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Second-harmonic generation (SHG) and photoluminescence properties of noncentrosymmetric (NCS) layered perovskite solid solutions, $CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ (x = 0, 0.1, and0.2)

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Solid solutions of noncentrosymmetric (NCS) Dion-Jacobson phases, $CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ (x = 0, 0.1, and 0.2) have been synthesized through standard solid-state reactions. Powder X-ray diffraction analysis suggests that the solid solutions crystallize in the NCS polar orthorhombic space group, $P_{2_1}am$ (No. 26). $CsBi_{3-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ reveal layered perovskite structures that are composed of corner-shared distorted NbO₆ octahedra and the stereoacive A-cation, Bi³⁺. Powder second-harmonic generating (SHG) measurements on the reported materials show that $CsBiNb_2O_7$, $CsBi_{0.9}Eu_{0.1}Nb_2O_7$, and $CsBi_{0.8}Eu_{0.2}Nb_2O_7$ possess SHG efficiencies of 50, 30, and 25 times that of α -SiO₂, respectively. The decrease in SHG for Eu^{3^+} -doped compounds is attributable to the deficiency of net moment generating from the polyhedra of polarizable lone pair cation, Bi³⁺. The stronger electric dipole transition bands compared to those of the magnetic dipole transitions in the photoluminescence emission spectra of $CsBi_{3-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ confirm the asymmetric coordination environment of Bi³⁺/Eu³⁺ sites in the framework.

Introduction

Discovering novel materials exhibiting superior performance is one of the continuing challenges in materials chemistry. The fundamental approach to explore new functional materials comprises three important parts, i.e., syntheses, structure determinations, and property measurements. The origin of peculiar properties of the materials is often explained through detailed structural analyses. This is particularly veracious for noncentrosymmetric (NCS) materials that can demonstrate diverse of great significance characteristics relating to both science and industry, such as piezoelectric, ferroelectric, multiferroic, pyroelectric, and nonlinear optical (NLO) properties.¹ In order to increase the possibility for functional NCS solid state materials, a number of strategies have been suggested thus far. Needless to say, one of the most successful methods for the synthesis of NCS mixed metal oxides must be combining both families of second-order Jahn-Teller (SOJT) distortive cations, namely, octahedrally coordinated d⁰ transition metals and lone pair cations.² In addition, asymmetric π -orbital systems found in borates and d¹⁰ metal cations exhibiting polar displacement in the center of coordination moieties are considered to be other important NCS chromophores.3 To design and develop functional NCS

materials more effectively, a few critical factors such as structural origin of NCS properties and key elements contributing to a space group centricity should be adequately understood. Several factors controlling the macroscopic centricity in extended materials include the cation size, the hydrogen-bonding, and the framework flexibility effects.⁴

We have been very interested in layered perovskite materials exhibiting a variety of structure-driven properties such as ionic conductivity, magnetic properties, photocatalysis, superconductivity, ion-exchange, and intercalation.⁵ То elucidate the structure-NCS property relationships, we have been exploring NCS layered perovskite phases.⁶ One of the NCS layered perovskite oxides, CsBiNb₂O₇, classified as a member of Dion-Jacobson (DJ) series, has shown interesting NCS characteristics such as ferroelectricity and piezoelectricity attributed to its structural distortions.⁷ Here, we present pure phase solid-state syntheses, structural refinements. spectroscopic characterization, second-harmonic generation (SHG) properties, a detailed study on the structural origin of the SHG behaviors, and photoluminescence properties of CsBi1- $_{x}Eu_{x}Nb_{2}O_{7}$ (x = 0, 0.1, and 0.2) solid solutions. The added foreign cation, Eu³⁺, not only indicates the asymmetric coordination sites for the associated SHG properties, but also promises important applications to novel phosphor materials.

Experimental section

Synthesis

Polycrystalline samples of $CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ (x = 0, 0.1, 0.2) were synthesized through standard solid-state reactions. Stoichiometric amounts of Cs₂CO₃ (25% excess, Alfa Aesar, 99%), Bi₂O₃ (Alfa Aesar, 99%), Eu₂O₃ (Alfa Aesar, 99.9%), and Nb₂O₅ (Alfa Aesar, 99.5%) were thoroughly mixed with agate mortars and pestles and pressed into pellets. The pellets were gradually heated to 1000 °C for 24 h and cooled down to room temperature rapidly at a rate of 10 °C min⁻¹. After grinding, the reaction products were washed with deionized water to remove excess cesium and dried in a drying oven at 100 °C for 8 h.

Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD)

The PXRD data were collected on a Bruker D8-Advance diffractometer using Cu Ka radiation at room temperature with 40 kV and 40 mA. The 20 range was $5-70^{\circ}$ with a step size of 0.02°, and a step time of 1 s. The structures of the reported materials were refined using the Rietveld method with the GSAS program.⁸ The refinements of the solid-solutions were carried out in the NCS space group, P21am (No. 26) with a starting model of the reported neutron diffraction data of CsBiNb₂O₇.^{7a} With the CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ (x = 0.1 and 0.2) solid solutions, the Bi^{3+} and Eu^{3+} cations were statistically disordered over the unique Bi3+ site in CsBiNb2O7. Attributable to the layered nature of the materials, a strong preferred orientation in the [001] plane was observed from the diffraction data. Thus, the amount to preferential orientation was refined using the March-Dollase function in the GSAS program. The crystallographic data and refinement results for CsBi1- $_x$ Eu_xNb₂O₇ (x = 0, 0.1, 0.2) are summarized in Table 1. Atomic coordinates and isotropic displacement parameters for the reported materials can be found in the ESI.

Table1 Summary of crystallographic data and refinement results for CsBi ₁ . _x Eu _x Nb ₂ O ₇ ($x = 0, 0.1, 0.2$)			
x	0	0.1	0.2
fw	639.69	633.99	628.29
Space group	$P2_1am$	$P2_1am$	$P2_1am$
a/Å	5.5076(3)	5.49965(17)	5.49383(18)
b/Å	5.4338(3)	5.42665(17)	5.41868(18)
c/Å	11.4006(3)	11.3596(2)	11.3158(3)
$V/\text{\AA}^3$	341.19(3)	339.022(16)	336.863(18)
Ζ	2	2	2
R_p^{a}	0.1082	0.0789	0.0790
R_{wp}^{b}	0.1474	0.1034	0.1055

 ${}^{a}R_{p} = \Sigma |I_{o} - I_{c}| / \Sigma I_{o}. {}^{b}R_{wp} = [\Sigma w |I_{o} - I_{c}|^{2} / \Sigma w I_{o}^{2}]^{1/2}.$

Infrared (IR) spectroscopy

Infrared spectra for the solid solutions were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet 6700 FT-IR spectrometer in the 400-4000 cm⁻¹ range, with the samples embedded in KBr matrixes.

UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectroscopy

UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra were obtained on a Varian Cary 500 scan UV-vis-NIR spectrophotometer over the spectral range 200-2500 nm at room temperature. The reflectance spectra were transformed to the absorbance using the Kubelka-Munk function.9

Second-harmonic generation (SHG) Measurements

Powder SHG measurements on polycrystalline CsBi1-_xEu_xNb₂O₇ were performed on a modified Kurtz-NLO system¹⁰ using 1064 nm radiation. A DAWA Q-switched Nd:YAG laser, operating at 20 Hz, was employed for the measurements. Because SHG efficiency is strongly depend on particle size, polycrystalline samples were sieved (Newark Wire Cloth Co.) into distinct particle size ranges (20-45, 45-63, 63-75, 75-90, 90-125, 125-150, 150-200, >250 µm). To compare with known SHG materials suitably, polycrystalline $\alpha\mbox{-}SiO_2$ and LiNbO₃ were also sieved into the same particle size ranges. Samples with particle size 45-63 µm were used for comparing SHG efficiencies. All of the sieved samples with different particle sizes were packed into distinct capillary tubes. The reflected green SHG light with 532 nm was collected and detected by a photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu). To detect only the SHG light, a 532 nm narrow band-pass interference filter was attached to the front of the tube. The generated SHG signal was monitored using a digital oscilloscope (Tektronix TDS1032). A detailed description of the methodology and the equipment used has been previously published.^{1g}

