

Received 21 December 2015 Accepted 15 January 2016

Edited by M. Weil, Vienna University of Technology, Austria

Keywords: crystal structure; transition metal vanadate; solid-state reaction synthesis; alluaudite-type structure

CCDC reference: 1447912 Supporting information: this article has supporting information at journals.iucr.org/e



OPEN & ACCESS

## Crystal structure of  $(Na_{0.70})(Na_{0.70}/Mn_{0.30})(Fe^{3+}$ ,- $Fe^{2+}$ )<sub>2</sub>Fe<sup>2+</sup>(VO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, a sodium-, iron- and manganesebased vanadate with the alluaudite-type structure

### Elhassan Benhsina,\* Abderrazzak Assani, Mohamed Saadi and Lahcen El Ammari

Laboratoire de Chimie du Solide Appliquée, Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohammed V de Rabat, Avenue Ibn Battouta, BP 1014, Rabat, Morocco. \*Correspondence e-mail: el\_benhsina@yahoo.fr

The title compound, sodium (sodium,manganese) triiron(II,III) tris[vanadate(V)],  $(Na_{0.70})(Na_{0.70}, Mn_{0.30})(Fe^{3+},Fe^{2+})_2Fe^{2+}(VO_4)_{3}$ , was prepared by solid-state reactions. It crystallizes in an alluaudite-like structure, characterized by a partial cationic disorder. In the structure, four of the 12 sites in the asymmetric unit are located on special positions, three on a twofold rotation axis (Wyckoff position  $4e$ ) and one on an inversion centre  $(4b)$ . Two sites on the twofold rotation axis are entirely filled by  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $V^{5+}$ , whereas the third site has a partial occupancy of 70% by Na<sup>+</sup>. The site on the inversion centre is occupied by Na<sup>+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup> cations in a 0.7:0.3 ratio. The remaining Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> atoms are statistically distributed on a general position. The three-dimensional framework of this structure is made up of kinked chains of edge-sharing  $[FeO<sub>6</sub>]$ octahedra stacked parallel to [101]. These chains are held together by  $VO<sub>4</sub>$ tetrahedral groups, forming polyhedral sheets perpendicular to [010]. Within this framework, two types of channels extending along [001] are present. One is occupied by  $(Na^{\dagger}/Mn^{2\dagger})$  while the second is partially occupied by  $Na^{\dagger}$ . The mixed site containing  $(Na^{\dagger}/Mn^{2\dagger})$  has an octahedral coordination sphere, while the  $Na<sup>+</sup>$  cations in the second channel are coordinated by eight O atoms.

## 1. Chemical context

Over recent decades, the synthesis and structural characterization of transition-metal-based functional materials adopting layered or channel structures has been the focus of much scientific work. In accordance with widespread studies devoted to the improvement of those materials, we have contributed to the search for new functional materials by undertaking synthesis and structural characterization of new transition and alkali metal phosphates exhibiting channel structures and belonging to the well-known alluaudite structure type (Moore, 1971) that can be represented by the general formula  $A(1)A(2)M(1)M(2)_{2}(XO_{4})_{3}$ . The  $M(1)$  and  $M(2)$  sites accommodate di- or trivalent cations in an octahedral environment and are connected to the tetrahedral  $XO<sub>4</sub>$ groups, leading to an open-framework structure. Alluauditetype phosphates are of special interest as positive electrode materials in lithium and sodium batteries. For instance, the alluaudite-type lithium manganese phosphate  $Li_{0.78}Na_{0.22}MnPO_4$  is proposed by Kim *et al.* (2014) as a promising new positive electrode for Li rechargeable batteries. Furthermore, in the more active alluaudite-type cathode material for sodium-ion batteries,  $Na<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>3-x</sub>Mn<sub>x</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>$ , the electrochemical performance is associated either with morphology or with the electronic and crystalline structure (Huang et al., 2015).





