



# Microwave dielectric properties of $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$ ceramics improved by $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ addition

Ching-Fang Tseng\*, Hung-Chieh Hsu, Po-Hsien Chen

Department of Electronic Engineering, National United University, No. 1 Lien-Da, Kung-Ching Li, Miao-Li 36003, Taiwan

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## ABSTRACT

The effect of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  addition on the densification, sintered behavior, phase composition and microwave dielectric properties of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  ceramics prepared by conventional solid-state reaction method had been investigated. The structure, phase composition and surface morphology were studied by X-ray diffraction, EDX and scanning electron microscopy techniques, respectively. Only two phases  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  were observed in all specimens. The sintering time of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  ceramics with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  addition could be effectively reduced from 4 h to 2 h. The results showed that the doping of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  could promote the growth of uniform grain and improve effectively the quality factor and temperature coefficient of resonant frequency ( $\tau_f$ ). The  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered  $700^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h exhibited  $\epsilon_r$  of 8.2,  $Q \times f$  of 20,550 GHz, and  $\tau_f$  of  $-112 \text{ ppm}/^\circ\text{C}$ . The good microwave dielectric properties and relatively low sintering temperature would make  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics promising candidate as LTCC dielectrics for LTCC applications.

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## 1. Introduction

For the Internet of Things and Tractile Internet (5th generation wireless communication systems) communication systems preparation, the frequencies of wireless communications are being continuously expanded from microwave to millimeter-wave [1,2]. To meet the specific requests and functions of 5th generation communication application, microwave dielectric materials with low dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r < 10$ ) for fast signal transmission and reducing the cross coupling between conductors, low loss (high quality factor) for increasing frequency selectivity and desired temperature coefficient of resonant frequency (TCF,  $\tau_f$ ) for stability are becoming increasingly important. Meanwhile, the related microwave electronic components are strongly required to become highly integrative, high performance and low cost. Therefore, much attention has been paid to the low temperature co-fired ceramic technology (LTCC) in the past decade.

In recent years, tungstate ceramics are found potential candidates for the microwave applications due to the good microwave dielectric properties and low sintering temperature, such as  $\text{Li}_4\text{WO}_5$ ,  $\text{LiMVO}_6$  ( $M = \text{Mo}, \text{W}$ ) and  $\text{Li}_2\text{A}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_9$  ( $A = \text{Zn}, \text{Mg}$ ) [3–6]. Recently, triclinic structured  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  is one of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O--WO}_3$  binary microwave dielectric systems [7].  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  sintered at  $640^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h

has a  $\epsilon_r$  of 12.2,  $Q \times f$  of 17,700 GHz, and TCF of  $-232 \text{ ppm}/^\circ\text{C}$  which make it to be a candidate compound for LTCC technology. However, considering the requirements for LTCC and ever-higher frequency in mobile communication application, the  $\epsilon_r$  should be further reduced, and then TCF and  $Q \times f$  value of ceramics should be improved respectively to ensure the high precision of higher-frequency telecommunicating devices.

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics have a low dielectric constant of 9.8, an ultrahigh  $Q \times f$  of 360,000 GHz and a TCF of  $-60 \text{ ppm}/^\circ\text{C}$ . Yao et al. [8] reported that the  $Q \times f$  value of  $\text{Ba}_4\text{Nd}_{9.33}\text{Ti}_{18}\text{O}_{54}$  can be improved effectively by introducing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . In addition, it had been found that  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  could restrict the grain growth of  $\text{CaSiO}_3$  ceramics by surrounding their boundaries to further improve the density and  $Q \times f$  value of  $\text{CaSiO}_3$  ceramics [9]. The  $Q \times f$  value of  $\text{CaSiO}_3$  ceramics increased from 13,109 to 24,626 GHz by doping 1 wt%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . In this present, the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  is used to improve the microwave dielectric properties of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  ceramics to satisfy demands of next generation (5G) communication system. The microstructures, sintered behaviors and microwave dielectric properties of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics are investigated systematically.

