



Rational Design and Synthesis of New Nonlinear Optical Materials

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OUTLINE

1. Background

2. Main Research Results

3. Further Work Plans



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1. Background

2. Main Research Results

3. Further Work Plans



1.1 The development history of NLO crystal

- In 1960, Maiman^[1] invented the ruby (Cr³⁺ : Al₂O₃) laser.
- The nonlinear optical (NLO) effect was first observed in 1961 by Franken^[2].
 Then the search for new NLO materials becomes the focus of research.



The experiment setup of frequency conversion

[1] T. H. Maiman, *Nature*, 1960, 187, 493.

[2] P. A. Franken, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett., 1961, 7, 118.



1.2 The applications of NLO crystal

NLO crystals are the key materials for the solid-state lasers to obtain UV/DUV coherent light.





1.3 Development of inorganic NLO crystals

	(D)UV		visible			infrared	
CAN	NOT meet the	e demand	meet basic needs		laser-induc	ed damage	
Large	e SHG Respo	156	I	1	threshold (LIDT) need	to be
Short	Cut-off Edge	2			improved		
High	laser-damage	d threshold		i			
• • •				1			
	DUV	UV	VIS		NIR	IR	
		0.2 0.	4	0.8	1.5		_н , т

165



1.4 Commercial (D)UV NLO crystals

BBO, LBO , CLBO and KBBF were developed by the scientists, and have been widely used in the world.





1.5 Commercial (D)UV NLO crystals

Till now, only KBBF allows straightforward sixth harmonic generation of 1064 nm (Nd:YAG) radiation: 177.3 nm (1064 nm/6)

David Cyranoski report:

"CHINA'S CRYSTAL CACHE"

A Chinese laboratory is the only source of a valuable crystal.

However, KBBF contains highly toxic beryllium and shows a strong layering tendency, which limit the performance in DUV NLO applications.



(Nature, 2009, 457, 953).







1.7 Research strategies

demands	strategies	examples	Pros	Cons
Large SHG	with Jahn-Teller cations	BiB ₃ O ₆ Pb ₂ B ₅ O ₉ I	large distortion and SHG	red-shift the cutoff edge
Cutoff edge	introduce Be to remove BO ₃ dangling bonds	KBBF family	shorter than 200 nm	toxic beryllium
birefring ence	with π-conjugation BO _{3,} CO ₃ , and NO ₃ units	KBBF ABCO ₃ F	Sufficient birefringence for phase- matching	strong layering tendency, difficult to grow

However, it is still a challenge to design an ideal DUV NLO crystal





OUTLINE 1. Background

2. Main Research Results

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2.1 Based on previous findings on NLO crystals

Set up a database containing advanced fundamental building units









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2.1 Based on previous findings on NLO crystals

Structure-property relationship analysis







2.2 Choosing the suitable system

Recently discovered metal borate halides are summarized, including their synthesis, crystal structure features, properties and second-order NLO performances.



Coord. Chem. Rev. 2016, 323, 15; Photonic and Electronic Properties of Fluoride Materials, Elsevier, 2016

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2.3 New strategy for designing DUV NLO materials

F-containing metal borates can be divided into two types:

(1) Borate fluorides (or fluoride borates) are double salts, in which one (or more)

fluorine atom is directly coordinated to the metal atoms, such as KBBF



(2) Fluorooxoborates (or simply fluoroborates) are anionic species, where one (or more) fluorine atom is directly coordinated to the B atoms, such as KBF₄, LiB₆O₉F, Na₂B₆O₉F₂, etc.



2.3 New strategy for designing DUV NLO materials

Literature review : F atom is beneficial for large bandgap (short cutoff edge)

The large electronegativity of the fluorine atom requires higher energy for electronic excitation when irradiated under light

isostructural compounds (with O replaced by F atom) → **cutoff edge blue shift**



UV cutoff edge of BiBOF is 15 nm shorter than that of BiBOH

R. R. Cong. Z. S. Lin, C. T. Chen, et al. Inorg. Chem. Front., 2015, 2, 170.



2.3 New strategy for designing DUV NLO materials

We have proven that F atom is beneficial for producing large SHG

Because fluorine is the most electronegative atom, it is deduced that the electrons can be withdrawn toward F atoms leading to a higher local polarization.



Indirect contribution: polar displacement, producing large distortion

Direct contribution: quantify the F atom contribution to SHG by DFT

HongpingWu, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, J. *Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2013, *135*, 4215 Ying Wang, Shilie Pan*, *Coord. Chem. Rev.* 2016, *323*, 15. Beenish Bashir, Zhihua Yang*, Shilie Pan*, et al, *Cryst. Growth Des.*, 2016, *16*, 5067.

