

行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫 成果報告

分子自由基與單晶奈米線之製備及光譜特性研究

計畫類別：個別型計畫

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# 行政院國家科學委員會補助專題研究計畫成果報告

計畫名稱：分子自由基與單晶奈米線之製備及光譜特性研究

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## 一. 中文摘要

利用 REMPI 實驗光譜，丙烯基- $h_5$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_2$ ) 在  $ns$  ( $n = 4-12$ ) Rydberg 電子態，及丙烯基- $d_5$  ( $\text{CD}_2\text{CDCD}_2$ ) 之  $ns$  ( $n = 4-10$ ) Rydberg 電子態(6.0–8.2 eV)，已首次從實驗光譜中被觀測到。從  $ns$  Rydberg 光譜系列，我們求得了丙烯基之游離能為  $8.133 \pm 0.001$  eV 及丙烯基- $d_5$  ( $\text{CD}_2\text{CDCD}_2$ ) 之游離能為  $8.124 \pm 0.002$  eV。此外利用 1+1 和 2+2 REMPI 實驗光譜，2-甲基丙烯基 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2$ ) 之  $\tilde{\text{B}}(1^2\text{A}_1) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$ ,  $\tilde{\text{C}}(1^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  及  $\tilde{\text{E}}(2^2\text{A}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  在  $38000-41000$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  亦首次從實驗光譜中被觀測到。在 1+1 REMPI 光譜  $41000-43500$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  區段中，各譜線頻寬  $\sim 80$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  可能是緣由  $\tilde{\text{D}}(2^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  或  $\tilde{\text{F}}(3^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  之躍遷，其譜線強度借自於  $\tilde{\text{C}}(1^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$ 。我們的研究重點在於了解這些活性分子與自由基之各激發電子-振動能階，Rydberg 電子態，以至於游離能。這些光譜資料的獲得與量子態的分析，對多原子分子光解機制的了解有很大的幫助。

利用 193 nm 之 ArF 雷射光誘發雙光子  $\text{SiO}_2$  奈米粒子 (直徑 7 nm 及 15 nm) 所得之發光光譜，我們觀測到在 1.9 eV 之紅光為氧原子缺陷 ( $\text{Si-O}\bullet$ ) 造成，在 2.35 eV 之綠色為和 Si-H 有關之鍵結，及在 2.75 eV 之發光是自陷激子所造成。運用時間解析之光譜技術，我們可將一般混在一起不易解析之 2.35 eV 及 2.75 eV 譜帶做一清楚之辨認。

在 MCM-41 孔洞材料中觀測到之 1.905, 1.78, 1.61, 1.40, 1.27 and 1.14 eV 發光譜線，為  $\text{Si-O}\bullet$  缺陷造成，其中 1.905 eV 為在實體內之  $\text{Si-O}\bullet$ ，1.78 eV 為在表面之  $\text{Si-O}\bullet$ ，其他之 1.61, 1.40, 1.27 和 1.14 eV 為在  $\text{Si-O}\bullet$  周圍有氧原子缺陷，以致 1.905 eV 及 1.78 eV 紅光位移所造成。利用理論計算，所得之發光譜帶位置及強度均可圓滿地比對實驗所得之發光光譜。

合成之(SBA-15)-AgI 主-客奈米組材料可用光繞射譜證明 AgI 為座落於 SBA-15 之孔道中。當 AgI (客) 座於 SBA-15 之 (主) 孔道中漸減少時，在反射吸收譜中呈現藍位移，這現象顯示 AgI 在 SBA-15 孔道中受制於量子侷限效應。從在 2.38 eV 之 Si-H 發光譜線，由於 AgI 之增添而強度減弱之觀察，可以解釋為當 AgI 漸增添而佔據  $\text{SiO}_2$  之表面時，Si-H 因而濃度減少，致使 2.38 eV 之發光譜線隨之而減弱之緣故。

利用  $\text{M}^{2+}/\text{kaolin}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Fe}, \text{Co}, \text{Ni}, \text{Cu}$ ) 當催化劑可製備直徑在 400–2000 nm 之碳球，但超過 90% 之碳球大小座落在 600–800 nm 間。這些合成之碳球主要含 0.33–0.35 nm 間距之石墨層，其在  $\text{KMnO}_4$  ( $\text{H}^+$ ) 溶液中具相當之化學況性，但對 HF (48%) 之溶液則相當安定。

