

# 1 **Effect of redox conditions on the structure and solubility of sulfur- and seleni-** 2 **um-AFm phases**

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## 13 **Abstract**

14 In the context of safe radioactive waste disposal, the incorporation of selenium and sulfur, a major  
15 competitor for Se, in AFm phases was investigated by synthesizing and characterizing Se(VI)-, Se(IV)-,  
16 S(VI)-, S(IV)-, S(II)-AFm phases to account for a range of possible redox conditions in a cement-based  
17 repository for low and intermediate level radioactive waste.

18 The X-ray spectra revealed crystalline AFm phases with trigonal or pseudo-trigonal structure. Different  
19 interlayer distances (hkl 00l) were observed for the phases described in the hexagonal lattice, whereas  
20 no shift of the (hkl 110) diffraction peak was detected. The type of the interlayer anion seems to con-  
21 trol the crystal symmetry of the AFm phase. The amount of water in the interlayer depends on the in-  
22 terlayer anion, relative humidity and temperature of exposure. The AFm phases show similar solubility

23 products suggesting that high sulfur concentration in the cement pore solution can decrease Se bind-  
24 ing by AFm phases.

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## 27 **1. Introduction**

28 In blast furnace slag cements [1] and Portland cements blended with slags [2], Fe(0) and the reduced  
29 sulfur species,  $\text{HS}^-$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{II}}$ , sulfide), from the slag lead to reducing conditions in the pore solution. Experi-  
30 mental investigations of the pore solution of such cements have shown that not only  $\text{HS}^-$  from the slag  
31 reaction and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{VI}}$ , sulfate) from Portland cement are present in the pore solution, but also the in-  
32 termediate  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{IV}}$ , sulfite) and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{II}}$ , thiosulfate). The latter two originate from the partial oxida-  
33 tion of  $\text{HS}^-$  and have been observed to persist for years in the pore solution of slag containing cements  
34 [1, 2]. The binding of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in AFm ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -mono) and AFt ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -tri) phases is well investi-  
35 gated (e.g. [3]), while much less is known whether and to which extent reduced sulfur species ( $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ ,  
36  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  and  $\text{HS}^-$ ) can be bound in AFm or AFt phases.

37 Reducing conditions are not only found in the presence of blast furnace slags, but also in the near-  
38 field of deep geological repositories as foreseen in Switzerland for the disposal of low- and intermedi-  
39 ate level nuclear waste (L/ILW), where cementitious materials will be a component of the waste matrix  
40 and will be used for the construction of the engineered barrier system [4]. Thermodynamic calculations  
41 predict an alkaline environment ( $10 < \text{pH} < 13.5$ ) for the near field of such cement-based repositories  
42 and redox conditions evolving from an initial oxidising stage due to the residual oxygen entrapped in  
43 pore spaces, to anoxic conditions caused by the oxygen consumption by microorganisms, abiotic oxi-  
44 dation processes and the production of hydrogen by radiolysis. In the long term, the redox potential  
45 will range between -750 mV and -230 mV (SHE) assuming that redox conditions are mainly controlled  
46 by Fe(III)/Fe(II) mineral equilibria [5].

47 One of the dose-determining radionuclides potentially emanating from L/ILW repositories is consid-  
48 ered to be selenium-79 due to its long half-life ( $t_{1/2} \sim 3.27 \times 10^5$  a) and expected weak retention by

49 many common near- and far-field minerals as a result of its anionic speciation [4]. During the evolution  
50 of the redox conditions in the repository, several oxidation states of Se may occur and its aqueous  
51 speciation will be dominated by  $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$  ( $\text{Se}^{\text{VI}}$ , selenate) and  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  ( $\text{Se}^{\text{IV}}$ , selenite ion) under oxidizing  
52 conditions;  $\text{HSe}^-$  ( $\text{Se}^{\text{II}}$ , selenide) and a series of polyselenides ( $\text{Se}_x^{2-}$ ,  $x=2,3,4$ ) under reducing conditions  
53 [6] (Fig. 1a). Depending on the composition of the cementitious matrix and the redox conditions, dif-  
54 ferent anionic sulfur species, namely  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{VI}}$ , sulfate),  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{IV}}$ , sulfite),  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{II}}$ , thiosulfate) and  
55  $\text{HS}^-$  ( $\text{S}^{\text{II}}$ , sulfide), may also be present. The sulfur anions are isostructural with the selenium ones and  
56 have similar chemical properties. Thus, a strong influence of sulfur on the selenium binding is ex-  
57 pected.  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  are thermodynamically metastable relative to the main species  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{HS}^-$   
58 (Fig. 1b and 1c). Reduced sulfur species ( $\text{HS}^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ ), however, are observed to persist in  
59 pore solutions of blast furnace slag cement due to slow oxidation kinetics [1, 7].

60 A potential retardation mechanism for the hazardous Se anions is their uptake by positively charged  
61 anion exchangers, such as AFm phases, present in the cementitious near-field. AFm ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -  
62 mono) phases are calcium aluminate-ferrite hydrates belonging to the layered double hydroxide (LDH)  
63 family. They are formed during the hydration of cement and have the general formula  
64  $[\text{Ca}_4(\text{Al,Fe})_2(\text{OH})_{12}] \cdot \text{X} \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  where X stands for either two monovalent anions or a bivalent anion. The  
65 structure is composed of positively charged main layers,  $[\text{Ca}_4(\text{Al,Fe})_2(\text{OH})_{12}]^{2+}$ , and negatively charged  
66 interlayers,  $[\text{X} \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}]^{2-}$ , with n giving the number of interlayer water molecules. The amount of water in  
67 the interlayer varies depending on the type of interlayer anion, the temperature and the relative hu-  
68 midity [8]. Although the most common interlayer anions found in the AFm are  $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$   
69 [3, 9], a variety of other anions can be incorporated as well in the AFm structure, such as  $\text{NO}_3^-$  [10],  $\text{I}^-$   
70 [11],  $\text{Br}^-$  [12],  $\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$  [13, 14], or  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  [15]. Bi-anionic AFm phases, containing more than one type of  
71 interlayer anion, may also form and have been reported in literature [11, 16-20]. Thus AFm phases may  
72 provide a large potential for the immobilization of the Se anions due to these interlayer anion ex-  
73 change sites.

74 The ability of the AFm phases to bind Se has already been studied before, but a more comprehensive  
75 understanding of the sorption mechanism as well as of the effect of the competition with S is still  
76 needed. Several studies so far have focused on the formation of Se-AFm and S-AFm phases. Se(VI)-,  
77 Se(IV)- and Se(-II)-AFm have been synthesized (e.g. [21-24]) but their crystal structure has not yet been  
78 resolved. The formation of the S(VI)-AFm (monosulfate), on the other hand, has been extensively stud-  
79 ied and its structure refined in the rhombohedral  $R\bar{3}$  space group [25]. Monosulfate is known to exist  
80 in several hydration states - Ms9, Ms10.5, Ms12 and Ms14 (with the index number giving the water  
81 content of the phase per unit cell in moles), in dependence of the exposure temperature and relative  
82 humidity. As the water molecules are incorporated in the interlayer, each hydrate has a specific inter-  
83 layer distance [26, 27]. The S(IV)-AFm [28] and the S(-II)-AFm [29] phases have been synthesized and  
84 their crystal structure characterized revealing a rhombohedral structure for both phases, but no solu-  
85 bility measurements have been performed. The existence of a S(II)-AFm phase has been suggested  
86 previously [30], however, it has not yet been synthesized.

87 This study aims to extend the current knowledge on the incorporation of Se and S in AFm phases by  
88 gaining a better insight into the crystal structure, hydration states and solubility of the various Se-AFm  
89 and S-AFm phases and also to consider the effect of competition between these chemically similar el-  
90 ements for the available AFm sites. Se(VI)-, Se(IV)-, S(VI)-, S(IV)-, S(II)-AFm phases were synthesized  
91 and investigated with the aim of accounting for a range of possible redox conditions in a cement-  
92 based repository. Due to the difficulties related to the stabilization of the strongly reduced Se(-II) and  
93 S(-II) anionic species and the different techniques required for their synthesis and characterization,  
94 AFm phases containing these anions were not included.

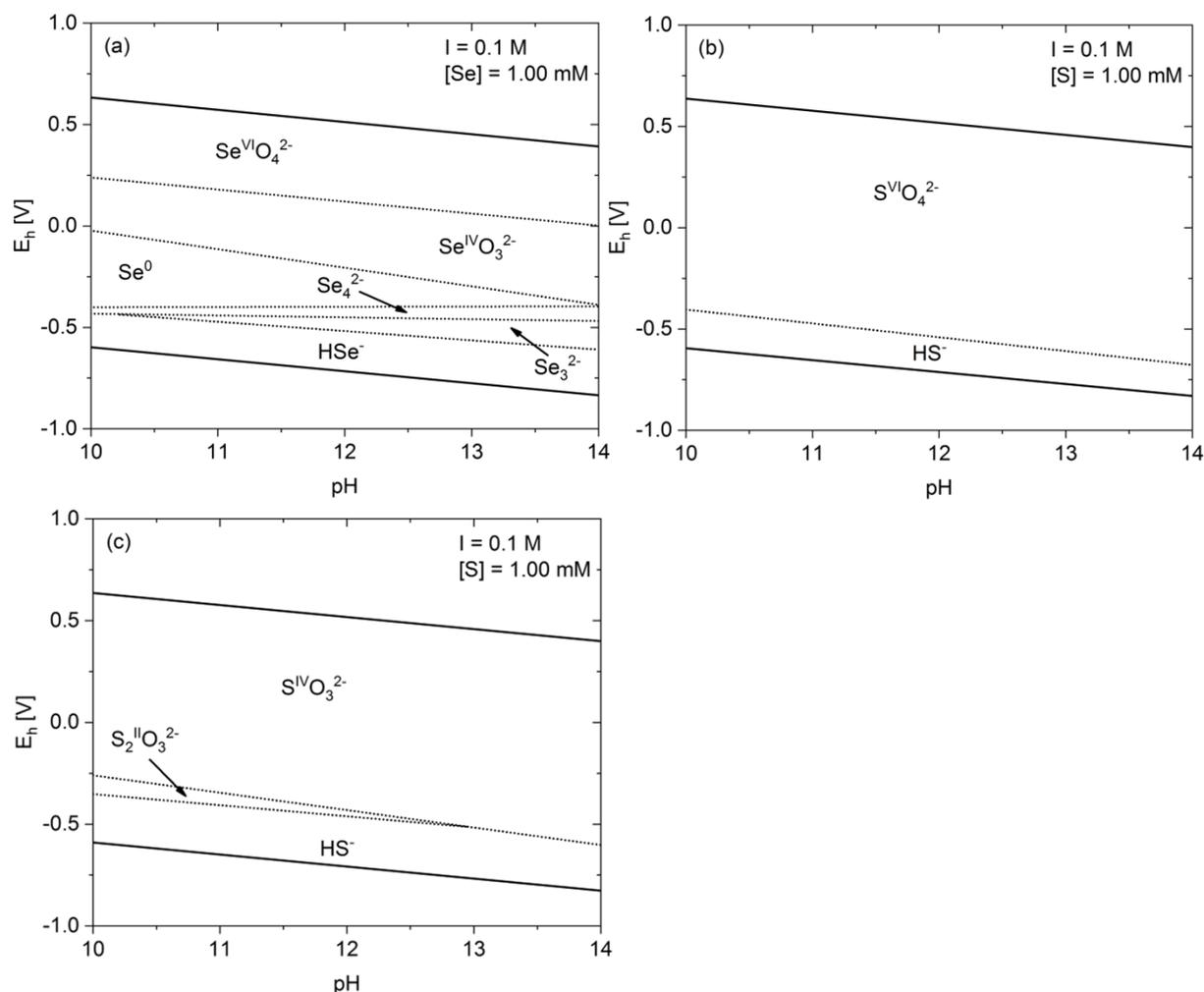
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108 **Figure 1:** Predominance diagrams for selenium (a) and sulfur (b); Eh-pH diagram for the metastable  
109 sulfur species  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  (c). Calculations were performed using the Medusa code [31] and ther-  
110 modynamic data from the NEA thermodynamic database [32].

