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**Abstract:** In this paper are present results of the first investigation of stimulated Raman scattering (SRS) in the "garnet" Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> crystalline ceramics, which is promising host-material for activator lasants. With picoseconds laser excitation at 0.53207  $\mu$ m wavelength was observed and analyzed high-order Stokes and anti-Stokes generation related to two  $\chi^{(3)}$ -promoting vibration modes ( $\approx$  792 and  $\approx$  375 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of this novel SRS-active oxide material. A brief review of the pioneering papers on lasers based on Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> single crystals and known SRS-active crystalline "garnet" materials is given in tabular form as well.



Fragments of SRS and RFWM spectrum of crystalline "garnet" ceramics Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> recorded at room temperature with picosecond pumping at the wavelength  $\lambda_p = 0.53207 \ \mu m$ 

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## Stimulated Raman scattering in "garnet" Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> ceramics – a novel host-materiel for Ln- and TM-lasant ions

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Received: 27 January 2011, Accepted: 30 January 2011 Published online: 5 April 2011

Key words:  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}$  laser-host ceramics; steady-state stimulated Raman scattering (SRS); high-order Stokes and anti-Stokes generation; spontaneous Raman scattering

### 1. Introduction

Crystalline garnet-type (space group  $O_h^{10} - Ia\bar{3}d$ , no. 230) host-materials (single crystals and ceramics) for lanthanide (Ln) and transition-metal (TM) lasant ions form the most representative class of active media among of all known solid-state crystalline materials generating stimulated emission (SE). Currently, according to a recent review [1], more than 30 well-known oxide and fluoride garnet hosts together with SE-active Ln- and TM-activator ions represent about 100 laser crystals (crystalline host + certain lasant ions). These garnets are characterized by a variety of spectral-generation properties, among them the single-centered and multicentered, as well as the garnets with a partially disordered crystal-field of their lasant ions (mainly solid solutions). Structural possibilities of the garnet crystalline materials hit imagination, their *c*-

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Lasing	Ceramics	Single crystal <sup><i>a</i></sup> )		
Ln <sup>3+</sup> -ion		$J' \rightarrow J'$ SE channel	Temperature, K	Co-activator <sup>c)</sup>
		(operating scheme, pumping) <sup>b)</sup>		
Nd <sup>3+</sup>		${}^4F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{9/2}$	77	
		(q-4-level, Xe) [11, 12]		
	<i>d</i> )	${}^4F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{11/2}$	77–900 (Xe),	
		4-level, Xe, LD) [5, 11–14]	300 (LD)	
		${}^4F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{13/2}$	77, 300	
		(4-level, Xe, LD) [6,7,11,15]		
Ho <sup>3+</sup>		${}^5S_2 \rightarrow {}^5I_5$	≈110	
		(4-level, Xe) [16]		
	d)	${}^{5}I_{7} \rightarrow {}^{5}I_{8}$	77 (Xe),	$Er^{3+}, Tm^{3+},$
		(q-4-level, Xe, LD) [8, 17–20]	300 (LD)	$Yb^{3+}$
		${}^5I_6 \rightarrow {}^5I_7$	300	Yb <sup>3+</sup>
		(4-level, Xe) [21–24]		
		${}^{5}I_{6} \rightarrow {}^{5}I_{8}$	≈110	
		(q-4-level, Xe) [16, 23]		
$\mathrm{Er}^{3+}$		${}^{4}S_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{13/2}$	77, 300	
		(4-level, Xe) [21–23]		
	<i>d</i> )	${}^{4}I_{13/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{15/2}$	77	
		(q-4-level, Xe) [8]		
		${}^{4}S_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}I_{9/2}$	300	
		(4-level, Xe) [21–23]		
		${}^4\mathrm{I}_{11/2} \rightarrow {}^4\mathrm{I}_{13/2}$	300	Ho <sup>3+</sup> , Tm <sup>3+</sup> ,
		(4-level, Xe) [21–27]		$Yb^{3+}, Cr^{3+}$
		(f-fl, Xe) [28]		
Tm <sup>3+</sup>		$^{3}H_{4} \rightarrow ^{3}H_{6}$	77 (Xe),	
		(q-4-level, Xe, LD) [8, 29]	300 (LD)	
Yb <sup>3+</sup>	<i>d</i> )	$^{2}F_{5/2} \rightarrow ^{2}I_{7/2}$	77 – 175 (Xe),	Nd <sup>3+</sup> ,Cr <sup>3+</sup>
		(q-4-level, Xe, LD) [30–34]	77–313 (LD)	
$Er^{3+}+Tm^{3+}$		$ \overset{4}{}_{I_{11/2} \to {}^{4}I_{13/2}(\text{Er}^{3+}) \sim > {}^{3}\text{H}_{4} \to {}^{3}\text{H}_{6}(\text{Tm}^{3+}) } $	≈110	
		(cr-casc, Xe) [35, 36]		
Tm <sup>3+</sup> +Ho <sup>3+</sup>		$^{3}\text{H}_{4} \rightarrow ^{3}\text{H}_{5}(\text{Tm}^{3+}) \sim > ^{5}\text{I}_{7} \rightarrow ^{5}\text{I}_{8}(\text{Ho}^{3+})$	≈110	Cr <sup>3+</sup>
		(cr-casc, Xe) [37]		

