

## Enhancement of pyroelectric properties of lead-free 0.94Na<sub>0.5</sub>Bi<sub>0.5</sub>TiO<sub>3</sub>-0.06BaTiO<sub>3</sub> ceramics by La doping

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### Abstract

Lead-free 0.94NBT-0.06BT-xLa ceramics at  $x = 0.0 - 1.0$  (%) were synthesized by a conventional solid-state route. XRD shows that the compositions are at a morphotropic phase boundary where rhombohedral and tetragonal phases coexist. With increasing La<sup>3+</sup> content pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) and figures of merits greatly increase; however, the depolarization temperature ( $T_d$ ) decreases.  $p$  is  $7.42 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C.m}^{-2}.\text{°C}^{-1}$  at RT at  $x=0.5\%$  and  $105.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C.m}^{-2}.\text{°C}^{-1}$  at  $T_d$  at  $x=0.2\%$ .  $F_i$  and  $F_v$  show improvements at RT from 1.12 ( $x=0\%$ ) to  $2.65 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m.v}^{-1}$  ( $x=0.5\%$ ) and from 0.021 to  $0.048 \text{ (m}^2.\text{C}^{-1})$  respectively.  $F_i$  and  $F_v$  show a huge increase to  $37.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m.v}^{-1}$  and  $0.56 \text{ m}^2.\text{C}^{-1}$  respectively at  $T_d$  at  $x=0.2\%$ . FC shows values of 2.10, 2.89, and  $2.98 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C.cm}^{-2}.\text{°C}^{-1}$  at RT at 33, 100 and 1000 (Hz) respectively. Giant pyroelectric properties make NBT-0.06BT-xLa at  $x=0.2\%$  and  $0.5\%$  promising materials for many pyroelectric applications.

**Keywords:** Lead free ceramics; Lanthanum doping NBT-0.06BT; Morphotropic phase boundary (MPB); Depolarization temperature; Pyroelectric properties; Figure of merits.

### 1. Introduction

Lead-based ferroelectric ceramics with perovskite structure such as lead zirconate titanate (PZT) and PZT-based are widely utilized in diverse microelectronic devices, such as actuators,

transducers and sensors, because of their superior piezoelectric and pyroelectric properties. However, there are two serious environmental problems arising from the fabrication of lead-containing materials: atmospheric pollution caused by PbO vapour during ceramic fabrication, and the difficulty in removing lead during component recycling <sup>[1]</sup>. Thus, there is a high demand to find lead-free alternatives which can fill the industrial gap of the lead-based materials in a wide range of applications.

Sodium bismuth titanate,  $\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3$  (NBT), is a lead-free ferroelectric ceramic with perovskite structure. It shows a large remnant polarization ( $P_r = 38 \mu\text{C.cm}^{-2}$ ) and a high Curie temperature ( $T_c = 320^\circ\text{C}$ ). Additionally, it has two structural phase transitions, from rhombohedral (*R*) to tetragonal (*T*) between  $200^\circ\text{C} - 320^\circ\text{C}$  and from tetragonal (*T*) to cubic (*C*) between  $500^\circ\text{C} - 540^\circ\text{C}$  <sup>[2-6]</sup>. The first phase transition has been widely discussed but its origin is still being debated. It either has morphotropic phase boundary (*MPB*) where both phases (*R* and *T*) with nanopolar regions coexist or changes to *T* as antiferroelectric (AFE) <sup>[2-6]</sup>. The NBT shows first anomaly at  $\sim 200^\circ\text{C}$  and starts losing its ferroelectric properties with further increasing temperature. This temperature is defined as the depolarization temperature ( $T_d$ ) <sup>[6]</sup>. However, the high coercive field ( $E_c = 73 \text{ kV.cm}^{-1}$ ) at room temperature (*RT*) makes NBT very difficult to be fully polarized <sup>[2-6]</sup>. NBT ferroelectric, piezoelectric and pyroelectric properties can be improved by two ways: (1) NBT-based material combines with a second oxide such as  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ ,  $\text{NaNbO}_3$ ,  $\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{K}_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3$ ,  $\text{SrTiO}_3$ , and many other compositions <sup>[3,5,7]</sup> forming a ceramic solid solution. Among these systems,  $(1-x) \text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3 - x\text{BaTiO}_3$  (NBT-*x*BT) has been intensively studied and considered as one of the most promising systems for piezoelectric and pyroelectric applications, in particular, at a morphotropic phase boundary (*MPB*) composition at  $x = 0.06-0.07$  <sup>[8,9]</sup> because NBT-*x*BT is much easier to pole than NBT and also it shows a large improvement in its properties due to the coexistence of rhombohedral

and tetragonal; (2) doping with other oxides such as  $\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  etc. has also been proved to be effective [17].

Although the ferroelectric, dielectric and piezoelectric properties of undoped and doped NBT-xBT have been intensively investigated [10,11] their pyroelectric properties were studied relatively much less [4]. Depolarization temperature ( $T_d$ ) is one of the most important characters in the pyroelectric studies but its origin and function in pyroelectric properties have not been fully understood, though it was reported in the literature [4,5]. Felix *et al.* investigated the pyroelectric behavior and the dielectric constant at microwave frequency (10MHz to 3GHz) of NBT-xBT ( $0.04 \leq x \leq 0.06$ ). They concluded that the pyroelectric properties of NBT-xBT at MPB ( $x = 0.06$ ) were better than those at  $x = 0.04$ . Also its pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) was comparable to that of PZT material [12]. Abe *et al.*, studied the pyroelectric properties of NBT-0.06BT ceramics doped with  $\text{MnO}_2$  and reported that the pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) value is  $3.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C.m}^{-2} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$  at RT [13]. Ruiz *et al.* studied the pyroelectric properties of NBT-0.065BT. They found that the pyroelectric coefficient is equal to  $4.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C.m}^{-2} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$  at RT [14]. Guo *et al.* studied the pyroelectric properties of Zr-doped NBT-xBaTO<sub>3</sub> ( $0 \leq x \leq 0.12$ ) ceramics and found that the pyroelectric coefficient of this composition was enhanced from  $5.7 \text{ C.m}^{-2} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$  at RT to  $22.1 \text{ C.m}^{-2} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$  at  $T_d$  (87 °C) [4]. Balakt *et al.* investigated the effects of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  content on the pyroelectric properties of NBT-0.06BT ceramics [15]. They found that  $p$  increases from 2.90 to 3.54 ( $\times 10^{-4} \text{ C.m}^{-2} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$ ) at RT when  $x = 1.02$ . In addition, the  $p$  shows huge enhancement from 55.3 to 740.7 ( $\times 10^{-4} \text{ C.m}^{-2} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$ ) at  $T_d$  for composition NBT-0.06B1.02TiO<sub>3</sub> [15].

