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To cite this version:
H. Ait Ahsaine, M. Ezahri, A. Benlhachemi, B. Bakiz, Sylvie Villain, et al.. Structural, vibrational study and UV photoluminescence properties of the system Bi(2–x)Lu(x)WO6 (0.1 ≤ x ≤ 1). RSC Advances, Royal Society of Chemistry, 2015, 5 (116), pp.96242-96252. 10.1039/C5RA19424E. hal-01872775

HAL Id: hal-01872775
https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01872775
Submitted on 15 Jun 2021

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Structural, vibrational study and UV photoluminescence properties of the system Bi$_{(2-x)}$Lu$_{(x)}$WO$_6$ (0.1≤x≤1)

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ABSTRACT

Bismuth lutetium tungstate series Bi$_{(2-x)}$Lu$_{(x)}$WO$_6$ with 0.1≤x≤1 were synthesized by solid state reaction from oxide precursors, at 1000°C for 3 h. The as-prepared polycrystalline compounds were characterized by X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), Raman spectroscopy and photoluminescence (PL) analyses. Biphasic samples were obtained in the composition range 0.1 ≤ x ≤ 0.3. Solid solutions were obtained in the composition range 0.4 ≤ x ≤ 1, and their monoclinic crystal structure was refined using the Rietveld method. SEM micrographs showed that solid solutions presented homogeneous morphologies. Attributions of Raman vibrational modes were proposed. A shift in vibrational wavenumber depending on lutetium composition was observed. A specific broadening of spectral bands was interpreted in terms of long range Bi/Lu disorder and local WO$_6$ octahedron distortions in the structure. The PL experiments were performed under UV-laser light irradiation. Each PL band was decomposed into three gaussian components with energies close to 1.25, 1.80 and 2.1 eV. Their integrated intensities increased with composition x. The presence of the near infrared band at 1.25 eV is commented.

Key words: Bismuth lutetium oxides, Solid solution, X-Ray diffraction, Rietveld method, Raman spectroscopy, Photoluminescence.
I. INTRODUCTION

In the general framework of the development of multifunctional materials for various applications, we focus our attention on the correlations between structure and luminescence properties, in tungstate based materials. Generally, it is well established that extrinsic and intrinsic point defects can play a prominent role in photoluminescence properties.

Tungstate materials were extensively studied and investigated because of their potential applications in many fields as functional materials in high-performance luminescent materials, catalysts, scintillators, laser hosts as well as microwave applications and humidity sensors. Metal tungstates with general formula $\text{AWO}_4$ can be divided into two groups, depending on tungsten environment: (i) scheelite-type structures with $\text{WO}_4^{2-}$ tetrahedral groups and (ii) wolframite-type structures with $\text{WO}_6^{6-}$ octahedral groups. Depending on $\text{A}^{2+}$ cation radii, $\text{CaWO}_4$, $\text{PbWO}_4$ and $\text{AREWO}_4$ (with $\text{A}$=alkali metal, $\text{RE}$= Rare earth element) crystallize in the scheelite-type structures, whereas $\text{CdWO}_4$, $\text{ZnWO}_4$, $\text{MgWO}_4$ and $\text{BaWO}_4$ crystallize in the wolframite-type structures. Due to charge transfer linked to the tetrahedral or octahedral groups, tungstates can present interesting photoluminescence properties. Tungstates with the general formula $\text{RE}_2\text{WO}_6$ ($\text{RE}$= Y, La, Lu, Gd) belong to the second group with distorted $\text{WO}_6$ units and have attracted great attention in the field of luminescence.

Recently, lutetium-based compounds, such as $\text{Lu}_2\text{SiO}_5$, $\text{Lu}_3\text{Al}_5\text{O}_{12}$, $\text{LuAlO}_3$, $\text{LuBO}_3$, $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3$ and undoped and doped $\text{Lu}_2\text{WO}_6$, have attracted increasing interest for their potential applications due to their excellent luminescence properties.

