

# Growth and Characterisation of Lanthanum Doped Sulphamic Acid Single Crystal

B. Kannan<sup>1</sup>, P. R. Seshadri<sup>1\*</sup>, P. Murugakoothan<sup>2</sup> and K. Ilangovan<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PG and Research Department of Physics, A. M. JAIN College, Meenambakkam, Chennai-600114; seshadri\_pr@yahoo.com

<sup>2</sup> MRDL, PG and Research Department of Physics, Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai-600030; murugakoothan03@yahoo.co.in

<sup>3</sup> PG and Research Department of Physics, RKMVivekananda College, Mylapore, Chennai-600004; ilangokannan@yahoo.com

## Abstract

The Lanthanum doped Sulphamic Acid (SA) single crystal was grown by slow evaporation solution growth technique. The Presence of Lanthanum was confirmed by EDAX. The unit cell parameters of the grown crystal were confirmed by single crystal X-ray diffraction. The functional groups of the grown crystal were found by FT-IR study. Thermal and UV-vis absorption studies were performed to know the thermal and optical behaviours of the grown crystal respectively.

**Keywords:** Growth from Solution, X-ray Diffraction, FTIR, Optical Studies, Powder X-ray Diffraction, EDAX

## 1. Introduction

The bulk crystals have a prominent role in the field of science, medicine, engineering, technology and in strategic areas of defense and space science [1]. The search of new organic, inorganic and semi organic non linear materials which have potential applications in photonics, optoelectronics, optical communication, optical image processing is increased in recent times. Sulphamic acid and its derivatives have wide industrial applications. The growth, structure determination, neutron diffraction, dielectric, UV-vis-NIR, etching and Raman studies on sulphamic acid single crystal were already reported [2-7]. However no systematic efforts have been made to study the effect of rare earth metals on sulphamic acid. Hence we report here a systematic study on the growth and characterization of Lanthanum doped sulphamic acid (La : SA). The crystalline perfection, structural, presence of functional groups, thermal, optical behaviours and the incorporation of dopants in (La : SA) are revealed by

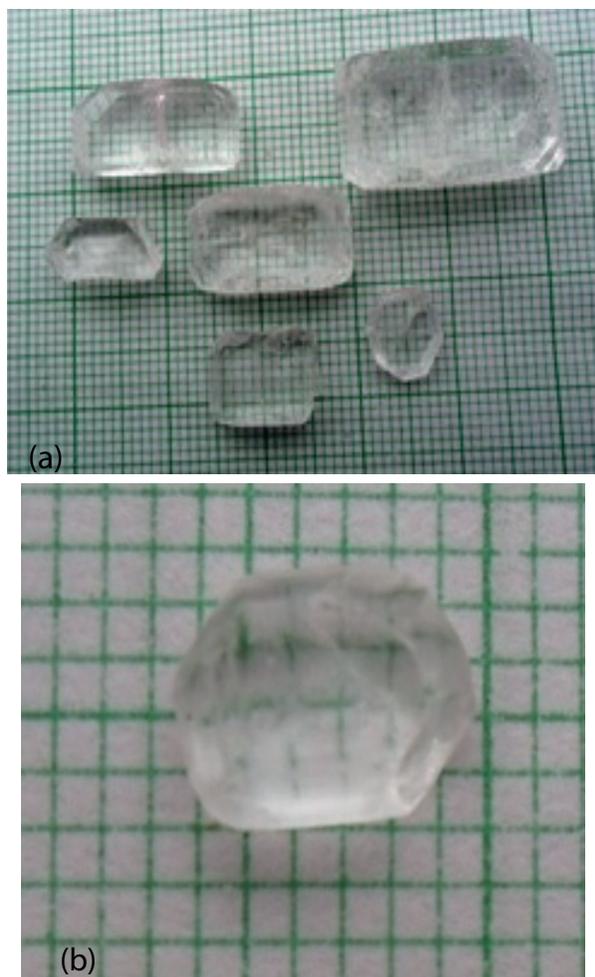
X-ray diffraction, EDAX, FTIR, UV-vis-NIR, TG/DTA, studies respectively.

