

# Rapid Synthesis of Eu<sup>2+</sup> and Dy<sup>3+</sup> Co-doped SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Thick Film by Chemical Vapor Deposition and Its Photoluminescence Properties

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Eu<sup>2+</sup> and Dy<sup>3+</sup> co-doped SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) has a wide range of applications as a persistent phosphor. We demonstrate the rapid synthesis of Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> thick film phosphors grown by laser-assisted CVD at deposition temperatures of 1010–1163 K, total chamber pressures of 280–6000 Pa, and Sr molar ratios in precursor vapor of 28.0–93.2 at%. A (100)-oriented Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> thick film was epitaxially grown on a c-cut sapphire substrate. Under UV irradiation, the film exhibited a green emission originating from 4f<sup>6</sup>5d<sup>1</sup>→4f<sup>7</sup> transitions of Eu<sup>2+</sup> ions.

## 1. Introduction

Persistent phosphors are materials that exhibit self-sustained luminescence that persists for a long time after an excitation light source, such as UV or visible light, is turned off. Until the 1990s, sulfide phosphors such as Cu and Co co-doped ZnS were used,<sup>(1,2)</sup> but they were unsuitable for practical use because of their short afterglow time of only a few hours. Therefore, they have been utilized to sustain the afterglow under continuous irradiation with alpha and beta rays produced by the radioactive decay of Ra, Pm, and <sup>3</sup>H, and applied to military applications, luminous paints, and watch dials.<sup>(1)</sup> However, the use of radioactive elements has led to safety issues at the time of disposal, limiting its mass production and application in daily life. In response to this sulfide phosphor challenge, a new persistent phosphor, Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup> co-doped SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>), was developed in 1993.<sup>(3)</sup> Today, this material is the most used persistent phosphor. This is because Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> has (i) higher luminous intensity and longer afterglow than conventional phosphorescent materials,<sup>(1)</sup> (ii) wider excitation wavelength and larger absorption cross section for the 4f<sup>6</sup>5d<sup>1</sup>→4f<sup>7</sup> transitions of the Eu<sup>2+</sup> center, and (iii) safe and easy handling because it does not contain radioactive materials. Therefore, its applications have been expanded to emergency signs, safety markings, luminous paints, watch dials, and outdoor goods. Nowadays, various phosphor materials have been developed, including Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Nd<sup>3+</sup>:CaAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,<sup>(4,5)</sup> Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:Sr<sub>4</sub>Al<sub>14</sub>O<sub>25</sub>,<sup>(6)</sup> and Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:Sr<sub>2</sub>MgSi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>.<sup>(7)</sup> However,

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challenges remain in synthesizing  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  powders via solid-state reactions,<sup>(8)</sup> such as the need for high synthesis temperatures and prolonged manufacturing time. Additionally, large and nonuniform particle sizes are also cited as issues, while grinding processes to reduce particle size significantly diminish the luminescent properties.

In cases where a uniform  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  coating can be applied to a substrate, it can be used as a damage detection sensor combining persistent luminescence and mechanoluminescence.<sup>(9)</sup> Pulse laser deposition (PLD) and sputtering have been studied for the synthesis of a film form.<sup>(10–12)</sup> However, both synthesis methods have the drawbacks of low deposition rate. Therefore, we focused on the laser-assisted CVD (LCVD) method. The LCVD method uses intense laser irradiation to heat the entire substrate. In addition, an active reaction field is created on the substrate, enabling synthesis at high deposition rates ( $10\text{--}300\text{ }\mu\text{m h}^{-1}$ ).<sup>(13,14)</sup> We have prepared transparent thick films of  $\text{HfO}_2$  and  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3$  phosphors and  $\text{Y}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$  and  $\text{SrFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  magneto-optic crystals by the LCVD method.<sup>(15–18)</sup> However, the synthesis of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films using both conventional CVD and LCVD methods have not been reported.

