ISSN: 2320-2882

IJCRT.ORG



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Synthesis Of Fe₃O₄ Nanoparticle By Solution Combustion Using Taguchi Optimization Method

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Abstract:

Ferrite Nanoparticles is magnetic in nature due to these they are used in many fields like biomedical field (in magnetic resonance imaging and magnetic hyperthermia etc.), Due to its magnetic properties it used in drug delivery system and as a heterogeneous catalyst in organic synthesis. It is prepared from different methods like Green Method, Chemical Precipitation Method and Solution Combustion method etc. In this work, Solution combustion Synthesis of ferrite (Fe₃O₄) nanoparticle is carried out. A Taguchi optimization method is used for the synthesis of ferrite nanoparticle. By considering all four variables we find that each variables affect the chemical composition and magnetic properties of synthesized ferrite nanoparticle. In this work, we consider Taguchi optimization for synthesis which give better quality ferrite nanoparticles. Ferrite Nanoparticles has antibacterial activity.

Keywords: Ferrite Nanoparticles (FNPs), Taguchi optimization, Solution Combustion Synthesis

Introduction:

Ferrite Nanoparticles has magnetic properties hence it is present in the class of magnetic nanoparticles(MNPs) due to its interesting properties it is used in various fields like biomedical to industrial. Magnetic material is used in many technological applications. The variables which is used during the synthesis may affect the geometry of synthesized material like size which is reduced to nanoscale has many advantages then their bulk form. The all these properties show that these nanomaterials is used in medical diagnosis and treatment in medical field and it also used as sensors in energy sector.

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Ferrite Nanoparticles is found in three major forms such as, Magnetite (Fe₃O₄), Maghemite (γ -Fe₂O₃), and Hematite (α -Fe₂O₃). The maghemite phase of ferrite is not practically useful for different applications. It is unstable compare to hematite form of ferrite but it can exist along with other forms. The hematite is the most stable form of ferrite nanoparticle and highly used forms. The solution cumbustion synthesis of ferrite Nanoparticles shows following reaction,

 $54Fe(NO_3)_3 + 92C_2H_5NO_2$ $168Fe_3O_4 + 184CO_2 + 230H_2O + 127N_2$

The Taguchi method was developed by Dr. Genichi Taguchi of Japan. He maintained that variation during the experiment. Taguchi developed a method for designing experiments to investigate how different parameters affect the mean and variance of a process performance characteristic that defines how well the process is functioning.

These ferrite nanomaterials is prepared by a different methods, such as co-precipitation thermal decomposition, sonochemichal or solvothermal. Most of these methods give good results in terms of low particle size and morphology.

At present time, the sol-gel and solution combustion technique is good option due to its simplicity and control over the product characteristics and parameters used during synthesis. In these work, four variables is consider at a time and observe their interaction. The effect of each variables on the chemical composition and magnetic properties is study by different method. The FNPs are characterization by UV spectra, X- ray diffraction and FTIR spectra.

Materials and Methods:

Materials: The metal salt precursors used for the synthesis of Fe_3O_4 Nanoparticle were iron nitrate [Fe(NO₃)₃·9H₂O, Research lab], with citric acid, urea and glycine (Research lab) as a fuels. Distilled water was used as the solvent.

Experiments design:

The experiment design which is a used for synthesis of Fe_3O_4 Nanoparticle by solution combustion method using Taguchi optimization method and check which parameters affect the synthesis of Fe_3O_4 Nanoparticle. In this work, a Taguchi optimization method is used in which four parameters were used such as fuels, temperature, time and ratio as shown in the table 1.

	Levels				
Optimization	1	2	3		
parameters					
FUEL	Citric acid	Urea	Glycine		
TEMP	400	500	600		
TIME	30	60	90		
RATIO	1:1	1:2	2:1		

Table 1

Synthesis:

For the synthesis of (Fe_3O_4) nanoparticles by the solution combustion method, Weight amount of ferric nitrate was first dissolved in 5 mL of distilled water with constant starring at room temperature. Fuels is also dissolve in 5 ml distilled water. After this, Mix the both the solution carefully till homogeneous solution was obtained. Heat these homogeneous solution at 400 °C for 30 in a furnace to obtained the FNPs. The obtained product was further grind to obtained Fe₃O₄ Nano powder.

Characterization:

The synthesized FNPs are characterized by different instruments. XRD measurement of FNPs give information about whether synthesized nanoparticle is crystalline or amorphous measurements. XRD measurement also help to determine chemical composition, crystal structure and particle size of synthesized nanoparticles. The Bragg's Law ($n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$) equation is used for size determination of ferrite nanoparticles. FNPs are also analyzed by UV and FTIR spectrum which gives information about the absorbance maxima and function group present in synthesized ferrite nanoparticle.

Result and discussion:

The results obtained from characterization of the FNPs show following results. The temperature range have been set between 400 and 600 °C, whereas the time varies from 30 min to 90 minutes. This first samples (1:1) been characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD) to determine their crystal structure, chemical composition and particle size. The characteristic Fe_3O_4 peak at around 32.2046⁰ is present in all of the samples, but it seems clear that the peak at 24.1677°, corresponds to Fe_3O_4 nanoparticles.

