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# Raman spectroscopy of hydrotalcites with phosphate in the interlayer- implications for the removal of phosphate from water

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## Abstract

Hydrotalcites with phosphate in the interlayer were prepared at different pH. At pH >11.0  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  was the intercalated ionic species whereas at pH < 11.0 a mixture of  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  and  $(\text{HPO}_4)^{2-}$  ions was intercalated. Powder X-ray diffraction shows the hydrotalcite formed at pH 9.5 is poorly diffracting with a d-spacing of 11.9; whereas the d(003) spacing for the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite formed at pH 11.9 and 12.5 were 8.0 and 7.9 Å. The addition of a thermally activated ZnAl-HT to a phosphate solution resulted in the uptake of the phosphate and the reformation of the hydrotalcite. Raman spectroscopy of the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcites shows the interlayered anion is pH dependent and only above pH 11.9 is the orthophosphate anion intercalated. At lower pH the monohydrogen phosphate anion is intercalated. Raman spectroscopy shows that upon addition of the thermally activated hydrotalcite to an aqueous phosphate solution results in the uptake of phosphate anion from the solution.

**Key Words:** hydrotalcite, brucite, phosphate removal, Raman microscopy, carboydite, hydrohonessite, takovite, mountkeithite.

## INTRODUCTION

Hydrotalcites, or layered double hydroxides (LDH's) are fundamentally anionic clays, and are less well-known as naturally occurring minerals than cationic clays like smectites<sup>1,2</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>3-14</sup>. This substitution creates a positive layer charge on the hydroxide layers, which is compensated by interlayer anions or anionic complexes<sup>15,16</sup>. Further mixtures of these mineral phases with multiple anions in the interlayer are observed. When LDH's are synthesized any appropriate anion including the phosphate anion can be placed in the interlayer. The hydrotalcite may be considered as a gigantic cation which is counterbalanced by anions in the interlayer. In hydrotalcites a broad range of compositions are possible of the type  $[\text{M}^{2+}_{1-x}\text{M}^{3+}_x(\text{OH})_2][\text{A}^{n-}]_{x/n}\cdot y\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 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>17</sup>. In the hydrotalcites reevesite and pyroaurite, the divalent cations are  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  respectively with the trivalent cation being  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . In these cases, the carbonate anion is the major interlayer counter anion. Normally the hydrotalcite

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structure based upon takovite (Ni,Al) and hydrotalcite (Mg,Al) has basal spacings of  $\sim 8.0 \text{ \AA}$  where the interlayer anion is carbonate. Reevesite and pyroaurite are based upon the incorporation of carbonate into the interlayer with  $d(001)$  spacings of around  $8 \text{ \AA}$ <sup>18,19</sup>.

There are many other important uses of hydrotalcites such as in the removal of environmental hazards in acid mine drainage<sup>20,21</sup>, and a mechanism for the disposal of radioactive wastes<sup>22</sup>. Their ability to exchange anions presents a system for heavy metal removal from contaminated waters<sup>23</sup>. Structural information on different minerals has successfully been obtained recently by sophisticated thermal analysis techniques<sup>6,24-28</sup>. In this work we report the Raman spectroscopy of hydrotalcite with phosphate in the interlayer and explore the effect of pH on hydrotalcite formation. Further thermally activate hydrotalcites are used to remove phosphate from aqueous phosphate solutions.

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Synthesis of hydrotalcite compounds:

A mixed solution of aluminium and magnesium nitrates ( $[\text{Al}^{3+}] = 0.25\text{M}$  and  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = 0.75\text{M}$ ;  $1\text{M} = 1\text{mol/dm}^3$ ) and a mixed solution of sodium hydroxide ( $[\text{OH}^-] = 2\text{M}$ ) and the desired anion either phosphate or carbonate, 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  $40\text{mL/min}$  and the pH maintained above 9. The mixture was then aged at  $75^\circ\text{C}$  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 EDX analyses.

### Phosphate absorption

The hydrotalcite was heated at  $255^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 hours in order to destroy the 3-dimensional structure of the hydrotalcite and remove carbonate. The thermally activated powder (3.3g) was then placed in a large excess of decarbonated tri-sodium phosphate solution (0.1M, 350mL, pH  $\sim 12.5$ ) and stirred under a Nitrogen atmosphere. Aliquots (50mL) were taken out at regular intervals, ensuring the nitrogen atmosphere was not disturbed. The resultant solution was vacuum filtered and rinsed once with freshly decarbonated water. The hydrotalcite was then left to dry in a vacuum desiccator to minimise exchange of phosphate ions in the interlayer for carbonate ions present in the air.

### 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  $\text{Cu K}_\alpha$  radiation ( $1.54052 \text{ \AA}$ ). Patterns were collected in the range  $3$  to  $90^\circ 2\theta$  with a step size of  $0.02^\circ$  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  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  range were obtained by the co-addition of 64 scans with a resolution of 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and a mirror velocity of 0.6329  $\text{cm/s}$ . Spectra were co-added to improve the signal to noise ratio.