## 2. Experimental Procedure

For the growth of pure SA crystals, the saturated aqueous solution is prepared as per the estimated solubility data, using the recrystallized salt of SA and the distilled water at 35°C. A saturated solution of 100 mL is taken and the solution is filtered. The filtered solution is taken in a beaker, which is tightly closed with perforated filter paper so that the rate of evaporation could be minimized. In order to grow doped crystals, the Lanthanum chloride is added with sulphamic acid in 1:1 molar ratio and dissolved in 100 mL of double distilled water. The growth run is performed similar to the growth of pure SA crystal. The Figure1(a) and 1(b) show the photographs of pure SA and (La : SA) crystals respectively. The morphology of (La : SA) is changed from that of the pure sulphamic acid single crystal and the visual transparency is also improved after the incorporation of the dopant into the lattice of pure SA crystal.

\* Corresponding author:

P. R. Seshadri (seshadri\_pr@yahoo.com)



**Figure 1.** (a) Pure Sulphamic acid crystals (b) Lanthanum doped Sulphamic acid crystal.

## 3. Results and Discussion

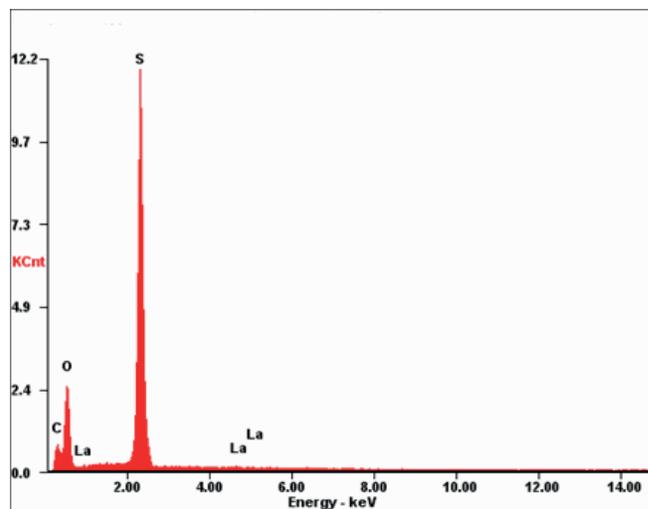
### 3.1 EDAX

The presence of Nitrogen, Oxygen, Sulphur and Lanthanum is confirmed in La : SA single crystal from the EDAX spectrum as shown in Figure 2. The weight percentages of N, S, O and La are given in the Table 1. From the data it is clear that the amount of lanthanum getting in to the crystal is very low when compared to the amount of lanthanum present in the solution.

### 3.2 X-ray Diffraction

#### 3.2.1 Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction

Single crystal X-ray diffraction study is carried out using ENRAF NONIUS FR 590 single crystal X-ray diffractometer. The Sulphamic acid crystal crystallizes



**Figure 2.** EDAX spectrum of La : SA.

**Table 1.** Elemental composition of La : SA crystal

| Element | Wt.%  | At.%  |
|---------|-------|-------|
| N       | 38.80 | 50.40 |
| O       | 40.87 | 39.86 |
| S       | 19.92 | 09.69 |
| La      | 00.41 | 00.05 |

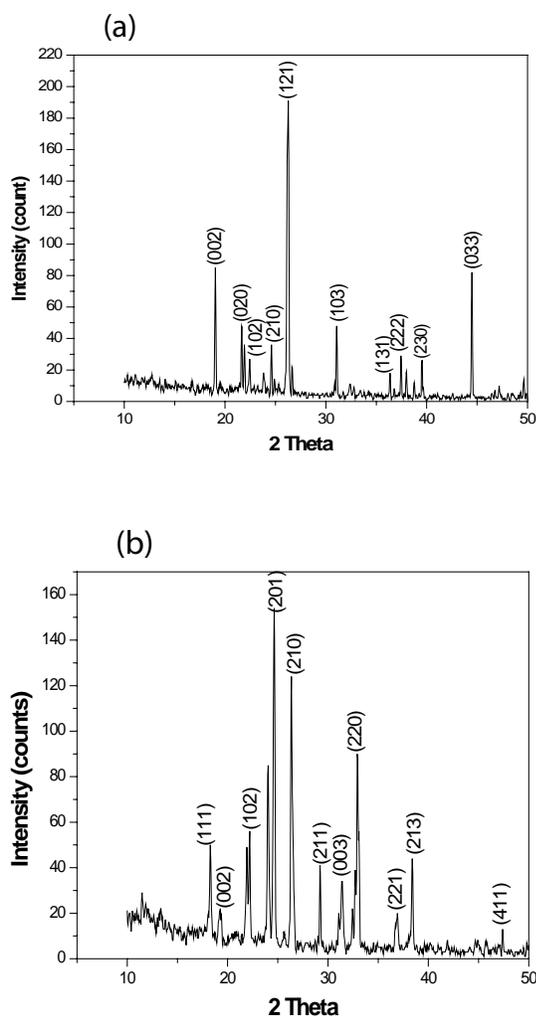
**Table 2.** Lattice parameters of pure SA and La : SA single crystals

