

CONDENSED-MATTER SPECTROSCOPY

Exciton Absorption Spectra of Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 Ferroelastic Solid Solutions

V. K. Miloslavskii^a, O. N. Yunakova^a, and E. N. Kovalenko^b

^a Kharkov National University, Kharkov, 61077 Ukraine

^b Kharkov National University of Radioelectronics, Kharkov, 61166 Ukraine

e-mail: Vladimir.K.Miloslavsky@univer.kharkov.ua; Olga.N.Yunakova@univer.kharkov.ua

Received June 16, 2010

Abstract—The exciton absorption spectra of thin films of $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ solid solutions have been investigated and the refractive index $n(\lambda)$ in their transparency window in the concentration range of $0 \leq x \leq 1$ has been measured. The exciton-band parameters and optical permittivity $\epsilon_\infty(x)$ have been found to linearly depend on the concentration. It is established that excitons are incorporated into the CdI_2 sublattice of the solid solutions and belong to intermediate-coupling ones. The characteristics of excitons in ferroelastics are compared with the corresponding parameters for CdI_2 , RbI , and CsI , which are used as components to synthesize ternary compounds.

DOI: 10.1134/S0030400X10120131

$M_2\text{CdI}_4$ compounds ($M = \text{Cs}, \text{Rb}$) belong to incommensurate ferroelastics. In the ordered commensurate phase both compounds have an orthorhombic lattice of the $\beta\text{-K}_2\text{SO}_4$ type with similar parameters: $a = 1.074$ and 1.06 nm, $b = 0.846$ and 0.84 nm, and $c = 1.485$ and 1.49 nm in Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 , respectively (sp. gr. P_{nma} , $z = 4$) [1–3]. The isostructurality of $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ compounds and close values of their lattice parameters facilitate the formation of $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ solid solution in the entire concentration range.

The absorption spectra of $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ ($M = \text{Cs}, \text{Rb}$) were previously investigated in [3]. It was established that both compounds belong to direct-gap insulators and that low-frequency exciton excitations are localized in the structural elements of the their lattice, CdI_4^{2-} . In this localization, the top of the valence band in $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ is formed by I $5p$ states and Cd $4d$ states, while the lower conduction band is formed by the Cd $5s$ states [3].

In this paper, we report the results of studying the absorption spectra and dispersion of the refractive indices of $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ solid solutions in the concentration range of $0 \leq x \leq 1$.

EXPERIMENTAL

$(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ solid solutions were synthesized by vacuum alloying of pure CsI , RbI , and CdI_2 powders, taken in a specified molar ratio. Thin films were prepared by thermal deposition of the alloy in vacuum onto quartz substrates heated to 100°C , according to

the technique [3]; the deposited films were annealed for 1 h at the same temperature.

The quality and phase composition of the films were determined by measuring absorption spectra at $T = 90$ K. The phase composition can be optically monitored because the spectral positions of the long-wavelength exciton bands in $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ (4.63–4.65 eV), CdI_2 (4.03 eV [4]), CsI (5.8 eV), and RbI (5.74 eV) significantly differ.

The absorption spectra were measured on (100–150)-nm thick films, using an SF-46 spectrophotometer, in a spectral range of 2–6 eV at temperatures $T = 90$ K ($0 \leq x \leq 1$) and 290 K ($x = 0$ or 1). The measurements were performed at 11 x values with a step $\Delta x = 0.1$.

The parameters of the long-wavelength exciton bands (position E_m ; half-width Γ ; and imaginary part of permittivity in the band peak, ϵ_{2m}) were determined using the technique [5] by approximating the experimental dependence of optical density with a mixed symmetric profile (a linear combination of Lorentzian and Gaussian profiles). The approximation was used to obtain the best agreement between the calculated profile and the measured optical density spectra $D = -\ln t$ at the long-wavelength slope of the bands.

