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Effect of Photoelectric Radiation on Luminous Materials and Polymer Remnants Added to Concrete Objects

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Abstract

Photoluminescence stands out among the practical applications of quantum physics in engineering and architecture. After being exposed to solar energy, some substances release photons as a result of the photoelectric effect. These substances were used to create a photoluminescent effect on bicycle paths in research conducted in Europe and Mexico. The research aims to investigate how polymeric residues interact with the luminescent properties of rare-earth materials when making concrete artifacts to illuminate bike and pedestrian paths. The concrete blocks were made with polymeric waste from recycling and luminescent materials, then they were exposed to sunlight and tested for mechanical strength. Experiments revealed that concrete's polymer residue significantly boosts photon emission, particularly when processed via extrusion. Even though the combination of polymers and photoluminescent materials weakens concrete, the research objectives for a product intended to illuminate paths for cyclists and pedestrians were still met.

Keywords: Photoluminescence • Concrete • Photoelectric effect • Polymers

Introduction

One of the practical applications of quantum physics in contemporary research is photoluminescence. When explaining the nature of the photon or light quantum in the photoelectric effect phenomenon, Albert Einstein was the one who first conceptualized the phenomenon. After being exposed to an energy source like sunlight, it is possible to explain how certain materials produce photon-light that travels at a specific frequency. This effect can be seen in nature when substances are exposed to solar or ultraviolet light. Photoluminescence is a type of luminescent emission that occurs when a material is excited and releases photons of electromagnetic radiation at a certain frequency.

Description

In recent years, photoluminescence has gained numerous applications in various medical processes. In terms of photon emission, stability, chemical properties, and biocompatibility, luminescent nanomaterials outperform other materials in biological and medicinal applications. Applications in high energy physics, medicine, lighting, security, agriculture, and other fields are made possible by the creation of new, effective, and inexpensive luminescent materials. Among solids, uncommon earth metals stand apart from a thoroughly examined long haul dynamic system expounded by worldwide industry processes, incorporate 15 lanthanides with the nuclear numbers 57 to 71 in the occasional table. When the elements were separated from metallic oxides known as alkaline earth metals, the term "rare-earth" was coined in the 18th and 19th centuries. At the size of nanomaterials the brilliant impacts created by these handled materials have applications in various settings. The properties of luminescent gold nanoclusters can now be used for new applications in quantum chemistry and biosensing thanks to a literature review. The optical-electronics industry is interested in luminescent materials that are doped with lanthanides because they can produce pure colors [1].

When luminescent compounds are synthesized, rare-earth materials can be used as optical markers in medical examinations or to make light-emitting molecular devices. Additionally, rare-earth ions emit photons of varying frequencies when exposed to ultraviolet light, such as europium-doped yttrium red; Europium-doped strontium phosphates give the blue color; and the terbium-containing green color, which causes photoluminescence in the three primary colors. Studies on energy efficiency have increased as a result of a growing awareness of the importance of conserving natural resources and reducing adverse effects on the environment. It should be noted that greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production have a direct impact on environmental pollution and human health [2].

Therefore, applications of energy efficiency projects benefit from the sustainability of rare earth materials. In designing, these substances are applied in photovoltaic board plans and in more effective lighting advances. For outdoor use, rare-earth materials were added to concrete artifacts in Mexico to create photoluminescent effects. In Europe, the effect was also used to create light paths for cyclists and pedestrians. The emitted light can have varying wavelengths, and the chemical composition of the material that is used determines whether or not concrete glows. The photoelectric effect that produces and transforms light is connected to the physical mechanism of luminescence: during the day, the material gets light energy from sunlight based radiation, and around evening time this energy is delivered discharged as photons. That is the means by which sunlight based energy that shines on the substantial in the light period (day) can light the way for people on foot and cyclists to pass during the dim period [3-5].

The study aims to determine how polymer residues interact with rare-earth materials during the production of concrete artifacts. Our speculation is that the substantial delivered by the expansion of polymeric agglomerates can expand the exchange of sunlight based radiation and, subsequently, increment the photon discharge in the blocks used to light ways for people on foot and cyclists. Additionally, considering that polymeric waste originates from recycling, its utilization may sustainably enhance radiation absorption. There were four stages to this experimental and exploratory study: A review of the existing research to determine which substances are used to produce a luminescent effect in concrete access to suppliers of polymer waste and rare-

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earth materials the production of concrete cylinders and blocks in a laboratory; and tests of the concrete artifacts produced in the previous phase's mechanical resistance [6].

The substance that created the luminescent effect was brought in from the Chinese chemical product development and marketing industry. Due to the presence of the terbium ion (TiO_2), the substance used in this study emits green light at 543 nm. Ceramic research also makes use of this rare-earth material. A Brazilian plastic recycling industry provided the polymeric waste: polymer in extruded polyethylene polymer and low-density polyethylene flakes. Three concrete mixes were made with various coarse aggregates. The first used polymer flakes, the second used extrusion polymer, and the third used crushed basalt as a reference concrete instead of polymer. Mixture C was selected because it possessed the same mass-to-mixture ratio as the other concretes [7,8].

First, all of the dry materials were inserted and mixed for five minutes to create the mixture process. After that, water was added gradually to achieve complete homogenization. In the end, a superplasticizer was added so that the flow ability as measured by a flow table test, was the same for all mixtures. The final water to cement ratio (w/c) was different for each concrete because of the different volumes that were obtained: A is concrete at 0.48; B is concrete at 0.37;C in concrete is 0.5. In the end, the concrete mixtures A, B, and C were poured into cylinders and rectangular molds measuring 50 x 100 mm and 40 x 40 mm, respectively. The samples were then covered with the rare-earth materials, which weighed 0.25 g for each one [9].

Two months after being made, concrete samples' mechanical and gloss performance were tested. The concretes' flexural and compressive strengths were measured following the NBR 13,279 test. The electrohydraulic press's output is expressed in tons, so the following equations (1 and 2) were used to calculate the MPa strengths. The equations are identical to what the national standard suggests. The freshly mixed concrete blocks were put in direct sunlight for 15 minutes to see if they had a luminescent effect. However, the tests had to be stopped because the sun was obscured by clouds and there was evidence of rain. The luminescent effect was observed when we returned to the dark location, where the masses were still soft before the concrete dried. With a 13 Mp camera, one of the researcher's mobile devices took the effect photo [10].

Conclusion

Consequently, the emission of green photons after 15 minutes of exposure to sunlight demonstrated the photoluminescent effect. The experiment demonstrated that polymers can be added to concrete through the mechanical strength and photoluminescent effects. When compared to the other samples, the reference concrete (C) produced the least amount of photon emission. The experiment demonstrated that polymeric aggregates enhanced the photoluminescent effect on the surface and contributed to light transference in concrete. Photon emission in concrete made with extrusion polymer was more uniform. Additionally, the polymer aggregation in the mixture was more pronounced qualitatively. Due to its low density in comparison to the other components, the polymer in the flakes had difficulty mixing. This problem was solved by adding a plasticizer product.

Acknowledgement

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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