

Frost, Ray and Muscemeci, Anthony and Martens, Wayde and Adebajo, Moses and Bouzaid, Jocelyn (2005) Raman spectroscopy of hydrotalcites with sulphate, molybdate and chromate in the interlayer. *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 36(10):pp. 925-931.

Copyright © 2005 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

## **Raman spectroscopy of hydrotalcites with sulphate, molybdate and chromate in the interlayer**

**Ray L. Frost\*, Anthony W. Musumeci, Wayde N. Martens, Moses O. Adebajo and Jocelyn Bouzaid**

*Inorganic Materials Research Program, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology, GPO Box 2434, Brisbane Queensland 4001, Australia.*

### **Abstract**

Raman microscopy has been used to characterize the interlayer anions in synthesized hydrotalcites of formula  $Mg_6Al_2(OH)_{16}(XO_4) \cdot 4H_2O$  where X is S or Mo or Cr. The Raman spectroscopy shows that both the chromate and molybdate anions are not polymerised in the hydrotalcite interlayer. This lack of polymerisation is attributed to the effect of pH during synthesis. A model of bonding is proposed for the interlayer anions based upon the observation of two symmetric stretching modes and symmetry lowering of the chromate, molybdate and sulphate anions. Two types of anions are present hydrated and hydroxyl surface bonded.

Key Words: hydrotalcite, brucite, Raman microscopy, carrboydite, hydrohonesite, takovite, mountkeithite.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Hydrotalcites both natural and synthetic have been known for an extended period of time<sup>1-3</sup>. Early reports of natural hydrotalcites date back to 1944<sup>4</sup>. Hydrotalcites, or layered double hydroxides (LDH) are fundamentally known as anionic clays, and are less well-known and more diffuse in nature than cationic clays such as smectites<sup>5</sup>. In the laboratory using a number of techniques LDH's may be synthesized. Interest in the study of hydrotalcites results from their potential use as catalysts<sup>6-10</sup>. The reason rests with the ability to make mixed metal oxides at the atomic level, rather than at a particle level. Such mixed metal oxides are formed through the thermal decomposition of the hydrotalcite.<sup>11,12</sup> Hydrotalcites may also be used as components in new nano-materials such as nano-composites.<sup>13</sup> There are many other uses of hydrotalcites such as in the removal of environmental hazards in acid mine drainage<sup>14,15</sup>. Hydrotalcite formation offers a mechanism for the disposal

---

\* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed ([r.frost@qut.edu.au](mailto:r.frost@qut.edu.au))

of radioactive wastes<sup>16</sup> and may also serve as a means of heavy metal removal from contaminated waters<sup>17</sup>.

The structure of hydrotalcite can be derived from a brucite structure ( $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ ) in which e.g.  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  or  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (pyroaurite-sjögrenite) substitutes a part of the  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ <sup>2,18-20</sup>. This substitution creates a positive layer charge on the hydroxide layers, which is compensated by interlayer anions or anionic complexes. For synthetic LDH's any anion may be used. Anions such as chloride, nitrate, chromate, molybdate are suitable. In hydrotalcites a broad range of compositions are possible of the type  $[\text{M}^{2+}_{1-x}\text{M}^{3+}_x(\text{OH})_2]_{x/n}\cdot y\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , where  $\text{M}^{2+}$  and  $\text{M}^{3+}$  are the di- and trivalent cations in the octahedral positions within the hydroxide layers with  $x$  normally between 0.17 and 0.33.  $\text{A}^{n-}$  is an exchangeable interlayer anion<sup>21</sup>. There exists in nature a significant number of hydrotalcites which are formed as deposits from ground water containing  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ <sup>22</sup>. These are based upon the dissolution of Ni-Fe sulphides during weathering. Among these naturally occurring hydrotalcites are carboydite and hydrohonessite<sup>23,24</sup>. These two hydrotalcites are based upon the incorporation of sulphate into the interlayer with expansions of 10.34 to 10.8 Å. Normally the hydrotalcite structure based upon takovite (Ni,Al) and hydrotalcite (Mg,Al) has basal spacings of ~8.0 Å where the interlayer anion is carbonate. The spacing in the interlayer depends simply on the size of the interlayer anion.

The characterisation of these types of minerals by infrared spectroscopy has been well documented.<sup>6</sup> More recently, infrared emission spectroscopy has been used to study the thermal behaviour of hydrotalcites. One of the disadvantages of infrared spectroscopy in the study of hydrotalcites is that the water in the hydrotalcite is such an intense absorber, and may mask the absorbance of the MOH units. One of the advantages of Raman spectroscopy is that water is a very poor scatterer. Thus the hydroxyl stretching of the MOH units may be readily observed. However few reports of the Raman spectroscopy of these hydrotalcite minerals either natural or synthetic have been forthcoming. The application of Raman spectroscopy to the study of synthetic Co/Al and Ni/Al hydrotalcites has shown the reduced symmetry of the carbonate in the interlayer<sup>25</sup>. The effect of cation size on hydrotalcite stability has been studied using vibrational spectroscopic techniques<sup>26</sup>. In-situ infrared and Raman spectroscopy has been used to determine the thermal stability of as-synthesised Co/Al and Ni/Al hydrotalcites<sup>25,26</sup>. In this paper, we report the anion chemistry of sulphate, molybdate and chromate in the interlayer of hydrotalcite using Raman microscopy.

