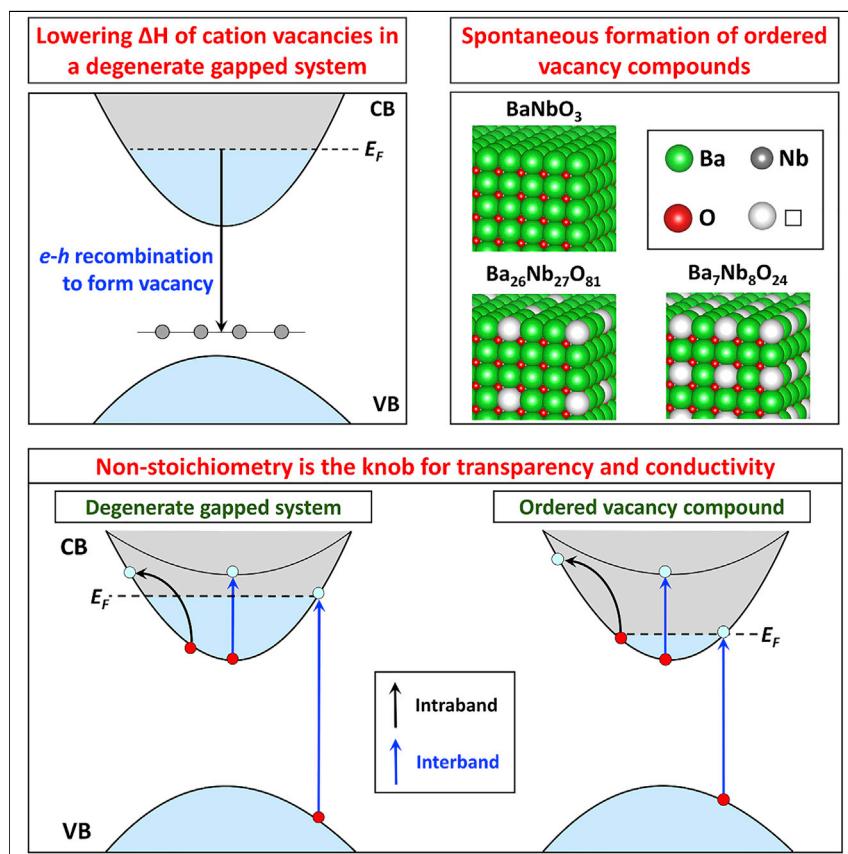


Article

Spontaneous Non-stoichiometry and Ordering in Degenerate but Gapped Transparent Conductors



Formation of non-stoichiometric compounds is often thought to be a growth effect rather than a specific electronic instability. We demonstrate that degenerate gapped compounds with large internal gap and Fermi level in the conduction band can have spontaneous non-stoichiometry, even at low temperatures, due to decay of a fraction of the free electrons into the hole states formed by such vacancies. This unique material feature allows controllable non-stoichiometry to be used to archive target material stability and optoelectronic properties for transparent conductors and electrides.



Discovery

A new material or phenomena

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HIGHLIGHTS

Carriers in degenerate gapped compounds can cause spontaneous non-stoichiometry

Spontaneous non-stoichiometry can result in formation of ordered vacancy compounds

Different ordered vacancy compounds can be realized by controlling growth conditions

Controllable non-stoichiometry is the knob that tunes transparency and conductivity

Article

Spontaneous Non-stoichiometry and Ordering in Degenerate but Gapped Transparent Conductors

Oleksandr I. Malyi,^{1,2,*} Michael T. Yeung,³ Kenneth R. Poeppelmeier,³ Clas Persson,² and Alex Zunger^{1,4,*}

SUMMARY

We highlight a class of materials representing an exception to the Daltonian view that compounds maintain integer stoichiometry at low temperatures and use this behavior to select ordered vacancy compounds (OVCs) striking a wanted compromise between carrier concentration, transparency, and phase stability, crucial for transparent conductors (TCs). We show that carriers in the conduction band (CB) of degenerate gapped BaNbO_3 , $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, and $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ compounds can cause a self-regulating instability, whereby cation vacancies form exothermically because a fraction of the CB electrons decays into the hole states formed by such vacancies, and this electron-hole recombination offsets the positive energy associated with vacancy bond breaking. This Fermi level-induced spontaneous non-stoichiometry can lead to the formation of OVCs with different optoelectronic properties and stable in different ranges of chemical potentials. Thus, we demonstrate how a window of opportunity can be determined between opposing tendencies of transparency, conductivity, and stability to design TCs.

INTRODUCTION

Spontaneous Non-stoichiometry as a Fermi Level Instability

The fact that compounds manifest integer ratios between component elements (the law of definite proportions¹) has been the cornerstone of our understanding of formal oxidation states (taking up integer values) and defect physics (showing that violation of integer ratios by formation of defects costs energy and is thus unlikely at low temperatures). This thinking of the Daltonides school (the paradigm of stoichiometry) stood in stark contrast with the non-stoichiometric Berthollides² school, who argued that compounds could possess a range of compositions entirely dependent on the starting synthetic conditions. We point out an interesting class of exceptions to the Daltonide universal understanding, whereby a degenerate but gapped compound with Fermi energy (E_F) inside the conduction band (CB) and a large internal band gap (E_g^{int}) between the valence band maximum (VBM) and conduction band minimum (CBM) (as shown in Figure 1A) could form a significant concentration of low-energy vacancies, violating the rule of integer stoichiometry.

This understanding has an important implication on transparent conductors (TCs),³ those rare compounds in which the generally mutually exclusive properties of optical transparency (usually common only in electrical insulators) and conductivity (usually common only in opaque metals) coexist. This internal contradiction has been the reason why finding good TCs has proven to be so difficult. The old class of TCs was developed by starting with an insulator (such as In_2O_3 or ZnO , schematically shown

Progress and Potential

Degenerate gapped compounds, those with their Fermi levels inside the conduction band and sufficiently large “internal band gaps” below this Fermi level, are shown here to have negative formation enthalpy for cation vacancies, leading to spontaneous non-stoichiometry and formation of characteristic ordered vacancy compounds (OVCs), even at low temperature, in defiance of Daltonian stoichiometry. Selection during the growth of a specific OVC can be used to mitigate the notoriously difficult conflict between transparency and conductivity, with potential interests beyond of transparent conductors, including electrides and photocatalysts. This surprising prediction is validated with two key experimental findings: silver beta-alumina $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$ leeches out silver atoms upon any attempt to introduce electron carriers, whereas a number of different OVC structures stabilized by effective reconstructions are observed during the synthesis of the tetragonal tungsten bronze $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$.



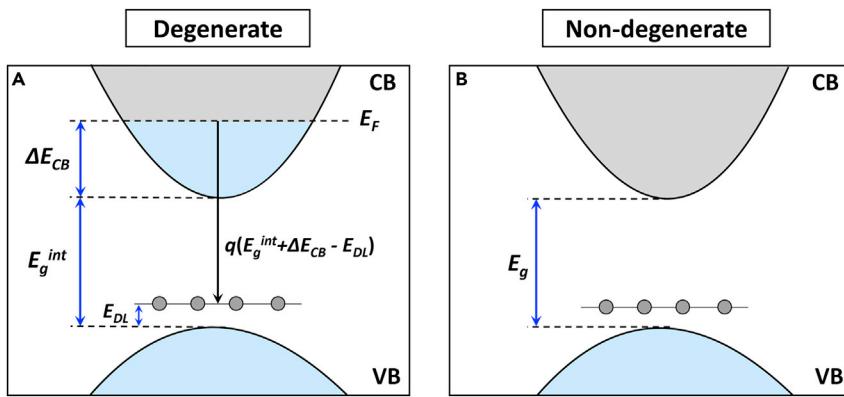


Figure 1. Mechanism for Lowering Formation Energy of an Acceptor in Degenerate Gapped Material

Schematic illustration of defect formation in (A) degenerate gapped compounds and (B) non-degenerate gapped insulators, showing lowering defect formation energy governed by removing an electron from the conduction band. Blue (gray) areas represent occupied (empty) states. Here, ΔE_{CB} is the occupied part of the conduction band; E_g^{int} is the internal band gap, and E_{DL} is the electron-trap defect level produced by, e.g., cation vacancies.

in Figure 1B) and then attempting heavy doping (by Sn or Al, respectively), making it conductive. This has faced severe “doping bottlenecks,”⁴ whereby intended doping by electrons creates “electron killers” in the form of intrinsic acceptors. An alternative strategy⁵ is to start from a metal (Figure 1A) and attempt to make it transparent, avoiding doping bottlenecks. The deeper understanding of spontaneous non-stoichiometry discussed here clarifies that the latter approach can present an unusual window of opportunity, whereby (1) transparency, (2) conductivity, and (3) phase stability can coexist and be selected by zooming in on specific growth conditions (chemical potentials). Specifically, a compound that has the Fermi level inside the CB (a nominal band conductor with free electrons) could become opaque because too many electrons create a strong plasma absorption in the visible range. But if this compound also has a sufficiently large internal band gap below the Fermi energy (i.e., being degenerate but gapped, Figure 1A), it will create spontaneous defects (here, cation vacancies that are hole-producing acceptors) that, while violating Daltonian stoichiometry, also regulate the carrier concentration by compensating the native electrons via the spontaneously produced holes. It is the exothermic electron-hole compensation reaction that drives non-stoichiometry. Unlike the case of the limited formation of dilute vacancies in ordinary insulators (Figure 1B), if there is an internal gap (Figure 1A), then, at the concentrated limit, such vacancies can condense into ordered crystallographic arrays (Figures 2A and 2B), thus explaining the hitherto peculiar occurrence⁶ of macroscopically observed sequences of ground state ordered vacancy compounds (OVCs),^{7–10} such as $\text{Ba}_l\text{Nb}_m\text{O}_n$, with $l:m:n$ ratios of 1:2:6, 3:5:15, 5:4:15, 7:6:21, 7:8:24, 9:10:30, and 26:27:81. We highlight cases in which the vacancy ordering is clearly visible (Figure 2B) versus cases in which, following vacancy ordering, further total energy relaxation yielded structural changes (reconstruction) that make it difficult to visualize the original vacancy ordering. These otherwise peculiar integer ratios emerge as stable, $T = 0$ K ground state structures obtained via a first-principles total energy search. It turns out that such cation vacancy compounds occur as a sequence of discrete phases, each with its own vacancy concentration (e.g., 7:8:24, 9:10:30, and 26:27:81, with 12.5%, 10%, and 3.7% of Ba vacancies, respectively) and each is stabilized at specific reactant chemical potentials (colored domains in Figure 2A). Because of the discrete vacancy ratios, each phase, as illustrated below, has its characteristic residual (post-compensation) electron

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matt.2019.05.014>

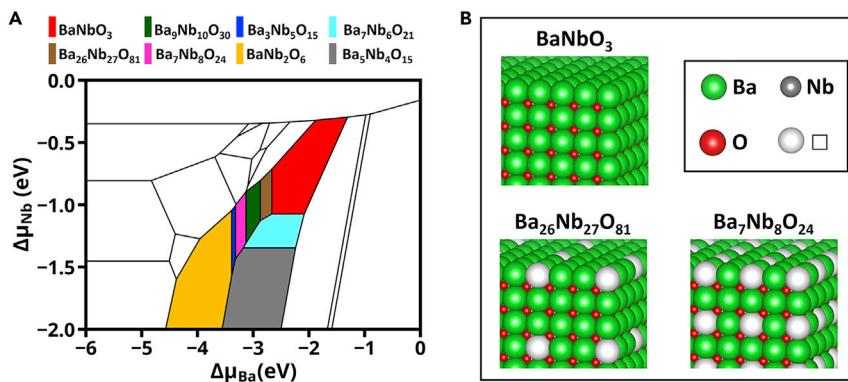


Figure 2. Formation of Stable OVCs in the Ba-Nb-O System

(A) Chemical potential diagram for the Ba-Nb-O system, showing stability chemical potential zones for BaNbO_3 and each stable OVC phase.
(B) Crystal structures of BaNbO_3 and its unreconstructed OVCs demonstrating long-range ordering of Ba vacancies.

