

2 **Investigations on alunogen under Mars-relevant temperature conditions: an example for**
3 **a single-crystal-to-single-crystal phase transition**

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20 **Running title:** On the monoclinic low-temperature polymorph of alunogen.

21

22 **Abstract**

23 The low-temperature (LT) dependent behavior of a synthetic alunogen sample with
24 composition $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 16.61\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been studied in the overall temperature range from -100
25 to 23 °C by DSC measurements, *in-situ* powder and single-crystal X-ray diffraction as well as
26 Raman spectroscopy. Cooling/heating experiments using the different techniques prove that
27 alunogen undergoes a reversible, sluggish phase transition somewhere between -30 and -50
28 °C from the triclinic room-temperature (RT) form to a previously unknown LT-polymorph. A
29 significant hysteresis for the transition was observed with all three methods and the transition
30 temperatures were found to depend on the employed cooling/heating rates. The crystal
31 structure of the LT-modification has been studied at -100 °C using single crystals which have
32 been grown from an aqueous solution. Basic crystallographic data are as follows: monoclinic
33 symmetry, space group type $P2_1$, $a = 7.4125(3) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 26.8337(16) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 6.0775(3) \text{ \AA}$, $\beta =$
34 $97.312(4)^\circ$, $V = 1199.01(10) \text{ \AA}^3$ and $Z = 2$. Structure analysis revealed that LT-alunogen
35 corresponds to a non-stoichiometric hydrate with 16.61 water moieties p.f.u. Notably, the
36 first-order transition results in a single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformation. In the
37 asymmetric unit there are two Al-atoms, three $[\text{SO}_4]$ -tetrahedra, and seventeen
38 crystallographically independent sites for water molecules, whose hydrogen positions could
39 be all located by difference-Fourier calculations. According to site-population refinements
40 only one water position (Ow5) shows a partial occupancy. A comfortable way to rationalize
41 the crystal structure of the LT-modification of alunogen is based on a subdivision of the
42 whole structure into two different slabs parallel to (010). The first type of slab (type A) is
43 about nine Å thick and located at $y \approx 0$ and $y \approx \frac{1}{2}$, respectively. It contains the $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ -
44 octahedra as well as the sulfate groups centered by S1 and S2. Type B at $y \approx \frac{1}{4}$ and $y \approx \frac{3}{4}$
45 comprises the remaining tetrahedra about S3 and a total of five additional “zeolitic” water
46 sites (Ow1-Ow5) which are not a part of a coordination polyhedron. Within slab-type A
47 alternating chains of (unconnected) octahedra and tetrahedra can be identified which are

48 running parallel to [100]. In addition to electrostatic interactions between the $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+}$ - and
49 the $(\text{SO}_4)^{2-}$ -units, hydrogen bonds are also essential for the stability of these slabs. A detailed
50 comparison between both modifications including a derivation from a hypothetical aristotype
51 based on group-theoretical concepts is presented. Since alunogen has been postulated to occur
52 in martian soils the new findings may help in the identification of the LT-form by X-ray
53 diffraction using the Curiosity Rover's ChemMin instrument or by Raman spectroscopy.

54

55

56 **Keywords:** alunogen, low-temperature phase transition, polymorphism, crystal-structure
57 determination, DSC-measurements, X-ray diffraction, Raman spectroscopy, multivariate data
58 analysis, group theory

59 **Introduction**

60 Most of the naturally occurring hydrous aluminum sulfates are basic hydrates containing
61 water molecules and hydroxyl groups. Examples include the minerals aluminite
62 $(Al_2(SO_4)(OH)_4 \cdot 7H_2O)$, meta-aluminite $(Al_2(SO_4)(OH)_4 \cdot 5H_2O)$, jurbanite
63 $(Al(SO_4)(OH) \cdot 5H_2O)$ and rostitite $(Al(SO_4)(OH) \cdot 3H_2O)$, just to mention a few. One of the rare
64 OH-free compounds is alunogen. Usually, alunogen is chemically described as a
65 heptadecahydrate corresponding to the formula $Al_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 17H_2O$. Notably, the exact water
66 content of alunogen has been a matter of debate for quite a long time and various
67 compositions between sixteen and eighteen water molecules per formula unit (p.f.u.) have
68 been reported (Larsen and Steiger 1928; Palache et al. 1951; Bayliss 1964; Barret and Thiard
69 1965; Náráy-Szabó 1969; Menchetti and Sabelli 1974; Fang and Robinson 1976; Chou and
70 Soong 1984; Çilgi and Cetişli 2009; Bai et al. 2011; Wang and Zhou 2014). This variability is
71 a direct consequence of the fact that alunogen crystals which are exposed to air of low relative
72 humidity at room temperature easily start to dehydrate partially, i.e. alunogen can be
73 considered a non-stoichiometric hydrate (Fang and Robinson 1976). In addition to
74 uncertainties concerning the precise amount of water present in alunogen using starting
75 materials from different sources, there are also discrepancies between the results of
76 thermoanalytical studies originating from different groups. Actually, the release of structural
77 water in the range between ambient temperature and about 450°C has been reported to be
78 connected with either two (Bayliss 1964; Földvári 2011) or four (Chou and Soong 1984; Çilgi
79 and Cetişli 2009) step processes, respectively.

80 Natural alunogen occurs globally and about 250 different localities have been listed in the
81 mindat.org database (<http://www.mindat.org>, accessed March 3rd, 2015). The mineral can be
82 found in quite a number of different geological settings. The most important ones are
83 associated with the oxidation of metal-sulfide mineral deposits or tailings impoundments in
84 aride climates (Jambor et al. 2000 and references cited therein). Furthermore, alunogen has

85 been observed in alteration products of kaolinite by acid sulfate fluids in ignimbrite country
86 rocks (Te Kopia geothermal field, New Zealand, Martin et al. 1999) or incrustations from
87 exhalation-condensation processes related to fumarolic activities (Soufrière Hills Volcano,
88 Caribbean island of Montserrat, Boudon et al. 1996). Another environment where alunogen
89 comes into play is coal mining. The mineral has been discovered in larger quantities in
90 burning coal mining waste dumps (Upper Silesian Coal basin, Poland, Kruszewski 2013) or as
91 deposits derived from gases exhaled from surface vents associated with underground coal
92 fires (Wuda coal field, Inner Mongolia, Stracher et al. 2005). Finally, its occurrence has been
93 also reported from caves where it originated from reactions triggered by release of H₂S from
94 sulfidic springs (Serpent cave, France, Audra and Hobléa 2007).

95 Moreover, hydrous sulfates also play an important role in the mineralogy of Mars. Orbital
96 remote sensing in combination with data obtained from landed missions (Opportunity and
97 Curiosity rovers, for example) have shown that various Ca-, Mg-, Fe-, and Al-sulfates are
98 among the major secondary minerals on the surface of the “red planet” (Bibring et al. 2006;
99 Swayze et al. 2008; Kounaves et al. 2010, Bish et al. 2013 and references cited therein). Only
100 very recently, the dehydration behavior and rates of several sulfates including alunogen have
101 been studied under Mars relevant pressure and partial water pressure conditions (Wang and
102 Zhou 2014). Notably, low-temperature single-crystal diffraction data sets have been lacking
103 for sulfate minerals for quite a long time (Mills et al. 2013). Furthermore, Al-sulfates have
104 been found in alteration experiments on a basaltic tephra from Mauna Kea, Hawaii, that had a
105 composition similar to the average Mars basaltic soil (Bell 2014) and on basaltic glasses
106 (Golden et al. 2005, Hausrath et al. 2013).

107 So far, no detailed structural characterization of alunogen has been performed at low
108 temperatures. However, these kinds of studies would be necessary to proxy for martian
109 conditions since the global mean surface temperature on Mars is ~ -71 °C (Haberle 2013),

110 while local temperatures may lie within the range of at least $-130 - 0$ °C (Herri and
111 Chassefière 2012).

112 Therefore, we decided to study the low-temperature behavior of alunogen using thermal,
113 spectroscopic and diffraction techniques. Our investigations show that alunogen undergoes a
114 reversible sluggish structural phase transition upon cooling. The new data may help in the
115 identification of this mineral by X-ray diffraction of martian soils using the Curiosity Rover's
116 ChemMin instrument (Bish et al. 2014) or by Raman spectroscopy.

117 **Experimental details**

118 For the DSC, the X-ray powder diffraction and Raman experiments a commercial sample of
119 alunogen was used (VWR International, ACS grade) which was further carefully milled with
120 an agate mortar and a pestle and stored for one month in a desiccator at 43% relative humidity
121 fixed by a K_2CO_3 -saturated solution. Determination of the absolute water content was
122 performed using a Karl Fischer coulometric titrator C20 instrument (Mettler Toledo,
123 Switzerland). The average value for a total of five measurements was 16.3 ± 0.3 mole water
124 per mole $Al_2(SO_4)_3$.