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Synthesis of hydrotalcite compounds:

A mixed solution of aluminium and magnesium nitrates ( $[\text{Al}^{3+}] = 0.25\text{M}$  and  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = 0.75\text{M}$ ;  $1\text{M} = 1\text{mol}/\text{dm}^3$ ) and a mixed solution of sodium hydroxide ( $[\text{OH}^-] = 2\text{M}$ ) and the desired anion, at the appropriate concentration, were placed in two separate vessels and purged with nitrogen for 20 minutes (all compounds were dissolved in freshly decarbonated water). The cationic solution was added to the anions via a peristaltic pump at 40mL/min and the pH maintained above 9. The mixture was then aged at 75°C for 18 hours under a  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere. The resulting precipitate was then filtered thoroughly with room temperature decarbonated water to remove nitrates and left to dry in a vacuum desiccator for several days. In this way

hydrotalcites with different anions in the interlayer were synthesised. The phase composition was checked by X-ray diffraction and the chemical composition by EDXA analyses.

### **X-ray diffraction**

X-Ray diffraction patterns were collected using a Philips X'pert wide angle X-Ray diffractometer, operating in step scan mode, with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation (1.54052 Å). Patterns were collected in the range 3 to 90° 2 $\theta$  with a step size of 0.02° and a rate of 30s per step. Samples were prepared as a finely pressed powder into aluminium sample holders. The Profile Fitting option of the software uses a model that employs twelve intrinsic parameters to describe the profile, the instrumental aberration and wavelength dependent contributions to the profile.

### **Infrared spectroscopy**

Infrared spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Nexus 870 FTIR spectrometer with a smart endurance single bounce diamond ATR cell. Spectra over the 4000–525 cm $^{-1}$  range were obtained by the co-addition of 64 scans with a resolution of 4 cm $^{-1}$  and a mirror velocity of 0.6329 cm/s. Spectra were co-added to improve the signal to noise ratio.

### **Raman microprobe spectroscopy**

The crystals of hydrotalcite minerals were placed and orientated on a polished metal surface on the stage of an Olympus BHSM microscope, which is equipped with 10x and 50x objectives. The microscope is part of a Renishaw 1000 Raman microscope system, which also includes a monochromator, a filter system and a Charge Coupled Device (CCD). Raman spectra were excited by a Spectra-Physics model 127 He-Ne laser (633 nm) at a resolution of 2 cm $^{-1}$  in the range between 100 and 4000 cm $^{-1}$ . Repeated acquisition, using the highest magnification, was accumulated to improve the signal to noise ratio in the spectra. Spectra were calibrated using the 520.5 cm $^{-1}$  line of a silicon wafer. Powers of less than 1 mW at the sample were used to avoid laser induced degradation of the sample<sup>27-29</sup>. Slight defocusing of the laser beam also assists in the preservation of the sample.

Spectroscopic manipulation such as baseline adjustment, smoothing and normalisation were performed using the Spectralcalc software package GRAMS (Galactic Industries Corporation, NH, USA). Band component analysis was undertaken using the Jandel 'Peakfit' software package, which enabled the type of fitting function to be selected and allows specific parameters to be fixed or varied accordingly. Band fitting was done using a Gauss-Lorentz cross-product function with the minimum number of component bands used for the fitting process. The Gauss-Lorentz ratio was maintained at values greater than 0.7 and fitting was undertaken until reproducible results were obtained with squared correlations of  $r^2$  greater than 0.995.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### X-ray diffraction

The X-ray diffraction patterns of the hydrotalcite of formula  $(Mg_6Al_2(OH)_{16}(XO_4)_2 \cdot 4H_2O)$  where X is S, Cr or Mo is shown in Figure 1. The d(003) spacing for the sulphate, chromate and molybdate interlayered hydrotalcites are 7.99, 7.98 and 7.97 Å respectively. Such values are close to the d-spacing values reported for the natural hydrotalcite with sulphate in the interlayer.

The XRD of the products of the thermal decomposition of the chromate hydrotalcite shows that MgO (JCPD file 45-0946),  $Cr_2O_3$  (01-1294) and spinel (75-1798) are formed. The products of the thermal decomposition of the molybdate-hydrotalcite were MgO,  $MgMoO_4$  (21-0961) and  $MgAl_2O_4$ . The products of the sulphate-hydrotalcite were a mixture of the oxides of Mg and Al. These types of products are in agreement with published data<sup>30</sup>.

