Lattice dynamics of BaFe$_2$X$_3$(X = S, Se) compounds

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We present the Raman scattering spectra of the BaFe$_2$X$_3$ (X = S, Se) compounds in a temperature range between 20 and 400 K. Although the crystal structures of these two compounds are both orthorhombic and very similar, they are not isostructural. The unit cell of BaFe$_2$S$_3$(BaFe$_2$Se$_3$) is base-centered Cmcm (primitive Pnma), giving 18 (36) modes to be observed in the Raman scattering experiment. We have detected almost all Raman active modes, predicted by factor group analysis, which can be observed from the cleavage planes of these compounds. Assignment of the observed Raman modes of BaFe$_2$S(Se)$_3$ is supported by the lattice dynamics calculations. The antiferromagnetic long-range spin ordering in BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ below $T_N = 255$ K leaves a fingerprint both in the $A_{1g}$ and $B_{1g}$ phonon mode linewidth and energy.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Iron-based compounds are one of the top research fields in condensed matter physics [1]. These materials are not only superconducting [2] but also form low-dimensional magnetic structures—spin chains, spin ladders, or spin dimers [3], similar to the cases of cuprates [4] or vanadates [5]. Properties of iron-based selenide superconductors and other low-dimensional magnetic phases of iron-chalcogenides are reviewed in Ref. [6].

BaFe$_2$S$_3$ and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ belong to the family of the iron-based $S = 2$ two-leg spin-ladder compounds. The crystal structure of these materials can be described as alternate stacking of Fe-S(Se) layers and Ba cations along the crystallographic $a$ axis ($b$ axis). In the Fe-S(Se) plane, only one-dimensional (1D) double chains of edge-shared [FeS(Se)]$_4$ tetrahedra propagate along the $a$ axis ($b$ axis), as shown in Fig. 1. Although the crystal structures of the BaFe$_2$S$_3$ and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ are isomorphic, they are not isostructural. BaFe$_2$S$_3$ crystallizes in a base-centered orthorhombic structure with Cmcm space group [7]. The unit cell of BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ is also orthorhombic but primitive of the Pnma space group. The main crystal structure difference of these compounds is an alternation of the Fe-Fe distances in BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ along the chain direction which does not exist in BaFe$_2$S$_3$, where all distances between Fe atoms along the chain direction are the same; see Figs. 1(b) and 1(c). This difference probably leads to the diverse magnetic properties of these two compounds at low temperatures.

BaFe$_2$S$_3$ is a quasi-one-dimensional semiconductor. The magnetic susceptibility of BaFe$_2$S$_3$, measured at 100 Oe, showed the divergence of the field-cooled susceptibility and zero-field-cooled susceptibility with the cusp at 25 K (freezing temperature) [8], indicating the presence of short-range magnetic correlations and spin-glass-like behavior below 25 K. On the basis of these observations Gönen et al. [8] proposed that each [Fe$_2$S$_3$]$^{2-}$ chain possess strong intrachain antiferromagnetic coupling of Fe ions that is mediated through the sulfide ions. The combination of antiferromagnetic coupling, additional crystal field splitting due to neighboring Fe atoms, and direct Fe-Fe interactions presumably give rise to $S = 0$ ground states in this compound [8].

BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ is an insulator down to the lowest measured temperature with a long-range antiferromagnetic (AFM) order with $T_N$ around 255 K and short-range AFM order at higher temperatures [9–12]. It was shown that a dominant order involves $2 \times 2$ blocks of ferromagnetically aligned four iron spins, whereas these blocks order antiferromagnetically in the same manner as the block AFM $\sqrt{5} \times \sqrt{5}$ state of the iron vacancy ordered $A_2$Fe$_4$S$_5$ [13–15].

