Electromechanical Properties and Anisotropy of Acoustic Waves Characteristics in Single Crystals YAl$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$

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Velocity of bulk acoustic waves in base and rotated cuts have been measured by the ultrasonic pulse-echo method and values of C^E_{ijkl} and e_{ijk} in single crystals $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ have been calculated. The value of d_{ijk} piezoelectric modulus of these single crystals have been determined by quasistatic measurements, and ε^σ_{ij} dielectric constants have been determined by the flat capacitor method. Experimental values of material constants have been applied for the study of anisotropy of acoustic waves characteristics in single crystals $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$.

Keywords: Piezoelectric modules, quasistatic method, multiferroics.

1. Introduction

Globally, a lot of attention is paid to the study of multiferroics [1-3], which include trigonal rare-earth oxyborates RMe3(BO3)4 (where R=Y, La-Lu; M=Fe, Al, Cr, Ga, Sc). Ferroborates (RFe$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$) [4-6] are characterized by giant magnetoelectric [7] and magnetodielectric [8] effects. Alumoborates RAl$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$ that combine good luminescent properties and are a promising material for laser technology [9-11] are also of interest for practical applications, and single crystal YAl$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$ is used as a fourth harmonic generator in Nd:YAG laser [12]. Yttrium alumoborate YAl$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$ in the oxyborate series is a nonmagnetic single crystal and can characterize the anisotropy of the elastic-electric interaction in them. There are well-known cases of studying electromechanical properties of oxyborates [13-15], but no such studies have been carried out for yttrium alumoborate.

To study electromechanical properties of single crystals YAl$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$, the ultrasonic pulse-echo method [16, 17] which allows to determine the velocities of bulk acoustic waves (BAW) with the accuracy of no worse than 10^{-4}, was used. The point group of YAll$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$ single crystals YAll$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$ symmetry is the same as in La$_3$Ga$_5$SiO$_{14}$ (langasite) 32 (spatial symmetry groups R32 and P321, respectively). Therefore, the choice of the directions for BAW propagation and

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cuts to determine elastic, piezoelectric and dielectric properties in the single crystals under study correlate with studies [18, 19], where the values of linear electromechanical constants of langasite were found. In contrast to [18, 19], instead of rotated 45-degree cuts, close to it crystallographic direction [01$\bar{1}$1] (R facets) and the direction perpendicular to [01$\bar{1}$1] and to [$\bar{2}$110] (R+90 facets) are used in this work.

In addition to pulse-echo measurements of BAW velocities and determination of the values of elastic C_{ijkl}^E and piezoelectric e_{ijk} constants on their basis, quasi-static [20, 21] studies of piezoelectric moduli d_{ijk}, which are related to e_{ijk} ratio [22] were carried out

$$e_{ijk} = d_{ilm}C_{lmjk}^E. \tag{1}$$

To eliminate ambiguity in the signs of piezoelectric constants, direct measurements of the direction of electric polarization of the samples in the direction of the polar axis of the crystal were carried out. All the measurements were performed in the crystal physical coordinate system, where $C_{14} < 0$ [23]. The low-frequency values of dielectric constant ε_{11}^σ of single crystals YAll$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$ were determined using the flat capacitor method.

The obtained values of electromechanical constants of single crystals made it possible to analyze the anisotropy of the main characteristics of BAW and surface acoustic waves (SAW). These data make it possible to form an opinion about the magnitude of the elastic-electric interaction for the longitudinal and shear strains in various directions of the crystals under study.

2. Theory

Propagation of BAW in acentric nonmagnetic single crystals is described by the Green-Christoffel equations [23, 24]

$$(\Gamma_{il} - \lambda\delta_{il})U_l = 0, \tag{2}$$

where the following notations are used: $\Gamma_{il} = C_{ijkl}^E n_i n_j + \frac{e_i e_l}{\varepsilon^*}$ - the Christoffel symmetric tensor for piezoelectrics, $\lambda_{il} = \rho v^2$ - eigenvalues of Γ_{il}, δ_{il} - the Kronecker tensor, U_l- eigenvectors of Γ_{il}, $e_l = e_{plm}n_p n_m$ and $e_i = e_{nik}n_n n_k$ - piezoelectric vectors, $\varepsilon^* = \varepsilon_{rs}^\eta n_r n_s$ - the convolution of the high-frequency dielectric constant, n_i - the unit vector of wave normal.
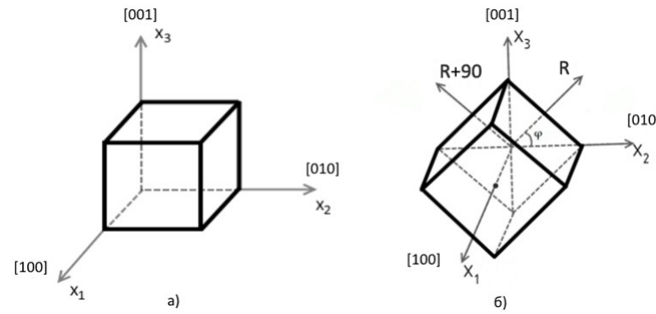

