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# Structural and magnetic properties of frustrated $\text{Ga}_x\text{Mn}_{(3-x)}\text{O}$ ( $1.2 \leq x \leq 1.6$ ) spinels

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## ABSTRACT

We report a systematic study of the structural and magnetic properties of frustrated compounds of  $\text{Ga}_x\text{Mn}_{(3-x)}\text{O}_4$  ( $1.2 \leq x \leq 1.6$ ) prepared by solid-state reaction. Using Rietveld refinement of X-ray diffraction patterns and O'Neill-Navrotsky model, we demonstrate that the system  $\text{Ga}_x\text{Mn}_{(3-x)}\text{O}_4$  ( $1.2 \leq x \leq 1.6$ ) is an inverse spinel with low inversion parameter, in which  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$  replaces  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  cations located in B-sites. The inverse magnetic susceptibility, the shape of ZFC/FC magnetization curves at low temperatures, the existence of hysteresis in all compounds, the frustration parameter and the spontaneous magnetization analysis show that the compounds with  $x = 1.2-1.4$  exhibit a non-collinear ferrimagnetic order and the compounds with  $x = 1.5-1.6$  exhibit a frustrated non-collinear ferrimagnetic order. Spin wave stiffness parameters were determined for each composition using the fitting results of spontaneous magnetization curves. It is demonstrated that for the compounds  $x = 1.2 - 1.4$  with a non-frustrated ferrimagnetic order, the change of spontaneous magnetization  $M_s(T)$  obeys to Bloch's law ( $T^{3/2}$ ). For  $x = 1.5 - 1.6$ , the compounds exhibit a frustrated ferrimagnetic order, and the  $M_s(T)$  shows a deviation from Bloch's law.

**Keywords:** Spinel, Cation distribution, Ferrimagnetism, Magnetic frustration, Spin wave Stiffness parameter.

## 1. Introduction

Magnetic spinels with general formula  $\text{AB}_2\text{O}_4$  are a large class of oxides with remarkable magnetic properties which make them interesting for both the fundamental and technological

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