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SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION AND LUMINESCENT PROPERTIES OF MG- AND CR-DOPED ALUMINA CERAMICS

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Abstract. Experimental research of luminescent properties of oxide ceramics is of great interest for understanding specific features of structural properties and forecasting new functional materials properties since electron and quantum effects play an important role in occurrence of various physical effects such as electrical conductivity, electron emission, luminescence, electrical breakdown, and many others. In this regard, the aim of this paper is the synthesis, characterization and studying of luminescent properties of Mg- and Cr-doped alumina ceramics.

At the first stage of the synthesis the initial porous matrixes in a compact form were obtained with the cold static pressing method (0.4 GPa) of high purity (99.7%) commercial alumina oxide nanopowder. At the second stage compact thermal tempering at the temperature of 450 C for 2 hours was conducted. Al₂O₃ porous matrixes were impregnated in a solution of Magnesium (II) nitrate hexahydrate (the Mg concentration in the range of 0.1–6.85 wt. %) and Chromium (III) nitrate nonahydrate (the Cr concentration in the range of 0.01–9.78 wt. %) at a room temperature for 1 hour. The doped samples sintering was conducted to create ceramics within the temperature ranges corresponded to more stable polymorphic modifications of the oxide compositions under consideration, both in air in an electric furnace and under vacuum using a high-temperature vacuum (0.013 Pa) electric furnace STVE 9/18 for 4 hours.

The investigation of the heating process for changes in the internal thermal potential in compacts, both of pure aluminum oxide and doped with Mg⁺² и Cr⁺³ cations from salt solutions, obtained by sintering in various conditions was conducted employing differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). The samples characterization was held by XRD and XRF analyzes methods. The alumina initial matrix doping leads to a new phase formation after high temperature sintering, MgAl₂O₄ spinel in particular. The decrease in dopant content leads to the decrease in quantitative content of the specified phase in ceramic. The annealing temperature growth within the range of 1500–1700 °C is accompanied by quantitative content increase in spinel phase in ceramic by about 30%. The obtained results are confirmed by the quantitative element analysis data. Within the sintering temperature ranges described above Mg content growth occurs within the range of 4.8 to 6.5 wt. %. For Cr-doped alumina ceramics a sintering temperature growth leads to lowering of dopant content in the sample. Moreover, the less Cr concentration is during doping the larger its proportion is found in the sample after sintering. So, at the maximal sintering temperature the 25-34% of 1 wt. % of Cr during doping is registered in the sample and 70-80% of 0.1% wt. of chromium.

It is shown that Mg doping leads to a new luminescence band formation in PCL spectra with its maximum at 518 nm. Compared to Mg-doped alumina ceramics a doping with Cr leads to a formation of almost an isolated high-intensity band with its maximum at 693 nm in a PCL spectrum. An increase in the dopant concentration leads to an increase in the PCL intensity of the dopant center in Mg-doped alumina ceramic and a decrease in the PCL intensity of the dopant center in Cr-doped alumina ceramic.