### Sulphate vibrations

The free sulphate anion  $SO_4^{2-}$  has a site symmetry of  $T_d$  corresponding to a space group of  $O_h^7$  with the  $\nu_3(F)$  and  $\nu_4(F)$  modes both Raman and infrared active, while the  $\nu_1(A_1)$  and  $\nu_2(E)$  modes are only Raman active with  $\nu_1$  around 981,  $\nu_2$  around 451,  $\nu_3$  around 1104 and  $\nu_4$  around 613  $cm^{-1}$ . Good examples of hydrotalcites with sulphate in the interlayer are honessite, hydrohonessite and carrboydite. The Raman spectrum of the  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $MoO_4^{2-}$  and  $CrO_4^{2-}$  in the 500 to 1200  $cm^{-1}$  region are shown in Figure 2. The results of the Raman spectroscopic analyses are reported in Table 1.

The Raman spectrum of the  $SO_4^{2-}$  stretching region shows an intense band at 982  $cm^{-1}$  which may be curve resolved into two components at 983.7 and 979.6  $cm^{-1}$ . The bands are narrow with bandwidths of 12.2 and 7.7  $cm^{-1}$ . These bands are assigned to the  $SO_4^{2-}$  symmetric stretching vibrations. The first band may be assigned to the hydrated  $SO_4^{2-}$  ion and the second band to a  $SO_4^{2-}$  unit which is hydrogen bonded to the hydrotalcite hydroxyl surface. In contrast the natural mineral carrboydite is characterised by an intense band centred at 981  $cm^{-1}$  with bandwidth of 28.7  $cm^{-1}$ . In the case of hydrohonessite and reevesite, the Raman spectrum show sharp bands at 1008  $cm^{-1}$  with bandwidths of 5.5  $cm^{-1}$ . The Raman spectrum of the  $SO_4^{2-}$  unit in the synthetic hydrotalcite shows a band at 1044.4  $cm^{-1}$ . The intensity of the band is very low for the synthetic sulphate interlayered hydrotalcite. This band is attributed to the antisymmetric stretching vibrations. In the case of the natural mineral carrboydite a very broad band for carrboydite is observed at around 1125  $cm^{-1}$ . The infrared spectrum of carrboydite shows three bands at 1088, 1021 and 978  $cm^{-1}$ . The first two bands are due to the intense  $SO_4$  antisymmetric stretching vibrations and the last band is the weak infrared  $SO_4$  symmetric stretching vibration. Hydrohonessite Raman spectrum shows two bands at 1135 and 1115  $cm^{-1}$  with bandwidths of 8.2 and 26.1  $cm^{-1}$ . The reevesite Raman spectrum displays two bands at 1135 and 1118  $cm^{-1}$  with bandwidths of 10.4 and 16.7  $cm^{-1}$ . The Raman spectrum of mountkeithite

displays two bands at 1129 and 1109  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , assigned to the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  antisymmetric stretching vibrations.

The Raman spectrum of the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  low wavenumber region shows two bands at 715 and 615  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Figures 2 and 3). These bands are quite broad with bandwidths of 22.2, and 43.5  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . These bands are attributed to the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$   $\nu_4$  bending modes. Two additional bands are observed at 465 and 444  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with bandwidths of 34.1 and 18.7  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and are attributed to the  $\nu_2$  bending modes. In comparison, for carboydite, the  $\nu_4$  bands are observed at 631, 613, 563 and 552  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with bandwidths of 28.9, 30.2, 46.5 and 15.5  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The  $\nu_2$  bands for carboydite are observed at 499, 457 and 403  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The Raman spectrum of hydrohonessite displayed bands at 671, 619 and 579  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The Raman bands for reevesite are observed at 670, 619 and 586  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the  $\nu_4$  vibrations with bandwidths of 6.3, 12.7 and 53.2  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The  $\nu_2$  modes for reevesite are observed at 493 and 414  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with bandwidths of 10.3 and 8.1  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The bands at 383 and the set of bands at around 200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to metal-oxygen vibrations.

The Raman spectrum of the OH stretching region is shown in Figure 4. Five bands are observed at 3686, 3642, 3610  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ascribed to the cation-OH stretching vibrations and at 3479 and 3270  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  assigned to water stretching vibrations. A model is proposed based upon a tripod of  $\text{M}_3\text{OH}$  units in the hydrotalcite structure. In a simplified model, Raman spectra of the hydroxyl-stretching region enable bands to be assigned to the  $\text{Mg}_3\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{Al}_3\text{OH}$  and  $\text{MgAl}_2\text{OH}$  units. In brucite type solids, there are tripod units  $\text{M}_3\text{OH}$  with several metals such as M, M', M''. In hydrotalcites such as those based upon Mg of formula  $\text{Mg}_6\text{Al}_2(\text{OH})_{16}(\text{SO}_4)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , a number of statistical permutations of the  $\text{M}_3\text{OH}$  units are involved. These are  $\text{Mg}_3\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{Al}_3\text{OH}$  and combinations such as  $\text{Mg}_2\text{AlOH}$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{MgOH}$ . These types of units will be distributed according to a probability distribution according to the composition. In this model, a number of assumptions are made, namely that the molecular assembly is random and that no islands or lakes of cations are formed. In a somewhat oversimplified model, for the  $\text{Mg}_6\text{Al}_2(\text{OH})_{16}(\text{SO}_4)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  hydrotalcite, the most intense bands would be due to the  $\text{Mg}_3\text{OH}$  and  $\text{Al}_3\text{OH}$  bands. The ratio of intensities of the bands at 3686, 3642 and 3610  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is 9.2/3.3/4.0. i.e. approximately 3/1/1. Thus the assignment of these three bands is to the  $\text{Mg}_3\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{Mg}_2\text{AlOH}$  and  $\text{Al}_3\text{OH}$  stretching vibrations.