In this study, the pyroelectric properties of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  doped NBT-0.06BT were investigated with the aim to bring down the  $T_d$  to near RT and simultaneously, to improve the pyroelectric properties at both RT and  $T_d$ .

## **2. Experimental**

A solid state synthesis route was selected to prepare  $\text{La}^{3+}$ -doped 0.94NBT-0.06BT composition. The raw materials used in this project were powders, lithium oxide ( $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ), 99.5%, bismuth oxide ( $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$ ), 99.999%, sodium carbonate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ), 99.5%, barium carbonate ( $\text{BaCO}_3$ ), 99.98%, and Titanium dioxide ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ), > 99.8% (all Sigma- Aldrich).

The amounts of powders were calculated according to the chemical formula of  $0.94\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3-0.06\text{BaTiO}_3-x\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ , with  $x=0.0, 0.2\%, 0.5\%$ , and  $1.0\%$ . The raw materials were ball-milled (zirconia milling media) in acetone for 24 hrs. to reduce the particle size of the powders. The resultant slurries were dried at  $50^\circ\text{C}$  overnight. The dried powder cakes were ground in a mortar for 10 min. and sieved through a  $250\ \mu\text{m}$  mesh. and then calcined at  $850^\circ\text{C}$  for 180 min. in a closed alumina crucible at a heating ramp rate of  $1^\circ\text{C}$  per minute and cooling rate  $5^\circ\text{C}$  per minute. After calcination powders were re-milled for 24 hrs. in acetone, to make more reduction of the particle size of the powder. Then 2 % of poly vinyl alcohol (PVA) was added as an organic binder to enhance the mechanical strength of the particles. After that the powders were dried in an oven at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  until fully dried. The dried powders were ground and sieved and subsequently pressed into green pellets with a diameter of 10 mm under a uniaxial compaction with a load of  $\sim 78\ \text{MPs}$  for 5 min at RT. The pellets were sintered at temperatures up to  $1150^\circ\text{C}$  in closed crucibles in order to minimize the loss of volatile  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  for 120 min. The pellets were polished in both sides and thermally etched for 30 min. at  $1000^\circ\text{C}$  for macrostructure study. SEM (FEI XL30 SFEG) was used to look at the grain morphology of the sintered samples and X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) (Siemens Ltd Model: D500) was used to investigate their crystallisation and phase structure. Silver conductive paint (RS limited) was used to electrode the pellets, and electrical poling at  $6.5\ \text{kV/mm}$  for 10 min at RT in silicone oil was carried out using a Keithley (6517 Electrometer/high resistance) dc power supply. Dielectric measurements were made using an impedance analyser (Wayne kerr Electronics Ltd. Model 3245 and Hewlett Packard HP4092A)) over a temperature range from RT to  $150^\circ\text{C}$  in

a frequency range of 0.1 - 10 kHz. Pyroelectric measurements were made using the Byer-Roundy <sup>[16]</sup> method on a custom-built computer controlled rig which used a thermoelectric heater to ramp the temperature between 20°C and 90°C under vacuum and the pyroelectric current was collected with a Keithley electrometer (Model 6217). Dielectric and pyroelectric data was then used to study the phase changes such as depolarization temperatures ( $T_d$ ), and to determine figure of merit values  $F_i$ ,  $F_v$ ,  $F_D$  and  $F_C$ .

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Effects of $La^{3+}$ on microstructure

Fig.1 (a) shows X-ray diffraction patterns of the La-doped NBT-0.06BT ceramic pellets sintered at 1150 °C for 2 hrs. All samples showed a pure perovskite structure ( $ABO_3$ ), indicating that the NBT-0.06BT lattices have absorbed the  $La^{3+}$  content forming a new solid solution, NBT-0.06BT-xLa <sup>[4,12,13,17-19]</sup>

Lattice parameters (Å) and c/a ratio of all the samples are given in Table 1. Table 1 shows that the lattice parameters “a = b” and “c” are affected by  $La^{3+}$  doped. The c/a ratio shows that Sample B has the lowest ratio among all the samples.  $La^{3+}$  can substitute A-site ions in NBT-0.06BT due to the radius similarity according to the Shannon radii <sup>[12,13,20-24]</sup>.

Fig.1 (b) shows that a split of the peak [111] into [003] and [021] at 39.0° to 41.0° for all the samples as shown in undoped NBT <sup>[3,21,25,26]</sup>, indicating the existence of rhombohedral phase. Another split was observed in [200] into [200] and [002] at 46.0° - 48.0°, which indicates the existence of tetragonal phase in NBT lattice (Fig. 1(c)). The coexistence of rhombohedral and tetragonal phases in NBT-0.06BT-xLa ceramics verifies that all the compositions are at morphotropic phase boundary (MPB) region. The coexistence of rhombohedral and tetragonal in NBT-xBT at  $x = 0.06-0.07$  was reported in literature <sup>[4,20,22,27]</sup>. Therefore, the NBT-0.06BT-xLa phase structure (Sample A-D) is consistent with that reported in literature <sup>[15, 22, 24, 28, 29]</sup>.

