



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
G02F 2/02 (2006.01) *F21K 9/64* (2016.01)
F21K2/00 (2006.01) *F21S 2/00* (2016.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:** PCT/PL2016/050055
- (22) **International Filing Date:** 16 November 2016 (16.11.2016)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:** P.414821 16 November 2015 (16.11.2015) PL
- (71) **Applicant:** INSTYTUT NISKICH TEMPERATUR I BADAN STRUKTURALNYCH PAN IM.W.TRZEBI-ATOWSKIEGO [PL/PL]; Okolna 2, 50-442 Wrocław (PL).
- (72) **Inventors:** STREK, Wiesław; Debowa 19, 55-040 Bielany Wrocławskie (PL). TOMALA, Robert; Stare Sady 14/2, 98-300 Wielun (PL). MARCINIAK, Lukasz; Zatorska 61a/23, 51-215 Wrocław (PL). HRENIAK, Dariusz; Inowrolawska 17/1 13, 53-653 Wrocław (PL). GER-ASYMCHUK, Yuriy; Borzecin 45/3, 55-140 Zmigrod (PL). CICHY, Bartłomiej; Wilenska 15/4, 52-1 13 Wrocław (PL).
- (74) **Agent:** JWP PATENT&TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS DOROTA RZAZEWSKA SP.J.; Żelazna 28/30, 00-833 Warsaw (PL).
- (81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) **Title:** A WHITE LIGHT SOURCE AND A METHOD OF WHITE LIGHT GENERATION

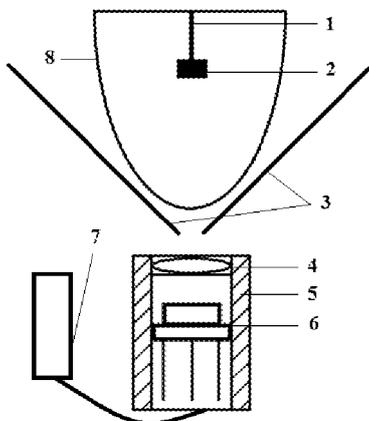


Fig.5

(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a source of white light constructed of a vacuum glass chamber, containing an optically active element, a generator of an IR electromagnetic radiation beam equipped with a laser IR diode, a battery, a focusing lens, and, optionally, a reflector characterized in that the optically active element contained in the vacuum chamber is a thin layer graphene matrix with the thickness of up to 3mm. The invention also relates to a method of white light generation by means of the above-mentioned white light source.



A White Light Source and a Method of White Light Generation

The subject of the invention is a source of white light and a method for white light generation.

The prior art includes a few methods for obtaining white light as a result of processes other than emission by a black body, that is incandescence. The methods that are dominant among them are those based on the use of organic luminophores that are excited in the ultraviolet (UV) range and those based on inorganic phosphors blended with ions of rare earth metals.

Graphene is a material that was independently produced for the first time by a group from Georgia (C. Berger, Z. Song, T. Li, X. Li, A. Y. Ogbazghi, R. Feng, Z. Dai, A. N. Marchenkov, E. H. Conrad, P. N. First, W. A. de Heer. „J. Phys. Chem. B". 108, 2004) and from Manchester (K. S. Novoselov, A. K. Geim, S. V. Morozov, D. Jiang, Y. Zhang, S. V. Dubonos, I. V. Grigorieva, A. A. Firsov, „Science". 306, 2004). It is characterized with very good heat conductivity and electrical conductivity, low resistivity and very high electron activity.

After 2010, when the methods for graphene oxide synthesis and its reduction were improved, scientific papers on graphene foams, that is - a porous structure consisting of reduced graphene oxide flakes, appeared. The main area of interest in the application of the above-mentioned foams is their usage as supercapacitors (Patent WO2013 180662 A1) and as the anode in lithium ion batteries (Zhou, X., Liu, Z., IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering, 18 (SYMPOSIUM 3), art. no. 062006.).

