

THEMOLUMINESCENCE AND OPTICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF  
LITHIUM POTASSIUM BORATE GLASS FOR RADIATION THERAPY DOSE  
MEASUREMENT

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I dedicate this work

To Al-AQSA and to the souls of martyrs

To my dear parents

Whose love, kindness, patience and prayer have brought me this far

To my beloved wife

For her love, understanding and support through my endeavor

To my children

Whose presence fills my life with joy

To my siblings

For their endless laughs and tears

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## ABSTRACT

Radiosensitive glasses of lithium potassium borate (LKB) co-doped with CuO-MgO then with TiO<sub>2</sub>-MgO were prepared using melt-quenching technique. Present studies were carried out, seeking to improve upon the thermoluminescence (TL) signal of such glass systems. The overall aim of this thesis was to develop a radiosensitive glass that is suitable for thermoluminescence dosimetry (TLD). A glow curve with single prominent peak was produced at ~220 °C as a result of dopant activation (CuO/TiO<sub>2</sub>). An enhancement of about three times was shown as a result of adding MgO as a co-dopant activator (LKB: 0.1Cu, 0.1Mg and LKB: 0.5Ti, 0.25Mg- mol%). This enhancement was attributed to the ability of magnesium to create extra traps and consequently energy transfer to monovalent Cu<sup>+</sup> and Ti<sup>3+</sup> ions. A charge imbalance was predicted in the glass host by the addition of alkaline (Mg<sup>2+</sup>). Both LKB:Cu,Mg and LKB:Ti,Mg have low *Z* material ( $Z_{eff} = 8.55$  and  $8.89$ , respectively), good reproducibility and low fading. The prepared glass showed 15 times less sensitive than that of LiF:Mg,Ti (TLD-100), but a promising dose response linearity was achieved over a long span of irradiation doses (up to 10<sup>3</sup> Gy). The trap parameters, including the order of kinetics (*b*), activation energy (*E*) and frequency factor (*s*) associated with LKB:Cu,Mg were also determined. Furthermore, a *TolAnal* software was used for glow curve deconvolution and analysis for the created peaks. The photoluminescence spectra (emission and excitation) for the prepared samples were studied. As new mixtures, a series of glass characterization and physical properties were discussed. The achieved results promise the use of these compositions in different dosimetric applications, particularly in medical dosimetry and high dose monitoring.

## ABSTRAK

Kaca radiosensitif Litium Kalium Borat (LKB) dikodop dengan CuO-MgO, kemudian dengan TiO<sub>2</sub>-MgO disediakan menggunakan teknik sepuh lindap. Kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk menambahbaik isyarat luminesens terma sistem kaca. Matlamat keseluruhan tesis ini ialah untuk menghasilkan kaca radiosensitif yang sesuai dalam dosimetri luminesens terma (TLD). Satu lengkung berbara puncak tunggal telah terhasil pada suhu ~220 °C, kesan daripada pengaktifan dopan (CuO/TiO<sub>2</sub>). Peninggian hampir tiga kali ganda turut diperoleh kesan daripada penambahan MgO sebagai pengaktif kodopan (LKB: 0.1Cu, 0.1Mg dan LKB: 0.5Ti, 0.25Mg- mol%). Peninggian ini mungkin disebabkan sifat magnesium yang mempunyai kebolehan untuk menghasilkan perangkap tambahan dan akhirnya berlaku pemindahan tenaga ke ion monovalen Cu<sup>+</sup> dan Ti<sup>3+</sup>. Ketakseimbangan cas turut diramalkan dalam kaca induk dengan penambahan alkali (Mg<sup>2+</sup>). Kedua-dua LKB:Cu,Mg dan LKB:Ti,Mg mempunyai nombor atom rendah bahan Z (masing-masing  $Z_{eff} = 8.55$  dan  $Z_{eff} = 8.89$ ), kebolehulungan yang baik dan keputaran yang rendah. Kaca yang disediakan ini menunjukkan kepekaan 15 kali lebih rendah berbanding LiF:Mg,Ti (TLD-100), tetapi sambutan dos yang linear telah diperoleh untuk penyinaran dalam tempoh yang lama (sehingga 10<sup>3</sup> Gy). Parameter perangkap, termasuk aturan kinetik ( $b$ ), tenaga pengaktifan ( $E$ ) dan faktor frekuensi ( $s$ ) yang berkait dengan LKB:Cu,Mg turut ditentukan. Tambahan lagi, perisian *TolAnal* digunakan untuk mendapatkan dekonvolusi lengkung berbara dan analisis untuk puncak yang dihasilkan. Spektrum luminesens cahaya (pemancaran dan pengujian) untuk sampel yang disediakan turut dikaji. Sebagai satu campuran baharu, satu siri pencirian kaca dan sifat fizikal telah dibincangkan. Dapatan yang dicapai menjanjikan penggunaan komposisi kaca ini dalam pelbagai aplikasi dosimetri, khasnya dalam bidang dosimetri perubatan dan pemantauan dos berjulat tinggi.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
	<b>DECLARATION</b>	ii
	<b>DEDICATION</b>	iii
	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	iv
	<b>ABSTRACT</b>	v
	<b>ABSTRAK</b>	vi
	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	vii
	<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xii
	<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xvi
	<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xxiii
	<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	xxv
	<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	xxvii
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Overview	1
	1.2 Thermoluminescence Materials	3
	1.3 The Energy Transfer	4
	1.4 Glass and Thermoluminescence	5
	1.5 Lithium Borate	5
	1.6 Optical Properties	9
	1.7 Problem Statement	9
	1.8 Objectives of the Study	11
	1.9 Scope of the Thesis	13
<b>2</b>	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>14</b>
	2.1 Glass Formation	14
	2.2 Glass Network	16
	2.2.1 Network Forming	16
	2.2.2 Network Modifiers	17

2.2.3	Intermediate Modifier	18
2.2.4	Doping Salts	18
2.3	General Features of Borates	19
2.3.1	Boric Acid	21
2.3.2	Lithium Carbonate	23
2.3.3	Potassium Carbonate	24
2.3.4	Copper Oxide	25
2.3.5	Titanium Oxide	26
2.4	Luminescence Signals Related Items	29
2.4.1	Origin of the Luminescence	29
2.4.2	Thermoluminescence	32
2.4.2.1	The TL Signals	32
2.4.2.2	Killer Centers	33
2.4.3	Optical Properties	33
2.4.3.1	Borate Glass and Optical Properties	34
2.4.3.2	Modifier and Dopants	34
2.5	Radiation Detection and Measurement	36
2.5.1	Annealing	37
2.5.1.1	Initialization Treatment	39
2.5.1.2	Erasing Treatment	39
2.5.1.3	Post-Irradiation	39
2.5.2	Reproducibility	40
2.5.3	Glow Curve Analysis	40
2.5.4	Threshold	43
2.5.5	Fading	45
2.5.6	Light Sensitivity	47
2.5.7	Dose Dependence	47
2.5.8	Energy Response	50
2.5.9	Sensitivity	53
2.5.10	Dose Rate	56
2.5.11	Effective Atomic Number	57
2.6	Previous Studies	58

