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### Spectral, Transmittance and Thermal Properties of Nd<sup>3+</sup> Doped Borophosphate Glasses

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Abstract: Glass of the system : $(20-x)P_2O_5$ : 10ZnO:  $10Li_2O$ : 10CaO:  $10Na_2O$ :  $10Sb_2O_3$ :  $10Al_2O_3$ :  $10Al_2O_3$ :  $10B_2O_3$ :  $xNd_2O_3$ . (where x=1, 1.5,2 mol %) have been prepared by melt-quenching method. The amorphous nature of the glasses was confirmed by X-ray diffraction studies.

Optical absorption, Excitation, fluorescence, DTA thermogram and Transmittance spectra were recorded at room temperature for all glass samples Slater-Condon parameters  $F_k$  (k=2, 4, 6), Lande parameter  $\xi_{4f}$  and Racah parameters  $E^k$  (k=1, 2, 3) have been computed.

Using these parameters energies and intensities of these bands has been calculated. Judd-Ofelt intensity parameters  $\Omega_{\lambda}$  ( $\lambda$ =2, 4, 6) are evaluated from the intensities of various absorption bands of optical absorption spectra. Using these intensity parameters various radiative properties like spontaneous emission probability (A), branching ratio ( $\beta_R$ ), radiative life time ( $\tau_R$ ) and stimulated emission cross-section ( $\sigma_p$ )) of various emission lines have been evaluated.

Keywords: YZLSLAABP Glasses, Thermal and Optical Properties, Judd-Ofelt Theory, Photoluminescence Properties.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Among different ceramic glasses, phosphate glasses is attributed to their favorable properties such as high refractive index, high density and high transparency [1-7]. Phosphate glass is an extremely promising material for reflecting windows, laser, mechanical sensors and nonlinear applications in optics due to some of its essential characteristic features, such as low phonon energy, low melting temperature and excellent transparency.

They have high thermal stability, high transparency and low dispersion rates [8-14]. Phosphate glasses are potentially important host materials for developing rare earth doped optical devices. Phosphate glasses have excellent transparency, good mechanical and thermal stability. Borophosphate glass has low phonon energy, chemical and thermal stability [15,16]. They present superior properties like that high transparency, low melting point, high gain density, high solubility for rare-earth ions and low dispersion. The host matrix compose of ZnO, a glass modifier/glass farmer a heavy metal oxide along with PbO, Li<sub>2</sub>O, Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The addition of Na<sub>2</sub>O to the glass mixture improves the rare earth ion solubility leading to the possibility of using even higher concentrations of ions [17-19].

The present work reports on the thermal, absorption and emission properties of Nd<sup>3+</sup> doped yttrium zinc lithium sodalime antimony alumino borophosphate glass. The intensities of the transitions for the rare earth ions have been estimated successfully using the Judd-Ofelt theory, The laser parameters such as radiative probabilities (A), branching ratio ( $\beta_R$ ), radiative life time ( $\tau_R$ ) and stimulated emission cross section( $\sigma_p$ ) are evaluated using J.O. intensity parameters ( $\Omega_\lambda$ ,  $\lambda$ =2,4 and 6).

### II. EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES

### A. Preparation of Glasses

The following  $Nd^{3+}$  doped borophosphate glass samples : $(20-x)P_2O_5$ : 10ZnO:  $10Li_2O$ : 10CaO:  $10Na_2O$ :  $10Sb_2O_3$ :  $10Al_2O_3$ :  $10Y_2O_3$ :  $10B_2O_3$ :  $xNd_2O_3$ . (where x=1, 1.5, 2) have been prepared by melt-quenching method. Analytical reagent grade chemical used in the present study consist of  $P_2O_5$ ,  $P_2O_5$ ,



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### Table 1

Sample

Glass composition (mol %)

YZLSLAABP (UD) 20P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:10ZnO:10Li<sub>2</sub>O:10CaO:10Na<sub>2</sub>O:10Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

 $YZLSLAABP\ ND\ (1.0)\ 19P_2O_5: 10ZnO: 10Li_2O: 10CaO: 10Na_2O: 10Sb_2O_3: 10Al_2O_3: 10Y_2O_3: 10B_2O_3: 1Nd_2O_3: 10Al_2O_3: 10A$ 

YZLSLAABP ND (1.5) 18.5 P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:10ZnO:10Li<sub>2</sub>O:10CaO:10Na<sub>2</sub>O:10Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:1.5Nd<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

YZLSLAABP ND (2.0) 18P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:10ZnO:10Li<sub>2</sub>O:10CaO:10Na<sub>2</sub>O:10Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 2Nd<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

YZLSLAABP (UD) - Represents undoped Yttrium Zinc Lithium Sodalime Antimony Alumino Borophosphate glass specimen. YZLSLAABP (ND) - Represents Nd<sup>3+</sup> doped Yttrium Zinc Lithium Sodalime Antimony Alumino Borophosphate glass specimens.

