

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910808701103321
Titolo	Glass science and its applications // edited by Nandyala Sooraj Hussain and Jose Domingos Santos
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Stafa-Zuerich : , : Trans Tech, , [2010] ©2010
ISBN	3-03813-372-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (106 p.)
Collana	Diffusion and defect data. Pt. B. Solid state phenomena, , 1012-0394 ; ; volume 161
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Disciplina	620.144
Soggetti	Glass
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Special topic volume with invited peer reviewed papers only.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Authors Index
Sommario/riassunto	The papers presented in this special issue, ""Glass Science and its Applications"", cover the physics and chemistry of conventional glasses, sol gel glasses and glass ceramic materials as used in technological and biomedical applications; for example, the first paper describes the optimization of ormosil glasses for luminescence-based dissolved-oxygen sensor applications. Here, the main aim was to prepare and evaluate various sol gel film compositions in order to identify those most promising for oxygen sensing. The physical, thermal, structural and spectral properties of rare-earth ion-doped