

Evaluation of Atomic, Physical and Thermal Properties of Tellurium Powder: Impact of Biofield Energy Treatment

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Abstract

Tellurium has gained significant attention due to its photoconductivity, piezoelectricity, and thermo conductivity properties. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of biofield energy treatment on thermal, physical and atomic properties of tellurium powder. The tellurium powder was equally divided in two parts: control and treated (T). The treated part was subjected to Mr. Trivedi's biofield energy treatment, whereas the control part was remained untreated. Subsequently, the control and treated samples were characterized using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy. The DSC data showed that latent heat of fusion was decreased by 14.13, 21.90, and 5.55% in treated samples T1, T2, and T3, respectively as compared to the control. However, the melting temperature did not show any change in treated samples as compared to the control. The TGA data showed that the peak width (difference in onset and endset) was increased from 213.67°C (control) to 234.82°C in treated tellurium sample. Besides, XRD results exhibited an alteration in lattice parameter, unit cell volume, density, atomic weight and nuclear charge volume of the treated tellurium powder as compared to the control. In addition, the crystallite sizes were significantly changed on crystalline plane (102) and (110) as 146.05→48.67 nm and 63.01→88.21 nm, respectively in the treated tellurium. The FT-IR spectra did not show any significant change in absorption frequencies in treated sample as compared to the control. Therefore, DSC, TGA and XRD data suggested that Mr. Trivedi's biofield energy treatment has significantly altered the thermal and physical properties of tellurium powder. Thus, biofield energy treatment could be applied to modulate the thermal and physical properties in semiconductor and chalcogenide glass industries.

Keywords: Biofield energy treatment; Tellurium; X-ray diffraction; Differential scanning calorimetry; Thermogravimetric analysis; Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy

Introduction

Tellurium (Te), chemically related to selenium and sulfur, is a rare, brittle and silver white metalloid. Tellurium and its related materials have attracted significant attention due to its photoconductivity, piezoelectricity, thermo conductivity and catalytic activities in organic reactions [1-3]. Commercially, it is used in several alloys such as steel and copper to enhance the machinability property. The considerable fraction of tellurium is used in cadmium telluride (CdTe) solar panels and as a semiconductor in various electronics industries [4]. For semiconductor applications, the orientations and size of crystallites play the vital role [5]. Furthermore, tellurium is widely used in the infrared detectors, optical modulators, fluorescent, gas sensor and chalcogenide glasses [6]. In these applications, its thermal properties such as melting point, latent heat of fusion, and thermal conductivities are the important parameters, which control the overall efficiency of the product [7]. Currently, the thermal properties are modulated by using different pressure based techniques, which are studied by various researchers [8,9]. Thus, after considering the importance of crystal structure parameters and thermal properties in industrial application, it is important to use an approach which can modify physical and thermal properties of tellurium.

The generation of bioelectricity in heart and brain functions due to the motion of charged particles such as protons, electrons, and ions in the human body is well known [10,11]. Recently, it is reported that the various scientific instruments such as Kirlian photography, polycontrast interference photography (PIP) and resonance field imaging (RFI) can measure the biofield of human body [12]. Furthermore, a human has the ability to harness the energy from environment/Universe and

can transmit it to any object (living or non-living) around the Globe. The object(s) always receive the energy and respond in a useful way that is called biofield energy, and this process is known as biofield energy treatment. Moreover, the National center for complementary and alternative medicine (NCCAM) has recommended the uses of alternative CAM therapies (energy-healing) in the healthcare sector [13]. Furthermore, Mr. Trivedi's unique biofield treatment ('The Trivedi Effect') is known to alter the atomic, physical, structural and thermal characteristics of various metals [14-16] and ceramics [17-19]. Biofield treatment has significantly altered the latent heat of fusion in cadmium powder [20]. Recently, our group reported that biofield treatment has reduced the crystallite size by 28.6% in magnesium powder [21] and altered the bond length of Ti-O in BaTiO₃ [22]. The present work was undertaken to evaluate the impact of Mr. Trivedi's biofield energy treatment on thermal and physical properties of tellurium powder, using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy.

