RECENT ADVANCES IN SYNTHESIS AND STABILIZATION OF MAGNETIC NANOPARTICLES FOR INDUSTRIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS: A REVIEW

Nupur Chaudhary*

Abstract

Magnetic nanoparticles have attracted significant attention in recent years due to their unique properties and potential applications in various fields, including industry and the environment. This review paper provides an overview of recent advances in the synthesis and stabilization of magnetic nanoparticles, as well as their industrial and environmental applications. Various synthesis methods and stabilization techniques have been discussed, and their advantages and disadvantages have been compared. The industrial applications of magnetic nanoparticles, including biomedical imaging, drug delivery, catalysis, energy conversion, and data storage, have been highlighted, as well as their environmental applications such as soil remediation, air pollution control, and environmental sensing. Finally, challenges and future perspectives have been discussed, including the development of multifunctional nanoparticles, targeted and personalized therapy, and sustainable production. The potential of magnetic nanoparticles is vast, and their use is expected to increase in the coming years.

Keywords: - Magnetic nanoparticles, synthesis, stabilization, industrial applications, environmental applications, biomedical imaging, drug delivery, catalysis,

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*Department of Chemistry, UIS, Chandigarh University, Mohali 140413, Punjab, India

***Corresponding Author: -** Nupur Chaudhary
*Department of Chemistry, UIS, Chandigarh University, Mohali 140413, Punjab, India

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Introduction: -

Magnetic nanoparticles are a class of nanoscale materials that possess unique magnetic properties, making them attractive for a wide range of applications in various fields. These nanoparticles are typically composed of a magnetic core, which can be made from materials such as iron, cobalt, or nickel, and a surface coating that provides stability and fictionalization. Due to their small size and high surface area, magnetic nanoparticles exhibit unique magnetic properties that are not observed in bulk materials, such as super paramagnetism, enhanced magnetic anisotropy, and high magnetic susceptibility. These properties make them useful for a wide range of applications, including drug delivery, magnetic separation, magnetic hyperthermia, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In recent years, there has been a significant focus on the development of new synthesis and stabilization techniques to enhance the properties and performance of magnetic nanoparticles for various industrial and environmental applications [1]. Magnetic nanoparticles have become an important research topic due to their unique properties, including their magnetic response, biocompatibility, and small size, which make them useful for a wide range of applications. In addition, their properties can be tuned by controlling their size, shape, and composition, which has led to the development of new materials with enhanced magnetic properties. The synthesis of magnetic nanoparticles involves the production of particles with a controlled size, shape, and composition [2]. Various synthesis techniques have been developed, including co-precipitation, thermal decomposition, sol-gel, and hydrothermal methods. These methods can be used to produce magnetic nanoparticles with different sizes and shapes, ranging from spherical to rod-like, and with different magnetic properties. Stabilization of magnetic nanoparticles is critical for their use in various applications, as it prevents particle aggregation and degradation, and ensures their stability in different environments. Surface functionalisation and coating with various materials such as polymers, surfactants, and inorganic compounds have been used to stabilize magnetic nanoparticles.[3] These coatings can also provide additional functionality, such as targeting specific cells or tissues in biomedical applications. The unique magnetic properties of magnetic nanoparticles have led to their use in a wide range of industrial and environmental applications, including drug delivery, magnetic separation, wastewater treatment, and environmental remediation. Magnetic nanoparticles have also been used in MRI imaging as contrast agents, providing high sensitivity and specificity in imaging. Despite the many advantages of magnetic nanoparticles, there are also challenges associated with their synthesis and stabilization.[4] These include the potential toxicity of some magnetic nanoparticle materials and the need for further research into their environmental impact. In addition, the scalability of synthesis methods and the development of cost-effective production methods are important considerations for industrial applications. Magnetic nanoparticles have found widespread use in biomedical applications due to their unique magnetic properties. For instance, magnetic nanoparticles have been used as contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to enhance image contrast and sensitivity. Additionally, magnetic nanoparticles can be used as drug carriers, with drugs bound to the surface of the particles, or encapsulated within the particles. These drug-loaded magnetic nanoparticles can be targeted to specific cells or tissues, leading to more effective and targeted drug delivery. Magnetic nanoparticles have also found use in environmental applications. For instance, they can be used for wastewater treatment, where they can remove contaminants from water by adsorption or magnetic separation. Magnetic nanoparticles have also been used for environmental remediation, where they can be used to remove heavy metals and other pollutants from soil and water. There has been significant research into developing new synthesis and stabilization methods for magnetic nanoparticles to improve their properties and performance [5][6] For example, surface coating of magnetic nanoparticles with inorganic or organic materials can improve their stability, biocompatibility, and functionality. In addition, the development of novel synthesis methods such as microwave-assisted synthesis and electrospinning has led to the production of magnetic nanoparticles with improved size and shape control. However, there are still challenges associated with the use of magnetic nanoparticles in various applications. One challenge is the potential toxicity of some magnetic nanoparticle materials, such as cobalt and nickel, which can cause adverse health effects. Additionally, there is a need for further research into the environmental impact of magnetic nanoparticles, particularly with regard to their long-term stability and potential accumulation in the environment.[7]

