

Double Perovskite Structure Induced by Co Addition to PbTiO_3 : Insights from DFT and Experimental Solid-State NMR Spectroscopy

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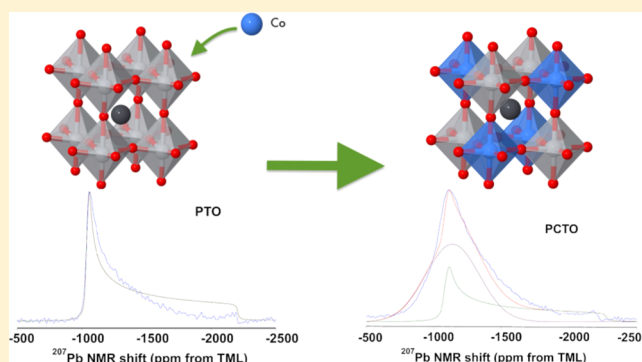
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ABSTRACT: The effects of Co addition on the chemical and electronic structure of PbTiO_3 were explored both by theory and through experiment. Cobalt was incorporated into PbTiO_3 during the sol–gel process with the X-ray diffraction (XRD) data of the resulting compounds confirming a perovskite structure for the pure samples. The XRD lines broadened and showed emerging cubic structure features as the Co incorporation increased. The changes in the XRD pattern were interpreted as double perovskite structure formation. ^{207}Pb NMR measurements revealed a growing isotropic component in the presence of Co. Consistent with the experiments, density functional theory (DFT)-calculated chemical-shift values corroborate isotropic coordination of Pb, suggesting the formation of cubic $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ domains in the prepared samples. Hybrid functional first-principles calculations indicate formation of $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ with cubic structure and confirm that Co addition can decrease oxygen binding energy significantly. Experimental UV–vis spectroscopy results indicate that upon addition of Co, the band gap is shifted toward visible wavelengths as confirmed by energy band and absorption spectrum calculations. The oxygen binding energies were determined by temperature-programmed reduction (TPR) measurements. Upon addition of Co, TPR lines shifted to lower temperatures and new features appeared in the TPR patterns. This shift was interpreted as weakening of the oxygen–cobalt bond strength. The change in the electronic structure by the alterations of oxygen vacancy formation energy and bond lengths upon Co insertion is determined by DFT calculations.



INTRODUCTION

The PbTiO_3 perovskite family of materials has a diverse range of applications.^{1,2} Their chemical and electronic structures coupled with the tunability of the band gap and polarizability make these materials attractive.^{3–6} The ease with which they create oxygen vacancies not only diversifies their electronic properties but also makes them attractive chemical compounds triggering redox reactions.⁷ Furthermore, the band gap of these compounds can also be easily tuned by doping, resulting in tunable features such as band gaps.^{8–11} For example, chemically doped PbTiO_3 structures are utilized for hydrogen production by photocatalytic¹² and photoelectrochemical¹³ cells as anode materials. Our selection of PbTiO_3 mainly stems from two reasons. First, PbTiO_3 is itself a good visible light photocatalyst, thus acting as an oxidizer, and its structural and electronic properties are well known. Second, together with the oxides of Co, PbO_x can exchange all of its oxygen at relatively low temperatures.¹⁴ These properties become important when

considering the storage of solar energy in the chemical bonds. Widespread availability of such technologies is crucial for off-grid localized energy production including fuel cells as well as for space applications. Perovskites emerge as potentially promising candidates¹⁵ based on a thermodynamic analysis of oxygen vacancy formation.^{16,17}

We report a fundamental study about Co-added PbTiO_3 (PCTO) materials with particular attention to solid-state ^{207}Pb NMR spectroscopy, where the effect of Co is reflected in the chemical shifts and the lineshapes of the signal. Magnetic resonance methods are versatile tools for simultaneously elucidating the geometric structure along with the electronic properties.^{18,19} Density functional theory (DFT) is used^{20,21} to determine the source of the NMR shifts as well as the changes

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in the electronic structures and in the UV–vis spectra of Co-doped PbTiO_3 .