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Materials and Methods

Tellurium powder was procured from Alfa Aesar, India. The sample was divided into two parts referred as control and treated. The control part remained as untreated. The treated part subjected to Mr. Trivedi for biofield energy treatment.

Biofield energy treatment

The treated samples were handed over to Mr. Trivedi for biofield energy treatment under standard laboratory conditions. Mr. Trivedi provided the biofield treatment through his energy transmission process, which includes bioenergy emission treated sample without touching. After treatment, sample was handed over in the same condition and stored at standard conditions as per the standard experimental protocol. An optimum precautionary measure was taken while evaluating the antibiogram analysis throughout the experiments. The differences in parameters before and after the treatment were noted and compared [23]. Subsequently, the control and treated samples were characterized using DSC, TGA, XRD, and FT-IR.

Thermal analysis

The thermal analysis of tellurium powder was performed using DSC and TGA-DTG techniques. For DSC study, Pyris-6 Perkin Elmer, with a heating rate of 10°C/min under air atmosphere was used. The melting point and latent heat of fusion (ΔH) of control and treated tellurium sample were recorded from respective DSC thermogram. The percent change in melting point was computed using following equation:

$$\% \text{ change in melting point} = \frac{[T_{\text{treated}} - T_{\text{control}}]}{T_{\text{control}}} * 100$$

Where, T_{Control} and T_{Treated} are the melting point of control and treated samples, respectively. Similarly, the percent change in ΔH was calculated.

Furthermore, TGA analysis was carried out using Mettler Toledo TGA-DTG system. The samples were heated from room temperature to 900°C with a heating rate of 10°C/min under air atmosphere.

X-ray diffraction (XRD) study

XRD analysis of control and treated tellurium sample was performed on Phillips, Holland PW 1710 X-ray diffractometer system. XRD system contains copper anode with a nickel filter. The radiation wavelength 1.54056 Å was used by the system. The data obtained from the XRD was analyzed using PowderX software, to compute the lattice parameter, unit cell volume, density and atomic weight. The percent change lattice parameter (a) was calculated using following equation:

The crystallite size (G) was calculated by using Scherer's equation:

$$G = k\lambda / (b \cos\theta)$$

Here, k is equipment constant (=0.94), λ is wavelength of radiation used (=1.54056 Å), b is full width half maximum (FWHM), θ is Bragg's angle. Percentage change in crystallite size was calculated using following formula:

$$\text{Percent change in crystallite size}(G) = \frac{[G_{\text{treated}} - G_{\text{control}}]}{G_{\text{control}}} * 100$$

Here, G_{control} and G_{Treated} are the crystallite size of control and treated powder samples respectively. Similarly, the percent change in lattice parameter, unit cell volume, density, atomic weight, and nuclear charge per unit volume were calculated.