### **Raman microprobe spectroscopy**

Hydrotalcite crystals were placed and orientated on a polished metal surface on the stage of an Olympus BHSM microscope, which is equipped with 10x and 50x objective lenses. 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  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the range between 100 and 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . 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  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  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>29-31</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 Spectracalc 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 of the thermally activated hydrotalcite and the phosphate adsorbed hydrotalcite**

The X-ray diffraction patterns for the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcites are shown in Figure 1. Hydrotalcite normally has a d(003) spacing of 7.9 Å<sup>32-35</sup>. The sulphate interlayered hydrotalcite has a spacing of 8.0 Å. The XRD patterns show that the d-spacing for the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite is pH dependent. The hydrotalcite formed at pH 9.3 shows a high degree of amorphicity. However the d(003) spacing can be still determined as 11.91 Å. The d-spacing for the pH=11.9 formed hydrotalcite is 8.04 Å and the value for the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite at pH

12.5 is 7.9 Å. The d(003) spacing for the sulphate, chromate and molybdate interlayered hydrotalcites are 8.0, 7.9<sub>8</sub> and 7.9<sub>7</sub> Å respectively. Such values are close to the d-spacing values reported for the natural hydrotalcite with sulphate in the interlayer. The decreased interlayer spacing is attributed to the reduction in size of the hydrated phosphate anion between the brucite-like layers. Because of the uncertainty of the complete formation of the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite formed at pH 9.3, the thermal decomposition was not studied further. The final products of the thermal decomposition of the carbonate interlayered hydrotalcite are MgO and MgAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (spinel). This observation means that the phosphate is lost during the thermal decomposition process.

The XRD patterns of the thermally activated carbonate interlayered hydrotalcite are shown in Figure 2. The XRD pattern of the hydrotalcite (top diffractogram in Figure 2) clearly shows the pattern of a typical hydrotalcite and may be compared with the reference pattern JCPDS 00-048-1025. A perfect match is observed. The hydrotalcite is thermally activated by heating to above the decomposition temperature of 265 °C. This temperature was chosen based upon the thermal analysis results. These results show that dehydration, dehydroxylation and loss of carbonate has occurred by this temperature. Figure 2 shows the XRD pattern of the thermally activated hydrotalcite and the pattern corresponds to that of ZnO. The thermal activation of the hydrotalcite results in the destruction of the layered structure.

Upon addition of the thermally activated hydrotalcite to an aqueous solution containing sodium phosphate the so-called ‘memory’ effect of hydrotalcites comes into play. Hydrotalcites after thermal decomposition will regain their original structure providing the compound is not heated to too high a temperature. This effect may be observed in Figure 2 where the XRD pattern of a hydrotalcite is restored after only thirty minutes. Additional peaks are observed and a large d-spacing of d(003) of 10.7 Å is observed for the first hour of exposure. A second d(003) spacing is observed at 7.6 Å. At the 1 hour exposure of the thermally activated ZnAl hydrotalcite two d(003) spacings of 10.6 and 7.5 Å are observed. The d-spacing of 10.6 Å is lost after 1 hour. At 2 hours the d(003) spacing is 7.527 Å and at 4 hours the spacing is 7.530 Å. The XRD pattern for the reformed hydrotalcite does not change on further exposure to the aqueous media. The d(003) spacing of 7.5 Å is observed.

## Raman Spectroscopy

Upon formation of hydrotalcites with phosphates in the interlayer under different pH conditions, it is not known whether the phosphate in the interlayer is in the form of the triphosphate anion, the monohydrogen diphosphate anion or the dihydrogen phosphate anion. The Raman spectra of these anions are shown in Figure 3. The Raman spectra of the phosphate anions will alter as hydrogen is attached to the phosphate as the symmetry will change from  $T_d$  to  $C_{3v}$  to  $C_{2v}$ . This progression will result in the loss of degeneracy and additional bands will be observed. Figure 3 reflects this loss of symmetry and the observation of additional bands. The Raman spectra of the aqueous trisodium phosphate solution show a single intense band at 941  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with some asymmetry on the low wavenumber side. This asymmetry may be due to the presence of the disodium monohydrogen phosphate anion which shows a strong intensity at 935  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . There is an equilibrium between these two ions which

Raman spectroscopy readily picks up even though the concentration of the latter may be low. This equilibrium is shown as follows



The pH of the first step is 12.3, for the second 7.2 and the third 2.2. Thus at the pH used in the synthesis of the hydrotalcites used in this step, only the first two anions would be expected to be found in the hydrotalcite layers.