Figure 1: Crystal physical orientation of directions and cuts. a) basic x, y, z - cuts; b) rotated R and R+90 cuts

The orientations of the crystal physical directions used to determine the electromechanical constants are given in Figure 1. Solutions of equations (2) for directions perpendicular to x,

y, and z-cuts (crystal-physics directions [100], [010] and [001] respectively) and rotated cuts R ($[0cos\varphi sin\varphi]$) and R+90 ($[0 - sin\varphi cos\varphi]$) ($\varphi = 48.05°$) are presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: Relations between BAW velocities and linear material constants in crystals of symmetry 32 for base cuts

№	$\lambda_i = \rho v_i^2$	$\vec{n}$	$\vec{U}$	Mode	Relations with material constants
1	λ_1	[001]	[001]	L	C_{33}
2	λ_2			S	C_{44}
3	λ_3	[100]	[001]	L	$C_{11} + \frac{e_{11}^2}{\varepsilon_{11}^\eta}$
4	λ_4			S	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{66} + C_{44}) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{66} + C_{44})^2 + 4C_{14}^2}$
5	λ_5			S	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{66} + C_{44}) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{66} + C_{44})^2 + 4C_{14}^2}$
6	λ_6	[010]	[100]	L	$C_{66} + \frac{e_{11}^2}{\varepsilon_{11}^\eta}$
7	λ_7			S	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{44} + C_{11}) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{11} + C_{44})^2 + 4C_{14}^2}$
8	λ_8			S	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{44} + C_{11}) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{11} + C_{44})^2 + 4C_{14}^2}$

Abundant number of solutions for non-piezoelectric active BAW given in Tables 1 and 2 provides the necessary and verification relations for determining the elastic constants C_{ijkl}. Piezoelectric active modes also allow determining the absolute values and the mutual sign of piezoelectric constants e_{11} and e_{14}.

Table 2: Relations between BAW velocities and linear material constants in crystals of symmetry 32 for rotated R and R+90 cuts ($\varphi = 48.05°$)

№	$\lambda_i = \rho v_i^2$	$\vec{n}$	$\vec{U}$	Mode	Relations with material constants
1	λ_9	$[0\cos\varphi\sin\varphi\,]$	$[100]$	S	$C_{66}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44}\sin^2\varphi + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi +$ $+\frac{(e_{11}\cos^2\varphi + e_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2}{\varepsilon_{11}^{\eta}\cos^2\varphi + \varepsilon_{33}^{\eta}\sin^2\varphi}$
2	λ_{10}			QL	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{11}\cos^2\varphi + C_{33}\sin^2\varphi + C_{44} - 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi) +$ $+\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{11}\cos^2\varphi + C_{33}\sin^2\varphi + C_{44} - 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2 -}$ $\overline{-4[(C_{11}\cos^2\varphi - 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi + C_{44}\sin^2\varphi)*}$ $\overline{*(C_{33}\sin^2\varphi + C_{44}\cos^2\varphi) -}$ $\overline{-(-C_{14}\cos^2\varphi + (C_{13}+C_{14})\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2]}$
3	λ_{11}			QS	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{11}\cos^2\varphi + C_{33}\sin^2\varphi + C_{44} - 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi) -$ $-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{11}\cos^2\varphi + C_{33}\sin^2\varphi + C_{44} - 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2 -}$ $\overline{-4[(C_{11}\cos^2\varphi - 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi + C_{44}\sin^2\varphi)*}$ $\overline{*(C_{33}\sin^2\varphi + C_{44}\cos^2\varphi) -}$ $\overline{-(-C_{14}\cos^2\varphi + (C_{13}+C_{14})\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2]}$
4	λ_{12}	$[0-\sin\varphi\cos\varphi\,]$	$[100]$	S	$C_{66}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44}\sin^2\varphi + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi +$ $+\frac{(e_{11}\cos^2\varphi + e_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2}{\varepsilon_{11}^{\eta}\cos^2\varphi + \varepsilon_{33}^{\eta}\sin^2\varphi}$
5	λ_{13}			QL	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{11}\sin^2\varphi + C_{33}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44} + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi) +$ $+\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{11}\sin^2\varphi + C_{33}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44} + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2 -}$ $\overline{-4[(C_{11}\sin^2\varphi + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi + C_{44}\cos^2\varphi)*}$ $\overline{*(C_{33}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44}\sin^2\varphi) -}$ $\overline{-(-C_{14}\sin^2\varphi + (C_{13}+C_{14})\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2]}$
6	λ_{14}			QS	$\frac{1}{2}(C_{11}\sin^2\varphi + C_{33}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44} + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi) -$ $-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(C_{11}\sin^2\varphi + C_{33}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44} + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2 -}$ $\overline{-4[(C_{11}\sin^2\varphi + 2C_{14}\cos\varphi\sin\varphi + C_{44}\cos^2\varphi)*}$ $\overline{*(C_{33}\cos^2\varphi + C_{44}\sin^2\varphi) -}$ $\overline{-(-C_{14}\sin^2\varphi + (C_{13}+C_{14})\cos\varphi\sin\varphi)^2]}$

The values of e_{11} and e_{14} and their sign can also be determined from the equation (1) if C_{ijkl}^E and piezoelectric modulus d_{ijk}, which are given by the equation of state [22, 23] are known

$$D_i = d_{ijk}\sigma_{jk}, \tag{3}$$

where D_i is electric induction; σ_{jk} is mechanical stress tensor.

