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FABRICATION OF CdSe-SmCoO₃ PHOTOANODE FOR PHOTO-ELECTROCHEMICAL WATER APPLICATION

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Abstract

The perovskite structured SmCoO₃ nanoparticles were synthesized via solid state reaction and CdSe quantum dots (QDs) via hot injection method. The CdSe QDs were functionalized on SmCoO₃ nanoparticles using mercaptopropionic acid (MPA), where the CdSe QDs were treated in first with MPA and subsequently with SmCoO₃ nanoparticles to form CdSe @ SmCoO₃ heterostructure. The crystalline nature and particle morphology were analysed using XRD and TEM techniques. The light sensitive absorption properties of SmCoO₃ nanoparticles and CdSe sensitized SmCoO₃ were studied using UV-Vis spectroscopy. The band gap is tuned up to 2.4 eV by functionalization of CdSe QDs, while the bare perovskite demonstrated 3.37 eV. This emphasizes the band energy formation and would encourage the photo generated electron transfer from photo-anode to counter electrode for hydrogen evaluation. Photo-electrochemical water splitting studies were conducted in 1M Na₂S sacrificial electrolyte with 100 mW/cm² light illumination effect using three electrode systems. The CdSe/SmCoO₃ photo-anode exhibited current density of ~39.5 mA/cm² under light, while ~32.5 mA/cm² exhibited in dark at 0.8 V (vs. Ag/AgCl), implying 7 mA/cm² photo current density achieved at 0.8 V (vs. Ag/AgCl).

Author Keywords

CdSe, SmCoO₃, Perovskite, Photo-electrochemical water splitting

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