



Optical Absorption in V_2O_5 - Bi_2O_3 Evaporated Thin Film

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ABSTRACT

Optical absorption of amorphous V_2O_5 - Bi_2O_3 thin film prepared by thermal evaporation technique has been studied in the wave length rang 200 to 800 nm. It is found that the fundamental optical absorption edge rather sharp as in crystalline materials. It is also found that the optical energy gap E_{OPT} is about 4.07 eV and the mechanism of transition is direct forbidden transition.

Key Words: OPT absorption, vanadat-Bismuth, thin films.

INTRODUCTION

Studying optical absorption particularly the shape and shift of the absorption edge, is a very useful technique for understanding the basic mechanism of optically-induced transitions in crystalline and non-crystalline materials, as well as providing information about the band structure. The basic principal behind the technique depends on the absorption of photons with energies greater than the band gap energy by carries undergoing transitions from occupied states in the conduction band. Two kinds of optical transitions may occur at the fundamental edge in these materials: direct and indirect. In a direct transition, the electron wave vector remains the same (there is no photon interaction), whereas in an indirect transition the cooperation of photon is necessary for conserving momentum and the electrons wave vector changes during transition. It has been suggested by Davis

and Mott¹ that for direct transitions the following equation may be used to relate the absorption coefficient to photon energy

$$\alpha(\omega) = \beta \frac{(\hbar\omega - E_{OPT})^n}{\hbar\omega} \quad \dots(1)$$

Where ω is the angular frequency of incident radiation, B is constant, E_{OPT} is the optical energy gap and n is an exponent which takes values

$1, 2, 3, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{2}$ depending on whether the transitions are allowed or forbidden. a similar equations with $n=2$ was suggested by Tauc *et al*², which offers the best fit to optical absorption data in many amorphous semiconductors.

EXPERIMENTAL

Thin samples of 70% V_2O_5 -30% Bi_2O_3 , was prepared by thermal evaporation using coating system model (MECA2000 78540 Vernouillet). The

film was deposited at a rate of $9.8 \frac{A^\circ}{sec}$ on cleaned corning 7059 glass substrates held at 29°C at a residual pressure of approximately 6×10^{-6} mbar. Tungsten boat was used for the evaporation. The film thickness was monitored by using a quartz crystal unites. The absorption spectrum was

recorded with UV/visible spectrometer (model CECIL_CE 5501).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The recorded absorption spectrum is shown in Fig1. The ratio $\frac{\nu^{+4}}{\nu^{+5}}$ could be responsible for the conducting mechanism. In order to examine

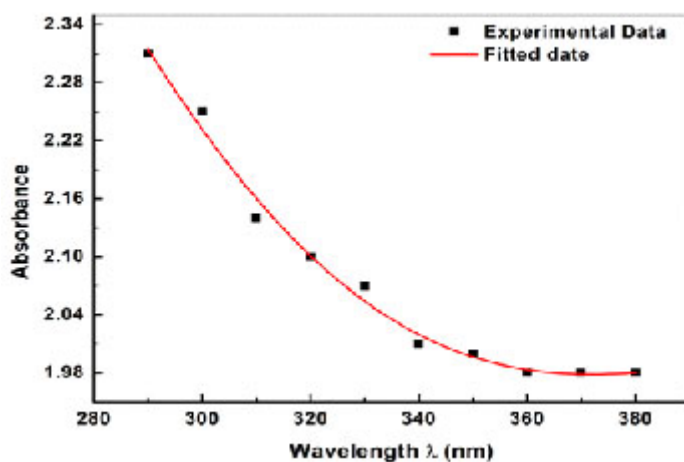


Fig 1. Absorption of spectrum as a function of wavelength for 70% V_2O_5 -30% Bi_2O_3 film.

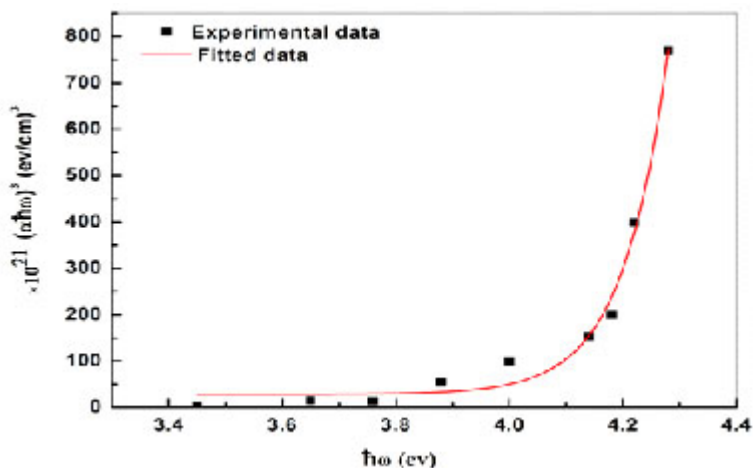


Fig2. Variation of $(\alpha h\omega)^3$ against photon energy $h\omega$ for 70% V_2O_5 -30% Bi_2O_3 film.

