

Table of Contents

I. Introduction	1
II. Fundamentals	7
1. Plasma oscillation and Mie's theory.....	9
1.1 Principles of plasma oscillation [20].....	10
1.2 Scattering and absorption of small particles [23].....	12
2. L(+)-ascorbic acid and its derivatives.....	15
2.1 Chemical properties of ascorbic acid.....	15
2.2 AscX surfactants and their aggregates [28].....	17
2.3 The formation of gel and coagel.....	22
3. Zirconia and its different structures and species.....	24
3.1 Zirconyl chloride in aqueous solutions.....	24
3.2 Structures of zirconium oxide.....	27
3.2.1 Crystal structures and martensic phase transformation.....	27
3.2.2 Tetragonal zirconia and critical crystal size.....	34
4. Structural investigation techniques.....	37
4.1 X-ray based methods.....	37
4.1.1 The nature of X-rays [48].....	37
4.1.2 Small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS).....	41
4.1.2.1 Scattering by one electron.....	42
4.1.2.2 The scattering vector [54].....	42
4.1.2.3 The electron density [55].....	44
4.1.2.4 The scattering intensity [58].....	45
4.1.2.5 The auto correlation and invariant [58].....	46
4.1.2.6 Scattering of spherical particles [58].....	47
4.1.2.7 The Guinier approximation [58].....	48
4.1.2.8 Correlation length and Porod's law of scattering [58].....	49
4.1.2.9 Scattering of particles with non-uniform electron density [58].....	50
4.1.3 X-ray diffraction (XRD).....	52

4.1.3.1	Phase shift and intensity [65].....	53
4.1.3.2	Bragg's Law of diffraction [65], [67]	55
4.1.3.3	The reciprocal lattice and the system of Miller indices [64], [65].	57
4.1.3.4	The Scherrer equation [68].....	60
4.2	Electron based method: scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	62
4.2.1	Principal setup [72].....	62
4.2.2	The scanning process [73]	64
III.	Experimental	65
5.	Chemicals.....	67
5.1	Preparation of Gold Nanoparticles	67
5.2	Preparation of zirconium-based nanoparticles	67
6.	Analytical Methods.....	68
6.1	Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA).....	68
6.2	Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)	68
6.3	Bright field and phase contrast microscopy	69
6.4	UV/Vis absorption.....	70
6.5	Raman measurements	71
6.6	Small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS).....	72
6.7	X-ray diffraction (XRD)	73
6.8	Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	74
7.	Synthesis of L(+)-ascorbyl stearate (Asc18)	75
8.	Synthesis of Gold Nanoparticles.....	77
8.1	Preparation with Asc18 surfactant.....	77
8.2	Preparation with Asc12 surfactant.....	78
8.3	Preparation with Asc14 Asc10 and Asc8 surfactants	79
9.	Preparation of ZrO ₂ - nanoparticles.....	80
9.1	Synthesis of zirconium hydroxide by coprecipitation in homogeneous phase (sol)	80
9.2	Preparation of hydrous zirconia gel.....	80

IV. Results and Discussion

83

10. Gold nanoparticles.....	85
10.1 Determination of the cmt of Asc18	85
10.2 Synthesized nanoparticles and their colors	86
10.2.1 Influence of reaction temperature	86
10.2.2 Comparison of different concentrations.....	88
10.3 UV-Vis characterization.....	90
10.3.1 Comparison of different concentrations.....	90
10.3.2 Comparison of different reaction temperatures	93
10.3.2.1 Asc10	94
10.3.2.2 Asc12	95
10.3.2.3 Asc14	97
10.3.2.4 Asc18	98
10.4 SAXS characterization	101
10.4.1 The Schulz Spheres fitting model [79].....	101
10.4.2 Comparison of reactions above and below the cmc.....	102
10.4.3 Comparison of different reaction temperatures	103
10.4.4 Comparison of AscX surfactants with different chain lengths.....	106
10.4.4.1 Asc12	106
10.4.4.2 Asc14	109
10.4.4.3 Asac18.....	111
10.5 Conclusion	113
11. 3. Zirconium hydroxide and oxide nanoparticles.....	115
11.1 Raman characterization	115
11.2 Dialysis of the sol and an aqueous ZrOCl_2 solution	117
11.2.1 Conductivity of the sol and ZrOCl_2 solution.....	117
11.2.2 Progress of pH and conductivity during gel-formation.....	117
11.3 Characterization with microscopic methods	119
11.3.1 LM-micrographs of untreated gel	119
11.3.2 LM-micrographs of squeezed gel.....	119
11.3.3 LM-micrographs of air-dried gel	121

11.3.4 LM-micrographs of collapsed gel	122
11.3.5 LM-micrographs of a freeze-dried gel	123
11.4 DSC measurements of the gel	124
11.5 Characterization by SEM.....	127
11.6 SAXS characterization of the gel.....	130
11.6.1 The unified fit model [80]-[82].....	130
11.6.2 Structural parameters of the gel.....	132
11.7 TGA and DTG measurements.....	135
11.8 XRD characterization of calcined samples	139
11.8.1 Diffractogram of the gel-synthesized particles	139
11.8.2 Diffractogram of the sol-synthesized particles.....	140
11.8.2.1 Samples containing NaCl	141
11.8.2.2 Samples without NaCl	143
11.9 Conclusion	144
V. Annex	147
List of Figures	149
List of Tables	152
Bibliography	152