

Transition Metals Doping Effects on Non-Linear Optical Properties of Be₁₂O₁₂ Nano-Cluster: A DFT Study

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Received: July 09, 2017; Accepted: July 31, 2017; Published: August 09, 2017

Abstract

Investigation about the effect of transition metal doping on structural, electronic, energetic, linear and nonlinear optical properties of $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster is the subject of this research. Results indicated that transition metals doping process leads to narrowing the energy gap (Eg) of them. Evidently the dipole moment and polarizability value of $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster increases because of that transition metals doping. The first hyperpolarizability value dramatically increases as substitute a magnesium atom with a transition metal atom. Among the transition metal atom doped nanocage, scandium has the largest first hyperpolarizability value ($\beta \circ \approx 4953$ au). Also two-level model indicated that first hyperpolarizibility has severe dependence to excitation energies. The result of TD-DFT calculation indicates that the $\beta 0$ has similar behavior as $\beta 2$ which confirm the results of $\beta 0$ obtained by ab initio calculation.

Keywords: Transition metals; Be₁₂O₁₂; Doping; NLO; Nanocage; First hyperpolarizability

Introduction

Due to the great applications, compounds with high nonlinear optical properties in the fields of optoelectronic and photonic devices, especially generation of optical harmonics, the scientists were attracted to investigate about material with high NLO properties [1-7]. There are many effective agents for enhancing the NLO properties such as: Electron donor and recipient groups, establishment of electron π , doping atom and etc. in original molecule [8-11]. Discovery of carbon nanotube [12] made a significant revolution in science and technology of nanomaterials. Scientists became interested to explore their new types of nanomaterial with unique properties and different functionalities. It has been shown that homologues of fullerene molecules have excellent applications in electronic devices, imaging materials, magnetic recording, and environmental processes; so, their investigation will be very interesting [13-16]. Theoretically, it is shown that, between different types of (XY)_n structures, the nanocages with the general formula of (XY)₁₂ have the most stable clusters [17-20] which employ in various application. To enhance the NLO properties of X₁₂Y₁₂ nanoclusters many efforts were done [21,22]. Recently, the effect of transition metals atoms doping on geometric, electronic, linear and nonlinear optical properties of Mg₁₂O₁₂ nanocclusters significantly enhanced through doping with transition metal atoms [23]. In present study, in the similar way, the effect of transition metal doping on Be₁₂O₁₂ Citation: Toosi AR, Shamlouei HR. Transition Metals Doping Effects on Non-Linear Optical Properties of Be₁₂O₁₂ Nano-Cluster: A DFT Study. Phys Chem Ind J. 2017;S1:103. © 2017 Trade Science Inc.

nanocluster was studied. Calculation of the energies of the singlet excited states using time-dependent density functional (TD-DFT) method is the benefit of this research in comparison of previous research.

Computational Details

In this paper, all theoretical computations were done using density functional theory (DFT) with Gaussian 09 package [24]. All optimization calculations for considered nanocluster structures $Be_{12}O_{12}$ and $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ (X= transition metals atom) in ground state and excited state were calculated by B_3LYP method in 6-31+g(d) basis set. Vertical energies of the singlet excited states were calculated using time-dependent density functional (TD-DFT) method at the $B_3LYP/6-31+g(d)$ level. The values of $\langle S^2 \rangle$ are 0.750 for a pure doublet and 0 for pure singlet systems, after spin annihilation. Recently has been developed for long-range interaction and charge transfer systems, a new density functional CAM- B_3LYP [25,26] that can be useful for (hyper) polarizabilities calculations [27,28] and for considered nanocluster structures linear and non-linear optic properties and hyperpolarization were investigated.

We used CAM-B₃LYP method in 6-31+g(d) level for determination of first hyperpolarizibility. The electronic properties of the considered nanocluster such as: the values of energies of HOMO (the highest occupied molecular orbital; E_{HOMO}), LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecular orbital; E_{LUMO}) and the energy gap (Eg) difference of between HOMO and LUMO levels as a critical parameter to determine molecular electrical transport properties investigated through their density of states (DOS) spectra obtained from GaussSum program [29].

