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Sonochemically generated Cerium doped ZnO nanorods for

highly efficient photocatalytic dye degradation

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Abstract:

Herein, we report a facile succinate mediated sonochemical method for the synthesis of ZnO

nanorod photocatalysts doped with cerium. The as-prepared samples were characterized by X-

ray diffraction (XRD), field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), diffuse

reflectance UV-visible (UV-Vis DRS) spectroscopy, photoluminescence (PL) spectroscopy,

Raman spectroscopy, Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy, particle size distribution

analysis and BET surface area analysis. The X-ray diffraction analysis revealed that as-

synthesized nanostructures correspond to various planes of a single hexagonal ZnO phase. The

pristine ZnO phase was retained up till 4 at.% Ce-doping, however, on further increase in Ce

concentration (6 and 8 at. %) a separate cubic CeO₂ phase appears. The photocatalytic activity

was evaluated by photodegradation of hazardous crystal violet (CV) dye under sunlight

irradiation. Among the tested samples, the sample with optimal doping concentration of 4 at.%

Ce exhibits highest photocatalytic activity and achieved 99% degradation of CV dye within 100

mins of sun-light irradiation. This photocatalytic activity was found to be 3-fold excess as

compared to that of commercial ZnO at identical experimental conditions.

Keywords: Ce doped ZnO, nanorods, sonochemical, photoluminescence, Raman, photocatalysts

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