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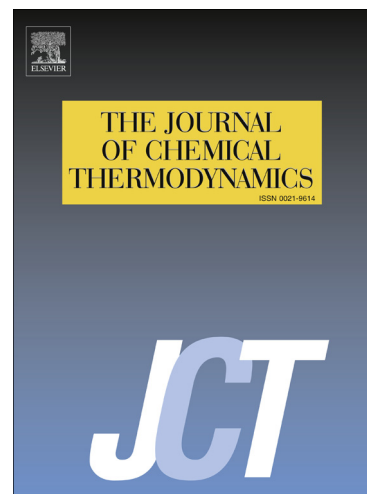
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Thermal-alteration interphase transformations in natural and synthetic arsenic sulfide polymorphs

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Abstract

Thermal-alteration interphase transformations in natural (realgar α -As₄S₄ of two mineral origins) and synthetic (commercial powdered high-temperature β -As₄S₄ modification synthesized from elemental constituents and subjected to high-energy mechanical ball milling) arsenic monosulfide polymorphs are studied exploring temperature-modulated DSC TOPEM[®] method.

Specific heat capacity and non-reversing heat flow variations in realgar α -As₄S₄ demonstrate two endothermic events, these being ascribed to interphase $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ transformation at $\sim(540-550)$ K, and melting of this newly-formed high-temperature β -As₄S₄ phase at 581-582 K. This polymorph originated from thermal alteration of mineral realgar possesses congruent melting in contrast to synthetic β -As₄S₄ polymorph, which shows non-equilibrium melting due to accompanied generation of compositionally-authentic amorphous phase. Calorimetric studies on synthetic β -As₄S₄ in powdered coarse-grained and milled states demonstrate complicated non-equilibrium melting in principally different crystalline-amorphous environments along with crystal-to-glass transformation. Structural-chemical heterogeneity of β -As₄S₄ crystallites results in incongruent double-peak melting through two endothermic events at ~ 578 K and ~ 588 K. The amorphous phase formed under high-energy milling of synthetic β -As₄S₄ possesses a dual nature due to stabilization of As-rich glassy substances with low- and high-temperature glass transition mid-points. This process in the powdered synthetic β -As₄S₄, identified as re-amorphization of initial amorphous phase and direct vitrification from β -As₄S₄ crystallites, was parameterized as compared to calorimetric thermal-alteration events in orpiment As₂S₃ mineral.

Keywords: thermal alteration; interphase transformation; specific heat capacity; amorphization; mechanical milling; realgar α -As₄S₄

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