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High thermoelectric performance of a defect α-In$_2$Se$_3$-based solid solution upon Zn substitution for In

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ABSTRACT In this project, we have successfully manipulated the lattice defects in α-In$_2$Se$_3$-based solid solutions (In$_2$Zn$_x$Se$_y$) upon proper substitutions of Zn for In, via a non-equilibrium fabrication technology of materials (NEFT). The manipulation of the defects centers on reducing the number of interstitial In atoms (In$_i$) and Se vacancies (V$_{Se}$), and creating a new antisite defect Zn$_{In}$ as a donor. By such means, the lattice structure tends to be ordering, and also more stabilized than that of pure α-In$_2$Se$_3$. At the meantime, the carrier concentration ($n$) and mobility ($μ$) have increased by 1~2 orders of magnitude. As a consequence, the solid solution at $x=0.01$ gives the highest TE figure of merit ($ZT$) of 1.23($±0.22$) in the pressing direction at 916K, which is about 4.7 times that of virgin α-In$_2$Se$_3$ ($ZT=0.26$). This achieved TE performance is mainly due to the remarkable improvement of the electrical conductivity that increases from $0.53×10^3$ ($Ω^{-1}m^{-1}$) at $x=0$ to $4.88×10^3$ ($Ω^{-1}m^{-1}$) at $x=0.01$ at 916K, in spite of the enhancement of the lattice thermal conductivity ($κ_l$) from 0.26 ($w m^{-1}k^{-1}$) to 0.32 ($w m^{-1}k^{-1}$).

1. Introduction
The efficiency of thermoelectric (TE) devices largely depends on the dimensionless figure of merit (ZT) of the materials, which is defined as $ZT=(α^2κ/ρ)T$, where $α$, $κ$ and $ρ$ are the Seebeck coefficient, electrical conductivity and total thermal conductivity. The total $κ$ mainly consists of electronic ($κ_e$) and lattice ($κ_l$) components. As to the layered semiconductors that have relatively wide bandgaps, the main challenge is to improve their electrical conductivities while simultaneously maintain high Seebeck coefficients.

Although a remarkable improvement in TE performance has been made in recent decades, achieved either by nanostructuring, band structure engineering, or thermopower waves based energy sources, which result in exceptionally high voltage output and specific power, there still remains necessity to explore new materials, especially wide gap semiconductors, that are potentially competent TE candidates. Pure α-In$_2$Se$_3$ is one of the typical wide gap semiconductor ($E_g=1.42eV$) with a layered structure (space group $P6_3/mmc$ (hexagonal) and $R-3m$ (rhombohedral)). It is difficult to synthesize single phase, as its phase transformations are rather complicated. Although doping of impurities, such as Ag, Cu, Mg, Cd, Bi, Sb and I, could not change its n-type conduction, the noble metals like Cu and Ag do not substitute easily in In–Se, but are prone to forming other Cu/Ag-containing compounds, such as (In$_2$Se$_3$)$_{0.51}$(Cu$_{0.01}$I$_{0.99}$) or In$_{Ag}$Se$_{In}$, rather than pure α(2H)-In$_2$Se$_3$. That is why we are not able to manage and control the TE performance of the α-In$_2$Se$_3$ up till now.

Besides, α-In$_2$Se$_3$ is a semiconductor with many defects. The whole structure of α-In$_2$Se$_3$ is arranged in slabs with two layers per unit cell along the c-axis. Each layer is formed in pockets of two In and three Se sub-layers in the sequence of Se-In-Se-In-Se. The bonding between In and Se is strongly covalent, while the interlayer interaction (Se-Se) is of weak van der Waals (VDW) type. The VDW gap, which is one of the defects in α-In$_2$Se$_3$, is similar to what we have observed in other layered compounds like Bi$_2$Te$_3$ or In$_2$Se$_3$. In addition to VDW gap in α-In$_2$Se$_3$, there are other kinds of defects. The stoichiometric vacancies in the cationic sites acting as donor centres are treated as defects supporting the exchange of their positions with In cations. Such exchange is speculated to be the origin of free carriers. The positioning of In in the lattice is still a rather puzzling problem. One part of In atoms occupy the normal cationic sites instead of stoichiometric vacant positions, while the other excess part might act as interstitial ones. The excess of In could be considered as a lack of Se. Therefore, there are at least four kinds of defects in the virgin α-In$_2$Se$_3$, that is, VDW gap, cationic vacancy $V_{In}$, interstitial In atom (In$_{In}$) and anionic vacancy Se ($V_{Se}$). If we are able to manipulate these large numbers of intrinsic defects, it is anticipated that both the electrical and thermal conductivities of materials can be tailored.

