

Structural, Magnetic, and Electronic Properties of $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{M}_x\text{O}_7$ ($\text{M} = \text{Fe, Zn}$)

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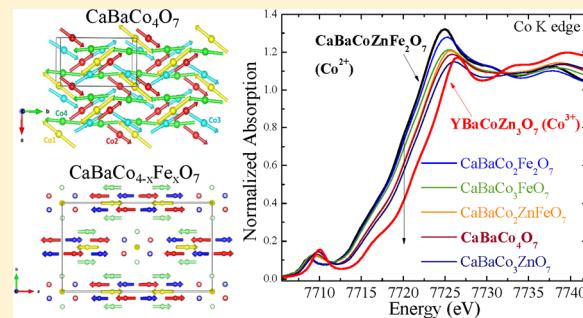
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The effect of substituting iron and zinc for cobalt in $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{O}_7$ was investigated using neutron diffraction and X-ray absorption spectroscopy techniques. The orthorhombic distortion present in the parent compound $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ decreases with increasing the content of either Fe or Zn. The samples $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ and $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ with $x \geq 1.5$ are metrically hexagonal, but much better refinements in the neutron diffraction patterns are obtained using an orthorhombic unit cell. The two types of substitution have opposite effects on the structural and magnetic properties. Fe atoms preferentially occupy the sites at the triangular layer. Thus, the replacement of Co by Fe suppresses the ferrimagnetic ordering of the parent compound, and $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($0.5 \leq x \leq 2$) samples are antiferromagnetically ordered following a new propagation vector $k = (1/3, 0, 0)$. However, the Zn atoms prefer occupying the Kagomé layer, which is very detrimental for the long-range magnetic interactions giving rise to a magnetic glass-like behavior in the $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ sample. The oxidation states of iron and zinc are found to be 3+ and 2+, respectively, independently of the content, as confirmed by X-ray absorption spectroscopy. Therefore, the average Co oxidation state changes accordingly with the Fe^{3+} or Zn^{2+} doping. Also, X-ray absorption spectroscopy data confirm the different preferential occupation for both Fe and Zn cations. The combined information obtained by neutron diffraction and X-ray absorption spectroscopy indicates that cobalt atoms can be either in a fluctuating $\text{Co}^{2+}/\text{Co}^{3+}$ valence state or, alternatively, Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} ions being randomly distributed in the lattice. These results explain the occurrence of local disorder in the CoO_4 tetrahedra obtained by EXAFS. An anomaly in the lattice parameters and an increase in the local disorder are observed only at the ferrimagnetic transition for $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$, revealing the occurrence of local magneto-elastic coupling.



INTRODUCTION

The promise for possible applications in spintronics has motivated and enhanced in the past decade the quest and the understanding of materials showing coupled magnetic and electric properties.¹ The presence of polar structures and magnetic frustration seem to be the basic ingredients for the appearance of magnetoelectric coupling. In this respect, the so-called “114” RBaCo_4O_7 ($\text{R} = \text{Y, Ln}$) compounds, belonging to the family of swedenborgites with the formula ABM_4O_7 (M being the transition metal), have been the subject of extensive studies. They show noncentrosymmetric structures with a large variety of magnetic correlations^{2–6} best illustrated by the recent emergence of the $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ compound.⁷ The former compounds show generally antiferromagnetic correlations, but more interestingly, $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ is ferrimagnetic below $T_c = 64\text{K}$ ⁷ and also shows a linear magnetoelectric coupling below this temperature.⁸ Ab initio calculations proved that the material is pyroelectric, and the large pyroelectric currents

observed were ascribed to exchange–striction effects.⁹ It adopts an orthorhombic unit cell (space group $Pbn2_1$). The crystallographic structure of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ consists of a stacking of alternating triangular (T) and kagomé (K) layers of CoO_4 tetrahedra along the c -axis. There are four different crystallographic sites for Co: Co1 stays at the T layer, while Co2, Co3, and Co4 are in the K layers.⁷ Figure 1 shows a picture of the crystal structure. The stoichiometric formula corresponds to $\text{CaBaCo}_2^{2+}\text{Co}_3^{3+}\text{O}_7$ and therefore the nominal oxidation state for Co is 2.5+. Caignaert et al.⁷ proposed a charge ordering of Co atoms in such a way that Co^{2+} occupies the Co2 and Co3 sites whereas a mixed valence $\text{Co}^{3+}/\text{Co}^{2+}\text{L}$ state is at the Co1 and Co4 sites. The complex magnetic structure of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$, also shown in Figure 1, is in agreement with the irreducible representation (Irrep) Γ_4 .⁷ It consists of a ferromagnetic

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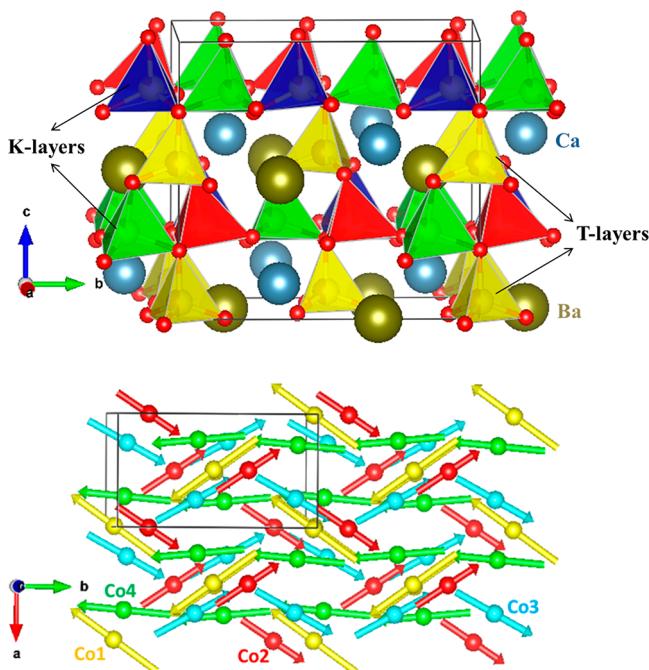


Figure 1. Top: Crystal structure of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ showing the stacking of CoO_4 tetrahedra forming T- and K-layers. Yellow, red, blue, and green tetrahedra stand for Co1 , Co2 , Co3 , and Co4 , respectively, in the orthorhombic unit cell. Bottom: Magnetic structure of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ projected onto AB -plane. Yellow, red, blue, and green arrows correspond to Co1 , Co2 , Co3 , and Co4 moments, respectively.

coupling between Co2 and Co3 spins on zigzag chains along the b -axis; while Co4 spins are oriented antiparallel to the previous ones, and Co1 spins are almost antiparallel to Co2 and Co3 spins. Ferrimagnetism appears because the magnetic moments at the Co1 and Co4 sites are larger than those at the Co2 and Co3 sites.

The substitution of Co with another transition metal may be useful to increase the transition temperature and magnetic coupling. Previous studies on Zn^{2+} substitutions showed the disappearance of ferrimagnetism in favor of antiferromagnetism (AFM) with even less than 3% of doping.^{10–12} A logic choice for Co sublattice substitution appears to be the neighbor Fe^{3+} with a $3d^5$ electronic configuration. The isostructural $Pbn2_1$ $\text{CaBaFe}_4\text{O}_7$ exhibits a ferrimagnetic transition at $T_C \sim 270$ K with a higher saturated magnetic moment with respect to that of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ and magnetoelectric coupling below 80 K under high magnetic fields.^{13–15} The effects on the structural and macroscopic magnetic properties of low Fe doping on $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ have been reported lately.^{16,17} For very low doping concentrations ($x < 0.05$), the presence of Fe is proposed to impose an AFM coupling with Co ions together with phase separation, differently from Ga^{3+} and Al^{3+} doping, which does not affect the arrangement of Co spins.¹⁶ However, a full description of the microscopic arrangement of the structural and magnetic structures of $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ for higher Fe doping values is lacking, and only a more detailed study of $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$ single crystal found a magnetic transition at 159 K to an AFM ground state.¹⁸ This sample, however, exhibited hexagonal symmetry and intrinsic structural disorder.

