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## *Chapter 6*

# *Metal Doped $TiO_2$ - $ZrO_2$ Composites*

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## 6.1 Metal Doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> Composite

Doping can affect the electrical, structural and optical properties of the material [1-4]. The phase transformation of TiO<sub>2</sub> depends on impurities, type of dopant and amount of dopant. The bandgap of the material can be varied by adding impurities. It has been reported that transition and rare earth metal ions shift the absorption edge towards visible region [5-8]. For Dye Sensitized Solar Cell application material should have low recombination rate of electron-hole pairs and this can be eliminated by transition metal and rare earth ions doping.

## 6.2 Synthesis of Samples

A set of metal (Al, Cu, Mg, Zn, Ce, La, Eu, Fe, Ni, Mn, Er, Cd, Yb and Pb) doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composites were prepared by the hydrothermal method. TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composites were doped with 2 mol% of metal ions. Titanium isopropoxide, Zirconium propoxide and isopropanol were used as starting chemicals. All chemicals were analytical grade and used as received. The synthesis was carried out as follows: Ti isopropoxide and Zr propoxide were diluted in isopropanol to obtain mixtures in a 7:3 and TiO<sub>2</sub>: ZrO<sub>2</sub> molar ratio. Dilute HNO<sub>3</sub> was added drop wise to the alkoxide solution kept under vigorous stirring in an ice bath. 2 mol% Solution of metal nitrate was added to above solution. After alkoxide hydrolysis the alcogel was obtained. The alcogel was transferred to a stainless steel autoclave. The temperature was raised to 240 °C and the sample was maintained under autogenic pressure for 24 h. Then, the sample was oven-dried at 100 °C (2 h) and finally calcined at 450 °C for 4 hours under static air atmosphere. Metal doped mixed oxides in solid form were obtained.

## 6.3 Characterization of Samples

The structural properties and composition of prepared samples were analyzed by X-ray diffraction. The optical properties of the samples were investigated by UV-Visible spectroscopy.

### 6.3.1 X-Ray Diffraction Analysis

The XRD patterns were recorded on Bruker D8 Advance X-ray diffractometer in  $\theta$  range of  $20^0$  to  $90^0$  at room temperature. The XRD patterns of prepared samples are given in figure 1 to 14 their structural parameters are given in Table 1 to 14. The presence of both the oxides was confirmed from the comparison of d values with JCPDS data base (Anatase TiO<sub>2</sub>-21-1272, Rutile TiO<sub>2</sub>-21-1276, Monoclinic ZrO<sub>2</sub>-83-0944, and Tetragonal ZrO<sub>2</sub>-79-1770). The d values match very closely with JCPDS data.

All the samples show distinct peaks with good intensity and broadening. The pattern indicates high degree of crystallinity and formation of material in nanocrystalline size. In fact the crystallinity of the doped samples have been found to be better than the undoped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> samples. Hence the dopant appeared to be playing significant role in enhancing the crystallinity of the samples. The average crystallite size of the samples lies between 6.02 nm to 22.39 nm

The Anatase peak of TiO<sub>2</sub> (101) is the dominant feature in all the samples except the one doped with iron. Apart from the (101) peak the other common Anatase peaks are for the planes (004), (200) and (204) were observed. Rutile content is significantly low.

Amongst the ZrO<sub>2</sub> peaks the ones for (101) of Tetragonal phase are the most common. Apart from that the other common Monoclinic peaks for the planes (122) and (041) were observed.

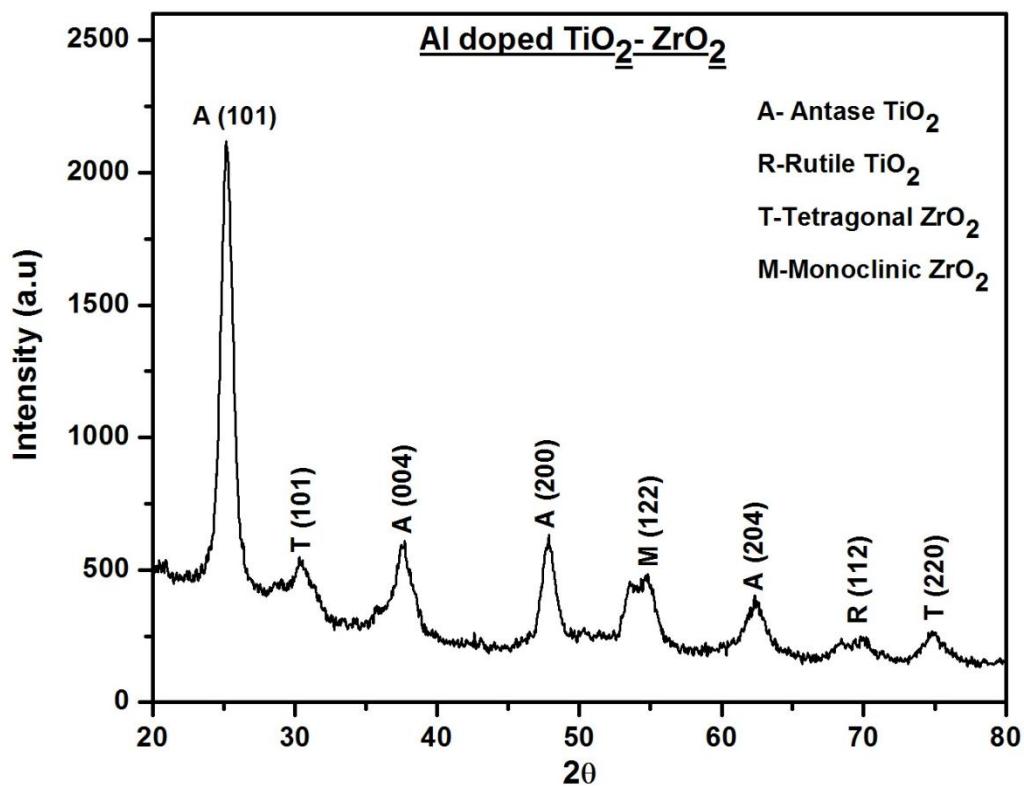
The most intense Anatase (101) peaks have been observed for the samples doped with lead, cadmium and ytterbium. The samples doped with Al, Cu, Mg, Zn and Eu show moderate intensities while the ones doped with Ce, La, Fe, Ni, Mn and Er show low intensities which is shown in figure. A clear understanding of this is shown in figure 15.

The samples doped with iron gives a different pattern with several prominent peaks of Rutile phase. This sample shows the lowest Anatase content and highest crystallite size. The Fe ion could not inhibit the crystallization and hence Anatase phase converted to Rutile. It has been reported that iron dopant enlarges the lattice parameter which could be the reason for larger crystallite size [m].

The metal doping appears to be stabilizing the Anatase phase and increases the Anatase mass fraction which results into lower crystallite size [l]. The lowest Anatase mass fraction is observed for Fe doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite.

The samples doped with Fe, Cd, Yb and Pb show small amount of strain. Fe doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite is highly crystalline material this could be the reason for lower strain [n]. The presence of pure single Anatase phase of TiO<sub>2</sub> in Cd, Yb, and Pb doped samples could be responsible for its lower strain values, as mixed phases can produce strain at grain boundaries. The crystallinity index is given in Table 15 samples doped with Cd, Yb and Pb show highest values.

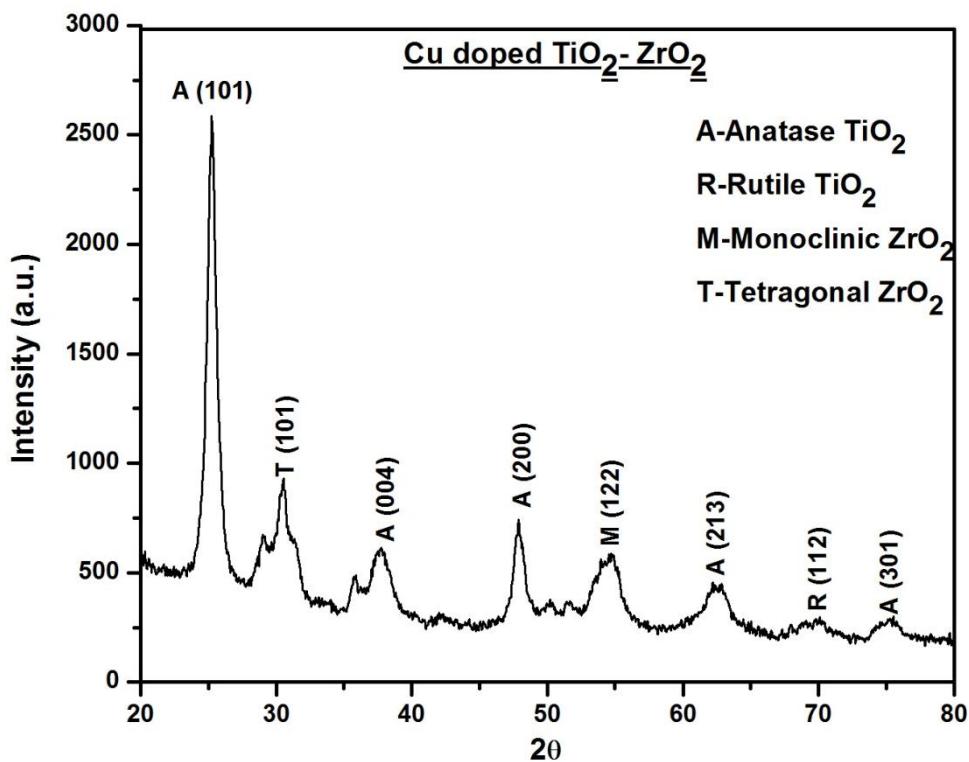
The lattice parameters vary in very short range which shows the formation of uniform crystal structure.



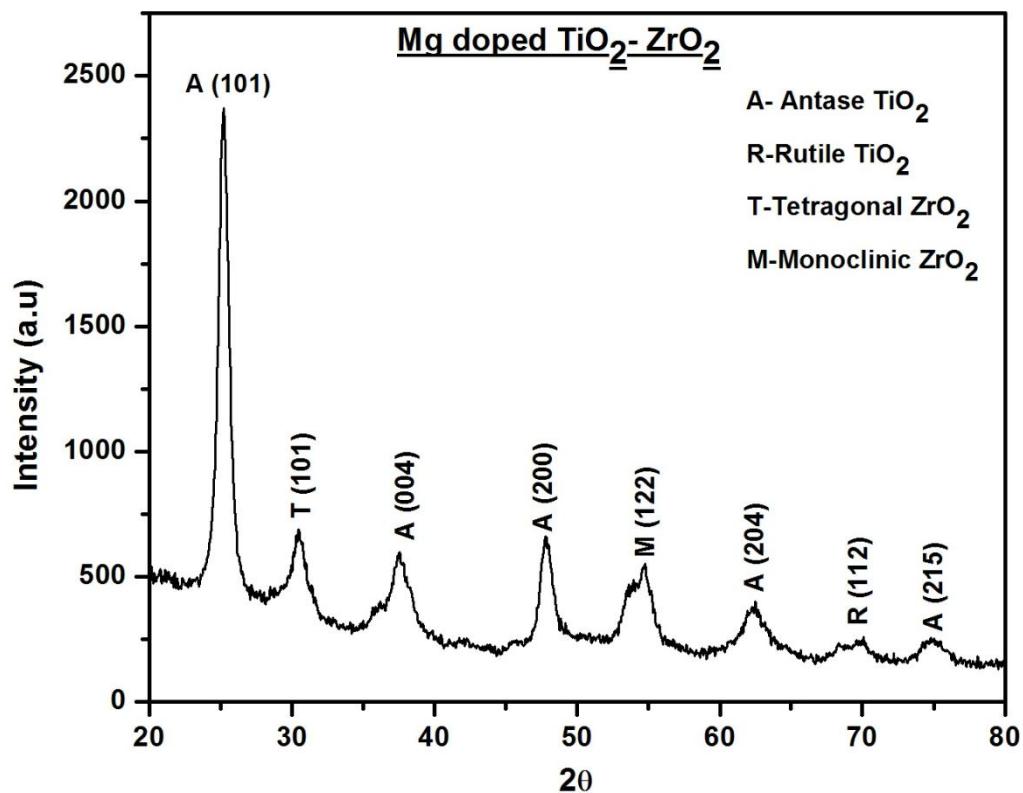
**Figure 1: XRD pattern of sample Al doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite**

