

Article

First-Principles Calculations of Thermoelectric Transport Properties of Quaternary and Ternary Bulk Chalcogenide Crystals

Sahib Hasan ^{1,2}, Saro San ¹, Khagendra Baral ¹, Neng Li ³, Paul Rulis ¹ and Wai-Yim Ching ^{1,*}

¹ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO 64110, USA; sahmvd@mail.umkc.edu (S.H.); ssawcc@mail.umkc.edu (S.S.); kbx67@mail.umkc.edu (K.B.); rulisp@umkc.edu (P.R.)

² Department of Sciences, College of Basic Education, Al Muthanna University, Samawah 66001, Iraq

³ School of Materials Science and Engineering, Wuhan University of Technology, No. 122, Luoshi Road, Wuhan 430070, China; lineng@whut.edu.cn

* Correspondence: chingw@umkc.edu

Citation: Hasan, S.; San, S.; Baral, K.; Li, N.; Rulis, P.; Ching, W.-Y. First-Principles Calculations of Thermoelectric Transport Properties of Quaternary and Ternary Bulk Chalcogenide Crystals. *Materials* **2022**, *15*, 2843. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ma15082843>

Academic Editors: Irena Jankowska-Sumara and Magdalena Krupska-Klimczak

Received: 18 February 2022

Accepted: 9 April 2022

Published: 13 April 2022

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

1. The Supplementary Tables

Table S1. The fully optimized structures with the corresponding experimental lattice parameters of 30 chalcogenide crystals.

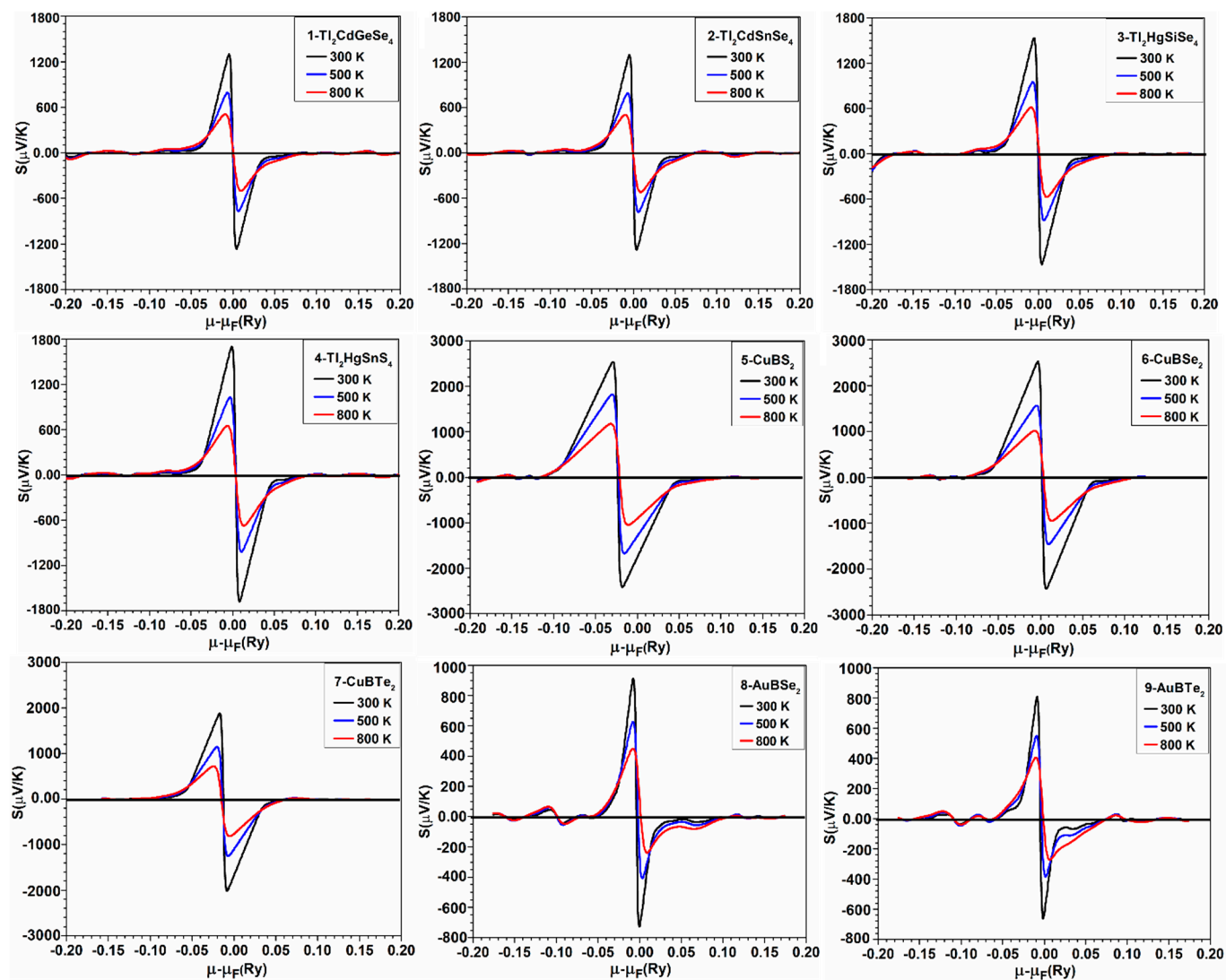
#	Crystal	Space group	Lattice parameters (our calculations) a, b, c(Å), α , β , γ (degree)	Lattice parameters(experimental) a, b, c(Å), α , β , γ (degree)
1	Tl ₂ CdGeSe ₄	Tet, I-4 2 m(121)	8.1791, 8.1791, 6.8532, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	8.0145, 8.0145, 6.7234, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[1]
2	Tl ₂ CdSnSe ₄	Tet, I-4 2 m(121)	8.2291, 8.2291, 6.9925, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	8.0490, 8.0490, 6.8573, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[1]
3	Tl ₂ HgSiSe ₄	Tet, I-4 2 m(121)	8.1599, 8.1599, 6.8546, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	8.0032, 8.0032, 6.6879, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[2]
4	Tl ₂ HgSnSe ₄	Tet, I-4 2 m(121)	7.9589, 7.9589, 6.8578, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	7.8571, 7.8571, 6.6989, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[3]
5	CuBS ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.0203, 5.0203, 9.0696, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.044, 5.044, 8.948056, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[4]
6	CuBSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.3328, 5.3328, 9.7364, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.782, 5.782, 11.4021, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[4]
7	CuBTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.7218, 5.7218, 10.7973, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.616, 5.616, 10.6479, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[4]
8	AuBSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.6726, 5.6726, 9.6556, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.676, 5.676, 9.6776, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[5]
9	AuBTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.9911, 5.9911, 10.8396, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.011, 6.011, 10.7897, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[5]
10	AuAlTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.3156, 6.3156, 12.3673, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.244, 6.244, 12.5692, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[5]
11	AuGaTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.3232, 6.3232, 12.4756, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.2990, 6.2990, 12.4720, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[5]
12	AuInTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.5064, 6.5064, 13.0550, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.4840, 6.4840, 12.9745, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[5]
13	CuAlSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.6526, 5.6526, 11.1557, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.602, 5.602, 10.944, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[6]
14	CuAlTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.0944, 6.0944, 12.1101, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.964, 5.964, 11.780, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[6]
15	AgAlSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.0324, 6.0324, 11.1150, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.95, 5.95, 10.7457, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[7]
16	AgAlTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.4134, 6.4134, 12.2311, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.29, 6.29, 11.8252, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[7]
17	CuGaS ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.3824, 5.3824, 10.6673, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.347, 5.347, 10.974, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
17	CuGaSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.6782, 5.6782, 11.2749, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.607, 5.607, 10.990, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
19	CuGaTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.0999, 6.0999, 12.1799, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.994, 5.994, 11.912, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
20	AgGaS ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.7803, 5.7803, 10.6678, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.755, 5.755, 10.283, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
21	AgGaSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.0507, 6.0507, 11.2857, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.985, 5.985, 10.901, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
22	AgGaTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.4089, 6.4089, 12.3514, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.301, 6.301, 11.962, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]

23	CuInS ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.594, 5.594, 11.273, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.522, 5.522, 11.132, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
24	CuInSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.879, 5.879, 11.829, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.785, 5.785, 11.570, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
25	CuInTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.302, 6.302, 12.648, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.179, 6.179, 12.360, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
26	AgInS ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	5.936, 5.936, 11.567, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	5.827, 5.827, 11.190, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
27	AgInSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.197, 6.197, 12.123, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.098, 6.098, 11.708, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
28	AgInTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.571, 6.571, 13.021, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.443, 6.443, 12.636, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[8]
29	NaInSe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	6.7103, 6.7103, 11.2860, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.418, 6.418, 12.644, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[9]
30	NaInTe ₂	Tet, I-42d(122)	7.1943, 7.1943, 12.2738, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00	6.599, 6.599, 12.276, 90.00, 90.00, 90.00[9]

Table S2. Energy gap (Eg) (calculated in our previous works), the Seebeck coefficients (S) and figure of merit (ZT) as a function of chemical potential at room temperature (300 K), and the TBOD for these 30 chalcogenide crystals. In the previous published works (Refs. 79 and 80 in the main text), OLCAO code was used to calculate the energy band gap. Spin-Orbit Coupling (SOC) effect was not included in the calculations.

