

# A New High-Pressure High-Temperature Phase of Silver Antimonate $\text{AgSbO}_3$ with Strong Ag–O Hybridization

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Cite This: *Inorg. Chem.* 2024, 63, 22379–22385



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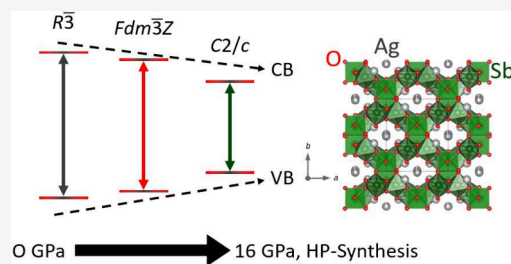
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**ABSTRACT:** We report on a new polymorph of silver antimonate  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  discovered with the use of high-pressure high-temperature synthesis at 16 GPa and 1380 °C. The crystal structure is determined from X-ray powder diffraction, and we find this new high-pressure phase crystallizes in monoclinic space group  $C2/c$  with the following values:  $a = 8.4570(3)$  Å,  $b = 9.8752(3)$  Å,  $c = 8.9291(3)$  Å,  $\beta = 91.1750(12)^\circ$ , and  $V = 745.56(4)$  Å<sup>3</sup>. We synthesized the high-pressure (16 GPa)  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase from the ilmenite phase as a precursor. This high-pressure monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  consists of a three-dimensional network of corner- and edge-sharing  $\text{SbO}_6$  octahedra with channels along the  $c$ -direction containing Ag atoms. We also synthesize  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  in the defect pyrochlore phase at 4 GPa from the same ilmenite precursor and compare the Raman spectra and the cation–anion bonding of all three  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phases. The absence of a cubic perovskite form of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  even at pressures of  $\leq 16$  GPa is likely due to the covalency of the Sb–O bonds and the moderate electronegativity of  $\text{Ag}^+$ . Hybridization of Ag  $d$  and O  $p$  orbitals results in a variation of Ag–O distances that correlates with the band gap, which is in qualitative agreement with the density of states around the Fermi level from our density functional calculations. We compare  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  with other  $\text{ABX}_3$  compounds to elucidate the dependence of the structure on the constituent atoms.



## INTRODUCTION

Perovskite-related structures have unique electronic and magnetic properties, making them of great interest for technological applications. Typically, for a composition of  $\text{ABX}_3$ , where A and B are cations and X is an anion, the stability of the perovskite structure is evaluated on the basis of the relative sizes of the ions,<sup>1</sup> and many stable compositions for  $X = \text{O}^{2-}$  or  $\text{F}^-$  are known.<sup>2,3</sup> While many  $\text{ABO}_3$  oxides crystallize in the cubic perovskite structure with corner-sharing  $\text{BO}_6$  octahedra and a B–O–B linkage of  $180^\circ$ , the  $\text{A}^+\text{Sb}^{5+}\text{O}_3$  compounds do not form structures having Sb–O–Sb groups with  $180^\circ$  linkages due to the covalency of the Sb–O bond.<sup>4</sup> All known  $\text{A}^+\text{Sb}^{5+}\text{O}_3$  compounds crystallize in structures in addition to the cubic perovskite, including ilmenite and defect pyrochlore, when synthesized under ambient pressure. We note that the cubic perovskite structure can be stabilized for  $(\text{Ba}^{2+})_{1-x}(\text{K}^{1+})_x\text{SbO}_3$  for  $x \geq 0.65$  under high-pressure conditions,<sup>5</sup> where the average oxidation state of Sb is less than 5+ with the addition of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ . However, here we limit the discussion to materials with only one element on the A site and one element on the B site, specifically antimonates for which  $B = \text{Sb}^{5+}$ , and the stability of the cubic perovskite structure.

The cubic perovskite structure can be stabilized under high-pressure conditions for many  $\text{A}^{2+}\text{B}^{4+}(\text{O}^{2-})_3$  compounds for which  $B = \text{Ge}$  and  $\text{Sn}$ , where the size of the  $\text{Ge}^{4+}$  or  $\text{Sn}^{4+}$  ion is comparable to that of  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$ .<sup>6</sup> In addition, under high-pressure

high-temperature conditions, the orthorhombic perovskite structure was reported for the antimonate  $\text{NaSbO}_3$  at 10.5 GPa and 1150 °C.<sup>7</sup> However, even under higher pressures, we are unable to stabilize a perovskite structure for  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  but instead found a new monoclinic phase was stabilized at 16 GPa and 1380 °C. A number of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phases are reported in the literature, including an ilmenite phase synthesized through ion exchange under ambient conditions<sup>8</sup> and a defect pyrochlore phase synthesized at 0.3–6.5 GPa.<sup>9</sup>