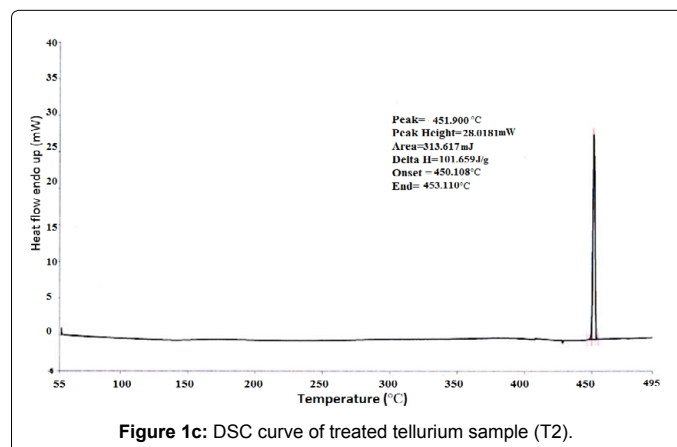
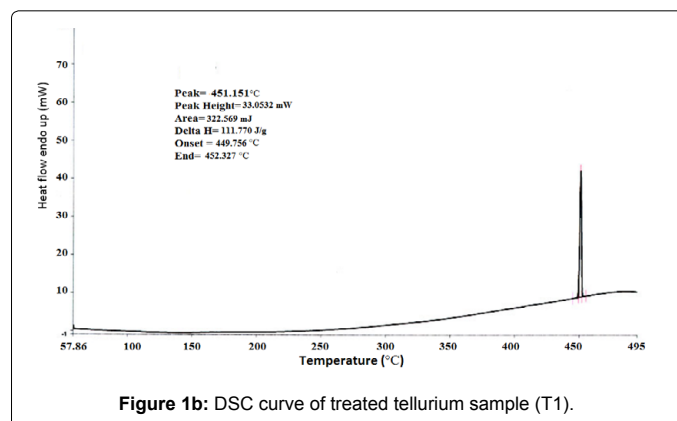
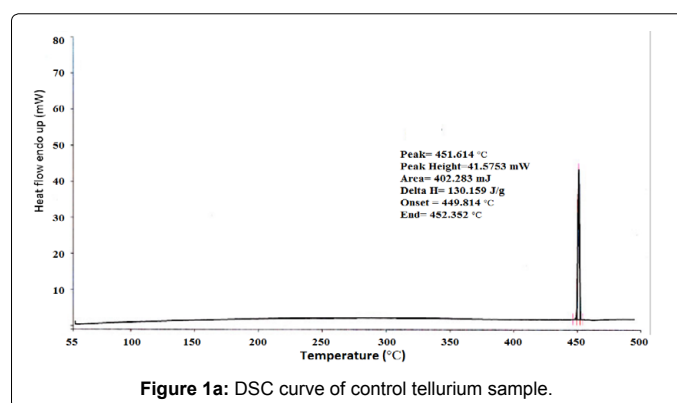
FT-IR spectroscopy

FT-IR spectra were recorded on Shimadzu's Fourier transform infrared spectrometer (Japan) with frequency range of 4000-500 cm^{-1} . The analysis was accomplished to evaluate the effect of biofield treatment on dipole moment, force constant and bond strength.

Results and Discussion

Thermal analysis

To study the impact of biofield treatment on thermal properties, the tellurium powder was characterized using DSC and TGA. The DSC thermograms of control and treated tellurium samples are shown in Figures 1a-1d. The control tellurium sample showed the presence of



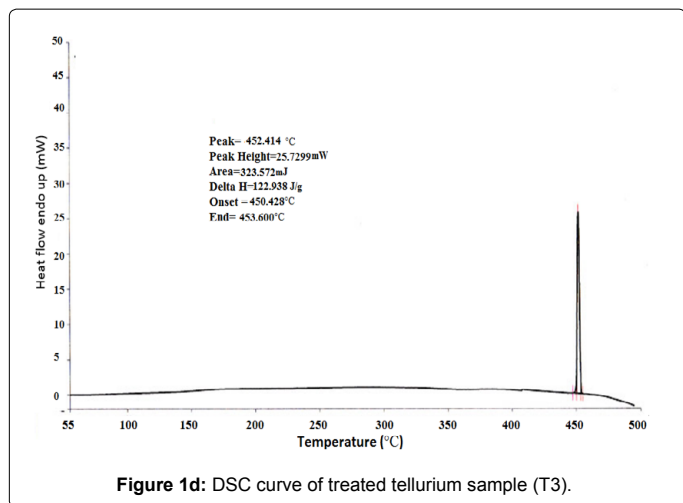


Figure 1d: DSC curve of treated tellurium sample (T3).

| Parameter | Control | T1 | T2 | T3 |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Melting Temperature (°C) | 451.61 | 451.45 | 451.90 | 452.41 |
| Latent heat of fusion, ΔH (J/g) | 130.16 | 111.77 | 101.66 | 122.94 |
| Percent change in ΔH | - | -14.13 | -21.90 | -5.55 |

