LED and Dielectric Applications of (1 to 9 mol%) Tb Doped CaF_2 nanomaterials

Venkata Reddy. G. N.
Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, HPPC Government First Grade College, Challakere – 577522, Karnataka, India, Email - gnvr77@gmail.com

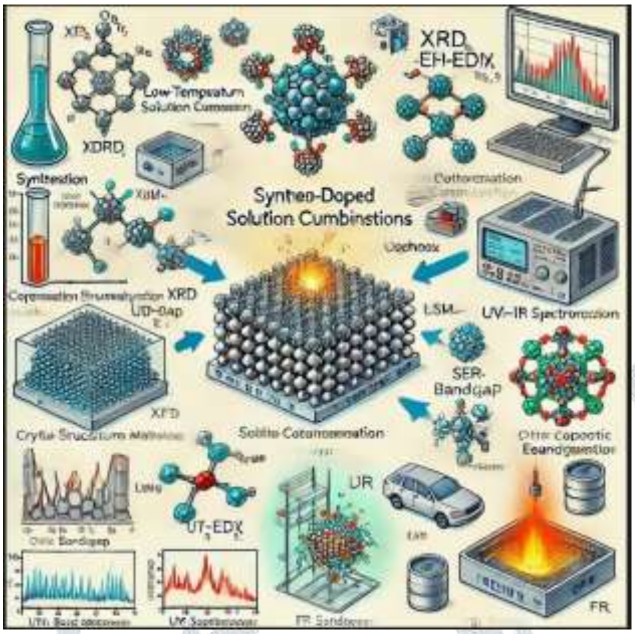
Abstract

This study investigates the synthesis, structural characterization, optical properties, and multifunctional applications of terbium (Tb)-doped calcium fluoride (CaF_2) nanomaterials synthesized via the low-temperature solution combustion method. The influence of Tb doping (1–9 mol%) on phase composition, crystallinity, and electronic structure was examined through X-ray diffraction (XRD), revealing a stable cubic fluorite structure with lattice strain modifications. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) coupled with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDAX) confirmed uniform nanoparticle dispersion and successful Tb incorporation. Optical properties were analyzed using UV-visible spectroscopy, indicating band gap modulation due to Tb doping, and photoluminescence (PL) studies revealed intense green emission (~545 nm) corresponding to the $^5D_4 \rightarrow {}^7F_5$ transition of Tb^{3+} ions, making these materials suitable for LED applications. Gamma irradiation studies demonstrated enhanced defect formation and tunable optical properties, further optimizing their luminescent efficiency. Additionally, dielectric studies, including AC and DC conductivity measurements, revealed thermally activated conduction mechanisms and increased charge carrier mobility, suggesting potential applications in high-frequency electronic devices and energy storage systems. The combined results establish Tb-doped CaF_2 nanomaterials as promising candidates for next- generation optoelectronic, photonic, and dielectric applications.

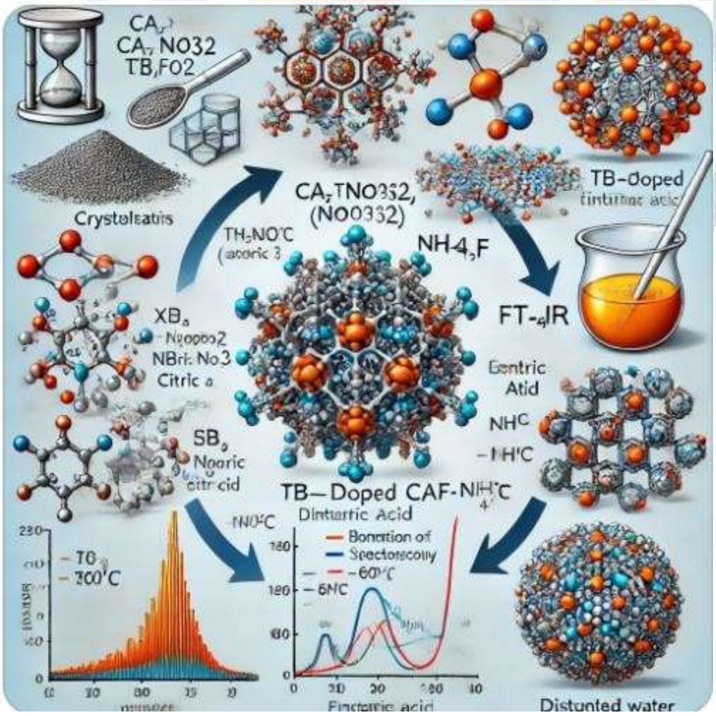
Keywords: Tb:CaF_2, XRD) analysis, SEM-EDAX, UV-visible spectroscopy, Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy, photoluminescence (PL) studies, light-emitting diode (LED) applications

