

# Influence of Red $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$ Phosphor Concentration to the Multi-Chip White LEDs Color Rendering Ability

Nguyen Huu Khanh Nhan, Tran Hoang Quang Minh and Nguyen Doan Quoc Anh\*

*Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

*\*Corresponding author*

*nguyenukhanhnhan@tdt.edu.vn, tranhoangquangminh@tdt.edu.vn, nguyendoanquocanh@tdt.edu.vn*

## **Abstract**

*In this paper, a novel solution and application of the red  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  dopant phosphor for enhancing color rendering index to more 86 for multi-chip white LED lamps (MCW-LEDs), which have correlated color temperature (CCT) of 7700 K, 6600 K, 5600 K, are presented. Then the effect of the concentration of  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  phosphor on the color rendering index (CRI) is simulated, analyzed and demonstrated. After that the lumen output of MCW-LEDs depended on concentration  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  phosphor is discovered. The lumen output has a decrease tendency at large weight range due to the enhancement extinction coefficient, according to Mie-scattering theory. Simulation results provided important conclusions for selecting and developing the phosphor materials in MCW-LEDs manufacturing.*

**Keywords:**  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  phosphor, Beer-Lambert law, color rendering index, pc-WLEDs

## **1. Introduction**

In the history of human development, lighting sources have experienced numerous changes initially from collecting natural fire sources to making fire by drilling wood. The development of lighting has witnessed the progress of human history. Fire plays an important role in human history in that it provides humans with food, warmth, and brightness. The use of fire follows the tremendous progress of human civilization. Prior to the eighteenth century, fire had always been a lighting tool for humans, the form of which developed from torch, animal oil lamp, and vegetable oil lamp to the candle, and later to the widely used kerosene lamp. Humans have never stopped exploring new lighting methods [1]. Nowadays, MCW-LEDs have attracted great attention from both manufactures and consumers due to its great properties for display technology, including high brightness, low power consumption, long lifetime, fast response as well as climate impact resistance [2]. Consequently, MCW-LEDs are considered as key lighting devices to replace traditional light sources.

MCW-LEDs, because of their advantages in cost, efficiency, and stability, as well as extended lifetime, are considered as the best candidates to compete with traditional lights. Recently, several methods have been proposed for improving MCW-LED performance, relating to the Fresnel lenses, the chip arrays, and the patterned reflectors. However, the color uniformity and the luminous flux still need to be further improved for the MCW-LED to compete in the current lighting market. An MCW-LED consists of multiple blue chips inside, so the interaction process between the light and the LED structures is more complicated than that of the

conventional LED with a single chip. Red  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  phosphor is one of cathodoluminescent phosphors, which is employed widely in color displays as a red-light-emitting component [1]. However,  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  phosphor has not many applications for improving CRI as yet. In this paper, we introduce the impacts of  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  phosphor particles in multi-chip white light LEDs with conformal phosphor packages to improve color rendering ability. It has been found that the participation of  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  phosphor particles can dominate the red-light emitting event in pc-WLEDs, so that the LED light distribution can be free from the dispersion incurred by LED packages to yield higher color rendering index.

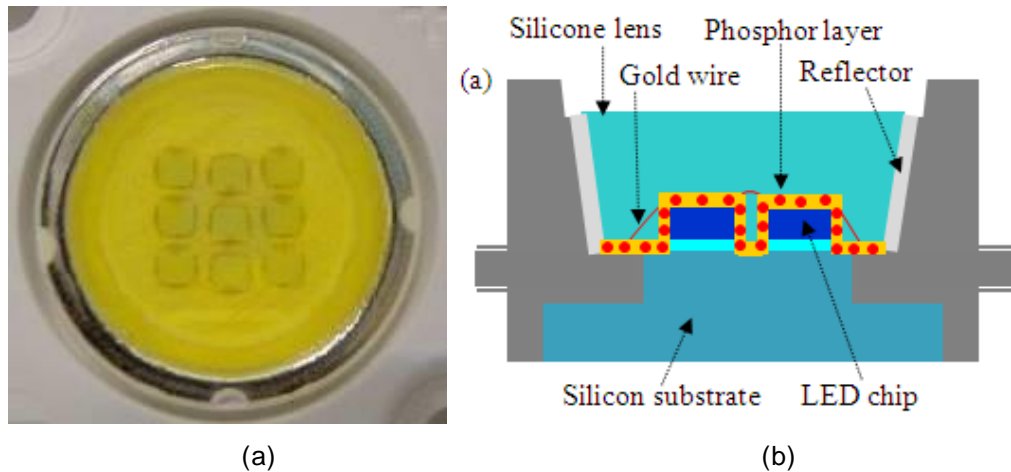
In this paper, firstly the MCW-LEDs physical model having average CCT of 7700 K, 6600 K and 5600 K is conducted by Light Tools software at first. Secondly, the transmission of light can be decreased after mixing  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  particles, which demonstrated by the Beer-Lambert law. Finally, we have investigated the effects of  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  phosphor particles on the color rendering ability of MCW-LEDs according to the simulation results. Thus, the proposed method, doping certain amounts of  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  in the LED packages, can improve their CRI significantly. The lumen output has a decrease tendency at large weight range due to the enhancement extinction coefficient. However, it is noticeable that the lumen output can be grown after adding  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  with low weight range.

