

# Supporting information for Pair Distribution Function and $^{71}\text{Ga}$ NMR Study of Aqueous $\text{Ga}^{3+}$ Complexes

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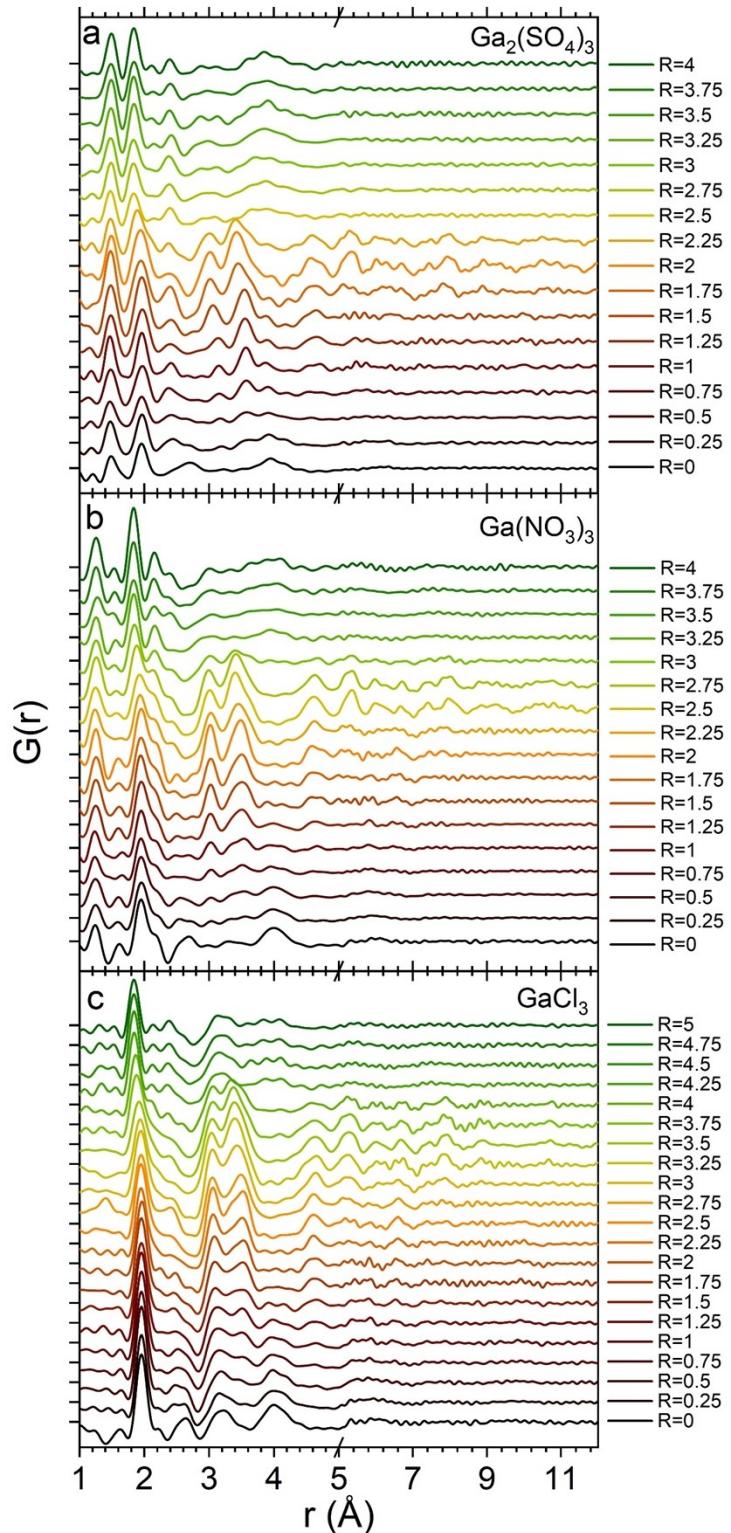
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## Data



**Figure S1.** PDFs of the pH series for the three salts a)  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ , b)  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  and c)  $\text{GaCl}_3$ . The hydrolysis ratio  $R$  denotes the calculated ratio of  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$  and  $\text{OH}^-$  ions in the solutions.

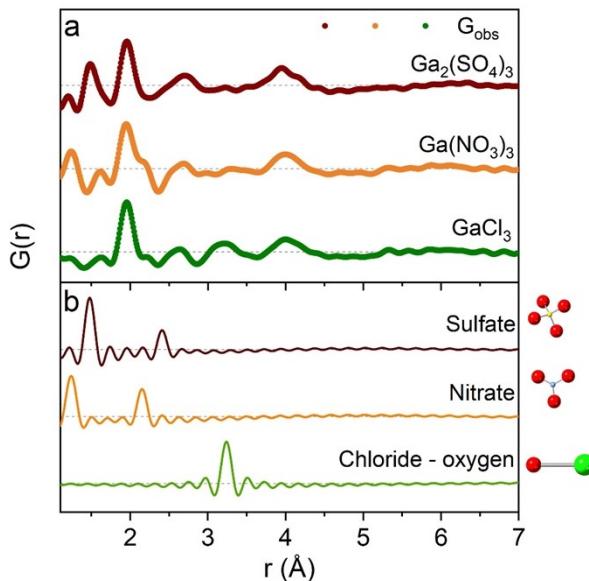
## Anion signals and ligands

To identify the signals of the gallium structures, we first need to account for the signal of the anions, which are present in the solutions. It is clearly observed that some structural signals change with increasing hydrolysis ratio,  $R$ , while other signals are present independent of  $R$  (Figure S1). The latter originates from the anions: For the sulfate S-O and O-O distances are observed at 1.48 and 2.40 Å,<sup>1</sup> while for nitrate N-O and O-O distances are observed at 1.21 and 2.19 Å.<sup>2</sup> The chloride anion have previously been reported to induce a broad signal around 3.2 Å, which is ascribed to a Cl-O coordination.<sup>3,4</sup> A comparison showing similar features in the present data and simulated PDFs of the anion signals are presented in Figure S2.

The sulfate and nitrate correlations are narrow and well defined compared the Cl-O signal. This correspond well with the known nature of the anion nature: The bonds in nitrate and sulfate are covalent and thus strong and well defined, while the Cl-O bonding is a weaker solvent coordination, where the distances vary more thus giving a broader signal in the PDF.

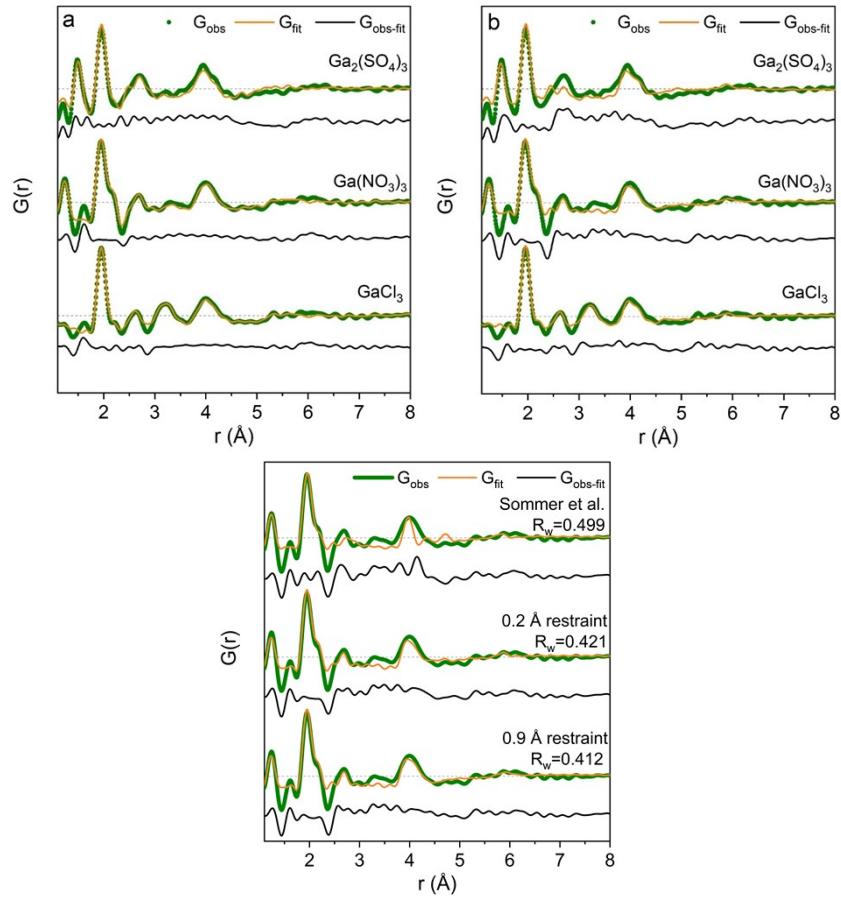
Considering the coordination species for all the we must note that Raman spectroscopy has previously shown that anions coordinates to gallium in both first and second shell depending on the concentration and that sulfate bonds stronger than nitrate.<sup>5,6</sup> As first shell coordination of nitrate is at a level of less than 5% at concentrations similar to the ones used here, these effects are expected to give only minor changes in the PDF, they will not be treated further here. Thus, the modelled oxygen is here referred to as water or solvent as this is by far the main component of the coordination shells. Furthermore as the scattering power of hydrogen is very low, we will only use oxygen atoms as a descriptor for the ligated water.

The calculated anion contributions (Figure S2b) was included with refinement of a relative scale factor.

