COMPLEX DIELECTRIC CONSTANT OF Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te CRYSTALS NEAR THE FUNDAMENTAL ABSORPTION EDGE

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Received 15 December 2003

The complex dielectric constant of Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te single crystals is determined from reflection measurements in the photon energy range from 1.75 to 2 eV at the lattice temperature $T = 2$ K. The light reflection model includes exciton absorption and dispersive background dielectric constant contribution. The same model is found to be efficient in describing the band of nonreciprocal reflection arising in nonzero magnetic field in the Voigt geometry.

Keywords: diluted magnetic semiconductors, excitons, light absorption and reflection

PACS: 71.35.+z, 75.50.Pp, 78.20.Ci, 78.20.Ls, 78.55.Et

1. Introduction

Diluted magnetic semiconductors, like Cd$_{1-x}$Mn$_x$-Te crystals, attract much interest because of the strong exchange interaction of electrons and holes with magnetic moments of substitution (Mn) atoms [1]. The promises of this interaction include optical isolators on the giant Faraday effect [2], spintronics [3], lasers [4], and other device applications of tunable bands and lines observed in bulk crystals, magnetic quantum wells [5–7], and dots [8, 9]. Device operation at the fundamental absorption edge is of special interest because of the most pronounced dependence of the material optical parameters on the interacting photon energy.

In the theory, existing models of light absorption and refraction near the fundamental absorption edge do either not take into account exciton effects or, on the contrary, disregard the background dielectric constant dispersion in the vicinity of the absorption edge. Tanguy [10, 11] proposed a model function including both these effects in the description of the refraction and extinction index at the fundamental absorption edge. However, the function does not refer to the exchange interaction of carrier spins with the magnetic moments of substitution atoms.

Experimental data on the Cd$_{1-x}$Mn$_x$-Te dielectric constant are rather scarce, even when one deals with the optical and static limiting values. Optical value of $\varepsilon_\infty = 7.25$ is inferred from the low-energy value of the refraction index of CdTe [12] and used as a background when describing exciton effects. However, experimental reflection spectra at exciton lines in CdTe/CdMnTe superlattices have been found to require the background dielectric constant as high as 9.95 [5]. Exact data on the complex dielectric constant of bulk crystals in a broad spectral range are needed both for the substrate and optical device applications.

The aim of the present study is determination of the complex dielectric constant of Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te single crystals in the absence of magnetic field. The photon energy range (1.75 to 2 eV) is selected in order to encompass the fundamental absorption edge. The complex dielectric constant is elucidated from experimental data on light reflection at oblique incidence. The light reflection model is presented, including exciton absorption and crystal background contribution.

2. Experiment

Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te single crystals with Mn molar fraction of 20% were grown by the Bridgeman method and cleaved in order to have optically clean surface. Halogen lamp radiation was directed at the angle of 45° to the surface (Fig. 1, inset). Reflected light, at selected polarization, was analysed with the use of a 0.3 m Jobin Yvon SPEX spectrometer and CCD detector, and the spectrum was referenced to that of the lamp at the same polarization without the sample. The measurements were carried out on samples immersed in liquid He at the temperature of 2 K controlled by an...
edge, i.e. valence-to-conduction band transitions, and of quasi-oscillator terms: A trons, ε\(\infty\) single crystal, and the calculated one (smooth line) taking into account both the excitonic and valence-to-conduction band transitions. The inset shows the scheme of reflection at the air-crystal boundary. The light electric field is in the incidence plane, and the excitonic and interband transitions. The excitonic transitions are presented in the similar form with the change of subscript “i” to “±” in Eq. (2), and the dielectric constant values are ε\(\sigma_+\), ε\(\sigma_-\), and ε\(\parallel\) for the \(\sigma_+\), \(\sigma_-\), and \(\pi\) transitions, respectively. In this case the summation accounts for transitions between all relevant pairs of the Zeeman levels. The complex reflection coefficient of the p-polarized wave incident on the crystal from the air at the angle \(\vartheta\) [13] can be expressed as