#	Crystal	Eg(eV)	S(μV/K)	S(μV/K)	Highest ZT	TBOD (e-/Å ³)
1	Tl ₂ CdGeSe ₄	0.814(D)	1300	—	1.01	0.0085
2	Tl ₂ CdSnSe ₄	0.810(D)	1250	—	1.0	0.0080
3	Tl ₂ HgSiSe ₄	0.992(D)	1500	—	1.02	0.0067
4	Tl ₂ HgSnS ₄	1.105(D)	1660	—	1.0	0.0066
5	CuBS ₂	1.8(D)	2600	2295[4]	1.01	0.0363
6	CuBSe ₂	1.6(D)	2500	2527[4]	1.02	0.0293
7	CuBTe ₂	1.2(D)	1800	1704[4]	1.0	0.0250
8	AuBSe ₂	1.78(ID)	925	—	0.96	0.0228
9	AuBTe ₂	1.40(ID)	825	—	0.98	0.0202
10	AuAlTe ₂	1.60(D)	600	—	0.94	0.0151
11	AuGaTe ₂	0.646(D)	205	—	0.60	0.0144
12	AuInTe ₂	0.635(D)	190	—	0.54	0.0125
13	CuAlSe ₂	1.20(D)	1600	—	1.0	0.0209
14	CuAlTe ₂	1.70(ID)	1800	—	1.0	0.0182
15	AgAlSe ₂	1.45(D)	2050	—	1.005	0.0170
16	AgAlTe ₂	1.81(D)	1900	—	1.01	0.0149
17	CuGaS ₂	0.80(D)	850	—	0.96	0.0234
18	CuGaSe ₂	0.39(D)	700	—	0.82	0.0198
19	CuGaTe ₂	0.85(D)	550	—	0.90	0.0176
20	AgGaS ₂	1.05(D)	1100	—	1.01	0.0185
21	AgGaSe ₂	0.60(D)	480	—	0.90	0.0160
22	AgGaTe ₂	0.90(D)	500	860[10]	0.91	0.0144
23	CuInS ₂	0.240(D)	390	370[11]	0.84	0.0191
24	CuInSe ₂	0.146(D)	260	240[11]	0.70	0.0166
25	CuInTe ₂	0.754(D)	460	325[11], 00[12]	0.88	0.0153
26	AgInS ₂	0.651(D)	770	—	0.98	0.0152
27	AgInSe ₂	0.453(D)	390	—	0.84	0.0135
28	AgInTe ₂	1.001(D)	525	500[13], 750[14]	0.92	0.0125
29	NaInSe ₂	1.54(D)	2400	—	1.01	0.0111
30	NaInTe ₂	1.80(D)	2100	—	1.02	0.00942

2. The Supplementary Figures



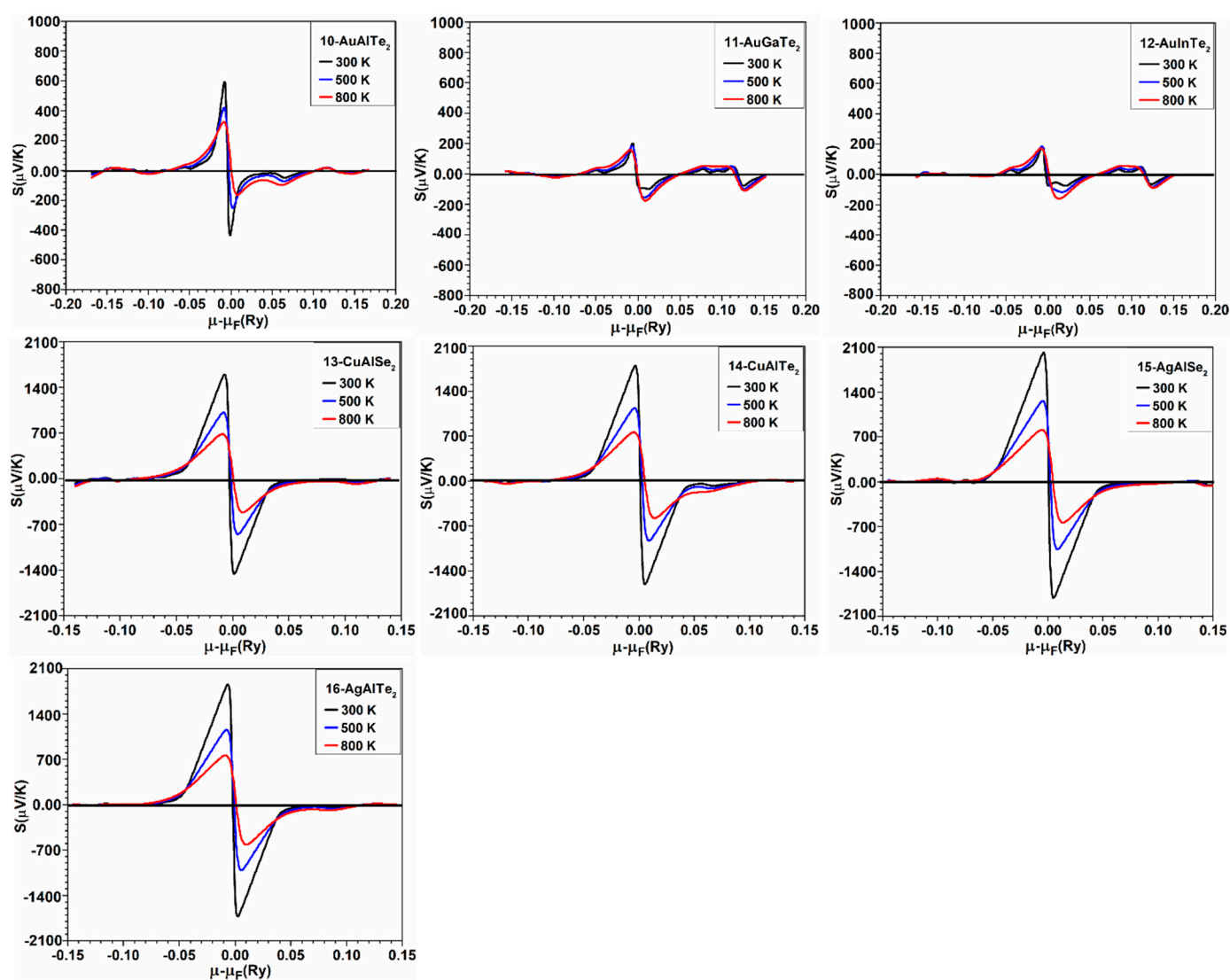
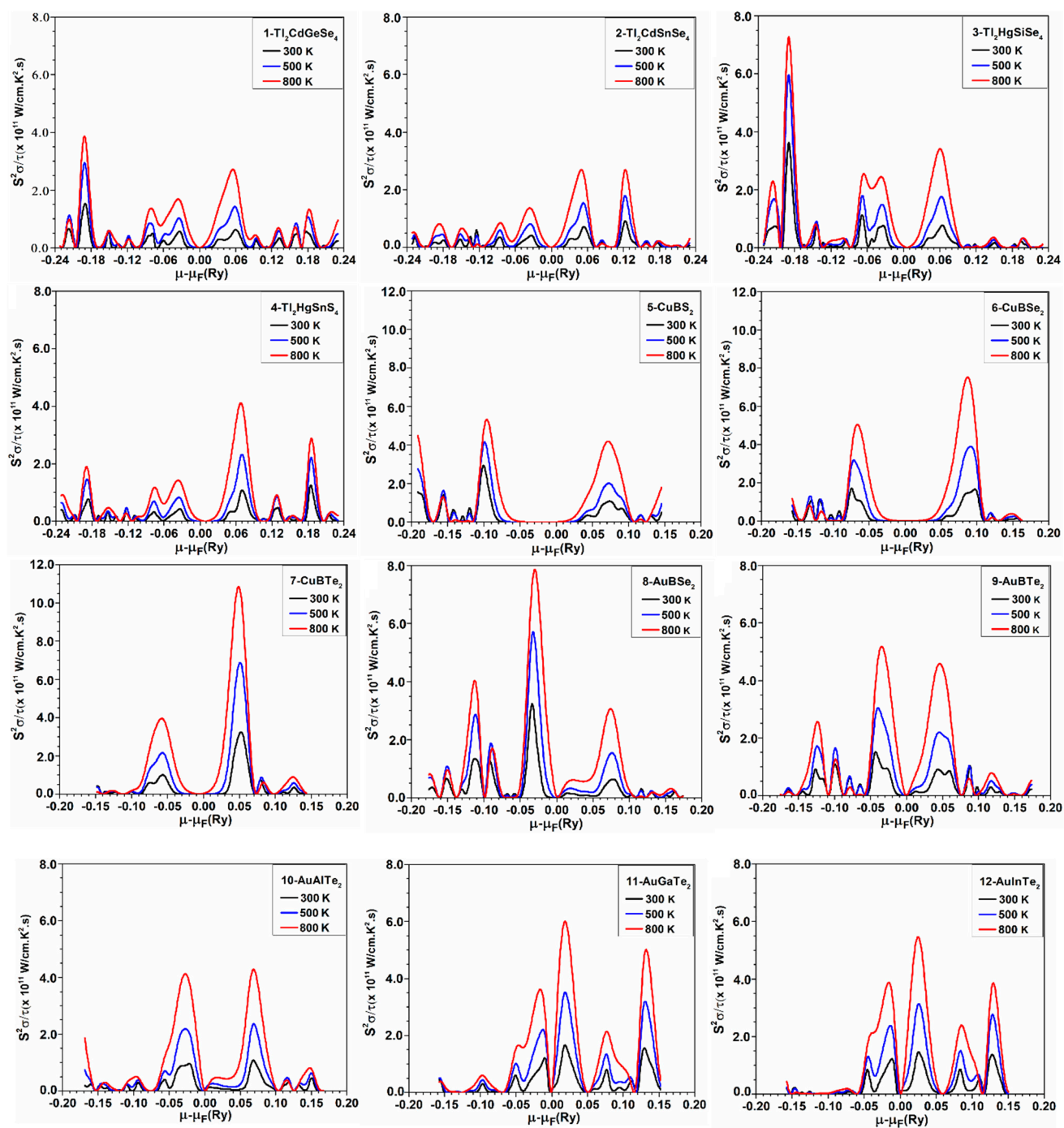


Figure S1. Calculated Seebeck coefficient(S) versus the chemical potential for the crystals from 1-Tl₂CdGeS₄ to 16-AgAlTe₂.