METHODOLOGY

Preparation of the Materials. Lead(II) acetate trihydrate (LAT) (extra pure, MERCK), titanium(IV) isopropoxide (97%, Sigma-Aldrich) (TIP), and cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate (pure, MERCK) (CAT) were used as precursors, and citric acid (99%, Aldrich) (CA) was used as a gelation agent. LAT was dissolved in the minimum amount of glacial acetic acid; 50%, by volume, mixture of ethanol–acetic acid (glacial) was used to dissolve TIP; and ethanol was used to dissolve citric acid. The molar ratio of LAT, TIP, and CA was (1:1:2), respectively. The solution containing TIP was added to the solution containing LAT under vigorous stirring. As soon as CA–ethanol solution was introduced to the mixture, a white gel was formed. The gel was kept under vigorous stirring, and later it was transferred on a hot plate. A white solidified gel was obtained as a result. Afterward, the white solidified gel was placed in the oven and kept there overnight at 100 °C to remove volatile organic solvents and water. The white powder was heated to 650 °C at a rate of 5 °C/min for calcination and kept at that temperature for 3 h. After calcination, a yellow powder was obtained. The same procedure was applied to prepare cobalt-containing samples with the following modifications. An appropriate amount of cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate (pure, MERCK) (CAT) was dissolved in the LAT–acetic acid solution. The molar ratios of LAT, CAT, TIP, and CA were adjusted to attain the desired $\text{Co}/(\text{Co} + \text{Pb})$ ratio, x , to prepare PCTO. After calcination, a gray powder was obtained for $x = 0.875$, a green powder was obtained for $x = 0.75$, and a green powder was obtained for $x = 0.5$.

Characterization. X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis was used for phase identification and determination of the crystallinity of PbTiO_3 and PCTO samples. Analyses were performed in Philips PW 1840 compact X-ray diffractometer equipment (–30 kV, 24 mA, with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation). The scattering angle was from 5 to 90°. The compositions of synthesized perovskites are analyzed using a PerkinElmer Optima 4300DV inductively coupled plasma–optical emission spectrometer.

Solid-state NMR spectroscopy ^{207}Pb static SS-NMR spectra were collected on an 11.7 T magnet at a ^{207}Pb frequency of 104.53 MHz. A Bruker narrow-bore H/C/N probe was used. A ^{207}Pb 90° pulse of 3.3 s was measured in solid $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$. $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ was used as a secondary chemical shift reference with the left horn of the powder pattern set to 3490 ppm (relative to Me_4Pb). ^{207}Pb Hahn echo experiments were performed with an interpulse delay of 20 s. The relaxation delay of 60 s for PbTiO_3 and 30 s for PCTO samples was used. All of the NMR measurements were performed at room temperature (≈ 25 °C).

UV–vis spectroscopy analysis was done using Shimadzu UV-2450 equipment. The absorbance data was measured between 200 and 800 nm. Barium sulfate was used as a reference sample.

Micromeritics Chemisorb 2720 equipment was used for TP_x analyses. Temperature-programmed reduction (TPR) experiments were conducted to measure the reducibility of samples. The compositions of the effluent gases were tracked by a thermal conductivity detector (TCD). Before letting the gas flow through the system, the samples were placed between quartz wool plugs in the U-shaped quartz reactor and the

quartz reactor was placed in a furnace, which can be heated up to 1100 °C. A cold trap, a mixture of ice, water, and isopropyl alcohol, is used to remove condensables, particularly water vapor from the product stream before the analysis. The final temperature, heating rate, and stand-by time at final temperature are fixed using a TP_x controller.

Computational Details. Density functional calculations have been performed with the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP)²² using the projector-augmented wave (PAW) method.^{23,24} The single-particle states have been expanded in plane waves up to a kinetic energy cutoff value of 400 eV. The exchange and correlation effects were taken into account using the modern hybrid Heyd–Scuseria–Ernzerhof (HSE)^{25–27} scheme.

The standard density functionals are known to be insufficient for describing the perovskite materials.²⁸ Estimation of their structural and vibrational properties improves with meta-GGA functionals.^{29,30} The absence of a proper self-interaction, cancellation between the Hartree and exchange terms leads to a significant band gap underestimation. Hybrid approaches have been proposed to improve the description of electronic structures over usual GGA functionals.³¹ The screened Coulomb hybrid density functional, HSE,^{25–27} partially incorporates the exact Fock exchange and the Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof (PBE)³² exchange energies. The HSE^{25–27} correlation energy and the long-range part of the exchange energy are taken from the PBE³² functional. The short-range part of the exchange energy is mixed with the PBE counterpart using η as the mixing coefficient³³ as,