利用  $\text{SiO}_2$  及 Fe, Ru, 和 Pr 等金屬做催化劑，我們已合成矽奈米線繩 (直徑  $\geq 5$  nm, 長度  $\sim \mu\text{m}$ )。所有合成之奈米線繩，皆以 Si {111} 為最安定之平面。在以金屬做催化劑之奈米線繩中，奈米線繩之成長為遵循 vapor-liquid-solid 之生長機制，故合成之奈米線繩有一  $\text{FeSi}_2$ ,  $\text{RuSi}_3$ , 或  $\text{PrSi}_4$  之頭部，且線繩之成長方向為  $\langle 111 \rangle$ 。但在以  $\text{SiO}_2$  為催化劑之合成奈米線繩，不僅線繩無頭部之出現，且線繩之成長方向為  $\langle 112 \rangle$ 。

關鍵字: 丙烯基, 2-甲基丙烯基, 二氧化矽奈米粒子, MCM-41 及 SBA-15 孔洞材料, 發光光譜, 矽奈米線繩。

## 二. Abstract

The vibronic spectra of allyl-h<sub>5</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>) and allyl-d<sub>5</sub> (CD<sub>2</sub>CDCD<sub>2</sub>) radicals at 6.0-8.2 eV and 2-methylallyl radical (CH<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>) at 4.6–5.6 eV have been observed using resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization (REMPI) spectroscopy. Rydberg states of ns (n = 4-12) for allyl-h<sub>5</sub> and (n = 4-10) for allyl-d<sub>5</sub> have been identified. The adiabatic ionization energies, 65594 ± 9 cm<sup>-1</sup> (8.133 ± 0.001 eV) for allyl-h<sub>5</sub> and 65527 ± 16 cm<sup>-1</sup> (8.124 ± 0.002 eV) for allyl-d<sub>5</sub>, are extrapolated from the convergence of the observed ns Rydberg series. In another REMPI spectroscopic study,  $\tilde{B}(1^2A_1) \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^2A_2)$ ,  $\tilde{C}(1^2B_2) \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^2A_2)$  and  $\tilde{E}(2^2A_2) \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^2A_2)$  of 2-methylallyl radical at 38000–41000 cm<sup>-1</sup> are identified. Much broader 1+1 REMPI signals at 41000–43500 cm<sup>-1</sup> with HWHM of ~80 cm<sup>-1</sup> for each vibronic band could be due to  $\tilde{D}(2^2B_2) \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^2A_2)$  and/or  $\tilde{F}(3^2B_2) \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^2A_2)$  via an intensity borrowing from  $\tilde{C}(1^2B_2) \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^2A_2)$ .

Photoluminescence (PL) from composites of 7- and 15-nm silica (amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub>) nanoparticles and bulk type-III fused silica induced by two-photon band-to-band excitation with 193-nm (6.4-eV) ArF laser light has been measured in time-resolved detection mode. The PL spectra taken for 15-nm particles allow us to identify three PL bands peaked in the red (~1.9 eV), green (~2.35 eV), and blue (~2.85 eV) spectral ranges, which are assigned to nonbridging oxygen hole centers, hydrogen-related species, and self-trapped excitons (STE's), respectively. As a result of time-resolved measurements, the extremely broad PL band peaked at ~2.35 eV, which is typically observed for bulk silica and initially assigned to STE's, is found to consist of two bands peaked at ~2.75 and ~2.35 eV. We conclude that these bands are due to the radiative deexcitation of STE's and hydrogen-related centers, respectively. The STEPL band is peaked at ~2.75 eV for both bulk amorphous and crystalline SiO<sub>2</sub>.

Experimental study of room temperature PL from silica nanoparticles and mesoporous silica at 1.905, 1.78, 1.61, 1.40, 1.27 and 1.14 eV have been assigned due to the bulk non-bridging oxygen (NBO) defects at 1.905 eV, surface NBO at 1.78 eV, and oxygen vacancy (OV) in various positions to the NBO defects at 1.61–1.14 eV. We have shown that combined defects including NBO and an oxygen vacancy (OV) in various positions exhibit the suitable properties (both energies and oscillator strengths) to be responsible for the observed PL bands. These combined defects are proposed to occur in extremely thin (~1 nm) non-equilibrium substoichiometric silicon oxide (SiO<sub>x</sub>, x<2) layers. The emphasis is on the PL band shift induced by one, two and three OV's in the nearest vicinity of NBO, and the influence of the Si-Si bond relaxation in OV's as well as the orientation of NBO's and distances between them and OV's on transition energies and oscillator strengths. PL from mesoporous silica is evidenced to originate from non-bridging oxygens (NBO's) located inside ~1-nm pore walls and on the pore internal surfaces. Based on *ab initio* calculations, we showed that the PL band diversity in the range of 1.0–2.1 eV results from both isolated bulk and surface NBO's and those combined with variously placed pore wall oxygen vacancies.