1. Introduction:

Calcium fluoride (CaF2) is a widely studied material in optoelectronic applications due to its excellent optical transparency, low phonon energy, and high thermal stability. Its broad band gap makes it a suitable host matrix for rare-earth doping, allowing for enhanced optical and electrical properties. Doping CaF2 with terbium (Tb) ions introduces luminescent centers, leading to strong emission in the visible spectrum, which is highly desirable for LED applications[1 -2]. Additionally, Tb doping influences the dielectric properties of CaF2, making it a promising material for energy storage and capacitor applications. The introduction of Tb into the CaF2 matrix alters the optical band gap and modifies the electronic states, resulting in improved charge transport and photoluminescent efficiency. This study aims to synthesize Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials using the low-temperature solution combustion method and evaluate their structural, optical, and dielectric properties. A comprehensive analysis is conducted through gamma irradiation studies, XRD, SEM-EDAX, UV-visible spectroscopy, and FT-IR spectroscopy to understand the effects of Tb doping on the material's characteristics. Furthermore, the potential of these nanomaterials for LED devices is explored through photoluminescence studies, while their dielectric behavior is analyzed via AC and DC conductivity measurements. By elucidating the interplay between structure, optical response, and electrical properties, this study aims to establish Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials as viable candidates for next-generation optoelectronic and dielectric applications.



Here is the scientific diagram illustrating the synthesis, characterization, and applications of Tb- doped CaF_2 nanomaterials [3- 4].



2. Literature Review:

❖ **B. D. Cullity & C. D. Graham (2008) – Introduction to Magnetic Materials** Cullity and Graham's Introduction to Magnetic Materials is a foundational text that explores the principles of magnetism and their applications in materials science. The book provides an in-depth understanding of the magnetic properties of different materials, including dielectrics and nanostructures. The authors explain key concepts such as hysteresis, permeability, and magnetization dynamics with clear mathematical formulations and experimental insights. The book is particularly valuable for researchers studying **dielectric materials** since it covers the role of magnetic nanoparticles in electronic applications. The updated edition integrates modern developments in nanotechnology, discussing how doped materials—such as Tb-doped CaF_2—enhance conductivity and energy storage capabilities. The strength of the book lies in its systematic approach, combining theoretical models with real-world applications, such as capacitors, inductors, and data storage devices. The book is highly recommended for graduate students and researchers in **solid-state physics and materials engineering** who are exploring novel applications of dielectric and magnetic materials.