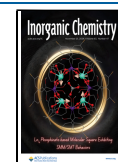
Non-perovskite  $\text{ABO}_3$  oxides can have advantageous properties, such as high ionic conductivity due to the low-symmetry structures that allow hopping between ionic sites,<sup>10</sup> which is absent in perovskite-type  $\text{ABO}_3$ . This monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase crystallizes in space group  $C2/c$ , and its X-ray diffraction pattern and Rietveld refinement are shown in Figure 1. We compare the crystal structure, optical conductivity, and Raman spectra of this high-pressure monoclinic phase with those of the defect pyrochlore and ilmenite phases of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ .

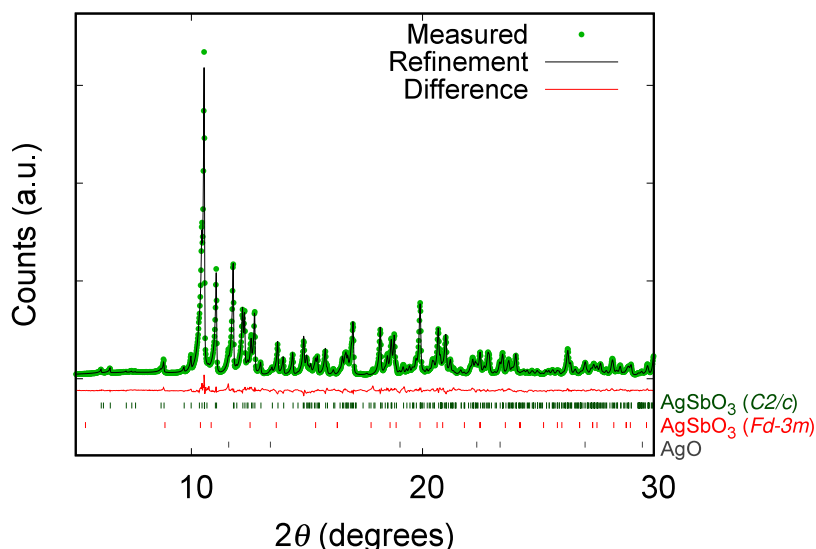
**Received:** July 17, 2024

**Revised:** October 26, 2024

**Accepted:** November 5, 2024

**Published:** November 11, 2024





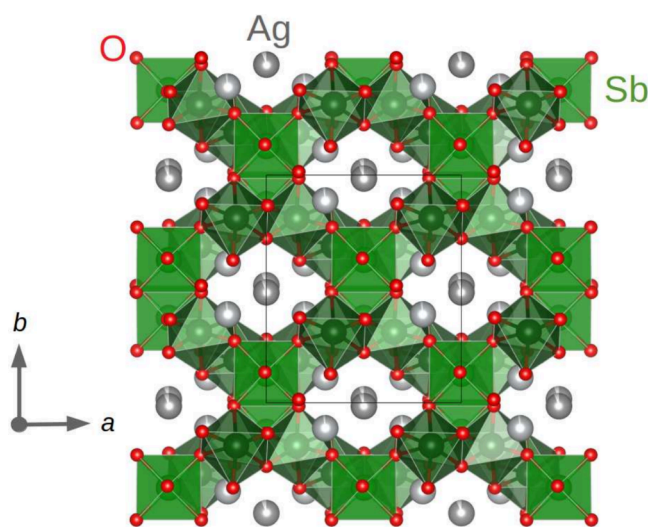
**Figure 1.** Scattered X-ray diffraction intensities of high-pressure monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  ( $C2/c$  symmetry) [with  $\text{AgO}$  and  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  ( $Fd\bar{3}mZ$ ) as impurity phases with 0.9 and 0.5 wt %, respectively] at 298 K under ambient conditions as a function of  $2\theta$ . The observed pattern (blue circles) measured in Debye–Scherrer geometry, the best combined Rietveld fit profiles (red line), and the difference curves between the observed and calculated profiles (gray line) are shown. The peak positions of the three phases are presented as blue lines below. The square root of the intensity is shown to better visualize the smaller reflections.

