



Synthesis, crystal structure and optical properties of a novel sodium lead pentaborate, NaPbB₅O₉

Min Zhang^{a,b}, Shilie Pan^{a,*}, Jian Han^a, Zhongxiang Zhou^a

^a Xinjiang Key Laboratory of Electronic Information Materials and Devices, Xinjiang Technical Institute of Physics & Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Urumqi 830011, PR China

^b Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, PR China

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ABSTRACT

A novel sodium lead pentaborate, NaPbB₅O₉, has been successfully synthesized by standard solid-state reaction. The single-crystal X-ray structural analysis showed that NaPbB₅O₉ crystallizes in the monoclinic space group *P*2₁/*c* with *a*=6.5324(10) Å, *b*=13.0234(2) Å, *c*=8.5838(10) Å, *β*=104.971(10)°, and *Z*=4. The crystal structure is composed of double ring [B₅O₉]^{3−} units, [PbO₇] and [NaO₇] polyhedra. [B₅O₉]^{3−} groups connect with each other forming two-dimensional infinite ∞[B₅O₉]^{3−} layers, while [PbO₇] and [NaO₇] polyhedra are located between the layers. [PbO₇] polyhedra linked together via corner-sharing O atom forming novel infinite ∞[PbO₆] chains along the *c* axis. The thermal behavior, IR spectrum and the optical diffuse reflectance spectrum of NaPbB₅O₉ were reported.

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1. Introduction

The crystal chemistry of metal borates, both as natural minerals and as synthetic materials with potentially useful physical properties ranging from nonlinear optical (NLO), ferroelectric, piezoelectric to semiconducting behaviors, is of continuing interest [1–3]. Moreover, anionic radicals in the borate class can be both B-tetrahedra and B-triangles, and the BO₃ and BO₄ groups may be further linked via common oxygen atoms to form isolated rings and cages or polymerize into infinite chains, layers and networks, leading to the rich structural chemistry [4,5]. Since a series of alkali-metal or alkaline-earth metal borate, such as LiB₃O₅ (LBO) [6], CsB₃O₅ (CBO) [7,8], CsLiB₆O₁₀ (CLBO) [9], *β*-BaB₂O₄ (BBO) [10] and KBe₂BO₃F₂ (KBBF) [11] are useful NLO materials for efficient SHG of Nd:YAG lasers, these induced a considerable interest in search for new promising compounds in ternary borate systems *M*₂O–*M'*O–B₂O₃ (*M*=alkali-metal and *M'*=Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zn, and Cu) [12–21].

However, insofar as we know, there is no report on the mixed borates in *M*₂O–PbO–B₂O₃ (*M*=alkali-metal) systems until now. We have, therefore, started investigating these systems. The selection of lead borate for the investigation because of Pb²⁺ has 6s² lone electron pairs and PbO_{*n*} groups have highly asymmetric bonding configuration, and some interesting materials

may also be expected to exist in the Pb-containing borates. Extensive efforts in the ternary alkaline metal–lead–borate system led to a new phase, NaPbB₅O₉, which is the first borate discovered in the *M*₂O–PbO–B₂O₃ (*M*=alkali-metal) system. Herein we report synthesis, crystal structure, and optical properties of NaPbB₅O₉ for the first time.

2. Experimental

2.1. Compound synthesis

The title compound was synthesized by employing a conventional solid-state reaction method. All reagents were of analytical grade. Stoichiometric mixture of H₃BO₃ (3.092 g, 0.05 mol), PbO (2.232 g, 0.01 mol) and Na₂CO₃ (1.060 g, 0.01 mol) were mixed homogeneously and transferred to a Pt crucible. The sample was gradually heated to 630 °C, and kept at this temperature for 48 h with several intermediate grindings and mixings. X-ray powder diffraction data were collected using Bruker D2 PHASER diffractometer.

