

α -Potassium Nitrate (KNO_3) Structure I: ABC3_oP20_62_c_c_cd-001

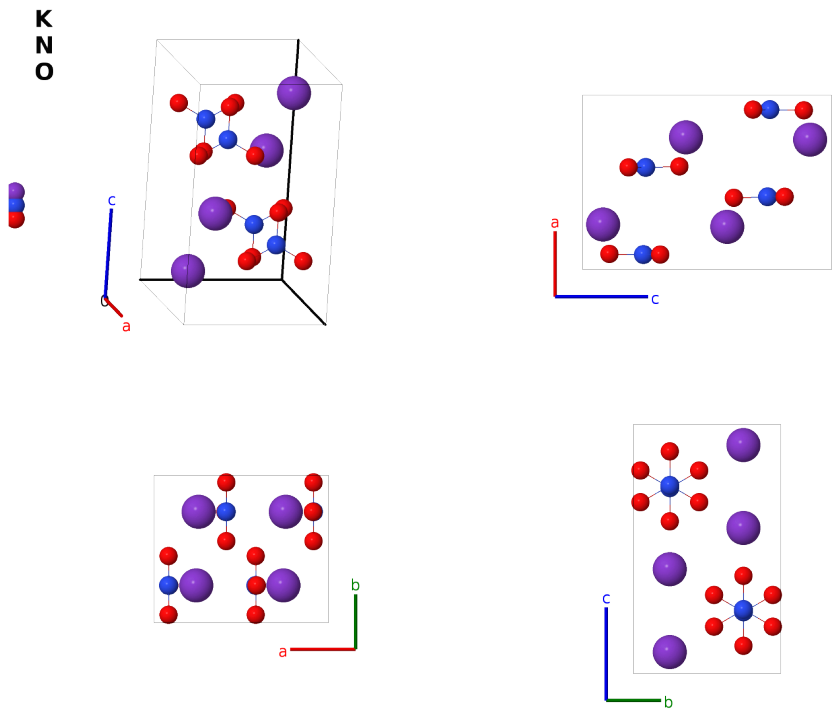
This structure previously used the label(s) ABC3_oP20_62_c_c_cd.K.N.03. Calls to these addresses will be redirected here.

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<https://aflow.org/prototype-encyclopedia/3DEN>

https://aflow.org/prototype-encyclopedia/ABC3_oP20_62_c_c_cd-001

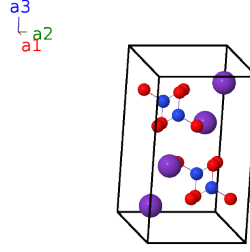


Prototype	KNO_3
AFLOW prototype label	ABC3_oP20_62_c_c_cd-001
ICSD	10289
CCDC	1595143
Pearson symbol	oP20
Space group number	62
Space group symbol	$Pnma$
AFLOW prototype command	<code>aflow --proto=ABC3_oP20_62_c_c_cd-001</code> <code>--params=a, b/a, c/a, x₁, z₁, x₂, z₂, x₃, z₃, x₄, y₄, z₄</code>

- Two possible structures have been identified for α -KNO₃: (Nimmo, 1973) proposed the current structure, which we call “Structure I,” in space group $Pnma$ #62. (Adiwidjaja, 2003) found this structure, but also noted that it could be described by a doubling of the current unit cell into a superstructure with space group $Cmc2_1$ #36, which we call “Structure II”. It is unclear to us which structure is correct, so we present both of them.
- (Nimmo, 1973) determined the lattice constants and Wyckoff positions of the type I structure at 25°C in the $Pmcn$ setting of space group #62. We present the data in the standard $Pnma$ setting.
- Argonite (CaCO₃, $G0_2$), α -KNO₃ I, and (NH₄)NO₃ III ($G0_{10}$) all share the same AFLOW label, ABC3_oP20_62_c_c_cd. The structures are generated by the same symmetry operations with different sets of parameters (`--params`) specified in their corresponding CIF files.

