

Electronic Supplementary Information

**Influence of hydrogen and oxygen on the structure and properties of sputtered
magnesium zirconium oxynitride thin films**

Jekyung Kim^{1,2}, Sage R. Bauers¹, Imran S. Khan¹, John Perkins¹, Boin Park², Kevin R. Tally^{1,3},
Daehan Kim², Andriy Zakutayev^{*1}, and Byungha Shin^{*2}

¹ Materials Science Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colorado, 80401,
United States

² Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and
Technology, Daejeon, 34141, South Korea

³ Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Colorado School of Mines, Golden,
Colorado, 80401, United States

*corresponding authors

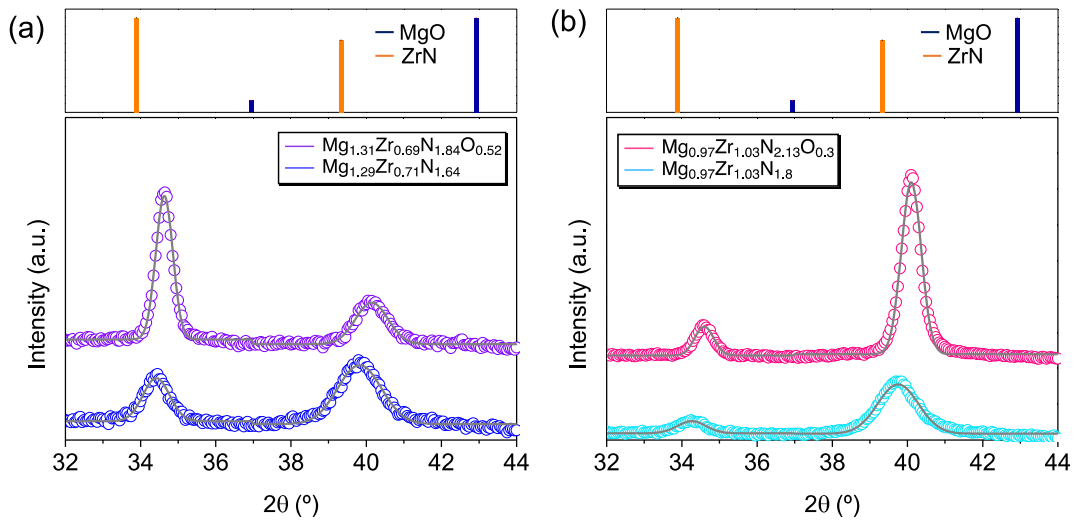


Fig. S1. X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern for (a) Mg-rich and (b) Zr-rich MZNO thin films for different amounts of oxygen with MgO (JCPDS #45-0946) and ZrN (JCPDS #35-0753) represented above. Circle represents measured XRD, and a solid line represents the Gaussian-fitted curves.

We performed Gaussian fitting to the diffraction patterns in Fig. 2, and they all appeared to be a single peak (symmetric but a bit broad). Furthermore, none of the peaks matches known peaks of MgO (such as (111) at $\sim 36\text{-}37^\circ$ and (200) at $\sim 44\text{-}45^\circ$.^{[1],[2]}) and ZrN, ((111) was reported to occur at $\sim 33\text{-}34^\circ$ and (200) at $\sim 39\text{-}40^\circ$.^{[3]-[5]}) In Fig. 2, (111) is at $34\text{-}35^\circ$ and (200) at 40° , which is much more similar to ZrN than MgO. Also, in a line scan from TEM in Fig. S4, it showed relatively homogenous distribution of Mg-Zr-N-O except for grain boundaries in columnar film microstructure, ruling out significant presence of MgO impurities in the bulk of the grains. Overall, the XRD and TEM data suggest that the material should be viewed as ZrN with some dissolved Mg and O. This model is reflected in the MZNO notation we are now using throughout the text.