**Table 1: Structural parameters of Al doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite**

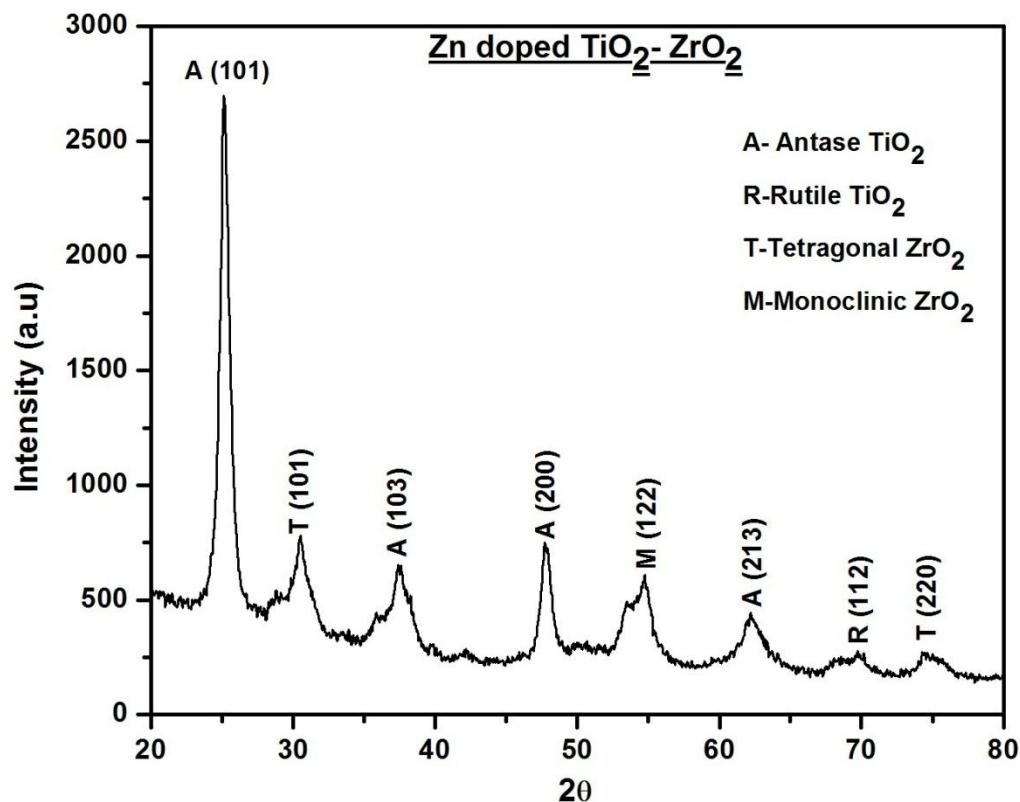
| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.53564               | 3.5200         | 8.85                  | 0.078      |                     |
| 2.94484               | 2.9529         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 2.38145               | 2.3780         | 5.49                  | 0.085      |                     |
| 1.89911               | 1.8920         | 8.06                  | 0.046      | <b>86.58</b>        |
| 1.67281               | 1.6752         | 4.09                  | 0.080      |                     |
| 1.48822               | 1.4808         | 5.36                  | 0.054      |                     |
| 1.34601               | 1.3465         | 3.62                  | 0.073      |                     |
| 1.27117               | 1.2639         | 6.12                  | 0.040      |                     |

Figure 2: XRD pattern of sample Cu doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 2: Structural parameters of Cu doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

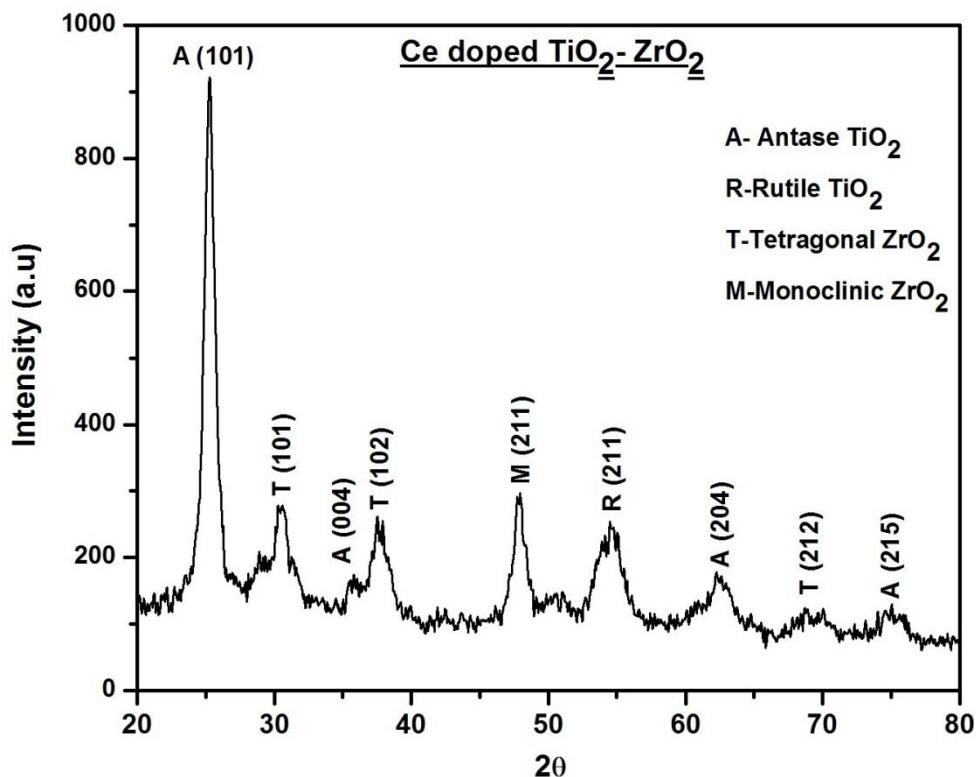
| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5275                | 3.5200         | 10.30                 | 0.067      |                     |
| 2.9255                | 2.9529         | 7.96                  | 0.072      |                     |
| 2.3743                | 2.3780         | 5.57                  | 0.083      |                     |
| 1.8980                | 1.8920         | 9.80                  | 0.038      | <b>86.99</b>        |
| 1.6752                | 1.6752         | 4.52                  | 0.072      |                     |
| 1.4907                | 1.4930         | 4.83                  | 0.060      |                     |
| 1.3411                | 1.3465         | 3.98                  | 0.066      |                     |
| 1.2572                | 1.2509         | 4.71                  | 0.052      |                     |

Figure 3: XRD pattern of sample Mg doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 3: Structural parameters of Mg doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

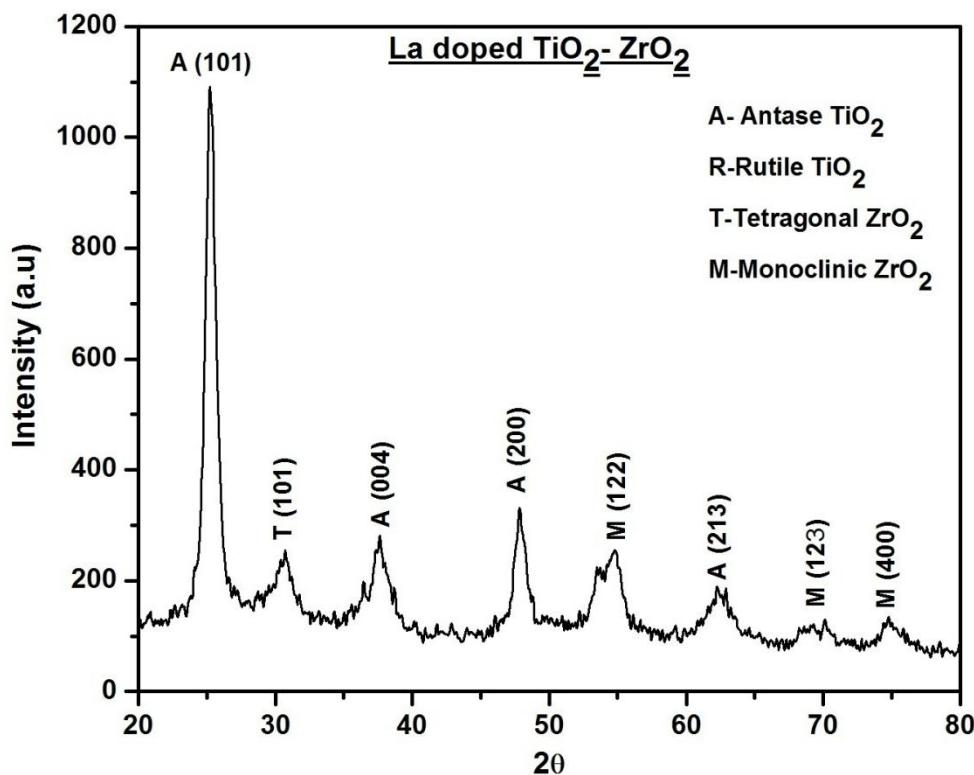
| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5275                | 3.5200         | 8.95                  | 0.077      |                     |
| 2.9310                | 2.9529         | 8.38                  | 0.068      |                     |
| 2.3922                | 2.3780         | 6.22                  | 0.075      |                     |
| 1.9002                | 1.8920         | 8.73                  | 0.042      | <b>87.28</b>        |
| 1.6744                | 1.6752         | 4.88                  | 0.067      |                     |
| 1.4838                | 1.4808         | 5.18                  | 0.056      |                     |
| 1.3415                | 1.3465         | 6.45                  | 0.040      |                     |
| 1.2639                | 1.2649         | 6.66                  | 0.037      |                     |

Figure 4: XRD pattern of sample Zn doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 4: Structural parameters of Zn doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

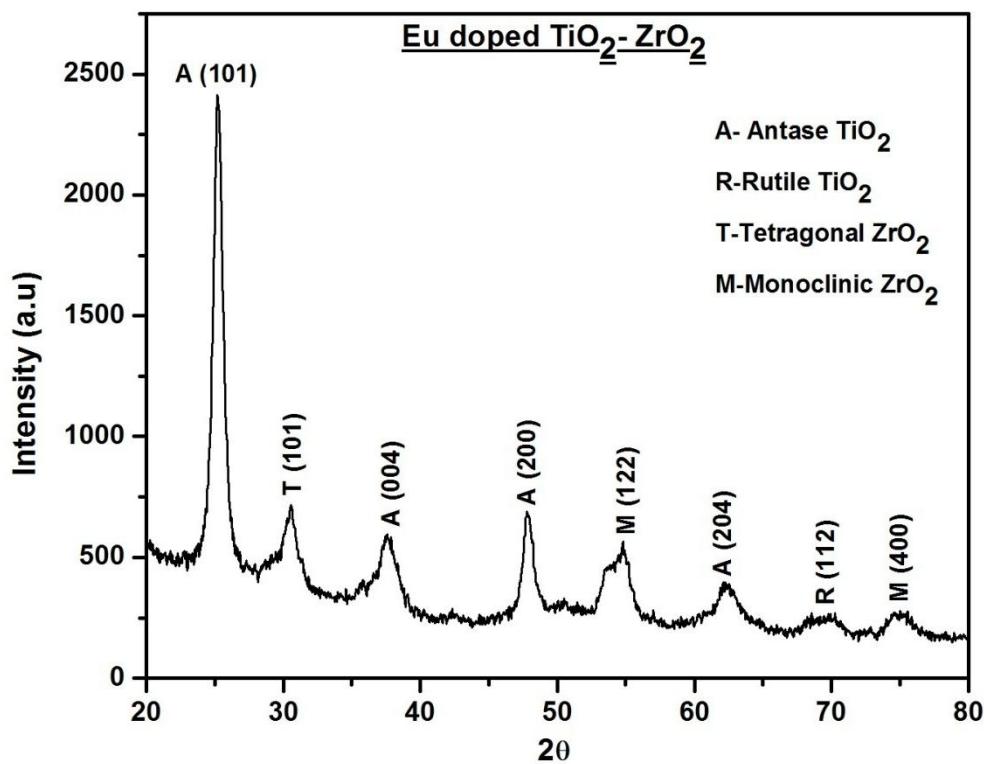
| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5397                | 3.5200         | 10.45                 | 0.066      |                     |
| 2.9282                | 2.9529         | 6.99                  | 0.082      |                     |
| 2.4012                | 2.4310         | 5.81                  | 0.081      |                     |
| 1.9035                | 1.8920         | 10.25                 | 0.036      | <b>88.02</b>        |
| 1.6744                | 1.6752         | 4.45                  | 0.074      |                     |
| 1.4901                | 1.4930         | 6.02                  | 0.048      |                     |
| 1.3465                | 1.3465         | 4.03                  | 0.065      |                     |
| 1.2707                | 1.2705         | 5.02                  | 0.049      |                     |