### III. THEORY

### A. Oscillator Strength

The intensity of spectral lines is expressed in terms of oscillator strengths using the relation [20].

$$f_{\text{expt.}} = 4.318 \times 10^{-9} \int \epsilon (v) \, dv$$
 (1)

where,  $\varepsilon(v)$  is molar absorption coefficient at a given energy v (cm<sup>-1</sup>), to be evaluated from Beer–Lambert law. Under Gaussian Approximation, using Beer-Lambert law, the observed oscillator strengths of the absorption bands have been experimentally calculated [21], using the modified relation:

$$P_{\rm m} = 4.6 \times 10^{-9} \times \frac{1}{cI} \log \frac{I_0}{I} \times \Delta v_{1/2}$$
 (2)

Where c is the molar concentration of the absorbing ion per unit volume, I is the optical path length, logI<sub>0</sub>/I is optical density and  $\Delta v_{1/2}$  is half band width.

### B. Judd-Ofelt Intensity Parameters

According to Judd [22] and Ofelt [23] theory, independently derived expression for the oscillator strength of the induced forced electric dipole transitions between an initial J manifold  $|4f^{N}(S, L)|$  J> level and the terminal J' manifold  $|4f^{N}(S', L')|$  J'> is given by:

$$\frac{8\Pi^2 mc\overline{\upsilon}}{3h(2J+1)} \frac{1}{n} \left[ \frac{\left(n^2+2\right)^2}{9} \right] \times S(J,J^{-})$$
Where,

the line strength S (J, J') is given by the equation

S (J, J') = 
$$e^2 \sum \Omega_{\lambda} < 4f^N(S, L) J \| U^{(\lambda)} \| 4f^N(S', L') J' > 2$$
 (4)  
 $\lambda = 2, 4, 6$ 

In the above equation m is the mass of an electron, c is the velocity of light, v is the wave number of the transition, h is Planck's constant, n is the refractive index, J and J' are the total angular momentum of the initial and final level respectively,  $\Omega_{\lambda}$  ( $\lambda$ =2,4and 6) are known as Judd-Ofelt intensity parameters.

### C. Radiative Properties

The  $\Omega_{\lambda}$  parameters obtained using the absorption spectral results have been used to predict radiative properties such as spontaneous emission probability (A) and radiative life time ( $\tau_R$ ), and laser parameters like fluorescence branching ratio ( $\beta_R$ ) and stimulated emission cross section  $(\sigma_n)$ .

The spontaneous emission probability from initial manifold  $|4f^{N}(S', L') J'>$  to a final manifold  $|4f^{N}(S, L) J>$  is given by:

A [(S', L') J'; (S, L) J] = 
$$\frac{64 \pi^2 v^3}{3h(2J'+1)} \left[ \frac{n(n^2+2)^2}{9} \right] \times S(J', \bar{J})$$
 (5)

Where, 
$$S\left(J',\,J\right)=e^{2}\left[\Omega_{2}\,\right\|\,U^{\,(2)}\,\,\right\|^{\,2}+\,\Omega_{4}\,\right\|\,U^{\,(4)}\,\,\right\|^{\,2}+\,\Omega_{6}\,\right\|\,U^{\,(6)}\,\,\right\|^{\,2}]$$



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The fluorescence branching ratio for the transitions originating from a specific initial manifold  $|4f^N(S', L') J'>$  to a final many fold  $|4f^N(S, L) J>$  is given by

The radiative life time is given by

SLJ

Where, the sum is over all possible terminal manifolds. The stimulated emission cross -section for a transition from an initial manifold  $|4f^{N}(S', L') J'\rangle$  to a final manifold

 $\int 4f^{N}(S, L) J > |$  is expressed as

$$\sigma_{p}(\lambda_{p}) = \left[\frac{\lambda_{p}^{4}}{8\pi cn^{2}\Delta\lambda_{eff}}\right] \times A[(S', L') J'; (\overline{S}, \overline{L})\overline{J}]$$
(8)

Where,  $\lambda_p$  the peak fluorescence wavelength of the emission band and  $\Delta\lambda_{\rm eff}$  is the effective fluorescence line width.