In this study, we demonstrate the high-speed epitaxial growth of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  thick-film phosphors. The effects of synthesis conditions on constituent phases, microstructure, and photoluminescence properties of the film were studied.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The LCVD apparatus has been described elsewhere.<sup>(19,20)</sup> Metal–organic compounds of  $\text{Sr}(\text{hfa})_2$ ,  $\text{Al}(\text{acac})_3$ ,  $\text{Eu}(\text{dpm})_3$ , and  $\text{Dy}(\text{dpm})_3$  were maintained at temperatures of 423–463, 513–533, 453, and 453 K, respectively, in the precursor furnaces (hfa: hexafluoroacetone, acac: acetylacetone, and dpm: dipivaloylmethanate). The resultant vapor was transferred to the CVD chamber using Ar carrier gas, and  $\text{O}_2$  gas was separately introduced to the chamber through a double-tubed nozzle. The Sr molar ratio in the precursor vapor ( $C_{\text{Sr}}$ ) was estimated from the mass change in each precursor before and after deposition. The total pressure of the CVD chamber ( $P_{\text{tot}}$ ) was maintained at 0.28–6.0 kPa. The substrate was c-cut sapphire ( $5 \times 5 \times 0.5\text{ mm}^3$ ) polished on both sides. The substrate was preheated to 1000 K on a heating stage, then irradiated with a  $\text{CO}_2$  laser (wavelength: 10.6  $\mu\text{m}$ ; maximum laser output: 60 W) through a ZnSe window. The laser irradiation heated the substrate to the deposition temperature ( $T_{\text{dep}}$ ) of 1010–1163 K. The deposition time was 0.6 ks.

The phase composition of the resultant film was determined by X-ray diffraction (XRD; Bruker D2 Phaser, USA). The microstructure was observed using a scanning electron microscope (SEM; JEOL JCM-6000, Japan). The photoluminescence (PL) and PL excitation (PLE) spectra and afterglow decay curve in the millisecond range were measured using a fluorescence spectrophotometer (JASCO FP8300, Japan). The measurement wavelength was set to 520 nm, and the excitation was performed with 365 nm light isolated from a Xe lamp using a monochromator. The exposure time was controlled to be approximately 200 ms using a mechanical rotary shutter. For the afterglow decay curve measurement in the seconds range, after 5 min of charging by exposure to a high-pressure mercury lamp equipped with a 365 nm band-pass filter (AS ONE SLUV-4, Japan), we filmed the afterglow of the specimens on digital

video, and the average pixel value of the region of interest was extracted from each frame of the acquired video using an in-house software with an OpenCV module.<sup>(21)</sup> For comparison, a commercially available Eu<sup>2+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup>:SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> powder (KENIS, Japan) was evaluated in the same setup.

### 3. Results and Discussion

SrO–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films were synthesized by varying  $C_{\text{Sr}}$  and  $P_{\text{tot}}$ . Figure 1 shows the effects of  $C_{\text{Sr}}$  and  $P_{\text{tot}}$  on the constituent phases of nondoped SrO–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films synthesized on a c-cut sapphire substrate. At  $P_{\text{tot}} = 280$  Pa, a mixture of SrAl<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> and SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> phases was synthesized irrespective of  $C_{\text{Sr}}$ . At  $P_{\text{tot}} = 3000$  and 6000 Pa, the phase of the obtained films changed from a mixture phase of Sr<sub>4</sub>Al<sub>14</sub>O<sub>25</sub>, SrAl<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub>, and SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> to a single phase of SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> to a mixture phase of SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and Sr<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> as  $C_{\text{Sr}}$  increased from 39.9 to 93.2 at%. The single-phase SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> films were prepared at  $P_{\text{tot}} = 3000$  and 6000 Pa and  $C_{\text{Sr}} = 69.4$ –72.7 at%. Figure 2 shows the typical XRD patterns of the films. As  $P_{\text{tot}}$  increases, the peak intensity of the SrAl<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> phase decreased and the peak intensity of the (400) plane of the SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> phase increased.

