



Advanced Materials for Gas Sensing Applications

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ABSTRACT

The detection of toxic and hazardous gases such ozone (O₃), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) etc. is of great research interest for over five decades, since they can be dangerous for human health. Moreover, gases related to energy such as hydrogen (H₂) and methane (CH₄) must also be detected in the place where they are produced as well as in their storage, for safety reasons. For this, many sensing techniques and materials have been investigated.

In the present work, metal oxide semiconductors, have been synthesized by sputtering technique as well as by solution-based method, in order to detect O₃, H₂ and CH₄, at room temperature, using the conductometric method. In particular, ZnO films were deposited by dc magnetron sputtering on glass substrates and were tested against O₃, showing a high sensitivity, even at ultra-low concentrations of 5 ppb [1]. In addition, rf-sputtered NiO films grown on glass substrates were investigated for H₂ and CH₄ detection [2]. The sensitivity against H₂ was 80%, while for CH₄ was 76%. In contrast, Cu₂O nanocubes were synthesized via an easy and low-cost solution-based method, in powder form. Cu₂O nanocubes (30x30x30 nm) were dispersed and deposited by drop casting on commercial Interdigitated Transducers (IDT) on glass substrates and tested against ozone [3]. Cu₂O nanocubes showed a high sensitivity of 28% at 10 ppb O₃ with fast response and recovery time.

REFERENCES

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