



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***STRUCTURAL, ELASTIC AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF ZINC
TELLURITE GLASS SYSTEM DOPED WITH SAMARIUM, SAMARIUM
NANOPARTICLES AND SILVER OXIDE***

TAFIDA RABIU ABUBAKAR

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By

TAFIDA RABIU ABUBAKAR

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in
fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God, for his love, care, protection in the course of writing this thesis and the entire Tafida's family Jalingo Taraba State Nigeria.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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January 2021

Chairman : Professor Halimah binti Mohamed Kamari, PhD
Faculty : Science

Four series of zinc tellurite glasses doped with samarium, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide were successfully fabricated using the conventional melt-quenching technique. The glasses were prepared based on the empirical formulas of $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7}(\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x}[\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{Nps}]_x$, where $x = 0.01$ to 0.05 molar fraction and $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7}(\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99}(\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{Nps})_{0.01}]_{1-y}(\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$, with $y = 0.005$ to 0.025 molar fraction. The XRD tests confirmed that the glasses are amorphous. The Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR) showed that all the glasses have a structural unit of TeO_4 and TeO_3 . The TEM-images confirmed the existence of samarium nanoparticles with particle size of about 72.43 nm. The density of Sm_2O_3 and Sm_2O_3 NPs increased from 5.0419 to 5.3005 g/cm^3 and from 5.1095 to 5.3286 g/cm^3 . Meanwhile, the molar volume increased from 27.4238 to 27.6901 cm^3/mol , and from 27.0610 to 27.5441 cm^3/mol . For $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm})$ glasses the density increased from 5.1999 to 5.3747 g/cm^3 and decreased for $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm NPs})$ from 5.3162 to 4.9163 g/cm^3 . The molar volume decreased from 26.6788 to 26.1590 cm^3/mol for $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm})$ and increased from 26.0952 to 28.5981 cm^3/mol for $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm NPs})$ glasses. The elastic moduli and other elastic parameters increase with increase in dopant while the values of Poisson's ratio lie in the range of 0.2734 to 0.2902 . The direct and indirect optical band gap increased from 2.7855 eV to 2.9867 eV and from 2.6714 eV to 3.0676 eV for Sm_2O_3 and Sm_2O_3 NPs doped series. Similarly, E_{opt} increased from 2.9691 eV to 3.1054 eV and from 2.7417 eV to 2.6278 eV for $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm})$ and $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm NPs})$. Photoluminescence investigation reveals that the glass samples can be used as a laser active medium for emission at 605 and 607 nm wavelength corresponding to the $4G_{5/2} \rightarrow 6H_{7/2}$ transitions. The Judd-Ofelt analysis reveals that the large values of gain bandwidth (4.427×10^{-21}), optical gain (5.199×10^{-25}) and the radiative transition probabilities $[(16195 \text{ S}^{-1}) / (15894 \text{ S}^{-1})]$ can be used for laser application. Furthermore, $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm NPs})$ doped series having the largest value of gain bandwidth (9.975×10^{-21}), optical gain (9.061×10^{-25}) and the radiative transition probabilities $[(119021 \text{ S}^{-1}) / (16832 \text{ S}^{-1})]$ made it the best candidate for laser materials.

Therefore, this research contributes to addressing the pressing challenge of developing new materials for laser.



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SIFAT STRUKTUR ELASTIK DAN OPTIK SISTEM KACA ZINK TELURIT TERDOP DENGAN SAMARIUM, SAMARIUM NANOPARTIKEL DAN ARGENTUM OKSIDA

Oleh

TAFIDA RABIU ABUBAKAR

Januari 2021

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Empat siri kaca zink telurit yang terdop dengan samarium, samarium nanopartikel dan argentum oksida telah berjaya difabrikasi menggunakan teknik pelindapkejukan lebur konvensional. Kaca tersebut telah disediakan berdasarkan formula empirikal, $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7}(\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x}(\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_x$, di mana $x=0.01$ hingga ke 0.05 pecahan mol dan $\{[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7}(\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99}(\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{Nps})_{0.01}\}_{1-y}(\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$, dengan $y = 0.005$ hingga ke 0.025 pecahan mol. Ujian XRD mengesahkan bahawa kaca adalah amorfus. Spektrometer Inframerah Jelmaan Fourier (FTIR) menunjukkan bahawa semua kaca mempunyai unit struktural TeO_4 dan TeO_3 . Imej TEM mengesahkan kewujudan samarium nanopartikel dengan saiz partikel lebih kurang 72.43 nm. Ketumpatan Sm_2O_3 dan Sm_2O_3 NPs meningkat daripada 5.0419 hingga ke 5.3005 g/cm^3 dan daripada 5.1095 hingga ke 5.3286 g/cm^3 . Manakala, isi padu molar meningkat, masing-masing daripada 27.4238 hingga ke 27.6901 cm^3/mol , dan daripada 27.0610 kepada 27.5441 cm^3/mol . Ketumpatan $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm})$ meningkat daripada 5.1999 hingga ke 5.3747 g/cm^3 dan menurun bagi $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm NPs})$ daripada 5.3162 hingga ke 4.9163 g/cm^3 . Isi padu molar menurun daripada 26.6788 hingga ke 26.1590 cm^3/mol bagi $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm})$ dan meningkat daripada 26.0952 hingga ke 28.5981 cm^3/mol bagi kaca $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm NPs})$. Modulus elastik dan parameter elastik kaca lain didapati meningkat dengan peningkatan dalam dopan manakala nilai nisbah Poisson berada dalam julat 0.2734 hingga ke 0.2902 . Jurang jalur optik langsung dan tak langsung meningkat daripada 2.7855 eV hingga ke 2.9867 eV dan daripada 2.6714 eV hingga ke 3.0676 eV bagi siri terdop Sm_2O_3 dan Sm_2O_3 NPs. Begitu juga, E_{opt} meningkat daripada 2.9691 eV hingga ke 3.1054 eV dan daripada 2.7417 eV hingga ke 2.6278 eV bagi siri terdop $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm})$ dan $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}(\text{Sm NPs})$. Penelitian kefotopendarcahayaan memperlihatkan bahawa sampel kaca dapat digunakan sebagai medium aktif laser bagi pelepasan pada 605 dan 607 nm jarak gelombang sepadan dengan $4G_{5/2} \rightarrow 6H_{7/2}$ transisi. Analisis Judd-Offelt memperlihatkan bahawa nilai gandaan lebar jalur yang besar (4.427×10^{-21}), gandaan optik (5.199×10^{-25}) dan