The energy gap (Eg) is given as Eq. 1

$$E_{g} = E_{(HOMO)} - E_{(LUMO)}$$
(1)

Where E_g is the energy gap, E_{HOMO} and E_{LUMO} are the values of energie of the highest and the lowest occupied molecular orbitals, respectively (in Ev).

The energy of an uncharged liner molecule in a weak and homogeneous external electric field can be defined as Eq. (2) [30,31].

$$E = E_0 - \mu_{\alpha} F_{\alpha} - 1/2 \alpha_{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha} F_{\beta} - 1/6 \beta_{\alpha\beta\gamma} F_{\alpha} F_{\beta} F_{\gamma} - \dots$$
(2)

Where E_0 is energy of system in zero electric field and F α is the electric field component alongside α direction. μ_{α} , $\alpha_{\alpha\beta}$ and $\beta_{\alpha\beta\gamma}$ are the components of dipole moment, polarizability, and the first hyperpolarizability tensor.

The polarizability (α), first hyperpolarizability (β °) and tensor components of first hyperpolarizability (β ijk) are noted as: [32,33]

$$\alpha = 1/3(\alpha_{xx} + \alpha_{yy} + \alpha_{zz}) \tag{3}$$

$$\beta_0 = (\beta_x^2 + \beta_y^2 + \beta_z^2)^{1/2}$$
(4)

In which
$$\beta_i = 3/5 (\beta_{iii} + \beta_{ijj} + \beta_{ikk})$$
 i, j, k=x, y, z (5)

Where βijk (i, j, k = x, y, z) are tensor components of first hyperpolarizability.

Results and Discussion

In this research, at first all structures, $Be_{12}O_{12}$ and $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ (X= transition metals atom), were optimized then electronic properties, Polarizability (α) and first hyperpolarizability (β_0) $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ were studied. For all doped nano clusters ($Be_{11}XO_{12}$), calculated excitation energy was compared with the first hyperpolarizibility in ground state.

Structural and energetic investigation

All structures, $Be_{12}O_{12}$ and $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ (X= transition metals atom), were optimized in the ground state by B_3LYP method and in 6-31+g(d) basis set (FIG. 1). $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster consist of square and hexagon rings that alternatively the Be atoms connected to O atoms. The Be–O and Be–Be bonds length in square ring were analyzed for pure $Be_{12}O_{12}$.

The Be–O and Be–Be bonds length were calculated and obtained 1.577 and 2.048 angstrom in pure $Be_{12}O_{12}$, respectively. Then, one of the Beryllium atoms in square ring was substituted with transition metals atom and subsequent their structures were optimized. The optimized structures of the $Be_{12}O_{12}$ and doped nanoclusters with transition metals are presented in FIG. 1.





5

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510

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Energy (eV)

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FIG. 1. The optimized geometry and density of states (DOS) spectrum of the (a) Be₁₂O₁₂, (b) Be₁₁Sc O₁₂, (c) Be₁₁Ti O₁₂, (d) Be₁₁V O₁₂, (e) Be₁₁Cr O₁₂, (f) Be₁₁Mn O₁₂, (g) Be₁₁Fe O₁₂, (h) Be₁₁Co O₁₂, (i) Be₁₁Ni O₁₂, (j) Be₁₁Cu O₁₂ and (k) Be₁₁Zn O₁₂ nanocluster.

By doping transition metals atom in $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster, X–Be bond length in square ring increase and was compared to Be– Be bond length in pure $Be_{12}O_{12}$ and similar ring. The variations maximum of bond length in among all of X-Be bonds appear for Sc-Be bond and Ni-Be bond length has the variations minimum; they were calculated 2.540 and 2.354 angstrom, respectively. Similarly, X-O bond length was increased for all doped atoms with transition metal.

The X–O, O-Be and X–Be bond length, O–X–O and O–Be–O bond angle in square ring, and doping energy for $Be_{12}O_{12}$ and doped nano cluster ($Be_{11}XO_{12}$) were gathered in TABLE. 1.

