Magneto-optical properties of ZnO:Co nanocrystalline films

Hoang L.H., Khoi N.T., Hai N.H., Pacuski W., Yang I.-S.
Faculty of Physics, Hanoi National University of Education, 136 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Viet Nam; Center for Materials Science, Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam; Institute of Experimental Physics, Warsaw University, Poland; Division of Nano-Sciences, Department of Physics, Ewha Woman University, Seoul 120-750

Abstract: Co doped ZnO films were synthesized from the precursors $Zn(CH_3COO)_2.2H_2O$ and $Co(CH_3COO)_2.4H_2O$ by using a "High Voltage Spray Pyrolysis" technique. The physical properties of the prepared films were characterized by using scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray diffraction (XRD) and physical property mesurement system (PPMS) measurements. The films studied were of a wurtzite phase with grain sizes of about 20 nm. The 5 % Co-doped ZnO films exhibited ferromagnetic behavior at room temperature. The transmission and the optical magnetic circular dichroism (MCD) measurements confirmed that Co^{2+} was located at the tetrahedral sites of the ZnO wurtzite structure. MCD results showed that the observed ferromagnetism was less likely related to a carrier-induced mechanism.
Author Keywords: Diluted magnetic semiconductor; Ferromagnetism; Optical magnetic circular dichroism

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Correspondence Address: Hoang, L. H.; Faculty of Physics, Hanoi National University of Education, 136 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Viet Nam; email: hoanglhsp@yahoo.com
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Authors with affiliations:

- Hoang, L.H., Faculty of Physics, Hanoi National University of Education, 136 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Khoi, N.T., Faculty of Physics, Hanoi National University of Education, 136 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Hai, N.H., Center for Materials Science, Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Pacuski, W., Institute of Experimental Physics, Warsaw University, Poland
- Yang, I.-S., Division of Nano-Sciences, Department of Physics, Ewha Woman University, Seoul 120-750

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