concentration and optical response. Such phases (Figure 2A) could then, in principle, be selected during growth by targeting the requisite cation chemical potential, so that the desired optoelectronic properties can be achieved. This work demonstrates that controlled deviation from Daltonian stoichiometry can be used as a knob to regulate transparent conductivity. We validate our theory with two key experimental findings: silver β -alumina $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_{34.5}$ leeches out silver atoms forming Ag vacancies upon any attempt to introduce electron carriers, and tetragonal tungsten bronze $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$, in which the cation vacancy formation favors the formation of secondary phases. Our paper is the first attempt to understand and unravel the intrinsic complex connection between stoichiometry and properties, creating a roadmap for the future. This work has broad implications, as degenerate gapped compounds have been generating increasing interest in many fields beyond that of TCs, including the colored metallic photocatalysts as seen in the substoichiometric $\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{NbO}_3$,¹¹ the electron-donating promotors for catalysts¹² to low work function compliance layers.¹³ Furthermore, our work explains why many of these degenerate gapped compounds require exotic synthesis conditions to be prepared stoichiometrically.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dilute Metal Vacancies Can Form Readily in Degenerate Gapped Compounds

The formation of vacancies in ordinary insulators (Figure 1B) involves breaking of stable chemical bonds without restoring any of the spent energy, so a significant concentration of such defects can exist only at increased temperatures. The situation can be different in degenerate gapped compounds (with E_F located at an energy ΔE_{CB} above the CBM, as in BaNbO_3 , $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, and $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_{34}$ discussed below) with an internal band gap E_g^{int} between the CBM and VBM (Figure 1A). Here, the formation of dilute concentration of metal vacancies can create electron acceptor states near the valence band (at energy E_{DL}), resulting in the opportunity for decay of q CB electrons into these electron acceptor states, thereby regaining the energy $q(E_g^{\text{int}} + \Delta E_{CB} - E_{DL})$, which reduces the vacancy formation energy accordingly (see Figure 1A). When this energy exceeds the bond-breaking energy, one expects spontaneous non-stoichiometry. This defines an electronic Fermi level mechanism for Berthollides² non-stoichiometry.

To validate this concept, Figures 3A, 3C, and 3E show the results of density functional calculated formation energies of the Ba vacancy in BaNbO_3 , the Ca vacancy

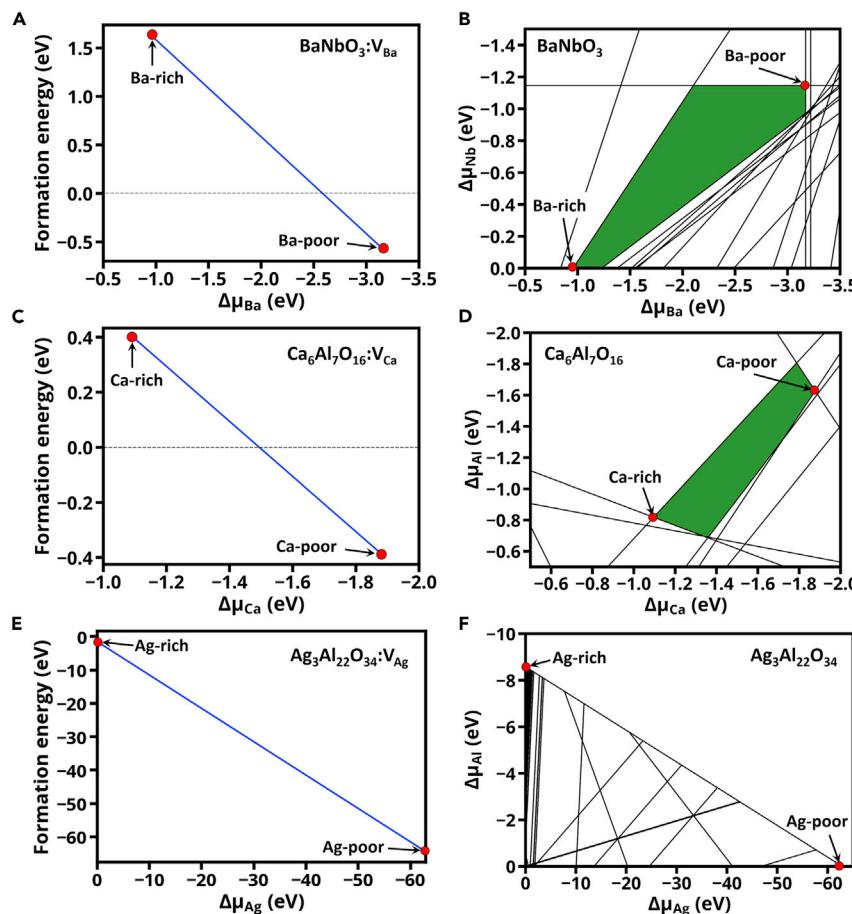


Figure 3. Spontaneous Vacancy Formation in Degenerate Gapped Insulators

Metal vacancy formation energy (left-hand panels) and region of chemical potentials (green zone) where the degenerate gapped insulator is stable (right-hand panels) for (A and B) BaNbO_3 , (C and D) $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, and (E and F) $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$. For $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$, no green zone exists where the compound is stable. Only experimentally observed stoichiometric phases are used to calculate the ranges of chemical potentials under which the compounds are stable.

in $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, and the Ag vacancy in $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$, as a function of the metal chemical potential (see [Experimental Procedures](#)). The allowed stable chemical potential regions (constructed by considering possible competing phases, see [Experimental Procedures](#)) of the respective bulk compounds are shown in [Figures 3B](#), [3D](#), and [3F](#). We see that for the degenerate gapped compounds under cation-deficient chemical potential conditions, vacancy formation energies can be extremely low (in fact, negative). Whereas BaNbO_3 and $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$ have stable chemical potential (green) zones at the respective stoichiometries indicated, $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ does not. In fact, in the latter case, the Ag vacancy formation energy ([Figure 3E](#)) is so strongly negative under all chemical potential conditions, that the CB is empty and the parent degenerate $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ phase is not stable (i.e., no green zone in [Figure 3F](#)).

Dilute Vacancies Can Condense into Stable OVCs Forming Homological Sequences

The negative formation energies of dilute vacancies open the possibility of vacancy condensation and long-range ordering ([Figure 2B](#)). To examine this possibility, we have calculated the $T = 0$ K stable phases ("ground state diagram" or "convex

Composition	Synthesis	Characterization	Possible OVC	RT Properties
Ba-Nb-O				
BaNbO₃^{15,16}	Evacuated quartz tube, 1117 °C	pXRD	No	-
Ba_{0.95}NbO₃¹⁷	Flux growth, vacuum furnace	SC-XRD	Yes	-
Ba_{0.97}NbO₃¹⁸	Evacuated quartz tube, 1200 °C	pXRD	Yes	Metallic
Ba₃Nb₅O₁₅¹⁹	Flux growth, vacuum furnace	SC-XRD	Reconstructed	Semiconductor
Ba₆Nb₁₀O₃₀²⁰	Evacuated quartz tube, 1100 °C	pXRD	Reconstructed	Semiconductor
Ba₆Nb₁₀O₃₀²¹	Evacuated quartz tube, 1200 °C	EDS, pXRD	Reconstructed	Semiconductor
Ba₆Nb₁₀O₃₀^{22,23}	Low P _{O₂} sintering, 1360 °C	pXRD	Reconstructed	Metallic
Ba₆Nb₁₀O₃₀^{24,25}	Low P _{O₂} sintering, 1300 °C	pXRD, TEM, EDS	Reconstructed	Semiconductor
BaNb₂O₆²⁶	Flux growth, 1450 °C	SC-XRD	Reconstructed	Semiconductor
Ba₅Nb₄O₁₅²⁷	Sintering, 1150 °C	pXRD	Reconstructed	Semiconductor
Ca-Al-O				
Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₂^{28,29}	Floating zone, followed by Ca reduction	pXRD	No	Metallic
Ca_{11.3}Al₁₄O_{32.3}³⁰	Zone melting	Neutron powder diffraction	Yes	Semiconductor

Figure 4. Summary for Experimental Results on Stable OVCs in Ba-Nb-O and Ca-Al-O Systems Reported in the Literature

Characterization techniques are labeled as powder X-ray diffraction (pXRD), single crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD), energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS), and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). If the structure does not have a clearly defined vacancy site, it is labeled as reconstructed. Room temperature (RT) properties stand for the metallic or semiconductor nature of the compound based on the reported temperature dependence of the electronic conductivity. The synthesis field highlights key conditions for experimental realization of the specific material.

hull") of such ternary structures. This entails searching for configuration versus composition that lies on the energy convex hull,¹⁴ which defines the phases with energy lower than a linear combination of any competing phases at the corresponding compositions. We create candidate configurations by considering a base compound (BaNbO₃, Ba₃Nb₅O₁₅, Ca₆Al₁₄O₃₂, or Ag₃Al₂₂O₃₄), then create a replica of *N* such units of the base compound and add successively *p* metal vacancies, i.e., OVC = *N* × (base) + *pV_m*, searching via total energy minimization for stable and metastable configurations. We also include experimentally known reconstructed OVCs, the compounds that satisfy the OVC expression but do not have clearly defined vacancy sites (e.g., Ba₃Nb₅O₁₅, BaNb₂O₆, and Ba₅Nb₄O₆).

Available information on the experimental literature^{15–30} is provided in Figure 4, and the theoretical results of this work are summarized in Figure 5. The key point to notice is that there is a sequence of stable OVC phases, each having a specific concentration of electrons per formula unit (e/f.u.) in the CB (including possibly zero). This is illustrated in Figures 6A and 7A showing the ground state diagrams for Ba-Nb-O and Ca-Al-O systems and chemical potential stability diagrams (Figures 2A

OVC generator	Resulting OVC	N_e (e/f.u.)	ΔE_{CB} (eV)	E_g^{int} (eV)	Material type	Symmetry
Ba-Nb-O						
1:1:3 (Base)	BaNbO ₃	1	1.11	2.26	I	1:1:3
27×(1:1:3)+V_{Ba}	Ba ₂₆ Nb ₂₇ O ₈₁	25/27	1.04	2.22	I	1:1:3-like
10×(1:1:3)+V_{Ba}	Ba ₉ Nb ₁₀ O ₃₀	8/10	0.90	2.19	I	1:1:3-like
8×(1:1:3)+V_{Ba}	Ba ₇ Nb ₈ O ₂₄	6/8	0.88	2.17	I	1:1:3-like
7×(1:1:3)+V_{Nb}	Ba₇Nb₆O₂₁	2/7	0.40	2.20	II	Reconstructed
5×(1:1:3)+2V_{Ba}	Ba₃Nb₅O₁₅	1/5	0.46	1.87	II	Reconstructed
2×(1:1:3)+V_{Ba}	BaNb ₂ O ₆	0	0	2.72	III	Reconstructed
5×(1:1:3)+V_{Nb}	Ba ₅ Nb ₄ O ₁₅	0	0	2.65	III	Reconstructed
Ca-Al-O						
6:7:16 (Base)	Ca ₆ Al ₇ O ₁₆	1	0.96	3.49	I	6:7:16
4×(6:7:16)+V_{Ca}	Ca₂₃Al₂₈O₆₄	2/4	0.67	3.10	II	6:7:16-like
2×(6:7:16)+V_{Ca}	Ca ₁₁ Al ₁₄ O ₃₂	0	0	3.40	III	6:7:16-like

Figure 5. Summary of the Computational Results on Stable OVCs in Ba-Nb-O and Ca-Al-O Systems

The OVCs are generated by creating supercells of a base cell as OVC = $N \times (\text{base}) + pV_m$, where N and p are integer numbers. Number of electrons (N_e) in the conduction band is given per formula unit (f.u.) of the base compound (i.e., BaNbO₃ or Ca₆Al₇O₁₆). In general, the number of electrons in the conduction band for the degenerate gapped Ca-Al-O and Ba-Nb-O compounds can be predicted from the sum of composition-weighted formal oxidation states assuming Ba²⁺, Ca²⁺, Al³⁺, Nb⁵⁺, and O²⁻ for each material. ΔE_{CB} is the occupied energy range of conduction band and E_g^{int} is the internal gap between CBM and VBM (Figure 1A) estimated from the density of states. Types of materials I, II, and III stand for non-transparent metals, potentially TCs (shown in red), and insulators, respectively. If the OVC in the lowest energy state does not have clearly defined vacancy sites, it is labeled as reconstructed.

and 7B) demonstrating the phases that are stabilized as the chemical potentials of the atoms being removed are continuously changed between their allowed values. Finally, we show how a window of opportunity can be determined computationally between opposing tendencies of (1) stability (Figures 2A and 7B), (2) conductivity (Figures 6B–6D and 7C), and (3) transparency (Figure 8) to design new TCs.

