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Fabrication and Exploring the Morphological, Optical, and Dielectric Properties of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ Nanocomposites for Nanoelectronics Applications

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The PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites' films are fabricated in the present work to utilize in different nanoelectronics applications. The morphological, optical, and dielectric properties of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites are studied. The results show that the MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanoparticles (NPs) have good distribution inside the polymer matrix. The absorbance of PVA is increased, while the transmittance and energy gap are decreased with rising in the MgO/Fe₂O₃-NPs' content. The dielectric properties (dielectric constant, dielectric loss, and electrical conductivity) are enhanced with increasing MgO/Fe₂O₃-NPs' content. The final results confirm that the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites can be useful for different nanoelectronics applications.

У цій роботі було виготовлено плівки нанокомпозитів полівініловий спирт (ПВС)/MgO/Fe₂O₃ для використання у різних нанoeлектронних застосуваннях. Були досліджені морфологічні, оптичні та діелектричні властивості нанокомпозитів ПВС/MgO/Fe₂O₃. Результати показали, що наночастинки MgO/Fe₂O₃ мають хороший розподіл всередині полімерної матриці. Вбирання ПВС збільшувалося, тоді як пропускання та ширина забороненої зони зменшувалися зі збільшенням вмісту наночастинок MgO/Fe₂O₃. Діелектричні властивості (діелектрична проникність, діелектричні втрати й електропровідність) поліпшувалися зі збільшенням вмісту наночастинок MgO/Fe₂O₃. Остаточні результати підтвердили, що нанокомпозити ПВС/MgO/Fe₂O₃ можуть бути корисними для різних застосувань нанoeлектроніки.

Key words: PVA, MgO/Fe₂O₃, nanocomposites, optical properties, dielectric constant,

Ключові слова: полівініловий спирт, MgO/Fe₂O₃, наноккомпозити, оптичні властивості, діелектрична проникність.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Organic–inorganic hybrid optical materials are extremely valuable from a technological perspective. Hybrid compositions with remarkable properties may emerge once the relationships between the properties of inorganic elements and polymer matrices are clarified. Polymeric nanocomposites, because of their interesting properties, are also a significant class in the field of applied materials science technology. Polymer composites display a variety of fascinating optical features, including a high/low refractive index, tailored absorption/emission spectra, and strong optical nonlinearities. Hybrids are eligible for potential optoelectronic applications because they possess such rare properties [1–4].

Polymer nanocomposites are one of the most important materials in the academic and industrial areas, and are produced by dispersing nanofillers with one or more dimensions at nanoscale into the polymeric matrix. Recently, researchers have been attracted to polymer nanocomposites over conventional microcomposites due to their wide applications in electromechanical systems and their large interfacial area per unit volume of the dispersion medium [5].

Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) anions are suitable bridging ligands for constructing network coordination polymers. PVA is a semi-crystalline polymer and its crystalline index depends on the synthetic process and physical ageing. It has gained increasing attention in the biomedical field due to bioinertness [6]. Metal-oxide nanoparticles (NPs) production has received a lot of interest over the last two decades. Plethoras of ways have also been developed to prepare nanoparticles. Magnesium oxide (MgO) was chosen for this study because of its several features, including high purity, non-toxicity, and odorlessness. They also have a high hardness and a high melting point [7].

Fe₂O₃ NPs have special properties like good electron mobility, magnetic ability, and a 2.2 eV optical energy-band gap, which are useful for optoelectronic applications. Fe₂O₃ NPs have potential applications in the fields of medicine, life sciences and computer technology like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), drug carriers in delivery, gene carriers in gene therapy, nanofertilizers, non-

fungicides, nanopesticides, nanofood, food packing, nanocoating, nanosensors, nanoscale memory, nanowires, spintronics, *etc.* They can be used as filters in sunscreens, biosensors [8]. The nanocomposites were investigated to employ in various fields included sensors [9–15], optical fields [16–25], antibacterial [26–34], energy storage [35–43], radiation shielding and bioenvironmental [44–48], electronics and optoelectronics [49–63]. This paper aims to prepare of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites to employ in various photonics and optics applications.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Films of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites were fabricated using casting process with different contents of MgO/Fe₂O₃ NPs are 2.5% and 5% with concentration 50% MgO: 50% Fe₂O₃.

