

†Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available here:

## **Thermoelectric properties of $\text{Cu}_3\text{SbSe}_3$ with intrinsically ultralow lattice thermal conductivity**

**Kriti Tyagi<sup>a</sup>, Bhasker Gahtori<sup>a</sup>, Sivaiah Bathula<sup>a</sup>, A. K. Srivastava<sup>a</sup>, A. K. Shukla<sup>a</sup>, Sushil Auluck<sup>a</sup> and Ajay Dhar<sup>a,\*</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>CSIR-Network of Institutes for Solar Energy, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory,  
Dr. K. S. Krishnan Marg, New Delhi -110012, India

This supporting information includes:

EDAX analysis  
XPS analysis

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\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +91-11-45609456, Fax: +91-11-45609310

E-mail address: adhar@nplindia.org (Dr. Ajay Dhar)

## EDAX analysis

Figure S1 shows the EDXS of the chosen region which only exhibits the peaks corresponding to Cu, Se and Sb and shows a composition close to the stoichiometric value.

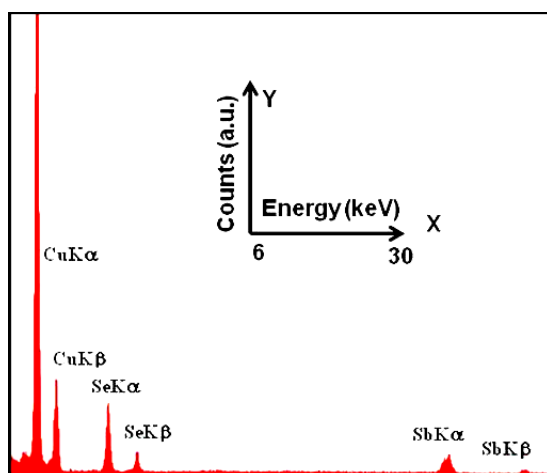


Fig. S1. EDXS pattern with X-axis: 6 to 30 keV, Y-axis: intensity (counts, arb. units).

## X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) measurements were carried out in an ultra-high vacuum multi-probe surface analysis system with base pressure of  $4 \times 10^{-11}$  Torr. The chamber is equipped with an Omicron EA 125 electron energy analyzer and monochromatic Al  $K_{\alpha}$  (1486.7 eV) X-ray source. Sample was mounted using conducting silver epoxy. All binding energies have been referenced to the Fermi edge of an  $\text{Ar}^+$  sputtered clean polycrystalline Ag sample. Currently, XPS has been used to investigate the surface chemical composition of the  $\text{Cu}_3\text{SbSe}_3$  sample and Fig. S2 shows the XPS survey spectrum of a clean  $\text{Cu}_3\text{SbSe}_3$  surface over large binding energy range wherein the Tougaard method was used to subtract background due to secondary electrons. All the features in survey spectra have been identified as indicated in the Fig. S2. Repeated *in-situ* mechanical scrapping of the sample resulted in contamination free surface as can be seen from the

absence of C (KVV) and O (KL<sub>23</sub>L<sub>23</sub>) Auger features. For clean surface, only Cu, Sb and Se related features are observed in the survey spectrum which confirms the purity of the sample and we have used Cu 3*p*, Se 3*d* and Sb 4*d* core levels to calculate the surface chemical composition. Area under the core levels were normalized with respective photoemission cross section, inelastic mean free path and analyzer transmission function. Surface chemical composition, determined using these normalized area ratios, was found to be very close to the actual stiochiometric value.

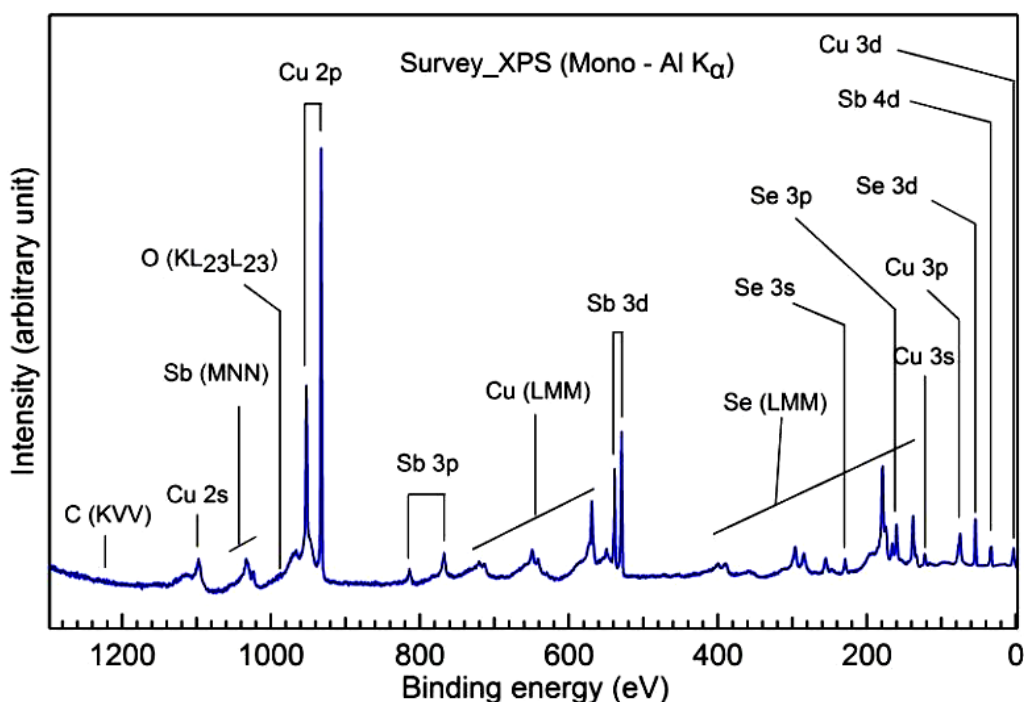


Fig. S2. X-ray photoemission spectrum over a wide binding energy range for clean surface of Cu<sub>3</sub>SbSe<sub>3</sub>. All the features in the spectrum are identified.