

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
1 Introduction	1
Rationale and Motivation	1
Dissertation Objectives	3
Scope and Limitation of the Dissertation	3
Anticipated Outcomes of the Dissertation	4
Dissertation Structure	4
2 Literature reviews	5
Thermoelectricity Theorem	5
Thermoelectric effect	5
Seebeck effect	5
Peltier effect	6
Thomson effect	6
Thermoelectric figure of merit and the thermoelectric Parameter	8
Seebeck coefficient	9
Electrical conductivity	10
Thermal conductivity	10
Energy conversion efficiency	12
Thermoelectric materials	13
State of the art materials	13
Cost consideration	13
Applicable temperature and environmental friendliness consideration	15

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter	Page
The power factor of higher manganese silicide (HMS)	16
The power factor of Magnesium Silicide	21
Thermoelectric device	29
3 Materials and Methods	32
Thermoelectric materials synthesis	33
Synthesis of $Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ ($x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04$ and 0.05)	33
Synthesis of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ ($x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04$ and 0.05)	35
Crystal structure analysis	37
Microstructure analysis	39
Thermoelectric properties measurement	39
Thermoelectric devices fabrication	42
Thermoelectric module design	42
Thermoelectric devices fabrication	42
Thermoelectric power generation and refrigeration measurement	43
4 Results and discussion	44
Thermoelectric materials synthesis	44
$Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ ($x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04$ and 0.05)	44
$Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ ($x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04$ and 0.05)	45
Crystal structure	46
$Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ ($x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04$ and 0.05)	46
$Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ ($x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04$ and 0.05)	48

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter	Page
Microstructure analysis	50
Mn _{1-x} Ag _x Si _{1.75-y} Bi _y (x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04 and 0.05)	50
Mg _{2-x} Ag _x Si _{1-y} Bi _y (x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04 and 0.05)	53
Thermoelectric properties	56
Mn _{1-x} Ag _x Si _{1.75-y} Bi _y (x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04 and 0.05)	56
Mg _{2-x} Ag _x Si _{1-y} Bi _y (x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04 and 0.05)	57
Thermoelectric devices fabrication	64
Possibility to thermoelectric generator and refrigerator	65
Thermoelectric generator	65
Thermoelectric refrigerator	67
5 Conclusions	69
Conclusions	69
Suggestions	70
Reference	71
Appendix	83
Appendix A Conferences	84
Appendix B Publications	85
History	100

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1 Brief summary of <i>PF</i> of MnSi _{1.75} base	20
2 Brief summary of <i>PF</i> of Mg ₂ Si base	28
3 Materials balance of Mn _{1-x} Ag _x Si _{1.75-y} Bi _y for 5 g	33
4 Materials balance of Mg _{2-x} Ag _x Si _{1-y} Bi _y for 5 g	36
5 The EDS of Mn _{1-x} Ag _x Si _{1.75-y} Bi _y (x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04 and 0.05) bulk samples	51
6 The EDS of Mg _{2-x} Ag _x Si _{1-y} Bi _y (x = y = 0, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04 and 0.05) bulk samples	54
7 Transport properties of Mn _{1-x} Ag _x Si _{1.75-y} Bi _y at 300 K	57
8 Transport properties of Mg _{2-x} Ag _x Si _{1-y} Bi _y bulk samples at 300 K	61

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1 Cost of various thermoelectric materials based on the raw material costs of the constituent elements	14
2 Schematic comparison of various thermoelectric materials in terms of the applicable temperature range, abundance and environmental friendliness	15
3 Crystal structure of Mn ₄ Si ₇ (Blue ball = Mn and write ball = Si)	16
4 Show the ribbon-growth-on-substrate (RGS) process	18
5 Crystal structure of Mg ₂ Si	21
6 Ingot of Mg ₂ Si grown by the die-casting vertical Bridgman method ..	22
7 Sketch of unicouple with metallization and contact layers	31
8 Thermoelectric device with 31 pairs of thermoelectric legs and a base area of 50 mm × 50 mm	31
9 The schematic diagram of methodology	32
10 Working principle of planetary ball mill (a) overall layout of planetary disk (b) horizontal section of grinding jar	34
11 The temperature profile for hot pressing of Mn _{1-x} Ag _x Si _{1.75-y} Bi _y	35
12 The temperature profile for hot pressing of Mg _{2-x} Ag _x Si _{1-y} Bi _y	37
13 Schamatic diagram of the step detail for Seebeck coefficient and electrical resistivity measurement	40
14 The schematic diagram of Seebeck coefficient and electrical resistivity Measurement	41
15 Model design of thermoelecric device configuration	42
16 Schematic diagram of (a) power generation and (b) refrigeration of thermoelectric measurement	43
17 The step detail of Mn _{1-x} Ag _x Si _{1.75-y} Bi _y material synthesis	45

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure	Page
18 The step detail of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ materials synthesis	46
19 XRD patterns of $Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ bulks	47
20 (a) Lattice parameter, (b) Volume of unit cell, (c), Crystal size, (d) Relative density and bulk density as a function of x values of $Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	48
21 XRD patterns of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	49
22 (a) Lattice parameter, (b) Crystal size, (c) Volume of unit cell, (d) Relative density and bulk density as a function of x values of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples.....	50
23 SEM micrographs of $Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples (a) $x = y = 0$, (b) $x = y = 0.01$, (c) $x = y = 0.02$, (d) $x = y = 0.03$ and (e) $x = y = 0.04$ and (f) $x = y = 0.05$	51
24 Elemental mapping of $Mn_{0.96}Ag_{0.04}Si_{1.71}Bi_{0.04}$ surface bulk samples ...	52
25 SEM micrographs of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples (a) $x = y = 0$, (b) $x = y = 0.01$, (c) $x = y = 0.02$, (d) $x = y = 0.03$ and (e) $x = y = 0.04$ and (f) $x = y = 0.05$	53
26 Elemental mapping of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ surface bulk samples	55
27 Seebeck coefficient dependence on temperature of $Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	57
28 Electrical resistivity dependence on temperature of $Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	59
29 The power factor dependence on temperature of $Mn_{1-x}Ag_xSi_{1.75-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	60
30 Seebeck coefficient dependence on temperature of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	61

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure	Page
31 Electrical resistivity dependence on temperature of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	62
32 The power factor dependence on temperature of $Mg_{2-x}Ag_xSi_{1-y}Bi_y$ bulk samples	63
33 Thermoelectric devices of (a) 1 pair design, (b) 11 pairs design, (c) 30 pairs design, (d) 1 pair fabrication, (e) 11 pairs fabrication and (f) 30 pairs fabrication	64
34 The electrical voltage dependence on different temperature of thermoelectric devices	65
35 The electrical current dependence on different temperature of thermoelectric devices	66
36 The electrical current dependence on different temperature of thermoelectric devices	67
37 The electrical current dependence on different temperature of thermoelectric devices	68