\[
r_{\pm} = \frac{[\varepsilon_\nu \cos \vartheta + i \sqrt{\sin^2 \vartheta - \varepsilon_\nu}] \pm (\varepsilon_{xy}/\varepsilon_{xx}) \sin \vartheta}{[\varepsilon_\nu \cos \vartheta - i \sqrt{\sin^2 \vartheta - \varepsilon_\nu}] \mp (\varepsilon_{xy}/\varepsilon_{xx}) \sin \vartheta}
\]

Here \(\varepsilon_\nu\) is the effective dielectric function in the Voigt geometry:

\[
\varepsilon_\nu = \frac{\varepsilon_{xx}^2 + \varepsilon_{xy}^2}{\varepsilon_{xx}}.
\]

where \(\varepsilon_{xx} = (\varepsilon_+ + \varepsilon_-)/2\) and \(\varepsilon_{xy} = (\varepsilon_+ - \varepsilon_-)/(2i)\) are the components of the dielectric tensor. The presence of magnetic field normal to the sagittal plane results in the nonreciprocal reflection accounted for by the last terms including the nondiagonal component of the dielectric tensor. In the absence of magnetization \(\varepsilon_{xy} = 0\), and the reflection is reciprocal: \(r(\vartheta) = r(-\vartheta)\). The exciton contribution is then accounted for by the single values of energy \(E_0\), oscillator strength \(F_0\), and the level broadening factor \(\Gamma_0\).

3. Modelling

The dielectric function is supposed to be additive:

\[
\varepsilon(E) = \varepsilon_\infty (1 + A_1(E) + A_\nu(E)). \tag{1}
\]

Here \(\varepsilon_\infty\) stands for the contribution of atom core electrons, \(A_1(E)\) represents the fundamental absorption edge, i.e. valence-to-conduction band transitions, and \(A_\nu(E)\) is the part related to excitonic transitions.

The interband transitions are expressed by the sum of quasi-oscillator terms:

\[
A_\nu = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{F_{\nu i}}{E_{\nu i}^2 - E^2 + iE\Gamma_{\nu i}}, \tag{2}
\]

where \(E_\nu\) is the oscillator energy, \(F_{\nu i}\) is the oscillator strength, and \(\Gamma_{\nu i}\) is the associated damping factor. In fact, the summation of this term ought to be expressed as an integral with the lower limit of energies \(E_{\nu i} > E_g\), where \(E_g\) is the bandgap energy, and the upper one \(E_{\nu i} = \infty\) tending to infinity. However, the limited number of terms equidistant in energy is used to describe the experimental results.

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4. Results

The reflection model fitting to the experimental data at B=0 is in reasonable agreement with experiment (Fig. 1) if the optical dielectric constant value is \(\varepsilon_\infty = 7\) and the sum of eight equidistant oscillator contributions is taken for the interband transitions with the parameter range of \(1.934 \leq E_\nu \leq 2.145\) eV, \(0.28 \leq F_{\nu i} \leq 0.48\) (eV)\(^2\), and \(\Gamma_{\nu i} = 5.8\times10^{-2}\) eV. The oscillator strength \(F_{\nu i}\) is a bell-shape function with the maximum at 2.085 eV. The best fit of experimental data was obtained with the exciton parameters \(E_0 = 1.909\) eV, \(F_0 = 3.89\times10^{-3}\) (eV)\(^2\), and \(\Gamma_0 = 8.0\times10^{-3}\) eV. The value of \(E_0\) agrees well with the free exciton energy.
Fig. 2. The real part of the Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te dielectric constant (solid line) determined from the model fitting to the experimental data on reflectivity, and the partial contributions of excitons (thin solid line) and valence-to-conduction band transitions (dashed line) with \(\varepsilon_\infty = 7\) retained.