Synthesized (SBA-15)-AgI host-guest nanocomposites were characterized by powder X-ray diffraction analysis, indicating that AgI has been prepared in the channels of SBA-15 molecular sieve host. As the guest loading decreases, a blue-shift was observed in the solid diffuse reflectance absorption spectra. This shows that the guest existed in the channels of SBA-15 and a quantum confinement effect emerged. The PL spectra show that the PL at ~2.38 eV, associated with the hydrogen-related species, decreases substantially after the loading of AgI in SBA-15. The decrease of the PL indicates the reduction of the hydrogen concentration on the pore surface of SBA-15 after the loading of AgI guest.

Carbon spheres with diameter of 400–2000 nm are synthesized with the catalyst of  $M^{2+}$ /kaolin ( $M = Fe, Co, Ni, Cu$ ) by CCVD in a large quantity. More than 90% of the carbon spheres have the sizes of 600–800 nm. The carbon spheres are composed of unclosed graphene layers with 0.33–0.35 nm distance between layers. This kind of unclosed graphitic layer structure makes the carbon spheres active in  $KMnO_4$  ( $H^+$ ) solution at 80 °C. However, the carbon spheres remain stable in HF (48%) solution.

Silicon nanowires (SiNWs, dia.  $\geq 5$  nm and length  $\sim \mu m$ ) have been fabricated with metal- and  $SiO_2$ -catalyses assisted by laser ablation. In the catalytic growths of single-crystalline SiNWs by pure metal catalysts (Fe, Ru, and Pr), Si {111} is found to be the most stable plane and wire growth axis is along  $\langle 111 \rangle$ . The growth mechanism follows a vapor-liquid-solid process, and the synthesized SiNWs typically have metal-tips composed of metal and Si, such as  $FeSi_2$ ,  $RuSi_3$ , and  $PrSi_4$ , respectively. In sharp contrast, crystalline growth axis of  $\langle 111 \rangle$  and wire growth axis of  $\langle 112 \rangle$  are resulted in the SiNWs catalyzed by  $SiO_2$ . Besides, the  $SiO_2$ -catalytic SiNWs generally have no tips at the wire ends.

**Keywords:** allyl radicals, 2-methylallyl radicals,  $SiO_2$  nanoparticles, MCM-41, SBA-15 mesoporous materials, photoluminescence, Si nanowires.

### ≡. Report

In the past academic year, we have focused on the studies of (1) resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization spectroscopy of excited polyatomic valence and Rydberg states, and (2) preparation and optical characterization of nanoscale materials. The research publications are summarized as follows.

## A. Summary of publications

### 1. Resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization spectroscopy

- Vinyl chloride ( $C_2H_3Cl$ ) "Ab initio calculations of low-lying electronic states of vinyl chloride"  
*Journal of Chemical Physics*, 116, 7518-7525 (2002).
- Allyl radical ( $C_3H_5$ ) "Two-photon resonant ionization spectroscopy of the allyl-h<sub>5</sub> and allyl-d<sub>5</sub> radicals: Rydberg states and ionization energies"  
*Journal of Chemical Physics*, 116, 4162-4169 (2002).
- 2-Methylallyl radical ( $C_4H_7$ ) "One- and two-photon excitation vibronic spectra of 2-methylallyl radical at 4.6-5.6 eV"  
*Journal of Chemical Physics*, 119, 241-250 (2003).
- REMPI reviews "Applications and advances of resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization spectroscopy"  
*Trends in Chemical Physics*, 4, pp. 21-46 (Research Trends, India, 2002).
- "Molecular Rydberg states and ionization energy studied by two-photon resonant ionization spectroscopy"  
*Journal of Chinese Chemical Society*, 49, 703-722 (2002).

### 2. Preparation and optical characterization of nanoscale materials

#### a. Photoluminescence spectroscopy

- SiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles "Time-resolved photoluminescence study of silica nanoparticles as compared to bulk type-III fused silica"  
*Physical Review B*, 66, 035404 (2002).
- MCM-41 "Red and near-infrared photoluminescence from silica-based nanoscale materials: Experimental investigation and quantum chemical modeling"  
*Journal of Chemical Physics*, 116, 281-294 (2002).
- "Photoluminescence from mesoporous silica akin to that from nanoscale silicon: The nature of light-emitters"  
*Chemical Physics Letters*, 358, 180-186 (2002).

