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Thermal properties of Cu₂S binary copper sulfides

Copper chalcogenides have a complex electronic structure due to the interaction of hybridized s- and p-states of chalcogen forming a valence band with 3d states of copper, which greatly complicates the interpretation of temperature dependences of kinetic parameters having a nonmonotonic character. Cu₂S copper sulfide is an effective thermoelectric material, so it is interesting to study its kinetic parameters of solid solutions that it forms with alkali metals. The nonstoichiometry of chalcogenides can be easily controlled electrochemically, therefore, the task of selecting the optimal composition according to the cationic sublattice is quite feasible. The paper presents experimental studies of the properties of Cu₂S binary copper sulfide. Copper chalcogenides have a complex electronic structure due to the interaction of hybridized s- and p-states of chalcogen forming a valence band with 3d states of copper, which greatly complicates the interpretation of temperature dependences of kinetic parameters having a nonmonotonic character. For the Cu₂S sample, rather low values of the electron thermal EMF coefficient of the sample from 0.05 mV/K to 0.25 mV/K were found, which are more typical for metals than for semiconductors. The thermal conductivity of the Cu₂S sample is quite low, it rises to 0.3 W/m*K at a phase transition of about 380 K and does not fall below 0.2 W/m*K. Thus, the nonstoichiometry of chalcogenides can be easily controlled electrochemically, therefore, the task of selecting the optimal composition according to the cationic sublattice is quite feasible. In addition, to improve the thermoelectric properties of Cu₂S, it can be achieved by alloying alkali metals into a binary copper sulfide matrix.

Keywords: thermoelectric materials, copper sulfide, crystal structure, conductivity, thermal conductivity, Seebeck coefficient, superionic conductors.

Introduction

Copper sulfide has proven to be a more efficient material in solar cells [1]. CES with Cu₂S-CDs heterojunction attract attention due to the real possibility of their wide application as ground-based photovoltaic energy converters; in addition, the study of the properties of the heterojunction is of considerable scientific interest.

One of the first methods for producing a thin Cu₂S film in a Cu₂S-CDs solar cell consists in dipping a substrate with a deposited CDs layer with a solution heated to 90 °C containing copper ions, in which 2 g of NaCl and 6 g of CuCl per 1 liter of H₂O (pH ~3...4). As a result of the substitution reaction, a Cu₂S film with a thickness of 30 nm is formed on the surface of CDs. The efficiency of such a solar cell reaches 10 % [1].

Copper selenide has also performed well in the composition of solar cells. Cu_{2-x}Se-*n*-Si hetero junction elements with an efficiency of 8.8 % were manufactured on monocrystalline *n*-Si substrates by Cu_{2-x}Se thermal sputtering [2, 3]. During spraying, a pre-synthesized material is used, which is evaporated either from the liquid phase or from a red-hot rod. With such a technology for manufacturing solar cells, non-stoichiometric copper selenide can be used, obtained according to the methods developed in this project.

Modern silicon solar cells have achieved very high efficiency — about 25 %. One of the interesting directions is the use of quantum dots, which makes it possible to obtain layers with different band gap widths from the same material, for example, silver sulfide. It is in optical devices that nanotechnology products are used, including in SE.

Experimental part

The technique of synthesis of Cu_{2-x}S nanodiscs. The following chemicals are used for the synthesis of nanodiscs: copper (I) chloride (CuCl, 99.995 %), oleylamine (OAm, 70 %), sulfur (S) powder (99.98 %) and trioctylphosphine oxide (TOPO, technical grade 90 %).

The synthesis of Cu₂S nanoplates is carried out in one stage. The diameter of the resulting discs is about 20–30 nm, the thickness is 3–5 nm.

The required amount of CuCl (0.25–0.5 mmol — depending on the desired nonstoichiometry x) is mixed with 1 mmol of sulfur powder, 4 g of trioctylphosphinoxide (TOPO) and 10 ml of oleylamine (OAm). The solution is degassed at room temperature in a nitrogen atmosphere, then heated to 85 °C and maintained at this temperature for 1 hour. After that, the heating jacket is Cu₂S removed and 20–30 ml of ethanol is injected, the temperature decreases to ~ 40 °C. The resulting Cu₂S powder is collected by centrifugation at 9000 rpm for 1 min. The collected Cu₂S samples are re-dispersed in chloroform. This procedure is repeated twice to clean the prepared Cu₂S. Then the obtained samples are dried at a temperature of 40–50 °C.

An X-ray phase analysis of the obtained compacted nanocrystalline and powder samples was performed at room temperature (Tables 1–3). The identification of X-ray reflexes was carried out.

