

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

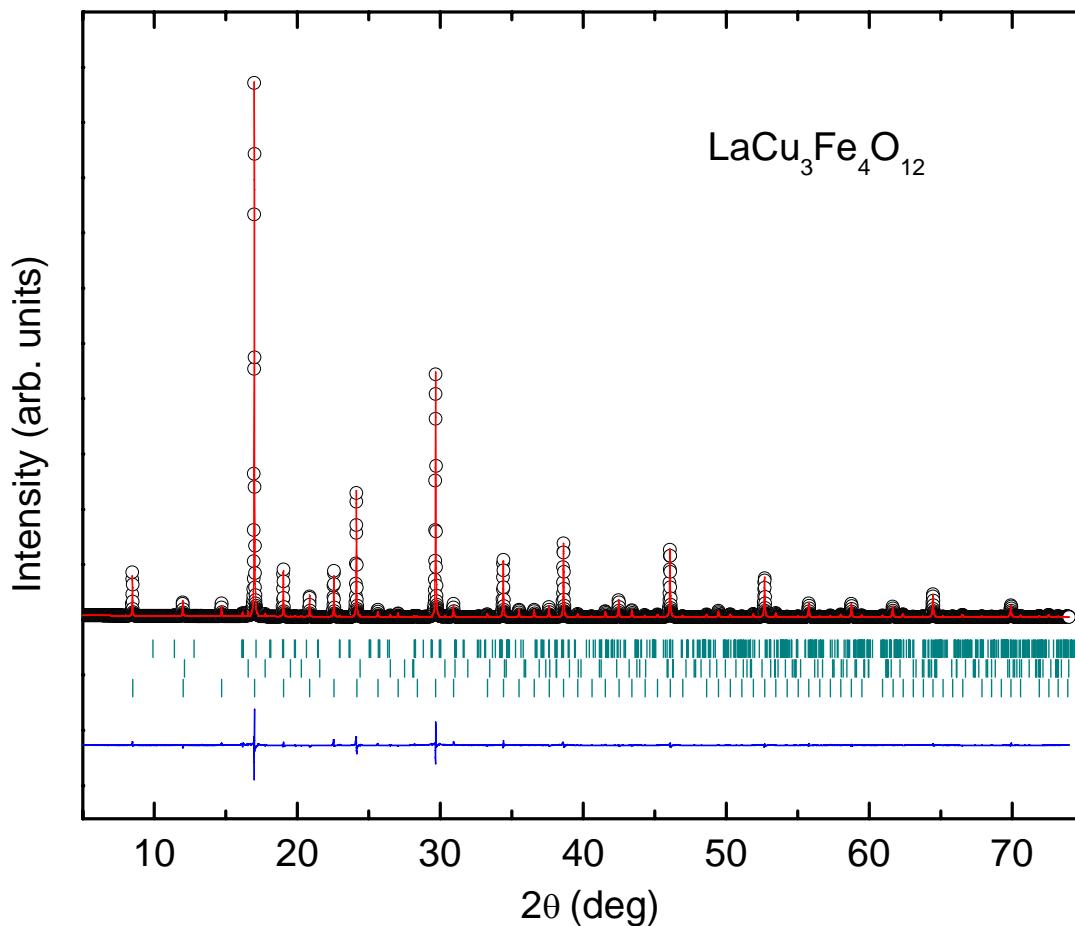
**Table S1: Refined structural parameters and selected bond lengths and angles of  $\text{LaCu}_3\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_{12}$  from the Rietveld analysis of SXRD data at 100, 300 and 450 K.** Space group is  $Im\bar{3}$  ( $Z = 2$ , No. 204). The atomic positions are  $2a(0, 0, 0)$ , for La;  $6b(0, 0.5, 0.5)$ , for Cu;  $8c(0.25, 0.25, 0.25)$ , for Fe and  $24g(x, y, 0)$ , for O. Numbers in parentheses are standard deviations of the last significant digit.

$T$ (K)	100	300	450
$a$ (Å)	7.42455(5)	7.43283(4)	7.41420(6)
$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	409.270(8)	410.641(7)	407.561(9)
$x$ (O)	0.3112(4)	0.3111(3)	0.3070(4)
$y$ (O)	0.1705(4)	0.1711(4)	0.1764(4)
$U_{\text{iso}}(\text{La})$ (100×Å <sup>2</sup> )	0.01(1)	0.26(2)	0.42(2)
$U_{\text{iso}}(\text{Cu})$ (100×Å <sup>2</sup> )	0.82(2)	1.09(2)	1.48(3)
$U_{\text{iso}}(\text{Fe})$ (100×Å <sup>2</sup> )	0.07(1)	0.14 (2)	0.22(2)
$U_{\text{iso}}(\text{O})$ (100×Å <sup>2</sup> )	0.32(7)	0.36(7)	0.67(8)
La-O (Å) (×12)	2.634(3)	2.639(3)	2.625(3)
Cu-O (Å) (×4)	1.889(3)	1.895(2)	1.937(3)
(×4)	2.820(4)	2.819(3)	2.780(3)
(×4)	3.365(5)	3.364(6)	3.326(4)
Fe-O (Å) (×6)	2.0000(10)	2.0007(9)	1.9778(10)
Fe-O-Fe (°)	136.3(2)	136.5(1)	139.2(2)
$R_p$ (%)	5.78	4.70	5.42
$R_{\text{wp}}$ (%)	7.40	6.70	7.71