1. Synthesis Methods for Magnetic Nanoparticles

There are several methods for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles, each with its own advantages and limitations. Some of the commonly used synthesis methods are: -

a) Co-precipitation:

Co-precipitation is a widely used method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles, particularly iron oxide nanoparticles. In this method, iron salts such as iron (III) chloride or iron (II) sulphate are dissolved in a solvent, such as water, and a base such as sodium hydroxide or ammonium hydroxide is added to initiate precipitation [8]. The resulting particles are then washed and dried to remove any residual salts or solvents.

- Co-precipitation is a simple and low-cost method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles on a large scale, making it an attractive option for industrial applications. However, the resulting particles are often polydisperse, with irregular shapes and sizes, which can affect their magnetic properties and stability [8] additionally, the method can lead to the formation of impurities, which can affect the purity and functionality of the resulting nanoparticles.
- To overcome some of these limitations, various modifications have been made to the co-precipitation method. For instance, the addition of a surfactant or stabilizer such as polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) can improve the size distribution and stability of the resulting nanoparticles.[9] Similarly, the use of ultrasound or microwave irradiation during co-precipitation can enhance the size and morphology control of the nanoparticles.

b) Thermal decomposition

Thermal decomposition is a method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles by thermally decomposing a metal precursor in a high-boiling solvent in the presence of a surfactant or capping agent. This method is particularly useful for synthesizing monodisperse nanoparticles with controlled size and shape,[10] and is commonly used to synthesize iron oxide nanoparticles.

- In the thermal decomposition method, a metal precursor such as iron acetylacetonate or iron oleate is dissolved in a high-boiling solvent such as benzyl alcohol or 1-octadecene. A surfactant or capping agent such as oleic acid or oleylamine is added to the solution to stabilize the nanoparticles and prevent their agglomeration. The solution is then heated to a high temperature, usually above 200°C, causing the metal precursor to decompose and form nanoparticles with controlled size and shape [11]. The resulting nanoparticles are then washed and dried to remove any residual surfactants or solvents.

- The thermal decomposition method offers several advantages over other synthesis methods. It allows for the precise control of nanoparticle size and shape, resulting in monodisperse particles with narrow size distributions. The method also allows for the synthesis of nanoparticles with a high degree of crystallinity, which is important for many applications. Additionally, the method can be easily scaled up for industrial production.[12]

Despite its advantages, the thermal decomposition method also has some limitations. The high temperatures required for the synthesis can lead to the production of impurities, which can affect the purity and functionality of the nanoparticles. Additionally, the method can be expensive due to the use of high-boiling solvents and surfactants. Thermal decomposition is a useful method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles with controlled size and shape, particularly iron oxide nanoparticles.[13] The method offers several advantages over other synthesis methods, but also has some limitations that need to be considered. Overall, the thermal decomposition method is an important tool in the field of magnetic nanoparticle synthesis and has a wide range of applications in industry and research.

c) Sol-gel

The sol-gel method is a versatile and widely used method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles, particularly metal oxides such as iron oxide and cobalt oxide nanoparticles. In this method, metal alkoxides or metal salts are hydrolysed and condensed to form a sol, which is then transformed into a gel by cross linking the particles

- The sol-gel process begins with the hydrolysis of metal alkoxides or metal salts in a solvent such as ethanol or water, forming a sol. The sol is then aged or dried to promote particle growth and aggregation. The resulting gel is then heated at a high temperature to remove the solvent and drive off any remaining water molecules, resulting in the formation of a solid oxide matrix containing the nanoparticles.[14]
- The sol-gel method offers several advantages over other synthesis methods. It allows for precise control over the size, shape, and composition of the nanoparticles. Additionally, the method allows for the incorporation of other materials, such as polymers or bio molecules, into the nanoparticles [15], making them useful for a wide range of applications.
- Despite its advantages, the sol-gel method also has some limitations. The process can be time-consuming, and the resulting particles can have broad size distributions and low crystallinity. The method can also be challenging to scale up for industrial production.
- To overcome some of these limitations, various modifications have been made to the sol-gel method. For instance, the use of surfactants or templates can improve the size distribution and crystallinity of the resulting nanoparticles. Similarly, the use of microwave or ultrasonic irradiation can enhance the particle size control and reduce processing times.[14]

