

Guinier pattern of the binary phase but not for  $Zr_5Si_3O$ , either for the arc melted or the better sintered sample. Obviously, the same general condition applies to carbon; a faint (100) reflection was seen for  $Zr_5Si_3C_{0.33}$  but not for the carbon-richer samples.

Although not tested, we presume that at least boron and nitrogen can be bound in  $Zr_5Si_3$  and will produce similar dimensional effects, boron the most positive. The analogous  $Zr_5Sn_3$  and  $Zr_5Sb_3$  form stoichiometric ternary phases with C, N, O, Al, Si, etc., and in these only second-period elements cause marked contractions of the cells. Fractional occupancy in ordered superstructures as found for  $La_{15}Ge_9C$  has not been observed in zirconium systems.

Comparison of our lattice constant data with earlier reports for supposed  $Zr_5Si_3$  (Table II) suggests that most were seriously contaminated, probably by the more pervasive nonmetals. Some dimensions and volumes fall well below what we have been able to achieve with oxygen alone, even in earlier studies that utilized iodide-zirconium. The only exception is a 1964 study of a single crystal isolated at  $\sim 2200$  °C from molten alloy  $Zr_5Si_3$ <sup>56</sup> that had been prepared from 99.6% Zr and 99.7% Si.<sup>24</sup> A simple-minded interpretation of the dimensions suggests 30–50% of the oxygen limit  $Zr_5Si_3O$ . Of course, the sample may have been nonstoichiometric at that temperature or contaminated by third-period and heavier elements that would

mask a dimensional view of the true situation.

These investigations of  $La_5Sn_3$  and  $Zr_5Si_3$  highlight the problems that impurities can have on stability of supposed binary phases. Our studies have focused particularly on those examples in the rather common  $Mn_5Si_3$  structure where an avidity for binding impurity atoms interstitially within confacial manganese octahedra seems particularly strong. Phases of this general character have been designated "Nowotny phases" after the early investigator of many examples in this and other structure types.<sup>14</sup> Many other unrecognized examples of such effects or errors are presumably present in the literature. Oxygen is a particularly common and troublesome example with lanthanum, zirconium, and related metals.

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**Registry No.**  $La_5Sn_3$ , 12209-13-1;  $La_5Sn_3C_{0.5}$ , 129124-12-5;  $La_5Sn_3C_{0.75}$ , 129124-13-6;  $La_5Sn_3C$ , 129124-14-7;  $La_5Sn_3C_2$ , 129124-15-8;  $La_5Sn_3O_{0.3}$ , 129124-16-9;  $La_5Sn_3O$ , 129124-17-0;  $Zr_5Si_3$ , 12039-97-3;  $Zr_5Si_{2.8}$ , 129124-18-1;  $Zr_5Si_{3.1}$ , 129124-19-2;  $Zr_5Si_3C_{0.5}$ , 129124-20-5;  $Zr_5Si_3C$ , 129124-21-6;  $Zr_5Si_3O$ , 129124-22-7;  $Zr_5Si_{3.56}$ , 129124-23-8.

## Substituted $W_5Si_3$ - and $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -Type Phases Formed in the Zirconium-Antimony and Zirconium-Tin Systems with Iron Group Metals

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Arc-melting and annealing reactions near the composition  $Zr_5Sb_3Fe$  yield  $ZrFe_2$  plus an  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type phase with a composition near  $Zr_5Sb_{3.3}Fe_{0.3}$ . A lower antimony content and a variety of iron group metals produce tetragonal  $W_5Si_3$ -type phases with a narrow compositional range,  $\sim Zr_5Sb_{2.5}T_{0.5}$ , T = Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh. A single-crystal study of the  $W_5Si_3$ -type  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55(1)}Fe_{0.45(1)}$  established a mixed Sb-Fe population on the Sb1 site centering the Zr2 antiprisms ( $I4/mcm$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $a = 11.066$  (1) Å,  $c = 5.535$  (1) Å,  $R/R_w = 1.9/2.8\%$ ). The analogous Zr-Sn-Fe system contains a  $W_5Si_3$ -like phase  $Zr_5Sn_{2+x}Fe_{1-x}$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq 0.28$ , but in this case with a lower symmetry tetragonal cell that has distinctly different mixed Fe-Sn populations centering adjacent Zr2 antiprisms (91 (2) and 52 (2)% Fe for  $x = 0.28$ ) ( $I422$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $a = 11.1763$  (7) Å,  $c = 5.4794$  (6) Å,  $R/R_w = 1.7/2.2\%$ ). The lower symmetry cannot be deduced from powder pattern data. The hexagonal line phase  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$ , previously known as the  $\theta$  phase, is obtained when still more zirconium is present ( $Zr_6Al_2Co$  structure,  $P62m$ ,  $Z = 1$ ,  $a = 7.9675$  (6) Å,  $c = 3.4863$  (5) Å,  $R/R_w = 2.6/2.9\%$ ). Antimony systems provide analogous substitutional products  $\sim Zr_5Sb_{2.3}T_{0.7}$ , T = Fe, Co, Ni. Some regularities associated with the three structure types are discussed.

### Introduction

Our intensive studies of  $Zr_5Sb_3$ - $Zr_5Sb_3Z$  and  $Zr_5Sn_3$ - $Zr_5Sn_3Z$  systems have shown that phases with the parent  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type structure exist for a wide range of Z as an interstitial component.<sup>2-4</sup> However, attempts to introduce

iron in this position in either system have been troublesome. These have always led to  $ZrFe_2$  precipitation and to a phase with the  $Mn_5Si_3$  structure but with evidently mixed Sb-Fe or Sn-Fe interstitials judging from SEM analyses.<sup>2,4,5</sup> Attempts to avoid the mixed products by decreasing the amount of antimony or tin produced new tetragonal phases. We herein report the identification of these as  $W_5Si_3$ -type structures or a lower symmetry version of the same in which iron has been systematically substituted for some of the Sb or Sn atoms. The stabilization

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(4) Kwon, Y.-U.; Corbett, J. D., unpublished research.

(5) Sevov, S. C.; Corbett, J. D., unpublished research.

of these phases by iron has also been explored for the neighboring transition metals (T) Co and, in part, Ni, Ru, and Rh. We also attempted to repress the formation of mixed products by the addition of more zirconium. This led instead to the formation of hexagonal phases,  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$ , for example, with the  $Zr_6Al_2Co$  structure.

### Experimental Section

**Materials.** The zirconium metal was a reactor-grade crystal bar sample with principal impurities, in ppm atomic, of Fe 680, Ni 350, Hf 100, O 220, and C 190. This was cold-rolled to sheet, cut into strips, and cleaned with a solution of concentrated  $HNO_3$  and HF in  $H_2O$  (55:25:20 v/v). The reagent-grade antimony (Allied Chemical and Dye Co.) showed no impurities in its EDX spectra, and the tin granules (Baker's Analyzed: 99.99%) produced no impurity phases on fusion. Iron sheet (Plastic Metal, 99.5%), cobalt foil (Aesar, 99.9+%), nickel sheet (Matheson Coleman & Bell), rhodium powder (Aesar, 99.9%), and ruthenium powder (Englhard, 99.9%) were used as received.