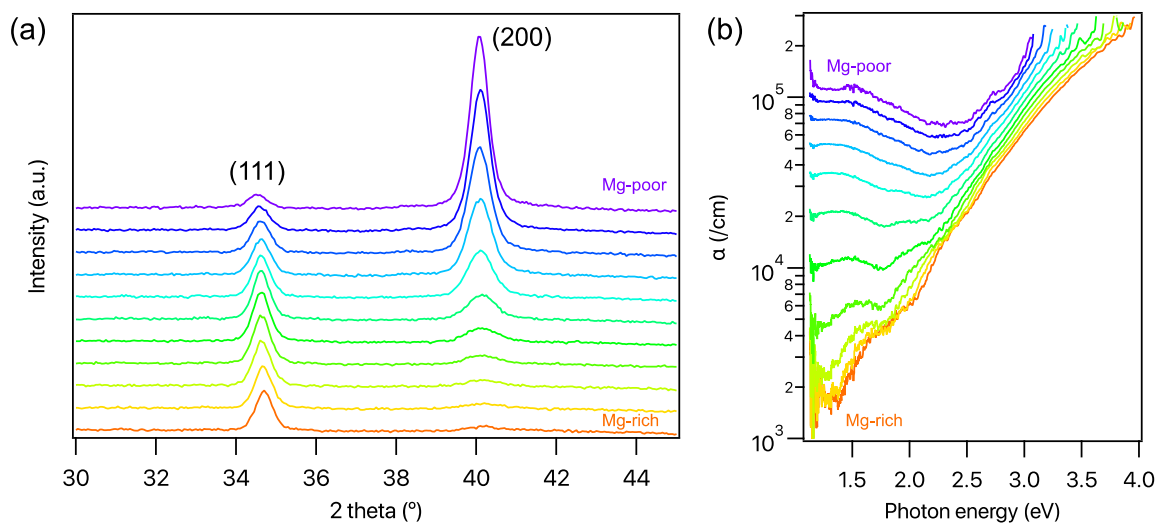


Fig. S2 (a) XRD patterns and (b) UV-vis spectra in MZNO libraries

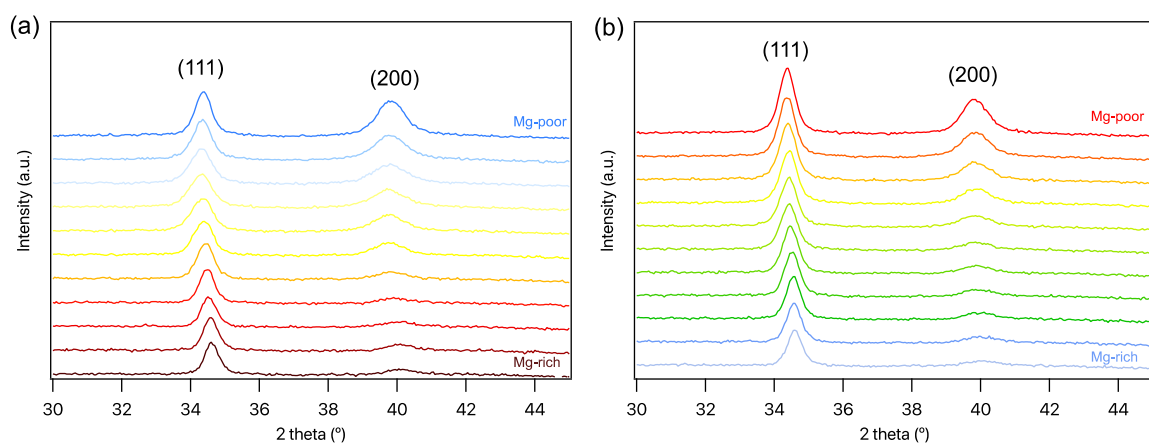


Fig. S3 XRD patterns for MZNO libraries grown (a) without and (b) with hydrogen