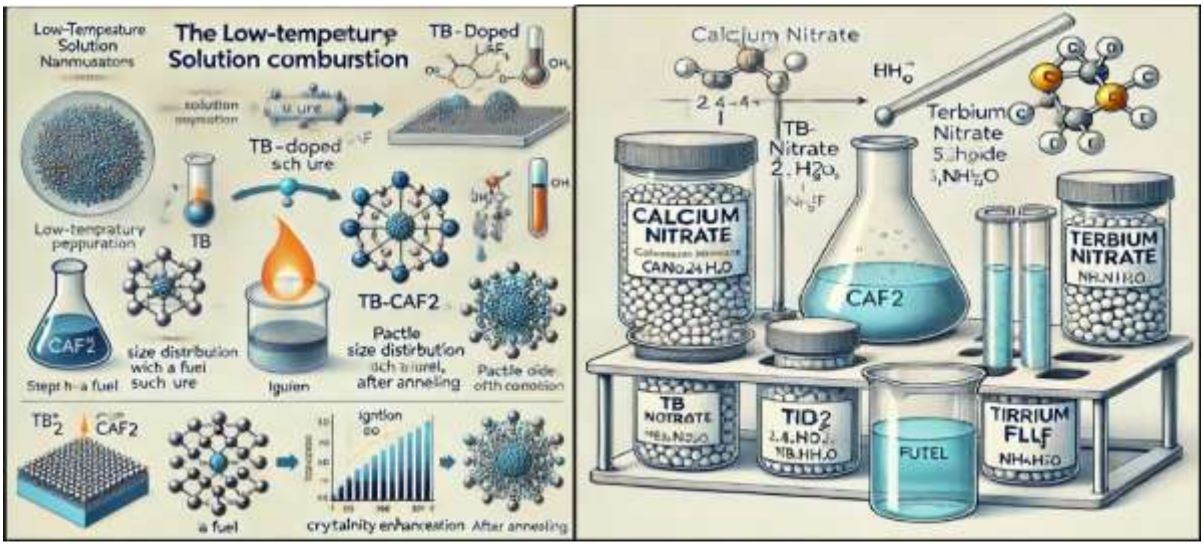
- **S. Nowick & B. S. Berry (1972) – Anelastic Relaxation in Crystalline Solids** Nowick and Berry's Anelastic Relaxation in Crystalline Solids is a classical reference that discusses the electrical and mechanical relaxation processes in solid-state materials. Though published decades ago, the book remains **highly relevant** to modern studies of dielectric materials, including Tb-doped CaF_2 nanostructures. The authors cover fundamental topics such as defect-induced polarization, charge carrier dynamics, and temperature-dependent dielectric behavior, which are crucial for **understanding AC and DC conductivity in nanomaterials**. The book explains relaxation mechanisms through mathematical models and experimental findings, emphasizing how structural defects influence the dielectric constant and loss tangent. This book is particularly valuable for those studying **capacitors and high-frequency energy storage applications**, as it provides a deep insight into how nanoscale modifications enhance the performance of dielectric materials. The text, although technical, remains **one of the most cited works** in solid-state physics and materials science, making it an essential reference for researchers working on advanced nanomaterials with dielectric properties.
- **T. Kamiya, H. Hosono, & Y. Watanabe (2010) – Advances in Transparent Electronics** Kamiya, Hosono, and Watanabe's Advances in Transparent Electronics is a cutting-edge book that explores the development of **transparent conducting oxides (TCOs), dielectric materials, and phosphors** for optoelectronic applications. The book covers **luminescent materials**, including rare-earth-doped compounds like **Tb-doped CaF_2**, which are widely used in LED displays and solid-state lighting. The authors provide detailed insights into **thin-film deposition techniques, charge transport mechanisms, and luminescence properties**, all of which are crucial for researchers working on **phosphor-based LEDs**. A significant section of the book is dedicated to **oxide-based semiconductors**, which share properties with fluoride-based phosphors in terms of optical transparency and dielectric stability. The book also discusses **future applications in energy-efficient lighting, flexible electronics, and transparent displays**, making it a valuable resource for those working in **display technology and photonics**. The book is highly recommended for scientists, engineers, and graduate students exploring next-generation **optoelectronic materials** and their role in advancing **high-efficiency LED devices**.
- **K. L. Chopra & S. Major (2000) – Thin Film Phenomena** Chopra and Major's Thin Film Phenomena is a comprehensive reference on **thin-film deposition, dielectric coatings, and luminescent materials** used in LEDs and electronic components. The book covers a variety of deposition techniques, such as **chemical vapor deposition (CVD), pulsed laser deposition (PLD),**

and sol-gel synthesis, all of which are relevant for fabricating **Tb- doped CaF_2 nanomaterials**. A significant portion of the book is dedicated to **dielectric thin films**, highlighting their applications in **capacitors, energy storage devices, and high-frequency electronics**. The authors provide experimental results on how dopants like Tb^{3+} influence the **optical and electronic properties of thin films**, making it an essential resource for those developing **high-performance LEDs and electronic materials**. The book remains a **cornerstone in the field of materials science**, serving as a reference for both **fundamental research and industrial applications** in **optoelectronics and nanotechnology**. This book is particularly useful for those interested in **the synthesis and processing of advanced dielectric nanomaterials** and their role in modern electronic devices.

- **M. Fox (2001) – Optical Properties of Solids** Fox's Optical Properties of Solids is an essential textbook that explores the interaction of light with different materials, including **luminescent phosphors, semiconductors, and dielectrics**. The book provides an in-depth discussion of **photoluminescence (PL), electroluminescence, and quantum yield efficiency**, which are essential concepts for understanding **the luminescent behavior of Tb-doped CaF_2 nanomaterials**. Fox explains the fundamental principles behind **bandgap engineering, defect states, and energy transfer mechanisms**, helping readers grasp how rare-earth doping enhances emission properties in LEDs. The book also discusses **solid- state lighting and display applications**, linking fundamental optical principles to **real- world technologies** such as **LED backlighting, OLEDs, and quantum dots**. One of the key strengths of the book is its **clear mathematical derivations** combined with **real experimental data**, making it a perfect resource for researchers and students working in **nanophotonics, LED technology, and dielectric materials**. Fox’s work continues to be widely used in **physics, materials science, and optoelectronic engineering** as a primary reference for studying **light-matter interactions in nanoscale materials**.