The refractive index $n(\lambda)$ of the $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ solid solutions was determined in a spectral range of 300–1000 nm by the interference method from the transmission spectra of the films. To this end, we used rather thick films ($t \sim 800$ – 900 nm), whose transmission spectra $T(\lambda)$ contained several interference extrema in the transparency range. The dispersion of constants is generally low in this range; therefore, the

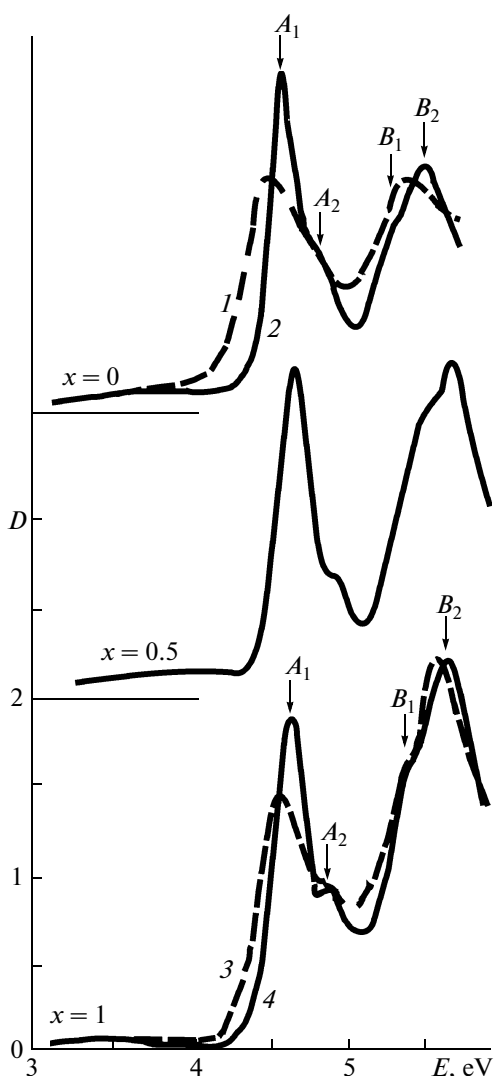


Fig. 1. Absorption spectra of thin $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ films, recorded at $T = (1, 3)$ 290 and $(2, 4)$ 90 K.

extreme transmission values are obtained under the condition $4nt = m\lambda$, where m are even and odd integers for maxima and minima, respectively. The film thickness was measured by an MII-4 Linnik interferometer. The unknown interference order m was found from the spectral position of neighboring maxima or minima. The refractive index was calculated from the aforementioned formula.

ABSORPTION SPECTRA OF THIN $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ FILMS

The absorption spectra of thin $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ films ($0 \leq x \leq 1$) have a similar structure and position of the main bands (Fig. 1). The spectra at $T = 90$ K exhibit a strong A_1 band, a weaker A_2 band, and high-frequency B_1 and B_2 bands. With an increase in tem-

perature the A and B bands shift to longer wavelengths, broaden, and become weaker due to the exciton–phonon interaction (EPI), which indicates their relationship with exciton excitations.

The spacings between the A and B bands, $\Delta E_{AB} = \bar{E}_{B1, B2} - \bar{E}_{A1, A2} = 0.705$ and 0.74 eV for Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 , respectively; these values are intermediate between the spin–orbit (SO) splittings of the valence band in CdI_2 ($\Delta_{\text{CO}} = 0.54$ eV [6]) and in CsI and RbI ($\Delta_{\text{CO}} = 1.06$ and 1.2 eV, respectively [7]) and apparently correspond to the SO splitting in $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ ($M = \text{Cs}, \text{Rb}$). For binary compounds, the SO splitting of the top of the valence band is determined by the relation

$$\Delta_{\text{CO}} = C(\xi^{(1)}\Delta_{\text{CO}}^{(1)} + \xi^{(2)}\Delta_{\text{CO}}^{(2)}), \quad (1)$$