The sol-gel method is a versatile and widely used method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles, particularly metal oxides. While the method offers precise control over nanoparticle size and composition, modifications may be necessary to overcome some of the limitations of the method. Overall, the sol-gel method is an important tool in the field of magnetic nanoparticle synthesis and has a wide range of applications in industry and research.

d) Hydrothermal synthesis: -

Hydrothermal synthesis is a method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles under high pressure and temperature conditions in an aqueous medium. This method is commonly used for synthesizing metal oxide nanoparticles such as iron oxide, manganese oxide, and nickel oxide nanoparticles In the hydrothermal synthesis method, a metal salt precursor is dissolved in water, and a base such as sodium hydroxide or ammonia is added to adjust the pH of the solution. The solution is then sealed in a high-pressure vessel and heated to a high temperature, usually above 100°C, for a certain amount of time. The high pressure and temperature conditions promote the formation of nanoparticles with controlled size and crystallinity.[15] The resulting nanoparticles are typically coated with a capping agent or surfactant to prevent their agglomeration and improve their stability. The nanoparticles are then washed and dried to remove any residual capping agents or solvents.

The hydrothermal synthesis method offers several advantages over other synthesis methods. It allows for the synthesis of high-quality nanoparticles with high crystallinity and controlled size and shape. Additionally, the method is simple, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly, as it uses water as a solvent and does not require toxic chemicals or organic solvents. However, the hydrothermal synthesis method also has some limitations. The high-pressure vessels used in the method can be expensive and difficult to scale up for industrial production. Additionally, the method may not be suitable for synthesizing nanoparticles with certain compositions or properties.

In conclusion, hydrothermal synthesis is a useful method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles, particularly metal oxide nanoparticles. The method offers several advantages, such as high-quality particles with controlled size and crystallinity, and is environmentally friendly. However, the method also has some limitations that need to be considered.[16] Overall, hydrothermal synthesis is an important tool in the field of magnetic nanoparticle synthesis and has a wide range of applications in industry and research.

e) Micro emulsion:

Micro emulsion is a method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles that involves the use of a stabilized oil-in-water emulsion system. The emulsion system contains an aqueous phase, an oil phase, and a surfactant or a co-surfactant to stabilize the interface between the two phases. In the micro emulsion method, the metal precursor is dissolved in the oil phase, and a reducing agent is added to promote the formation of nanoparticles. The emulsion is then heated to a certain temperature and stirred for a certain amount of time to allow the nanoparticles to form and grow. The resulting nanoparticles are typically coated with surfactants or polymers to prevent their agglomeration and improve their stability. The nanoparticles are then separated from the emulsion system by centrifugation or other separation methods and washed with solvents to remove any residual surfactants or impurities.[17] The micro emulsion method offers several advantages over other synthesis methods. It allows for the synthesis of nanoparticles with controlled size and narrow size distributions. Additionally, the method is relatively simple, fast, and scalable, making it suitable for industrial production.

However, the micro emulsion method also has some limitations. The surfactants and co-surfactants used in the method can be expensive, and the resulting nanoparticles may not have high crystallinity or uniform morphology. To overcome some of these limitations, various modifications have been made to the micro emulsion method. For instance, the use of mixed surfactants or the addition of co-solvents can improve the size distribution and crystallinity of the resulting nanoparticles. Similarly, the use of ultrasonic or microwave irradiation can enhance the particle size control and reduce processing times.[18]

f) Green synthesis

Green synthesis is a relatively new method for synthesizing magnetic nanoparticles that aims to minimize the use of toxic chemicals and solvents and reduce the environmental impact of the synthesis process. The method utilizes natural and renewable sources such as plant extracts, fungi, and bacteria as reducing agents and stabilizers for the synthesis of nanoparticles.

