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## Temperature Dependent Elasticity of $\text{Pb}[(\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Nb}_{0.67})_{1-x}\text{Ti}_x]\text{O}_3$

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### Abstract

Relaxor ferroelectric materials, such as PMN-PT with generic stoichiometry  $\text{Pb}[(\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Nb}_{0.67})_{1-x}\text{Ti}_x]\text{O}_3$  undergo a ferroelectric to paraelectric phase transition as a function of temperature. The exact transition characterized by Curie temperature ( $T_c$ ) varies as a function of chemistry ( $x$ ), i.e., the concentration of Ti. In this study, we investigated the structural phase transition by exploring the temperature dependence of the single crystal elastic properties of  $\text{Pb}[(\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Nb}_{0.67})_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.3}]\text{O}_3$  i.e.,  $x \approx 0.3$ . We used resonant ultrasound spectroscopy (RUS) to determine the elasticity at elevated temperatures, from which a  $T_c = 398 \pm 5 \text{ K}$  for PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.3$ ) was determined. We report the full elastic constant tensor ( $C_{ij} = \{C_{11}, C_{12}, C_{44}\}$ ), acoustic attenuation ( $Q^{-1}$ ), longitudinal ( $V_P$ ), and shear ( $V_S$ ) sound velocities, and elastic

24 anisotropy of PMN-PT as a function of temperature for  $400\text{ K} < T < 871\text{ K}$ . Temperature trends  
25 of the elastic constants  $C_{11}, C_{44}$  and bulk modulus indicate that at  $T > T_c$  the material first stiffens  
26 and reaches maxima in the vicinity of the Burns temperature ( $T_b \sim 673\text{ K}$ ), followed by a more  
27 typical gradual softening of the elastic constants. Similar temperature dependent anomalies are  
28 also observed with anisotropy and  $Q^{-1}$ , with minima in the vicinity  $T_b$ . We used the temperature  
29 dependence of  $C_{ij}, Q^{-1}, V_p, V_s$ , and anisotropy to infer the evolution of polar nanoregions (PNRs)  
30 as the material evolved from  $T > T_c$ .

31

## 32 **Introduction**

33 Lead magnesium niobate-lead titanate (PMN-PT) is a relaxor ferroelectric material and  
34 belongs to a subfamily of lead-based complex-perovskites. Perovskites have  $ABO_3$  stoichiometry,  
35 where the  $A$  sites have 12-fold coordination and the  $B$ -sites have 6-fold octahedral coordination.  
36 In PMN-PT perovskites, the Pb atoms are in the  $A$  site and the  $B$  site is either occupied by Ti  
37 atoms as in  $PbTiO_3$  or by a pair of low and high valency atoms with a general stoichiometry of  
38  $Pb[(B_l^{\alpha+})_{\delta} (B_h^{\beta+})_{1-\delta}]O_3$  [1]. The subscript “ $l$ ” in “ $B_l$ ” refers to the low-valency sites and is  
39 typically occupied by Mg, Zn, Ni, Zr, In, Fe, Sc, Y cations. The subscript “ $h$ ” in “ $B_h$ ” refers to the  
40 high-valency sites and is typically occupied by Nb, Ta, and W cations [1]. The charge balance in  
41 the crystal structure is maintained by the relation  $\delta \cdot \alpha + (1 - \delta) \cdot \beta = 4$ .  $B_l$  and  $B_h$  sites in the  
42  $Pb(Mg_{0.33}Nb_{0.67})O_3$  crystal structure are occupied by Mg and Nb respectively i.e., with a  $\delta$  of 1/3.  
43 PMN-PT is a solid solution with a general stoichiometry of  $Pb[(Mg_{0.33}Nb_{0.67})_{1-x}Ti_x]O_3$  where,  
44  $x = 0$  and 1 refers to the end members  $Pb(Mg_{0.33}Nb_{0.67})O_3$  (PMN) and  $PbTiO_3$  (PT) respectively.  
45 Single crystal of PMN-PT can be synthesized at high-temperatures ( $\approx 1300\text{ K}$ ) [2].

46 Below the Curie temperature ( $T_c$ ), uniformly aligned electric dipoles in relaxor  
47 ferroelectric materials are arranged to form several domains, which in turn generates a  
48 spontaneous polarization. Polarizations of these domains can be altered by application of an  
49 external electric field. At temperatures, greater than  $T_c$ , the ferroelectric phase transform to the  
50 paraelectric phase, accompanied by a reduction in the size of the polarized domains to randomly  
51 oriented polar nano-regions (PNRs). PNRs, however, do affect the bulk properties of the material  
52 such as elasticity [3,4]. At higher temperatures, i.e.,  $T > T_b$  ( $T_b$  = Burns temperature), the PNRs  
53 are eventually fully depleted and the material becomes paraelectric. The Burns temperature for  
54  $\text{Pb}[(\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Nb}_{0.67})_{1-x}\text{Ti}_x]\text{O}_3$  with  $x = 0$  and  $0.30$  is 623 K and 673 K respectively [5–7]. For  
55  $\text{Pb}[(\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Nb}_{0.67})_{1-x}\text{Ti}_x]\text{O}_3$  compositions with  $x > 0.3$ ,  $T_b$  is slightly affected by varying  $x$  [8] and  
56  $T_b > T_c$  by  $\approx 270$  K. Relaxor ferroelectrics are often good piezoelectric materials below the  $T_c$ ,  
57 with the temperature dependent dielectric response defined by a broad peak with a maximum at  
58  $T_m$ , and is also dependent on frequency. This is in contrast to the well defined and sharp peak  
59 observed for regular ferroelectrics [9].

60 In the temperature-composition ( $T$ - $x$ ) diagram for PMN-PT, the relaxor PMN phase ( $x=0$ )  
61 is rhombohedral with  $R3m$  space group symmetry below the  $T_c$  [3,10–14], while the ferroelectric  
62 PT phase ( $x=1.0$ ) is tetragonal with  $P4mm$  space group symmetry [3,10–13]. The composition  
63 range with  $0.30 < x < 0.35$  is often described as the morphotropic phase boundary (MPB) of PMN-  
64 PT [3,10,11] and is characterized by the abrupt changes in the crystal structure and piezoelectric  
65 properties [3,15–18]. PMN-PT phases with monoclinic and orthorhombic space group symmetries  
66 have been reported in the vicinity of the MPB [19–22]. At  $T_c$ , the PMN-PT crystal undergoes a  
67 structural phase transition to cubic space group symmetry  $Pm\bar{3}m$  [3]. This ferroelectric to  
68 paraelectric phase transition temperature varies linearly with composition ( $x$ ). The ferroelectric-

69 paraelectric transition temperatures for the end members PMN and PT are 283 K and 765 K  
70 respectively [3,10,11], whereas the transition temperature in the vicinity of the MPB region is  
71 around 400 K [3,10–12,23]. The PMN-PT phases at and near the MPB region ( $0.30 < x < 0.35$ )  
72 have been extensively studied owing to their unusually large electromechanical properties, i.e.,  
73 piezoelectric coefficients  $d_{33} = 1500 - 2500$  pC/N and electromechanical coupling factor of  $k_{33} >$   
74  $0.9$  [15,24]. PMN-PT crystals find applications in transducers in highly sensitive broadband  
75 acoustic devices, actuators, and energy harvesting devices [2,3,15].

