

Modification of Phosphate Network in binary zinc phosphate glass

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Zinc phosphate glass has significant potential for practical applications, owing to its unique physical and structural properties. Therefore, understanding the network structure of a zinc phosphate glass is one of the most important unresolved issues in glass science. In the present study, atomic structure of zinc phosphate glass (60ZnO-40P₂O₅ and 70ZnO-30P₂O₅ glass) was revealed by reverse Monte Carlo modeling[1] using a combination of neutron diffraction[2], X-ray diffraction and Zn K-edge extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) data with several chemical coordination constraints around phosphorus atoms based on ³¹P NMR data. The network structure is found to be largely taken by PO₄ tetrahedra in 60ZnO-40P₂O₅ glass while the connectivity of Zn-O polyhedra becomes dominant in 70ZnO-30P₂O₅ glass[3]. This behaviour suggests that the thermal expansion coefficient is sensitive to the difference in glass structure induced by the addition of 10 mol% ZnO.

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