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### STRUCTURAL AND MAGNETIC PROPERTIES OF AMORPHOUS BaO-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> SYSTEM

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Résumé.- Des verres homogènes du type BaO-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (39-63 mol.% Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) avec B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> en petite quantité ont été obtenus par trempe à partir de l'état liquide. L'étude Mössbauer montre que le verre comporte essentiellement des mailles tetraédriques de Fe<sup>3+</sup>O<sub>4</sub> et qu'il existe un ordre antiferromagnétique à courte distance à basse température.

Abstract.- Homogeneous glasses of the iron-rich Ba0-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> system (39-63 mol.% Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) with a small amount of  $B_2O_3$  are prepared by splat cooling method. Mössbauer study reveals that the glass mainly consists of tetrahedral network of Fe<sup>3+</sup>O<sub>4</sub> and a short range antiferromagnetic order is formed at low temperatures.

Amorphous specimens of the iron-rich  $BaO-Fe_2O_3$ system with a small amount of  $B_2O_3$  were prepared by splat cooling method with the aid of laser melting technique /l/. Mössbauer spectrum was measured from room temperature to 4.2 K and analyzed using an electronic computer. Mössbauer parameters determined are summarized in table I. The glasses presently prepared are classified into two groups with the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/BaO ratio greater and smaller than 1. around Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions in the glass is supposed to be very similar to that in the crystalline BaO.Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in which Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions occupy only tetrahedral sites /2/. A relatively large quadrupole splitting,  $\Delta E$ , is observed in the glass. The width of the spectrum is 0.47 mm/s, only twice as broad as that of the innermost peak of iron, 0.23 mm/s, corroborating rather uniform tetrahedral environment around Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions in the glass.

The temperature variation of Mössbauer spectra

Specimen		Compos Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	ition, BaO	mo1% B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sup>3+</sup> (t)	δ <sup>¥</sup> , mm/s Fe <sup>3+</sup> (o)	"Fe <sup>2</sup> +"	Fe <sup>3+</sup> (t)	${{}^{\Delta E}, mm}_{Fe^{3+}(o)}$	/s "Fe <sup>2+11</sup>	H <sub>int</sub> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> (t)	k0e Fe <sup>3+</sup> (o)	I <sub>N</sub> , K
Amorphous	Fe- 2 Fe- 4	39 39	57 48	4 13	0.23 0.24	- -	-	0.84	-	-	450	-	70
	Fe- 9 Fe-10 Fe-11 Fe-14	54 54 58 63	37 39 38 32	9 7 4 5	0.35 0.32 0.29 0.43	0.37 0.38 0.38 0.45	0.51 0.53 0.50 0.55	0.92 0.93 0.92 0.86	0.41 0.42 0.32 0.37	1.56 1.62 1.66 1.55	460 450	500 490	100 140
X'al	BaO.Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> BaO.2Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	50 67	50 33	-	0.2 0.21	- 0.41		0.25	- 0.08	-	47,2 <sup>†</sup> 486 <sup>†</sup>	_ 516 <sup>†</sup>	880 /2/ 945 /3/

Table I : Mössbauer parameters of amorphous BaO-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> system

 $\delta$  and  $\Delta E$  are at room temperature.-\*Refferred to iron metal.- H<sub>int</sub> is at 4.2 K.- <sup>T</sup>Values at room temperature.

The glass with  $Fe_2O_3/BaO < 1$  is proved to have a rather simple structure. Figure 1 (upper curve) shows the Mössbauer spectrum of the specimen Fe-2 measured at room temperature. The spectrum is fitted by a single doublet with the Lorentzian profile by the least square method. The value of the isomer shift,  $\delta = 0.23$  mm/s, indicates that the glass is formed by tetrahedral network of Fe<sup>3+</sup>O<sub>4</sub>. The structure of the specimen, Fe-4, is shown in figure 2. At  $4.2 \,\text{K}$ a well resolved hyperfine sextet is observed. The internal field,  $H_{\text{int}}$ , is estimated to be 450 kOe, as expected for Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions in tetrahedral environments. The spectrum is very nearly symmetric, revealing an apparent disappearance of quadrupole shift in the magnetically ordered state, in spite of the large quadrupole splitting observed in the room temperature spectrum.



Fig. 1 : Demonstration of computer curve fitting for paramagnetic spectra of the glasses measured at room temperature. Upper curve : Fe-2 (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Ba O < 1). Lower curve : Fe-14 (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Ba O > 1).

The distribution of the internal field is supposed to be narrow, when the quadrupole broadening effect is taken into consideration /1/. The temperature dependence of the internal field approximately follows a Brillouin function with S = 5/2, yielding a magnetic ordering temperature of 70 K. This value is by an order of magnitude smaller than the Néel temperature of the corresponding crystalline phase,  $Ba0.Fe_2O_3$  /2/. This decrease is attributed to weakened superexchange interaction due to randomness of bond angles in the glass.

The iron-rich glass  $(Fe_2O_3/BaO > 1)$  shows complex paramagnetic spectra at room temperature. An example of computer curve fitting is demonstrated in figure 1 (lower curve). In the analysis, the width of each line is fixed to be 0.47 mm/s, the same as that obtained for the spectrum of Fe-2. The spectrum is successfully explained by superposition of two doublets due to tetrahedral and octahedral Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions plus an additional weak doublet which is tentatively assigned to be due to "Fe<sup>2+</sup>" ions. The glass structure of this group seems to correspond to the BaO.2Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> crystal hydrothermally synthesized /3/, in which Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions are equally distributed among the tetrahedral and octahedral site. The hyperfine spectrum at low temperatures is also interpreted to



Fig. 2 : Temperature variation of Mössbauer spectra of the glass, Fe-4(hfs : hyperfine spectrum pms : paramagnetic spectrum).

consist of two sextets with the internal field of 450 and 500 kOe, corresponding to the tetrahedral and octahedral Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions respectively. The magnetic ordering temperature determined from temperature variation of the internal field is only 140 K in the most iron-rich specimen /1/.

Preliminary magnetic measurements reveal that the magnetic susceptibility shows a broad maximum around the magnetic ordering temperature, obeying Curie-Weiss law in higher temperatures. No evidence for superparamagnetic behavior is found in harmony with Mössbauer measurements. Summarizing, the magnetic ordering achieved in the present amorphous system is of the short range antiferromagnetism, similar to that found in FePO<sub>4</sub> by neutron diffraction /4/.

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