In this work, we try to continue to tune the TE transport properties by manipulating such defects using following strategies: (1) attempting to decrease the concentration of interstitial In atoms (In$_i$) or Se vacancies, $V_{Se}$ to encourage positional interchanges between the vacancies and cations themselves, by which means we are able to enhance the hole mobility and concentration, (2) incorporation of impurity into the cationic sublattice to create new active defects that will increase the lattice distortion, and thereby increase the high frequency phonon scattering. These two strategies are expected to be applied in a synergistic manner.

The above-noted strategies are realized by substitution of Zn for In in α-In$_2$Se$_3$, along with the application of non-equilibrium fabrication technology of materials (NEFT). We select element Zn as a substituting atom because the element Zn has a relatively low electronegativity (1.65) and small atomic radius, hence it can easily occupy the cationic or interstitial sites using NEFT. As such, we attain the highest $ZT$ value of 1.23($±0.22$) at 916K through remarkably improving electrical conductivity by enhancing the carrier concentration ($n$) and mobility ($μ$).
2. Experimental

Sample preparations Based on the previous experiments on Cu/Ag incorporated In$_2$Se$_3$, the solubility of metallic element Zn in In$_2$Se$_3$ might also be limited. Therefore, we have introduced just a small amount of Zn to In$_2$Se$_3$ in this project, and employed a non-equilibrium fabrication technology (NEFT) to prepare the materials. The detailed procedures of NEFT are described below: The mixtures, which were prepared according to In$_2$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x=0, 0.005, 0.01, 0.015, 0.02$), were melted at 1373 K for 24 h in vacuum, and then rapidly quenched in ice water to room temperature (RT). The rapid cooling procedure is very necessary as it can avoid the formations of β- and/or γ-In$_2$Se$_3$ and defect annihilation and also especially, it could lead Zn atoms to enter the interstitial sites. The as-solidified ingots were pulverized and then ball milled at a rotation rate of 350 rpm for 10 h in stainless steel bowls that contain benzim. Subsequently, the dried powders were sintered by using spark plasma sintering apparatus (SPS-1030) under a pressure of 55 MPa and at the highest temperature of 923 K. The total sintering time is less than 2 min, which includes 20 seconds of holding time, 10 s each at around 470 K and 923K respectively. The purpose of such a rapid sintering technology is to avoid the annealing effect caused by the interdiffusion of elements, and to fix the incorporated Zn atoms in the lattices at the same time.

The densities of the sintered samples, which are about 95% theoretical ones, were measured by using Archimedes' method. Each sample was cut into ~3 mm slices measuring ~2.5 mm × 13 mm out of the sintered block, whose size is ϕ20 mm × 2.5 mm, for electrical property measurements.

Structural and chemical composition analyses The structural analysis of the powders was made by powder X-ray diffractometer (D8 Advance) operating at 50 kV and 40 mA. Cu Ka radiation ($\lambda=0.15406$ nm) and a scan rate of 4° min$^{-1}$ were used to record the patterns ranging from 10° to 140°. The chemical compositions were determined by an electron probe micro-analyzer (EPMA) (S-4800, Hitachi, Japan) with accuracy > 97%.