76 It is well known, that structural phase transitions are often manifest themselves in the  
77 changes in elasticity [25–29]. Although PMN-PT is an extensively studied material, the  
78 temperature dependence of the single crystal elasticity of PMN-PT remains largely unexplored.  
79 Only the room temperature elasticity for PMN-PT has been reported [30–33] (**Table 1**). Here, we  
80 explore the temperature dependent elasticity, elastic anisotropy, and acoustic attenuation of PMN-  
81 PT crystal across a wide range of temperatures (400- 871 K), and we relate our temperature  
82 dependent elasticity results to the structural changes associated with the ferroelectric transition in  
83 PMN-PT.

84

## 85 **Materials and Methods**

86 We obtained the PMN-PT crystals from the H.C. Materials Corporation. Unpolarized  
87 single crystals of PMN-PT were grown using the Bridgeman method [2,33]. We cut precise  
88 **rectangular parallelepiped** samples of dimensions of  $0.3540(5) \times 0.2580(5) \times 0.1990(5)$  cm using  
89 South Bay Technologies 660 slow speed diamond wheel saw. We polished the sample faces using  
90 a lapping machine to a smooth optical quality surface. We used single crystal X-ray diffraction at  
91 National Magnetic High Field Laboratory, Florida State University to verify that the [001], [010],

92 and [001] crystal axes were oriented parallel to the axial directions of the rectangular  
 93 parallelepiped. We used powder X-ray diffraction to determine the space group symmetry ( $R3m$ )  
 94 and lattice parameters of the sample, which are  $a = b = c = 4.01964(2)$  and  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma =$   
 95  $89.894(4)$  (**Supplementary Figure SF1a [34]**). The mass of the sample is  $0.1460(1)$  g and the  
 96 corresponding density is  $8.04(5)$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>. The measured density agrees with a previous study on  
 97 PMN-PT of similar composition [31]. We also determined the stoichiometry of the sample using  
 98 an Energy Dispersive X-ray spectroscopy in a Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM-EDS) at the  
 99 Condensed Matter and Materials Physics Facility, Department of Physics, Florida State  
 100 University. The PMN-PT sample used in our study has stoichiometry of  
 101  $\text{Pb}[(\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Nb}_{0.66})_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.3}]\text{O}_3$ .

102 We used Resonant Ultrasound Spectroscopy (RUS) at the National Center for Physical  
 103 Acoustics (NCPA), University of Mississippi to determine the elastic constants in the temperature  
 104 range of 293-871 K, by utilizing **mechanical resonance spectra (MRS)** of the solid sample. The  
 105 MRS consists of a set of natural frequencies, which are influenced by the elastic constant tensor  
 106 ( $C_{ij}$ ), density ( $\rho$ ), and geometry of the sample. The elastic constants are in turn influenced by the  
 107 crystal structure. Resonance occurs when the excitation frequency ( $f$ ) equals a natural frequency  
 108 ( $f_0$ ) of the sample. The vibrations are amplified approximately by the quality factor of the  
 109 resonances ( $Q = \frac{f_0}{\Delta f}$ ), where  $\Delta f$  is the full width at half maximum for the resonance frequency.  
 110 The maximum number of modes observed in MRS is  $\sim 21$ , of which we used 16 modes across all  
 111 temperatures for the determination of elastic constants. We predicted the normal mode  
 112 frequencies  $f_i^{calc}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ) of the PMN-PT following the Rayleigh -Ritz method [26,28,35–

113 39]. We use the least squares method to minimize  $\Delta F$ , defined as  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( \frac{f_i^{obs} - f_i^{calc}}{f_i^{meas}} \right)^2} \times 100\%$ ,

114 where the  $f_i^{obs}$  and  $f_i^{calc}$  are observed and calculated resonance frequencies We calculate the  
115 resonance frequencies based on initial guess of elastic constants ( $C_{ij}$ ). Our MRS spectra have a  
116  $\Delta F < 0.45$  % (400-500 K) and it is  $\approx 0.3$  at  $T > 500$  K. We determine the uncertainty for the  
117 elastic moduli ( $\delta C_{ij}$ ) from the effective curvature ( $\frac{df}{dc_{ij}}$ ) of the minima in elastic moduli. Our  
118 error-estimate for the elastic constants are:  $\delta C_{11} < 2$  %,  $\delta C_{12} < 3$  %, and  $\delta C_{44} < 0.3$  %.

119 In the RUS experimental set-up, we placed our sample between two lithium niobate  
120 ( $\text{LiNbO}_3$ ) piezoelectric transducers (**Supplementary Figure SF1b [34]**). A Stanford Research  
121 Systems (SRS) DS345 function generator was used to excite one of the transducer in contact with  
122 the sample with a sweeping sinusoidal signal. The other transducer was connected to an SRS  
123 SR844 lock-in amplifier that monitors the vibration response of the sample. A thermocouple is  
124 placed in proximity to the sample. The sample and the surrounding ceramic framework is placed  
125 in a fused quartz tube and then inserted in the high-temperature furnace (Carbolite MTF  
126 12/28/250). In our high-temperature experiments, we maintained temperatures within  $\pm 1$  K using  
127 a proportional integral derivative controller. An inert gas flushing system is employed to maintain  
128 the oxygen content at low levels ( $< 20$  ppm) to minimize oxidation reaction of the sample,  
129 transducer and electrical contacts [26,40].

