

Article

# Spectroscopic studies on PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> glasses doped with V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

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## Abstract

The system of glass samples PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> containing different concentrations V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (ranging from 0.2 to 1.0 mol %) were prepared by a conventional melt quenching technique. The glasses were characterized by optical absorption, infrared Spectra, photon luminescence spectra and electron spin resonance studies. The Optical absorption and ESR studies indicated vanadium exist mainly in two oxidation states viz, V<sup>5+</sup>(diamagnetic) and V<sup>4+</sup>(a paramagnetic 3d<sup>1</sup> ion) in the present glass matrices. The IR spectra of the present glasses suggests the presence of vanadium ions in V<sup>4+</sup>and V<sup>5+</sup> states in the glass network. In the PL spectra with increase in the concentration V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, the intensity of the peak is observed to increase with a red shift.

## 1. Introduction

As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> glasses were identified as the low loss materials for long distance optical transmission. These glasses have exponentially high Raman scattering coefficients and found to be suitable for acting fiber Raman applications [1]. As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is the most important oxide of arsenic and is obtained by burning in air [2, 3] or by the hydrolysis of AsCl<sub>3</sub> [4]. The basic structural unit in As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> at temperatures below 800<sup>0</sup>C is the As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> pyramid. In the vapors Phase below 800<sup>0</sup>C four As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> units share (oxygen) corners to form the As<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub> molecule [5, 6]. An alternative way of viewing this molecule is as a tetrahedral As<sub>4</sub> molecule with each As-As bond replaced by an AS-O-AS bridging oxygen atoms, oxygen atoms being arranged at the vertices of the regular octahedrons. Solid As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is interesting material in that, it exists in the crystalline state as both a molecular solid and as to polymers having an infinite layer structure.

The structure of arsenolite is similar to that of diamond with each carbon atom is replaced by an As<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub> molecule, the molecules on the two sub lattices being rotated by  $\pi/2$  relative to each other [7]. As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is a strong network former with corner sharing AsO<sub>3</sub> pyramids; earlier neutron diffraction studies

indicates that normal bond lengths As-O lie between 1.72-1.81 Å and O-As-O and As-O-As bond angles lie in the range 90-103°, and 123-135° respectively [8].

Addition of PbO to these glasses makes them to be relatively moisture resistant and also lowers the rate of crystallization, since PbO, has the ability to form stable glasses due to its dual role-one as modifier, if Pb-O is ionic and the other-as glass former, if Pb-O is covalent [9, 10]. When Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions are present in the glass as network formers they impart a three-dimensional character to the glass. This fact accounts for the ability of PbO to form glasses up to 90 mol % clearly the peculiar behavior, which distinguishes lead from alkali and alkaline earth metals, depends on the electronic structure of the Pb<sup>2+</sup> ion. In fact the easily polarizable valence shell of the Pb<sup>2+</sup> ion strongly interacts with also highly polarizable O<sup>2-</sup> ion, giving rise to a rather covalent Pb-O bond [11].

Vanadium ions are very interesting ions to probe in the glass network because their outer d-electron orbital functions have rather broad radial distributions and their responses to surrounding actions are very sensitive; as a result these ions influence the physical properties of the glasses to a substantial extent.

In view of these, it is felt worthwhile to have some understanding over the spectroscopic properties of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> glasses containing another transition metal ion i.e. vanadium. V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is known to participate in the glass network with VO<sub>5</sub> pyramidal structural units. Several vanadate glasses show semiconducting behavior with the electrical conductivity of 10<sup>-3</sup> to 10<sup>-5</sup> (cm)<sup>-1</sup>, which is known to be electron hopping between V<sup>4+</sup> to V<sup>5+</sup> ions, existing in the glass network. Further, vanadium glasses are identified as the n-type semiconductors for low value of the V<sup>4+</sup> / V<sup>5+</sup> ratio. The vanadium ions may also exist in the glass network in V<sup>2+</sup> and V<sup>3+</sup> states [12].

The investigations on spectroscopic (viz., optical absorption, photoluminescence, infrared spectra and electron spin resonance) give the information on the position and oxidation states of the transition metal ions in the glass network and help to assess the suitability of these glasses for practical applications.

