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# Ambient-stable CuFeO<sub>4</sub> synthesis process Wet

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# Abstract

Cathodes made of Fe (VI) salts are capable of multiple electron reduction and are useful for the formation of energetic super-iron batteries. CuFeO<sub>4</sub> is of compelling interest, capable not only of 3e-cathodic storage like Fe (VI  $\rightarrow$  III), but with an intrinsic availability of additional Cu (I) sites, for a total of a 5e– alkaline earth reduction:

$$CuFeO_4 + 5/2H_2O + 5 \acute{e} \rightarrow Cu + 1/2Fe_2O_3 + 5 OH^-$$

Thanks to the interest of the cathodes made up of Fe (VI) salts, we can achieve the process of synthesizing copper ferrate which consists of substituting the Barium ions with the ferrate VI obtained by copper by mixing them with a solution of copper nitrate  $Cu(NO_3)_2$ , in order to study and optimize the essential parameters influencing the substitution yield as well as the monitoring of its degradation over time, the reaction yield of which is of the order of 95.7% at a temperature around [15°C - 45 °C] and pH = 11 for 40 minutes.

The phase obtained was characterized by UV spectrophotometer by measuring the optical density at the wavelength 507 nm and analyzed by the volumetric titration method.

Keywords: Ferrate, oxidant, electrochemical, cathode, copper ferrate (VI), Purity, Stability.

# Introduction

The development of iron (VI) synthesis processes is proving to be very delicate, due to the oxidizing power of iron (VI). Among all the oxidants / disinfectants, practically used for the treatment of water and pollutants in water [1].

Ferrates are in high demand because it has a standard potential of  $FeO_4^{2-}/Fe^{3+}= 2.2$  V. The evolution of water pollution presents very dangerous statistics thanks to the appearance of new pollutants.

Although the existence of alkali ferrates has been cited for a century [2-10].

Currently, there is a need for research and innovation in order to improve the existing preparation methods and to develop new methods which would aim to increase the stability and the yield of the latter.

Scholder et al, 1956-b [11] recommended two methods of synthesizing  $M_2FeO_4$  if M is a divalent element (Ba<sup>2+</sup>, Sr<sup>2+</sup>) from Fe (III) or from the corresponding alkaline earth metaferrate.

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Kopelev et al [12] prepared the sodium ferrate  $Na_4FeO_5$  and  $Na_2FeO_3$  according to the procedure of Kisselev et al [13]. Ferrates (VI) were also prepared from galvanized waste [14], the waste was mixed with ferric oxide in an oven at 800 ° C, the sample was cooled and mixed with sodium peroxide solid then gradually heated for a few minutes. Among wet and electrochemical synthesis methods, the dry method avoids the reaction of ferrates with water. This process for preparing ferrates is considered a green technology by recycling various waste iron compounds [15].

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In recent years, a growing number of investigations into the preparation, physico-chemical characterization and detailed performance of certain ferrates (VI). Such as  $SrFeO_4$ ,  $BaFeO_4$ ,  $Na_2FeO_4$ ,  $Rb_2FeO_4$  and  $Cs_2FeO_4$ , have appeared in the literature [16, 17, 18, 19]. The solubility of  $BaFeO_4$ , a salt more commonly studied in connection with super oxidant iron [20].

Recently,  $Ag_2FeO_4$ , with an unusual intrinsic capacity of 5 electrons has also been presented, however, the impurity and instability detract from it as a promising super-iron battery cathode [21]. Attempts to search for alternative ferrate (VI) salts with high intrinsic storage capacity, such as CaFeO<sub>4</sub> and MgFeO<sub>4</sub>, etc. will be encouraging.

Calcium ferrate (VI) powders were synthesized from potassium ferrate (VI) and characterized by titration analysis, elemental analyzer, SEM, XRD, IR, TG and DSC. The results showed that the synthesized sample mainly consists of calcium ferrate (VI) and that calcium ferrate (VI) can exist as CaFeO<sub>4</sub> [22].

In 1925, Losana [23], described the preparation of a variety of ferrate salts which included  $Ba^{2+}$ ,  $Ag^+$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Pb^{2+}$ ,  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$  by direct precipitation from an aqueous solution of sodium ferrate. / potassium with salts of the desired counterion, as well as the preparation of impure salts of  $Th^{4+}$ ,  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$  and  $Al^+$ .

In a similar study, Gump [24], described the preparation of metal salts ( $Li^+ - Cs^+$ ) and and  $La^{3+}$  ferrates.

#### Material and method

The synthesis of CuFeO<sub>4</sub> is done by dissolving the ferrate salt of BaFeO<sub>4</sub> prepared in an aqueous solution of copper nitrate Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> at a pH around 11 and temperature of  $[15^{\circ}C-45^{\circ}C]$ , for 40 minutes in order to obtain a heterogeneous black precipitate which deposits spontaneously and immediately at the bottom of the tube of copper salt, according to the ion exchange reaction of the ferrate VI salt with copper nitrate:

 $BaFeO_4 + Cu(NO_3)_2 \rightarrow CuFeO_4 + Ba(NO_3)_2$ 

The heterogeneous black precipitate was filtered through filter paper, and washed three times with deionized water. The resulting product  $CuFeO_4$  was dried for 6 h under vacuum at room temperature to give the exact mass of  $CuFeO_4$ .

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As well as the analysis of the purity of the product CuFeO<sub>4</sub> was determined by chromite analysis and spectrophotometry.

