Mechanical and Physical Properties of $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ Ceramics Systems

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Abstract

The compound of Ferroelectric nanopowrer Lead Zirconate Titanate (PZT) $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$ was prepared using Oxalate method. Al_2O_3 was doped using solid state sintering method as general system $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ at (x= 0.5, 1, 1.5 vol. %). The effects of Al_2O_3 addition on the mechanical and physical properties of PZT ceramics were investigated. Increased Vickers Hardness with addition Al_2O_3 to PZT which its maximum hardness value was found for the samples containing 1vol. %Al_2O_3. Also, the maximum value of dielectric strength of containing 1vol.%Al_2O_3. This is indicating that the addition Al_2O_3 into PZT leads to improve dielectric properties of PZT ceramics. It is observed that the mechanical properties of the ceramics systems $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ are larger than of PZT ceramics.

Keywords: PZT ceramics, Oxalate method, Dielectric and Mechanical Properties, Ferroelectric.

الخصائص الميكانيكية والفيزيائية لنظم ($PZT/_xAl_2O_3$) السيراميكية

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الخلاصة

تم إعداد مركبات فيروكهربائية ذي الصيغة ($Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$) بأستخدام طريقة الاوكزالات. ثم إضافة (Al_2O_3) الى (PZT) بطريقة تفاعل الحالة الصلبة وحسب الصيغة ($PZT/_xAl_2O_3$) وعند النسب (x= 0.5, 1, 1.5 vol. %). وقد تم التحقق من تأثير أضافة (Al_2O_3) الى (PZT)على الخصائص الميكانيكية والفيزيائية. زيادة الصلادة مع إضافة (Al_2O_3) الى (PZT) والذي عثر على أعلى قيمة للصلادة للعينات التي تحتوي (1vol.%) من (Al_2O_3). أيضا أعلى قيمة لمتانة العزل الكهربائي عند النسبة (1vol.%) من (Al_2O_3)، وهذا يدل على أن إضافة (Al_2O_3) الى (PZT) يؤدي الى تحسين خواص العزل الكهربائي لل (PZT). لوحظ أن الخواص الميكانيكية للنظام ($PZT/_xAl_2O_3$) أكبر من (PZT).

الكلمات المفتاحية: سيراميك PZT ، طريقة الاوكزالات ، الخواص العزلية والميكانيكية ، الفيروكهربائية.

Introduction

Lead Zirconate Titanate (PZT) $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$; and its related materials exhibit excellent piezoelectric properties. PZT has a perovskite structure ABO_3 which solid solution of ferroelectric $PbTiO_3$ and ant ferroelectric $PbZrO_3$ at different Zr/Ti ratios. Extraordinary high piezoelectric activities are found at the morphotropic phase boundary (MPB) composition. This MPB is located around $PbTiO_3$:$PbZrO_3$ ≈1:1(1,2,3). The excellent piezoelectric properties of PZT ceramic can be applied to many areas, thus it's used in the applications such as sensors, transducers, multilayer ceramic capacitors, actuators and RAM (4,5).

Since piezoelectric ceramic based on PZT have poor mechanical properties such as low bending strength and low fracture toughness. Thus in some applications at high power and high stress; mechanical properties of this material become critically important (6,9).

There are many methods for preparation of PZT ceramic represented solid state reaction and wet chemical methods. Conventional ceramic method is most widely used process for the preparation of multicomponent solid. While wet chemical synthesis is increasingly utilized for the synthesis of at various ceramic powders due to merits of fine particle size of the products, better homogeneity and lower processing temperatures in comparison to the conventional ceramic route. Several of wet chemical methods for the preparation of perovskite titanate ceramics including the hydrothermal synthesis, sol gel processing and oxalate method (6,7).

The improving to the mechanical properties of PZT ceramic by adding Al_2O_3 become appropriate to the applications with high power and high stress. The improved mechanical properties are proposed to be due to Al_2O_3 nanoparticles reinforcing the grain boundaries and acting as effective pins against microcrack propagation (8,9).

In the present study the fabricated of $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ composite using Al_2O_3 doped PZT powder is prepared and the effects of Al_2O_3 addition on the mechanical and physical properties of the $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ composites have been investigated.

1. Experimental procedure

$PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ composites were fabricated from Al_2O_3 which was blended with the calcined PZT powder. The starting PZT powder had a composition of $Pb(Zr_{0.5}Ti_{0.5})O_3$ and the average particle size was (36nm). The starting materials used in this study were $PbCl_2$ (99.9% Merck), ZrO_2 (99.9% Merck), $TiO_2$99.8% Riedel) and oxalic acid ($C_2H_2O_4.{}_2H_2O$) (B.D.H).