Figure 5: XRD pattern of sample Ce doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 5: Structural parameters of Ce doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5208                | 3.5200         | 9.18                  | 0.075      |                     |
| 2.9224                | 2.9529         | 8.45                  | 0.068      |                     |
| 2.3932                | 2.3780         | 5.50                  | 0.085      |                     |
| 2.1256                | 2.1015         | --                    | --         | <b>73.73</b>        |
| 1.9019                | 1.9893         | 8.61                  | 0.043      |                     |
| 1.6817                | 1.6874         | 4.19                  | 0.078      |                     |
| 1.4879                | 1.4808         | 4.48                  | 0.065      |                     |
| 1.3687                | 1.3656         | 3.28                  | 0.081      |                     |
| 1.2648                | 1.2649         | 4.45                  | 0.055      |                     |

Figure 6: XRD pattern of sample La doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 6: Structural parameters of La doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.53459               | 3.5200         | 9.94                  | 0.076      |                     |
| 2.90856               | 2.9529         | 7.57                  | 0.010      |                     |
| 2.38709               | 2.378          | 6.08                  | 0.054      |                     |
| 1.90007               |                | 8.44                  | 0.041      |                     |
| 1.89821               | 1.8920         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 1.67467               | 1.6752         | 4.61                  | --         | <b>86.26</b>        |
| 1.48898               | 1.4948         | 3.99                  | 0.010      |                     |
| 1.48791               | 1.4808         | --                    | 0.074      |                     |
| 1.34141               | 1.3465         | 3.75                  | 0.009      |                     |
| 1.33975               | 1.3381         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 1.26773               | 1.2649         | 4.68                  | 0.031      |                     |

Figure 7: XRD pattern of sample Eu doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 7: Structural parameters of Eu doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5235                | 3.5200         | 10.10                 | 0.068      |                     |
| 2.9310                | 2.9529         | 8.18                  | 0.070      |                     |
| 2.3814                | 2.378          | 4.37                  | 0.107      |                     |
| 1.8980                | 1.8920         | 9.36                  | 0.039      | <b>86.41</b>        |
| 1.6695                | 1.6665         | 4.37                  | 0.075      |                     |
| 1.4875                | 1.4808         | 5.68                  | 0.051      |                     |
| 1.3440                | 1.3465         | 4.32                  | 0.061      |                     |
| 1.2681                | 1.269          | 5.32                  | 0.046      |                     |

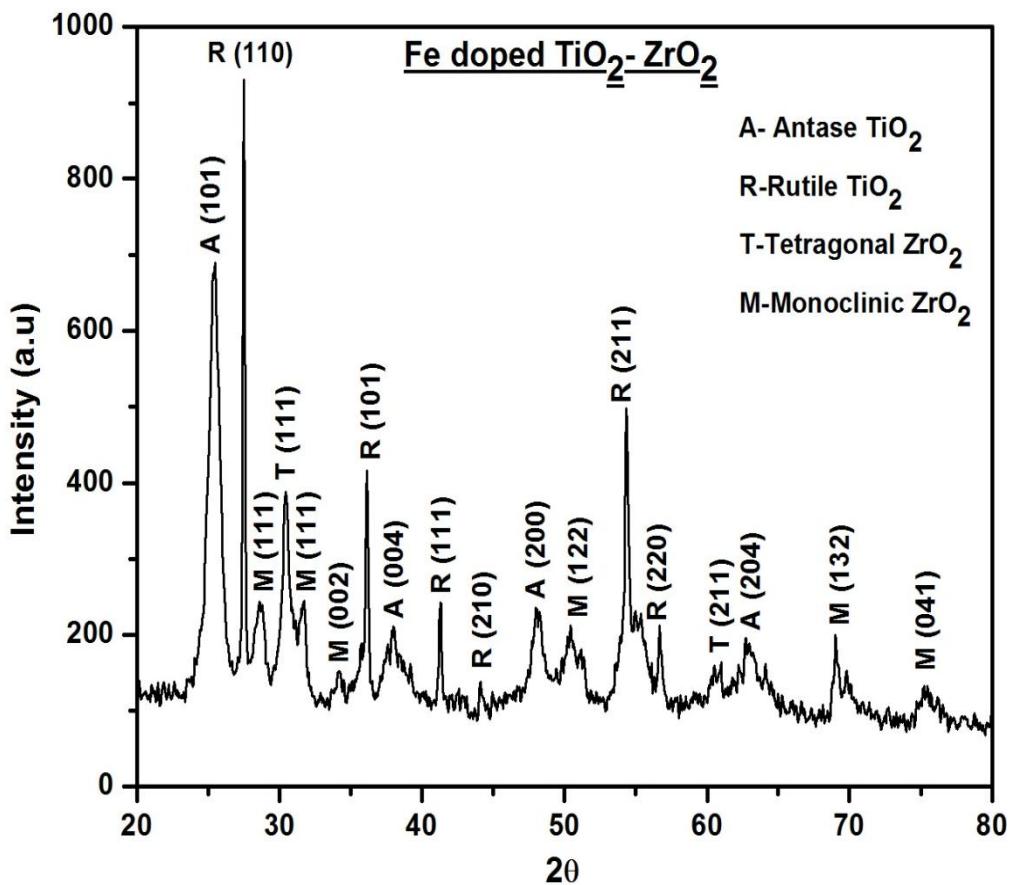
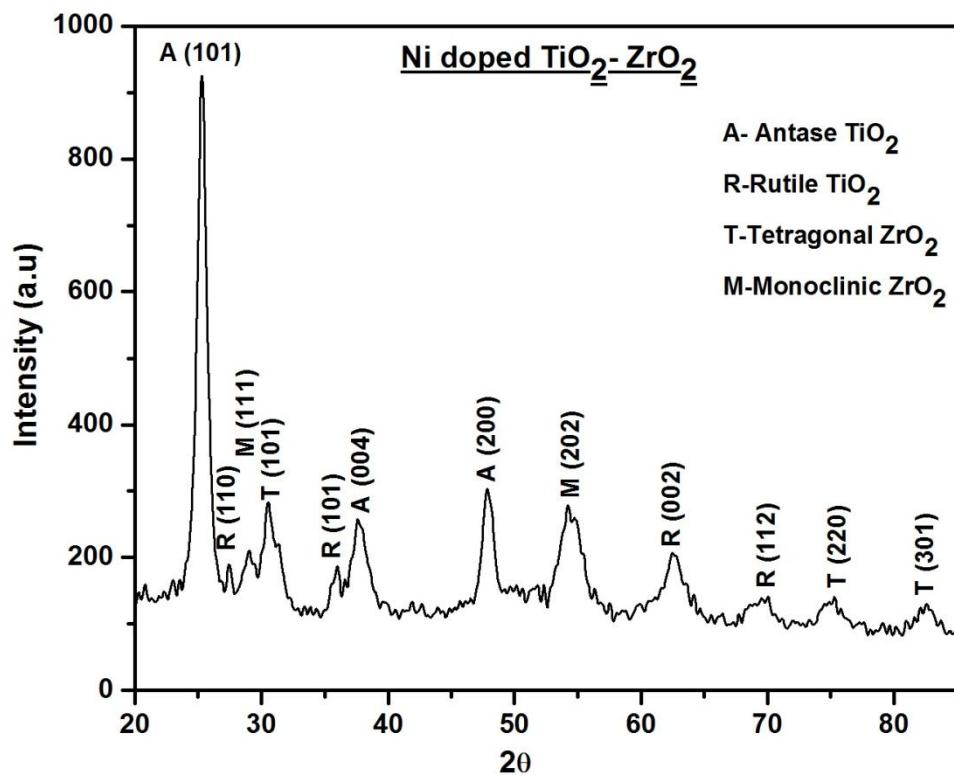


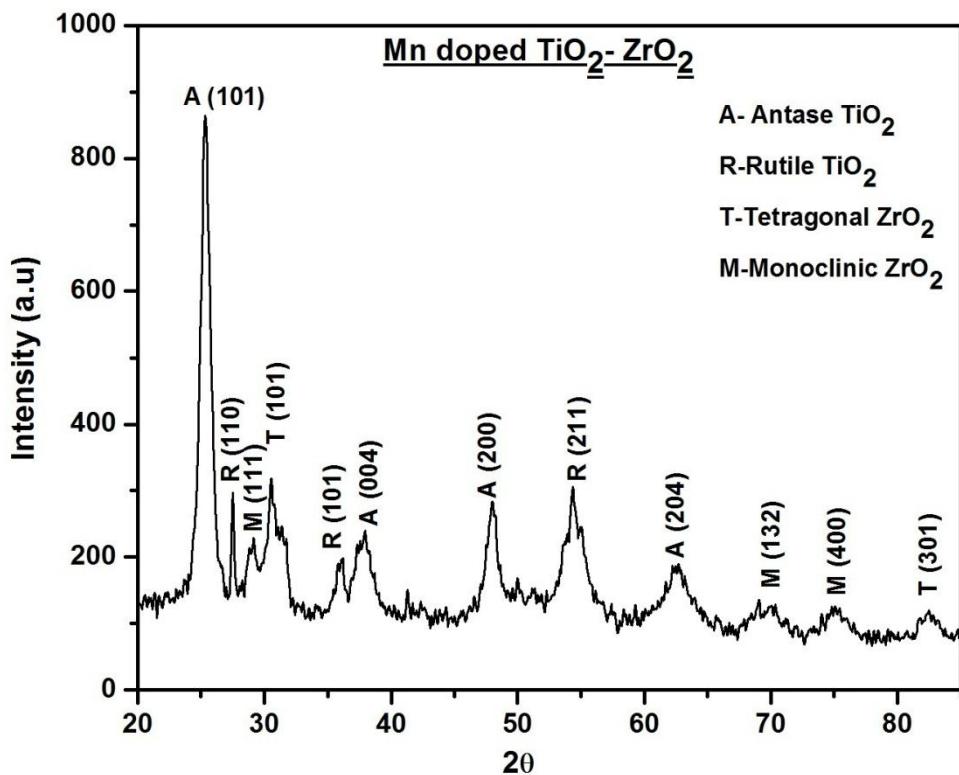
Figure 8: XRD pattern of sample Fe doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

**Table 8: Structural parameters of Fe doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite**

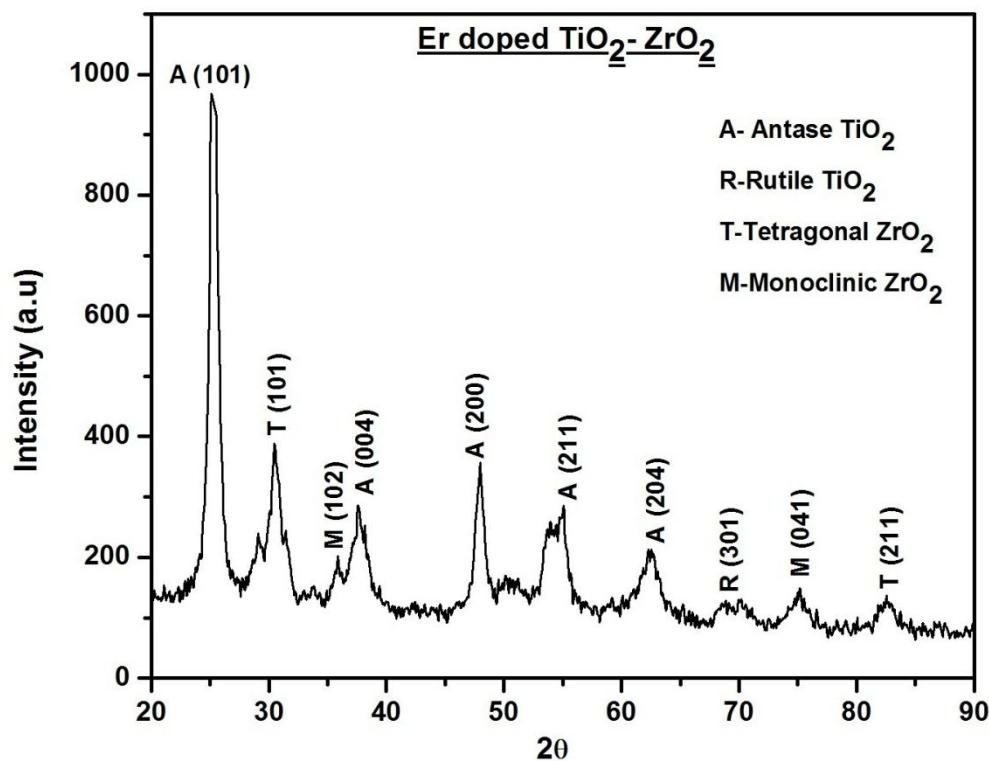
| <b>Experimental d values</b> | <b>JCPDS d values</b> | <b>Crystallite size (nm)</b> | <b>Strain (%)</b>    | <b>Anatase content (%)</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 3.4937                       | 3.5200                | 8.97                         | 0.076                |                            |
| 3.2384                       | 3.2470                | 58.24                        | 0.010                |                            |
| 3.1166                       | 3.1598                | 11.25                        | 0.054                |                            |
| 2.9365                       | 2.9529                | 13.82                        | 0.041                |                            |
| 2.8192                       | 2.8375                | --                           | --                   |                            |
| 2.6228                       | 2.6213                | --                           | --                   |                            |
| 2.4824                       | 2.4870                | 44.80                        | $6.6 \times 10^{-4}$ |                            |
| 2.3629                       | 2.3780                | 6.21                         | 0.004                |                            |
| 2.1845                       | 2.1880                | 46.87                        | $5.5 \times 10^{-4}$ |                            |
| 2.0523                       | 2.0540                | --                           | --                   |                            |
| 1.8816                       | 1.8920                | 11.70                        | 0.001                | <b>35.70</b>               |
| 1.8082                       | 1.8012                | 8.81                         | 0.002                |                            |
| 1.7835                       | 1.7803                | --                           | --                   |                            |
| 1.6860                       | 1.6874                | 29.38                        | 0.011                |                            |
| 1.6230                       | 1.6237                | 31.47                        | 0.010                |                            |
| 1.5276                       | 1.5349                | --                           | --                   |                            |
| 1.4804                       | 1.4808                | 5.15                         | 0.056                |                            |
| 1.3583                       | 1.3592                | 17.31                        | 0.015                |                            |
| 1.3464                       | 1.3465                | 54.95                        | 0.004                |                            |
| 1.2997                       | 1.2953                | --                           | --                   |                            |
| 1.2619                       | 1.2617                | 6.30                         | 0.039                |                            |
| 1.1703                       | 1.1703                | 2.78                         | 0.082                |                            |

