

Vol. 36, No. 06, pp. 1076-1086/Diciembre 2023



## Morphological and structural properties of bismuth-nickel ferrite synthesized by a combined sol-gel method

# Propiedades morfológicas y estructurales de la ferrita de bismuto-níquel sintetizada mediante un método combinado de sol-gel

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(recibido/received: 17-agosto-2023; aceptado/accepted: 15-noviembre-2023)

#### **ABSTRACT**

In this paper, Bi x Ni<sub>1-x</sub> Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, (x = 0, 0.3, and 0.5), nanoparticles were synthesized by a sol–gel method, and the synthesized samples were calcination at 350 and 650° C for 3 h. The influence of Bi doping on morphological and structural properties was studied. The field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) analysis showed all of the specimens contain a compact order of homogenous nanoparticles with a spherical form and polyhedral particles with an average size ranging from 36.305 nm to 27.554 nm at 350 and 650° C respectively. By studying the energy dispersive spectrometer analysis patterns, the existence of constituent elements, Ni, Bi, Fe, and O, was verified with a proportion very close to the stoichiometry of the chemical formula. The formation of a ferrite phase was confirmed by X-ray diffraction. An increase in the average crystallite and grain size has been observed with an increase in Bi doping. The Fourier Transform Infrared(FT-IR) studies were made in the frequency range 400-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> and observed two strong absorption peaks. The frequency band is found at 555 cm<sup>-1</sup> whereas the lower frequency band is at 1338.5 cm<sup>-1</sup>. It is noticed that the two prominent absorption bands were slightly shifted towards the higher frequency side with the increase of Bi3+ ion concentration.

Keywords: Bi-Ni Nanoferrites, Sol-Gel, FESEM, EDS, XRD, FTIR.

#### **RESUMEN**

En este artículo, se sintetizaron nanopartículas de Bi x Ni1-x Fe2O4 (x = 0, 0.3 y 0.5) mediante el método sol-gel, y las muestras sintetizadas se calcinaron a 350 y 650 °C durante 3 horas. Se estudió la influencia de la dopación de Bi en las propiedades morfológicas y estructurales. El análisis de microscopía electrónica de barrido de emisión de campo (FESEM) mostró que todas las muestras contenían nanopartículas homogéneas de forma esférica y partículas poliédricas con un tamaño promedio que variaba de 36.305 nm a 27.554 nm a 350 y 650 °C, respectivamente. Mediante el estudio de los patrones de análisis del espectrómetro de dispersión de energía, se verificó la existencia de los elementos constituyentes, Ni, Bi, Fe y O, con una proporción muy cercana a la estequiometría de la fórmula química. La formación de una fase de ferrita se confirmó mediante difracción de rayos X. Se observó un aumento en el tamaño promedio de los cristalitos y en el tamaño de grano con un aumento en la dopación de Bi. Se realizaron estudios de espectroscopía infrarroja por transformada de Fourier (FT-IR) en el rango de frecuencia de 400 a 4000 cm-1 y se observaron

dos picos de absorción fuertes. La banda de frecuencia se encuentra en 555 cm-1, mientras que la banda de frecuencia más baja se encuentra en 1338.5 cm-1. Se observó que los dos picos de absorción prominentes se desplazaron ligeramente hacia el lado de mayor frecuencia con el aumento de la concentración de iones Bi3+.

Palabras claves: Nanoferritas de Bi-Ni, Sol-Gel, FESEM, EDS, XRD, FTIR

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Spinel-type MFe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> (where M is a divalent cation) ferrites are a crucial class of magnetic ceramics [Isfahania et al, 2013]. They find applications in electronics ranging from the simplest to the most complicated. Magnetic cards, magnetic media, recording devices, and telecommunications apparatus are just a few of the fascinating places you'll find this material put to use, It is well known that the electrical and magnetic characteristics of spinel ferrites vary depending on factors like their processing conditions and chemical makeup [Nasr Isfahani et al, 2009- Eghbali Arani et al, 2010]. As a soft magnetic n-type semiconducting material [epela' k et al, 2007- epela' k et al, 2004], nickel ferrite (NiFe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub>) is an essential member of the spinel family. A value of 1 for 1 describes the completely inverse structure of bulk nickel ferrite, It has been discovered that a decrease in particle size and a temperature rise both initiate cation redistribution in a spinel that tends toward a random arrangement [Goldman ,2006- Saeed et al, 2018]. Both the undoped and the substituted versions of NiFe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> are suitable for high-frequency applications in the area of telecommunications. Due to its high resistivity and low eddy current losses, it is used in RF circuits, high-quality filters, rod antennas, transformer cores, read/write heads for high-speed digital tape, and operating devices [Chen et al, 2001 - Saeed et al, 2023].