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## 113 2. Materials and Methods

### 114 2.1 Synthesis of AFm phases

115 All sample manipulations were performed in a  $\text{N}_2$ -filled glove box to minimize atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  con-  
116 tamination. Solutions were prepared using high-purity deionized water (resistivity =  $18.2 \text{ M}\Omega \text{ cm}$ ) gen-  
117 erated by a Milli-Q Gradient A10 System (Millipore, Bedford, USA). All chemicals were analytical grade  
118 reagents. The following chemicals were used:  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,

119  $\text{Na}_2\text{SeO}_4$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SeO}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, USA) and  $\text{CaSeO}_3$  (American  
120 Elements, Los Angeles, California, USA). Tricalcium aluminate ( $\text{C}_3\text{A}$ ) was prepared by mixing appropri-  
121 ate amounts of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  powder to achieve a molar ratio of 3:1 and by heating the mixture at  
122  $800^\circ\text{C}$  for 1h, at  $1000^\circ\text{C}$  for another 4h and finally at  $1425^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h. The clinkers were then ground to  
123  $<63 \mu\text{m}$ . The powder was checked by X-ray diffraction to confirm the formation of cubic  $\text{C}_3\text{A}$  (PDF: 00-  
124 038-1429). To ensure that no  $\text{CO}_2$  contamination of  $\text{CaO}$  occurred, the latter compound was heated at  
125  $900^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h prior to the start of the synthesis. All Na- and Ca-salts were tested for the presence of  
126 absorbed  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) to determine their actual composition.

127 The AFm phases were synthesized by mixing approximately 2 g of the starting materials  $\text{C}_3\text{A}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ , and  
128 the appropriate  $\text{Na}_2\text{-X}$  salt in stoichiometric amounts (in 1:1:1 molar ratio) in 50 ml of ultrapure water  
129 resulting in a Na concentration of 0.2 M and pH of  $\sim 13$ . The S(VI)-AFm and Se(IV)-AFm phases were al-  
130 so prepared at  $\text{pH} \sim 12$  using Ca-X salts. For the S(IV)-, S(II)- and Se(VI)-AFm no Ca-X salts were com-  
131 mercially available.

132 The samples were equilibrated for three or six months, in closed PE-bottles at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  on end-over-end  
133 shakers (100 rpm). After equilibration, the solid and liquid phases were separated by vacuum filtration  
134 through a  $0.45 \mu\text{m}$  nylon filter. The solid phases were dried in a desiccator over a saturated NaOH so-  
135 lution ( $\sim 8\%$  relative humidity) at room temperature for five to six weeks under vacuum.

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## 138 2.2 Characterization of the solid phases

139 After drying, the samples were analysed by X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD), thermogravimetric analy-  
140 sis (TGA), infrared (FTIR) and Raman spectroscopy, and dynamic vapour sorption (DVS).

141 XRPD analyses were performed on a PANalytical X'Pert Pro MPD diffractometer using  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  radiation  
142 ( $\lambda = 1.54184 \text{ \AA}$ ); the diffraction patterns were recorded between  $5 < 2\theta < 70^\circ$  with a step size of  $0.017^\circ$   
143 ( $2\theta$ ) and a counting time of 0.6 s per step. For the Rietveld refinement, XRPD patterns were recorded  
144 on a PANalytical X'Pert Pro diffractometer with  $\theta$ - $\theta$  geometry, equipped with a solid X-Celerator detec-

145 tor and using  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  radiation. XRPD patterns were recorded at room temperature in the interval  $3^\circ <$   
146  $2\theta < 120^\circ$ , with a step size of  $0.0167^\circ$  and a counting time of 2 s for each data value. A total counting  
147 time of about 200 min was used for each sample. An attempt to solve the crystal structures of the AFm  
148 phases was done using X-Cell software to determine the unit cell symmetry [33], FOX software to lo-  
149 cate the unit cell objects [34] and, finally, structure refinement was done by the Rietveld method with  
150 the FULLPROF software [35].

151 TGA was carried out on a TGA/SDTA 851 instrument (Mettler Toledo, Switzerland). The samples (~15  
152 mg) were heated under a  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere over the temperature range between 30 and  $980^\circ\text{C}$  at a heat-  
153 ing rate of  $20^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ . The obtained mass losses were then used to determine the water content of the  
154 solids. In order to characterize the different functional groups and the type of structurally bound water  
155 (OH or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) of the AFm phases, attenuated total reflectance infrared spectra were recorded in the  
156  $4000$  to  $600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  range on a Bruker Tensor 27 FTIR spectrometer. Raman spectroscopy measurements  
157 were carried out on a Raman Bruker Senterra instrument using a 532 nm laser and a  $3.5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral  
158 resolution to determine the vibrational characteristics of the molecules in the structure.

159 The water sorption kinetics of the samples were studied with a VTI-SA Dynamic Vapour Sorption (DVS)  
160 apparatus (TA Inc, USA). The relative humidity (RH) was varied between 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 70, 80, 85,  
161 90, 92, 94, 90, 80, 70, 50, 30, 20, 10, and 5 % at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  with a data logging interval of 1 min. The equilib-  
162 rium criterion for each RH step was set to 0.0065 wt. % of the sample mass in 5 min for a maximum  
163 equilibration time of 720 min; equilibrium was reached for all samples within the maximum equilibra-  
164 tion time. The reference mass was obtained by drying the sample at  $105^\circ\text{C}$  and 0% RH.

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### 167 2.3 Characterization of the liquid phases

168 Immediately after filtration, the pH was measured using a Knick pH-meter with a SE 100 pH/Pt 1000  
169 electrode (Knick, Germany) at room temperature. The electrode was calibrated with NaOH solutions of  
170 known concentrations. The chemical composition of the liquid phases was analysed with a Dionex ICS-

171 3000 ion chromatography system equipped with a Dionex Ion Pac AS25 column for  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  
172  $\text{SeO}_4$  and  $\text{SeO}_3$ ; a Dionex Ion Pac CS12A column for Na and Ca; and a Dionex Ion Pac CS5A column for  
173 Al. The eluents used were 37 ml of 1.0 M NaOH/1 l water for the anions, 1.3 ml of  $\geq 99.5\%$  methanesul-  
174 fonic acid (MSA)/1 l water for Na and Ca, and 74 ml of 32% HCl/1 l water for Al, respectively. The dis-  
175 solved Al and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  concentrations were quantified in the undiluted solutions; for the other elements  
176 the samples were diluted by a factor of 1:10 in the case of  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{SeO}_4$  and  $\text{SeO}_3$ ; and 1:100 in the  
177 case of Na (and Ca in the case of the pH~12 samples).

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#### 180 2.4 Experimental and analytical challenges

181 Sulfite oxidation: In dilute alkaline solutions, it was observed that sulfite was unstable outside of the  
182  $\text{N}_2$ -filled glovebox and tended to oxidize slowly to sulfate. To stabilize sulfite for the IC measurements,  
183 the IC standards and sample dilutions were prepared in the glovebox where 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of formaldehyde  
184 solution (in a 1:1000 dilution) were added to 10 ml aliquot of each standard and sample. A small por-  
185 tion of the sulfite in solution, however, still oxidized and the IC results had to be corrected. The data  
186 were corrected by subtracting the  $\text{SO}_4$  concentration from the total S concentration of the IC standards  
187 and attributing the remaining portion to  $\text{SO}_3$ . The  $\text{SO}_3$  concentration obtained in this manner was then  
188 plotted against the measured  $\text{SO}_3$  peak area resulting in a linear relationship used to correct all further  
189 measurements. For some samples, the quality of the correction was controlled by ICP-OES measure-  
190 ments. In the thiosulfate samples no oxidation was observed.

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#### 193 2.5 Calculation of thermodynamic data

194 The measured concentrations of calcium, sodium, aluminium, sulfur and selenium in the liquid phase in  
195 equilibrium with the solids were used to calculate the solubility products of the synthesized AFm phas-  
196 es by using the thermodynamic modelling program GEMS [36] and the NAGRA/PSI database [37], in-

197 cluding a full speciation calculation. The activity coefficients of the aqueous species were calculated  
 198 with the built-in extended Debye-Hückel equation and NaOH as a background electrolyte. The solu-  
 199 bility products refer to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{AlO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$ , respectively and  
 200 solids with 4 Ca within the main layer (eg.  $K_{s0}(\text{S(VI)-AFm}) = \{\text{Ca}^{2+}\}^4 \{\text{AlO}_2^-\}^2 \{\text{SO}_4^{2-}\} \{\text{OH}^-\}^4 \{\text{H}_2\text{O}\}^{12}$  for  
 201 Ms14). From the calculated solubility products also the Gibbs free energy of formation for each phase  
 202 was calculated. The entropy  $S$  and the heat capacity  $C_p^0$  of monosulfate with different hydration states  
 203 has been determined experimentally [27] while for  $3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CaSO}_3\cdot 11\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  
 204  $3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CaS}_2\text{O}_3\cdot 13\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CaSeO}_4\cdot 13\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CaSeO}_3\cdot 11\text{H}_2\text{O}$  no measured da-  
 205 ta are available. The entropy and heat capacities values were thus estimated based on the following  
 206 reference reactions using  $3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CaSO}_4\cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [27]:



211 Selecting an isocoulombic reaction as the model reaction, in which the exchange of anions of same  
 212 charge takes place, allowed to assume that the  $\Delta C_p$  and  $\Delta S$  terms are close to zero [38]. The entropy  
 213 and heat capacity of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$ , and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were taken from the GEMS Nagra/PSI  
 214 thermodynamic database [37].

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### 217 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 218 3.1. X-ray diffraction patterns

219 The synthesized phases were characterized by XRPD. Crystal structure solution and refinement were at-  
 220 tempted for the S(IV)-, S(II)-, Se(VI)- and Se(IV)-AFm samples. The structure of the S(VI)-AFm phase was  
 221 refined by Allmann [25] and the phase is used as a reference. The XRD analyses revealed well-

222 crystalline AFm phases showing high-intensity basal reflexions (hkl 00l) at low  $2\theta$  values and the (110)  
223 diffraction peak of the basal plane at  $\sim 31^\circ$   $2\theta$  characteristic for the AFm family.

