Reducing the positional modulation of NbO$_6$-octahedra in Sr$_x$Ba$_{1-x}$Nb$_2$O$_6$ by increasing the barium content: A single crystal neutron diffraction study at ambient temperature for $x = 0.61$ and $x = 0.34$

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Influencing positional modulation / Optical materials / Modulated structure / Single crystal structure analysis / Neutron diffraction

Abstract. We report on the influence of the barium content on the modulation amplitude in Sr$_{0.61}$Ba$_{0.39}$Nb$_2$O$_6$ compounds by comparing Sr$_{0.34}$Ba$_{0.66}$Nb$_2$O$_6$ (SBN34) and Sr$_{0.61}$Ba$_{0.39}$Nb$_2$O$_6$ (SBN61). Our single crystal neutron diffraction results demonstrate that the amplitude of the positional modulation of the NbO$_6$ octahedra is reduced with increasing barium content, indicating that the origin of the modulation is the partial occupation of the pentagonal channels by Sr and Ba atoms. By increasing the Sr content the bigger Ba atoms are replaced by the smaller Sr atoms, which leads to a larger deformation of the surrounding lattice and hence to a larger modulation amplitude. The more homogeneous the filling of these channels along the $c$-axis of square cross section. The Sr atoms occupy positions of symmetry 4 inside these square channels along the $c$-axis forming alternating five and four-membered infinite chains of the composition [NbO$_5$]$^-$ along the crystallographic c-axis. The Nb(1)–O$_6$–octahedra have point-symmetry mm2 and form infinite chains of the composition [NbO$_5$]$^-$ along the crystallographic c-axis. The Nb(2)–O$_6$–octahedra are located in general positions (point symmetry 1) and form channels along the c-axis of square cross section. The Sr atoms occupy positions of symmetry 4 inside these square channels. This is illustrated in Fig. 1 showing the pentagonal channels A1 occupied by Sr only and the channels A2 filled by Sr/Ba. The trigonal channels C remain empty. The pentagonal channels are wider than the square chan-

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nals. All the Ba and some of the Sr atoms are located in such larger channels (point symmetry m), which are not fully occupied. Five Sr and Ba atoms are distributed over six sites. In the early structure determinations of SBN [16] split positions for oxygen atoms were introduced to account for the disorder caused by the Sr/Ba distribution in the crystals. Later Schneck et al. [13] observed satellite spots at positions \( \left( h \pm \frac{1}{2}, k \pm \frac{1}{2}, l \pm \frac{1}{2} \right) \) with \( \delta = 0.26(5) \) in \( \text{Sr}_{0.71}\text{Ba}_{0.29}\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6 \), which revealed the incommensurate nature of the structural modulation. These results were confirmed by Balagurov et al. [14] in neutron time-of-flight measurements on \( \text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6 \) where \( \delta = 0.22(1) \) was found. More time-of-flight studies revealed that the modulation parameter \( \delta \) is slightly decreasing with decreasing Sr-concentration \( x \) for different compositions \( 0.46 < x < 0.75 \) [17]. From electron diffraction measurements on \( \text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6 \) \( \delta = 0.190(5) \) was reported [18]. Only recently X-ray measurements with a systematic collection of satellite reflections were performed on a \( \text{Sr}_{0.61}\text{Ba}_{0.39}\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6 \) single crystal and subsequently analyzed in terms of the superspace formalism [19].

Recently the average structure of \( \text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6 \) in the composition range \( 0.32 < x < 0.82 \) was systematically investigated by X-ray diffraction [21]. It was shown that the lattice parameters \( a \) and \( c \) decrease with increasing strontium content, which could be ascribed to the exchange of Ba by Sr in the pentagonal A2 channels. The occupation of the square A1 channels remains nearly constant for all concentrations \( x \). In order to explore the influence of the composition \( x \) on the modulated structure and its physical origin in SBN we present here a neutron diffraction investigation on single crystals of \( \text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6 \) with the two compositions \( x = 0.61 \) and \( x = 0.34 \). As demonstrated in a recent powder diffraction study on SBN [22], neutron diffraction is especially suited for this kind of structural investigation, because the neutron scattering length of \( \text{O} (5.803 \text{ fm}) \) is of the same order of magnitude as that of the heavy nuclei \( \text{Sr} (7.02 \text{ fm}) \) and \( \text{Ba} (5.06 \text{ fm}) \). Therefore the description of a positional modulation of the oxygen atoms beside the heavy atoms strontium and barium is possible with high accuracy. A second reason to use neutron diffraction is the fact, that neutrons are scattered by the nucleus, making them very sensitive to positional disorder as shown e.g. by many studies investigating \( \text{Cu} - \text{O} \) distances in high-temperature superconductors as successfully shown by [23]. The data are analyzed using the superspace approach for the description of the two-dimensional incommensurate modulation.

2. Experimental and computational details

The crystals of SBN61 and SBN34 were grown by the Czochralski method in the crystal growth laboratory of the University of Osnabrück.

For the q-scans on SBN61 on the cold triple axis spectrometer TASP [24]/SINQ [25] and the measurements on TriCS/SINQ, a crystal of size \( 4 \times 4 \times 5 \text{ mm}^3 \) was poled by applying an electric field of 500 V/mm along the crystallographic c-axis during 6 hours at 23 °C. The same SBN61 crystal was polarised by applying 270 V/mm at \( T = 130 \text{ °C} \) and field-cooled down to room temperature before the full data collection on the Hot neutron diffractometer 5C2/LLB (dataset 1). An additional dataset on the same SBN61 crystal has been collected at TriCS (Table VII–IX, appendix [27]) in order to test the crystal for the 5C2/LLB measurement and to make first searches for potential second order satellites.

The SBN61 (dataset 1) crystal has an almost cubic shape with minor crystallographic faces on the edges. The size of the unpoled crystal of SBN34 measured on TriCS/SINQ (dataset 2) has maximum dimensions \( 9 \times 9 \times 9 \text{ mm}^3 \) with non rectangular faces of known crystallographic orientation. All experimental conditions are listed in Table I.

2.1 Data collection

For the data collection, we doubled the tetragonal c-axis in order to match the later refinement with the incommensurate modulation vectors \( Q_{1/2} = (a, \pm a/2, 1/2) \) when using the original cell. This simple transformation with twice the \( c \) parameter of the original cell makes it possible to separate internal and external parameters completely. It leads to an additional centering which can be characterized by one non-primitive centering vector, \((0, 0, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2)\). The modulated structure satellite reflections are consequently at positions given by the modulation vectors \( Q_{1/2} = a \cdot (a^b \pm b^c) \) with \( a = 0.3075 \) for SBN61 and \( a = 0.2958 \) for SBN34, respectively, with \( c = 2 \cdot c_{\text{ps}} \). Data sets were collected on the instruments 5C2/LLB (SBN61, dataset 1) and TriCS/SINQ (SBN34, dataset 2). Data collections were performed using \( o \)-scans and single detectors for

![Fig. 1. Projection of \( \text{Sr}_{0.61}\text{Ba}_{0.39}\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6 \) along the c-axis. The pentagonal channels A2 are filled by strontium and barium (Sr2/Ba1), the tetragonal channels A1 by strontium (Sr1) only, and the trigonal channels C remain empty. 5 Sr/Ba atoms are distributed over 6 A1/A2 sites.](image-url)
all instruments. Lorenz correction has been applied to all datasets. Absorption was corrected in JANA2000 [28] using the exact shape of the crystal.

The TASP/SINQ instrument was used to perform high-resolution $q$-scans in order to search weak higher order satellites not detected on the single crystal diffraction instruments. TASP is especially suited for this purpose due to its very low background: High collimation and suppressing inelastic scattering increase the peak-to-background relation on this instrument dramatically in respect to conventional diffraction instruments such as 5C2 or TriCS.

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Table 1. Experimental data collection parameters for Sr$_{1-x}$Ba$_x$Nb$_2$O$_6$, SBN61 ($x = 0.61$) and SBN34 ($x = 0.34$), at ambient temperature. The detailed results are listed in a separated appendix [27].

| Dataset | 5C2/LLB | TriCS/SINQ |
|---------|---------|------------|
|         | SBN61   | SBN34      |
| Space group | $P4bm (\alpha, \alpha, \alpha - \alpha, \frac{1}{2})$ | $P4bm (\alpha, \alpha, \alpha - \alpha, \frac{1}{2})$ |
| $Z$      | 10      | 10         |
| Radiation | $n$     | $n$        |
| Wavelength $\lambda$ (Å) | 0.835(1) | 1.1800(13) |
| $T$ (K)  | 300     | 300        |
| $\alpha = b$ (Å) | 12.4815(3) | 12.4968(30) |
| $c = 2 \cdot c_{av}$ (Å) | 7.8856(2) | 7.9604(20) |
| $Q_{1,2} = \alpha \cdot (a^* \pm b^*)$, $\alpha =$ | 0.3075 | 0.2958 |
| $V$ (Å$^3$) | 1228.5 | 1243.2 |
| $d$ (g/cm$^3$) | 5.256 | 5.371 |
| $[\sin (\theta)/\lambda]_{max}$ (Å$^{-1}$) | 1.00 | 0.694 |
| abs. coeff. (mm$^{-1}$) | 0.001 | 0.0018 |
| $T_{max}$ | 0.9953 | 0.9881 |
| $T_{min}$ | 0.9944 | 0.9866 |
| Crystal dimensions $a \cdot b \cdot c$ (mm$^3$) | $4 \cdot 4 \cdot 5$ | $8.7 \cdot 8.5 \cdot 8.92$ |
| Polarisation [V/mm], Temperature [deg C] | 270, 130 | not poled |
| Crystal volume (mm$^3$) | 80 | 457 |
| $h_{max}$ | 24 | 14 |
| $k_{max}$ | 17 | 15 |
| $l_{max}$ | 15 | 9 |
| $m_{max}$ | 1 | 1 |
| $n_{max}$ | 1 | 1 |
| No. of refined reflections | 5256 | 1236 |
| No. of obs. reflections ($I > 3\sigma$) | 2527 | 3620 |
| No. of obs. main reflections ($I > 3\sigma$) | 1220 | 459 |
| No. of obs. first order satellite reflections ($I > 3\sigma$) | 1307 | 777 |
| No. of obs. second order satellite reflections ($I > 3\sigma$) | 0 | – |
| No. of measured second order satellite reflections | 829 | – |
| $R_{int}$ | 0.0285 | 0.015 |
| $S$ | 7.39 | 6.96 |
| $R_{obs}$, $R_{all}$ | 11.56 | 9.06 |
| $R_{e, obs}$, $R_{e, all}$ | 9.08 | 11.16 |
| Main reflections | | |
| $R_{obs}$, $R_{all}$ | 5.79 | 7.15 |
| $R_{e, obs}$, $R_{e, all}$ | 6.38 | 10.39 |
| Satellites of order 1 | | |
| $R_{obs}$, $R_{all}$ | 21.24 | 13.86 |
| $R_{e, obs}$, $R_{e, all}$ | 19.23 | 13.46 |

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1 Further details of the crystal structure investigation can be obtained from the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany, (fax: (49) 7247-808-666; e-mail: mailto:crysdata@fiz-karlsruhe.de) on quoting the depository number CSD-419493.