Figure 9: XRD pattern of sample Ni doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 9: Structural parameters of Ni doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

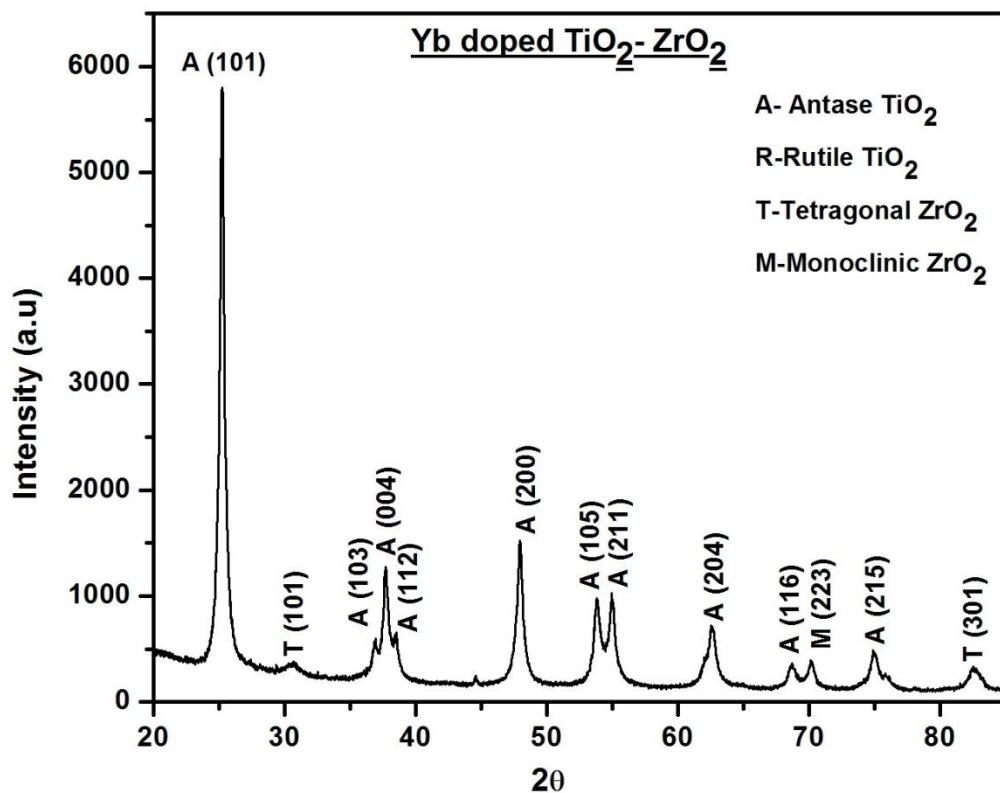
| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5208                | 3.5200         | 9.71                  | 0.071      |                     |
| 3.2499                | 3.2470         | 28.35                 | --         |                     |
| 3.0798                | 3.1598         | 5.68                  | 0.106      |                     |
| 2.9365                | 2.9529         | 8.73                  | 0.066      |                     |
| 2.4891                | 2.4870         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 2.3932                | 2.3780         | --                    | --         | <b>79.03</b>        |
| 1.8982                | 1.8920         | 8.45                  | 0.044      |                     |
| 1.6903                | 1.6930         | 4.51                  | 0.073      |                     |
| 1.4794                | 1.4797         | 4.70                  | 0.061      |                     |
| 1.3422                | 1.3465         | 4.58                  | 0.057      |                     |
| 1.2713                | 1.2705         | 4.70                  | 0.053      |                     |
| 1.1680                | 1.1670         | 5.69                  | 0.040      |                     |

Figure 10: XRD pattern of sample Mn doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 10: Structural parameters of Mn doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5140                | 3.5200         | 9.98                  | 0.069      |                     |
| 3.2384                | 3.2470         | 47.79                 | 0.013      |                     |
| 3.0541                | 3.1598         | 8.87                  | 0.067      |                     |
| 2.9224                | 2.9529         | 8.08                  | 0.071      |                     |
| 2.4791                | 2.4870         | 10.13                 | 0.048      |                     |
| 2.3689                | 2.3780         | 6.88                  | 0.067      | <b>68.89</b>        |
| 1.8908                | 1.8920         | 9.32                  | 0.039      |                     |
| 1.6860                | 1.6874         | 5.34                  | 0.062      |                     |
| 1.4804                | 1.4808         | 3.85                  | 0.075      |                     |
| 1.3583                | 1.3592         | 3.14                  | 0.084      |                     |
| 1.2677                | 1.2690         | 4.71                  | 0.052      |                     |
| 1.1680                | 1.1670         | 6.34                  | 0.036      |                     |

Figure 11: XRD pattern of sample Er doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 11: Structural parameters of Er doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5415                | 3.5200         | 9.11                  | 0.076      |                     |
| 3.0643                | 3.1598         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 2.9318                | 2.9507         | 8.60                  | 0.067      |                     |
| 2.4991                | 2.4976         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 2.3932                | 2.3780         | 5.45                  | 0.086      |                     |
| 1.8926                | 1.8920         | 10.66                 | 0.034      | <b>84.67</b>        |
| 1.6662                | 1.6665         | 4.51                  | 0.072      |                     |
| 1.4836                | 1.4808         | 5.33                  | 0.054      |                     |
| 1.3574                | 1.3598         | 3.08                  | 0.086      |                     |
| 1.2627                | 1.2617         | 7.00                  | 0.035      |                     |
| 1.1537                | 1.1531         | 3.80                  | 0.059      |                     |

Figure 12: XRD pattern of sample Yb doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 12: Structural parameters of Yb doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.52669               | 3.5200         | 20.93                 | 0.033      |                     |
| 2.90381               | 2.9529         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 2.43227               | 2.4310         | 16.10                 | 0.029      |                     |
| 2.33408               | 2.3320         | 18.50                 | 0.020      |                     |
| 1.89405               | 1.8920         | 12.77                 | 0.026      |                     |
| 1.70145               | 1.6990         | 15.18                 | 0.021      | 100                 |
| 1.66869               | 1.6665         | 10.36                 | 0.028      |                     |
| 1.48291               | 1.4808         | 11.14                 | 0.024      |                     |
| 1.36383               | 1.3641         | 12.34                 | 0.021      |                     |
| 1.33896               | 1.3381         | 12.01                 | 0.020      |                     |
| 1.26587               | 1.2649         | 8.99                  | 0.025      |                     |
| 1.16743               | 1.1670         | 20.93                 | 0.033      |                     |

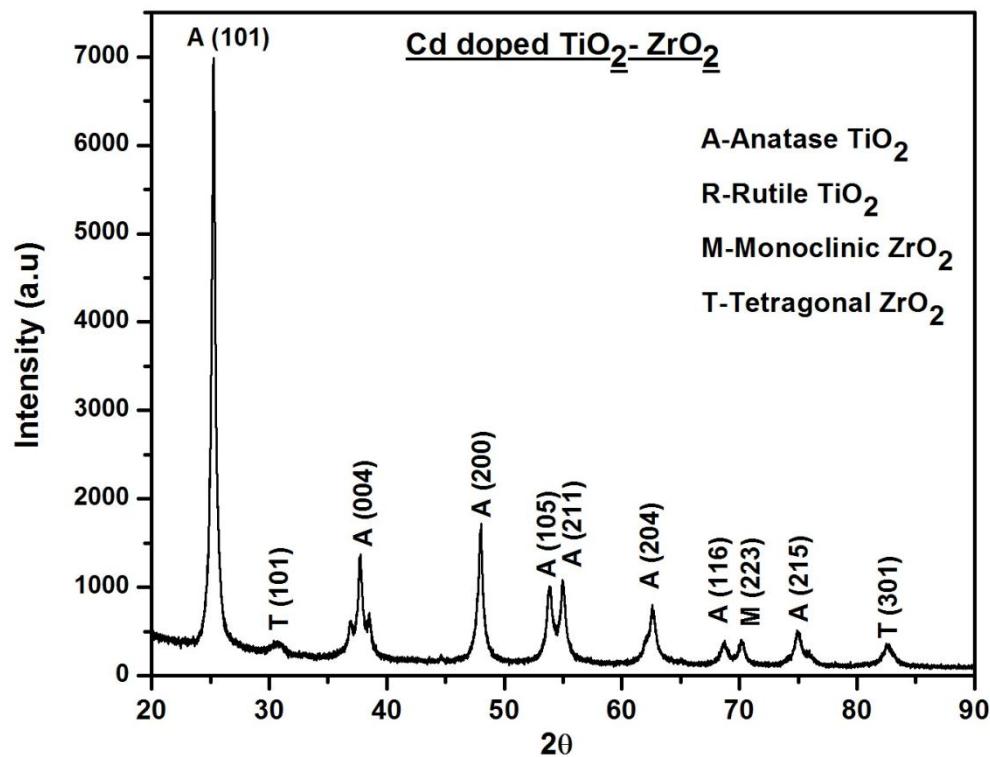
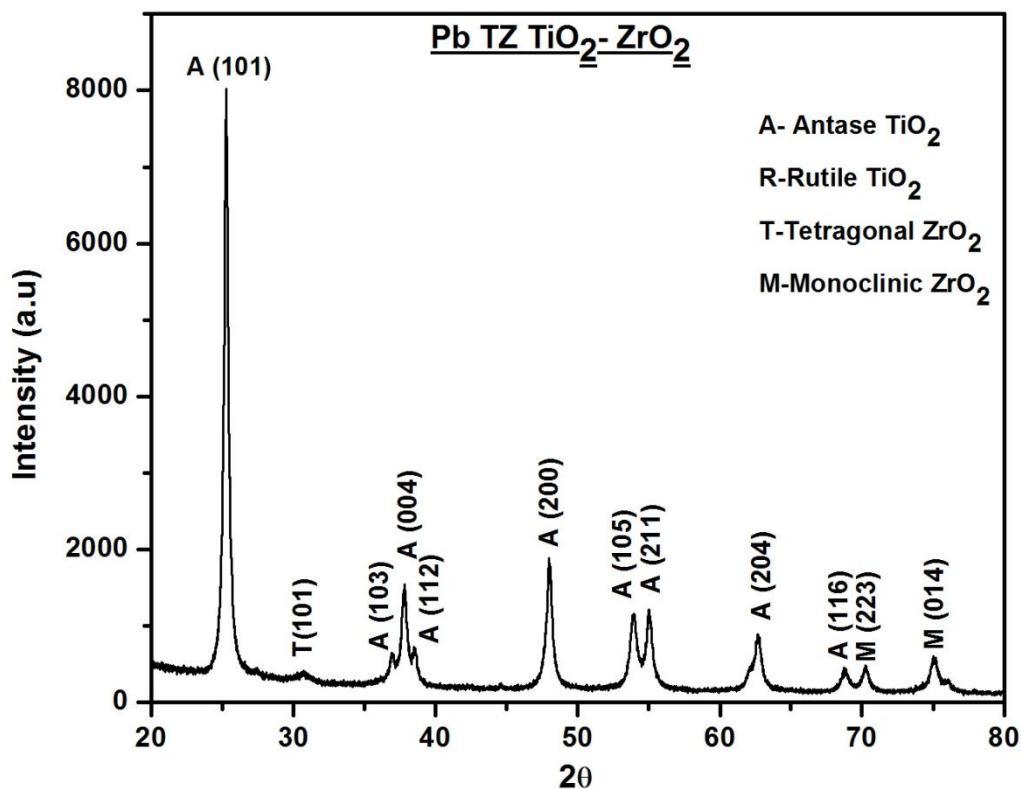