3.   Experiment

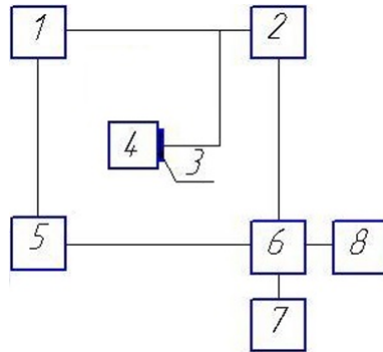The block diagram of the ultrasonic pulse-echo method [17] is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Block diagram of the automated pulse method. 1 - G5-66 pulse generator, 2 - signal limiting amplifier, 3 - piezoelectric transducer, 4 - sample, 5 - AFG 3252 master generator, 6 - DPO 72004 oscilloscope,7 - FS725 rubidium frequency standard, 8 - personal computer

In this method, a nanosecond pulse from generator 1 is transmitted to the piezoelectric transducer 3 and, after repeated reflection in sample 4, a series of reflected pulses is recorded by the oscilloscope 6. The wideband signal limiting amplifier 2, limits the amplitude of the probe pulse to the input voltage level of the oscilloscope 6 and increases sensitivity of the method when recording small amplitude signals. The rubidium frequency standard 7 provides temperature stabilization of the oscilloscope clock frequency 6. The master oscillator 5 synchronizes the start of the oscillator 1 and the sweep of oscilloscope 6. The experimental value of the bulk acoustic wave (BAW) velocity in the implemented method is found from the known sample length l and the measured pulse propagation time in the sample τ - $v = \frac{2l}{\tau}$. An example of a recorded series of echo pulses is shown in Figure 3. The resonant frequency of the piezoelectric transducer in the experiments was 28 MHz.
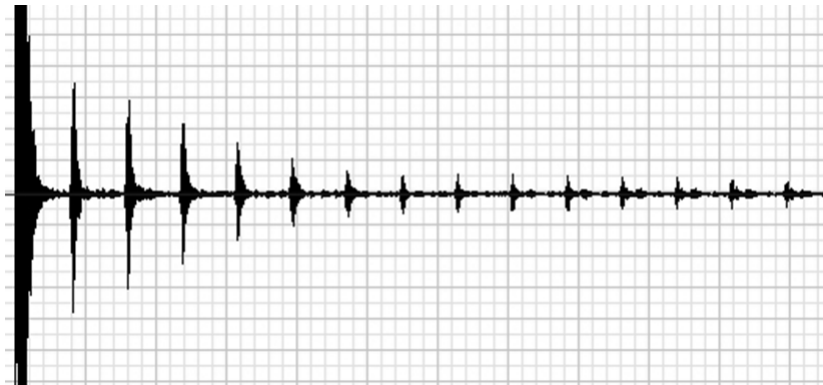

Figure 3: A series of reflected echo pulses for a longitudinal wave in the direction [100] of the single crystal $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$

The quasi-static measurements of piezoelectric moduli d_{11} and d_{14} were carried out at the equipment, the block diagram of which is given in Figure 4.
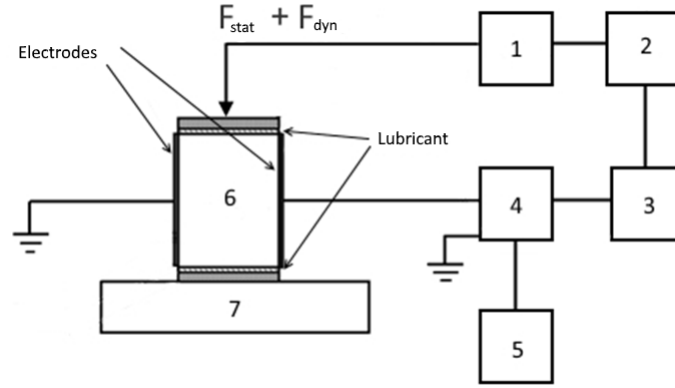
Figure 4: Block diagram of the experimental method for measuring piezoelectric modules. A variant of measuring of the transverse as related to the direction of the electric polarization pressure is presented. 1 - DMA 242 C, 2 - personal computer, 3 - DPO 7104 oscilloscope, 4 - charge amplifier LE-41, 5 - power supply, 6 - sample, 7 - sample holder

