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# Comparative Investigation and Mechanistic Analysis of Textured PMN-30PT Ceramics Using BaTiO<sub>3</sub> and PbTiO<sub>3</sub> templates

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**Abstract:** Homogeneous PbTiO<sub>3</sub> (PT) templates are considered an ideal choice for textured lead-based piezoceramics. In order to further investigate the texture mechanism and topological microcrystal conversion of PT templates, a comparative investigation and mechanistic analysis were conducted on Pb(Mg<sub>1/3</sub>Nb<sub>2/3</sub>)O<sub>3</sub>-30PbTiO<sub>3</sub> (PMN-30PT) textured ceramics prepared using the template grain growth (TGG) technique, with <001> oriented BaTiO<sub>3</sub> (BT) and PbTiO<sub>3</sub> (PT) as templates. The results show that the use of BT templates resulted in a textured ceramic with a Logtering factor of 91%, a piezoelectric coefficient of 824 pC/N, and parallel striped domains, compared to 11%, 534 pC/N, and fingerprint-like domains with PT templates. However, the PT templates have poor morphology and structural instability. This is due to the chaotic substitution of Bi<sup>3+</sup> with Pb<sup>2+</sup> and interlayer detachment at the 4a position during the topochemical conversion process, which results in the formation of PT nanosheets. At

the same time the residues of  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  lead to the formation of a more complex Aurivillius structure and allow PT templates to be embedded in this structure. Additionally, the lower formation energy, the increased lattice parameter difference, and the lower melting point of PT templates make them more susceptible diffusion into the matrix grain. Based on this comprehensive analysis, it can be concluded that achieving textured piezoceramics with PT templates is a challenging task.

**Keywords:** PMN-PT; Template Grain Growth;  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  Template; Texture ceramics; Topochemical microcrystal conversion

## 1. Introduction

Template Grain Growth (TGG) is a technique utilized to produce textured ceramics with plate-like templates<sup>1-4</sup>. These textured ceramics are highly desirable due to their excellent piezoelectric properties. The selection of the template material is crucial in the fabrication of textured ceramics<sup>5</sup>. Currently,  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  (BT)<sup>6-8</sup> and  $\text{SrTiO}_3$  (ST)<sup>4,9,10</sup> are commonly used as template materials for Pb-based perovskite ceramics. Numerous studies have demonstrated that textured materials such as PMN-PZT<sup>11,12</sup>, BMT-PMN-PT<sup>8</sup>, PNN-PZT<sup>6,7</sup>, PYN-PMN-PT<sup>13</sup>, 0.19PIN-0.445PSN-0.365PT<sup>2</sup>, 0.7 mol% Mn-doped 0.675PMN-0.325PT<sup>14</sup>, 0.36PIN-0.30PMN-0.34PT<sup>15</sup> ceramics, and PZT-PZNN thick films<sup>16</sup> exhibit superior properties when using BT templates. Additionally, ST templates show good applicability in systems like PMN-32.5PT<sup>17,18</sup>, PMN-40PT<sup>9</sup>, PMN-28PT<sup>4</sup>. However, an excess of heterogeneous templates as

impurities compared to the matrix grain can lead to a deterioration of properties. In contrast,  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  (PT) has the same crystal structure and elemental composition as the Pb-based matrix powder, making it an ideal choice to avoid introducing new impurities into the system. As a result, PT templates have gained significant attention as a new template material.

Topochemical microcrystal conversion of the Aurivillius phase  $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  in a  $\text{NaCl/Bi}_2\text{O}_3/\text{PbO}$  flux system can yield various plate-shaped products. For instance, Yan<sup>19</sup> successfully prepared a PT template with minimal impurity phase at 1050 °C for 3 hours, which was then used to texture Sm-doped  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  matrix powder. This resulted in a texture quality  $f$  of 95% and a piezoelectric voltage coefficient  $g_{33}$  value of  $115 \times 10^{-3}$  Vm/N. Similarly, Messing<sup>20</sup> synthesized lamellar  $0.4(\text{Na}_{1/2}\text{Bi}_{1/2})\text{TiO}_3$ - $0.6\text{PbTiO}_3$  (0.4NBT-0.6PT) at 1100 °C for 1 hour, which was utilized to texture PMN-PT and achieved a texture quality of 92% and a piezoelectric coefficient  $d_{33}$  value of 855 pC/N<sup>21</sup>. However, the reason for the different composition templates obtained under similar preparation conditions remains unclear. Additionally, attempts to synthesis plate-like PT templates with a size of 300-500 nm using the hydrothermal method were unsuccessful in meeting the requirements for TGG<sup>22-24</sup>. Furthermore, efforts to texture lead-based  $0.83\text{Pb}(\text{Zr}_{1/2}\text{Ti}_{1/2})\text{O}_3$ - $0.11\text{Pb}(\text{Zn}_{1/3}\text{Nb}_{2/3})\text{O}_3$ - $0.06\text{Pb}(\text{Ni}_{1/3}\text{Nb}_{2/3})\text{O}_3$  (PZNNT) and  $0.15\text{PbZrO}_3$ - $0.3\text{PbTiO}_3$ - $0.55\text{Pb}(\text{Ni}_{1/3}\text{Nb}_{2/3})\text{O}_3$  (PNN-PZT) using PT templates were also unsuccessful<sup>25,26</sup>.

In order to assess the feasibility of using PT templates for textured lead-based piezoceramics, a comparative investigation was conducted on the microstructure,

electrical properties, and domain configuration of textured PMN-30PT ceramics with both BT and PT templates. PMN-30PT with a MPB composition, due to its excellent piezoelectric properties, was chosen as the host material<sup>27–31</sup>. In this study, we systematically investigated the texture developments, electric properties, and domain configurations of PMN-30PT ceramics with BT and PT templates. The results showed that achieving textured lead-based piezoceramics with PT templates is difficult. To further investigate the mechanism of texturing with PT templates, a comparative investigation was carried out on the differences between homogeneous PT templates and heterogeneous BT templates. This investigation included microstructures, morphologies, physical properties, topochemical microcrystal conversion, and the texture evolution process. Based on this comprehensive analysis, it was concluded that achieving textured piezoceramics with PT templates is a challenging task.

## 2. Experimental procedure

The PMN-30PT matrix powder was prepared using the traditional solid-state reaction method. Stoichiometric ratios of PbO, Mg<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, and TiO<sub>2</sub> were mixed, with an excess of 2 mol% PbO. The Mg<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> was pre-fabricated using Mg<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to ensure a pure perovskite phase. The excess PbO compensates for evaporation. After 24 hours of ball-milling, the mixtures were calcined at 850 °C for 2 hours. The PMN-30PT matrix powder was then obtained by ball-milling again for 36 hours.

The plate-like <001> BT and PT microcrystals were synthesized using the topochemical microcrystal conversion method<sup>19,32</sup>. The BT template went through a

three-step synthesis process. First,  $\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_{12}$  was obtained by sintering  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$  (99.0%, Sinopharm). and  $\text{TiO}_2$  (99.5%; Alfa Aesar, China) in NaCl molten salts at 1100 °C for 5 hours. Then, the  $\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_{12}$  precursor was mixed with  $\text{BaCO}_3$  (99.0%; Sigma Aldrich) and  $\text{TiO}_2$  in  $\text{KCl/BaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (99.0%; Sinopharm) molten salts and calcined at 1080 °C for 2 hours to produce  $\text{BaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ . Finally, the precursor  $\text{BaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  with excess  $\text{BaCO}_3$  was held at 975 °C for 6 hours, resulting in the formation of the BT template and  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$  byproduct. The PT template, on the other hand, underwent a two-step synthesis process. First, the  $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  precursor was synthesized in molten salt. In the next step, the precursor was mixed with  $\text{PbO}$  and NaCl salt and heated to 1050 °C for 3 hours, yielding the PT template and  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$  byproduct. All of the  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$  byproduct was removed using diluted nitric acid (5wt%).

Textured ceramics were prepared by the cast tape slurry which consisted of ceramic matrix powder, 5wt% BT/PT templates, ethanol as solvent, polyvinyl butyral as binder, glycerol trioleate as dispersant, and polyethylene glycol as plasticizer. The 5wt% BT content has been determined through extensive literature<sup>2,6,33</sup> and self-conducted experiments, while the inclusion of 5wt% PT content serves as a point of comparison. The slurry was then cast at a rate of 40 cm/min using a doctor blade with a height of 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . The dried tapes were cut into 10 mm $\times$ 11 mm rectangles for stacking and lamination. Then the green samples slowly heated to 600 °C for 4 hours to remove the binder. They were then isostatically pressed at 200 MPa for 10 minutes. Afterwards, all of the samples were sintered at 800, 950, 1100 and 1250 °C for 2 hours.

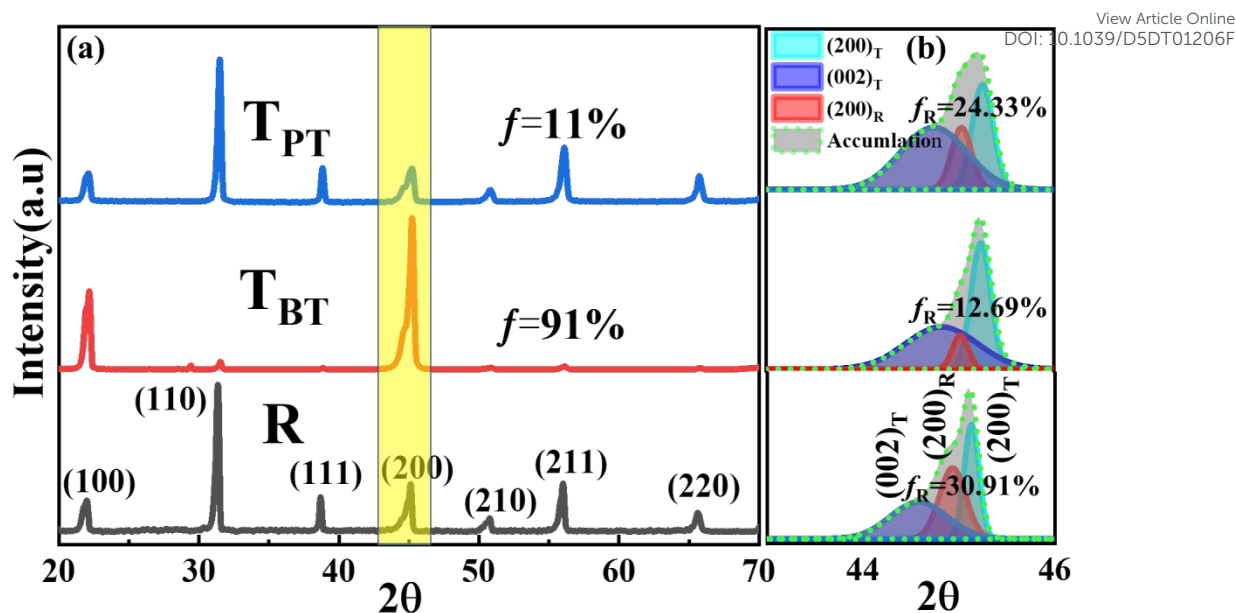
The crystal structures were analyzed using powder X-ray diffraction (XRD;

D/max 2550 V, Rigaku, Japan). The XRD was performed using a Cu K $\alpha$ 1 ray source with a wavelength of 1.540 Å. The scanning angle ranged from 20° to 60° with a step size of 0.05°. Field-emission scanning electron microscopy (SEM; XL 30, Philips, Netherlands) was utilized to characterize the micro-morphology. The dielectric permittivity  $\epsilon_r$  and dielectric loss  $\tan\delta$  were measured using an LCR meter (IM 3536, Hioki, Japan) with a temperature ranging from room temperature to 300 °C. Hysteresis loop tests were conducted using a ferroelectric tester (TF Analyzer 2000, aixACCT, Germany) at a frequency of 1 Hz. The piezoelectric coefficient  $d_{33}$  was measured using a quasi-static  $d_{33}/d_{31}$  meter (ZJ-6A, Institute of Acoustics, China) after 15 minutes of poling at 2.5 kV/mm.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1 PMN-30PT series ceramics

##### 3.1.1. Crystal structure of PMN-30PT ceramics



**Fig. 1.** (a) XRD patterns for random and textured PMN-30PT ceramics with BT/PT templates at room temperature; (b) corresponding expanded XRD patterns and peak-fitting in the range of  $2\theta$  from  $43^\circ$  to  $46^\circ$ .

