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Fabrication and Characteristics of PCBM Nanoparticles

S. H. Yang¹, D. H. Park¹, D. C. Kim², J. Y. Kim², and J, Joo^{1*}

We report the fabrication of a phenyl-C61-butyric-acid-methyl ester, [60] (PCBM) nanoparticles (NPs) through reprecipitaion method, [1] and the nanoscale luminescence characteristics of PCBM single NP. The amorphous PCBM NPs were transformed to crystalline PCBM NPs through solvent-vapor annealing process. The formation, shape, and size of PCBM NPs were studied by scanning electron microscope (SEM), transmission electron microscope (TEM), and high-resolution TEM (HR-TEM) experiments. To discern the structural and optical properties of the amorphous and crystalline PCBM NPs, we measured ultraviolet and visible (UV/Vis) absorption and Fourier transform-infrared (FT-IR) spectra. The nanoscale luminescence characteristics of amorphous and crystalline PCBM NPs were characterized using a high-resolution laser confocal microscope (LCM) photoluminescence (PL) and color charge-coupled device (CCD) images. [2,3] We observed a considerable bright red light-emission for the crystalline PCBM NPs, compared to that of the pristine PCBM NPs, which were directly confirmed through the color CCD images and LCM-PL images and spectra. The enhanced luminescent properties of crystalline PCBM NPs might have originated from the better molecular alignment effect through the thermal treatment.

References

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¹ Department of Physics and Hybrid Nanostructure Lab, Korea University, Seoul 136-713, Korea

² Department of Physics, University of Incheon, Incheon 406-772, Korea. *E-mail: jjoo@korea.ac.kr

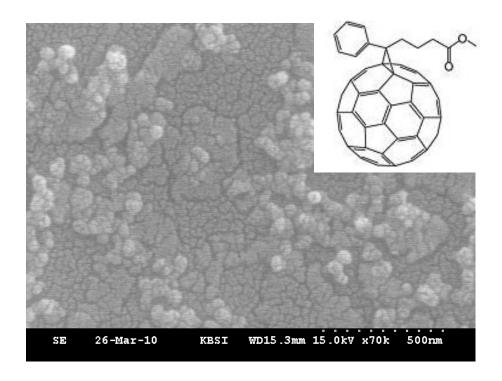


Figure SEM image of PCBM NPs. Inset: Chemical structure of PCBM molecule.