## b. Synthesis and optical properties

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| SBA-15             | "Optical properties of host(SBA-15)-guest(AgI) composite materials"<br><i>Journal of Chinese Chemical Society</i> , <u>50</u> , 59-64 (2003).                  |
| Carbon nanospheres | "Synthesis and properties of carbon nanospheres grown by CVD using Kaolin supported transition metal catalysts"<br><i>Carbon</i> , <u>42</u> , 813-822 (2004). |

## c. One-dimensional nanowires

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Silicon nanowires | "Catalytic growth of silicon nanowires assisted by laser ablation"<br><i>Journal of Physical Chemistry B</i> , <u>108</u> , 846-852 (2004). |
|-------------------|---|

## B. Description of the accomplishments

### 1. Resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization spectroscopy (References are listed in A.1.)

Two spin-forbidden transitions,  $\tilde{b}(1^3A'') \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^1A')$  and  $\tilde{c}(2^3A'') \leftarrow \tilde{X}(1^1A')$ , of vinyl chloride are calculated to locate in 5.5-6.5 eV, and could be responsible for the observed one-photon absorption spectrum due to an intensity borrowing caused by the spin-orbit coupling of the Cl atom. Based on calculation, we conclude that upon the excitation of vinyl chloride at 193 nm, the  $\tilde{b}(1^3A'')$  or  $\tilde{c}(2^3A'')$  excited state, instead of the  $(\pi, \pi^*)$ , is initially prepared prior to the subsequent photodissociation processes.

The vibronic spectra of allyl-h<sub>5</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>) and allyl-d<sub>5</sub> (CD<sub>2</sub>CDCD<sub>2</sub>) radicals at 6.0-8.2 eV have been observed using 2+1 resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization (REMPI) spectroscopy. Rydberg states of ns (n = 4-12) for allyl-h<sub>5</sub> and (n = 4-10) for allyl-d<sub>5</sub> have been observed in the REMPI spectra. Prominent vibrational progressions with the spacings of ~440 cm<sup>-1</sup> in allyl-h<sub>5</sub> and ~360 cm<sup>-1</sup> in allyl-d<sub>5</sub> are observed in the s Rydberg series. The totally symmetric  $\angle$ CCC-bending mode is responsible for the vibrational progressions. Facilitated with *ab initio* calculated Franck-Condon factors, other vibrations (CH<sub>2</sub> rocking and C<sub>3</sub> stretching) observed in the s Rydberg series have also been identified. The adiabatic ionization energies, 65594 ± 9 cm<sup>-1</sup> (8.133 ± 0.001 eV) for allyl-h<sub>5</sub> and 65527 ± 16 cm<sup>-1</sup> (8.124 ± 0.002 eV) for allyl-d<sub>5</sub>, are extrapolated from the convergence of the observed ns Rydberg series.

Vibronically excited 2-methylallyl radical (CH<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>) at 4.6–5.6 eV has been studied by 1+1 and 2+2 REMPI spectroscopy. The 2-methylallyl radicals were produced by the flash pyrolysis of 3-bromo-2-methylpropene in a supersonic-jet expansion. The 2+2 REMPI spectrum

of 2-methylallyl radical at 38000–40700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is identified as the  $\tilde{\text{B}}(1^2\text{A}_1) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  transition, i.e. the excitation of a non-bonding electron to the 3s Rydberg state ( $3s \leftarrow n$ ). Seven lowest-lying electronic states with excitation energy below 6 eV have been calculated in an MRCI level. Two new electronic bands have been observed at 38500–41000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  by 1+1 REMPI spectroscopy and assigned to  $\tilde{\text{C}}(1^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  and  $\tilde{\text{E}}(2^2\text{A}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$ . Much broader 1+1 REMPI signals at 41000–43500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with HWHM of  $\sim 80 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for each vibronic band could be due to  $\tilde{\text{D}}(2^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  and/or  $\tilde{\text{F}}(3^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$  via an intensity borrowing from  $\tilde{\text{C}}(1^2\text{B}_2) \leftarrow \tilde{\text{X}}(1^2\text{A}_2)$ . Taking the computed geometries and vibrations of the ground and excited electronic states, Franck-Condon factors have been calculated. Combining the FCFs with the calculated excitation energies and oscillator strengths of the six electronic states at 4–6 eV, predicted spectral patterns have been used to assist spectroscopic analysis for the observed vibronic spectra of 2-methylallyl radical.