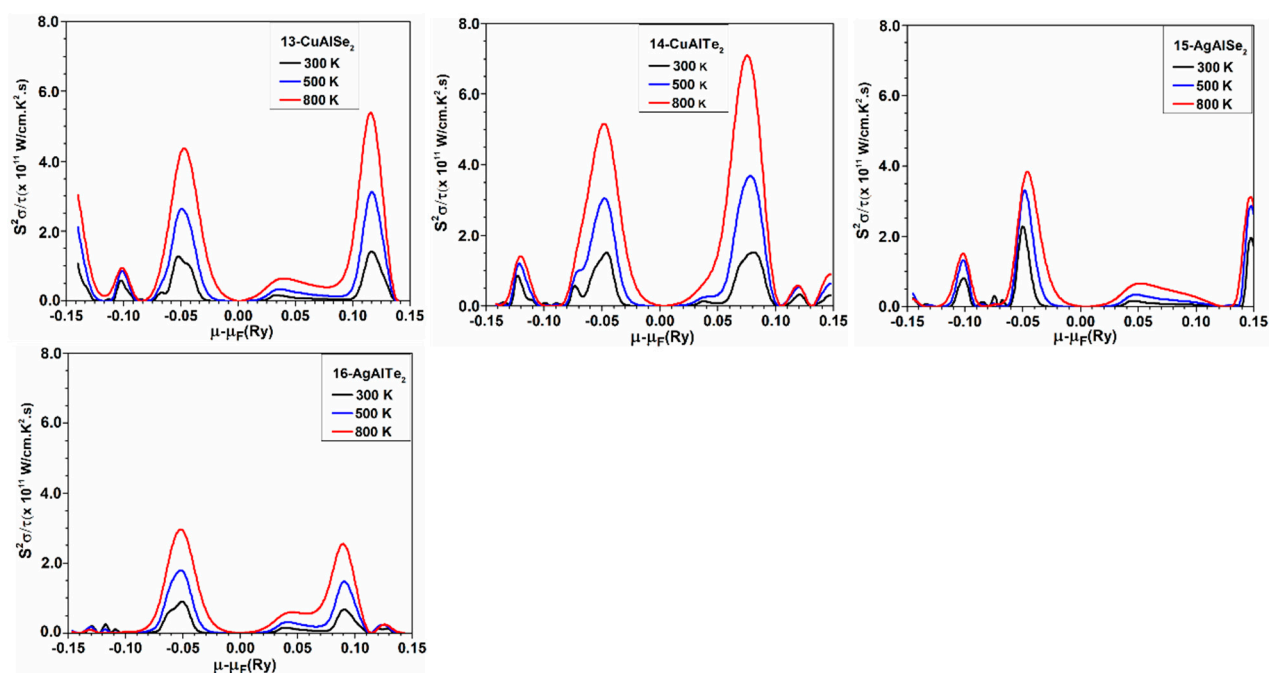
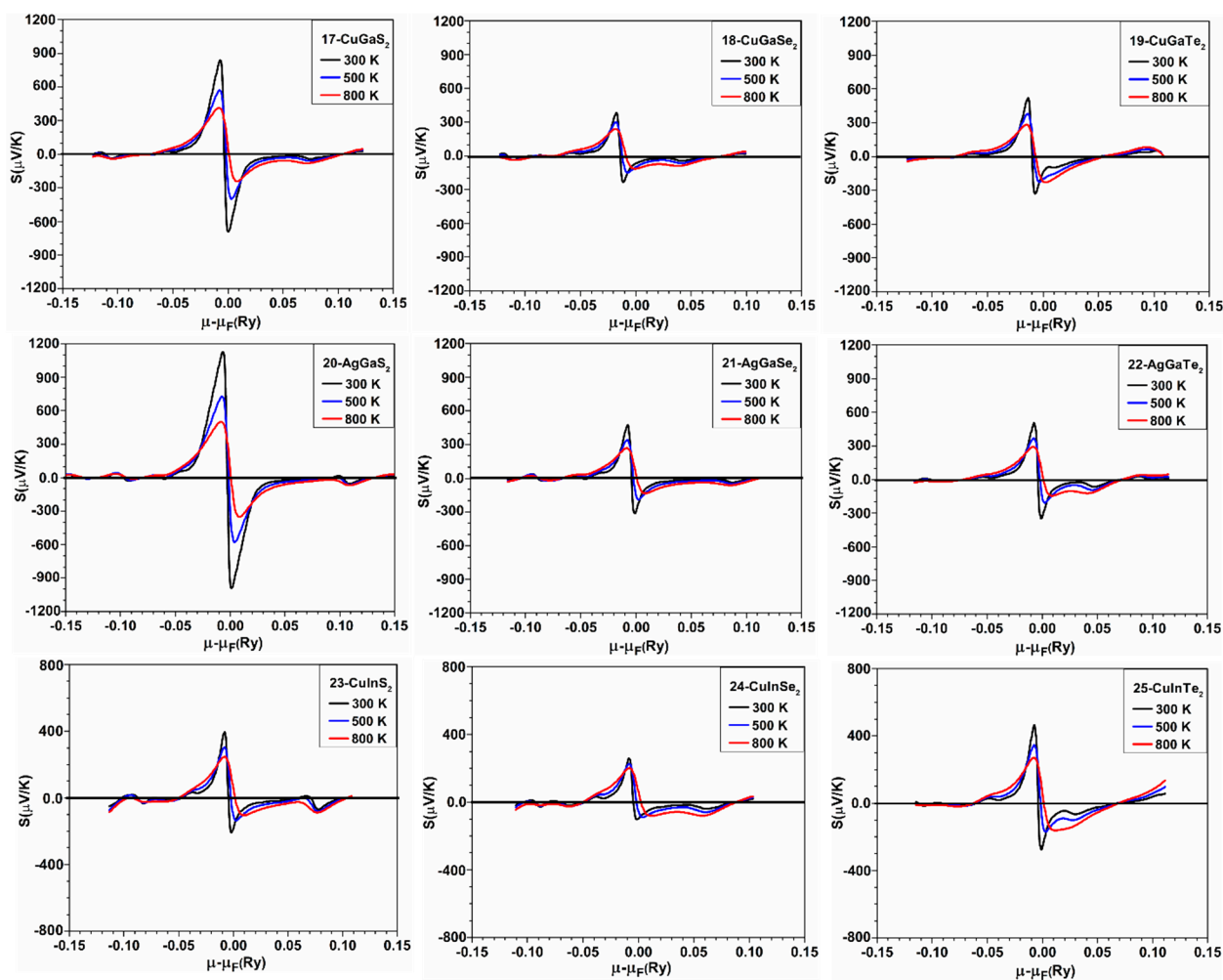


Figure S2. Calculated PF versus the chemical potential for the crystals from 1-TlCdGeS₄ to 16-AgAlTe₂.



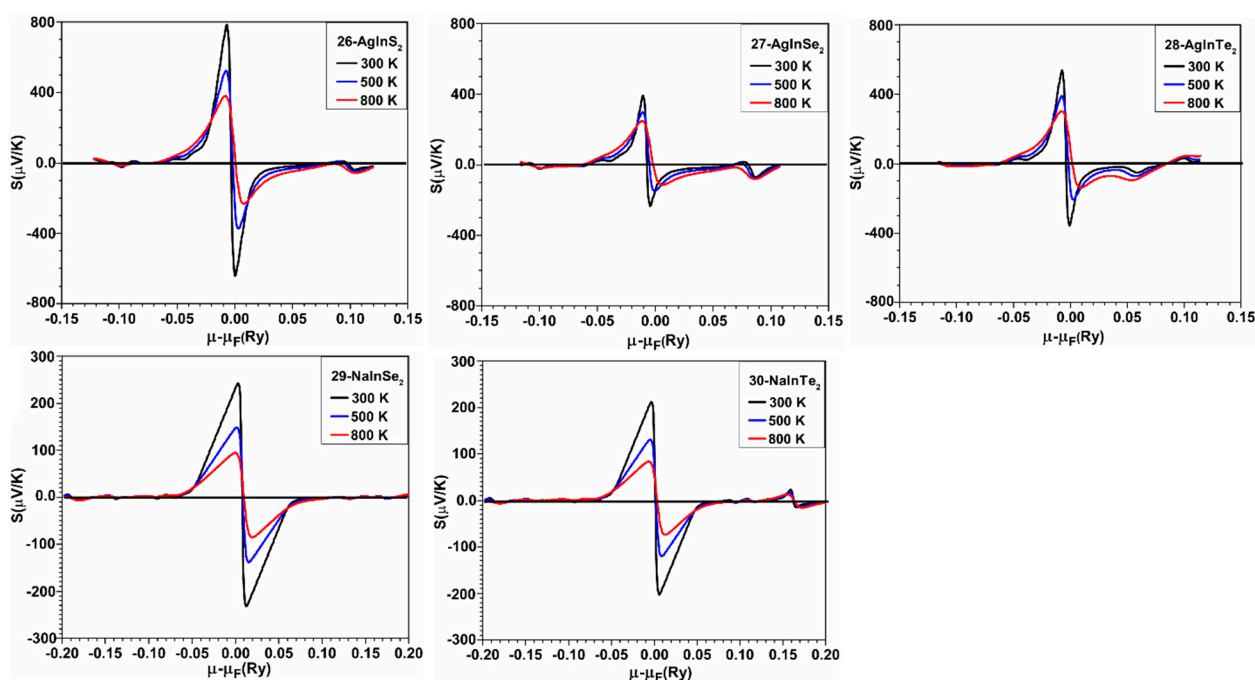
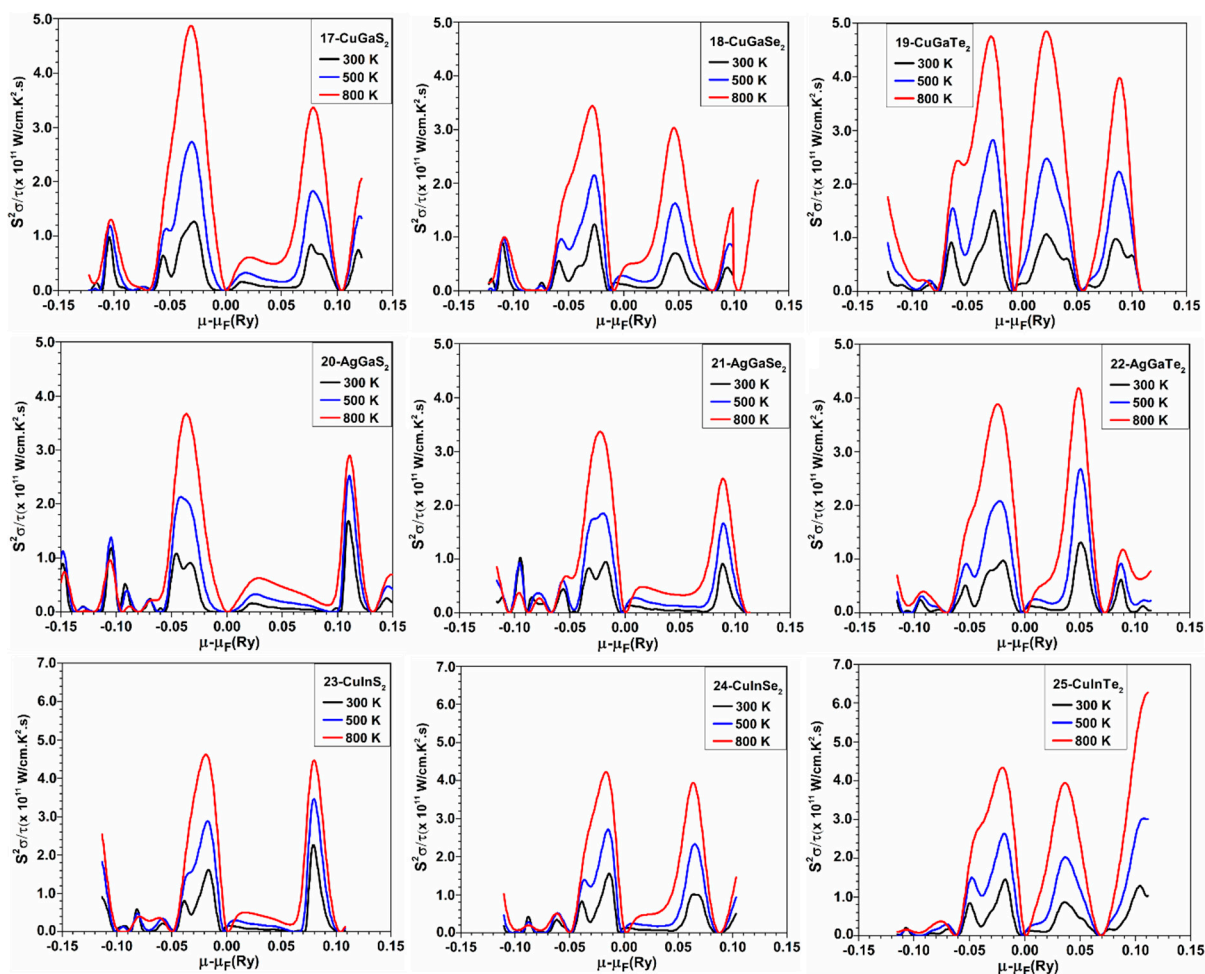


Figure S3. Calculated Seebeck coefficient(S) versus the chemical potential for the crystals from 17-CuGaS₂ to 30-NaInTe₂.



