



Comparative Study of Laser Ablation and Chemical Synthesis of some Nano Chalcogenides

Thesis

**Submitted for the degree of M.Sc in Science as a partial
fulfillments for the requirements of the Master of Science**

**Submitted to
Physics Department - Faculty of Science
Ain Shams University**

**Presented by
Ayman Mohamed Mahmoud Mostafa**

**B.Sc. Chemistry & Physics (2007)
Cairo University**

2013



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A Thesis Submitted By

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"In the name of ALLAH"

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Abstract

In this thesis, cadmium sulfide (CdS) nanostructures with different sizes and shapes were prepared via two different pathways; chemical precipitation method (CPM) and pulsed laser ablation in a liquid environment (PLAL)

In the first part of this work, a simple synthesis method, using CdCl_2 as cadmium source and Na_2S as sulfur source in a closed reaction vessel equipped with ethylenediamine (en) solution, has successfully prepared a one-dimensional CdS nanostructure arrays. The method leads to reproducible results at low growth temperature. The study indicates that the Cd:S molar ratio, the reaction temperatures, and the amount of en are determining factors in controlling the particles size and shape. The Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) images show that when the reaction temperature was carried out between 30-60°C, Tripods nanostructures were formed with the arms no uniform but their diameters have a relatively narrow size distribution. Then by raising the temperature from 60°C to 80°C, the resulting shapes are commonly uniform tripod product. Increasing further the reaction temperature to 150°C, the resulting CdS nanorods become

distorted. TEM images also show that more uniform CdS tripod nanostructures are formed at Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 and 1:4. As the amount of en dissolved in distilled water increases from 25% using different molar ratio, the produce nanorods decrease their length till they become spherical shapes at 100% of en. The X-ray diffraction (XRD) results indicated that the prepared CdS nanostructures are crystalline with hexagonal lattice structure. The absence of CdCl_2 or Na_2S characteristic peaks reflects the completeness of the reaction and the purity of the prepared CdS.

From the UV-Visible spectrum, the average particles size calculated by varying the reaction temperatures from 30°C to 150°C change from 45.1nm to 12.74nm . The band gap energies gradually decrease from 2.88eV to 2.46eV. These changes have been attributed to the crystalline size-dependent properties of the energy band gap. And it's evident that the CdS synthesized at 30°C by precipitation of Cd^{2+} cations with S^{2-} anions shows the largest blue shift relative to the bulk material whereas that of the 150°C temperature shows the smallest shift. By varying the precursors molar ratio Cd:S, the calculated average particles size changed from 4.25 (for 1:1) to 2.95 (for 1:4).

So, the band gap energies gradually increase from 2.94eV to 3.52eV.

In the second part of this work, CdS nanostructures were synthesized by PLAL method that was tightly controlled during the ablation process. There are a number of factors playing a crucial role in controlling shape and size of the produced nanostructures. We optimized these factors by controlling parameters of the PLAL system, controlling the used laser parameters, controlling the ablated materials and its medium. The controlling of PLAL system was carried out by studying the sound intensity produced by laser-matter interaction, the absorption spectra of the colloidal solutions, and the particles size and size distribution of the nanostructures as a function of the target position with respect to the lens focal plane. The adjustment of the ablated materials and its medium was carried out by studying the ablated target, the electrolyte solution, and the type of water.

The synthesis of CdS nanostructures by PLAL was carried via two ways; the first one is Top-Down technique while the other one is Bottom-Up technique which is introduced here for the first time. Samples were also characterized by using TEM, and Ultraviolet– visible

Spectrophotometer (UV-vis). The produced nanostructures have different shapes and sizes controlling by the previous factors.

TEM images of PLAL of S-target immersed in CdCl_2 solution by ns-laser (1064nm, $40\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$) show that CdS nanostructures have an external spherical shape with a very narrow size distribution with diameters in the range of 5–10nm. When the pulse width was decreased to be ps-laser (800nm, 0.9mJ) ablation of S-target immersed in CdCl_2 solution, the product was ropes or hair-like in shape. The formed nanostructures have diameters in the range of 10-15nm and the formation of other nanostructures was not observed. When the pulse width was further decreased to be fs-laser (800nm, 0.7mJ), the product was self-assembly nanorods spontaneously produced without using any surfactant.

