Structural properties of MgO Nanoparticles: Synthesized by Co-Precipitation Technique

K. Ganapathi Rao1, CH. Ashok2, K. Venkateswara Rao3, CH. Shilpa Chakra4

1,2,3,4 Centre for Nano Science and Technology, Institute of Science and Technology, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, Kukatpally, Hyderabad – 500085, Telangana, India
1ganapathi.kandregula@gmail.com
2chinthakuntlaashok@gmail.com
3kalagadda2003@gmail.com
4shilpachakra.nano@gmail.com

Abstract: Metal oxide nanomaterials are important and excellent materials, because of its special properties like chemical stability, high photo catalytic activity, high electric permittivity, non-toxic nature. So it is used in various applications like optical, electrical, electronic, antiseptic, antibacterial, environmental, semi conductors and catalytic devices. Present work focused on to synthesis of Magnesium oxide (MgO) Nanoparticles and its applications in the field of environment. These nanoparticles are prepared by simple suitable chemical method like Chemical Co-Precipitation using Magnesium nitrate as core precursor. The synthesized Metal oxide nanoparticles have been characterized by X-ray Diffractometer (XRD), Particle Size Analyzer (PSA), Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and Thermo Gravimetric and Differential Thermal Analyzer (TG-DTA) for average crystallite size, average particle size, morphology and thermal stability respectively.

Keywords: MgO nanoparticles, Co-precipitation, XRD, SEM, TG-DTA.

1. Introduction

Nanoparticles are having different properties compared with bulk materials. Most of the researchers are working with metal oxide nanoparticles because of their unique properties such as hydrophobic, photo catalytic, stability and etc. Hence they are used in many applications named as coatings, catalysts, anti-bacterial, medical sciences, sensors, semiconductors, capacitors and batteries [1]. MgO is an important material, which is used in many applications like catalysis, toxic waste remediation, paint, superconducting products, anti-bacterial activities against food borne pathogens [2-4]. Magnesium is IIA group element with atomic number 12 and Oxygen is VIA group element with atomic number 8. The compound MgO is having boiling and melting points as 3600ºC and 2852ºC. These oxide materials can be prepared by different synthesis methods such as solution combustion [5], Co-precipitation [6], Sol-Gel[7], hydrothermal[8], Solvothermal[9], Microwave Assisted Sol-Gel[10], green synthesis[11]. In these methods Co-precipitation is one of the best method to synthesis nanoparticles without agglomeration in the yield, size can be easily controlled. In this present paper, MgO nanoparticles were prepared using initial precursors Magnesium Nitrate and Sodium hydroxide. These samples were synthesized under standard laboratory conditions in clean room and analyzed using analytical techniques such as X-ray Diffractometer (XRD), Thermo Gravimetric-Differential Thermal Analyzer (TG-DTA), Particle Size Analyzer (PSA) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM).

2. Experimental Details

Magnesium nitrate, Sodium hydroxide purchased from E. merck (India) limited Co. Magnesium Nitrate and Sodium Hydroxide were dissolved in 250ml distilled water into breakers separately. Stir them separately for half an hour using magnetic stirrer for constant stirring. Add sodium hydroxide solution to Magnesium nitrate solution drop by drop with burette at room temperature. After 30 minutes milky white color precipitate was formed, Collected white color magnesium oxide nanoparticles after filtration and drying.

![Chemical reaction diagram]

\[ \text{Mg(NO}_3\text{)}_2 + 2\text{NaOH} \rightarrow \text{Mg(OH)}_2 + 2\text{NaNO}_3 \]
\[ 2\text{Mg(OH)}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{MgO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \]

3. Characterization Techniques

The average crystalline size, structure and phase of sample were determined by X-ray diffraction using Bruker D8 advanced X-Ray Diffractometer with CuKα radiation. HORIBA SZ-100 Particle Size Analyser used for measure...
the average particles size. Morphology and size obtained from HITACHI S3400 NScanning Electron Microscope. Thermal properties measured by EXSTAR 6300 TG-DTA.

4. Results & Discussions

The XRD pattern of MgO nanoparticles obtained from co-precipitation synthesis were as shown in Figure 1. The result showed that the structure was in cubic structure and these results were matched with JCPDS card number 75-1525. Peaks were absorbed at 37°, 42°, 62°, 74° and 78° along with miller indices values (1 1 1), (2 0 0), (2 2 0), (3 1 1) and (2 2 2) respectively. As the width of the peak increases size of particle size decreases, which resembles that present material in nano range [12,13].

