**LIST OF FIGURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>A Mossbauer transmission spectrum produced by Doppler scanning and the factors influencing it</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>The ( \gamma )-decay scheme of (^{57}\text{Co} ) showing the 14.41 keV and 136.32 keV Mossbauer transitions</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Plot of relative magnetization, ( M/N\mu ), as a function of the field/temperature quotient, ( H/T ).</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Isomer shift</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Quadrupole splitting in (^{57}\text{Fe} )</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Magnetic hyperfine splitting of the ground and first excited state of (^{57}\text{Fe} )</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Combined magnetic and electric hyperfine coupling</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Typical ( \alpha-t ) plot in the thermal decomposition of a solid</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>General types of ( \alpha-t ) curves obtained in the isothermal decomposition of solids</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>( \Delta G ) as a function of ( m )</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.8 Mossbauer spectra measured at room temperature relative to $^{57}\text{Co}(\text{Cu})$ of $\text{Sr}_3\left[\text{Fe}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3\right]_2\cdot2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (calcined in air) 82

2.9 Mossbauer spectra of $\alpha$-$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (a) as a function of average particle size (b) as a function of temperature with average particle size of 13.5 $\pm$ 1 nm 83

2.10 Mossbauer spectra of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ at three different temperatures 84

2.11 Variation in the hyperfine field with electron concentration 85

2.12 A typical particle size distribution 86

3.1 Schematic representation of the components in a Mossbauer apparatus; source and absorber with their nuclear processes, drive system (In this case applied to the source) and $\gamma$-ray detector 125

3.2 Mossbauer spectra of $^{57}\text{Co}$(Pd) vs. Fe taken in a spectrometer with no feedback 126

3.3 Circuit for constant velocity Mossbauer spectrometer with no feedback 127

3.4 Vibration generator type VG-2 128

3.5 Circuit for constant velocity Mossbauer spectrometer with feedback 129
3.6 Mossbauer spectra of $^{57}$Co(Ni-Fe) vs 310 SS taken in (a) and (b) Phillips 8" loud speaker (c) TIFR loud speaker

3.7 Mossbauer spectrometer block diagram

3.8 Vacuum liquid nitrogen cryostat

3.9 Styrofoam liquid nitrogen cryostat

3.10 Continuous flow cryostat

3.11 Mossbauer spectra taken in constant velocity mode of $^{57}$Co(Pd) vs (a) 310 SS (b) sodium-nitroprusside (c) metallic iron

3.12 Mossbauer spectra taken in constant acceleration mode of $^{57}$Co(Pd) vs (a) 310 ss (b) Sodium nitroprusside (c) metallic iron and (d) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$

3.13 Experimental set-up for preparation of ferrous oxalate in inert atmosphere

3.14 Thermogravimetric set-up

4.1 Ferrous oxalate vs $^{57}$Co(Pd)

4.2 Thermogravimetric analysis of ferrous oxalate in hydrogen for a heating rate of (a) 0.5°C/min (b) 2°C/min
4.3 Mossbauer spectra of products obtained by linearly heating ferrous oxalate in H₂ at 2°C/min ($T_{\text{max}} = 460°C$) (a) Fe metal (b) at RT and (c) at LN₂

4.4 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen in vertical experiments (a) ferrous oxalate (b) at 200°C for 4 hours (c) at 340°C for 1 hr (RT) (d) at 340°C for 1 hr (LN₂) (e) at 340°C for 8 hr

4.5 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen at 340°C in vertical experiments (a) for 1 hr (b) for 2 hr (c) for 3 hr (d) for 4 hr (e) for 6 hr (f) for 8 hr and (g) for 12 hr

4.6 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen in vertical experiments at 360°C (a) for 15 min (b) for 30 min (c) for 1 hr and (d) for 1 hr and 45 min

4.7 Fe₃O₄ particle distribution curves obtained from Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate decomposed in vertical experiments at 340°C (a) top samples (a') bottom samples at 360°C (b) top samples (b') bottom samples
4.8 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen at 200°C in horizontal experiments (a) for 6 hr (b) 8 hr and 40 min (c) for 15 hr and 40 min (d) for 24 hr and (e) 48 hr

4.9 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen at 300°C in horizontal experiments (a) for 1 hr (b) for 2 hr (c) spectrum of 4 hr at liquid nitrogen temperature and (d) for 24 hr