130 At temperatures below 400 K, i.e.,  $T < T_c$ , the MRS shows significant peak broadening and  
131 low signal to noise ratio (SNR) making it difficult to extract meaningful information on elastic  
132 constants at  $T < T_c$ . Hence, we conducted pulse-echo (PE) measurements on our PMN-PT sample  
133 to determine the elastic constant at room temperature [41,42]. We used an Olympus 5072PR  
134 pulsar-receiver to generate ultrasonic pulses (**Supplementary Figure SF1c [34]**). To measure the  
135 longitudinal wave speed ( $V_p$ ), we used an ultrasonic gel to couple a 10 MHz longitudinal  
136 transducer (Olympus V112) to the sample. To measure the shear wave speed ( $V_s$ ), we used

137 commercially available shear viscous gel to couple a 5 MHz shear transducer (Olympus V156) to  
138 the sample. We used a Tektronix TDS3000B digital oscilloscope to measure the pulse-echo signal  
139 in the time domain. We measured the wave speed along the [001] direction of the cubic PMN-PT  
140 crystal. We determined  $V_p$  and  $V_s$  using the relation between the travel time ( $\Delta t$ ) and the sample  
141 thickness ( $d = 2 \text{ mm}$ ) as  $V = \frac{2d}{\Delta t}$ . We derived elastic constants ( $C_{33}$ ) and ( $C_{44}$ ) from the measured  
142 speeds along [001] directions using the formulas:  $V_{p[001]} = \sqrt{\frac{C_{33}}{\rho}}$  and  $V_{s[001]} = \sqrt{\frac{C_{44}}{\rho}}$ , where  $\rho$  is  
143 the density.

144

## 145 **Results and Discussion**

146 At room temperature, the symmetry of PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.3$ ) is pseudo-cubic [43] i.e., with  
147 three distinct elastic constants  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{12}$ , and  $C_{44}$ . We measured the longitudinal ( $V_p$ ) and  
148 transverse ( $V_s$ ) velocity along [001] direction and deduced  $C_{44}$  and  $C_{33}$  (where  $C_{33} \approx C_{11}$ ) (**Table**  
149 **1**). It is expected that at room temperature, i.e.,  $T < T_c$ , the single crystal PMN-PT is twinned  
150 owing to the lowering of the symmetry to rhombohedral space group ( $R3m$ ) from the cubic space  
151 group ( $Pm\bar{3}m$ ). Thus, we examined the single crystal diffraction pattern of the PMN-PT ( $x \approx$   
152  $0.3$ ) crystal at room temperatures. We were, however, unable to observe distinct evidence of  
153 twinning based on the room temperature single crystal X-ray diffraction. The elasticity results of  
154 twinned crystals may require additional data analysis [44], we determined the elastic constants of  
155 PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.3$ ) at room temperature assuming an un-twinned crystals and our values are in  
156 good agreement with previous studies on PMN-PT from the MPB region (**Table 1**). At higher  
157 temperatures, i.e.,  $T > T_c$  the symmetry is cubic and the crystal becomes untwinned. We collected  
158 **MRS** of the PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.3$ ) crystal from room temperature (293 K) up to 871 K (**Figure 1**).

159 In the temperature range of 373 – 423 K, we observe an abrupt change in the MRS at  $\sim 398 \pm$   
 160 5 K, this is defined as the Curie transition temperature ( $T_c$ ) where the ferroelectric to paraelectric  
 161 phase transition occurs in PMN-PT. This transition temperature compares favorably to the  
 162 ferroelectric phase transition temperature ( $T_c$ ) of PMN-PT with compositions  $x \approx 0.3$   
 163 [10,11,23,45,46]. At  $T > T_c$ , we note a monotonic increase in the resonance mode frequencies  
 164 ( $f_i$ ) with the temperature indicating stiffening of the material. The temperature dependence of the  
 165  $f_i$  show a significant variation in their temperature maxima in the range 600 – 673 K. We do not  
 166 observe any hysteresis in  $f_i$  upon multiple heating and cooling cycles, i.e., the PMN-PT sample  
 167 undergoes a reversible change in the explored temperature range.

168 In the temperature range of 400 K to 673 K, we observe a non-linear increase in the  
 169 longitudinal ( $C_{11}$ ) and shear elastic constants  $C_{44}$  by 40% and 33% respectively. In contrast, the  
 170 off-diagonal elastic constant  $C_{12}$  decreases upon heating reaching a minimum at  $493 \pm 20$  K and  
 171 then increases upon further heating (**Figure 2**).

172 We define average acoustic energy loss for all the modes,  $Q_{av}^{-1} = \frac{\sum_i^N Q_i^{-1}}{N}$ , where  $Q_i^{-1}$  refers  
 173 to acoustic energy loss of individual mode and  $N$  is the total number of modes considered in this  
 174 study, i.e., 16. We identify three distinct regions marked: “1” “2” and “3” in the temperature  
 175 dependence of the  $Q_{av}^{-1}$  (**Figure 2**). The three distinct temperature regions relate to the dissipation  
 176 of energy owing to the presence of randomly oriented polar nano-regions. In the region “1”, i.e.,  
 177  $412 \text{ K} < T < 450 \text{ K}$  the  $Q_{av}^{-1}$  reduces by  $\sim 75\%$ ; in the region “2” i.e.,  $450 \text{ K} < T < T_b$ , the  
 178  $Q_{av}^{-1}$  remains constant within  $25 \pm 5 \%$  of the  $Q_{av}^{-1}$  at  $T = 412 \text{ K}$ ; and finally, in the region “3”,  
 179 at  $T > T_b \sim 673 \text{ K}$ ,  $Q_{av}^{-1}$  increases linearly.

180

181 By examining the plots of the mode displacement field and the parity group ( $k$  value) of  
182 the mode, we categorized the measured sample resonance mode into modes related to torsion,  
183 flexure, shear, and dilation [35,36,47]. We labeled the resonant modes of PMN-PT as FZ-1: the  
184 lowest order flexure mode in the Z direction, SY-1: the lowest order shear mode in the Y  
185 direction, DO-1: the lowest order dilation mode, TO-1: the lowest order torsion mode (**Figure 1**).  
186 We used the derivative  $\frac{df}{dc_{ij}}$  ( $ij = \{11, 12, 44\}$ ) of each mode to relate the dominant elastic  
187 constants, as the lower order resonance modes are often related to single elastic constant. For  
188 instance, the FX-1, FY-1, FZ-1, and DO-1 are likely to be related to  $C_{11}$ . The TO-1, TO-2, SX-1,  
189 and SZ-1 modes are likely to be related to the  $C_{44}$ . Similarly, the higher order modes are often  
190 related to a combination of elastic constants. The TO-1, TO-2, SX-1, and SZ-1 modes related to  
191  $C_{44}$  showed similar temperature dependences with maxima at  $570 \pm 20$  K, whereas the modes  
192 FX-1, FY-1, FZ-1, and DO-1 modes related to  $C_{11}$  showed similar temperature dependences with  
193 maxima at  $650 \pm 20$  K (**Figure 2**). The linear behavior of the elastic constants at the temperatures  
194 above  $T_b$  can be attributed to the lattice anharmonicity in the paraelectric phase of the material.

