



Contribution ID: 33

Type: Poster Presentation

Synthesize and characterisation of optical properties of a down-converting Y_{2}O_{3} phosphor co-doped with Bi^{3+} and Yb^{3+} .

Tuesday, 5 July 2016 16:10 (1h 50m)

Abstract content
 (Max 300 words)
 Formatting
Special chars

For silicon (Si) solar cells, phosphor materials are necessary for the conversion of ultraviolet (UV) to near-infrared (NIR) radiation. The emission of more than one NIR photon for each UV photon absorbed was demonstrated using a down-converting Y_{2}O_{3} phosphor co-doped with Bi^{3+} and Yb^{3+} . Synthesis of Bi^{3+} and Yb^{3+} co-doped Y_{2}O_{3} phosphor was accomplished by using the co-precipitation method with varying the pH levels of the obtained solution. The influence of pH on the crystal structure, luminescent properties and the size and morphology of the particles were investigated using x-ray diffraction, photoluminescence and scanning electron microscopy. Strong NIR emission was observed at around 1 μm . The strong NIR emission at around 1 μm , under UV excitation, was due to the $2\text{F}_{5/2}$ to $2\text{F}_{7/2}$ transition of Yb^{3+} as a result of energy transfer from Bi^{3+} to Yb^{3+} ions. An energy transfer mechanism was proposed and will be presented. This phosphor proves to be promising for enhancing the efficiency of c-Si solar cells.

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Session Classification: Poster Session (1)

Track Classification: Track A - Division for Physics of Condensed Matter and Materials