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Sol-Gel Materials Doped with Transition Element Ions and Nanoparticles

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ABSTRACT

The systematic investigation of colloidal-chemical properties and formation regularity of broad scope of silica-containing ultra-dispersed systems, which are a basis for sol-gel synthesis of new functional materials in volumetric forms was carried.

The physical-chemical principles of synthesis process of silica-containing functional materials using features of structural-phase transitions "sol – gel – solid" at the introduction in to colloidal systems the active fillers (aerosils), doping components, gel-forming products have been worked out.

The glasses doped with transition element ions and composites were prepared by hybrid sol-gel process[1], modified in the part of doping technique. The flowchart of the hybrid sol-gel process incorporates the following stages: tetraethoxysilane (TEOS) hydrolysis in the system $Si(OC_2H_5)_4$ - C_2H_5OH - H_2O -HCl with mole ratio 1:2:16:0.01 by vigorous mixing in fluoroplastic reactor in air; addition the fumed silica with a specific surface $300 \text{cm}^2/\text{g}$ (aerosil T30, Wacker – Chemie GmbH, Germany)into the sol as filler, ultrasonic dispergation and centrifugal separation from agglomerates and dust particles. Then, the sol was neutralized up to pH=6.5 with the help of ammonia solution and cast into fluoroplastic moulds to prepare the solid gels shaped as disks. The wet gels were formed during 20-30 min in sealed containers; then the containers were opened and the gels were washed by bidistilled water.

The resulting gels were dried slowly at 30-60°C in the period 7-14 days in air and presintered at 600°C in 2 hours. After heat-treatment the xerogels were impregnated by water or organic solutions of salts, containing transition element ions.

Using of Cr-containing aqueous solutions for xerogels impregnation results in the preparation of hydroxylated silica xerogels, doped with Cr^{3+} , and the following thermotreatment of Cr-containing porous materials at the temperature $1200^{\circ}C$ on air lead to formation of colored silica glass. The using aerosils, modified by nanoparticles of α -Cr₂O₃ results in the preparation of nanocomposites [2].

The correlation between structure, chemical, phase composition and properties of functional materials — gel-glasses and monolithic composites has been developed experimentally.

The rheological and physical-chemical parameters of colloidal-silicate systems, containing the transition element ions were determined. The influence of thermo-treatment of xerogels on structure and pore morphology have been investigated.

The colored, UV-filtering glass like materials, activated with Cr³⁺, Co²⁺, Fe³⁺, Cu¹ and nanocomposite SiO₂:Cu⁰ were created.

References

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- [2] E.N.Poddenezhny, A.A.Boiko, A.A.Alexeenko, N.V.Borisenko, M.V.Bogatyrev Using of modified aerosils in the sol-gel synthesis of doped glass like materials // Fiz. i Chim. Stekla (rus) 2003. Vol.29, N5. P. 654-661.