The aim of this work is to gain insights into the changes induced by different types of doping in the Co site of the parent compound, $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$. We are especially interested in the

variations of the local geometric and electronic structures of Co atoms and their relationship with the magnetic ground state developed by these compounds. Accordingly, a systematic study of the structural, electronic, and magnetic properties of $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 0.5$, 1, 1.5, or 2) and $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x-y}\text{Fe}_x\text{Zn}_y\text{O}_7$ ($x = 0$, 1, or 2 and $y = 1$) series is presented. The effects of Fe and Zn doping on the structural and magnetic long-range ordering are investigated by high-resolution powder neutron diffraction (HPND). Besides that, X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) measurements at the Co, Fe K, and Zn K edges were performed to shed light on the evolution of the Fe, Co, and Zn electronic state and local structure with doping. The evolution of the structural and magnetic properties with temperature was also studied by HPND and XAS in selected samples.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

The $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 0$, 0.5, 1, 1.5, and 2), $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x-y}\text{Fe}_x\text{Zn}_y\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1$, 2, and $y = 1$) and $\text{YBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ samples were prepared by ceramic procedures, similarly to the procedure described in ref 7. Stoichiometric amounts of Co_3O_4 , Fe_2O_3 , ZnO , BaCO_3 , and CaCO_3 (or Y_2O_3) were mixed and fired at 960 °C overnight. Then, the powders were pressed into pellets and sintered at 1100 °C for 18 h and quenched into air. Two samples, $\text{CaBaCo}_{2.5}\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{O}_7$ and $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$, were also prepared with an annealing in an Ar flow at 1100 °C to test the effect of the atmosphere in the physical properties. In the same way, selected samples were prepared in oxygen current flows ($\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$, $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$, or $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$). No significant differences were detected.

X-ray diffraction patterns collected at room temperature agreed with the formation of single phase samples. Neutron diffraction experiments were carried out at the Institute Laue Langevin (Grenoble, France) high-flux reactor. The high-resolution powder diffractometer D2B ($\lambda = 1.596$ Å) with an angular range $5^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 160^\circ$ was used to perform crystallographic studies at selected temperatures between 1.5 and 400 K. The high flux powder diffractometer D1B ($\lambda = 2.52$ Å) with an angular range $5^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 128^\circ$ was used to collect thermodiffractograms between room temperature and 2 K for the $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ and $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$ samples. The refinements (Rietveld method) of crystal and magnetic structures were made using the Fullprof program.¹⁹ These refinements were performed in two ways, either using the traditional refinement of fractional coordinates or by the refinement of mode amplitudes obtained from the symmetry mode analysis.^{20,21} The symmetry mode analysis was made using the ISODISTORT tool.²²

Measurements of magnetic hysteresis loops at 5 K were carried out between -50 and $+50$ kOe by using a commercial superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) magnetometer from Quantum Design.

XAS measurements at the Co, Fe, and Zn K edges were carried out with a Si(111) double crystal monochromator at the BM23 beamline²³ of the ESRF (Grenoble, France). X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) spectra were normalized to unity edge jump using the Athena software from the Demeter package.²⁴ The extraction of the extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) $\chi(k)$ signals was also performed using the Athena program and the Fourier Transform (FT) curves of the k weighted $\chi(k)$ signals were obtained for the k range [1.8, 12.5], $\Delta k = 0.3$ Å⁻¹, using a sinus window. The EXAFS structural analysis was performed using theoretical phases and amplitudes calculated by the FEFF-6 code²⁵ and fits to the experimental data were carried out in R-space with the Artemis program of the Demeter package.²⁴ The reference compounds for Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} on a tetrahedral oxygen environment are $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$, respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Crystal Structure at Room Temperature. Room temperature HPND patterns were collected for $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x =$

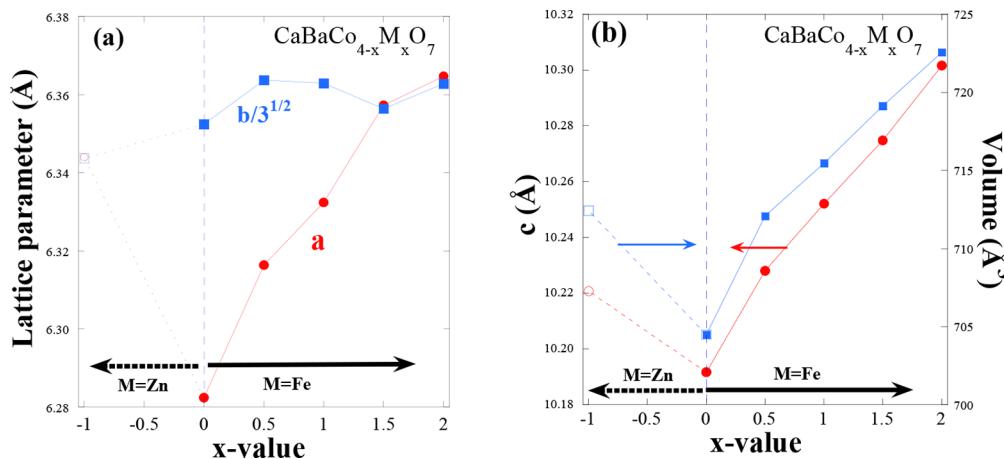


Figure 2. Comparison of the lattice parameters for $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ and $\text{CoBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_7$ series. Panel a shows the evolution of a - and b -axes, while panel b displays c -axis and unit cell volume. Closed and open symbols refer to Fe- and Zn-doped samples, respectively. Data for $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ were obtained from D1B data.

0.5, 1, 1.5, and 2), $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$. The patterns agree with a swedenborgite single phase isostructural to the orthorhombic $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$.⁷ The latter was also measured using the D1B instrument for the sake of comparison. The refined lattice parameters are shown in Figure 2. The effect of replacing Co by either Fe or Zn induces different changes in the crystal structure. As Co is substituted, the a - and c -axes expand for both kinds of substitutions. However, the b -axis contracts in the case of Zn-substitution, while it slightly increases for the Fe-based compounds. Overall, the structural effects of Zn-substitution are more important in the AB -plane, while the Fe-doping leads to a higher expansion of the c -axis. In both types of substitution, the unit cell volume increases with decreasing the Co-content in the chemical formula. Moreover, the evolution of the c axis and the volume with doping is similar in both series, the last being ascribed to the expansion of c -axis. The average expansion of the $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ unit cell with doping can be understood in basis to differences in the ionic radius. According to ref 26, Zn^{2+} and high spin Fe^{3+} in tetrahedral coordination are bigger than Co^{2+} (bigger than Co^{3+}). Therefore, the replacement of Co by either Zn or Fe leads to an increase of the unit cell. However, the peculiar behavior of the b -axis reveals additional effects inducing crystal anisotropy.