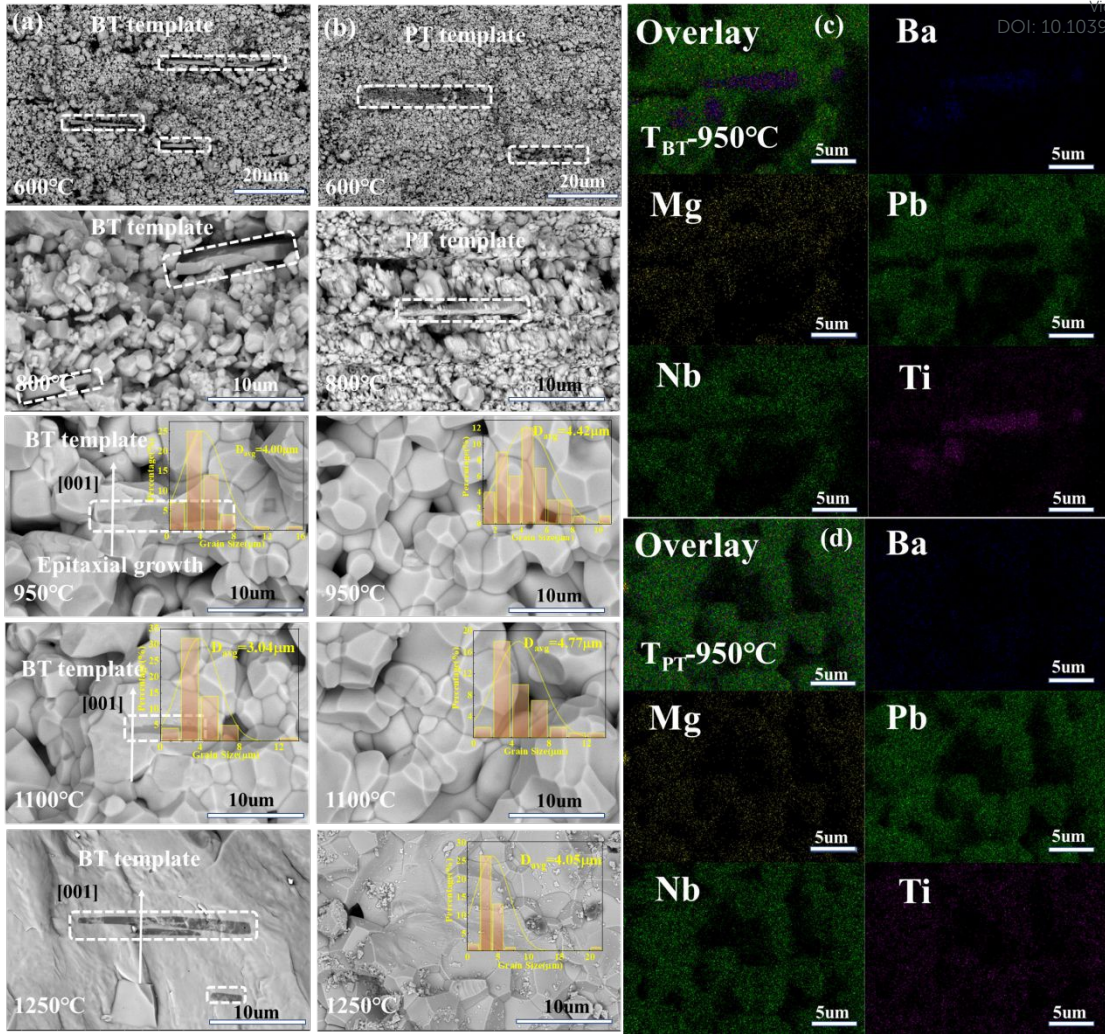
Figure. 1(a) shows the XRD patterns of PMN-30PT ceramics for Random (R), textured with BT template (T<sub>BT</sub>), and textured with PT template (T<sub>PT</sub>). Both the random and textured PMN-30PT ceramics exhibited a pure perovskite structure. Based on the XRD results, the texture quality  $f$  values were calculated using the Lotgering equation :  $f = (P - P_0)/(1 - P_0)$ , where  $P = \sum I_{(00l)}/\sum I_{(hkl)}$ ,  $P_0 = \sum I_{0(00l)}/\sum I_{0(hkl)}$ ,  $\sum I$  and  $\sum I_0$  are the sums of the peak intensities of the XRD patterns for the textured and random ceramics, respectively. The texture of the ceramics was evaluated through the texture quality  $f$  for the (00 $l$ ) direction ( $f_{00l}$ ), with higher  $f_{00l}$  values indicating better orientation and better piezoelectric properties<sup>9,34</sup>. In this study, the  $f_{00l}$  values were determined to be 11% for T<sub>PT</sub> and 91% for T<sub>BT</sub>.

Figure. 1(b) exhibits the expanded XRD patterns and peak-fitting in the range of  $2\theta$  from  $43^\circ$  to  $46^\circ$ , corresponding to the (200) direction. Notably, there is a clear split



in the peak at approximately  $45^\circ$ , indicating the coexistence of rhombohedral and tetragonal phases in the samples. By fitting the peaks in this region using Lorentzian-Gaussian functions, the peak can be deconvoluted into three peaks:  $(002)_T$ ,  $(002)_R$ , and  $(200)_T$ . The subscripts “T” and “R” denote the tetragonal and rhombohedral phases, respectively. The fraction of the rhombohedral phase ( $f_R$ ) can be determined by integrating the peak intensities of the two phases ( $I_T$  and  $I_R$ ) using the equation:  $f_R = I_R / (I_T + I_R) = I(002)_R / [I(002)_T + I(200)_T + I(002)_R]$ . It was observed that the fraction of the rhombohedral phase was lower in the textured ceramics compared to the random ceramic. This phenomenon can be attributed to the fact that the doped BT and PT templates are tetragonal at room temperature.

### 3.1.2. Morphologies and EDS images of PMN-30PT Textured ceramics evolution process



**Fig. 2.** SEM images of the fracture morphology and grain size distribution charts in T<sub>BT</sub> (a) and T<sub>PT</sub> (b) ceramics sintered at different temperature for 2 hours. EDS images of each element in T<sub>BT</sub> (c) and T<sub>PT</sub> (d) ceramics sintered at 950°C.

Figures. 2(a-b) show scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images and grain size distribution charts for T<sub>BT</sub> and T<sub>PT</sub> ceramics. To further quantify the grain size and preferred orientation, we investigated the texture development during the sintering process at temperatures of 600-800-950-1100-1250 °C. At 600 °C, the BT templates were uniformly dispersed in the matrix powder, while the PT templates were poorly dispersed, with larger and thicker templates and unclear edges. At 950 °C, both T<sub>BT</sub>

and  $T_{PT}$  samples began to porcelainize and further densify at subsequent temperatures.

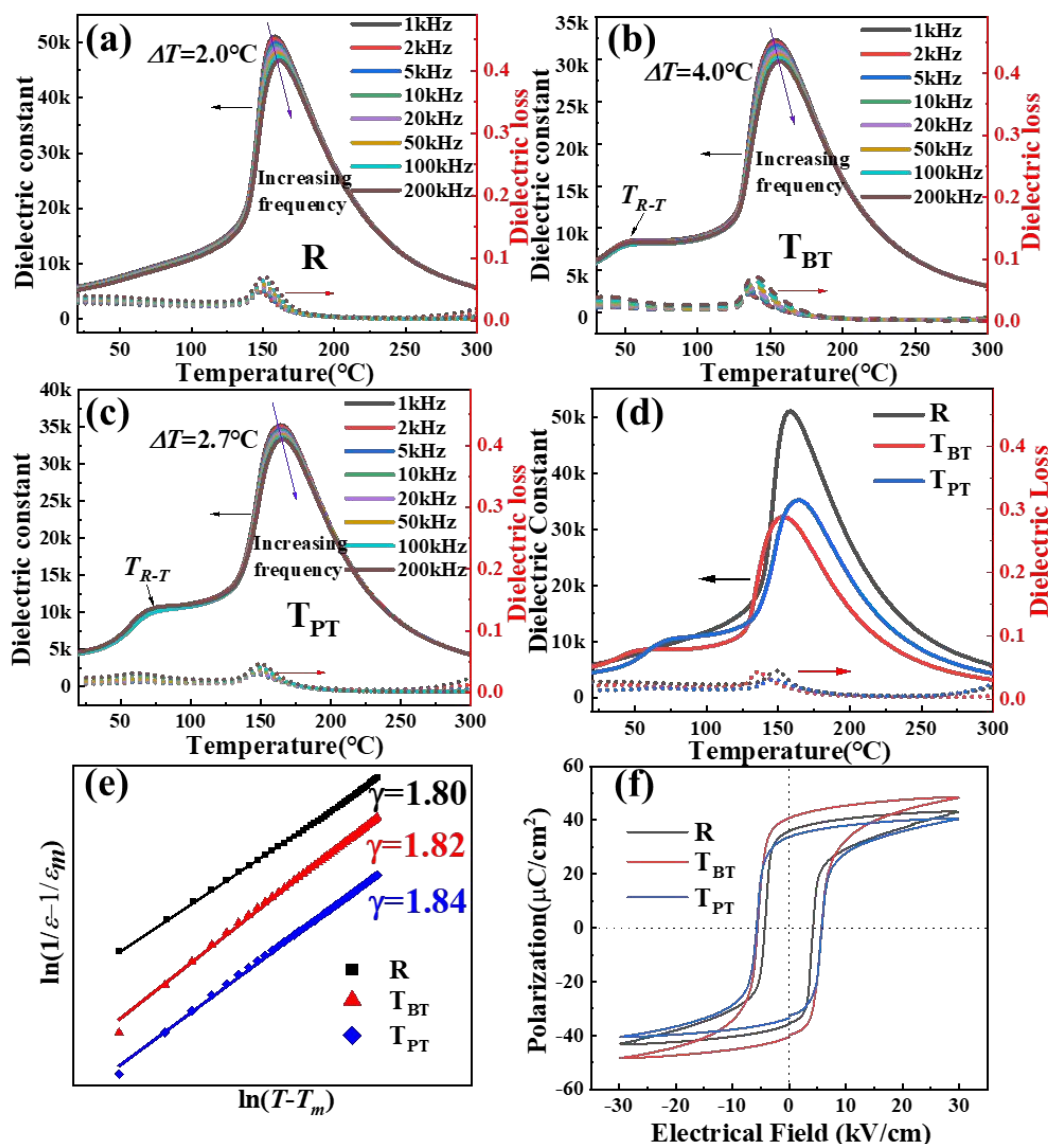
The  $T_{BT}$  sample exhibited epitaxial growth with a selective orientation and an increase in texture quality, while there was no selective orientation for  $T_{PT}$ . It is important to note that the  $T_{BT}$  grain sizes underwent significant changes as the temperature increased, eventually forming a large “brick-wall” structure grain due to epitaxial growth. Figures. 2(c-d) show the EDS images of  $T_{BT}$  and  $T_{PT}$  at 950 °C. It is clear that  $T_{BT}$  exhibits a distinct distribution of the BT template, with a significantly higher Ti content compared to the matrix powder. On the other hand, the presence of the PT template in  $T_{PT}$  is not easily discernible, indicating that the PT template readily fuses with the matrix powder, resulting in the formation of a homogeneous ceramic material. At 1250 °C, the fracture microstructure of the sintered sample was examined. This specific temperature and duration have been found to strike a balance between achieving high densities and texture quality in the ceramics<sup>2,13,33,35</sup>. The textured ceramics exhibited distinct, isolated brick-like structures with BT templates, measuring 4-10  $\mu\text{m}$  in length and 0.5-1  $\mu\text{m}$  in thickness. The matrix powder underwent epitaxial growth on the BT templates, causing the BT template to be positioned within the matrix powder as an impurity. On the other hand, the grain size changes in  $T_{PT}$  were not as significant, with an average size of 4  $\mu\text{m}$ . The grain at 950 °C follows a more consistent normal distribution. As the temperature reached 1250 °C, there were a large number of small grains surrounding a large grain with a random orientation structure.  $T_{PT}$  did not exhibit a brick-like structure, and the PT template was not discernible in the final product.