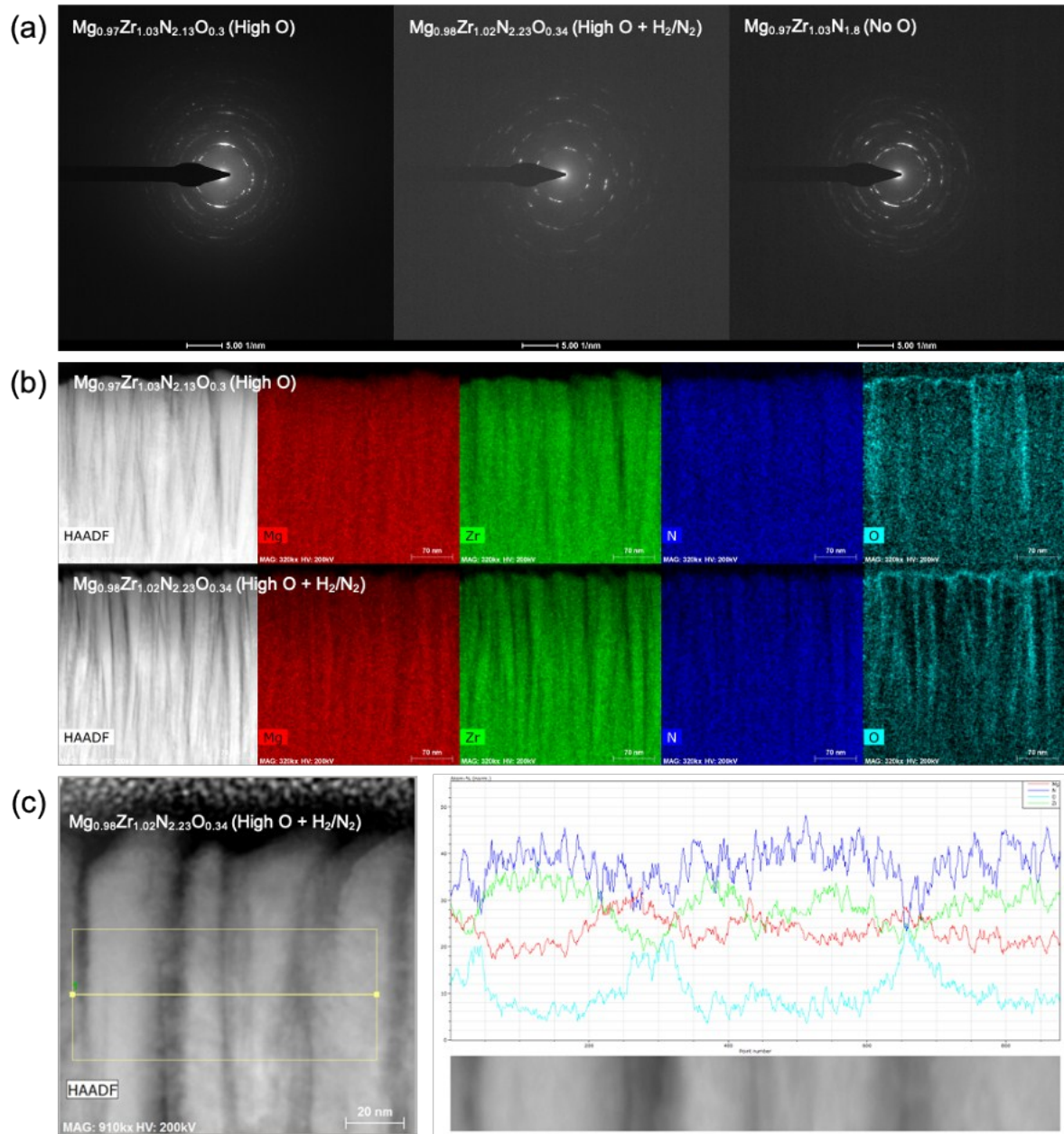


Fig. S4 (a) HAADF images of MZNO thin films before air-annealing, (b) EDS mapping of MZNO thin films after air-annealing, and (c) line-scan for MZNO thin films grown under H_2/N_2 . ($\text{Mg}/(\text{Mg}+\text{Zr}) = 0.485$)