## 2. Main Part

### 2.1. MCW-LEDs Physical Model

Based on Light Tools 8.1.0 program, the MCW-LEDs which is covered by flat silicone is employed (Figure 1). The MCW-LED products and their manufacture information are supported by the Silicon ware Precision Industries Co., Ltd., Taiwan [12]. The key work consists of pc-WLEDs construction and phosphor concentration adjustment. Firstly, the structures of pc-WLEDs such as the conformal phosphor package (CPP) are introduced with CCT of 7700 K, 6600K and 5600 K. Secondly, it is necessary to keep the MCW-LEDs work at the mean CCT for achieving the LED product specification. If the weight percentage of the red  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  phosphor increases, that of yellow  $\text{YAG}:\text{Ce}$  phosphor needs to be decrease to maintain the mean CCT values. The depth, inner, and outer radius of the reflector are 2.07 mm, 8 mm and 9.85 mm, respectively. The CPP, with the fixed thickness of 0.08 mm and 2.07 mm in turn, cover the nine chips. The blue Led chip has a dimension of 1.14 mm x 0.15 mm. The radiant flux of each blue chip is 1.16 W, and the peak wavelength is 453 nm. In Figure 1 (b), its phosphor layer is coated conformally on nine LEDs.

The absorption, emission and scattering of both  $\text{YAG}:\text{Ce}$  and  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  phosphor particles, with the peak wavelengths including blue of 453 nm and yellow of 555 nm, can be computed by Mie-scattering theory [2-3]. The phosphor layers consist of  $\text{YAG}:\text{Ce}$  and  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$  powders and the silicone matrix. Their refractive indexes are 1.83, 1.93 and 1.50, respectively. Meanwhile, the mean radius of the phosphor powders are 7.25  $\mu\text{m}$ , which like the real particle size.



**Figure1. (a) The MCW-LED and Its Manufacture Information as a Product of the Silicon Ware Precision Industries Co., Ltd., Taiwan, (b), Illustration of MCW-LEDs with the Conformal Phosphor Package**

## 2.2. Simulation Results and Discussion

In this section, the CRI performance of MCW-LED is obtained by simulation with Light Tools program. In order to verify the CRI improvement of MCW-LED quality by using  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  phosphor, we switch the CCT of 7700 K, 6600K and 5600 K respectively and vary  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  weight from 0% to 14%. The corresponding values of CRI are then calculated and displayed on Figure 2 for each option. It can be observed that the CRI grows with the weight percentage of  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  phosphor in the continuous range from 0 % to nearly 10 %. The highest color rendering ability is obtained with the  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  weight range from 8 % to 12 %. In particular, optimal color rendering index that can be achieved exceeds 86 in these case.

The effect of  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  concentration in phosphor compound on the lumen output is also verified together with the CRI, as shown in Figure 3. The weight percentage of phosphor compound was varied continuously from 0 % to 14 %. At low  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  concentration regime, the extinction coefficient tends to reduce, which results in the enhancement of luminous output. Meanwhile, the lumen output decreases with the  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  weight enhancement due to the increasing of extinction coefficient.

