


 Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2021, 11, 8917

Influences of copper–potassium ion exchange process on the optical bandgaps and spectroscopic properties of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in lanthanum aluminosilicate glasses

 T. H. Le,^a Anh-Luan Phan,^{bc} Nguyen Minh Ty,^d Dacheng Zhou,^e Jianbei Qiu^e and Ho Kim Dan *^{fg}

In this study, lanthanum aluminosilicate glasses with compositions of 45SiO₂–20Al₂O₃–12.5LaF₃–10BaF₂–9K₂O–1Cr₂O₃–2.5Yb₂O₃ (SALBK) were prepared using the conventional melting method and copper–potassium ion exchange process. Influences of the ion exchange process between copper and potassium on the visible, upconversion, and near-infrared luminescence spectra of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped under excitations of 343, 490, and 980 nm LD were investigated. The EDS analysis of SALBK glasses was measured to confirm the presence of atoms in the glasses. The values of direct and indirect bandgaps of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped SALBK glasses were calculated and analyzed. Besides, the energy exchange processes between Cu⁺, Cu²⁺ ions, and Cr³⁺, Yb³⁺ ions were also proposed and discussed.

Received 25th December 2020

Accepted 17th February 2021

DOI: 10.1039/d0ra10831f

rsc.li/rsc-advances

1. Introduction

In recent years, the spectroscopy and optical properties of chromium single-doped and chromium/rare-earth (RE) co-doped have been extensively studied^{1–5} due to their advantages.^{6,7} Chromium is a transition metal (TM) with many different valence states.^{8–10} In the glass networks, it often exists in the trivalent state Cr³⁺,^{1–5,8} which can emit radiation in the visible (VIS), near-infrared (NIR) regions under different excitation wavelengths.^{5,11,12} Also, the ⁴T_{1g}(F) → ⁴A_{2g}, ⁴T_{2g}(F) → ⁴A_{2g}, ²T_{1g} → ⁴A_{2g}, ²T_{2g} → ⁴A_{2g} and ²E → ⁴A_{2g} transitions of Cr³⁺ can be combined with Yb³⁺ to generate the VIS, NIR emission spectra.^{5,13,14} In 2001, H. U. Güdel *et al.*¹⁵ confirmed that Cr³⁺, in association with Yb³⁺, creates VIS emission in the wavelength range from 400 to 700 nm.¹⁶ Moreover, our recent study¹⁷ showed that the Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in the glasses generates emission spectra in the wavelength regions of 420–700 nm, 660–

860 nm, and 970–1150 nm corresponding to the excitations 358, 488, and 690 nm LD. Since then, we have been interested in enhancing emissions and optical properties of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in the glasses.^{17,18} To this aim, embedding the coinage ions (such as, Ag⁺, Cu⁺ ions) into the glass through the ion exchange process^{20–22} is one of the different solutions which brought about positive results.^{3,12,19} In fact, the ion exchange process between coinage ions and alkali ions has many advantages compared with other traditional methods.²¹ For example, in many previous researches^{22–24} as well as in our recent work,²⁵ it was shown that the coinage ions introduced by the ion exchange processes could significantly affect the optical properties of the glasses such as the refractive index, the optical density, the near-infrared emission spectrum, or even chemically strengthen the glasses^{26,27} as well as modify glass structure.²⁸

Through the ion exchange process, the Cu⁺ and Cu²⁺ ions, as well as Ag⁺ ions, could be ejected into the surfaces of the glasses,^{22,24,29–32} then become neutral copper or/and silver atoms and grow into copper or/and silver nanoparticles (CuNPs or/and AgNPs).^{24,29,32} Therefore, the ion exchange process between copper or/and silver cations and alkali cations to enhance the luminescence of Cr³⁺/RE³⁺ co-doped has been studied in recent times.^{21,29,33} In this paper, we study the influences of the ion exchange process between copper and potassium on the optical bandgaps and spectroscopic properties of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in 45SiO₂–20Al₂O₃–12.5LaF₃–10BaF₂–9K₂O–1Cr₂O₃–2.5Yb₂O₃ lanthanum aluminosilicate glasses. We calculated the values of both the direct and indirect optical bandgaps and figured out its manner of dependence on the salt concentration ratios between CuSO₄:K₂SO₄. Besides, the energy transfer mechanism between

^aDepartment of Physics and Technology, Thai Nguyen University of Sciences, Thai Nguyen, Vietnam

^bInstitute of Fundamental and Applied Sciences, Duy Tan University, Ho Chi Minh City 700000, Vietnam. E-mail: phananhluan@duytan.edu.vn

^cFaculty of Natural Sciences, Duy Tan University, Da Nang City, 550000, Vietnam

^dFaculty of Natural Sciences, Thu Dau Mot University, Thu Dau Mot 590000, Vietnam

^eKey Laboratory of Advanced Materials of Yunnan Province, School of Materials Science and Engineering, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Kunming 650093, China

^fCeramics and Biomaterials Research Group, Advanced Institute of Materials Science, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. E-mail: hokimdan@tdtu.edu.vn

^gFaculty of Applied Sciences, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam


Cu^+ and Cu^{2+} ions with Cr^{3+} , Yb^{3+} ions was also proposed and discussed.

2. Experimental details

In this study, we used the highly pure (99.99%) reagents of SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , LaF_3 , BaF_2 , Cr_2O_3 , K_2O , Yb_2O_3 , K_2SO_4 , and CuSO_4 to prepare compositions of $45\text{SiO}_2-20\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-12.5\text{LaF}_3-10\text{BaF}_2-9\text{K}_2\text{O}-1\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-2.5\text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ (SALBK) by the conventional melting method. After being condensed in a platinum crucible, 12 g of the mixture of these materials were put into an electric furnace to be heated at 1600°C for 1 h under air atmosphere. After that, we poured the molten mixture into a mold placed on a polished plate made from stainless steel to form glass samples, then annealed all of them at 450°C for 6 h to remove thermal strains.³⁴ We next cut them into $10\text{ mm} \times 10\text{ mm} \times 2\text{ mm}$ size and finally polished their surface for the sake of measurements.

In order to perform the ion exchange process between copper and potassium, we prepared salt mixtures with different concentration ratios between $x\text{CuSO}_4:(100-x)\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$ where x varies as particularly given in Table 1.

All the experimental measurements with the glass samples, which were carried out at the ambient air temperature, and their corresponding instruments are listed in Table 2.

To find the suitable temperature ranges for the ion exchange process between copper and potassium, we conducted DTA analysis for $45\text{SiO}_2-20\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-12.5\text{LaF}_3-10\text{BaF}_2-9\text{K}_2\text{O}-1\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-2.5\text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ (SALBK) glass sample. The results are shown in Fig. 1, where T_g , T_x , and T_p are the glass transition temperature, the crystallization onset temperature and crystallization peak temperature, respectively. According to the results, we chose 587°C as the temperature of the salt mixtures into which we submerged the glass samples for 24 h.³⁴

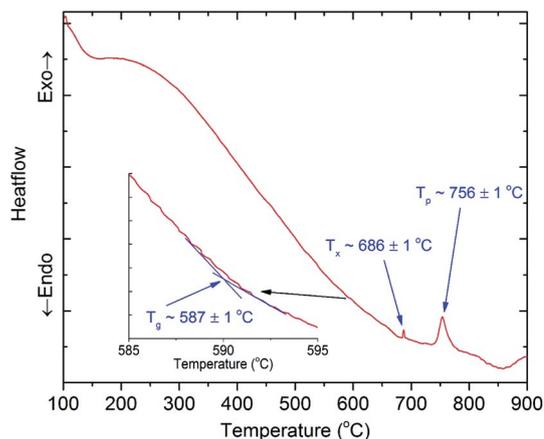


Fig. 1 DTA analysis of $45\text{SiO}_2-20\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-12.5\text{LaF}_3-10\text{BaF}_2-9\text{K}_2\text{O}-1\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-2.5\text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ (SALBK) glass sample.

