



High-Pressure Synthesis of High-Entropy Metal Disulfides with Pyrite-Type Structure

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We succeed in synthesizing equimolar-multi metal solid solutions of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂ by sintering at 900 °C under 2–4 GPa. These were stabilized by the high-entropy effect. Nevertheless, (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, M)S₂ (M = Zn, Mn, or Cd) was not obtained as single phase under the same synthetic conditions, mostly owing to the relatively large ionic radius of M²⁺. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis shows that (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ crystallizes into a pyrite type with the space group *Pa* $\bar{3}$ (#205) [*a* = 5.777(3) Å], randomly distributed at one site. The results of electrical resistivity and magnetic *dc*-susceptibility measurements indicate that both (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂ are metals with ferrimagnetic ordering below *T*_c = 130 K. The band structure and the projected density of states (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂, were obtained by density functional theory calculations in a high-entropy representative supercell, supporting the experimental results.

1. Introduction

High-entropy alloys (HEAs) are crystal structures that contain typically five or more elements with a nearly equal atomic ratio.^{1,2} According to the Gibbs free energy (*G*) equation, $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$ (*H*: enthalpy, *T*: temperature, and *S*: entropy), the high configurational mixing entropy ($\Delta S_{mix} = -R \sum_i x_i \ln x_i$, where *R* is gas constant and *x* is a compositional ratio) decreases the Gibbs free energy and stabilizes the formation of solid solution at high temperature.² The same concept can be extended to a wide range of materials. Because of the high-entropy structure, HEAs exhibit physical properties, such as high corrosion resistance, high hardness, high strength, distorted lattices, and slow diffusion, that can be useful in many technological applications.^{2,3}

Currently, there are several examples of high-entropy compounds and the analysis of their physical and chemical properties in the literature.^{4–10} Rost et al. reported entropy stabilized oxides (Mg, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn)O with the NaCl-type structure in 2015,⁴ and subsequently, several high-entropy oxides such as Li-doped NaCl types⁵ and pyrochlore types⁶ were synthesized. Afterwards, a few metal sulfides were studied (e.g., Cu₅SnMgGeZnS₉) as promising thermoelectric materials owing to the atomic disorders that reduce their thermal conductivity.^{7–10} Disulfides, MS₂, with pyrite type (Fe, Ni, Co, Cr, M)S₂ (M = Mn, Cu, Zn or Al)⁸ and (Fe, Mn, Ni, Co, M)S₂ (M = Ti, Cr, Cu)⁹ were studied as environmentally functional materials for high-performance oxygen-evolution reactions and Li-battery electrodes. Both can form fine powders with low crystallinity or that are partially amorphous when produced by solvothermal synthesis at a low temperature and mechanochemical synthesis at room temperature, respectively.^{8,9} Likewise, the CdI₂ type represents another typical MS₂ structure with properties typical of high-entropy sulfides, (Ti, V, Cr, Nb, Ta)S₂.¹⁰

Pyrite, FeS₂, is the most abundant mineral sulfide, and its structure is common among metal disulfides MS₂.¹¹ It crystallizes into space group *Pa* $\bar{3}$ (#205) where FeS₆ octahedra are connected three-dimensionally with corner

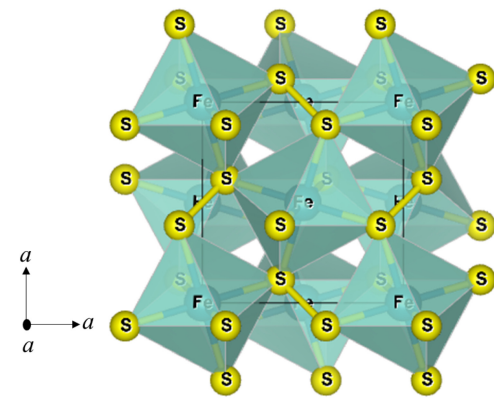


Fig. 1. (Color online) Crystal structure model of pyrite, FeS₂, visualized using VESTA software.