The principal building units in the structure of the title compound. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. [Symmetry codes: (i)  $x, -y + 1, z + \frac{1}{2}$ ; (ii)  $x, y, z + 1$ ; (iii)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{3}{2}$  $-z + 2$ ; (iv)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $-y + \frac{3}{2}$ ,  $-z + 1$ ; (v)  $-x$ ,  $y$ ,  $-z + \frac{3}{2}$ ; (vi)  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  - 1; (vii)  $x - y + 1$ ,  $z - \frac{1}{2}$ ; (viii)  $-x$ ,  $y$ ,  $-z + \frac{1}{2}$ ; (ix)  $-x$ ,  $-y + 1$ ,  $-z + 1$ ; (x)  $x$ ,  $-y + 1$ ,  $z - \frac{1}{2}$ ; (xi)  $-x +$ 

Responding to the growing demand for this type of functional materials, we were able to prepare new alluaudite-type phosphates within pseudo-ternary  $A_2O/MO/P_2O_5$  or pseudoquaternary  $A_2O/MO/Fe_2O_3/P_2O_5$  systems by means of hydrothermal or solid-state reactions:  $AgMg_3(HPO_4)_2PO_4$ (Assani et al., 2011),  $\text{NaMg}_3(\text{HPO}_4)_2\text{PO}_4$  (Ould Saleck et al., 2015),  $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{Fe}(\text{PO}_4)$ <sub>3</sub> (Bouraima et al., 2015) and  $Na_{1.67}Zn_{1.67}Fe_{1.33}(PO_4)$ <sub>3</sub> (Khmiyas et al., 2015).

Besides well-known phosphate phases, arsenates (Đorđević et al., 2015; Stock & Bein, 2003) and more recently molybdates (Nasri et al., 2014; Savina et al., 2014) and sulfates (Oyama et al., 2015; Ming et al., 2015) have been reported to crystallize with alluaudite-type structures. However, to the best of our knowledge, no vanadate adopting this type of structure has been reported so far. Therefore we performed hydrothermal and solid-state reaction investigations within the  $A_2O/MO/$  $M'_{2}O_{3}/V_{2}O_{5}$  system (A = monovalent cation, M = bivalent cation and  $M' =$  trivalent cation) with approximate molar ratios of  $A:M:M':V = 2:2:1:3$  and report here details of the preparation and structural characterization of the first sodiummanganese- and iron-based vanadate with an alluaudite-type structure, *viz.*  $(Na_{0.70})(Na_{0.70}, Mn_{0.30})(Fe^{3+},Fe^{2+})_2Fe^{2+}(VO_4)_3.$ 



Edge-sharing  $[FeO<sub>6</sub>]$  octahedra forming a kinked chain running parallel to [101].





A layer perpendicular to [010], resulting from the connection of chains via vertices of VO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra.

#### 2. Structural commentary

The preparation of this compound by melting a mixture of three metal oxide precursors in addition to vanadium oxide forced us to explore several crystallographic models. Refinement of the occupancy ratios, bond-valence analysis and the electrical neutrality requirement of the structure lead to the given composition for the title compound. The basic building units of the structure are shown in Fig. 1. The structure is characterized by disorder in three positions.  $Fe1^{2+}$  and  $Fe1^{3+}$ are statistically distributed on a general site (Wyckoff position 8f); Na1<sup>+</sup> and Mn1<sup>2+</sup> are disordered in a 0.7:0.3 ratio on a site



Figure 4 Polyhedral representation of  $(Na_{0.70})(Na_{0.70}Mn_{0.30})(Fe^{3+}/Fe^{2+})_2Fe^{2+}$  $(VO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>$ , showing channels running along and parallel to [001].

## research communications

Table 1 Experimental details.



Computer programs: APEX2 and SAINT (Bruker, 2009), SHELXT (Sheldrick, 2015a), SHELXL2014 (Sheldrick, 2015b), ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 2012), DIAMOND (Brandenburg, 2006) and publCIF (Westrip, 2010).

located on an inversion centre  $(4b)$ , and Na2<sup>+</sup> is present at a site on a twofold rotation axis (4e) with 70% occupancy. All other sites are fully occupied. Nearly the same cationic distribution was reported by Yakubovich et al. (1977) for the alluaudite-type phosphate  $Na_2(Fe^{3+},Fe^{2+})_2Fe^{2+}(PO_4)_3.$ 

The crystal structure of the title compound is built up from edge-sharing  $[FeO<sub>6</sub>]$  octahedra, leading to the formation of kinked chains running along  $[10\overline{1}]$  (Fig. 2). These chains are held together through the vertices of  $VO<sub>4</sub>$  tetrahedra, generating layers perpendicular to [010] (Fig. 3). Thereby an open three-dimensional framework is formed that delimits two types of channels parallel to [001] in which the disordered  $(Na1^{+/Mn1^{2+}})$  and statistically occupied Na2<sup>+</sup> cations are accommodated (Fig. 4). The  $(Na1^+Mn1^{2+})$  site has a distorted octahedral oxygen environment, with  $(Na1^+Mn1^{2+})$  - O bond lengths between 2.4181 (16) and 2.5115 (15) A. The Na2<sup>+</sup> cation is coordinated by eight oxygen atoms with Na2—O distances in the range 2.4879 (18) to 2.982 (3)  $\AA$ . The disorder of  $Na<sup>+</sup>$  in the channels might admit ionic mobility for this material.