Table 1

Results of RFA Cu_{1.85}S

| No. | 2 θ, (deg) | d, (ang.) | Height (cps) | FWHM (deg) | Size (ang.) | Phase name | Chemical formula |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 24.705(7) | 3.6008(11) | 163(26) | 0.10(2) | 830(172) | Unknown | |
| 2 | 26.533(11) | 3.3567(14) | 479(45) | 0.121(16) | 706(95) | Roxbyite(2,-3,2), chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(1,0,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , Cu ₂ S |
| 3 | 29.783(11) | 2.9974(11) | 460(44) | 0.15(2) | 566(93) | Roxbyite(2,-4,0), chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(1,0,1) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , Cu ₂ S |
| 4 | 31.209(8) | 2.8636(8) | 763(57) | 0.121(10) | 714(59) | Roxbyite(1,3,-4) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 5 | 34.059(4) | 2.6302(3) | 866(60) | 0.096(8) | 904(76) | Roxbyite(5,1,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 6 | 35.392(3) | 2.5341(2) | 1627(83) | 0.071(6) | 1233(97) | Roxbyite(0,4,-4) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 7 | 36.377(3) | 2.4678(2) | 2243(97) | 0.122(5) | 717(32) | Unknown | |
| 8 | 37.920(10) | 2.3708(6) | 940(63) | 0.232(10) | 378(17) | Roxbyite(3,-2,5), chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(1,0,2) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , Cu ₂ S |
| 9 | 38.55(5) | 2.333(3) | 225(31) | 0.71(6) | 123(11) | Roxbyite(1,-5,-3) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 10 | 42.244(12) | 2.1376(6) | 460(44) | 0.19(3) | 478(72) | Unknown | |
| 11 | 43.296(3) | 2.08806(13) | 389(40) | 0.066(10) | 1352(198) | Sulfur-III(1,0,-1) | S |
| 12 | 46.309(13) | 1.9590(5) | 294(35) | 0.30(7) | 304(73) | Roxbyite(6,2,3) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 13 | 46.909(9) | 1.9353(4) | 1098(68) | 0.257(14) | 352(19) | Roxbyite(0,6,-4), chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(1,1,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , Cu ₂ S |
| 14 | 47.99(3) | 1.8942(13) | 147(25) | 0.17(7) | 522(216) | Roxbyite(5,-5,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 15 | 48.942(6) | 1.8596(2) | 1424(77) | 0.196(12) | 464(28) | Roxbyite(6,4,0), chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(1,0,3) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , Cu ₂ S |
| 16 | 54.71(3) | 1.6763(8) | 340(38) | 0.24(3) | 391(50) | Chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(1,1,2) | Cu ₂ S |
| 17 | 56.437(9) | 1.6291(2) | 190(28) | 0.17(2) | 570(83) | Chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(2,0,1) | Cu ₂ S |
| 18 | 61.32(3) | 1.5107(6) | 346(38) | 0.37(5) | 262(32) | Unknown | |
| 19 | 73.45(2) | 1.2882(3) | 192(28) | 0.13(4) | 793(252) | Unknown | |
| 20 | 74.92(9) | 1.2665(13) | 78(18) | 0.34(17) | 312(157) | Chalcocite, high, copper(I) sulfide(2,1,0) | Cu ₂ S |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| Name: Roxbyite | | | | Name: chalcocite , high, copper(I) sulfide | | | |
| Chemical Formula: Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ | | | | Chemical Formula: Cu ₂ S | | | |
| Z value: 4 | | | | Z value: 2 | | | |
| Space Group: P-1(2) | | | | Space Group: P63/mmc(194) | | | |
| Cell: 13.4090 13.4051 15.4852 90.022 90.021 90.020 | | | | Cell: 3.9590 3.9590 6.7840 90.000 90.000 120.000 | | | |
| Volume: 2783.448 | | | | Volume: 92.085 | | | |
| Crystal System: Triclinic | | | | Crystal System: Hexagonal | | | |
| Reference: Mumme, W.G., Gable, R.W., Petricek, V. Can. Mineral. 50 (2012) 423. | | | | Reference: Cava, R.J., Reidinger, F., Wuensch, B.J. Solid State Ionics 5 (1981) 501. | | | |