**Syntheses.** All the samples were first prepared by arc-melting reactions, as before.<sup>2,6</sup> For rhodium and ruthenium compounds, the metal powders were first pelletized with zirconium and arc-melted to give the compositions of  $Zr_5Rh_2$  and  $Zr_5Ru_2$ , and these were used as reagents for further reactions. Stoichiometric proportions of the elements or binary compounds were arc-melted in a Centorr 5SA single arc-furnace under an argon atmosphere. In each case, zirconium was first melted as a getter. Product buttons were turned over and remelted at least three times to ensure homogeneity. The compositions of samples so prepared were corrected by assuming that the small weight losses during melting arose solely from tin or antimony volatilization.

Since arc-melting alone may produce heterogeneous or somewhat disordered products, the buttons were next annealed in sealed Ta containers containing 0.08-mm Mo sheet as liners. The latter were found to be indispensable because sample contact with tantalum alone may lead to a significant loss of zirconium above  $\sim 1000$  °C.<sup>4,5</sup> This observation was well exemplified by an annealing reaction of a composition  $Zr_5Sn_2Fe$  which converted into  $Zr_5Sn_3$  and  $ZrFe_2$  when contained in tantalum alone (1000 °C, 9 days), while equilibration of the sample in contact with only Mo at 1350 °C produced the desired phase. The tantalum containers were in turn always enclosed in evacuated and sealed silica jackets for annealing reactions at 1100 °C or below. At higher temperatures, these were equilibrated under dynamic vacuum ( $p \sim 10^{-6}$  Torr) in a high-temperature carbon furnace described elsewhere.<sup>7</sup> Container or other impurity elements were not detectable by SEM-EDX means in any of the products.

**SEM Studies.** Photomicrographs and elemental analyses of the samples were obtained by using a JEOL JSM-840 scanning electron microscope and a KEVEX EDX system. Samples were dry-polished with a sequence of very fine sandpapers and then ash. Quoted formulas are probably uncertain in the atom coefficients by about  $\pm 0.05$ .

**Powder X-ray Diffraction.** Powder patterns were obtained on samples mounted between pieces of cellophane tape. An Enraf-Nonius Guinier camera, Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54056$  Å), and NBS (NIST) silicon as an internal standard were employed for this purpose. The known  $2\theta$  values of the standard lines were fitted to a quadratic in their positions on the film, and the lattice constants of the sample then calculated by a least-squares fit to indexed reflections and their  $2\theta$  values.

The powder pattern of the so-called  $\theta$ -phase ( $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$ ) was indexed as hexagonal by trial-and-error means.<sup>8</sup> The volume of the unit cell and the approximate composition allowed an estimation of nine atoms per unit cell. Only one known structure type,  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ ,<sup>9</sup> was found to match this formulation and symmetry,<sup>10</sup> and the powder pattern calculated by using the positional

Table I. Selected Data Collection and Refinement Parameters

	$Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.45}$	$Zr_5Sn_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$	$Zr_6Sn_2Fe$
space group, $Z$	$I4/mcm$ , 4	$I422$ , 4	$P\bar{6}2m$ , 1
cell dimensions <sup>a</sup>			
$a$ , Å	11.066 (1)	11.1763 (7)	7.9675 (6)
$c$ , Å	5.535 (1)	5.4794 (6)	3.4863 (5)
$V$ , Å <sup>3</sup>	667.8 (2)	684.4 (1)	191.66 (4)
$2\theta$ (max)	75	55	60
indep reflns	376	350	196
$\mu(Mo K\alpha)$ , cm <sup>-1</sup>	180.3	164.4	159.6
transm factor range	0.77–1.00	0.75–1.00	0.71–1.00
$R$ , %	1.9	1.7	2.6
$R_w$ , %	2.8	2.2	2.9

<sup>a</sup> Cell data from Guinier powder diffraction,  $\lambda = 1.54056$  Å. <sup>b</sup>  $R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ ;  $R_w = [ \sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \sum w(F_o)^2 ]^{1/2}$ ;  $w = [\sigma/(F_o)]^2$ .

parameters of the parent structure and the refined lattice parameters matched the observed one reasonably well. The single crystal structural analysis (below) subsequently confirmed the assignment.

**Single-Crystal Analyses.** Three crystal structures were refined with the aid of the TEXSAN package<sup>11</sup> and diffraction data from single crystals that were collected at room temperature on a Rigaku AFC6R single-crystal diffractometer with monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation. Reflections in two octants were measured with  $2\theta-\omega$  scans in all cases. Some details of the data collection and refinement are listed in Table I. Unique aspects of the crystallography follow:

**$Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Fe_{0.5}$ .** Single crystals resembling cut gems were picked from an as-cast sample of nominal composition  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.67}$  that exhibited only trace amounts of other phases (see Results); the crystals were loaded in air into thin-walled glass capillaries and sealed off. The candidate crystals were checked with oscillation photographs, and one of them (no clear morphology, 0.5 × 0.5 × 0.4 mm) was selected for data collection. The 25 reflections found from a random search were indexed with a body-centered tetragonal cell. The body centering was also indicated by its previously indexed powder pattern, and therefore this condition was imposed for data collection. After correction for absorption with the aid of a  $\psi$ -scan, the diffraction data showed additional systematic absences of  $0kl$  ( $k, l \neq 2n$ ) with two very weak violations. Among the three possible space groups,  $I4cm$ ,  $I\bar{4}2m$  and  $I4/mcm$ , the last, centrosymmetric one was chosen for the first trial, and this turned out to be correct.

The application of direct methods (SHELXS-86<sup>12</sup>) gave two positions, and these were assigned as Sb2 and Zr1 for the starting model. One cycle of least-squares refinement and a difference Fourier synthesis revealed two more atoms, Zr2 and Fe. Refinement with isotropic thermal parameters proceeded smoothly ( $R = 9\%$ ), but this resulted in an unreasonably small thermal parameter for Fe. The next step was to include antimony (Sb1) in the iron position with the condition that the Sb1 and Fe occupancies sum to unity. The final refinement converged at  $R = 1.9\%$ ,  $R_w = 2.8\%$  with the refined formula  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55(1)}Fe_{0.45(1)}$ , in excellent accord with the EDX result as well as close to the loaded composition. The multiplicities of Zr2 and Sb2 did not deviate from unity by more than 0.5% with Zr1 fixed, and therefore these were not varied in the final refinement. The largest residual peaks in the final difference Fourier, 2.3 and  $-2.0$  e/Å<sup>3</sup> were  $<1$  Å from Zr2. The result was later recognized as a substituted  $W_5Si_3$ -type structure.

