

# Theoretical study of the optical properties for Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-(Si, Pt, Ni) Coaxial Nanowires

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## ABSTRACT

In this research, a theoretical investigation of the effect of shell (Si, Pt, Ni) on some optical properties for the core of Iron oxide Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as a coaxial nano wire using the scattering approximation (Mie-Lorentz Scattering theory). Thickness value of (Si, Pt, Ni) shell was limited to about ( 5 nm) and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> core diameter of 20 nm. The work showed that the coaxial nano wires have a very high transmittance in the visible spectrum region. The values of transmittance are more than 95% for Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> core only and (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Si) core-shell. In construct, the compound of fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Pt and fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Ni show a low transmittance in the same region. Absorbance and low absorption coefficient of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Si in the infrared spectrum with the appearance of two absorption edges of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Si. The energy gap decreases after adding (Si, Pt, Ni) shell as this in a good agreement with some experimental researches where the values of the energy gap for (fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Si), Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Pt, and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Ni were (2.4, 2, 1.7) ev respectively.

## 1 Introduction

Nanowires are defined as a very small structure with a diameter close to one nanometer [1], [2]. It can also be known by the composition containing thickness Tens of nanometers and unrestricted length. During the past several years, the research of semiconductor wires has swiftly advanced, and many types of Nano-wire are already being employed in modern scientific applications [3].

Nowadays, advanced applications have emerged the nanowires due to their exceptional properties such as low reactivity and the excellent durability [4]. As a result of their exclusive physical characteristics and significant applications in devices like Photonic nano sensor devices, nanowires are a crucial study topic in nanotechnology [5]–[9].

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Calculations of the optical characteristics of each Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> core and single Si, Pt, and Ni shell were made in order to examine the photonic applications of nanowires. Iron(III) oxide is an inorganic compound and it is one of the three main oxides of iron, the other two being FeO the rarer form, and (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) which naturally as magnetite. In this work, it is expected that a structure made of nanowires will combine the benefits of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and (Si, Pt, and Ni) materials independently to enhance the performance of the model. In case of studying the structure of semiconductor materials, the optical characteristics clearly play a significant role [10]. The optical energy gap, optical transmittance spectrum, and absorption coefficient have all been researched as optical qualities.

## 2 Theoretical model

The optical characteristics of coaxial nanowires were computed in this study. Mie scattering theory's conceptual framework has been created to estimate circular cylinders with simple forms. Mie scattering theory is the general solution which defines the scattering of an electromagnetic wave by a homogeneous spherical medium. This set up makes it possible to figure out how effective a single layer's absorption is. The modelling tool

"Optical Properties of Single Coaxial Nanowires" [11] is used to determine the absorption of unpolarized light for nanowire sheets. According to estimates, coaxial nanowires are exceptionally cylinder-shaped along the Z-axis and are floodlit by electromagnetic waves in coincide with incident wave propagation vectors of (k), as seen in figure (1).

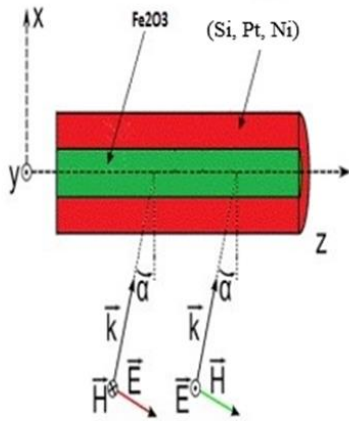


Figure (1): The Schematics of coaxial nanowire [12]

Absorption efficiency define as the geometric cross section of one thickness divided by the absorption cross section, like in the following equation:

$$Q_{abs} = \frac{C_{abs}}{C_{geom}} \quad (1)$$

Where  $C_{abs}$  and  $C_{geom}$  are the absorption cross section and geometrical cross section respectively.

$$C_{abs} = C_{ext} - C_{scat} \quad (2)$$

Where  $C_{ext}$  is the extinction cross section and  $C_{scat}$  is the scattering cross section

In the state of un-polarized light for example sunlight, the absorption cross section can be represented by the following equation:

$$C_{abs} = \frac{(C_{ext}^{TE} + C_{ext}^{TM})}{2} - \frac{(C_{scat}^{TE} + C_{scat}^{TM})}{2} \quad (3)$$

To evaluate the Mie coefficients of a system, the following steps should be followed:

- Calculating the solutions of the 2D wave equation in different ranges to express the electromagnetic fields.
- Replacing the magnetic field with the electric field in Maxwell's equations.