where $\Delta_{\text{CO}}^{(1,2)}$ is the SO splitting of the atomic spectrum and $\xi^{(1,2)}$ characterizes the contribution of each type of atoms into the SO splitting of the compound ($\xi^{(1)} + \xi^{(2)} = 1$) [7]. Having generalized formula (1) to ternary compounds, assuming that $\Delta_{\text{CO}}^{(1)} = \Delta_{\text{CO}}(\text{CdI}_2) = 0.54$ eV, and $\Delta_{\text{CO}}^{(2)} = \Delta_{\text{CO}}(\text{CsI}) = 1.06$ eV [7], and supposing that, for Cs_2CdI_4 $\Delta_{\text{CO}} = 0.705$ eV (while for Rb_2CdI_4 $\Delta_{\text{CO}} = 0.74$ eV and $\Delta_{\text{CO}}^{(2)} = \Delta_{\text{CO}}(\text{RbI}) = 1.2$ eV [7]), we found from (1) that $\xi^{(1)} = 0.68$ and 0.69 and $\xi^{(2)} = 0.32$ and 0.31 for Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 , respectively. Hence, the main contribution to the SO splitting in $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ is from the CdI_2 sublattice, which additionally confirms localization of exciton excitations in CdI_4^{2-} tetrahedra of the compounds.

With a decrease in temperature, the A and B exciton bands in $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ are split into A_1 , A_2 , B_1 , and B_2 bands. The splitting of the A bands ($\Delta E_A = E_{A2} - E_{A1} = 0.24$ ($x = 0$) and 0.29 eV ($x = 1$)) and the B bands ($\Delta E_B = E_{B2} - E_{B1} = 0.25$ ($x = 0$) and 0.28 eV ($x = 1$)) are similar, which indicates the general nature of splitting for both of these bands.

To reveal the nature of splitting of A and B exciton bands, we will consider the structure of the crystal lattice of Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 compounds in more detail. As was noted above, both these compounds are layered crystals of the $\beta\text{-K}_2\text{SO}_4$ type, with layers oriented perpendicularly to the c axis. CdI_4 tetrahedra are located in the (ab) plane. The bond lengths $d_{\text{Cd-I}}$ in Cs_2CdI_4 vary from 0.274 to 0.313 nm; i.e., the tetrahedra are somewhat distorted and the $d_{\text{Cd-I}}$ distance is much smaller than the sum of the Pauling ionic radii ($d_{\text{Cd-I}} = 0.313$ nm), which indicates a contribution of covalent bonding. Cs^+ ions with $d_{\text{Cs-I}} = 0.385$ – 0.428 nm, a value similar to the sum of ionic radii ($d_{\text{Cs-I}} = 0.385$ nm), are located between tetrahedra both inside and between the layers. The structure of

Rb_2CdI_4 crystals is similar to the above-described Cs_2CdI_4 structure.

The translational exciton transfer between equivalent tetrahedra is most efficient along the short **b** axis. There is another tetrahedron between equivalent tetrahedra, which is somewhat shifted with respect to the **b** axis (with $d_{\text{Cd-Cd}} = 0.546$ nm for Cs_2CdI_4 and 0.54 nm for Rb_2CdI_4 , according to our estimates). The exciton transfer between neighboring nonequivalent tetrahedra should lead to Davydov splitting of exciton bands [8]. Apparently, the splitting of the *A* and *B* bands in the Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 spectra is related to the Davydov splitting of exciton bands [9].

With an increase in the concentration x the intensity of *B* bands in the absorption spectra of $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ increases (Fig. 1); this increase is apparently caused by the superposition of the exciton absorption in the $\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x\text{I}$ sublattice with the *B*₂ band. In the CsI and RbI spectra the long-wavelength exciton band is located at 5.8 eV (90 K) and 5.74 eV, respectively. With an increase in x the exciton band of the $\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x\text{I}$ sublattice is nonlinearly red-shifted [10]. The *B*₂ band of $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$, on the contrary, is blue-shifted with an increase in x : from 5.6 ($x = 0$) to 5.65 ($x = 1$) eV. Note also that the intensity of *B* bands is also overestimated because of their superposition with the continuous spectrum of interband absorption, which is adjacent to *A* bands.

The interaction of *B* excitons with the continuous spectrum leads to their self-trapping and additional broadening of the *B* bands. The half-width of the *B*₁ bands ($\Gamma(1) = 0.32$ eV) and *B*₂ bands ($\Gamma(1) = 0.34$ eV) at $x = 1$ greatly exceeds the half-width of the *A*₁ bands ($\Gamma(1) = 0.22$ eV) and *A*₂ bands ($\Gamma(1) = 0.25$ eV). The parameters of the high-frequency *B*₁ and *B*₂ exciton bands are difficult to determine precisely because it is a serious problem to cut off the continuous spectrum. Therefore, we investigated the concentration dependences of the spectral position $E_m(x)$ and half-width $\Gamma(x)$ for only low-frequency *A*₁ and *A*₂ exciton bands (Fig. 2).

