

On The Brightness Wave of Electroluminescent ZnS (Powders and Single Crystals)

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We describe a new method for analyzing the brightness wave which accounts for the temperature-dependence of the secondary peak, provides a different interpretation of the enhancement effect in ac+dc and gives a more detailed analysis of the spectral composition of the different harmonic components.

An electroluminescent cell excited by a sinusoidal electric field, emits a brightness wave which, when analyzed at the oscilloscope, presents the following characteristics:

- 1) the frequency is generally twice the excitation frequency;
- 2) the amplitude of two consecutive peaks may differ;
- 3) along with these so-called primary peaks, one observes generally smaller secondary peaks;
- 4) a constant emission is also present.

Of these characteristics, that of the secondary peak has received the most attention. DESTRIAU¹ was the first to observe that it may appear either during the ascending or the descending part of the primary peak. The same author later reported that an increase in voltage may cause the secondary peak to shift from the descending to the ascending part of the primary peak^{2,3}. CINGOLANI and LEVIALDI⁴ observe that in the enhancement effect due to ac + dc, the secondary peak is at a minimum for $R = R_{\max}$, where

$$R = \frac{B_{ac+dc}}{(B_{ac} + B_{dc})}$$

B_{ac} , B_{dc} , and B_{ac+dc} are the brightnesses when the cell is excited in ac, dc and ac + dc respectively.

Other authors⁵⁻⁷ report the disappearance of the secondary peak also when the phosphor is irradiated with ultraviolet. ZALM et al.⁸, and HAHN and SEEMANN⁹ have shown that, if one varies the temperature, the secondary peak may appear and disappear more than once: the authors attribute this to electron trapping at variously deep levels. HAAKE¹⁰, in an analysis based on the combination of two effects (trapping and the electric polarization of the crystal), shows that one can establish the trap depth by correlating the excitation frequency to the temperature corresponding to the maximum of the secondary peak. These measurements are in good agreement with thermoluminescence measurements.

Several authors have found that the spectral composition of the primary and secondary peaks is different. DESTRIAU had already pointed out this difference, without attempting any explanation. Other authors^{8,11,12} find that the secondary peak has a larger amount of green emission than the primary peak. ZALM¹³, as well, attributes the secondary peak to electrons coming from the traps.

Experimental Results and Discussion

We undertook to study the brightness wave by means of a different apparatus from that heretofore used for this purpose. The brightness wave was

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¹ G. DESTRIAU, Brit. J. Appl. Phys. **49**, Suppl. No. 4 [1955].

² G. DESTRIAU and H. F. IVEY, Proc. IRE **43**, 1911 [1955].

³ G. DESTRIAU, Illum. Eng. **51**, 197 [1956].

⁴ A. CINGOLANI and A. LEVIALDI, Phys. **17**, 271 [1965].

⁵ F. MATOSI, Phys. Rev. **98**, 434 [1955]; **101**, 1835 [1956].

⁶ K. PATEK, Czechoslov J. Phys. **9**, 161 [1959].

⁷ F. MATOSI and S. NUDELMAN, J. Electrochem. Soc. **103**, 122 [1956].

⁸ P. ZALM, G. DIEMER, and H. A. KLASSENS, Philips Res. Rept. **9**, 81 [1964].

⁹ D. HAHN and F. W. SEEMAN, Z. Naturforschg. **10 a**, 586 [1955].

¹⁰ C. H. HAAKE, J. Appl. Phys. **28**, 117 [1957].

¹¹ W. A. THORNTON, Phys. Rev. **102**, 38 [1956]; **103**, 1585 [1956].

¹² J. WEISZBURG, J. SCHANDA, and Z. BODO, Phil. Mag. (8) **4**, 830 [1959].

¹³ P. ZALM, Philips Res. Rept. **11**, 353, 417 [1956].

analyzed with a Brüel and Kjøer type 2107 frequency analyzer. We find that:

- 1) the secondary peak is associated with a frequency four times that of the excitation frequency ν ;
- 2) the primary peaks have a frequency twice that of excitation;
- 3) the asymmetry of the successive primary peaks appears as a frequency equal to that of excitation.