$$E_X^{\text{HSE}} = \eta E_X^{\text{HF,SR}}(\omega) + (1 - \eta) E_X^{\text{PBE,SR}}(\omega) + E_X^{\text{PBE,LR}}(\omega)$$

where ω is the range-separation parameter.^{25–27} We employed the HSE12s³⁴ functional, which optimizes these parameters to reduce the Fock exchange length scale without decreasing the overall accuracy of HSE06²⁶ significantly. This range-separated hybrid density functional approach improves the band-gap-related properties over the standard exchange–correlation (XC) schemes and offers a better description of localized d-states of transition metals. In particular, the position and dispersion of possible Co-driven gap states are important for Co-doped PbTiO_3 . Recently, the hybrid DFT approach has been successfully employed to get the electronic structures of perovskite oxides.^{35,36}

To determine the structure of the perovskite with Co, a ($2 \times 2 \times 2$) supercell was constructed from the bulk unit cell of PbTiO_3 . Then, we traced possible interstitial and substitutional Co incorporation models with various $\text{Co}/(\text{Pb} + \text{Co})$ ratios. Geometry optimization of Co involvement ended up with cubic symmetry only for a supercell, which contains 4 Ti and 4 Co atoms in an alternating order. All other Co incorporation models lead to tetragonal symmetry. The Brillouin zone integrations have been carried out over a Γ -centered $8 \times 8 \times 8$ k -point grid. Both the cell volume and the atomic positions were fully optimized self-consistently until the Hellmann–Feynman forces on each ion in each Cartesian direction were less than 0.01 eV/Å.

The DFT–NMR calculations were performed based on the linear response GIPAW method.^{37–39} The chemical shift tensor component values at a nuclear site at \mathbf{R} were determined from

$$\delta_{ij}(\mathbf{R}) = \frac{\partial B_i^{\text{ind}}(\mathbf{R})}{\partial B_j^{\text{ext}}}$$

where i and j are the Cartesian indices, B^{ext} is an applied direct current external magnetic field, and $B^{\text{ind}}(\mathbf{R})$ is the induced magnetic field at \mathbf{R} . Then, a proper referencing to TML is done using

$$\delta_{\text{iso}}^{\text{calc.}}(^{207}\text{Pb}) = \delta_{\text{iso}}^{\text{ref}} - \delta_{\text{iso}}^{\text{PCTO}} \text{ (all in ppm),}$$

where a single TML molecule is considered in a large computational cell.

Technically, NMR chemical shift calculations require a higher cutoff value than the usual one. We set it to 600 eV. A more stringent tolerance is also needed to stop the self-consistent loop. We used a value of 10^{-10} eV for the difference of the total energies between the electronic iterations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Structure Analysis. Structures of the synthesized samples of PTO and PCTO with Co/(Pb + Co) ratios $x = 0.125, 0.25,$ and 0.5 were determined using XRD analysis (see Figure 1).

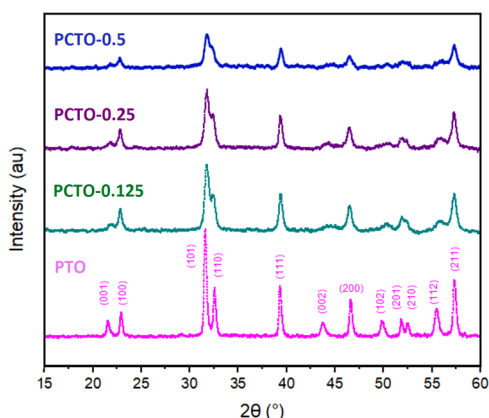


Figure 1. (color on-line) XRD patterns of PbTiO_3 and PCTO with various Co/(Pb + Co) ratios ($x = 0.125, 0.25,$ and 0.5).

Upon Co addition, the peaks corresponding to (101) and (110), (201) and (210), and (112) and (211) broaden and merge. As the Co content increased in the samples, cubic planes became dominant to the detriment of tetragonality. In addition, as the cobalt content increased, intensity of the peaks decreased, suggesting the decrease of the crystal grain size as the cobalt content increased.

The tetragonal phase of PbTiO_3 is shown in Figure 2a. Since the experimental XRD data indicate the presence of a cubic phase in the Co-added PbTiO_3 , we checked all possible cubic structures including substitutional (for Pb and/or Ti) and interstitial dopings. The only consistent cubic structure is obtained for $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ as shown in Figure 2b.