kebarangkalian transisi radiatif [(16195 S⁻¹)/ (15894 S⁻¹)] dapat digunakan bagi pengaplikasian laser. Di samping itu, siri terdop Ag₂O (Sm NPs) mempunyai nilai gandaan lebar jalur terbesar (9.975×10^{-21}), gandaan optik (9.061×10^{-25}), dan kebarangkalian transisi radiatif [(119021 S⁻¹)/ (16832 S⁻¹)] menjadikannya calon terbaik untuk bahan laser. Oleh sebab itu, penyelidikan ini menyumbang kepada pengutaraan cabaran yang mendesak bagi membangunkan bahan baharu untuk laser.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
APPROVAL	vi
DECLARATION	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xx
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xxx
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 History of glass	1
1.1.1 Defination of glass	1
1.1.2 Chemical compounds in zinc tellurite glass doped with samarium oxide, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide	1
1.2 Problem statement	2
1.3 Scope and limitations of the study	3
1.4 Objective of the study	3
1.5 Hypothesis	4
1.6 Thesis outline	5
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.1.1 Zinc tellurite glass system	6
2.1.2 Glass system doped with samarium and samarium nanoparticles	7
2.2 Structural and physical properties	8
2.2.1 X-ray diffraction (XRD)	8
2.2.2 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)	9
2.2.3 Density and molar volume	10
2.2.4 Other physical parameters	11
2.3 Elastic properties	12
2.3.1 Ultrasonic velocities	13
2.3.2 Elastic moduli	13
2.3.3 Theoretical elastic models	14
2.3.4 Other elastic parameters	15
2.4 Optical properties	16
2.4.1 Optical absorption spectra	17
2.4.2 Optical energy band gap	18
2.4.3 Refractive index	18
2.4.4 Urbach energy	19
2.4.5 Other optical parameters	20

2.5	Judd-Offelt theory	20
3	THEORY	22
3.1	Introduction	22
3.2	Formation of glass	22
3.3	Structure of tellurite doped glasses	24
3.4	Physical and structural properties	26
3.4.1	Density, molar volume, oxygen packing density and oxygen molar volume	26
3.4.2	Samarium ionic concentration (N) and samarium interionic distance (R_i)	27
3.5	Optical Properties	28
3.5.1	Optical Absorption, Bandgap energy and Urbach energy	28
3.5.2	Refractive index, Molar refraction and Metallization criterion	31
3.5.3	Electronic polarizability, dielectric constant and optical basicity	32
3.5.4	Photoluminescence (PL)	35
3.6	Elastic Properties of glass materials	37
3.6.1	The study of elasticity of glass	37
3.6.2	Experimental elastic moduli and their related parameters	39
3.7	Theoretical elastic models	42
3.7.1	Makishima and Mackenzie Model	42
3.7.2	Rocherulle Model	43
3.7.3	Bond Compression Model	45
3.7.4	Ring Deformation Model	47
3.8	Judd-Offelt Theory Analysis	48
4	MATERIALS AND METHODS	51
4.1	Introduction	51
4.2	Sample preparation	51
4.3	Structural properties characterization	54
4.3.1	Density and Molar Volume	54
4.3.2	X-ray Diffraction Analysis (XRD)	54
4.3.3	Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy	55
4.3.4	Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)	55
4.4	Optical Properties Characterization	56
4.4.1	Ultraviolet-Visible (UV-Vis) Spectroscopy	56
4.4.2	Photoluminescence	56
4.4.3	Non-Destructive Ultrasonic Measurement	56

5	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	58
5.1	Introduction	58
5.2	Structural properties	58
5.2.1	X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD)	58
5.2.2	Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	61
5.2.3	Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) analysis	68
5.2.4	Analysis of density and molar volume	69
5.2.5	Other physical parameters	73
5.3	Elastic properties	78
5.3.1	Ultrasonic velocities	78
5.3.2	Elastic moduli	82
5.3.3	Poisson's ratio (σ)	86
5.3.4	Fugacity (f_g)	90
5.3.5	Softening temperature (TS)	90
5.3.6	Debye temperature (θD)	93
5.3.7	Acoustic impedance (Z)	93
5.3.8	Thermal expansion coefficient (α)	97
5.3.9	Microhardness(H)	98
5.3.10	Fractal bond connectivity (d)	99
5.3.11	Theoretical elastic models	101
5.3.12	Makishima and Mackenzie Model	101
5.3.13	Rocherulle Model	110
5.3.14	Bond compression Models	118
5.3.15	Ring Deformation Model	127
5.4	Optical properties	139
5.4.1	Optical absorption spectra	139
5.4.2	Indirect optical band gap and Urbach energy	142
5.4.3	Refractive index, Molar refraction, Molar polarizability and electronic polarizability	150
5.4.4	Oxide ion polarizability	156
5.4.5	Optical basicity	161
5.4.6	Metallization criterion	165
5.4.7	Photoluminescence	166
5.4.8	Judd-Offelt Analysis	170
6	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH	180
6.1	Conclusions	180
6.2	Future research	182
	REFERENCES	183
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	194
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	195

