

Gen III Piezoelectric PMN-PZT Single Crystal Sensors and Actuators for Structural Health Monitoring Application

Dong-Ho Kim¹, Hyun-Taek Oh¹, Yohachi (John) Yamashita² and Ho-Yong Lee^{1,3†}
 (1Ceracomp Co., Ltd., South Korea, 2Shonan Inst. of Tech., Japan, 3Sunmoon University, South Korea)

1. Introduction

Crystallographically engineered Relaxor-PT single crystals, specifically PMN-PT (Generation I) and PIN-PMN-PT/PMN-PZT (Generation II), offer much higher piezoelectric and electromechanical coupling coefficients ($d_{33} > 1,500$ pC/N, $k_{33} > 0.9$), when compared to polycrystalline PZT ceramics.¹⁻³⁾ Recently Ceracomp Co., Ltd. (www.ceracomp.com) has developed the solid-state single crystal growth (SSCG) technique and successfully fabricated Gen III PMN-PZT single crystals modified with acceptors or donors [Fig. 1].⁴⁻⁶⁾ The piezoelectric constants (d_{33}) of (001) Gen III PMN-PZT single crystals were measured to be higher than 4,000 pC/N and thus about two times higher than those of PMN-PT/PZN-PT (Gen I) and PIN-PMN-PT/PMN-PZT (Gen II) single crystals. The Gen III PMN-PZT single crystals have been firstly applied to single crystal-epoxy composites, ultrasonic transducers, piezoelectric sensors, and piezoelectric actuators [Fig. 2]. In this paper, we introduce the recent development of high performance piezoelectric sensors and actuators by using the Gen III PMN-PZT single crystals for SHM (structural health monitoring) applications.

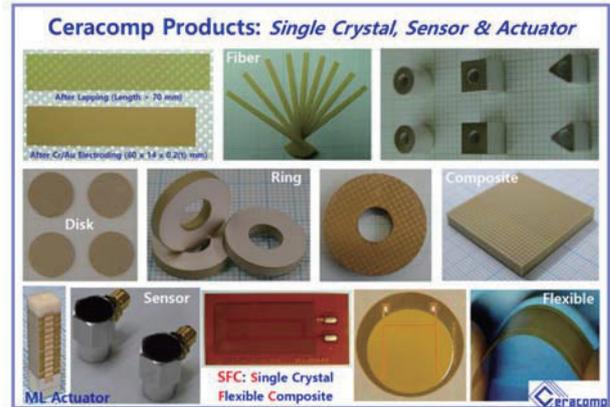


Fig. 2. Gen III PMN-PZT single crystals, single crystal-epoxy composites, SFC (Single crystal Flexible Composite), sensors and actuators

2. Development of Gen III PMN-PZT Single Crystal Actuators and Sensors

2-1. “Ultrahigh Strain” Single Crystal Actuators and Sensors for SHM

Figure 3 shows a photo and strain characteristics of the two multilayer actuators: polycrystalline PZT vs. single crystal. The strain of the single crystal actuator was about four times higher and the strain hysteresis was about one-third when comparing those of polycrystalline PZT ceramic actuators.

“Ceracomp” PMN-PT/PMN-PZT Single Crystals:
 Soft (PZT-5H), Semi-Hard (PZT4) & Hard (PZT8) Types

Ceracomp Single Crystals	Soft Type SC						Semi-Hard Type SC						Hard Type SC			
	CSL09	CSL11	CSL20	CSL40	CSL50	CSL80	CSM10	CSM40	CSM80	CSM90	CSM95	CSM98	CSH01	CSH02	CSH03	
k^* (%)	5,500	6,000	10,000	8,000	6,500	5,500	4,500	5,000	4,000	3,000	2,500	1,000	2,500	2,000	2,000	
$\tan \delta$ (%)	< 1.0	< 1.0	< 1.0	< 1.0	< 1.0	< 1.0	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 0.3	< 0.3	< 0.3	< 0.3	
T_c (°C)	140	140	130	130	180	180	200	140	180	180	200	140	180	180	200	
T_{90} (°C)	85	85	75	85	100	120	135	80	100	120	135	100	120	120	135	
d_{33} (pC/N)	1,500	2,000	3,000	2,500	2,000	1,800	1,500	1,500	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,000	150	150	700	
d_{31} (pC/N)	-1,300	-1,300	-2,300	-2,000	-1,700	-1,600	-1,300	-1,100	-1,100	-800	-800	-600	700	600	600	
μ_{32}	0.9	0.9	0.94	0.93	0.92	0.91	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.88	0.88	0.86	0.86	0.85	
μ_{31}	0.88	0.88	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.86	0.85	0.84	0.84	0.8	
ϵ_r (300Hz)	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.5	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.5	
Q_m	> 100	> 100	> 100	> 100	> 100	> 100	> 400	> 400	> 400	> 400	> 400	> 400	> 800	> 800	> 800	