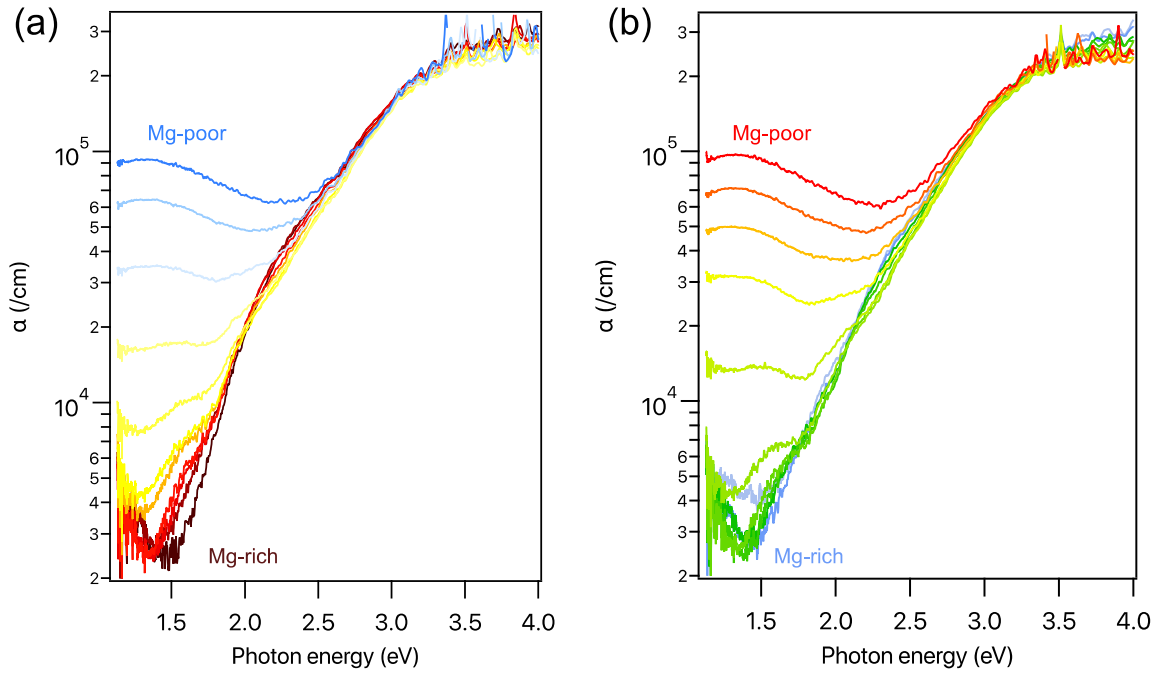


Fig. S5 UV-Vis spectra for MZNO libraries grown (a) without and (b) with hydrogen

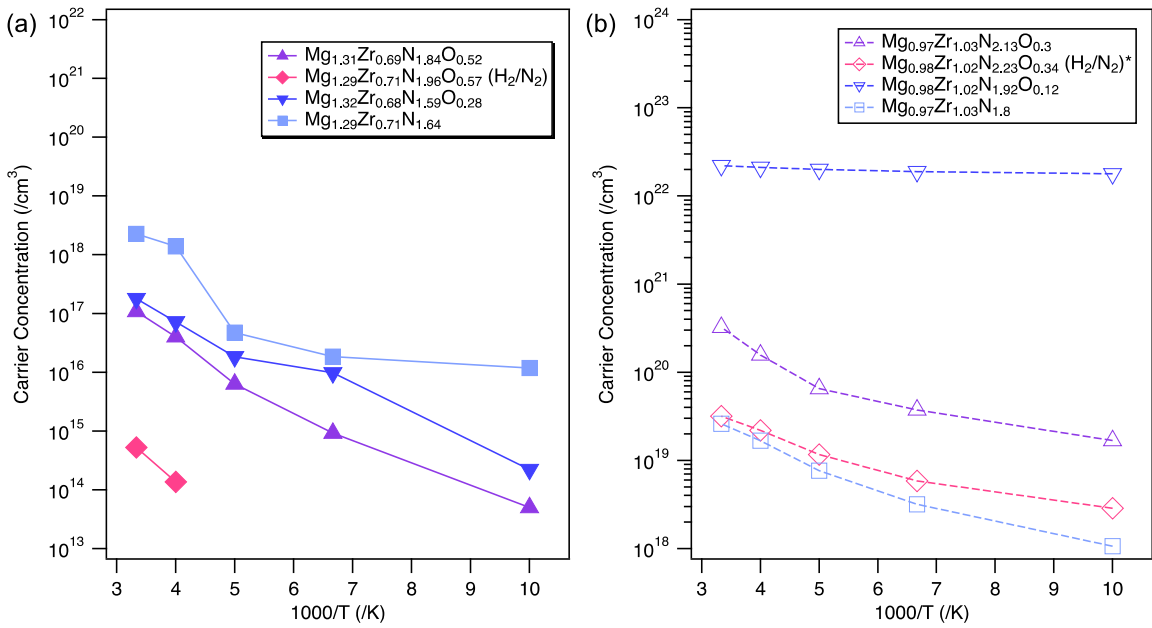


Fig. S6 Change in carrier concentration for (a) Mg-rich and (b) Zr-rich MZNO thin films depending on the amount of oxygen

