The structure of CdSe and Au nanoparticle ensembles on carbon substrates


The Shubnikov Institute of Crystallography RAS, Moscow (Russia), Institute of Microelectronics Technology & High Purity Materials RAS, Chernogolovka. Kurnakov Institute of General & Inorganic Chemistry RAS, Moscow (Russia). E-mail: zaporozhets_m.a@mail.ru

Metal-containing nanoparticles is one of the most studied classes of nanoparticles nowadays. CdSe and Au nanoparticles attract much attention from scientific and practical point of view due to their properties. CdSe nanoparticles form optical active quantum dots materials displaying high brightness with a narrow emitting spectrum, which is perspective for application in optoelectronics, photocatalysis and biology as markers and sensors. Au nanoparticles are of interest for creation of fuel cells, nanosensors, catalysts etc.

New techniques of synthesis of CdSe and Au nanoparticles have been developed in this study. Ordered ensembles of nanoparticles formed via self-organization process have been fabricated and characterized as well. CdSe nanoparticles were synthesized by interaction of cadmium stearate with triphenylphosphine in heptadecan medium in the presence of oleammon and triphenylphosphine oxide as surface active agents (SAAs). Au nanoparticles were synthesized by reduction of HAuCl₄ in hexane through boron hydride at the presence of SAAs. A new preparation technique for electron-microscopic studies of nanoparticles has been developed. The technique provides a minimal substrate influence and high stability of image observation.

X-ray and electron diffraction patterns indicate that prepared samples of CdSe and Au nanoparticles are single-phase. CdSe nanoparticles have a wurzite structure (the P6₃mc space group). Crystal structure of Au nanoparticles is described in terms of face centered cubic lattice (the Fm3m space group). High resolution electron microscopy and X-ray small angle scattering evidence that the prepared samples contain nanoparticles of spherical form with a narrow size distribution. The average size of CdSe nanoparticles is 12 nm, and that of Au nanoparticles is 10 nm.

Self-assembly of CdSe nanoparticles into close-packed two-dimensional (2D) ensembles with the 6-order symmetry was observed on carbon substrate in the regions of high density of nanoparticles. The pronounced texture was present in CdSe ensembles when all nanoparticles were orientated with the [001] direction perpendicular to the substrate. High resolution electron microscopy and X-ray small angle scattering evidence that the prepared samples contain nanoparticles of spherical form with a narrow size distribution. The average size of CdSe nanoparticles is 12 nm, and that of Au nanoparticles is 10 nm.

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Keywords: nano, particle, structure

Accurate structure factors of skutterudites: electron diffraction techniques

M. Buxhuku, O. Karlsen, J. Gjønnøs, K. Gjønnøs, V. Hansen

Large-angle rocking-beam electron diffraction (LARBED)

Christoph T. Koch, Stuttgart Center for Electron Microscopy, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany. E-mail: koch@is.mpg.de

Large-angle rocking-beam electron diffraction (LARBED) [1], [2] is an alternative approach to diffraction tomography for recording 3D electron diffraction data [3], [4] which does not require the sample to be tilted or moved. An implementation of this technique which tilts the beam but keeps the illuminating spot on the same position on the sample by compensating for all 42 aberration coefficients of the illumination system up to 7th order is commercially available as a plug-in to DigitalMicrograph™ (Gatan Inc., Pleasanton, CA). Since the orientation of the sample is kept fixed, the tilt range available by this technique is determined by the quality of the electron optical setup of the microscope and is commonly less than ±10° in both ϑ₀- and ϑ₀+.
direction. However, a tilt range of 10° would cover 17.4 % of reciprocal space, and if it is possible to collect high quality diffraction data up to 1Å resolution, this would still be much more than 1 independent reflection per non-hydrogen atom.

In contrast to precession electron diffraction (PED) [5] LARBED includes all tilt angles within the limits of the tilt range and thus records diffraction intensities at the Bragg condition for a large range of diffraction conditions. Averaging over all these different Umwseg excitations allows one to reconstruct quasi-kinematic diffraction intensities for part of 3D reciprocal space, as shown in Figure 1 for the example of K\text{2}O\text{7}Nb\text{2}O\text{6}, in a random [hk0] orientation. K\text{2}O\text{7}Nb\text{2}O\text{6} has space group P4/mmb (No. 127) and unit cell vectors of length a = b = 27.5Å and c = 3.94 Å. The data was automatically acquired using the QED DM-Plugin by HREM Research [7].

**Figure 1:** a) 3D reciprocal space reconstructed from the data shown in Fig. 2. Because of the tilt range of only ± 4° the missing wedge is rather large. The vertical component spans a range of -0.5 nm ≤ k ≤ 0.5 nm. The green slices correspond to the vertical cuts through this 3D space shown in b). b) Positions of diffraction spots in 3D reciprocal space at different parallel planes. The intensities are the mean intensities averaged over a large number of diffraction patterns for which the Ewald sphere cut through that voxel in k-space. The contrast has been adjusted to reveal all reflections, not just the very bright ones. (White areas are due to the CCD read-out streak of very intense peaks.)