The concentration dependences $E_m(x)$ and $\Gamma(x)$ are linear and have the form

$$E_m(x) = E_m(0) + ax \quad (2a)$$

$$\Gamma(x) = \Gamma(0) + Ax, \quad (2b)$$

where $E_m(0) = 4.65$ and 4.89 eV, $a = dE_m/dx = -1.2 \times 10^{-3}$, and 3×10^{-3} eV, $\Gamma(0) = 0.18$ and 0.25 eV, and $A = d\Gamma/dx = 4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ and 0 eV for the *A*₁ and *A*₂ bands, respectively. In the case of binary solid solutions the dependence $E_m(x)$ generally exhibits a low-frequency deflection at $x \approx 0.5$, and the function $\Gamma(x)$ reaches a maximum at $x \approx 0.5$. These deviations from linearity are due to the small-scale composition fluctuations, caused by solid solution disorder, and large-scale fluctuations, related to the sample preparation

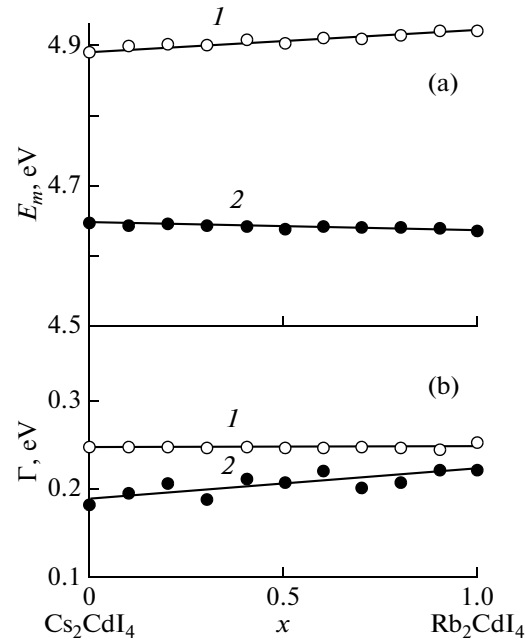


Fig. 2. Concentration dependences of (a) spectral position $E_m(x)$ and (b) half-width $\Gamma(x)$ of long-wavelength exciton bands (2) *A*₁ and (1) *A*₂ in thin $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ films.

technique. The linear run of the concentration dependences of the spectral position of exciton bands, $E_m(x)$, and the half-width $\Gamma(x)$ for $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ confirms that the exciton excitations are localized in lattice structural CdI_4^{2-} elements.

To reveal the character of exciton states in $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$, one must estimate the exciton radius a_{ex} . We will previously calculate the optical permittivity $\varepsilon_{\infty}(x)$, which must be done to determine a_{ex} .

DISPERSION OF REFRACTIVE INDEX $n(\lambda)$ IN THIN $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ FILMS

The spectral dependences $n(\lambda)$ for different x (Fig. 3), obtained by the above-described technique, are described well in terms of the single-oscillator model as follows [11]:

$$\varepsilon_1 = n^2 = 1 + \frac{E_d E_0}{E_0^2 - E^2}, \quad (3)$$

where $E = \hbar\omega$, E_0 , and E_d are the parameters of the single-oscillator model. E_0 determines the spectral position of the effective oscillator related to interband optical transitions. The E_0 value exceeds E_g and is close to the maximum of the electronic absorption band [11]. E_d is the dispersion energy, which characterizes the interband-transition strength.

