INFLUENCE OF Sr^{2+} SUBSTITUTION AT Ca SITE OF DIVALENT-DOPED La_{0.5}Ca_{0.5-x}Sr_xMnO₃ (x = 0, 0.10, 0.20) MANGANITE ON ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY AND MAGNETORESISTANCE

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Final Year Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons) Physics in the Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi Mara This Final Year Project Report entitled "Influence of Sr^{2+} substitution at the Ca site of divalent-doped La_{0.5}Ca_{0.5-x}Sr_xMnO₃ (x = 0, 0.10, 0.20) manganite on electrical resistivity and magnetoresistance" was submitted by Nurul Imani Binti Zulkipli in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons) Physics, in the Faculty of Applied Science, and was approved by

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ABSTRACT

INFLUENCE OF Sr^{2+} SUBSTITUTION AT Ca SITE OF DIVALENT-DOPED La_{0.5}Ca_{0.5-x}Sr_xMnO₃ (x = 0, 0.10, 0.20) MANGANITE ON ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY AND MAGNETORESISTANCE

Manganites with the general formula $La_{1-x}A_xMnO_3$ (A = Ca and Sr) are well known for their colossal magnetoresistance effect, where a material's resistivity changes drastically under a magnetic field. This property makes them promising candidates for magnetic sensors and spintronic applications. The effect of Sr substitution at the Ca site in La_{0.5}Ca_{0.5-x}Sr_xMnO₃ (x = 0, 0.10, 0.20) manganites on electrical resistivity and magnetoresistive properties was studied. The samples were prepared using a solid-state reaction technique, which involved the sequential processes of weighing, grinding, calcination, pelletizing, and sintering. The electrical resistivity of the samples was measured using the four-point probe technique over a temperature range of 30 K to 300 K, under applied magnetic fields of 0 T and 0.8 T. The measurements revealed a metalinsulator transition (MI) in all samples. The transition temperature (T_{MI}) decreased with increasing Sr content. Specifically, at 0 T, the $T_{\rm MI}$ shifted from 110 K (x = 0) to 54 K (x = 0.20), and the overall resistivity decreased significantly with increasing Sr concentration. In addition, an enhanced magnetoresistance (MR) effect was observed for the x = 0.20 sample, which is attributed to spin-dependent interfacial tunneling enhanced under a low magnetic field of 0.8 T. The magnetoresistance peaked at x = 0and decreased progressively with further Sr doping, likely due to stabilized ferromagnetic ordering. This stabilization led to a reduction in the rate of eg electron hopping and elongation of the Mn-O bond length, thereby weakening the double exchange mechanism. This study is significant as it highlights the impact of A-site cation substitution on the structure property relationships in manganites. As potential candidates for magnetoresistance and spintronic applications, the results demonstrate that Sr²⁺ substitution effectively modifies the electrical properties of La-based manganites.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDMENT ABSTRACT							
					ABSTRAK TABLE OF CONTENTS LIST OF TABLES LIST OF FIGURES		
LIST	OF AB	BBREVIATION	xii				
СНА	APTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1				
1.1	Introd	uction	1				
1.2	Proble	em Statement	2				
1.3	Resea	rch Questions	4				
1.4	Objec	tives	4				
1.5	Signif	icance of study	4				
СНА	APTER 2	2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6				
2.1	Introduction of Manganite						
		Crystal Structure	6				
		Crystal Field Splitting	7				
		Jahn Teller (JT) Effect	9				
		Charge Ordering (CO)	11				
2.2		es about Effect of Substitution on A-site on Magnetic Properties	13				
2.3	Studies about Magnetoresistance on Manganite		14				
2.4	Studie	es on La _{1-x} Ca _x MnO ₃ and La _{0.5} Ca _{0.5-x} Sr _x MnO ₃	15				
СНА	APTER 3	B RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	18				
3.1	Introd	uction	18				
3.2	Preparation of Sample						
	3.2.1 Selection of Chemical		18				
	3.2.2	Composition of Samples	19				
	3.2.3	•	20				
	3.2.4	Description of Preparation of Sample	22				

3.3	Sample Characterization	27
	3.3.1 Electrical Resistivity Measurement	27
CHA	APTER 4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION	30
4.1	Introduction	30
4.2	Electrical Resistivity vs Temperature	31
4.3	Magnetoresistance Resistivity	37
CHA	PTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	44
5.1	Introduction	44
5.2	Conclusion	44
5.3	Recommendations	45
REF	ERENCES	47
APP	ENDICES	55
CUR	RICULUM VITAE	66