The lattice parameters were obtained a=b=c= 0.4195 nm. The average crystallite size was measured by Debye-Scherrer’s equation as mentioned below.

\[ D = \frac{K \lambda}{\beta \cos \theta} \]

where D is the average crystallite size of the particles, K is Debye scherrer’s constant (=0.94), \( \lambda \) is the wavelength of the CuK\( \alpha \) radiation (=0.154 nm), \( \beta \) is the full width half maximum (FWHM) of the peak, \( \theta \) is the Bragg’s angle.

The average crystallite size was measured as 18 nm.

The average particle size was obtained by Particle Size Analyzer. That material was dispersed in distilled water using ultra-sonicator. Figure 2 shows that the histograms of the dispersed particles.

The average particle size was obtained 21 nm. These results were nearly equals to XRD average crystalline size [14].

The morphology and size of the sample were investigated by Scanning Electronic Microscopy shown in figure 3. The MgO nanoparticles are showing spherical granules structure. The size was ranging 100 nm to 120 nm [15].

The thermal properties were calculated for the sample using TG-DTA and the result were shown in the figure 4. TG analysis was observed from room temperature to 800°C. The weight loss of the sample observed at room temperature to 100°C due to the evaporation of water molecules, whereas 100°C to 400°C the weight loss caused by evaporation of inorganic materials [16].

The thermal properties were calculated for the sample using TG-DTA and the result were shown in the figure 4. TG analysis was observed from room temperature to 800°C. The weight loss of the sample observed at room temperature to 100°C due to the evaporation of water molecules, whereas 100°C to 400°C the weight loss caused by evaporation of inorganic materials [16].
After 400°C the weight loss occurs due to the evaporation of unreacted materials which is involved in the sample. The DSC curve shows that the corresponding weight loss was observed. The weight loss of the sample was obtained 7.2%.

5. Conclusions
MgO nanoparticles were successfully synthesized using co-precipitation method. From XRD analysis average crystallite size of the sample was 18 nm. The average particle size was estimated 21 nm from particle size analyzer. The structure and morphology obtained by SEM. It observed that cubic structure and spherical granules shape. The weight loss was measured by TG-DTA curves as 7.2%. These above results showed that as prepared MgO particles were in the nano range.

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References

Author Profile
Mr. K Ganapathi Rao is a Research student and currently he is pursuing his M.Tech. (Nanotechnology) in Center for Nano Science and Technology, Institute of Science and Technology, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, Telangana, India. He completed his Bachelor’s degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from JNTUH, Telangana, India. His area of interest is on Synthesis and Characterization of Metal oxide Nanomaterials for Self-cleaning Applications.

Mr. Ch. Ashok is a Research (Ph. D.) Scholar in Center for Nano Science and Technology, Institute of Science and Technology, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, Telangana, India. He published five international peer-reviewed journals and one text book. He completed his M.Sc. (Physics) from Kakatiya University and M.Tech. (Nanotechnology) from JNTUH. His research interest is on Synthesis and Characterization of Metal oxide Nanostructured materials for Sensor Applications.
DR. K. Venkateswara Rao is Associate Professor of Nanotechnology in CNST, IST and Additional Controller of Examinations-III JNTUH, Telangana, India. He is DST-Programme Coordinator, Board of studies member in JNTUK (Physics), JNTUH (Physics), JNTUA (Physics) and KL University (Nanotechnology). He published 82 international peer reviewed journals and published 14 books in the area of Nanotechnology and Physics. He completed his M.Sc. (Physics), Ph.D. (Physics) from Central University Hyderabad and M.Tech. (Computer Science Engineering) from JNTUH. He is presently guiding 8 Ph.D. students. Under his guidance more than 50 M.Tech., M.Sc. and B.Tech. Project students submitted their dissertations. He is working in the area of Nanomaterials Synthesis, Characterization and Fabrication of thin films for various Applications.

Ms. CH. Shilpa Chakra is Assistant Professor of Nanotechnology and Head of the department, Center for Nano Science and Technology, Institute of Science and Technology, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, Telangana, India. She completed B.Tech. (Biotechnology) and M.Tech. (Nanotechnology) from JNTUH. Presently she is pursuing Ph.D. (Nanotechnology) in CNST. She published 24 international peer reviewed journals and published 3 books in the area of Nanotechnology. Presently under her guidance more than 20 M.Tech., M.Sc. and B.Tech. Students are working in the same field. Her area of interest is Nanomaterials synthesis, Characterization and Applications from green methods.