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Electric-field-dependent phase volume fractions and enhanced piezoelectricity near the polymorphic phase boundary of $(\text{K}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5})_{1-x}\text{Li}_x\text{NbO}_3$ textured ceramics

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11

12 **Abstract**

13 The structure and ferroelectric/piezoelectric properties of <001>-textured
14 $(\text{K}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5})_{0.98}\text{Li}_{0.02}\text{NbO}_3$ ceramics were investigated as a function of temperature and
15 dc bias (E). X-ray diffraction revealed an orthorhombic (O)→tetragonal (T)
16 polymorphic phase boundary (PPB). Phase coexistence was found near the PPB over
17 a 30°C temperature range, where the relative phase volume fractions changed with
18 temperature. Furthermore, increasing E applied along the <001>-texture direction
19 resulted in a notable increase in the volume fraction of the T phase at the expense of
20 the O phase, effectively shifting the O→T boundary to lower temperature. An
21 enhancement in the piezoelectric properties was found to accompany this increase in
22 the T volume fraction.

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1 I. Introduction

2 The high electromechanical properties of $\text{Pb}(\text{Zr}_x\text{Ti}_{1-x})\text{O}_3$ (or PZT) ceramics for
3 compositions near the morphotropic phase boundary (MPB) ¹ form the basis of
4 piezoelectric actuators, transducers and sensors. However, these lead-based materials
5 pose environmental concerns, due to the volatility and toxicity of PbO during material
6 preparation. Thus, lead-free piezoelectric materials have attracted attention in recent
7 years ².

8 KNbO_3 and NaNbO_3 form a complete solid solution of $\text{K}_{1-x}\text{Na}_x\text{NbO}_3$ (KNN)
9 over the entire range of $0 < x < 1$ ³. KNN undergoes a structural phase transformation
10 sequence on cooling of paraelectric Cubic (C) $\xrightarrow{\sim 415^\circ\text{C}}$ ferroelectric Tetragonal (T)
11 $\xrightarrow{\sim 210^\circ\text{C}}$ ferroelectric Orthorhombic (O) $\xrightarrow{\sim -150^\circ\text{C}}$ ferroelectric Rhombohedral (R)
12 ^{1, 3, 4}. The T \rightarrow O boundary is known as the polymorphic phase boundary (PPB) to
13 designate its difference with the MPB. The PPB of KNN solid solutions is nearly
14 independent of x , remaining unchanged in temperature for $0 < x < 1$ ^{1, 3, 5}. This is in
15 distinct contrast to the MPB for PZT, which is nearly independent of temperature and
16 fixed near $x=0.5$ ¹.

17 Accordingly, the piezoelectric properties of KNN are not independent of
18 temperature like that of MPB compositions of PZT ¹. A broad maximum in the planar
19 coupling coefficient k_p centered at $x=0.5$ is known for $\text{K}_{1-x}\text{Na}_x\text{NbO}_3$ ceramics,
20 prepared either by conventional solid-state reaction ⁶ or hot pressing ^{4, 7} methods.
21 More recently, an enhanced longitudinal piezoelectric coefficient of $d_{33}=410$ pC/N
22 was reported for $\langle 001 \rangle$ -textured $(\text{K}_{0.44}\text{Na}_{0.52}\text{Li}_{0.04})(\text{Nb}_{0.86}\text{Ta}_{0.10}\text{Sb}_{0.04})\text{O}_3$ ceramics ⁸.

1 This value is close to that of “soft” PZT ceramics [1](#). This report has triggered an
2 extensive search to further improve d_{33} of the KNN system by use of various
3 substituents: examples include LiNbO_3 (LN), LiSbO_3 (LS), LiTaO_3 (LT), BaTiO_3 ,
4 CaTiO_3 , and SrTiO_3 [9-20](#). Indeed, the room temperature piezoelectric properties of
5 KNN have been enhanced by doping with LN, LS and LT [9, 11, 14](#). Temperature
6 dependent piezoelectric measurements for KNN-based materials revealed that
7 maximum piezoelectric properties existed at a narrow temperature range near the
8 T→O boundary and the enhancements in d_{33} of KNN-based solid solutions by
9 compositional modifications have been shown to result from a shifting of the PPB to
10 lower temperatures: from ~210 °C for pure KNN, to near room temperature for those
11 with the highest d_{33} values [12, 14](#).

12 These facts indicate the mechanism of enhanced piezoelectricity near the PPB is
13 quite different with that of near the MPB. The mechanism of high piezoelectricity in
14 Pb-based MPB compositions is believed to be due to low-symmetry structurally
15 bridging phases, where polarization rotation may occur in a plane [21-27](#). However, the
16 mechanism of enhanced piezoelectricity near the PPB of KNN-based solutions is not
17 yet clear. Ahn et al [28](#) reported that high piezoelectric properties were observed when
18 the tetragonal phase volume fraction was ~70% in Li-modified KNN ceramics.
19 However, how the electric field (E) effects the T and O phases near the PPB boundary
20 has not yet been reported. Such investigations would yield new insights to
21 understanding the mechanism of enhanced piezoelectricity near the PPB.

