

Excited state study on yttrium compounds using theoretical methods.

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【Introduction】

Rare earth materials have been widely used in optoelectronic devices, because their photoluminescence exhibits high quantum yields and very sharp spectral bands. Recently many oxides, such as TiO₂, ZrO₂, Al₂O₃ and Y₂O₃ films have been studied in order to use them as wave-guide materials in optoelectronic integrated circuits. Among these oxides, Y₂O₃ film has received particular attention because of its large band gap (5.8eV). Furthermore, Eu doping techniques can control the optoelectronic properties of yttrium oxide. The main applications of Y₂O₃:Eu as commercial phosphor are in lighting and cathode ray tube, display material, in tricolor fluorescent lamps, field emission displays and laser devices. Because of promising applications the further investigations of Y₂O₃:Eu to improve its properties is desirable. Consequently study of the excited state of europium-doped yttrium oxide is of major significance. In the present study we report studies performed on the different possible spin multiplicities of europium doped yttrium oxide as well as yttrium oxy-sulphide using density functional theory method to unveil the influence of europium ion in yttrium compounds.

【Method】

We used the program package DMol³ that is based on DFT. The geometries were optimized at Generalized Gradient Approximation level with Becke exchange and Lee-Yang-Parr 1988 correlation correction. DNP (Double Numerical and Polarization) Basis set and Effective core potential were used. Cluster models of Y₄O₆, Y₃EuO₆, Y₄O₄S₂, Y₃EuO₄S₂ were investigated

【Results and Discussion】

A small cluster model with four yttrium and six oxygen atoms was taken from the crystal structure of Y₂O₃ with BCC lattice and is shown in Fig. 1(a). Cluster (a) was then doped with one Eu atom and is shown in Fig. 1(b). Yttrium oxy-sulphide cluster was obtained by replacing two oxygen atoms by sulphur in cluster (a) and the structure is shown in Fig. 1(c). Yttrium oxy-sulphide was then doped with one Eu atom and is shown in Fig. 1(d). The geometries of yttrium oxide and yttrium oxy-sulphide clusters and its Eu doped analogues were optimized for different spin multiplicities based on density functional theory and the energies are given in Table.1.

The results show that the septet states of Y₄O₆ and Y₄O₄S₂ are the most stable and the quintet states are the least stable. This indicates that the ground states of Y₄O₆ and Y₄O₄S₂ have septet multiplicities. In the case of their Eu doped analogues, septet states are found to lie close to singlets and are stable. This can be explained in terms of all the six outer electrons being paired or unpaired. So the ground state of the Eu doped analogues might be singlets or septets. Moreover the excited states have triplet or quintet multiplicities. The triplet states of Eu doped analogues are the least stable. These results indicate that in absorption/emission spectroscopy the transition from septet state to quintet state should be observed, which agrees with experiment.

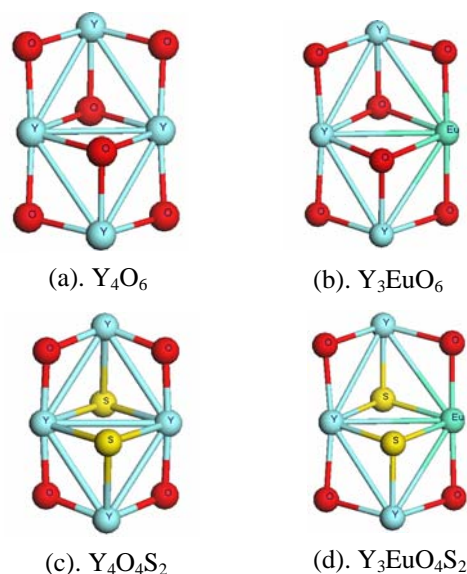


Fig. 1. Cluster models of Yttrium oxide compounds studied.

Table.1. Energies for different spin multiplicities using DFT.

Multiplicity	Energy (eV)			
	Y ₄ O ₆	Y ₃ EuO ₆	Y ₄ O ₄ S ₂	Y ₃ EuO ₄ S ₂
Singlet	-58.46	-54.53	-53.58	-49.90
Triplet	-55.96	-51.31	-51.08	-46.61
Quintet	-52.47	-52.05	-48.03	-47.63
Septet	-59.95	-54.52	-54.49	-49.90