Stable Phases and OVCs for the Ba-Nb-O System

Computationally, we find 25 binary and ternary ground state compounds (described in Data S1) of which Ba₇Nb₆O₂₁, Ba₅Nb₄O₁₅, Ba₃Nb₅O₁₅, Ba₇Nb₈O₂₄, Ba₉Nb₁₀O₃₀, Ba₂₆Nb₂₇O₈₁, and BaNb₂O₆ are OVCs (Figure 5). Here, 7:8:24, 9:10:30, and 26:27:82 phases have clearly defined vacancy sites, and 1:2:6, 3:5:15, and 5:4:15 OVCs are reconstructed compounds observed experimentally before.^{19,26,27,31,32} It should be noted that for the perovskite BaNbO₃ (Figure 4), there has been a focused effort to quantify the occupancy of the A site via diffraction, and authors have noted that there are possible vacancies, as "...slight departures of the stoichiometry below the detection limits of the neutron powder diffraction technique cannot be

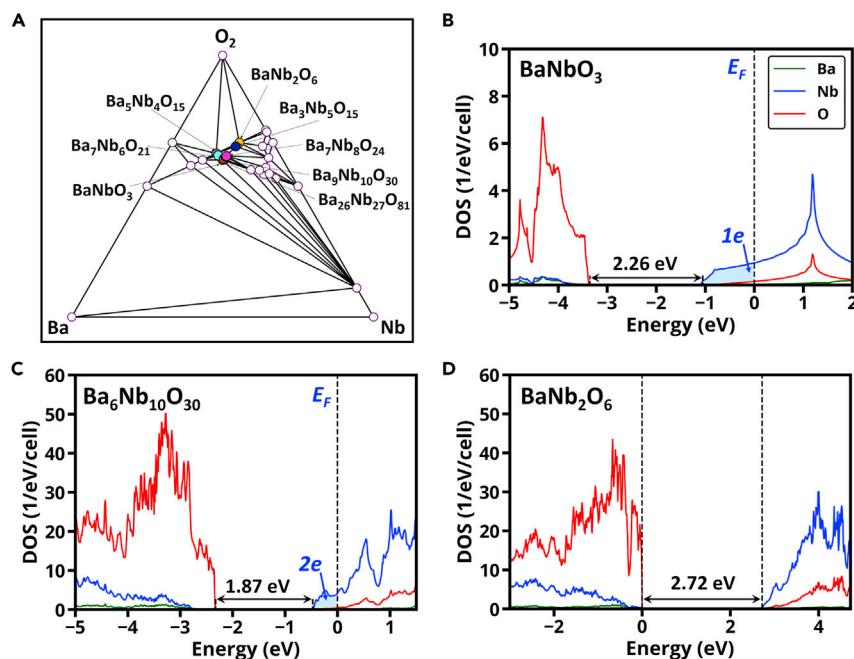


Figure 6. Stability and Electronic Structures of BaNbO₃ and Its OVCs

(A) Convex hull for the Ba-Nb-O system indicating the OVCs in color. In Figure 3B, the OVCs were not included in the calculations of the stability green zone of BaNbO₃, but they are included in (A) and Figure 2A. This redefines the chemical potential stability zone under which the base compound can exist, and consequently the formation energy of Ba vacancy in BaNbO₃ is about 0 eV under the redefined cation-poor conditions.

Density of states for (B) BaNbO₃, (C) Ba₆Nb₁₀O₃₀, and (D) BaNb₂O₆, indicating the number of electrons in the conduction band per formula unit.

excluded.¹⁸ Indeed, several potential experimental compositions (i.e., Ba_{0.95}NbO₃ and Ba_{0.97}NbO₃) nearly match predicted phases (Ba₂₆Nb₂₇O₈₁ ≈ Ba_{0.963}NbO₃), whereas other predicted compositions (i.e., Ba₇Nb₈O₂₄ and Ba₉Nb₁₀O₃₀) exceed the observed vacancy concentration.

Stable Phases and OVCs for the Ca-Al-O System

We identify computationally a total of ten binary and ternary ground state compounds (described in Data S2) of which Ca₁₁Al₁₄O₃₂ and Ca₂₃Al₂₈O₆₄ are OVCs (Figure 5). Here, both OVCs have clearly defined vacancy sites with the long-range ordering of Ca vacancies. Despite the limited information on the formation of non-stoichiometric Ca_{6-x}Al₇O₁₆ systems (Figure 4), Ca_{11.3}Al₁₄O_{32.3} compound with Ca₆Al₇O₁₆-like structure and partial occupancy of Ca sites has been reported experimentally,³⁰ which indirectly support our theoretical predictions.

Stable Phases and No OVCs for the Ag-Al-O System

We find computationally a total of four binary and ternary ground state compounds (described in Data S3): Al₂O₃, Ag₂O, AgAl, and AgAlO₂. None of them are OVCs. In fact, the Ag₃Al₂₂O₃₄ and its Ag₂Al₂₂O₃₄ OVC lie energetically above the convex hull by 0.034 and 0.01 eV/atom, respectively. Specifically, Ag₃Al₂₂O₃₄ decomposes to AlAgO₂, Ag, and Al₂O₃ phases, while Ag₂Al₂₂O₃₄ decomposes to AgAlO₂ and Al₂O₃. In other words, the formation of Ag vacancy is highly effective and drains all electrons from the CB; thus, Ag₂Al₂₂O₃₄ is an insulator. This vacancy formation increases the system stability (the energy above the convex hull is smaller for Ag₂Al₂₂O₃₄ than that for Ag₃Al₂₂O₃₄), but both Ag₃Al₂₂O₃₄ and Ag₂Al₂₂O₃₄ are

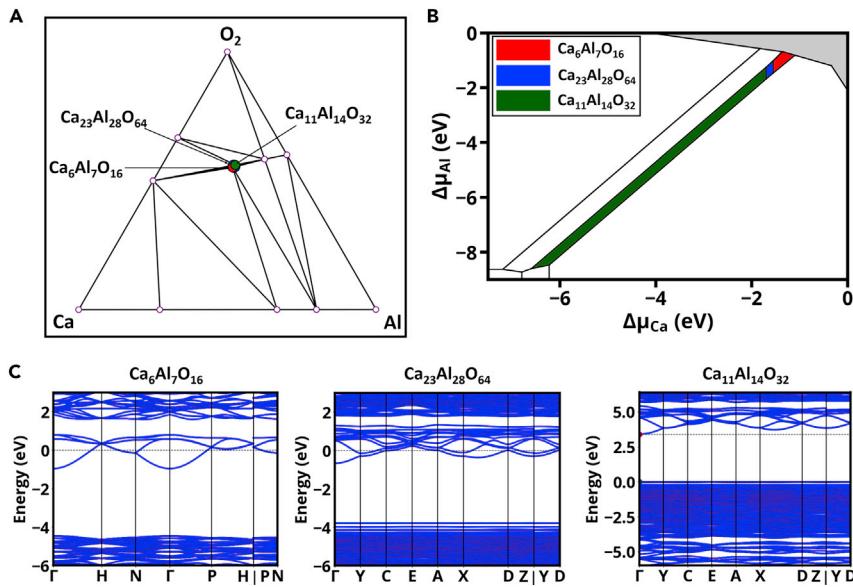


Figure 7. Stability and Electronic Structures of $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$ and Its OVCs

(A) Convex hull for the Ca-Al-O system indicating the OVCs in color.

(B) Chemical potential diagram for the Ca-Al-O system, showing the stability chemical potential zone for each stable OVC phase in colors corresponding to the ground states in (A). The gray zone corresponds to the prohibitive chemical potential stability zone of binary Ca-Al systems. In Figure 3D, the OVCs were not included in the calculations of the stability green zone of $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, but they are included (A and B). This redefines the chemical potential stability zone under which the base compound can exist, and consequently the formation energy of Ca vacancy in $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$ is about 0 eV under the redefined cation-poor conditions.

(C) Band structures for $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$ and its OVCs.

unstable with respect to competing phases. Our experimental attempts to reduce synthesized $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$ to $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ via heating the compound to 700°C to liberate oxygen results in the formation of free metallic silver and $\text{Ag}_{2.5}\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.25}$ (Note S1). These results suggest that despite the fact that $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ might be attractive as an intrinsic TC⁵ if Ag vacancy formation can be partially inhibited, the system is not likely to be realized experimentally under normal conditions.

Different OVCs Have Different Number of Free Carriers, Absorption, and Conductivity

Trends in the Number of Electrons in the CB of Intrinsic TCs and the Metal-Insulator Transition

For the Ba-Nb-O system (Figure 5), among the ground state structures, the phases 1:1:3, 7:6:21, 26:27:81, 9:10:30, 7:8:24, and 3:5:15 have electrons in the CB and wide internal band gaps. From the sequences of OVCs, we find that both Ba and Nb vacancies act as acceptors, removing 2e and 5e per vacancy from the CB (Figures 6B–6D). The electronic properties of Ba-Nb-O systems were studied experimentally by various groups (Figure 4). Specifically, it has been shown that the 1:1:3 compound is a metal,¹⁸ whereas the 1:2:6 and 5:4:15 OVCs are insulators.^{26,27,33,34} At the same time, despite a few experimental works reporting low resistivity for the 3:5:15 compound, the temperature dependence of the resistivity (metal versus semiconductor nature) is different for different studies.^{19–22,25} These results are not surprising considering the tiny range of chemical potentials under which the 3:5:15 OVC exists (Figure 2A), low defect formation energy in degenerate gapped compounds, and

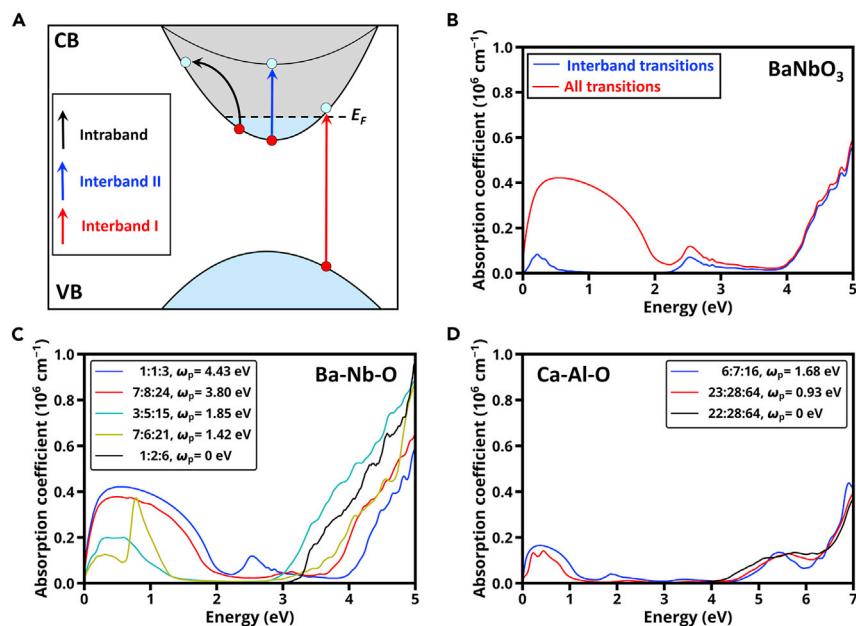


Figure 8. Effect of Non-stoichiometry on Optoelectronic Properties

(A) Schematic illustration of different contributions to optical properties in degenerate gapped compounds.