a) In tables and text of the article we used citations only of publications from refereed journals.

b) The notations here are: q-4-level is the quasi-four-level operating laser scheme; Xe is the Xe-flashlamp pumping; 4-level is the four-level operating laser scheme; LD is the laser-diode pumping; f-fl is the feed-flowing operating laser scheme; cr-casc is the cross-cascaded operating laser scheme; wave arrow indicates the non-radiative intermanifold transition (for details, see [2]).

c) Here Ln<sup>3+</sup> co-activators used as the sensitizing or deactivating ions that improve conditions for the occurrence of laser action.

<sup>d)</sup> One can predict that SE generation at wavelengths of this intermanifold laser transition will be obtained in one of the first.

**Table 1** Intermanifold  $(J' \rightarrow J')$  SE transition of  $Ln^{3+}$  ions in  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}:Ln^{3+}$  single crystals and some conditions and operating regimes of their laser oscillations, as well as the expected lasing in crystalline "garnet"  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}:Ln^{3+}$  ceramics

dodecahedral (D<sub>2</sub>), *a*-octahedral (C<sub>3*i*</sub>), and *d*-tetrahedral (S<sub>4</sub>) crystallographic positions may occupy unlike co activator ions with different valences from (1<sup>+</sup>) to (6+) (see Table 1.15 in [2]). For many years, and today the most used laser garnets are  $Y_3Al_5O_{12}$ :Ln<sup>3+</sup> (see, e.g. [3, 4]). Some of them, especially  $Y_3Al_5O_{12}$ :Nd<sup>3+</sup> are commercial for a long time. Second in richness of spectral-generation properties are the laser garnets Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Lu<sup>3+</sup> [1].

They were introduced almost 40 year ago [5–8]. First among these were the Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> crystal doped with lasant ions Nd<sup>3+</sup> [5], Ho<sup>3+</sup>, Er<sup>3+</sup>, and Tm<sup>3+</sup> [8]. To excite their pulse SE generation in those early years were used Xe-flashlamps as the pump sources. Following lasing Ln<sup>3+</sup>-ion in Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> crystal was Yb<sup>3+</sup> [9, 10]. In last years this laser crystal have received substantial attention due to its high quantum efficiency (very Laser Physics