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page	
2.1	Direct optical band gap (E_{opt}^2), Indirect optical band gap (E_{opt}^1), Urbach energy (ΔE) and refractive index of erbium-doped zinc tellurite glass system	7
2.2	Indirect optical band gap (E_{opt}^1), Direct optical band gap (E_{opt}^2), Urbach energy (ΔE) and refractive index of samarium doped glass samples	8
2.3	Summary of previous important findings of the FTIR spectra	10
4.1	Weight of individual oxide for different value of x in 13 g	51
4.2	Weight of individual oxide for different value of y in 13 g	52
5.1	Band center (B) and band area for $[(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}]_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	65
5.2	Band center (B) and band area for $[(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}]_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3NPs]_x$ glass system	66
5.3	Band centre (B) and band area for $[{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}}]_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	66
5.4	Band center (B) and band area for $[{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}}]_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	66
5.5	Assignments of the deconvoluted IR spectra for $[(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}]_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	67
5.6	Assignments of the deconvoluted IR spectra for $[(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}]_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3 NPs]_x$ glass system	67
5.7	Assignments of the deconvoluted IR spectra for $[{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}}]_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	67
5.8	Assignments of the deconvoluted IR spectra for $[{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}}]_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	67
5.9	Density and molar volume for $[{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}}]_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3/Sm_2O_3 NPs]_x$ glass system	70
5.10	Density and molar volume for $[{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}}]_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3/Sm_2O_3 NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	70

5.11	Oxygen packing density (OPD), Oxygen molar volume (V_o), Samarium ionic concentration N (ions/cm ³), Samarium inter-ionic distance R_i (Å), for [(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3}] _{1-x} [Sm ₂ O ₃] _x glass system	73
5.12	Oxygen packing density (OPD), Oxygen molar volume (V_o), Samarium ionic concentration N (ions/cm ³), Samarium inter-ionic distance R_i (Å), for [(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3}] _{1-x} [Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs] _x glass system	73
5.13	Oxygen packing density (OPD), Oxygen molar volume (V_o), Samarium ionic concentration N (ions/cm ³), Samarium inter-ionic distance R_i (Å), for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y glass system	73
5.14	Oxygen packing density (OPD), Oxygen molar volume (V_o), Samarium ionic concentration N (ions/cm ³), Samarium inter-ionic distance R_i (Å), for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y glass system	74
5.15	Longitudinal velocity V_l and Shear velocity V_s for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{1-x}] [Sm ₂ O ₃ /Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs] _x glass system	79
5.16	Longitudinal velocity V_l and Shear velocity V_s for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃ /Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y , glass system	79
5.17	Elastic moduli for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{1-x}] [Sm ₂ O ₃] _x glass system	82
5.18	Elastic moduli for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{1-x}] [Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs] _x glass system	82
5.19	Elastic moduli for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y , glass system	83
5.20	Elastic moduli for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y , glass system	83
5.21	Poisson's ratio (σ), Fugacity (fg), Debye temperature (θD) and Softening temperature (T_s) for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{1-x}] [Sm ₂ O ₃] _x glass system	89
5.22	Poisson's ratio (σ), Fugacity (fg), Debye temperature (θD) and Softening temperature (T_s) for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{1-x}] [Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs] _x glass system	89
5.23	Poisson's ratio (σ), Fugacity (fg), Debye temperature (θD) and Softening temperature (T_s) for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y , glass system	89

5.24	Poisson's ratio (σ), Fugacity (fg), Debye temperature (θD) and Softening temperature (T_s) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	89
5.25	Acoustic impedance (Z), Thermal expansion coefficient, (α), Microhardness (H) and fractal bond connectivity (d) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	96
5.26	Acoustic impedance (Z), Thermal expansion coefficient, (α), Microhardness (H) and fractal bond connectivity (d) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	96
5.27	Acoustic impedance (Z), Thermal expansion coefficient, (α), Microhardness (H) and fractal bond connectivity (d) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	97
5.28	Acoustic impedance (Z), Thermal expansion coefficient, (α), Microhardness (H) and fractal bond connectivity (d) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	97
5.29	Packing density (V_i) and dissociation energy (G_i) of all the chemical oxides under study	101
5.30	Makishima and Mackenzie total packing density (V_t), total dissociation energy (G_t), young modulus (E_{mm}), bulk modulus (K_{mm}), shear modulus (G_{mm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{mm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	101
5.31	Makishima and Mackenzie total packing density (V_t), total dissociation energy (G_t), young modulus (E_{mm}), bulk modulus (K_{mm}), shear modulus (G_{mm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{mm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	102
5.32	Makishima and Mackenzie total packing density (V_t), total dissociation energy (G_t), young modulus (E_{mm}), bulk modulus (K_{mm}), shear modulus (G_{mm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{mm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	102
5.33	Makishima and Mackenzie total packing density (V_t), total dissociation energy (G_t), young modulus (E_{mm}), bulk modulus (K_{mm}), shear modulus (G_{mm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{mm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	102
5.34	Rocherulle model packing density (C_t), Young modulus (E_{rm}), bulk modulus (K_{rm}), shear modulus (G_{rm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{rm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	110

5.35	Rocherulle model packing density (C_t), Young modulus (E_{rm}), bulk modulus (K_{rm}), shear modulus (G_{rm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{rm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 NPs]_x$ glass system	110
5.36	Rocherulle model packing density (C_t), Young modulus (E_{rm}), bulk modulus (K_{rm}), shear modulus (G_{rm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{rm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	111
5.37	Rocherulle model packing density (C_t), Young modulus (E_{rm}), bulk modulus (K_{rm}), shear modulus (G_{rm}) and Poisson's ratio (σ_{rm}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	111
5.38	First order stretching force constant f , number of cross-link density per cation (nc), number of cations per glass formula unit Nc , coordination number nf and bond length r	118
5.39	Total number of cations per glass formula unit η , number of network bond per unit volume nb (m^{-3}) and average crosslink density per unit formula (nc)	119
5.40	Total number of cations per glass formula unit η , number of network bond per unit volume nb (m^{-3}) and average crosslink density per unit formula (nc)	119
5.41	Bond compression model elastic moduli, Poisson's ratio and ratio K_{bc}/K_e for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	120
5.42	Bond compression model elastic moduli, Poisson's ratio and ratio K_{bc}/K_e for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 NPs]_x$ glass system	120
5.43	Bond compression model elastic moduli, Poisson's ratio and ratio K_{bc}/K_e for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	121
5.44	Bond compression model elastic moduli, Poisson's ratio and ratio K_{bc}/K_e for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	121
5.45	Average stretching force constants (F), atomic ring size (l) for Sm_2O_3 and Sm_2O_3 NPs glass system	127
5.46	Average stretching force constants (F), atomic ring size (l) of Ag_2O (Sm) and Ag_2O (Sm) NPs glass system	128
5.47	Ring deformation model elastic moduli (Lrd , Erd , Krd), Poisson's ratio (σrd) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	128
5.48	Ring deformation model elastic moduli (Lrd , Erd , Krd), Poisson's ratio (σrd) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 NPs]_x$ glass system	128