(B) Absorption spectra for BaNbO_3 considering only interband transitions and superposition of interband and intraband transitions.

(C) Effect of non-stoichiometry on the average absorption spectra of degenerate gapped compounds in the Ba-Nb-O system.

(D) Effect of non-stoichiometry on the average absorption spectra of degenerate gapped compounds in the Ca-Al-O system. The averaged plasma frequency over the three Cartesian directions is given for each system.

complexity of material synthesis. In our own work on 3:5:15 OVC, we see the preferential formation of the secondary reconstructed 1:2:6 and 5:4:15 OVCs over the targeted compound (Note S2). This reflects the narrow stability region of the 3:5:15 phase versus the reconstructed OVCs. Hence, the sensitivity of sample preparation conditions reignites the need for high-quality single crystals to quantify potential vacancy concentration and to understand the potential structural/electronic impact of vacancy formation.

For the Ca-Al-O system (Figure 5), from the analysis of electronic structures of the ground state compounds, we identify the phases 6:7:16 and 23:28:64 as degenerate gapped compounds with 1e/f.u. and 2e/f.u. in the CB, respectively. At the same time, the 11:14:32 OVC has no CB electrons, i.e., it is an insulator with a wide band gap. The results for electronic structures of OVCs suggest that Ca vacancy in 6:7:16-based degenerate gapped compounds acts as acceptor removing 2e from the CB. However, in contrast to the OVCs in the Ba-Nb-O system, the formation of Ca vacancy produces in-gap occupied defect states that reduce both the internal band gap energy and the energy range of occupied states (Figure 7C). The high electronic conductivity of 6:7:16 is known from experimental studies (Figure 4),^{28,29} but the insulating and conducting properties of 11:14:32 and 23:28:64 OVCs are yet to be confirmed. It should also be noted that 6:7:24 and its 23:28:64 OVC have clearly defined 0-dimensional charge carrier density localization, which implies that both compounds are not only degenerate gapped compounds but also stable inorganic electrides (Note S3).

Spontaneously Formed Vacancies Enhance Transparency while Reducing Conductivity

The optical properties of a degenerate gapped compound are determined by superposition of interband and intraband transitions (Figure 8A). Owing to the occupied CB, the band-to-band transitions can be divided into (I) interband transitions from the occupied valence to unoccupied conduction bands and (II) interband transition from occupied conduction to higher energy unoccupied bands. In the simplified model used here, the intraband transitions can be predicted within the Drude model³⁵ describing free-electron absorption.

The contribution of the aforementioned different types of transitions to the absorption spectra is illustrated in Figure 8B for BaNbO₃. Specifically, the interband transitions (I) contribute to the absorption spectra at energies slightly above $E_g^{\text{int}} + \Delta E_{\text{CB}}$ due to the curvatures of the valence and conduction bands. The interband transitions (II) contribute noticeably at energies below those for interband transitions (I) and determine the absorption spectra in the range from 2 to 4 eV. Finally, the intraband contribution determines the low-energy region of absorption spectra. This analysis defines the design principles for good intrinsic TCs that require (1) metals with large internal gaps between the valence and conduction bands to minimize the interband absorption in visible range and (2) a high enough carrier density (n_e) in the CB to provide conductivity, while having (3) a low enough carrier density, limiting the interband transition in the CB and plasma frequency ($\omega_p \sim \sqrt{n_e/m}$, where m is an effective carrier mass), so that free-electron absorption does not impede the needed optical transparency. Furthermore, (4) the free carriers in the CB above the internal band gap should not destabilize the compound by spontaneously creating Fermi level-induced defects that defeat conductivity.

For the Ba-Nb-O system, the 1:1:3 degenerate gapped compound has the highest plasma frequency ($\omega_p = 4.43$ eV) among the considered materials which results in strong Drude contribution in the visible light range. Hence, despite high carrier concentration ($n_e = 1.38 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and stability, the 1:1:3 compound is not TC due to low transparency. Indeed, the 1:1:3 samples have clearly distinct color in experimental studies.¹⁸ At the low vacancy concentration, the effect of the defects on carrier density and optical properties is negligible. However, the increase in Ba or Nb vacancy concentration and formation of OVCs noticeably change the optoelectronic properties via reducing plasma frequency contribution and modifying the material band structure. Although 26:27:81, 9:10:30, and 7:8:24 OVCs have smaller carrier concentrations compared with 1:1:3 compound, the free-electron absorption is still a limiting factor as shown in the example of 7:8:24 OVC (Figure 8C). Among the stable degenerate Ba-Nb-O gapped compounds, 3:5:15 and 7:6:21 compounds have the smallest average absorption coefficients in the visible range (highest transparency).

For the Ca-Al-O system, the optical properties of degenerate gapped materials in the visible range in large part are determined by the interband transition from occupied conduction to unoccupied bands. Specifically, for the 6:7:16 compound, the carrier concentration of $2.26 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ results in the averaged plasma frequency of 1.68 eV, which does not induce noticeable free-electron absorption in the visible range. The interband transitions from the valence to the conduction bands are well separated in energy and contribute only above $E_g^{\text{int}} + \Delta E_{\text{CB}}$, which is over 4.4 eV (Figure 7C). Because of this, the absorption in the visible light range is mainly determined by interband transitions in the CB finally resulting in colored material. The Ca vacancy formation removing 2e from the CB per defect not only reduces the plasma

frequency but also changes the interband transition, which is illustrated in the absorption spectra of 6:7:16 and its OVCs (see [Figure 8D](#)). In particular, 23:28:64 OVC has the lowest absorption in the visible light range among the considered degenerate gapped compounds.

Stability of OVCs during Growth Is the Knob that Controls Vacancy Concentration and Hence Transparency and Conductivity

We have seen above that different OVCs have a different number of free carriers, absorption, and conductivity. What makes this a useful feature is that each such OVC can be realized in a unique and specific range of atomic chemical potentials that can, in principle, be controlled during growth. This is illustrated in [Figure 2A](#) for the Ba-Nb-O system and in [Figure 7B](#) for the Ca-Al-O system, whereas $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ offers no control as the Ag vacancy forms readily for any chemical potential. Significantly, the results in [Figures 2A](#) and [7B](#) suggest that it is possible to stabilize different $\text{Ba}_m\text{Nb}_m\text{O}_n$ and $\text{Ca}_m\text{Al}_m\text{O}_n$ OVCs by tuning Ba/Nb and Ca chemical potentials, respectively. As an illustration, considering the chemical potential stability zone for BaNbO_3 ([Figure 2A](#)), we find that the reduction of the Ba chemical potential results in stabilization of the 26:27:81, 9:10:30, 7:8:24, 3:5:15, and 1:2:6 OVCs, while 7:6:21 and 5:4:15 OVCs are stable under Nb-poor conditions. Formation of non-stoichiometric structures for Ba-Nb-O materials family has also been reported experimentally ([Figure 4](#)); our results extend the knowledge on non-stoichiometric structures, showing how non-stoichiometry often seen in the system is an electronic effect—a high Fermi energy induces the formation of electron-killer cation vacancies. This effect is argued to be rather widespread, not an exotic curiosity, as there are many compounds with large internal gaps and Fermi level in the CB. For instance, fairly recently, $\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{NbO}_3$ (a BaNbO_3 -like metal whose Fermi level sits above a ~ 1.8 eV gap) was found to be rare, colored, metallic photocatalyst¹¹ whose coloring and electronic conductivity can be controlled by synthesis conditions. Our results also provide insights into the stability of the transparent conductive states while pointing out that controllable formation of non-stoichiometric degenerate gapped compounds can be used to design next-generation TCs. Specifically, among the stable OVCs, $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{Ba}_7\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{21}$, and $\text{Ca}_{23}\text{Al}_{28}\text{O}_{64}$ OVCs are potential TCs. However, $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$ exists only under an extremely tiny range of chemical potentials (see [Figure 2A](#)). Because of this and low defect formation energy in degenerate gapped compounds, the further research is required to quantify the sensitivity of sample preparation conditions on the structural/electronic properties of the material. $\text{Ba}_7\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{21}$ and $\text{Ca}_{23}\text{Al}_{28}\text{O}_{64}$ OVCs are first predicted to be stable ground state compounds and constitute opportunities for novel synthesis. Here, $\text{Ca}_{23}\text{Al}_{28}\text{O}_{64}$ OVC has the highest transparency among all considered systems, but due to the small stability zone, a precise control of chemical potentials is needed to realize the compound. $\text{Ba}_7\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{21}$ exists in the widest range of chemical potentials among the potential TCs, which implies a simpler control of synthesis conditions to realize the material.

Conclusions

The existence of non-stoichiometry in oxides is often thought to be a growth effect rather than a specific electronic instability. However, we demonstrate via first-principles calculations that a degenerate gapped compound with sufficiently large internal gap and Fermi level in the CB can have a characteristically negative cation vacancy formation enthalpy; in other words, spontaneous non-stoichiometry occurs even at low temperatures, intrinsic to the compound (not due to extrinsic effects). At the concentrated limit, such vacancies condense into OVCs. We show that this is a generic behavior as cation vacancy formation results in the decay of CB electrons into electron

acceptor states. As a result, the negative electron-hole recombination energy offsets the positive energy associated with vacancy bond breaking. Our results thus explain and clarify how non-stoichiometry often seen in oxides is an electronic effect—a high Fermi energy induces the formation of electron-killer acceptors. This effect is argued to be rather widespread, not an exotic curiosity, as there are many compounds with such electronic structures. We demonstrate by the chemical potential phase diagrams the growth regimes where a particular $l:m:n$ OVC with a fixed level of transparency and conductivity is stable. For example, whereas in $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$, the Ag vacancies form readily (so the CB is completely depleted of carriers), in the Ca-Al-O and Ba-Nb-O systems there are well-defined chemical potential domains, where OVCs with an optimal number of carriers persist. Since each $l:m:n$ OVC depletes the CB of electrons by a different amount, the controllable formation of OVCs can be used to modify interband absorption, enhance materials stability, reduce plasma absorption, and design next-generation TCs. Specifically, we identify $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{Ba}_7\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{21}$, and $\text{Ca}_{23}\text{Al}_{28}\text{O}_{64}$ OVCs as attractive candidatures for TC application. This work has broad implications as degenerate gapped compounds have been attracting much interest in many fields beyond that of TCs.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Density Functional Calculations

All spin-polarized calculations were carried out using Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof functional³⁶ with DFT+U correction for Nb ($U = 1.5$ eV) and Ag ($U = 5$ eV) d-like orbitals as implemented by Dudarev et al.³⁷ and available in Vienna Ab Initio Simulation Package.³⁸ Although the DFT+U approach is a simplified self-interaction correction, it appears to describe correctly both reduced ligand states ("trapped holes") as well as ligands with conventional formal oxidation states, as demonstrated in tests described in literature.^{39,40} It should be noted that the utilization of DFT+U with a larger U value (i.e., $U = 3$ eV) for Nb d-like orbitals results in incorrect insulating nature of the BaNbO_3 system. The cutoff energies for plane-wave basis were set to 500 and 600 eV for the final static and volume relaxation calculations, respectively. Γ -centered Monkhorst-Pack k-grids⁴¹ were used in the Brillouin-zone integrations with grid densities of approximately 2,500 and 10,000 per reciprocal atom for volume relaxation and final static calculations. For each system, random atomic displacements within 0.1 Å were applied to avoid trap at a local minimum. The full optimization of lattice vectors and atomic positions was allowed. The results were analyzed using VESTA⁴² and pymatgen.⁴³

Calculations of Chemical Potential Domains

To calculate stability zones for BaNbO_3 , $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, and $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ compounds presented in Figure 3, we used only experimentally known stoichiometric crystal structures available in the Inorganic Crystal Structure Database (ICSD)⁴⁵ and SpringerMaterial.⁴⁴ To predict convex hulls and chemical potential diagrams for Ca-Al-O and Ag-Al-O systems, in addition to the known experimental structures, we included generated OVCs and structures available in the Materials Project⁴⁵ database. For the Ba-Nb-O system (Figures 2A and 6A), we also considered stoichiometries inspired by II-V-O phase diagrams. The O_2 molecule was used as a reference state for the O_2 phase. The ground state compounds found in this work are given in Data S1–S3. We implemented fitted elemental-phase reference energy corrections⁴⁶ to correct chemical potentials for elemental reference states.

