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Sm³⁺离子掺杂对 BaGa₂O₄:Cr³⁺近红外长余辉发光的 增强研究

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摘要 利用高温固相法制备了BaGa₂O₄:Cr³⁺,Sm³⁺(BGO:Cr,Sm)近红外长余辉发光(PersL)材料,考察了Sm³⁺掺 杂浓度和煅烧温度对BGO:Cr,Sm晶体结构和发光性能的影响,初步探讨了近红外余辉发光机理。结果表明:当长 余辉发光材料组成为BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}且煅烧温度为1100℃时,可以获得高纯度的BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光材 料,其发射波长为734 nm。Cr³⁺与Sm³⁺共掺杂为应用于生物成像的BGO提供了优化策略,同时为开发长余辉发光 材料提供了良好范例。

关键词 材料;近红外光;长余辉发光;Sm³⁺掺杂;镓酸钡 **中图分类号** O614 **文献标志码** A

1引言

长余辉发光是一种独特的光学过程,在该过程中, 材料会在停止激发后持续发光数秒至数小时^[1]。长余 辉发光材料已被广泛用于安全显示器、装饰和应急照 明等领域^[2]。发射近红外(NIR)光的长余辉发光 (PersL)材料可用于夜视监控和体内生物成像^[34],在 医学检测方面具有一定的潜在应用前景^[5]。目前,已 商业化的代表性红色长余辉发光材料有Y₂O₂S:Eu³⁺, Mg²⁺,Ti^{4+[6]}和CaS:Eu²⁺,Tm³⁺,Ce^{3+[7]}。基于硫化物 的长余辉发光材料是化学不稳定的,因此,对性质稳定 的红色长余辉发光材料有较大需求。

镓酸钡(BaGa₂O₄,BGO)是一种呈四面体骨架拓 扑结构的双氧化物,其在空间群为P6₃的六角晶胞中 结晶^[8]。BGO可以显示发光,不需要加入昂贵的稀土 离子^[9],其自身的固有陷阱结构使其成为长余辉发光 材料的良好基质^[10]。Li等^[11]开发了橙色发光的BGO: Bi长余辉发光材料,Zhou等^[12]发展了一种新型的具有 亮红色长余辉发光的BaGa₂O₄:Sm³⁺材料,但这些长余 辉发光材料的发射波长均小于700 nm,对人体组织的 穿透深度有限。

 Cr^{3+} 掺杂的长余辉发光材料经紫外灯照射后,可以获得 650~1000 nm 波段的近红外长余辉发光^[13-17]。 目前已报道的 Cr^{3+} 掺杂长余辉发光材料有很多,如 $ZnGa_2O_4$: $Cr^{3+[14]}$ 、 $Zn_3Ga_2GeO_8$: $Cr^{3+[15]}$ 、 $LiGa_5O_8$:

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Cr^{3+[16]}和MgGa₂O₄:Cr^{3+[17]}等。最近,本课题组报道了 余辉时间长达6d的波长可调近红外发光BaGa₂O₄: Cr³⁺(BGO:Cr)长余辉发光材料,其发射波长可以通过 改变Cr³⁺掺杂量以及Ga与Ba的比例由715 nm调节到 739 nm,具有紫外激发、LED光再激发以及优异的信 息存储能力^[18]。长余辉发光材料的余辉性能主要由陷 阱性质决定,而共掺杂离子也会改变陷阱性质。通过 加入共掺杂离子可以增加陷阱的浓度、深度和长余辉 发光材料的发光强度,还可将共掺杂离子作为发光中 心调控长余辉发光材料的发光颜色^[19]。例如:Allix 等^[20]通过 Sn 或 Ge 共掺杂产生新的有效陷阱,优化了 $ZnGa_2O_4$: $Cr^{3+}(ZGO: Cr)$ 长余辉发光材料的余辉性 能;王锴等^[21]通过Si⁴⁺和Ga³⁺的非等价替换,增加了 ZGO: Cr 中不等价替换缺陷和填隙缺陷,改善了 ZGO: Cr长余辉发光材料的余辉性能:战盈霏等^[22]通 过 Eu^{3+} 与 Cr^{3+} 之间的持续能量传递显著增强了 GdAlO₃:Cr长余辉发光材料的近红外余辉发光;Li 等^[23]通过在Zn₂SnO₄:Cr³⁺中引入Al³⁺共掺杂剂来调整 发光中心周围的局部晶场,获得了所需的长余辉发光 材料的发射波长和余辉时间;Katayama等^[24-25]通过共 掺杂 Sm³⁺产生 Sm³⁺的相关缺陷,将 LaAlO₃: Cr³⁺的持 续发光强度提高了 35 倍以上; Li 等^[26]通过引入 Sm³⁺ 来增加主体中的陷阱,增强了GdAlO₃:Cr³⁺的余辉。 可见,通过选择合适的共掺杂物可以改善长余辉发光 材料的光学性能。