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2.2 Refinement

The average structure is refined in the space group \(P4bm\) (No. 100). The tetragonal lattice parameters are \(c = 7.8856(2) \text{ Å} \) and \(a = 12.4815(3) \text{ Å} \) (\(c = 2 \cdot c_{\text{av}}\) has been doubled). The Ba content is fixed at \(1 - x = 0.39\) for SBN61 and \(1 - x = 0.66\) for SBN34. These values were determined by X-ray fluorescence [1] and neutron activation [29] analysis. The sum of the occupancies of atoms Sr1, Sr2 and Ba2 was constrained to 1. The coordinates as well as the displacement parameters of the Atoms Sr2 and Ba2 were constrained to 1. The coordinates as well as the displacement parameters of the Sr2 and Ba2 atoms in channel A2 in a statistical manner, are constrained. Isotropic extinction correction Type I (Lorentz distribution of mosaics) has been applied [30–32]. For the modulated structures, the superspace group \(P4bm\) \((\alpha, \alpha, \frac{1}{2}, \alpha - \alpha, \frac{1}{2})\) as tabulated by De Wolff [33] has been used. The refinement has been done in 5-dimensional superspace as described by de Wolff [33] and Janner & Janssen [34, 35] using the program JANA2000 [28]. The details of this concept for the present case (2 modulation vectors, 5 dimensional space) are given in Refs. [19] or [36].

3. Results

Main structural results are discussed on the example of SBN61, since the peculiarities of the modulated structure are more pronounced than in SBN34. Furthermore the results can be compared to the available X-ray refinement [19]. On the other hand, the comparison to the results of the SBN34 structural analysis gives clear evidence of the origin of the modulation. In order to clarify a possible disorder of the strontium and barium sites and to estimate the influence of anisotropic temperature factors we have also analysed the average structure of SBN61 carefully. This procedure is necessary for a sound interpretation of the subsequent modulated refinements.

3.1 Average structure of SBN61

The average structure has been refined using a fixed Ba content of \(1 - x = 0.39\). The tetragonal lattice parameters are \(a = 12.481(8) \text{ Å} \), \(c = 7.885(6) \text{ Å} \) (also in this case, we used \(c = 2 \cdot c_{\text{av}}\) for better comparison of the results). The refinement with isotropic displacement parameters \(U_{\text{iso}}\) yields agreement factors \(R = 0.195\) and Goodness of fit \(S = 26.3\). The refined parameters are given in [20]. The refinement can be improved by introducing anisotropic displacement parameters \(U_{ij}\) \((i, j = 1, 2, 3)\) yielding \(R = 0.093, S = 12.2\), at the cost of negative values for the atom Nb1 (Tables VII and X in the appendix [27]). In both cases large displacement parameters are obtained for Sr2/Ba2 and all oxygen atoms. Sr2/Ba2, O4 and O5 exhibit large values of \(U_{ij}\), whereas for O1, O2 and O3 large values of \(U_{ij}\) are obtained, indicating that the modulation of the former are within the tetragonal plane, whereas that of the latter are along the crystallographic c-direction. Refining the atoms Sr2/Ba2 unrestricted does not improve the quality of the fit and is therefore not considered for the final refinement. Looking at the difference Fourier map (Fig. 2) one can clearly see the mismatch in the refinement at the O4 and partially O5 positions for SBN61. Refining split positions for the O4 atom improves the agreement factors significantly to \(R = 0.063\) but at the cost of negative displacement parameters for several atoms and is therefore discarded as an unphysical solution of the structure. As is evident from the difference Fourier map (Fig. 2), one would have to introduce more than two positions to describe the behavior at the O5 position. The refinement of the average structure from neutron data is in agreement with that observed by X-rays [19], but also shows that the inclusion of a modulation as done in the next section is imperative.

3.2 Modulated structures of SBN61 and SBN34

The analysis of the modulated structure is done using the superspace approach. Thereby the incommensurate modulation is described using a five-dimensional space, in order to account for the two modulation vectors \(Q_{12} = (\alpha, \pm \alpha, 0)\), where \(Q_{12}\) is in respect to the doubled c-axis as defined in Table 1. The method is summarized in detail in Ref. [19, 27].

The refinements are performed in the superspace group \(P4bm\) \((\alpha c/2, \alpha - \alpha c/2)\). Starting from the average structure, two harmonic positional modulation waves are introduced for all atoms. Again, the parameters of Sr2 and Ba2 located in channel A2 (see Fig. 1) are constrained to have identical positional and displacement parameters in all refinements. Introduction of an additional occupational disorder function for Sr2 and Ba2 did not result in significant improvements of the agreement factors and was therefore not taken into account in the final refinement. However we introduced two modulation waves for the displacement parameters of the Sr2/Ba2 atoms in order to take into account that two different atoms occupy the same positions. These two modulation waves then incorporate effects originating from the slightly varying positions of Sr2/Ba2 in the disordered lattice, e.g., different orientations of the
Table 2. Atomic Fourier amplitudes of selected atoms in SBN61/LLB (dataset 1) and SBN34/TriCS (dataset 3) at ambient temperature of the displaceable modulation functions (details of the formalism are given in Eq. 3.24 in [36]. The full table is given in an appendix [27]. Wave symbol c correspond to a cosine, s to a sine modulation, 1 and 2 to modulation vectors \( \mathbf{Q}_{1,2} \).

| atom wave x | SBN61, SC2, dataset 1 | SBN34, TriCS, dataset 2 |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| s, 1, 0 | -0.0024(4) | 0.0001(6) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0 | 0.0004(10) |
| s, 0, 1 | 0.0010(5) | -0.0006(6) |
| c, 0, 1 | 0 | 0.0022(10) |
| Nb2 | 0.07463(6) | 0.007397(10) |
| s, 1, 0 | -0.0010(4) | -0.0005(5) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0.0011(4) | 0.0016(5) |
| s, 0, 1 | -0.0039(4) | -0.0007(5) |
| c, 0, 1 | 0.0021(4) | 0.0010(4) |
| Sr1 | 0 | 0.21681(6) |
| s, 1, 0 | -0.0014(6) | 0.0006(5) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0.0035(6) | 0.0026(6) |
| s, 0, 1 | 0.0030(6) | 0.0013(6) |
| c, 0, 1 | 0 | 0.0013(14) |
| Ba1 | 0.17215(11) | 0.1729 |
| s, 1, 0 | 0.0032(5) | 0.0001(4) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0.0024(6) | 0.0004(4) |
| s, 0, 1 | 0.0057(10) | 0.0060(5) |
| c, 0, 1 | -0.0038(6) | -0.0016(4) |
| Sr2 | 0.1721 | 0.17295(16) |
| s, 1, 0 | 0.0032(5) | 0.0001(4) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0.0024(6) | 0.0004(4) |
| s, 0, 1 | 0.0057(10) | 0.0060(5) |
| c, 0, 1 | -0.0038(6) | -0.0016(4) |
| O1 | 0.21835(10) | 0.21663(14) |
| s, 1, 0 | 0.0037(9) | 0.0001(4) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0.0028(8) | 0.0005(7) |
| s, 0, 1 | -0.0024(7) | 0.0009(6) |
| c, 0, 1 | -0.0032(7) | -0.0017(7) |
| O2 | 0.13938(10) | 0.14047(15) |
| s, 1, 0 | -0.0005(8) | 0.0001(7) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0.0027(8) | 0.0016(7) |
| s, 0, 1 | -0.0055(8) | 0.0034(7) |
| c, 0, 1 | 0.0039(8) | 0.0035(7) |
| O3 | -0.00585(10) | 0.343757(9) |
| s, 1, 0 | 0.0037(9) | 0.343757(9) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0.0058(8) | 0.343757(9) |
| s, 0, 1 | -0.0041(6) | -0.0027(7) |
| c, 0, 1 | 0.0030(9) | 0.0027(7) |
| O4 | 0.07605(18) | 0.07492(15) |
| s, 1, 0 | 0.0013(7) | 0.0004(5) |
| c, 1, 0 | -0.0025(4) | -0.0011(5) |
| s, 0, 1 | 0.0087(7) | 0.0091(8) |
| c, 0, 1 | 0.0104(6) | 0.0101(5) |
| O5 | 0 | 0.0017(6) |
| s, 1, 0 | -0.0185(6) | -0.0176(6) |
| c, 1, 0 | 0 | 0.002(2) |
| s, 0, 1 | 0.0163(4) | 0.0117(6) |
| c, 0, 1 | 0 | 0.0012(16) |
vectors are indicated by modulation waves belonging to the two modulation listed in Table 4. The sine- and cosine part of the harmonics obtained from SBN34. A comparison between selected values is possible from the supplementary material [27]. It can be seen that the form of the modulation is the same for SBN61 and SBN34, but the amplitude is reduced by a factor of 2. This difference in modulation amplitude is even more pronounced with Nb2–O4 the difference is even more pronounced with distances of 1.959(14) Å and 2.13(2) Å for Nb2–O4–O4′, the difference is even more pronounced with distances of 1.959(14) Å and 2.202(19) Å/2.280(19) Å for SBN61 and SBN34, respectively. For Nb2–O4–O4′, the difference in modulation amplitude is also reflected in the minimal/maximal distances (selected values listed in Table 4, full listing see Tables III/IV and VII/VII of the supplementary material [27]), where for Nb2–O4 min/max distances of 1.721(14) Å/2.029(15) Å and 1.746(19) Å/2.010(19) Å are found for SBN61 and SBN34, respectively. For Nb2–O4–O4′ the difference is even more pronounced with distances of 1.959(14) Å/2.213(15) Å and 2.202(19) Å/2.280(19) Å for SBN61 and SBN34, respectively. In both cases the average distances, 1.889(15) Å/1.87(2) Å for Nb2–O4 and 2.109(15) Å/2.13(2) Å for Nb2–O4–O4′, are the same within experimental error for SBN61 and SBN34. Compared to the results of the X-ray study for SBN61 [19], where the interatomic distances Nb2–O5 and Nb2–O5′ (O4 and O5 are interchanged in the two papers) range from 1.79(3) Å to 1.98(3) Å, our study shows values between 1.95(3) Å and 2.18(3) Å. Hence the

| Table 3. Symmetry codes used in JANA2000. |
|----------------------------------------|
| (i) x1 x2 x3 x4 |
| (ii) 1/2 - x1 1/2 + x2 x3 -x5 -x4 |
| (iii) x1 -x2 -x3 -x4 |
| (iv) 1/2 - x2 1/2 - x1 x3 -x4 x5 |
| (v) x2 -x1 x3 -x5 x4 |
| (vi) 1/2 + x1 1/2 - x2 x3 x5 x4 |
| (vii) 1/2 + x2 1/2 + x1 x3 x4 -x5 |

