

Low-frequency ultrasound attenuation in sodium chlorate crystals

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Abstract. The authors study reduction of longitudinal ultrasonic oscillations in sodium chlorate crystals within the temperature range of 78 – 525 K and relative amplitudes of oscillatory deformation of 10^{-7} – 10^{-5} according to the method of compound piezoelectric vibrator at the frequencies of $\approx 10^5$ Hz.

1. Introduction

As a rule, various mechanisms causing decay of vibrations are divided into relaxation, resonance and hysteresis [1]. Under the periodic deformation of the solid body all mechanisms reveal themselves to some extent but their contribution to the process of vibration decay is different. When the frequency of oscillations changes from infrasound to hypersound we obtain a number of peaks (maximums) on the curve of internal friction of the real crystal. This kind of Q^{-1} curve with maximums, by analogy with the theory of light, is sometimes called the “mechanical” absorption spectrum. It is impossible to create a method which would allow measuring the internal friction continuously in the interval of frequencies from 10^{-4} to 10^{11} Hz. That is why the experiments were carried out with the application of a number of methods where the frequencies overlapped each other. The experimental difficulties of Q^{-1} measuring in a wide interval of frequencies are often compensated by an indirect technique, namely – by obtaining the dependence of the internal friction upon the temperature. Curve $Q^{-1}(T)$ is often called “thermal spectrum” for short [1].

At the present moment it is estimated that in ion monocrystals for the frequency range $\sim 10^5$ Hz the basic contribution to the internal friction is made by dislocation mechanisms (for example, decay determined by the thermoelastic effect, for metals makes about 50% of general decay, and for semiconductors and non-conductors its contribution to general decay does not exceed several per cent [2]). Internal friction can be determined by two different phenomena: inelasticity and plastic deformation of the system. Inelasticity is characterized by amplitude-independent parameters of a part of deformation energy input into the system. Plastic deformation, as distinguished from inelasticity, is a function of amplitude of deformation of the studied macroscopic system.

Systematic study of internal friction in the kilohertz range of frequencies in the crystals of A_1B_7 type (alkali halide crystals with ionic bond) was completed by S.P. Nikanorov and B.K. Kardashev [3]. In the course of theoretical analysis of experimental data the given authors studied the role of Peierls barrier and the role of fields of force of point defects of different origin under thermally activated



oscillating motion of dislocations near the equilibrium state. According to the results of measurements of the amplitude-dependent absorption of ultrasonic oscillations the authors unambiguously proved that in the stress field of the ultrasonic waves the dislocations dissipate the energy of oscillations at the same obstacles which play an important role in formation of the stress level of the flow. It is of interest to obtain the data on internal friction in crystals with significant covalent component of the interatomic bond. The crystal of sodium chlorate (NaClO_3) is one of such objects [4].

2. Calculation ratios

Study of inelastic properties of NaClO_3 monocrystal was completed in two variants. Amplitude-independent internal friction within the temperature interval 77 – 525 K at the frequencies of ≈ 100 kHz was studied by the “half-width” of the resonance curve

$$Q^{-1} = \frac{\Delta f}{f_p}, \quad (1)$$

where Δf – interval of frequencies between the resonance curve points, corresponding oscillation amplitudes equaling to 0.707 of the maximum amplitude, and f_p – resonance frequency. Description of the unit and details of the experimental method for this case are provided in monograph [5].

Amplitude-dependent internal friction was studied under the same frequencies and discrete temperatures of 300, 400 and 500 K with application of an electric acoustic unit with load resistance of $R = 1,2$ kilohm, similar to that described in [3]. Logarithmic decrement δ was taken as a measure of internal friction, and it was found as

$$\delta = \left(\frac{2bd_{12}}{s_{22}} \right)^2 \frac{R_s}{f_p m_b}, \quad R_s = R \left(\frac{U}{U_R} - 1 \right), \quad (2)$$

and amplitude of relative oscillative deformation of the sample was calculated according to the formula

$$\varepsilon = \frac{s_{22}}{2bd_{12}\ell_0 f_p} \cdot \frac{U_R}{R}. \quad (3)$$

Here b , d_{12} , s_{22} and f_p – accordingly thickness, piezoelectric modulus, compliancy constant and resonance frequency of piezoelectric quartz, m_b – mass of vibrator (piezoelectric quartz + sample), R_e – equivalent resistance of vibrator at the moment of resonance, U and U_R accordingly – decrease in current at the section “piezoelectric quartz – resistance R ” and on the resistance at the moment of resonance, ℓ_0 – length of the sample.