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Level	Fuel	Temperature in	Time in	Ratio	Average
		⁰ C	Minutes		particle
					size in nm
1	1	400	30	1:1	33.32
2	1	500	60	1:2	34.82
3	1	600	90	2:1	37.67
4	2	500	30	2:1	34.87
5	2	600	60	1:1	43.20
6	2	400	90	1:2	43.29
7	3	600	30	1:2	36.33
8	3	400	60	2:1	34.92
9	3	500	90	1:1	37.73

Table 2

Debye – Scherrer equation for the calculation of particle size is

 $\mathbf{D} = (\mathbf{k} \ \lambda / \beta \ \cos \theta)$

Where,

K is the Scherrer constant,

D is the size of the particle,

K is known as the Scherer's constant (K=0.94),

 λ is wave length of the X-ray beam used (1.54,184 Å),

 β is the Full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the peak and

 θ is the Bragg angle

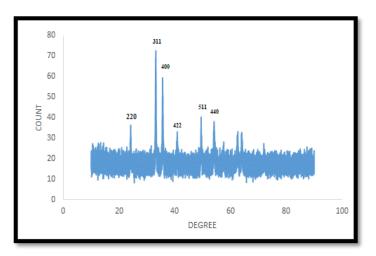


Fig.1 X-ray diffraction Fe₃O₄ Nanoparticles

Taguchi smaller the better calculation:

Ferrite nanoparticle synthesis by solution combustion using the Taguchi optimization method considering four parameters such as fuel, temperature, time, and ratio after carrying out 9 syntheses by considering all parameters, we obtained data and these data are used to calculate deviation and FOE% we obtained that fuel parameter affects more than the other parameters.

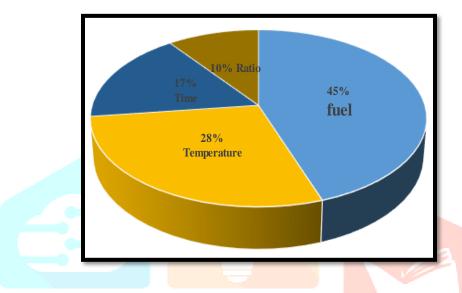


Fig.2 FOE% of Ferrite nanoparticles synthesis by Taguchi method

The above graph shows that four parameters affect the synthesis, but fuel parameters affect more (45%) than the other parameters like Temperature (25%), Time (17%), and, Ratio (10%). But we used three types of fuels hence we plot a deviation bar graph to know which fuel, temperature, time, and ratio affect more on ferrite nanoparticle synthesis.

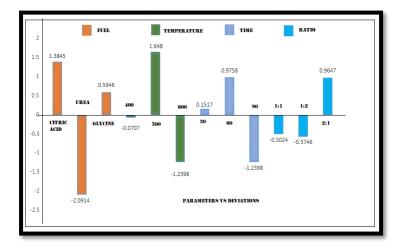
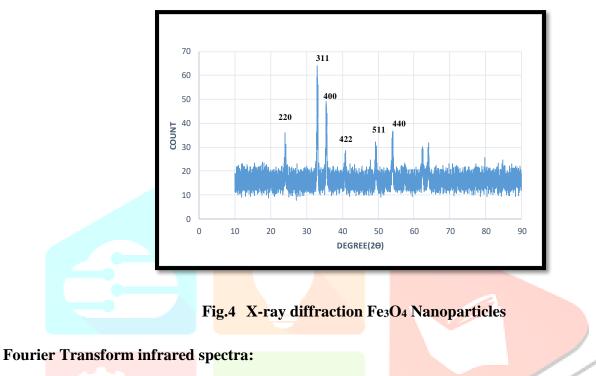


Fig.3 Deviation vs Parameters of FNPs by Taguchi method

The above graphs show that the fuel citric acid affects the synthesis more than the other fuel. The temperature at 500° C is best for FNPs, the time at 60 minutes and the ratio of 2:1 is best for FNPs synthesis. After considering all of the described parameters, we synthesized FNPs again and carried out its XRD for particle size determination.



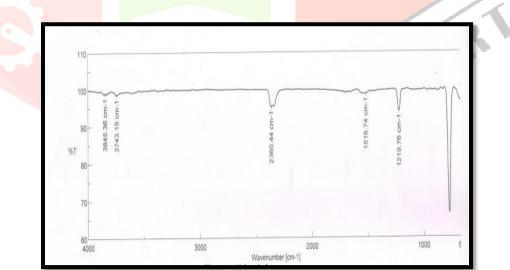


Fig.5 FTIR spectra of synthesized ferrite nanoparticle

The FTIR spectra show that the peak at 3443.15 cm⁻¹ is due to O–H group (stretching vibration) which is come from water molecule which is present in Ferrite nanoparticles. The absorption peaks at 2360.44, 1516.74, 1219.76, and 1020.54 cm⁻¹ is due to distilled water which is used as a solvent. The absorption peaks at 695.29 and 468.80 cm⁻¹ is due to the Fe–O bond vibration in Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles.

CONCLUSION:

In this paper, the ferrite nanoparticles have been synthesized by means of a simple solution combustion method using Taguchi optimization method. The process of synthesis is carried out using different parameters at different conditions. A Taguchi optimization analysis, by using different parameters like fuel, ratio, time, and temperature and its affects on the nanoparticles properties. Moreover, we observe that the Fuel parameter shows more impact on the final properties of FNPs than the other parameters. The synthesized FNPs using Citric acid as fuel at 500 °C for 60 minutes shows that the size of the synthesized ferrite nanoparticles is 34.63 nm.

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