### 3.1.3. Dielectric, ferroelectric and piezoelectric properties of PMN-30PT series ceramics

As depicted in Figures. 3(a)–(c), each sample exhibited noticeable peak broadening and frequency dispersion, indicating relaxation characteristics. The difference in  $T_m$  at frequency of 1 kHz and 100 kHz, represented by  $\Delta T$ , is a measure of the strength of frequency dispersion, with a larger  $\Delta T$  indicating stronger dispersion. The textured ceramics displayed a higher degree of broadening in the dielectric peak compared to the random ceramic. The  $T_{BT}$  sample exhibited the highest  $\Delta T$  (4 °C), suggesting that the presence of the BT template has a significantly impact on the dielectric peak. The BT template in the textured ceramics has a core-shell structure resulting in inhomogeneous chemical properties. This contributes to the plateau near the dielectric peak, ultimately enhancing the relaxation behavior<sup>37</sup>. Figure. 3(d) displays the changes in dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and dielectric loss ( $\tan\delta$ ) at 1 kHz. The textured ceramics exhibit a lower dielectric constant compared to random ceramic. The addition of the template results in a decrease in room temperature relative permittivity ( $\epsilon_r$ ). This is because the BT ( $\epsilon_r$ , 1400) and PT ( $\epsilon_r$ , 142) templates have a low dielectric constant, causing the overall dielectric constant of the textured ceramics to decrease with an increase in BT content. According to the brick-wall model, the total capacitance of the textured ceramics is equivalent to the series and parallel connections of the matrix and fillers<sup>38</sup>. This means that the dielectric permittivity of the 0-3 composite structure with matrix grains and templates is lower than that of PMN-30PT. Interestingly,  $T_{PT}$  has a higher dielectric constant than  $T_{BT}$ , indicating that  $T_{PT}$  does not

have a “brick-wall” structure.

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**Fig. 3.** The dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and loss ( $\tan\delta$ ) as a function of temperature: (a) Random ceramic, (b) Textured ceramics with 5wt% BT templates, (c) Textured ceramics with 5wt% PT templates, and Comparison of samples at 1 kHz (d)  $\epsilon_r$  and  $\tan\delta$ , (e) the function of  $\ln(1/\epsilon_r - 1/\epsilon_m)$  with respect to  $\ln(T - T_m)$ , (f)  $P$ - $E$  hysteresis loops of PMN-30PT ceramics at 30 kV/cm with a frequency of 1 Hz.

The dielectric relaxation behavior of PMN-30PT ceramics was investigated using the modified Curie–Weiss law:  $1/\epsilon_r - 1/\epsilon_m = (T - T_m)^\gamma / C$ , where  $\gamma$  represents the



diffusion coefficient ( $\gamma$  is 1 for normal ferroelectric and 2 for perfect relaxor ferroelectrics) and  $C$  is a constant. The calculated data points were linearly fitted to determine the value of  $\gamma$ , corresponding to the slope of the line. The relationship between  $\ln(1/\epsilon_r - 1/\epsilon_m)$  and  $\ln(T - T_m)$  is illustrated in Figure. 3(e). It is evident that the  $\gamma$  values for both random and textured ceramics fall within the range of 1.80 to 1.84. The observation indicated that all samples exhibit significant diffuse phase transition (DPT) behavior and are close to ideal relaxor ferroelectrics. Compared to random ceramic, textured ceramics exhibit higher relaxation behavior. In particular,  $T_{BT}$  sample demonstrate a maximum diffusion coefficient ( $\gamma$ ) of 1.84. The reason may be due to the effect of interfacial strain between the matrix and the template, similar to the pressure-induced dielectric relaxation behavior calculated by First-principles calculation and observed in PZN-PT<sup>39,40</sup>.

Figure. 3(f) displays the  $P-E$  hysteresis loops of PMN-30PT ceramics at 30 kV/cm. All loops demonstrate excellent saturation hysteresis. Sample R has a coercive field ( $E_c$ ) of 4.2 kV/cm, while the textured sample exhibits a higher  $E_c$  of 5.7-5.8 kV/cm, indicating a “hard” characteristic. This can be attributed to the interfacial strain caused by the lattice mismatch between the PMN-30PT matrix grain and the template grain in the textured ceramics. The strain act as a clamping effect, hindering domain wall motion and making polarization switching more challenging<sup>41</sup>. The residual polarization ( $P_r$ ) decreases from 35.9  $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$  for the R sample to 33.8  $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$  for the  $T_{BT}$  sample. This decrease is attributed to the increase in textured grains aligned along the  $[00l]$  orientation<sup>42</sup>, which have lower  $P_r$  values. However,  $T_{PT}$

sample shows an increase in  $P_r$  up to  $40.8 \mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$ . This is because the PT template has a lower orientation and increases the number of grain boundaries, thereby enhancing the  $P_r$  values. It is worth noting that the piezoelectric coefficients of 840 pC/N for  $T_{BT}$  sample and 534 pC/N for  $T_{PT}$  sample are much higher than that of 489 pC/N for random ceramics, and the specific results are shown in Table. 1.

**Table. 1.** The dielectric, ferroelectric and piezoelectric properties of PMN-30PT ceramics.

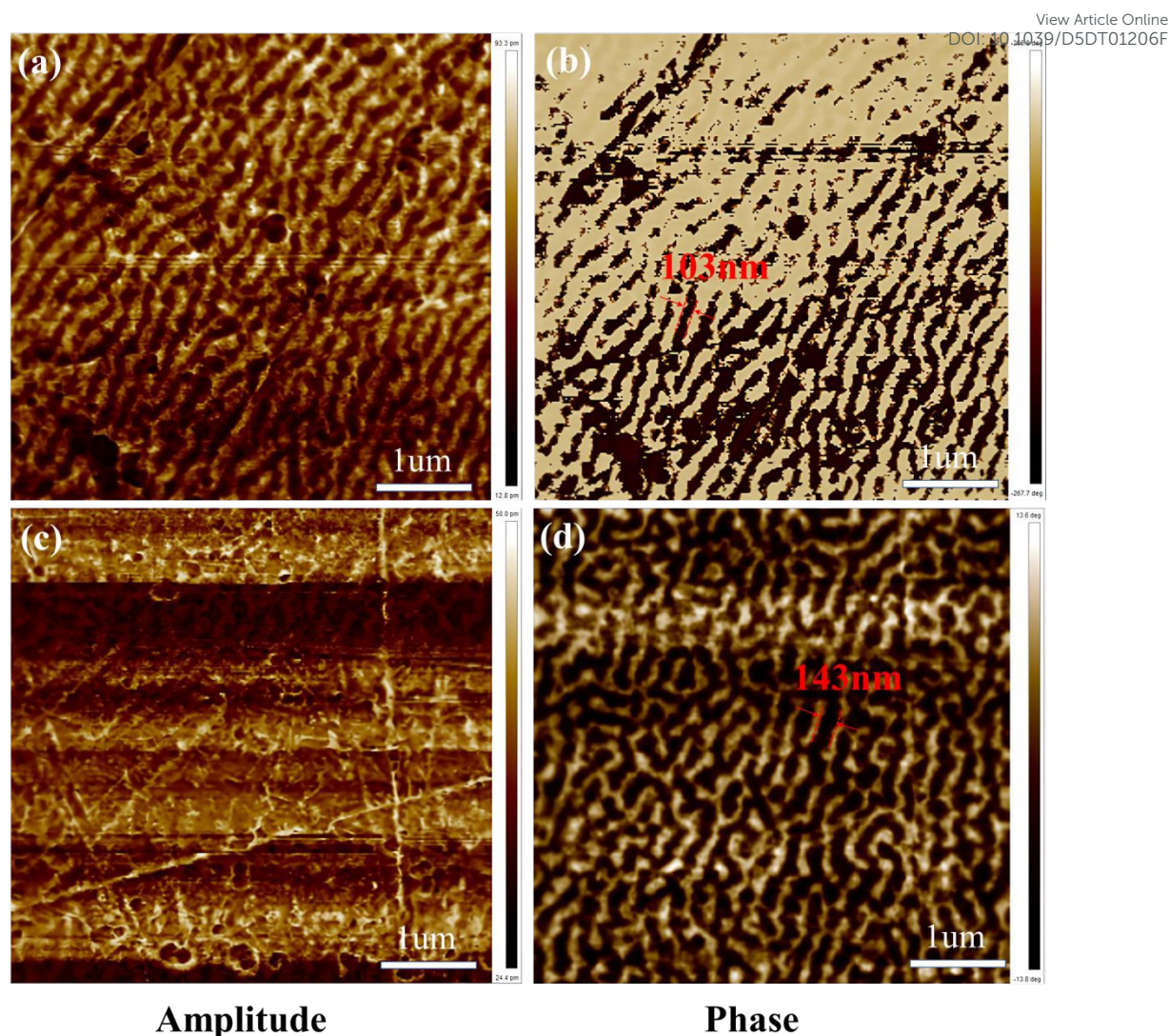
Sample	Random	$T_{BT}$	$T_{PT}$
$d_{33}$ (pC/N)	489	824	534
$T_{R-T}$ ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	-	53	75
$T_m$ ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	159	153	164
$\epsilon_m$ ( $T_m$ )	51.1k	32.6k	35.1k
$P_{\max}$ ( $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$ )	46.1	40.4	43.1
$P_r$ ( $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$ )	35.9	33.8	40.8
$E_c$ (kV/cm)	4.20	5.79	5.69
$\tan\delta$	4.51%	4.26%	3.11%