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本团队采用高温固相反应法制备了BGO:Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x(x=0,0.002,0.004,0.006,0.008,0.010)长余辉 发光材料,并采用粉末X射线衍射仪(XRD)、能量色 散X射线能谱仪(EDS)和扫描电子显微镜(SEM)等 对其晶体结构和形貌进行了研究。此外,本团队还研 究了Sm³⁺掺杂浓度和煅烧温度对BGO:Cr,Sm长余 辉发光材料光致发光和晶体结构的影响,同时,通过材 料热稳定性实验证明了BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光材料 是一种潜在的近红外发光二极管(LED)用发光材料。 Cr³⁺与Sm³⁺的共掺杂策略为优化和开发长余辉发光 材料提供了很好的范例。

2 实验部分

2.1 长余辉发光材料的制备

采用高温固相反应法制备长余辉发光材料。按照 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x(x=0, 0.002, 0.004, 0.006, 0.008, 0.010)的化学组成式,将BaCO₃(纯度为99%)、Ga₂O₃ (纯度为99.99%)、Cr₂O₃(纯度为99%)、Sm₂O₃(纯度 为99.99%)和1mL无水乙醇在玛瑙研钵中充分研磨 并混合均匀;然后将混合物装入陶瓷坩埚并一起放入 高温炉中,先在空气气氛下升温到100℃,在此温度下 保温1h进行预热处理,再升温至1100℃进行煅烧,煅 烧2h后自然冷却即可得到长余辉发光材料。将 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}分别在800、900、1000、1100℃的空 气气氛中煅烧2h,之后自然冷却,得到不同煅烧温度 下的BGO: Cr,Sm长余辉发光材料。

2.2 长余辉发光材料的表征

采用德国BRUKER公司的D8-Focus型X射线衍 射仪(XRD)进行晶体结构测试,测试中使用铜靶Ka 射线进行X射线衍射实验,测试的20范围为20°~65°; 采用德国蔡司(Carl Zeiss)公司的Sigma HD型场发射 扫描电子显微镜(SEM)进行表面微观形貌分析;采用 英国牛津公司的OXFORD X-MAS 能谱仪(EDS)分 析元素含量;发射光谱采用美国Perkin Elmer公司的 LS-55型分子荧光分光光度计进行采集;余辉衰减曲 线和变温光谱采用美国 HORIBA Scientific 公司的 Nanolog荧光/磷光光谱仪获取;量子产率采用日本滨 松光子学株式会社的C11347-11量子产率测量仪测 定;热释光采用中国广州容帆科技有限公司的TOSL-3DS型热释光三维光谱仪进行测量。

3 结果与讨论

3.1 BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光材料的结构表征

BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x (x=0, 0.002, 0.004, 0.006, 0.008, 0.010)长余辉发光材料的 XRD 图谱如图 1(a) 所示。BGO: Cr, Sm 长余辉发光材料在 28.12°、 33.29°、41.68°、44.12°、56.38°和 59.49°等处出现了衍射峰,与BGO的 PDF 标准卡片(PDF 46-0415)吻合得较好,分别属于 BGO 的(222)、(600)、(004)、(442)、