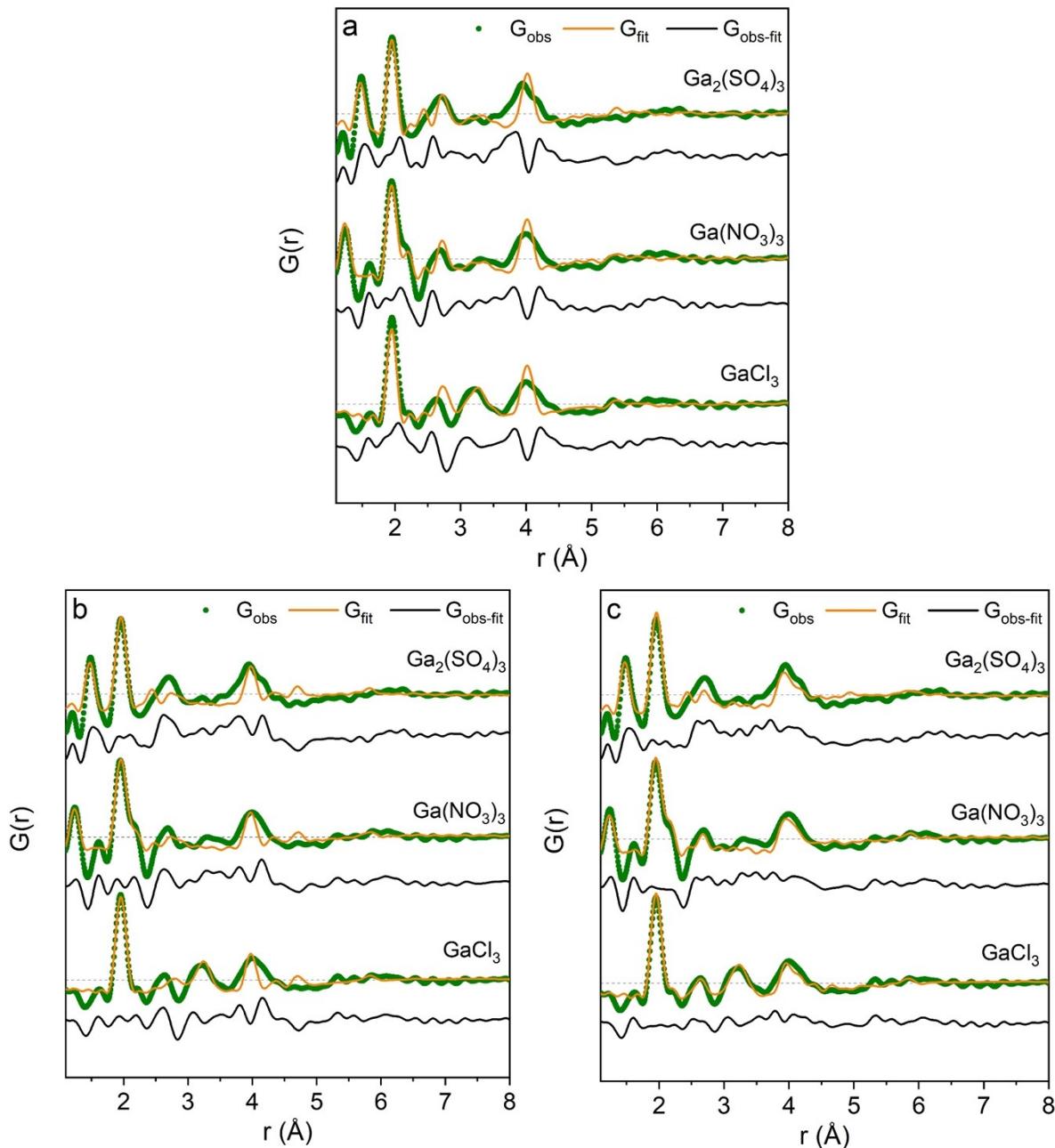


**Figure S2.** Comparison of a) the experimental PDFs of  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ ,  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  and  $\text{GaCl}_3$  with  $R = 0$  to b) the calculated PDFs of the anions  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ .

## Octahedral region



**Figure S3.** PDFs the three salts with  $R = 0$  fitted with: a) Monomer model with 8 solvent oxygen with refined positions and a box restraint of 0.2 and b) Dimer with refined positions and box restraint of 0.9. c) shows the improvement obtained when relaxing the dimer model relative to the published structure by Sommer *et al.*



**Figure S4.** PDFs the three salts with  $R = 0$  fitted with: a) Monomer model with 8 solvent directly from crystal structure<sup>7</sup> b) Dimer as in previous report<sup>8</sup>, c) Dimer with refined positions and box restraint of 0.2.

**Table S1.** R<sub>w</sub> and zoom values for the 5 models refined against the R = 0 PDFs of the three salts.

	Ga(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>		GaCl <sub>3</sub>		Ga <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	
	R <sub>w</sub>	Zoom	R <sub>w</sub>		R <sub>w</sub>	
Monomer – zoom	0.460	1.001	0.495	1.003	0.543	1.003
Monomer – 0.2 restraint	0.284	-	0.208	-	0.322	-
Dimer – zoom	0.499	0.998	0.426	1.000	0.550	0.999
Dimer – 0.2 restraint	0.421	-	0.290	-	0.481	-
Dimer – 0.9 restraint	0.412	-	0.278	-	0.458	-

**Table S2.** Refined models against the three salts. Atomic positions for the original clusters and the refined positions for the three salts.Original cluster from Ga(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> • 9 H<sub>2</sub>O <sup>7</sup>

Ga	6.980	0.000	0.000
O	6.149	-0.849	-1.529
O	8.803	-2.731	-2.272
O	3.961	-2.345	-1.420
O	6.357	-3.648	1.409
O	8.282	-2.094	3.190
O	5.846	-1.013	1.213
O	8.287	-1.438	0.066
O	7.603	3.648	-1.409
O	5.679	2.094	-3.190
O	8.115	1.013	-1.213
O	5.674	1.438	-0.066
O	7.812	0.849	1.529
O	5.158	2.731	2.272
O	10.000	2.345	1.420

Refined GaCl<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.2

Ga	6.980000	0.000000	0.000000
O	6.209954	-1.050757	-1.452360
O	8.800810	-2.796772	-2.144862
O	4.025947	-2.491609	-1.229306
O	6.193931	-3.447107	1.381111
O	8.269910	-2.295188	3.391767
O	6.046921	-1.196219	1.228562
O	8.194466	-1.560837	-0.040743
O	7.804901	3.851368	-1.299531
O	5.478878	2.155416	-3.218800
O	7.912718	1.215080	-1.213113
O	5.644019	1.596245	-0.084558
O	7.611003	0.999746	1.465206
O	5.256305	2.931406	2.119614
O	9.875138	2.311488	1.219114

Refined Ga(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.2

Ga	6.980000	0.000000	0.000000
O	6.084957	-1.050019	-1.516551
O	9.003598	-2.530215	-2.185884
O	3.980794	-2.322978	-1.218328
O	6.334670	-3.437772	1.202755
O	8.349012	-1.966551	3.379313
O	5.978980	-0.986473	1.134986
O	8.268634	-1.390398	-0.119191
O	7.733324	3.478653	-1.203604
O	5.879065	2.019369	-3.257977
O	8.080812	1.025998	-1.066177
O	5.666777	1.386968	-0.059847
O	7.734186	0.966007	1.388094
O	5.142330	2.576249	2.066845
O	9.797840	2.321711	1.214471

Refined Ga<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.2

Ga	6.980000	0.000000	0.000000
O	6.103749	-0.901627	-1.512109
O	8.849986	-2.684628	-2.248716
O	3.885423	-2.313478	-1.482246
O	6.332507	-3.573180	1.209005
O	8.446494	-2.248218	3.283072
O	5.799251	-1.020233	1.249759
O	8.268396	-1.397679	-0.041388
O	7.402800	3.487235	-1.211105
O	5.878805	2.255116	-3.060234
O	8.260430	1.029715	-1.312777
O	5.630186	1.397840	0.017680
O	7.837193	0.846398	1.520427
O	5.090730	2.735466	2.187150
O	10.019824	2.324459	1.494240

Dimer from previous report<sup>8</sup>

Ga	4.470	-7.145	-3.099
Ga	4.022	-3.334	-4.100
O	3.887	-1.663	-4.973
O	3.006	-4.266	-5.470
O	6.292	-6.653	-3.486
O	2.522	-3.260	-2.912
O	4.508	-7.032	-1.176
O	4.874	-9.028	-3.096
O	4.355	-7.220	-5.074
O	5.627	-3.529	-5.265
O	2.571	-7.598	-2.765
O	4.002	-5.182	-3.270
O	5.171	-2.535	-2.697

Refined Ga(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.2

Ga	4.470000	-7.145000	-3.099000
Ga	3.770564	-3.422481	-4.153727
O	3.758969	-1.733549	-5.099608
O	2.869799	-4.304055	-5.593109
O	6.440868	-6.458519	-3.508959
O	2.476610	-3.470450	-2.710498
O	4.307493	-6.845642	-1.017345
O	4.672023	-9.119847	-2.922847
O	4.377541	-7.371817	-5.014824
O	5.422995	-3.732183	-5.169929
O	2.569133	-7.385725	-2.969619
O	4.146575	-5.256542	-3.472989
O	4.970766	-2.745843	-2.810253

Refined GaCl<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.2

Ga	4.470000	-7.145000	-3.099000
Ga	3.864831	-3.308056	-3.827746
O	4.041315	-1.673639	-4.993074
O	2.874804	-4.062893	-5.319943
O	6.255545	-6.646659	-3.649613
O	2.321865	-3.474466	-2.708864
O	4.307943	-6.822615	-1.258286
O	5.076503	-9.027310	-3.296904
O	4.154691	-7.263633	-5.036578
O	5.487027	-3.732943	-5.185660
O	2.514813	-7.388291	-2.968847
O	4.071409	-5.261987	-3.426872
O	5.372455	-2.571735	-2.857417

Refined Ga<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.2

Ga	4.470000	-7.145000	-3.099000
Ga	3.741583	-3.469782	-4.191678
O	3.855508	-1.482860	-4.833796
O	2.827030	-4.441589	-5.626131
O	6.303367	-6.597956	-3.285973
O	2.468997	-3.460670	-2.711946
O	4.700494	-7.232266	-1.130462
O	4.900906	-9.024661	-3.076732
O	4.394950	-7.341393	-5.060303
O	5.426457	-3.729501	-5.137306
O	2.593433	-7.396991	-2.965280
O	4.124843	-5.261045	-3.457397
O	4.995785	-2.736616	-2.740147

Refined Ga(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.9

Ga	4.470000	-7.145000	-3.099000
Ga	4.001099	-3.385240	-4.099745
O	4.325116	-1.408365	-4.708365
O	2.938586	-4.370206	-5.648345
O	6.350631	-6.744695	-3.429840
O	2.538986	-3.482725	-2.852740
O	4.622221	-6.577633	-1.270138
O	5.050666	-8.997806	-2.999539
O	4.227352	-7.352531	-4.998583
O	5.516174	-3.806462	-5.221819
O	2.467505	-6.982115	-3.004395
O	4.120963	-5.244789	-3.472752
O	5.207346	-2.980647	-2.652112