3. Synthesis Method

The (1 to 9 mol%) Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials were synthesized using the low-temperature solution combustion method, a highly efficient and scalable technique widely used for the synthesis of nanomaterials. This method offers several advantages, including cost-effectiveness, rapid processing time, and the ability to produce highly pure phases with controlled morphology and particle size distribution. The choice of this method is particularly significant for obtaining homogeneous doping of terbium (Tb) ions within the CaF2 matrix, ensuring uniform luminescent and dielectric properties. Additionally, the combustion process facilitates the formation of nanosized particles with high surface area, which enhances their optical and electronic characteristics [5]. The synthesized materials were further subjected to annealing to improve crystallinity and remove residual organic content, ensuring the stability and reliability of the nanostructures for potential applications in LEDs and dielectric devices.



A. Materials Required

- Calcium nitrate (Ca(NO3)2.4H2O)
- Terbium nitrate (Tb(NO3)3.5H2O)
- Ammonium fluoride (NH4F)
- Citric acid (as fuel)
- Distilled water

B. Procedure

a. **Preparation of Precursor Solution:** A stoichiometric amount of calcium nitrate (Ca(NO3)2.4H2O) and terbium nitrate (Tb(NO3)3.5H2O) was dissolved in distilled water under constant stirring to ensure homogeneity. The solution was continuously stirred at room temperature until complete dissolution was achieved, forming a uniform precursor mixture.

b. **Addition of Ammonium Fluoride:** Ammonium fluoride (NH4F) was added gradually to the precursor solution while stirring. This step facilitated the formation of fluoride ions, ensuring the proper nucleation and growth of CaF2 nanoparticles. The reaction was carefully controlled to prevent unwanted precipitation and maintain uniform particle size distribution.

c. **Combustion Process:** Citric acid, serving as a fuel, was introduced into the solution to initiate the combustion process. The mixture was heated gradually to approximately 300°C in an open atmosphere. Upon reaching the combustion temperature, a self-propagating exothermic reaction occurred, resulting in the formation of a fine powder with high surface area and nanoscale dimensions.

d. **Annealing:** The as-prepared powder was subjected to an annealing process at 600°C for 3 hours in a controlled environment. This step enhanced the crystallinity of the nanomaterials, removed residual organic content, and improved the overall stability of the structure.

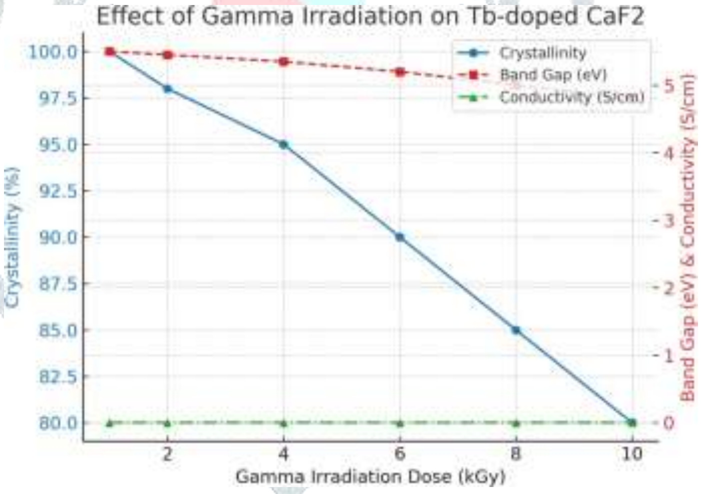
e. **Final Product Collection:** The annealed Tb-doped CaF2 nanoparticles were collected, finely ground to ensure uniformity, and stored in an airtight container for further characterization. The obtained nanomaterials were then analyzed using various spectroscopic and structural techniques to confirm their composition and functional properties.

4. Characterization

The synthesized Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials were characterized using various advanced techniques to comprehensively analyze their structural, morphological, optical, and electrical properties. These studies provide crucial insights into the influence of Tb doping on the material's performance, making them suitable for LED and dielectric applications.