sharing, and the anion unit of S₂ dimers occupies the Cl site in the NaCl-type structure, as shown in Fig. 1.¹² The bond distance between sulfurs in the dimer could be determined using the one atomic positional parameter that indicates the degree of covalency, as discussed for IrS₂.¹³ This could be a key point in understanding the structure of pyrite compounds. The 3*d*-transition metal disulfides, MS₂, crystallize into a pyrite-type structure under different environmental conditions. For example, metal sulfides containing Mn and Ni form the pyrite-type structure at ambient pressure, whereas Cu and Zn do only at high pressure.¹⁴ The configuration of *d* electrons in MS₂ pyrites is crucial in the determination of the electrical transport and magnetic properties of the compound.¹⁵ MnS₂ with a high-spin configuration (*t*_{2g}³*e*_g²) and FeS₂, CoS₂, and NiS₂ with a low-spin configuration (*t*_{2g}⁶*e*_g⁰, *t*_{2g}⁶*e*_g¹, and *t*_{2g}⁶*e*_g²) respectively are an antiferromagnetic (*T*_N = 48.2 K)¹⁵ semiconductor (*E*_g = 1.3 eV),¹⁶ a diamagnetic semiconductor (*E*_g = 0.8 eV),¹⁵ a ferromagnetic (*T*_c = 120 K) metal,¹⁷ and an antiferromagnetic (*T*_N = 40 K) insulator.¹⁸ In contrast to the high-pressure phases of CuS₂ and ZnS₂ are superconductors (*T*_c = 1.50 K)¹⁹ and semiconductors (*E*_g ~ 2.5 eV).²⁰ Both RuS₂²¹ and CdS₂, with the same electronic configurations as FeS₂ and ZnS₂, respec-

tively, are semiconductors. The properties of these pyrites have been of great scientific interest.²⁰ However, only a detailed analysis of the physical properties of two elements in solid solution has been reported,²² and there is no report of high-entropy compounds with a larger number of elements in solid solution, where exotic properties may appear owing to a possible multiple-element interaction.

Here, we report the structural and physical properties of equimolar four- and five-metal solid solutions, (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂, in high-entropy compounds with pyrite-type structures. To obtain homogeneous and well-crystallized samples, we used a high-pressure approach. This method has the advantages of the suppression of highly volatile off-stoichiometry elements (i.e., sulfur),²³ high reactivity accompanied with high compressibility, and the possibility of a quick quench during sintering. In particular, the quenching procedure has been found to be a critical aspect in to obtain high-entropy compounds in a metastable phase. In this study, we successfully synthesized both poly- and single-crystalline samples of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂, and we investigated the crystal structure together with their physical and chemical properties. The results of our experimental analysis show that these materials are metallic with a ferrimagnetic character, which is also confirmed by our density functional theory (DFT) calculations.

2. Methodology

The samples are prepared from a mixed powder of FeS (99%), CoS (99%), NiS (99.9%), Cu₂S (99%), ZnS (99.99%), Ru (99.9%), Mn (99.99%), Cd (99%), and S (99.99%) with the composition of MS₂ (*M* is 3–5 selected equimolar metals) using 180-ton (2–4 GPa) and 500-ton (5–7.5 GPa at RIKEN Institute) cubic anvil-type high-temperature–high-pressure presses (Try Engineering). The samples were preheated at 500 °C for 30 min as a calcination process of metal disulfides and sintered at 900–950 °C for 30 min, then quenched to room temperature in one min under high pressure.

The samples were identified and characterized using an X-ray powder diffractometer (CuKα) with a Johansson-type monochromator to cut CuKα₂ (Rigaku SmartLab). The unit cell parameters were calculated by the conventional Rietveld method using the diffraction patterns. The crystal morphology was observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) (JEOL JCM-6000 Plus). We used the diffractometer XtaLAB Synergy, Dualflex Hypic Numerical for X-ray diffraction single-crystal measurement. Then, the data collection, cell parameter refinement, and data reduction of a single crystal were carried out using the processing software *CrysAlis PRO* (Rigaku OD, 2021).²⁴ The phase structure was identified using SHELXT (Sheldrick, 2015a)²⁵ and the refinement process was performed using SHELXL-14 (Sheldrick, 2015b).²⁶

The temperature dependence of electrical resistivity was measured by the four-terminal method at 5–300 K (Quantum Design PPMS). The temperature dependence (10–300 K) and the field dependence (–0.5 T–+0.5 T) of *dc*-susceptibility were measured using the SQUID (Quantum Design MPMS).