Fig. 2 exhibits the SEM morphology of all the NBT-0.06BT-xLa ceramic samples. Sample A presents a quite dense structure with a few visible pores. The structures of Samples B, C, and D become denser and no obvious pores can be identified. Sample A presents two distinguishable grain shapes, rod and granule in a wide range of sizes. However, after  $\text{La}^{3+}$  doping, the granules disappeared and only rods with different sizes existed. The average grain size varies with  $\text{La}^{3+}$  content and shows a sharp increase firstly from  $1.78 \mu\text{m}$  ( $x = 0.0 \%$ ) to  $2.85 \mu\text{m}$  ( $x = 0.2 \%$ ) then slightly decrease to  $2.71 \mu\text{m}$  ( $x = 0.5 \%$ ) then further to  $2.59 \mu\text{m}$  ( $x = 1.0 \%$ ). Sample B presents the biggest grain size among all other samples.  $\text{La}^{3+}$  enhances the growth of NBT-0.06BT-xLa grains when it substitutes  $\text{Na}^+$ , resulting in A-site vacancies in order to keep charge balance. Generally, the creation of the A-site vacancies is quite beneficial for the mass transportation. This mass transport might be responsible for boosting the grain growth in the NBT-0.06BT-xLa with increasing  $\text{La}^{3+}$  concentration <sup>[12,25]</sup>.

The densities of Samples B, C, and D ( $5.841$ ,  $5.785$ , and  $5.845 \text{ gm.cm}^{-3}$ ), respectively) are quite similar but higher than that of Sample A ( $5.757 \text{ gm.cm}^{-3}$ ). The higher densities of the doped samples are supported by the SEM pictures (Fig. 2).

### ***3.2 Effects of $\text{La}^{3+}$ on dielectric properties***

Fig. 3 shows the temperature dependence of dielectric properties of poled NBT-0.06BT-xLa, from RT up to  $150^\circ\text{C}$  at 1, 10, and 100 kHz.

The undoped sample shows a relative permittivity ( $\epsilon_r$ ) value of  $\sim 400$  at RT and 1 kHz (Fig. 3 a) whereas the doped samples present higher  $\epsilon_r$  values of  $600 - 700$  (Fig.3 b to d). The  $\epsilon_r$  of all the samples increased with temperature, which is typical for ferroelectric materials <sup>[28]</sup>. The relative permittivity against temperature demonstrates an obvious declining (Fig 4(a)). This declining temperature starts at  $\sim 70$ ,  $\sim 69$  and  $\sim 30^\circ\text{C}$  for  $x = 0.2$ ,  $0.5$  and  $1.0 \%$ , respectively but it was not identified for Sample A, (Fig4 (a)) although there is evidence that it may be outside the temperature measurement window. These temperatures are so close to the

temperatures where their dielectric losses ( $\tan\delta$ ) show the maximum values which are around 75, 70, and 25 °C for samples B, C, and D, respectively (Fig 4(b)). These temperature values can be identified as depolarization temperatures ( $T_d$ ) (Fig 4(b)). The  $\epsilon_r$  values for doped samples at  $T_d$ , (1 kHz) are around 650 for Sample C and ~700 for Samples B, D. Sample D shows the highest relative permittivity value ~1300 at 150 °C, at which it was around 850 for sample A.

The increase in  $\epsilon_r$  for doped samples with temperature is because the lattice deformation due to the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  substitution to  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ . This deformation was identified by XRD (Table 1), which makes the ferroelectric domains re-orientating easier during the poling process. Bismuth in NBT-xBT volatiles at high temperature resulting in a higher conductivity or increasing the leakage currents [21]. As a result,  $\text{La}^{3+}$  addition to NBT-0.06BT leads to the increase of  $\epsilon_r$  values [12,25].  $\text{La}^{3+}$  can also substitute  $\text{Na}^+$ , which behaves as a donor, resulting in A-site vacancies and the increase of  $\epsilon_r$  [12,29].

Dielectric losses ( $\tan\delta$ ) of the doped samples are quite similar, which are between 0.055-0.06 at RT and 1 kHz, higher than the undoped sample (~0.04). Also the  $\tan\delta$  increased with temperature up to a certain value depending on the dopant content and then decreased. The maximum dielectric loss was observed at  $T_d$ , which is ~0.07, ~0.065, and ~0.055 for Samples B, C, and D respectively while it is around 0.05 for Sample A.

### **3.3 Effects of dopant $\text{La}^{3+}$ on depolarization temperature**

The  $T_d$  represents one of the important parameters in the pyroelectric study. It has a few definitions, and one of them is the phase transition temperature from ferroelectric (*FE*) to anti-ferroelectric (*AFE*) or to relaxor anti-ferroelectric (*relaxor-AFE*) phases [19,26,30–36].

In this study, the  $T_d$  were identified by two methods: 1. Dielectric method, the temperature at dielectric peak (Fig. 4 (a, and b)); 2. Pyroelectric method, the temperature at pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) peak (Fig. 5) [13]

The dielectric (permittivity& loss) vs temperature plots in Fig.4 reveal that  $T_d$  decreased from 115 °C (Sample A) to around 25 °C ~ 30 °C (Sample D) (Fig. 4 (a and b)), which is in agreement with the literature [25,35,37,38]. The  $T_d$  values identified from dielectric permittivity for the doped samples are slightly higher than or equal to the  $T_d$  identified from the dielectric loss ( $\tan\delta$ ) curves (Fig.4 (b)).

$T_d$  can also be obtained from the ultimate pyroelectric coefficient values. It is known that the maximum  $p$  can be achieved at the phase transition temperature [20,26,32,35,37,39–42]. The  $T_d$  values identified by this method show a reduction in  $T_d$  from > 90 °C to ~ 67.9, ~ 73.5, and ~ 46.8 °C for Samples B-D respectively (Fig. 5). Sample C shows an abnormal  $T_d$  which is 6.0 °C higher than the  $T_d$  of Sample B as it should shift to lower temperature with increasing the dopant content (Fig. 5). The exact depolarization temperature could not be identified for Sample A by this method due to the maximum temperature of the equipment being at 90 °C (Fig 5).

