

Comparison study of Dy^{3+} and Eu^{3+} of Gd_2O_3 - CaO - SiO_2 - B_2O_3 Glasses with BGO Crystal

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Keywords: Comparison, Dy^{3+} , Eu^{3+} Gd_2O_3 , BGO

Abstract. In this studies, glass were prepared from the composition of $(55-x) B_2O_3$: $25Gd_2O_3$: $10SiO_2$: $10CaO$: xA_2O_3 , where A_2O_3 are Eu_2O_3 and Dy_2O_3 and $x = 0.05, 0.15, 0.25, 0.35, 0.45$ and 0.50 mol% by melt-quenching technique and were characterized through physical, optical and radioluminescence properties. The results show that the density of glass samples increased with increasing of dopant concentration. The optical spectra of glass shows two discrete absorption bands of Eu_2O_3 and nine absorption bands of Dy_2O_3 . The integral scintillation efficiency of 0.35 mol% of Eu_2O_3 and 0.45 mol% of Dy_2O_3 doped glass were determined at 25% and 27% of commercial BGO scintillation crystal.

1. Introduction

Glass scintillators can be easily and economically fabricated in a variety of sizes and custom shapes. Production cost of the melt-quenching is cheaper than those of other techniques [1]. Applications of glass scintillators; each of techniques the fields of nuclear physics, high energy physics, astrophysics, medical imaging and homeland security [2].

Silica (SiO₂) and borate (B₂O₃) are the candidates for a glass former and a flux material significant role in various applications [2, 3]. The effect adding calcium oxide (CaO) helps improving hygroscopic property of the glass [4]. For heavy rare-earth metal oxide, intensive Gd₂O₃ are most popular based glass scintillator due to the efficient energy transfer from Gd³⁺ ions to the luminescence activators, high thermal neutron capture cross-section and increase the light yield of emission [5-7].

In recent years, rare-earth ions are used in a wide variety of applications [6-11]. The active Dy³⁺ ion provides two typical emission transitions that correspond to ⁴F_{9/2}→⁶H_{15/2} transition in blue bands (~480 nm) and ⁴F_{9/2}→⁶H_{13/2} (electric dipole) transition in yellow bands (~570 nm) regions, which are also necessary for full primary color displays. The relative intensities of the ⁴F_{9/2}→⁶H_{13/2} transition to the ⁴F_{9/2}→⁶H_{15/2} transition known as a yellow-to-blue luminescence intensity ratio Y/B can be modulated by varying the glass host and its chemical composition as well as the excitation wavelengths [12-15].

The trivalent Eu₂O₃, with its unsplit ⁷F₀ ground state and relatively simple energy level scheme is a very convenient spectroscopic probe of the crystal field and can provide information related to the structure and bonding characteristics of different host matrices [16-22].

In this work, we fabricated the Dy³⁺ and Eu³⁺ ion doped in B₂O₃-SiO₂-Gd₂O₃-CaO glass system and study on physical, optical and radioluminescence properties, the radioluminescence of the glass samples were compared with that of a commercial BGO scintillation crystal.

2. Materials and Method

Glass Preparation

Glasses with the chemical compositions 25Gd₂O₃-10CaO-10SiO₂-(55-x) B₂O₃-xEu₂O₃ and Dy₂O₃ (where x is 0.05, 0.15, 0.25, 0.35, 0.45 and 0.50 mol %) were prepared by melt quenching technique. High purity chemicals, gadolinium oxide (Gd₂O₃), calcium oxide (CaO), silicon oxide (SiO₂), boric acid (H₃BO₃), europium oxide (Eu₂O₃) and dysprosium Oxide (Dy₂O₃) were mixed thoroughly. Each batch of formulas was weighted to 30 g and melted at 1673 K in alumina crucible by an electrical furnace. Dry oxygen was bubbled thoroughly for 1 hour. The quenched glasses were annealed at 823 K for 3 hours for reduces thermal stress before cool down to the room temperature.

Physical Property

The density measurements by applying Archimedes principle, the weights of the prepared glass samples were measured in air and in xylene using a 4-digit sensitive microbalance (AND, HR 200). Then, the density, ρ , was determined from the relation [23-24]:

$$\rho = \frac{W_a}{W_a - W_b} \times \rho_b \quad (1)$$

where W_a is the weight in air, W_b is the weight in xylene and ρ_b is the density of xylene ($\rho_b = 0.863 \text{ g/cm}^3$).

