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9.–10. SEPTEMBER 2021

GOZD MARTULJEK

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LASER ABLATION AND CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS OF BICOMPONENT ZNO NANOPARTICLES

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The bicomponent nano particles draw attention of the researchers because introducing the second component into the crystal lattice of the nanoparticle we can tune physical properties of the material. One of the simplest and fastest method for synthesis of various bicomponent nanoparticles is by pulsed lasers ablation of the bulk material in water. For the synthesis of our bicomponent nanoparticles we use twostep process. The first step is to deposit a thin film of metal onto ZnO substrate using pulsed laser deposition in vacuum (PLD). The second step is to produce colloidal solution of nanoparticles by laser ablation in water (LAL) of metal coated ZnO. The ablating target was then scanned with laser beam in order to avoid heating of the target and to produce the high yield of bicomponent nanoparticles. The obtained nanoparticles were characterized using UV-VIS, XPS, SEM and XRD diagnostics.

The second process that we used for synthesizing bicomponent zinc oxide nanoparticles was self-propagating room temperature reaction of zinc nitrate with sodium hydroxide with addition of ($x=1; 3$ and 5%) of AgNO_3 . The chemical composition of the produced nanoparticles is $\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Ag}_x\text{O}$ ($x=0.01; 0.05$ and 0.05). After the reaction, obtained powder was calcinated at $1100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 4 h in a furnace. The diffraction patterns were recorded at room temperature and atmospheric pressure in the absence of any re-heating of the samples. From the XRD spectra we found that no second phase were formed in the samples, the ions of silver are embedded into the crystal lattice of the nanoparticles.

The bicomponent nanoparticles produced with these two methods are tested for the photocatalytic activity. We used UV lamp for irradiation of nanoparticle and organic dye (methylene blue – MB) mixture in a cuvette. The nanoparticles synthesized with both methods show good photocatalytic activity for degradation of organic dye.