



HANDBOOK OF OPTICAL MATERIALS

Marvin J. Weber



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Preface

The *Handbook of Optical Materials* is a compilation of the physical properties of optical materials used in optical systems and lasers. It contains extensive data tabulations but with a minimum of narration, in a style similar to that of the *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*. References to original or secondary sources of the data are included throughout. The objective of the handbook is to provide a convenient, reliable source of information on the properties of optical materials.

Data in a handbook of optical materials can be presented by material (e.g., SiO₂, CaF₂, Ge), by property (e.g., refractive index, thermal expansion, hardness), by wavelength region (e.g., infrared, visible, ultraviolet), or by application (e.g., transmitting optics, laser hosts, polarizers). In this handbook data are grouped by material properties. Thereby one can compare different materials with respect to their properties and suitability for a particular application.

The volume is divided into sections devoted to various forms of condensed matter (crystals, glasses, polymers, metals), liquids, and gases. Within each section physical properties, linear and nonlinear optical properties, and many special properties such as electrooptic, magneto-optic, and elasto-optic properties of the materials are tabulated. The optical solids included are mainly inorganic materials; optical liquids are mainly organic substances.

If by an optical material one means a material that exhibits some optical property such as transmission, absorption, reflection, refraction, scattering, etc., the number of materials to be considered becomes unmanageable. Thus the inclusion of materials in this volume is selective rather than exhaustive. In the case of commercial optical glasses, for example, properties of representative types of glasses are given but not properties for all compositional variations. Glasses with special properties or for special applications are included, however.

Bulk materials rather than thin films and multilayer structures are considered. Although optical glasses epitomizes an engineered material, other engineered optical materials such as nanomaterials, quantum wells, or photonic crystals are also not included (although one of the last is listed in Appendix II).

Although today optics can encompass x-ray and millimeterwave optics, coverage is limited to materials for the spectral range from the vacuum ultraviolet (~100 nm) to the infrared (up to 100 μ m) portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Among optical materials and properties not treated explicitly are photorefractive materials, liquid crystals, optical fibers, phase-change optical recording materials, luminescent materials (phosphors, scintillators), optical damage, and materials preparation and fabrication.

Much of the numerical data in this handbook is from Volumes III, IV, V, and Supplement 2 of the *CRC Handbook of Laser Science and Technology*. These volumes should be consulted for more detailed descriptions of properties and their measurement (the contents of the volumes and the contributors are given in the following pages). In many instances the data in these volumes have been reformatted and combined with additions and recent developments. Several new sections have been added. For example, gases can play various roles as

an optical material—as transmitting media, active media for Faraday rotation, frequency conversion, filter, and phase conjugation. Physical and optical properties of a selected number of gases are therefore included in a final section.

The discovery of new optical materials has been accompanied by a somewhat bewildering and befuddling proliferation of abbreviations and acronyms. An appendix has been added to decode several hundred of these terms. Common or mineralogical names for optical materials are also included. Methods of preparing optical materials and thin films have developed their own terminology; many of these abbreviations are given in another appendix.

This volume has benefited from the efforts of many contributors to the *CRC Handbook of Laser Science and Technology* series. I am indebted to them for what in many cases have been very extensive compilations. In the course of preparing this volume I have also benefited from other input provided by Mark Davis, Alexander Marker, Lisa Moore, John Myers, and Charlene Smith; these are gratefully acknowledged. Finally, I appreciate the excellent help provided by Project Editors Samar Haddad and Joette Lynch, Production Supervisor Helena Redshaw, and the staff of the CRC Press in the process of preparing this handbook.

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The Author

Marvin John Weber received his education at the University of California, Berkeley, and was awarded the A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in physics. After graduation, Dr. Weber continued as a postdoctoral Research Associate and then joined the Research Division of the Raytheon Company where he was a Principal Scientist working in the areas of spectroscopy and quantum electronics. As Manager of Solid State Lasers, his group developed many new laser materials including rare-earth-doped yttrium orthoaluminate. While at Raytheon, he also discovered luminescence in bismuth germanate, a scintillator crystal widely used for the detection of high energy particles and radiation.

During 1966 to 1967, Dr. Weber was a Visiting Research Associate with Professor Arthur Schawlow's group in the Department of Physics, Stanford University.

