

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

SYNTHESIS AND MORPHOLOGY OF HIGH DENSITY BARIUM ZIRCONATE CERAMICS

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By

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Barium Zirconate (BaZrO₃) is an inert target material with high resistance to temperature and chemical reaction, which can be used as a crucible. In some literatures, BaZrO₃ with small particle size is also proposed as material for multilayer capacitors. In this research high dense BaZrO₃ has been synthesized through a common method, solid-state reaction, where large amount of fine BaZrO₃ powder can be obtained and further sintered at high temperature to gain high density material.

In this study, nitrate precursors were used to lower the formation temperature of $BaZrO_3$. The raw materials $(Ba(NO_3)_2 \text{ and } ZrO(NO_3)_2.H_2O \text{ in } 1:1 \text{ molar ratio})$ were calcined at $800^{\circ}C$ for 8h to obtain a fine and pure $BaZrO_3$ crystal. The calcine powder was analysed with X-ray diffraction to confirm that there were no unwanted impurities. The calcined powder was also analysed with laser particle-size analyser and scanning electron microscope to gain more information on the particle sizes and morphology. The



low temperature of calcination produced fine powder (< 1μ m). Fine powders always facilitate fast boundary diffusion during sintering.

Sintering the green pellet between 1200° C and 1700° C showed vast information of morphology changes. BaZrO₃ with 0.6µm was obtained at 1200° C with dwell time of 24h. Further sintering at 1600° C for 6h produced a high dense pellet with no or near zero porosity and about 90% density compared to theoretical value. The crystallite size is ranged between 0.36µm to 0.44µm. However, the pellets had shrink of about 13%.

To prevent the large shrinkage, sintering aids were used. Magnesium oxide (MgO), Yttrium oxide (Y₂O₃), Aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃), and Barium Stannum oxide (BaSnO₃) were added up to 5% separately with the calcined BaZrO₃ powder and sintered between 1500° C and 1700° C. Interestingly, with the presence of MgO, Y₂O₃ and Al₂O₃ the sintering shrinkage was reduced to only 2%. Even though there was some level of porosity, BaZrO₃ with MgO and Y₂O₃ pellets with shown about 90% densification.





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SINTESIS DAN MORFOLOGI BARIUM ZIRCONATE DENGAN KETUMPATAN TINGGI

Oleh

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Bariun Zirconate (BaZrO₃) adalah sejenis bahan sasaran lengai yang mempunyai ketahanan yang tinggi terhadap suhu dan tindakbalas kimia. BaZrO₃ boleh digunakan sebagai bekas untuk memanaskan bahan lain pada suhu yang tinggi. Mengikut kajian, BaZrO₃ yang mempunyai saiz partikel yang kecil boleh digunakan sebagai penebat untuk kapasitor berlapis. Dalam kajian ini, BaZrO₃ yang berketumpatan tinggi telah dihasilkan secara tindak balas keadaan pepejal bagi menghasilkan serbuk BaZrO₃ yang halus dan memberikan bahan ketumpatan tinggi apabila disinter pada suhu tinggi.



Dalam kajian ini, sebatian nitrat digunakan sebagai bahan asas (bukan sebatian oksida atau karbonat, yang biasa digunakan) untuk mengurangkan suhu tindakbalas pembentukkan BaZrO₃. Bahan-bahan tindakbalas (Ba(NO₃)₂ and ZrO(NO₃)₂.H₂O dalam kuantiti 1:1molar) telah dipanaskan bersama-sama pada suhu 800^oC selama 8 jam untuk mendapatkan BaZrO₃ yang tulen dan yang mempuyai saiz hablur yang kecil. Hasilnya telah dianalisis dengan alat X-ray untuk menentukan ketulenannya. Hasilnya juga telah dianalisis dengan 'laser particle size analyser' dan mikroskop elektron untuk mendapat maklumat yang lebih mendalam mengenai saiz dan morfologinya. Suhu tindakbalas yang rendah telah menghasilkan saiz butir hasil tindakbalas yang kecil (< 1µm). Saiz butir yang yang kecil dapat mempercepatkan tindakbalas antara partikal-partikal BaZrO₃ semasa pensinteran.

