Preparation, Characterization and Surface Area Properties of Manganese Oxide Nanoparticles

Rasha S. Sahib and Juman A. Naser*

Department of Chemistry, College of Education for Pure Science- Ibn Al-Haitham, University of Baghdad, Baghdad (Iraq) juman.a.n@ihcoedu.uobaghdad.edu.iq

ABSTRACT

The precipitation method was used to prepare manganese oxide nanoparticles (MnO_2NPs) successfully. Infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), X-ray dispersion spectroscopy and (EDS) X-ray Diffraction (XRD) were used to characterize the microstructure, morphology and particle size of particles that produced by this method. The N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms, pore structure and specific surface area of MnONPs were measured by using Langmuir, Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) and Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) academic models. The results show that the sample has a tetragonal crystal structure with an average particle size of about 35 nm as determined by SEM and verified by XRD. So, the specific surface area is 57.449 m²g⁻¹, pore volumes are 0.2454 cm³g⁻¹ and average pore diameter is 6.95 nm.

Keywords; Manganese Oxide; Nanoparticles; Precipitation method; Specific surface, Pore volume; Pore diameter.

Introduction

Nanomaterials, described as materials with a length scale of less than 100 nanometer, are gaining popularity due to their fundamental science significance as well as the possible applications derived from their fascinating magnetic, electrical and catalytic properties [1-3].

Manganese oxide nanoparticles can be prepare using both top-down and bottom-up methods. The top-down method is not commonly used due to high preparation costs and structural defects on manufactured nanoparticles [4]. Most researchers favor the bottom-up method because particles of uniform size and morphology can be collected [5]. Sol gel [6], Hydrothermal [7], thermal reflux [8], redox [9], chemical precipitation [10] and green synthesis [11] are examples of wet chemical methods used to produce manganese oxide nanoparticles.Despite the fact that these techniques are commonly used, none of them are are perfect.

Manganese oxide, such as MnO, MnO_2 and Mn_3O_4 have been used in sensors, catalysis, rechargeable batteries, supercapacitors and wastewater treatment [12]. For their high theoretical capacity, environmental friendliness, low cost and unique properties, MnO and MnO_2 nanomaterials have piqued interest as anode materials in lithium-ion batteries [13]. Thus, manganese oxide nanoparticles are one of the most appealing inorganic materials because of their physical and chemical properties, as well as their wide range of applications in molecular adsorption [14], ion exchange [15], catalysis [16], energy storage [17] and biosensors [18].

In this work, MnO_2 nanoparticles were prepared and characterized using a variety of techniques, including Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray dispersion spectroscopy (EDS), X-ray diffraction (XRD). Additionally, Langmuir, Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) and Barrett-Joyner-Holland (BJH) models have been applied to detrmine thespecific surface area and pore structure of prepared nanoparticles by N₂ adsorption-desorption technique.

Experimental

Chemicals

The chemical materials that usesd; manganese sulfate MnSO₄.H₂O and sodium hydroxide NaOH were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

Instruments

Electronic balance Sartorius (CPA 22), Hotplate magnetic stirrerLabTech (LMS-1003), FT-IR spectrophotometerShimadzu (IRAffinity 1800), Scanning electron microscope TESCAN (S8000), X-ray diffraction spectrophotometerShimadzu (XRD-6000) and Surface area analyzer BELSORP MINI II (ISO9277).

Preparing of MnO₂NPs

The precipitation method was used to prepare manganese oxide nanoparticles (MnO_2NPs). An aqueous solution of manganese sulfate $MnSO_4.H_2O$ 0.02M (500 mL) was heated to 70 °C, then anaqueous solution of sodium hydroxide NaOH 0.08M (500 mL) was added drop by drop with keeping the temperature constant. The mixture was stirred continuously until it reached room temperature, after that it was collected and washed several times with distilled water. Finally, the resulted product was calcinated in the furnace for 3 h and at 500 °C.

Results and discussion

FT-IRspectroscopy

Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) is one of the most relevant and commonly used analytical methods for determining the existence of unique functional groups in nanomaterials [19]. Figure 1 confirms the prepration of MnO_2NPs , it is observed that there are several distinct peaks at 597 cm⁻¹, 524 cm⁻¹, 493 cm⁻¹ and 960 cm⁻¹ attributed to Mn-O vibrations [20]. Moreover, the absence of any peak in the region (4000-3000) cm⁻¹ indicates that the nanoparticles are free of any trace of water molecules, which may be due to solvent residues or air moisture.



Figure 1: FT-IR spectra of prepared MnO₂NPs.

