

TEMPERATURE AND FREQUENCY DEPENDENT ELECTRICAL
CHARACTERIZATION OF ZNO NANOCRYSTALSAmit Kumar Bhunia*^{1,2}, S. Saha¹ and S. S. Pradhan³¹Department of Physics and Technophysics, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore -721102, India.²Department of Physics, Government General Degree College at Gopiballavpur-II, Beliaberah, Jhargram-721517, India.³Department of Physics, Midnapore College (Autonomous), Midnapore-721101, India.

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ABSTRACT

The present study explore the electrical properties of pressure compacted pellets of zinc oxide nanoparticles powder synthesized by simple chemical method. The HRTEM images showed the formation of nanoparticles (NPs). The room temperature absorption spectra showed a strong peak at 365 nm due to excitonic formation. The photoluminescence spectrum of ZnO NPs showed a strong emission peak at 445 nm. The electrical properties of zinc oxide (ZnO) were studied within temperature range from 25^oC to 400^oC and in the frequency range from 1kHz to 100 kHz for ac electrical measurements.

KEYWORDS: ZnO NPs, UV-VIS spectrum, HRTEM, Dielectric Loss, Impedance.

INTRODUCTION

Zinc Oxide (ZnO) is a direct and wide band gap interesting material because of its potential usage in various technological applications such as transparent conducting electrodes, wavelength light-emitting, UV lasing, gas sensors, solar cells, laser systems, biomedical applicatios etc.^[1,5]

ZnO has a excitonic energy of 60 meV in a Semiconductor. It crystallizes in a hexagonal wurtzite structure with lattice parameters of (a = 3.249 nm, c = 5.205 nm). It also exhibits many interesting properties, like magnetic properties, piezoelectricity.^[6] ZnO has high chemical and thermal stability and is not easily oxidized in the atmosphere. The key technology for ZnO based optoelectronic devices is the fabrication of high quality ZnO materials and ZnO thin films. Various fabrication methods, such as physical and Chemical vapor deposition, pulsed-laser deposition, hydrothermal growth have already appeared in the literature to synthesized various types of ZnO nanostructures. Some of the Above mentioned methods have some drawbacks. Used precursors are unstable causing environmental hazards and require very high temperature, low pressure, control rate of carrier flow and many more. These methods are not cost effective also. We focused the fabrication of ZnO nanoparticles by a simple and cost-effective wet-chemical method. We next investigated their optical and electrical properties by using UV-VIS, PL, Capacitance, impedance, dielectric loss measurements. We focused our study to better understand the electrical properties for

ZnO nanocrystals for various optoelectronic and other applications.

Experiment

We synthesized ZnO nanoparticles by chemical method. In a typical synthesis process 0.5M of Zinc Nitrate Hexahydrate was first dissolved in ethanol and kept as stock solution. 0.5M NaOH solution was added drop wise into the stock solution. The magnetic stirring was continued for 24 h. At the end of the reaction the white precipitate deposited at the bottom of the flux was collected, filtered, washed several times by de-ionized water and dried at 100^oC for further characterizations. X-ray diffraction was carried using Rigaku X-ray diffractometer system over 10^o < 2θ < 80^o using Cu-ku radiation of wavelength λ=1.54Å. Structural characterizations were also done by transmission electron microscopy images using JEOL JEM-2100F microscope with the accelerating voltage of 200 kV. For TEM study a very small amount of the powder sample was first dispersed in ethanol by ultra-sonication. A drop of that solution was taken on a carbon coated grid for TEM imaging. The room temperature emission spectrum was recorded in PERKIN ELMER LS- 55 with a Xenon lamp with the excitations of 335nm. The optical absorption spectra of the samples were taken by using Shimadzu- Pharmaspec-1700 UV-VIS, after ultrasonication of the samples in ethanol.

The dielectric properties of of the samples were measured using a HIOKI 3532-50 LCR Hi Tester. The

capacitance (C) and the dissipation factor, $D = \tan(\delta)$, and the phase angle (ϕ) of the parallel plate capacitor made by the pressed pellet (disc shaped) samples were directly measured in the frequency range 10 kHz to 100 kHz at different temperatures. The parallel plate capacitor was constructed by applying silver paste on both sides of the pressed pellets.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

UV-VIS spectroscopy

UV-VIS spectroscopy was carried out to study the optical property of the synthesised nanoparticles. The room temperature UV-VIS spectra of the ZnO NPs dispersed in ethanol is shown in figure 1. ZnO NPs shows a strong band at 365 nm due to excitonic transition at room temperature.^[7] This absorption in the UV region shows one dimensional quantum confinement of carriers.^[8] This absorption in the visible range of wavelength implies that there exist more defect energy levels in experimental synthesis conditions.