equation 1 and to evaluate the exponent n , graphs of $(\alpha h\nu)^n$ versus $h\nu$ were plotted with different values of n^{6-8} $\alpha(\omega)$ was calculated from the following relation:

$$\alpha(\omega) = \frac{1}{d} \ln \frac{I_0}{I_t} \quad \dots(2)$$

Where I_0 and I_t are the intensities of the incident and transmitted beams, respectively, and d is the film thickness. It was found that $n = \frac{1}{3}$ gives the best linear fit in the higher absorption region. Fig. 2 shows the variation of $(\alpha h\nu)^n$ versus $h\nu$ for the film 45.3nm thick; E_{OPT} is obtained by plotting the linear portion in Fig. 2 on to the $h\nu$ axis. Value of

B in equation (1) can be obtained from the slope of the curve in Fig 2. The result in Fig1 also follows the Urbach law ³:

$$\alpha(\omega) = C \exp\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{\Delta E}\right) \quad \dots(3)$$

Where ΔE is the extent of band tailing due to presence of localized states, arising from of long-rang order.

As can be seen from Fig3 the E_{OPT} is equal to about 4.07(eV) and the value of B in equation (1) is found to be about 5.4 ($eV^{-1} cm^{-1}$). Fig 4 shows that

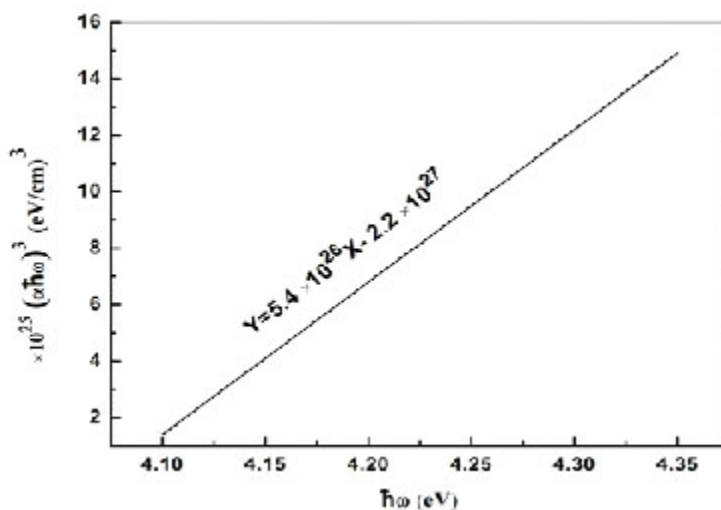


Fig3. E_{OPT} can be obtained by plotting the linear portion in Fig 2.

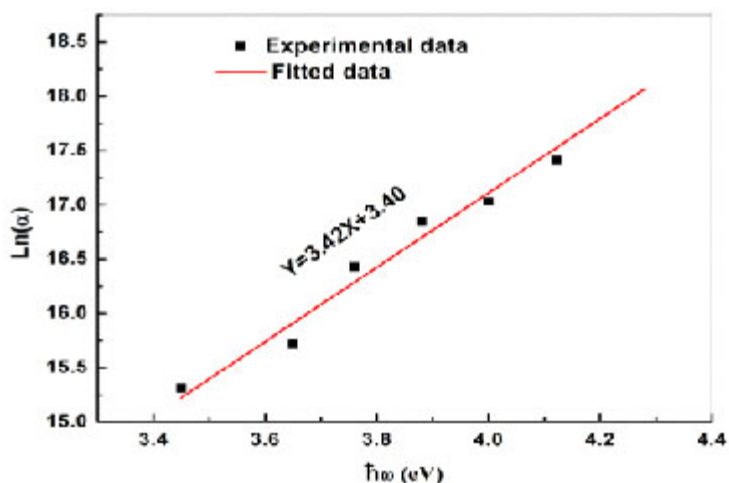


Fig4. Variation of the Ln versus photon energy $h\nu$.

graph of $\ln\alpha$ versus photon energy $h\omega$ is linear at higher photon energies.

There have been a number of different interpretations of the origin of the exponential dependence of α on photon energy. One is based on the presence of strong internal electric fields due to structural disorder⁴, while another says that it is due to electronic transitions between localized states in the band gap tails where the density of states falls off exponentially with energy. Mott and Davis⁵ rejected the latter interpretation because the slopes of the exponential absorption edge are much the same in a variety of materials.

CONCLUSION

The energy band gaps of V_2O_5 - Bi_2O_3 thin film chalcogenide glasses have been studied at room temperature and normal pressure. The reflection spectra of these glasses are recorded by Spectrophotometer in the wave length region from 200 to 800 nm. From the analysis of the reflection spectra the optical energy band gap is determined. It is also found that the optical energy gap E_{OPT} is about 4.07 eV and the mechanism of transition is direct forbidden transition. It will be necessary to conduct thermo power and ESR experiments to verify this tentative conclusion.

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