



# Crystal structure of Eu-doped magnetoplumbite-type lanthanum aluminum oxynitride with emission site splitting

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## ABSTRACT

Eu-doped lanthanum aluminum oxynitride ( $\text{LaAl}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$ ) with magnetoplumbite structure was prepared by nitridation of the oxide precursor obtained from aluminum glycine gel and subsequent post-annealing. Eu-doped lanthanum aluminum oxynitride exhibited blue light emission at 440 nm with a shoulder at 464 nm under excitation at 254 nm. Isostructural Eu-doped calcium aluminum oxide ( $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ ) exhibited a single emission peak at 415 nm. Structural refinement using neutron powder diffraction indicated that the lanthanum site occupied partially by  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  splits into  $2d$  and  $6h$  sites in the aluminum oxynitride. The longer emission and the shoulder peak in the former aluminum oxynitride were observed in relation to the increasing covalency as well as crystal field splitting around doped  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  induced by site splitting involved with the two kinds of anions.

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## 1. Introduction

White light emitting diodes (LEDs) have received much attention as high efficiency, safe and environmentally friendly devices [1,2]. In white LED applications, blue LED light is combined with yellow light emitted from a phosphor to obtain white light [3]. Both green and red light emitting phosphors have been used in appropriate amounts with yellow phosphor to improve the color rendering properties of white LEDs. These phosphorous materials have been developed among SiAlON related compounds that have excellent color rendering indexes. However, the luminescence efficiency of white LEDs is low due to the strong reabsorption of blue light by the red and green phosphors [4,5]. In white LEDs with multiple phosphor components, the color balance must be controlled. Recently, single component phosphors that exhibit multiple color emission have emerged to overcome those problems. Multiple emissions have been obtained for Eu and Mn co-doped full color phosphors [6,7]. Multi-color emission has been also reported for several phosphors doped with only  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  [8,9], where several crystallographic sites in their host structure were simultaneously substituted by  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ . Kikkawa et al. [10] reported three emission peaks at 400, 475 and 520 nm for  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ -doped AlON with an impurity phase of magnetoplumbite (MP)-type  $\text{EuAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ . They attributed the multiple emissions to the presence of the different coordination environments around  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  with different  $\text{O}^{2-}/\text{N}^{3-}$  ratios in the MP structure.

MP-type alkaline earth (AE) aluminum oxide ( $\text{AEAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ ) and aluminum oxide with  $\beta$ -alumina structure have been investigated to obtain phosphors doped with  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  [11,12]. Both structures belong to the same space group ( $P6_3/mmc$ ) and are constructed of spinel blocks and intermediate layers. Large cations such as  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  occupy the nine-fold coordination sites in the intermediate layer of the  $\beta$ -alumina structure. Small cations, such as  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , are located in the twelve coordination sites of the MP structure in aluminum oxide [13,14]. An Eu-doped compound was also prepared using barium aluminum oxynitride with  $\beta$ -alumina structure and its emission efficiency was compared with aluminum oxide [15]. The MP structure has been reported only in lanthanum aluminum oxynitride [16–18]. However, to the best of our knowledge, the crystal structure and photoluminescence properties of Eu-doped lanthanum aluminum oxynitride have not yet been reported.

*cis*- $\text{TaO}_4\text{N}_2$  octahedra have been assumed in the structure of perovskite-type  $\text{SrTaO}_2\text{N}$  and  $\text{BaTaO}_2\text{N}$  tantalum oxynitrides [19–22]. The large dielectric constant of these perovskites was considered to be related to the polarity induced in the distorted octahedra. Coexisting nitride and oxide ions together in a structure could change the coordination around lanthanum ions in the MP structure, which would result in splitting or distortion of the site occupied partially by  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ . Therefore, a reduction in local symmetry may affect the emission of oxynitride phosphors.

In this study,  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  doped products were prepared in MP-type lanthanum aluminum oxynitride and calcium aluminum oxide using aluminum glycine gel precursors followed by post-annealing of the calcined precursors. The luminescence properties of the product compounds are discussed in relation to the crystal structures refined by neutron diffraction analysis.

