SCHEELITE RELATED COMPOUNDS AS EFFICIENT PHOSPHOR FOR PC-WLEDS AND THERMOGRAPHIC APPLICATION

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Scheelite ($CaWO_4$) related compounds $(A',A'')_n[(B',B'')O_4]_m$ with B', B''=W and/or Mo are promising new materials for red phosphors in pc-WLEDs (phosphor-converted white-light-emitting-diode) and solid-state lasers. Scheelites can be prepared with a large concentration of vacancies in the A sublattice, giving compositions characterized by a (A'+A''):(B'O_4+B''O_4) ratio different from 1:1. The creation of cation vacancies in the scheelite-type framework and the ordering of A cations and vacancies are a new factor in controlling the scheelite-type structure and properties. The creation and ordering of A-cation vacancies and the effect of cation substitutions in the scheelite-type framework are investigated as a factor controlling the scheelite-type structure and luminescent properties of $Ag_xR^{3+}_{(2-x)/3}\square_{(1-2x)/3}WO_4$ (R = Eu, Sm) and $Ag_xGd_{(2-x)/3-0.3}Eu_{0.3}\square_{(1-2x)/3}WO_4$ scheelite-type phases. Transmission electron microscopy also confirmed the (3+1)D incommensurately modulated character of $Ag_xR^{3+}_{(2-x)/3}\square_{(1-2x)/3}WO_4$ (R = Eu, Sm; x = 0.286, 0.2) phases.

The luminescent properties of all phases under near-ultraviolet (n-UV) light have been investigated were related to the structural properties of the materials. Eu-based phosphors emit intense red light dominated by the $^5D_0 - {}^7F_2$ transition at 613 nm, along with other transitions from the $^5D_0$ excited states. The excitation spectra of $Ag_xEu^{3+}_{(2-x)/3}WO_4$ (x = 0.5, 0.286, 0.2) phosphors show the strongest absorption at 395 nm, which matches well with the commercially available n-UV-emitting GaN-based LED chip. The intensity of the $^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_2$ transition on the $Ag_xEu^{3+}_{(2-x)/3}WO_4$ emission spectra is reduced almost 7 times with decreasing x from 0.5 to 0 but it does not change practically in the range from x = 0.286 to x = 0.200. The emission spectra of Gd-containing samples show a completely different trend as compared to only Eu-containing samples. The Eu^{3+} emission under excitation of Eu^{3+} ($^5L_6$) level (λ_{ex} =395 nm) increases more than 2.5 times T with the increasing Gd^{3+} content from 0.2 (x = 0.5) to 0.3 (x = 0.2) in the $Ag_xGd_{((2-x)/3)-0.3}Eu^{3+}_{0.3}WO_4$. Sm-based phosphors under n-UV light show the characteristic emission lines in the range of 550–720 nm, corresponding to $^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6HJ$ (J = 5/2, 7/2, 9/2 and 11/2) transitions of Sm^{3+} ions, with the J = 9/2 transition at the ~648 nm region being dominant for all PL spectra. Different temperature dependencies were found for the intensity of the $^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{9/2}$ and $^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{7/2}$ bands. The emission intensity ratios (R) for these bands vary reproducibly with temperature, allowing the use of these materials as thermographic phosphors.

Acknowledgement. This research was supported by Russian Foundation for Basic Research (18-03-00611).