When measuring, the test sample 6 is placed in the holder 7 of the DMA 242 C 1 device, and adjustable static F_{stat} and dynamic F_{dyn} loads with a total amplitude in the range of 0Γ·8 H with a frequency of up to 100 Hz are applied to it. Electric charges on the surface of the piezoelectric sample under load are converted by the charge amplifier 4 into the voltage recorded by the oscilloscope 3. An example of voltage measurement is shown in Figure 5.
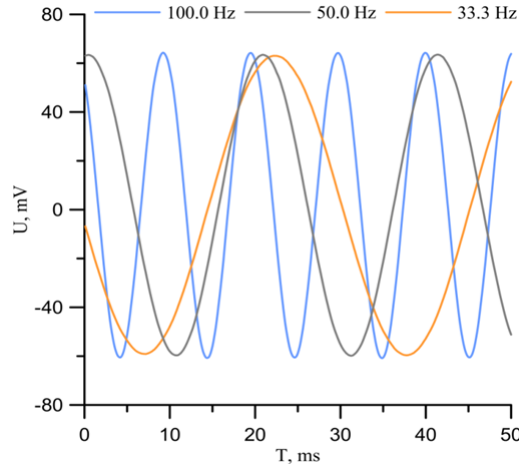

Figure 5: Recording the voltage U on the sample when measuring piezoelectric moduli at different frequencies

The value of the piezoelectric modulus is calculated in accordance with the formula:

$$d_{i\lambda} = \frac{q}{F} = \frac{US_l}{K_\alpha F S_e},\tag{4}$$

where $d_{i\lambda}$ is the measured piezoelectric modulus, q is electrodes charge, F_{dyn} is the dynamic force amplitude, U is the voltage amplitude at the charge amplifier output, S_l is the area of load application, S_e is the electrodes area, K_α is the charge amplifier conversion coefficient.

The samples used in the experiments had the orientations given in Figure 1. The linear dimensions of the samples were about 5-6 mm, the accuracy of the faces orientation was not worse than ± 3', the opposite faces flatness was 3 microns. To determine the low-frequency dielectric constant by the flat capacitor method, the plates with x and R cuts with a thickness of less than 0.5 mm and an area of about 1 cm^2 were used.

The positive direction of X1 axis of the crystal-physical coordinate system was chosen from the correspondence of the measured BAW velocities to the solutions of equation (2) (Table 2) obtained for the R and R+90 cuts (Figure 1), in such a way that $C_{14}<0$ was performed in both directions. The sign of piezoelectric constants was controlled by direct measurement of the piezoelectric effect. Mechanical compressive strain was considered negative.

4.   Values of electromechanical constants

Experimental values of BAW velocities for the studied directions are given in Table 3. Point out high values of the shear and longitudinal BAW velocities at a not very high density of the single crystal 3.72 g/cm^3 [18] under study.

Table 3: BAW velocities in YAl$_3$(BO$_3$)$_4$ single crystal at room temperature

$\vec{n}$	Mode	$\vec{U}$	$(v \pm \Delta v)$, m/s
[001]	L	[001]	8534±5
	S		4488±1
[100]	L	[100]	10587±2
	S		4020±1
	S		5474±1
010[	S	[100]	5412±3
	QL		10453±1
	QS		4435±1
[0cos(48.05°) sin(48.05°)]	S	[100]	4205±1
	QL		9202±3
	QS		5521±1
[0-sin(48.05°) cos(48.05°)]	S	[100]	5486±1
	QL		8680±3
	QS		5610±1

The values of C$_{ijkl}$ calculated in accordance with the ratios of tables 1 and 2 are given in Table 4 compared to the data for other crystals.

Table 4: Values of elastic constants $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ at room temperature compared to the data for other oxyborate single crystals, $C_{66} = (C_{11} - C_{12})/2$

Elastic constants	Values of elastic constants, 10^{10} N/m^2					
	This work	[13]		[14]		[15]*
	$YAl_3(BO_3)_4$	$NdFe_3(BO_3)_4$	$SmFe_3(BO_3)_4$	$HoFe_3(BO_3)_4$	$HoAl_3(BO_3)_4$	$TbFe_3(BO_3)_4$
C11	40,47±0,05	31,9	32,4	37	39,5	27,2
C12	21,14±0,05	17,4	19,4	12,5	13,1	12,2
C13	9,75±0,05	11,7	-	7,2	6,1	-
C14	-2,35±0,1	2,96	2,86	3	1	4,76
C33	27,09±0,05	21,4	21,4	15,9	17,3	21,1
C44	7,49±0,01	4,9	5,05	6,8	6,4	7,54

*Measurements are performed at liquid nitrogen temperature

In quasi-static measurements, the longitudinal piezoelectric modulus d_{11} was determined according to the formula (4) when mechanical compressive stress was applied along axis X_1 (Figure 1 (b)) and charge detection was recorded in the same direction. The sign of the piezoelectric modulus was found by determining the direction of the electric induction vector with respect to the positive direction of X_1 axis from equation (3). To determine d_{14}, in contrast to d_{11}, a mechanical compressive stress was applied to R and R+90 faces (Figure 1 (b)). In this case, there were piezoelectric modules d'_{12} and d''_{12} respectively. In this case the value of the piezoelectric modulus d_{14} can be found from the equations

$$d_{14} = \frac{d'_{12} + d_{11} \cos^2 \varphi}{\sin \varphi \cos \varphi} \tag{5}$$

or

$$d_{14} = \frac{d''_{12} + d_{11} \sin^2 \varphi}{-\sin \varphi \cos \varphi}, \tag{6}$$