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Stokes and anti-Stok	tes $\chi^{(3)}$ -las	ing components	SRS-pro vibration	omoting n mode,
Wavelength, $\mu m^{a}$	Line	SRS and RFWM attribution <sup>b)</sup>	$\omega_{SRS1}$	$\omega_{SRS2}$
0.4553	ASt <sub>4-1</sub>	$*\omega_p + 4\omega_{SRS1} = [(\omega_p + 3\omega_{SRS1}) + (\omega_p + 3\omega_{SRS1}) - (\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS1}) =$	$\approx 792$	~~~~~
		$=2\omega_{ASt3-1}-\omega_{ASt2-1}]=\omega_{ASt4-1}$		
0.4669	ASt <sub>7-2</sub>	$*\omega_p + 7\omega_{SRS2} = [(\omega_p + 6\omega_{SRS2}) + (\omega_p + 6\omega_{SRS2}) - (\omega_p + 5\omega_{SRS2})] =$		$\approx 375$
		$=2\omega_{ASt6-2}-\omega_{ASt5-2}=\omega_{ASt7-2}$		
0.4724	ASt <sub>3-1</sub>	$*\omega_p + 3\omega_{SRS1} = [(\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS1}) + (\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS1}) - (\omega_p + \omega_{SRS1})] =$	$\approx$ 792	
		$=2\omega_{ASt2-1}-\omega_{ASt1-1}]=\omega_{ASt3-1}$		
0.4752	ASt <sub>6-2</sub>	$*\omega_p + 6\omega_{SRS2} = [(\omega_p + 5\omega_{SRS2}) + (\omega_p + 5\omega_{SRS2}) - (\omega_p + 4\omega_{SRS2})] =$		$\approx 375$
		$=2\omega_{ASt5-2}-\omega_{ASt4-2}=\omega_{ASt6-2}$		
0.4838	ASt <sub>5-2</sub>	$*\omega_p + \omega_{SRS2} = [(\omega_p + 4\omega_{SRS2}) + (\omega_p + 4\omega_{SRS2}) - (\omega_p + 3\omega_{SRS2})] =$		$\approx 375$
		$=2\omega_{ASt4-2}-\omega_{ASt3-2}=\omega_{ASt5-2}$		
0.4907	ASt <sub>2-1</sub>	$*\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS1} = \left[(\omega_p + \omega_{SRS1}) + (\omega_p + \omega_{SRS1}) - \omega_p\right] =$	$\approx$ 792	
		$=2\omega_{ASt1-1}-\omega_p]=\omega_{ASt2-1}$		
0.4927	ASt <sub>4-2</sub>	$*\omega_p + 4\omega_{SRS2} = [(\omega_p + 3\omega_{SRS2}) + (\omega_p + 3\omega_{SRS2}) - (\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS2})] =$		$\approx 375$
		$=2\omega_{ASt3-2}-\omega_{ASt2-2}=\omega_{ASt4-2}$		
0.5020	ASt <sub>3-2</sub>	$*\omega_p + 3\omega_{SRS2} = [(\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS2}) + (\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS2}) - (\omega_p + \omega_{SRS2})] =$		$\approx 375$
		$=2\omega_{ASt2-2}-\omega_{ASt1-2}=\omega_{ASt3-2}$		
0.5106	$ASt_{1-1}$	$*\omega_p + \omega_{SRS1} = [\omega_p + \omega_p - (\omega_p - \omega_{SRS1})] = \omega_{ASt1-1}$	$\approx$ 792	
0.5117	ASt <sub>2-2</sub>	$*\omega_p + 2\omega_{SRS2} = \left[ (\omega_p + \omega_{SRS2}) + (\omega_p + \omega_{SRS2}) - \omega_p \right] =$		$\approx 375$
		$=2\omega_{ASt1-2}-\omega_p]=\omega_{ASt2-2}$		
0.5217	$ASt_{1-2}$	$*\omega_p + \omega_{SRS2} = [\omega_p + \omega_p - (\omega_p - \omega_{SRS2})] = \omega_{ASt1-2}$		$\approx 375$
0.53207	$\lambda_p$	$\omega_p$	-	-
0.5429	St <sub>1-2</sub>	$\omega_p - \omega_{SRS2} = \omega_{St1-2}$		$\approx 375$
0.5542	$St_{2-2}$	$*\omega_p - 2\omega_{SRS2} = \omega_{St2-1} - \omega_{SRS2} = \omega_{St2-2}$		$\approx 375$
0.5555	$St_{1-1}$	$\omega_p - \omega_{SRS1} = \omega_{St1-1}$	$\approx 792$	
0.5660	St <sub>3-2</sub>	$*\omega_p - 3\omega_{SRS2} = \omega_{St2-2} - \omega_{SRS2} = \omega_{St3-2}$		$\approx 375$
0.5810	St <sub>2-1</sub>	$*\omega_p - 2\omega_{SRS1} = \omega_{St1-1} - \omega_{SRS1} = \omega_{St2-1}$	$\approx 792$	
0.6091	St <sub>3-1</sub>	$*\omega_p - 3\omega_{SRS1} = \omega_{St2-1} - \omega_{SRS1} = \omega_{St3-1}$	$\approx 792$	