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2.3 New strategy for designing DUV NLO materials

We also propose that F atom can increase the birefringence

Fluorooxoborates with B-F bonding contain new functional units: $BO_{4-x}F_x$ (x = 1 ~

Dipole moment (*P*), polarizability anisotropy (δ), hyperpolarizability ($|\beta max|$) and HUMO-LUMO gap

units	P_x, P_y, P_z	(Fg)	$ \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\max} $	$E_{\rm g}$ (eV)
(BO ₃ F) ⁴⁻	2.2, 0.0, 0.0	2.1	39.5	9.7
$(BO_2F_2)^{3-}$	0.0, 0.0, -2.3	3.4	82.6	9.2
(BOF ₃) ²⁻	-1.8, 0.0, 0.0	2.5	30.9	9.5
(BO ₄) ⁵⁻	0.0, 0.0, 0.0	0.0	4.1	10.7
(BO ₃) ³⁻	0.0, 0.0, 0.0	7.1	10.8	8.5

DFT calculations reveal that $(BO_3F)^{4-}$, $(BO_2F_2)^{3-}$ and $(BOF_3)^{2-}$ units have a very large polarizability anisotropy and hyperpolarizability



Bingbing Zhang, Zhihua Yang*, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2017, 56, 3916. (VIP)



2.3 New strategy for designing DUV NLO materials



Fluorooxoborates: Beryllium-Free Deep-Ultraviolet Nonlinear Optical Materials

2.4 Fluorooxoborates: Li₂B₆O₉F₂

Using F atom to substitute O atom in LBO and obtaining a series of fluorooxoborates



Introducing of the F atoms "cut through" the fixed 3D B– O network of LBO

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2.4 Fluorooxoborates: Li₂B₆O₉F₂

- **The suitable candidate:** Li₂B₆O₉F₂
- large birefringence~0.066, a predicted shortest type I SHG wavelength of 192 nm, shorter than that of LBO (277 nm).
- large SHG efficiency (0.9 × KDP), phase-matchable at 266 nm



Bingbing Zhang, Zhihua Yang*, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2017, 56, 3916. (VIP)



2.5 Fluorooxoborates: AB₄O₆F family

From KBBF to AB_4O_6F (A = NH_4 , Na, K, Rb, Cs) family



Introduce new functional building units: BO₃**F**

Strategy : BeO₃**F in KBBF is replaced by BO**₃**F**

- better growth habit owing to more compact structure
- higher NLO coefficients
- does not require toxic BeO

AB₄**O**₆**F** inherits the excellent optical properties of KBBF and has significant advantages over KBBF



2.5 Fluorooxoborates: ABF

Example 1: NH₄B₄O₆F (ABF) (Space group *Pna*2₁, *a* = 7.602 Å, *b* = 11.197Å, *c* = 6.5952Å) Superior to KBBF in two other aspects: ✓ Half of interlayer spacing---improved growth habit **Doubled BO₃ density---larger SHG** 18-MR [B₄O₈F]^{5−} building unit $[B_4O_6F]_{\infty}$ layer response $[Be_2BO_3F_2]_{\sim} \leftrightarrow [B_4O_6F]_{\sim}$ 3.81 Å 6.25 Å $K^+ \leftrightarrow NH_{a}^+$

KBe,BO,F,

 $NH_4B_4O_6F$

2.5 Fluorooxoborates: ABF

- **Easy to grow with little or no layer tendency**
- Short cutoff edge (156 nm)
- Large SHG response (3×KDP & 0.5×BBO)







2.5 Fluorooxoborates: ABF

Sellmeier equations





Besides KBBF and RBBF, ABF is the another NLO crystal that can generate DUV coherent light below 200 nm by a direct SHG process

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2.5 Fluorooxoborates: ABF

Cooperate with Prof. Z.Y. Xu's research team (TIPC, CAS) and evaluate the

fourth harmonic generation ability of ABF



Further evaluation (e.g., shorter SHG wavelength) is under the way

Guoqiang Shi, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017, *31*, 10645. Apply for Chinese and US Patents





2.5 Fluorooxoborates: CBF

Example 2: CsB₄O₆F (CBF) (Space group *Pna*2₁, BUT shows a different structure)



Like KBBF, it features a two-dimensional (2D) $[B_4O_6F]_{\infty}$ anionic layer with the Cs⁺ cations residing between the layers



2.5 Fluorooxoborates: CBF



CBF inheritsthe excellentgenesof β-BBOand KBBF byintroducingnew[B₄O₈F]functional units

Eliminate the *dangling bonds* of oxygens and enlarge the band gaps

The distance of two adjacent layers largely reduces from 6.25 Å in KBBF to 3.96 Å in CBF.