In 1973, Dr. Weber joined the Laser Program at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. As Head of Basic Materials Research and Assistant Program Leader, he was responsible for the physics and characterization of optical materials for high-power laser systems used in inertial confinement fusion research. From 1983 to 1985, he accepted a transfer assignment with the Office of Basic Energy Sciences of the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, DC, where he was involved with planning for advanced synchrotron radiation facilities and for atomistic computer simulations of materials. Dr. Weber returned to the Chemistry and Materials Science Department at LLNL in 1986 and served as Associate Division Leader for condensed matter research and as spokesperson for the University of California/National Laboratories research facilities at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory. He retired from LLNL in 1993 and is at present a staff scientist in the Department of Nuclear Medicine and Functional Imaging of the Life Sciences Division at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Dr. Weber is Editor-in-Chief of the multi-volume *CRC Handbook Series of Laser Science and Technology*. He has also served as Regional Editor for the *Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids*, as Associate Editor for the *Journal of Luminescence* and the *Journal of Optical Materials*, and as a member of the International Editorial Advisory Boards of the Russian journals *Fizika i Khimiya Stekla* (Glass Physics and Chemistry) and *Kvantovaya Elektronika* (Quantum Electronics).

Among several honors he has received are an Industrial Research IR-100 Award for research and development of fluorophosphate laser glass, the George W. Morey Award of the American Ceramics Society for his basic studies of fluorescence, stimulated emission, and the atomic structure of glass, and the International Conference on Luminescence Prize for his research on the dynamic processes affecting luminescence efficiency and the application of this knowledge to laser and scintillator materials.

Dr. Weber is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the Optical Society of America, and the American Ceramics Society and a member of the Materials Research Society.

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Section 1

CRYSTALLINE MATERIALS

1.1 Introduction*

Crystalline materials included in this section are insulators and semiconductors that have a transparent region within the range from the vacuum ultraviolet (from ~100 nm) to the infrared (up to 100 μm) portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. Crystals with wide band gaps are transparent from the ultraviolet through the visible region; crystals with a narrower band gap may appear opaque but are transparent in the infrared region. Using this broad transparency definition of optical crystals, virtually all known crystals can be included. Coverage, however, is limited to those crystals which either occur in nature or are produced in the laboratory for optical use or with potential for such use. For this reason hydrate or hydroxide crystals are generally excluded because they are thermally less stable and have limited transmission range due to OH absorption. Highly hygroscopic materials are also excluded because of the obvious difficulty of handling, unless they have already been used, such as urea, KDP, CD*A, etc. Only pure compounds are considered. Compounds containing elements having intrinsic absorptions due to incompletely filled d or f shell electrons are also avoided.

Other critical issues for the use of optical crystals are solid-state phase transitions that occur as a function of both temperature and pressure and polymorphism. Compounds that have a very small stability field or serious phase transition problems have limited use as optical materials. Phase change and decomposition temperatures of crystals are noted in Section 1.5 on thermal properties. Generally only the thermodynamically stable structure at room temperature and pressure are listed in this section. Compounds that have naturally occurring polymorphic forms are included, however, e.g., CaCO_3 , TiO_2 , and aluminum silicate Al_2SiO_5 . In other cases, only the stable phase is listed, e.g., quartz ($\alpha\text{-SiO}_2$).

Many compounds were considered appropriate as entries of optical crystals in Sections 1.1–1.3 regardless of the amount of information available. As Chai* has noted, merely showing the existence of a compound with its chemical constituents can help to estimate the stability of its isomorphs and the structural tolerance of doping or other modifications. Most of the basic material properties such as optical transparency and refractive indices of an unstudied compound can be estimated with reasonable accuracy based on its better studied isomorphs that have measured properties listed in the tables.

Optical crystals in Sections 1.1–1.3 are classified into three categories:

Isotropic crystals include materials through which monochromatic light travels with the same speed, regardless of the direction of vibration, and the vibration direction of a light ray is always perpendicular to the ray path. Whereas amorphous materials such as glasses and plastics are isotropic, only those crystals with cubic symmetry are isotropic.

* This section was adapted from "Optical crystals" by B. H. T. Chai, *Handbook of Laser Science and Technology, Suppl. 2, Optical Materials* (CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 1995), p. 3 ff (with additions).