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ADVANCED CERAMICS AND APPLICATION**

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&  
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### **Kinetics of Mechanically Activated TiO<sub>2</sub>-based Oxides Followed by DTA**

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TiO<sub>2</sub>-based materials are widely used in production of ceramic capacitors and semiconductors. The conventional method of ceramics synthesis relies on the solid-state reaction between TiO<sub>2</sub> and other compounds (BaCO<sub>3</sub>, BaO, ZnO, MgO and SrCO<sub>3</sub>) at high temperatures. During this reaction control of final stoichiometry and powder characteristics are difficult to maintain, because of the lack of the consistency in initial raw material's mixture and the existence of local inhomogeneities in reaction product which occur as a result of incomplete mixing and incomplete reaction of the constituents. In the most cases the sintering kinetics of these ceramics are determined by several parameters, including pressed powder density, material's particle size, sintering temperature, atmosphere etc. As a result, during thermal treatment mass transport by plastic flow, bulk diffusion, surface and volume diffusion, grain boundary diffusion, or a combination of these processes may occur. In order to produce nanocrystalline powders and improve the sintering kinetics, high energy mechanical activation can be employed among other methods.

DTA analyses indicated that the position of DTA exothermic peak assigned to the process of ceramics formation was shifted toward lower temperatures in activated samples. The distinction in that peak magnitude due to activation process was observed as well. These results pointed out an increase of the solid state reaction rate, due to activation process. It was concluded that mechanical activation provoked the acceleration of mass transport and enhanced the nucleation probability of a new phase, which caused the decrease of synthesis reaction temperature.

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### **The Influence of Mechanical Activation on Sintering Process of BaCO<sub>3</sub>-SrCO<sub>3</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> System**

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In this article the influence of mechanical activation on sintering process of barium-strontium-titanate ceramics has been investigated. Both non-activated and mixtures treated in planetary ball mill for 5, 10, 20, 40, 80 and 120 minutes were sintered at 1100-1400 °C for 2 hours in air atmosphere. The influence of mechanical activation on phase composition and crystal structure has been analyzed by XRD, while the effect of activation and sintering process on microstructure was investigated by scanning electron microscopy. It has been established that temperature of 1100 °C was too low to induce final sintering stage for the system. Electrical measurements have been conducted for the densest ceramics sintered at 1400 °C for 2 hours.