Molecule	Bond length			Bond angle		Б	Б
	X-0	O-Be	X-Be	0-X-0	O-Be-O	E Bel1XO12	E dop
$Be_{12}O_{12}$	1.577	1.578	2.048	98.211	98.199	-1.72	
Be ₁₁ ScO ₁₂	2.027	1.588	2.54	77.346	105.86	-2.91	-5.87
Be ₁₁ TiO ₁₂	1.924	1.613	2.396	83.556	105.25	-3.05	-6.15
Be ₁₁ VO ₁₂	1.956	1.583	2.457	79.922	105.038	-3.2	-6.46
Be ₁₁ CrO ₁₂	1.935	1.576	2.453	79.777	103.827	-3.36	-6.78
$Be_{11}MnO_{12}$	1.921	1.571	2.438	80.117	103.829	-3.53	-7.12
Be ₁₁ FeO ₁₂	1.894	1.574	2.403	81.719	103.841	-3.71	-7.47
$Be_{11}CoO_{12}$	1.898	1.577	2.398	81.851	104.091	-3.9	-7.85
Be ₁₁ NiO ₁₂	1.84	1.575	2.354	82.745	101.078	-4.1	-8.25
Be ₁₁ CuO ₁₂	1.912	1.578	2.397	88.539	104.618	-4.31	-8.68
Be ₁₁ ZnO ₁₂	1.958	1.585	2.411	81.5	107.552	-4.54	-9.12

TABLE 1	. X–O, O-Be and X–Be bond l	ength (Angstrom), O-X-C) and O–Be–O bond angle (degree) for square ring,
	E _{Be11XO12} (Kcal mol ⁻¹) and E _{dot}	(Kcal mol ⁻¹) for Be ₁₂ O ₁₂	and other doped nano clust	er (Be ₁₁ XO ₁₂).

The maximum value was assigned to Sc-O bond and minimum value was calculated for Ni-O bond. Owing to TABLE. 1 Be-O bond length in $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ was shown negligible changes. The O–Be–O angle was equal to 98.2 degree. The bond angles for all of doped $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster were decreased. The minimum decrement was assigned to O–Cu–O (88.539 degree) and maximum decrement occurs at O–Sc–O (77.346 degree).

The Be-X, Be-O and Be–Be bonds length and bond angles of O-X-O for square ring, are listed in TABLE 1 and depicted in FIG. 1.

Electronic properties

The obtained DOS spectrums are shown in FIG. 1. The Obtained E_{HOMO} , E_{LUMO} and E_g values from DOS spectrum (FIG. 1) are listed in TABLE 2. Energy gap for Be₁₂O₁₂ was about 7.60 ev (Be₁₂O₁₂ is an intrinsic semiconductor material because of large gap bond). As can be seen in TABLE 2, substitution 1 Be atom with 1 X atom (transition metals) in Be₁₂O₁₂ nanocluster leads to decreasing of HOMO-LUMO energy gap (E_g) so that it is transformed from an intrinsic semiconductor (Eg \approx 7.60 eV) to a p-type one (Eg \approx 2.43eV). The least of E_g value among all considered clusters about 2.18 ev and it belongs to Be₁₁ScO₁₂. The plot of E_g as a function of atomic number (z) indicates in FIG. 2.



FIG. 2. The changes of energy gap (Eg) as function of atomic number of the doped transition metal atom (Z) for all considered nano clusters Be₁₁XO₁₂

The energy gap values for doped nanocluster $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ increase with increasing atomic number. The chemical potential of $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ was calculated and summarized in TABLE 2. The energy gap values for doped nanocluster $Be_{11}XO_{12}$ increase with increasing atomic number. The chemical potential analysis shows that doping of X atoms in $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster leads to the increasing of chemical potential. The maximum chemical potential value occurs in $Be_{11}TiO_{12}$. In FIG. 3, we can see the reduction of Chemical potential $Be_{12}O_{12}$ as a function of atomic number.



Atomic number of doped atom

FIG. 3. Chemical potential of considered nanoclusters as function of the doped atomic number of doped transition metal atom (Z).

Optical properties

Polarizability (α) and first hyperpolarizability (β_0) for all structures were calculated and listed in TABLE. 2.

TABLE. 2. The frontier molecular orbital energies E_{HOMO} and E_{LUMO} (eV), energy gap E_g (eV), chemical potential μ
(ev), percent of difference energy gap from $Be_{12}O_{12}\Delta(E_{0g}-E_g)$ %, polarizability α (au) and First hyperpolarizability β^{α}
(au) values for the considered doped $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster.