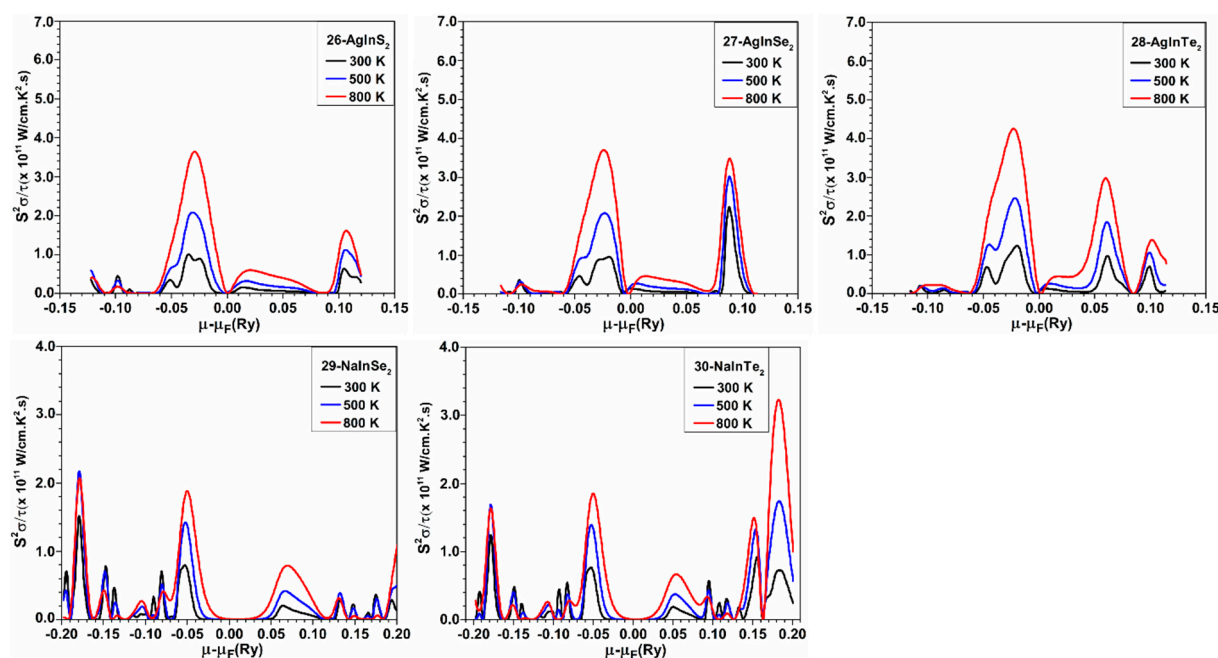
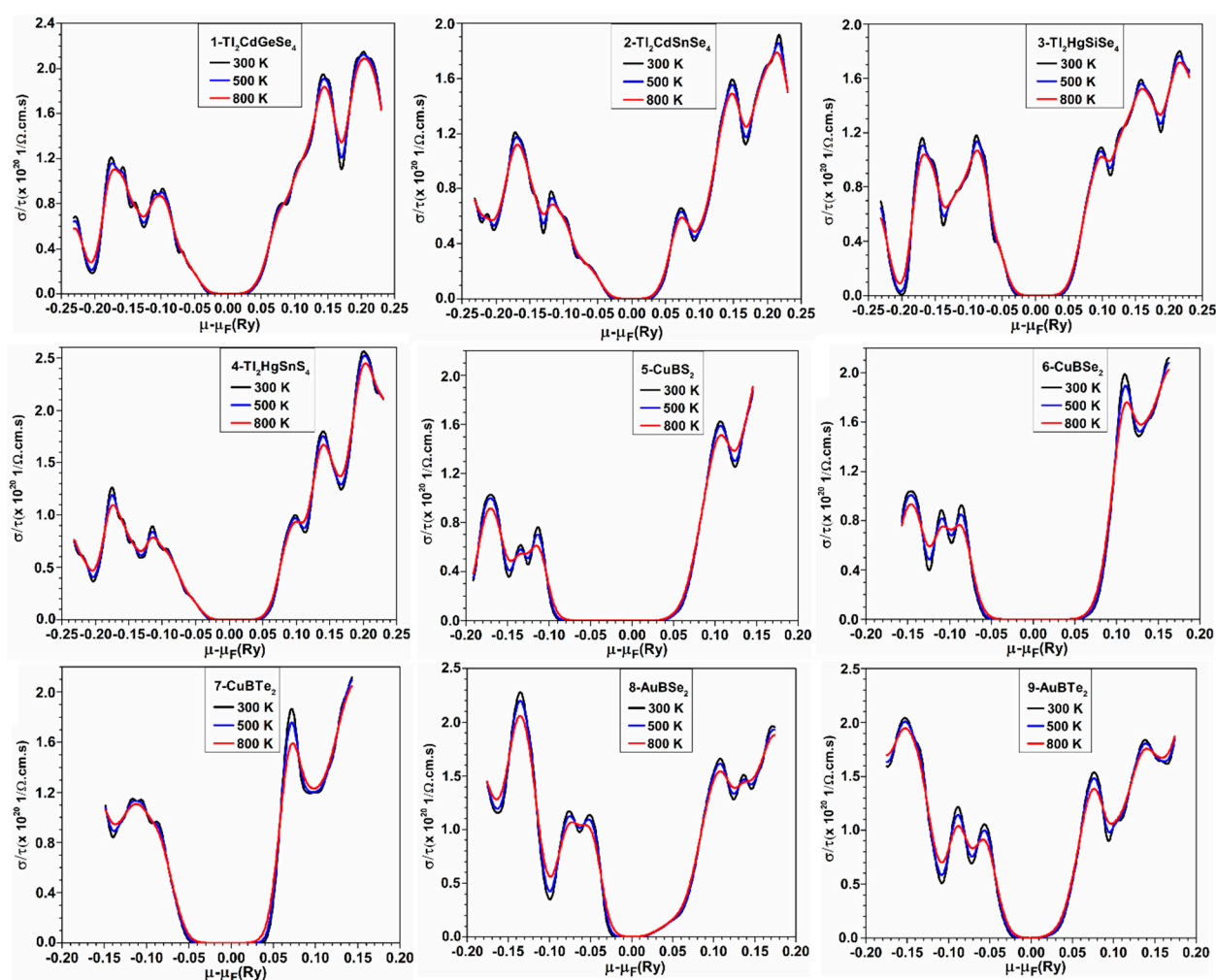
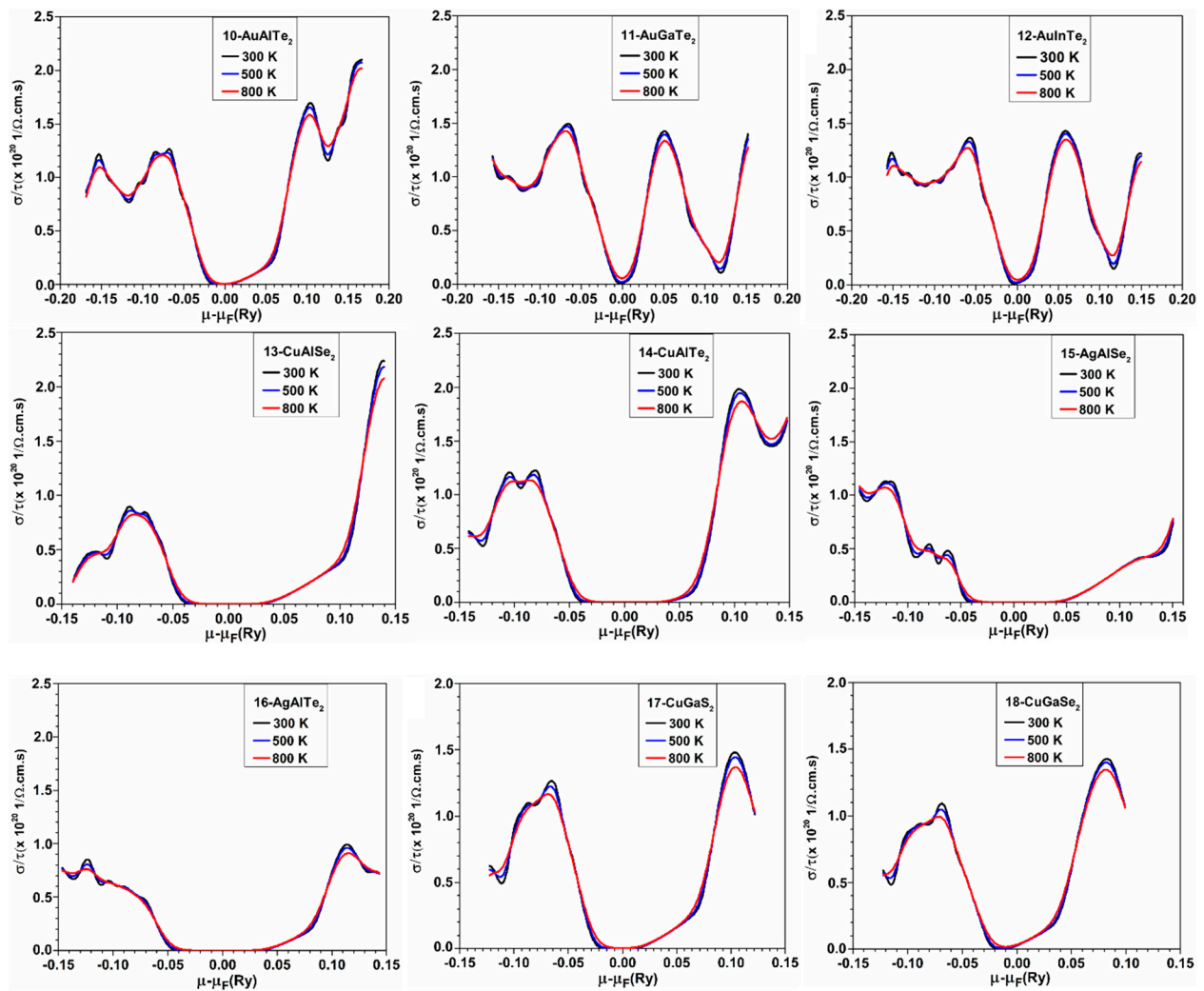


Figure S4. Calculated PF versus the chemical potential for the crystals from 17-CuGaS₂ to 30-NaInTe₂.





