

Electrical, Optical, and Structural Characterization of Molybdenum Trioxide (MoO₃) Nano Rods Particles

Saleh Saeed Saleh AlDarmaki, Ayman Rezk, Shanavas Shajahan, Rami Elkaffas, Yarjan Abdulsamad, Ammar Nayfeh

Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

100064472@ku.ac.ae

Molybdenum trioxide (MoO₃) is a promising material for semiconductor devices due to its unique electrical and optical properties [1], making it suitable for memristive and charge-trapping applications in non-volatile memory and neuromorphic computing [2]. This study focuses on the deposition of MoO₃ films via spin coating, characterizing their electrical, optical, and structural properties, and integrating them into a charge-trapping device [3]. MoO₃ crystals were dissolved in isopropyl alcohol (IPA) at concentrations of 1g/L, 5g/L, and 10g/L, with the solution sonicated using a sonicator bath for 90 minutes, to ensure uniform dispersion and homogeneity. The deposition was conducted by spin coating speeds between 1200-2000 rpm, on silicon substrates of size 1.5x1.5 cm² and a solution volume of 10uL per layer. Structural and morphological analysis using SEM, and AFM revealed clustering in higher concentration solutions, which was mitigated by centrifuging at 5000 rpm for 30 minutes. Depositing the centrifuged solution exhibited a mean thickness value of 20nm, which represents a 2D layer of MoO₃ [4]. Optical and electrical characterization confirmed a distinct absorption edge at 350 nm, a direct bandgap of approximately 3.2 eV for the deposited samples, and 3.6eV for the MoO₃ solution [5]. A high carrier mobility was also recorded averaging 1.8×10^3 cm²/V·s. MoO₃ was also integrated into charge-trapping devices with Aluminum Oxide (Al₂O₃) layers sandwiching the MoO₃ layer on a highly doped silicon base, demonstrating promising I-V characteristics [6]. These findings showcase MoO₃'s potential for future semiconductor applications, with further optimization planned to enhance material deposition and device performance.

References

- [1] Nan Zhao, Huiqing Fan, Mingchang Zhang, Jiangwei Ma, Zhinan Du, Benben Yan, Hua Li, Xinbiao Jiang. Simple electrodeposition of MoO₃ film on carbon cloth for high-performance aqueous symmetric supercapacitors. *Chemical Engineering Journal*, Volume 390, 2020,124477, ISSN 1385-8947. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2020.124477>.
- [2] S.B and P.Dwivedi, "Nanostructured V2O5/MoO₃ Based Devices for Brain Inspired Optical Memory Applications," in *IEEE Transactions on Nanotechnology*, vol. 23, pp. 535-540, 2024, doi: 10.1109/TNA-NO.2024.3409151. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10547461>
- [3] Patil, A.R., Desai, R.S., Kamble, G.U. *et al.* Synthesis, analysis, and characterizations of microspherical MoO₃ thin films for energy storage. *J Mater Sci: Mater Electron* **35**, 590 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10854-024-12361-6>
- [4] Puebla, S., D'Agosta, R., Sanchez-Santolino, G. *et al.* In-plane anisotropic optical and mechanical properties of two-dimensional MoO₃. *npj 2D Mater Appl* **5**, 37 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41699-021-00220-5>
- [5] Razmyar, Soheil; Sheng, Tao; Akter, Manira; Zhang, Haitao (2019). Low-Temperature Photocatalytic Hydrogen Addition to Two-Dimensional MoO₃ Nanoflakes from Isopropyl Alcohol for Enhancing Solar Energy Harvesting and Conversion. ACS Publications. Journal contribution. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsanm.9b00645.s001>
- [6] Asif Rasool, R. Amiruddin, I. Raja Mohamed, M.C. Santhosh Kumar. Fabrication and characterization of resistive random access memory (ReRAM) devices using molybdenum trioxide (MoO₃) as switching layer, Superlattices and Microstructures, Volume 147, 2020, 106682, ISSN 0749-6036, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spmi.2020.106682>.

Figures



Figure 1: Microscope Image of Orthorhombic Crystals structures of MoO₃ (α -MoO₃)

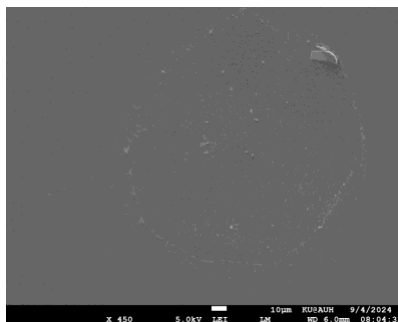


Figure 2: SEM image of Centrifuged MoO₃ deposited on silicon

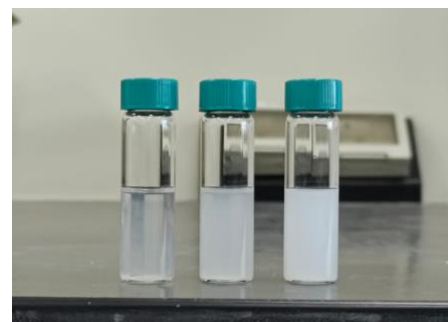


Figure 3: MoO₃ solution concentrations of 1g/L, 5g/L, and 10g/L (left to right)