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High-pressure synthesis and spin glass behavior of a Mn/Ir disordered quadruple perovskite CaCu₃Mn₂Ir₂O₁₂

Xubin Ye^{1,2}, Zhehong Liu^{1,2}, Weipeng Wang^{1,2}, Zhiwei Hu³, Hong-Ji Lin⁴, Shih-Chang Weng⁴, Chien-Te Chen⁴, Richeng Yu^{1,2}, Liu-Hao Tjeng³ and Youwen Long^{1,2,5}

¹ Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics, Institute of Physics,

Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, People's Republic of China

² School of Physical Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049,

- ³ Max Planck Institute for Chemical Physics of Solids, Dresden 01187, Germany
- ⁴ National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center, Hsinchu 30076, Taiwan, Republic of China
- ⁵ Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory, Dongguan, Guangdong 523808, People's Republic of China

E-mail: ywlong@iphy.ac.cn

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Abstract

A new 3d-5d hybridized quadruple perovskite oxide, CaCu₃Mn₂Ir₂O₁₂, was synthesized by high-pressure and high-temperature methods. The Rietveld structure analysis reveals that the compound crystallizes in an $AA'_{3}B_{4}O_{12}$ -type perovskite structure with space group *Im*-3, where the Ca and Cu are 1:3 ordered at fixed atomic positions. At the B site the 3d Mn and the 5d Ir ions are disorderly distributed due to the rare equal +4 charge states for both of them as determined by x-ray absorption spectroscopy. The competing antiferromagnetic and ferromagnetic interactions among Cu²⁺, Mn⁴⁺, and Ir⁴⁺ ions give rise to spin glass behavior, which follows a conventional dynamical slowing down model.

Keywords: high-pressure synthesis, quadruple perovskite oxide, spin glass

(Some figures may appear in colour only in the online journal)

1. Introduction

The compounds with ABO_3 perovskite structure composed of a 3D framework of corner-sharing BO_6 octahedra have attracted much attention, due to their large varieties of physical and chemical properties [1–5]. Chemical substitution either at A or B site is an effective method to tune the structure and physical properties of perovskites. For example, the A-site alkaline earth substitution for rare earth in manganates La_{1-x}A_xMnO₃ leads to insulator-to-metal and paramagnetism-to-ferromagnetism transitions [6–10]. The B-site substitution of Fe⁴⁺ by Co⁴⁺ in SrFe_{1-x}Co_xO₃ causes a series of magnetic transitions [11]. Specifically, as the x increases, the magnetic ground state changes from helimagnetic antiferromagnetic (AFM) state through cluster glass to ferromagnetic (FM) state with a high

Curie temperature. In particular, if three quarters of *A* site in a simple *ABO*₃ is substituted by a transition metal ion *A'*, one may obtain an *A*-site ordered quadruple perovskite with the chemical formula of $AA'_{3}B_{4}O_{12}$ [12–16]. Since the ionic size of a transition metal is much less than that of a typical *A*site cation such as alkaline, alkaline earth or rare earth metal, to sustain the perovskite structure, square-coordinated $A'O_4$ units and heavily tilted *BO*₆ octahedra show up in $AA'_{3}B_{4}O_{12}$, as presented in figure 1(a). The peculiar coordination environment of *A'* site is favorable to accommodate a Jahn-Teller distortion ion like Mn³⁺ or Cu²⁺. As a Cu²⁺ ion with 3*d*⁹ configuration is concerned, this square coordination may result in a *d_{xy}* hole state with the Cu–O square planar oxygen bond pointing between *x* and *y* [17]. The electronic states of Cu²⁺ can exhibit either localized or itinerant behavior depending on

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the electronic properties of the *B*-site ions. Moreover, the A'-site Cu²⁺ spins can form a magnetic lattice with face-centered cubic symmetry. The direct-exchange interactions between the nearest neighboring Cu²⁺ ions compete with the superexchange interactions caused by Cu–O–*B* pathways, leading to unusual magnetic instability and even a magnetic tri-critical point [18–20].