To the best of our knowledge there are no data about the phonon properties of these compounds. In this paper we have measured polarized Raman scattering spectra of BaFe$_2$X$_3$(X = S, Se) in the temperature range between 20 and 400 K. We have observed the Raman active optical phonons, which are assigned using polarized measurements and the lattice dynamical calculations. At temperatures below
FIG. 1. (Color online) Schematic representation of the BaFe$_2$X$_3$(X = S, Se) crystal structure in the (ac) plane. (a) Projection of the BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ crystal structure in the (001) projection. $w$, $u$, $v$ represents Fe-Fe distances of ladder rungs ($w = 0.2697$ nm; $w* = 0.2698$ nm) and legs ($u = 0.2688$ nm, $v = 0.2720$ nm; $v* = 0.2643$ nm). Note that in the case of BaFe$_2$S$_3$ the Fe atoms form an “ideal” ladder (all Fe-Fe distances along the ladder legs are equivalent, which is not the case in BaFe$_2$Se$_3$).

$T_N$ = 255 K in BaFe$_2$Se$_3$, the Raman modes shows an abrupt change of energy and linewidth due to the antiferromagnetic spin ordering.

II. EXPERIMENT AND NUMERICAL METHOD

Single crystals of BaFe$_2$X$_3$(X = S, Se) were grown using self-flux method with nominal composition Ba:Fe:X = 1:2:3. Details were described in Ref. [16]. Raman scattering measurements were performed on (110)(sulfide) [(100) (selenide)]-oriented samples in the backscattering micro-Raman configuration. Low-temperature measurements were performed using KONTI CryoVac continuous flow cryostat coupled with JY T64000 and TriVista 557 Raman systems. The 514.5-nm line of an Ar$^+$/Kr$^+$ mixed gas laser was used as excitation source. The Raman scattering measurements at higher temperatures were done using a LINKAM THMS600 heating stage.

We calculated phonon energies of the nonmagnetic BaFe$_2$S(Se)$_3$ single crystals at the center of the Brillouin zone. Calculations were performed within the theory of linear response using the density functional perturbation theory (DFPT) [17] as implemented in the QUANTUM ESPRESSO package [18]. In the first step, we obtained the electronic structure by applying the pseudopotentials based on the projected augmented waves method with the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof exchange-correlation functional and nonlinear core correction. Used energy cutoffs for the wave functions and electron densities were 80 (64) Ry and 960 (782) Ry for BaFe$_2$S(Se)$_3$, respectively. We have carried out the calculation with experimental values of the BaFe$_2$S(Se)$_3$ unit cell parameters $a = 0.87835$ nm, $b = 1.1219$ nm, $c = 0.5286$ nm [7] ($a = 1.18834$ nm, $b = 0.54141$ nm, $c = 0.91409$ nm [11]), and the relaxed fractional coordinates; see Table I. Relaxation was applied to place atoms in their equilibrium positions in respect to used pseudopotentials (all forces acting on every atom were smaller than $10^{-4}$ Ry/a.u.). The difference between experimental and relaxed coordinates is less than 3% for almost all atom coordinates, except for the $x$ direction of the Ba atoms in BaFe$_2$S$_3$, which is 6%. Reduction of the $x$ coordinate of Ba atoms by relaxation leads to an increase of the distance between the Ba layers. The Brillouin zone was sampled with $8 \times 8 \times 8$ Monkhorst-Pack $k$-space mesh. Calculated $\Gamma$ point phonon energies of the BaFe$_2$S$_3$ and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ are listed in Tables II and IV, respectively.

The DFPT calculation of the phonon-mode energies is performed assuming the paramagnetic solution and the comparison of energies is performed with the experimental results at room temperature. The paramagnetic density functional theory (DFT) solution is metallic, whereas BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ is AFM insulator at low temperatures. Therefore, we have performed also the spin-polarized DFT calculations, assuming AFM ordering of 2 $\times$ 2 ferromagnetic iron blocks [10–12]. We find the AFM solution and opening of the gap at the Fermi level in agreement with earlier DFT calculations by Saparov et al. [10]. Accordingly, we attempted to calculate the phonon

### Table I. Experimental and relaxed (in square brackets) fractional coordinates of BaFe$_2$S$_3$ (Ref. [7]) and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ (Ref. [11])