List of Figures

Figure	Title	Page
Figure 1.1	Number of research publications per year within the last decade in the fields of nanoscience / nanotechnology, nanostructures, laser materials processing, and laser generation of nanostructures	2
Figure 1.2	Share of global scientific publication activity (1998–2008) by country in the field of laser ablation and generation of nanostructures in liquids	9
Figure 1.3	Crystal structure for CdS	10
Figure 2.1	Illustration the effect of increased spatial confinement on the density of states for (a) a bulk material, (b) a quantum well, (c) a quantum wire, and (d) a quantum dot	32
Figure 2.2	Energy dispersion for the 3D bulk case compared to that of the 0D Quantum Dot case	34
Figure 2.3	UV–Visible absorption spectra of the as-prepared CdS nanostructures with various mean sizes. (A absorption intensity)	36
Figure 2.4	Schematic shows the diagram of Transmission Electron Microscope	42
Figure 3.1	Diagram of the laser system in Laser Technology Unit (LTU), National Research Center (NRC), Egypt	48
Figure 3.2	Diagram of the mechanism of laser system	48
Figure 3.3	Nd:YAG solid state laser	49
Figure 3.4	Diagram of the experimental apparatus setup	51
Figure 3.5	Experimental setup a) PLAL technique, b) The stirrer motor holder	52
Figure 3.6	Transmission Electron Microscope Jeol-JEM-1011	53

Figures

Figure	Title	Page
Figure 3.7	X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) , Schimadzu 7000, Japan	54
Figure 3.8	UV-Visible double beam spectrophotometer (high performance T80)	56
Figure 4.1	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared at 30°C for 24 hours with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	60
Figure 4.2	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared at 60 °C for 24 hours with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio.	61
Figure 4.3	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared at 80°C for 24 hours with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	62
Figure 4.4	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared at 100°C for 24 hours with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	63
Figure 4.5	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared at 130°C for 24 hours with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	64
Figure 4.6	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared at 150°C for 24 hours with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	65
Figure 4.7	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 25% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	67
Figure 4.8	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:4 at 80°C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 25% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	68

Figures

Figure	Title	Page
Figure 4.9	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:3 at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 25% of en	69
Figure 4.10	TEM image of CdS nanoparticle prepared with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:2 at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 25% of en	69
Figure 4.11	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:1 at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 25% of en	70
Figure 4.12	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in 100% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	72
Figure 4.13	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared using Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en and its histogram of the aspect ratio	73
Figure 4.14	TEM image of CdS nanostructures prepared using Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in 100% of en and its histogram of the particles size	74
Figure 4.15	XRD pattern of the pure CdS nanostructures prepared at (30, 60, 80, 100, and 130 °C) with Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 dissolved in distilled-water containing 50% of en	75
Figure 4.16	XRD pattern of the pure CdS nanostructures prepared at different Cd:S molar ratio of (1:1, 1:2, 1:3) at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 25% of en	76
Figure 4.17	XRD pattern of CdS nanostructures prepared at Cd:S molar ratio of 1:7 and 80°C for 24 hours at different amount of en dissolved in distilled-water	76
Figure 4.18	UV-Visible spectra of CdS nanostructures synthesized by chemical method at various temperatures	83

Figures

Figure	Title	Page
Figure 4.19	UV-Visible spectra of CdS nanostructures synthesized by chemical method at a 1:7 Cd:S molar ratio dissolved in a different percentage of en (80 °C)	84
Figure 4.20	UV-Visible spectra of CdS nanostructures prepared at different Cd:S molar ratio of (1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:4, 1:7) at 80 °C for 24 hours dissolved in distilled-water containing 25% of en	85
Figure 4.21	Typical relation of $(\alpha h\nu)^2$ vs $h\nu$ for the prepared CdS nanostructures at different temperatures	88
Figure 4.22	Typical relation of $(\alpha h\nu)^2$ vs $h\nu$ for CdS nanostructures prepared at different percentage of en	89
Figure 4.23	Typical relation of $(\alpha h\nu)^2$ vs $h\nu$ for CdS nanostructures prepared at different precursors molar ratio Cd:S	90
Figure 4.24	Schematic of the experimental setup of pulsed laser ablation at different focal point on the surface of the target	99
Figure 4.25	Variation of sound intensity of PLAL interaction with CdS as a function of the target position with respect to the lens of focal plane ($Z=0$)	100
Figure 4.26	Variation of maximum absorption of CdS nanostructures produced by PLAL as a function of the target position with respect to the lens of focal plane ($Z = 0$)	101
Figure 4.27	Variation of CdS particles size as a function of target surface relative to the focal plane	102
Figure 4.28	UV-Visible absorption spectra of synthesized nano CdS in different medium (distilled water, deionized water, Tap-water)	106
Figure 4.29	UV-Visible absorption spectrum of synthesized nano CdS before and after sintering of the used target immersed in deionized water	107