<sup>a)</sup> Measurement accuracy for separate lines is  $\pm 0.0003 \ \mu m$  and for the overlapping lines is  $\pm 0.0005 \ \mu m$ .

<sup>b)</sup> Possible cascade SRS and RFWM processes are asterisked.

**Table 2** Spectral composition of Raman-induced Stokes and anti-Stokes generation of "garnet" Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> fine-grained ceramics recorded at room temperature with the second harmonic radiation pumping at  $\lambda_p = 0.53207 \ \mu m$ 

small energy difference between absorption pump photons and lasing photons) that causes low thermal load under 0.97  $\mu$ m continuous wave (CW) laser-diode (LD) pumping. Since the Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Yb<sup>3+</sup> garnet have excellent thermo-mechanical characteristics it is preferred for high power lasers, especially with a cryogenic cooling when well realized quasi-4-level operating regime. Of course, the above-mentioned, to large extent also applies to Y<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Yb<sup>3+</sup> garnet laser materials (for crystals and ceramics) that are virtually identical with both the spectroscopic [10] and thermal properties (see, e.g. [11]). But, here we should also note an important feature, ion properties (e.g., ionic radius and mass, the configuration of the electron shell), Yb<sup>3+</sup> and Lu<sup>3+</sup> are very close (they are immediate neighbors on the Periodic Table) compared with Yb<sup>3+</sup> and Y<sup>3+</sup>, which are far from each other in this table. Among experts there is a perception that it has a positive effect in growing high quality lutetium garnets with necessary concentration of the Ln<sup>3+</sup> lasant ions. It can be confidently asserted, that in the coming years the Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> laser ceramics begin their rapid expansion both in research laboratories and in industry, that is, to repeat the situation with the Y<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> laser ceramics at the beginning of this century, We hope that, their creation and development will help accumulated over the years of considerable knowledge about Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> laser crystals. Therefore, we deemed it appropriate to present in Table 1 historical stages of the first lasing ex-

Crystalline "garnet" materials		Lasant ions	$\omega_{SRS}$ ,	$g_{ssR}^{St_1}$ ,
			$cm^{-1}$	cm/GW
Composition <sup><i>a</i>)</sup>	Туре			
${Ca_3}[Ga_2](Ge_3)O_{12}$	crystal	$Nd^{3+}, Er^{3+}, d-c^{b}$	$\approx$ 807 [48]	$pprox 0.5^{\ c)}$
${Ca_3}[Nb,Ga]_2(Ga_3)O_{12}$	crystal	$Nd^{3+}, Er^{3+}, Yb^{3+}$	$\approx$ 500 [49]	-
$Y_3Al_5O_{12}$	crystal	Pr <sup>3+</sup> , Nd <sup>3+</sup> , Ho <sup>3+</sup> , Er <sup>3+</sup> , Tm <sup>3+</sup> , Yb <sup>3+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup>	$\approx$ 370 [50]	$\approx 0.1^{d}$
	ceramics	$Nd^{3+}$ , $Yb^{3+}$	$\approx$ 370 [51]	$\approx 0.1^{d}$
${YGd_2}[Sc_2](Al_2Ga)O_{12}$	ceramics	$Yb^{3+}$	≈ 358 [52]	$\approx$ 0.15 $^{d)}$
${Gd_3}[Sc_2](Ga_3)O_{12}$	crystal	Nd <sup>3+</sup> , Ho <sup>3+</sup> , Er <sup>3+</sup> , Tm <sup>3+</sup> , Yb <sup>3+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup>	≈ 351 [49]	-
$Gd_3Ga_5O_{12}$	crystal	Pr <sup>3+</sup> , Nd <sup>3+</sup> , Ho <sup>3+</sup> , Er <sup>3+</sup> , Yb <sup>3+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup>	≈354 [49]	-
$Tb_3Ga_5O_{12}$	crystal	_	$\approx$ 360 [53]	$\geq$ 0.3 $^{c)}$
Lu <sub>3</sub> Al <sub>5</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	ceramics	e)	$\approx$ 792, $\approx$ 375	$\geq$ 0.2 $^{f)}$

