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Thermoelectric properties of A-site doped perovskites $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}M_xPbO_3 (M = La, K)$

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Abstract

La- and K-doped perovskite-type ceramics, $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}La_xPbO_3$ with x = 0.0-0.1 and $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}K_xPbO_3$ with x = 0.00-0.15, were prepared to modify thermoelectric properties of semi-metallic $Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO_3$ via the doping of electrons and holes, respectively. The electrical conductivity σ and Seebeck coefficient *S* for the ceramics were measured at temperatures of 373–1073 K in air. With the La doping, electron carriers were successively doped and the material changed from a semi-metal for the undoped $Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO_3$ to a metal for the $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{0.9}La_{0.1}PbO_3$. With the K doping, the thermoelectric properties were essentially unchanged probably due to the carrier compensation effect by the generation of oxygen deficiencies. The thermoelectric power factor $S^2\sigma$ was maximized to a value of 3.1×10^{-4} Wm⁻¹ K⁻² at 773 K for the undoped $Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO_3$ ceramic.

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1. Introduction

Since electroconductive oxides having high stability at high temperatures in air are applicable to thermoelectric power generators, which convert waste heat from incinerators and combustion engines to electricity, thermoelectric properties have been investigated for many electroconductive oxides [1]. Thermoelectric figure of merit Z is expressed by an equation, $Z = S^2 \sigma / \kappa$, where S, σ , κ are the Seebeck coefficient, electrical conductivity, and thermal conductivity, respectively. The criterion for the practical use of a material is $ZT \ge 1$, where T is the absolute temperature and ZT is the dimensionless figure of merit, so that the high values of |S|and σ , that is, the high power factor $S^2\sigma$, and the low κ value must be simultaneously realized for the material. In recent years, single crystals of double oxides having cobalt cations, (Ca, Sr, Bi)₂Co₂O₅ [2] and Na_xCoO_{2 $-\delta$} [3], were reported to be p-type thermoelectric oxides showing $ZT \ge 1$, but no polycrystalline oxides having high *ZT* values applicable to the power generators have not been reported yet. Therefore, extensive investigation on the thermoelectric properties for the polycrystalline oxides has been needed.

We previously reported thermoelectric properties of perovskite-type solid solutions $Sr_{1-x}Ba_xPbO_3$ with x=0-1and that the power factor $S^2\sigma$ and the figure of merit Z were maximized to $4.3 \times 10^{-4} \,\mathrm{Wm^{-1} \, K^{-2}}$ at 773 K and 2.0 \times 10⁻⁴ K⁻¹ at 673 K, respectively, for a material of Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO₃ [4,5]. This result indicated that the Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO₃ was a promising candidate of thermoelectric oxide, but it remains some room to perform chemical modification for this material to improve the thermoelectric performance. The thermoelectric properties of the Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO₃ revealed that the material was a semi-metal having an overlap in energy between the conduction band (CB) and the valence band (VB) [4,5]. The schematic picture of the band structure is shown in Fig. 1. The CB and VB are composed of Pb6s-O2p anti-bonding orbitals and O2p non-bonding orbitals, respectively, and the overlap of the CB and VB is due to the large energy dispersion of the CB originated from

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Fig. 1. Schematic picture of energy band structure for semi-metallic $Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO_3$.

the large overlap between the Pb6s and O2p orbitals. This band structure is similar to that of a semi-metallic BaPbO₃ [6,7]. The control of the Fermi level by electron doping or electron extraction is a possible way to modify the thermoelectric properties. It is worth investigating whether the doping of electrons or holes into the Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO₃ is effective to improve the thermoelectric performance, especially the power factor $S^2 \sigma$. A possible way to dope electrons or holes is substitution of A-site randomly occupied by bivalent Sr and Ba cations with trivalent La or monovalent K, respectively. In this study, La- and K-doped perovskite-type ceramics of $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}La_xPbO_3$ and $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}K_xPbO_3$ were prepared and the electrical conductivity and Seebeck coefficient were measured at high temperatures. The change in the thermoelectric power factor $S^2\sigma$ as well as the electronic transport properties by the A-site doping is reported.