In the monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase, we find a combination of corner- and edge-sharing  $\text{SbO}_6$  octahedra forming a three-dimensional network with channels running along the  $c$ -direction, while the Ag atoms occupy positions inside these channels. We compare Ag–O and Sb–O coordination in all of these phases and discuss the absence of a cubic perovskite phase even under high-pressure high-temperature conditions in relation to the covalency of the Sb–O bond and the moderate electronegativity of  $\text{Ag}^+$ . We contrast our findings with those of other perovskite oxides with a similar ionic size at the B site and those of the cubic perovskite  $\text{NaSbO}_3$  phase stabilized at high pressure.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The crystal structure of monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  (Figure 2) is fully ordered and can best be described as follows. Corner-sharing  $\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_{10}$  double octahedra form a subunit with an inversion center inside (Figure 3). The two upper and lower vertices of the double octahedra are connected to the edge of neighboring  $\text{SbO}_6$  octahedra, which are thus turned by  $90^\circ$ . In addition, the four outer corners of the double octahedra are corner shared with two corner-sharing pairs of additional  $\text{SbO}_6$  octahedra that are connected to other  $\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_{10}$  double octahedra thus forming a rigid three-dimensional porous network with interconnected pseudohexagonal channels along the  $c$ -direction. The results of the Rietveld refinement are listed in Table 1, and the atomic positions are listed in Table S1.

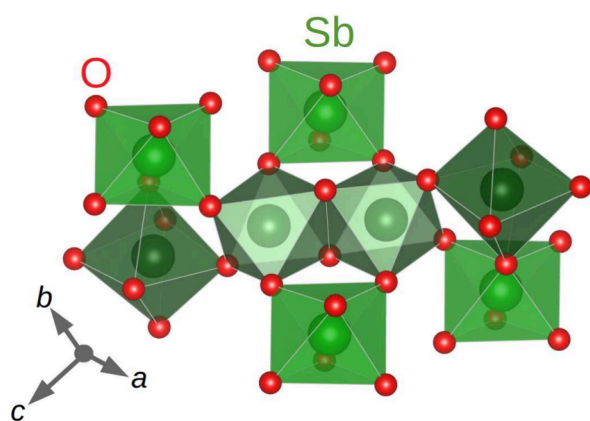
To gain insight into this crystal structure, we examined the  $\text{ABO}_3$  oxides, where the B cation prefers octahedral coordination. The most stable structure depends on the ionic or covalent nature of the bonding. In the case of covalent bonding, we must consider the  $\sigma$ -bonding and the  $\pi$ -bonding between the B and O ions. Ionic forces between the atoms tend to favor corner-sharing cubic perovskite structure and have been suggested to explain the stability of the perovskite phases.  $\text{AGeO}_3$  and  $\text{ASnO}_3$  compounds crystallize in the cubic perovskite phase, some stable only under high pressure.<sup>12,13</sup> The Shannon radii of octahedrally coordinated  $\text{Ge}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Sn}^{4+}$



**Figure 2.** Projection of the crystal structure of monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  ( $C2/c$  symmetry) in the  $a$ – $b$  plane.

on the B site are 0.67 and 0.83 Å, respectively, while  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  has a radius of 0.74 Å.<sup>6</sup> With  $A^+$  and  $A^{2+}$  ions with similar radii available among group I and group II elements, we must consider effects beyond the cation size to explain the lack of stability of a cubic perovskite structure of  $A^+\text{SbO}_3$ .

The electronegativity of  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  relative to that of  $\text{Ge}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Sn}^{4+}$  ions can explain the edge sharing found in  $\text{ASbO}_3$ . We find that edge sharing of octahedra is preferred in all  $\text{ASbO}_3$  compounds synthesized under ambient conditions. In monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ , we find the Sb–O–Sb group with linkages of  $94.1^\circ$  and  $119.8^\circ$ , and this deviation from a linear Sb–O–Sb group is consistent with strong covalent Sb–O bonding. Considering covalent bonding, linear Sb–O–Sb bonding would require the same O 2p orbital to participate in  $\sigma$ -bonding to two Sb atoms. However, the covalent bonding would be much stronger if different anionic orbitals were to



**Figure 3.** Connectivity of  $\text{SbO}_6$  octahedra forming the framework in the crystal structure of monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ .

**Table 1. Crystallographic and Rietveld Refinement Data of High-Pressure Monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ <sup>a</sup>**