4.10 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments at 320°C (a) for 1 hr (a') liquid nitrogen spectrum of (a) (b) for 2 hr (b') liquid nitrogen spectrum of (b) (c) for 3 hr (d) for 4 hr

4.11 High temperature Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen at 318°C for 1 hr (a) RT spectrum (b) at 80°C (c) at 120°C (d) at 160°C (e) at 200°C (f) at 250°C (g) RT spectrum after high temperature experiments

4.12 High temperature Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen at 317.5°C for 2 hr (a) RT spectrum (b) at 82°C (c) at 120°C (d) at 160°C (e) at 200°C (f) at 250°C and (g) RT spectrum after high temperature experiments
4.13 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments at 340°C (a) ½ hr (b) for 1 hr (c) for 2 hr and (d) for 8 hr

4.14 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments at 360°C (a) for 1 hr (b) for 4 hr and (c) for 23 hr

4.15 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments at 420°C (a) for 2 hr and (b) for 24 hr

4.16 Distribution curve for Fe₃C obtained in horizontal experiments by heating oxalate in hydrogen (a) at 310.5°C and (b) at 317.5°C

4.17 ESCA patterns of ferrous oxalate heated in hydrogen at 320°C for 4 hr (a) before etching (b) after etching (c) Auger electron pattern

4.18 Amount of Fe₃C formed at different temperatures in horizontal experiments

5.1 TGA of ferrous nickel oxalate in hydrogen (a) Fe:NI = 10:1 at 2°C/min (b) Fe:Ni = 2:1 at 2°C/min (c) Fe:Ni = 64:36 at 5°C/min (d) Fe:Ni = 1:1 at 2°C/min (e) Fe:Ni = 1:10 at 2°C/min (f) Fe:Ni = 1:19 at 2°C/min
5.2 TGA of nickel oxalate, ferrous oxalate and ferrous nickel oxalate (Fe: Ni = 1:10) in hydrogen at 2°C/min

5.3 Mössbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe: Ni = 2:1 heated in hydrogen in vertical experiments (a) unheated (b) at 244°C for 3 hr (c) at 300°C for 2 hr (d) at 300°C for 4 hr (e) at 300°C for 15 hr and (f) at 300°C for 6 hr

5.4 Mössbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe: Ni = 1:1 heated in hydrogen in vertical experiments (a) at 276°C for 4 hr (b) at 271°C for 12 hr (Invar type) (b') at LN₂ temperature (c) at 300°C for 4 hr (d) at 300°C for 10 hr (Invar type) (d') Mössbauer spectrum of (d) at LN₂ temperature (e) at 307°C for 11 hr 20 min

5.5 Mössbauer spectra of ferrous oxalate with Fe: Ni = 1:10 heated in hydrogen in vertical experiments (a) at 199°C for 18 hr (b) at 232°C for 102 hr (c) at 254°C for 4 hr (c') LN₂ spectrum of (c) (d) at 254°C for 12 hr and (c) at 254°C for 2 days

5.6 Mössbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe: Ni = 1:10 heated in hydrogen in vertical experiments (a) at 273°C for 1 hr (b) at 271°C for 4 hr and (b') LN₂ spectrum of (b) and (c) at 273°C for 12 hr
5.7 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe:Ni = 1:10 heated in hydrogen in vertical experiments (a) at 300°C for 30 min (a') LN₂ spectrum of (a) (b) at 307°C for 1 hr (c) at 305°C for 12 hr and 35 min and (d) at 499°C for 14½ hr

5.8 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe:Ni = 2:1 heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments (a) at 300°C for 1 hr (b) at 300°C for 2 hr (slight Invar type)

5.9 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe:Ni = 64:36 heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments (a) at 340°C for 20 hr (b) at 360°C for 1 hr and (c) at 480°C for 7 hr

5.10 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe:Ni = 1:1 heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments (a) at 280°C for 4 hr and 25 min (b) at 300°C for 1 hr (Invar) and (c) at 300°C for 2 hr

5.11 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe:Ni = 1:10 heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments (a) at 200°C for 24 hr (b) at 250°C for 1 hr (c) at 250°C for 25 hr and 10 min (d) at 300°C for ½ hr (e) at 300°C for 24 hr and (f) at 490°C for 1 hr
5.12 Mossbauer spectra of ferrous nickel oxalate with Fe:Ni = 1:19 heated in hydrogen in horizontal experiments (a) at 360°C for \( \frac{3}{2} \) hr and (b) at 360°C for 1 hr

5.13 Saturation moment of FeNi vs iron or nickel