In our recent paper, we synthesized the new monoclinic compound Bismuth lutetium tungstate $\text{BiLuWO}_6$, with a structure similar to the one of the $\text{BiREWO}_6$ ($\text{RE}$= Rare Earth: Gd, Nd, Y) series. Its structure was characterized by a disorder due to the $\text{Bi}/\text{Lu}$ bonding competition. In a previous work, we determined the local structure and the electrical properties of the layered phase $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$. In preliminary studies, we observed that, for compositions lower than $x=0.1$, a solid solution could be obtained with the orthorhombic structure of $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$. In an intermediate composition range, we observed a biphasic system with two structures similar to the ones of $\text{Bi}_2\text{WO}_6$ (orthorhombic) and $\text{BiLuWO}_6$. 


(monoclinic). Finally, for compositions \(x > 0.35\), we observed a unique monoclinic phase, similar to the one of BiLuWO\(_6\).

In the present work, we investigate the system Bi\(_2\)WO\(_6\)-BiLuWO\(_6\) represented by the general formula Bi\(_{2-x}\)Lu\(_x\)WO\(_6\) with \(0.1 \leq x \leq 1\). We use Rietveld method to refine the crystal structure of solid solutions with compositions \(0.4 \leq x \leq 1\) and present the first vibrational analyses from Raman spectroscopy. Finally, we perform the first photoluminescence analyses under UV excitation as a function of composition \(x\) in lutetium.

II. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION.

**Synthesis of the material.** Bismuth lutetium tungstate compounds were prepared using solid state reaction process. To prepare Bi\(_{2-x}\)Lu\(_x\)WO\(_6\) compounds, appropriate amounts of lutetium oxide Lu\(_2\)O\(_3\) (Alfa Aesar Aldrich > 99%), bismuth oxide Bi\(_2\)O\(_3\) (Fluka Chemika > 99%) and tungsten oxide WO\(_3\) (Fluka Chemika > 99%), were mixed and milled in an agate mortar, as reported in our earlier paper 35. Then, the mixture was heated at 1000°C for 15 hours.

**X-Ray diffraction.** The X-Ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected using an EMPYREAN PANALYTICAL diffractometer operating at 45 kV/35 mA, using CuK\(\alpha\) radiation with Ni filter, and working in continuous mode with a step size of 0.013°. Data suitable for Rietveld refinement were collected over a range 5-90° in 20.

**Microstructural characterization.** Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analyses were used to observe the morphology and the local composition of the polycrystalline material. The determination of chemical compositions was performed using Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS), in mode of sample surfaces scanning. Preliminary images were obtained with a SUPRA 40 VP COLOMNE GEMINI ZEISS using a maximum voltage of 20 kV.

**RAMAN spectroscopy.** Raman spectra (RS) were recorded on a VERTEX 70 Raman spectrometer using a power of 30 mW and the wavelength of Ar green laser \(\lambda = 514.5\) nm. The frequency bands \(\nu\) ranged from 50 to 1100 cm\(^{-1}\).

**UV Photoluminescence.** The equipment used to perform the measurements of photoluminescence (PL) under UV excitation is a spectrometer Horiba Jobin-Yvon HR800 LabRam. The entrance slit, positioned behind the filter, is a diaphragm whose diameter can
range from 50 to 500 µm. The irradiated zone was limited to 1 µm in diameter for all samples. The polycrystalline samples were in form of compacted pellets obtained under a fixed pressure of 5 kbar. The spherical mirror, characterized by an 800 mm focal length, allows reflecting the scattered radiation from the input to the dispersive grating to obtain spectra slot. The 364.5 nm (3.40 eV) line of an Ar-ion laser was used as the excitation source. The power applied to the samples was fixed to 0.005 mW with an acquisition time set to 100 ms.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

III.1. X-Ray Diffraction analyses

Figure 1 illustrates the XRD patterns of the synthesized compounds from x = 0.1 to x=1. A biphasic system is observed in the composition range 0.1≤ x≤0.3. Characteristic peaks of the orthorhombic bismuth tungstate Bi$_2$WO$_6$ were detected in addition to the peaks of the monoclinic structure BiREWO$_6$ (RE=Lu) phase. It should be recalled that all the as-prepared ceramics were thermally treated at 1000°C and were highly crystallized. The substituted compounds ranging from 0.4≤ x≤1 present a monoclinic structure and constitute a solid solution. This structural modification (orthorhombic/monoclinic) can be explained from the two electronic configurations of Bi$^{3+}$ and Lu$^{3+}$: in the case of the Bi$^{3+}$ cations (electron configuration 6s$^2$ 6p$^0$), the lone pair (6s$^2$) could play a spatial role in the structure organization, which is not the case for the Lu$^{3+}$ cations. In addition, the ionic size of Lu$^{3+}$ cations, smaller than the one of Bi$^{3+}$ cations, argues in favor of the formation of a solid solution having the structure of the limit phase BiLuWO$_6$.

