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Damping constant, dielectric susceptibility, inverse relaxation time and the activation energy calculated as a function of temperature from the Raman frequency for the rhombohedral-tetragonal phase transition in BaCeO₃

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Abstract

Temperature dependences of the damping constant (half width at half maximum), dielectric susceptibility, inverse relaxation time and the activation energy using the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes are calculated in the ferroelectric phase ($T < T_C$) of BaCeO₃. Raman frequencies of these modes are related to the order parameter (spontaneous polarization) to calculate their damping constants using the pseudospinphonon coupled model and the energy fluctuation model for the orthorhombic-tetragonal transition in BaCeO₃ (T_C = 427 K). Our calculated values of the damping constant from both models are in good agreement with the observed data. The inverse relaxation time of the studied Raman modes is predicted using the calculated values of the damping constant from both models (PS and EF) and the values of the order parameter (squared). Dielectric susceptibility is also predicted through the observed frequencies of those Raman modes by using the Landau phenomenological theory. The values of the activation energy are also extracted from the damping constant as calculated from both models using the Raman modes studied in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃.

Keywords: Damping constant, dielectric susceptibility, inverse relaxation time, activation energy, BaCeO₃.

BaCeO3'in rhombohedral-tetragonal faz geçişi için Raman frekansından sıcaklığın bir işlevi olarak hesaplanan sönüm sabiti, dielektrik duyarlılık, ters gevşeme zamanı ve aktivasyon enerjisi

Özet

BaCeO₃ kristalinin ferroelektrik fazında ($T < T_C$), 110 cm⁻¹ ve 125 cm⁻¹ Raman kiplerini kullanarak sönüm katsayısı, dielektrik duyarlılık, ters gevşeme zamanı ve aktivasyon enerji değerleri sıcaklığa bağlı olarak hesaplanmıştır. BaCeO₃ kristalinin ortorombik-tetragonal faz geçişinde (T_C = 427 K) sönüm katsayısı değerlerini hesaplamak için, sanki spin-fonon çiftlenim ve enerji dalgalanma modellerini kullanarak Raman frekans değerleri düzen parametresi (kendiliğinden polarizasyon) ile ilişkilendirilmiştir. Hesaplanan sönüm katsayı değerlerimiz, gözlemlenen verilerle iyi bir uyum içindedir. Çalışılan Raman kiplerinin ters gevşeme süresi, her iki modelden hesaplanan sönüm sabitinin değerleri ve kendiliğinden polarizasyon (karesi) değerleri kullanılarak öngörülmüştür. Dielektrik duyarlılıkta, Landau fenomenolojik teorisi kullanarak, gözlemlenen Raman frekansları aracılığıyla öngörülmüştür. BaCeO₃ kristalinin ferroelektrik fazında,

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çalışılan Raman kiplerini kullanarak her iki modelden hesaplanan sönüm sabitinden aktivasyon enerjisi değerleride çıkarılmıştır.

Anahtar sözcükler: Sönüm katsayısı, dielektrik duyarlılık, ters gevşeme süresi, aktivasyon enerji, BaCeO₃.

1. Introduction

As a member of perovskite type ferroelectrics, barium cerate (BaCeO₃) is an attractive material due to its potential applications in solid state fuel cells [1]. Acceptor-doped BaCeO₃ becomes a high temperature protonic conductor and it can be used as fuel elements also as hydrogen sensors [2]. Phase transitions in BaCeO₃ have not been understood totally yet. Very contradictory results have been reported for the structural phase transition temperatures for BaCeO₃ [3-5].