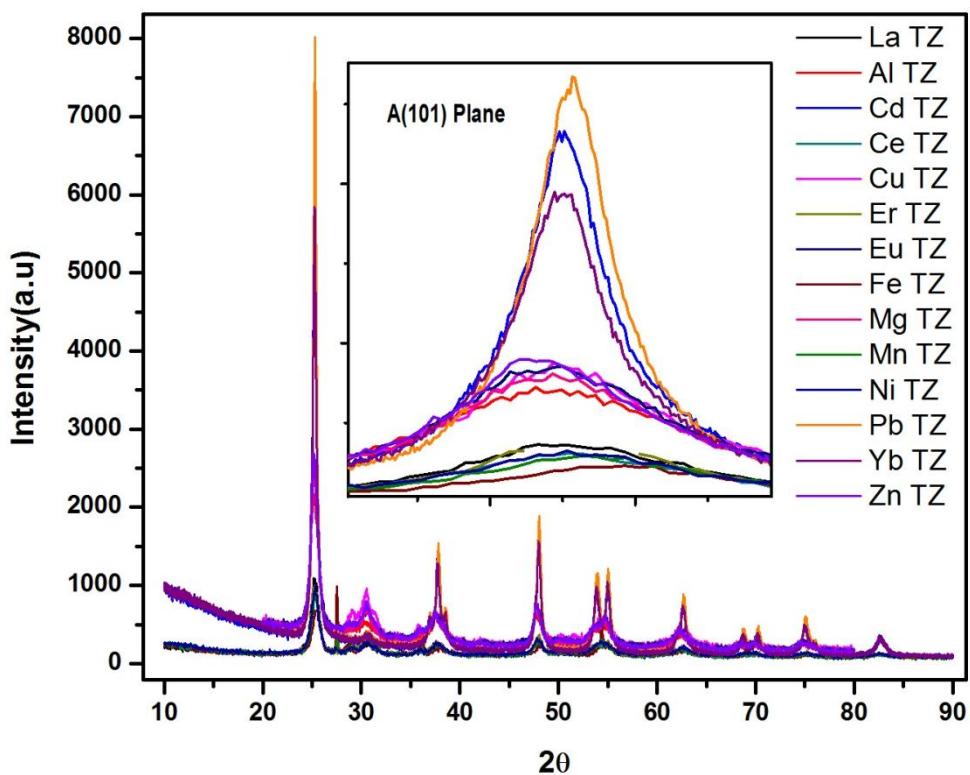
Figure 13: XRD pattern of sample Cd doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

Table 13: Structural parameters of Cd doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.5221                | 3.5200         | 22.63                 | 0.030      |                     |
| 2.9412                | 2.9529         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 2.3803                | 2.3780         | 15.89                 | 0.029      |                     |
| 1.8928                | 1.8920         | 16.16                 | 0.023      |                     |
| 1.7007                | 1.6990         | 9.69                  | 0.034      |                     |
| 1.6687                | 1.6650         | 13.56                 | 0.024      | 100                 |
| 1.4824                | 1.4808         | 9.82                  | 0.029      |                     |
| 1.3637                | 1.3641         | 9.37                  | 0.028      |                     |
| 1.3392                | 1.3381         | 10.88                 | 0.024      |                     |
| 1.2656                | 1.2649         | 10.42                 | 0.023      |                     |
| 1.1674                | 1.1670         | 7.08                  | 0.032      |                     |

Figure 14: XRD pattern of sample Pb doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> compositeTable 14: Structural parameters of Pb doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Experimental d values | JCPDS d values | Crystallite size (nm) | Strain (%) | Anatase content (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 3.51831               | 3.5200         | 25.70                 | 0.026      |                     |
| 2.90897               | 2.9529         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 2.37612               | 2.3780         | 18.50                 | 0.025      |                     |
| 2.33637               | 2.3320         | --                    | --         |                     |
| 1.89271               | 1.8920         | 18.50                 | 0.020      |                     |
| 1.6982                | 1.6999         | 15.15                 | 0.022      | 100                 |
| 1.66768               | 1.6665         | 16.98                 | 0.019      |                     |
| 1.4809                | 1.4808         | 14.17                 | 0.020      |                     |
| 1.36481               | 1.3641         | 13.40                 | 0.020      |                     |
| 1.33823               | 1.3381         | 15.35                 | 0.017      |                     |
| 1.26259               | 1.2699         | 13.07                 | 0.019      |                     |



**Figure 15:** Overlay of XRD patterns of metal doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

**Table 15:** Structural parameters of metal doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

| Sample             | Crystallite Size | Anatase Content | Strain | Crystallinity Index | Lattice Parameters |          |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|----------|
|                    |                  |                 |        |                     | Anatase Phase      |          |
|                    |                  |                 |        |                     | <b>a</b>           | <b>c</b> |
| <b>Al doped TZ</b> | 8.16 nm          | 86.58%          | 0.046  | 79.08%              | 3.80               | 9.52     |
| <b>Cu doped TZ</b> | 6.22 nm          | 86.99%          | 0.064  | 81.40%              | 3.79               | 9.50     |
| <b>Mg doped TZ</b> | 6.92 nm          | 87.28%          | 0.058  | 80.50%              | 3.80               | 9.57     |
| <b>Zn doped TZ</b> | 6.31 nm          | 88.03%          | 0.063  | 82.60%              | 3.81               | 9.61     |
| <b>Ce doped TZ</b> | 6.02 nm          | 73.73%          | 0.069  | 86.20%              | 3.78               | 9.57     |
| <b>La doped TZ</b> | 6.13 nm          | 100%            | 0.066  | 89.14%              | 3.79               | 9.55     |
| <b>Eu doped TZ</b> | 6.47 nm          | 86.41%          | 0.065  | 80.96%              | 3.79               | 9.52     |
| <b>Fe doped TZ</b> | 22.39 nm         | 35.69%          | 0.026  | 84.74%              | 3.76               | 9.61     |
| <b>Ni doped TZ</b> | 6.31 nm          | 79.02%          | 0.064  | 85.83%              | 3.79               | 9.57     |
| <b>Mn doped TZ</b> | 6.97 nm          | 68.89%          | 0.057  | 85.72%              | 3.78               | 9.47     |
| <b>Er doped TZ</b> | 6.39 nm          | 84.66%          | 0.064  | 86.41%              | 3.78               | 9.57     |
| <b>Cd doped TZ</b> | 12.55 nm         | 100%            | 0.028  | 93.19%              | 3.78               | 9.53     |
| <b>Yb doped TZ</b> | 13.83 nm         | 100%            | 0.025  | 94.29%              | 3.79               | 9.53     |
| <b>Pb doped TZ</b> | 16.76 nm         | 100%            | 0.021  | 95.21%              | 3.78               | 9.50     |

### 6.3.2 UV-Visible Spectroscopy

The absorption spectra of the samples were recorded on Thermo Fisher Scientific make Evolution 600 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer in the wavelength range of 200-900 nm. The optical bandgap was calculated by Tauc's plot. The absorption spectra and related Tauc's plot are shown in figure 16 to figure 29.

The different optical parameters calculated from UV-Visible absorption spectra are given in Table 16. The following observations can be made from the results.

The peak absorption wavelengths vary in a long range between 249 nm to 365 nm. This is obvious since the incorporation of metal ions even in a single host material can have varied effects on the electrical energy levels of the dopant ion. The ions belong to the transition, alkaline earth metal and rare earth metal groups. Hence there can be a lot of variation.

The optical bandgap is calculated from the Tauc's plot. The plot is dependent on the absorption edge which in this case varies heavily as can be seen from the absorption plots, which is the reason why the optical bandgap varies from 2.00 eV to 3.34 eV.

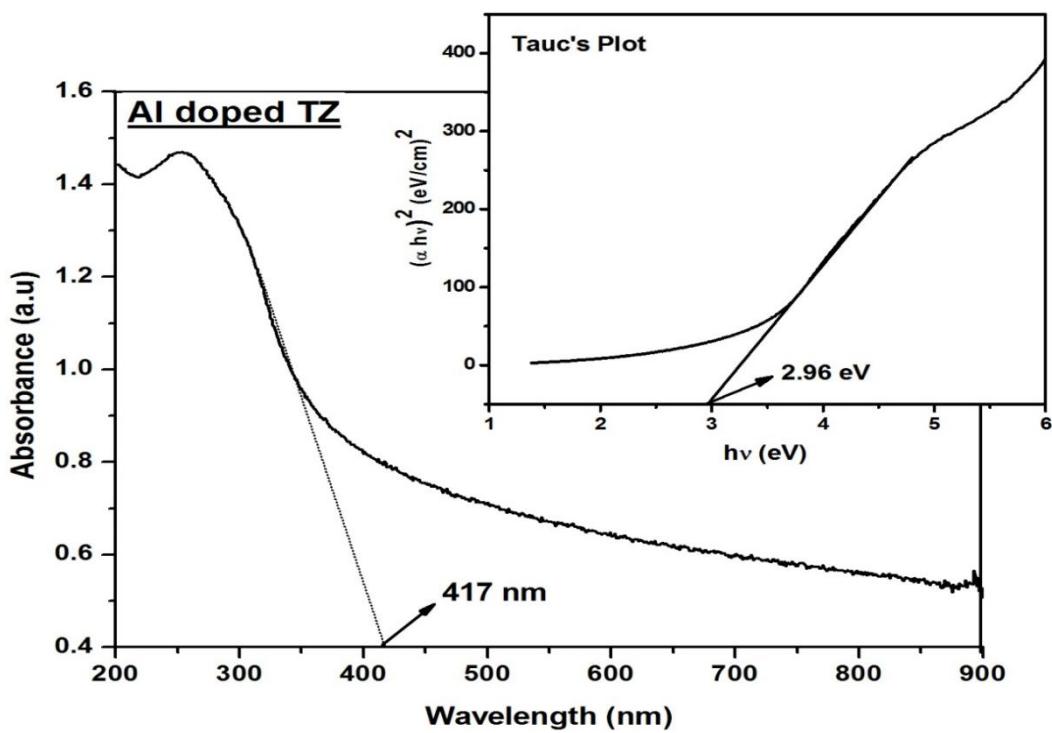
Figure 30 shows the variation of absorption coefficient with wavelength. It indicates that there is absorption in all the samples in the visible region as well as in the UV region to some extent. In general the absorption in samples remains on the higher side up to roughly 500 nm and then becomes almost constant.

Samples with Mg, Ni and Cd show very high absorption in UV but comparatively much lower in visible range. Samples doped with La, Eu and Cu do not show much variation in the absorption in UV and visible region. Rest of the

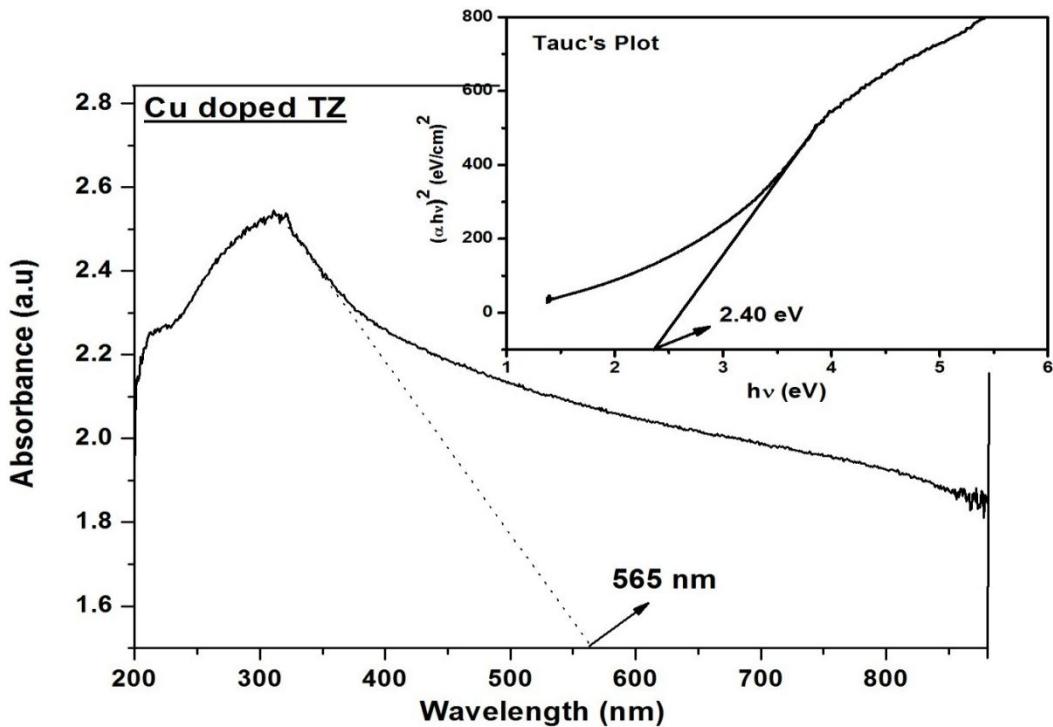
samples show moderately high absorption in UV region followed by a flat character in the visible region like other samples.