Optical Spectra

The optical properties (Figure 8) were computed within independent particle approximation.⁴⁷ To calculate plasma frequencies and interband transition spectra,

$40 \times 40 \times 40$, $20 \times 20 \times 20$, $20 \times 20 \times 20$, $8 \times 24 \times 8$, $16 \times 12 \times 8$, $20 \times 20 \times 20$, $8 \times 8 \times 8$, and $8 \times 8 \times 8$ Γ -centered k-point grids were used for BaNbO_3 , $\text{Ba}_7\text{Nb}_8\text{O}_{24}$, $\text{Ba}_7\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{21}$, $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$, BaNb_2O_6 , $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, $\text{Ca}_{23}\text{Al}_{28}\text{O}_{64}$, and $\text{Ca}_{11}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{32}$, respectively. The Drude contribution to optical properties was included by utilizing kram code⁴⁸ with plasma frequencies calculated from first-principles calculations and the damping coefficient of 0.2 eV, which is analogous to traditional TCs.⁴⁹

Defect Calculations

Supercells with 116, 135, and 236 atoms were used to calculate defect energetics in $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, BaNbO_3 , and $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ systems, respectively. The defect formation energies (Figures 3A, 3C, and 3E) and finite size corrections were computed within the framework described by Lany and Zunger^{50,51} and implemented in the pylada-defects code.⁵² For the defect calculations, the ranges of chemical potentials were determined using only experimentally known stoichiometric crystal structures as described above. It should be noted that unlike conventional insulators where the Fermi energy can span the full range of the gap (Figure 1B), thus controlling the balance between different charges, if the Fermi energy resides inside a continuum band, as is the case in Figure 1A, it represents the energy to add or remove an electron from the host system, not from point defects in the gap. Thus, the conventional calculation of charged defects versus E_F is not meaningful in degenerate gapped materials.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

All data needed to evaluate the conclusions in the paper are present in the paper and the [Supplemental Information](#). Additional data related to this paper may be requested from the authors.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matt.2019.05.014>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work of A.Z. and O.I.M. at University of Colorado Boulder, and of K.R.P. and M.T.Y. at Northwestern University, was supported by the NSF-DMR EPM program under grants DMR-1806939 and DMR-1806912, respectively. M.T.Y. would like to thank the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Postdoctoral Research Award under the EERE Solar Energy Technologies Office administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) for the DOE. The ORISE is managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) under DOE contract number DE-SC00014664. All opinions expressed in this paper are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect the policies and views of DOE, ORAU, or ORISE. O.I.M. and C.P. acknowledge support from the Research Council of Norway (contract no. 251131), and the Norwegian Metacenter for Computational Science (NOTUR) for providing access to supercomputer resources. We would like to thank Zachary Mansley for help with transmission electron microscopy.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

O.I.M. carried out the theoretical calculations. M.T.Y. fabricated the samples and carried out structure analysis by X-ray powder diffraction. A.Z. directed the design of the research, analysis of the results, and writing of the paper. O.I.M. contributed most to writing of the paper, with contributions from all co-authors. K.R.P. supervised the experimental work. C.P. and A.Z. supervised all theoretical studies.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

Received: January 1, 2019

Revised: April 9, 2019

Accepted: May 13, 2019

Published: July 10, 2019

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Supplemental Information

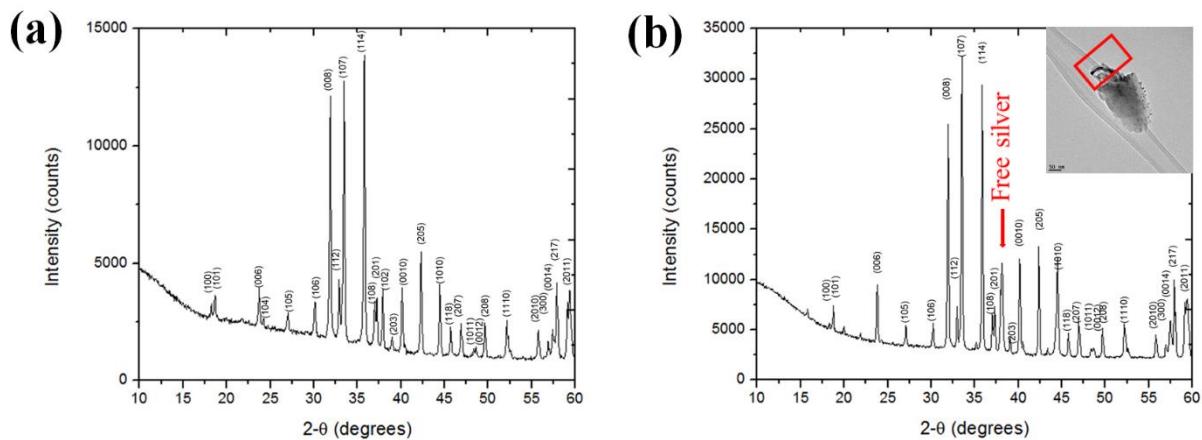
**Spontaneous Non-stoichiometry
and Ordering in Degenerate
but Gapped Transparent Conductors**

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Supplementary Note I: Experimental observation of Ag formation in $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34+x}$ under reduced atmosphere

$\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ was predicted to be a transparent conducting oxide with a periodic 2-dimensional electron gas.¹ This composition is unusual for β -aluminas in two ways, notably the high monovalent cation loading and the partial reduced silver species, and thus an alternative synthetic route was needed. The typical sodium (or any other cation) loading in unstabilized sodium β -aluminas has been traditionally limited to about $\text{Na}_{2-2.5}\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34+\delta}$.² This cap is a culmination of two factors: (1) the high ionic mobility of sodium and (2) the high volatility of Na_2O at synthesis temperatures. To get around this, we sintered $\text{Ba}_{1.5}\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$ at high temperatures as the precursor, as the divalent barium is far less mobile at high temperatures than sodium. The divalent barium is then ion exchanged at the relatively low temperature of 980°C in molten sodium chloride, preventing the volatilization of Na_2O seen at sintering temperatures. From there, the highly non-stoichiometric sodium β -alumina can be ion exchanged to yield the desired the highly non-stoichiometric silver β -alumina $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$.

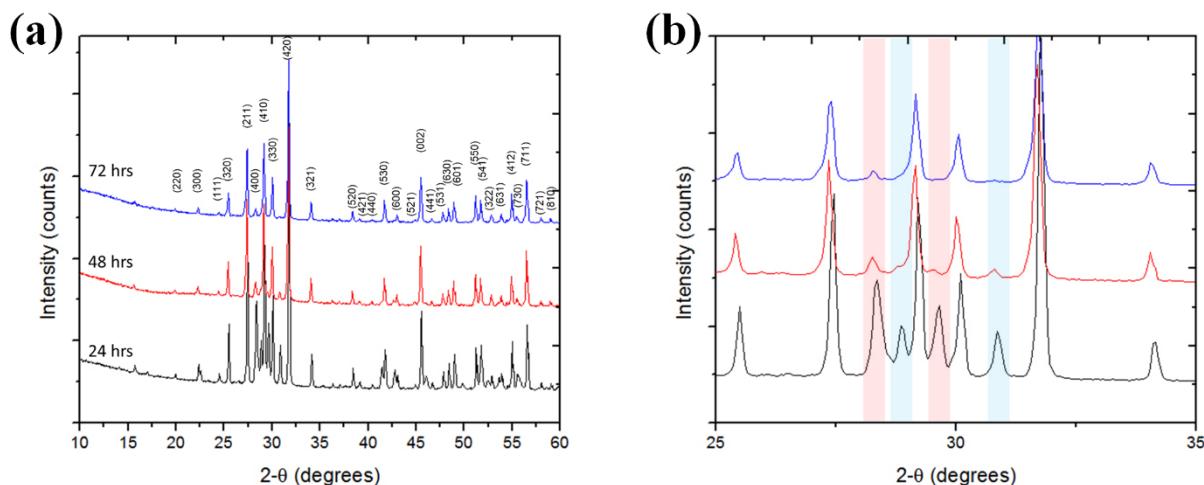
Powder X-ray diffraction confirms the synthesis of $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$, and the peaks can be indexed to the JCPDS reference pattern #01-084-0514 (Supplementary Fig. 1a), corresponding with the phase “ $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ ” identified by Tofield *et.al.*³ $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$, $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$, and $\text{Ag}_{2.5}\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.25}$ all crystallize in the same space group of $\text{P}6_3/\text{mmc}$; the primary difference between all three being occupancy. The lack of conductivity is attributed to the presence of 0.5 moles interstitial oxygen, which has been found in other non-stoichiometric β -aluminas.^{4, 5} Heating the compound to 700 °C so that the compound may auto-reduce and liberate both oxygen and free carriers instead resulted in the formation of free metallic silver (Supplementary Fig. 1b) and the decomposition from $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$ to $\text{Ag}_{2.5}\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.25}$. While the presence of free silver is clear from the powder X-ray diffraction (and the fact that the formerly white compound turns a red hue from the formation of silver particles), the formation $\text{Ag}_{2.5}\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.25}$ is subtle but can be identified by two key markers: the increase in intensity of the (101) peak, and the presence of the (104) peak. Silver β -alumina have been used as fast ion conductors at elevated temperatures at varying oxygen partial pressures.^{2, 6} Furthermore, any attempts to mildly reduce the compounds and raise the carrier concentration results immediately in the compensation and cation vacancy formation/silver precipitation.



Supplementary Figure 1. Ag formation in $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34+x}$ under reduced atmosphere. (a) The powder X-ray diffraction of $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$ can be indexed to the JCPDS reference pattern #01-084-0514, corresponding with the phase “ $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34}$ ” identified by Tofield *et al.*³ (b) Any attempts to reduce $\text{Ag}_3\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.5}$ and introduce carriers results in the precipitation of free metallic silver and the possible formation of $\text{Ag}_{2.5}\text{Al}_{22}\text{O}_{34.25}$.