2.2. Thermal behavior analysis

The thermal behavior of NaPbB₅O₉ was investigated with the differential thermal analyses (DTA) using a NETZSCH STA 449C simultaneous thermal analyzer. The sample and reference Al₂O₃

* Corresponding author. Fax: +86 991 3838957.
E-mail address: slpan@ms.xjb.ac.cn (S. Pan).

were placed in a Pt crucible and heated at a rate of 10 °C/min in the range of 25–900 °C under flowing of nitrogen gas.

2.3. Single crystal preparation

H₃BO₃ (18.549 g, 0.3 mol), PbO (16.74 g, 0.075 mol), NaCl (4.383 g, 0.075 mol) and NaF (4.199 g, 0.1 mol) were precalcined at 300 °C for 2 h to decompose the boric acid, and the mixture was heated to 680 °C and kept for 10 h to ensure that the powder was melt completely in the solution and mixed homogeneously, then cooled down to 630 °C at a rate of 10 °C/h, and further to 600 °C at 0.5 °C/h, followed by cooling to room temperature up to 0.5 × 1.0 × 1.0 mm³ were embedded in a borate matrix. Several small crystals could be isolated mechanically from the reaction product for the further characterization by single-crystal X-ray diffraction measurements.

2.4. Structure determination

Single-crystal XRD data were collected on a Bruker SMART APEX II 4 K CCD diffractometer at 296(2) K using Mo K α radiation (λ =0.71073 Å) and integrated with a SAINT-Plus program [22]. The crystal structures were solved by direct methods and refined in SHELXTL system [23]. Final least-squares refinement on F_o^2 with data having $F_o^2 \geq 2\sigma(F_o^2)$ includes anisotropic displacement parameters for all atoms. Unit cell parameters were derived from a least-squares analysis of 6421 reflections in the range of 2.91–27.37°. The final difference Fourier synthesis map showed the maximum and minimum peaks at 1.112 and –0.915 e/Å³, respectively. The structure was checked for missing symmetry elements with PLATON [24]. Details of crystal parameters, data collection and structure refinements are given in Table 1, and the atomic coordinates and the equivalent isotropic displacement parameters are summarized in Table 2, and selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 3.

Table 1
Crystallographic data for NaPbB₅O₉.

Empirical formula	NaPbB ₅ O ₉
Formula weight	428.23
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i> (No. 14)
<i>a</i> (Å)	6.5324(10)
<i>b</i> (Å)	13.0234(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	8.5838(10)
β (°)	104.971(10)
Volume (Å ³)	705.471(17)
<i>Z</i>	4
Density (calcd.) (g/cm ³)	4.032
Abs. coeff. (mm ^{−1})	24.008
<i>F</i> (000)	760
Cryst size (mm ³)	0.095 × 0.104 × 0.230
The range for data collection (deg)	2.91–27.37
Index ranges	−8 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 8, −16 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 16, −11 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 11
Refins collected/unique	6421/1604 [<i>R</i> (int)=0.0275]
Completeness to θ =27.37°	99.9%
data/restraints/param	1604/0/146
GOF on <i>F</i> ²	1.058
Final <i>R</i> indices [<i>F</i> _o ² > 2 σ (<i>F</i> _o ²)] ^a	<i>R</i> 1=0.0178, <i>wR</i> 2=0.0444
<i>R</i> indices (all data) ^a	<i>R</i> 1=0.0206, <i>wR</i> 2=0.0455
Extinction coeff	0.0044(2)
Largest diff peak and hole (e/Å ³)	1.112 and −0.915

^a $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ and $wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum w F_o^4]^{1/2}$ for $F_o^2 > 2\sigma(F_o^2)$ and $w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0254P)^2 + 0.49P$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$.

Table 2

Atomic coordinates, equivalent isotropic displacement parameters and bond valence sum (BVS) for NaPbB₅O₉^a.