In other words, the lumen output grows with the  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  size due to the decreasing of extinction coefficient values. To justify these results, the relationship between luminous output and the  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  size can be formulated according to Mie-scattering theory [1, 12]. The depletion of light is calculated by the Beer – Lambert law:

$$I = I_0 \exp(-\mu_{ext} L) \quad (1)$$

Where  $I$  is the transmitted light power,  $I_0$  is the incident light power,  $\mu_{ext} = N.C_{ext}$  is the extinction coefficient,  $L$  is the path length and  $N$  is the number of particles per cubic millimeter. According to Mie-scattering theory, the extinction cross section  $C_{ext}$  of phosphor particles can be characterized by the following equation:

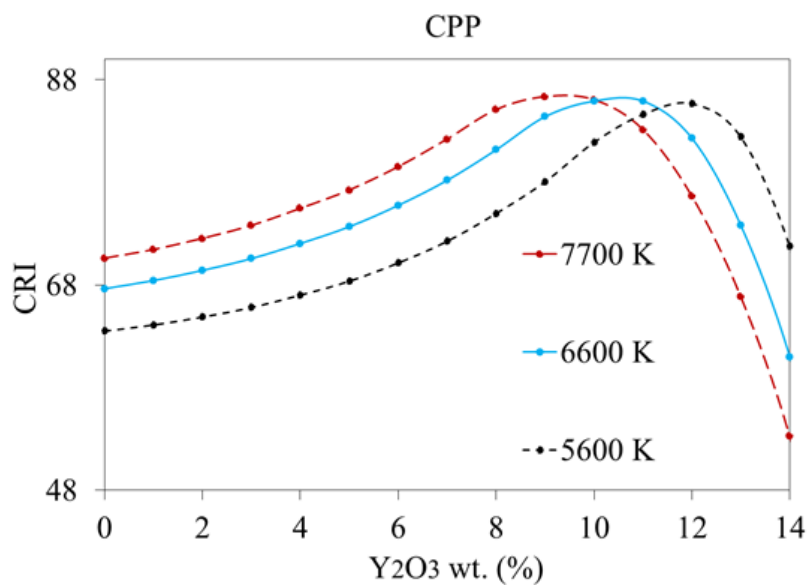
$$C_{ext} = \frac{2\pi a^2}{x^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2n+1) \text{Re}(a_n + b_n) \quad (2)$$

Here,  $x = 2\pi a/\lambda$  is the size parameter;  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  are the expansion coefficients with even symmetry and odd symmetry, respectively. The parameters  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  are defined as:

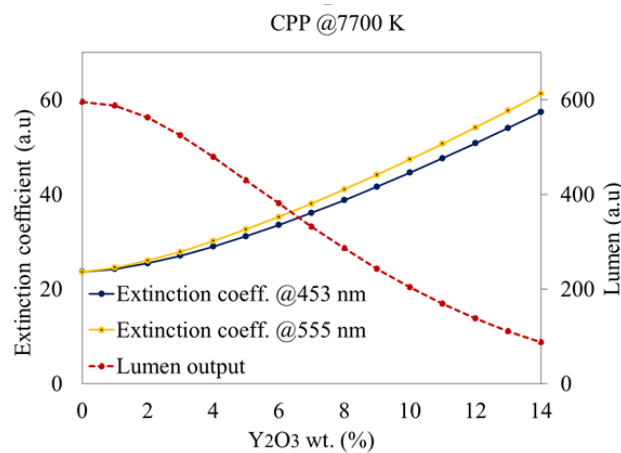
$$a_n(x, m) = \frac{\psi_n'(mx)\psi_n(x) - m\psi_n(mx)\psi_n'(x)}{\psi_n'(mx)\xi_n(x) - m\psi_n(mx)\xi_n'(x)} \quad (3)$$

$$b_n(x, m) = \frac{m\psi_n'(mx)\psi_n(x) - \psi_n(mx)\psi_n'(x)}{m\psi_n'(mx)\xi_n(x) - \psi_n(mx)\xi_n'(x)} \quad (4)$$