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(822)和(660)晶面衍射峰。在XRD图谱中没有观察 到明显的杂质峰,说明Cr³⁺和Sm³⁺完全参与高温固相 反应并占据了适当位置,掺杂Sm³⁺不会改变BGO基 质的基本结构。为了确定 BGO: Croof, Smoond 长余辉 发光材料的晶体结构,采用GSAS软件对其XRD图谱 进行了Rietveld结构精修,精修结果如图1(b)所示。 可见,BGO:Cr0.06,Sm0.004长余辉发光材料的精修图与 XRD图谱吻合。Rietveld精修参数分别为:全谱因子 $R_{\rm p} = 6.68\%$, 加权的全谱因子 $R_{\rm wp} = 8.76\%$, 拟合度 $X^2 = 1.75$ 。这些结果都满足精修要求,可知精修结果 可信。图1(c)为BGO:Cr0.06,Sm0.004长余辉发光材料 单胞结构示意图。图1(d)给出了BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004} 长余辉发光材料的扫描电镜图。由于BGO的熔点较 高,且实验中没有添加助熔剂,晶粒生长得相对缓慢, 因此,长余辉发光材料的形貌为不规则的棒状颗粒。 长时间的高温固相烧结导致颗粒长至微米级,颗粒的 平均长度为1.61 μm,平均宽度为0.76 μm(随机计算 100个颗粒)。

为了验证长余辉发光材料的元素组成,对 BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}进行了EDS能谱测试,测试结果如 图1(e)所示。从图中可以清晰观察到Ba、Ga、O、Cr和 Sm元素的信号,说明Cr³⁺和Sm³⁺成功掺杂进入长余 辉发光材料中。同时,本团队使用扫描电子显微镜对 BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的元素分布进行了 表征,图1(f)所示的元素面扫描结果表明Cr³⁺和Sm³⁺ 均匀地分布在长余辉发光材料中。

综上,在BGO:Cr_{0.06}中掺杂Sm³⁺改变了长余辉发 光材料的本征性质。

3.2 BGO: Cr, Sm 长余辉发光材料的光谱分析和余辉 特性

在 254 nm 紫外灯激发下, BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_r(x=0, 0.002,0.004,0.006,0.008,0.010)磷光发射光谱的高 斯拟合结果如图 2(a)所示。当x=0时,BGO:Cr长 余辉发光材料的发射光谱在 600~850 nm 范围内出 现了 Cr³⁺ 的特征发光峰,该发光峰是发光中心在 725 nm 处的宽带发射峰,归属于 Cr³⁺离子自旋禁阻 的²E(²G)→⁴A₂(⁴F)跃迁^[27]。这可能是由于Sm³⁺的激 发态 ${}^{4}G_{5/2}$ 与Cr³⁺的 ${}^{4}T_{2}({}^{4}F)$ 能级相匹配,Sm³⁺与Cr³⁺离 子之间存在能量传递,增强了 Cr^{3+} 的 ${}^{4}T_{2}({}^{4}F) \rightarrow {}^{4}A_{2}({}^{4}F)$ 的宽带发射,使发光中心Cr³⁺的发射峰有所红移,同时 增强了 BGO: Cr 长余辉发光材料的发光强度^[28]。 BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光材料在734 nm 处表现出了 较为强烈的近红外发光。近红外光具有较高的穿透能 力,并且对组织的损伤小,有利于该材料在体内成像方 面的应用^[26]。随着Sm³⁺离子掺杂量增加,长余辉发光 材料的发光强度先增大后减小。当x=0.002时,发光 强度相比于x=0时明显增强;当x增大至0.004时,长 余辉发光材料的发光强度达到最大值;当x>0.004 后,发光强度逐渐减弱。这是因为在Sm³⁺的掺杂浓度



图1 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x的表征。(a) BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x(x=0,0.002,0.004,0.006,0.008,0.010) 长余辉发光材料的 XRD 图谱; (b) BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的 XRD 精修图谱;(c) BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的晶体结构图;(d) BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的目描电镜图;(e) BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的EDS 能谱;(f) BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余 辉发光材料的元素分布图

