Oxygen and Cation Ordered Perovskite, \( \text{Ba}_2\text{Y}_2\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_{11} \)

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A three-step route has been developed for the synthesis of a new oxygen-ordered double perovskite, \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5.5} \) or \( \text{Ba}_2\text{Y}_2\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_{11} \). (i) The \( A \)-site cation ordered perovskite, \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta} \), is first synthesized at \( \delta \approx 0 \) by an oxygen-getter-controlled low-\( \text{O}_2 \)-pressure encapsulation technique utilizing \( \text{FeO} \) as the getter for excess oxygen. (ii) The as-synthesized, oxygen-deficient \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5.0} \) phase is then readily oxygenated to the \( \delta \approx 1 \) level by means of 1-atm-\( \text{O}_2 \) annealing at low temperatures. (iii) By annealing this fully-oxygenated \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{6.0} \) in flowing \( \text{N}_2 \) gas at moderate temperatures the new intermediate-oxygen-content oxide, \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5.5} \) or \( \text{Ba}_2\text{Y}_2\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_{11} \), is finally obtained. From thermogravimetric observation it is seen that the final oxygen depletion from \( \delta \approx 1.0 \) to 0.5 occurs in a single sharp step about 600 \(^\circ\)C, implying that the oxygen stoichiometry of \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta} \) is not continuously tunable within \( 0.5 < \delta < 1.0 \). For \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5.5} \) synchrotron x-ray diffraction analysis reveals an orthorhombic crystal lattice and a long-range ordering of the excess oxygen atoms in the \( \text{YO}_{0.5} \) layer. The magnetic behavior of \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5.5} \) (with a ferromagnetic transition at \( \sim 133 \) K) is found different from those previously reported for the known phases, \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{5.0} \) and \( \text{BaYMn}_2\text{O}_{6.0} \).

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1. Introduction

Cation-ordered perovskite oxides are promising candidates for novel functional materials. The structure of such oxides is derived from that of the simple perovskite, $ABO_3$, upon co-occupation of either the $A$ or the $B$ cation site with more than one metal species of different charges and/or sizes. Ordering at the $A$ site is typically achieved with divalent Ba ($A$ cation) and trivalent rare earth element, $RE$ ($A'$ cation). Moreover, oxygen-deficiency around the smaller $A'$ cation is common. By varying the $A:A'$ ratio (while keeping the $(A+A'):B$ ratio at 1:1), it is possible to build up layered perovskite structures consisting of $AO$, $A'O_\delta$ and $BO_2$ layers. For the $A:A'$ ratio of 1:1 and 2:1, oxygen-deficient $AA'B_2O_{5+\delta}$ double perovskite (DP) and $A_2A'B_3O_{6+\delta}$ triple perovskite (TP) structures are formed. Of the exciting phenomena so far revealed for such $A$-site ordered perovskites one may select as examples high-$T_c$ superconductivity (e.g. $Ba_2RECu_3O_{6+\delta}$ (TP) with $0.5 < \delta < 1.0$ [1]), magnetoresistivity (e.g. $Ba(Eu/Gd)Co_2O_{5+\delta}$ (DP) [2]), metal-insulator transition (e.g. $BaYCo_2O_{5.5}$ (DP) [3]), spin-state transition (e.g. $BaYCo_2O_{5.0}$ (DP) [4]) and simultaneous valence-separation and charge-ordering transition (e.g. $BaREFe_2O_{5.0}$ (DP) [5,6]).

The $A$-site ordered DP structure was first established for $BaRE(Cu_{0.5}Fe_{1-x})_2O_5$ with $RE = Y$ in 1988 [7]. Later the same structure has been observed for compounds with various $RE$s and $B$ constituents. The DP structure with the $B$ site being occupied only by a single element is known for $B = Co$ [8], Mn [9] and Fe [10]. For copper, the maximum $B$-site occupation so far reached is $x = 0.7$ in $(Ba,La)Y(Cu_{x}Fe_{1-x})_2O_{5+\delta}$ by means of ultra-high-pressure high-temperature treatment [11]. Of $BaREB_2O_{5+\delta}$ ($B = Co$, Fe and Mn), the phases with $B = Co$ are easiest to synthesize: they form in air, O$_2$ and N$_2$ atmospheres with most of the $RE$s and exhibit wide and tunable ranges of excess oxygen in the $REO_\delta$ layer [12,13]. The $B = Fe$ phases require strongly reduced oxygen pressures to form, but allow continuous tuning of the oxygen nonstoichiometry [5,10]. Among the three systems, the last is the most challenging: successful synthesis of the $B = Mn$ phases requires careful control of the redox conditions to avoid formation of stable binary oxides such as
BaMnO$_{3-\delta}$ [14]. Furthermore, the oxygenation/deoxygenation behavior of the BaREMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$ phases is not completely understood yet.

