

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE
YUCOMAT 2022
&
TWELFTH WORLD ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE
ON SINTERING
XII WRTCS

Hunguest Hotel Sun Resort, Herceg Novi, Montenegro
August 29 - September 2, 2022

Program
and
the Book of Abstracts

Organised by:
Materials Research Society of Serbia
&
International Institute for the Science of Sintering

Endorsed by:
Federation of European Material Societies

CIP - Каталогизacija публикаcija
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

66.017/.018(048)

621.762.5(048)

DRUŠTVO za istraživanje materijala Srbije (Beograd). Godišnja konferencija (23 ; 2022 ; Herceg Novi)

Program ; and The Book of abstracts / Twenty-third Annual Conference YUCOMAT 2022 & Twelfth World Round Table Conference on Sintering XII WRTCS 2022, Herceg Novi, Montenegro, August 29 - September 2, 2022 ; organised by Materials Research Society of Serbia & International Institute for the Science of Sintering ; [editor Dragan P. Uskoković]. - Belgrade : Materials Research Society of Serbia, 2022 (Herceg Novi : Biro Konto). - XLV, 185 str. : ilustr. ; 23 cm

Tiraž 200. - Bibliografija uz pojedine apstrakte. - Registar.

ISBN 978-86-919111-7-1

1. World Round Table Conference on Sintering (12 ; 2022 ; Herceg Novi) а) Наука о материјалима -- Апстракти б) Технички материјали -- Апстракти в) Синтеровање -- Апстракти

COBISS.SR-ID 71996169

Title: TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE **YUCOMAT 2022** &
TWELFTH WORLD ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON SINTERING **XII WRTCS**
Program and the Book of Abstracts

Publisher: Materials Research Society of Serbia
Knez Mihailova 35/IV, P.O. Box 433, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: +381 11 2185-437; <http://www.mrs-serbia.org.rs>

Editor: Prof. Dr. Dragan P. Uskoković

Technical editor: Ivana Kovačević

Typesetting & prepress: Dr. Aleksandar Dekanski

Cover page: Nenad Ignjatović

Covers: Images on front & back covers are the property of MRS-Serbia

ISBN-978-86-919111-7-1

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MRS Serbia is member of the
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Printed in: Biro Konto
Sutorina bb, Igalo – Herceg Novi, Montenegro
Phones: +382-31-670123, 670025, E-mail: bkonto@t-com.me
Circulation: 200 copies. The end of printing: August 2022

P.S.II.B.7.

Fabrication and characterization of high entropy pyrochlore ceramics

Branko Matović¹, Dejan Zagorac¹, Ivana Cvijović-Alagić¹, Jelena Zagorac¹, Svetlana Butulija¹, Jelena Erčić¹, Ondrej Hanzel², Richard Sedlák³, Maksym Lisnichuk⁴, Peter Tatarko²

¹Centre of Excellence "CEXTREME LAB", Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences - National Institute of the Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade, Mike Petrovića Alasa 12-14, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

²Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, 84536 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

³Institute of Materials Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Watsonova 47, 04001 Košice, Slovak Republic

⁴Faculty of Science, Institute of Physics, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Park Angelinum 9, 04001 Košice, Slovakia

High-entropy rare-earth (RE) zirconates with pyrochlore structure were successfully fabricated by pressureless and spark plasma sintering. RE₂Zr₂O₇ compound with nominal composition (La_{0.2}Y_{0.2}Gd_{0.2}Nd_{0.2}Sm_{0.2})Zr₂O₇ was prepared by simple glycine nitrate procedure (GNP). GNP process yielded powders with low crystallinity and after subsequent calcination, well crystalline ceramics were formed. During calcination defective fluorite (F-RE₂Zr₂O₇) and crystal pyrochlore (Py-RE₂Zr₂O₇) structures coexist. Formation of pure crystalline pyrochlore occurs after sintering at 1450 °C. High-density ceramics, free of any additives, were obtained after powders compaction and pressureless (PS), as well as Field Assisted Sintering Technique (FAST) at 1450 °C. Theoretical investigations of the high-entropy RE₂Zr₂O₇ pyrochlore systems were performed. Unit cell parameter of the obtained Py-RE₂Zr₂O₇ is 10.5892(2) Å and 10.5999(2) Å for PS and FAST sintering, respectively, which is in good agreement with the results of Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations. The thermal diffusivity of sintered samples at room temperature was ~0.7 mm²/s for both sintering methods.