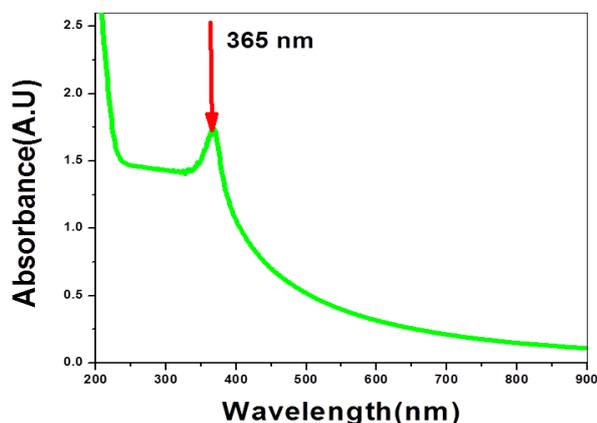


Figure 1: Absorption spectrum of ZnO NPS.

Emission Spectroscopy

Figure 2 shows the emission spectra of ZnO NPs. The ZnO NPs shows a strong emission band around 445 nm.^[9] The emission band corresponding to 483 nm and 527 nm arise from the defects related to the nanocrystals. The different types of defects in ZnO nanocrystals are: Zn vacancy, O-vacancy, Zn-interstitial.

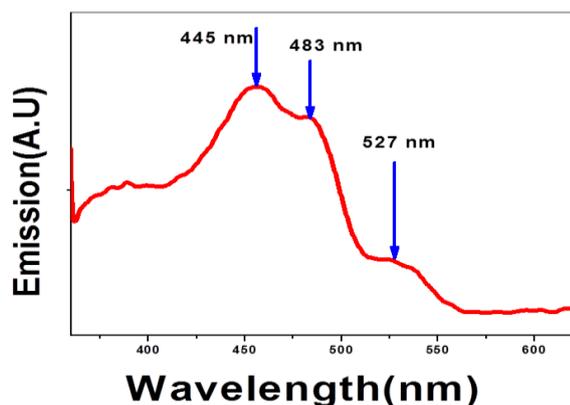


Figure 2: Emission spectrum of ZnO NPS.

HRTEM images

The HRTEM micrographs of zinc oxide nanoparticles are as shown in Figure 3(a) and 3(b). The TEM micrographs show ZnO NPs having average diameter of 19 nm. The corresponding SAED pattern indicates crystalline nature of the nanoparticles.^[10,11]

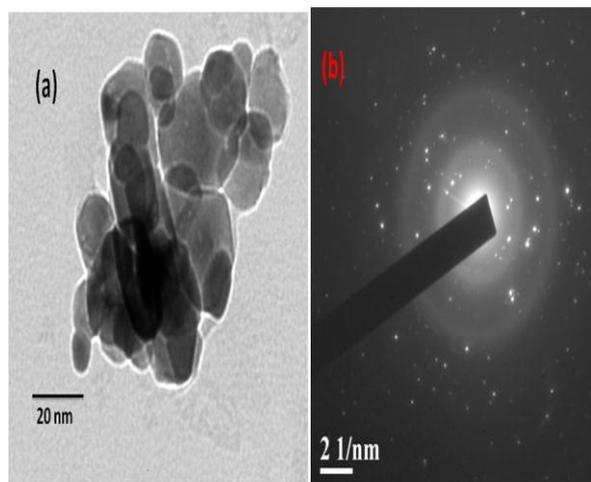


Figure 3: (a) TEM image of ZnO NPs; (b) SAED pattern.

X-ray diffraction (XRD)

The unit cell of the ZnO nano crystal was found to be hexagonal. The prominent diffraction peaks are (100), (002), (101), (102), (110), (103), (200), (112), and (201).^[12,13]

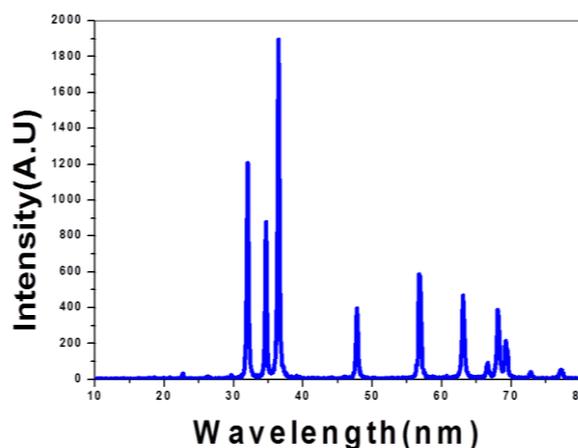


Figure 4: XRD pattern of the ZnO NPS.