Bish and Livingstone observed for honessite the sulphate  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_2$ ,  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$  modes at 980, 500, 1140 and 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively.<sup>23</sup> The  $\nu_3$  mode is clearly split but no separate band positions were given. The infrared spectrum of synthetic hydrohonessite was very similar to that of the naturally occurring honessite.<sup>23</sup> Although the split of the  $\nu_3$  mode is only visible as a weak shoulder on the low wavenumber side of the comparatively broad band in contrast to the (hydro)honessite, where the weaker of the two bands is observed as a separate band or shoulder at the higher wavenumber side. The fact that these authors found all four modes to be infrared active indicates that the symmetry of the sulphate anion has been lowered from  $T_d$  for the free anion to  $C_3$  or  $C_{3v}$ , which would result in activation of the two infrared inactive modes plus splitting of the  $\nu_3$  mode. Dutta and Puri observed bands associated with the sulphate anion in Li/Al-hydrotalcite in the Raman spectrum around 457, 467, 620 (all three weak), 986 and 1116  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (broad). The splitting of  $\nu_2$  and the broadening of the antisymmetric stretching mode  $\nu_3$  indicate a significant

symmetry lowering.<sup>31</sup> Dutta and Puri suggested  $D_2$  which is however not compatible with the infrared data where all four bands have been observed.<sup>31</sup> For similar reasons  $C_3$  site symmetry as suggested by Bish is not compatible with the Raman data. Therefore, based on combined observations in both the infrared and Raman spectra the conclusion has to be that the site symmetry is most probably  $C_{2v}$  or  $C_s$  with  $\nu_1(A_1)$  infrared and Raman active,  $\nu_2(A_1)$  infrared and Raman active,  $\nu_2(A_2)$  only Raman active, and  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_4(A_1 + B_1 + B_2)$  all infrared and Raman active.

### Molybdate vibrations

In aqueous systems of the  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  ion, the ion has a site symmetry of  $T_d$  corresponding to a space group of  $O_h^7$  with the  $\nu_3(F)$  and  $\nu_4(F)$  modes both Raman and infrared active, while the  $\nu_1(A_1)$  and  $\nu_2(E)$  modes are only Raman active with  $\nu_1$  around 894,  $\nu_2$  around 407,  $\nu_3$  around 833 and  $\nu_4$  at 320  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>32</sup> The Raman spectra of some molybdate containing compounds have been published<sup>33,34</sup>. The Raman spectrum of the molybdate anion in the hydrotalcite shows two bands at 895 and 904  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  assigned to the  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  symmetric stretching vibrations. The situation here is similar to that for the sulphate anion in the hydrotalcite interlayer. Two bands are observed indicating two different species of  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  anions, one which is hydrated and a second which is bonded to the brucite-like hydroxyl surface. An additional broad band is observed at 817  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . This band is the  $\nu_3$  antisymmetric stretching mode. The band is very broad with a band width of 83.4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . It may be decomposed into multiple bands.

The band at 472  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assigned to the  $\nu_2$  bending mode. The value for the  $\nu_2$  vibration in aqueous systems is 407  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; thus there is significant differences between the aqueous system and the  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  in the hydrotalcite interlayer. An intense band is observed at 322  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with a second band at 354  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . These two bands are assigned to the  $\nu_4$  bending modes. In aqueous systems the band is found at 320  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The additional band at 354  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  may be assigned to a second  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  anion which is bonded to the brucite-like surface. The question of the effect of pH arises.

$\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  interlayered hydrotalcites are formed under basic conditions and as a consequence the  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  anion does not polymerise. Molybdate minerals are compounds containing negatively charged oxymolybdenum ions. For the most part, mineralogically speaking, the simple tetraoxomolybdate(VI) or molybdate ion,  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$ , is present. Under acid conditions, molybdate ions polymerize and this process can incorporate other chemical entities. Resulting heteropolymolybdates are represented in the mineral kingdom, but are rare. Indeed, only a few minerals containing essential molybdate are known. Overwhelmingly, molybdate minerals

contain the simple molybdate ion. In the case of hydrotalcites the minerals are synthesised under basic conditions and hence only the simple  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  anion is found.

The Raman spectrum of the OH stretching region displays three bands at 3703, 3681 and 3629  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . These bands are attributed to the MOH stretching vibrations. Two additional bands are observed at 3464 and 3235  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which are ascribed to water stretching vibrations. The values for the  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  interlayered hydrotalcite are at higher wavenumbers than for the sulphate interlayered hydrotalcite. It is suggested that the bonding of the  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  anion to the hydroxyl surface is weaker than for the sulphate interlayered hydrotalcite.