The reason that  $T_d$  shifts to lower temperature with the increase of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  content might be because  $\text{La}^{3+}$  (1.36 Å) is larger than  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ (1.31 Å). Generally, doping A-site of NBT-0.06BT with larger elements will shift  $T_d$  to lower temperature. Therefore, doping Sr, La and other elements in NBT-0.06BT [20,26,42–45] leads the  $T_d$  to lower temperatures, whereas, doping NBT-0.06BT with smaller elements such as  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ (0.912 Å) [45–47] shifts the  $T_d$  value to higher temperature [45,46,48].

### **3.3 Effects of $\text{La}^{3+}$ on pyroelectric properties**

The pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) represents an important parameter for selecting the material for pyroelectric applications but improving the performance of a pyroelectric material cannot be achieved by only increasing the  $p$  value. Figure of merit ( $FOM$ ) is another important parameter to be taken into account [13,21].

There are several types of FOMs depending on the special pyroelectric applications such as infrared or thermal imaging [12,18,25].



In this study, the pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) of NBT-0.06BT- $x$ La,  $0.0 \leq x \leq 1.0$  (%) was measured at RT and at 90 °C for Sample A or  $T_d$  for Samples (B, C, and D). The calculations of FOMs were calculated using Equations (2- 6) [4, 15, 17]:

$$I_p = pA \frac{dT}{dt} \quad (2)$$

$$F_i = \frac{p}{C_v} \quad (3)$$

$$F_v = \frac{p}{C_v \epsilon_o \epsilon_r} \quad (4)$$

$$F_D = \frac{p}{C_v \sqrt{\epsilon_o \epsilon_r} \tan \delta} \quad (5)$$

$$F_c = \frac{p}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}} \quad (6)$$

where  $T$  is absolute temperature,  $t$  the time,  $p$  the pyroelectric coefficient,  $I_p$  the pyroelectric current,  $F_i$  the FOM of the high current ( $i$ ) detectivity,  $F_v$  the FOM of the high voltage ( $v$ ) detectivity,  $F_D$  the FOM of the high and specific detectivity,  $F_c$  the FOM of the infrared detector materials,  $C_v^*$  the specific heat ( $2.8 \text{ JK}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-3}$ , quoted from [13]),  $\epsilon_r$  the relative dielectric permittivity and  $\epsilon_o$  the permittivity of free space.

Fig. 5 shows the change of  $p$  with temperature for NBT-0.06BT- $x$ La from 20 to 90 °C. Sample C ( $x = 0.5\%$ ) shows the highest  $p$  at RT. Samples B and C show similar profiles differentiated only by their own relative  $T_d$  values which coincide with the maximum observed  $p$  values for the samples. The  $T_d$  value for Sample A clearly lies outside the measurement window so it is difficult to comment on its likely profile. Sample D presents quite different profile with a broad shape; however, it shows the  $T_d$ , without distinguishable sharp peak. This profile may link to its structure and polarization states. Sample D composition is located at MPB. With the increase of temperature, the structure and polarization states possibly changed from rhombohedral and

tetragonal co-existing (MPB) ferroelectric to tetragonal ferroelectric and then to tetragonal antiferroelectric or relaxer. This phase transition may give the profile of the pyroelectric coefficient a broad and flat shape.

Pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) and FOMs  $F_i$ ,  $F_v$ , and  $F_D$  values for all the samples at RT are listed in Table 2 and at 90 °C or  $T_d$  in Table 3.

The  $p$  increased from Samples A to D at RT and a huge increase at  $T_d$ . Sample C has the highest  $p$  value at RT while Sample B at  $T_d$ , which probably links to the microstructure change of these samples. The calculation of  $c/a$  ratio reveals that Sample C has a higher ratio which means that Sample C has more tetragonality in its structure than Sample B at RT (Table 1).

The huge increase in  $p$  at  $T_d$  may be attributed to the positive correlation between  $p$  and pyroelectric current ( $I_p$ ), which reaches the maximum at  $T_d$  [18]. The large  $p$  values obtained at  $T_d$  are most likely related to a phase transition. The  $T_d$  coincides with the phase transition temperature. At RT and at  $T_d$ , the  $p$  values for Samples B and C are higher than those of PZT and other lead-free ceramic compositions (Tables 2 and 3) [5,20,35,39].

The  $F_i$  and  $F_v$  values show an increase from Samples A to D at RT and a large increase at  $T_d$  due to their large  $p$  values. Comparing the  $F_i$  and  $F_v$  values with those of PZT and other lead-free ceramic compositions at RT, the La-doped NBT-0.06BT samples have higher  $F_i$  and  $F_v$  (Tables 2 and 3).

$F_D$  values of all doped samples at RT and 90 °C or  $T_d$  show worse values. The lower  $F_D$  values for doped samples may be related to the higher values of both relative permittivity and the dielectric loss which are higher than the undoped sample, though pyroelectric coefficient values of Samples B, C, and D were quite higher than Sample A value.

The  $F_C$  values of NBT-0.06BT-xLa at RT and at 33, 100, 1000 (Hz) were calculated. Generally, the materials suitable for infrared detectors should have the FC threshold value at  $\sim 3 \pm 1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{C}^{-1}$  [14]. The composition of Sample C presents  $F_C$  values  $2.10 \pm 0.380, 2.89$

$\pm 0.398$ , and  $2.98 \pm 0.205$  ( $\times 10^{-9}$  C.cm<sup>-2</sup>. °C<sup>-1</sup>) at RT and at 33, 100, 1000 (Hz) respectively, which are suitable for infrared detectors. However, Samples A, B, and D show the  $F_C$  values less than the threshold value. Rodríguez-Ruiz et al <sup>[14]</sup>, investigated the pyroelectric coefficient of 0.935Na0.5Bi0.5TiO3-0.065BaTiO3 ceramics and calculated the  $F_C$  of this material which equals to  $1.44 \times 10^{-9}$  C.cm<sup>-2</sup>. °C<sup>-1</sup>, which is also lower than the threshold value. The high  $F_C$  values for Sample C in this work are due to the high  $p$  and the lower relative permittivity at RT.

#### **4. Conclusion**

La-doped lead-free NBT-0.06BT ceramics were prepared using a conventional solid state technique. The pyroelectric properties of these compositions were investigated and compared with undoped NBT-0.06BT and other lead-free materials including PZT.