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226 3.1.1 S(VI)-AFm: The XRPD patterns of the S(VI)-AFm samples synthesized at pH $\sim$ 13 and pH  
227  $\sim$ 12 (Fig. 2) show no apparent effect of pH on the synthesized products. Both samples are character-  
228 ized by a main diffraction peak at  $9.9^\circ$   $2\theta$  corresponding to an interlayer distance of 8.93 Å and a S(VI)-  
229 AFm with 12 water molecules (Ms12) after drying [27]. In the pH $\sim$ 13 sample a small reflection at  $9.3^\circ$   
230  $2\theta$  indicates the presence of minor S(VI)-AFm hydrate with 14 water molecules and an interlayer dis-  
231 tance of 9.50 Å (Ms14). The water rich phase is a remnant of the saturated conditions prior to drying as  
232 Ms14 is the stable hydration state at 100 % RH and temperatures above 18°C, and it dehydrates to  
233 Ms12 at 97 % RH [27]. The lower pH sample shows some hemicarbonates ( $\text{Ca}_4\text{Al}_2(\text{CO}_3)_{0.5}(\text{OH})_{13}\cdot 5.5 \text{H}_2\text{O}$   
234 [20]) indicating slight carbonation. In addition, both samples contain minor ettringite  
235 ( $\text{Ca}_6\text{Al}_2\text{OH}_{12}(\text{SO}_4)_3\cdot 26\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [39]) impurities.

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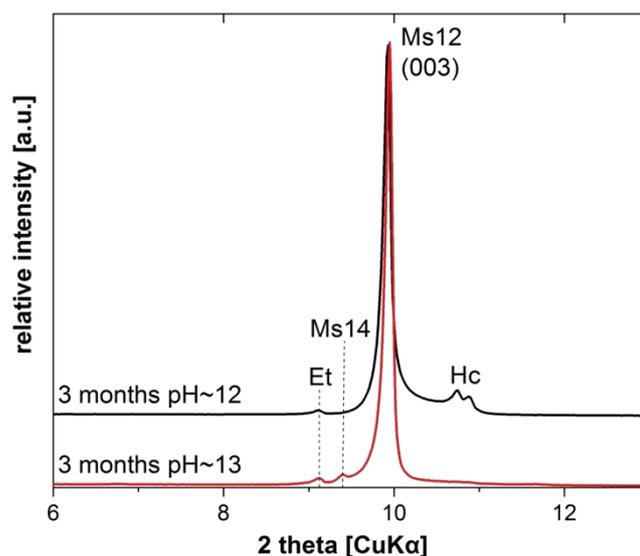
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254 **Figure 2:** XRPD pattern for the S(VI)-AFm phases synthesized at pH~13 and pH~12. The samples were  
255 dried over a saturated NaOH-solution (RH ~8 %). Et: ettringite, Hc: hemicarbonate, Ms12: monosulfate  
256 with 12 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules, Ms14: monosulfate with 14 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules.

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259 3.1.2 S(IV)-AFm: The analysed sample shows good crystallinity and consists of an almost single  
260 AFm phase containing only minor impurities of portlandite (Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>) (Fig. 3). The first diffraction peak  
261 at ~10.4° 2θ has a right shoulder indicating most probably the presence of small amounts of a less hy-  
262 drated AFm phase or a lowering of symmetry. Nevertheless, for the crystal structure refinement data  
263 have been treated by considering a single AFm phase sample with hexagonal unit cell, thus omitting  
264 the shoulder and its harmonics. The portlandite impurities, however, were taken into account for the  
265 refinement.

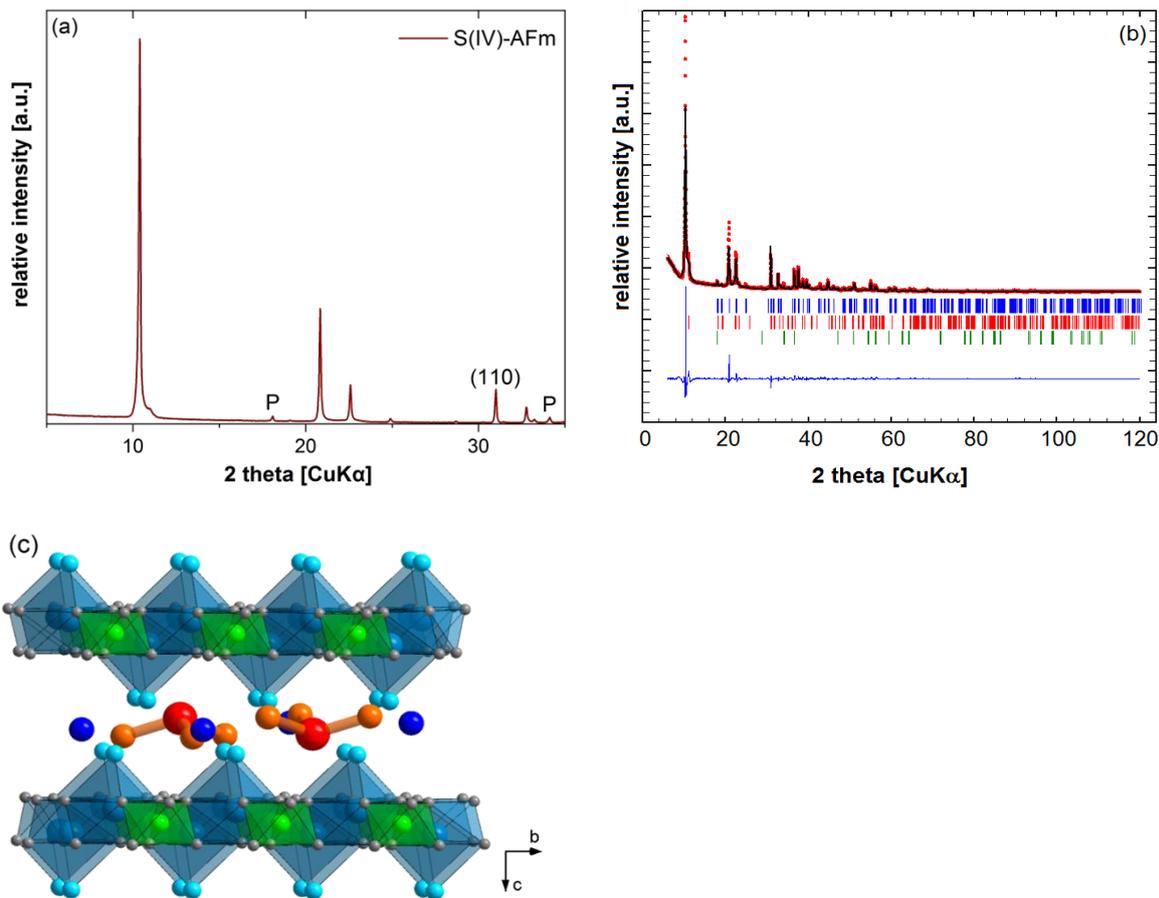
266 The diffraction peak positions correspond to a hexagonal lattice with a rhombohedral  $R\bar{3}$  space  
267 group. The refined lattice parameters are  $a = 5.7693(6)$  Å and  $c = 25.533(3)$  Å indicating an interlayer  
268 distance of 8.51 Å. The intercalated anion respects the geometrical feature of pyramidal sulfite with a  
269 S-O distance of 1.51 Å and a O-S-O angle of 106°. Two distinct structure solutions can be found with  
270 either the sulfite SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> anion normal to the main layer and connected to calcium cation, or parallel to

271 the main layer at the center of the interlayer region. These two different configurations result in similar  
272 Rietveld agreement factors, due to the difficulty to correctly model the diffraction peak shape. Never-  
273 theless, the comparison with previously determined equivalent crystal structure from single data allow  
274 us to favour the parallel orientation. The crystal structure of the NO<sub>3</sub>-AFm phase is characterized by  
275 planar trigonal NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> anion perpendicular to the main layer (bonded to Ca<sup>2+</sup>) resulting in a larger inter-  
276 layer distance of 8.62 Å (even though the N-O bond distance of 1.22 Å is shorter than the S-O distance  
277 of about 1.51 Å) [10]. Then the smaller interlayer distance of the S(IV)-AFm suggests a sulfite orienta-  
278 tion parallel to the main layer. The comparison with the HBO<sub>3</sub>-AFm, in which the planar triangular ani-  
279 on is parallel to the main layer in the center of the interlayer region resulting in an interlayer distance  
280 of 8.26 Å [40], also supports the idea of the parallel central interlayer position. Complementary obser-  
281 vations, namely by the preparation of single crystals, are needed to definitively confirm this orienta-  
282 tion. The structural parameters assuming a parallel central interlayer position described in the rhom-  
283bohedral  $R\bar{3}$  space group are summarized in Table 1, and Figure 3 shows the corresponding Rietveld  
284 plot. The refined composition corresponds to [Ca<sub>2</sub>Al(OH)<sub>6</sub>] $\cdot$ [ $\frac{1}{2}$ SO<sub>3</sub> $\cdot$ 2.1H<sub>2</sub>O], or  
285 3CaO $\cdot$ Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> $\cdot$ CaSO<sub>3</sub> $\cdot$ 10.2H<sub>2</sub>O, slightly below the obtained 11 water molecules per formula unit deter-  
286 mined by the chemical analysis (see chapter 3.2.1).

287 Motzet & Pöllmann [28] assigned the S(IV)-AFm unit cell to the trigonal space groups  $P3$  or  $P\bar{3}$  with  
288 the refined lattice parameters  $a = 5.7709(4)$  Å and  $c = 51.284(5)$  Å (twice the unit cell used here).

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293 **Figure 3:** (a) XRPD pattern and (b) Rietveld plot of the S(IV)-AFm sample (pH~13) showing the diffrac-  
 294 tion experimental pattern (red dots), the calculated pattern (black line), the difference curve (blue line)  
 295 and sticks for Bragg peaks positions for the resolved S(IV)-AFm phase (blue), for the unresolved under-  
 296 hydrate  $3\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CaSO}_3\cdot\text{XH}_2\text{O}$  (red) and for portlandite impurity (green). P: portlandite. (c) General  
 297 representation of the structural model for the S(IV)-AFm phase, projection almost along [100]. The  
 298  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  anion is shown in red and orange, the Ca polyhedra in light blue, Al octahedra in green, hydroxyl  
 299 in grey, bonded water from the main layer in light blue and interlayer water molecules in dark blue. For  
 300 clarity reasons, the disordered interlayer part of the structure is presented in an ordered way.

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305 **Table 1:** Rietveld refinement of the S(IV)-AFm phase. Standard deviations ( $\sigma$  values from Rietveld  
 306 treatments) are indicated in parentheses.

Atom	Site	x	y	z	B <sub>iso</sub>	Occupancy
$R\bar{3}, Z=3$						
$a = 5.7693(6) \text{ \AA}, c = 25.533(1) \text{ \AA}, V = 736.0(1) \text{ \AA}^3$						
$R_{\text{Bragg}} = 0.034, R_p = 0.14, R_{\text{wp}} = 0.16$						
Al	3a	0	0	0	1.0(-)	1(-)
Ca	6c	2/3	1/3	0.0220(3)	1.0(-)	1(-)
O1 (OH <sup>-</sup> )	18f	0.253(3)	0.940(3)	0.0370(9)	1.0(-)	1(-)
O2 (H <sub>2</sub> O)	6c	0	0	0.7875(9)	1.0(-)	1(-)
S	6c	0	0	0.489(1)	1.0(-)	¼(-)
O3 (SO <sub>3</sub> )	18f	0.08(1)	0.269(6)	0.513(2)	1.0(-)	¼(-)
O4 (H <sub>2</sub> O)	3b	0	0	0.5	1.0(-)	0.06(2)

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309 3.1.3 Se(IV)-AFm: From all synthesized samples, the Se(IV)-AFm was found to be the least crys-  
 310 talline AFm phase. The crystallinity of the phase showed no clear dependence on the aging time, how-  
 311 ever, a pH dependence was observed: a Se(IV)-AFm formed at pH~13 has only weakly defined diffrac-  
 312 tion peaks, whereas at pH~12 the diffraction peaks are more intense (Fig. 4). Therefore, the crystal  
 313 structure analysis was only carried out for the AFm sample synthesized at pH~12. The structure analy-  
 314 sis was still limited due to the presence of two distinct AFm phases – i.e. two Se(IV)-AFm hydrates.  
 315 These two hydrates seem to have a hexagonal unit cell with the refined interlayer distances 11.05 Å  
 316 and 9.65 Å, respectively.

