

# Preparation and Study of Magnetic Nanoparticles ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) by Arc-Discharge Technique

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## ABSTRACT

Magnetite  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  ultrafine powder was synthesised using novel arc discharge method. Which is a magnetic material with spinal structure. During the experiment the size and shape were influenced by the voltage between two metallic iron filaments. Based on the thermodynamic and kinetic theory, metal Nano powders by anodic arc discharging arc method can be obtained and the mechanism of the particles can be further investigated. In addition, the morphology, crystal structure and particle size and specific surface area of the Nano powder can be characterized by X-Ray diffraction, SEM and TEM.

**Keywords:** X-Ray diffraction, Scanning Electron Microscopy(SEM), Transition Electron Microscopy(TEM).

## I. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, experimental method to produce the Nano powder, the study of the powder by XRD test and the crystal structure of the powder is discussed. The setup is to be made to the smallest of size and in most comfortable way with normal lab equipment. Anodic arc discharge technique using different filaments with variety of compositions in varying concentrations of the electrolyte and influence of voltage and current on size and shape of the Nano powder will be investigated to optimize the process parameters to produce a Nano material with specific morphology and properties. It is envisaged to explore this simple synthesis technique to produce high entropy oxides for realizing multifunctional materials economically. The products were characterized by x-ray diffraction (XRD).

TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) welding rods were used to produce Nano powder (electrodes in the experiment) here below are the Physical and chemical properties of

### B. Deposited Chemical Composition % (Typical)

C = 0.10	Mo = 0.15	P = 0.012
Cr = 26.00	Mn = 1.70	S = 0.010
Ni = 21.00	Si = 0.50	

the rod. Application of the welding rods ER310 is used

for the welding of stainless steels of similar composition in wrought or cast form. The weld deposit is fully austenitic and calls for low heat during welding. This filler metal can also be used for dissimilar welding.

### A. Areas of application

The Magnetic Nanoparticles have a vast field of applications Magnetite and pigment application [1], [2], Ferrofluid [3], [4], Bioprocessing [3], [4], Information storage [3], [4], Magnetic refrigeration [3], [4]

## II. METHODS AND MATERIAL

### A. Methods for preparing Nanomaterials

There are many methods to produce but the major challenge is to Nano powder the major challenge is to find a economical method. Spray pyrolysis [5], Forced HYDROLYSIS [6,7,8], Oxidation and reduction of ferrous hydroxide [9], Microwave irradiation of ferrous hydroxide [10], Combustion of iron nitrate [11], Micro emulsion technique [12,13], Hydrothermal preparation technique [14,15], Novel arc discharge method

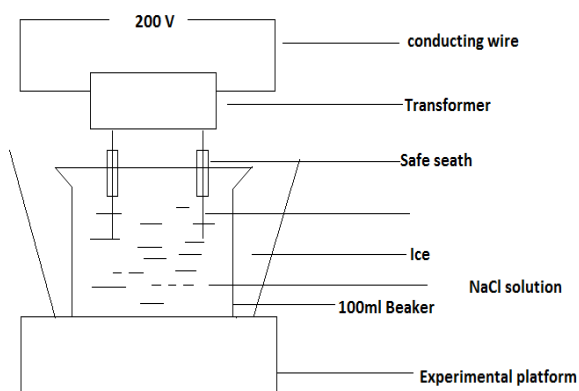
Material used as electrode is ER310(TIG welding rod)

### C. Mechanical Properties (R.T.)

Yield Strength	57,000 psi
Tensile Strength	87,000 psi
Elongation	43%

### III. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

Novel Arc Discharge Method is used to prepare Nano powder[16]A 50hz alternating power supply was supplied to brine solution in a 100ml beaker [1mole NaCl<sup>-1</sup>}.2 metallic iron filaments were used as electrodes distance between them being 3cm.Both electrodes were fixed and placed in the electrolyte. Voltage was adjusted using step down circuit, varied from 50-200 volts.50HZ Alternating Current Passed.



