

*Dedicated to My Beloved Parents*

*Late Mrs. Batula Bibi*

*Late Mr. Habibur Rahaman*

## DECLARATION

I, Hasimur Rahaman, hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Synthesis, Characterization and Physicochemical Properties of Size and Shape-Selective Manganese Oxides and their Composites**” has not been submitted either in whole or in part previously to any other institution for the award of any degree or qualification and does not contain any previously published material or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
List of Symbols	xvii
List of Abbreviations	xviii
List of Figures	xix
List of Tables	xxvii
List of Schemes	xxviii

	Page
<b>1. General Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. A Brief Introduction to Nanoparticles	2
1.1.1. Electronic Properties of Nanoparticles	3
1.1.2. Surface Activity of the Nanoparticles: High Surface-to-Volume Ratio	4
1.2. Family of Manganese Oxides	4
1.2.1. Manganese Oxides at the Nanoscale Dimension	5
1.2.2. Physicochemical Properties of Manganese Oxide Nanoparticles	8
1.2.2.1. Photocatalytic Reactions using Manganese Oxides	9
1.2.2.2. Selective Oxidation of Organic Molecules using Manganese Oxides as Catalysts	10
1.2.2.3. Electrocatalytic Reactions using Manganese Oxides	11
1.2.2.4. Synthesis of Metal Oxide Nanocomposites for Sensory Application	12
1.2.2.4.1. Sensory Mechanism	13
1.2.2.4.2. Gas Sensing Devices	13
1.2.2.4.3. Sensing Operating Temperature	14
1.2.2.4.4. Sensor Resistance to Gas Concentration	14
1.2.2.4.5. Sensitivity	15
1.2.2.4.6. Selectivity	15
1.2.2.5. Magnetic Properties of Manganese Oxides Nanoparticles	15
1.3. Conclusion	16
1.4. References	17

<b>2. Experimental</b>	<b>23</b>
2.1. Experimental	24
2.1.1. Reagents	24
2.1.2. Instruments	25
<b>3. Soft-Templated Synthesis of Manganese Oxides and their Catalytic Applications</b>	<b>27</b>
3.1. Soft-Templated Synthesis of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Microdendelions for Photocatalytic Dye Degradation	28
3.1.1. Introduction	28
3.1.2. Experimental Section	30
3.1.2.1. Synthesis of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Microdandelions Using Dye-surfactant Composites	30
3.1.2.2. Photocatalytic Reaction	31
3.1.3. Results and Discussion	32
3.1.3.1. Absorption Spectroscopy	32
3.1.3.2. Morphology, Composition and Crystallinity of Microdendelions	33
3.1.3.3. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy	34
3.1.3.4. X-ray Diffraction Pattern	35
3.1.3.5. Thermogravimetric Analysis	35
3.1.3.6. Schematic Presentation Showing the Formation of Representative Assemblies at the Dye-Surfactant Assemblies	36
3.1.3.7. Study of the Textural Properties by BET Surface Area Measurements	37
3.1.3.8. Photocatalytic Degradation of Alizarin red Under Visible Light	37
3.1.4. Conclusion	40
3.2. Soft-Templated Synthesis of Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Nanorods for Selective Transformation of Alcohols to Aldehydes	41
3.2.1. Introduction	41
3.2.2. Experimental	43
3.2.2.1. Synthesis of Manganese Oxide Nanorods in Polymer-Surfactant Conjugates	43
3.2.2.2. General procedure for synthesis of aldehydes	43
3.2.3. Results and Discussion	44

3.2.3.1.	Absorption Spectroscopy	45
3.2.3.2.	Morphology, Composition and Crystallinity of the Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Nanorods	46
3.2.3.3.	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy	47
3.2.3.4.	X-ray Diffraction Pattern	47
3.2.3.5.	Raman Spectrum	48
3.2.3.6.	Thermogravimetric Analysis	49
3.2.3.7.	Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) Surface Area Measurement Study	49
3.2.3.8.	Catalytic Direct Synthesis of Aldehydes using Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -rods Catalyst	50
3.2.3.9.	Optimization of Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -Nanorods Catalysed Oxidation of Benzyl Alcohol to Benzaldehyde	51
3.2.3.10.	Synthesis of Aldehydes, Sugar Aldehydes and Ketones using Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -Rods as Catalysts	52
3.2.4.	Conclusions	54
3.3.	References	55
<b>4.</b>	<b>Synthesis of Noble Metal-Manganese Oxide Nanocomposites and their Applications in Electrocatalysis and Sensing</b>	<b>62</b>
4.1.	Bifunctional Gold-Manganese Oxide Nanocomposites for Water Oxidation and Oxygen Reduction	63
4.1.1.	Introduction	63
4.1.2.	Experimental	65
4.1.2.1.	Synthesis of Gold Nanoparticles	65
4.1.2.2.	Synthesis of Gold–manganese oxide Nanocomposites	66
4.1.3.	Results and Discussion	66
4.1.3.1.	Absorption Spectroscopy	67
4.1.3.2.	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy	67
4.1.3.3.	Morphology, Composition and Crystallinity of the Nanocomposites	68
4.1.3.4.	X-ray Diffraction Pattern	69
4.1.3.5.	Modification of the Gold Electrodes for the Study of Electrocatalytic Activity	69