Fig. 1 Characterization of BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, Sm_x . (a) XRD patterns of BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, Sm_x (x=0, 0.002, 0.004, 0.006, 0.008, 0.010) PersL materials; (b) refinement XRD patterns of BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, $Sm_{0.004}$ PersL materials; (c) crystal structure of BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, $Sm_{0.004}$ PersL material; (c) crystal structure of BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, $Sm_{0.004}$ PersL material; (e) EDS spectrum of BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, $Sm_{0.004}$ PersL material; (f) element distribution mapping of BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, $Sm_{0.004}$ PersL material

达到一定值之前,增加Sm³⁺的掺杂浓度可以将更多的 能量传递给Cr³⁺,增强发光;Sm³⁺的掺杂浓度达到一 定值后继续增加Sm³⁺的掺杂浓度,会导致Sm³⁺离子 间的相互作用增强,发生无辐射能量转移,降低长余辉 发光材料的发光性能^[29]。BGO:Cr_{0.06}长余辉发光材料 的荧光量子产率(QY)为0.24,掺杂Sm³⁺后,BGO: Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的荧光量子产率增大 为0.35。

BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$ 和 BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, $Sm_{0.004}$ 长余辉发光材料的余辉衰减曲线图如 2(b)所示。 Sm^{3+} 是正三价镧系元素且具有丰富能级的 4f电子构型, 掺杂 Sm^{3+} 可以改

变长余辉发光材料的陷阱密度和深度,提供更多的有效陷阱,从而优化BGO:Cr长余辉发光材料的余辉发光性能^[30]。对BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的余辉衰减曲线进行指数函数拟合,拟合结果如图2(c) 所示,拟合公式^[31]为

$$I_{(t)} = I_0 + A_1 \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tau_1}\right) + A_2 \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tau_2}\right) + A_3 \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tau_3}\right),$$
(1)

式中: I_0 为初始余辉光强度; $I_{(i)}$ 为t时刻的余辉光强度; A_1 、 A_2 、 A_3 都是常数; τ_1 、 τ_2 和 τ_3 分别是不同衰减过程的寿 命。上述拟合参数如表1所示。BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}的

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| | 表1 | $BGO:Cr_{0.06}$ | ,Sm _{0.004} 长余 | 辉发升 | 七材料 | 的余辉衰 | 麦减曲 约 | 戋拟合参 | 参数 | |
|---------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------------|--|-------|----------|
| Table 1 | Fitting | g parameters | of afterglow | decay | curve | of BGO | :Cr _{0.06} , | $\mathrm{Sm}_{\scriptscriptstyle 0.004}$ | PersL | material |

| Sample | τ_1 / s | A_1 | $	au_2$ /s | A_2 | $\tau_{_3}/\mathrm{s}$ | A_3 | $	au_{\rm av}$ /s |
|--|------------------------|---------|------------|---------|------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| BGO:Cr _{0.06} , Sm _{0.004} | 8.48 | 2452.57 | 37.81 | 2632.76 | 205.79 | 779.44 | 131.61 |

平均发光寿命(τ_{av})为131.61 s。τ_{av}的计算公式为

$$\tau_{\rm av} = \frac{A_1 \tau_1^2 + A_2 \tau_2^2 + A_3 \tau_3^2}{A_1 \tau_1 + A_2 \tau_2 + A_3 \tau_3} \,. \tag{2}$$

图 2(d)为 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料在

254 nm 紫外灯下激发5 min后的三维热释光图,三个 坐标轴分别代表波长(λ)、温度(T)和发光强度。在 图 2(d)中可以看到长余辉发光材料于 340 K(67 ℃)左 右出现了明显的热释光峰。把三维热释光图转换成



图 2 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x的光学性能。(a)BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x(x=0,0.002,0.004,0.006,0.008,0.010)长余辉发光材料发射光谱的高斯拟 合曲线;(b)BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x(x=0,0.004)的余辉衰减曲线;(c)BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的余辉衰减拟合曲线; (d)BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的热释光图;(e)BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的二维热释光曲线;(f)BGO: Cr, Sm长余辉发光材料的近红外长余辉发光机理图