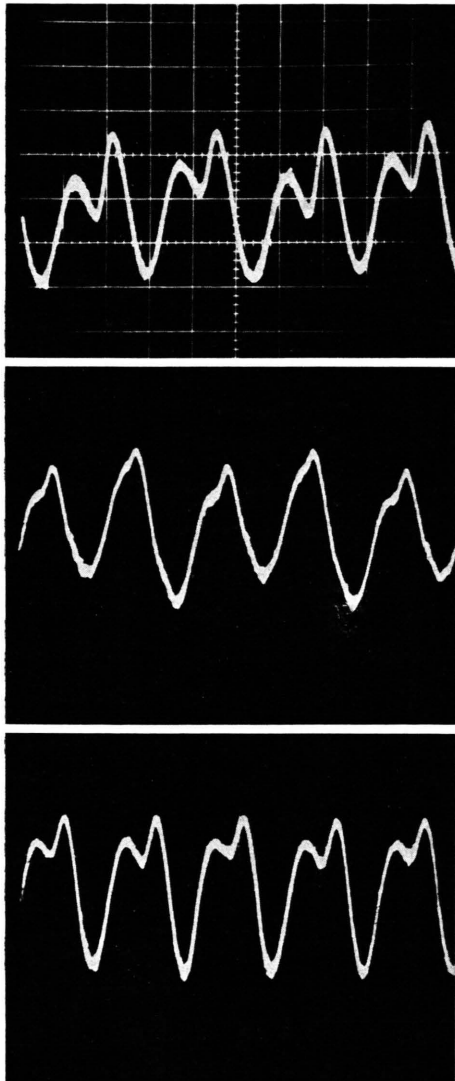


Fig. 1. a) The brightness wave of a ZnS (Cu) crystal, as seen on an oscilloscope directly attached to a phototube; b) the same wave without the 4ν frequency component; c) the same wave without the ν frequency component.

These findings may be seen in the photographs that make up Fig. 1. The whole brightness wave is shown above; in the middle we have the same wave with the frequency component 4ν removed from it. As one may see, the secondary peak has almost entirely disappeared (the remainder is due to the limited frequency rejection of our instrument). Below, the same wave is shown with the frequency ν removed. One sees that in this case the difference in amplitude between primary peaks disappears.

We have also analyzed the enhancement effect for ac + dc and have found that, contrary to what has been reported previously⁴, the secondary peak does not diminish but is simply masked by the growth of the ν component. In ac + U.V., also, the disappearance of the secondary peak is only apparent: SCHANDA¹⁴ in a study of photoelectroluminescence in ZnS powders, reaches the same conclusion.

In order to distinguish more clearly the three principal components of the brightness wave, we carried out measurements to determine the dependence of these components on other independent parameters such as temperature, voltage, excitation frequency and the emission wave-length. These measurements were made on variously activated ZnS powders, on mixed powders of ZnCdS(Mn) and on ZnS(Cu) crystals: in all these materials we found a secondary peak as component 4ν . The emission spectra were analyzed with a Hilger model D 285 monochromator.

Fig. 2 shows the variation of the logarithm of the brightness of the single components as a function of $(V)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ at R.T. and at L.N.T., for a ZnS(Cu)

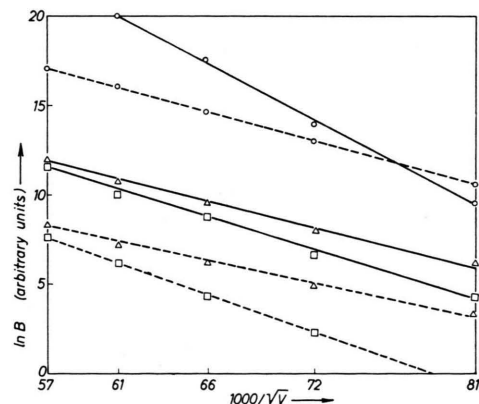


Fig. 2. Logarithm of the brightness wave components $B_{2\nu}$ (\circ), $B_{4\nu}$ (\triangle), B_{ν} (\square) as function of $V^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. — RT, --- LNT.