CaCu₃Mn₄O₁₂ and CaCu₃Ir₄O₁₂ are two interesting examples in A-site ordered quadruple perovskite family. The former shows a large low-field magnetoresistance response with the absence of Mn³⁺–O–Mn⁴⁺ double-exchange interactions, since only a single Mn^{4+} valence state occurs at the *B* site [21]. The later displays heavy Fermion behavior since the d_{xy} orbital of the Cu^{2+} strongly hybridizes with the Ir 5d orbitals via the O-p orbitals, so that the local moments of the Cu are incorporated in the itinerant 5d electrons of the Ir [22]. This coupling leads to the disappearance of long-range magnetic ordering of Cu²⁺ ions and strongly enhanced electronic specific heat. Recently, a few $AA'_{3}B_{2}B'_{2}O_{12}$ -type quadruple perovskites with orderly distributed 3d/5d transition metals at the B/B' sites have been discovered [23–25]. One finds that the introduction of 5d electrons can significantly change the magnetic and electrical transport properties. On account of the interesting properties of CaCu₃Mn₄O₁₂ and CaCu₃Ir₄O₁₂, in this study, we prepare a 3d-Mn and 5d-Ir hybridized quadruple perovskite oxide CaCu₃Mn₂Ir₂O₁₂ (CCMIO) by using high pressure and high temperature conditions. The crystal structure, charge state, magnetism and electrical transport properties are studied in detail.

2. Experiment details

The compound of CaCu₃Mn₂Ir₂O₁₂ was synthesized as black polycrystalline powders. Highly pure (>99.9%) CaO, CuO, MnO and Ir powders with a 1:3:2:2 mole ratio were used as starting materials, and excess KClO₄ was applied as an oxidizing agent. These reagents were thoroughly mixed in an agate mortar within an argon-filled glovebox, and then sealed into a platinum capsule with 4.0mm in diameter and length. The capsule was treated at 5.5 GPa and 1673-1773 K for 60 min on a cubic anvil-type high-pressure apparatus. The sample was quenched to room temperature (RT) once the heat treatment was finished, and then the pressure was gradually released. The product was washed using deionized water to exclude the residual KCl. In addition, CaCu₃Ti₄O₁₂ was prepared as described in [26], and Cu₂O single crystal was purchased from MaTeck-Material-Tenchnologie & Kristalle GmbH. These two oxides were used as x-ray absorption references.

The sample quality and crystal structure were identified by powder x-ray diffraction (XRD) on a Huber diffractometer with Cu $K_{\alpha 1}$ radiation ($\lambda = 1.5406$ Å). The diffraction angle (2 θ) varies from 10 to 100° with 0.005° per step. The selected area electron diffraction (SAED) was performed at RT along [110] zone axis by a Philips-CM200 transmission electron microscope with a field emission gun operated at 200 keV. The structure refinement was performed by the

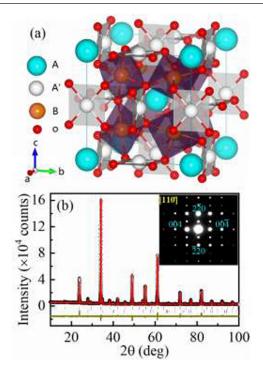


Figure 1. (a) Crystal structure of *A*-site ordered quadruple perovskite $AA'_{3}B_{4}O_{12}$ with space group *Im*-3. (b) XRD pattern and Rietveld refinement result for CaCu₃Mn₂Ir₂O₁₂. Observed (black circle), calculated (red line) and difference (dark yellow line) values are shown together with the allowed Bragg reflection (above ticks). The lower ticks present a small amount of impurity phase IrO₂ (~4.9 wt%). The inset in panel b shows a SAED pattern along the [1 1 0] zone axis.