In the present contribution we present a three-step synthesis method to obtain a new intermediate-oxygen-content phase of BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$ or Ba$_2$Y$_2$Mn$_4$O$_{11}$ consisting of (i) oxygen-getter-controlled low-O$_2$-pressure encapsulation synthesis of high-quality samples of BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$ with $\delta \approx 0.0$, (ii) low-temperature post-annealing in O$_2$ to obtain the fully-oxygenated $\delta \approx 1.0$ compound, and (iii) subsequent annealing in N$_2$ at temperatures higher than 600 °C to finally reach the half-oxygenated $\delta \approx 0.5$ compound. Moreover, it is revealed that the excess-oxygen atoms are ordered in BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$. (So far the half-oxygenated, oxygen-ordered BaREMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$ phase has been reported only for the largest RE (= La) [15].)

2. Experimental

For the synthesis of BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$ samples with the $A$-site ordered double-perovskite structure an oxygen-getter-controlled low-O$_2$-pressure encapsulation technique was first developed. As a precursor for the encapsulation synthesis we used a cation-stoichiometric mixture of Y$_2$O$_3$, Mn$_3$O$_4$ and BaCO$_3$ preheated in flowing N$_2$ gas at 1000 °C for 24 hours. The calcined powder mixture was pressed into pellets which were then placed in an evacuated silica ampoule together with FeO powder, the function of which was to act as a getter for excess oxygen. The synthesis was carried out at 1100 °C for 48 hours. Then the ampoule was quenched to room temperature. To obtain fully oxygenated BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$, as-synthesized sample pellets were annealed in flowing O$_2$ gas at 600 °C for 48 hours. Intermediate-oxygen-stoichiometry samples were obtained by annealing the fully-oxygenated pellets in flowing N$_2$ gas at 800 °C for 48 hours. Both annealing treatments were carried out in a thermobalance (Perkin Elmer: Pyris 1 TGA) to in situ follow the changes occurring in the sample weight/oxygen content during annealing. The heating rate was 1 °C/min and the mass of the sample was ca. 100 mg. The
oxygenation period at 600 °C was followed by slow cooling (with a rate of 1 °C/min) down to room temperature, whereas after the deoxygenation treatment at 800 °C fast cooling (20 °C/min) was employed. In order to better observe the oxygen incorporation/depletion characteristics parallel oxygenation/deoxygenation TG experiments were carried out for powderized samples of ca. 100 mg. In these experiments the isothermal heating period (of 48 hours) applied for the pellet samples at the final temperature was omitted.

The precise oxygen content was determined by iodometric titration for the three samples: as-synthesized, O_2-annealed and N_2-annealed BaYMn_2O_{5+δ}. Parallel titration experiments were performed to warrant the obtained results. For the titration sample powder of ca. 20 mg was dissolved in deoxygenated 3 M HCl solution containing an excess of KI. The amount of I_2 liberated upon the reduction of higher-valent Mn species, i.e. Mn^{III} and/or Mn^{IV}, to Mn^{2+} ions was determined using 0.1 M Na_2S_2O_3 solution as the titrant. The titration experiment was carried out in N_2 atmosphere.

Magnetization of the samples was measured in a temperature range of 5 - 300 K under a magnetic field of 100 Oe using a SQUID magnetometer (Quantum Design: MPMS-XL5).