Table 2

Results of RFA Cu_{1.80}S

| 2-theta (deg) | d (ang.) | Height (cps) | FWHM (deg) | Size (ang.) | Phase name | Chemical formula |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 12.261(11) | 7.213(7) | 199(12) | 0.115(17) | 727(109) | Unknown | Unknown |
| 20.929(5) | 4.2411(10) | 144(10) | 0.06(9) | 1445(2251) | Roxbyite(3,1,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 24.741(9) | 3.5956(13) | 141(10) | 0.15(3) | 563(123) | Roxbyite(2,3,-1), Copper Sulfide(1,1,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ ,CuS ₂ |
| 26.55(3) | 3.355(4) | 374(16) | 0.15(2) | 559(79) | Roxbyite(2,-3,2), ?-Cu ₂ S(1,0,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ ,Cu ₂ S |
| 27.79(3) | 3.207(4) | 80(7) | 0.47(10) | 182(40) | Roxbyite(2,-1,4) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 29.798(8) | 2.9959(8) | 274(14) | 0.30(3) | 289(25) | Roxbyite(2,-3,3),?-Cu ₂ S(1,0,1) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , Cu ₂ S |
| 31.217(14) | 2.8629(13) | 482(18) | 0.152(16) | 566(60) | Roxbyite(1,3,-4) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 34.09(2) | 2.6279(15) | 568(20) | 0.16(5) | 552(187) | Roxbyite(5,1,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 35.435(7) | 2.5312(5) | 4395(54) | 0.10(3) | 859(220) | Roxbyite(0,4,-4), Copper Sulfide(1,1,1) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , CuS ₂ |
| 36.366(4) | 2.4685(3) | 2765(43) | 0.094(16) | 932(160) | Unknown | Unknown |
| 36.54(5) | 2.457(3) | 388(16) | 0.26(4) | 330(46) | Roxbyite(2,-5,-1), Copper Sulfide(1,2,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , CuS ₂ |
| 37.882(13) | 2.3731(8) | 844(24) | 0.22(4) | 399(64) | Roxbyite(3,-2,5),?-Cu ₂ S(1,0,2) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , CuS ₂ |
| 38.704(14) | 2.3246(8) | 471(18) | 0.27(2) | 320(24) | Unknown | Unknown |
| 42.219(16) | 2.1388(8) | 267(13) | 0.30(5) | 300(49) | Copper Sulfide(2,1,0) | CuS ₂ |
| 46.38(2) | 1.9562(10) | 275(14) | 0.34(5) | 267(43) | Roxbyite(6,2,3) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 46.910(5) | 1.93527(18) | 848(24) | 0.26(2) | 345(27) | Roxbyite(0,6,-4),?-Cu ₂ S(1,1,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , CuS ₂ |
| 47.981(7) | 1.8946(3) | 155(10) | 0.14(3) | 627(116) | Roxbyite(5,-5,0) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ |
| 48.670(6) | 1.8693(2) | 604(20) | 0.115(12) | 794(86) | Unknown | Unknown |
| 48.925(8) | 1.8602(3) | 1110(27) | 0.213(13) | 428(27) | Roxbyite(6,4,0),?-Cu ₂ S(1,0,3) | Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ , Cu ₂ S |
| 54.738(12) | 1.6756(3) | 274(14) | 0.23(4) | 403(63) | ?-Cu ₂ S(1,1,2) | Cu ₂ S |
| 56.496(17) | 1.6275(4) | 110(9) | 0.26(5) | 367(73) | ?-Cu ₂ S(2,0,1) | Cu ₂ S |
| 61.31(2) | 1.5109(5) | 394(16) | 0.28(4) | 349(49) | Copper Sulfide(0,2,2) | CuS ₂ |
| 65.73(7) | 1.4194(14) | 95(8) | 0.80(11) | 123(17) | Copper Sulfide(3,0,1) | CuS ₂ |
| 68.09(4) | 1.3759(8) | 119(9) | 0.30(8) | 335(91) | Unknown | Unknown |
| 73.40(6) | 1.2889(9) | 137(10) | 0.29(7) | 360(86) | Copper Sulfide(1,4,1) | CuS ₂ |
| 74.996(9) | 1.26541(13) | 956(25) | 0.083(8) | 1264(123) | Copper Sulfide(3,2,1) | CuS ₂ |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| Name: Roxbyite | | | Name: Copper disulfide | | | |
| Chemical Formula: Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ | | | Chemical Formula: CuS ₂ | | | |
| Z value: 4 | | | Z value: 2 | | | |
| Space Group: P-1(2) | | | Space Group: Pnnm(58) | | | |
| Cell: 13.4090 13.4051 15.4852 90.022 90.021 90.020 | | | Cell: 4.6510 5.7930 3.5320 90.000 90.000 90.000 | | | |
| Volume: 2783.448 | | | Volume: 95.164 | | | |
| Crystal System: Triclinic | | | Crystal System: Orthorhombic | | | |
| Reference: Mumme, W.G., Gable, R.W., Petricek, V. Can. Mineral. 50 (2012) 423. | | | Reference: Kjekshus, A., Rakke, T. Acta Chem. Scand., Ser. A33(1979)617. | | | |