Rietveld method using the GSAS program [27]. Soft x-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) measurements of Cu- $L_{2,3}$ and Mn- $L_{2,3}$ edges were carried out at beamline BL11A of the National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC) in Taiwan using the total electron yield mode. The Ir- L_3 spectra were measured at beamline BL07A of the NSRRC in transmission geometry. The field dependence of the isothermal magnetization (M) and temperature-dependent dc magnetic susceptibility (χ_{dc}) were measured using a commercial superconducting quantum interference device magnetometer (MPMS3, Quantum Design). The temperature dependence of the ac magnetization (M') and electrical transport were measured on a physical property measurement system (PPMS7, Quantum Design).

3. Results and discussions

The crystal structure of CCMIO was characterized by powder XRD at RT. Figure 1(b) shows the XRD pattern as well as the structure refinement result. The Rietveld analysis shows that the compound possesses an *A*-site ordered perovskite structure with space group *Im*-3. It means that the Ca and Cu are 1:3 ordered at the *A* and *A'* sites, respectively, whereas the Mn and Ir are randomly distributed at the *B* site. To confirm the Mn/Ir disorder, the SAED pattern was measured along with the [1 1 0] zone axis. As shown in the inset of figure 1(b), one cannot find any diffraction spots with h + k + l = odd such

Table 1. Structure parameters and BVS results of CCMIO refined from XRD pattern at RT^a.

Parameter	CCMIO
a (Å)	7.41060(1)
O _v	0.1732(4)
O _z	0.3034(4)
$U_{\rm iso}$ for Ca (100 × Å ²)	1.19(9)
$U_{\rm iso}$ for Cu (100 × Å ²)	0.47(2)
$U_{\rm iso}$ for Mn/Ir (100 × Å ²)	2.45(1)
$U_{\rm iso}$ for O (100 × Å ²)	0.72(8)
$d_{\text{Cu-O}}(\times 4)$	1.94203
$d_{\mathrm{B-O}}(\times 6)$	1.97846
∠B-O-B	139.0(1)
∠Cu–O–B	109.9(1)
BVS (Cu)	2.09
$R_{\rm wp}$ (%)	4.95
$R_{\rm p}(\%)$	3.25

^a Crystal data: space group *Im*-3 (No. 204); atomic sites: Ca 2a (0, 0, 0); Cu 6b (0, 0.25, 0.25); B (Mn/Ir) 8c (0.25, 0.25, 0.25); O 24h (0, y, z). The BVS values (V_i) were calculated using the formula $V_i = \sum_j S_{ij}$, and $S_{ij} = \exp[(r_0 - r_{ij})/0.37]$. The value of $r_0 = 1.679$ for Cu and 4 coordinated oxygen atoms were used.

as the (111) and (311) spots, revealing the absence of Mn/ Ir long-range order at the B site, in agreement with the XRD result. The refined structure parameters are listed in table 1. In comparison, the lattice parameter of CCMIO (7.4106 Å) is located between those of CaCu₃Ir₄O₁₂ (7.4738 Å) [22] and CaCu₃Mn₄O₁₂ (7.2410 Å) [21], suggesting that the Mn and Ir form a solid solution. According to the refined Cu–O bond length, the bond valence sum (BVS) calculations show the valence state of Cu to be +2.09, indicating the presence of a Cu²⁺ state with square-planar coordination. Because of the random Mn/Ir arrangement, we cannot obtain the valence states for these two transition metals by BVS calculations.