<b>3</b>	<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>61</b>
3.1	Introduction	61
3.2	Experimental and Sample Preparation	62
	3.2.1 Preparation Tools	64
	3.2.1.1 Electrical Balance	64
	3.2.1.2 Electrical Furnace	65
3.3	Optical Properties and Characterizations	66
	3.3.1 Samples Morphology	67
	3.3.2 Amorphous Phase	68
	3.3.3 Differential Thermal Analysis (DTA)	69
	3.3.4 Infrared Analysis	69
	3.3.5 Photoluminescence Measurement	70
	3.3.6 UV-Vis-NIR Spectrum	70
3.4	Samples Irradiation	71
	3.4.1 Low Energy X-ray and Electron Sources	72
	3.4.2 High Energy Source and Electron Sources	73
	3.4.2.1 Photon Irradiation	73
	3.4.2.2 Electron Irradiation	74
3.5	Thermoluminescence Measurement	76
	3.5.1 TLD Reader	76
	3.5.2 Background Noise	77
	3.5.2.1 Dark Current	78
	3.5.2.2 Thermal Radiation	78
	3.5.2.3 Visible Radiation	78
	3.5.2.4 Spurious Luminescence	79
	3.5.3 PMT Noise	80
	3.5.4 Test Light	80
	3.5.5 Annealing	80
	3.5.5.1 Pre-Irradiated Annealing	81
	3.5.6 Storage and Handling	82
	3.5.7 Glow Curve Deconvolution	83
	3.5.8 Trap Parameters	83
3.6	Formulae and Equations	84



<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>85</b>
4.1	Introduction	85
4.2	Glass Preparation	86
4.3	Optical Characterization	88
4.3.1	X-Ray Diffraction Analysis	88
4.3.2	Differential Thermal Analysis	89
4.3.3	Infrared Spectra	92
4.3.4	UV-Vis-NIR Absorption Spectra	96
4.3.5	Photoluminescence Spectra	100
4.3.6	Physical Parameters	106
4.4	Thermoluminescent Dosimetric Characterization	107
4.4.1	Annealing Procedure and Reproducibility	115
4.4.2	Heating Rate Effects	122
4.4.3	Glow Curve Analysis	127
4.4.4	Threshold Dose	131
4.4.5	Fading and Signal Stability	132
4.4.5.1	Room Temperature Fading	132
4.4.5.2	Optical Bleaching	135
4.4.6	Dose Response	137
4.4.6.1	Photon Dose Response	137
4.4.6.2	Electron Dose Response	153
4.4.7	Energy Response	155
4.4.8	TL-Sensitivity	160
4.4.9	Dose Rate Effects	164
4.4.10	Precision of the TL Measurements	166
4.4.11	Effective Atomic Number	169
4.5	Thermoluminescence Trap Parameters	173
4.5.1	Initial Rise Method	177
4.5.2	Peak Shape Method	181
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>188</b>
5.1	Introduction	188

	xiv
5.4 Recommendations and future studies	194
<b>REFERENCES</b>	195
Appendices A-O	211-242

## **LIST OF TABLES**

<b>TABLE NO.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1.1	The most common TLD used in medical and environmental applications.	4
1.2	The main chemical properties of Lithium-Borate.	8
2.1	Characterization of some thermoluminescent products.	20
2.2	The Boric acid properties.	22
2.3	The Lithium carbonate properties.	23
2.4	The potassium carbonate properties.	25
2.5	The Copper oxide properties.	26
2.6	The Titanium oxide properties.	27
2.7	The Magnesium oxide properties.	28
2.8	Comparison between Glow Curves of different compositions and LiF:Mg,Ti.	42
2.9	Minimum Detectable Dose of different compositions compared with LiF:Mg,Ti (10 $\mu$ Gy).	44
2.10	Fading of different compositions compared with LiF:Mg,Ti (5% after 3 months).	46
2.11	Dose response linearity of different compositions compared with LiF:Mg,Ti. (5Gy).	50
2.12	Sensitivity of different compositions compared with LiF:Mg,Ti.	56

3.1	The concentration of the raw materials used to prepare the samples.	62
3.2	The relation between the time and temperature to achieve the most appropriate thermal treatment prior utilizing the TLD.	82
4.1	The raw materials employed in the concentration of each chemical.	88
4.2	DTA studies of LKB with different dopants concentrations.	92
4.3	The summary of IR transition bands related to the prepared samples.	96
4.4	Energy band gap calculation for different doped samples.	97
4.5	Physical parameters calculated for LKB with CuO/TiO <sub>2</sub> and different concentration of MgO.	106
4.6	The MDD of the new dosimeters by using three different methods.	132
4.7	The percentage of residual signals after room temperature fading.	133
4.8(a)	TL yield after <sup>60</sup> Co irradiation for LKB:Cu,Mg doses investigated.	138
4.8(b)	TL yield after <sup>60</sup> Co irradiation for LKB:Ti,Mg doses investigated.	139
4.9(a)	TL yield obtained after Photon irradiation for LKB:Cu,Mg	141
4.9(b)	TL yield obtained after Photon irradiation for LKB:Ti,MgO.	142

4.10(a)	TL yield of LKB:Cu,Mg obtained after gamma irradiation using gamma cell.	145
4.10(b)	TL yield of LKB:Ti,Mg obtained after gamma irradiation using gamma cell.	146
4.11	Fractional weight for the proposed dosimeters detected by FESEM.	156
4.12(a)	Mass attenuation coefficient for dry air.	156
4.12(b)	Mass attenuation coefficient of elemental composition at each energy used.	157
4.13	Energy dependence and the relative energy response for prepared dosimeters.	158
4.14a	The Sensitivity of the proposed dosimeters and TLD-100 at 3 Gy irradiation dose using photon energy.	161
4.14b	The Sensitivity of the proposed dosimeters and TLD-100 at 3 Gy irradiation dose using electron energy.	164
4.15	Comparison of experimental and theoretical data for $\sigma T/D$ .	167
4.16	Elements percentage and Fractional contribution for each element along the LKB:Cu with Mg.	170
4.17	Elements percentage and Fractional contribution of each element along the LKB:Ti with MgO.	172
4.18	The activation energy of the proposed dosimeters based on the IR method.	179
4.19	The values obtained from Chen and Winer method.	183
4.20	The activation energies (eV) by different methods for the new proposed dosimeters.	183

4.21	The estimated values of frequency factor (s) for the new proposed dosimeters using different methods.	185
4.22	The calculated half-life for the new proposed dosimeters.	186
4.23	The fading factor for the proposed dosimeters after 90 days storage at room temperature	187
5.1	Thermoluminescence properties of the proposed dosimeters and the TLD-100	193