The lattice parameters and atomic positions of the samples were determined through Rietveld refinement (program Gsas) of synchrotron x-ray diffraction data collected at room temperature at SPring-8, Japan (beamline: BL02B2) using radiation with wavelength of 0.500981 Å. For these experiments the sample was crushed into fine powder and sealed in a quartz capillary of 0.1 mm in diameter. Taking an analogy to the case of oxygen-ordered BaLaMn_2O_{5.5} [15], the present half-oxygenated BaYMn_2O_{5.5} sample was indexed for an orthorhombic unit cell (space group Ammm) with the following relations to the simple perovskite unit cell; a = a_p, b = 2b_p and c = 4c_p, where the values of the parameters are, a = 3.771(1) Å, b = 8.1590(1) Å and c = 15.2709(3) Å. Very few faint reflections remained unindexed, the strongest among them being at d = 3.060 Å, which could be attributed to a trace of impurity, Y_2O_3. Refinement of the data confirmed that the amount of Y_2O_3 in the sample was less than 3 wt-%. Preliminary electron
diffraction (ED) data for the same half-oxygenated sample confirmed the superlattice due to oxygen ordering but showed even an additional set of weaker superspots for a repetition, $c = 8c_p$ [16]. Le Bail fitting of the x-ray diffraction pattern for such a supercell (assuming $Pnmm$) did not give any strong arguments for increasing the complexity of the structure model. The background was fitted with a 5th order polynomial (function #6 in Gsas). The peak profiles were described by pseudo-Voigt functions with additional corrections for peak asymmetry. Isotropic temperature factors were refined individually for the cations, whereas a single common factor was used for all the oxygen atoms. Table 1 provides the further details of the refinements.

3. Results and Discussion

The synchrotron x-ray diffraction data confirmed that the present oxygen-getter-controlled low-O$_2$-pressure encapsulation synthesis had yielded high-quality double-perovskite samples of BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$. No signs of the commonly observed impurity phases, BaO, Mn$_2$O$_3$, MnO, BaMnO$_{3.8}$ and YMnO$_{3.8}$ [17,18], were detected. We expect that the oxygen partial pressure at the synthesis temperature, i.e. 1100 °C, equilibrates at ca. $1.1 \times 10^{-10}$ atm due to the redox couple of FeO/Fe$_3$O$_4$ [19]. For the as-synthesized sample, iodometric titration revealed an essentially stoichiometric, oxygen-deficient oxygen content, $\delta = -0.02(1)$.

Once the $A$-site ordered, oxygen-deficient (here $\delta \approx 0$) double-perovskite framework of BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$ is formed under reduced oxygen partial pressures (here ca. $1.1 \times 10^{-10}$ atm), the phase can be oxygenated by means of post-annealing in 1-atm O$_2$ atmosphere. In Fig. 1(a) the thermogravimetric (TG) curve for the oxygenation of as-synthesized BaYMn$_2$O$_{4.98}$ (powder) at 600 °C is shown. Upon heating the sample (at a rate of 1 °C/min) incorporation of oxygen occurs in a single step in the temperature range of 250 - 400 °C. The weight gain corresponds to $\sim 0.9(1)$ oxygen atoms per formula unit, i.e. $\Delta \delta \approx 0.9(1)$. Iodometric titration revealed a value of 0.97(1) for the amount of excess oxygen, $\delta$, in the O$_2$-annealed sample. We may thus conclude in
agreement with previous reports [17,20] that an essentially fully-oxygenated BaY\(\text{Mn}_2\)O\(5+\delta\) (with \(\delta \approx 1\)) phase has been obtained from the oxygen-depleted BaY\(\text{Mn}_2\)O\(5+\delta\) (with \(\delta \approx 0\)) sample by means of the low-temperature \(\text{O}_2\) annealing.

In order to deoxygenate the fully-oxygenated Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5.97\) phase, the sample was annealed in a thermobalance in \(\text{N}_2\) at 800 °C. From the observed weight loss the magnitude of \(\Delta \delta\) was calculated at 0.5(1). In agreement with the TG result, iodometric titration revealed a value of \(\delta\), 0.54(1), for the \(\text{N}_2\)-annealed sample. The TG curve obtained for the \(\text{N}_2\) annealing of the powder sample is displayed in Fig. 1(b). It is seen that the weight loss occurs in a single sharp step around 550 - 650 °C. Attempts to obtain samples with \(0.5 < \delta < 1\) by means of \(\text{N}_2\) annealing at temperatures between 550 and 650 °C all ended up with depletion of oxygen down to the \(\delta \approx 0.5\) level. This is in drastic contrast to the case of the \(\text{BaRECO}_2\)O\(5+\delta\) double perovskites [13] for which continuous tuning of oxygen nonstoichiometry within \(0 < \delta < 0.7\) is possible by selecting a proper temperature for the \(\text{N}_2\) annealing in the temperature range of 300 - 1000 °C, i.e. “temperature-controlled oxygen-depletion (TCOD)” [21] annealing. The result obtained for the present Mn-based double-perovskite samples indicates that the phases of Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5+\delta\) with the amount of excess oxygen, \(\delta\), between 0.5 and 1.0 are not (easily) stabilized. Thus, only three distinct phases have been shown to exist in the Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5+\delta\) system: Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5.0\) (Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(4.98\)), Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5.5\) or \(\text{Ba}_2\text{Y}_2\text{Mn}_4\)O\(11\) (Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5.54\)), and Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(6.0\) (Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5.97\)). Among these, the first [9,20] and the last [17,22] have been reported earlier whereas the one with the intermediate oxygen content is a new phase. In Fig. 2, we represent schematic illustrations of crystal structures of the three phases.

