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Improved Divalent-Ion-Doped Single Crystal Alkali Halide Scintillators

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Technology Summary

Alkali halide crystals such as Lil, Nal, or Csl that are activated with divalent rare-earth ions such as Eu(2+) have not been widely used as scintillators for radiation detection applications due to their incompatibility with the incorporation of divalent activator ions above 0.5% due to the formation of so-called Suzuki Phase precipitates, which scatter the scintillator light thereby adversely affecting detection of radiation and/or thermal neutrons. The invention comprises single crystal alkali halide scintillators doped with >5% divalentions but having essentially no Suzuki Phase precipitates incorporated therein, thereby enabling their utility as radiation and/or thermal neutron detectors.

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