The full parameter set of the final refinement are available from the supplementary material [27]. It can be seen that the form of the modulation is the same for SBN61 and SBN34, but the amplitude is reduced by a factor of two in SBN34. A comparison between selected values is listed in Table 4. The sine- and cosine part of the harmonic modulation waves belonging to the two modulation vectors are indicated by s, m, n and c, m, n (m, n = 0, 1), e.g. s1, 0, 0 is the sinusoidal modulation contribution from the modulation vector q1. Overall the atoms Sr2/Ba2, O4, and O5 are modulated in the tetragonal ab-plane whereas the atoms O1, O2, and O3 are mainly modulated along the c-direction of the crystal. The atoms Nb1, Nb2, and Sr1 exhibit only a small positional modulation. Taking exemplarily the atom O4 (which has the highest modulation amplitude) for comparison of SBN61 and SBN34, we find that the s, 1, 0 amplitudes are reduced by a factor of 3 and the c, 1, 0 amplitudes by a factor of 2. This difference in modulation amplitude is then also reflected in the minimal/maximal distances (selected values listed in Table 4, full listing see Tables III/IV and VII/VII of the supplementary material [27]), where for Nb2–O4 min/max distances of 1.721(14) Å/2.029(15) Å and 1.746(19) Å/2.010(19) Å are found for SBN61 and SBN34, respectively. For Nb2–O4–O4′ the difference is even more pronounced with distances of 1.959(14) Å/2.213(15) Å and 2.202(19) Å/2.280(19) Å for SBN61 and SBN34, respectively. In both cases the average distances, 1.889(15) Å/1.87(2) Å for Nb2–O4 and 2.109(15) Å/2.13(2) Å for Nb2–O4–O4′, are the same within experimental error for SBN61 and SBN34. Compared to the results of the X-ray study for SBN61 [19], where the interatomic distances Nb2–O5 and Nb2–O5′ (O4 and O5 are interchanged in the two papers) range from 1.79(3) Å to 1.98(3) Å, our study shows values between 1.95(3) Å and 2.18(3) Å. Hence the

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| (v) x2 -x1 x3 -x5 x4 |
| (vi) 1/2 + x1 1/2 - x2 x3 x5 x4 |
| (vii) 1/2 + x2 1/2 + x1 x3 x4 -x5 |

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| (v) x2 -x1 x3 -x5 x4 |
| (vi) 1/2 + x1 1/2 - x2 x3 x5 x4 |
| (vii) 1/2 + x2 1/2 + x1 x3 x4 -x5 |
The modulation of the Nb2–O4/O4 distances in SBN61 of 0.30(3)Å/0.25(3)Å in the neutron case is significantly larger than the 0.19(6)Å/0.23(6)Å found in the X-ray study. This fact is also nicely observed in the Fourier maps, as shown for the observed positional modulation of O4, together with the fitted position along the first modulation vector $Q_1$ in SBN61 in Fig. 5, which shows the larger modulation amplitude compared to the corresponding figure in the X-ray study (Fig. 6 in Ref. [19]). From these figures it becomes also clear why the agreement factors in the neutron case are worse than in the X-ray case, although the description of the O4 modulation seems slightly better: the high oxygen sensitivity of the neutron yields high $R$-values even for small mismatches in the modulation description. In SBN34, as illustrated in Fig. 6, the modulation amplitude is significantly reduced as discussed above, leading to better agreement factors.

Similar observations concerning average, minimal, and maximal values of distances are made for the Sr/Ba-polyhedra, where in the neutron refinement a larger amplitude is found than in the X-ray refinement, especially for the distances including the atoms O4 and O5. Here again the Sr/Ba atoms have a much smaller modulation amplitude than the oxygen atoms, as illustrated exemplarily for SBN61 in Fig. 7, which shows how the $x$-coordinate is changing as a function of $t_1$ for atoms Ba2, Sr1, Nb1, Nb2, ad O4, where $x$ is defined as

$$x = x_0 + U_{x,1.0} \cdot \sin (2\pi \cdot Q_1 \cdot r_0 + t_1) + U_{x,1.0} \cdot \cos (2\pi \cdot Q_1 \cdot r_0 + t_1) + U_{x,1.0} \cdot \sin (2\pi \cdot Q_2 \cdot r_0 + t_2) + U_{x,1.0} \cdot \cos (2\pi \cdot Q_2 \cdot r_0 + t_2),$$

where $U_{x,y,m,n}$ are the modulation amplitudes listed in Table 2.

This means, for $t_2 = 0$ the third and fourth term make just a constant but generally non-zero contribution to the curves shown in Fig. 7 for SBN61 and Fig. 8 for SBN 34,
The Sr1 atoms in the tetragonal A1 channels are hardly modulated as shown in Fig. 9. Corresponding modulations in SBN34 are drastically reduced (Fig. 8). Detailed interatomic distances and full tables are listed in the supplementary material [27].

It is known from X-ray diffraction experiments on the average structure, that the occupation of the square channels (Sr1) is hardly affected by the decreasing Sr content [21]. The exchange of Sr and Ba takes place in the pentagonal channels. So for the SBN61 the site occupancies (in comparison to the maximum occupancy of 1) are 0.72 for Sr on A1 (2a), 0.4875 for Ba on A2 (4c), and 0.402 for Sr on A2 while for SBN34 the corresponding site occupancies are 0.62 for Sr on A1, 0.825 for Ba on A2, and 0.11 for Sr on A2 [21]. Therefore in SBN34 we have an almost uni-atomic occupancy of the two sites, the A1 channels are solely occupied by Sr while on the A2 sites the Sr:Ba ratio is 1:7 compared to 6:5 in SBN61. Hence we can argue that the reduced amplitude of the modulation is due to the reduced distortion exerted on the lattice by the more homogeneous filling ratio by only one atomic type (Ba) of the A2 channels in SBN34. The modulation does not disappear due to the fact that still one of six sites remains empty.

Both, triple-axis experiments (q-scans on TASP/SINQ, Fig. 10) and measurements on the single crystal instruments 5C2/LLB (test of 829 2nd-order satellites) and TriCS (150 2nd-order satellites) showed no evidence for higher order satellites in SBN61. Therefore only harmonic modulation waves have been introduced for our refinement. There is obviously no satellite observed for positions $d_{1,2} = 2$ in Fig. 10. The observed side reflections of the satellites $(0.3075, 5.3075, −1)$ and $(0.3075, 5.3075, 1)$ correspond to (002)- and (111)-aluminum-powder lines from the sample holder.

4. Conclusions

The structures of $\text{Sr}_x\text{Ba}_{1−x}\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6$, $x = 0.61$ and 0.34, at ambient temperature can be described with two incommensurate modulations vectors $Q_{1,2} = (α, ±α, 0)$ (α = 0.3075 for SBN61 and α = 0.2958 for SBN34) in a harmonic approximation. Our study clearly shows, that the modulation amplitude of the oxygen O4 atoms is decreasing by a factor of 2 going from SBN61 to SBN34 (increased Ba content), but the modulation has the same shape. The positional modulation of the Nb atoms is much smaller than that of the oxygen atoms. It is therefore originating mainly from a rotational modulation of the NbO$_6$-octahedra. The physical origin for this rotational modulation is most probably the filling of the pentagonal A2 channels by Sr and Ba atoms, as evidenced by the decrease of the modulation amplitude with increasing Ba content when going from SBN61 to SBN34. Due to their different size the surround-

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ing lattice is deformed leading to the modulation of the oxygen atoms. The atom with the highest modulation is the apical O4 atom, which is in the same plane as the Sr/Ba atoms. The second type of NbO6 octahedra is significantly less influenced by the modulation, as seen by the lower modulation amplitude of O5 (Nb(2)–O6-octahedra) compared to O4 (Nb(1)–O6-octahedra). Remaining intensities in the difference fourier maps around O4/O5 as well as slightly negative temperature factors show that the model needs further improvement. However, without observing higher order satellites refinement has to stay in the harmonnic approximation. From our diffraction data and extended q-scans, we can exclude satellites of second order, such as 2·Q1, 2·Q2, Q1 + Q2. Also extended q-scans did not show any higher order satellites.

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Appendix with full Tables: Modulated and averaged structures of single-crystalline Sr$_x$Ba$_{1-x}$Nb$_2$O$_6$ ($x = 0.34, 0.61$) from neutron diffraction at ambient temperature

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(Dated: February 15, 2008)

We list here the extended tables of the structure refinement for Sr$_x$Ba$_{1-x}$Nb$_2$O$_6$, $x=0.61$ (SBN61) and $x=0.34$ (SBN34), at ambient temperature. Structure refinement has been done using JANA2000. The neutron single crystal measurement for SBN61 have been performed at 5C2/LLB, Saclay, France, for SBN34 at TriCS/SINQ, Villigen PSI, Switzerland.

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**SBN61:**
(Dataset 1, LLB)

Tab. I:
SBN61, atomic coordinates and Fourier amplitudes (Atomic displacement factors are refined anharmonically)

Tab. II:
SBN61, anisotropic atomic displacement factors

Tab. III:
SBN61, interatomic distances and corresponding bond angles

Tab. IV:
SBN61, interatomic distances and corresponding bond angles (continuation)

**SBN34:**
(Dataset 2, TriCS.)

Tab. V:
SBN34, atomic coordinates and Fourier amplitudes ( Atomic displacement factors are refined anharmonically)

Tab. VI:
SBN34, anisotropic atomic displacement factors

Tab. VII:
SBN34, interatomic distances and corresponding bond angles

Tab. VIII:
SBN34, interatomic distances and corresponding bond angles (continuation)
**SBN61:**
(Dataset 3, TriCS, lower reflection number than dataset 1
Thesis D. Schaniel,10.)

Tab. IX:
SBN61, additional dataset collected on TriCS/SINQ, Summary.

