

High Piezoelectric and Magnetic Performance Achieved in the Lead-free BiFeO₃-BaTiO₃ Ceramics by Defect Engineering

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Abstract : Defect engineering approach is a well-established approach for the customization of functional properties of perovskite ceramics. In modern technology, the high multiferroic properties for elevated temperature applications are greatly demanding. In this work, the Bi-nonstoichiometric lead-free 0.67Bi_y-xSm_xFeO₃-0.33BaTiO₃ ceramics (Sm-doped BF-BT for Bi-excess; y = 1.03 and Bi-deficient; y = 0.975 with x = 0.00, 0.04 and 0.08) were design for the high-temperature multiferroic property. Enhanced piezoelectric (d₃₃ ≈ 250 pC/N and d₃₃* ≈ 350 pm/V) and magnetic properties (Mr ≈ 0.25 emu/g) with a high Curie temperature (TC ≈ 465 °C) were obtained in the Bi-deficient pure BF-BT ceramics. With Sm-doping (x = 0.04), the TC decrease to ≈ 350 °C a significant improvement occurred in the d₃₃* to 504 pm/V and 450 pm/V for Bi-excess and Bi-deficient compositions, respectively. The structural origin of the enhanced piezoelectric strain performance is related to the soft ferroelectric effect by Sm-doping and reversible phase transition from the short-range relaxor ferroelectric state to the long-range order under the applied electric field. However, a slight change occurs in the Mr ≈ 0.28 emu/g value with Sm-doping for Bi-deficient ceramics, whereas the Bi-excess ceramics shows completely paramagnetic behavior. Hence, the origin of high magnetic properties in the Bi-deficient BF-BT ceramics is mainly attributed to the proposed double exchange mechanism. We believe that this strategy will provide a new perspective for the development of lead-free multiferroic ceramics for high-temperature applications.

Keywords : BiFeO₃-BaTiO₃, lead-free piezoceramics, magnetic properties, defect engineering

Conference Title : ICMMSE 2023 : International Conference on Metallurgy, Materials Science and Engineering

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : June 22-23, 2023