Preliminary structural characterization²⁷ reported that $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{M}_x\text{O}_7$ ($\text{M} = \text{Fe}$ or Zn ; $x = 1, 2$) adopt the hexagonal structure of the swedenborgite (space group $P6_3mc$). This suggests composition-driven structural transitions in the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{M}_x\text{O}_7$ system. Using X-ray powder diffraction, $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_7$ has been reported to possess an orthorhombic cell for $x < 0.8$ and a hexagonal one for $x \geq 0.8$,¹¹ while in the case of the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ series, the transition occurs for x -values between 0.5 and 1.¹⁷ Our results indicate that the orthorhombic distortion decreases with increasing the x -values in both series as can be seen in Figure 2(a). However, the orthorhombic distortion is clearly still noticeable in the HPND patterns of $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$ contrary to previous results.¹⁷ The $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$, $\text{CaBaCo}_{2.5}\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{O}_7$, and $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$ samples are metrically hexagonal within the experimental error, but the structural refinements using the space group $P6_3mc$ yield unsatisfactory results with very poor reliability factors and several diffraction peaks whose intensity cannot be accounted for. The use of the orthorhombic model,

$Pbn2_1$, amended these problems, so we decided to perform the whole structural analysis using this model.

Therefore, one can obtain reasonable fits of the HPND patterns by using the orthorhombic model and refining fractional coordinates. However, a large statistical error is observed in the z -coordinate of all atoms. This may be related to the fact that we are working with a polar structure and all atoms are in general positions, which increases the error on its determination. Previous studies on $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ have overcome this problem by fixing some z -coordinates⁷ whose physical meaning could be questionable. For another sample, $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$, the split of some oxygen positions has been proposed.¹⁸ To gain more insight into the structural details of these compounds, we made use of a symmetry analysis. Under this approach, one has to refine the amplitudes of certain symmetry modes that relate a distorted structure to the ideal parent structure. We took as parent structure of a swedenborgite the noncentrosymmetric hexagonal one with space group $P6_3mc$. Using the ISODISTORT tool, we explored the distortions able to transform the hexagonal structure into the orthorhombic one. The orthorhombic distortion is related to the hexagonal parent structure with the following lattice vectors: $\mathbf{a}_0 = (0, 1, 0)$, $\mathbf{b}_0 = (2, 1, 0)$, and $\mathbf{c}_0 = (0, 0, -1)$ with the same origin. The active point for this transition in the first Brillouin zone is $\mathbf{k} = (1/2, 0, 0)$. Therefore, the relationships between orthorhombic and hexagonal lattice parameters are $\mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a}_h$, $\mathbf{b}_0 = \sqrt{3}\mathbf{b}_h$ and $\mathbf{c}_0 = \mathbf{c}_h$. There are active modes which belong to three different Irreps in the hypothetical $P6_3mc \rightarrow Pbn2_1$ transition. The active Irreps are GM1 and GMS ($\mathbf{k} = 0$) with 10 and 13 active modes, respectively, and the Irrep M2, $\mathbf{k} = (1/2, 0, 0)$, with 15 modes, which must be the primary modes of this transition. The quality of the fits after refining either fractional coordinates or mode amplitudes is similar. However, the second method allowed us to see the origin of the problem: the error in the z -coordinate is still high, and it is due to some modes corresponding to the Irrep GM1. One possibility is to nullify the contribution of these modes (similar to fixing fractional coordinates), but we noticed that the problematic modes of Irrep GM1 show a high correlation among them, which can be removed by adding a simple constrain. In this way, the same parameter is used to refine both the GM1 mode acting on Co at (2a) Wyckoff position in the hexagonal cell (T-layer), and the GM modes acting on Co at (6c) position (K-

layer). With this simple link (reducing a free parameter), the statistical error is strongly reduced. Figure 3 shows an example of the refinements obtained by following this procedure and the refined structural parameters can be found in the [Supporting Information](#) (Table S1).

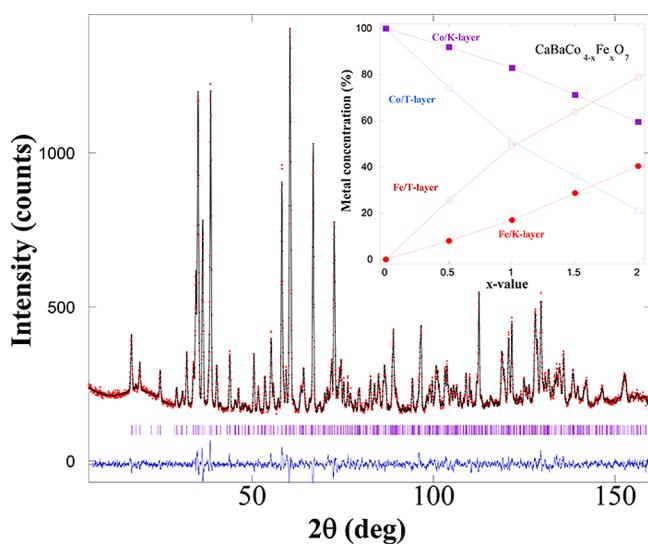


Figure 3. Rietveld refinement of the HPND pattern of $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$ sample at room temperature. Inset: Metal distribution in K- and T-layers for the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ samples.

The cation distribution on the T- and K-layers is a critical point to describe the magnetic behavior of the samples. In order to address this problem, the occupancies of the $\text{Co}(\text{M})$ atoms have been refined in both layers, keeping constant the nominal composition (i.e., correlating occupancies of different crystallographic sites). The results on M distributions ([Supporting Information](#), Table S1) are displayed in the inset of Figure 3 for the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ series. Our refinements reveal that the substitution of Co with Fe is not completely random. Fe tends to occupy preferentially the sites at the T-layer, and then, the concentration of Co atoms decreases more quickly in the T-layer with increasing x in the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ samples. The opposite happens in the $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ sample. Here, the refinements reveal that all Zn atoms occupy the K-layer (33% in concentration), and the T-layer is only composed of Co atoms. The preferential occupations of Fe and Zn atoms can be explained on the basis of the steric effects in the swedenborgite cell.

According to our structural refinements (see [Supporting Information](#), Table S2), the average distance in the $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{O}_4$ tetrahedron increases with the Fe/Zn content. For the iron series because iron atoms enter as Fe^{3+} , this increase can be explained by the decrease of the Co valence state that implies an increase of the Co–O interatomic distances. The difference among the four crystallographic sites is very small. The $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{O}_4$ tetrahedron shows the shortest average $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{-O}$ distance independently of the composition, whereas the $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{O}_4$ tetrahedron has also a short distance but it increases with the Fe/Zn doping. On the other hand, $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{O}_4$ and $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{O}_4$ tetrahedra show larger average $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{-O}$ distances, which remain nearly independent of the doping. This separation in two groups justifies the charge ordering proposed by Caignaert et al.⁷ for the undoped sample. However, this interpretation must be taken with caution due to

the high dispersion of the $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{-O}$ distances on each crystallographic site. In any case, our results suggest that Fe is mainly incorporated as Fe^{3+} in the compressed $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{O}_4$ tetrahedral sites (T-layer) in the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ series, whereas Zn occupies indistinctly the three sites of the Kagome layer.

