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Thermal properties and optimization of process parameters for the growth

of silver thiogallate crystal by differential scanning calorimetry

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**Abstract:** In present work, thermal properties of silver thiogallate (AgGaS<sub>2</sub>) crystal were

investigated by means of differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements performed at

different heating and cooling rates. The DSC results confirmed that the melting point was 1249 K

with a slight change around 5 K and that the nucleation temperature varied from 1183 K to 1218 K.

The supercooling temperature was evaluated in the range 37.69 K to 62.46 K which was

considered to be harmful for the single nucleus formation at the beginning of crystal growth. The

activation energy E and the pre-exponential factor A were also calculated using different

isoconversional methods, namely Kissinger-Akahira-Sunose (KAS) method

Flynn-Wall-Ozawa (FWO) method, and the results showed good agreement with each other.

According to the results of DSC, a larger temperature gradient up to 30K/cm was utilized to

suppress the formation and growth of multi nuclei and a rapid cooling rate 25 K/min was applied

to minimize the second-phase precipitates during the process of crystal growth. Finally, an integral

and transparent AgGaS<sub>2</sub> single crystal with diameter of 22 mm and the length of 55 mm was

obtained.

PACS: 42.70.Nq; 65.60.+a; 81.70.Pg; 81.10.-h

Keywords: B1. AgGaS<sub>2</sub>; A1. thermal properties; A1. differential scanning calorimetry; A2.crystal

growth;

1. Introduction

The ternary semiconductors with the general formula  $A^{I}B^{III}C_{2}^{VI}$  are widely studied due to

their promising potential applications [1-3]. Among these compounds, silver thiogallate (AgGaS<sub>2</sub>)

is known for a long time for its outstanding nonlinear optical properties. It has large nonlinear

optical (NLO) coefficient ( $d_{36} = 18 \text{ pm/V}$ ), sufficient birefringence ( $n_c$ - $n_o \approx 0.05$ ), wide IR

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