

## Character of Interaction in the CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-MnSe System.

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**Abstract:** The manganese monoselenide solubility in  $\alpha$ -CuInSe<sub>2</sub> has been determined by studying phase equilibria in the CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-MnSe system using differential thermal analysis, x-ray diffraction, microstructural analysis, and microhardness measurements. At room temperature, the  $\alpha$ -CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-based solid solution extends to 46 mol % MnSe.

**Keywords:** solid solution, eutectic, chalcogenide, microhardness

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### I. Introduction

The low-temperature chalcopyrite phase of the CuInSe<sub>2</sub> compound is widely used as a photosensitive material. It is also a promising substance for the construction of Wagner light diodes, solar cells and various nonlinear optics devices [1–3].

The electro-optical properties of photosensitive compounds are strongly dependent on the band structure, which is strongly influenced by dissolved foreign atoms, especially transition elements. The introduction of 3d transition metals into the CuInSe<sub>2</sub> structure greatly changes the electrophysical and optical properties of the matrix compound, for example, its electrical conductivity may increase by several orders of magnitude.

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Solubility of foreign atoms is related to the mobility of the chalcopyrite structure of CuFeSe<sub>2</sub>. CuFeSe<sub>2</sub> and CuInSe<sub>2</sub> form a continuous series of solid solutions [4,5], but the solubility of iron monoselenide in CuInSe<sub>2</sub> is just 19 mol % [6], and those of cobalt and nickel selenides are even lower: 10 and 1 mol %, respectively [7].

The three selenides crystallize in hexagonal symmetry (NiAs structure). Since the iron-group metals are close in effective ionic radius (Fe<sup>2+</sup>, 0.76; Co<sup>2+</sup>, 0.74; Ni<sup>2+</sup>, 0.72 Å), the large difference in the solubility of their monoselenides in CuInSe<sub>2</sub> can be rationalized in terms of polarizability. The polarizability in these monoselenides increases markedly in the order Fe → Co → Ni, resulting in the formation of a narrow 3d band owing to the overlap of the wave functions of the metals in the binary selenides.

It is of interest to determine the MnSe solubility in CuInSe<sub>2</sub> since the polarizability in MnSe is even lower than that in CoSe and NiSe, as confirmed by its wide band gap and the nonmetallic behavior of its conductivity.

### II. Results and its discussion

CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-MnSe alloys were prepared by reacting extrapure elements (electrolytic copper and manganese containing less than 0.001%, indium-0.001%, and selenium-0.001% impurities) in evacuated (~10<sup>-2</sup> Pa) silica ampules at 1370 K for 8 h. To prevent reaction between manganese and silica, the ampules were graphitized. The samples were equilibrated by homogenizing annealing for 100 h at 900 K, i.e., just below the temperature of the polymorphic transformation of CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-based solid solutions.

In differential thermal analysis (DTA), we used an N-307/1 XY potentiometer. The reference substance used was calcined alumina. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected on a "Bruker D8 ADVANCE" powder diffractometer (Cu K<sub>α</sub> radiation).

Microhardness of polycrystalline samples was measured with a PMT-3 tester. Microstructures were revealed by etching with a dilute (1:3) chromic acid mixture.

Data DTA and microhardness are presented in the table.

Table

Results of DTA and microhardness of the CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-MnSe system