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2.5 Fluorooxoborates: CBF

CBF also exhibits outstanding NLO properties

- Short DUV cutoff edge (155 nm)
- Large NLO response (1.9 × KDP).
- Suitable birefringence (shortest PM secondharmonic wavelength ~171.6 nm)





2.5 Fluorooxoborates: CBF



CBF melts congruently, which is beneficial to crystal growth and industrial

applications

Xuefei Wang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2017, 56, 14119.

Apply for Chinese and US Patents



2.5 Fluorooxoborates: RBF/CKBF/CRBF

Three new alkali metal fluorooxoborates were successfully synthesized



- By judicious selection of the A-site alkali metal cation, they show similar but different structures (space group: *Pna2*₁, *P*321 and *P*-62c)
- They exhibit excellent linear and NLO properties including short UV absorption edges (<190 nm), and large SHG responses ranging from 0.8 to 1.9 × KDP

Ying Wang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2018, 57, 2172.

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2.5 Fluorooxoborates: NBF









Suitable SHG response (0.9 × KDP) Shortest type I phase-matching wavelength (~166 nm)

Zhizhong Zhang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2018, 57, 6577.

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2.5 Fluorooxoborates: SBOF

The first case of NLO-active alkaline earth fluorooxoborates: SrB₅O₇F₃ SrB₅O₇F₃ Grystallizes in space group CPm Gm and the clift chight of the second second harmonic SHG effect ~,1.6×KDP, SHGe bireffagence <0.07@552KDPshortest phasebireftingencend Haba@532vavelengblortts0 phase-matching second harmonic



Miriding Mutailipu, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2018, 57, 6095. (Cover, VIP)



2.5 Fluorooxoborates: CBOF

The Ca isomorph shows similar NLO performance CaB₅O₇F₃ UV cutoff edge <180 nm , SHG effect ~2×KDP (larger!) , shortest phase-matching second harmonic wavelength ~183 nm The enhanced SHG response originates from the contributions of B₅O₉F₃ double rings and Ca²⁺ cations



2.5 Fluorooxoborates: summary

Fluorooxoborate crystals are promising DUV NLO materials *Calculated						
Compounds	Absorption edge (nm) or band gap (eV)	SHG intensity (× KDP) (@1064 nm)	Shortest PM SHG wavelength (nm)	Feature		
KBBF	147 (8.43)	1.2	162	Toxic raw material, layered structure		
LiB ₆ O ₉ F	(8.37)*	~	-			
Li ₂ B ₆ O ₉ F ₂	(8.05)*	0.9	192 *			
Li ₂ B ₃ O ₄ F ₃	(8.42)*	~	-			
NH4B4O6F	156 (7.95)	3.0	158			
NaB ₄ O ₆ F	< 180 (166) *	0.9	166 *			
RbB ₄ O ₆ F	< 200 (7.73) *	0.8	165 *	non-toxic, without		
CsB ₄ O ₆ F	155 (8.00)	1.9	172	layered tendency		
CsKB ₈ O ₁₂ F ₂	<200 (7.76)*	1.9	170*			
CsRbB ₈ O ₁₂ F ₂	<200	1.1	~			
CaB ₅ O ₇ F ₃	<180 (8.75)*	2.0	183 *			
SrB ₅ O ₇ F ₃	<180 (8.58)*	1.6	180*			

Bingbing Zhang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2017, 56, 3916.
Guoqiang Shi, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2017, 31, 10645.
Xuefei Wang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2017, 56, 14119.
Ying Wang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2018, 57, 2172.
Zhizhong Zhang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2018, 57, 6577.

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Two comments on "Chemical & Engineering News" (ACS):

Science Concentrates MATERIALS Nonlinear optical laser material avoids beryllium

Materials scientists have developed a new class of deep-ultraviolet nonlinear optical (DUV NLO) crystals that promise to be less toxic and have better performance than the



Li₂B₆O₉F₂ offers deep-ultraviolet nonlinear optical properties without beryllium and debilitating layering.

materials currently used (Angew. Chem. Int. *Ed.* 2017, DOI: 10.1002/ anie.201700540). DUV NLO materials

