## Synthesis, crystal structure and thermal expansion of gaudefroyite-type borates: Sr<sub>3</sub>Bi(YO)<sub>3</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, Sr<sub>2</sub>CaBi(YO)<sub>3</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> and Sr<sub>2</sub>BaBi(YO)<sub>3</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>

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Borates are perspective materials for luminescent matrix due to the wide bandgap, relatively easy synthesis and high thermal stability.

The Sr<sub>3</sub>Bi(YO)<sub>3</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, Sr<sub>2</sub>CaBi(YO)<sub>3</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> and Sr<sub>2</sub>BaBi(YO)<sub>3</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> compounds were synthesized via solid state reactions. Reagents, SrCO<sub>3</sub> (99.99%), CaCO<sub>3</sub> (99.99%), Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (99.99%), BaCO<sub>3</sub> (99.99%), Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (99.99%) and H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub> (99.99%), in stoichiometric ratios, were mixed in an agate mortar and pestle. This mixture was ground for 45 min and placed in platinum crucibles. The powder was heated at 600 °C for 3 h in air to decompose the metal carbonate and boric acid. Then, the mixture was pressed into a pellet and heated at 300 °C for 5 h, 500 °C for another 5 h, then ground carefully, and finally fired at 950 °C for 24 h.

Crystal structure  $Sr_3Bi(YO)_3(BO_3)_4$  was first investigated in [1]. Unit cell parameters of  $Sr_3Bi(YO)_3(BO_3)_4$  are: a = 10.697(2), c = 6.7222(1) Å, V = 666.2(2) Å<sup>3</sup>, space group  $P6_3$ . There are 10 crystallographically independent atoms in the asymmetric unit. Among them, the Bi and B1 atoms locate on the special sites, and Y and O atoms occupy the general sites. The Y atom is coordinated b seven O atoms to form a pentagonal bipyramid. These YO<sub>7</sub> polyhedra share edges to form a one-dimensional (1D) chain along the *c* direction. The chains are bridged by  $B_2O_3$  groups through sharing vertex oxygen atoms to construct a three-dimensional (3D) framework, which affords two kinds of channels along the [001] direction. Sr atoms and isolated B(1)O<sub>3</sub> triangles are located in the larger channel. The B(1)O<sub>3</sub> triangles are surrounded by Sr atoms.

The thermal behavior of  $Sr_3Bi(YO)_3(BO_3)_4$ ,  $Sr_2CaBi(YO)_3(BO_3)_4$  and  $Sr_2BaBi(YO)_3(BO_3)_4$ compounds was studied using in situ high-temperature XRD in the range 25-800 °C by means of Rigaku Ultima IV powder X-Ray diffractometer (CuK $\alpha$ ) with a high-temperature camera. According to the principles of high temperature crystal chemistry [2] for borates with isolated triangle groups, thermal expansion of these borates is practically isotropic.

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