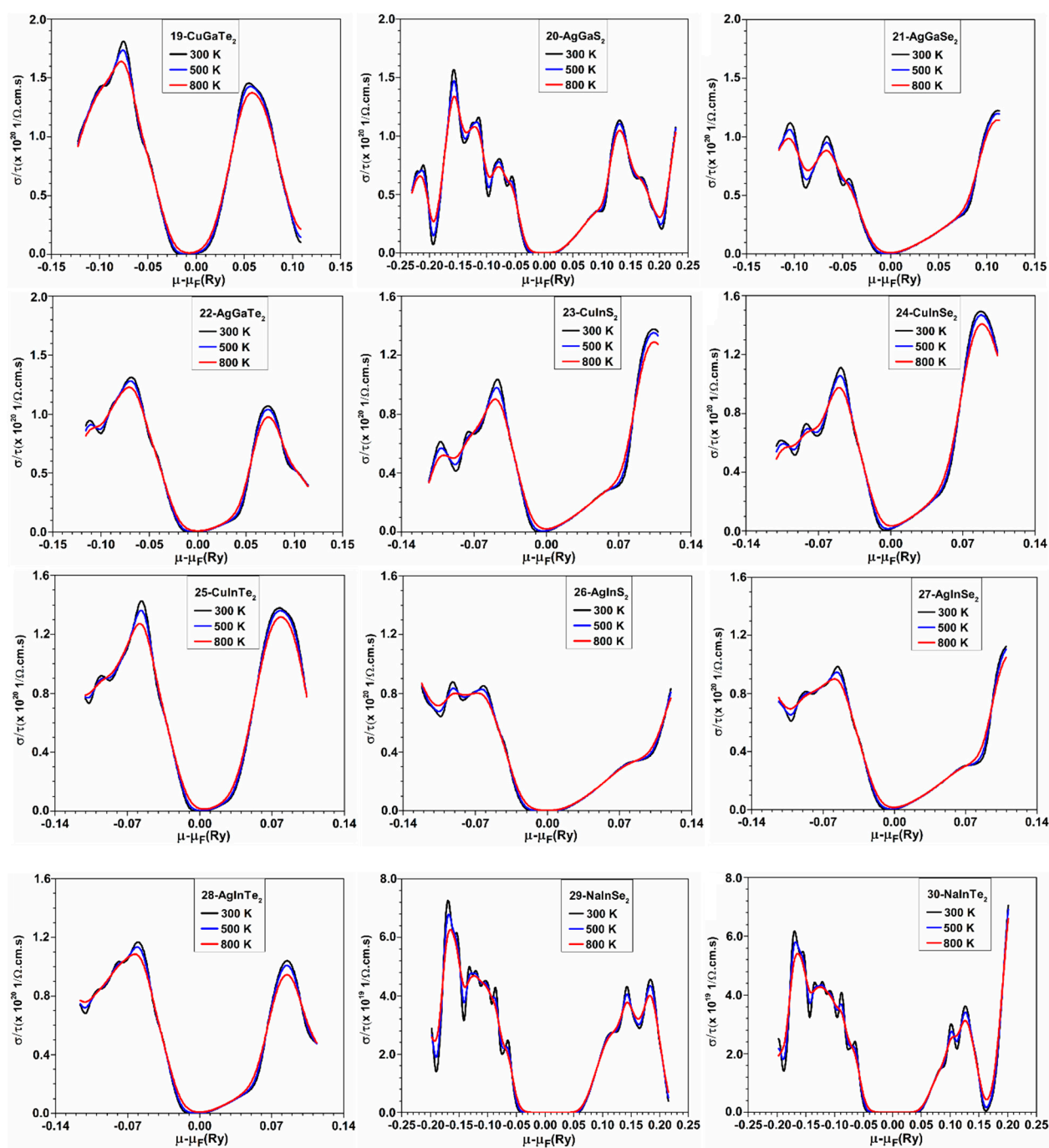
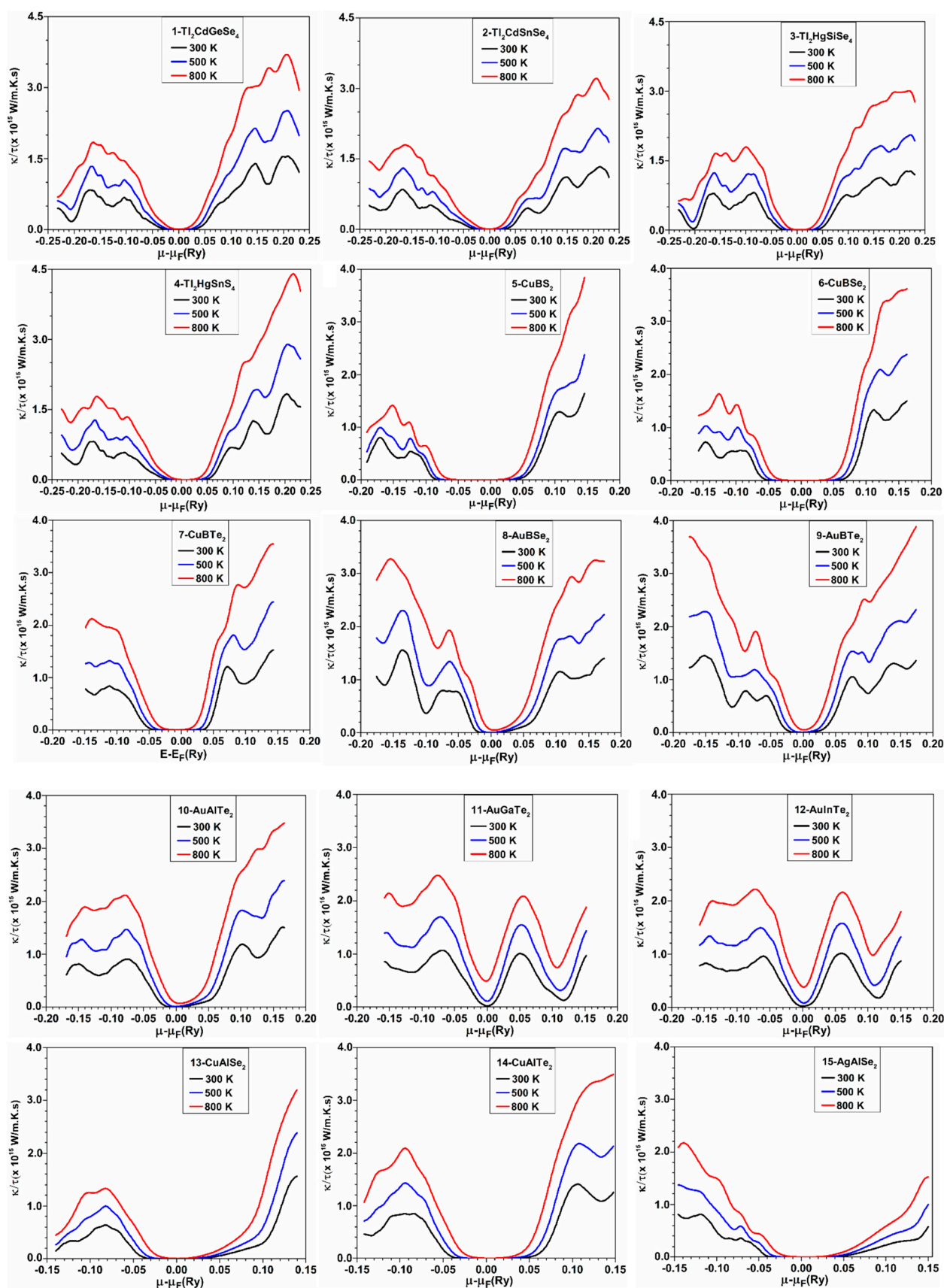


Figure S5. Calculated σ/τ versus the chemical potential for the 30 crystals.



