

# Structural and Dielectric Properties of Yttrium Doped Multiferroic Bismuth Ferrite ( $\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{Y}_x\text{FeO}_3$ , $x = 0, 0.18$ ) Synthesized by Sol-Gel Method

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# 1 Structural and Dielectric Properties of Yttrium Doped Multiferroic Bismuth Ferrite ( $\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{Y}_x\text{FeO}_3$ , $x = 0, 0.18$ ) Synthesized by Sol-Gel Method

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## Abstract

Pure and Y-doped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  have been synthesized by sol-gel method. The gel have been heated at  $150^\circ\text{C}$  for 3 h, the low-temperature heating treatment was given to obtain uniform, homogenous, and smaller size. The crystal  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  have been found after dried and grounded followed by calcination at  $750^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h. The X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of pure and Y-doped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  are indexed and well matched with rhombohedral structure (R3c) and have been found secondary impurities such as  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_9$  (mullite) and  $\text{Bi}_{25}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{39}$  (sillenite) were detected in pure and  $\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{Y}_x\text{FeO}_3$  ( $x=0, 0.18$ ). The pattern of (104) and (110) peaks in Y-doped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  around  $2\theta = 32^\circ$  indicates reduction of the rhombohedral phase and increase that of the orthorhombic phase (Pbnm). Morphology of pure and Y-doped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  with FE-SEM the result doping Yttrium can be reduce particle size between 200 – 400 nm. The LCR study, the impedance (real and imaginer)  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  and Y doped decreasing at low frequency (40 – 2 kHz) but after frequency 2 kHz is constant value. The impedance (imaginer) of pure is smaller of Yttrium doped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$ . The dielectric constant pure and Ydoped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  have been constan after frequency 2 kHz and decreasing at low frequency (40 – 2 kHz). The conductancy pure  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  is smaller of Y doped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  at 42 Hz – 5 MHz and after frequency 2 kHz conductancy of Y doped increases significant.

**Keywords** : sol-gel, rhombohedral, orthorhombic, particle size, resistivity, conductancy, dielectric constant

**8**

## 1. Introduction

Multiferroics, having the coexistence of magnetic and ferroelectric orders, have attracted the attention of many researchers due to its potential applications for magneto-electric devices.<sup>1</sup> Among various types of multiferroic materials, perovskite-type  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  (BFO) is the only room temperature multiferroic till today having the ferroelectric  $T_C = 1043$  K and  $T_N = 647$  K. However, the narrow synthesis area of single phase BFO would result in the formation of secondary phases such as  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_9$  and  $\text{Bi}_{25}\text{FeO}_{40}$  along with BFO. However,  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  materials usually present a high

electrical conductivity that hinders its practical applications. This high leakage current is mainly attributed to the presence of secondary phases, namely the Bi-rich sillenite type  $\text{Bi}_{25}\text{FeO}_{39}$  phase and the Fe-rich mullite type  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_9$  phase, and to defects in the crystal structure, such as oxygen vacancies originated by the reduction of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ .<sup>2,3</sup> The presence of these undesired phases is commonly attributed to a very narrow range of stabilization of the  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  phase and to the presence of impurities at trace levels that promote the stabilization of secondary phases.<sup>4</sup> These phases are often difficult to detect by X-ray diffraction because the  $\text{Bi}_{25}\text{FeO}_{39}$  sillenite phase is not always well

crystallized and, also, because its high proportion of heavy  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  ions (which, with 80 electrons, scatters X-rays much more efficiently than the much lighter  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{O}^{2-}$ , with 24 and 10 electrons respectively) disguises the signal of the iron-rich  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_9$  phase.<sup>4</sup> For this reason, a rigorous microstructural characterization is always essential in order to detect traces of secondary phases.

In addition, leakage current and low magnetization in BFO limits its usage in multifunctional devices. The multiferroic properties of BFO are very sensitive to its intrinsic defects, such as vacancies. Highly dense materials without impurities are essential to avoid the leakage current and to exhibit good ferroelectric properties. The densification of these materials very much relies on synthesis route and sintering temperature. Many studies have focused on the synthesis of single phase BFO using different techniques.

The  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  ceramics with  $R3c$  phase can be made prepared using sol-gel technique (SG) shows better reactivity than solid state reaction and fully densified samples can be obtained at a relatively lower temperature (750°C). The sol gel procedure involves molecular level mixing and results in the homogeneous material.<sup>5</sup> The Sol gel technique also has an advantages over SS like low cost, generates less carbon residue and easy to prepare. Hence sol-gel has been considered as an alternative method for the preparation of BFO.