5.49	Ring deformation model elastic moduli (Lrd , Erd , Krd), Poisson's ratio (σrd) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	129
5.50	Ring deformation model elastic moduli (Lrd , Erd , Krd), Poisson's ratio (σrd) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	129
5.51	Indirect band gap energy ($Eopt$) and Urbach energy (ΔE) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3/Sm_2O_3\ NPs]_x$ glass system	144
5.52	Indirect band gap energy ($Eopt$) and Urbach energy (ΔE) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3/Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	144
5.53	Refractive index (n), Molar refraction (R_m), Molar polarizability (α_m) and electronic polarizability (α_e) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	150
5.54	Refractive index (n), Molar refraction (R_m), Molar polarizability (α_m) and electronic polarizability (α_e) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3\ NPs]_x$ glass system	150
5.55	Refractive index (n), Molar refraction (R_m), Molar polarizability (α_m) and electronic polarizability (α_e) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	150
5.56	Refractive index (n), Molar refraction (R_m), Molar polarizability (α_m) and electronic polarizability (α_e) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	151
5.57	Energy band gap $Eopt$ (eV), index of refraction (n), refractive index based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (n)$ (\AA^3) and energy band gap based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (Eopt)$ (\AA^3) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	156
5.58	Energy band gap $Eopt$ (eV), index of refraction (n), refractive index based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (n)$ (\AA^3) and energy band gap based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (Eopt)$ (\AA^3) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3\ NPs]_x$ glass system	157
5.59	Energy band gap $Eopt$ (eV), index of refraction (n), refractive index based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (n)$ (\AA^3) and energy band gap based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (Eopt)$ (\AA^3) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	157

5.60	Energy band gap E_{opt} (eV), index of refraction (n), refractive index based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (n)$ (\AA^3) and energy band gap based oxide ion polarizability $\alpha_{02} - (E_{opt})$ (\AA^3) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99}(Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y}(Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	157
5.61	Optical basicity of n th oxide $Anthn = 1,2,3$, theoretical optical basicity Ath , optical basicity based refractive index (Λn), optical basicity based energy bandgap (Λg) and metallization criterion (M) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}[Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	161
5.62	Optical basicity of n th oxide $Anthn = 1,2,3$, theoretical optical basicity Ath , optical basicity based refractive index (Λn), optical basicity based energy bandgap (Λg) and metallization criterion (M) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}[Sm_2O_3NPs]_x$ glass system	161
5.63	Optical basicity of n th oxide $Anthn = 1,2,3$, theoretical optical basicity Ath , optical basicity based refractive index (Λn), optical basicity based energy bandgap (Λg) and metallization criterion (M) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99}(Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y}(Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	162
5.64	Optical basicity of n th oxide $Anthn = 1,2,3$, theoretical optical basicity Ath , optical basicity based refractive index (Λn), optical basicity based energy bandgap (Λg) and metallization criterion (M) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99}(Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y}(Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	162
5.65	The Judd-Offelt intensity parameters and spectroscopic quality factor for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}[Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	170
5.66	The Judd-Offelt intensity parameters and spectroscopic quality factor for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}[Sm_2O_3NPs]_x$ glass system	170
5.67	The Judd-Offelt intensity parameters and spectroscopic quality factor for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99}(Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y}(Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	171
5.68	The Judd-Offelt intensity parameters and spectroscopic quality factor for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99}(Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y}(Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	171
5.69	Comparison between the experimental and measured line strength, root mean square deviation (δ_{rms}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}[Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	172
5.70	Comparison between the experimental and measured line strength, root mean square deviation (δ_{rms}) for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7}(ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}[Sm_2O_3NPs]_x$ glass system	172

5.71	Comparison between the experimental and measured line strength, root mean square deviation (δ_{rms}) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	173
5.72	Comparison between the experimental and measured line strength, root mean square deviation (δ_{rms}) for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 NPs)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	173
5.73	Calculated transition probabilities [AMD , AED], branching ratio (βR), gain band width ($\Delta\lambda_{eff} \times \sigma_p$), and optical gain ($\sigma_p \times \tau$) in $^4G_5/2$ transition level of Sm^{3+} ions for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	175
5.74	Calculated transition probabilities [AMD , AED], branching ratio (βR), gain bandwidth ($\Delta\lambda_{eff} \times \sigma_p$), and optical gain ($\sigma_p \times \tau$) in $^4G_5/2$ transition level of Sm^{3+} ions for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x} [Sm_2O_3 NPs]_x$ glass system	176
5.75	Calculated transition probabilities [AMD , AED], branching ratio (βR), gain bandwidth ($\Delta\lambda_{eff} \times \sigma_p$), and optical gain ($\sigma_p \times \tau$) in $^4G_5/2$ transition level of Sm^{3+} ions for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	177
5.76	Calculated transition probabilities [AMD , AED], branching ratio (βR), gain bandwidth ($\Delta\lambda_{eff} \times \sigma_p$), and optical gain ($\sigma_p \times \tau$) in $^4G_5/2$ transition level of Sm^{3+} ions for [$\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 NPs)_{0.01}\}_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	178