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	The most popular dosimeter used for Ionization Radiation Measurement.	2
1.2	The two peaks produce in the TLD reader as a result of thermal induction of lithium borate (Furetta, 2001).	7
1.3	Schematic representation for the problem statement of the current study.	12
2.1	Amorphous structure of glass.	16
2.2	Structure of glass modifier.	17
2.3	Schematic band of TL process.	31
2.4	The process of electron-hole recombination on the model of Klasen-Schoen (a) and Braunlich-Scharmann (b).	31
2.5	Glow curve of a sample recorded an increase in temperature at $5^{\circ} \text{C.s}^{-1}$ .	32
2.6	Annealing procedure after irradiation.	38
2.7	Dose Response characteristics of two dosimetry systems.	49
2.8	Energy response for $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7:\text{Cu,Ag}$ and $\text{Cu}$ alone.	52
2.9	Relative energy response curve of $\text{LiF}:\text{Mg,Ti}$ , $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7:\text{Cu,In}$ and $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7:\text{Cu}$ .	53

3.1	Laboratory tools (A: electronic balance; B: Alumina crucibles; C: spatula).	64
3.2	Chemical powder used on the present study.	65
3.3	Electronic Furnace (CARBOLITE) with Plexiglas mask.	66
3.4	FESEM analysis facility based on GEMINI technology, Zeiss, Germany, (UTM, 2012).	67
3.5	X-Ray Diffraction from Siemens D5000 (operate at 40 KeV and 30 mA).	68
3.6	Fourier Transmission Infra Red (FTIR) (Perkin Elimer).	69
3.7	Photoluminescence Spectrophotometer (Perkin Elmer. UTM, 2012).	70
3.8	UV-Vis-NIR Spectrophotometer.	71
3.9	X-ray beam generated at 15 kV and 22.5 mA.	72
3.10	Linear accelerator Primus MLC 3339 (LINAC Primus, Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, Hospital Sultan Ismail, JB).	74
3.11	Linear accelerator -Varian Model 2100C, University of Malaya Medical Center (UMMC) performed for electron irradiation.	75
3.12	A Harshaw 4500 TL reader belonging to the SSDL of Malaysian Nuclear Agency.	77
3.13	Prespect Cover for Dosimeter (Radio-opaque).	79
3.14	The furnace used for pre-irradiation annealing (UTM, 2012).	81
4.1	The X-ray Diffraction pattern of the prepared glasses.	89
4.2(a)	DTA studies of LKB: 0.1 CuO and x-MgO (mol %).	90
4.2(b)	DTA studies of LKB: 0.5 Ti with x-MgO (mol %).	90



4.3(a)	IR spectra of LKB glasses doped with 0.1 mol% Cu and x-MgO.	94
4.3(b)	IR spectra of LKB glasses doped with 0.5 mol% TiO <sub>2</sub> and x-MgO.	95
4.4(a)	The band gap estimation of LKB doped with 0.1 mol% CuO and different concentration of MgO (0.05 to 0.5 mol %).	97
4.4(b)	The band gap estimation of LKB doped with 0.5 mol% TiO <sub>2</sub> and different concentration of MgO (0.05 to 0.5 mol %).	98
4.5(a)	Variation of the optical band gap ( $E_g$ ) with 0.1 mol% CuO and x-mol% of MgO.	99
4.5(b)	Variation of the optical band gap ( $E_g$ ) with 0.5 mol% TiO <sub>2</sub> and x-mol% of MgO.	99
4.6	PL emission spectra of (a) LKB doped with x- mol% of CuO; (b) LKB doped with 0.1 mol% CuO and x-MgO as co-dopant.	101
4.7	PL emission spectra of LKB doped with (a) x-mol% TiO <sub>2</sub> ; (b) doped with 0.5 mol% TiO <sub>2</sub> and x-mol% of MgO as co-dopant.	102
4.8	Scheme illustrates the role of MgO on the enhancement of LKB doped with CuO.	104
4.9(a)	The effect of different concentration of MgO on the PL intensity of LKB:CuO.	105
4.9(b)	The effect of different concentration of MgO on the PL intensity of LKB:TiO <sub>2</sub> .	103
4.10	The gradually rising of glass density with increase of MgO concentration.	107
4.11(a)	The TL response of pure LKB obtained after 3 Gy irradiation.	109

4.11(b-e)	The thermoluminescence response obtained after 3 Gy irradiation by LINAC (6 MV) as a function of temperature for LKB:x-CuO, LKB:0.1CuO,x-MgO, LKB:x-TiO <sub>2</sub> and LKB:0.5TiO <sub>2</sub> ,x-MgO, respectively.	110
4.12(a)	TL intensity as a function of temperature for LKB:Cu,x-MgO.	112
4.12(b)	TL intensity as a function of temperature for LKB:Ti-MgO.	112
4.13	Scheme illustrates the TL emission of LKB doped with TiO <sub>2</sub> .	115
4.14(a)	The behaviour of TL response of CuO, MgO co-doped LKB and its STD as a function of the annealing temperature.	116
4.14(b)	The behaviour of TL response of TiO <sub>2</sub> , MgO co-doped LKB and its STD as a function of the annealing temperature.	117
4.15(a)	TL response as a function of the annealing time for CuO, MgO co-doped LKB.	119
4.15(b)	TL response as a function of the annealing time for TiO <sub>2</sub> , MgO co-doped LKB.	119
4.16	Reproducibility test for LKB:Cu,MgO at: a) 2 Gy incident dose; b) 3 Gy incident dose.	120
4.17	Reproducibility test for LKB:Ti,MgO at: a) 2 Gy incident dose; b) 3 Gy incident dose.	120
4.18(a,b)	The propagation error of S6 at 2 and 3 Gy, respectively; (c) and (d) the propagation error of S15 at 2 and 3 Gy, respectively.	121
4.19(a)	Glow curve for MgO-doped LKB:Cu with different heating rates.	123
4.19(b)	Glow curve for MgO-doped LKB:Ti with different heating rates.	123

4.20(a)	The intensity consistency of LKB:Cu,Mg after five repeated cycles.	124
4.20(b)	The intensity consistency of LKB:Ti,Mg after five repeated cycles.	125
4.21(a)	Consistency behaviour of S6 after 5 repeated readings.	126
4.21(b)	Consistency behaviour of S6 after 5 repeated readings.	126
4.22(a)	TL curve and deconvoluted curves of LKB co-doped with CuO-MgO.	127
4.22(b)	TL curve and deconvoluted curves of LKB co-doped with Ti-MgO.	127
4.23(a)	TL glow curves of S6 exposed to various doses of photons.	128
4.23(b)	TL glow curves of S15 exposed to various doses of photons.	129
4.24(a)	TL glow curves of S6 exposed to various doses of $\gamma$ -ray.	129
4.24(b)	TL glow curves of S15 exposed to various doses of $\gamma$ -ray.	130
4.25	Fading characteristics of LKB co-doped with CuO-MgO stored in the dark at room temperature after: a) 3 Gy irradiation; b) 10 Gy irradiation.	134
4.26	Fading characteristics of LKB co-doped with TiO <sub>2</sub> -MgO stored in the dark at room temperature after: a) 3 Gy irradiation; b) 10 Gy irradiation.	134
4.27	Fading characteristics of: a) LKB co-doped with CuO-MgO and b) LKB co-doped with Ti <sub>2</sub> O-MgO subjected directly to sunlight.	135
4.28	Optical bleaching of: a) LKB co-doped with CuO-MgO and b) LKB co-doped with Ti <sub>2</sub> O-MgO after being exposed to a fluorescent lamp.	136