Foam graphene is obtained, among others, through pyrolysis of dried gel which is a reaction of graphene oxide, resorcinol, and formalin (M.A. Worsley, P.J. Pauzaskie, T.Y. Olson, J.H. Satcher Jr., T.F. Baumann, JACS Comm. (2010), 10.1021/jal072299, Patent US8993113 B2), as well as aggregation from aqueous solution (Patent US20120322917 A1).

Light sources using carbon as active material have been known for many years. One of the first sources of this type was an arc lamp created by Humphry Davy in 1802, in which he used two carbon wires between which he produced a 10 cm long electric arc. This was followed by the attempts to use carbon fiber glowing in a vacuum by Jobard (1838) and Swan (1860).

In the article published in Nature Nanotechnology (Nature Nanotechn. 10 (2015) 676) Young Duck Kim et al. describe a light source on a chip which uses graphene. Graphene is placed on a silicic base and heated by means of electric current flowing through the electrodes to the temperature of 2000 - 2900 K, that is - similar to those used in incandescent light sources. The property of graphene - the fact that its thermal conductivity decreases in high temperatures which prevents damage of the silicic base - is used in the light source.

The method of generation of a broad-range white-light emission by means of excitation with laser lines from 405 nm to 975 nm was described in the article "Laser-Induced White-Light Emission From Graphene Ceramics-Opening a Band Gap in Graphene" (W. Strek, B. Cichy, L. Radosinski, P. Gluchowski, L. Marciniak, M. Lukaszewicz, D. Hreniak, Light: Science & Applications (2015) 4, e237). The phenomenon of white light generation on graphene has threshold nature and the emission intensity is exponentially dependent on the optical excitation

power. The temperature of the sample measured during light generation is below 900K which excludes the method of light generation through black body radiation.

The aim of the present invention is providing a source of white light generated by infrared radiation and a method of white light generation.

The essence of the solution according to the invention is a source of white light constructed of a vacuum glass chamber, containing an optically active element, a generator of an IR electromagnetic radiation beam equipped with a laser IR diode, a battery, a focusing lens, and, optionally, a reflector characterized in that the optically active element contained in the vacuum chamber is a thin layer graphene matrix with the thickness of up to 3 mm.

Preferably in the solution according to the invention, the optically active element is a thin layer graphene matrix in the form of graphene powder, graphene ceramics, or graphene foam.

Preferably, after excitation by means of the beam of radiation generated by the laser IR diode, the optically active element emits white light with the color rendering index (CRI) above 96, preferably above 98, more preferably 100. The very high value of color rendering index obtained for the white light source according to the invention prevents distortion in the perception of colors and eye tiredness of the person working under the light using a light source of this type; that is why the light source according to the invention may be used, for example, for workstation lighting.

According to the invention, an IR diode placed in the light source tube emits radiation in the near infrared range with the wavelength of 800-1200 nm, preferably 808-980 nm. Passing through the focusing lens, the radiation beam emitted by the diode excites the optically active element in the form of a graphene matrix, which emits white light after excitation. The graphene material placed in the light source according to the invention shows maximum emission after excitation by electromagnetic wave with the length of 660 nm.

In the solution according to the invention, the optically active element absorbs radiation in the near infrared range thanks to which it is possible to generate broadband radiation, reaching from near ultraviolet range (370 nm) to infrared range (900 nm) with the maximum emission at 660 nm.

Emission spectra for the light source according to the invention are characterized in that they generate broadband radiation covering the entire visible electromagnetic radiation range with the maximum emission at 660 nm (Fig. 1b, 2b and 3 b). What is more, emission intensity of the light source according to the invention grows exponentially in proportion to the excitation power.

For the light source according to the invention, in which the optically active element is graphene material, low emission threshold has been observed, especially in the case of graphene foam. Apart from that, also high emission intensity and quantum efficiency were observed for the light source according to the invention.