We performed geometry optimization calculations without imposing space group symmetry and allowed a full volume relaxation by lifting any restriction on the lattice translation vectors. At 325 K, PbTiO_3 forms the tetragonal phase having the $P4mm$ space group symmetry with cell parameters $a = 3.899 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 4.138 \text{ \AA}$.⁴¹ The lattice constants were found as $a = 3.864 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 4.045 \text{ \AA}$ using the HSE12s functional. The largest deviation from the experimental values comes from the c parameter, which is $\sim 2.2\%$. This is known as the super-tetragonality problem of the HSE functional, which is based on local density approximation. A recent theoretical study reported similar values with reasonable agreement using the HSE06 XC functional.³⁰ The atomic coordinates are presented in Table 1.

The change in the XRD peaks as the Co content increases in the samples indicates the presence of a cubic phase in relation to Co. In addition, SS-NMR measurements reveal an isotropic chemical environment for Pb atoms in the PCTO materials. The preparation process of Co-added PbTiO_3 leads to the formation of $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ domains, which involve TiO_6 and CoO_6 octahedra as shown in Figure 2b. The double perovskite has a cubic $Fm\bar{3}m$ symmetry ($a = 7.68 \text{ \AA}$) where Co and Ti sit at the corners of the cube in an alternating manner. In this structure, a Pb atom, being at the center, is 12-fold-coordinated with the nearest oxygens that lie at the midpoints of the edges of the cube.

NMR Spectroscopy. Hahn echo NMR spectra from pure PbTiO_3 (red, not aged), PbTiO_3 (blue, aged 1 month at 280 K), and PbTiO_3 with trace amount of cobalt (also aged 1 month at 280 K, green) are shown in Figure 3. NMR spectra of the pure compounds are consistent with the reports from the literature,⁴² while the cobalt-doped sample reveals a broadening at the left horn and a ~ 100 ppm shift to lower frequencies.

The NMR spectra of Co-modified PbTiO_3 are shown in Figure 4. When high amounts of cobalt were introduced in the sample at the percent levels to replace Pb and/or Ti atoms in the perovskite lattice, the NMR lineshape evolved into a broad, featureless peak centered around the horn of the pure PbTiO_3 spectrum. At the intended 50% replacement of the Pb atoms with Co, the intensity diminished completely, due to both

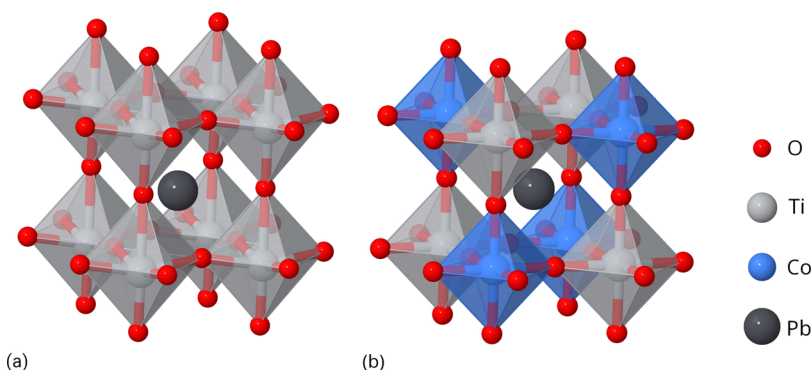


Figure 2. (color on-line) Schematic (a) tetragonal PbTiO_3 and (b) cubic $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ structures.

Table 1. Atomic Positions of Tetragonal ($P4mm$) $PbTiO_3$ and Cubic ($Fm\bar{3}m$) Pb_2CoTiO_6 ^a

$PbTiO_3$							Pb_2CoTiO_6				
atom	x^b	y^b	z^b	x	y	z	atom	x	y	z	site
Pb	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	Pb	1/4	1/4	1/4	8c
Ti	0.500	0.500	0.530	0.500	0.500	0.535	Co	1/2	1/2	1/2	4b
O1	0.500	0.500	0.074	0.500	0.500	0.087	Ti	0	0	0	4a
O2	0.500	0.000	0.641	0.500	0.000	0.610	O	0.2563(4)	0.000	0.000	24e

^aDFT results were obtained using the HSE12s XC functional ^bExperimental values for $PbTiO_3$ are taken from ref 40.