As follows from (3), the dependence of $(n^2 - 1)^{-1}$ on E^2 should be linear, which is confirmed by its plot constructed using the found $n(\lambda)$ values in the range

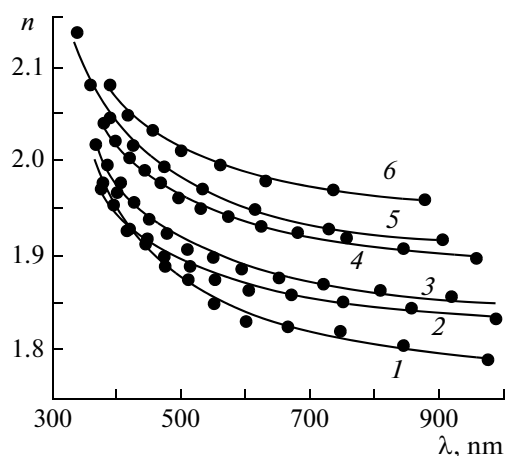


Fig. 3. Spectral dependences of refractive index $n(\lambda)$ of thin $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$ films with $x = (1) 0, (2) 0.2, (3) 0.4, (4) 0.6, (5) 0.8$, and (6): (circles) experimental and (solid lines) theoretical data (3).

$\lambda = 350\text{--}1000$ nm and in the entire range of x . The concentration dependences $E_0(x)$ and $E_d(x)$ (Fig. 4) were found to be linear:

$$E_0(x) = E_0(0) - b_0x, \quad (4a)$$

$$E_d(x) = E_d(0) - b_dx, \quad (4b)$$

where $E_0(0) = 7.5 \pm 0.3$ eV, $b_0 = dE_0/dx = 1.1 \pm 0.5$ eV, $E_d(0) = 19.3 \pm 0.8$ eV, and $b_d = dE_d/dx = 5.9 \pm 1.4$ eV. The dependences $n(\lambda)$ calculated from (3) with the found E_0 and E_d values are in good agreement with the experimental results (Fig. 3). As was noted above, $E_0 > E_g$, which is in agreement with the experimental data [3]. It was shown in [11] that E_d is proportional to the density ρ of the material; i.e., E_d characterizes the film porosity. Apparently, large deviations of the experimental values $E_d(x)$ from the linear dependence (4b) are due to the change in the film porosity from sample to sample.

EXCITON STATES IN Cs_2CdI_4 AND Rb_2CdI_4

The results obtained make it possible to study in more detail the exciton states, which determine the spectral position of the long-wavelength bands in Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 and their solid solutions and perform a comparison with the exciton characteristics of CdI_2 and MI .

As follows from (3), the extrapolation of $\hbar\omega = E$ to zero frequency yields the optical permittivity $\epsilon_\infty = 1 + E_d/E_0$, an important constant that is used in the analysis of excitons in crystals with an intermediate electron–hole coupling [12]. The data in Fig. 4 suggest a

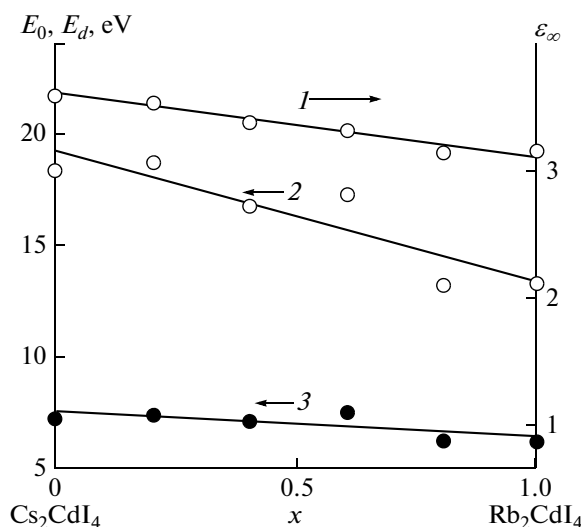


Fig. 4. Concentration dependences of parameters of single-oscillator model, (3) $E_0(x)$ and (2) $E_d(x)$, and (1) the optical permittivity $\epsilon_\infty(x)$.