Tab. X:
SBN61, coordinates and isotropic adps, averaged structure, TriCS/SINQ.

Tab. XI:
SBN61, coordinates, anisotropic adps, averaged structure, TriCS/SINQ.

Tab. XII: SBN61, anisotropic temperature factors (adps), averaged structure.

Tab. XI:
SBN61, averaged refinement, anisotropic refinement, coordinates.

Superspace Approach:
Fast outline of the concept of 3+2 space to describe a structure with 2 modulations vectors
TABLE I: Atomic coordinates and Fourier amplitudes of SBN61/LLB Data-Set (dataset 1) at ambient temperature of the displacive modulation functions (Eq. 3.24 on page 51 of [10]) of SBN61. Atomic displacement factors are refined anharmonically. Occupancy: 1 corresponds to full occupancy of the site.

| atom | occupancy | wave | x    | y    | z    | $U_{iso}$ \(10^{-3}\) |
|------|-----------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| Nb1  | 1         | x,y,z| \(-0.0024(4)\) | \(-0.0024(4)\) | 0    | 0.0019(5) | 0.0020(2) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(-0.0034(10)\) | 0    |      |                  |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(-0.0010(5)\)  | 0    |      |                  |
|      | c,0,1     |      | 0    |      | 0    | \(-0.0017(10)\) |
| Nb2  | 1         | x,y,z| \(0.07463(6)\)  | \(0.21139(6)\) | \(-0.0085(4)\) | 0.0036(2) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(-0.0010(4)\)  | \(-0.0013(4)\) | \(-0.0034(6)\) |
|      | c,1,0     |      | 0    | \(0.0016(4)\)  | \(-0.0024(6)\) |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(-0.0039(4)\)  | \(0.0024(6)\)  | \(-0.0019(5)\) |
|      | c,0,1     |      | 0    |      | 0    | \(-0.0010(5)\) |
| Sr1  | 0.721(10) | x,y,z| 0    | 0    | \(0.2368(5)\) | 0.0025(4) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(-0.0014(6)\)  | \(0.0003(6)\)  | 0    |
|      | c,1,0     |      | 0    |      | \(-0.0026(10)\) | 0    |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(-0.0003(6)\)  | \(0.0014(6)\)  | 0    |
|      | c,0,1     |      | 0    |      | \(-0.0026(10)\) | 0    |
| Ba1  | 0.4875    | x,y,z| \(0.17215(11)\) | \(0.67215(11)\) | 0.241 | 0.0233(7) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(0.0032(5)\)   | \(0.0032(5)\)   | \(-0.0030(14)\) |
|      | c,1,0     |      | \(0.0024(6)\)   | \(0.0024(6)\)   | 0.0081(12) |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(0.0057(10)\)  | \(-0.0057(10)\) | 0    |
|      | c,0,1     |      | \(-0.0038(6)\)  | \(-0.0038(6)\)  | 0.0011(15) |
| Sr2  | 0.402(5)  | x,y,z| \(0.1721\)    | \(0.6721\)      | 0.241 | 0.0233(7) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(0.0032(5)\)   | \(0.0032(5)\)   | \(-0.0030(14)\) |
|      | c,1,0     |      | \(0.0024(6)\)   | \(0.0024(6)\)   | 0.0081(12) |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(0.0057(10)\)  | \(-0.0057(10)\) | 0    |
|      | c,0,1     |      | \(-0.0038(6)\)  | \(-0.0038(6)\)  | 0.0011(15) |
| O1   | 1         | x,y,z| \(0.21835(10)\) | \(0.28165(10)\) | \(-0.0214(6)\) | 0.0052(6) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(0.0003(7)\)   | \(0.0003(7)\)   | 0    |
|      | c,1,0     |      | \(-0.0028(8)\)  | \(-0.0028(8)\)  | 0.0186(9) |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(-0.0024(7)\)  | \(0.0024(7)\)   | 0.0099(10) |
|      | c,0,1     |      | \(-0.0032(7)\)  | \(0.0032(7)\)   | \(-0.0151(10)\) |
| O2   | 1         | x,y,z| \(0.13938(10)\) | \(0.06819(9)\)  | \(-0.0268(6)\) | 0.0034(8) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(-0.0005(8)\)  | \(-0.0023(7)\)  | 0.0220(8) |
|      | c,1,0     |      | \(0.0027(8)\)   | \(-0.0053(7)\)  | 0.0170(10) |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(-0.0055(8)\)  | \(-0.0034(8)\)  | 0.0157(9) |
|      | c,0,1     |      | \(0.0039(8)\)   | \(-0.0036(7)\)  | \(-0.0237(8)\) |
| O3   | 1         | x,y,z| \(-0.00585(10)\) | \(0.34357(9)\)  | \(-0.0280(6)\) | 0.0017(8) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(0.0037(7)\)   | \(0.0041(6)\)   | \(-0.0291(6)\) |
|      | c,1,0     |      | \(0.0058(8)\)   | \(0.0017(8)\)   | \(-0.0093(10)\) |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(-0.0041(6)\)  | \(-0.0052(5)\)  | \(-0.0256(8)\) |
|      | c,0,1     |      | \(0.0030(9)\)   | \(-0.0008(8)\)  | 0.0094(11) |
| O4   | 1         | x,y,z| \(0.07605(18)\) | \(0.20492(15)\) | \(0.2275(5)\) | \(-0.0023(7)\) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(-0.0137(6)\)  | \(0.0178(3)\)   | 0.0041(6) |
|      | c,1,0     |      | \(-0.0256(4)\)  | \(0.0050(4)\)   | \(-0.0062(5)\) |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(-0.0087(7)\)  | \(0.0016(6)\)   | 0.0091(8) |
|      | c,0,1     |      | \(0.0104(6)\)   | \(-0.0014(6)\)  | \(-0.0024(9)\) |
| O5   | 1         | x,y,z| 0    | 0    | \(0.2301(6)\) | 0.0154(14) |
|      | s,1,0     |      | \(-0.0185(6)\)  | \(-0.0185(6)\)  | 0    |
|      | c,1,0     |      | 0    | 0    | \(0.002(2)\)   |
|      | s,0,1     |      | \(0.0163(4)\)   | \(-0.0163(4)\)  | 0    |
|      | c,0,1     |      | 0    | 0    | \(-0.0124(16)\) |
| atom | wave | $U_{11}$  | $U_{22}$  | $U_{33}$  | $U_{12}$  | $U_{13}$  | $U_{23}$  |
|------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Nb1  |      | 0.0044(4) | 0.0044(4) | -0.0027(5)| -0.0005(4)| 0         | 0         |
| Nb2  |      | 0.0042(4) | 0.0030(4) | 0.0037(4) | 0.0021(2) | -0.0009(4)| 0.0001(4) |
| Sr1  |      | 0.0040(5) | 0.0040(5) | -0.0005(9)| 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Sr2  |      | 0.0321(13)| 0.0321(13)| 0.0059(10)| -0.0274(14)| 0.0015(8) | 0.0015(8) |
| O1   |      | 0.0064(7) | 0.0064(7) | 0.0027(16)| -0.0044(7)| -0.0005(13)| 0.0005(13)|
| O2   |      | 0.0115(11)| 0.0007(9) | -0.002(2) | 0.0079(8) | -0.0047(17)| 0.0005(15)|
| O3   |      | 0.0084(11)| -0.0001(7)| -0.0032(18)| 0.0011(7) | -0.0072(14)| -0.0027(14)|
| O4   |      | -0.0045(18)| 0.0037(9) | -0.0061(7)| 0.0058(9) | 0.0003(10)| -0.0048(7)|
| O5   |      | 0.027(3)  | 0.027(3)  | -0.0083(15)| 0.012(3)  | 0         | 0         |
| Atoms | d₁ | d₂ | d₃ |
|-------|----|----|----|
| Nb₁-O₃ | 1.979(18) | 1.838(18) | 2.112(18) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ | 165.6(6) | 162.4(7) | 169.5(11) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₁ | 93.0(8) | 86.6(8) | 98.0(8) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₂ | 55.2(8) | 78.3(8) | 91.2(8) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₅ | 97.1(7) | 95.2(8) | 99.2(7) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₅ ₂ | 83.0(6) | 81.1(6) | 84.7(8) |
| Nb₁-O₃ ₃ | 1.989(18) | 1.838(18) | 2.112(18) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₃ | 165.6(8) | 162.4(7) | 169.5(11) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₃ ₁ | 93.3(8) | 86.6(8) | 98.0(8) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₃ ₂ | 93.3(8) | 86.6(8) | 98.0(8) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₅ ₂ | 97.0(7) | 95.2(8) | 99.2(7) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₅ ₃ | 83.0(6) | 81.1(6) | 84.7(8) |
| Nb₁-O₃ ₄ | 1.985(18) | 1.838(18) | 2.112(18) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₄ | 165.6(8) | 162.4(7) | 169.5(11) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₄ ₁ | 93.3(8) | 86.6(8) | 98.0(8) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₃ ₄ ₂ | 93.3(8) | 86.6(8) | 98.0(8) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₅ ₂ | 97.0(7) | 95.2(8) | 99.2(7) |
| O₃-Nb₁-O₅ ₃ | 82.9(6) | 81.1(6) | 84.7(8) |
| Nb₁-O₅ | 1.820(18) | 1.67(3) | 1.93(3) |
| O₅-Nb₁-O₅ ₁ | 179.4(5) | 179.1(7) | 180 |
| O₅-Nb₁-O₅ ₂ | 2.167(18) | 2.02(3) | 2.285(17) |
| O₅-Nb₁-O₅ ₃ | 179.4(6) | 179.1(7) | 180 |
| Nb₂-O₁ | 2.01(2) | 1.95(2) | 2.05(2) |
| O₁-Nb₂-O₂ | 91.2(9) | 87.1(9) | 96.2(9) |
| O₁-Nb₂-O₂ ₁ | 172.4(8) | 169.3(8) | 175.6(8) |
| O₁-Nb₂-O₃ | 95.0(8) | 87.3(8) | 103.0(9) |
| O₁-Nb₂-O₄ | 93.8(7) | 87.7(7) | 99.8(8) |
| O₁-Nb₂-O₄ ₁ | 87.3(7) | 83.2(6) | 91.5(6) |
| Nb₂-O₂ | 1.99(2) | 1.86(2) | 2.10(2) |
| O₂-Nb₂-O₂ ₁ | 87.8(9) | 83.7(9) | 91.7(9) |
| O₂-Nb₂-O₂ ₂ | 168.7(8) | 164.5(9) | 172.4(8) |
| O₂-Nb₂-O₄ | 92.0(7) | 83.4(7) | 100.8(7) |
| O₂-Nb₂-O₄ ₁ | 83.4(6) | 78.3(7) | 88.3(7) |
| Nb₂-O₃ | 1.95(2) | 1.812(19) | 2.067(19) |
| O₃-Nb₂-O₄ | 96.7(7) | 87.3(7) | 106.4(7) |
| O₃-Nb₂-O₄ ₁ | 87.8(7) | 81.8(7) | 93.5(7) |
| Nb₂-O₄ | 1.899(15) | 1.721(14) | 2.029(15) |
| O₄-Nb₂-O₄ ₁ | 174.8(8) | 170.8(8) | 179.4(8) |
| Nb₂-O₄ ₁ | 2.109(15) | 1.959(14) | 2.213(15) |
| O₄-Nb₂-O₄ ₂ | 174.8(8) | 170.8(8) | 179.4(8) |
| Atoms       | \(d_1\)  | \(d_2\)  | \(d_3\)  | \(\gamma_1\) | \(\gamma_2\) | \(\gamma_3\) |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sr1-O2      | 2.84(2) | 2.47(2) | 3.234(19)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O2   | 90.6(6) | 76.6(6) | 102.5(5)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O2'  | 58.0(6) | 55.9(5) | 59.6(6)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O2'' | 120.4(6) | 114.1(6) | 126.7(6)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O2''| 86.4(6) | 77.5(6) | 96.2(8)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O2'' | 174.8(6) | 168.7(7) | 179.7(5)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O2'' | 58.0(6) | 55.9(5) | 59.6(6)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O2'' | 119.8(6) | 114.8(6) | 125.9(5)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O4   | 59.6(5) | 51.4(4) | 65.8(5)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O4'' | 117.7(6) | 113.4(6) | 122.7(6)|             |             |             |
| O2-Sr1-O4'' | 60.7(5) | 54.3(5) | 67.4(5)|             |             |             |
| Sr1-O2''    | 2.70(2) | 2.46(2) | 2.96(2)|            |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2 | 90.6(6) | 76.6(6) | 102.5(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 119.8(6) | 114.8(6) | 125.9(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 61.7(6) | 56.9(6) | 65.9(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 174.8(6) | 168.7(7) | 179.7(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 92.6(6) | 81.6(6) | 104.9(8)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 120.4(6) | 114.1(6) | 126.7(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 61.7(6) | 56.9(6) | 65.9(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O4 | 60.2(5) | 55.2(5) | 64.5(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O4'' | 120.7(6) | 115.1(6) | 126.6(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O4'' | 122.5(6) | 116.3(6) | 129.8(6)|             |             |             |
| Sr1-O2''    | 2.84(2) | 2.47(2) | 3.234(19)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2 | 58.0(6) | 55.9(5) | 59.6(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 119.8(6) | 114.8(6) | 125.9(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 90.6(6) | 76.6(6) | 102.5(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 119.8(6) | 114.8(6) | 125.9(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 86.4(6) | 77.5(6) | 96.2(8)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 174.8(6) | 168.7(7) | 179.7(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 58.0(6) | 55.9(5) | 59.6(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 119.8(6) | 114.8(6) | 125.9(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 60.2(5) | 55.2(5) | 64.5(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O2'' | 122.5(6) | 116.3(6) | 129.8(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O4 | 61.8(5) | 56.1(5) | 68.1(5)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O4'' | 116.7(6) | 108.9(6) | 123.8(6)|             |             |             |
| O2''-Sr1-O4'' | 117.7(6) | 113.4(6) | 122.7(6)|             |             |             |