Refined GaCl<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.9

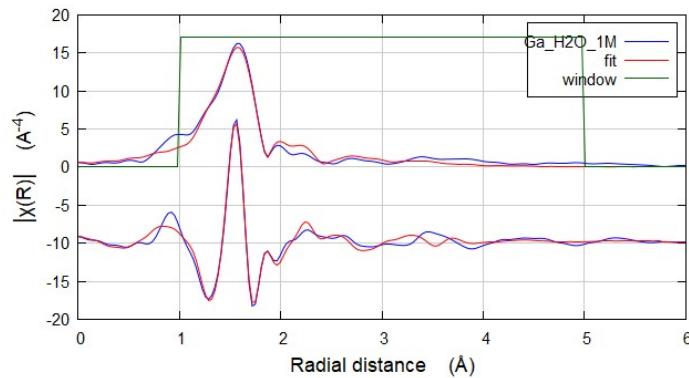
Ga	4.470000	-7.145000	-3.099000
Ga	3.986390	-3.329662	-3.977388
O	3.983127	-1.684615	-5.038929
O	3.023181	-4.123459	-5.480867
O	6.311253	-6.637163	-3.423430
O	2.367171	-3.361542	-3.006062
O	4.168803	-6.540971	-1.204609
O	5.363590	-9.091462	-3.330297
O	4.372463	-7.303968	-5.039922
O	5.544770	-3.744827	-5.160775
O	2.516266	-7.107568	-3.220449
O	4.145982	-5.227489	-3.512942
O	5.334033	-2.521367	-2.891243

Refined Ga<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> R = 0 restraint 0.9

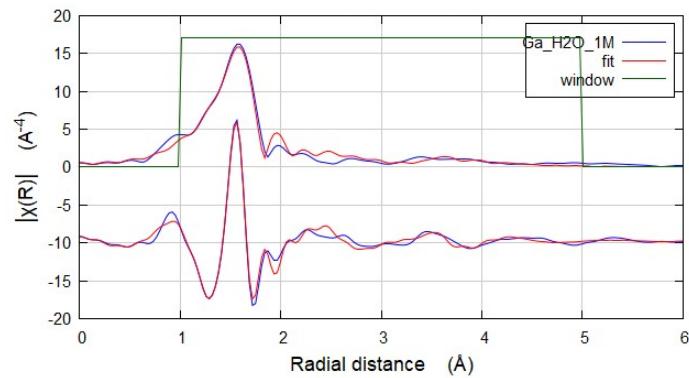
Ga	4.470000	-7.145000	-3.099000
Ga	4.019297	-3.401535	-4.052535
O	3.838158	-1.699896	-5.139726
O	2.874622	-4.207509	-5.389773
O	6.311314	-6.592271	-2.756102
O	2.541243	-3.466906	-2.781238
O	3.948497	-6.614080	-1.312174
O	5.250416	-9.071670	-2.948337
O	4.834727	-7.261012	-4.981244
O	5.558376	-3.838892	-5.151391
O	2.473715	-7.082997	-3.577512
O	4.258972	-5.242399	-3.455478
O	5.233675	-3.017075	-2.577154

**Table S3.** Extracted values of the EXAFS refinements. Structures were used as extracted for the PDF refinements. EXAFS data measured was on 1 M Ga(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in water previously reported. For details on the data see Sommer et al.<sup>8</sup>

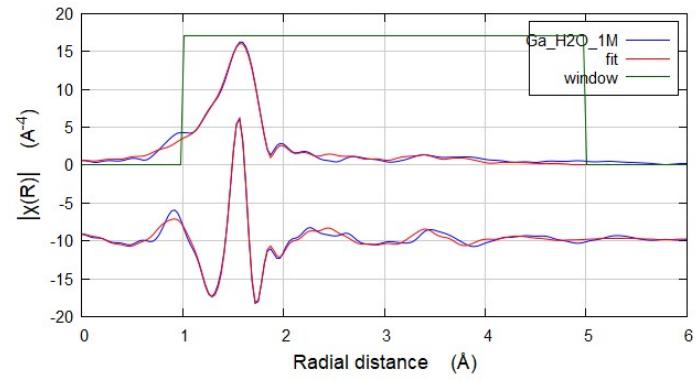
	R <sub>w</sub>	Amplitude	Energy shift	Expansion	Ss1
Monomer – zoom	0.0290	1.206	9.289	0.00929	0.00595
Monomer – 0.2 restraint	0.0243	1.275	6.689	0.0559	0.00321
Dimer – zoom	0.0118	1.0002	3.151	-0.00059	0.00311 0.01878
Dimer – 0.2 restraint	0.0298	1.1654	5.185	0.007678	0.00373 0.01 (F)
Dimer – 0.9 restraint	0.0306	1.1352	5.074	0.006864	0.00361 0.01 (F)



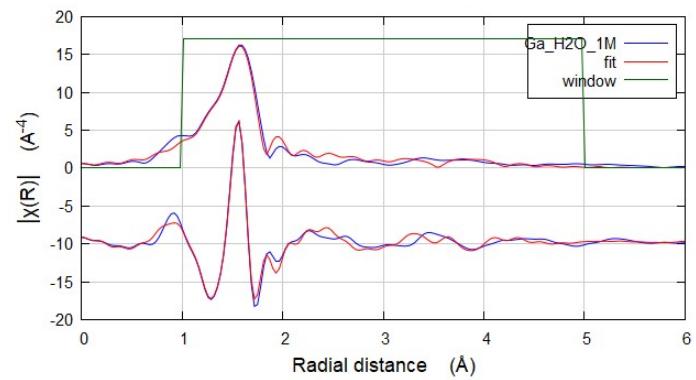
**Figure S5.** Refinement of EXAFS with the monomer model after refinement with zoomscale



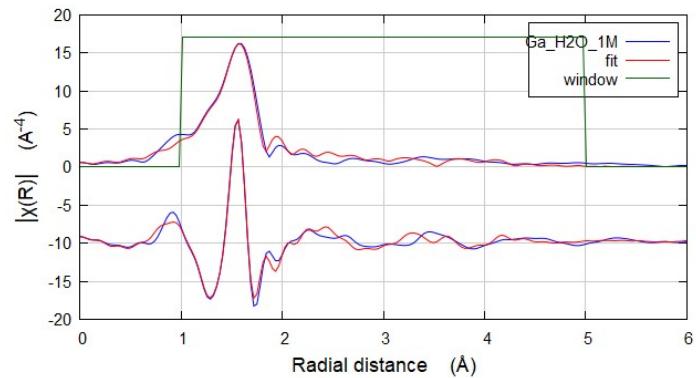
**Figure S6.** Refinement of EXAFS with the monomer model after refinement with the 0.2 restraint



**Figure S7.** Refinement of EXAFS with the dimer model after refinement with zoomscale



**Figure S8.** Refinement of EXAFS with the dimer model after refinement with the 0.2 restraint



**Figure S9.** Refinement of EXAFS with the dimer model after refinement with the 0.9 restraint

## Polyoxogallate region

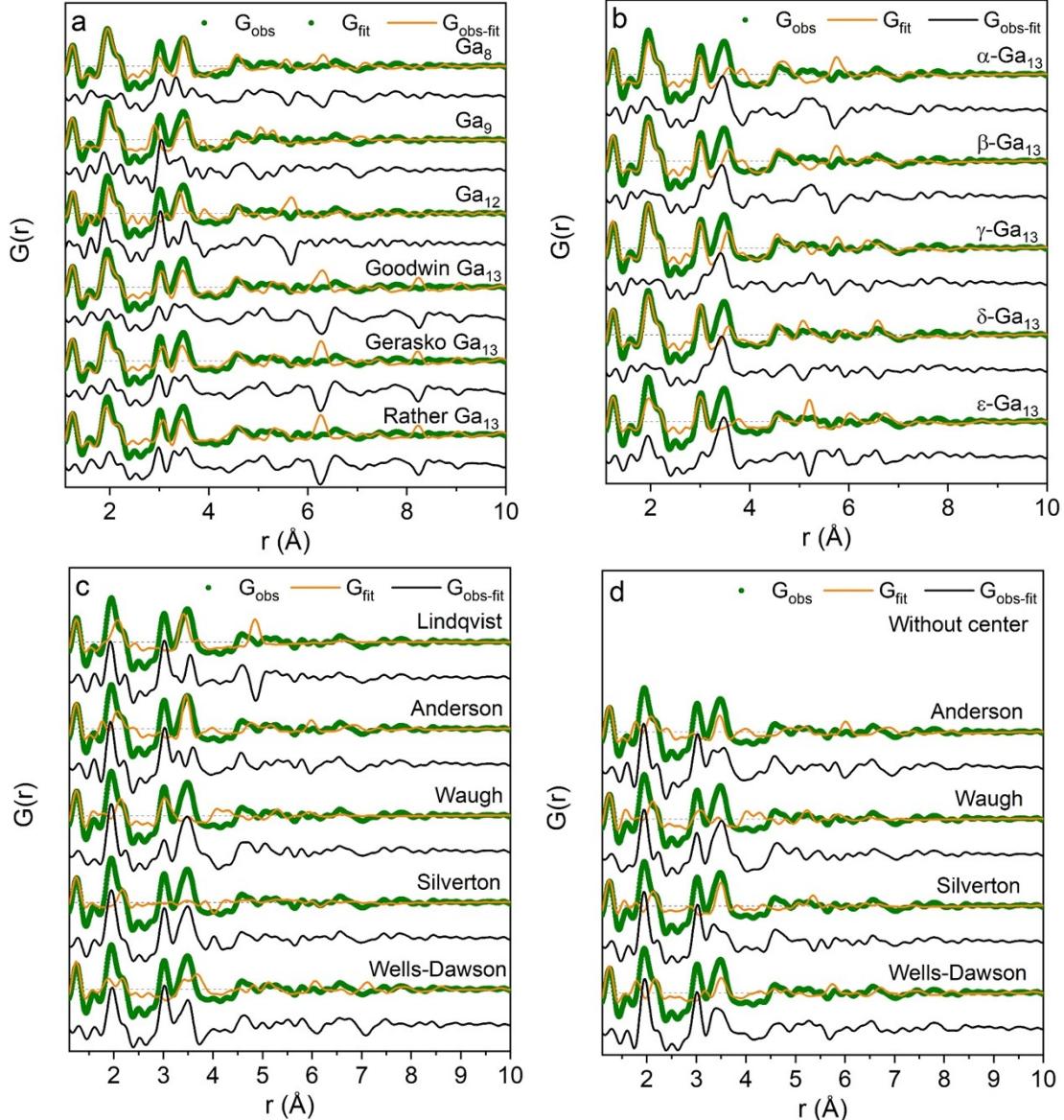
**Table S4.** Nomenclature for reported polyoxogallate structures