The oxidation states of the Cu, Mn and Ir ions in CCMIO were investigated by x-ray absorption at the Cu- $L_{2,3}$, Mn- $L_{2,3}$ and Ir- L_3 edges, respectively. Figure 2(a) shows the Cu- $L_{2,3}$ XAS of CCMIO together with those of Cu₂O as a Cu⁺ $(3d^{10})$ [28] and CaCu₃Ti₄O₁₂ as a Cu²⁺ (3 d^9) [29] in a quadruple perovskite structure. Typically, for a $3d^9$ Cu²⁺ charge state, a strong absorption peak appears around 930.0 eV due to the $d^9 \rightarrow \underline{c} d^{10}$ transition [28], where \underline{c} indicates a hole in the Cu 2p core. Obviously, the Cu- $L_{2,3}$ spectrum of CCMIO exhibits a very strong single peak at the same energy position as that of CaCu₃Ti₄O₁₂ revealing the formation of a Cu²⁺ valence state in CCMIO with a Cu²⁺O₄ square-planar local environment. In comparison, the main peak of Cu₂O is shifted to higher energy by about 2.5 eV corresponding to a $d^{10} \rightarrow \underline{c} d^{10} s^1$ transition [28] of the fully occupied $3d^{10}$ configuration in Cu⁺. This does not occur in CCMIO, thus excluding the Cu^+ state. Figure 2(b) shows the Mn- $L_{2,3}$ XAS spectra of CCMIO with those of the reference oxides including the tetravalent La2MnCoO6 $(Mn^{4+}, \text{ from } [30])$ and the trivalent LaMnO₃ $(Mn^{3+}, \text{ from })$ [30]) with similar MnO₆ octahedral coordination. Compared with LaMnO₃, the main absorption peaks of CCMIO move towards higher energy by more than 1 eV. They have however the same energy position and similar spectral features as

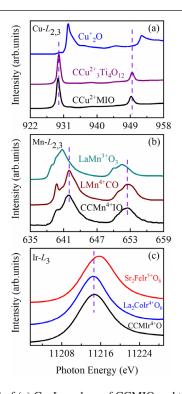


Figure 2. XAS of (a) Cu- $L_{2,3}$ edges of CCMIO and the references CaCu₃Ti₄O₁₂ and Cu₂O, and (b) Mn- $L_{2,3}$ edges of CCMIO and the references La₂MnCoO₆ (LMCO, from [28]) and LaMnO₃ (from [28]), and (c) Ir- L_3 edges of CCMIO and the references La₂CoIr⁴⁺O₆ (from [30]) and Sr₂FeIr⁵⁺O₆ (from [31]).

those of the Mn⁴⁺ reference La₂MnCoO₆. This finding indicates the presence of a Mn⁴⁺ (3*d*³) state in CCMIO. The difference at the shoulder of the Mn L_3 peak might be due to the slightly different charge transfer and ligand field effects between La₂MnCoO₆ and CCMIO. The observed Mn⁴⁺ state in CCMIO is surprising considering the Mn³⁺ state in the Sr₃Ru_{2-x}Mn_xO₇ [31].

The Ir- L_3 XAS spectra of CCMIO, La₂CoIrO₆ as an Ir⁴⁺ reference (from [32]) and Sr_2FeIrO_6 as an Ir^{5+} reference (from [33]) are shown in figure 2(c). The Ir- L_3 of CCMIO is shifted by more than 1 eV to lower energy with respect to that of Ir⁵⁺ reference Sr₂FeIrO₆, but locates at the same energy as that of the Ir^{4+} reference La_2CoIrO_6 indicating the formation of Ir^{4+} valence state. Therefore, the XAS measurements confirm the charge combination to be $CaCu_3^{2+}Mn_2^{4+}{}_2Ir_2^{4+}O_{12}$. Usually, for two cations to form an ordered distribution in a perovskite structure, the charge difference between them is not less than two [34]. The identical charge states between Mn and Ir therefore explain the B-site disorder in CCMIO. In particular, for most quadruple perovskite oxides with hybridized 3d-5d elements at the B site, the 3d-5d charge discrepancy is larger than two and then they form an ordered distribution, as exampled by CaCu₃Fe₂Re₂O₁₂, CaCu₃Fe₂Os₂O₁₂, and NaCu₃Fe₂Os₂O₁₂ [23, 24, 35]. The current CCMIO therefore provides an exception where the 3d and 5d elements have exactly the same charge state.

