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Acta Cryst. (1985). **B41**, 453-454

Sulphide minerals: crystal chemistry, parageneses and systematics. By I. KOSTOV and J. MINCERA-STEFANOVA. Pp. 212, Figs. 144. Stuttgart: E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1982. Price DM 64.00.

Although the sulphide minerals form an important group of ore minerals and, furthermore, display unique properties in the fields of semiconductivity and optical activity, comprehensive compilations of data on the entire group of sulphide minerals appear at very infrequent intervals. The authors of this small monograph have, therefore, performed a valuable service in assembling the data from the extensive, but widely dispersed, literature dealing with these compounds.

In their opening statement, the authors indicate that under the title 'sulphide minerals' they include also a large group of related mineral compounds, such as selenides, tellurides, arsenides, antimonides and bismuthides; as well as the natural sulphosalts. Certain native elements and their

intermetallic compounds are also included for completeness.

After a brief introduction, the first half of the book is devoted to the crystal chemistry of the sulphides. The authors propose a classification of these minerals which is based on the axial ratios of the actual or reduced unit cell, resulting in the subdivision into axial, planar, pseudoisometric and isometric structural types. This classification has merit but is unlikely to replace established systems. Detailed data on the crystal structures of the individual sulphides and sulphosalts are recorded within the framework of this classification. This is probably the most valuable section of the book and is amply referenced and well illustrated with numerous diagrams of specific crystal structures.

The second section of the book deals with phase equilibria and natural assemblages. Six assemblages are defined on the basis of geochemical criteria: Pt-Pd, Ni-Co-Fe, Zn-Cu-Fe, Cu-Sn-Pb, Ag-Au, and the sulphosalts; these are discussed in turn. Relevant phase diagrams are used to illustrate the phase relations between the sulphides and sulphosalts of each assemblage, and brief descriptions of