22 Compared to conventional randomly oriented KNN ceramics, <001>-textured

1 KNN ceramics exhibited much better piezoelectric properties ²⁹. Here, we report an
2 investigation of the E-field dependent phase stability of <001>-textured (K_{0.5}Na_{0.5})
3 _{0.98}Li_{0.02}NbO₃ (or 2at% Li:KNN) ceramics. Our findings demonstrate the presence of
4 a two-phase T and O field near the PPB, where the volume fractions of the phases
5 change with temperature and electric field. An E-field applied along <001> increases
6 the volume fraction of the T phase, effectively decreasing the T→O boundary
7 temperature. An enhancement in d₃₃ was found to accompany the increase of the T
8 volume fraction under E. These findings demonstrate a notably different phase
9 transformation mechanism, and resultant enhanced properties, in materials with a PPB
10 in contrast to those with a MPB.

11

12 **II. Experimental procedure**

13 <001>-textured 2at%Li:KNN ceramics were prepared by a templated grain
14 growth (TGG) technique developed by Messing et al²⁹⁻³². The texture fraction or
15 Lotgering factor of 2at%Li:KNN textured samples was estimated to be 98%²⁹.
16 Samples were cut into 5x5x0.5 mm³ plates, and subsequently electroded on both
17 surfaces with gold. Temperature dependent dielectric constant measurements were
18 performed using a LCR meter (HP 4284A) under dc electric fields of E=0, 2, 4, 6, 8,
19 10 and 12 kV/cm. Polarization hysteresis loops (P-E) and unipolar strain vs E-field
20 curves (ε-E) were measured in the temperature range of 30 to 150°C at a frequency of
21 1Hz using a modified Sawyer-Tower circuit and a linear variable differential
22 transducer (LVDT) driven by a lock-in amplifier (Stanford Research, SR850).

1 Piezoelectric d_{33} constants were measured using a quasistatic Berlincourt d_{33} meter.
2 Temperature dependent X-ray line scans were taken using a Philips MPD
3 high-resolution diffractometer under E-fields of 0, 6 and 12 kV/cm in the temperature
4 range from 30 to 140°C on cooling. The x-ray wavelength was that of Cu K_{α} = 1.5406
5 Å, and the x-ray generator was operated at 45 kV and 40 mA.

6

7 **III. Results and discussions**

8 **(A) Property studies**

9 Figure 1(a) shows the temperature dependent 1 kHz dielectric constant ϵ_r and
10 loss factor $\tan\delta$ for KNN-2%LN taken on heating over the temperature range of 25 to
11 580°C. Two dielectric peaks can be seen. A sharp dielectric maximum was found near
12 425°C, corresponding to the Curie temperature T_C . A second broader dielectric peak
13 was observed near 143°C, corresponding to the O→T boundary or PPB. A thermal
14 hysteresis of ~15°C was apparent between heating and cooling measurements near
15 this boundary, as can be seen in the insert of Fig.1. This hysteresis indicates the
16 presence of a notable transformation strain at the O→T boundary. Compared to pure
17 KNN (T_C ~415°C and T_{O-T} ~210°C)³, the value of T_C was slightly increased, whereas
18 that of T_{O-T} was decreased by addition of 2% LN. These trends for textured
19 KNN-2%LN are consistent with ones for conventional KNN-LN ceramics¹⁶.

20 Figure 1(b) shows the P-E hysteresis loops at various temperatures, which were
21 taken under a maximum ac electric field of E_{ac} = 80 kV/cm on heating. At 30°C, the
22 coercive electric field and the remnant polarization were E_c =21 kV/cm and P_r =15.5

1 $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$. With increasing temperature, P_r first increased and then decreased, reaching a
2 peak value of $P_r=19 \mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$ at 130°C (see Fig.1d) near the PPB. Figure 1(c) shows
3 the unipolar ϵ -E curves under $E_{ac}=40 \text{ kV}/\text{cm}$. At 30°C , the maximum electrically
4 induced strain was 0.09%, whereas at 120°C it increased to 0.16% and slightly
5 decreased to 0.12% at 150°C .

