

**PHASE DIAGRAM, AND STRUCTURAL AND ELECTRICAL  
PROPERTIES OF PYROCHLORES IN  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{ZnO}$ - $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  TERNARY  
SYSTEM**

**By**

**TAN KAR BAN**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of  
Philosophy**

**February 2007**

*For My Wonderful Papa, Mama, Brother and Lee Chuen*

*With Love*

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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PROPERTIES OF PYROCHLORES IN  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  TERNARY  
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**February 2007**

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A comprehensive investigation of phase diagram, structural and electrical properties of pyrochlores in  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  ternary system was presented. A thorough and complete literature review was carried out in order to gather background information on bismuth zinc niobate (BZN) phases and related materials. Thus, a better understanding in the phase formation, research problems, electrical and thermal properties of the investigated materials and their potential application is achieved.

BZN pyrochlores and related materials were prepared via conventional solid state reaction at sintering temperatures ranging from 700 °C to 1200 °C using high purity oxides. Analysis and characterization were performed using a combination of techniques including diffraction, microscopy, spectroscopy, thermal analysis and physical property measurements. X-ray diffraction (XRD) was used for phase identity and purity determination. Detailed analysis was carried out on single phase materials. The surface structure and morphology were characterized using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Structural analysis was carried out using Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), Raman spectroscopy and

Rietveld refinement using neutron and X-ray diffraction data. Electrical properties were determined by a.c impedance spectroscopy in the frequency range of 5 Hz to 13 MHz and temperature range of  $\sim 28$  °C to 850 °C. Differential thermal analysis (DTA) and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) were employed to study thermal properties. Other analysis such as inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) and density measurement were carried out on selected samples.

A complete phase diagram including two solid solution areas for cubic and monoclinic phases in BZN ternary system has been constructed. The cubic pyrochlore solid solutions do not include the so-called ideal composition P,  $\text{Bi}_3\text{Zn}_2\text{Nb}_3\text{O}_{14}$ . It may be described in terms of two compositional variables: ZnO deficiency compared to P together with variable Bi: Nb ratio with general formula,  $\text{Bi}_{3+y}\text{Zn}_{2-x}\text{Nb}_{3-y}\text{O}_{14-x-y}$ :  $-0.11(1) \leq y \leq 0.14(1)$  and  $-0.03(1) \leq x \leq 0.31(1)$ .

Selected BZN materials have been characterized by a.c impedance spectroscopy. These materials exhibited excellent dielectric properties: permittivity,  $\epsilon' = \sim 80$ -100, dielectric loss ( $\tan \delta$ ) =  $\sim 0.002$  - 0.009 and temperature coefficient,  $T_{cc} = \sim 400$  ppm/°C, at  $\sim 28$  °C in the frequency region of  $1 \times 10^5$  Hz. Chemical doping was carried out in order to elucidate relative ability of cubic pyrochlore  $\text{Bi}_3\text{Zn}_{1.84}\text{Nb}_3\text{O}_{13.84}$  to accommodate various dopants in forming new solid solutions and in the search for better performance materials. However, chemically doped BZN materials did not show extensive solid solutions limit or significant improvement in electrical properties.

In conclusion two structurally related phases i.e. cubic and monoclinic phases exist in the BZN ternary system. These materials display interesting electrical properties: the cubic phase, P has a large negative temperature coefficient of permittivity while the monoclinic phase, M has a positive value for the temperature dependency. Given the opposite signs of the temperature coefficients of these phases, it may be possible to make composites of P and M so as to achieve controllable or almost zero temperature coefficient of capacitance (TCC) values. In addition both of these phases have high dielectric constants. Hence, these materials have potential applications in high frequency multilayer devices including LC filters and low temperature, co-fired ceramic, LTCC system.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**GAMBARAJAH FASA, DAN SIFAT STRUKTUR DAN ELEKTRIK BAGI  
PYROCHLORES DALAM SISTEM TERNARI  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$**

Oleh  
**Tan Kar Ban**

**Februari 2007**

**Pengerusi: Profesor Zulkarnain Zainal, PhD**

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Penyelidikan mengenai gambarajah fasa, struktur dan sifat elektrik dalam sistem ternari  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  telah dipersembahkan. Sorotan literatur yang lengkap dan meluas telah dilakukan untuk pengumpulan maklumat-maklumat yang penting. Justeru itu, pemahaman yang menyeluruh mengenai pembentukan fasa, masalah penyelidikan, sifat terma dan elektrik dalam bahan yang dikaji dapat dicapai.