The identification of these compounds was firstly obtained from the standard JCPDS files (Joint Committee standards for Powder Diffraction) in which the standard phases BiYWO$_6$, BiNdWO$_6$, BiGdWO$_6$ and H-Bi$_2$WO$_6$ were referenced. Figure 2 shows that the diffraction peaks of the monoclinic solid solution are shifted to higher angles as x increases.
Figure 1: XRD pattern of the Bi\(_{(2-x)}\)Lu\(_{x}\)WO\(_6\) obtained in room conditions:
  a) Biphasic system up to \(x=0.3\); b) monoclinic solid solution up to \(x=1\).

Figure 2: XRD patterns as a function of lutetium composition of the solid solution \(0.4 \leq x \leq 1\).

The structural parameters of the solid solution ranging from \(0.4 \leq x \leq 1\) were refined using FullProf suite software \([38]\) which allows refinement of atomic coordinates, site occupancies and atomic displacement parameters as well as profile parameters (instrument parameters, background parameters, lattice constants and peak shape). The disordered model based on the work of Berdonosov and co-workers \([39,40]\) on the series Bi\(_{2-x}\)Ln\(_x\)WO\(_6\) (Ln=Lanthanide) was used in our Rietveld calculations. In this model, Lu atoms are assumed to be distributed on the two bismuth sites of the H-Bi\(_2\)WO\(_6\) monoclinic structure characterized by a centrosymmetric A2/m space group. Such a substitution should involve specific
disordered distortions of the octahedral WO$_6$ groups, due to alternation of short Lu-O and long Bi-O bonds.

We refined the atom coordinates of the heavy atoms (Bi/Lu) and W, including their individual Debye factors and keeping fixed the oxygen coordinates, using a monoclinic A2/m space group. The occupancy factors of all atoms were fixed in agreement with the global composition $x$. We obtained a significant goodness of fit and the factors $R_p$, $R_{exp}$, $R_{wp}$ and $R_B$ are quite reliable. Table 1a reports the final calculated cell parameters for the solid solution samples. Table 1b reports the atom coordinates used for the refinement calculations. In the calculations, each (Bi,Lu) site is assumed to be occupied by Bi and Lu atoms in proportions corresponding to the composition $x$. The occupancy factors used in the Rietveld procedure are in an arbitrary scale.

Figure 3 shows the calculated and observed diffraction profiles $I_{obs}$ and $I_{calc}$ of the Bi$_{(1.2)}$Lu$_{(0.8)}$WO$_6$ compound. Figure 4 shows the evolution and the influence of substitution of bismuth by lutetium on the cell parameters. The cell parameters $a$, $b$ and $c$ varies quasi-linearly with the composition $x$ according, respectively, to the equations:

$$a(\text{Å}) = -0.1414x + 8.2252 \ (R^2=0.999),$$

$$b(\text{Å}) = -0.0945x + 3.8177 \ (R^2=0.997),$$

and $c(\text{Å}) = -0.3467x + 16.297 \ (R^2=0.999)$. 
Figure 3: Rietveld refinement of Bi$_{2-x}$Lu$_x$WO$_6$ (x = 0.4; 0.6; 0.8 and 1) using disordered structure and space group A2/m.