The results of quasi-static measurements are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: The values of the piezoelectric moduli $d_{i\lambda}$ in single crystal $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ at room temperature

Piezoelectric moduli	d_{11}	d'_{12}	d'_{12}	d_{14}
Values of moduli, 10^{-12} C/N	-6,0±0,3	-0,9±0,1	7,0±0,2	-7,2±0,4

After determining the values of the piezoelectric moduli and elastic moduli, it becomes possible to determine the values of the piezoelectric constants e_{11} and e_{14}. This can be done from the equations 3 and 6 of Table 1 and the equations 1 and 4 of Table 2, as well as using the formula (1), which gives the following equalities

$$e_{11} = 2C_{66}d_{11} + C_{14}d_{14}, \tag{7}$$

$$e_{14} = 2C_{14}d_{11} + C_{44}d_{14}, \tag{8}$$

Equations (7) and (8) determine the sign of the constants e_{11} and e_{14}. Note that the obtained values of the piezoelectric constants e_{11} and e_{14} from the acoustic measurements, as well as the values calculated from equations (7) and (8) coincided within the experimental error. The valuese$_{11}$ and e_{14} of the single crystal $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ are presented in Table 6 compared to the known data for oxyborates of other authors. The high-frequency values of the dielectric constant ε_{ij}^{η} were calculated on the basis of the experimental values $\varepsilon_{ij}^{\sigma}$ using the formula [22]

$$\varepsilon_{mn}^{\sigma} - \varepsilon_{mn}^{e} = d_{mij}d_{nk}lC_{ijkl}^{E} \tag{9}$$

Table 6: Values of piezoelectric e_{ijk} and dielectric ε_{ij}^{η} constants at room temperature

Constants	Values of constants				
	This work $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$	[13]		[14]	
		$NdFe_3(BO_3)_4$	$SmFe_3(BO_3)_4$	$HoFe_3(BO_3)_4$	$HoAl_3(BO_3)_4$
Piezoelectric constants e_{ijk}, C/m^2					
e_{11}	-1,06±0,07	1,4	1,4	0,99	1,75
e_{14}	-0,27±0,04	0,4		1,11	0,5
Dielectric constants, ε_{ij}^{η}					
$\frac{\varepsilon_{11}^{\eta}}{\varepsilon_0}$	11,7±0,1				
$\frac{\varepsilon_{33}^{\eta}}{\varepsilon_0}$	11,1±0,1				

5. Anisotropy of BAW characteristics

Based on the obtained values of the material constants of $YA_3(BO_3)_4$ crystal elastic moduli, piezoelectric coefficient and dielectric constant, anisotropy for bulk acoustic waves (BAW) characteristics in the base planes was calculated. The values of BAW phase velocities were calculated on the basis of the Green-Christoffel equations (2). The calculation of electromechanical coupling coefficients (EMCC) k^2 and the angles of deviation of the elastic wave energy flow Oi from the wave normal were calculated using the formulas [26]. To simulate the anisotropy of BAW characteristics, the software package [27], where all calculations are performed in a triaxial orthogonal crystal physical coordinate system (CPCS) was used.

The anisotropy of BAW parameters in the (001) plane is demonstrated in Figure 6. In this plane, the change in BAW velocities of longitudinal (QL) and fast shear (QFS) waves is relatively small. In particular, the value of the phase velocity QFS in the direction [100] is 5479.8 m/s, but at an angle of 30° it is 5407.3 m/s (Fig. 6a). In the plane (001) all BAW are piezo-active. The maximum EMCC k^2 value is close to 0.1 and is reached in the direction at an angle of 30° with the direction [100] for the elastic wave QFS, but, at the same time, the maximum value of the energy flow deviation from the wave normal Oi=10.7° for QFS is reached as well. The maximum value Oi=18.5° is reached for a slow shear wave QSS at an angle of 15° with the direction [100]. It should be noted that in the direction [100] for the QL wave, the maximum value of K^2, close to 0.03, is reached, but the value is Oi=0°, which may be of practical importance. In Figure 6 and in the other figures, the dots indicate the experimental values of BAW velocities.

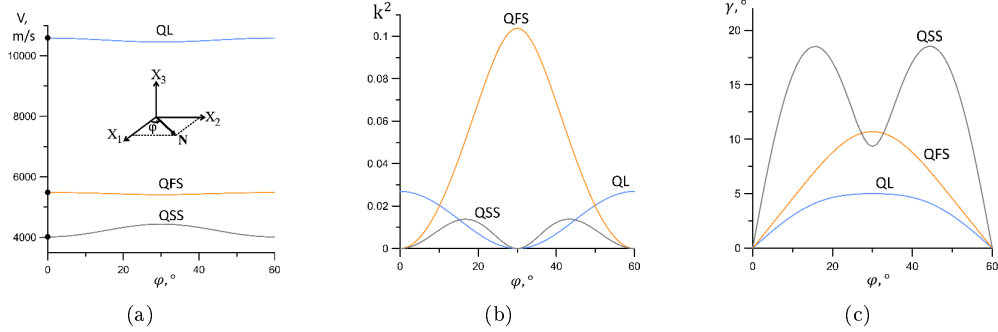Figure 6: Anisotropy of BAW characteristics in plane (001)