Magnetic Ordering at Low Temperature. For the sake of comparison between the two magnetic arrangements found in this study, neutron thermodiffractograms were acquired for $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ and $\text{CoBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$ at the D1B instrument ($\lambda = 2.52 \text{ \AA}$) between 2 and 350 K. The neutron thermodiffractograms can be viewed in the [Supporting Information](#). Clearly, the magnetic contribution at low temperature is very different for the two samples, and this fact leads to different temperature dependences of the unit cell for each sample. Figure 4 shows the evolution of the refined lattice parameters with temperature for both samples. This evolution is compared with the emergence of long-range magnetic ordering. In the case of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$, the new magnetic peaks appear around $T_C = 70 \text{ K}$ and they agree with a $\mathbf{k} = 0$ propagation vector. A non-collinear ferrimagnetic ordering of Co moments with a main component along b -axis (see Figure 1) accounts for the experimental pattern, in agreement with previous studies.⁷ The occurrence of the ferrimagnetic peaks at T_C is correlated with significant changes in the lattice parameters. Overall, the a - and c -axes decrease with decreasing temperature above T_C . However, the b -axis exhibits an unusual expansion on cooling. At T_C , the contraction of the a -axis is suddenly interrupted, and it remains almost constant below this temperature. In the case of the c -axis, a noticeable peak marks the onset of the magnetic transition. Finally, the b -axis shows an inflection point at T_C , and then it remains constant on cooling. The magnetic structure was refined in the frame of the magnetic (Shubnikov's) group $Pb'n2_1'$. Figure 5 shows the temperature dependence of the refined magnetic moments for the four nonequivalent Co atoms. Clearly, different moments are observed for the atoms with AFM coupling at low temperature. Thus, the pair composed by Co2 and Co3 has moments close to $2.25 \mu_B/\text{at}$ whereas values of 2.7 and $3.0 \mu_B/\text{at}$ are obtained for Co4 and Co1, respectively. This difference has been identified as an indicator of a $\text{Co}^{2+}/\text{Co}^{3+}$ charge ordering in the lattice,⁷ but the refined values are well below the theoretical moments expected for the high-spin ions in tetrahedral coordination: 4 and $3 \mu_B/\text{at}$ for Co^{3+} and Co^{2+} , respectively, even considering hybridization effects. This implies either a complicated mixture of Co (different charges or spin configurations) in each crystallographic site or the lack of a full polarization in the magnetic ground state.

In the case of $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$, the magnetic contribution appears at higher temperature, around $T_N = 150 \text{ K}$. The new magnetic peaks indexed as $(h/3, k, l)$ reveal that the magnetic structure follows the $\mathbf{k} = (1/3, 0, 0)$ propagation vector. This is true for all $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ samples studied in this work ($0.5 \leq x \leq 2$), indicating that the replacement of Co by Fe leads to a drastic change in the magnetic interactions, which gives rise to a new microscopic magnetic arrangement. Within our experimental resolution, the magnetic structure is commensurate, as we have not detected any temperature dependence in neither the propagation vector nor the magnetic peaks position (see Figure S1-b in the [Supporting Information](#), for instance). Magnetic arrangements following this propagation vector are quite unusual, but examples can be found in oxides with triangular AFM orderings.²⁸ In the case of hexagonal

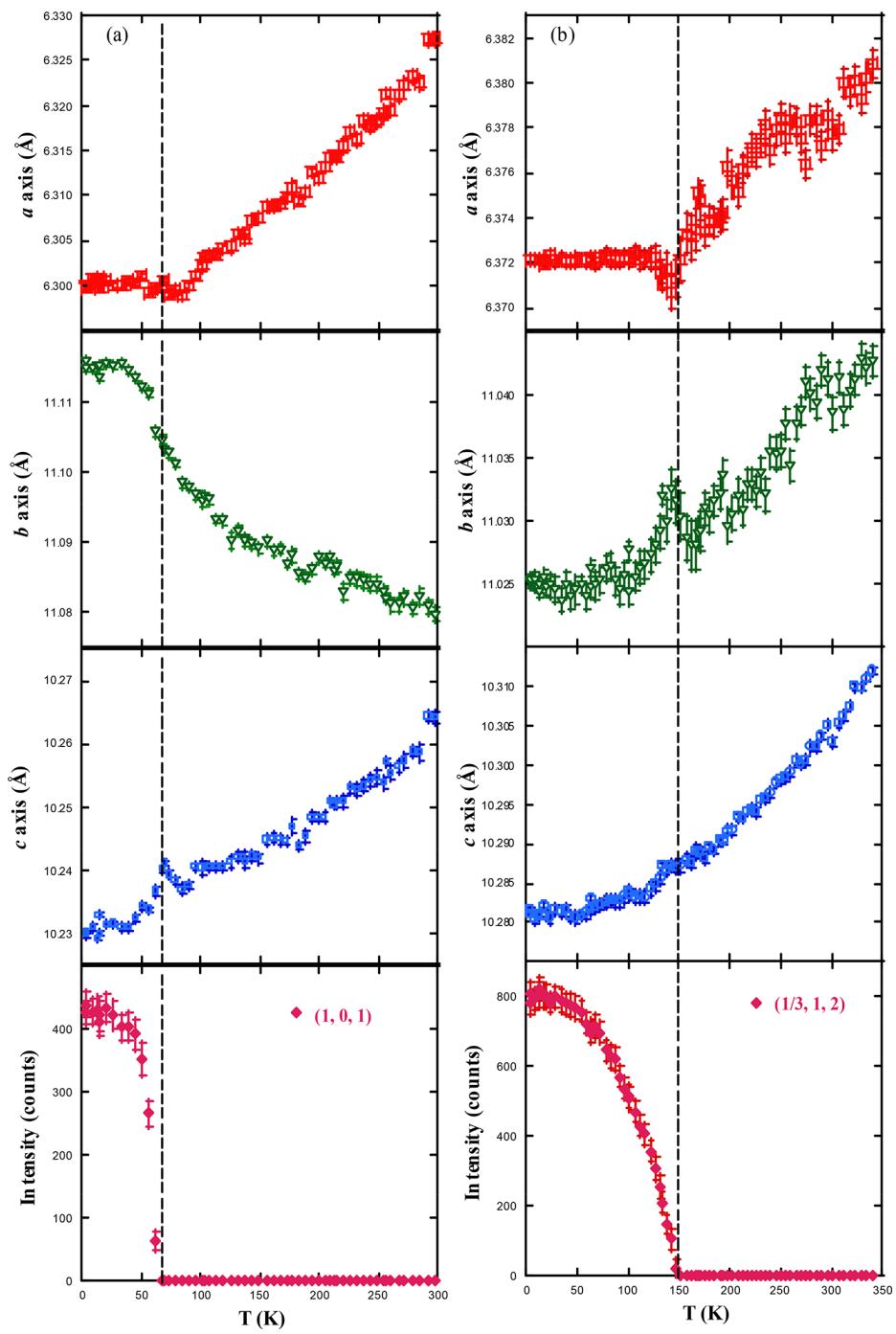


Figure 4. Temperature dependence of the refined cell parameters and the integrated intensity of the most intense magnetic peak for (a) $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ and (b) $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$.

swedenborgite, a mean-field approach using Monte Carlo simulations²⁹ predicts different magnetic orderings depending on the relative values of two magnetic exchange integrals: within the K layer (J_{in}) and between K- and T-layers (J_{out}). The magnetic structure with $\mathbf{k} = (1/3, 0, 0)$ appears for $J_{\text{out}}/J_{\text{in}} > 0.7$ while $J_{\text{out}}/J_{\text{in}} > 1.5$ leads to a collinear ferrimagnetic arrangement. The replacement of Co by Fe seems to decrease the value of J_{out} favoring the $\mathbf{k} = (1/3, 0, 0)$ structure. These results agree with previous studies on $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$.¹⁸ The lattice parameters of $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$ show different temperature dependencies. The three axes are contracted on cooling from room temperature, as expected. At the magnetic transition

temperature T_{N} , a clear valley and peak are observed in the a - and b -axes, respectively. Below T_{N} , the contraction of the a -axis is newly quenched. Finally, a small jump is observed in the c -axis at T_{N} .