The variation of extinction coefficient with wavelength is shown in figure 31. Samples doped with Al, Cu, Zn, Eu, Fe and La have high extinction coefficient throughout the visible region and near IR. This indicates higher scattering of light in these samples.

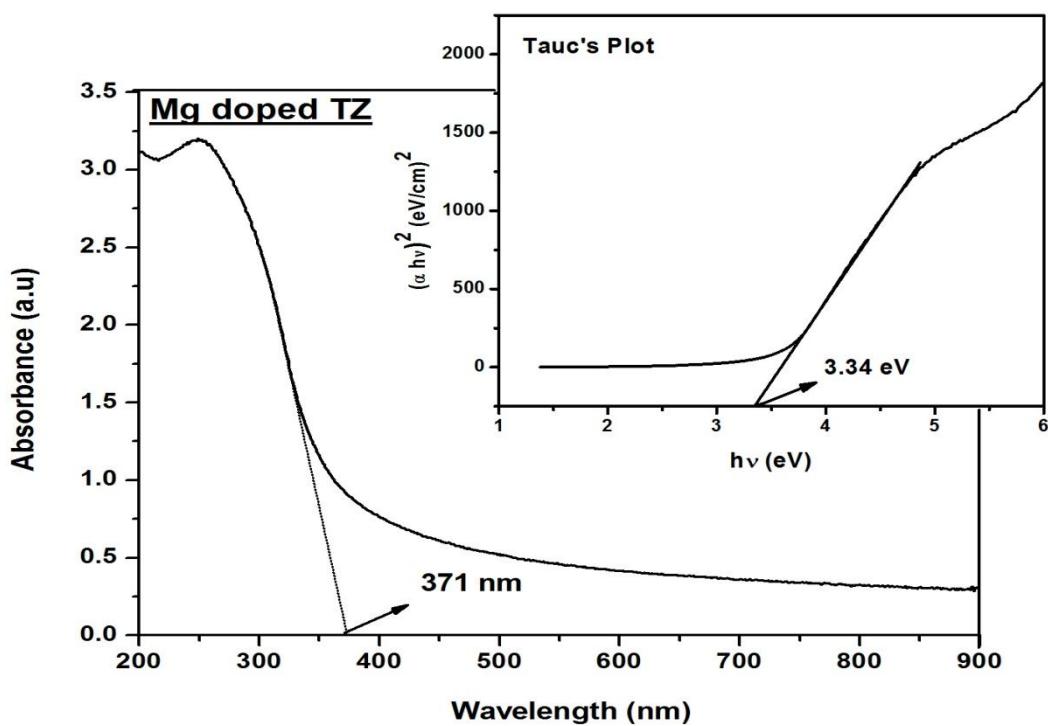
The refractive index of the samples varies with the dopant in the range 2.32 to 2.69. Sample doped with Ni and La shows lowest and highest refractive index respectively.



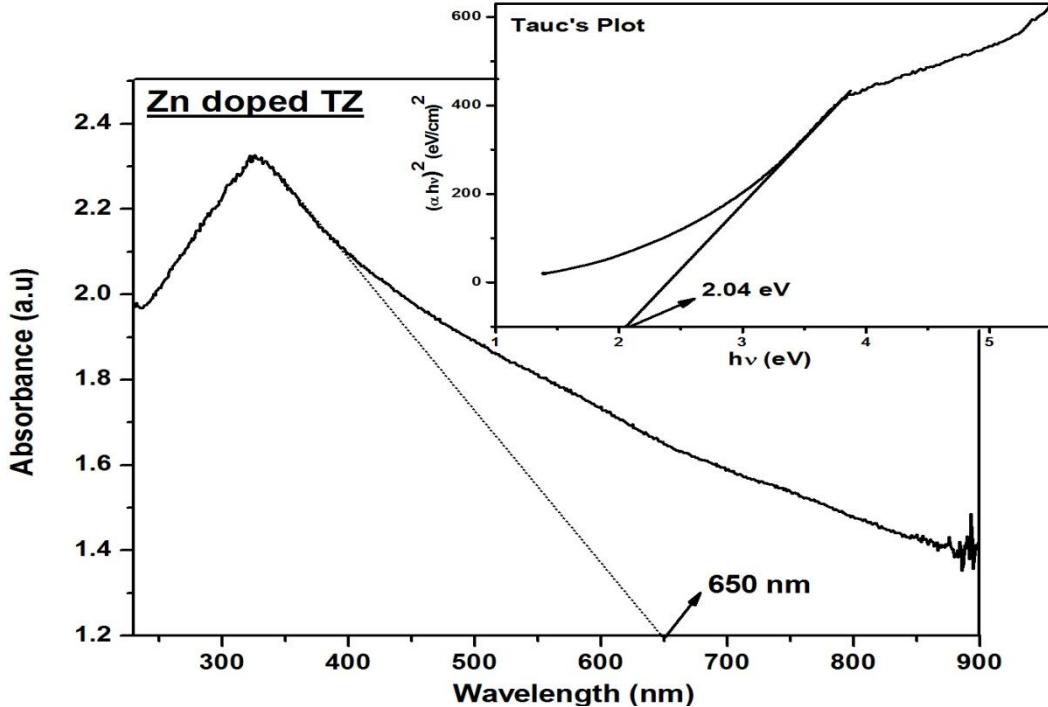
**Figure 16:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Al doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



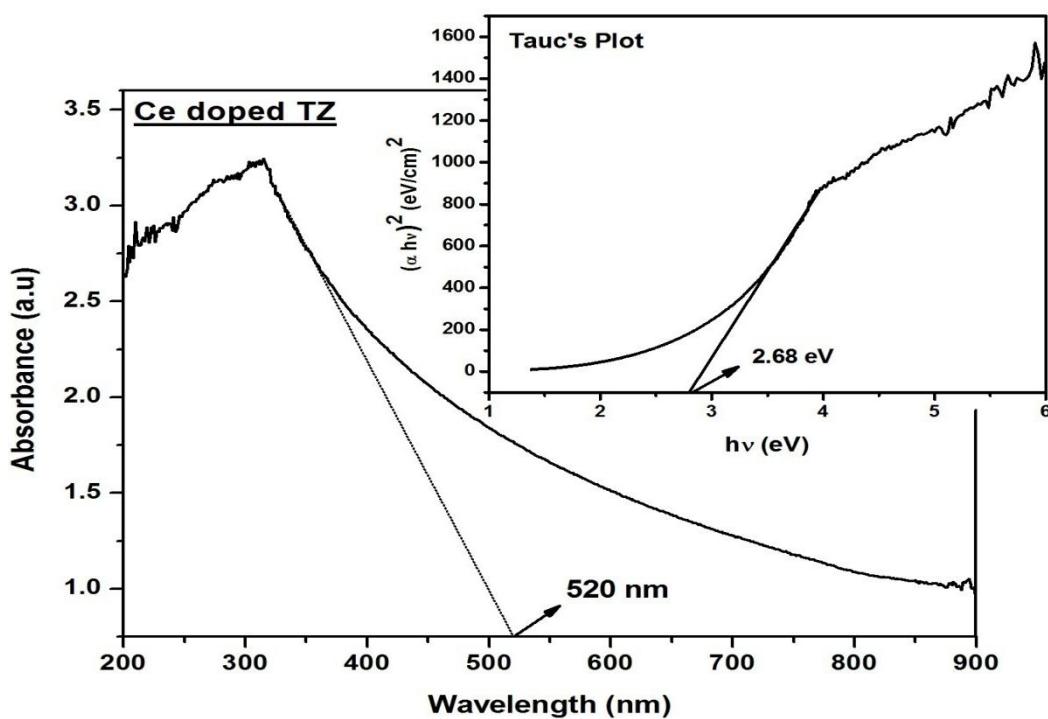
**Figure 17:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Cu doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



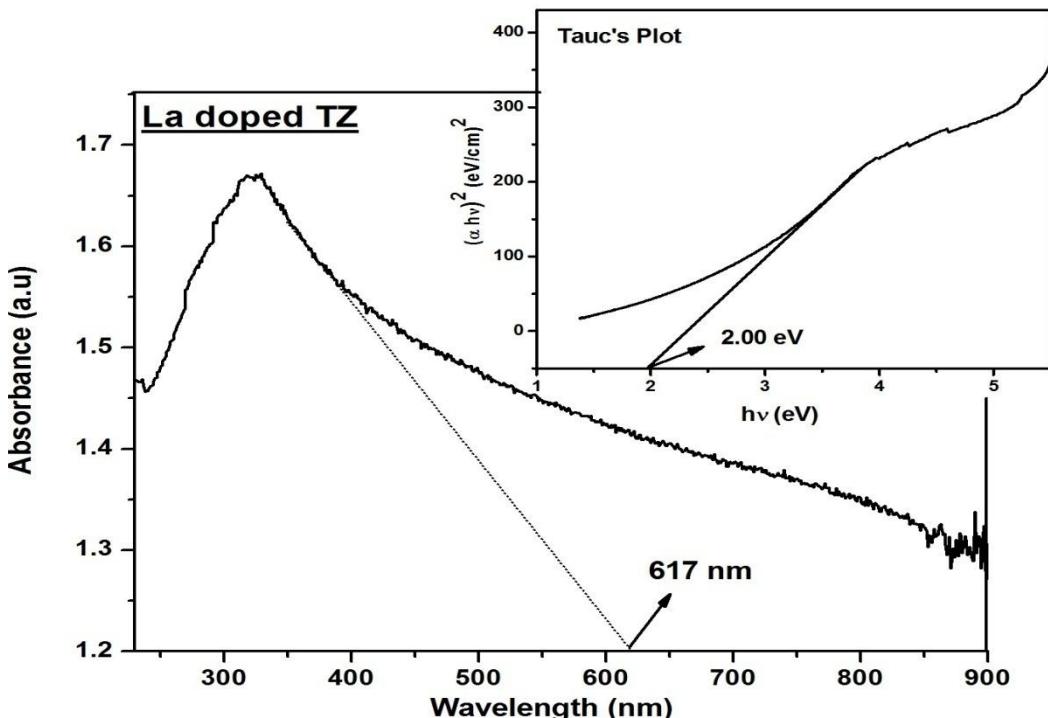
**Figure 18:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Mg doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



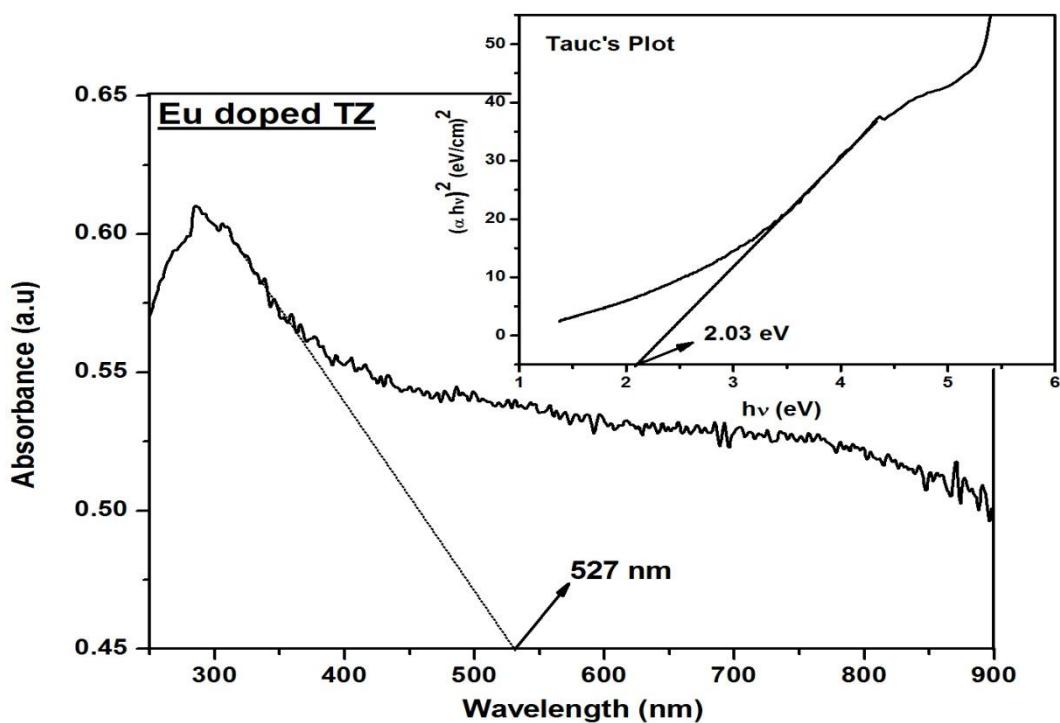
**Figure 19:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Zn doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



