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# Dielectric Properties of $(\text{TMA})_x(\text{TEA})_{(2-x)}\text{CoBr}_4$ Crystals

Nagahide IZUMI

*Institute of Physics, Faculty of Education, Kanazawa University, Kakuma  
Kanazawa 920 – 1192*

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## Abstract

Dielectric constants of  $\{\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_4\}_x\{\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\}_{(2-x)}\text{CoBr}_4$  crystals where  $x$  varied from 0.5 to 1.5 by 0.1 step were measured over the temperature range from  $-190^\circ\text{C}$  to  $50^\circ\text{C}$ . The phase II which is ferroelectric at  $x=1.0$  was vanished over the  $x=1.5$  and the phase III which was antiferroelectric at  $x=1.0$  was recognized at only the region between  $x=0.5$  and  $x=1.5$ .

## Introduction

A large number of substances with the chemical formula  $\text{A}_2\text{MX}_4$ , representative in  $\text{K}_2\text{SeO}_4$ <sup>1)</sup> and  $\{\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_4\}_2\text{MX}_4$  where  $\text{M}=\text{Zn}, \text{Co}$  and  $\text{Mn}$  and  $\text{X}=\text{Cl}$  and  $\text{Br}$ , have been studied to show similar successive phase transitions.<sup>2)–5)</sup> Our attention was paid to  $\text{ABMX}_4$  type where  $\text{A}=\text{tetramethylammonium } \text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_4$  (hereafter  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_4$  is abbreviated as TMA) and  $\text{B}=\text{tetraethylammonium } \text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4$  (hereafter  $\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4$  is abbreviated as TEA). Our aim to investigate the influence of a mixed system  $(\text{TMA})_x(\text{TEA})_{(2-x)}\text{CoBr}_4$  where  $x$  is varied from 0.5 to 1.5 by 0.1 step. The crystal of  $(\text{TMA})_2\text{CoBr}_4$  (that is  $x=2.0$ ) undergoes a second-order phase transition at approximately  $14.7^\circ\text{C}$ . The phase I is  $\text{Pncm}$  and phase II is  $\text{P } 12_1/c_1$  in order of decreasing temperature.  $(\text{TEA})_2\text{CoBr}_4$  (that is  $x=0$ ) crystal undergoes a phase transition at about  $9^\circ\text{C}$ . This phase transition is first order and phase I is  $\text{P } 4_2/nmc$ . We found that  $(\text{TMA})(\text{TEA})\text{CoBr}_4$ <sup>6)</sup> (that is  $x=1.0$ ) has four phases, phase I ( $T > -164^\circ\text{C}$ ), phase II ( $-164^\circ\text{C} > T > -172^\circ\text{C}$ ), phase III ( $-172^\circ\text{C} > T > -179^\circ\text{C}$ ) and phase IV ( $-179^\circ\text{C} > T$ ), and found that the phase II is ferroelectric phase and the phase III is antiferroelectric phase, respectively. We will report the results for anomalous temperature dependence of dielectric constant and the diagram of these phases varies dependent on the mole fraction of  $\text{TMA}(x)$ .

## \$1 Experimental

Single crystal of  $(\text{TMA})_x(\text{TEA})_{(2-x)}\text{CoBr}_4$  where  $x$  varied from 0 to 2.0 by 0.1 step were prepared from aqueous solution by slow evaporation method at  $30^\circ\text{C}$ . The TMA content  $x$  was determined by chemical analysis for  $x=0, 1.0$  and  $2.0$ , but  $x$  values of other crystals were determined by mixed ratio. The obtained crystals were prism-like pillar and their color were cobalt blue. The specimens for dielectric measurements were polished with wet filter paper which was soaked with methanol and water. The (001) plate specimens were prepared and typical size of specimens were about  $0.08\text{ cm}$  thick and  $0.15\sim 0.50\text{ cm}^2$  in area. Ag paste was used as electrodes. The dielectric measurement at constant frequency of  $1.00\text{ MHz}$ . and constant applied field of  $20\text{ V/cm}$  were performed by using LCR-meter (HP-4285 A), which was controlled by computer. The sample was

