Data Article

Optical modelling data for room temperature optical properties of organic–inorganic lead halide perovskites

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Abstract

The optical properties of perovskites at ambient temperatures are important both to the design of optimised solar cells as well as in other areas such as the refinement of electronic band structure calculations. Limited previous information on the optical modelling has been published. The experimental fitting parameters for optical constants of CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$-xCl$_x$ and CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ perovskite films are reported at 297 K as determined by detailed analysis of reflectance and transmittance data. The data in this study is related to the research article “Room temperature optical properties of organic–inorganic lead halide perovskites” in Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells [1].

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Specifications table

| Subject area       | Physics                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| More specific subject area | Photovoltaics              |
| Type of data       | Table, figure            |
| How data was acquired | J.A. Woollam M-2000 Spectroscopic Ellipsometer; Varian Cary UV–vis–NIR spectrophotometer |
| Data format        | Analysed                 |
| Experimental factors | Ellipsometry data and T were obtained for borosilicate glass, TiO2 on glass and TiO2 coated glass in the 0.8–3 eV. |
| Experimental features | WVASE® is used to model the optical properties of the individual borosilicate glass and TiO2 layer based on the ellipsometry and transmission data for these layers. The parameters are then fed into the model for the multi-layer stack to develop the optical model for the perovskite. |
| Data source location | School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia |
| Data accessibility | Data is with this article |

Value of the data

- The fabrication processes of each sample were explained.
- The surface morphology of each individual layer was characterised.
- The data provides optical analysis of all layers in the perovskite sample under study ensuring the accuracy of the modelling.
- Parameters for optical model of each material were presented.

1. Data, experimental design, materials and methods

The fabrication details of CH3NH3PbI3 thin film at room temperature are presented with surface morphology characterised by Atomic Force Microscopy. The optical properties of each individual layer were investigated by variable angle spectroscopic ellipsometry and spectrophotometry. In order to determine the optical properties of CH3NH3PbI3 thin film, the optical properties from any substrate components were studied first. Different optical models were built to deduce the optical parameters of each layer.

2. Material preparation

The CH3NH3PbI3 film was deposited onto a borosilicate glass substrate coated with 45 nm thick compact TiO2 layer using a relatively standard sequential solution processing technique as previously reported [2].

3. Cleaning of borosilicate glass substrate

Borosilicate glass substrates (2.5 × 2.5 mm²) were cleaned in 2% Hallmanex detergent, acetone and Isopropanol in ultrasonic bath for 10 min in each cleaning agent followed by oxygen plasma treatment for 10 min.

4. TiO2 compact layer deposition

Compact TiO2 layer was deposited by spin-coating a mildly acidic solution of titanium isopropoxide in ethanol at 2500 rpm for 60 s on glass followed by anneal at 500 °C for 30 min.
5. Perovskite film fabrication

The CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ film was fabricated using sequential solution processing technique as previously reported [2] on borosilicate glass substrate coated with 45 nm compact TiO$_2$ layer. Methylammonium iodide (MAI) was synthesised following a previously reported method [3] by reacting 24 mL of 0.20 mol methylamine (33 wt% in absolute ethanol, Aldrich), 10 mL of 0.04 mol hydroiodic acid (57 wt % in water, Aldrich) and 100 mL ethanol in a 250 mL round bottom flask at 0 °C for 2 h with stirring. After the reaction, the precipitate was recovered by a vacuum evaporator at 60 °C and then dissolved in ethanol followed by sedimentation in diethyl ether until the white MAI powder appears. The final product was collected and dried at 60 °C in an oven and dehydrated in a vacuum chamber. PbI$_2$ was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and dissolved as received in N, N-dimethylformamidthe (DMF) with a concentration of 462 mg/ml under stirring at 70 °C. Perovskite was deposited by spin-coating PbI$_2$ solution at 2000 rpm for 60 s, followed by annealing at 70 °C for 30 min after cooling down, the film was dipped into MAI solution dissolved in 2-propanol (10 mg/ml) for 20 s and then annealed at 100 °C for 10 min.