To find the new magnetic arrangement of the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($0.5 \leq x \leq 2$) series, a symmetry analysis was carried out using ISODISTORT tool. Details of the analysis and model used can be found in the [Supporting Information](#). Figure 6 shows the results obtained for $\text{CoBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$, and the refined magnetic moments are summarized in the [Supporting Information](#) (Tables S3–S6). The resulting magnetic structure is displayed in the Figure 7. First of all, the refinements reveal a

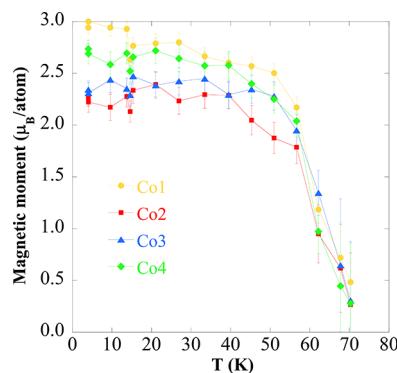


Figure 5. Temperature dependence of the refined magnetic moments for the four nonequivalent Co atoms in the $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ lattice.

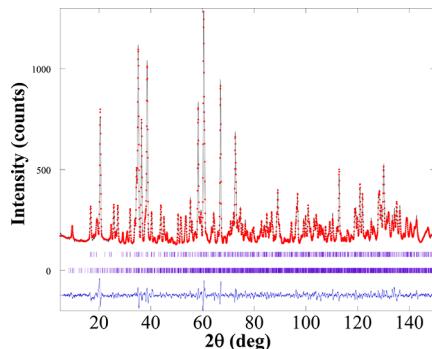


Figure 6. Rietveld refinement of the HPND pattern of $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$ sample at 1.5 K.

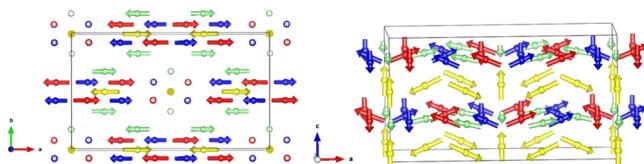


Figure 7. Magnetic structure of $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($0.5 \leq x \leq 2$) projected onto AB-plane (left) and AC-plane (right). Yellow spins corresponds to Co1(Fe1) atoms in the T-layer while the rest are at the K-layers. Red, blue and green moments correspond to Co2 , Co3 , and Co4 sites, respectively.

main antiferromagnetic coupling between the atoms in the T- and K-layers, in agreement with previous theoretical predictions^{29,30} for values of J_{out} sufficiently strong. This interaction probably prevents the magnetic frustration in the K-layer. In the AC-plane, there is a three-fold modulation of the moments, while the projection along the BC-plane reveals a hexagonal pattern in the magnetic arrangement along x - and z -directions. Although Fe tends to occupy preferentially the site in the T-layer, the substitution of Co by Fe is quite random. This randomness seems to be responsible for the new 3-fold periodic order with magnetic moments far below from the theoretical ones.

The effects of Zn doping are rather different on the magnetic ordering of the parent compound. In the case of $\text{CoBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ sample, there is no trace of long-range magnetic ordering at low temperatures, as shown in Figure 8, which compares the HPND patterns at room temperature and 1.5 K. At low temperature, no new magnetic peaks are observed in the HPND pattern of $\text{CoBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$, but the occurrence of diffuse

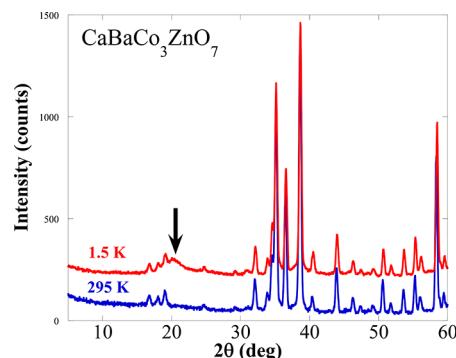


Figure 8. Details of the HPND patterns of $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ collected at 1.5 and 295 K. The arrow shows the diffuse scattering observed at low temperature, indicating short-range magnetic ordering.

scattering at $2\theta \sim 20^\circ$ indicates a mere short-range magnetic ordering in this compound. This result agrees with a recent study using polarized neutrons which reveals a dominant 2D character of the spin correlations and strong 3D frustration.³¹ Therefore, the substitution of Co^{2+} with the nonmagnetic Zn^{2+} in the K-layer is detrimental for the magnetic arrangement.

Magnetic measurements concur with the neutron diffraction measurements. As an example, some magnetic hysteresis loops at 5 K are shown in the *Supporting Information* (Figure S2). $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ exhibits spontaneous magnetization with a rectangular-like loop and high coercive fields (about 20 kOe). However, $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$ and $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ display a linear $M(H)$ curve, as expected for AFM or paramagnetic materials.

X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy Results. To gain insights into the electronic properties of these compounds, XANES spectra of the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 0, 1, 2$) series and the $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ compound were measured. In addition, spectra of $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$, $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$, and $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{FeZnO}_7$ samples were collected as nominal references for Co^{2+} , Co^{3+} , and Co^{2+5} , respectively, with tetrahedral local symmetry. In this way, a recent study at the Co $L_{2,3}$ edges (soft X-ray absorption) confirmed the presence of tetrahedral Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} in the spectrum of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ compound.³² The XANES spectra at the Co K edge of all the samples are plotted in Figure 9(a). There is an evolution of both the position of the Co K absorption edge and the pre-edge peak to higher energies with decreasing the Fe content for the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ series. This agrees with an oxidation of the Co valence state from 2+ up to a formal 2.5+ in $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$. The white line intensity also decreases as the formal Co oxidation state increases, while the intensity of the pre-edge feature increases in agreement with the increase of empty d states with respect to Co^{2+} . The chemical shift (~ 2.7 eV) between $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$ reference samples agrees with the presence of only Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} in the $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$ samples, respectively.³³ The Fe K edge normalized XANES for Fe doped samples are shown in Figure 9(b), and there is no energy shift in between them, being $E_0 = 7124.5$ eV, corresponding to the first maximum on the derivative. This corresponds to a chemical shift of 12.5 eV with respect to the metallic Fe reference foil, in agreement with the presence of only Fe^{3+} in all of the studied samples.³⁴ Similarly, the normalized XANES spectra at Zn K edge on Zn doped samples barely change (see Figure 9(c)), which indicates that Zn^{2+} on a tetrahedral environment is stable as well in all the compositions. These results confirm that Fe and Zn are incorporated as Fe^{3+}

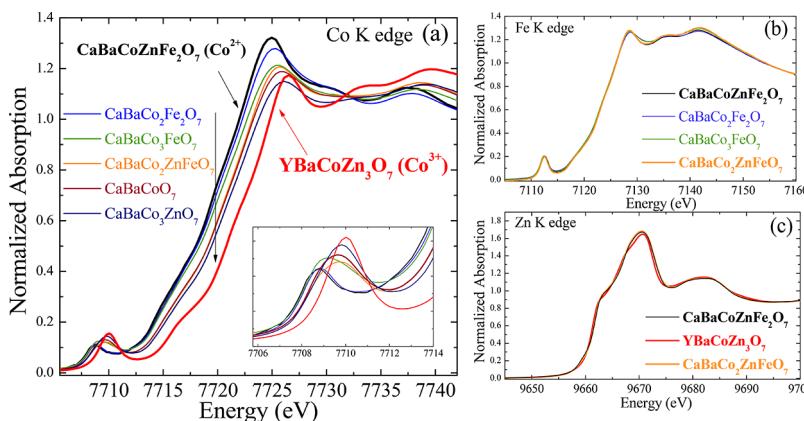


Figure 9. Normalized XANES spectra for CaBaCo_7 , $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1, 2$), $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$, and $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{ZnFeO}_7$ at the Co K-edge (a), including Co^{2+} (black) and Co^{3+} (red) references, and a zoom of the pre-edge region in the inset; at the Fe K-edge (b) and at the Zn K-edge (c).

and Zn^{2+} in the whole $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ series and the $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ compound, respectively.