**$Zr_5Sn_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$ .** Some single crystals were picked from a crushed button of the composition  $Zr_5Sn_2Fe$  that had been annealed at 1350 °C (see Results). The powder pattern could be entirely accounted for by a tetragonal  $W_5Si_3$ -type phase plus a small amount of  $ZrFe_2$ . The crystals were checked with oscillation

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Table II. Positional Parameters and Multiplicities of Atoms

atoms	occup <sup>a</sup>	sym	x	y	z	B <sub>iso</sub> , Å <sup>2</sup>
$\text{Zr}_5\text{Sb}_{2.55}\text{Fe}_{0.45}$ (W <sub>5</sub> Si <sub>3</sub> -Type)						
Zr1	1	<i>m</i>	0	$1/2$	$1/4$	0.47 (2)
Zr2	1	$\bar{4}2m$	0.07675 (4)	0.21593 (5)	0	0.51 (2)
Sb2	1	<i>mm</i>	0.16302 (3)	$x + 1/2$	0	0.47 (1)
Sb1	0.55 (1) {	42	0	0	$1/4$	0.72 (2)
Fe	0.45 (1) {					
$\text{Zr}_5\text{Sn}_{2.3}\text{Fe}_{0.7}$ (W <sub>5</sub> Si <sub>3</sub> Derivative)						
Zr1	1.000 (4)	222	0	$1/2$	0	0.6 (1)
Zr2	1	1	0.07552 (4)	0.21043 (4)	0.7482 (4)	0.79 (2)
Sn2 <sup>b</sup>	1.009 (3)	2	0.16375 (3)	$x + 1/2$	$3/4$	0.57 (1)
Sn1	0.09 (2) {	42	0	0	0	0.7 (2)
Fe1	0.91 (2) {					
Sn3	0.48 (2) {	42	0	0	$1/2$	0.8 (1)
Fe2	0.52 (2) {					
$\text{Zr}_6\text{Sn}_2\text{Fe}$ (Zr <sub>6</sub> Al <sub>2</sub> Co-Type)						
Zr1	1	<i>mm</i>	0.3929 (2)	0	0	0.63 (6)
Zr2	0.996 (8)	<i>mm</i>	0.7548 (1)	0	$1/2$	0.50 (5)
Sn	0.990 (6)	$\bar{6}$	$1/3$	$2/3$	$1/2$	0.64 (2)
Fe	1.00 (1)	$\bar{6}m2$	0	0	0	0.75 (6)

<sup>a</sup>The mixed-atom populations and the compounds' crystal compositions are based on the assumption that there are no vacancies in the lattices (see text). <sup>b</sup>Standard coordinates would be 0.33625 (3),  $x + 1/2$ ,  $1/4$ .

photographs, and only two of them showed relatively few extra reflections in addition to those expected for the tetragonal phase. A reasonable set of cell parameters from lists of randomly registered reflections on the diffractometer was obtained only from the stronger reflections. This suggested that there might be severe interference from the satellite crystals, so an initial orientation matrix was determined by using only reflections fitting a tetragonal cell, which also indicated that the cell was body-centered. No reflection conditions were imposed during the data collection. Three  $\psi$ -scans were employed for absorption correction.

The data set confirmed the centering, and it also contained weak but statistically significant reflections in 30 out of 80 instances where systematic absences normally occur for a W<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>-type structure (*I*4/*mcm*), namely, for  $h0l$  (or  $0kl$ ) with  $h$  ( $k$ ) and  $l = 2n + 1$ . Since over 90% of the other measured reflections were observed, the result was taken to mean that there must be a real reduction in symmetry in the structure. The only subgroup in the same Laue class with the observed absence conditions, *I*422 (no. 97), was subsequently found to be correct. Satisfactory solutions could not be found in other plausible space groups that lacked the subgroup relationship.

The initial model was again found with SHELXS-86. The refinement went well to  $R = 2.2\%$ ,  $R_w = 5.2\%$  with anisotropic thermal parameters and a secondary extinction correction. A partial substitution of Fe by Sn in the two independent antiprism centers present with this space group was suggested by their large effective scattering. The amounts of tin substitution were roughly estimated from the iron multiplicities and so refined, after which the thermal parameters behaved normally and both could be refined simultaneously. However,  $R_w$  (3.6%) and goodness of fit (1.89) were still somewhat high, and there were 11 reflections for which  $\Delta F/\sigma_F > 5.0$ . The worst was for (110), for which  $\Delta F/\sigma_F = 22.4$ . This was taken to arise from an accidental interference from a satellite crystal, and so the reflection was discarded. This changed the refined structure very slightly, but the statistics improved significantly:  $R = 1.7\%$ ,  $R_w = 2.2\%$ , GOF = 1.16, and only one reflection now had  $\Delta F/\sigma_F > 5$ . The composition refined to  $\text{Zr}_5\text{Sn}_{2.28(2)}\text{Fe}_{0.72(2)}$  when only Zr1 was held fixed; this compares reasonably well with the average EDX result for crystals in the initial button,  $\text{Zr}_5\text{Sn}_{2.17}\text{Fe}_{0.77}$ .

The correct enantiomer was confirmed by comparison of  $F_o$  and  $F_c$  values for 23 reflections for which the choice had the largest effect on  $F_c$ . The result was 15:8 in favor of that reported.

Because there are only subtle differences in the dimensions of the two centered antiprisms, based entirely on the  $z$  parameter of Zr2, a refinement with this parameter fixed at the ideal value ( $z = 3/4$ ) was tried. This resulted in 0.1% greater  $R$  indexes, while parameters applying to the mixed Fe-Sn sites changed by  $2\sigma$  or less. However, the average of  $F_o - F_c$  for the reflections that were violations in the ideal *I*4/*mcm* was about 15% higher.

Another relevant observation was that the  $z$  parameter of Zr2 had a standard deviation about 10 times that of the other positional parameters. Coupling of the  $z$  parameter refinement with the multiplicities of Fe, Sn sites was not the cause. The implication is that the Zr2 atoms were slightly disordered along the  $c$  direction. Space group *I*4, a subgroup of *I*422 in the lower Laue class, was also explored to see whether the 2-fold axes perpendicular to  $\bar{c}$  in the latter were responsible. In fact, standard deviations of all  $z$  parameters were now large, and the thermal parameters of Fe2, Sn3 became very anisotropic.

With these results, we concluded that the original refinement in the space group *I*422 was the correct one and that the behavior of the Zr2 atoms was probably a reflection of the random occupancies of the centers of the Zr2 antiprisms by Sn and Fe atoms of somewhat different sizes.