Many attempts are being done in order to obtain pure  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  using methods such as chemical synthesis as such co-precipitation,<sup>6</sup> sol-gel,<sup>7</sup> hydrothermal or solvothermal synthesis,<sup>8,9</sup> mechanical activated synthesis<sup>11</sup>, micro-wave assisted synthesis<sup>12,13</sup>. However, up to date, the obtaining of bismuth ferrite as a pure single phase product still represents a major challenge.

In the last few years many researches have tried to stabilize the  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  phase by partial substitution of A or B-site in the perovskite structure<sup>10-15</sup>.

## 2 Experimental Procedure

Pure and Y-doped  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  have been synthesized by sol-gel method. To prepare the YBFO using sol-gel method; the precursors, high purity (99.9 %)  $\text{Bi}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Y}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  of Alfa Aesar were used. The analytical grade  $\text{Bi}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and  $\text{Y}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in appropriate amounts, have been used to prepare the precursors in a stoichiometric molar ratio were dissolved in 1:5  $\text{HNO}_3$  to form an aqueous solution.

Citric acid  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_8\text{O}_7$  was then added in appropriate proportion and stirred for 4 h at RT. Then, the mixture was heated at 250°C on a hot plate with stirring, which

leads to the evolution of gases. Furthermore, the gel have been heated at 150°C for 3 h heating rate 10°C, the brownish colour residue obtained finally, was heated at 600 °C for 1 h to form the desired compound. These powders are made into pellets and sintered for densification at 750 °C for 4 h.

## 3. Characterizations and measurements

Room temperature X-ray diffractogram was recorded on these ceramics using Phillips X-ray diffractometer with  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  wavelength (1.5418 Å). The samples were characterized for its microstructure using Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy (FE-SEM) FEI INSPECT F50 and dielectric properties measurements were carried out using Agilent E4980A LCR meter at room temperature (RT).

## 4. Result and Discussion

### 4.1. Structural analysis of Y doped $\text{BiFeO}_3$

The calcined  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  on 600°C, 650°C, 700°C, and 750°C at 4 h and the crystal structure studies of  $\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{Y}_x\text{FeO}_3$  ( $x = 0.00, 0.18$ ) have been carried out using X-ray diffractometer by Phillips with  $\text{Cu-K}\alpha$  ( $\lambda=1.54060$  Å). The cylindrical pellets having dimensions 12 mm diameter and 2 mm thickness were prepared by hydraulic press with pressure of 10 ton/cm<sup>2</sup>. The sintering of the pellets was carried out at 750°C for 4 h by heating at the rate of 40°C/min to remove any volatile impurities/organic materials (binder) from the pellets.

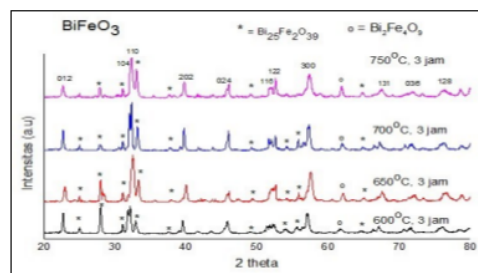


Fig 1. The X-ray diffraction pattern of  $\text{BiFeO}_3$  with calcined 600°C, 650°C, 700°C, and 750°C

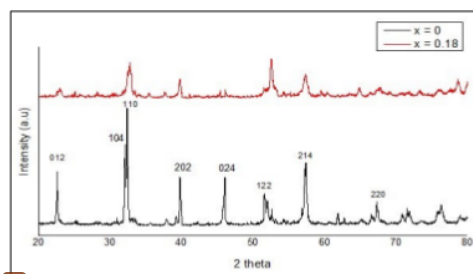


Fig 2. The X ray diffraction pattern of pure and  $\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{Y}_x\text{FeO}_3$  ( $x = 0, 0.18$ )

8

Fig.1 shows the X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> with calcined at 600°C, 650°C, 700°C, and 750°C at 4 h. Single phase BiFeO<sub>3</sub> were given calcined early on 600°C and have been found secondary phase is Bi<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>4</sub>O<sub>9</sub> (mullite) and Bi<sub>25</sub>Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>39</sub> (sillenite) as impurities. The phase is Bi<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>4</sub>O<sub>9</sub> (mullite) and Bi<sub>25</sub>Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>39</sub> (sillenite) reduced with increases calcined

The X ray diffraction pattern of pure and Y-doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> are indexed and well matched with rhombohedral structure (R3c) and have been found secondary impurities such as Bi<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>4</sub>O<sub>9</sub> (mullite) and Bi<sub>25</sub>Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>39</sub> (sillenite) were detected in pure and Bi<sub>1-x</sub>Y<sub>x</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub> (x=0, 0.18). However, XRD patterns of Bi<sub>1-x</sub>Y<sub>x</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub> (x = 0, 0.18) clearly reveal some other peaks indicated by “\*” and “o” (Fig.2) have been observed and are attributed to secondary impurities phases. This indicates that BiFeO<sub>3</sub> doped with Yttrium remains pure with ‘x’ up to 0.18, indicating good the incorporation and dispersivity of ion Y<sup>3+</sup> ions into BiFeO<sub>3</sub> crystal structure; further increase in Y content (x = 0.18) lead to formation of secondary phase impurities. This establishes that solution limitation for Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> is around 18%. Therefore, the present study was carried out for Bi<sub>1-x</sub>Y<sub>x</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub> (x=0, 0.18).

