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# CRYSTAL, ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE AND HYDROGENATION PROPERTIES OF $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3$

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## INTRODUCTION

New ternary compound of  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3$  was prepared from elemental zirconium (foil, 0.25mm thick 99.8 at.%, Aldrich), magnesium (powder, 98 at.%, Aldrich), nickel (powder, 99.7 at.%, Aldrich) and tin (granules, 99.85 at.%, POCH). The pieces of the pure metals were pressed into pellet. The sample was melted in arc furnace under continuous argon flow. X-ray powder diffraction of the samples were carried out using STOE powder diffractometer (Mo – radiation). Rietveld refinements of X – ray powder diffraction data were performed by using the FULLPROF program [1]. The phase content of synthesized alloy was carried out using the TESCAN electron microscope equipped with EDS detectors. Hydrogen absorption-desorption properties of the alloy was studied using a Sieverts type apparatus.

The crystal structure of  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3$  and  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3H_6$  phases were investigated by powder methods. The  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3$  and  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3H_6$  crystallises in the  $Hf_5CuSn_3$ -type with  $P6_3/mcm$  space group, respectively  $a = 8.5051 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 5.8135 \text{ \AA}$  and  $a = 8.6904 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 5.9081 \text{ \AA}$ . The electronic structures of the compounds were calculated using the tight-binding linear muffin-tin orbital (TB-LMTO) method in the atomic spheres approximation (TB-LMTO-ASA) [2–4], using the experimental crystallographic data. The maximum electron localization around the Sn atoms are obtained.

