

Shubnikov- de Haas effect and thermoelectric properties layer and wires

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Thermoelectric devices have been attracting attention because of their ability to convert to electricity.

The most widely used commercial thermoelectric material is bulk Bi_2Te_3 and its alloys with Sb, Se, and so on, which have $ZT = S^2T/\rho k \approx 1$, where S , ρ , k and T are the Seebeck coefficient, electrical resistivity, thermal conductivity and absolute temperature, respectively. It is difficult to scale bulk Bi_2Te_3 to large-scale energy conversion, but fabricating synthetic nanostructures for his purpose is even more difficult and expensive.

The advent of the topological insulator and the emerging micro- and nanotechnology open a new way to design high- performance thermoelectric device [1, 2].

Here we present the investigations the thermoelectric properties and Shubnikov de Haas oscillations in longitudinal and transverse magnetic field of the Bi_2Te_3 wires and layers on temperature range 2.1-300 K. Bi_2Te_3 microwires in glass coating were prepared by the Ulitovsky-Teilor method [3]. X-ray studies showed that the plane of the layers was perpendicular to the C_3 trigonal axis. Single crystal of Bi_2Te_3 layers were fabricated using the mechanical exfoliate method by cleaving thin (10-20 μm) layer from bulk monocrystalline Bi_2Te_3 samples.

We observed the Shubnikov- de Haas oscillations arising from the surface states in wires and layers of Bi_2Te_3 n- and p- type. The quantum mobilities ($\mu_Q = 20\,000\text{ cm}^2$ per volt second) determined from Shubnikov de Haas oscillations in longitudinal magnetic field in n- type layers is substantially higher than in the bulk crystals [].

The temperature dependences of the electrical resistivity $\rho(T)$ and Seebeck coefficient $\alpha(T)$ of the Bi_2Te_3 micro wires and layers were measured at temperature range 4.2- 300 K.

An analysis of the experimental data on the thermoelectric efficiency $ZT = \alpha^2\sigma(T)\chi$ taking into account the fact that the thermal conductivity χ in bulk Bi_2Te_3 samples is $1 \cdot 10^{-2}\text{ W/K}\cdot\text{cm}^2$, and in the $0.7 \cdot 10^{-2}\text{ W/K}\cdot\text{cm}^2$ layers it is possible to estimate the thermoelectric efficiency $ZT \approx 1.2$ at 300 K for p-type wires, which is at the level of the maximum values of the power factor for the most advanced bulk n-type single crystals. According to [4], a decrease in the thickness of Bi_2Te_3 layers and wires diameters should lead to a more significant decrease in thermal conductivity, so we should expect an increase in ZT in Bi_2Te_3 layers and wires at thicknesses less than 1 μm .

The obtained results shed light on heat conduction in low- dimensional materials and may open up applications in thermal management of nanoelectronics [1, 5].

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