2. Experimental

La-doped perovskite-type ceramics of $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}$ $La_x PbO_3$ with x = 0.000, 0.005, 0.020, and 0.100 were prepared by oxalate co-precipitation method. Sr-Ba-La-Pb oxalate was co-precipitated from mixed solution of Sr (NO₃)₂, Ba(NO₃)₂, Pb(NO₃)₂, and LaCl₃·7H₂O. The reagents were weighed with molar ratios of $(Sr_0 _6Ba_0 _4)/$ La/Pb = 1.000/0.000/1.000, 0.995/0.005/1.000, 0.980/0.020/ 1.000, 0.900/0.100/1.000, and dissolved in deionized water. Concentration of Pb²⁺ ion in the solution was fixed to $0.1 \text{ mol } 1^{-1}$. An excess amount of ammonium oxalate solution was added into the mixed solution, and white precipitate was formed. Then, the pH of the solution was adjusted to 8.0 with ammonium water to complete the co-precipitation. The co-precipitate was filtered, dried at 80 °C in air, and heated at 700 °C for 6 h in air with an intermittent grinding to form fine powder of oxides. The oxide powder was pressed into a pellet at a pressure of 200 MPa using a cold isostatic press (CIP) and sintered at 900 °C for 3 h in air to form a sintered ceramic.

Preparation of K-doped ceramics of $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}$ K_xPbO₃ with x = 0.00, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, and 0.30 were performed by the solid-state reaction among the raw materials. Reagents of SrCO₃, BaCO₃, K₂CO₃, PbO were weighed stoichiometrically and mixed with ethanol in a mortar. The mixed powder was calcined at 750 °C for 10 h in air. The calcined powder was ground, molded in a disk, and heated at 900 °C for 10 h in air. For the samples with x = 0.10, 0.15, and 0.30, the ground and molded disks were additionally heated at 900 °C for 20 h in air with an intermittent grinding. After the heating, there existed impurity phase in the sample with x = 0.30, suggesting that the x = 0.30 was beyond the solubility limit of K atoms in the perovskite. The powdered samples with x = 0.00-0.15 were pressed into pellets at a pressure of 200 MPa using CIP and sintered at 900 °C for 3 h in air to form sintered ceramics.

X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) patterns were measured with Cu K α radiation (45 kV, 40 mA). Electrical conductivity and Seebeck coefficient were measured at temperatures of 373–1073 K in air. The conductivity was measured by dc four-probe method. The Seebeck coefficient was evaluated by correcting the linear gradient of $\Delta V/\Delta T$ for thermopower of platinum [8], where ΔV and ΔT are the thermoelectromotive force and temperature difference between both ends of a sample measured with Pt leads and Pt/Pt–Rh thermocouples, respectively.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Characterization and thermoelectric properties of $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}La_xPbO_3$

X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) patterns of sintered samples $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}La_xPbO_3$ with x = 0.000, 0.005, 0.020,and 0.100 were indexed with orthorhombic cell, indicating that all the samples were single phases of perovskite-type $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}La_xPbO_3$ after the final sintering at 900 °C for 3 h. The cell lengths and cell volume were a = 5.9566(9) Å, b = 8.425(1) Å, c = 5.9566(9) Å, V = 298.94(6) Å³ for the undoped Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}PbO₃ and a = 5.9707(9) Å, b = 8.442(1) Å, c = 5.9702(9) Å, V = 300.94(6) Å³ for the $(Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{0.9}La_{0.1}$ PbO₃, showing the increase in the cell parameters with the La doping. Since the splits of the diffraction peaks reflecting the orthorhombic cell were very small, the crystal lattice was close to pseudo-cubic cell ($\sqrt{2}a \sim b \sim \sqrt{2}c$). The substitution of A-site with La atoms will lead to the electron doping into the CB, which is composed of the Pb6s–O2p anti-bonding orbitals. This will weaken the Pb6s-O2p bonds and lead to the extension of the Pb-O distances irrespective of the ionic radius of La^{3+} (1.36 Å) smaller than those of Sr^{2+} (1.44 Å) and Ba^{2+} (1.61 Å) [9]. The relative density of the sintered ceramic for the theoretical density was 88%, 89%, 76%, 79% for x = 0.000, 0.005, 0.020, 0.100, respectively.

Temperature dependence of electrical conductivity (σ) and Seebeck coefficient (*S*) for the (Sr_{0.6}Ba_{0.4})_{1-x}La_xPbO₃ ceramics is shown in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively. The signs of the Seebeck coefficient were negative for all the samples, inDownload English Version:

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