

PHOTO-MULTIFERROICS RESPONSE ON BISMUTH FERRITE- A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Multifunctional multiferroics have been attracting increasing attention because of their fascinating ferroelectric, magnetic and photovoltaics properties. These materials are called photomultiferroics in thin film form and these exhibits switchable photoelectric response. This makes it interesting for future photovoltaics applications. In this presentation, we will focus on the recent progress in this direction, i.e., how one can control the size, shape of BiFeO₃ lead to improvement in their photovoltaic properties. Ferroelectrics materials display spontaneous electric polarization because of breaking of Centro-symmetry of unit cell. The polarization in these materials can be change by varying the physical, chemical or mechanical bias. These materials have been widely studying in photovoltaics. Photovoltaic devices are based upon to have driven for the separation of charge carriers in the light absorbing layer. The internal electric field in ferroelectric materials can do this directly, allowing greater flexibility in device design. We are aiming to implement this idea using multiferroic material.

Keywords: *Ferroelectrics, Multiferroics, Photovoltaics*

1. INTRODUCTION

The increase in the demand of energy has paying great attention to the scientist to develop new and alternate of resources of energy. The natural way of energy harvesting/generating has solved the problem of energy production by use of solar cells [1-3]. There are several ways to harvest energy from sun. Now a days much attention has been paid to the BiFeO₃ because of its excellent properties [4-6] and making enable it to be use in various photovoltaic applications. BiFeO₃ thin film based-diode shows photovoltaic effects [7-9].

Photo-multiferroic materials possess one or more ferroic order along with the response to visible light. There has been tremendous advancement done to improve power conversion efficiency in photo-ferroelectrics or photo-multiferroics via increasing the absorption of solar spectrum light with the help of narrowing the bandgap of multiferroic material, BiFeO₃.

In the present, a possibility to exploit the use of BiFeO₃ as photo-multiferroic has been discussed. Moreover the dependence of photo-multiferroic properties on size, doping and shape is explored.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It has been found from the structural analysis of the sample that the synthesized nanoparticles exhibits the rhombohedral structure and space group $R3c$ with JCPDS card No. 86-1518. It has been also found that the synthesized BiFeO_3 nanoparticles displaying size-dependent photo-multiferroic property as shown in Figure 1 (c). The Neel temperature, the particle size found to get lowered along with reduction in polarisation with the displacement of cation in the crystallographic [10]. The decrease in the particle size shows a direct relationship between lower polarisation and Neel temperature. Also, the decrease in the particle size leads to decrease in Neel temperature as well as magnetic transition. The nanoparticles with various shape has been synthesized as shown in Figure 1(a,b). The factor temperature and concentration of KOH play an important role in determining the morphology. Nanoparticles with spherical shape has been obtained with 200°C for 8M KOH while at 200°C for 12M KOH microcube formed [11].

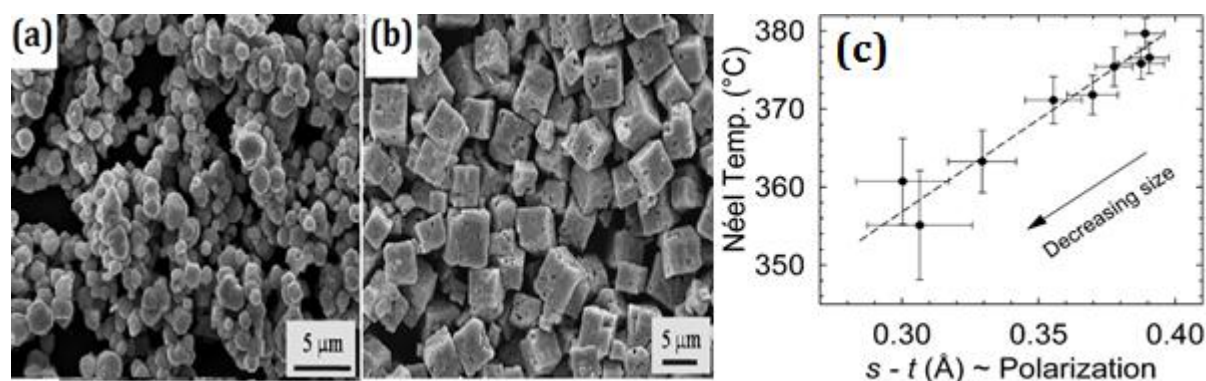


FIGURE 1: SEM micrograph of BiFeO_3 powders annealed at 200°C (adopted with permission from ref. [1]).

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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