Effect Hyperthermia in CoFe₂O₄@MnFe₂O₄ Nanoparticles Studied by using Field-induced Mössbauer Spectroscopy

Minseon KIM and Chul Sung KIM*

Department of Physics, Kookmin University, Seoul 136-702, Korea

Hyung Joon KIM and Kyung-Hwa Yoo Nanomedical Graduate Program, Yonsei University, Seoul 120-749, Korea

Eunjoo HAHN
Suwon University, Hwaseong 445-743, Korea
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CoFe₂O₄@MnFe₂O₄, with a mixed core-shell structure was fabricated by a high temperature thermal decomposition. From the Rietveld refinement, these nanoparticles were found to be cubic spinel with space group Fd-3m and with a Bragg factor (R_B) and a structure factor (R_F) less than 5%. The size and the shape of the nanoparticles were examined with high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM). The values of the magnetization (M_S) and the coercivity (H_C) of these nanoparticles at room temperature were 78.95 emu/g and 21.2 mT, respectively. The effect of hyperthermia, measured with a magneTherm device showed that the self-heating temperature of the nanoparticles could reach 133 °C. To determine the applicability of nanoparticles in hyperthermia therapy, we evaluated the in-vitro cell viability of nanoparticles. Based on the probability distribution of cations, we determined the Mössbauer spectra at 4.2 K with two sets of six lines under various applied fields parallel to the direction of the γ -rays. To separate the A and the B sites, we also obtained the Mössbauer spectra of the nanoparticles under high external field up to 5 T at 4.2 K. From the detailed analysis of the Mössbauer spectra, the spin canting angles and the anisotropy energies at the A and the B sites were determined.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Ferrites have been used in various industrial applications such as magnetic recording media, biocatalysts, and waste water treatment [1]. Hyperthermia is a treatment for malignant cancer that utilizes the self-heating effect in magnetic nanoparticles exposed to an alternating current (AC) magnetic field [2,3]. Magnetic nanoparticles have been studied for bio applications such as hyperthermia, drug delivery, magnetic resonance imaging reagents, etc. [4] due to their small sizes and magnetic properties. Under an AC magnetic field with low frequency, the self-heating effect in the magnetic nanoparticles is caused by Néel and Brown relaxation [5]. CoFe₂O₄ is well known to be a hard magnetic ferrite with a large coercivity while MnFe₂O₄ is known to be a soft magnetic ferrite with small coercivity [6]. These magnetic ma-

terials can couple via an exchange interaction between the hard and the soft core-shell structures, which can lead to a higher thermal effect [7]. In this research, CoFe₂O₄@MnFe₂O₄ nanoparticles with a mixed coreshell structure were prepared using a high-temperature thermal decomposition [8], and their magnetic properties and the hyperfine structure were investigated to understand the relation between the core-shell structure and the thermal effect.

II. EXPERIMENTS AND DISCUSSION

To prepare mixed core-shell nanoparticles with the hard ferrite CoFe_2O_4 as a core and the soft ferrite MnFe_2O_4 as a shell, we used a high temperature thermal decomposition method [9]. two mmol of Coacetylacetonate (Co-(acac)₂) and 4 mmol of Fe(acac)₃ were used as starting materials and were mixed with 6