Next, they were taken out and washed with alcohol and distilled water to eliminate all the residual salt on their surfaces. After all, the glass samples were further heat-treated at 686°C for 8 h to promote the copper nanoparticles (CuNPs) formation.

3. Results and discussion

The EDS analysis of the SALBK-1Cr₂.5Yb-35Cu glass sample is shown in Fig. 2. In addition to the EDS peaks of the Si, O, Al, La, F, Ba, K, Cr, and Yb atoms in SALBK glass,³⁵ the ones of copper were strongly obtained corresponding to the energy values about 0.95, 8.04, and 8.99 keV,³⁶ which means that the copper and potassium ions have been added into the glass network through the ion exchange process.³⁷

Table 1 The concentration ratio of salts mixture for the ion exchange process

Name of glass samples	CuSO_4 mol%	$\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4(100-x)$ mol%	Salt concentration ratio p between CuSO_4 and K_2SO_4
SALBK-1Cr ₂ .5Yb-0Cu	0	100	0
SALBK-1Cr ₂ .5Yb-15Cu	15	85	0.18
SALBK-1Cr ₂ .5Yb-20Cu	20	80	0.25
SALBK-1Cr ₂ .5Yb-25Cu	25	75	0.33
SALBK-1Cr ₂ .5Yb-30Cu	30	70	0.43
SALBK-1Cr ₂ .5Yb-35Cu	35	65	0.54

Table 2 The measurements and their corresponding instruments

Measurement	Instrument
Differential thermal analysis (DTA)	DTA-60AH Shimadzu
X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) spectra	PHI5500 ESCA spectrometer
XRD analysis	Powder diffractometer (BRUKER AXS GMBH) using $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation
Absorption spectra	U-4100 Hitachi spectrophotometer
NIR emission spectra	SBP300 Zolix spectrophotometer with an InGaAs detector
Visible emission spectra	F-7000 Hitachi fluorescence spectrophotometer
Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS)	Field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM)
Decay lifetimes	Edinburgh instruments FLS-1000 fluorescence spectrometer



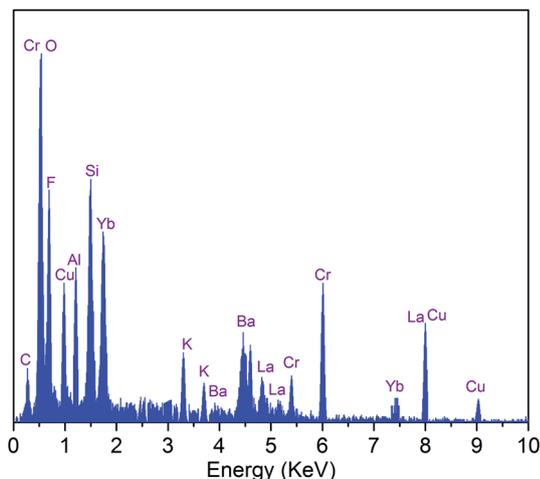


Fig. 2 EDS analysis of SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass sample.

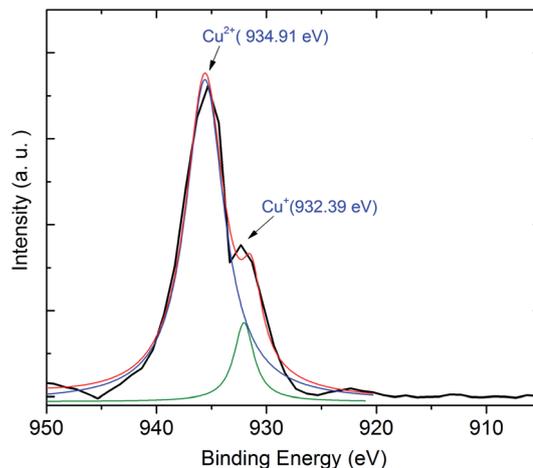


Fig. 5 XPS spectra of SALBK-15Cu glass sample.

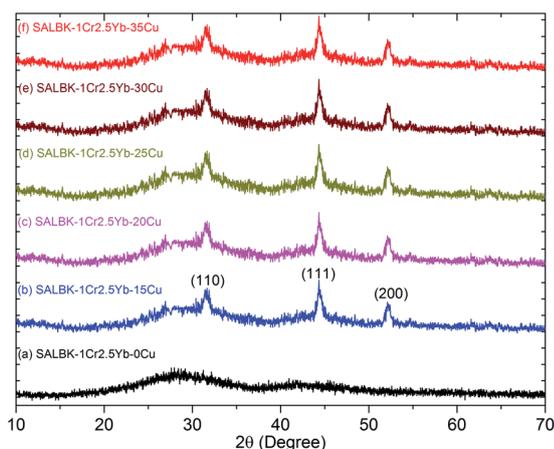


Fig. 3 XRD analysis of SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples.

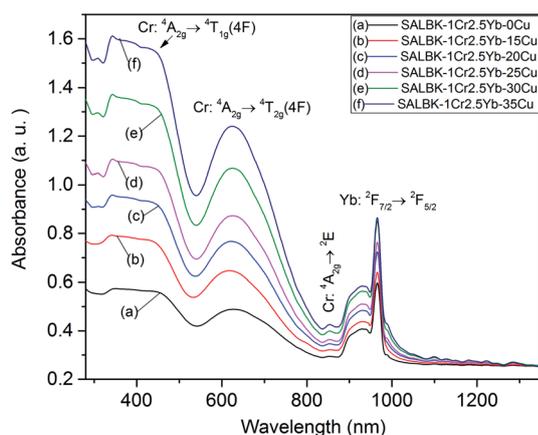


Fig. 4 Absorption spectra of SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples.

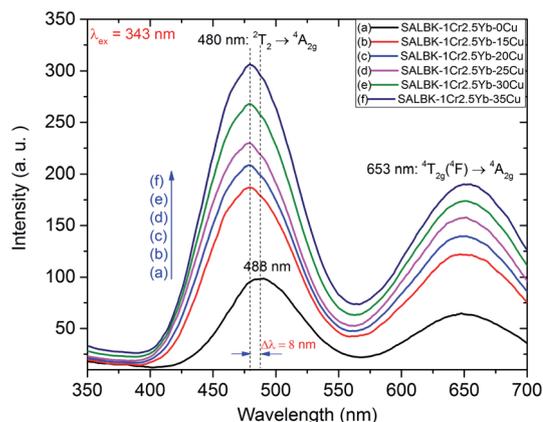


Fig. 6 Visible emission spectra of SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples under excitation 343 nm.