Synchrotron x-ray diffraction patterns for the samples are shown in Fig. 3. Refinement of the diffraction data confirmed the \(P4/nmm\) [20] description for Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(5.0\) with the lattice parameters, \(a = 5.5494(1)\) Å and \(c = 7.6523(1)\) Å, which are consistent with those previously reported [20]. Since atomic positions for the Ba\(\text{Y Mn}_2\)O\(6.0\) phase had not been published, the unit cell was refined by Le Bail fitting based on the proposed monoclinic structure of space group \(P2\)
The derived values, \(a = 5.5250(2) \text{ Å}, \ b = 5.5197(2) \text{ Å}, \ c = 7.6092(1) \text{ Å} \) and \(\beta = 90.294(2)^\circ\), are close to those reported in Ref. [22]. For the new BaYMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) phase the diffraction pattern was compatible with space group \(Ammm\), which had previously been revealed for BaLaMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) [15]. The fitted pattern is shown in Fig. 4. Final atomic coordinates and displacement parameters are presented in Table 2 and the cation-oxygen bond distances and the corresponding bond-valence-sum values in Table 3. In Fig. 5, plotted are the lattice parameters and unit volume (as expressed in terms of the simple perovskite unit cell for convenience) for all the three phases against \(\delta\). As the amount of excess oxygen increases the unit volume gradually decreases. For BaYMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) the lattice is clearly orthorhombic. For the Co-based analog, BaYCo\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\), both tetragonal and orthorhombic variants are reported [3], obtained by means of fast cooling and slow cooling, respectively. There the orthorhombic splitting is assumed to originate from ordering of excess oxygen atoms within the YO\(_{0.5}\) layer [3]. Such ordering has recently been confirmed for orthorhombic BaLaMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) [15].

For the BaYMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) sample the Rietveld refinements gave an excellent fit to an orthorhombic structure with oxygen ordering (Fig. 4). In the crystal structure, barium and yttrium takes twelve and ten coordinated sites, respectively (Table 3). There are two types of isovalent manganese atoms; bond-valence-sum calculation revealed a valence value of 3.32/3.30 for Mn1/Mn2 (Table 3) in accordance with the expected oxidation state of III. The octahedral Mn2 site is strongly distorted, with roughly a \((4 + 2)\) Mn-O coordination. This is in agreement with a \(d^4\) Jahn-Teller state of HS Mn\(^{\text{III}}\). The same applies for the square-pyramidal Mn1 site. Similar findings have been reported for BaLaMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) [15].

The preliminary ED data for BaYMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) [16] differ from those published for BaLaMn\(_2\)O\(_{5.5}\) [15] by showing additional spots that correspond to a repetition \(c = 8c_p\), \(i.e.\) twice the \(c\) axis now adopted. In this respect we noticed that the refined common displacement factor for the oxygen atoms is unusually large. Refinements of individual displacement factors showed that O3 is behaving anomalously. One possibility is vacancies, which is, however, not supported by the
result of iodometric titration analysis, giving rather a slightly oxygen-rich composition of BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.54}$. Although refinements of the O3 occupation number improved the $R$-factors significantly, this was considered to be an artifact since the thereby deduced oxygen content ($\delta = 0.32$) was too low. Instead, an anisotropic description of the displacement parameters gave large values for U11 and U22. This indicates that the O3 atom may be described as a split atom in the $xy$-plane (oxygen content fixed to the value determined by iodometry); refined coordinates are (0.581, 0.053, 0.087) for a 25 % occupied 16-fold site. The present data do not allow further elaboration, but it is likely that the superstructure spots seen in the ED patterns actually reflect an ordered distribution of the $xy$-displacements now refined for the O3 atom. Structurally, the O3 distribution is of major importance for the Mn1 square-pyramidal coordination.

