# Structure-Property Relationships in the Relaxor Ferroelectric Na<sub>1/2</sub>Bi<sub>1/2</sub>TiO<sub>3</sub>



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# Motivation: Understanding the complexity of Na<sub>1/2</sub>Bi<sub>1/2</sub>TiO<sub>3</sub> (NBT)





**Deviations from R3c** Strong Diffuse Scattering: (100)-like planar defects and modulation (length ~ 40 Å)<sup>[5,7,8]</sup>

Monoclinic deviation from R3c in single crystals<sup>[9]</sup> and ceramics<sup>[10]</sup>, *Cc*-phase

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- [2] V. Dorcet, Chem. Mater. 20 (2008) 5061.
- [3] G. Trolliard, Chem. Mater. 20 (2008) 5074.
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- [5] J. Kreisel, Phys. Rev. B 68 (2003) 014113.
- [6] P. A. Thomas, Z. Kristallographie 220 (2005) 545.
- [7] P. A. Thomas, Solid State Sci. 12 (2010) 311.
- [8] J. E. Daniels, Appl. Phys. Lett. 98 (2011) 252904.
- [9] S. Gorfman, J. Appl. Cryst. 43 (2010) 1409.
- [10] E. Aksel, Appl. Phys. Lett. 98 (2011) 152901.
- [11] Y. Hiruma, J. Appl. Phys. 105 (2009) 08411.

# Flexibility of the perovskite structure





## Methods





#### **Density functional theory**

**Quantum mechanics** Optimized crystal structures and relative stabilities

#### Symmetry-adapted distortion modes

**Group theory** Relevant distortion modes and order parameters

#### Landau theory

Phenomenological theory Properties depending on order parameters, order parameter coupling

# Questions

### Phase stability and its order/pressure dependence

- Which phases are stable?
- Is phase coexistence possible?
- Consequences?

### Structure-property relationships

- Influence of chemical order and octahedral tilts on polarisation?
- Consequences?







## Pressure dependence of phase stability



## Phase diagrams

representative for:



[1] J. Kreisel et al., *Phys. Rev. B* 68 (2003) 014
[2] P. A. Thomas et al., *Z. Kristallographie* 220

## **Structure models**





#### Phase coexistence at atmospheric pressure (R3c+Pbnm)

Chemically ordered Pbnm-regions cause deviations of local structure from global structure

J. Kreisel et al., Phys. Rev. B 68 (2003) 014113.

# Polar displacements influenced by octahedral tilt and chemical order?





## Polar mode in R3c structure







polarisation in rhombohedral direction  $[111]_{pc}$ 

## Polar mode in Pbnm structure



**Atomic displacements** 0.6 Bi 0.4 Na Displacement (Å) 0.2 Ti 0.0 O3 -0.2 **O2**  $V_{eq}$ -0.4 50 52 54 56 58 60 62 64 Volume (Å<sup>3</sup>/f.u,)



## Induced polarisation in 001-ordered Pbnmstructure





At small volumes polarisation is induced

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High-pressure phase might be improper ferroelectric instead of antiferroelectric

## Answers



### Phase stability and its pressure dependence

- Which phases are stable?
- Is phase coexistence possible?
- Consequences?

#### Structure-property relationships

- P4mm, R3c/Pbnm, Pbnm R3c/Pbnm coexistence tilt and displacive order/disorder
- Influence of chemical order and octahedral tilts on polarisation? strong
- Consequences?

polar disorder improper FE in ordered regions

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