Seterusnya, pelet dibentuk dari hasil tindakbalas di atas dan disinterkan antara suhu 1200^oC dan 1700^oC. Julat suhu yang besar dapat memberi maklumat yang jelas mengenai perubahan morfologi. BaZrO₃ yang dipanaskan pada suhu 1200^oC selama 12 jam mempunyai partikel bersaiz 0.6µm. Pemanasan yang seterusnya pada 1600^oC selama 6 jam telah menghasilkan BaZrO₃ yang hampir tidak ada keliangan serta mempunyai ketumpatan hampir 90% berbanding dengan nilai teori. Saiz kristal BaZrO₃ berjulat antara 0.36µm to 0.44µm. Walau bagaimanapun, pelet yang dihasilkan ini telah mengalami pengecutanan yang besar iaitu sebanyak lebih dari 13%.



Untuk mengurangkan pengecutan ini, bahan yang membantu pensinteran (sintering aid) telah digunakan. Magnesium oksida, Yttrium oksida, Aluminium oksida and Barium Stannum oksida ditambah sehingga 5% secara berasingan kepada BaZrO₃ dan dipanaskan antara suhu 1500^oC dan 1700^oC. Dengan kehadiran Magnesium oxida, Yttrium oxida dan Aluminium oxida dapat mencegah pengecutan. Pengecutan yang berlaku hanya sebanyak 2% sahaja. Walaupun, mempunyai sedikit sebanyak keliangan BaZrO₃ dangan Magnesium oksida dan Yttrium oksida telah menghasilkan pelet yang mempunyai ketumpatan hampir 90%.

vi



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

ii
iv
vii
viii
х
xi
xiii
xiv
xviii

CHAPTER

Ι	INTRODUCTION	
	History of Ceramics	1
	Relevance, Importance and Application of ceramics	1
	General Introduction of Alkaline-Earth-Zirconium-Oxides	4
	The Objective of Work	6
Π	LITERATURE REVIEW	
	Introduction	8
	Perovskite Structure	9
	Polycrystalline Structure	10
	BaZrO ₃ and Relevance	12
ш	THEORY	
	Introduction	20
	Powder Fabrication Technique	23
	Milling	23
	Calcination	25
	Grading	26
	Compacting	27
	Solid State Sintering	29
	Additives	32
	Characterization	34



Thennal Analysis	34
Structural (Physical) Characterization	36
X-ray Diffraction Analysis	37
Qualitative Phase Analysis	38
Density	40
Microstructural Characterization	41
Scanning Electron Microscopy	42

IV METHODOLOGY

Introduction	49
Materials	49
Sample preparation	50
Equipment	52
DTA-TG	52
X-ray Diffraction	52
Microstructural analysis	53
Density	54

V RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction	64
Calcination	65
Sintering BaZrO ₃	76
Sintering BaZrO ₃ with dopant	95

VI	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
	Introduction	115
	Conclusions	116
	Recommendations	117

REFERENCES	118
APPENDIX	122
BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	124



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
4.1	Temperature and soak time for calcination raw powders.	55
4.2	Temperature and soak time for sintering calcined powder with or without sintering aid.	55
4.3	Type of sintering aid and its' weight in percentage used for sintering $BaZrO_3$ from temperature 1500 ⁰ C to 1700 ⁰ C.	56
5.1	Calculated lattice parameters and crystalline size for $BaZrO_3$ from the X-ray diffractograms on powders with different thermal history.	68
5.2	Calculated lattice parameters and average crystal size for BaZrO ₃ from X-ray diffractograms on polish pellets with different thermal history.	93
5.3	Density measured through Archimedes' principle for $BaZrO_3$ pellets.	93
5.4	Physical properties comparison of BaZrO ₃ between the materials in market (by Superconductive) and result obtained from thesis.	94
5.5	Density measured for BaZrO ₃ with sintering aid by using Principle Arrchimedes.	112
5.6	Shrinkage in $BaZrO_3$ with the effect of various type and amount of sintering aid with temperature.	113