### 3.1.4. Domain configuration of PMN-30PT series ceramics

The piezoelectric properties of relaxor ferroelectric materials are significantly affected by their domain morphology. Previous research has shown that in order to achieve superior piezoelectric characteristics, the domain size should be smaller or the domain wall density should be higher<sup>41,43–46</sup>. A simple and effective method for studying the local domain morphology of ferroelectric single crystals and ceramics is through the use of piezoelectric force microscopy (PFM)<sup>47,48</sup>. PFM is able to directly

observe the domain structure evolution of ferroelectric materials under the applied electric field, which provides an important experimental means to study the microstructure and properties of ferroelectric materials<sup>49</sup>. In order to explore the microscopic domain structure of the textured PMN-30PT ceramics, the domain configurations of the  $T_{BT}$  and  $T_{PT}$  samples were investigated using PFM. The out-of-plane PFM amplitude and phase patterns are exhibited in Figures. 4(a-d), respectively. The PFM image clearly shows the reduction in domain size due to a higher texture quality  $f$  value from Figures. 4(a) and (c). Phase and amplitude patterns represent the direction and the size of polarization, respectively. The small domain size (high domain wall density) could improve the extrinsic contributions and facilitate the nucleation and growth of evolved domains<sup>50</sup>. Therefore, our results are consistent with the fundamental principle of domain dynamics<sup>51</sup>, indicating that the smaller sized domain structure is essential for the excellent piezoelectric and electromechanical coupling properties of  $T_{BT}$  sample compared to the  $T_{PT}$  sample.





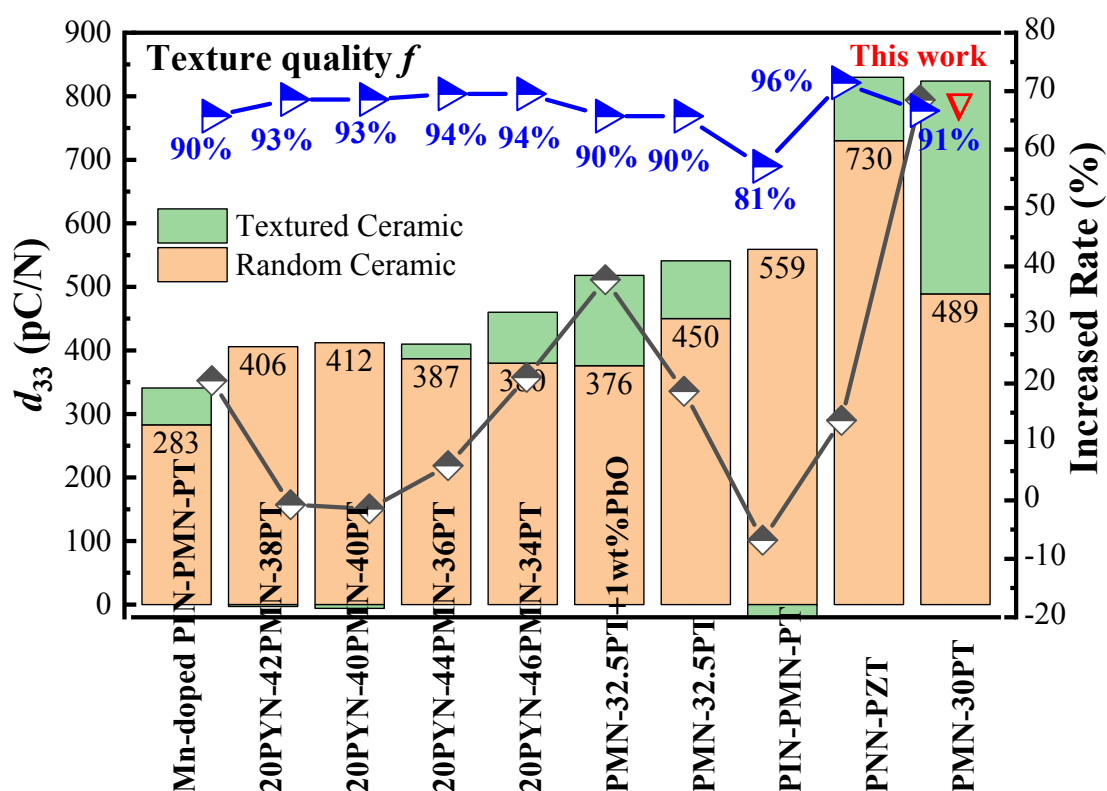
**Fig. 4.** The PFM out-of-plane images of PMN-30PT textured ceramics at room temperature: (a) amplitude image and (b) phase image of  $T_{BT}$ ; (c) amplitude image and (d) phase image of  $T_{PT}$ .

A shift in polarization direction is indicated by a change in the lining of PFM phase patterns<sup>52,53</sup>. A darker lining signifies a larger change in polarization direction, making it easier to visualize the ferroelectric domain structure of the sample. In randomly oriented ceramics, the regular domain patterns are only present in individual grains, while the overall ceramic does not exhibit a well-arranged domain structure. However, in textured ceramics with the larger grain size and a fixed orientation of the [001]

crystallographic axis within the grains at a high Lotgering factor, a striped domain pattern similar to that separated by the  $109^\circ$  domain wall is formed. It should be noted that this condition is relaxed for the other two axes, which have randomly distributed orientations. As a result, there are electrical and elastic correlations between neighboring grains that cannot be ignored. These correlations drive the formation of stripe-like domain patterns with non- $109^\circ$  domain walls. These stripe-like domain structures are not observed in randomly oriented polycrystalline ceramics<sup>54–56</sup>. In the  $T_{BT}$  sample, the domain structure is dominated by parallel striped domains (Figure. 4(b)), indicating a polarization direction towards to the same direction. In contrast, the  $T_{PT}$  sample with a lower  $[001]_c$  texture quality shows an ordered fingerprint-like pattern dominating the domain structure (Figure. 4(d)). Eventually, the textured ceramics  $T_{BT}$  show a much smaller domain size (103 nm) compared to the random oriented ceramic  $T_{PT}$  (143 nm). This smaller domain size greatly increases the domain wall density and enhances the extrinsic contributions of the piezoelectric response<sup>57</sup>. Compared to the fingerprint-like domain structure, the domain switching in the parallel striped domain structure is more sensitive to the applied electric field and induces a larger strain. As a result, it has a significant effect on the piezoelectric properties of the ceramics.

In conclusion, texture engineering has been shown to significantly improve the piezoelectric properties of PMN-30PT ceramics. To highlight the significance of this work, we have presented the piezoelectric coefficient and texture quality of lead-based piezoceramics, as illustrated in Figure. 5. By comparing random piezoceramics with their textured counterparts, we have analyzed the increased rate in the piezoelectric

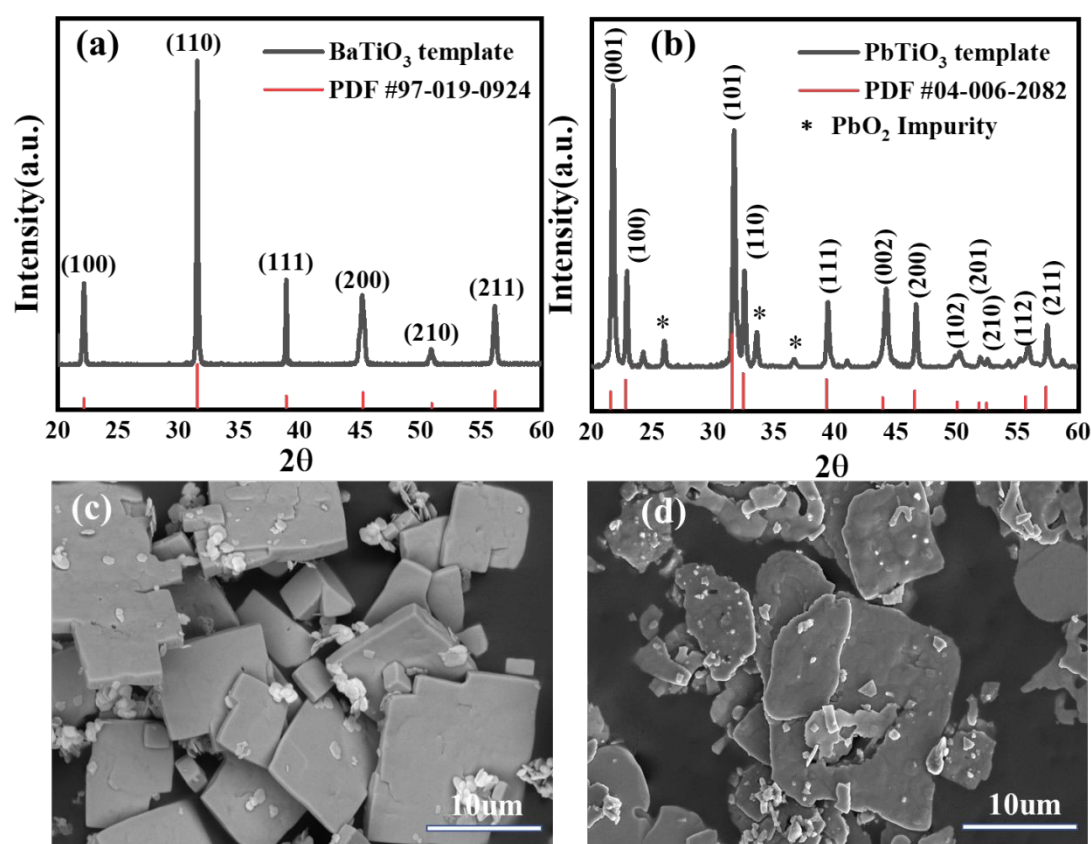
coefficient. It is worth noting that the 5wt% PT templates were uniformly dispersed in the PMN-30PT matrix ceramic, resulting in a PMN-32.5PT ceramic through calculation. However, the piezoelectric coefficient  $d_{33}$  of this ceramic is only 450 pC/N<sup>58</sup>, which is lower than the value achieved in our work of  $T_{PT}$  ceramic (534 pC/N). Additionally, as shown in Figure. 5, our textured ceramic  $T_{BT}$  has the highest increased rate in piezoelectric coefficient, which is significantly greater than the increased rate observed in other ternary lead-based ceramics.



**Fig. 5.** The piezoelectric constants  $d_{33}$ , increased rate, and texture quality  $f$  of random ceramics and corresponding textured ceramics in PIN-PMN-PT<sup>35</sup>, PYN-PMN-PT<sup>13</sup>, PMN-32.5PT<sup>58</sup>, and PNN-PZT<sup>7</sup>.

