Magnetic properties and dispersion stability of carbon encapsulated Fe nano particles

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The carbon encapsulated Fe nanoparticles has attracted much attention, because of the technological potential applications such as magnetic storage media, lubricant, and ferrofluids, etc. The nano particles were synthesized by a levitational gas condensation (LGC) method. The starting material was the metal Fe wire with diameter of 0.4 mm. The mixed Ar and CH₄ gas pressure in chamber was 86 torr. The morphologies of the carbon-coated Fe nanocrystallites were characterized by transmission electron microscopy. The results indicated that all of the as-made materials were composed of only nanocapsules with the uniform particle size at and below 10 nm. The nanocapsules consisted of outer multi-shells of carbon. The Mössbauer spectroscopy reveals that the Fe@Cs materials are made of the bcc-Fe core, closed packed cubic γ-Fe and the amorphous graphitic shell structure. The magnetization curves were measured at 60 and 300 K. The hysteresis loop demonstrated that the carbon-coated metal nanocrystallites exhibited a superparamagnetic behavior at room temperature. The magnetic performance of the Fe@C sample was demonstrated in a liquid phase (ethanol, and poly ethylene glycol) by placing a magnet bar near the glass bottle. The dispersion stability kinetics of the solvents increased in the following order: water, ethanol, and ethylene glycol. The polarity of the solvent affected the dispersion stability kinetics.

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