Table 1a. Cell parameters and Debye-Waller factors for the solid solution compounds

| Composition  | a (Å)   | b (Å)   | c (Å)   | β(°)   | $B_{iso}$(Bi/Lu) | $B_{iso}$(W) |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| Bi$_{1.4}$Lu$_{0.6}$WO$_6$ | 8.1683(2) | 3.7797(1) | 16.1564(3) | 102.184(1) | 0.28(3) | 0.33(4) |
| Bi$_{1.4}$Lu$_{0.6}$WO$_6$ | 8.1403(2) | 3.7619(3) | 16.0923(3) | 102.209(1) | 0.57(4) | 0.35(2) |
| Bi$_{1.2}$Lu$_{0.8}$WO$_6$ | 8.1134(1) | 3.7405(3) | 16.0202(2) | 102.382(1) | 1.11(3) | 0.32(3) |
| BiLuWO$_6$[34] | 8.0830(1) | 3.7238(1) | 15.9493(2) | 102.634(2) | 0.72(3) | 0.31(2) |

Table 1b: atom coordinates (x, y, z, N) of (Bi,Lu) W and O atoms.

| Compositions | Atom coordinates (x, y, z) and occupancy factors N (arbitrary scale) |
|       | x     | y     | z     | N(Bi) / N(Lu)       | N(W) or N(O) |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| x=1   | Bi/Lu(1) | 0.9224(2) | 0.000 | 0.000(2) | 0.125 / 0.125 |
|       | Bi/Lu(2) | 0.3960(2) | 0.000 | 0.3170(2) | 0.125 / 0.125 |
|       | W(1)    | 0.2951(3) | 0.4792(3) | 0.4925(3) | 0.250 |
| Reliability factors | Rp = 7% ; R_{exp} = 3% ; R_B = 4.99 % ; R_F = 4.74 % |
| x=0.8 | Bi/Lu(1) | 0.9233(3) | 0.000 | 0.3321(2) | 0.150/0.100 |
|       | Bi/Lu(2) | 0.3943(4) | 0.000 | 0.3176(3) | 0.100/0.150 |
|       | W(1)    | 0.2960(2) | 0.4450(2) | 0.4970(3) | 0.250 |
| Reliability factors (\textsuperscript{a}) | Rp = 8.35% ; R_{exp} = 7.73% ; R_B = 6.20% ; R_F = 4.72% |
| x=0.6 | Bi/Lu(1) | 0.9266(3) | 0.000 | 0.3327(2) | 0.175/0.075 |
|       | Bi/Lu(2) | 0.3929(2) | 0.000 | 0.3189(2) | 0.075/0.175 |
|       | W(1)    | 0.3020(2) | 0.4485(3) | 0.4994(2) | 0.250 |
| Reliability factors (\textsuperscript{a}) | Rp = 9.21% ; R_{exp} = 6.79% ; R_B = 7.43% ; R_F = 5.48% |
| x=0.4 | Bi/Lu(1) | 0.9277(2) | 0.000 | 0.3331(3) | 0.200/0.050 |
|       | Bi/Lu(2) | 0.3950(3) | 0.000 | 0.3183(2) | 0.05/0.200 |
|       | W(1)    | 0.2985(3) | 0.4560(3) | 0.4990(4) | 0.250 |
| Reliability factors (\textsuperscript{a}) | Rp = 9% ; R_{exp} = 7.87% ; R_B = 5.46% ; R_F = 5.24% |

**Fixed Oxygen atoms**

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       | O(1)  | 0.1188 | 0.000 | 0.2489 | 0.250 |
|       | O(2)  | 0.3640 | 0.500 | 0.2338 | 0.250 |
|       | O(3)  | 0.3224 | 0.000 | 0.5284 | 0.125 |
|       | O(4)  | 0.5068 | 0.438 | 0.5745 | 0.250 |
|       | O(5)  | 0.1709 | 0.414 | 0.5669 | 0.250 |
Note on the reliability factors:

\[
R_p = 100 \times \left( \frac{\sum |y_{i,\text{obs}} - y_{i,\text{calc}}|}{\sum |y_{i,\text{obs}}|} \right)
\]

\[
R_{\text{exp}} = 100 \times \left( \frac{N-P-C}{\sum w_i |y_{i,\text{obs}}|^2} \right)^{1/2}
\]

\[
R_B = 100 \times \left( \frac{\sum |I_{k,\text{obs}} - I_{k,\text{calc}}|}{\sum |I_{k,\text{obs}}|} \right)
\]

\[
R_F = 100 \times \left( \frac{\sum |F_{k,\text{obs}} - F_{k,\text{calc}}|}{\sum |F_{k,\text{obs}}|} \right)
\]

Where \( N, P \) and \( C \) are the number of observations, parameters and constraints, respectively.