NaClO_3 monocrystals were grown from aqueous liquids of a CP preparation by slow evaporation under room temperatures. Samples in the form of cores were cut out according to the wet thread technique and their length along the crystallographic direction $\langle 100 \rangle$ corresponded to the condition of resonance excitation of the double compound vibrator at the basic frequency of 100 kHz for the longitudinal standing ultrasonic wave. Maximum amplitude of the relative oscillative deformation in the crest of the standing wave ε changed within two orders (from 10^{-7} to 10^{-5}). Internal friction measurements were completed with an average error of about 10%.

3. Results and their discussion

Thermal dependence of internal friction in NaClO_3 samples practically in the whole region of solid phase existence is presented in Figure 1. Here we also present the changes of Young modulus in direction $\langle 100 \rangle$ of sodium chlorate monocrystal. The fact that at once catches the researcher’s eye that the mechanical spectrum of NaClO_3 sample contains plenty of internal friction maximums (five completely resolved ones under the temperatures 110, 225, 260, 400 and 450 K) and an ascending branch of Q^{-1} maximum under $T > 500$ K. Function $E_{\langle 100 \rangle}$, first of all, is considerably non-linear and,

second, it has a number of anomalies. The obtained mechanical spectrum is even more surprising as under similar conditions in terms of temperature and frequency $Q^{-1}(T)$ and $E_{\langle 100 \rangle}(T)$ in NaCl crystal have a common linear form – with the growth of the sample temperature internal friction and elastic modulus change monotonously (Q^{-1} increases, $E_{\langle 100 \rangle}$ decreases).

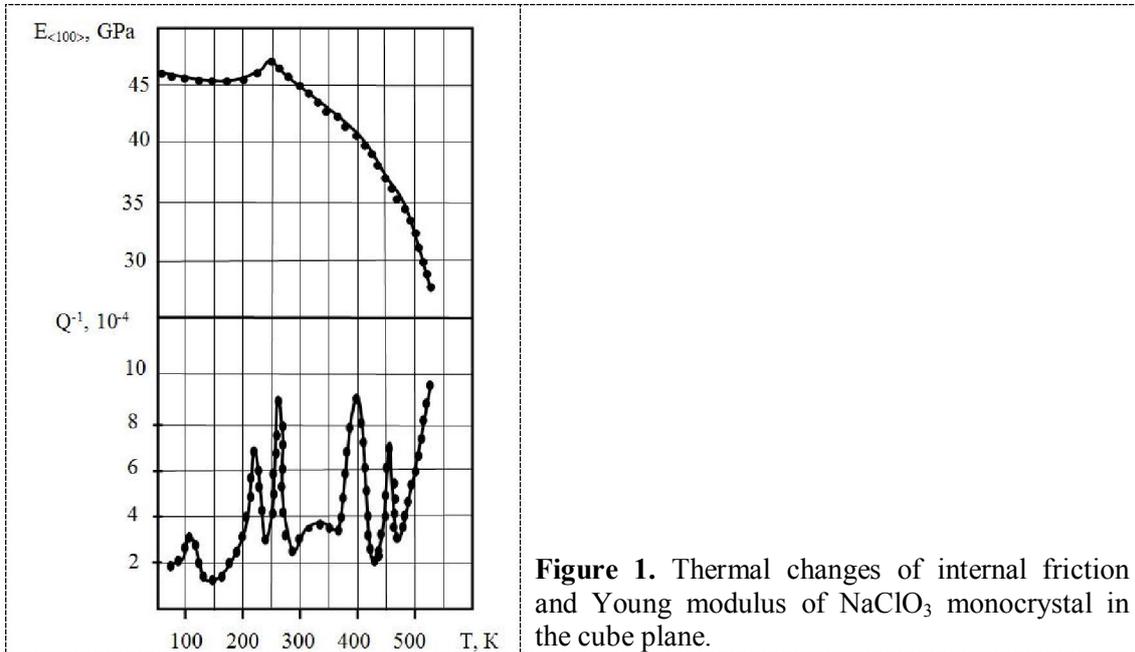


Figure 1. Thermal changes of internal friction and Young modulus of NaClO₃ monocrystal in the cube plane.

