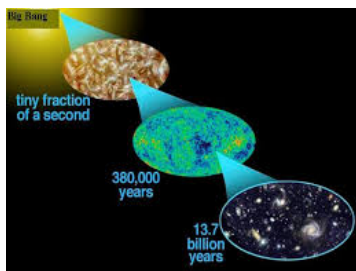


# International WORKSHOP on “Emerging trends in High Energy and Condensed matter Physics”



Contribution ID : 17

Type : not specified

## Band gap engineering of barium stannate (BaSnO<sub>3</sub>) perovskite oxide by Mn-doping: Theory and experiment

вторник, 12 января 2021 г. 16:45 (30)

Band gap engineering of barium titanate (BaSnO<sub>3</sub>) perovskite oxide by Mn-doping: Theory and experiment

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### ABSTRACT

Nanocrystalline BaSn<sub>1-x</sub>Mn<sub>x</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (x = 0.0 - 0.3) nanostructures were synthesized by solid state reaction route. Heavy Mn-doping upto 30% in powdered BaSnO<sub>3</sub> is accomplished to investigate the optical properties, electronic structure and magnetic properties of the synthesized samples. From XRD analysis and Transmission electron micrographs (TEM), nanoscale cubic structures are observed within (~50 nm) dimensions. Band gap transition from 3.2 eV in pure BaSnO<sub>3</sub> to 2.6 eV in Mn-doped samples is coherent with DFT calculations. So, an ultraviolet active material is reduced to absorb the visible light via band gap engineering as achieved by proportional Mn-doping in the parent material. An increase in Mn-content leads to the decrease in band gap of parent material up to certain limits (20% doping only). The origin of these reduced values can be argued from the unpaired Mn-3d<sup>5</sup> electronic states which induces the defect states below the conduction band minima near the Fermi level. The more, defect states present in a sample, the smaller will be its band gap. However, after certain doping (optimal 20% in present case), the distortion effects in the crystal structure does not allow further alteration of the band gap but induce magnetism only.

Keywords: BaSnO<sub>3</sub>; Nanoparticles, XRD, Transition metals, Optical properties

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