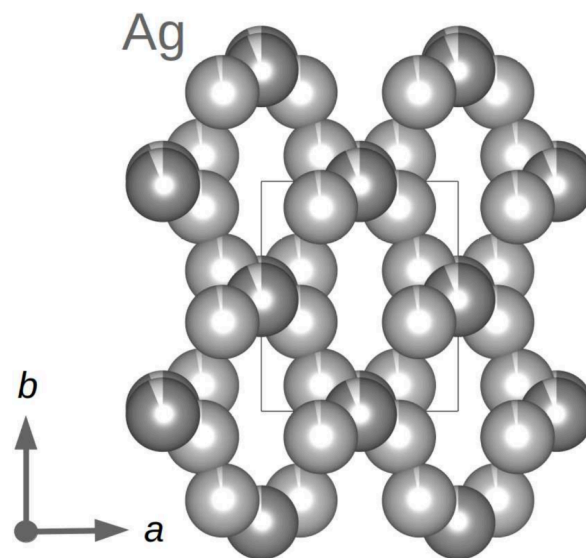
cell mass ( $\text{g mol}^{-1}$ )	3366(11)
crystal system	monoclinic
space group	$C2/c$
wavelength ( $\text{\AA}$ )	0.55941
$a$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	8.4570(3)
$b$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	9.8752(3)
$c$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	8.9291(3)
$\alpha$ (deg)	90
$\beta$ (deg)	91.1750(12)
$\gamma$ (deg)	90
$V$ ( $\text{\AA}^3$ )	745.56(4)
$T$ (K)	298
$Z$	8
$D_{\text{calc}}$ ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ )	7.420
$R_{\text{wp}}$ (%)	6.02
$R_{\text{p}}$ (%)	4.37
$R_{\text{Bragg}}$ (%)	1.73
measured starting angle $2\theta$ (deg)	2
measured final angle $2\theta$ (deg)	112
starting angle $2\theta$ used (deg)	4
final angle $2\theta$ used (deg)	62
step width (deg $2\theta$ )	0.015
time (h)	12

<sup>a</sup> $R_{\text{wp}}$ ,  $R_{\text{p}}$ , and  $R_{\text{Bragg}}$  are as defined in TOPAS version 7.<sup>11</sup>

participate in the bonding with each of the cations. This is consistent with the observation of edge-sharing octahedra with a  $\text{Sb}-\text{O}-\text{Sb}$  angle of  $90^\circ$  found in many  $\text{ASbO}_3$  compounds.

Via application of a pressure of 10.5 GPa,  $\text{NaSbO}_3$  can be stabilized as an orthorhombically distorted perovskite, where the  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $[\text{SbO}_3]^-$  ionic interactions allow for the stabilization of the perovskite phase.<sup>7</sup> In monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ , we go to an even higher pressure of 16 GPa and might expect a similar  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $[\text{SbO}_3]^-$  interaction to facilitate the stability of the perovskite structure. However, the instability of the perovskite phase even at these pressures is likely due to the weaker ionic interaction of  $[\text{SbO}_3]^-$  with  $\text{Ag}^+$  than with  $\text{Na}^+$ . As discussed below, the more covalent nature of  $\text{Ag}^+$  is evidenced by the color of the samples relative the  $\text{Ag}^+-\text{O}$  distance as discussed below, and we find a variation in the oxygen coordination of  $\text{Ag}^+$ . The Ag atoms are located in the channels and are interconnected in a three-dimensional fashion

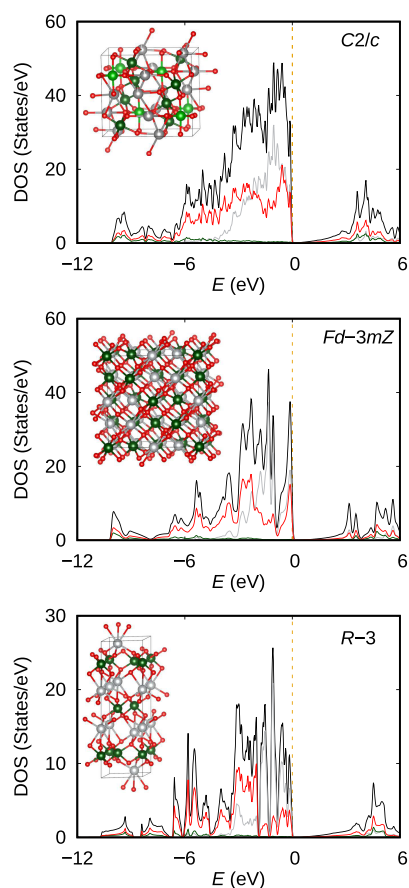
with  $\text{Ag}-\text{Ag}$  distances between 2.866 and 3.085  $\text{\AA}$  (Figure 4); such a network is expected to facilitate  $\text{Ag}^+$  hopping, resulting in significant ionic conductivity.



**Figure 4.** Three-dimensional silver network in the crystal structure of monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  ( $C2/c$  symmetry).