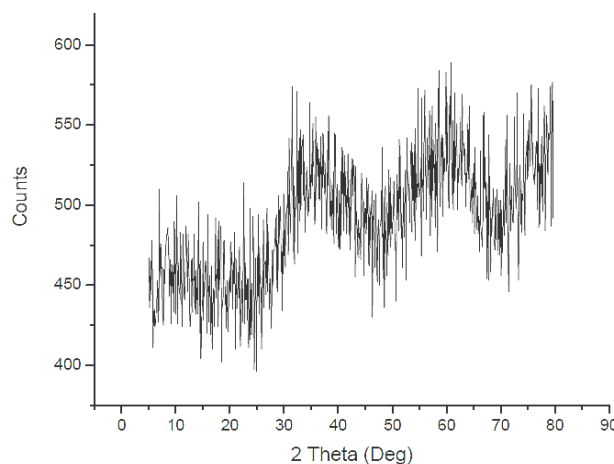
**Figure 1.** Experimental apparatus for preparation of nanoparticles.

Under certain voltage the electrodes melted in arc discharge due to strong exothermic reaction black magnetic particles were formed in electrolyte. Magnetic precipitate was taken out by magnet from electrolyte, Obtained powder was washed with distilled water and absolute alcohol, Oven dried at 150°C for 10min.

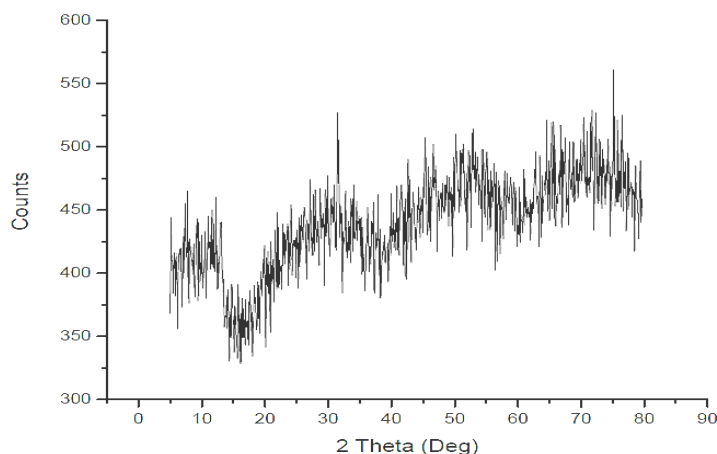
### IV.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Proposed Mechanism

Metallic iron filament melted due to high heat generation which lead the formation for iron colloid. Iron colloid was quickly oxidised into Fe<sup>2+</sup> which formed Fe(OH)<sub>2</sub> in aques PH solution and continued to be oxidised into Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub>. Oxidation may be due to high temperature at the electrode and newly produced Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub> favoured the formation of stable Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> phase. The powders were characterised by X-ray diffraction.



**Figure 2.** XRD result of ER 310@55volts



**Figure 3.** XRD result of ER 310@65volts

The above XRD analysis peaks are missing so we infer that the structure is amorphous.

s.no	Ampere	Time (in min)
1	2.5×2	0.30
2	2.6×2	1.00
3	2.7×2	4.40
4	2.8×2	5.40
5	2.9×2	6.40
6	3.0×2	8.00
7	3.1×2	8.50
8	3.2×2	9.50
9	3.3×2	10.40
10	3.4×2	12.50
11	3.5×2	13.10
12	3.5×2	14.00
13	3.6×2	14.30
14	4.0×2	15.00

**Table 1.** Experimental Observation of ER310 rod (as electrode) at 55volts

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The above XRD analysis showed amorphous structure of the particles this was mainly due to improper heat treatment of the powder. To convert amorphous structure from crystalline structure it must be heated to a crystalline temperature to get the expected results. The other tests were not carried out. As the effect of temperature on phase change is yet to be studied.

#### V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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