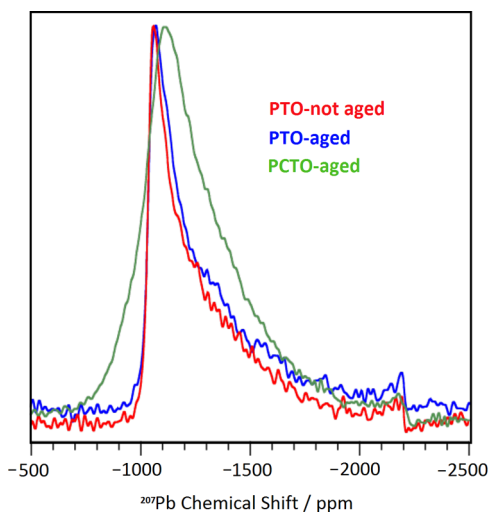


Figure 3. (color on-line) Effect of aging during the sol–gel process and addition of a trace amount of Co (PCTO) on the NMR lineshape of $^{207}PbTiO_3$.

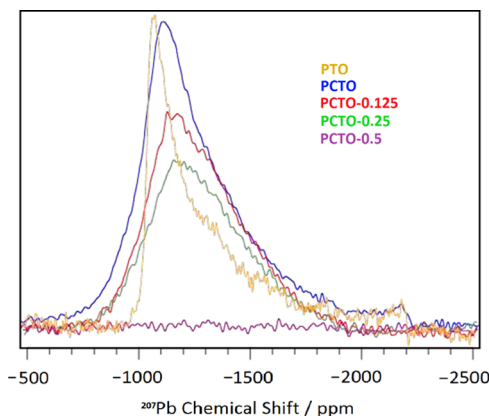


Figure 4. (color on-line) Effect of Co addition on the NMR lineshape of $^{207}PbTiO_3$.

broadening and diminished amount of Pb nuclei in the sample. The total intensities of the other Co-containing samples were consistent with the intensity of the pure compound, indicating that at $\leq 25\%$ Co, most of the nuclei were accessible by NMR.

NMR lineshape simulations shown in Figure 5 reveal superposition of two features. One feature is the unperturbed $PbTiO_3$ lineshape, and the second feature is a broad symmetric isotropic peak. These ^{207}Pb NMR data suggest coexistence of Pb in two different local phases in the samples. The chemical shift anisotropy tensor component estimations of lineshape simulations are consolidated in Table 2.

This analysis of NMR spectra suggests an isotropic structure, so we searched bonding scenarios for Pb thoroughly. We

considered all possible models for Co inclusion to the $PbTiO_3$ lattice such as substitutional (for Pb and/or Ti) and interstitial dopings. The only probable geometry found is Pb_2CoTiO_6 , which forms in a cubic structure where oxygen and Pb coordination is isotropic.

The DFT calculations are used to elucidate the role of Co dopants in the chemical shift of ^{207}Pb . The local chemical environments are reflected in the diagonal components of the chemical shift anisotropy tensor estimated from DFT, as compiled in Table 3. The left horn of the ^{207}Pb NMR spectrum in $PbTiO_3$ is a result of symmetry characteristics of Pb–O bonding (mainly two types of Pb–O bonds with lengths 2.75 and 3.09 Å) in pure tetragonal $PbTiO_3$. We surmised that as Co is mixed into the sample, oxygen octahedra form with Co and/or Ti at the center, which leads to formation of a cubic Pb_2CoTiO_6 double perovskite structure. In this structure, Pb–O coordination is isotropic. Therefore, Pb–O bonds become similar in length and in covalency. Since the valence electron distribution around each of the Pb nucleus gets affected by Co incorporation, its shielding responses to an external magnetic field show the isotropic nature of this cubic structure. Although the relativistic effects are not included in the GIPAW implementation of VASP, the DFT calculations yield ^{207}Pb NMR features consistent with the experimental spectra.

Oxygen Bonds. The effect of a single oxygen vacancy formation on the $PbTiO_3$ lattice structure is considered using a $(2 \times 2 \times 2)$ supercell containing 40 atoms. In the absence of an oxygen atom both from the PbO layer (O1) and from the TiO_2 layer (O2), small lattice distortions occur and remain in the local environment. The oxygen vacancy formation energy can be formulated as

$$E_f = E_{PCTO} - E_{PCTO'} - E_O$$

where E_{PCTO} and $E_{PCTO'}$ are the total cell energies of $PbTiO_3$ without and with an oxygen defect, respectively. E_O is the energy of an oxygen atom in the O_2 molecule for which the calculation procedure is adopted from ref 43. The energy required to remove one oxygen atom from the undoped bulk system is as large as 5.28 eV per O1 and 5.14 eV per O2. In the Pb_2CoTiO_6 structure, the chemical bonding characteristics of all oxygens are equal and the vacancy formation energy is 3.12 eV. Therefore, Co addition to $PbTiO_3$ leads to a significant drop in the oxygen vacancy formation energy.