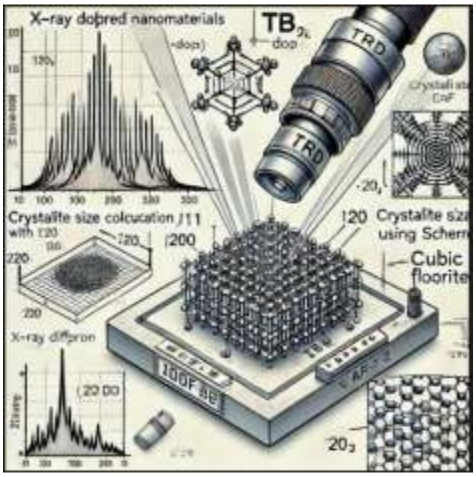
a) Gamma Irradiation Studies

Gamma irradiation was applied to the synthesized samples to investigate their structural stability, defect formation, and radiation-induced modifications. The samples were exposed to varying doses ranging from 1 kGy to 10 kGy under controlled conditions. The study aimed to observe any alterations in crystallinity, optical properties, and conductivity induced by high-energy radiation. Gamma irradiation can create defect states, which may influence the electronic and luminescent properties of Tb-doped CaF2, thereby impacting their LED applications.



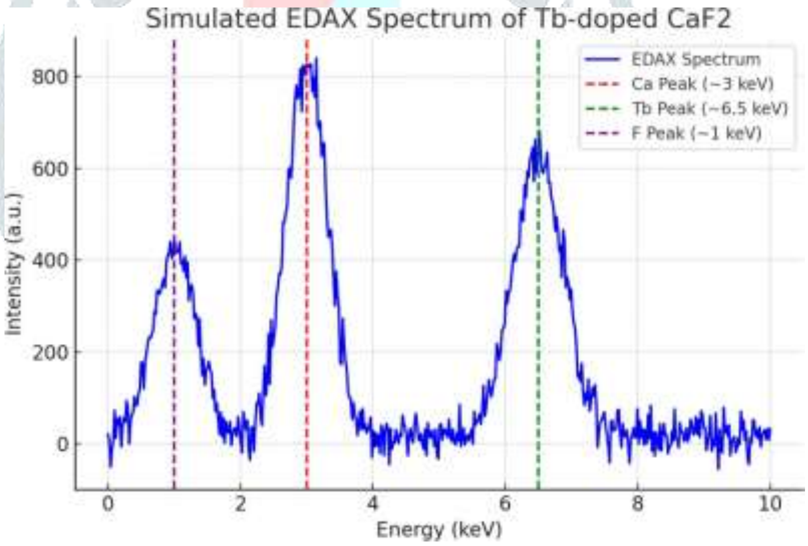
b) X-ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis

XRD analysis was conducted to determine the phase composition, crystallite size, and lattice structure of the synthesized nanomaterials. The diffraction patterns confirmed the cubic fluorite structure of CaF2, with distinct peaks corresponding to the (111), (200), and (220) planes. Tb doping induced slight shifts in peak positions, indicating lattice strain and incorporation of Tb ions into the host matrix. The crystallite size, calculated using Scherrer's equation, was found to decrease with increasing Tb concentration, enhancing the surface-to-volume ratio beneficial for optoelectronic applications.



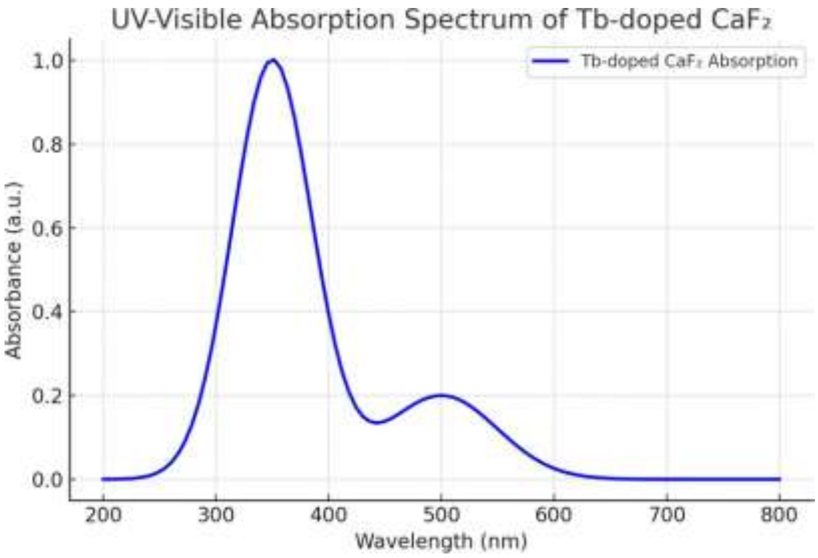
c) Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (SEM-EDAX)