The observed peculiarities in the thermal behavior of internal friction and elastic modulus in sodium chlorate crystal are obviously related to the order-disorder processes in its lattice. In simplified form the interpretation of results can be presented as follows. When the crystal of NaClO₃ is heated, its anion sublattice, consisting of pyramidal groups of ClO₃⁻ with atom of chlorine in the vertex and atoms of oxygen in the base, is destabilized first. Near the temperature of 110 K in the local areas of anion sublattice atoms of chlorine start transitions between two equivalent sites and, by convention, this can be considered the trigger mechanism to the so called isostructural (isomorphous) phase transition in the crystal of sodium chlorate under low temperatures. Maximum Q^{-1} is followed by changing the sign of elastic modulus thermal dependence – $E_{\langle 100 \rangle}$ increases in the interval of 170 – 260 K. A certain culmination of the described process is achieved under the temperatures of 225 – 260 K when the intensity of chlorine atoms transitions becomes enough to impart the quasi-molecular group ClO₃ additional degree of freedom – hindered rotation (libration). Separate anions randomly (“in a Brownian way”) change their orientation for two directions. An indirect proof to this is the fact that under the temperature of 260 K NaClO₃ crystal becomes an auxetic [6, 7] (its Poisson’s ratios $\sigma_{\langle 100 \rangle}$ and $\sigma_{\langle 110,001 \rangle}$ become negative). As the temperature of the crystal grows more and more anions become involved into the process of reorientation which finally leads ($T \approx 400$ K) to cation sublattice destabilization. Activation energy of cation vacancy is 0.46 electron-volt and energy of Frenkel pair formation 1.98 electron-volt [5]. Q^{-1} peak under $T = 400$ K in NaClO₃, this way, is associated with elastic relaxation in the lattice of this crystal due to sodium ions “jumping” between the sites. When the temperature approaches 500 K ($T_{\text{melting}} = 536$ K) the crystal becomes strongly ionized (chlorate ions separate from sodium ions) and, as Curie point in NaClO₃ is taken over the melting temperature ($T_c = 593$ K), then, it is supposed that spontaneous polarization can be caused only by dipoles appearing due to free rotation of ClO₃ group.

Our studies of internal friction in NaClO₃ monocrystal under the temperature of T>300 K correlate to anomalous behavior of many physical properties of the given material in this temperature region (Fig. 2) [5].

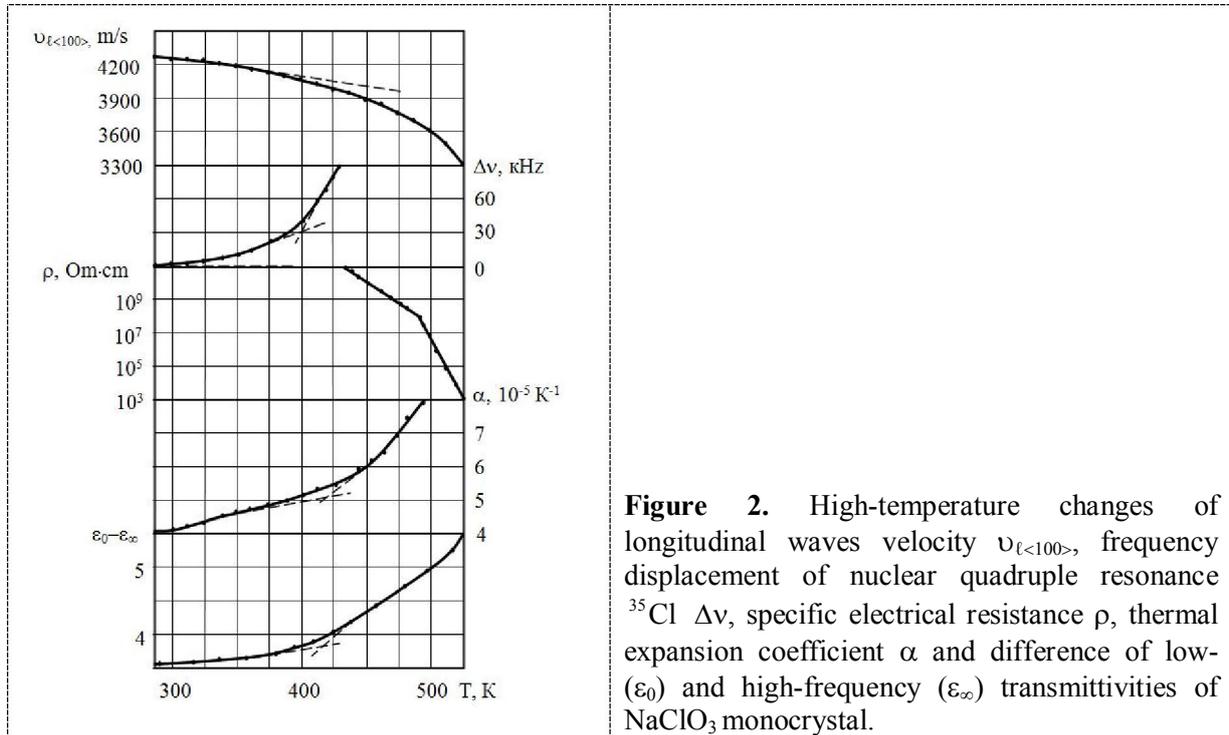
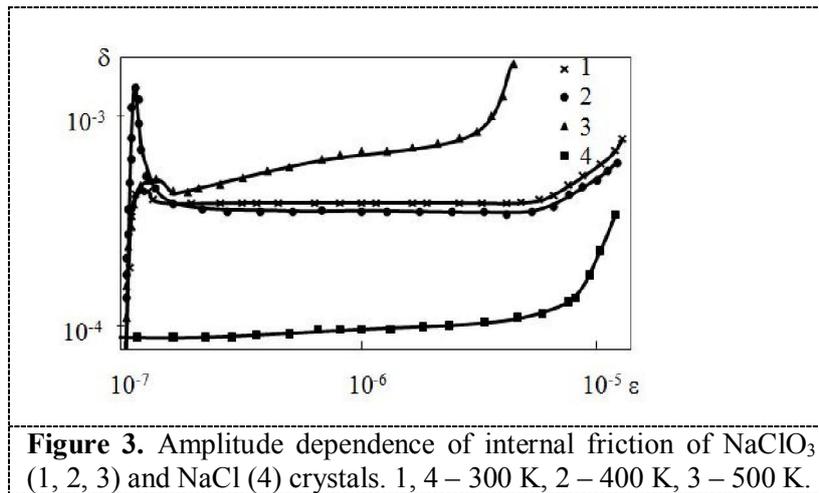