195 We calculated isotropic bulk modulus ( $K_H$ ) and shear modulus ( $G_H$ ) using the measured  
196 elastic constants,  $C_{ij}$ s following the Voigt-Reuss-Hill (VRH) approximations (**Table 1**) [48,49].

197 The Hill averaged bulk modulus ( $K_H$ ) and shear modulus ( $G_H$ ) for cubic crystals are defined as

198  $K_H = \frac{1}{2} (K_V + K_R)$  and  $G_H = \frac{1}{2} (G_V + G_R)$  where, the subscript “V” refers to Voigt averaged,

199  $K_V = \frac{(C_{11} + 2C_{12})}{3}$ , the subscript “R” refers to Reuss averaged,  $K_R = \frac{1}{(3S_{11} + 6S_{12})}$ ,

200  $G_V = \frac{(C_{11} - C_{12}) + 3C_{44}}{5}$ , and  $G_R = \frac{5}{4(S_{11} - S_{12}) + 3S_{44}}$ . The components of the compliance tensor ( $S_{ij}$ )

201 are obtained from  $[S_{ij}] = [C_{ij}]^{-1}$ . We used isotropic  $K_H$  and  $G_H$  values in the following equation

202 to calculate the Poisson's ratio  $\nu = \frac{(3K_H - 2G_H)}{2(3K_H + G_H)}$ . The isotropic Poisson ratio ( $\nu$ ) decreased in the  
 203 temperature range of 400 – 530 K with a minimum observed at 530 K. Above 530 K,  $\nu$   
 204 gradually increases linearly (**Supplementary Figure SF2 [34]**).

205 We used polycrystalline aggregate elastic moduli to determine the longitudinal,  $V_p =$   
 206  $\sqrt{\frac{K_H + \frac{4}{3}G_H}{\rho}}$  and shear,  $V_s = \sqrt{\frac{G_H}{\rho}}$  sound wave velocities as functions of temperature  
 207 (**Supplementary Figure SF2 [34]**). In order to analyze the sound wave velocities as functions of  
 208 propagating direction in the crystal, we applied the full elastic tensor of PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.3$ )  
 209 obtained from the RUS measurements in solving the Christoffel equation [50,51]:

$$\sum_{ij} [M_{ij} - V^2 \delta_{ij}] p_j = 0$$

210 where,  $V$  is sound velocity,  $M_{ij} = \sum_{nm} k_n C_{ijkl} k_m$ ,  $\delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & i = j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ ,  $\vec{k} = (k_1, k_2, k_3)$ , are  
 211 unit-vectors along propagation directions, and  $\vec{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3)$  are polarization vectors. A  
 212 stereographic projection of longitudinal sound velocity ( $V_p$ ), the two transverse shear velocities,  
 213  $V_{s1}$  and  $V_{s2}$  demonstrates the cubic space group symmetry of the PMN-PT crystal (**Figure 3**). We  
 214 also observed that the sound velocity anisotropies ( $AV_p, AV_{s1}, \text{ and } AV_{s2}$ ) of PMN-PT reduces  
 215 asymptotically at higher temperature and exhibits minima at the Burns temperature, i.e.,  $T_b \approx$   
 216 673 K (**Figure 3**).

217 For the PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.3$ ) phase, at temperatures below  $T_c$ , <400 K, the microstructure  
 218 consists of ferroelectric domains with spontaneous polarization. The size of these domains are  
 219 often of micrometer scale [52] and they cause dissipation of acoustic energy which results in  
 220 weakening of the resonance peaks in the MRS. The difficulty in acquiring elasticity measurement  
 221 by the RUS method at temperatures below  $T_c$  is also known for several other relaxor ferroelectrics

222 including  $\text{Pb}(\text{In}_{0.5}\text{Nb}_{0.5})\text{O}_3\text{-Pb}(\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Nb}_{0.67})\text{O}_3\text{-PbTiO}_3$  (PIN-PMN-PT) [27],  $\text{Ca}_{0.28}\text{Ba}_{0.72}\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6$   
223 (CBN) [53,54],  $\text{LaAlO}_3$  [55], and  $\text{KTa}_{1-x}\text{Nb}_x\text{O}_3$  (KTN) [25]. In PMN-PT relaxor ferroelectrics, for  
224 compositions towards the PMN end i.e., between  $x \approx 0.0$  and  $x \approx 0.3$  as the temperature  
225 surpasses  $T_c$ , these ferroelectric domains are severely reduced and the crystal structure gradually  
226 transitions from the rhombohedral space group symmetry to a pseudo-cubic symmetry structure,  
227 which, eventually transitions to a cubic space group symmetry [10,56,57]. An ordinary  
228 ferroelectric material becomes paraelectric at  $T > T_c$ , but in the case of relaxors, polar nano-  
229 regions (PNRs) with randomly oriented local polarization exist at  $T_c < T < T_b$  [5] (**Figure 2**).  
230 These PNRs are reduced with increasing temperature, and at temperatures  $T > T_b$ , the PNRs  
231 eventually vanish and the crystal loses any local polarization. The  $T_b$  for PMN-PT is determined  
232 [5] based on the temperature dependence of the strain, thermal expansion coefficient, and the  
233 magnitude of the polarization. The transition from PNR to complete loss of polarization is well  
234 documented in the transition between region “2” and region “3” in the plot of  $Q_{av}^{-1}$  vs. temperature  
235 (**Figure 2**). The temperature dependence of elasticity in the PMN-PT from this study compares  
236 well with RUS results of other relaxor ferroelectrics including PIN-PMN-PT [27], CBN [54,53],  
237 and KTN [25].

238 We compared the room temperature elasticity, i.e., bulk and shear moduli across the  
239 PMN-PT solid solution (**Figure 4a,b**). We note that the bulk modulus decreases from the PMN  
240 end member and reaches a minimum at the morphotropic phase boundary i.e., PMN-PT with  
241  $x = 0.3$ , at  $x > 0.3$ , the bulk modulus is larger and then it reduces monotonically towards the PT  
242 ( $x = 0.3$ ) (**Figure 4b**). The variation of shear modulus across PMN-PT solid solution shows a  
243 clear minimum at the morphotropic boundary i.e., PMN-PT with  $x = 0.3$ , both the end member

244 compositions i.e., PMN ( $x = 0.0$ ) and PT ( $x = 1.0$ ) have shear moduli greater than at MPB  
245 (**Figure 4b**).