S. D. Ross in Farmer and references cited therein report the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$   $\nu_1$  symmetric stretching mode at  $938 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  based upon infrared data<sup>36</sup>. Two bands are observed in the spectra of the aqueous solution of the trisodium phosphate anion at  $1033$  and  $1013 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . These bands are attributed to the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  antisymmetric stretching vibrations. In the spectrum of the monosodium dihydrogen phosphate an intense band is observed at  $935 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a second band at  $1065 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and additional low intensity bands at  $1002$  and  $858 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . S.D Ross in Farmer reported the  $\nu_1$  symmetric stretching mode for the disodium hydrogen phosphate at  $860 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the  $\nu_3$  modes at  $1150$ ,  $1068$  and  $948 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ <sup>36</sup>. In the Raman spectrum of the monosodium dihydrogen phosphate three bands are observed at  $993$ ,  $944$  and  $914 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Whilst there have been some infrared studies of phosphate interlayered hydrotalcites, there have been no Raman spectroscopic studies<sup>37-40</sup>. Adsorption of  $(\text{HPO}_4)^{2-}$  ions on a nitrate hydrotalcite resulted in characteristic infrared bands between  $1057$  and  $1064 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ <sup>41</sup>. At high phosphate concentrations two additional bands observed as shoulders were found at  $1120$  and  $990 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The infrared spectrum of free monohydrogen phosphate anions gave bands between  $1064$  and  $1067 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  as well as  $988 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ <sup>37,39,42</sup>. Thus a comparison of the two sets of data shows that the anion is held between the hydrotalcite layers electrostatically and is not bonded to the hydrotalcite surface. In the latter situation a molecular arrangement such as  $(\text{MO})\text{PO}_2(\text{OH})$  would be formed. The spectroscopy of this unit would be very different from the free phosphate anions. Badreddine et al. in a series of papers reported the infrared spectra as well as the PXRD spectra of Zn/Al LDH's<sup>37,39</sup>. Raman spectra of free phosphate oxyanions as in aqueous solutions show a symmetric stretching mode ( $\nu_1$ ) at  $938 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , the antisymmetric stretching mode ( $\nu_3$ ) at  $1017 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , the symmetric bending mode ( $\nu_2$ ) at  $420 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the  $\nu_4$  mode at  $567 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $(\text{HPO}_4)^{2-}$  ions display bands at  $1005$  ( $\nu_1$ ),  $917$  ( $\nu_2$ ),  $1080$  ( $\nu_3$ ) and  $535 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_4$ ). The results reported by Badreddine et al. are not in agreement with the results reported in this work.

The Raman spectra of the hydrotalcites formed at different pH are shown in Figure 4. The results of the band component analyses of these spectra are reported in Table 1. The spectra show striking similarity. The phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite prepared at pH 12.5 shows two bands: an intense sharp band at  $960 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a broader band at  $1026 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . These bands are attributed to the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  symmetric and antisymmetric stretching vibrations. The spectrum is identical to that of the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  ion. The phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite prepared at pH 11.9 shows two bands: an intense sharp band at  $957 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a broader band at  $1032 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Additional bands are observed at  $1394$  and  $1650 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . It is not known what the first band may be attributed to but one possibility is to a MOH deformation vibration. The second band is readily ascribed to a water Raman active bending mode. The band is not observed in the non-diffracting hydrotalcite formed at pH 9.3. This may simply indicate that the hydrotalcite has not been formed. For the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite

prepared at pH 9.3, four bands are observed at 964, 989, 1033 and 1138  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In aqueous systems the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  ion has an intense band at 936  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , whereas the Raman spectrum of the aqueous solution of the  $(\text{HPO}_4)^{2-}$  anion shows an intense band at 990  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In contrast the Raman spectrum of the  $(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)^-$  anion shows three bands at 1077, 995 and 878  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; the latter being the most intense. Thus it is apparent there are two sets of overlapping bands: one set corresponding to the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  anion (964 and 1033  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and a second set due to the  $(\text{HPO}_4)^{2-}$  ion (989 and 1138  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Thus it is concluded that the effect of pH on the formation of the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite is that the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  species is interlayered at high pH whereas it is a mixture of the two anions [ $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  and  $(\text{HPO}_4)^{2-}$ ] which is interlayered at pHs between 11.9 and 12.3. It is probable that no LDH is formed at pH 9.3 as is evidenced by both XRD and Raman spectroscopy.

The Raman spectra of the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcites formed at pHs of 9.3, 11.9 and 12.5 pH units in the low wavenumber region are shown in Figure 5. The orthophosphate anion is tetrahedral with  $T_d$  symmetry, thus there are four normal modes of vibration, all of which are Raman active. However only the triply degenerate  $\nu_3(\text{F}_2)$  and  $\nu_4(\text{F}_2)$  modes are infrared active. The Raman spectrum of the oxyanion  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  shows a symmetric stretching mode ( $\nu_1$ ) at 938  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , the antisymmetric stretching mode ( $\nu_3$ ) at 1017  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , the symmetric bending mode ( $\nu_2$ ) at 420  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and the  $\nu_4$  mode at 567  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Figure 5 displays a strong band around 474  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which is assigned to the E bending mode of the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  ion. The band is at 474  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite formed at pH 12.5, 472  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at pH 11.9 and a broad band centred on 441  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at pH 9.3. According to S.D. Ross in Farmer (p393) the  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  anion shows a  $\nu_2$  mode at 350  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . A broad feature is observed at 371  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for phosphate interlayered hydrotalcite formed at pH 12.5, 383  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at pH 11.9 and 334  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at pH 9.3. An additional intense band is observed at around 237  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The infrared band expected at around 576  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is not observed in the Raman spectrum.