125 Differential scanning calorimetry was conducted using a DSC 204 F1 Phoenix (Netzsch-
126 Gerätebau GmbH, Selb, Germany) equipped with a liquid nitrogen cooling device and
127 operated with the Proteus software package version 4.8.5. Approximately 27 milligrams of
128 sample were weighed (Mettler UM3 ultramicrobalance) into sealed Al-pans. Dry nitrogen was
129 used as purge gas (purge: 20 ml min^{-1}) and liquid nitrogen for the cooling process. The
130 measurements were recorded with a heating/cooling rate of 10 °C min^{-1} in the temperature
131 range between -80 and 40 °C. The instrument was calibrated for temperature with Hg (m.p. $-$
132 38.8 °C), benzophenone (48.0 °C), In (156.6 °C), Sn (231.9 °C), Bi (271.4 °C) and Zn (419.6
133 °C), and the energy calibration was performed with Hg (heat of fusion 11.4 J g^{-1}), In (28.6 J
134 g^{-1}), Sn (60.5 J g^{-1}), Bi (53.1 J g^{-1}) and Zn (60.5 J g^{-1}). The error on the extrapolated
135 transition enthalpy, 95% confidence interval (CI), was derived from three measurements.

136 A first inspection of the commercial sample before milling under a petrographic microscope
137 revealed that the material consisted of platy single crystals up to 50 μm in size. Due to an
138 extensive intergrowth of the crystals, however, it was not possible to retrieve a sample of
139 sufficient size for single-crystal structure analysis by simply separating the aggregates using a
140 scalpel blade. Consequently, we finally decided to grow larger single crystals from an
141 aqueous solution by slow evaporation of the solvent. Therefore, 1 g of the commercial
142 material was dissolved in 65 ml of distilled water contained in a 250 ml glass beaker. The
143 open beaker was stored at 23(2) °C and 43% relative humidity. Solidification started after
144 about four days from the upper surface of the solution by the formation of a gel-like crust
145 which completely covered the liquid phase within one week. After four weeks, an inspection
146 of the volume below the crust revealed the presence of well-separated, optically transparent,
147 birefringent crystals with an extremely thin-plate morphology (dimensions: 500 x 500 x 5
148 μm^3) in contact with solution.

149 About twenty of the crystals retrieved from the liquid were screened under a polarizing
150 binocular. In all cases no clear extinction position could be found when observed with crossed
151 Nicols, thus indicating twinning of at least two domains with different orientations of the
152 indicatrix. Notably, this type of twinning has been already reported by Menchetti and Sabelli
153 (1974) as a characteristic feature of triclinic alunogen. Unfortunately, the twin plane is
154 parallel to the basal planes of the thin plates, making it impossible to separate the individuals
155 mechanically. Therefore, we finally decided to perform the structural investigations with a
156 larger twinned specimen. The crystal was mounted on the tip of a glass fiber with finger-nail
157 hardener. Single-crystal diffraction studies have been performed on an Oxford Diffraction
158 Gemini Ultra diffractometer using ω -scans. Preliminary diffraction experiments using
159 graphite-monochromatized Mo- $K\alpha$ radiation showed the expected complex diffraction pattern
160 resulting from the superposition of the reciprocal lattices of two triclinic individuals.

161 Nevertheless, diffraction spots coming from the different domains could be indexed
162 independently. Unit-cell parameters at ambient temperature were as follows: $a = 7.4133(5) \text{ \AA}$,
163 $b = 26.910(2) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 6.0466(3) \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 90.036(6)^\circ$, $\beta = 97.612(5)^\circ$ and $\gamma = 91.868(6)^\circ$. They
164 are in good agreement with literature data for triclinic alunogen (Menchetti and Sabelli 1974;
165 Fang and Robinson 1976).

166 For the low-temperature studies the sample was flash-cooled to $-100(2)^\circ\text{C}$ in a dried
167 compressed air stream produced from an Oxford Cryosystems Desktop Cooler unit.
168 Preliminary investigations showed that under these conditions (i) splitting of the reflections
169 due to twinning had disappeared and (ii) the frames could be indexed with a primitive-
170 monoclinic unit cell, closely related to the triclinic room-temperature (RT) metric. Both
171 observations pointed to the existence of a structural phase transition upon cooling the sample
172 from ambient conditions to the target temperature. Regular determinations of the unit-cell
173 volume at $-100(2)^\circ\text{C}$ over a period of eight hours did not show any systematic decrease of
174 this parameter which should be expected for a release of water in the cold dry gas stream. In
175 order to characterize the low-temperature (LT) modification in more detail, a data set
176 corresponding to a hemisphere of reciprocal space was collected at $-100(2)^\circ\text{C}$. Subsequent
177 integration and data reduction including Lorentz and polarization corrections was performed
178 with the *CrysAlis PRO* software package (Agilent 2012). Furthermore, the data were
179 analytically corrected for absorption using accurately measured crystal faces based on the
180 procedure of Clark and Reid (1995). No extinction correction was applied. The observed Laue
181 symmetry and extinction symbol $2/m P-2_1-$ resulted in the following possible space group
182 types: $P2_1$ or $P2_1/m$. Structure determination was performed using direct methods (program
183 SIR2004, Burla et al. 2005). Both space group types were tested. However, a
184 crystallochemically reasonable model could be only obtained for the non-centrosymmetric
185 symmetry ($P2_1$). This preliminary structure included the positions of the Al-, S- and the O-
186 atoms and was subsequently refined by full-matrix least-squares methods based on F^2

187 (program SHELXL97, Sheldrick 2008). Neutral-atom scattering coefficients and anomalous
188 dispersion corrections were taken from the *International Tables for Crystallography, Volume*
189 *C* (Prince 2004). Difference-Fourier calculations were employed to reveal the positions of the
190 missing hydrogen atoms. This procedure allowed the location of the hydrogens of all
191 seventeen water sites in the asymmetric unit. The positional parameters of the H-atoms were
192 further optimized by a riding model with water-molecule geometries restrained by DFIX 0.86
193 0.01 commands for the O-H and DFIX 1.35(2) commands for the H...H distances (giving H-
194 O-H angles close to 105°). All non-hydrogen atoms were refined using anisotropic
195 displacement factors. The displacement parameters for the H atoms of the water molecules
196 were coupled to those of the corresponding oxygen atoms according to $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2 \times U_{\text{eq}}(\text{O})$.
197 Analysis of the Bijvoet differences using the Flack parameter (Flack 1983) pointed to the
198 presence of racemic twinning. Introduction of the corresponding twin law into the refinement
199 led to a ratio of 0.39(2):0.61(2) for the two racemic components. Final calculations resulted in
200 a residual of $R(|F|) = 0.0377$. The largest shift/esd in the last cycle was < 0.001 . An inspection
201 of the fractional atomic coordinates using the ADDSYM algorithm implemented in the
202 program PLATON (Spek 2009) did not reveal any indication for an unnecessarily low space-
203 group symmetry. A summary of all relevant parameters related to data collection and structure
204 refinement can be found in Table 1. Relative atomic coordinates and selected interatomic
205 distances and angles are given in Tables 2 and 3. Additional tables containing the anisotropic
206 displacement parameters as well as the hydrogen-bond geometries have been deposited.
207 Drawings of structural details were prepared using the program ATOMS6.4 (Dowty 2011),
208 ORTEP for Windows (Farrugia 2012) and VESTA 3 (Momma and Izumi 2011). A CIF-file
209 containing all structural information has been deposited as supplementary material.

210 X-ray powder diffraction data were collected on a Stoe STADI MP diffractometer in
211 transmission geometry using strictly monochromatic $\text{Cu-K}\alpha_1$ radiation from a focusing
212 Ge(111) primary beam monochromator and a Mythen1k detector with 11° detection range.

213 The sample was contained in a 0.3 mm diameter borosilicate glass capillary which was
214 spinned during data collection. Temperature-dependent measurements in the range between -
215 100 to 20 °C in steps of $\Delta T = 10$ °C have been made using an Oxford Cryosystems Desktop
216 Cooler device. Data in the range from 19.2 to 20.85° 2θ with the 0.009° step size were
217 collected in order to follow the phase transition (counting time per step: 360 sec; ramp rate
218 between set points: 1 °C/sec; dwell time at the set points before starting the measurement: 10
219 min; total data collection time per scan: 2.5 h). Longer data collections have been performed
220 at -100, -40, 20°C in the 2θ -range from 5 to 80°. The crystal structure of the LT-modification
221 of alunogen was refined using the data set acquired at -100 °C and the model retrieved from
222 the single-crystal structure determination in space group $P2_1$ by the Rietveld method with the
223 TOPAS software package (Coelho 2007). The background was modelled by Chebychev
224 polynomials up to 10th order. Common isotropic displacement factors were used for each type
225 of atoms except hydrogen. The refinement converged at $R_B = 0.0528$, $R_p = 0.0544$, $R_{exp} =$
226 0.0586 , $R_{wp} = 0.0717$, $\chi^2 = 1.22$. Final unit-cell parameters values were $a = 6.0583(8)\text{Å}$, $b =$
227 $26.839(1)\text{Å}$, $c = 7.390(1)\text{Å}$, $\beta = 97.471(1)^\circ$ and $V = 1191.8(3)\text{Å}^3$. The results of the structural
228 refinements of the powder diffraction data were consistent with the single-crystal structure
229 analysis (see Figure 1). For a better comparison between the powder diffraction patterns of
230 both polymorphs the result of a LeBail-fit of the pattern collected for the triclinic form at 20
231 °C has been deposited as well. A table summarizing the observed d-values and relative
232 intensities for the LT-form in the 2θ -region up to 40° can be found in the supplementary data.
233 Raman spectra were recorded with a Bruker RFS 100 Raman-spectrometer (Bruker
234 Analytische Messtechnik GmbH, Germany), equipped with a Nd:YAG Laser (1064 nm) as
235 the excitation source and a liquid-nitrogen-cooled, high-sensitivity Ge-detector. The spectra
236 (256 scans per spectrum) were measured in aluminum sample holders with a laser power of
237 400 mW and a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} . Temperature conditions were adjusted with a SPECAC

238 (Grasebury Specac Limited, Orpington, UK) variable temperature cell and a temperature
239 control unit. The cell was evacuated (200 mbar). Principal component analysis (PCA) was
240 used to interpret the changes in Raman spectra during temperature cycling. Data were
241 processed using the Simca-P software (Umetrics 2005). The spectral region from 1200 to 95
242 cm^{-1} was used for constructing the PCA models. Cross validation (leave-one-out) was used to
243 validate the PCA models. The number of principal components (PCs) used in the PCA models
244 were selected by the PRESS function (predicted residual error sum-of-squares).