Keywords: 3D electron diffraction, precession electron diffraction, aberration correction

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Structure analysis of charge-orbital ordered phases in \textit{A}-site ordered SmBaMn\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{6} using CBED

Daisuke Morikawa, Kenji Tsuda, Shigeki Yamada, Takahisa Arima, IMRAM, Tohoku Univ., (Japan), *Inter. Grad. Sch. Arts and Sci., Yokohama City Univ., (Japan), Dept. Adv. Mat. Sci., Univ. Tokyo, (Japan). E-mail: morikawa@mail.tagen.tohoku.ac.jp

A structure analysis method using convergent-beam electron diffraction (CBED) developed by Tsuda and Tanaka [1] enables us to directly determine crystal structures and electrostatic potential distributions from nanometer-scale specimen areas. Using the method, sp\textsuperscript{3} bonding electrons of silicon [2] and an ordered state of Fe 3d\textsuperscript{3}2s\textsuperscript{2} orbitals of spinel oxide FeCr\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4} [3] were successfully observed. In the present study, the CBED method has been applied to an \textit{A}-site ordered perovskite-type oxide SmBaMn\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{6}. The \textit{A}-site ordered SmBaMn\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{6} contains the alternate stack of SmO and BaO sheets along the c-axis with intervening MnO\textsubscript{2} sheets. This material undergoes a structural phase transformation at 190 K from a room temperature (RT) phase with charge- and orbital-ordering (COO) to a low-temperature (LT) COO phase [4]. Some different COO models have been proposed for the RT and LT phases. We aim to determine the crystal structures and COO patterns of the RT and LT phases and examine the relations between microscopic crystal structures and macroscopic physical properties. It is noted that the influence of the \textit{A}-site randomness on CBED patterns can be excluded unlike the \textit{A}-site disordered phase.

CBED patterns of SmBaMn\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{6} were obtained at 293 K and 90 K using an energy-filter transmission electron microscope JEM-2010FEF operated at an accelerating voltage of 100 kV. The space groups of the RT and LT phases were determined by the CBED method. Based on the determined space groups, atom positions, atomic displacement parameters and low-order structure factors were refined by nonlinear least square fitting between the CBED patterns and dynamical diffraction calculations using our analysis software MBFIT [1].

From the symmetries of CBED patterns taken with five different incidences, the point group of the RT phase was determined to be \textit{mmm}. The lattice type was determined to be primitive because no extinction by lattice type was observed. Dynamical extinction lines (DELs) were seen in the \textit{hk0} (\textit{h}-odd) zeroth-order Laue zone (ZOLZ) reflections and \textit{0k1} (\textit{k}+\textit{2n}+1) higher-order Laue zone (HOLZ) reflections, which indicate the existence of an \textit{a}-glide symmetry perpendicular to the \textit{b}-axis and an \textit{n}-glide symmetry perpendicular to the \textit{a}-axis, respectively. Thus, the space group of the RT phase of SmBaMn\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{6} was uniquely determined to be \textit{Pnam} (No. 62). There are two different models were reported for the RT-COO phase. From the space group, an allowed COO model was selected.

Similarly, the space group of the LT phase was also determined to be \textit{Pnam} (No. 51) and a possible COO model was also selected.

The result of the refinement of crystal structural parameters will be presented.


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Electric field induced deformation in piezoelectric LiH\textsubscript{2}PO\textsubscript{4} and LiH\textsubscript{2}PO\textsubscript{4} crystals

M. Al Taani, S. Wagner, U. Pietsch, C. Lehmann, Solid State Physics Department, University of Siegen, Siegen, Germany, Max-Planck-Institute of Kohlenforschung, Muelheim, Germany. E-mail: altaani@dephysik.uni-siegen.de

LiH\textsubscript{2}PO\textsubscript{4} and LiH\textsubscript{2}PO\textsubscript{4} crystalize in space group symmetry Pna\textsubscript{2}, and show piezoelectric properties. Single crystalline plates have been investigated under external high-electric field to study structural changes due to the internal deformation. The experiments have been performed using a four-circle diffractometer at D3 beamline @ DESY in o scan mode combined with an open X-ray point detector. Diffraction curves of LiH\textsubscript{2}PO\textsubscript{4} crystal (a\textsubscript{\textit{p}}=6.253, a\textsubscript{\textit{p}}=7.656, a\textsubscript{\textit{p}}=6.881, Z=4)[1] with orientations [011] and [011] were under an external electric field (≤ 3 kV mm\textsuperscript{-1}). The measured peaks shifts reproduce the piezoelectric constants d_{\textit{ij}} of the material, the internal changes of atomic positions are deduced from changes of integrated intensities. The internal deformation was calculated to be larger for the Li-O bond compared to that of the P-O bonds. Normalized to an applied electric...