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) measurements were performed on an AXIS ULTRA DLD equipped with a monochromatic Al Kα X-ray source (30 mA, 15 kV) and a hybrid lens. Samples were sputter-cleaned with an Ar ion beam until the core-line peaks associated with surface oxides were no longer observed in the XPS spectra. High-resolution core-line spectra of Zn$^{2+}$, In$^{3+}$, and Se$^{3+}$ were collected. In this work, four samples of In$_2$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x=0,0.005, 0.01, 0.02$) were examined, and pure In$_2$Se$_3$ was examined for comparison.

Raman spectra of three powdered In$_2$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ samples ($x=0,0.005, 0.01$) were recorded at 300 K from 50 to 4000 cm$^{-1}$ at 0.6 cm$^{-1}$ resolution using an Invia-Reflex Raman spectrometer with Nd:YAG laser source ($\lambda=532.0$ nm). A 50° objective lens was employed via a confocal geometry to transmit the incident laser beam and collect the scattered radiation. Laser intensity was mandatorily attenuated to prevent decomposing the samples. When calculating the formation energies, we used the generalized gradient approximation (GGA), a cutoff energy of 400 eV and a $k$ mesh of $4 \times 4 \times 3$. The other calculation procedure was reported in ref.15.

TE transport property measurements The Hall coefficient ($R_H$) measurements at RT were conducted on a Physical Property Measurement System (PPMS, Model-9) using a four probe configuration with a magnetic field sweeping between ±1.5 T, and were performed on rectangular samples with size 2 × 2 × 8 cm$^3$. The Hall mobilities ($\mu$) and carrier concentrations ($n$) were subsequently calculated based on the relations $\mu = -R_H \sigma$ and $n = \frac{1}{eR_H}$ respectively, where $e$ is the electron charge. The current and Hall voltage leads were fine copper wires, and the contacts were made of silver paste.

The Seebeck coefficients ($\alpha$) and electrical conductivities ($\sigma$) were measured as a function of temperature using ULVAC ZEM-2, 3 instrument systems in a helium atmosphere between RT and 916K. A temperature difference of approximately 5°C was applied between the two terminals of the sample in order to measure the Seebeck coefficient, whereas the electrical conductivity was measured using the four-probe method. The measurement uncertainties are: 6% for electrical conductivity, 5% for Seebeck coefficient. The thermal conductivities ($\kappa$) at RT~916 K were calculated as the product of the material densities, specific heats and thermal diffusivities (with uncertainty below 10%) measured using TC-1200RH. The total uncertainty for $\kappa_T$ is 18%. The lattice contributions ($\kappa_L$) were obtained by subtracting the electronic part ($\kappa_e$) from the total $\kappa$, i.e., $\kappa_L=\kappa-\kappa_e$. Here $\kappa_L$ is expressed by the Wiedemann–Franz law, $\kappa_L=L_o\sigma T$, where $L_o$ is the Lorenz number, estimated at 2.45×10$^{-8}$ WΩK$^{-2}$. The parameters were finalized after several repeated measurements using different samples.

3. Results and discussions

3.1 Compositional and structural analyses

The differential thermal analysis (DTA) data confirms that there is no phase transformation below 973 K (see Supplementary Figure 1). Such a result might be due to the fact that the phase transformation needs long incubation time for nucleation and relatively high temperature for growth.

The chemical compositions for In$_2$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ each taken from a mapping of EPMA are shown in Supplementary Table 1, and a mapping picture of In$_2$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x=0.01$) is demonstrated in the Supplementary Figure 2. In Supplementary Table 1 we have observed what we expected a little deficiency in Se and an excess in In. In addition, the molar of In, Zn and Se identified are close to those of as-prepared materials, suggesting that the Zn composition is almost as intended as the final samples.

The XRD analysis shows that materials exhibit α-In$_2$Se$_3$-based solid solution (space group: P63/mmc; PDF:34-1279) until $x=0.015$ (see Fig.1a), while a minor impurity phase Zn$_{0.96}$In$_{0.04}$Se$_{3.4}$ was identified at $x\geq0.015$.