4.1.3.6.	Electrocatalytic activity towards Water Oxidation Reaction (WOR)	70
4.1.3.7.	Study of Water Oxidation Reaction with Different Sizes of the Gold Nanoparticles in the Composites	72
4.1.3.8.	Electrocatalytic activity towards Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR)	73
4.1.3.9.	Simultaneous Oxygen Reduction Reaction during Water Oxidation	74
4.1.4.	Conclusion	77
4.2.	Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag Nanocomposites for Sensing of Volatile Organic Compounds	78
4.2.1.	Introduction	78
4.2.2.	Experimental	79
4.2.2.1.	Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles	79
4.2.2.2.	Synthesis of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag Nanocomposites	80
4.2.2.3.	Gas Sensing Measurements	81
4.2.3.	Results and Discussion	81
4.2.3.1.	Absorption Spectroscopy	82
4.2.3.2.	Band Gap Engineering in Ag-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanocomposites	83
4.2.3.3.	Morphology, Composition and Crystallinity of the Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag NCs	84
4.2.3.4.	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3NCs	85
4.2.3.5.	X-ray Diffraction Patterns of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Ag-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	86
4.2.3.6.	Raman Spectrum of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 Nanocomposites	87
4.2.3.7.	Cyclic voltammograms of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs, Ag NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 NCs	88
4.2.3.8.	Thermogravimetric Analysis of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 Nanocomposites	89
4.2.3.9.	Sensing of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) by Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag Nanocomposites	89
4.2.4.	Conclusions	93
4.2.5.	References	94
<b>5.</b>	<b>Metal Oxides-Manganese Oxide Nanocomposites and their</b>	<b>101</b>



## Applications in Electrocatalysis and Cytotoxicity Studies

5.1. Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> - Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanocomposites for Cytotoxicity Studies	102
5.1.1. Introduction	102
5.1.2. Experimental	103
5.1.2.1. Synthesis of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles	103
5.1.2.2. Synthesis of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanocomposites	104
5.1.3. Results and Discussion	104
5.1.3.1. Absorption Spectra Analysis and Band Gap	105
5.1.3.2. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectra of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> - Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	106
5.1.3.3. Raman Spectrum of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	107
5.1.3.4. X-ray Diffraction Patterns of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	
5.1.3.5. Morphology, Composition and Crystallinity of the Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	108
5.1.3.6. Thermogravimetric Analysis of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanocomposites	110
5.1.3.7. The Magnetic Hysteresis Curves of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	110
5.1.3.8. <i>In-vitro</i> Cytotoxicity Studies on the Macrophages with Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> - Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanocomposites	111
5.1.3.8.1. Isolation of Splenic Macrophages from Mice	111
5.1.3.8.2. Cell Viability Assay	111
5.1.3.9. Analysis of <i>In-vitro</i> Cytotoxicity studies on the Macrophages with Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanocomposites	112
5.1.4. Conclusion	114
5.2. Hybrid Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Nanocomposites as Electrocatalysts	115
5.2.1. Introduction	115
5.2.2. Experimental	116
5.2.2.1. Synthesis of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles	116
5.2.2.2. Synthesis of NiO-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanocomposites	116
5.2.3. Results and Discussion	117
5.2.3.1. Absorption Spectra of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Nanocomposites	117
5.2.3.2. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectra of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -	118