The similar BAW characteristics of crystal $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ in plane (010) are presented in Figure 7. In Y-cut, all BAW are also piezo-active, but the maximum value of K^2 is reached for the QL wave in the direction [100]. For QFS and QSS waves it is much smaller (Fig. 7b). However, the energy flow deviation in plane (010) is considerably larger compared to (001). The maximum value for QSS wave is γ=32.5° at an angle of 35° with the axis [001] (Fig. 7c).
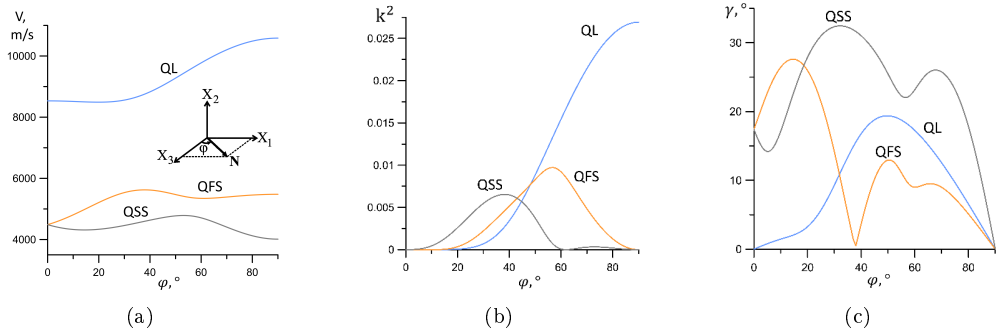
Figure 7: Anisotropy of BAW characteristics in plane (010)

There is a distinctive feature in plane (100) - the presence of 4 acoustic axes (Fig. 8), and only in the direction [001] (the axis of symmetry of order 3) the presence of the acoustic axis is determined by the crystal symmetry. Only one of the shear waves is piezo-active. The solutions вЋ‚exchangeвЋ‚ takes place in the acoustic axesвЋ‚^{TM} region at an angle of 25.5° and 143° with the direction [100]. The maximum value of EMCC $k^2 = 0.12$ is reached at an angle of 15° with the direction [100] for QFS. It is necessary to note large values of the energy flow deviation angles from the wave normal to γ=29° for a slow shear wave (Fig. 8c)
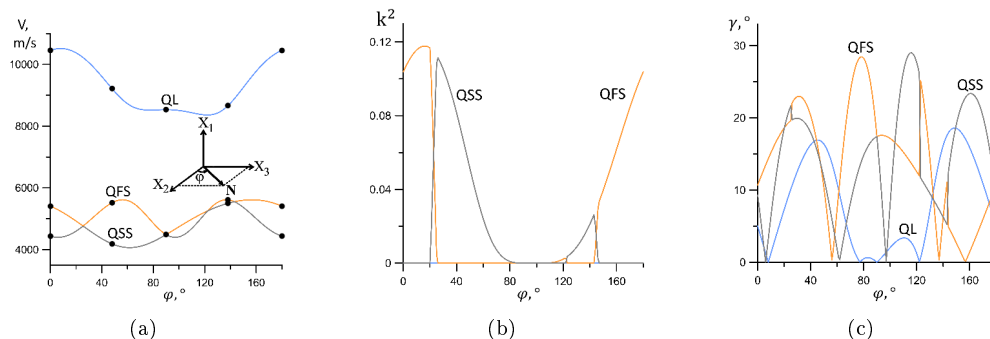
(a)   (b)   (c)

Figure 8: Anisotropy of BAW characteristics in plane (100)

The similar BAW characteristics of crystal $YAll_3(BO_3)_4$ in the plane (110) of CFCS are presented in Figure 9. In the plane ($\bar{1}10$) all BAW are also piezo-active, as well as maximum values of K^2, close to 0.05 for fast and slow BAW respectively, (Fig. 9b). However, in these directions, the angles of energy flow deviation from the wave normal are significant (Fig. 9c).

(a)   (b)   (c)
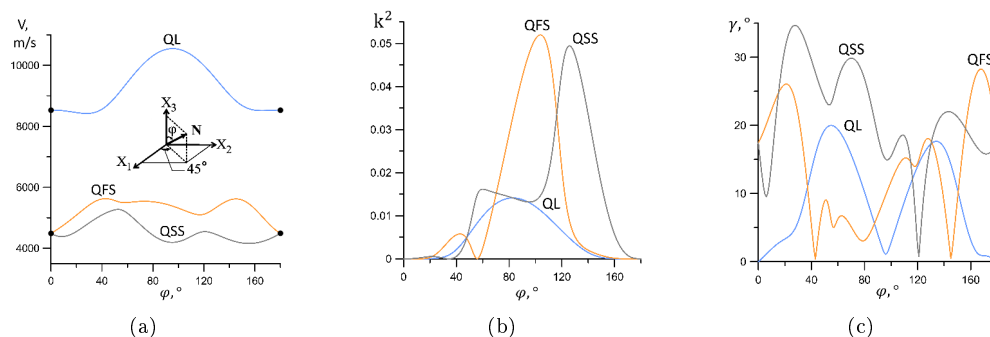
Figure 9: Anisotropy of BAW characteristics in plane ($\bar{1}10$)