The average Co oxidation state for the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{M}_x\text{O}_7$ ($\text{M} = \text{Fe}$ or Zn) samples has been then estimated by assuming the linear relationship between the chemical shift and the oxidation state³⁵ when using the appropriate references for Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} . The resulting oxidation states are summarized on Table 1, together with the formal oxidation state (assuming only Fe^{3+}

Table 1. Experimental Chemical Shift and Corresponding Co Valence State for All the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{M}_x\text{O}_7$ ($\text{M} = \text{Fe}$ or Zn) and $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$ Compounds

sample	Co formal valence state	chemical shift (eV)	Co valence state
$\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$	2	0.0	2
$\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$	2	0.18	2.07(5)
$\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$	2.33	0.47	2.17(5)
$\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{FeZnO}_7$	2.5	1.05	2.39(5)
$\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$	2.5	1.12	2.41(5)
$\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$	2.66	1.43	2.53(5)
$\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$	3	2.72	3

and Zn^{2+} in the nominal composition). All values are in a reasonable agreement with the expected stoichiometry, within the experimental error bar, although a slight oxygen deficiency cannot be discarded in some compositions. A mixed-valence oxidation state is found for the Co atom in all the studied $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{M}_x\text{O}_7$ ($\text{M} = \text{Fe}$ or Zn) samples. There are two possibilities for this mixed-valence Co state: an intermediate valence state or the existence of Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} ionic species, either nearly randomly distributed in the lattice (no clear charge ordering can be justified by crystallography) or each site temporally fluctuating between Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} valence states. To distinguish between them, a weighted sum of the two reference XANES spectra for Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} was performed. The best-fit XANES spectra are shown in Figure 10. The agreement between the simulated and the experimental spectra is quite good, and the experimental quantification agrees with the results in Table 1 within the error bar. The weighted sum spectra reproduce very well the absorption edge slope of the experimental spectra and also the white line, suggesting the existence of Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} formal ionic species and discarding an intermediate valence state of Co ion.

The average local structure around Co ions has been investigated by EXAFS on the aforementioned samples. The

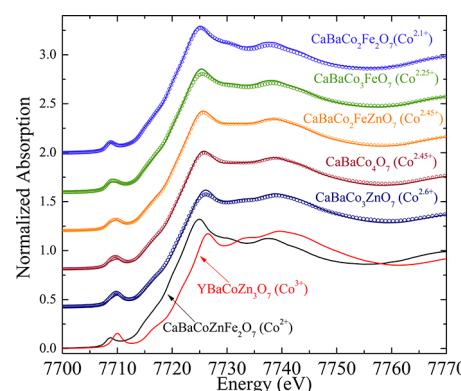


Figure 10. Comparison between the measured XANES spectra (points) and the best-fit weighted average sum (lines) of Co^{3+} ($\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$) and Co^{2+} ($\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$) reference XANES spectra, plotted on the bottom part of the graph.

forward Fourier Transformed signals (FFT) of the k^2 -weighted EXAFS signals of the parent compound and Fe and Zn doped samples ($x = 1$) are represented in Figure 11. The first peak on

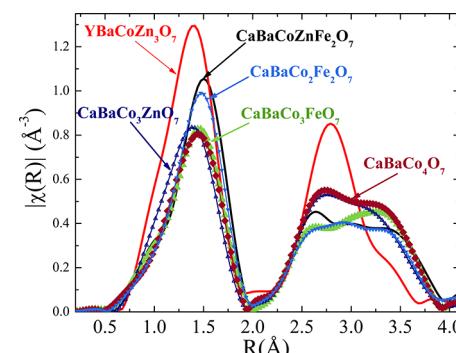


Figure 11. Modulus of the Fourier transformed EXAFS signal weighted in k^2 ($k: [1.8, 12.5]$, $\Delta k = 0.5$) for CaBaCo_7 , $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1, 2$), and $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ at $T = 35$ K.

the FFT curve corresponds to the first coordination shell around Co, that is, a tetrahedral CoO_4 environment. The most intense peak at the lowest R value corresponds to $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$, in agreement with the shortest Co–O distances (Co^{3+} reference) and the lowest disorder in the Co local environment. The second sharpest peak is observed for the

Co^{2+} reference compound, $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$. In this case, the peak appears at higher R -values as expected for longer $\text{Co}^{2+}\text{-O}$ bond lengths. The first coordination shell peak is less intense for the rest of the samples and appears at an intermediate position between those of the two references. The only exception is $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$ that shows almost the same first oxygen coordination shell as the $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$ reference sample, in agreement with the deduced Co^{2+} oxidation state from the XANES analysis (see Table 1 and Figure 10). The references exhibit very different features in the second coordination shell (between 2.5 and 3.5 Å) that are related to the different sites occupied by Co^{3+} (T-layer) or Co^{2+} (K-layer).

To correlate the local disorder of the CoO_4 tetrahedra on the different compositions with the type and position of the dopant in the crystal structure, we analyzed the first oxygen coordination shell around Co considering a regular CoO_4 tetrahedron with one unique average distance Co-O and one Debye–Waller (D–W) factor. The results are summarized in Table 2. The D–W factor includes both thermal and static

the Co valence state. In the former sample, Co is 2+ mainly located in the K-layer, while for the latter compound, Co is 3+ only located in the T-layer. The best weighted sum compared to the experimental signal of a given sample indicates the Co valence state in such sample. The results can be seen in the Supporting Information (Figure S3) and, overall, the Co valence state agrees with the previous estimation using XANES spectra. In this way, the larger D–W factor for the intermediate doped samples can be interpreted as due to the presence of two Co-O interatomic distances corresponding to Co^{3+} and Co^{2+} tetrahedra. This result confirms then the presence of two Co valences in all the doped $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{M}_x\text{O}_7$ ($\text{M} = \text{Fe, Zn}$) samples either randomly distributed or temporally fluctuating over the four distinct crystallographic sites in the orthorhombic lattice.

Complementary data have been obtained from the analysis of the first oxygen coordination shell around the Fe atom in the $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1, 2$) and $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{ZnO}_7$ samples, and the results are also summarized in Table 2. The same average Fe-O interatomic distance is found in all the three samples for the FeO_4 tetrahedron according to the presence of only Fe^{3+} .³⁶ Regarding the D–W factors, the higher value is obtained for $\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$, being of the same order as that of the CoO_4 tetrahedra. Therefore, the same distribution of Co and Fe atoms over more than one crystallographic site takes place in this sample. For the other two Fe-doped samples, very low Debye–Waller factors are determined for the FeO_4 tetrahedra, indicating a regular oxygen environment in contrast with the highly disordered one around the Co atoms. This result indicates that Fe atoms prefer to fully occupy one crystallographic site first, confirming the results from neutron diffraction of a preferential incorporation on the T-layer, while Co atoms are distributed among the remaining crystallographic sites.