NiO NCs	
5.2.3.3. Morphology, Composition and Crystallinity of the Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO NCs	119
5.2.3.4. X-ray Diffraction Pattern of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Nanocomposites	120
5.2.3.5. Thermogravimetric Analysis of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Nanocomposites	121
5.2.3.6. Electrode Modification and Characterisation	121
5.2.3.7. Overlaid Cyclicvoltammogram of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Modified Gold Electrodes in 0.1 M PBS at pH~7.0	122
5.2.3.8. Comparative Linear Sweep Voltammograms (LSV) of Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Water	123
5.2.3.9. Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Water at Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au Electrode in Acetate Buffer Solution	124
5.2.3.10. Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Water at Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au Electrode with Different Water Concentrations	124
5.2.3.11. Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Water at Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au Electrode with Different Scan Rates	125
5.2.3.12. Profile Showing the Variation of Anodic Peak Potential as a Function of lnv	126
5.2.3.13. Cyclic Voltammogram of 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au Electrode	126
5.2.3.14. Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Water at Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au Electrode at Different pH	127
5.2.4.15. Oxygen Evolution Curve During Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Water with Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Modified Electrode under Neutral pH Condition and Digital Camera Photograph Showing the Bubbling of Oxygen on the Electrode Surface	127
5.2.4.16. Controlled Potential Electrolysis (CPE) of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Modified Gold Electrode	128
5.2.4.17. Long-term Stability of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO Modified Electrode Under Neutral pH Condition	129
5.2.4.18. A Comparative Account of the Performances of Some Related Electrocatalysts for Water Oxidation Reaction	129

5.2.5. Conclusion	131
5.3. References	132
<b>6. Synthesis, Characterization and Photocatalytic Application of Triple Oxide Semiconductor Nanocomposites</b>	<b>136</b>
6.1. Introduction	137
6.2. Experimental	139
6.2.1. Synthesis of Metal Oxide Nanoparticles	139
6.2.1.1. Preparation of Manganese Oxide Nanoparticles	139
6.2.1.2. Preparation of Cadmium Oxide Nanoparticles	139
6.2.2. Synthesis of Metal Oxide-Metal Oxide Double Composites	140
6.2.2.1 Synthesis of Manganese Oxide-Zinc Oxide Nanocomposites	140
6.2.2.2. Synthesis of Manganese oxide-Cadmium oxide Nanocomposites	140
6.2.2.3. Synthesis of Zinc oxide-Cadmium Oxide Nanocomposites	140
6.2.3. Synthesis of Metal oxide- Metal oxide Triple Oxides Semiconductor Nanocomposite	140
6.3. Results and Discussion	141
6.3.1. Absorption spectroscopy	141
6.3.1.1 Theoretical Background of Measurement of Band Gap	142
6.3.1.2. Modification of Band Gap of Dual and Triple Oxide Semiconductors with Variable Composition	142
6.3.2. FTIR-spectroscopy	143
6.3.3 Morphology and Crystallinity of the Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs, CdO NPs, and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -ZnO-CdO NCs	144
6.3.4 X-ray Diffraction Pattern of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -ZnO-CdO Triple Oxides Semiconductor Nanocomposites	145
6.3.5. Thermogravimetric Analysis and Energy Disperse X-ray Diffraction Pattern of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -ZnO-CdO Triple Oxides Semiconductor Nanocomposites	146
6.3.6. Photocatalytic Degradation of Evan's Blue by Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -ZnO-CdO NCs under Visible Light Irradiation	147
6.3.7. Reusability of the Catalyst	149
6.4. Conclusion	150
6.5. References	150

<b>7. Overall Conclusion and Future Scope of the Work</b>	<b>153</b>
7.1. Overall Conclusion	153
7.2. Future Scope of the Work	156

## Preface

The aim of this work is to exploit the unique physicochemical properties of manganese oxide and their composites molecules and other different semiconductor material near various sizes and shapes of metal nanostructures. Metallic particles in the nanometer size regime display widely interesting size-dependent optical, electronic, magnetic, catalytic and chemical properties. With such applications on the horizon, new synthetic routes for quickly and reliably rendering magnetic nanoparticle surfaces have become an increasingly important focus. Different shape and size-selective change of physicochemical properties of manganese oxides and their composites. For this purpose, the present Ph. D. thesis entitled **“Synthesis, Characterization and Physicochemical Properties of Size and Shape-Selective Manganese Oxides and their Composites”** has been chosen. This thesis includes the synthesis of different manganese oxides (like  $Mn_3O_4$ ,  $Mn_2O_3$  and  $MnO$ ) nanoparticles of various sizes and shapes (spherical, nanorods, microdendelions shape nanostructures), formation of noble metal-manganese oxide nanocomposites (like  $Au-Mn_3O_4$ ,  $Ag-Mn_3O_4$ ) and their photophysical properties based on catalysis (both organic and photocatalysis), electrocatalysis and selective sensing measurements and also formation of more interesting system such as dual metal oxides and triple semiconductor nanocomposites. Moreover, size selective manganese oxide nanoparticles-semiconductor assembly and their various physicochemical properties have been studied using microscopic (transmission electron microscopy, scanning electron microscopy) and spectroscopic (UV-visible spectroscopy, diffuse reflectance spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy, energy dispersive X-ray analysis, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction, and selected area electron diffraction) techniques. The complete work of the thesis has been divided into seven chapters

### Chapter 1

This chapter describes the general introduction about the current literature related to the research work presented on manganese oxide nanomaterials, their composites and physicochemical properties of the nanostructures.

