

Perovskites

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Double Double to Double Perovskite Transformations in Quaternary Manganese Oxides

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Abstract: Control of cation ordering in ABX_3 perovskites is important to structural, physical and chemical properties. Here we show that thermal transformations of $AA'BB'O_6$ double double perovskites, where both A and B sites have 1:1 cation order, to $(A_{0.5}A'_{0.5})_2BB'O_6$ double perovskites with fully disordered A/A' cations can be achieved under pressure in $CaMnMnWO_6$ and $SmMnMnTaO_6$, enabling both polymorphs of each material to be recovered. This leads to a dramatic switch of magnetic properties from ferrimagnetic order in double double perovskite $CaMnMnWO_6$ to spin glass behaviour in the highly frustrated double perovskite polymorph. Comparison of double double and double perovskite polymorphs of other materials will enable effects of cation order and disorder on other properties such as ferroelectricity and conductivity to be explored.

 $oldsymbol{P}$ erovskite oxides have remarkable flexibility in accepting a wide variety of cations on the A- and B-sites leading to many properties such as ferroelectricity, ferromagnetism and superconductivity.^[1–4] Further chemical variety arises through cation ordering, and layered, columnar and rock-salt arrangements have all been reported for the simplest 1:1 order at A or B sites,^[5] leading to $AA'B_2O_6^{[6]}$ or $A_2BB'O_6^{[7]}$ double perovskite (DPv) structures. Such orders enable new physical properties to emerge, notably ferrimagnetism and halfmetallicity with large magnetoresistance in Sr₂FeMoO₆ and related A₂BB'O₆ DPvs^[8] where rock-salt B/B' ordering is driven by cation charge and size differences.^[9] Combined 1:1 orders at both A and B sites to give an AA'BB'O₆ double double (or doubly-ordered) perovskite (DDPv) are rarer but two types are known. A family with A-site layered and B-site rock-salt arrangements, for example, NaLaMgWO₆^[10] and NaYNiWO₆,^[11] is stabilised by the charge difference between

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large A⁺ and A'³⁺ cations. A second DDPv family with columnar A-site and rock-salt B site orders has recently been reported in RMnMnSbO₆ (for rare earths R = La, Pr, Nd and Sm)^[12,13] and several CaMnBB'O₆ materials (B = Mn, Fe, Co, Ni for B' = Re,^[14–16] and B/B' = Fe/Ta,^[17] Cr/Sb and Fe/Sb^[18]) synthesised at high temperatures and pressures. The A-site order in this tetragonal $P4_2/n$ family is driven by cation size differences between R³⁺ or Ca²⁺ and Mn²⁺.

Alternative cation-ordered double perovskite and disordered perovskite polymorphs have been synthesised for several materials, with consequent changes in properties. For example, the ferromagnetic Curie temperature where colossal magnetoresistance is maximal changes from $T_{\rm C} =$ 335 K in A-site layered LaBaMn₂O₆ to $T_{\rm C} = 270$ K for cation-disordered (La_{0.5}Ba_{0.5})MnO₃,^[19] and long range Fe³⁺/ Fe⁵⁺ charge order is observed in B-layered Ca₂FeMnO₆^[20] but not in disordered $Ca(Fe_{0.5}Mn_{0.5})O_3$.^[21] This raises intriguing questions of whether simple atomic order to disorder transitions, which are of fundamental interest in systems like β -brass (Cu_{0.5}Zn_{0.5} alloy), can be observed for the separate A and B cation pairs in double double perovskites, and if so whether disorder in one sublattice induces disorder in the other. The initial study found that RMnMnSbO₆ double double perovskites were formed for R = La, Pr, Nd and Sm, whereas A-site disordered double perovskites $(R_{0.5}Mn_{0.5})_2MnSbO_6$ were formed for R = Eu and Gd, but no double double-double phase coexistence or crossover transition was observed.^[12] Furthermore, a study of the Ca_rMn_{2-r}FeReO₆ system discovered large chemical miscibility gaps between double perovskites near x = 0 and 2 and the double double phase formed around x = 1 (CaMnFeReO₆).^[15] Our continuing research recently produced the first evidence of coexisting double and double double perovskites of the same chemical composition in the CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ systems. These quaternary materials as representative compositions from both A = Ca and R families provide an ideal opportunity to study any coupling between A-site and B-site cation orders in AA'BB'O₆ double double perovskites, as Mn^{2+} is common to both the A' and B sublattices so no A'/B disorder (observed in analogues such as $CaMnFeTaO_6^{[17]}$ and $CaMnMSbO_6$; $M = Cr, Fe^{[18]}$) can occur. We report here that complete double double to double perovskite structural phase transformations can be driven by temperature in both the CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ systems at pressure enabling both polymorphs of each compound to be isolated, and we show that this structural change leads to a dramatic switch in magnetic properties for CaMnMnWO₆.