The results of magnetization measurements showed new features for BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$ as compared with the earlier findings for both BaYMn$_2$O$_5$ and BaYMn$_2$O$_6$ (Fig. 6). The oxygen-free BaYMn$_2$O$_5$ has been reported to be a ferrimagnetic insulator below 165 - 167 K [9,20] exhibiting Mn$^{2+}$/Mn$^{3+}$ charge, orbital and spin orderings. For the present BaYMn$_2$O$_{4.98}$ sample, a ferrimagnetic transition is seen at 166 K; the observed magnetization of $\sim$0.66 $\mu_B$ per Mn site is slightly larger than the previously observed value of 0.475 $\mu_B$ [20] and the expected value of 0.5 $\mu_B$ per formula Mn site. The fully-oxygenated BaYMn$_2$O$_6$ phase shows CE-type Mn$^{3+}$/Mn$^{4+}$ charge and orbital orderings at room temperature, and antiferromagnetic ordering below $\sim$200 K according to a recent report [17]. For the present BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.97}$ sample an antiferromagnetic transition is determined at 179 K. Additionally an upturn in the magnetization curve is seen about 45 K. A similar but weaker feature is also visible in the data of Ref. [17], though not addressed by the authors. The magnetization curve for the BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.54}$ sample indicates a complex behaviour with two magnetic transitions about 133 K and 42 K. The higher-temperature transition is of ferro/ferrimagnetic type, corresponding to magnetization of 1.13 x10$^{-3}$ $\mu_B$ per Mn site. For the La-based oxygen-ordered compound, BaLaMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$, Caignaert et al. [15] concluded from neutron powder diffraction data an original magnetic structure with ferromagnetic spinladders along the
b-axis that are antiferromagnetically coupled along the a- and c-axes. The magnetic transition temperature was determined about 185 K. The lower-temperature transition for the BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.54}$ sample is akin to that seen for the BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.97}$ sample, suggesting that it may be originated from an impurity phase, such as BaMnO$_3$ [24] or Ba$_4$Mn$_3$O$_{10}$ [25], though not detected in diffraction patterns. We have initiated a neutron powder diffraction study to characterize the magnetic structures of the three BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$ phases in detail and especially that of the new $\delta \approx 0.5$ phase.

4. Conclusion

We developed a three-step synthesis route to obtain a new oxygen and A-site cation ordered perovskite phase, BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$. The route passed through intermediate steps where high-quality samples of the known BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.0}$ and BaYMn$_2$O$_{6.0}$ phases were yielded. For the new phase synchrotron x-ray diffraction analysis revealed an orthorhombic crystal structure and a long-range ordering of the excess oxygen atoms in the YO$_{0.5}$ layer giving rise to octahedrally and square-pyramidally coordinated trivalent manganese. In the magnetization experiments the phase showed a ferro/ferrimagnetic transition around 133 K.

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Table 1. Experimental conditions and relevant data for the Rietveld refinements of synchrotron powder x-ray diffraction data of Ba$_2$Y$_2$Mn$_4$O$_{11}$ (BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$) at 298 K.

| Parameter                                      | Value                        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pattern range 2θ (°)                           | 3 - 40                       |
| Step size Δ2θ (°)                              | 0.01                         |
| Wavelength (Å)                                 | 0.50098                      |
| Space group                                    | Ammm                        |
| a (Å)                                          | 3.771(1)                     |
| b (Å)                                          | 8.1590(1)                    |
| c (Å)                                          | 15.2709(3)                   |
| Z (Ba$_2$Y$_2$Mn$_4$O$_{11}$)                  | 2                            |
| V (Å$^3$)                                      | 469.95(1)                    |
| No. observations                               | 3700                         |
| No. reflections                                | 414                          |
| No. refined params.                            | 21                           |
| $R_{\text{exp}}$                               | 0.029                        |
| $R_{\text{wp}}$                                | 0.064                        |
| $R_F^2$                                        | 0.059                        |
Table 2. Atomic coordinates for Ba$_2$Y$_2$Mn$_4$O$_{11}$ (BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$) at 298 K as derived from Rietveld refinements of synchrotron powder x-ray diffraction data, calculated standard deviations in parentheses. Space group $Ammm$.