Short name	Full structural nomenclature	
Ga <sub>8</sub>	$[\text{Ga}_8(\text{heidi})_4(\mu_3\text{-OH})_2(\mu_2\text{-OH})_8(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})_2]^{2+}$ ( $\text{H}_3\text{heidi} = \text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{COOH})_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH})$ )	<sup>9</sup>
Ga <sub>9</sub>	$[(\text{MesGaO})_9]$ (Mes = Me <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )	<sup>10</sup>
Ga <sub>12</sub>	$[\text{Ga}_{12}\text{TBu}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-O})_8(\mu\text{-O})_2(\mu\text{-OH})_4]$	<sup>11</sup>
planar Ga <sub>13</sub>	$[\text{Ga}_{13}(\mu_3\text{-OH})_6(\mu_2\text{-OH})_{18}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{24}]$	<sup>9,12-13</sup>
Ga <sub>30</sub>	$[\text{Ga}_{30}(\mu_4\text{-O})_{12}(\mu_3\text{-O})_4(\mu_3\text{-OH})_4(\mu_2\text{-OH})_{42}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{16}]^{12+}$	<sup>14</sup>
Ga <sub>32</sub>	$[\text{Ga}_{32}(\mu_4\text{-O})_{12}(\mu_3\text{-O})_8(\mu_2\text{-O})_7(\mu_2\text{-OH})_{39}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{20}]^{3+}$	<sup>12</sup>

To identify the structure observed in this study, the atomic positions of all the previously reported gallium clusters and several known polyoxometalate clusters, such as the Keggin, Waugh, Wells-Dawson and Silverton clusters were extracted from single crystal data (ISCD database). For the latter, the metal atoms were substituted with gallium. For the relevant clusters, an additional motif was constructed where the central metal atom was removed. This have previously been reported to match data for Keggin ions for tungsten.<sup>15</sup> All these structures were refined against the PDF of the Ga(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> solution with R=2, as an example of the measured PDFs. The structures were allowed to expand or contract isotropically, to account for the elemental substitution as well as the motif being in a solvent and not in a crystal. A list of all the structures, modifications and parameters from the refinements are reported in Table S5.

**Table S5.** Extracted polyoxometalate clusters, their substitution and refinement parameters for a simple refinement with expansion/contraction.

#	Structure	Motif	Original	Rw	Zoomscale	Ref
1	Ga <sub>8</sub>			0.5424	0.9890	<sup>9</sup>
2	Ga <sub>9</sub>			0.6659	1.028	<sup>10</sup>
3	Ga <sub>12</sub>			0.7736	1.053	<sup>11</sup>
4	Ga <sub>13</sub>	Flat		0.6043 0.6577 0.6667	0.9806 0.9866 0.9852	<sup>9</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup>
5	Ga <sub>30</sub>	Keggin-like		<b>0.3658</b>	1.002	<sup>14</sup>
6	Ga <sub>32</sub>	Keggin-like		<b>0.3776</b>	1.001	<sup>12</sup>
7	Ga <sub>13</sub>	$\alpha$ -Keggin	Al <sub>13</sub> modified from #9	<b>0.5594</b>	1.034	
8	Ga <sub>13</sub>	$\beta$ -Keggin	Al <sub>13</sub> modified from #9	<b>0.4566</b>	1.034	
9	Ga <sub>13</sub>	$\gamma$ -Keggin	Al <sub>13</sub>	<b>0.3702</b>	1.034	<sup>16</sup>
10	Ga <sub>13</sub>	$\delta$ -Keggin	Al <sub>13</sub>	<b>0.3992</b>	1.032	<sup>17</sup>
11	Ga <sub>13</sub>	$\varepsilon$ -Keggin	Al <sub>13</sub>	<b>0.6191</b>	1.036	<sup>18</sup>
12	Ga <sub>12</sub>	$\alpha$ -Keggin, no center	Al <sub>12</sub> modified from #7	0.7198	1.039	
13	Ga <sub>12</sub>	$\beta$ -Keggin, no center	Al <sub>12</sub> modified from #8	0.6497	1.027	
14	Ga <sub>12</sub>	$\gamma$ -Keggin, no center	Al <sub>12</sub> modified from #9	0.5793	1.028	
15	Ga <sub>12</sub>	$\delta$ -Keggin, no center	Al <sub>12</sub> modified from #10	0.6125	1.030	
16	Ga <sub>12</sub>	$\varepsilon$ -Keggin, no center	Al <sub>12</sub> modified from #11	0.7659	1.039	
17	Ga <sub>20</sub>	Wells-Dawson	P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>18</sub>	0.8685	0.9947	<sup>19</sup>
18	Ga <sub>18</sub>	Wells-Dawson, no center	W <sub>18</sub> modified from #17	0.8992	0.9423	
19	Ga <sub>13</sub>	Silverton	CeMo <sub>12</sub>	0.8876	0.9030	<sup>20</sup>
20	Ga <sub>12</sub>	Silverton, no center	Mo <sub>12</sub> modified from #19	0.8871	0.9097	
21	Ga <sub>10</sub>	Waugh	CoMo <sub>9</sub>	0.8872	0.9414	<sup>21</sup>
22	Ga <sub>9</sub>	Waugh, no center	Mo <sub>9</sub> modified from #21	0.8983	0.9290	
23	Ga <sub>7</sub>	Anderson	GaMo <sub>6</sub>	0.8245	1.039	<sup>22</sup>
24	Ga <sub>6</sub>	Anderson, no center	Mo <sub>6</sub> modified from #23	0.8863	1.043	
25	Ga <sub>6</sub>	Lindqvist	Ta <sub>6</sub>	0.8000	1.018	<sup>23</sup>



**Figure S10.** Fits of the most common polyoxometalate clusters to the  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$   $R = 2$  data. The refinements include the nitrate ion to describe the peaks at 1.6 and 2.2  $\text{\AA}$ . a) Structures #1-4, b) Structures #12-16, c) Structures #17, 19, 21 23 and 25 and d) Structures #18, 20, 22 and 24.

