Microwave Dielectric Properties of Sr-Substituted Ba(Mg$_{0.3}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$
Ceramics

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(Received April 13, 2018; Revised May 18, 2018; Accepted May 18, 2018)

1. Introduction

Motivated by the rapid growth of the commercial wireless communication industry, research on microwave dielectric ceramics used for mobile phones, wireless local area networks (LAN), global positioning system (GPS), and intelligent transport systems (ITS) is being actively conducted.\(^1\,^2\) For a ceramic to be usable as a dielectric resonator/filter, three key properties need to be optimized; dielectric constant, \(\varepsilon_r\), dielectric loss or its inverse, the quality factor, \(Q\), and the temperature coefficient of resonant frequency, \(\tau_f\).\(^3\) Structural stability and microwave dielectric properties of Ba(Mg$_x$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics with a 1:1 ordered perovskite structure have been investigated widely\(^4\,^5\) ever since Takahashi \textit{et al.} reported the dielectric properties of Ba(Mg$_3$W$_{12}$)O$_9$ ceramics with \(\varepsilon_r = 16.7\), \(Q \times f = 42.0\,\text{GHz}\), and \(\tau_f = -33.6\,\text{ppm/°C}\).\(^6\) Wu \textit{et al.} reported that for \(x = 0.02\), the (1-x)Ba(Mg$_3$W$_{12}$)O$_9$-(x)Ba(Y$_{1/2}$W$_{12}$)O$_9$ system exhibited dielectric behavior with \(\varepsilon_r = 20\), \(Q \times f = 160\,\text{GHz}\), and \(\tau_f = -21\,\text{ppm/°C}\).\(^7\) Bian and Wu reported that for \(x = 0.30\), the Ba[Mg$_{1.3}$Y$_{0.7}$][Mg$_{2}$W$_{12}$]O$_{19}$ (\(x\) refers to the vacancy) system exhibited dielectric behavior with \(\varepsilon_r = 21.9\), \(Q \times f = 133\,\text{GHz}\), and \(\tau_f = -2.4\,\text{ppm/°C}\).\(^8\) Lin \textit{et al.} investigated the microwave dielectric properties of the (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{2}$W$_{12}$)O$_{19}$ system with the compositions at wide intervals of \(x = 0, 0.25, 0.50\), and 0.75 and found that at \(x = 0.25\), the system exhibited the following dielectric properties: \(\varepsilon_r = 20.6\), \(Q \times f = 152,600\,\text{GHz}\), and \(\tau_f = +24\,\text{ppm/°C}\).\(^9\) In this study, we have investigated the phase evolution, microstructure, and microwave dielectric properties of the (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{2}$W$_{12}$)O$_{19}$ system with \(0 \leq x \leq 0.30\) at intervals of 0.05 mol.  

2. Experimental Procedure

Raw powders of BaCO$_3$ (purity 2N5, Sakai Chem. Ind. Co., Ltd., Japan), SrCO$_3$ (3N, High Purity Chem. Co., Ltd., Japan), MgO (2N, High Purity Chem. Co., Ltd., Japan), and WO$_3$ (3N, High Purity Chem. Co., Ltd., Japan) were mixed to prepare the (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{2}$W$_{12}$)O$_{19}$ ceramics. Appropriate ratios of the raw powders were ball-milled using zirconia balls and ethyl alcohol in a polyethylene container for 24 h. After drying in an oven, the powder mixture was calcined at 900°C for 10 h in an alumina crucible, followed by pulverizing and uniaxial pressing at 50 MPa to form disk-type specimens 15 mm in diameter. The disk-type specimens were sintered at 1700°C for 1 h. The crystalline phases of the sintered specimens were identified using a powder X-ray diffractometer (XRD, D/MAX-2500V/PC, Rigaku, Japan). The apparent lattice parameter, \(a\), of the cubic structure was calculated using the equation of \(a^2 = \frac{[(h^2 + k^2 + F)^2]}{4\sin^2\theta}\), where \(\theta\) is the angle of diffraction of the X-rays from the plane of \((hkl)\) and \(l\) is the wave length of the X-rays. The lattice parameter was determined by plotting the calculated \(a\) values versus the Nelson-Riley function \(f(\theta)\) of \(f(\theta) = 1/2(\cos^2\theta\sin\theta + \cos^2\theta\theta)\) and determining the \(y\)-intercept where the Nelson-Riley function went to zero, i.e.,
at $\theta = \pi/2$. Microstructure of the sintered specimens was characterized by a field emission scanning electron microscope (FE-SEM, Quanta 250 FEG, FEI, U.S.A.). The microwave dielectric properties of the specimens were determined using network analyzers. The dielectric constant was measured by Hakki-Coleman method using a network analyzer (E5071C, Keysight, U.S.A.). The quality factors of the sintered specimens were measured by the cavity method using the same equipment. The temperature coefficient of resonant frequency was measured by the cavity method using a network analyzer (R3767CG, Advantest, Japan) in the temperature range of 20°C to 80°C.