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Figure 4: Evolution of cell parameters as a function of Lutetium fraction \( x \).

The Debye-Waller factor \( B \) of \((\text{Bi},\text{Lu})\) site increases as \( x \) increases, with an apparent maximum value at \( x=0.8 \) (Figure 5). Having regard to the standard deviations (close to 10%) of these \( B \) values, this increase can be ascribed to the existence of increasing local distortions involved by the disorder on the \((\text{Bi}/\text{Lu})\) site. The disorder can be illustrated by the alternation of different chemical bonds \( \text{Bi-O} \) and \( \text{Lu-O} \), as discussed in references 35,39,41.
Figure 5: Evolution of Debye-Waller factor $B$ of (Bi,Lu) site as a function of $x$.

The monoclinic structure of bismuth lutetium tungstates can be considered as being close to a wolframite-type structure. Figure 6 shows the alternating $(\text{Bi},\text{Lu})_2\text{O}_2$ layers and the $\text{WO}_6$ edge sharing octahedra. Crystallographic data obtained from our Rietveld calculations showed that the $\text{WO}_6$ octahedral complexes have irregular shapes with short, medium and long bonds ranging from 1.65 Å to 2.13 Å.

Figure 6: Crystal structure of monoclinic $\text{Bi}_{2-x}\text{Lu}_x\text{WO}_6$ compounds in the (010) plane.
III.2. Scanning electron microscopy

The SEM micrographs reported in Figure 7 show the morphology of the synthesized Bi$_{2-x}$Lu$_{x}$WO$_6$:

- In the range of $0.1 \leq x \leq 0.3$, the samples present two types of grain morphologies, with small grains similar to the ones observed in the pure Bi$_2$WO$_6$ samples and micrometric grains similar to the ones observed in the monoclinic samples ($0.4 \leq x \leq 1$): these two aspects are compatible with the XRD analyses showing the presence of two phases.

- In the solid solution range $0.4 \leq x \leq 1$, the morphology is quite uniform and consists of rounded shaped grains having dimensions of 1 to 2 µm, as shown in the inset micrographs.

The EDS microanalysis is congruent with the nominal chemical composition in heavy atoms of Bi$_{2-x}$Lu$_{x}$WO$_6$ and no significant variation in composition can be observed at a local scale. Table 2 reports the theoretical and the experimental composition of the as synthesized samples (O atoms were excluded during the EDS analysis). Each EDS experimental fraction is determined with a standard deviation of about 2%.
Figure 7: SEM micrographs of the as-synthesized samples:
  Biphasic samples: a) x=0.1, b) x=0.2, c) x=0.3
  Solid solutions (with inset regular rounded shapes):
    d) x=0.4, e) x=0.6, f) x=0.8, g) x=1.
Table 2: Theoretical and experimental composition from EDS analysis

| Compound | Theoretical compositions in at.% | EDS analyses in at.% (*) |
|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| x=0.1    | Bi (63.33), Lu (3.33), W (33.33) | Bi (64), Lu (3), W(33)  |
| x=0.2    | Bi (60.00), Lu (6.66), W (33.33) | Bi (59), Lu (8), W(33)  |
| x=0.3    | Bi (56.66), Lu (10.00), W (33.33) | Bi (57), Lu (10), W(33) |
| x=0.4    | Bi (53.33), Lu (13.33), W (33.33) | Bi (53), Lu (14), W(33) |
| x=0.6    | Bi (46.66), Lu (20.00), W (33.33) | Bi (46), Lu (20), W(34) |
| x=0.8    | Bi (40.00), Lu (29.33), W (33.33) | Bi (40), Lu (27), W(33) |
| x=1      | Bi (33.33), Lu (33.33), W (33.33) | Bi (33), Lu (33), W(34) |

(*) Note: Statistical deviations (in %) on Bi, Lu and W compositions are of about: Bi (2 to 4 %) / Lu (4 to 15%) / W (4%). Determination from series of surface analyses.