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## 2. Experimental procedure

Aluminum acetylacetonate ( $\text{Al}(\text{acac})_3$ , > 98.0%, Wako Chemicals Co.), lanthanum acetylacetonate hydrate ( $\text{La}(\text{acac})_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with  $n=1.1$ , 99.9%, Wako Chemicals Co.) and europium acetylacetonate hydrate ( $\text{Eu}(\text{acac})_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with  $n=1.8$ , 99.9%, Aldrich) were used as starting materials. The hydration numbers  $n$ , were estimated from thermogravimetric analysis. The starting powders were mixed in a La:Eu:Al molar ratio of  $1-x:x:12$  ( $x=0-0.3$ ) in anhydrous ethanol. Glycine (99.0%, Wako Pure Chemicals Co.) was added to the solution as a peptizer in an equimolar amount to the total cation content. The resultant solutions were heated on a hot plate under stirring to obtain gelatinous products. The gels were pre-fired in air at  $500^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h, and were then nitrided under an ammonia flow rate of 50 mL/min at  $850^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 h. After grinding and mixing in an agate mortar, the products were post-annealed at  $1700^\circ\text{C}$  in a gas pressure furnace for 3 h under a nitrogen gas pressure of 0.2 MPa. For the preparation of  $\text{Ca}_{1-y}\text{Eu}_y\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  with  $y=0.05$ , calcium acetylacetonate ( $\text{Ca}(\text{acac})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with  $n=0.5$ , 99.95%, Aldrich) was used instead of  $\text{La}(\text{acac})_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The pre-fired product was heated at  $1400^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h under a nitrogen flow rate of 100 mL/min in an horizontal tube furnace.

Crystalline phases were characterized using powder X-ray diffraction (XRD; Ultima IV, Rigaku) with monochromated  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  radiation. Photoluminescence spectra were measured using a fluorescence spectrometer (FP-6500, Jasco) installed with a Xe lamp for excitation at 150 W. Emission spectra were measured in the 340–550 nm range with excitation at 254 nm. Excitation spectra were measured in the range of 230–400 nm with emission at 415 or 440 nm for  $\text{Ca}_{1-y}\text{Eu}_y\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  or  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{Al}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$ , respectively. The oxygen and nitrogen contents were measured with an oxygen/nitrogen analyzer (EMGA-620 W, Horiba) using  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  and  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  as references, respectively. Neutron diffraction data were collected for  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{Al}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$  and  $\text{Ca}_{1-y}\text{Eu}_y\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  with  $x=y=0.03$ . Although Eu has a relatively large absorption cross section for neutron radiation, neutron diffraction data could be successfully measured because of the small doping concentration. Neutron diffraction measurements were performed at room temperature with a wavelength of 0.18240 nm using the Kinken powder diffractometer HERMES [23] installed at the JRR-3 M reactor of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), Tokai, Japan. The Rietveld program RIETAN-2000 [24] was used for structural refinements. The refined crystal structure was visualized using the VESTA program [25]. X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) of the Eu L<sub>III</sub>-edge was measured in the transmission mode at the BL-9C beam line of the Photon Factory at the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), Tsukuba, with the storage ring operating at 2.5 GeV. For measurements, a small amount of the sample powder was sandwiched between Scotch tapes.  $\text{EuCl}_2$ ,  $\text{EuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$  were used as references.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Photoluminescence properties of MP-type $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$

The powders nitrided at  $850^\circ\text{C}$  under ammonia flow were XRD amorphous. After post-annealing at  $1700^\circ\text{C}$  for 3 h under a nitrogen gas pressure of 0.2 MPa, pure MP-type products were obtained for the entire  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x$  range prepared in this study, as shown in Fig. 1. The 008 diffraction line and related diffractions such as 203 and 206 were slightly shifted toward higher  $2\theta$  angle with increasing  $x$ . However, the peak positions for the  $hk0$  planes did not change significantly among the products. The hexagonal lattice parameters were  $a=0.5569(2)$  nm and  $c=2.205(2)$  nm for  $\text{LaAl}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$  without Eu doping, which were comparable to the