### D. Nephelauxetic Ratio ( $\beta$ ) and Bonding Parameter ( $b^{1/2}$ )

The nature of the R-O bond is known by the Nephelauxetic Ratio ( $\beta$ ') and Bonding Parameters ( $b^{1/2}$ ), which are computed by using following formulae [24,25]. The Nephelauxetic Ratio is given by

$$\beta' = \frac{v_g}{v_a} \tag{9}$$

where,  $v_a$  and  $v_g$  refer to the energies of the corresponding transition in the glass and free ion, respectively. The values of bonding parameter  $b^{1/2}$  are given by

$$b^{1/2} = \left| \frac{1 - \beta'}{2} \right|^{1/2} \tag{10}$$

### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A. XRD Measurement

Figure 1 presents the XRD pattern of the samples shows no sharp Bragg's peak, but only a broad diffuse hump around low angle region. This is the clear indication of amorphous nature within the resolution limit of XRD instrument.

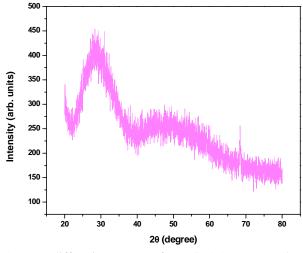


Fig.1: X-ray diffraction pattern of YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass.

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### B. Transmittance Spectrum

The Transmittance spectrum of Nd<sup>3+</sup>doped in yttrium zinc lithium sodalime antimony alumino borophosphate glass is shown in Figure 2.

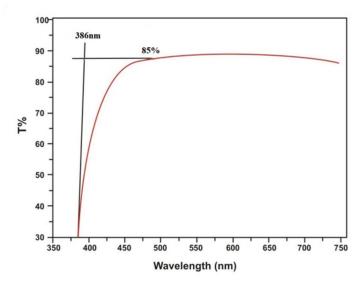


Fig.2: Transmittance spectrum of YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass.

### C. Thermal Property

Differential thermal analysis checks the heat absorbed by glass samples during heating or cooling. Fig. 3 depicts the DTA thermogram of powdered YZLSLAABP sample. The glass transition temperature  $(T_g)$ , onset crystallization temperature  $(T_p)$ , melting temperature  $(T_m)$ , thermal stability  $(T_s)$ ,Balaji Parameter  $(B_P)$ , Hurbe's criterion  $(H_R)$  and reduced glass transition temperature  $(T_{rg})$  were calculated. Shankar's parameter also calculated by using eq. (12). All the determined thermal parameters are given in table 2.

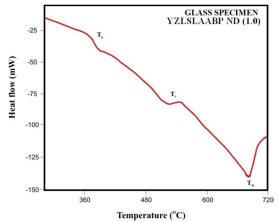


Fig.3: DTA curve of YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass.

Table 2. Thermal parameters determined from the DTA traces of YZLSLAABP ND glasses.

Sample Name	$T_g(^0C)$	$T_c(^0C)$	$T_p(^0C)$	$T_{\rm m}(^{0}{\rm C})$	$T_s(^0C)$	$B_P(^0C)$	$H_R(^0C)$	$K_S(^0C)$	$T_{rg}(^{0}C)$
YZLSLAABP ND (1.0)	375	509	546	687	134	3.622	0.753	34.719	0.546
YZLSLAABP ND (1.5)	377	510	548	680	133	3.500	0.782	33.250	0.554
YZLSLAABP ND (2.0)	380	512	556	691	132	3.000	0.737	34.194	0.550

The thermal stability of the glass samples can be calculated by difference between onset crystallization temperature and transition temperature [26].



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Thermal stability  $(T_s) = T_c - T_g$  (11)

Balaji Parameter can be calculated using [27].

Balaji Parameter (B<sub>P</sub>) =  $[(T_c - T_g)/(T_p - T_c)]$  (12)

Hruby's criterion is calculated using the Hurby's relation [28].

Hruby's criterion ( $H_R$ ) = [ $(T_p - T_c)/(T_m - T_c)$ ] (13)

Reduced glass transition temperature is given as [29].

Reduced glass transition temperature  $(T_{rg}) = T_g/T_m$  (14)

Thermal Parameter is given as [30].

 $K_S = [(T_m - T_c) (T_c - T_g)/T_m]$  (15)

### D. Absorption Spectra

The absorption spectra of YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass, consists of absorption bands corresponding to the absorptions from the ground state  ${}^4I_{9/2}$  of Nd<sup>3+</sup> ions. Nine absorption bands have been observed from the ground state  ${}^4I_{9/2}$  to excited states  ${}^4F_{3/2}$ ,  ${}^4F_{5/2}$ ,  ${}^4F_{7/2}$ ,  ${}^4F_{9/2}$ ,  ${}^2H_{11/2}$ ,  ${}^4G_{5/2}$ ,  ${}^4G_{9/2}$ , and  ${}^2G_{9/2}$  for Nd<sup>3+</sup> doped YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass.