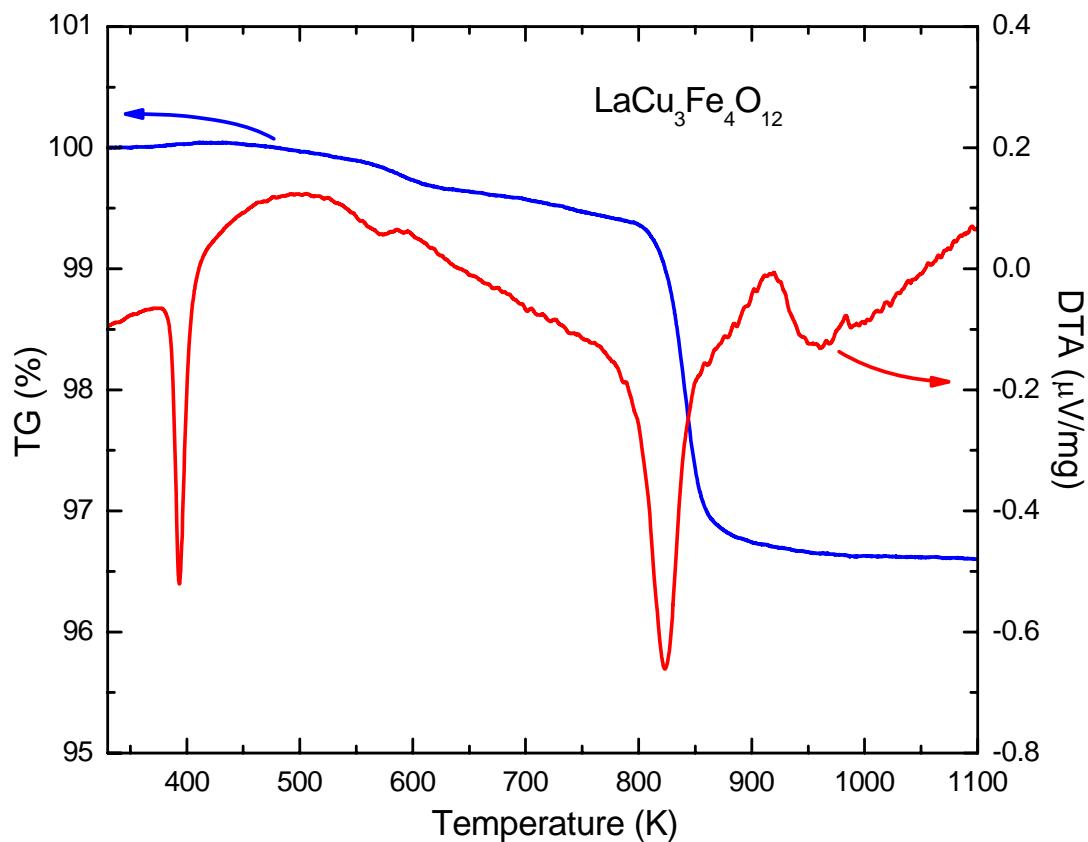
**Table S2: Bond valence sum values ( $V_i$ ) for Cu and Fe sites in LaCu<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>4</sub>O<sub>12</sub> at 100, 300, and 450 K.** The  $V_i$  is calculated using the formula  $V_i = \sum_j S_{ij}$ , and  $S_{ij} = \exp[(r_0 - r_{ij})/0.37]$ . The following  $r_0$  values were used: 1.739 (ref. 29) and 1.649 (ref. 30) for Cu<sup>3+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup>, respectively, with twelve coordinated oxygen atoms; 1.751 (ref. 31) and 1.772 (ref. 32) for Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>3.75+</sup>, respectively, for six coordinated oxygen atoms. For the Fe<sup>3.75+</sup> site at 450 K, the  $r_0$  of Fe<sup>4+</sup> ion was used for the calculation.

$T$ (K)	100	300	450
Cu	2.93	2.90	2.06
Fe	3.06	3.05	3.44

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30. Liu, W. & Thorp, H. H. Bond valence sum analysis of metal-ligand bond lengths in metalloenzymes and model complexes. 2. Refined distances and other enzymes. *Inorg. Chem.* **32**, 4102-4105 (1993).
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32. Woodward, P. M., Cox, D. E., Moshopoulou, E., Sleight, A. W. & Morimoto, S. Structural studies of charge disproportionation and magnetic order in CaFeO<sub>3</sub>. *Phys. Rev. B* **62**, 844-855 (2000).



**Figure S1: SXRD pattern of  $\text{LaCu}_3\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_{12}$  at 300 K and the Rietveld refinement profile.** The observed ( $\circ$ ), calculated (—), and difference (—) patterns are shown. The bottom-row ticks mark the positions of allowed Bragg reflections of  $\text{LaCu}_3\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_{12}$ . The sample contains small amount of impurities:  $0.4 \text{ wt\%}$   $\text{LaFeO}_3$  (top-row ticks) and  $1.6 \text{ wt\%}$   $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (middle-row ticks).



**Figure S2: Results of thermogravimetry (TG) and differential thermal analysis (DTA).** The sharp peak at 393 K in the DTA curve shows a phase transition, and at temperatures above  $\sim 820$  K the sample decomposed into  $\text{LaFeO}_3$ ,  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{CuO}$  (identified by X-ray diffraction). The TG loss ( $\sim 3.25\%$ ) is consistent with the amount of released oxygen (3.22%) expected from the reaction  $\text{LaCu}_3\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_{12} \rightarrow \text{LaFeO}_3 + 3/2\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4 + 3/2\text{CuO} + 3/4\text{O}_2$ , confirming the oxygen stoichiometry of  $\text{LaCu}_3\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_{12}$ .