We examine the  $\text{Ag}-\text{O}$  distances in all three  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phases and find a shortest  $\text{Ag}-\text{O}$  distance of 2.220  $\text{\AA}$  in monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ . The shortest  $\text{Ag}-\text{O}$  distances in the ilmenite and defect pyrochlore phases are 2.414 and 2.555  $\text{\AA}$ , respectively. These distances are consistent with the correlation between the  $\text{Ag}-\text{O}$  distance and color in various Ag oxides discussed previously.<sup>4</sup> The O coordination around the Ag atoms, which can also effect the band gap due to the change in orbital overlap, varies between the ilmenite and defect pyrochlore phases and is highly asymmetric in monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ . We find a variation in the  $\text{Ag}^+-\text{O}$  bonding with the Ag1 site having one O atom with a distance of 2.220  $\text{\AA}$  and two O atoms with a distance of 2.514  $\text{\AA}$  in a triangular planar configuration. For the Ag2 site, we find O atoms at distances of 2.393, 2.414, and 2.498  $\text{\AA}$  in a deformed trigonal pyramidal configuration. This uneven bonding can originate from the coordinated covalency of oxygen atoms that results in deformation of the  $4d^{10}$  orbital of the  $\text{Ag}^+$  ion due to  $4d-5s$  hybridization.

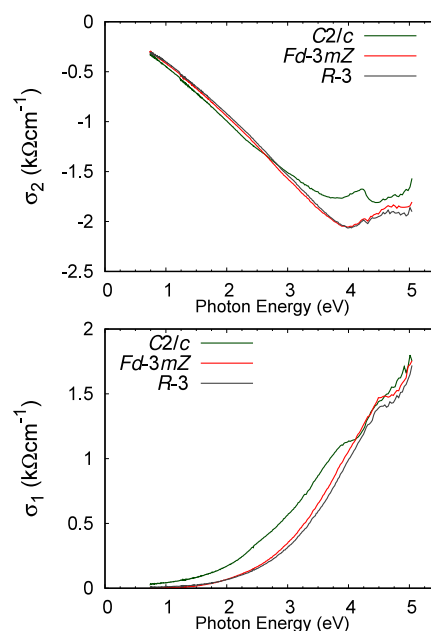
From density functional calculations, we look at the density of states (DOS), shown in Figure 5, for all three  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phases. From the partial contribution of Ag, Sb, and O, we indeed find that Ag and O contribute heavily below the  $E_{\text{F}}$ . Also, we find the peaks for both Ag and O appear at similar energies, supporting the scenario for suspected strong hybridization based on the short  $\text{Ag}-\text{O}$  distance. This is especially evident for the ilmenite and defect pyrochlore phases with single Ag and O sites. Upon examination of the band structure in Figure S3, the density of bands below the Fermi level increases in the  $C2/c$  symmetry due to the increased number of unique sites, with two Ag sites, two Sb sites, and five O sites. We examine the partial DOS for the monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase in Figure S4 considering the shortest distance between cations and oxygen anions. We find the shortest distance between the nearest O atoms and Ag1, Ag2, Sb1, and Sb2 corresponds to peaks in the partial DOS. The O4 site seems to be strongly bonded to the Ag1 site and has a short



**Figure 5.** Density of states of all three  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phases: ilmenite (synthesized at ambient pressure,  $R\bar{3}$  symmetry), defect pyrochlore (synthesized at 4 GPa,  $Fd\bar{3}mZ$  symmetry), and monoclinic phase (synthesized at 16 GPa,  $C2/c$  symmetry). The total density of states (black) and partial contributions from Ag (gray), Sb (green), and O (red) are highlighted.

distance of 2.221 Å. However, this distance does not necessarily reflect the strongest bonding between Ag1 and O4, because O4 is strongly bonded to the Sb2 atom as part of the surrounding O atoms in an octahedral arrangement. This results in deformation of the core  $4d^{10}$  orbital from a sphere to an ellipsoid, allowing for shorter bonds along the shorter directions of the ellipsoid. Such a variation in Ag–O bonds was previously reported for  $\text{Ag}^+$  salts and discussed for the cubic  $Im\bar{3}$  phase of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ .<sup>4</sup> The color of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  samples reflects the band gap,  $E_g$ , where an  $E_g$  of  $<1.7$  eV results in black compounds and an  $E_g$  of  $>3.0$  eV results in white compounds.<sup>4</sup>

The change in band gap with Ag–O bond length can be understood if nonbonding core orbitals,  $4d$  or hybridized  $4d-5s$  of the  $\text{Ag}^+$ , contribute to the top of the valence band and  $5s$  orbitals contribute to the bottom of the conduction band. Hybridization will increase the  $4d$  levels relative to the  $5s$  levels, thus decreasing the gap between the  $4d$ -like bands and the  $5s$ -like bands. Reduction of the Ag–O bond length requires greater  $4d-5s$  hybridization; therefore, we find a decrease in the energy gap with a decrease in the Ag–O bond length. This is consistent with our findings from ellipsometry measurements, shown in Figure 6, for determining the optical conductivities of all three  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phases. The ilmenite phase has the largest band gap of 2.50 eV, which is slightly reduced to 2.30 eV in the defect pyrochlore phase and much

