

Properties of Zirconia Nanoceramics under High-Energy Electrons Irradiation

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Formation of radioactive isotopes is investigated under irradiation by relativistic electrons with energy up to 100 MeV. Radioactive isotopes ^{87,88}Y, ^{88,89,95}Zr, ⁹⁵Nb, ¹⁷⁵Hf are registered after irradiation by relativistic electrons with energy 47.2 MeV. The present data are necessary for the choice of a material for a dielectric wakefield accelerator. The greatest danger at operation of accelerators represents ⁸⁸Y. Formation of radiation defects in nanoceramics is investigated. The various types of radiation defects are found out at an irradiation by relativistic electrons with energy 47 MeV and 86 MeV. In UV-VIS spectra the absorption lines of radiation are registered at 402.2 nm and 635 nm, which correspond to the F and F' centers of monocline lattices of zirconia. It is revealed, that krypton atoms are the centers of segregation of point defects.

Keywords: Dielectric constant, zirconia, Wake-Field accelerators, Radiation damages, Nanoceramics, Color centers, Nuclear reaction.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Dielectric resonator for wakefield accelerators should have high values of dielectric constant ($\epsilon > 20$) and small dielectric losses ($\text{tg}\delta < 10^{-4}$) and to keep these parameters during acceleration of particles. Therefore influence of radiation damages on dielectric parameters flying relativistic electron bunches represents significant interest [1, 2].

One of possible materials for dielectric waveguides can be zirconia. It has good mechanical and ionic properties. It is used as a grinding medium and engineering ceramics. Therefore, the material properties, inducing optical properties, are of a high interest. The favorable properties of ZrO₂-based materials become especially pronounced if these materials were fabricated of powders of nanoscopic size. It is well known that the phase stabilization of zirconia can be achieved by an addition of a certain amount of the trivalent yttrium oxide (Y₂O₃, yttria) to form a solid solution in the ZrO₂ lattice.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

ZrO₂-3 mol% Y₂O₃ nanopowders (3Y-TZP) were synthesized by a co-precipitation technique using ZrOCl₂·nH₂O salts. Calcinations temperature of dried zirconium hydroxides was chosen at 700 °C with dwelling time 2 hours. This calcinations temperature provide the formation of unagglomerated nanopowders and sintering obtained nanopowders to density near theoretical at 1400-1500°C. The density was 6,0-6,02 g/cm³ for ceramic materials, obtained by sintering of zirconia nanopowders obtained from ZrOCl₂·nH₂O.

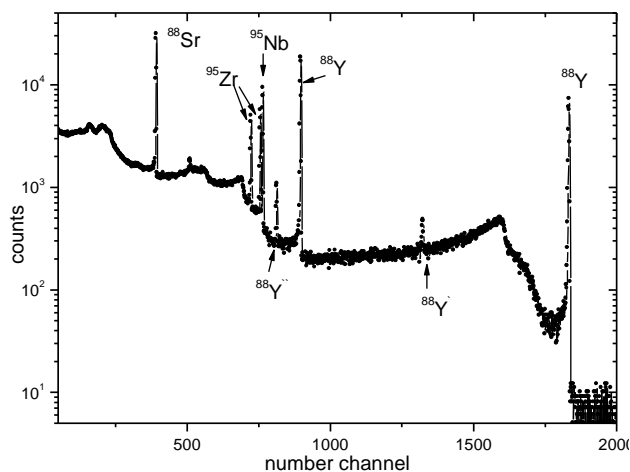


Fig. 1 – The spectrum of nanoceramics after irradiation at 47.2 MeV by dose $2.28 \cdot 10^{14}$ electrons/cm²