6. Surface roughness characterisation

The surface morphology was characterised by Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM). The top view of glass, TiO$_2$ compact layer and CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ thin film AFM images are shown in Fig. 1. The surface roughness of glass and TiO$_2$ compact layer is negligible compared with CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ thin film. The median surface roughness of CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ thin film is 50 nm and has been considered in the optical modelling, included as error bars representing measurement uncertainty.

Fig. 1. Atomic Force Microscopy top view images of (a) glass substrate; (b) TiO$_2$; (c) CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ thin film.
7. Optical measurement and modelling

Ellipsometry was carried out using a J.A. Woollam M-2000 Spectroscopic Ellipsometer in the wavelength range of 370–1690 nm. All ellipsometry data in this study are collected from three incident angles 45°, 50° and 55°. The reflection \((R)\) and transmission \((T)\) measurements were carried out using a Varian Cary UV–vis–NIR spectrophotometer at normal incidence. Ellipsometry data and \(T\) were obtained for borosilicate glass and TiO\(_2\) on glass in the 0.8–3 eV. \(R\) for the borosilicate glass and TiO\(_2\)/Glass are not required, as the ellipsometry has been carried out in reflection mode and \(T\) in the 1–4 eV range provides complementary information due to the different path length the light travels in the sample.

WVASE\(^\text{®}\) is used to model the optical properties of the individual borosilicate glass and TiO\(_2\) layer based on the ellipsometry and transmission data for these layers [4]. The parameters are then fed into the model for the multi-layer stack to develop the optical model for the perovskite.

8. Glass substrates

Cauchy model and two Gaussian dispersions (see Table 1 for parameters) were used to model the absorption of the 2.8 mm thick borosilicate glass (to be later used for the CH\(_3\)NH\(_3\)PbI\(_3\) film modelling) and the second glass substrate (to be later used for the CH\(_3\)NH\(_3\)PbI\(_3\)–xCl\(_x\) film modelling) in the transparent region and above 3 eV respectively. Fig. 2(a); (b); and (c) shows the experimental and modelled amplitude component \(\Psi\); phase difference \(\Delta\); transmission \(T\) of the borosilicate glass and the second glass substrate (except phase difference \(\Delta\) for glass not shown as it is zero for the whole wavelength range) respectively which are used to determine the real \((\varepsilon_1)\) and imaginary \((\varepsilon_2)\) parts of its dielectric constants, see Fig. 2(d). A surface SiO\(_2\) layer on the bottom of 2.8 mm thick borosilicate glass has been modelled to be 106 nm thick using optical constants from Palik [5].

9. TiO\(_2\) compact layer on glass

Tauc–Lorentz dispersion (see Table 2 for parameters) has been used to model the TiO\(_2\) thin film by combining Tauc bandedge with Lorentz broadening function [6]. The fittings and corresponding optical constants are shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 3(a); (b); and (c) shows the experimental and modelled amplitude component \(\Psi\); phase difference \(\Delta\); transmission \(T\) of the TiO\(_2\) on borosilicate glass respectively which are used to determine the real \((\varepsilon_1)\) and imaginary \((\varepsilon_2)\) parts of its dielectric constants, see Fig. 3(d). The TiO\(_2\) film thickness has been determined to be 44 nm.

10. Perovskite

The optical properties and films thicknesses of borosilicate glass and TiO\(_2\) layer were extracted and were fixed in the simulation of CH\(_3\)NH\(_3\)PbI\(_3\) perovskite properties. Two Psemi-Triangle (PSTRI) oscillators were used to describe the electronic transitions at absorption peaks, and Gaussian oscillators were used for the other regions. While for vapour-deposited CH\(_3\)NH\(_3\)PbI\(_3\)–xCl\(_x\) perovskite