### **Chromate vibrations**

The Raman spectra of chromate anion in solution gives the  $\nu_1$  symmetric stretching mode at 848  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; the  $\nu_3$  mode at 884  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; the  $\nu_2$  mode at 348  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and the  $\nu_4$  mode at 363  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>32</sup> Farmer reports the infrared spectrum of barium chromate with  $\nu_1$  at 860  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\nu_3$  at 949, 894, 873  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $\nu_4$  at 419, 389 and 375  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>35</sup> The  $\nu_2$  band was not given. The Raman spectrum of crocoite has been reported by Wilkins.<sup>36</sup> For crocoite all the allowed vibrations ( $1A_1 + 1E + 2T_2$ ) are Raman active, but only the  $T_2$  symmetry species are IR active. The Raman spectrum of the  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  interlayered hydrotalcite shows an intense band at 848  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which is assigned to the  $\nu_1$  symmetric stretching mode. Two bands are observed at 884 and 928  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and are attributed to the  $\nu_3$  antisymmetric stretching mode. The bands at 363 and 237  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are assigned to the  $\nu_2$  bending modes. The bands at 474  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is due to the  $\nu_4$  bending mode. For the  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  interlayered hydrotalcite, the bands are at even higher positions. The OH stretching bands for  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  interlayered hydrotalcite are observed at 3691 and 3636  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The water stretching vibrations are observed at 3504 and 3343  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  system.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Hydrotalcites have a unique structure in that the mineral acts as an anionic clay with a 'giant' cation whose charge is counterbalanced by multiple anions in the interlayer. In nature these anions may be carbonate, chloride or sulphate depending simply what anion is available during the formation of the hydrotalcite. When synthesising LDH's of course any anion can be used and whilst sulphate is a common interlayer anion in nature, the chromate and molybdate anions are not. It is interesting that the molybdate and chromate anions do not polymerise in the interlayer as might be expected for the molybdate and to a lesser extent chromate in the interlayer. This no doubt is due to the effect of pH during synthesis. The high pH prevents polymerisation as this occurs under acidic conditions.

The observation of more than one symmetric stretching mode gives credence to the concept of two types of bonding between the  $\text{XO}_4$  anions. Firstly the aquated anion fills the interlayer space between the brucite like sheets and secondly there is bonding of the  $\text{XO}_4$  anions to the brucite-like hydroxyl surface. Such a model is not

unreasonable and is the basis of the bonding of carbonate anions in the hydrotalcite interlayer. The splitting of the  $\nu_3$ ,  $\nu_4$  and  $\nu_2$  modes indicates symmetry lowering of the chromate, molybdate and sulphate anions. The symmetry lowering must be taken into account through the bonding of the  $XO_4$  anions to both water and the brucite-like hydroxyl surface.

### **Acknowledgments**

The financial and infra-structure support of the Queensland University of Technology Inorganic Materials Research Program is gratefully acknowledged. The Australian Research Council (ARC) is thanked for funding.



