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journal or publication title	Science reports of the Research Institutes, Tohoku University. Ser. A, Physics, chemistry and metallurgy
volume	25
page range	91-91
year	1974
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10097/27702

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Abstract

Crystal structure and phase transition in the hafnium-oxygen system containing 10–20 at% O have been studied by means of electron, neutron and X-ray diffraction and calorimetry as well. The oxygen atoms occupy the octahedral holes in h.c.p. metal lattice and two types of interstitial superstructures are found at the hypo- and hyper-stoichiometric composition $\text{HfO}_{1/6-}$ and $\text{HfO}_{1/6+}$ below 430°C. The lattice constants of the hexagonal supercells are respectively $a=\sqrt{3}a_0$, $c=3c_0$ and $a=\sqrt{3}a_0$, $c=2c_0$, where $a_0\sim 3.2\text{\AA}$ and $c_0\sim 5.1\text{\AA}$ are those of the metal lattice. The oxygen sublattices are described in terms of the stacking sequence of interstice layers parallel to the close-packed planes of the metal atoms, which varies continuously from $A\Box B\Box C\Box\dots$ for $\text{HfO}_{1/6-}$ to $A\Box B\Box\dots$ for $\text{HfO}_{1/6+}$. The concentration dependence of the ordered structures is interpreted in terms of strain ordering.

* The 1617th report of the Research Institute for Iron, Steel and Other Metals. Published in the Journal of the Physical Society of Japan, **35** (1973), 473.