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A facile fabrication of high-quality Si/Cu₂O nanowire arrays for photoelectrochemical water splitting

Shaoyang Zhang^{a,b}, Guangwei She^{a*}, Lixuan Mu^a, Wensheng Shi^{a*}

^aKey Laboratory of Photochemical Conversion and Optoelectronic Materials, Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

^bUniversity of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

CORRESPONDING AUTHORS

Guangwei She, Email: shegw@mail.ipc.ac.cn; Wensheng Shi, Email: shiws@mail.ipc.ac.cn

Abstract

As the potential applications of nanostructured Si/Cu₂O heterojunction in electronic and photoelectronic devices, various methods has been developed to fabricate such heterojunctions. In this study, the Si/Cu₂O heterojunction nanowire arrays were fabricated by the in-situ thermal decomposition of Cu(NO₃)₂ on silicon nanowires. The as-decomposed Cu₂O nanoparticles were found to be uniformly distributed on the surfaces of Si nanowires. The microstructure, chemical composition and states of the products were investigated. Utilized as photoanodes for photoelectrochemical water splitting, the Si/Cu₂O heterojunction nanowire arrays exhibited a maximum photocurrent density of 4 mA/cm² at 1.23 V vs. RHE and an onset potential of 0.62 V vs. RHE.

Keywords: thermal decomposition method; Si/Cu₂O heterojunction; photoelectrochemical

1. Introduction

Semiconductor heterojunctions own improved performance in photonic [1] and electronic devices

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