#### 2. EXPERIMENTAL

#### 2.1 Sample preparation

 $Bi_x Ni_{(1-x)}$  Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> where (x = 0, 0.3, and 0.5) powders were prepared (sol-gel), Starting materials were bismuth nitrate, nickel nitrate, and ferric nitrate. Each of the previously described chemicals was weighed according to the equilibrium ratio and dissolved in (20mL) of deionized water (DW) with continuous stirring at 70 °C. After verifying that there were no sediments or precipitates, some citric acid (14g) dissolved in (50mL) of deionized water (DW) was added, and the solution was thoroughly mixed for (1-2) hours. The complex aqueous solutions were mixed and kept at about 70° C for (1-2) days with vigorous stirring to form a viscous gel solution. The gel was dried at (120° C), which was then collected and pulverized in an agate mortar by grinding. The resultant powders were decomposed at 130 °C in an oven to remove the organic solvents. The obtained aqueous powder was sintered at 350° C and 650°C for (3 hrs). Figure (1) the diagram of sol-gel auto combustion synthesis of  $Bi_x Ni(1-x)$  Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles. More details are in Table (1).

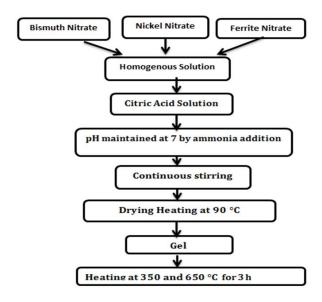


Figure 1. The diagram of the sol-gel synthesis of  $Bi_x Ni_{(1-x)} Fe_2 O_4$  nanoparticles.

**Sample Name** Material **Heat treatment** Temperature (°C) 350°C **B**1 Ni Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> 350°C **B2** Bi 0.3Ni0.7 Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> 350°C **B**3 Bi<sub>0.5</sub> Ni<sub>0.5</sub> Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> 650°C **B**4 Ni Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> 650°C **B5** Bi<sub>0.3</sub> Ni<sub>0.7</sub> Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> 650°C **B6** Bi<sub>0.5</sub>Ni<sub>0.5</sub> Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub>

Table 1. Details of the symbols used.

#### 2.2 Characterization

The morphological characteristics of Bi  $_x$  Ni $_{(1-x)}$  Fe $_2$  O $_4$  nanoparticles have been studied by field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM) and model (ZEISS SIGMAVP/Germany). The structural characteristics of Bix Ni $_{(1-x)}$  Fe $_2$  O $_4$  nanoparticles have been studied by the XRD type (Panalytical X' Pert Pr, UK) and FTIR type (IR Affinty-1CE (FTIR) spectrophotometer).

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 FE-SEM Analysis

Field emission scanning electron microscopy was used to examine the sample shapes. (FE-SEM). FESEM pictures of bismuth substitution in nickel ferrite samples are shown in Figure (2). It was discovered that the

surface of the images looked rough rather than smooth. The compact sample showed that the grain size distribution was heterogeneous. The surface morphology of the synthesized material revealed that the shape was roughly uniform in micron size as determined by the line intercepts technique [Al-Mgrs et al, 2023], Furthermore, it was discovered that as the nickel substitution in bismuth ferrite increases, the grain size diminishes. The FESEM images demonstrate that the particles have a nearly homogeneous distribution and that some of them are agglomerated. FESEM pictures show that particle aggregation occurs in the nanometer range. During sintering, the pores between the particles were removed, resulting in the creation of strong bonds in the agglomeration form [Aung et al, 2020- Abdullah et al, 2017]. The interaction of grain boundary and porosity is essential in determining the particle's limited grain size. With this research, it was discovered that the average grain size of the particles decreased with Bi+3 ion doping. Table (2) displays the particle size (nm) results of Bi-doped NiFe2 O4 samples.