PMN-PT Replacement Half Price, Large Size, Uniform Properties
 Very High K and d Actuator Composite
 High Power Application Sound Projector High Frequency Application

Fig. 1. PMN-PT/PMN-PZT single crystals produced by SSCG technique

E-mail: †hlee@ceracomp.com

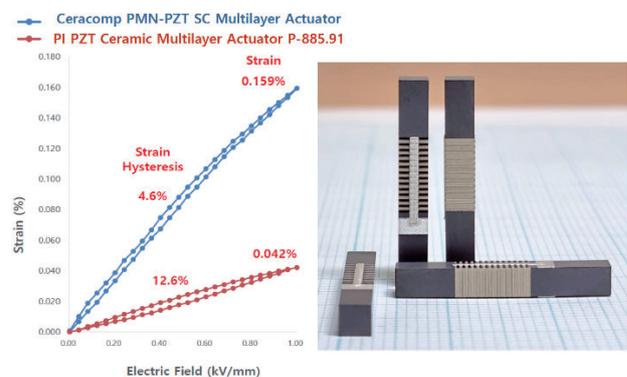


Fig. 3. Strain and strain hysteresis of two multilayer actuators: Polycrystalline PZT ceramics vs. single crystals

2-2. SFC (Single Crystal Flexible Composite) Sensors and Actuators for SHM

Figure 4 is a photo of the 2-2 piezoelectric single crystal-polymer composites (SFC [Single Crystal Flexible Composite]) covered with two PI films. When the thickness of the 2-2 composite was processed to be 200 μm or less, a flexible composite could be produced. Figure 5 shows strain characteristics of three 2-2 composite actuators: polycrystalline PZT ceramics, Gen I and Gen III single crystals. The strains of single crystal composite actuators were much higher and their strain hysteresis were much lower when comparing those of polycrystalline PZT ceramic actuators. This SFC can be used as piezoelectric sensors, piezoelectric actuators, ultrasonic transducers, and energy harvesting components.

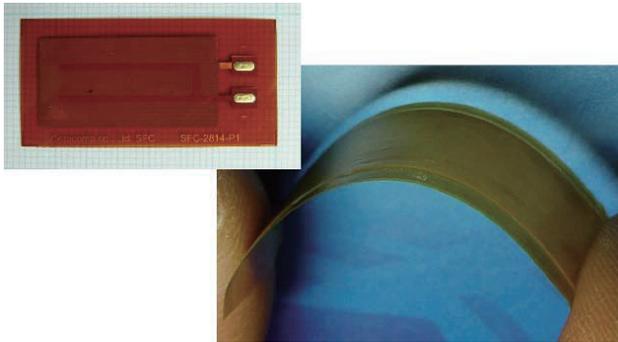


Fig. 4. “Flexible” SFC (Single Crystal Fiber Composite) for SHM

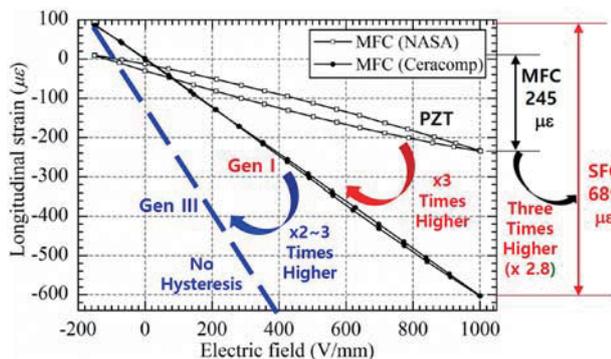


Fig. 5. Strains and strain hystereses of three composite actuators: Polycrystalline PZT ceramics, Gen I and Gen III single crystals

2-3. “Transparent” Single Crystals and Single Crystal-Epoxy Composites for SHM

Third-generation piezoelectric single crystals are known to exhibit transparent properties depending on the type of additive. Figure 6 shows the transparent “1-3” single crystal-polymer

composite manufactured using transparent PMN-PZT single crystals that exhibit high piezoelectric properties and transparent properties at the same time.

Transparent & High d_{33} ($> 3,000$ pC/N)
SSCG PMN-PZT Single Crystal-Epoxy Composite
 <Double Side Polished; 300 μm Thick; No Electrode; No Poling>



Fig. 6. Transparent 1-3 Single Crystal-Polymer Composite

3. Conclusions

The development of these third-generation piezoelectric single crystals is expected to significantly improve the performance of existing piezoelectric application parts as well as develop new functional application parts, and will greatly expand the scope of application of piezoelectric single crystals in the civil and defense industries.

References

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