245

246 **Crystal structure of the LT-polymorph**

247 Structure analysis showed that the crystal of the monoclinic low-temperature modification of
248 alunogen corresponds to a non-stoichiometric hydrate with 16.61 water moieties p.f.u. In the
249 asymmetric unit of the LT-form there are two Al-atoms, three $[\text{SO}_4]$ -tetrahedra, and seventeen
250 crystallographically independent sites for water molecules. Sixteen of those are fully
251 occupied. According to site-population refinements only the water position Ow5 shows a
252 partial occupancy of 61(1)%. This finding is in good agreement with the results of Menchetti
253 and Sabelli (1974) as well as Fang and Robinson (1976) on the triclinic RT-form. Both groups
254 reported water contents between sixteen and seventeen molecules in air of normal relative
255 humidity for natural alunogen crystals.

256 The values for the S–O distances are in the normal range for sulfates (Hawthorne et al. 2000).
257 The bonding situation in all SO_4 -tetrahedra is rather balanced, i.e. the scatter in the distances
258 and angles is not very pronounced. This is also reflected in the values for the quadratic
259 elongation and the angle variance σ^2 (Robinson et al. 1971) that can be used for the numerical
260 quantification of the distortion (see Table 3). Each aluminum cation in turn is coordinated by
261 six water moieties in form of an octahedron (see Figure 2). Al–O distances vary between
262 1.855–1.897 Å (for Al1) and 1.849–1.877 Å (for Al2).

263 A comfortable way to rationalize the crystal structure of the LT-modification of alunogen is
264 based on a subdivision of the whole structure into two different slabs parallel to (010). The
265 first type of slab (type A) is about nine Å thick and located at $y \approx 0$ and $y \approx \frac{1}{2}$, respectively. It
266 contains the $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ - octahedra as well as the sulfate groups centered by S1 and S2. Type B
267 at $y \approx \frac{1}{4}$ and $y \approx \frac{3}{4}$ comprises the remaining tetrahedra about S3 as well as a total of five
268 additional “free” water sites (Ow1–Ow5) which are not a part of a coordination polyhedron.
269 Within slab-type A alternating chains of (unconnected) octahedra and tetrahedra can be
270 identified which are running parallel to [100] (Figure 3). In addition to electrostatic
271 interactions between the $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+}$ - and the $(\text{SO}_4)^{2-}$ -units in these slabs also hydrogen bonds
272 are essential for the stability of the structural fragments. A detailed summary of the total
273 hydrogen bonding scheme of the H-atoms belonging to the twelve water molecules (O13–
274 O24) of the coordination sphere of the aluminum ions can be found in the supplements. For
275 both crystallographically independent octahedra the same principal arrangements can be
276 observed. Each three water ligands (O13, O16, O17 and O20, O21, O22, respectively) are
277 exclusively involved in hydrogen bonds with neighboring oxygens of the sulfate groups from
278 the same slab-type. The H-atoms of two molecules (O14 and O24, respectively) have
279 acceptors corresponding to oxygens of one $[\text{SO}_4]$ -group from slab-type A as well as one from
280 the “interspace” (slab-type B). Hydrogen bonds of the molecules O15, O18 and O19, O23,
281 respectively, in turn have one water molecule from the interlayer as a potential acceptor.
282 The water molecules in slab-type B are hydrogen-bonded (i) to oxygens from different sulfate
283 groups (Ow1, Ow2), (ii) to other water molecules from the slab (Ow3) or (iii) a combination
284 of (i) and (ii) (Ow4, Ow5). A view of a single type B slab perpendicular to (010) with
285 indicated hydrogen bonds is given in Figure 4.
286 Bond-valence sum (BVS) calculations for the atoms were based on the parameter sets given
287 by Brown and Altermatt (1985) (for the Al–O and S–O bonds) as well as Brese and O’Keeffe

288 (1991) (for the O–H pair). The results in valence units (*v.u.*) including donor and acceptor
289 contributions for the oxygen atoms involved in hydrogen bonds are listed in Table 2.
290 The crystal structure of the LT-polymorph of alunogen is almost isotypic to its selenate
291 analogue whose composition has been reported to be $\text{Al}_2(\text{SeO}_4)_3 \cdot 16(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ (Krivovichev
292 2006). For the calculation of several quantitative descriptors for the characterization of the
293 degree of similarity between the LT-form of the sulfate and the selenate whose crystal
294 structure has been determined at ambient temperatures, the program COMPSTRU (Tasci et al.
295 2012) was used. For the two compounds, the degree of lattice distortion (S), i.e. the
296 spontaneous strain obtained from the eigenvalues of the finite Lagrangian strain tensor
297 calculated in a Cartesian reference system, has a value of $(S) = 0.0107$. After a transformation
298 according to $\mathbf{a}' = \mathbf{c}$, $\mathbf{b}' = -\mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{c}' = -\mathbf{a}$ plus an origin shift of $(\frac{1}{2}, -0.0406, \frac{1}{2})$ the structure of
299 the selenate was mapped on the most similar configuration of the LT-phase of alunogen. The
300 calculations showed the following average atomic displacements (in Å) between the positions
301 of corresponding atoms in the sulfate and the selenate: $\langle \text{Al}-\text{Al} \rangle = 0.184$; $\langle \text{S}-\text{Se} \rangle = 0.190$;
302 oxygen atoms from slab-type A: $\langle \text{O}-\text{O} \rangle = 0.220$; oxygen atoms from slab-type B: $\langle \text{O}-\text{O} \rangle =$
303 0.709 . In more detail, there is only one significant and very large shift of almost 2.438 \AA
304 between the position of Ow5 in LT-alunogen and the corresponding oxygen atom (O29) of
305 the selenate in slab-type B pointing to differences in the local arrangement of the free water
306 molecules. Notably, these positions are only partially occupied in both compounds.
307 Nevertheless, the vast majority of the atoms can be superimposed onto each other within a
308 few tenths of an Ångstrom. The measure of similarity Δ , as defined by Bergerhoff et al.
309 (1999), has a value of 0.064.

310 **Investigations concerning the phase transition**

311 **DSC measurements**

312 DSC curves, confirming the reversible RT \leftrightarrow LT phase transformation, are given in Figure 5.
313 The RT-form shows an exothermic phase transition to the LT-polymorph at a temperature

314 below -40° C on cooling. Upon heating, the endothermic back-transformation is observed
315 above -10° C with a very low enthalpy of transformation of 0.3 ± 0.1 kJ mol⁻¹.

316 **X-ray powder diffraction**

317 The temperature-dependent sequence of powder diffraction patterns collected between 19.2 to
318 20.85° 2θ given in Figure 6 clearly shows that (i) the transformation can be followed by X-ray
319 diffraction and (ii) that this 2θ region can be used to differentiate between the two
320 polymorphs. Upon heating, the transformation starts at about -50° C and is finished at about -
321 30° C. The pattern recorded at -40° C shows a co-existence of both phases. Although both
322 modifications exhibit pronounced structural similarities (which will be discussed later) it is
323 obvious that the transition is of first order.

324

325 **Raman spectroscopy**

326 The Raman spectrum of the triclinic ambient temperature phase is in very good agreement
327 with literature data (RRUFF Database of Mineral Properties, <http://www.ruff.info/ima>; Wang
328 and Zhou 2014). Principally, four normal modes of vibrations have to be distinguished for the
329 tetrahedral [SO₄]-groups (Myneni 2000). The so-called ν_1 and ν_2 modes represent the
330 symmetric stretching and deformation vibrations, whereas the ν_3 and ν_4 modes conform to the
331 corresponding asymmetric stretching and deformation vibrations. These vibrational modes
332 occur in specific regions of the Raman spectrum which have been studied frequently (Myneni
333 2000 and references cited therein). According to these investigations the prominent observed
334 bands for triclinic alunogen were allocated to the four abovementioned modes (see Table 4).
335 The vibrational modes of the octahedral Al(H₂O)₆-moieties contribute to the Raman spectrum
336 as well. Their unambiguous assignment, however, is much more difficult. As was discussed
337 by Boujelbene and Mhiri (2011) for a chemically related ammonium alum
338 (NH₄)Al(SO₄)₂·12H₂O, the relevant modes occur in regions of the anion bending modes,

339 librational modes of the H₂O molecules, and external modes. Due to the large number of
340 symmetrically independent water molecules it is not surprising that in the characteristic region
341 for the OH-stretching vibrations between 3000 and 3600 cm⁻¹ only a broad unspecific hump
342 could be observed, in agreement with the results of Wang and Zhou (2014).