## 2. Experimental

V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> doped PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> glasses were prepared; using melt-quenching technique [13-15]. The content of vanadium in the glass composition is varied from 0.2 to 1.0 mol%. The details of glass compositions chosen for the present study are listed in table-1. The starting materials used for the preparation of the present glasses were analytical grade reagents (99.9 % pure) of PbO, As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. The compounds of required compositions were thoroughly mixed in an agate mortar and melted in a platinum crucible. The furnace used was a PID temperature controlled furnace. The glasses were melted at about 600 - 650 °C for an half an hour till a bubble free liquid was formed. The resultant melt was poured on a rectangular brass mould (containing smooth polished inner surface) held at room temperature. The samples were subsequently annealed at 250 °C in another furnace. The glasses were then ground and optically polished. The approximate final dimensions of the glasses used for studying the electrical and optical properties are 1 cm x 1 cm x 0.2 cm.

**Table 1. Glass compositions**

Glass Code	As <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (mol %)	Pbo (mol%)	V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (mol %)
V <sub>0</sub>	60	40.0	-
V <sub>2</sub>	60	39.8	0.2
V <sub>4</sub>	60	39.6	0.4
V <sub>6</sub>	60	39.4	0.6
V <sub>8</sub>	60	39.2	0.8
V <sub>10</sub>	60	39.0	1.0

The optical absorption spectra of the glasses were recorded using a JASCO Model V-670 Spectrophotometer in the wavelength range 400-1200 nm. The electron spin resonance spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> doped with vanadium transition metal ions were recorded at room temperature using E11Z Varian X-band ( $\nu = 9.5\text{GHz}$ ) ESR spectrometer of 100 kHz field modulation that works. Infrared transmission spectra were recorded on a Bruker IFS 66 V – IR spectrophotometer with a resolution of 0.1 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the range 400-2000 cm<sup>-1</sup> using potassium bromide pellets (300 mg) containing pulverized sample (1.5 mg). These pellets were pressed in a vacuum die at ~680 MPa. The photoluminescence spectra of glasses were recorded on Photon Technology International fluorescence spectrophotometer in UV and NIR regions with a monochromator and photomultiplier tube for detecting the luminescence response in the appropriate wavelength regions. By using Archimedes's principle, the density (d) of the glasses was determined to an accuracy of  $\pm 0.001$  by means of o-xylene (99.99% pure) as the buoyant liquid.

### 3. Results

#### Physical Properties

By means of conventional formulae and practically measured density, various physical parameters such as V<sup>5+</sup> ions concentration, Mean separation, polaron radius of the glasses have been evaluated and presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Various physical parameters of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> glasses doped with V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>**

Glass	Density d (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Avg. Mol. Weight ( <i>M</i> )	Conc. of V <sup>5+</sup> ions Ni (10 <sup>20</sup> /cm <sup>3</sup> )	Inter ionic distance r <sub>i</sub> (Å°)	Polaron radius r <sub>p</sub> (Å°)
V <sub>0</sub>	5.0742	207.98	-	-	-
V <sub>2</sub>	5.1631	207.90	2.99	2.99	2.79
V <sub>4</sub>	5.1930	207.81	6.02	6.02	2.21
V <sub>6</sub>	5.5525	207.73	9.66	9.66	1.89
V <sub>8</sub>	5.6985	207.65	13.2	13.2	1.70
V <sub>10</sub>	5.7250	207.57	16.8	16.8	1.57

## Optical absorption spectra

Fig. 1 shows the optical absorption spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses recorded at room temperature in the wavelength region 400-1200 nm.

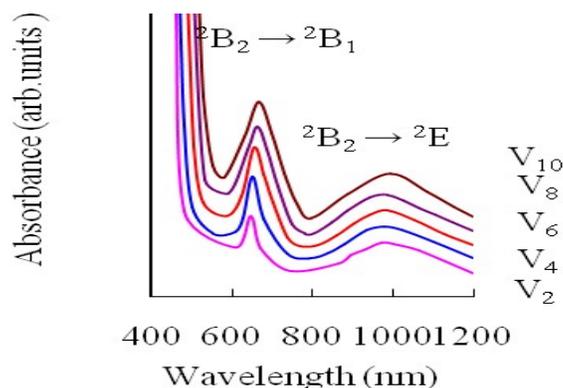


Fig. 1. Optical absorption spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses

The spectrum of vanadium free glass does not exhibit any absorption bands. The spectra of glasses doped with 0.2 mol % of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> have exhibited two broad absorption bands at 645 and 971 nm corresponding to 2B<sub>2</sub>→2B<sub>1</sub> and 2B<sub>2</sub>→2E transitions of VO<sup>2+</sup> ions [16, 17]; with increase in the concentration of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> up to 1.0 mol%, the half width and peak height of these bands are observed to increase.

