



Contents

1	Nanophotonics	25
1.1	Nanophotonics	26
1.2	Nanosemiconductors	27
1.3	ZnO: Potential nanophotonic material	28
1.3.1	Applications of nano ZnO	31
1.4	Synthesis	32
1.4.1	Colloidal chemical synthesis	32
1.4.2	Size selection techniques	33
1.4.3	The effect of substrate temperature on the formation of quantum structures	33
1.4.4	Self assembly	34
1.5	Doping and defects in ZnO	34
1.6	ZnO based composites	35
1.7	Exciton	37
1.8	Quantum confinement effects	38
1.9	Exciton oscillator strength	39
1.10	Optical properties	40
1.10.1	Size dependence	41
1.10.2	Temperature dependence	42
1.11	Absorption	43
1.12	Optical bandgap	44
1.12.1	Bandgap engineering	44
1.13	Photoluminescence	45
1.14	Nonlinear optical (NLO) properties	45
1.15	Nonlinear absorption	46
1.15.1	Two photon absorption (TPA)	46
1.15.2	Multiphoton absorption	47

1.15.3	Excited state absorption (ESA)	47
1.15.4	Saturable absorption (SA)	48
1.15.5	Reverse saturable absorption (RSA)	48
1.15.6	Free carrier absorption (FCA)	48
1.15.7	Two photon induced free carrier absorption	49
1.16	Optical limiting	49
1.17	Nonlinear refraction (NLR)	50
1.18	Measurement techniques for NLO characterization	51
1.19	Z-scan technique	51
1.19.1	Open aperture z-scan	53
1.19.2	Theory of open aperture z-scan technique	54
1.19.3	Closed aperture z-scan	55
1.19.4	Theory of closed aperture z-scan technique	57
1.19.5	Merits and demerits of z-scan technique	61
1.20	Conclusions	62
1.21	References	62
2	Fluorescence spectroscopy of nano colloids of ZnO	65
2.1	Introduction	66
2.2	Theory	67
2.2.1	Weak confinement regime ($R \gg a_B$)	69
2.2.2	Strong confinement regime ($R \ll a_B$)	70
2.2.3	Intermediate regime ($R \sim a_B$)	71
2.3	Synthesis of nano colloids of ZnO	74
2.3.1	Polyol method	74
2.3.2	Capping	75
2.4	Absorption spectroscopy	75
2.5	X-ray diffraction (XRD)	78
2.6	Optical bandgap	79
2.7	Fluorescence spectroscopy	82
2.7.1	Excitation spectrum	82
2.7.2	Excitation wavelength dependent fluorescence	83

	spectroscopy	
2.7.3	Factors contributing to REE	88
2.7.4	Size dependent fluorescence spectroscopy	92
2.7.5	UV emission	95
2.7.6	Visible emission	97
2.7.7	Luminescence mechanism	100
2.8	Conclusions	101
2.9	References	102
3	Size dependent enhancement of nonlinear optical properties in nano colloids of ZnO	107
3.1	Introduction	108
3.2	Theory	109
3.3	Nonlinear optical properties of nano colloids of ZnO	113
3.4	Size dependent enhancement of third order nonlinear susceptibility	114
3.4.1	Open aperture z-scan	114
3.4.2	Closed aperture z-scan	115
3.5	Fluence dependence of third order nonlinear susceptibility	117
3.6	Optical limiting	122
3.6.1	Optical limiting and open aperture z-scan	122
3.7	Conclusions	124
3.8	References	124
4	Spectral and NLO characteristics of Self assembled films of ZnO	127
4.1	Introduction	128
4.2	Theory	131
4.2.1	Induced absorption	132
4.2.2	Saturable absorption	132
4.3	Synthesis	133
4.3.1	Self assembled films of ZnO	133
4.3.2	Thin films of ZnO through sol-gel process	133

4.3.3	Thin films of ZnO through pulsed laser ablation	133
4.4	Absorption spectroscopy	134
4.5	Optical bandgap	135
4.6	X-ray diffraction	137
4.7	Scanning electron microscopy	139
4.8	Fluorescence spectroscopy	139
4.9	Nonlinear optical characterization	140
4.9.1	Open aperture z-scan	140
4.9.2	Closed aperture z-scan	143
4.9.3	Nonlinear optical parameters	145
4.9.4	Size dependence	146
4.9.5	Fluence dependence	148
4.9.6	Spectral dependence	149
4.9.7	Variation of imaginary part of susceptibility	151
4.9.8	Figure of merit	152
4.10	Conclusions	153
4.11	References	154
5	Effect of annealing on the spectral and nonlinear optical characteristics of thin films of nano ZnO	157
5.1	Introduction	158
5.2	Theory	158
5.3	Synthesis	160
5.4	Absorption spectroscopy	160
5.5	Optical bandgap	162
5.6	Fluorescence spectroscopy	164
5.6.1	Luminescence mechanism	169
5.7	Nonlinear optical characterization	170
5.8	Optical limiting	176
5.9	Conclusions	177
5.10	References	178

6	ZnO nanocomposites	181
6.1	Introduction	183
6.2	Theory	186
6.3	ZnO-Ag	187
6.3.1	Synthesis	187
6.3.2	Absorption spectroscopy	188
6.3.3	Fluorescence spectroscopy	190
6.3.4	Nonlinear optical characterization	192
6.3.5	Optical limiting	197
6.4	ZnO-Cu	198
6.4.1	Synthesis	198
6.4.2	Absorption spectroscopy	198
6.4.3	Fluorescence spectroscopy	199
6.4.4	Nonlinear optical characterization	202
6.4.5	Optical limiting	208
6.5	ZnO-CdS	209
6.5.1	Synthesis	209
6.5.2	Absorption spectroscopy	210
6.5.3	Optical bandgap	211
6.5.4	Fluorescence spectroscopy	212
6.5.5	Nonlinear optical characterization	213
6.5.6	Optical limiting	217
6.6	ZnO-TiO ₂	218
6.6.1	Synthesis	218
6.6.2	Absorption spectroscopy	219
6.6.3	Optical bandgap	220
6.6.4	Fluorescence spectroscopy	221
6.6.5	Nonlinear optical characterization	222
6.6.6	Optical limiting	225
6.7	ZnO-SiO ₂	226
6.7.1	Synthesis	226
6.7.2	Absorption spectroscopy	226

	6.7.3	Fluorescence spectroscopy	227
	6.7.4	Nonlinear optical characterization	229
	6.7.5	Optical limiting	233
6.8		ZnO-TiO ₂ -SiO ₂	234
	6.8.1	Synthesis	234
	6.8.2	Absorption spectroscopy	234
	6.8.3	Nonlinear optical characterization	235
	6.8.4	Optical limiting	237
6.9		Conclusions	238
6.10		References	240
7		Conclusions and Future prospects	245
	7.1	Synthesis	246
	7.2	Optical properties	248
		7.2.1 Fluorescence spectroscopy	248
		7.2.2 Nonlinear optical properties	249
	7.3	Device applications	252
		7.3.1 ZnO based devices	254