Table 3 CIE 1931 (*x*; *y*) chromaticity coordinates for luminescence of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples

Name of glass samples	CIE _x	CIE _y	Position on the CIE 1931(<i>x</i> , <i>y</i>) chromaticity coordinates	Color region
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu	0.2511	0.4241	P0Cu	Green
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu	0.2648	0.4356	P15Cu	Green
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu	0.2562	0.4294	P20Cu	Green
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu	0.2722	0.4363	P25Cu	Green
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu	0.2779	0.4402	P30Cu	Green
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu	0.2851	0.4501	P35Cu	Yellowish-green

878 nm strongly increased. These increments may be ascribed to the local surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) of copper ions⁴⁴ and the crystal field variation caused by copper ions.^{17,43,45} Moreover, the intensities of two absorption spectra bands centered at 306 nm and 878 nm also increased significantly, which confirms the existence and the role of Cu⁺ and Cu²⁺, respectively,⁴⁶ in the absorption spectra of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped. The Cu⁺ formed and exists in silicate glass due to reducing of Cu²⁺.^{47,48} To further demonstrate the existence of both Cu⁺ and Cu²⁺ ions in the glass after ion exchange. We analyzed XPS spectra of the SALBK-15Cu glass sample, the results are shown in Fig. 5 (the blue and green curves are the curve-fitting Gaussian of XPS spectra at 934.91 eV and 932.39 eV, respectively). Based on these results, we can confirm the existence of

both Cu⁺ and Cu²⁺ ions in the SALBK glasses, corresponding to the XPS major peaks at 932.39 eV and 934.91 eV.^{49–52}

In Fig. 6, we present the visible emission spectra under excitation 343 nm of all these glass samples with two peaks at about 488 and 653 nm, which are assigned to the ²T₂ → ⁴A_{2g} and ⁴T_{2g}(⁴F) → ⁴A_{2g} transitions of Cr³⁺.^{17,43,45} As shown, the visible emission intensities of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped bands centered at 488 and 653 nm significantly increased with the increase in salt concentration ratio *p* from 0.18 to 0.54.⁴⁷ Interestingly, the peak at 488 nm of Cr³⁺ under 343 nm excitation has a slight blue-shift of about 8 nm. The emission peak shift at 488 nm of Cr³⁺ is assigned to the role of Cu⁺ cations. This result is also consistent with the suggestions discussed in the paper⁵³ of Tian-Shuai Lv *et al.*

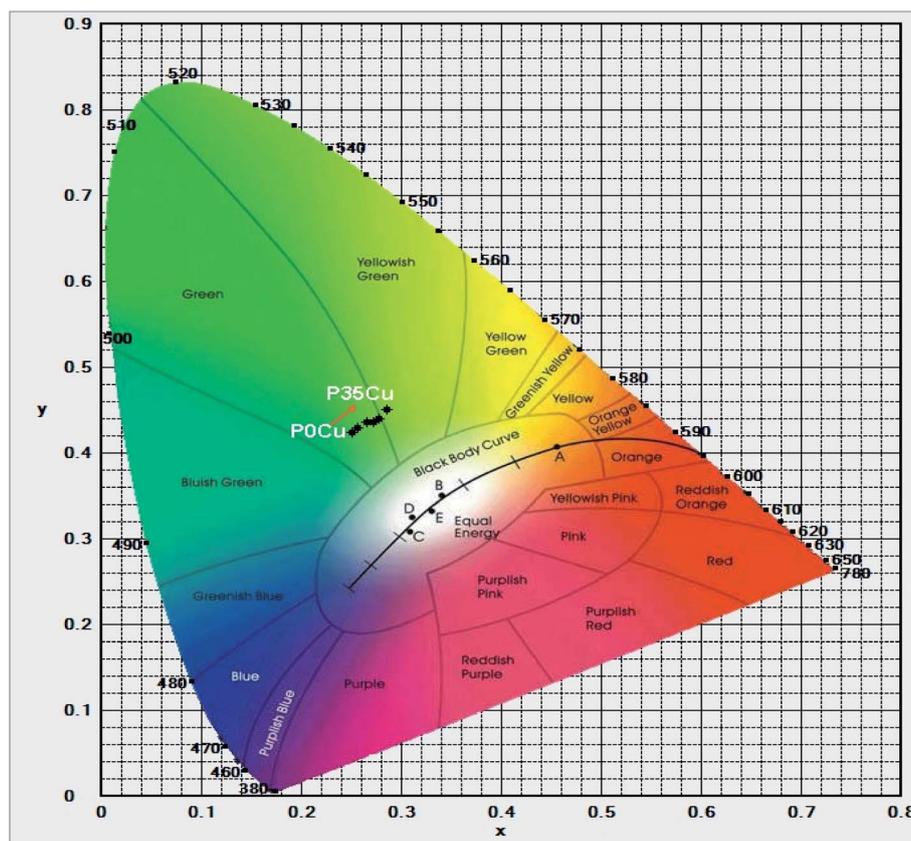


Fig. 7 CIE 1931(*x*; *y*) chromaticity coordinates for luminescence of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples.



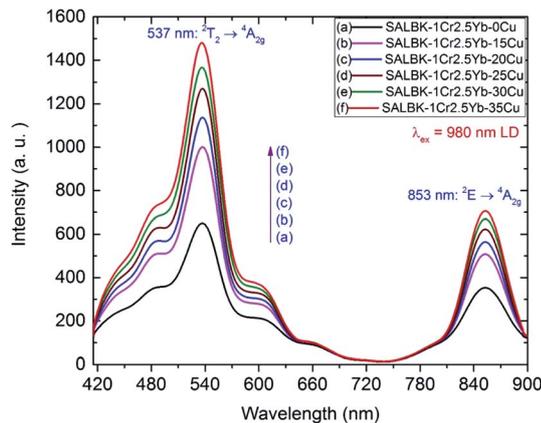
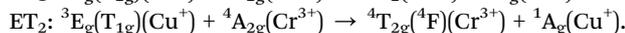
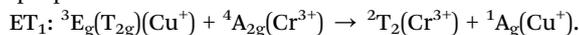


Fig. 8 UC spectra of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped in SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples under excitation 980 nm LD.

The increases in visible emission intensity of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped band centered at 488 nm and 653 nm were assigned to the energy transfer (ET_1) process from ${}^3\text{E}_g(\text{T}_{2g}) \rightarrow {}^1\text{A}_g$ transition of Cu^+ to ${}^2\text{T}_2 \rightarrow {}^4\text{A}_{2g}$ transition of Cr^{3+} ,^{47,48} and to the ET_2 process from ${}^3\text{E}_g(\text{T}_{1g}) \rightarrow {}^1\text{A}_g$ transition of Cu^+ to ${}^4\text{T}_{2g}({}^4\text{F}) \rightarrow {}^4\text{A}_{2g}$ transition of Cr^{3+} ,^{47,48} respectively. These two ET_1 , ET_2 processes are proposed as follows:



Furthermore, the calculated results of the CIE 1931(x ; y) chromaticity coordinates for luminescence of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped in SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples in correspondence to the P0Cu, P15Cu, P20Cu, P25Cu, P30Cu, and P35Cu points on the CIE 1931(x , y) chromaticity coordinates are given in Table 3, while Fig. 7 is for the sake of illustration. It can be seen that except for the CIE 1931(x ; y) chromaticity coordinates for luminescence of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped in SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu

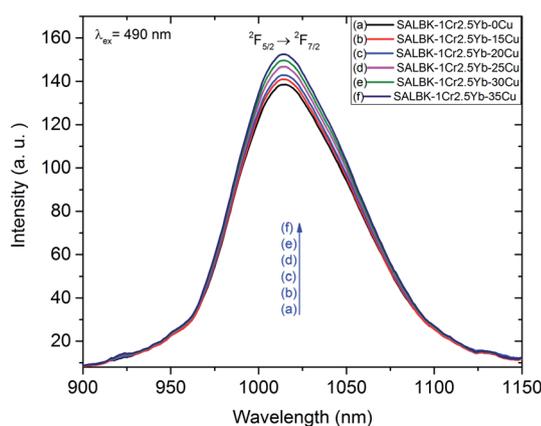
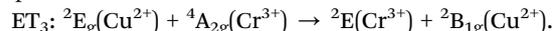


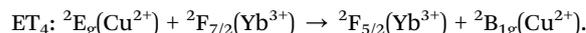
Fig. 9 NIR emission spectra of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped in SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples, excited by 490 nm.

glass sample were shifted to the yellowish-green color region, the remaining were originally in the green color region.

