

Influence of Substitution on Structure of Tin Lanthanum Pyrochlore $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7-6(0 \leq x \leq 0.25)$ Solid-Oxide Fuel Cells

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Abstract : Materials with the pyrochlore lattice structure have attracted much recent attention due to their wide applications in ceramic thermal barrier coatings, high-permittivity dielectrics, and potential solid electrolytes in solid-oxide fuel cells. The work described in this paper is devoted to the synthesis and characterization of a pyrochlore structure based on lanthanum (La_2O_3) and tin (SnO_2) oxides of general formula $\text{La}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$, substituted by Sr at the site La. Their structures were determined from X-ray powder diffraction using CELFER analysis. All the compositions present the space group Fd-3m. The substitution of La by Sr in the $\text{La}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$ compound causes a variation of the cell parameters. The difference in charge between La^{3+} and Sr^{2+} and the difference in size cause the cell parameters to decrease from $a=10.7165 \text{ \AA}$ to $a=10.6848 \text{ \AA}$ for the substitution rates ($x = 0.05, 0.1, 0.15 \dots$), which leads to a decrease in the volume of the mesh. For a substitution rate $x = 0.25$, there is an increase in the cell parameters ($a=10.7035 \text{ \AA}$), which can be explained by a competitiveness of the size effect and the presence of a gap in the structure which go in the opposite direction.

Keywords : solid-oxide fuel cells, structure, pyrochlore, X-ray diffraction

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