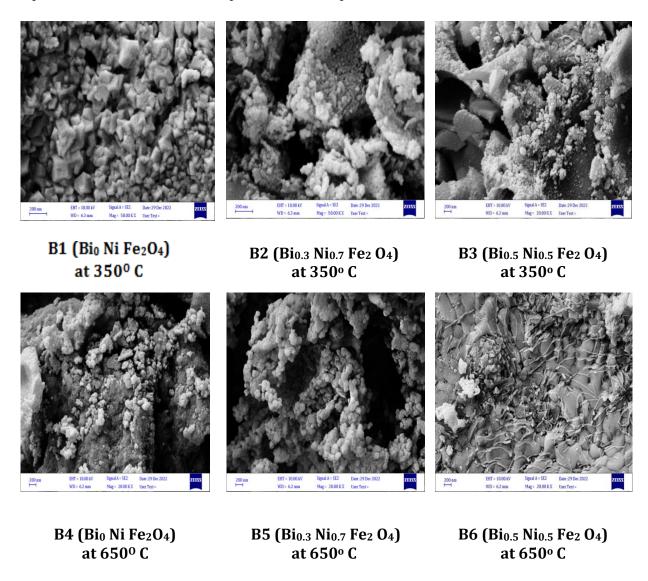


Figure 2. The FE-SEM image of Bi-doped NiFe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> samples.

	Table 2. The	particle size	(nm) valu	es of Bi-doped	NiFe2	O <sub>4</sub> samples.
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Sample Name	Particle Size (nm)
B1	36.305
B2	31.471
В3	25173
B4	27.554
B5	22.033
В6	23.132

### 3.2 EDS Analysis

The EDS analysis has been carried out to examine the chemical composition of the as-obtained samples. Figures (3,4) present the EDS spectra of the samples with B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and B6, in which peaks of Ni, Bi, Fe, and O elements are detected, and no other impurities can be observed. According to EDS analysis, as the content of (x) increases, the Ni element increases from 38.8 to 42.6 percent at 350 °C and 650°C respectively, As the concentration of (x) increases x=0.3, the nickel element increases from 14.4 to 15.5, while Bismuth element decreases from 44.1 to 41.3 at 350 °C and 650°C respectively, and x=0.5 the nickel element increases from 10.4 to 10.1 while Bismuth element decreases from 57.8 to 53.6 at 350 °C and 650° C respectively. It is noted that the measured elemental ratios of compositions are in agreement with the stoichiometric formula. According to the EDS spectra, with the increase of Bi-doped, the peak intensity of Bismuth increased, whereas the peak intensity for iron and nickel decreased. From the EDS spectra, it is clear that no additional impurities are present in the prepared samples. The peaks of substitution samples imply that bismuth ions enter the ferrite structure [Balideh et al ,2021- Zhou et al, 2004].

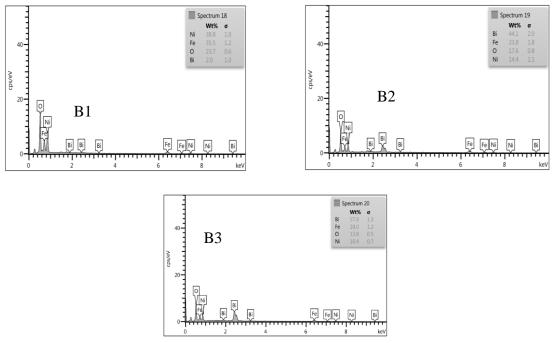


Figure 3. EDS spectra of Bi<sub>x</sub> Ni1-x Fe2 O4 nanoferrites for samples at 350oC.

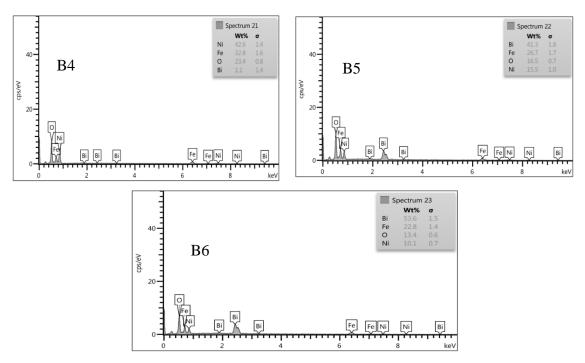


Figure 4. EDS spectra of Bi<sub>x</sub> Ni<sub>1-x</sub> Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> nanoferrites for samples at 650°C.

