

# Charge Density and Structural Characterization of Thermoelectric Materials

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EBook PDF

In addition to providing an introduction to the field, the main objective of this book is to present the results of the growth and structural characterization of thermoelectric materials that are of high current interest.

*Keyword:* Materials Science, Thermoelectric Materials, Thermoelectric Mechanism, Charge Density, Structural Characterization, Magnesium silicide, Lead telluride, Bismuth doped with antimony, Bismuth telluride, Antimony telluride, Tin telluride doped with germanium, Indium Antimonide, Pair Distribution Function, Maximum Entropy Method, Rietveld Method,

ISBN 13: 978-1-945291-01-2

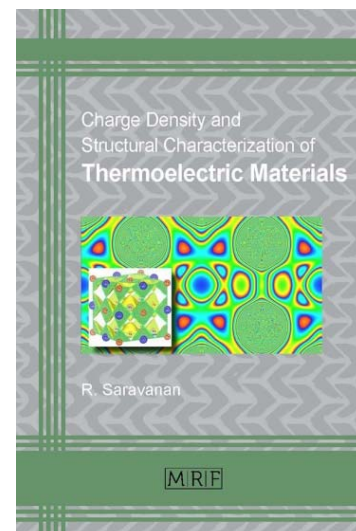
182 pages, eBook PDF, 2016. USD 100.00

Materials Research Foundations Vol. 1

Direct URL: <http://www.mrforum.com/product/1/>

BISAC Subject Classification code: TEC021000, SCI038000

BIC/Thema Subject Classification code: TGM, TGMT



## Summary:

Thermoelectric materials permit the direct conversion of temperature differences into electric energy, and vice versa. They are therefore of highest technological interest in applications such as solid state coolers, waste heat recovery, sensors and detectors, and power generators including remote power generation.

Thermoelectric materials are often called “environmentally green”, and for good reasons. Not only can they help generate electrical energy from waste gases as they are generated in such processes as home heating, industrial fabrication and automotive motion. In cooling applications they eliminate the use of chemical refrigerant gases. Moreover, as thermoelectric conversion devices have no moving parts, they operate silently and have a very long life expectancy. The only current drawback of these devices is their poor efficiency.

Scientists all over the world are therefore studying the structural, thermoelectric, charge-density and magnetic properties of the most promising types of these materials at the atomic and electronic level. In addition to providing an introduction to the field, the main objective of this book is to present the results of the growth and structural characterization of thermoelectric materials that are of high current interest; including  $Mg_2Si$ ,  $PbTe$ ,  $Bi_{1-x}Sb_x$ ,  $Bi_2Te_3$ ,  $Sb_2Te_3$ ,  $Sn_{1-x}Ge_xTe$  and  $InSb$ .