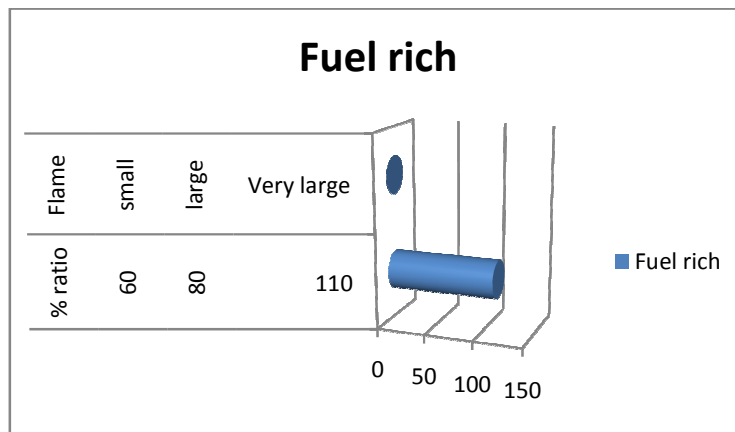
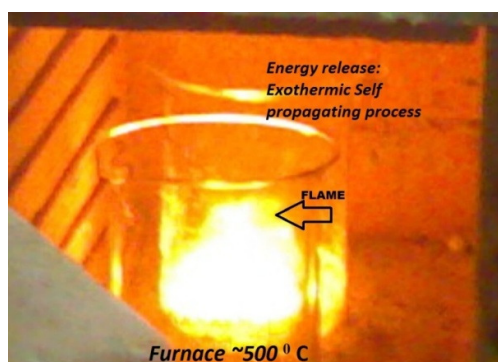


Comparative Analysis of Solution Combustion Method (Self Propagating High Temperature Synthesis) for Synthesis of Nano-phase Metal Oxides with: Mono & Mixed Fuel Approach

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Abstract:

Synthesis of metal oxides by Solution combustion process is widely used approach. This is a economical and simple method for production of various metal oxides, with different properties. Wide range of interest research shown by researchers worldwide to analyze important parameters such as efficiency of different fuels, mixed fuel approach, fuel to oxidizer ratio feasibility of process towards production of different metal oxides. Here comparative analysis of mono and mixed fuel experimental results, with different combinations of fuel to oxidizer ratio is being presented. In each approach data of three samples have been utilized to check out best one from properties or more appropriately application point of view. Flame observation, Scanning electron microscopy and X-ray diffraction were experimental characterization techniques. Exothermicity of reaction have fruitful effect to change the properties of product phase respective oxide. Here alumina was target product in nano phase.

Keywords: Metal oxide, SHS, exothermic: self propagating, fuel Oxidizer, ceramic oxides, nano oxides.

1 Introduction: SHS technology is utilizing less expensive chemical energy instead of the electrical power, thus is simple to perform production mechanism [1-5]. Layer-by-layer heat release that ensures the feasibility to operate with large amount of substance and feasibility of setting up the in-line production [6-15].

Metal oxides are well known for their numerous applications. Metal oxides find their use in manufacturing industry such as tools and parts fabrication. Some most common applications include spark plugs, tap washers, pump seals, grinding media, abrasion resistant tiles, cutting tools, and wear parts for the textile and paper industries. Researchers from all over the world are working with different methods to produce metal oxides. Commonly used methods for production of metal oxides are sol-gel method, metal matrix method, SHS i.e. self propagating high temperature synthesis or solution combustion [11-15].

Solution combustion or Combustion synthesis (CS) is an excellent, economic and easy mechanism for production of metal oxides. In last few years, a number of new breakthroughs in this field have been observed, notably for production of new catalysts and nano carriers with

efficiency better than those for some traditional materials. Alumina (Aluminium oxide) is a widely used metal oxide has many applications in industry (i.e. Abrasive, wear resistant, coating industry etc.) [16-25]. Many articles reported synthesis of alumina by SHS (solution combustion) process. Parameter that is most commonly reported in most of papers is effect of fuel to oxidizer ratio on synthesis of metal oxide and properties of product formed [16, 17, 18, 26-40].

Glycine, ammonium acetate, ammonium tartarate, urea have been explored as fuels. Different combinations of fuel to oxidizer ratio have been analyzed [15-20] [41]. Here in this paper comparative analysis of mono & mixed fuel approach with different combinations of fuel to oxidizer ratio undertaken. All samples were prepared and characterized for confirmation of change in related properties from application point of view. Fuel to oxidizer ratio effects exothermic property of product phase (crystallinity, particles size and hardness etc.) . Alumina powder was the target material of experiment, with expected nano-phase. Results analyzed are well in agreement with referred literature.