Fig. 2 Optical properties of BGO: Cr0.06, Smx. (a) Gaussian fitting curves of emission spectra of BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x (x=0, 0.002, 0.004, 0.006, 0.008, 0.010) PersL materials; (b) afterglow decay curves of BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_x (x=0, 0.004) PersL materials; (c) afterglow decay fitting curve of BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} PersL material; (d) thermoluminescence of BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} PersL material; (e) two-dimensional thermoluminescence curve of BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} PersL material; (f) NIR persistent luminescence mechanism of BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials

二维热释光曲线可以更直观地反映不同温度下长余 辉发光材料的发光强度。因此,用三维热释光图中 734 nm 处发光强度对温度作图,得到了图 2(e)所示 的二维热释光曲线。从图 2(d)中可以看到, BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的热释光谱是从 300 K (27 ℃)延续到 450 K(177 ℃)的宽带,峰值位于 340 K (67 ℃)处,同时在425 K(152℃)左右出现一个肩峰。 利用半宽法^[32]对BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料 的电子陷阱能级深度进行估算,得到其平均深度为 0.553 eV。此结果表明 BGO: Cr, Sm 长余辉发光材 料的陷阱深度较浅,适合在室温下释放能量和发光。 由图2(d)所示的热释光谱宽度和峰值温度可知, BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光材料中存在多种不同深度 的陷阱,较浅的陷阱有利于在室温下长余辉发光,而 较深的陷阱可以储存能量,使长余辉发光材料长时间 持续发光^[33]。

BGO:Cr,Sm的近红外长余辉发光机理如图 2(f) 所示,其中,未掺杂 BGO的带隙为4.58 eV,对应基质 主体的吸收能量。用紫外灯激发 BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉 发光材料时,电子被激发到导带,导带上的部分激发电 子通过非辐射性弛豫被 BGO 中的自然缺陷俘获,同 时⁴T₁(⁴P)处的激发电子通过导带被浅电子陷阱捕获,

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浅陷阱中的部分激发电子再通过非辐射弛豫转移到深 陷阱中^[34];导带上的另一部分电子通过非辐射性弛豫 回到³E(²G)激发态,与电离的Cr³⁺结合产生近红外光。 停止激发后,电子先从浅陷阱中释放,再缓慢脱离深陷 阱,通过"隧穿效应"与电离的Cr³⁺重合,产生长时间的 近红外余辉光^[35]。此外,长余辉发光材料的余辉发光 亮度与陷阱密度相关,长余辉发光材料中合适的陷阱 密度越大,俘获的电子就越多,余辉发光强度就越大。 Sm³⁺的掺入对材料陷阱具有敏化作用,本团队推断 Sm³⁺掺杂增强长余辉发光材料余辉发光强度可能有 以下两方面原因:一是Sm³⁺掺杂增加了俘获电子的陷 阱能级的数量;二是Sm³⁺掺杂使电子在释放过程中更 容易与Cr³⁺发光中心结合,从而增大了长余辉发光 强度。

图 3 给出了 BGO: Cr_{0.06}和 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长 余辉发光材料的 CIE 色品图。从图 3 中可以看出, BGO: Cr_{0.06}长余辉发光材料的 CIE 坐标位于 (0.5627,0.4363), 掺杂 Sm³⁺后, BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} 长余辉发光材料的 CIE 坐标向红色区域偏移, 偏 移至(0.5655,0.4335)。这一结果表明, Sm³⁺离子 掺杂提高了长余辉发光材料红色发光的强度及 纯度。



图 3 长余辉发光材料的 CIE 图。(a)BGO:Cr_{0.06};(b)BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004} Fig. 3 CIE color coordinates of PersL materials. (a) BGO:Cr_{0.06};(b) BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}