Table 1: Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) analysis of tellurium powder samples.

a sharp endothermic peak at 451.61°C that was due to the melting temperature of the sample. The melting temperature was supported by literature data [24]. However, the melting temperature peak was observed at 451.15°C, 451.90°C, and 452.41°C in treated samples T1, T2, and T3, respectively as compared to the control. It suggests that melting point was almost similar in control and treated samples. Besides, the latent heat of fusion (ΔH) was observed as 130.16 J/g in control sample, which was reduced to 111.77 J/g, 101.66 J/g, and 122.94 J/g in T1, T2, and T3 respectively (Table 1). These data indicated that ΔH of treated tellurium was significantly decreased by 14.13, 21.90, and 5.55% in T1, T2, and T3 respectively as compared to the control. The latent heat of fusion is the energy required by the material to overcome the interatomic interaction force to change the phase from solid to liquid. It is reported that increase in interatomic distance reduces the interatomic attractive force [25]. Moreover, it is well-known that the latent heat of fusion of solids decreases with decrease in interatomic attraction forces [26,27]. This implies that the solids with less interatomic attraction consume less thermal energy to change the phase from solids to liquid. In relation to this, it is speculated that the decrease in ΔH of treated tellurium sample could be due to the decrease in interatomic attraction force after the biofield treatment. Besides, the TGA-DTG analysis results of the control and treated tellurium samples are presented in Table 2. The control sample showed the onset temperature at 391.33°C and endset at 605°C. However, the onset and endset temperature were found at 453.96 and 688.78°C, respectively in treated sample. It suggested that the peak width (difference in onset and endset) was increased from 213.67°C (control) to 234.82°C in treated samples. The peak was observed at 511.88 and 652.78°C in control and treated samples, respectively. In addition, the TGA results also showed the percent change in weight at peak was 21.35 and -83.76% in control and treated samples respectively. Moreover, the ratio of percent change in weight to the peak width was 0.10 and -0.36% in control and treated samples respectively. Thus, overall data indicated that biofield treatment has altered the thermal properties of tellurium powder. Further, in order to find the probable cause for the alteration

in thermal properties, the control and treated tellurium powders were examined by X-ray diffraction.

XRD study

XRD is a non-destructive and quantitative technique, which has been extensively used to determine several crystal structure parameters such as crystallite size, lattice parameter etc. The XRD diffractograms of control and treated tellurium samples are presented in Figure 2. The control sample showed the crystalline peaks at Bragg's angle (2θ) equal to 23.05°, 27.55°, 38.33°, 40.45°, 43.32°, 45.88°, 47.04°, 49.69°, 56.87°, 63.75°, and 65.9°, which can be attributed to crystalline plane (100), (101), (102), (110), (111), (003), (200), (201), (202), (113), and (210) respectively [28]. Further, the treated sample showed intense peaks at 2θ equal to 23.02°, 27.57°, 38.27°, 40.43°, 43.36°, 45.92°, 47.01°, 49.65°, 56.88°, 63.74°, and 65.96° (Table 3). The data exhibited that 2θ values of treated tellurium sample were almost similar to the control. Furthermore, the crystallite sizes corresponding to all crystalline planes were calculated using Scherrer equation and presented in Table 1. The crystallite sizes corresponding to crystalline plane (100), (101), (003), and (113) were 60.33, 71.01, 49.94, and 54.18 nm, respectively in both control and treated samples. However, the crystallite sizes of treated tellurium sample were significantly altered on the crystalline plane (102), (110), (111), (200), (201), (202), and (210) as 146.05→48.67 nm, 63.01→88.21 nm, 40.48→26.20 nm, 90.29→225.69 nm, 41.47→50.68

| Parameter | Control | Treated T1 |
|-------------------------|---------|------------|
| Onset temperature (°C) | 391.33 | 453.96 |
| Peak temperature (°C) | 511.88 | 652.78 |
| Endset temperature (°C) | 605.00 | 688.78 |
| Peak width(°C) | 213.67 | 234.82 |

Table 2: TGA-DTA analysis of tellurium powder.