Atoms	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>U</i> _{eq} (Å ²)	BVS
Na	0.5340(3)	0.4116(1)	0.8680(2)	0.019(1)	1.087
Pb	0.0908(1)	0.2884(1)	0.5577(1)	0.013(1)	2.033
B1	−0.4171(7)	0.2537(4)	0.6212(6)	0.010(1)	3.003
B2	0.0872(7)	0.0634(4)	0.3681(6)	0.012(1)	3.022
B3	−0.1637(7)	0.3882(3)	0.2285(6)	0.010(1)	3.023
B4	0.4525(7)	0.6508(3)	0.6436(6)	0.008(1)	3.033
B5	0.7912(7)	0.5515(4)	0.7503(6)	0.011(1)	3.029
O1	0.4912(4)	0.2431(2)	0.7470(4)	0.011(1)	2.048
O2	0.1630(5)	0.1536(2)	0.4290(4)	0.018(1)	2.007
O3	−0.2298(4)	0.3726(2)	0.3751(4)	0.009(1)	1.946
O4	0.5804(4)	0.5629(2)	0.7174(4)	0.011(1)	2.054
O5	−0.2521(5)	0.1919(2)	0.6052(4)	0.012(1)	2.042
O6	0.9280(4)	0.6254(2)	0.7260(4)	0.010(1)	2.092
O7	0.7742(4)	0.4881(2)	1.1530(4)	0.013(1)	2.057
O8	0.8697(4)	0.4572(2)	0.8176(4)	0.014(1)	2.044
O9	−0.5021(4)	0.3268(2)	0.5101(4)	0.010(1)	1.940

^a *U*_{eq} is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized *U*_{ij} tensor.

Table 3

Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg) for NaPbB₅O₉^a.

Na–O7 ^{#1}	2.368(3)	Pb–O2	2.190(3)
Na–O1	2.412(3)	Pb–O3	2.519(3)
Na–O8	2.417(3)	Pb–O6 ^{#5}	2.656(3)
Na–O4	2.418(3)	Pb–O5	2.690(3)
Na–O5 ^{#2}	2.539(4)	Pb–O1	2.763(3)
Na–O7	2.731(4)	Pb–O9	2.837(3)
Na–O2 ^{#3}	2.743(3)	Pb–O6	2.844(3)
Mean	2.519	Mean	2.643
B1–O9	1.360(6)	O9–B1–O1 ^{#6}	116.1(3)
B1–O1 ^{#6}	1.371(5)	O5–B1–O9	121.8(4)
B1–O5	1.380(5)	O5–B1–O1 ^{#6}	122.1(4)
Mean	1.371	Mean	120.0
B2–O2	1.329(5)	O7 ^{#8} –B2–O8 ^{#7}	118.1(4)
B2–O7 ^{#8}	1.378(5)	O2–B2–O7 ^{#8}	119.4(4)
B2–O8 ^{#7}	1.400(5)	O2–B2–O8 ^{#7}	122.4(4)
Mean	1.370	Mean	120.0
B3–O3	1.446(5)	O3–B3–O6 ^{#5}	105.9(4)
B3–O7 ^{#10}	1.463(5)	O5 ^{#9} –B3–O6 ^{#5}	106.6(3)
B3–O5 ^{#9}	1.492(6)	O5 ^{#9} –B3–O7 ^{#10}	107.2(4)
B3–O6 ^{#5}	1.498(5)	O6 ^{#5} –B3–O7 ^{#10}	111.6(3)
Mean	1.475	O3–B3–O5 ^{#9}	111.8(3)
B4–O3 ^{#11}	1.454(5)	O3–B3–O7 ^{#10}	113.6(3)
B4–O4	1.462(5)	Mean	109.5
B4–O9 ^{#11}	1.467(5)	O1 ^{#12} –B4–O3 ^{#11}	108.1(3)
B4–O1 ^{#12}	1.511(5)	O4–B4–O9 ^{#11}	108.1(3)
Mean	1.474	O1 ^{#12} –B4–O9 ^{#11}	109.0(3)
B5–O4	1.341(5)	O4–B4–O3 ^{#11}	109.1(3)
B5–O6	1.365(5)	O4–B4–O1 ^{#12}	109.5(4)
B5–O8	1.397(6)	O3 ^{#11} –B4–O9 ^{#11}	112.9(4)
Mean	1.368	Mean	109.5
		O4–B5–O8	115.6(4)
		O6–B5–O8	119.9(4)
		O4–B5–O6	124.5(4)
		Mean	120.0