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<th>Atom</th>
<th>Site</th>
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<th>$y$</th>
<th>$z$</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>0.6147 [0.6051]</td>
<td>0.25 [0.25]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>0.3768 [0.3945]</td>
<td>0.25 [0.25]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BaFe$_2$Se$_3$</td>
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<td>0.25 [0.25]</td>
<td>0.518 [0.513]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fe</td>
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<td>0.002 [−0.001]</td>
<td>0.353 [0.358]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>0.402 [0.415]</td>
<td>0.25 [0.25]</td>
<td>0.818 [0.809]</td>
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</table>
energies in the spin-polarized case. However, having now 48 atoms in the unit cell, this calculation turned out to be computationally too demanding. Furthermore, we do not believe that such a calculations would gives us in this case important new insights since the number of phonon modes becomes \( 2 \times 72 - 1 = 143 \) (one mode is degenerate), and it is not likely that small splitting of the modes could be compared with the experiments. Also, the phonon frequencies are not particularly sensitive on the precise form of the density of states near the Fermi level (or gap opening) if the overall spectral function remains similar. Therefore, we believe that the usage of the nonmagnetic DFT is a reasonable method for identification of vibrational modes and comparison with the experimental data.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. BaFe\(_2\)S\(_3\)

The BaFe\(_2\)S\(_3\) crystal symmetry is orthorhombic, space group \( \text{Cmcm} \) and \( Z = 4 \) [7]. The site symmetries of atoms in \( \text{Cmcm} \) space group are \( C^2_v \) (Ba, S1), \( C^3_v \) (Fe), and \( C^4_{\text{sv}} \) (S2). Factor group analysis yields

\[
\begin{align*}
(C^2_v): \Gamma &= A_g + B_{1g} + B_{3g} + B_{1u} + B_{2u} + B_{3u}, \\
(C^3_v): \Gamma &= A_g + 2B_{1g} + 2B_{2g} + B_{3g} \\
&\quad + A_u + 2B_{1u} + 2B_{2u} + B_{3u}, \\
(C^4_{\text{sv}}): \Gamma &= 2A_e + 2B_{1e} + 2B_{2e} + B_{3e} + A_u \\
&\quad + B_{1u} + 2B_{2u} + 2B_{3u}.
\end{align*}
\]

Summarizing these representations and subtracting the acoustic \( (B_{1u} + B_{3u} + B_{3u}) \) and silent \( (2A_u) \) modes, we obtained the following irreducible representations of BaFe\(_2\)S\(_3\) vibrational modes:

\[
\Gamma_{\text{optical}}^{\text{BaFe}_2\text{S}_3} = 5A_g(xx, yy, zz) + 6B_{1g}(xy) + 3B_{2g}(xz) \\
+ 4B_{1u}(yz) + 4B_{1u}(E || z) + 5B_{2u}(E || y) \\
+ 4B_{3u}(E || x).
\]

Thus 18 Raman and 13 infrared active modes are expected to be observed in the BaFe\(_2\)S\(_3\) infrared and Raman spectra. Because our BaFe\(_2\)S\(_3\) single-crystal samples have (110) orientation, we were able to observe all symmetry modes in the Raman scattering experiment.

The polarized Raman spectra of BaFe\(_2\)S\(_3\), measured from the (110) plane at 100 K, are given in Fig. 2. Five \( A_g \) symmetry modes at about 39, 157, 165, 301, and 373 cm\(^{-1}\) (100 K) are clearly observed for the \( x'(zz)x' \) polarization configuration \( (x' = [110], y' = [110], z = [001]) \). For parallel polarization along the \( y' \) axis, the \( A_g \) and \( B_{1g} \) symmetry modes may be observed. By comparison \( (y'z') \) with \( (zz) \) polarized spectrum we assigned the modes at 48, 133, 214, 332, and 381 cm\(^{-1}\) as the \( B_{1g} \) ones. The intensity of the 332 cm\(^{-1}\) mode is at a level of noise. Because of that, assignment of this mode as \( B_{1g} \) should be taken as tentative.

