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Electric field induced phase transition and accompanying giant poling

strain in lead-free NaNbO3-BaZrO3 ceramics

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**Abstract:** 

A series of phase transitions in (1-x)NaNbO<sub>3</sub>-xBaZrO<sub>3</sub> ((1-x)NN-xBZ) ceramics was

observed from antiferroelectric orthorhombic phase to ferroelectric orthorhombic phase and

finally into ferroelectric rhombohedral phase with increasing x. An electric field induced

irreversible phase transition was found in different compositions, irrespective of their virgin

phase structures. Particularly, an antiferroelectric orthorhombic phase is irreversibly

transformed into a ferroelectric monoclinic phase within 0.02\leqx\leq0.05, leading to a giant

poling strain of ~0.58%. This is much larger than that observed in ferroelectric orthorhombic

 $(0.06 \le x \le 0.07)$  and rhombohedral phases  $(0.08 \le x \le 0.11)$  suffering from an irreversible

ferroelectric-ferroelectric (monoclinic) phase transition. The synchrotron x-ray diffraction and

the measurement of longitudinal and transverse strains suggest that this irreversible phase

1

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