Results and discussion

Crystal structure description

Since the structure of CsBiNb₂O₇ has been determined through powder neutron diffraction,^{7a} a brief structural description will be provided. As a Dion-Jacobson phase with the general composition of A'A_{n-1}B_nO_{3n+1}, CsBiNb₂O₇ exhibits a layered structure. CsBiNb₂O₇ perovskite crystallizes in а noncentrosymmetric polar space group, $P2_1am$ (No. 26) at room temperature. As seen in Fig. 1, the structure of CsBiNb₂O₇ consists of corner-shared distorted NbO₆ octahedra and the A-cation, Bi³⁺. Attributable to the displacement of Bi³⁺ cations, octahedral tilting and distortion are observed from NbO₆ octahedra. The perovskite blocks are also separated by a layer of metal cation, Cs^+ (see Fig. 1). The distortion of NbO₆ octahedra occurs toward a corner (local C₄ direction), which results in one short, one long, and four intermediate Nb-O bonds. In order to explore the origin of SHG and luminescent properties of CsBiNb₂O₇, the A-site cation with the lone pair,

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Bi³⁺ has been replaced by the rare earth metal cation, Eu³⁺. In other words, up to 20% of Eu³⁺ cation has been substituted for the A-cation, Bi³⁺ to form solid solutions, *i.e.*, CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ (x = 0.1 and 0.2). Fig. 2 reveals the powder X-ray diffraction patterns for solid solutions of CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇. As seen in Fig. 2, the peak positions slightly shift toward right-hand side as more Eu³⁺ cations are doped to the Bi³⁺ positions. The peak shift is attributed to the smaller ionic radius of Eu³⁺ compared to that of Bi³⁺. The ionic radii of eight-coordinate Eu³⁺ and Bi³⁺ are 1.066 and 1.17 Å, respectively. The difference in ionic radii of the cations significantly influences the lattice constants and the unit-cell volumes. As can be seen in Fig. 3, the unit-cell parameters and the cell volumes decrease with increasing Eu³⁺ on the Bi³⁺ site.



Fig. 1 Ball-and-stick and polyhedral representation of CsBiNb₂O₇ viewed along the [110] direction. The Dion-Jacobson phase consists of $A_{n-1}B_nO_{3n+1}$ perovskite blocks and layers of A' cation (blue, Nb; orange, Bi; yellow, Cs; red, O).

The experimental, calculated, and difference X-ray diffraction plots for $CsBi_{0.8}Eu_{0.2}Nb_2O_7$ are shown in Fig. 4 with the refinement results given in Table 1. Final Rietveld plots along with atomic coordinates and displacement parameters for all other solid solutions are shown in the ESI.

Infrared (IR) spectroscopy

The infrared spectra for CsBiNb₂O₇, CsBi_{0.9}Eu_{0.1}Nb₂O₇, and CsBi_{0.8}Eu_{0.2}Nb₂O₇ reveal Nb–O and Bi–O vibrations. Broad bands at ca. 580-590 cm⁻¹ and strong peaks at ca. 913-919 cm⁻¹ are attributable to Nb–O and Nb=O vibrations, respectively.

Bi–O vibrations are also observed around 479–490 cm⁻¹. It should be noticed that as Eu^{3+} is added to the site of Bi³⁺, the Bi–O vibration peaks are getting broader with coming into existence of Eu–O bonds. The IR vibrations are consistent with those previously published materials.¹¹ The IR spectra for CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ solid solutions are found in the ESI.



Fig. 2 Powder X-ray diffraction patterns for CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ (*x* = 0, 0.1, and 0.2). Note the peak positions shift toward right-hand side as the *x* increases.





UV-vis reflectance spectroscopy

The UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra for $CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ (x = 0, 0.1, and 0.2) have been measured and absorption (K/S) data were calculated from the following Kubelka-Munk function:⁹

$$F(R) = \frac{(1-R)^2}{2R} = \frac{K}{S}$$

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where *K* is the absorption, *S* is the scattering, and *R* is the reflectance. Once the linear parts of the ascending curves are extrapolated to zero, the onsets of absorptions are observed at ca. 3.4 eV in the (K/S)-vs-*E* plots for CsBiNb₂O₇ and CsBi_{0.9}Eu_{0.1}Nb₂O₇. The onset of optical absorption has slightly decreased and is monitored at ca. 3.3 eV for CsBi_{0.8}Eu_{0.2}Nb₂O₇. The band gaps for the solid solutions may be attributable to the distortions arising from the polyhedra of A-site cation, Bi³⁺. The (K/S)-vs-*E* plots for CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ solid solutions have been included in the ESI.