From the observed absorption edges, we have evaluated the optical band gaps (E<sub>0</sub>) of these glasses by drawing Urbach plot (fig-2) between  $(\alpha \eta \omega)^{1/2}$  and  $\eta \omega$  as per the equation:

$$\alpha(\omega) \eta \omega = C (\eta \omega - E_0)^2$$

The optical band gap has been found to decrease gradually with increase in the concentration vanadium in the glass matrix. The data related to optical absorption spectra of these glasses like cut of wavelength band positions and band gap(E<sub>0</sub>) are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of the data on optical absorption spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses

Glass	Cut-off Wavelength (nm)	2B <sub>2</sub> → 2B <sub>1</sub> (nm)	2B <sub>2</sub> → 2E (nm)	Optical band gap E <sub>0</sub> (eV)
V2	458	645	971	2.43
V4	469	651	979	2.38
V6	460	656	986	2.29
V8	503	663	988	2.14
V10	515	667	993	2.04

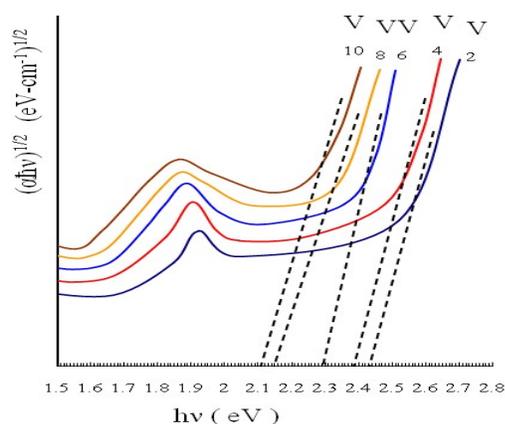


Fig. 2. Optical band gap for the PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses

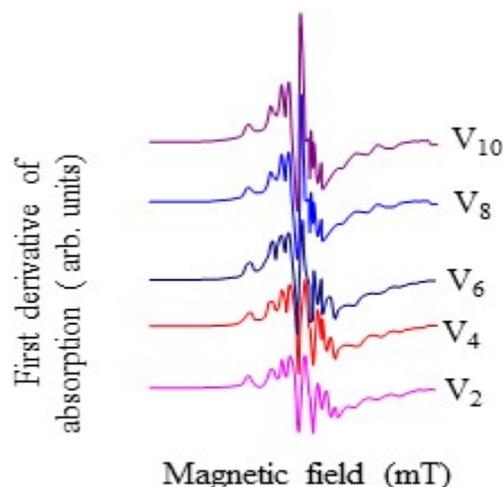


Fig. 3. ESR Spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses

### Electron spin resonance spectra

Fig. 3 shows the ESR spectra, recorded at room temperature for PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses. The spectra are observed to be complex made up of resolved hyperfine components arising from unpaired 3d<sup>1</sup> electron with <sup>51</sup>V isotope whose spin is 7/2. As the concentration of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is increased, an increasing degree of resolution and the intensity of signal is found to be maximum for the glass doped with 1.0 mol % of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. The values of  $g_{||}$  and  $g_{\perp}$  (obtained from these spectra) along with the other pertinent data are furnished in Table 4.

Table 4. Data on ESR spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses

Glass	$g_{  }$	$g_{\perp}$	$\Delta g_{  } / \Delta g_{\perp}$
V <sub>2</sub>	1.909	1.996	14.80
V <sub>4</sub>	1.911	1.995	12.50
V <sub>6</sub>	1.914	1.914	9.49
V <sub>8</sub>	1.916	1.992	8.37
V <sub>10</sub>	1.917	1.991	7.54