BaCeO₃ is orthorhombic at room temperature with a space group D_{2h} (Pbnm) with twenty atoms per unit cell [6]. As the temperature increases, structural phase transition from orthorhombic to tetragonal with a space group D_{4h}^5 (P 4/mbm) with ten atoms per unit cell at 427 K interpreted by Scherban et al. [3]. At higher temperatures, another structural phase transition was reported from tetragonal to cubic with a space group O_h^1 (Pm3m) with 5 atoms per unit cell Various experimental methods at 1112K [3]. including Raman spectroscopy [3,7], neutron diffraction [5,7], differential scanning calorimetry [8,9], x-ray powder diffraction [9] and dilatometry and electro-conductivity measurements [10] have been reported to understand the phase transition mechanism in BaCeO₃. Also, some theoretical works have been carried out. Namely, Hartree- Fock and density functional theory approaches [11], quantum molecular dynamic study [12], calculation of the various thermodynamic properties from the density of state (DOS) of phonon [13] and the activation energy calculation [14] were reported in the literature.

In this study, we calculated the values of the dielectric susceptibility χ^{-1} using the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes from the Landau phenomenological theory through the observed frequencies [3] in the ferroelectric phase $(T < T_c)$ of BaCeO₃ ($T_C = 427$ K). We used the pseudospinphonon coupled (PS) model [15] and the energy fluctuation (EF) model [16] to calculate the damping constant Γ (half width at half maximum) of those Raman modes studied for the orthorhombictetragonal transition in the ferroelectric phase of This calculation was performed by BaCeO₃. associating the Raman [3] frequencies of the modes studied with the order parameter (spontaneous polarization) of polycrystalline BaCeO₃. Additionally, we obtained the inverse relaxation time for the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes

using the damping constant calculated from both models (PS and EF) and the observed frequency data [3] below the transition temperature (T_C = 427 K) of BaCeO₃. Finally, the values of activation energy *U* using the Raman frequencies deduced through the calculated damping constant values from the PS and EF models in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃.

Below, in section 2 we give our calculations and results. Discussion and conclusions are given in sections 3 and 4, respectively.

2. Calculations and results

The temperature dependence of the order parameter (spontaneous polarization) squared (P^2) and the inverse dielectric susceptibility χ^{-1} using the frequencies of the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes in the ferroelectric phase (T<T_C) of BaCeO₃ can be calculated by means of the Landau phenomenological theory for the second order rhombohedral-tetragonal phase transition in BaCeO₃. The free energy *F* for BaCeO₃ can be expressed in terms of the order parameter *P*

$$F = a_0 + a_2 P^2 + a_4 P^4 + a_6 P^6 \tag{1}$$

where $a_2 = \alpha(T - T_c)$ with the constants of α , a_0 , a_4 and a_6 . *T* is the temperature while T_c is the transition temperature. The free energy *F* of the BaCeO₃, which is thermodynamically stable, becomes minimum in the ferroelectric phase (T< T_c). From the minimization condition dF/dP = 0, we found that

$$\frac{dF}{dP} = P[2a_2 + 4a_4P^2 + 6a_6P^4] = 0$$
(2)

This gives

$$P = 0 \text{ and } 2a_2 + 4a_4P^2 + 6a_6P^4 = 0 \tag{3}$$

as the solutions of Eq. 2. P = 0 (there is no ordering) corresponds to the paraelectric phase (T>T_C), and the solution for the second expression of Eq. 3 gives

$$P^{2} = \frac{a_{4}}{3a_{6}} \mp \frac{1}{3a_{6}} \sqrt{a_{4}^{2} - 3a_{2}a_{6}}$$
(4)

Under the conditions that $a_4 < 0$ and $a_6 > 0$, we found a positive *P* solution of Eq. 4 that defines the ferroelectric phase (T< T_C). The square root term in Eq. 4 can be approximated by using the binomial

expansion under the assumption that $a_2a_6/a_4^2 \ll 1$, so that the Eq. 4 becomes



Figure 1. Temperature dependence of the normalized (squared) frequency $\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_{max}}\right)^2$.

Table 1. Values of the ω_{max} of Eq. 9, the parameters α and a_4 according to the negative root of Eq. (5).