6 Next, we calculated the large-amplitude effective d_{33} coefficient ($\epsilon_3 = \mathbf{d}_{33}^* \cdot \mathbf{E}_3$)
7 from the slope of ϵ -E ³³. The values of d_{33}^* over a temperature range of 30 to 150°C
8 are shown in Fig.1(d). At 30°C , d_{33}^* was about 200 pC/N. In addition, after the
9 unipolar ϵ -E measurements were finished, the d_{33} value was also directly measured at
10 room temperature using a Berlincourt meter and found to be about 190 pC/N, in
11 agreement with the large signal value. With increasing temperature, the values of d_{33}^*
12 increased, reaching values as high as 400 pC/N, at temperatures near the PPB. The
13 data in Fig.1(d) demonstrate that the induced polarization and piezoelectric constants
14 are sharply peaked over a modest temperature range around the PPB: d_{33}^* increased
15 by 100%, while P_r only increased by 20%. This means the enhancement was not
16 simply due to increased polarization with increasing temperature. Chang et al ²⁹
17 previously found that low field piezoelectric properties, such as electromechanical
18 coupling factors (k_p and k_{31}) and piezoelectric d_{31} constants of 2at%Li:KNN textured
19 ceramics were enhanced near the PPB. Clearly, the enhanced electromechanical
20 properties are related to structural and/or domain changes in the vicinity of the PPB.

21 Figure 2 shows the dc-bias dependent 1 kHz dielectric data taken on cooling.
22 With increasing bias (E), we can make three observations. First, the dielectric constant

1 in the T phase was notably decreased with increasing E, whereas that in the O phase
2 was nearly unchanged (see Fig.2a). To better illustrate the dramatic dc-bias dependent
3 dielectric constant, we define the tunability of ϵ_r as $[\epsilon_r(E)-\epsilon_r(0)]\times 100\%/\epsilon_r(0)$, where
4 $\epsilon_r(0)$ and $\epsilon_r(E)$ are the dielectric constant under zero dc bias and under a bias of E,
5 respectively. The tunability of ϵ_r at 180°C (in the T phase field) and at 25°C (in the O
6 phase field) are shown as a function of E in Fig.2(c). In the T phase field, ϵ_r can be
7 seen to decrease by about 60% in a near-linear manner with increasing bias for
8 $0 < E < 12 \text{ kV/cm}$. Second, the dielectric loss factor $\tan\delta$ decreased with increasing E in
9 both the T and O phase fields. This demonstrates that the imaginary dielectric constant
10 ($\epsilon'' = \epsilon_r \cdot \tan\delta$) is notably dependent on E in the O phase field, even though ϵ_r is nearly
11 independent of E. The energy stored in the dielectric is unaltered by bias in the O
12 phase, yet that dissipated is decreased. Third, for $E \geq 4 \text{ kV/cm}$, the secondary dielectric
13 peaks corresponding to the T→O transition of the PPB became increasingly sharp
14 with increasing E, as indicated by the arrow. In addition, the T→O boundary modestly
15 shifted to lower temperatures with increasing E. We summarize this shift of the T→O
16 PPB (taken on cooling) in Figure 2(d), which shows that the PPB was decreased by
17 about 20°C with increasing bias for $0 < E < 12 \text{ kV/cm}$. Furthermore, this figure shows
18 that the thermal hysteresis given in the insert of Fig.1(a) was nearly independent of E.

19 **(B) Structural studies**

20 To better understand the influence of E on the dielectric properties, we performed
21 temperature dependent structural investigations by XRD. Studies were done about the
22 $\{200\}$ zones under various dc biases, beginning from high temperatures in the T phase

1 and cooling into the O phase to room temperature. In Fig.3(a), two sharp diffraction
2 peaks can be seen at 140°C, which correspond to the (002)_T and (200)_T reflections of
3 the T phase. With decreasing temperature to 112°C, a third small peak appeared at
4 slightly higher 2θ values than the (200)_T, demonstrating the formation of a small
5 volume fraction of O phase. With decrease of temperature to 108°C, the intensity of
6 the (200)_O peak increased, while the intensity of (200)_T decreased. In addition, a
7 fourth (022)_O broad peak began to form between (002)_T and (200)_T. With further
8 decrease of temperature, the intensity of the (200)_O and (022)_O peaks increased,
9 whereas the (002)_T and (200)_T peaks decreased. At 84°C, the (002)_T and (200)_T peaks
10 could not be detected.

11 These structural results for the zero-field-cooled (ZFC) state reveal (i) a single T
12 phase field at >112°C; (ii) a T+O two phase field for temperatures between 112°C and
13 84°C, where the volume fraction of the O phase increases at the expense of the T with
14 decreasing temperature; and (iii) a single O phase field at <84°C. The T→O transition
15 of KNN is not required by symmetry to be 1st order, as there exists a group-subgroup
16 relationship between the point group symmetries. However, phase coexistence is well
17 known near boundaries between phases undergoing a 1st order transition. It is relevant
18 to note that two phase coexistence about the MPB in Pb-based perovskites, even
19 though originally believed responsible for enhanced piezoelectricity ¹, is not
20 supported by structural evidence: rather, low symmetry structurally bridging
21 monoclinic phases exist ²². Our findings clearly demonstrate phase coexistence about
22 the PPB in 2at% Li:KNN, and indicate its probable influence on enhanced

1 piezoelectric properties.

