

**Supplementary Information for**

**“Hierarchical and chemical space partitioning in new intermetallic borides  $MNi_{21}B_{20}$  ( $M = In, Sn$ )”**

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**Table S1.** Interatomic distances (Å) in the structures of SnNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub> and InNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub>

Atoms		SnNi <sub>21</sub> B <sub>20</sub>	InNi <sub>21</sub> B <sub>20</sub>	CN <sup>a</sup>
<i>M</i> <sup>b</sup>	-12Ni3	2.9350(4)	2.9179(4)	12
Ni1	-4B2	2.039(4)	2.021(4)	12
	-8Ni3	2.5703(3)	2.5646(3)	
Ni2	-4B2	2.162(5)	2.170(4)	16
	-4B1	2.164(4)	2.154(5)	
	-4Ni3	2.7176(9)	2.7169(9)	
	-4Ni2	2.719(2)	2.731(2)	
Ni3	-2B1	2.091(4)	2.096(4)	15
	-4B2	2.186(3)	2.183(3)	
	-2Ni1	2.5703(3)	2.5646(3)	
	-2Ni2	2.7176(9)	2.7169(9)	
	-1 <i>M</i>	2.9350(4)	2.9179(4)	
	-4Ni3	2.9350(4)	2.9179(4)	
B1	-3B2	1.760(6)	1.764(5)	9
	-3Ni3	2.091(4)	2.096(4)	
	-3Ni2	2.164(4)	2.154(5)	
B2	-2B1	1.760(6)	1.764(5)	9
	-1Ni1	2.039(4)	2.021(4)	
	-2Ni2	2.162(5)	2.170(4)	
	-4Ni3	2.186(3)	2.183(3)	

<sup>a</sup> CN= coordination number; *M* = Sn or In

**Table S2.** Crystallographic data for SnNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub> and InNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub> at low temperatures from synchrotron diffraction data

Composition	SnNi <sub>21</sub> B <sub>20</sub>	InNi <sub>21</sub> B <sub>20</sub>
Space group		<i>Pm</i> <sup>3</sup> <i>m</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	7.17585(2)	7.16608(9)
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	369.505(3)	368.00(2)
Calculated density/(g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	7.045	7.056
<i>Z</i>		1
$\lambda$ (Å)		0.40073
2 $\theta$ range (°)		1 to 40
<i>T</i> /K	100	80
$\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	8.598	8.424
Reflns in measured		19499
Refined parameters	18	15
Refinement method		Full-profile Rietveld
<i>R</i> <sub>i</sub> ; <i>R</i> <sub>p</sub>	0.057; 0.086	0.064; 0.080

**Table S3.** Atomic coordinates, isotropic and anisotropic displacement parameters (in Å<sup>2</sup>) for SnNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub> and InNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub> respectively at 100 K and 80 K from synchrotron diffraction data

Atom	site	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>B</i> <sub>iso</sub> / <i>B</i> <sub>eq</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>22</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>33</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>23</sub>
SnNi <sub>21</sub> B <sub>20</sub>											
Sn	1 <i>a</i>	0	0	0	1.33(2)	1.33(3)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	0	0	0
Ni1	3 <i>d</i>	0	0	1/2	1.18(3)	1.02(4)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	1.50(6)	0	0	0
Ni2	6 <i>f</i>	1/2	0.2319(2)	1/2	1.14(2)	1.04(3)	1.35(5)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	0	0	0
Ni3	12 <i>i</i>	0.28889(6)	<i>x</i>	0	1.16(2)	1.24(2)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	0.99(4)	0.15(2)	0	0
B1	8 <i>g</i>	0.2920(5)	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	1.33(7)	1.3(1)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	-0.3(2)	<i>B</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>12</sub>
B2	12 <i>j</i>	1/2	0.2011(5)	<i>y</i>	1.0(1)	0.9(2)	1.1(1)	<i>B</i> <sub>22</sub>	0	0	0.1(2)
InNi <sub>21</sub> B <sub>20</sub>											
In	1 <i>a</i>	0	0	0	0.97(1)	0.97(2)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	0	0	0
Ni1	3 <i>d</i>	0	0	1/2	0.85(3)	0.79(3)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	0.95(5)	0	0	0
Ni2	6 <i>f</i>	1/2	0.2308(1)	1/2	0.77(2)	0.72(2)	0.86(4)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	0	0	0
Ni3	12 <i>i</i>	0.28725(5)	<i>x</i>	0	0.81(1)	0.90(2)	<i>B</i> <sub>11</sub>	0.64(3)	0.07(2)	0	0
B1	8 <i>g</i>	0.2921(5)	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	1.1(1)						
B2	12 <i>j</i>	1/2	0.1990(4)	<i>y</i>	0.98(7)						

**Table S4.** Crystallographic data for SnNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub> at 293 K from single crystal diffraction data