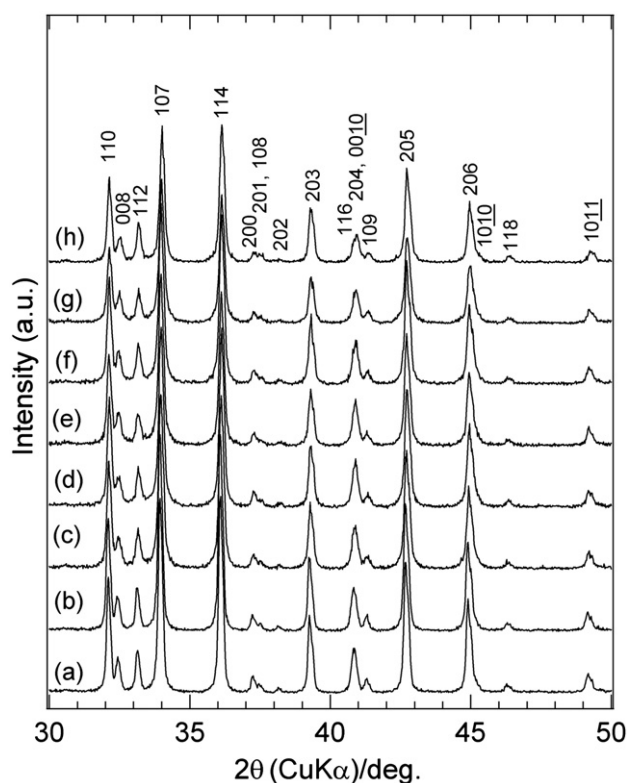
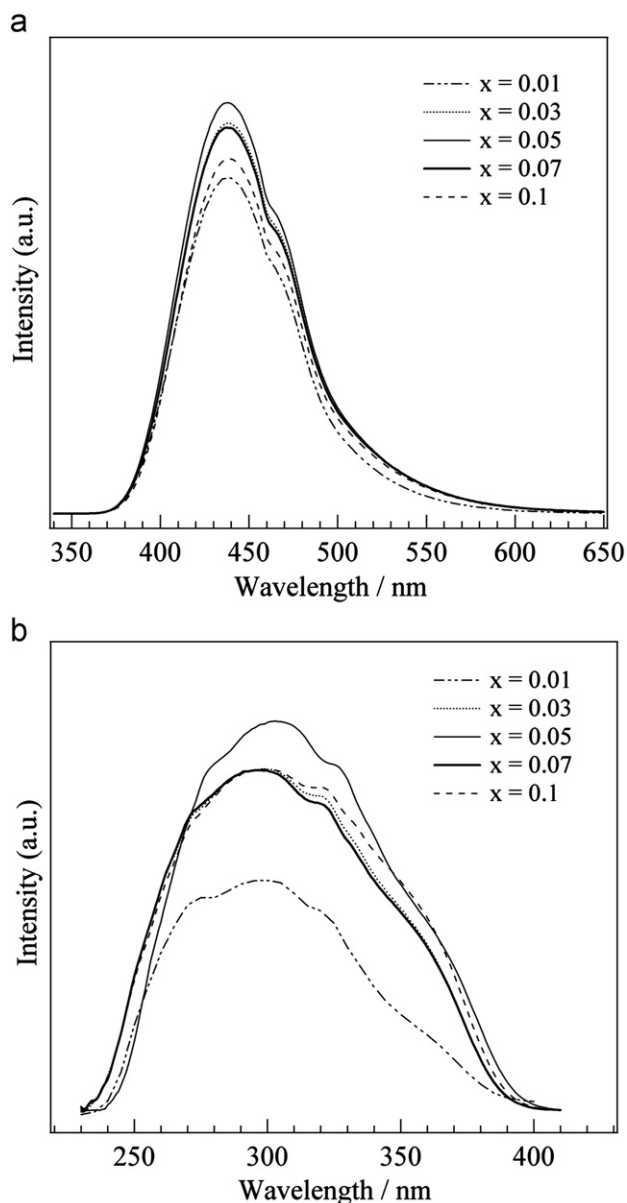