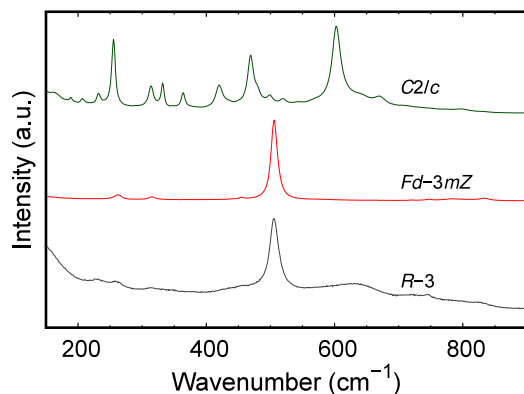


**Figure 6.** Real ( $\sigma_1$ ) and imaginary ( $\sigma_2$ ) parts of the electrical conductivity of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ , ilmenite (synthesized at ambient pressure,  $R\bar{3}$  symmetry), defect pyrochlore (synthesized at 4 GPa,  $Fd\bar{3}mZ$  symmetry), and the monoclinic phase (synthesized at 16 GPa,  $C2/c$  symmetry).

reduced to 1.90 eV in the monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase. This supports the strong  $4d-5s$  hybridization of the  $\text{Ag}^+$  suspected from the Ag–O bonding based on the crystal structure. The band structure in Figure S3 shows a band above the Fermi level that is separated by only 100 meV from the valence band. However, this band may be optically inactive, or its position appears closer to the Fermi level due to the functionals used, which results in an underestimation of the optical band gap. Considering the number of distinct sites in the monoclinic  $C2/c$  phase, this band likely comes from a cluster of atoms that extends across the unit cell. We utilize a molecular orbital approach to examine this possibility as demonstrated in Figure S5 and find the band above the Fermi level is dominated by Ag and O contributions. This confirms the Ag–O hybridization suspected on the basis of atomic distances and the change in the observed optical band gap.

We examine the Raman spectra of all three phases in Figure 7, measured without any polarizers in the range of 100–800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . We find similar spectra for the ilmenite and defect pyrochlore phases with a strong peak at  $\sim 500$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . For the monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase, we find richer spectra with many peaks, where the strongest peaks are at 250 and 600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The strongly bonded Sb–O network is likely to affect the Raman spectra in all three phases. We find only one Sb site and one O site in the ilmenite and defect pyrochlore phases, whereas we have two Sb sites and five O sites in the monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase.

The large number of distinct Sb and O sites and the low symmetry in the monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phase ( $C2/c$ ) are consistent with the large number of optical modes observed in the Raman spectra. With 30 independent atoms in the primitive unit cell, we have  $3n = 90$  phonon modes in monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ , with three acoustic modes and 87 optical phonon modes, where 45 are Raman active optical phonons. Denoted by the irreducible representations, for the monoclinic



**Figure 7.** Raman spectra of different phases of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ , ilmenite (synthesized at ambient pressure,  $R\bar{3}$  symmetry), defect pyrochlore (synthesized at 4 GPa,  $Fd\bar{3}mZ$  symmetry), and the monoclinic phase (synthesized at 16 GPa,  $C2/c$  symmetry).

$C2/c$  phase of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  with the  $C_{2h}(2/m)$  point group we have 21  $A_g$  and 24  $B_g$  modes.<sup>14</sup> To characterize the Raman spectra in more detail and identify the different optical modes, calculations and further polarization-dependent Raman experiments will be needed. The low symmetry of the crystal structure and the large change in the DOS below the Fermi level may result in the good performance of this material for thermoelectric applications.

## CONCLUSION

We find a new polymorph of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  stabilized using a high-pressure, high-temperature synthesis technique at 16 GPa and 1380 °C from an ilmenite phase as the starting material. The crystal structure is determined from XRPD to be in the monoclinic  $C2/c$  space group with two Sb sites and five oxygen sites. This monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  consists of a three-dimensional network of corner- and edge-sharing  $\text{SbO}_6$  octahedra with channels along the  $c$ -direction containing two crystallographically distinct Ag cations. Upon comparison with  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  in the defect pyrochlore phase synthesized at 4 GPa and the ilmenite phase, we find edge-sharing  $\text{SbO}_6$  octahedra in all three phases.