The Raman spectra of the thermally activated  $\text{ZnAlCO}_3$  hydrotalcite exposed to aqueous phosphate solutions are shown in Figure 6. After half an hour contact two bands are observed at 961 and 932  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . These bands are attributed to the  $(\text{HPO}_4)^{2-}$  and  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  PO stretching modes. The bands are observed at 974 and 934  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  after 1 hour exposure. After 2 hours exposure the band is observed at 959  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and further increases in time of exposure does not result in any changes in position. Associated with the PO stretching vibrations is a low intensity band at 1047  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which may be attributed to the  $\nu_3$  antisymmetric stretching vibration. A band appears in or around this position in all of the spectra. A band is observed at 1061  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in all the spectra and is assigned to the presence of carbonate. Even though the phosphate solutions were made carbonate free, the hydrotalcites still adsorb carbon dioxide probably from the atmosphere through some solid state reaction. Nevertheless the experiment shows that thermally activated hydrotalcite can be used to remove phosphate from an aqueous phosphate solution.



## **CONCLUSIONS**

This research has shown that

- a) Phosphate can be intercalated into a hydrotalcite as the counter anion.
- b) This intercalation is pH dependent
- c) The pH determines the nature of the anion in the interlayer
- d) Thermally activated hydrotalcite can be used to remove phosphate from an aqueous system.
- e) Raman spectroscopy identified the nature of the phosphate anion in the interlayer
- f) Raman spectroscopy identified the nature of the anion in the reformed thermally activated hydrotalcite

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Phosphate pH = 12.5			Phosphate pH = 11.9			Phosphate pH = 9.3		
Centre	FWHM	%	Centre	FWHM	%	Centre	FWHM	%
<b>3639</b>	116.3	9.6	<b>3688</b>	52.1	1.57	<b>3677</b>	66.4	1.1
			<b>3628</b>	108.1	3.12	<b>3607</b>	119.4	2.0
<b>3520</b>	200.7	20.1						
			<b>3494</b>	226.6	26.57	<b>3464</b>	224.9	21.9
<b>3349</b>	306.6	40.4				<b>3253</b>	365.9	51.3
<b>3069</b>	344.2	17.2	<b>3274</b>	354.6	36.04			
			<b>2969</b>	280.8	9.42	<b>2923</b>	192.4	7.5
			<b>2330</b>	4.0	0.085			
<b>1649</b>	87.9	0.3	<b>1649</b>	104.3	0.82	<b>1649</b>	87.9	0.55
<b>1394</b>	96.2	0.9	<b>1391</b>	101.0	1.82			
						<b>1129</b>	61.9	0.69
<b>1063</b>	9.8	1.6	<b>1063</b>	13.0	2.48			
<b>1050</b>	7.6	1.2	<b>1048</b>	7.3	2.70			
<b>1026</b>	70.3	0.9	<b>1032</b>	70.8	1.97	<b>1032</b>	103.3	2.2
						<b>989</b>	40.3	2.5
<b>960</b>	52.9	1.5	<b>957</b>	67.9	3.38	<b>964</b>	29.0	2.4
<b>706</b>	25.8	0.1	<b>712</b>	28.9	0.20	<b>627</b>	40.3	0.26
			<b>589</b>	53.8	0.48			
<b>552</b>	24.4	3.3	<b>552</b>	26.1	2.69	<b>569</b>	75.2	2.1
<b>474</b>	38.5	0.8	<b>471</b>	51.1	2.46	<b>486</b>	47.0	0.28
						<b>440</b>	113.5	1.3
<b>371</b>	144.5	1.1	<b>383</b>	102.6	1.67	<b>334</b>	121.2	1.3
			<b>305</b>	69.5	0.62			
<b>295</b>	27.9	0.1						
<b>237</b>	61.4	0.5	<b>237</b>	58.6	1.23	<b>240</b>	67.2	1.4
<b>197</b>	29.0	0.3	<b>197</b>	28.9	0.59	<b>197</b>	26.7	0.69

**Table 1 Results of the Raman spectral analysis of hydrotalcite intercalated with phosphate at pH 9.3, 11.9, and 12.9**

ZnAlPO <sub>4</sub> Hydrotalcite (0.5 hour)			ZnAlPO <sub>4</sub> Hydrotalcite (1 hour)			ZnAlPO <sub>4</sub> Hydrotalcite (2 hour)			ZnAlPO <sub>4</sub> Hydrotalcite (4 hour)			ZnAlPO <sub>4</sub> Hydrotalcite (6 hour)		
Centre	FWHM	%	Centre	FWHM	%	Centre	FWHM	%	Centre	FWHM	%	Centre	FWHM	%
3755	72.3	0.9	3753	82.8	1.5	3740	149.0	17.7						
3582	67.2	4.8	3584	57.0	5.1				3577	73.0	5.2			
3498	138.5	30.8	3502	134.3	28.8	3558	181.4	17.5	3503	132.9	26.3	3558	77.5	4.7
3410	117.2	13.4	3422	102.4	14.1	3447	116.8	7.4	3411	130.1	18.8	3488	138.5	28.6
3345	153.4	11.0	3346	114.6	8.0							3385	192.0	17.8
1421	56.2	0.2	1405	88.2	1.0				3323	182.2	13.7			
1071	50.9	1.3				1138	65.3	2.6				1417	94.8	2.3
1061	10.9	2.9	1061	11.2	2.6	1072	48.2	5.2				1155	62.7	1.5
1047	11.8	0.4	1050	48.7	1.9	1061	12.5	1.6	1060	9.9	2.3	1060	11.8	2.1
1005	124.2	5.0				1047	9.2	0.4	1055	36.9	2.4	1057	95.7	5.3
			977	60.6	2.8	1023	43.0	1.4	1014	31.9	0.6			
961	42.4	1.6				959	62.6	6.8	957	62.8	3.5	958	57.9	4.5
932	36.1	1.6	934	35.3	1.9									
574	27.8	1.4				578	56.9	5.4				576	56.1	4.0
551	18.0	6.5	551	17.9	7.1	551	27.0	3.4	552	21.5	4.9	551	24.9	3.6
			541	105.6	4.1				538	100.8	3.6			
496	140.5	6.6	489	23.3	2.0	494	73.7	8.5	491	27.1	2.0	496	40.1	2.5
491	19.0	1.2												
437	9.3	0.4	438	10.4	0.3	438	12.6	1.8	438	15.7	0.3	437	10.8	1.2
			410	201.5	13.6	416	70.0	9.0	410	256.3	12.1	415	163.5	17.3
360	124.2	3.5												
						340	75.9	3.8				330	41.8	0.6
251	60.3	3.1	260	38.9	1.6	246	70.0	4.6	258	41.6	1.2	259	49.3	1.8