3. Results and Discussion

The powder X-ray diffraction patterns of (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics sintered at 1700°C are shown in Fig. 1. All compositions show a 1:1 ordered perovskite structure, i.e., an ordered arrangement of MgO and WO$_6$ octahedra in B-site of the perovskite structure. In all the compositions, BaWO$_4$ is detected as the secondary phase. It was previously reported that BaWO$_4$ is usually formed during the sintering of Ba(Mg$_0.5$W$_0.5$)O$_3$ ceramics having a low melting point of 1430°C.

The peak at 2θ ~ 42.9° may correspond to the (200) plane of MgO (ICDD number 45-0946) and/or the (204) plane of BaWO$_4$ (ICDD number 43-0646). There was no inter-dependency between the amount of BaWO$_4$ calculated from the intensity ratio of $I_{(200)}$ BaWO$_4$/I$_{(220)}$ BaWO$_4$ (ICDD 45-0946) and value of $x$ in (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$. The minimum value of the intensity ratio $I_{(200)}$ BaWO$_4$/I$_{(220)}$ BaWO$_4$ (ICDD 45-0946) is obtained for the composition with $x = 0.10$. The presence of MgO or Mg-rich phases in the sintered specimens of Ba(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics has been previously reported. Similar to other studies, BaO is not detected in any of the compositions in this study. It was previously suggested that BaO might exist in the amorphous state or as a solid solution with Ba(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ or BaWO$_4$. The lattice parameters of (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics are shown in Fig. 2. With increasing $x$ in (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$, the lattice parameter decreases linearly indicating that a substitutional solid solution occurs. The substitution of Ba$^{2+}$ ion by a smaller Sr$^{2+}$ ion, where the ionic radii of Sr$^{2+}$ ion and Ba$^{2+}$ are 1.44 Å and 1.61 Å, respectively, when the coordination number is 12, may be the cause for the decrease in the value of lattice parameter. The lattice parameter of Ba(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ sintered at 1700°C in this study is 8.1092(3) Å and it was reported as between 8.1072 Å and 8.1115 Å (sintered at 1600°C)(5). The typical FE-SEM images of (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics (the compositions with $x = 0$, 0.10, and 0.30) are shown in Fig. 3. All the compositions exhibit a dense microstructure and the grain shape is certainly a polyhedron.

The linear shrinkage, the dielectric constant ($\varepsilon_r$), and the quality factor ($Q \times f$) are illustrated in Fig. 4. The linear shrinkage of the composition for $x = 0$, i.e., Ba(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$, is much lower than that of other compositions. The linear shrinkage increases with the increase of $x$ except for the composition with $x = 0.25$, implying that the sinterability of Ba(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics is improved by the Sr substitution. In addition, it is considered that its sinterability is improved by the liquid phase sintering due to the formation of BaWO$_4$ having a low melting point of 1430°C.

The variation of $\varepsilon_r$ is similar to that of the linear shrinkage. The value of $\varepsilon_r$ for the composition with $x = 0$ is 17.3 and it was reported as 16.7 (sintered at 1500°C)(5), 17.6 (sintered at 1600°C(5)), and 18.9 (sintered at 1575°C)(22) earlier. The value of $\varepsilon_r$ increases slightly with increasing $x$ except for the composition with $x = 0.10$. It is considered that the relatively high $\varepsilon_r$ of the composition with $x = 0.10$ may be due to the presence of small amount of BaWO$_4$ having a low $\varepsilon_r$ of 8.1(10) as mentioned above. The value of $Q \times f$ for Ba(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics is 59,738 GHz, which is higher than that reported by Takahashi et al.(4) and lower than that...
reported by Lin et al.\textsuperscript{12} The value of $Q \times f_0$ increases with increase in $x$ up to $x = 0.10$ and reaches a saturated value of about 100,000 GHz. It is considered that the increase in $Q \times f_0$ may be related to the improvement in sinterability owing to the substitution of Ba$^{2+}$ ion by Sr$^{2+}$ ion and the liquid phase sintering as mentioned above. The dielectric losses or the inverse of the quality factor are generally classified into intrinsic and extrinsic categories. The intrinsic dielectric losses depend on the crystal structure, ac field frequency and temperature. The extrinsic losses are associated with the microstructure, e.g., pores, grain boundaries, and secondary phases.\textsuperscript{9} Reany and Iddles have pointed out that, in reality, extrinsic losses dominate the quality factor.\textsuperscript{9}