## 2. Experimental procedure

The  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{WO}_3$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  with >99.9% high-purity oxide powders were used as starting materials to prepare via the conventional

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [cftseng@nuu.edu.tw](mailto:cftseng@nuu.edu.tw) (C.-F. Tseng).

solid-state method. Stoichiometric amount of the raw materials according to the composition of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  were weighted. The weighted powders were ball-milled for 12 h using agate balls with distilled water and then dried at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  in an oven overnight. The dried powders were sieved using 200-mesh screen and calcined at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h in the air. The calcined powders were ground again by ball milling for 12 h, dried at  $80^\circ\text{C}$ , mixed with 3 wt% of a 10% solution of PVA as a binder, and then forced through a 200-mesh sieve. After re-pressed, the mixed powders pressed into pellets at the pressure of 150 MPa using a stainless die. The diameter of pellets is 11 mm and the height is about 5 mm for microwave dielectric property test. These pellets were preheated at  $650^\circ\text{C}$  for 0.5 h to remove the organic binder and then sintered in the range of  $660\text{--}740^\circ\text{C}$  for 2–8 h in air. The heating and the cooling rates were both set at  $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ . The crystal structure of the sintered samples were identified by X-ray diffraction method (XRD; Siemens D5000) using  $\text{Cu-K}\alpha$  radiation and a graphite monochromator in the  $2\theta$  range of  $20\text{--}60^\circ$ . The microstructure observations and analysis of as-fired surfaces of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  samples were characterized by a scanning electron microscopy (SEM; Philips XL40FEG, Eindhoven, The Netherlands) and an energy dispersive X-ray spectrometer (EDS). The densities of the ceramics were measured by the liquid Archimedes method. The dielectric properties were measured by the Hakki–Coleman dielectric resonator method, as modified and improved by Courtney [10,11] using a Network Analyzer (HP 8510). The temperature coefficient of resonant frequency ( $\tau_f$ ) was obtained by cavity method and calculated in the temperature range of  $25\text{--}80^\circ\text{C}$  by following equation:

$$\tau_f = \frac{f_2 - f_1}{f_1(T_2 - T_1)} \quad (\text{ppm}/^\circ\text{C}) \quad (1)$$

where  $f_1$  is the resonant frequency at  $T_1$  and  $f_2$  is the resonant frequency at  $T_2$ .

### 3. Results and discussions

Fig. 1 illustrates the X-ray diffraction patterns of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at  $660\text{--}740^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h. All the ceramics were identified triclinic phase with space group  $\text{P}\bar{1}$  (2) (JCPDS card No. 73-0171) of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  and tetragonal phase with space group  $\text{R}\bar{3}\text{c}$  (167) (JCPDS card No. 85-1337) of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , which meant that  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  phase coexisted with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  phase. No other second phase was observed, indicating that there is no chemical reaction among  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Both the peak intensity of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

phases increased significantly with the increase of the sintering temperature. It is noted that, as measured with XRD, the peak position of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  slightly shifted to higher degree introducing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , which indicated that the specimens incorporated with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  having smaller cell volume. The cell volume of pure  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  and  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  is  $272.72$  and  $260.775 \text{ nm}^3$ , respectively. A decrease in unit cell volume indicated that the smaller  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ( $0.535 \text{ \AA}$ ) ions substitution for larger  $\text{W}^{6+}$  ( $0.6 \text{ \AA}$ ) ions might occur [8] because of no other second phase formation.

The SEM micrographs of the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at different conditions are illustrated in Fig. 2. It revealed that the grain size increased and porosity decreased notably with the increase in sintering temperature for 2 h. The specimen sintered at  $700^\circ\text{C}/2 \text{ h}$  showed significant pore elimination, densification enhancement and uniform grain distribution. However, degradation in grain uniformity started to appear at  $720^\circ\text{C}$  (Fig. 3(e)), which might directly affect the microwave dielectric properties of the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics. With further increasing the firing time, comparably abnormal grain growth and the presence of pores were monitored (Fig. 3(f)–(g)) because of the over-sintering of the specimens. The local variation in growth rate of some large grains grow faster than the surrounding fine grained matrix resulted in abnormal grain growth, which could be induced by the non-uniformities in impurity content, liquid phases or porosity. No other second phase occurred in  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics to control the grain growth speed by particle pinning effect [12].

Fig. 3 shows the bulk density of the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at  $660\text{--}740^\circ\text{C}$  for 2–8 h. In all specimens, the densities of the specimens increased to a maximum value when the sintering temperature reached at  $700^\circ\text{C}$  due to the decrease in the number of pores and the grain growth enhancement as observed in SEM. However, the densities decreased with further increasing sintering temperature and time, which allow for the variation of grain shapes in Fig. 2. It suggested that excessive sintering conditions would have no benefits of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics. In addition, the density of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  decreased by introducing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  because a direct correlation is  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  with a relatively lower density of  $3.983 \text{ g/cm}^3$ . The density of pure  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  is about 5.72 reported in Ref. [7].

