

¹H, ²³Na and ²⁹Si MAS NMR studies on T site substituted Cl-, Br-, NO₂-, (OHH₂O)- and H₂O sodalites

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Abstract

Magic Angle Spinning Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (MAS NMR) has been applied to chloride, bromide, nitrite, hydroxy and hydro sodalites using ¹H, ²³Na and ²⁹Si nuclei. The pure aluminosilicate and gallosilicate sodalites exhibit a single symmetric peak in the ²⁹Si spectra. In the gallosilicate sodalites, the replacement of Al by Ga compressed the SiO₄ tetrahedra thereby reducing the TOT angles. Consequently the peak in the ²⁹Si spectra was shifted downfield due to Sideshielding. Partial substitution of Al with Ga led to five Q₄ signals due to SiO₄(Al₄), SiO₄(GaAl₃), SiO₄(Ga₂Al₂), SiO₄(Ga₃Al) and SiO₄(Ga₄) environments around the SiO₄ tetrahedron. On average, each replacement of Al by Ga in the SiO₄(Al)₄ species led to a downfield shift of 1.3 ppm. In the bromide, iodide and nitrite sodalites (Ga = 30-70%), the intensities of the SiO₄(Al₄) and SiO₄(Ga₄) peaks in the ²⁹Si NMR spectra were significantly higher when compared to the other three environments. Such behaviour clearly demonstrates a nonstatistical distribution of Al and Ga, through the formation of Al-enriched and Ga-enriched domains within the crystals. It was possible to discriminate between the OH⁻, (OH·H₂O)⁻ and H₂O species residing in the sodalite β-cages using ¹H NMR. In hydro sodalites, the ¹H¹H dipolar coupling of two water protons were considerably reduced by fast dynamic site exchange on the NMR timescale. The ²³Na spectra were discussed in terms of Na coordination and Na-O interatomic distances with increasing Ga content. The ²³Na Multiple Quantum MAS NMR experiments correlated signals in the isotropic (F1) and MAS dimension (F2), as the shifts in the F1 dimension were a linear combination of isotropic chemical shifts and second-order quadrupolar shifts.

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