linear falloff of $\epsilon_\infty(x)$ with an increase in the Rb concentration:

$$\epsilon_\infty(x) = \epsilon_\infty(0) - (d\epsilon_\infty/dx)x. \quad (5)$$

A treatment of this dependence by the least-squares method yielded $\epsilon_\infty(0) = 3.58 \pm 0.04$ and $d\epsilon_\infty/dx = 0.49 \pm 0.06$. It is interesting to compare the found $\epsilon_\infty(0)$ and $\epsilon_\infty(1)$ values with the corresponding values for CsI and RbI (3.05 and 2.72, respectively) and for CdI_2 (4.05), components in synthesis of ternary compounds. The value of 4.05 was found by measuring $n(\lambda)$ in thin CdI_2 films and treating the measurement results according to formula (3). For comparison we will apply the interpolation formula

$$\epsilon_\infty(\text{M}_2\text{CdI}_4) = 0.67\epsilon_\infty(\text{MI}) + 0.33\epsilon_\infty(\text{CdI}_2). \quad (6)$$

A calculation according to (6) yields $\epsilon_\infty = 3.38$ for Cs_2CdI_4 and 3.17 for Rb_2CdI_4 , values that agree with the results of direct measurements (3.57 and 3.14) for these compounds.

As was mentioned above, we believe the difference $E_{A2} - E_{A1}$ to be due to the Davydov splitting of exciton bands, caused by the interaction of excitons in non-equivalent tetrahedra in the M_2CdI_4 crystal lattice. This fact was established when studying the spectra of $\text{Cs}_2(\text{Cd}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_x)\text{I}_4$ solid solutions [9]; it hinders estimation of the exciton binding energy R_{ex} in ternary compounds. The R_{ex} value was determined in the following way. The band gap E_g in M_2CdI_4 was found from the inflection point of the continuous-spectrum edge after separation of the A_0 and A_1 bands from the interband absorption edge. Hence, $E_g = 4.96$ and 4.89 eV for Cs_2CdI_4 and Rb_2CdI_4 , respectively [3]. The R_{ex} values were determined from the difference $R_{\text{ex}} = E_g - E_{A1}$;

they turned out to be 0.31 and 0.28 eV. Taking into account that the R_{ex} values are close at $x \neq 0$ and 1 and that the dependence $E_{A1}(x)$ is linear, we did not determine E_{A1} at other x values.

With the R_{ex} and ε_{∞} values known, one can find the exciton radius, because within the Wannier–Mott model the $1s$ -exciton radius obeys the relation

$$a_{\text{ex}} = a_{\text{B}} \frac{R}{R_{\text{ex}} \varepsilon_{\text{ef}}}, \quad (7)$$

where $a_{\text{B}} = 0.529 \times 10^{-8}$ cm is the Bohr radius, $R = 13.6$ eV is the Rydberg constant, ε_{ef} is the permittivity determining the electron–hole Coulomb coupling ($\varepsilon_{\infty} < \varepsilon_{\text{ef}} < \varepsilon_0$), and ε_0 is the static permittivity. For resonant frequencies, which determine the exciton excitation in the compounds studied, it is natural to assume that $\varepsilon_{\text{ef}} = \varepsilon_{\infty}$ because the resonant frequencies significantly exceed the eigenfrequencies. In other words, the exciton excitation is not accompanied by atomic displacements. Hence, with the found R_{ex} and ε_{∞} values, formula (7) yields $a_{\text{ex}} = 6.5$ Å for Cs_2CdI_4 and 8.2 Å for Rb_2CdI_4 .

Let us compare the found characteristics of the exciton states in these compounds with the corresponding characteristics for CdI_2 , RbI , and CsI —components for synthesizing ferroelastics.

CdI_2 is known to be an indirect-gap insulator. However, we found that the introduction of a small amount ($x \cong 0.01$) of Zn impurity into CdI_2 leads to the following effects: absorption vanishes in the indirect-transition range (3.5–4 eV); the X_1 exciton band at 3.93 eV due to direct transitions is enhanced; and a weaker band is formed at 4.12 eV [13]. Based on these data, we found $R_{\text{ex}} = 0.2$ eV and $E_g = 4.17$ eV. This E_g value is close to the theoretical estimate $E_g = 4.03$ eV [6] for direct transitions in CdI_2 . To evaluate a_{ex} in CdI_2 , we used $\varepsilon_{\infty} = 4.05$ in (7); hence, $a_{\text{ex}} = 8.9$ Å.