- In the green synthesis method, the plant extracts or other natural sources are added to a solution containing the metal precursor. The reducing agents in the natural sources reduce the metal ions, leading to the formation of nanoparticles.[19] The resulting nanoparticles are then coated with stabilizing agents or functionalized to improve their properties.
- The green synthesis method offers several advantages over traditional synthesis methods. It is cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and does not require the use of toxic chemicals or solvents. Additionally, the method can produce nanoparticles with unique properties, such as surface functionalization and biocompatibility that are useful in various applications.[20]

However, the green synthesis method also has some limitations. The synthesis process can be relatively slow, and the resulting nanoparticles may have a wide size distribution and less crystallinity than those produced by traditional synthesis methods. Additionally, the use of natural sources can lead to batch-to-batch variations in the synthesis process. Despite these limitations, the green synthesis method has been successfully used to synthesize magnetic nanoparticles with various compositions and properties, such as iron oxide and gold-coated iron oxide nanoparticles, for various applications in biomedicine, catalysis, and environmental remediation.[21]

2. Stabilization Techniques for Magnetic Nanoparticles

Stabilization of magnetic nanoparticles is essential to prevent their agglomeration and ensure their stability for various applications. Several techniques are available for stabilizing magnetic nanoparticles, including surface modification, coating, and fictionalization. Surface modification involves attaching chemical groups or molecules onto the surface of magnetic nanoparticles to prevent their aggregation and enhance their stability. Common surface modification techniques include silanization, phosphonization, and carboxylation.[22] These techniques involve the attachment of functional groups such as amino, hydroxyl, or carboxyl groups to the surface of the nanoparticles to improve their dispersibility and stability. Coating involves the deposition of a thin layer of organic or inorganic material onto the surface of magnetic nanoparticles. The coating can protect the nanoparticles from environmental factors and prevent their agglomeration. Common coating materials include polymers such as polyethylene glycol (PEG), chitosan, and dextran [23]. Inorganic coatings such as silica and gold can also be used to improve the stability and biocompatibility of the nanoparticles.

- Fictionalization involves the attachment of biological molecules, such as antibodies, peptides, or DNA, onto the surface of magnetic nanoparticles. The functionalized nanoparticles can then be used for specific biological applications such as drug delivery or biosensing. Common functionalization techniques include conjugation, biotinylation, and aptamer-based methods.

In addition to these techniques, physical stabilization methods such as sanitation and centrifugation can also be used to improve the stability of magnetic nanoparticles. Overall, the choice of stabilization technique depends on the specific application and the desired properties of the nanoparticles [24]. A combination of techniques can also be used to achieve optimal stability and functionality of magnetic nanoparticles.

2.1 Advantage and disadvantage of stabilization technique: -

Table: 1

Stabilization Technique	**Advantages**	**Disadvantages**
Surface Modification	Improves dispersibility and stability	Requires careful control of the surface modification process to avoid altering the magnetic properties of the nanoparticles
Coating	Protects nanoparticles from environmental factors and prevents agglomeration	Coating materials may alter the magnetic properties of the nanoparticles or reduce their magnetic response
Functionalization	Enables specific biological applications such as drug delivery or biosensing	Requires specialized equipment and expertise for conjugation and functionalization processes
Sonication	Improves dispersibility of nanoparticles in solution	Can cause damage or alteration to the surface of the nanoparticles if sonicated for too long or at too high a frequency
Centrifugation	Separates nanoparticles from agglomerated or unwanted material	Can damage or alter the surface of the nanoparticles if centrifuged for too long or at too high a speed

3. Recent Advances in Synthesis and Stabilization of Magnetic Nanoparticles

Recent advances in the synthesis and stabilization of magnetic nanoparticles have led to significant progress in their industrial and environmental applications. In terms of synthesis, green synthesis methods using natural products or waste materials have gained attention due to their eco-friendly and cost-effective nature. Moreover, new approaches such as microwave synthesis and electrochemical synthesis have emerged as fast and efficient methods for producing magnetic nanoparticles with tailored properties.

- Regarding stabilization, researchers have developed novel surface modification techniques, such as click chemistry and layer-by-layer assembly, to enhance the stability and functionality of magnetic nanoparticles. Furthermore, there has been increasing interest in developing stimuli-responsive coatings that can respond to external stimuli such as temperature, pH, or light, allowing for controlled release and targeted delivery of therapeutic agents.[25]

- Another recent advance in the field of magnetic nanoparticles is the development of multifunctional nanoparticles that combine magnetic properties with other functional properties such as optical, thermal, or electrical properties. These multifunctional nanoparticles have potential applications in a range of fields such as imaging, sensing, and therapy.

Overall, the recent advances in the synthesis and stabilization of magnetic nanoparticles offer great promise for their use in a wide range of industrial and environmental applications, including magnetic separation, drug delivery, environmental remediation, and energy conversion.[26] However, further research is needed to fully understand and optimize the properties and performance of these nanoparticles for specific applications.

4. Industrial Applications of Magnetic Nanoparticle: -

Magnetic nanoparticles have a wide range of industrial applications due to their unique magnetic properties, such as high magnetization, superparamagnetism, and biocompatibility. Some of the key industrial applications of magnetic nanoparticles are:

a) Magnetic separation: - Magnetic separation is a process that uses magnetic properties of magnetic nanoparticles to separate target molecules or particles from complex mixtures. [27] This technique is widely used in a variety of industrial and biomedical applications, such as water treatment, food processing, and drug discovery.