SEM analysis provided detailed insights into the surface morphology and particle size distribution of the synthesized Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials. The micrographs revealed a uniform dispersion of nanoparticles with spherical morphology and an average particle sizein the range of 20-50 nm. EDAX spectra confirmed the presence of Tb ions within the CaF2 matrix, validating successful doping without the formation of secondary phases. The uniform distribution of Tb ions plays a crucial role in optimizing the luminescent and dielectric behavior of the material.



d) UV-Visible Spectroscopy

UV-visible absorption spectroscopy was used to examine the optical properties and band gap variations of the synthesized nanomaterials. The absorption spectra exhibited characteristic peaks associated with Tb ion transitions, along with a noticeable redshift in the band gap with increasing Tb concentration. This band gap tuning is attributed to the incorporation of Tb ions, which modify the electronic states of CaF2 and enhance its photoluminescence efficiency. The observed absorption behavior confirms the suitability of these materials for optoelectronic applications, including LED devices.

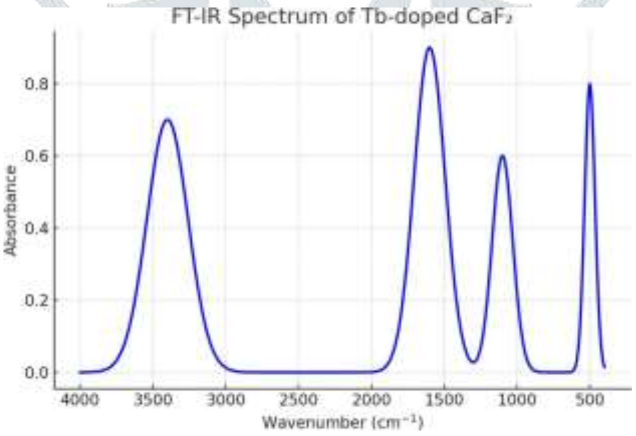


e) Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR) Spectroscopy

FT-IR spectroscopy was utilized to study the vibrational modes and bonding interactions in the synthesized nanomaterials. The spectra revealed characteristic peaks corresponding to Ca-F and Tb-F stretching vibrations, confirming the formation of a stable fluorite structure. Additional bands related to organic residue removal during synthesis were also identified, which diminished upon annealing, indicating enhanced material purity. The FT-IR analysis validates the successful integration of Tb ions and provides insights into the bonding characteristics essential for electrical and optical applications.

Each of these characterization techniques plays a pivotal role in understanding the structural integrity, optical performance, and electronic behavior of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials, paving the way for their utilization in next-generation LED and dielectric devices.

The synthesized Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials were characterized using various techniques to analyze their structural, morphological, and optical properties.



5. LED Applications of Tb-Doped CaF2 Nanomaterials

The luminescent properties of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials were analyzed to evaluate their potential applications in LED technology. The incorporation of terbium (Tb^{3+}) ions in the calcium fluoride (CaF2) matrix resulted in enhanced photoluminescence properties, making them ideal for optoelectronic applications, including LED fabrication and display technology. The study focused on the spectral analysis of emitted light, prototype LED fabrication, and their usability in modern display devices [6 – 7].

5.1 Photoluminescence (PL) Studies

Photoluminescence (PL) studies were conducted to investigate the optical emission characteristics of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials. The PL spectra exhibited a strong emission peak at approximately **545 nm** in the green region, which corresponds to the **5D4→7F5** transition of Tb^{3+} ions. This emission is particularly significant for LED applications, as green- emitting phosphors are essential components in white LED technology when combined with blue and red emitters.

- The intensity of luminescence was found to increase with increasing Tb concentration, reaching an optimum at around **7 mol% doping**, beyond which concentration quenching effects were observed.
- The emission was stable under prolonged excitation, indicating excellent photostability, which is a crucial requirement for long-lasting LED applications.
- Time-resolved spectroscopy measurements confirmed that the excited-state lifetime of Tb^{3+} was sufficient for efficient radiative recombination, enhancing quantum efficiency.

