

Understanding the Temperature-Dependent Luminescence of LiLuF₄:Pr³⁺ for Emerging Applications

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Among the diverse classes of Pr³⁺ doped optical materials, fluoride crystals remain at the forefront of interest due to their high ionicity and exceptionally wide band gaps. LiLuF₄, in particular, serves as an ideal host matrix owing to its low phonon cutoff energy and proven stability for high-temperature applications [1].

In this work, we report on the hydrothermally synthesized tetragonal LiLuF₄:Pr³⁺. We characterize its morphology and present detailed luminescence spectra recorded over the extensive temperature range of 5–1100 K. Under excitation at 444.1 nm (³H₄ → ³P₂ transition), the obtained material exhibits intense visible emissions originating from the ³P_J → ³H_J and ¹D₂ → ³H_J manifolds.

Our discussion focuses on the thermally induced evolution of photoluminescence, specifically on the redistribution of Stark level populations within the ¹D₂ state. Furthermore, we analyze spectral variations at elevated temperatures, driven by shifts in the Boltzmann distribution between Pr³⁺ electronic levels. Finally, we evaluate the LiLuF₄:Pr material as a candidate for emerging applications.

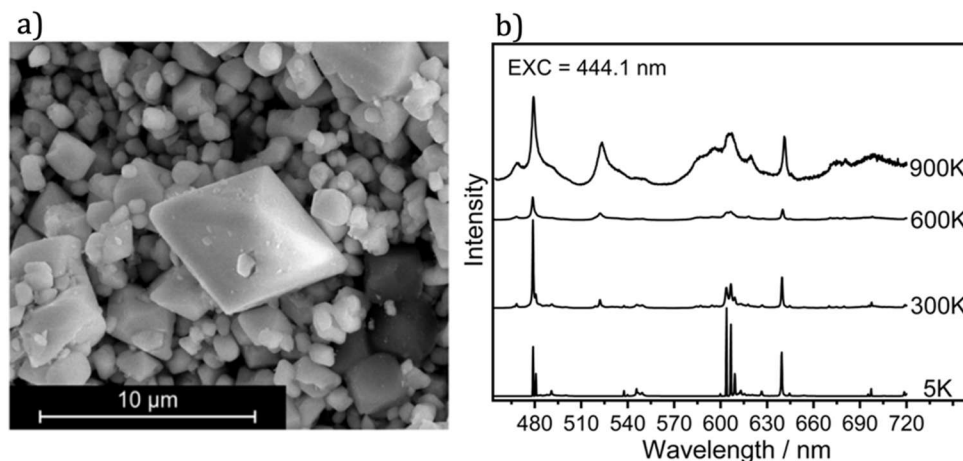


Fig. 1. Typical SEM image (a) and emission spectra collected under 444.1 nm excitation at selected temperatures (b) for LiLuF₄:0.5Pr³⁺.

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