

13<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
ADVANCED MATERIALS AND NANOTECHNOLOGY  
OCTOBER 26-28, 2017 OSAKA, JAPAN

### Visible-light nanoscale photoconductivity of grain boundaries in self-supported ZnO platelets

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The response of individual grain boundaries in two dimensional polycrystalline ZnO platelets to visible light illumination is studied using scanning probe based techniques on the nanoscale. While many previous studies report and discuss the UV responses of ZnO, we find that even in the visible range of light below the band gap, grain boundaries are sensitive to light, this can be attributed to defect accumulation at the grain boundaries and associated photo-excitation of carriers. These findings suggest that engineered grain boundaries can be used for novel optoelectronic applications based on conductive channels in an otherwise wide-band-gap transparent material.

#### Biography

Nastaran Faraji is currently pursuing PhD at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Her research interest is performing nanoscale measurements by means of scanning probe microscopy to investigate the electronic and piezoelectric properties of semiconductor oxides.

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