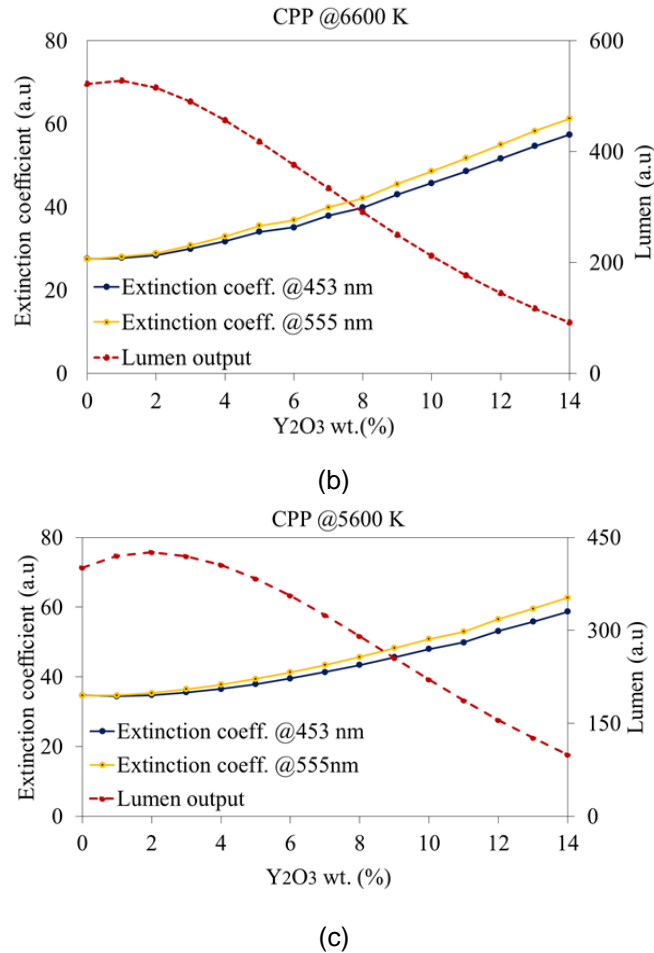
Where  $a$  is the spherical particle radius,  $\lambda$  is the relative scattering wavelength,  $m$  is the refractive index of scattering particles,  $\psi_n(x)$  and  $\xi_n(x)$  are the Riccati-Bessel functions.



**Figure 2. The Color Rendering Index at Average CCTs of 7000K and 8500 K with Various Y2O3:Eu3+ Weight with Two Phosphor Geometries: (Top) CPP and (Bottom) IPP**



(a)



**Figure 3. Luminous Flux According to Computed Extinction Coefficient with 7700K (A), 6600K (B), 5600K (C)**

The extinction coefficient values of the red  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  phosphor are verified for two distinct wavelengths, 555 nm and 453 nm, which are the emission peaks of the YAG:Ce phosphor and the LED chips, respectively. The variation of the mentioned parameters with respect to the  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  concentration according to the above equations are displayed in Figure 3 (a)-(c) for 7700K, 6600 K and 5600 K respectively. It is indicated that the higher lumen output should occur at the lower  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  concentration, which corresponds to the lower extinction coefficient values. These results can be employed to estimate the influence of the concentration of  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  on the lumen output produced by the pc-WLEDs

### 3. Conclusion

In this paper, some conclusions are proposed:

- 1) Both the CRI and the lumen output of MCW-LEDs depend on the red  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  phosphor concentration.
- 2) It is noted that the CRI can be enhanced more 86 regardless of the mean CCTs and the phosphor geometries.
- 3) The lumen output has a decrease tendency at large weight range due to the enhancement extinction coefficient. However, it is noticeable that the lumen output can be grown after adding  $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$  with low weight range.

4) The paper proves the implications of Y2O3:Eu3+ phosphor application for developing the pc-WLEDs of MCW-LEDs manufacturing.

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## Authors

**Nguyen Huu Khanh Nhan**, received his B. Eng. degrees in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from University of Technical education Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in 1991-1996, and received his M. Eng. degrees in Nano materials and electronic devices from Ho Chi Minh City National University, Vietnam in 2005 – 2007, and Studied PhD. degree at Institute of research and experiments for electrical and electronic equipments, Moscow – Russia in 2012. Now, He is teaching at Department of electrical and electronics engineering, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam. His research interests include VLSI, MEMS and LED driver chips.

**Tran Hoang Quang Minh**, defended his PhD thesis at Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk City, Russian Federation. The author's major fields of study are High-voltage Power System, Relay Protections and LED Technology. He is working as Lecturer in Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

**Nguyen Doan Quoc Anh**, defended his PhD thesis at National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The author's major fields of study are LED Technology and Power System. He is working as Lecturer in Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

