

Crystal structure of the new superconductor FeSe_{1-x}S_x

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The discovery of superconductivity in iron-based pnictides and chalcogenides has been at the forefront of interest over the last few years [1,2]. Fe(Se,Te,S) compounds considered as the simplest Fe-based superconductors useful for study correlations between structural, electron, magnetic and superconducting properties. Among these materials FeSe_{1-x}S_x is the least studied compound and single crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD) experiments for it was not conducted.

FeSe_{1-x}S_x (x = 0 – 0.2) single crystals were grown in evacuated quartz ampoules using the AlCl₃/KCl flux technique [3] in a temperature gradient (from 400°C to ~50°C) for 45 days. Crystals have a platelike shape with the c axis oriented perpendicular to the crystal plane. Two samples with x = 0.03 and 0.09 were selected for single crystal synchrotron XRD measurements. Both of them were superconducting with T_c = 9.5 and 10.1 K respectively. The XRD data were collected in 90 – 300 K temperature range at the ESRF beamline BM01 using PILATUS@SNBL diffractometer (λ = 0.7458 Å, PILATUS2M detector) equipped with Oxford Cryojet cryogenic nitrogen jet system.

Complete single crystal XRD measurements were performed for good quality FeSe_{0.91}S_{0.09} sample at the room temperature. Crystal structure of FeSe_{0.91}S_{0.09} was refined in sp.gr. P4/n (a= 3.809(1), c= 5.529(1), R=3.5%). It was found that atoms of S and Se statistically occupy 2c position of the structure. Percentage ratio S/Se was defined in the result of the site occupancies refinement. Test XRD room temperature experiment for FeSe_{0.97}S_{0.03} crystal showed that sample was polycrystalline. Polycrystalline low temperature XRD measurements were performed in temperature interval 90-300 K. Some additional peaks not corresponding to sp.gr. P4/n were revealed at temperatures below 170 K.

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