III.3. Raman spectroscopy analyses

In the case of Bi$_{2-x}$RE$_x$WO$_6$ structures, detailed attributions of vibration modes were previously proposed by authors G.N Rocha et al.\textsuperscript{42} for the bismuth rare earth monoclinic compounds (RE = Y, Nd, Gd). The irreducible representation, for these structures, is as follows:

\[ \Gamma = 24A_g + 18A_u + 18B_g + 24B_u \] (44 active Raman modes)

Generally, these Raman modes (i.e $A_g$ and $B_g$) can be classified into four categories: (i) symmetric and asymmetric stretching vibrations of the WO$_6$ octahedrons, (ii) bending vibrations of the WO$_6$, (iii) stretching and bending vibrations of the (Bi$_2$O$_3$)$_{2+}$ layers, and (iv) vibrations involving translational motions of Bi$^{3+}$/Lu$^{3+}$ and W$^{6+}$ ions.
Figure 8 presents the vibrational bands of the compounds belonging to the composition range \(0.4 \leq x \leq 1\): all the compounds exhibit the same vibrational band profiles with a shifting to higher wavenumbers as the composition of lutetium \(x\) increases. Table 3 reports the assignments of the Raman bands of the solid solution and the Full width at Half Maximum (FWHM) of each composition. As lutetium composition \(x\) increases, we observe increasing wavenumbers and broadenings (FWHM) of all vibration bands. This can be ascribed to the increasing population of Lu-O bonds having stronger force constants with increasing distortions due to the disordered distributions of Lu-O and Bi-O bonds.

Table 3: Raman spectroscopy data and assignments of vibration bands for the solid solution \((0.4 \leq x \leq 1)\). Wavenumbers (\(\nu\)) and full width at half maximum (FWHM) in cm\(^{-1}\).

| \(x\) | Wavenumbers (FWHM) | Assignments [42] |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|
| 0.4 | 891 (20)           | Asymmetric stretching of WO\(_6\) (Apical O) |
| 0.6 | 897 (25)           |                  |
| 0.8 | 905 (30)           |                  |
| 1   | 912 (40)           |                  |
| 0.4 | 750 (30)           | symmetric stretching of WO\(_6\) (Apical O) |
| 0.6 | 762 (27)           |                  |
| 0.8 | 770 (20)           |                  |
| 1   | 785 (30)           |                  |
|     | 708 (-->)          |                  |
| 0.4 | 729 (3)            |                  |
| 0.6 | 731 (5)            |                  |

The vibrational motions of WO₆ octahedra and (Bi/Lu)₂O₂ layers are directly perturbed by the disorder of Bi-O and Lu-O bonds conditioned by the increasing composition of lutetium, involving increasing disorder in oxygen positions of WO₆ octahedra. This should be a major argument for the disorder model used in the Rietveld refinements to interpret our XRD data. As already reported for the BiLuWO₆ sample, the Raman bands can be highlighted as follows:

- The Raman peaks at 904 and 760 cm⁻¹ can be ascribed to the symmetric and antisymmetric stretching modes of the octahedra WO₆, which involve the apical motion of oxygen atoms perpendicular to the layers.
- The peaks in the region of 720-640 cm⁻¹ can be associated to the asymmetric stretching of octahedra involving equatorial motions of oxygen atoms within layers 43-47.
- The bands in the mid-region 370-589 cm⁻¹ represent the bending modes of WO₆ and stretching-bending modes of (Bi, Lu)O₆.
- Some bands are well defined in the spectral range 180-370 cm⁻¹ and are related to bending modes of the oxygen in Bi-O polyhedra of the Bi₂O₃ layers.
- The bands below 180 cm⁻¹ can be ascribed to the translation of Bi³⁺/Lu³⁺ and W⁶⁺ ions 43,48,49.
III.4. Photoluminescence properties

