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Enhanced Blue Luminescence in Y₂O₃:Ce³⁺, Eu²⁺ Phosphor Mediated by Ce³⁺→Eu²⁺ Energy Transfer

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Blue-emitting phosphors hold significant potential for applications in solid-state lighting. We synthesised Y_2O_3 phosphors co-doped with 1 mol% Ce^{3+} and varying concentrations (1, 2, 3, and 4 mol%) of Eu^{2+} using the solution combustion method. Structural, compositional, optical absorption, and emission properties were investigated. X-ray diffraction analysis confirmed the formation of a cubic phase with the Ia-3 (206) space group, and the incorporation of dopants did not alter the host crystal structure. The Ce^{3+} doped sample exhibited a strong absorption band around 206 nm, which was observed to red-shift upon Eu^{2+} co-doping. Under 300 nm UV excitation, the Ce^{3+} - Eu^{2+} co-doped samples displayed prominent blue emission, originating from the 5d \rightarrow 4f transitions of Ce^{3+} (2F7/2, 2F5/2) and the allowed $4f^65d^1 \rightarrow 4f^7$ transition of Eu^{2+} . Photoluminescence spectra, excitation profiles, decay dynamics, and energy transfer efficiency analyses confirmed an efficient $Ce^{3+} \rightarrow Eu^{2+}$ energy transfer mechanism. The critical distance between Ce^{3+} and Eu^{2+} ions was calculated to be 4.56 Å, indicating exchange interaction as the dominant energy transfer pathway. These findings demonstrate that Y_2O_3 : Ce^{3+} , Eu^{2+} phosphors are promising candidates for use as blue light-emitting components in solid-state white lighting applications.

Keywords: Y2O3:Ce, Eu nanophosphor; Optical band gap; Photoluminescence; Energy transfer; Luminescence lifetime; Quenching

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