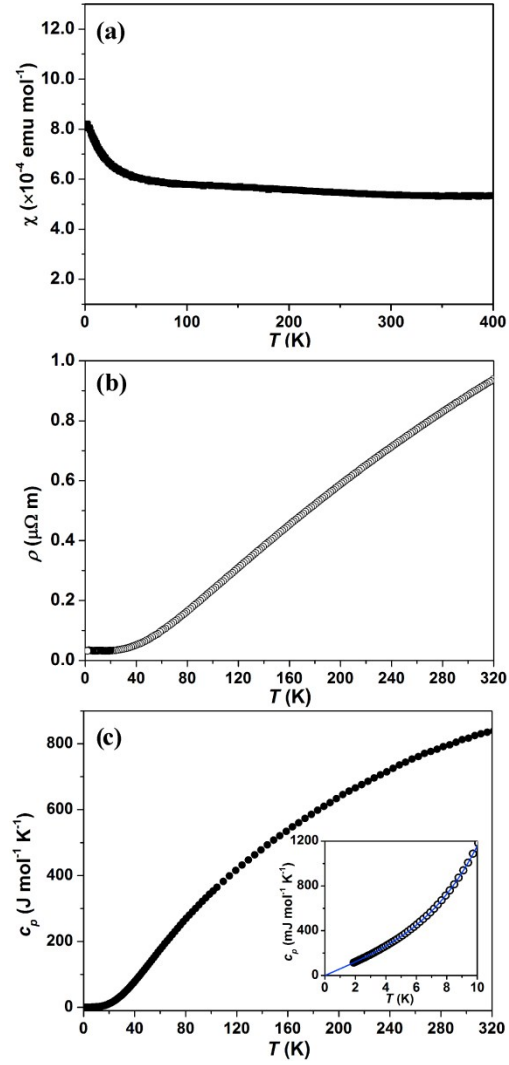
Composition	SnNi <sub>21</sub> B <sub>20</sub>
Space group	$Pm\bar{3}m$
$a$ (Å)	7.1834(1)
$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	370.67(2)
Calculated density/(g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	7.023
$Z$	1
Radiation; $\lambda$ (Å)	Mo $K_{\alpha}$ ; 0.71073 Å
$2\theta_{\max}$ (°)	67.16
$N(hkl)_{\text{measured}}$	3035
$N(hkl)_{\text{unique}}$	185
$N(hkl)_{\text{observed}} (F_{hkl} > 4\sigma(F))$	178
$R_{\text{int}}/R_{\sigma}$	0.089/0.041
Refined parameters	16
$R_{\text{F}}/wR_{\text{F}}^2$	0.063/0.065
Extinction coefficient	–

**Table S5.** Atomic coordinates, isotropic and anisotropic displacement parameters (in Å<sup>2</sup>) for SnNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub> at 293 K from single crystal diffraction data

Atom	site	$x$	$y$	$z$	$B_{\text{iso}}/B_{\text{eq}}$	$B_{11}$	$B_{22}$	$B_{33}$	$B_{12}$	$B_{13}$	$B_{23}$
Sn	1a	0	0	0	1.48(3)	1.48(5)	$B_{11}$	$B_{11}$	0	0	0
Ni1	3d	0	0	1/2	1.13(5)	0.89(7)	$B_{11}$	1.6(2)	0	0	0
Ni2	6f	1/2	0.2324(3)	1/2	0.82(3)	0.74(4)	0.99(7)	$B_{11}$	0	0	0
Ni3	12i	0.2888(1)	$x$	0	1.05(3)	1.22(4)	$B_{11}$	0.71(6)	0.21(4)	0	0
B1	8g	0.296(1)	$x$	$x$	0.7(2)						
B2	12j	1/2	0.1967(9)	$y$	0.7(2)						

**Table S6.** Physical properties of  $M\text{Ni}_{21}\text{B}_{20}$  ( $M = \text{Sn, In}$ )

$M$	$\chi_0$ (emu mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\rho_0$ ( $\mu\Omega\text{m}$ )	$\rho_{300}$ ( $\mu\Omega\text{m}$ )	RRR	$\gamma$ (mJ mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-2</sup> )	$\beta$ (J mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-4</sup> )	$\delta$ (J mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-6</sup> )	$\Theta_b(0)$ (K)
Sn	$8.28(2)\times 10^{-4}$	$4.02(6)\times 10^{-2}$	1.65	41	76.9(1)	$2.83(4)\times 10^{-4}$	$2.55(2)\times 10^{-6}$	661
In	$5.90(2)\times 10^{-4}$	$3.20(6)\times 10^{-2}$	$8.85\times 10^{-1}$	27.7	59.3(1)	$3.66(4)\times 10^{-4}$	$1.99(4)\times 10^{-6}$	606



**Figure S1.** Physical properties of InNi<sub>21</sub>B<sub>20</sub>: (a) temperature-dependent magnetic susceptibility  $\chi(T)$  in the external magnetic fields  $\mu_0 H = 7.0$  T; (b) temperature-dependence of electrical resistivity  $\rho(T)$ ; (c) temperature-dependence of heat capacity  $c_p(T)$ , and the inset shows its fitting by  $c_p(T) = \gamma T + \beta T^3 + \delta T^5$  from 2.0 K to 10K.