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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكروفيلم



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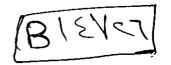


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Benha University

Faculty of Science

Chemistry Department



### **Characterization of Gamma Irradiated Polymer Blends**

**Thesis** 

Submitted in parial Fulfilment of the Requirement

For The M. Sc. Degree Chemistry

By

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**B.Sc. Chemistry** 

To

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Research and Technology

**Atomic Energy Authority** 

2006



## DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my father and my mother, Gud pless their souls. Also, I dedicate this work to my little kids and my husband. A special dedication to my elder brother

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#### Note

Beside the work carried out in this thesis, the candidate has attended postgraduate courses in the following topics:

- (1) Hetero-cyclic Chemistry and Design
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- (9) Mathematics and Quantum Chemistry
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## **CONTENTS**

Acknowledgment
Aim of the Work
Abstract
List of Appreviations
List of Tables
List of Figures

#### CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Page
1.1. Polymer Blends
1.1.1. Types of Polymer Blends
1.1.1.1. Thermoplastic Polymer Blends
1.1.1.2. Thermo plastic-Rubber Blends
1.1.1.3. Elastomer-Elastomer Blends (Rubber Blend)5
1.1.2. Miscibility of Polymer Blends
1.1.3. Compatibilization of polymer Blends
1.1.4. Applications and Properties of Polymer Blends18
1.2. Effect of High Energy Radiation on Polymeric Materials
1.2.1. Chemical and Physical Changes24
1.2.2. Effects on Polymer Blends27
CHAPTER II
MATERIALS AND EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES
2.1. Materials30
2.1.1. Homopolymers30
2.1.2. Solvents30
2.2. Technical Procedures
2.2.1. Preparation of PVA/PAM Blends30
2.2.2. Preparation of PVAc PMMA Blends31
2.3. Gamma Irradiation31
2.4. Analysis and Measurements31
2.4.1. IR Spectroscopic Analysis31
CHARACTIRIZATION OF GAMMA IRRADIATED POLYMER BLENDS

2.4.2. Thermogravimetric Analysis
2.4.3. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)
2.4.4. Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)
2.4.5. Tensile Mechanical Measurements
2.4.6. Colour Strength Measurements
CHAPTER III
RESULTS AND DISCUSION
3.1.Effect of Gamma Radiation on the Structural Properties of Poly (vinyl-
alcohol/Polyacrylamide) Blends (PVA/PAM)
3.1.1. Miscibility of PVA/PAM Polymer Blends
3.1.2. IR Spectroscopic Analysis
3.1.3. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)
3.1.4. Thermal Decomposition Behaviour
3.1.5. Structure Morphology
3.1.6. Mechnical Properties
3.2. Effect of Gamma Radiation on the Chemical and Physical Properties of Poly
(vinyl acetate)/ Poly (methyl methacrylate) (PVAc/PMMA)Blends 64
3.2.1. IR Spectroscopic Analysis
3.2.2. Glass and Melting Transitions
3.2.3. Thermal Decomposition Behaviour
3.2.3.1. Initial TGA Thermograms and Weight Loss
3.2.3.2. Temperature of Maximum Rate of Reaction
3.2.3.3. Kinetic Parameters of Thermal Decomposition Reaction
3.2.4. Tensile Mechanical Properties
3.2.4.1. Yield Properties
3.2.4.2. Break Properties
References101
Conclusions
English Summary
Ar abic Summary

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#### Aim of The Work

In the present work we concerned with preparation of different miscible polymer blends from a common solvent by the solution casting technique. In this regard the polymers poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA)/polyacrylamide (PAM), poly(vinyl acetate) (PVAc)/polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) have been chosen to form polymer blends based on the fact that each of their polymers constitute a wide range of different functional groups. As the effect of high energy radiation is one of our interest, the effect of gamma radiation on the structure property relationship of PVA/PAM and PVAc/PMMA polymer blends was investigated. These polymer blends may fined a promising industrial applications. Polymer blends based on PVA/PAM are highly hydrophilic can be used in the field of absorbing wastes from wastewater such as toxic heavy metals and dye wastes. On the other hand, polymer blends based on PVAc/PMMA can be used in manufacturing medical containers and devices due to the flexible PVAc and the high transparent PMMA.

#### **Abstract**

Films of miscible polymer blends based on poly vinyl alcohol (PVA) /polyacrylamide (PAM) and poly(vinyl acetate) (PVAc)/poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) were prepared by the solution casting technique using water and benzene as common solvents, respectively. The thermal, mechanical and morphological properties of these blends before and after exposure to various doses of gamma radiation have been investigated. The visual observation and colour reflectance measurements showed that PVA/PAM blends are compatible over a wide range of composition. Moreover, the DSC thermograms showed the appearance of a single glass transition temperature (Tg) not that of PVA or PAM homopolymers giving further supports to the complete compatibility of such blends and the occurrence of crosslinking. These findings were demonstrated by the SEM micrographs of the fracture surfaces and the tensile mechanical properties. The TGA thermograms showed that the unirradiated PVA possesses higher thermal stability than PAM homopolymer or their blends and this stability was slightly improved after exposure to gamma radiation. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of PVAc/PMMA blends showed that the rate of reaction (T<sub>max</sub>) occurs and the kinetic parameters of the thermal decomposition. The rate of reaction curves of the individual homopolymers or their blends, before or after  $\gamma$ -irradiation, displayed similar trends, in which the  $T_{max}$  corresponding to all the polymers was found to exist in the same position but with different values. These findings and the visual observations of the blend solutions and the transparency of the films give supports to the complete miscibility of these blends. In conclusion,  $\gamma$ -irradiation improved the thermal stability of PVAc/PMMA blends even though PMMA polymer is a γ-irradiation degradable. Also the IR spectra confermed miscibility of PVAc/PMMA blends and that the absorption bands of the different functional groups were affected. Also, the DSC scans of the pure PVAc and pure PMMA and their blends at different compositions. showed the appearance of single glass transition temperature, which is not for either pure PVAc or pure PMMA polymers. .

## **LIST OF APPREVIATIONS**

number	Scientific Terms	Appreviation
1	Differential Scanning Calorimetry	DSC
2	Thermogravemetric Analysis	TGA
3	Scanning Electron Microscopy	SEM
4	Temperature	T
5	Glass Transition Temperature	$T_{\mathbf{g}}$
6	Melting Temperature	T <sub>m</sub>
7	Heat of Fusion	$H_{\mathbf{f}}$
8	Rate of Reaction	dw/dt
9	Weight Loss	W
10	Activation Energy	E*
12	Gas Constant	R
13	Order of Reaction	n
14	Poly Vinyl Alcohol	PVA
15	Poly Acrylamide	PAM
16	Poly Vinyl Acetate	PVAc
17	Poly Methyl Methacrylate	PMMA