Fig. 4 Final Rietveld plot of an example $C_{SBi_{0.8}}Eu_{0.2}Nb_2O_7$. The observed data (x) are compared with the calculated pattern (red solid line). The positions of reflections are represented by the magenta vertical bars. The difference between the observed and calculated profiles is shown at the bottom (blue solid line).

Second-order nonlinear optical (NLO) measurements

CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ crystallize in the noncentrosymmetric (NCS) space group, $P2_1am$; thus, the second-harmonic generating (SHG) properties of the solid-solution were examined. Powder SHG measurements on polycrystalline CsBiNb₂O₇, using 1064 nm radiation, reveal that the material has SHG efficiency of about 50 times that of α -SiO₂. In addition, type I phase matching capability of CsBiNb₂O₇ was determined by sieving the sample into various particle sizes, ranging from 20–250 µm, and measuring the SHG as a function of particle size. As seen in Fig. 5a, CsBiNb₂O₇ turned out to be nonphase-matchable and can be classified as the class C category of SHG materials as defined by Kurtz and Perry.¹⁰ As the amount of Eu³⁺ cation in CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ increases to x = 0.1 and 0.2, however, the SHG efficiencies decrease to 30 and 25 times that of α -SiO₂, respectively (see Fig. 5b).

Structure-SHG properties relationships

The observed magnitude of the SHG efficiencies for $CsBi_{1.}$ _{*x*} $Eu_xNb_2O_7$ solid solutions can be better understood by determining the origin and the net direction of the polarization of the materials. With $CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ solid solutions, two SOJT cations, *i.e.*, Nb⁵⁺ and Bi³⁺, may contribute toward the SHG efficiencies. First, the unique Nb⁵⁺ cation in NbO₆ distorted octahedra reveals a corner-type distortion along the local C₄ direction, which results in one short, one long, and four intermediate Nb-O bonds. However, the moment associated with NbO₆ effectively cancels, because the polarization on the NbO₆ ocathedra alternates between [001] and [00-1] directions (see Fig. 6a). Second, the lone pair cation, Bi³⁺ is in asymmetric coordination environment. As seen in Fig. 6b, the lone pairs on the Bi³⁺ cations point approximately toward the [-1-10] and [-110] directions. Thus, a polarization attributed to the alignment of lone pairs on Bi^{3+} cations is observed along the [100] direction, because the local dipole moment for the BiO8 polyhedra points in the opposite direction of the lone pairs (see Fig. 6b). Therefore, a net polarization is observed along the aaxis once taking the moments as a whole, which must be responsible for the observed SHG properties of CsBi1-_xEu_xNb₂O₇ solid solutions (see Fig. 6c). As can be seen in Fig. 5b, the SHG efficiencies of CsBi_{1-r}Eu_rNb₂O₇ decreases as more Eu³⁺ is doped to the sites of Bi³⁺. The decrease in SHG is compatible with the deficiency in net moment arising from the polyhedra of Bi3+ cation. The net moment and the corresponding SHG efficiency will decrease as the asymmetric lone pair cation, Bi³⁺ is replaced by the nonpolarizable cation, Eu³⁺.



Fig. 5 (a) Phase-matching curve (Type I) for CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇. The curve is to guide the eye and is not a fit to the data. (b) SHG vs. Eu³⁺ doping in CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇. Note the SHG efficiency decrease as more Eu³⁺ is doped to the solid solutions.

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Fig. 6 Net polarization arising from the (a) Nb⁵⁺ cations, (b) Bi³⁺ cations, and (c) the macroscopic structure in CsBiNb₂O₇. While the moment associated with NbO₆ effectively cancels, that arising from the Bi³⁺ cations is observed toward the [100] direction. A net polarization is generated toward the [100] direction taking the moments as a whole.