^a (#1) −*x*+1, −*y*+1, −*z*+2; (#2) *x*+1, −*y*+1/2, *z*+1/2; (#3) *x*, −*y*+1/2, *z*+1/2; (#4) *x*+1, *y*, *z*; (#5) −*x*+1, −*y*+1, −*z*+1; (#6) *x*−1, *y*, *z*; (#7) *x*−1, −*y*+1/2, *z*−1/2; (#8) −*x*+1, *y*−1/2, −*z*+3/2; (#9) *x*, −*y*+1/2, *z*−1/2; (#10) *x*−1, *y*, *z*−1; (#11) −*x*, −*y*+1, −*z*+1; and (#12) −*x*+1, *y*+1/2, −*z*+3/2.

2.5. Vibrational spectroscopy and optical properties

The infrared spectroscopy was carried out on a Shimadzu IRAffinity-1 spectrometer in order to specify and compare the coordination of boron in NaPbB₅O₉. The sample was mixed thoroughly with dried KBr (5 mg of the sample and 500 mg of KBr), and the spectrum was collected in the range from 400 to 4000 cm^{−1} with a resolution of 2 cm^{−1}.

UV–vis diffuse-reflectance data for NaPbB₅O₉ polycrystalline powder were collected at room temperature using a Shimadzu SolidSpec–3700DUV Spectrophotometer with the measurement range extending from 190 to 2600 nm.

3. Results and discussions

3.1. Synthesis and thermal behavior

Fig. 1 shows the observed powder XRD patterns of NaPbB₅O₉, together with calculated from the single crystal data for comparison. It is clear that the observed XRD patterns are in good agreement with the corresponding theoretical one, verifying the purity of synthesized powder sample is high. The XRD patterns also confirm our structural models correctly.

The thermal behavior of NaPbB₅O₉ is shown in Fig. 2. DTA curve shows one remarkable endothermic peak at 735 °C and there are two weak endothermic peaks at 765 and 830 °C, respectively, which indicates that NaPbB₅O₉ melts incongruently. Hence, flux method will be adopted to decrease melting temperature. After extensive attempts, NaF and NaCl were introduced

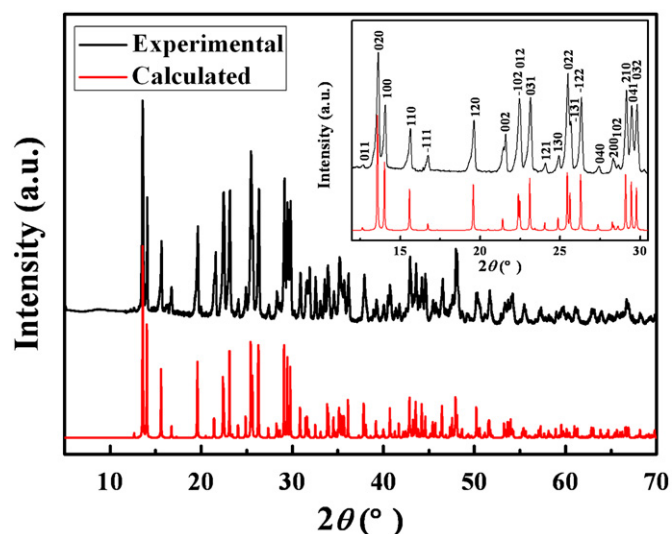


Fig. 1. Experimental and calculated XRD patterns of NaPbB₅O₉. Inset gives the XRD patterns in range of 10–30°.

