



Received 2 May 2024 Accepted 10 May 2024

Edited by M. Weil, Vienna University of Technology, Austria

**Keywords:** crystal structure; scheelite; molybdates; lithium; lutetium; mixed occupancy.

CCDC reference: 2312843

Supporting information: this article has supporting information at journals.iucr.org/e





## Mixed occupancy: the crystal structure of scheelitetype LiLu[MoO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>

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Coarse colorless single crystals of lithium lutetium bis[orthomolybdate(VI)], LiLu[MoO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, were obtained as a by-product from a reaction aimed at lithium derivatives of lutetium molybdate. The title compound crystallizes in the scheelite structure type (tetragonal, space group  $I4_1/a$ ) with two formula units per unit cell. The Wyckoff position 4*b* (site symmetry  $\overline{4}$ ) comprises a mixed occupancy of Li<sup>+</sup> and Lu<sup>3+</sup> cations in a 1:1 ratio. In comparison with a previous powder X-ray study [Cheng *et al.* (2015). *Dalton Trans.* **44**, 18078–18089.] all atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters.

#### 1. Chemical context

The mineral powellite (CaMoO<sub>4</sub>) is one of the main sources for molybdenum on this planet. Its tetragonal crystal structure can be described as isotypical with that of the mineral scheelite (CaWO<sub>4</sub>) in space group type  $I4_1/a$  with the *c* axis roughly twice as long as the respective *a* axis (Dickinson, 1920). The predomination of divalent cations, such as alkaline earth metals, can be changed by introducing a mixed occupancy of monovalent (*i.e.* alkali metals) and trivalent cations (*i.e.* rare-earth metals) at the respective Wyckoff position. Since the coordination number of eight around the alkaline earth metal cations in the scheelite structure usually requires larger cations, it is remarkable that the title compound also adopts the scheelite structure type although it comprises the smallest cations of both the alkali metals and the lanthanides.

#### 2. Structural commentary

In the crystal structure of LiLu[MoO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 1) the Li<sup>+</sup> and  $Lu^{3+}$  cations reside at Wyckoff position 4b (site symmetry  $\overline{4}$ ) exhibiting a 1:1 mixed occupancy. The coordination environment around this position is built up by eight oxide anions  $[d_{\text{Li/Lu}-O} = 4 \times 2.369 \text{ (3)} \text{ and } 4 \times 2.371 \text{ (3)} \text{ Å}]$  in the shape of a trigonal dodecahedron (Fig. 2). The Mo<sup>6+</sup> cations are situated in the centers of oxygen tetrahedra at Wyckoff position 4a (site symmetry  $\overline{4}$ ) with distances of 4  $\times$  1.774 (3) Å. The existence of LiLu[MoO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> was first mentioned by Cheng et al. (2015), with the crystal structure being refined by the Rietveld method on basis of X-ray data from microcrystalline powder. While their refinement of the lattice parameters [a =5.10332 (11), c = 11.0829 (3) Å] resulted in similar values as for the current single-crystal study (see Table 1), no anisotropic displacement parameters of the refined atoms were given in the previous powder study. Furthermore, the structure refinement on basis of single-crystal data not only allows for a more accurate determination of the oxygen site, but also for a

### research communications



Figure 1

The augmented unit cell of LiLu $[MoO_4]_2$  in a view approximately along [010], with the  $[MoO_4]^{2-}$  anions in polyhedral representation and displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 95% probability level. Atomic positions marked with the subscript "a" build up the asymmetric unit.

rather precise determination of the Li:Lu ratio found at Wyckoff position 4b (occupancy ratio 0.483 Li:0.517 Lu when refined freely). For electroneutrality, the site occupancies were fixed to ideal values (0.5:0.5) in the final refinement step.

