Contribution ID: 102

## Picosecond absorption spectroscopy of self-trapped holes, self-trapped excitons, and transient Ce states in LaBr\_3 and LaBr\_3:Ce

Tuesday 19 September 2017 15:45 (15 minutes)

We report excitation-induced picosecond absorption over an extended spectral range from 320 nm to 2700 nm in LaBr<sub>3</sub>, LaBr<sub>3</sub>:Ce(4%) and LaBr<sub>3</sub>:Ce(20%). Preliminary identification of a V<sub>k</sub> band near 3.6 eV, selftrapped exciton (STE) hole transition near the same energy, and STE bound-electron transitions spanning 0.46 eV to 1.1 eV have been made. Comparison to recent calculations of  $V_k$  and STE structure in LaBr<sub>3</sub> by A. Canning and M. Del Ben [private communication] is helpful and in rough agreement on several points. We also observe transient induced absorption bands whose strength increases with Ce concentration, and they are tentatively attributed to carrier capture and/or excited states involving Ce. Strong Ce-correlated transient absorption bands are found at 2.8 eV, 2.2 eV, and with weaker Ce correlation at about 1.25 eV. We are working to establish identification with expected charge-transfer (CT) electron and hole transitions of the Ce<sup>3+\*</sup> excited activator and CT transitions of  $Ce^{4+}$  activator-trapped holes. Together with the identified STH and STE transitions noted above, these should constitute the main species in LaBr<sub>3</sub>:Ce scintillation. The excitation in these experiments is two-photon absorption of 300 fs pulses producing total transition energies of 5.9 eV, only slightly above the band gap of LaBr3, and 8.86 eV, capable of creating hot electrons with almost 3 eV excess energy. Use of the corresponding two pump photon energies at 2.95 eV and 4.43 eV allows distinguishing effects of direct absorption of the pump photons by Ce dopant. Assembling information on the picosecondscale sequential populations of trapped carriers and excited states that are main participants in scintillation, along with quantitative rates of capture, is necessary for a material engineering model of LaBr<sub>3</sub>:Ce. The present work follows our similar picosecond-measurement program in CsI, CsI:Tl [1] which supplied a number of key rate coefficients for successful modeling of pulse shape, proportionality of decay components, and light yield in CsI:Tl [2].

References

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Session Classification: Scintillation Mechanisms

Track Classification: S07\_Mechanisms 1 (Orals)