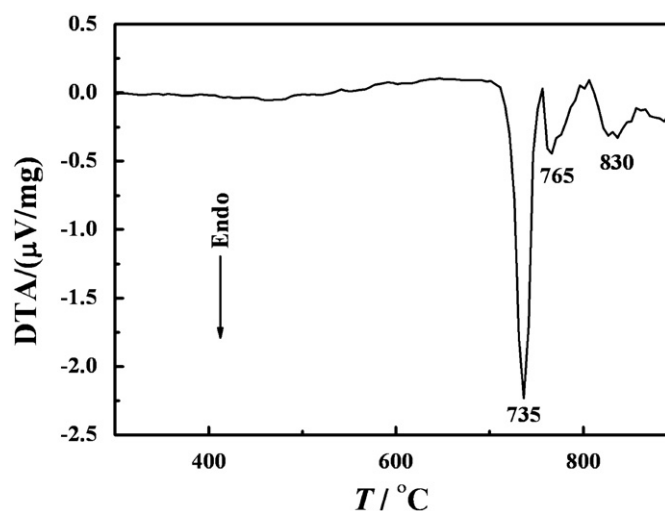


Fig. 2. DTA curve of NaPbB₅O₉.

into the system, and the small single crystals were obtained below 680 °C.

3.2. Description of the structure

The X-ray diffraction has shown that the NaPbB₅O₉ crystallizes in a monoclinic space group $P2_1/c$. The crystal structure of NaPbB₅O₉ is schematically shown in Figs. 3 and 4 (the bonds of Pb–O and Na–O are removed for clarity). The basic structural unit in NaPbB₅O₉ is a [B₅O₉]^{3–} group that consists of three BO₃ triangles (Δ) and two BO₄ tetrahedron (\square), which is condensed to a double ring via sharing the common tetrahedron. It can be written as $3\Delta 2\square: \langle 2\Delta\square \rangle - \langle \Delta 2\square \rangle$ with the help of the conception proposed by Burns et al. [25]. In this unit, two hexagonal rings are almost perpendicular to each other, and each [B₅O₉]^{3–} group is vertex-linked to four other equivalent [B₅O₉]^{3–} through its terminal O atoms to form a two-dimensional (2D) infinite corrugated ∞ [B₅O₉]^{3–} layer extending in the (0 1 0) plane (Fig. 3). Na and Pb atoms are located between these layers to balance charge and also to hold the layers together through coordination with oxygen atoms (Fig. 4).

Selected bond lengths and angles for NaPbB₅O₉ are listed in Table 3, and each Na atom is bonded to seven O atoms at distances of 2.368(3)–2.743(3) Å (average 2.519 Å). These results are very reasonable when compared with the ranges: 2.427(4)–2.577(5) Å (average 2.515 Å) in K₂NaZnB₅O₁₀ [26]; 2.218(2)–3.053(3) Å (average 2.517 Å) in Na₃CaB₅O₁₀ [13]; and 2.280(2)–3.084(3) Å (average 2.582 Å) in Na₃ZnB₅O₁₀ [14]. Bond valence sum (BVS) [27] calculation using Brown's formula for Na⁺ is equal to 1.087 (Table 2), which further proves that the coordination of Na atoms are very reasonable.

Seven-coordinated Pb atoms is strongly bonded to one O atom (O2) at distance of 2.190(3) Å, and weakly bonded to six oxygens at distance of 2.519(3)–2.844(2) Å, therein six distant O atoms are provided by one ∞ [B₅O₉]^{3–} layer and O2 is from neighboring layers. The average distance of Pb–O is 2.643 Å, which agrees well with those reported for the Pb²⁺ of the range 2.395(5)–2.894(4) Å (average 2.629 Å) in Pb₂CuB₂O₆ [28], and 2.364(6)–2.800(7) Å (average 2.476) in Pb₂Cu₃B₄O₁₁ [29]. The calculated BVS value of 2.033 for Pb²⁺ also verifies the coordination scheme.