For the \( x'(y'z) \)\( x' \) polarization configuration both the \( B_{1g} \) and the \( B_{3g} \) symmetry modes can be observed. Because we cannot distinguish the \( B_{1g} \) and \( B_{3g} \) by selection rules from the (110) plane, the assignment of these modes was done with help of the lattice dynamics calculation; see Table II. Features between 40 and 100 cm\(^{-1}\) come after subtracting of nitrogen

<table>
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<th>Experiment</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>relax. (unrelax.)</td>
<td>300 K</td>
<td>100 K</td>
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<td>( A_g )</td>
<td>42.3 (51.2)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A_g' )</td>
<td>154.2 (156)</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A_g'' )</td>
<td>201.9 (167.4)</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A_g''' )</td>
<td>366.9 (294.8)</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A_g^{(5)} )</td>
<td>385.8 (307.1)</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A_g^{(6)} )</td>
<td>107.8 (113.7)</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A_g^{(7)} )</td>
<td>224.1 (180.8)</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A_g^{(8)} )</td>
<td>347.8 (283.6)</td>
<td></td>
<td>( x'y'z' )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIG. 2. (Color online) The polarized Raman scattering spectra of BaFe\(_2\)S\(_3\) single crystal measured at 100 K. Insets are the normal modes of the \( A_g^{\prime}, A_g^{\prime'}, A_g^{\prime''}, \) and \( B_{1g}' \) vibrations. \( x' = [110], y' = [110], \) and \( z = [001] \).
vibration modes. Bump at about 160 cm\(^{-1}\) is a leakage of \(A^2_g\) and \(A^4_g\) modes from parallel polarization.

The normal modes of some of \(A_x, B_{1x},\) and \(B_{3y}\) vibrations, obtained by the lattice dynamics calculations, are given as insets in Figs. 2 and 3. According to these representations the lowest energy \(A_1^g\) mode (39 cm\(^{-1}\)) originates from the Ba atom vibrations along the \(y\) axis, and the \(A_2^g\) mode (157 cm\(^{-1}\)) represents dominantly S atom vibrations, which tend to elongate \([\text{Fe}_2\text{S}_3]^2^-\) chains along the \(y\) axis. The \(A_3^g\) mode originates from both the sulfur and the iron atom vibrations, which tend to stretch ladders along the \(x\) axis. The \(A_4^g\) mode (Fig. 3) is sulfur atoms breathing vibrations, and the \(A_5^g\) symmetry mode represents the S and Fe atom vibrations with the opposite tendency. The Fe atoms vibrate in opposite directions along the \(x\) axis, elongating the ladder, together with S atom vibrations, which tend to compress ladder structure.

Temperature dependence of the \(A_1^g, A_3^g, B_{1x}^g,\) and \(B_{3y}^g\) mode energy and linewidth are given in Fig. 3.

In general, temperature dependence of Raman mode energy can be described with [19]

\[
\omega(T) = \omega_0 + \Delta(T),
\]

where \(\omega_0\) is temperature-independent contribution to the energy of the phonon mode, whereas \(\Delta(T)\) can be decomposed in

\[
\Delta(T) = \Delta^V + \Delta^A.
\]

The first term in Eq. (2) represents change of phonon energy due to the thermal expansion of the crystal lattice, and is given by [20]

\[
\Delta^V = -\omega_0 \gamma \frac{\Delta V(T)}{V_0},
\]

where \(\gamma\) is the Grüneisen parameter of a given mode.

The second term in Eq. (2) is a contribution to the Raman mode energy from phonon-phonon scattering. By taking into account only three-phonon processes,

\[
\Delta^A = -C \left(1 + \frac{4 \lambda_{\text{ph-ph}}}{\epsilon \hbar \omega_0/2k_BT - 1}\right).
\]

\(\lambda_{\text{ph-ph}}\) and \(\lambda_{\text{ph-ph}}\) are the anharmonic constant and phonon-phonon interaction constant, respectively.

Temperature dependence of Raman mode linewidth is caused only by phonon anharmonicity:

\[
\Gamma(T) = \Gamma_0 \left(1 + \frac{2\lambda_{\text{ph-ph}}}{\epsilon \hbar \omega_0/2k_BT - 1}\right).
\]

where \(\Gamma_0\) is the anharmonic constant.