By comparing the stoichiometric ratio (33 at%) of SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with the  $C_{\text{Sr}}$  from which single-phase SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> films were obtained, we confirmed that the single-phase SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> films were synthesized in the Sr-rich range of  $C_{\text{Sr}} = 69.4$ –72.7 at%. This compositional deviation is due to the existence of the Al element in the sapphire substrate, and it is inferred that more Sr precursor

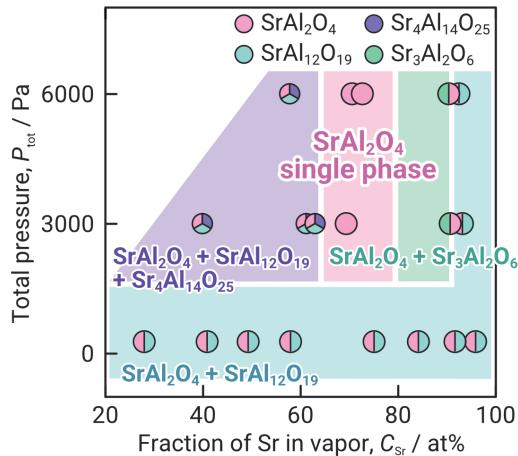


Fig. 1. (Color online) Effects of Sr molar ratio in precursor vapor ( $C_{\text{Sr}}$ ) and total pressure of chamber ( $P_{\text{tot}}$ ) on phase composition of SrO–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films prepared on c-cut sapphire substrate.

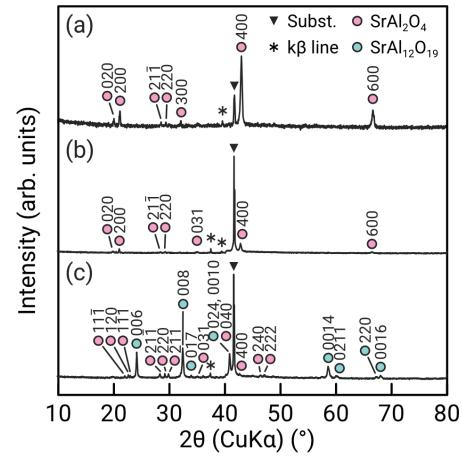


Fig. 2. (Color online) XRD patterns of (a) single-phase SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> film and (b, c) SrAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and SrAl<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> mixture-phase films prepared on c-cut sapphire substrate under various deposition conditions: (a)  $C_{\text{Sr}} = 75.1$  at% and  $P_{\text{tot}} = 280$  Pa, (b)  $C_{\text{Sr}} = 69.4$  at% and  $P_{\text{tot}} = 3000$  Pa, and (c)  $C_{\text{Sr}} = 72.7$  at% and  $P_{\text{tot}} = 6000$  Pa.

was required to form  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  in the initial stage of deposition. On the other hand, no single-phase  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film was obtained at  $P_{\text{tot}} = 280$  Pa, and the formation of an Al-rich  $\text{SrAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  phase was observed. In contrast, at  $P_{\text{tot}} = 3000$  Pa and 6000 Pa, no  $\text{SrAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  phase formation was observed and the single-phase  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film was obtained. The deposition of the  $\text{SrAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  phase at  $P_{\text{tot}} = 280$  Pa was attributed to the longer mean free path of precursor species resulting from the reduced pressure, and the Sr and Al components reached just above the substrate without the sufficient formation of  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$ , which might be the most chemically stable in the gas phase. As a result, Sr reacted with Al on the substrate, and the Al-rich  $\text{SrAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  phase was preferentially deposited. Furthermore, the misfit ratio between the c-plane of the sapphire substrate and the (001) plane of  $\text{SrAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  is 8.1%, which was smaller than the misfit ratio between the c-plane of the sapphire substrate and the (100) plane of  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$ . This may be another reason for the preferential precipitation of the  $\text{SrAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$  phase.

The cross-sectional microstructure of the single-phase  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film was dense and the thickness of the  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film was 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$ . The deposition rate was 10.3  $\mu\text{m h}^{-1}$ . Table 1 lists the deposition rate of  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films prepared by various deposition methods. The deposition rate using the LCVD method used in this study was approximately 94 times higher than that reported for the PLD method and 80–1090 times higher than that reported for the sputtering method.