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page	
3.1	Enthalpy Vs Temperature describing glass-forming liquid	23
3.2	Model structure for (a) TeO ₄ and (b) TeO ₃ units (Cornejo, 2016)	25
3.3	Structural units' classification in tellurite glass system	25
3.4	The mechanism of transformation of TeO ₄ to TeO ₃	26
3.5	Activator and sensitizing ions of luminescence materials (showing emission and excitation of energy) (Ronda, 2008)	35
3.6	Energy transfer process by Coulomb interaction (i) using exchange interaction (ii) between two ions (Ronda, 2008)	37
3.7	Diagram showing the elastic constants of (a) Young's modulus; (b) Shear modulus and (c) Bulk modulus (El-Mallawany, 2002)	37
4.1	Flow chart process of glass preparation of samarium, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide doped Zinc Tellurite glass system	53
4.2	Characterizations and related properties of samarium, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide doped Zinc Tellurite glass system	53
5.1	XRD spectra for [(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3}] _{1-x} [Sm ₂ O ₃] _x glass system	59
5.2	XRD spectra for [(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3}] _{1-x} [Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs] _x glass system	59
5.3	XRD spectra for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y glass system	60
5.4	XRD spectra for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y glass system	60
5.5	FTIR spectra for [(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3}] _{1-x} [Sm ₂ O ₃] _x glass system	61
5.6	FTIR spectra for [(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3}] _{1-x} [Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs] _x glass system	62
5.7	FTIR spectra for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y glass system	62
5.8	FTIR spectra for [{(TeO ₂) _{0.7} (ZnO) _{0.3} } _{0.99} (Sm ₂ O ₃ NPs) _{0.01}] _{1-y} (Ag ₂ O) _y glass system	63

5.9	FTIR deconvoluted spectra for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system at $x = 0.03$ molar fraction	63
5.10	FTIR deconvoluted spectra for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system at $x = 0.03$ molar fraction	64
5.11	FTIR deconvoluted spectra for $[\{(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system at $y = 0.03$ molar fraction	64
5.12	FTIR deconvoluted spectra for $[\{(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system at $y = 0.03$ molar fraction	65
5.13	TEM image for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system at $x = 0.03$ molar fraction	69
5.14	Variation of density and molar volume for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	71
5.15	Variation of density and molar volume for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	71
5.16	Variation of density and molar volume for $[\{(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	72
5.17	Variation of density and molar volume for $[\{(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	72
5.18	Variation of oxygen packing density and oxygen molar volume for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	74
5.19	Variation of oxygen packing density and oxygen molar volume for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	74
5.20	Variation of oxygen packing density and oxygen molar volume for $[\{(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	75
5.21	Variation of oxygen packing density and oxygen molar volume for $[\{(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	75
5.22	Variation of ionic concentration and inter ionic distance for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	76
5.23	Variation of ionic concentration and inter ionic distance for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	77
5.24	Variation of ionic concentration and interionic distance for $[\{(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	77

5.25	Variation of ionic concentration and interionic distance for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	78
5.26	Variation of longitudinal and shear velocities with various concentrations of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	79
5.27	Variation of longitudinal and shear velocities with various concentrations of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	80
5.28	Variation of longitudinal (<i>VL</i>) and shear velocity (<i>VS</i>) for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	80
5.29	Variation of longitudinal (<i>VL</i>) and shear velocity (<i>VS</i>) for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	81
5.30	Variation of elastic moduli with various concentration of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	83
5.31	Variation of elastic moduli with various concentration of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	84
5.32	Variation of elastic moduli in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	84
5.33	Variation of elastic moduli in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	85
5.34	Variation of Poisson's ratio and fugacity with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	87
5.35	Variation of Poisson's ratio and fugacity with the concentration of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	87
5.36	Variation of poisson's ratio and fugacity in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	88
5.37	Variation of poisson's ratio and fugacity in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	88
5.38	Variation of softening temperature and Debye temperature with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	91
5.39	Variation of softening temperature and Debye temperature with the concentration of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	91

5.40	Variation of softening temperature and Debye temperature in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	92
5.41	Variation of softening temperature and Debye temperature in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	92
5.42	Variation of acoustic impedance and thermal expansion coefficient with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	94
5.43	Variation of acoustic impedance and thermal expansion coefficient with the concentration of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	95
5.44	Variation of acoustic impedance and thermal expansion coefficient in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	95
5.45	Variation of acoustic impedance and thermal expansion coefficient in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	96
5.46	Variation of microhardness for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]/[\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	98
5.47	Variation of microhardness for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Ag}_2\text{O} (\text{Sm})/\text{Ag}_2\text{O} (\text{Sm NPs})_x]$ glass system	99
5.48	Variation of fractal bond connectivity for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]/[\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	100
5.49	Variation of fractal bond connectivity for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Ag}_2\text{O} (\text{Sm})/\text{Ag}_2\text{O} (\text{Sm NPs})_x]$ glass system	100
5.50	Variation of Makishima-Mackenzie packing density and dissociation energy with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	103
5.51	Variation of Makishima-Mackenzie packing density and dissociation energy with the concentration of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	103
5.52	Variation of Makishima-Mackenzie packing density and dissociation energy in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	104
5.53	Variation of Makishima-Mackenzie packing density and dissociation energy in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	104