PZT powder which are prepared using Oxalate method which was represented by preparing aqueous solution of ($PbCl_2$). Then adding (ZrO_2 and TiO_2) powders to aqueous solution ($PbCl_2$), after this step has been added aqueous solution of oxalic acid to the mixture solution of oxides. Mixture above is known as precursor which was stirred and heated at 80ºC till a clear viscous resin is obtained.

The precipitates are separated from the mother liquor by a filter paper for twice with deionized water; the washed precipitates were oven dried at 100 ºC for 2h then calcined at 1000 ºC for 2h.

The Al_2O_3 powder was mixed with the calcined PZT powder in ratios of (0.5, 1.0, 1.5 vol. %). This mixture was grinding and calcined at 1000 ºC for 2h. Then, the powder was pressed at $2500Kg/cm_2$ into disks. These Disks were then sintered at 1100 ºC for 2h. XRD was used to investigate any phase differences between the different sample types. A Vickers hardness (HV) value was measurement by using (XCHL-11A model multi-function, Hardness Tester).

Density of the sintered samples was measured by Archimedes method with distilled water as the fluid medium. The Dielectric strength for samples measured by using device (type of RSG, Germany) with applied voltages which rise to 2kv/sec.

2. Results and Discussion

Fig. (1) show the X-Ray Diffraction Patterns to PZT sample which is prepared by Oxalate Method at sintered temperature 1100ºC for 2h. The sample prepared exhibits a pure phase peroviskite having tetragonal symmetry and the tetragonality (c/a) ratio is (1.029).

At sintered temperature 1100 ºC for 2h, the pure phase and lattice parameter of PZT which agree well with Joint Committee on Powder Diffraction Standard data (JCPDS)(pdf#33-0784). The grain size PZT ceramics is of 36nm.

A mechanical property of PZT/xAl_2O_3 ceramics in terms as Vickers Hardness (HV) was investigated. Vickers Hardness as a function of Al_2O_3 content of $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ ceramics is shown in Fig.(2). It can be seen from Fig.2 that the $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ samples displayed high hardness than the pure PZT. So that suitable content of Al_2O_3 could effectively improve mechanical properties of PZT ceramics. Therefore doped Al_2O_3 into PZT; slightly increased the Vickers Hardness value. The maximum hardness value was found for the samples containing 1vol. $\%Al_2O_3$ while this percentage is higher than the hardness suffer a decrease.

Fig. (3) Show that incorporating values of the bulk density of $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$, that the density was lowered by doped Al_2O_3 into PZT. The decrease of density with of Al_2O_3 content indicates that, first; the sintering temperature was not enough. To obtain higher density the sample which include higher content of Al_2O_3 required higher sintering temperatures. Second; it may be consider that the higher content of Al_2O_3 in PZT samples causes the higher porosity; therefore the bulk density is decreased.

Apparent Porosity was measurement by Archamidic method. Fig.(4) shows the apparent porosity as a function of content Al_2O_3 in PZT. The apparent porosity is increased with addition of Al_2O_3 into PZT as show in Fig.4.

This increases due to addition of Al_2O_3 which indicating that the Al_2O_3 particles inhibited grain growth. Also indicates that the sintering temperature of the samples was not complete. Fig.(5), represents the behavior of apparent density with the addition of Al_2O_3 to PZT

Fig. (6) The value of dielectric strength which was measurement at 2Kv/sec a raise in the applied voltage. The dielectric strength of $PZT/_xAl_2O_3$ increased with increased of Al_2O_3 in PZT. Decreased in dielectric strength at sample containing $1.5vol\%Al_2O_3$, and the maximum value of dielectric strength of containing $1vol.\%Al_2O_3$. This is indicating that the addition Al_2O_3 into PZT leads to improve dielectric properties of PZT ceramics.

Conclusions

The present work has shown that high mechanical properties PZT ceramic containing Al_2O_3 Nano particle can be obtained by Al_2O_3 doped PZT powders. The results produced the improvement in the mechanical properties. The maximum hardness value was obtained PZT with 1Vol. % Al_2O_3. The reduction of density for samples could be related to the lower sintering temperature. Finally, it is clearly shown that the mechanical properties of the ceramics PZT/$_xAl_2O_3$ are generally better than of pure PZT according Vickers Harness results.