MATERIALS

New borate crystal boosts UV optical applications

The ability of inorganic crystals known as nonlinear optical (NLO) materials to alter the properties of a beam of laser light-for example, doubling its frequency-makes them indispensable for applications in fiber optics, photolithography, and laser micromachining. Few NLO materials can generate coherent

light deep in the ultraviolet range (< 200 nm). KBe2BO3F2 (KBBF) is an exception. But the toxicity of beryllium and the low intensity of KBBF's NLO properties limit its application. A team of researchers led by Shilie Pan of Xinjiang Technical Institute of Physics & Chemistry and Kenneth R. Poeppelmeier of Northwestern University may have come up with a solution-NH4B4O6F (ABF), a beryllium-free deep-ultraviolet NLO material (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2017, DOI: 10.1021/jacs.7b05943). The



NH₄B₄O₆F is a promising new Be-free NLO material for applications in the deep-UV range (< 200 nm); N is gray, H is white, B is blue, O is red, F is black.

researchers report that ABF's nonlinear coefficients are roughly 2.5 times as large as KBBF's values. They also note that their synthesis method, based on the high-temperature reaction of B2O2 with NH4F, leads to high-quality crystals that tend to be thicker than typical KBBF crystals, which benefits applications in laser optics. One source of the improved crystal growth is hydrogen bonding between lattice layers, which results from replacing potassium ions in KBBF with ammonium ions in ABF.--MITCH JACOBY

...promises to further "break down the DUV wall for NLO materials"

C&EN, 2017, 95(11), 10; **C&EN**, 2017, 95(33), 12.



Fluorooxoborate NLO crystals have received considerable attention

The discovery of ABF crystal was rewarded "Top 10 Breakthroughs in China Optics"

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文章米源:新闻 非线性升 等众多领域者 激光器输出3	^{選理化技术研究所} 光学晶体材料是 部具有重要应用。 采紫外激光的关键	发布时间 重要的光电信机 随着科技的2 建元件,深紫9	 2018-05-04 3. 功能材料,在 发展,现阶段对 小非线性光学晶 	【字号: 小 激光医学、激力 非线性光学品(体的研制和应)	中 大 】 光频率变换、信: 本材料提出了更可 用亟待发展突破。	我要 分 息通讯、精密 高的要求。作	非线性 非线性 科之一, 能 我展全国志 仪 中国科 为: 光学晶体相 因, 基于相 因, 基于相	光学晶体是一种重 着激光精密机械加 深紫外相于充顶, 1 学院新疆理化技术 料的结构数据库, 料模拟方法提出了	要的光电信息功能; L业、激光化学、; 其关键突成点在于 可充所中利院特殊 分析硼酸盐品体; 一种将一类B04~F	材料,是固体激光技 帮外激光光谱学和敲 尿紫外波段的非线性 环境功能材料与器产 深紫外通过一大倍频 x (x=1,2,3) 功能基

20年前時1年時の時代の時代の、2月前期にあいた「国家で通道へいためめの」になるの可能な時代の時代 の、基手料構成が法規出す一件構一要的₁₀素」(cut.2.3) が能な活用力(補償設置案件設計策略,成功設計 了所列前型氯化化酸盐活提集件・使使性光学品体、如100%、30年候100%

潘世烈课题组:新一代深紫外非线性光学晶体材料

2017-09-28 16:34

② 设计

中科院新疆理化所潘世烈团队基于材料模拟方法提出了一种将(BO**3**F)**4**-功能基团引入硼酸盐 框架的设计策略。成功设计并合成出了NH**4**B**4**O**6**F (ABF)块状晶体,倍频效应是KBBF的2.5 倍,用于深紫外激光光源可获得更高的转换效率。





2.6 Mid-IR NLO crystal

Mid-IR laser: Wavelength range from 3 to 20 µm

Widely used in IR detector, medical treatment, spectral analysis, and military applications

Only a few IR NLO materials cover two important atmospheric transparent windows (3~5 μm , 8~14 μm)





2.6 Mid-IR NLO crystal

Commercially available: ZnGeP₂ , AgGaS₂ and AgGaSe₂

However, they suffer from two main drawbacks, including:

a. low laser damage thresholds (LDTs)

b. difficulty in growing high-quality crystals





Therefore, the search for new IR NLO crystals with both high LDTs and moderate SHG responses that can also be easily grown is still a challenge in this field



2.6.1 New Mid-IR NLO crystals

A high LDTs value strongly depends on the material having a large bandgap.