The PbO₇ polyhedron is extremely distorted, because six oxygen neighbors located approximately on the same plane and only O2 almost perpendicular to the plane, leaving room for the

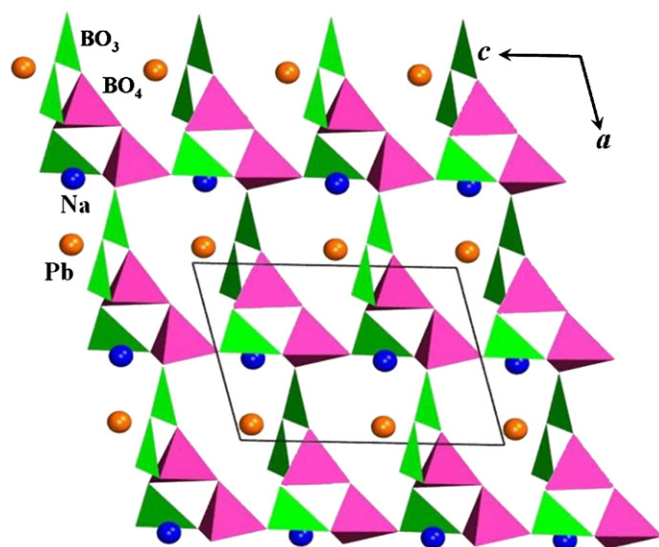


Fig. 3. Single ∞ [B₅O₉]^{3–} layer parallel to the (0 1 0) plane in NaPbB₅O₉.

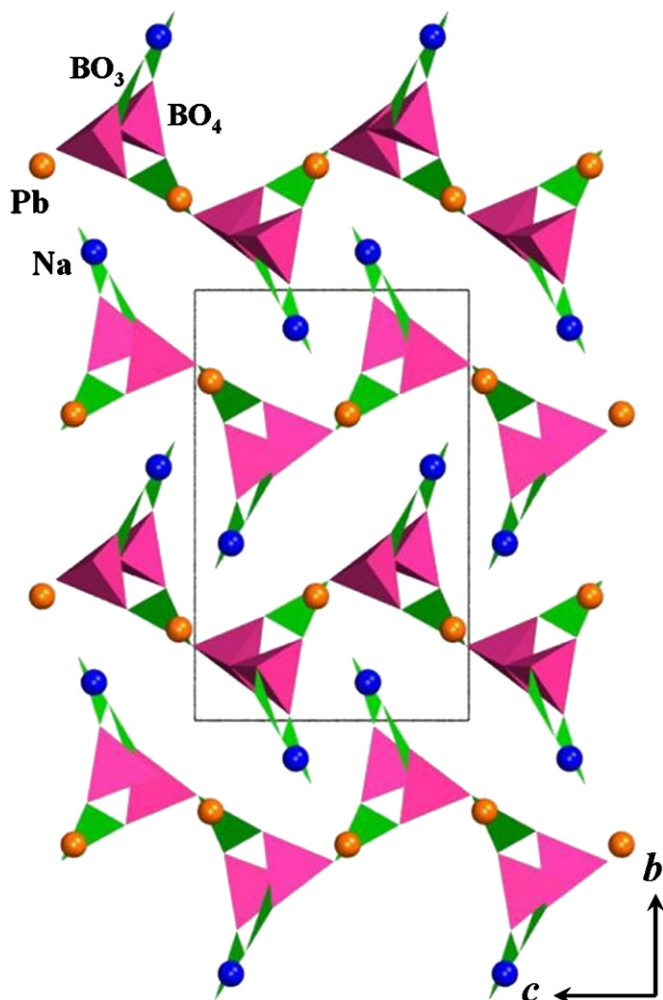


Fig. 4. Projection of NaPbB₅O₉ along the [100] direction.