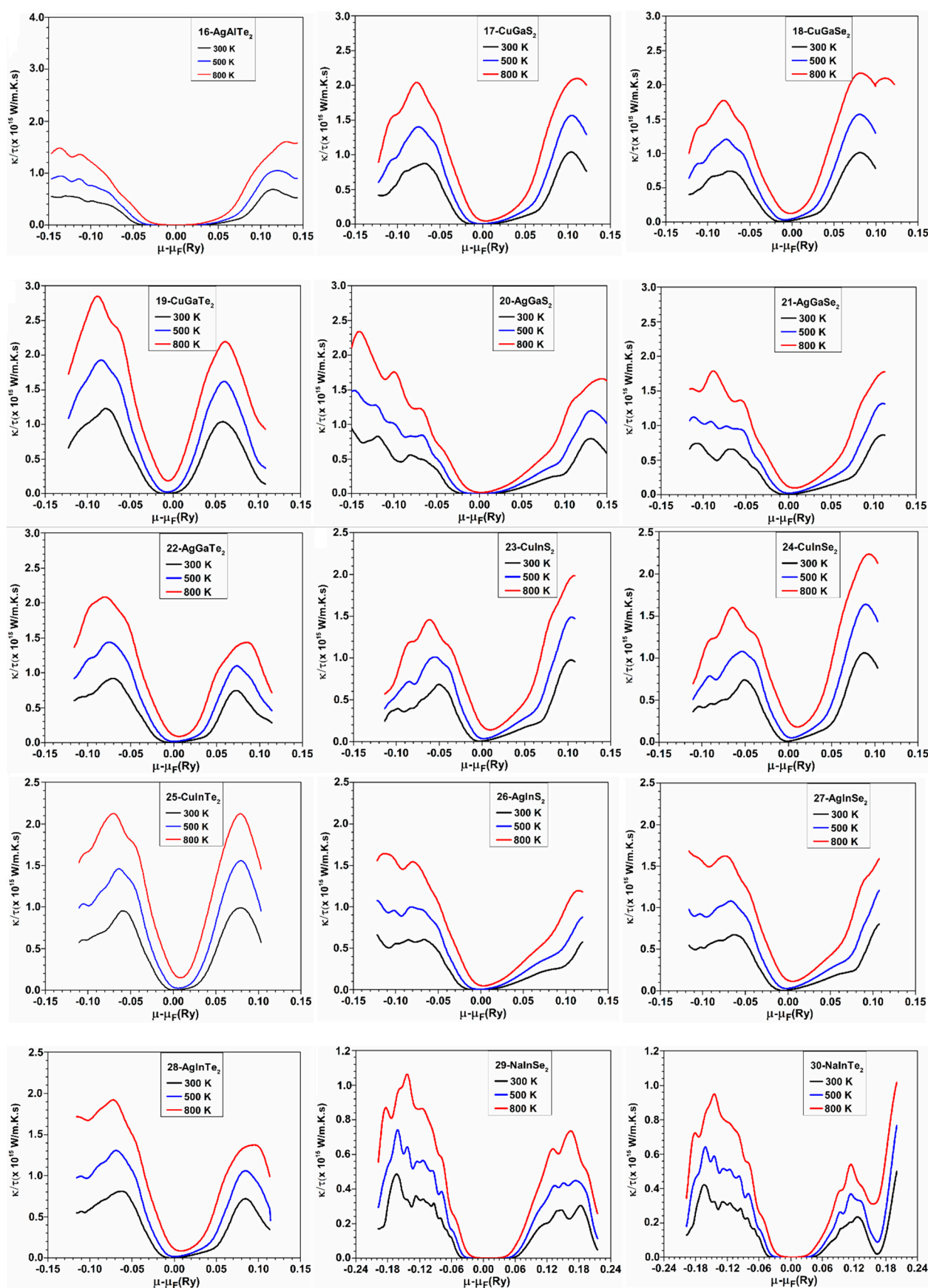
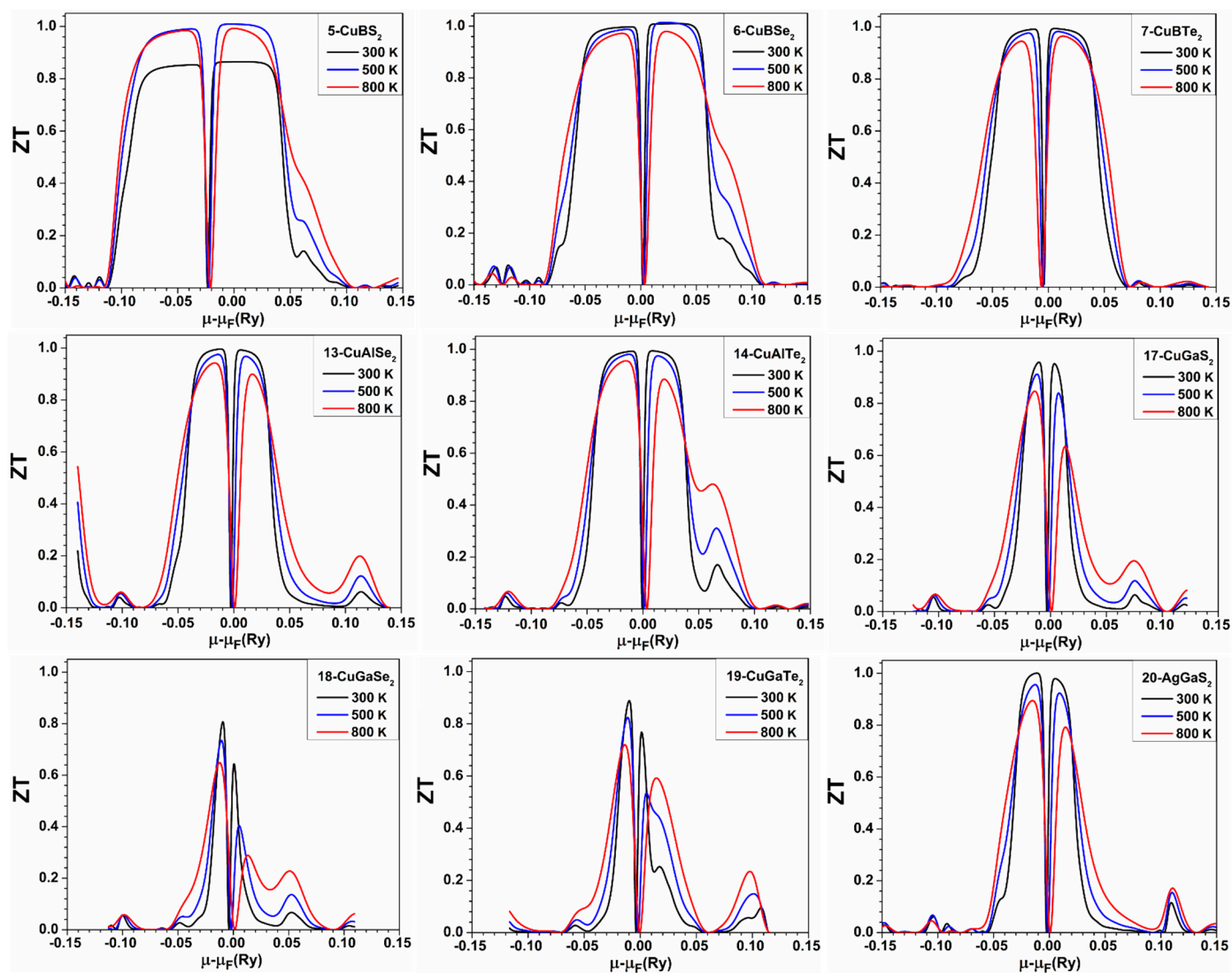


Figure S6. Calculated κ/τ versus the chemical potential for the 30 crystals.