All compositions were found being at the morphotropic phase boundary area. The values of lattice parameters and  $c/a$  ratio slightly changed with increasing the dopant content. The average grain size, relative permittivity ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and dielectric loss ( $\tan\delta$ ) increase with La content. The  $T_d$  was identified by two different ways and decreases from  $\sim 115$  °C in NBT-0.06BT to RT and 46.8 °C in 1.0 % La-doped NBT-0.06BT, according to the dielectric and pyroelectric coefficient methods respectively.

Samples B and C show the optimum  $p$ ,  $F_i$  and  $F_v$  values at RT and at  $T_d$  respectively. Sample C shows  $F_C$  values of 2.10, 2.89, and 2.98 ( $\times 10^{-9}$  C.cm<sup>-2</sup>. °C<sup>-1</sup>) at RT at 33, 100 and 1000 (Hz) respectively which are suitable for infrared detectors. The results presented in this study demonstrate that NBT-0.06BT-xLa ( $0.2\% \leq x \leq 0.5\%$ ) ceramics are promising materials for infrared detectors and other pyroelectric applications in a wide temperature range.

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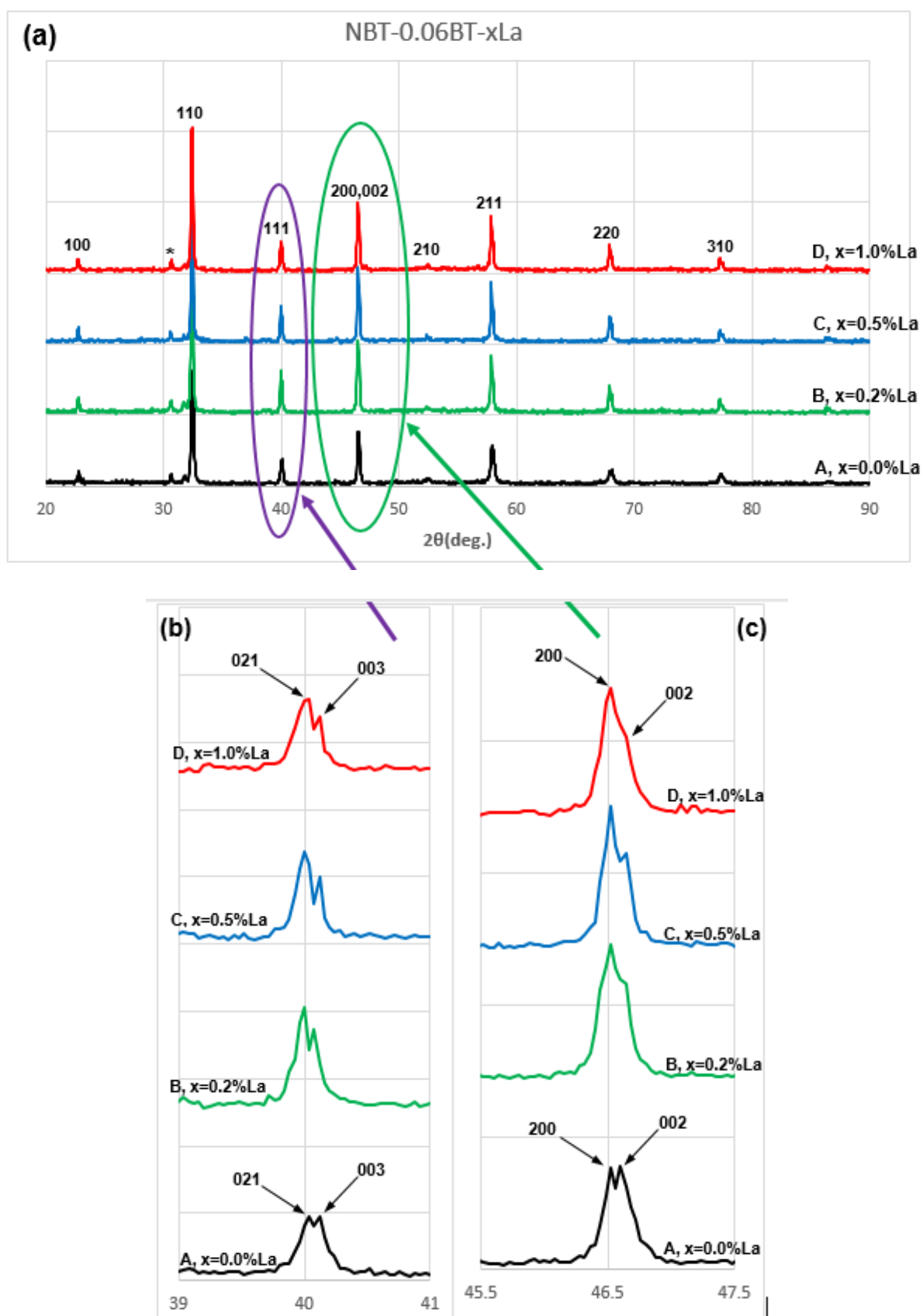
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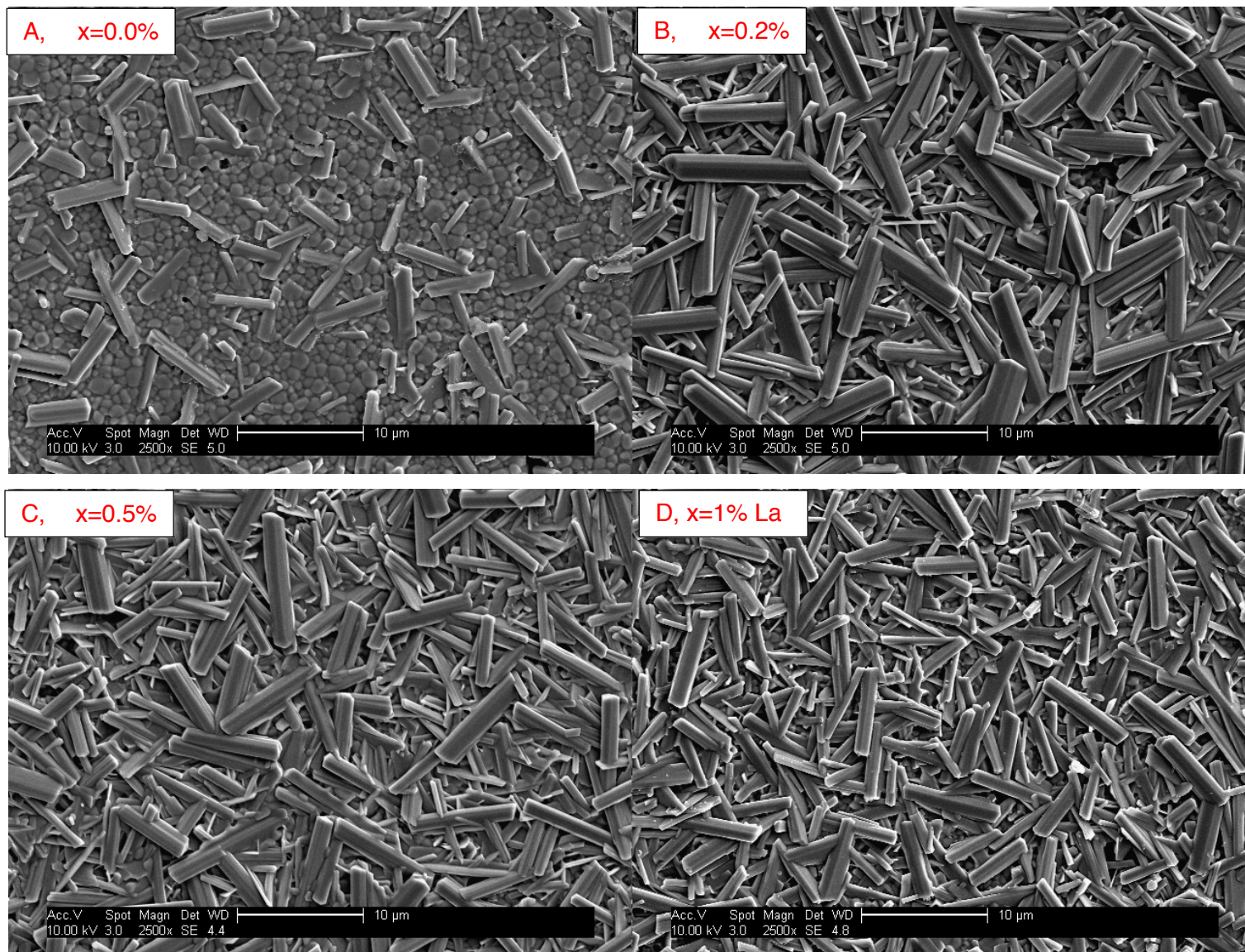


