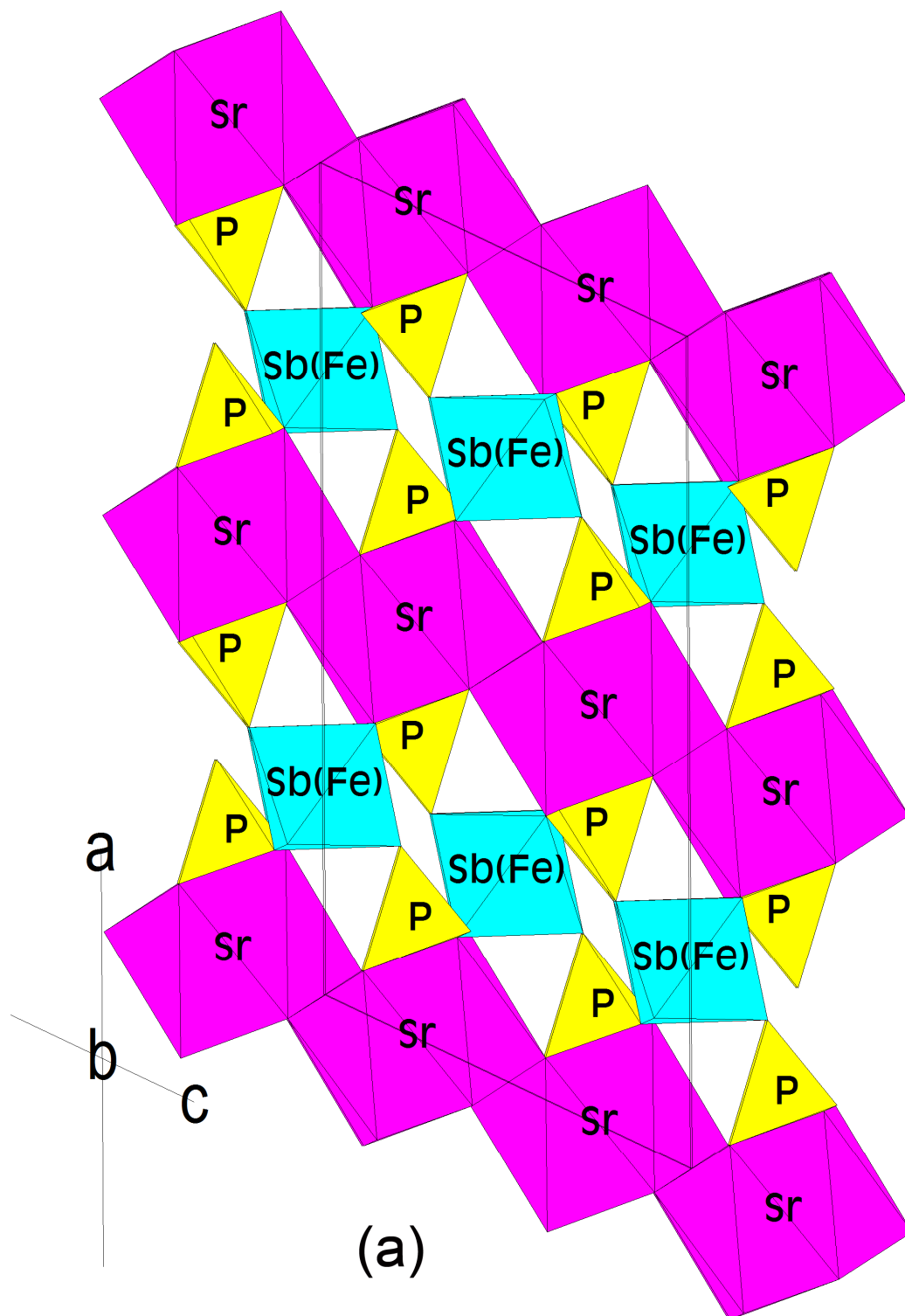


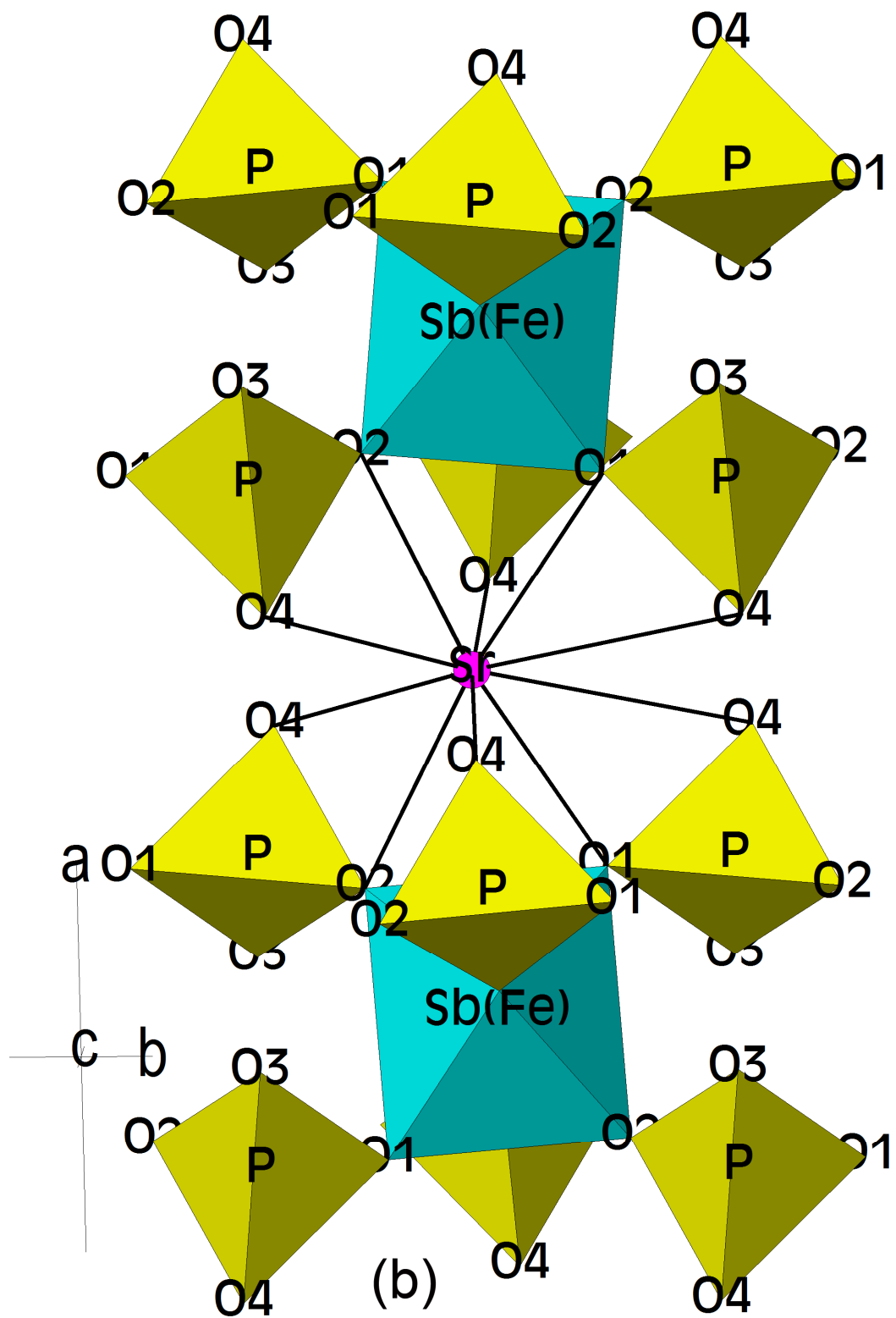


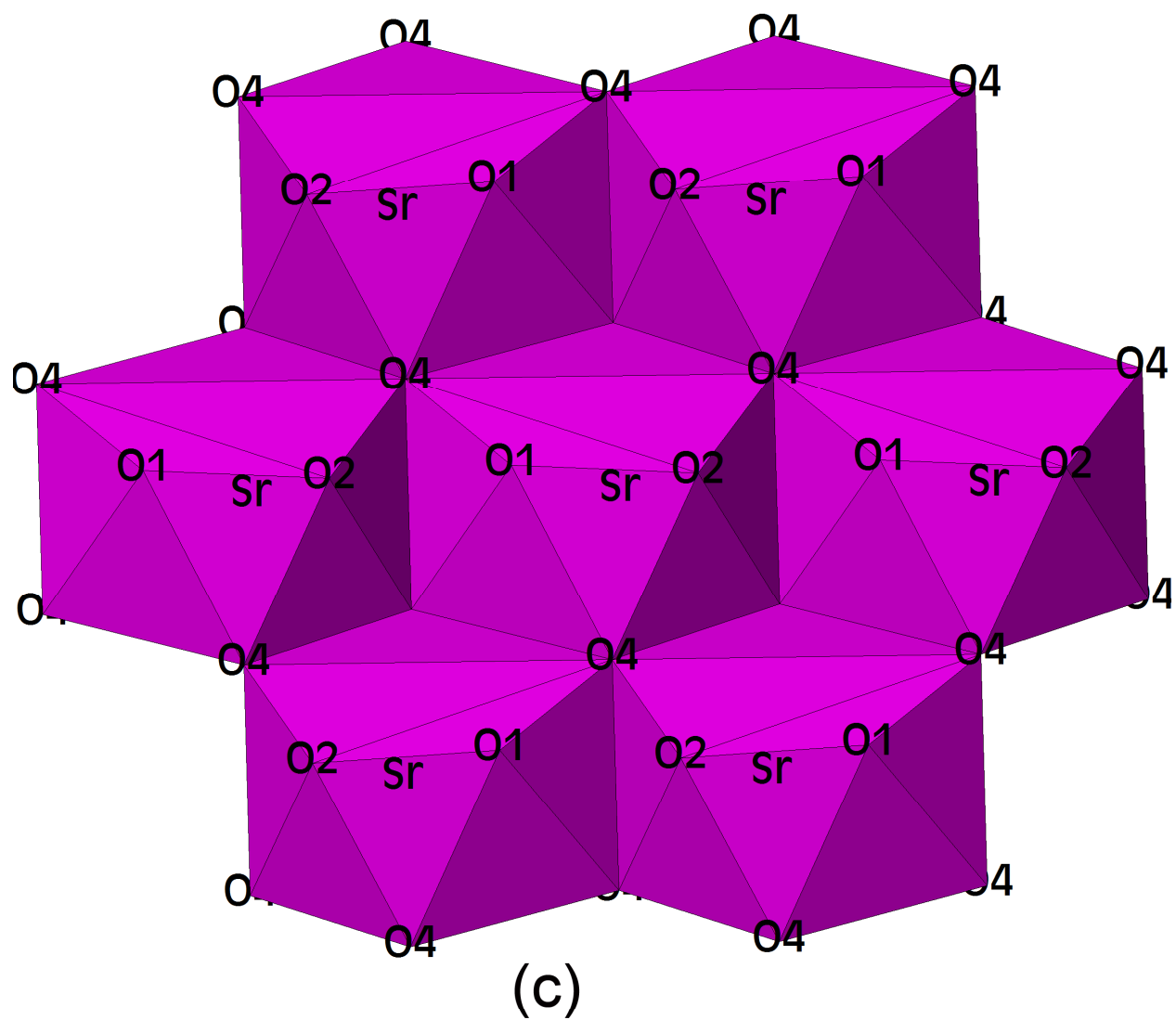
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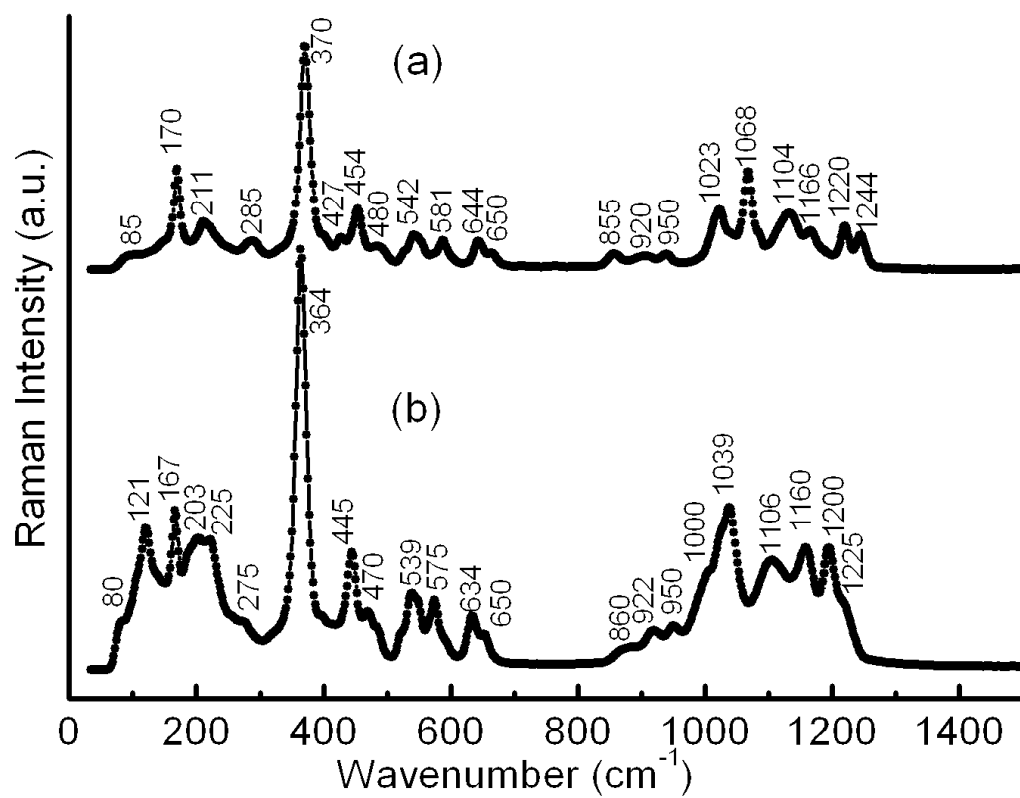