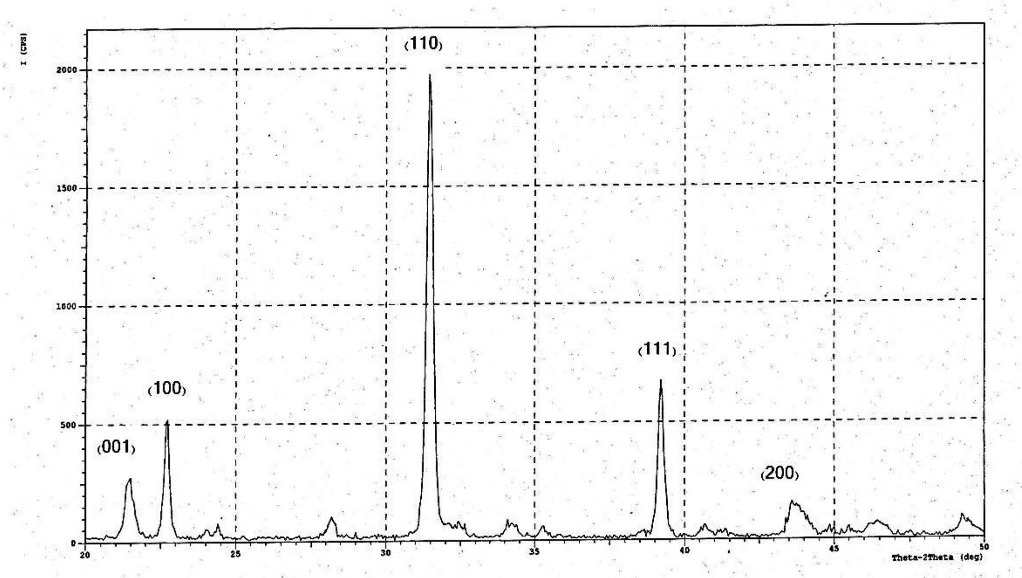

Fig. (1) XRD patterns of $PZ_{0.5}T_{0.5}$ prepared at 1100^oC for 2h.

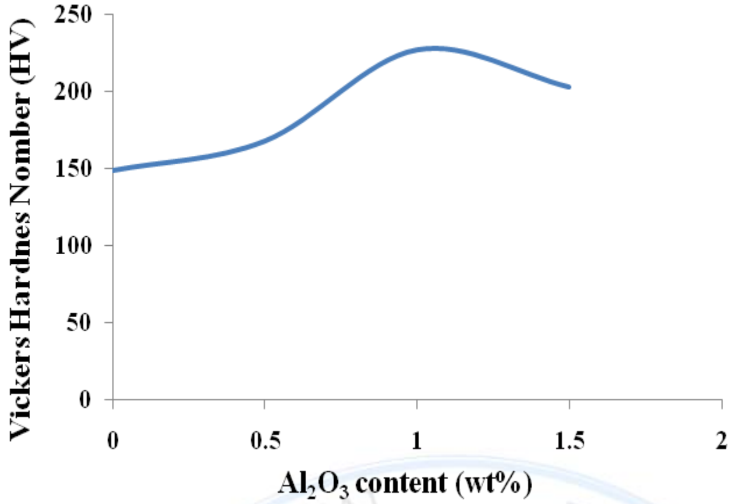

Fig.(2) Vickers Hardness as a function of Al_2O_3 content.

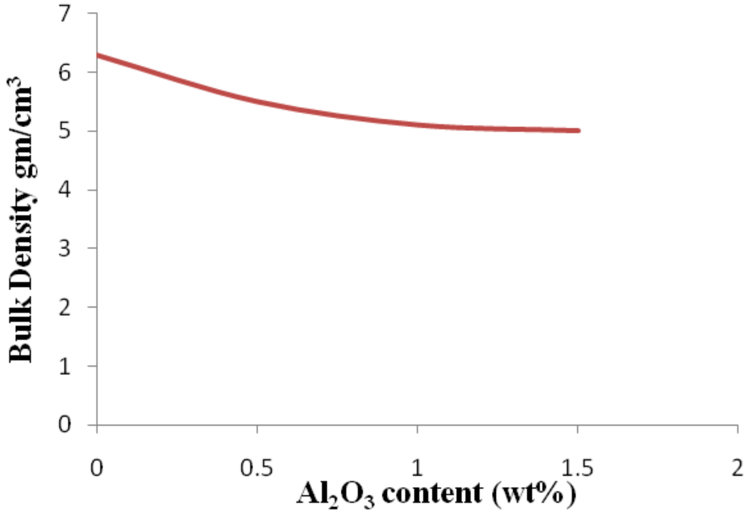

Fig.(3) Bulk Density as a function of Al_2O_3 content.