Fig. 4 shows the dielectric constant of the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at  $660\text{--}740^\circ\text{C}$  for 2–8 h. Generally, the dielectric constant is dominated by ionic polarizabilities of the composition, density and second phases [13]. In this paper, dielectric constant of the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics was mainly dependent on the density of ceramics. The dielectric constant of specimens was approximately proportional to the bulk density of specimens. It was known that higher density would lead to higher dielectric constant due to the less pore ( $\epsilon_r = 1$ ). When sintered at  $700^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h,  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics achieved a high dielectric constant of 8.2. Moreover, the dielectric constant decreased with increasing sintering time.

Fig. 5 presents the  $Q \times f$  value of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at different conditions. The microwave dielectric loss includes not only intrinsic loss caused by absorption of phonon oscillation but also extrinsic losses caused by impurity, substitution, pores, size and shapes of grains, second phase, etc [13,14]. The  $Q \times f$  value of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics showed a similar trend by changing density. It indicated that the  $Q \times f$  value was closely related to its corresponding density in this work. The  $Q \times f$  value of samples sintered at 660 and  $680^\circ\text{C}$  were relatively low owing to the low densities and porous microstructures. By increasing the sintering temperature,  $Q \times f$  value reached to the maximum value at  $700^\circ\text{C}$  and decreased thereafter. The highest  $Q \times f$  value of 20,550 GHz was obtained for  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at  $700^\circ\text{C}/2 \text{ h}$ . The  $Q \times f$  values decreased with further long-time firing. For high-temperature and long-time sintering, the degradation of

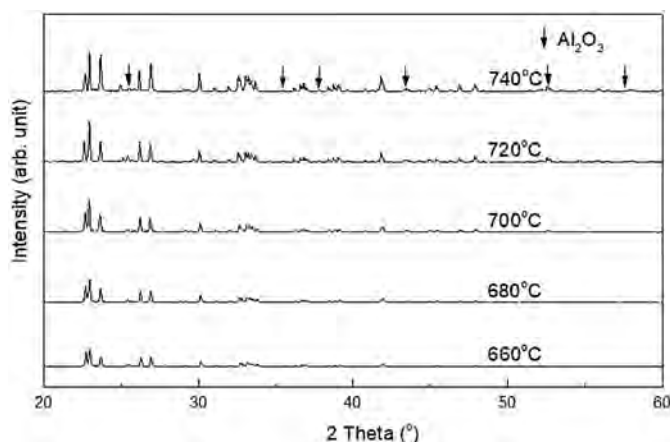


Fig. 1. XRD patterns of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at  $660\text{--}740^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h.

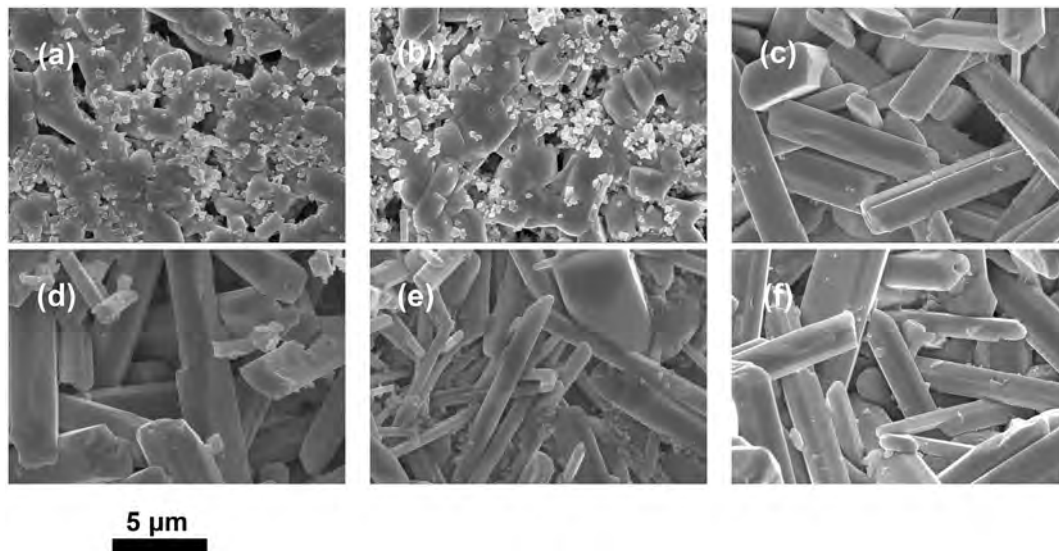


Fig. 2. SEM micrographs of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at (a)–(e) sintered at 660–740 °C for 2 h and (f)–(g) 700 °C for 4 h and 6 h, respectively.

