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Ion beam modification of polymer nanocomposites using Au ion implantation

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Ion implantation is a powerful tool for the modification of polymers. The studied materials contain a mixture of diglycidylether of bisphenol A (DGEBA) and monoglycidylether terminated poly(dimethylsiloxane) (GE-PDMS) or diglycidylether terminated poly(dimethylsiloxane) (DG-PDMS) in 98/2 wt.% reinforced with 10 wt.% POSS-octa(3 glycidyloxypropyl)dimethylsiloxy) (OEP-POSS). The presence of Au ions in the structure of these materials can have drastic effects on the electrical, mechanical and chemical properties. In this study we present the modification of mechanical properties after 1.6 MeV Au+ implantation of nanocomposites at a dose of 5.5e15 ions/cm2. The polymers were examined by different methods: Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), Dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA), Rutherford Backscattering Spectrometry (RBS) and Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM). Nanoindentation and AFM gave information regarding the hardness and topography while RBS gave information regarding the Au presence in the samples. The work of Nicoleta Mihaela Florea has been funded by the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013 of the Ministry of European Funds through the Financial Agreement POSDRU/159/1.5/S/132397.

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