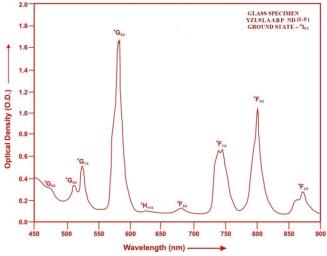


Fig.4: Absorption spectra of YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass.

The experimental and calculated oscillator strength for Nd<sup>3+</sup> ions in YZLSLAABP glasses are given in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Measured and calculated oscillator strength ( $P^m \times 10^{+6}$ ) of Nd<sup>3+</sup> ions in YZLSLAABP glasses.

Energy level from	Glass		Glass		Glass	
$^{4}\mathrm{I}_{9/2}$	YZLSLAABP		YZLSLAABP		YZLSLAABP	
	ND(1.0)		ND(1.5)		ND(2.0)	
	P <sub>exp.</sub>	P <sub>cal</sub> .	P <sub>exp.</sub>	P <sub>cal.</sub>	P <sub>exp.</sub>	P <sub>cal.</sub>
${}^{4}F_{3/2}$	3.52	3.48	3.47	3.47	3.42	3.45
${}^{4}F_{5/2}$	8.42	8.42	8.39	8.38	8.35	8.35
$^{4}F_{7/2}$	9.54	9.85	9.5	9.83	9.45	9.81
$^{4}F_{9/2}$	0.66	0.52	0.64	0.52	0.61	0.52
$^{2}H_{11/2}$	0.29	0.15	0.27	0.15	0.25	0.15
$^{4}G_{5/2}$	25.45	25.70	24.36	24.63	23.45	23.74
$^{4}G_{7/2}$	4.25	5.08	4.2	5.00	4.16	4.93
$^{4}G_{9/2}$	2.25	2.19	2.21	2.18	2.17	2.17
$^{2}G_{9/2}$	0.95	2.78	0.93	2.77	0.90	2.76
r.m.s.deviation	0.7681		0.6862		0.6896	

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Table4. Computed values of Slater-Condon, Lande, Racah, nephelauexetic ratio and bonding parameter for Nd<sup>3+</sup> doped YZLSLAABP glass specimens.

Parameter	Free ion	YZLSLAABP	YZLSLAABP	YZLSLAABP
		ND(1.0)	ND(1.5)	ND(2.0)
F <sub>2</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	331.16	324.58	324.59	324.59
F <sub>4</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	50.71	50.72	50.72	50.72
F <sub>6</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	5.154	5.038	5.041	5.039
ξ <sub>4f</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	884.0	882.73	882.72	882.78
E <sup>1</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	5024.0	4947.12	4947.19	494.72
$E^2$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	23.90	23.08	23.08	23.08
E <sup>3</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	497.0	489.58	489.59	489.57
F <sub>4</sub> /F <sub>2</sub>	0.1531	0.1563	0.1563	0.1562
F <sub>6</sub> /F <sub>2</sub>	0.0155	0.0155	0.0155	0.0155
$E^1/E^3$	10.1086	10.1048	10.1047	10.1052
$E^2/E^3$	0.0481	0.0471	0.0471	0.0471
β'		0.995807	0.995817	0.995822
b <sup>1/2</sup>		0.04578	0.04573	0.04571

The values of Judd-Ofelt intensity parameters are given in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Judd-Ofelt intensity parameters for Nd<sup>3+</sup> doped YZLSLAABP glass specimens.

Glass Specimen	$\Omega_2(\text{pm}^2)$	$\Omega_4(\mathrm{pm}^2)$	$\Omega_6(\text{pm}^2)$	$\Omega_4/\Omega_6$
YZLSLAABP ND(1.0)	2.919	7.396	3.623	2.041
YZLSLAABP ND(1.5)	2.572	7.361	3.616	2.036
YZLSLAABP ND(2.0)	2.288	7.326	3.604	2.033

### E. Excitation Spectrum

The Excitation spectra of Nd<sup>3+</sup>doped YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass specimen has been presented in Figure 5 in terms of Excitation Intensity versus wavelength. The excitation spectrum was recorded in the spectral region 700–1000 nm fluorescence at 1065nm having different excitation band centred at 808 nm and 887 nm are attributed to the ( ${}^4I_{9/2} \rightarrow {}^4F_{5/2}$ ) and ( ${}^4I_{9/2} \rightarrow {}^4F_{5/2}$ ) transitions, respectively. The highest absorption level is ( ${}^4I_{9/2} \rightarrow {}^4F_{5/2}$ ) and is at 808 nm. So this is to be chosen for excitation wavelength.