| Parameters       | Pure SA | La : SA |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| a Å              | 8.100   | 8.050   |
| b Å              | 8.049   | 8.050   |
| c Å              | 9.220   | 9.200   |
| V Å <sup>3</sup> | 604.8   | 597     |

in orthorhombic structure while La : SA single crystal crystallizes in tetragonal structure. The observed lattice parameters are given in table 2. The structural change from orthorhombic to tetragonal by the doping of lanthanum confirms the presence of lanthanum in the crystal lattice of SA crystal.

#### 3.2.2 Powder X – ray Diffraction

The powder X – ray diffraction patterns of pure and doped SA are shown in Figure 3(a) and 3(b). Well defined Bragg peaks are obtained at specific  $2\theta$  angles. The 'd' spacings and (h k l) values for prominent peaks in the spectrum are



**Figure 3.** (a) Powder X – ray diffractogram of Pure SA (b) Powder X –ray diffractogram of La : SA.

identified. The extra peaks indexed as (210), (213) and (411) obtained in Figure 3(b) compared with the Figure 3(a) may be due to the incorporation of the lanthanum into the pure SA crystal lattice. Good crystallinity of the grown material is confirmed by the appearance of sharp peaks [8].

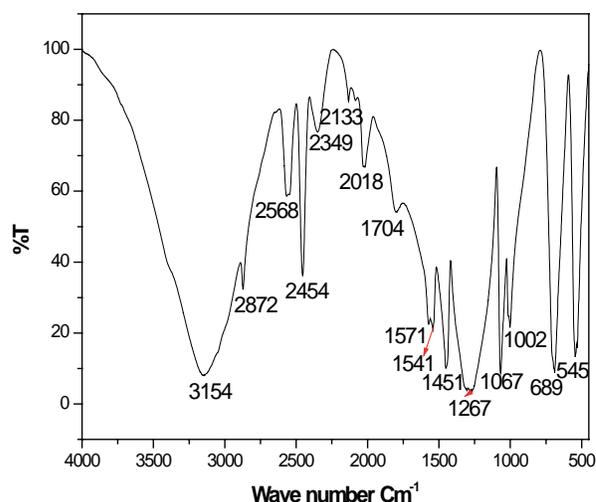
### 3.3 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

The FTIR spectroscopy study is effectively used to identify the functional groups present in the material. The FTIR spectrum for the La : SA is recorded using BRUKKER IFS 66v spectrometer by KBr pellet technique in the range 500-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and is shown in Figure 4. The FTIR spectrum of lanthanum doped sulphamic acid seems to be complex

because of various functional groups present in the crystal. The functional group assignments for La : SA is summarized in Table 3.

### 3.4 UV-vis-NIR Spectroscopy

The optical absorption spectra of pure SA and La : SA crystals are recorded in the wavelength range 200-800 nm using Philips PV8700 UV-visible scanning spectrometer. The recorded absorption spectrum is shown in Figure 5. The UV cut off wavelength of pure SA is already reported as 270 nm [1] whereas (La : SA) crystal has the UV cut off wavelength at 240 nm. Hence it is clear that the presence of lanthanum in SA crystal improves its optical transmission and there is no considerable absorption is found in the range 240 nm to 800 nm. This clearly indicates that the lanthanum doping has increased the optical window of pure SA crystal.