**Zr<sub>6</sub>Sn<sub>2</sub>Fe.** Some regular hexagonal plate crystals obtained after annealing an arc-melted button of the composition  $\text{Zr}_6\text{Sn}_{1.8}\text{Fe}_{1.0}$  (see Results) were sealed in glass capillaries. Oscillation photographs showed most of these to be single. Random reflections located and tuned by the diffractometer gave an hexagonal unit cell, and two octants of reflection data collected on this basis indicated Laue symmetry *6/mmm* with no systematic absences. Among the five possible space groups, *P*6<sub>2</sub>*m* was selected since the powder pattern had already been identified as that of a Zr<sub>6</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>Co-type material (above). The corresponding atom positions were used for the initial model. Refinement with isotropic thermal parameters yielded  $R = 7\%$ ,  $R_w = 9\%$ . However, further refinement did not give much improvement in the residuals until a secondary extinction correction was applied, which gave convergence at  $R = 2.6\%$ ,  $R_w = 2.9\%$ . The refined composition  $\text{Zr}_3\text{Zr}_{2.99(2)}\text{Sn}_{1.98(1)}\text{Fe}_{1.00(1)}$  indicated the absence of substitutional defects, and so the atoms were returned to unit occupancy. The largest residual electron density,  $1.9 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^3$ , was close to Zr1. The other possible enantiomer gave residuals that were 0.6–0.8% higher.

The refined parameters and important bond lengths for the three structures studied are listed in Tables II and III. More crystal and refinement data, the anisotropic displacement parameters, and the structure factor data are available as supplementary material (see the paragraph at the end of the article).

## Results and Discussion

**Antimony Systems.** Attempts to prepare the iron analogue of the stable Zr<sub>5</sub>Sb<sub>3</sub>Co, where interstitial cobalt is bound within an Mn<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>-type structure,<sup>2</sup> regularly gave ZrFe<sub>2</sub> plus a phase with the Mn<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>3</sub> structure and a composition near Zr<sub>5</sub>Sn<sub>3.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.3</sub> that presumably reflects a mixed Sb-Fe occupancy of the interstitial position. Reduction of the antimony content in an effort to obtain a simpler

Table III. Important Distances (Å) in  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.45}$ ,  $Zr_5Sn_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$ , and  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$ 

	$Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.45}$	$Zr_5Sn_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$	$Zr_6Sn_2Fe^c$
Zr1-Zr1	2.7675 (7)	2.7397 (3)	
Zr2-Zr2	3.5866 (9)	3.5338 (7)	
Zr2-Zr2 (□-□)	3.2471 (9)	3.231 (4)	
		3.205 (4) <sup>a</sup>	
	3.5219 (9)	3.484 (4)	
		3.460 (4) <sup>a</sup>	
Zr2-Zr2 (interchain)	3.245 (1)	3.883 (1)	
Zr1-Zr2 (interchain)	3.5383 (6)	3.618 (1)	
		3.611 (1)	
Zr2-Sb1, Sn1, Fe	2.8891 (6)	2.853 (1)	
Zr2-Sn3, Fe2		2.846 (1)	
Zr1-Sb2, Sn2	2.9025 (6)	2.9282 (4)	
Zr2-Sb1, Sn1	2.9389 (7) <sup>b</sup>	2.9605 (6) <sup>b</sup>	
	2.9725 (6) <sup>b</sup>	3.0213 (5) <sup>b</sup>	
	3.2195 (8)	3.227 (2)	
		3.240 (2)	
Zr1-Sn		3.0094 (4)	
Zr2-Sn		3.0678 (8)	
Zr1-Zr1		4.2491 (8)	
Zr1-Zr2		3.369 (1)	
Zr2-Zr2		3.384 (2)	
Zr1-Fe		3.130 (1)	
Zr2-Fe		2.6182 (9)	

<sup>a</sup> Around the more nearly equally populated Fe2-Sn3 site.<sup>b</sup> Normal to c. <sup>c</sup> All atoms have a like-atom repeat at 3.4863 (5) Å (c). <sup>d</sup> Within tricapped trigonal prism.Table IV. Formation of the  $W_5Si_3$ -Type Phase in the Zr-Sb-Fe System

rxn	compsn <sup>a</sup> (Zr:Sb:Fe)	condns <sup>b</sup>	results <sup>c</sup>
1	5:2.47:0.5	AM	W
		AN	W <sup>d</sup>
2	5:2.55:0.67	AM	W + M (trace) + ZrFe <sub>2</sub> (trace)
		AN	W + M + ZrFe <sub>2</sub>
3	5:2.53:0.67	AM	W + ZrFe <sub>2</sub>
4	5:2.51:0.62	AM	W + ZrFe <sub>2</sub> (trace)
		AN	W + M (trace) + ZrFe <sub>2</sub>
5	5:2.5:0.33	AM	W + Y
		AN	W + Y
6	5:2.67:0.5	AM	W + M
		AN	W + M
7	5:2:0.42	AM	W + Z <sup>e</sup> + $\beta$ -Zr(Sb)

<sup>a</sup> Loaded compositions; the analytical composition for some of the samples are given in the text. <sup>b</sup> AM, arc-melting; AN, annealing of the previous arc-melted sample at 1200 °C for 3 days.<sup>c</sup> Phases were identified by both EDX measurements and powder patterns. W,  $W_5Si_3$ -type; M,  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type with a composition near  $Zr_5Sb_{3.3}Fe_{0.3}$  (lower limit); Y,  $Y_5Bi_3$ -type; Z,  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type.<sup>d</sup>  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.53}$  by SEM; a = 11.0885 (3), c = 5.5420 (3) Å. <sup>e</sup> a = 7.706 (1), c = 3.773 (1) Å.

product such as  $Zr_5Sb_3Fe_x$  led instead to a tetragonal phase. EDX analyses and a single-crystal structural study showed this was  $\sim Zr_5Sn_{2.5}Fe_{0.5}$  in a  $W_5Si_3$ -type structure with iron substituting for some antimony (below). This result led to the synthetic and analytical studies to determine the phase characteristics of the new material, Table IV. Reactions with the composition  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Fe_{0.5}$  were found to yield a pure phase with  $W_5Si_3$ -structure both before and after an annealing treatment, and SEM-EDX analyses also showed that both samples consisted of homogeneous single phases. Some (0.1–0.2%) lattice parameter shrinkage was observed on annealing, but such effects are common<sup>2,6,7</sup> and presumably reflect improved ordering.