The band structure and density of states of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ were calculated by applying the density functional theory using a VASP simulation package, wherein the core

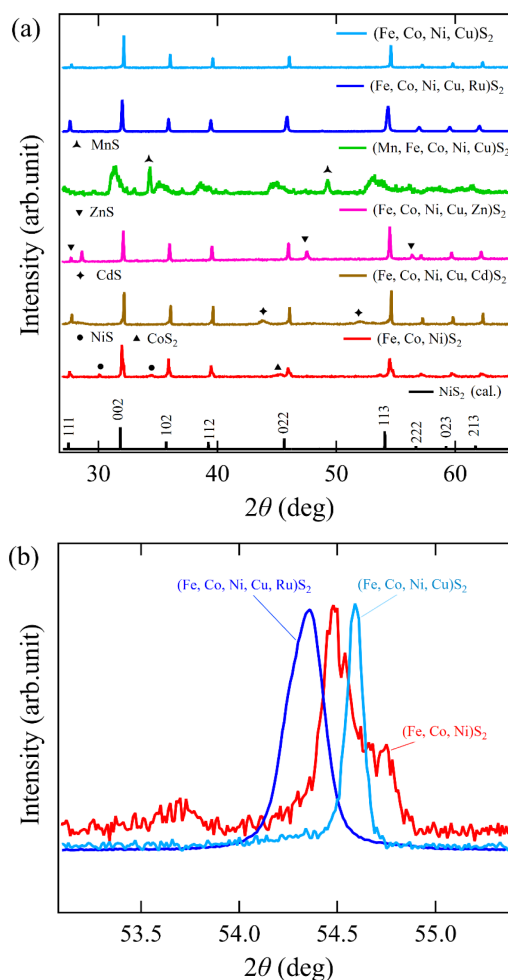


Fig. 2. (Color online) (a) X-ray diffraction patterns of three-, four-, and five-metal equimolar disulfides MS₂ (*M* = Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru). (b) Peak profiles of 113 diffraction of (Fe, Co, Ni)S₂, (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂.

valence interaction is described by the projected augmented wave pseudopotential. The calculations presented here were carried out within the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) using the Perdew–Burke–Erzerhof functional (PBE) for the exchange–correlation term. We included a Hubbard correction with U (Ni3*d*) = 6.38 eV to reproduce the antiferromagnetic order in NiS₂ reported in the literature.²⁷ We used a cut-off energy of 520 eV for the valence electrons and a (3 × 3 × 3) *k*-point mesh for the supercell consisting of 96 atoms, which was built by merging eight primitive cells along the *x*–*y*–*z* directions and randomizing the positions of Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu at the cation sites. Full geometry optimization including spin polarization was performed with the energy minimization tolerance of 10^{–6} eV and the force tolerance of 10^{–2} eV/Å.

3. Results and Discussion

We synthesized the samples under pressure of 2–4 GPa at sintering temperature of 900–950 °C using different combinations of 3–5 selected equimolar metals MS₂ (*M* = Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ru, Mn, and Cd) with addition/subtraction to/from (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂. Figure 2(a) shows X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) patterns of the samples. Single phases of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂ were obtained,

while impurities were found in the versions with added Zn, Cd, or Mn. We expected single-phase formation in the Zn-added version because NaCl-type (Mg, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn)O was stabilized as a high-entropy phase in a simple 3d-transition metal (except Mg) oxide. However, ZnS was very stable and did not show any reaction to pressure up to 7.5 GPa at 950 °C. In the current work, higher pressure and higher temperature lead to a decomposition of the pyrite phase itself, although ZnS₂ is reported to be stabilized at 6.5 GPa.²⁰ The Cd-included version of the crystal [i.e., (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Cd)S₂] shows a trend that is similar to that of the Zn-added version, while the Mn-added version formed a multiphase without any clear pyrite phase. For mechanochemical synthesis in (Fe, Mn, Ni, Co, M)S₂ (M = Ti, Cr, Cu), Mn was incorporated into the pyrite phase.⁹ This discrepancy suggests that the phase stability of high-entropy compounds is significantly affected by the synthesis conditions (methods, temperature, and pressure).

