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D. Bonnin, J. Bouat, P. Kaiser, Christian Frétigny, F. Béguin. BOND ANGLE DETERMINATION BY ANGULAR EXAFS STUDY AND DEBYE-WALLER ANISOTROPY IN 2D GRAPHITE INTERCALATION COMPOUNDS. Journal de Physique Colloques, 1986, 47 (C8), pp.C8-865-C8-868. 10.1051/jphyscol:19868167 . jpa-00226071

HAL Id: jpa-00226071

<https://hal.science/jpa-00226071>

Submitted on 4 Feb 2008

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BOND ANGLE DETERMINATION BY ANGULAR EXAFS STUDY AND DEBYE-WALLER ANISOTROPY IN 2D GRAPHITE INTERCALATION COMPOUNDS

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Résumé: Les spectres d'un échantillon orienté de RbC_8 ont été enregistrés pour des angles compris entre 0° et 40° . Pour chaque pic de la transformée de Fourier, le rapport des amplitudes permet de calculer l'angle du vecteur \vec{R} correspondant par rapport au plan. L'étude en fonction de la température entre 300 K et 35 K indique une anisotropie très importante du facteur de Debye-Waller, les amplitudes de vibration étant très importantes parallèlement au plan. Le second stade RbC_{24} montre un désordre statique très important par rapport au premier stade RbC_8 .

Abstract: Spectra of an oriented sample of RbC_8 were recorded for a set of angles from 0° up to 40° . For each peak in the Fourier transform, the amplitude ratio permits to calculate the angle of the corresponding \vec{R} vector with respect to the plane. The thermal study from 300 K down to 35 K shows a high anisotropy of the Debye-Waller factor, the amplitude of the vibration being larger in the plane. The second stage RbC_{24} shows a higher static disorder than the first stage RbC_8 .

Graphite belongs to the layered materials class, its intercalation gives several interesting properties for investigation of the 2D physics, previous works are referenced in [1]. The studied samples are intercalated with alkali metal, from Highly Oriented Pyro-Graphite. Experiments were performed at LURE-DCI on the two first stages (number of graphite layers between intercalant layers) : RbC_8 and RbC_{24} .

Bond angle determination

The absorption coefficient is treated as in the paper of Frétigny et al. [2] (this conference). The described method permits to obtain the 90° spectrum from a set measurement angles from 0° up to 40° . The shape near the Rb K-edge of RbC_8 is discussed in [2], the position of the threshold varies with the angle and the shift is

about 5 eV from the 0° spectrum to the 90° spectrum. Figure 1 corresponds to the EXAFS part, a very large increase can be observed in the amplitude of oscillations from 0° to 90°.

The value of $\chi(k)$ varying with $\cos^2 \theta_j$, for one kind of neighbor, where θ_j is the angle between the polarization vector and the bond, it is necessary to calculate the mean value $\langle \cos^2 \theta_j \rangle$ because of the disorientation in the plane. The following formula is obtained: $\langle \cos^2 \theta_j \rangle = \cos^2 \alpha \sin^2 \theta + (\sin^2 \alpha \cos^2 \theta)/2$ where α_j is the binding angle with respect to the c-axis and θ is the angle between the polarization vector and the ab plane.

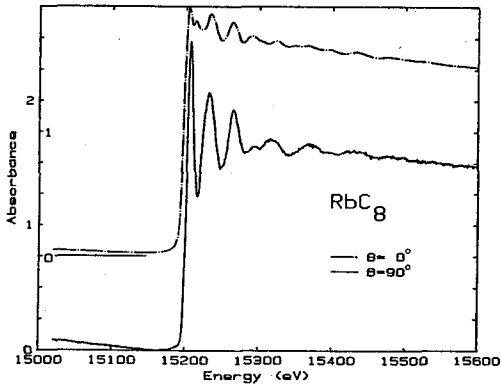


Fig.1: EXAFS spectra of RbC₈ for $\theta = 0^\circ$ and 90° .

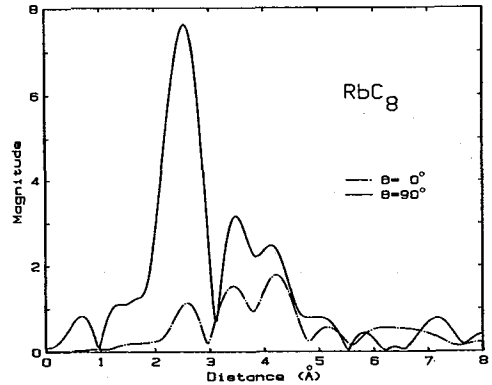


Fig.2: Fourier transform of spectra of Fig.1.

The radial distribution for the two perpendicular directions are shown figure 2. For each peak of the Fourier transform, the 0° to 90° amplitude ratio permits to calculate the angle of the corresponding \vec{R} vector with respect to c-axis, according to the formula:

$$I_{0^\circ} / I_{90^\circ} = (\tan^2 \alpha) / 2$$

where I corresponds to the height of a peak of the Fourier transform. The obtained results agree well with the known structure of the first stage (figure 3). Moreover, that analysis does not need the knowledge of the type of neighbor.