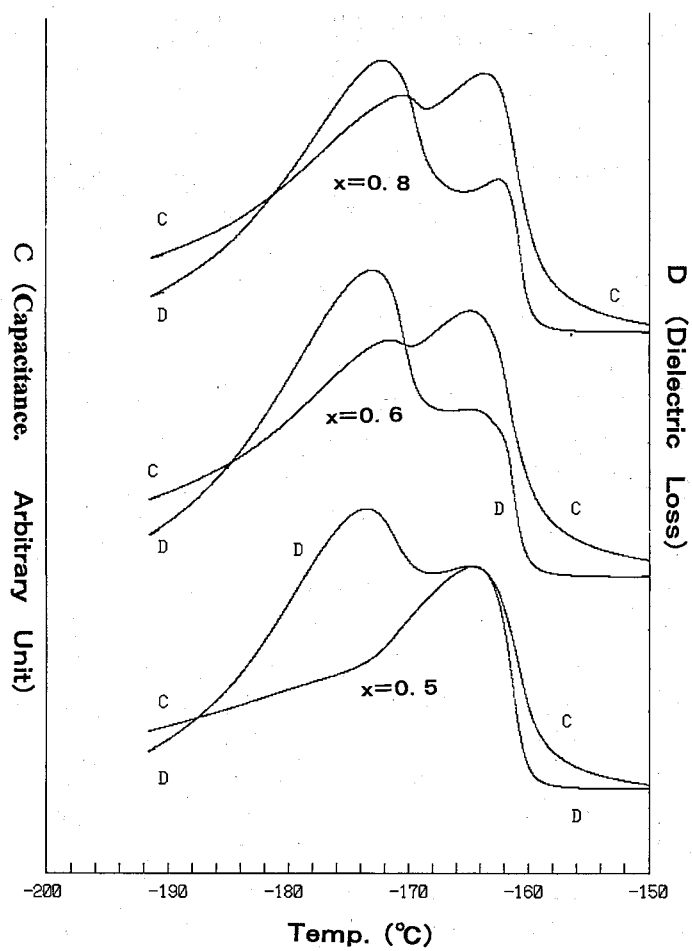


Fig. 1 Capacitance C and dielectric loss D for  $x=0.5$ ,  $x=0.6$  and  $x=0.8$  in  $(\text{TMA})_x(\text{TEA})_{(2-x)}$  type crystal system.