343 However, the primary goal of this spectroscopic study was not to derive a complete allocation
344 of all bands but to (i) verify if Raman spectroscopy is a suitable tool to differentiate between
345 both forms and (ii) identify a spectral region which is especially suited for this purpose. As
346 could be expected from the structural studies, the direct comparison between the Raman
347 spectra of the ambient and the low-temperature modification shows striking similarities (see
348 Figure 7). Nevertheless, there are small but significant differences in the region of the ν_2
349 vibrations which could be used for the discrimination between the two polymorphs (see Table
350 4).

351 Variable-temperature Raman spectroscopy combined with principal component analysis
352 (PCA) allowed us to follow the thermally induced phase transformation between the RT- and
353 LT- forms of alunogen. The sample was cooled/heated (temperature range 0 °C ↔ -100 °C)
354 and Raman spectra were recorded every 10 °C. The measured Raman intensities in the
355 spectral range 1200 to 95 cm⁻¹ were then used as input variables for PCA. The objective of
356 PCA is to describe the variation in data with a minimum of new, uncorrelated variables
357 (principal components) (Martens and Naes 1989). The new variables (loadings) can be
358 interpreted like spectra (Roggo et al. 2007). Groupings and trends, as well as outliers, can be
359 detected with PCA (Gabrielsson et al. 2002). The multivariate data treatment method was
360 applied to explain the variance-covariance structure of the 573 original variables (i.e.
361 individual Raman intensities). The first principal component (t[1]) was constructed to extract
362 the maximum variance in the data set. Further principal components extracted the maximum
363 remaining variance which is uncorrelated with the variance of the previous principal
364 components. By studying the loadings, which express how the old variables (Raman

365 intensities) are linearly combined, specific wavenumbers that influence the grouping of
366 samples in the score plots (Figures 8 and 9) could be identified. Thus, PCA can reveal the
367 variables, or combination of variables that determine some inherent structure in the data set
368 (Wold et al. 2002; Jorgensen 2006).

369 Each two principal components (PCs: $t[1]$ and $t[2]$) were needed to explain the data variance
370 in the recorded Raman spectra following the phase transformations ($RT \rightarrow LT$ and $LT \rightarrow$
371 RT). The first principal components ($t[1]$), accounting for 52.5% of the data variability in
372 Figure 8 and for 66.4% in Figure 9, separates the HT from the LT phase, as indicated by a
373 step in the (regression) lines. The temperature effect on the Raman spectra is indicated by the
374 slope of the (regression) lines. On cooling the phase transformation was observed at a
375 temperature below $-50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Figure 8). The reverse transformation occurred at a temperature
376 above $-30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ on heating (Figure 9). Again, a pronounced hysteresis is noticed.

377 **Discussion and outlook**

378 The crystal structures of both alunogen polymorphs are closely related. This is already
379 indicated by the similarity between the monoclinic and the triclinic unit-cell metrics. As can
380 be easily recognized from the comparison of Figures 10a and 10b the similarity is not
381 restricted to the respective set of lattice parameters. In both modifications the same slab-types
382 A and B are observed. Furthermore, the two forms exhibit a ...ABA'B'... stacking sequence
383 along the b -axis. However, the AB and A'B' pairs are related by different symmetry
384 operations: 2_1 -screw axes (for the LT-form) and inversion centers (for the RT-phase). As was
385 already noted by Menchetti and Sabelli (1974) the triclinic polymorph contains pseudo-mirror
386 planes perpendicular to $[010]$ and this feature was used to explain the characteristic twinning
387 frequently observed in alunogen crystals. Actually, a closer inspection of the atomic
388 coordinates of the LT-form revealed the same kind of pseudo-symmetry. This prompted us to
389 look for a hypothetical aristotype or parent structure from which both phases can be derived.
390 In order to simplify the investigations we restricted our considerations to the polyhedral parts

391 of both polymorphs ($\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ - and SO_4 -units), i.e. the spatially more flexible “free” or
392 “zeolitic” water molecules of the type B slabs were excluded. Obviously, the monoclinic
393 space group $P2_1/m$ could be a good candidate for the symmetry of the potential aristotype. For
394 the necessary analysis the program PSEUDO (Capillas et al. 2011) was employed. The
395 software is able to find pseudo-symmetry in a crystal structure S with space group symmetry
396 H when it can be derived from a virtual parent structure in a higher symmetry G using a left
397 coset decomposition of G with respect to H: $G = H + g_2H + \dots + g_nH$. In the next step the
398 structure S to be tested is compared with the transformed structures g_iS . If the differences
399 between the corresponding pairs of atoms in S and g_iS are below a certain threshold δ_{max} , the
400 presence of a pseudo-symmetry is indicated. In case of alunogen, $G = P2_1/m$ is a minimal
401 supergroup of $H_1 = P2_1$ and $H_2 = P -1$, respectively. Therefore, the test was applied twice for
402 S_1 (LT-form) and S_2 (RT-form) and, indeed, for a maximum tolerance of 1.5 Å the *same*
403 hypothetical aristotype in $G = P2_1/m$ could be derived for both cases, the crystal structure of
404 which is presented in Figure 10c.

405 As a further group-theoretical concept to rationalize the distortions triggering the symmetry
406 reduction from the hypothetical parent structure to the observed LT- and RT-forms, a
407 symmetry mode analysis was performed using the program AMPLIMODES (Perez-Mato et
408 al. 2010). In the course of this procedure the structural distortions present in a low-symmetry
409 structure are decomposed into contributions from different modes, whose symmetries are
410 given by the irreducible representations of the space group of the parent phase. The mode
411 decomposition indicated that the resulting primary displacement fields can be allocated to
412 order parameters transforming according the Γ_1^- (for LT-alunogen) and Γ_2^+ (for RT-alunogen)
413 irreducible representations of $P2_1/m$. For the LT-phase, the resulting displacements for the
414 most strongly affected sulfate tetrahedra have been visualized in Figure 11 using the program
415 VESTA 3 (Momma and Izumi, 2011). It is obvious that the distortions are quite different not
416 only what concerns the amplitudes but also what concerns the general type of the movements

417 of the atoms. With respect to their positions in the parent phase the tetrahedra of slab-type A
418 are approximately shifted about 0.50 Å as a whole along the [100] direction (Figure 11a). The
419 slab-type B tetrahedra in turn are rotated around one of the S-O bonds by an angle of about
420 50°. The corresponding displacements of the three oxygen atoms in the basal plane of the
421 rotated polyhedra are about 1.50 Å (Figure 11b). In the triclinic RT-phase the same principal
422 types of distortion can be observed. The main difference between the two modifications is due
423 to different rotation senses of the tetrahedra in slab-type B. As can be seen from a comparison
424 between in slabs B and B' in Figures 10a and 10b the basal planes of the tetrahedra about S3
425 in the LT-polymorph exhibit an opposite sense of rotation whereas the corresponding moieties
426 in the RT-form rotate concordantly.

427 As a concluding remark, we would like to point out that alunogen is another example for a
428 hydrous mineral whose temperature-dependent and dehydration behavior is only
429 rudimentarily understood – at least from a structural point of view. In nature only the
430 existence of meta-alunogen (Náray-Szabó 1969; Gordon 1942) with a probable water content
431 of 13.5 H₂O molecules p.f.u. and monoclinic or orthorhombic symmetry has been reported. A
432 crystallographic description of meta-alunogen is not available. Furthermore, the thermo-
433 analytical studies mentioned in the introduction point to other intermediate hydrates before
434 the water-free aluminum sulfate Al₂(SO₄)₃ is formed. This offers the perspective for more
435 detailed *in-situ* studies and currently we are working on a comprehensive picture of how high-
436 temperature and moisture influence the structural characteristics of alunogen.

437

438 **Implications**

439 Hydrous sulfates belong to the group of secondary minerals that have been observed to be
440 ubiquitous on the Martian surface using both orbital remote sensing and data obtained from
441 landed missions. Within this context, alunogen has attracted interest because it is one of the
442 sulfates with the highest water content. Actually, alunogen as a hydrous aluminum sulfate has

443 been postulated to exist on Mars as a result of acid-sulfate weathering of basaltic materials
444 (Golden et al. 2005). Only recently, more detailed laboratory investigations showed that the
445 formation of alunogen in hydrothermal alteration studies of basaltic glasses strongly depends
446 if acid-vapor or acid-fluid experiments were performed (Hausrath et al. 2013). Therefore, the
447 detection of alunogen was suggested as a potential proxy for the fluid transport on Mars
448 implying reactions with either vapor or liquid water. In order to generate more reliable
449 physico-chemical information alunogen has been studied for the first time under Mars-
450 relevant temperature conditions using thermal, spectroscopic and diffraction techniques. Our
451 investigations show that alunogen undergoes a reversible structural phase transition upon
452 cooling. In particular, precise location of the hydrogen atoms has established the nature of the
453 complete complex hydrogen bonding scheme of the low-temperature modification. The new
454 data may help in the identification of this mineral by X-ray diffraction of Martian soils using
455 the Curiosity Rover's ChemMin instrument (Bish et al. 2014) or by Raman spectroscopy and,
456 therefore, may be used to connect these mission findings to more fundamental processes of
457 hydrological and geochemical importance that have occurred in the near-surface regions of
458 Mars. From a crystallographic point of view the phase transition in alunogen represents a text
459 book example for the rare case of a first-order phase transformation resulting in a single-
460 crystal-to-single-crystal transition.

