

Bi₆Te_{2-x}R_xO₁₃ (R=Ti, Si, Ce) Systems: A Investigation for Fuel Cell Applications



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INTRODUCTION

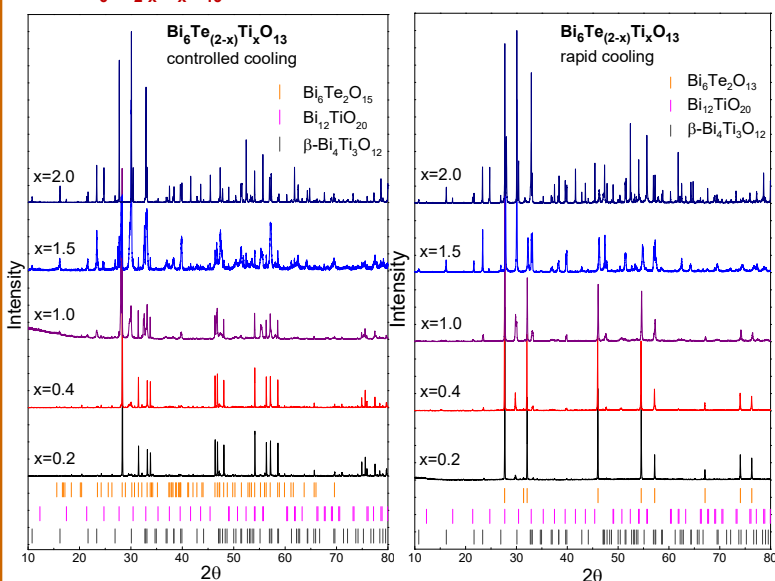
- Among the renewable energy sources, fuel cells stand out
- Among the different types are the solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC).
- These devices use oxygen ion conducting oxide materials
- The challenge: the study and development of SOFC able of operating at lower temperatures (400-700° C).
- High conductivity values is observed in determined crystalline structures as cubic phase of δ -Bi₂O₃ (fluorite structure)
- 3Bi₂O₃:2TeO₂ present two phases: Bi₆Te₂O₁₅ orthorhombic one and the high temperature cubic phase Bi₆Te₂O₁₃ [1,2,3]
- Challenge: obtaining the cubic phase at room temperature.
- Partial replacement of the Te ions in the Bi₆Te_{2-x}R_xO₁₃ (R=Ti, Si and Ce) was done in order to stabilize the cubic phase
- Ti, Si and Ce ions have been chosen because present the same oxidation state (IV) and ionic radius close to Te ions.

MATERIALS and METHODS

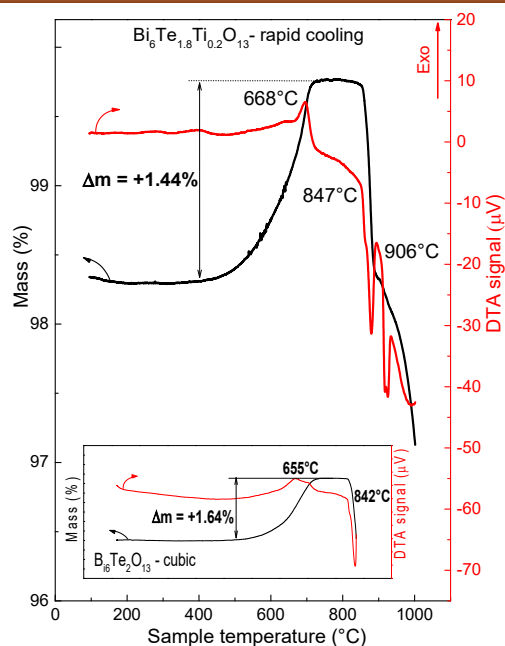
- Solid-state reaction: Heat treatment under air at 750° C and 870° C for 24h using a horizontal tubular furnace.
- Cooling rate: Slow (2° C/min) and rapid (quenching)
- Characterization: XRD, TG/DTA

RESULTS

• Bi₆Te_{2-x}Ti_xO₁₃

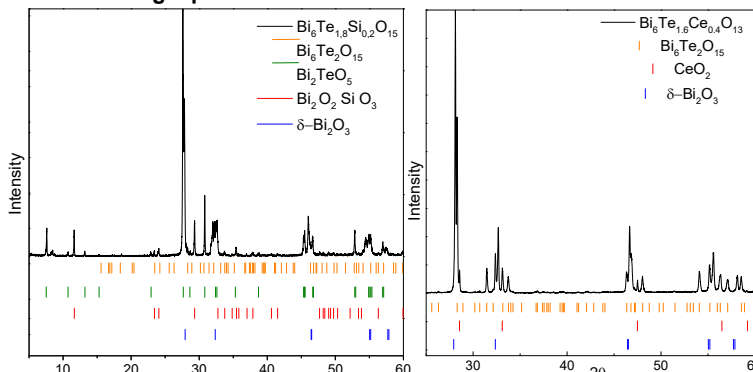


- **First heat treatment:** formed a mixture of the Bi₆Te₂O₁₅ (orthorhombic), Bi₁₂TiO₂₀ (Sillénite) and β -Bi₄Ti₃O₁₂ (Perovskita) compositions.
- **Second heat treatment:** presented the same mixture, with the exception of the cubic phase of composition Bi₆Te₂O₁₃ that was formed instead of the orthorhombic phase



- TG/DTA analyses show that cubic phase in mixture is not stable
- The widest profile of the third peak indicate the overlap of thermal events related to the melting of the different components in the mixture

- Bi₆Te_{2-x}Si_xO₁₃ and Bi₆Te_{2-x}Ce_xO₁₃
- Replacement of Te by Si and Ce do not lead to the formation of a single phase but a mixture



CONCLUSIONS

- The attempt to stabilize the cubic phase of the Bi₆Te₂O₁₃ system at room temperature through the insertion of Ti, Si and Ce ions in Bi₆Te_{2-x}R_xO₁₃ (R = Ti, Si and Ce) compositions, resulted in mixtures
- The formation of multiphase systems did not allow conductivity measures.
- Studies with others cations to replace Bi or Te are in progress intending to stabilize the cubic phase in lower temperatures to fuel cells applications.

REFERENCES

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