Table 3

Results of RFA Cu_{1.75}S

| 2-theta (deg) | d (ang.) | Height (cps) | FWHM (deg) | Size (ang.) | Phase name | Chemical formula |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20.931(11) | 4.241(2) | 117(9) | 0.11(5) | 772(368) | Roxbyite(3,-1,0) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ |
| 24.70(2) | 3.601(3) | 135(10) | 0.15(4) | 575(150) | Roxbyite(1,-1,-4),Djurleite, syn(7,1,1) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 26.55(3) | 3.355(3) | 313(15) | 0.18(3) | 486(93) | Roxbyite(2,-3,2),Djurleite, syn(8,0,0) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 29.802(8) | 2.9955(8) | 272(14) | 0.34(3) | 253(20) | Roxbyite(2,-2,-4),Djurleite, syn(4,0,-4) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 31.181(7) | 2.8661(6) | 621(20) | 0.104(13) | 829(107) | Roxbyite(1,-3,-4),Djurleite, syn(9,1,-1) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 34.09(2) | 2.6278(19) | 461(18) | 0.18(2) | 474(55) | Roxbyite(5,-1,0),Djurleite, syn(4,5,-2) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 35.39(2) | 2.5342(17) | 415(17) | 0.20(5) | 432(116) | Roxbyite(5,0,2),Djurleite, syn(2,6,-1) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 36.399(6) | 2.4663(4) | 2192(38) | 0.160(7) | 545(24) | Djurleite, syn(3,5,3) | Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 37.571(11) | 2.3920(7) | 374(16) | 0.58(5) | 152(14) | Djurleite, syn(11,1,0) | Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 37.928(3) | 2.37030(17) | 653(21) | 0.135(18) | 648(88) | Roxbyite(1,-2,-6) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ |
| 42.24(4) | 2.1380(19) | 380(16) | 0.34(5) | 263(37) | Roxbyite(2,-3,-6),Djurleite, syn(9,2,4) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 43.296(3) | 2.08809(13) | 550(19) | 0.064(11) | 1399(248) | Copper, syn(1,1,1) | Cu |
| 46.403(10) | 1.9552(4) | 515(19) | 0.26(2) | 343(27) | Djurleite, syn(3,7,-3) | Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 46.90(2) | 1.9356(8) | 795(23) | 0.26(2) | 344(28) | Roxbyite(0,0,8),Djurleite, syn(5,6,-4) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ , Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 48.630(11) | 1.8708(4) | 704(22) | 0.129(15) | 705(80) | Djurleite, syn(2,8,-2) | Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ |
| 48.925(15) | 1.8602(5) | 1015(26) | 0.24(3) | 383(42) | Roxbyite(4,-3,-6) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ |
| 54.75(4) | 1.6753(13) | 256(13) | 0.32(7) | 292(65) | Roxbyite(8,0,0) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ |
| 56.46(7) | 1.6284(18) | 141(10) | 0.24(8) | 400(129) | Roxbyite(2,-4,-8) | Cu ₅₈ S ₃₂ |
| 61.30(4) | 1.5110(9) | 280(14) | 0.36(7) | 265(48) | Unknown | Unknown |
| 73.39(12) | 1.2891(17) | 111(9) | 0.72(15) | 144(31) | Copper, syn(2,2,0) | Cu |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| Name: Roxbyite | | | | Name: Djurleite, syn | | |
| Chemical Formula: Cu ₂₉ S ₁₆ | | | | Chemical Formula: Cu ₃₁ S ₁₆ | | |
| Z value: 4 | | | | Z value: 8 | | |
| Space Group: P-1(2) | | | | Space Group: P21/n(14) | | |
| Cell: 13.4090 13.4051 15.4852 90.022 90.021 90.020 | | | | Cell: 26.8970 15.7450 13.4650 90.000 90.130 90.000 | | |
| Volume: 2783.448 | | | | Volume: 5702.322 | | |
| Crystal System: Triclinic | | | | Crystal System: Monoclinic | | |
| Reference: Mumme, W.G., Gable, R.W., Petricek, V. Can. Mineral. 50 (2012) 423. | | | | Reference: Potter, II, R., Evans, Jr. J. Research U. S. Geol. Surv.4 (1976) 205. | | |

X-ray phase analysis was performed on a Bruker diffractometer (Germany) using radiation from a CuKa X-ray tube and a graphite monochromator on a diffracted beam. Diffractograms were recorded in the range of angles 2θ from 20 to 110, with a step of $2\theta = 0.02$. The BrukerAXSDIFFRAC.EVAv software was used to identify the phases.4.2 and the international database ICDD PDF-2.