## **Chapter 2**

This chapter presents a brief description about the chemicals and reagents used and various techniques and analytical instruments used for the characterisation for the synthesised manganese oxides and other related materials.

## **Chapter 3**

This chapter describes the synthesis of different shape and size selective manganese oxide nanoparticles using soft-template strategy and synthesized materials used in photocatalysis and selective organic catalytic oxidations reactions. This chapter consists of two sub-sections:

## **Chapter 4**

This chapter describes the synthesis of different shape and size selective gold-manganese oxides and silver-manganese nanocomposites using non-toxic binary solvents mixture as soft-template and synthesized materials used in electrocatalytic water oxidation/oxygen reduction reaction and in sensing of VOCs. This chapter consists of two sub-sections:

## **Chapter 5**

This chapter includes the new types of metal oxides-manganese oxides di-oxides nanocomposites. Here we have synthesized iron oxide-manganese oxide ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs) and nickel oxide-manganese oxide ( $\text{NiO-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs) nanocomposites by facile hydrothermal treatment. This chapter consists of two sub-sections. In first section we have discussed the synthesized reduced magnetic material ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs) are used biological applications and in the other we have discussed the most important part of this thesis, room-temperature, neutral pH water splitting by  $\text{NiO-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  NCs.

## **Chapter 6**

In this chapter, a new type of nanocomposites have been synthesized using three different semiconductor materials in a unit system. Typical triple semiconductor nanocomposites here report for first time as best of our knowledge. Here we studied the photocatalysis application and band-gap tenability of synthesized  $\text{MnO-ZnO-CdO}$  triple semiconductor.

## **Chapter 7**

The important outcomes of the completed research are summarized and the future scopes of the work are mentioned in this chapter.

## List of Figures

Fig. 1.1.	Schematic presentation of the density of states with change in the number of atoms in the system.....	3
Fig. 1.2.	Profile showing the percentage of surface atoms as a function of particle diameter at the nanoscale dimension.....	4
Fig. 1.3.	Schematic representation of the crystal structure of manganese oxides. (a) Rock salt; (b) spinel ( $Mn_3O_4$ ); (c) bixbyite ( $Mn_2O_3$ ); (d) pyrolusite $\beta$ - $MnO_2$ (rutile-type) (note the single chains of edge-sharing octahedra); (e) ramsdellite (diaspore-type) ( $[MnO_6]$ octahedra form infinite double layers); (f) phyllomanganate (birnessite–buserite family of layered $MnO_2$ ). In this idealized representation there are alternate layers of full and empty octahedral sites. ....	7
Fig. 1.4.	Schematic diagram of band bending after chemisorptions of charged species (here the ionosorption of oxygen) EC, EV, and EF denote the energy of the conduction band, valence band, and the Fermi level, respectively, while $\Lambda_{air}$ denotes the thickness of the space-charge layer, and eV surface denotes the potential barrier. The conducting electrons are represented by $e^-$ and + represents the donor sites.....	13
Fig. 3.1.	Solid state absorption spectrum and (b) plot of $(\alpha h\nu)^2$ as a function photon energy of $Mn_3O_4$ microdandelions in dye-surfactant conjugates.....	32
Fig. 3.2.	(a-c) Scanning electron microscopic images of $Mn_3O_4$ microdandelions in dye-surfactant assemblies; (d) high resolution TEM, (e) selected area electron diffraction, and (f) electron diffraction X-ray spectrum. Inset in panel a shows the photograph of real dandelions to show the resemblance with the $Mn_3O_4$ microstructures.....	33
Fig. 3.3.	FTIR spectra of (a) FITC-D 2000S/CTAB and (b) after formation of $Mn_3O_4$ microdandelions in FITC-D 2000S/CTAB soft template at room temperature.....	34