317 Ma et al. [41] observed the formation of Se(IV)-AFm phases with two distinct interlayer distances in a  
 318 series of sorption experiments of SeO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> onto Cl-AFm and SO<sub>4</sub>-AFm. SeO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> intercalation in the inter-

319 layer resulted in the formation of Se(IV)-AFm phases with interlayer distances  $11.01 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$  and  
320  $9.99 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$  in the case of the Cl-AFm, and  $11.06 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$  and  $9.87 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$  in the case of the  $\text{SO}_4$ -AFm.  
321 Based on EXAFS experiments, the authors attributed the two types of Se(IV)-AFm formed to different  
322 complexation configurations of the  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  anions in the interlayer: the phases with the larger spacing  
323 of  $\sim 11.1 \text{ \AA}$  contain free hydrated  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$ , whereas inner-sphere complexation of Se accounts for the  
324 smaller d-values of  $\sim 9.9 \text{ \AA}$ . The two Se(IV)-AFm hydrates observed in this study show similar interlayer  
325 distances to the ones investigated earlier by Ma et al. [41] suggesting that the differences may arise  
326 from the different types of coordination environments of the intercalated  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  anions. While the  $9.65$   
327  $\text{ \AA}$  hydrate might contain  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  bonded to the main layer, the larger d-value of the  $11.05 \text{ \AA}$  hydrate  
328 could be explained with free Se(IV) in the interlayer.

329 The Se(IV)-AFm structural analysis has shown two distinct symmetries for the two hydrates: a rhombo-  
330 hedral symmetry with a hexagonal axis corresponding to three interlayers for the  $11.05 \text{ \AA}$  hydrate ( $R\bar{3}$ ,  
331  $Z=3$ ,  $a = 5.7752(9) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 33.162(12) \text{ \AA}$ ) and a trigonal symmetry with a hexagonal axis corresponding  
332 to two interlayers for the  $9.65 \text{ \AA}$  hydrate ( $P\bar{3}$ ,  $Z=2$ ,  $a = 5.7752(9) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 19.300(9) \text{ \AA}$ ). A structure solu-  
333 tion has been searched for the  $9.65 \text{ \AA}$  hydrate with the FOX software using two independent main lay-  
334 ers, two independent water molecules and one selenite group. The  $\text{SeO}_3$  geometry has been fixed with  
335 Se-O distances of  $1.69 \text{ \AA}$ , O-O distances of  $2.64 \text{ \AA}$  and O-Se-O angle of  $103^\circ$  according to distances  
336 and angles averages from the  $\text{CaSeO}_3$  crystal structure [42]. Structural models proposed by FOX [34]  
337 invariably suggest selenite anion in front of calcium cations from one main layer out of two, explaining  
338 thus the periodicity based on two interlayers. Selenite anions are oriented almost perpendicularly to  
339 the layers with the four atoms (one selenium atom and three independent oxygen atoms) located on  
340 general positions with half of one third occupancies (to respect electro-neutrality). The best solution  
341 found is presented in Table 2. All the proposed structural models could not be refined with FullProf  
342 [35], most probably due to a non-hexagonal real symmetry (monoclinic or triclinic lowering of sym-  
343 metry). The proposed structure for the Se(IV)-AFm is very similar to the one of the  $\text{NO}_3$ -AFm [10], in  
344 which the anion is bonded to a calcium, is oriented perpendicularly to the main layer and shows disor-

345 der around the trigonal (or pseudo-trigonal) axis. The selenite anion is connected to a calcium cation  
346 via a bidentate ionic bonding with two Ca2-O5 and Ca2-O6 distances of about 2.5 Å, similarly to the  
347 calcium environment in the CaSeO<sub>3</sub> crystal structure [42]. It is interesting to note that this structural  
348 organization corresponds to the one found by Ma et al. [41] for their 9.87 Å Se(IV)-AFm based on EX-  
349 AFS measurements. The lack of better quality powder patterns (despite numerous attempts to synthe-  
350 size a single phase sample with high crystallinity), or more simply the absence of single crystals, did  
351 not allow further structural resolution of the 9.65 Å Se(IV)-AFm compound, nor was it possible to work  
352 on a structural model for the 11.05 Å Se(IV)-AFm compound.

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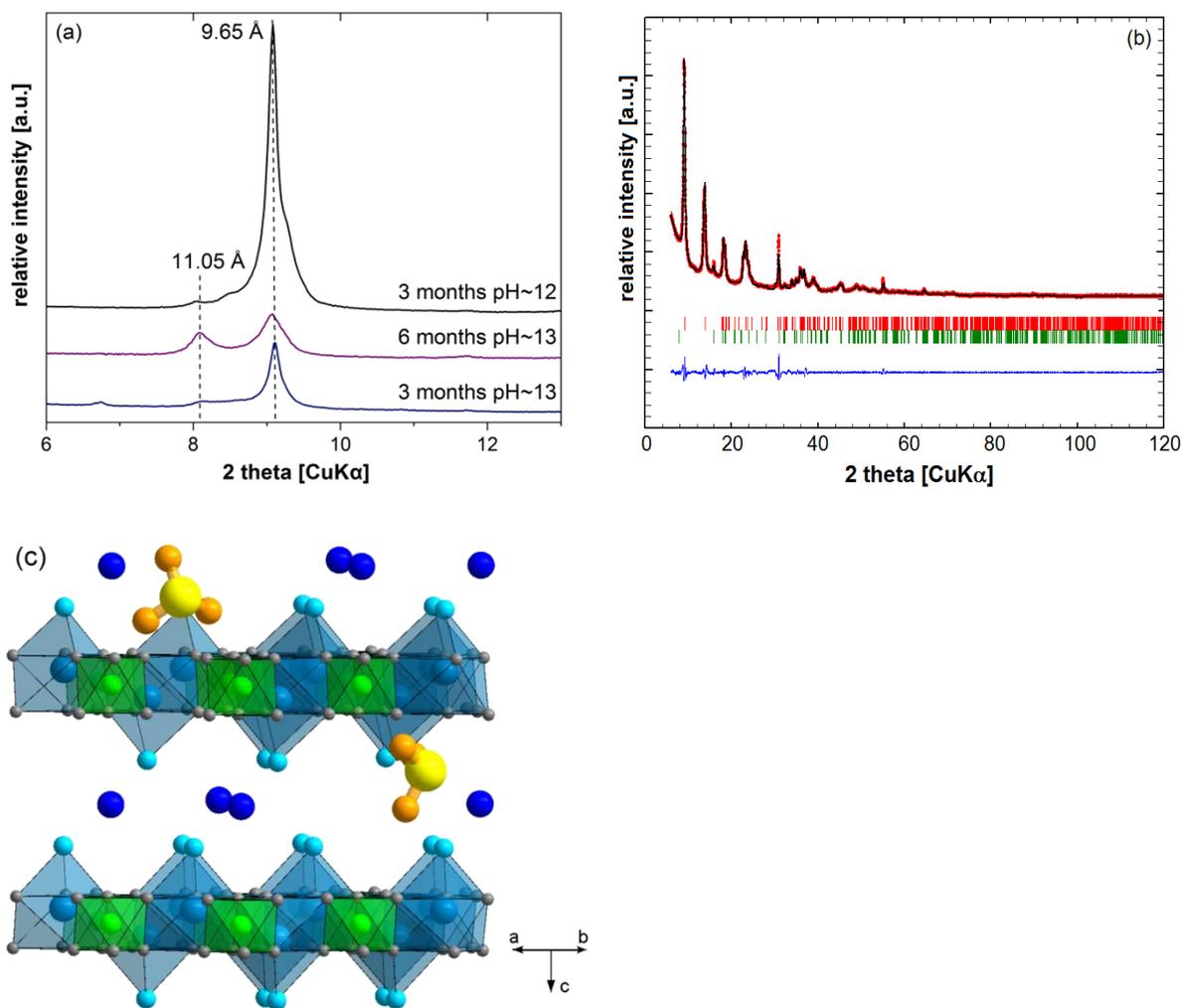
370 **Table 2:** Best – unrefined – structure solution proposed by FOX software for the Se(IV)-AFm phase of  
 371 composition  $[\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_6] \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{SeO}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Atom	Site	x	y	z	Occupancy
$P\bar{3}, Z=2$					
$a = 5.7752(9) \text{ \AA}, c = 19.300(9) \text{ \AA}, V = 560.0(6) \text{ \AA}^3$					
Al1	1a	0	0	0	1
Al2	1b	0	0	1/2	1
Ca1	2d	2/3	1/3	-0.030	1
Ca2	2d	2/3	1/3	0.470	1
O1 (OH <sup>-</sup> )	6g	0.00	-0.28	-0.055	1
O2 (OH <sup>-</sup> )	6g	0.27	0.27	0.558	1
O3 (H <sub>2</sub> O)	2d	2/3	1/3	-0.160	1
O4 (H <sub>2</sub> O)	2d	2/3	1/3	0.340	1/2
Se	6g	0.93	0.38	0.32	1/6
O5 (SeO <sub>3</sub> )	6g	0.00	0.65	0.37	1/6
O6 (SeO <sub>3</sub> )	6g	0.62	0.14	0.35	1/6
O7 (SeO <sub>3</sub> )	6g	0.86	0.47	0.24	1/6
O5 (H <sub>2</sub> O)	2c	0	0	0.25	1/2

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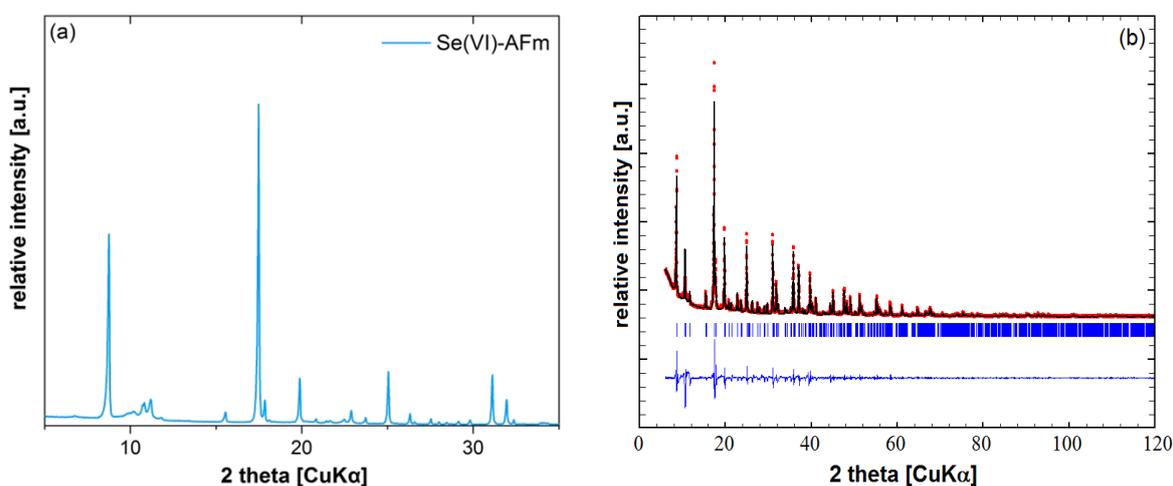
377 **Figure 4:** (a) XRPD pattern of the Se(IV)-AFm phase synthesized at different pH. The samples were  
 378 dried over a saturated NaOH-solution (RH ~8 %). (b) Rietveld plot of the Se(IV)-AFm sample (pH~12)  
 379 showing the diffraction experimental pattern (red dots), the calculated pattern (black line), the differ-  
 380 ence curve (blue line) and sticks for Bragg peaks position for the two Se(IV)-AFm hydrates with the in-  
 381 terlayer distance 9.65 Å (red) and 11.05 Å (green). (c) General representation of the suggested structur-  
 382 al model for the 9.65 Å hydrate, projection almost along [110]. The SeO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> anion is shown in yellow and  
 383 orange, the Ca polyhedra in light blue, Al octahedra in green, hydroxyl in grey, bonded water from the  
 384 main layer in light blue and interlayer water molecules in dark blue. For clarity reasons, the disordered  
 385 interlayer part of the structure is presented in an ordered way.

