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Superconductivity in the heavily Pb-doped Bi-2212 phase of (Bi,Pb)₂Sr₂CaCu₂O₈₋₈

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The superconducting transition temperature T_c of the Bi-2212 phase of Bi₂Sr₂CaCu₂O_{8+ δ} is ~ 80 K. The reason of the relatively low T_c is that the hole-concentration is situated in the overdoped region because extra oxygen atoms easily introduced in the BiO plane supply the CuO₂ plane with holes excessively. The structural disorder caused by extra oxygen atoms also suppresses superconductivity. Recently, we have succeeded in increasing T_c up to 102 K in Bi_{1.64}Pb_{0.36}Sr₂CaCu₂O₈ by the optimization of the content of Pb²⁺-substitution for Bi³⁺ and the complete removal of extra oxygen atoms through the reduction annealing [1]. With further increasing Pb-content, it is expected that the oxygen deficiency occurs. In this study, we have investigated the effects of the oxygen deficiency on T_c in the heavily Pb-doped Bi-2212 phase of (Bi,Pb)₂Sr₂CaCu₂O_{8- δ}.

Polycrystalline samples of Bi_{2-x}Pb_xSr₂CaCu₂O_{8-δ} ($0 \le x(Pb) \le 1$) were prepared by the solid-state reaction method and annealed in flowing gas of Ar in the final step to suppress the formation of impurity phases with Pb⁴⁺. As shown in Fig. 1, almost single-phase samples can be obtained for $x(Pb) \le 0.6$ through the Ar-annealing at 710-750°C. As for x(Pb) = 0.8, almost single-phase sample is obtained through the Ar-annealing at 730°C. We will report the effects of the oxygen deficiency on T_c .



[1] K. Sugawara et al., J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 1054 (2018) 012008.

Fig.1. Powder X-ray diffraction patterns of $Bi_{2-x}Pb_xSr_2CaCu_2O_8$ ($0.4 \le x(Pb) \le 1$) obtained after the Ar-annealing at (a)750°C, (b)730°C and (c)710°C.

Keywords: Bi-2212, Pb-substitution, Oxygen deficiency