

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**INFLUENCE OF DIVALENT Sr^{2+} , Zn^{2+} AND Ca^{2+}
SUBSTITUTIONS ON ULTRASONIC VELOCITY
AND ELASTIC PROPERTIES OF $\text{DyBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$
HIGH TEMPERATURE SUPERCONDUCTORS**

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for the degree of

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Candidate's Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

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ABSTRACT

Ultrasonic longitudinal velocity measurements between 80 K and 280 K and shear velocity measurements between 80 K and 220 K have been performed in polycrystalline superconducting $\text{DyBa}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0, 0.3, 0.6$), $\text{DyBa}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0.01$ and 0.03) and $\text{Dy}_{0.9}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0.01$) samples utilizing the pulsed-echo-overlap technique. A step-like longitudinal anomaly characterized by a step-like slope change was observed at 240 K for $x = 0$ and $x = 0.3$ and at 260 K for $x = 0.6$ in $\text{DyBa}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ samples. In addition, a longitudinal anomaly was also observed at around 240 K for $\text{DyBa}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0$) and at 230 K for $x = 0.01$ and 0.03 . Substitution of Zn^{2+} which caused suppression of critical temperature, T_c however, did not suppress the step-like anomaly. On the other hand, substitution of Ca^{2+} in $\text{Dy}_{0.9}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_{3-y}\text{Zn}_{1-y}\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($y = 0.01$) caused the step-like anomaly to disappear. The step-like anomalies observed in samples were suggested due to oxygen ordering process in Cu-O chains during a phase transition process at low temperatures. For $\text{DyBa}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0, 0.3, 0.6$), the reduction in the slope change of the step-like anomalies indicates some degree of weakening of oxygen ordering due to the Sr substitution. Substitution of Zn^{2+} ions in place of Cu in $\text{Dy}_{0.9}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0.01$ and $x = 0.03$) was suggested to go into Cu-O planes and did not interfere with oxygen ordering in Cu-O chains and cause non-suppressed step-like anomalies in $\text{DyBa}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0.01$ and 0.03) samples. But, disappearance of the step-like anomaly due to Ca^{2+} substitution in $\text{Dy}_{0.9}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0.01$) is probably related to reduction in oxygen content which depletes at Cu-O chain sites. On the other hand, it was found that Sr substitution in $\text{DyBa}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0, 0.3$ and 0.6), Zn substitution in $\text{DyBa}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0.01$ and 0.03) and Ca^{2+} substitution in $\text{Dy}_{0.9}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_{3-y}\text{Zn}_{1-y}\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($y = 0.01$) has the effect of lowering the calculated Debye temperature and BCS electron-phonon coupling constant, signifying that the step-like anomaly may not be related to superconductivity. A comparison between experimental data and calculated lattice anharmonicity curve based on the model by Lakkad (1971) showed that the large deviation of the experimental velocity curves for $\text{DyBa}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0, 0.3$) and $\text{DyBa}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0, 0.01$ and 0.03) from the calculated curves is strongly influenced by the existence of the step-like longitudinal anomalies.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	
CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF PLATES	xv
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Problem Statements	4
1.2 Objectives of Study	6
1.3 Significance of Study	6
CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND OF SUPERCONDUCTIVITY AND ULTRASONIC STUDIES IN SUPERCONDUCTORS	7
2.1 Properties of Superconductors	8
2.1.1 Critical Temperatures	8
2.1.2 The Meissner Effect	9
2.1.3 Critical Current Density, J_c	10
2.1.4 Critical Magnetic Field, H_c	11

2.1.5	Relation between T_c , J_c and H_c	11
2.2	Type I and Type II Superconductor	12
2.3	Microscopic Theory Of Superconductivity	18
2.4	High-Temperature Superconductors And Related Compounds	19
2.5	$\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ Superconductors	20
2.6	The $\text{REBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ System	25
2.7	Bismuth Systems	26
2.8	Ultrasonic Studies	29
2.8.1	Ultrasonic Waves	29
2.8.2	Propagation of Ultrasonic Waves	29
2.8.3	Generation and Detection of Ultrasonic Waves	30
2.8.4	Ultrasonic Studies in High-Temperature Superconductors and Electron – Phonon Coupling	31
CHAPTER 3:	SAMPLE PREPARATION AND EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS	38
3.1	Preparation of Bulk Samples	38
3.1.1	Preparation of $\text{DyBa}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0, 0.3$ and 0.6) Bulk Ceramics	38
3.1.2	Preparation of $\text{DyBa}_2\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x = 0.01$ and 0.03) and $\text{Dy}_{0.9}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_{3-y}\text{Zn}_y\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($y = 0.01$) ceramics	40
3.2.	Basic Sample Characterization Methods	43
3.2.1	Temperature Dependent Electrical Resistance Measurement	43
3.2.2	Room Temperature Resistivity Measurement	46
3.2.3	X-ray Powder Diffraction (XRD)	47