By the past, the luminescence in scheelite tungstates was interpreted in terms of electronic charge transfers in the $\text{WO}_4^{2-}$ complex oxyanions or in $\text{WO}_3$ defect centers $^{50}$. Using a molecular orbital model for the octahedral $\text{WO}_6^{6-}$ oxyanion, Von Oostehort et al. $^{51}$ showed that the excited state consisted of an electron initially on an oxygen 2p orbital ($\text{O}_2\text{p}$) and occupying the tungsten 5d orbitals (W5d) with $t_{2g}$ symmetry. Following this model, the emission spectra imply transitions starting from the double triplet $^3\text{T}_{1u}$ levels to the ground $^1\text{A}_{g1}$ level. Other authors $^{52-55}$ proposed similar interpretations: some of them described the basic emissions through transitions from two triplet states $^3\text{T}_1$ and $^3\text{T}_2$ to ground state $^1\text{A}_1$ in the case of scheelite structures (charge transfer in $\text{WO}_4^{2-}$ oxyanions), or from two triplet states $^3\text{T}_{1u}$ and $^3\text{T}_{2u}$ to ground state $^1\text{A}_{1g}$ in the case of wolframite structures (charge transfer in $\text{WO}_6^{6-}$ oxyanions). In the case of octahedral $\text{WO}_6^{6-}$ oxyanions, two additional transitions corresponding to weaker energies were also envisaged. Recently, in our work on Ca$_{1-x}$Cd$_x\text{WO}_4$ solid solutions $^{56}$, we observed photoluminescence bands under UV excitation localized in the approximate energy range 2.1 to 2.7 eV.

In the case of bismuth based compounds, the photoluminescence signals under UV excitations were previously ascribed to internal bismuth transitions $^{57}$: authors used theoretical calculations to justify emissions with wavelengths ranging between UV-visible range of 300 to 600 nm, and near infrared (NIR) emissions with wavelengths observed in the approximate range 800 nm to 1500 (and above) nm. NIR emissions were frequently observed in various bismuth doped materials including glasses $^{58,59}$. These NIR emissions depended on the excitation energies and on the host material itself. The origins of these emissions are unclear today. According to these authors, these emissions could be generated by bismuth species such as Bi$^{2+}$, Bi$^+$ or BiO molecules as probable defect centers (the list of the possible defect centers is not clearly limited by the authors).

The photoluminescence bands obtained under UV excitation (energy of 3.40 eV) are reported on \textbf{Figure 9}. The emission bands present energies ranging between 1.1 and 2.8 eV. The PL bands have been decomposed into three Gaussian components (G1, G2, G3). The resulting fit is quite satisfactory. The multi-Gaussian decomposition analyses are shown in \textbf{Figure 9}. \textbf{Table 4} gives the characteristics of the fitted gaussian functions: energies of maximum, integrated intensities and FWHM.
Figure 9: Luminescence spectra of the polycrystalline Bi\(_{(2-x)}\)Lu\(_{x}\)WO\(_6\) phosphors with 0.1\(\leq x \leq 1\), three Gaussian components are shown in each figure.
Table 4: the characteristics of the fitted gaussian functions: energies of maximum, integrated intensities and FWHM

|       | energies of maximum (eV) | integrated intensity (a.u) | FWHM (eV) |
|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| **X=0.1** |                          |                             |            |
| G1    | 1.279                    | 26.8                       | 0.08       |
| G2    | 1.791                    | 192.3                      | 0.22       |
| G3    | 2.160                    | 70.1                       | 0.34       |
| **X=0.2** |                          |                             |            |
| G1    | 1.295                    | 53.7                       | 0.07       |
| G2    | 1.779                    | 475.8                      | 0.20       |
| G3    | 2.101                    | 161.2                      | 0.37       |
| **X=0.3** |                          |                             |            |
| G1    | 1.322                    | 69.6                       | 0.08       |
| G2    | 1.778                    | 770.2                      | 0.21       |
| G3    | 2.022                    | 460.0                      | 0.29       |
| **X=0.4** |                          |                             |            |
| G1    | 1.321                    | 125.4                      | 0.09       |
| G2    | 1.781                    | 1117.6                     | 0.20       |
| G3    | 1.967                    | 546.9                      | 0.31       |
| **X=0.6** |                          |                             |            |
| G1    | 1.359                    | 127.3                      | 0.08       |
| G2    | 1.770                    | 1128.7                     | 0.21       |
| G3    | 1.971                    | 527.3                      | 0.29       |
| **X=0.8** |                          |                             |            |
| G1    | 1.272                    | 669.1                      | 0.02       |
| G2    | 1.739                    | 1250.4                     | 0.19       |
| G3    | 1.941                    | 684.3                      | 0.29       |
| **X=1** |                          |                             |            |
| G1    | 1.272                    | 924.5                      | 0.02       |
| G2    | 1.762                    | 901.7                      | 0.19       |
| G3    | 1.927                    | 627.7                      | 0.36       |

