

Thermodynamic Studies of Rod- and Spindle-Shaped β -FeOOH Crystals

Chengzhen Wei,[†] Xiaoming Wang,[†] Zhaodong Nan,^{*,†} and Zhicheng Tan[‡]

College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225002, China, and Thermochemistry Laboratory, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian 116023, China

Different morphologies of β -FeOOH including rod- and spindle-shaped crystals were synthesized via a hydrothermal reaction at low temperature. The molar heat capacities of the obtained samples were determined by a precision automated adiabatic calorimeter over the temperature range of (78 to 390) K. The observed results demonstrated that the change of the molar heat capacity with thermodynamic temperature was different for the rod and spindle-shaped β -FeOOH crystals. Polynomial equations of the molar heat capacities as a function of temperature were fitted by a least-squares method for the rod- and spindle-shaped β -FeOOH crystals. Smoothed heat capacities and thermodynamic functions of the obtained samples, such as $H(T/K) - H(298.15)$ and $S(T/K) - S(298.15)$, were calculated on the basis of the fitted polynomials and the relationships of the thermodynamic functions. In addition, the as-prepared samples were also characterized by X-ray powder diffraction (XRD), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA).

Introduction

In recent years, iron oxyhydroxides and iron oxides have attracted much attention owing to their excellent physical and chemical properties and potential applications in various fields, such as for use as pigments, catalysts, gas sensors, and magnetic recording media.^{1–6} The polymorphs of iron oxyhydroxide consist of α -FeOOH (goethite), β -FeOOH (akaganeite), and γ -FeOOH (lepidocrocite).⁷ Among the iron oxyhydroxides, β -FeOOH, as a stable iron oxide, which has a large tunnel-type structure, has received wide attention because of its unique properties. As a promising candidate for an electrode material, β -FeOOH exhibits good electrochemical properties with a high theoretical discharge capacity ($302 \text{ mA} \cdot \text{h} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$).² β -FeOOH has been used as a precursor for the preparation of ferromagnetic α -Fe₂O₃.^{8,9} However, to the best of our knowledge, the molar heat capacities of β -FeOOH have not been reported so far. It is of great significance to obtain the molar heat capacities of β -FeOOH and furthermore to fully understand this material.

In the present paper, rod- and spindle-shaped β -FeOOH crystals were synthesized, and their molar heat capacities were measured over the temperature range of (78 to 390) K.

Experimental Section

All the reagents used in this work were of analytical grade and used without further purification.

β -FeOOH nanorod particles were prepared following the procedure reported in a previous paper.¹⁰ In a typical synthesis procedure of the β -FeOOH nanorods, FeCl₃·6H₂O (1.0134 g) and (NH₂)₂CO (0.6000 g) were dissolved in distilled water (10 mL) with constant stirring over 10 min. The solution was then transferred to a flask and maintained at (90 to 95) °C under reflux for a period of 12 h, resulting in the formation of a yellow precipitate. This precipitate was collected and rinsed repeatedly

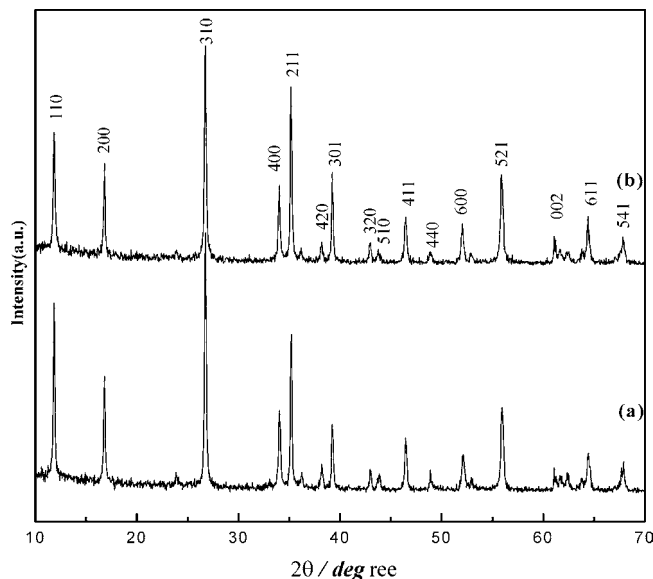


Figure 1. XRD patterns of the as-prepared β -FeOOH products, (a) rod- and (b) spindle-shaped particles.

