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Investigation of Luminescence properties of Bi³⁺, Dy³⁺ doped LaAlO₃ nanophosphors for radiation dosimetry applications

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Abstract---Bi, Dy co-doped LaAlO₃ nanophosphors were synthesized by adopting the Polyol technique to study enhanced photoluminescence. PXRD and Photoluminescence characterizations were done to probe the structure and luminescence studies of the synthesized nanophosphors. It was found that Dy³⁺ ions has exhibited excellent characteristic emission at 576nm with an increase in photoluminescence during the ⁴F_{9/2}–⁶H_{13/2} transition when compared with single doping and co-doping with Bi³⁺. The results indicated that the developed (LaAlO₃: Bi³⁺, Dy³⁺) phosphors under UV radiation could be suitable to be used for radiation dosimetry in cancer applications.

Keywords---Polyol method, Bismuth co-doping, Photoluminescence, Radiation dosimetry.

Introduction

Lanthanum Aluminate (LaAlO₃) based perovskite nanophosphors are well-known for their usage radiation dosimetry in treatment of cancer. [1-4]. LaAlO₃ has a typical rhombohedral structure with a wide band gap (~5.6 eV) [5-8]. Doping of the LaAlO₃ with optically active trivalent rare earth ions (Eu³⁺, Tb³⁺, Dy³⁺ etc.) or d-metals (Bi³⁺) made it to exhibit increased luminescence properties to be useful for various medical applications[3,9,10].Teodoro Rivera-Montalvo et al [11] has reported the luminescence properties of LaAlO₃: Dy³⁺ with appreciable increase in emission of Dy³⁺ ions for radiation dosimetry applications. According to B.Jacquier [12] Bi³⁺ acts as a good activator of luminescence and it is proved that Bi³⁺ could be used as sensitizer ion to enhance the luminescence efficiency of rare earth ions in GdAlO₃ phosphors [13-14]. C.S.Shalgaonkar also reported the

luminescence properties of Bi and Dy co-doped CaS phosphors. Based on the the above reports, it is believed that co-doping with Bi^{3+} ions the luminescence properties of rare earth ions could be greatly enhanced. In this work, we have done the synthesis and characterization of LaAlO_3 : Bi^{3+} nanophosphors co-doped with rare-earth Dy^{3+} ions and made an effort to look into the enhanced photoluminescence properties and investigated the possibility of synthesized phosphors to useful for radiation dosimetry applications under UV radiation.

Experimental details

LaAlO_3 : Bi^{3+} and Dy^{3+} nanopowders were prepared by low temperature chemical route Polyol method. The precursors are taken as per the standard stoichiometry. The obtained nanopowders are characterized for XRD, Photoluminescence properties.

Results and Discussions

Powder X-ray Diffraction (PXRD) Analysis

The diffraction patterns of undoped LaAlO_3 , LaAlO_3 : Bi^{3+} , LaAlO_3 : Bi^{3+} , Dy^{3+} nanophosphors annealed at 700°C are shown in Fig.2. A single rhombohedral phase of LaAlO_3 with perovskite structure is observed, which is in good agreement with the standard data of LaAlO_3 (JCPDF 00-031-0022 for LaAlO_3). The PXRD showed characteristic peaks of the rhombohedral LaAlO_3 with (012), (110), (202), (024), (122), (214) or (208) planes. The planes (012) and (110) were recognized as characteristic reflections of rhombohedral LaAlO_3 [15].

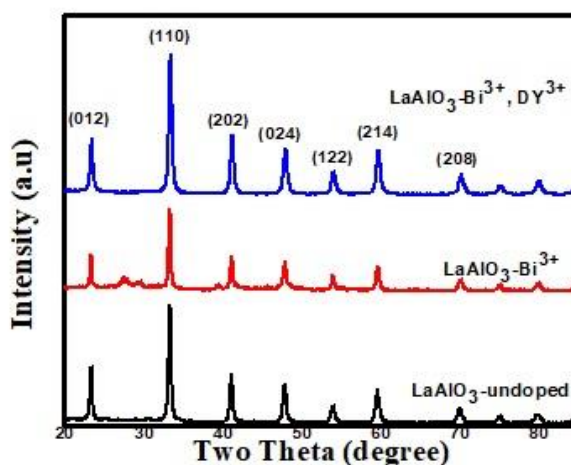


Fig.2 PXRD Patterns of 700°C heated undoped, Bi^{3+} doped and Dy^{3+} co-doped LaAlO_3 nanophosphors