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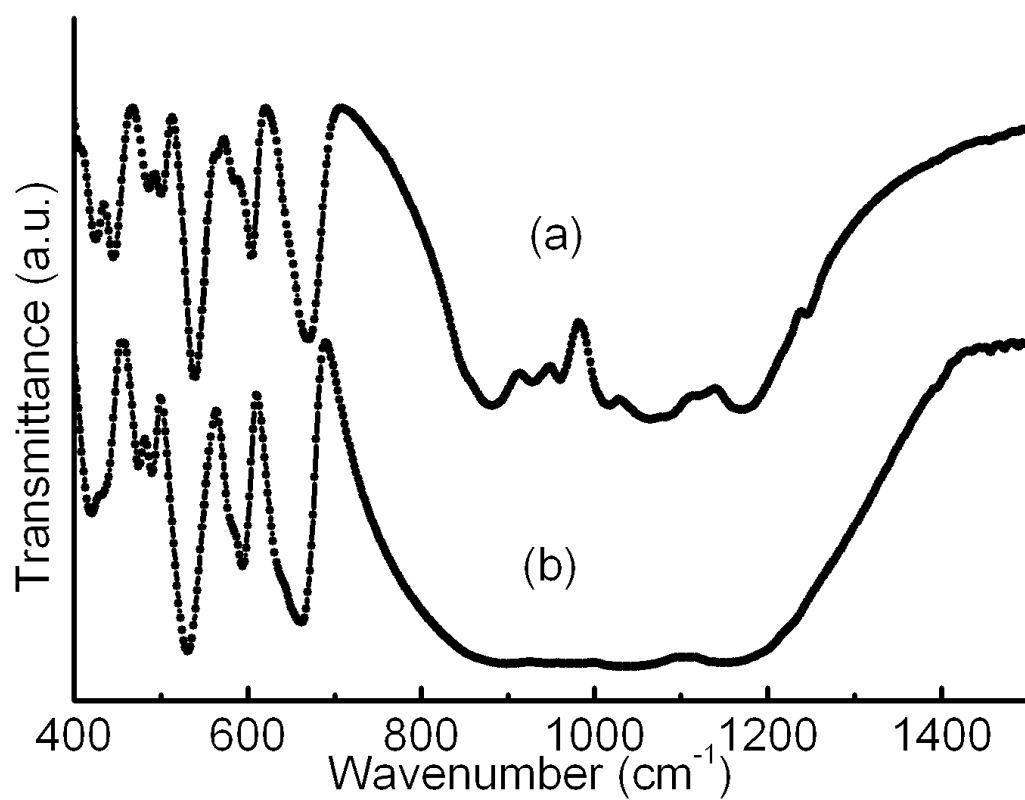








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**Highlights**

- a new  $A^{\text{II}}(\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}_{0.5})(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}, \text{Ba}$ ) family of yavapaiite was described
- a strategy of structural determination was applied
- IR and Raman of  $A^{\text{II}}\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}_{0.5}(\text{PO}_4)_2$  ( $A = \text{Sr}, \text{Pb}$ ) was studied

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