461

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468

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- 638

639

Figure captions

640 Figure 1. Rietveld plot of the X-ray powder diffraction pattern of the monoclinic LT-form of
641 alunogen collected at -100 °C. Observed step intensities are represented by a black line.

642 Calculated step intensities (in red) have been modeled based on the crystal structure obtained
643 from the single-crystal diffraction study. Tick marks for the Bragg peaks are given. The lower
644 blue line represents the difference curve between observed and calculated step intensities.

645 Figure 2. Coordination polyhedra around (a) Al1 and (b) Al2 shown with displacement
646 ellipsoids drawn at the 60% probability level.

647 Figure 3. Projection of a single slab of type A parallel to c^* . Blue spheres correspond to
648 oxygen atoms. Hydrogen atoms are shown as small black spheres. Alternating chains of
649 (unconnected) octahedra and tetrahedra can be identified.

650 Figure 4. View of a single slab of type B perpendicular to (010). Dark blue spheres
651 correspond to oxygen atoms. The light blue spheres represent the partially occupied water site
652 Ow5. Hydrogen atoms are shown as small black spheres. Hydrogen bonds within the slab are
653 given as thin dashed lines.

654 Figure 5. DSC thermograms of synthetic alunogen, recorded at heating/cooling rates of 10 °C
655 min^{-1} .

656 Figure 6. Sequence of powder diffraction patterns acquired for temperatures from -100 °C to
657 20 °C in steps of $\Delta T = 10$ °C. The selected range between 19.2 and 20.8 ° 2θ can be used to
658 follow the phase transition between the monoclinic LT- and the triclinic RT- modification. At
659 -40 °C both phases coexist.

660 Figure 7. FT Raman spectra of the alunogen polymorphs: red – high-temperature form
661 (recorded at 0 °C), blue – low-temperature form (recorded at -60 °C). Insert shows the
662 spectral range 1200 to 95 cm^{-1} enlarged.

663

664 Figure 8. Raman principal component analysis (PCA) score plot for the first principal
665 component (t[1]) of the alunogen phases occurring during cooling from 0 to -100 °C. Each
666 triangle corresponds to a Raman spectrum recorded at different temperatures. 52.5% of the
667 data variance was modelled by t[1].

668 Figure 9. Raman principal component analysis (PCA) score plot for the first principal
669 component (t[1]) of the alunogen phases occurring during heating from -100 to 0 °C. Each
670 triangle corresponds to a Raman spectrum recorded at different temperatures. 66.4% of the
671 data variance was modelled by t[1].

672 Figure 10. Comparison between the crystal structures of the (a) monoclinic LT- and (b)
673 triclinic RT-form of alunogen in projections parallel to c^* . Crystallographic data of the latter
674 polymorph have been taken from the paper of Menchetti & Sabelli (1974). However, for sake
675 clarity the origin has been shifted by $(\frac{1}{2}, 0, 0)$. (c) Hypothetical aristotype of both polymorphs
676 in space group $P2_1/m$.

677 Figure 11. Distortions of the sulfate tetrahedra with respect to their positions in the parent
678 phase. (a) Tetrahedra of slab-type A are approximately shifted about 0.50 Å as a whole along
679 the [100] direction. (b) Slab-type B tetrahedra in turn are rotated around one of the S-O bonds
680 by an angle of about 50° . The corresponding displacements of the three oxygen atoms in the
681 basal plane of the rotated polyhedra are about 1.50 Å.

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687 Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement parameters for the LT-polymorph of alunogen.

| | |
|---|--|
| Empirical formula | Al ₂ (SO ₄) ₃ ·16.61H ₂ O |
| Formula weight | 641.39 |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 Å |
| Temperature | -100(2) °C |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space group | <i>P</i> 2 ₁ |
| Unit cell dimensions | <i>a</i> = 7.4125(3) Å |
| | <i>b</i> = 26.8337(16) Å |
| | <i>c</i> = 6.0775(3) Å |
| | β = 97.312(4)° |
| Volume | <i>V</i> = 1199.01(10) Å ³ |
| <i>Z</i> | 2 |
| Density (calculated) | 1.780 Mg/m ³ |
| Absorption coefficient | 0.501 mm ⁻¹ |
| <i>F</i> (000) | 672 |
| Crystal size | 0.44 x 0.13 x 0.01 mm ³ |
| Theta range for data collection | 2.87 to 26.02° |
| Exposure time per frame | 60 s |
| Scan type | ω-scans (0.5 °) |
| Crystal-to-detector distance | 70 mm |
| Index ranges | -9 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 8, -30 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 33, -5 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 7 |
| Reflections collected | 6594 |
| Independent reflections | 3887 [<i>R</i> (int) = 0.0363] |
| Completeness to theta 26.02 | 99.0% |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.9950 and 0.8095 |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ² |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 3887 / 52 / 411 |
| Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ² | 1.047 |
| Final <i>R</i> indices [<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)] | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0377, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0817 |
| <i>R</i> indices (all data) | <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0443, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0861 |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.48 and -0.37 e.Å ⁻³ |

688

689

690 Table 2. Atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (\AA^2) for the
 691 LT-polymorph of alunogen. All atoms occupy general positions. U_{eq} is defined as one third of
 692 the trace of the orthogonalized U_{ij} tensor. Isotropic displacement parameters of the H-atoms
 693 of the water molecules were coupled to those of the corresponding oxygen atoms according to
 694 $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2 \times U_{\text{eq}}(\text{O})$. The water position Ow5 is only partially occupied (61(1)%). Bond
 695 valence sums (BVS) in *v.u.* for the non-hydrogen atoms have been calculated including O–H
 696 and H...O contributions.