Raman modes			$\omega_{max} (\text{cm}^{-1})$	$-a_4$	
	110 cm	-1	109.3	1.850	1.216
125	127.9	2.111		1.168	

From the definition of the inverse dielectric susceptibility χ^{-1}

$$\chi^{-1} = \left(\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial P^2}\right) \tag{6}$$

its temperature dependence can be obtained as

$$\chi^{-1} = 2a_2 + 12a_4P^2 + 30a_6P^4 \tag{7}$$

By substitution of Eq. 5 into the Eq. 7, we found that

$$\chi^{-1} = \frac{15}{2} a_6 \left(\frac{\alpha (T - T_C)}{a_4} \right)^2 - 12\alpha (T - T_C) + \frac{16}{3} \frac{a_4^2}{a_6} \qquad (8)$$



Figure 2. Temperature dependence of the inverse dielectric susceptibility χ^{-1} .

The observed [3] Raman frequencies of these modes decrease with increasing temperature as the order parameter which is predicted from the mean field theory. Since the order parameter *P* can take any value between 0 and 1, we associated the observed [3] frequencies (ω) of the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes with the order parameter *P* according to,

$$\frac{\omega}{\omega_{\max}} \propto P \tag{9}$$

where ω_{max} is the maximum value of the Raman frequency. We analyzed the normalized observed frequencies $\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_{max}}\right)^2$ of the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes as a function $T - T_c$, which are plotted in Fig. 1 with the fitting parameters α and a_4 were extracted through the negative root of Eq. 5. Those fitting parameters are given in Table 1 in the temperature interval indicated. The coefficient a_6 was taken unity $(a_6 = 1)$. This is due to the fact that our solution of the spontaneous polarization P (Eq. 5) was based on the approximation $(a_2a_6/a_4^2 \ll 1)$ in order to simplify the solution by regarding very small values of α and almost -1 value of a_4 for the Raman modes (Table 1). We were unable to determine the fitting parameters α and a_4 separately by using the positive root of Eq. 5 since it just allowed us to find the ratio of $\frac{\alpha}{a_4}$. With these parameters (Table 1), we predicted the inverse dielectric susceptibility χ^{-1} using the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃ by Eq. 8 which are plotted in Fig. 2.

The PS model [15] and the EF model [16] can be used to calculate the damping constant (half width at half maximum) of the Raman modes studied for BaCeO₃. The temperature dependence of the damping constant is considered according to the PS model

$$\Gamma_{\rm SP} = \dot{\Gamma}_0 + \dot{A}(1 - P^2) \ln \left[\frac{T_{\rm C}}{T - T_{\rm C}(1 - P^2)} \right]$$
(10)

and using the EF model [16] as

$$\Gamma_{\rm SP} = \Gamma_0 + A \left[\frac{T(1-P^2)}{T-T_{\rm C}(1-P^2)} \right]^{1/2} \tag{11}$$

In Eqs. 10 and 11, f_0 and Γ_0 are the background damping constants and \dot{A} , A are the amplitudes. We used Eq. 9 to calculate the temperature dependence of the damping constant of the Raman modes from PS and EF models in Eqs. 10 and 11, respectively. We fitted Eqs. 10 and 11 to the observed damping constant data [3] to get the fitting parameters (f_0^{\prime} , Γ_0 , \dot{A} and A), as given in Table 2 for the indicated temperature ranges. Our calculated values of the damping constant from both models (PS and EF) for various temperatures of the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃ were given in Fig. 3. Observed data [3] were also given in this figure.

We also predicted values of the inverse relaxation time τ^{-1} of the Raman modes according to

$$\tau^{-1} = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{\Gamma} \tag{12}$$

Our predicted values of the inverse relaxation time τ^{-1} which were calculated through the Γ values from both models (Eqs. 10 and 11) and P^2 through Eq. 9 are plotted in Fig. 4 as a function of the $T - T_C$ in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃.

