

# The preparation and characterization of two- dimensional nanomaterial

## YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup>

Z.Z.Wang<sup>1</sup>, X.Y.Hu<sup>1\*</sup>, Y.Wang<sup>1</sup>, S.C.Zhan<sup>1</sup>, X.Sun<sup>1</sup>, H.Miao<sup>1</sup>, Q.Sun<sup>1</sup>, Y.Y.Hao<sup>1</sup>, J.Fan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*School of Physics, Northwest University, Xi'an, 710069, China.*

<sup>2</sup>*School of Chemical Engineering, Northwest University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, 710069, China.*

*\*Corresponding author Email: hxy3275@nwu.edu.cn*

### Abstract

The two- dimensional nanomaterial YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup> is a new material; the graphene has a lot of characteristics, so we want to study the two- dimensional nanomaterial YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup>. The preparation methods which commonly used is high temperature solid phase method, sol-gel method, precipitation method, burning method, thermal decomposition method and hydrothermal method. Because of the rare earth borate luminescence materials which particle size and particle size distribution and surface topography has greater influence on the luminous performance; ultimately affect the effect of practical application, so people according to the use of different environment to take different preparation methods to avoid disadvantages. The two- dimensional nanomaterial YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup> phosphors was synthesized by solvothermal method and layered by liquid exfoliation treatment, and it is the material with layered structure. SEM image shows that the thickness of each layer is about 50nm before layered. The PLE spectra and the PL spectra of the two- dimensional nanomaterial YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup> phosphors indicate that the 320-380 nm light wave is absorbed by Ce<sup>3+</sup> with a wave peak at 361nm (4f→5d), and a bit of 370-460 nm luminescence is observed with a wave peak at 410nm(Ce<sup>3+</sup>:5d→2f7/2). The microstructure of the two- dimensional nanomaterial YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup> phosphors is characted by Transmission electron microscope.

**Key words:** YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup>, hydrothermal method, Two- dimensional nanomaterial, liquid exfoliation, Microstructure

### 1. Introduction

Because of borate stability, relatively low synthesis temperature, this luminescent material of it is an excellent substrate in a plasma display, a projection television and HDTV flat panel displays, mercury-free fluorescent lamps, application in silicon solar cell performance<sup>[1]</sup>. The practical application of the material has a lot of relevance with its micro and nanostructure, morphology, size and purity. The preparation of borate phosphors are hydrothermal method. The YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup> is prepared in our laboratory which is sheet substrate material. Graphene material is a hot topic in the past two years. Graphene has many special properties<sup>[2-4]</sup>, so we have to consider whether this can YBO<sub>3</sub> prepared stratified, making it the class structure of graphene to see what will have special properties. Reference method for preparing the two- dimensional nanomaterial molybdenum disulfide, molybdenum disulfide two- dimensional nanomaterial general method, the methods include micromechanical exfoliation, lithium-based intercalation and liquid exfoliation<sup>[2-10]</sup>. In this paper we use the method is liquid exfoliation to prepare two- dimensional nanomaterial YBO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup>, and using TEM to observe and analysis its microstructure.

### 2. Experimental

#### 2.1. Flower-shaped YBO<sub>3</sub>: ce<sup>3+</sup> preparation

The nitrate dissolved in a mixed solution of deionized water and ethanol (volume ratio of deionized water and ethanol 1:2), it stirred to a clear solution, a solution of yttrium nitrate ( $Y(NO_3)_3$ ) doped cerium nitrate ( $Ce(NO_3)_3$ ). Tributyl borate was added to the colorless, clear solution and it stirred to completely dissolve. In this case the amount of substance of tributyl borate is the total amount of four times with the nitrate substance. Aqueous ammonia ( $NH_3 \cdot H_2O$ ) was added to the solution and it stirred to have a white precipitate. So the solution have weakly alkaline. In this case the volume ratio of aqueous ammonia solution and the total volume of water and ethanol is 1:2. Actual dosage and the ratio of raw materials in Table.1. The solution is stirred for 1-2 hours, and the solution is moved in 100ml the thermal water kettle at  $200^\circ C$  and is incubated 12h to give a white precipitate. The white precipitate is washed by centrifugation and dried to give the  $YBO_3:Ce^{3+}$  doped luminescent materials its microscopic structure is flower shape.

Raw material	Actual amount	Remark
$C_2H_5OH (V_1)$	20ml	$V_1: V_2=2:1$
$H_2O (V_2)$	10ml	
$NH_3 \cdot H_2O (V_2)$		
$C_{12}H_{27}BO_3$	1.36ml	Total:0.005mol
$Y(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$	0.4740g	Total:0.00125mol
$Ce(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$	0.0054g	