Supplementary Note II: Synthesis of $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$

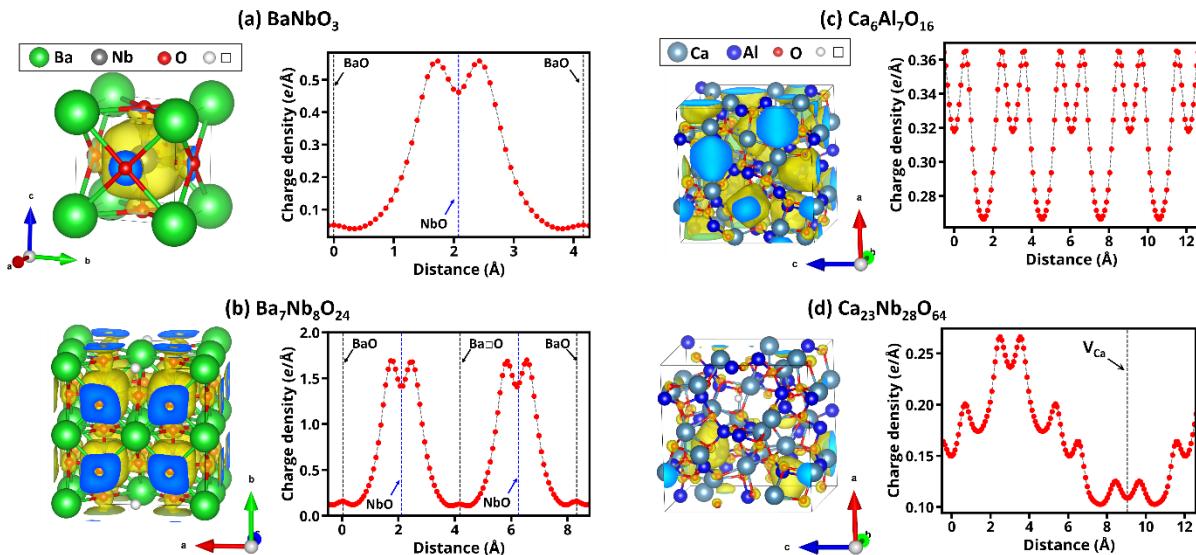
Our procedure was developed taking into consideration of all other synthetic routes, which showed that for polycrystalline compacts, long (> 40 hrs) sintering durations, multiple intermittent regrinding, and low partial oxygen pressure atmospheres were needed to prepare phase pure towards $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}/\text{Ba}_6\text{Nb}_{10}\text{O}_{30}$. In our work, we have found that the targeted $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$ can be prepared after 72 hours of heating with intermittent grinding (Supplementary Fig. 2a). The oxygen partial pressure was kept low with a 5% $\text{H}_2/\text{balance argon}$ atmosphere. The progress was monitored with pXRD at 24 hour intervals, and we can confirm the presence of two secondary phases (OVCs identified in our theoretical calculations, see Fig. 2a and 6a in the main text): $\text{Ba}_5\text{Nb}_4\text{O}_{15}$ and BaNb_2O_6 . Given the tiny range of chemical potentials under which $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$ is stable, it is not surprising to find these more stable secondary phases on the way to $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$. These secondary phases react and disappear with further heating, and completely disappear by 72 hours of heating (Supplementary Fig. 2b).



Supplementary Figure 2. Synthesis of $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$. (a) Monitoring the progress on the formation of $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$ monitored through powder X-ray diffraction of $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$. (b) The peak intensities for phases $\text{Ba}_5\text{Nb}_4\text{O}_{15}$ (light blue) and BaNb_2O_6 (light red) decrease with increasing heating duration, resulting in phase pure $\text{Ba}_3\text{Nb}_5\text{O}_{15}$ after 72 hours of heating.

Supplementary Note III: The delocalized nature of the conducting electrons in degenerate insulators

For Ba-Nb-O degenerate insulators, the conducting electrons are localized near Nb atoms. Specifically, for the 1:1:3 cubic perovskite compound, the charge density in the NbO plane is about 9 times larger than that in the BaO plane. The vacancy formation does not significantly change the nature of the charge distribution (Supplementary Figs. 3a, b). For Ca-Al-O degenerate insulators, the conduction band electrons reside within the cavity of well-defined cage-like blocks (Supplementary Figs. 3c, d). Because of this, the formation of Ca vacancy destroys the surrounding cage-like blocks and reduces the carrier concentration within the vacancy region. Despite this, both 6:7:24 and its 23:28:64 OVC have clearly defined 0-dimensional charge carrier density localization which implies that the compounds are not only degenerate insulators but also stable inorganic electrides.



Supplementary Figure 3. Delocalization nature of conducting electrons in degenerate insulators. Real space partial electron density of conducting electrons in (a) BaNbO_3 , (b) $\text{Ba}_7\text{Nb}_8\text{O}_{24}$, (c) $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_7\text{O}_{16}$, and (d) $\text{Ca}_{23}\text{Nb}_{28}\text{O}_{64}$ and its projection on the direction a . The isosurfaces are set at $0.001 \text{ e}/\text{bohr}^3$ and $0.0005 \text{ e}/\text{bohr}^3$ for Ba-Nb-O and Ca-Al-O systems, respectively.

Supplementary Data I: Ground state compounds in Ba-Nb-O system

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O 045 1 0.349615 0.699505 0.249469 1
O 046 1 0.049753 0.600130 0.250316 1
O 047 1 0.152045 0.796380 0.745679 1
O 048 1 0.999696 0.499919 0.499805 1
O 049 1 0.152319 0.304752 0.253419 1

Ba₂Nb₅O₉

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 _atom_site_label
 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
 Ba Ba1 1 0.004334 0.002399 0.168067 1
 Ba Ba2 1 0.004678 0.002242 0.831704 1
 Nb Nb3 1 0.504344 0.501894 0.999908 1
 Nb Nb4 1 0.504755 0.502639 0.337074 1
 Nb Nb5 1 0.504807 0.502589 0.662686 1
 Nb Nb6 1 0.004850 0.502827 0.499878 1
 Nb Nb7 1 0.504851 0.002833 0.499875 1
 O O8 1 0.504249 0.001869 0.999907 1
 O O9 1 0.004391 0.501759 0.999903 1
 O O10 1 0.504577 0.502014 0.161129 1
 O O11 1 0.504494 0.501964 0.838659 1
 O O12 1 0.504779 0.002651 0.326954 1
 O O13 1 0.004755 0.502790 0.326954 1
 O O14 1 0.504853 0.002597 0.672798 1
 O O15 1 0.004837 0.002821 0.499865 1
 O O16 1 0.004803 0.502740 0.672806 1

BaNb₇O₉

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_chemical_formula_sum 'Ba1 Nb7 O9'
_cell_volume 229.93753073
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 _atom_site_label
 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
 Ba Ba1 1 0.989408 0.005548 0.000030 1
 Nb Nb2 1 0.489417 0.505643 0.500013 1
 Nb Nb3 1 0.989587 0.505637 0.671313 1
 Nb Nb4 1 0.489668 0.005550 0.671329 1
 Nb Nb5 1 0.989328 0.505660 0.328693 1
 Nb Nb6 1 0.489326 0.005622 0.328683 1
 Nb Nb7 1 0.489561 0.505670 0.831492 1
 Nb Nb8 1 0.489303 0.505740 0.168512 1
 O O9 1 0.489273 0.005634 0.500007 1
 O O10 1 0.989400 0.505594 0.500004 1
 O O11 1 0.989658 0.005622 0.665531 1
 O O12 1 0.989318 0.005649 0.334457 1
 O O13 1 0.489613 0.005669 0.839399 1
 O O14 1 0.989555 0.505590 0.839377 1
 O O15 1 0.489198 0.005745 0.160607 1
 O O16 1 0.989278 0.505772 0.160623 1
 O O17 1 0.489587 0.506039 -0.000000 1

Ba₆Nb₂O₁₁

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 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
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 Ba Ba2 1 0.833261 0.459959 0.108996 1
 Ba Ba3 1 0.941051 0.531908 0.292260 1
 Ba Ba4 1 0.324932 0.243323 0.386399 1
 Ba Ba5 1 0.214523 0.166590 0.202972 1
 Ba Ba6 1 0.395691 0.201110 0.576365 1
 Ba Ba7 1 0.740282 0.886950 0.609426 1
 Ba Ba8 1 0.873319 0.975637 0.792767 1
 Ba Ba9 1 0.695159 0.929612 0.419484 1
 Ba Ba10 1 0.252273 0.660334 0.886713 1
 Ba Ba11 1 0.152067 0.603829 0.703660 1
 Ba Ba12 1 0.599856 0.350647 0.919174 1
 Nb Nb13 1 0.043004 0.000757 0.997934 1
 Nb Nb14 1 0.580021 0.848090 0.247925 1
 Nb Nb15 1 0.969069 0.564611 0.497962 1
 Nb Nb16 1 0.508122 0.282790 0.747910 1
 O O17 1 0.742330 0.728315 0.187558 1
 O O18 1 0.243420 0.617801 0.191607 1
 O O19 1 0.413534 0.159796 0.028977 1
 O O20 1 0.983710 0.126453 0.075162 1
 O O21 1 0.626412 0.123729 0.189699 1
 O O22 1 0.921292 0.075478 0.301670 1

O 023 1 0.021143 0.430605 0.420975 1
O 024 1 0.537447 0.577929 0.307767 1
O 025 1 0.412345 0.960587 0.308971 1
O 026 1 0.099975 0.904387 0.466504 1
O 027 1 0.220200 0.697095 0.574978 1
O 028 1 0.172015 0.168371 0.688279 1
O 029 1 0.785709 0.224964 0.529316 1
O 030 1 0.042949 0.685067 0.998012 1
O 031 1 0.653252 0.565702 0.497929 1
O 032 1 0.683010 0.550955 0.688012 1
O 033 1 0.573548 0.056087 0.692778 1
O 034 1 0.836076 0.394744 0.808381 1
O 035 1 0.672264 0.787503 0.966668 1
O 036 1 0.332429 0.003237 0.805878 1
O 037 1 0.452528 0.516742 0.804606 1
O 038 1 0.101950 0.177385 0.920937 1

BaNb₅O₈

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 Nb Nb2 1 0.499136 0.211862 0.601927 1
 Nb Nb3 1 0.499091 0.401540 0.214950 1
 Nb Nb4 1 0.999178 0.500264 0.503196 1
 Nb Nb5 1 0.499251 0.598962 0.791449 1
 Nb Nb6 1 0.499174 0.788648 0.404460 1
 O O7 1 0.499052 0.098914 0.304240 1
 O O8 1 0.999140 0.204599 0.617098 1
 O O9 1 0.499132 0.301272 0.904555 1
 O O10 1 0.999098 0.386461 0.207484 1
 O O11 1 0.999274 0.614012 0.798938 1
 O O12 1 0.499287 0.699209 0.101839 1
 O O13 1 0.999187 0.795912 0.389246 1
 O O14 1 0.499223 0.901598 0.702172 1

Ba₄Nb₂O₉

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 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
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 Ba Ba2 1 0.993966 0.682311 0.697795 1
 Ba Ba3 1 0.009439 0.660322 0.432081 1
 Ba Ba4 1 0.998764 0.322059 0.065788 1
 Ba Ba5 1 0.501599 0.174946 0.436569 1
 Ba Ba6 1 0.491337 0.836661 0.070255 1
 Ba Ba7 1 0.494887 0.814647 0.304569 1
 Ba Ba8 1 0.492024 0.146423 0.197969 1
 Ba Ba9 1 0.505004 0.814494 0.804603 1
 Ba Ba10 1 0.507919 0.146186 0.697976 1
 Ba Ba11 1 0.498242 0.174883 0.936618 1
 Ba Ba12 1 0.509157 0.836694 0.570302 1
 Ba Ba13 1 0.001146 0.321905 0.565790 1
 Ba Ba14 1 0.990705 0.660250 0.932121 1
 Ba Ba15 1 0.006052 0.682333 0.197732 1
 Ba Ba16 1 0.008635 0.350663 0.304431 1
 Nb Nb17 1 0.012061 0.002918 0.782011 1
 Nb Nb18 1 0.008113 0.994062 0.603459 1
 Nb Nb19 1 0.508493 0.502840 0.398879 1
 Nb Nb20 1 0.513000 0.493991 0.220320 1
 Nb Nb21 1 0.486880 0.493778 0.720285 1
 Nb Nb22 1 0.491514 0.502708 0.898854 1