### 3.2. BT and PT templates

## 3.2.1 Structure and micromorphology of BT and PT templates



**Fig. 6.** XRD patterns of BT (a) and PT (b) template; Micromorphology of BT (c) and PT (d) template.

Figures. 6(a-d) show the XRD patterns and morphology of the BT and PT templates incorporated into the PMN-30PT textured ceramics. The XRD patterns of the BT templates indicate a high level of purity, as exhibited in the comparison with the standard powder diffraction file (PDF) for the BT template in Figure. 6(a). The SEM image in Figure. 6(c) also supports this characteristic, showing sharp and non-bonded edges, and a more homogeneous morphology for the BT templates. In contrast, Figure. 6(b) compares the formed PT templates with the standard PDF card. It is evident that a significant amount of PT template has formed, with a selective

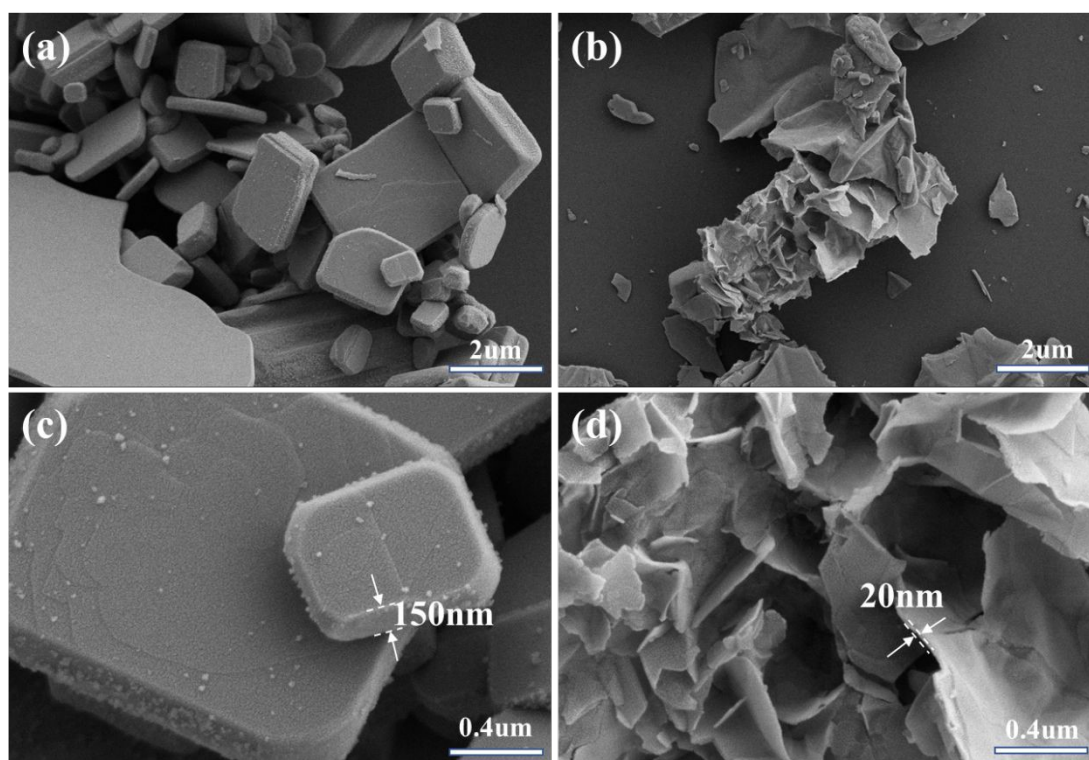
orientation in the (00 $l$ ) direction. This characteristic suggests that the PT templates were originally formed extremely large sheet products, resulting in a distinct selective orientation. And the presence of hetero-phase PbO<sub>2</sub> also suggests an abundance of Pb<sup>2+</sup> in the PT template. It is worth noting that excessive PbO<sub>2</sub> impurity in the templates can lead to excessive substitution of Bi<sup>3+</sup> in the Aurivillius templates, which can lead to the destruction of the Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> layer structure, thus leading to the disappearance of the lamellar morphology. Additionally, the SEM image in Figure 6(d) reveals that the PT templates are bonded in large pieces, lacking sharp edges, and exhibiting an inhomogeneous and hollow surface. This contributes to their low thermal stability, likely due to the large flaky PT templates originating from the melting of PbO, which bonds them together.

### 3.2.2. Topochemical microcrystal conversion in BT and PT template preparations

To compare the preparation processes of BT and PT templates, we eliminated the heat preservation step and increased the heating rate. This ensured that the template reaction process remained incomplete, preserving the morphologies at each stage. Figures 7(a) and (c) illustrate that the BT template generation process resulted in sharper templates with a flaky morphology. This is due to the insufficient heat preservation time, resulting in templates of varying sizes and shapes. The thickness of these templates is approximately 150 nm, with a large diameter to thickness ratio. On the other hand, the PT template formed a more uniform single-layer sheet-like structure with non-sharp edges (Figure 7(b)). The detailed morphology of the flower-

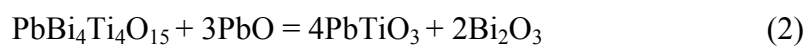


like nanostructure is shown in Figure. 7(d) as a magnified SEM image, illustrating that the entire 3D flower-like  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  nanostructure is self-assembled by nanosheets with a smooth surface. Each layer of the sheet has a thickness of approximately 20 nm, and there is some disordered bonding between the nanosheets, similar to the PT templates synthesized by hydrothermal treatment<sup>22,24</sup>. To analyze the reasons for the inconsistent morphology of the two templates, we investigated the topochemical microcrystal conversion of BT and PT.



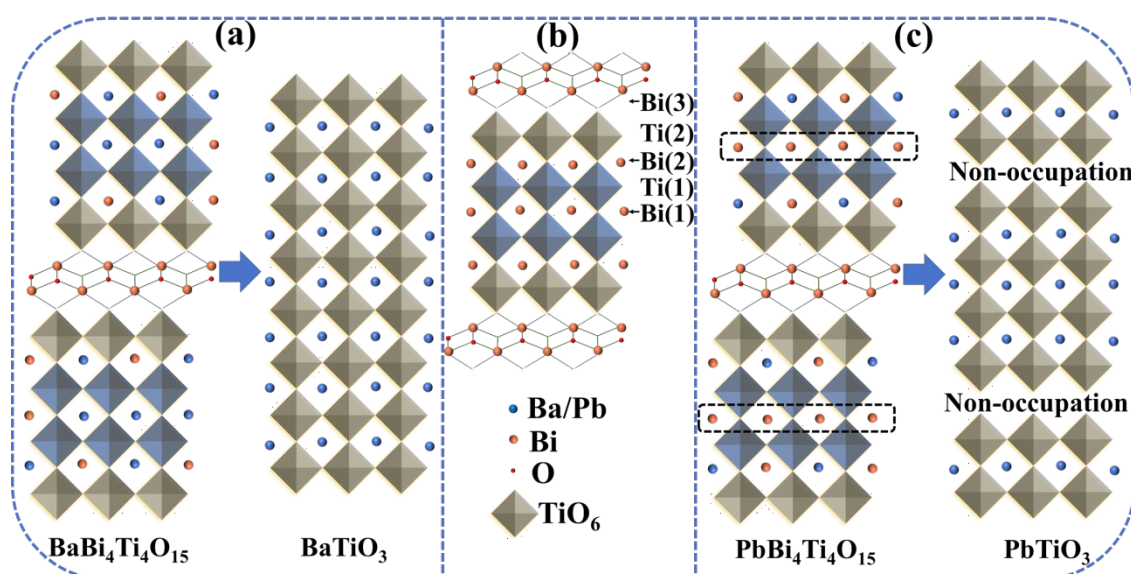
**Fig. 7.** Micromorphology of BT template (a) and PT template (b); zoomed-in areas of BT template (c) and PT template (d) after eliminating the heat preservation step and increasing the heating rate.

The relevant chemical reaction formulae are given below:



Based on the presented formulae and SEM results, it can be inferred that BT precipitated from  $\text{BaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  (BBIT) formed varying-sized morphologies and underwent an *Ostwald* ripening process. On the other hand, PT precipitated from  $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  (PBIT) formed interlayer exfoliation, followed by melt-bonding with PbO at high temperatures. The bulk PT nanosheet retains the (00 $l$ ) orientation, which is maintained even after melt bonding. To further analyze the topochemical microcrystal conversion of the two templates, we attempted to combine the topochemical conversion process with the associated crystallographic information file (CIF). Figures. 8(a) and (c) illustrates the topochemical conversion process of the BBIT/PBIT precursor into BT/PT. It can be observed that the conversion process is nearly identical. During the conversion process, the *A*-site cation displaces the  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  cation and forms the final template. To analyze the differences in the topochemical conversion processes of BT and PT, we examined the differences in the site occupancy factor (SOF) during the conversion of their precursors PBIT and BBIT. We standardized the atomic occupancies of the cations in the structures and found that the  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  cations are positioned at the *B*-site of the  $\text{TiO}_6$  octahedron with the same occupancies. The  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  cations are both located at the *A*-site with  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ , as shown in Figure. 8(b), where Bi (1) represents the Bi layer position, and the numbers 1, 2, and 3 represent the position of a different Bi layer. In terms of the topochemical conversion process, the two conversion processes are identical, and theoretically, there should not be a formation of two SEM images with different shapes. To further understand the differences between BT and PT in the conversion process, we

reviewed the CIF files of BBIT and PBIT and tabulated the differences.



**Fig. 8.** Schematic illustration of topochemical microcrystal conversion (a) from  $\text{BaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  to  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ , (c) from  $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  to  $\text{PbTiO}_3$ . (b) Representation of the structure of the  $n = 4$  Aurivillius oxides  $\text{ABi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ .

### 3.2.3. The occupancy of $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ and $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ in the Aurivillius phase of precursors in BT and PT templates

Table. 2 illustrates the refined structure parameters of Aurivillius phase of  $\text{ABi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  and the corresponding occupancy of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  in each layer. The  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2$  layer contains *A*-type cations ( $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ ), and the number of cations in this layer depends on their *Shannon* radius. The *Shannon* radius of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  is 1.61 Å, which is larger than the radius of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  (1.49 Å), resulting in a percentage increase of site occupancy factor (SOF) from 28% in BBIT to 41% in PBIT<sup>59</sup>. Notably,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  is absent at the 4a position, indicating its difficulty in existing there<sup>59,60</sup>. This can be attributed to the fact that  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  have  $6s^2$  lone-pair electron configurations, this disorder



between  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  has been observed in  $\text{PbBi}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_9$ <sup>61,62</sup>. The substitution of  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  with  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  leads to chaotic substitution and interlayer detachment at the 4a position, resulting in the formation of PT nanosheets. Furthermore, the origin of ferroelectric behavior in  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  differs from that of  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ . In  $\text{PbTiO}_3$ , the hybridization of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  6s electron orbitals with oxygen 2p electron orbitals creates a more covalent Pb-O bond, which stresses the oxygen octahedra and stabilizes the ferroelectric phase. On the other hand, in  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ , the hybridization of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  5p electron orbitals does not occur with the valence band<sup>63</sup>. This ultimately leads to the formation of Ba-O ionic bonds, which require lower activation energy than Pb-O covalent bonds. This is particularly evident at the 4a position, where there is no pre-existing Pb-O bond. As a result, a higher activation energy is needed for the re-formation of the Pb-O bond, making it difficult to form a Pb-O bond at the 4a position. This leads to fracture and the formation of PT nanosheets. This also explains why the conversion of PBIT to PT (1080 °C) requires a higher preparation temperature than the conversion of BBIT to BT (975 °C).