Upon the elimination of one element from (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂, we observed that the phases did not crystallize into a solid solution. The same procedure was repeated for any combination of three-metal equimolar solid solutions, (Fe, Co, Ni)S₂, (Co, Ni, Cu)S₂, (Fe, Ni, Co)S₂, and (Fe, Co, Cu)S₂. As shown in Fig. 2(b), the second intense peak near 2θ = 54° of (Fe, Ni, Co)S₂ seems to overlap with several other peaks, whereas there is no overlap in (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ or (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂. This result suggests that single-phase formation is correlated with the number of elements, i.e., the degree of randomness. Furthermore, whether a single phase could be obtained or not also depends on the ionic radius of the additional element. The radii of Cd (2+ and CN = 6 the same applies hereafter, 0.95 Å) and Mn [0.83 Å (high-spin)] are much larger than those of Fe (0.65 Å), Co (0.61 Å), Ni (0.69 Å), and Ru (0.62 Å),²⁸ indicating that the mismatch of ionic radii also inhibits single-phase solid solution formation. However, although the radii of Zn (0.74 Å) and Cu (0.73 Å)²⁸ are close to each other, the high stability of ZnS owing to the closed shell of Zn may make this reactant inert. The lattice parameters of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂ determined by powder XRD analyses are a = 5.5794(2) and 5.60152(19) Å, respectively. The sharper peak profile of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ indicates the higher crystallinity of the sample [see Fig. 2(b)].

To test the stability of high-pressure phases, we annealed the samples at ambient pressure with flowing nitrogen gas. A pyrite single phase of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ decomposed into pyrite-type phases and the NiAs-type phase after annealing at 400 °C. The phase of the sample prepared at high pressure was not stable at ambient pressure and temperature, suggesting that our samples were stabilized mainly by the high-entropy effect. We also observed that the three-metal equimolar solid solution could not be stabilized into a pyrite single phase under the same synthesis conditions as used for four- and five-metal equimolar solid solutions (P = 4 GPa, T = 900 °C).

The extraction of single crystals from a bulk sample is another advantage of the high-pressure syntheses of the compounds. The sample melts during heating and crystallizes during cooling. To obtain relatively large crystals of about 20–40 μm for the X-ray diffraction analysis, a slow cooling rate from 950 to 800 °C (for 2 h) was used, followed by a

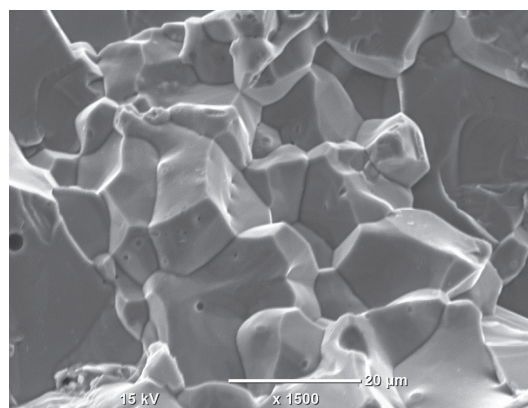


Fig. 3. SEM image of cross section of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂.

Table I. Structural parameters refined by X-ray single crystal diffraction analysis of (a) (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and (b) FeS₂ (Mineral). Space group is Pa $\bar{3}$ (#205) with a = 5.5777(3) and 5.42094(9) Å, respectively.

(a) (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S ₂						
Atom	Position	Occupancy	X	Y	Z	U _{iso} (Å ²)
M*	4b	1*	0	0	1/2	0.00659(6)
S	8c	1	0.39137(4)	X	X	0.00697(7)
(b) FeS ₂ (Mineral)						
Atom	Position	Occupancy	X	Y	Z	U _{iso} (Å ²)
Fe	4b	1	0	0	1/2	0.00355(6)
S	8c	1	0.38482(4)	X	X	0.00435(8)

*M: fixed as Fe_{1/4}Co_{1/4}Ni_{1/4}Cu_{1/4}

quick quench within approximately 1 min. Figure 3 shows an SEM image of a cross section of the bulk sample with one of the typical morphologies of the cubic phase.