a) The formula for the two-cation compounds presented in the usual form, while for more complex garnets it indicated the distribution of cations over the

crystallographic positions of garnet structure: where the braces, square brackets, and parentheses mark the cations occupying the c, a, and d positions, respectively. <sup>b)</sup> d-c means a defect-center.

c) Evaluated with the picosecond pumping at 0.53207  $\mu$ m wavelength.

<sup>d)</sup> Evaluated with the picosecond pumping at 0.5507  $\mu$ m wavelength.

e) Potential crystalline host-material for Ln and TM lasant ions.

<sup>(f)</sup> Evaluated with the picosecond pumping at 0.53207  $\mu$ m wavelength for the first Stokes lasing related to  $\omega_{SRS1} \approx 792 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

 Table 3 SRS-active garnet crystalline materials (single crystals and ceramics)



**Figure 1** (online color at www.lphys.org) Fragments of SRS and RFWM spectrum of crystalline "garnet" ceramics Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> recorded at room temperature with picosecond pumping at the wavelength  $\lambda_p = 0.53207 \ \mu$ m. The wavelength of all lines (pump line asterisked) are given in  $\mu$ m, their intensities are shown without correction for the spectral sensitivity of the used spectrometric system with a Si-CCD sensor. The spacing of the Stokes and anti-Stokes lasing lines related to SRS-promoting vibration modes  $\omega_{SRS1} \approx 792 \ \text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $\omega_{SRS2} \approx 375 \ \text{cm}^{-1}$  of ceramic studied are indicated by the horizontal scale brackets. The fragment (a) recorded under higher pump power using a BG3 glass Schott filter

periments with Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> crystals. In this table, which has a review character also included several references of recent publications on Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> crystalline lasers with LD pumping. Our confidence in the expected publications of Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> ceramic lasers reinforces the series of recent articles on scintillator-oriented (e.g. medical imaging) applications of transparent Pr<sup>3+</sup>-ion doped Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> ceramics (see, e.g. [38, 39]). This work was promoted by the above-mentioned vision and is dedicated to the results of the study of nonlinear-optical  $\chi^{(3)}$ -properties of "garnet" Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> fine-grained ceramics as a perspective host-matrix for Ln- and TM-lasant ions. Samples for our study were made by VSN method, which was used for the fabrication of well-known Y<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ln<sup>3+</sup> laser ceramics (see, e.g. [40]).

