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## X-ray diffraction study on quartz surface on $a - \beta$ phase transition

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Quartz exhibits a structural phase transition known as alpha - beta phase transition at 846K, accompanied by an incommensurate (IC) phase between alpha and beta phases. Although there are many structural studies about the alpha - beta phase transition of bulk quartz, fewer reports on surface structure have been found. In the present study, temperature variation in surface structure and morphology of quartz was observed with X-ray diffraction ranging from room temperature to 1000K. A polished (001) surface of synthetic quartz with an area of 20 mm x 20mm was placed in an ultrahigh vacuum chamber installed on BL13XU of SPring-8. Surface-sensitive X-ray diffractions we exploited for characterizing the surface are the crystal truncation rod (CTR) scattering emanated from 003 Bragg point and X-ray reflectivity (XR). Rocking curves ( $q_x$ scan) and longitudinal curves ( $q_z$  scan) between 2theta = 0 to 5-8 deg. of XR were collected at each temperature. In beta phase (>846K), a noticeable increase in width of specular XR ( $q_x$  scan), obeying (T - 846K), is reproducibly observed. Longitudinal scans measured in beta phase also revealed an anomalous broadening in total reflection regime.

Keywords: quartz, X-ray diffraction, phase transitions

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### The effect of hydrostatic pressure on the structural and piezoelectric properties of PbTiO<sub>3</sub>

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The origin of the very large piezoelectric response observed in the vicinity of the morphotropic phase boundary (MPB) in lead zirconate titanate [Pb(Zr<sub>x</sub>Ti<sub>1-x</sub>)O<sub>3</sub>, PZT] and related systems [such as xPb(Mg<sub>1/3</sub>Nb<sub>2/3</sub>)O<sub>3</sub>-(1-x)PbTiO<sub>3</sub>, PMN-PT] has been under intensive studies. MPB region separates tetragonal and rhombohedral phases, which do not have group-subgroup relationship and thus no continuous transition between the phases is possible. To understand the mechanisms responsible for the piezoelectric properties in the perovskite systems, both experimental and computational highpressure studies were dedicated for PbTiO<sub>3</sub> (PT). Our density functional theory (DFT) computations show that the ground state of PT under hydrostatic pressures transforms discontinuously from P4mm to R3c at 9GPa and further to R-3c at 27 GPa [1]. Bridging symmetries allowing a continuous phase transformation sequence were found to be energetically unfavourable. It therefore seems that two-phase co-existence (one phase being metastable over a finite pressure range) in the vicinity of the phase transition region is unavoidable, in an analogous way to the phase transitions seen in PZT as a function of composition. This in turn suggests that the twophase co-existence has a crucial role for the piezoelectric properties near the first phase transition in PT, analogously to the case of PZT [1] J. Frantti, Y. Fujioka, and R. M. Nieminen. J. Phys. Chem. B Lett. 4287, 111, (2007).

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Keywords: lead titanate, hydrostatic pressure, piezoelectricity

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## Computational and experimental studies of the phase transitions of WO<sub>3</sub>

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Tungsten trioxide (WO<sub>3</sub>) exhibits several phase transitions below its melting point at 1700 K, summarized as: Pc Z=4 -> D P-1 Z=8 -> D  $P2_1/n Z=8 \rightarrow C Pbcn Z=8 \rightarrow D P4/ncc Z=4 \rightarrow C P4/nmm Z=2$  where Z is the number of formula units per primitive cell. First order and continuous phase transitions are indicated by D and C, respectively. The phase transitions, from left to right, occur at around 230, 300, 623, 1070, and 1170 K, respectively [1]. Most of the transitions involve oxygen octahedral tilts, which are central for the phase transition mechanisms, since they allow the ratio between oxygen octahedral and cuboctahedral volumes to vary. The changes in bond lengths and angles correlate with the changes in electronic energy band structure: large changes in optical band gap and electrical resistivity occur at the P-1 to ferroelectric Pc phase transition [2], consistently with our density functional theory (DFT) computations. The ferroelectric distortion, spontaneous polarization and piezoelectric constants were estimated by DFT computations. The crystal size affects the phase transition temperatures and symmetries. We prepared small particle size WO<sub>3</sub> powders to systematically study the size effects on the crystal symmetry and physical properties.

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# Low-melting organic salts: A study of symmetry modification through phase transitions

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