Optical Property

The optical spectra in UV-VIS-NIR range were measured by UV-VIS-NIR spectrophotometer (UV-3600, Shimadzu) in the wavelength range 200-2200 nm.

Radioluminescence property

The X-ray luminescence spectra of glasses were measured with a Cu target X-ray generator (Inel, XRG3D-E), whose X-ray source was operated at 50kV and 30mA, and the spectrometer (QE65Pro, Ocean Optics) with an optical fiber to detect the emission spectra

3. Results

Physical Property

The glass samples in this work are colorless. After cut and polished, the good optical qualities were obtained. The density of Dy^{3+} and Eu^{3+} glass samples in this research are in the range of 4.00-4.18 g/cm^3 and 4.06 – 4.22 g/cm^3 .

Optical Property

The absorption bands increases with the increase of Eu_2O_3 concentration. Two absorption bands were observed and assigned to transitions from the $^7\text{F}_0$ ground state to 2100 nm ($^7\text{F}_1$) and 2203 nm ($^7\text{F}_6$) [25-27] shown in Fig 1. Fig.2. shows the absorption bands increases with the increase of Dy_2O_3 concentration. Nine absorption bands were observed and assigned to transitions from the $^6\text{H}_{15/2}$ ground state to 387 nm ($^4\text{I}_{13/2} + ^4\text{F}_{7/2} + ^4\text{M}_{21/2} + ^4\text{K}_{17/2}$), 426 nm ($^4\text{G}_{11/2}$), 455 nm ($^4\text{I}_{15/2}$), 751 nm ($^6\text{F}_{3/2}$), 805 nm ($^6\text{F}_{5/2}$), 898 nm ($^6\text{F}_{7/2}$), 1085 nm ($^6\text{H}_{7/2} + ^6\text{F}_{9/2}$), 1261 nm ($^6\text{F}_{11/2} + ^6\text{H}_{9/2}$) and 1672 nm ($^6\text{H}_{11/2}$) [28-35].

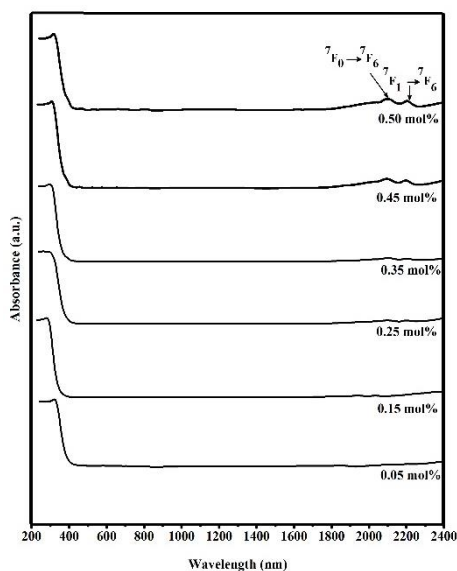


Fig. 1 The absorption spectra of Eu

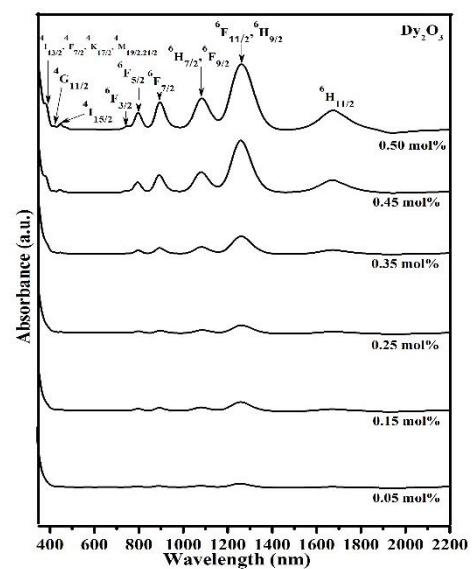


Fig. 2 The absorption spectra of Dy

Radioluminescence Property

The radioluminescence spectrum of 0.35 mol% of Eu_2O_3 show six peaks relatively strong emission peaks at occurring 578 ($^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_0$), 590 ($^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_1$), 616 ($^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_2$), 652 ($^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_3$) and 703 ($^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_5$) nm shown in Fig 3 [25-27]. In Fig. 4 was shown glass doped with 0.45 mol% of Dy_2O_3 have four relatively strong emission peaks at occurring 482 nm ($^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{15/2}$), 577 nm ($^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{13/2}$), 661 nm ($^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{11/2}$) and 751 nm ($^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{9/2} + ^6\text{F}_{11/2}$) [28-36]. The compared x-ray luminescence properties between glass samples with commercial BGO scintillator crystal was found that the integral scintillation efficiency of glass samples doped with Eu_2O_3 and Dy_2O_3 was determined as 25% and 27% of commercial BGO scintillator crystal.

