

Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ エピタキシャル薄膜の熱電特性の温度依存性

Temperature Dependence of Thermoelectric Properties of Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ Epitaxial Films

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Among many kinds of conducting oxides, layered cobalt oxides such as Na_{3/4}CoO₂ and Ca₃Co₄O₉ have been extensively studied as p-type thermoelectric materials. Based on our own hypothesis^[1] that the thermal conductivity of layered cobalt oxides can be reduced by the ion exchange treatment without suppressing the power factor, recently, we found that Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ shows rather high ZT of 0.11 at room temperature^[2]. Here we report the thermoelectric properties of Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ epitaxial films at elevated temperatures. Although rather high thermoelectric figure of merit, ZT (~1.2 at 800 K for Na_xCoO₂ single crystal^[3]) of layered cobalt oxides have been reported thus far, reliable ZT (~0.3 at 700 °C^[4]) is quite small as compared to that of chalcogenide such as PbTe. Such inconsistency is often seen in the literatures published in high impact factor journals^[5], probably due to the instability of conducting oxides at elevated temperatures. Therefore, we firstly studied the stability of Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ epitaxial films at elevated temperatures. Then, we measured the thermoelectric properties of the Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ epitaxial films at elevated temperatures.

Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ epitaxial films were prepared as following. Firstly, Na_{3/4}CoO₂ epitaxial films were prepared by the R-SPE method^[6]. Then, Na⁺ ions were exchanged with Ba²⁺ ions by the ion exchange treatment. Resistivity, thermopower, and thermal conductivity of the Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ epitaxial films were measured by dc four probe method, steady state method, and TDTR method, respectively.

We firstly measured the XRD patterns, resistivity, and thermopower of the Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ films at room temperature after the films were annealed at several temperatures in air. As the results, the limitation temperature of the Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ films was ~600 °C, which is higher than that of Na_{3/4}CoO₂ (~350 °C) (**FIG.**). Next, we measured the temperature dependence of resistivity, thermopower and thermal conductivity of the Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ films. Above room temperature, the power factor of the Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ films was almost constant (~1 mW m⁻¹ K⁻²), which is similar to Na_{3/4}CoO₂ films. Thermal conductivity of Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ films exhibited decreasing tendency from ~3 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹ at room temperature to ~1.7 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹ at 300 °C. As the result, the ZT increased from ~0.11 at room temperature to ~0.33 at 300 °C. Unfortunately, we could not measure the thermal conductivity above 300 °C due to that oxidation of Mo transducer film occurs at high temperature in air. We would update the thermoelectric properties of Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ films by using appropriate metal transducer film in future.

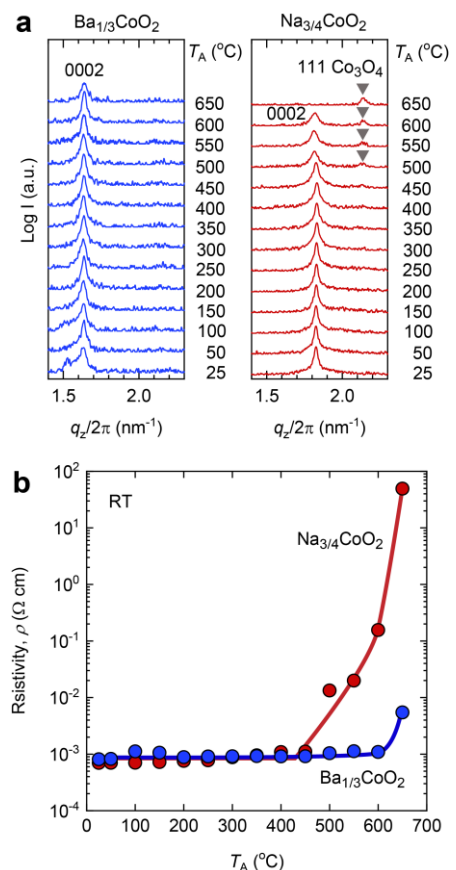


FIG. Changes in (a) the XRD patterns and (b) room temperature resistivities of Ba_{1/3}CoO₂ and Na_{3/4}CoO₂ epitaxial films after annealing at elevated temperatures.

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