Fig. 3. The imaginary part of the Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te dielectric constant with the same curve designation as in Fig. 2.

estimated for \(x = 0.2\) at \(T = 1.4\) K [14] and exceeds slightly the energy of the reflection peak attributed to the excitation from the top of the valence band (Te 5p states) to the Cd 5s states [15].

With the above parameters the complex dielectric constant for the Cd$_{1-x}$Mn$_x$Te crystal is presented in Figs. 2 and 3 by solid curves. Partial contributions of excitons (thin curves) and the interband transitions (dotted curves) are shown as well. Exciton contribu-

Fig. 4. Measured nonreciprocity factor and its modelling result (smooth line) for the Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te single crystal at \(B = 2\) T.

tion is significant in a rather narrow energy range close to the exciton line, whereas interband transitions (represented by the series of oscillator contributions) are seen to be significant in the entire energy range of interest.

The same model was used to describe the nonreciprocal reflection arising in the nonzero magnetic field due to the crystal magnetization that enters in the first power in the nondiagonal term of the dielectric constant \(\varepsilon_{xy}\). As it is obvious from Eq. (3), the reversal of magnetization direction is equivalent to the reversal of the incidence angle. The nonreciprocity factor is the ratio \(\eta = 2(R_+B - R_-B)/(R_+B + R_-B)\), where \(R_\pm = |r_\pm|^2\). The sharp peculiarities of the nonreciprocal factor (Fig. 4) allow for much more exact measuring of the Zeeman splitting as compared to conventional reflection experiments. The left peak relates to the lowest-energy transition induced by right-hand photons (\(\sigma_+\)), the central one is formed by both \(\sigma_+\) and \(\sigma_-\) transitions with very close energy values, and the strongly suppressed right peculiarity is created by the highest-energy \(\sigma_-\) transition. As seen in Fig. 4, the modelling reasonably describes the band of nonreciprocal reflection observed in experiments.

5. Conclusion

The model based on the multiple quasi-oscillator function accounting for various kinds of transitions presents a convenient tool for the complex dielectric
constant elucidation from experimental reflection data at the fundamental absorption edge. The real part of the complex dielectric constant of Cd$_{0.8}$Mn$_{0.2}$Te single crystals exhibits a peak value of 9.7. It is related both to free excitons and to additional highly broadened dispersive contribution. The latter is seemingly caused by interband transitions but the participation of excitons localized in the disordered potential wells or dots of the semimagnetic solid solution is not excluded. The values of the complex dielectric constant given in Figs. 2 and 3 are ready for use in the material technology and optical applications.

The quasi-oscillator function is readily applicable to the material research in magnetic fields, as shown by the comparison of experimental and model data on the nonreciprocal light reflection. The peaks of nonreciprocal reflection present refined data on the Zeeman splitting.

Acknowledgements

The authors are indebted to Jacek Kossut and Marek Godlewski at the Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences for providing magneto-spectroscopy facilities, to Jan Gaj for valuable discussions, and to Witold Giriat who offered his grown crystals for the experiments.

References

**Cd_{0.8}Mn_{0.2}Te KRISTALŲ KOMPLEKSIŅĖ DIELEKTRINĖ SKVARBA TIES FUNDAMENTINĖS SUGERTIES KRAŠTU**

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**Santrauka**

Iš šviesos atspindžio matavimo duomenų 1,75–2 eV fotonų energijos vertės ruože įvertinta Cd_{0.8}Mn_{0.2}Te kristalų kompleksiņė dielektrinė skvarba $T = 2$ K garvelės temperatūroje. Šviesos atspindžio modelioje atsižvelgta į eksitoninę sugertį ir liktinį dispersinį kristalo atspindžio动能 $\omega$ geometrijos, kai šviesa krenta į kristalą įžemiai, pasiektas geras eksperimento ir skaičiavimo duomenų atitikmas; surasti eksitono fizikiniai parametrai (Zeeman'o suskilimas, eksitono linijos plotis).