Fig. 3.4.	X-ray diffraction patterns of manganese oxide/dye-surfactant hybrid assemblies (a) as-prepared and (b) after calcinations at 500 °C for 1 h in argon atmosphere.....	35
Fig. 3.5.	Thermogravimetric analysis of the Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> microdandelions/dye-surfactant hybrid assemblies as-dried in air.....	35
Fig. 3.6.	Absorption spectral changes of aqueous solution of alizarin red (2.0 μM) in the presence of 25 μg Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> under visible light irradiation. Inset shows the molecular structure of the dye.....	38
Fig. 3.7.	Plot of ln(A <sub>0</sub> /A) as a function of time for the degradation of alizarin red in the absence and presence of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> microdandelions under visible light irradiation.....	39
Fig. 3.8.	Histogram showing the percentage of the degradation of the dye in each cycle.....	39
Fig. 3.9.	Solid state absorption spectrum of manganese oxide superstructures in polymer-surfactant conjugates.....	45
Fig. 3.10.	(a) Scanning electron micrograph, (b) high resolution scanning electron micrograph, (c) transmission electron micrograph, (d) high resolution transmission electron micrograph, (e) selected area electron diffraction pattern, and (e) energy dispersive X-ray analysis of the manganese oxide microrods in polymer-surfactant conjugates.....	46
Fig. 3.11.	FTIR spectra of (a) polyethylene glycol/sodium dodecyl sulphate conjugates and (b) after formation of Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> nanostructures in PEG/SDS soft templates at room temperature.....	47
Fig. 3.12.	X-ray diffraction pattern of (a) manganese oxide/polymer-surfactant hybrid assemblies and (b) after calcination of the assemblies at 800 °C in argon atmosphere.....	48
Fig. 3.13.	Raman spectrum of the manganese oxide/polymer-surfactant hybrid assemblies dried in air.....	48
Fig. 3.14.	Thermogravimetric analysis of the manganese oxide/polymer-surfactant hybrid assemblies as-dried in air.....	49
Fig. 3.15.	BET adsorption isotherm for N <sub>2</sub> gas-sorption of the manganese	49



oxide/polymer-surfactant hybrid assemblies dried in air

Fig. 4.1.	Absorption spectra of (a) Au, (b) Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> and (c) Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nanoparticles.....	67
Fig. 4.2.	FTIR spectra of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (a) before and (b) after addition of gold nanoparticles.....	67
Fig. 4.3.	(a, b, c) Transmission electron micrographs of Au, Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> , and Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nanoparticles respectively; (d) dark field scanning tunneling electron micrographs, (e) energy dispersive X-ray, and (f) selected area electron diffraction pattern of Au.....	68
Fig. 4.4.	X-ray diffraction pattern of Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> .....	69
Fig. 4.5.	Overlaid Nyquist plot ( $-Z''$ vs. $Z'$ ) for 1.0 mM [Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3-/4-</sup> in 0.1 M PBS (pH 7.5) at bare gold (black), 4-ATP/gold (brown), Au NPs/4-ATP/gold (red), Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs/4-ATP/gold (green) and Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs/ATP/gold (blue) electrodes, where, anodic current amplitude, $E_{ac} = 10$ mV while the frequency varies from 0.01 - 100000 Hz.....	70
Fig. 4.6.	Cyclic voltammograms of water oxidation in presence of 4-ATP/gold (red), Au NPs/4-ATP/gold (green), Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs/4-ATP/gold (blue) and Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs/4-ATP/gold (black) electrodes in PBS at pH~7.5.....	71
Fig. 4.7.	Cyclic voltammogram for the water oxidation at Au(10)-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (black), Au(16)-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (red) and Au(25)-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (green)-modified gold electrode in 0.1 M PBS at pH~7.5.....	73
Fig. 4.8.	Cyclic voltammograms for oxygen reduction in the presence of 4-ATP/gold (blue), Au NPs/4-ATP/gold (green), Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs/4-ATP/gold (red) and Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs/ATP/gold (black) electrodes in PBS at pH~7.5.....	73
Fig. 4.9.	(left) Digital camera photograph showing oxygen gas evolution during water oxidation reaction; (right) cyclic voltammogram of oxygen reduction of Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs/4ATP/Au electrodes under ambient (black) and N <sub>2</sub> -saturated (red) PBS at pH~7.5.....	74