Temperature-programmed reduction (TPR) profiles of the perovskites are consolidated in Figure 6. It is clearly seen that the addition of Co decreased the reduction temperature of the material, indicative of weaker oxygen bonds in these structures. The peak temperatures are compiled in Table 4 for comparison. Here, the 675 °C peak can be observed for all perovskites. As Co is introduced, the peak position shifts to 646 °C, which indicates a weaker oxygen bond energy in the structure. Further addition of Co does not significantly influence the peak position.

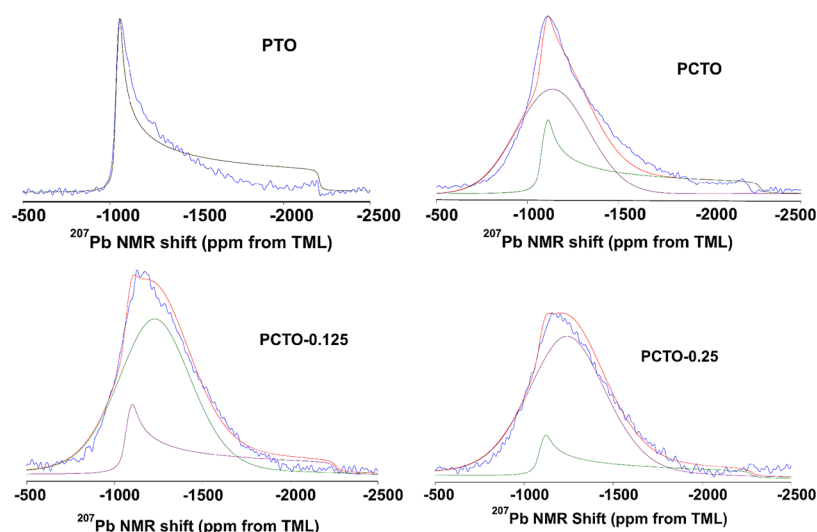


Figure 5. (color on-line) NMR lineshape simulations.

Table 2. DM Fitting: Chemical Shift Anisotropy Parameters in the Presence of a Gaussian/Lorentzian

compound	δ_{xx}	δ_{yy}	δ_{zz}	δ_{iso}	δ_{aniso}	η	span
PTO	-1032.50	-1059.59	-2207.02	-1433.04	-773.98	0.0063	1174.52
PCTO-trace	-1052.88	-1076.48	-2244.76	-1458.04	-786.72	0.0054	1191.87
PCTO-0.125	-1124.20	-1165.90	-2270.52	-1520.21	-750.33	0.0091	1120.59
PCTO-0.25	-1138.05	-1150.75	-2252.80	-1513.84	-738.88	0.0028	1101.05

Table 3. Chemical Shift Anisotropy Values (in Parts per Million) Estimated from DFT in Tetragonal PbTiO_3 and in Cubic $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$

model structure	δ_{xx}	δ_{yy}	δ_{zz}
PbTiO_3	-1032	-1032	-1538
$\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$	-1148	-1148	-1148

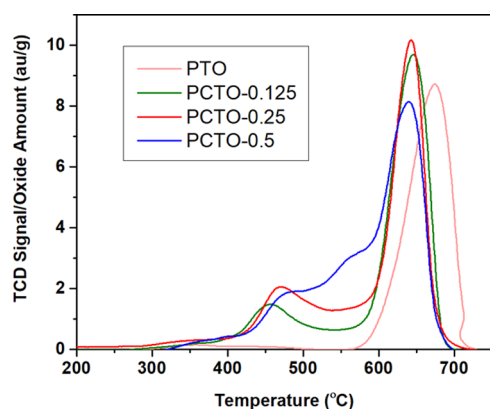


Figure 6. (color on-line) TPR profiles of perovskites.