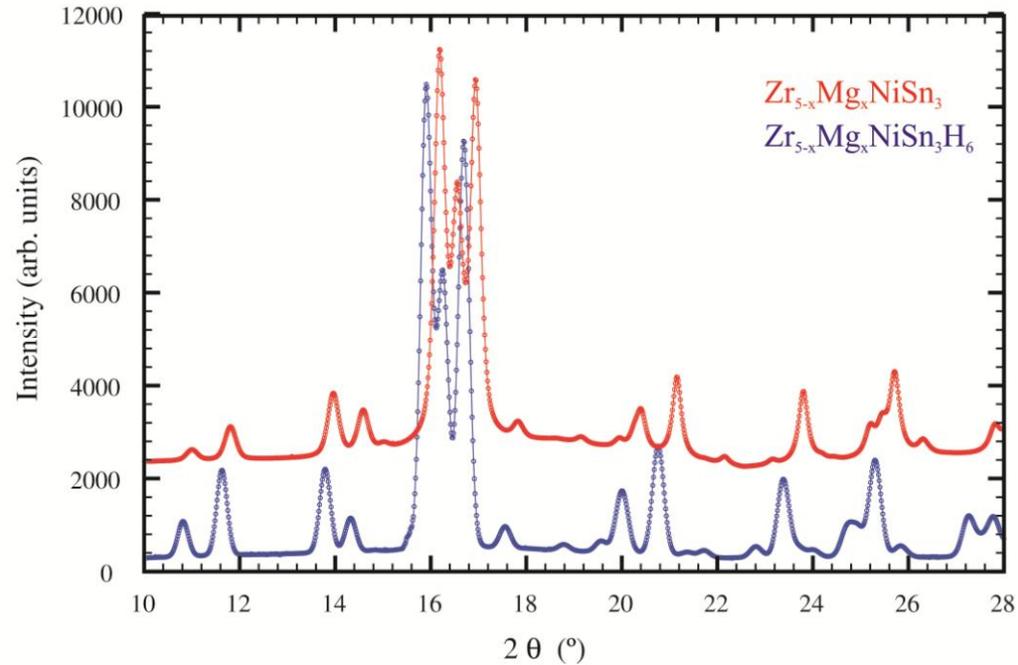
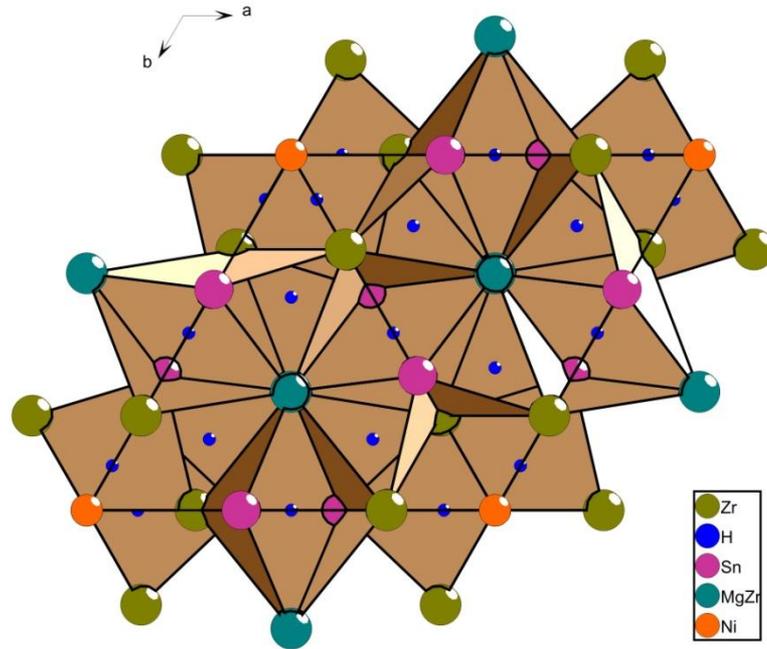
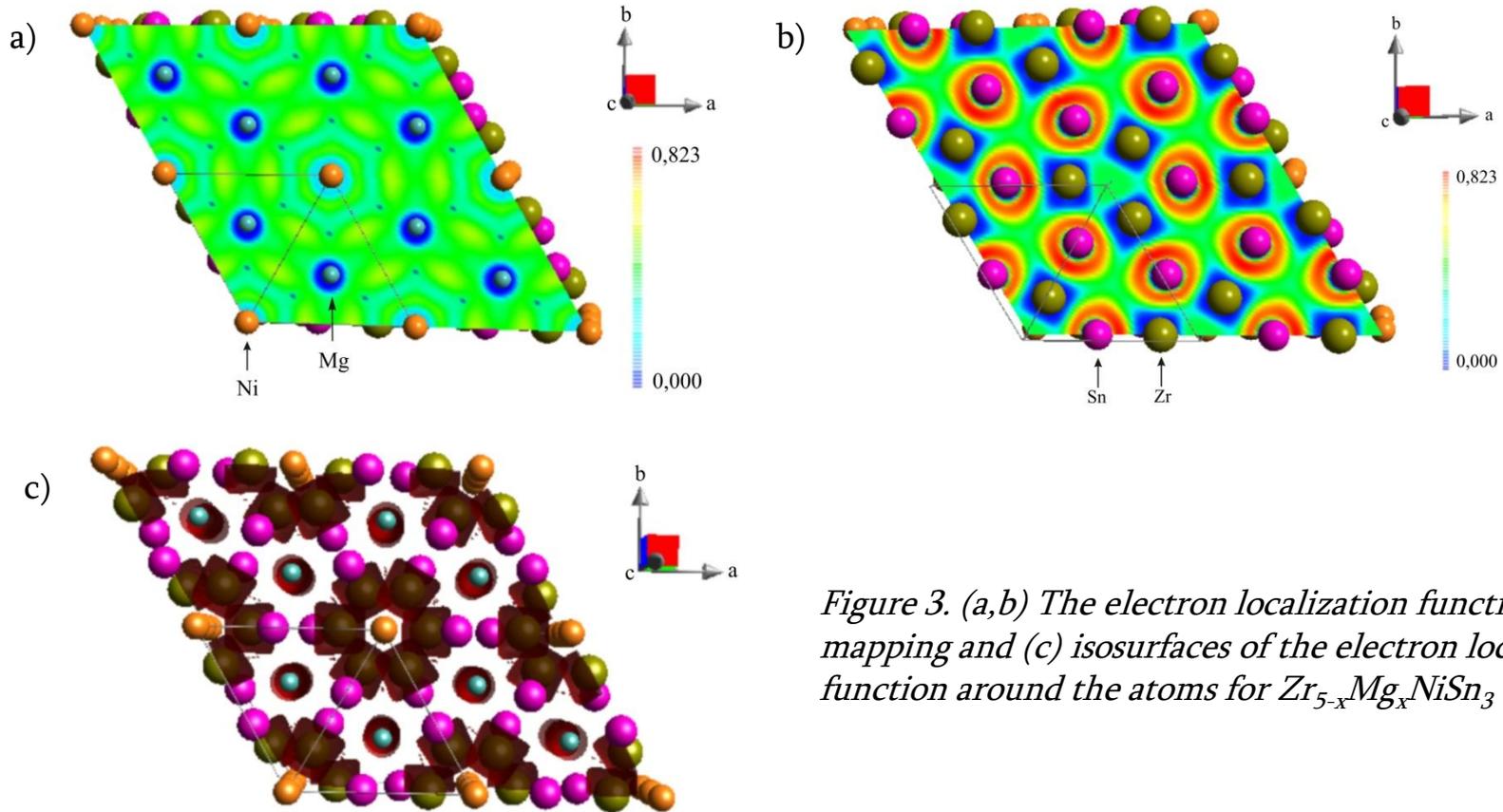