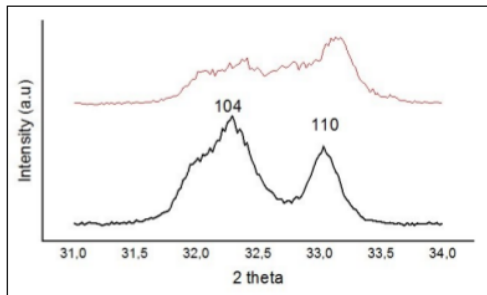


Fig 4. Magnified XRD pattern of indicated transformation rhombohedral to orthorhombic for pure and Bi<sub>0.82</sub>Y<sub>0.18</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>

The XRD patterns (Fig.3) of clearly indicating the structural transformation because of increase in Y content in host BiFeO<sub>3</sub>. Complete structural transformation from rhombohedral to orthorhombic takes place (Fig.4) as we increases Ydoping concentration from 0 to 18% in the host BiFeO<sub>3</sub>. It is clear that the decrease in the splitting of (104) and (110) peaks in Bi<sub>0.88</sub>Y<sub>0.18</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub> around 2θ = 32° indicates reduction of the rhombohedral phase and increase that of the orthorhombic phase (Pbnm). Similar phenomenon of phase transformation with addition of rare earth metal in BiFeO<sub>3</sub> host material had been observed by the other groups<sup>16</sup>.

The result refined have been found crystal structure of Bi<sub>1-x</sub>Y<sub>x</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub> (x = 0, 0.18) is rhombohedral R3c to exist pure and 18% Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> as show at Table 1. The refinement crystal

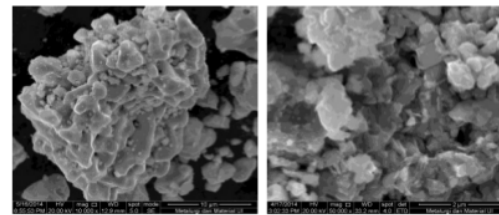
structure orthorhombic Pbnm of 18% Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> is not report analysis.

Table 1. Structural parameters of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and Bi<sub>0.82</sub>Y<sub>0.18</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>

Parameters/Compounds	BiFeO <sub>3</sub>	Bi <sub>0.82</sub> Y <sub>0.18</sub> FeO <sub>3</sub>
Crystal system	Rhombohedral	Rhombohedral
Space group	R3c	R3c
a = b (Å)	5.579808	5.573200
c (Å)	13.866997	13.869400
Cell volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	373.8976	373.8732

#### 4.2. Morphology study of Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

In order to find the grain size distribution in Y doped BFO, the morphology of YBFO has been studied using FE-SEM. As shown in the Fig. 5, morphological characteristic on these samples exhibited that the sol-gel synthesis resulted in doping 18% Y in BiFeO<sub>3</sub>, the grain shape continues to be rectangular but their average size reducing to 200 – 400 nm. However, addition of 18% Y in BiFeO<sub>3</sub> results in aggregated clusters with non-uniform morphology. Further, changing Y concentration to 18%, there results grains having still smaller size 100 – 400 nm. It is clear that the grain growth found to be suppressed with increase in Y content and helps in densification.



(a) (b)

Fig 5. The morphology of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> (a) pure (b) Bi<sub>0.82</sub>Y<sub>0.18</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>

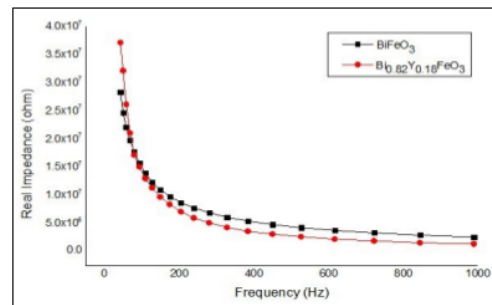


Fig 6. The real Impedance, Z(re) as function frequency of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

#### 4.3. Dielectric properties of Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

variation of resistivity (real and imaginer) of these samples as a function frequency in the range 40 Hz – 8



kHz is shown in Fig. 6 and 7 with the LCR analysis. With decreasing frequency the resistivity (real and imaginer) decreases at low frequency (40 Hz – 2 kHz). After frequency at 2 kHz show constant resistivity (real and imaginer) for pure and Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>, Fig.6. The real impedance of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> pure is smaller of Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and so the dielectric properties BiFeO<sub>3</sub> pure is bigger of Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>. Can be summary is Yttrium is magnetic properties and so that Yttrium can decreasing dielectric properties of BiFeO<sub>3</sub>.