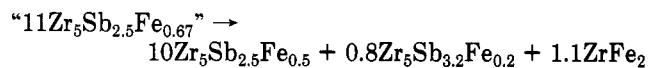
The next four reactions, Table IV, were designed to diagnose phase stability on variation of the iron content while the Zr:Sb ratio was held near 5:2.5. Increased iron led to the appearance of ZrFe<sub>2</sub> and, now that the sample

Table V. Products in  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}T_{0.5}$  Syntheses (T = Co, Ni, Ru, and Rh)<sup>a</sup>

	rxn condnts <sup>b</sup> (°C, days)	Zr:Sb:T <sup>c</sup>	products		
			phase <sup>d</sup> (%)	a	c
Co	AM	5:2.55:0.37	W (80)	11.095 (2)	5.541 (1)
		6:2.34:0.69	Z (20)	7.741 (1)	3.686 (1)
		AN (1100, 30)	5:2.5:0.35	W	11.100 (1)
Ni	AM	5:2.45:0.43	W (65)	11.100 (2)	5.527 (1)
		5:3:3:0.3	M (25)	8.463 (1)	5.772 (1)
		6:2.44:0.65	Z (10)	7.69 (1)	3.78 (1)
		AN (1200, 30)	5:2.55:0.4	W (85)	11.093 (2)
		6:2.35:0.7	Z (10)	7.689 (5)	3.792 (5)
			M (trace)		
Ru	AM	W (60)		11.089 (3)	5.575 (2)
		M (40)		8.468 (4)	5.818 (4)
Rh	AM	5:2.45:0.65	W (40)	11.091 (2)	5.549 (1)
		5:3:1:0.14	M (60)	8.479 (1)	5.787 (2)
		AN (1100, 30)	5:2.5:0.55	W (70)	11.107 (2)
		5:3:26:0.3	M (30)	8.592 (1)	5.855 (1)

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were loaded as  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}T_{0.5}$ . <sup>b</sup> AM, arc-melting; AN, annealing of the previously arc-melted samples.<sup>c</sup> Compositions of corresponding phases as determined by EDX.<sup>d</sup> Abbreviations and cell types: W,  $W_5Si_3$ , tetragonal; M,  $Mn_5Si_3$ ; Z,  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ , both hexagonal. Cell dimensions are in angstroms.

was antimony-richer than  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Fe_{0.5}$ , to a  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type phase near  $\sim Zr_5Sb_{3.2}Fe_{0.2}$  in addition to the major phase, viz.

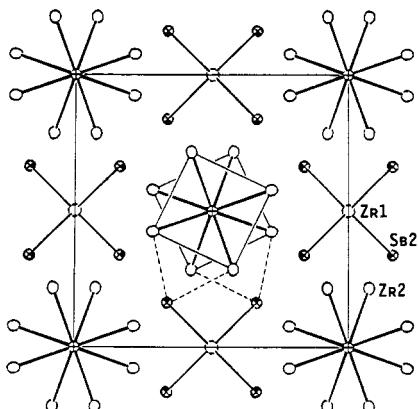


With a smaller amount of iron, a  $Y_5Bi_3$ -type phase also appeared, as observed before for binary antimony-limited compositions near  $Zr_5Sb_3$ .<sup>13</sup>

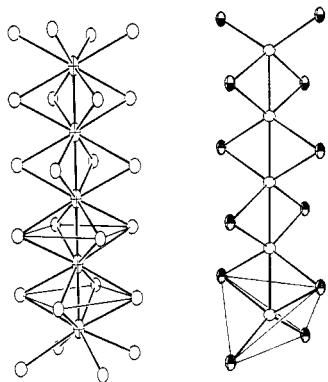
The last two reactions, Table IV, were run with varying amounts of antimony. An excess gives the  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type phase seen before, and a deficiency produces a hexagonal  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type phase (below) plus zirconium. EDX analyses of the most antimony-deficient sample gave  $\sim Zr_6Sb_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$  for the  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type portion and  $\sim Zr_5Sb_{2.42}Fe_{0.53}$  for the  $W_5Si_3$ -type phase. We conclude that the  $W_5Si_3$ -type phase in this system has a narrow composition range at  $\sim 1200$  °C, from  $\sim Zr_5Sb_{2.40}Fe_{0.60}$  (reaction 3) with a = 11.083 (1), c = 5.540 (1) Å to  $\sim Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.44}$  (reaction 6) with a = 11.107 (1), c = 5.554 (1) Å. The sums of the antimony and iron contents were always close to 0.60 per zirconium, implying that there are no vacancies in the structure.

On the basis of these observations, analogous phases were studied in which other transition-metal atoms (T) substitute for iron in  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}T_{0.5}$  phases, Table V. All the iron group elements and their fifth-period congeners Ru and Rh form the  $W_5Si_3$  phase with almost the same feature, that is, with a composition near  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}T_{0.5}$  apparently necessary for stability. The phase compositions determined by EDX methods varied modestly on annealing, mainly for the  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type examples, and these implied mixed Sb-T populations in both the  $Mn_5Si_3$  interstitial site and in the cobalt site in  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type examples as well. The  $Mn_5Si_3$  examples appear only with higher antimony concentrations.

A tetragonal  $W_5Si_3$ -type structure with a composition  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55(1)}Fe_{0.45(1)}$  was refined from single-crystal X-ray data. All of the Sb-Fe mixing occurs on the main-group element (Sb1) site that ideally centers square antiprisms of zirconium. The X-ray analysis assumed there were no vacancies at this point, in accord with the SEM-EDX



**Figure 1.** Projection of the tetragonal structure of  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.45}$  down the short  $c$  axis. The  $Zr_2$  (○) antiprism about the  $Sb_{0.55}Fe_{0.45}$  site (⊕) in the center of the cell and the tetrahedra of  $Sb_2$  (⊕) about  $Zr_1$  are emphasized. Other short  $Zr_2$ - $Zr_2$  and  $Zr_1$ - $Zr_2$  separations are not shown (see text). Dashed lines illustrate the commonality of antimony to both chains (97% probability ellipsoids).



**Figure 2.** Side view illustrating the geometric essence of the chains of  $(Sb,Fe)Zr_{8/2}$  (left) and  $Sb_{4/2}Zr$  (right) in  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.45}$ . One antiprism and one tetrahedron are lightly outlined (97%).

results. A convenient geometric description of the structure starts with square antiprisms ( $Zr_2$ ) that share opposite square faces to generate infinite chains  $_{\parallel}^1[Zr_{8/2}-(Sb_xFe_{1-x})Sb_{8/2}]$ . One of these is highlighted in Figure 1 in a projection down the short  $c$  axis. The twist angle between the squares is actually  $39.1^\circ$  rather than the ideal  $45^\circ$ . The structure also contains parallel, linear chains of zirconium with a very short repeat ( $2.77 \text{ \AA} = c/2$ ) that lie within edge-shared  $_{\parallel}^1[ZrSb_{4/2}]$  tetrahedra centered on the side faces of the cell in this view. The two chains are not as independent as this description suggests, however; the same antimony atoms envelope both chains, those in the tetrahedra also bridging pairs of edges of the zirconium antiprisms (Figure 1, dashed lines). Side views of the two chains are shown in Figure 2 with these interconnections omitted. Other short  $Zr$ - $Zr$  separations in this material will be noted later in a comparison of structures.

