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Sol-gel synthesis of $\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_4\text{:Mn}^{2+}$ phosphors and the effect of rare-earth ions co-doping on their photoluminescence

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Abstract content (Max 300 words) Formatting & Special chars

The present study reports on the synthesis, structure and optical properties of manganese (Mn^{2+}) doped zinc silicate (Zn_2SiO_4). $\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_4\text{:Mn}^{2+}$ phosphors with doping concentration of Mn^{2+} ions ranging from 0.015 to 0.09 mol% were prepared by a sol-gel method. The prepared powder phosphors were characterized using X-ray Diffractometer (XRD), Field-Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy (FESEM) coupled with Energy Dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) and Photoluminescence (PL) techniques. Samples annealed at 600 °C were amorphous and when annealed at 1000 °C showed an XRD pattern matching the α -phase structure of Zn_2SiO_4 . A network of spherical (but faceted) agglomerated nanoparticles was observed from un-doped and Mn^{2+} doped Zn_2SiO_4 phosphors. The PL spectra recorded from as-prepared $\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_4\text{:Mn}^{2+}$ phosphors showed a broad emission band at ~ 520 nm under UV excitation light. This is a typical emission of Mn^{2+} in Zn_2SiO_4 and maybe assigned to the electronic transition $4\text{T}_1(4\text{G}) \rightarrow 6\text{A}_1(6\text{S})$. $\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_4\text{:Mn}^{2+}$ phosphors were then co-doped with Eu^{3+} and Dy^{3+} rare-earth ions and phosphors co-doped with Eu^{3+} showed emission peak at ~590 nm and an intense red emission at ~615 nm resulting from Eu^{3+} ion transitions $5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow 7\text{F}_2$ and $5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow 7\text{F}_3$, respectively. In addition, Dy^{3+} co-doped $\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_4\text{:Mn}^{2+}$ phosphors showed a multi-peak emission with an intense emission at ~571 nm corresponding to $4\text{F}_9/2 \rightarrow 6\text{H}_{13/2}$ transition. Furthermore, the PL decay of $\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_4\text{:Mn}^{2+}, \text{Eu}^{3+}, \text{Dy}^{3+}$ phosphor was analyzed and described to be bi-exponential.

Apply to be considered for a student award (Yes / No)?

No

Level for award (Hons, MSc, PhD, N/A)?

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