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Synthesis and Characterization of Chromium Nanoparticles by Thermal Method

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ABSTRACT

Monoclinic chromium nanoparticles were synthesized by thermal decomposition method using CrCl_3 as precursor. This is simple but fast and effective. The synthesized nanoparticles were analyzed by infrared spectroscopy (IR) and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and X-ray diffraction (XRD) techniques. The SEM analysis confirms the spherical shape morphology and presence of stress on the surface of the nanoparticles. The XRD analysis proves that the crystal structure is monoclinic and the size of particles are 45.20 nm.

1. Introduction

Nanoparticles of chromium are important technological material which show novel electronic, thermal, optical, mechanical and chemical properties. These properties are significantly different from those of bulk materials because of large surface to volume area and extremely small size. Transition metals play an important role in many areas of chemistry, physics, material science and electronic engineering. Chromium nanoparticles have wide industrial applications as pigment [1], resistance [2-3], electric [4] materials, gas sensors [5], catalysts [6] and advance colorants [7]. There are so many synthesis techniques available for chromium nanoparticles such as precipitation, hydrothermal [8-10] mechano-chemical process [11], gas condensation, combustion [12] and urea assisted homogeneous precipitation [13,14]. A better process should be implored to meet the demands of industry. In this research nanostructure chromium (III) nanoparticles were synthesized easy, and fast technique involving the water-based complexation of polymer and chromium metal salt followed by thermal decomposition. The idea behind preparation of nanocomposite is to use there on building blocks with dimensions in nanometer range to design and create new materials with unrepresented flexibility and improvement in their physical properties.

2. Experimental Methods

2.1 Materials

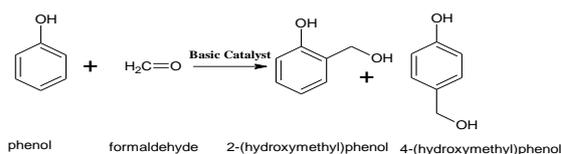
Important chemical like chromium (III) chloride hexahydrate $\text{CrCl}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Central Drug House (P) Ltd), formaldehyde HCHO (Central Drug House (P) Ltd.), phenol $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ (Central Drug House (P) Ltd.), glacial acetic acid CH_3COOH (Fisher Scientific), hydrochloric acid HCl (Fisher scientific), distilled water used to prepare composites were of chemically pure grade. Metal solution was prepared by dissolving appropriate amount of its chloride salt in distilled water.

2.2 Synthesis of Polymer Composite (Reaction Scheme)

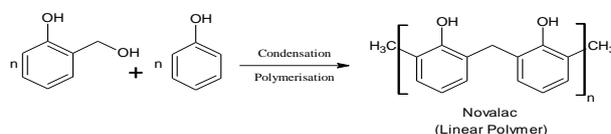
Three-necked round bottom flask equipped with stirrer and reflux condenser is charged with (1.38 moles) of phenols and (1.13 moles) of formaldehyde solution and 15 mL of glacial acetic acid. The mixture is

agitated thoroughly and is allowed to cool off. Then drawn off and the remaining water is removed by slowly raising the temperature to 50 °C and applying a vacuum by means of water pump. This temperature is maintained until sample from the melt, which solidifies on cooling and forms a rigid, pink color solid. Further 15 mL of 1 N chromium salt solution added and the mixture is shaken for 5 minutes. The reaction is exothermic in nature. The dried solid sample has been purified by the washing with distilled water solution. The excess metal ion and impurities on the sample were removed by washing. The procedure was followed as per Scheme 1.

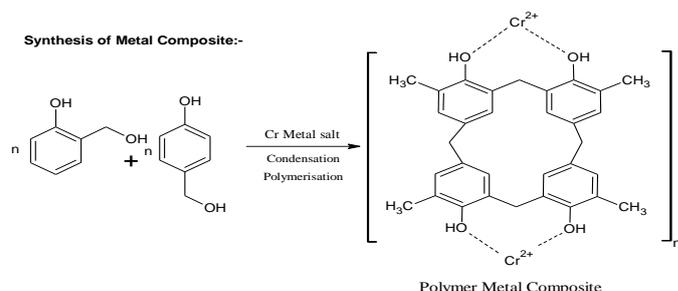
Synthesis of monomer :-



Polymerization of monomers :-



Synthesis of Metal Composite:-



Scheme 1 Synthesis polymer metal composite

2.3 Synthesis of Chromium Nanoparticles

The synthesis of nanoparticles is done by calcination method. The above polymer metal composite is allowed to decompose at 900 °C for 45 minutes. Black colored particles are obtained.

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2.4 Purification

Step-1: Removal of Volatile Impurity: At the time of decomposition many volatile impurities got separated and nanocomposite is free from such impurities.

Step-2: Removal of Metallic Impurities: Metallic ions were removed from the nanocomposite by keeping it in 12 N hydrochloric acid solution for 24 hours. The mixture was centrifuged and washed with distilled water till hydrochloric acid was completely removed [15].

3. Results and Discussion

The analysis of polymer composites by NMR spectra reveals existence of three type of protons in the sample (Fig. 1). Peak at 3.524 ppm shows phenolic proton in compounds, peak at 2.471 ppm represents that the benzylic proton presence of polymer composite and the one at 6.744 ppm is indicative of aromatic proton present in polymer composite. Bunch of peaks at 6.744 ppm, 3.695 ppm, 2.471 ppm indicate that the complex formed was a polymerized substance. Fig. 2 is the IR spectra of the substance and Table 1 represent the peaks and the corresponding functional group in the composite.

