

Presentation

ABSTRACT

OPTICAL & PHOTONIC MATERIALS PRODUCTS

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MICROWAVE ACTIVATION OF SOL-GEL SPIN COATED MAGNESIUM DOPED GALLIUM NITRIDE THIN FILMS

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Abstract. In this paper, microwave (MW) activation of sol-gel spin coated magnesium (Mg) doped gallium nitride (GaN) thin films grown on sapphire (001) substrates were reported. The attention was paid to the effects of MW activation power on structural and optical properties of these *p*-type GaN films. X-ray diffraction results indicate that the Mg-doped GaN thin films exhibit hexagonal wurtzite structure with (002) preferential orientation. Besides, the Mg-doped GaN thin film activated at 450 W has the highest dislocation density, δ , implies that it has the largest amount of nitrogen vacancies compared to all the other samples, and consequently the poorest crystalline quality as proved by the drastic decrease in intensities of the XRD peaks of the film. Since nitrogen vacancies are favourably formed only upon the removal of hydrogen from *p*-type GaN, it can be deduced that the activation process of Mg dopants is most efficient at 450 W. Tensile strain along *c*-axis of the film activated at 450 W further validates this statement. Raman scattering measurements showed the presence of $E_2(\text{high})$ mode of hexagonal GaN in all the Mg-doped GaN thin films, except in film activated at MW power of 450 W where the $E_2(\text{high})$ mode peak is extremely weak and broad. The smallest crystallite size of the Mg-doped GaN thin film activated at MW power of 450 W leads to optical phonon confinement, resulting in broadening of $E_2(\text{high})$ mode. In summary, 450 W is the best power for the activation process of Mg dopant, but yet it is not the most ideal MW power because it deteriorates the crystalline quality of the films.

Keywords: Microwave activation, sol-gel, gallium nitride, spin coating, Mg-dopant.

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STRUCTURAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF GRAPHENE AND REDUCED GRAPHENE OXIDE

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Abstract. Natural intercalation of the graphite was obtained as a product of Hummer's method, which is followed by sonication of water dispersed graphite oxide to reduce it. The process was carried out to obtain graphene oxide (GO) and reduced graphene oxide (RGO). Here we report the synthesis of metallic nitrate on the oxidation process of graphite and then formation of metallic oxide composites with GO and RGO for the first time. We observed a change in the efficiency of the oxidation process as we replace the conventionally used nitric acid with that of nickel nitrate $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, cadmium nitrate $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ and zinc nitrate $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$. The structural and optical properties were investigated by X-ray diffraction, UV-Vis spectroscopy and Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. Thermo Gravimetric Analysis (TGA) analysis was carried out to confirm >90% weight loss in each process, thus proving the reliability of the oxidation cycles. We found that the nature of the oxidation process of graphite powder and its optical and electrochemical characteristics can be tuned by replacing the nitric acid with nitrate (NaNO_3) by other metallic nitrates as $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ and $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$. On the basis of obtained results, the synthesized GO and RGO may be expected as a promising material in antibacterial activity and electrodes fabrication for energy devices such as fuel cell, Fuel cell and super capacitors.

Keywords: Thermal properties of graphene oxide, reduced graphene oxide, optical properties, electrochemical properties, fuel cell, composite materials.