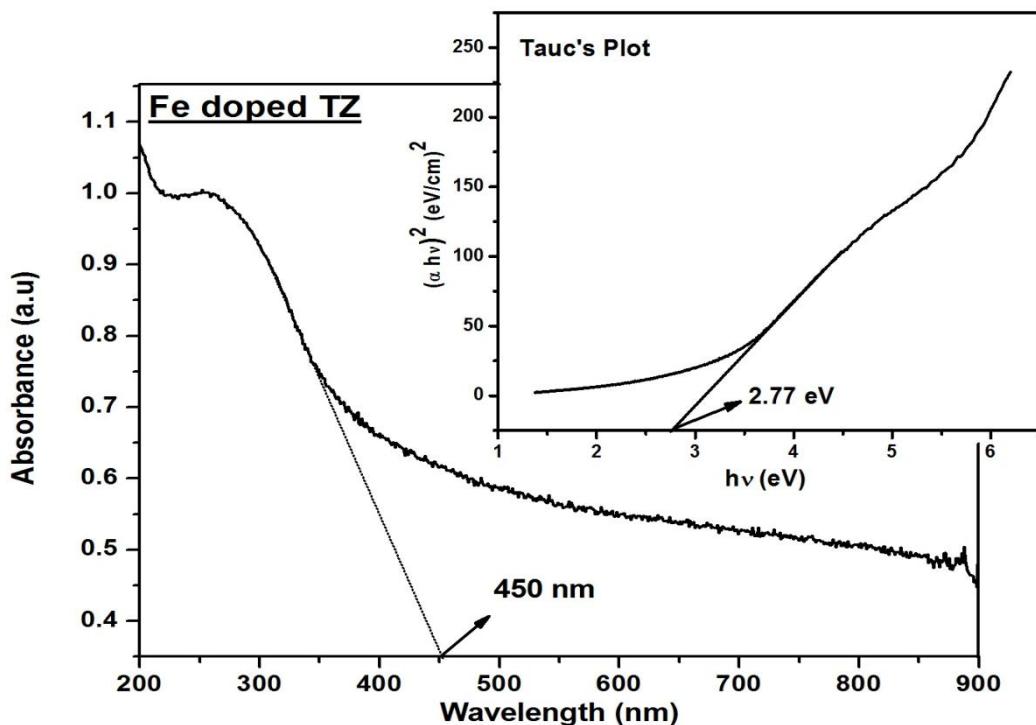
**Figure 20:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Ce doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



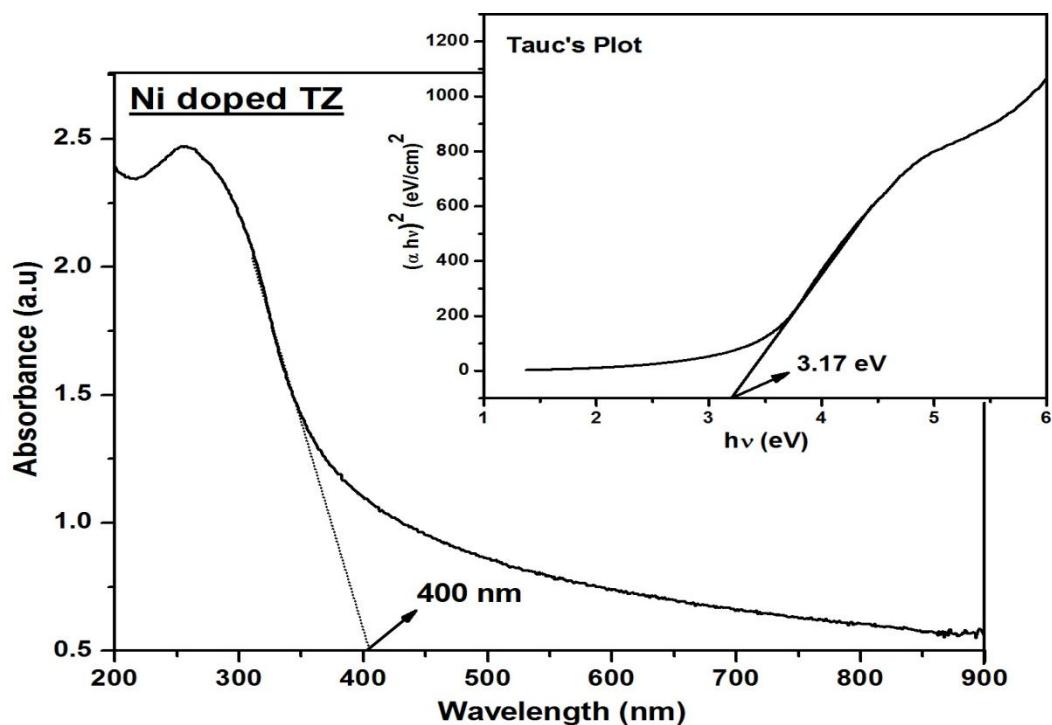
**Figure 21:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for La doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



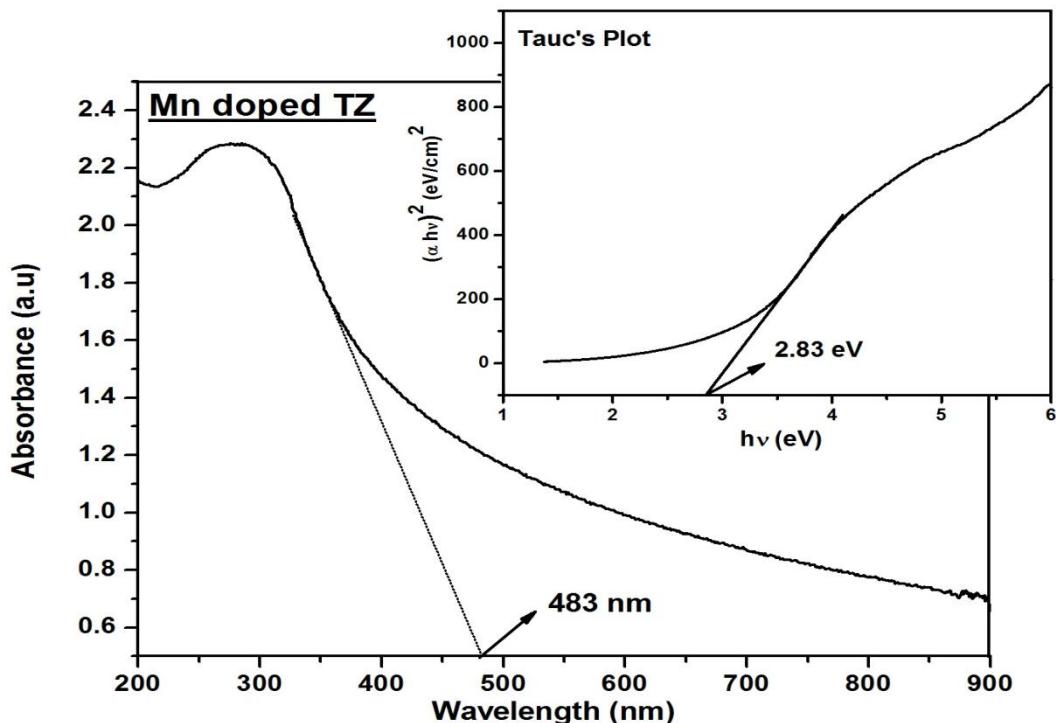
**Figure 22:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Eu doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



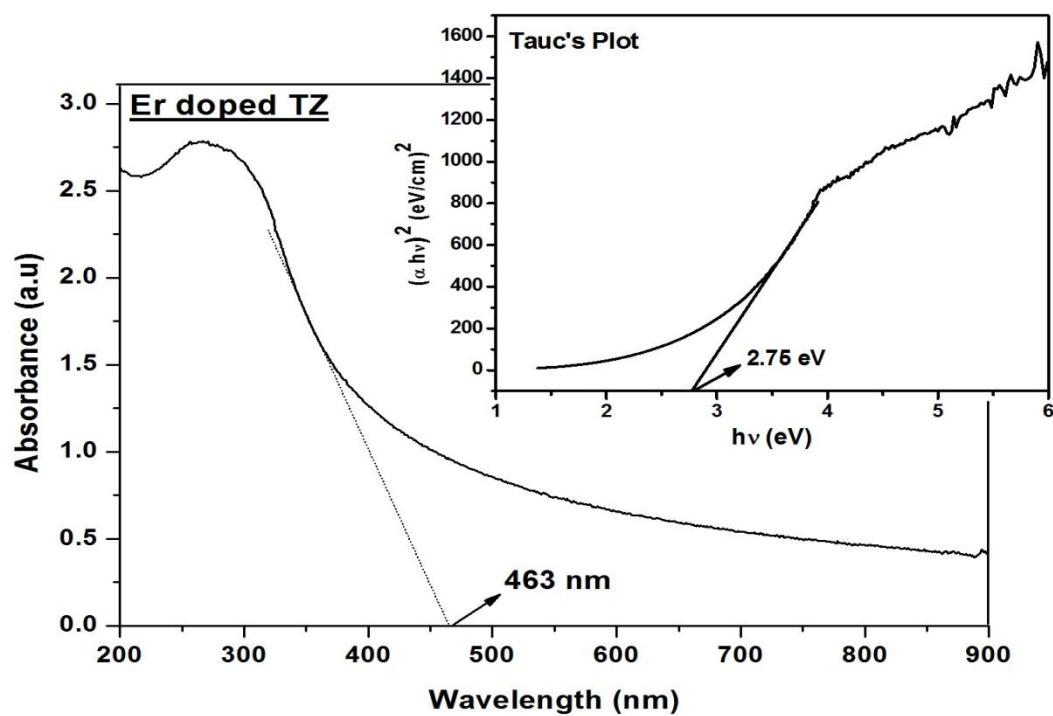
**Figure 23:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Fe doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



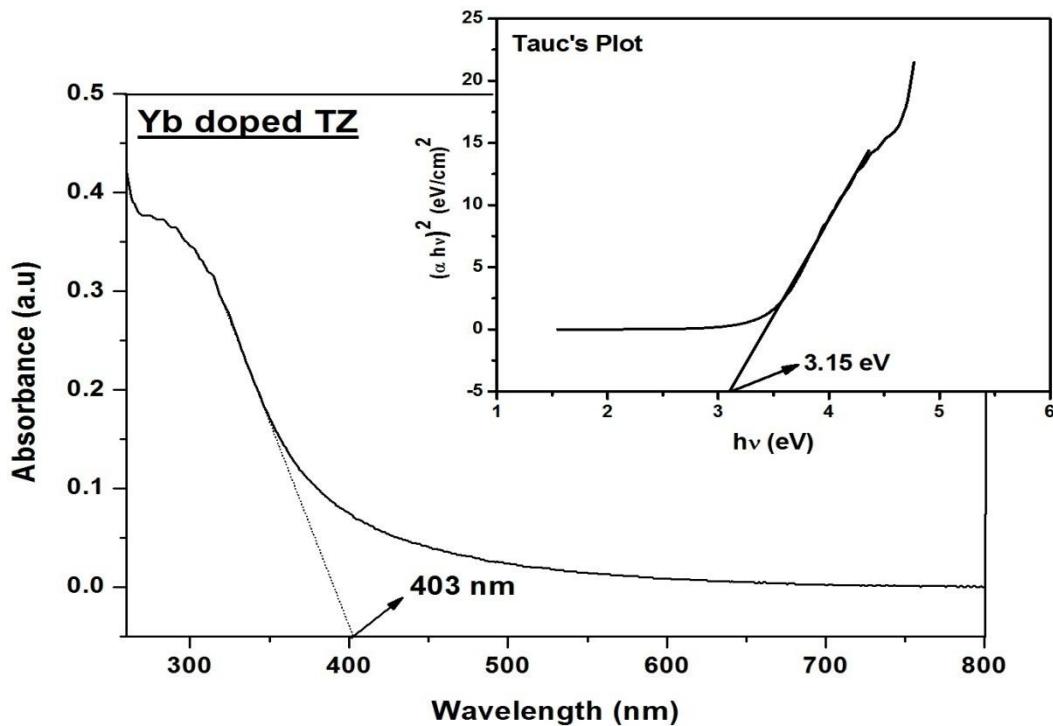
**Figure 24:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Ni doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



