

Nanocomposites and nanomaterials

Structural, optical and magnetic properties of individual Mn doped ZnO nanorods

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The systematic study of structural, optical, and magnetic properties of undoped and Mn doped ZnO nanorods (NRs), synthesized by aqueous chemical growth with nominal Mn concentrations of 15 and 30%, has been reported. The SEM images clearly show that ZnO:Mn NRs have hexagonal shapes and their diameters varies from 60 to 650 nm with respect to the concentration of the incorporated Mn atoms.

Optical absorption spectra show a red shift of the absorption edge with increasing of Mn²⁺ concentration. This shift is due to strong sp-d exchange interaction between valence band holes and localized spins of the Mn²⁺ ions.

Using scanning Raman microspectroscopy obtained lateral Raman maps of the spatial distribution of intensity and frequency position of E₂^{high} phonon modes along the single nanorod with lateral scanning step of about 0.1 μm. The Raman spectra of individual ZnO:Mn nanorod show the Raman-active vibrational modes of wurtzite phase ZnO and local vibration mode (LVM) associated with Mn-V_O complexes at near 526 cm⁻¹. At high Mn concentration (15% or more), strong vibrational modes related to spinel phase ZnMn₂O₄ and Mn₃O₄ were found in the down two-dimensional seed layer. Both phases coexist in the seed layer of the samples with NRs. Non-uniform spatial distribution of structure phases both wurtzite structure ZnO and spinel structure ZnMn₂O₄ and Mn₃O₄ were obtained.

Magnetic atomic force microscopy (MFM) is used to record 2D magnetization maps simultaneously with topography of single ZnO:Mn NRs. Obtained 2D magnetization maps shows clear magnetic contrast at room temperature provides a strong evidence of in-plane ferromagnetic magnetization in individual upright standing ZnO:Mn NRs.