246 The temperature dependence of these isotropic moduli is shown in (**Figure 4c**). In the  
247 PMN-PT ( $x = 0.3$ ) crystal, we observe that the bulk,  $K_H$  and shear,  $G_H$  moduli stiffens at high  
248 temperature up to  $\approx T_b$ , followed by a gradual softening. However, the maxima in the  
249 temperature dependence of the bulk,  $K_H$  and shear,  $G_H$  moduli occur at different temperatures of  
250  $673 \pm 20 K$  and  $623 \pm 20 K$  respectively. We compared the high temperature elasticity of PMN-  
251 PT with previous studies on PMN using ultrasonic speed of sound measurements [58], Brillouin  
252 scattering [59,60] and RUS [14]. We note that the ferroelectric to paraelectric transition  
253 temperature ( $T_c$ ) varies as a function of composition of PMN-PT, for instance for PMN ( $x = 0.0$ )  
254 and PMN-PT ( $x = 0.3$ ),  $T_c$  is  $270 K$  and  $398 \pm 5 K$  respectively. We note that the  $T_c$  increases  
255 from PMN to PT (**Figure 4a,c**). At the PMN end member the octahedral sites are occupied by  
256 both Mg and Nb cations. At  $T < T_c$  the Mg and Nb cations move along the [111] direction i.e., one  
257 3-fold axis of the cube and lowers the cubic symmetry to a rhombohedral symmetry. As the Ti  
258 concentration increases in the octahedral site, the PMN-PT crystal structure stabilizes in the  
259 tetragonal space group symmetry at  $T < T_c$  owing to the displacement of Ti along the [001]  
260 direction. At  $T < T_c$  the morphotropic phase boundary is a special region in between the  
261 rhombohedral space group symmetry at the PMN rich end member and the tetragonal symmetry  
262 towards the PT rich end member. At MPB, the octahedral site in PMN-PT is almost half occupied  
263 by Nb (0.47), and the remaining half of the octahedral site is occupied by a combination of Ti  
264 (0.30) and Mg (0.23). Based on the temperature dependence of the bulk and shear moduli, the  
265 difference between elastic constants at  $T_b$  and  $T_c$  can be estimated. We find that the change in  
266 bulk ( $K$ ) and shear ( $G$ ) moduli are  $\approx 18$  and  $\approx 24$  GPa respectively for PMN-PT ( $x = 0.3$ ) and

267 respectively. In comparison, the change in bulk ( $K$ ) and shear ( $G$ ) moduli are  $\approx 10$  and  $\approx 20$  GPa  
268 respectively for PMN ( $x = 0$ )[14,58–60]. The change in bulk ( $\Delta K$ ) and shear ( $\Delta G$ ) moduli is  
269 estimated by taking the difference between the bulk and shear moduli at temperatures between  $T_b$   
270 and  $T_c$  and the linear extrapolation of the bulk and shear moduli fitted to the data at  $T > T_b$ . The  
271 change in bulk ( $\Delta K$ ) and shear ( $\Delta G$ ) moduli as a function of temperature is very nonlinear and can  
272 be adequately described by a power law,

$$273 \quad \Delta C = A(T - T_f)^\kappa,$$

274 where,  $\Delta C$  represents  $\Delta K$  or  $\Delta G$ ,  $A$  and  $\kappa$  are material constants, and  $T_f$  is a temperature where the  
275 nano polar domains freezes and  $T_f < T_c$  [55] (**Figure 4d**). So, in the composition region defined by  
276  $0.0 < x < 0.3$ , we note that the addition of titanium into PMN i.e., increase in  $x$ , is likely to  
277 elevate the magnitude of elasticity change ( $\Delta C$ ) with the ferroelectric to paraelectric phase  
278 transition in PMN-PT.

279

## 280 **Conclusions**

281 We examined the temperature dependent ferroelectric to paraelectric transition of the  
282 PMN-PT ( $x = 0.3$ ). Across the structural phase transition, the symmetry changes from  
283 rhombohedral to pseudo-cubic at  $T_c$ . Examining the temperature dependences of MRSs over the  
284 transition temperature range, we determined the ferroelectric transition temperature ( $T_c$ ) of PMN-  
285 PT ( $x = 0.3$ ) to be  $398 \pm 5$  K. We measured the full set of elastic constants ( $C_{ij}$ ) of the relaxor  
286 ferroelectric PMN-PT in the temperature range of 400 – 871 K. The temperature evolution of the  
287 PMN-PT elastic moduli establish a significant stiffening in the temperature range  $T_c < T < T_b$   
288 followed by a gradual softening. In the temperature range  $T_c < T < T_b$ , the temperature  
289 dependences of the elastic constants  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{12}$ , and  $C_{44}$  behave in a distinct manner, likely related

290 to the differences in sensitivity of these elastic constants to the evolution of PNRs. We report that  
291 the maxima in  $C_{11}$  and isotropic bulk modulus ( $K$ ), and the minimum of the sound wave  
292 anisotropy ( $AV_p, AV_s$ ) correlates with the Burns temperature ( $T_b \approx 673 K$ ). We also detected an  
293 anomaly in the acoustic attenuation ( $Q^{-1}$ ) with a broad minimum in the vicinity of  $T_b$ , followed  
294 by a linear increase at temperatures  $T > T_b$ . The nonlinear behavior of the elastic constants,  
295 acoustic attenuation, and elastic anisotropy of PMN-PT is attributed to the evolution of the PNRs  
296 at  $T_c < T < T_b$  and their depletion at  $T > T_b$ .

297

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- 466

467 **Table 1:** Room temperature elastic constants ( $C_{ij}$ ) across the PMN-PT solid solutions and from  
468 this study PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.3$ ). The elastic constants are reported in GPa. PE refers to pulse-echo  
469 and RUS refers to Resonant Ultrasound Spectroscopy.

	$C_{11}$	$C_{12}$	$C_{13}$	$C_{33}$	$C_{44}$	$C_{66}$	$K_H$	$G_H$	Source
PT ( $x = 1.00$ )	237	90	70	60	69	104	85	55	[61]
PMN ( $x = 0.00$ )	156	76			69		103	55	[18]
PMN-PT ( $x = 0.29$ )	124	111	104	108	63	35	93	30	[33]
PMN-PT ( $x = 0.30$ )	117	103	101	108	71	66	105	29	[32]
PMN-PT ( $x = 0.33$ )	115	103	102	103	69	66	104	25	[31]
PMN-PT ( $x = 0.42$ )	175	85	83	105	28	80	102	37	[31]
PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.30$ )									
293 K				124.0	62.5				This work (PE)
PMN-PT ( $x \approx 0.30$ )									This work (RUS)
412 K	134.2	89.4			66.3		104.4	43.0	
443 K	157.8	87.7			74.5		111.1	55.0	
473 K	167.5	83.2			78.0		111.3	60.9	
493 K	174.4	83.9			77.8		114.1	62.6	
513 K	177.3	83.4			78.4		114.7	63.8	
572 K	183.3	84.7			78.8		117.6	65.3	
594 K	184.6	85.3			78.8		118.4	65.5	
671 K	185.7	86.1			78.5		119.3	65.4	
771 K	184.3	85.9			78.0		118.7	64.8	
872 K	181.5	85.6			77.0		117.6	63.7	

470 **Figure Captions**

471 **Figure 1:** (a) Temperature dependence of the first ten mechanical resonance frequencies (b)  
472 Temperature evolution of MRS from 290-823 K. For the PMN-PT sample ( $x \approx 0.3$ )  
473 explored in this study, a distinct transition in the temperature dependence of MRS is  
474 observed at around  $\sim 400$  K, i.e., ( $T_c$ ). Mode displacement plots [62] of first five resonance  
475 modes of the PMN-PT sample are also shown and indicated by arrows with the  
476 corresponding modes in (b).

