

“Physico-chemical nanomaterials science”

Contribution of polarization mechanisms in colossal permittivity of doped BaTiO₃ ceramics

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Ferroelectrics with very large (“colossal”) magnitudes of permittivity ($\epsilon > 1000$) are demanded for modern applications: capacitance-based energy-storage and microwave devices, memory elements, etc [1]. Colossal values of the permittivity (CMP) can arise due to different phenomena, including ferroelectricity, charge-density waves, metal-dielectric interface, hopping charge transport and grains interface effects [2]. The CMP in BaTiO₃-based ceramics can be explained by the internal barrier layer, hopping polarization [3], and external barrier between electrode and ceramics [4].

The present work is devoted to a deeper understanding the nature of colossal permittivity of BaTiO₃-based ceramics and the contribution of different polarization mechanisms in the total value of permittivity.

Polycrystalline Y-doped BaTiO₃-based solid solutions with different amount of Mn additives were synthesized via a solid-state reaction technique. All samples were single-phased and crystallized in the tetragonal symmetry. It was experimentally established that ferroelectric semiconductors based on barium titanate had colossal values of the permittivity ($\sim 10^4$). The dielectric losses of the materials with CMP values are high enough to limit their potential applications. Impedance spectroscopy showed that the contribution of various polarization mechanisms to the permittivity decreased in the sequence: “internal barrier layer \rightarrow external barrier between electrode and ceramic \rightarrow hopping polarization \rightarrow spontaneous ferroelectric polarization”. In contrast to samples with ohmic (aluminum) contacts, samples with flap (silver) contacts had stable values of permittivity and low values of dielectric losses over a wide frequency range (up to 10^4 Hz), which is important for practical use.

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