

## Magnetization and cation distribution in $\text{Co}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$ system

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MS received 6 May 1991; revised 9 September 1991

**Abstract.** Magnetic parameters such as saturation magnetization ( $\sigma_s$ ), coercive force ( $H_c$ ), remanence ratio ( $\sigma_r/\sigma_s$ ) etc of  $\text{Co}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  ( $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ) ferrites were measured at 300 and 80 K. The values of  $\sigma_s$ ,  $H_c$  and ( $\sigma_r/\sigma_s$ ) increased as the content of cobalt increased. The magnetic moment  $\mu_B$  was calculated using the  $\sigma_s$  data. The cation distribution has been suggested on the basis of these results.

**Keywords.** Saturation magnetization; cation distribution; Co–Mg–Fe–O ferrite.

### 1. Introduction

Ferrites have been the subject of extensive study in recent years because of their applications and their importance in understanding the theory of magnetism. The magnetic parameters such as saturation magnetization ( $\sigma_s$ ), remanence ratio ( $\sigma_r/\sigma_s$ ), coercive force ( $H_c$ ) etc are directly related with its hysteresis behaviour. Hysteresis study of ferrites provides invaluable data on all these magnetic parameters. Venkatesh Rao and Keer (1982) studied magnetization of  $\text{Co}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  with  $x$  in the range 0 to 0.33. Studies on higher concentration of cobalt ( $x > 0.33$ ) are, however, lacking. In this paper, we report magnetic parameters and cation distribution of  $\text{Co}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  ferrites system with  $x$  in the range 0 to 1.

### 2. Experimental

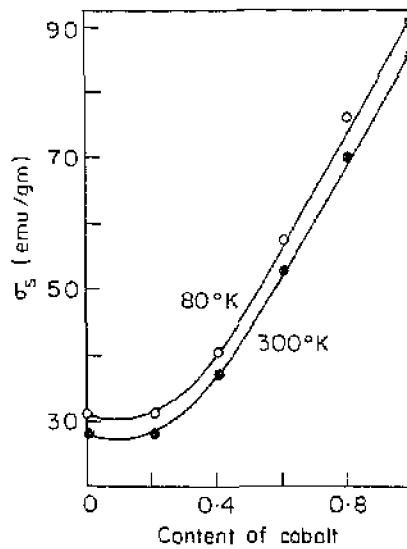
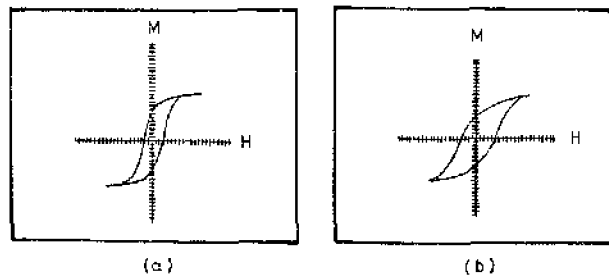
$\text{Co}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  ( $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ) ferrite samples were prepared by a standard ceramic method using AR grade oxides as starting materials. Presintering was carried out at 800°C for 10 h and powdering of formed products was followed by final sintering at 1250°C for 40 h. Pellets of compositions  $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8$  and 1.0 were prepared by pressing the powders in a hydraulic press, sintered at 1250°C for 40 h and cooled at 80°C/h. The completion of solid state reaction was confirmed by the X-ray diffraction measurements which were done at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay on computerized X-ray diffractometer (Philips PW 1820) using filtered  $\text{FeK}_\alpha$  radiations ( $\lambda = 1.936 \text{ \AA}$ ). The magnetic parameters were measured from hysteresis loops taken at 300 and 80 K with the help of high field loop tracer at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay.

### 3. Results and discussion

The relevant magnetic properties along with the lattice parameters for six samples are listed in table 1. X-ray analysis indicated all compositions to be single-phase cubic spinels. There was no appreciable change in the lattice parameters of these ferrites

Table 1. Structural and magnetic parameters of  $\text{Co}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  ferrites.

Composition	Lattice parameter (Å)	Saturation magnetization (emu/g)		Magneton No. $\mu_B$		Remanence ratio ( $\sigma_r/\sigma_s$ )	Coercive force $H_c$ (gauss)	Curie temperature (K)
		(300 K)	(80 K)	(300 K)	(80 K)			
$\text{MgFe}_2\text{O}_4$	8.377	27.9	31.1	1.00	1.11	0.32	50	710
$\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Mg}_{0.8}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	8.376	28.3	31.3	1.04	1.15	0.38	200	723
$\text{Co}_{0.4}\text{Mg}_{0.6}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	8.373	36.8	40.2	1.41	1.54	0.44	600	742
$\text{Co}_{0.6}\text{Mg}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	8.370	52.4	57.2	2.07	2.26	0.50	750	755
$\text{Co}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	8.368	69.9	75.9	2.85	3.10	0.52	800	768
$\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$	8.366	85.5	90.6	3.59	3.81	0.53	850	793

Figure 1. Variation of  $\sigma_s$  with content of cobalt.Figure 2. Representative hysteresis loop for sample a.  $\text{MgFe}_2\text{O}_4$  and b.  $\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Mg}_{0.8}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  (oscilloscope patterns).

presumably due to the closeness of the ionic radii of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  (0.65 Å) and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  (0.74 Å). Our lattice parameter values agree well with those of Venkatesh Rao and Keer (1982).