## References

1. Allmann, R. *Acta Crystallographica, Section B: Structural Crystallography and Crystal Chemistry* 1968; **24**: 972.
2. Ingram, L, Taylor, HFW. *Mineralogical Magazine and Journal of the Mineralogical Society (1876-1968)* 1967; **36**: 465.
3. Taylor, HFW. *Mineralogical Magazine* 1973; **39**: 377.
4. Caillere, S. *Compt. rend.* 1944; **219**: 256.
5. Rives, V, Editor *Layered Double Hydroxides: Present and Future*, 2001.
6. Theo Klopogge, J, Frost, RL. *Applied Catalysis, A: General* 1999; **184**: 61.
7. Alejandre, A, Medina, F, Rodriguez, X, Salagre, P, Cesteros, Y, Sueiras, JE. *Appl. Catal., B* 2001; **30**: 195.
8. Das, J, Parida, K. *React. Kinet. Catal. Lett.* 2000; **69**: 223.
9. Patel, SH, Xanthos, M, Greci, J, Klepak, PB. *J. Vinyl Addit. Technol.* 1995; **1**: 201.
10. Rives, V, Labajos, FM, Trujillano, R, Romeo, E, Royo, C, Monzon, A. *Appl. Clay Sci.* 1998; **13**: 363.
11. Rey, F, Fornes, V, Rojo, JM. *J. Chem. Soc., Faraday Trans.* 1992; **88**: 2233.
12. Valcheva-Traykova, M, Davidova, N, Weiss, A. *J. Mater. Sci.* 1993; **28**: 2157.
13. Oriakhi, CO, Farr, IV, Lerner, MM. *Clays Clay Miner.* 1997; **45**: 194.
14. Lichti, G, Mulcahy, J. *Chemistry in Australia* 1998; **65**: 10.
15. Seida, Y, Nakano, Y. *Journal of Chemical Engineering of Japan* 2001; **34**: 906.
16. Roh, Y, Lee, SY, Elless, MP, Foss, JE. *Clays and Clay Minerals* 2000; **48**: 266.
17. Seida, Y, Nakano, Y, Nakamura, Y. *Water Research* 2001; **35**: 2341.
18. Brown, G, Van Oosterwyck-Gastuche, MC. *Clay Minerals* 1967; **7**: 193.
19. Taylor, HFW. *Mineralogical Magazine and Journal of the Mineralogical Society (1876-1968)* 1969; **37**: 338.
20. Taylor, RM. *Clay Minerals* 1982; **17**: 369.
21. Klopogge, JT, Wharton, D, Hickey, L, Frost, RL. *American Mineralogist* 2002; **87**: 623.
22. Nickel, EH, Wildman, JE. *Mineralogical Magazine* 1981; **44**: 333.
23. Bish, DL, Livingstone, A. *Mineralogical Magazine* 1981; **44**: 339.
24. Nickel, EH, Clarke, RM. *American Mineralogist* 1976; **61**: 366.
25. Perez-Ramirez, J, Mul, G, Moulijn, JA. *Vib. Spectrosc.* 2001; **27**: 75.
26. Perez-Ramirez, J, Mul, G, Kapteijn, F, Moulijn, JA. *J. Mater. Chem.* 2001; **11**: 2529.
27. Martens, W, Frost, RL, Klopogge, JT, Williams, PA. *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 2003; **34**: 145.
28. Frost, RL, Martens, W, Klopogge, JT, Williams, PA. *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 2002; **33**: 801.
29. Frost, RL, Martens, WN, Williams, PA. *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 2002; **33**: 475.
30. Hernandez, MJ, Ulibarri, MA, Rendon, JL, Serna, CJ. *Thermochimica Acta* 1984; **81**: 311.
31. Dutta, PK, Puri, M. *Journal of Physical Chemistry* 1989; **93**: 376.
32. Farmer, VC *Mineralogical Society Monograph 4: The Infrared Spectra of Minerals*, 1974.

33. Crane, M, Frost, RL, Williams, PA, Kloprogge, JT. *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 2002; **33**: 62.
34. Kloprogge, JT, Frost, RL. *Neues Jahrb. Mineral., Monatsh.* 1999: 193.
35. Farmer, VC *Mineralogical Society Monograph 4: The Infrared Spectra of Minerals*; The Mineralogical Society, London, UK., 1974.
36. Wilkins, RWT. *Mineralogical Magazine* 1971; **38**: 249.

**Table 1 Raman spectroscopic analysis of the sulphate, chromate and molybdate anions in the interlayer of hydrotalcite (peak positions shown in this table result from curve resolution)**

Molybdate			Chromate			Sulphate		
Peak Position/ cm <sup>-1</sup>	FWHM cm <sup>-1</sup>	%	Peak Position/ cm <sup>-1</sup>	FWHM cm <sup>-1</sup>	%	Peak Position/ cm <sup>-1</sup>	FWHM cm <sup>-1</sup>	%
<b>3703.0</b>	27.6	1.7						
<b>3677.5</b>	46.0	4.3	<b>3686.6</b>	40.1	2.6	<b>3683.3</b>	44.4	9.2
<b>3629.3</b>	93.8	4.5	<b>3631.0</b>	98.4	7.6	<b>3642.4</b>	42.8	3.3
						<b>3610.3</b>	83.4	4.0
			<b>3499.2</b>	205.4	13.7			
						<b>3472.5</b>	229.8	42.2
<b>3464.7</b>	263.4	38.5						
			<b>3343.1</b>	305.4	26.6			
						<b>3270.0</b>	224.8	13.2
<b>3230.7</b>	203.3	9.4						
			<b>3054.9</b>	285.5	5.7			
<b>1647.0</b>	83.0	0.6	<b>1665.9</b>	125.2	1.1			
<b>1402.1</b>	72.1	1.4	<b>1404.3</b>	77.0	0.6	<b>1393.0</b>	91.9	1.8
			<b>1372.6</b>	76.6	0.2			
<b>1348.5</b>	52.1	0.3						
						<b>1127.4</b>	58.1	1.1
						<b>1044.4</b>	8.4	5.1
						<b>983.7</b>	12.2	6.2
						<b>979.6</b>	7.7	1.0
			<b>924.7</b>	64.5	8.1			
<b>904.3</b>	23.0	2.0						
<b>895.0</b>	16.9	7.8	<b>882.2</b>	36.4	6.2			
<b>856.6</b>	46.1	1.0	<b>846.6</b>	21.9	8.8			
<b>815.5</b>	83.4	7.1	<b>817.2</b>	104.6	6.6			
<b>715.1</b>	16.6	0.4	<b>709.7</b>	31.5	0.4	<b>711.4</b>	22.2	0.7
						<b>611.5</b>	43.5	1.2
<b>468.6</b>	42.4	2.1	<b>469.9</b>	27.3	0.3	<b>464.8</b>	34.1	2.2
						<b>444.3</b>	18.7	0.4
						<b>381.4</b>	27.6	0.3
<b>351.4</b>	86.0	2.0	<b>359.1</b>	51.3	5.6			
			<b>337.1</b>	14.2	0.3			
<b>320.2</b>	42.4	6.7						
						<b>267.6</b>	10.6	0.1
<b>250.8</b>	72.7	1.2						
			<b>237.0</b>	53.5	0.4	<b>239.1</b>	38.4	0.3
						<b>221.7</b>	9.1	0.1
<b>198.2</b>	27.9	0.4	<b>198.7</b>	24.0	0.6	<b>198.4</b>	29.5	0.7