4.29(a)	The TL response of S6 versus the doses obtained by $^{60}\text{Co}$ .	140
4.29(b)	The TL response of S15 versus the doses obtained by $^{60}\text{Co}$ .	140
4.30(a)	The response of S6 versus the doses obtained by LINAC.	143
4.30(b)	The response of S15 versus the doses obtained by LINAC.	143
4.30(c)	The response of TLD-100 versus the doses obtained by LINAC.	144
4.31	The TL response of LKB: Cu, Mg and LKB: Ti, Mg versus the doses obtained from Gamma cell.	146
4.32(a)	The TL response of S2 and S6 versus the doses.	147
4.32(b)	The TL response of S10 and S15 versus the doses.	147
4.33(a)	Dose versus the linearity index f (D) for S6 ( $^{60}\text{Co}$ ).	148
4.33(b)	Dose versus the linearity index f (D) for S6 (LINAC).	149
4.33(c)	Dose versus the linearity index f (D) for S6 (gamma cell).	149
4.34(a)	Dose versus the linearity index f (D) for S15 ( $^{60}\text{Co}$ ).	150
4.34(b)	Dose versus the linearity index f (D) for S15 (LINAC).	150
4.34(c)	Dose versus the linearity index f (D) for S15 (gamma cell).	151
4.35(a)	TL intensity of S6 as a function of MgO concentrations with different doses.	152
4.35(b)	TL intensity of S15 as a function of MgO concentrations with different doses.	152
4.36(a)	TL yield of S6 after 6, 9 and 12 MeV electrons irradiation.	154
4.36(b)	TL yield of S15 after 6, 9 and 12 MeV electrons irradiation.	154
4.36(c)	TL yield of TLD-100 after 6, 9 and 12 MeV electrons irradiation.	155

4.37(a)	The energy dependence and RER as function of energy for LKB:Cu,Mg.	159
4.37(b)	The energy dependence and RER as function of energy for LKB:Ti,MgO.	159
4.38(a)	Dose rate versus the TL response for S6 using 6 MV photon beams.	165
4.38(b)	Dose rate versus the TL response for S15 using 6 MV photon beams.	166
4.39(a)	The behaviour of the relative STD obtained with a group of dosimeters as a function of dose D.	168
4.39(b)	The behaviour of the relative STD obtained with a group of dosimeters as a function of dose D.	168
4.40	FESEM with different magnification power for LKB:Cu,Mg.	171
4.41	FESEM with different magnification power for LKB:Ti,Mg.	173
4.42(a)	Plot of glow-peak temperature of S6 against heating rate.	175
4.42(b)	Plot of glow-peak temperature of S15 against heating rate.	175
4.43(a)	Dependence of $\ln T_m$ against $\ln \beta$ for glow peak of S6.	176
4.43(b)	Dependence of $\ln T_m$ against $\ln \beta$ for glow peak of S15.	176
4.44(a)	The $\ln$ of intensity against $1/kT$ to assess the activation energy for LKB:Cu,Mg.	177
4.44(b)	The $\ln$ of intensity against $1/kT$ to assess the activation energy for LKB:Ti,Mg.	178
4.45(a)	Glow curve peak of LKB:Cu,Mg showing the required parameters used in peak shape method.	180
4.45(b)	Glow curve peak of LKB:Ti,Mg showing the required parameters used in peak shape method.	180

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BG	- Band Gap
BOHC	- Boron Oxygen Hole Center
CGCD	- Computerized Glow Curve Deconvolution
DTA	- Differential Thermal Analysis
ECC	- Elemental Correlation Coefficient
EPR	- Electro Paramagnetic Resonance
ESR	- Electro Signal Resonance
FESEM	- Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope
FOM	- Figure of Merit
FTIR	- Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy
FWHM	- Full Width at Half Maximum
GFA	- Glass Former Ability
GeO <sub>2</sub>	- Germanium Dioxide
ICRU	- International Commission of Radiation Units
IR	- Infra-Red
H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>	- Boric Acid
Kerma	- Kinetic Energy Released in Materials
k <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	- Potassium Carbonate
LiBO <sub>2</sub>	- Lithium Meta-borate
LiB <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	- Lithium Triborate
LiF	- Lithium Fluoride
Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	- Lithium Carbonate
Li <sub>2</sub> B <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> :Mn	- Lithium Tetraborate Doped with Manganese
LET	- Linear energy transfer
LINAC	- Linear accelerator

LKB	- Lithium Potassium Borate
MDD	- Minimum Detectable Dose
MgO	- Magnesium Oxide
MnCl <sub>2</sub>	- Manganese Chloride
MOSFET	- Metal-oxide semiconductor field effect transistor
PC	- Personal Computer
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	- Phosphorus Pentoxide
PL	- Photoluminescence
PMT	- Photomultiplier Tube
PPUM	- Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya
PTFE	- Polytetrafluoroethylene
RCF	- Read Calibration Factor
RER	- Relative Energy Response
RSD	- Relative Standard Deviation
SEM	- Scanning Electron Microscope
SIH	- Sultan Ismail Hospital
SiO <sub>2</sub>	- Silicon Dioxide
SiO <sub>3</sub>	- Silicon Trioxide
SSD	- Source Skin Distance
SSDL	- Secondary Standard Dosimeter Lab
TA	- Thermal Analysis
TiO <sub>2</sub>	- Titanium Dioxide
TL	- Thermoluminescence
TLD	- Thermoluminescence dosimetry
UV	- Ultra Visible
XRD	- X-Ray Diffraction

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$^{\circ}C$	- Celsius Degree
$^{\circ}F$	- Fahrenheit Degree
$\text{\AA}$	- Angstrom
$\alpha$	- Alpha Particle
$\beta$	- Beta Particle – Heating Rate
$\gamma$	- Gamma Rays
$\lambda$	- Wavelength
$\nu$	- Frequency
$\tau$	- The average life time of an electron in a trap
$\Delta E$	- Energy of the photoelectron
$(\mu_{en}/\rho)$	- Mass Energy Absorption Coefficient
$\eta(E)$	- The energy dependent prorated to the TL efficiency
$\sigma$	- Standard Deviation
$\sigma_T/D$	- The Relative Total Standard Deviation
$\sigma_s$	- Relative Standard Deviation
$\phi$	- The Intensity at Time t
$\lambda$	- Fading Factor
$BI$	- Levels of Band Gap
$B^*$	- The Average TL Background
$b$	-Kinetic Order
$c$	-Velocity of Light
$C$	-Coulomb – Recombination Constant
$CB$	-Conduction Band
$CL$	- Luminogenic Center
$D$	- Absorbed Dose



