

Morphological aspects of Bismuth ferrite powders prepared by microwave-assisted hydrothermal method

V.-A. Surdu¹, Y. Wang², A.C. Bîrcă¹, E. Tanasă¹, E. Andronescu¹

¹ Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania

² ENSIL-ENSCI Limoges, France

* Correspondence: adrian_v_surdu@yahoo.com; Scopus ID: 56941744700

BiFeO_3 particles were synthesized by a fast, reproducible and environmental friendly microwave-assisted hydrothermal method. The aim of the study was the investigation of increased pressure and mineralizer concentration on the reaction mechanism, morphology of particles and aggregates as well as magnetic behavior. Powders were studied when using KOH mineralizer concentration from 4 to 12 M at room temperature and under microwave-hydrothermal conditions at 40 bar and 150 or 200°C.

The reaction mechanism depends on the temperature of the microwave-hydrothermal treatment and the concentration of KOH mineralizer. The precursor powder obtained after coprecipitation step consists of Bi_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 and $\text{Bi}_{25}\text{FeO}_{40}$ in different ratios. After the treatment at 40 bar and 150°C for 1h the reaction between precursors is not complete, therefore resulting secondary phases of $\text{Bi}_{25}\text{FeO}_{40}$ and Fe_2O_3 . BiFeO_3 particles were successfully synthesized at 40 bar under microwave-hydrothermal conditions at a temperature of 200°C and a concentration of KOH of at least 8M. At 6M, the composition consisted of 98.5% BiFeO_3 and 1.5% Bi_2O_3 as evidenced by Rietveld refinement.

The competition between dissolution and precipitation of Bi^{3+} and Fe^{3+} in KOH solutions of different concentrations was investigated by Raman spectroscopy and EDS analysis. Thus, at 200°C there was evidenced a Bi_2O_3 secondary phase for 6 M KOH concentration and poor control of Bi/Fe ratio in BiFeO_3 at KOH concentrations of 10 and 12 M.

Particle and aggregates morphology depicted by FE-SEM investigations showed a tendency to form irregular shaped particles at KOH concentration of 6 M, for which the reaction is not complete. When increasing the concentration, BiFeO_3 particles exhibit regular shapes from cubic at 8 M to quasi-spherical at 14 M.

M-H curves characteristics illustrate that Bi/Fe ratio and preferential orientation of crystal growth influence the magnetic behavior of BiFeO_3 crystalline powders.

Keywords: *Bismuth ferrite powder, microwave, hydrothermal method.*



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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

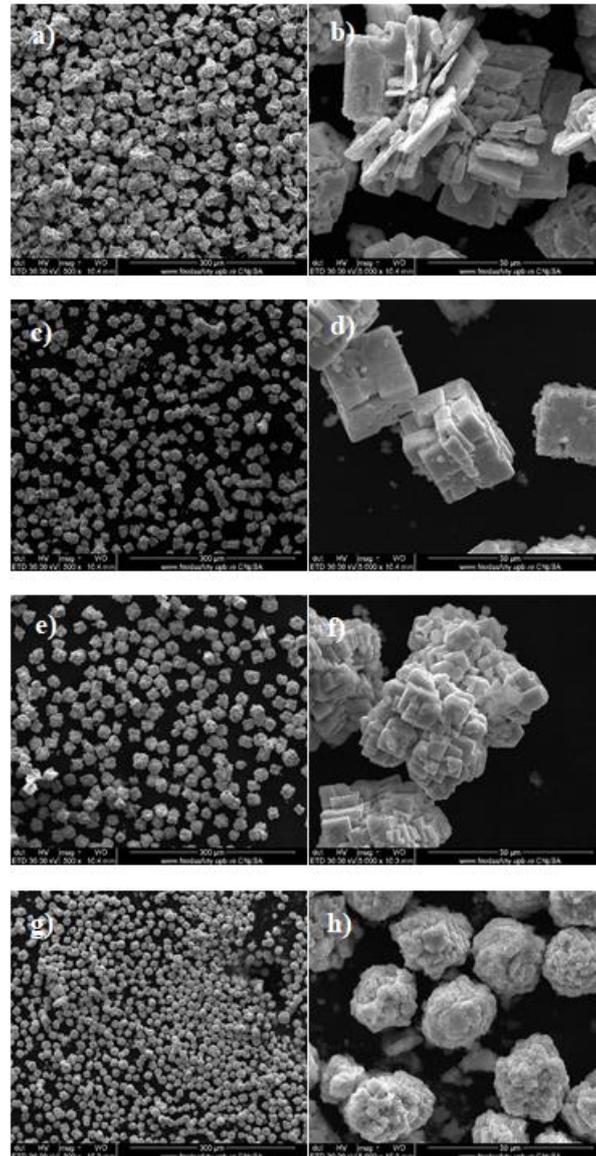


Figure 1. a), c), f), h) FE-SEM general view, b), d), g), i) FE-SEM detail at 8, 10, 12 and 14 M KOH concentration of BiFeO_3 powders.

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