Nb Nb23 1 0.987895 0.003063 0.281950 1
Nb Nb24 1 0.992307 0.994147 0.103379 1
O O25 1 0.957744 0.142552 0.192973 1
O O26 1 0.780111 0.908023 0.189062 1
O O27 1 0.979195 0.823745 0.555222 1
O O28 1 0.803515 0.109781 0.833571 1
O O29 1 0.694895 0.386719 0.668590 1
O O30 1 0.728087 0.407702 0.946538 1
O O31 1 0.771443 0.088994 0.555807 1
O O32 1 0.963039 0.835764 0.828335 1
O O33 1 0.720775 0.589062 0.313231 1
O O34 1 0.777096 0.935673 0.693441 1
O O35 1 0.788116 0.450342 0.172240 1
O O36 1 0.479839 0.673146 0.447160 1
O O37 1 0.712853 0.046808 0.330067 1
O O38 1 0.744083 0.070152 0.051471 1
O O39 1 0.756876 0.426625 0.450627 1
O O40 1 0.463749 0.661146 0.174059 1
O O41 1 0.456714 0.354413 0.809301 1
O O42 1 0.722195 0.560824 0.808782 1
O O43 1 0.277637 0.561008 0.308900 1
O O44 1 0.543118 0.354530 0.309232 1
O O45 1 0.536107 0.660873 0.673982 1
O O46 1 0.243209 0.426653 0.950759 1
O O47 1 0.256336 0.070180 0.551561 1
O O48 1 0.286952 0.046669 0.830163 1
O O49 1 0.211609 0.450049 0.672373 1
O O50 1 0.520457 0.673074 0.947114 1
O O51 1 0.223084 0.936033 0.193419 1
O O52 1 0.279182 0.588994 0.813295 1
O O53 1 0.228961 0.088999 0.055657 1
O O54 1 0.037243 0.835986 0.328309 1
O O55 1 0.304752 0.387079 0.168644 1
O O56 1 0.272020 0.407944 0.446673 1
O O57 1 0.196177 0.110071 0.333563 1
O O58 1 0.021339 0.823755 0.055206 1
O O59 1 0.042307 0.142375 0.693106 1
O O60 1 0.220284 0.907922 0.689057 1

Ba₅Nb₄O₁₅

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_cell_length_c 12.02127367
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 Ba Ba2 1 0.333333 0.666667 0.430055 1
 Ba Ba3 1 0.666667 0.333333 0.209847 1
 Ba Ba4 1 0.333333 0.666667 0.790153 1
 Ba Ba5 1 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 1
 Nb Nb6 1 0.666667 0.333333 0.895592 1
 Nb Nb7 1 0.333333 0.666667 0.104408 1
 Nb Nb8 1 0.000000 0.000000 0.315808 1
 Nb Nb9 1 0.000000 0.000000 0.684192 1
 O O10 1 0.835892 0.164108 0.387245 1
 O O11 1 0.835892 0.671784 0.387245 1
 O O12 1 0.328216 0.164108 0.387245 1
 O O13 1 0.671784 0.835892 0.612755 1
 O O14 1 0.164108 0.328216 0.612755 1
 O O15 1 0.164108 0.835892 0.612755 1
 O O16 1 0.831130 0.168870 0.808300 1
 O O17 1 0.831130 0.662260 0.808300 1
 O O18 1 0.337740 0.168870 0.808300 1
 O O19 1 0.500000 0.000000 0.000000 1
 O O20 1 1.000000 0.500000 0.000000 1
 O O21 1 0.500000 0.500000 0.000000 1
 O O22 1 0.168870 0.831130 0.191700 1

O 023 1 0.168870 0.337740 0.191700 1

O 024 1 0.662260 0.831130 0.191700 1

BaNb₄O₆

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_cell_angle_gamma 90.00480550
_symmetry_Int_Tables_number 1
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_chemical_formula_sum 'Ba1 Nb4 O6'
_cell_volume 151.14256274
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 _atom_site_label
 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
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 Nb Nb2 1 0.491972 0.001707 0.499924 1
 Nb Nb3 1 0.991914 0.501690 0.499878 1
 Nb Nb4 1 0.491783 0.501724 0.253829 1
 Nb Nb5 1 0.492007 0.501632 0.745978 1
 O O6 1 0.491985 0.501516 0.999908 1
 O O7 1 0.491612 0.001715 0.242629 1
 O O8 1 0.991754 0.501785 0.242568 1
 O O9 1 0.491863 0.001594 0.757212 1
 O O10 1 0.992039 0.501648 0.757176 1
 O O11 1 0.991961 0.001685 0.499875 1

Ba₇Nb₆O₂₁

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_cell_angle_gamma 19.75304487
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_chemical_formula_structural Ba₇Nb₆O₂₁
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_cell_volume 506.26041811
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 Ba Ba2 1 0.849975 0.849975 0.849975 1
 Ba Ba3 1 0.150025 0.150025 0.150025 1
 Ba Ba4 1 0.764830 0.764830 0.764830 1
 Ba Ba5 1 0.235170 0.235170 0.235170 1
 Ba Ba6 1 0.617918 0.617918 0.617918 1
 Ba Ba7 1 0.382082 0.382082 0.382082 1
 Nb Nb8 1 0.927947 0.927947 0.927947 1
 Nb Nb9 1 0.072053 0.072053 0.072053 1
 Nb Nb10 1 0.690249 0.690249 0.690249 1
 Nb Nb11 1 0.309751 0.309751 0.309751 1
 Nb Nb12 1 0.544082 0.544082 0.544082 1
 Nb Nb13 1 0.455918 0.455918 0.455918 1
 O O14 1 0.500000 0.500000 0.000000 1
 O O15 1 0.000000 0.500000 0.500000 1
 O O16 1 0.500000 0.000000 0.500000 1
 O O17 1 0.118760 0.118760 0.622206 1
 O O18 1 0.622206 0.118760 0.118760 1
 O O19 1 0.118760 0.622206 0.118760 1
 O O20 1 0.881240 0.881240 0.377794 1
 O O21 1 0.377794 0.881240 0.881240 1
 O O22 1 0.881240 0.377794 0.881240 1

O 023 1 0.237946 0.741484 0.741484 1
O 024 1 0.741484 0.237946 0.741484 1
O 025 1 0.741484 0.741484 0.237946 1
O 026 1 0.762054 0.258516 0.258516 1
O 027 1 0.258516 0.762054 0.258516 1
O 028 1 0.258516 0.258516 0.762054 1
O 029 1 0.362798 0.855068 0.362798 1
O 030 1 0.362798 0.362798 0.855068 1
O 031 1 0.855068 0.362798 0.362798 1
O 032 1 0.637202 0.144932 0.637202 1
O 033 1 0.637202 0.637202 0.144932 1
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Ba₂Nb₁₅O₃₂

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_chemical_formula_sum 'Ba₆ Nb₄₅ O₉₆'
_cell_volume 1983.66548680
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 Ba Ba2 1 0.993057 0.995908 0.360595 1
 Ba Ba3 1 0.673598 0.337301 0.972750 1
 Ba Ba4 1 0.659814 0.329503 0.693910 1
 Ba Ba5 1 0.340231 0.670687 0.306082 1
 Ba Ba6 1 0.326336 0.662636 0.027251 1
 Nb Nb7 1 0.999973 0.999975 0.999997 1
 Nb Nb8 1 0.666662 0.333298 0.333343 1
 Nb Nb9 1 0.333362 0.666733 0.666659 1
 Nb Nb10 1 0.070507 0.262322 0.733675 1
 Nb Nb11 1 0.187155 0.923302 0.734462 1
 Nb Nb12 1 0.734449 0.804640 0.733796 1
 Nb Nb13 1 0.929495 0.737724 0.266318 1
 Nb Nb14 1 0.812859 0.076754 0.265540 1
 Nb Nb15 1 0.265562 0.195406 0.266208 1
 Nb Nb16 1 0.737089 0.595495 0.067022 1
 Nb Nb17 1 0.853737 0.256472 0.067810 1
 Nb Nb18 1 0.401045 0.137800 0.067142 1
 Nb Nb19 1 0.596244 0.071131 0.599643 1
 Nb Nb20 1 0.479570 0.410134 0.598863 1
 Nb Nb21 1 0.932257 0.528782 0.599528 1
 Nb Nb22 1 0.403810 0.928866 0.400365 1

Nb	Nb23	1	0.520451	0.589845	0.401142	1
Nb	Nb24	1	0.067776	0.471195	0.400472	1
Nb	Nb25	1	0.262861	0.404462	0.932976	1
Nb	Nb26	1	0.146227	0.743499	0.932184	1
Nb	Nb27	1	0.598914	0.862175	0.932854	1
Nb	Nb28	1	0.023545	0.218597	0.532753	1
Nb	Nb29	1	0.194961	0.978537	0.532653	1
Nb	Nb30	1	0.783814	0.807006	0.532678	1
Nb	Nb31	1	0.976506	0.781398	0.467252	1
Nb	Nb32	1	0.805096	0.021453	0.467353	1
Nb	Nb33	1	0.216244	0.193002	0.467325	1
Nb	Nb34	1	0.690192	0.551994	0.866074	1
Nb	Nb35	1	0.861612	0.311950	0.865974	1
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O O50 1 0.498379 0.168096 0.099621 1
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O O52 1 0.498387 0.828007 0.099969 1
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O O54 1 0.498167 0.668330 0.599620 1
O O55 1 0.498113 0.670034 0.400218 1
O O56 1 0.498183 0.328248 0.599990 1
O O57 1 0.998382 0.833241 0.804191 1
O O58 1 0.998359 0.164825 0.195961 1
O O59 1 0.998378 0.167073 0.803478 1
O O60 1 0.998336 0.830975 0.196750 1
O O61 1 0.998115 0.333245 0.304229 1
O O62 1 0.998201 0.665025 0.695994 1
O O63 1 0.998095 0.667094 0.303457 1
O O64 1 0.998206 0.331183 0.696737 1
O O65 1 0.498379 0.831775 0.698563 1
O O66 1 0.498346 0.166470 0.301597 1
O O67 1 0.498405 0.164545 0.698074 1
O O68 1 0.498334 0.833730 0.302152 1
O O69 1 0.498133 0.331616 0.198601 1

O 070 1 0.498218 0.666480 0.801629 1
O 071 1 0.498105 0.664369 0.198059 1
O 072 1 0.498238 0.333700 0.802139 1
O 073 1 0.498468 0.997286 0.595980 1
O 074 1 0.498475 0.001069 0.404219 1
O 075 1 0.498016 0.497162 0.095988 1
O 076 1 0.498049 0.500795 0.904221 1
O 077 1 0.998470 0.999134 0.500099 1
O 078 1 0.998051 0.498995 0.000107 1
O 079 1 0.498341 0.837641 0.499571 1
O 080 1 0.498329 0.160664 0.500632 1
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Ba₃Nb₁₆O₂₃

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 Ba Ba4 1 0.997601 0.000231 0.798534 1
 Ba Ba5 1 0.997651 0.500464 0.701363 1
 Ba Ba6 1 0.997053 0.500554 0.298517 1
 Nb Nb7 1 0.496530 0.327557 0.999963 1
 Nb Nb8 1 0.496431 0.672401 0.999930 1
 Nb Nb9 1 0.498117 0.828310 0.499937 1
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Nb Nb38 1 0.497642 0.833421 0.304867 1
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O 080 1 0.497860 0.000585 0.298822 1
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O 082 1 0.496696 0.000053 0.896717 1
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BaNb₂O₆