2 We investigated the structure of 2at% Li:KNN under field-cooled (FC) condition
3 by XRD. A notable change in the 2θ line scans was apparent in the FC state, relative
4 to the ZFC. Under $E=6\text{kV/cm}$ (data not shown), the $(200)_O$ and $(022)_O$ peaks³⁴ began
5 to become apparent on cooling between 112°C and 108°C , similar to the ZFC
6 condition but were much weaker in intensity than for ZFC. Under $E=12\text{kV/cm}$, $(200)_O$
7 and $(022)_O$ peaks were not observed at 108°C in Fig.3b. With decrease of temperature
8 to 104°C , a broad $(022)_O$ peak became apparent; however, the $(200)_O$ peak was too
9 low in intensity to be detected. On cooling to 84°C , the $(002)_T$ and $(200)_T$ peaks
10 completely disappeared. These results demonstrate that the stability range of the T
11 phase field is expanded by application of $E//\langle 001 \rangle$ -texture, consistent with the shift
12 of the PPB to lower temperatures with E in the dielectric constant, as shown in
13 Fig.2(d).

14 Next, we calculated the relative volume fractions of the T (V_T) and O (V_O)
15 phases as

$$16 \quad V_T = [I_{(002)_T} + I_{(200)_T}] / [I_{(002)_T} + I_{(200)_T} + I_{(022)_O} + I_{(200)_O}], \quad (1)$$

17 and

$$18 \quad V_O = [I_{(022)_O} + I_{(200)_O}] / [I_{(002)_T} + I_{(200)_T} + I_{(022)_O} + I_{(200)_O}]; \quad (2)$$

19 where $I_{(002)_T}$, $I_{(200)_T}$, $I_{(002)_O}$, $I_{(200)_O}$ are the integrated intensities of the tetragonal (002)
20 and (200) peaks, and orthorhombic (022) and (200) peaks, respectively. The
21 temperature dependences of V_T and V_O are given in the Fig.3(c) under $E=0, 6,$ and
22 12kV/cm . Inspection of this figure reveals that V_T and V_O are dependent on bias in the

1 temperature range of the two phase coexistence. A dc bias applied along the
 2 $\langle 001 \rangle$ -texture favored the T phase over the O. For example, at 105°C, the volume
 3 fraction of the T phase increased from about 0.7 to 0.9 by $E=12\text{kV/cm}$. Clearly,
 4 changes in relative phase stability occur near the PPB under bias, and these changes
 5 correlate to an enhancement in the piezoelectric constant, as will be discussed in
 6 section III (D).

7 (C) Domain configurations

8 Figure 4 shows schematics of the possible domain configurations in the T and O
 9 phases, in the ZFC (left column) and FC (right column) conditions. In the T phase, the
 10 domain orientations must be either parallel or perpendicular to the $\langle 001 \rangle$ -texture
 11 direction. We first illustrate the simplest case of the ZFC as shown in Fig.4(a): white
 12 denotes c-domain regions, and gray a-domain regions. The c- and a-domain
 13 orientations contribute to the $(002)_T$ and $(200)_T$ reflections, respectively. Thus, the
 14 volume fraction of tetragonal c-domains can be estimated as $I_{(002)_T}/[I_{(002)_T}+I_{(200)_T}]$. On
 15 transforming to the O phase, the tetragonal c-domains change into four equivalent
 16 orthorhombic ones: which are $[0\bar{1}1]_{\text{cub}}$, $[\bar{1}01]_{\text{cub}}$, $[011]_{\text{cub}}$ and $[101]_{\text{cub}}$, as shown
 17 in Fig.4(b) with thick arrows. These O type I domains give contributions to the $(022)_O$
 18 reflections. Furthermore, at the transformation, the tetragonal a-domains change into
 19 two equivalent orthorhombic ones in the a-b plane: which are $[110]_{\text{cub}}$ and $[\bar{1}\bar{1}0]_{\text{cub}}$,
 20 as shown in Fig.4(b) with thin arrows. These O type II domains give contributions to
 21 the $(200)_O$ reflections. Thus, the volume fraction of O type I domains can be estimated
 22 as $I_{(022)_O}/[I_{(022)_O}+I_{(200)_O}]$.

1 Finally, we calculated how the O and T domain distributions were affected by
2 temperature and E. The ratios $I_{(002)T}/[I_{(002)T}+I_{(200)T}]$ and $I_{(022)O}/[I_{(022)O}+I_{(200)O}]$ are given
3 as a function of temperature under E=0, 6 and 12kV/cm in both the T and O phase
4 fields in Fig.3(d). The intensity ratios in the T+O two phase field are not shown, as
5 their values fluctuated notably when either $I_{(002)T}$ or $I_{(022)O}$ was close to zero. In
6 Fig.3(d), it can be seen that $I_{(002)T}/[I_{(002)T}+I_{(200)T}]$ and $I_{(022)O}/[I_{(022)O}+I_{(200)O}]$ were nearly
7 independent of temperature in the T and O phase fields, respectively. This
8 demonstrates that the domain distribution for both the T and O phases did not change
9 notably with temperature. However, the intensity ratios were strongly dependent on E,
10 as can be seen in Fig.3(d). At 140°C, the value of $I_{(002)T}/[I_{(002)T}+I_{(200)T}]$ increased from
11 0.66 under zero bias to 0.96 under E=12 kV/cm. This shows that the volume fraction
12 of the tetragonal c-domains increased by 30% under E=12 kV/cm, becoming nearly a
13 single c-domain state, as schematically illustrated in Fig.4(c). Clearly, the domain
14 distributions in the T single phase field are notably changed by E.