6.   Anisotropy of SAW characteristics

To calculate SAW characteristics, it is necessary to supplement the equations of motion (2) with boundary conditions, which are equality of the normal components of the stress tensor to zero and continuity of the electric induction vector at the crystal-vacuum interface: $\tau_{3j}\big|_{x_3=0} = 0$; $D_3 = D^{vac}\big|_{x_3=0}$ [28]. The anisotropy of SAW characteristics is analyzed using the software package [29] in the working orthogonal coordinate system, where axis X_3 is directed along the outer normal to the layer surface, and axis X_1 coincides with the direction of wave propagation.

SAW characteristics of crystal $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ in plane (001) are presented in Figure 10. The values of the SAW phase velocity are in the range from 3958.9 m/s to 4276.1 m/s. The maximum value of EMCC K^2=0.0013 in the direction of elastic wave propagation at an angle of 16° with

the axis [100], but the maximum angle of energy flow deviation from the sagittal plane $\gamma=12.9°$ is also reached here.

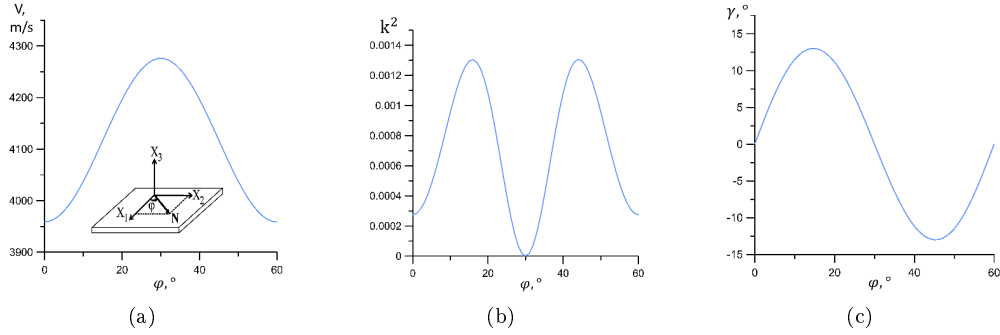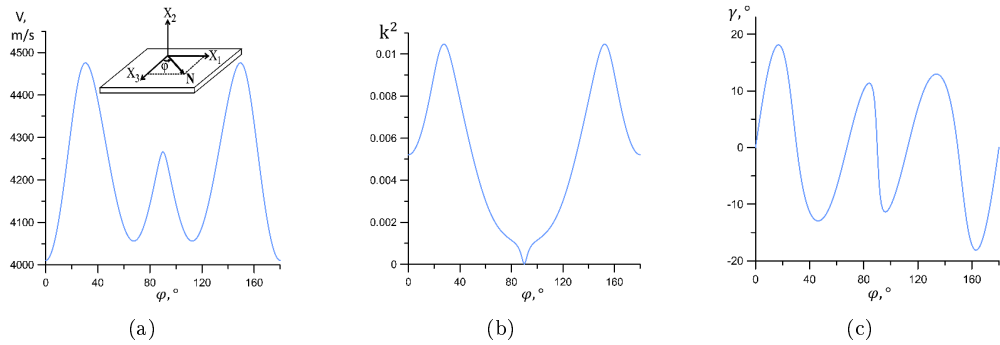(a)   (b)   (c)

Figure 10: Anisotropy of SAW characteristics in plane (001)

In plane (010), the maximum value of EMCC $K^2=0.011$ is reached in the direction of the elastic wave propagation at an angle of 28° with the axis [100] (Fig. 11), but the angle of the energy flow deviation from the sagittal plane is $\gamma=5.1°$. The maximum value of the angle of the energy flow deviation from the sagittal plane is $\gamma=18.1°$ is achieved at an angle of 17° with the axis [100].

(a)   (b)   (c)

Figure 11: Anisotropy of SAW characteristics in plane (010)