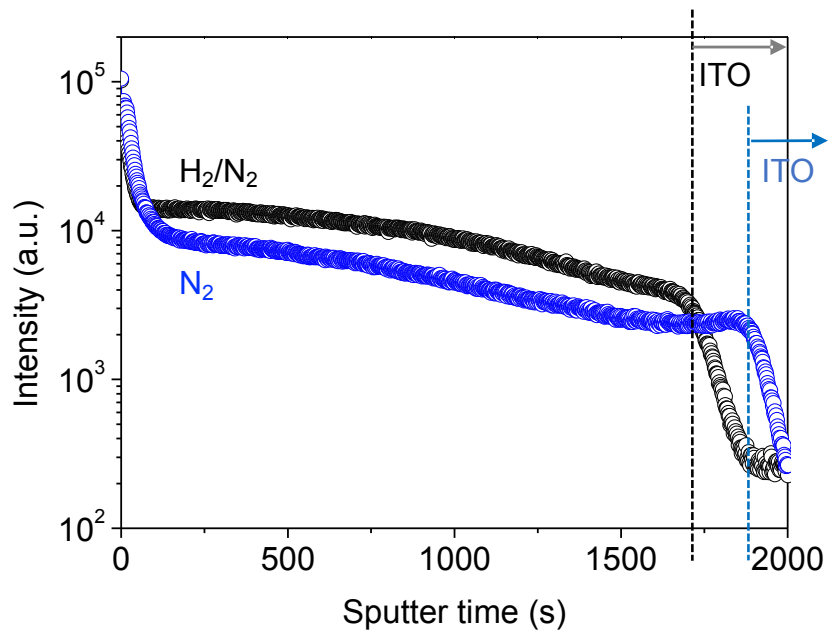


Fig. S7 SIMS depth profile of hydrogen within MZNO thin films on ITO substrate ($\text{Mg}/(\text{Mg}+\text{Zr}) = 0.65$). The ITO was used as a substrate.

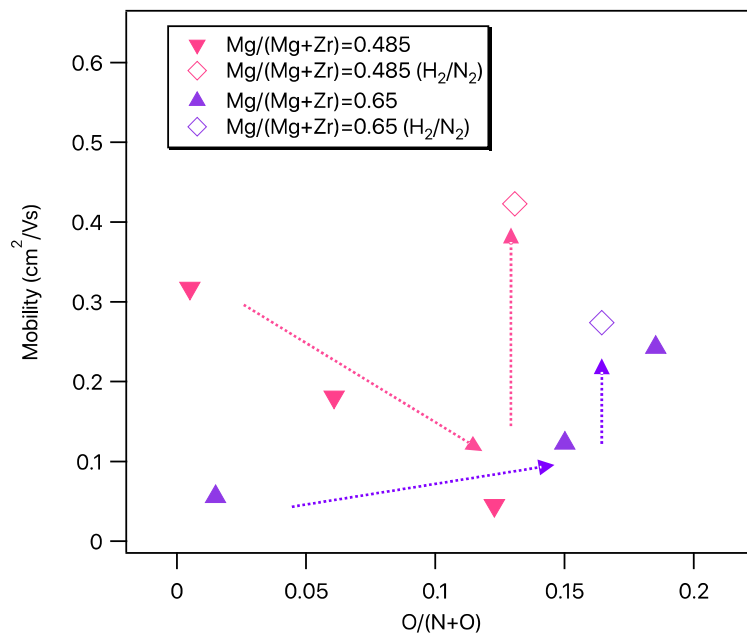


Fig. S8 Change in mobility of MZNO thin films depending on the composition and incorporation of hydrogen

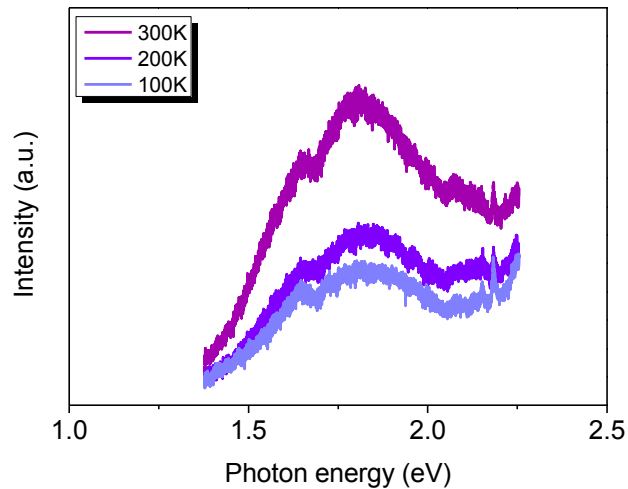


Fig. S9 Temperature-dependent PL spectra for MZNO thin films without hydrogen ($\text{Mg}/(\text{Mg}+\text{Zr}) = 0.6$)

Reference

- [1] G. Dercz et al. Structure studies on nanocrystalline powder of MgO xerogel prepared by the sol-gel method, *Materials Science-Poland*, 27 (2009) 201-207
- [2] E. G. Fu et al., Interface structure of Nb films on single crystal MgO(100) and MgO(111) substrates, *Acta Materialia*, 64 (2014) 100-112
- [3] D. Roman et al. Effect of deposition temperature on microstructure and corrosion resistance of ZrN thin films deposited by DC reactive magnetron sputtering, *Mater. Chem. Phys.* 130 (2011) 147– 153
- [4] A. Rizzo et al. Physical properties evolution of sputtered zirconium oxynitride films: effects of the growth temperature, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.* 42 (2009) 235401
- [5] H. Jiménez et al. Effect of the substrate temperature in ZrN coatings grown by the pulsed arc technique studied by XRD, *Surface and Coatings Technology*, 201 (2006) 1594-1601