EFFECT OF SUBSTITUTIONS ON THE CELL DIMENSION OF TETRAHEDRITE

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ABSTRACT

Linear regression analyses of published data for tetrahedrite define equations that predict the cell dimension of natural and synthetic tetranedrite, in terms of compositions in atoms per formula unit, to within an average of ± 0.02 Å. The equations are: $a(Å)_{natural} = 10.379 + 0.082(Ag) - 0.01(Ag^2) - 0.009(Cu^*) + 0.66(Hg) - 0.038(As) + 0.144(Bi)$ and $a(Å)_{synthetic} = 10.381 + 0.039(Ag) + 0.003(Ag^2) -$ 0.019(Cu*)+0.064(Cd)-0.037(As) for natural and synthetic tetrahedrites, respectively, where Ag, Hg, As, Bi and Cd are the number of atoms per formula unit, and Cu* is equal to 2.0-(Fe + Zn + Hg + Cd). The equations have correlation coefficients R^2 of 0.9789 and 0.9893, respectively, and all of the regression coefficients β are significant at the 95% confidence level. Variation of the Fe/Zn ratio has no appreciable effect on a. Calculation of changes of molar volume with composition indicate that $As \leftrightarrow Sb$, $Bi \leftrightarrow Sb$, $Cu \leftrightarrow (Fe,Zn)$, $Hg \leftrightarrow (Fe,Zn)$ and $Cd \leftrightarrow (Fe,Zn)$ substitutions may be ideal or nearly so, whereas the Ag \leftrightarrow Cu substitution is not. Comparison of the equations for natural and synthetic tetrahedrite indicates that the intercepts are statistically equivalent and the coefficients for Cu* are similar, but that the coefficients for As and Ag differ distinctly. The difference between natural and synthetic Ag-bearing tetrahedrite has been noted previously; the differing distributions of data for natural and synthetic samples of Asbearing tetrahedrite result in a falsely significant test that illustrates the need for caution in interpreting statistical results.

Keywords: tetrahedrite, linear regression, cell dimension, molar volume.

SOMMAIRE

On définit, par régression linéaire des données publiées pour la tétraédrite, la relation entre la maille élémentaire d'un échantillon naturel ou synthétique et sa composition (en atomes par unité formulaire), à ± 0.02 Å près. Pour un échantillon naturel, a(Å) = 10.379 + 0.082(Ag)- $0.01(Ag^2)-0.009(Cu^*)+0.66(Hg)-0.038(A_s)+0.144(Bi);$ pour un échantillon synthétique, a(A) = 10.381 + $0.039(Ag) + 0.003(Ag^2) - 0.019(Cu^*) + 0.064(Cd) -$ 0.037(As). Ici, Ag, Hg, As, Bi et Cd représentent le nombre d'atomes par unité formulaire, et Cu* est égal à 2.0-(Fe + Zn + Hg + Cd). Ces expressions montrent un coefficient de corrélation R² de 0.9789 et 0.9893, respectivement, et tous les coefficients de régression β sont significatifs à un niveau de confiance de 95%. Les variations dans le rapport Fe/Zn n'ont aucune influence sur a. Un calcul de la dépendance du volume molaire sur la composition indique que les subtitutions $As \leftrightarrow Sb$, $Bi \leftrightarrow Sb$,

Cu ↔ (Fe,Zn), Hg ↔ (Fe,Zn) et Cd ↔ (Fe,Zn) pourraient être idéales (ou presque), tandis que la substitution Ag ↔ Cu ne l'est pas. Une comparaison des équations pour les échantillons naturels et synthétiques indique que les interceptes sont statistiquement équivalents et les coefficients pour le Cu* sont semblables, mais que les coefficients pour As et Ag sont définitivement différents. La distinction entre échantillons naturels et synthétiques de tétraédrite argentifère a été signalée auparavant; les distributions différentes des données pour les échantillons naturels et synthétiques de tétraédrite arsenifère sont la cause des résultats erronés d'un test de signification, ce qui illustre bien la nécessité d'examiner les résultats d'analyses statistiques avec beaucoup de soin.

(Traduit par la Rédaction)

Mots-clés: tétraédrite, régression linéaire, maille élémentaire, volume molaire.