In order to confirm the incorporation of Zn into the crystal lattice, we have determined the oxidation states of Zn, In and Se using XPS spectra of Zn$_2$p, In$_3$d and Se$_3$d in In$_2$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ (see Supplementary Figure 3). The binding energy (BE) values for Zn$_2$p$_x$ ($x=0.01$ with uncertainties estimated at ±0.01 eV) are listed in Supplementary Table 2, where we observed that the BE value of Zn$_2$p$_x$ (1021.80 eV) is higher than that of single element Zn (1021.45 eV), but very close to that of ZnTe. We therefore confirm the existence of Zn$_{1-x}$Se$_x$. The In$_3$d$_{x/2}$ BE (444.70 eV) is higher than that of elemental In (443.80 eV), but almost equal to those in In$_2$Se$_3$ (444.60 eV) and In$_2$O$_3$ (444.70 eV), which indicates the presence of positively charged In$^{3+}$ species. The Se$_3$d$_{5/2}$ BE (54.30 eV) analyzed is very close to that of B$_2$Se$_3$ (54.20 eV), confirming the presence of Se$^{5-}$. We have therefore verified the incorporation of Zn into the crystal lattice.

However, the occupation of Zn in the crystal lattice needs further confirmation. Therefore, we have calculated the formation energies ($E_f$), which are 1.89 eV, 10.52 eV or -1.67 eV each, when Zn occupies the In lattice, Se lattice or interstitial sites. In terms of the $E_f$ data, we confirm that Zn should preferentially occupy the interstitial sites, and are least likely to occupy Se lattice. However, it is still possible to occupy In cation sites. Nevertheless, the occupation of Zn in the van der Waals (VDW) gaps should be ruled out, because no remarkable elongation of
the lattice constant $c$ (see Fig. 1b)\textsuperscript{50, 12(a), 17} has been observed, neither were visible diffraction peaks observed below 15° based on small angle X-ray diffraction analyses (see Supplementary Figure 4). Based on the above compositional and elemental incorporations, we believe that the number of both the interstitial In (In$_i$) and Se vacancies (V$_{Se}$) should be reduced, and the antisite defect Zn$_{o}$ is expected to be created.

### 3.2 TE transport properties

The electrical properties ($\sigma$ and $\alpha$) against temperature ($T$) have been measured along ($C_\perp$) and perpendicular to ($C_{\perp\perp}$) the pressing direction ($C_\parallel$). The results ($\sigma$ and $\alpha$) are shown in Fig. 2a. Generally, the absolute Seebeck coefficient ($\alpha$) gets smaller as Zn content increases, except for the sample at $x=0.02$, which gives a little higher $\alpha$ values than those at $x=0.01$. This phenomenon is attributed to the boundary resistances of heat and electricity\textsuperscript{18} caused by the precipitation of the impurity phase Zn$_{o}$In$_{1-x}$Se$_x$, which thereby brings in the boundary Seebeck coefficient. Apart from that, the maximum Seebeck coefficient seems to shift to the higher temperature side as Zn content increases. For example, the maximum $\alpha$ value at $x=0.01$ appears at $\sim 700K$, while those at $x=0.01$ and 0.02 around $480K$ and $560K$, respectively. However, the Seebeck coefficients for different materials gradually approach the same value as $T$ elevates to $916K$ (see Fig. 2a). The electrical conductivities ($\sigma$) increases with temperature increasing, revealing semiconducting behaviour. The $\sigma$ values also increases with $x$ increasing, except for the sample at $x=0.02$. It seems that the boundary resistances should also influence the electrical conductivities, as the $\sigma$ values at $x=0.02$ are lower than those at $x=0.01$ (see Fig. 2b). The sample at $x=0.01$ gives the highest $\sigma$ values $4.88\times10^{-3}$ (Ω m$^{-1}$) at $916K$, while the virgin $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$ gives only $5.3\times10^{-4}$ (Ω m$^{-1}$).