SEM microscopy

Figure 2 shows microscopic photographs of MnO_2NPs taken with a scanning electron microscope, which allowed for a better understanding of particles morphology and size. It was discovered that it had tetragonal crystalline shape and a strong attractive force. Furthermore, nanoparticle diameters ranged from (30–40) nm. The microstructure photographs are indicated nanoflowers structure of prepared nanoparticles [21], which reflects their owned a large specific surface area.



Figure 2: SEM photographs of prepared MnO₂NPs.

EDS spectroscopy

X-ray dispersive spectroscopy verified the presence of manganese in prepared MnO_2NPs (EDS), Figure 3. The percentage of elemental composition of MnO_2NPs were 38.00% Mn and 62.00% O. The maximum intensity of the nanoparticles for Mn with high purity was 2.2keV, 5.9keV and 6.2keV, confirming the reduction of manganese ion to zero valences. Other researchers have recorded a maximum intensity peak of 6.0 keV for Mn [22].

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Figure 3: EDS spectrum of prepared MnO₂NPs.

XRDspectroscopy

X-ray diffraction spectroscopy technique was used to analyze the crystalline structure of the prepared MnO_2NPs , Figure 4. The diffraction peaks at 20 of prepared nanoparticles were 12.94°, 18.34°, 28.78°, 37.66°, 42.14°, 49.90°, 56.44°, 60.26°, 69.74°, 71.34° and 73.72° which correspond to crystal planes of (110), (200), (310), (211), (301), (411), (600), (521), (541), (222) and (730), respectively. That suggests the tetragonal crystalline structural of MnO_2 nanoparticles were successfully prepared, which agrees well with JCPDS card number (44-0141) [23]. Using Deby Scherrer's equation, the average crystallite size of the particles was 32 nm [24].

$$L = \frac{0.94 \,\lambda}{\beta \cos \theta} \,\dots \dots \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

where D is the particle size in nanometer, λ is the used x-ray wavelength in nanometer, β is the full width at half maximum beam (FWHM) and is the Bragg angle.



Figure 4: XRD spectrum of the prepared MnO₂NPs.

Surface area properties

One of the major factors influencing adsorption is the surface area and porous surface of the adsorbed. To determine the surface area and pore size of the prepared MnO₂NPs, the nitrogen gas absorption-desorption technique was used. Thus, Langmuir isotherm, Brunner-Emmett-Teller (BET) and Barrett-Joyner-Holland (BJH) academic models were applied.

The adsorption-desorption of Langmuir isotherm of the N_2 gas molecules on MnO_2NPs surface was shown in Figure 5. It's worth noting that as the pressure applied at all points rises, so does the adsorption of gas molecules. As a result, the adsorption isotherm is type II, referring to multilayer adsorption [25]. Also, as the applied pressure is reduced, the volume of gas desorbed decreases at all of the pressure points studied.

Figure 6 shows Brunner-Emmett-Teller (BET) diagram for nitrogen adsorption on the surface of prepared MnO_2NPs , illustrating that the number of nitrogen gas molecules increases as the applied pressure increases, peaking at 0.45 at 0.045 P/P°. This means that MnO_2NPs will adsorb nitrogen gas molecules at any of the pressures examined.

Barrett-Joyner-Holland (BJH) diagram for adsorption of nitrogen gas molecules on the prepared MnO_2NPs surface is shown in Figure 7. The average pore size is 6.95 nm, with pore volumes of 0.2454 cm³g⁻¹ and nanoparticle surface areas of 57.449 m²g⁻¹. In the explanations between BET and BJH diagram of the studied MnO_2NPs surface is not attributable to BJH model's incompatibility with the micro pores in general [26].



Figure 5: Langmuir diagram of adsorption- desorption of prepared MnO₂NPs.



Figure 6: BET diagram of adsorption of prepared MnO₂NPs.



Figure 7: BJH diagram of adsorption of prepared MnO₂NPs.

Conclusion

Manganese nanoparticles MnO_2NPs were successfully prepared by confined preciptation methodand characterized utilizing Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), Scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray dispersion spectroscopy (EDS) and X-ray diffraction spectroscopy (XRD). This method resulted nanoparticles owned a uniform particle size and higher purity. The nanoparticles had a tetragonal crystalline with nanoflowers structure, and the particle size distribution ranges from 30 to 40 nm, according to the average equivalent particle size determined by SEM and verified by XRD and BET data. According to the BET adsorption equation, the sample's specific surface area is 57.449 m²g⁻¹. The cumulative pore volumes are 0.2454 cm³g⁻¹ and average pore diameter is 6.95 nm, according to the BJH model.

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