**TABLE IV:** Interatomic distances (Å), 1st line) and bond angles (°, following lines) in SBN61/LLB (dataset 1).
| Atom | Occupancy | x    | y    | z    | U_{iso} (10^{-3}) |
|------|-----------|------|------|------|------------------|
| Nb1  | 1         | 0.0001(6) | 0.0001(6) | 0 | 0.00067 | 0.0050(8) |
|      | s,1,0     | 0.0001(6) | 0.0001(6) | 0 | 0.0004(10) |
|      | c,1,0     | 0      | 0    | 0.0006(6) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | -0.0006(6) | 0    | 0    | -0.0022(10) |
| Nb2  | 1         | 0.07397(10) | 0.21084(10) | 0.0016(6) | 0.0053(6) |
|      | s,1,0     | -0.0007(5) | 0.0016(5) | -0.0002(5) | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | -0.0001(5) | 0.0010(4) | 0.0002(5) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | -0.0003(4) | 0.0019(4) | -0.0003(5) | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | 0.0011(4) | 0.0002(5) | 0.0011(5) | 0 |
| Sr1  | 0.6282    | 0      | 0    | 0.2426(10) | -0.0008(11) |
|      | s,1,0     | 0.0005(6) | 0.0026(6) | 0 | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | 0      | 0    | 0.0134(14) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | 0.0026(6) | -0.0005(6) | 0 | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | 0      | 0    | -0.0134(14) | 0 |
| Ba1  | 0.825     | 0.1729 | 0.6729 | 0.2461 | 0.0205(10) |
|      | s,1,0     | 0.0001(4) | 0.0001(4) | 0.0019(14) | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | 0.0004(4) | 0.0004(4) | 0.0027(15) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | 0.0060(5) | -0.0060(5) | 0 | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | -0.0016(4) | -0.0016(4) | 0.0003(14) | 0 |
| Sr2  | 0.1109    | 0.17295(16) | 0.67295(16) | 0.2461(11) | 0.0205(10) |
|      | s,1,0     | 0.0001(4) | 0.0001(4) | 0.0019(14) | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | 0.0004(4) | 0.0004(4) | 0.0027(15) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | 0.0060(5) | -0.0060(5) | 0 | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | -0.0016(4) | -0.0016(4) | 0.0003(14) | 0 |
| O1   | 1         | 0.21663(14) | 0.28337(14) | -0.0143(9) | 0.0076(7) |
|      | s,1,0     | -0.0029(6) | -0.0029(6) | 0 | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | -0.0005(7) | 0.0005(7) | 0.0111(8) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | -0.0009(6) | 0.0009(6) | 0.0091(8) | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | -0.0021(7) | 0.0021(7) | -0.0074(9) | 0 |
| O2   | 1         | 0.14047(15) | 0.06960(13) | -0.0209(8) | 0.0118(7) |
|      | s,1,0     | -0.0024(7) | 0.0010(7) | 0.0105(6) | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | 0.0011(7) | 0.0016(7) | 0.0085(7) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | 0.0034(7) | -0.0006(6) | 0.0081(6) | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | 0.0035(7) | 0.0015(7) | -0.0163(6) | 0 |
| O3   | 1         | -0.00618(15) | 0.34372(15) | -0.0186(9) | 0.0106(8) |
|      | s,1,0     | -0.0014(7) | -0.0055(6) | -0.0127(6) | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | -0.0027(7) | 0.0012(7) | -0.0041(7) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | 0.0026(7) | 0.0009(6) | -0.0184(7) | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | 0.0009(7) | -0.0013(7) | 0.0050(6) | 0 |
| O4   | 1         | 0.0749(2) | 0.20557(19) | 0.2351(9) | 0.0169(10) |
|      | s,1,0     | -0.0044(5) | 0.0067(4) | -0.0086(10) | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | -0.0119(5) | 0.0014(4) | -0.0032(10) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | -0.0107(5) | 0.0056(4) | -0.0069(9) | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | 0.0101(5) | -0.0049(4) | 0.0017(11) | 0 |
| O5   | 1         | 0      | 0.5    | 0.2347(11) | 0.0195(14) |
|      | s,1,0     | -0.0074(6) | -0.0074(6) | 0 | 0 |
|      | c,1,0     | 0      | 0    | -0.002(2) | 0 |
|      | s,0,1     | 0.0117(6) | -0.0117(6) | 0 | 0 |
|      | c,0,1     | 0      | 0    | -0.001(2) | 0 |
TABLE VI: Anisotropic displacement parameters $U_{ij}$ ($10^{-3}$) and their modulation Fourier amplitudes ($\AA^2$) in SBN34 (dataset 2) at ambient temperature. The description of modulated displacement parameters is similar to that of modulated positional parameters (see Eq. 3.20,3.21 and 3.24 in $^{10}$ or in the basic paper of V. Petřiček$^8$).

| atom | wave | $U_{11}$    | $U_{22}$    | $U_{33}$    | $U_{12}$    | $U_{13}$    | $U_{23}$ ($10^{-3}$) |
|------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Nb1  |      | 0.0055(9)   | 0.0055(9)   | 0.004(2)    | -0.0016(8)  | 0           | 0                   |
| Nb2  |      | 0.0033(8)   | 0.0056(8)   | 0.0071(13)  | 0.0015(4)   | 0.0039(8)   | -0.0022(9)         |
| Sr1  |      | 0.0037(12)  | 0.0037(12)  | -0.010(3)   | 0           | 0           | 0                   |
| Ba1  |      | 0.0242(13)  | 0.0242(13)  | 0.013(2)    | -0.0223(16) | -0.0011(13) | -0.0011(13)        |
| Sr2  |      | 0.0242(13)  | 0.0242(13)  | 0.013(2)    | -0.0223(16) | -0.0011(13) | -0.0011(13)        |
| O1   |      | 0.0066(9)   | 0.0066(9)   | 0.0097(18)  | -0.0041(8)  | -0.0018(11) | 0.0018(11)         |
| O2   |      | 0.0103(11)  | 0.0065(11)  | 0.0186(15)  | 0.0057(7)   | -0.0056(15) | -0.0043(12)        |
| O3   |      | 0.0083(11)  | 0.0006(11)  | 0.0228(16)  | 0.0036(7)   | 0.0013(13)  | -0.0014(14)        |
| O4   |      | 0.033(2)    | 0.0198(14)  | -0.0020(18) | -0.0116(12) | -0.0005(16) | 0.0014(14)         |
| O5   |      | 0.028(2)    | 0.028(2)    | 0.003(3)    | 0.004(2)    | 0           | 0                   |
TABLE VII: Interatomic distances ([Å], 1st line) and bond angles (°, following lines) in SBN34/TriCS (dataset 2).