| Oscillators (borosilicate glass) | \(A\) (eV\(^2\)) | \(E\) (eV) | \(B\) (eV) | Oscillators (Glass) | \(A_n\) (dimensionless) | \(B_n\) (\(\mu\)m\(^2\)) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Gaussian                        | 1.49            | 5.88     | 0.85     | Cauchy              | 1.4373                  | 0.0058              |
| Gaussian                        | 2.40            | 5.64     | 0.70     |                     |                         |                     |
film on glass by Wehrenfennig, optical properties of glass (measured and modelled in previous section) with a thickness of 1.7 mm [7] were used to model the CH3NH3PbI3 perovskite properties. The R and T were digitised from literature between 0.8–2.5 eV, and two PSTRI oscillators were able to reproduce the experimental results in this range without the use of other oscillators at higher energy. Tables 3 and 4 list the parameters used for modelling ε₂, A, E and B represent the amplitude, centre energy and broadening of each oscillator respectively. WL and WR stand for the endpoint positions relative to centre energy position, while AL and AR are the relative magnitudes of the left and right control points compared to amplitude (A).

Fig. 4 shows the experimental and modelled amplitude component ψ; phase difference Δ; transmission T of the CH3NH3PbI3 perovskite which are used to determine the optical constants as a supplementary method. The CH3NH3PbI3 perovskite film thickness has been determined to be 173 nm and 40 nm surface roughness with 89% void. The optical constants n and k deduced from this modelling are compared with other data sets in Fig. 5(a) and (b) respectively.

Table 2
Parameters for Optical Models of ε₂ for TiO2/Glass. A, E, B and E_g represent the amplitude, centre energy, broadening and bandgap of the oscillator.

| Oscillators       | A (eV^2) | E (eV) | B (eV) | E_g (eV) |
|-------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|
| Tauc–Lorentz      | 259.65   | 3.98   | 2.19   | 3.44     |

Fig. 2. Modelled (dash lines) and experimental (solid lines) (a) amplitude component ψ; (b) phase difference Δ; (c) transmission T; (d) real (ε₁) and imaginary (ε₂) parts of dielectric constants of borosilicate glass and glass substrates (except phase difference Δ for glass not shown as it is zero for the whole wavelength range).
Table 3
Parameters for Optical Models of $\varepsilon_2$ for CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ film.

| Oscillators | $A$ (eV$^2$) | $E$ (eV) | $B$ (eV) | WL (eV) | WR (eV) | AL (eV) | AL (eV) |
|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| PSTRI       | 0.65        | 1.64    | 0.02    | 0.22    | 5.12    | 0.01    | 0.82    |
| PSTRI       | 2.73        | 2.81    | 0.21    | 0.93    | 0.01    | 0.51    | 0.11    |
| Gaussian    | 0.39        | 2.48    | 0.33    |         |         |         |         |
| Gaussian    | 3.73        | 3.35    | 0.82    |         |         |         |         |
| Gaussian    | 1.57        | 4.51    | 1.65    |         |         |         |         |

Table 4
Parameters for Optical Models of $\varepsilon_2$ for CH$_3$NH$_3$Pb$_{1-x}$Cl$_x$ film.

| Oscillators | $A$ (eV$^2$) | $E$ (eV) | $B$ (eV) | WL (eV) | WR (eV) | AL (eV) | AL (eV) |
|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| PSTRI       | 0.59        | 1.66    | 0.02    | 0.04    | 4.58    | 0.44    | 0.95    |
| PSTRI       | 5.86        | 3.54    | 0.27    | 1.36    | 2.28    | 0.86    | 0.01    |

Fig. 3. Modelled (red dash lines) and experimental (red solid lines) (a) amplitude component $\Psi$; (b) phase difference $\Delta$; (c) transmission $T$; and (d) real ($\varepsilon_1$) and imaginary ($\varepsilon_2$) parts of dielectric constants of TiO$_2$ thin film on borosilicate glass substrate.
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Fig. 4. Modelled (dash lines) and experimental (solid lines) (a) amplitude component \( \Psi \); (b) phase difference \( \Delta \) and (c) Transmission \( T \) of CH\(_3\)NH\(_3\)PbI\(_3\) perovskite film on TiO\(_2\) coated borosilicate glass substrate.

Fig. 5. The modelled (a) refractive index \( n \) and (b) extinction coefficient \( k \) of CH\(_3\)NH\(_3\)PbI\(_3\) and CH\(_3\)NH\(_3\)PbI\(_3\)\(_x\)Cl\(_x\) thin films compared to results reported by Xing et al. [8] (dashed line).
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