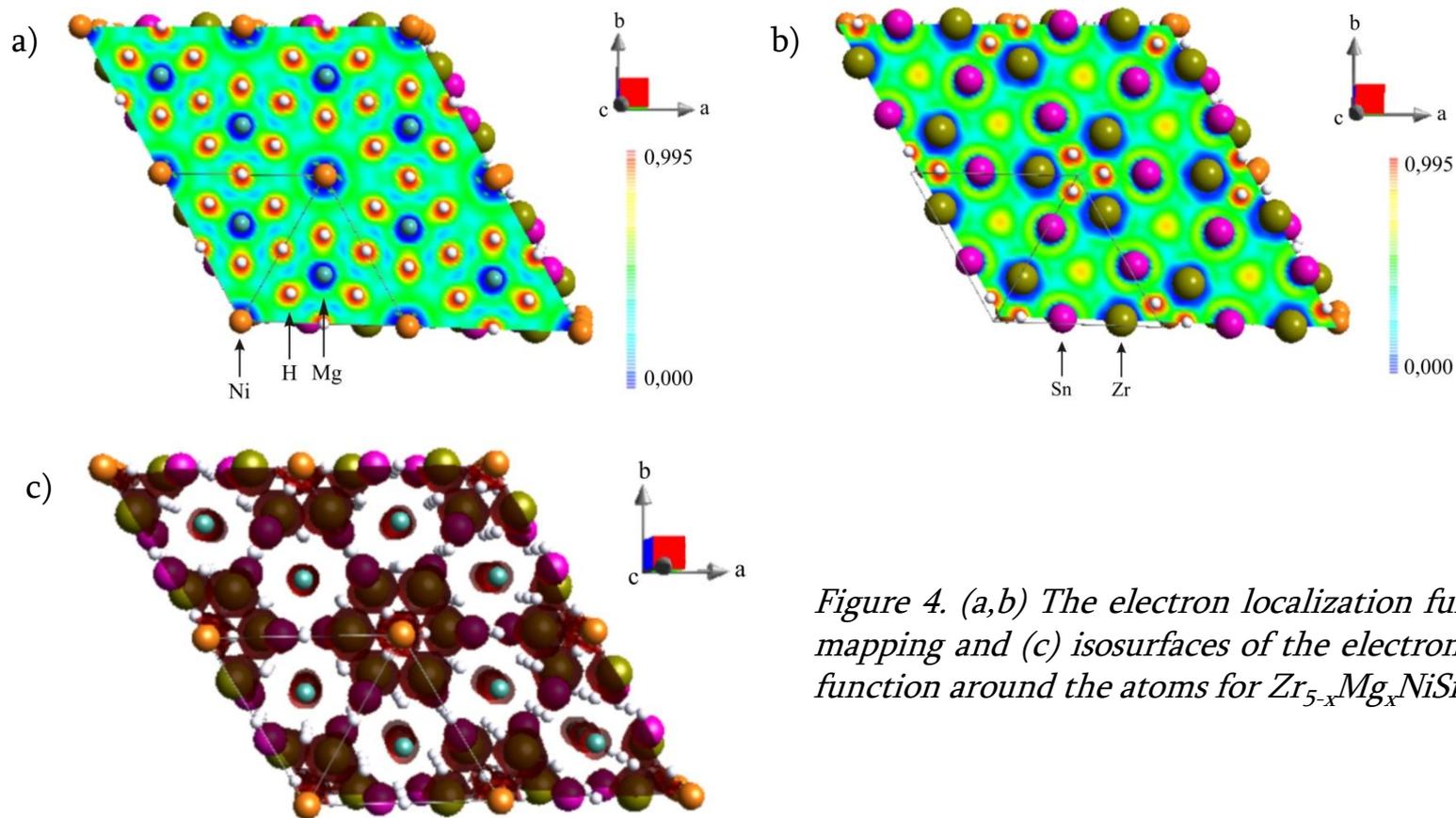
Figure 1. X-ray powder diffraction patterns for  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3$  and  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3H_6$



*Figure 2. The unit cell and coordination polyhedra of atoms for  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3H_6$*



*Figure 3. (a,b) The electron localization function (ELF) mapping and (c) isosurfaces of the electron localization function around the atoms for  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3$*



*Figure 4. (a,b) The electron localization function (ELF) mapping and (c) isosurfaces of the electron localization function around the atoms for  $Zr_{5-x}Mg_xNiSn_3H_6$*

## *References*

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