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**Autor:** Grasso, V. / Neri, F. / Patanè, S.  
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## ELECTRONIC TRANSPORT PROPERTIES OF FePS<sub>3</sub>

V. Grasso, F. Neri, S. Patanè, L. Silipigni  
Istituto di Struttura della Materia, Università di Messina  
Salita Sperone 31, P.O. Box 57, 98166 S. Agata - Messina, Italy.  
M. Piacentini  
Dipart. di Energetica, Università La Sapienza, 00185 Roma, Italy.

**Abstract:** a.c. and d.c. conductivity and photoconductivity measurements on FePS<sub>3</sub> compound have been carried out as a function of both temperature and frequency. The results, showing a semiconductor-like behaviour, have been interpreted on the basis of the so-called transition metal ion weakly interacting model.

### 1.-Introduction

FePS<sub>3</sub> belongs to the transition metal thiophosphates MPS<sub>3</sub> family, whose characteristic layered structure allows the intercalation of alkali ions or organic molecules in its Van der Waals gap. Due to its complex crystalline structure a complete band structure calculation is still lacking, although some semi-empirical models have been proposed. We have successfully interpreted the NiPS<sub>3</sub> and MnPS<sub>3</sub> electrical transport properties using a model in which the M-S interaction is weak and ionic in nature [1]. The aim of the present work is to obtain more detailed information on the electronic states energy distribution, through the interpretation, on the basis of the above model, of the d.c. and a.c conductivity and photconductivity measurements.

### 2.-Results and discussion

ac and dc conductivity and photoconductivity measurements as a function of both temperature and frequency have been carried out in a cryostat under high vacuum, using a phase detection technique.

Fig.1 shows the temperature dependence of both dark and photo conductivities. The  $\sigma_a$  curve is temperature activated with two different activation temperature energy values: 0.58 eV in the high

temperature range and 0.09 eV in the low temperature one. For  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  ion the  $d^6$  ground state configuration is  $(t_{2g})^4(e_g)^2$  corresponding to a  ${}^5\text{T}_{2g}$  state. On the basis of the M weakly interacting model [1] and not considering the d level substructure, we set the Fermi level on the  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$   $d^6$  ground state. As reported in the literature,  $\text{FePS}_3$  behaves as a p-type material, just like  $\text{NiPS}_3$  and  $\text{MnPS}_3$  compounds [2,3]. Considering the 0.58 eV  $\sigma_d$  activation energy value we suggest, in analogy, that the conduction process is by holes and takes place in the  $3p_z$  valence band. The small  $\sigma_d$  activation energy value, calculated in the low temperature region, may be due to a hopping conduction mechanism involving the 3d localized states. As shown in fig.1, the  $\sigma_p$  curve is temperature activated only in the high temperature region. On the basis of the selection rules for electric and magnetic dipole induced transitions and considering the 1.59 eV fundamental absorption edge value detected in  $\text{FePS}_3$  [4], the 0.49 eV  $\sigma_p$  activation energy represents the energy separation between the  $3p_x, p_y$  and  $3p_z$  bands, involving a recombination process, just like in  $\text{NiPS}_3$  and  $\text{MnPS}_3$  [2,3].

As shown in Fig. 2 ac conductivity  $\sigma_{ac}$  is almost linear dependent on frequency ( $s=0.89$  in  $\sigma_{ac}=A\omega^s$ ) and independent on temperature below about 400K. At higher temperatures a progressively stronger temperature dependence is observed. Such results are consistent with a semiconductor-like behaviour, supporting the conclusions drawn above for dc measurements.

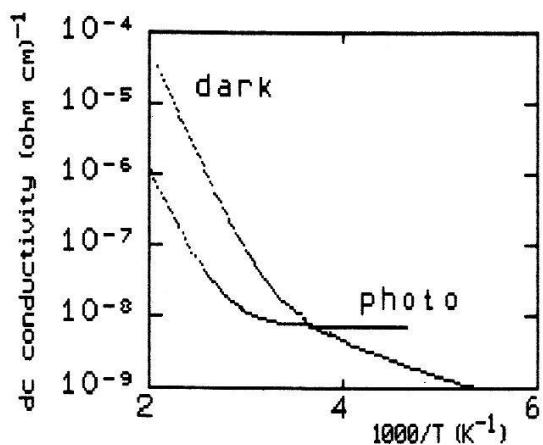


Fig. 1

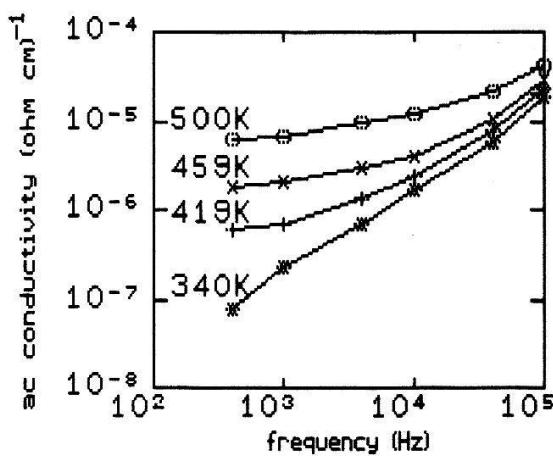


Fig. 2

### 3.- References

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