### Infrared transmission spectra

Fig. 4 shows infrared transmission spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses. IR spectrum of crystalline As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is expected to exhibit 4 fundamental absorption bands  $\nu_1$  (1050 cm<sup>-1</sup>),  $\nu_2$  (618 cm<sup>-1</sup>),  $\nu_3$  (795 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and  $\nu_4$  (505 cm<sup>-1</sup>) which can be attributed to symmetric stretching vibrations, symmetric bending vibrations, doubly degenerate stretching vibrations and doubly degenerate bending vibrations

respectively [18]. The spectrum of crystalline  $V_2O_5$  is expected to exhibit band at  $1020\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to the vibrations of isolated  $V=O$  groups in  $VO_5$  polyhedral, participating in the formation of layered structure, another absorption band with a meta center at  $815\text{ cm}^{-1}$  related to  $V-O-V$  chains and a weak shoulder at about  $600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to bending vibrations of  $V-O-V$  chains [19]. In the infrared spectrum of pure glasses ( $V_2O_5$  free glasses), the band due  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4$  vibrations of  $As_2O_3$  structural groups are observed at  $1050\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_1$ ),  $614\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_2$ ),  $750\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_3$ ) and  $471\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_4$ ).

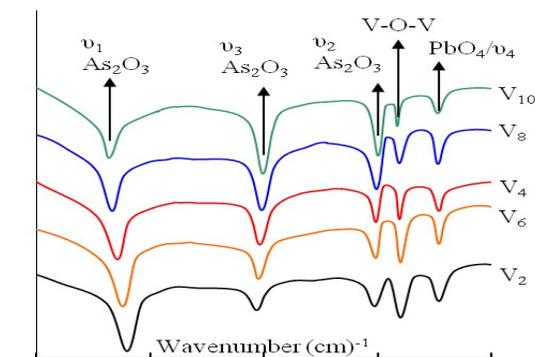


Fig. 4. IR Spectra of  $PbO-As_2O_3: V_2O_5$  glasses

With the introduction of  $V_2O_5$  into the glass network, a new band at  $815\text{ cm}^{-1}$  related to  $V-O-V$  chains is observed. In the region of  $\nu_1$  vibrations of  $As_2O_3$  structural groups band due to isolated  $V=O$  groups of  $VO_5$  structural groups is also expected. Hence the band observed at about  $1040\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be considered as the band due to common  $As-O-V$  vibrations. With increase in the concentration of  $V_2O_5$  in the glass network, the vibration bands  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_3$  are observed to shift gradually towards lower wave number with increasing intensity. The intensity of the band due to  $As-O-V$  vibration band shows a gradual decrease in the intensity in the composition range. In the region of  $\nu_4$  vibrations of  $As_2O_3$  structural groups it is also quite likely that the vibrations due to  $PbO_4$  structural groups are also present; in fact earlier it was reported that the vibration band due to  $PbO_4$  units lies at around  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [20, 21] The summary of the data on various bands observed in the IR spectra of  $PbO-As_2O_3$  glasses is presented in Table 5

Table 5. Summary of the data on FT-IR spectra of  $PbO-As_2O_3: V_2O_5$  glasses

Glass	$\nu_1/VO_5$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\nu_2$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	V-O-V ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$PbO_4/\nu_4$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
$V_2$	1040	606	813	560	492
$V_4$	1049	604	810	561	492
$V_6$	1058	603	808	562	492
$V_8$	1067	602	805	563	494
$V_{10}$	1073	599	803	565	494

## Photoluminescence spectra

Fig. 5 shows the photoluminescence spectra of PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> glasses recorded at room temperature with excitation wavelength of 645 nm. The spectrum of each glass exhibits a broad emission band in the region 765-775 nm; this band is identified due to <sup>2</sup>E→<sup>2</sup>T<sub>2</sub> transition of vanadyl ion, the band exhibits a slight asymmetry in the higher wavelength region. With the growing content of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in the glass matrix, the half width of the peak is observed to increase.

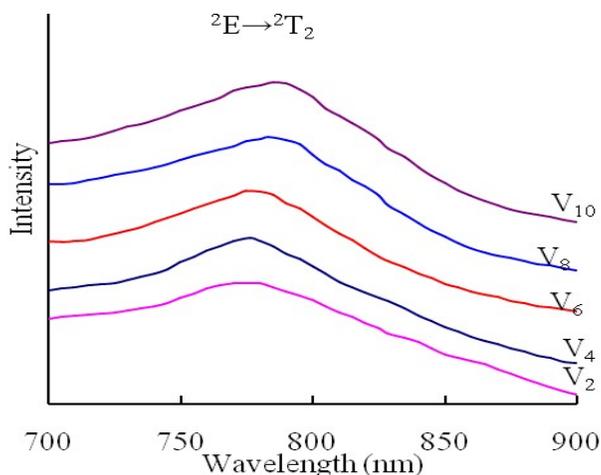
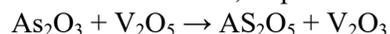