15 Thus, one can explain the large tunability of ϵ_r with E in the T phase field as
16 resulting from an increase in the volume fraction of c-domains at the expense of the
17 a-domains under E//<001>-texture. In the O phase field at 30°C, the value of
18 $I_{(022)O}/[I_{(022)O}+I_{(200)O}]$ increased from 0.88 under zero bias to 1 under E=6 kV/cm. This
19 shows that the volume fraction of O type I domains increased by 12% at the expense
20 of elimination of O type II, as sketched in Fig.4(d) with dashed arrows. Clearly, the
21 dielectric constant for <001>-textured 2at% Li:KNN ceramics in the O phase field is
22 mostly a contribution of O type I domains. It is note-worthy that these four O type I

1 domains are equivalent to E applied along [001]-texture, as illustrated in Fig.4(d).
 2 Accordingly, the tunability of ϵ_r with E in the O phase field is quite small (see Fig.2).
 3 The fact that the four O type I domains are equivalent and that ϵ_r is nearly
 4 independent of E in the O phase indicates that rotation of the polarization in the O
 5 type I domains (i.e., $[0\bar{1}1]_{\text{cub}}$, $[\bar{1}01]_{\text{cub}}$, $[011]_{\text{cub}}$ and $[101]_{\text{cub}}$) towards the $[001]_{\text{cub}}$
 6 probably does not tend to occur, at least in the O single phase region.

7 **(D) Correlation between relative phase stability and enhanced piezoelectric**
 8 **properties near the PPB**

9 In crystals belonging to the tetragonal 4mm point group, the value of the
 10 longitudinal piezoelectric coefficient d_{33}^* as a function of orientation (θ) in the
 11 crystallographic coordinate system is given by [35](#)

$$12 \quad d_{33}^*(\theta) = \cos \theta (d_{15}^T \sin^2 \theta + d_{31}^T \sin^2 \theta + d_{33}^T \cos^2 \theta); \quad (3)$$

13 where

$$14 \quad d_{15}^T = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_{11}^T Q_{44} P_3^T \quad (4)$$

$$15 \quad d_{31}^T = 2\epsilon_0 \epsilon_{33}^T Q_{12} P_3^T \quad (5)$$

$$16 \quad d_{33}^T = 2\epsilon_0 \epsilon_{33}^T Q_{11} P_3^T. \quad (6)$$

17 The angle θ describes the rotation away from the $[001]_T$ axis of the tetragonal unit cell;
 18 the various Q are electrostriction coefficients; P_3 is the spontaneous polarization; ϵ_0 is
 19 the permittivity of vacuum; and ϵ_{11} and ϵ_{33} are the permittivities along directions
 20 perpendicular and parallel to the direction of the spontaneous polarization P_3 .
 21 Generally, d_{31} is negative and smaller than either d_{15} or d_{33} in most perovskite
 22 ferroelectrics [36](#). Thus, d_{33}^* is dominated by the shear d_{15}^T and longitudinal d_{33}^T

1 coefficients. For <001>-textured 2at% Li:KNN ceramics in the T phase field, the a-
 2 and c-domains (see Fig.4a and 4c) contribute to ϵ_{11}^T and ϵ_{33}^T , respectively. Our
 3 experimental data shows that the volume fraction of the T a-domains decreased by
 4 30% under application of E=12 kV/cm (see Fig.3d), whereas the dielectric constant in
 5 the T phase was decreased by as much as 60% (see Fig.2a). These results suggest that
 6 the transverse permittivity ϵ_{11}^T is much higher than the longitudinal one ϵ_{33}^T in the T
 7 phase field. This means d_{15}^T (which is $\propto \epsilon_{11}^T$ from (4), and related to the volume
 8 fraction of T a-domains) contributes more than d_{33}^T (which is $\propto \epsilon_{33}^T$ from (6), and
 9 related to the volume fraction of the T c-domains) to the effective value of d_{33}^* . Both
 10 phenomenological and basic principle calculations have shown that the transverse
 11 permittivity is enhanced in the vicinity of phase transitions between two ferroelectric
 12 phases, where the polarization changes direction ³⁶. Thus, d_{15}^T will be significantly
 13 increased as the O phase is approached on cooling. Consequently, d_{33}^* should have a
 14 peak value near the T→O PPB boundary (see Fig.1d).