Bahan-bahan dalam sistem  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  (BZN) telah disediakan melalui tindak balas keadaan pepejal dengan penggunaan bahan mentah berketulenan tinggi di bawah suhu sintesis 700-1200 °C. Analisis dan pencirian telah dibuat melalui gabungan pembelauan, mikroskopik, spektroskopik, analisis terma dan pengukuran sifat fizikal. Pembelauan sinar-X (XRD) digunakan untuk penentuan identiti dan ketulenan fasa. Analisis yang selanjutnya dilakukan pada bahan yang berfasa tunggal. Struktur permukaan dan morfologi dikaji secara spektroskopi imbasan electron (SEM). Manakala, analisis struktur dilengkapi dengan penggunaan spektroskopi inframerah transformasi Fourier (FT-IR), spektroskopi Raman dan Refimen Rietveld yang menggunakan data neutron dan XRD. Sifat

elektrik telah ditentukan dengan spektrokopi impedans ac dalam frekuensi 5 Hz – 13 MHz. Analisis pembezaan terma (DTA) dan analisis thermogravimetri (TGA) digunakan untuk kajian sifat terma. Analisis-analisis yang lain termasuk plasma aruhan kedua-dua-spektroskopi penyebaran atom (ICP-AES) dan pengukuran ketumpatan telah dilakukan pada sampel yang selektif.

Gambarajah fasa yang lengkap merangkumi dua kawasan larutan pepejal bagi kubik dan monoklinik dalam sistem ternari BZN telah dilukiskan. Komposisi unggul P,  $\text{Bi}_3\text{Zn}_2\text{Nb}_3\text{O}_{14}$  didapati tidak termasuk dalam larutan pepejal kubik. Secara keseluruhan, kawasan larutan pepejal kubik dapat diwakili dengan dua pembolehubah: Pengurangan ZnO daripada P dan variasi Bi:Nb dengan satu formula am,  $\text{Bi}_{3+y}\text{Zn}_{2-x}\text{Nb}_{3-y}\text{O}_{14-x-y}$ :  $-0.11(1) \leq y \leq 0.14(1)$  dan  $-0.03(1) \leq x \leq 0.31(1)$ .

Bahan BZN yang selektif telah dikajikan dengan spektroskopi impedans a.c. Bahan-bahan ini menunjukkan ciri-ciri dielektrik yang unggul: ketelusan relatif,  $\epsilon'$  = ~ 80 - 100, kerugian dielektrik ( $\tan \delta$ ) = ~ 0.002 - 0.009 and pekali suhu,  $T_{cc}$  = ~ 400 ppm/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , at ~ 28  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  dalam lingkungan frekuensi  $1 \times 10^5$  Hz. Pendopan secara kimia telah dijalankan untuk mengkaji pembentukan larutan pepejal larutan yang baru dan juga sebagai isytihar untuk menerokai bahan yang lebih berprestasi. Akan tetapi, bahan-bahan yang didopkan menunjukkan larutan pepejal dan peningkatan sifat elektrik yang terhad.

Secara kesimpulan, dua fasa yang berstruktur kena-mengenai sama ada kubik dan monoklinik didapati wujud dalam sistem ternari BZN. Bahan-bahan ini

menunjukkan sifat elektrik yang menarik; fasa kubik, P yang mempunyai nilai pekali suhu yang amat negatif manakala fasa monoklinik, M mempunyai pekali suhu yang positif. Dengan tanda pekali suhu yang berlawanan, hasrat dan minat turut diberikan untuk penyediaan komposit yang mempunyai pekali suhu yang hampir sifar. Tambahan pula bahan ini mempunyai nilai pemalar dielektrik yang tinggi. Justeru itu, BZN pyrochlore berpontensi digunakan sebagai alat berbilang lapis dalam frekuensi tinggi seperti penapis LC dan sistem seramik bersuhu rendah (LTCC).