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 Ba Ba2 1 0.533805 0.749133 0.965257 1
 Ba Ba3 1 0.973419 0.749155 0.465078 1
 Ba Ba4 1 0.473271 0.248626 0.034166 1
 Nb Nb5 1 0.533523 0.017008 0.644508 1
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 Nb Nb11 1 0.039928 0.475216 0.856186 1
 Nb Nb12 1 0.539983 0.522518 0.643117 1
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 O O14 1 0.211825 0.973767 0.024403 1
 O O15 1 0.295359 0.973753 0.524442 1
 O O16 1 0.795392 0.023980 0.974806 1
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 O O18 1 0.294721 0.524599 0.523320 1
 O O19 1 0.212590 0.524548 0.023314 1
 O O20 1 0.712626 0.473097 0.475942 1
 O O21 1 0.856013 0.030343 0.712136 1
 O O22 1 0.356053 0.967184 0.787091 1

O 023 1 0.151045 0.967329 0.287092 1
O 024 1 0.651083 0.030475 0.212108 1
O 025 1 0.654909 0.464715 0.213837 1
O 026 1 0.154757 0.532969 0.285507 1
O 027 1 0.352448 0.533061 0.785473 1
O 028 1 0.852428 0.464696 0.713819 1
O 029 1 0.494506 0.249297 0.647454 1
O 030 1 0.994630 0.748378 0.851843 1
O 031 1 0.512485 0.748482 0.351825 1
O 032 1 0.012747 0.249300 0.147375 1
O 033 1 0.613995 0.749793 0.637868 1
O 034 1 0.113981 0.247912 0.861271 1
O 035 1 0.393155 0.247999 0.361240 1
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Ba₃Nb₅O₁₅

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 Ba Ba2 1 0.997152 0.998922 0.999326 1
 Ba Ba3 1 0.998406 0.326327 0.836083 1
 Ba Ba4 1 0.998052 0.671701 0.162551 1
 Ba Ba5 1 0.996608 0.826648 0.662972 1
 Ba Ba6 1 0.997047 0.171843 0.336332 1
 Nb Nb7 1 0.499996 0.498922 0.999267 1
 Nb Nb8 1 0.496011 0.998864 0.499275 1
 Nb Nb9 1 0.497430 0.422084 0.286386 1
 Nb Nb10 1 0.496941 0.575868 0.712192 1
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 O O18 1 0.996904 0.998808 0.499258 1
 O O19 1 0.497348 0.219703 0.719867 1
 O O20 1 0.497282 0.778203 0.278806 1
 O O21 1 0.496997 0.719749 0.778781 1
 O O22 1 0.497418 0.278112 0.219785 1

O 023 1 0.997501 0.419816 0.291393 1
O 024 1 0.997132 0.578012 0.707260 1
O 025 1 0.997154 0.919949 0.207318 1
O 026 1 0.997166 0.077862 0.791314 1
O 027 1 0.997238 0.706926 0.421387 1
O 028 1 0.997263 0.290879 0.577142 1
O 029 1 0.997104 0.790851 0.921522 1
O 030 1 0.997414 0.207053 0.077013 1
O 031 1 0.497021 0.155502 0.493289 1
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O 033 1 0.497591 0.655573 0.005535 1
O 034 1 0.497728 0.342296 0.993048 1
O 035 1 0.497858 0.506942 0.156183 1
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O 037 1 0.496845 0.990820 0.656203 1
O 038 1 0.496997 0.007153 0.342385 1
O 039 1 0.497493 0.357962 0.430800 1
O 040 1 0.497321 0.639601 0.567695 1
O 041 1 0.496963 0.858115 0.067794 1
O 042 1 0.497166 0.139711 0.930815 1
O 043 1 0.497235 0.565948 0.360726 1
O 044 1 0.497034 0.431857 0.637847 1
O 045 1 0.497229 0.931814 0.860726 1
O 046 1 0.497357 0.065997 0.137775 1

Supplementary Data II: Ground state compounds in Ca-Al-O system

Ca₈Al₃

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Ca Ca2 1 0.468007 0.298672 0.350544 1
Ca Ca3 1 0.079721 0.230386 0.106950 1
Ca Ca4 1 0.920279 0.769614 0.893050 1
Ca Ca5 1 0.878513 0.400728 0.648007 1
Ca Ca6 1 0.121487 0.599272 0.351993 1
Ca Ca7 1 0.332551 0.878966 0.110265 1
Ca Ca8 1 0.667449 0.121034 0.889735 1
Ca Ca9 1 0.960279 0.060756 0.669722 1
Ca Ca10 1 0.039721 0.939244 0.330278 1
Ca Ca11 1 0.701537 0.497909 0.110530 1
Ca Ca12 1 0.298463 0.502091 0.889470 1
Ca Ca13 1 0.774152 0.152828 0.298912 1
Ca Ca14 1 0.225848 0.847172 0.701088 1
Ca Ca15 1 0.544172 0.710658 0.296785 1
Ca Ca16 1 0.455828 0.289342 0.703215 1
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Al Al18 1 0.500000 -0.000000 0.500000 1
Al Al19 1 0.172695 0.337461 0.500337 1
Al Al20 1 0.827305 0.662539 0.499663 1

Al Al21 1 0.676291 0.839839 0.025977 1

Al Al22 1 0.323709 0.160161 0.974023 1

CaO₂

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 O O4 1 0.395412 0.114372 0.588514 1
 O O5 1 0.114372 0.395412 0.088514 1
 O O6 1 0.604588 0.885628 0.411486 1

Al₂O₃

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 Al Al2 1 0.147852 0.147852 0.147852 1
 Al Al3 1 0.852148 0.852148 0.852148 1
 Al Al4 1 0.647852 0.647852 0.647852 1
 O O5 1 0.943816 0.250000 0.556184 1
 O O6 1 0.750000 0.443816 0.056184 1
 O O7 1 0.250000 0.556184 0.943816 1
 O O8 1 0.556184 0.943816 0.250000 1
 O O9 1 0.443816 0.056184 0.750000 1
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Al

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CaAl₄

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Al Al2 1 0.750000 0.250000 0.500000 1
Al Al3 1 0.386251 0.386251 -0.000000 1
Al Al4 1 0.613749 0.613749 0.000000 1
Al Al5 1 0.250000 0.750000 0.500000 1

CaAl₂

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CaO

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 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
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 O O2 1 0.500000 0.500000 0.500000 1

Ca

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CaAl₄O₇

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Supplementary Data III: Ground state compounds in Ag-Al-O system

AlAgO₂

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Al Al1 1 0.563781 0.375162 0.998725 1
Al Al2 1 0.442996 0.624743 0.498830 1
Al Al3 1 0.943050 0.874995 0.498485 1
Al Al4 1 0.063706 0.124931 0.998444 1
Ag Ag5 1 0.562203 0.873148 0.994550 1
Ag Ag6 1 0.444586 0.126781 0.494266 1
Ag Ag7 1 0.943984 0.372572 0.494657 1
Ag Ag8 1 0.062508 0.627496 0.994559 1
O O9 1 0.533517 0.429617 0.316149 1
O O10 1 0.473323 0.570297 0.816200 1
O O11 1 0.973130 0.929940 0.815681 1
O O12 1 0.033627 0.070013 0.315740 1
O O13 1 0.633421 0.821861 0.432252 1
O O14 1 0.373344 0.178036 0.932017 1
O O15 1 0.873444 0.322175 0.932448 1
O O16 1 0.133357 0.677736 0.432519 1

Al₂O₃

_symmetry_space_group_name_H-M 'P 1'
_cell_length_a 5.17726765
_cell_length_b 5.17706401
_cell_length_c 5.17689501
_cell_angle_alpha 55.30669557
_cell_angle_beta 55.30751733
_cell_angle_gamma 55.30817578
_symmetry_Int_Tables_number 1
_chemical_formula_structural Al₂O₃
_chemical_formula_sum 'Al₄ O₆'
_cell_volume 87.41699389
_cell_formula_units_Z 2
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 _symmetry_equiv_pos_site_id
 _symmetry_equiv_pos_as_xyz
 1 'x, y, z'
loop_
 _atom_site_type_symbol
 _atom_site_label
 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
 Al Al1 1 0.651255 0.641948 0.650058 1
 Al Al2 1 0.855542 0.846282 0.854423 1
 Al Al3 1 0.151165 0.142048 0.150085 1
 Al Al4 1 0.355617 0.346310 0.354366 1
 O O5 1 0.447266 0.050306 0.752237 1
 O O6 1 0.947289 0.244061 0.558481 1
 O O7 1 0.059569 0.744168 0.445995 1
 O O8 1 0.753406 0.437975 0.058469 1
 O O9 1 0.253415 0.550235 0.946081 1
 O O10 1 0.559536 0.937976 0.252284 1

Ag

_symmetry_space_group_name_H-M 'P 1'
_cell_length_a 2.95853434
_cell_length_b 2.95853403
_cell_length_c 2.95853400
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_cell_angle_beta 60.00000385
_cell_angle_gamma 60.00000548
_symmetry_Int_Tables_number 1
_chemical_formula_structural Ag
_chemical_formula_sum Ag1
_cell_volume 18.31111467
_cell_formula_units_Z 1
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 _symmetry_equiv_pos_as_xyz
 1 'x, y, z'
loop_
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 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
 Ag Ag1 1 0.002326 0.036350 0.991529 1

Al

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_cell_length_c 2.85042000
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_cell_angle_beta 59.99999868
_cell_angle_gamma 60.00000413
_symmetry_Int_Tables_number 1
_chemical_formula_structural Al
_chemical_formula_sum Al1
_cell_volume 16.37613894
_cell_formula_units_Z 1
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 _symmetry_equiv_pos_site_id
 _symmetry_equiv_pos_as_xyz
 1 'x, y, z'
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 _atom_site_label
 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
 Al Al1 1 0.983300 0.969832 0.014358 1

Ag₂O

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_cell_length_b 4.87219122
_cell_length_c 4.87737072
_cell_angle_alpha 89.58493007
_cell_angle_beta 89.60775610
_cell_angle_gamma 89.91504569
_symmetry_Int_Tables_number 1
_chemical_formula_structural Ag2O
_chemical_formula_sum 'Ag4 O2'
_cell_volume 115.74008401
_cell_formula_units_Z 2
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 _symmetry_equiv_pos_site_id
 _symmetry_equiv_pos_as_xyz
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 _atom_site_label
 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
 Ag Ag1 1 0.497228 0.502274 0.995678 1
 Ag Ag2 1 0.997265 0.503471 0.495889 1
 Ag Ag3 1 0.497635 0.003499 0.496859 1
 Ag Ag4 1 0.996944 0.002850 0.997152 1
 O O5 1 0.245733 0.251328 0.246194 1
 O O6 1 0.749157 0.754665 0.746897 1

AlAg

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_cell_length_c 4.52704701
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_cell_angle_beta 89.99772683
_cell_angle_gamma 89.70203224
_symmetry_Int_Tables_number 1
_chemical_formula_structural AlAg
_chemical_formula_sum 'Al2 Ag2'
_cell_volume 68.42237845
_cell_formula_units_Z 2
loop_
 _symmetry_equiv_pos_site_id
 _symmetry_equiv_pos_as_xyz
 1 'x, y, z'
loop_
 _atom_site_type_symbol
 _atom_site_label
 _atom_site_symmetry_multiplicity
 _atom_site_fract_x
 _atom_site_fract_y
 _atom_site_fract_z
 _atom_site_occupancy
 Al Al1 1 0.663007 0.999407 0.497725 1
 Al Al2 1 0.162749 0.497003 0.497855 1
 Ag Ag3 1 0.329868 0.997400 0.997848 1
 Ag Ag4 1 0.829783 0.498826 0.997624 1

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