Fig. 5. Emission spectra for some of the PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> glasses

## 4. Discussion

As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is a strong network former with corner sharing AsO<sub>3</sub> pyramidal units; normal bond lengths of As-O lie in between 1.72-1.81 Å and O-As-O and As-O-As bond angles lie in the range 90-1030 and 123-1350 respectively [22-23]. PbO in general is a glass modifier and enters the glass network by breaking up the As-O-As bonds (normally the oxygen's of PbO break the local symmetry while Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions occupy interstitial positions) and introduces coordinate defects known as dangling bonds along with non-bridging oxygen ions. However, PbO may also participate in the glass network with PbO<sub>4</sub> structural units when lead ion is linked to four oxygen's in a covalence bond configuration. V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is an incipient glass network former and as such does not readily participate in the network forming but does so in the presence of modifiers like PbO with VO<sub>5</sub> trigonal bipyramids and VO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedral units [24]. Vanadium ions are expected to exist mainly in V<sup>5+</sup> states in the present PbO-As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> glass network. However, during the melting of the glasses at higher temperatures there is every possibility for the following redox equilibrium to take place: Further, Chung and Mackenzie [25] suggested that that a small number of V<sup>5+</sup> ions may also reduce to V<sup>3+</sup> state, as per the following equations:



The V<sup>5+</sup> ions take part network forming positions with VO<sub>5</sub> structural units where as the V<sup>4+</sup> ions may distort the glass structure. As mentioned earlier AS<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> participate in the glass network with the three

membered rings of  $\text{ASO}_3$  pyramids. Addition of  $\text{VO}_4$  tetrahedral into the  $\text{PbO-As}_2\text{O}_3$  glass network will twist or distort the interconnected chains of  $\text{ASO}_3$  units and increase the randomness of the glass matrix.

The intense band observed in the IR spectra centering at  $811\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of crystalline  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  is a characteristic related to stretching modes of V-O-V bridge bonds of  $\text{VO}_4$  tetrahedral units and the band observed at  $1040\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is due to the common vibrations of AS-O-V trigonal bipyramids as mentioned earlier. The preservation of these bands in the spectra of the present glasses suggests the presence of vanadium ions in both  $\text{V}^{4+}$  and  $\text{V}^{5+}$  states in the glass network. With the gradual increase in the concentration of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  caused an increase in the intensity of asymmetrical bands indicating that there is an increasing concentration of  $\text{VO}^{4+}$  ions that act as modifiers in the glass matrix.

The variation of ESR line width and the resolution with the concentration of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  is obviously due to the variation of concentration of  $\text{V}^{4+}$  ions and also due to structural and micro structural modifications that can produce fluctuations of the degree of distortion or even of the co-ordination geometry of  $\text{V}^{4+}$  sites. The observed broadening of ESR signal with concentration of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  indicates the growing presence of  $\text{V}^{4+}$  ions [26]. The ESR spectra recorded at room temperature for the glasses containing  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  show a well-resolved hyperfine structure, typical of isolated vanadium ions in a ligand field of  $\text{C}_{4v}$  symmetry present as  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  species. The spectra indicate that  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ions exist in the glass network in an octahedral site symmetry with tetragonal compression since  $g_{ii} \leq g_{\perp} \leq g_e$  [27]; further, the increase in the value of  $\Delta g_{\parallel} / \Delta g_{\perp}$  with increase in the concentration of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  in the composition range  $0.2 \leq x \leq 1.0$  (Table 1), indicates that the tetragonal distortion around vanadyl ions increases with the concentration of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ . The broadening of ESR signal with the concentration of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  in this composition range is obviously due to the presence of the larger concentration of  $\text{V}^{4+}$  ions and may also be due to exchange coupling between  $\text{V}^{3+}$  ions (if any) and  $\text{V}^{4+}$  ions [28]. The poor resolution of the ESR signal with low intensity for the glasses  $\text{V}_2$  may be understood due to the presence of low concentration of  $\text{V}^{4+}$  ions or larger concentration of diamagnetic  $\text{V}^{5+}$  ions that take network-forming positions.