Table.1 Actual dosage and the ratio of raw materials

## 2.2. Preparation of two- dimensional nanomaterial $YBO_3:Ce^{3+}$

0.1g of the sample were dispersed in a solvent it has 100ml, the solvent is selected that has dimethyl sulfoxide(DMSO), methylene chloride and n-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP), because the boiling point of dichloromethane is  $39.8^\circ C$  (Dimethyl sulfoxide(DMSO)  $189^\circ C$ , N-methyl pyrrolidone  $203^\circ C$ ), it is not continuous ultrasound (when ultrasound, the temperature will rise at the same time), so the ultrasound two hours, change the water every 20min (you can also consider using ultrasonic flow water environment) as ultrasound is end, then standing it the same time with 24h. At time is over, we found in N-methyl pyrrolidone all sample submerged

in the bottom, and the dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and dichloromethane have the upper suspension. N-methyl pyrrolidone removed as a dispersant solution, keeping the methylene chloride and dimethyl solution. Filtering the upper of methylene chloride and dimethyl sulfoxide solution (using  $0.45 \mu m$  filter membrane polytetrafluoroethylene membrane), drying the white product under conditions of  $60^\circ C$ . After drying and scraping the white product, the two- dimensional nanomaterial  $YBO_3:Ce^{3+}$  borate is prepared.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. The analysis of the phenomenon of different solvents

As a solution in dichloromethane solvent at have 24h standing the upper suspension obvious clear than dimethyl sulfoxide upper suspension. This phenomenon may have two cases, one is the dimethyl sulfoxide greater than the viscosity of dichloromethane, so the sample in dichloromethane settling velocity sedimentation rate faster than in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), resulting in upper suspension of dichloromethane clear than in dimethyl sulfoxide(DMSO) solution after 24h of the upper suspension clear. The other reason is the sample in dimethyl sulfoxide(DMSO) solution has small surface area. So we do dispersant with methylene chloride to prepare the sample, and all of the photos in this article are this sample.

### 3.2. The analysis of SEM photos

Both A and B in Fig2 is under SEM photos, all is before the layered of  $YBO_3:Ce^{3+}$ , A is a photo of magnified 5000 times, B is a photo of magnified 10000 times. From the Fig.2, before the layered of  $YBO_3:Ce^{3+}$ ,

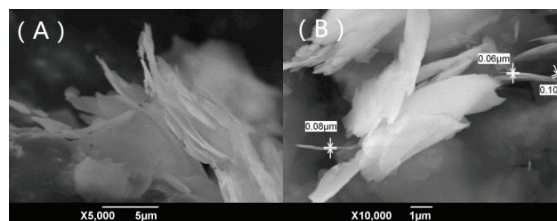


Fig.2 The TEM photos of flower-like  $YBO_3:Ce^{3+}$



prepared two-dimensional nanomaterial  $\text{YBO}_3:\text{Ce}^{3+}$  and observing the microstructure and grid data.

### Acknowledgements

This work has been supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 51372201, 21176199), the Research Fund for the Doctoral Program of Higher Education (No. 20136101110009), the Research Foundation for the Industrialization Cultivation Item of Shaanxi Province Educational Department (Grant No. 2011JG05, 12JK0977).

### References

- [1] Zhengwen. Yang, Dong. Yan, "Color tenability of up conversion emission in  $\text{YBO}_3:\text{Yb}, \text{Er}$  inverse opal", *Materials Letters*, 1245-1247, 2011
- [2] Min Qian, Yun Shen Zhou, Yang Gao, Tao Feng, Zhuo Sun, Lan Jiang, Yong Feng Lu "Production of few-layer graphene through liquid-phase pulsed laser exfoliation of highly ordered pyrolytic graphite", *Applied Surface Science*, 258, 9092–9095, 258, 2012
- [3] Jonathan N. Coleman et al. "Two-Dimensional Nanosheets Produced by Liquid Exfoliation of Layered Materials", *Science* 331, 568, 2011
- [4] Valeria Nicolosi et al. "Liquid Exfoliation of Layered Materials", *Science* 340, 2013
- [5] Arlene O'Neill, Umar Khan, and Jonathan N Coleman "Preparation of High Concentration Dispersions of Exfoliated  $\text{MoS}_2$  with Increased Flake Size", *Chemistry of Materials*, *Chem. Mater.*, 2414-2421, 24, 2012
- [6] Lixin Xu, John-Wesley McGraw, Fan Gao, Mark Grundy, Zhibin Ye, Zhiyong Gu and Jeffrey L. Shepherd "Production of High-Concentration Graphene Dispersions in Low-Boiling-Point Organic Solvents by Liquid-Phase Noncovalent Exfoliation of Graphite with a Hyperbranched Polyethylene and Formation of Graphene/Ethylene Copolymer Composites", *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*, 10730–10742, 117, 2013
- [7] Graeme Cunningham, Mustafa Lotya, Clotilde S. Cucinotta, Stefano Sanvito, Shane D. Bergin, Robert Menzel, Milo S. P. Shaffer, and Jonathan N. Coleman "Solvent Exfoliation of Transition Metal Dichalcogenides: Dispersibility of Exfoliated Nanosheets

Varies Only Weakly between Compounds", *ACS Nano*, 3468–3480, 2012

- [8] X.Y. Zhang, "The preparation and properties of 2-d boron nitride nanomaterials research" A master's thesis of Shandong University, 2012 (In Chinese)
- [9] Z. Wang, "The research of Graphene-like  $\text{MoS}_2$  / graphene nanocomposites synthesis and electrochemical lithium storage properties", A master's thesis of Zhejiang University, 2013 (In Chinese)
- [10] P. Tang, "The preparation of Graphene-like Molybdenum Disulfide and Its Research in Optoelectronic Devices", A master's thesis of Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, 2013 (In Chinese)