$\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films were synthesized on c-cut sapphire substrates using the synthesis conditions of nondoped, single-phase  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films. Figure 3 shows the PL spectrum excited at the wavelength of 365 nm and PLE spectrum monitored at the wavelength of 520 nm. The film exhibited a green emission under UV light irradiation. The green emission of the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film was observed as a bimodal peak in the PL spectrum (solid lines in Fig. 3), which was due to the  $4\text{f}^65\text{d}^1 \rightarrow 4\text{f}^7$  transitions in  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  ions in  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$ .<sup>(22)</sup> Multimodal absorption peaks in the UV region were attributed to  $4\text{f}^65\text{d}^1 \leftarrow 4\text{f}^7$  transitions in  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  ions in  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  (dashed lines in Fig. 3).

$\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  possesses a three-dimensional network structure formed of  $\text{AlO}_4$  tetrahedra sharing vertices. Within this structure, two types of Sr site with different coordination environments exist.  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  probabilistically occupies two Sr sites, and the overlapping spectra from these two Sr sites with different 5d level splitting widths result in a complex PLE profile (dashed and short dashed lines in Fig. 4).<sup>(23)</sup> The absorption at 4.5–5.0 eV can be interpreted as originating from the charge-transfer band (CTB) of  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ .<sup>(24,25)</sup> The difference in the absorption peak intensity ratio at 3.4 and 3.9 eV (320 and 360 nm) can be attributed to the  $\text{Sr}_1/\text{Sr}_2$  site occupancy ratio, while the difference in the absorption peak intensity at 4.5–5.0 eV (250–275 nm) might be due to the difference in the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}/\text{Eu}^{3+}$  ratio. That is, the differences in PLE spectral shapes are presumed to result from variations in the  $\text{Sr}_1/\text{Sr}_2$  site occupancy and  $\text{Eu}^{2+}/\text{Eu}^{3+}$  ratio owing to

Table 1  
Deposition rates of  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films prepared by various deposition methods.

Method	Deposition rate ( $\mu\text{m h}^{-1}$ )	Reference
PLD	0.11	Ref. 10
Sputtering	0.13	Ref. 11
Sputtering	0.009	Ref. 12
LCVD	10.3	Present study

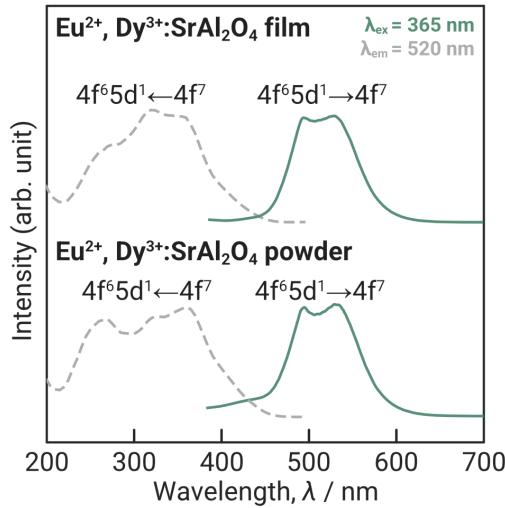


Fig. 3. (Color online) PLE (dashed) and PL (solid) spectra of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film prepared on c-cut sapphire substrate and those of commercial  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  powder.

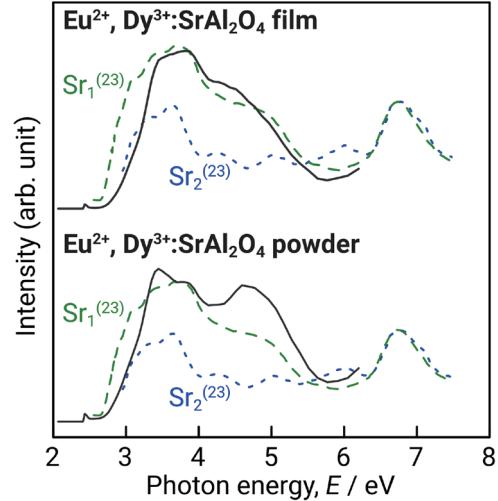


Fig. 4. (Color online) PLE spectra with photon energy of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film prepared on c-cut sapphire substrate and those of commercial  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  powder. Dashed and dotted lines represent PLE spectra for  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  in  $\text{Sr}_1$  and  $\text{Sr}_2$  sites, respectively.<sup>(23)</sup>

differences in the synthesis temperature and atmosphere of films and powders. In the CVD film, the  $\text{Sr}_1$  site was preferentially occupied, and the powder sample appeared to exhibit strong CTB absorption (Fig. 4).