with distilled water. Spindle-shaped β -FeOOH was synthesized through a facile hydrothermal route. In a typical experiment, FeCl₃·6H₂O (1.6218 g) was dissolved in 50 mL of distilled water with stirred vigorously for 10 min to form a homogeneous solution. The solution was then transferred into a flask and maintained at 90 °C under reflux for 12 h. After the reaction was completed, the resulting yellow solid precipitate was collected by centrifugation, washed several times with distilled water, and finally dried in air at 30 °C for 24 h.

The crystal phase of the as-prepared particles were identified by a Rigaku D/MAX-XA powder X-ray diffractometer with Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.5405 \text{ \AA}$). A scanning rate of $0.1 \text{ deg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ was used to record the pattern in the 2θ range of (10 to 70) deg.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-514-87959896. Fax: +86-514-87959896. E-mail: zdnan@yzu.edu.cn.

[†] Yangzhou University.

[‡] Chinese Academy of Sciences.

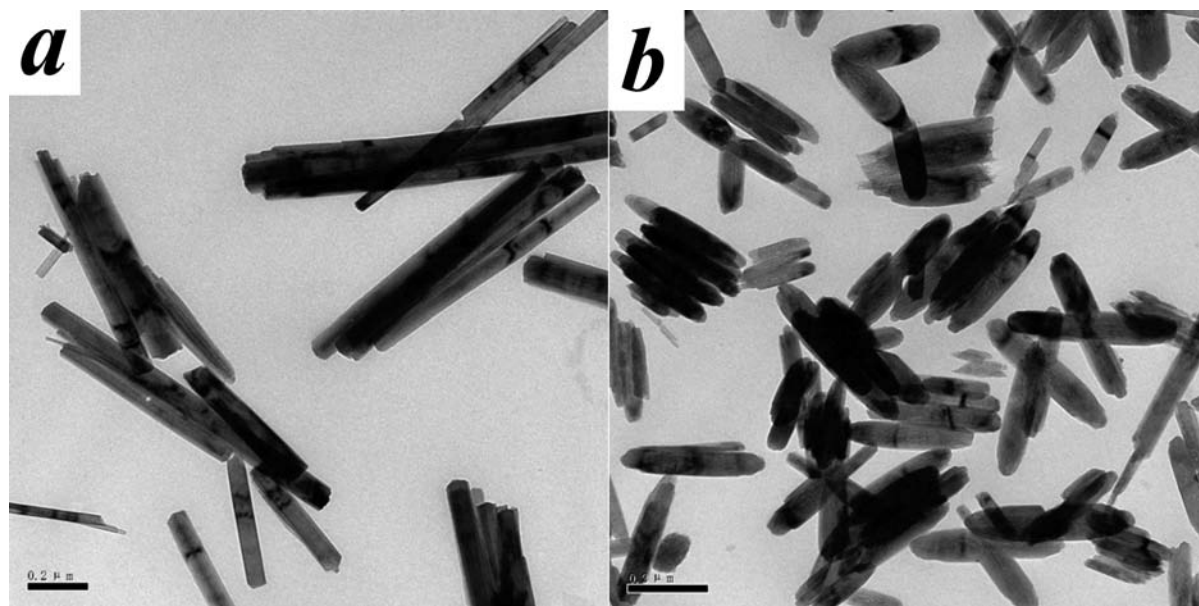


Figure 2. TEM images of the as-prepared β -FeOOH particles, (a) rod-like and (b) spindle-like (the bar = 200 nm).

