

List of Figures and Tables

Chapter 1

Figure.1.1: <i>Schematic diagram of the state transition processes</i>	9
Figure 1.2: <i>Mechanism of adhesion : Mechanical interlocking</i>	18
Figure 1.3: <i>Mechanism of adhesion : Interdiffusion of chains</i>	19
Figure 1.4: <i>Mechanism of adhesion : Electrical interactions</i>	19
Figure 1.5: <i>Mechanism of adhesion: Chemical interactions (adsorption theory)</i>	20

Chapter 2

Figure 2.1: <i>Illustration of polymerization of tetrafluoroethylene into PTFE</i>	32
Table 2.1: <i>Some of the physical and chemical properties of the polymers used</i>	35
Figure 2.2: <i>Schematic of the experimental set-up</i>	37
Figure 2.3: <i>Voltage and current waveform</i>	37
Figure 2.4: <i>Contact angle goniometer (NRL C.A. Goniometer, Model 100-00-230)</i>	39
Figure 2.5: <i>a) Non-wetting of solid surface ($\theta > \pi/2$), b) Partial wetting of solid surface ($\theta < \pi/2$) and c) Complete wetting of solid surface ($\theta = 0$)</i>	41
Figure 2.6: <i>Zisman plot for estimating surface tension of liquid</i>	43
Figure 2.7: <i>Vicker's Microhardness Indenter Future Tech. (FM-700)</i>	46
Figure 2.8: <i>Schematic illustration of indentation load-displacement data showing important measured parameters</i>	47
Figure 2.9: <i>Schematic illustration of the unloading process showing parameters characterizing the contact geometry</i>	49
Figure 2.10: <i>Photoemission and subsequent relaxation processes, XRF and AES</i>	53

Figure 2.11: Schematic diagram of an XPS instrument. A – analyser, AC- analysis chamber, L – focus and retardation lenses, D – detector, S – slits, SP – specimen, X - X-ray source	56
Figure 2.12: General principle of AFM	60
Figure 2.13: ATR-FTIR Spectrometer	64
Figure 2.14: A multiple reflection ATR system	65
Figure 2.15: Normal modes of CO ₂ molecule. The arrows indicate the direction of motion of atoms at a particular instant. Later on the directions are reversed.	68
Figure 2.16: Normal modes of H ₂ O molecule. The arrows indicate the direction of motion of atoms at a particular instant. Later on the directions are reversed.	68
Table 2.2: Some of the important bonds	69
 Chapter 3	
Figure 3.1: The structure of the PC bisphenol-A with numbered carbon bonds: 1-phenyl ring (p.r), 2-C-C, C-H, 3-C-(phenyl ring), 4-O-(C=O)-O	76
Figure 3.2: XPS spectra of (a) C 1s peak of untreated PC sample; (b) C 1s peak of Ar Plasma treated PC sample; (c) O 1s peak of untreated PC sample; (d) O 1s peak of Ar Plasma treated PC sample. The number corresponds to bond according to Figure 3.1	77
Table 3.1: Binding energy and the relative areas of individual peaks numbered according to Figure 3.1. The areas were normalized to the first peak area	78
Table 3.2: Atomic concentration of carbon and oxygen measured by XPS for untreated and argon plasma treated (10 mins) PC	79
Figure 3.3: The structure of the PET: A: C-C bonds in phenyl ring; B: C-O; C: O=C-O	80
Figure 3.4: XPS spectra of (a) C 1s peak of untreated PET sample; (b) C 1s peak of Ar Plasma treated PET sample; (c) O 1s peak of untreated PET sample; (d) O 1s peak of Ar Plasma treated PET sample. The alphabets A, B and C corresponds to bond according to Figure 3.3	81

Table 3.3: <i>Atomic concentration of carbon and oxygen measured by XPS for untreated and plasma treated (10 min) sample</i>	82
Table 3.4: <i>Atomic concentration of carbon and oxygen measured by XPS for untreated and plasma treated (10 min) sample</i>	82
Figure 3.5: <i>XPS spectra of (a): C 1s untreated; (b): C 1s argon plasma treated; (c): O 1s untreated; (d): O 1s argon plasma treated; (e): F 1s Untreated; (f): F 1s argon plasma treated</i>	84
Table 3.5: <i>Binding energy and the areas of individual peaks</i>	85
Table 3.6: <i>The surface composition of PTFE before and after the plasma treatment</i>	86
Table 3.7: <i>Binding energy and the areas of individual peaks</i>	87
Figure 3.6: <i>C 1s peak of the XPS spectra of (a) untreated and (b) Ar plasma treated samples; O 1s peak of the XPS spectra of (c) untreated and (d) Ar plasma treated samples</i>	88
Table 3.8: <i>The surface composition of PES before and after the plasma treatment</i>	88
Table 3.9: <i>Surface composition before and after the plasma treatment</i>	90
Figure 3.7: <i>ATR-FTIR spectra for pristine and argon plasma treated PC samples</i>	93
Figure 3.8: <i>ATR-FTIR spectra for pristine and argon plasma treated PET samples</i>	94
Figure 3.9: <i>ATR-FTIR spectra for pristine and argon plasma treated PTFE samples</i>	96
Figure 3.10: <i>ATR-FTIR spectra for pristine and irradiated PES samples</i>	98
Chapter 4	
Table 4.1: <i>Surface free energy and its polar and dispersion components of water and glycerin used to determine the surface free energy</i>	101
Table 4.2: <i>Contact angles for untreated and argon plasma treated PC samples</i>	102