Fig. 8 shows the upconversion (UC) emission spectra of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped in all the glass samples under excitation 980 nm LD with two bands centered at ~ 537 and 853 nm corresponding to ${}^2\text{T}_2 \rightarrow {}^4\text{A}_{2g}$, and ${}^2\text{E} \rightarrow {}^4\text{A}_{2g}$ transitions of Cr^{3+} , respectively.^{17,45,54–56} With the increase in salt concentration ratio p from 0.18 to 0.54, the emission intensities of these bands markedly increased. These increments were assigned to the aforementioned ET_1 process (for the band centered at 537 nm) and to the ET_3 process from ${}^2\text{B}_{2g} \rightarrow {}^2\text{B}_{1g}$ transition of Cu^{2+} to ${}^2\text{E} \rightarrow {}^4\text{A}_{2g}$ transition of Cr^{3+} (for the one at 853 nm),^{5,46} which is proposed as follows:



Likewise, Fig. 9 shows the NIR emission spectra under excitation 490 nm. There was only one NIR emission peak at 1016 nm, and it is assigned to the ${}^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^2\text{F}_{7/2}$ transition of Yb^{3+} .^{3,5} Similarly, the NIR emission intensity of the band centered at 1016 nm also increased with the increase in salt concentration ratio p , which is a manifestation of the ET_4 process from ${}^2\text{B}_{2g} \rightarrow {}^2\text{B}_{1g}$ transition of Cu^{2+} to ${}^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^2\text{F}_{7/2}$ transition of Yb^{3+} .⁵⁷



The mechanism for the visible and NIR luminescence of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped under excitations of 343, 490, and 980 nm LD, and the details of all the above-mentioned ET_1 , ET_2 , ET_3 , and ET_4 processes are described in Fig. 10.

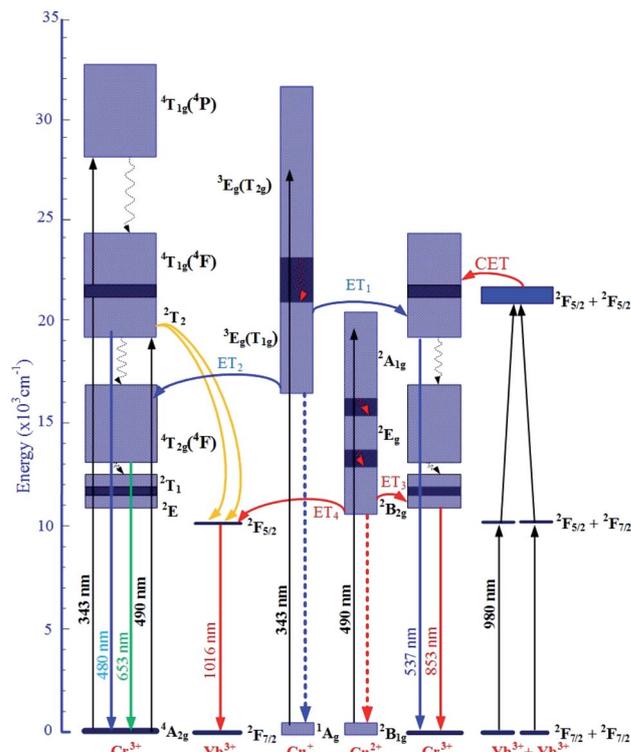


Fig. 10 Mechanism ET processes for the visible, UC, and NIR luminescence of $\text{Cr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ co-doped under excitations 343, 490, and 980 nm LD.



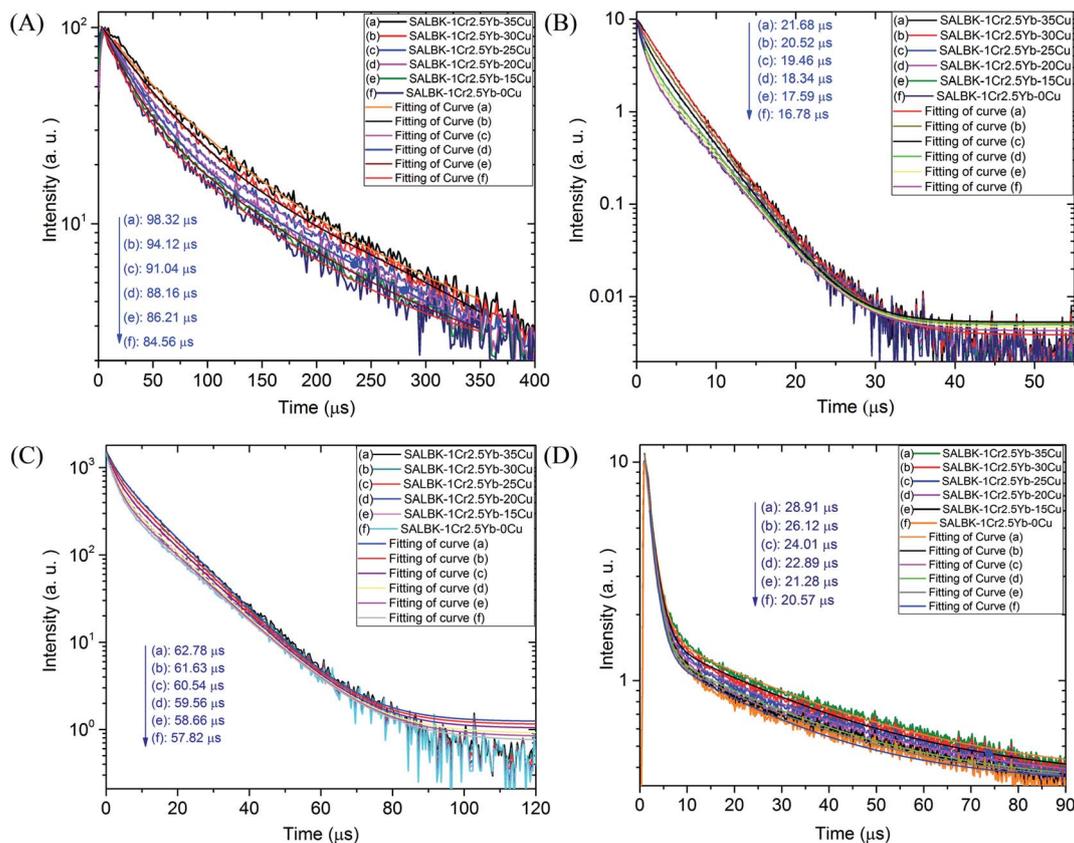


Fig. 11 (A) Decay lifetimes curves of Cr^{3+} at 537 nm in SALBK-0Cu, SALBK-15Cu, SALBK-20Cu, SALBK-25Cu, SALBK-30Cu, and SALBK-35Cu glass samples, under excitation 980 nm. (B) Decay lifetimes curves of Cr^{3+} at 653 nm in SALBK-0Cu, SALBK-15Cu, SALBK-20Cu, SALBK-25Cu, SALBK-30Cu, and SALBK-35Cu glass samples, under excitation 343 nm. (C) Decay lifetimes curves of Cr^{3+} at 853 nm in SALBK-0Cu, SALBK-15Cu, SALBK-20Cu, SALBK-25Cu, SALBK-30Cu, and SALBK-35Cu glass samples, under excitation 980 nm LD. (D) Decay lifetimes curves of Yb^{3+} at 1016 nm in SALBK-0Cu, SALBK-15Cu, SALBK-20Cu, SALBK-25Cu, SALBK-30Cu, and SALBK-35Cu glass samples, under excitation 490 nm.