Dielectric loss (D), Impedance and Capacitance

Figure 5 shows the variation of dielectric loss (D) with temperature (25 °C-400°C) at fourteen frequencies (1 kHz to 100 kHz). It is observed that the behaviour of dielectric loss increases with increase in temperature upto 150 °C for low frequency range (1 kHz- 10 kHz) and 211 °C for high frequency range (10 kHz to 100 kHz), then decreases, after 300 °C it becomes increases. The increase in the dielectric loss (D) with temperature is due to small ferroelectric properties of ZnO NPs. Here the ZnO NPs shows high dielectric loss for all low

frequencies (1 kHz- 10 kHzat) nearly 150 °C and for high frequency ranges (10 kHz to 100 kHz), it is nearly 212 °C . The high dielectric loss is due to randomness of the orientation of dipoles of the nano material. In the lower temperature range D shows a good agreement with other dielectric material.^[14]

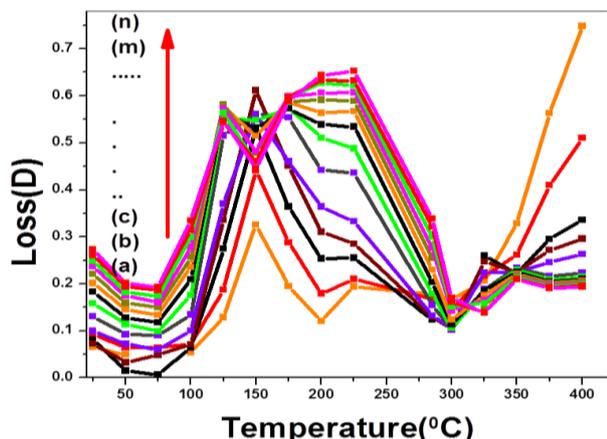


Figure 5: Variation of Dielectric loss of Nano ZnO pellet with temperature and at different frequencies (a) 10 Hz, (b) 100 Hz, (c) 1000 Hz, (d) 2500 Hz, (e) 5000 Hz, (f) 7500 Hz, (g) 10000 Hz, (h) 20000 Hz, (i) 30000 Hz, (j) 40000 Hz, (k) 50000 Hz, (l) 60000 Hz, (m) 70000 Hz, (n) 80000 Hz, (o) 90000 Hz, (p) 100000 Hz.

Figure 6 shows the variation of impedance (Z) with temperature (250°C–400°C) for different frequencies (1kHz to 100 kHz). It has been found that the impedance at lower frequency is higher than that at the higher frequency with sharp decrease in impedance at 275 °C this is due to sharp increase in capacitance around 292°C (Fig. 7) . The sharp peak is disappear after 7.5 kHz frequency.

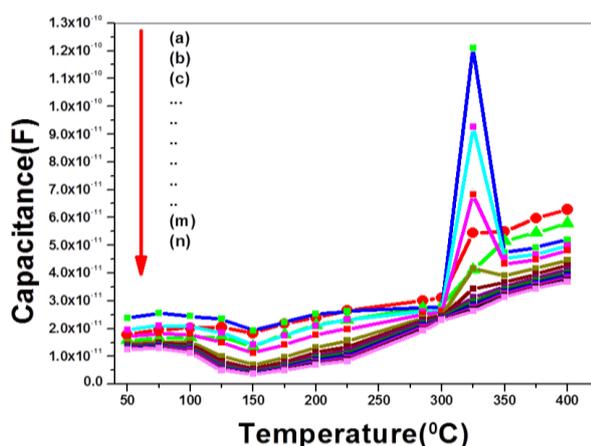


Figure 6: Variation of Capacitance of nano ZnO pellet with temperature and at different frequencies (a) 10 Hz, (b) 100 Hz, (c) 1000 Hz, (d) 2500 Hz, (e) 5000 Hz, (f) 7500 Hz, (g) 10000 Hz, (h) 20000 Hz, (i) 30000 Hz, (j) 40000 Hz, (k) 50000 Hz, (l) 60000 Hz, (m) 70000 Hz, (n) 80000 Hz, (o) 90000 Hz, (p) 100000 Hz.

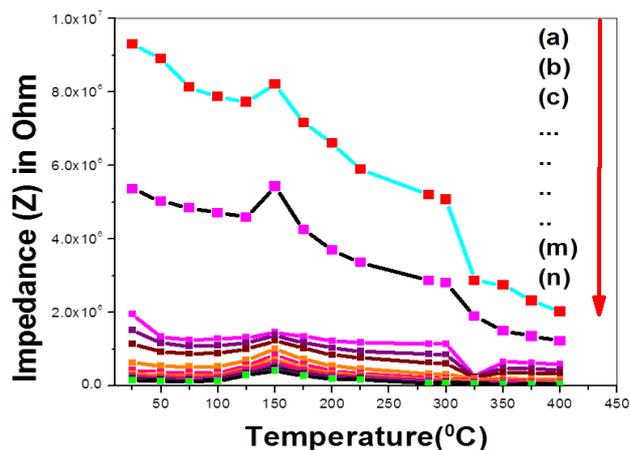


Figure 7: Variation of impedance of nano ZnO pellet with temperature and at different frequencies (a) 10 Hz, (b) 100 Hz, (c) 1000 Hz, (d) 2500 Hz, (e) 5000 Hz, (f) 7500 Hz, (g) 10000 Hz, (h) 20000 Hz, (i) 30000 Hz, (j) 40000 Hz, (k) 50000 Hz, (l) 60000 Hz, (m) 70000 Hz, (n) 80000 Hz, (o) 90000 Hz, (p) 100000 Hz.

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