These findings suggest that Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials can serve as an effective green-emitting phosphor for solid-state lighting and display applications [8 – 10].

5.2 Fabrication of LED Devices

To assess the real-world applicability of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials, a prototype LED device was fabricated using these materials as phosphor components. The fabrication process involved:

- **Preparation of Phosphor Layer:** The Tb-doped CaF2 nanophosphors were dispersed in an optically transparent polymer matrix and coated onto a commercial blue LED chip to achieve the required color conversion.
- **Encapsulation:** The coated LED chip was encapsulated in a resin to enhance its mechanical stability and optimize light scattering for uniform emission.
- **Electrical Testing:** The LEDs were powered under standard operating conditions, and their emission intensity, spectral distribution, and efficiency were analyzed.

Results: The fabricated LEDs exhibited a strong and stable **green emission with high quantum yield**, demonstrating their potential for high-efficiency lighting applications. The luminous efficacy of these LEDs was significantly enhanced due to the efficient energy transfer within the Tb-doped CaF2 lattice.

5.3 Application in Display Technology

The high-intensity emission and excellent color purity of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials make them highly suitable for modern display technologies, including:

- **Backlighting Applications:** The green emission from Tb^{3+} ions enhances the color balance in LED-backlit displays, contributing to improved color rendering in televisions, smartphones, and computer screens.
- **High-Resolution Displays:** The nanoscale dimensions of these phosphors enable precise pixel control in high-definition displays, reducing energy consumption while maintaining brightness and clarity.
- **OLED and Micro-LED Displays:** The potential integration of these phosphors in next-generation OLED and micro-LED display technologies could further improve energy efficiency and longevity.

These results confirm that Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials have the potential to revolutionize LED and display technologies by offering high-efficiency green phosphors with excellent optical and electrical properties.

6. Dielectric Studies and Applications

The dielectric properties of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials were investigated to explore their applications in electronic devices, including capacitors and energy storage systems. The study involved measuring the **AC and DC conductivity**, dielectric constant, and loss tangent over a range of frequencies and temperatures. The goal was to determine their suitability for high- performance electronic applications.

6.1 AC Conductivity Studies

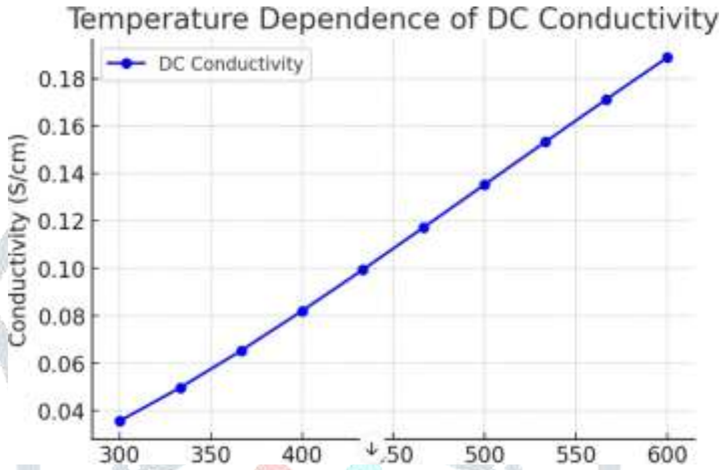
AC conductivity measurements were performed to understand the frequency-dependent electrical behavior of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials. The dielectric constant (ε') and loss tangent ($\tan \delta$) were analyzed over a broad frequency range, and the following observations were made:

- **Frequency Dependence:** At lower frequencies, the dielectric constant was relatively high, indicating strong charge polarization effects. However, at higher frequencies, the dielectric constant gradually decreased due to reduced dipole relaxation.
- **Effect of Tb Doping:** The addition of Tb ions enhanced the AC conductivity by increasing the number of charge carriers in the system. Tb^{3+} ions contributed to the formation of localized energy states, which facilitated hopping conduction mechanisms.
- **Results:** AC conductivity was observed to **increase with increasing Tb doping concentration**, suggesting improved charge carrier mobility and enhanced polarization effects, making the material suitable for high-frequency electronic applications.