6s² lone pair of Pb²⁺ in the opposite direction to O2 (the direction of the electron lone pair of Pb atom is indicated by black arrow in Fig. 5). This configuration is very common for Pb²⁺, as found in PbBiBO₄ [30]. In this structure, [PbO₇] polyhedra linked together through two corner-sharing O atoms (O6) along the *c* axis to form infinite ∞[PbO₆] chains, while two [NaO₇] polyhedra are joined by sharing edge to form an [NaO₇] dimer, the dimers distributed between the ∞[PbO₆] chains and interconnected by sharing edges.

There are five crystallographically independent B atoms in the asymmetric unit, of which B1, B2, B5 atoms are in triangular coordination, B3 and B4 atoms are in tetrahedral coordination. The average B–O distances (Table 3) are very close to the data (1.370 and 1.476 Å, respectively) obtained for borate minerals by Hawthorne et al. [31], and the average O–B–O angles are equal to or slightly deviate from the ideal tetrahedral or triangular values (109.5° and 120°, respectively), indicating that the BO₄ and BO₃ groups are metrically regular. BVS for B atoms are also very reasonable, lying in the range of 3.003–3.033.

Three isostructural compounds of NaPbB₅O₉ have been reported in the literature, they are NaCaB₅O₉ [32], NaSrB₅O₉ [33] and KSrB₅O₉ [34]. All compounds crystallize in a monoclinic space group *P*2₁/*c* and contain topologically identical ∞[B₅O₉]^{3−} layers. However, difference also exists, in the structures of NaCaB₅O₉, NaSrB₅O₉ and KSrB₅O₉, A²⁺ cations (A=Ca and Sr) coordinated with eight O atoms forming edge-sharing ∞[AO₈] chains, and the coordination number of K or Na atoms is also eight. Whereas in

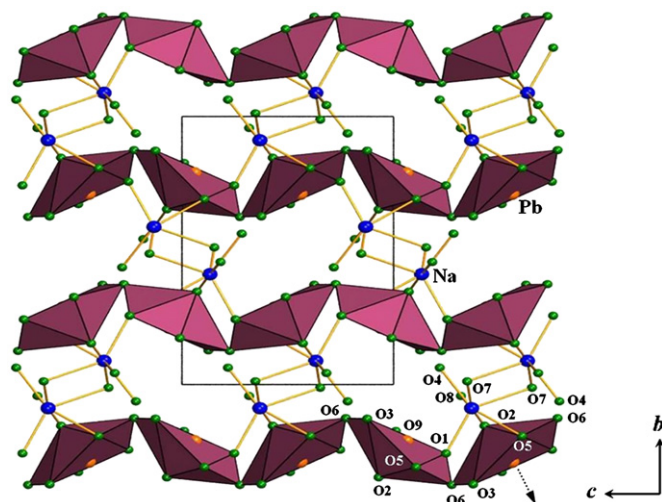


Fig. 5. Coordination geometry about the Pb atom and Na atom. Arrow indicates the direction of the electron lone pair of Pb atom.

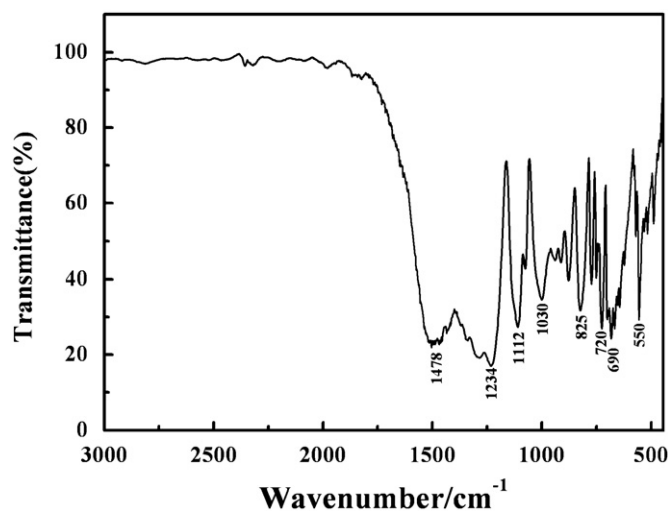


Fig. 6. Infrared spectrum of NaPbB₅O₉.