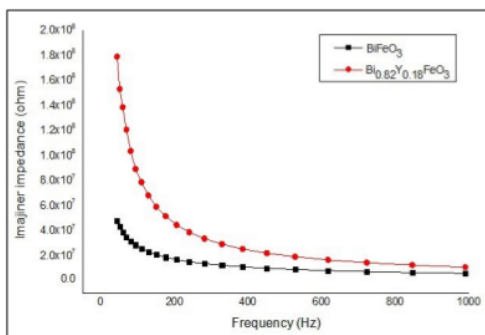


Fig 7. The imaginer impedance ( $Z_{in}$ ) as frequency function of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

Fig.7. The variation of imaginer resistivity of these samples as frequency function in the range 40 Hz – 8 kHz show is vice versa of real resistivity. The real resistivity measured form impendancy ( $Z$ ) sample by the relation given in Equation :

$$Z = Z \cos\theta + i Z \sin\theta \quad (1)$$

where  $Z \cos\theta = R(\text{re})$  and  $Z \sin\theta = R(\text{im})$

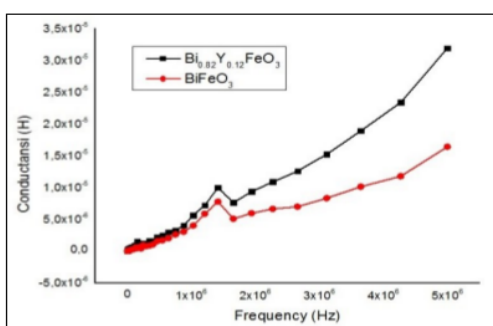


Fig 8. The conductivity as frequency function of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

Fig.8. The variation of conductivity of these samples as a frequency function in the range 40 Hz – 5 MHz is showing conductivity BiFeO<sub>3</sub> is smaller of Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> because dielectric properties Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> is bigger and Yttrium is magnetic properties. After frequency at 2 kHz (high frequency region)

shown with increases frequency the conductivity increasing significant and difference conductivity of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> are bigger. All the problem are conductivity value effected by frequency.

The variation of dielectric constant ( $K$ ) of these samples as frequency function in the range 40Hz - 8 kHz prepared by sol-gel route is shown in Fig. 9. The LCR observed, the dielectric constant BiFeO<sub>3</sub> pure is bigger of Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and so that dielectric properties of Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> is smaller.

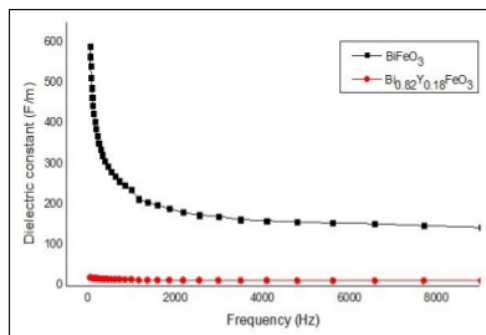


Fig 9. The dielectric constant as function frequency of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and Y doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

The dielectric constant can be ascribed by relation given in Equation :

$$C = \epsilon \frac{A}{d} \quad (2)$$

where  $C$  is capacitancy of sample,  $\epsilon$  is permittivity of sample,  $A$  is surface area of sample, and  $d$  is thickness of sample. Determine of Dielectric constant with equation :

$$K = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \quad (3)$$

where  $K$  is dielectric constant and  $\epsilon_0$  is permittivity at vacuum.

It is clearly observed that all the sol-gel prepared samples have a very high value of dielectric constant in low frequency region in comparison with the previous reports in other RE doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub><sup>17,18</sup>. The space charge polarization in these samples may result into such high value of dielectric constant at low frequencies.

## 5. Conclusions

The crystal structure of Yttrium doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> have indicated change rhombohedral to orthorhombic system and the Yttrium doped to affect particle size decrease. The dielectric properties decreased with Yttrium doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub>. Needed, the following research modified the other Yttrium doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and treatment particle size on pure and Yttrium doped BiFeO<sub>3</sub> and so that to have been particle size is smaller because to affect dielectric properties.

## Acknowledgment

16

The authors acknowledge the Indonesian Government for awarding "International collaboration and scientific publication 2014" grants.

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