

Raman Spectroscopy Analysis of MnTiO₃-TiO₂ Eutectic

Authors : Adrian Niewiadomski, Barbara Surma, Katarzyna Kolodziejak, Dorota A. Pawlak

Abstract : Oxide-oxide eutectic is attracting increasing interest of scientific community because of their unique properties and numerous potential applications. Some of the most interesting examples of applications are metamaterials, glucose sensors, photoactive materials, thermoelectric materials, and photocatalysts. Their unique properties result from the fact that composite materials consist of two or more phases. As a result, these materials have additive and product properties. Additive properties originate from particular phases while product properties originate from the interaction between phases. MnTiO₃-TiO₂ eutectic is one of such materials. TiO₂ is a well-known semiconductor, and it is used as a photocatalyst. Moreover, it may be used to produce solar cells, in a gas sensing devices and in electrochemistry. MnTiO₃ is a semiconductor and antiferromagnetic. Therefore it has potential application in integrated circuits devices, and as a gas and humidity sensor, in non-linear optics and as a visible-light activated photocatalyst. The above facts indicate that eutectic MnTiO₃-TiO₂ constitutes an extremely promising material that should be studied. Despite that Raman spectroscopy is a powerful method to characterize materials, to our knowledge Raman studies of eutectics are very limited, and there are no studies of the MnTiO₃-TiO₂ eutectic. While to our knowledge the papers regarding this material are scarce. The MnTiO₃-TiO₂ eutectic, as well as TiO₂ and MnTiO₃ single crystals, were grown by the micro-pulling-down method at the Institute of Electronic Materials Technology in Warsaw, Poland. A nitrogen atmosphere was maintained during whole crystal growth process. The as-grown samples of MnTiO₃-TiO₂ eutectic, as well as TiO₂ and MnTiO₃ single crystals, are black and opaque. Samples were cut perpendicular to the growth direction. Cross sections were examined with scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and with Raman spectroscopy. The present studies showed that maintaining nitrogen atmosphere during crystal growth process may result in obtaining black TiO₂ crystals. SEM and Raman experiments showed that studied eutectic consists of three distinct regions. Furthermore, two of these regions correspond with MnTiO₃, while the third region corresponds with the TiO₂-xN_x phase. Raman studies pointed out that TiO₂-xN_x phase crystallizes in rutile structure. The studies show that Raman experiments may be successfully used to characterize eutectic materials. The MnTiO₃-TiO₂ eutectic was grown by the micro-pulling-down method. SEM and micro-Raman experiments were used to establish phase composition of studied eutectic. The studies revealed that the TiO₂ phase had been doped with nitrogen. Therefore the TiO₂ phase is, in fact, a solid solution with TiO₂-xN_x composition. The remaining two phases exhibit Raman lines of both rutile TiO₂ and MnTiO₃. This points out to some kind of coexistence of these phases in studied eutectic.

Keywords : compound materials, eutectic growth and characterization, Raman spectroscopy, rutile TiO₂

Conference Title : ICVS 2017 : International Conference on Vibrational Spectroscopy

Conference Location : Lisbon, Portugal

Conference Dates : August 17-18, 2017