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(a)

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(b)

Intensity (a.u.)

15

CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ samples were prepared using stoichiometric mixtures of CaWO₄ or SmTaO₄ and MnO. CaWO₄ was prepared by heating a stoichiometric pellet of CaCO₃ and WO₃ for 24 hours at 1100 °C. SmTaO₄ was prepared by heating a stoichiometric pellet of Sm₂O₃ and Ta_2O_5 for 24 hours at 1350 °C, with the Sm_2O_3 dried in air at 900 °C before use. The AMnMnB'O₆ precursor mixtures were packed into a Pt capsule and heated at temperatures ranging from 1000 to 1600 °C under 10 GPa pressure in a Walker-type multianvil apparatus. Samples were heated over 10 minutes to the target temperature and held there for 30 minutes which is sufficient to establish phase equilibrium, before quenching to room temperature, after which the pressure was slowly released.

Samples were analysed by powder X-ray diffraction data collected at room temperature on a D2 Bruker diffractometer in the angular range $2\theta = 10$ to 110° with step size 0.01° using a Cu Ka source. Powder neutron diffraction patterns for DDPv and DPv polymorphs of CaMnMnWO₆ were collected from ≈ 200 mg samples using the D20 beamline at the ILL, Grenoble. High-resolution data were collected at 300 K using wavelength $\lambda = 1.54$ Å for structure refinement and scans at 1.5 and 80 K for the DDPv and at 1.5 and 10 K for the DPv polymorph with $\lambda = 2.41$ Å were used to investigate magnetic ordering. Magnetic symmetry analysis was carried out using BASIREPS^[22] and X-ray and neutron diffraction patterns were refined through the Rietveld method using the Fullprof Suite.^[23] Magnetic susceptibilities and magnetization-field hysteresis loops were measured on a Quantum Design MPMS-SQUID magnetometer.

Double double perovskite phases of CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ were synthesised under 10 GPa pressure at 1000 and 1250 °C respectively. Fits to powder X-ray data (Figures S1 and S2) confirmed that both compounds adopt the tetragonal $P4_2/n$ structure described above. However, increasing temperature led to a mixture of double double (DDPv) and double perovskite (DPv) phases as shown in the powder X-ray data in Figure 1. All DDPv phases have the tetragonal $P4_2/n$ structure (Figure 2a) and the DPvs adopt the monoclinic $P2_1/n$ structure (Figure 2b) commonly found for rocksalt-ordered A₂BB'O₆ double perovskites, e.g. Ca2MnWO6.^[24] Complete conversion to the DPv phase was observed at 1300°C for CaMnMnWO₆ and at 1600°C for SmMnMnTaO₆. Rietveld fits were used to extract the proportions of each perovskite phase (shown in Table S1). DPv samples of $(Ca_{0.5}Mn_{0.5})_2MnWO_6$ and (Sm_{0.5}Mn_{0.5})₂MnTaO₆ were, respectively synthesized at 1300 and 1600 °C, and X-ray fits are shown in Figures S1b and S2b with results in Tables S2, S3, S7 and S8.

A/Mn disorders in the DDPv structure were refined in initial Rietveld X-ray fits but in all cases no A-site disorder was found to within $\approx 1\%$ refinement errors. Hence the transformation from AMnMnB'O₆ double double perovskite with all cation sites fully ordered to (A_{0.5}Mn_{0.5})₂MnB'O₆ double perovskites where A/Mn cations are fully disordered over A-sites is discovered to occur entirely through a first order transition via coexistence of the two phases, but without any incipient A-cation disorder in either DDPv phase. The first order nature of the transition reflects the incompatible





 2θ (°)

30



Figure 2. Crystal structures of a) $P4_2/n$ double double perovskite (DDPv) and b) P21/n double perovskite (DPv) AMnMnB'O6 structures. Ordered A/Mn cations in the DDPv structure are shown as grey/red spheres and Mn/B'O₆ octahedra are blue/orange.

octahedral tilts between the two structures (Figure 2). The $P4_2/n$ DDPv structure has two in-phase and one out-of-phase tilts of the B/B'O₆ octahedra (written $a^+a^+c^-$ in Glazer notation^[25]) which creates the high (10) and low (4) oxide coordination numbers around the A-site Ca/Sm and Mn cations, respectively. However, the $P2_1/n$ DPv structure has one in-phase and two out-of-phase tilts $(a^{-}a^{-}c^{+})$ that provide a single 8-coordinate environment around all A cations. With no group-subgroup relation between the two structures, the transition is expected to be first order in Landau theory.

