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Anju Anju, Ashish Agarwal, Praveen Aghamkar, Vijender Singh, Ompal Singh, Ajay Kumar



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Structural transitions and multiferrocity in Ba and Co substituted nanosized bismuth ferrite

Anju^a, Ashish Agarwal^b, Praveen Aghamkar^{a*}, Vijender Singh^c, Ompal Singh^b and Ajay Kumar^d

^a Materials Science Lab, Department of Physics, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa- 125055, India

^b Department of Physics, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar-125001, India

^c School of Sciences, Baddi University of Emerging Sciences and Technology, Baddi (Solan)-173205, India.

^d Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai – 600036, India.

*Corresponding Author, Email: praveenaghamkar@gmail.com, p_ghamkar@yahoo.in

Abstract

To investigate the effect of Ba²⁺ and Co²⁺ substitution on the multiferroic properties of the BiFeO₃ (BFO) ceramic, Bi_{1-x}Ba_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO₃ (x=0,y=0 and x=0.2, y= 0,0.015,0.03,0.04,0.05) ceramics were prepared using sol-gel method. Multiferroic properties of BFO have been improved considerably on Ba²⁺ and Co²⁺ substitution at Bi and Fe site, respectively. Full pattern fitting of the XRD profile pattern confirmed the structural transition from rhombohedral to pseudo-cubic phase. The magnetisation in BFO rises appreciably and found to be 0.463 emu/g for Bi_{1-x}Ba_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO₃ (x=0.2, y= 0.05) ceramic nanoparticles. The abrupt increase in magnetization for Bi_{0.8}Ba_{0.2}Fe_{0.95}Co_{0.05}O₃ is due to anti-ferromagnetic orbital ordering among Fe/Co ions. The orbital ordering among the ions would change the low spin state of the Co²⁺ ions to high spin state and results in increased magnetization. Beside, the Co substitution is found helpful in reducing the coercivity of the magnetic nanoparticles for their application as magnetic sensors. The Ferroelectric behavior of Ba and Co substituted samples revealed that increase in maximum polarization with increasing Co content is due to interactions among different Jahn-Teller active Co²⁺ ions. Moreover, the slimmer polarization-electric field (P-E) loops on increasing Co content implying the relaxor ferroelectric behavior of the samples.

Keywords: BiFeO₃, cation substitution, multiferroic, orbital ordering, Rietveld refinement.

1. Introduction

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