In the solution according to the invention, the intensity of white light emission is controlled by means of optical pumping power or regulation of pressure in the vacuum chamber. For

excitation power increase between 0,4-0,8 W, emission intensity of the light source according to the invention increases six times, and for excitation power in the range between 0,9-1,6 W emission intensity of the light source according to the invention increases over three and a half times (fig. 1b).

According to the invention, the intensity of white light emission in the solution according to the invention is in inverse proportion to the pressure of gases surrounding the optically active element; that is why the intensity of white light emission may be controlled by regulation of the pressure of gases surrounding the optically active element. According to the invention, the pressure value in the vacuum chamber containing the optically active element is in the range from 10^0 to 10^{-6} mbar, preferably 10^{-3} - 10^{-6} mbar. Pressure change from 1 mbar to 10^{-3} mbar results in the increase in white light emission intensity by three orders of magnitude.

Due to the fact that light emission intensity is strongly dependent on optical pumping density, it is possible to model the emission intensity of the light source according to the invention by differentiation of the distance between the lens and the optically active element. The closer it is to the focal length value, the higher light emission intensity is obtained, e.g. for a lens with the focal length of 3 cm, the difference in emission intensity in the focus and 1 cm behind it is four orders of magnitude.

The subject matter of the invention is also a method of white light generation by means of a white light source constructed of a vacuum glass chamber, containing an optically active element, a generator of an IR electromagnetic radiation beam equipped with a laser IR diode, a battery, a focusing lens, and, optionally, a reflector where the optically active element contained in the vacuum chamber is a thin layer graphene matrix with the thickness of 3 mm. The method according to the invention is characterized in that by means of a generator of an electromagnetic radiation beam, an exciting beam with the wavelength of 800-1200 nm and excitation power of 0,3-0,6 W is generated, after which the exciting beam is passed through the focusing lens and then directed onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 45° - 90° in relation to the matrix plane, which, as a result of excitation, emits radiation in the white light range.

In one of the variations of the method according to the invention, where the exciting beam is directed onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 90° in relation to the matrix plane, the beam of radiation in the white light range emitted as a result of graphene matrix excitation is reflected in the reflector which is used to direct the white light beam outside of the device.

The subject of the invention is shown in the figures, wherein:

fig.1 a) presents the spectra of a light source emission, where the optically active element is a matrix in the form of graphene foam with the thickness of 3 mm, after excitation by means of electromagnetic wave with the length of 975 nm;

fig.1 b) presents the dependence between emission intensity and excitation power for a light source, where the optically active element is a matrix in the form of graphene foam with the thickness of 3 mm, after excitation by means of electromagnetic wave between 0.4 W - 1.6 W;

fig. 2 a) presents the spectra of a light source emission, where the optically active element is a matrix in the form of graphene ceramics with the thickness of 3 mm, after excitation by means of electromagnetic wave with the length of 975 nm;

fig.2 b) presents the dependence between emission intensity and excitation power for a light source where the optically active element is a matrix in the form of graphene ceramics with the thickness of 3 mm, after excitation by means of electromagnetic wave between 0.3 W - 1.6 W;

fig.3 a) presents the spectra of a light source emission, where the optically active element is a matrix in the form of graphene powder with thickness of 3 mm, after excitation by means of electromagnetic wave with the length of 975 nm;

fig.3 b) presents the dependence between emission intensity and excitation power for a light source where the optically active element is a matrix in the form of graphene powder with the thickness of 3 mm, after excitation by means of electromagnetic wave between 0.1 W - 1.6 W;

fig.4 presents the influence of pressure on the emission intensity of graphene foam (a), graphene ceramics (b) and graphene powder (c) as a result of excitation by a focused beam from an infrared diode. Emission intensity drops rapidly when pressure exceeds the value of 10^{-2} - 10^0 mbar;