| Composition of the sample |   |         | Thermal effects, 0C |               | Microhardness of the conductive crystalline phase H <sub>μ</sub> , MPa |             |
|---------------------------|---|---------|---------------------|---------------|--|-------------|
| mol% MnSe                 | The number of CuInSe <sub>2</sub> and MnSe in the sample is 1 gram, |         | isothermal          | polythermic   | stack phase  | light phase |
|                           | CuInSe <sub>2</sub>   | MnSe    |                     |               |  |             |
| 0                         | 1,00000   | 0       | 810; 986            | -             | 2200   | -           |
| 5                         | 0,97947   | 0,02053 | -                   | 795; 760; 985 | 2250   | -           |
| 10                        | 0,95763   | 0,04237 | -                   | 750; 720; 980 | 2300   | -           |
| 20                        | 0,90947   | 0,09053 | -                   | 650; 670;     | 2500   | -           |
| 25                        | 0,88283   | 0,11717 | -                   | 650;665       | -  | -           |
| 30                        | 0,85423   | 0,14577 | -                   | 975; 990      | 2600   | -           |
| 35                        | 0,82345   | 0,17655 | -                   | 830;965;995   | -  | -           |
| 40                        | 0,79024   | 0,20976 | 890                 | 960 ; 990     | 2700   | -           |
| 45                        | 0,75428   | 0,24572 | 890                 | 950; 975      | 2790   | -           |
| 50                        | 0,71522   | 0,28478 | 890; 950            | 985           | 2800   | -           |
| 55                        | 0,67265   | 0,32735 | 890;950             | -             | eutectic   |             |
| 60                        | 0,62608   | 0,37392 | 890; 950            | 990           | -  | 830         |
| 70                        | 0,51839   | 0,48161 | 890; 950            | 1090          | -  | 830         |
| 75                        | 0,45568   | 0,54432 | 895; 945            | undefined     |  |             |
| 80                        | 0,3857  | 0,61430 | 890; 950            | undefined     | -  |             |
| 90                        | 0,21817   | 0,78183 |                     | -             | -  |             |
| 100                       | 0   | 1,00000 |                     | 1460±8[8]     | -  | 830[9]      |

The phase diagram constructed using these characterization techniques is presented in Fig. 1a.

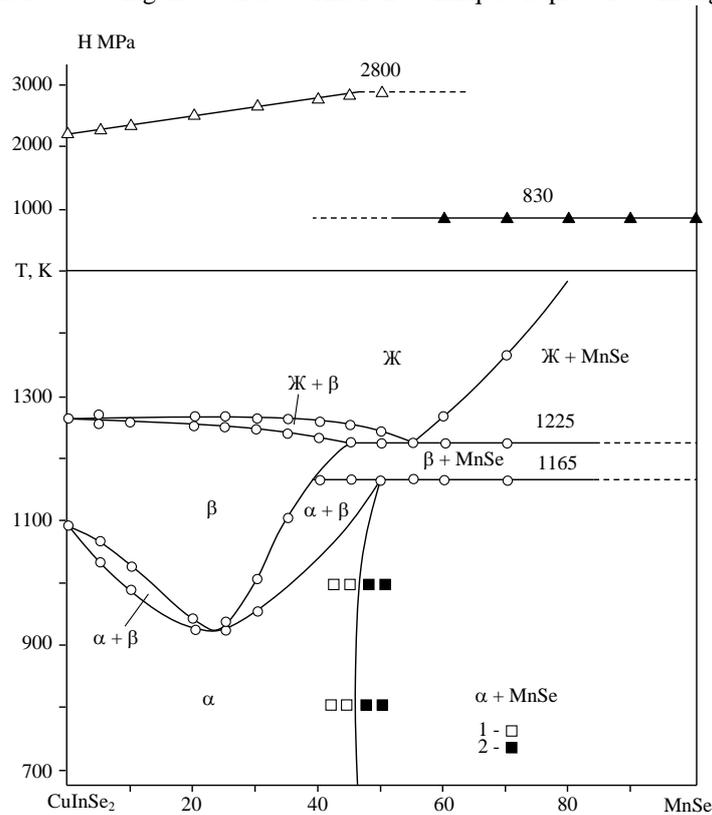


Fig. 1.(a) CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-MnSe phase diagram: (1) single- and (2) two-phase samples; (b) composition dependence of microhardness.

