## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0040-6090(17)30839-8 DOI: doi:10.1016/j.tsf.2017.11.001

Reference: TSF 36333

To appear in: Thin Solid Films

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Received date: 16 July 2017
Revised date: 23 October 2017
Accepted date: 2 November 2017



Please cite this article as: Sunil Kumar, Mohd Zubair Ansari, Neeraj Khare , Influence of compactness and formation of metallic secondary phase on the thermoelectric properties of Cu2ZnSnS4 thin films. The address for the corresponding author was captured as affiliation for all authors. Please check if appropriate. Tsf(2017), doi:10.1016/j.tsf.2017.11.001

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**ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT** 

Influence of compactness and formation of metallic secondary phase on the

thermoelectric properties of Cu<sub>2</sub>ZnSnS<sub>4</sub> thin films

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**Abstract** 

Thermoelectric studies of Cu<sub>2</sub>ZnSnS<sub>4</sub> (CZTS) thin films deposited at different substrate

temperatures by ultrasonic assisted chemical vapor deposition technique have been carried

out. In order to identify the effect of compactness, crystallinity and formation of secondary

phases (Cu<sub>2-x</sub>S and SnS<sub>2</sub>) on the thermoelectric properties of CZTS thin films, the films were

deposited at different substrate temperatures. Detailed analysis of temperature dependent

electrical resistivity (p) and Seebeck coefficient (S) have been carried out. Significant

enhancement in the value of thermoelectric power factor ( $S^2/p$ ) is achieved in CZTS film

deposited at 375°C substrate temperature, which is correlated to the compactness of thin

films, improved crystallinity and presence of metallic secondary phase. Furthermore, Surface

topography and surface potential studies also carried out to study the roughness and

distribution of interfaces between CZTS and secondary phases (Cu<sub>2-x</sub>S and SnS<sub>2</sub>) in CZTS

thin films.

Key words: Copper zinc tin sulfide; Thin films; Copper sulfide; Tin sulfide; Seebeck

coefficient; Electrical conductivity; Ultrasonic assisted chemical vapor deposition

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