The magnetism of CCMIO was studied by both dc and ac magnetizations. Figure 3(a) shows the temperature dependence of zero-field-cooling (ZFC) and field-cooling (FC) dc

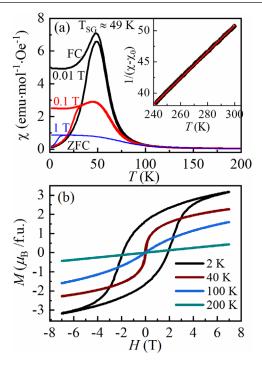


Figure 3. (a) dc magnetic susceptibility of CCMIO measured at different magnetic fields. The inset shows the Curie–Weiss fitting in 240–300 K. (b) Isothermal magnetization measured at selected temperatures.

magnetic susceptibility curves measured at different fields. The ZFC and FC curves separate from each other at a critical temperature $T_{SG} \approx 49$ K at 0.01 T. Moreover, the T_{SG} systematically shifts towards lower temperatures and the ZFC and FC curves tend to be overlapped with increasing magnetic field up to 1 T, accompanied by a gradual reduction in the intensity of χ_{dc} and a broadening of the cusp around T_{SG} . These features are indicative of a spin glass transition. Figure 3(b)shows the field-dependent magnetization curves measured at different temperatures. At higher temperatures like 200 K, the linear magnetization behavior is observed, as expected for the paramagnetism. At 100 K, the magnetization slightly deviates from the linear dependence on field. It may suggest the formation of some short-range FM interactions. At 2K, one can find remarkable magnetic hysteresis with a ~2 T coercive field, but the magnetization is still not saturated with fields up to 7 T. These observations are in good agreement with the occurrence of spin glass. Above 240 K, the susceptibility data can be fitted using the modified Curie–Weiss (CW) law $\chi(T) = \chi_0 + C/C$ $(T - \theta_{\rm w})$, where χ_0 is the temperature independent term containing the core diamagnetism and Van Vleck paramagnetism [33, 36]. The inset of figure 3(a) shows the fitting results, which give a Curie constant $C = 4.75 \text{ emu} \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{Oe}^{-1}$, a Weiss temperature $\theta_{\rm w} = 58.5$ K, and a $\chi_0 = 3.5 \times 10^{-3}$ emu \cdot mol⁻¹ \cdot Oe⁻¹. According to the Curie constant, the effective magnetic moment is calculated to be $\mu_{eff} = (8C)^{1/2} = 6.17$ $\mu_{\rm B}$ /f.u. If one only considers the spin-only contribution of Cu^{2+} and Mn^{4+} ions, the effective moment in theory is 6.24 $\mu_{\rm B}$ /f.u., which is very close to the fitting one. Therefore, compared to the $3d \operatorname{Cu}^{2+}$ and Mn^{4+} , the 5d Ir^{4+} may play a minor

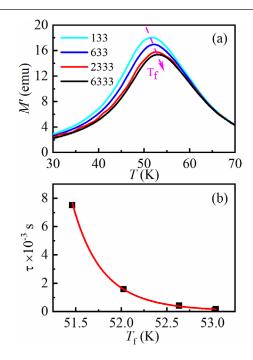


Figure 4. (a) Temperature dependence of ac magnetic susceptibility measured at different frequencies. (b) The fitted results based on the dynamic slowing down model as described in text.

role on the magnetism of CCMIO. Actually, there is no long-range magnetic order occurring in the isostructural compound $CaCu_3Ir_4O_{12}$ [22].