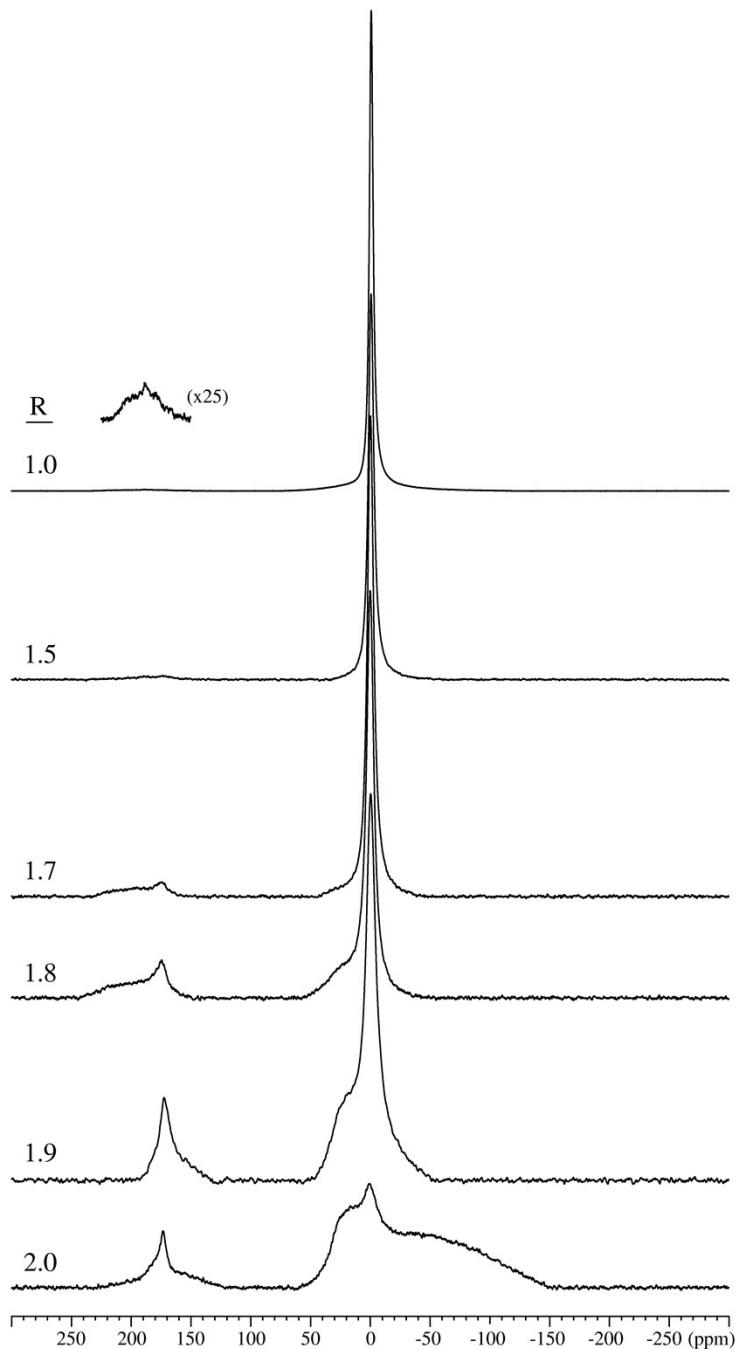




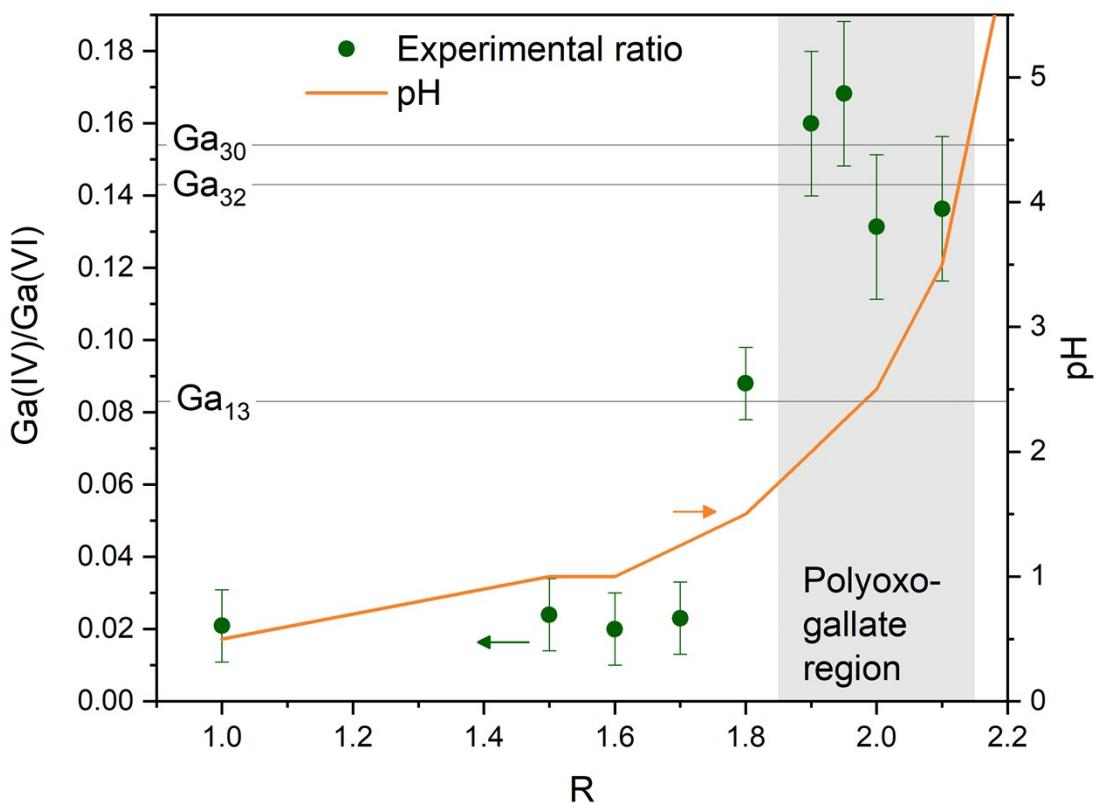
O	14.351	-6.878	6.249	O	13.455	-4.192	6.635	O	14.770	-7.878	3.497
O	9.650	-9.356	2.502	O	10.903	-4.581	3.660	O	7.340	-8.193	9.331
O	6.120	-11.357	7.364	O	6.218	-12.457	4.805	O	13.531	-5.339	4.072
O	7.801	-10.236	3.963	O	15.896	-4.860	5.566	O	16.097	-5.485	2.875
O	8.885	-5.478	5.349	O	9.109	-6.313	10.184	O	4.211	-7.073	5.640
O	10.792	-3.610	6.270	O	5.325	-9.680	5.225	O	6.412	-5.516	9.796
O	8.433	-4.652	8.034	O	6.549	-6.567	7.205	O	5.451	-10.216	10.028
O	10.561	-12.042	1.953	O	5.063	-8.796	7.738	O	6.907	-8.400	1.901
O	12.401	-10.058	2.816	O	6.862	-7.475	4.584	O	12.742	-2.590	4.442
O	14.139	-5.855	8.860	O	8.794	-6.677	2.876	O	7.934	-11.422	1.350
O	11.099	-5.311	8.464	O	11.495	-7.351	3.201	O	15.723	-3.652	8.199

### Ga<sub>32</sub>

Ga	18.640	9.625	-6.403	O	23.474	12.077	-6.027	Ga	18.316	13.598	-1.498
Ga	21.560	7.794	-5.859	Ga	19.735	10.942	-1.143	Ga	20.476	15.525	-5.751
Ga	20.578	9.557	-3.631	Ga	18.050	8.544	-2.043	Ga	23.535	14.025	-5.462
Ga	21.188	8.895	-8.659	O	21.323	10.186	-1.936	Ga	22.714	15.604	-3.033
Ga	19.027	6.968	-4.406	O	18.034	11.834	-0.720	Ga	21.962	17.406	-8.275
Ga	15.968	8.468	-4.694	O	19.082	9.238	-0.521	O	20.372	18.019	-9.329
Ga	16.789	6.889	-7.124	O	16.484	9.565	-1.483	O	23.590	16.956	-7.198
Ga	17.541	5.087	-1.882	O	14.702	8.339	-3.239	O	23.098	17.997	-9.782
O	19.131	4.474	-0.828	O	18.872	10.299	-2.898	O	22.231	19.314	-7.632
O	15.913	5.537	-2.958	Ga	24.065	12.983	-2.529	O	23.153	17.416	-2.431
O	16.405	4.495	-0.374	Ga	21.183	13.512	-0.516	O	16.184	15.237	-3.736
O	17.272	3.179	-2.524	O	21.968	14.187	1.156	O	17.327	13.845	-5.931
O	16.351	5.076	-7.725	O	25.679	12.547	-1.471	O	18.715	15.167	-2.581
O	23.319	7.256	-6.421	O	20.718	11.750	0.320	O	18.721	16.212	-5.186
O	22.176	8.648	-4.225	O	22.833	12.678	-1.092	O	21.165	16.163	-4.043
O	20.788	7.326	-7.576	O	24.274	14.853	-2.175	O	20.846	17.125	-6.769
O	20.782	6.280	-4.971	O	25.070	13.230	-4.284	O	21.892	15.629	-9.010
O	18.338	6.330	-6.113	O	22.527	13.700	-3.721	O	19.365	14.148	0.009
O	18.657	5.368	-3.388	O	20.122	12.732	-2.070	O	16.521	14.215	-1.208
O	17.611	6.864	-1.146	Ga	15.438	9.510	-7.628	O	21.582	15.173	-1.465
O	20.138	8.345	-10.165	Ga	18.320	8.981	-9.640	O	23.799	15.816	-4.702
O	22.982	8.278	-8.948	O	17.535	8.306	-11.312	O	22.002	14.564	-6.411
O	17.921	7.320	-8.691	O	13.825	9.946	-8.685	O	19.660	14.620	-7.378
O	15.704	6.677	-5.454	O	18.785	10.742	-10.477	O	19.724	13.785	-4.891
O	17.501	7.929	-3.746	O	16.670	9.815	-9.065	O	17.454	12.988	-3.261
O	19.843	7.873	-2.778	O	15.229	7.640	-7.982	Ga	17.665	11.283	-3.933
O	19.779	8.708	-5.266	O	14.433	9.263	-5.872	Ga	15.553	13.610	-2.811
O	22.049	9.505	-6.896	O	16.976	8.793	-6.435	Ga	14.490	11.216	-5.212
Ga	21.839	11.210	-6.224	O	19.381	9.761	-8.087	Ga	14.888	10.120	-2.446
Ga	23.950	8.883	-7.346	Ga	19.768	11.551	-9.014	O	13.731	9.667	-0.885
Ga	25.013	11.276	-4.945	Ga	21.454	13.949	-8.114	O	13.877	14.468	-2.248
Ga	24.615	12.373	-7.711	O	18.181	12.307	-8.220	O	12.902	11.773	-6.252
O	25.772	12.826	-9.272	O	21.470	10.659	-9.437	O	15.072	11.943	-1.917
O	25.626	8.025	-7.909	O	20.421	13.255	-9.636	O	15.524	11.310	-6.867
O	26.601	10.720	-3.904	O	23.019	12.928	-8.674	O	14.818	12.948	-4.510
O	24.432	10.550	-8.239	O	24.801	14.154	-6.918	O	13.424	10.703	-3.656
O	23.980	11.183	-3.289	O	20.631	12.194	-7.259	O	18.377	11.289	-5.641
O	24.685	9.545	-5.646	Ga	20.863	12.868	-3.754	O	16.029	10.416	-4.130
O	26.079	11.789	-6.500	Ga	17.943	14.699	-4.297				
O	21.126	11.204	-4.515	Ga	18.925	12.935	-6.526				



**Figure S11.** Single-pulse  $^{71}\text{Ga}$  NMR spectra (14.09 T,  $v_L(^{71}\text{Ga}) = 182.8$  MHz) for the  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  solutions in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at different R-values ( $R = [\text{OH}^-]/[\text{Ga}^{3+}]$ ). The spectra were acquired overnight in a 4 mm CP/MAS NMR probe using a  $45^\circ$  excitation pulse ( $\gamma B_1/2\pi = 60$  kHz), a relaxation delay of 1 s and typically 65.000 scans. The linebroadening and asymmetric lineshapes observed at increasing R values are tentatively ascribed to residual quadrupolar broadening caused by reduced motional averaging of the second-order quadrupolar interaction for the larger polyoxygallate complexes in solution.



**Figure S12.** Ratio of tetrahedrally coordinated  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$  to octahedrally coordinated  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$  and pH as a function of R-value. ( $\text{R} = [\text{OH}^-]/[\text{Ga}^{3+}]$ ).