## List of Figures

Figure 1 X-ray diffraction of hydrotalcite with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  in the interlayer.

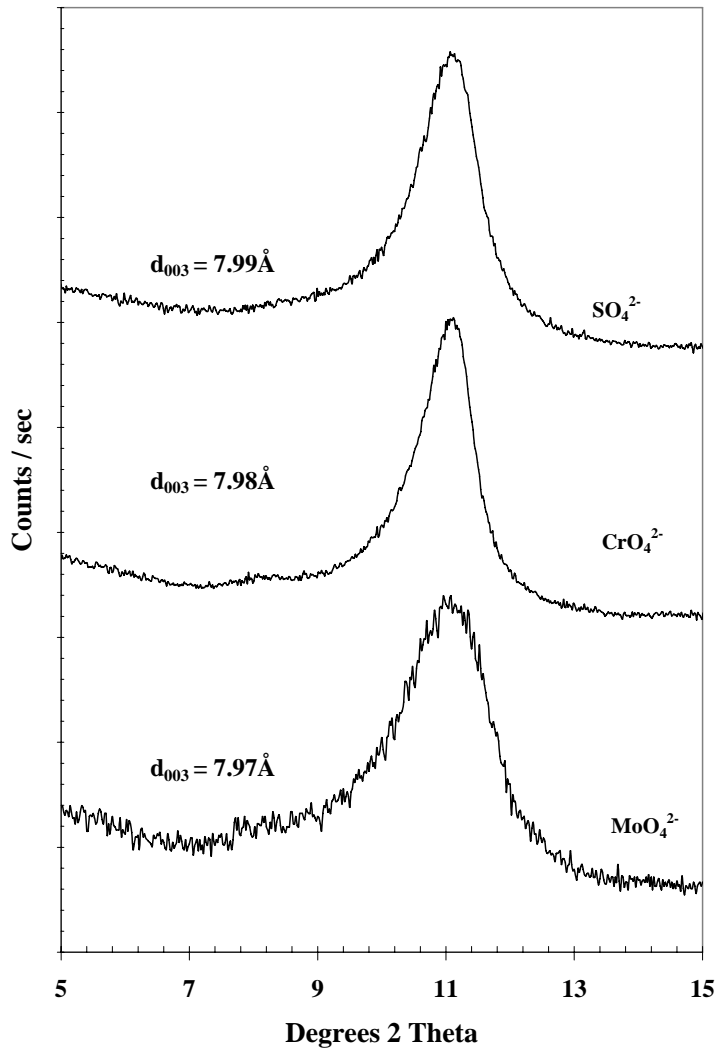
Figure 2 Raman spectra in the 650 to 1200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region of hydrotalcite with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  in the interlayer.

Figure 3 Raman spectra in the 100 to 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region of hydrotalcite with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  in the interlayer.

Figure 4 Raman spectra in the 2800 to 3800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region of hydrotalcite with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  in the interlayer.

## List of Tables

**Table 1 Raman spectroscopic analysis of the sulphate, chromate and molybdate anions in the interlayer of hydrotalcite**