**Table. 2.** Refined structure parameters of Aurivillius phase of  $\text{ABi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  (A= Pb, Ba)

Atom	Site	SOF <sup>59</sup>	
		Ba	Pb
Bi (1)	4a	0.8	0
Bi (2)	8b	0.31	0.66
Bi (3)*	8b	0.28	0.41
Ti (1)	8b	1	1

Ti (2)	8b	1	1
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According to the location of the Bi layers, it can be seen that  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  only exchanges with  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  ions in the 8b layers, while the  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  ions in the 4a layer cannot be exchanged. In order to verify this inference, we re-grew the PT template in the molten salt NaCl and KCl system. It was found that the PT template re-grew into a thick, sharp template. XRD analysis revealed that the composition of this template was  $\text{Pb}_3\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{21}$  (Figures. 9(a-b)). This indicates that the prepared PT templates still contain a large amount of Bi element. However, the XRD tests on the PT templates (Figure. 6(b)) did not detect the presence of Bi. This suggests that Bi element is present in the inner structure of the PT template, in the form of PBIT, while the surface remains porous due to the use of diluted nitric acid. Therefore, it is not possible to completely remove the  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  ions while maintaining the lamellar morphology. Interestingly, two lead titanates and one former unreacted PBIT prepared in the molten salt NaCl and KCl system formed exactly  $\text{Pb}_3\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{21}$ . The reaction equation is  $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15} + 2\text{PbTiO}_3 = \text{Pb}_3\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{21}$ , and the schematic illustration of topochemical microcrystal conversion from  $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  and  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  to  $\text{Pb}_3\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{21}$  was shown in Figure. 9(c). It is worth noting that the Pb-based Aurivillius ceramics  $\text{Pb}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$  have various compositions, including  $x = 0$  ( $\text{Bi}_3\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{12}$ , BIT)<sup>64</sup>,  $x = 1$  ( $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ , PBIT)<sup>60</sup> and  $x = 2$  ( $\text{Pb}_2\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{18}$ ,  $\text{P}_2\text{BIT}$ )<sup>65</sup>,  $x = 3$  ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{21}$ ,  $\text{P}_3\text{BIT}$ )<sup>66–68</sup>, and  $x = 4$  ( $\text{Pb}_4\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_7\text{O}_{24}$ ,  $\text{P}_4\text{BIT}$ )<sup>68</sup>. This implies the substitution between  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  is disordered, making it difficult to completely replace the  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  ions

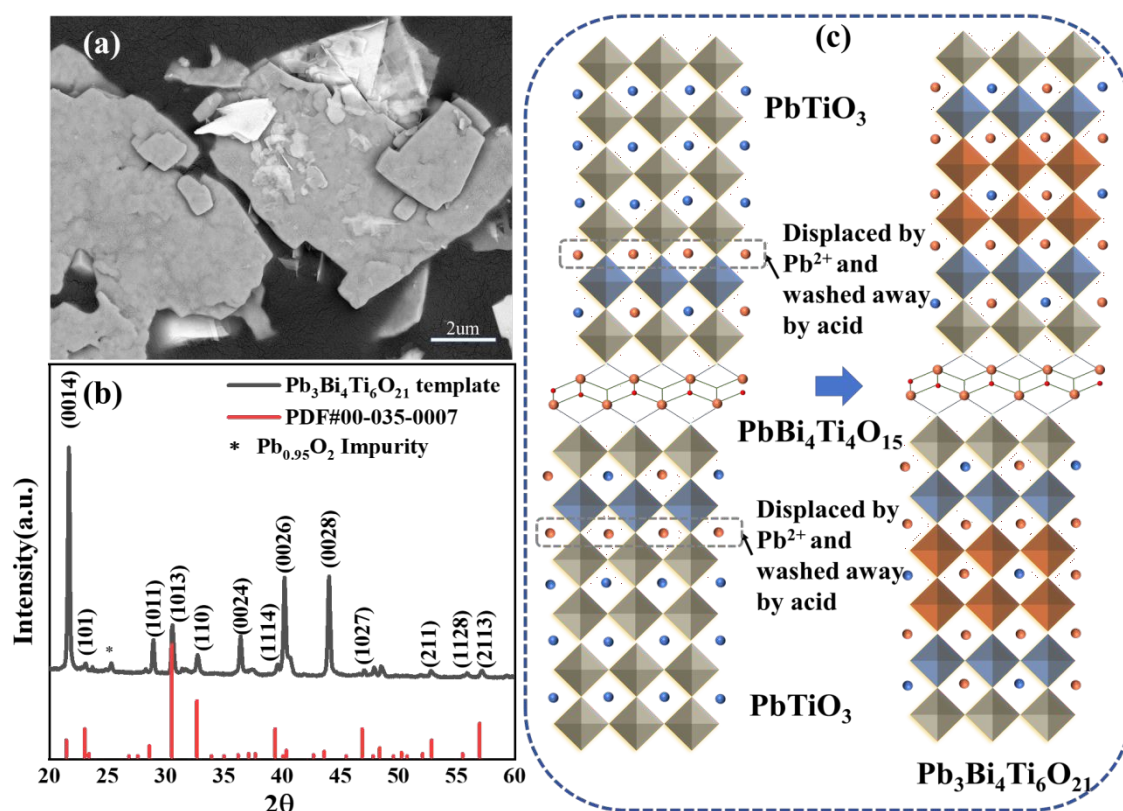
using the topochemical conversion method. However, in the Aurivillius ceramic

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$\text{Ba}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$ , there is a directional substitution of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  for  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ , which only

occurs for  $x = 0$  ( $\text{Bi}_3\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{12}$ , BIT)<sup>64</sup>,  $x = 1$  ( $\text{BaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ )<sup>60,69</sup>, and  $x = 2$

( $\text{Ba}_2\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{18}$ )<sup>65</sup>.

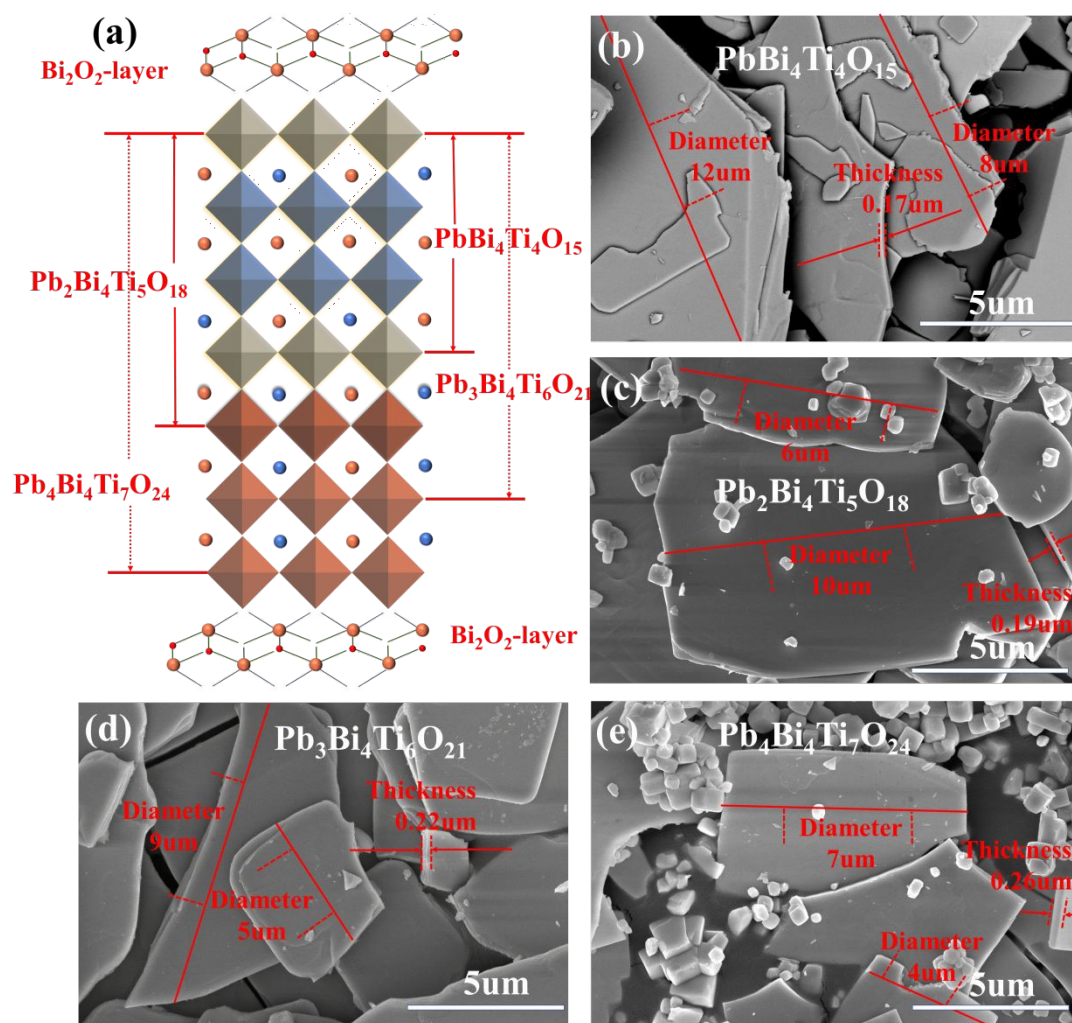


**Fig. 9.** Morphology (a), XRD pattern (b), and Schematic illustration (c) of topochemical microcrystal conversion from  $\text{PbBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$  and  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  to  $\text{Pb}_3\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{21}$ .

### 3.2.4. Preparation of Pb-based Aurivillius $\text{Pb}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$ ( $x=1, 2, 3, 4$ ) templates

Since the substitution of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  is disordered, it is difficult to completely displace  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  using the topochemical conversion method. Therefore, we attempted to further explore the use of Pb-based Aurivillius precursors and analyze the evolution of residual  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  in the matrix ceramics. To achieve this, we synthesized  $\text{Pb}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$

( $x = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) precursors by referring to the method of PT template preparation with the



following equations:



**Fig. 10.** Schematic illustration (a) and Morphologies (b-d) of Pb-based Aurivillius  $\text{Pb}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$  ( $x = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) templates.

Figure. 10 (a) illustrates a schematic representation of the structure with different layers of  $\text{TiO}_6$  octahedra in Pb-based Aurivillius templates, where  $\text{PbTiO}_3$  is embedded in the Aurivillius structure to increase the number of  $\text{TiO}_6$  octahedral layers. This means that when  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$  is present in the matrix ceramics,  $\text{Pb}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$  is inevitably formed, while the number of  $\text{TiO}_6$  octahedral layers increases with the  $\text{PbTiO}_3$ -rich matrix and

templates. The morphologies of Pb-based Aurivillius templates are further demonstrated in Figures. 10(b-d). As the number of  $\text{TiO}_6$  octahedral layers increases, the thickness of the templates also increases from 0.17  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $x=1$ ) to 0.26  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $x=4$ ), while the diameter decreases from 8-12  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $x=1$ ) to 4-7  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $x=4$ ). This ultimately leads to a decrease in the diameter-to-thickness ratio. Additionally, since the texture process requires the template to have similar lattice parameters as the matrix powder, this can facilitate the epitaxial growth of the matrix powder along the template. Table. 3 compares the lattice parameters and morphology parameters of the matrix powder and  $\text{Pb}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$  templates, revealing that the difference in a-axis lattice parameters between the templates and matrix powder is more than 35%. This large lattice mismatch fundamentally results in no epitaxial growth, and further explains how Bi affects the ceramic texture evolution.