**Reaction S1.** Formation of  $\text{Ga}_{13}$  from octahedral coordinated  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$

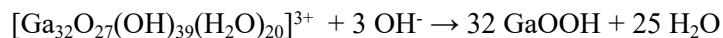


**Reaction S2.** Formation of  $\text{Ga}_{32}$  from octahedral coordinated  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$

## GaOOH region



**Reaction S3.** Formation of GaOOH from the Ga<sub>13</sub>



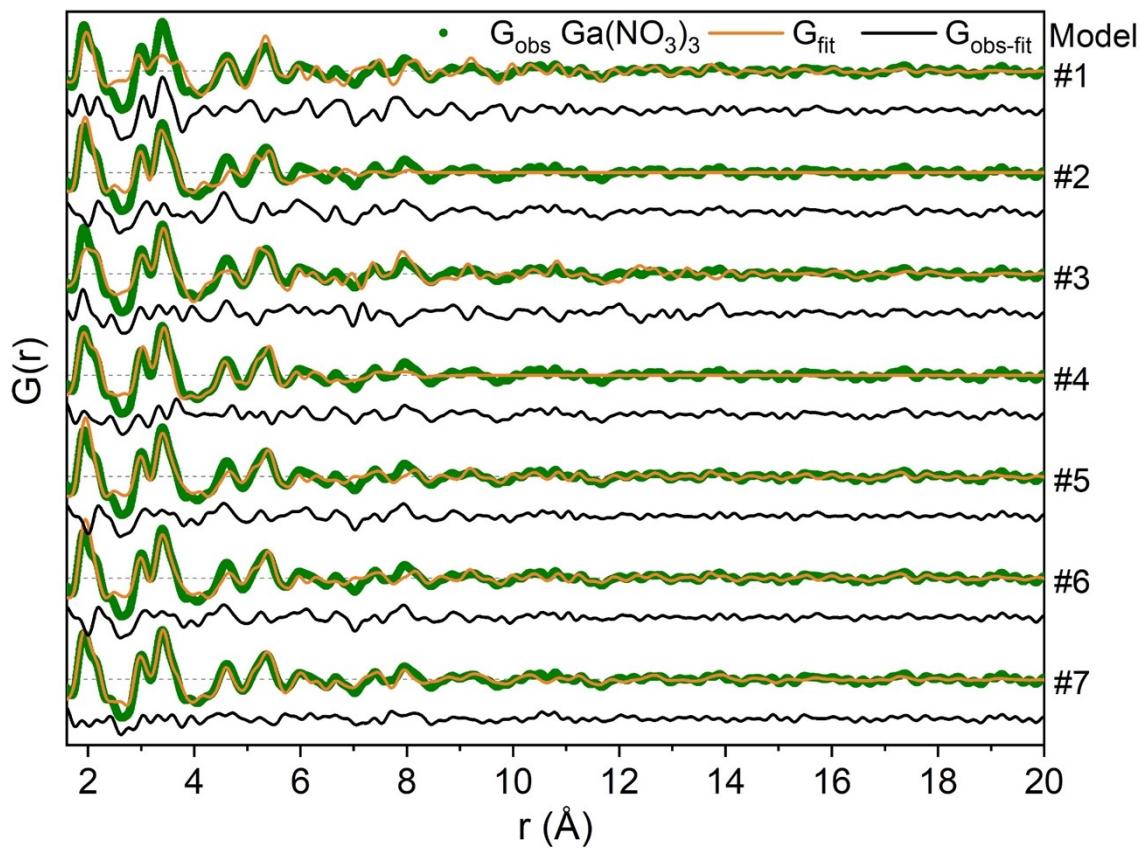
**Reaction S4.** Formation of GaOOH from the Ga<sub>32</sub>

**Table S7.** Refinement values for the  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  R = 2.5 data of single phase GaOOH (Model #1-4)

	GaOOH <sup>24</sup>	#1 Only unit cell	#2 Unit cell and size	#3 Unit cell and atomic positions	#4 Unit cell, atomic positions and size
a (Å)	9.7907(8)	9.8384	10.2967	10.0096	9.5144
b (Å)	2.9732(2)	2.9732	2.9904	2.9762	2.9700
c (Å)	4.5171(4)	4.5073	4.1930	4.3215	4.6040
Size (Å)		24 (F)	9.31	24 (F)	10.14
Ga (x)	0.35544(9)	-	-	0.3569	0.3589
Ga (y)	0.25	-	-	-	-
Ga (z)	0.5517(2)	-	-	0.6337	0.5369
O1 (x)	0.1953(6)	-	-	0.1707	0.1587
O1 (y)	0.25	-	-	-	-
O1 (z)	0.3014(13)	-	-	0.5059	0.3812
O2 (x)	0.4447(7)	-	-	0.4560	0.4472
O2 (y)	0.75	-	-	-	-
O2 (z)	0.3030(15)	-	-	0.3985	0.3576
Rw		0.644	0.497	0.486	0.407

**Table S8.** Refinement values for the  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$   $R = 2.5$  data of two phase GaOOH (Model #5-7)

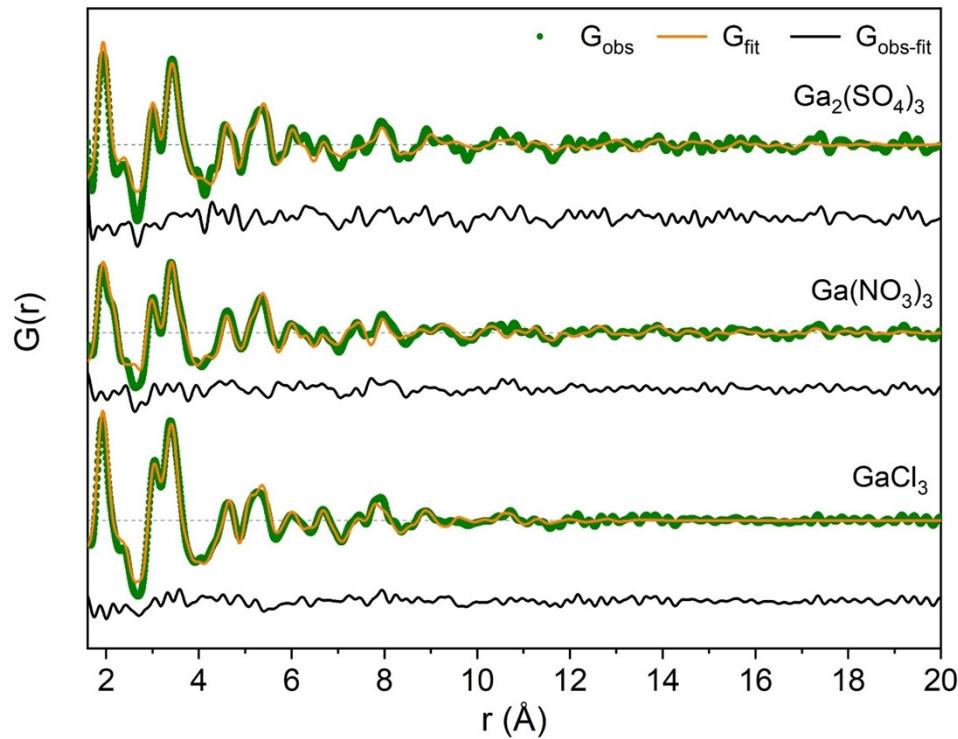
	$\text{GaOOH}^{24}$	#5		#6		#7	
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 1	Phase 2
Relative scale		0.1547		0.1547		0.2340	0.7660
a (Å)	9.7907(8)	-	-	9.8040	10.4009	9.7975	10.3356
b (Å)	2.9732(2)	-	-	2.9624	3.0053	2.9705	2.9532
c (Å)	4.5171(4)	-	-	4.5449	4.1320	4.6249	4.1267
Size (Å)		43.77	8.10	43.77	8.10	28.98	10.10
Ga (x)	0.35544(9)	-	-	-	-	0.3579	0.3615
Ga (y)	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ga (z)	0.5517(2)	-	-	-	-	0.5389	0.6281
O1 (x)	0.1953(6)	-	-	-	-	0.1911	0.1663
O1 (y)	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
O1 (z)	0.3014(13)	-	-	-	-	0.2397	0.4170
O2 (x)	0.4447(7)	-	-	-	-	0.4498	0.4294
O2 (y)	0.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
O2 (z)	0.3030(15)	-	-	-	-	0.3642	0.3409
Rw		0.431		0.431		0.307	



**Figure S13.** Fits for the  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$   $R = 2.5$  data of both single (Model #1-4) and two (Model #5-7) phase GaOOH

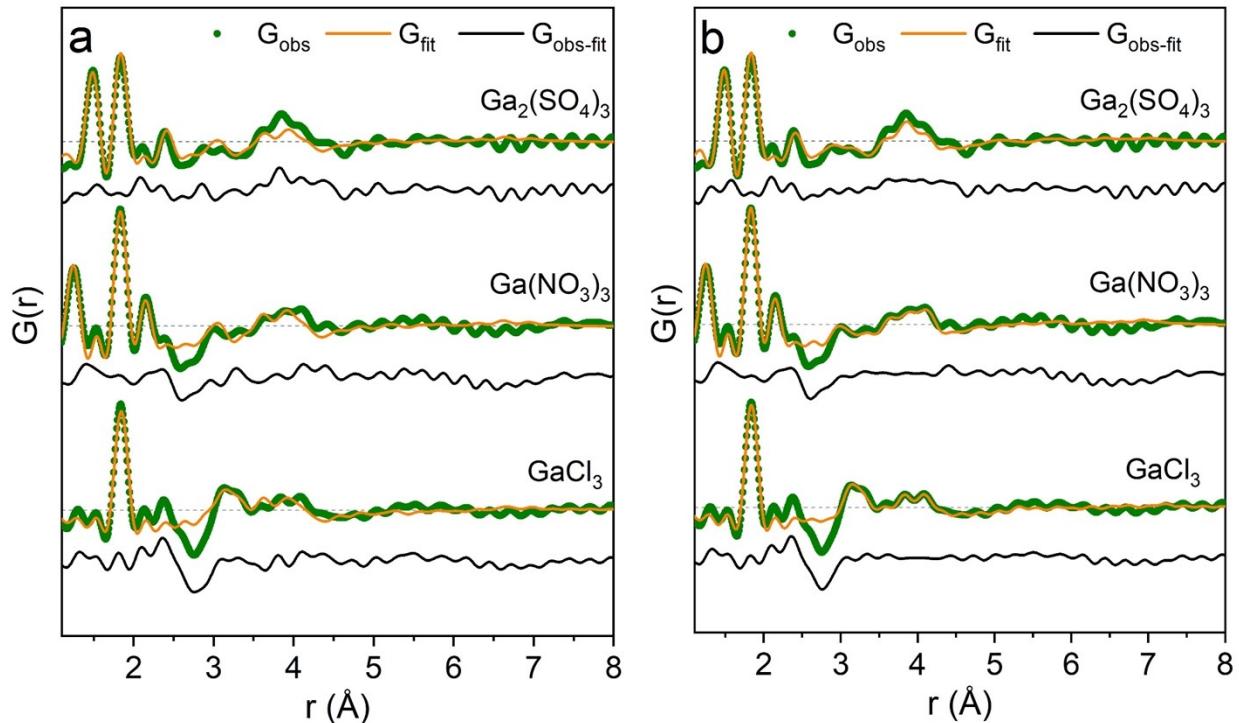
**Table S9.** Refinement values for the  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$   $R = 2$ ,  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$   $R = 2.5$  and  $\text{GaCl}_3$   $R = 3.5$  data using one of the two phase GaOOH models (Model #7).