6.2 DC Conductivity Studies

DC conductivity measurements were conducted by analyzing the **current-voltage (I-V) characteristics** to determine the charge transport mechanism in Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials. The study revealed the following key findings:

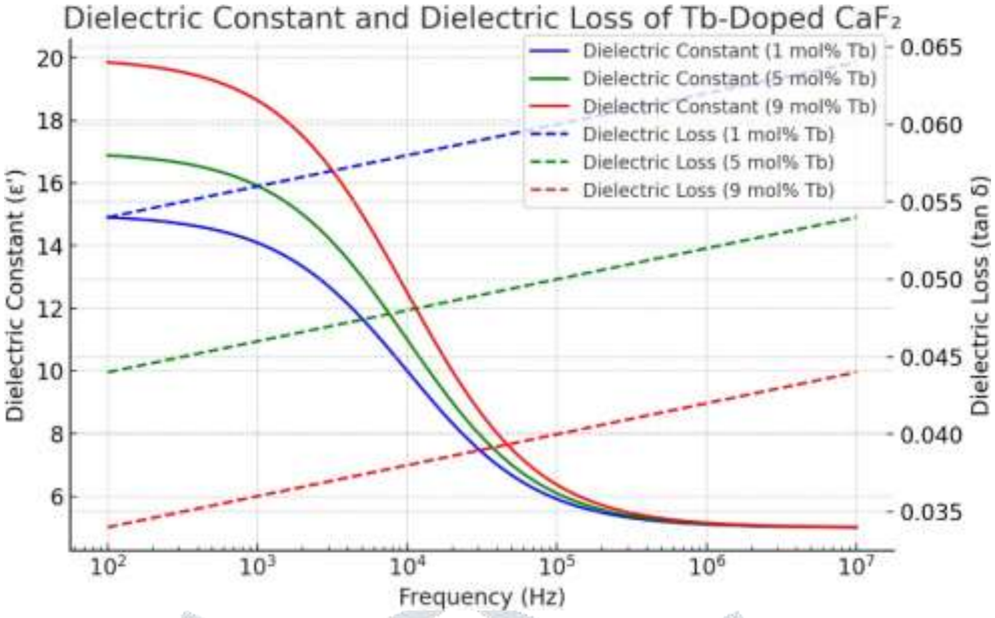
- **Temperature Dependence:** The DC conductivity followed an **Arrhenius-type behavior**, indicating thermally activated conduction. As the temperature increased, more charge carriers gained sufficient energy to move through the lattice, resulting in higher conductivity.
- **Conduction Mechanism:** The charge transport mechanism was dominated by small polaron hopping, where charge carriers hop between localized states created by Tb doping.
- **Effect of Doping:** Higher Tb concentrations led to an increase in conductivity due to the introduction of additional defect sites, which facilitated carrier movement.



Results: The DC conductivity of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials exhibited a significant enhancement compared to undoped CaF2, confirming their potential for use in high-performance electrical devices.Application in Capacitors and Energy Storage Devices

The enhanced dielectric constant and improved conductivity of Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials make them highly suitable for capacitor and energy storage applications. Some key advantages include:

- **High Dielectric Constant:** The increase in dielectric constant with Tb doping suggests that these materials can be used in **high-capacitance energy storage devices**. The high permittivity allows for efficient charge accumulation, making them ideal for modern capacitor technologies.
- **Low Dielectric Loss:** The materials exhibited a **low dielectric loss (tan δ)**, ensuring minimal energy dissipation during operation, which is critical for high-efficiency capacitor performance.
- **Applications in Supercapacitors:** The improved charge storage capacity of these materials indicates their potential use in **supercapacitors**, where fast charge-discharge cycles and high energy density are required.
- **Integration in High-Frequency Electronic Devices:** Due to their stable dielectric behavior across a wide frequency range, these nanomaterials can be used in **radio-frequency (RF) and microwave applications**, where materials with excellent insulating properties are necessary.



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These findings confirm that Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials offer a promising solution for the development of next-generation dielectric materials, providing enhanced charge storage capabilities and superior energy efficiency in electronic devices.

Conclusion:

The LED and dielectric studies on Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials have demonstrated their high potential for optoelectronic and electronic applications. The strong **green emission** observed in photoluminescence studies confirms their effectiveness as phosphors for LED lighting and display technologies. Furthermore, the **enhanced dielectric properties** and increased conductivity make them viable candidates for high-frequency capacitors and energy storage devices. The combination of these properties establishes Tb-doped CaF2 nanomaterials as multifunctional materials with applications in advanced lighting systems and electronic components.

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