In **Figure 10**, each Gaussian is characterized by its intensity and its energy as a function of the composition x. The energies of the components G1 (close to 1.27eV) and G2 (close to 1.78eV) are quasi-independent of the composition x. As x increases, G3 presents a shifting to lower energies from 2.16 eV to 1.92 eV.
The G1 component appears as being a narrow band for high lutetium content, strongly related to the increasing lutetium composition. The origin of the G1 component seems to be unclear: as it has a low energy, H. Wang et al.\textsuperscript{60} in their study on ZnWO\textsubscript{4} interpreted a broad emission band close to 990 nm (with wavelengths ranging between 850 and 1100 nm), as being related to the presence of defect centers due to oxygen vacancies. In other terms, their broad NIR signal would be related to defect centers on the WO\textsubscript{6}\textsuperscript{6-} groups. However, in our case, the emission band G1, observed at 991 nm or 1.27 eV, is a narrow band. As the intensity of our G1 emission band is strongly conditioned by the lutetium composition, a different interpretation might be proposed. This narrow band could result from a transition due to specific bismuth species acting as defect centers as previously suggested\textsuperscript{57,58}: in the case of increasing lutetium composition, these bismuth species should appear as more isolated defects giving rise to high sensitization under UV excitation. For low concentration of lutetium, the low intensity of this G1 component might result from a quenching effect. For high lutetium fractions i.e. lower fraction of bismuth, this quenching effect might decrease.

Figure 10: Integrated intensities and centroid energies of the three Gaussians as a function of lutetium composition.
The high energetic component G2, which has a maximum at x=0.8, is attributed to the allowed transition $^1T_{1u} \rightarrow ^1A_{1g}$ of the tungstate groups. Whereas the G3 component presents the same behavior as the G2, it increases with x till a maximum at x =0.8, this component could be linked to the $^3T_{1u} \rightarrow ^1A_g$ transitions.

The integrated intensities of the experimental data are shown in Figure 11. It should be noted that the intensities of all components increase strongly in the composition range $0.1 \leq x \leq 0.4$ corresponding to the biphasic system. The total intensity (G1+G2+G3) is quasi-constant for compositions $x>0.4$ corresponding to the solid solutions, despite the fact that the intensity of the small G1 component increases slowly as x increases. In the biphasic system, this can be due to the progressive formation of the second (Bi-Lu) phase coexisting with the inactive Bi$_2$WO$_6$ phase, while, in the (Bi-Lu) monoclinic solid solution, the activation of luminescence (G1, G2 and G3 components) should occur. As the G2 and G3 intensities remain quasi-constant, this luminescence could be ascribed to charge transfers (or defect centers) linked to the WO$_6$ groups of the monoclinic structure.

![Figure 11: Experimental Integrated intensities as function of composition x.](image)

**CONCLUSION**
In this study, we have investigated the complex tungstate system (1-x)Bi2WO6-xBiLuWO6 or Bi2-xLuₓWO6 and observed the existence of a mix system for x<0.4 and a solid solution for 0.4≤x≤1. Rietveld refinements of the monoclinic structures of the solid solution system showed that the Lu³⁺ cations are distributed on the Bi sites. X-ray diffraction analyses coupled with Raman spectroscopy results showed the existence of disordered distributions of Lu and Bi atoms, associated with local distortions.

The photoluminescence under monochromatic UV excitation seems to be strongly related to the formation of the monoclinic structure induced by the substitution of bismuth by lutetium. It has been decomposed into two types of emissions: the classical emission of tungstate groups WO₆⁶⁻ with two components due to charge transfers “W5d → O2p” in the case of octahedral coordination, and a specific emission (narrow band at 1.25 eV) strongly related to the presence of lutetium. The exact origin of this NIR emission is not clearly established. If we refer to literature results on tungstates, this NIR emission might be due to defect centers due to oxygen vacancies or defect centers due to bismuth species with different valences or different molecular clustering.

**Acknowledgments:** A part of this work was financially supported by the CNRS-CNRST project N° 0749/14, by the Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, by the General Council of Var and by Toulon Provence Mediterranean.
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