

(Research Article)
Phonon transport analysis of CsCaX₃ (X=Cl, Br) perovskites using the density functional theory

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Abstract

Phonon transport of CsCaBr₃ and CsCaCl₃ halide perovskites was investigated to identify their potential applications in various fields including cooling and thermoelectric. Ab-initio studies of these materials were performed in their cubic phase in generalized gradient approximation. Second and third order force constants were calculated with supercell approach and phonopy and phono3py packages. Lattice constant was obtained 5.463 and 5.768 Å for CsCaCl₃ and CsCaBr₃ respectively. From a comparison of electron density and phonon properties, it was found that the halide atom in both compounds plays an important role in phonons' propagation, while calcium atom has a negligible role in phonon scattering and phonon group velocity. Phonon velocities of both materials at intermediate frequencies (between 2 and 4 THz) are 5000 and 3000 m/s, and their phononic lifetime is 0.2 and 0.1 ps, for CsCaCl₃ and CsCaBr₃, respectively. Due to the higher phonon transport of CsCaCl₃ in almost frequency and with a difference of 2000 m/s in the middle frequency range, it is predicted to be more effective in applications requiring higher acoustic and thermal conductivity. However, CsCaBr₃ is expected to be useful in thermoelectric applications owing to rattling motion and consequently higher phonon scattering of Cs atom in CaBr₆ cages.

Keywords: Perovskite, Phononic transport, Phonon group velocity, Phonon scattering, Phonon lifetime.

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