Since  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  cations are larger than  $Li^+$  cations and thus closer to the size of  $Ln^{3+}$  cations, it is not astonishing that the crystal volumes of  $NaLn[MoO_4]_2$  and  $KLn[MoO_4]_2$ compounds are considerably larger than those of the respective  $LiLn[MoO_4]_2$  series. In case of the larger lanthanoids, lithium-containing scheelite-type structures according to the formula  $LiLn[MoO_4]_2$  with  $Ln = Ce^{3+}$  (Egorova *et al.*, 1982) and Nd<sup>3+</sup> (Kolitsch, 2001) are known so far, while for Yb<sup>3+</sup> as a representative of the smaller lanthanides, the crystal structure shows deviations from the Laue group 4/m, crystallizing in space group I4 (Volkov et al., 2005; Armand et al., 2021). In all the aforementioned compounds, the rather small Li<sup>+</sup> cations assume a mixed occupancy with the respective lanthanoid, which is also found in the crystal structures of e.g.  $LiLn_5[W_8O_{32}]$  for Ln = Y (Dorn *et al.*, 2017) and Dy-Lu (Dorn et al., 2021). However, in these structures the Li<sup>+</sup> cations show a sixfold coordination in contrast to the scheelite-type title compound with a coordination number of eight.

#### 3. Synthesis and crystallization

Colorless single crystals of LiLu[MoO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, which remain stable towards atmospheric influences, were obtained as a by-

Table 1	
Experimental	details.

Crystal data	
Chemical formula	LiLu[MoO <sub>4</sub> ] <sub>2</sub>
$M_{ m r}$	501.79
Crystal system, space group	Tetragonal, $I4_1/a$
Temperature (K)	293
a, c (A)	5.1052 (3), 11.0800 (7)
$V(A^3)$	288.78 (4)
Ζ	2
Radiation type	Ag $K\alpha$ , $\lambda = 0.56083$ Å
$\mu \text{ (mm}^{-1}\text{)}$	25.07
Crystal size (mm)	$0.14 \times 0.09 \times 0.08$
Data collection	
Diffractometer	Stoe Stadivari
Absorption correction	Multi-scan [X-RED32 (Stoe & Cie, 2019) using Gaussian integra- tion, analogous to Coppens (1970). Afterwards scaling of reflection intensities was performed within LANA (Koziskova et al., 2016)]
I <sub>min</sub> , I <sub>max</sub>	0.031, 0.155
No. of measured, independent and observed $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ reflections	4315, 352, 162
R <sub>int</sub>	0.037
$(\sin \theta / \lambda)_{\max} ( \text{\AA}^{-1} )$	0.833
Refinement	
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)], wR(F^2), S$	0.019, 0.048, 0.96
No. of reflections	352
No. of parameters	15
$\Delta \rho_{\text{max}}, \Delta \rho_{\text{min}}$ (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	1.14, -1.22

Computer programs: X-AREA (Stoe & Cie, 2019), LANA (Koziskova et al., 2016), SHELXT (Sheldrick, 2015a), SHELXL (Sheldrick, 2015b), DIAMOND (Brandenburg & Putz, 2023) and publCIF (Westrip, 2010).





Oxidic coordination environment around the mixed cationic Li<sup>+</sup>/Lu<sup>3+</sup> position in the shape of a trigonal dodecahedron; displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 95% probability level [Symmetry codes: (i)  $y - \frac{1}{4}, -x + \frac{3}{4}, z + \frac{3}{4};$  (ii)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, y, -z + \frac{1}{2};$  (iii)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2};$  (iv)  $-y + \frac{1}{4}, x - \frac{1}{4}, z + \frac{3}{4};$  (v)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, z + \frac{1}{2};$  (vi)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, -y + 1, z + \frac{1}{2};$  (vii)  $-y + \frac{3}{4}, x - \frac{1}{4}, -z + \frac{3}{4};$  (viii)  $y - \frac{3}{4}, -x + \frac{3}{4}, -z + \frac{3}{4}].$ 

product of synthesis attempts for LiLu<sub>5</sub>[ $Mo_8O_{32}$ ]. Lithium chloride, lutetium sesquioxide and molybdenum trioxide in molar ratios of 3:8:24 were fused together in evacuated silica ampoules and treated with a stepwise temperature program with a peak value of 1123 K for four days. After a slow cooling ramp of another four days, the desired compound was obtained as a microcrystalline powder with single crystals of the title compound found in the bulk.