#### 3. Synthesis and crystallization

The title compound was prepared by solid-state reactions in air. Sodium nitrate, metallic manganese and iron were mixed with vanadium oxide in proportions corresponding to the molar ratios Na:Mn:Fe: $V = 2:2:1:3$ . The reaction mixture underwent several heat treatments in a platinum crucible until the melting temperature situated at about 1030 K was reached. Each thermal treatment was interspersed with grinding in an agate mortar. The resulting product contained black single crystals crystals of a suitable size for the X-ray diffraction study.

#### 4. Refinement

Crystal data, data collection and structure refinement details are summarized in Table 1. For the  $(Na1^+Mn1^{2+})$  site, full occupation was assumed, with the sum of the site occupation factors constrained to be 1. The site-occupation factor of Na2<sup>+</sup> was refined freely. In the last step of the refinement, the site occupation factors were fixed to fulfill electro-neutrality. Reflection (1 5 0) was probably affected by the beam-stop and was omitted from the refinement. The remaining maximum and minimum electron density peaks are located 0.59 and 0.41 A from Fe2 and V2, respectively.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors thank the Unit of Support for Technical and Scientific Research (UATRS, CNRST) for the X-ray measurements and Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco, for financial support.

#### References

- [Assani, A., Saadi, M., Zriouil, M. & El Ammari, L. \(2011\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB1) Acta Cryst. E67[, i5.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB1)
- [Bouraima, A., Assani, A., Saadi, M., Makani, T. & El Ammari, L.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB2) (2015). [Acta Cryst.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB2) E71, 558–560.
- Brandenburg, K. (2006). DIAMOND[. Crystal Impact GbR, Bonn,](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB3) [Germany.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB3)
- Bruker (2009). APEX2, SAINT and SADABS[. Bruker AXS Inc.,](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB4) [Madison, Wisconsin, USA.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB4)
- Đorđević, T., Wittwer, A. & Krivovichev, S. (2015). Eur. J. Mineral. 27[, 559–573.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB18)
- [Farrugia, L. J. \(2012\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB5) J. Appl. Cryst. 45, 849–854.
- [Huang, W., Li, B., Saleem, M. F., Wu, X., Li, J., Lin, J., Xia, D., Chu, W.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB6) [& Wu, Z. \(2015\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB6) Chem. Eur. J. 21, 851–860.
- [Khmiyas, J., Assani, A., Saadi, M. & El Ammari, L. \(2015\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB7) Acta Cryst. E71[, 690–692.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB7)
- [Kim, J., Kim, H., Park, K.-Y., Park, Y.-U., Lee, S., Kwon, H.-S., Yoo,](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB8) [H.-I. & Kang, K. \(2014\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB8) J. Mater. Chem. A, 2, 8632–8636.
- [Ming, J., Barpanda, P., Nishimura, S., Okubo, M. & Yamada, A.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB9) (2015). [Electrochem. Commun.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB9) 51, 19–22.
- [Moore, P. B. \(1971\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB10) Am. Mineral. 56, 1955–1975.
- [Nasri, R., Fakhar Bourguiba, N., Zid, M. F. & Driss, A. \(2014\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB11) Acta Cryst. E70[, i47–i48.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB11)
- [Ould Saleck, A., Assani, A., Saadi, M., Mercier, C., Follet, C. & El](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB12) [Ammari, L. \(2015\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB12) Acta Cryst. E71, 813–815.
- [Oyama, G., Nishimura, S., Suzuki, Y., Okubo, M. & Yamada, A.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB13) (2015). [ChemElectroChem](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB13), 2, 1019–1023.
- [Savina, A., Solodovnikov, S., Belov, D., Basovich, O., Solodovnikova,](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB14) [Z., Pokholok, K., Stefanovich, S., Lazoryak, B. & Khaikina, E.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB14) (2014). [J. Solid State Chem.](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB14) 220, 217–220.
- [Sheldrick, G. M. \(2015](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB15)a). Acta Cryst. A71, 3–8.
- [Sheldrick, G. M. \(2015](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB16)b). Acta Cryst. C71, 3–8.
- [Stock, N. & Bein, T. \(2003\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB17) Solid State Sci. 5, 1207–1210.
- [Westrip, S. P. \(2010\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB19) J. Appl. Cryst. 43, 920-925.
- [Yakubovich, O. V., Simonov, M. A., Egorov-Tismenko, Yu. K. &](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB20) [Belov, N. V. \(1977\).](http://scripts.iucr.org/cgi-bin/cr.cgi?rm=pdfbb&cnor=wm5259&bbid=BB20) Sov. Phys. Dokl. 22, 550–552.