5.54	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie elastic moduli with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	106
5.55	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie elastic moduli with the concentration of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	106
5.56	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie elastic moduli in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	107
5.57	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie elastic moduli in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	107
5.58	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie Poisson's ratio with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	108
5.59	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie Poisson's ratio with the concentration of $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}$ for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	108
5.60	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie Poisson's ratio in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	109
5.61	Variation of Makishima and Mackenzie Poisson's ratio in $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	109
5.62	Variation of Rocherulle packing density for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	111
5.63	Variation of Rocherulle packing density for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	112
5.64	Variation of Rocherulle packing density for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	112
5.65	Variation of Rocherulle packing density for $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	113
5.66	Variation of Rocherulle elastic moduli with concentration of $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3]_x$ glass system	114
5.67	Variation of Rocherulle elastic moduli with concentration of $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{1-x} [\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3\text{NPs}]_x$ glass system	114
5.68	Variation of Rocherulle elastic moduli with the concentration of $[(\text{TeO}_2)_{0.7} (\text{ZnO})_{0.3}]_{0.99} (\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (\text{Ag}_2\text{O})_y$ glass system	115

5.69	Variation of Rocherulle elastic moduli with concentration of $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	115
5.70	Variation of Rocherulle Poisson's ratio with concentration of $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	116
5.71	Variation of Rocherulle Poisson's ratio with concentration of $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	117
5.72	Variation of Rocherulle Poisson's ratio with the concentration of $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	117
5.73	Variation of Rocherulle Poisson's ratio with the concentration of $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	118
5.74	Variation of Bond compression model elastic moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	121
5.75	Variation of Bond compression model elastic moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	122
5.76	Variation of Bond compression model elastic moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	122
5.77	Variation of Bond compression model elastic moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	123
5.78	Variation of K_{bc}/K_e ratio and atomic ring size l for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	124
5.79	Variation of K_{bc}/K_e ratio and atomic ring size l for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	125
5.80	Variation of K_{bc}/K_e ratio and atomic ring size l for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	125
5.81	Variation of K_{bc}/K_e ratio and atomic ring size l for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	126
5.82	Variation of Poisson's ratio with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 , Sm_2O_3 NPs, and $Ag_2O(Sm)$, $Ag_2O(Sm \text{ NPs})$ glass system	127
5.83	Variation of elastic moduli from Ring deformation model for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	129
5.84	Variation of elastic moduli from Ring deformation model for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	130

5.85	Variation of elastic moduli from Ring deformation model for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	130
5.86	Variation of elastic moduli from Ring deformation model for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	131
5.87	Variation of Poisson's ratio from Ring deformation model with the concentration of Sm_2O_3 and Sm_2O_3 NPs glass system	132
5.88	Variation of Poisson's ratio from Ring deformation model with the concentration of $Ag_2O(Sm)$ and Ag_2O (Sm NPs) glass system	132
5.89	Correlation of the experimental Young modulus with theoretical Young moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	133
5.90	Correlation of the experimental Bulk modulus with theoretical Bulk moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	133
5.91	Correlation of the experimental Shear modulus with theoretical Shear moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	134
5.92	Correlation of the experimental Young modulus with theoretical Young moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3NPs]_x$ glass system	135
5.93	Correlation of the experimental bulk modulus with theoretical bulk moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3NPs]_x$ glass system	135
5.94	Correlation of the experimental shear modulus with theoretical shear moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3NPs]_x$ glass system	136
5.95	Correlation of the experimental Young modulus with theoretical Young moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	136
5.96	Correlation of the experimental bulk modulus with theoretical bulk moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	137
5.97	Correlation of the experimental shear modulus with theoretical shear moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	137
5.98	Correlation of the experimental Young modulus with theoretical Young moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3\ NPs)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	138

5.99	Correlation of the experimental bulk modulus with theoretical bulk moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	138
5.101	Correlation of the experimental shear modulus with theoretical shear moduli for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	139
5.102	Optical absorption spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	140
5.103	Optical absorption spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	140
5.104	Optical absorption spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	141
5.105	Optical absorption spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	141
5.106	Tauc's plot to obtain band gap energy for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	142
5.107	Tauc's plot to obtain band gap energy for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	143
5.108	Tauc's plot to obtain bandgap energy for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	143
5.109	Tauc's plot to obtain bandgap energy for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	144
5.110	Variation of energy band gap for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 / Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	145
5.111	Variation of energy band gap for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 / Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	146
5.112	$\ln\alpha$ against $h\omega$ for the determination of Urbach energy in $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	146
5.113	$\ln\alpha$ against $h\omega$ for the determination of Urbach energy in $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	147
5.114	$\ln\alpha$ against $h\omega$ for the determination of Urbach energy in $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	147
5.115	$\ln\alpha$ against $h\omega$ for the determination of Urbach energy in $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	148

5.116	Variation of Urbach energy for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3/Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	149
5.117	Variation of Urbach energy for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3/Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	149
5.118	Variation of refractive index and electronic polarizability for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	152
5.119	Variation of refractive index and electronic polarizability for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	152
5.120	Variation of refractive index and electronic polarizability for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	153
5.121	Variation of refractive index and electronic polarizability for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	153
5.122	Variation of molar polarizability and molar refraction for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	154
5.123	Variation of molar polarizability and molar refraction for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	155
5.124	Variation of molar polarizability and molar refraction for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	155
5.125	Variation of molar polarizability and molar refraction for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	156
5.126	Band gap energy and refractive index-based oxide ion polarizabilities for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	159
5.127	Band gap energy and refractive index-based oxide ion polarizabilities for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	159
5.128	Band gap energy and refractive index-based oxide ion polarizabilities for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	160
5.129	Band gap energy and refractive index-based oxide ion polarizabilities for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$ glass system	160
5.130	Refractive index and energy band gap-based optical basicity for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	163
5.131	Refractive index and energy band gap-based optical basicity for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system	164

5.132	Refractive index and energy band gap-based optical basicity for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	164
5.133	Refractive index and energy band gap-based optical basicity for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system.	165
5.134	Emission spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system at 404 nm excitation wavelength	166
5.135	Emission spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs}]_x$ glass system at 404 nm excitation wavelength	167
5.136	Emission spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system at 404 nm excitation wavelength	167
5.137	Emission spectra for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3 \text{ NPs})_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system at 404 nm excitation wavelength	168
5.138	Energy level diagram describing the absorption and emission transitions for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{1-x}] [Sm_2O_3]_x$ glass system	169
5.139	Energy level diagram describing the absorption and emission transitions for $[\{(TeO_2)_{0.7} (ZnO)_{0.3}\}_{0.99} (Sm_2O_3)_{0.01}]_{1-y} (Ag_2O)_y$, glass system	169

