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# CHARACTERIZATION OF NICKEL OXIDE NANOPARTICLES SYNTHESIZED VIA RAPID MICROWAVE-ASSISTED ROUTE

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Nickel oxide (NiO) nanoparticles were produced via a rapid microwave-assisted method. Ni(OH) $_2$  precursor was obtained by slow drop-wise addition of 0.1 M sodium hydroxide (NaOH) to 0.1 M nickel nitrate Ni(NO $_3$ ) $_2$ . The mixture was vigorously stirred until the pH reached 7.2. Application of microwave to the mixture then intensified the Ni(OH) $_2$  precipitation rate. By drying of the precipitate at 320°C, NiO nanopowder was produced. Transmission and scanning electron microscope (TEM & SEM) images showed that the synthesized NiO nanopowder had dimensions of ~30 nm. X-ray diffraction patterns revealed that the product had a well-crystallized/high-purity nanostructure. Utilization of microwave resulted in increasing of the homogeneity and decreasing of the particle size of the produced nickel oxide.

Keywords: Nickel oxide; microwave-assisted route; nanopowder; characterization.

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