INTRODUCTION

Wide variations in cell dimensions and compositions of tetrahedrite-series minerals have been known for nearly 50 years (Machatschki 1928a,b). Bouska (1956), Bernard (1957, 1958), Bernard & Hak (1960) and Riley (1974) have documented changes in the cell dimension as a function of composition, but the only attempt to quantify the relationships has been that of Charlat & Lévy (1975), who fitted a linear equation to data gathered on a suite of 26 samples from widely scattered localities. They took into account the variations caused by Ag, Hg, Cu^{2+} (the latter designated as Cu*) and As as these elements substitute in a standard tetrahedrite of composition $Cu_{10}(Fe,Zn)_2Sb_4S_{13}$, with a unit-cell dimension of 10.386 Å. Subsequently, Mozgova et al. (1979) determined the effect of Bi on the cell dimension.

Tetrahedrite was one of the earliest mineral structures to be solved (Pauling & Neumann 1934), and subsequent refinements (Wuensch 1964, Wuensch *et al.* 1966, Johnson & Burnham 1985) have begun to define how the structure alters due to compositional differences. As noted by Johnson *et al.* (1986), a formula of the type ${}^{\rm IV}M1_6{}^{\rm III}M2_6[{}^{\rm III}X^{\rm IV}Y_3]_4{}^{\rm VIZ}$ (where $M1 = {\rm Cu,Fe,Zn,Hg}$ and Cd, $M2 = {\rm Cu}$ and Ag, $X = {\rm Sb,As,Bi}$ and Te, and Y and $Z = {\rm S}$ and Se) describes the structure.

Implicit in the approach of Charlat & Lévy are two assumptions; (i) the effect on the cell dimension caused by varying the ratio of Fe to Zn is negligible, a point made by Hall (1972), and (ii) there is no difference between natural and synthetic samples with regards to the effect of Cu*. Their equation is valid only for samples containing less than 20 wt.% Ag. Neither Charlat & Lévy nor Mozgova *et al.* provided a statistical analysis of the fit of the equations other than a few examples of predictive ability. As part of a statistical analysis of tetrahedrite-series chemistry, Johnson *et al.* (1986) published revised estimates of the cell-dimension variations based on regression calculations. We have now completed a further analysis, using advanced regressiontechniques that test the above assumptions, and report the results herein.

DATA ANALYSIS

Compositions of natural and synthetic tetrahedrite with corresponding values of the cell dimension (Johnson *et al.* 1986) were fitted to a multiple-term model that considers variation in the amount of Ag, Cu, etc. Because of the wide variation in the precision of the cell-dimension measurements (Δa varying from 0.01 to 0.0001 Å), a weighted least-squares scheme was chosen. The weights were set at $1/(\Delta a)^2$ for each measurement, as this ensures that the results are the best linear unbiased estimators (BLUE). Initial regression analyses were run using atomic % for the elements involved to avoid the bias inherent in the choice of a normalization scheme. Subsequent comparison with a statistical analysis using a normalization of 29 atoms per formula unit showed insignificant differences between the two. Hence, for ease of application of the regression equation and for consistency with previous work, a normalization scheme of 29 atoms per formula unit was used.

The first step in the regression analysis aimed to determine if any of the regressors included in the model at the outset do not contribute significantly to the equations because of insufficient data. In initial runs, the variables that represent the elements Cd, Pb, Te, Mn and Se for natural samples and Hg, Bi, Pb, Te, Mn and Se for synthetic samples were all found to have nonsignificant partial *F*-tests. Therefore, these variables were removed from the model, and compositions containing those elements were deleted from the data base.

Because Cu, and those elements substituting for Cu, are present in two crystallographically distinct sites in the tetrahedrite structure, it was deemed reasonable to include two different terms in the model. Using the tetrahedrite formula of $(Cu,Ag)_{10}(Cu^*,Fe,Zn,Hg)_2(As,Sb)_4S_{13}$ that was suggested by Charlat & Lévy (1974), Cu* was set equal to $\{2.0-(Fe+Zn+Hg+Cd)\}$ after all compositions were normalized to 29 atoms per formula unit. Cu was then calculated as total Cu minus Cu*, and regression analyses were run on this basis. Johnson et al. (1986) found, however, that Ag substituted only up to six atoms per formula unit, and Cu* only up to two, leaving four Cu atoms for which silver does not substitute. Accordingly, a second format for analysis was investigated, with three types of Cu atoms included: (i) Cu_C , equivalent to Cu^* , expressed as 2-(Fe+Zn+Hg+Cd), (ii) Cu_B , expressed as 6-Ag, and (iii) Cu_A expressed as total Cu minus $[Cu_B + Cu_C]$. Of the two approaches investigated, the second, based upon the convention of Johnson et al. (1986), provides a better fit. Elimination of the Cu_A regressor improves the fit further, and is believed to be a valid step inasmuch as the Cu_A content corresponds to the four nonsubstituting Cu atoms in the tetrahedrite structure.