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TeO_2	Tellurium oxide
ZnO	Zinc oxide
Sm_2O_3	Samarium (III) oxide
Sm_2O_3 NPs	Samarium oxide nanoparticles
Ag_2O	Silver oxide
BOs	Bridging oxygens
NBOs	Non-bridging oxygens
XRD	X-ray diffraction
FTIR	Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy
TEM	Transmission electron microscopy
tbp	Trigonal bipyramids
tp	Trigonal pyramids
OPD	Oxygen packing density
V_o	Oxygen molar volume
ρ	Density
R_i	Inter-ionic distance
N	Ionic concentration
V_m	Molar volume
v_L	Longitudinal velocity
v_s	Shear velocity
L	Longitudinal modulus
E	Young modulus
K	Bulk modulus

G	Shear modulus
σ	Poisson's ratio
v_m	Mean ultrasonic velocity
θ_D	Debye temperature
T_s	Softening temperature
H	Microhardness
f_g	Fugacity
d	Fractal bond connectivity
Z	Acoustic impedance
V_t	Packing density
G_t	Dissociation energy
n_b	Number of bonds per unit volume
\bar{n}_c	Average cross-link density
l	Atomic ring size
X_c	Peak position
α	Absorption coefficient
E_{opt}	Optical band gap energy
ΔE	Urbach energy
n	Refractive index
R_m	Molar refraction
α_m	Molar electronic polarizability
α_e	Electronic Polarizability
M	Metallization criterion
ϵ	Dielectric constant

$\alpha_{O^{2-}}$	Oxide ion polarizability
Λ	Optical basicity
λ	Wavelength
$\hbar\nu$	Photon energy
Ω	Judd Offelt parameters
f_{exp}	Experimental oscillator strength
Δ_{rms}	Root mean square deviation
β_R	Branching ratio
τ	Lifetime
F	Average Stretching Force Constant
A_{MD}	Magnetic dipole radiative transition probability
A_{ED}	Electric dipole radiative transition probability
$\Delta\lambda_{eff} \times \sigma_p$	Gain band width
$\sigma_p \times \tau$	Optical gain

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The chapter reveals the background of the research which consists of the simple history of glass materials, definition of glass materials and the chemical components that made up the glass. The important element of this study such as problem statement, scope of the study, research objective, hypothesis as well as outline of thesis are also included in this chapter respectively.

1.1 History of glass

Glass materials play an important role in the life of every human being. Many things in the world today are originated or manufactured from different types of glass materials such as the normal window glasses in our homes, spectacles, electric bulbs and communication cables. The existence of glass material in our daily life is so common, especially the use of spectacles among our general populace has increased drastically that at a certain level, some individuals will hardly read or write without the use of glasses. Roman empire is the regular old period of glass making history, whereby people were able to make glasses of different colors at that time not forgetting the popular technique of glass blowing. The method of making colored glass, for example, involves incorporation of a golden component into the glass, is considered to be the family secret by which glassmakers are transferred from generation to generation (Shelby, 2005).

1.1.1 Definition of glass

Glass materials are defined as a solid which is found through the rapid cooling of liquid and takes the nature of amorphous which are revealed by the X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD) (Rao, 2002). In the meantime, Doremus (1973) further said glass is a substance that is formed by cooling normal liquid matter and that it becomes either more or less rigid as its viscosity increases. The most commonly used techniques to synthesized glassy materials remain the conventional melt quenching technique where the molten liquid will be cooled rapidly to have the required glassy state. Furthermore, the terms amorphous and glassy can be used to describe the glass material, where glass is typically arranged regularly in a short-range order.

1.1.2 Chemical compounds in zinc tellurite glass doped with samarium oxide, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide

Tellurium oxide-based glasses (TeO_2) are of scientific and technological concern on the justification of their exceptional properties such as high refractive indices, low melting point, high dielectric constant, slow crystallization rate and good infrared transmission

(Hasnimulyati et al., 2016). As reported in many works of literature, pure TeO₂ alone cannot form glassy material under normal condition and therefore it requires the addition of various oxides to enhance its glass-forming ability (Manikandan et al., 2012). When tellurite is combined with zinc, zinc tellurite glasses are formed which are studied intensively for their everyday applications and enhancement of glass properties. Hence the presence of zinc oxide (ZnO) in the glass network produces the following: Low rates of crystallization, decreases the melting point because it serve as a glass modifier and former at the same time, increases the glass-forming ability, decreases the optical energy band gap and increase the refractive index of the glass system (Hajer et al., 2014). Zinc oxide is used in the glass network in the form of either glass modifier, glass former or both of them. Currently, inorganic glasses are doped with rare-earth ions to enhance the physical and optical properties of the glass host because of their exceptional spectroscopic properties arising from their optical transitions in the 4f shells (Nandi et al., 2009).

Among the rare earth ions (RE), samarium ion (Sm³⁺) received much attention from lots of researchers as a result of its spectroscopic applications (Tanko et al., 2016a). Samarium oxide is one of the rare earth families that are used as a dopant to create the lasing character of tellurium oxide-based glasses TeO₂ (Eraiah, 2014). Also, the certain composition of Sm₂O₃ has been suggested for use in lasers and photonics devices (Ravi et al., 2012). Generally, it is expected that glasses doped with Sm³⁺ ions are classified as a possible candidate for lasers and photonics application due to their spectroscopic properties (Selvaraju and Marimuthu, 2013). The addition of silver oxide (Ag₂O) in the glass network plays a vital role of a modifier by enhancing most of the glass properties because silver oxide acts as a suitable and convenient element in the preparation of glassy materials (Nazrin et al., 2019). Silver oxide is among the oxides that enhance and improve the optical properties of glassy materials. Silver oxide can modify the zinc tellurite glass network by transforming the structural units of the tellurite network from (TeO₄) structural units to (TeO₃) structural units respectively (Nazrin et al., 2019). In the present study, undoped zinc tellurite glass system is not considered because it is regarded as immaterial when it comes to the glass applications since the laser application of the synthesized glass system is as a result of the doping with rare earth samarium oxide (Sm₂O₃).