Compositional variation of saturation magnetization and representative hysteresis patterns were observed (figures 1 and 2). Also, as the cobalt content increased, the  $\sigma_s$

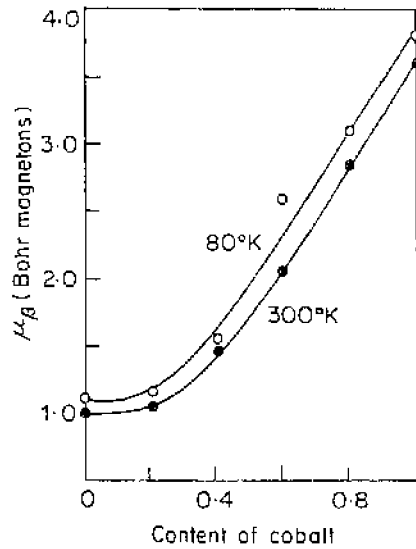


Figure 3. Variation of  $\mu_B$  (Bohr magnetons) with content of cobalt.

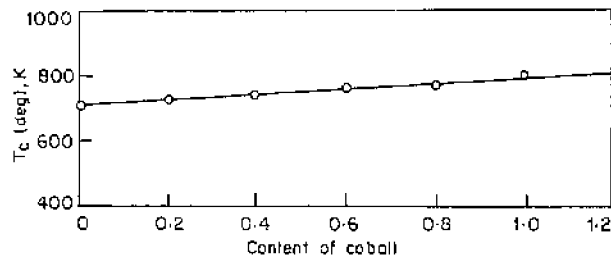


Figure 4. Variation of Curie temperature with content of cobalt.

values also increased almost linearly. The magneton number ( $\mu_B$ ) varied with increasing cobalt content (figure 3) in the same manner as  $\sigma_s$ . Figures 1 and 3 also show that the values of  $\sigma_s$  and  $\mu_B$  at 80 K were greater than the values at 300 K.

The Curie temperature ( $T_c$ ) varied with increasing cobalt content (figure 4). It was also observed that  $T_c$  increased linearly as the concentration of cobalt increased. A similar trend was exhibited by the variation of magnetization and Curie temperature (Sankpal *et al* 1988). Table 1 shows that the remanence ratio ( $\sigma_r/\sigma_s$ ) and the coercive force ( $H_c$ ) increased as the cobalt content was increased. Thus, in the Co-Mg ferrite system all the magnetic parameters increased as cobalt concentration increased. This increase in magnetic parameter was not contrary to expectation because the presence of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions gives rise to large induced anisotropy due to relatively high (unquenched) orbital contribution to the magnetic moment.

The cation distribution in spinel ferrites was available from the studies on X-ray diffraction (Cervinka and Sisma 1970), Mössbauer effect (Bharati *et al* 1980), magnetization (Sawant and Patil 1983) and Curie temperature (Milligan *et al* 1963). Magnetization and Curie temperature methods gave a fair degree of accuracy to the cation distribution. We have used magnetization method to propose cation distribution in the present case and this is given in table 2.

Table 2. Cation distribution in  $\text{Co}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  ferrites.

Composition	Cation distribution		Magneton number ( $\mu_B$ ) (Bohr magneton) from	
	A-site	B-site	Magnetization	Cation distribution
$\text{MgFe}_2\text{O}_4$	$\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Mg}_{0.1}$	$\text{Fe}_{1.1}\text{Mg}_{0.9}$	1.00	1.00
$\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Mg}_{0.8}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	$\text{Fe}_{0.94}\text{Mg}_{0.04}\text{Co}_{0.02}$	$\text{Fe}_{1.06}\text{Mg}_{0.76}\text{Co}_{0.18}$	1.04	1.08
$\text{Co}_{0.4}\text{Mg}_{0.6}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	$\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Mg}_{0.01}\text{Co}_{0.04}$	$\text{Fe}_{1.05}\text{Mg}_{0.59}\text{Co}_{0.36}$	1.41	1.46
$\text{Co}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	$\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Mg}_{0.04}\text{Co}_{0.01}$	$\text{Fe}_{1.05}\text{Mg}_{0.16}\text{Co}_{0.79}$	2.85	2.84
$\text{Co}_{0.6}\text{Mg}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	$\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Mg}_{0.02}\text{Co}_{0.03}$	$\text{Fe}_{1.05}\text{Mg}_{0.38}\text{Co}_{0.57}$	2.07	2.12
$\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$	$\text{Fe}_{0.85}\text{Co}_{0.15}$	$\text{Fe}_{1.15}\text{Co}_{0.85}$	3.59	3.6

### Acknowledgement

The authors are thankful to Prof. R N Patil for encouragement. The X-ray diffraction work was carried out at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and the hysteresis loops taken at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay. We are also thankful to them.

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