The similar SAW characteristics of crystal $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ in plane (100) are presented in Figure 12. The maximum value of EMCC $K^2=0.012$ is reached in the direction of the elastic wave propagation at an angle of 29° with the axis [010] (Fig.12), but the energy flow deviation angle from the sagittal plane is $\gamma=10.3°$. At an angle of 159° with the axis [010] and the value of $K^2=0.011$ the angle $\gamma=8.9°$.
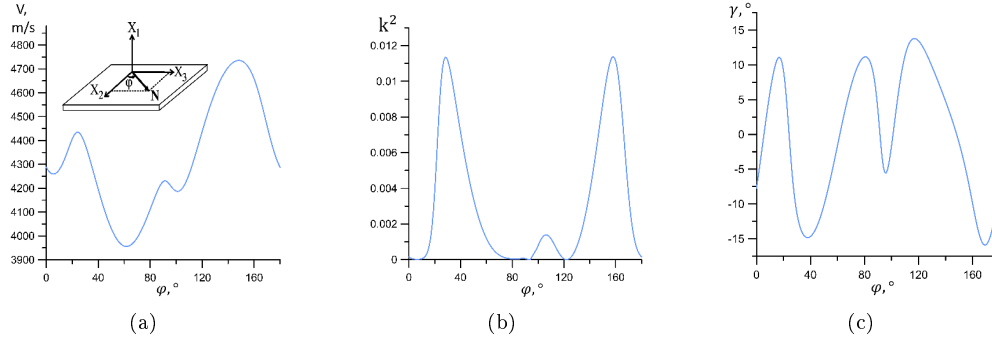
(a) (b) (c)

Figure 12: Anisotropy of SAW characteristics in plane (100)

SAW characteristics of crystal $YAll_3(BO_3)_4$ in the rotated Y-cut, Euler angles $(0°, \varphi, 0°)$ are given in Figure 13. The energy flow deviation angle from the sagittal plane in the entire interval is zero, EMCC reaches values close to 0.008.
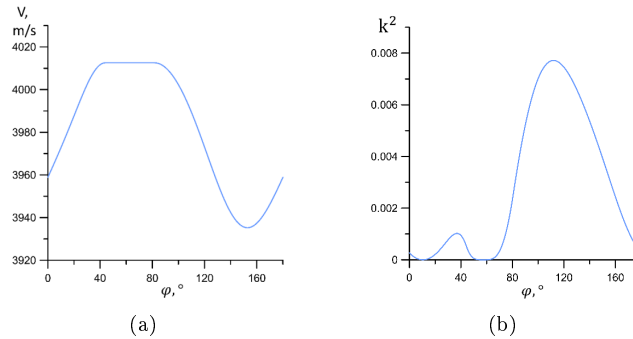

(a) (b)

Figure 13: Anisotropy of SAW characteristics for the rotated Y-cut, Euler angles $(0°, \varphi, 0°)$

SAW characteristics of crystal $YAl_3(BO_3)_4$ for X boule axis, Euler angles $(0°, \varphi, 90°)$ are presented in Figure 14. In this case, the symmetry axis 2 is orthogonal to the sagittal plane, therefore, there are two surface waves in this section - the Rayleigh wave polarized in the sagittal plane and the Bleustein-Gulyaev piezo-active wave. The peculiarity of this section is the fact that the phase velocity value of the Rayleigh wave is greater than the slow shear wave in the interval when the fast shear wave becomes piezo-active (Fig. 14). The energy flow deviation angle from the sagittal plane is also zero in the entire interval, but EMCC can exceed the values of k^2=0.013.
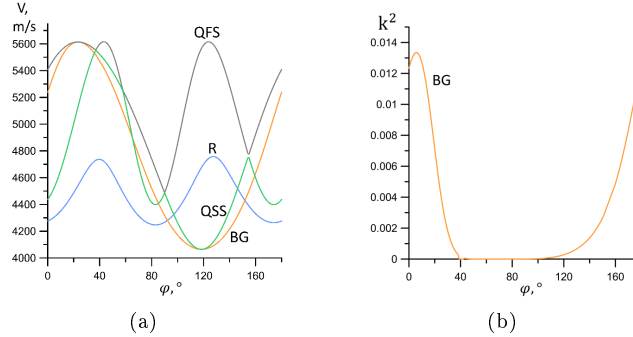
Figure 14: Anisotropy of SAW characteristics for X boule axis $(0,\varphi,90)$

7. Conclusion

The carried out precision acoustic and quasi-static measurements made it possible to determine the values of linear electromechanical material constant of single crystals $YAll_3(BO_3)_4$ with good precision. Despite the small value of the single crystal density of 3.72 g/cm^3, the shear BAW velocities exceed 4000 m/s, the longitudinal BAW 8000 m/s, and in a number of directions 10000 m/s. The value of the longitudinal modulus of elasticity $C_{11}=40.5\cdot10^{10}$ N/m^2.

Both acoustic ultrasonic pulse-echo method and quasi-static measurements of piezoelectric constants within the margin of error give the same, relatively small values $e_{11}=$ -1,06 C/m^2 and $e_{14}=$ -0,27 C/m^2. At the same time, the study of the anisotropy of BAW characteristics demonstrates the existence of directions in the (100) and (001) planes in the single crystal under study, in which the electromechanical coupling coefficient k for a fast shear BAW exceeds 30%, as in strong piezoelectrics.

The study of the anisotropy of the BAW and SAW characteristics demonstrates a number of other features of the yttrium aluminum borates electromechanical properties manifestation. For instance, in plane (100) 4 acoustic axes are observed, and only one of them is symmetrically conditioned. For X boule axis, a range of angles where the velocity of the Rayleigh SAW exceeds the velocity of the slow shear BAW is observed.

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