	GaOOH <sup>24</sup>	Phase 1			Phase 2		
		$\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$	$\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$	$\text{GaCl}_3$	$\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$	$\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$	$\text{GaCl}_3$
Relative scale		0.2076	0.2340	0.2689	0.7924	0.7660	0.7311
$a$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	9.7907(8)	9.5467	9.7975	9.0606	10.3134	10.3356	10.2109
$b$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	2.9732(2)	2.9785	2.9705	2.9660	2.9917	2.9532	3.0141
$c$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	4.5171(4)	4.9157	4.6249	5.0321	4.0793	4.1267	4.0695
Size ( $\text{\AA}$ )		24.77	28.98	15.00	10.48	10.10	8.63
Ga (x)	0.35544(9)	0.3610	0.3579	0.3550	0.3615	0.3615	0.3626
Ga (y)	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ga (z)	0.5517(2)	0.5340	0.5389	0.5887	0.6098	0.6281	0.6098
O1 (x)	0.1953(6)	0.2077	0.1911	0.2008	0.1418	0.1663	0.14218
O1 (y)	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
O1 (z)	0.3014(13)	0.2366	0.2397	0.2600	0.4227	0.4170	0.4228
O2 (x)	0.4447(7)	0.4451	0.4498	0.4792	0.4282	0.4294	0.4223
O2 (y)	0.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
O2 (z)	0.3030(15)	0.3905	0.3642	0.4880	0.3575	0.3409	0.3539
$R_w$		0.346	0.307	0.198			



**Figure S14.** Fits for the  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$   $R = 2$ ,  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$   $R = 2.5$  and  $\text{GaCl}_3$   $R = 3.5$  data using one of the two phase GaOOH models (Model #7).

## Tetrahedral region



**Figure S15.** PDFs of a tetrahedral monomer with 5 solvent oxygen against the three salts for  $R = 5$   $\text{GaCl}_3$  and  $R = 4$  for  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  and  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ . a) Only allowing for expansion (zoom) and b) with refinement of atomic positions with a 0.2 box restraint

**Table S10.**  $R_w$  and zoom values for the 5 models refined against the  $R = 5$  PDF for  $\text{GaCl}_3$  and  $R = 4$  PDFs for  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$  and  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ .

	$\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$		$\text{GaCl}_3$		$\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$	
	$R_w$	Zoom	$R_w$		$R_w$	
Monomer with solvent – zoom	0.338	0.990	0.461	0.994	0.349	0.993
Monomer with solvent – 0.2 restraint	0.304	-	0.408	-	0.298	-

**Table S11.** Atomic positions of tetrahedral  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$  w. water before refinement and after for the three salts

Tetraeder w 5 water

Ga	-17.961	13.983	7.025
O	-18.833	12.438	7.554
O	-18.988	14.674	5.624
O	-18.006	15.066	8.539
O	-16.231	13.653	6.477
O	-17.204	13.024	3.029
O	-15.019	14.519	9.158
O	-21.827	14.351	7.707
O	-16.627	10.208	6.966
O	-16.587	17.042	5.238

Refined  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  R = 4

Ga	-17.961	13.983	7.0250
O	-18.6320495	12.4321524	7.72124069
O	-19.0317877	14.4799483	5.60810299
O	-18.0960154	15.2661820	8.33641513
O	-16.2705853	13.7176293	6.36738061
O	-17.4044607	12.8234939	3.04927358
O	-15.1625696	14.6689081	9.32925885
O	-21.8632746	14.5511646	7.66860968
O	-16.4574265	10.1764707	6.76586685
O	-16.4984546	17.1966839	5.43960742

Refined  $\text{GaCl}_3$  R = 5

Ga	-17.961	13.983	7.0250
O	-18.9860651	12.6414521	7.76374437
O	-18.8483033	14.8559552	5.63135611
O	-18.2113582	14.8558550	8.63808077
O	-16.2024945	13.5687103	6.59075646
O	-17.0038053	13.1157143	3.11259912
O	-14.9521846	14.4133131	9.29631819
O	-21.9652213	14.5520774	7.50614765
O	-16.4407038	10.0062085	6.76559037
O	-16.7880218	17.1523580	5.07256493

Refined  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$  R = 4

Ga	-17.961	13.983	7.0250
O	-18.7844008	12.4376520	7.70422553
O	-19.1236843	14.4734798	5.69950631
O	-18.2079226	15.2378032	8.33892556
O	-16.1828183	13.8530614	6.56007628
O	-17.0035452	13.2250166	3.06082036
O	-14.8179377	14.5458978	9.26717148
O	-21.8800558	14.3383660	7.90783095
O	-16.8281314	10.3830731	7.16700825
O	-16.7771345	17.1068126	5.12019507

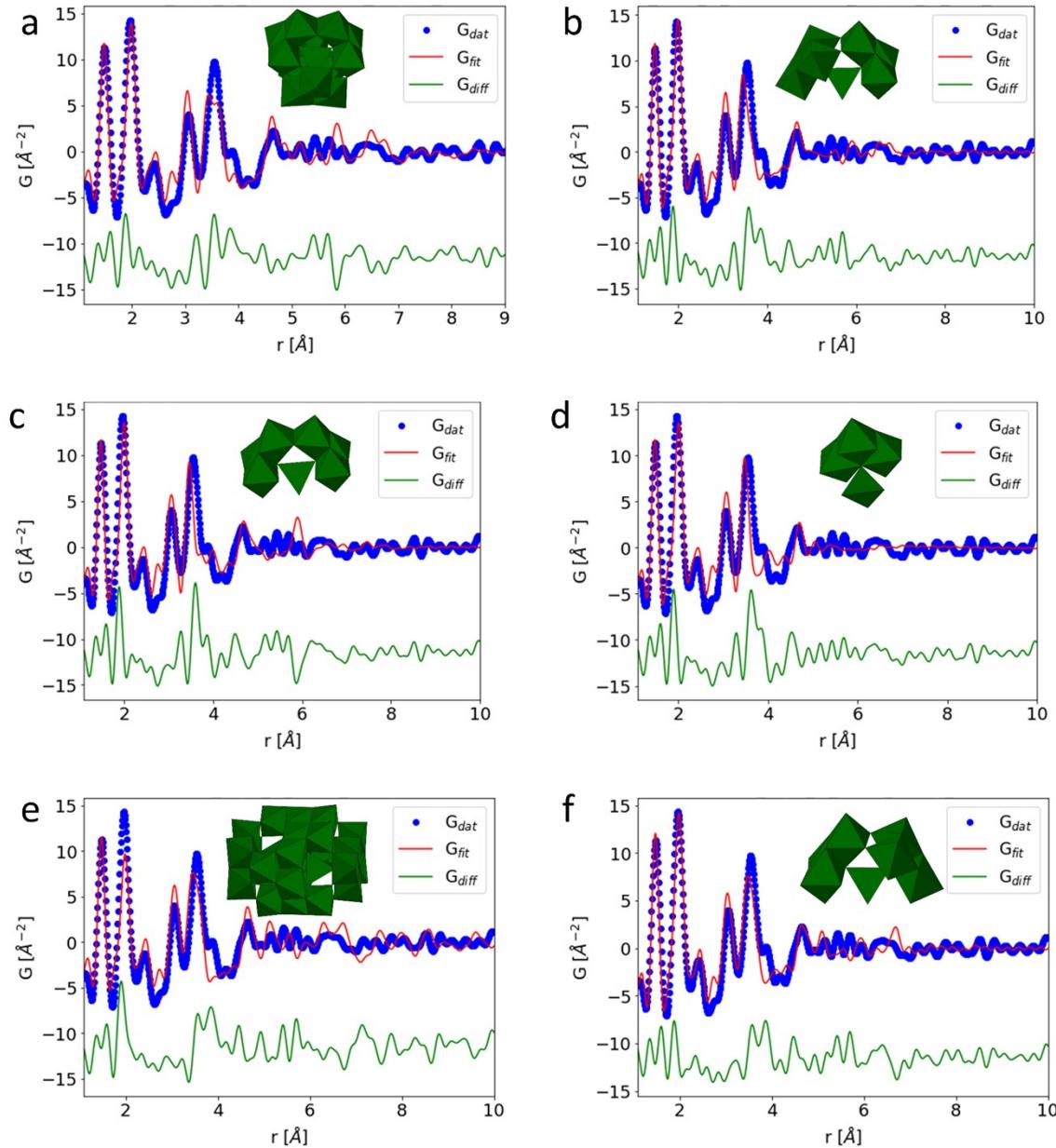
Tetraeder w 4 water

Ga	-17.961000	13.983000	7.0250000
O	-18.772310	12.436301	7.6027502
O	-18.932119	14.588625	5.5787933
O	-18.163900	15.251935	8.3456078
O	-16.223992	13.817842	6.5121852
O	-17.001872	12.820389	3.1523900
O	-14.986104	14.708796	9.2857210
O	-21.747816	14.541609	7.8904572
O	-16.426752	10.239216	6.7617086