Table 4 Decay lifetimes values of Cr^{3+} and Yb^{3+} demonstrating for the ET_1 , ET_2 , ET_3 , and ET_4 processes

Name of glass samples	Decay lifetimes of Cr^{3+} at 537 nm, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 980$ nm LD (ET_1 process)	Decay lifetimes of Cr^{3+} at 653 nm, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 343$ nm (ET_2 process)	Decay lifetimes of Cr^{3+} at 853 nm, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 980$ nm LD (ET_3 process)	Decay lifetimes of Yb^{3+} at 1016 nm, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 490$ nm (ET_4 process)
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu	98.32 μs	21.68 μs	62.78 μs	28.91 μs
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu	94.12 μs	20.52 μs	61.63 μs	26.12 μs
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu	91.04 μs	19.46 μs	60.54 μs	24.01 μs
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu	88.16 μs	18.34 μs	59.56 μs	22.89 μs
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu	86.21 μs	17.59 μs	58.66 μs	21.28 μs
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu	84.56 μs	16.78 μs	57.82 μs	20.57 μs



To further validate evidence for the ET₁, ET₂, ET₃, ET₄ processes from Cu⁺/Cu²⁺ ions to Cr³⁺ and Yb³⁺ ions, we carried out the decay lifetimes measurement for several glass samples. Namely, the decay lifetimes curves of Cr³⁺ at 537, 653, and 853 nm to demonstrations for the ET₁, ET₂, ET₃ processes are shown in Fig. 11A–C, respectively while the decay lifetimes curve of Yb³⁺ at 1016 nm to demonstrations for the ET₄ is in Fig. 11D.

We recall that the decay lifetimes can be calculated by the following equation:^{58,59}

$$\tau = \frac{A_1\tau_1^2 + A_2\tau_2^2}{A_1\tau_1 + A_2\tau_2} \quad (1)$$

where A_1, A_2 are constants; τ_1, τ_2 are rapid and slow lifetimes for exponential components, respectively. Using the formula (1) for the data obtained in Fig. 11A–D, we calculated the decay lifetime values of Cr³⁺ and Yb³⁺, corresponding to the ET₁, ET₂, ET₃ and ET₄ processes, details are presented in Table 4.

Finally, we calculated and analyzed the optical bandgap (E_g) of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in SALBK glasses to evaluate whether and how it is affected by the ion exchange process between copper and potassium. The optical bandgap E_g can be calculated using Tauc's formula:⁶⁰

$$\alpha h\nu = A(h\nu - E_g)^m \quad (2)$$

where α is the absorption coefficient, A is a constant, m is the power depending on the nature of transition ($m = 1/2$ for direct transition, and $m = 2$ for indirect transition).^{61–63} From formula (2), the values of both types (direct and indirect) of the optical bandgap in SALBK glasses are calculated and detailed in Table 5. For the sake of demonstration, we also present the plot of $(h\nu)$ versus both $(\alpha h\nu)^2$ and $(\alpha h\nu)^{1/2}$ for estimating E_g of all the considered samples in Fig. 12 and 13.

The calculation gave us the estimated results of 3.23–3.33 eV for direct bandgap and 2.83–3.02 eV for indirect bandgap. On the other hand, both bandgap types decrease when the salt concentration ratio p increases from 0.18 to 0.54. Thus, we can conclude that the ion exchange process between copper and potassium had a diminishing effect on the bandgap. The reasons for this effect can be: (i) Because there are non-bridging oxygens (NBOs) in the silicate glasses network,⁶⁴ the Al³⁺ ions have some options to link with SiO₄ tetrahedra to form (Al, Si)–O–Si, (Al, Si)–O–Al bonds,⁶⁵ or with others groups to form (Al, Si)–O bonds.⁶⁵ After the copper ions were introduced into the

Table 5 The values of both the direct and indirect optical bandgaps in SALBK glasses

Glass samples	Direct bandgap $h\nu$ [(eV)]	Indirect bandgap $h\nu$ [(eV)]
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu	3.33	3.02
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu	3.32	2.98
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu	3.30	2.91
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu	3.28	2.88
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu	3.25	2.87
SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu	3.23	2.83

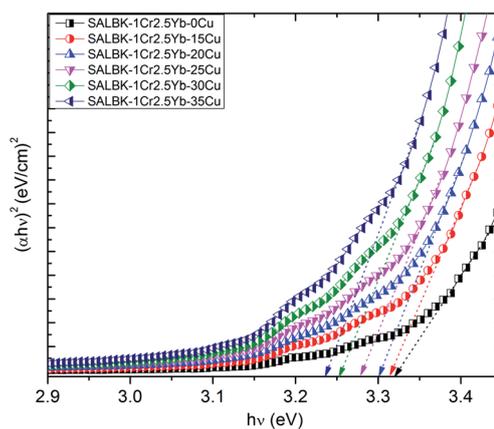


Fig. 12 Plot of $(h\nu)$ versus $(\alpha h\nu)^2$ for estimating the E_g of SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples.

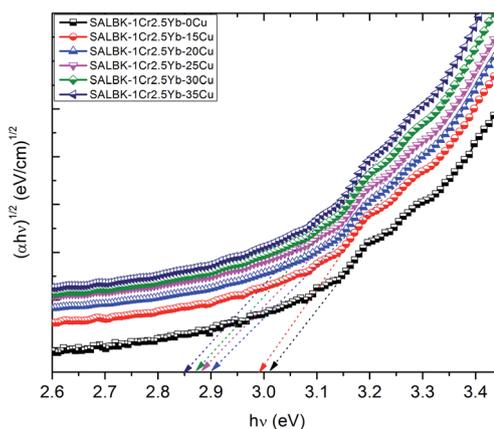


Fig. 13 Plot of $(h\nu)$ versus $(\alpha h\nu)^{1/2}$ for estimating the E_g of SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-0Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-15Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-20Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-25Cu, SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-30Cu, and SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass samples.

silica network by the copper-potassium ion exchange process, these bonds may be broken and then Al–O[−] and Si–O[−] groups can combine with copper ions to create the Si–O–Cu, and Al–O–Cu bonds. (ii) With the increase of salt concentration ratio, more negative sites appeared due to the local structure of the NBOs in the silicate glasses network.^{64,66}

4. Conclusions

The CuNPs were formed in 45SiO₂–20Al₂O₃–12.5LaF₃–10BaF₂–9K₂O–1Cr₂O₃–2.5Yb₂O₃ lanthanum aluminosilicate glasses through the ion exchange process between copper and potassium process. The intensities of all three visible, UC, and NIR emissions of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped bands at 480, 537, 653, 853, and 1016 nm increased with the increase in the ratio of salt concentrations CuSO₄·K₂SO₄ from 0.18 to 0.54. When the salt concentration ratio of the ion exchange process achieved 35 mol%CuSO₄:65 mol%K₂SO₄, the CIE 1931(x; y) chromaticity



coordinates for the luminescence of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped in SALBK-1Cr2.5Yb-35Cu glass sample shifted to the yellowish-green color region. At the same time, the estimated results of the optical bandgap (E_g) confirmed that with the increase in the ratio of salt concentrations CuSO₄:K₂SO₄ from 0.18 to 0.54, the value of both direct and indirect bandgaps decrease. Besides, the possible energy transfer processes from Cu⁺, Cu²⁺ ions to Cr³⁺, Yb³⁺ ions were determined through the experimental results of the spectroscopic emissions and the decay lifetimes.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

Acknowledgements

This research is funded by Vietnam National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) under grant number 103.03-2020.30.