The optical properties of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites were tested using the double beam spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, UV-1800Å) at wavelength from 340 nm to 740 nm.

The dielectric properties of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites were examined at frequency range (100 Hz–2·10⁶ Hz) by LCR meter (HI-OKI 3532-50 LCR HI TESTER). The absorption coefficient α is given [64] by

$$\alpha = 2.303A/t, \quad (1)$$

where A is the absorbance and t is the film thickness.

The energy gap is calculated [65] by

$$\alpha h\nu = C(h\nu - E_g)^r, \quad (2)$$

where C is the constant; $h\nu$ is the energy of photon; E_g is the energy gap, and $r = 2$ and 3 for allowed and forbidden indirect transitions, respectively.

The dielectric constant ε' is defined [66] by

$$\varepsilon' = C_p/C_0, \quad (3)$$

wherever C_p is the matter capacitance and C_0 is the vacuum capacitance.

Dielectric loss ε'' is determined [67] by

$$\varepsilon'' = \varepsilon'D, \quad (4)$$

where D is the dispersion factor. The A.C. electrical conductivity is given [68] by

$$\sigma_{A.C.} = 2\pi f \epsilon' D \epsilon_0, \quad (5)$$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The performances of absorbance and transmittance for PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with wavelength are demonstrated in Figs. 1, 2, respectively. As represented in these figures, the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites have high absorbance with low transmittance at UV region because the high photons energies at these spectra. The absorbance decreases and transmittance increases with increasing wavelength. Also, the absorbance of PVA raises,

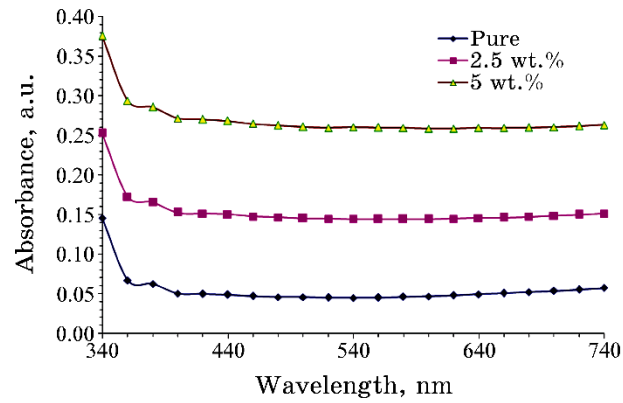


Fig. 1. Performance of absorbance for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with wavelength.

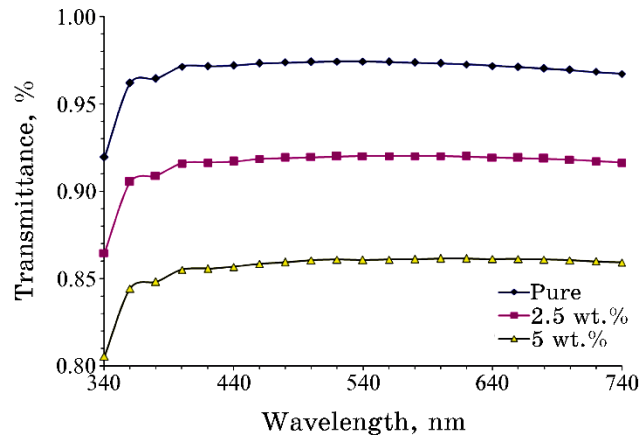


Fig. 2. Variation of transmittance for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with wavelength.

while the transmittance reduces with increasing MgO/Fe₂O₃-NPs' content, which is related to increase of charge carriers density, as shown in Fig. 3, which are absorb or scat the photons [69–83].