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to Professor Dr. Lee Chnoong Kheng, for her invaluable advice and guidance. Her expectation and constant support throughout the entire course of this project has encouraged and motivated me to strive harder for success. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my main supervisor, Professor Dr. Zulkarnain Zainal, committee members, Professor Dr. Abdul Halim Shaari and Dr. Tan Yen Ping for their constant encouragement, constructive suggestion and continuous discussion throughout the research work. Their credits are always appreciated and never forgotten.

My deepest gratitude is also extended to Professor Dr. A. R. West and Dr. G. C. Miles, with whom I had the opportunity of working for three months at the Materials Engineering Department, The University of Sheffield, UK. Their precious suggestions, discussions and assistance have helped in every possible way towards accomplishing work in phase diagram and structural studies.

My sincere thanks also go to Professor Dr. Zobir Hassim and his MULIA research group (density measurement), Assoc. Professor Dr. Elias and Mr. Iskandar (Raman spectroscopy), Assoc. Professor Dr. Fauziah Othman and her group members, Mr. Ho Oi Kuan, Mrs. Azilah ab. Jalil, Mr. Rafiez (SEM), Madam Choo (ICP-AES), Mr. Kamal Margona (DTA, TGA), Madam. Rusnani Amirudin (IR) and all the laboratory technicians for their help and guidance in operating the instruments.

Sincere thanks are due to my senior colleague, Dr. Lee Chiu Sze and all my friends, Mr. Khaw Chwin Chieh, Mr. Lim Chia Meng, lab mates and all the researchers in UPM for their help throughout these years.

The financial support from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Universiti Putra Malaysia is gratefully acknowledged. My special thanks are also extended to Malaysian government for granting me the National Science Fellowship (NSF) scholarship and sponsorship for attachment at The University of Sheffield, UK.

Lastly, not to be forgotten are my beloved family members and Miss Cheah Lee Chuen. A word of appreciation and deepest affection is inadequate to express my gratitude to them. Their love and understanding inspired me and gave hope whenever I was down.

I certify that an Examination Committee met on 7 February 2007 to conduct the final examination of Tan Kar Ban on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Phase Diagram, and Structural and Electrical Properties of Pyrochlores in  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{ZnO}$ - $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  Ternary System” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

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**TAN KAR BAN**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	vi
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	ix
<b>APPROVAL</b>	xi
<b>DECLARATION</b>	xiii
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xvii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xxi
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ NOTATIONS/ GLOSSARY OF TERM</b>	xxxiii
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Overview of electronic ceramics	1.1
1.2 Dielectric materials	1.4
1.2.1 Related materials	1.6
1.3 The properties of dielectric materials	1.7
1.3.1 Resistivity	1.8
1.3.2 Permittivity and polarizability	1.8
1.3.3 Dielectric loss	1.9
1.3.4 Temperature coefficient of capacitance (TCC)	1.10
1.4 Applications of dielectric materials	1.10
1.4.1 Varistors	1.10
1.4.2 Positive temperature coefficient resistors (PTCR)	1.12
1.4.3 Multilayer ceramic capacitors (MLCC)	1.13
1.4.4 High frequency dielectric ceramics for microwave Applications	1.15
1.4.5 Pyroelectric and piezoelectric ceramics	1.18
1.5 Pyrochlore structure	1.19
1.5.1 Description of the pyrochlore structure	1.22
1.5.1.1 Description based on deficient fluorite structure	1.23
1.5.1.2 Description based on $B_2O_6$ and $A_2O'$ interpenetrating networks	1.26
1.5.1.3 Description based on two interpenetrating networks of $(B_4\Box, A_4O')$ tetrahedral	1.30
1.6 Applications of pyrochlore materials and their properties	1.31
1.7 Objectives	1.35
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Pyrochlores	2.1
2.2 Bi-based Pyrochlore and related materials	2.9
2.2.1 Bismuth zinc niobate (BZN) pyrochlore	2.12
2.2.2 Bismuth zinc tantalate (BZT) pyrochlore	2.29
2.2.3 Bismuth zinc antimonate (BZS) pyrochlore	2.33