477 **Figure 2:** Temperature dependence of  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{12}$ ,  $C_{44}$ , and acoustic energy loss ( $Q_{av}^{-1}$ ) of the same  
478 sample measured in two different temperature cycles. Also shown are the elastic constants  
479 for PMN ( $x=0.0$ ) [14,58]. The two “grey and white” shaded regions shown in the figure  
480 indicates the ferroelectric to paraelectric transition with  $T_c$  for PMN and for PMN-PT. The  
481  $T_c$  for PMN is  $\sim 270$  K whereas the  $T_c$  for PMN is  $\sim 398$  K.

482 **Figure 3:** (a) The plot shows the temperature dependence of the sound velocity anisotropy:  $AV_p$ ,  
483  $AV_{S1}$ , and  $AV_{S2}$ . We define the anisotropy  $AV_p = \frac{200 \times (V_{Pmax} - V_{Pmin})}{(V_{Pmax} + V_{Pmin})}$ ; and  $AV_S =$   
484  $\frac{200 \times (V_{Smax} - V_{Smin})}{(V_{Smax} + V_{Smin})}$ . The inset shows the inflection in  $AV_p$  at the Burns temperature,  $T_b$  (b),  
485 (c), and (d) are the stereographic plots of the directional dependence of sound velocities:  
486  $V_p$ ,  $V_{S1}$ ,  $V_{S2}$  at 412 K.

487 **Figure 4:** (a) Temperature-composition ( $T - x$ ) phase diagram for PMN-PT with a stoichiometry  
488  $Pb[(Mg_{0.33}Nb_{0.67})_{1-x}Ti_x]O_3$ . The phase diagram is subdivided based on the space group  
489 symmetry of the PMN-PT crystals- “C” refers to the cubic space group symmetry  
490 ( $Pm\bar{3}m$ ), “R” refers to rhombohedral space group symmetry ( $R3m$ ), “T” refers to  
491 tetragonal space group symmetry ( $P4mm$ ) and “MPB” refers to morphotropic phase  
492 boundary which is attributed to monoclinic phases ( $Bm$  and  $Pm$ ) [13]. The region. “PC”

493 refers to pseudo-cubic where  $a = b = c$  and  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma \approx 90$  [43]. The phase transition  
494 temperatures shown in the figure are from previous studies including X-ray diffraction  
495 (XRD) [10,11,43,63,64], dielectric measurements (DM) [11,23,63], and molecular  
496 dynamics (MD) simulations [46]. The shaded region extended up to  $x=0.5$  indicates the  
497 MPB determined from MD [46]. Insert shows the crystal structure of a PMN-PT phase  
498 with cubic space group symmetry ( $Pm\bar{3}m$ ). Dashed lines indicates the compositional  
499 variation of Burns temperature ( $T_b$ ) [5,7]. **(b)** Bulk ( $K$ ) and shear ( $G$ ) moduli as a function  
500 of  $x$ . Room temperature  $K$  and  $G$  (**Table 2**) are connected with dashed lines. Color scale  
501 indicates the temperatures. **(c)** Bulk ( $K$ ) and shear ( $G$ ) moduli of PMN ( $x=0$ ) [58] and  
502 PMN-PT ( $x=0.3$ ) as a function of temperature.  $T_c$  for PMN and PMN-PT ( $x=0.3$ ) is also  
503 marked in the plot. **(d)**  $\Delta K$  and shear  $\Delta G$  as a function of temperature. The blue and red  
504 lines represent fits  $[A(T - T_f)^k]$  to the  $\Delta K$  and  $\Delta G$  with  $T_f = 380$  K [22]. The fitted  
505 parameter  $A$  for  $\Delta K$  and  $\Delta G$  are -499 and -2974 GPa respectively. The fitted parameter  $k$   
506 for  $\Delta K$  and  $\Delta G$  are -0.96 and -1.36 respectively. The two “grey and white” shaded regions  
507 shown in the figure indicates ferroelectric to paraelectric transition with the  $T_c$  for PMN  
508 and for PMN-PT.