¹⁴ J. SCHANDA, Intern. Luminescence Symposium, Munich 1965.

crystal. All components obey the electroluminescence law

$$B = A \exp(-b/\sqrt{V})$$

where B is the brightness, A and b are constants and V is the applied voltage. However, we observe that the slope is not equal for all; the magnitudes shown in Fig. 2, i.e., B_ν , $B_{2\nu}$, $B_{4\nu}$, are respectively the brightness corresponding to emission frequencies ν , 2ν , 4ν . Fig. 3 shows the variation of these

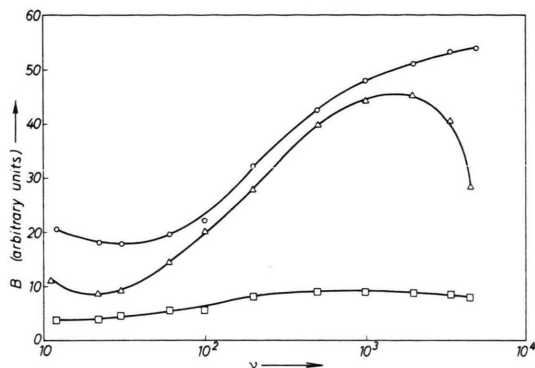


Fig. 3. Dependence on the excitation frequency ν of the brightness wave components $B_{2\nu}$ (\circ), $B_{4\nu}$ (\triangle) and B_ν (\square).

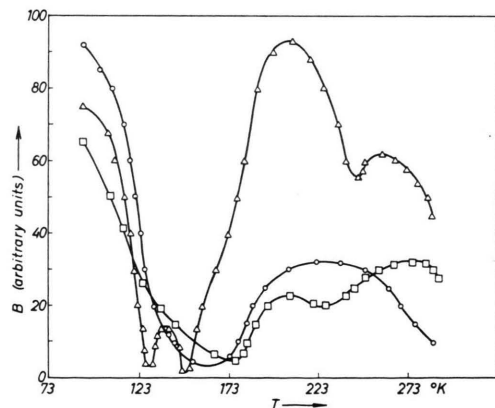


Fig. 4. Temperature-dependence of the brightness wave components B_ν (\circ), $\frac{1}{5} B_{2\nu}$ (\triangle) and $B_{4\nu}$ (\square). The $B_{2\nu}$ component has been divided by the factor 5 for each temperature, in order to fit it into the graph.

same components as a function of the frequency, and Fig. 4 provides proof that the secondary peak is close to zero only for temperatures around 173 °K. Fig. 5 illustrates the $B_{4\nu}/B_{2\nu}$ ratio as a function of the temperature. As one can see, two peaks are present and this leads one to think that, in agreement with several authors^{8,10,15}, the secondary peak is correlated to the traps. All temperature

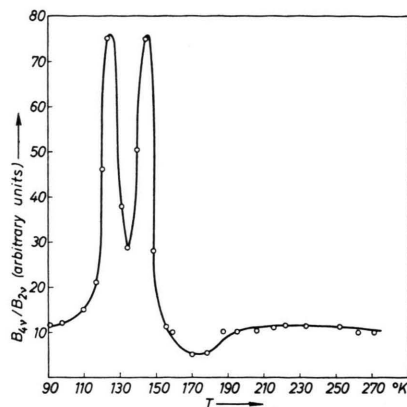


Fig. 5. Relationship between secondary and primary peak, as function of temperature.

dependence measurements were carried out on a ZnS(Cu) crystal.

The difference in spectral composition between the primary and secondary peaks, reported by several authors, shows up clearly in our experiment if one analyzes the frequencies. Fig. 6 shows these spectra for an electroluminescent cell with a blue-green emission.

In this same figure one notices that the blue content is smaller in the B_ν component than in the

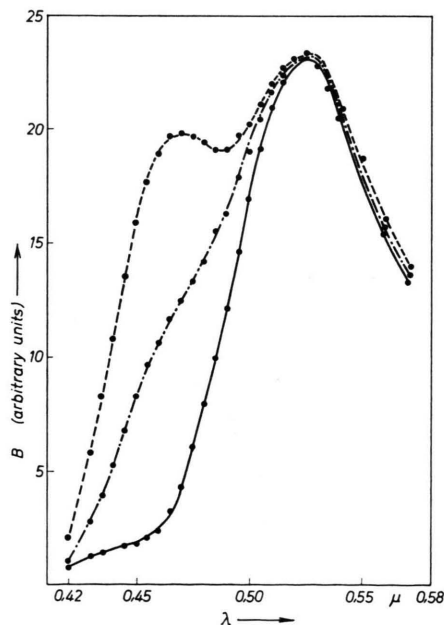


Fig. 6. Spectral composition of the brightness wave components $B_{2\nu}$ (\cdots), $B_{4\nu}$ ($-\cdots-$) and B_ν ($-$), in a blue-green electroluminescent ZnS(CuCl) cell.