The lattice thermal conductivity ($\kappa_l$), shown in Fig. 2c, takes more than 70% of total $\kappa$ (see Supplementary Figure 5), indicating that the phonon scattering mechanism dominates over the whole temperature range. Besides, the temperature dependences of $\kappa_l$ in the Zn-containing In$_2$ZnSe$_3$ are different from that of pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$, with the $\kappa_l$ in the former enhancing mildly with the temperature up to 815K, and then reducing, whereas in the latter reduces with the temperature increasing across the whole temperature range. Above $\sim 700K$, the Zn-containing In$_2$ZnSe$_3$ has higher $\kappa_l$ values than in the case of pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$, indicating reduced phonon scattering caused by diminished lattice distortion. The $\kappa_l$ values of the sample In$_2$ZnSe$_3$ ($x=0.01$) are $0.26wm^{-1}k^{-1}$ and $0.37wm^{-1}k^{-1}$ at $916K$ respectively, which enhance by a factor of 1.24 and 1.68 compared to those of pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$, as shown in Fig. 2c and Supplementary Figure 5.

Combining the above three physical parameters ($\sigma$, $\alpha$, and $\kappa_l$), we have attained the TE figure of merit (ZT) (Fig. 2d) as a function of temperature, which increases with temperature increasing for all samples. The highest ZT value is $1.23\pm0.22$ at $916K$ for $x=0.01$, which is about 4.7 times that of pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$. This material can be comparable to the state-of-the-art semiconductors with chalcopirite structures, like CuIn(xGaTe)$_{1-x}$\textsuperscript{19} and AgInSe$_2$-based materials\textsuperscript{16b} and can also be comparable to other layered TE materials, like Bi$_2$Te$_3$ or In$_2$Se$_3$ based-semiconductors.\textsuperscript{20, 22} It shows a promising future for applications in the relatively high temperatures.

The TE properties of In$_2$Zn$_{1-x}$Se$_x$($x=0.00$--$0.02$) perpendicular to the pressing direction ($C_\perp$) are shown in Fig. 3. Similarly, the peak $\alpha$ values, as what is shown in the case of $C_\parallel$, gets small as Zn content increases, while the sample at $x=0.02$ gives the highest due to the precipitation of the impurity phase Zn$_{o}$In$_{1-x}$Se$_x$. The $\alpha$ values for four samples gradually approach $916K$ (Fig. 3a). The sample at $x=0.01$ in $C_\perp$ gives the highest $\alpha$ value of $5.13\times10^{-3}$ (Ω m$^{-1}$) at $916K$, while the pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$ gives only $0.92\times10^{-3}$ (Ω m$^{-1}$) (Fig. 3b). Besides, $\sigma$ values roughly increases with temperature increasing, also exhibiting the semiconducting behaviour. The electrical conductivities ($\sigma$) for all the samples in ($C_\perp$) are higher than those in ($C_\parallel$).

The $\kappa_l$ values of Zn-containing In$_2$ZnSe$_3$ in $C_\perp$, which are $0.42$ (0.53wm k$^{-1}$) at $916K$, are higher than those in $C_\parallel$. Besides, both sets of $\kappa_l$ values (in $C_\perp$ and $C_\parallel$) shows similar compositional dependence (Fig. 2e, 3c and Supplementary Figure 5, 6). The highest ZT value in $C_\perp$ at $x=0.01$ is 0.75$\pm$0.16 at $916K$ (Fig. 3d), a reduction by 40% compared to that in $C_\parallel$.