Parameter \(C\) is connected with \(\omega_0\) and \(\Gamma_0\) via relation [19]

\[
C = \frac{\Gamma_0^2}{2\omega_0}.
\]

\(\omega_0\) and \(\Gamma_0\) can be determined by extrapolation of the corresponding experimental data to 0 K. With these parameters known, we can fit the phonon mode linewidth, using Eq. (5), to obtain \(\lambda_{\text{ph-ph}}\). Then, by determining parameter \(C\) via Eq. (6), Raman mode energy can be properly fitted, with \(\gamma\) as the only unknown parameter. Using data from Ref. [12] for the temperature change of the lattice constants of \(\text{BaFe}_2\text{Se}_3\) one can perform the corresponding analysis of the Raman mode energies’ temperature dependence.

The best-fit parameters are collected in Table III. Because the \(\Gamma_0\) is very small in comparison to \(\omega_0\), for all modes of both compounds (Table III), according to Eq. (6) the \(C\) anharmonic parameter becomes very small. Thus, contribution to the Raman mode energy from the phonon-phonon interaction can be neglected. In fact, a change of Raman mode energy with temperature is properly described only with the thermal expansion term \(\Delta^V\), Eq. (3).

The most intriguing finding in Fig. 3 is a dramatic change of slope of the \(A^4_g\) mode linewidth (energy) temperature dependence at about 275 K. Because a hump in the inverse molar magnetic susceptibility [8] and a change of slope of the electrical resistivity [21] temperature dependence are observed in \(\text{BaFe}_2\text{S}_3\) at about the same temperature we concluded that the deviation from anharmonic behavior for \(A^4_g\) mode could be related to spin and charge. In fact, many of iron-based spin-ladder materials have the 3D-antiferromagnetic phase transition at about 260 K. We believe that in the case of \(\text{BaFe}_2\text{S}_3\) the antiferromagnetic ordering of spins within the ladder legs changes from short-range to the long-range state, without 3D antiferromagnetic spin ordering (the Néel state) of the whole crystal. This transition is followed with change.
of the electronic structure, which could explain the abrupt increase of the resistivity at this temperature [21]. A lack of the BaFe$_2$S$_3$ low-temperature crystallographic and transport properties measurements did not allow a more detailed study of a possible origin of the phonon energy and linewidth deviation from the anharmonic picture at about 275 K.

### B. BaFe$_2$Se$_3$

The BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ unit cell consists of four formula units comprising of 24 atoms. The site symmetries of atoms in the $Pnma$ space group are $C_{5c}^g$ (Ba, Se1, Se2, Se3) and $C_1$ (Fe).

Factor group analysis yields

\[
(C_{5c}^g): \Gamma = 2A_g + 1B_{1g} + 2B_{2g} + 3B_{3g} + A_u + 2B_{1u} + B_{2u} + 2B_{3u},
\]

\[
(C_1): \Gamma = 3A_g + 3B_{1g} + 3B_{2g} + 3B_{3g} + 3B_{1u} + 3B_{2u} + 3B_{3u}.
\]

Summarizing these representations and subtracting the acoustic ($B_{1u} + B_{2u} + B_{3u}$) and silent ($4A_g$) modes, we obtained the following irreducible representations of BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ vibrational modes:

\[
\Gamma_{\text{optical}}^{\text{BaFe}_2\text{Se}_3} = 11A_g + 7B_{1g} + 11B_{2g} + 7B_{3g} + 11B_{1u} + 7B_{2u} + 11B_{3u}
\]

Thus 36 Raman and 29 infrared active modes are expected to be observed in the BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ vibrational spectra. Because the BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ single crystals have the (100) orientation (the crystallographic $a$ axis is perpendicular to the plane of the single crystal), we were able to access only the $A_g$ and the $B_{3g}$ symmetry modes in the Raman scattering experiment.

