

preferred orientation of the ferroelectric domains accompanied by a macroscopic polarization.

In PZT highest piezoelectric response is found at the morphotropic phase boundary (MPB), separating a rhombohedral structure, in which the polarization is along the $[111]_c$ direction, from a tetragonal structure, in which the polarization lies along the $[001]_c$ direction[1]. The subscript "c" denotes the pseudocubic perovskite unit cell. A similar MPB with a rhombohedral and a tetragonal phase can be found in BNT doped with barium titanate (BT)[2].

In situ high resolution X-ray diffraction experiments with a specially developed sample environment for applied electric fields[3] were conducted at the MS beamline at the SLS[4]. The experiments were focused on texture analysis and revealed the microstructural reactions during poling and fatiguing of BNT and PZT based materials.

The results indicate that poling and fatiguing of morphotropic ferroelectrics results in a combination of reversible phase transitions and complex texture formations. Reconstructed and inverse pole figures contribute additional informations to the interpretation of the complex microstructural processes during the application of an electric field.

Texture analysis was performed using the program MAUD[5], which is especially designed for texture and structure analysis.

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Keywords: ferroelectrics, X-ray diffraction, texture analysis

FA2-MS17-P06

Synthesis, crystal structure and thermal behavior of Sr₃B₂SiO₈. Krzhizhanovskaya Maria

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FA2-MS17-P07

Metastable Bi₂O₃ Polymorphs obtained by High Pressure and High Temperature. T. Locherer^a, S.

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Although being well known for the high ionic conductivity of its high temperature modifications, only little is known about the high pressure behavior of Bi₂O₃. Previous reports contradict each other to a certain degree and do not present structures of high pressure modifications [1], [2]. Using a large volume multi anvil type device we were able to identify two new metastable (quenched to ambient conditions) polymorphs of Bi₂O₃ by means of X-ray and neutron powder diffraction. Structural analysis shows that in one of these modifications Bi₂O₃ crystallizes in an entirely new structure type within the non centrosymmetric space group $P31c$. The structure determining lone pairs for Bi^(III) compounds are less pronounced on the **2b** site and exhibit a highly polar

orientation. These structural properties are giving raise to the assumption that the high pressure phase of Bi₂O₃ is a potential ferroelectric. Upon annealing it relaxes to a second new modification at about 106 °C, before at about 310 °C the transformation towards the stable ambient α -modification is completed. This "relaxed" phase can be considered as an intermediate polymorph similar to the ambient. In contrast to the former it exhibits a two dimensional channel network with the lone electron pairs pointing into these channels. A weak ionic conduction was determined for this modification.

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Keywords: High Pressure Phase Transformations, Lone Pairs, Neutron and X-ray diffraction

FA2-MS17-P08

High-pressure single-crystal structure investigations of sillenites. Leonore Wiehl, Alexandra Friedrich, Eiken Haussühl, Wolfgang Morgenroth, Björn Winkler.

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Sillenites, Bi₁₂MO₂₀ ($M = \text{Si, Ge, Ti}$), crystallize in the cubic non-centrosymmetric space group $I23$. They are piezoelectric and optically active, they exhibit electro-optic effects and high photoconductivity, leading to applications using the photo-refractive effect [1]. It is assumed that these properties are correlated with the stereochemical activity of the 6s² lone electron pair of Bi³⁺. The lone electron pairs are hosted within large cavities, which are built up from four distorted BiO₅ pyramids and two regular MO₄ tetrahedra. These cavities have a large potential to be considerably compressed at high pressure, accompanied by a reduction of the stereochemical activity of the lone electron pair. Strong pressure-induced changes of the Bi coordination were observed for example in Bi₂Ga₄O₉ [2] and Bi₂S₃ [3]. The aim of our single-crystal X-ray diffraction experiments was to investigate the effect of pressure on the stereochemical activity of the Bi³⁺ lone electron pair within the sillenite structure.

The crystal structures of Bi₁₂SiO₂₀ (BSO), Bi₁₂GeO₂₀ (BGO) and Bi₁₂TiO₂₀ (BTO) were determined at high pressures in diamond anvil cells. Single-crystal X-ray intensity data were collected at ambient conditions in house and at pressures up to 16.8(3) GPa with synchrotron radiation at HASYLAB (D3). Lattice parameters were determined up to 23.0(3) GPa. All data sets could be refined to R1 values below 4% and wR2 below 9%. The cubic symmetry is preserved at least up to 16.8 GPa in BSO and 8.6 GPa in BGO with no indication of a phase transition. The unit cell volumes of BSO and BGO as function of pressure were fitted with a 3rd-order Birch-Murnaghan equation of state. We found the largest compression of interatomic distances (Bi – Bi, Bi – O) along the lone pair directions, but nearly as large Bi – Bi compressions in directions perpendicular to this. Despite of some tilts the cavities are compressed nearly isotropically. The eccentricity of the Bi coordination is reduced considerably, but less than in Bi₂Ga₄O₉ [2]. A complete collapse of the cavities seems to be prevented by the high symmetry of the crystals. Changes of the Bi^{[5+2]O₇} polyhedra will be discussed. The results are supported by complementary data from X-ray

powder diffraction up to 40 GPa at ESRF, DFT calculations and Raman spectroscopy.

Financial support from the DFG (HA 5137/3-1) and from HASYLAB is gratefully acknowledged. Portions of this research were carried out at the light source facility DORIS III at HASYLAB/DESY and at the ESRF. We would like to thank Martin Tolkiehn for assistance at beamline D3 and Michael Hanfland at beamline ID09.

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Keywords: sillenites, high-pressure X-ray diffraction, single-crystal structure