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**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

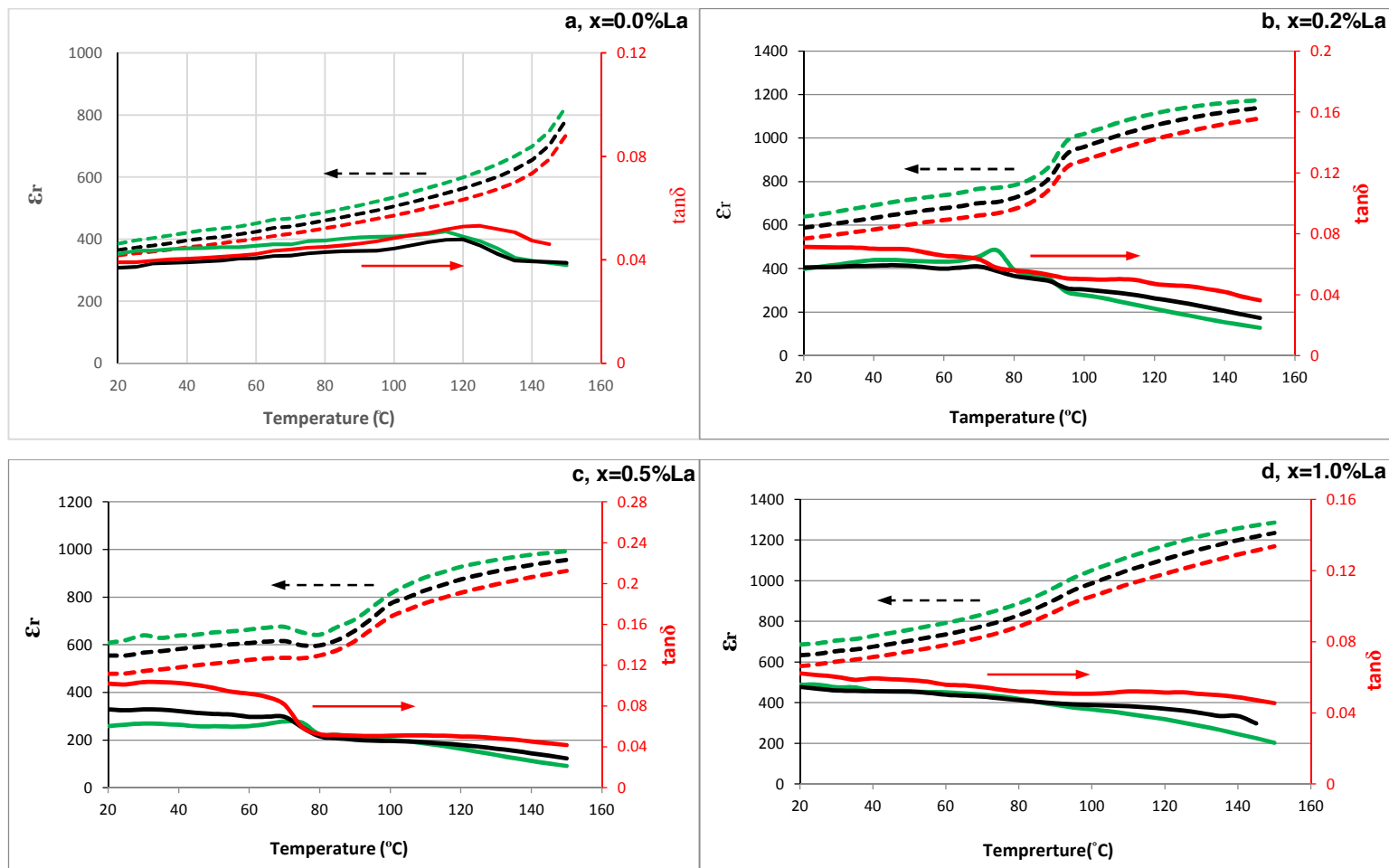
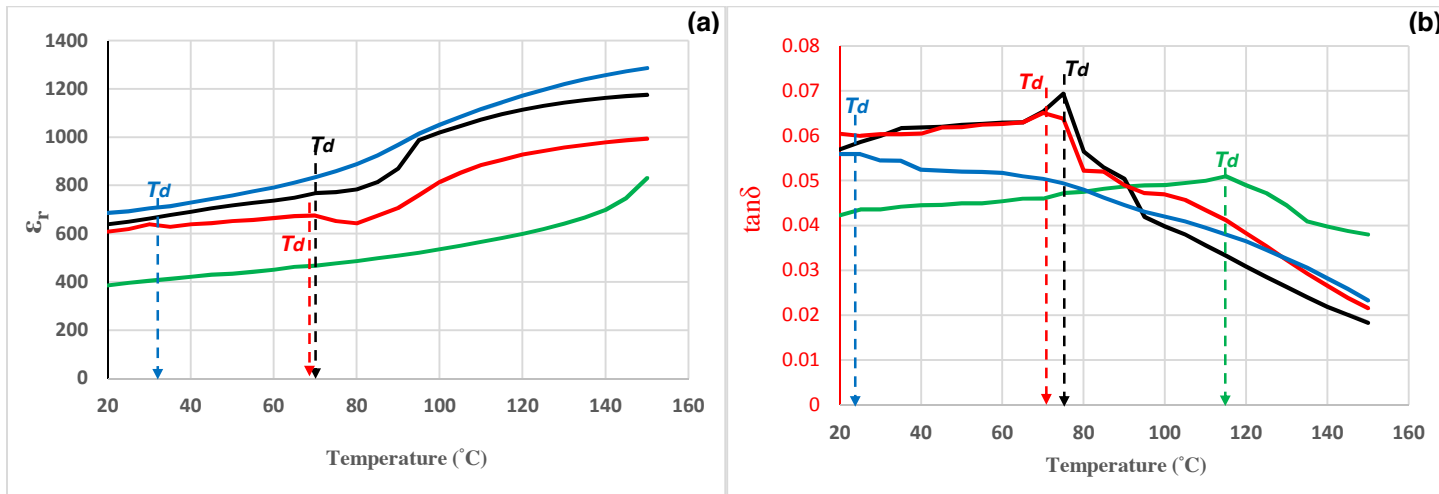
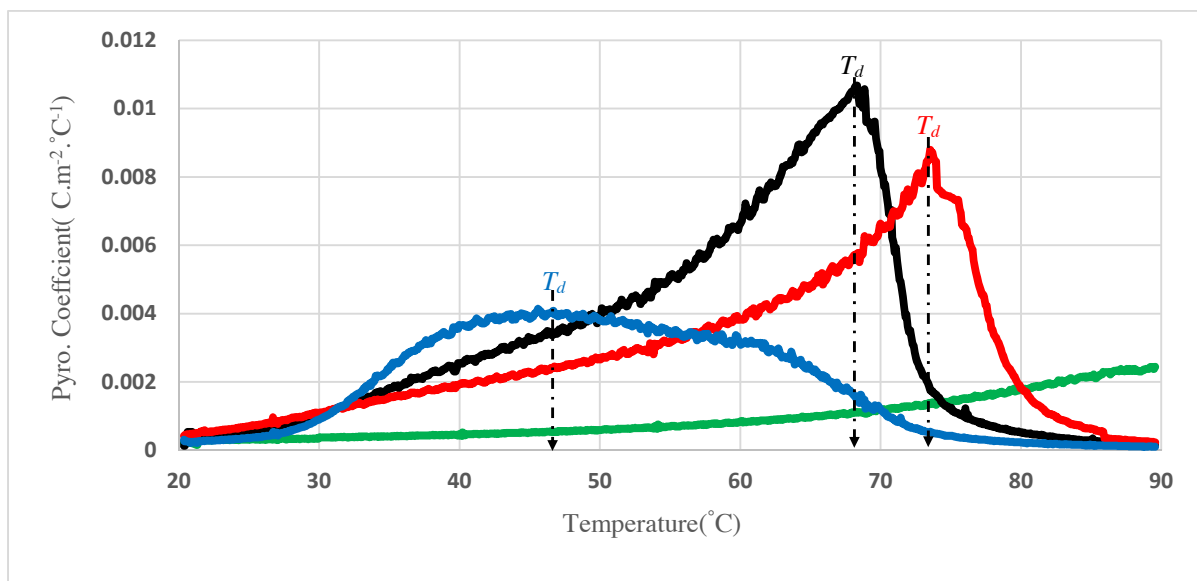


Figure 3



**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**

NBT-0.06BT-xLa, <b>sample name</b>	Lattice parameter (Å)		c/a ratio
	a	c	
NBT-0.0BT, <b>A</b>	5.5113	13.4744	2.4449
NBT-0.0BT-0.002La, <b>B</b>	5.5178	13.4558	2.4386
NBT-0.0BT-0.005La, <b>C</b>	5.5048	13.5061	2.4535
NBT-0.0BT-0.01La, <b>D</b>	5.4876	13.5114	2.4622