The process of magnetic separation typically involves three steps:

(1) Immobilization of magnetic nanoparticles on a solid support or in a suspension,

(2) Addition of the mixture containing the target molecule or particle,

(3) Application of an external magnetic field to separate the magnetic nanoparticles and the target from the rest of the mixture.

One of the advantages of magnetic separation is its selectivity and efficiency, as magnetic nanoparticles can specifically bind to and separate target molecules or particles, even in complex mixtures. Moreover, magnetic separation can be easily scaled up and automated, making it suitable for large-scale industrial applications. Magnetic separation can be carried out using various types of magnetic nanoparticles, such as iron oxide, cobalt, or nickel nanoparticles, with different sizes and shapes.[28] The choice of magnetic nanoparticles depends on the specific application and the properties of the target molecule or particle.

In addition to magnetic separation, magnetic nanoparticles can be used in combination with other separation techniques, such as chromatography or centrifugation, to improve their selectivity and efficiency.

b) Biomedical imaging

Biomedical imaging is an essential tool for the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases, and magnetic nanoparticles have emerged as promising contrast agents for a range of imaging modalities. Magnetic nanoparticles can be used as contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and magnetic particle imaging (MPI), two imaging techniques that utilize the magnetic properties of magnetic nanoparticles to produce high-resolution images of biological tissues.

- In MRI, magnetic nanoparticles act as contrast agents by affecting the local magnetic field, leading to changes in signal intensity that can be detected and used to generate images. Magnetic nanoparticles used in MRI typically have a core of iron oxide, and are coated with biocompatible polymers to improve their stability and reduce toxicity.[29]
- MPI is a new imaging technique that uses magnetic nanoparticles to directly measure the magnetic field generated by the nanoparticles, rather than detecting changes in the magnetic field as in MRI. This technique has several advantages over MRI, including higher sensitivity and resolution, and the ability to quantify the concentration of magnetic nanoparticles.

Magnetic nanoparticles can also be used in combination with other imaging modalities, such as fluorescence or positron emission tomography (PET), to improve their sensitivity and specificity.[30] For example, magnetic nanoparticles coated with fluorescent dyes can be used for fluorescence imaging, while magnetic nanoparticles labelled with radioactive isotopes can be used for PET imaging.

The use of magnetic nanoparticles as contrast agents in biomedical imaging offers several advantages over traditional contrast agents, such as better biocompatibility, higher specificity, and lower toxicity. With continued research and development, magnetic nanoparticles have the potential to revolutionize the field of biomedical imaging and improve the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of diseases.

c) Drug delivery

Magnetic nanoparticles have emerged as promising carriers for drug delivery due to their unique magnetic properties, biocompatibility, and ability to target specific tissues or cells. In drug delivery, magnetic nanoparticles can be used to encapsulate and transport drugs to the target site, while an external magnetic field is used to control their release and distribution [31].

- Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with different types of molecules, such as antibodies, peptides, or aptamers, to improve their specificity and targeting. Moreover, the surface of magnetic nanoparticles can be modified with various functional groups, such as amino, carboxyl, or thiol groups, to allow for conjugation with drugs or other therapeutic molecules.
- One of the advantages of magnetic nanoparticles for drug delivery is their ability to penetrate biological barriers, such as the blood-brain barrier, which can limit the delivery of drugs to the brain. [32] Magnetic nanoparticles can also be used to target specific cells or tissues, such as cancer cells, by functionalizing the nanoparticles with ligands that bind to specific receptors on the surface of the cells.
- The release of drugs from magnetic nanoparticles can be triggered by various stimuli, such as changes in temperature, pH, or magnetic field strength. The use of an external magnetic field can also enhance the accumulation of magnetic nanoparticles at the target site, and improve the therapeutic efficacy of the drugs.[33]

Magnetic nanoparticles have been used for the delivery of a variety of drugs, including anticancer drugs, antibiotics, and genes. The use of magnetic nanoparticles in drug delivery offers several advantages over traditional drug delivery systems, such as improved bioavailability, reduced toxicity, and enhanced specificity and targeting. With further research and development, magnetic nanoparticles have the potential to revolutionize the field of drug delivery and improve the treatment of many diseases.

d) Hyperthermia therapy:

Hyperthermia therapy is a promising cancer treatment that utilizes magnetic nanoparticles to generate heat within the tumor tissue, leading to its destruction. This therapy involves the injection of magnetic nanoparticles into the tumor site, followed by the application of an alternating magnetic field (AMF) that induces the nanoparticles to generate heat through magnetic hysteresis and Brownian motion.[34] The heat generated by the magnetic nanoparticles can cause damage to the tumour cells, leading to their death, while sparing the surrounding healthy tissue. Hyperthermia therapy can also enhance the effectiveness of other cancer treatments, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy, by sensitizing the tumour cells to these treatments. [35] The effectiveness of hyperthermia therapy depends on several factors, such as the size, shape, and composition of the magnetic nanoparticles, as well as the frequency and strength of the applied magnetic field. The magnetic nanoparticles used in hyperthermia therapy are typically coated with biocompatible polymers to improve their stability and reduce toxicity.

Hyperthermia therapy has several advantages over traditional cancer treatments, such as fewer side effects, lower toxicity, and the potential for enhanced therapeutic efficacy. However, more research is needed to optimize the parameters of hyperthermia therapy, and to develop strategies to improve the targeting and distribution of the magnetic nanoparticles within the tumour tissue [36].

e) Catalysis:

Magnetic nanoparticles have also shown promise in catalysis, which is the acceleration of chemical reactions through the use of a catalyst. Magnetic nanoparticles can act as catalysts by providing a large surface area and unique magnetic properties that allow for the facile separation and reuse of the catalysts.

- One of the advantages of magnetic nanoparticles in catalysis is their ability to be easily recovered from reaction mixtures using an external magnetic field, which allows for their reuse, resulting in reduced cost and waste.[37] Additionally, the magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with different types of ligands or active sites to enhance their catalytic activity and selectivity.
- Magnetic nanoparticles have been employed as catalysts in a variety of reactions, such as oxidation, reduction, hydrogenation, and coupling reactions. For example, magnetic nanoparticles functionalized with palladium have been used in Suzuki coupling reactions, while magnetic nanoparticles functionalized with iron have been used in the reduction of organic compounds.[38]
- The use of magnetic nanoparticles in catalysis offers several advantages over traditional catalysts, such as improved efficiency, selectivity, and ease of separation and recovery. Moreover, the magnetic nanoparticles can be easily recycled and reused, making them a more sustainable and cost-effective alternative to traditional catalysts.

Overall, the use of magnetic nanoparticles in catalysis represents a promising area of research with potential applications in various industrial processes and environmental remediation.

f) Energy conversion: -

Magnetic nanoparticles have shown potential in energy conversion applications, such as in the fields of solar energy conversion and fuel cells.

In solar energy conversion, magnetic nanoparticles can be used to improve the efficiency of solar cells by enhancing light absorption and charge separation [39]. The magnetic properties of the nanoparticles can also facilitate their separation and collection within the solar cell, improving their overall performance. In fuel cells, magnetic nanoparticles can act as catalysts for the conversion of chemical energy into electrical energy. The magnetic properties of the nanoparticles can also facilitate their separation and recovery from the reaction mixture, allowing for their reuse and reducing the overall cost of the fuel cell [40].

Moreover, magnetic nanoparticles can be used as thermal energy storage materials. By employing magnetic nanoparticles with specific thermal properties, the nanoparticles can be heated by exposure to a magnetic field and then used to store thermal energy, which can be released on demand. Overall, the use of magnetic nanoparticles in energy conversion applications offers promising potential for improving the efficiency and sustainability of energy systems.[41] However, more research is needed to optimize the properties and performance of magnetic nanoparticles for these applications.

g) Data storage

Magnetic nanoparticles have also been extensively studied for their potential applications in data storage. Magnetic nanoparticles can be used to create high-density storage media by arranging the nanoparticles in a regular pattern and using their magnetic properties to store and retrieve information.

- One of the advantages of magnetic nanoparticles in data storage is their ability to retain magnetic information even when exposed to external magnetic fields. This allows for stable and long-term data storage. Additionally, the small size of the nanoparticles enables the creation of high-density storage media, which can store large amounts of data in a small space [42].
- Magnetic nanoparticles can be incorporated into different types of data storage devices, such as magnetic tapes, hard disk drives, and magnetic random-access memory (MRAM). MRAM, in particular, has shown promising potential as a high-performance and low-power alternative to traditional memory technologies.

However, there are still challenges to be addressed in the use of magnetic nanoparticles for data storage. One of the main challenges is achieving the precise control of the magnetic properties of the nanoparticles, which is necessary for reliable and stable data storage. [43] Additionally, the scalability and cost-effectiveness of the nanoparticle-based storage media need to be improved to enable their commercialization.

