

Preparation and Characterization of CuO/Co₃O₄/ Poly(methyl methacrylate) Nanocomposites for Optical and Dielectric Applications

Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Electronics, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10854-021-05949-9>

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Abstract

Composites of transition metal oxides (TMOs)/Polymers have many modern technological, industrial, and biological applications. Co₃O₄ and CuO nanoparticles (Nps) were synthesized by sol-gel. Then they doped into poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) via the solution casting method. The obtained Nps and nanocomposites were then investigated using several techniques. XRD and HR-TEM indicated the high purity of Co₃O₄ and CuO Nps of face-centered cubic (*fcc*) with 58 nm average particle size (D_{av}), and monoclinic structure with $D_{av} = 35$ nm, respectively. The amorphous nature of PMMA was influenced after mixing with these Nps. SEM and FTIR confirmed the interaction between Nps and the polymer chains. The pure sample showed transparency of about 90% and Nps addition narrowed the optical bandgap effectively while keeping the samples with high transmittance. CuO is more effective than Co₃O₄ on the optical parameters of the nanocomposites. The dielectric constant improved after adding the Nps, while all samples have a low dielectric loss. Additionally, the effects of Co₃O₄ and CuO on the ac conductivity, conduction mechanism, Argand plots, and the dielectric modulus are reported. Our nanocomposites are considered a promising candidate for nanotechnology-based devices such as electric stress control, film capacitors and anti-reflective coating for solar cell applications.

Keywords: TMO-PMMA nanocomposites; Co₃O₄ and CuO Nps; Refractive index; Dielectric relaxation.