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INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES OF SASA



Programme and the Book of Abstracts

**EIGHTEENTH YOUNG RESEARCHERS' CONFERENCE
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

Belgrade, December 4–6, 2019

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Study of electrical behavior of polymer-nanotubes composites

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Nanocomposites into polymer matrix are known to have extraordinary mechanical, thermal and electrical properties. Among such nanocomposites of significant interest are PEDOT:PSS polymer matrices with carbon nanotubes. In this work we analyze electrical behavior of PEDOT:PSS layers with high-purity single-walled (SWCNTs) or multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs).

Electrical studies were performed using E7-20 RLC measuring instrument. This instrument is designed to measure the parameters of samples represented by a parallel or serial two-element equivalent circuit. Harmonic voltage (1 V) in the frequency range from 1000 Hz up to 1 MHz was used as an excitation signal. The instrument ensures the 3% accuracy of impedance absolute value measurements. To see the difference in the electrical performance of obtained samples, impedance tests were carried out. Based on the readings from E7-20 instrument, which initially measures absolute value of the impedance of the sample and phase angle between applied voltage and current through the sample, we have recalculated real and imaginary parts of the impedance.

It is established that all investigated samples show lowest impedance (highest conductivity) at room temperature and electrical conductivity decrease upon cooling. General trend is that $\text{Re}(Z)$ slightly increases with frequency from 1 kHz to up to some threshold frequency and then drops rapidly. This threshold frequency for pure PEDOT:PSS and PEDOT:PSS/SWCNTs samples is about 100 kHz and is somewhat lower for composite layers with MWCNTs.

Most notable temperature effect on the real part of the impedance of fabricated polymer/CNTs composite layers is that $\text{Re}(Z)$ increases drastically starting from certain temperature, which is different for samples with different composition. For pure polymer this occurs already at 80...90 K and below 60 K $\text{Re}(Z)$ is almost out of the measurable range. For layers reinforced with SWCNTs, increase of impedance is more gradual and even more so for MWCNTs-reinforced composites. In the latter case, reliable measurements can be performed even at temperatures as low as 40K.