To further clarify the spin glass behavior of CCMIO, ac magnetization was measured at different frequencies by spanning several orders of magnitude. As shown in figure 4(a), the ac magnetization shows a cusp at a spin freezing temperature $T_{\rm f}$. Moreover, with increasing frequency, the cusp shifts toward higher temperatures with a reduction in magnitude. These features provide another convincing evidence for the occurrence of spin glass. We can characterize the shift of $T_{\rm f}$ with frequency using a physical parameter $\kappa = \Delta T_{\rm f}$ $[T_{\rm f}\Delta\ln(\omega)]$, where the spin freezing temperature $T_{\rm f}$ is determined from the maximum of M', ω is the ac frequency, and $\Delta T_{\rm f}$ and $\Delta \ln(\omega)$ represent the differences for different frequencies. The κ is calculated to be about $0.8(1)\times 10^{-2}$ for CCMIO. The value of κ can offer a criterion for distinguishing a spin glass from a super-paramagnet since the later usually has a larger value of κ . For example, κ is 0.28 for the typical super-paramagnet compound a-(Ho₂O₃) (B₂O₃) [37] and 0.1 for La_{0.67}Sr_{0.33}MnO₃ nanoparticles [38]. The smaller κ value of CCMIO indicates that the compound should be a spin glass system rather than a super-paramagnet, as reported in other spin glasses like the magnetic B₁₂ cluster compound HoB₂₂C₂N [39]. In addition, the frequency dependence of $T_{\rm f}$ can be described by a conventional dynamical slowing down model for a three dimension spin glass system with the function $\tau/\tau_0 = [(T_f - T_{SG})/T_{SG}]^{-zv}$ [40]. Here, $\tau_f = 1/\omega$ corresponds to the maximum relation time of the system at $T_{\rm f}$, τ_0 is the intrinsic relaxation time, and zv is the dynamic exponent. Figure 4(b) shows the plot of τ_f versus T_f and the fitting result, yielding zv = 7.67 and $\tau_0 = 8.22 \times 10^{-13}$ s. The fitted value

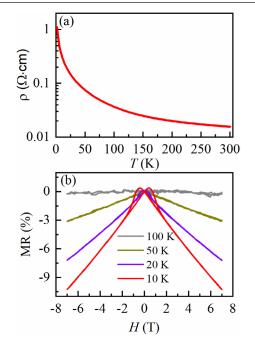


Figure 5. (a) Temperature dependence of resistivity measured on heating at zero field for CCMIO. (b) Magnetoresistance as a function of magnetic field measured at different temperatures.

of τ_0 is in accordance with the typical values of 10^{-11} – 10^{-13} s obtained for many canonical spin glasses such as CuMn [37] and Eu_{0.5}Sr_{1.5}MnO₄ [41].

The spin glass behavior of CCMIO can be attributed to the competing FM and AFM interactions. According to the Goodenough-Kanamori rules [42, 43], for a Mn⁴⁺ ion with $3d^3$ configuration in a perovskite octahedral crystal field, the Mn⁴⁺–O–Mn⁴⁺ AFM superexchange interaction is expected to occur as observed in CaMnO₃ [44]. On the other hand, in Asite ordered perovskites, the presence of a net ferromagnetic component is possible due to the $Cu^{2+}(\uparrow)Mn^{4+}(\downarrow)$ ferrimagnetic coupling, as reported in CaCu₃Mn₄O₁₂ [21]. In addition, for the 5d Ir⁴⁺, the strong spin-orbital coupling splits the t_{2g} level into a fully occupied $j_{eff} = 3/2$ band and a singly occupied $j_{\text{eff}} = 1/2$ state, resulting in a total $J_{\text{eff}} = 1/2$ pseudospin state. An AFM interaction is often shown in $J_{\text{eff}} = 1/2$ systems, such as Sr₂IrO₄ and La₂CoIrO₆ [45, 46]. As for the spin interaction between the *B*-site Mn^{4+} with half-filled t_{2g} orbitals and Ir^{4+} with half-filled $j_{eff} = 1/2$ band is concerned, it most probably leads to $Mn^{4+}(\uparrow)Ir^{4+}(\downarrow)$ ferrimagnetic correlation as discussed in another 3d/5d hybridized system Pb₂FeOsO₆ [47]. Therefore, a series of complex and competing FM and AFM interactions are responsible for the spin glass behavior of CCMIO.

