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Tunable magnetic property and millimeter wave absorption property of ϵ -Fe₂O₃ by metal substitution

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Epsilon-iron oxide (ϵ -Fe₂O₃) is one of the polymorphs of Fe₂O₃, which exists as a stable phase in nanometer-size ~ sub-micrometer-size region.[1] ϵ -Fe₂O₃ receives much attention as a hard magnetic ferrite, since it exhibits the largest coercive field ($H_c > 20$ kOe) among magnetic ferrites. In addition, it shows a high frequency millimeter wave absorption at 182 GHz due to zero-field ferromagnetic resonance.[2] Herein, we report the synthesis, magnetic properties, and millimeter wave absorption properties of metal substituted ϵ -Fe₂O₃ nanomagnets.[2,3]

A series of ϵ -M_xFe_{2-x}O₃ (M= Al, Ga, In, and Rh) were prepared by several nanoparticle synthesis methods, such as a combining method between a reverse-micelle and a sol-gel methods. Crystal structure analyses based on X-ray diffraction pattern indicate that substitution site differs between substitution metal. Among four non-equivalent sites in ϵ -Fe₂O₃ (Fe_A, Fe_B, Fe_C, and Fe_D), In³⁺ substitutes distorted octahedral Fe_A and Fe_B sites, Rh³⁺ substitutes regular octahedral Fe_C sites, and Al³⁺ and Ga³⁺ substitute tetrahedral Fe_D sites, which can be understood by the difference of ionic radii. Magnetic properties are also affected by metal substitution. The H_c value is reduced with Al³⁺, Ga³⁺, In³⁺ substitution from 20 kOe to 2 kOe, but H_c value is enlarged by Rh³⁺ substitution and a large H_c value of 31 kOe was observed. Millimeter wave absorption frequency decreased from 182 GHz (ϵ -Fe₂O₃) to 35 GHz by Al³⁺, Ga³⁺, In³⁺ substitution, but increased up to 222 GHz by Rh³⁺ substitution. Such a largely tunable magnetic property and millimeter wave absorption property of ϵ -Fe₂O₃ is useful from the viewpoint of material design.

Biography

Asuka Namai is currently an Assistant Professor of Department of Chemistry, School of Science at The University of Tokyo. She received her PhD. in Science at the University of Tokyo, Japan, in 2013. Her research focuses on the development and physical and chemical characterization of functionalized nanomaterials, with particular interest in iron oxide-based nanomagnets and magnetism.

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