**Figure 25:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Mn doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



**Figure 26:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Er doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite



**Figure 27:** Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Yb doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

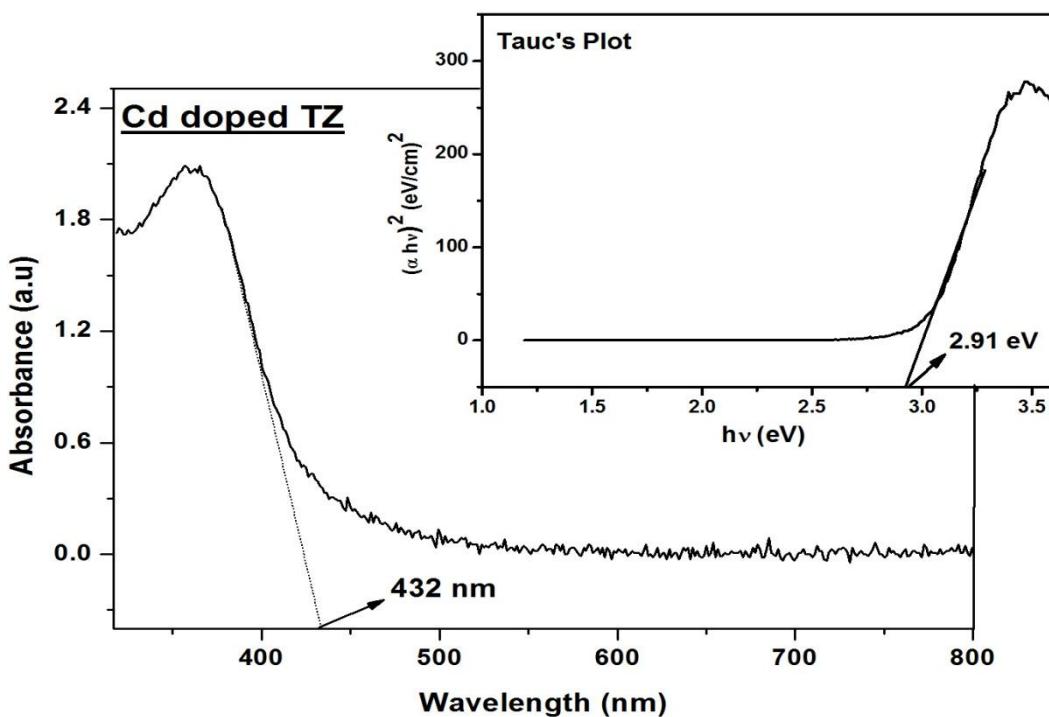


Figure 28: Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Cd doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

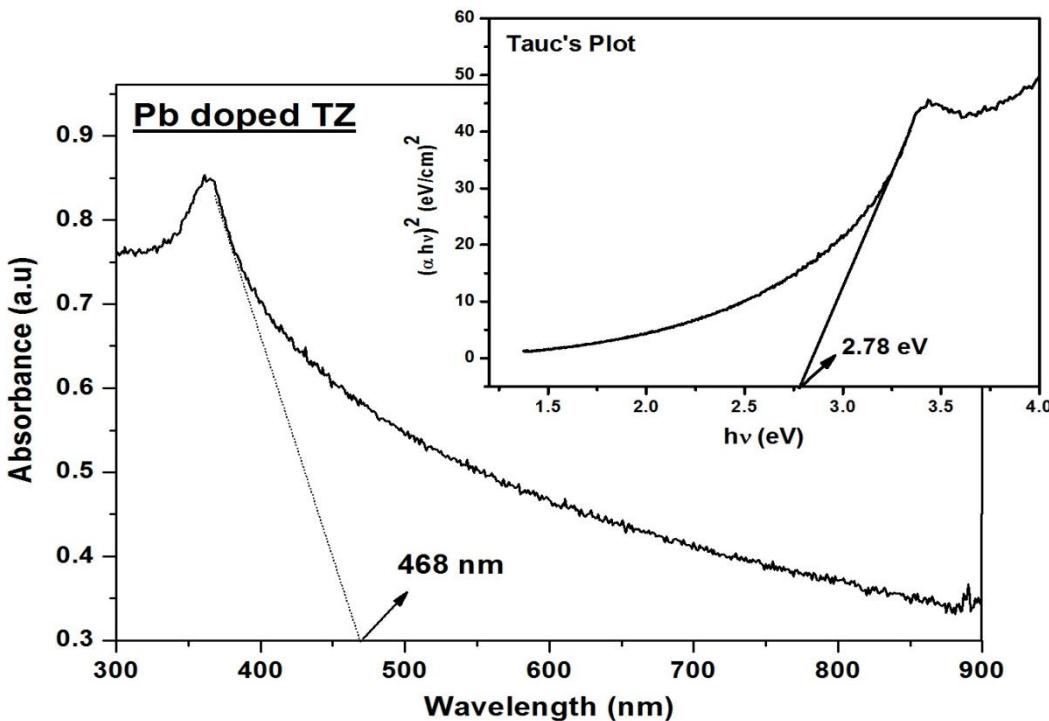


Figure 29: Absorption spectrum and Tauc's plot for Pb doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite

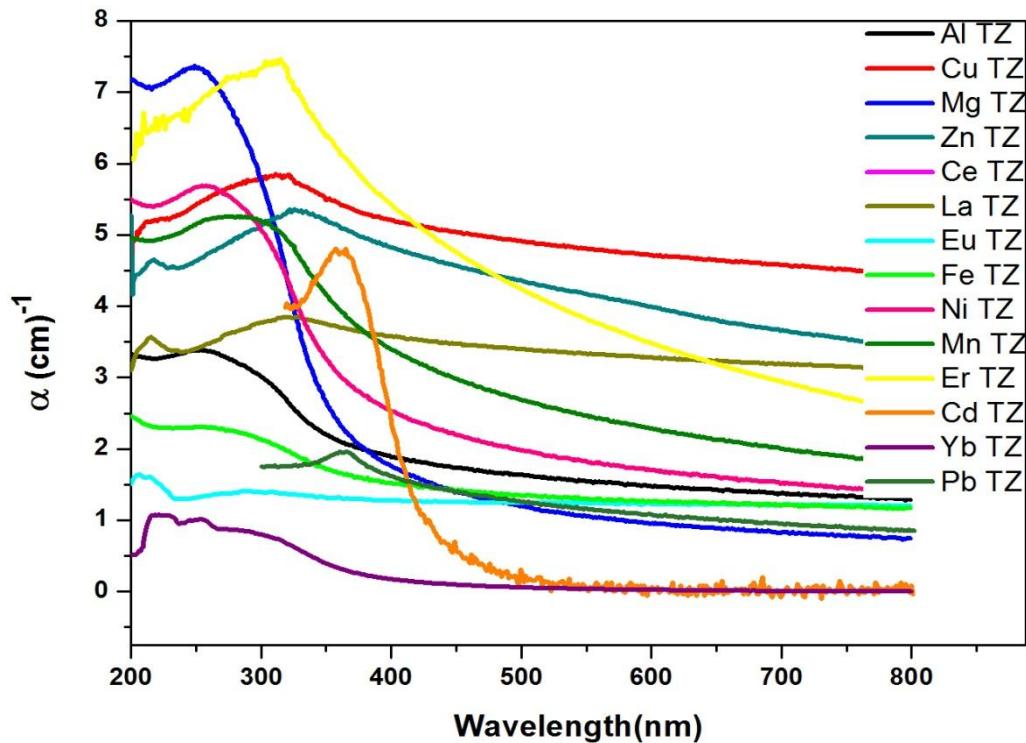


Figure 30: Variation of absorption coefficient with wavelength

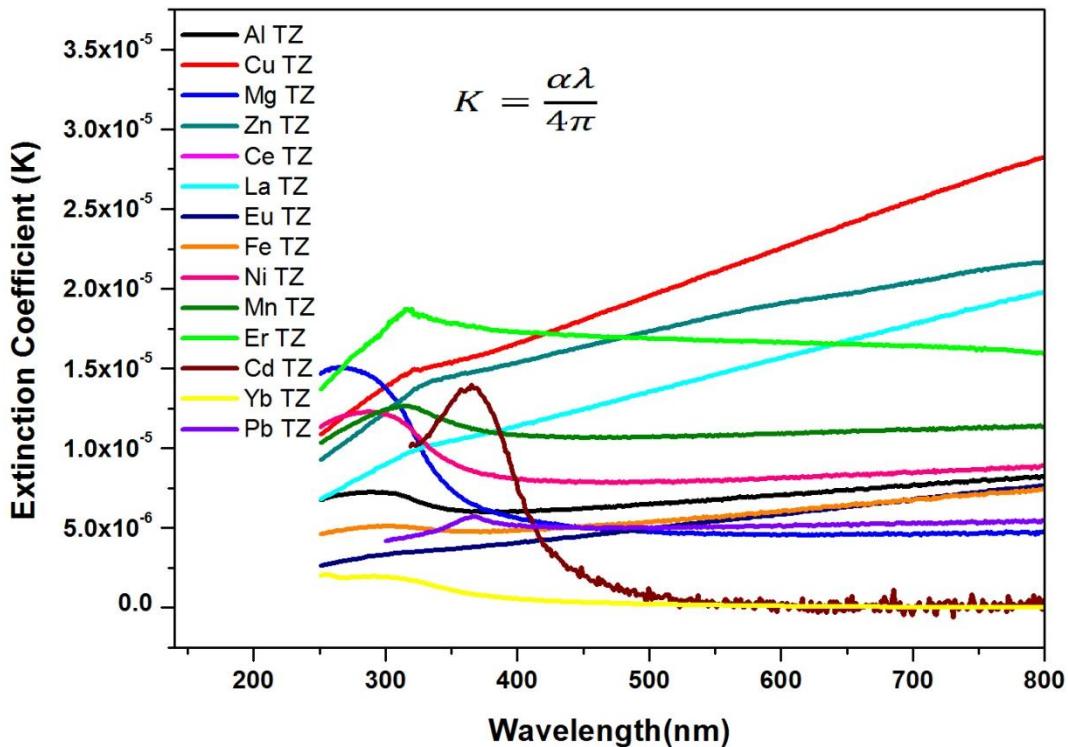


Figure 31: Variation of extinction coefficient with wavelength

**Table 16: Optical parameters of metal doped TiO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>**

| Sample             | Peak Absorption (nm) | Optical Bandgap | Refractive Index |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Al doped TZ</b> | 253                  | 2.96 eV         | 2.37             |
| <b>Cu doped TZ</b> | 320                  | 2.40 eV         | 2.54             |
| <b>Mg doped TZ</b> | 249                  | 3.34 eV         | 2.28             |
| <b>Zn doped TZ</b> | 325                  | 2.04 eV         | 2.67             |
| <b>Ce doped TZ</b> | 314                  | 2.68 eV         | 2.45             |
| <b>La doped TZ</b> | 327                  | 2.00 eV         | 2.69             |
| <b>Eu doped TZ</b> | 285                  | 2.03 eV         | 2.68             |
| <b>Fe doped TZ</b> | 256                  | 2.77 eV         | 2.42             |
| <b>Ni doped TZ</b> | 256                  | 3.17 eV         | 2.32             |
| <b>Mn doped TZ</b> | 285                  | 2.83 eV         | 2.41             |
| <b>Er doped TZ</b> | 265                  | 2.75 eV         | 2.43             |
| <b>Yb doped TZ</b> | 275                  | 3.15 eV         | 2.32             |
| <b>Cd doped TZ</b> | 360                  | 2.91 eV         | 2.38             |
| <b>Pb doped TZ</b> | 363                  | 2.78 eV         | 2.42             |

## 6.4 Conclusion

By looking at the structural parameters it can be concluded that metal doping have lowered the crystallite size and stabilized the Anatase phase of TiO<sub>2</sub>. Sample doped with La, Cd, Yb, and Pb contains TiO<sub>2</sub> purely in Anatase phase. Optical properties revealed that metal doping has increased the absorption in visible region.

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