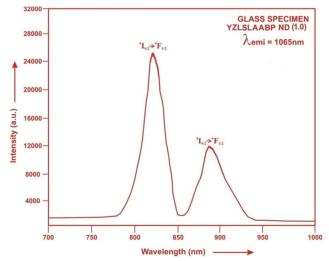


Fig.5: Excitation spectra of YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass.



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### F. Fluorescence Spectrum

The fluorescence spectrum of Nd<sup>3+</sup>doped in yttrium zinc lithium sodalime antimony alumino borophosphate is shown in Figure 6. There are six broad bands ( ${}^{4}G_{7/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{9/2}$ ), ( ${}^{4}G_{7/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{11/2}$ ), ( ${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{9/2}$ ) ( ${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{13/2}$ ) and ( ${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{15/2}$ ) respectively for glass specimens.

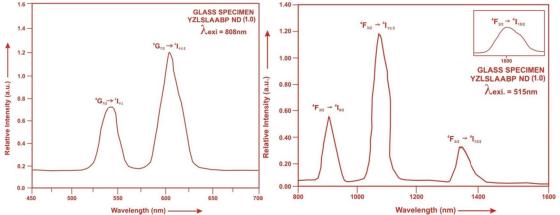


Fig.6: Fluorescence spectrum of YZLSLAABP ND (1.0) glass.

The wavelengths of these bands along with their assignments are given in **Table 6**.

Table 6. Emission peak wave lengths ( $\lambda_p$ ), radiative transition probability ( $A_{rad}$ ), branching ratio ( $\beta_R$ ), stimulated emission crosssection  $(\sigma_p)$ , and radiative life time  $(\tau_R)$  for various transitions in Nd<sup>3+</sup> doped YZLSLAABP glasses.

Transition		YZLSLAABP ND( 1.0)				YZLSLAABP ND ( 1.5)				YZLSLAABP ND ( 2.0)			
	$\lambda_{max}$	A <sub>rad</sub> (s	β	$\sigma_{p}$	$\tau_R(\mu s)$	$A_{rad}(s^{-1})$	β	$\sigma_{\mathrm{p}}$		$A_{rad}(s^{-1})$	β	$\sigma_{\mathrm{p}}$	$\tau_{ m R}$
	(nm)	1)		$(10^{-20})$				$(10^{-20})$	$\tau_{ m R}$			$(10^{-20})$	$(10^{-20})$
				cm <sup>2</sup> )				cm <sup>2</sup> )	(µs)			cm <sup>2</sup> )	cm <sup>2</sup> )
$^{4}G_{7/2} \rightarrow ^{4}I_{9/}$	532	2994.6	0.4131	0.446		2942.2	0.418	0.458		2897.7	0.422	0.471	
2		7				3	1			9	6		
$^{4}G_{7/2} \rightarrow ^{4}I_{11}$	595	3007.6	0.4149	1.174		2849.2	0.405	1.169		2718.4	0.396	1.144	
/2		5			137.9	2	0		142.1	1	4		145.82
${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{9/2}$	905	729.86	0.1007	0.726	5	728.08	0.103	0.741	3	726.19	0.105	0.766	
							5				9		
${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{11/}$	1075	440.69	0.0608	2.065		440.21	0.062	2.151	1	439.36	0.064	2.278	
2							6				1		
${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{13/}$	1320	74.28	0.0102	0.423		74.29	0.010	0.442		74.19	0.010	0.457	
2							6				8		
${}^{4}F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{15/}$	1800	1.78	0.0002	0.026		1.78	0.000	0.026		1.77	0.000	0.027	
2							3				3		

### V. **CONCLUSION**

In the present study, the glass samples of composition :(20-x)P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: 10ZnO: 10Li<sub>2</sub>O: 10CaO: 10Na<sub>2</sub>O: 10Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 10Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:10B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: xNd<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, (where x = 1, 1.5, 2 mol %) have been prepared by melt-quenching method. The stimulated emission cross section  $(\sigma_p)$  has highest value for the transition  $({}^4F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{11/2})$  in all the glass specimens doped with Nd<sup>3+</sup> ion. This shows that  $({}^4F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{11/2})$  transition is most probable transition. Large Balaji and thermal parameters shows that the prepared glass samples are useful for Thermionic Applications.

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