15 In the T phase field, the domain distributions were strongly E-field dependent
 16 and the volume fraction of the T a-domains were decreased by E (see Fig.3d).
 17 Accordingly, the contribution from d_{15}^T was decreased, and d_{33}^* in the T phase is
 18 lower than that near the PPB. In the O phase field, similar thought applies, although
 19 the situation is a little more complex ³⁵. When the O phase field is entered on crossing
 20 the PPB with decreasing temperature, the T a-domains change into O type II domains
 21 (see Fig.4b), which contributes to the value of ϵ_{11}^O : even though ϵ_{11}^O is larger than
 22 either ϵ_{22}^O or ϵ_{33}^O , it is significantly smaller than ϵ_{11}^T . Thus, the value of d_{33}^* is

1 decreased on entering the O phase field.

2 From Figure 3(c), one can see that the dependence of the phase volume fraction
3 on E was highest when $V_T \approx 65\% - 80\%$. For example, at 105°C , the value of V_T was
4 increased by 28% (from about 0.7 to 0.9) under application of $E = 12 \text{ kV/cm}$. From
5 these results combined with the above discussion, one can conclude that the
6 contribution of the T phase to the enhancement of d_{33}^* is higher than that of the O
7 phase near the PPB. Recently, Ahn et al. [28](#) reported a correlation of a higher value of
8 d_{33} at room temperature with a higher value of V_T ($\sim 70\%$) for $(\text{K,Na,Li})\text{NbO}_3\text{-BaTiO}_3$
9 ceramics. In Figure 3(d), one can see in the single T phase field that the volume
10 fraction of the T a-domains was significantly decreased by E, whereas in the single O
11 phase field the domain distribution was only slightly dependent on E. These results
12 indicate that the optimum poling temperature for KNN-based materials by which to
13 achieve enhanced piezoelectricity is near the PPB boundary, as reported by Du et al [37](#).

14

15 **IV. Summary**

16 Our findings demonstrate that O and T phases that coexisted over a 30°C range
17 near the PPB. These two phases were distinct and individually identifiable (and thus
18 separable) by XRD. The O and T phases in the two phase field are in thermodynamic
19 equilibrium with each other. This is supported by the fact that the relative volume
20 fractions of the T and O phases were dependent on temperature and electrical field:
21 i.e., they follow a “lever-like” rule. Furthermore, changes in V_T and V_O were
22 reversible with decrease/increase of temperature and field. Application of electric bias

1 along $\langle 001 \rangle$ -texture was found to favor the T phase, and to shift the PPB to lower
2 temperatures. Our results indicate that the enhanced piezoelectric properties near the
3 PPB are due to this susceptibility of volume fractions of tetragonal phase to electrical
4 field.

5

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1 **Figure captions**

2 FIG. 1. Dielectric, ferroelectric and piezoelectric properties for KNN-2%LN textured
3 ceramics. (a) Dielectric constant ϵ_r and loss factor $\tan\delta$ as a function of temperature
4 taken on heating at 1kHz. The inset shows the thermal hysteresis around T_{O-T} ; (b)
5 polarization hysteresis loops at various temperatures; (c) unipolar strain vs electric
6 field curves at various temperatures and (d) temperature dependence of high field d_{33}^*
7 calculated from the slope of unipolar ϵ -E curves and remnant polarization P_r .

8

9 FIG. 2. Dc-bias dependent dielectric properties for KNN-2%LN textured ceramics. (a)
10 Dielectric constant and (b) dielectric loss factor $\tan\delta$ as a function of temperature
11 taken on cooling at 1kHz under $E_{dc}=0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10$ and 12kV/cm . (c) tunability of ϵ_r
12 as a function of dc-bias measured at a frequency of 1kHz. (d) T_{O-T} and its hysteresis
13 as a function of dc-bias.

14

15 FIG. 3. Dc-bias dependent structural properties for KNN-2%LN textured ceramics.
16 Temperature dependent pseudocubic (200) X-ray linear scans under (a) zero-field and
17 (b) field of 12kV/cm cooled conditions. (c) Temperature dependence of the volume
18 fraction for T and O phase. (d) $(002)_T/[(002)_T+(200)_T]$ and $(022)_O/[(022)_O+(200)_O]$
19 intensity ratios as a function of temperature under dc bias of $E=0, 6$ and 12kV/cm .

20

21 FIG. 4. Schematics of the possible domain configurations for the T (top row) and O
22 (bottom row) phases under the zero field cooling condition (left column) and field

1 cooling (right column) conditions. In (a) and (c), white denotes c-domain regions and
2 any gray denotes a-domain ones. On transforming to the O phase, the T c-domains
3 change into its direction four equivalent O domains, which are $[0\bar{1}1]_{\text{cub}}$, $[\bar{1}01]_{\text{cub}}$,
4 $[011]_{\text{cub}}$ and $[101]_{\text{cub}}$, as shown in (b) and (d) with thick arrows. The T a-domains
5 change into two equivalent O domains in plane: $[110]_{\text{cub}}$ and $[\bar{1}\bar{1}0]_{\text{cub}}$, as shown in
6 (b) with thin arrows.