| Atoms          | $d_1$   | $d_2$   | $d_3$   |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Atoms          | $\gamma_1$ | $\gamma_2$ | $\gamma_3$ |
| Nb1-O3         | 1.97(2)  | 1.87(19) | 2.06(2) |
| O3-Nb1-O3'     | 168.3(7) | 166.8(11)| 169.7(11)|
| O3-Nb1-O3''    | 93.9(8)  | 93.8(7)  | 97.7(7)  |
| O3-Nb1-O3'''   | 93.7(8)  | 89.8(7)  | 97.7(7)  |
| O3-Nb1-O5      | 95.8(7)  | 95.1(7)  | 96.8(7)  |
| O3-Nb1-O5''    | 84.2(6)  | 82.9(6)  | 85.4(6)  |
| Nb1-O3''       | 1.96(18) | 1.87(19) | 2.06(2) |
| O3''-Nb1-O3    | 168.3(7) | 166.8(11)| 169.7(11)|
| O3''-Nb1-O3'   | 93.9(8)  | 93.8(7)  | 97.7(7)  |
| O3''-Nb1-O3''  | 93.7(8)  | 89.8(7)  | 97.7(7)  |
| O3''-Nb1-O5    | 95.8(7)  | 95.1(7)  | 96.8(7)  |
| O3''-Nb1-O5''  | 84.2(6)  | 82.9(6)  | 85.4(6)  |
| Nb1-O3'''      | 1.97(18) | 1.87(19) | 2.06(2) |
| O3'''-Nb1-O3   | 93.9(8)  | 93.8(7)  | 97.7(7)  |
| O3'''-Nb1-O3'  | 93.7(8)  | 89.8(7)  | 97.7(7)  |
| O3'''-Nb1-O3'' | 168.3(7) | 166.8(11)| 169.7(11)|
| O3'''-Nb1-O5   | 95.8(7)  | 95.1(7)  | 96.8(7)  |
| O3'''-Nb1-O5'' | 84.2(6)  | 82.9(6)  | 85.4(6)  |
| Nb1-O5         | 1.82(2)  | 1.78(4)  | 1.85(3)  |
| O5-Nb1-O5''    | 179.4(6) | 179.1(10)| 180(19) |
| O5''-Nb1-O5    | 2.17(2)  | 2.13(4)  | 2.20(4)  |
| Nb2-O1         | 2.00(2)  | 1.92(5)  | 2.08(4)  |
| O1-Nb2-O2      | 91.2(8)  | 90.1(8)  | 92.6(8)  |
| O1-Nb2-O2''    | 171.0(7) | 168.8(7) | 173.6(7) |
| O1-Nb2-O3      | 94.0(8)  | 90.6(8)  | 97.1(8)  |
| O1-Nb2-O4      | 94.4(7)  | 91.7(6)  | 97.8(7)  |
| O1-Nb2-O4''    | 86.7(6)  | 83.9(6)  | 89.2(6)  |
| Nb2-O2         | 1.96(2)  | 1.91(2)  | 2.01(2)  |
| O2-Nb2-O2''    | 88.9(8)  | 85.8(8)  | 91.5(8)  |
| O2-Nb2-O3      | 168.2(8) | 166.6(9) | 169.9(8) |
| O2-Nb2-O4      | 93.4(7)  | 92.2(7)  | 94.5(7)  |
| O2-Nb2-O4''    | 82.9(6)  | 80.9(6)  | 84.3(6)  |
| Nb2-O3         | 1.95(2)  | 1.85(2)  | 2.05(2)  |
| O3-Nb2-O4      | 96.6(7)  | 94.3(7)  | 99.0(7)  |
| O3-Nb2-O4''    | 87.1(6)  | 84.7(6)  | 89.9(6)  |
| Nb2-O4         | 1.87(2)  | 1.74(6)  | 2.01(9)  |
| O4-Nb2-O4''    | 176.0(8) | 173.6(8) | 178.3(7) |
| Nb2-O4'''      | 2.13(2)  | 2.02(2)  | 2.28(19) |
| O4'''-Nb2-O4   | 176.0(8) | 173.6(8) | 178.3(7) |
| Sr1-O2         | 2.86(19) | 2.64(19) | 3.10(19) |
| O2-Sr1-O2''    | 90.7(5)  | 83.7(5)  | 97.1(4)  |
| O2-Sr1-O2'''   | 58.0(5)  | 53.4(5)  | 62.2(6)  |
| O2-Sr1-O2''''' | 120.2(6) | 118.2(5) | 122(17)  |
| O2-Sr1-O2''''''| 86.6(6)  | 79.4(7)  | 93.3(8)  |
| Sr1-O2''       | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
TABLE VIII: Interatomic distances (Å, 1st line) and bond angles (°, following lines) in SBN34/TriCS (dataset 2).

|       | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sr1-O2" | 2.727(19) | 2.544(19) | 2.908(18) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 90.7(5) | 83.7(5) | 97.1(4) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.0(6) | 122.1(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 61.2(6) | 55.4(6) | 67.7(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 92.0(6) | 83.6(8) | 101.8(9) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.2(5) | 122.0(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 61.2(6) | 55.4(6) | 67.7(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 59.6(5) | 55.5(5) | 64.2(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 120.4(6) | 113.3(6) | 128.0(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 121.9(6) | 115.8(7) | 129.3(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 61.3(5) | 59.2(5) | 63.0(6) |

|       | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sr1-O2" | 2.868(19) | 2.647(19) | 3.102(19) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 58.0(5) | 53.4(5) | 62.2(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.0(6) | 122.1(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 90.7(5) | 83.7(5) | 97.1(4) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.2(5) | 122.0(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 86.6(6) | 79.4(7) | 93.3(8) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 61.0(5) | 55.3(5) | 67.1(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 59.5(5) | 58.1(5) | 60.9(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 117.1(6) | 111.6(7) | 122.6(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 118.8(6) | 111.9(7) | 125.4(6) |

|       | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sr1-O2" | 2.727(19) | 2.544(19) | 2.908(18) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 58.0(5) | 53.4(5) | 62.2(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.0(6) | 122.1(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 90.7(5) | 83.7(5) | 97.1(4) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.2(5) | 122.0(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 86.6(6) | 79.4(7) | 93.3(8) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 61.0(5) | 55.3(5) | 67.1(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 59.5(5) | 58.1(5) | 60.9(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 117.1(6) | 111.6(7) | 122.6(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 118.8(6) | 111.9(7) | 125.4(6) |

|       | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" | Sr1-O2" |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sr1-O2" | 2.868(19) | 2.647(19) | 3.102(19) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 86.6(6) | 79.4(7) | 93.3(8) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 58.0(5) | 53.4(5) | 62.2(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.0(6) | 122.1(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 90.7(5) | 83.7(5) | 97.1(4) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.2(5) | 122.0(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 86.6(6) | 79.4(7) | 93.3(8) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 61.0(5) | 55.3(5) | 67.1(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 59.5(5) | 58.1(5) | 60.9(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 117.1(6) | 111.6(7) | 122.6(7) |

|       | Sr1-O2" |
|-------|---------|
| Sr1-O2" | 2.727(19) | 2.544(19) | 2.908(18) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 92.0(6) | 83.6(8) | 101.8(9) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.2(5) | 122.1(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 90.7(5) | 83.7(5) | 97.1(4) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 120.2(6) | 118.2(5) | 122.0(7) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 86.6(6) | 79.4(7) | 93.3(8) |
| O2"-Sr1-O2" | 175.6(7) | 168.4(8) | 179.8(6) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 61.0(5) | 55.3(5) | 67.1(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 59.5(5) | 58.1(5) | 60.9(5) |
| O2"-Sr1-O4" | 117.1(6) | 111.6(7) | 122.6(7) |
TABLE IX: Experimental data collection parameters for Sr$_x$Ba$_{1-x}$Nb$_2$O$_6$, SBN61 (x=.61), at ambient temperature, measured on TriCS/SINQ$^{10}$.

| TriCS/SINQ       | SBN61 |
|------------------|-------|
| Dataset          | 3     |
| space group      | $P4bm(ppy_{1/2}, p - p_{1/2})$ |
| Z                | 10    |
| Radiation        | n     |
| wavelength $\lambda$ (Å) | 1.1791(13) |
| $T$ (K)          | 300   |
| a (Å)            | 12.4881(3) |
| $c = 2 \cdot c_{av}$ (Å) | 7.8993(2) |
| $y(Q_{1,2})^*$   | 0.3075 |
| $V$ (Å$^3$)      | 1231.9 |
| d (g/cm$^3$)     | 5.241 |
| $[\sin (\theta)/\lambda]_{\text{max}}$ (Å$^{-1}$) | 0.715 |
| abs. coeff. (mm$^{-1}$) | 0.002 |
| $T_{\text{min}}^*$ | 0.9922  |
| $T_{\text{max}}^*$ | 0.9933  |
| crystal dimensions $a \cdot b \cdot c$ (mm$^3$) | 4 $\cdot$ 4 $\cdot$ 5 |
| Polarisation [V/mm], Temperature [degC] | 500, 23 |
| crystal volume (mm$^3$) | 80    |
| $h_{\text{max}}$ | 12    |
| $k_{\text{max}}$ | 15    |
| $l_{\text{max}}$ | 10    |
| $m_{\text{max}}$ | 1     |
| $n_{\text{max}}$ | 1     |
| no. of refined reflections | 792  |
| no. of obs. reflections ($I>3\sigma$) | 1777  |
| no. of obs. main reflections ($I>3\sigma$) | 1157  |
| no. of obs. first order satellite reflections ($I>3\sigma$) | 620   |
| no. of obs. second order satellite reflections ($I>3\sigma$) | 0    |
| $R_{\text{int}}^1$ | 0.036  |
| $g_{\text{iso}}^2 (10^{-4})$ | 0.04611 |
| Refinement$^1$   |       |
| S                | 9.27  |
| $R_{\text{obs}}$ | 12.54 |
| $R_{\text{w,obs}}$ | 10.16 |
| $R_{\text{all}}$ | 14.42 |
| $R_{\text{w,all}}$ | 10.21 |
| main reflections  |       |
| $R_{\text{obs}}$ | 8.79  |
| $R_{\text{w,obs}}$ | 9.17  |
| $R_{\text{all}}$ | 8.78  |
| $R_{\text{w,all}}$ | 9.16  |
| satellites of order 1 |       |
| $R_{\text{obs}}$ | 17.59 |
| $R_{\text{w,obs}}$ | 15.69 |
| $R_{\text{all}}$ | 21.26 |
| $R_{\text{w,all}}$ | 15.96 |

$^*Q_{1,2} = (y, \pm y, 1/2)$; $^*$transmission factors, i.e. minimal and maximal amount of transmitted neutrons

$^1$Refinement of merging process; $^1$Isotropic extinction correction of type I (Lorentzian distribution) is used$^{11-13}$.  
$^1$: refinement using isotropic temperature factors, all agreement factors in [%].
TABLE X: Structural parameters obtained from the refinement of the average structure of SBN61 at ambient temperature using isotropic displacement parameters $U_{\text{iso}} \times 10^{-3}$). Occupancy: 1 corresponds to full occupancy of the site.