Fig. 4.10.	(A) Cyclic voltammograms of water oxidation in 0.1 M PBS at pH~5.5 (blue), 6.5 (brown), 7.5 (green), 8.5 (red), 9.5 (black) with Au-Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> modified electrodes; and (B) Profile showing the variation of current and potential as a function of pH.....	76
Fig. 4.11.	Solid state absorbance spectra of the Different sets of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag nanocomposites containing silver nanoparticles of different sizes. Inset shows the digital photograph of Ag NPs@3, Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs, and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 NCs exhibiting colour change upon formation of the nanocomposites.....	82
Fig. 4.12.	Tauc's plot for the estimation of band gap energy of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and different sets of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag nanocomposites.....	83
Fig. 4.13.	(a, b, c) Representative transmission electron micrographs of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs, Ag NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 NCs; (d) high resolution transmission electron micrograph, (e) selected area electron diffraction pattern, (f) representative field emission scanning electron micrograph, (g) energy dispersive X-ray spectrum and (h) elemental mapping of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 NCs.....	84
Fig. 4.14.	Fourier transform infrared spectrum of (a) Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and (b) Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 NCs.....	85
Fig. 4.15.	X-ray diffraction pattern of (a) Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and (b) Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 NCs.....	86
Fig. 4.16.	Raman Spectrum of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 Nanocomposites.....	87
Fig. 4.17.	Cyclic voltammograms of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs, Ag NPs and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 NCs.....	88
Fig. 4.18.	Raman Spectrum of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@3 Nanocomposites.....	89
Fig. 4.19.	Gas sensing response curves of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@1 nanocomposite sensors as a function of time at different operating temperatures.	89
Fig. 4.20.	Profiles showing the comparative sensory responses of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and five different sets Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag NCs containing silver nanoparticles of five different sizes as a function of operating temperature.....	90
Fig. 4.21.	Histogram showing the sensitivity of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Ag@1 nanocomposite sensors upon exposure to different volatile	92

organic compounds.

Fig. 5.1.	(a) Absorption spectra in the solid state and (b) plot of $(\alpha hv)^2$ as a function of $h\nu$ of $Fe_3O_4$ NPs and $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ NCs.....	105
Fig. 5.2.	Fourier transform infrared spectrum of the as-prepared (A) $Fe_3O_4$ NPs and (B) $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ NCs.....	106
Fig. 5.3.	Raman spectrum of $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ nanocomposites.....	107
Fig. 5.4.	X-ray diffraction patterns of (a) $Fe_3O_4$ NPs and (b) $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ NCs.....	108
Fig. 5.5.	(a, b) Representative transmission electron micrographs and (c, d) selected area electron diffraction patterns of $Fe_3O_4$ nanoparticles and $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ nanocomposites, respectively; (e) high resolution transmission electron micrograph (f) scanning electron micrograph, (g) energy dispersive X-ray spectrum and (h) elemental mapping of $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ nanocomposites. Inset in panel b shows the dynamic light scattering spectrum of the $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ nanocomposites.....	109
Fig. 5.6.	Thermogravimetric analysis of $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ nanocomposites as-dried in air.....	110
Fig. 5.7.	Magnetic hysteresis curves of $Fe_3O_4$ NPs and $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ NCs. Inset shows the digital camera photographs showing the response of the nanostructures in the presence of a magnetic bar.....	110
Fig. 5.8.	Histograms showing the <i>in-vitro</i> cytotoxicity studies on the splenic macrophages with $Fe_3O_4$ - $Mn_3O_4$ nanocomposites. Inset in the top left panel shows the determination of $IC_{50}$ of the cell viability assay.....	113
Fig. 5.9.	(A) Solid state absorption spectra and (B) plot of $(\alpha hv)^2$ as a function of $h\nu$ of $Mn_3O_4$ NPs and $Mn_3O_4$ - $NiO$ NCs.....	118
Fig. 5.10.	Fourier transform infrared spectrum of the as-prepared (a) $Mn_3O_4$ NPs and (b) $Mn_3O_4$ - $NiO$ NCs.....	119
Fig. 5.11.	(a, b) Representative transmission electron micrographs and (c, d) selected area electron diffraction patterns of $Mn_3O_4$ nanoparticles and $Mn_3O_4$ - $NiO$ nanocomposites, respectively; (e) high	119

resolution transmission electron micrograph (f) scanning electron micrograph, (g) energy dispersive X-ray spectrum and (h) elemental mapping of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-NiO nanocomposites.

Fig. 5.12.	X-ray diffraction patterns of (a) Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs and (b) Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO NCs.....	120
Fig. 5.13.	TGA weight loss pattern of the as-synthesised Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO NCs.	121
Fig. 5.14.	Overlaid cyclic voltammogram of 0.5 mM [Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup> in 0.1 M PBS at pH~7.0 using bare (red) and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO modified (blue) gold electrode.....	121
Fig. 5.15.	Overlaid Nyquist plot (-Z'' versus Z') of 0.5 mM [Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup> in 0.1 M PBS at pH~7.0 using bare (red) and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO modified (blue) gold electrodes.....	122
Fig. 5.16.	Overlaid cyclic voltammogram of Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (red) and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO (blue) modified gold electrodes in 0.1 M PBS at pH~7.0.....	122
Fig. 5.17.	Overlaid linear sweep voltammograms obtained from 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at bare Au (red), Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Au (green) and Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au (blue) electrodes.....	123
Fig. 5.18.	(left) Overlaid linear sweep voltammograms obtained at Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au electrode in 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) in the presence of sunlight (blue) and UV light (red). (right) Tafel plot of electrocatalytic oxidation of water with Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au electrode in 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at different applied potentials in the presence of sunlight and UV light.....	123
Fig. 5.19.	Linear sweep voltammogram obtained at Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au electrode at 0.1 M acetate buffer solution (pH~7.0).....	124
Fig. 5.20.	LSV obtained from Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au electrode with increasing [H <sub>2</sub> O] (0.1 to 1.0 M). Inset shows a plot of anodic peak current density versus [H <sub>2</sub> O].....	125
Fig. 5.21.	Linear sweep voltammogram obtained with Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NiO-Au electrode in 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at different scan rates. A plot of current density of the nanocomposites as a function of scan rate is shown in the inset.....	125
Fig. 5.22.	Profile showing the variation of anodic peak potential as a	126

