X-Ray Diffraction Study on the Phase Transitions of Barium Titanate

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Structural phase transitions in as-grown single crystal of BaTiO₃ were studied by X-ray precession method in the temperature range between 420 K and 90 K. It was found that high temperature cubic phase, designated here as cubic I, is transformed into the room temperature phase (RTP at T₁=403 K), and further into the low temperature phase (LTP at T₂=278 K), in both of which closely related two structures coexist to form domains with a shape of multi-domain 'hybrid' structure. In RTP the coexisting structures are tetragonal I and monoclinic I and in the LTP tetragonal II and monoclinic II. On the other hand, the lowest temperature phase (below T₃=183 K) is in a single domain of a tetragonal III form. These observations are in disagreement with the phase transition sequence, proposed by previous studies, cubic->tetragonal->orthorhombic->rhombohedral. The lattice constants of the tetragonal I form are $a_{TI}=0.4009(10)$ nm and $c_{TI} = 0.4048(10)$ nm, and those of the monoclinic I form are $a_{MI}{=}0.4059(10), \quad b_{MI}{=}0.4009(10), \quad c_{MI}{=}0.5700(10) \quad nm \quad and \\ \beta_{MI}{=}135.33(10)^\circ at \ room \ temperature. Those \ of \ the \ tetragonal \ II \ form$ are $a_T = 0.4027(10)$ and $c_T = 0.3996(10)$ nm, and those of the monoclinic II form are $a_{MI} = 0.3994(10)$, $b_{MI} = 0.4027(10)$, $c_{M} = 0.5678(10)$ nm and $\beta_{M} = 134.77(10)^{\circ} at~233$ K. Evolution and crystallographic relationship of the four phases forming the multidomain 'hybrid' structures are presented.

Keywords: BaTiO₃, phase transitions, 'hybrid' structure