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Nevertheless, the magnitudes of tilt angles θ_{xy} in the *xy*-plane and θ_z from the *z*-axis are virtually unchanged between the DDPv and DPv structures; CaMnMnWO₆ has $\theta_{xy}/\theta_z = 17.3$ -(1)/18.9(1)° in DDPv and 18.3(1)/18.7(1)° in DPv structures from neutron refinement, and SmMnMnTaO₆ has $\theta_{xy}/\theta_z =$ 17.4(2)/19.0(3)° in DDPv and 17.8(2)/18.7(3)° in DPv from X-ray refinement.

Despite the first order nature of the transition, the average A-cation occupancy order parameter across the two phases, calculated as $Q_A = \% DDPv/(\% DDPv + \% DPv)$ using phase proportions from Table S1, shows a continuous thermal variation for CaMnMnWO₆ as shown in Figure 3. This was fitted using the function $Q_A = \tanh(Wt^{\beta})/\tanh(W)$, where $t = (T_{\rm C} - T)/T_{\rm C}$ for temperatures T in K and W is a fitting parameter to allow for higher order contributions to the Landau free energy expansion at large t.^[26] Initial refinement gave $\beta = 0.45(11)$ for CaMnMnWO₆, consistent with $\beta = 0.5$ from mean field theory, and the critical exponent was fixed at the latter value giving the estimated upper temperature for the A-site order to disorder transition in CaMnMnWO₆ as $T_{\rm C} = 1260$ °C. Fewer points are available for SmMnMnTaO₆ so the thermal variation is less clear, but a fit of the same function with $\beta = 0.5$ gave $T_{\rm C} \approx 1470$ °C. The higher transition temperature for SmMnMnTaO₆ reflects the charge difference between A-site cations, as the (8-coordi-



Figure 3. Cation occupancy order parameters Q from X-ray refinements averaged over the DDPv and DPv structures for a) CaMnMnWO₆ and b) SmMnMnTaO₆ plotted against synthesis temperature. Error bars are smaller than the points. Fits of the function described in the text to Q_A are shown, while $Q_B = 1$ throughout as no B-site disorder was observed.

nate) ionic radii of Ca²⁺ (1.12 Å) and Sm³⁺ (1.08 Å) are comparable, with the latter being closer in size to Mn^{2+} (0.96 Å).^[27] Assuming ideal statistical entropy changes of *R*ln2 per mol of perovskite at the transitions due to the cation disorder gives estimates of 8.8 and 10.0 kJmol⁻¹ for the enthalpy changes in CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ respectively.

Rock-salt B-site ordering in DDPv and DPv materials arises from cation size and charge differences. Previously reported AA'BB'O₆ DDPvs with B³⁺/B'⁵⁺ cation combinations have large B/B' antisite disorder, up to 18% in CaMnFeTaO₆.^[17] B²⁺/B⁶⁺ combinations show much less disorder, for example, 4/3.6 % for M = Co/Ni in CaMnMReO₆,^[16] but no Mn/B' antisite disorder to within refinement errors of <1% was observed in the X-ray studies of DDPv and DPv phases of CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ in all samples of the present study. Hence the occupancy order parameter for the B-cations is $Q_{\rm B} = 1$ throughout as shown on Figure 3 so no coupling between $Q_{\rm A}$ and $Q_{\rm B}$ is apparent from our X-ray studies. Powder neutron refinement of the CaMnMnWO₆ structures (Figure S4), where B/B' antisite disorder is less correlated with the scale factor than in X-ray refinements, found no disorder for the DDPv sample synthesised at 1000 °C but gave 2.6(2)% Mn/W antisite disorder for the DPv polymorph made at 1300 °C. This evidences a tiny influence of A-cation disorder and increased temperature on the B-cation ordering. Full neutron refinement results are in Tables S4 and S5.