Photoluminescence (PL) from LaAlO₃: Bi (1 at %), Dy (1, 1.5, 2 at %) nanophosphors

The Figs. 3(a) & 3(b) demonstrate the PL emission and excitation spectra of LaAlO₃: (1 at. %) Bi³⁺, (1, 1.5, 2 at %) Dy³⁺ nanophosphors. Under 278 nm excitation, blue-green and yellow emission lines due to Dy³⁺ were found from LaAlO₃: (1 at.%) Bi³⁺, (1, 1.5, 2 at. %) Dy³⁺ samples. By keeping Bi³⁺ constant at 1 at. % and varying the Dy³⁺ content, the intensity of Bi³⁺ emission decreases gradually, while the intensity of Dy³⁺ emission increases, and reaches a maximum at Dy³⁺ (1.5 at. %), and then remarkably decreases on further increase in concentration. This is called as concentration quenching. After exciting at 278 nm, the LaAlO₃: (1 at. %) Bi³⁺, (1, 1.5, 2 at. %) Dy³⁺ nanophosphor exhibited a bright yellow-greenish color luminescence and the emission spectrum [Fig. 3(a)] consists of Dy³⁺ ions characteristic peaks at 483 nm corresponding to $^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6H_{15/2}$ transition and at 576 nm relating to $^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6H_{13/2}$ transitions and 645 nm corresponding to $^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6H_{11/2}$ of Dy³⁺ respectively. The strongest emission peak is situated at 576 nm relating to the transition $^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6H_{13/2}$ of Dy³⁺. In addition to this, from excitation spectra (Fig. 3(b)), when monitored at 575 nm, which is the typical $^4F_{9/2} - ^6H_{13/2}$ emission line of Dy³⁺ ion along with broad band centered around 278 nm of highest intensity in the near UV region due to Bi³⁺ co-doping. Few low intensity peaks are observed at 353 and 387 nm relating to $^6H_{15/2} \rightarrow ^6P_{5/2}$ and $^6H_{15/2} \rightarrow ^4G_{11/2}$ transitions of Dy³⁺. This means Dy³⁺ is sensitized by the excited Bi³⁺ which demonstrates the existence of an efficient energy transfer (ET) from the Bi³⁺ to Dy³⁺ ions.

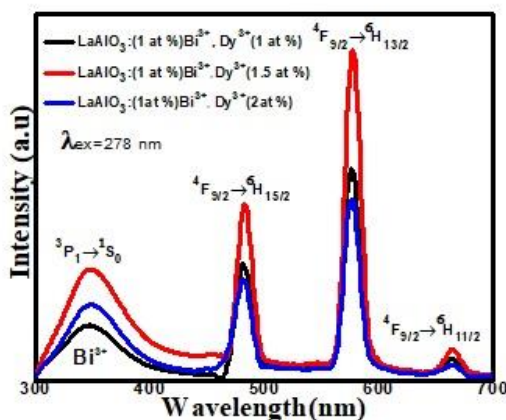


Fig. 3(a) Emission of spectra of LaAlO₃: Bi³⁺, Dy³⁺ nanophosphors

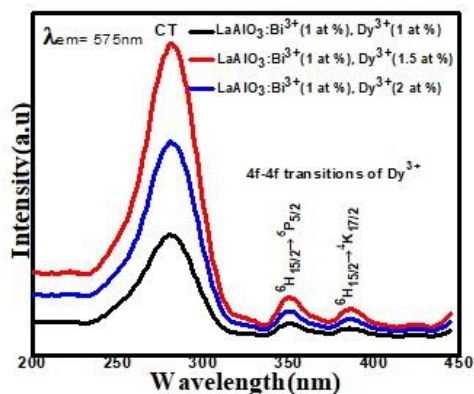


Fig. 3(b) Excitation of spectra of LaAlO₃: Bi³⁺: Dy³⁺ nanophosphors

Conclusions

Bi and Dy co-doped LaAlO₃ nanophosphors were synthesized using the Polyol. Photoluminescence characterizations were done to investigate luminescence properties of Dy³⁺ ion doped with Bi³⁺. It was found that Dy³⁺ ions had an outstanding characteristic emission at 576nm with an increase in photoluminescence during the ⁴F_{9/2}–⁶H_{13/2} transition when compared with single doping and co-doping with Bi³⁺. The results confirmed the feasibility of these materials to be useful in radiation dosimetry applications when undergone with thermo luminescence studies.

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