The temperature dependence of EXAFS spectra of $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$, $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1, 2$), and $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ samples was studied from 35 K up to room temperature (RT) at the Co K-edge. The FFT of the k^2 -weighted EXAFS spectra at selected temperatures is plotted in Figure 12(a). The major changes appear on the peaks corresponding to the second coordination shell, involving mainly Co-Ba/Ca and Co-Co/M (M: Fe, Zn) scattering paths. The structural analysis was performed including only single scattering paths up to 4 Å, i.e. Co-O , Co-Ba/Ca , Co-Co/M , and using a model that considers one Co atom with the local environment corresponding to the average of the distinct crystallographic sites in the orthorhombic structure. In addition, following our results from neutron diffraction and first-shell EXAFS analysis, for the Fe-doped samples, we consider that Fe fully occupies the T-site, and the rest is occupied by Co. Other fits with Fe ions on the other crystallographic sites on the initial model were tested and gave always worse fitting parameters. In the case of Zn doping, it is considered that it is placed on K-layer sites. The corresponding best-fits and experimental data at 35 K are shown in Figure 12(b). The excellent agreement validates the proposed structural model and makes the use of further contributions unnecessary.

Upon heating, the Co-O , Co-Co(M) , and Co-Ba/Ca distances are barely changing with temperature within the experimental error bar for all compositions (see Supporting Information Figure S4). Figure 13 shows the thermal dependence of the D–W factors for the Co-O and Co-Co contributions. The very low dependence with temperature

Table 2. Results from the EXAFS Fits of the First Coordination Shell for the $\text{Co}(\text{Fe})\text{O}_4$ Tetrahedron at $T = 35$ K: Average $\text{Co}(\text{Fe})\text{-O}$ Interatomic Distances and Their Debye–Waller Factor^a

Co K-edge				
sample	$R \langle \text{Co-O} \rangle$ (Å)	$\langle \sigma^2 \rangle_{\text{Co-O}}$ (Å ²)	ΔE_0 (eV)	R fit
$\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$	1.94 (1)	0.0044 (6)	-2.4 (8)	0.009
$\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$	1.93 (1)	0.0042 (3)	-2.8 (4)	0.011
$\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$	1.92 (1)	0.0069 (4)	-4.0 (8)	0.010
$\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{FeZnO}_7$	1.89 (1)	0.0074 (6)	-2.5 (4)	0.005
$\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$	1.90 (1)	0.0076 (6)	-2.0 (9)	0.011
$\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$	1.88 (1)	0.0066 (5)	-5.3 (6)	0.007
$\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$	1.84 (1)	0.0024 (8)	-3.3 (9)	0.006
Fe K-edge				
sample	$R \langle \text{Fe-O} \rangle$ (Å)	$\langle \sigma^2 \rangle_{\text{Fe-O}}$ (Å ²)	ΔE_0 (eV)	R fit
$\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$	1.88(1)	0.004(1)	-2.6(18)	0.010
$\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$	1.87(1)	0.002(1)	-2.6(20)	0.014
$\text{CaBaCo}_2\text{FeZnO}_7$	1.87(1)	0.003(1)	-3.6(18)	0.010

^a S_0^2 was fixed to 0.74 as a result from the fit of the Co^{3+} reference compound. The fit was performed in R space weighted in k 1, 2, and 3, being $R_{\min} = 1$ Å, $R_{\max} = 1.9$ Å, and $dR = 0.3$ and using a sine window.

disorder contributions. Because the EXAFS data shown in Table 2 correspond to the lowest temperature (35 K), the resulting D–W factors probe the average local disorder of the CoO_4 tetrahedron. The largest D–W factors are found for the intermediate $\text{Co}^{3+/2+}$ valences, indicating either a larger distortion or the occupation of different crystallographic sites (disordered distribution). The lowest D–W factors correspond to $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$, where cobalt atom is in the 3+ oxidation state and mostly occupies the tetrahedron at the T-site and $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$ with only Co^{2+} . This last case is a bit different because the two types of dopant coexist in the sample and their preferential occupations (T- or K-layer) are opposite to each other. Thus, Co^{2+} is distributed over more than one crystallographic site and its local environment is slightly more disordered according to the obtained D–W factor. Taking full advantage of the reference compounds, we calculated the backward Fourier transform (BFT) to filter the EXAFS signal corresponding to the first coordination shell. The signals from $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{YBaCoZn}_3\text{O}_7$ have been used to probe

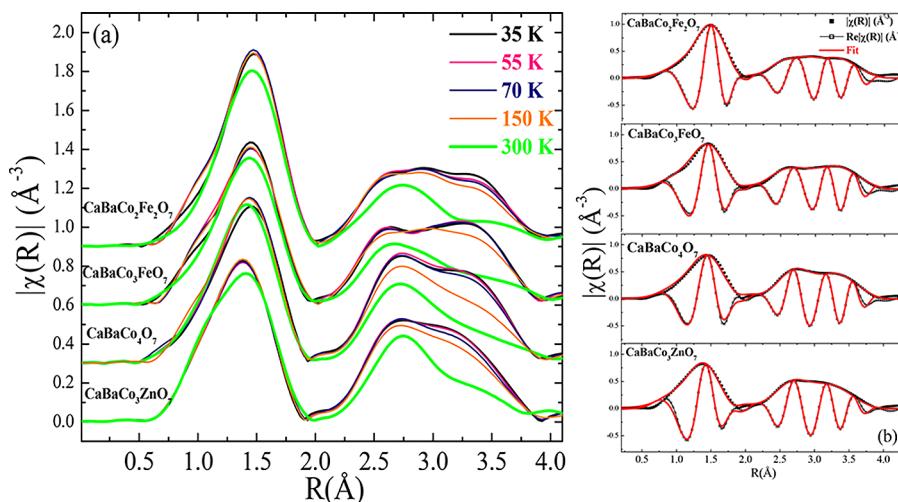


Figure 12. (a) Modulus of the Fourier transformed EXAFS signal weighted in k^2 ($k: [1.8, 12.5]$, $\Delta k = 0.5$) for CaBaCoO_7 , $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1, 2$), and $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ at different temperatures. The data of the first three samples have been shifted on the y -scale. (b) Modulus and real part of the Fourier transformed EXAFS signal weighted in k^2 ($k: [1.8, 12.5]$, $\Delta k = 0.5$) and the corresponding fits (red lines) for CaBaCoO_7 , $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1, 2$), and $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ at $T = 35$ K.

indicates that the main contribution to the D–W factors for the Co–O distance comes from the structural disorder. For the Fe and Zn doped samples, it slightly decreases with decreasing the temperature remaining nearly constant at low temperatures. However, in the $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ sample, it shows an anomalous increase on cooling below 70 K. Therefore, the higher D–W factor observed below 70 K only on the $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ parent compound can be ascribed to a more distorted average local environment around Co ions below the ferrimagnetic transition temperature T_C . At the same time, the strong change in electric polarization below T_C can be explained by the average increase of the local CoO_4 distortion due to magnetostriction mechanisms. On the other hand, no anomalous behavior was observed for the D–W factors of the average Co–Co interatomic distance in either the doped samples or the parent compound. They decrease with decreasing the temperature following the evolution expected for standard thermal vibrations. Therefore, the local structure instability associated with the magneto-electric transition in $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ mainly concerns the CoO_4 tetrahedra.

CONCLUSIONS

The present structural, electronic, and magnetic study of the atomic substitution of cobalt atoms by Fe and Zn in the pyroelectric $\text{CaBaCoO}_4\text{O}_7$ compound allowed us to provide new inputs to the understanding of this system. The structural data obtained from neutron powder diffraction showed highly distorted $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{O}_4$ tetrahedra. In this way, the standard deviation for individual $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{-O}$ bond lengths in one tetrahedron is much bigger than the ones observed for the average distances of the four tetrahedra, and this makes crystallographic $\text{Co}(\text{M})$ sites very similar to each other. The average $\text{Co}(\text{M})\text{-O}$ interatomic distances increase with either the Fe or Zn doping. Fe atoms preferentially substitute the Co atoms at the T-layer (Co1 site), whereas Zn atoms occupy the K-layer (Co2, Co3, and Co4 sites). The reason for these different substitutions is related to the available space as MO_4 ($\text{M} = \text{Co, Fe, or Zn}$) tetrahedra are smaller at the T-layers.