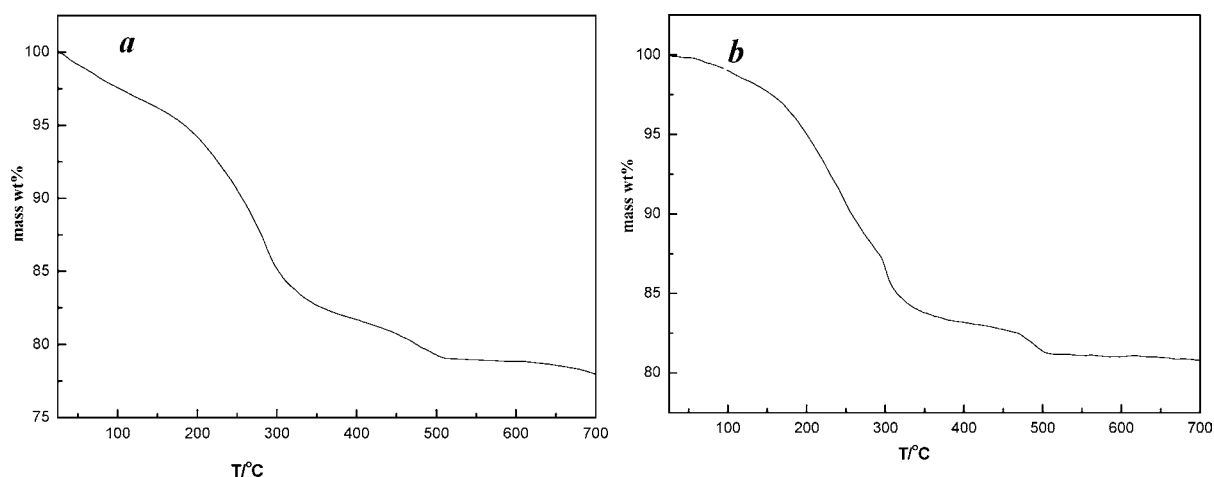


Figure 3. TGA curves of the as-prepared β -FeOOH particles, (a) spindle shape and (b) rod shape.

The morphologies and mean sizes of the obtained particles were examined by a transmission electron microscope (TEM, Hitachi, model H-800) using an accelerating voltage of 200 kV.

Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) of the as-obtained β -FeOOH was carried out by a thermogravimetric analysis system (model: TG 209 F1, NETZSCH, Germany). The as-prepared samples were heated from room temperature to 700 °C under nitrogen at a heating rate of 10 °C·min⁻¹. The flow rate of nitrogen for each of the TGA experiments was controlled at 70 mL·min⁻¹. The amounts of the samples used for TGA analysis were (18.2 and 18.8) mg for the rod- and spindle-shaped β -FeOOH crystals, respectively.

A high precision automatic adiabatic calorimeter was used to determine the heat capacities of the as-prepared products over the temperature range of (78 to 390) K. The calorimeter was established in the Thermochemistry Laboratory of the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The principle and structure of the adiabatic calorimeter have been described in detail elsewhere.^{11–13} The temperature increment was controlled at (2 to 4) K during the whole experimental process.

Before determination of the heat capacity of the as-obtained samples, the reliability of the automatic adiabatic calorimeter

was verified via measurements on a α -Al₂O₃ reference standard material. On the basis of our experimental results, the deviations were within ± 0.2 % compared with the values recommended by the National Bureau of Standards¹⁴ in the temperature range of (80 to 400) K.

The mass of the rod and spindle-shaped β -FeOOH crystals used for the heat capacity determination were (1.07576 and 1.03306) g, respectively, which is equivalent to (0.0121074 and 0.0116268) mol, on the basis of the molar mass of β -FeOOH, $M = 88.8517$ g·mol⁻¹.

Results and Discussion

The composition and crystalline phase purity of the as-prepared products were examined by a powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) technique. As shown in Figure 1, all of the diffraction peaks can be indexed to a tetragonal β -FeOOH phase, which agrees well with the reported data (β -FeOOH, JCPDS no. 34-1266). No obvious XRD peaks due to impurities were found in the XRD patterns. The strong and sharp diffraction peaks can also demonstrate good crystallization of the as-prepared rod- and spindle-shaped β -FeOOH crystals.

The morphologies and mean sizes of the as-prepared β -FeOOH particles were investigated by TEM. Figure 2a,b shows the