Simple Orthorhombic primitive vectors

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a}_1 &= a \hat{\mathbf{x}} \\ \mathbf{a}_2 &= b \hat{\mathbf{y}} \\ \mathbf{a}_3 &= c \hat{\mathbf{z}} \end{aligned}$$



Basis vectors

	Lattice coordinates		Cartesian coordinates	Wyckoff position	Atom type
$\mathbf{B}_1$	$= x_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 + z_1 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$ax_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} + cz_1 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	K I
$\mathbf{B}_2$	$= -(x_1 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 + (z_1 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-a(x_1 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{3}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} + c(z_1 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	K I
$\mathbf{B}_3$	$= -x_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 - z_1 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-ax_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{3}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} - cz_1 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	K I
$\mathbf{B}_4$	$= (x_1 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 - (z_1 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$a(x_1 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} - c(z_1 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	K I
$\mathbf{B}_5$	$= x_2 \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 + z_2 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$ax_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} + cz_2 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	N I
$\mathbf{B}_6$	$= -(x_2 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 + (z_2 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-a(x_2 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{3}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} + c(z_2 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	N I
$\mathbf{B}_7$	$= -x_2 \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 - z_2 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-ax_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{3}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} - cz_2 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	N I
$\mathbf{B}_8$	$= (x_2 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 - (z_2 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$a(x_2 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} - c(z_2 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	N I
$\mathbf{B}_9$	$= x_3 \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 + z_3 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$ax_3 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} + cz_3 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	O I
$\mathbf{B}_{10}$	$= -(x_3 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 + (z_3 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-a(x_3 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{3}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} + c(z_3 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	O I
$\mathbf{B}_{11}$	$= -x_3 \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 - z_3 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-ax_3 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{3}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} - cz_3 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	O I
$\mathbf{B}_{12}$	$= (x_3 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{a}_2 - (z_3 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$a(x_3 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{4}b \hat{\mathbf{y}} - c(z_3 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(4c)	O I
$\mathbf{B}_{13}$	$= x_4 \mathbf{a}_1 + y_4 \mathbf{a}_2 + z_4 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$ax_4 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + by_4 \hat{\mathbf{y}} + cz_4 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(8d)	O II
$\mathbf{B}_{14}$	$= -(x_4 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 - y_4 \mathbf{a}_2 + (z_4 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-a(x_4 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} - by_4 \hat{\mathbf{y}} + c(z_4 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(8d)	O II
$\mathbf{B}_{15}$	$= -x_4 \mathbf{a}_1 + (y_4 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_2 - z_4 \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$-ax_4 \hat{\mathbf{x}} + b(y_4 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{y}} - cz_4 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(8d)	O II
$\mathbf{B}_{16}$	$= (x_4 + \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_1 - (y_4 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_2 - (z_4 - \frac{1}{2}) \mathbf{a}_3$	$=$	$a(x_4 + \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{x}} - b(y_4 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{y}} - c(z_4 - \frac{1}{2}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	(8d)	O II

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{B}_{17} &= -x_4 \mathbf{a}_1 - y_4 \mathbf{a}_2 - z_4 \mathbf{a}_3 &= -ax_4 \hat{\mathbf{x}} - by_4 \hat{\mathbf{y}} - cz_4 \hat{\mathbf{z}} & (8d) & \text{O II} \\
\mathbf{B}_{18} &= \left(x_4 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \mathbf{a}_1 + y_4 \mathbf{a}_2 - \left(z_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \mathbf{a}_3 &= a \left(x_4 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + by_4 \hat{\mathbf{y}} - c \left(z_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{z}} & (8d) & \text{O II} \\
\mathbf{B}_{19} &= x_4 \mathbf{a}_1 - \left(y_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \mathbf{a}_2 + z_4 \mathbf{a}_3 &= ax_4 \hat{\mathbf{x}} - b \left(y_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{y}} + cz_4 \hat{\mathbf{z}} & (8d) & \text{O II} \\
\mathbf{B}_{20} &= -\left(x_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \mathbf{a}_1 + \left(y_4 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \mathbf{a}_2 + \left(z_4 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \mathbf{a}_3 &= -a \left(x_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + b \left(y_4 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{y}} + c \left(z_4 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{z}} & (8d) & \text{O II}
\end{aligned}$$

References

- [1] J. K. Nimmo and B. W. Lucas, *A neutron diffraction determination of the crystal structure of α -phase potassium nitrate at 25° C and 100° C*, J. Phys. C: Solid State Phys. **6**, 201–211 (1973), doi:10.1088/0022-3719/6/2/001.
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First cited in

D. Hicks, M. J. Mehl, M. Esters, C. Oses, O. Levy, G. L. W. Hart, C. Toher, and S. Curtarolo, *The AFLOW Library of Crystallographic Prototypes: Part 3*, Comput. Mater. Sci. **199**, 110450 (2021), doi: 10.1016/j.commatsci.2021.110450.