Magnetic properties of the DDPv and DPv polymorphs of CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ were measured to discover how they are affected by the change from A cation order to disorder. High temperature susceptibilities of DDPv and DPv polymorphs of CaMnMnWO₆ in Figure 4a show similar Curie-Weiss variations with fitted effective paramagnetic moments of 8.64 and 8.45 μ_B per formula unit, respectively, close to the theoretical value for high-spin $3d^5$ Mn^{2+} of 8.37 $\mu_{\rm B}$. Their respective Weiss temperatures are $\theta =$ -198 and -145 K showing that antiferromagnetic Mn²⁺ spinspin coupling is dominant, with some weakening of interactions in the DPv structure due to disorder. However very different ordering effects are apparent at low temperature. DDPv-CaMnMnWO₆ has a sharp Curie transition at $T_{\rm C} =$ 45 K while the DPv polymorph shows a broader susceptibility peak (identified below as a spin glass transition) at $T_{g} = 8$ K. This indicates moderate magnetic frustration in the DDPv material (frustration factor $-\theta/T_{\rm C}=4.4$) whereas the DPv phase is highly frustrated $(-\theta/T_g = 18)$. Magnetisation-field loops at 5 K in Figure S3 show small hystereses with saturation moments of 0.05 and 0.03 μ_B and coercive fields of 500 and 100 Oe for DDPv and DPv polymorphs, respectively.

Low temperature neutron diffraction was used to explore long range magnetic ordering in the two polymorphs of CaMnMnWO₆. For the DDPv phase magnetic diffraction peaks indexed by propagation vector $k = [0 \ 0 \ 0]$ appear below the Curie transition. The magnetic intensities are fitted well by a simple ferrimagnetic model in which A-site Mn²⁺ spins are antiparallel to B-site spins (Figures S6 and S7). A slight inequivalence of the opposed sublattice moments accounts

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Figure 4. a) Magnetic susceptibilities (ZFC/FC = open/filled circles) and inverse ZFC susceptibilities (crosses) with Curie–Weiss fits (blue lines) shown for DDPv (black symbols) and DPv (red symbols) polymorphs of a) CaMnMnWO₆ and b) SmMnMnTaO₆. Inset to (a) shows the spin glass transition of the DPv polymorph. Data were collected in a 0.1 T field for both materials.

for the small saturated moment in the magnetisation measurements. The refined average Mn^{2+} sublattice moment of 3.9(2) μ_B at 1.5 K is reduced from the ideal value of 5 μ_B reflecting the moderate frustration. In contrast, no magnetic diffraction peaks are observed for DPv-CaMnMnWO₆ at 1.5 K (Figure S5b), showing that the $T_g = 8$ K peak is a spin glass transition rather than the onset of long range magnetic ordering. Further susceptibility measurements show that the peak broadens and shifts to lower temperature with increasing field and also shifts to slightly higher temperature with increasing frequency in AC measurements (Figure S8), both signatures of spin glass behaviour.

Magnetic susceptibilities for SmMnMnTaO₆ in Figure 4b show that both DDPv and DPv polymorphs have ferrimagnetic transitions at $T_{\rm C}$ =69 and 35 K respectively. An additional transition observed at 18 K for the DDPv phase is likely due to ordering of the Sm³⁺ moments with possible reorientation of Mn²⁺ spins, as similar transitions were observed for RMnMnSbO₆ analogues based on magnetic R³⁺ cations.^[9] The inverse susceptibility plots show that the two polymorphs have significantly different slopes and Curie–Weiss fits give effective paramagnetic moments of 9.41(2) and 8.93(2) µ_B for DDPv and DPv polymorphs. Subtraction of the theoretical Mn²⁺ contribution gives respective estimates of 4.3 and 3.1 µ_B for the Sm³⁺ moment, reflecting sensitivity to local environment which affects the contribution of low-energy higher *J*-

states to the paramagnetic moment. The fitted Weiss constants of -217 and -156 K give frustration factors of 3.1 and 4.5 for the DDPv and DPv phases showing that both are moderately frustrated, with greater frustration in the Acation disordered DPv polymorph. Magnetisation-field loops at 5 K in Figure S3b show small saturation magnetisations of 0.01 and 0.03 μ_B for DDPv and DPv phases, and a change in coercive field from 1700 Oe at 35 K to 400 Oe at 5 K shown in Figure S3c is consistent with the likely Sm³⁺ moment ordering transition at 18 K in DDPv-SmMnMnTaO₆.