Molecule	E _{HOMO}	E _{LUMO}	$\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{g}}$	μ	ΔΕ%	α	β∘
Be ₁₂ O ₁₂	-8.64	-1.04	7.60	0.00	0	127.55	0
Be ₁₁ ScO ₁₂	-3.69	-1.51	2.18	-2.46	-71.32	187.01	4953.19
Be ₁₁ TiO ₁₂	-3.99	-1.56	2.43	-2.78	-68.03	165.94	2757.35
Be ₁₁ VO ₁₂	-4.64	-1.88	2.76	-3.50	-63.68	155.83	2106.40
Be ₁₁ CrO ₁₂	-5.17	-2.27	2.90	-3.72	-61.84	149.31	1343.50
Be ₁₁ MnO ₁₂	-5.43	-2.17	3.26	-4.07	-57.11	145.03	1069.90
Be ₁₁ FeO ₁₂	-6.28	-2.15	4.13	-4.22	-45.66	142.70	777.53
Be ₁₁ CoO ₁₂	-7.34	-3.18	4.16	-5.32	-45.26	139.71	348.33
Be ₁₁ NiO ₁₂	-6.98	-3.91	3.07	-5.45	-59.61	138.88	166.20
Be ₁₁ CuO ₁₂	-7.84	-4.54	3.30	-4.77	-56.58	139.33	248.36
Be ₁₁ ZnO ₁₂	-8.13	-2.30	5.83	-5.22	-23.29	136.23	175.34

The value of 127.55 and 0 a.u. were obtained for polarizability (α) and first hyperpolarizability (β_0) of Be₁₂O₁₂ respectively. The results indicated that doping of transition metals atom in Be₁₂O₁₂ leads to increase the polarizability (α) and first hyperpolarizability (β_0) of cluster. Among all of the considered doped nanoclusters by transition metals atom, Be₁₁ScO₁₂ (X=Sc) has the largest first hyperpolarizability ($\beta_0 \approx 4953.2$ au) and polarizability ($\alpha \approx 187.01$ au) values. It was seen that by increasing the atomic number of doped transition metal the polarizability and first hyperpolarizability values was reduced (FIG. 4 and 5).



FIG. 4. The values of polarizability (a) as function of the doped transition metal atomic number (Z).



FIG. 5. Logarithmic plot of first hyperpolarizability(β°) as a function of the doped transition metal atomic number (Z) for all considered nanoclustrers.

Similar to previous research, the Sc atom doping had maximum effect on the polarizability and first hyperpolarizability of $Be_{11}XO_{12}$. Additionally, polarizability and hyperpolarizability decrease when the atomic number of transition metal increases. However larger size of $Mg_{11}ScO_{12}$ in comparison to $Be_{11}ScO_{12}$ may explain the larger value of first hyperpolarizability of $Mg_{11}ScO_{12}$.

TD-DFT calculations

To understand how doping of different transition metals effect on the β_0 values of Be₁₂O₁₂, the widely common two-level model is considered as [34-37]:

$$\beta_0 \propto \Delta \mu. f / \Delta E^3$$
 (6)

where ΔE , f_0 and $\Delta \mu$ are the transition energy, oscillator strength, and difference in the dipole moments between the ground state and the crucial excited state with the largest oscillator strength. In this model, the third power of the transition energy is reversely proportional to the β_0 value; therefore the transition energy is the noteworthy factor in the first hyperpolarizability. The fraction of $\Delta \mu$.f/ ΔE^3 in Eq 6, voluntary named as β_2 . The crucial transition excited state is provided using the timedependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) calculations at CAM-B₃LYP/6-31+G(d) level of theory. The obtained values of ΔE , λ (wavelength of adsorbed light), f_0 , $\Delta \mu$ and the β_2 as well as ln (β_0) are presented in TABLE 3.

