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Chalcogenide materials screening for Ovonic Threshold Switching

<u>C. Mihai</u>^{*}, A. Velea

National Institute of Materials Physics, Atomistilor 405A, RO-077125 Magurele, Ilfov, Romania

Corresponding author: claudia.mihai@infim.ro

The world need for data storage and processing is increasing at a rapid pace. A response to this societal demand could come from ovonic threshold switches based on chalcogenide materials, which are leading candidates for emerging resistive memory technologies and neuroinspired computing technologies.

Ovonic threshold switching (OTS) is a volatile non-linear electrical characteristic observed in some amorphous chalcogenide materials. A material switches from a high resistive state (HRS) to a low resistive state (LRS) when applying a voltage that exceeds its threshold voltage. It remains in the LRS state as long as a minimum holding voltage is maintained, otherwise it switches in HRS.

Here [1], we have developed a chalcogenide materials map to screen for new Te-based OTS materials. The main properties used for developing the map were the average number of pelectrons and the bond-orbital coordinates namely hybridization and ionicity. Also, a glass transition temperature (T_g) model was developed and employed to filter potential thermally stable compositions.

Promising candidates for thermally stable ternary OTS materials are predicted. We observe that there is a trade-off to be made between thermal stability and good OTS behavior when selecting a material depending on the targeted application.

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