Table 1



Composition	$p \times 10^{-4} (C.m^{-2}.^{\circ}C^{-1})$ at $RT$	$F_i \times 10^{-10} (m.V^{-1})$ at $RT$	$F_v (m^2.C^{-1})$ at f. 1kHz at $RT$	$F_D \times 10^{-6} (Pa^{-1/2})$ at f. 1kHz at $RT$	References
NBT-0.06BT	$2.14 \pm 0.215$	$1.12 \pm 0.437$	$0.021 \pm 0.128$	$9.08 \pm 0.310$	This study
NBT-0.06BT-0.002La	$5.15 \pm 0.331$	$1.84 \pm 0.275$	$0.032 \pm 0.440$	$1.0 \pm 0.115$	This study
NBT-0.06BT-0.005La	$7.42 \pm 0.477$	$2.65 \pm 0.229$	$0.048 \pm 0.439$	$1.4 \pm 0.398$	This study
NBT-0.06BT-0.01La	$3.60 \pm 0.430$	$1.28 \pm 0.391$	$0.021 \pm 0.385$	$1.4 \pm 0.117$	This study
PZT	4.14	1.415	0.008	9.01	5,17
NBT-0.07BZT	5.7	2.03	0.0218	10.5	5,17
NBT-0.06BT-0.2Mn	3.5	-	-	-	33
BNKBT	3.25	1.95	0.026	13.43	5,17
KNLNTS	1.9	0.931	0.007	11.5	5,17
NKLBT-0.05BT	3.6	1.27	0.017	-	39

Table 2

Composition	$p \times 10^{-4} (C.m^{-2}.^{\circ}C^{-1})$ at $90^{\circ}C$ or $T_d$	$F_i \times 10^{-10} (m.V^{-1})$ at $90^{\circ}C$ or $T_d$	$F_v (m^2.C^{-1})$ at f. 1kHz at $90^{\circ}C$ or $T_d$	$F_D \times 10^{-6} (Pa^{-1/2})$ at f. 1kHz at $90^{\circ}C$ or $T_d$	References
NBT-0.06BT	$23.9 \pm 0.179$ at $90^{\circ}C$	$8.6 \pm 0.416$ at $90^{\circ}C$	$0.19 \pm 0.232$ at $90^{\circ}C$	$65.5 \pm 0.271$ at $90^{\circ}C$	This study
NBT-0.06BT-0.002La	$105.4 \pm 0.320$ at $67.9^{\circ}C$	$37.6 \pm 0.418$ at $67.9^{\circ}C$	$0.56 \pm 0.251$ at $67.9^{\circ}C$	$18.2 \pm 0.210$ at $67.9^{\circ}C$	This study
NBT-0.06BT-0.005La	$86.1 \pm 0.190$ at $73.5^{\circ}C$	$30.8 \pm 0.385$ at $73.5^{\circ}C$	$0.52 \pm 0.249$ at $73.5^{\circ}C$	$15.8 \pm 0.122$ at $73.5^{\circ}C$	This study
NBT-0.06BT-0.01La	$40.6 \pm 0.431$ at $46.8^{\circ}C$	$14.5 \pm 0.189$ at $46.8^{\circ}C$	$0.22 \pm 0.338$ at $46.8^{\circ}C$	$7.8 \pm 0.138$ at $46.8^{\circ}C$	This study
NBT-0.07BZT	$20.0$ at $50^{\circ}C$	$7.33$ at $50^{\circ}C$	$0.066$ at $50^{\circ}C$	$33.6$ at $50^{\circ}C$	5,17
NBT-0.07BZT	$22.1$ at $87^{\circ}C$	-	-	-	5,17

Table 3

## Figures and tables caption:

### Figures:

Figure 1: (a) X-ray diffraction patterns of NBT-0.06BT-xLa  $0.0 \leq x \leq 1.0$  %; (b) enlargement of splitting [111] peak into [003] and [021] at  $39.0^\circ$  to  $41.0^\circ$ ; (c) enlargement of splitting [200] peak into [200] and [002] at  $46.0^\circ$  to  $48.0^\circ$ . \* Unidentified peak.

Figure 2: SEM surface morphology of the NBT-0.06BT-xLa  $0.0 \leq x \leq 1.0$  (%) ceramics.

Figure 3: Relative permittivity ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and loss tangent ( $\tan\delta$ ) vs temperature for NBT-0.06BT-xLa. a:  $x = 0.0$  %; b:  $x = 0.2$  %; c:  $x = 0.5$  % and d:  $x = 1.0$  %, at three different frequencies (1, 10 and 100) kHz, where ---  $\epsilon_r-1$  ---  $\epsilon_r-10$  ---  $\epsilon_r-100$  —  $\tan\delta-1$  —  $\tan\delta-10$  —  $\tan\delta-100$

Figure 4: (a) the change of the relative permittivity ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and (b) the loss tangent ( $\tan\delta$ ) against temperature ( $^\circ\text{C}$ ) for NBT-0.06BT-xLa,  $0.0 \leq x \leq 1.0$  %, from room temperature (RT) up to  $150^\circ\text{C}$  at 1 KHz and  $T_d$  values of all samples where — Sample A — Sample B — Sample C — Sample D

Figure 5: Pyroelectric coefficient ( $p$ ) vs temperature ( $^\circ\text{C}$ ) for the NBT-0.06BT-xLa ceramics,  $0.0 \leq x \leq 1.0$  (%), where,

— Sample A — Sample B — Sample C — Sample D

## Tables:

Table 1: The lattice parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ), and  $c/a$  ratio for NBT-0.06BT and NBT-0.06BT-xLa (%) compositions.

Table 2: The pyroelectric coefficient and FOM  $F_i$ ,  $F_v$ , and  $F_D$  results at room temperature ( $RT$ ) in this study and in literature.

Table 3: The pyroelectric coefficient and FOM  $F_i$ ,  $F_v$  and  $F_D$  results at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  or depolarization temperature ( $T_d$ ) in this study and in literature.

# Enhancement of pyroelectric properties of lead-free $0.94\text{Na}0.5\text{Bi}0.5\text{TiO}3-0.06\text{BaTiO}3$ ceramics by La doping

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2016-12-13

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Balakt AM, Shaw CP, Zhang Q. Enhancement of pyroelectric properties of lead-free  $0.94\text{Na}0.5\text{Bi}0.5\text{TiO}3-0.06\text{BaTiO}3$  ceramics by La doping. *Journal of the European Ceramic Society*, Volume 37, Issue 4, April 2017, pp. 1459-1466

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