

**MÖSSBAUER SPECTROSCOPIC AND OTHER PHYSICAL
STUDIES IN SODIUM AND BARIUM BORATE
GLASSES CONTAINING IRON**

By

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A THESIS SUBMITTED IN
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
OF THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

**TO THE
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI**

DECEMBER, 1982

DEDICATED TO

Shri Vishwanath Kanodia,
Founder, Bal Charitra Nirman Sabha
Mahendragarh, who lit for me the
Lamp of Inspiration to find for
myself the path to Enlightenment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere gratitude towards Professor R.G.Mendiratta for his invaluable guidance and encouragement. I am grateful to my thesis co-supervisor Dr. Raj Kamal, Punjabi University, Patiala for his scholarly guidance and constructive suggestions throughout the tenure of this work. I shall ever be indebted to them for all the discussions that helped me to learn the subject better. My sincere thanks are due to Dr. R.K.Puri for fruitful discussions and encouragement given. I am extremely grateful to Prof. S.Loknathan and Mössbauer group of Rajasthan University Jaipur for providing the experimental facilities. With great pleasure, I express my sincere thanks to Drs. Kamna, Jai Singh, A.K.Batra, Ajmer Tyagi, K.H.Rao and Rama Raju for their kind cooperation. I would like to thank my friends and colleagues, in particular Usha, Navdeep, Tarsem Bansal, Rajesh, Dinosh and Ravi for their keen interest in the work. Thanks are also due to Mr. S.D.Malik for neat typing and Mr. N.S.Gupta for preparing drawings. I am highly grateful to my parents, brothers and sisters for their unquestioning support and encouragement. Finally I wish to thank my wife for her understanding and forbearance.

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PREFACE

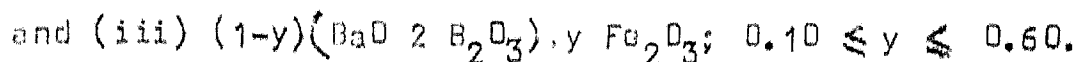
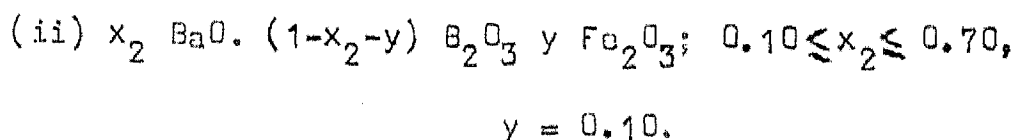
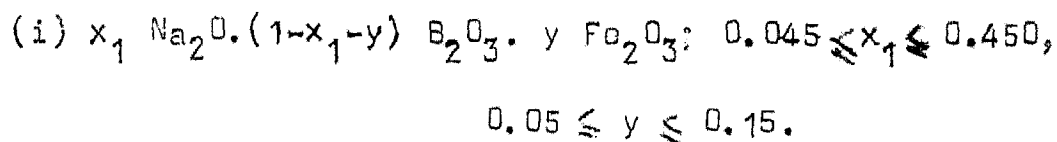
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Inorganic oxide glasses are the oldest known non-crystalline materials, made perhaps as early as 2500 B.C by firing soda and sand, as proved from archeological findings in Indian and Egyptian regions. These glasses are of great technological importance due to their structural versatility and wide applications. Presently, the glasses of any strength one wishes to have between the metal and honey, of any conductivity between that of metals and insulators, of any magnetic characteristics between that of air and ferrites, and of uses right from the detector of nuclear radiation to the source of powerful laser beam have been successfully developed by the suitable material preparation techniques¹. Among inorganic oxide glasses, borate glasses are of great significance as is evidenced by the presence of B_2O_3 as an important ingredient in commercially important glasses such as crown glass, flint glass and other borosilicate glasses. $BaO-B_2O_3$ has been the most widely used non-volatile flux system for the top-seeded growth of materials such as yttrium iron garnet and ferrite². Borate glasses, however, are hygroscopic and for many purposes this is disadvantageous but in instances where the glass can act as host to elements which are required to be stored in damp environment, advantage may be taken of this property³. These glasses are of academic interest too, because of the occurrence 'boron anomaly' in them.

Compared to silicate and phosphate glasses, little work has been done on borate glasses containing iron. Addition of iron makes these glasses often electronically conducting- their conductivity lying in the semiconducting range and superparamagnetic⁴. However, sometimes iron occurs as a troublesome impurity and hence an accurate knowledge of its behaviour is important. Since it is a transition metal, other magnetic and optical properties may be studied in conjunction with the Mossbauer absorption in order to give a rather complete picture of its behaviour. The study of magnetic and other related properties of transition metal ions in glasses affords a powerful method of investigating glass structure. This subject, amorphous magnetism, the magnetic behaviour of amorphous systems, is developing into an active field where the concept of spin glass is well established⁵.

While tremendous amounts of experimental time have been expended on the study of behaviour of iron in glass, its structural role is still unclear.

In the present work a systematic study on the following series is made using Mossbauer spectroscopic, infrared (IR), electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR), dc resistivity and differential thermal analysis (DTA) techniques in order to get complete picture of the structure of these glasses.



The presented work is divided in the following chapters.

Brief introduction to borate glasses is given in Chapter I. A theoretical background of various studies is also included in this chapter. Existing controversies and aim of the present work have also been given.

Chapter II deals with the methodology of samples preparation and their characterization. A brief description of various experimental methods used in the present work is also given in this chapter.

In Chapter III, the results of Mössbauer spectroscopic studies of series (i) are discussed.

The Mössbauer spectroscopic results of series (ii) and (iii) are discussed in Chapter IV.

Chapter V concerns with the results obtained by IR, EPR, dc resistivity and DTA studies. The results of these studies are compared with one another and with those of Mössbauer studies, wherever possible in order to get better insight in understanding the mechanisms involved.

Chapter VI presents a brief account of summary of the results, conclusions drawn and suggestion for further work.

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