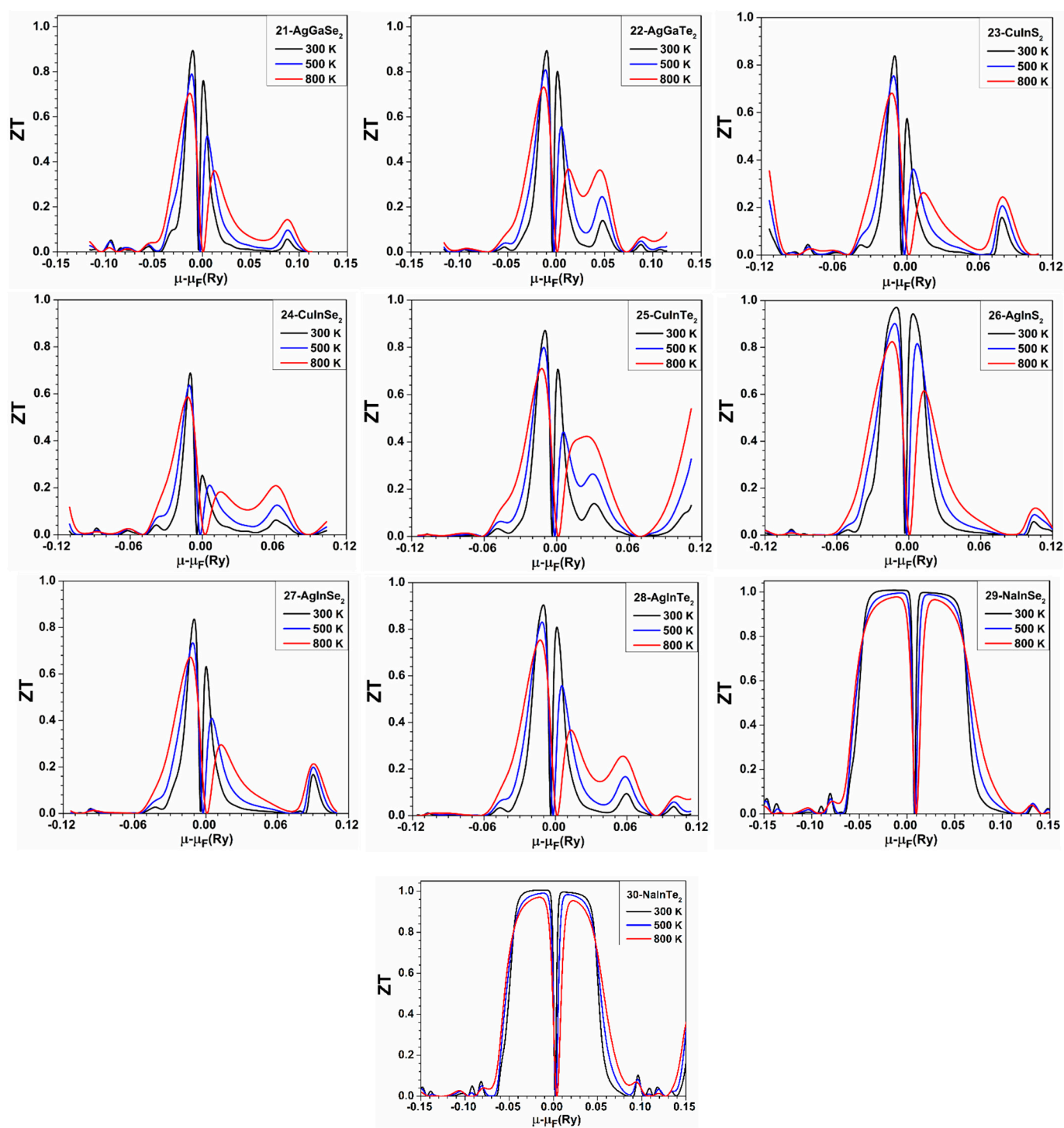
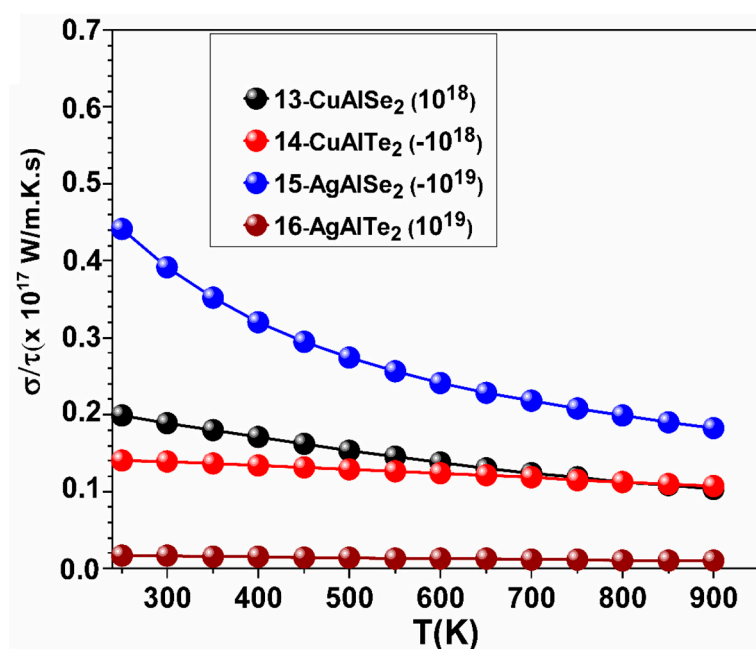
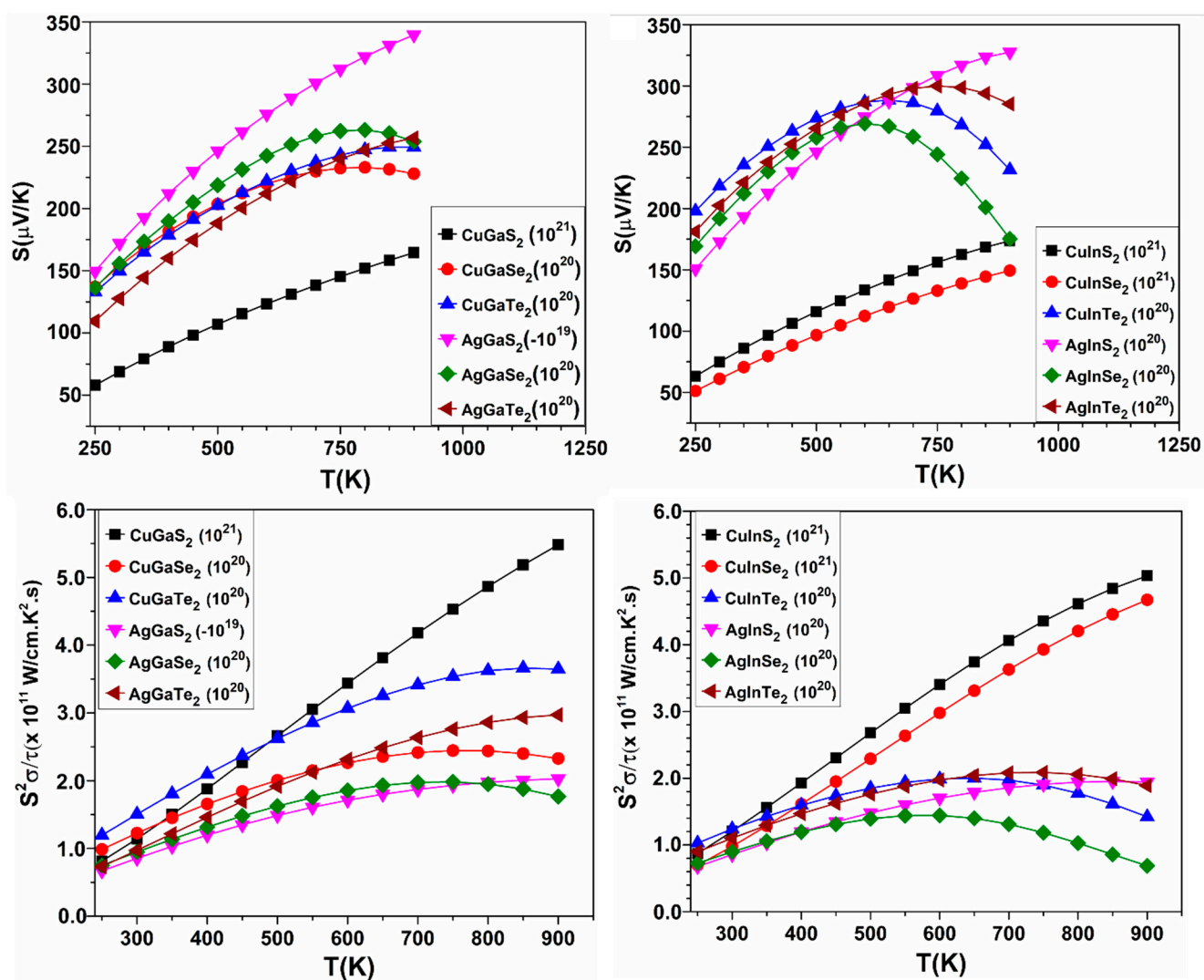


Figure S7. Calculated ZT versus the chemical potential.

Figure S8. Calculated σ/τ versus the temperature for the crystals 13–16.Figure S9. Calculated S and PF versus the temperature for the crystals from 17 to 30.

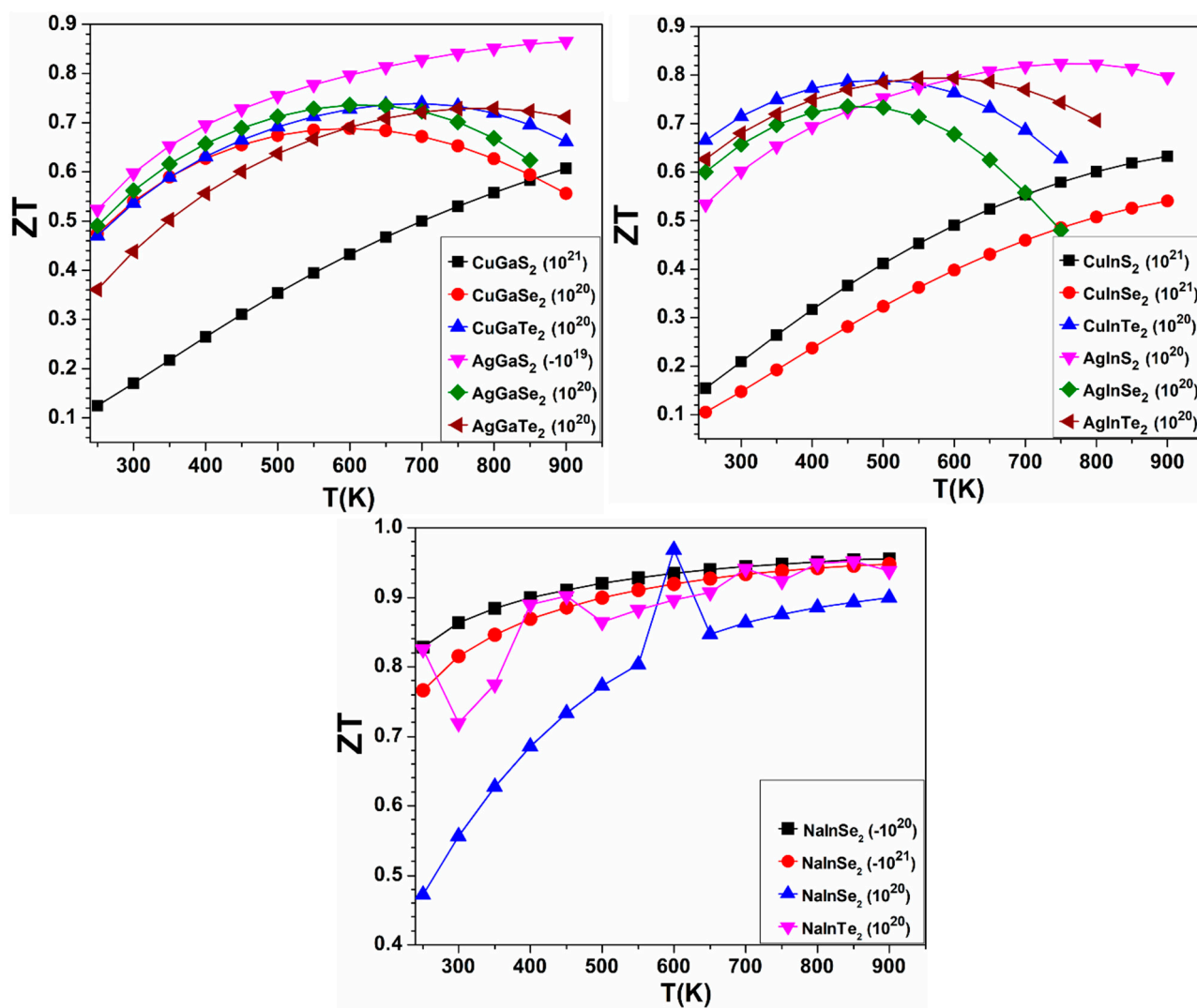


Figure S10. Calculated ZT versus the temperature for the crystals from 17 to 30.