The temperature coefficient of resonant frequency ($\tau_f$) as a function of the calculated tolerance factor ($t$) using Shannon ionic radii is illustrated in Fig. 5.\textsuperscript{15} The value of $\tau_f$ for the (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics increases from a negative value to a positive one with increasing $x$. It was reported that $\tau_f$ is related to the temperature coefficient of the dielec-

![Fig. 3. FE-SEM images of the (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics; (a) $x = 0$, (b) $x = 0.10$, and (c) $x = 0.30$.](image)

![Fig. 4. Linear shrinkage, dielectric constant ($\varepsilon_r$), and quality factor ($Q \times f_0$) of the (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramics as a function of $x$.](image)

![Fig. 5. Temperature coefficient of resonant frequency ($\tau_f$) of the (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$(Mg$_{0.5}$W$_{0.5}$)O$_3$ ceramic as a function of tolerance factor.](image)
tric constant ($\tau$) and the linear thermal expansion coefficient ($\alpha_0$) by $\tau = -\alpha_0/2 + \alpha_0^3$. In addition an overall empirical correlation between $\tau$ and the tolerance factor of the perovskite structure ($t$) is given by $t = (R_a + R_b)/(2R_c)$, where $R_a$, $R_b$, and $R_c$ are the ionic radii of A, B, and oxygen ions in the ABO$_3$ perovskite structure, has been established by Reaney et al. The value of $\tau$ in this study ranges from $-27.3$ ppm/°C for the composition with $x = 0$, respectively. The composition with $x = 0.20$, i.e., (Ba$_{0.80}$Sr$_{0.20}$)$_2$WO$_{4}$, sintered at 1700°C for 1 h, exhibited superior microwave dielectric properties of $\varepsilon_r = 19.6$, $Q \times f = 99,358$ GHz, and $\tau = 0.0$ ppm/°C.

4. Conclusions

The phase evolution, microstructure, and microwave dielectric properties of Sr-substituted Ba(Mg$_{1/2}$W$_{1/2}$)O$_3$ ceramics, i.e., (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{1/2}$W$_{1/2}$)$_3$O$_9$ (0 $\leq$ $x$ $\leq$ 0.30), sintered at 1700°C for 1 h were investigated. All compositions showed a 1 : 1 ordered perovskite structure. In all the compositions, BaWO$_3$ was detected as the secondary phase. With increasing $x$ in (Ba$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$)(Mg$_{1/2}$W$_{1/2}$)$_3$O$_9$, the lattice parameter increased linearly, indicating that a substitutional solid solution occurred. All compositions exhibited a dense microstructure and the grain shape was confirmed to be a polyhedron. The linear shrinkage increased with the increase in $x$ except for the composition with $x = 0.25$, implying that the sinterability of Ba(Mg$_{1/2}$W$_{1/2}$)$_3$O$_9$ ceramics was improved by the substitution of Sr. The value of $\varepsilon_r$ increased slightly with increasing $x$ except for the composition with $x = 0.10$. The value of $Q \times f$ increased with increase in $x$ up to $x = 0.10$ and reached a saturated value of about 100,000 GHz. The composition with $x = 0.20$, i.e., (Ba$_{0.80}$Sr$_{0.20}$)(Mg$_{1/2}$W$_{1/2}$)$_3$O$_9$, sintered at 1700°C for 1 h exhibited superior microwave dielectric properties with $\varepsilon_r = 19.6$, $Q \times f = 99,358$ GHz, and $\tau = 0.0$ ppm/°C, respectively.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by Gangneung-Wonju National University.

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