2. EXPERIMENTAL:

2.1 MATERIAL USED (CHEMICAL COMPOSITION & SPECIFICATIONS:[16-28]

(a). UREA:

1	Symbol	CO(NH ₂) ₂
2	Oxidizing-reducing valency	+6
3	Solubility in distilled water	1080g/liter at 25 ⁰ C
4	Molecular Weight	60 g/mole

(b). ALUMINIUM NITRATE NON-HYDRATE(GR):

1	Symbol	Al (NO ₃) ₃ 9H ₂ O
2	Oxidizing-reducing valency	-15
3	Solubility in distilled water	637g/liter at 25 ⁰ C
4	Molecular Weight	375 g/mole

(c) Glycine:

Sample No.	Fuel used (MONO Fuel)	Fuel level	Stoichiometric Fuel %
B1	Urea	Fuel lean	60 %

1	Symbol	C ₂ H ₅ NO ₂
2	Oxidizing-reducing valency	+9
3	Solubility in distilled water	250g/litre at 25 ⁰ C
4	Molecular Weight	75 g/mole

2.2 STOICHIOMETRIC OXIDIZER TO FUEL MOLAR RATIO^[16-28]:

Al (NO₃)₃ (oxidizer)& CO(NH₂)₂ (fuel):

Oxidizer/fuel ratio = 15/6 = 2.5 (From formula) i.e. : Stoichiometric aluminium nitrate: urea molar ratio is 1:2.5.

Al(NO₃)₃ (oxidizer) & C₂H₅NO₂ (fuel) :

Oxidizer/fuel ratio = 15/9 = 1.66 (From formula) i.e. : Stoichiometric aluminium nitrate : Glycine molar ratio is 1:1.66.

2.3 PRECURSOR PREPARATION: Solution prepared after mixing of oxidizer & fuel before heat treatment:

1. Weighing of aluminium nitrate, urea and Glycine as per required quantity/sample, calculated from

B2	Urea	Fuel lean	80 %
B3	Urea	Fuel Rich	110 %

(a)

Sample No.	Fuel used (Mixed Fuel)	Fuel level	Stoichiometric Fuel %
A1	(Urea+ Glycine)	Fuel lean	30+30=60 %
A2	(Urea+ Glycine)	Fuel lean	40+40=80 %
A3	(Urea+ Glycine)	Fuel Rich	55+55=110 %

(b)

Sample No.	Fuel used (MONO Fuel)	Fuel level	Stoichiometric Fuel %
C1	Glycine	Fuel lean	60 %
C2	Glycine	Fuel lean	80 %
C3	Glycine	Fuel Rich	110 %

(c)

Table 1: (a) Mixed fuel (b) Mono fuel: Urea (c) Mono fuel Glycine (fuel to oxidizer ratio variation percentage).

- formula and sample fuel to oxidizer ratio.
- Solution of each salt mixture with distilled water as per solubility of salts.
- In last step homogeneous solution of Aluminium nitrate and fuel was prepared separately. Samples with variation from

Stoichiometric value (as per formula of fuel to oxidizer ratio and ratio decided for a sample in proposed work.) were prepared and homogeneously mixed using magnetic stirrer.

The sample solutions were then subjected to heat treatment in electrical furnace. The value temperature was controlled in range of 300^oc -500^oC, until formation of final product i.e. metal oxide.

2.4 SAMPLE PREPARATION FOR

characterization: After combustion of solution in furnace (Heat treatment) foam like product formed in all samples. These samples were then grounded thoroughly to form a homogeneous powder. Powder samples were used for characterization.