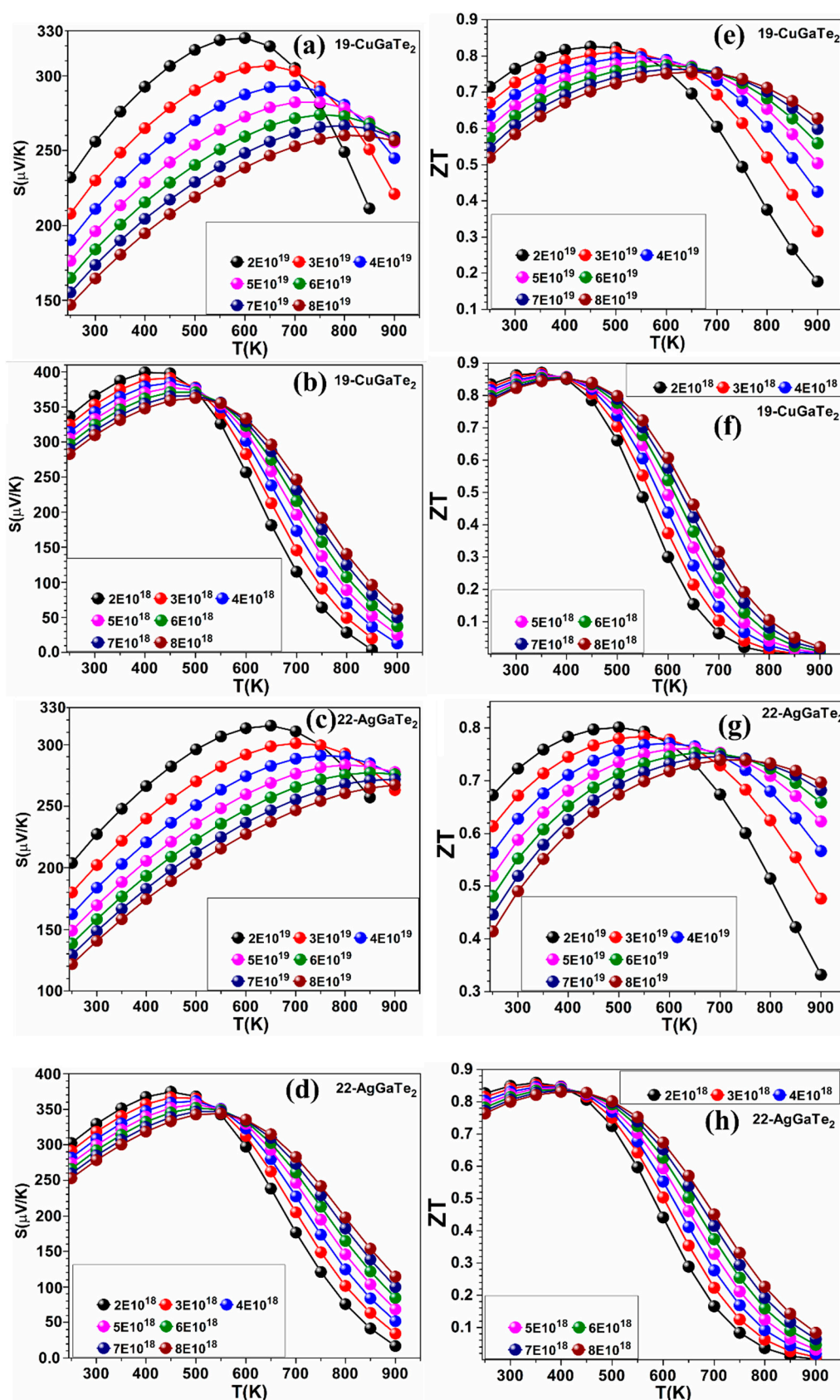


Figure S11. S and ZT versus the temperature for the crystals: (a,b,e,f) are for 19-CuGaTe₂ crystal, and (c,d,g,h) are for 22-AgGaTe₂ crystal at two different ranges of n .

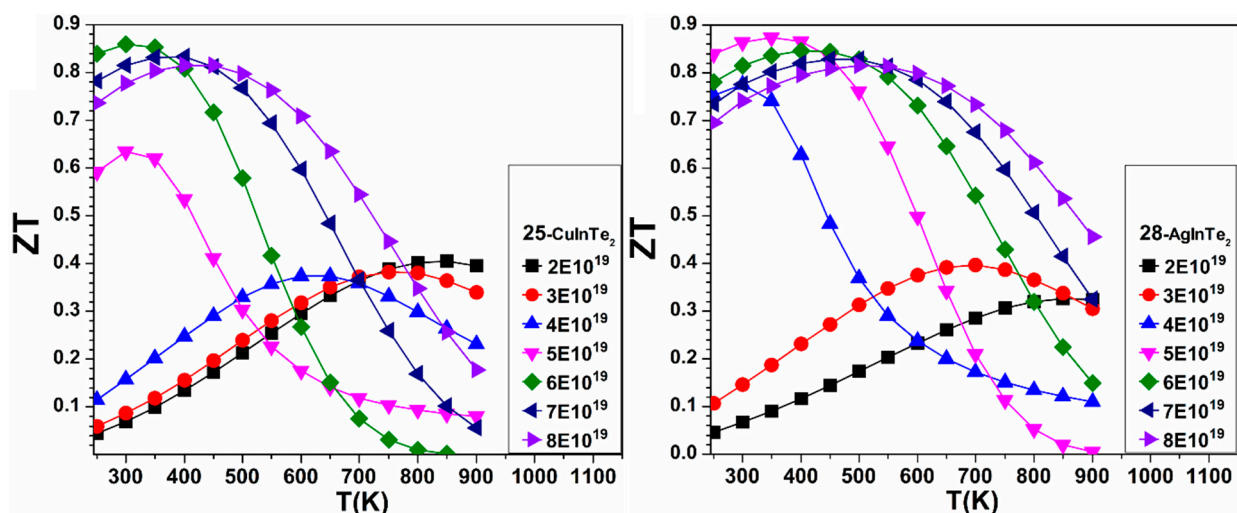


Figure S12. Shows our results for ZT versus temperature at range of n : ($+2 \times 10^{19}$, $+8 \times 10^{19}$ in e/cm^3) for the crystals 25-CuInTe₂ and 28-AgInTe₂

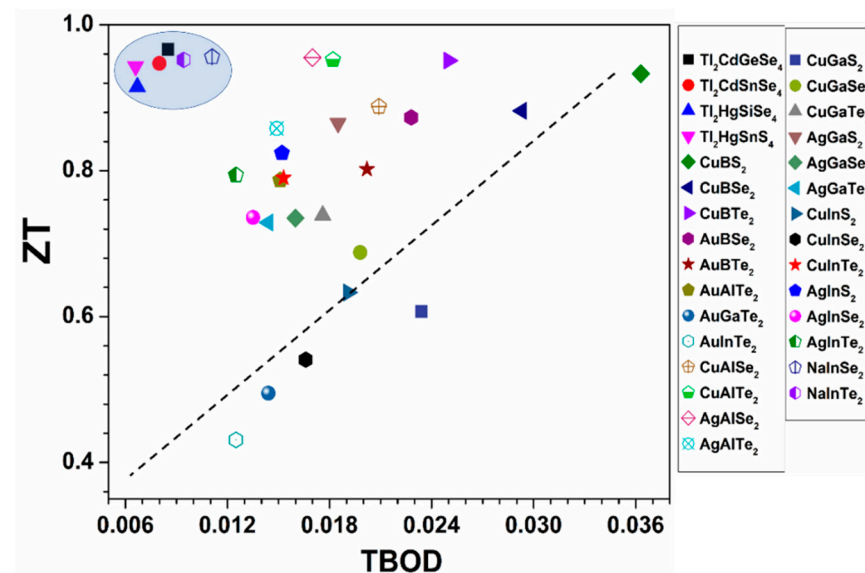


Figure S13. Calculated TBOD versus ZT for the 30 crystals.

References

- Selezen, A.; Oleksyuk, I.; Myronchuk, G.; Smitiukh, O.; Piskach, L. Synthesis and structure of the new semiconductor compounds $\text{Ti}_2\text{BiIVX}_4$ (Bi—Cd, Hg; DIV—Si, Ge; X—Se, Te) and isothermal sections of the $\text{Ti}_2\text{Se—CdSe—Ge (Sn) Se}_2$ systems at 570 K. *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* **2020**, *121*, 121422.
- Mozolyuk, M.Y.; Piskach, L.; Fedorchuk, A.; Oleksyuk, I.; Parasyuk, O. Physico-chemical interaction in the $\text{Ti}_2\text{Se—HgSe—DIVSe}_2$ systems (DIV—Si, Sn). *Materials Research Bulletin* **2012**, *47*, 3830–3834.
- Lavrentyev, A.; Gabrelian, B.; Vu, T.V.; Ananchenko, L.; Myronchuk, G.; Parasyuk, O.; Tkach, V.; Kopylova, K.; Khyzhun, O. Electronic and optical properties of quaternary sulfide $\text{Ti}_2\text{HgSnS}_4$, a promising optoelectronic semiconductor: A combined experimental and theoretical study. *Optical Materials* **2019**, *92*, 294–302.
- Bagci, S.; Yalcin, B.G.; Aliabad, H.R.; Duman, S.; Salmankurt, B. Structural, electronic, optical, vibrational and transport properties of CuBX_2 (X = S, Se, Te) chalcopyrites. *RSC advances* **2016**, *6*, 59527–59540.
- Yaseen, M.S.; Sun, J.; Fang, H.; Murtaza, G.; Sholl, D.S. First-principles study of electronic and optical properties of ternary compounds AuBX_2 (X = S, Se, Te) and AuMTe_2 (M = Al, In, Ga). *Solid State Sciences* **2021**, *111*, 106508.
- Gudelli, V.K.; Kanchana, V.; Vaitheeswaran, G. CuAlTe_2 : A promising bulk thermoelectric material. *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* **2015**, *648*, 958–965.
- Dongho Nguimdo, G.; Joubert, D.P. A density functional (PBE, PBEsol, HSE06) study of the structural, electronic and optical properties of the ternary compounds AgAlX_2 (X = S, Se, Te). *The European Physical Journal B* **2015**, *88*, 1–10.

8. Asokamani, R.; Amirthakumari, R.; Rita, R.; Ravi, C. Electronic structure calculations and physical properties of ABX₂ (A = Cu, Ag; B = Ga, In; X = S, Se, Te) ternary chalcopyrite systems. *physica status solidi (b)* **1999**, *213*, 349–363.
9. Yaseen, M.S.; Murtaza, G.; Murtaza, G. Theoretical investigation of the structural stabilities, optoelectronic and thermoelectric properties of ternary alloys N a I n Y ₂ (Y = S, S e and T e) through modified Becke–Johnson exchange potential. *International Journal of Modern Physics B* **2020**, *34*, 2050133.
10. Yusufu, A.; Kurosaki, K.; Kosuga, A.; Sugahara, T.; Ohishi, Y.; Muta, H.; Yamanaka, S. Thermoelectric properties of Ag_{1-x}GaTe₂ with chalcopyrite structure. *Applied Physics Letters* **2011**, *99*, 061902.
11. Gui, Y.; Ye, L.; Jin, C.; Zhang, J.; Wang, Y. The nature of the high thermoelectric properties of CuInX₂ (X = S, Se and Te): First-principles study. *Applied Surface Science* **2018**, *458*, 564–571.
12. Kucek, V.; Drasar, C.; Navratil, J.; Plechacek, T.; Benes, L. Thermoelectric properties of Ni-doped CuInTe₂. *Journal of Physics and Chemistry of Solids* **2015**, *83*, 18–23.
13. Yang, J.; Fan, Q.; Cheng, X. Prediction for electronic, vibrational and thermoelectric properties of chalcopyrite AgX (X = In, Ga) Te₂: PBE+ U approach. *Royal Society open science* **2017**, *4*, 170750.
14. Aikebaier, Y.; Kurosaki, K.; Sugahara, T.; Ohishi, Y.; Muta, H.; Yamanaka, S. High-temperature thermoelectric properties of non-stoichiometric Ag_{1-x}InTe₂ with chalcopyrite structure. *Materials Science and Engineering: B* **2012**, *177*, 999–1002.