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Tungsten hexacarbonyl-induced growth of nickel nanorods

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ABSTRACT

We report that the Ni nanocrystals with rod-like and cubic shapes can be prepared in organic solution with the aid of tungsten hexacarbonyl at a relatively low reaction temperature of 150 °C. The prepared Ni nanorods have a fivefold twinned structure with an average diameter of about 11 nm and length varying from several tens of nanometers to 150 nm whereas the obtained Ni nanocubes have an average size of about 19.2 nm. Magnetic measurements indicate that the as-prepared Ni crystals exhibit typical room-temperature ferromagnetic properties. The synthetic strategy revealed in this study provides useful guidelines for the preparation of non-spherical Ni nanocrystals.

Keywords: Nanoparticles; Magnetic materials; Crystal growth; Nanocrystals; Nanocubes

1. Introduction

Morphology and size control of metallic nanocrystals has always been an interesting research theme in nano science and technology for the pronounced shape and size effect of metallic nanocrystals on various applications such as catalysis [1] magnetism [2] optics [3] and biomedicine [4]. Ni is an important magnetic metal which has a special combination of magnetism, metallicity and high catalytic activity. Ni nanocrystals have attracted great research interest in recent years due to their wide applications in multiple fields such as catalysis, bioseparation, conductive materials and magnetic materials. Up to now, various synthetic strategies have been developed to prepare Ni nanocrystals with specific shape and size [5-17]. However, the prepared Ni nanocrystals in most cases usually have a

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