**Tin in  $W_5Si_3$ -Like Phases.** Tin analogues of the foregoing antimony phases are closely related but with some contrasts; only iron seems to form a  $W_5Si_3$ -like phase, this has a higher iron content, and a lower crystal symmetry yields two different populations for the antiprismatic chain-centering Sn-Fe atoms. As-cast samples are invariably composed of  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type phases and  $ZrFe_2$ , Table VI, and only after annealing do  $W_5Si_3$ -type phases appear. The optical yields of the  $W_5Si_3$  example, 80–90%, were achieved for compositions  $Zn_5Sn_{2+x}Fe_{1-x}$ ,  $0 < x < 0.28$ , judging from the intensity distributions in the powder patterns (Table VI) and the X-ray analysis. This range

**Table VI. Formation of  $W_5Si_3$ -Type Phases in  $Zr$ - $Sn$ - $T$  Systems,  $T = Fe, Co$**

	compsn <sup>a</sup> (Zr:Sn:T)	condns <sup>b</sup> (°C, days)	results <sup>c</sup>
Fe	5:2.5:0.5	AM AN (1000, 7)	$M + ZrFe_2$ $W + M$
	5:2.25:0.75	AM AN (1050, 7)	$M + ZrFe_2$ $W (a = 11.1663 (9), c = 5.4747 (8)) + M$ (trace) + $ZrFe_2$ (trace)
	5:2.0:1.0	AM AN (1000, 7)	$M + ZrFe_2$ $W (a = 11.160 (1), c = 5.4719 (8)) + Z$ (trace) + $ZrFe_2$ (trace)
Co	5:2.0:1.0	AM, AN (1350, 8)	$W (Zr_5Sn_{2.18}Fe_{0.77}, a = 11.1763 (7), c = 5.4794 (6)) + ZrFe_2$ ( $\leq 2\%$ )
	5:2.0:1.0	AM AN (1000, 10)	$M + impurity$ $Z (40\%) + M (60\%)$

<sup>a</sup> Loaded composition. <sup>b</sup> AM, arc-melting; AN, annealing of the previously arc-melted sample. <sup>c</sup> W,  $W_5Si_3$ -type; M,  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type; Y,  $Y_5Bi_3$ -type; Z,  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type. Trace is  $< 5\%$ . Dimensions are in angstroms. <sup>d</sup> Average EDX result.

was also supported by (unconstrained) EDX results of  $\sim Zr_5Sn_{1.95}Fe_{1.05}$  and  $\sim Zr_5Sn_{2.25}Fe_{0.75}$  for this portion of annealed compositions  $Zr_6Sn_{1.8}Fe_{1.2}$  and  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$  (both primarily  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type products, below). Analogous reactions with cobalt gave only  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ - and  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type phases upon annealing.

The refined  $W_5Si_3$ -like structure for this sample is iron-richer than found with antimony,  $Zr_5Sn_{2.28(2)}Fe_{0.72(2)}$  and near the inferred lower limit for iron (above). The acentric space group  $I422$  lacks all mirror planes present in the parent  $W_5Si_3$  ( $I\bar{4}/mcm$ , Figure 1) although the two independent, centered Fe-Sn sites in adjacent antiprisms retain 42 symmetry. The shared faces of the antiprisms are still the same size, but these are no longer equally spaced, although their alternate displacements in  $\bar{c}$  are only  $0.020 \text{ \AA}$ . More importantly, the two mixed Sn-Fe populations refine to distinctly different values, 91 (2)% and 52 (2)% iron (assuming no vacancies). Surprisingly, the latter occurs in the slightly smaller antiprism although the refined  $Zr$ - $Sn$ - $Fe$  distances differ by only  $0.007 \text{ \AA}$  ( $5\sigma$ ). The violations of the systematic absences for an ideal  $W_5Si_3$  arrangement come solely from the unfixed  $z$  coordinate of  $Zr_2$  and the unequal atomic distributions of the mixed Sn and Fe. The latter appear to contribute significantly more to the observations than the deviation of  $z$  from  $3/4$ , which may be an artifact of the refinement.

There appears to be no precedent for a  $W_5Si_3$ -like structure with this lower symmetry, possibly because it generally cannot be distinguished from a  $W_5Si_3$ -type by powder pattern means. The strongest additional line calculated for the Guinier pattern is only 0.4% of  $I_{\max}$ .

Previously reported analogues of both structures involve only mixed main-group elements, e.g.,  $Co_5Si_2B$ ,  $Fe_5Si_2B$ ,<sup>14</sup>  $Ni_5Si_2B$ ,<sup>15</sup> and  $Nb_5Sn_2Si$ ,<sup>16</sup> although the binary  $\beta$ - $Ti_3Sb$  also exhibits the same disposition,  $Ti_5Sb_2Ti$ .<sup>17</sup> The second and third actually exhibit a Fe or Ni deficiency within the tetrahedral chains, e.g.,  $Fe_4Fe_{0.88}Si_2B$ . All have been studied by powder or single-crystal film methods.

Some rationale for the formation of the  $W_5Si_3$ -like phase on substitution of iron in  $Zr_5Sb_3$  or  $Zr_5Sn_3$  can be obtained from Pettifor's structure maps.<sup>18,19</sup> Pettifor assigned

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(17) Kjekshus, A.; Gronvold, F.; Thorbjornsen, J. *Acta Chem. Scand.* 1962, 16, 1493.

Table VII. Characteristics of  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -Type Phases in Zr-Sn-T Systems, T = Fe, Co

compsn <sup>a</sup>		condns <sup>b</sup> (°C, days)	results <sup>c</sup>
T	(Zr:Sn:T)		
Fe	6:1.8:1.2	AM	M + $ZrFe_2$ (10%) + impurity (10%)
		AN (1000, 8)	Z + $ZrFe_2$ (5%) + W (10%) + M (2%)
Fe	6:2.0:1.0	AM	M + $ZrFe_2$ (10%) + impurity (10%)
		AN (1000, 7)	Z + W (15%)
Fe	6:1.8:1.0	AM, AN (1050, 7)	Z + W (<5%); very brittle
	Co 6:2.0:1.0	AM, AN (1000, 10)	Z ( $a = 7.9450$ (8), $c = 3.4993$ (7) Å) + M (15%) + $\beta$ -Zr (<3%)
GRST (1000, 9)		Z ( $a = 7.9386$ (6), $c = 3.5102$ (7) Å) + M (15%)	

<sup>a</sup> Loaded composition. <sup>b</sup> AM, arc-melting; AN, annealing of the previously arc-melted sample; GRST, previous sample was ground, pelleted, and sintered. <sup>c</sup> W,  $W_5Si_3$ -type; M,  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type; Z,  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type.