The polarized Raman spectra of BaFe$_2$Se$_3$, measured from (100) plane at room temperature and 20 K, for the parallel and crossed polarization configurations, are given in Fig. 4. The spectra measured for parallel polarization configurations consist of the $A_g$ symmetry modes. Six modes at about 108, 143.5, 200, 272, 288.7, and 296.5 cm$^{-1}$ (20 K) are clearly observed for the $x(yy)\bar{x}$ polarization configuration and three additional modes are observed at about 63.4, 89, and 115 cm$^{-1}$ for the $x(zz)\bar{x}$ polarization configuration. For the $x(zy)\bar{x}$ polarization configuration, three Raman active $B_{3g}$ symmetry

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Symmetry</th>
<th>Calc.</th>
<th>300 K</th>
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<th>Activity</th>
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FIG. 5. (Color online) The polarized Raman spectra of BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ single crystals measured at various temperatures. (a) $x(yz)\bar{x}$ polarization configuration; (b) $x(yz)\bar{y}$ polarization configuration.

modes at 183.8, 198, and 228 cm$^{-1}$ (20 K) are observed. Vertical bars in Fig. 4 denote the calculated energies of the $A_g$ and $B_{3g}$ symmetry modes, which are in rather good agreement with experimentally observed ones. The results of the lattice dynamics calculations, together with the experimental data, are summarized in Table IV.

According to the lattice dynamics calculations the lowest energy $A_1^g$ mode is dominated by Ba atom vibrations along the $\langle 101 \rangle$ directions and the $A_2^g$ mode represents vibrations of Fe and Se atoms which tend to rotate $[Fe_2Se_3]^2-$ chains around the $b$ axis. The $A_3^g$ mode involves all atom vibrations, which tend to stretch crystal structure along the $\langle 101 \rangle$ directions, whereas the $A_4^g$ mode originates from Se atom vibrations along the $c$ axis and the Fe atom vibrations along the $\langle 101 \rangle$ directions. The $A_5^g$ mode represents vibration of Fe and Se atoms, which leads to $[Fe_2Se_3]^2-$ chain compression along the $c$ axis. The $A_6^g$ mode originates from Se and Fe atom vibrations which stretch $[Fe_2Se_3]^2-$ chains along the $c$ axis. Finally, the $A_7^g$ mode originates from Fe atom vibrations toward each other along the chain direction together with vibrations of the Se atoms along the $c$ axis. The normal coordinates of the $A_8^g$, $A_9^g$, $A_{10}^g$, and $A_{11}^g$ vibrations.

FIG. 6. (Color online) Experimental values (symbols) and calculated temperature dependence (solid lines) of BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ Raman mode energies. The best-fit parameters, for the temperature range below $T_N$, are given in Table III. Insets represent normal modes of the $A_8^g$, $A_9^g$, $A_{10}^g$, and $A_{11}^g$ vibrations.

expectations, the $A_g$ and $B_{3g}$ modes (see Figs. 5, 6, and 7) sharply increase their energies below the phase transition temperature $T_N$, as shown in details in Fig. 6. Because a significant local lattice distortion (Fe atom displacement along

FIG. 7. (Color online) Linewidth vs temperature dependence of (a) $A_8^g$ and $A_{10}^g$ modes and (b) $A_9^g$ and $A_{11}^g$ modes of BaFe$_2$Se$_3$. Solid lines are calculated using Eq. (5). The best-fit parameters for a temperature range below $T_N$ are given in Table III.
the $b$ axis is as large as approximately 0.001 nm) [11,12] exists, driven by the magnetic order, we concluded that spin-phonon (magnetoelastic) coupling is responsible for Raman mode energy and linewidth change in the antiferromagnetic phase. In fact, the existence of local displacements in the phonon (magnetoelastic) coupling is responsible for Raman exists, driven by the magnetic order, we concluded that spin-

$\theta_N$ of the BaFe$_2$S$_3$ and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ single crystals in a temperature range between 20 and 400 K. Almost all Raman-active modes predicted by factor-group analysis to be observed from the cleavage planes of BaFe$_2$S$_3$ (110) and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ (100) single crystals are experimentally detected and assigned.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

We have measured the polarized Raman scattering spectra of the BaFe$_2$S$_3$ and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ single crystals in a temperature range between 20 and 400 K. Almost all Raman-active modes predicted by factor-group analysis to be observed from the cleavage planes of BaFe$_2$S$_3$ (110) and BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ (100) single crystals are experimentally detected and assigned.

Energies of these modes are in rather good agreement with the lattice dynamics calculations. The BaFe$_2$Se$_3$ Raman modes linewidth and energy change substantially at temperatures below $\theta_N = 255$ K, where this compound becomes antiferromagnetically long-range ordered.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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