LIST FOR FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	The pie chart shows the various applications in ceramics market.	5
2.1	Perovsikite Structure.	11
2.2	Temperature dependence of the dielectric constant of alkaline- earth zirconates.	17
2.3	Dielectric constant at 1 Mc vs temperature.	17
2.4	Dielectric quality factor at 1Mc vs. temperature.	18
2.5	Pressure – temperature phase diagram for $BaO - ZrO_2$ system.	19
2.6	Relative dielectric constant, temperature coefficient of dielectric constant and dielectric for (Ba, Ca, Sr) ZrO ₃ .	20
3.1	Block diagram for general ceramic processing.	44
3.2	Diagram of a typical refractory microstructure made from powders with a large range of sizes.	45
3.3	Typical Furnas curve indicating the particle size distribution which will give maximum packing density during shape forming.	45
3.4	Development of ceramics microstructure during sintering.	46
3.5	Thermogravimetry (TG) record for mass changes as a function of temperature.	47
3.6	Temperature difference between sample and an inert reference as a function of temperature.	47
3.7	A combination result of TG and DTA as a function of temperature.	48



Figure

Igure		Page
3.8	Derivation of Bragg's law for X-ray diffraction.	
4.1	Flow chart for solid - state reaction route.	55
4.2	Temperature – Time graph showing soaking time and temperature for calcinatrion.	56
4.3	Temperature – time graph showing temperature and time for sintering.	57
5.1	Simultaneous TG-DTA profile for the 1:1 molar mixture of $Ba(NO_3)_2$ and $ZrO(NO_3)_2.\chi H_2O$.	69
5.2	X-ray diffractogram of calcined powder at 700 ⁰ C without soaking	70
5.3	X-ray signatures for calcined powder at 800° C and 1000° C.	71
5.4	Intensity ratio of the most intense peak of $BaZrO_3$ (hkl-110) with that of (Δ)BaCO ₃ and (•)ZrO ₂ respectively.	72
5.5a	Particle size analysis for powder calcined at 800°C/ 8h.	73
5.5b	Particle size analysis for powder calcined at 1000°C/8h.	73
5.6	Microstructural features for calcined powder at 800° C /8h and 1000° C /4h.	74
5.7	Pycnometric densities in raw and calcined powders.	7 5
5.8	X-ray diffraction patterns in sintered compacts of $BaZrO_3$ derived from precursors calcined at $800^0C/8h$.	82
5.9	X-ray diffraction patterns in sintered compacts of $BaZrO_3$ derived from precursors calcined at $1000^{\circ}C$ /4h.	83
5.10	X-ray diffraction pattern of BaZrO ₃ for sample fired at 1500° C /6h	84
5.11	Comparative X-ray diffract ograms of $BaZrO_3$ sintered in the range 1200°C to 1700°C.	85
5.12	SEM surface micrograph for sample sintered at 1200° C to 1400° C with powder calcined at 800° C /8h.	86



Figure

-0		Page
5.13	SEM surface micrograph for sample sintered at 1200° C to 1400° C with powder calcined at 1000° C /8h.	87
5.14	SEM fracture micrograph for sample sintered at $1400^{\circ}C$ /2h.	88
5.15	Microstructural development in BaZrO ₃ samples (fractured) soaked for 6h at (a) 1400^{0} C, (b) 1500° C and (c) 1540^{0} C.	89
5.16	Microstructural features in BaZrO ₃ sintered at 1600 ^o C for 2h.	90
5.17	Microstructural evolution in BaZrO ₃ (fractured surface) sintered at 1600° C for: (a) 6 and (b) 12h and (c) 1600° C /12h to 1700° C /0h	91
5.18	Microstructural comparison between sample sintered at 1600 ^o C/12h and micrograph for BaZrO ₃ marketed by	92
5.19	XRD pattern of $BaZrO_3$ synthesized with 5 wt % of MgO as sintering aid between temperature 1500°C and 1700°C.	100
5.20	XRD pattern of BaZrO ₃ synthesized with 2 wt % of Al_2O_3 as sintering aid between temperature 1500°C and 1700°C.	101
5.21	XRD pattern of BaZrO ₃ synthesized with 0.5 wt % of Y_2O_3 as sintering aid between temperature 1500°C and 1700°C.	102
5.22	XRD pattern of BaZrO ₃ synthesized with 5 wt % of BaSnO ₃ as sintering aid between temperature 1600° C and 1700° C.	103
5.23a	Microstructural features for BaZrO ₃ with 0.5% of MgO as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	104
5.23b	Microstructural features for $BaZrO_3$ with 2% of MgO as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	105
5.23c	Microstructural features for BaZrO ₃ with 5% of MgO as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	106
5.24a	Microstructural features for $BaZrO_3$ with 0.5% of Al_2O_3 as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	107