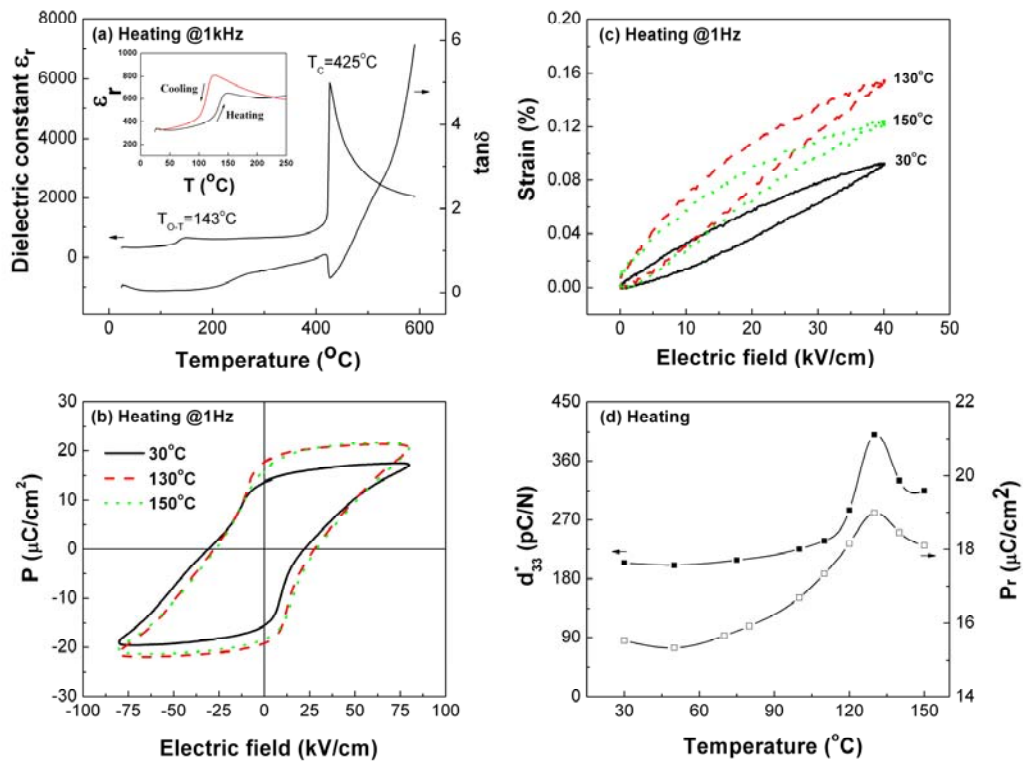


Figure 1

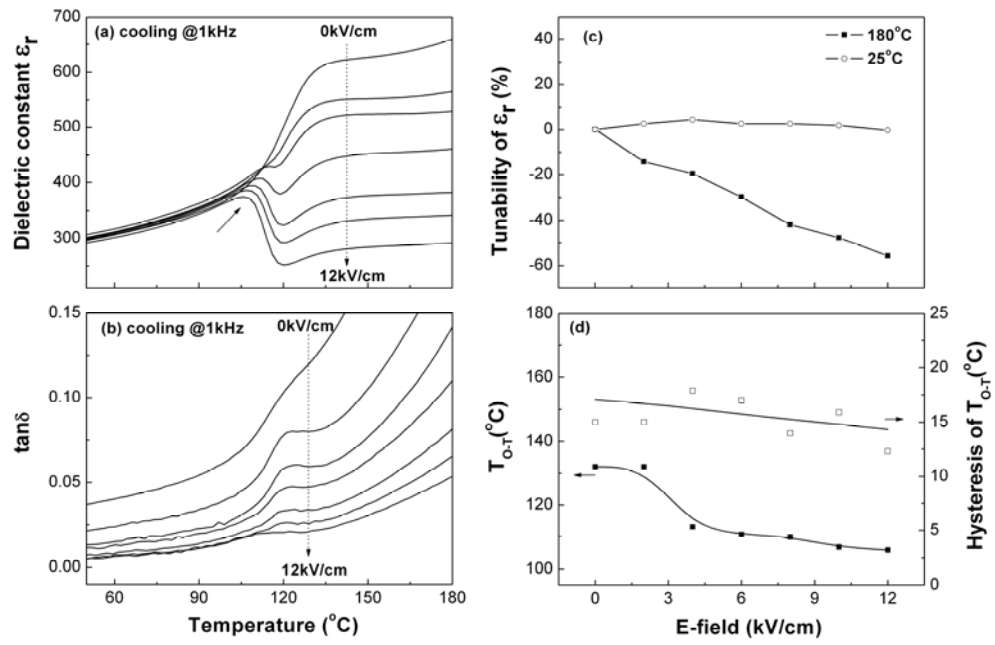


Figure 2

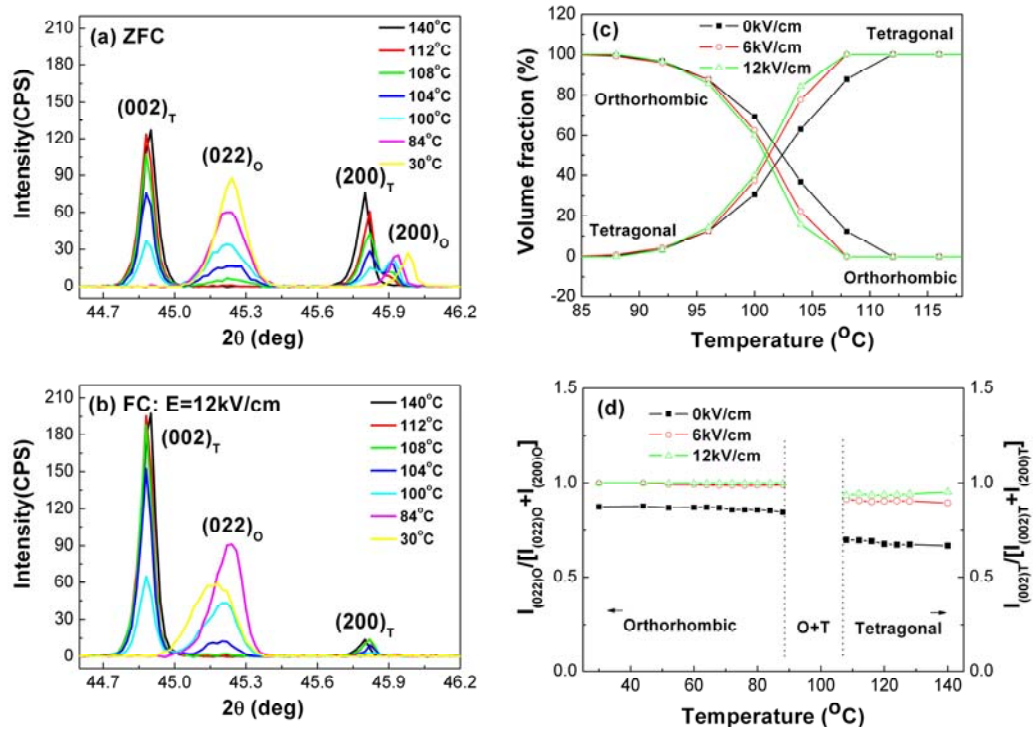