The Ag–O bonding varies in all three phases, which is expected to change the degree of 4d–5s hybridization and the resulting band gap. Indeed, we find a reduction in the optical band gap in our ellipsometry measurement with a shorter Ag–O distance, with the smallest band gap of 1.90 eV in monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ . The Raman spectra were recorded for all three  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  phases, and we find a rich spectrum for monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  with many peaks, which is consistent with increased number of Sb sites and O sites compared with the ilmenite and defect pyrochlore phase showing a single dominant peak. The absence of cubic perovskites in  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ , even at pressures of  $\leq 16$  GPa is likely due to the covalency of the Sb–O bonds and the moderate electronegativity of  $\text{Ag}^+$ . The Ag–Ag distances and the channels within the Sb–O network will make this phase an ideal candidate for the exploration of ionic conductivity in the future.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**Materials.** We synthesized a monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  sample employing a high-pressure high-temperature (HPHT) technique with a Walker-type multianvil module. Polycrystalline ilmenite  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  was used as a precursor, obtained by ion exchange in solution from

$\text{NaSbO}_3$  and  $\text{AgNO}_3$  as a yellowish green color. The ilmenite  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  powder was placed in a Pt capsule and subjected to HPHT treatment at 5 GPa and 800 °C for 1 h, followed by quenching to room temperature and slow decompression, to obtain the red defectivite pyrochlore phase color as reported.<sup>4</sup> At 16 GPa and 1380 °C, we obtained a new high-pressure phase of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  (monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$ ) with a reddish-brown color at room temperature after slow decompression. The pressure and temperature were calibrated prior to the experiments by recording the resistance changes of bismuth and thermocouple calibration runs, respectively. We used the dense pellet obtained from this treatment for X-ray powder diffraction and Raman spectroscopy measurement.

**Raman Measurements.** Raman scattering measurements were performed using a Horiba Jobin-Yvon LabRAM monochromator, equipped with a grating of 1800 grooves/mm and a Peltier cooled CCD camera. We used the 532 nm line of a diode laser at a power of 1 mW, and the spot diameter was  $\sim 10$   $\mu\text{m}$  on the sample using a 50 $\times$  microscopic objective for both focusing and collection of light. The spectral resolution was  $\sim 1$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in this study. A Semrock RazorEdge filter was used to block the elastically scattered laser light, where the cutoff energy was 79  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**Ellipsometry Measurements.** Pressed pellets of all three phases were polished with fine sand paper (down to 2000 grit), and an ellipsometry measurement was performed on the polished surface. Room-temperature ellipsometric spectra were recorded angles of incidence of 50°, 60°, and 70° in a spectral range from 0.75 to 5 eV using a commercial ellipsometer (J. A. Woollam M-2000FI). The data collected using an angle of incidence of 70° are analyzed herein. The real and imaginary parts of the dielectric constant are converted into optical conductivity.<sup>15</sup>

**Band Structure Calculations.** Electronic structure calculations were performed within the framework of density functional theory (DFT) as implemented in Wien2k.<sup>16</sup> The generalized gradient approximation with the PBE parametrization<sup>17</sup> was used. The basis set size was set to  $R_{\text{mt}}K_{\text{max}} = 7.0$ , and the irreducible Brillouin zone (BZ) was sampled with a  $15 \times 12 \times 15$  k mesh. The monoclinic crystal structure ( $C2/c$  space group with  $a = 8.4570$  Å,  $b = 9.8752$  Å,  $c = 8.9291$  Å, and  $\beta = 91.175^\circ$ ) was used for the high-pressure phase. The structures previously reported for the ilmenite<sup>8</sup> [ $a = 10.0696(1)$  Å, and  $c = 31.5599(1)$  Å] and defect pyrochlore<sup>18</sup> [ $a = 19.3588(1)$  Å] phases were used to calculate their band structure. The muffin tin radius ( $R_{\text{MT}}$ ) for each of the elements for all three phases was set as follows: 1.25 Å for Ag, 1.04 Å for Sb, and 0.90 Å for O. The irreducible Brillouin zone (BZ) was sampled with  $20 \times 20 \times 20$  and  $25 \times 25 \times 25$  k meshes for the ilmenite phase and defect pyrochlore phase, respectively. An  $R_{\text{mt}}K_{\text{max}}$  of 7.0 was used for both phases.

**Laboratory X-ray Powder Diffraction (XRPD).** XRPD measurements for structure determination under ambient conditions were performed by using a Stoe Transmission Powder Diffraction System (STADI-P) equipped with a Ge(111) Johann-type primary beam monochromator from STOE & CIE with Ag  $K\alpha_1$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.55941$  Å) that was equipped with an array of three linear position-sensitive MYTHEN 1K detectors from Dectris Ltd. with a  $2\theta$  opening angle of  $\sim 18^\circ$  for each. The finely powdered sample of  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  was placed in a 0.3 mm glass capillary (Hilgenberg glass No. 14) and spun during measurement or to improve particle statistics. The measurement in the  $2\theta$  range from 2.0° to 112° with a  $2\theta$  step width of 0.015° took 12 h (Figure 1).