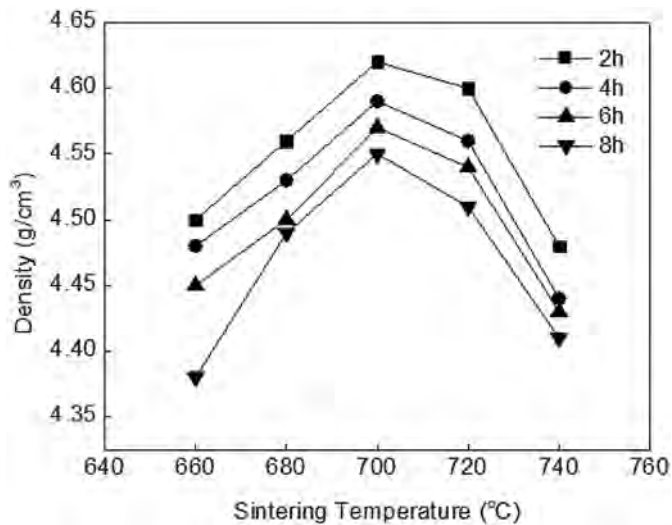


Fig. 3. Bulk densities of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics fired at various sintering conditions.

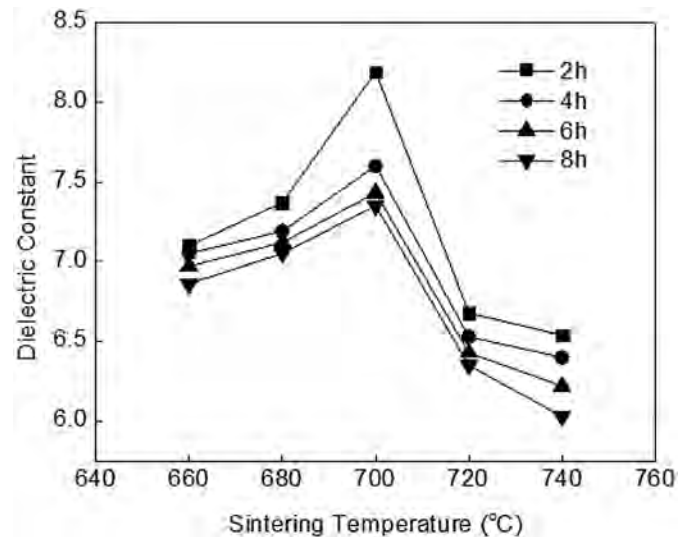


Fig. 4. The variations of dielectric constant of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics fired at various sintering conditions.

$Q \times f$  values was attributed to abnormal grain growth that might be resulted in the presence of pores as seen in Fig. 2. Notice that the  $Q \times f$  value of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics was higher than pure  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  (17,700 GHz). The improvement of the  $Q \times f$  value of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics was explained by adding  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  with high  $Q \times f$  value and the increase in the grain size.

The theoretical permittivity of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  composites, sintered at 700 °C for 2 h, can be calculated by different mixing formulas. The well-known general empirical equations for predicting dielectric constant of a compound are as following [15–22]:

Series mixing model:

$$\frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{mix}}} = \frac{(1-x)}{\epsilon_{r1}} + \frac{x}{\epsilon_{r2}} \quad (2)$$

Parallel mixing model:

$$\epsilon_{\text{mix}} = (1-x)\epsilon_{r1} + x\epsilon_{r2} \quad (3)$$

Brick-Wall:

$$\epsilon_{\text{mix}} = \epsilon_{r2} \left( 1 - \frac{1-x}{1-n} \right) + \left( \frac{1-x}{1-n} \right) \frac{\epsilon_{r1}\epsilon_{r2}}{(1-n)\epsilon_{r2} + n\epsilon_{r1}}, n = \frac{x}{3} \quad (4)$$

Lichtenecker empirical logarithmic model:

$$\ln \epsilon_{\text{mix}} = (1-x) \ln \epsilon_{r1} + x \ln \epsilon_{r2} \quad (5)$$