-These solutions can be written in the form of a Bessel function, whose coefficients have been computed by calculating the boundary conditions.

-Application of boundary conditions for continuity in state of interference

-Displaying the results in the form of matrix.

-Calculating unknown Mie coefficients of a system [11].

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Optical transmittance

The optical transmittance spectrum is directly associated to the thickness of the material and the crystal structure. The transmittance spectrum for an iron oxide ( $Fe_2O_3$ ) core with a diameter of 20 nm, and a shell of (Si, Pt, and Ni) individually as coaxial nanowires NWs, is shown in Figure 2 as a function of wavelength. For both  $Fe_2O_3$  and  $Fe_2O_3$ -Si, the considered model displayed that a low diffusion spectrum in the low wavelength region (300–400 nm), followed by an abrupt increase in transmittance spectrum in the visible spectrum which in a good agreement with the experimental results of P. A. K. Elttayef [13] . This increase is due to the electronic transitions in the energy groups inside the optical absorption region. In addition, it is clear that the compounds of  $Fe_2O_3$ -Pt and  $Fe_2O_3$ -Ni have a stable value of transmittance for wavelength range under the study. This may be due to an increase in the surface roughness of the nanoparticles which leads to increase the scattering due to the increase in the thickness of the nanowires.

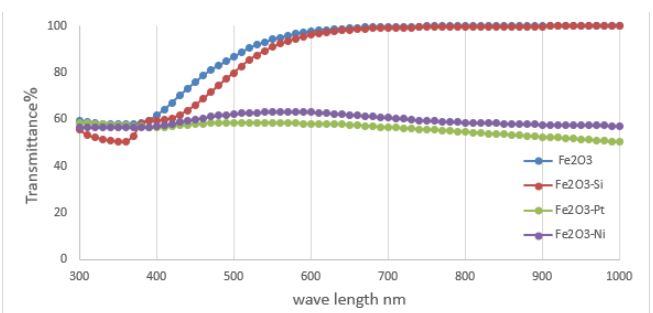


Figure (2): the transmittance% as a function of the wavelength nm

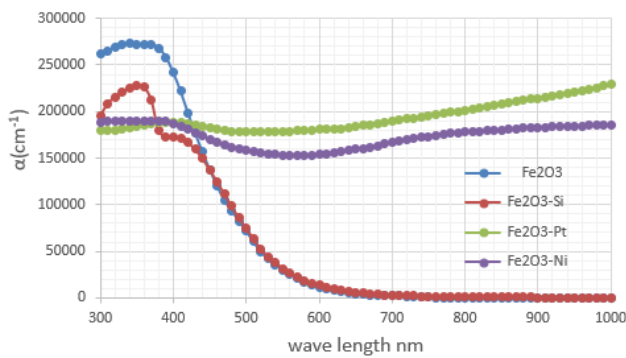
#### 3.2. Absorption Coefficient

One of the essential variables which gives a number of characteristics of the materials used to make semiconductors is the study of the absorption

coefficient. Studying the behavior of electron transitions between energy groups is particularly important because it indicates how many photons will be absorbed by matter per unit length, which is highly dependent on the energy of the input photons. Figure (3) depicts the change in the absorption coefficient of iron oxide nanowires as a function of wavelength by using the following relation [14].

$$\alpha = 2.303 \frac{A}{t} \quad (4)$$

Where  $t$  denotes the nanowire's thickness and  $A$  denotes absorbance. For values more than  $1.5 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for both  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Si}$ , Figure (3) illustrates a progressive decline in the absorption coefficient values with the direction of the high wavelengths, indicating that there is an optical energy gap from the direct form.



**Figure (3): the absorption coefficient as a function of wave length for coaxial nanowire.**

The findings demonstrated that the absorption coefficients for  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Si}$  peaked in the visible spectrum area, then steadily declined to achieve their lowest values in the infrared spectrum. The relative stability in transmittance values for  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Pt}$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Ni}$  is correlated with the stability of the absorption coefficient values for these two compounds.