	function of $\ln v$ .	
Fig. 5.23.	Cyclic voltammogram of 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -NiO-Au electrode.....	126
Fig. 5.24.	Overlaid linear sweep voltammogram derived from $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -NiO-Au electrode at different pH of 0.1 M PBS (5.0, brown; 6.0 green; 7.0, violet, 8.0, blue and 9.0, red) at a scan rate of $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Inset shows the plot of oxidation peak potential as a function of pH.....	127
Fig. 5.25.	(a) Digital photograph showing the bubbling of oxygen on the electrode surface, (b) Oxygen evolution during the controlled potential electrolysis of water in a gas-tight electrochemical cell containing 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at bare Au (curve c) and $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -NiO-Au electrodes in the presence of sunlight (curve b) and ultraviolet light (curve a) as measured with a fluorescence probe. Dotted line represents the theoretical oxygen evolution with 100% efficiency.....	128
Fig. 5.26.	(left)Controlled potential electrolysis with $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -NiO modified electrode in 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at +1.5 V <i>versus</i> RHE in the presence of sunlight (blue) and UV light (red).(right) Chronopotentiogram with $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -NiO modified electrode in 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at $2.5 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ .....	128
Fig. 5.27.	Overlaid linear sweep voltammograms obtained at $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -NiO-Au electrode in 0.1 M PBS (pH~7.0) at different time intervals. Insets show (a) the enlarged view and (b) plot of anodic peak current and $E_{pa}$ vs. time.....	129
Fig. 6.1.	(a) Absorption spectra of individual metal oxides NPs and triple semiconductor NCs. (b) Absorption spectra of dual and triple semiconductor NCs.....	141
Fig. 6.2.	Fourier transform infrared spectra of (a) cadmium oxide, (b) manganese oxide and (c) triple semiconductor nanocomposites....	143
Fig. 6.3.	Panel a,b and c show the TEM images of $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , CdO NPs and ( $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -ZnO-CdO) NCs respectively. In panel d,e and f represents the HRTEM images of $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , CdO NPs and ( $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ -	144

ZnO-CdO) NCs respectively. Panel g,h and I represents the SEAD patterns of  $Mn_3O_4$ , CdO nanoparticles and the corresponding ( $Mn_3O_4$ -ZnO-CdO) nanocomposites

Fig. 6.4.	X-ray diffraction pattern of $Mn_3O_4$ -ZnO-CdO triple semiconductor nanocomposites.....	146
Fig. 6.5.	(left) TGA weight loss pattern of the as-synthesized $Mn_3O_4$ -ZnO-CdO triple semiconductor NCs, (Right) energy dispersive X-ray spectrum as-synthesized $Mn_3O_4$ -ZnO-CdO triple semiconductor NCs.....	146
Fig. 6.6.	(left) Absorption spectral changes during the degradation of Evans blue (20 $\mu$ M) in the presence of $Mn_3O_4$ -ZnO-CdO triple semiconductor NCs upon visible light irradiation; (right) Profile showing the plot of $\ln(A_0/A)$ as a function of time for photocatalytic degradation of Evans blue in the presence of $Mn_3O_4$ -ZnO, $Mn_3O_4$ -CdO, ZnO-CdO and $Mn_3O_4$ -ZnO-CdO NCs.....	147
Fig. 6.7.	Histogram showing the percentage of the degradation of the dye in each cycle.....	149