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388            3.1.4 Se(VI)-AFm: The XRPD pattern of the Se(VI)-AFm sample shows a well crystallized phase  
389 with numerous diffraction peaks corresponding to a symmetry lower than rhombohedral or trigonal.  
390 The diffraction pattern correlates to an apparent monoclinic lattice with the following refined parame-  
391 ters:  $a = 10.5741(4) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 4.9846(2) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 8.6316(3) \text{ \AA}$  and  $\beta = 105.759(4)^\circ$ , and an interlayer distance  
392 of  $10.18 \text{ \AA}$ . However, the monoclinic unit cell volume of  $438 \text{ \AA}^3$  for the interlayer distance of  $10.18 \text{ \AA}$   
393 corresponds to a composition  $1.5 [\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_6] \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{SeO}_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  which is inconsistent with crystallographic  
394 considerations. Attempts to solve the structure using a lower-symmetry triclinic unit cell were incon-  
395 clusive and no other set of lattice parameters could be found with X-Cell [33]. At this stage single crys-  
396 tal data are needed to pursue crystallographic investigations. The Se(VI)-AFm lattice seems to be unre-  
397 lated to previously known low-symmetry structures found in the AFm family such as the monoclinic  
398 Friedel's salt (Cl-AFm) [43] or the triclinic monocarbonate ( $\text{CO}_3$ -AFm) [44].

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403 **Figure 5:** (a) XRPD pattern and (b) Rietveld plot of the Se(VI)-AFm sample using the monoclinic lattice  
404 parameters.

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407            3.1.5 S(II)-AFm: The powder pattern of the S(II)-AFm sample resembles a rhombohedral AFm  
408 structure with an interlayer distance of 10.33 Å. However, a diffraction peak cluster at ~11° was ob-  
409 served which cannot be explained by a rhombohedral symmetry. The use of a monoclinic unit cell with  
410 the lattice parameters  $a = 10.469(1)$  Å,  $b = 5.7736(7)$  Å,  $c = 9.982(1)$  Å and  $\beta = 98.964(8)^\circ$  partially ex-  
411 plains this diffraction peak cluster (Fig. 6). This monoclinic unit cell is related to the monoclinic struc-  
412 ture of Friedel's salt.

413 Since this monoclinic lattice explains only partially the diffraction peaks, and since no structural model  
414 could be found in the monoclinic symmetry, structure solution using FOX has been performed into the  
415 average rhombohedral lattice.  $S_2O_3^{2-}$  geometry has been fixed to S-S bond distance of 2.10 Å, S-O  
416 bond distance of 1.55 Å, S-S-O angles of 103° and O-S-O angles of 107°. Invariably, obtained structure  
417 solutions indicate a perpendicular orientation of the  $S_2O_3^{2-}$  anion with the end-sulfur atom directed  
418 toward calcium cation. Although the structure solution models suggest an inclination of the S-S bond  
419 toward the trigonal axis, structure parameters gathered in Table 3 correspond to an average configura-  
420 tion with a more symmetrical situation:  $S_2O_3^{2-}$  oriented along the trigonal axis with both sulfur atom in  
421 a special 6c Wyckoff site; i.e. with a perfectly normal orientation to the main layer.

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432 **Table 3:** Average – unrefined – structure solution proposed by FOX for the S(II)-AFm phase of compo-  
 433 sition  $[\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_6] \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Atom	Site	x	y	z	Occupancy
$R\bar{3}, Z=3$					
$a = 5.7660(6) \text{ \AA}, c = 30.9821(6) \text{ \AA}, V = 892.1(4) \text{ \AA}^3$					
Al	3a	0	0	0	1
Ca	6c	2/3	1/3	0.016	1
O1 (OH)	18f	0.2916	0.2493	0.035	1
O2 (H <sub>2</sub> O)	6c	2/3	1/3	0.100	3/4
O3 (H <sub>2</sub> O)	6c	1/3	2/3	0.167	3/4
S1	6c	2/3	1/3	0.100	1/4
S2	6c	2/3	1/3	0.167	1/4
O4 (S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	18f	0.902	0.306	0.186	1/4

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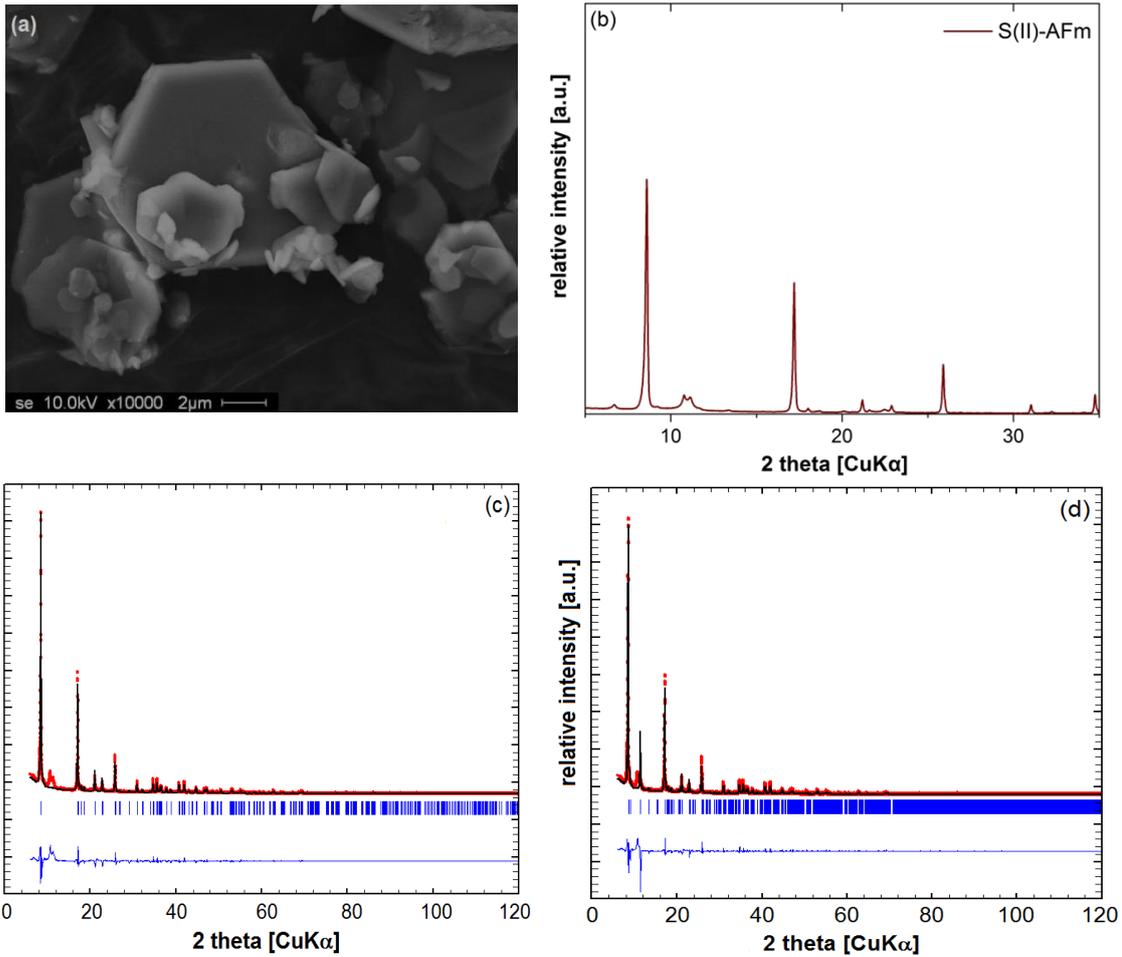
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443 **Figure 6:** (a) SEM image of the S(II)-AFm showing the typical lamellar shape; XRPD pattern (b) and

444 Rietveld plot of the S(II)-AFm sample using a hexagonal (c) and a monoclinic (d) unit cell.

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447 Based on the best structural model found for each AFm phase, the densities of the phases were also

448 calculated. The values are compiled in Table 4 together with further crystallographic data.

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455 **Table 4:** Summary of crystallographic data for the S- and Se-containing AFm phases.

AFm Phase	Empirical Formula	System	Z	Cell Volume [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	Interlayer Distance [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	Density [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]
S(VI) <sup>[25]</sup>	AlCa <sub>2</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>11</sub> S <sub>0.5</sub>	rhombohedral	3	769.50	8.93	2.02
S(IV)	AlCa <sub>2</sub> H <sub>10.2</sub> O <sub>9.6</sub> S <sub>0.5</sub>	rhombohedral	3	736.0(1)*	8.51*	1.94*
Se(IV)	AlCa <sub>2</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>10</sub> Se <sub>0.5</sub>	trigonal	2	560.0(6)*	9.65*	1.94*
Se(VI)	AlCa <sub>2</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>11</sub> Se <sub>0.5</sub>	monoclinic*	1.5	(438)*	10.18*	1.90*
S(II)	AlCa <sub>2</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>10.5</sub> S	rhombohedral*	3	892.1(4)*	10.33*	1.78*

456 \* tentative values based on the best structural model found from the XRPD data.