## 2. Preparation and optical characterization of nanoscale materials

### a. Photoluminescence spectroscopy

(References are listed in A.2.a.)

Photoluminescence (PL) from composites of 7- and 15-nm silica (amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$ ) nanoparticles and bulk type-III fused silica induced by two-photon band-to-band excitation with 193-nm (6.4-eV) ArF laser light has been measured in time-resolved detection mode. The PL spectra taken for 15-nm particles allow us to identify three PL bands peaked in the red ( $\sim 1.9 \text{ eV}$ ), green ( $\sim 2.35 \text{ eV}$ ), and blue ( $\sim 2.85 \text{ eV}$ ) spectral ranges. The green and blue bands are normally overlapped in conventional scan measurements, giving no way for determining their exact peak positions. Similar red and green PL bands were observed for 7-nm particles, whereas the blue band extends toward the higher-energy range and is peaked at  $\sim 3.25 \text{ eV}$ . The aforementioned red, green, and blue PL bands are assigned to nonbridging oxygen hole centers, hydrogen-related species, and self-trapped excitons (STE's), respectively. The red and green PL bands for bulk type-III fused silica are peaked at practically the same spectral positions as those for nanoscale silica, indicating the similarity of light-emitter types. However, the blue band for bulk silica used is peaked at  $\sim 2.75 \text{ eV}$ , that is, at typical position for STE's in crystalline  $\text{SiO}_2$ . The blueshift of STE (PL) (STEPL) band with decreasing nanoparticle size is consistent with the previously proposed model of phonon-assisted radiative relaxation of STE's. As a result of time-resolved measurements, the extremely broad PL band peaked at  $\sim 2.35 \text{ eV}$ , which is typically observed for bulk silica and initially assigned to STE's, is found to consist of two bands peaked at  $\sim 2.75$  and  $\sim 2.35 \text{ eV}$ . We suggest that these bands are due to the radiative deexcitation of STE's and hydrogen-related centers, respectively. We thus conclude that the STEPL band is peaked at  $\sim 2.75 \text{ eV}$  for both bulk amorphous and crystalline  $\text{SiO}_2$ .

Experimental study of room temperature PL from silica nanoparticles and mesoporous silica

induced by ultraviolet and visible laser light ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 266$  and  $532$  nm or  $4.66$  and  $2.33$  eV, respectively) reveals several well-defined PL bands in the red and near-infrared spectral range, which are peaked at  $1.905$ ,  $1.78$ ,  $1.61$ ,  $1.40$ ,  $1.27$  and  $1.14$  eV. The relative intensities of the bands depend on the specimen heat pretreatment temperature and excitation wavelength. The band at  $1.905$  eV shows all conceivable characteristics of non-bridging oxygen (NBO) defects in bulk silica, so it can be assigned to the same species in nanometer-sized  $\text{SiO}_2$  fragments. The more slowly decayed  $1.78$ -eV band was assigned to NBO's incorporated into distorted  $\text{SiO}_4$  tetrahedrons on the surface. The  $1.14$ - $1.61$  eV PL bands can be observed mainly with  $2.33$ -eV excitation for heat pretreated specimens ( $T_{\text{ht}} = 873$  and  $1173$  K) and can also be associated with NBO's. The red shift of these bands is explained in terms of formation of combined defects involving NBO as an electron acceptor and an additional point defect in NBO vicinity serving as a donor, with the electronic energy level somewhat higher than the bottom of the forbidden band gap. Using sophisticated quantum chemical modeling [geometry optimization of model clusters containing up to 60 Si and O atoms employing 2-layered integrated molecular orbital ONIOM method [I. Komaromi *et. al.*, J. Mol. Struct. (Theochem) **461**, 1 (1999)] followed by time-dependent density functional calculations of excitation and PL energies] we have shown that combined defects including NBO and an oxygen vacancy (OV) in various positions exhibit the suitable properties (both energies and oscillator strengths) to be responsible for the observed PL bands. These combined defects are proposed to occur in extremely thin ( $\sim 1$  nm) non-equilibrium substoichiometric silicon oxide ( $\text{SiO}_x$ ,  $x < 2$ ) layers. The emphasis is on the PL band shift induced by one, two and three OV's in the nearest vicinity of NBO, and the influence of the Si-Si bond relaxation in OV's as well as the orientation of NBO's and distances between them and OV's on transition energies and oscillator strengths. The results of calculations closely match the PL peaks observed. Since silicon nanoscale materials are typically covered by non-equilibrium substoichiometric passivating oxide layers as well, our findings may also be helpful to clarify the nature of light emission from these materials.