In the next step, natural tetrahedrite data that contain more than four atoms of Ag per formula unit were fitted to the equation. Here the usefulness of including a second-order polynomial term in both the models for the natural and synthetic data was examined. The second-order term for silver (Ag²) improved the fit for both data-sets, but the secondorder terms for all other regressor variables had nonsignificant partial *F*-tests and little overall effect; they were therefore discarded.

Throughout the preceding steps, the regression models that were produced completely specified a given composition in terms of Cu*, Fe and Zn by including two of the three as regressors. In contrast, the model of Charlat & Lévy (1975) incompletely specifies these compositions by only including Cu*. The completely specified model and the three possible incompletely specified models (each containing one of Cu*, Fe or Zn) were compared for the two data-sets. The incompletely specified model containing Cu* was found to be the best of those examined. Furthermore, the Zn- and Fe-containing models were effectively equivalent, indicating that the effects of Fe and Zn on the cell dimension are equivalent. Hence, all further models that were developed follow the convention of Charlat & Lévy (1975).

At this point the residuals were examined for normality by the use of Studentized residuals (Gunst & Mason 1980, Weisberg 1985). Those data whose Studentized residuals are sufficiently large (> ± 2.5) that they represent outliers were eliminated from the data-sets. This resulted in improvement in the overall fit; owing to the size of the data-bases ($n_{\text{nat}} = 222$, $n_{\text{syn}} = 150$) and the small number of data removed (less than 10%), this appeared to be an acceptable step in view of the lack of control over the quality of the data that necessarily occurs when they are obtained from a variety of published sources.

When this stage was reached, the model was deemed complete, and validation procedures were initiated. In regression validation, the data are split randomly into two groups, and the model to be validated is then run on one of the groups, after which the resultant regression equation is tested on the other group. Residuals between predicted and actual values for the second group indicate the validity of the equation for the population as a whole (Montgomery & Peck 1982). The mean values for the residuals calculated from this analysis were found to be at least an order of magnitude smaller than the published uncertainties for the actual cell-dimension, and plots of the residuals *versus* predicted values showed no systematic trends, with points clustered around zero. The model is therefore considered to be valid.

As a final step, the two regression equations for natural and synthetic samples of tetrahedrite were compared using an indicator variable. The indicator or "dummy" variable was added to both the synthetic and the natural data to distinguish between the two sets during calculation. The indicator and crossproducts between the indicator and the other variables were then included in the list of regressors in the model. The resultant statistical tests of significance for the indicator variable and the crossproducts give a quantitative measure of how similar the regressors are across the two groups (Montgomery & Peck 1982). Only those regressors common to both the natural and synthetic data can be so examined. The results of all final statistical analyses are contained in Tables 1-3 and lead to the equations $a(\text{\AA})_{natural} = 10.379 + 0.082(\text{Ag}) - 0.01$ (Ag²)-0.009(Cu*) + 0.66(Hg)-0.038(As) + 0.144(Bi) and $a(A)_{synthetic} = 10.381 + 0.039(Ag) + 0.003(Ag^2)$ $-0.019(Cu^*) + 0.064(Cd) - 0.037(As).$

RESULTS

For both the natural and the synthetic data, the R^2 and the adjusted R^2 (Montgomery & Peck 1982) are provided, and the partial F-tests and p-values are given for each of the individual regressioncoefficients β (Table 2). All coefficients are significant at the 95% confidence level. An overall F-test is not given, as is often done, because it is not a valid measure of the overall goodness of fit. In simple linear regression, with only one regressor, the overall F-test is that of the single regressor. In multiple linear regression, the overall F-test is a weighted mean of the F-tests for each individual regressor. The adjusted R^2 gives a measure of the significance of all of the terms in the model; if nonsignificant regressors are added to the model, the adjusted R^2 decreases relative to the R^2 . The adjusted R^2 also indicates whether the standard R^2 is falsely high owing to clustering of the data. The p-values are the calculated probabilities that the null hypothesis $(\beta_n = 0)$ will be rejected incorrectly; as shown in Table 2, these probabilities are less than 0.5%.

