Crystal structure of the microporous titanosilicate ETS-10 refined from single crystal X-ray diffraction data

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Received (in Bloomington, IN, USA) 16th February 1999, Accepted 20th April 1999

ETS-10 crystals up to 45 μm in size have been synthesized at 240 °C under a pressure of 80 MPa and the structure refined from single crystal X-ray diffraction data.

Microporous titanosilicates have been of interest since the discovery of important catalytic properties in titanium silicalite-1 (TS-1) in oxidation and epoxidation reactions.1 ETS-10 is a porous titanosilicate first reported by Kuznicki et al.2,3 A large number of studies have been devoted to this material owing to its interesting chemical and physical properties.3–18 A model for the structure of the ETS-10 framework was recently proposed by Anderson et al. based on a detailed HRTEM, NMR, powder XRD and structural modeling study.3–6 The location of the extra-framework cations and the local environments of the framework cations have also been studied by NMR, XAS and computer modeling techniques.7,12,17 However, to date, the small crystal size of samples of ETS-10 has prevented accurate structure refinement from single crystal data, in spite of efforts to improve the syntheses.18 The positions of the extra-framework cation sites have not yet been determined experimentally from diffraction data.

We are investigating the possibility of improving the size and crystal quality of microporous materials by using synthesis temperatures and pressures that are higher than those usually employed (<400 °C and ≤200 MPa). By using this approach, ETS-10 crystals as large as ca. 45 μm have been obtained and successfully used to obtain single crystal X-ray diffraction data and to subsequently refine the structure.

In a typical synthesis Na2TiF6 (0.208 g, 1 mmol) and TPABr (0.26 g, 1 mmol) were mixed with H2O (2.2 ml). This mixture (0.36 ml) together with sodium silicate solution (0.72 ml) Aldrich, 14% NaOH, 27% SiO2) and 1 M NaOH solution (0.2 ml) were sealed in a Teflon tube in air. The tube was inserted into a high pressure vessel and heated at 240 °C under an applied pressure of 80 MPa for 3 days using a LECO HR-1B-2 high pressure–high temperature system. The reaction vessel was subjected to a (001) layer that consists of parallel columns alternating with the tetrahedra and octahedra. The columns are packed into layers parallel to the (001) plane with the columns in neighboring layers perpendicular to each other. The layers are interconnected by the (100) tetrahedra which share all their vertices with the Si/2O4 tetrahedra to form a framework subcell (Fig. 1, 2). In the disordered structure model based on the subcell, neighboring column positions cannot be occupied simultaneously because the resulting interatomic distances would be too short. The unoccupied column positions correspond to wide 12-ring channels. The occupancies of the column atoms (Ti, Si/2, O3–5) were refined to 0.50(1) and were fixed at 50% in the final refinements. Thus, each column belongs to a (001) layer that consists of parallel columns alternating with

![Fig. 1](image)

Coordination environments of the Ti and Si atoms. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn with 50% probability. Bond lengths (Å): Si(1)–O(1) 1.612(7) (x, 4), Si(2)–O(3) 1.611(1), Si(2)–O(1) 1.615(7), Si(2)–O(5) 1.629(6), Si(2)–O(2) 1.698(4), Ti–O(4) 1.872(1) (x, 2), Ti–O(3) 1.99(1) (x, 4).

Fig. 2 Projection of the structure down (100). An ordered framework is represented with polyhedra. The Si(1)O₄ tetrahedra are hatched, the Si(2)O₄ are shaded and the TiO₆ octahedra are stippled. The non-framework Na cations are shown as filled circles.

