Synthesis and Characterization of Ferroic Nanocomposites of Spinel Ferrites and Perovskites

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#### Abstract

In this research, 0-3 type ferroic nanocomposites have been fabricated using colloidal synthesis approaches. The zero dimensional (0D) magnetic phase (CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) was synthesized by an elevated temperature hydrolysis reaction carried out in a three neck flask. The ferrites were incorporated into the matrix of the perovskite phases ( $ATiO_3$ , A = Ba and Pb) by two methods. Lead titanate was deposited onto the ferrites in an aqueous solution via the liquid phase deposition (LPD) method. Alternatively, the ferrites were incorporated into an amorphous titanium dioxide matrix via a sol-gel method which was used as a precursor for the hydrothermal synthesis of perovskite-spinel nanocomposites. The nanocomposites were characterized by XRD, VSM, TEM, FE-SEM, Raman, and PFM.

## Introduction

• Perovskites (ATiO<sub>3</sub> A=Ba or Pb) are ferroelectric (they exhibit electric polarization) and Spinels (CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) are ferro or ferrimagnetic (they exhibit spontaneous magnetic dipoles)

•Magnetoelectric composites consist of a ferroelectric phase coupled together with a ferromagnetic phase



Spinel Crystal Structure



Perovskite Structure

- Applying a stimulus to either phase can transfer a physical strain to the coupled phase and induce a response
- These materials have a range of applications in electronics and computers specifically in sensors, transistors, and data storage devices







Cobalt Ferrite (Negative Magnetostriction Coefficient)

Lead Titanate (Electrostrictive Phase)

#### Polarization: $P(H = 0) = P_0$



$$P(H) = P_0 + \Delta P$$

$$\alpha_{ME} = \frac{dP}{dH} = \left(\frac{dP}{dM}\right) \left(\frac{dM}{dH}\right)$$

# Methods

Synthesis of Magnetic Nanoparticles

•The  $CoFe_2O_4$  (CFO) nanoparticles are synthesized by a hydrolysis reaction

•The DEG and NMDA act as both the solvent and as capping agents

•The hydroxide groups on the capping agents make the particles dispersible in polar solvents



# Synthesis of Nanocomposites by LPD



PbTiO<sub>3</sub>-CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

$$MF_{n}^{(n-2m)} + mH_{2}0 \iff MO_{m} + nF^{-} + 2mH^{+}(1)$$
$$H_{3}BO_{3} + 4HF \iff BF_{4}^{-} + H_{3}O^{+} + 2H_{2}O \qquad (2)$$

•LPD involves an equilibrium reaction

•Addition of Boric Acid shifts the equilibrium to the product side

# Integration of CFO into TiO2 matrix



The CFO nanoparticles were integrated into amorphous TiO2 through a sol-gel method

## Synthesis of PTO-CFO by Hydrothermal Method

The TiO2-CFO powder was then used as seeds for the formation of PTO-CFO nanocomposites under hydrothermal conditions



#### **X-Ray Diffraction**



## **Magnetic Properties**



VSM measurements of the CFO nanoparticles.

VSM measurements of PTO-CFO nanocomposites.

# Morphology



TEM images of the CFO nanoparticles



TEM and FE-SEM of PTO-CFO nanocomposites formed by LPD.





TEM and FE-SEM of PTO-CFO nanocomposites formed hdyrdothermally





#### **Magnetic Field Assisted Raman**



Raman Spectra of PTO-CFO powder prepared by LPD placed on a silicon wafer. Shifts in the perovskite modes suggest a coupling between the magnetic and piezoelectric phases.

|            | Raman Bands     |                      |                   |        |       |  |  |  |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|--|--|--|
|            | Ferrite         |                      |                   |        |       |  |  |  |
| Field (Oe) | A <sub>1g</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> (3TO) | B <sub>1</sub> +E | E(2TO) | Si    |  |  |  |
| 0          | 713.5           | 584.2                | 290.3             | 207.1  | 525.2 |  |  |  |
| 500        | 677.3           | 574.8                | 291.9             | 199.4  | 525.3 |  |  |  |
| 1000       | 675.0           | 571.3                | 290.1             | 198.8  | 525.4 |  |  |  |
| 1500       | 684.0           | 566.5                | 287.1             | 197.7  | 525.4 |  |  |  |
| 2000       | 691.4           | 565.2                | 283.4             | 195.2  | 525.4 |  |  |  |

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Raman Spectra of **PTO-CFO** powder prepared hydrothermally placed on a silicon wafer. Shifts in the perovskite modes suggest a coupling between the magnetic and piezoelectric phase.



| _          | ds              |                      |                   |        |                     |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|
|            | Ferrite         | Perovskite           |                   |        |                     |
| Field (Oe) | A <sub>1g</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> (3TO) | B <sub>1</sub> +E | E(2TO) | Si                  |
| 0          | 709.8           | 577.7                | 289.4             | 199.7  | 508.3               |
| 500        | 710.8           | 579.6                | 289.4             | 199.7  | 508.3               |
| 1000       | 709.8           | 580.6                | 290.4             | 201.7  | 508.3               |
| 1500       | 710.8           | 578.7                | 290.4             | 200.7  | 508.3               |
| 2000       | 710.8           | 580.6                | 290.4             | 201.7  | 508.3 <sup>16</sup> |

### Magnetic Field Assisted Piezoresponse Force Microscopy



PFM measurements of PTO-CFO nanocomposites synthesized by LPD method.

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