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### NANOMATERIALS SYNTHESIS BY BENZENETRICARBOXYLATE METHOD

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With improvements made lately in the nanoscience and nanotechnology, the photonic. structural and morphological properties of the RE2O3 doped with Eu3+ nanomaterials (RE3+: Y. Gd and Lu) have been widely investigated [1]. In the thermolysis route, it is of great advantage to use the [RE(TLA)] complexes as precursors (TLA: 1,2,4-benzenetricarboxvlate) to produce the cubic RE<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> materials (500–100°C). The thermogravimetric curves of the [RE(TLA):Eu (x mol%)] complexes (RE<sub>3+</sub>: Y, Gd and Lu; x = 0.1, 0.5, 1.0and 5.0) shows that the organic mojety decomposes in a single-step from 430 to 580 °C. leading to the formation of RE2O3 at 500 °C [2]. The decomposition temperature decreases for all complexes with increasing Eu3+ concentration. The excitation e emission spectra of the systems present the characteristic emission of the Eu3+ ion. The excitation spectra show a broad oxide to europium charge transfer absorption band at 260 nm, i.e. O2-(2p)®Eu3+(4f6) LMCT, as well as the narrow lines assigned to the 4f6 intraconfigurational transitions of the Eu3+ ion. The increase of the annealing temperature decreases the value of the  $\Omega_2$  intensity parameter. We believe that the Eu<sub>3+</sub> could migrate from the C<sub>2</sub> sites (noncentrosymmetric) to S<sub>6</sub> (centrosymmetric) at higher temperatures reducing the overall  $\Omega_2$ value. The optical results are consistent with the low symmetry of the C2 site occupied by the Eu3+ ion in the cubic C-type RE2O3:Eu3+, which is essential for optical applications. In conclusion, the Y2O3:Eu3+ nanophosphors exhibit high values of emission quantum efficiency, compatible with the commercial phosphors currently available in the photonic



Figure 1. a) Emission spectra of RE<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:Eu<sub>3+</sub> (1.0 mol%) materials (RE<sub>3+</sub>: Y, Gd and Lu) and b) variation of the  $\Omega_2$  experimental intensity parameter with the annealing temperature.

#### References

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#### MC-03

## CHEMICAL AND HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE EFFECTS ON SPECTROSCOPIC PROPERTIES OF Nd<sup>3+</sup>-DOPED GALLIUM NANO-GARNETS

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Matter under extreme conditions of pressure is the subject of multidisciplinary studies that join such diverse fields as physics, chemistry, material science, geology, microbiology, or food technology. One of the most interesting goals of the high pressure technique is that provides a unique insight into the electronic structure and optical properties of materials doped with rare earth ( $RE^{3+}$ ) ions, since it can vary the structure, the coordination environment and, consequently, the electric, magnetic, vibrational, and optical properties.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, the use of the trivalent Neodymium (Nd<sup>3+</sup>) ion-doped inorganic materials have attracted great attention in many areas, from science research to industry applications. Garnets have always been attractive gain media for laser applications due to their high mechanical strength and good thermal and optical properties. In this sense, much efforts have been spent in the last decade in the study of the luminescence properties of  $RE^{3+}$ -doped  $Gd_3Ga_5O_{12}$  (GGG),  $Y_3Ga_5O_{12}$  (YGG) and  $Lu_3Ga_5O_{12}$  (LuGG) nanocrystalline garnets, especially as an alternative to quantum dots in photonic devices.

We propose the comparative study of the effects of chemical and hydrostatic pressures on the structural, vibrational and optical properties of the Nd<sup>3+</sup> ion in a series of RE<sub>2</sub>Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub> rare earth gallium crystalline and nano-crystalline gamets when the size of the RE<sup>3+</sup> (=Gd<sup>3+</sup>, Y<sup>3+</sup>, Lu<sup>3+</sup>) changes. Pressure will modulate the structural, vibrational and elastic properties of the garnet. In addition, the crystal-field interaction felt by the RE<sup>3+</sup> ions is expected to be different in these three host lattices due to the magnitude of the size mismatch with the ligands. The size effects also generate stresses, strains and rearrangements in the first coordination sphere of the Nd<sup>3+</sup> optically active ion. Further modifications in the free ion interactions and/or in the crystal-field, and hence, in the optical properties are then induced when hydrostatic pressure is applied.

#### References

1 Th. Tröster, Optical studies of non-metallic compounds under pressure, in Handbook on the Physics and Chemistry of Rare-earths, (eds.) K. A. Gschneidner, Jr., J-C.G. Bünzli, and V. K. Pecharsky, Elsevier Science B.V., vol. 33, pp. 515 (2003).