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## Radioactive Iodine-129 Capture in Mixed Cation Sodalites: *ab initio* modelling

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Sodalites have been investigated experimentally for the capture and long-term containment of iodine-129, a significant and hazardous waste product of the nuclear fuel cycle. Sodalites are zeolite-type structures commonly occurring in nature in alkaline igneous rocks and having the prototype formula  $\text{Na}_8(\text{AlSiO}_4)_6\text{Cl}_2$ . The crystal structure is based around  $\beta$ -cages consisting of corner-sharing  $\text{SiO}_4$  and  $\text{AlO}_4$  tetrahedra. In the centre of the  $\beta$ -cage is an anion X. Iodine captured by sodalites sits in the centre of the  $\beta$ -cages as iodide anions. Silver iodide (AgI) plays an important role in the capture and subsequent processing of iodine-129 in the nuclear fuel cycle. Using *ab initio* density functional theory (DFT) modelling, we investigate the energetics and feasibility of iodine capture and containment in mixed cation sodalites  $\text{Na}_{8-x}\text{Ag}_x(\text{AlSiO}_4)_6\text{I}_2$ , and compare the results with experimental observations.

### Summary

**Primary author(s) :** Dr KUO, EUGENIA (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation)

**Co-author(s) :** Dr GREGG, Daniel (ANSTO); Dr VANCE, Eric R (ANSTO); Dr LUMPKIN, Gregory (ANSTO)

**Presenter(s) :** Dr KUO, EUGENIA (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation)

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