Comparison between
experimental and expected angles

	Distances Å	Expected angles	Experimental angles
Rb - C1	3.18	27°	31°
Rb - C2	4.02	45°	44°
Rb - C3	4.72	53°	50°
Rb - Rb	4.92	90°	/
Rb - C4	5.90	61°	/

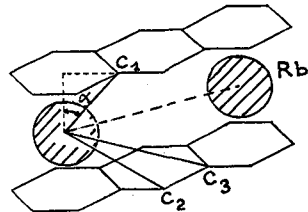


Fig.3: Local structure of RbC₈

ANISOTROPY AND TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE OF THE DEBYE-WALLER FACTOR

EXAFS spectra were recorded for a set of temperature 45 K, 70 K, 140 K and 300 K. The experimental angle used is 30° in order to have comparable intensities of the three first peaks of the Fourier transform of the low temperature spectrum. Figure 4 shows the temperature dependence of the Fourier transforms. Higher is the order of the peak, higher the decrease of the amplitude. Taking into account the angles of the bonds, it appears clearly that the Debye-Waller factor is much more higher in the plane than perpendicularly. For each temperature and for each peak, we calculate the inverse Fourier transform and obtain the quantities $\chi_j(T)$ relative to the peak j at the temperature T . Then, the ratio $\chi_j(T)/\chi_j(45\text{ K})$ depends only on the Debye-Waller factor: $\text{Log} (\chi_j(T) / \chi_j(45)) = 2 k^2 (\sigma_{45}^2 - \sigma_T^2) = 2 k^2 \Delta\sigma^2$

The variations of $\Delta\sigma^2$ are given on figure 5, they permit the calculation of $\Delta\sigma_1^2$ and $\Delta\sigma_2^2$. A very high anisotropy of vibrations is found due to the very large in plane value of $\Delta\sigma^2$. Because of the large Debye temperatures - 800 K out of plane and about 2000 K in plane - the carbon atoms belong to a very rigid network, their vibrations are neglected. So, there is no correlation effect in the σ^2 values, measured for the three first peaks, which correspond to the movements of Rb atoms. These results should be compared with dispersion phonon curves obtained by neutron spectroscopy.

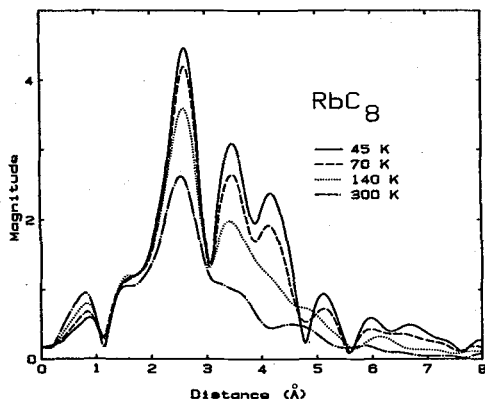


Fig.4: Fourier transforms of spectra of RbC_8 at various temperature and $\theta = 30^\circ$.

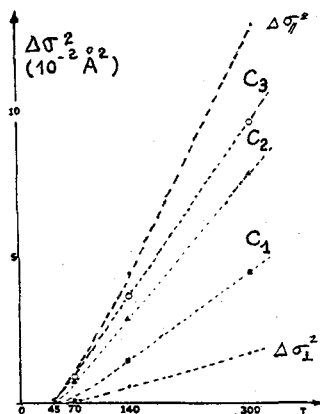


Fig.5: Temperature variations of the Debye-Waller factors in and out of plane.

Comparison between the stage 1 - RbC_8 and stage 2 - RbC_{24}

The magnitude of the FT of the low temperature spectrum (40 K) at $\theta = 0^\circ$ of RbC_{24} is about four time smaller for the two first peaks than those of RbC_8 (figure 6), moreover, the third peak disappears in RbC_{24} . The difference is attributed to a large static disorder in RbC_{24} . Several simulations of powder spectra are

tentatively made to describe the disorder. They are calculated taking into account the 88 first carbon neighbor atoms, the Debye-Waller factor and the mean free-path are considered to be isotropic. A good agreement is found for the two first peaks of RbC_8 , the third one is higher in the simulation than in experimental spectrum because of the simple model considered. The Rb atom is taken in front of the center of the carbon hexagon in the RbC_8 simulation, three tests are made for RbC_{24} :

a) Naylor [3] published a crystallographic structure, the check of which does not agree neither with the magnitude nor with the expected shape.

b) A model with only one kind of displaced Rb atoms is calculated, the shape of the FT depends dramatically on the position of the Rb atom. To obtain a spectrum which agree roughly with the measured one, the Rb atom must be about in front of a carbon atom. Nevertheless, the third peak does not disappear completely.

c) A model for which two kinds of atoms are considered gives the best result. One kind corresponds to centered atoms, like in RbC_8 , the other one corresponds to same amount of displaced atoms. By trial and error, a position is found to give a simulation which agree well with the experimental one (figure 7). The position of the displaced atom is given in the insert.

These models should be improved using a continuous distribution of sites.

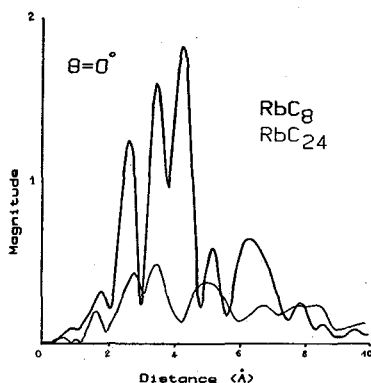


Fig. 6: Comparison of the spectra of RbC_8 and RbC_{24} at 40 K.

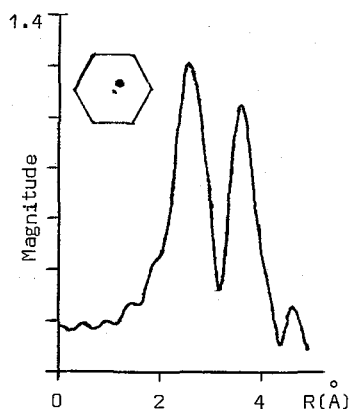


Fig. 7: Simulation of RbC_{24} according to model c (see text).

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- [1] Bonnin D. This conference and references therein
- [2] Frétigny C., Bonnin D., Cortès R. This conference
- [3] Naylor G.R.S. Appl. Surf. Science 22/23 (1985) 686