Mendeleev numbers<sup>20</sup> in such a way that elements in one group have successive numbers, and he then defined structural fields on this basis. In the  $A_5B_3$  binary map, the point corresponding to  $Zr_5Sb_3$  falls in the  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type region, as it should, but the substitution of iron or any other of the transition elements tried in this study for antimony would move the point toward the  $W_5Si_3$  region. Since no boundary between these two structure types was established in the map, it is not clear what amount of substitution is needed to form a  $W_5Si_3$ -type structure. The same expectation holds for  $Zr_5Sn_3$ , which also forms in  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type structure. However, why a cobalt example does not always form cannot be answered with this map. Of course, the stability of  $ZrFe_2$  also plays an important role in determining the composition of the  $W_5Si_3$ -type products.

**$Zr_6Al_2Co$ -Type Phases.** A new phase was seen in compositions near  $Zr_5Sn_2Fe$ , and its powder pattern was found to be in good agreement with that for a  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type phase. Several compositions around this were studied in an effort to clarify the system, Table VII. As-cast samples contained only a  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type phase and  $ZrFe_2$ , but annealing at 1000 °C for 7 days was sufficient to produce the pattern of what was presumed to be the peritectically decomposing tin-iron analogue  $\sim Zr_6Sn_2Fe$ . However, not a single sample prepared in this way was single phase. Even reactions with the stoichiometry determined by the single-crystal structural analysis (below) showed ~15% of a  $W_5Si_3$ -type phase (and possible  $ZrFe_2$ ) in the powder pattern. Incomplete equilibration is evident, perhaps because of a gross composition inhomogeneity produced by the arc-melting.<sup>6</sup> Nonetheless, the very brittle, annealed  $Zr_6Sn_{1.8}Fe_{1.0}$  product yielded single crystals, and the structure was refined as the expected  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type. The lattice parameters of this phase do not change with loaded composition. This and the stoichiometric result of the structure refinement,  $Zr_6Sn_{1.99(1)}Fe_{1.00(1)}$ , indicate a line phase without vacancies near 1050 °C.

The analogous cobalt compound also forms; however, no further attempts were made to elucidate the composition width or the details of the structure.  $Zr_6Al_2Co$ -type phases are also formed with antimony instead of tin, namely, as a minor component in as-cast samples of the composition  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}T_{0.5}$  with T = Fe, Co, Ni, Ru (Tables IV and V). Antimony evidently again substitutes for some

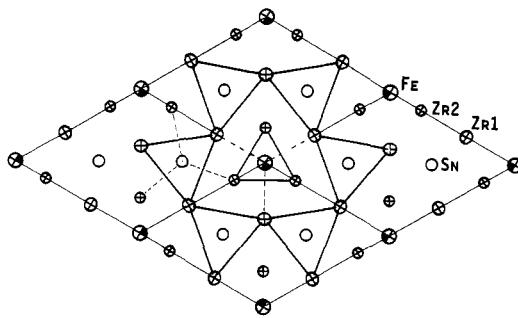


Figure 3. Projection of the hexagonal structure of  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$  along the short (3.49 Å) c axis. A portion of the zirconium (⊕) trigonal prisms centered by tin (○) or iron (⊕) are emphasized. The two types of prisms differ in elevation by  $c/2$ . One set of the prism face-capping interconnections between different kinds of trigonal prisms is shown dashed (99.5% ellipsoids).

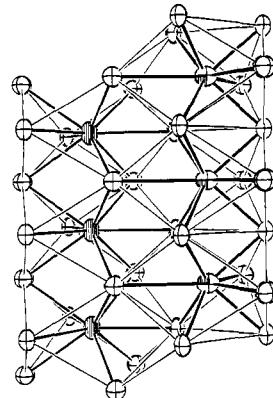


Figure 4. Side view of the pair of interconnected trigonal prismatic chains shown in Figure 3. The tin-centered chain is on the left and the iron-based portion is on the right with the nine Zr-Fe interactions given heavier emphasis. Iron is partially and tin is wholly shaded (99.5%).

of the T element since the compositions determined by EDX analyses corresponded to a general formula near  $Zr_6Sb_{2.3}T_{0.7}$ .

The structure of  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$  is shown in Figures 3 and 4 in views along and normal to the hexagonal c axis, respectively. The result can be assembled starting with trigonal prism  $(Zr2)_6Fe$  at the origin together with a larger pair of  $(Zr1)_6Sn$  trigonal prisms centered on  $1/3, 2/3, 1/2$ , etc. (Figure 3). The tin-centered prisms also share all edges parallel to  $\bar{c}$  to generate a network in the ab plane. Each type of prismatic unit also shares opposite triangular faces with like units to generate confacial chains parallel to  $\bar{c}$ , viz.,  $[(Zr2)_{6/2}Fe][(Zr1)_{6/4}Sn]_2$ , Figure 4. Finally, such a high concentration of centered (Fe, Sn) atoms relative to zirconium leads to a secondary condensation between the two types of prismatic units such that zirconium atoms in each prism also cap rectangular faces in the other. These interactions, shown with dashed lines in Figure 3, lead to a classic tricapped trigonal prismatic environment for both Sn and Fe. The Fe-Zr distances in the  $FeZr_6$  prisms seem particularly short, 2.619 (1) Å, relative to 2.853 (1) Å for the 91% Fe site in  $Zr_5Sn_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$  (above). However, similar results are found for iron within bicapped trigonal prisms in  $Zr_3Fe$ , where  $d(Zr-Fe)$  is 2.63 and 3.03 Å to prismatic and capping zirconium, respectively.<sup>21</sup> On the other hand, roughly octahedral  $Zr_6Fe$  units in the more oxidized  $Cs_0.6Zr_6I_{14}Fe$  have  $d(Zr-Fe)$  as short as 2.48 Å,<sup>22</sup> suggesting

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there is a good deal more in electronic effects in these compounds than meets the eye!

Except for  $Zr_6Al_2Co$  analogues with  $T = Fe, Ni$ ,<sup>9</sup> there are only a couple of other examples of this structure type,  $Ni_6Si_2B$ <sup>23</sup> and (anti-)  $\beta$ - $K_2UF_6$ .<sup>24,25</sup> The newly identified  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$  has been found by powder pattern comparison to be identical with the  $\theta$ -phase reported by Tanner and Levinson<sup>26</sup> in a study of a portion of the  $Zr-Sn-Fe$  system. They judged this to be a line phase with a composition near  $Zr_6Sn_{1.7}Fe_{1.2}$ . The same phase has also been identified by powder X-ray methods as a precipitate after irradiation of  $\beta$ -Zircaloy-4 with nitrogen ions.<sup>27,28</sup>

There is nothing particularly notable about any other of the  $Zr-Sb$ ,  $-Sn$ ,  $-Fe$  distances in the structures reported here relative to those in several  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type examples that have recently been studied for the same or similar elements.<sup>2,4,6,13,29</sup> On the other hand,  $Zr-Zr$  bonding and some geometric aspects among these three types do provide some interesting variations and comparisons.

