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Ferromagnetism in Cu²⁺ doped ZnO nanoparticles and their physical properties

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Abstract

Cu²⁺ doped ZnO nanoparticles designated as Zn_{1-x}Cu_xO (x = 0.00, 0.02, 0.04, 0.06, 0.08 and 0.10) were prepared by sol–gel auto combustion technique. The modifications in structure,

morphology, band gap, electrical, dielectric and magnetic properties due to Cu²⁺ doping were investigated through XRD, FE-SEM/EDAX, TEM/SAED, Raman, FT-IR, UV-Vis and VSM respectively. The analysis of XRD pattern reveals the incorporation of the dopants Cu²⁺ into ZnO lattice. The XRD spectra show that all the synthesized nanoparticles are a single crystalline phase with hexagonal wurtzite structure. The analysis of FE-SEM indicates that Cu²⁺ doping affects the surface morphology of ZnO. The compositional study performed by EDAX confirmed the presence of Zn, O, and Cu in stoichiometric proportion. TEM micrographs show the spherical shape of

nanocrystals with small agglomeration. SAED patterns confirm the crystalline nature with hexagonal wurtzite structure. Raman spectra show the strongest peak at 437 cm^{-1} related to vibration of oxygen atoms in ZnO and also confirms optical phonon modes. FTIR result confirms the successful accompanying of Cu²⁺ ions into ZnO crystal lattice without changing its original structure. From DC electrical resistivity measurements it was found that electrical resistivity enhanced with increase in Cu²⁺ content. The measured dielectric parameters decreased with increase in Cu²⁺ content. An optical study revealed that the energy band gap decreased with

doping of Cu²⁺ ions into ZnO nanoparticles. The VSM analysis shows the transformation of paramagnetic to superparamagnetic and superparamagnetic to ferromagnetic at room temperature due to Cu²⁺ doping in ZnO nanoparticles. The enhanced physical properties revealed that the prepared Cu²⁺ doped ZnO nanoparticles are the potential candidate for high-frequency devices, optoelectronic devices and spintronics devices application.

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Ethics declarations

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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