The above results demonstrate that $P4_2/n$ -type AA'BB'O₆ double double perovskites can be thermally transformed at pressure to $(A_{0.5}A'_{0.5})_2BB'O_6$ double perovskites in which A/ A' cations are disordered but B/B' remain fully ordered. The transitions in CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ are first order and proceed entirely via coexistence of the DDPv and DPv structures, without any incipient A/A' disorder being observed in the former. However the average A-site occupancy order parameter across the two structures follows a continuous mean field behaviour in CaMnMnWO₆, enabling the upper transition temperature to be estimated as 1260°C (and near 1470°C for SmMnMnTaO₆). Both DDPv and DPv polymorphs of each material can thus be recovered by quenching under pressure from temperatures either side of the transition, and this strategy is expected to be applicable to many other double double perovskites provided the transition temperature is within experimental limits.

The ability to make double double and double perovskite polymorphs of the same chemical composition is important as it enables the effects of order or disorder of A/A' cations on physical properties such as magnetism in CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆ to be directly compared. The rocksalt type MnB'O₆ B-site arrangement in these materials has an intrinsic geometric frustration from networks of edge-sharing Mn₄ spin tetrahedra, and antiferromagnetic orders have been observed in A2MnWO6 double perovskites below Néel temperatures of $T_{\rm N} = 8, 8, 13$ and 16 K respectively for A = Ba,^[28] Pb,^[29] Sr,^[30] and Ca.^[24] The increase in T_N across the series reflects a decrease in frustration as crystal symmetry is lowered from cubic (A = Ba) through orthorhombic (Pb), tetragonal (Sr) to monoclinic $P2_1/n$ (Ca) symmetry due to A cation size decreasing plus Pb2+ off-centre distortion.[31] New magnetic ground states of the MnWO₆ network are stabilised in the CaMnMnWO₆ phases reported here. Ordering of cations in the DDPv polymorph is found to switch spin order in the MnWO₆ network to ferromagnetic, with overall ferrimagnetism below $T_{\rm C} = 45$ K. However, Ca/Mn disorder in the double perovskite polymorph gives a spin glass with freezing temperature $T_g = 8$ K. DPv-CaMnMnWO₆ is notable as a highly frustrated material featuring two types of frustrated sublattices, the randomly disordered Ca/Mn cations at the A-sites and the geometrically frustrated rocksalt Mn/W arrangement at the B-sites. The presence of large $S = 5/2 \text{ Mn}^{2+}$ spins leads to a spin glass ground state for CaMnMnWO₆, but analogous disordered double perovskites based on $S = \frac{1}{2}$ cations like Cu²⁺ could have quantum spin liquid ground states providing an exciting possibility for future research. For SmMnMnTaO₆ the difference between Sm/Mn order and disorder is less dramatic as both cations are magnetic, and both DDPv and

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DPv polymorphs appear to have ferromagnetic ground states although with greater frustration and suppression of a separate Sm³⁺ magnetic transition in the latter.

In conclusion, thermal transformations under pressure of two representative manganese-based $P4_2/n$ -type AA'BB'O₆ double double perovskites to $(A_{0.5}A'_{0.5})_2BB'O_6$ double perovskites are demonstrated. The transition is first order due to incompatible octahedral tilts in the two structures and proceeds entirely via coexistence of the DDPv and DPv structures for both CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆. The change from A/A' order to disorder leads to a dramatic switch of magnetic properties in CaMnMnWO₆, from ferrimagnetic order in the double double perovskite to a spin glass ground state in the highly frustrated double perovskite. The ability to generate both double double and double perovskite polymorphs of the same composition provides a systematic method for exploring how frustration of long range magnetic order can lead to spin glass or liquid ground states, and will enable the effects of cation order and disorder on other physical properties such as ferroelectricity and conductivity to be explored for other materials.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Communications

Perovskites

K. Ji, K. N. Alharbi, E. Solana-Madruga, G. T. Moyo, C. Ritter, J. P. Attfield* ______

Double Double to Double Perovskite Transformations in Quaternary Manganese Oxides



Thermal transformations under pressure of AA'BB'O₆ double double perovskites, where both A and B sites have 1:1 cation order, to $(A_{0.5}A'_{0.5})_2BB'O_6$ double perovskites with disordered A/A' cations are demonstrated for CaMnMnWO₆ and SmMnMnTaO₆, leading to a dramatic switch in magnetic properties from ferrimagnetic order to spin glass behaviour in the former.

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