References

- 1 D. Gourier, A. Bessière, S. K. Sharma, L. Binet, B. Viana, N. Basavaraju and K. R. Priolkar, Origin of the visible light induced persistent luminescence of Cr³⁺-doped zinc gallate, *J. Phys. Chem. Solids*, 2014, **75**, 826–837, DOI: 10.1016/j.jpcs.2014.03.005.
- 2 Z. Gerelkhuu, B. T. Huy, J. W. Chung, T. L. Phan and E. Conte, Yong-Ill Lee, Influence of Cr³⁺ on upconversion luminescent and magnetic properties of NaLu_{0.86-x}Gd_{0.12}F₄:Cr³⁺/Er³⁺_{0.02} (0 ≤ x ≤ 0.24) material, *J. Lumin.*, 2017, **187**, 40–45, DOI: 10.1016/j.jlumin.2017.02.038.
- 3 Z. J. Fang, Y. Li, F. T. Zhang, Z. J. Ma, G. P. Dong and J. R. Qiu, Enhanced sunlight excited 1-μm emission in Cr³⁺-Yb³⁺ co-doped transparent glass-ceramics containing Y₃Al₅O₁₂ nanocrystals, *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2014, **98**(4), 1–6, DOI: 10.1111/jace.13449.
- 4 X. L. Yang, W. C. Wang and Q. Y. Zhang, BaF₂ modified Cr³⁺/Ho³⁺ co-doped germanate glass for efficient 2.0 μm fiber lasers, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2018, **482**, 147–153, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrysol.2017.12.031.
- 5 H. K. Dan, N. M. Ty, D. C. Zhou and J. B. Qiu, Anh-Luan Phan, Influence of Cr³⁺ on yellowish-green UC emission and energy transfer of Er³⁺/Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ tri-doped zinc silicate glasses, *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2020, **103**, 6356–6368, DOI: 10.1111/jace.17359.
- 6 Q. Y. Shao, H. Ding, L. Q. Yao, J. F. Xu, C. Liang and J. Q. Jiang, Photoluminescence properties of a ScBO₃:Cr³⁺ phosphor and its applications for broadband near-infrared LEDs, *RSC Adv.*, 2018, **8**, 12035–12042, DOI: 10.1039/C8RA01084F.
- 7 M. A. Hassan, F. Ahmad and Z. M. Abd El-Fattah, Novel identification of ultraviolet/visible Cr⁶⁺/Cr³⁺ optical transitions in borate glasses, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2018, **750**, 320–327, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2018.03.351.
- 8 U. R. Rodríguez-Mendoza, A. Speghini, D. Jaque, M. Zambelli and M. Bettinelli, Optical properties of single doped Cr³⁺ and co-doped Cr³⁺-Nd³⁺ aluminum tantalum tellurite glasses, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2004, **380**, 163–166, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2004.03.024.
- 9 H. P. Ma, P. Liu, D. G. Deng and S. Q. Xu, Spectroscopy and crystal-field analysis of Cr⁴⁺-doped transparent silicate glass-ceramics, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2011, **357**, 2294–2297, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrysol.2010.11.066.
- 10 M. A. Hassan, F. M. Ebrahim and M. G. Moustafa, Z.M.Abd El-Fattah, M.M. El-Ok, Unraveling the hidden Urbach edge and Cr⁶⁺ optical transitions in borate glasses, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2019, **515**, 157–164, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrysol.2019.02.026.
- 11 S. Ye, E. H. Song, E. Ma, S. J. Zhang, J. Wang, X. Y. Chen, Q. Y. Zhang and J. R. Qiu, Broadband Cr³⁺-sensitized upconversion luminescence in La₃Ga₅GeO₁₄: Cr³⁺, Yb³⁺, Er³⁺, *Opt. Mater. Express*, 2014, **4**, 638–648, DOI: 10.1364/OME.4.000638.
- 12 X. Wang, W. H. Li, K. Tian, E. Lewis, S. B. Wang, G. Brambilla, Y. K. Dong, X. Wu and P. F. Wang, Enhanced near-infrared emission in Yb³⁺-Cr³⁺ co-doped KZnF₃ glass-ceramics excited by a solar simulator, *Ceramics International*, 2019, **45**, 6738–6743, DOI: 10.1016/j.ceramint.2018.12.164.
- 13 D. Ghosh, S. Balaji, K. Biswas and K. Annapurna, Quantum cutting induced multifold enhanced emission from Cr³⁺-Yb³⁺-Nd³⁺ doped zinc fluoroboro silicate glass-Role of host material, *J. Appl. Phys.*, 2016, **120**, 233104, DOI: 10.1063/1.4971979.
- 14 X. Y. Luo, X. L. Yang and S. G. Xiao, Conversion of broadband UV-visible to near infrared emission by LaMgAl₁₁O₁₉: Cr³⁺, Yb³⁺ phosphors, *Mater. Res. Bull.*, 2018, **101**, 73–82, DOI: 10.1016/j.materresbull.2017.12.023.
- 15 S. Heer, M. Wermuth, K. Krämer and H. U. Güdel, Upconversion excitation of Cr³⁺ ²E emission in Y₃Ga₅O₁₂ codoped with Cr³⁺ and Yb³⁺, *J. Lumin.*, 2001, **94–95**, 337–341, DOI: 10.1016/S0022-2313(01)00395-7.
- 16 S. Heer, K. Petermann and H. U. Güdel, Upconversion excitation of Cr³⁺ emission in YAlO₃ codoped with Cr³⁺ and Yb³⁺, *J. Lumin.*, 2003, **102–103**, 144–150, DOI: 10.1016/S0022-2313(02)00490-8.
- 17 H. K. Dan, N. M. Ty and T. D. Tap, Dai-Nam Le, L.T. Vinh, Q. Jiao, D.C. Zhou, J.B. Qiu, Energy transfer and spectroscopic properties of Cr³⁺/Yb³⁺ co-doped TeO₂-ZnO-La₂O₃ tellurite glasses under different wavelength excitation lights, *Opt. Mater.*, 2020, **100**, 109662, DOI: 10.1016/j.optmat.2020.109662.
- 18 S. Heer, M. Wermuth, K. Krämer and H. U. Güdel, Sharp ²E upconversion luminescence of Cr³⁺ in Y₃Ga₅O₁₂ co-doped with Cr³⁺ and Yb³⁺, *Phys. Rev. B*, 2002, **65**, 125112, DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevB.65.125112.
- 19 M. Skruodiene, A. Katelnikovas, L. Vasylychko and R. Skaudzius, Tb³⁺ to Cr³⁺ energy transfer in a co-doped Y₃Al₅O₁₂ host, *J. Lumin.*, 2019, **208**, 327–333, DOI: 10.1016/j.jlumin.2018.12.048.
- 20 C. Y. Yu, Z. W. Yang, J. Y. Zhao, J. L. Zhu, A. J. Huang, J. B. Qiu, Z. G. Song and D. C. Zhou, Luminescence enhancement and white light generation of Eu³⁺ and Dy³⁺



