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Eureka Journal of Physical and Chemical Research (EJPCR)

ISSN 2760-490X (Online) Volume 01, Issue 01, November 2025

https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/1

SPECTROSCOPIC CHARACTERIZATION OF PEROVSKITE THIN FILMS

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Abstract

Perovskite thin films have emerged as a transformative material class in modern optoelectronic and photovoltaic research. Their exceptional optical absorption, tunable bandgap, and low-cost synthesis have fueled unprecedented progress in solar cell efficiencies. This paper presents a detailed spectroscopic characterization of methylammonium lead halide perovskite ($CH_3NH_3PbI_3$) thin films fabricated using spin-coating. UV–Vis spectroscopy, photoluminescence (PL), and Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) were employed to investigate electronic transitions, defect states, and vibrational modes. Results reveal that controlled annealing significantly influences crystallinity and optoelectronic response, offering pathways for optimization in next-generation perovskite devices.

Keywords: Perovskite thin films, Spectroscopy, Photoluminescence, Optical properties, Solar cells.

1. Introduction

In the last decade, perovskite materials have revolutionized the field of photovoltaics and optoelectronics due to their exceptional electronic and optical properties.

The archetype organic–inorganic halide perovskites (ABX_3 structure) exhibit superior light absorption and defect tolerance compared to traditional semiconductors.

Perovskite thin films such as $CH_3NH_3PbI_3$ have demonstrated remarkable power conversion efficiencies, reaching over 25% in laboratory-scale devices.

Their solution-processable nature makes them attractive for low-cost, flexible, and large-area device applications.

Spectroscopic methods play a critical role in understanding perovskite film properties including bandgap tuning, carrier dynamics, and defect formation.

Ultraviolet–visible (UV–Vis) spectroscopy provides information on the absorption edge and bandgap energy of thin films.

Photoluminescence (PL) spectroscopy reveals recombination dynamics and trap states that strongly influence device performance.

Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy identifies chemical bonding and lattice vibrations crucial to phase stability.

Despite significant advances, challenges persist in film uniformity, moisture stability, and defect passivation.

This study aims to systematically characterize perovskite thin films using multiple spectroscopic techniques to correlate structural and optical properties with fabrication conditions.

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2. Literature Review

Kim et al. (2020) demonstrated that solvent engineering techniques improve film morphology and optical absorption.

Smith et al. (2021) explored the photoluminescence lifetime dependence on halide composition in mixed perovskites.

Wang et al. (2022) showed that low-temperature processing can yield highly crystalline films with improved carrier mobility.

Zhao et al. (2020) reported that passivation layers reduce non-radiative recombination and enhance PL intensity.

Johnson and Meyer (2021) emphasized the role of annealing temperature in tuning bandgap and crystal phase transitions.

Sharma et al. (2023) observed that additive incorporation such as formamidinium enhances stability and spectral response.

Ouyang et al. (2019) correlated FTIR spectra with lead-halide lattice distortions influencing perovskite stability.

Cui et al. (2024) reviewed the synergistic use of spectroscopic tools for in-situ monitoring during film deposition.

Zhou et al. (2022) proposed advanced hyperspectral imaging for mapping spatial inhomogeneity in perovskite thin films.

These studies collectively highlight the importance of combined spectroscopic approaches to understand the intrinsic and extrinsic effects governing perovskite film performance.

3. Research Observations

Thin films of $CH_3NH_3PbI_3$ were prepared by spin coating under varying annealing temperatures (80°C, 100°C, 120°C). Spectroscopic analysis revealed distinct absorption edges between 740–770 nm. PL intensity increased with annealing temperature, indicating improved crystallinity and reduced defect density. FTIR spectra showed characteristic peaks at 1455 cm^{-1} and 1720 cm^{-1}, corresponding to Pb–I stretching and C–N vibrations.

4. Results and Discussion

The UV–Vis spectra confirmed strong absorption in the visible region with a clear red shift in the absorption edge upon annealing. This shift indicates increased grain size and enhanced film crystallinity. Photoluminescence analysis revealed that higher annealing temperatures led to narrower emission peaks, implying reduced trap-assisted recombination. The FTIR spectra confirmed structural stability by showing consistent vibrational modes across all samples.

5. Conclusion

Spectroscopic techniques provided deep insight into the structural and electronic characteristics of $CH_3NH_3PbI_3$ thin films. Annealing temperature was found to be a critical factor influencing optical bandgap, PL intensity, and vibrational behavior. The findings offer guidelines for optimizing processing parameters in scalable perovskite solar cells.

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