Fig. 1. XRD patterns for MP-type  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$  with various  $x$ ; (a)  $x=0$ , (b)  $x=0.01$ , (c)  $x=0.03$ , (d)  $x=0.05$ , (e)  $x=0.07$ , (f)  $x=0.10$ , (g)  $x=0.20$ , and (h)  $x=0.30$ .

reported values of  $a=0.5570$  nm and  $c=2.203$  nm for  $\text{LaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{18}\text{N}$  [18]. They were decreased along with Eu doping to  $a=0.5565(1)$  nm and  $c=2.199(1)$  nm for 30 at% Eu-doped oxynitride (see Table S1 in supporting information). Europium aluminum oxide was also reported to crystallize in the MP structure with a composition of  $\text{EuAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ , which has hexagonal lattice parameters of  $a=0.5568$  nm and  $c=2.201$  nm [26]. Therefore, Eu doping had a significant influence on the  $c$ -axis lattice parameter of the MP structure, but not on the  $a$ -axis. The oxygen and nitrogen contents of the product without Eu doping were analyzed to be 38.8(10) wt% for O and 0.61(5) wt% for N, where the theoretical values were 37.8 wt% for O and 1.8 wt% for N in  $\text{LaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{18}\text{N}$ . The less nitrogen observed may be caused by only the partial decomposition of the sample in the analysis, so that the whole nitrogen was not released due to the high stability of aluminum oxynitride. The oxynitride without Eu doping was expected to have O/N ratio of 18:1, in order to keep charge neutrality in MP structure. The Eu-doped products prepared in this study also had nitrogen contents of approximately 0.5 wt% as summarized in Table S1 in Supplementary Information.

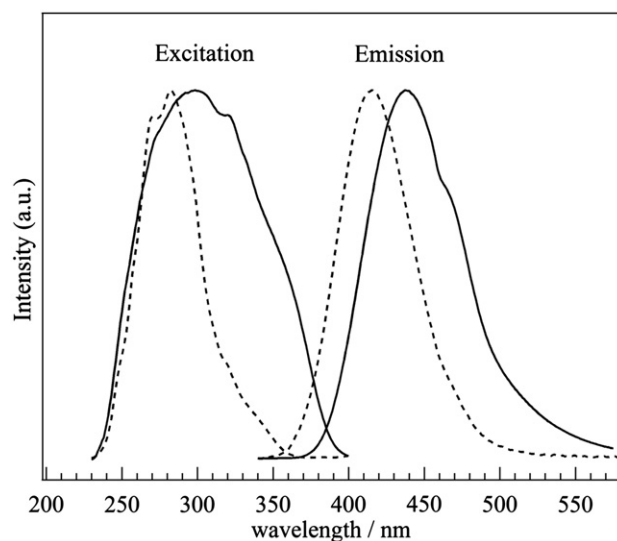
Eu-doped lanthanum aluminum oxynitrides exhibited broad blue emission at 440 nm with a shoulder peak at 464 nm under excitation at 254 nm, as shown in Fig. 2(a). No characteristic sharp peaks due to  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  ions were observed, which confirms the presence of only  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  ions in the phosphors. The  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  was supported by a single absorption peak at 6972 eV in the XANES spectra for the Eu L<sub>III</sub>-edge. The former wavelength is comparable to that reported for MP-type  $\text{LaMgAl}_{11}\text{O}_{19}:\text{Eu}^{2+}$  [11]; however, there is a characteristic shoulder peak at 464 nm in Eu-doped  $\text{LaAl}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$ . The products exhibited broad excitation spectra between 250 and 360 nm for the emission at 440 nm, as depicted in Fig. 2(b). XRD patterns indicated that no impurities were present in the products, however trace amount of  $\text{LaAlO}_3$  (1 wt%)



**Fig. 2.** (a) Emission and (b) excitation spectra for MP-type  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$ . Emission spectra were measured under excitation at 254 nm and excitation spectra were monitored at 440 nm.

was observed in neutron diffraction pattern of  $\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$  due to the higher detectability as shown in Fig. 4. Eu doped  $\text{LaAlO}_3$  have been reported to exhibit multiple emission peaks at 440, 515, 592 and 618 nm [27]. No emission peaks at 515, 592 and 618 nm were observed in the products as shown in Fig. 2(a). Therefore the two emission peaks could be attributed to only the oxynitride. The reason for the emission is discussed in the next section with the results of the structure refinement. The highest emission and excitation intensity were observed for the 5 at% Eu-doped product. At doping concentrations above 5 at%, the intensity decreased due to concentration quenching.