12-ring channels. The O(2) site was found fully occupied because this site is located in the channel walls and is independent of the disorder. No disorder of the Si(1)O₄ tetrahedra was found in the refinements. As shown in Fig. 2, each Si(1)O₄ tetrahedron is connected to either a [100] [TiSi(2)O₅]₁₃ column plotted as ball-and-sticks or the one plotted as polyhedra. Since the neighboring (001) layers of columns are related by the 41 symmetry, there are four ways in which two neighboring layers are interconnected by the Si(1)O₄ tetrahedra to form an ordered double layer. Each of these ordered double layers may be considered as a stacking unit. Neighboring units can shift a half subcell along either [110] or [110] direction in order to form a framework. This gives rise to various stacking disorder possibilities. However, such stacking disorder does not cause blocking of the 12-ring channels. The hypothetical ordered polymorph A predicted by Anderson et al. corresponds to simple ABAB... stacking. The structure model based on the subcell corresponds to fully disordered stacking. The TiO₆ octahedron has site symmetry 2/m with the Ti–O bond lengths along the column axis (1.87 Å) being shorter than the others (1.99 Å). The Si(1)O₄ tetrahedron has site symmetry 4mm with Si–O bond length 1.61 Å. The Si(2)O₄ tetrahedron with Si–O bond lengths 1.61–1.70 Å and O–Si–O angles 103.3–116.8° is apparently distorted but this may be a consequence of the disorder. The –O–Ti–O–Ti– backbones of the columns are nearly linear (O–Ti–O) 180°, (O–Ti–O) = 177.9°. The elongated thermal ellipsoids of the Ti and O(4) atoms suggest some Ti–O bond length alternation along the chain and some tilting of adjacent octahedra in the ordered structure, as predicted from previous studies.11,17

The sodium cations occupy two nonequivalent positions. Na(1) is located near the Si(1)O₄ tetrahedra and is coordinated to eight oxygen atoms at distances 2.50–2.99 Å. The occupancy of Na(1) was found, as expected, to be nearly equal to that of the column atoms. Na(2) is split into two equivalent positions 1.67 Å apart, each of which has five coordinating oxygen atoms at 2.57–2.62 Å all located on one side of the position. The nearest oxygen atom positions on the opposite side are >3.6 Å away.

The apparent one-sided coordination implies that there are disordered space-filling species such as H₂O molecules which complete the coordination sphere of Na(2), but which can not be located by the refinements because the electron density overlaps with those of the column atoms in the subcell. Substantial water loss (>8%) below 200 °C has been reported for as-synthesized ETS-10 samples previously.3 The splitting of the Na(2) site is related to the stacking disorder of the [TiSi(2)O₅]₁₃ columns.

In conclusion, we have employed a new synthesis approach to obtain ETS-10 crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray structure refinement. The structure refinement based on a disordered cell, confirms the previous structure model and provides details of the positions of both the framework atoms and extra-framework cations.

We thank the National Science Foundation (DMR9214804), the R. A. Welch Foundation for financial support. This work made use of MRSEC/TC5UH Shared Experimental Facilities supported by the National Science Foundation under Award Number DMR-9632667 and the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston.

Notes and references

1 Crystal data: space group P4/m, a = 7.481(1), c = 27.407(5) Å, colorless plate, crystal size 0.045 x 0.032 x 0.005 mm, Mo-Kα radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å), μ = 1.1 mm⁻¹, 2θ_max = 50°, R(F) = 0.1130/0.158 for 532 unique reflections and 52 variables. Intensities were measured on a SMART platform diffractometer equipped with a KCC area detector using graphite-monochromatized Mo-Kα radiation at 20 °C. A hemisphere of data (1271 frames at 5 mm detector distance) was collected using a narrow-frame method with scan widths of 0.30° in θ and an exposure time of 90 s frame⁻¹. The first 50 frames were remeasured at the end of data collection to monitor instrument and crystal stability, and the maximum correction applied on the intensities was < 1%. The data were integrated using the Bruker SAINT program, with the intensities corrected for Lorentz factor, polarization, air absorption, and absorption due to variation in the path length through the detector faceplate. The structure was solved with direct methods and refined using SHELXTL. All atom positions were refined anisotropically in the final refinements. Na(1) and Na(2) were fixed to have the same thermal parameters and a total occupancy of unity with a free occupancy ratio. CCDCC 182/1236. See http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/1999/973/ for crystalllographic files in.cif format.

4 V. Valchev and S. Mintova, Zeolithes, 1994, 14, 697.