EMT:

$$\epsilon_{\text{mix}} = \epsilon_{r2} \left[ 1 + \frac{x(\epsilon_{r1} - \epsilon_{r2})}{\epsilon_{r2} + nx(\epsilon_{r1} - \epsilon_{r2})} \right] \quad (\text{for } n = 0.165) \quad (6)$$

Jayasundere-Smith:

$$\epsilon_{mix} = \frac{\epsilon_{r2}x + \epsilon_{r1}(1-x)[3\epsilon_{r2}/(\epsilon_{r1} + 2\epsilon_{r2})][1 + 3(1-x)(\epsilon_{r1} - \epsilon_{r2})/(\epsilon_{r1} + 2\epsilon_{r2})]}{x + (1-x)(3\epsilon_{r2})/(\epsilon_{r1} + 2\epsilon_{r2})[1 + 3(1-x)(\epsilon_{r1} - \epsilon_{r2})/(\epsilon_{r1} + 2\epsilon_{r2})]} \quad (7)$$

Poon-Shin:

$$\epsilon_{mix} = \epsilon_{r2} \left[ 1 + \frac{(1-x)((\epsilon_{r1}/\epsilon_{r2}) - 1)}{(1-x) + (x/3)[(\epsilon_{r1}/\epsilon_{r2})x + (1-x) + 2]} \right] \quad (8)$$

where  $\epsilon_{mix}$ ,  $\epsilon_{r1}$ , and  $\epsilon_{r2}$  are dielectric constants of a  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  composite,  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$ , and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , respectively.  $(1-x)$  and  $x$  are the volume fraction of each phase with respect to  $\epsilon_{r1}$  and  $\epsilon_{r2}$ . The dielectric constant of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics predicted from above mixture rules are shown in Table 1. From this Table it was evident that out of all calculated results, the measured permittivity of composites didn't agree well with the calculated values. The deviation of permittivity from the predicted mixing rules may be due to the porosity. The influence of porosity on dielectric constant can be diminished by applying below correction equations, shown in Eq. (9)–(11) [23,24]:

$$\epsilon_{corr} = \epsilon_{mix} + \frac{3P\epsilon_{mix}(1 - \epsilon_{mix})}{1 + 2\epsilon_{mix} - P(1 - \epsilon_{mix})} \quad (9)$$

$$\epsilon_{corr} = \epsilon_{mix} + \frac{3P\epsilon_{mix}(1 - \epsilon_{mix})}{1 + 2\epsilon_{mix}} \quad (10)$$

$$\epsilon_{corr} = \frac{\epsilon_{mix}}{1 + 1.5P} \quad (11)$$

where  $\epsilon_{corr}$ ,  $\epsilon_{mix}$ , and  $P$  are corrected permittivity and calculated permittivity, and porosity of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics, respectively. The calculated  $\epsilon_r$  after correcting porosity by Eq. (9)–(11) are also shown in Table 1. The corrected dielectric constants were most closed to the measured data.

The  $Q \times f$  value are affected by densification. The  $\tan \delta$  suggests that the porosity dependence can be obtained from the following equations [23]:

$$\tan \delta = \tan \delta_0 + AP^n \quad (12)$$

where  $\tan \delta_0 = 5 \times 10^{-4}$  is the minimum loss of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics and  $AP^n$  ( $A = 1.515 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $n = 1.36$ ) is the loss contribution from the pore in the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics. The porosity of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics is 0.2. Another model is []

$$\tan \delta = (1 - P)\tan \delta_0 + PA \left( \frac{P}{1 - P} \right)^{1/3} \quad (13)$$

where  $\tan \delta_0 = 5 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $A = 2.219 \times 10^{-4}$ , respectively. Table 2 presents the corrected  $Q \times f$  values of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics. Eqs. (12) and (13) can give a good fit to the measured data. From Tables 1 and 2 results it is concluded that the dielectric constant and  $Q \times f$  value of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics are strongly dominated by the presence of porosity.

Fig. 6 illustrates the temperature coefficient of resonant frequency (TCF,  $\tau_f$ ) of the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at 660–740 °C for 2–8 h. The  $\tau_f$  values are governed by additives, the existence of second phases, and the composition. The  $\tau_f$  values were not sensitive to different sintering conditions because of no alternative composition. Hence, the  $\tau_f$  values were almost in the range of  $-120 \sim -130$  ppm/°C in this experiment. The  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  phase possesses relatively high  $\tau_f$  value ( $-60$  ppm/°C), which lead to an increase in the  $\tau_f$  values of the  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics.