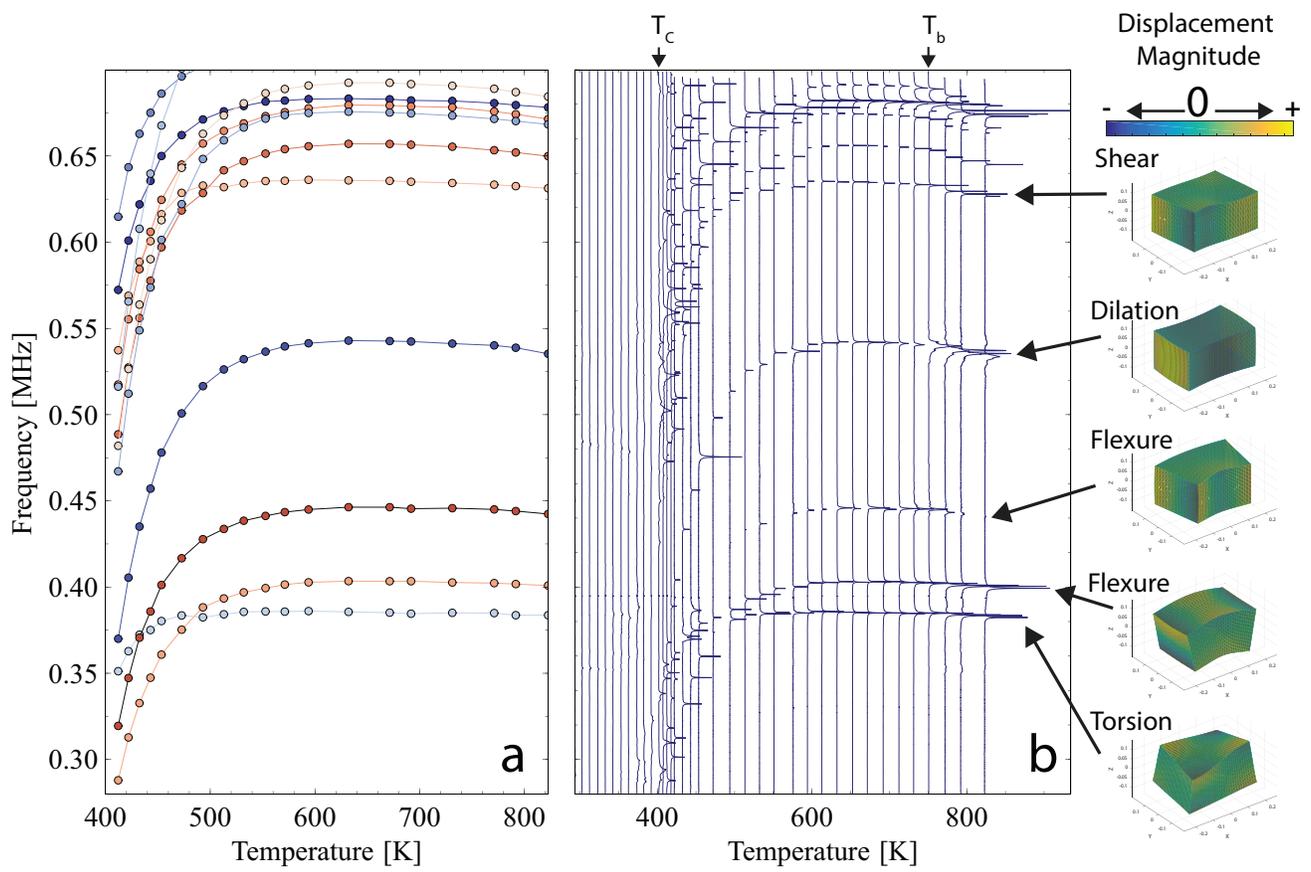


Figure 1 BE13263 18SEP2017

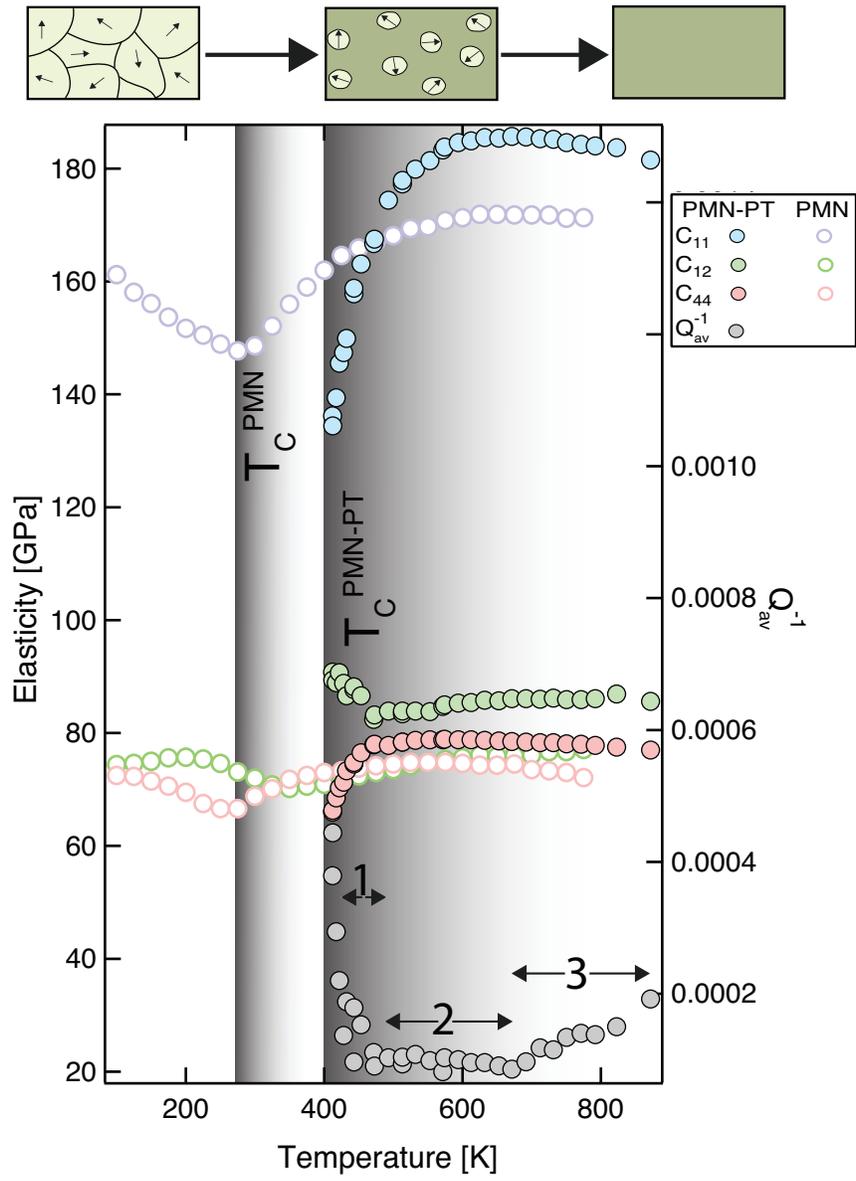


Figure 2

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