# 2. Stimulated and spontaneous Raman scattering

The investigation of the different manifestations of Raman-induced  $\chi^{(3)}$ -nonlinear optical interactions in isotropic "garnet" Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> ceramics was performed in single-pass excitation scheme applying the experimental setup, which we repeatedly used in our studies on the SRS-spectroscopy of inorganic and organic crystalline materials (see, e.g. [41–44]). In this work, as in our previous similar study it was used as the pump source a Xe-flashlamp-pumped Nd<sup>3+</sup>:Y<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> mode-locked picosecond laser with a double-pass Nd<sup>3+</sup>:Y<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> amplifier. Its  $\approx$ 110-ps radiation at 1.06415  $\mu$ m wavelength (main inter-Stark SE transition of the lasing  ${}^4F_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{11/2}$  channel of Nd<sup>3+</sup> ions) and up to  $\approx$ 5 mJ energy was transformed by an internal KTiOPO<sub>4</sub>-doubler (with an efficiency of  $\approx$ 25%)

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**Figure 2** (online color at www.lphys.org) The first order spontaneous Raman scattering ( $A_{1g}$ ,  $E_g$ )-spectrum of fine-grained Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> ceramics recorded at room temperature under Ar-ion laser excitation at 0.488  $\mu$ m (indicated by a vertical arrow). The frequency of some Raman shifted lines are given in cm<sup>-1</sup>

into the second harmonic generation with pulse duration of abbot 80 ps. The nearly Gaussian pump beam of this pump radiation  $\lambda_p = 0.53207 \ \mu m$  wavelength is focused into the  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}$  ceramic 20-mm long sample with a spherical plane-convex lens, resulting in a beam waist diameter of about 160  $\mu$ m. The spectral composition of the multi-wavelength  $\chi^{(3)}$ -lasing of the title ceramics by its SRS and Raman-induced four-wave mixing (RFWM) parametric cascade processes is analyzed with a spectrometric system based on a scanning grating monochromator (McPherson Model 270) equipped with a Hamamatsu linear image Si-CCD sensor (S3923-1024Q), which provide sufficient spectral sensitivity in the visible range. One of the recorded SRS-RFWM spectra is shown in Fig. 1. The results of the identification of its Stokes and anti-Stokes components are listed in Table 2. As can be seen from these experimental data the Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> ceramic "garnet" under picosecond excitation at  $\lambda_p = 0.53207 \ \mu m$  wavelength is manifested two SRS-promoting vibration modes  $\omega_{SRS1} \approx 792 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\omega_{SRS2} \approx 375 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In our experiments, we can also roughly estimate the steady-state Raman gain coefficient  $g_{ssR}^{St1-1}$  of the title ceramics for its first-Stokes lasing component at  $\lambda_{St1-1} = 0.5555 \ \mu m$ wavelength related to stronger vibronic transition with

 $\omega_{SRS1} \approx 792 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (see Fig. 2). We are be able to do this because the excitation regime of SRS generation in our experiment is well satisfy the necessary condition  $\tau_p \gg T_2 = (\pi \Delta_{R1})^{-1} \approx 0.96$  ps (here  $T_2$  and  $\Delta_R$  are the phonon relaxation (dephasing) time and the linewidth of the corresponding Raman shifted line in the spontaneous Raman scattering spectrum, see Fig. 2). As in our previous works (see, e.g. [41, 42]), for this aim we used the sufficiently tested method based on the well known ratio  $g_{ssR}^{St1-1}I_p^{thr}l_{SRS} \approx 30$  (see, e.g. [45]) together with comparative measurements of the "threshold" pump intensity  $I_n^{thr}$  (accordance to the conventional definition adopted in [46, 47]) of the confidently detectable first Stokes lasing signal for our Lu3Al5O12 ceramics and for a reference isotropic crystalline material with approximately equal SRS-active length ( $l_{SRS} \approx 20$  mm). Based on the data of this rough comparative evaluations, we concluded that the value of the steady-state Raman gain coefficient  $g_{ssR}^{St1-1}$  for Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> ceramics not less than 0.2 cm/GW. In recent years SRS-effect was observed also in several "garnet" crystals and ceramics with ordered and partly disordered structure, most of them are also host-materials for Ln and TM lasant ions. To provide a place of ceramic studied among those "garnet" crystalline materials the second small overview composed, which is presented as Table 3.