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### 459 3.2. Water in the AFm phases:

460 The binding of water in the synthesized AFm phases was investigated by several techniques.

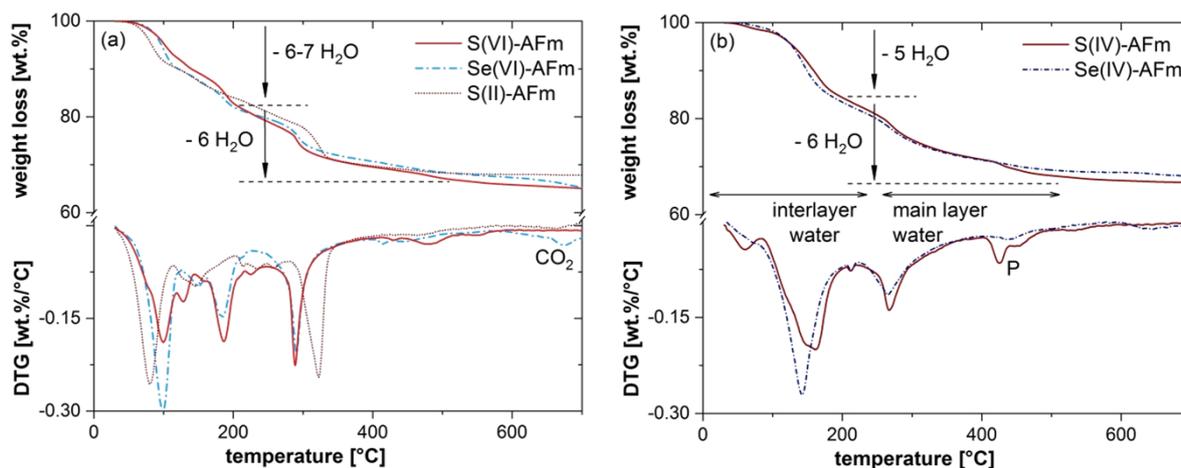
461 3.2.1 TGA: The hydration state of the samples was determined by measuring the weight loss in  
 462 the temperature region between 30°C and 600°C. Weight losses above this temperature are associated  
 463 with sulfur decomposition and loss of CO<sub>2</sub> (at ~700°C), which is present in minor amounts due to at-  
 464 mospheric contamination (<1.5 wt.%). Therefore, weight loss above 600°C was not taken into consid-  
 465 eration.

466 The TGA-DTG curves (Fig. 7) of all synthesized samples show stepwise water removal, which was ob-  
 467 served in the temperature regions characteristic for AFm phases [45]. Loosely bound water from the in-  
 468 terlayer is lost in three temperature steps which vary in size and range for the different samples. In  
 469 general, however, water removal from the interlayer occurs up to a temperature of ~250°C. In the  
 470 temperature region between 250°C and 600°C the six main layer waters of Ca<sub>4</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>12</sub><sup>2+</sup> are lost. A  
 471 weight loss at ~450°C indicates the presence of portlandite impurities as found in the S(IV)-AFm. The

472 total mass losses add up to ~30 wt.% for S(IV)-AFm, ~32 wt.% for Se(IV)-AFm, ~33 wt.% for S(II)- and  
 473 Se(VI)-AFm, and ~35 wt.% for S(VI)-AFm. The number of H<sub>2</sub>O molecules was calculated as ~11 H<sub>2</sub>O for  
 474 S(IV)- and Se(IV)-AFm, ~12 H<sub>2</sub>O for S(VI)-AFm, and ~13 H<sub>2</sub>O for S(II)- and Se(VI)-AFm, respectively.

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478 **Figure 7:** TGA data for the studied AFm phases synthesized at pH~13. The samples were dried over a  
 479 saturated NaOH solution (RH ~8 %). P: portlandite.

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482 3.2.2 FTIR/Raman spectra: Figure 8 shows the FTIR spectra recorded between 600 and 4000  
 483 cm<sup>-1</sup> and the Raman spectra recorded between 55 and 3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> of the samples.

484 To better understand the FTIR and Raman spectra of the interlayer anions, the observed peak positions  
 485 are compared with literature data for the free anions in solution [46-48] to detect possible changes in  
 486 the spectral behaviour caused by the structural environment in the AFm phase (Table 5). The assign-  
 487 ment of the peak positions of the anions was also verified by comparison with FTIR measurements on  
 488 the Na<sub>2</sub>-sulfur salts used for the synthesis. In carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) containing AFm phases, for instance,  
 489 two band positions for the Raman-active symmetric stretching mode (ν<sub>1</sub>) can be found: an absorption  
 490 band at ~1086 cm<sup>-1</sup> is characteristic for a weakly bonded CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> in the centre of the interlayer; while in

491 the cases where the carbonate is bonded to the main layer (via a Ca) a shift towards lower wave-  
492 numbers is observed and the  $\nu_1(\text{CO}_3^{2-})$  vibration occurs at  $\sim 1068 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  [16].

493 The free  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$  anions have a  $T_d$  symmetry with the symmetric stretching mode  $\nu_1$  and  
494 bending mode  $\nu_2$  Raman active only and the asymmetric stretching mode  $\nu_3$  and bending mode  $\nu_4$   
495 both FTIR and Raman active [46]. In monosulfate, due to the interactions with the crystal structure, the  
496 point symmetry of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is lowered, leading to the splitting of the  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3$  modes into two compo-  
497 nents:  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_1'$ ,  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_3'$ , respectively [49]. In the FTIR spectrum of the S(VI)-AFm (Figure 8a), the  $\nu_3$  is  
498 visible as a strong, broad absorption peak at  $\sim 1100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a shoulder at  $\sim 1160 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_3'$ ). A very  
499 weak absorption band at  $\sim 620 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is also observed, which could be attributed to the  $\nu_4$  mode. The  
500 Raman spectrum of the phase shows the  $\nu_1$  at  $\sim 982 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; with a shoulder at  $\sim 990 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  belonging to  
501 the  $\nu_1'$  component. The  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_4$  modes are present at  $\sim 450$  and  $\sim 615 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively; at positions  
502 similar to the ones of the free  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  anion. The  $\nu_3$  absorption band cannot be clearly distinguished;  
503 however, a broad, low intensity band is observed between  $1090$  and  $1160 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , suggesting splitting of  
504 the  $\nu_3$  band. The  $\nu_3(\text{SeO}_4^{2-})$  mode in the Se(VI)-AFm is visible at  $\sim 874 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  by FTIR and  $\sim 870 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  by  
505 Raman, where it overlaps with the symmetric stretching  $\nu_1$  mode ( $\sim 835 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The two signals at  $\sim 335$   
506 and  $\sim 395 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  are most probably caused by the bending  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_4$  modes, occurring thus at slightly  
507 lower wavenumbers than expected for the free  $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$  ( $\nu_2$ :  $\sim 345 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\nu_4$ :  $\sim 412 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  [47]).

508 Free  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  and  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  anions have  $C_{3v}$  point symmetry with the four normal modes both FTIR and Ra-  
509 man active [46]. In the S(IV)-AFm, the  $\nu_3(\text{SO}_3^{2-})$  mode is seen in FTIR as a very broad, asymmetric ab-  
510 sorption band at  $\sim 955 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , possibly caused by overlapping with the  $\nu_1$  band (at  $\sim 967 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the free  
511  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  [48]) and/or by splitting. The FTIR spectrum of the phase is further characterized by another  
512 broad band, consisting of at least two overlapping components at  $\sim 695$  and  $745 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 8c). In  
513 Raman the bending  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_4$  modes occur as weak signals at  $\sim 620$  and  $\sim 480 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; while the overlap-  
514 ping bands at  $\sim 975$  and  $\sim 995 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  are most probably due to the  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3$  modes. The  $\nu_3$  mode in the  
515 Se(IV)-AFm is observed in FTIR at  $\sim 730 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a shoulder at  $\sim 800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to the  $\nu_1$   
516 mode. In Raman, the two modes are observed in the same positions with additional shoulder at  $\sim 780$

517  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  indicating splitting of the  $\nu_1$  band. The  $\nu_4$  mode is visible at  $\sim 374 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; the  $\nu_2$  at  $\sim 455 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which  
518 implies a slight shift of the  $\nu_2$  mode to higher wavenumbers.

519 The free  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  anion has a  $\text{C}_{3v}$  point symmetry with six FTIR and Raman active vibrational modes [46].  
520 All six bands can be identified in the Raman spectrum of the S(II)-AFm, appearing at positions close to  
521 the ones expected for the free  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  anion with exception of the  $\nu_2$  mode, which seems to be shifted  
522 towards lower wavenumbers at  $\sim 630 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  compared to  $669 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  measured in solution [47].  
523 In FTIR, however, the  $\nu_2$  band is observed without a shift at  $\sim 670 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , together with the  $\nu_1$  ( $\sim 1010 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )  
524 and  $\nu_4$  ( $\sim 1130 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) modes as well as a shoulder at  $\sim 1070 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 8e).

525 Two types of hydrous components can be distinguished in the FTIR spectra of the samples. Interlayer  
526  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is visible by absorption bands in the  $3600 - 3000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and in the  $1650 - 1600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  region. Less re-  
527 solved spectra between  $3600$  and  $3000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicate disorder in the interlayer [49]. Such is the case  
528 with the S(VI)-, the Se(VI)- and the S(II)-AFm phases. In contrast, better ordered interlayer water is indi-  
529 cated in case of the S(IV)- and the Se(IV)-AFm. The water from the main layer, on the other hand, is vis-  
530 ible by absorption at  $\sim 3670 - 3650 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which is attributed to the hydroxyl symmetric stretching  
531 mode. In the Raman spectra similar patterns can be observed. The broad signal at  $\sim 2800 - 3600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is  
532 attributed to water bonded in the interlayer, whereas the sharp peak at  $\sim 3688 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is caused by the  
533 OH groups from the main layer [49]. The band position for  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_6$  appears at  $\sim 532 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for all inves-  
534 tigated samples as also observed for other AFm phases [16, 49]. The small absorption bands at  $1450 -$   
535  $1250 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the FTIR and at  $\sim 1086 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman spectra corresponds to weakly bound carbonate  
536 in the interlayer indicating minor  $\text{CO}_2$  contamination.

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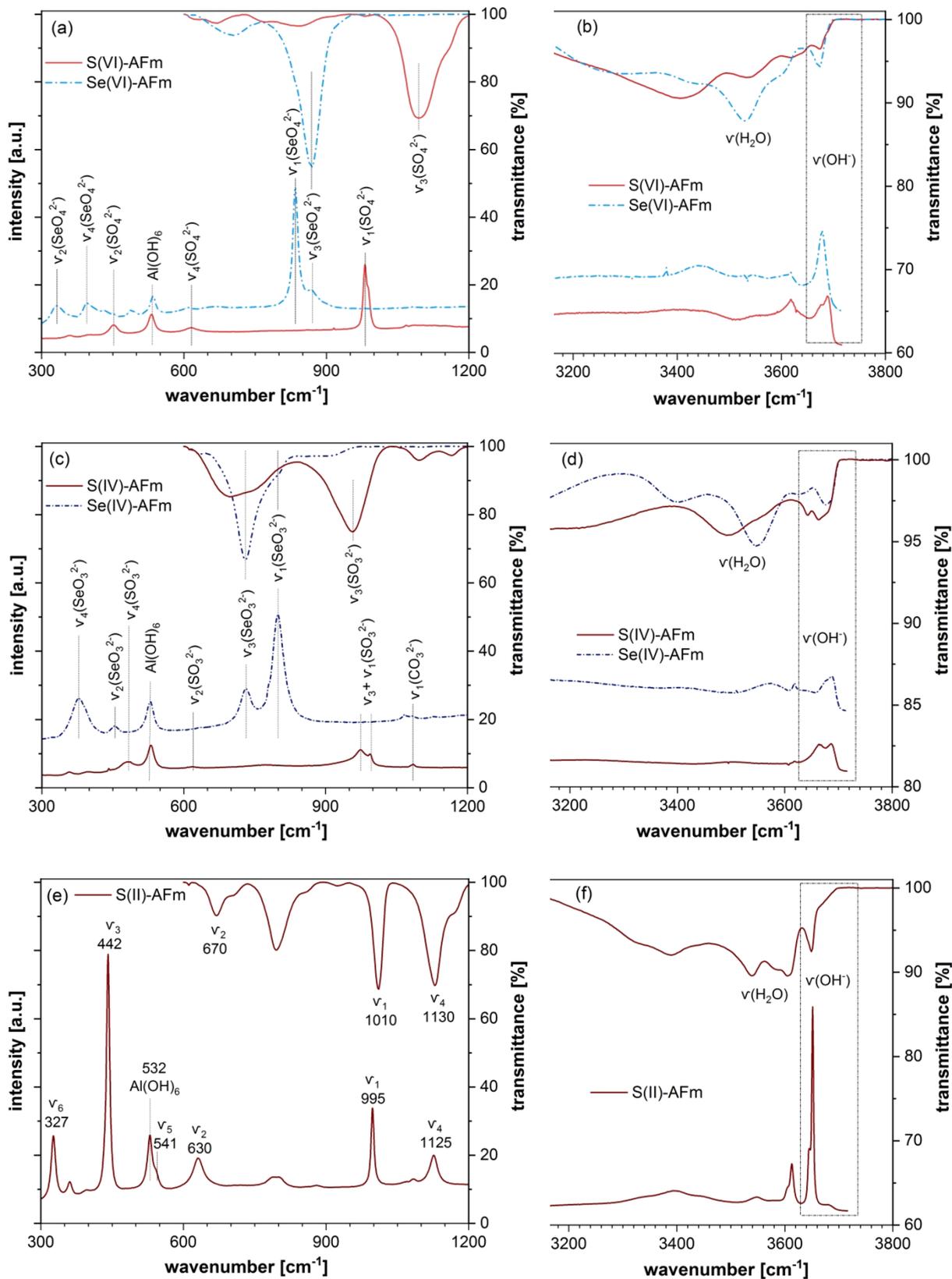
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542 **Table 5:** Summary of the main vibrational frequencies observed in the FTIR and Raman spectra of the  
 543 synthesized AFm phases; as well as comparison with literature data for the free  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ ,  
 544  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$  anions.