<b>200</b>	26.7	3.4	<b>229</b>	33.7	0.8	<b>198</b>	26.4	2.9	<b>225</b>	28.3	0.9	<b>231</b>	39.1	1.0
			<b>204</b>	17.4	2.0				<b>203</b>	18.0	1.4	<b>203</b>	21.4	0.9
			<b>190</b>	19.3	1.0				<b>189</b>	19.5	0.7	<b>191</b>	16.5	0.3

**Table 2 Results of the Raman spectral analysis of thermally activated hydrotalcite exposed to phosphate solution as a function of time**

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Figure 3 Raman spectra of trisodium phosphate, disodium monohydrogen phosphate and monosodium dihydrogen phosphate in the solid state.

Figure 4 Raman spectra of ZnAl hydrotalcites formed at pHs of 9.3, 11.9 and 12.5 with phosphate in the interlayer in the 850 to 1650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region.

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**Table 2 Results of the Raman spectral analysis of thermally activated hydrotalcite exposed to phosphate solution as a function of time.**

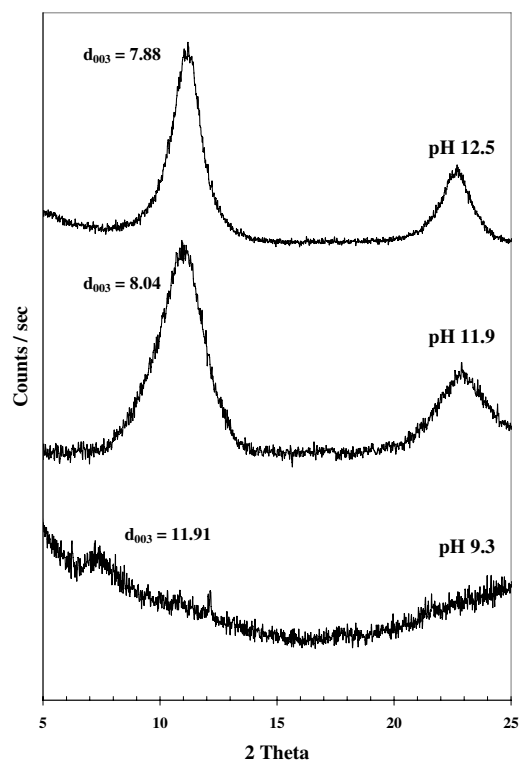