Table 4. TPR Peak Positions of Synthesized Perovskites

sample	peak positions (°C)	additional peaks (°C)
PTO	675	
PCTO-0.125	646	455
PCTO-0.25	643	158, 469
PCTO-0.5	640	400, 478, 558

Electronic Structure. In Figure 7a, experimentally measured UV–visible diffuse reflectance spectra are shown. All synthesized perovskites and TiO_2 had strong absorption

between 200 and 400 nm. For PbTiO_3 , the absorption edge is larger than the absorption edge of TiO_2 . The result conforms with the literature.^{44,45} The peak at around 650–800 nm for Co-doped samples was originated from Co^{4+} species. Dai et al. showed that Co_3O_4 and $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{TiO}_2$ had similar absorption spectra between 600 and 800 nm, while for pure TiO_2 , there are no peaks in this region.⁴⁶ Band gaps of TiO_2 and PbTiO_3 were estimated as 3.1 and 2.5 eV, respectively. Similar to the ^{207}Pb NMR results, increasing Co content did not further change the characteristics of the experimental UV–vis spectra.

The imaginary part of the dielectric matrix ϵ_2 as a function of the wavelength was calculated for PbTiO_3 and $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ and is presented in Figure 7b. The effect of Co addition to PTO on the main features of absorption spectra agrees with the experimental results. The agreement between the experimental and theory-predicted spectra further confirms the double perovskite structure.

Electronic energy bands and the corresponding partial densities of states (PDOSs) are calculated using the HSE functional, for tetragonal PbTiO_3 and simple cubic $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ (see Figure 8). At first glance, the main features common to perovskites can be seen in both of the materials such as the compositions of core levels, valence band (VB), and conduction band (CB). First of all, the computational method makes a difference in the results. The HSE functional brings a large correction in the band gaps over the standard DFT functionals. For instance, the indirect band gap ($X\Gamma$) of PbTiO_3 predicted using the PBE functional is about 1.5 eV and the width of the valence band (VB) is approximately 8.5 eV. The HSE functional, however, leads to a gap of about 2.8 eV in much better agreement with the experiment (2.5 eV), and the VB width is close to 9 eV in Figure 8a. $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ is a semiconductor with an indirect band gap ($R\Gamma$) of 0.88 eV. The main reason of this drastic difference between the band gaps of pure and Co-added PbTiO_3 is the Co 3d-driven antibonding

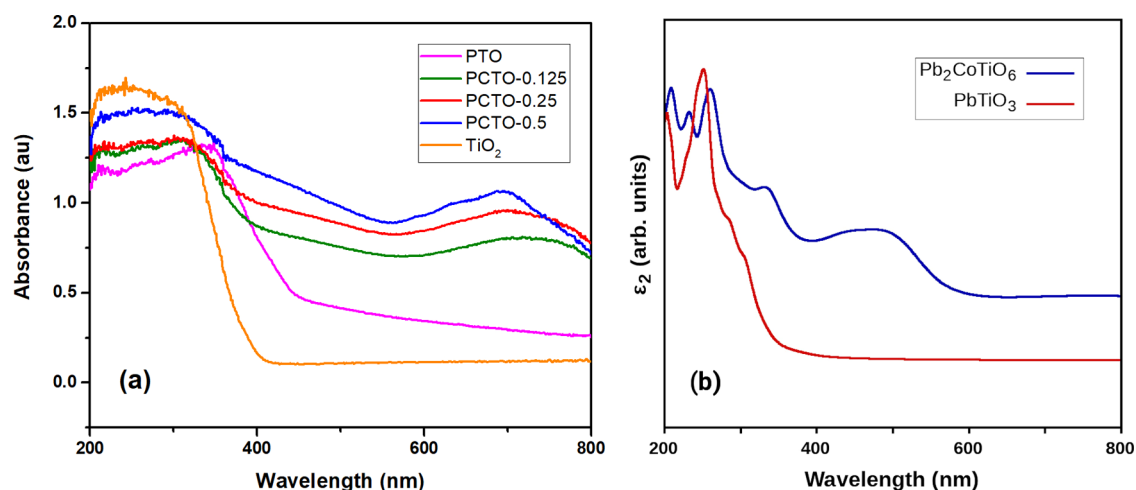


Figure 7. (color on-line) (a) UV–visible diffuse reflectance spectra of TiO_2 and pure and Co-added PbTiO_3 . (b) Imaginary part of the dielectric matrix of PbTiO_3 and $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ calculated using the HSE12s XC functional.