Figure

5.24Ե	Microstructural features for $BaZrO_3$ with 2% of Al_2O_3 as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	108
5.24c	Microstructural features for $BaZrO_3$ with 5% of Al_2O_3 as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	109
5.25	Microstructural features for $BaZrO_3$ with 0.5% of Y_2O_3 as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	110
5.26	Microstructural features for $BaZrO_3$ with 5% of $BaSnO_3$ as sintering aid and sintered at between 1500°C and 1700°C.	111
5.27	The shrinkage % evaluated as a function of the temperature.	114



NOMENCLATURE

0	angle
ρ	density
λ	wavelength
μm	micrometer
°C	temperature in Celsius
Α	10 ⁻¹⁰ m
a, b, c	crystal edges
BBC	central ion
d-spacing	interplanar spacing
DTA	Differential Thermal Analysis
FCC	face central ion
Ghz	Gigahezt
h, k, l	Miller indices
JCPDS	Joint Committee for Powder Diffraction Standards
K	Kelvin
Kgſ	kilogram force
La	Lanthanum
m	mass
Р	pressure
Pa	Pascal



Pb	Plumbum
ppm	part permillion
PVA	Polyvinyl alcohol
Q	dielectric quality factor
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope
Sn	Stanum
Sr	Stronium
SSR	Solid-state reaction
ТСК	Temperature coefficient of dielectric constant
TG	Thermogravitmetry
V	volume
wt	weight
XRD	X-ray diffraction

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

History of Ceramics

Hand mixing, hand building, scratch and slip decorating of earthenware can be backdated to even before 5000 B.C. Since then the use of ceramics has been growing slowly with time. Shaping by processed material in slip cast mould and firing in a close kiln was subsequently developed. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the use of ceramic materials became more important due to its stability and capability to withstand thermal resistance. With the development of new and sophicated equipment such as X-ray diffraction (XRD) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) in the 20th century, material systems have become more refined, and special compounds were developed, synthesised and fabricated into the products used for refractory and electronic applications (James, 1998).

Relevance, Importance and Application of Ceramics

Ceramic materials are polycrystalline inorganic materials which consist of metallic and/or non-metallic elements bound together primarily by ionic and/or covalent bonds. The chemical composition of ceramic materials varies considerably,



from simple compound to mixture of many complex phases bonded together. The properties of ceramics are also varying due to their bonding characteristics. The wide range of materials that are known as ceramics includes most of the natural minerals of the earth such as the silicates, oxides, carbonates, sulphides, as well as glasses and glass ceramics. These ceramic materials have relatively high melting temperatures and high chemical stability in many hostile environments due to the stability of their strong bonds. These materials also are typically insulative to the passage of electricity and heat due to the absence of conductive electron(s).

In general, ceramics materials used for engineering applications can be divided into two groups. Firstly the traditional ceramics made from three basic compounds clay, silica (SiO₂), and feldspar ($K_2OAl_2O_3.6SiO_2$), such as porcelain. Secondly the engineering ceramics which are pure or nearly pure compounds, such as, alumina (Al_2O_3), silicon carbide (SiC), silicon nitride (Si_3N_4) and zirconia (ZrO_2) etc (William and Rainforth, 1994).

Advanced ceramics are further classified into two groups, viz., structural and electronic ceramics. The study of advanced ceramic materials such as electronic ceramics involves many disciplines including chemistry, physics, metallurgy, mechanical engineering and materials science.