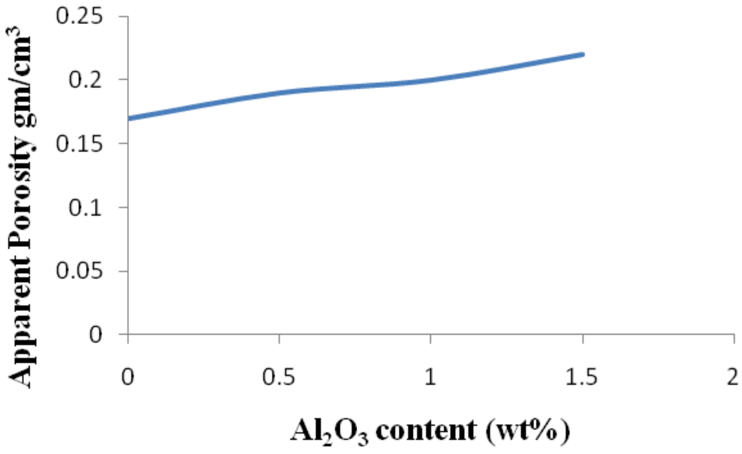

Fig.(4) Apparent Porosity as a function of Al_2O_3 content.

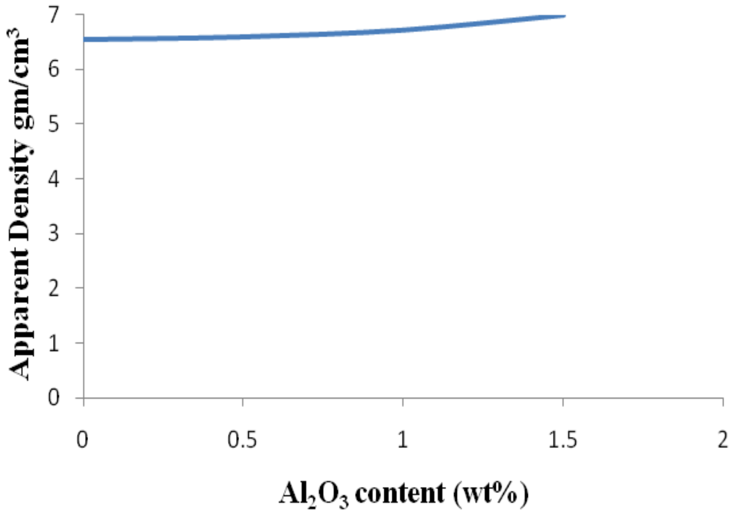

Fig.(5) Apparent Density as a function of Al_2O_3 content.

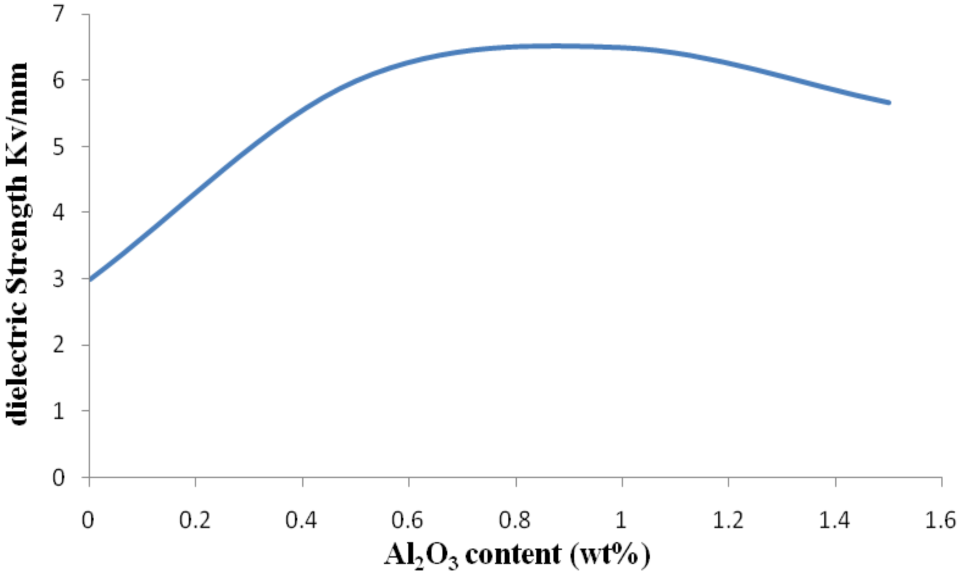

Fig.(6) Dielectric Strength as a function of Al_2O_3 content.

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