Cu_{1.75}S samples at room temperature contain the rhombic phase of anilite with parameters $a = 7.8902$ and 7.8938 \AA , $b = 7.8408$ and 7.8433 \AA , $c = 11.011$ and 11.012 \AA , respectively, and the hexagonal phase of digenite with the spatial group R-3m (166) and parameters $a = 3.94310 \text{ \AA}$ and 3.94437 \AA , $c = 48.43262 \text{ \AA}$ and 48.43325 \AA respectively.

The difference in the parameters of the crystal lattice due to changes in the interplane distances of samples with different sodium content, as well as the broadening of diffraction lines on diffractograms, may be due to microstresses in the structure, which are associated with the accumulation of dislocations, as well as the fragmentation of crystallites associated with crystallization processes. The analysis of the angular de-

pendence of the physical broadening makes it possible to assess the influence of both factors. The Williamson-Hall method was used to assess the impact.

The size of the crystallites was estimated based on the width of the X-ray lines. The crystallite sizes in all samples range from 30 to 90 nm, which is due to the method of synthesis of sodium and potassium hydroxides in the melt.

Phase transitions and thermal effects in the Cu₂S sample were studied using the DSC 404 F1 Pegasus device (NETZSCH, Germany) in an argon atmosphere in the temperature range (300–600) K. The heating rate was 10 K/min.

To calculate the heat capacity, three different measurements were carried out: baseline, standard (sapphire) and the test sample. The following parameters remained identical in all measurements: argon flow, argon flow rate, initial temperature, heating rate, mass of the crucible and lid, the crucibles on the sensor were oriented, maintaining their position on the sensor. During the measurement, a program was used that includes holding the sample at a constant temperature (at least half an hour) in an argon current, after which heating was carried out at a constant rate of 5 K/min. Measurements of the baseline and standard were carried out in the same mode. The DSC 404 F1 Pegasus allows for a calorimetric experiment with a small sample quantity, we used sample weights from 40 to 150 mg.

Figure 1 shows the curves of the Cu₂S DSC. There is an acute endothermic peak of DSC, the temperature of which lies within 381.5 K, depending on the composition. Heat capacity peaks are observed at the same temperatures.