Figure 4.1: <i>Comparison of Surface free energy and its components before and after the treatment in Ar discharge</i>	102
Table 4.3: <i>Comparison of surface free energy and its components before and after Ar plasma treatment</i>	103
Table 4.4: <i>SFE values for argon plasma treated PC samples with respect to untreated PC sample</i>	104
Table 4.5: <i>Contact angles for untreated and argon plasma treated PET samples</i>	105
Figure 4.2: <i>Comparison of Surface free energy and its components before and after the treatment in Ar discharge</i>	105
Table 4.6: <i>Comparison of surface free energy and its components before and after Ar plasma treatment</i>	106
Table 4.7: <i>SFE values for argon plasma treated PET samples with respect to untreated PET sample</i>	107
Table 4.8: <i>Contact angles for untreated and argon plasma treated PTFE samples</i>	108
Figure 4.3: <i>Comparison of Surface free energy and its components before and after the treatment in Ar discharge</i>	108
Table 4.9: <i>Comparison of surface free energy and its components before and after Ar plasma treatment</i>	109
Table 4.10: <i>SFE values for argon plasma treated PTFE samples with respect to untreated PTFE sample</i>	110
Table 4.11: <i>Contact angles for untreated and argon plasma treated PES samples</i>	110
Table 4.12: <i>Comparison of surface free energy and its components before and after Ar plasma treatment</i>	111
Figure 4.4: <i>Comparison of Surface free energy and its components before and after the treatment in Ar discharge</i>	112
Table 4.13: <i>SFE values for argon plasma treated PES samples with respect to untreated PES sample</i>	112
Table 4.14: <i>Polar components of surface energy</i>	113

Figure 4.5: <i>Indentation Marks on polymer surface</i>	115
Figure 4.6: <i>Plot of hardness vs applied loads</i>	116
Table 4.15: <i>Hv values of argon plasma treated PC polymer with change in load</i>	117
Figure 4.7: <i>Plot of hardness vs applied loads</i>	118
Table 4.16: <i>Hv values of argon plasma treated PET polymer with change in load</i>	118
Figure 4.8: <i>Plot of hardness vs applied loads</i>	120
Table 4.17: <i>Hv values of argon plasma treated PTFE polymer with change in load</i>	120
Figure 4.9: <i>Plot of hardness vs applied loads</i>	121
Table 4.18: <i>Hv values of argon plasma treated PES polymer with change in load</i>	122
Figure 4.10: <i>AFM photomicrographs of (a) untreated PC film, (b) Ar plasma treated PC for 5 min, (c) Ar plasma treated PC for 10 min, (d) Ar plasma treated PC for 50 min</i>	124
Figure 4.11: <i>AFM photomicrographs of (a) untreated PET film, (b) Ar plasma treated PET for 5 min, (c) Ar plasma treated PET for 10 min, (d) Ar plasma treated PET for 50 min</i>	125
Figure 4.12: <i>AFM photomicrographs of (a) untreated PTFE film, (b) Ar plasma treated PTFE for 5 min, (c) Ar plasma treated PTFE for 10 min, (d) Ar plasma treated PTFE for 50 min</i>	127
Figure 4.13: <i>AFM photomicrographs of (a) untreated PES film, (b) Ar plasma treated PES for 5 min, (c) Ar plasma treated PES for 10 min, (d) Ar plasma treated PES for 50 min</i>	128
Table 4.19: <i>The root mean square (RMS) surface roughness of argon ion irradiated polymers</i>	129
 Chapter 5	
Figure 5.1: <i>O/C ratios for the studied polymers</i>	132
Table 5.1: <i>Change in SFE for untreated and argon plasma treated</i>	134

samples

Table 5.2: *RMS values for untreated and argon plasma treated samples*

135