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The Site Dependence on of Microscopic Interaction on Ferrous Ion for the Fe Spinel

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Chalcogenide spinel $M\text{Cr}_2\text{X}_4$ ($M = \text{Fe}, \text{Cu}, \text{Co}, \text{Cd}$; $\text{X} = \text{S}, \text{Se}$) materials have various physics properties such as colossal magnetoresistance (CMR) effect, spin-frustration effects, metallic conduction, large magneto-optical effect, relaxor ferroelectricity and colossal magnetocapacitive effect[1-3]. These features were attributed to competition of isomorphous ions with the topological frustration, Jahn-Teller distortion, and geometric frustration of magnetic moment. Here, we report the magnetic properties of the FeCr_2S_4 and FeIn_2S_4 with special emphasis on cation ordering related to the quadrupole interactions.

FeIn_2S_4 and FeCr_2S_4 exhibits cubic spinel structure $Fd\bar{3}m$. FeIn_2S_4 is an inverse spinel, with In atoms occupying both tetrahedral (A) and octahedral (B) sites. On the other hand, FeCr_2S_4 has a normal spinel with Fe atoms occupying A site and Cr atoms occupying B site. The determined lattice constant a_0 for FeCr_2S_4 and FeIn_2S_4 were $a_0 = 10.011$ and $a_0 = 10.616$ Å, respectively.

The Mössbauer spectra of FeCr_2S_4 and FeIn_2S_4 have been studied. The Néel temperatures were found to be 175 and 15 K for the FeCr_2S_4 and FeIn_2S_4 , respectively, by Mössbauer spectroscopy. It can be understood as the strength of inter-sublattice exchange interaction $\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{A})\text{-S}^{2-}\text{-Cr}^{3+}(\text{B})$ is stronger than that of the intra-sublattice exchange interaction $\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{B})\text{-S}^{2-}\text{-Fe}^{2+}(\text{B})$. The FeCr_2S_4 shows a single line resonance spectrum with an isomer shift of 0.72 mm/s at room temperature, while FeIn_2S_4 at room temperature has an isomer shift of 0.74 mm/s and a electric quadrupole splitting (ΔE_Q) of 3.22 mm/s. The charge state of Fe ions is ferrous (Fe^{2+}) as characterized by isomer shift (δ) for the samples. We interpret that the presence of the ΔE_Q is attributed to the trigonal field at the octahedral site, according to Fe^{2+} ions enter to octahedral B site.

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