PL from mesoporous silica is evidenced to originate from non-bridging oxygens (NBO's) located inside  $\sim 1$ -nm pore walls and on the pore internal surfaces. Based on *ab initio* calculations, we showed that the PL band diversity in the range of  $1.0$ – $2.1$  eV results from both isolated bulk and surface NBO's and those combined with variously placed pore wall oxygen vacancies. The spectroscopic features are found to be similar to those of surface-oxidized silicon nanocrystals and porous silicon. The results obtained are expected to be useful to clarify the nature of light-emitters in silicon nanoscale materials.

## **b. Synthesis and optical properties**

**(References are listed in A.2.b.)**

Nanoclusters AgI has been prepared in the channels of SBA-15 molecular sieve host, and the host-guest nanocomposite materials were prepared by a heat diffusion method. The (SBA-15)-AgI host-guest nanocomposites were characterized by powder X-ray diffraction

analysis, nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms at 77 K, and solid-state diffuse reflectance absorption spectra. The decrease in surface area, pore diameter, and pore volume showed the existence of silver iodide clusters in the channels of SBA-15 host. X-ray diffraction illustrates that the framework of the SBA-15 remained in the host-guest composites of (SBA-15)-AgI. As the guest loading decreases, a blue-shift was observed in the solid diffuse reflectance absorption spectra. This shows that the guest existed in the channels of SBA-15 and a quantum confinement effect emerged. The PL spectra show that the PL at  $\sim 2.38$  eV, associated with the hydrogen-related species, decreases substantially after the loading of AgI in SBA-15. The decrease of the PL indicates the reduction of the hydrogen concentration on the pore surface of SBA-15 after the loading of AgI guest. The intensity decrease of the self-trapped exciton (STE) band at 2.76 eV also suggests a hindrance for generating the excitons upon adding the AgI guest into the SBA-15 host.

Carbon spheres with diameter of 400~2000 nm are synthesized with the catalyst of  $M^{2+}$ /kaolin ( $M = \text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu}$ ) by CCVD in a large quantity. More than 90% of the carbon spheres have the sizes of 600~800 nm. The synthetic reaction is carried out at a temperature higher than 650 °C for 1~2 hours. 750~850 °C is a suitable temperature region for the reaction. Reaction gases of  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$  can synthesize and separate the carbon spheres at 200 and 50 sccm. The carbon spheres are composed of unclosed graphene layers with 0.33~0.35 nm distance between layers. This kind of unclosed graphitic layer structure makes the carbon spheres active in  $\text{KMnO}_4$  ( $\text{H}^+$ ) solution at 80 °C. However, the carbon spheres remain stable in HF (48%) solution. The carbon spheres can be dissolved in carbon disulfide, 1-methylnaphthalene and 1,2-dichlorobenzene.

### **c. Synthesis and optical properties (References are listed in A.2.c.)**

Silicon nanowires (SiNWs, dia.  $\geq 5$  nm and length  $\sim \mu\text{m}$ ) have been fabricated with metal- and  $\text{SiO}_2$ -catalyses assisted by laser ablation. In the catalytic growths of single-crystalline SiNWs by pure metal catalysts (Fe, Ru, and Pr), Si {111} is found to be the most stable plane and wire growth axis is along  $\langle 111 \rangle$ . The growth mechanism follows a vapor-liquid-solid process, and the synthesized SiNWs typically have metal-tips composed of metal and Si, such as  $\text{FeSi}_2$ ,  $\text{RuSi}_3$ , and  $\text{PrSi}_4$ , respectively. In sharp contrast, crystalline growth axis of  $\langle 111 \rangle$  and wire growth axis of  $\langle 112 \rangle$  are resulted in the SiNWs catalyzed by  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Besides, the  $\text{SiO}_2$ -catalytic SiNWs generally have no tips at the wire ends. Distinctive growth mechanisms resulting from metal- and  $\text{SiO}_2$ -catalyses have been discussed. Pressure effect on the longitudinal and transverse growing rates in the fabrication of SiNWs has been examined.