#### 4. Refinement

Crystal data, data collection and structure refinement details are summarized in Table 1. The 1:1 ratio of  $Li^+$  and  $Lu^{3+}$  was reached by fixed occupation factors (0.5:0.5) of the respective atoms at Wyckoff position 4*b*.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors thank Dr Falk Lissner for measuring the singlecrystal of the title compound.

#### **Funding information**

Funding for this research was provided by: German Research Foundation (DFG) grant 'Open Access Publication Funding/ 2023–2024/University of Stuttgart' (512689491).

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# supporting information

Acta Cryst. (2024). E80, 607-609 [https://doi.org/10.1107/S2056989024004365]

## Mixed occupancy: the crystal structure of scheelite-type LiLu[MoO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>

### Ingo Hartenbach and Robin F. Hertweck

**Computing details** 

Lithium lutetium bis[orthomolybdate(VI)]

#### Crystal data

LiLu[MoO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>  $M_r = 501.79$ Tetragonal,  $I4_1/a$  a = 5.1052 (3) Å c = 11.0800 (7) Å V = 288.78 (4) Å<sup>3</sup> Z = 2F(000) = 444

#### Data collection

Stoe Stadivari diffractometer Radiation source: Axo Ag Graded multilayer mirror monochromator Detector resolution: 5.81 pixels mm<sup>-1</sup> rotation method, *ω* scans

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$ Least-squares matrix: full  $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.019$  $wR(F^2) = 0.048$ S = 0.96352 reflections 15 parameters 0 restraints  $D_{\rm x} = 5.771 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Ag Ka radiation,  $\lambda = 0.56083 \text{ Å}$ Cell parameters from 2522 reflections  $\theta = 3.5-31.7^{\circ}$   $\mu = 25.07 \text{ mm}^{-1}$  T = 293 KCoarse, colorless  $0.14 \times 0.09 \times 0.08 \text{ mm}$ 

Absorption correction: multi-scan [X-Red32 (Stoe & Cie, 2019) using Gaussian integration, analogous to Coppens (1970). Afterwards scaling of reflection intensities was performed within LANA (Koziskova et al., 2016)]  $T_{\min} = 0.031, T_{\max} = 0.155$ 4315 measured reflections 352 independent reflections 162 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\rm int} = 0.037$  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.9^{\circ}, \ \theta_{\text{min}} = 3.5^{\circ}$  $h = -8 \rightarrow 8$  $k = -8 \rightarrow 8$  $l = -15 \rightarrow 18$  $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_0^2) + (0.0206P)^2 + 1.1482P]$ 

where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$   $\Delta\rho_{max} = 1.14 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$   $\Delta\rho_{min} = -1.22 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ Extinction correction: SHELXL (Sheldrick 2015b), Fc\*=kFc[1+0.001xFc^2\lambda^3/sin(2\theta)]^{-1/4} Extinction coefficient: 0.044 (2)

#### Special details

**Geometry**. All esds (except the esd in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell esds are taken into account individually in the estimation of esds in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between esds in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell esds is used for estimating esds involving l.s. planes.

Fractional	atomic	coordinates	and isotro	nic or e	auivalent	isotropic	disi	placement	narameters	$(Å^2$	)
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	x	У	Ζ	$U_{\rm iso}$ */ $U_{\rm eq}$	Occ. (<1)
Li	0.000000	0.250000	0.625000	0.00754 (18)	0.5
Lu	0.000000	0.250000	0.625000	0.00754 (18)	0.5
Мо	0.000000	0.250000	0.125000	0.01028 (19)	
0	0.2480 (4)	0.4067 (5)	0.0394 (2)	0.0175 (6)	

Atomic displacement parameters  $(Å^2)$ 

	$U^{11}$	$U^{22}$	$U^{33}$	$U^{12}$	$U^{13}$	U <sup>23</sup>
Li	0.0075 (2)	0.0075 (2)	0.0075 (3)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Lu	0.0075 (2)	0.0075 (2)	0.0075 (3)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Mo	0.0097 (2)	0.0097 (2)	0.0114 (3)	0.000	0.000	0.000
0	0.0203 (15)	0.0157 (14)	0.0177 (13)	-0.0012 (12)	0.0049 (11)	0.0027 (14)