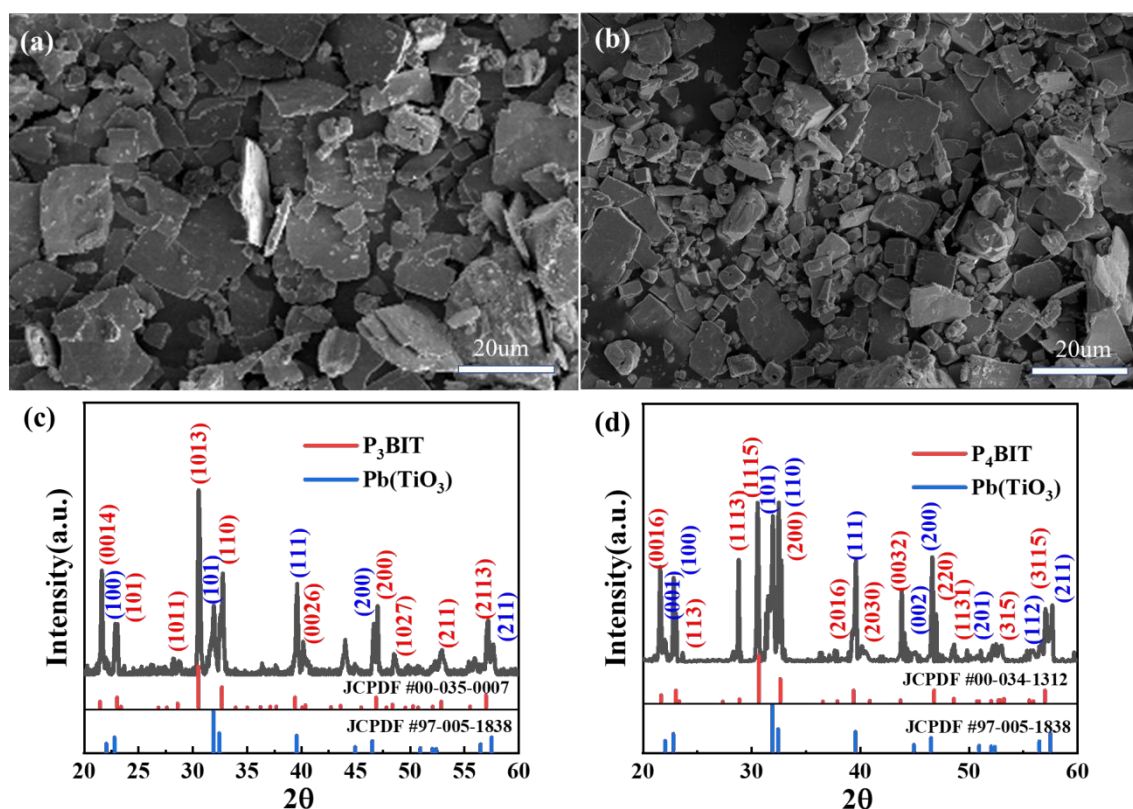
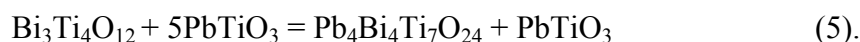
**Table. 3.** The Lattice parameters and Morphologies of  $\text{Pb}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_{3+x}\text{O}_{12+3x}$  ( $x=1,2,3,4$ ) templates.

Ceramics Composition	Lattice parameters						Morphologies	
	Space group	a(Å)	b(Å)	c(Å)	c/a	$\Delta a/a$ (%)	Diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Thickness ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
PMN-30PT	P4mm	4.00	4.00	4.05	1.01	-	0.2	0.2
PBIT template <sup>59</sup>	A2 <sub>1</sub> am	5.45	5.43	41.4	7.60	36.3	8-12	0.17
P <sub>2</sub> BIT template <sup>65</sup>	A2 <sub>1</sub> am	5.47	5.46	49.6	9.07	36.8	6-10	0.19
P <sub>3</sub> BIT template <sup>68</sup>	A2 <sub>1</sub> am	5.48	5.48	58.1	10.6	37.0	5-9	0.20
P <sub>4</sub> BIT template <sup>68</sup>	A2 <sub>1</sub> am	5.49	5.49	66.2	12.1	37.3	4-7	0.26

To confirm the ability to incorporate PT powder into the Aurivillius structure, this



study replicated the method of PT templates preparation by sintering PT powder with plate-like  $\text{Bi}_3\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{12}$  (BIT) in molten NaCl salt. The relevant reaction equations are as follows:



**Fig. 11.** (a-b) Morphologies of the synthesized products from BIT with 4 – 5 molar equivalents of  $\text{PbTiO}_3$ ; (c-d) XRD patterns of the corresponding synthesized products.

Figures. 11(a-b) present the morphologies of the synthesized products from BIT with 4 - 5 molar equivalents of  $\text{PbTiO}_3$ . Both samples exhibit plate-like template structures, confirming successful incorporation of PT into the Aurivillius structure. As the PT content increases, intensified interlayer detachment promotes exfoliation and growth of the flaky templates, resulting in pronounced lamellar features. The XRD

patterns in Figures. 11(c-d) reveal the formation of  $P_3$ BIT and  $P_4$ BIT phases, along with characteristic peaks of the PT template. Notably, direct formation of  $P_4$ BIT did not occur when using 4 equivalents of PT, indicating that the substitution of  $Pb^{2+}$  for  $Bi^{3+}$  is a dynamic equilibrium process. The non-unidirectional nature of this disordered substitution further highlights the inherent instability in topochemical synthesis of PT templates.

### 3.3. The effect of BT and PT templates on textured PMN-30PT ceramics

#### 3.3.1 The effect of formation energy of BT and PT templates on the epitaxial growth process of PMN-30PT ceramics

To investigate the effect of the BT/PT template on the textured PMN-30PT, we conducted a comprehensive analysis of the texture engineering process. This process involves thermally-driven grain growth, which is known to follow Arrhenius behavior<sup>70</sup>. The driving force behind this phenomenon is influenced by both the size of the matrix grains and the ratio of the template to matrix size. The activation energy required for TGG should be similar to that of regular grain growth, and can provide valuable insights into the mechanisms of matrix grains transport.

Since the texture evolution process originates from thermally activated grain growth, using a smaller matrix grain size would result in the production of denser ceramics with a higher texture quality. The driving force originates from the formation energy difference between the template and the matrix. In the case of the

same matrix grains PMN-30PT, the difference in the formation energy of different templates leads to a difference in the TGG driving force. It is noteworthy that there is a significant difference in the formation energy between the BT template and the PT template. The formation energy of  $\text{PbTiO}_3$ , when formed from bulk  $\text{PbO}$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$ , is 0.36 eV, which is significantly lower than the formation energy of  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  (3.23 eV) when both BT and PT are in the tetragonal phase. This suggests that PT has a lower thermal stability compared to BT. However, as the temperature rises and both PT and BT transition to the cubic phase, the formation energy of PT decreases to 0.3 eV, while the formation energy of BT remains at 3.20 eV. *B. Meyer's* research indicates that both AO-terminated and  $\text{TiO}_2$ -terminated surfaces can be thermodynamically stable for the  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  surface<sup>71–73</sup>. In contrast, for  $\text{PbTiO}_3$ , only the  $\text{PbO}$  surface termination is stable<sup>71,72,74</sup>.

### 3.3.2. The effect of lattice parameter and physical properties of BT and PT templates on textured PMN-30PT ceramics

The TGG method involves the growth of matrix powder along the direction of the template. For effective growth, it is crucial that the lattice parameter of the template is similar to that of the matrix powder. This results in a uniform and compact structure. However, if there is a significant difference in lattice parameter, it can result in a disorderly arrangement of the atoms at the interface, which can negatively impact the formation of the textured structures.

**Table 4.** The Lattice parameters and Physical properties of PMN-30PT,



## BT template and PT template.

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Ceramics	Lattice parameters					Morphologies		Physical properties		
Compositio n	Space group	a(Å)	c(Å)	c/a	$\Delta a/a$ (%)	Diame ter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Thickne ss( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$T_m$ (°C)	$\varepsilon_r$	MP (°C)
PMN-30PT	P4mm	4.00	4.05	1.01	-	0.2	0.2	158.7	7000	
BT template	P4mm	3.99	4.03	1.01	0.25	5-10	0.5	120	1400	1625
PT template	P4mm	3.90	4.14	1.06	2.50	5-10	0.3	490	142	1286

Table. 4 displays the lattice parameters and physical properties of PMN-30PT matrix powders, BT template, and PT template. The c/a ratio of the PT template is significantly larger (1.06) than that of the BT template. As the temperature increases, the PT template undergoes a phase transition from tetragonal to cubic phase at the Curie temperature of 490 °C. This transition causes the c/a ratio to change from 1.06 to 1, resulting in a significant volume contraction and reducing its cell volume from 63.28 Å<sup>3</sup> to 62.51 Å<sup>3</sup>. This leads to internal strain and the formation of pores around the PT template<sup>16</sup>. The increased lattice parameter difference between the PT template and the matrix powder on the *a*-axis (2.50%) compared to the BT template (0.25%) makes the texturing process more challenging. Additionally, the melting point (MP) of PT (1286 °C) is close to the sintering temperature of 1250 °C, while the melting point (MP) of BT (1625 °C) is significantly higher. This indicates that the stability of the PT template is poorer, making it more prone to decomposition. Furthermore, the thickness of the PT template is much lower than that of the BT template, further compromising its stability. These factors may contribute to the difficulty of achieving texture

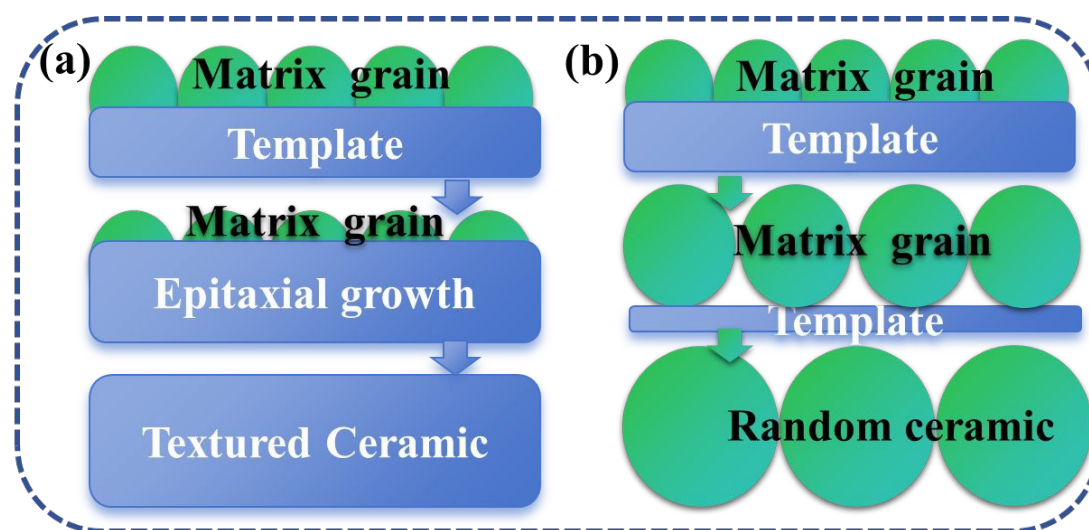
engineering with the PT template.