5. Environmental Applications of Magnetic Nanoparticles

Magnetic nanoparticles have potential applications in various environmental fields, including water treatment, environmental sensing, and remediation.

a) Water treatment

In water treatment, magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific ligands or active sites to selectively remove contaminants from water, such as heavy metals, organic pollutants, and microorganisms. The magnetic properties of the nanoparticles can also facilitate their separation and recovery from the treated water, allowing for their reuse and reducing the overall cost of the treatment process.

Magnetic nanoparticles have shown great potential for the treatment of water, particularly for the removal of contaminants, such as heavy metals, organic pollutants, and pathogens.[44] The following are some of the key applications of magnetic nanoparticles in water treatment:

i. **Removal of heavy metals**: Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific ligands or coatings that selectively bind to heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, and arsenic, and then magnetically separated from the water. This approach can provide a highly efficient and selective method for removing heavy metals from contaminated water.

ii. **Removal of organic pollutants**: Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific coatings or ligands that selectively bind to organic pollutants, such as dyes, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals, and then magnetically separated from the water. This approach can provide a highly efficient and selective method for removing organic pollutants from contaminated water.

iii. **Pathogen detection**: Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific receptors or ligands that selectively bind to pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa, and then magnetically separated from the water. This approach can provide a highly sensitive and selective method for detecting pathogens in water.

iv. **Membrane fouling control**: Magnetic nanoparticles can be used to control membrane fouling in water treatment systems. The nanoparticles can be introduced into the water and then magnetically separated from the water, reducing the accumulation of fouling agents on the membrane surface.

b) Soil remediation in Environmental Applications of Magnetic Nanoparticles

Soil remediation is one of the potential environmental applications of magnetic nanoparticles. Soil contamination with heavy metals, organic pollutants, and other contaminants is a significant environmental problem that can have harmful effects on human health and the ecosystem. Traditional soil remediation methods, such as excavation and disposal or chemical treatment, can be costly, time-consuming, and environmentally damaging.

- Magnetic nanoparticles can be used for soil remediation by functionalizing them with specific ligands or active sites that selectively bind to the contaminants in the soil.[45] Once the nanoparticles have bound to the contaminants, they can be separated and recovered from the soil using magnetic field-based techniques, such as magnetic separation. The use of magnetic nanoparticles for soil remediation offers several advantages over traditional methods, including improved selectivity, reduced cost, and minimized environmental impact.
- Recent research has demonstrated the potential of magnetic nanoparticles for soil remediation. For example, magnetic nanoparticles functionalized with citric acid have been used to remove heavy metals, such as lead and cadmium, from contaminated soil. The nanoparticles were effective at reducing the concentration of heavy metals in the soil, and their magnetic properties enabled their recovery and reuse in subsequent remediation processes.[46]

However, there are still challenges to be addressed in the use of magnetic nanoparticles for soil remediation. One of the challenges is achieving the selective binding of the nanoparticles to the contaminants while minimizing the impact on the soil's natural properties. Additionally, the scalability and cost-effectiveness of the nanoparticle-based soil remediation need to be improved to enable their widespread use.

c) Air pollution control:

Air pollution is a significant environmental problem that can have harmful effects on human health and the ecosystem. Magnetic nanoparticles have the potential to be used in air pollution control to remove pollutants from the air, such as particulate matter and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).[47]

- One potential application of magnetic nanoparticles in air pollution control is in catalytic air cleaning. Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific catalysts, such as metal oxides, to enhance their ability to break down pollutants in the air. The magnetic properties of the nanoparticles can also enable their recovery and reuse in subsequent air cleaning processes.
- Another potential application of magnetic nanoparticles in air pollution control is in magnetic air filtration. Magnetic nanoparticles can be incorporated into air filters to capture and remove particulate matter from the air. The magnetic properties of the nanoparticles can facilitate their separation and recovery from the filter, allowing for their reuse and reducing the overall cost of the filtration process.
- Recent research has demonstrated the potential of magnetic nanoparticles in air pollution control. For example, magnetic nanoparticles functionalized with titanium dioxide have been used in catalytic air cleaning to remove VOCs from the air. The nanoparticles were effective at breaking down the VOCs, and their magnetic properties enabled their recovery and reuse in subsequent air cleaning processes.

However, there are still challenges to be addressed in the use of magnetic nanoparticles in air pollution control. One of the challenges is achieving the scalability and cost-effectiveness of the nanoparticle-based air cleaning methods. Additionally, the potential environmental impacts of using magnetic nanoparticles in air pollution control need to be evaluated to ensure their safe and sustainable use.

d) Environmental sensing:

Magnetic nanoparticles can also be used in environmental sensing applications, such as the detection and monitoring of environmental pollutants.