Radiation defects in nanoceramics zirconia were investigated after electron irradiation with energy 41–89 MeV up to a dose $2.28\text{--}5.7 \cdot 10^{14}$ electrons/cm² (fig. 1,2). At an irradiation by electrons and bremsstrahlung of nanoceramics in Zr of natural isotopic content (⁹⁰Zr - 51.46%; ⁹¹Zr - 11.23%; ⁹²Zr - 17.11%; ⁹⁴Zr - 17.40%; ⁹⁶Zr - 2.8%) the highest activity is realized from an isotope ⁸⁹Zr, received in reaction ⁹⁰Zr(γ, n)⁸⁹Zr [3]. The half-life period of ⁸⁹Zr equals to 79.3 hours and in long-term aspect it does not represent danger. Also activity and from an isotope ⁹⁵Zr from reaction ⁹⁶Zr(γ, n)⁹⁵Zr with a half-life period of 64.05 days can be realized. However on an isotope ⁹⁴Zr can activity from ⁹³Zr with $T_{1/2} = 9.5 \cdot 10^5$ years is realized. During work of the ceramic resonator its irradiation by bremsstrahlung and neutrons, arising in accompanying reactions, can be realized. For example, ⁹³Zr can arise in reaction of radiation capture on ⁹²Zr. Therefore

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for significant activity of ^{93}Zr it is necessary to carry out its burial in geological structures. From the point of view of radiating safety at operation of wake-field accelerators the greatest danger represents ^{88}Y which is formed in reactions $^{89}\text{Y}(\gamma, n)^{88}\text{Y}$ or $^{89}\text{Y}(e, n)^{88}\text{Y}$. The half-life period ^{88}Y amounts 106.65 days. Disintegration ^{88}Y is accompanied by radiation of two intensive lines with energy 898 and 1836 keV.

Activity of the isotopes generated by electron irradiation of samples of nanoceramics was measured by Ge(Li)-detector. Radioactive isotopes $^{87,88}\text{Y}$, $^{88,89,95}\text{Zr}$, ^{95}Nb , ^{175}Hf are registered after irradiation of electrons with energy 41 and 47.2 MeV (fig. 1).

The activity of ^{83}Rb was registered after irradiation by electrons with energy 86 and 88.9 MeV (fig. 2). Activity of ^{83}Rb can be formed in reactions $(\gamma, 6n)$ or $(e, 6n)$. The threshold of the given reactions equals to 59.4 MeV.

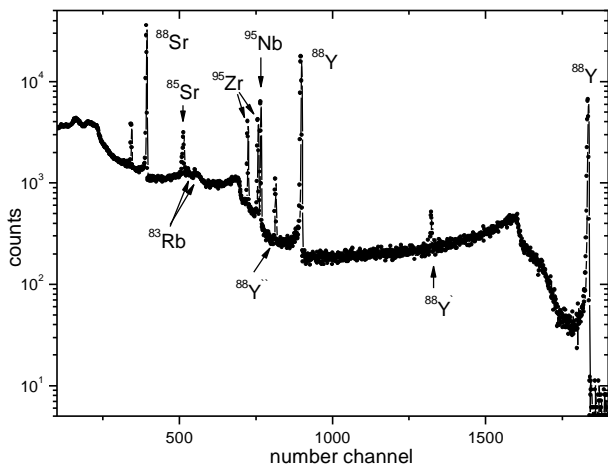


Fig. 2 – The spectrum of nanoceramics after irradiation at 86 MeV by dose $5.7 \cdot 10^{14}$ electrons/cm²

The maximal energy of recoil atoms E_{rec} of oxygen or zirconium in nanoceramics at irradiation by relativistic electrons equals:

$$E_{rec} = \frac{2E_1(E_1 + 2m_0c^2)}{M_2c^2}, \quad (1)$$

where m_0 , E_1 – weight and energy electrons, M_2 - weight of atoms of oxygen or zirconium. For energy electrons 47.2 MeV the maximal energy of recoil atoms of oxygen will amount 302 keV. For atoms of recoil zirconium the maximal energy of recoil atoms will amount 53 keV. For energy electrons 86 MeV the maximal energy of recoil atoms of oxygen will amount 998 keV. For atoms of recoil zirconium the maximal energy of recoil atoms will amount 175 keV. The number of the displaced atoms at braking recoil atoms with such energy can amount 6000, 1000 (47.2 MeV) and $\approx 2 \cdot 10^4$, 3500 (86 MeV), respectively. Recoil atoms with such energy can cause thermal spike. It in turn can result in transformation of initial structure of zirconia.