The energy gaps for PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites of allowed and forbidden indirect transitions are shown in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. The energy gaps of PVA are reduced with rising MgO/Fe₂O₃-NPs' content; this is related to the creation of complexes of charge transfer in the polymer matrix. These charges transfer complexes rise the electric conduction by generating extra charges, this effect in a decrease of the energy gap. With increasing MgO/Fe₂O₃ content, the dopant molecules begin bridging the gap separating the two localized levels and reduce the potential barrier between them, thereby create easily the charge carrier transfer between localized levels [84–97].

The variations of dielectric constant and dielectric loss for PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with frequency are confirmed in Figs. 6, 7, respectively. As shown in these figures, the dielectric constant and dielectric loss are decreased with increasing frequency.

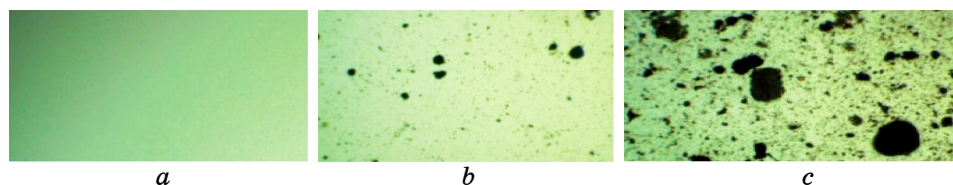


Fig. 3. Optical microscopic images for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites ($\times 10$): *a*—pure; *b*—2.5 wt.% MgO/Fe₂O₃ NPs, *c*—5 wt.% MgO/Fe₂O₃ NPs.

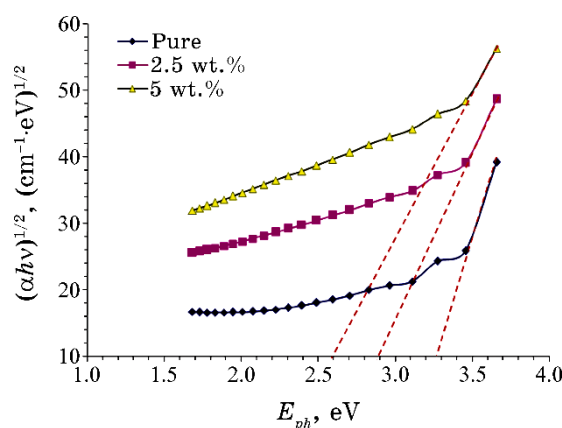


Fig. 4. Energy gap for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ eV nanocomposites of allowed indirect transition.

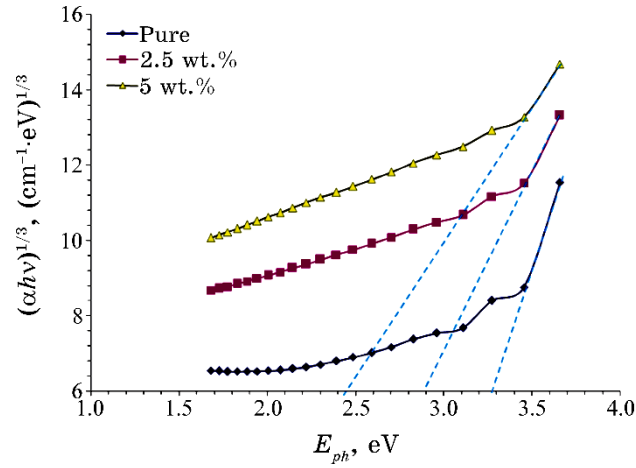


Fig. 5. Energy gap for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites of forbidden indirect transition.

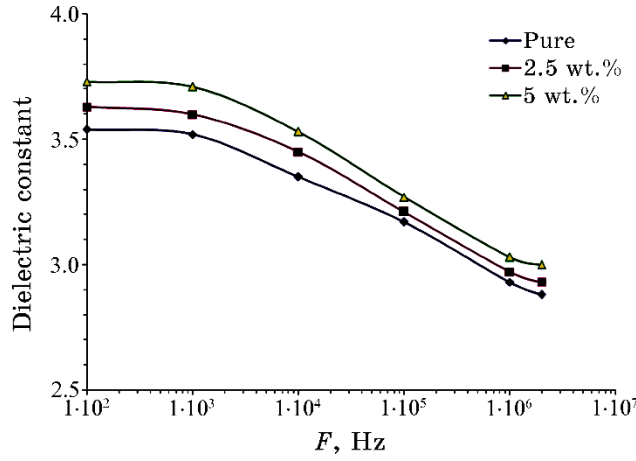


Fig. 6. Variation of dielectric constant for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with frequency.