XAS demonstrates that Fe is incorporated as Fe^{3+} , whereas Zn enters as Zn^{2+} . In agreement with these results, the average

Co valence state decreases with the Fe doping and increases with the Zn doping, as confirmed by the XAS at the Co K edge. According to the XANES analysis, the mixed-valence state of Co can be well-described as a weighted addition of Co^{3+} and Co^{2+} , i.e. two valence states, Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} , exist. Due to the fact that neutron diffraction cannot show a clear segregation of two Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} sites, we can discard the occurrence of charge ordering. Instead, either a random distribution of Co^{2+} and Co^{3+} in the lattice or a temporally fluctuating valence state (fluctuating times longer than the characteristic time of photoabsorption process of $\sim 10^{-15}$ s) at each Co site takes place. This result has been confirmed by the EXAFS analysis. The Fe–O interatomic distances remain constant independently of doping and the D–W factor for the Co–O interatomic distances is maximum for the undoped and low-doped samples, where the higher mixing of the two valence states occurs. This agrees with the atom occupation obtained from neutron diffraction, the occupation of Co^{3+} at the T-layer and the distances at the $\text{Co}(\text{M})4$ site being lower than at the $\text{Co}(\text{M})2$ and $\text{Co}(\text{M})3$ K-sites for the undoped and low-doped samples. Moreover, the EXAFS spectra of the first coordination shell around the Co atoms can be well-reproduced by the weighted addition of the correspondent spectra of the $\text{CaBaCoZnFe}_2\text{O}_7$ (Co^{2+}) and $\text{YBaZn}_3\text{CoO}_7$ (Co^{3+}) reference samples, with Co^{2+} mainly in the K-layer and Co^{3+} in the T-layer, respectively.

This site-selective substitution has strong implications on the magnetic and electronic properties of the doped compounds. $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ is a ferrimagnet ($k = 0$) along the AC-plane, where ferrimagnetism comes from the different magnetic moments of the Co1, Co4, and Co2 and Co3 sites, identifying the different intermediate valence states of these sites. The partial substitution of Co^{3+} with Fe^{3+} at the T-layers (Co1 site) changes the magnetic interactions, and a new magnetic structure appears following the propagation vector $\mathbf{k} = (1/3, 0, 0)$. The neutron diffraction results show a modulation of the magnetic moment amplitudes. This magnetic structure occurs for all the Fe-doped samples in the studied composition range. It can be noted that the localized moments are far below from the expected ones for the Co/Fe atoms. We think there is a modulated antiferromagnetic order superimposed to a random

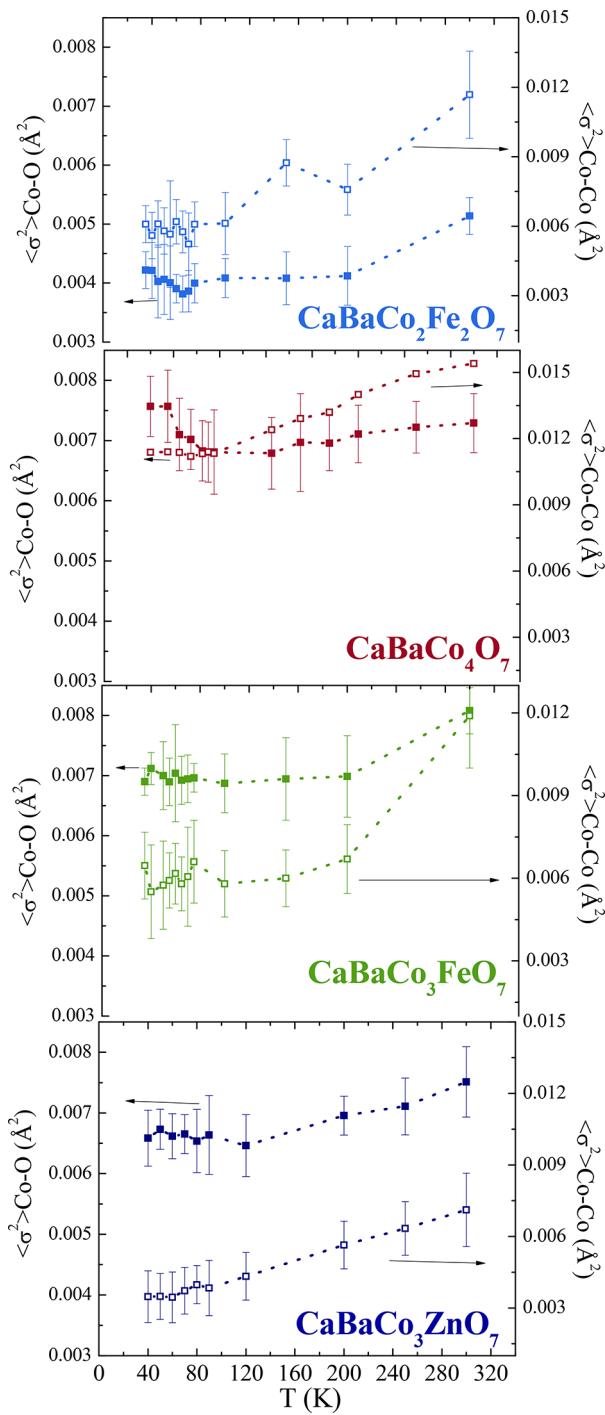


Figure 13. Temperature evolution of the Debye–Waller factors for $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$, $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$ ($x = 1, 2$), and $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$ samples obtained from the fits up to $R = 4 \text{ \AA}$. Filled squares indicate the Debye–Waller factors for the Co–O average first shell distance, while open squares represent the Debye–Waller factors for the Co–Co average path length.

distribution of both Fe/Co atoms and $\text{Co}^{3+}/\text{Co}^{2+}$ valence states, leading to a partial magnetic polarization in each crystallographic site. The occurrence of this threefold periodicity independently of the Fe doping should be matter of a deeper study. On the other hand, the replacement of magnetic Co^{2+} with diamagnetic Zn^{2+} at the K-layers leads to a weakening of the magnetic interactions and prevents long-range magnetic ordering in $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{ZnO}_7$.

The evolution of the lattice parameters as a function of temperature shows a discontinuity near the magneto-electric transition temperature for the parent $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ and the antiferromagnetic transition temperature for $\text{CaBaCo}_3\text{FeO}_7$. EXAFS measurements as a function of temperature show the presence of a local disorder highly localized in the CoO_4 tetrahedra that remains unchanged for all the samples except for the parent $\text{CaBaCo}_4\text{O}_7$ compound. A small but appreciable increase in the local distortion of the CoO_4 tetrahedra is observed at the magneto-electric transition temperature for this sample. This reveals the occurrence of a local magneto-elastic coupling at the ferrimagnetic phase that may be related to the observation of the pyroelectric effect in this composition.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: [10.1021/acs.inorgchem.8b00112](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.inorgchem.8b00112).

Crystal structure at room temperature data, magnetic ordering at low temperature—neutron thermodiffractograms, analysis of neutron diffraction of $\text{CaBaCo}_{4-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_7$, refined magnetic moments data at 1.5 K, magnetic hysteresis cycles at 5 K, XAS back Fourier transforms, and temperature evolution of interatomic distances by XAS (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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