- single-doped and co-doped tellurite glasses by Ag nanoparticles based on Ag^+ - Na^+ ion-exchange, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2018, **748**, 717–729, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2018.03.191.
- 21 X. J. He, X. H. Xu, Y. M. Shi and J. B. Qiu, Effective enhancement of Bi near-infrared luminescence in silicogermanate glasses via silver–sodium ion exchange, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2015, **409**, 178–182, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrsol.2014.11.021.
- 22 J. Y. Zhao, J. L. Zhu, Z. W. Yang, Q. Jiao, C. Y. Yu, J. B. Qiu and Z. G. Song, Selective preparation of Ag species on photoluminescence of Sm^{3+} in borosilicate glass via Ag^+ - Na^+ ion exchange, *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2020, **103**(2), 955–964, DOI: 10.1111/jace.16758.
- 23 P. Vařák, P. Někviňová, S. Vytkačová, A. Michalčová, P. Malinský and J. Oswald, Near-infrared photoluminescence enhancement and radiative energy transfer in RE-doped zinc-silicate glass (RE = Ho, Er, Tm) after silver ion exchange, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2021, 120580, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrsol.2020.120580.
- 24 I. A. Demichev, A. I. Sidorov and N. V. Nikonorov, The influence of the conditions of ion exchange in $\text{CuSO}_4\cdot\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ melt on the optical properties of surface layers of silicate glass, *Opt. Spectrosc.*, 2015, **119**, 234–237, DOI: 10.1134/S0030400X15080068.
- 25 H. K. Dan, Anh-Luan. Phan, N.M. Ty, D.C. Zhou, J.B. Qiu, Optical bandgaps and visible/near-infrared emissions of Bi^{n+} -doped ($n = 1, 2, \text{ and } 3$) fluoroaluminosilicate glasses via Ag^+ - K^+ ions exchange process, *Opt. Mater.*, 2021, **112**, 110762, DOI: 10.1016/j.optmat.2020.110762.
- 26 L. Y. Zhang and X. J. Guo, Thermal history and its implications: A case study for ion exchange, *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2020, **103**(7), 3971–3977, DOI: 10.1111/jace.17027.
- 27 X. C. Li, M. Meng, D. Li, R. Wei, L. He and S. F. Zhang, Strengthening and toughening of a multi-component lithium disilicate glass-ceramic by ion-exchange, *J. Eur. Ceram. Soc.*, **40**(13), 4635–4646, DOI: 10.1016/j.jeurceramsoc.2020.05.075.
- 28 C. Ragoen, M. A. T. Marple, S. Sen, T. Lambricht and S. Godet, Structural modifications induced by Na^+ / K^+ ion exchange in silicate glasses: A multinuclear NMR spectroscopic study, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2017, **474**, 9–15, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrsol.2017.08.006.
- 29 X. J. He, X. H. Xu, D. C. Zhou, C. Q. Yan and J. B. Qiu, Effects of copper ions on the near-infrared luminescence in Bi-doped silicate glass via copper for sodium ion exchange, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2015, **421**, 30–34, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrsol.2015.04.024.
- 30 I. A. Demichev, N. V. Nikonorov and A. I. Sidorov, Formation of core-shell bimetallic nanostructures in alkali silicate glasses in the course of silver and copper ion exchange and thermal treatment, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 2015, **119**(33), 19344–19349, DOI: 10.1021/acs.jpcc.5b05036.
- 31 G. K. Inwati, P. Kumar, W. D. Roos, H. C. Swart and M. Singh, UV-irradiation effects on tuning LSPR of Cu/Ag nanoclusters in ion exchanged glass matrix and its thermodynamic behaviour, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2020, **823**, 153820, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2020.153820.
- 32 C. Y. Yu, Z. W. Yang, J. Y. Zhao, J. L. Zhu, A. J. Huang, J. B. Qiu, Z. G. Song and D. C. Zhou, Luminescence enhancement and white light generation of Eu^{3+} and Dy^{3+} single-doped and co-doped tellurite glasses by Ag nanoparticles based on Ag^+ - Na^+ ion-exchange, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2018, **748**, 717–729, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2018.03.191.
- 33 E. Cattaruzza, G. Battaglin, F. Gonella, A. Quaranta, G. Mariotto, C. Sada and S. Ali, chromium doping of silicate glasses by field-assisted solid-state ion exchange, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2011, **357**, 1846–1850, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrsol.2010.12.050.
- 34 H. K. Dan, N. M. Ty, T. D. Tap, H. X. Vinh, L. T. Vinh, Q. Jiao, D. C. Zhou and J. B. Qiu, Effects of $\text{Al}^{3+}/\text{La}^{3+}$ ratio on the DSC/DTA and luminescence properties of Bi-doped lanthanum aluminosilicate glasses, *Infrared Phys. Technol.*, 2019, **103**, 103072, DOI: 10.1016/j.infrared.2019.103072.
- 35 V. S. Dharmadhikari, S. R. Sainkar, S. Badrinarayan and A. Goswami, Characterisation of thin films of bismuth oxide by X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy, *J. Electron Spectrosc. Relat. Phenom.*, 1982, **25**, 181–189, DOI: 10.1016/0368-2048(82)85016-0.
- 36 A. A. Menazea, A. M. Abdelghany, N. A. Hakeem, W. H. Osman and F. H. Abd El-kader, Precipitation of Silver nanoparticles in Borate glasses by 1064 nm Nd:YAG Nanosecond Laser Pulses: Characterization and Dielectric Studies, *J. Electron. Mater.*, 2020, **49**, 826–832, DOI: 10.1007/s11664-019-07736-z.
- 37 M. Puchalska, E. Zych and P. Bolek, Luminescences of Bi^{3+} and Bi^{2+} ions in Bi-doped CaAl_4O_7 phosphor powders obtained via modified Pechini citrate process, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2019, **806**, 798–805, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2019.07.307.
- 38 H. C. Swart and R. E. Kroon, Ultraviolet and visible luminescence from bismuth doped materials, *Opt. Mater.: X*, 2019, **2**, 100025, DOI: 10.1016/j.omx.2019.100025.
- 39 X. J. He, X. H. Xu, D. C. Zhou, C. Q. Yan and J. B. Qiu, Effects of copper ions on the near-infrared luminescence in Bi-doped silicate glass via copper for sodium ion exchange, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2015, **421**, 30–34, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrsol.2015.04.024.
- 40 Y. Fujimoto and M. Nakatsuka, ^{27}Al NMR structural study on aluminum coordination state in bismuth-doped silica glass, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2006, **352**, 2254, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrsol.2006.02.047.
- 41 M. Ismail, S. Gul, M. I. Khan and M. Ali Khan, Abdullah M. Asiri, S.B. Khan, Green synthesis of zerovalent copper nanoparticles for efficient reduction of toxic azo dyes congo red and methyl orange, *Green Process. Synth.*, 2019, **8**, 135–143, DOI: 10.1515/gps-2018-0038.
- 42 X. M. Lu, H. X. Li, X. Bao, W. Liu, X. X. Fan, Y. F. Liu, J. Li, Z. X. Guo, Y. Qiu, L. Zhang, S. N. Lv, X. L. Zhang, T. Y. Tan and J. W. Wang, Enhanced f and d state upconversion of Ln^{3+} and Cr^{3+} by codoping zinc and cadmium in