The values of the activation energy U can also be evaluated using the total linewidth Γ (damping constant) which was given previously [17-19],

$$\Gamma \cong \Gamma_{\rm vib} + \operatorname{Cexp}(-U/k_{\rm B}T) \tag{13}$$

where Γ_{vib} is the vibrational relaxation, k_B is the Boltzmann constant and *C* is a constant. The orientational motion of the CeO₆ octahedra in BaCeO₃ causes decrease in the linewidth of the highly energetic vibrational modes (vibrons) at temperatures T<T_C. Above the transition

temperature T_C of BaCeO₃, a broadening of the linewidth occurs. For the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ vibration modes with lower energies that we study here, a variation of the damping constant with temperature is relatively small when compared with vibrations in the vicinity of the transition temperature T_C . So, the activation energy *U* can be expressed as

$$\ln\Gamma_{\rm SP} \cong \ln \rm C - \rm U/k_B T \tag{14}$$



Figure 3. Damping constant Γ_{SP} (half width at half maximum) as a function of $T - T_c$. Experimental data [3] are also given.

Table 2. Values of the fitted parameters for the
damping constant Γ_{SP} of the Raman modes (110 cm ⁻¹
and 125 cm ^{-1}) using the experimental data [3]
according to the PS model (Eq. 10) and the EF
model (Eq. 11).

Raman	Γ́ ₀	Γ_0	Á	Α	Temperature
modes	0	-			Interval (K)
110 cm ⁻¹	2.36	22.2	2.28	3.56	-337.4<(T-T _C)<-
					173.2
	-	207.10	-	20.50	-173.2<(T-T _C)<-
	3.31		2.44		6.1
125 cm ⁻¹	2.48	43.82	2.40	6.57	-337.6<(T-T _C)<-
					173.4
	0.69	140.53	-	20.78	-76.1<(T-T _C)<-6.7
			0.99		

Table 3. Values of the activation energy U extracted from Eq. (14) for the Raman modes indicated by using the PS and EF models. k_BT_C value of BaCeO₃ is 37 meV.

Raman	U(meV)	С	U(meV)	С	Temperature
modes	PS	PS	EF	EF	Interval (K)
110 cm ⁻¹	27	13	30	15	186 <t<420< td=""></t<420<>
	40	19	47	26	253 <t<420< td=""></t<420<>
	86	76	91	99	352 <t<420< td=""></t<420<>
125 cm ⁻¹	35	24	34	24	188 <t<420< td=""></t<420<>
	50	40	51	41	253 <t<420< td=""></t<420<>
	84	111	83	106	350 <t<420< td=""></t<420<>

We extracted the activation energy U of the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes through Eq. 13 by using our calculated values of Γ from both models (Eqs. 10 and 11) below the transition temperature (T_C= 427 K) of BaCeO₃. Table 3 gives our calculated values of the activation energy U and the constant C in the temperature intervals indicated.

3. Discussion

We predicted the temperature dependence of the inverse dielectric susceptibility χ^{-1} of the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes of BaCeO₃ using the Landau theory for the orthorhombic-tetragonal transition below the transition temperature T_C (T_C= 427 K). For this prediction of the χ^{-1} (Eq. 8), we associated the observed Raman frequencies ω [3] with the order parameter *P* according to Eq. 9 and from a fitting procedure of the normalized observed frequency $\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_{max}}\right)^2$ with the reduced temperature $T - T_C$ (Fig. 1), we deduced the values of the α and a_4 (Table 1).

Using the relation between ω and P (Eq. 9), we calculated the damping constant (half width at half maximum) of the 110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃ through the PS and the EF models. As the temperature increases toward the transition temperature, the damping constant values calculated from the PS and EF models increase also. The pseudospin-phonon coupling, that is considered for both PS and EF models studied here, leads to the pseudospin waves [20]. This is interacted with all phonons in the crystal that causes to shortened their lifetimes and broadened the damping constant (damping constant is inversely proportional with the spin lattice relaxation time). In the ferroelectric phase $(T < T_{C})$ of BaCeO₃ due to the reorientation of the CeO_6 octahedra coupled with the phonons (pseudospinphonon coupling) according to the PS and EF models, the Raman intensities become intensed so that the damping constant (linewidth) decreases. As the temperature increased above T_C, the pseudospinphonon coupling weakened which causes the Raman intensities broaden. This leads to the broadening in