| Atom | $x$  | $y$          | $z$  | $U_{iso}$ (Å$^2$) |
|------|-----|-------------|-----|-----------------|
| Y    | 0.5 | 0.2731(3)   | 0   | 0.51(7)         |
| Ba   | 0.5 | 0.25        | 0.25| 0.91(5)         |
| Mn1  | 0.0 | 0.0         | 0.1145(3) | 0.10(5)        |
| Mn2  | 0.0 | 0.0         | 0.3784(4) | 0.10(5)        |
| O1   | 0.0 | 0.2228(12)  | 0.1009(5) | 3.05(15)       |
| O2   | 0.0 | 0.0         | 0.2525(17)| 3.05(15)       |
| O3*  | 0.5 | 0.0         | 0.0877(10)| 3.05(15)       |
| O4   | 0.5 | 0.0         | 0.3843(13)| 3.05(15)       |
| O5   | 0.0 | 0.0         | 0.5   | 3.05(15)        |

* refined as split atom, 0.581(7), 0.053(2), 0.0874(9); occupation $1/4$. $U_{iso}$(oxygen) = 2.03(15) Å$^2$. 

Table 3. Selected interatomic distances for $\text{Ba}_2\text{Y}_2\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_{11}$ (BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$), calculated on the basis of results from Rietveld refinements of synchrotron powder x-ray diffraction data, calculated standard deviations in parentheses. The values for bond-valence-sums are calculated using the parameters of Ref. [23].

| Bond   | Distance (in Å) | Bond Valence Sum |
|--------|-----------------|------------------|
| Y-O1   | 2.469(5) x 4    |                  |
| Y-O3   | 2.599(8) x 2    | 2.40             |
| Y-O4   | 2.559(14) x 2   |                  |
| Y-O5   | 2.643(1) x 2    |                  |
| Ba-O1  | 2.965(6) x 4    |                  |
| Ba-O2  | 2.7783(4) x 4   | 2.47             |
| Ba-O4  | 2.893(15) x 2   |                  |
| Mn1-O1 | 1.830(10) x 2   |                  |
| Mn1-O2 | 2.104 (26)      | 3.32             |
| Mn1-O3 | 1.931(4) x 2    |                  |
| Mn2-O1 | 2.285(10) x 2   |                  |
| Mn2-O2 | 1.915(26)       | 3.30             |
| Mn2-O4 | 1.888(1) x 2    |                  |
| Mn2-O5 | 1.864(6)        |                  |
FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig. 1. TG curves for (a) oxygenation of as-synthesized BaYMn$_2$O$_{4.98}$ in O$_2$, and (b) deoxygenation of oxygenated BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.97}$ in N$_2$. The precise oxygen content given for the starting material and the ending product of the TG annealing is a value obtained from iodometric titration. The $\Delta\delta$ value is calculated from the observed weight loss.

Fig. 2. Schematic illustration of the crystal structures of the three compounds, BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.0}$, BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.5}$ and BaYMn$_2$O$_{6.0}$.

Fig. 3. Synchrotron x-ray diffraction patterns for the three samples: BaYMn$_2$O$_{4.98}$, BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.54}$ and BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.97}$.

Fig. 4. Fitting of the synchrotron x-ray diffraction pattern for the BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.54}$ sample: observed (crosses) and calculated (solid line) intensities. The residuals between the observed and calculated intensities are shown in the bottom.

Fig. 5. Lattice parameters, $a_p$, $b_p$ and $c_p$, and the unit volume ($V_p$) of the simple perovskite unit cell plotted against oxygen content for the three BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$ samples, $\delta = 0.02$, $0.54$ and $0.97$. The following relation apply between the lattice parameters, $a$, $b$ and $c$, and the given simple-perovskite unit cell parameters: $a = a_p, b = \sqrt{2}b_p$ and $c = 2c_p$ for BaYMn$_2$O$_{4.98}$; $a = a_p, b = 2b_p$ and $c = 4c_p$ for BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.54}$; $a = \sqrt{2}a_p, b = \sqrt{2}b_p$ and $c = 2c_p$ for BaYMn$_2$O$_{5.97}$.

Fig. 6. Magnetization versus temperature behaviour for the three BaYMn$_2$O$_{5+\delta}$ samples, $\delta = -0.02$, $0.54$ and $0.97$. 
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