**Figure 1 X-ray diffraction patterns of the d(003) spacing of hydrotalcite with different anions in the interlayer.**

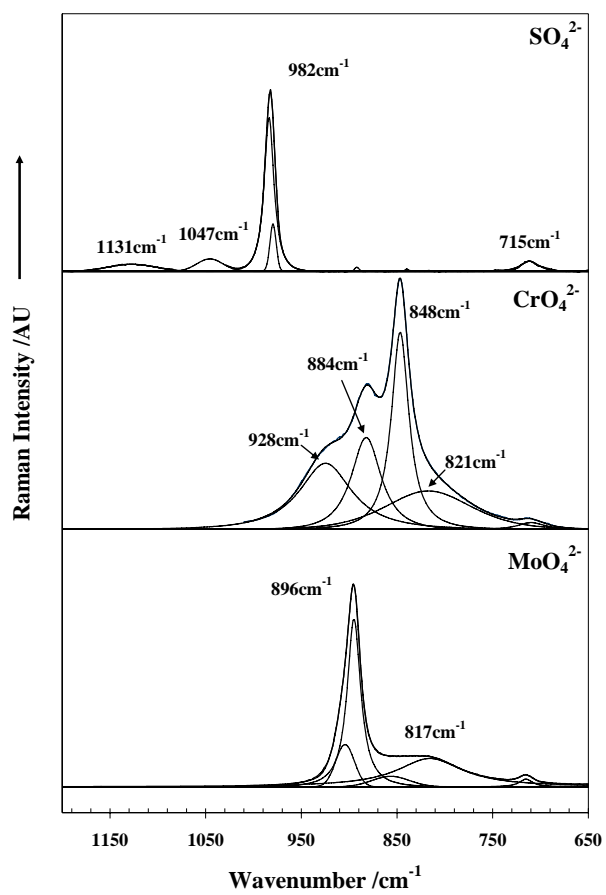
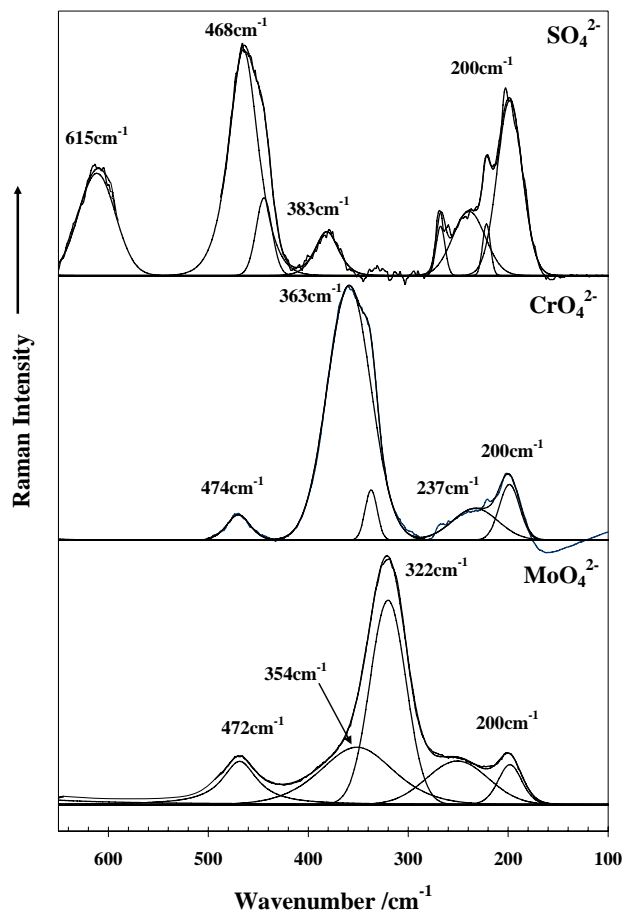


Figure 2



**Figure 3**

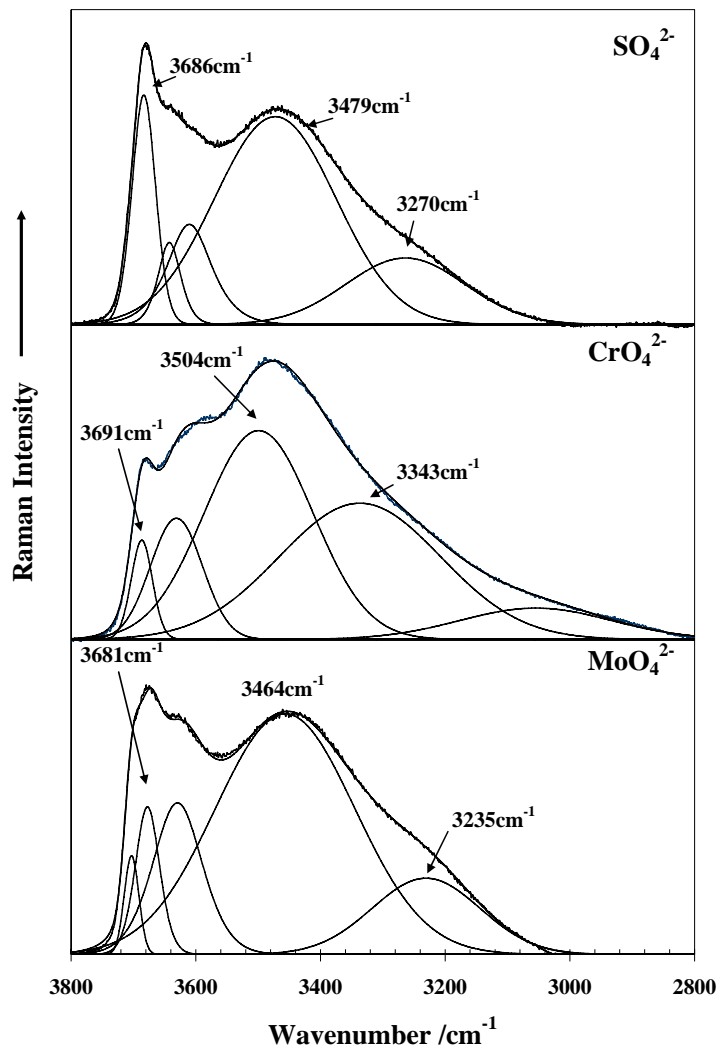


Figure 4