The remarkable improvement of the electrical conductivity upon Zn substitution for In is due to the enhancement of free electron carriers, which is caused by the reduction of the number of interstitial In atoms (In$_i$) and Se vacancies (V$_{Se}$) as well as new antisite defects Zn$_{o}$. Nonetheless, the number of In vacancy (V$_{In}$) remains almost unchanged, which has preserved its exchange between In cations and mobility ($\mu$). The response of each species to the carrier concentration, $n$, is different. Some species acts as donors, while others act as acceptors. The detailed responses are estimated and summarized in Table 1. Taken together, the $n$-type carrier concentration ($n$) in the In$_2$ZnSe$_3$ system has a tendency to increase with Zn content increasing. In order to verify these estimations, we measured the Hall coefficients ($R_h$) and carrier concentrations ($n$) at RT (Table 2), and found that the $n$ value in $C_\parallel$ increases from $1.00\times10^{23}$ ($x=0.01$) to $7.64\times10^{24}$ m$^{-3}$ ($x=0.01$), and that in $C_\perp$ from $6.98\times10^{25}$ ($x=0.00$) to $6.73\times10^{23}$ m$^{-3}$ ($x=0.01$). The carrier concentrations ($n$) in both $C_\parallel$ and $C_\perp$ are both about 2 orders of magnitude higher than those of pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$. The mobility ($\mu$) has a similar compositional dependence to carrier concentration, but only about one order of magnitude higher. The samples at $x=0.02$ in both $C_\parallel$ and $C_\perp$ give lower $n$ and $\mu$ values than those at $x=0.01$, which is probably due to the impurity of Zn$_{o}$In$_{1-x}$Se$_x$ precipitated. These data strongly verify the estimations shown in Table 1. The $n$ value in pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$ is comparable to those in ref. 12(a),22, but the $\mu$ value is about 2-3 orders of magnitude smaller than the reported ones ($1.90\times10^{-3}$ m$^{-2}$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$, in-plane)$^{20, 22}$ and Li-intercalated In$_2$Se$_3$ single crystal ($8.40\times10^{-3}$-1.67 m$^{-2}$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$)$^{22}$.

To better understand the effect of the structure on the lattice thermal conductivity, we specially analyzed the Raman spectra of three samples ($x=0.005$, 0.01 and pure $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$), which are shown in Fig. 4. General features of the presented spectra bear resemblance to the results of Raman study performed by Lewandowska\textsuperscript{23} and Kambas\textsuperscript{24}, as the structures in $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$ or its based alloys in our work are readily identified by the large peak at 106 cm$^{-1}$. This suggests that the molecular structures are rather similar and remain long-range ordering, even though the peak at 106 cm$^{-1}$ becomes less pronounced upon the substitution of Zn for In. Furthermore, three modes at 180 cm$^{-1}$, 193 cm$^{-1}$ and 203 cm$^{-1}$ are combined in the $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$, but only two modes at 180 cm$^{-1}$ and 203 cm$^{-1}$ remain active in In$_2$Zn$_{1-x}$Se$_x$ ($x=0.005$, 0.01). The mode at 193 cm$^{-1}$ seems to vanish completely, which implies that not only has the structure of Zn-substituted $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$ long-range ordering tendency, but it also gets more stabilized and has a short-range ordering tendency compared to Zn-free $\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$, according to the suggestion from Zaretskaya et al.\textsuperscript{25} These phenomena originate mainly from the reduction of interstitial In atoms (In$_i$) and Se vacancies (V$_{Se}$) upon the substitution of Zn for In, and they also explain the reduced lattice distortion and relatively high lattice $\kappa_l$ values at high temperatures, although the new created antisite defect Zn$_{o}$ can increase the lattice distortion to some extent. The Raman line at $\sim 150$ cm$^{-1}$, which presents in the Zn-substituted alloys, may be related to the presence of Zn-Se bonds in the structure.
4. Conclusions

In this work, we have applied a non-equilibrium fabrication technology of materials (NEFT) to prepare the materials and present a promising layered structure TE material: a α-In$_2$Se$_3$-based solid solution upon substitution of Zn for In. This material gives the highest ZT value of 1.23(±0.22) at 916K through a successful manipulation of the lattice defects involving the reductions of the numbers of interstitial In atoms (In$_i$) and Se vacancies (V$_{se}$) as well as the creation of an antisite defect Zn$_{In}$ as a donor. Such a manipulation directly leads to the enhancement of the carrier concentration and mobility and the remarkable improvement of electrical conductivity. However, the lattice thermal conductivity enhances to some extent, due to the fact that the structure tends to be ordering and more stabilized than that in the case of pure α-In$_2$Se$_3$.

Fig. 1  (a) X-ray diffraction patterns of the In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x$=0, 0.005, 0.01, 0.015, 0.02) powders, (b) Lattice constants $a$ and $c$ as a function of $x$ value.