Based on the charge states and magnetism of the current CaCu₃Mn₂Ir₂O₁₂, we may discuss the magnetic evolution of CaCu₃Mn_{4-x}Ir_xO₁₂ solid solution. In the undoped CaCu₃Mn₄O₁₂, there is a long-range ferrimagnetic transition with a $T_{\rm C}$ as high as 355 K [21]. In the end member of CaCu₃Ir₄O₁₂, however, paramagnetic behavior is found to occur [22]. Since the B-site Mn and Ir ions have the same +4 valence state in CaCu₃Mn_{4-x}Ir_xO₁₂ family, the substitution of

Ir cannot change the electronic configuration of Mn^{4+} (t_{2g}^3) but cause chemical disorder, so that a B-site completely disordered perovskite structure is formed in the intermediate composition of CaCu₃Mn₂Ir₂O₁₂. Therefore, it is expected that, with increasing Ir substitution, CaCu₃Mn_{4-x}Ir_xO₁₂ will change from long-range ferrimagnetic ordering to paramagnetism via an intermediate spin glass state, as illustrated by CCMIO. This is essentially different from that of the Re-doped CaCu₃Mn_{4-x}Re_xO₁₂ [48], in which the doped Re has a higher valence state of +6. Thus, the introduction of Re will change the initial Mn⁴⁺ state to be a mixed Mn³⁺/Mn⁴⁺ valence state. As a result, a small amount of Re doping such as with x = 0.1 can significantly decreases the resistivity while

the $T_{\rm C}$ is almost unchanged. The temperature dependent resistivity and magnetoresistance effects are measured to characterize the electrical transport properties of CCMIO. As shown in figure 5(a), the resistivity measured at 300 K is only 15.6 m $\Omega \cdot$ cm, which is slightly larger than that observed in CaCu₃Ir₄O₁₂ with metallic conductivity arising from the itinerant electronic behavior of Ir⁴⁺ ions. In CCMIO, although the resistivity lightly increases with decreasing temperature, taking into account the polycrystalline nature where the extrinsic grain boundaries play a role on electrical transport, the weak temperature dependence of resistivity (especially at higher temperatures such as above 100K) as well as the disordered perovskite structure with itinerant Ir^{4+} state may imply a (bad) metallic electrical behavior. As presented in figure 5(b), CCMIO shows negative magnetoresistance effects MR = $100\% \times [\rho(H) - \rho(0)]/\rho(0)$ at different temperatures. Lowering temperature can enhance the MR effects. At 10K and 7 T, the absolute value of MR is about 10.3%, which is considerably less than that observed in the isostructural compound CaCu₃Mn₄O₁₂ due to the decrease of Mn⁴⁺ component. In comparison, a slightly Re-doping for Mn can cause the Mn^{3+}/Mn^{4+} mixed valence state, giving rise to enhanced MR effects as observed in CaCu₃(Mn_{3.9}Re_{0.1})O₁₂ [48].

4. Conclusions

In summary, an Ir-containing quadruple perovskite oxide $CaCu_3Mn_2Ir_2O_{12}$ was prepared at 5.5 GPa and 1673–1773 K. The Rietveld analysis based on the powder XRD data reveals an *A*-site ordered perovskite structure with space group *Im*-3, in which the Mn and Ir ions are disorderly distributed at the *B* site. The valence states and local environment of Cu, Mn and Ir were investigated by XAS techniques, giving $Cu^{2+}O_4$ square-planar coordination at the *A'* site and $Mn^{4+}/Ir^{4+}O_6$ octahedral coordination at the *B* site, resulting in the charge combination of $CaCu_3^{2+}Mn_2^{4+}_2Ir_2^{4+}O_{12}$. In magnetism, both dc and ac magnetization measurements indicate a spin glass transition around a spin freezing temperature of 49 K. Moreover, the spin glass behavior can be well described by a conventional dynamic slowing down model. In comparison with the isostructural compound CaCu_3Mn_4O_{12}, the MR effect of the

current CCMIO is reduced considerably owing to the introduction of Ir.

Acknowledgments

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ORCID iDs

Youwen Long b https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8587-7818

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