For low frequency, the polymer molecules obtain enough time to orient themselves according to the applied field. With rising frequency, the molecules are not getting sufficient time to orient themselves according to the direction of the electrical field. Therefore, the overall polarization effect decreases and, consequently, the value of dielectric constant decreases too as it is directly proportional to the amount of polarization. At elevated frequencies as the polarization decreases the dielectric loss and dissipation factor, also decreased, as sufficient time is not provided to the polymer chain to

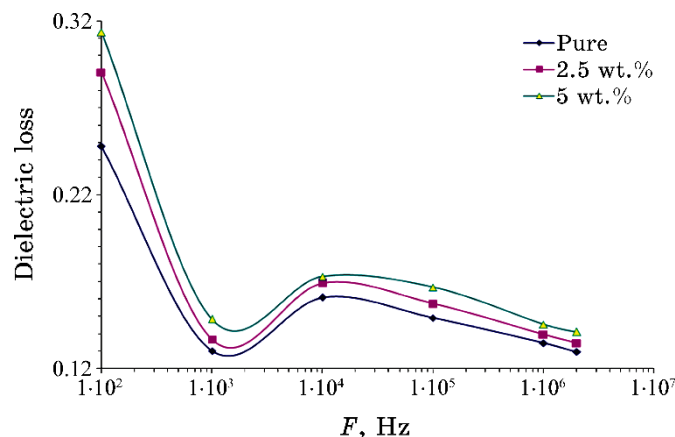


Fig. 7. Variation of dielectric loss for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with frequency.

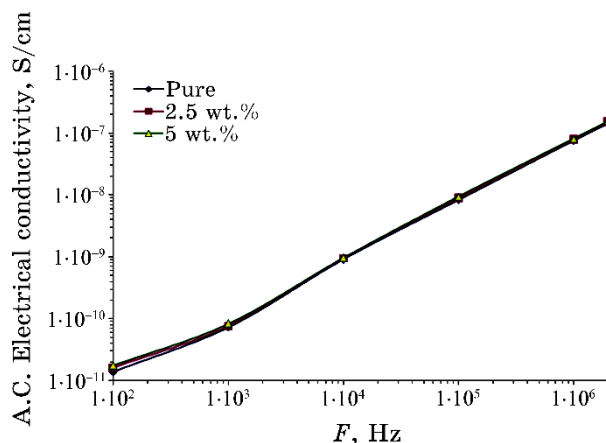


Fig. 8. Variation of electrical conductivity for the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with frequency.

generate phase angle. Thus, at high frequencies the contribution of orientational or dipole polarization vanishes and the effect is only for electronic polarization, which is instantaneous. The dielectric constant and dielectric loss are increased with increasing contents of nanoparticles, which is due to increase in charge-carriers' numbers [98–116].

The variation of electrical conductivity for PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites with frequency is represented in Fig. 8. The electrical conductivity rises with increasing nanoparticles contents and frequency. The increase of electrical conductivity with increasing

nanoparticles contents related to raise in the charges carriers numbers. The frequency-dependent conductivity is caused by the hopping of electrons in the localized states near the Fermi level and also attributed to the charge-carriers' excitation to the levels in the conduction band [117–127].

4. CONCLUSIONS

The current work included fabrication of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃-nanocomposites' films to exploit in various nanoelectronics fields. The morphological, optical, and dielectric properties of PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites were studied. The results showed that the absorbance of PVA was increased while the transmittance and energy gap were decreased with rising in the MgO/Fe₂O₃-NPs' content. The dielectric properties were enhanced with increasing MgO/Fe₂O₃-NPs' content. The final results confirmed that the PVA/MgO/Fe₂O₃ nanocomposites can be useful for various nanoelectronics applications.

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