**Figure 4.** FTIR spectrum of La : SA.

**Table 3.** Vibrational band assignment for La : SA Single crystal

| Wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) | Assignment                         |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3154                            | Degen. $\text{NH}_3^+$ stretching  |
| 2872                            | Sym. $\text{NH}_3^+$ stretching    |
| 1541                            | Degen. $\text{NH}_3^+$ deformation |
| 1451                            | Sym. $\text{NH}_3^+$ deformation   |
| 1267                            | Degen. $\text{SO}_3^-$ stretching  |
| 1067                            | Degen. $\text{SO}_3^-$ deformation |
| 689                             | $\text{NH}_2$ and N-H Wagging      |
| 545                             | Degen. $\text{SO}_3^-$ deformation |

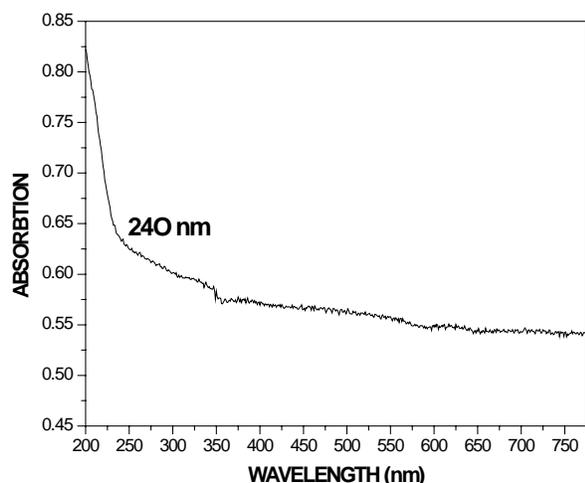


Figure 5. UV-vis-NIR spectrum of La : SA single crystal.

### 3.5 Thermal studies

The thermal behaviour of the La : SA crystalline sample is studied using TG and DTA analysis. The thermogravimetric analysis is carried out between 40°C and 1400°C at a heating rate of 15°C/min. in nitrogen atmosphere. The test is carried out using Perkin-Elmer thermal analysis instrument. Alumina is taken as reference material. The TG-DTA thermograms obtained for the dried powder of La : SA is shown in Figure 6. From the TG curve it is observed that the La : SA exhibits two stage decomposition. Below 200°C there is no detectable weight loss and hence the crystal rejects solvent molecules during crystallization. The first stage of diffused decomposition starts at 225°C and ends at 360°C in which it undergoes a mass change of about 21.89 % of the initial mass.

The second stage of sharp decomposition takes place at 440°C with the mass reduction of 75.68 %. These stages of decompositions are well supported by the endothermic peaks at the respective temperatures in the DTA.

### 3.6 Nonlinear Optical Test

A fundamental beam of wavelength 1064 nm with a pulse duration of 10 ns and the frequency repetition of 10 Hz from Q-Switched Nd:YAG laser has been used as a source and passed through the powder sample for second harmonic generation efficiency (SHG) study [9]. Pulse energy and pulse width are maintained as 300 mJ s<sup>-1</sup> and 10 ns respectively. The output could be seen as a bright green flash emission from the La: SA but no green emission is

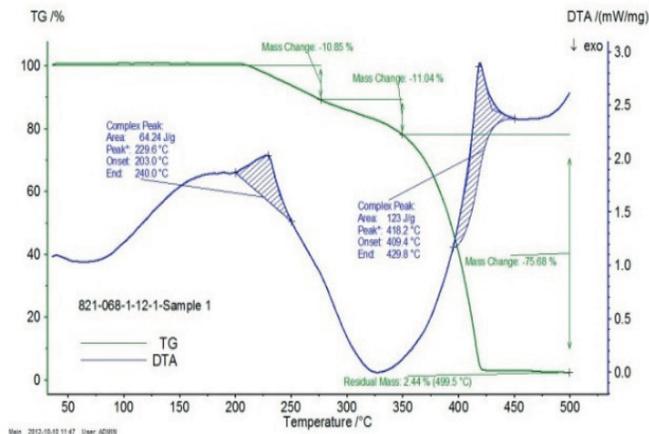


Figure 6. TG - DTA thermograms of La : SA.

observed for pure SA sample. This may be due to the structural change when lanthanum is induced into the pure SA single crystal. From this study it is observed that the dopant induces the NLO property.

## 4. Conclusion

Good optical quality single crystals of pure SA and La : SA have been grown from slow evaporation technique. The crystallinity of the grown sample has been confirmed by X ray diffraction analysis. Various functional groups present in the grown crystal have been identified by FTIR spectroscopy. The optical transparency has been revealed by UV-vis-NIR study and thermal stability has been confirmed by thermal analysis. Finally it is observed that the dopant induces the NLO property to the grown crystal. Due the broad transmission range and second harmonic generation behavior the La: SA crystal can be used in technologies, such as optical communication, optical computing and dynamic image processing.

## 5. References

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