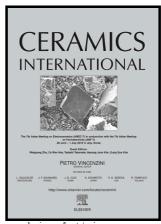
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Influence of Na & F doping on microstructures, optical and magnetic

properties of ZnO films synthesized by sol-gel method

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Abstract

Undoped, Na-doped, and Na-F codoped ZnO films were synthesized using sol-gel

method. Na⁺ and F⁺ ions were used as two different dopants that yielded a synergistic

doping effect. This effect was measurable using XRD, accompanied by a redshift in

the optical bandgap from 3.284 to 3.261 eV in ZnO, ZnO-F, and ZnO-Na-F thin films,

respectively. We then studied the resulting photoluminescent changes, which were

attributed to O-related defects. Ferromagnetism measurements revealed that magnetic

orderings decreased significantly with F doping. However, increased Na doping

enhanced the oxygen-vacancy mediated ferromagnetic state.

Keywords: Defects; Sol-gel preparation; Thin films; Microstructure

1. Introduction

Recently, researchers have focused on ZnO as a promising material with broad

applications; this is primarily due to its wide room temperature bandgap (3.37 eV) and

high electron binding energy (60 meV) [1]. However, accomplishing p-type doping

remains a challenge due to the self-compensatory effect arising from native defects [2,

3]. Therefore, several research groups have tried to advance group-V and group-I

doping to achieve p-type ZnO. For instance, Park and colleagues [4] have argued that

it is theoretically possible for a group I element to substitute on Zn sites as a shallow

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