the linewidths or the increasing in the damping constant in BaCeO₃. Particularly, for the 110 cm Raman mode in the temperature interval of 89.6 < T(K) < 253.8 and for the 125 cm⁻¹ Raman mode in the temperature interval of 89.4<T(K)<253.6 the damping constant increased almost linearly while between the temperature interval of 352.2 < T(K) < 420.9 of the 110 cm⁻¹ Raman mode and between the temperature interval of 350.3 < T(K) < 420.3 of the 125 cm^{-1} Raman mode, the damping constant increased very rapidly (Fig. 3). There was no anomalous behavior for the damping constant calculated from both models (PS and EF) near the transition temperature which indicates a second order phase transition as pointed out previously [3]. As an extension of this work, we predicted the temperature dependence of the inverse relaxation time τ^{-1} of the Raman modes studied through Eq. (12) in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃.



Figure 4. Inverse relaxation time τ^{-1} of the Raman modes (110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹) as a function of the $T - T_C$.

We checked several references in the literature to compare our predictions of the inverse susceptibility (χ^{-1}) and inverse relaxation time (τ^{-1}) in the ferroelectric phase close to T_C for BaCeO₃. Unfortunately, due to the lack of experimental and theoretical data related with χ^{-1} and τ^{-1} , we could

not make any comparison. Since our calculated values of χ^{-1} and τ^{-1} were based on the experimental data for the Raman frequencies of the 110 and 125 cm⁻¹ modes [3], we expect that χ^{-1} vs. T-T_C (Fig. 2) and τ^{-1} vs. T-T_C (Fig. 4) should not be away from the experimental measurements.

Finally, we extracted the values of the activation energy U using the damping constants of the Raman modes of BaCeO₃ from both PS and EF models for various temperatures (Table 3). This calculation of the activation energy U was performed in terms of the Arrhenius plot $(ln\Gamma vs. 1/T)$ according to Eq. 14. The slope of this plot gave us the activation energy U and the intercept value C (Table 3). We compared our calculated values of the activation energy with the $k_B T_C$ value (37 meV). The extracted values of the activation energy increased as the temperature intervals were closer to the transition temperature T_{C} = 427 K. In particular, for the temperature interval of 352 K-420 K due to the 110 cm⁻¹ mode and for the temperature interval of 350 K-420 K using the cm⁻¹ mode, our calculated values of the 125 activation energy were almost three times larger than the $k_B T_C$ value (Table 3). This shows that the reasonable U values extracted from the damping constants of the 110 and 125 cm⁻¹ Raman modes, can be attained within a wider temperature range of 186<T(K)<420 using both models (PS and EF) in BaCeO₃.

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In our earlier works, we used the PS and EF models to explain the phase transition mechanism of $BaTiO_3$ [21], $PbZr_{1-x}Ti_xO_3$ [22], $SrZrO_3$ [23] and $LiNbO_3$ [24] in the vicinity of the phase transition temperatures. These two models provide an advantage to analyze the experimental data for the ferroelectric materials due to their simplicity.

4. Conclusions

The damping constant calculated from the PS and the EF models was fitted to the observed data using the Raman frequencies of the lattice modes (110 and 125 cm⁻¹) in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃. The damping constant calculated from the EF model agreed better than that calculated from the PS model when it was compared with the experimental data.

The inverse dielectric susceptibility and the inverse relaxation time were predicted as a function of temperature using the observed Raman frequencies (110 cm⁻¹ and 125 cm⁻¹) by the Landau theory in the ferroelectric phase of BaCeO₃. Both quantities decreased almost linearly as the temperature increased toward the transition temperature T_{c} .

The Values of the activation energy using the Raman modes of BaCeO₃ were also extracted, which are much greater than the k_BT_c value of this system.

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