## 3.3 X-Ray Diffraction Analysis

The use of the sol-gel method process to synthesize homogeneous and ultrafine nickel ferrites with narrow size distribution at a relatively low calcination temperature, to investigate the effects of calcination temperature and molar ratio on phase composition and morphology of obtained powders. The XRD analysis was performed to study the crystal structure type and crystalline size of prepared Bi x Ni1-x Fe2 O4 ferrite (x= 0, 0.3, and 0.5) at various calcination temperatures (350 and 650 oC). Figures (5,6) show XRD patterns of pure NiFe2O4 ferrite doped with various concentrations of Bi metal (x= 0, 0.3, and 0.5). Figures (5,6) the result show that pure cubic NiFe2 O4 crystal structure with space group (Fd3m), crystal dimensions (a = b = c = 8.339 °A), and crystal angles ( $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^{\circ}$ ), corresponding with the cubic structure (JCPDS 00-010-0325). The observed peaks at 30.25, 35.69, 37.26, 43.32, 53.91, 57.27, and 62.95 can be assigned to the reflections of (220), (311), (222), (400), (511), and (440) crystal planes, respectively. The presence of intense and sharp peaks revealed that the goods were well-crystallized. Furthermore, it appears that doping with Bi ions has no discernible impact on the crystal structure of NiFe2 O4. No impure phases corresponding to Bi compounds were identified in Bi-doped samples (x= 0, 0.3, and 0.5), indicating that the Bi ions were successfully incorporated into the NiFe2 O4 crystal lattice to form a stable Bi x Ni1-x Fe2 O4 substitution solid solution. More details are in Table (3).

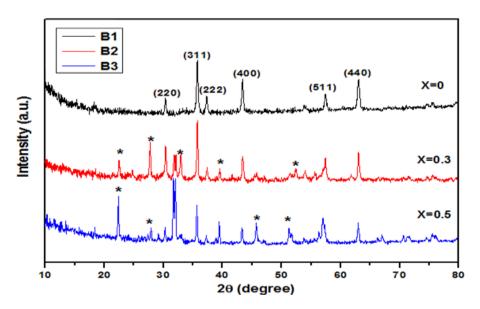


Figure 5. The XRD pattern of  $Bi_x Ni_{1-x}Fe_2O_4$  (x = 0, 0.3 and 0.5) nano ferrite particles at 350 °C.

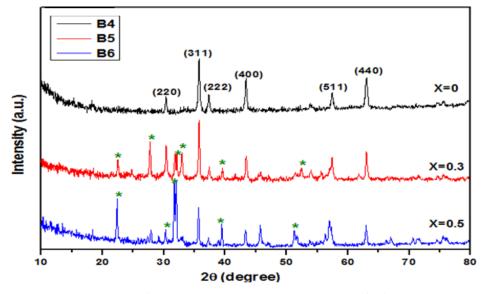


Figure 6. The XRD pattern of  $Bi_x Ni_{1-x}Fe_2O_4$  (x = 0, 0.3 and 0.5) nanoferrite particles at 650°C.

Table 3. XRD calculations of Bix Ni1-x Fe2 O4 (x=0, 0.3, and 0.5) at different calcination temperatures.

Material	20 (deg)	2 <del>0</del> (deg)	FWHM	Crystalline	d hkl (°A)	d <sub>hkl</sub> (°A)	(h kl)
	Practical	Standard	(deg)	size (nm)	Practical	Standard	
B1	30.25		0.3397	24.23	2.95166		
B2	30.29		0.586301	13.55	2.94748		
В3	30.22		0.494688	16.64	2.95461		
		30.29				2.94800	(220)
B4	30.34		0.291892	28.21	2.94304		
B5	30.37		0.295793	27.84	2.94022		
B6	30.27		0.266883	30.85	2.94947		

B1	35.69		0.4524	18.45	2.51311		
B2	35.7		0.47658	17.52	2.51289		
В3	35.49		0.581603	14.3	2.52670		
		35.7				2.51300	(311)
B4	35.73		0.258401	32.317	2.51074		
B5	35.75		0.225530	37.02	2.50959		
B6	35.65		0.177962	46.91	2.51590		
B1	37.26		0.3251	25.8	2.41075		
B2	37.33		0.472956	17.73	2.40681		
В3	37.22		0.6218	13.48	2.40066		
B4	37.30	37.31	0.223869	37.47	2.40829	2.40800	(222)
B5	37.39		0.295516	26.89	2.40298		
B6	37.24		0.250982	31.66	2.41240		
B1	43.32		0.6392	13.37	2.08653		
B2	43.32		0.746585	11.45	2.08693		
В3	43.27		0.323678	26.41	2.08905		
B4	43.37	43.36	0.267242	32	2.08465	2.08500	(400)
B5	43.37		0.179088	47.76	2.08636		
B6	43.27		0.129303	66.12	2.08906		
B1	57.27		0.485095	18.67	1.60723		
B2	57.1		0.969708	9.33	1.61167		
В3	56.91		0.694275	13.02	1.61665		
		57.35				1.60510	(511)
B4	57.40		0.340276	26.62	1.60403		
В5	57.40		0.196744	46.05	1.60390		
В6	57.12		0.105091	86.1	1.61106		
B1	62.95		0.742739	12.54	1.47531		
B2	63		0.714739	13.04	1.47400		
В3	62.91		0.988653	9.42	1.47606		
B4	62.99	62.91	0.315000	29.59	1.47447	1.47600	(440)
B5	63.04		0.283546	32.7	1.47336		
B6	62.96		0.197638	47.15	1.47492		