| | | <i>x</i> | <i>y</i> | <i>z</i> | $U_{\text{eq}}/U_{\text{iso}}$ | BVS |
|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|------|
| 702 | S1 | 0.7898(1) | 0.5619(1) | 0.5178(1) | 0.013(1) | 5.95 |
| 703 | S2 | 0.7348(1) | 0.9393(1) | 0.5132(1) | 0.011(1) | 5.91 |
| 704 | S3 | 0.3566(2) | 0.7523(1) | 0.5220(2) | 0.026(1) | 6.02 |
| 705 | Al1 | 0.2954(2) | 0.5989(1) | 0.0033(2) | 0.012(1) | 2.98 |
| 706 | Al2 | 0.2466(1) | 0.9011(1) | 0.9959(2) | 0.011(1) | 2.99 |
| 707 | O1 | 0.9452(3) | 0.5905(1) | 0.4561(4) | 0.019(1) | 2.04 |
| 708 | O2 | 0.8513(3) | 0.5339(1) | 0.7242(4) | 0.022(1) | 1.96 |
| 709 | O3 | 0.6405(3) | 0.5957(1) | 0.5545(4) | 0.022(1) | 2.03 |
| 710 | O4 | 0.7247(3) | 0.5265(1) | 0.3372(5) | 0.022(1) | 2.00 |
| 711 | O5 | 0.6692(3) | 0.9750(1) | 0.3356(5) | 0.019(1) | 2.00 |
| 712 | O6 | 0.5857(3) | 0.9050(1) | 0.5487(4) | 0.017(1) | 2.00 |
| 713 | O7 | 0.7990(3) | 0.9662(1) | 0.7212(4) | 0.018(1) | 1.97 |
| 714 | O8 | 0.8901(3) | 0.9107(1) | 0.4454(4) | 0.014(1) | 2.14 |
| 715 | O9 | 0.5271(5) | 0.7517(2) | 0.4220(5) | 0.053(1) | 2.01 |
| 716 | O10 | 0.2183(4) | 0.7820(1) | 0.3868(5) | 0.034(1) | 1.99 |
| 717 | O11 | 0.3918(4) | 0.7731(1) | 0.7488(5) | 0.029(1) | 1.97 |
| 718 | O12 | 0.2892(5) | 0.7007(1) | 0.5333(5) | 0.036(1) | 2.04 |
| 719 | O13 | 0.0656(3) | 0.5767(1) | 0.0654(4) | 0.018(1) | 1.96 |
| 720 | O14 | 0.3447(3) | 0.6250(1) | 0.2900(4) | 0.017(1) | 2.00 |
| 721 | O15 | 0.1955(4) | 0.6589(1) | -.1048(5) | 0.021(1) | 1.98 |
| 722 | O16 | 0.2495(3) | 0.5710(1) | -.2810(4) | 0.013(1) | 1.98 |
| 723 | O17 | 0.3988(3) | 0.5375(1) | 0.1095(4) | 0.014(1) | 1.95 |
| 724 | O18 | 0.5314(3) | 0.6178(1) | -.0525(5) | 0.016(1) | 1.98 |
| 725 | O19 | 0.1644(3) | 0.8408(1) | 0.8748(4) | 0.016(1) | 2.07 |
| 726 | O20 | 0.2038(3) | 0.9307(1) | 0.7125(4) | 0.013(1) | 1.99 |
| 727 | O21 | 0.0093(3) | 0.9191(1) | 1.0465(5) | 0.017(1) | 1.99 |
| 728 | O22 | 0.3375(3) | 0.9623(1) | 1.1138(4) | 0.015(1) | 2.01 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------------|------------|------------|----------|------|
| 729 | O23 | 0.4860(3) | 0.8853(1) | 0.9468(4) | 0.016(1) | 1.96 |
| 730 | O24 | 0.2880(3) | 0.8733(1) | 1.2822(4) | 0.015(1) | 2.02 |
| 731 | Ow1 | 0.7048(4) | 0.8254(1) | 0.2100(5) | 0.026(1) | 1.73 |
| 732 | Ow2 | 0.6121(4) | 0.7111(1) | 0.0392(5) | 0.030(1) | 2.04 |
| 733 | Ow3 | 0.8405(5) | 0.8061(2) | 0.7919(7) | 0.050(1) | 1.77 |
| 734 | Ow4 | -.0040(5) | 0.7107(2) | 0.1215(6) | 0.051(1) | 1.94 |
| 735 | Ow5 | 0.8523(8) | 0.7073(3) | 0.6096(10) | 0.053(2) | 1.60 |
| 736 | H131 | -.0270(40) | 0.5636(14) | -.0130(50) | 0.021 | |
| 737 | H132 | 0.0270(40) | 0.5845(14) | 0.1860(40) | 0.021 | |
| 738 | H141 | 0.4380(30) | 0.6143(12) | 0.3700(60) | 0.020 | |
| 739 | H142 | 0.3220(40) | 0.6532(9) | 0.3440(60) | 0.020 | |
| 740 | H151 | 0.1300(40) | 0.6818(11) | -.0470(50) | 0.025 | |
| 741 | H152 | 0.2380(50) | 0.6765(12) | -.2030(50) | 0.025 | |
| 742 | H161 | 0.1520(30) | 0.5755(13) | -.3720(50) | 0.016 | |
| 743 | H162 | 0.2860(40) | 0.5424(9) | -.3170(60) | 0.016 | |
| 744 | H171 | 0.5020(30) | 0.5325(13) | 0.1900(60) | 0.017 | |
| 745 | H172 | 0.3370(40) | 0.5117(10) | 0.1220(60) | 0.017 | |
| 746 | H181 | 0.5660(50) | 0.6474(7) | -.0380(60) | 0.019 | |
| 747 | H182 | 0.5750(50) | 0.6048(12) | -.1590(50) | 0.019 | |
| 748 | H191 | 0.2390(30) | 0.8192(11) | 0.8580(70) | 0.019 | |
| 749 | H192 | 0.0580(20) | 0.8321(13) | 0.8420(60) | 0.019 | |
| 750 | H201 | 0.2210(50) | 0.9609(7) | 0.6920(60) | 0.016 | |
| 751 | H202 | 0.1070(30) | 0.9225(12) | 0.6320(60) | 0.016 | |
| 752 | H211 | -.0670(40) | 0.9301(14) | 0.9450(40) | 0.020 | |
| 753 | H212 | -.0390(40) | 0.9143(15) | 1.1610(40) | 0.020 | |
| 754 | H221 | 0.4490(20) | 0.9667(14) | 1.1530(60) | 0.018 | |
| 755 | H222 | 0.2780(40) | 0.9804(12) | 1.1850(60) | 0.018 | |
| 756 | H231 | 0.5570(40) | 0.8643(12) | 1.0230(50) | 0.019 | |
| 757 | H232 | 0.5310(40) | 0.8887(14) | 0.8260(40) | 0.019 | |
| 758 | H241 | 0.3840(30) | 0.8818(12) | 1.3570(60) | 0.018 | |
| 759 | H242 | 0.2640(40) | 0.8441(8) | 1.3030(60) | 0.018 | |
| 760 | Hw11 | 0.7760(40) | 0.8409(13) | 0.3100(50) | 0.031 | |
| 761 | Hw12 | 0.6450(40) | 0.8060(13) | 0.2900(50) | 0.031 | |
| 762 | Hw21 | 0.5520(50) | 0.7330(12) | -.0490(50) | 0.036 | |
| 763 | Hw22 | 0.5760(50) | 0.7211(15) | 0.1630(40) | 0.036 | |
| 764 | Hw31 | 0.7740(60) | 0.7845(15) | 0.8480(70) | 0.060 | |
| 765 | Hw32 | 0.8420(70) | 0.7960(19) | 0.6600(40) | 0.060 | |
| 766 | Hw41 | 0.0110(60) | 0.7389(10) | 0.1750(80) | 0.061 | |
| 767 | Hw42 | -.1150(30) | 0.7064(17) | 0.0730(90) | 0.061 | |

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| 768 | Hw51 | 0.7400(30) | 0.7080(40) | 0.5490(100) | 0.063 |
| 769 | Hw52 | 0.9100(70) | 0.7030(40) | 0.4950(160) | 0.063 |
| 770 | | | | | |

771 Table 3. Selected individual and average bond lengths [Å], bond angles [°], polyhedral
 772 volumes [Å³] and distortion parameters (QE: quadration elongation; AV: angle variance) for
 773 the LT-polymorph of alunogen.

774

775 S1-O3 1.470(3) S1-O1 1.472(3)

776 S1-O2 1.483(3) S1-O4 1.484(3)

777 <S1-O> 1.477 Volume 1.654

778 QE 1.000 AV 0.494

779

780 S2-O6 1.475(3) S2-O5 1.477(3)

781 S2-O7 1.481(3) S2-O8 1.485(3)

782 <S2-O> 1.480 Volume 1.662

783 QE 1.000 AV 0.629

784

785 S3-O10 1.465(3) S3-O9 1.470(3)

786 S3-O12 1.477(3) S3-O11 1.479(3)

787 <S3-O> 1.473 Volume 1.640

788 QE 1.000 AV 0.576

789

790 Al1-O15 1.855(3) Al1-O14 1.869(3)

791 Al1-O16 1.875(3) Al1-O13 1.888(3)

792 Al1-O18 1.893(3) Al1-O17 1.897(3)

793 <Al1-O> 1.880 Volume 8.845

794 QE 1.001 AV 1.784

795

796 Al2-O19 1.849(3) Al2-O22 1.881(3)

797 Al2-O24 1.881(3) Al2-O23 1.885(3)

798 Al2-O21 1.886(3) Al2-O20 1.887(3)

799 <Al2-O> 1.878 Volume 8.831

800 QE 1.000 AV 1.175

801

802 O3-S1-O1 110.18(17) O3-S1-O2 109.92(16)

803 O1-S1-O2 108.27(14) O3-S1-O4 109.06(15)

804 O1-S1-O4 109.63(16) O2-S1-O4 109.76(17)

805

806 O6-S2-O5 109.11(15) O6-S2-O7 110.17(16)

807 O5-S2-O7 110.35(16) O6-S2-O8 109.84(16)

808 O5-S2-O8 109.07(16) O7-S2-O8 108.28(15)

809

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 810 | O10-S3-O9 | 110.6(2) | O10-S3-O12 | 108.63(19) |
| 811 | O9-S3-O12 | 108.8(2) | O10-S3-O11 | 110.20(17) |
| 812 | O9-S3-O11 | 109.3(2) | O12-S3-O11 | 109.33(17) |
| 813 | | | | |
| 814 | O15-A11-O14 | 91.62(14) | O15-A11-O16 | 90.19(13) |
| 815 | O14-A11-O16 | 178.18(14) | O15-A11-O13 | 90.91(13) |
| 816 | O14-A11-O13 | 90.36(12) | O16-A11-O13 | 89.71(12) |
| 817 | O15-A11-O18 | 92.37(13) | O14-A11-O18 | 89.52(13) |
| 818 | O16-A11-O18 | 90.30(12) | O13-A11-O18 | 176.73(14) |
| 819 | O15-A11-O17 | 179.11(14) | O14-A11-O17 | 89.12(13) |
| 820 | O16-A11-O17 | 89.06(12) | O13-A11-O17 | 89.57(12) |
| 821 | O18-A11-O17 | 87.16(12) | | |
| 822 | | | | |
| 823 | O19-A12-O22 | 177.96(14) | O19-A12-O24 | 91.62(13) |
| 824 | O22-A12-O24 | 89.15(13) | O19-A12-O23 | 90.55(13) |
| 825 | O22-A12-O23 | 87.56(13) | O24-A12-O23 | 90.65(13) |
| 826 | O19-A12-O21 | 91.29(13) | O22-A12-O21 | 90.60(13) |
| 827 | O24-A12-O21 | 89.81(13) | O23-A12-O21 | 178.10(15) |
| 828 | O19-A12-O20 | 89.81(13) | O22-A12-O20 | 89.45(13) |
| 829 | O24-A12-O20 | 178.37(15) | O23-A12-O20 | 90.13(12) |
| 830 | O21-A12-O20 | 89.37(12) | | |

831

832

833 Table 4. Comparison between the Raman bands (cm^{-1}) of the sulfate groups in the monoclinic
834 and the triclinic polymorphs of alunogen.

| Vibrational modes | Monoclinic form ($-60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) | Triclinic form ($0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) |
|-------------------|---|--|
| ν_2 | 438 (shoulder), 455, 470 | 465 |
| ν_4 | 612, 642 (shoulder) | 612 |
| ν_1 | 992 | 992 |
| ν_3 | 1074, 1089, 1127 | 1067 (shoulder), 1086, 1126 |

