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Accession number:20123215307570

Title:High-resolution terahertz optical absorption study of the antiferromagnetic resonance transition in hematite (α -Fe₂O₃)

Authors:Chou, Shin G. (1); Stutzman, Paul E. (2); Wang, Shuangzhen (2); Garboczi, Edward J. (2); Egelhoff, William F. (3); Plusquellic, David F. (1)

Author affiliation:(1) Physical Measurement Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, United States; (2) Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, United States; (3) Material Measurement Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, United States

Corresponding author:Chou, S.G.(shinchou@alum.mit.edu)

Source title:Journal of Physical Chemistry C

Abbreviated source title:J. Phys. Chem. C

Volume:116

Issue:30

Issue date:August 2, 2012

Publication year:2012

Pages:16161-16166

Language:English

ISSN:19327447

E-ISSN:19327455

Document type:Journal article (JA)

Publisher:American Chemical Society, 2540 Olentangy River Road, P.O. Box 3337, Columbus, OH 43210-3337, United States

Abstract:We report high-resolution optical absorption measurements between 1.5 and 10 cm⁻¹ of the antiferromagnetic (AFM) resonance transition in α -Fe₂O₃. The AFM transition is measured over a range of temperatures from 4 to 325 K that includes the low- and high-temperature branches separated by a magnetic phase transition near 260 K. The high-resolution measurements devoid of optical interference were made possible by improving the frequency stability of the near-infrared lasers used to generate terahertz radiation (± 0.0003 cm⁻¹) and by taking advantage of the large temperature dependence of the AFM transition frequency. The temperature dependence of both branches could be well-fit to a magnon model. A slight difference in temperature dependence between the hematite samples with different annealing treatments was observed in the low-temperature branch. The difference is qualitatively explained by changes in the higher order crystalline anisotropy energy resulting from slightly altered magnetic interactions due to the annealing treatment. The sensitivity achieved using these methods permits a detailed characterization of the optically excited AFM magnon in the absence of magnetic fields over a wide temperature range, thus making the terahertz-based optical platform suitable for nondestructive examination applications for many AFM materials and devices. © This article not subject to U.S. Copyright. Published 2012 by the American Chemical Society.

Number of references:41

Main heading:Hematite

Controlled terms:Antiferromagnetism - Light absorption - Nondestructive examination - Temperature distribution

Uncontrolled terms:AFM - Annealing treatments - Antiferromagnetic resonance - Antiferromagnetics - Crystalline anisotropy - High resolution - High temperature - High-resolution measurements - Low temperatures - Magnetic interactions - Magnetic phase transitions - Near-infrared lasers - Optical absorption measurement - Optical absorption studies - Optical platforms - Resonance transition - Temperature dependence - Temperature range - Tera Hertz - Terahertz radiation - Transition frequencies

Classification code:421 Strength of Building Materials; Mechanical Properties - 482.2 Minerals - 641.1 Thermodynamics - 708.4 Magnetic Materials - 741.1 Light/Optics

DOI:10.1021/jp3036567

Database:Compendex

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