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Structural, Magnetic and Optical Properties of Sonochemically Synthesized Zr-Ferrite

Nanoparticles

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Abstract

The present study investigated sonochemical synthesis of Zr-ferrite nanoparticles under

different operating parameters. In order to explore the sintering effect on ferrite phase

formation, the synthesized ferrite particles were also calcined in the range of 200 – 900°C.

The obtained nanoparticles were characterized using XRD, FESEM, TEM, EDX, DRS, and

VSM. The results revealed that the formation of ferrite phase needs external calcinations and

in-situ microcalcination induced by transient cavitation is not sufficient for formation of

spinel ferrite phases. The DRS results showed that it has a high capability of visible light

absorption due to low band-gap energy in the range of 1.85 eV-1.93 eV. The change in band-

gap energy is attributed to the crystalline size of the particle and the change of nature of the

ferrite from amorphous to crystalline structure. While analysis of magnetic properties

revealed that coercivity is dependent on calcination temperature and the solution pH. The

highest coercivity and magnetic saturation were determined as 725 Oe and 0.750 emu/g;

respectively. At higher pH, ferromagnetic behaviour with decreasing order in both magnetic

saturation (M_s) and magnetic remanence (M_r) has been observed. To the best of our

knowledge, this is the first report on magnetic properties of Zr-ferrite.

Keywords: Nanoparticles; Magnetic materials; Zirconium ferrite; Ultrasound

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