# Investigation of rare earth distribution in $Sr_2MgSi_2O_7$:$Eu^{2+}$,$Dy^{3+}$ nanophosphors prepared by wet-chemical routes

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Luminescent materials have been developed through fine chemistry methods that help to achieve a better control of parameters such as morphology, particle size, atomic homogeneity and high purity single phase in low temperature synthesis.[1, 2] In this work, the material $Sr_{1.98}MgSi_2O_7$ nanoparticles doped with 0.01 mol of $Eu^{2+}$ and codoped with 0.01 mol of $Dy^{3+}$ was prepared via Pechini and Condensation methods. Post-annealing by microwave assisted method using granular coal as the susceptor/reducing agent [3] was applied on both materials and their luminescent properties were compared. The structural position of $Eu^{2+}$ used as the activator ions determines photoluminescence properties. The luminescence spectra of $Sr_2MgSi_2O_7$:$R^{n+}$ nanomaterial (R: $Eu^{2+}$, $Dy^{3+}$) shows a high emission broad band assigned to the interconfigurational transition $4f^65d^1 \rightarrow 4f^7$ centered around 460 nm, which is overlapped with a low emission lines attributed to the $^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{13/2}$ transition of $Dy^{3+}$ ion (Fig. 1b). Elemental mappings obtained by Energy Dispersive X-Ray (EDX) presents dopants more likely to be found at the edge, indicating a possible segregation of rare earths to the grain boundaries during the synthesis (Fig. 1c). The persistent luminescence phenomenon emitting in a blue region was observed for both nanomaterials.

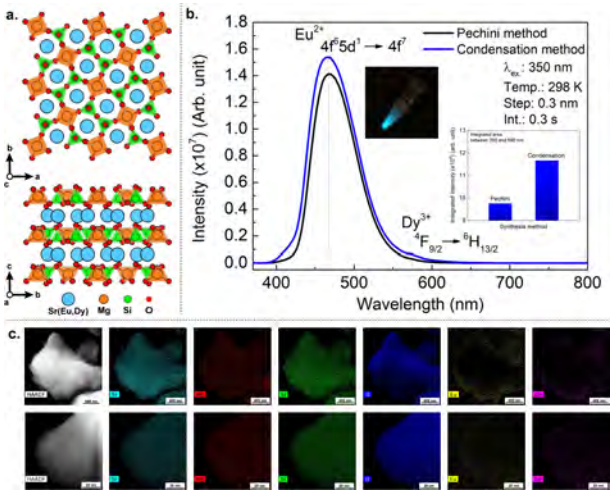


Figure 1: (a) Crystal structure of SMSO view along [001] and [100] axes. (b) emission spectra of both compounds. (c) 2D-elemental mapping of SMSO particles obtained by Pechini (top row) and Condensation (bottom row) methods.

*Keywords:* Persistent luminescence, wet-chemistry, rare earth, nanophosphors, microwave assisted.

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