

Ferroelectric Crossovers in $\text{Pb}_{0.7}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$ Triggered by A-site Substitution

John Wang

*Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
National University of Singapore, Singapore 117574*

Iso-valent cation A-site substitutions give rise to varying ferroelectric transitions in $\text{Pb}_{0.7}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$, depending on both the type and amount of iso-valent cations on the A-site. A crossover from ferroelectric (FE) to relaxor ferroelectric (RFE) has been observed in $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Ca}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$, $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Ba}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$ and $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Sr}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$ with $x=0.30, 0.40$ and 0.60 , respectively, as shown by both the compositional dependences of γ , ΔT , and ΔT_{relax} and the fitting to the Vogel-Fulcher relation. As compared to Ca^{2+} and Ba^{2+} , Sr^{2+} substitution is less effective in inducing ferroelectric transition due to the similar ionic size as that of Pb^{2+} , whereby only an enhancement in diffusive phase transition is observed in $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Sr}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$ with $x < 0.60$. $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Ba}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$ exhibits ferroelectric to relaxor crossover at a lower level of Ba^{2+} substitution ($x=0.40$); however, Ba^{2+} substitution is less effective in reducing the transition temperature. This can be attributed to the local enhancement of Pb-O hybridization brought about by the stretching of O^{2-} to the direction of Pb^{2+} due to the existence of large Ba^{2+} . In contrast to $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Ba}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$ and $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Sr}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$, a subsequent crossover to quantum paraelectric-like behavior (QPB) is triggered in $\text{Pb}_{0.7(1-x)}\text{Ca}_{0.7x}\text{La}_{0.2}\text{TiO}_3$ with $x=0.60$ in addition to the ferroelectric to relaxor transition, in association with the suppression of ferroelectric order to the quantum regime, suggesting that a severe breakdown in long-range polar order, which together with the shrinkage of unit-cell volume, favor the paraelectric state. The manifestation of quantum mechanical fluctuations at $T < 171.6$ K leads to the temperature independent ϵ' that deviates significantly from the classical Curie-Weiss relation.