

Photonic sintering of ceramics

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For millennia, ceramics have been densified via sintering in a furnace, a time-consuming and energy-intensive process. The need to minimize environmental impact calls for new physical concepts. Here, we realize ultra-rapid heating with blue light. Bulk ceramics are sintered within seconds and with outstanding efficiency (≈ 2 kWh/kg). Sintering on-the-spot with blacklight as versatile and widely applicable power source is demonstrated on various different ceramics (e.g. SrTiO₃, BaTiO₃, alumina, YSZ, LLTO and BaZrO₃) needed for energy storage and conversion and in electronic and structural applications foreshadowing economic scalability.

Especially acceptor-doped BaZrO₃, a proton conductor, has to be sintered at high temperature (> 1600 °C) for long times (~ 24 h). At these sintering conditions, BaO is prone to evaporate, increasing the difficulty to produce stoichiometric ceramics. By blacklight sintering with a high-power blue laser, bulk BaZr_{0.8}Y_{0.2}O₃ δ (BZY₂₀) was sintered in <four minutes, mitigating BaO evaporation and achieving promising proton conductivity.

Professional Status of the Speaker

Senior Scientist

Interest in submitting a paper in a special issue of

Invitation letter for visa

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