Geometric parameters (Å, °)

Li—O <sup>i</sup>	2.369 (3)	Lu—O <sup>v</sup>	2.371 (3)
Li—O <sup>ii</sup>	2.369 (3)	Lu—O <sup>vi</sup>	2.371 (3)
Li—O <sup>iii</sup>	2.369 (3)	Lu—O <sup>vii</sup>	2.371 (3)
Li—O <sup>iv</sup>	2.369 (3)	Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	2.371 (3)
Li—O <sup>v</sup>	2.371 (3)	Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	3.7668 (2)
Li—O <sup>vi</sup>	2.371 (3)	Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	3.7668 (2)
Li—O <sup>vii</sup>	2.371 (3)	Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	3.7668 (2)
Li—O <sup>viii</sup>	2.371 (3)	Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	3.7668 (2)
Lu—O <sup>i</sup>	2.369 (3)	Mo—O <sup>xiii</sup>	1.774 (3)
Lu—O <sup>ii</sup>	2.369 (3)	Mo-O <sup>xiv</sup>	1.774 (3)
Lu—O <sup>iii</sup>	2.369 (3)	Mo—O <sup>xv</sup>	1.774 (3)
Lu—O <sup>iv</sup>	2.369 (3)	Mo—O	1.774 (3)
O <sup>i</sup> —Li—O <sup>ii</sup>	126.20 (9)	O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	74.75 (12)
O <sup>i</sup> —Li—O <sup>iii</sup>	126.20 (9)	O <sup>v</sup> —Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	99.23 (6)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Li—O <sup>iii</sup>	79.57 (15)	O <sup>vi</sup> —Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	99.23 (6)
O <sup>i</sup> —Li—O <sup>iv</sup>	79.57 (15)	O <sup>vii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	132.78 (15)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Li—O <sup>iv</sup>	126.20 (9)	O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	158.93 (7)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Li—O <sup>iv</sup>	126.20 (9)	O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	70.38 (7)
O <sup>i</sup> —Li—O <sup>v</sup>	153.18 (13)	O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	37.40 (7)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Li—O <sup>v</sup>	69.36 (7)	O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	101.37 (7)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Li—O <sup>v</sup>	74.75 (12)	O <sup>v</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	37.35 (7)
O <sup>iv</sup> —Li—O <sup>v</sup>	73.93 (6)	O <sup>vi</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	101.88 (8)
O <sup>i</sup> —Li—O <sup>vi</sup>	73.93 (6)	O <sup>vii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	85.81 (7)