Table 3 provides the results of the comparison of

TABLE 1. PUBLISHED SOURCES OF DATA USED IN THIS PAPER INCLUDING NUMBER OF SAMPLES AND THEIR ORIGIN

Reference	Analys	95	Reference	Analys	es
Arana (1972)	1	N	Mozgova et al. (1979)	40	N
Atanasov(1975)	2	Ν	Mozgova et al. (1980)	1	Ν
Basu et al. (1981)	2	Ν	Oen et al. (1973)	1	N
Basu et al. (1984)	6	N	Pattrick & Hall (1984)	25	S
Bernard (1957)	1	N	Riley (1974)	20	N
Bishop et al. (1977)	1	Ν	Rojkovic & Kristin (1978)	38	N
Brodin et al. (1979)	3	Ν	Shimada & Hirowatari (1972	2) 11	Ν
Charlat & Lévy (1974)	73	N	Sugaki et al. (1975)	38	S
Hall (1972)	10	S	Tatsuka & Morimoto (1973)	14	S
Indolev et al. (1971)	9	Ň	Tatsuka & Morimoto (1977)	10	S
Johan & Kyaček (1971)	1	N	Timofeyevskiy (1967)	2	N
Kvaček (1977)	1	N	Tsepin et al. (1977)	1	N
I ind & Makovicky (198)	2) 4	S	Tsepin et al. (1979)	2	N
Luce et al. (1977)	35	ŝ	Yui (1971)	3	N
Maske & Skinner (1971) 14	ŝ	Yushkin (1978)	3	N

TABLE 2. RESULTS OF FINAL REGRESSION ANALYSES ON CELL DIMENSION FOR DATA ON NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC TETRAHEDRITE

Natural Samples;		R ² 0.9789 Adj-R ² 0.9782		
<u>Variable</u>	ß	Std Error	F-value	<u>p-value</u>
Intercept Ag Ag ² Cu Hg As Bi	10.379 0.082 -0.010 -0.009 0.066 -0.038 0.144	0.001 0.002 0.0004 0.003 0.002 0.001 0.034	8627.548 45.212 -25.427 -3.069 39.573 -39.923 4.215	0.0001 0.0001 0.0025 0.0025 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001
Synthetic Sa	mples:	R ² 0.9893 Adj-R ² 0.9889		
Variable	ß	Std Error	<u>F-value</u>	p-value
Intercept Ag Ag ² Cu Cd As	10.381 0.039 0.003 -0.019 0.064 -0.037	0.003 0.003 0.0004 0.002 0.003 0.003	3074.822 13.728 6.375 -7.472 22.573 -21.260	0.0001 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001

B is the regression coefficient; other values explained in text.

the two regression lines for natural and synthetic tetrahedrite. The low *F*-test and high *p*-value for the intercept term indicates that the two regression lines have a common intercept. The Ag, Ag^2 , and As terms based on the significance of the tests differ between the natural and synthetic samples, but the Cu^{*} term is very nearly a borderline case. On the basis of these data, it appears that the effects are the same regardless of the source of the data. However, a larger base of data for both may prove that Cu^{*} differs between natural and synthetic data.

TABLE 3. COMPARISON OF THE DATA FOR NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC TETRAHEDRITE

<u>Variable</u>	<u>F-test</u>	p-value
Intercepts	-0.11	0.911
Ag	3.88	0.0001
Ag ²	7.14	0.0001
Cu*	1.56	0.1203
As	-3.55	0.0004