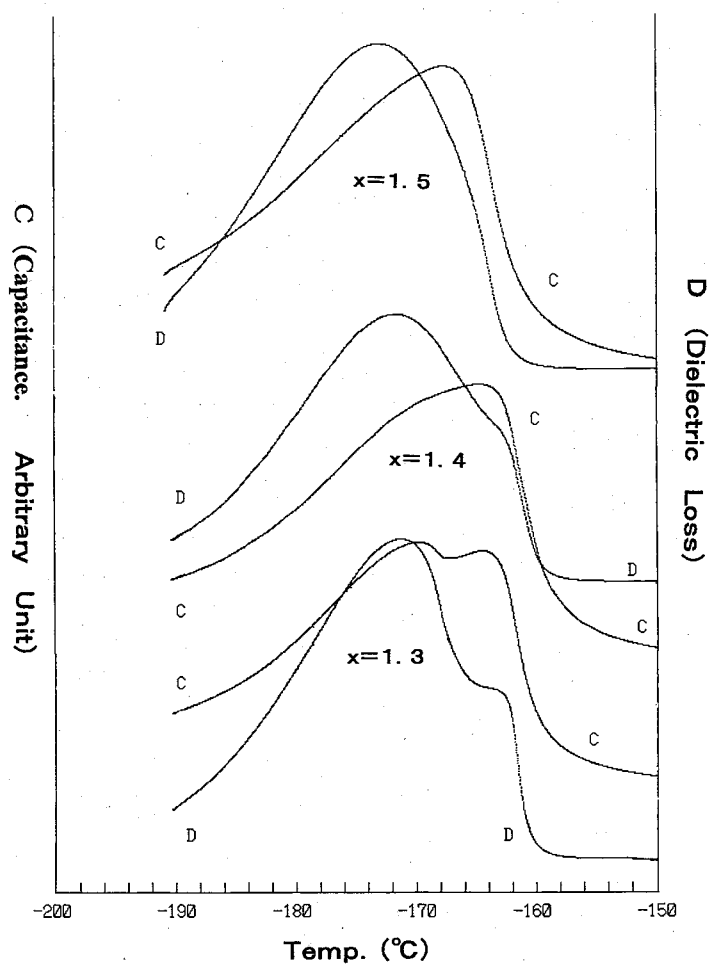


Fig. 2 Capacitance C and dielectric loss D for  $x=1.3, x=1.4$  and  $x=1.5$  in  $(\text{TMA})_x(\text{TEA})_{2-x}$  type crystal system.

cooled and heated using a thermal programmable controller (ULVAC HPC-7000) over a temperature range from  $-190^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The typical temperature changing rate during a measurement was  $16\text{ K/h}$ . The  $60\text{ Hz}$ . D-E hysteresis loop was observed by using Sawyer-Tower circuit.

## 2. Results and Discussion

Capacitance  $C$  and dielectric loss  $D$  of (001) plate for  $x=0.5$ ,  $0.6$  and  $0.8$  are showed in Fig.1. and for  $x=1.3$ ,  $1.4$  and  $1.5$  are showed in Fig.2, respectively. In Fig.1, the capacitance  $C$  of the sample for  $x=0.5$ , the peak between phase II and phase III are disappeared. In Fig.2, the  $C$  for  $x=1.4$  have a shoulder and for  $x=1.5$ , the shoulder was vanished, that is, phase II and phase III are vanished at  $x=1.5$ . These phase diagram was shown in Fig.3. It is widely noted that free rotation of methylene group

is maintained fairly low temperature. The carbons of methylene group in TEA are disordered<sup>6)</sup> and two TMA molecules (for  $x=2.0$ ) rotate around C-N axis at different angles and change rotation direction in each phase.<sup>7)</sup> For  $x$  lower than  $0.5$  and higher than  $1.5$ , we consider that one of TMA (or TEA) which was substituted by TEA (or TMA) plays the role of to stop the rotation around C-N axis. Dielectric studies and X-ray analysis for other  $x$  in this mixed crystal system are now progress.

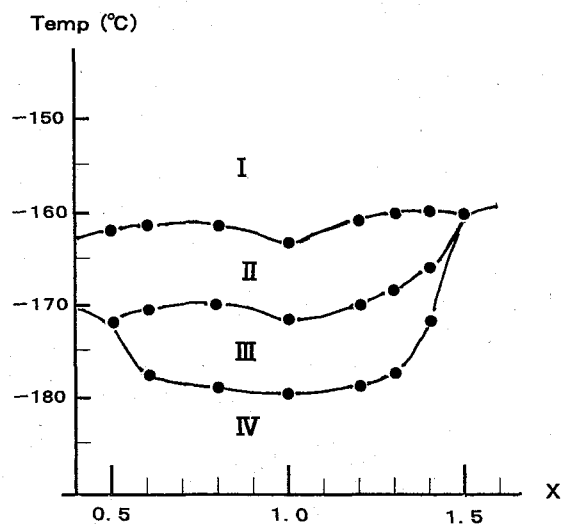


Fig. 3 Phase diagram of  $(\text{TMA})_x(\text{TEA})_{(2-x)}$  type crystal system in a region of  $x=1.0\pm0.5$

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