fig.5 presents the construction of a light source according to the invention where the optically active element **2** in the form of graphene material is placed on metal wire **1** inside a vacuum glass chamber **8**. The chamber **8** is surrounded by a reflector **3**, whose walls are tilted at the angle of 45° in relation to the surface of the optically active element **2**. In the lower part of the reflector **3**, there is an opening through which the exciting beam of IR electromagnetic radiation is emitted. The generator of the IR electromagnetic radiation beam is an infrared diode **6** placed in a tube **5** powered by a diode battery **7**, where the tube **5** is equipped with a lens **4** at one end constituting an exit point of the radiation beam. The exciting electromagnetic IR radiation beam generated by the diode **6** passes through the lens **4**, focusing radiation on the optically active element **2**, which, as a result of excitation, generates radiation in the white light range. Radiation emission from the optically active element **2** is reflected in a reflector **3**, and then it leaves the device.

fig.6 presents a variant of the light source according to the invention, where the optically active element **2** in the form of graphene material is placed on metal wire **1** inside a vacuum glass chamber **8**. Next to the chamber **8**, a generator of IR electromagnetic radiation beam in the form of an infrared diode **6** put in a tube **5** powered by a diode battery **7** is placed, where the tube **5** is equipped with a lens **4** at one end constituting an exit point of the radiation beam. The tube **5** is directed towards the optically active element **2** in such a way so as to form the angle of 45° with its surface. The exciting IR electromagnetic radiation beam generated by the diode **6** passes through the lens **4**, focusing the radiation, and then falls onto the optically active element **2** at the angle of 45° , which, as a result of excitation, generates radiation in the white light range.

The present solution may find its application in the lighting industry. Thanks to its characteristics, including low power consumption (energy efficiency), as well as its spectral characteristics (wide emission range covering the entire visible radiation range), it can replace fluorescent lamps, LED diodes etc. that are currently used.

The invention is illustrated in more detail in an embodiment that does not limit the scope thereof.

Example 1

An optically active element in the form of graphene powder compressed into a tablet with the thickness of 3 mm is placed in a glass chamber. The distance between the lens and the active element is 3 cm, and the pressure in the vacuum chamber is 10^{-6} mbar. By means of an IR diode, a beam of electromagnetic radiation with the wavelength of 980 nm is generated and directed by means of a focusing lens onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 45° in relation to the graphene matrix surface. Warm white light with the CRI value of 97 is obtained.

Example 2

An optically active element in the form of graphene powder compressed into a tablet with the thickness of 3 mm is placed in a glass chamber. The distance between the lens and the active element is 3 cm, and the pressure in the vacuum chamber is 10^{-6} mbar. By means of an IR diode, a beam of electromagnetic radiation with the wavelength of 808 nm is generated and directed by means of a focusing lens onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 45° in relation to the graphene matrix surface. Warm white light with the CRI value of 97 is obtained.

Example 3

An optically active element in the form of graphene ceramics with the thickness of 3 mm is placed in a glass chamber. The distance between the lens and the active element in 3 cm, and the pressure in the vacuum chamber is 10^{-6} mbar. By means of an IR diode, a beam of electromagnetic radiation with the wavelength of 980 nm is generated and directed by means of a focusing lens onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 45° in relation to the graphene matrix surface. Warm white light with the CRI value of 98 is obtained.

Example 4

An optically active element in the form of graphene ceramics with the thickness of 3 mm is placed in a glass chamber. The distance between the lens and the active element in 3 cm, and the pressure in the vacuum chamber is 10^{-6} mbar. By means of an IR diode, a beam of electromagnetic radiation with the wavelength of 960 nm is generated and directed by means of a focusing lens onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 45° in relation to the graphene matrix surface. Warm white light with the CRI value of 98 is obtained.

Example 5

An optically active element in the form of graphene foam with the thickness of 3 mm is placed in a glass chamber. The distance between the lens and the active element in 3 cm, and the pressure in the vacuum chamber is 10^{-6} mbar. By means of an IR diode, a beam of

electromagnetic radiation with the wavelength of 960 nm is generated and directed by means of a focusing lens onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 90° in relation to the graphene matrix surface. The white emission beam generated by the graphene matrix as a result of excitation is reflected by the walls of a reflector placed around the vacuum chamber at the angle of 45° in relation to the active element. Warm white light with the CRI value of 100 is obtained.