The exciton absorption spectra of RbI and CsI were investigated in the early studies [14–16] devoted to the transmission of thin iodide films deposited on transparent crystalline substrates. The long-wavelength part of the absorption spectrum in RbI is fairly simple and consists of a narrow strong band at 5.74 eV (10 K), which corresponds to the excitation of exciton with a principal quantum number $n = 1$, and a much weaker band at 6.12 eV that corresponds to $n = 2$. Based on these data, we found (within the Wannier–Mott model) E_g , R_{ex} , and $a_{\text{ex}} = 4.55$ Å [15]. The absorption spectrum of CsI is more complex, because it contains several long-wavelength exciton peaks with $n = 1$; in this context, the electronic bands and exciton spectrum of this compound were investigated in several experimental [14, 16] and theoretical [17, 18] studies. In [14], the positions of the longest wavelength peak at 5.81 eV ($n = 1$) and a weaker peak at 6.23 eV ($n = 2$) were used to find E_g and R_{ex} , and we calculated a_{ex} to

Characteristics of exciton states in the compounds

Compound	E_g , eV	R_{ex} , eV	ε_{∞}	a_{ex} , Å
Rb_2CdI_4	4.89	0.28	3.14	8.20
Cs_2CdI_4	4.96	0.31	3.57	6.50
CdI_2	4.17	0.20	4.05	8.9
RbI	6.26	0.58	2.72	4.550
CsI	6.37	0.56	3.05	4.750

be 4.75 Å from the ε_{∞} value. The assignment of the weak peak at 6.23 eV to the $2s$ exciton was also confirmed by the calculation of the structure of electronic bands in CsI in [18], where it was shown that excitons in CsI are genetically related to the p -like valence band and s - and d -like conduction bands at the point Γ of the Brillouin zone.

The characteristics of excitons in Rb_2CdI_4 , Cs_2CdI_4 , CdI_2 , RbI , and CsI are listed in table. The data on E_g , R_{ex} , and a_{ex} suggest the following. All these characteristics of Rb_2CdI_4 and Cs_2CdI_4 have intermediate values between the corresponding values for CdI_2 and RbI , CsI ; however, the E_g and R_{ex} values in ferroelastics are closer to these in CdI_2 rather than in MI . This is evidenced by the following. The difference $\Delta E_g = E_g(\text{Rb}_2\text{CdI}_4) - E_g(\text{CdI}_2) = 0.72$ eV, whereas $E_g(\text{RbI}) - E_g(\text{Rb}_2\text{CdI}_4) = 1.44$ eV; the similar differences for the Cs-containing compounds are 0.79 and 1.41 eV, despite the fact that there are two MI molecules per CdI_2 molecule in ferroelastics. From the point of view of the LCAO method, these results indirectly indicate a smaller contribution of the wave functions of Rb and Cs (in comparison with these of Cd and I) to the formation of the conduction- and valence-band edges, adjacent to the band gap in $M_2\text{CdI}_4$. This conclusion is confirmed by the differences for R_{ex} : $\Delta R_{\text{ex}} = R_{\text{ex}}(\text{Rb}_2\text{CdI}_4) - R_{\text{ex}}(\text{CdI}_2) = 0.08$ eV and $R_{\text{ex}}(\text{RbI}) - R_{\text{ex}}(\text{Rb}_2\text{CdI}_4) = 0.3$ eV, whereas for the Cs-containing compounds the corresponding values are 0.11 and 0.25 eV, respectively. The data on ΔR_{ex} and, especially, Δa_{ex} indicate a stronger localization of excitons in CdI_4^{2+} tetrahedra of the Rb_2CdI_4 ferroelastic in comparison with Cs_2CdI_4 .

We should emphasize that these conclusions are only qualitative, because the data compared are for compounds with different crystal lattices: cubic (MI), hexagonal (CdI_2), and orthorhombic ($M_2\text{CdI}_4$). Their anisotropy indicates that the principal components of the tensor ε should differ; however, we disregarded it in our analysis. As the experiment showed, the layered character of CdI_2 and $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ facilitates crystallites in thin films to be oriented with their c axis directed perpendicularly to the substrate plane; i.e., the found ε_{∞} values are $\varepsilon_{\perp}$ for CdI_2 and $\varepsilon_{\perp}$ for $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ ($\varepsilon_{\perp} = 0.5(\varepsilon_a + \varepsilon_b)$). More exact data on the absorption spectra of

$M_2\text{CdI}_4$ could be gained by depositing films on the corresponding transparent crystalline substrates; however, the latter are difficult to obtain. Nevertheless, this analysis is useful for the further study of the electronic and exciton bands of $M_2\text{CdI}_4$.