- One potential application of magnetic nanoparticles in environmental sensing is in the detection of heavy metals in water. Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific molecules that bind to heavy metals, allowing them to be selectively captured and separated from water samples. The magnetic properties of the nanoparticles also enable their recovery and reuse in subsequent sensing processes [46].
- Another potential application of magnetic nanoparticles in environmental sensing is in the detection of organic pollutants, such as pesticides and herbicides, in soil and water samples. Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific molecules that bind to these organic pollutants, allowing for their selective capture and separation from the sample. The magnetic properties of the nanoparticles also facilitate their separation and recovery for reuse in subsequent sensing processes.

Recent research has demonstrated the potential of magnetic nanoparticles in environmental sensing. For example, magnetic nanoparticles functionalized with specific molecules have been used to detect heavy metals in water samples with high sensitivity and selectivity. Magnetic nanoparticles have also been used in the detection of organic pollutants in soil and water samples, with promising results.

6. Compare between Industrial Applications and Environmental Applications of Magnetic Nanoparticles

Industrial Applications	**Environmental Applications**
Magnetic separation for purification and recovery of materials	Magnetic separation for removal of pollutants from water and soil
Biomedical imaging and drug delivery for targeted therapy	Detection and monitoring of environmental pollutants, such as heavy metals and organic pollutants
Hyperthermia therapy for cancer treatment	Soil remediation to remove contaminants
Catalysis for chemical reactions	Air pollution control for removal of particulate matter and volatile organic compounds
Energy conversion for renewable energy production	Environmental sensing for detection and monitoring of environmental factors

7. Challenges and Future Perspectives

While magnetic nanoparticles have shown great promise in a range of industrial and environmental applications, there are still some challenges that need to be addressed.[47] Here are some of the challenges and future perspectives for magnetic nanoparticles:

i. **Scalability**: Many of the synthesis methods for magnetic nanoparticles are still in the laboratory stage and have yet to be scaled up for commercial production. This limits the practical use of magnetic nanoparticles in industrial applications.

ii. **Stability and biocompatibility**: The long-term stability and biocompatibility of magnetic nanoparticles need to be thoroughly investigated before they can be safely used in biomedical and environmental applications.

iii. **Cost**: The cost of producing magnetic nanoparticles can be high, especially for some of the more complex synthesis methods. This limits their widespread use in industry and other applications.

iv. **Recycling and reusability**: While magnetic nanoparticles can be easily separated and recovered, there is still a need to develop efficient and cost-effective recycling methods that minimize waste and promote sustainability.

v. **Standardization**: There is a need for standardization of magnetic nanoparticle synthesis, characterization, and performance evaluation. This will enable better comparison of different studies and facilitate the development of reliable and reproducible methods.

Despite these challenges, the future looks bright for magnetic nanoparticles. Here are some future perspectives:

I. Advances in synthesis methods: new synthesis methods are being developed that are more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable. This will enable the widespread use of magnetic nanoparticles in various applications.

II. **Multifunctional nanoparticles**: There is a growing interest in developing multifunctional magnetic nanoparticles that can perform multiple tasks simultaneously, such as imaging, drug delivery, and hyperthermia therapy.

III. **Targeted and personalized therapy**: Magnetic nanoparticles can be functionalized with specific molecules that target specific cells or tissues, enabling targeted and personalized therapy for various diseases.

IV. **Environmental monitoring and remediation**: Magnetic nanoparticles can be used in environmental monitoring and remediation to detect and remove pollutants from soil, water, and air.

V. **Sustainable production:** There is a growing interest in developing sustainable production methods for magnetic nanoparticles that minimize waste and promote environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

Magnetic nanoparticles have emerged as a versatile and promising class of materials with numerous industrial and environmental applications. Various synthesis methods have been developed, including co-precipitation, sol-gel, thermal decomposition, hydrothermal synthesis, micro emulsion, and green synthesis. Stabilization techniques, such as surface coating, have also been developed to improve the stability and biocompatibility of magnetic nanoparticles. Magnetic nanoparticles have found applications in various industries, including biomedical imaging, drug delivery, catalysis, energy conversion, and data storage. In the environmental field, magnetic nanoparticles have been used for pollution control, environmental sensing, soil remediation, and water treatment. However, there are still some challenges that need to be addressed, such as scalability, stability, cost, recycling, and standardization. Future perspectives for magnetic nanoparticles include the development of multifunctional nanoparticles, targeted and personalized therapy, environmental monitoring and remediation, and sustainable production. Overall, the potential of magnetic nanoparticles is vast and their use is expected to increase in the coming years.

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