UV-VIS spectroscopy was used for measurement of spectra of absorption of the irradiated samples of zirconia nanoceramics before and after annealing during 2 hours at 500°C. Measurements of absorption spectra carried out concerning unirradiated sample of

nanoceramics. Up to annealing samples of zirconia nanoceramics the wide peak of absorption in area of 500-700 nm is observed. Also are registered absorption lines of radiation at 402.2 and 635 nm which correspond to the F and F'-centres of monocline lattices of zirconia (fig. 3,4) [4].

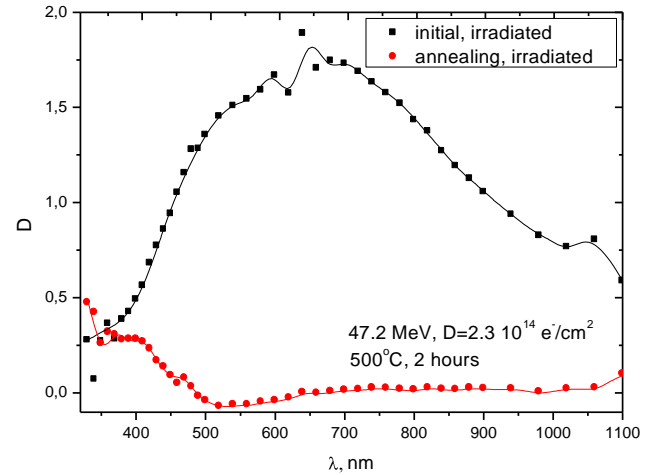


Fig. 3 – UV-VIS spectra of zirconia samples of nanoceramics irradiated by relativistic electrons with energy 47.2 MeV before and after annealing

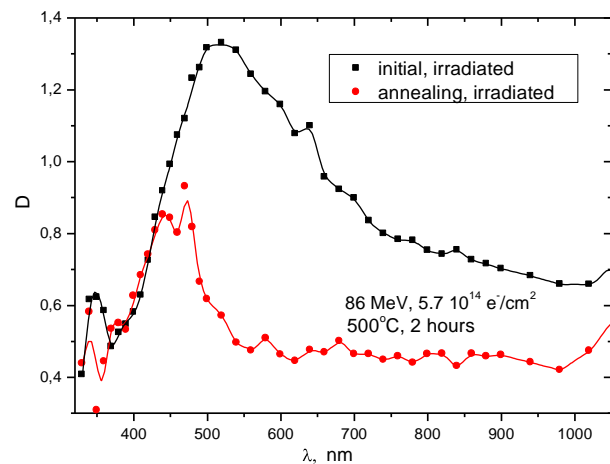


Fig. 4 – UV-VIS spectra of zirconia samples of nanoceramics irradiated by relativistic electrons with energy 86 MeV before and after annealing

Different process of annealing radiation defects in samples of zirconia nanoceramics is detected after irradiated by electrons with energy 41-47.2 or 86-88.9 MeV. The color centers for samples of zirconia nanoceramics after irradiated by electrons with energy 41-47.2 MeV practically completely was annealed at 500°C (fig. 3). For samples of zirconia nanoceramics after irradiated by electrons with energy 86-88.9 MeV and after annealing at 500°C significant absorption for lengths of waves of 430 and 470 nm is observed (fig. 4). It is supposed that these distinctions at annealing the colour centres of zirconia are caused by formation in nuclear reactions by high-energy electrons on isotopes of a matrix of krypton atoms. The krypton atoms are the centers segregation point defects. As a result the steady defective complexes were formed [5-8].

3. CONCLUSION

1. Formation of radioactive isotopes is investigated at an irradiation relativistic electrons with energy up to 100 MeV. The present data are necessary at planning a choice of a material of a dielectric wave guide of wake-field accelerators. The greatest danger at operation of accelerators represents ^{88}Y .

2. Formation of radiation defects in nanoceramics is investigated. The various types of radiation defects are found out at an irradiation relativistic electrons with energy 47 and 86 MeV. It is revealed, that krypton atoms are centers of segregation of point defects.

3. Formation of the F and F'-centres of monocline phases is detected at an irradiation by relativistic electrons.

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