$D_o$	- The Lowest Detectable Dose
$e$	- Electronic Charge
$E$	- Energy – Activation Energy for Trapped Electron
$E_\gamma$	- Energy of the Incident Photon
$F$	- Calibration Factor
$F$	- Ground Level
$F(D)$	- Linearity Index
$I_m$	- Maximum Intensity
$I_{TL}$	- Thermoluminescence Intensity
$k$	- Boltzmann Constant
$M$	- Metastable State
$m(t)$	- The centers recombination
$N$	- The total density of traps
$n(t)$	- The concentration of trapped electrons
$P$	- Trap
$S$	- Stopping Power
$s$	- Frequency factor of the electron trap
$T$	- Temperature
$T_g$	- Glass Transition
$T_m$	- Maximum Temperature
$T_g$	- Glass Transition
$T_c$	- Crystalline Temperature
$T_{1/2}$	- Half life
$VB$	- Valence Band
$W_i$	- Fraction of The element $i$
$Z$	- Atomic Number
$Z_{eff}$	- The effective Atomic Number

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>A</b>	Summarization for the methods used to determine the trap parameters.	212
<b>B</b>	The formulas applied in the current research.	215
<b>C</b>	Maximum Depth Dose Alignment.	218
<b>D</b>	Dosimetric readings for LKB:Cu,Mg by performing different annealing techniques.	220
<b>E</b>	Dosimetric readings for LKB:Ti,Mg by performing different annealing techniques.	221
<b>F</b>	Reproducibility after ten sets of repeated readouts.	222
<b>G</b>	Low Detectable Dose Calculations.	225
<b>H</b>	The TL response after a period of time of 3 months.	228
<b>I</b>	The TL response after the direct sunlight and fluorescent Lamp exposing.	230
<b>J</b>	The relation between the dose response and dopant concentration.	232
<b>K</b>	The TL yields of the prepared dosimeters after several doses of electron irradiation.	234

<b>L</b>	The Energy Dependence of the proposed dosimeters.	237
<b>M</b>	The dose rate dependency for the proposed dosimeters.	239
<b>N</b>	The calculated decay factor of the new dosimeters.	241
<b>O</b>	List of publications.	242

## CHAPTER 1

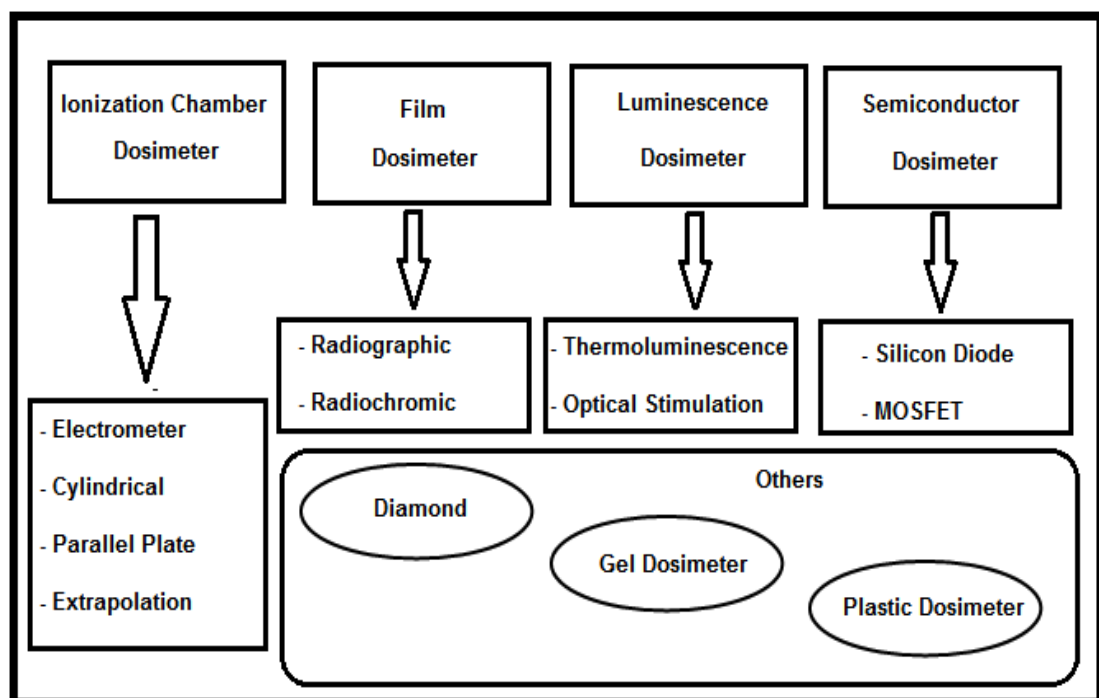
### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Overview

Little over a century ago, in November 1895, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovered the X-ray. A few months later, in March 1896, Henri Becquerel described the radioactivity. The use of ionizing radiation has become increasingly frequent and diverse in the later decades. Today the radiation is used in many sectors of medical, industrial, military and research. Ionizing radiation is a type of radiation characterized by its short wavelength and high frequency, and its ability to produce free radicals (ions) when it interacts with matter. It can remove the tightly bound electrons from the shell of the exposed atom, causing the atom to become charged or ionized. This radiation consists of particles (e.g. alpha, beta and neutron) or electromagnetic waves (X-ray and gamma ray) that are energetic enough to cause ionization and severe biological damage when it absorbed by human tissues. Indeed, the high doses of ionizing radiation can cause mutation, cancer, radiation sickness, and death (Eric and Amato, 2006).

Whatever the type of application, it is often necessary to measure the energy deposited per unit mass during the interaction of radiation with the target. The physical quantity characterizing this concept is called the absorbed dose and is expressed in Gray (Gy). The absorbed dose determination is one of the main objectives of all radiation-related studies.

The dosimeter is a device that plays an important role in the mission of radiation protection and radiation therapy treatment. It measures the risk associated with the use of ionizing radiation directly or indirectly in terms of quantities such as the dose equivalent or effective dose. The radiation dosimeters measure or help to evaluate directly or indirectly, the exposure quantities, Kinetic Energy Released in Matter (Kerma), absorbed dose, equivalent dose, and other quantities related to the ionizing radiation. The dose ranges of interest according to the International Commission of Radiation Units (ICRU) recommendations rely on the energy source; for example, nearly (0.01 to 1) mSv for personal dosimeter, (0.1 to 100) mSv for X-ray diagnosis and up to 5 Sv for radiotherapy doses (ICRU, 1998). Nowadays, different types of radiation detectors are available for medical and environmental applications as summarized in Figure 1.1. In the medical field, to obtain a high-performance treatment for tumour cells and more safety for the normal adjacent tissues, the accuracy of the dose delivered to the tumour cells should be within  $\pm 5\%$  (ICRU, 1976).



**Figure 1.1** The most popular dosimeters for Ionizing Radiation Measurement.

Figure 1.1 illustrates the different types of radiation detectors and measuring used in medical and environmental fields (MOSFET: metal-oxide semiconductor field effect transistor and diamond detectors). Passive dosimetry systems include the dosimeter and readout device. Hence, there will be a delay in obtaining the information. An active dosimeter is the process of direct detection of ionizing radiation for personal and environmental monitoring; i.e., this dosimeter can provide the results immediately i.e. dose and dose rate (Khan, 1994).

## **1.2 Thermoluminescence Materials**

Different types of material with modifiers and dopants can be used in radiation detection. These materials are specified as dosimeters and classified based on its physical and chemical properties to detect the different range of energies. These energies vary, corresponding to the field intended to examine. The TL materials are available in different forms such as hot pressed chips, pellets, powder, impregnated teflon disks. The different shapes of thermoluminescence dosimeter (TLD) can be used in different areas and in particular at critical places.

