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## Low Pressure Synchrotron X-ray Powder Diffraction of $\text{Cu}_{5-x}\text{M}_x\text{SbO}_6$ (M = Cr, Mn, W)

The large crystallographic and chemical diversity of copper-based metal oxides is one of their highlighting features and cause for pursuit into copper based material research. An interesting feature seen in copper based metal oxides is the coexistence of different copper oxidation states, in different crystallographic positions, within the same compound [1-3]. This can lead to a mixture of magnetically active  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and magnetically inactive  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$  within the same compound, with different structural motifs. One interesting compound that demonstrates this coexistence of mixed copper oxidation states is  $\text{Cu}_5\text{SbO}_6$ , which crystallises in a modified delafossite structure type ( $\text{CuFeO}_2$ ) [4]. Here, the magnetically active brucite-like  $\text{CuO}_2$  layer was diluted in an ordered fashion with non-magnetic  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$ . These layers were separated by linearly coordinated, magnetically inactive  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$ . Rietveld refinements on a range of preparation temperatures revealed a low-temperature (LT) and high-temperature modification (HT) phase transition. This is related to an ordering (HT)/disordering (LT) effect of the  $\text{Sb}^{5+}/\text{Cu}^{2+}$  brucite-like layers between the  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$  ions. Substituting the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  in the layers with other transition metals (Cr, Mn, W) could present interesting changes to the properties of the material, and potentially influence the ordered/disordered stacking of the layers.

By using solid-state Raman spectroscopy, we could show that this structure displayed a pressure-induced phase transition at room temperature for the ordered modification, which was not observed for the disordered modification. Lowering the pressure from ambient down to 20 mbar showed phonon modes at about 700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 550  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  disappeared almost completely. Neutron powder diffraction experiments were conducted at atmospheric and low pressure on both ordered and disordered modifications. On analysis of the neutron diffraction patterns, we could show a very small shift in the reflections, and thus changes in the unit cell parameters, for the ordered modification, while these shifts were not observed for the disordered modification. These shifts should also be observed in synchrotron powder diffraction patterns. Therefore, we investigated the nature of this phase transition with variable pressure synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction.

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**Primary author(s)** : Mr WILSON, Daniel Jeremy (The University of Auckland)

**Co-author(s)** : Dr ULRICH, Clemens (The University of New South Wales); Ms CHANG, Fenfen (Uni of New South Wales); Dr BRAND, Helen (Australian Synchrotron.); Prof. SMITH, Kevin (Univeristy of Auckland); Mr ALLISON, Morgan (The University of Sydney); Ms VYBORNA, Natalija Hana (The University of Auckland); Mr GRAHAM, Paul (University of New South Wales); Dr SOEHNEL, Tilo (The University of Auckland)

**Presenter(s)** : Mr WILSON, Daniel Jeremy (The University of Auckland)