3.3 BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光材料的热稳定性分析

在 254 nm 紫外灯激发下,BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}长余 辉发光材料在 30~300 ℃温度范围内的变温发射光谱 如图 4(a)所示。可以看出:随着温度升高,长余辉发 光材料的发射峰无明显偏移,但发射强度先增加后降 低,并于 150 ℃达到最大值;当温度达到 300 ℃时, BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料出现发光猝灭现 象。从图 4(c)可以看出,随着温度升高,发射峰的半 峰全宽(FWHM)增大。不同温度下的积分强度如 图 4(c)所示,可以看出,当温度升高到 150 ℃时,积分 强度升高到30℃时的146.2%。长余辉发光材料优异的热稳定性是由于其能够补偿非辐射跃迁引起的发射损耗,其他人在BGO:Bi长余辉发光材料的研究中也得到了类似的实验结果^[11]。LED器件在工作时温度可以达到150℃,LED芯片的工作温度通常会削弱荧光粉的荧光^[36]。以上结果表明,BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光材料也是一种潜在的近红外LED用发光材料。

3.4 煅烧温度对 BGO: Cr, Sm 长余辉发光材料光学及 余辉特性的影响

不同煅烧温度下得到的BGO: Cr0.06, Sm0.004长余



图 4 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的热稳定性。(a) 30~300 ℃温度下的发射光谱;(b) 热猝灭行为等高线图;(c) 温度相关的积分强度和半峰全宽

Fig. 4 Thermal stability of BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} PersL material. (a) Emission spectra from 30 to 300 °C; (b) contour graph of thermal quenching behavior; (c) temperature-dependent integrated intensity and full width at half-maximum (FWHM)

辉发光材料的 XRD 衍射图谱如图 5(a) 所示。长余辉 发光材料在 800 ℃或 900 ℃下煅烧 2 h 后,在 28.12°和 33.29°处出现了明显的 BGO 标识峰,同时在 23.90°、 24.30°、34.60°等位置出现了 BaCO₃的标识峰。这说 明此条件下的晶体中同时存在 BGO 和 BaCO₃两种物 相,在800℃或900℃煅烧不能得到晶形单一的BGO 晶体。在1000℃煅烧2h后,BGO晶相变得尖锐,杂 质峰不明显,说明此煅烧条件下可以获得单一BGO晶 体。在1100℃煅烧2h后,28.12°、33.29°处的标识峰 更加明显,显示结晶良好。



图 5 不同煅烧温度下得到的 BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料的 XRD 图谱和发射光谱。(a) XRD 图;(b)发射光谱 Fig. 5 XRD patterns and emission spectra of BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} PersL material prepared at different calcination temperatures. (a) XRD patterns; (b) emission spectra

煅烧温度对BGO:Cr,Sm体系的形成及其发光性 能影响很大。当煅烧温度为800℃或900℃时,XRD 图谱显示此时的样品中还存在未完全转化为BGO的 BaCO₃,BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}长余辉发光材料只发射较 强的 503 nm 绿色基质光峰,如图 5(b)所示。煅烧温度 升至 1000 ℃时,合成了单一的 BGO 晶体,形成了以 Cr 为发光中心的 BGO:Cr体系,发射以 Cr为发光中心的 近红外光。这是因为当煅烧温度升至 1100 ℃时,煅烧

温度的升高促进了长余辉发光材料内BGO晶体的生长,有利于Cr³⁺进入BGO晶格中,近红外光强度明显 增大^[37]。

4 结 论

利用高温固相法制备了发射波长为734 nm的近 红外发光的BaGa₂O₄:Cr³⁺,Sm³⁺长余辉发光材料,当 长余辉发光材料的组成为BGO:Cr_{0.06},Sm_{0.004}时,发光 强度达到最大。煅烧温度对BGO:Cr,Sm长余辉发光 材料发光性能和晶体结构的影响较大,当煅烧温度控 制为1100℃时,可以获得纯BGO:Cr,Sm近红外长余 辉发光材料。利用半宽法估算得到了BGO:Cr,Sm长 余辉发光材料的电子陷阱能级深度约为0.553 eV,该 材料中存在多种不同深度的陷阱,有利于长余辉发光 材料的长时间余辉发光。通过共掺杂,BGO:Cr,Sm 长余辉发光材料实现了足够强和足够持久的余辉发 光,在夜视监视和医学成像领域具有一定的应用潜力。

