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ABSTRACTS

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR EISENFORSCHUNG GMBH
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Magnetic properties of cerium-doped yttrium iron garnet films by sol-gel method

Jun Sig Kum, Young Jun Hong, Sam Jin Kim, In-Bo Shim, Chul Sung Kim

Dept. of Physics, Kookmin University

861-1, Chongnung-dong, Songbuk, 136-702 Seoul, Republic of Korea

junsig76@phys.kookmin.ac.kr

Compounds of composition $Y_{3-x}Ce_xFe_5O_{12}$ ($x = 0.1, 0.3, \text{ and } 0.5$) films were prepared using the sol-gel method. The crystallographic and magnetic properties of $Y_{3-x}Ce_xFe_5O_{12}$ films were studied using x-ray diffraction, vibrating sample magnetometry (VSM), atomic force microscope (AFM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and Mössbauer spectroscopy.

$Y_{3-x}Ce_xFe_5O_{12}$ films with homogeneous garnet phases was obtained from stock solutions spun on $SiO_2/Si(100)$ substrates. $Y_{3-x}Ce_xFe_5O_{12}$ films which were fired at and above $700^\circ C$ had only a single phase of garnet cubic structure. The lattice constants of $Y_{2.9}Ce_{0.1}Fe_5O_{12}$ and $Y_{2.5}Ce_{0.5}Fe_5O_{12}$ were found to be $a_0 = 12.384$ and 12.408 \AA , respectively. The results for magnetic properties indicated that the the saturation magnetization and coercivity decreased with Ce concentration.

The microstructure of the films consisted of spherical grains of $500 \sim 1000 \text{ \AA}$ in size and $40 \sim 50 \text{ \AA}$ in surface roughness (rms). Conversion electron Mössbauer spectra of $Y_{3-x}Ce_xFe_5O_{12}$ films were measured at various absorber temperatures from 180 to 295 K. The temperature dependence of the magnetic hyperfine field in ^{57}Fe nuclei at the tetrahedral (24d) and octahedral (16a) sites was analyzed based on the Néel theory of ferrimagnetism.