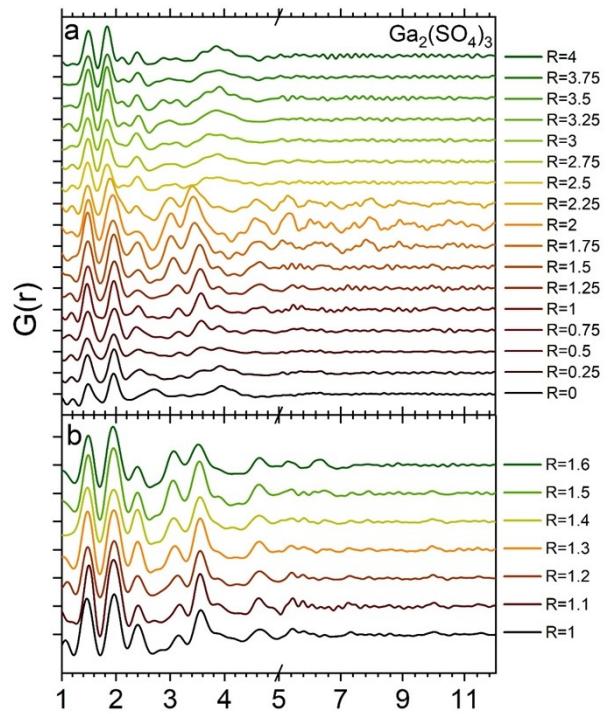
Tetraeder w 6 water

Ga	-17.961000	13.983000	7.0250000
O	-18.747141	12.362247	7.3531077
O	-18.903238	14.772678	5.6466696
O	-18.108355	15.056229	8.5064081
O	-16.234537	13.728053	6.4710983
O	-17.402262	12.902791	3.1114765
O	-14.859616	14.721096	9.2193889
O	-21.779137	14.552243	7.7915015
O	-16.422515	9.9957186	6.7640412
O	-16.687599	17.032405	5.4389059
O	-19.121371	12.357997	10.607568

## Variations across salt



**Figure S16.** Fit of PDF of  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$  R = 1.5 with structures illustrated together with the fits. a)  $\gamma\text{-Ga}_{13}$  Keggin ion, b), c) and d) cut-outs of  $\gamma\text{-Ga}_{13}$  Keggin ion marked in red in Figure 7c, e)  $\text{Ga}_{30}$  ion and f) cut-out of  $\text{Ga}_{30}$  ion similar to the cut-out in c).

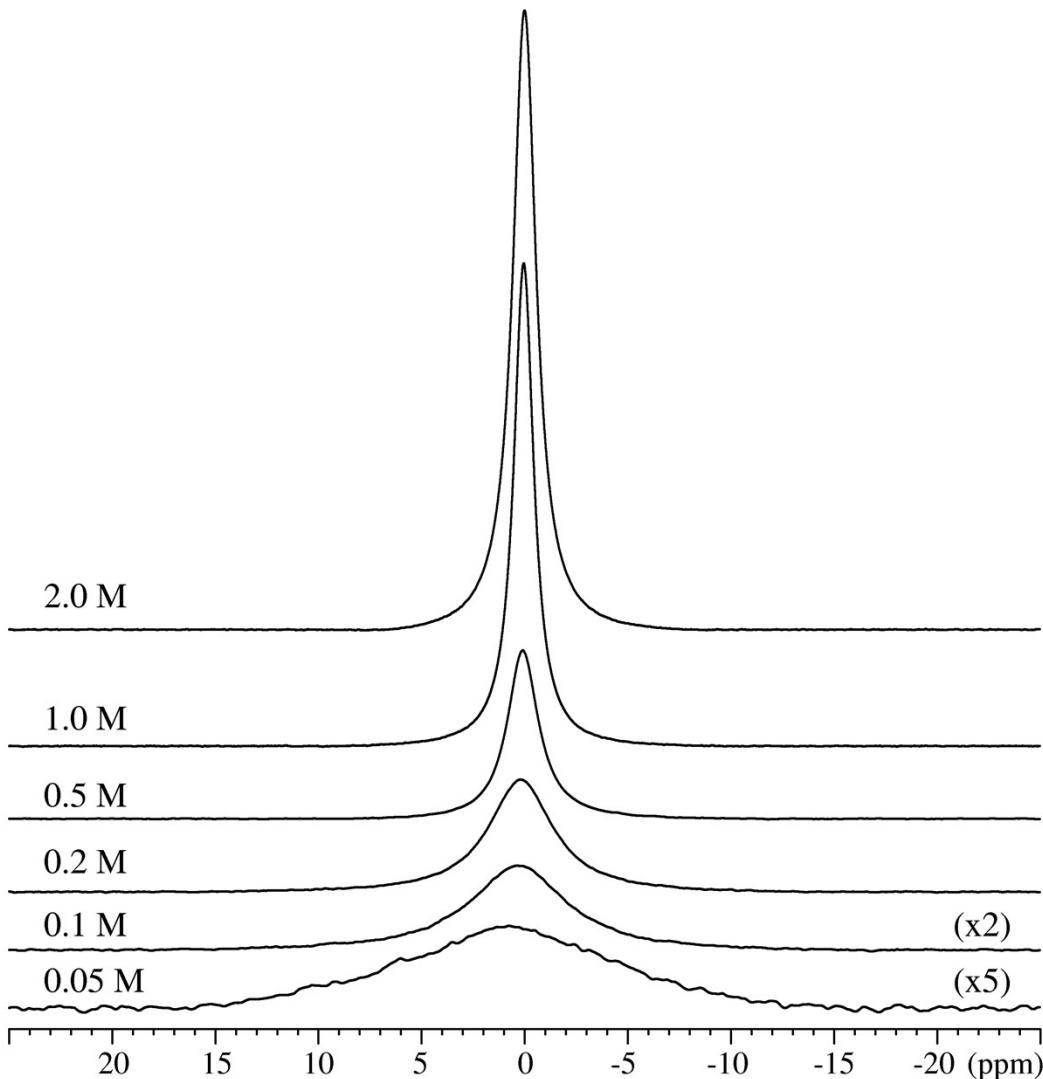


**Figure S17.** PDFs of  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$  solutions as function of  $R$  ( $R = [\text{OH}^-]/[\text{Ga}^{3+}]$ ). a) Series with 0.25 steps in  $R$  and b) series with 0.1 steps in  $R$  around the polyoxogallate structure signal all showing a much stronger peak at 3.5 Å compared to the peak at 3.1 Å.

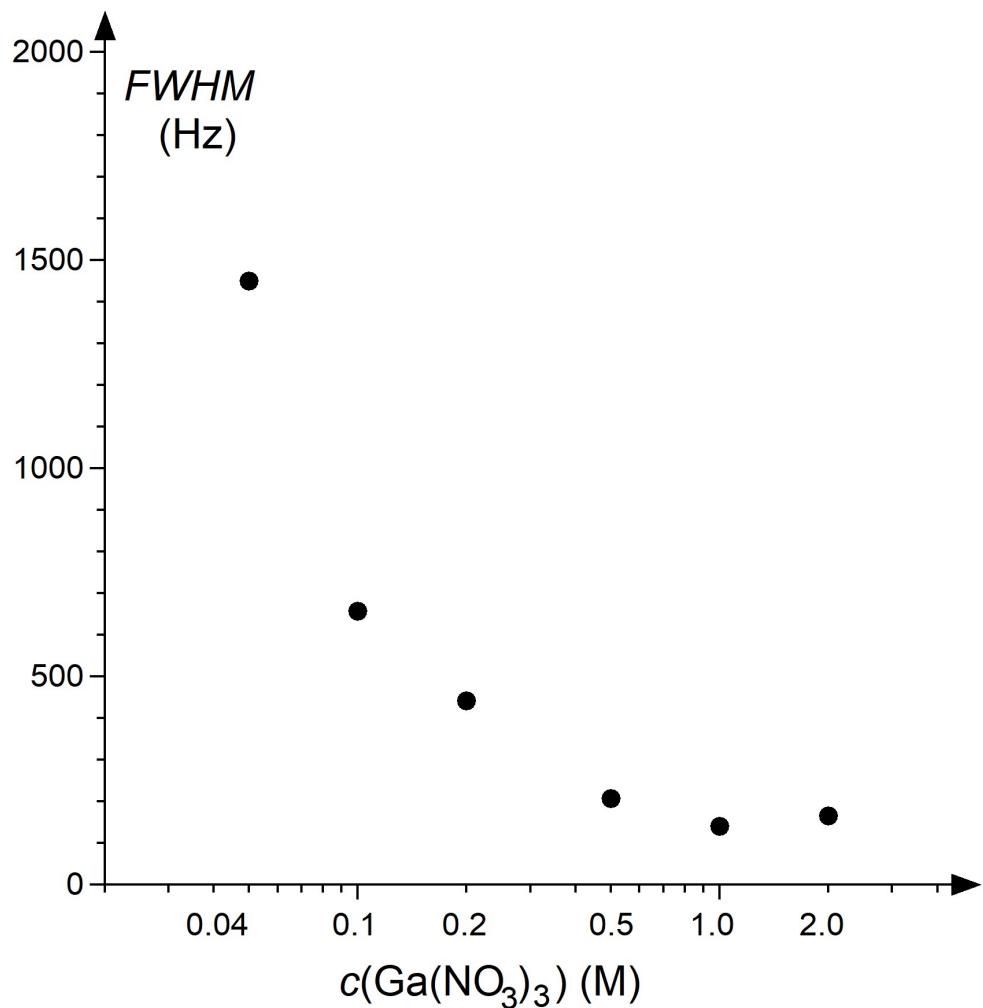
## Concentration

**Table S12.** Measured pH for the concentration series of  $\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ ,  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  and  $\text{GaCl}_3$  with R=0 and R=2 corresponding to the PDF data in Figure 8.

c( $\text{Ga}^{3+}$ )	R=0			R=2		
	$\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$	$\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$	$\text{GaCl}_3$	$\text{Ga}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$	$\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$	$\text{GaCl}_3$
0.5 M	2	1	1	10	8	2
1 M	2	0	0	11	9.5	1,5
2 M	1.5	0	0	8	10	1



**Figure S18.**  ${}^7\text{Ga}$  NMR spectra (9.39 T,  $v_L({}^7\text{Ga}) = 121.9$  MHz) for  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  dissolved in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  with concentrations of 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1 and 2 M. The single-pulse spectra have been obtained at a solution-state spectrometer using a  $90^\circ$  excitation pulse ( $\gamma B_1/2\pi = 20$  kHz), a 1 s relaxation delay and 64 – 256 scans.



**Figure S19.**  $^{71}\text{Ga}$  NMR linewidths ( $FWHM$ , full width at half maximum) of the resonances observed for the concentration series of  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  as a function of the  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  concentration. The linewidths are determined from the spectra in Figure S19.

**Table S13.** Measured pH for the concentration series of  $\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  with NMR data in Figure S19-20.

$c(\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3)$	Measured pH
2	0
1	0
0.5	0.5
0.2	1
0.1	1.5
0.05	2

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