# **supporting information**

## *Acta Cryst.* (2016). E**72**, 220-222 [doi:10.1107/S2056989016000931]

Crystal structure of  $(Na_{0.70})(Na_{0.70}/Mn_{0.30})(Fe^{3+},Fe^{2+})_2Fe^{2+}(VO_4)_3$ , a sodium-, iron**and manganese-based vanadate with the alluaudite-type structure**

## **Elhassan Benhsina, Abderrazzak Assani, Mohamed Saadi and Lahcen El Ammari**

## **Computing details**

Data collection: *APEX2* (Bruker, 2009); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2009); data reduction: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2009); program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXT (Sheldrick, 2015*a*); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL2014* (Sheldrick, 2015*b*); molecular graphics: *ORTEP*-*3 for Windows* (Farrugia, 2012) and *DIAMOND* (Brandenburg, 2006); software used to prepare material for publication: *publCIF* (Westrip, 2010).

**Sodium (sodium,manganese) triiron(II,III) tris[vanadate(V)]** 

## *Crystal data*

 $Na<sub>1.40</sub>Mn<sub>0.30</sub>Fe<sub>3</sub>(VO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>$  $M_r = 561.04$ Monoclinic, *C*2/*c*  $a = 11.9512(5)$  Å  $b = 12.9022(5)$  Å  $c = 6.7756(3)$  Å  $\beta$  = 111.678 (1)<sup>o</sup>  $V = 970.88(7)$  Å<sup>3</sup>  $Z = 4$ 

## *Data collection*

Bruker X8 APEX diffractometer Radiation source: fine-focus sealed tube Graphite monochromator *φ* and *ω* scans Absorption correction: multi-scan (*SADABS*; Bruker, 2009)  $T_{\text{min}} = 0.545, T_{\text{max}} = 0.747$ 

## *Refinement*

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup> Least-squares matrix: full  $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.020$  $wR(F^2) = 0.056$  $S = 1.12$ 1768 reflections 100 parameters

 $F(000) = 1064$  $D_x$  = 3.838 Mg m<sup>-3</sup> Mo *Kα* radiation, *λ* = 0.71073 Å Cell parameters from 1768 reflections  $\theta$  = 2.4–32.6°  $\mu$  = 7.63 mm<sup>-1</sup>  $T = 296$  K Block, black  $0.30 \times 0.26 \times 0.18$  mm

17759 measured reflections 1768 independent reflections 1595 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.030$  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 32.6^{\circ}, \theta_{\text{min}} = 2.4^{\circ}$  $h = -18 \rightarrow 18$  $k = -19 \rightarrow 19$ *l* = −7→10

0 restraints  $w = 1/[\sigma^2 (F_o^2) + (0.0252P)^2 + 2.9028P]$ where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$ Δ*ρ*max = 0.74 e Å−3  $\Delta\rho_{\rm min} = -0.99$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

## *Special details*

**Geometry**. All e.s.d.'s (except the e.s.d. in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell e.s.d.'s are taken into account individually in the estimation of e.s.d.'s in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between e.s.d.'s in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell e.s.d.'s is used for estimating e.s.d.'s involving l.s. planes.



*Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å2 )*





*Geometric parameters (Å, º)*



# **supporting information**



## **supporting information**



Symmetry codes: (i) x, -y+1, z+1/2; (ii) x, y, z+1; (iii) -x+1/2, -y+3/2, -z+2; (iv) -x+1/2, -y+3/2, -z+1; (v) -x, y, -z+3/2; (vi) x, y, z-1; (vii) x-1/2,  $-y+3/2$ ,  $z-1/2$ ; (viii)  $-x$ ,  $y$ ,  $-z+1/2$ ; (ix)  $-x$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $-z+1$ ; (x)  $x$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $z-1/2$ ; (xi)  $-x+1$ ,  $y$ ,  $-z+3/2$ ; (xii)  $-x+1$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $-z+1$ .