The system is of the eutectic type, with a considerable MnSe solubility in CuInSe<sub>2</sub>. Since the DTA curves were measured to 1400 K, the liquidus near manganese selenide was not determined (MnSe melts congruently at 1785±5K [10]). The eutectic is located at 55 mol % MnSe and melts at 1225 K. At room temperature, the  $\alpha$ -CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-based solid solution extends to 46 mol % MnSe. The high MnSe solubility can be accounted for by the facts that indium and manganese are very close in ionic radius (In<sup>3+</sup> – 0.92 Å; Mn<sup>2+</sup> – 0.91 Å), both phases have cubic structures, and the metals in question are isostructural: indium has a tetragonal structure of the  $\gamma$ -Mn type [11]. The MnSe solubility in the high-temperature phase  $\alpha$ -CuInSe<sub>2</sub> is 45 mol % at the eutectic temperature. The  $\alpha \leftrightarrow \beta$  phase transition in the solid-solution has a minimum at 23.5 mol % MnSe.

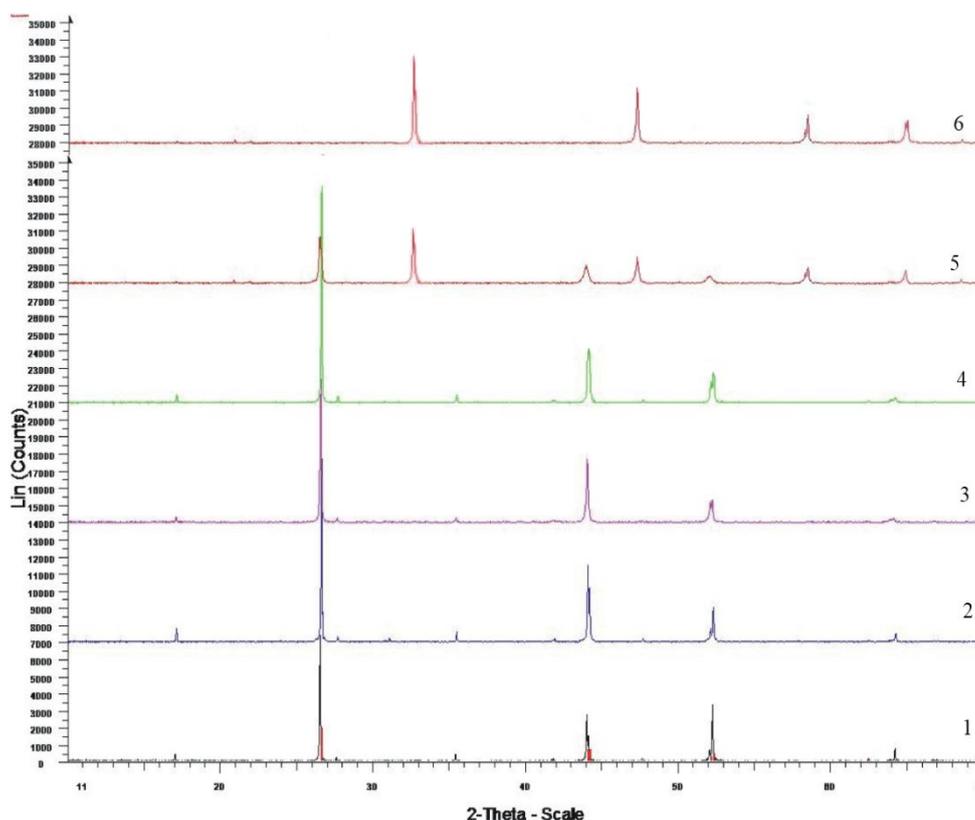


Fig. 2. XRD patterns of CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-MnSe alloys

The microhardness of the alloys was measured at an indentation load of 0.2 N using etched polished sections. The microhardness of CuInSe<sub>2</sub> has variously been reported as 2200 [12], 1060 [13], and 3370 MPa [14].

We obtained a value close to that reported by Glazov and Vigdorovich [12]. The microhardness of MnSe in the alloys studied was 830 MPa, in accordance with that of pure manganese selenide [10]. This indicates that the CuInSe<sub>2</sub> solubility in MnSe is insignificant. Figure 1b shows the composition dependence of microhardness for CuInSe<sub>2</sub>-MnSe alloys. MnSe dissolution increases the microhardness of the  $\alpha$ -phase from 2200 (pure CuInSe<sub>2</sub>) to 2800 MPa (alloy containing 45 mol % MnSe), which is characteristic of substitutional solid solutions.

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