TABLE 4	. (CON	APA	RIS	SON	101	F PF	RED	ICT	ΈD	AND) A	сπ	JAL	VA	LUI	ES I	FOR
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Formula	Predicted	Actual	Residual	Reference
Cu _{10.3} Zn _{1.4} Ag _{.3} As _{3.5} Sb _{.5} S ₁₃	10.264 Å	10.232 Å	0.032 Å	1
Cu _{10.1} (Fe,Zn) _{.8} Hg _{1.3} As _{3.7} Sb _{.3} S ₁₃	10.323	10.300	0.023	2
Cu _{12.1} Sb _{4.1} S ₁₃	10.343	10.327	0.016	3
Cu _{13.7} Sb _{4.1} S ₁₃	10.343	10.448	-0.105	3
Cu ₁₁ Zn ₁ Sb ₄ S ₁₃	10.362	10.351	0.011	4
Cu _{10.7} Fe _{1.3} Sb _{4.3} S ₁₃	10.370	10.350	0.020	4
Cu _{10.4} (Fe,Zn) _{1.6} Sb _{3.9} Bi _{.1} S ₁₃	10.390	10.391	-0.001	5
$\rm Cu_{8.5}Fe_{1.4}Ag_{2.1}Sb_{2.7}As_{1.3}S_{13}$	10.417	10.530	-0.113	6
Cu _{10.4} Hg _{1.8} Sb ₄ S ₁₃	10.481	10.453	0.028	7
Cu _{5.7} (Fe,Zn) ₂ Ag _{4.3} Sb _{3.2} As _{.8} S ₁₃	10.511	10.489	0.022	8
Cu _{9.8} Ag _{2.2} Sb ₄ S ₁₃	10.493	10.503	-0.010	9
Cu _{7.2} Zn _{2.1} Ag _{3.3} Sb _{4.4} S ₁₃	10.542	10.554	-0.012	10

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Wuensch et al. (1966).

Vasil'yev & Lavrent'yev (1973), JCPDS card 29-569 2

Tatsuka & Morimoto (1973), JCPDS cards 24-1317, 1318, Ashworth & Hardy (1972), JCPDS cards 25-281, 25-324. 3

5 Wuensch (1964).

6 Johnson & Burnham (1985).

Kaplunnik et al. (1980).

Thompson, R.M., JCPDS card 11-101.* 8 Kalbskopf (1972)

Hall & Pinsent (1975), JCPDS cards 27-190, 190A.* 10

*Data submitted directly to JCPDS with no other published reference.

Examples of the predictive capability of these two equations are found in Table 4. The values of the cell dimension given here have been collected from

published crystal-structure refinements or from the JCPDS data file. With the exception of the Cu-rich tetrahedrite of Tatsuka & Morimoto (1973) and the Ag, As-rich tetrahedrite of Johnson & Burnham (1985), predicted and actual dimensions differ by only an average of ± 0.02 Å, and are thus well within the prediction intervals of the regression equations. Makovicky & Skinner (1979) found that they could synthesize metastable Cu-rich tetrahedrite with a significant amount of "mobile" Cu in the structure, which undoubtedly increases the cell parameter, but is not modeled in our equation. Furthermore, analyses of Cu-rich tetrahedrite are uncertain owing to instability in the microprobe beam (Lind & Makovicky 1982). The Ag, As-rich tetrahedrite of Johnson & Burnham (1985) has an Ag:As ratio considerably different from most other reported samples of tetrahedrite (Fig. 1), i.e., those that form the basis of these regression equations. Extrapolation of regression equations to regions of compositional space where little or no data exist results in a poor correspondence between predicted and actual values. Hence, although the equations in this paper model substitution of up to six atoms per formula unit of Ag and four atoms per formula unit of As, inclusion of greater than approximately one atom of each at the same time will provide unreliable estimates of the cell edge. Table 5 lists the approximate limits of composition over which these equations can be considered valid.



FIG. 1. Plots of As versus Ag for data used in this study: a) natural, b) synthetic samples. Point marked with (+) is synthetic tetrahedrite of Johnson & Burnham (1985).

TABLE 5. APPROXIMATE LIMITS OF APPLICABILITY FOR REGRESSION EQUATIONS IN ATOMS PER FORMULA UNIT

<u>Element</u>	Range	Restrictions
Hg	0-2	_
Cď	0-2	
Bi	00.5	—
As	0-4	<1 atom Ag
Ag	0-6	<1 atom As
Cu*	0-1.5	-

DISCUSSION

The present analysis appears to substantiate the initial assumptions made by Charlat & Lévy (1975) for their data and provides refined regressionequations to define cell-dimension variations. Similarity of Cu between the natural and synthetic data-sets is to be reasonably expected, at least up to the limits of applicability, and the effects of Fe and Zn on the cell dimensions are sufficiently similar that they can be considered the same. This result does not provide any insight into the observed Zn-Ag antipathy (Pattrick & Hall 1983, Raabe & Sack 1984, Johnson et al. 1986), other than to indicate that it is different from that which occurs between As and Ag (Johnson & Burnham 1985, Johnson et al., in prep.). All other substituting elements, with the exception of Ag, affect the cell dimensions in a linear fashion.