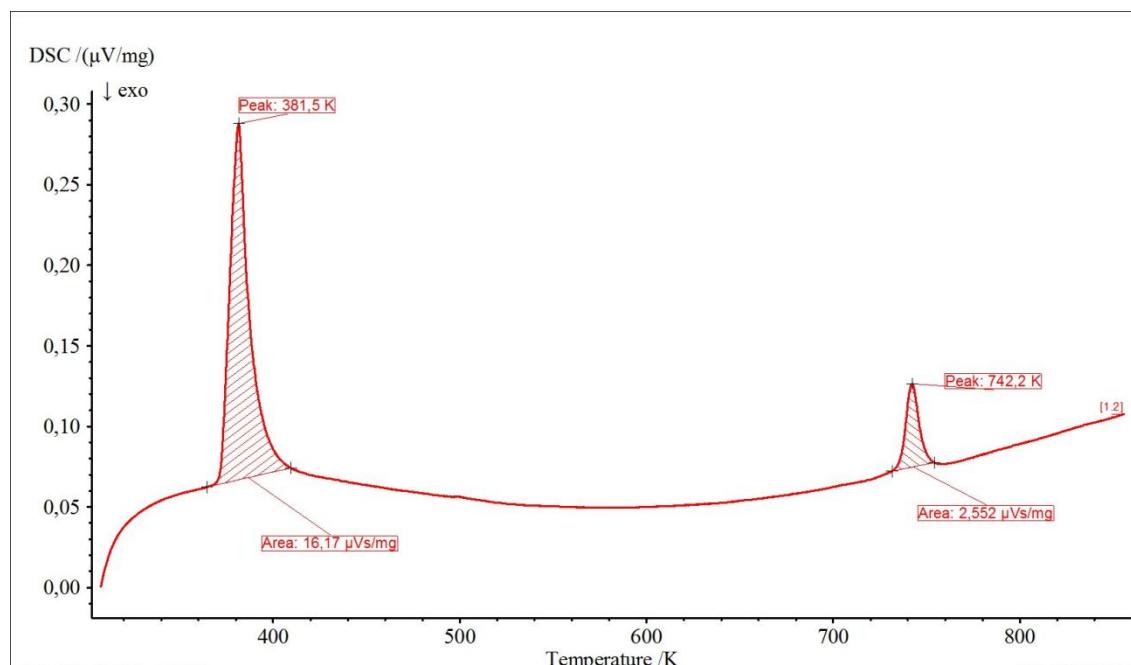


Figure 1. DSC curves of the sample Cu₂S

The structure of Cu₂S copper sulfide ((chalcosine), close to stoichiometric, according to Abrikosov N.H. [4]) has three modifications: orthorhombic below 105 °C, hexagonal below (420–450) °C and high-temperature cubic (phase). Figure 2 shows an image taken with a scanning electron microscope from the surface of Cu₂S powder obtained by electrohydrodynamic impact. It can be seen that the particles have the shape of ribbons and wires ranging in size from fractions of a micron to tens of microns.

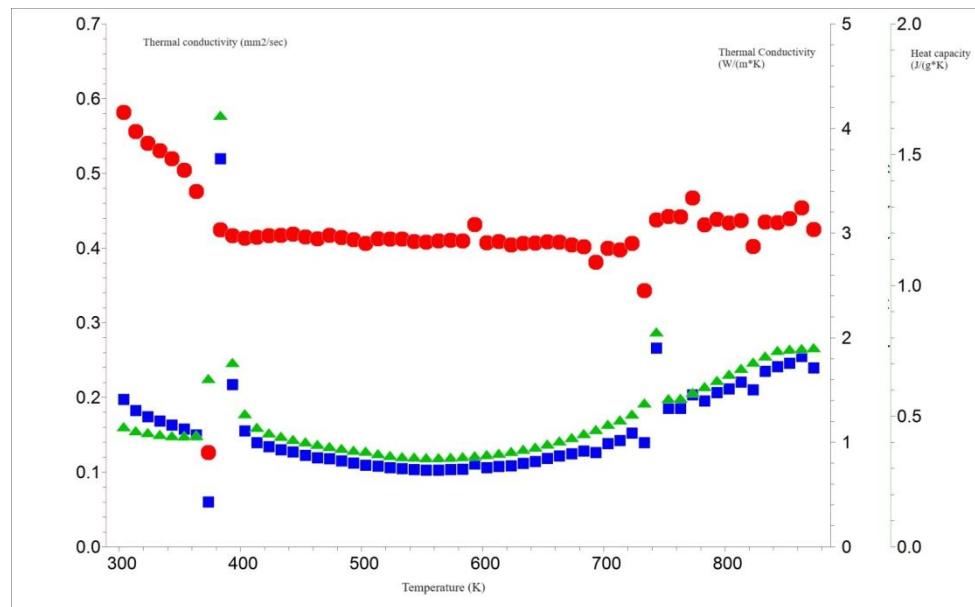
Figure 2. A snapshot of Cu_2S powder on a scanning electron microscope

Thermal conductivity measurements were carried out using the flash method on the LFA 467 HT HyperFlash device (NETZSCH, Germany). Thermal conductivity (k) was found from three measurements:

$$k(T) = a(T) * \rho(T) * c_p(T),$$

where T is temperature, k is thermal conductivity, a is thermal conductivity, ρ is bulk density, c_p is specific heat capacity.

The thermal conductivity a was determined using the LFA 467 HT installation according to the Parker formula from the analysis of the time dependence of the temperature of the opposite side of the sample after short-term heating of one side of the sample by a powerful light pulse. The values of the c_p heat capacity were measured on a DSC 404 F1 Pegasus DSC calorimeter (NETZSCH, Germany) in an argon atmosphere. The density of the sample was found from measurements of weight and volume. Figure 2 shows the temperature dependences of the thermal conductivity, heat capacity and thermal conductivity of Cu_2S .

Figure 3. Temperature dependence of thermal conductivity Cu_2S

The thermal conductivity of the Cu_2S sample is quite low, it rises to 0.3 W/m*K at a phase transition of about 380 K and does not fall below 0.2 W/m*K.

In the semiconductor under consideration, the concentration of impurity carriers of electrons in the conduction band and holes in the valence band is usually much higher than the concentration of uncontrolled impurities and equilibrium point defects. The concentration of n_i native carriers is determined by the temperature and the width of the band gap. In most cases, n_i is also significantly less than n_r . In this case, the temperature dependence of the electronic conductivity is determined by the temperature dependence of the mobility and has a metallic character [5, 6]. Figure 4 shows the temperature dependence of the electron thermo-emf coefficient of the Cu₂S sample.