Figure 2. High-temperature changes of longitudinal waves velocity $v_{l<100>}$, frequency displacement of nuclear quadruple resonance ^{35}Cl $\Delta\nu$, specific electrical resistance ρ , thermal expansion coefficient α and difference of low- (ϵ_0) and high-frequency (ϵ_∞) transmittivities of NaClO₃ monocrystal.

An unexpected and surprising result was obtained in the experiments on amplitude dependence of internal friction in the studied object (Fig. 3). We mean peak δ under remarkably small amplitudes of oscillative deformation (near 10^{-7}). The plastic properties of NaClO₃ crystal in the ultrasound field of such low intensity are not quite understandable. Results presented in Fig. 3 clearly demonstrate that the view of $\delta(\epsilon)$ curves significantly depends upon the temperature of the samples. The most marked peak of internal friction corresponds to the temperature of sodium chlorate sample of 400 K under which many non-linear properties start (Fig. 2). Let us notice that on dynamic curves of deformation for some materials which have absolutely different chemical nature than our object of study, for example, metals [3, 8], we observe similar “sharp plasticity point”.

In the piezoelectric (sodium chlorate) and in the ferromagnetic (steel) identical “structural characteristics” caused by such insignificant mechanical effects of elastic pulse advancing, indicate a single mechanism of quasi-microplasticity effect characteristic for various solids being significantly different in nature and physical and mechanical properties [9]. The developed microplasticity of NaClO₃ under the temperature of 400 K is associated with the beginning of the given crystal transition into the superionic state due to cation sublattice “melting”. Elastic wave modulates the depths of potential wells of quasi-free sodium ions in the conducting sublattice leading to the redistribution of Na⁺ due to thermally activated motion. This phenomenon is the phenomenon of inelastic relaxation [10].

The test experiment with NaCl crystal (curve 4 in Fig. 3) demonstrates the typical view of function $\delta(\epsilon)$ with amplitude dependence of internal friction under $\epsilon \geq 10^{-5}$ determined by motion of dislocations. In NaClO₃ crystal under T = 500 K amplitude independent component of internal friction is practically absent (curve 3 Fig. 3).



4. Findings

1. It is established that mechanical spectrum of NaClO₃ sample contains maximum of internal friction (five completely solved ones under the temperatures of 110, 225, 260, 400 and 450 K) and an ascending branch of Q^{-1} maximum under $T > 500$ K.
2. A marked peak of internal friction is revealed under $T = 400$ K when many non-linear properties of sodium chlorate start.
3. The study revealed that the test experiment with NaCl crystal demonstrates the typical view of $\delta(\epsilon)$ function with amplitude dependence of internal friction under $\epsilon \geq 10^{-5}$ determined by motion of dislocations. In NaClO₃ crystal under $T = 500$ K amplitude independent component of internal friction is practically absent.

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