**General Comparisons.** It is not clear why the foregoing  $W_5Si_3$ -like phases need two such chemically distinct elements centered in the anti-prisms and in almost fixed ratio in each instance in order to stabilize these, but the effect is presumably electronic. Among binary zirconium compounds, the  $W_5Si_3$  structure is known only for  $Zr_5Al_3$ , while this arrangement is distinctly more common with the electron-poorer rare-earth elements or with Ti, Nb, and Ta when either group is combined with Ga or, for the former, In and Tl.<sup>10</sup> Involvement of silicon, germanium, or tin as the main-group element (Ma) evidently again provides  $W_5Si_3$ -type phases only with earlier or later transition elements, namely, from group 5 or 6 with Si or Ge or for La, Ce, Pr with Sn.<sup>10</sup> The sparsity of  $Zr_5Ma_3$  examples with the  $W_5Si_3$  structure must arise because of the greater stability of the  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type compounds formed between Zr (Hf, Ti) and many of these main-group elements, either as binary phases or in ternaries  $Zr_5Ma_3Z$  with interstitial Z.  $Zr_5Al_3$  also exists as a binary phase with this structure.<sup>30</sup> The conversion to a  $W_5Si_3$ -like product  $Zr_5Ma_{3-x}T_x$  with Ma = Sb, Sn,  $x \sim 0.5$ , and T = Fe, Co, etc., thus appear to be quite specific.

The most interesting structural comparison is between the  $Mn_5Si_3$ - and  $W_5Si_3$ -types. The former contain parallel confacial  $Mn_{6/2}Si_{6/2}$  trigonal antiprismatic chains and, again, linear manganese chains. These share the same Si atoms which give the second type of manganese a twisted antiprismatic environment. Interchain interactions are relatively long, 3.49–3.54 Å in the known binaries  $Zr_5Sb_3$ <sup>13</sup> and  $Zr_5Sn_3$ <sup>6</sup> but still somewhat shorter than  $Zr-Zr$  separations within the “octahedral” chains; however, extended Hückel MO calculations on  $Zr_5Sb_3$  indicate the interchain

“bonds” have relatively low overlap populations.<sup>2</sup> The linear chains in these two phases are evidently strongly bonded, with repeat distances around 2.90 Å [ $d_1(Zr) = 2.918$  Å]. The alternative  $W_5Si_3$  structure appears to form in generally electron-richer systems, e.g.,  $Nb_5Ga_3$ ,  $Nb_5Ge_3$ , and  $Mo_5Ge_3$  either alone or with a  $Mn_5Si_3$  form as well.<sup>10</sup> (Exceptions include  $Zr_5Al_3$  (dimorphic) and a number of rare-earth-metal examples such as  $La_5Sn_3$ .) The electronic factors involved in the structural differentiation are unknown and worthy of study.

The most interesting feature of the  $Mn_5Si_3$ -type phases formed by zirconium (and rare-earth metals) is their avidity to bond interstitially a wide variety of a third element Z, generally those elements to the right of Fe in the periodic table. These occur in the center of every metal octahedron, obviously gaining strong  $Zr-Z$  interactions with small loss of  $Zr-Zr$  bonding.<sup>2-4</sup> The alternative with iron (and some neighboring elements T) is to form the zirconium-richer  $Zr_5Ma_2(Ma_xT_{1-x})$  described here, where the added elements is an integral part of the  $W_5Si_3$  structure, that is, centered in the antiprismatic chain. The change from a  $Mn_5Si_3$ - to a  $W_5Si_3$ -type phase is accompanied by not only an increase in coordination number of the centered (T, Z) element from six to eight but also significantly closer  $Zr-Zr$  separations, namely, 3.20–3.24 and 3.24–3.38 Å within and between the square anti-prismatic chains, respectively, and 2.74–2.77 Å along the linear chains in the compounds described here. A countervailing factor is the decrease in the number of zirconium near neighbors about Sb or Sn from five to four, largely in the environment of the linear zirconium string.

The next step to  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$  represents an obviously efficient way of achieving efficient bonding with nine-coordinate tin and iron. This as well as the substituted  $W_5Si_3$ -type phases appears to have considerably narrower electronic requirements than do the wide variety of compounds with a  $Mn_5Si_3(Z)$ -type structure.

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**Registry No.**  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Fe_{0.5}$ , 129124-24-9;  $Zr_5Sb_{3.3}Fe_{0.3}$ , 129124-25-0;  $Zr_5Sb_{3.2}Fe_{0.2}$ , 129124-26-1;  $Zr_6Sb_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$ , 129124-27-2;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.42}Fe_{0.58}$ , 129124-28-3;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.4-2.55}Fe_{0.44-0.6}$ , 129124-29-4;  $Zr_5Sb_{2}Fe_{0.42}$ , 129124-30-7;  $ZrFe_2$ , 12023-45-9;  $Zr_6Sn_{1.95}Fe_{1.0}$ , 129124-31-8;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Co_{0.5}$ , 129124-32-9;  $Zr_6Sb_{2.34}Co_{0.69}$ , 129124-33-0;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Ni_{0.5}$ , 129124-35-2;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.3}Ni_{0.7}$ , 129124-36-3;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Rh_{0.5}$ , 129124-40-9;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Ru_{0.5}$ , 129124-41-0;  $Zr_6Sb_{2.3}Ru_{0.7}$ , 129124-42-1;  $Zr_5Sn_{1.95}Fe_{1.05}$ , 129124-44-3;  $Zr_5Sn_{2.25}Fe_{0.75}$ , 129124-45-4;  $Zr_5Sn_{2.8}Fe_{0.72}$ , 129124-46-5;  $Zr_8Sn_{1.8}Fe_{1.0}$ , 129124-47-6;  $Zr_5Sb_{2.55}Fe_{0.45}$ , 129124-48-7;  $Zr_5Sn_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$ , 129124-49-8;  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$ , 129124-50-1;  $Zr_5Rh_2$ , 129124-51-2;  $Zr_5Ru_2$ , 129124-52-3;  $Zr$ , 7440-67-7;  $Sb$ , 7440-36-0;  $Sn$ , 7440-31-5;  $Fe$ , 7439-89-6;  $Co$ , 7440-48-4;  $Ni$ , 7440-02-0;  $Rh$ , 7440-16-6;  $Ru$ , 7440-18-8.

**Supplementary Material Available:** Tables of crystallographic data and anisotropic displacement parameters (2 pages); tables of observed and calculated structure factors for  $Zr_5Sb_{2.5}Fe_{0.5}$ ,  $Zr_5Sn_{2.3}Fe_{0.7}$ , and  $Zr_6Sn_2Fe$  (8 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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