We studied the crystal structure of a four-metal equimolar solid solution, (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ using the X-ray single-crystal diffraction analysis system, SHELXL-2014,²⁶ together with a FeS₂ mineral crystal as a reference. Measured positional parameters are shown in Table I and the experimental details are listed in Table S1.²⁹ The structures of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and FeS₂ are the pyrite type with space group Pa $\bar{3}$ (#205) and lattice parameters a = 5.5777(3) and 5.42094(9) Å, respectively. The x (in 8c site) of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ [0.39137(4)] is larger than that of FeS₂ [0.38482(4)], and this corresponds to the S–S distance, which will be discussed later. U_{iso} of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ [0.00659(6) Å²] is also larger than that of Fe [0.00355(6) Å²] in FeS₂. This could be interpreted to mean that the atomic disorder or thermal vibration is enhanced by the high-entropy effect,³⁰ while the value of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ is close to that of U_{iso} for Cu [0.00732 Å²] in CuS₂ of the single-metal pyrite.¹⁴ The results indicate that the positional disorder of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ is considerably suppressed, which suggests that this solid solution is stabilized by the high-entropy effect. Unfortunately, the crystal size of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru)S₂ was not large enough to allow a diffraction analysis. Further crystallographic study using single crystals is needed to gain significant conclusions.

To analyze the interatomic distances of (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu)S₂ and mono-metal disulfides, we plot the unit cell parameters and bond distances of M–S and S–S in MS₂ versus ionic radii of our analysis, together with the reported ones of 3d-

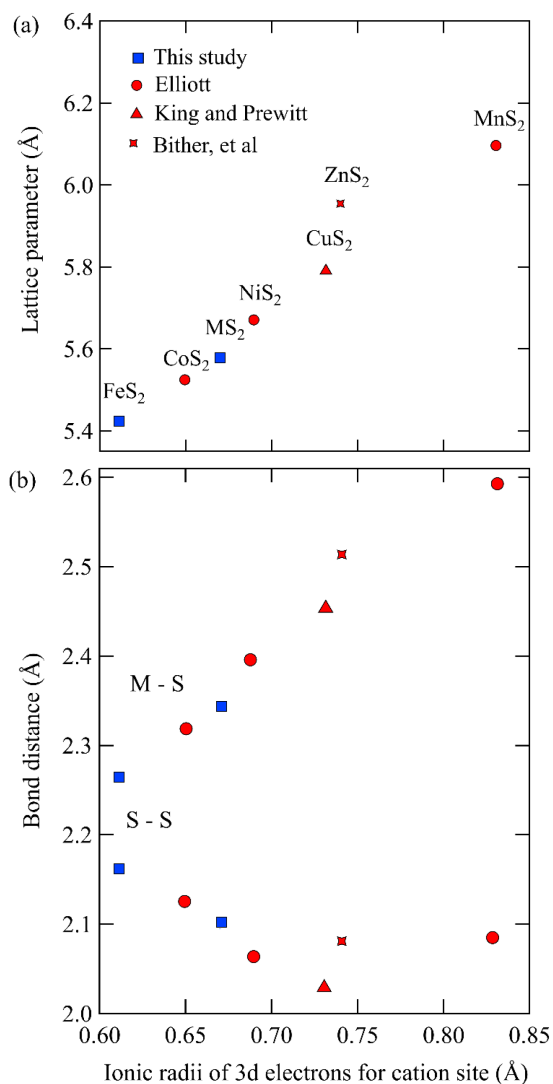


Fig. 4. (Color online) Lattice parameters and bond distances versus ionic radii of the 3d-transition metal disulfides with pyrite structure including MS_2 ($M = \text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu}$), together with reported values.

transition metals, in Fig. 4. Both unit cell parameter, a , and the bond distance of $M-S$ monotonically increase with increasing ionic radii except for Zn.¹³⁾ The values of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ fall between those of Co and Ni, and correspond to an averaged ionic radius of [Fe (0.65 Å), Co (0.61 Å), Ni (0.69 Å), and Cu (0.73 Å)].^{28,31)} On the other hand, the S-S distance decreases with increasing metal ionic radius, with longer distances in Zn and Mn. The S-S distance of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ also follows a linear relationship that obtained in the other pyrites MS_2 ($M = \text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu}$); therefore, we could estimate the covalency degree among them. According to Jovic et al., the S-S distance in dimer corresponds to its covalency, and a short distance indicates higher covalency.¹³⁾