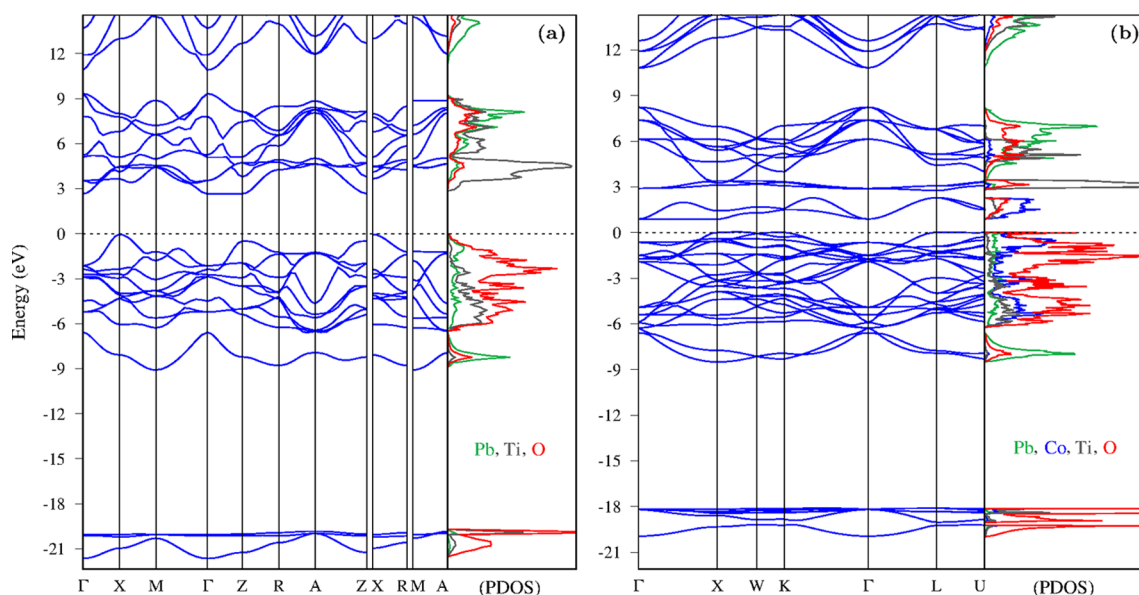


Figure 8. (color on-line) Electronic energy band structures and corresponding projected densities of states (PDOSs) of (a) tetragonal PbTiO_3 and (b) cubic $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$ calculated using the HSE12s DFT functionals. The zero of the energy eigenvalues is referenced to the Fermi energy, which is depicted as dotted lines.

t_{2g} -orbitals. These states appear 0.47 eV below the CB as a satellite group, which has a width of 1.4 eV.

The bottom of the CB at about 3 eV in Figure 8b is characterized dominantly by well-localized Ti 3d t_{2g} -type orbitals. Antibonding states associated with Pb mostly contribute to the upper part of the CB.

The single band in Figure 8a starting from 0.3 eV below the valence group has a width of 2.6 eV and consists mostly of a Pb 6s character. Similarly, in the case of PCTO, a group of bands separated from the bottom of the VB group has the same Pb 6s character. The core level, mostly of an O 2s character, is at -20.2 to -21.8 eV in (a), whereas the same bands in (b) are shifted 1.9 eV upward and range from -18.3 to -20.6 eV.

CONCLUSIONS

The effects of cobalt incorporation into PbTiO_3 perovskites are investigated experimentally as well as by the first-principles methods. Consistent with the common expectations, Co

replaces lattice Ti. The insertion of cobalt transforms tetragonal PbTiO_3 to a cubic $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$, confirmed by XRD, NMR, and UV–vis data as well as their corresponding DFT simulations. The DFT-estimated values of ^{207}Pb NMR chemical shift anisotropy tensor components could predict the symmetry around different nuclei with the changes in Co content. NMR lineshape simulations reveal an isotropic structure in addition to the characteristic PbTiO_3 lineshape. Based on the DFT investigations, the most probable geometry is found as $\text{Pb}_2\text{CoTiO}_6$, which forms in a cubic structure where oxygen and Pb coordination is isotropic. The oxygen vacancy formation energy decreases significantly upon addition of Co as estimated by DFT in line with the TPR measurements. Co incorporation into the PbTiO_3 structure causes a significant narrowing of the band gap as a result of the Co-related t_{2g} -type d-states (σ^*), which appear near the bottom of the conduction band.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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