Furthermore, several admixtures are checked corresponding to the properties of appropriate dosimeters. These dosimeters are considered the most common applied dosimeter particularly in the environmental and medical field. Table 1.1 shows the chemical composition and applications of the TL phosphors.

**Table 1.1:** The most common TLD used in medical and environmental applications

<b>Material</b>	<b>Chemical formula</b>	<b>Area of interest</b>	<b>Reason for choice</b>
Lithium	LiF:Mg Mg:Ti/Mg,Cu,P	Personal Dosimetry	Tissue-equivalent
Calcium	CaF <sub>2</sub> :Dy, CaSO <sub>4</sub> :Dy	Environmental monitoring	High sensitivity
Lithium borate	Li <sub>2</sub> B <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> :Mn	High dose range dosimetry	High stability
Aluminum	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> :C	Medical applications	Simple Peak

### 1.3 The Energy Transfer

The energy transfer is the physical phenomenon observed when a luminescent molecule in the excited state gives a portion of its excess energy to an acceptor fluorescent molecule. This process is accompanied with emitting of a fluorescence photon. The energy transfer from a donor to an acceptor can be radiative or not. In the case of a non-radiative emission, the energy transfer can also be conducted electronically by phonon vibration or by the collision energy of transferring resonance. These phenomena require the collection of the orbital electrons. Three kinds of thermoluminescence phenomena may occur after the process of heating: radiationless recombination, re-trapping of electron and/or luminescent recombination. The latter can produce a light signal useful for the TLD reader (Yusoff, 2005). The intensity of the emitted light signals is proportional to four main factors depth of trapped electrons, heating used for electron release, chemical tuning between element bonds and types of dopant used.

## 1.4 Glass and Thermoluminescence

All literature studies confirmed the efficiency of glass in the field of radiation detection and thermoluminescence theory. Several materials can be used in order to synthesize pure glasses such as silicon glass ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), boron glass ( $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ), phosphorus glass ( $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ ) and germanium glass ( $\text{GeO}_2$ ). The present study focuses on the glass formation by using the boron oxide as a host. Schulman, Kirk, and West's were the first whom prepared the glass by melting a mixture of lithium carbonate ( $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ ) and boric acid ( $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$ ) then cooled to the room temperature. This method is known as the conventional chemical quenching technique. The  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  and  $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$  are mixed with a few amount of  $\text{SiO}_3$  or  $\text{MnCl}_2$  under the melting point of borate, and then annealed for three hours under the transition temperature of the host. Finally, the mixture was dried for 12 hours at room temperature (Schulman *et al.*, 1965).

## 1.5 Lithium Borate

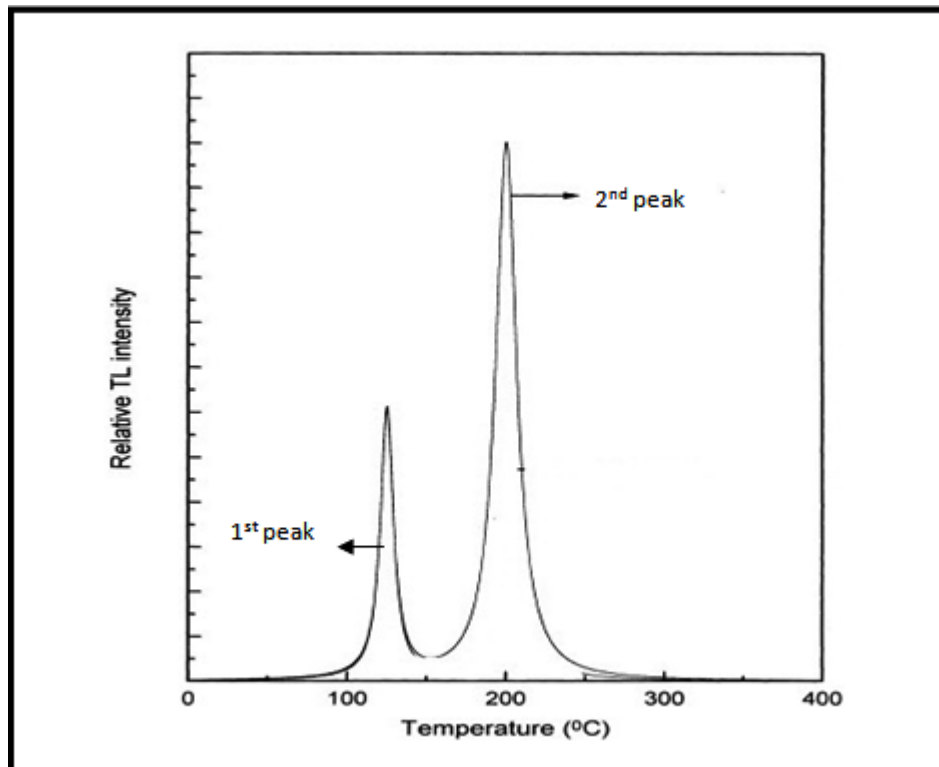
The phosphor dosimeter is the most widely used and sensitive dosimeter used in medical and environmental applications. This is attributed to many promising reasons, i.e. the effective atomic number (close to human tissue), sensitivity to a wide range of energy, energy response (stability and consistency), dose dependence linearity and low fading. Many TLDs are commercially available, but the most common types are LiF doped with Mg,Ti and LiF doped with Mg,Cu, or P. Besides, these attractive properties, there are several drawbacks on these dosimeters. For instance, hygroscopic defect and poor spatial resolution up to a few millimeters per spot are the common weakness (McKeever and Moscovitch, 2003). Due to these obstacles, numerous researches have been carried to overcome these drawbacks and to improve the TL properties. Lithium borate dosimeters (tetraborate  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$  and triborate  $\text{LiB}_3\text{O}_5$ ) show promising TL properties that passed the disturbance of phosphors and give opulence applications in both medical and environmental fields. Because of its close human tissue absorption coefficient,



borate glasses are widely used as a thermoluminescence dosimeter in medical applications and personal monitoring. In addition, its high availability and low manufacturing cost gave this dosimeter the preferences over the other phosphors (Depci *et al.*, 2008 and Pekpak *et al.*, 2010).

The attractive chemical, physical and optical properties of lithium borates open the gates to enhancing the TLD efficiency. Lithium borate is used as a surface acoustic wave to improve the electrical circuits (Bui *et al.*, 2009). As well as, the utilizing of lithium borate as a piezoelectric and pressure probe gave high promising results (Bui *et al.*, 2009). Lithium tetraborate ( $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ ) doped with manganese was the first lithium borate dosimeter; this older effort showed a low TL sensitivity. This drawback is attributed to the incompatibility between the region of trapped electron emission (600 nm) and the photomultiplier tube sensitivity of the TLD reader (Prokie, 2002).