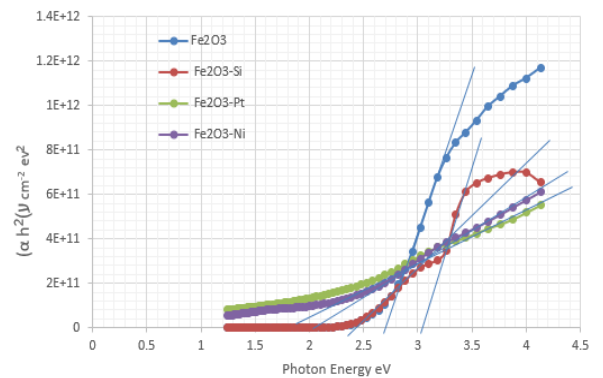
### 3.3. Optical Energy gap

Depending on the Tauc formula, which is presented in the following format [15], the optical energy gap was calculated:

$$\alpha = \frac{B(h\nu - E_g)^n}{h\nu} \quad (5)$$

Using the absorbance that was calculated using the software and mentioned in the theoretical section, where stands for the absorption coefficient,  $B$  is a constant that depends on the type of material used,  $h$

is the energy of the incident photons,  $n$  is a constant whose value be determined by the type of electronic transition that occurs between the two energy bands, and  $E_g$  is the optical energy gap [16]. The optical energy gap values were calculated by first sketching the connection between  $(h)$  and  $(1/n)$  as a function of the incident photon energy ( $h$ ), and then by tangentially intersecting the right segment of the curve with the  $h$  axis. When  $h\nu=0$ , it reflects the material's optical energy gap values as shown in Figure.



**Figure (4):  $(\alpha h\nu)^2$  as a function of photons energy.**

In general, it is shown that the optical energy gap value reduces as the thickness of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  nanowires increases by encasing them in (Si, Pt, Ni) shells which is in a good agreement with the researcher[17]. This may be because certain local levels in the optical energy gap area have been removed, lowering the optical energy gap's value. There are several mechanisms that have been developed to explain the variation in the energy gap values, including changes in quantitative confinement, the height of the well barrier as a result of crystalline dimension changes, and differences in the proportions of combined impurities that affect pressure or tensile strength as well as improvement or deformation in the crystal structure[18].

### 4 Summery and Conclusions

The optical properties of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-(Si, Pt, Ni)}$  nanowires were considered. It was shown by theoretical simulation by Scattering Mie theory that the combination of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Si}$  leads to an increase in the values of each absorption spectrum and the absorption coefficient, while there was a decrease in the transmittance values. Increasing the nanowire

thickness produced by the addition of the (Si, Pt, Ni) shell led to decline in the value of the optical energy gap. By studying the optical properties discussed of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-(Si, Pt, Ni) nanowires show that nanowires can extremely work an significant role in the field of manufacturing optoelectronic device.

### Acknowledgements

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### Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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## دراسة نظرية للخصائص البصرية لأسلاك $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -(Si, Pt, Ni) النانوية متحدة المحور

قدامة خميس هذال

وزارة التربية العراقية، مديرية تربية الانبار، الرمادي، الانبار، العراق

الخلاصة

في هذا البحث تم الدراسة نظريا تأثير القشرة للعناصر التالية (Ni, Pt, Si) على بعض الخواص البصرية في لب أكسيد الحديد الثلاثي  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (III) كسلك نانوي متحد المحور باستخدام برنامج تقريب التشبث (مي-لورينز). تم استخدام نموذج المحاكاة "Optical Properties of Single Coaxial Nanowires" لحساب قيم معاملات الخواص البصرية مثل النفاذية البصرية ومعامل الامتصاص وفجوة الطاقة البصرية. تم تحديد سمك الغلاف للعناصر (Ni, Pt, Si) على حوالي 5 نانومتر وقطر لب  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  يبلغ 20 نانومتر. أظهرت الدراسة أن الأسلاك النانوية المحورية لها نفاذية عالية جداً في منطقة الطيف المرئي. قيم النفاذية هي أكثر من 95% في لب  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  فقط و  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -(Si). يُظهر مركب  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -Pt و  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -Ni نفاذية منخفضة في نفس المنطقة. أظهرت النتائج ان معامل الامتصاص منخفض لـ  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  و  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -Si في طيف الأشعة تحت الحمراء مع ظهور حافتي امتصاص من  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -Si. تقل فجوة الطاقة بعد إضافة الغلاف حيث كانت قيم فجوة الطاقة لكل من  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -Pt و  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -Ni (2.4 و 1.7،  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -Ni (2.4) على التوالي.