The material obtained contains less than 1% copper equivalent relative to barium as well as the chromite analysis determines that the material is 95.7% pure based on the redox state and the remaining iron is in a lower valence state, although at these relatively low concentration levels the specific nature of this ferric impurity is difficult to distinguish. It can be assumed that the excess iron exists as several amorphous ferric salts which can be generalized as a 4.3% ferric oxide impurity. The preparation of BaFeO<sub>4</sub> is done by mixing Ba<sub>3</sub>(Fe(OH)<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O and Ba(OH)<sub>2</sub> pure in a platinum crucible in order to avoid side reactions. The mixture obtained is placed in an oven at a temperature of 850 °C. under a stream of oxygen for a period of 12 hours with a ratio of Ba / Fe = 3, and finally the molten mixture obtained is cooled in a ball dryer [ 25].

The synthesis reaction is as follows:

$$Ba_{3}(Fe(OH)_{6})_{2}, H_{2}O + 3Ba(OH)_{2} + 3/2 O_{2} \rightarrow 2 BaFeO_{4} + 4BaO + 10 H_{2}O$$

The phase found  $CuFeO_4$  was analyzed and followed over time with UV spectrophotometry by measuring the optical density at 507 nm, which is used according to tsapin et al [26], to measure the optical density of the ferrate solution (VI) at a wavelength of 507 nm and pH greater than 10. The characteristic peak of iron (VI) comes out at this wavelength, as does the volumetric titration method which is based on the oxidation of a chromite salt with ferrate VI according to the reaction below.

$$Cr(OH)_4^- + FeO_4^{2-} + 3H_2O \rightarrow Fe(OH)_3.(H_2O)_3 + CrO_4^{2-} + HO^{-1}$$

The resulting chromate is titrated with a solution of ferrous salt with sodium diphenylamine sulfonate as an indicator [27].

#### **III. Results**

The yield of the reaction of the synthesis of the  $CuFeO_4$  phase as a function of the pH and the temperature of the reaction medium gives an idea of the progress of the synthesis reaction (Figure 1.2).



**Figure 1:** Reaction yield of the synthesis of ferrate (VI) CuFeO<sub>4</sub> as a function of the pH of the reaction medium.

According to the curve (Fig. 1), it can be seen that the yield of the ferrate (VI) obtained increases as a function of the pH of the reaction medium up to 95.71% at the value of pH = 11, which implies that the optimum pH of the synthesis reaction medium is around pH = 11.



**Figure 2:** Yield of the reaction of the synthesis of ferrate (VI) CuFeO<sub>4</sub> as a function of the temperature of the reaction medium.

According to the curve (Fig. 2), it can be seen that the yield of ferrate (VI) decreases with increasing temperature from [40 °C- 60 °C], which implies that the optimum temperature of the medium of the synthesis reaction is around [15 °C - 45 °C], because in this temperature range the yield reaches its maximum.

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### IV. Monitoring of the degradation of ferrate as a function of time.

The results of  $CuFeO_4$  degradation monitoring show that the storage period can reach 12 months with a degradation rate in the first six months is limited to 4.2%.

The results of calculating the rate of degradation between the months and between the state of production and ferrate (VI) and the different months of storage are given in Table 1.

The relation which makes it possible to calculate the percentage of degradation of Iron (VI) is given by the following formula:

### % iron (VI) degradation = $(D.O_i - D.O_f)/D.O_i$

 $\mathsf{D}.\mathsf{O}_i$  : Optical densities of iron (VI) respectively in the initial state

D.O<sub>f</sub>: Optical densities of iron (VI) in the final state

**Tableaux 1:** Optical density of the solution of ferrates (VI) of the synthesized phase  $CuFeO_4$  as a function of the rate of degradation between the initial state of production and different months of storage of ferrate VI (%) as well as as a function of the rate of degradation between months of ferrate VI storage (%).

t (Months)	The rate of deterioration	The monthly rate of degradation ferrate VI
	from baseline in the	(%)
	production and storage of	
	different month ferrate VI	
	(%)	
1	1.2	1.2
2	2.3	1.1
3	2.6	0.3
4	3.7	1.1
5	4	0.3
6	4.2	0.2
7	6.3	2.1
8	8.2	1.9
9	9.3	1.1
10	9.4	0.1
11	10	0.6
12	11	1

According to these results (tab. 1), we notice that the rate of degradation of iron (VI) remains variable as a function of time and varies in a different way from one month to another during storage, which means that the change climatic influences the rate of degradation of ferrate (VI).

### **V. DISCUSSION**

The pH required for the synthesis of iron (VI) stable at room temperature for a yield of 95.7% is of the order of 11 (Figure 1), this is compatible with the results of the various preliminary studies [22],

[23], which show that the adjustment of the pH, the modification of the concentrations of the reagents and the improvement of the procedures of synthesis of ferrate salts like  $CuFeO_4$  by wet way is required.

The optimum temperature, which is around [15 °C- 45 °C], for the synthesis of CuFeO<sub>4</sub> (Fig. 2) is an encouraging progress for the development of industrial processes for the production of ferrates (VI). This result confirms the studies made by Zhihua Xu and col., 2007 [22], as the decrease in impurities leads to better stability and increases the discharge performance of the calcium ferrate (VI) sample with a higher intrinsic capacity. large and better flow capacity.

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Climate change also influences the rate of degradation and the storage time of ferrate (VI) in the room.

#### **VI.** Conclusion

This manuscript reviews the most suitable method for the synthesis of room-stable ferrate (VI) CuFeO<sub>4</sub> from the reaction of copper nitrate Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and BaFeO<sub>4</sub> whose pH is around 11, at a temperature around [15 °C- 45 °C] and a reaction time of around 40 minutes.

The process for the wet synthesis of ferrate (VI) of  $CuFeO_4$  from  $BaFeO_4$  is a very easy and very promising method, although there is still a need for further technical, economical improvement regarding industrial application.

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