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Enhancement of Near-Infrared Persistent Luminescence of BaGa₂O₄ : Cr³⁺ by Sm³⁺ Ion Doping

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Abstract

Objective Cr^{3+} -doped near-infrared (NIR) emitting persistent luminescence (PersL) materials with an emission range of 650–1000 nm are renewable by red light instead of ultraviolet (UV) light, which is highly promising for renewable tissue imaging *in vivo* and broad application prospects in biomedical diagnosis and treatment. We have recently reported a BaGa₂O₄: Cr^{3+} (BGO: Cr) NIR emitting PersL material with Cr^{3+} as the luminescent center and BaGa₂O₄ as the matrix. The BGO: Cr PersL material exhibited UV excitation, light-emitting diode (LED) light restimulation, ultra-long PersL for more than 6 days, and excellent capability for information storage. This study aims to develop BaGa₂O₄: Cr^{3+} , Sm^{3+} NIR emitting PersL materials with stronger luminescence intensity and longer emission wavelengths than BGO: Cr PersL materials by co-doping BGO: Cr PersL materials with Sm^{3+} ions for the development of medical multimodal imaging, medical detection probes, integrated diagnosis, and treatment probes.

Methods In this study, BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials were synthesized using a high-temperature solid-state synthesis method. The effects of Sm³⁺ doping concentration and calcination temperature on the luminescent properties and crystal structure of BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials were investigated, and the NIR luminescence mechanism was discussed. The surface shape, element distribution mappings, and thermal stability of BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials were observed and analyzed.

Results and Discussions In PersL material characterization, all X-ray diffraction peaks of the BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials were consistent with those of the BGO plane crystals (PDF 46-0415), the energy dispersive X-ray spectrometry spectra and element distribution mappings of BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials indicated the presence of Ba, Ga, O, Cr, and Sm elements, and transmission electron microscopy images show that the average particle length of the PersL materials is 1.61 μ m and the average width is 0.76 μ m (Fig. 1). The BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials exhibit strong NIR luminescence at 734 nm, with the BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} sample exhibiting the highest luminous intensity. Furthermore, the PersL intensity of BGO: Cr PersL materials was enhanced after co-doped with Sm³⁺ ion [Figs. 2(a), (b)], and the afterglow time of the BGO: Cr_{0.06}, Sm_{0.004} PersL material is 131.61 s. According to the thermoluminescence measurements, the electron trap energy-level depth is estimated to be approximately 0.553 eV by the half-width method, showing that BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials are suitable for providing PersL for a long time at room temperature

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[Figs. 2(d), (e)]. A schematic energy diagram of the PersL mechanism shows that the NIR luminescence of BGO: Cr, Sm is produced by the spin-forbidden ${}^{2}E({}^{2}G) \rightarrow {}^{4}A_{2}({}^{4}F)$ transition of Cr³⁺ and that PersL is produced by the recombination of holes and charge carriers released from the trap after stopping UV irradiation [Fig. 2(f)]. Meanwhile, our studies have shown that BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials exhibit good thermal stability, and the maximum luminous intensity at 150 °C shows their potential as raw materials for red LEDs (Fig. 4). Finally, we found that BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials exhibit good crystallinity and NIR luminescence only when the calcination temperature reaches 1100 °C (Fig. 5).

Conclusions In summary, BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials with an emission wavelength of 734 nm were prepared using a high-temperature solid-state synthesis method. The luminescence intensity reached the maximum when the composition of the PersL materials was BGO: $Cr_{0.06}$, $Sm_{0.004}$, and the PersL intensity of BGO: Cr was enhanced by Sm^{3+} doping. The calcination temperature has a significant effect on the luminescence properties and crystal structure of BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials. BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials with high purity can be obtained when the annealing temperature is 1100 °C. The electron trap energy-level depth of BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials is approximately 0.553 eV when estimated using the half-width method. BGO: Cr, Sm PersL materials exhibit strong and persistent luminescence by co-doping and have potential applications in night vision surveillance and medical imaging.

Key words materials; near-infrared light; persistent luminescence; Sm³⁺ doping; barium gallate