Photoluminescence (PL) properties

Fig. 7(a) and (b) reveal the PL excitation and emission spectra for $CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ (x = 0.1 and 0.2), respectively. Although the host material, CsBiNb₂O₇ does not show any band at all, CsBi_{0.9}Eu_{0.1}Nb₂O₇ and CsBi_{0.8}Eu_{0.2}Nb₂O₇ exhibit characteristic peaks attributed to the activator, Eu³⁺. As seen in Fig. 7(a), the strong broad bands observed at ca. 330 nm in PL excitation spectra may be attributable to the charge transfer transition between oxide ligands and Eu³⁺ cations.¹² In addition, several narrow bands from characteristic f-f transitions are found ca. 378, 393, and 464 nm, which can be assigned to the ${}^7F_0 \rightarrow {}^5L_7$, ${}^{7}F_{0} \rightarrow {}^{5}L_{6}$, and ${}^{7}F_{0} \rightarrow {}^{5}D_{2}$, respectively.¹³ Excitation into the charge transfer band (CTB) transition of Eu³⁺ at 330 nm yields the characteristic emission lines resulting from the transitions of ${}^{5}D_{0,1,2} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{i}$ (j = 4, ..., 0) (see Fig. 7(b)). The emission peaks observed at ca. 594, 614, and 697 nm may be attributed to the transitions, ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_1$, ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_2$, and ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_4$, respectively.12 It has been known that luminescence peaks of Eu³⁺ in emission spectra are very sensitive to the coordination environment around Eu³⁺.¹⁴ If the coordination moiety of Eu³⁺ is symmetric with inversion symmetry, the f-f electric dipole transitions are strictly forbidden due to the parity selection rule. The transitions can occur when the case is only $\Delta J = 0, \pm 1$ (J = $0 \rightarrow 0$ forbidden) or vibronic electric dipole transition. Thus, the magnetic dipole ${}^{5}D_{0} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{1}$ emission transition is dominated. However, if the positions of Eu³⁺ ions do not have any inversion symmetry, i.e., noncetrosymmetric, electric dipole transition can also appear. The transitions with $\Delta J = 0, \pm 2$ is especially sensitive to the environment around Eu³⁺ ions. It is noticed that the electric dipole ${}^{5}D_{0} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{2}$ transition about 614 nm is stronger than the magnetic dipole ${}^{5}D_{0} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{1}$ around 594 nm in the PL emission spectra of CsBi1-xEuxNb2O7, which clearly suggests that the environment of Eu³⁺ is asymmetric. It is consistent with the fact that Eu³⁺ cations are substituted for the asymmetric lone pair cations, Bi³⁺, in CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ solid solutions.





Conclusions

Pure samples of Eu³⁺-doped NCS Dion-Jacobson phase perovskite solid solutions, $C_{s}Bi_{1-x}Eu_{x}Nb_{2}O_{7}$ (x = 0, 0.1, and 0.2) have been synthesized through standard solid-state reactions. The crystal structures of the reported materials were refined by powder X-ray diffraction using a Rietveld method. Powder second-harmonic generation (SHG) measurements on CsBiNb₂O₇, CsBi_{0.9}Eu_{0.1}Nb₂O₇, CsBi_{0.8}Eu_{0.2}Nb₂O₇ using 1064 nm radiation, indicate that the materials are nonphasematchable (type I) with SHG efficiencies approximately 50, 30, and 25 times that of α -SiO₂, respectively. The SHG efficiencies of CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ solid solutions are mainly attributable to a net moment arising from the polyhdra of polarizable lone pair cation, Bi³⁺ on the basis of thorough structural analysis and SHG measurements. Photoluminescence (PL) excitation and emission spectra for CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ exhibit characteristic

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bands for f–f transitions. The PL emission spectra also strongly suggest the asymmetric coordination environment of Bi^{3+}/Eu^{3+} site in CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb₂O₇ solid solutions.

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Notes and references

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†Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Final Rietveld plots, atomic coordinates and isotropic displacement parameters, infrared spectra, and UV-Vis diffuse reflectance spectra for $CsBi_{1-x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ (x = 0, 0.1, and 0.2). See DOI: 10.1039/b000000x/

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A graphical contents entry:



A series of solid solutions of noncentrosymmetric (NCS) Dion-Jacobson phases, $CsBi_{1,x}Eu_xNb_2O_7$ (x = 0, 0.1, and 0.2) have been synthesized by standard solid-state reactions. The added foreign cation, Eu^{3+} , not only indicates the asymmetric coordination sites for the associated SHG properties, but also promises important applications to novel phosphor materials.