$B_{4\nu}$, as was also found by SCHANDA¹⁶. Since the asymmetry, shown up by the frequency ν , is present also in intrinsic emission, that is, with electrodes isolated from the crystal, one must conclude that it does depend not only on the difference between electrodes but also on the asymmetry of the crystal itself.

The experimental method used here appears to be unambiguous in that:

- I) it provides a clear definition of the secondary peak,

¹⁵ H. E. GÜMLICH, R. MOSER, and E. NEUMANN, Phys. Status Solidi 7, K 163 [1964].

II) it enables the spectral analysis of the harmonic components,

III) it suggests a different interpretation of the enhancement effect, in which the flux of injected electrons increases while the effect of the traps on the secondary peak does not vary,

IV) it points out the true temperature-dependence of the secondary peak.

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¹⁶ J. SCHANDA, Personal Communication.

Über den Einfluß der Temperatur auf den Anisotropiegrad des Fluoreszenzlichtes fester Lösungen

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Die Untersuchungen des Anisotropiegrades (Polarisationsgrades) des Fluoreszenzlichtes von 1,1,4,4-Tetraphenylbutadien [TPB], 4,4'-Diphenylstilben [DPS] und 2-(1-naphthyl)-5-phenyloxazol [α -NPO] in Polymethylmethakrylat [PMAM] bei verschiedenen Temperaturen (von ca. 293 °K bis ca. 80 °K) wurden mit Hilfe einer sehr empfindlichen photoelektrischen Apparatur durchgeführt. Es wurde beobachtet, daß der Emissionsanisotropiegrad mit Erniedrigung der Temperatur anfangs steil abfällt und ab 263 °K ungefähr einen konstanten Wert erreicht. Das Verhalten des Emissionsanisotropiegrades von festen Fluoreszenzlösungen in Abhängigkeit von der Temperatur wurde mit Hilfe des inneren Depolarisationsmechanismus (einer Überlagerung von zwei Absorptionsbanden mit senkrecht zueinander orientierten Oszillatoren) erklärt und durch Messung der Absorptionsspektren bei verschiedenen Temperaturen bestätigt.

Es liegen bisher nur wenige Messungen über den Einfluß der Temperatur auf den Anisotropiegrad (Polarisationsgrad) des Fluoreszenzlichtes fester Lösungen vor. Die meisten Untersuchungen über die Abhängigkeit des Grundanisotropiegrades der Fluoreszenz von der Temperatur wurden bei nur zwei verschiedenen Temperaturen und mit Hilfe der visuellen Methode durchgeführt¹⁻³. GRZYWACZ³ hat auf Grund seiner Messungen festgestellt, daß der Grundanisotropiegrad der Fluoreszenz von Anthracen in Plexiglas mit Erniedrigung der Temperatur etwas wächst. Dagegen ergaben die Untersuchungen von CAHEN¹ eine ausgeprägte Abhängigkeit der

Temperatur der Lösung, z. B. ist für Fluorescein in alkoholischer Lösung $r = 0,26$ bei -80 °C und $r = 0,238$ bei -140 °C. Unsere letzten Untersuchungen⁴, die mit Hilfe einer sehr empfindlichen photoelektrischen Apparatur durchgeführt wurden, ergaben eine komplizierte Abhängigkeit des Anisotropiegrades von der Temperatur.

Es werden hier folgende Definitionen verwendet: Der Anisotropiegrad (Emissionsanisotropie) bei Anregung mit linear polarisiertem Licht wird nach JABLONSKI⁵ definiert als

$$r = \frac{I_{\parallel} - I_{\perp}}{I_{\parallel} + 2I_{\perp}} = \frac{2P}{3 - P}, \quad (1)$$

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² A. JABLONSKI, Acta Phys. Polon. 7, 15 [1938].

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⁴ A. KAWSKI, P. CZYŻ u. J. KUKIELSKI, Acta Phys. Polon 31, 825 [1967].

⁵ A. JABLONSKI, Acta Phys. Polon. 16, 471 [1957].