### 3.3.3 A novel grain growth mechanism of BT and PT templates on textured PMN-30PT ceramics

In templated grain growth (TGG), texture development is primarily affected by the growth of the template particles rather than by template rearrangement or preferential texture development in the matrix. This correlation has been demonstrated across various sintering times, temperatures, and initial template concentrations<sup>75</sup>. A novel grain growth mechanism was proposed based on the fracture morphology of  $T_{BT}$  and  $T_{PT}$  piezoceramics. Figure. 12 illustrates the impact of grains transport direction on the growth and disappearance of template grains. In Figure. 12(a), when matrix grains diffuse into template grains, the template grains grow while the matrix grains disappear, resulting in the development of texture. However, in Figure. 12 (b), when the diffusion direction is reversed, the template grains disappear and textured ceramics cannot be achieved. During the sintering process, the growth of BT template grains is sacrificed in favor of matrix grains, leading to the formation of textures. The matrix grains grow along the BT template in the [001] direction, eventually forming a [001]-oriented "brick wall" structure. On the other hand, as the matrix grains grow at the expense of the PT template grains, the grain direction becomes random.

During the preparation of textured ceramics, the temperature can reach up to 1250 °C, causing the volatilization of PbO. This leads to the decomposition of the

PbTiO<sub>3</sub> templates into PbO (g) and TiO<sub>2</sub>, resulting in the presence of Pb-rich and Ti-rich phases near the template<sup>26</sup>. As a result, the matrix grains grow at the expense of the PT template grains, causing the PT template grains to disappear and preventing the formation of textured ceramics. However, the growth of BT template grains is sacrificed in favor of the matrix grains, resulting in the development of textures. The matrix grains grow along the BT template in the [001] direction, ultimately forming a [001]-oriented "brick wall" structure.



**Fig. 12.** Diagram of diffusion direction on the disappearance of (a) matrix grains and (b) template grains.

#### 4. Conclusion

The PMN-30PT textured ceramics with BT and PT templates were fabricated, and their crystal structure, micromorphology, electric properties, and domain configuration were investigated. The textured ceramics with the BT and PT templates exhibited different properties. The T<sub>BT</sub> sample had a texture quality of 91% ( $f = 91\%$ ) and a piezoelectric coefficient ( $d_{33}$ ) value of 824 pC/N, while the T<sub>PT</sub> sample had a

texture quality of 11% and a  $d_{33}$  value of 534 pC/N. These values are significantly higher than the  $d_{33}$  value of 489 pC/N observed in the random ceramic. In the  $T_{BT}$  sample, the domain structure is dominated by parallel striped domains, indicating a polarization direction towards to the same direction. In contrast, the  $T_{PT}$  sample, with a lower  $[001]_c$  texture quality, shows an ordered fingerprint-like pattern dominating the domain structure.

The crystal structure, micromorphology, lattice parameter, and topological microcrystal conversion of BT and PT templates were also systematically investigated. Pure and shape BT templates were successfully obtained, while PT templates exhibited an uneven and hollow surface. It is worth noting that there were significant differences in the topological microcrystal conversion of BT and PT templates. This difference can be attributed to the structural instability of the PT template, caused by the absence of  $Pb^{2+}$  at the 4a position during the topochemical conversion process. The substitution of  $Bi^{3+}$  by  $Pb^{2+}$  induces chaotic displacement and interlayer detachment at the 4a position, thereby promoting the formation of PT nanosheets. Additionally, residual  $Bi^{3+}$  facilitates the generation of a more complex Aurivillius structure and allows PT templates to be embedded within this structure. The substitution of  $Pb^{2+}$  for  $Bi^{3+}$  is essentially a dynamic equilibrium process, which not only reflects the non-unidirectional nature of disordered substitution but also reveals the inherent instability in the topochemical synthesis of PT templates.

The effect of BT and PT templates on the textured PMN-30PT were investigated, and our analysis revealed that there are differences in the evolution of BT and PT

templates in texture engineering. The lower formation energy, the increased lattice parameter difference, and the lower melting point of PT templates make them more susceptible diffusion into the matrix grain, resulting in the growth of matrix grains at the expense of the PT template grains. As a result, the PT template grains disappear and textured ceramics cannot be obtained. On the other hand, the growth of BT template grains was sacrificed in favor of matrix grains, resulting in the formation of a [00 $\bar{1}$ ]-oriented "brick wall" structure.

Based on the analysis of textured PMN-30PT piezoceramic with PT templates , including texture quality, electrical properties, and domain structure, it is evident that achieving textured piezoelectric ceramics using PT templates is a challenging task. Furthermore, the physical properties of PT, its topochemical conversion process, and the texture engineering evolution process provide insight into the difficulties of achieving textured piezoceramics. Therefore, it can be concluded that the realization of textured piezoceramics using PT templates is a complex and demanding process.

### **CRedit authorship contribution statement**

Xi Ouyang: Writing – original draft, Visualization, Validation, Methodology, Investigation, Formal analysis, Data curation, Conceptualization.

Manwen Yao: Supervision, Resources, Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition.

Tongqing Yang: Funding acquisition.

### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts to declare.

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## Data Availability Statements

View Article Online  
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The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in Science Data Bank at

<https://www.scidb.cn>. The hyperlinks to the relevant data are shown in Table. 1.

Table.1. The list of XRD, *P-E* hysteresis loops, dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and loss ( $\tan\delta$ ) data

No.	Data	Sample	URL
1	XRD Patterns (Fig.1 in Manuscript at Page 6)	Random	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=24655a4c9cc88cafd36ab9244e25ce7f&amp;path=/V1/XRD-Random.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-Random.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=24655a4c9cc88cafd36ab9244e25ce7f&amp;path=/V1/XRD-Random.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-Random.txt</a>
2		T <sub>BT</sub>	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=d5ba062c75a54665c61bd180d0820502&amp;path=/V1/XRD-TBT.TXT&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-TBT.TXT">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=d5ba062c75a54665c61bd180d0820502&amp;path=/V1/XRD-TBT.TXT&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-TBT.TXT</a>
3		T <sub>PT</sub>	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=9a1003897a3fe769e134f9f474df9b1a&amp;path=/V1/XRD-TPT.TXT&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-TPT.TXT">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=9a1003897a3fe769e134f9f474df9b1a&amp;path=/V1/XRD-TPT.TXT&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-TPT.TXT</a>
4	XRD Patterns (Fig.5 in Manuscript at Page 16)	BT template	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=75d3499719ce3418e58c2d906268a114&amp;path=/V1/XRD-BTtemplate.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-BT%20template.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=75d3499719ce3418e58c2d906268a114&amp;path=/V1/XRD-BTtemplate.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-BT%20template.txt</a>
5		PT template	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=ade9ee7a11386311b71d31a8b2db453b&amp;path=/V1/XRD-PTtemplate.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-PT%20template.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=ade9ee7a11386311b71d31a8b2db453b&amp;path=/V1/XRD-PTtemplate.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-PT%20template.txt</a>
6	(Fig.8(b) in Manuscript at Page 24)	P <sub>3</sub> BIT template	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=3b04de365e2f882975f4902d0619a5d1&amp;path=/V1/XRD-PTResalt.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-PT%20Resalt.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=3b04de365e2f882975f4902d0619a5d1&amp;path=/V1/XRD-PTResalt.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-PT%20Resalt.txt</a>
7	<i>P-E</i> hysteresis loops (Fig.3(f) in Manuscript at Page 9)	Random	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=22eb4a99e26595051c1a524116aaaa99&amp;path=/V1/PE-R-30KV.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=PE-R-30KV.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=22eb4a99e26595051c1a524116aaaa99&amp;path=/V1/PE-R-30KV.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=PE-R-30KV.txt</a>
8		T <sub>BT</sub>	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=85789d61d10f27cfe287e2b6749d1b92&amp;path=/V1/PE-TBT-30KV.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=PE-TBT-30KV.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=85789d61d10f27cfe287e2b6749d1b92&amp;path=/V1/PE-TBT-30KV.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=PE-TBT-30KV.txt</a>
9		T <sub>PT</sub>	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=ddeaa89ec0399f36d418b06c1b7bf2ed&amp;path=/V1/PE-TPT-30KV.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=PE-TPT-30KV.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=ddeaa89ec0399f36d418b06c1b7bf2ed&amp;path=/V1/PE-TPT-30KV.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=PE-TPT-30KV.txt</a>

			=PE-TPT-30KV.txt	View Article Online DOI: 10.1039/D5DT01206F
10	The dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and loss ( $\tan\delta$ ) as a function of temperature ( $\epsilon_r$ ) (Fig.3(a-c) in Manuscript at Page 9)	Random	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=77d9d69ebabbd0dbd0994cc8b83fcd1b&amp;path=/V1/DielectricR.zip&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=Dielectric%20R.zip">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=77d9d69ebabbd0dbd0994cc8b83fcd1b&amp;path=/V1/DielectricR.zip&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=Dielectric%20R.zip</a>	
11		T <sub>BT</sub>	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=9ea07a1984b04155d82d361b80709291&amp;path=/V1/DielectricTBT.zip&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=Dielectric%20TBT.zip">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=9ea07a1984b04155d82d361b80709291&amp;path=/V1/DielectricTBT.zip&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=Dielectric%20TBT.zip</a>	
12		T <sub>PT</sub>	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=c8cbf5a6ff9251168ca8fb19ed9778da&amp;path=/V1/DielectricTPT.zip&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=Dielectric%20TPT.zip">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=c8cbf5a6ff9251168ca8fb19ed9778da&amp;path=/V1/DielectricTPT.zip&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=Dielectric%20TPT.zip</a>	
13	XRD patterns of the corresponding synthesized products (Fig. 11. (a-b)) in Manuscript at Page 28)	P3BIT	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=33fa93abce3198727e0e09b36e18b56c&amp;path=/V2/XRD-P3BIT.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-P3BIT.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=33fa93abce3198727e0e09b36e18b56c&amp;path=/V2/XRD-P3BIT.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-P3BIT.txt</a>	
14		P4BIT	<a href="https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=71744f0beb1e6e3d582543d593ee7d8c&amp;path=/V2/XRD-P4BIT.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-P4BIT.txt">https://download.scidb.cn/download?fileId=71744f0beb1e6e3d582543d593ee7d8c&amp;path=/V2/XRD-P4BIT.txt&amp;username=oyxi2004@163.com&amp;fileName=XRD-P4BIT.txt</a>	