Optical properties of Mn-doped ZnS semiconductor nanoclusters synthesized by a hydrothermal process

Hoa T.T.Q., The N.D., McVitie S., Nam N.H., Vu L.V., Canh T.D., Long N.N.

Faculty of Physics, Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai Road, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Viet Nam; Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom

Abstract: Undoped and Mn-doped ZnS nanoclusters have been synthesized by a hydrothermal approach. Various samples of the ZnS:Mn with 0.5, 1, 3, 10 and 20 at.% Mn dopant have been prepared and characterized using X-ray diffraction, energy-dispersive analysis of X-ray, high resolution electron microscopy, UV-vis diffusion reflection, photoluminescence (PL) and photoluminescence excitation (PLE) measurements. All the prepared ZnS nanoclusters possess cubic sphalerite crystal structure with lattice constant a = 5.408 ? 0.011 . The PL spectra of Mn-doped ZnS nanoclusters at room temperature exhibit both the 495 nm blue defect-related emission and the 587 nm orange Mn^{2+} emission. Furthermore, the blue emission is dominant at low temperatures; meanwhile the orange emission is dominant at room temperature. The Mn^{2+} ion-related PL can be excited both at energies near the band-edge of ZnS host (the UV region) and at energies corresponding to the Mn^{2+} ion own excited states (the visible region). An energy schema for the Mn-doped ZnS nanoclusters is proposed to interpret the photoluminescence behaviour.

Author Keywords: Hydrothermal method; Mn-doped ZnS; Nanocluster; Optical properties

Index Keywords: Band edge; Blue emission; Defect-related emission; Energy dispersive analysis; Hydrothermal methods; Hydrothermal process; Low temperatures; Mn-doped; Orange emissions; Photoluminescence excitation; PL spectra; Room temperature; Semiconductor nanoclusters; UV region; Visible region; Crystal structure; Doping (additives); High resolution electron microscopy; Nanoclusters; Optical properties; Photoluminescence; X ray diffraction; X ray diffraction analysis; Zinc sulfide; Manganese

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Correspondence Address: Long, N. N.; Faculty of Physics, Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai Road, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Viet Nam; email: longnn@vnu.edu.vn

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Authors with affiliations:

1. Hoa, T.T.Q., Faculty of Physics, Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai Road, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Viet Nam
2. The, N.D., Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom
3. McVitie, S., Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom
4. Nam, N.H., Faculty of Physics, Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai Road, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Viet Nam
5. Vu, L.V., Faculty of Physics, Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai Road, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Viet Nam
6. Canh, T.D., Faculty of Physics, Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai Road, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Viet Nam
7. Long, N.N., Faculty of Physics, Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai Road, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Viet Nam

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