Fig. 2  Thermoelectric properties of In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x$=0, 0.005, 0.01, 0.02) samples along the pressing direction ($C_{//}$). (a) Seebeck coefficients ($\alpha$), (b) Electrical conductivities ($\sigma$), (c) Lattice thermal conductivities ($\kappa_L$), an insert is a close-up view of $\kappa_L$, (d) Dimensionless figure of merit (ZT).
Fig. 3 Thermoelectric properties of In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x=0, 0.005, 0.01, 0.02$) samples perpendicular to the pressing direction ($C_\perp$). (a) Seebeck coefficients ($\alpha$), (b) Electrical conductivities ($\sigma$), (c) Lattice thermal conductivities ($\kappa_L$), an insert is a close-up view of $\kappa_L$, (d) Dimensionless figure of merit ($ZT$).

Fig. 4 Raman spectra of In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x=0, 0.005, 0.01$) samples.
Table 1 Formations of cations (anions) and estimated changes of the carrier concentration ($n$) in different Zn-substituted $\text{In}_{2-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{Se}_3$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$_3$</th>
<th>Possible formations of defects</th>
<th>Conducting type</th>
<th>Estimated carrier concentration ($n$)</th>
<th>Estimated change in $n$ with $x$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\text{Zn}_\text{ln}$</td>
<td>donor</td>
<td>A certain quantity</td>
<td>Increase with $x$ increasing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_{\text{In}}$</td>
<td>donor center</td>
<td>A large quantity</td>
<td>almost unchanged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{In}_\text{i}$</td>
<td>donor upon interchange</td>
<td>A certain quantity</td>
<td>decreasing with $x$ increasing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_{\text{Se}}$</td>
<td>acceptor</td>
<td>A certain quantity</td>
<td>unchanged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDW gap</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taken together, $n$–type carrier concentration ($n$) in In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ Increasing tendency

Table 2 Measured carrier concentrations $n$ and mobility $\mu$ at RT of In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$_3$ ($x=0, 0.005, 0.01, 0.02$).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Samples</th>
<th>$x$</th>
<th>$R_{\text{Hf}}$ (m$^3$/C)</th>
<th>Carrier concentration, $n$ [1/m$^3$]</th>
<th>Mobility, $\mu$ [m$^2$/V·s]</th>
<th>$\sigma$ [\Omega^-1 m^-1]</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tr>
<td>$\alpha$-In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$<em>3$ (C$</em>\text{I}$)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.45×10$^{-5}$</td>
<td>9.68×10$^{22}$</td>
<td>1.10×10$^{-6}$</td>
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<td>0.005</td>
<td>9.53×10$^{-6}$</td>
<td>6.56×10$^{23}$</td>
<td>6.86×10$^{-6}$</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>9.29×10$^{-7}$</td>
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<td>1.51×10$^{-4}$</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.09×10$^{-5}$</td>
<td>5.72×10$^{23}$</td>
<td>5.08×10$^{-5}$</td>
<td>6.67</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1.00×10$^{23}$</td>
<td>7.93×10$^{-6}$</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha$-In$_{2-x}$Zn$_x$Se$<em>3$ (C$</em>\text{II}$)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>8.93×10$^{-6}$</td>
<td>7.00×10$^{23}$</td>
<td>6.71×10$^{-6}$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>2.47×10$^{-5}$</td>
<td>2.53×10$^{23}$</td>
<td>1.19×10$^{-5}$</td>
<td>0.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Li$_{0.1}$In$_2$Se$_3$</td>
<td>0.42×10$^{-6}$</td>
<td>1.50×10$^{25}$</td>
<td>8.40×10$^{-3}$</td>
<td>2.00×10$^{4}$</td>
<td>from ref. 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha$-In$_2$Se$_3$</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>5.00~7.22×10$^{22}$</td>
<td>1.90×10$^{-3}$</td>
<td>14.92</td>
<td>from ref. 12(a), 22</td>
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Acknowledgements
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Notes and references
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