The temperature dependences of electrical resistivity, $\rho(T)$, were measured for polycrystalline samples of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})S_2$. The resistivities were as high as $1 \times 10^{-3} \Omega \text{cm}$ at 300 K, as shown in Fig. 5(a). They are not as low as that of metal but are sufficient to determine metallic conductivity with a resistivity that decreases with decreasing temperature. It is unclear why the residual resistivity ratio (RRR) is so low, but it may be that the structural disorder induced by the inclusion of multiple

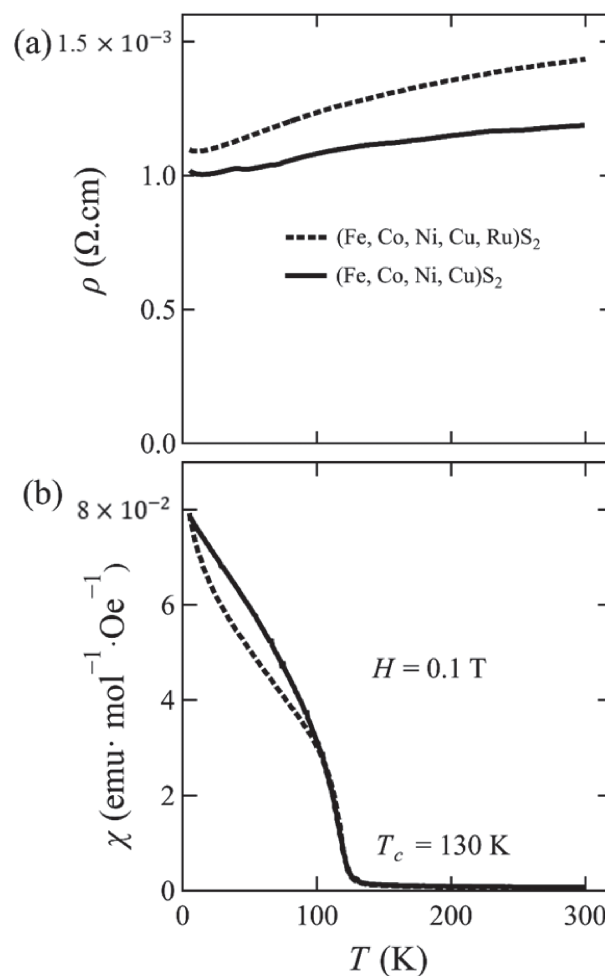


Fig. 5. (a) Temperature dependence of electrical resistivity $\rho(T)$ and (b) temperature dependence of dc-magnetic susceptibility $\chi(T)$ of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})S_2$.

metals may lead to a complicated band structure, as shown in the next section.

Figure 5(b) shows the temperature dependence of magnetic dc-susceptibility, $\chi(T)$, of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})S_2$ in a field of 1000 Oe. There is a negligible temperature dependence with a low susceptibility associated with paramagnetism at 300–130 K. On the other hand, the magnetic susceptibility peak increases below 130 K in both $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})S_2$, indicating ferro- or ferrimagnetism. We plotted inverse magnetic susceptibility versus temperature, $1/\chi(T)$, and fitted the curve in the paramagnetic region at $T = 180\text{--}300 \text{ K}$ to the Curie-Weiss Law, $\chi = C/(T - \theta_p)$, where C is the Curie constant and θ_p is the Weiss temperature (see Fig. S1).³²⁾ The θ_p was -124.20 and -51.30 K , for $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})S_2$, respectively. The negative values of θ_p suggest that antiferromagnetic coupling is predominant, and the shape of the curve of $1/\chi(T)$ below $T = 180 \text{ K}$ suggests ferrimagnetic ordering. The effective magnetic moment, μ_{eff} , is 1.55 and $1.25 \mu_B$ per metal ion for $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})S_2$, respectively.

The $M-H$ loop exhibits extremely weak hysteresis and low coercive force, suggesting a possible ferrimagnetic order in the soft magnetic category. The saturated magnetizations (M_s) are 0.0140 and $0.0167 \mu_B$ per formula unit for $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})S_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})S_2$, respectively.