1.2 Problem statement

The search for improving the applications of optical properties of glass materials in several fields and the enhancement of the materials cannot be overemphasized. This is considered as a non-stop challenge for researchers around the world. A lot of researches is conducted on the glass of various compositions to obtain the most suitable glasses for various applications. Tellurite glasses possess unique and exceptional properties which draw the attention of most researchers around the world. Some of these properties include good thermal stability, exceptional chemical durability, high refractive indices and low melting point (Yousef, 2013). Tellurium oxide-based glasses have the potentials to be applied as a new laser host and hence are now under consideration in various applications. Recently, there are few data to support the advancement of optical applications of rare earth oxide and rare earth nanoparticles based glasses. Additionally,

investigation has shown that there is still lack of research that presented on samarium, samarium nanoparticles incorporated silver oxide doped with zinc tellurite glass system. The nanoparticles are known as the promising materials to improve the optical properties of tellurite-based glass. Therefore, the investigations on samarium, samarium nanoparticles, and silver oxide doped zinc tellurite-based glass system are still needed since there are limited data to support their future optical applications. Hence, this study was conducted in order to investigate the structural, elastic and optical properties of the glass system. Furthermore, the influences of samarium, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide addition to the properties of the prepared glasses were also studied as well as its possible application as a laser-active medium.

1.3 Scope and limitations of the study

The objectives of this study are achieved by the following scope of the study stated below;

1. The scope of the present work is restricted to physical and structural properties which include molar volume, density, Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD) and Fourier Transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR).
2. linear optical properties which include: The optical absorption spectra, bandgap energy, Urbach energy, index of refraction. Elastic properties which include the longitudinal and shear ultrasonic velocity, elastic moduli, Poisson's ratio, microhardness, Softening and Debye temperature.
3. The four theoretical models of Makishima and Mackenzie, Rocherulle model, Bond compression model and Ring deformation model are studied and compared with the experimental results.
4. The Judd-Ofelt parameters of the synthesized glasses are analysed and used to calculate the radiative parameters of the studied glass samples.

1.4 Objective of the study

The study was conducted based on four clear and precise objectives which include the following:

1. To investigate the effect of samarium, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide on the physical and structural properties of zinc tellurite glass system.
2. To study the influence of samarium, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide on the experimental elastic and linear optical properties of the synthesized glass samples.
3. To verify the area of validity of the four theoretical elastic models on the zinc tellurite glass system and use it to compare with the experimental values.

4. To study the Judd-Offelt parameters of the synthesized glasses and use it to calculate the radiative parameters of the studied glass samples.

1.5 Hypothesis

The following hypothesis is anticipated based on the research objectives:

1. The addition of Sm_2O_3 , Sm_2O_3 NPs and Ag_2O into the zinc tellurite glass system will bring about changes mostly in the physical and structural properties of the synthesized glasses by producing glasses with amorphous nature that can be verified through XRD and the breaking of glass structure that form TeO_4 structural unit which can be detected using FTIR. The samarium nanoparticles are expected to be present in the glass system following the glass forming process in the TEM photo. The density values can be increased by incorporating heavier dopant in the glass matrix.
2. It is projected that the linear optical and elastic properties of zinc tellurite glass doped with samarium oxide, samarium nanoparticles and silver oxide will experience a lot of modifications. This will happen for elastic properties as a result of the increase in the strength and rigidity of the studied glasses. This is anticipated because rare-earth ions encourage the formation of bridging oxygen's (BOs) and hence the rigidity of the glass samples increases as well. For the optical properties of the glass system, it is expected that the bandgap energy will decrease while the refractive index, molar refraction and electronic polarisabilities are expected to increase with an increase in dopants due to the 4f transitions of rare-earth ions in the glass network.
3. The theoretical and experimental elastic moduli results are expected to be very close to one another in ranges if the theoretical elastic models remain valid with the multi-component glass system.
4. It is anticipated that the analysis of Judd-Offelt parameters in the four glass series will explore the possible application of the synthesized glasses. This is expected based on the following parameters: spectroscopic quality factor, radiative transition probabilities, branching ratio, gain bandwidth and the optical gain of the studied glasses.

1.6 Thesis outline

The arrangement of this thesis is outlined in the following approach:

Chapter 1 consist of the history of glass, a brief definition of glass material by different authors, the chemical constituent selected and used in synthesizing the glass samples. The chapter also consists of the following: scope of the study, the problem statement, objective of the study, the hypothesis and the likely result of the research work.

Chapter 2 of the present research work provides information in respect of the previous research that is connected to the study. The review of related literature comprises of brief information about the zinc tellurite doped glasses, glasses doped with rare earth oxide, silver oxide doped zinc tellurite glasses, physical and structural properties, elastic properties and linear optical properties in the four-glass series under study.

Chapter 3 discuss the existing theory as well as models and equations that are used in the research work. The derivation of various equations is also presented in the chapter.

Chapter 4 provides procedures and method used in synthesizing the sample glasses using conventional melt quenching technique. The chapter went further to highlights some basics of characterization techniques employed in the study.

Chapter 5 of this thesis analysed and discussed the trends and various results for the four-glass series which contain the structural and physical analysis of the four-glass series, the linear optical properties of the four glass samples, experimental and theoretical elastic properties and the Judd-Offelt theory for the four-glass series under study.

Chapter 6 provides a summary concerning the important findings of the research work as well as recommendations for future studies.

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