## List of Schemes

Scheme 3.1.	Schematic presentation showing the formation of $Mn_3O_4$ microdandelions at the dye-surfactant assemblies.....	36
Scheme 3.2.	Direct synthesis of aldehydes using $Mn_2O_3$ -microorods catalyst.	50
Scheme 4.1.	Schematic presentation of the synthesis of $Au-Mn_3O_4$ nanoparticles.....	66
Scheme 4.2.	Modification of the gold electrode with $Au$ , $Mn_3O_4$ and $Au-Mn_3O_4$ nanoparticles.....	69
Scheme 4.3.	Schematic presentation of the reduction of the band gap and improved sensory activity in the presence of $Mn_3O_4-Ag$ nanocomposites.....	91
Scheme 5.1.	A schematic presentation for preparation $Fe_3O_4-Mn_3O_4$ dual oxide composite.....	104
Scheme 5.2.	Schematic presentation showing the conversion of MTT to formazan.....	111
Scheme 5.3.	A schematic presentation for preparation $Mn_3O_4-NiO$ dual oxide nanocomposite.....	116
Scheme 6.1.	Reaction schemes for the preparation of triple oxides semiconductor nanocomposites.....	141

## List of Tables

Table 3.1.	A comparative account of the surface area in the bulk and nano dimension of the $Mn_3O_4$ microdandelions and some other manganese oxides based catalysts.....	37
Table 3.2.	A comparative account of the catalytic activity of the visible light photocatalysts for alizarin red degradation.....	40
Table 3.3.	Development and optimization of $Mn_2O_3$ -microrods catalyzed oxidation of benzylalcohol to benzaldehyde.....	51
Table 3.4.	Synthesized aldehydes, sugar aldehyde and ketones.....	53
Table 4.1.	Cyclic voltammetry data of water oxidation and oxygen reduction in presence of nanomaterials.....	75
Table 4.2.	A comparative account of the pH condition of the experiment and overpotential of the $Au-Mn_3O_4$ and some other electrocatalysts.....	76
Table 4.3.	Synthetic conditions for the five different sets of silver nanoparticles.....	80
Table 5.1.	Comparison of the performances of some related electrocatalysts for water oxidation reaction.....	130
Table 6.1.	Composition variations and calculated values of band gap (eV) for dual metal oxides and triple semiconductor nanocomposites systems.....	143



## Abbreviations

AFM	Atomic Force Microscopy
aq	Aqueous
4-ATP	4 - Amino thiophenol
BET	Brunauer–Emmett–Teller
CV	Cyclic voltametry
CdSe	Cadmium Selenide
dil	Dilute
DC	Direct Current
DF-STEM	Dark Field Scanning Tunneling Electron Micrograph
DLS	Dynamic light scattering
EDX	Energy Dispersive X-ray
FTIR	Fourier Transformed Infrared
HRTEM	High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy
LSV	Linear Sweep Voltammetry
mg	Miligram
mL	Mililiter
NCs	Nanocomposites / Nanoclusters
nm	Nanometer
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
NPs	Nanoparticles
PBS	Phosphate Buffer Saline
PXRD	Powder X-ray Diffractometer
QDs	Quantum Dots
SAED	Selected Area Electron diffraction
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
SPR	Surface Plasmon Resonance
TGA	Thermogravimetric Analysis
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscopy
UV-vis	Ultraviolet and visible
VSM	Vibrating-Sample Magnetometer
XRD	X-ray Diffractometer

## Symbols

2D	two dimensional	3D	three dimensional
Å	angstrom	$A_e$	surface area of ellipsoidal tip-head
c	velocity of light	°C	celsius
cm	centimeter	$C$	concentration
$E_g$	band gap	eV	electron volt
$E_{pc}$	cathodic potentials	$E_{pa}$	anodic potentials
$E_{ET}$	energy transfer efficiency	$E_F$	Fermi energy level
$\Delta E_P$	potential difference	$\epsilon_m$	real dielectric of the medium
$\Phi$	quantum yield	<i>fcc</i>	face-centered cubic
h	hour	h $\nu$	photon energy
$i_{pa}$	anodic peak current	$i_{pc}$	cathodic peak current
$I_0$	intensity of the exciting source beam	$k$	solvent interaction energy parameter
K	kelvin	$k_T$	energy transfer rate
kDa	kilodalton	kV	kilovolt
$K_{SV}$	Stern-Volmer constant	$K_{cat}$	catalytic rate constant
$k_F$	Fermi wave-vector	$\lambda_{ex}$	excitation wavelength
$\lambda_{max}$	maximum wavelength	$\lambda_{abs}$	maximum absorption wavelength
$\lambda_{em}$	maximum emission wavelength	M	molar
mM	millimolar	mL	milliliter
meV	millielectron volt	min	minutes
N	numbers of nanoparticles per milliliter	nm	nanometer
$N_A$	Avogadro's number	nM	nanomolar
$\mu M$	micromolar	$\eta$	refractive index
$\mu$	dipole moment	$\mu A$	microampere
		$R$	average radii of the particles