System	Ln β (ev)	$\Delta \mathbf{E}$ (ev)	м (nm)	$\Delta \mu$ ge (a.u)	f	$\beta_2(a.u)$
$Be_{11}ScO_{12}$	8.51	2.17	570.80	0.49	0.09	15.00
Be ₁₁ TiO ₁₂	7.92	3.37	368.40	0.40	0.05	10.15
Be ₁₁ VO ₁₂	7.65	3.67	337.46	0.32	0.07	9.75
$Be_{11}CrO_{12}$	7.20	4.17	297.39	0.24	0.13	8.61
$Be_{11}MnO_{12}$	6.98	4.23	292.96	0.25	0.12	7.74
$Be_{11}FeO_{12}$	6.66	4.48	276.89	0.23	0.12	6.00
Be ₁₁ CoO ₁₂	5.85	5.56	214.60	0.29	0.08	2.67
Be ₁₁ NiO ₁₂	5.11	6.11	202.98	0.49	0.03	1.34
$Be_{11}CuO_{12}$	5.51	4.31	287.59	0.48	0.03	4.02
$Be_{11}ZnO_{12}$	5.17	7.02	176.56	1.70	0.05	5.04

TABLE. 3. The first hyperpolarizability (β_0), the transition energy (ΔE), the difference of dipole moment ($\Delta \mu$) between the ground state and the crucial excited state, the largest oscillator strength (*f*) of the considered nanoclusters.

For all doped nano clusters ($Be_{11}XO_{12}$), calculated excitation energy was compared with the first hyperpolarizibility obtained from TABLE 2 and was show that in the cases which have lower excitation energy, the hyperpolarizability has higher value. In FIG. 6 the simultaneously the hyperpolarizability and excitation energy of transition of doped nanocages were plotted as function of atomic number of used transition metal atoms.



FIG. 6. The plot of first hyperpolarizability (β°) and transition energy as function of the doped transition metal atomic number (Z) for all considered nanoclustrers.

As indicated in Eq 6, the first hyperpolarizability of the doped nanoclusters is inversely proportional to the transition energies. The highest first hyperpolarizability and the lowest transition energy were observed in $Be_{11}ScO_{12}$. Additionally, the lowest first hyperpolarizability was obtained for $Be_{11}NiO_{12}$ had highest value of transition energy.

Finally, the first hyperpolarizability presented in TABLE 2, was compared with values of hyperpolarizability calculated by Eq 6. It was seen that the trend of both of them as function of atomic number of transition metals are similar. In FIG. 7, both

of the plots of logarithm of first hyperpolarizability calculated from direct ab initio calculation and the β_2 obtained from Eq 6 were plotted as function of atomic number of transition metals.



FIG. 7. Comparison between the β_0 presented in TABLE 2 and β_0 calculated by from Eq 6 (β_2).

As illustrated in FIG. 7, logarithm of first hyperpolarizability calculated by ab initio calculation has same behavior as β_0 obtained from Eq 6.

Conclusion

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of doping transition metals atom on the structural, electronic, linear and nonlinear optical properties of $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster by density functional theory (DFT) methods. The main conclusions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Transition metals atom doping in $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster due to reduction of energy gap $Be_{12}O_{12}$. The maximum decrement belongs to $Be_{11}TiO_{12}$ (-68.03%) and the minimum decrement belongs to $Be_{11}CuO_{12}$ (-12.89%).
- 2. The doping of transition metals atom in $Be_{12}O_{12}$ leads to enhancement of polarizability (α). The $Be_{11}ScO_{12}$ has the greatest polarizability ($\alpha = 187.01 \text{ eV}$) and $Be_{11}ZnO_{12}$ has the lowest polarizability ($\alpha = 136.23 \text{ eV}$).
- The first hyperpolarizability values increases with transition metals atom doping. The first hyperpolarizability for considered nanoclusters are change in the order of (Sc) > (Ti) > (V) > (Cr) > (Mn) > (Fe) > (Co) > (Cu) > (Ni) > (Zn).
- 4. The two-level model proposes that the considerable increment of β_0 is mainly due to the ΔE values. Additionally, the TD-DFT calculation indicates that the first hyperpolarizability has similar behavior as β_2 and inverse of ΔE^3 .
- 5. The doping process of transition metals atom in the $Be_{12}O_{12}$ nanocluster plays an important role in enhancing the first hyperpolarizability and leads to the NLO response.

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