Single phase  $\text{Ca}_{0.95}\text{Eu}_{0.05}\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  was obtained after heating at 1400 °C for 12 h (see Fig. S1 in Supplementary Information), which exhibited a single broad emission at 415 nm, as shown in Fig. 3. The emission wavelength was shorter than that for Eu-doped  $\text{LaAl}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$ . It is believed that the long wavelength emission is attributed to covalent bond character and a large crystal field splitting effect on  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  5d band [28]. The emission

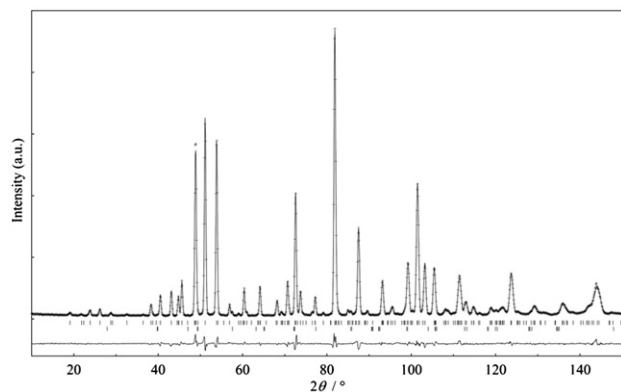


**Fig. 3.** Emission and excitation spectra for MP-type  $\text{La}_{0.95}\text{Eu}_{0.05}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$  (solid lines) and  $\text{Ca}_{0.95}\text{Eu}_{0.05}\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  (broken lines). Emission spectra were measured under excitation at 254 nm and excitation spectra were monitored at 440 and 415 nm for  $\text{La}_{0.95}\text{Eu}_{0.05}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$  and  $\text{Ca}_{0.95}\text{Eu}_{0.05}\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ , respectively.

wavelength was red-shifted for  $(\text{Ca,Y})-\alpha\text{-SiAlON}:\text{Eu}^{2+}$  by the substitution of smaller  $\text{Y}^{3+}$  ( $r_{\text{Y}^{3+}}=0.110$  nm, for C.N.=7) with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $r_{\text{Ca}^{2+}}=0.120$  nm, for C.N.=7) [29], due to changes in the crystal field splitting of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  [30]. The ionic radii of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  is comparable with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ;  $r_{\text{La}^{3+}}=0.150$  nm and  $r_{\text{Ca}^{2+}}=0.148$  nm for C.N.=12 [29]. The present red-shift of the emission peak wavelength may be caused by the introduction of nitride ions to increase the covalent character. In the next section, the crystal structure of MP-type Eu-doped  $\text{LaAl}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$  is refined to elucidate the origin of the emission shoulder peak observed for the oxynitride.

### 3.2. Eu site splitting in MP-type oxynitride host structure

A small amount of Eu-doped product was used for neutron diffraction measurements due to a large neutron absorption cross section of Eu. For both 3 at% doped lanthanum aluminum oxynitride and calcium aluminum oxide, sufficient diffraction patterns for the structural refinement were observed as shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. S2. The crystal structure of  $\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$  was refined in the MP structure starting from the crystallographic parameters of  $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  [13]. Structure refinement as aluminum oxide not as oxynitride did not converge into reasonable structural parameters. The oxygen/nitrogen ratio was fixed at 0.95/0.05, as expected from the stoichiometric composition. The final refined parameters showed an unusually large isotropic displacement ( $U_{\text{iso}}$ ) of  $0.0234(13) \times 10^{-2}$  nm<sup>2</sup> on the 2d site occupied by 97% La and 3% Eu, which resulted in inferior fitting values of  $R_{\text{wp}}=6.84\%$ ,  $R_e=3.25\%$  and  $S=2.11$  in the preliminary refinement. Lanthanum ions in inorganic compounds (oxides, nitrides and oxynitrides) usually have an isotropic displacement parameter between  $0.006$  and  $0.014 \times 10^{-2}$  nm<sup>2</sup> [31–33]. The anomalously large isotropic displacement parameter on the lanthanum site may be attributed to site splitting. Lanthanum site splitting has been reported in the MP-type lanthanum aluminate with cation and anion vacancies ( $\text{La}_{0.85}\text{Al}_{11.5}\text{O}_{18.5}$ ) [31], but is not evident in stoichiometric  $\text{AEAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  ( $\text{AE}=\text{Ca}$  or  $\text{Sr}$ ) without vacancies [13,14]. The lanthanum site splitting from the original 2d site to 2d and 6h sites was applied for further refinement. The final refined parameters from the Rietveld refinement are summarized in Table 1. The observed, calculated and difference neutron diffraction profiles for  $\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O,N})_{19}$  are shown in Fig. 4. The refinement was