835

836

837

838

839

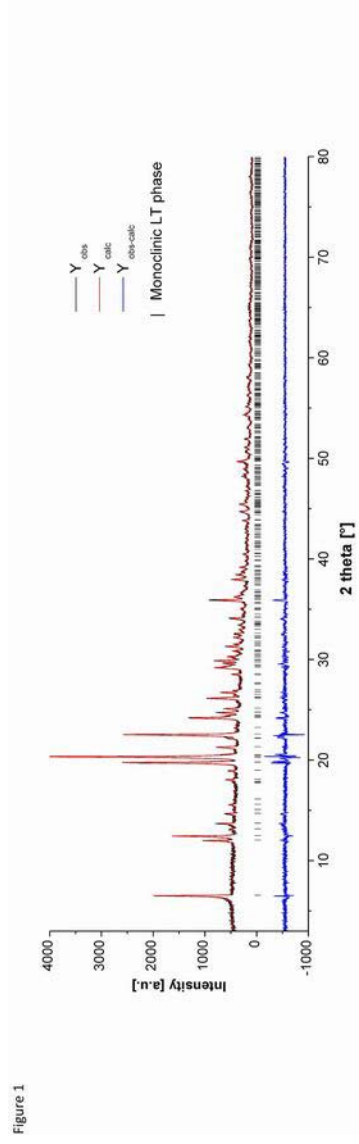


Figure 1

Figure 2a

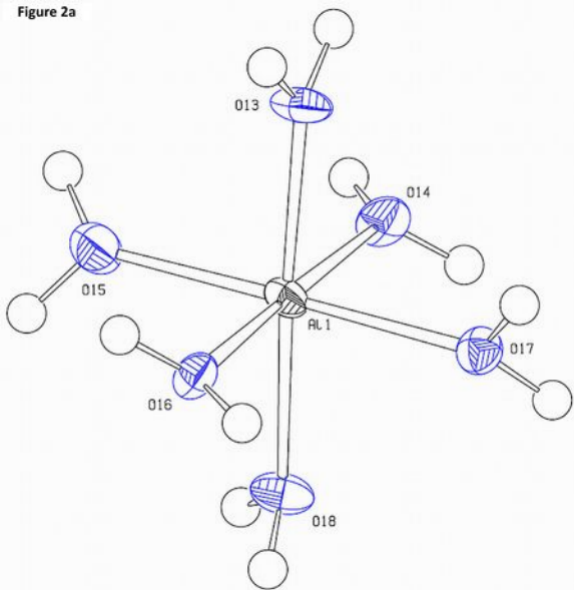


Figure 2b

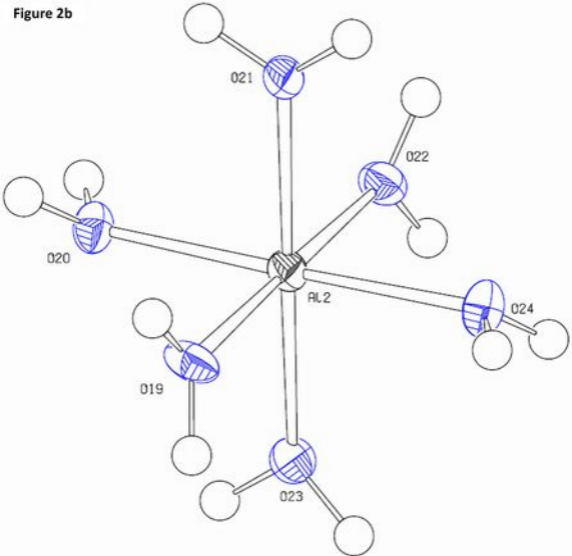
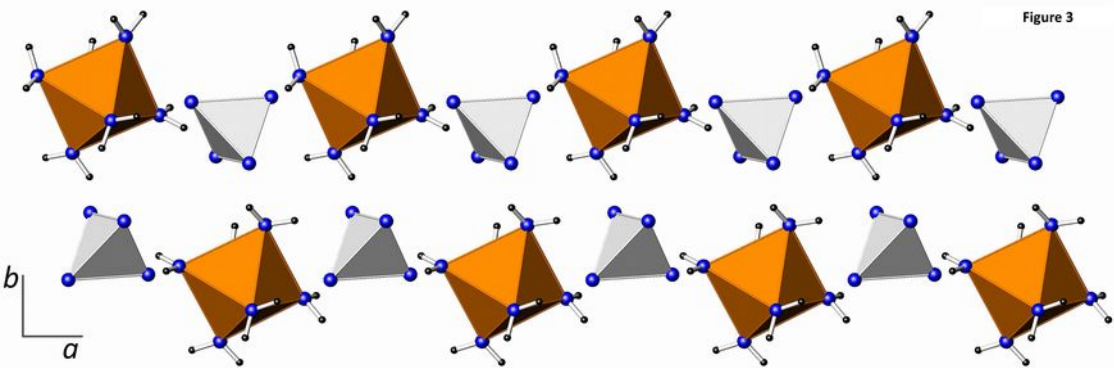


Figure 3



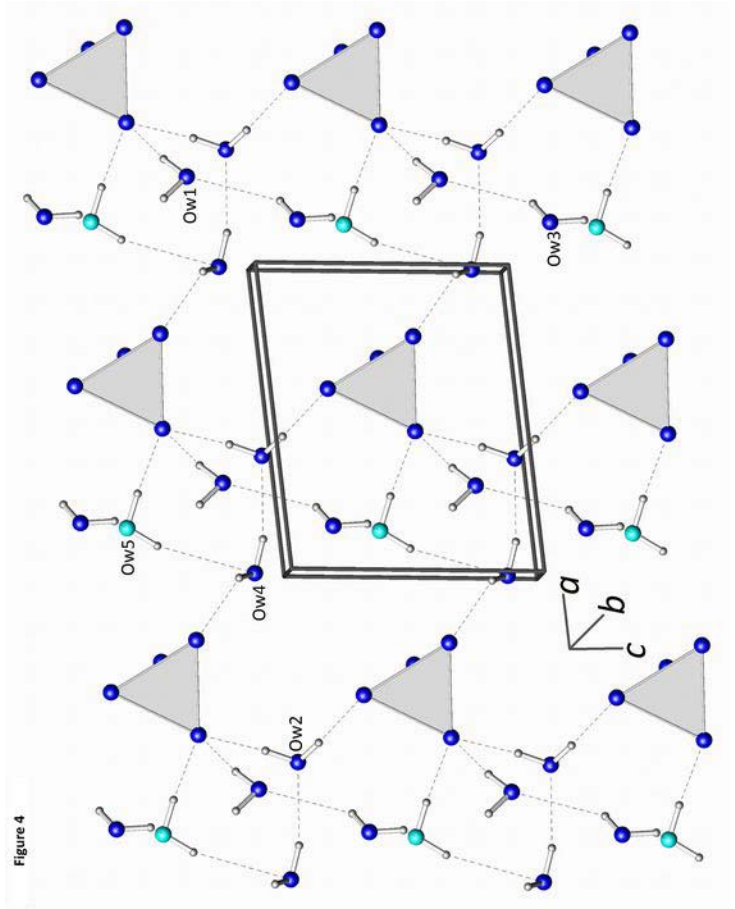


Figure 4

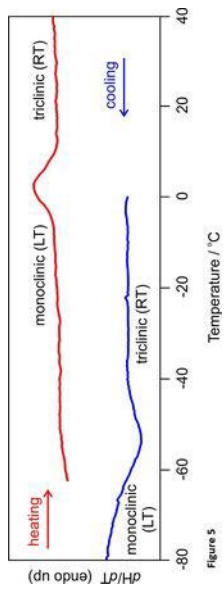
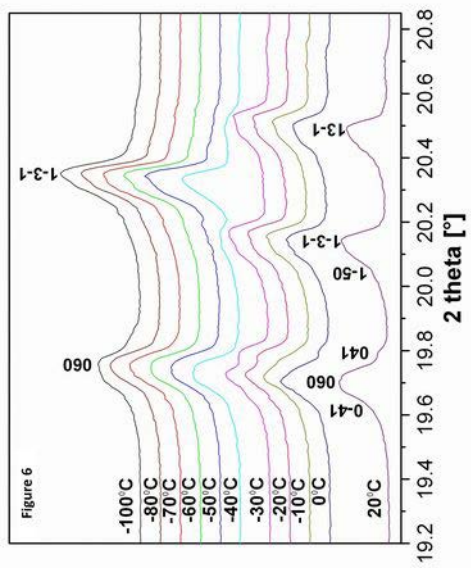