Example 6

An optically active element in the form of graphene foam with the thickness of 3 mm is placed in a glass chamber. The distance between the lens and the active element is 3 cm, and the pressure in the vacuum chamber is 10^{-6} mbar. By means of an IR diode, a beam of electromagnetic radiation with the wavelength of 808 nm is generated and directed by means of a focusing lens onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 90° in relation to the graphene matrix surface. The white emission beam generated by the graphene matrix as a result of excitation is reflected by the walls of a reflector placed around the vacuum chamber at the angle of 45° in relation to the active element. Warm white light with the CRI value of 100 is obtained.

Claims

1. A white light source constructed of a vacuum glass chamber containing an optically active element, a generator of an **IR** electromagnetic radiation beam equipped with a laser **IR** diode, a battery, a focusing lens, and, optionally, a reflector **characterized in that** the optically active element (2) contained in the vacuum chamber (8) is a thin layer graphene matrix with the thickness of up to 3mm.
2. A white light source according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the optically active element is a thin layer graphene matrix in the form of graphene powder, graphene ceramics, or graphene foam.
3. A white light source according to claim 1, **characterized in that** after excitation by means of the beam of radiation generated by the laser **IR** diode, the optically active element emits white light with the color rendering index (**CRI**) above 96, preferably 98, more preferably 100.
4. A white light source according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the radiation generated by the laser **IR** diode is in the near infrared range with the wavelength of 800-1200 nm, preferably 808-980 nm.
5. A white light source according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the pressure value in the vacuum chamber containing the optically active element is in the range from 10^0 to 10^{-6} mbar, preferably 10^0 to 10^{-3} mbar.
6. A method of white light generation by means of a white light source according to claim 1, **characterized in that** an exciting beam with the wavelength in the range of 808-980 nm and the excitation power of 0,3-0,6 W is generated by means of an electromagnetic radiation beam generator, after which the exciting beam is passed through the focusing lens and then directed onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 45° - 90° in relation to the matrix surface, which, as a result of excitation, emits radiation in the white light range.
7. A method according to claim 6, **characterized in that** the exciting beam is directed onto the graphene matrix at the angle of 90° in relation to the matrix surface, after which the radiation beam in the white light range emitted as a result of graphene matrix excitement is reflected in a reflector which directs the white light beam outside.