the NaPbB₅O₉ structure, seven-coordinated Pb atoms form extremely distorted PbO₇ polyhedra, which are linked together by corner-sharing O atoms form ∞[PbO₆] chains, and Na atoms is also seven-coordinated. Due to the difference in radius and the coordination environments of metal cations, the coordinates of cations are slightly different from each other, such as the nearest distances between Na–Pb, Na–Sr, Na–Ca and K–Sr are 3.750, 3.719, 3.543 and 3.955 Å in NaPbB₅O₉, NaSrB₅O₉, NaCaB₅O₉ and KSrB₅O₉, respectively.

3.3. Spectrum properties

In order to further confirm the coordination of B atoms in NaPbB₅O₉ crystal structure, the infrared spectrum was measured (Fig. 6). The strong bands above 1112 cm^{−1} should be assigned to the BO₃ antisymmetric stretching vibrations, while those near 1030 cm^{−1} are mainly attributed to BO₄ antisymmetric stretch. The bands associated with BO₃ and BO₄ out of plane bending modes are overlapped and located at about 690–825 cm^{−1}. Bands with the frequencies below 550 cm^{−1} might be due to the Na–O and Pb–O vibrations, respectively. The IR spectrum further confirms the existence of both trigonally and tetrahedrally

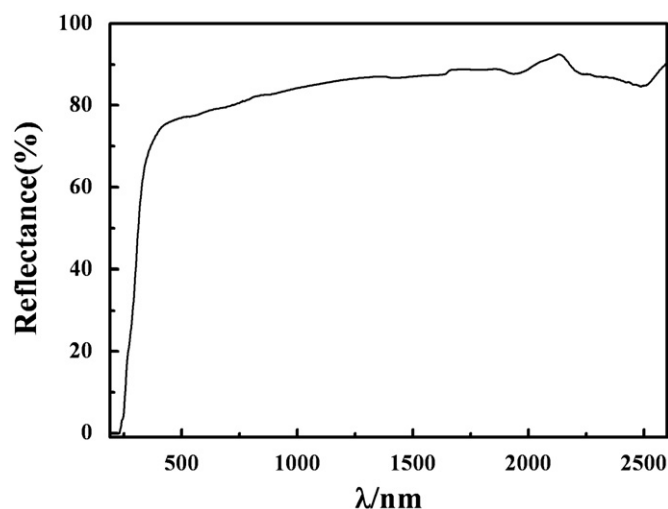


Fig. 7. UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectrum of NaPbB₅O₉.

coordinated boron atoms, consistent with the results obtained from the single-crystal X-ray structural analyses.

The optical diffuse reflectance spectrum is shown in Fig. 7. There are no absorption peaks above 420 nm, while absorption edge was observed at around 230 nm.

4. Conclusions

A novel ternary borate, NaPbB₅O₉ has been synthesized and single crystal X-ray diffraction reveals that interconnected [B₅O₉]^{3−} groups form infinite layers along the (010) plane, and the NaO₇ and PbO₇ polyhedra distributed between the layers. IR spectrum and BVS calculation was used to verify the validity of the structure. NaPbB₅O₉, NaCaB₅O₉, NaSrB₅O₉ and KSrB₅O₉ are crystallized in monoclinic space group *P*2₁/*c*, and have the similar ∞[B₅O₉]^{3−} layers, whereas the coordinations of cations in NaPbB₅O₉ are different from the ones in other compounds.

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Appendix A. Supporting information

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi:10.1016/j.jssc.2011.01.039.

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