As can be seen, the listed here  $\chi^{(3)}$ -active crystalline materials, like ceramics Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, despite the fact that they appear different SRS-promoting vibration modes, their steady-state Raman gain coefficients are almost equal and low. In the case of large-scale SE-active elements (in high-power generators or amplifiers) on the base of these garnet materials, the risk of parasitic SRS at high densities of laser radiation in them will extremely low. It certainly is a positive factor.

Now, briefly about the nature of the two SRSpromoting vibration modes of crystalline ceramics  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}$ . Eighty atoms in the primitive cell of the  $O_h^{10}$ cubic garnet structure give  $3N_{Br} = 240$  degrees of freedom, which (in accordance with the factor-group analysis and symmetry degeneracy [54]) give rise to 97 lattice optical vibration modes. They could be characterized (at k = 0, center of Brillouin zone) by the following set of irreducible representations:

$$\begin{split} \Gamma_N &= 3A_{1g} + 8E_g + 14F_{2g} + 5A_{1u} + 5A_{2u} + 5A_{2g} + \\ &+ 10E_u + 14F_{1g} + 16F_{2u} + 17F_{1u} \,, \end{split}$$

among which 25 modes  $(3A_{1g}+8E_g+14F_{2g})$  are Raman active and should be appear in the spontaneous Raman scattering spectra. Because our ceramics is a dense conglomeration of randomly oriented microcrystalline grains with the size of most grains of about one micron, we have been sufficient to measure only one spectrum, which is shown in Fig. 2. Comparative analysis of our spectrum with the data the study of Raman-active phonons of Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> single crystals (see, e.g. [55-57]) allowed us to conclude that both the SRS-promoting vibrations of the  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}$  ceramics related to  $A_{1g}$  and  $E_g$  modes of its AlO<sub>4</sub> molecular tetrahedral units. With high probability can be argued that the highest frequency vibration  $A_{1g}$  $(\approx 792 \text{ cm}^{-1})$  corresponds to its breathing mode and the lower frequency vibration  $E_g ~(\approx 375 \text{ cm}^{-1})$  connects to the rotation of the molecular unit. Here it is pertinent to note that the observed width of the lines  $\Delta \nu_{R1} \approx 11 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and  $\Delta \nu_{R2} \approx 9.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be associated with the imposition of neighboring lines with close vibronic frequencies related to the optical modes  $(A_{q1}, E_q, F_{2q})$  [55–57]. It is perfectly acceptable, because in our measurements, a relatively wide Ar-laser beam is excited in Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> ceramics of several differently oriented its one-micron-sized crystalline grains.

### 3. Conclusion

We have discovered stimulated Raman scattering of the Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>-based crystalline ceramics. The spectral components of its multipole Stokes and anti-Stokes picosecond  $\chi^{(3)}$ -nonlinear lasing were identified and attributed to two SRS-promoting vibration modes  $\omega_{SRS1} \approx 792 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

and  $\omega_{SRS2} \approx 375 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which directly originate from internal atom motions of the AlO<sub>4</sub> molecular tetrahedral units. There is no doubt that the title ceramics is a promising crystalline host-material for lasant ions. Therefore, we hope that our work in a modest degree of push search investigation to create real Lu<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> laser ceramics.

Knowing the experience in the development of lasers on the base of single crystals  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}$  doped with  $Ln^{3+}$ ions, we can expect the rapid development of ceramics  $Lu_3Al_5O_{12}:Ln^{3+}$ , capable to generate at inter-Stark transitions of  $J' \rightarrow J'$  SE channels of lasant ions that projected in Table 1.

Acknowledgements The authors wish to note that this work was considerably enhanced through mutual scientific help within the "Joint Open Laboratory for Laser Crystals and Precise Laser Systems" and stimulated by research programs of the Institute of Crystallography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Optical and Atomic Physics of the Technical University of Berlin, the Institute of Laser Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Institute for Laser Science of the Tokyo University of Electro-Communications. Two of us (A.A.K and S.N.B.) are grateful to the Program "Extreme light fields and their applications" of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, as well as (A.A.K.) thank also the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. We thank also to V.V. Koltashev for spectroscopic help.

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