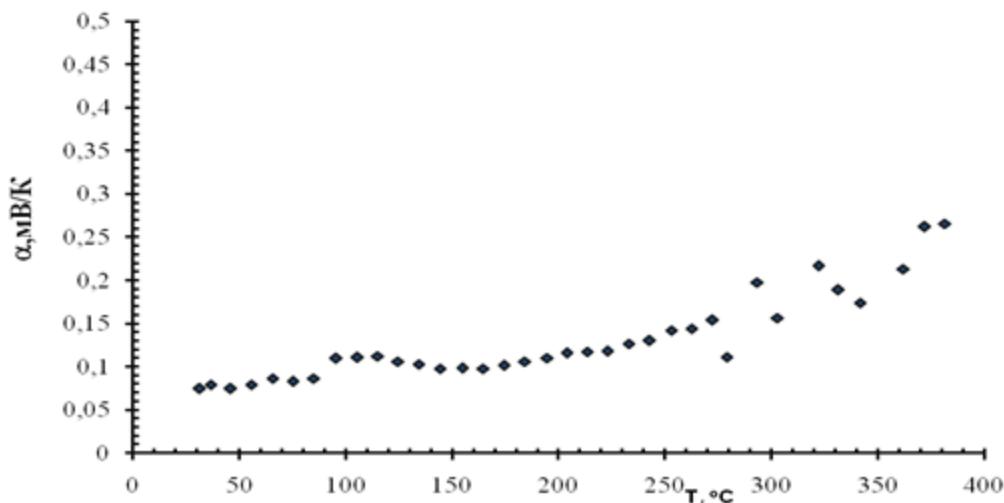


Figure 4. Temperature dependence of the coefficient of electronic thermo-emf of a coarse-grained sample Cu₂S

The coefficient of thermal EMF strongly depends on the nonstoichiometry of the sample and is maximum for a composition close to saturation with copper. The temperature dependence of the electron thermal emf coefficient of the Cu₂S sample has rather low values here from 0.05 mV/K to 0.25 mV/K, which are more typical for metals than for semiconductors.

Figure 5 shows the temperature dependence of the electron conductivity of coarse-grained Cu₂S. It can be seen from the figure that the semiconductor temperature dependence of about 185 °C changes to a metallic type of dependence.

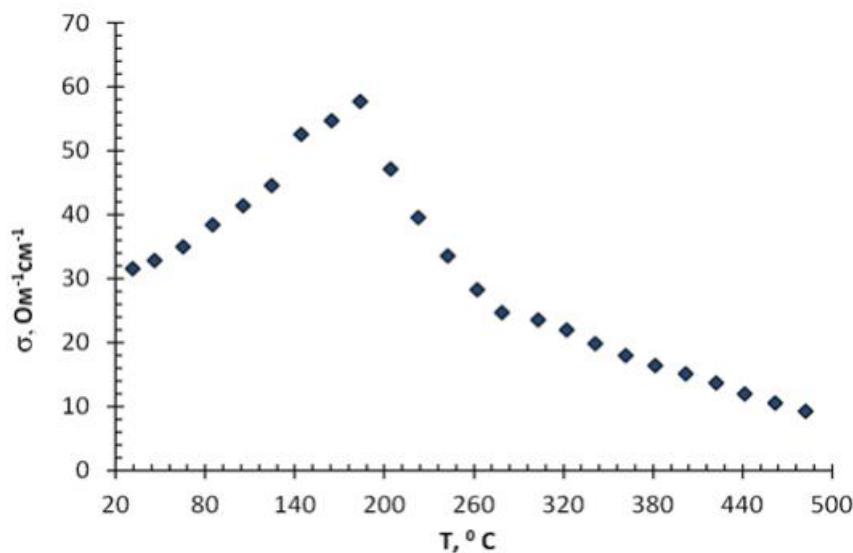


Figure 5. Temperature dependence of the conductivity of a large-crystal Cu₂S

During annealing, the conductivity of polycrystalline samples usually increases with grain growth, and a similar dependence is observed here. The reasons for this behavior of kinetic coefficients are changes in the

specific gravity in the total volume of grain boundary layers, which increase the concentration of defects — scattering centers for current carriers.

For the Cu₂S sample, a phase transition of about 400 K is clearly visible on the temperature dependence of the conductivity (according to the literature data — 403 K), corresponding peaks are also present on the temperature dependence of the DSC.