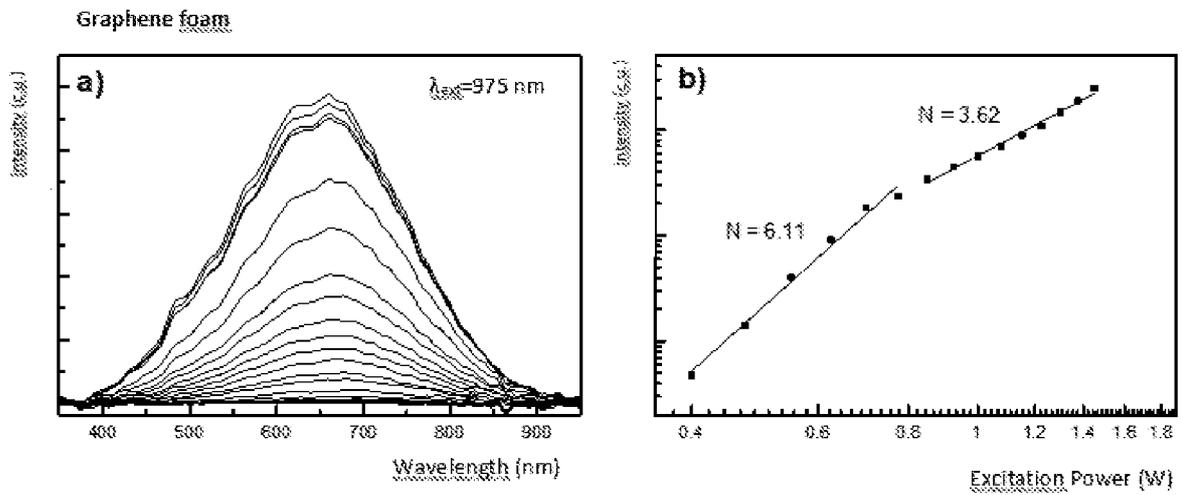


Fig.1

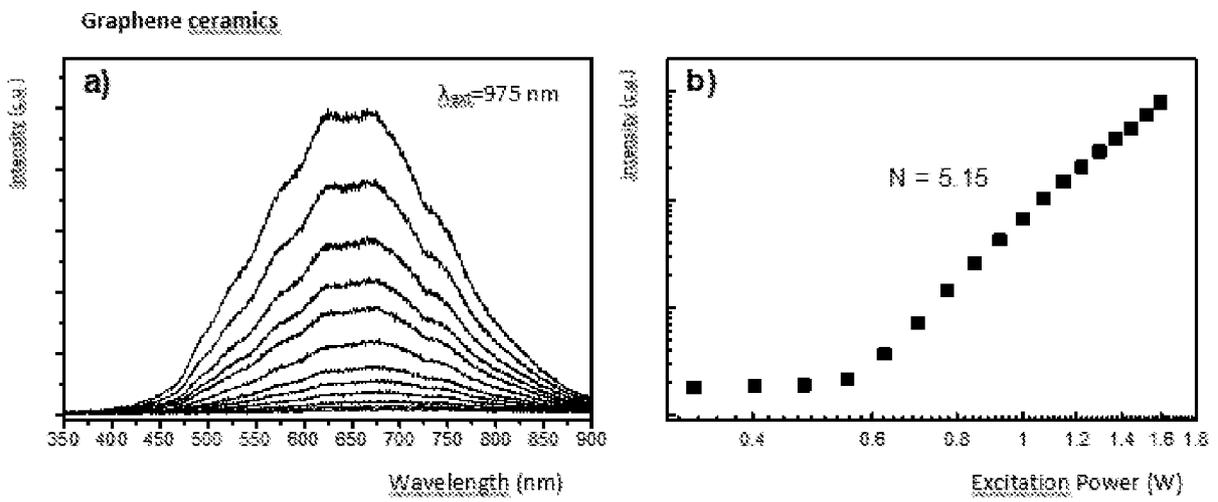


Fig.2

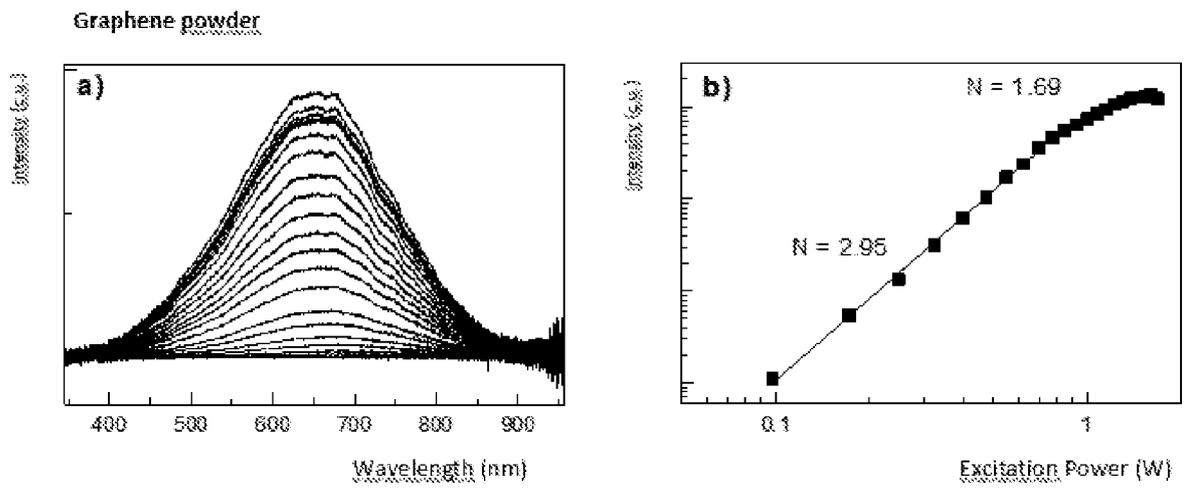


Fig.3

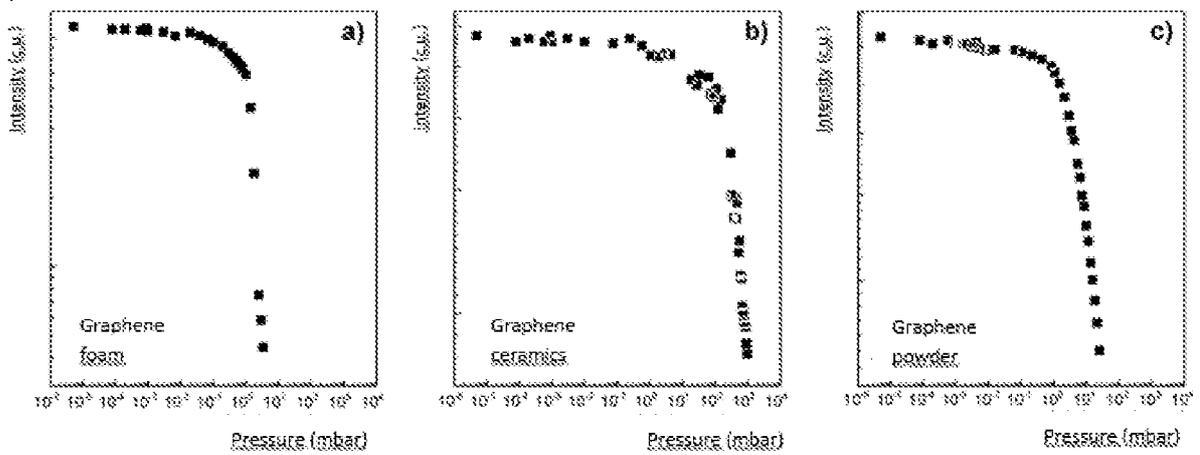


Fig.4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/PL2016/050055

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. G02F2/02 F21K2/00 F21K9/64 F21S2/00
 ADD.
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 G02F F21K C01B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal , INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WIESLAW STREK ET AL: "Laser- induced white- light emi ssi on from graphene cerami cs-openi ng a band gap i n graphene" , LIGHT: SCI ENCE & APPLICATIONS, vol . 4, no. 1, 16 January 2015 (2015-01-16) , page e237 , XP55335392 , DOI : 10. 1038/1 sa. 2015 . 10	1-5
A	cited in the appli cati on *Resul ts and Di scussi on secti on, first paragraph*; abstract ----- -/- .	6,7

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 February 2017	Date of mailing of the international search report 22/02/2017
--	---

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Gi l l , Ri chard
--	--

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/PL2016/050055

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>STREK W ET AL: "Infrared laser stimulated broadband white emission of Yb3+: YAG nanoceramics", OPTICAL MATERIALS, vol . 35, no. 11, 1 September 2013 (2013-09-01) , pages 2013-2017 , XP028699693 , ISSN: 0925-3467 , DOI : 10.1016/J .OPTMAT.2012 .09 .037 abstract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-7
A	<p>CN 204 153 509 U (ZHU WENWEI) 11 February 2015 (2015-02-11) abstract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-7
A	<p>CN 204 144 220 U (WANG GAN) 4 February 2015 (2015-02-04) abstract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/PL2016/050055

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CN 204 153509	U	11-02 -20 15	NON E

CN 204 144220	U	04-02 -20 15	NON E