Figure 5 shows the afterglow decay curve in the millisecond range of the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film and commercially available  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  powder monitored at the wavelength of 520 nm and excited at the wavelength of 365 nm. The intensity was normalized between 0 and 1000. The measured curves for both film and powder were similar and were also consistent with the reported ones.<sup>(26,27)</sup> The emission intensity of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  was reported to decrease rapidly in the first milliseconds, followed by a gradual decrease that may take several hours in long cases. The initial decay of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  has often been fitted by a multicomponent exponential equation, and the following equation is for a three-component system:

$$I(t) = A_1 \exp(-t/\tau_1) + A_2 \exp(-t/\tau_2) + A_3 \exp(-t/\tau_3), \quad (1)$$

where  $t$  is decay time;  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ , and  $A_3$  are constants; and  $\tau_1$ ,  $\tau_2$ , and  $\tau_3$  are decay time constants.<sup>(26)</sup> The decay time constants fitted with three exponential components using the Fityk software<sup>(28)</sup> are shown in Table 2. The time constants of the films obtained by measurement and the commercial powder were comparable. This behavior was consistent with the initial behavior reported for  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  prepared by coprecipitation methods.<sup>(26,27)</sup> This initial attenuation behavior has not been reported in the cases of other film synthesis methods.

The afterglow decay behavior of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  has been argued to have a complex origin.<sup>(29,30)</sup> When UV light or ionizing radiation is irradiated into  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$ , the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$

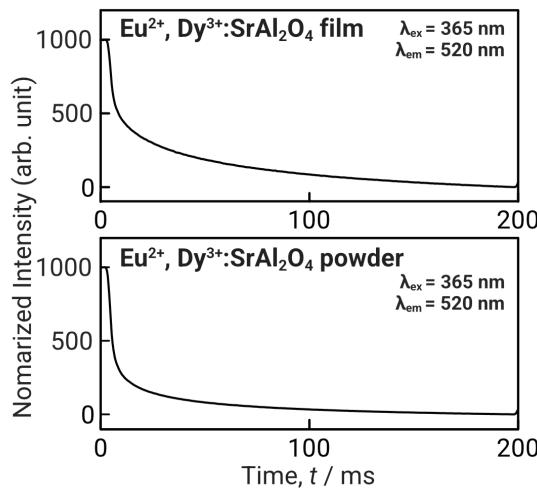


Fig. 5. (Color online) Afterglow decay curves in millisecond range of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film prepared on c-cut sapphire substrate and commercial powder.

Table 2  
Decay time constants for the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film and powder.

Sample	$\tau_1$ (ms)	$\tau_2$ (ms)	$\tau_3$ (ms)
CVD film	2.0	23.8	523.2
Commercial powder	3.3	29.2	284.0

center absorbs the energy, and electrons at the  $4f^7$  configuration in the ground state are excited to the  $4f^65d^1$  configuration. Electrons at the valence band are also excited to the conduction band, producing an electron=hole pair, which also transfers energy to the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  center. The photoluminescence decay due to the  $4f^65d^1 \rightarrow 4f^7$  transition of the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  center has been reported to be of several microsecond order.<sup>(5,31)</sup> Excited electrons or holes left in the valence band are trapped in localized defect levels formed by various defects, such as Sr or O deficiency and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  substitution, in the  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  lattice. Electrons from excited  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  ions may also be captured at defect levels. Carriers trapped in defect levels are in a metastable state. By receiving energy from phonons in the surrounding crystal lattice, the carriers are released from the defect level back into the conduction or valence band. The detrapped carriers travel to the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  center, where they recombine. This recombination process causes the afterglow emission via the  $4f^65d^1 \rightarrow 4f^7$  transition, resulting in a persistent luminescence on the order of seconds to hours.