According to Takenaga *et al.*, (1980) and Soramasu *et al.*, (1996), the TL emission of lithium borate was reduced to 360 nm by replacing the manganese with copper activator. This shifting makes the wavelength of the emitted light compatible with the photomultiplier tube (PMT) of the TLD-reader. A recent study showed the possibility of using lithium borate to convert the ultraviolet frequency to laser (Eggins, 2003). Countless studies confirmed the efficiency of lithium borate as ionizing radiation detector. The results illustrate a variation showing the dosimetric properties (sensitivity, dose dependence, energy response, fading and reproducibility) to corresponding to the type of dopant and modifier materials added to the borate host. According to Furetta *et al.*, (2001a), the lithium borate glow curve shows two different separated glow peaks. Figure 1.2 demonstrates the glow curve that forms a schematic spectrum to identify the relation between the heat treatment (with electrons trapped in the space between the valence and conducting area) and the intensity of TLD signals.



**Figure 1.2** The two peaks produce in the TLD reader as a result of thermal induction of Lithium Borate (Furetta, 2001a).

According to Figure 1.2, the lithium borate creates two separated peaks; the first peak appeared at 125°C and the second peak at 200 °C. The first peak fades (disappeared) after 24 hours of irradiation. The supersaturating state occurred at 1 Gy and  $10^3$  Gy for the first and second peak, respectively (Furetta *et al.*, 2001a). Attractive results were obtained after the activation of lithium bromide lattice with copper (Cu) and indium (In) co-dopant. The main achievement is enhancing of the dose linearity up to  $10^3$  Gy, and reduce annealing time and temperature to half compared with that applied in the case of lithium fluoride dosimeter (LiF: Mg, Ti). The same study indicated the importance of adding silicon dioxide to overcome the humidity defect and enhance the sensitivity of the TL dosimeter (Furetta, 2001b).

The results of the Park's experiment displayed another aspect related to the dopants effect on the linearity and superlinearity response of Lithium Borate (Park *et al.*, 2002). Three dopants manganese, copper and magnesium were used to

activate lithium tetraborate. Copper dopant exhibited superlinearity up to 100 Gy and 10 Gy for manganese dopant (Park *et al.*, 2002). Based on the work of Gorelik and his colleagues, three stable mixtures of Lithium ( $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ) with borate ( $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ) can be used as TLD: lithium tetraborate ( $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ ), lithium triborate ( $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_3\text{O}_5$ ) and lithium meta-borate ( $\text{LiBO}_2$ ) (Gorelik *et al.*, 2003). In more details, the basic compounds in the form of borate crystals are: simple trigonal ( $\text{BO}_3$ )<sup>-3</sup>, tetrahedral ( $\text{BO}_4$ )<sup>-5</sup> groups, bitrigonal ( $\text{B}_2\text{O}_5$ )<sup>-4</sup> and ditetrahedral ( $\text{B}_2\text{O}_7$ )<sup>-8</sup> groups, groups with circular 6-membered mixed coordination ( $\text{B}_3\text{O}_6$ )<sup>-3</sup>, ( $\text{B}_3\text{O}_7$ )<sup>-5</sup>, ( $\text{B}_3\text{O}_8$ )<sup>-7</sup>, and ( $\text{B}_3\text{O}_9$ )<sup>-9</sup> and coupled double 6-membered rings ( $\text{B}_5\text{O}_{10}$ )<sup>-5</sup> (Gorelik *et al.*, 2003). Three main stable compounds in the  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ - $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  system can be generated in the form of crystal, sintered pellets and glass. As a crystal and glass form, they can be divided into lithium meta-borate ( $\text{LiBO}_2$ ), lithium tetraborate ( $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ ), and lithium triborate ( $\text{LiB}_3\text{O}_5$ ) as shown in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.2:** The main chemical properties of Lithium-Borate (Pekpak *et al.*, 2009)

	<b>Lithium Metaborate</b>	<b>Lithium Triborate</b>	<b>Lithium Tetraborate</b>
<b>Chemical Formula</b>	$\text{LiBO}_2$	$\text{Li}_2\text{B}_3\text{O}_5$	$\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$
<b>Molecular weight</b>	49.751 g mol <sup>-1</sup>	119.372 g mol <sup>-1</sup>	169.123 g mol <sup>-1</sup>
<b>Phase</b>	Solid	Solid	Solid
<b>Melting Point</b>	845 °C	834 °C	820 °C
<b>Density</b>	2.223 g cm <sup>-3</sup>	2.747 g cm <sup>-3</sup>	0.251 g cm <sup>-3</sup>
<b>Solubility</b>	Soluble in water	Soluble in water	Soluble in water

## 1.6 Optical Properties

The physical and optical properties of borate glasses and crystals have attracted great interest among the researches. The lithium borate glass has numerous applications in the optical field, particularly on the nonlinear optical phenomena. The interest in lithium borate glass is attributed to its high transparency, thermal stability, ease preparation and good hosting for dopants. Recently, many studies have been done to explore the behavior of lithium borate, either pure or doped with different transition metals or rare-earth elements (Lakshminarayana and Buddhudu, 2006; Elfayoumi *et al.*, 2010 and Padlyak *et al.*, 2010a).

The incorporation of lithium borate in the optical fields has paved the way in ultraviolet and visible laser applications. It has been remarked that the position and intensity of absorption and emission transition bands are highly affected by the type of dopant and its concentrations. Furthermore, lithium borate glasses have shown high stability. This stability improves the laser properties which have different applications in the computing and telecommunication system.

## 1.7 Problem Statement

This study encompasses investigation of the performance of a TLD detector named LKB co-doped with CuO/MgO and TiO<sub>2</sub>/MgO. In general, this study will investigate these dosimeters in terms of their preparation, characterization, optical and thermoluminescence properties.

The luminescence studies of undoped and doped borate dosimeters are started in 1965 by Schulman (Schulman *et al.*, 1965). The dosimeter was in the form of crystal and doped with manganese ( $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7:\text{Mn}$ ). Although the desired properties were achieved, particularly its effective atomic number but it has low radiation sensitivity. This drawback was attributed to the incompatibility between the wavelength of the emitted light (600 nm) and the photomultiplier tube response region of the TLD's reader. The sensitivity was improved using copper as an activator instead of manganese, which shifted the red-light emission (600 nm) to the blue-light emission (Takenaga *et al.*, 1980). Indeed, the emitted light with 360 nm wavelength (blue emission spectra) enhanced the sensitivity more than ten times, and overcome the sensitivity drawback (Takenaga *et al.*, 1980). Since then, numerous studies were carried to improve the borate glass features, in terms of its preparation, modifier and activator modifications.