Electronic ceramics originally were used only as electrical insulators. However, depending on their composition and the fabrication cycle used, current electronic ceramics exhibit a wider range of properties (that is, their polarisation, mechanical, and optical responses) which may be controlled through composition



control, chemical substitution, doping, and fabrication conditions, and in some cases due to the unique inherent characteristics.

To understand the behaviour of ceramics, the need to understand the relationship between the observed material properties and the underlying physical phenomena responsible for those properties is warranted. For example, the presence of oxygen vacancy point defects in ZrO₂ ceramics leads to their use as oxygen sensor in automotive and other applications. Different applications of ceramics depend on material structural features from the atomic to the macrostructural level. Features such as atomic arrangement (crystal structure), point defects, domain structure, and microstructure are defined to the observed electronic properties of the material.

Chemical synthesis occupies a central position in advanced ceramics development because the experimental methods allow control of properties. Electronic ceramics such as BaTiO₃ and SrTiO₃ are used as capacitors, SnO₂ and ZrO₂ are used as gas sensors, and (Mn,Zn) Fe₂O₄ is used as a magnet. Some electronic ceramics are used as superconductors, varistors and piezoelectrics (Segal, 1989). The electronic ceramic market shown in Figure 1.1 indicates that the maximum percentage goes to cutting tools industry (24%) and follows by electronic (integrated circuit) industry (21%). The third industrial application of electronic ceramics is devoted to capacitor industry (18%). (Iftetan, 1999)

Ceramics technology consists of initial densification and sintering of the raw powder so that the phase and crystalline structures and the microstructure of the final product satisfy the given requirement. The raw materials may be either simple



compounds (e.g. oxides) of metals or more complex compounds that, during the fabrication process, decompose to form simple oxides. In order to ensure desired phase composition of the powder mixture, the materials are subjected to thermal treatment such as calcination. In the case of non-oxides, such as silicon carbide, silicon nitride and aluminium nitride, the processing requires a special environment and equipment.

General Introduction of Alkaline-Earth Zirconates

The double oxides of general formula MBO₃ formed between the oxides of alkaline- earth metals (M= Ca, Sr, Ba and Mg) and those of some group IV elements. These oxides are of great importance to industrial and technological application. For instance, the alkaline-earth carbonates are the well known precursors to innumerable inorganic and ceramics syntheses and reaction, while alkaline-earth silicates are of relevance and direct bearing in the slag chemistry of industrial production of iron and steels. Similarly, the discovery of superconductivity in 'copper-free' cubic perovskite systems such as BaPb_{1-x}Sb_xO₃ (Tc = 3.5 K at x = 0.25) and BaPb_{2 1-x}Ba_xO₃ (Tc = 13 K at x = 0.3) has triggered much activity in the pseudobinary alkaline earth oxide-PbO(O₂) system (Iftetan, 1999). In addition, the technological impact of closely structure-related titanates (MTiO₃) of the alkaline-earth metals is too great to be overlooked, of which Sr, Ba and Mg titanntes are the most important electroceramics.



The alkaline-earth zirconates having the general chemical formula MZrO₃ . (M= Ca, Sr and Ba) with perovskite structure, have been projected as potential structural and electronic ceramics. In suitable doped forms they have been claimed to become ionic and/or electronic conductors. Corresponding titanates, BaTiO₃ and SrTiO₃ are well-known electroceramic material and commercially produced as low dielectric constant, high resistance and low TCK (temperature coefficient of dielectric constant) components. However, there is a lack of reliable technical information on the BaZrO₃ system in the published literature. Most of the available literature is limited to the procedure to produce fine BaZrO₃ powder through various sintering methods.

The Objective of Work

In view of the importance of BaZrO₃ system as potential ceramics for applications such as:

- Inert substrate for thin film deposition
- Structural material such as crucibles for reaction, melting and sintering experiments of oxides and non-oxides, and

the information gaps in the reported research, this study was taken up. This investigation was to study the systematic trend in the properties of the resulting ceramic powder and dense pellets. Synthesis of BaZrO₃ in phase pure form has been carried out by conventional yet modified solid-state reaction (SSR). The objective