| atom | site | occ. | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $U_{\text{iso}}$ |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Nb1  | 2b   | 1    | 0   | 0.5 | -0.0012(10) | 2.4(8) |
| Nb2  | 8d   | 1    | 0.0759(2) | 0.21185(19) | -0.0047(12) | 2.0(6) |
| Sr1  | 2a   | 0.76(2) | 0   | 0   | 0.2382(2)  | 2(1)  |
| Sr2  | 4c   | 0.38(2) | 0.1716(5) | 0.6716(5) | 0.2469(22) | 21(2) |
| Ba1  | 4c   | 0.4875 | 0.1716(5) | 0.6716(5) | 0.2469(22) | 21(2) |
| O1   | 4c   | 1    | 0.2186(3) | 0.2814(3) | -0.017(1)  | 10(1) |
| O2   | 8d   | 1    | 0.1380(4) | 0.0674(4) | -0.027(1)  | 14(1) |
| O3   | 8d   | 1    | -0.0063(4) | 0.3426(4) | -0.028(1)  | 13.6(9) |
| O4   | 8d   | 1    | 0.0817(9) | 0.2030(10) | 0.241(4)   | 55(3) |
| O5   | 2b   | 1    | 0   | 0.5 | 0.254(5)   | 54(5) |
TABLE XI: Structural parameters obtained from the refinement of the average structure of SBN61 at ambient temperature using anisotropic displacement parameters $U_{ij}$ ($i, j = 1, 2, 3$). Occupancy: 1 corresponds to full occupancy of the site.

| atom | site | occupancy | $x$  | $y$   | $z$   |
|------|------|-----------|------|-------|-------|
| Nb1  | 2b   | 1         | 0    | 0.5   | 0.0013(5) |
| Nb2  | 8d   | 1         | 0.07429(8) | 0.21146(9) | -0.0071(6) |
| Sr1  | 2a   | 0.693(12) | 0    | 0     | 0.2382(2) |
| Sr2  | 4c   | 0.416(12) | 0.1722(2) | 0.6722(2) | 0.2412|8) |
| Ba1  | 4c   | 0.4875    | 0.1722(2) | 0.6722(2) | 0.2412|8) |
| O1   | 4c   | 1         | 0.2187(1) | 0.2813(1) | -0.0199(8) |
| O2   | 8d   | 1         | 0.1391(2) | 0.0680(1) | -0.0255(8) |
| O3   | 8d   | 1         | -0.0056(2) | 0.3433(1) | -0.0247(9) |
| O4   | 8d   | 1         | 0.0767(4) | 0.2049(3) | 0.2291(6) |
| O5   | 2b   | 1         | 0    | 0.5   | 0.2312|10) |

TABLE XII: Anisotropic displacement parameters $U_{ij}$ ($10^{-3}$) in the average structure of SBN61 at ambient temperature.

| atom | $U_{11}$ | $U_{22}$ | $U_{33}$ | $U_{12}$ | $U_{13}$ | $U_{23}$ ($10^{-3}$) |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| Nb1  | 5.8(5)   | 5.8(5)   | -1.6(7)  | 0.0(5)   | 0         | 0                    |
| Nb2  | 6.5(5)   | 5.3(4)   | 4.3(5)   | 1.1(3)   | 1.0(5)   | -1.1(6)              |
| Sr1  | 3.1(8)   | 3.1(8)   | 0(1)     | 0        | 0         | 0                    |
| Sr2  | 40(1)    | 40(1)    | 9(1)     | -30(2)   | 0.2(2)   | 0.2(7)               |
| Ba1  | 40(1)    | 40(1)    | 9(1)     | -30(2)   | 0.2(2)   | 0.2(7)               |
| O1   | 8.5(6)   | 8.5(6)   | 28(2)    | -5.6(6)  | 1.7(9)   | -1.7(9)              |
| O2   | 14.7(8)  | 3.2(6)   | 68(3)    | 8.1(5)   | -15(1)   | -6.1                 |
| O3   | 14.0(7)  | 3.3(6)   | 86(3)    | 5.2(5)   | -16(2)   | -1.1                 |
| O4   | 118(4)   | 43(2)    | 0(1)     | -48(2)   | -1(1)    | -1(1)                |
| O5   | 86(4)    | 86(4)    | 0(1)     | 14(5)    | 0        | 0                    |
FIG. 1: Projection of the four dimensional superspace lattice onto $\mathbb{R}^*_3$ along $\mathbf{e}_4$ (perpendicular to $\mathbb{R}^*_3$). The new reciprocal basis vector $\mathbf{b}_4' = Q_1 + e_4$ is introduced to describe the lattice in four dimensions.

I. SUPERSPACE APPROACH

The superspace approach provides an elegant method to account for the incommensurate modulation of a structure by describing it in higher-dimensional space.

1. Main reflections and satellites

Modulated crystal structures are characterized by appearance of reflections at non-Bragg positions (in three dimensions). The positions of these reflections in reciprocal space can be described using

$$Q(h, k, l, m_i) = h\mathbf{b}_1 + k\mathbf{b}_2 + l\mathbf{b}_3 + \sum_{i=1}^{d} m_i Q_i$$

(1)

where $\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{b}_3$ are the reciprocal lattice vectors ($h, k, l, m_i$ integers) and

$$Q_i = Q_{i,a} \cdot \mathbf{b}_1 + Q_{i,b} \cdot \mathbf{b}_2 + Q_{i,c} \cdot \mathbf{b}_3$$

(2)

are called modulation vectors. The modulation is called commensurate if all $Q_{i,j}$ ($i = 1, \ldots, d, j = a, b, c$) are rational and incommensurate if at least one of the $Q_{i,j}$ is irrational. Reflections with all $m_i = 0$ are called main reflections, whereas diffraction spots with at least one $m_i \neq 0$ are called satellites. The Fourier transform of the main reflections is the average structure in real space. Taking into account the satellite reflections, the Fourier transform yields a structure in real space which does not exhibit translation symmetry anymore. To overcome this problem de Wolff$^1$ and Janner & Janssen$^{2,3}$, Wolff and Janner$^4$ developed the so-called superspace approach. Thereby the reciprocal lattice is embedded in a higher dimensional space $\mathbb{R}^*_{n+d}$ ($n =$ dimension of the average structure, $d =$ number of modulation vectors). The measured reflections are the projection of this higher-dimensional lattice onto $\mathbb{R}^*_n$ as illustrated in Fig. 1 for the four-dimensional case, $i.e.$ for only one modulation vector. The Fourier transform of this projection is a section of a higher-dimensional structure which possesses again the full translational symmetry in real space $\mathbb{R}^*_{n+d}$. In the following a short description of this superspace approach is given for the five-dimensional case ($\mathbb{R}^*_{3+2}$), as this is the one applied to the investigated material.
2. The higher-dimensional structure in $R_5$ ($d = 2$)

For a modulated structure with two independent modulation vectors $Q_1$ and $Q_2$, all reflections can be described using five indices:

$$Q(h, k, l, m, n) = h b_1 + k b_2 + l b_3 + m Q_1 + n Q_2.$$  \(3\)

The modulation vectors can be described using the reciprocal lattice vectors:

$$Q_1 = Q_{11} b_1 + Q_{12} b_2 + Q_{13} b_3,$$

$$Q_2 = Q_{21} b_1 + Q_{22} b_2 + Q_{23} b_3.$$  \(4\)

The direct lattice $A$ with base vectors $a_1, a_2, a_3$ contravariant to the reciprocal lattice $B$ with base vectors $b_1, b_2, b_3$ describes the average structure of the crystal. The A-lattice vectors cannot all be vectors of translation symmetry, or there would be no satellites. In reciprocal space the structure can be described with five base vectors $b_1, b_2, b_3, Q_1, Q_2$. But there is no set of vectors contravariant to them in the three-dimensional real space. The satellites are considered as projections of lattice points of a five-dimensional lattice $B'$ in five-dimensional space $R_5^*$. Assuming the projection to be orthogonal to $R_3^*$, the lattice $B'$ can be based on vectors $b_i^*$, three of which lie in $R_3^*$:

$$b_i^* = b_1^*, b_2^* = b_2, b_3^* = b_3, b_4^* = Q_1 + e_4, b_5^* = Q_2 + e_5$$  \(6\)

where $e_4$ and $e_5$ are unit vectors perpendicular to $R_3^*$. A set of vectors $a_i^*$ reciprocal to $b_i^*$ can be found using the condition:

$$a_i^* \cdot b_j^* = \delta_{ij}.$$  \(7\)

One set of vectors fulfilling equation 7 is:

$$a_1^* = a_1 - Q_{11} e_4 - Q_{21} e_5,$$

$$a_2^* = a_2 - Q_{12} e_4 - Q_{22} e_5,$$

$$a_3^* = a_3 - Q_{13} e_4 - Q_{23} e_5,$$

$$a_4^* = e_4,$$

$$a_5^* = e_5.$$  \(10\)

This set of vectors spans a lattice in direct space which exhibits again the full translational symmetry. But how is the actual electron density (x-rays) or nuclear scattering density (neutrons) $\rho$ connected to the periodic density $\rho'$ obtained in this five-dimensional space? The answer is given by the nature of the Fourier transformation itself. In reciprocal space the reflection pattern is treated as a projection onto $R_3^*$, i.e:

$$F_3(\rho) = \text{projection of } F_5(\rho') \text{ along } e_4 \text{ and } e_5.$$  \(13\)

The Fourier transform of a projection is given through a section. Therefore $\rho$ is a section of $\rho'$ obtained by intersecting $\rho'$ with the hyperplane $R_3$, which is perpendicular to $e_4$ and $e_5$ by definition. The coordinates in $R_5$ with respect to the base $a_1^*, \ldots, a_5^*$ are $x_1, \ldots, x_5$. The hyperplane $R_3$ perpendicular to $e_4$ and $e_5$ is defined by

$$e_4 \cdot (x_1 a_1^* + x_2 a_2^* + x_3 a_3^* + x_4 a_4^* + x_5 a_5^*) = 0,$$

$$e_5 \cdot (x_1 a_1^* + x_2 a_2^* + x_3 a_3^* + x_4 a_4^* + x_5 a_5^*) = 0,$$

or equivalent

$$x_4 - Q_{11} x_1 - Q_{12} x_2 - Q_{13} x_3 = 0,$$

$$x_5 - Q_{21} x_1 - Q_{22} x_2 - Q_{23} x_3 = 0.$$  \(15\)