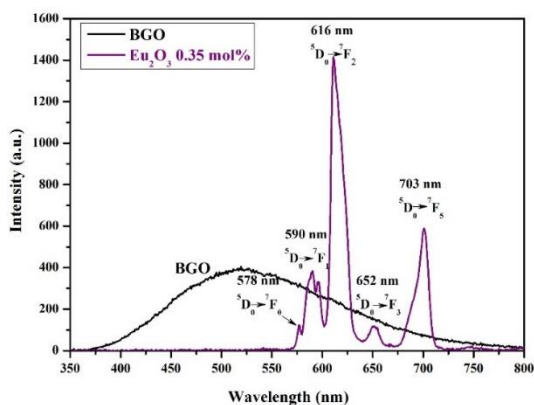


Fig 3. Eu_2O_3 0.35 mol% with BGO

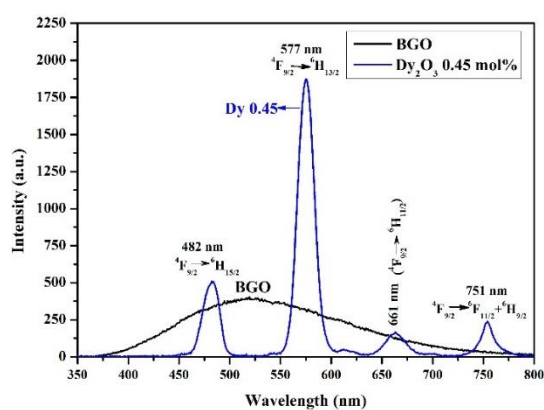


Fig 4. Dy_2O_3 0.45 mol% with BGO [36]

4. Conclusion

In conclusions, different concentrations of Eu^{3+} and Dy^{3+} doped in $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2\text{-Gd}_2\text{O}_3\text{-CaO}$ glasses have been fabricated and the investigations on their physical, optical and radioluminescence properties. The conclusions from the studied results are as follows;

- The density of $25\text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3: 10\text{CaO}: 10\text{SiO}_2: (55-x) \text{B}_2\text{O}_3: x\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$ and $x\text{Dy}_2\text{O}_3$ glasses were increased with increasing of Eu_2O_3 and Dy_2O_3 concentration.
- Two Eu^{3+} absorption bands corresponding to the $^7\text{F}_0 \rightarrow ^4\text{F}_6$, $^7\text{F}_1 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_6$ transitions respectively absorption bands peaked at 2100 and 2203 nm.
- Nine Dy^{3+} absorption bands corresponding to the $^6\text{H}_{15/2}$ ground state to 387 nm ($^4\text{I}_{13/2} + ^4\text{F}_{7/2} + ^4\text{M}_{21/2} + ^4\text{K}_{17/2}$), 426 nm ($^4\text{G}_{11/2}$), 455 nm ($^4\text{I}_{15/2}$), 751 nm ($^6\text{F}_{3/2}$), 805 nm ($^6\text{F}_{5/2}$), 898 nm ($^6\text{F}_{7/2}$), 1085 nm ($^6\text{H}_{7/2} + ^6\text{F}_{9/2}$), 1261 nm ($^6\text{F}_{11/2} + ^6\text{H}_{9/2}$) and 1672 nm ($^6\text{H}_{11/2}$).

The compared x-ray luminescence properties between glass samples with commercial BGO scintillator crystal was found that the integral scintillation efficiency of glass samples doped with Eu_2O_3 and Dy_2O_3 was determined as 25% and 27% of commercial BGO scintillation crystal.

Acknowledgements

Proceedings of International Conference on Technology and Social Science 2017
Invited Paper

S. Kaewjeang and S. Kothan would like to thanks Department of Radiologic Technology, Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences, Chiang Mai University, Thailand for partially support. J. Kaewkhao would like to thanks National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) for funding support.

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