Figure 5



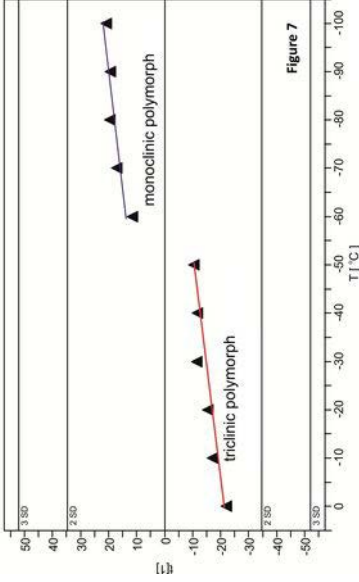


Figure 7

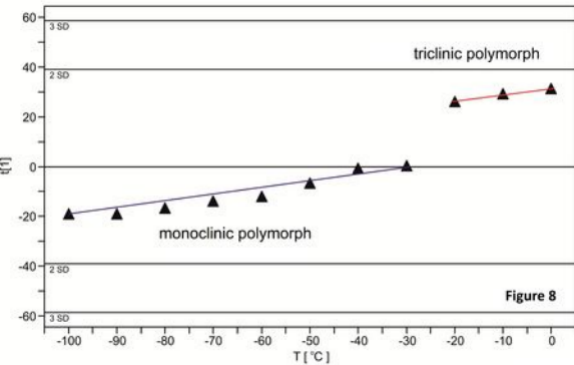


Figure 8

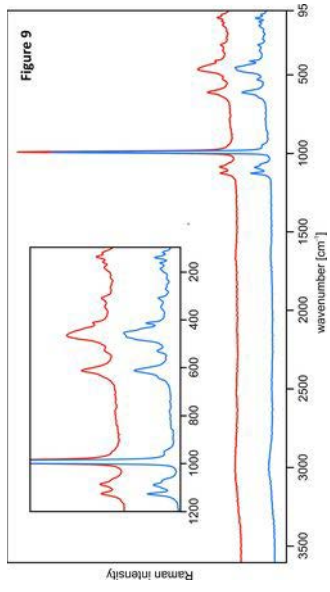


Figure 10a

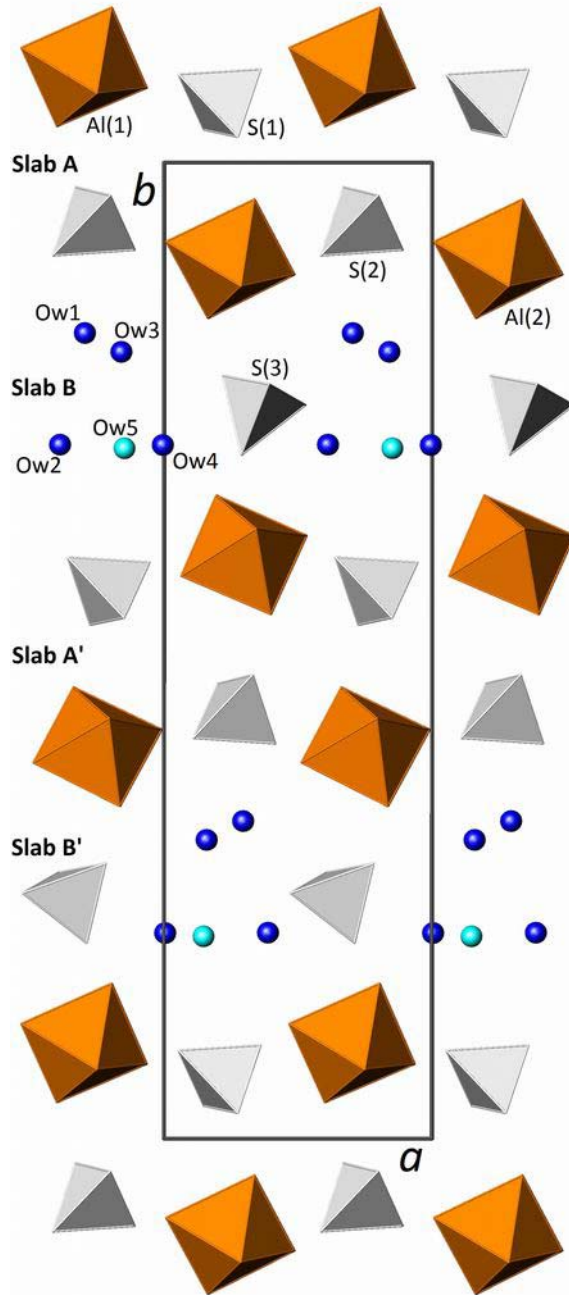


Figure 10b

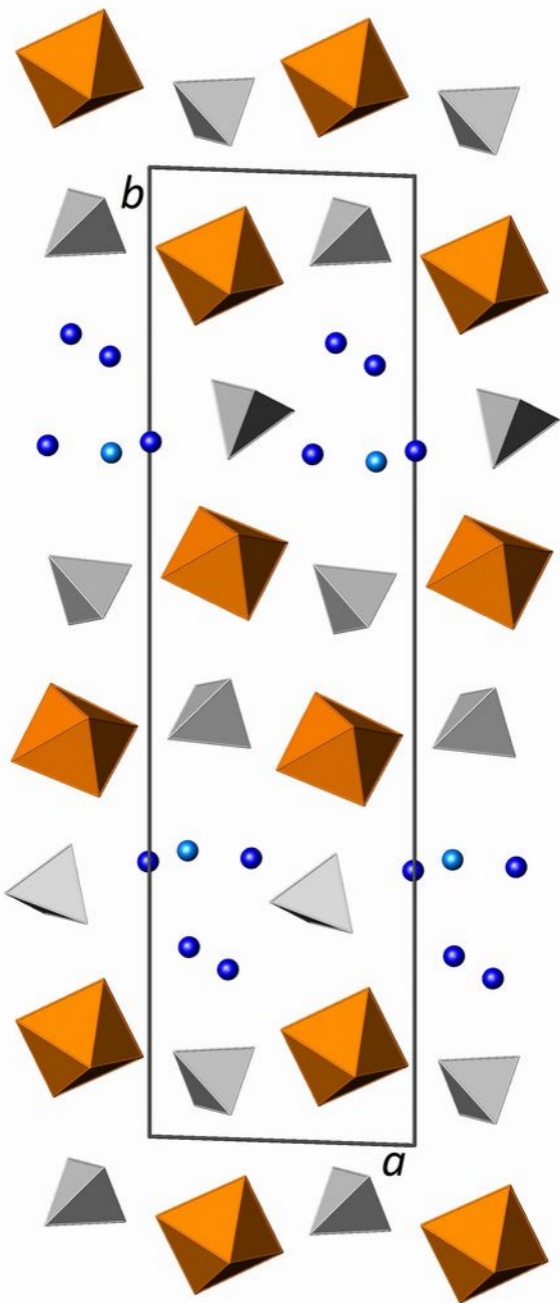


Figure 10c

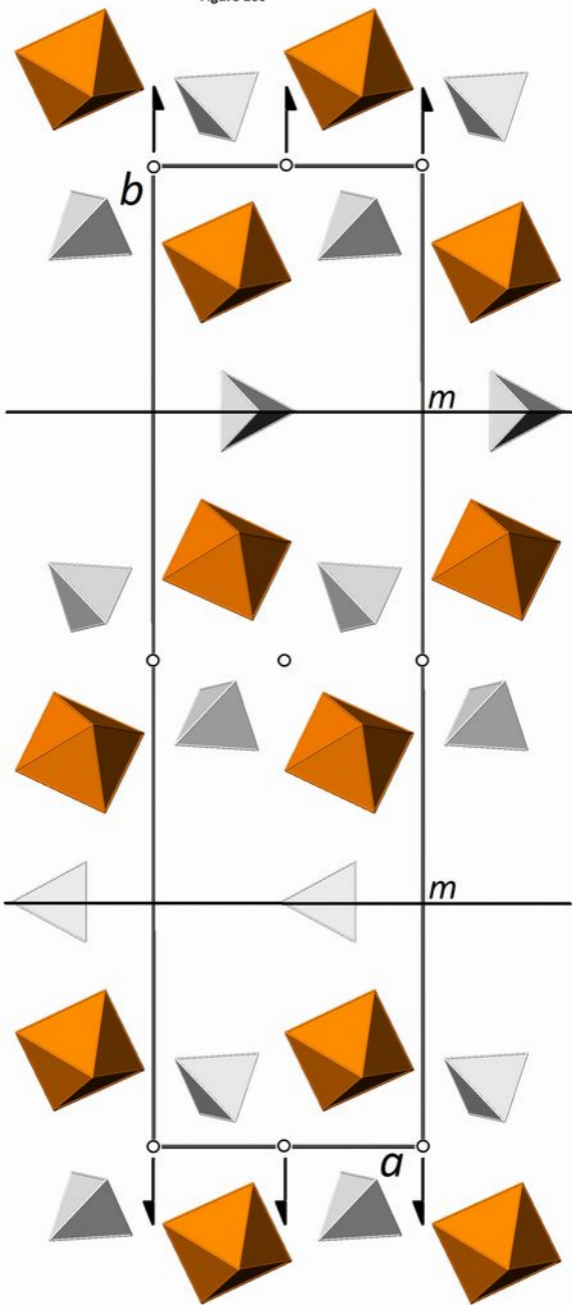


Figure 11a

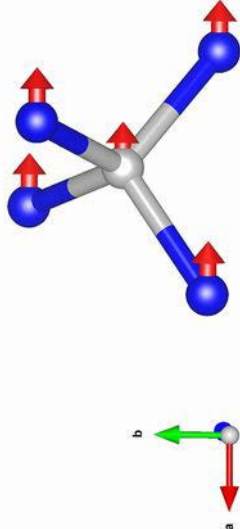


Figure 11b

