Field Emission Properties of Non-catalytically Grown ZnO Nanostructures

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In this paper, we report the synthesis, structural, optical and field emission properties of ZnO nanostructures grown by thermal evaporation process in the temperature ranges of 450–650 °C. The detailed structural and optical observations revealed that the grown products are possessing single crystallinity with the wurtzite hexagonal phase and good optical properties. The performances of the field–emission devices based on the as–grown products have also been characterized. Vertically–aligned hexagonal–shaped ZnO nanorods show the turn–on electric field at about 5.8 V/µm with the emission current density of 0.061 mA/cm² which was achieved at the electrical field of 9.0 V/µm. The current density shows no saturation in the current while the field enhancement factor ' β ' was estimated to be about ~2.081 × 10³. Flower–shaped nanostructures are exhibiting the turn–on field of 4.5 V/µm with the emission current density of 0.073 mA/cm² which was achieved at the electrical field of 9.0 ×10³.