Species	$\nu_1$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]	$\nu_2$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]	$\nu_3$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]	$\nu_4$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]	$\nu_5$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]	$\nu_6$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]	Method
$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ (aq) <sup>[46]</sup>	983	450	1105	611			FTIR/Raman
S(VI)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	-	n.d.	1100/1160	620			FTIR
S(VI)-AFm <sup>[49], t.s.</sup>	982/990	450	1090/1160	615			Raman
$\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$ (aq) <sup>[47]</sup>	832	345	879	412			FTIR/Raman
Se(VI)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>		n.d.	874	n.d.			FTIR
Se(VI)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	835	335?	870	395?			Raman
$\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ (aq) <sup>[47]</sup>	995	669	446	1123	541	335	FTIR/Raman
S(II)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	1010	670	n.d.	1130	n.d.	n.d.	FTIR
S(II)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	995	630	442	1125	541	327	Raman
$\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ (aq) <sup>[48]</sup>	967	620	933	469			FTIR/Raman
S(IV)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	-	-	955	n.d.			FTIR
S(IV)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	995?	620	975?	480			Raman
$\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$ (aq) <sup>[47]</sup>	807	432	737	374			FTIR/Raman
Se(IV)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	800	n.d.	730	n.d.			FTIR
Se(IV)-AFm <sup>t.s.</sup>	780/800	455	730	374			Raman
$\text{Al}(\text{OH})_6$ <sup>[16, 49], t.s.</sup>		532					Raman
$\text{H}_2\text{O}$ interlayer <sup>[49], t.s.</sup>	3000-3600	1600-1650					FTIR/Raman
OH main layer <sup>[49], t.s.</sup>	3650-3670						FTIR/Raman
$\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ <sup>[16], t.s.</sup>	1086		1250-1450				FTIR/Raman

545 n.d.: no data; t.s.: this study



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549 **Figure 8:** FTIR (top) and Raman (bottom) spectra of the synthesized AFm phases in the frequencies  
 550 ranges of the interlayer anions (300 – 1200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and the hydrogen bond network (3200 – 3800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).

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The FTIR and Raman spectra confirm the presence of AFm phases with their typical  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_6$ -vibration in the  $\sim 530 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  region (Raman shift) and further allow the different interlayer ions to be identified. No clear conclusions can be made regarding the orientation of the interlayer anions to either confirm or disregard the proposed structural arrangements for the studied AFm phases.

3.2.3 DVS: Based on the initial composition obtained by TGA, the change of the hydration level of the samples as a function of the relative humidity was examined. The sorption experiments were carried out on samples which had been stored for 1 year in a desiccator over a saturated NaOH solution (RH  $\sim 8\%$ ). The data were normalized to the water content determined by TGA at 8 % RH for each sample.

The DVS of the S(VI)-AFm has been detailed in Baquerizo et al. [26]. The S(VI)-AFm contains 10.5  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  per formula unit below  $\sim 30\%$  RH, 12  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  between 30 and 97 % RH and 14  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  above 97 % RH. The S(II)-AFm shows only a single absorption step at low RH and no further changes (Fig. 9). At 5 % RH a 9  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  hydrate is observed, which transforms to a 13  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  hydrate at 30 % RH and dehydrates back to 9  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  between 10 and 20 % RH in the desorption cycle. For the Se(IV)-AFm a stable hydration state of 11  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was observed which shows no changes with increasing RH. The minimal total water content achieved for the Se(VI)-AFm is 12  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 5 % RH. The hydration state of the sample increases to 13  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 10 % RH and remains stable up to 95 % RH. Desorption occurs at 10 % RH. For the S(IV)-AFm phase an initial hydration state of 11  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is observed, which remains stable up to 70 % RH (Fig. 10). Between 70 and 95 % RH the sample undergoes a steady water uptake reaching 40  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 95 % RH and dehydrates back to 11  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 70 % RH. Due to the unusually high hydration level observed, a second measurement was performed on the S(IV)-AFm sample to verify the acquired data, giving almost identical results.

577 The sorption isotherms for the S(II)-AFm, Se(IV)-AFm and Se(VI)-AFm phases show a similar evolution  
 578 with a water decrease at lower RH (5 – 30 % RH), followed by a plateau at higher RH. This general  
 579 trend had also been observed for other AFm phases (S(VI)-AFm [26], monocarbonate, hemicarbonate  
 580 and hydroxy-AFm [27]). The high water uptake of the S(IV)-AFm at high RH could possibly be the result  
 581 of water condensation on the surface.

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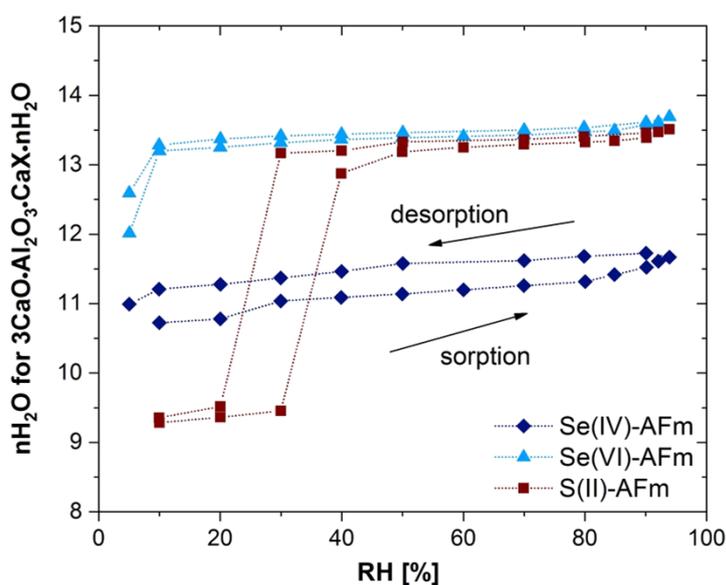
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593 **Figure 9:** Sorption isotherms for the S(II)-, Se(IV)- and Se(VI)-AFm phases measured at 25°C. The graph

594 was normalized to the n H<sub>2</sub>O determined by TGA at 8 % RH for each sample.

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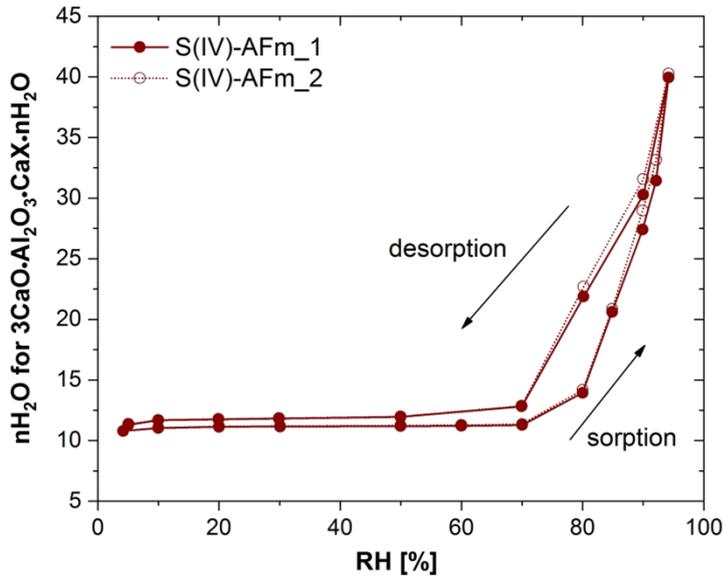
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610 **Figure 10:** Sorption isotherms for the S(IV)-AFm phase measured at 25°C showing the two measure-  
611 ments S(IV)-AFm\_1 and S(IV)-AFm\_2. The graph was normalized to the 11 H<sub>2</sub>O determined by TGA at 8  
612 % RH.

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615 3.3 Solubility products: From the measured aqueous concentrations (data compiled in Appen-  
616 dix A.1 and A.2) the solubility products for the different AFm phases were calculated. The solubility  
617 products are plotted in Figure 11 for different aging times (3 vs. 6 months) and different pH values  
618 (pH~13 vs. pH~12 for the S(VI)- and the Se(IV)-AFm). For the calculations the highest hydration state  
619 of each phase as observed in the DVS measurements was used; solely for the S(IV)-AFm the high hy-  
620 dration state of 40 H<sub>2</sub>O, which is most probably due to water condensation on the surface, was ne-  
621 glected and the solubility product calculated with 11 H<sub>2</sub>O. The calculated solubility products (log K) for  
622 all AFm phases are similar with mean values ranging between  $-30.5 \pm 1.1$  (S(II)-AFm) and  $-26.9 \pm 1.1$   
623 (S(IV)-AFm) (Table 6). The S(IV)-AFm shows the least negative value suggesting thus that it is the least  
624 stable phase. The largest scatter in calculated solubility products was observed for the S(VI)-AFm with  
625 values between  $-27.5$  to  $-30.2$  and for the Se(IV)-AFm ( $-25.5$  to  $-30.9$ ). The solubility of the S(VI)-AFm  
626 seems to decrease at high pH. At pH~13 the solubility products are less negative which could be due

627 to the formation of a solid solution between hydroxyl-AFm (OH-AFm) and S(VI)-AFm as discussed in  
628 detail by Matschei et al. [3]. A portion of the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in the interlayer is substituted by  $\text{OH}^-$  leading to the  
629 formation of an (S(VI)-OH)-AFm phase with an apparent higher solubility product, compared to pure  
630 S(VI)-AFm (mean value for all measurements at  $\text{pH}\sim 13$   $\log K = -28.1\pm 0.7$  compared to the solubility  
631 products obtained at  $\text{pH}\sim 12$   $\log K = -30.2\pm 0.7$ ). The latter value is also closer to the values of -29.3 to  
632 -29.8 reported in recent literature [14, 19, 50], where the solubility was also determined at  $\text{pH}\sim 12$ . The  
633 solubility products determined for the Se(IV)-AFm are very similar with  $-28.2\pm 1.6$  at  $\text{pH}\sim 13$  and -  
634  $28.5\pm 0.7$  at  $\text{pH}\sim 12$ . However, at the higher pH, the scatter is relatively large which could be related to  
635 the lower degree of crystallinity of the samples at higher pH values as shown in Figure 4. However, the  
636 solubility product of Se(IV)-AFm with  $-28.4\pm 0.8$  agrees well with the solubility of -28.1 recently deter-  
637 mined by Ma et al. [41]. The Se(VI)-AFm has a solubility product of  $-29.2\pm 1.5$  showing the least scatter  
638 and agrees well with the value of -28.6 published earlier by Baur & Johnson [51] within the error. The  
639 aging time seems to have no pronounced effect on the samples stability as the calculated solubility  
640 products after 6 months are comparable to those after 3 months within the errors.