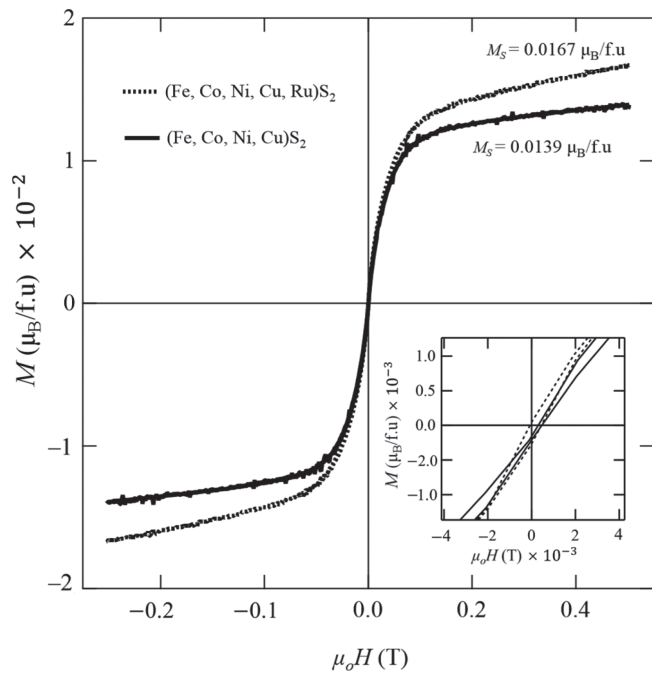


Fig. 6. Applied-magnetic-field-dependent magnetization $M(H)$ at $T = 10$ K with magnetic field of -0.5 T– $+0.5$ T for $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})\text{S}_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})\text{S}_2$.

$\text{Ni, Cu})\text{S}_2$ and $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru})\text{S}_2$, respectively, as shown in Fig. 6. These values are approximately only 1% of the assumed full moment for each metal, $S \sim 1.5 \mu_B$, which we calculated from the average theoretical magnetic spin, $\mu_s = \mu_{\text{eff}}$, of $(\text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Co}^{2+}, \text{Ni}^{2+}, \text{Cu}^{2+})$ obeying Hund’s rule, $2[S(S+1)]^{1/2}$ for $3d$ transition metal octahedral complexes.³³⁾ We expect low M_s because of the large contribution of aligned antiparallel spin, which is explained further in the next discussion. In addition, we also find that the μ_{eff} values of theoretical and experimental calculations are approximately the same. We applied magnetic field up to 50,000 Oe, but no additional enhancement owing to spin ordering was observed.

The band structure and density of states (DOS) of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})\text{S}_2$ were calculated on the basis of DFT using the structural data of single-crystal XRD analysis as the starting point of optimization of the crystal model shown in Fig. 7. We assumed that four metals randomly occupy at one crystallographic site in the cubic system. The electronic band structure is shown in Fig. 8(a), where the energy difference between spin-up and spin-down channels suggests a magnetic character. The projected density of states is shown in Fig. 8(b). It confirms the metallic character, and the difference between spin-up and spin-down channels, although very small, together with the results of magnetic moment analysis, suggest a ferrimagnetic character. The band of sulfur appears to be hybridized with that of metals, and no bandgap is observed near E_F . We calculated the total magnetization to be $2.671 \mu_B$ per metal ion, where the contribution of each metal is $-0.04 \mu_B$ per iron ion, $0.244 \mu_B$ per cobalt ion, $2.469 \mu_B$ per nickel ion, and $-0.029 \mu_B$ per copper ion. Here, the contribution to the magnetic moment comes essentially from Ni^{2+} cations. Therefore, the calculation result reported here supports the experimental observations.

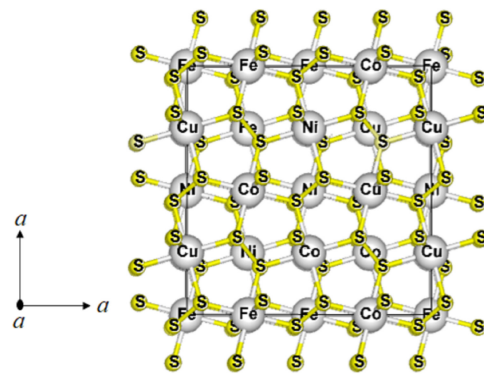


Fig. 7. (Color online) Crystal structure model of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})\text{S}_2$ from DFT calculation, visualized using VESTA software.