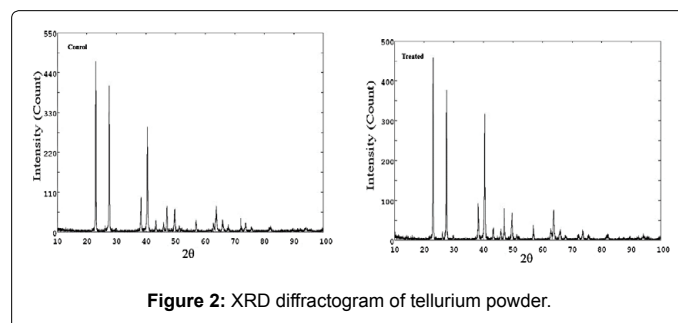


Figure 2: XRD diffractogram of tellurium powder.

| Crystalline plane | Control | | | Treated | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | 2 θ (degree) | FWHM (degree) | Crystallite size (nm) | 2 θ (degree) | FWHM (degree) | Crystallite size (nm) |
| 100 | 23.05 | 0.16 | 60.33 | 23.02 | 0.16 | 60.33 |
| 101 | 27.55 | 0.14 | 71.01 | 27.57 | 0.14 | 71.01 |
| 102 | 38.33 | 0.08 | 146.05 | 38.27 | 0.20 | 48.67 |
| 110 | 40.45 | 0.16 | 63.01 | 40.43 | 0.12 | 88.21 |
| 111 | 43.32 | 0.24 | 40.48 | 43.36 | 0.36 | 26.20 |
| 003 | 45.88 | 0.20 | 49.94 | 45.92 | 0.20 | 49.94 |
| 200 | 47.04 | 0.12 | 90.29 | 47.01 | 0.06 | 225.69 |
| 201 | 49.69 | 0.24 | 41.47 | 49.65 | 0.20 | 50.68 |
| 202 | 56.87 | 0.20 | 52.31 | 56.88 | 0.12 | 94.17 |
| 113 | 63.75 | 0.20 | 54.18 | 63.74 | 0.20 | 54.18 |

Table 3: Effect of biofield treatment on Bragg's angle and crystallite size of tellurium powder.

| Group | Lattice parameter (Å) | Unit cell volume ($\times 10^{-23} \text{ cm}^3$) | Density (g/cc) | Atomic weight (g/mol) | Nuclear charge per unit volume (C/m^3) |
|----------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| Control | 4.456 | 10.1695 | 6.32363 | 129.10937 | 179517 |
| Treated | 4.460 | 10.1861 | 6.31333 | 129.32012 | 179082 |
| Percent change | 0.08 | 0.16 | -0.16 | 0.15 | -0.24 |

Table 4: Effect of biofield treatment on lattice parameter, unit cell volume density atomic weight, nuclear charge per unit volume of tellurium powder.

nm, 52.31→94.17 nm, and 54.84→44.88 nm, respectively after biofield treatment. This indicated that crystallite sizes were increased on plane (110), (200), (201), and (202). However, the crystallite sizes were reduced along plane (102), (111), and (210). It was reported that the structure disorder and temperature affects the crystallite sizes of the compound [29]. Thus, it is possible that biofield energy can alter the arrangement of atoms in treated tellurium powder, which may lead to alter the crystallite size. Additionally, the XRD data of control and treated samples were analyzed using PowderX software to compute the lattice parameter and volume of unit cell. The results of XRD analysis are illustrated in Table 4. The data showed that the lattice parameter and unit cell volume of treated tellurium powder were slightly increased by 0.08 and 0.16%, respectively, as compared to the control. The increase in unit cell volume led to reduce the density and nuclear charge per unit volume by 0.16 and 0.24%, respectively in treated sample as compared to the control. Contrarily, the atomic weight of treated sample was slightly increased by 0.15% as compared to the control. Moreover, the increase in lattice parameter and unit cell volume suggests that tensile stress may have been applied on the unit cell of tellurium. It is assumed that the energy transferred through the biofield treatment might induce the tensile stress on the tellurium atoms, which causes them to move a little further apart. Due to this, the interatomic attraction in tellurium powder may decrease after biofield treatment. Additionally, this assumption was also supported by the decrease in latent heat of fusion in treated tellurium after biofield treatment. Therefore, XRD and DSC data revealed that biofield energy treatment has an impact on the thermal physical, and atomic properties of tellurium powder. Based on the alteration in thermal and physical properties, it is speculated that biofield energy treated tellurium powder could be more useful in semiconductor and chalcogenide glass industries.