Figure 3

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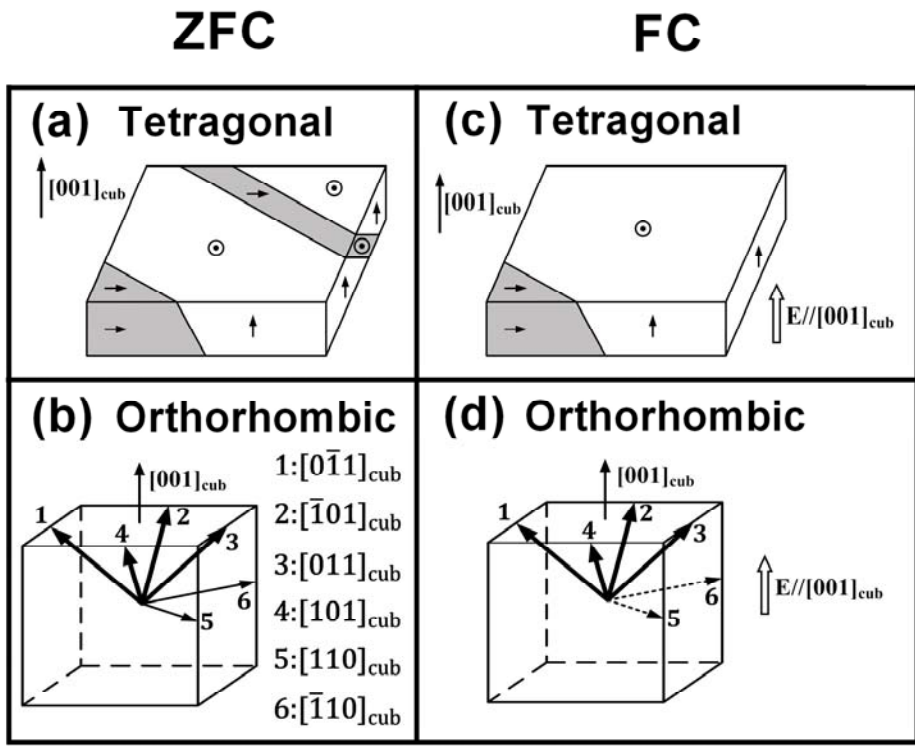


Figure 4