

Dilatometer Investigations of Reactive Sintering of Zinc Titanate Ceramics

N. Obradovic¹, N. Labus¹, T. Sreckovic², Lj. Zivkovic³, M. M. Risovic⁴

¹Institute of Technical Sciences of SASA, Knez-Mihailova 35/IV, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

²Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Belgrade, Kneza Viseslava 1a, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

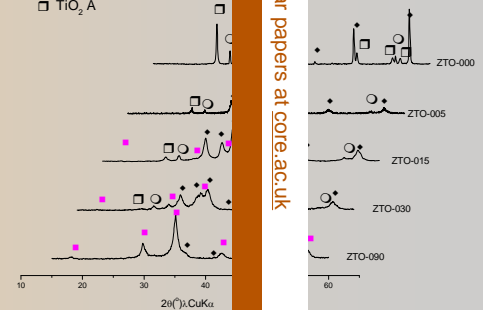
³Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Nis, Beogradska 14, 18000 Nis, Serbia and Montenegro

⁴Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Knez-Mihailova 35, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

Abstract

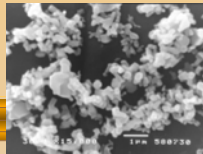
Starting powder mixtures of ZnO and TiO₂, in the molar ratio that is in accordance with stoichiometry of zinc titanate Zn₂TiO₄, were mechanically activated using planetary ball mill during different time intervals from 0 to 90 minutes. X-ray diffraction analysis, scanning electron microscopy and non-isothermal dilatometric measurements were performed in order to investigate zinc titanate formation. Processes that occur during mechanical activation lead to the formation of a specific structure of obtained powders that promoted and accelerated solid-state reactions and densification during reaction sintering.

■ Zn₂TiO₄
○ TiO₂R
● ZnO
□ TiO₂A

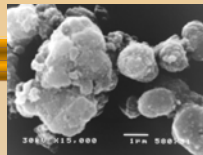


X-ray diffraction patterns of unmilled and various activated ZnO and TiO₂ powder mixtures

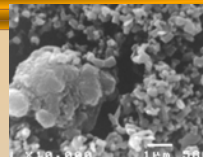
X-ray diffraction patterns of unmilled and various activated ZnO and TiO₂ powder mixtures



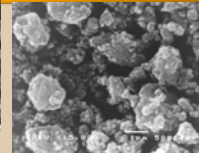
ZnO



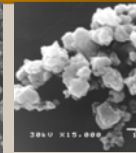
TiO₂



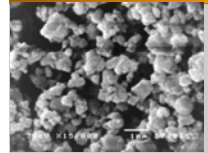
ZTO-000



ZTO-015



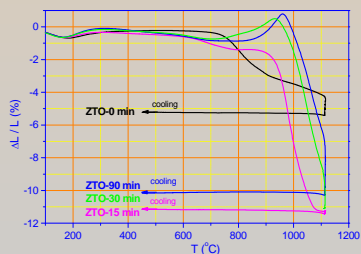
ZTO-030



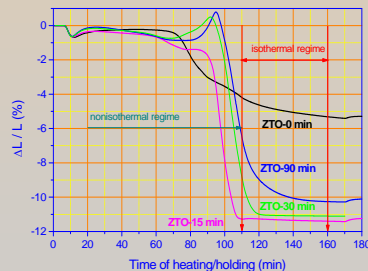
ZTO-090

Scanning electron micrographs of starting ZnO, TiO₂, non-activated and various activated powders

Scanning electron micrographs of starting ZnO, TiO₂, non-activated and various activated powders



Relative shrinkage of the non-activated and various activated samples as a function of temperature during heating to 1100°C with heating rate of 10°C/min and 2 hours holding



Relative shrinkage of the non-activated and various activated samples as a function of time during heating to 1100°C with heating rate of 10°C/min and 2 hours holding

Conclusions

The influences of mechanical activation on solid-state reaction and sintering of ZnO-TiO₂ were investigated. In the present research it was shown that mechanical activation of ZnO-TiO₂ activated powders without sintering is possible, but first of all that Zn₂TiO₄ ceramics can be obtained by mechanical activation of ZnO-TiO₂ mixture for a certain time with appropriate thermal treatment, i.e. heating rate and sintering time, at a lower temperature than in the case where no activated powders were used.

The main conclusion based on dilatometry and XRD analysis is that activation of ZnO-TiO₂ for 15 minutes very successfully promotes sintering processes and densification during thermal treatment at a significantly lower temperature than in the case of non-activated mixture.

The influences of mechanical activation on solid-state reaction and sintering of ZnO-TiO₂ were investigated. In the present research it was shown that mechanical activation of ZnO-TiO₂ activated powders without sintering is possible, but first of all that Zn₂TiO₄ ceramics can be obtained by mechanical activation of ZnO-TiO₂ mixture for a certain time with appropriate thermal treatment, i.e. heating rate and sintering time, at a lower temperature than in the case where no activated powders were used.

The main conclusion based on dilatometry and XRD analysis is that activation of ZnO-TiO₂ for 15 minutes very successfully promotes sintering processes and densification during thermal treatment at a significantly lower temperature than in the case of non-activated mixture.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to express their gratitude to Prof. S. Djuric for X-ray measurements.

This research was performed within the project No. 1852 entitled "Synthesis of functional materials from the 'synthesis-application' relationship", financed by the Ministry for Science and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia. Authors would like to express their gratitude to Prof. S. Djuric for X-ray measurements.