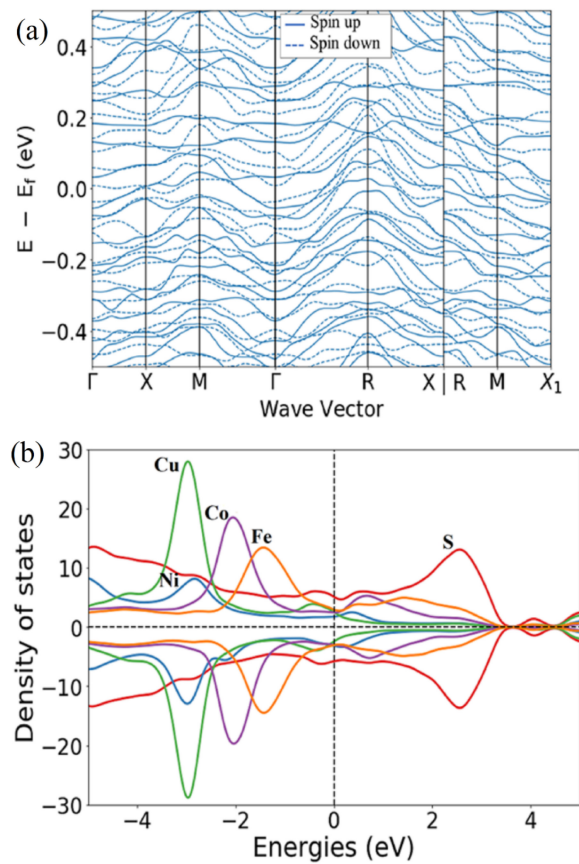


Fig. 8. (Color online) (a) Band electronic structure and (b) projected density of states of $(\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu})\text{S}_2$.

As we explained in the introduction, FeS_2 is a diamagnetic semiconductor with the electrons of Fe^{2+} ($t_{2g}^6 e_g^0$) completely filled at t_{2g} and empty at e_g states, which overlap with the sulfur atom electronic states at the conduction band.¹⁵⁾ This configuration is qualitatively similar to that of RuS_2 .²¹⁾ On the other hand, CoS_2 shows a half-metallic ferromagnetism owing the Co^{2+} ($t_{2g}^6 e_g^1$) electron in the e_g band.¹⁷⁾ NiS_2 is a Mott-insulator antiferromagnet with the d electrons’ configuration of Ni^{2+} ($t_{2g}^6 e_g^2$), the band gap of NiS_2 can be described as a half-filled e_g .^{18,34)} CuS_2 is metallic because the Cu^{2+} ($t_{2g}^6 e_g^3$) electrons occupy the e_g band and becomes a superconductor at $T_c = 1.5$ K.¹⁹⁾ In addition, two-metal disulfide solid solutions with pyrite structure have also been reported, where the substitution of Co or Cu in Ni site of NiS_2

could decrease or increase the number of electrons in the half-filled e_g band.²²⁾ These results support the assumption that the electrons from the p state of sulfur might be eliminated by inserting of more electronegative elements, which are expected to affect the physical properties of the material.³⁵⁾ Our results are in line with those in the references, where Ni^{2+} may largely contribute to the ferrimagnetic character of our compounds. In contrast, the contributions of Fe^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , and Ru^{2+} are significantly smaller.

4. Conclusions

We successfully stabilized high entropy metal disulfides $(\text{Fe}, \text{Co}, \text{Ni}, \text{Cu})\text{S}_2$ and $(\text{Fe}, \text{Co}, \text{Ni}, \text{Cu}, \text{Ru})\text{S}_2$ into a single-phase pyrite-type structure by applying high pressure and high temperature. The crystal structure of the high-entropy metal disulfides $(\text{Fe}, \text{Co}, \text{Ni}, \text{Cu})\text{S}_2$ was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. It crystallizes in a pyrite-type structure with space group $Pa\bar{3}$ (#205) and lattice parameter $a = 5.5777(3) \text{ \AA}$, where all metal atoms randomly occupy the cation site. The property, both with and without Ru atom, is metallic with a ferrimagnetic character below $T_c = 130 \text{ K}$. The DFT calculations confirm the metallic and ferrimagnetic properties and suggest a large magnetic contribution from Ni.

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