The data for Bi are anomalous in that the coefficients for Bi differ from those of other regressors by approximately an order of magnitude, and the standard error for the β of Bi is also an order of magnitude larger. The probable cause for this is the paucity of data on the cell dimension of Bi-rich tetrahedrite and the limited range of Bi content found (0–0.5 atom per formula unit), which limits the usefulness of the Bi β term.

Sack & Loucks (1985) have suggested that to an excellent first approximation, the $As \leftrightarrow Sb$, $Cu \leftrightarrow (Fe, Zn)$ and $Ag \leftrightarrow Cu$ exchanges in tetrahedriteseries minerals can be considered ideal. Linear changes in molar volume are a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for ideal mixing of components in a solid solution; however, linear changes in the cell dimension, as we have postulated, preclude the possibility of linear changes in molar volume. Multiple linear regression analyses were therefore run with molar volume instead of cell dimension as the dependent variable. The results of these analyses (Table 6) are that the second-order polynomial terms for Cu*, Hg, Cd, As and Bi are of low significance, indicating that any deviation from linearity is not large enough to be clearly distinguished from the existing scatter in the data. Second-order terms for Ag are sufficiently significant to indicate a large deviation from linearity. These results therefore support

TABLE 6.	RESULTS	OF FINAL	REGRESS	ION ANALY	SES ON MOLAR
VOLUME F	OR DATA	ON NATU	RAL AND S	YNTHETIC '	TETRAHEDRITE

Natural Sample	<u>95:</u>	R ² 0.9785 Adj-R ² 0.9778		
<u>Variable</u>	<u>B</u>	Std Error	<u>F-value</u>	<u>p-value</u>
Intercept Ag Ag ² Cu Hg As Bi	559.005 13.440 -1.664 -1.505 10.625 - 6.150 23.373	0.195 0.301 0.066 0.493 0.270 0.154 5.605	2864.926 44.693 -25.113 -3.055 39.314 -39.876 4.170	0.0001 0.0001 0.0026 0.0026 0.0001 0.0001
Synthetic Sam	oles:	R ² 0.9889 Adj-R ² 0.9885		
Variable	ß	Std Error	F-value	<u>p-value</u>
Intercept Ag Ag ² Cu Cd As	559.386 6.155 0.548 -3.086 10.839 -5.849	0.549 0.474 0.075 0.414 0.484 0.274	1019.310 12.965 7.265 -7.446 22.406 -21.376	0.0001 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001

Values are as in Table 1.

the conclusion of Sack & Loucks (1985) that $As \rightarrow Sb$ and $Cu \rightarrow (Fe,Zn)$ are "ideal", but differ in that $Ag \rightarrow Cu$ is distinctly nonideal. Furthermore, the results of these regressions indicate that Cd, Hg and Bi substitutions also may be ideal or nearly ideal.

The difference in behavior of Ag between natural and synthetic tetrahedrite is not readily explained. Pattrick & Hall (1983) attributed it to ordering of Ag in natural Ag-rich tetrahedrite whereas, as Johnson et al. (1986) pointed out, it may be due to metastability in synthetic Ag-rich tetrahedrite. It has been noted (R.C. Peterson, pers. comm.) that in Agrich tetrahedrite, the S atom co-ordinated to the six Cu sites, in which Ag substitutes, has a considerably larger isotropic temperature-factor than does non-Ag-bearing tetrahedrite. This can be interpreted as a "smearing-out" of displacements of the S atom over the entire crystal; how this may affect the unit cell is unknown. In any event, the nonlinearity of Δa as Ag increases from four to six atoms per formula unit indicates that Ag does not substitute ideally for Cu over the entire compositional range, and that the Ag+Cu substitution is less simple than previously believed.

An important fact to note is that despite the close correspondence of the β terms for As for the two data-sets, the quantitative statistical tests indicate that the two populations (natural and synthetic) are statistically distinct. There is no *a priori* reason for As to differ between natural and synthetic tetrahedrite, and in fact, there may be no difference. Whereas the data for natural As-bearing tetrahedrite are scattered randomly between zero and four atoms of As, the As-tetrahedrite synthesized is found in



FIG. 2. Plots of As versus Sb for data used in this study: a) natural; b) synthetic samples.

groups along the As-Sb composition line (Fig. 2). The difference in the distribution of data, randomly dispersed *versus* tightly clustered, is probably what is reflected in the statistical test, which would then mask any other possible differences. This illustrates the principle of *caveat lector*, the need to carefully examine data prior to accepting a numerical result from a "canned" statistical computer-package.

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