641 The solubility products for S(VI)-, S(IV)-, S(II)-, Se(VI)- and Se(IV)-AFm phases are all similar with mean  
642 values of -26.9 to -30.5. These solubility products are also comparable to the solubility of other AFm  
643 phases containing oxyanions, such as the -28.4 reported for  $\text{CrO}_4$ -AFm [14] or -27.8 for  $\text{MoO}_4$ -AFm  
644 [15]. These similar solubilities of the AFm phases with oxyanions suggest that the sulfur concentration  
645 in the pore solution of the cement will strongly affect Se binding by AFm phases; high sulfur concen-  
646 tration are expected to lower Se binding.

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653 **Table 6:** Mean solubility products (log K), Gibbs energy of formation ( $\Delta_f G^0$ ), enthalpy of formation  
654 ( $\Delta_f H^0$ ), entropy ( $S^0$ ), heat capacity ( $C_p^0$ ) and molar volume ( $V^0$ ) calculated for the synthesized AFm phas-  
655 es at 20°C and 1 bar.

Phase	Log K	$\Delta_f G^0$ [kJ/mol]	$\Delta_f H^0$ [kJ/mol]	$S^0$ [J/mol·K]	$C_p^0$ [J/mol·K]	$V^0$ [cm <sup>3</sup> /mol]
S(VI)-AFm 3CaO·Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·CaSO <sub>4</sub> ·14H <sub>2</sub> O	-28.8 ±1.2	-8009	-9031	891.0	1017.8	331 <sup>[26]</sup>
S(IV)-AFm 3CaO·Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·CaSO <sub>3</sub> ·11H <sub>2</sub> O	-26.9 ±1.1	-7269	-8178	703.0	852.2	295
S(II)-AFm 3CaO·Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·CaS <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·13H <sub>2</sub> O	-30.5 ±1.1	-7795	-8782	939.1	1045.4	358
Se(VI)-AFm 3CaO·Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·CaSeO <sub>4</sub> ·13H <sub>2</sub> O	-29.2 ±1.5	-7708	-8729	905.1	1335.0	352
Se(IV)-AFm 3CaO·Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·CaSeO <sub>3</sub> ·11H <sub>2</sub> O	-28.4 ±0.8	-7152	-8056	727.2	877.6	337

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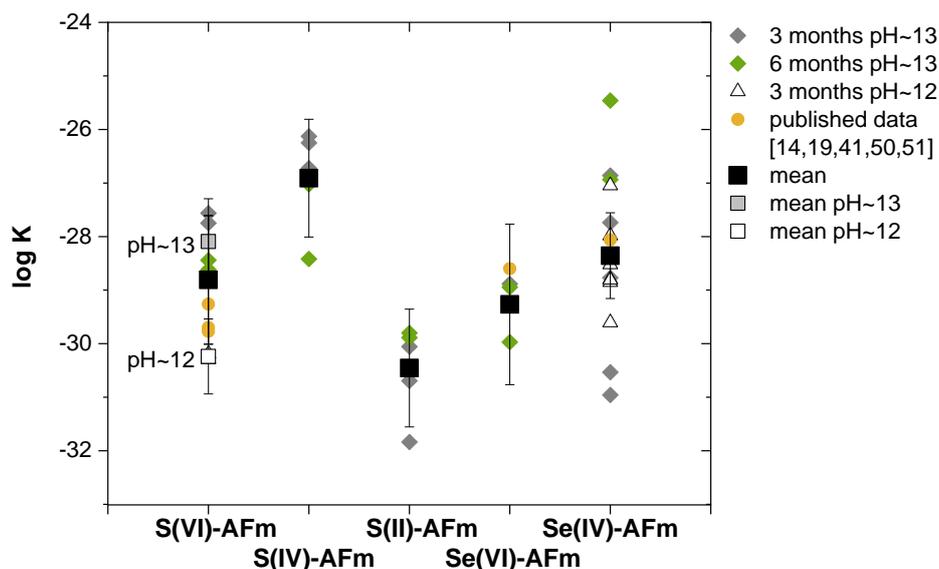
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**Figure 11:** Solubility products of the synthesized AFm phases determined at 20°C and different equilibration time and pH. Calculated error on the mean values indicate the 95% confidence interval. Black squares represent the mean values of all measurements; for the S(VI)-AFm additionally mean values for pH~13 (light grey square) and pH~12 (white square) are shown.

#### 4. Conclusions

The present study shows that the sulfur and selenium species S(VI), S(IV), S(II), Se(VI) and Se(IV) can be incorporated in the AFm-type phases. Such phases display the lamellar structure typical for the AFm family with trigonal or pseudo-trigonal symmetry (lowering of the symmetry observed) depending on the type of the interlayer anion and its coordination. The phases described in the hexagonal lattice are characterized by identical position of the (110) main layer reflection but different interlayer distances (00l harmonics). The latter distances depend on the size of the anion and/or the number of water molecules present in the interlayer. The attempt to refine the structure of these AFm phases was partially conclusive while it is acknowledged that more detailed investigations are needed.

686 The total amount of water was estimated by TGA. The number of H<sub>2</sub>O molecules in the structure was  
687 determined to be 11 H<sub>2</sub>O for the S(IV)- and Se(IV)-AFm, 12 H<sub>2</sub>O for the S(VI)-AFm, and 13 H<sub>2</sub>O for the  
688 Se(VI)- and the S(II)-AFm. The different types of structurally bound water can readily be identified by  
689 FTIR and Raman based on the position of the absorption peaks. The S(VI)-, S(II)- and Se(VI)-AFm can  
690 exist in several hydration states depending on the relative humidity of exposure.

691 All AFm show similar solubility products with the S(IV)-AFm being the least stable. The Se(IV)-AFm  
692 shows the largest scatter presumably as a result of its poor crystallinity. These similar solubilities sug-  
693 gest that high sulfur concentration in the pore solution of the cement can decrease the extent of Se  
694 binding by AFm phases.

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845

846 **6. Appendix**

847 **A.1:** Measured IC concentrations, pH and solubility products for the S-AFm phases at 20°C.

848	Al	Ca	Na	SO <sub>4</sub>	SO <sub>3</sub>	S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	pH	[OH <sup>-</sup> ]	Log K
849	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]		[mmol]	

850

851 *sulfate: S(VI)*

852 *3 months; pH~13*

853	#1	7.21	0.642	206.5	1.22*		13.2	0.161	-27.75
-----	----	------	-------	-------	-------	--	------	-------	--------

854	#2	13.74	0.551	229.6	3.67		13.1	0.137	-27.56
-----	----	-------	-------	-------	------	--	------	-------	--------

855 *6 months; pH 13*

856	#1	4.47	0.646	216.2	1.35		13.1	0.137	-28.62
-----	----	------	-------	-------	------	--	------	-------	--------

857	#2	2.64	0.902	211.0	1.50		13.1	0.125	-28.44
-----	----	------	-------	-------	------	--	------	-------	--------

858 *3 months; pH~12*

859	#1	1.41	6.28	0.565	<.052		12.1	0.012	-30.19
-----	----	------	------	-------	-------	--	------	-------	--------

860	#2	0.551	5.73	0.548	<.052		12.2	0.016	-30.29
-----	----	-------	------	-------	-------	--	------	-------	--------

861									
862	<i>sulfite: S(IV)</i>								
863	<i>3 months; pH~13</i>								
864	#1	14.46	0.616	207.1	6.40*	13.2	0.132	-26.72	
865	#2	16.13	0.664	205.9	7.92*	13.3	0.189	-26.13	
866	#3	15.56	0.640	206.6	8.02*	13.3	0.174	-26.25	
867	<i>6 months; pH~13</i>								
868	#1	14.48	0.623	224.3	7.13*	13.1	0.122	-27.02	
869	#2	2.38	0.732	211.6	4.41*	13.1	0.116	-28.42	
870									
871	<i>thiosulfate: S(II)</i>								
872	<i>3 months; pH~13</i>								
873	#1	0.056	3.29	172.5	<.045	13.2	0.141	-30.62	
874	#2	0.395	1.66	162.4	0.100	13.0	0.107	-30.05	
875	#3	0.066	2.48	179.4	0.016	13.1	0.117	-31.84	
876	<i>6 months; pH~13</i>								
877	#1	0.268	3.15	176.0	0.026	13.1	0.112	-29.89	
878	#2	0.296	3.18	172.7	0.028	13.0	0.107	-29.80	

879 \* values corrected for sulfite oxidation.

880

881

882 **A.2:** Measured IC concentrations, pH and solubility products for the Se-AFm phases at 20°C.

883	Al	Ca	Na	SeO <sub>4</sub>	SeO <sub>3</sub>	pH	[OH <sup>-</sup> ]	Log K
884	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]	[mmol/l]		[mmol]	

885

886 *selenate: Se(VI)*

887	<i>3 months; pH~13</i>							
888	#1	0.242	3.02	169.0	0.169	13.2	0.137	-28.88
889	<i>6 months; pH~13</i>							
890	#1	0.220	1.88	189.6	0.291	13.1	0.122	-29.97
891	#2	0.266	2.98	188.2	0.339	13.1	0.112	-28.94
892								
893	<i>selenite: Se(IV)</i>							
894	<i>3 months; pH~13</i>							
895	#1	20.24	0.842	225.6	0.498	13.2	0.155	-26.86
896	#2	7.81	0.526	154.8	0.257	13.0	0.091	-28.48
897	#3	5.25	0.619	156.7	0.161	13.0	0.103	-27.74
898	#4	5.08	0.181	152.4	0.253	13.0	0.099	-30.96
899	#5	15.92	0.657	205.7	0.590	13.2	0.154	-28.77
900	#6	14.36	0.289	154.9	0.221	13.0	0.099	-30.53
901	<i>6 months; pH~13</i>							
902	#1	16.63	0.300	228.5	0.676	13.1	0.127	-25.46
903	#2	19.99	0.880	240.0	1.01	13.1	0.121	-26.94
904	<i>3 months; pH~12</i>							
905	#1	2.59	7.50	0.423	0.080	12.3	0.017	-27.05
906	#2	3.72	6.67	0.420	0.012	12.0	0.009	-28.52
907	#3	0.103	7.34	1.73	0.305	12.4	0.027	-28.85
908	#4	3.12	6.99	1.71	0.004	12.1	0.012	-28.80
909	#5	2.65	7.16	1.83	0.001	12.3	0.021	-28.81
910	#6	0.125	7.44	1.76	0.139	12.2	0.015	-29.60
911	#7	2.58	7.91	0.394	0.013	12.2	0.015	-27.98