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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

## Thermal expansion and structural complexity of Ba silicates with tetrahedrally coordinated Si atoms

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#### Abstract

Thermal expansion of Ba silicates with tetrahedrally coordinated Si atoms in the temperature range of 25–1100 °C had been studied by high-temperature X-ray powder diffraction. The volume thermal expansion coefficients (TECs) are in the range  $41-50\times10^{-6}$  °C<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of  $<\alpha_V>=45\times10^{-6}$ °C<sup>-1</sup>. In the structures with chain and layered silicate anions, thermal expansion is anisotropic: the direction of maximal TEC is parallel to the extension of the zweier chains of silicate tetrahedra, which are strained owing to the interactions with Ba<sup>2+</sup>. The strain is released during thermal expansion due to the increasing effective size of Ba<sup>2+</sup> cations induced by thermal vibrations. Information-theoretic analysis of the structural and topological complexities of Ba silicates indicates that their structural complexity is a function of the topological complexity of their silicate anions. The latter displays a non-linear behaviour with increasing SiO<sub>2</sub> content (= the increasing degree of polymerization and increasing dimensionality): it starts from simple topologies, reaches a maximum at topologies of intermediate complexity, and ends up at simple topologies again. The specificity of the interactions of Ba<sup>2+</sup> with the silicate anions results in higher complexity of high-temperature α-BaSi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> compared to that of low-temperature  $\beta$ -BaSi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. This uncommon behaviour may be explained by

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