On the other hand, defect levels have a distribution in the energetic depth, and carriers trapped in shallow levels easily gain thermal energy even at room temperature and are released in a short time, which is observed as a multicomponent exponential decay on the millisecond order, as plotted in Fig. 5. The persistent luminescence mechanism of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  involves numerous defect levels, and it has been proposed to fit the afterglow decay curve using di-, tri-, quad-, or quint-component exponential functions and their combinations for convenience.<sup>(26)</sup> In actual materials, trap depths are likely to be continuously distributed, and thus the number of decay time constants may take on the meaning of the number of representative points needed to approximate the distribution, not representing the exact number of emission

pathways. The finding that the film specimen can be fitted with the same-order values as the commercial powder sample suggests that broad defect levels contributing to persistent luminescence similar to those in the commercial powder sample were widely distributed within the film specimen.

The green emission of the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film can still be observed with the naked eye for at least 15 s. Figure 6 shows the afterglow decay in the seconds range estimated via video image analysis and the corresponding photographs of the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film excited at 365 nm. The synthesized film exhibited an afterglow for several tens of seconds after UV exposure was turned off.

Sato *et al.* prepared amorphous  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  thin films on a Si substrate by the sputtering method and obtained crystallized films after annealing in  $\text{H}_2$ -Ar atmosphere at 1173 K. They reported the afterglow emission at 520 nm that lasted over 20 min following excitation by a He-Cd laser (325 nm). The afterglow decay in the minutes range showed no difference from those of the powder.<sup>(10)</sup> Kato *et al.* prepared amorphous  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  thin films on Si substrate and the films showed green emissions after annealing in  $\text{H}_2$ -Ar or Ar atmosphere. They estimated trap levels by thermoluminescence measurement.<sup>(11)</sup> Fu *et al.* prepared  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  thin films on quartz glass substrates. The PLE spectrum showed a single broad peak centered at 345 nm. They reported that the green light can still be observed with the naked eye for 10 min.<sup>(12)</sup> Our CVD films can be synthesized at a higher deposition rate than those of PLD or sputtered thin films. Although the afterglow was short, the PL/PLE spectra and decay behavior in the millisecond range were similar to those of the powder sample. By further optimizing the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ / $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  ratio and concentration relative to the host material, the CVD method is expected to become a highly efficient manufacturing process for  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  persistent phosphors.

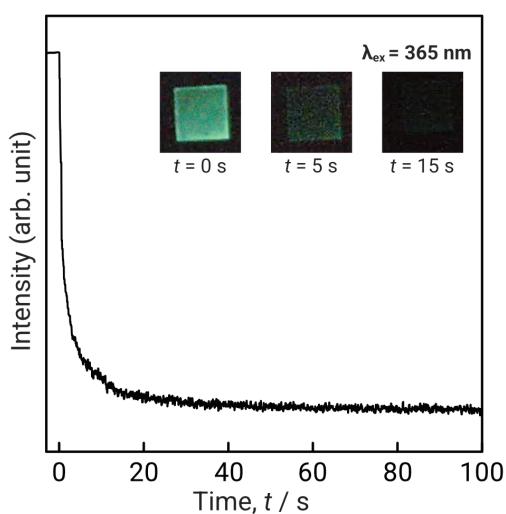


Fig. 6. (Color online) Afterglow decay curve of  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  film. Inset show the photographs of the film under UV irradiation and after 5 and 15 s of turning off the UV lights.

#### 4. Conclusions

$\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  thick film phosphors were synthesized using LCVD.  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films were epitaxially grown on c-cut sapphire substrates with (100) orientation with the typical deposition rate of  $10.3 \mu\text{m h}^{-1}$ . By considering the chemical species balance between precursor vapor and substrate surface, the synthesis conditions for single-phase  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films were determined to be  $C_{\text{Sr}} = 69.4\text{--}72.7$  at%,  $P_{\text{tot}} = 3000\text{--}6000 \text{ Pa}$ , and  $T_{\text{dep}} = 1010\text{--}1163 \text{ K}$ . Under UV irradiation, the  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ : $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$  films emitted green light with bimodal peaks at 495 and 520 nm, which were associated with the  $4f^65d^1 \rightarrow 4f^7$  transition in  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  ions in  $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4$ .

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