For indexing of the powder pattern of monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  at 298 K, TOPAS version 7 (Coelho, 2018) was used. Indexing was performed by iterative use of single-value decomposition (LSI) (Coelho, 2003), leading to a C-centered monoclinic unit cell with the following unit cell parameters:  $a = 8.4570(3)$  Å,  $b = 9.8752(3)$  Å,  $c = 8.9291(3)$  Å, and  $\beta = 91.1750(12)^\circ$  [ $V = 745.56(4)$  Å<sup>3</sup>]. From the observed extinction rules, the most probable space group could be determined to be  $Cc$ , and  $C2/c$  from which the latter was confirmed after structure determination. The number of formula units per unit cell ( $Z$ ) could be estimated to be 8 from volume increments. The peak profiles and precise lattice parameters of the powder patterns of monoclinic  $\text{AgSbO}_3$  were first determined by a Pawley fit (Pawley,

1981) using the fundamental parameter (FP) approach of TOPAS (Cheary, Coelho, and Cline, 2005). Beforehand, the instrumental peak profile was determined using the NIST LaB6 SRM 660C line profile standard (Black et al., 2020) by applying the Thompson–Cox–Hastings pseudo-Voigt function (Thompson et al., 1987) using four line profile parameters. For the modeling of the background, Chebyshev polynomials were employed. The refinement converged quickly.

The structure of high-pressure monoclinic AgSbO<sub>3</sub> was determined in an iterative manner by the global optimization method of simulated annealing in real space by using TOPAS (Coelho, 2007). From the formula, space group, and number of formula units per unit cell, the following numbers of atoms in the asymmetric unit are purely arithmetically possible: two or three silver cations, two or three antimony cations, and between five and nine oxygen anions, totalling a minimum of nine and a maximum of 15 independent ions. Not all combinations make crystallographic sense. The following strategy was applied. The simulated annealing was started with a minimum of nine independent ions with the occupancy included in the simulated annealing process and a maximum number of 46 electrons, equivalent to the number for Ag<sup>+</sup> or Sb<sup>5+</sup>. In that way, oxygen atoms could be clearly distinguished from the strong scatterers. In addition, atoms close to a special position were constrained to that position, and the occupancy factor was adjusted accordingly. A global minimum was repeatedly found with nine atoms in the asymmetric form. The distinction between the isoelectronic Ag<sup>+</sup> or Sb<sup>5+</sup> cations was based on their coordination spheres.

The structure giving the best fit to the data in space group C2/c was validated by Rietveld refinement (Rietveld, 1969) using TOPAS. Small amounts of AgO (~0.9 wt %) and the AgSbO<sub>3</sub> starting phase (~0.5 wt %) were detected and included as additional phases in the Rietveld refinement. The final Rietveld refinement is shown in Figure 1. Agreement factors are listed in Table 1. The atomic coordinates are listed in Table 1, and a selection of intramolecular distances and bond angles are listed in Tables S2 and S3, respectively. The crystallographic data have been deposited at the ICSD under CSD No. 2370184 (Table 2).

**Table 2. Comparison of Ag–O Distances in the Three AgSbO<sub>3</sub> Phases**

atoms	distance (Å)
C2/c	
(Ag1–O3) × 2	2.514
Ag1–O4	2.220
Ag2–O1	2.689
Ag2–O2	2.498
Ag2–O3	2.414
Ag2–O5	2.393
F $\bar{d}$ 3mZ	
(Ag1–O1) × 6	2.556
R $\bar{3}$	
(Ag1–O1) × 3	2.414
(Ag1–O1) × 3	2.706

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### SI Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.inorgchem.4c03021>.

Atomic positions, atomic distances, bond angles, and DFT calculations for high-pressure AgSbO<sub>3</sub> (PDF)

### Accession Codes

Deposition Number 2382148 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via the joint Cambridge Crystallographic Data

Centre (CCDC) and Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe Access Structures service.

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### Funding

Open access funded by Max Planck Society.

### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank George Sawatzky for valuable discussion, Claus Muehle at MPI-FKF for supplying the AgSbO<sub>3</sub> ilmenite sample, Uwe Engelhardt and Frank Falkenberg for their support during the high-pressure synthesis experiments, Christine Stefani for help with X-ray diffraction measurements, and Hsiang-Hsi (Sean) Kung for help with ellipsometry measurements.

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