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SnO₂ (n)-NiO (p) composite nanowires: gas sensing properties and sensing mechanisms

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Highlights

- We optimized SnO₂-NiO nanocomposite sensors for detection of hazardous gases
- Depending on the composition, SnO₂-NiO composite nanowires showed either n-type or p-type behavior
- The p-n junctions, NiO with high oxygen adsorption capability, and crystallographic defects generated by possible substitution of Ni²⁺ in Sn⁴⁺ were the main reasons for the efficient sensing

ABSTRACT

Aiming to optimize SnO₂-NiO nanocomposite sensors for detection of hazardous gases, a series of xSnO₂-(1-x) NiO composite nanowires with different compositions (x=0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, and 0.9) were synthesized using an electrospinning process. The formation of long and continuous SnO₂-NiO nanowires was verified. Depending on the composition, xSnO₂-(1-x) NiO composite nanowires showed either n-type (SnO₂-rich composition) or p-type (NiO-rich composition) gas-sensing behavior. The best sensing performance was

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