#### 4. Conclusion

The microstructure, sintering behavior and microwave dielectric properties of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics prepared via conventional solid-state reaction method had been investigated in this present. No other second phases were detected by XRD besides  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . To introduce  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  into  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  ceramics can improve the  $Q \times f$  and  $\tau_f$  values of  $\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$  ceramics because of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  with

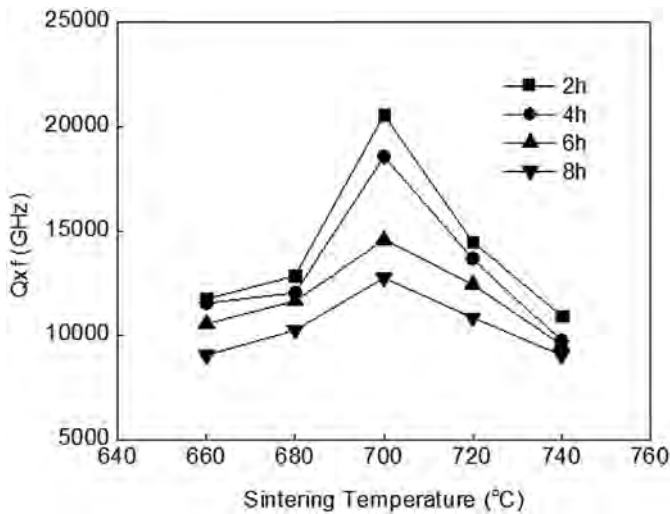


Fig. 5. The variations of  $Q \times f$  value of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics fired at various sintering conditions.

Table 1

The measured, calculated and corrected dielectric constant of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics.

Measured $\epsilon_r$	Calculated $\epsilon_r$ form Eqs. (2)–(8)	Calculated $\epsilon_r$ after correcting porosity by		
		Eq. (9)	Eq. (10)	Eq. (11)
8.2	11.496	8.720	8.478	8.843
	11.600	8.800	8.551	8.923
	11.564	8.771	8.526	8.895
	11.550	8.761	8.516	8.885
	11.582	8.740	8.539	8.909
	11.441	8.681	8.440	8.801
	11.591	8.790	8.545	8.916

Table 2

The measured and corrected  $Q \times f$  value of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics.

Measure $Q \times f$ (GHz)	Corrected $Q \times f$ by	
	Eq. (12)	Eq. (13)
20,550	23,200	28,050



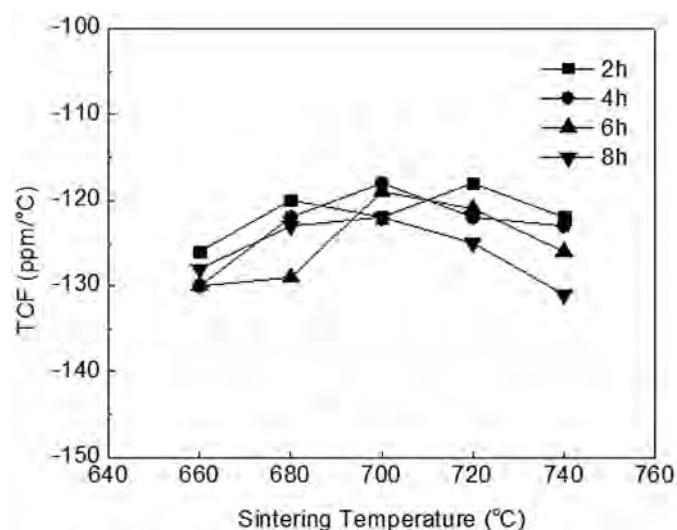


Fig. 6. The variations of  $\tau_f$  of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics fired at various sintering conditions.

favourable conditions of them. The grain growth, densification of  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics, which affected the microwave dielectric properties, were changed with various sintering conditions. Higher density indicated lower porosity, therefore the relationship between microwave dielectric properties process was interpreted through the variation of microstructures. The  $\epsilon_r$  and  $Q \times f$  values decreased due to deterioration of density, abnormal grain growth and the presence of pores as the specimens were at over-sintering. The optimal microwave dielectric properties of  $\epsilon_r = 8.2$ ,  $Q \times f = 20,550$  GHz, and  $\tau_f = -122$  ppm/°C were obtained for  $3\text{Li}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ceramics sintered at  $700^\circ\text{C}/2$  h. The results suggested it a promising ceramic for LTCC application as substrate in microwave integrated circuit for 5G communication systems preparation.

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