Conclusion

Copper chalcogenides have a complex electronic structure due to the interaction of hybridized *s*- and *p*-states of chalcogen forming a valence band with 3*d* states of copper [7, 8], which greatly complicates the interpretation of temperature dependences of kinetic parameters having a nonmonotonic character.

Cu₂S copper sulfide is an effective thermoelectric material, so it is interesting to study its kinetic parameters of solid solutions that it forms with alkali metals. The nonstoichiometry of chalcogenides can be easily controlled electrochemically, therefore, the task of selecting the optimal composition according to the cationic sublattice is quite feasible. In addition, to improve the thermoelectric properties, it can be achieved by alloying lithium into a binary copper sulfide matrix, we obtained a high ZT with local maxima that reaches up to 2 [9]. When doped with sodium, this indicator reached up to 1 [10, 11]. Thus, the work on the synthesis of copper sulfides of different composition and morphology is in the current trend of searching for new thermoelectric materials and allows us to hope for practical application of the obtained materials in the near future.

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Cu₂S бинарлы мыс сульфидінің жылулық қасиеттері

Мыс халькогенидтері валенттік аймақты құрайтын гибридтеген *s*- және *p*- халькоген күйлерінің 3*d* мыс күйлерімен өзара әрекеттесуіне байланысты құрделі электрондық құрылымға ие, бұл қасиеттер монотонды емес сипаттағы кинетикалық параметрлердің температураға тәуелділігін интерпретациялауды киындатады. Cu₂S мыс сульфиді тиімді термоэлектрлік материал болып табылады, сондыктан оның сілтілі металдарды құрайтын катты ерітінділерінің кинетикалық параметрлерін зерттеу өте қызықты. Мақалада Cu₂S бинарлы мыс сульфидінің қасиеттерінің эксперименттік зерттеулер нәтижелері ұсынылған. Cu₂S үлгісі үшін жартылай өткізгіштерге қарағанда металдарға тән 0,05 мВ/К-ден 0,25 мВ/К-ге дейінгі үлгінің электронды термо-әкк өте тәмен мәндері анықталды. Cu₂S үлгісінің жылу өткізгіштігі өте тәмен, ол шамамен 380 К фазалық ауысу кезінде 0,3 Вт/м*К-ге дейін көтеріледі және 0,2 Вт/м*К-ден тәмен түспейді. Сонымен қатар халькогенидтерді стехиометриясыз электрхимиялық оңай басқаруға болады, сондыктан катиондық қосалқы тор негізінде оңтайлы құрамды тандау әбден мүмкін. Сондай-ақ Cu₂S термоэлектрлік қасиеттерін жақсарту үшін мыс сульфидінің бинарлы матрицасына сілтілі металдарды легирлеу кезінде қол жеткізуге болады.

Кілт сөздер: термоэлектрлік материалдар, мыс сульфиді, кристалдық құрылым, өткізгіштік, жылу өткізгіштік, Зеебек коэффициенті, суперионды өткізгіштер.

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Тепловые свойства бинарного сульфида меди Cu₂S

Халькогениды меди обладают сложной электронной структурой из-за взаимодействия гибридизованных *s*- и *p*- состояний халькогена, образующих валентную зону, с 3*d*-состояниями меди, что сильно затрудняет интерпретацию температурных зависимостей кинетических параметров, имеющих немонотонный характер. Сульфид меди Cu₂S является эффективным термоэлектрическим материалом, поэтому интересно исследовать его кинетические параметры твердых растворов, которые он образует с щелочными металлами. Нестехиометрией халькогенидов можно легко управлять электрохимически, поэтому задача подбора оптимального состава по катионной подрешетке является вполне осуществимой. В статье представлены экспериментальные исследования свойств бинарного сульфида меди Cu₂S. Для образца Cu₂S обнаружены довольно низкие значения коэффициента электронной термо-ЭДС образца от 0,05 мВ/К до 0,25 мВ/К, характерные более для металлов, чем для полупроводников. Теплопроводность образца Cu₂S является достаточно низкой, она поднимается до 0,3 Вт/м*К при фазовом переходе около 380 К и не опускается ниже 0,2 Вт/м*К. Таким образом, нестехиометрией халькогенидов можно легко управлять электрохимически, поэтому задача подбора оптимального состава по катионной подрешетке является вполне осуществимой. Кроме того, улучшения термоэлектрических свойств Cu₂S можно достичь при легировании щелочных металлов в матрицу бинарного сульфида меди.

Ключевые слова: термоэлектрические материалы, сульфид меди, кристаллическая структура, проводимость, теплопроводность, коэффициент Зеебека, суперионные проводники.

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