<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1	Sample preparation	3.1
3.1.1	Chemical doping	3.2
3.2	Pellet preparation	3.3
3.3	Analysis and characterization	3.4
3.3.1	X-ray diffraction (XRD)	3.5
3.3.2	Powder neutron diffraction (ND)	3.6
3.3.3	Rietveld refinement	3.7
3.3.4	Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy	3.7
3.3.5	Raman spectroscopy	3.8
3.3.6	Density measurement	3.9
3.3.7	Elemental analysis – inductively coupled plasma – atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES)	3.9
3.3.8	Thermal analysis	
3.3.8.1	Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)	3.11
3.3.8.2	Differential thermal analysis (DTA)	3.12
3.3.9	Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	3.12
3.3.10	Electrical properties	
3.3.10.1	General principles of the ac method	3.13
3.3.10.2	Cole-cole plot	3.18
3.3.10.3	Modulus spectroscopy	3.23
3.3.10.4	Experimental procedure	3.25
3.3.11	Phase Diagram	3.26
3.3.12	Estimation of error	3.27
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	
4.1	Phase diagram of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$	
4.1.1	Introduction	4.1
4.1.2	Cubic BZN pyrochlore	4.2
4.1.2.1	Phase formation and reaction pathways	4.7
4.1.2.2	Phase Diagram	4.9
4.1.2.3	Elemental analysis	4.26
4.1.3	Monoclinic BZN Pyrochlore	4.30
4.1.3.1	Phase formation and reaction pathway	4.31
4.1.3.2	Phase diagram	4.34
4.1.3.3	Elemental analysis	4.41
4.1.4	The $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ phase diagram	4.44
4.1.5	Thermal analysis	4.47
4.1.6	Summary	4.47
4.2	Electrical properties	
4.2.1	Optimization of sintering condition	4.52
4.2.2	$\text{Bi}_3\text{Zn}_{1.84}\text{Nb}_3\text{O}_{13.84}$ cubic pyrochlore	4.69
4.2.3	Cubic pyrochlore solid solutions	4.87
4.2.4	$\text{Bi}_4\text{Zn}_{4/3}\text{Nb}_{8/3}\text{O}_{14}$ monoclinic zirconolite phase	4.102
4.2.5	Summary	4.114

4.3 Structural analysis	
4.3.1 Introduction	4.118
4.3.2 XRD and ND in structural analysis	4.120
4.3.3 Justification of carrying Rietveld refinement	4.121
4.3.3.1 Rietveld Refinement of $\text{Bi}_3\text{Zn}_{1.76}\text{Nb}_3\text{O}_{13.76}$ (Composition 37)	4.123
4.3.3.2 Rietveld refinement based on combined XRD and ND	4.130
4.3.3.3 Displacement of Zn off the A Site	4.135
4.3.4 Raman and FT-IR spectroscopy	4.139
4.3.4.1 IR spectra of BZN cubic pyrochlore	4.143
4.3.4.2 Raman spectra of BZN cubic pyrochlore	4.149
4.3.4.3 IR spectrum of BZN monoclinic zirconolite phase	4.154
4.3.4.4 Raman spectrum of BZN monoclinic zirconolite phase	4.158
4.3.5 Scanning electron microscopy	4.160
4.3.6 Summary	4.160
4.4 Doped BZN materials	
4.4.1 Divalent doped BZN materials	4.166
4.4.1.1 Possible mechanisms and solid solution limits	4.166
4.4.1.2 Elemental analysis	4.175
4.4.1.3 Electrical properties	4.175
4.4.2 Trivalent and tetravalent doped BZN materials	4.184
4.4.2.1 Possible mechanisms and solid solution limits	4.184
4.4.2.2 Elemental analysis	4.193
4.4.2.3 Electrical properties	4.194
4.4.3 Pentavalent doped BZN materials	4.197
4.4.3.1 Possible mechanisms and solid solution limits	4.197
4.4.3.2 Elemental analysis	4.202
4.4.3.3 Electrical properties	4.202
4.4.4 Doubly substituted BZN materials	4.212
4.4.4.1 Possible mechanisms and solid solution limits	4.212
4.4.4.2 Elemental analysis	4.215
4.4.4.3 Electrical properties	4.215
4.4.5 Morphology and Surface study	4.225
4.4.6 Thermal analysis	4.225
4.4.7 Raman and FT-IR spectroscopy	4.235
4.4.8 Summary	4.240
<b>5 CONCLUSION</b>	<b>5.1</b>
5.1 Recommendations for further work	5.4
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>R.1</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>A.1</b>
<b>BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR</b>	<b>B.1</b>
<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>L.1</b>