Therefore two new coordinates $t = x_4 - Q_{11} x_1 - Q_{12} x_2 - Q_{13} x_3$ and $u = x_5 - Q_{21} x_1 - Q_{22} x_2 - Q_{23} x_3$ are introduced and Eqs. 16 and 17 reduce to $t = 0$ and $u = 0$. Fig. 2 shows as an example the Fourier map of a positionally modulated atom in four-dimensional space using the new coordinate system introduced in equations 8-12.
II. SUPERSPACE APPROACH

III. MODULATED CRYSTAL STRUCTURES

A modulated crystal structure is obtained from normal structures by modifying some parameter $p$ of an atom at $(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_3)

p(Q_{11}\bar{x}_1 + Q_{12}\bar{x}_2 + Q_{13}\bar{x}_3, Q_{21}\bar{x}_1 + Q_{22}\bar{x}_2 + Q_{23}\bar{x}_3)

in such a way that it becomes a periodic function with unit period, $i.e.$

$p(x + \bar{n}_x, y + \bar{n}_y) = p(x, y)$

with $\bar{n}_x, \bar{n}_y$ integers. This function can be different for different atoms in the unit cell, but the constants $Q_{ij}$ are the same for all atoms. The parameter $p$ can be a fractional coordinate (displacive modulation), a magnetic moment (magnetic modulation), an average occupational fraction (substitutional modulation), or even the displacement parameter of an atom. Such a crystal is a section through a five-dimensional structure if each atom is represented in $R^5$ by strings in the directions of $e_4$ and $e_5$. In each section $t = \text{constant}$ and $u = \text{constant}$ the strings appear as an atom again. In order to yield the modulated structure in $R^3$ the value of $p$ has to be

$p(t + Q_{11}\bar{x}_1 + Q_{12}\bar{x}_2 + Q_{13}\bar{x}_3, u + Q_{21}\bar{x}_1 + Q_{22}\bar{x}_2 + Q_{23}\bar{x}_3)$

with $t = \text{constant}$ and $u = \text{constant}$. According to 16 and 17 this is identical to $p(x_4, x_5)$ referring to the point in $R^3$ defined by the given values of $t$, $u$ and $\bar{x}_i$.

3. Structure factor for modulated structures ($d = 2$)

The displacive modulation of the $\nu$’th atom in the unit cell defined by $\mathbf{n}$ can be described as follows:

$r_{\nu n} = r_0^\nu + \mathbf{u}_\nu \{ Q_1 \cdot (\mathbf{n} + \mathbf{g}_\nu), Q_2 \cdot (\mathbf{n} + \mathbf{g}_\nu) \}$

where $r_0^\nu$ is the average position of the atom $\nu$, $\mathbf{u}_\nu$ is a two-dimensional periodic vector field $\mathbf{u}_\nu(x_4, x_5) = \mathbf{u}_\nu(x_4 + \bar{n}_4, x_5 + \bar{n}_5)$ ($\bar{n}_4, \bar{n}_5$ integers). $Q_1, Q_2$ are the incommensurate modulation vectors and the vector $\mathbf{g}_\nu$ determines the phase reference point of the displaced entity, which can be chosen in several ways. Here the atomic displacement model is considered, $i.e.$ $\mathbf{g}_\nu = r_0^\nu$. The vector field $\mathbf{u}_\nu$ is the general modulation function of the atomic position. It can be expanded into a truncated Fourier series (using $l$ harmonic waves):

$\mathbf{u}_\nu = \sum_{i=1}^{l} U_\nu^i(i) \sin [2\pi Q_i \cdot (\mathbf{n} + r_0^\nu)] + \sum_{i=1}^{l} U_\nu^c(i) \cos [2\pi Q_i \cdot (\mathbf{n} + r_0^\nu)]$

where

$Q_i = \sum_{j=1}^{d=2} \alpha_{ij} Q_j$
are selected linear combinations of the modulation vectors (\(a_{ij}\) integers, \(d\): number of independent modulation vectors). \(U^\nu_p(i), U^\nu_c(i)\) \((i = 1, 2)\) are the amplitudes of the sine- and cosine displacement waves, respectively. In the harmonic approximation \((l = d, \alpha_{ij} = \delta_{ij})\) one obtains in \(R^d\) \((d = 2)\)

\[
\mathbf{u}_\nu = \sum_{i=1}^{2} U^\nu_p(i) \sin [2\pi \mathbf{Q}_1 \cdot (\mathbf{r}_\nu^0 + \mathbf{n})] + \sum_{i=1}^{2} U^\nu_c(i) \cos [2\pi \mathbf{Q}_1 \cdot (\mathbf{r}_\nu^0 + \mathbf{n})].
\]

The structure factor is given by the sum over the reciprocal lattice points \((N_1, N_2, N_3)\):

\[
F_\nu(Q) = f_\nu(Q) = \sum_{n=(0,0,0)}^{(N_1,N_2,N_3)} \exp \left\{ 2\pi i \mathbf{Q} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_\nu^0 + \mathbf{n}) + \sum_{i=1}^{2} \left\{ U^\nu_p(i) \sin [2\pi \mathbf{Q}_1 \cdot (\mathbf{r}_\nu^0 + \mathbf{n})] + U^\nu_c(i) \cos [2\pi \mathbf{Q}_1 \cdot (\mathbf{r}_\nu^0 + \mathbf{n})] \right\} \right\}
\]

where \(f_\nu(Q)\) is the atomic scattering factor and \(\mathbf{Q}\) the scattering vector. Since in the structure factor only the projections \(\mathbf{Q} \cdot U^\nu_p(i)\) and \(\mathbf{Q} \cdot U^\nu_c(i)\) appear, Eq. 25 can be simplified using

\[
U^\nu_p(i) = \frac{\sqrt{\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{U}^p_p(i)^2 + |\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{U}^p_c(i)|^2}}{\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{U}^p_p(i)}
\]

\[
\tan(\phi^\nu_p(i)) = \frac{\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{U}^p_c(i)}{\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{U}^p_p(i)}
\]

yielding

\[
F_\nu(Q) = f_\nu(Q) \sum_{n=(0,0,0)}^{(N_1,N_2,N_3)} \exp \left\{ 2\pi i \left[ \mathbf{Q} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_\nu^0 + \mathbf{n}) + \sum_{i=1}^{2} U^\nu_p(i) \sin [2\pi \mathbf{Q}_1 \cdot (\mathbf{r}_\nu^0 + \mathbf{n}) - \phi^\nu_p(i)] \right] \right\}
\]

Using the Jacobi-Anger expansion

\[
\exp(i z \sin \alpha) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-i m \alpha) J_m(z)
\]

where \(J_m\) is the Bessel function of order \(m\), Eq. 25 can be written as

\[
F_\nu(Q) = f_\nu(Q) \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} J_{-m}(2\pi U^\nu_p(1) \exp(im\phi^\nu_p(1))) \exp(-2\pi i m \mathbf{Q}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_\nu^0)
\]

\[
\times \sum_{n=-\infty}^{(N_1,N_2,N_3)} \exp[2\pi i n \cdot (\mathbf{Q} - m \mathbf{Q}_1 - n \mathbf{Q}_2)] \exp(2\pi i \mathbf{r}_\nu^0).
\]

For \(N_i \gg 1\) the sum over \(n\) leads to the delta function \(\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{Q} + m \mathbf{Q}_1 + n \mathbf{Q}_2)\), where \(\mathbf{r} = h \mathbf{b}_1 + k \mathbf{b}_2 + l \mathbf{b}_3\). Therefore reflections occur for \(Q = \tau + m \mathbf{Q}_1 + n \mathbf{Q}_2\). Main reflections representing the average structure have \(m = n = 0\), whereas satellites have \(m \neq 0\) or \(n \neq 0\). Using \(J_{m}(x) = (-1)^m J_m(x)\) and assuming that the satellites do not overlap one obtains

\[
F_\nu(h, k, l, m, n) = f_\nu(Q) \exp(2\pi i \tau \mathbf{r}_\nu^0) J_m(2\pi U^\nu_p(1))(-1)^m \exp(im\phi^\nu_p(1)) \times J_n(2\pi U^\nu_c(2))(-1)^n \exp(in\phi^\nu_p(2)).
\]

From Eq. 31 one can see that one harmonic positional modulation wave generates satellites up to 'infinite' order. The intensity of the \(m^{th}\) satellite is proportional to the square of the \(m^{th}\) Bessel function. Therefore the intensity of higher order satellites decreases rapidly and large values of \(U^\nu_p(i)\) lead to strong satellites.
Harmonic occupational (substitutional) modulation, i.e. when two atoms with different scattering power $f_{1\nu}$ and $f_{2\nu}$ are located at the same position $\mathbf{r}_\nu$,

$$f_\nu = \frac{f_{1\nu} + f_{2\nu}}{2} + \frac{f_{1\nu} - f_{2\nu}}{2} [\sin (2\pi \mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{r}_\nu) + \sin (2\pi \mathbf{Q}_2 \mathbf{r}_\nu)]$$

(32)

generates only first order satellites with structure factors

$$F_\nu(h, k, l, 0, 0) = \frac{f_{1\nu} + f_{2\nu}}{2} \exp (2\pi i \tau_{00} \mathbf{r}_\nu),$$

(33)

$$F_\nu(h, k, l, \pm 1, 0) = \frac{f_{1\nu} - f_{2\nu}}{2} \exp (2\pi i \tau_{\pm 1} \mathbf{r}_\nu),$$

(34)

$$F_\nu(h, k, l, 0, \pm 1) = \frac{f_{1\nu} - f_{2\nu}}{2} \exp (2\pi i \tau_{0\pm 1} \mathbf{r}_\nu).$$

(35)

The main reflection is at $\tau_{00} = h \mathbf{b}_1 + k \mathbf{b}_2 + l \mathbf{b}_3$ and the two satellites for each modulation vector appear at $\tau_{\pm 1, 0} = h \mathbf{b}_1 + k \mathbf{b}_2 + l \mathbf{b}_3 \pm \mathbf{Q}_1$ and $\tau_{0, \pm 1} = h \mathbf{b}_1 + k \mathbf{b}_2 + l \mathbf{b}_3 \pm \mathbf{Q}_2$.

### IV. SUPERSPACE GROUPS

The 775 superspace groups for one-dimensionally modulated structures have been tabulated by De Wolff et al.\textsuperscript{4} and Yamamoto et al.\textsuperscript{5}. Tables for the 3355 superspace groups for two-dimensionally and for the 11764 superspace groups for three-dimensionally modulated crystal structures can be found at http://quasi.nims.go.jp/yamamoto/index.html\textsuperscript{6}.
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