FT-IR Spectroscopy

The FT-IR spectra of control and treated tellurium samples are presented in Figure 3. In control spectra, the absorption peak was observed at 3730 and 3124 cm^{-1} which can be attributed to -OH stretching vibrations. However, treated sample showed these peaks at 3637, and 3145 cm^{-1} . Moreover, the absorption peaks were observed at 2360 and 2362 cm^{-1} in control and treated sample respectively, which could be due to CO_2 absorption by the samples. Furthermore, the absorption peaks observed was at 667 and 665 cm^{-1} in control and treated sample, which could be attributed to stretching vibrations of Te-O bond [30]. Thus, the FT-IR data did not show any significant change in absorption wavenumbers of treated tellurium as compared to the control.

Conclusion

Altogether, the biofield energy treatment has altered the atomic, thermal and physical properties of the tellurium powder. The latent heat of fusion was significantly reduced up to 21.90% in the treated sample as compared to the control. It could be due to decrease in interatomic attraction of the treated tellurium powder after biofield energy treatment. TGA showed that the peak width was increased

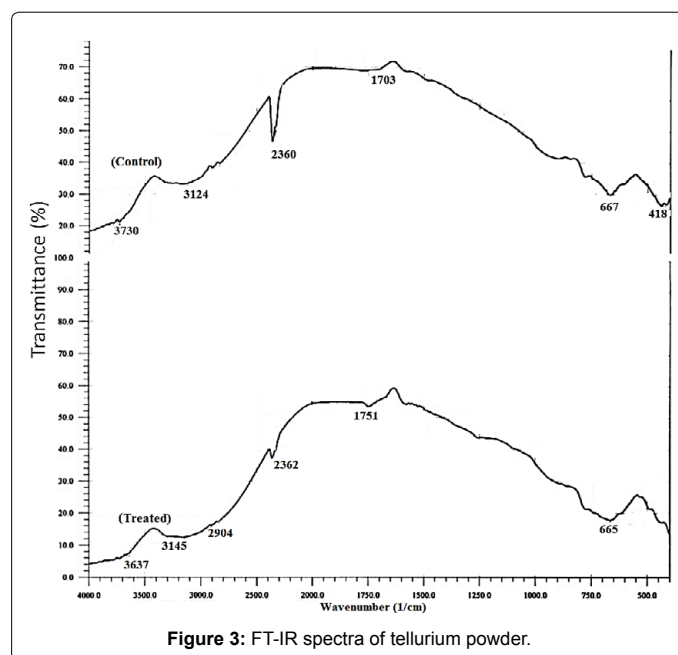


Figure 3: FT-IR spectra of tellurium powder.

from 213.67°C (control) to 234.82°C in treated tellurium sample. The XRD data revealed that the crystallite size was significantly reduced on crystalline plane, (102) from 146.05 (control) to 48.67 nm in the treated tellurium sample. However the crystallite size was increased on plane, (110) from 63.01 (control) to 88.21 nm in the treated tellurium sample. In addition, biofield energy treatment also altered the lattice parameter, unit cell volume, density, atomic weight and nuclear charge volume of treated tellurium powder as compared to the control. Thus, the biofield treated tellurium could be more useful in semiconductor and chalcogenide glass industries.

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