

Alteration of Electrical conduction properties of TiO₂ using V₂O₃, V₂O₄ and Cr₂O₃

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Effects of alteration of electrical conductivity properties of TiO₂ due to V₂O₃, V₂O₄ and Cr₂O₃ were studied. In all three cases the conductivity increased by several orders of magnitudes and the activation energy decreased significantly, depending on the dopant concentration.

The results obtained for V₂O₃, and V₂O₄ doping were approximately the same. The conductivity increased (by 6 orders up to $1.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{W}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$) and the activation energy decreased (by ~50% down to 0.39 eV). The highest conductivity and the lowest activation energy were measured at the same dopant concentration (11%). Approximately the same characteristics were seen when TiO₂ was doped with Cr₂O₃ however, the highest conductivity ($1.7 \times 10^{-5} \Omega^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$) and the lowest activation energy (0.35 eV) were measured when the dopant concentration was about 6%. In all cases, the properties of doped samples depend significantly on the sintering temperature of the samples. The best results were obtained when the samples were sintered at 900 °C.

The XRD analyses of the doped samples find an additional peak in chromium doped TiO₂ when sintered at 900 °C indicating structural changes due to the incorporation of Cr₂O₃. However, no structural changes were seen in XRD analyses of V₂O₃ or V₂O₄ doped samples. This indicates a significant difference between vanadium and chromium doped samples.