CONCLUSIONS

We investigated the exciton absorption spectra of thin films of Rb_2CdI_4 and Cs_2CdI_4 ferroelastics and their solid solutions $(\text{Cs}_{1-x}\text{Rb}_x)_2\text{CdI}_4$, as well as the refractive index dispersion in the range of their transparency. The data obtained revealed a linear concentration behavior of the spectral position of the long-wavelength exciton A bands and their half-width, the spin-orbit interaction energy, and the optical permittivity. All of these data were used to compare the characteristics of excitons in $M_2\text{CdI}_4$ with the corresponding parameters for CdI_2 , RbI , and CsI compounds, which are used to synthesize ferroelastic crystals. The results of comprehensive analysis indicate that the exciton states are better localized in the CdI_2 sublattice of Rb_2CdI_4 in comparison with Cs_2CdI_4 and that the excitons in ferroelastics belong to the excitons involved in intermediate Coulomb coupling.

REFERENCES

1. K. S. Aleksandrov, S. V. Melnikova, I. N. Flerov, A. D. Vasilev, A. I. Kruglik, and I. I. Kokov, *Phys. Status Solidi A* **105**, 441 (1988).
2. V. Touchard, V. Louer, J. P. Auffredic, and D. Louer, *Rev. Chim. Miner.* **24**, 414 (1987).
3. O. N. Yunakova, V. K. Miloslavsky, and E. N. Kov-alenko, *Fiz. Nizk. Temp.* (Kiev) **29** (8), 922 (2003).
4. M. K. Tubbs, *J. Phys. Chem. Solids* **29** (7), 1191 (1968).
5. O. N. Yunakova, V. K. Miloslavsky, and E. N. Kov-alenko, *Opt. Spektrosk.* **104** (4), 631 (2008) [*Opt. Spectrosc.* **104** (4), 552 (2008)].
6. I. Pollini, J. Tomas, R. Coehoorn, and C. Haas, *Phys. Rev. B* **33**, 5747 (1986).
7. M. Cardona, *Modulation Spectroscopy* (Academic, New York, 1969; Mir, Moscow, 1972), p. 416.
8. A. S. Davydov, *Theory of Molecular Excitons* (Nauka, Moscow, 1968) [in Russian].
9. V. K. Miloslavsky, O. N. Yunakova, and E. N. Kov-alenko, *Opt. Spektrosk.* **108** (4), 653 (2010).
10. T. Hirai and S. Hashimoto, *Proc. of EXCON'96, the 2nd International Conference on Excitonic Processes in Condensed Matter* (Dresden Univ. Press, Dresden, 1966), p. 167.
11. S. H. Wemple, *Phys. Rev. B* **7** (8), 3767 (1973).
12. F. Bassani and G. P. Parravicini, *Electronic States and Optical Transitions in Solids* (Pergamon, Oxford, 1975; Nauka, Moscow, 1982), p. 391.
13. O. N. Yunakova, V. K. Miloslavsky, and E. N. Kov-alenko, *Fiz. Nizk. Temp.* (Kiev) **28** (4), 406 (2002).
14. F. Fisher and R. Hilsch, *Nacht. Acad. Wiss. Göttingen II Math.-Phys.* **K1** (8) (1959).
15. J. Ramamurti and K. Teegarden, *Phys. Rev.* **145** (2), 698 (1966).
16. K. Teegarden and G. Baldini, *Phys. Rev.* **136** (6A), 1721 (1964).
17. J. C. Phillips, *Phys. Rev.* **155** (3), 896 (1967).
18. J. Onodera, *J. Phys. Soc. Jpn.* **25** (2), 469 (1968).

Translated by Yu. Sin'kov