According to the literature studies, the preparation modifications were conducted around three types; the single crystal (Park *et al.*, 2003; Rojas *et al.*, 2006; Xiong *et al.*, 2011), the polycrystalline (Prokic, 2001, Prokic, 2002; Sangeeta *et al.*, 2004 and Pagonis *et al.*, 2006) and the glass system (Pontuschka *et al.*, 2001; Venkateswara *et al.*, 2002; Rojas *et al.*, 2006). For modifiers, several alkali/alkaline metals were used as modifiers to strengthen the relative stability of borate glass (Srivastava and Supe, 1989; Martini *et al.*, 1995; Rey, 2003; Manam and Sharma, 2004; Rojas *et al.*, 2006). Regarding to the activators, a variety of dopants and co-dopants either transition metals (Prokic, 2002; Xiong *et al.*, 2011, Elkholy, 2010) or rare earths (Prokic, 2001; Li *et al.*, 2005 and Madhukumar *et al.*, 2007) were added to the host in order to enhance the luminescence. This enhancement based on the consideration of amendments the electron's transition and/or increasing the traps centre. However, the continuous increase of copper and titanium oxide has led to an adverse effect on the TL response (the quenching state). One of the ways is to increase the response by the addition of another impurity (co-dopant), which acts as a charge compensator like P or Mg on either Li or K sites. Therefore, the present research aims are to evaluate the thermoluminescent properties of LKB doped with CuO and  $\text{TiO}_2$ , and the efficiency of MgO as co-dopant on the optical and thermal stimulation properties.

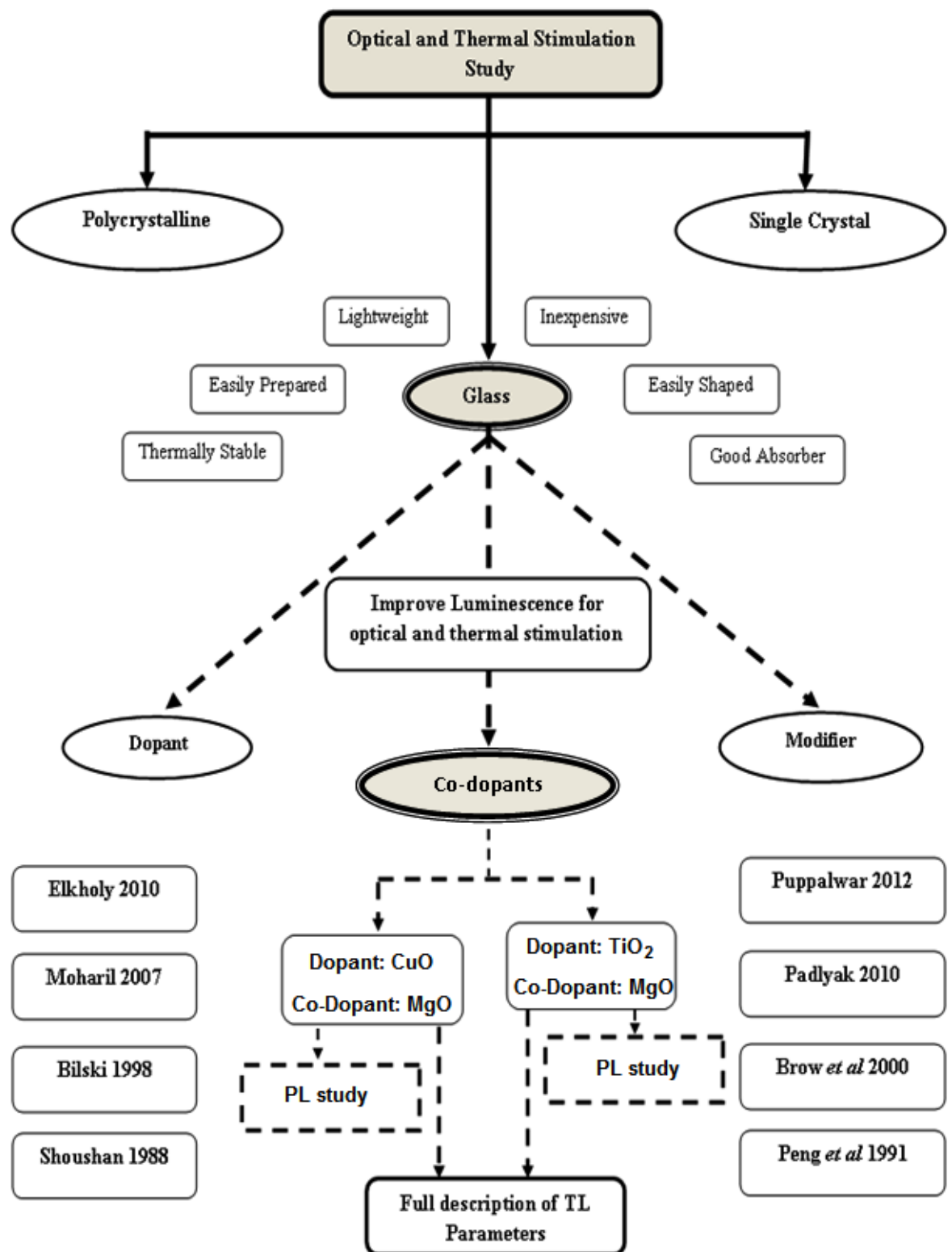
In the current study, a new glass dosimeter based on borate host will be prepared. The host is strengthened by two alkali modifiers (lithium and potassium), and its luminescence effects will be enhanced by the presence of co-dopant (CuO with MgO and TiO<sub>2</sub> with MgO). The optical and thermoluminescent properties of these samples will be reported for the first time.

## 1.8 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To examine the optical properties (i.e., Photoluminescence, Absorption, Reflection and Refractive index etc) of the new TL glass dosimeters (LKB:CuO,Mg and LKB:TiO<sub>2</sub>,Mg).
2. To describe the fundamental dosimetric properties of the new TL glass dosimeters (i.e., reproducibility, dose linearity, sensitivity, minimum detectable dose, fading and effective atomic number etc).
3. To determine the luminescence dependency of borate glass with the presence of modifiers, dopant and co-dopant.
4. To compare the performances of the glass dosimeters (LKB:CuO-MgO and LKB:TiO<sub>2</sub>-MgO) with different co-dopant concentrations.

Schematic representation of the Problem Statement of the current study:



**Figure 1.3** Schematic representations for the problem statement of the current study.

## 1.9 Scope of the Thesis

In regard to this doctoral thesis, the thesis is organised to five chapters. Chapter 1 presents the background, problem statement, objectives and contributions of the research. In addition, this chapter summarizes the importance of choosing the new glass dosimeters.

Literature review is presented in Chapter 2. It provides a brief description on the basis of the general information about borate compounds and glass formations, and full overview of optical properties, thermoluminescence phenomena and TL parameters. In addition, the theoretical equation needs to be used in order to obtain more information based on the glow curve (kinetic energy parameters: activation energy, frequency factor and degree of binding energy). This chapter also involves the physical and chemical concepts related to the dosimetric properties. For instance, dose rate effect, annealing condition, energy dependence, glow curve parameters, relative energy response and reproducibility.

Chapter 3 describes the instrumentations and methods used during the research to get the results and to accomplish the project. These instruments are divided into characterization analysis (XRD, FTIR, FESEM, and DTA), optical properties (PL and UV-VIS-NIR spectrophotometer) and thermoluminescence studies (Ionizing radiation sources and TLD-reader) machines.

Chapter 4 provides the results obtained from the glass composition. This chapter is divided into three sections; the first part describes the characterization of the new prepared samples. The later explain the optical and the thermoluminescence properties of the new compositions. In more details, the results obtained are discussed in depth and the comparison being made.

Finally, Chapter 5 summarizes the main findings achieved through this research, and suggests several recommendations for future studies.



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