The optical absorption spectrum of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  glass shows two broad absorption bands at 645 and 971 nm; there is a noticeable shifting of the Meta centers of these bands towards higher wavelength side with a gradual hike in the intensity with increase in the concentration of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  up to 1.0 mol%.  $\text{V}^{4+}$  ion belongs to  $d^1$  configuration with a ground state of 2D. The presence of pure octahedral crystal field the 2D state splits into  $2\text{T}_{2g}$  and  $2\text{E}_g$ , while an octahedral field with tetragonal distortion further splits the  $2\text{T}_{2g}$  level into  $2\text{E}_g$  and  $2\text{B}_{2g}$ ; and  $2\text{E}_g$  level splits into  $2\text{A}_{1g}$  and  $2\text{B}_{1g}$ . Among these, the  $2\text{B}_{2g}$  will be the ground state. Thus the vanadyl ions we can expect 3 bands (on the basis of energy level scheme for molecular orbital's of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion in a ligand field of  $\text{C}_{4v}$  symmetry provided by Bullhausen and Gray [29]) corresponding to the transitions  $2\text{B}_{2g} \rightarrow 2\text{B}_{1g}$  ( $\Delta_{\perp}$ ),  $2\text{B}_{2g} \rightarrow 2\text{E}_g$  ( $\Delta_{\parallel}$ ) and  $2\text{B}_{2g} \rightarrow 2\text{A}_{1g}$ . However, for the present glasses, only the first two bands are observed. The largest intensity and the half width of these bands for glass  $\text{V}_{10}$ , indicates the largest concentration of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ions that act as modifiers in these glasses.

It is now obvious from the results of ESR and optical absorption spectra, vanadium exist mainly in two oxidation states viz.,  $\text{V}^{5+}$  (diamagnetic) and  $\text{V}^{4+}$  (a paramagnetic  $3d^1$  ion) in the present glass matrices. Excitation of  $\text{PbO-As}_2\text{O}_3:\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  glass samples with the wavelength corresponding to  $2\text{B}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{B}_1$  transition resulted a broad emission band at about 645 nm. Since the wavelength of this band is close to

the maximum of the band  $2B_2 \rightarrow 2E$ , we attribute this band as the  $2E \rightarrow 2T_2$  transition of  $V^{4+}$  ions; the emission band is relatively broad and structures less. With increase in the concentration of  $V_2O_5$ , the intensity of the peak is observed to increase with a red shift. The shift of this PL peak, the shape and the structured nature of the PL emission band are a signature of shallow levels with an electron–phonon coupling [30].

## 5. Conclusion

The optical absorption spectra of  $PbO-As_2O_3:V_2O_5$  glasses have exhibited two clearly resolved bands due to  ${}^2B_2 \rightarrow {}^2B_1$  and  ${}^2B_2 \rightarrow {}^2E$  transitions of vanadyl ions. The intensity and the half width of these bands have been observed to be maximal in the spectrum of glass  $V_{10}$ ; from this observation it is concluded that  $VO^{2+}$  (vanadyl) ions present in larger concentrations in this glass network. The ESR spectra of  $PbO-As_2O_3:V_2O_5$  glasses recorded at room temperature are observed to be complex made up of resolved hyperfine components arising from unpaired  $3d^1$  electron of  ${}^{51}V$  isotope having spin  $7/2$ . As the concentration of  $V_2O_5$  is increased, an increase in the degree of resolution and the intensity of signal, have been observed. From this analysis it is also concluded that there is an increase in the degree of disorder of the octahedral and in the glass network as a whole with increase in the concentration of  $V_2O_5$ . With the gradual increase in the concentration of  $V_2O_5$ , the gradual increase in the intensity of asymmetric bands with a shift towards considerably lower frequencies has been observed. Such changes have been understood due to increasing modifying action of vanadyl ions in the glass network with increase in the concentration of  $V_2O_5$ . The photoluminescence spectra of these glasses recorded at room temperature with the excitation wavelength of 645 nm exhibited a broad emission band in the region 765-775 nm due to  ${}^2E \rightarrow {}^2T_2$  transition of vanadyl ion. With increase in the concentration of  $V_2O_5$ , the intensity of the peak is observed to increase with a red shift. The shift of this PL peak, the shape and the structured nature of the PL emission band have been identified as a signature of shallow levels with an electron–phonon coupling.

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