Figure 1



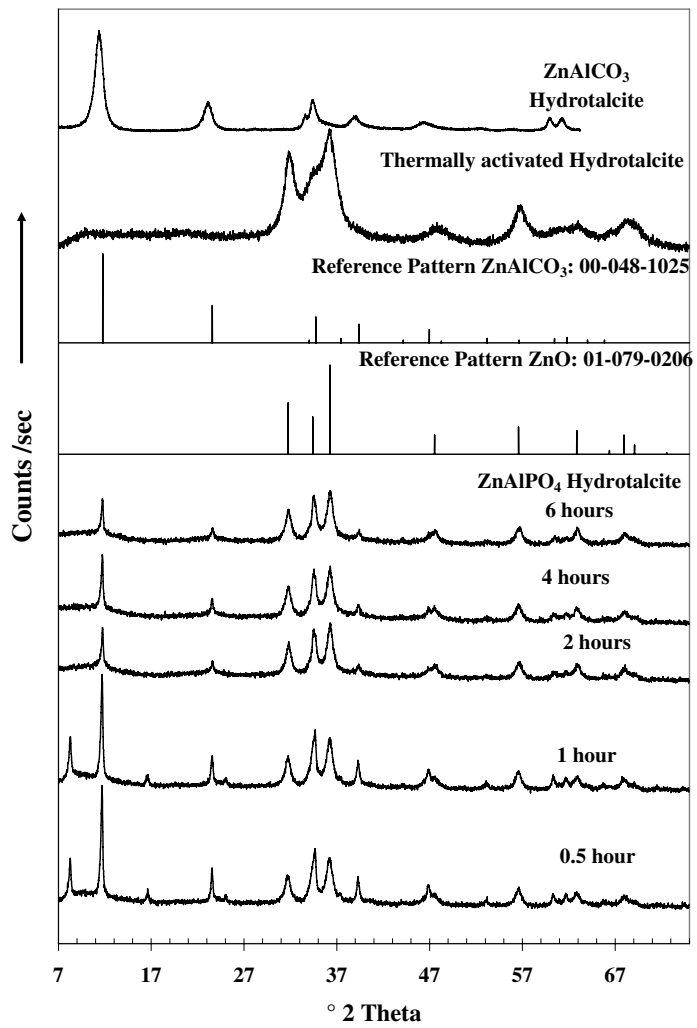


Figure 2

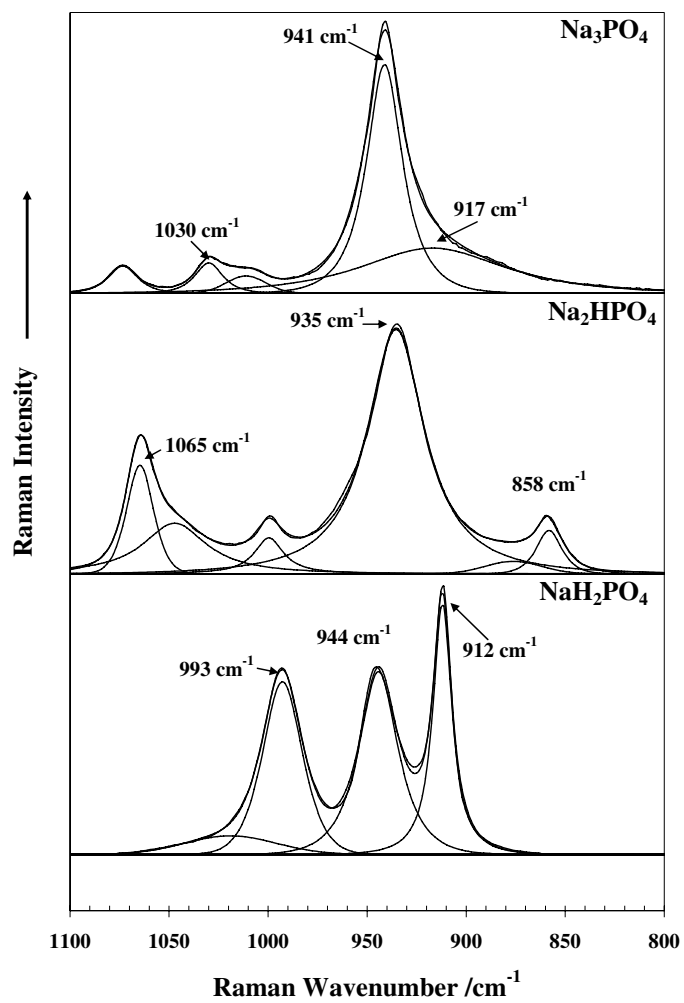


Figure 3

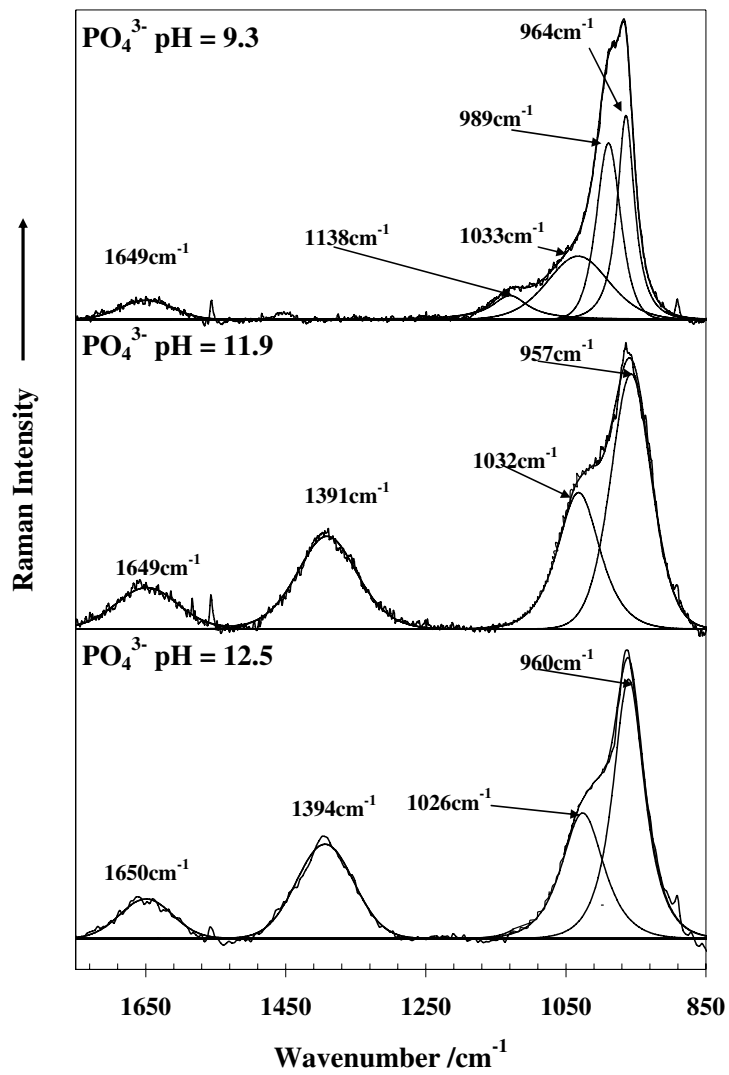


Figure 4

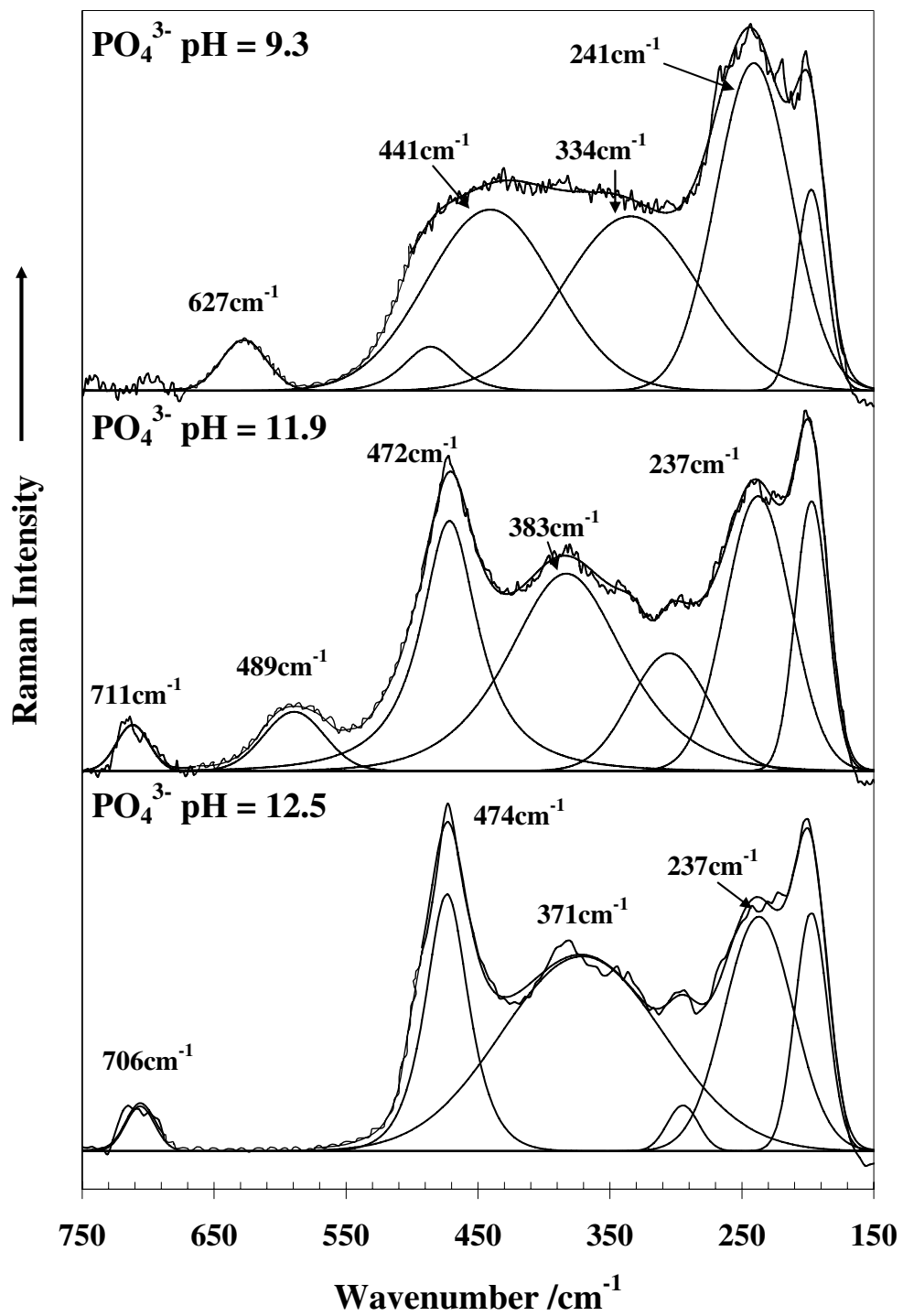


Figure 5

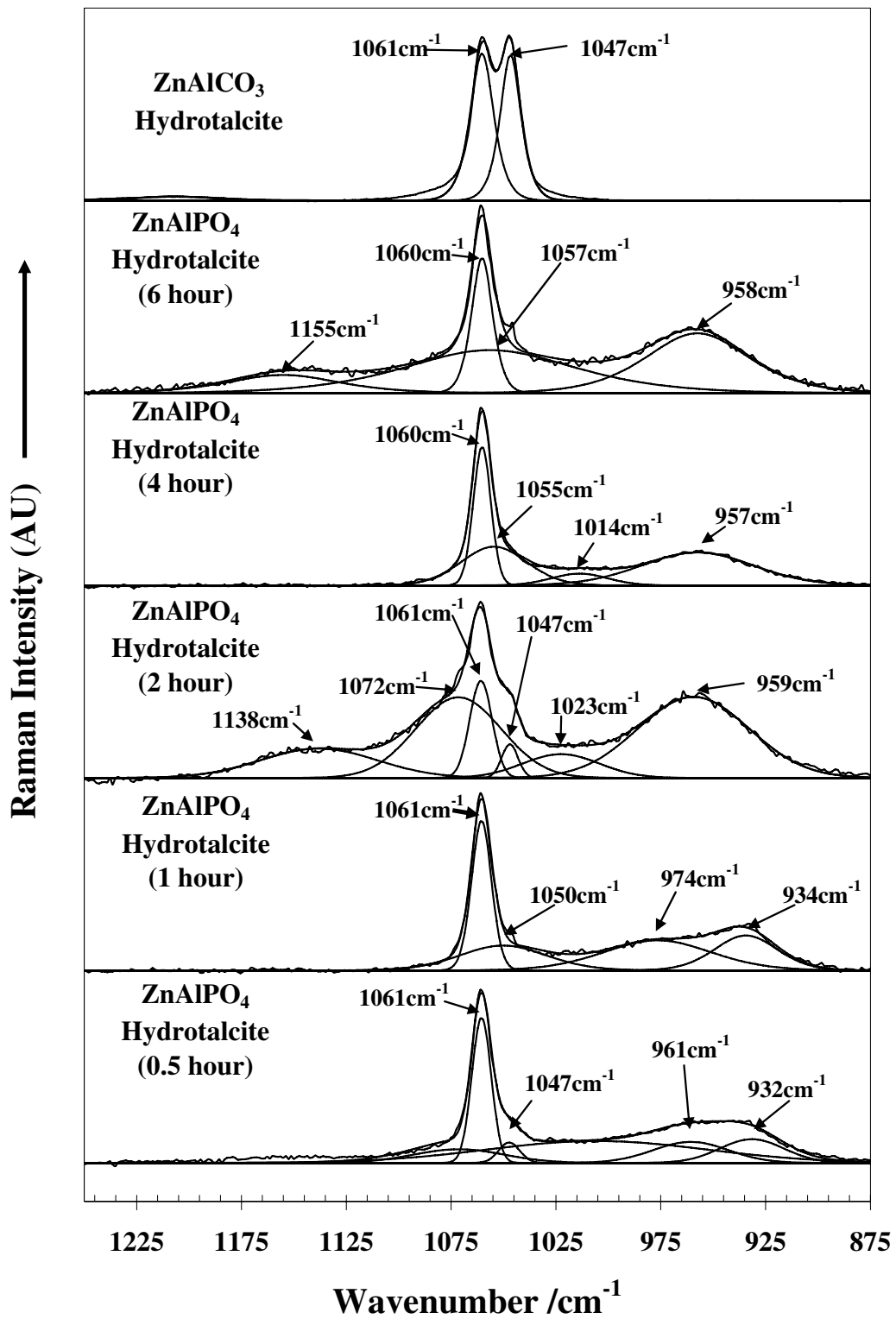


Figure 6

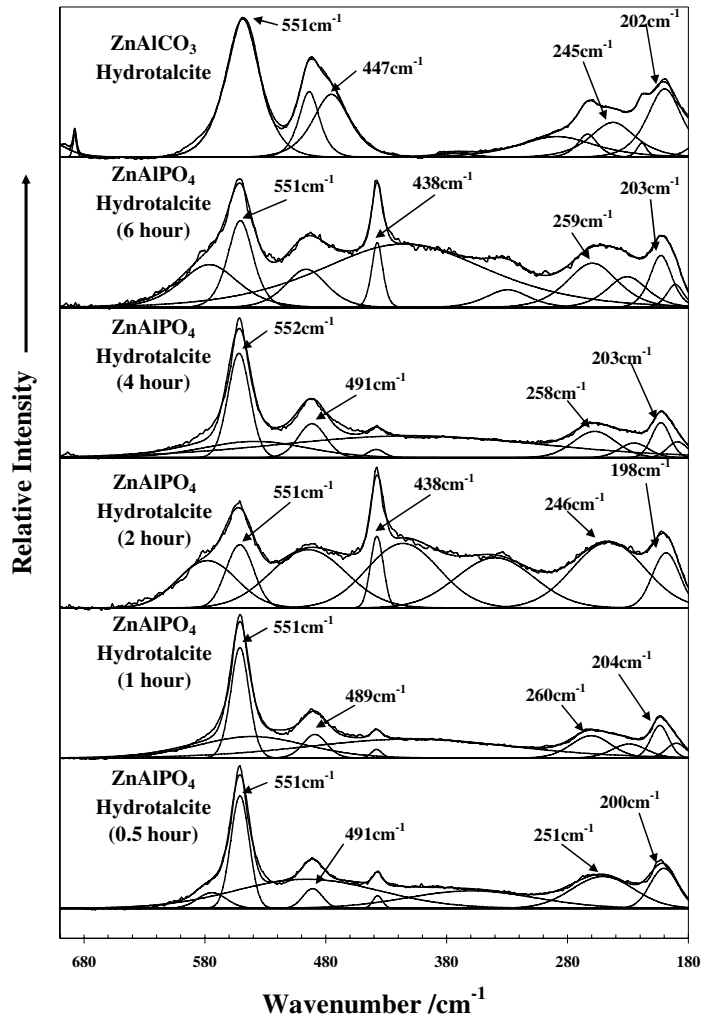


Figure 7