Thus, a good IR NLO material should demonstrate a critical balance between Bandgap (Eg> 3.0 eV) and SHG responses (d_{ii} > 10 × KDP)



New IR NLO materials

Strategy: alkaline/alkaline-earth cations and easily distorted MQ_4 ligands (M=Ga, In, Ge, Sn; Q=S, Se)

Na₂ZnGe₂S₆

Na₂BaMQ₄ (M=Ge, Sn; Q=S, Se)

 $Na_2Hg_3M_2S_8$ (M = Si, Ge, and Sn)



2.6.1 New Mid-IR NLO crystals

- New IR NLO materials with good balance
- between large SHG response and high LDTs

Materials	d_{ij} (× KDP)	Eg (eV)	LDTs (× AgGaS ₂)
Na ₂ ZnGe ₂ S ₆	30	3.25	6
Na ₂ BaSnS ₄	17	3.27	
Na ₂ BaGeS ₄	10	3.7	
$Na_2Hg_3Si_2S_8$	43	2.86	4.5
Na ₂ Hg ₃ Ge ₂ S ₈	73	2.68	2.2
$Na_2Hg_3Sn_2S_8$	92	2.45	1

Guangmao Li, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2016, 138, 7422. Kui Wu, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed*.2016, 55, 6713. Kui Wu, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2017, 139, 14885.



2.6.2 POC----Another Promising IR NLO material

Design strategy

1. highly electronegative halide

A high LDT corresponds to a large energy band gap, which could be attained by anions to form strong ionic bonds

2. Pb²⁺ with lone-pair effect

second-order Jahn–Teller (SOJT) can produce large SHG response

Pb-O has no absorption in mid-IR



Crystal structure of Pb₁₇**O**₈**Cl**₁₈ (POC)

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2.6.2 POC---- thermal analysis



Congruent melting behavior (m.p: 526 °C) , thermally stable

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2.6.2 POC---- crystal growth



POC could be grown from its stoichiometric melt in the open system.

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2.6.2 POC---- SHG measurement



Phase-matching curves for POC at (a) 1064 nm and (b) 2090 nm

POC exhibits a large SHG response:

4 times that of KDP at 1064 nm and 2 times that of AgGaS₂ at 2090 nm

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2.6.2 POC---- optical properties



- **POC** is transparent over a broad spectral range from 0.34 to 13.9 μm
- It covers two important atmospheric transparent windows (3–5 and 8–14 μm) for optical applications

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2.6.2 POC---- LDT test



LDT Measurement of POC with AgGaS₂ as the Reference

	damage energy	spot diameter	LDT		
	(mJ)	(mm)	(MW/cm²)		
РОС	2.01	0.25	408		
AgGaS ₂	0.35	0.375	32		

POC exhibits a large LDT value of 408 MW/cm² (1064 nm, 10 ns, 10 Hz).

The LDT of POC is 12.8 times that of AgGaS₂



2.6.2 POC---- conclusion

- POC exhibits a large LDT value of 408 MW/cm² (1064 nm, 10 ns, 10 Hz)
- Large LDT of 408 MW/cm², 12.8 times that of AgGaS₂.
- Excellent SHG response: 2 times that of AgGaS₂, the benchmark IR NLO crystal at 2090 nm, and 4 times that of KDP, the standard UV NLO crystal at 1064 nm.
 - Thus, we believe that POC is a promising IR NLO material

Hui Zhang, Zhihua Yang, Shilie Pan*, et al, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2015, 137, 8360.



Summary

We proposed new functional units: $BO_{4-x}F_x$ (x = 1 ~ 3) for

new NLO materials

- **ABF** family are promising DUV NLO crystals
- Developing a new promising IR NLO material ---POC with

large SHG effect & high LDT & wide transparent range



OUTLINE

1. Background

2. Main Research Results

3. Further Work Plans



Finding more possible DUV NLO crystals in fluorooxoborates system

Mixed alkali metal fluorooxoborates, CLBF, CKBF...

The alkaline-earth metal fluorooxoborates, BaBOF, SrBOF...

Grow large crystals with high quality

Key issues: volatile fluorine element & high viscosity of the solution

Solution: high temperature flux/solution method, suitable flux and

thermal field





Thanks for your attention!

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Welcome to New Opto-electronic Functional Material Laboratory!



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2.5 Fluorooxoborates: MB₄O₆F family

MB₄**O**₆**F** family crystals are promising DUV NLO materials

Crystal	Cutoff edge (nm)	Birefring ence@53 2nm	Shortest type I SHG wavelength (nm)*	Frequency- doubling coefficient (pm/V) *	Notes
KBBF	147	0.08	162	$d_{11} = 0.47$	Toxic raw material, layered structure
ABF	156	0.12	158	d ₃₂ = 1.0 7	Non-toxic, without layered structure
CBF	155	0.11	171.6	$d_{32} = -0.92$	Melts congruently, non- toxic, without layered structure

*Calculated





Rational Design and Synthesis of New Nonlinear Optical Materials

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