3. Results & discussion:

3.1 Metal oxide formation and Combustion

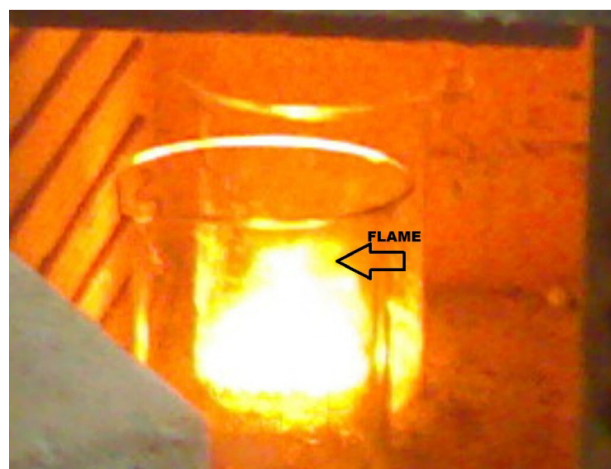
flame observation: Different colours of metal oxide product phase appeared after combustion process. Also flame content and duration has variation from fuel lean to fuel rich sample. White product formation is indication of complete combustion. Deviation of colour of product phase from white to black/brown may be due to residual carbon content from incomplete combustion reaction. High flame shows highly exothermic reaction and thus sufficient heat for formation of metal oxides.[5-15] Exothermicity of combustion process increases when we proceed from fuel lean to fuel rich sample. N. Sharma et. al. have reported similar behaviour of fuel to oxidizer ratio in production of metal oxide.[41]

Flame observation	
Colour appearance	Level/Duration
Brown-Black	Combustion progress with a little self originated flame that remains for about 3 seconds, only observed in some few area of sample.
White (little brownish)	Combustion progress with a self originated flame that remains for about 13 seconds.
White	Combustion progress with a self originated flame that remains for about 16 seconds. Flame raises high inside furnace. As product formed it starts rising inside container until combustion ends.

Table 2: Observation of Combustion reaction in furnace.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 1 : Combustion flame during formation of metal oxide.

From literature high flame indicates high exothermic combustion process. Large exothermicity of combustion process results in complete combustion of the reactant material. when the sufficient amount of energy required to achieve crystallization produces in combustion process, crystalline phase forms.

Range of particles size and formation of agglomerates is related to exothermicity of combustion process during production of metal oxide. If small range of particles size and a few agglomerates found in product phase, there will be insufficient heat produced during combustion. All this is related to the amount of flame temperature during combustion process for production of metal oxide. Formation of large particles indicates high combustion flame. [41]

It is observed that when fuel lean samples (A1,A2,B1,B2,C1,C2,) observed there is incomplete combustion, which leads to amorphous product and agglomeration of particles. In fuel rich (A3,B3,C3) samples complete or sufficient combustion take place, which leads to crystalline product and agglomeration of particles is less, so may approaches nano-pahse.

Another important observation leads the fact that in case of urea as fuel combustion is more efficient and effective. So urea can be better than glycine, as a fuel during solution combustion reaction. Further the particle morphology and nano-pahse can be confirmed from XRD and SEM analysis and co-related with exiting data of already reported work in literature.

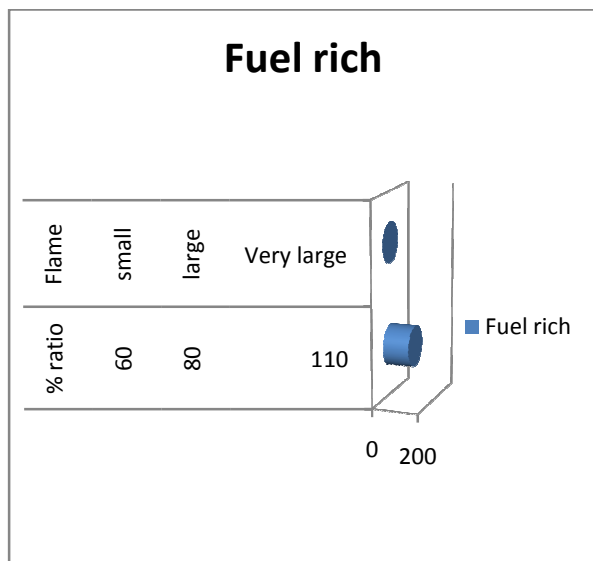


Figure 2: plot of variation in fuel ratio and flame parameter.

4. Conclusions:

From production process of aluminium oxide (Alumina) and analysis of sample characterization we concluded that Fuel lean sample in lowest range of fuel to oxidizer ratio results in incomplete combustion, thus less exothermicity. Small range of exothermicity during heat treatment process gives rise to amorphous metal oxides. In case of little fuel lean and fuel rich sample trend of variation of exothermicity is as observed from literature. As the fuel to oxidizer ratio increases, crystallinity and exothermicity increases. Microstructure study can confirms the extent of desired heat of

combustion, by variation in range of particles size and formation of agglomerates. Overall from above analysis one can easily control parameters like mechanical properties (crystallinity or amorphous phase, hardness etc.), Particle size, and grade of metal oxide. Variation in fuel to oxidizer ratio leads to variation in properties of metal oxide formed (alumina powder in present study).

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