## supporting information

O <sup>ii</sup> —Li—O <sup>vi</sup>	74.75 (12)	O <sup>viii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>ix</sup>	131.46 (8)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Li—O <sup>vi</sup>	69.36 (7)	O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	37.40 (7)
O <sup>iv</sup> —Li—O <sup>vi</sup>	153.18 (13)	O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	158.93 (7)
O <sup>v</sup> —Li—O <sup>vi</sup>	132.78 (15)	O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	101.37 (7)
O <sup>i</sup> —Li—O <sup>vii</sup>	74.75 (12)	O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	70.38 (8)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Li—O <sup>vii</sup>	153.18 (13)	O <sup>v</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	131.46 (7)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Li—O <sup>vii</sup>	73.93 (6)	O <sup>vi</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	85.81 (7)
O <sup>iv</sup> —Li—O <sup>vii</sup>	69.36 (7)	O <sup>vii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	37.35 (7)
O <sup>v</sup> —Li—O <sup>vii</sup>	99.23 (6)	O <sup>viii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	101.88 (8)
O <sup>vi</sup> —Li—O <sup>vii</sup>	99.23 (6)	Lu <sup>ix</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>x</sup>	122.737 (3)
O <sup>i</sup> —Li—O <sup>viiii</sup>	69.36 (7)	O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	70.38 (8)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Li—O <sup>viii</sup>	73.93 (6)	O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	101.37 (7)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Li—O <sup>viii</sup>	153.18 (13)	O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	158.93 (7)
O <sup>iv</sup> —Li—O <sup>viii</sup>	74.75 (12)	O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	37.40 (7)
O <sup>v</sup> —Li—O <sup>viii</sup>	99.23 (6)	O <sup>v</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	85.81 (7)
O <sup>vi</sup> —Li—O <sup>viii</sup>	99.23 (6)	O <sup>vi</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	131.46 (7)
O <sup>vii</sup> —Li—O <sup>viii</sup>	132.78 (15)	O <sup>vii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	101.88 (8)
O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—O <sup>ii</sup>	126.20 (9)	O <sup>viii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	37.35 (7)
O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—O <sup>iii</sup>	126.20 (9)	Lu <sup>ix</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	122.737 (3)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>iii</sup>	79.57 (15)	Lu <sup>x</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xi</sup>	85.322 (6)
O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—O <sup>iv</sup>	79.57 (15)	O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	101.37 (7)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>iv</sup>	126.20 (9)	O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	37.40 (7)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>iv</sup>	126.20 (9)	O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	70.38 (7)
O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—O <sup>v</sup>	153.18 (13)	O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	158.93 (7)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>v</sup>	69.36 (7)	O <sup>v</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	101.88 (8)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>v</sup>	74.75 (12)	O <sup>vi</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	37.35 (7)
O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—O <sup>v</sup>	73.93 (6)	O <sup>vii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	131.46 (7)
O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vi</sup>	73.93 (6)	O <sup>viii</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	85.81 (7)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vi</sup>	74.75 (12)	Lu <sup>ix</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	85.322 (5)
O <sup>iiii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vi</sup>	69.36 (7)	Lu <sup>x</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	122.737 (3)
O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vi</sup>	153.18 (13)	Lu <sup>xi</sup> —Lu—Lu <sup>xii</sup>	122.737 (3)
O <sup>v</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vi</sup>	132.78 (15)	O <sup>xiii</sup> —Mo—O <sup>xiv</sup>	106.65 (10)
O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vii</sup>	74.75 (12)	O <sup>xiii</sup> —Mo—O <sup>xv</sup>	106.65 (10)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vii</sup>	153.18 (13)	O <sup>xiv</sup> —Mo—O <sup>xv</sup>	115.3 (2)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vii</sup>	73.93 (6)	O <sup>xiii</sup> —Mo—O	115.3 (2)
O <sup>iv</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vii</sup>	69.36 (7)	O <sup>xiv</sup> —Mo—O	106.65 (10)
O <sup>v</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vii</sup>	99.23 (6)	O <sup>xv</sup> —Mo—O	106.65 (10)
O <sup>vi</sup> —Lu—O <sup>vii</sup>	99.23 (6)	Mo—O—Li <sup>iii</sup>	130.25 (16)
O <sup>i</sup> —Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	69.36 (7)	Mo—O—Li <sup>xvi</sup>	120.42 (15)
O <sup>ii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	73.93 (6)	Li <sup>iii</sup> —O—Li <sup>xvi</sup>	105.25 (12)
O <sup>iii</sup> —Lu—O <sup>viii</sup>	153.18 (13)		

Symmetry codes: (i) y-1/4, -x+3/4, z+3/4; (ii) x-1/2, y, -z+1/2; (iii) -x+1/2, -y+1/2; (iv) -y+1/4, x-1/4, z+3/4; (v) x-1/2, y-1/2, z+1/2; (vi) -x+1/2, -y+1, z+1/2; (vii) -y+3/4, x-1/4, -z+3/4; (viii) y-3/4, -x+3/4, -z+3/4; (ix) -x, -y, -z+1; (x) -x+1/2, -y+1/2, -z+3/2; (xi) -x-1/2, -y+1/2, -z+3/2; (xii) -x, -y+1, -z+1/2; (xii) -x, -y+1, -z+1/2; (xii) -x, -y+1, -z+1/2; (xii) -x, -y+1/2, -z+3/2; (xii) -x, -y+1, -z+1/2; (xii) -x, -y+1/2, -z+3/2; (xii) -x, -y+1/2, -z+3/2; (xii) -x, -y+1/2, -z+1/2; (xii) -x, -y+1/2; (xii) -x, -y+1/2