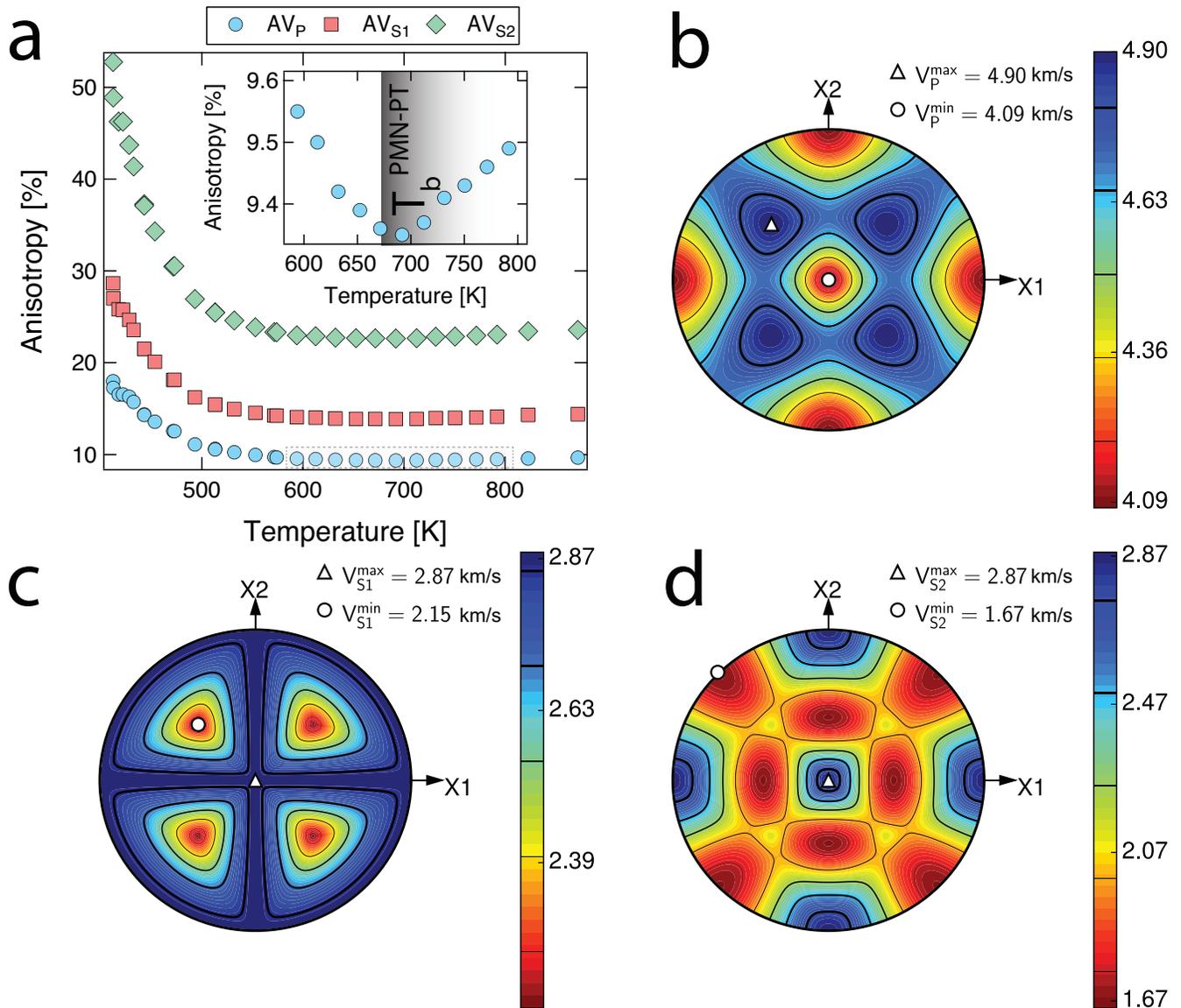


Figure 3 BE13263 18SEP2017

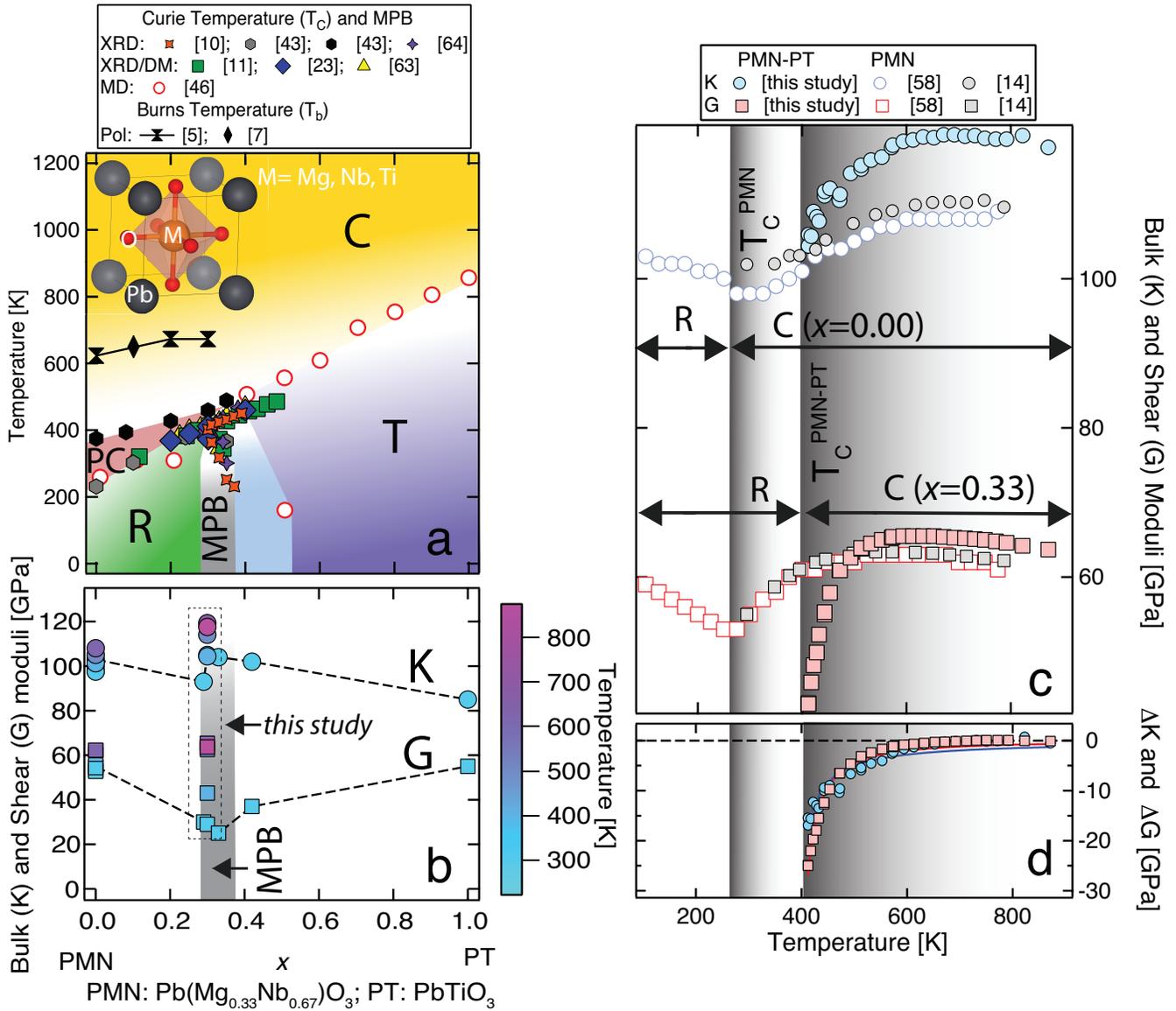


Figure 4

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