

# Preparation of nitrogen doped ZnO thin films by colloidal route

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## Preparation of nitrogen doped ZnO thin films by colloidal route



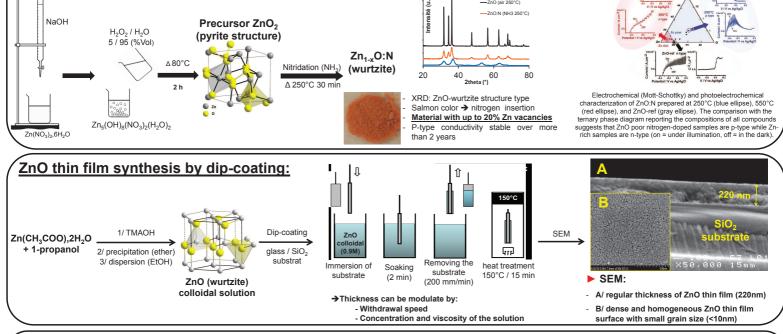


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Zinc oxide is a material of great interest exhibiting pigmental, photocatalytic, piezoelectric, antibacterial, or varistor properties that have already been developed in many different fields of industry. Still novel applications emerge in various domains but they often require the preliminary stabilization of a p-type ZnO counterpart to the natural n-type ZnO to be stimulated. In optoelectronics for instance, the high optical transparency of ZnO thin films coupled with their high electrical conductivity and their strong room temperature luminescence could indeed open up the door to revolutionary technologies as transparent electrodes in solar cells and flat panel displays, light emitting diodes, lasers, etc. We have previously reported the stabilization of p-type nitrogen doped Zn<sub>1.x</sub>O nanoparticles (ZnO:N) obtained through the decomposition of zinc peroxide (ZnO<sub>2</sub>) at low temperature under ammonia flow. Our objective is now to extend these results to the realization of p-type ZnO thin films by colloidal route in order to achieve n-ZnO/p-ZnO:N homojonctions which would led to various applications in optoelectronics. The aim of the present work is to prepare nitrogen doped Zn<sub>1.x</sub>O thin film by thermal decomposition of ZnO<sub>2</sub> films obtained by chemical conversion of ZnO colloidal thin films.

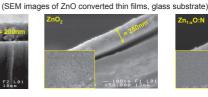


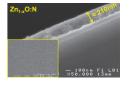
#### ZnO thin film conversion into ZnO<sub>2</sub> and Zn<sub>4</sub> O:N:

Previous work on Zn<sub>1-x</sub>O:N nanoparticles:

Zn<sub>1-x</sub>O:N ZnO<sub>2</sub> ZnO thin film thin film Δ 250°C 30 min H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> / H<sub>2</sub>O (5/35 mL)

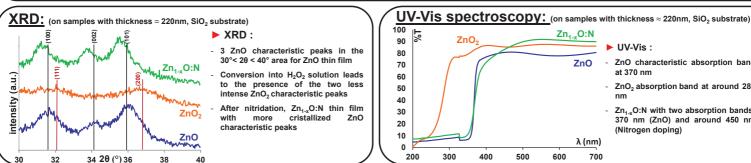
SEM:





variation of the thickness after conversion in H2O2 solution and nitridation

dense and homogeneous surface with increased of grain size after conversion (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)



### ► IIV-Vis · ZnO characteristic absorption band ZnO<sub>2</sub> absorption band at around 285 $\rm Zn_{1-x}O:N$ with two absorption bands: 370 nm (ZnO) and around 450 nm (Nitrogen doping)

#### References:

P-type nitrogen doped ZnO nanoparticles stable under ambient conditions.

- B. Chavillon, L. Cario, A. Renaud, F. Tessier, F. Cheviré, M. Boujtita, Y. Pellegrin, E. Blart, A. Smeigh, L. Hammarström, F. Odobel, S. Jobio
- J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 134 (2012) 464-470

Unravelling the origin of the giant Zn deficiency in wurtzite type ZnO nanoparticles A. Renaud; L. Cario; X. Rocquefelte; P. Deniard; E. Gautron; E. Faulques; F. Chevire, F. Tessier; S. Jobic

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#### **Conclusions:**

- ▶ decomposition of ZnO₂ under NH₃ at T=250°C leads to Zn-poor ZnO:N. Zinc vacancy coupled with insertion of nitrogen is necessary to access p-typeness
- stabilization of homogeneous, regular and dense wurtzite ZnO thin film by dip-coating (thickness ≈ 200nm).
- conversion of ZnO thin film into ZnO<sub>2</sub> by a simple chemical conversion (into H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution) in order to obtain  $\rm Zn_{1.x}O:N$  films by nitridation under  $\rm NH_3$  at T=250°C