- gallogermanates, *J. Lumin.*, 2019, **210**, 358–362, DOI: 10.1016/j.jlumin.2019.02.052.
- 43 Q. Q. Wang, S. Y. Zhang, Z. W. Li and Q. Zhu, Near infrared-emitting Cr³⁺/Eu³⁺ co-doped zinc gallogermanate persistence luminescent nanoparticles for cell imaging, *Nanoscale Res. Lett.*, 2018, **13**(64), 1–9, DOI: 10.1186/s11671-018-2477-6.
- 44 P. S. Liu, H. Wang, X. M. Li, M. C. Rui and H. B. Zeng, Localized surface plasmon resonance of Cu nanoparticles by laser ablation in liquid media, *RSC Adv.*, 2015, **5**, 79738–79745, DOI: 10.1039/C5RA14933A.
- 45 I. Mikalauskaitė, G. Pleckaitytė, M. Skapas, A. Zarkov, A. Katelnikovas and A. Beganskiene, Emission spectra tuning of upconverting NaGdF₄:20%Yb, 2%Er nanoparticles by Cr³⁺ co-doping for optical temperature sensing, *J. Lumin.*, 2019, **213**, 210–217, DOI: 10.1016/j.jlumin.2019.05.032.
- 46 T. S. Lv, X. H. Xu, D. C. Zhou and J. B. Qiu, Influence of Cu⁺ cations on photoluminescence properties of Tb³⁺ in Cu⁺-Na⁺ ion-exchanged sodium-borosilicate glasses, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 2015, **409**, 14–19, DOI: 10.1016/j.jnoncrystol.2014.11.006.
- 47 J. A. Jiménez, M. Sendova and C. Q. Zhao, Efficient energy transfer and enhanced near-IR emission in Cu⁺/Nd³⁺-activated aluminophosphate glass, *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2015, **98**(10), 305–308, DOI: 10.1111/jace.13727.
- 48 J. A. Jiménez and M. Sendova, Enhanced 1.53 μm emission of Er³⁺ ions in phosphate glass via energy transfer from Cu⁺ ions, *J. Appl. Phys.*, 2014, **116**, 033518, DOI: 10.1063/1.4890716.
- 49 J. Z. Zhang, Y. H. Xu, Z. Liu, W. R. Yang and J. Q. Liu, A highly conductive porous graphene electrode prepared via in situ reduction of graphene oxide using Cu nanoparticles for the fabrication of high performance supercapacitors, *RSC Adv.*, 2015, **5**, 54275, DOI: 10.1039/C5RA07857A.
- 50 Z. Jin, C. Liu, K. Qi and X. Q. Cui, Photo-reduced Cu/CuO nanoclusters on TiO₂ nanotube arrays as highly efficient and reusable catalyst, *Sci. Rep.*, 2017, **7**, 39695, DOI: 10.1038/srep39695.
- 51 M. C. Biesinger, Advanced analysis of copper X-ray photoelectron spectra, *Surf. Interface Anal.*, 2017, **49**, 1325–1334, DOI: 10.1002/sia.6239.
- 52 A. Gupta, R. Jamatia, R. A. Patil, Y.-R. Ma and A. K. Pal, Copper Oxide/reduced graphene oxide nanocomposite-catalyzed synthesis of flavanones and flavanones with triazole hybrid molecules in one pot: a green and sustainable approach, *ACS Omega*, 2018, **3**, 7288–7299, DOI: 10.1021/acsomega.8b00334.
- 53 T.-S. Lv, Xu-H. Xu, X. Yu and J. B. Qiu, Evolution in the oxidation valences and sensitization effect of copper through modifying glass structure and Sn²⁺/Si codoping, *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2015, **98**(7), 2078–2085, DOI: 10.1111/jace.13599.
- 54 L. F. Yuan, Y. H. Jin, Y. Su, H. Y. Wu, Y. H. Hu and S. H. Yang, Optically stimulated luminescence phosphors: principles, applications, and prospects, *Laser Photonics Rev.*, 2020, **14**(12), 2000123, DOI: 10.1002/lpor.202000123.
- 55 Y. H. Jin, Y. H. Hu, L. F. Yuan, L. Chen, H. Y. Wu, G. F. Ju, H. Duan and Z. F. Mu, Multifunctional near-infrared emitting Cr³⁺-doped Mg₄Ga₈Ge₂O₂₀ particles with long persistent and photostimulated persistent luminescence, and photochromic properties, *J. Mater. Chem. C*, 2016, **4**, 6614–6625, DOI: 10.1039/C6TC01640E.
- 56 Y. Y. Zhan, Y. H. Jin, H. Y. Wu, L. F. Yuan, G. F. Ju, Y. Lv and Y. H. Hu, Cr³⁺-doped Mg₄Ga₄Ge₃O₁₆ near-infrared phosphor membrane for optical information storage and recording, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2019, **777**, 991–1000, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2018.11.065.
- 57 Y. X. Zhuang and S. Tanabe, Forward and back energy transfer between Cu²⁺ and Yb³⁺ in Ca_{1-x}CuSi₄O₁₀:Yb_x crystals, *J. Appl. Phys.*, 2012, **112**, 093521, DOI: 10.1063/1.4765013.
- 58 H. K. Dan, D. C. Zhou, R. F. Wang, J. Qiao, Z. W. Yang, Z. G. X. Yu and J. B. Qiu, Effect of copper nanoparticles on the enhancement of upconversion in the Tb³⁺/Yb³⁺-codoped transparent glass-ceramics, *Opt. Mater.*, 2015, **39**, 160–166, DOI: 10.1016/j.optmat.2014.11.018.
- 59 H. K. Dan, D. C. Zhou, R. F. Wang, J. Qiao, Z. W. Yang, Z. G. Song, X. Yu and J. B. Qiu, Effect of Mn²⁺ ions on the enhancement upconversion emission and energy transfer of Mn²⁺/Tb³⁺/Yb³⁺ tri-doped transparent glass-ceramics, *Mater. Lett.*, 2015, **150**, 76–80, DOI: 10.1016/j.matlet.2015.03.005.
- 60 J. Tauc, in *Amorphous and Liquid Semiconductors*, ed. J. Tauc, Plenum, New York, 1974, ch. 4).
- 61 P. H. Nam, N. X. Phuc, P. H. Linh, L. T. Lu, D. H. Manh, P. T. Phong and I.-J. Lee, Effect of zinc on structure, optical and magnetic properties and magnetic heating efficiency of Mn_{1-x}Zn_xFe₂O₄ nanoparticles, *Phys. B*, 2018, **550**, 428–435, DOI: 10.1016/j.physb.2018.09.004.
- 62 Ł. Jarośnińska, J. Pawlaka and S. K. J. Al-Ani, Inverse logarithmic derivative method for determining the energy gap and the type of electron transitions as an alternative to the Tauc method, *Opt. Mater.*, 2019, **88**, 667–673, DOI: 10.1016/j.optmat.2018.12.041.
- 63 S. B. Mallur, T. Czarnecki, A. Adhikari and P. K. Babu, Compositional dependence of optical band gap and refractive index in lead and bismuth borate glasses, *Mater. Res. Bull.*, 2015, **68**, 27–34, DOI: 10.1016/j.materresbull.2015.03.033.
- 64 T. Schaller, J. F. Stebbins and M. C. Wilding, Cation clustering and formation of free oxide ions in sodium and potassium lanthanum silicate glasses: nuclear magnetic resonance and Raman spectroscopic findings, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, 1999, **243**, 146–157, DOI: 10.1016/S0022-3093(98)00838-2.
- 65 S. Sen and J. F. Stebbins, Structural role of Nd³⁺ and Al³⁺ cations in SiO₂ glass: a ²⁹Si MAS-NMR spin-lattice relaxation, ²⁷Al NMR and EPR study, *J. of Non-Cryst. Solids*, 1995, **188**, 54–62, DOI: 10.1016/0022-3093(95)00099-2.
- 66 M. Handke, W. Mozgawa and M. Nocun, Specific features of the IR spectra of silicate glasses, *J. Mol. Struct.*, 1994, **325**, 129–136, DOI: 10.1016/0022-2860(94)80028-6.