**Fig. 4.** Observed (+), calculated (solid line) and difference powder neutron diffraction profiles for MP-type  $\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$ . Upper vertical bars indicate the positions of Bragg reflections for the MP phase and the lower bars indicate those for  $\text{LaAlO}_3$  (1 wt%).

**Table 1**  
Refined structural parameters for  $\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$  at room temperature.

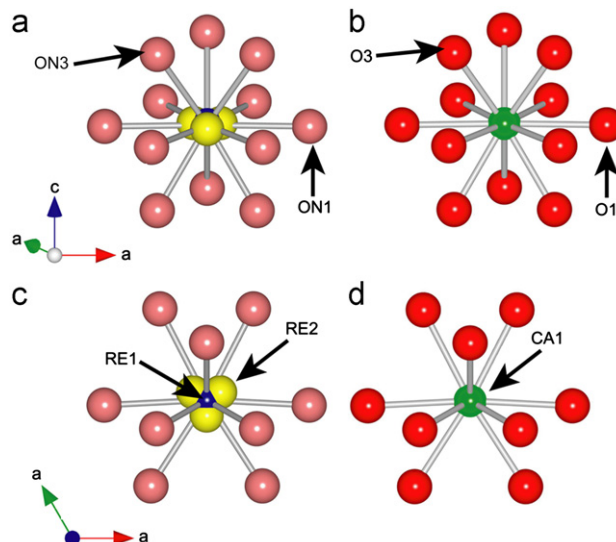
Atom	Site	g	x	y	z	$U_{\text{iso}} \times 10^{-2} \text{ nm}^2 (\text{\AA}^2)$
RE1	2d	0.55(1)	2/3	1/3	1/4	0.0028(9)
RE2	6h	0.15(1)	0.7117(9)	2x	1/4	0.0028(9)
Al1	2a	1	0	0	0	0.0013(11)
Al2	4f	1	1/3	2/3	0.0276(2)	0.0069(12)
Al3	4f	1	1/3	2/3	0.1898(2)	0.0015(13)
Al4	12k	1	0.8315(3)	2x	0.1077(1)	0.0046(5)
Al5	4e	0.5	0	0	0.2358(4)	0.006(2)
ON1	6h	1	0.1810(3)	2x	1/4	0.0096(6)
ON2	12k	1	0.1563(2)	2x	0.0521(1)	0.0036(4)
ON3	12k	1	0.5041(2)	2x	0.1501(1)	0.0051(4)
ON4	4e	1	0	0	0.1485(1)	0.0045(9)
ON5	4f	1	2/3	1/3	0.0556(1)	0.0017(6)

$R_{\text{wp}}=5.97\%$ ,  $R_{\text{p}}=4.50\%$ ,  $R_{\text{e}}=3.22\%$ ,  $S=1.85$ . S.G.:  $P6_3/mmc$ ,  
 $a=0.55686(1) \text{ nm}$ ,  $c=2.20524(3) \text{ nm}$ . RE=0.97La/0.03Eu, ON=0.95O/0.05N.

**Table 2**  
Selected bond lengths (nm) for  $\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$  and  $\text{Ca}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ .

$\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$			
RE1 (2d)			
ON1 (6h)		× 6	0.2788(2)
ON3 (12k)		× 6	0.27026(14)
RE2 (6h)			
ON1 (6h)		× 2	0.2442(2)
ON1 (6h)		× 2	0.2799(2)
ON1 (6h)		× 2	0.3172(2)
ON3 (12k)		× 4	0.2611(2)
ON3 (12k)		× 2	0.2969(2)
ON3 (12k)		× 4	0.2611(2)
$\text{Ca}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$			
CA1 (2d)			
O1 (6h)		× 6	0.2783(2)
O3 (12k)		× 6	0.27162(13)

improved to  $R_{\text{wp}}=5.97\%$ ,  $R_{\text{e}}=3.22\%$  and  $S=1.85$  when site splitting was applied. The isotropic displacement on the lanthanum sites was refined to a reasonable value of  $0.0028(9) \times 10^{-2} \text{ nm}^2$ . Preferential occupation of the europium or nitride ions on lanthanum sites (2d and 6h) or anion sites (6h, 12k, 12k, 4e, 4f), respectively, was not distinguished. The crystal structure of  $\text{Ca}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  was also refined in the MP structure. The refinement showed a good fit with the structural model without calcium site splitting, as reported in Refs. [13,14] (see Fig. S2 and Table S2 in Supplementary Information). The refined isotropic displacement on the calcium site is  $0.010(2) \times 10^{-2} \text{ nm}^2$ , which is comparable to that reported for



**Fig. 5.** Atomic arrangement around the lanthanum and calcium sites in MP-type (a,c)  $\text{La}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}(\text{O},\text{N})_{19}$ , and (b,d)  $\text{Ca}_{0.97}\text{Eu}_{0.03}\text{Al}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ . These structures were visualized with the VESTA program [24] using the refined structural parameters represented in Table 1 and S2. The structures in (c) and (d) are viewed along the c-axis.

MP-type  $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  [13] and other oxides [34,35]. The bond lengths around lanthanum and calcium sites are summarized in Table 2. The atomic arrangements around the lanthanum and calcium sites in the MP-type oxynitride and oxide were visualized using the VESTA program [25] and are shown in Fig. 5. The original 2d sites (RE1 and CA1) are in similar coordination environments to each other in the respective crystal structures. The bond length of La–N is approximately 0.265 nm in LaN and longer than that of La–O (0.258 nm) in  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  [36,37]. Some of La ions are shifted in their position from the 2d site to the 6h site so as to be apart from the introduced nitride ion, which results in lanthanum site splitting in the oxynitride structure.

The emission peak splitting that was observed can be attributed to Eu site splitting into the 2d and 6h sites. The 6h site has lower symmetry than the 2d site and its coordination number may be decreased from 12 to 10, as shown in Fig. 5. Lower symmetry and smaller coordination number results in an increase in the crystal field splitting effect on  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ , which results in the red-shift emission. The emission peak at 440 nm and the shoulder at 460 nm may be caused by emission from  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  on the 2d and 6h sites, respectively.

#### 4. Conclusion

Eu-doped lanthanum aluminum oxynitride with MP structure were prepared by nitridation of oxide precursors obtained from aluminum glycine gel and subsequent post-annealing at 1700 °C for 3 h under 0.2 MPa  $\text{N}_2$ . The product exhibited a broad blue emission at 440 nm with a shoulder peak at 464 nm under excitation at 254 nm. The highest emission intensity was observed at 5 at% of Eu doping. It showed a wide excitation spectrum at 250–380 nm with emission at 440 nm. The calcium aluminum oxide had a single emission peak at 415 nm. The longer emission and wider excitation wavelength observed for the aluminum oxynitride than that for the oxide were related to an increase in the covalency around  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  due to the presence of nitride ions. Structural refinement using neutron diffraction showed the lanthanum site occupied by  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  is split into 2d and 6h sites at the intermediate layer in the MP-type aluminum

oxynitride. The shoulder emission peak in the emission spectrum of the oxynitride is not directly related to two kinds of anions, but to the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  site splitting induced by the two kinds of anions.

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### Appendix A. Supplementary Information

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi:10.1016/j.jssc.2011.07.035.

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