#### 3.4 FT-IR Analysis

Figures (7, 8) show the FTIR spectra of  $B_x$  Ni  $_{1-x}$ Fe $_2$  O<sub>4</sub> (x =0, 0.3, and 0.5) nano ferrite samples recorded in the 400-4000 cm $^{-1}$  region. It has been reported that the IR bands of solids are typically assigned to the vibration of ions in the crystal lattice [Saeed et al, 2017- Zaki et al, 2010].

The FTIR characterization of a pure Ni Fe<sub>2</sub> O<sub>4</sub> sample synthesized at 350 and 650 C was done to observe the stretching and bending behavior of various oxides. The spectra of the synthesized sample showed the clear existence of peaks at 555 cm-1 which confirms the existence of Ni-O and Fe-O stretching and bending vibrations. The stretching and bending vibrations for Ni-O and Fe-O are almost the same, which gives the idea of the formation of the ferrite phase [Kambale et al, 2011- Srivastava et al, 2009]. Peaks near 845cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1338.5cm<sup>-1</sup> represent the presence of nitrate ions, and 2349.2cm<sup>-1</sup> is the representation of a nitrile It is clear that as the temperature increases, the peaks of nitrate ions become more pronounced, which is in agreement with the FTIR spectra of pure NFO samples. Furthermore, as compared to pure NFO samples, all the peaks present in the FTIR spectra of Bi-doped NFO have shifted a little to a different value. The differences in band positions will be calculated due to the difference in bond length of Fe<sup>+3</sup> and O<sub>2</sub> ions at the octahedral and tetrahedral sites [Maensiri et al,2007]. Because tetrahedral dimensions are smaller than

octahedral site dimensions, the absorption bands have an inverse association with bond length. It was also discovered that as bismuth content increased, bands v1 and v2 moved slightly to the higher frequency side. Because of the reduction in site radius, the fundamental frequency and thus the central frequency should shift to the higher frequency side [Abdullah et al ,2019- Srivastava et al, 2010].

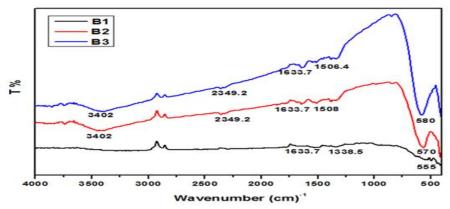


Figure 7. FTIR of Bi-Ni ferrite nanoparticles which are sintered at  $350^{\circ}$ C of the composition Bix Ni1-xFe2O4 (x = 0, 0.3, and 0.5).

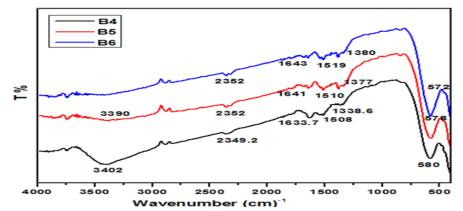


Figure 8. FTIR of Bi-Ni ferrite nanoparticles which are sintered at  $650^{\circ}$ C of the composition Bix Ni1-xFe2O4 (x = 0, 0.3, and 0.5).

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the nickel-bismuth nanoparticles were synthesized using the stoichiometric formula Bix Ni1-x Fe2 O4, (x=0,0.3, and 0.5), respectively), successfully using the Sol-Gel spontaneous combustion process where the burnt and sintered samples at 350 °C and 650 oC. It is observed that the sol-gel combustion method is a convenient way for obtaining homogeneous nanosized mixed nano ferrites. The FESEM images show the morphology of the prepared samples at different magnifications and have almost homogeneous. distribution, although some of them are agglomerated. The EDS data gives the elemental percent and atomic percent of the bi-doped nickel-ferrite system. And which shows the presence of Ni, Fe, O, and Bi (except x=0) participating cations. The X-ray diffraction patterns confirm the formation of a cubic spinal structure and that the Bi ions were effectively incorporated into the NiFe2 O4 crystal lattice to form a stable Bi x Ni1-x Fe2 O4 substitution solid solution. The FT-IR spectra of the compositions under investigation reveal the formation of a single-phase cubic spinal structure. This shows two significant absorption bands, which confirm the characteristics of the ferrite sample.A

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