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Authors: Guna Krieke, Anatolijs Sarakovskis, Maris Springis



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Ordering of fluorite-type phases in erbium-doped oxyfluoride glass ceramics

Guna Krieke*, Anatolijs Sarakovskis, Maris Springis

Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Latvia, 8 Kengaraga str., LV-1063, Riga, Latvia. *Corresponding author, e-mail: guna.krieke@cfi.lu.lv

Abstract

In this study, novel transparent Er^{3+} doped glass ceramics were prepared from melt-quenched oxyfluoride glasses with general composition of Na₂O-NaF-BaF₂-YbF₃-Al₂O₃-SiO₂. The crystallization of fluorite (BaF₂, BaF₂-YbF₃, NaF-BaF₂-YbF₃ and Na_{0.5-x}Yb_{0.5+x}F_{2+2x}) and distorted fluorite (rhombohedral Ba₄Yb₃F₁₇ and tetragonal NaF-BaF₂-YbF₃) phases was analysed in glass ceramics with different BaF₂ and YbF₃ ratio. The phase composition and microstructure were investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Intense red upconversion luminescence (UCL) was detected under near-infrared excitation resulting from three photon upconversion followed by cross-relaxation between Er^{3+} and Yb³⁺ ions.

The local environment of Er^{3+} ions in fluorite and distorted phases was analysed using siteselective spectroscopy. The Er^{3+} ions were found to act as nucleation centres in the glass ceramics containing BaF₂. The phase transition from metastable fluorite to rhombohedrally and tetragonally distorted fluorite phases was detected using Er^{3+} ions as a probe.

KEYWORDS: upconversion, Ba₄Yb₃F₁₇, phase transition, site-selective spectroscopy, glass ceramics

Introduction

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